



Chapter 14

The ArrayList Class

Slides prepared by Rose Williams,
Binghamton University

Kenrick Mock, *University of Alaska
Anchorage*

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd.
All rights reserved.

The **ArrayList** Class

- **ArrayList** is a class in the standard Java libraries
 - Unlike arrays, which have a fixed length once they have been created, an **ArrayList** is an object that can grow and shrink while your program is running
- In general, an **ArrayList** serves the same purpose as an array, except that an **ArrayList** can change length while the program is running

The **ArrayList** Class

- The class **ArrayList** is implemented using an array as a private instance variable
 - When this hidden array is full, a new larger hidden array is created and the data is transferred to this new array

The **ArrayList** Class

- Why not always use an **ArrayList** instead of an array?
 1. An **ArrayList** is less efficient than an array
 2. It does not have the convenient square bracket notation
 3. The base type of an **ArrayList** must be a class type (or other reference type): it cannot be a primitive type
 - This last point is less of a problem now that Java provides automatic boxing and unboxing of primitives

Using the **ArrayList** Class

- In order to make use of the **ArrayList** class, it must first be imported from the package `java.util`
- An **ArrayList** is created and named in the same way as object of any class, except that you specify the base type as follows:

```
ArrayList<BaseType> aList =  
    new ArrayList<BaseType>();
```

Using the **ArrayList** Class

- An initial capacity can be specified when creating an **ArrayList** as well
 - The following code creates an **ArrayList** that stores objects of the base type `String` with an initial capacity of 20 items

```
ArrayList<String> list =  
    new ArrayList<String>(20);
```
 - Specifying an initial capacity does not limit the size to which an **ArrayList** can eventually grow
- Note that the base type of an **ArrayList** is specified as a *type parameter*

Using the **ArrayList** Class

- The **add** method is used to set an element for the first time in an **ArrayList**

```
list.add("something");
```

- The method name **add** is overloaded
- There is also a two argument version that allows an item to be added at any currently used index position or at the first unused position

Using the **ArrayList** Class

- The **size** method is used to find out how many indices already have elements in the **ArrayList**

```
int howMany = list.size();
```

- The **set** method is used to replace any existing element, and the **get** method is used to access the value of any existing element

```
list.set(index, "something else");
String thing = list.get(index);
```

Tip: Summary of Adding to an **ArrayList**

- The **add** method is usually used to place an element in an **ArrayList** position for the first time (at an **ArrayList** index)
- The simplest **add** method has a single parameter for the element to be added, and adds an element at the next unused index, in order

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-9

Tip: Summary of Adding to an **ArrayList**

- An element can be added at an already occupied list position by using the two-parameter version of **add**
- This causes the new element to be placed at the index specified, and every other member of the **ArrayList** to be moved up by one position

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-10

Tip: Summary of Adding to an **ArrayList**

- The two-argument version of **add** can also be used to add an element at the first unused position (if that position is known)
- Any individual element can be changed using the **set** method
 - However, **set** can only reset an element at an index that already contains an element
- In addition, the method **size** can be used to determine how many elements are stored in an **ArrayList**

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-11

Methods in the Class **ArrayList**

- The tools for manipulating arrays consist only of the square brackets and the instance variable **length**
- **ArrayLists**, however, come with a selection of powerful methods that can do many of the things for which code would have to be written in order to do them using arrays

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-12

Some Methods in the Class `ArrayList` (Part 1 of 11)

Display 14.1 Some Methods in the Class `ArrayList`

CONSTRUCTORS

```
public ArrayList<Base_Type>(int initialCapacity)
```

Creates an empty `ArrayList` with the specified `Base_Type` and initial capacity.

```
public ArrayList<Base_Type>()
```

Creates an empty `ArrayList` with the specified `Base_Type` and an initial capacity of 10.

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-13

Display 14.1 Some Methods in the Class `ArrayList`

ARRAYLIKE METHODS

```
public Base_Type set( int index, Base_Type newElement)
```

Sets the element at the specified `index` to `newElement`. Returns the element previously at that position, but the method is often used as if it were a `void` method. If you draw an analogy between the `ArrayList` and an array `a`, this statement is analogous to setting `a[index]` to the value `newElement`. The `index` must be a value greater than or equal to 0 and less than the current size of the `ArrayList`. Throws an `IndexOutOfBoundsException` if the `index` is not in this range.

```
public Base_Type get(int index)
```

Returns the element at the specified `index`. This statement is analogous to returning `a[index]` for an array `a`. The `index` must be a value greater than or equal to 0 and less than the current size of the `ArrayList`. Throws `IndexOutOfBoundsException` if the `index` is not in this range.

(continue)

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-14

Display 14.1 Some Methods in the Class ArrayList

METHODS TO ADD ELEMENTS

```
public boolean add(Base_Type newElement)
```

Adds the specified element to the end of the calling ArrayList and increases the ArrayList's size by one. The capacity of the ArrayList is increased if that is required. Returns true if the add was successful. (The return type is boolean, but the method is typically used as if it were a void method.)

```
public void add( int index, Base_Type newElement)
```

Inserts newElement as an element in the calling ArrayList at the specified index. Each element in the ArrayList with an index greater or equal to index is shifted upward to have an index that is one greater than the value it had previously. The index must be a value greater than or equal to 0 and less than or equal to the current size of the ArrayList. Throws IndexOutOfBoundsException if the index is not in this range. Note that you can use this method to add an element after the last element. The capacity of the ArrayList is increased if that is required.

(continued)

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-15

Some Methods in the Class ArrayList (Part 4 of 11)

Display 14.1 Some Methods in the Class ArrayList

METHODS TO REMOVE ELEMENTS

```
public Base_Type remove(int index)
```

Deletes and returns the element at the specified index. Each element in the ArrayList with an index greater than index is decreased to have an index that is one less than the value it had previously. The index must be a value greater than or equal to 0 and less than the current size of the ArrayList. Throws IndexOutOfBoundsException if the index is not in this range. Often used as if it were a void method.

(continued)

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-16

Display 14.1 Some Methods in the Class ArrayList

```
protected void removeRange(int fromIndex, int toIndex)
```

Deletes all the element with indices i such that $fromIndex \leq i < toIndex$. Element with indices greater than or equal to $toIndex$ are decreased appropriately.

```
public boolean remove(Object theElement)
```

Removes one occurrence of `theElement` from the calling `ArrayList`. If `theElement` is found in the `ArrayList`, then each element in the `ArrayList` with an index greater than the removed element's index is decreased to have an index that is one less than the value it had previously. Returns `true` if `theElement` was found (and removed). Returns `false` if `theElement` was not found in the calling `ArrayList`.

```
public void clear()
```

Removes all elements from the calling `ArrayList` and sets the `ArrayList`'s size to zero.

(continued)

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-17

Display 14.1 Some Methods in the Class ArrayList

SEARCH METHODS

```
public boolean contains(Object target)
```

Returns `true` if the calling `ArrayList` contains `target`; otherwise, returns `false`. Uses the method `equals` of the object `target` to test for equality with any element in the calling `ArrayList`.

```
public int indexOf(Object target)
```

Returns the index of the first element that is equal to `target`. Uses the method `equals` of the object `target` to test for equality. Returns `-1` if `target` is not found.

```
public int lastIndexOf(Object target)
```

Returns the index of the last element that is equal to `target`. Uses the method `equals` of the object `target` to test for equality. Returns `-1` if `target` is not found.

(continued)

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-18

Some Methods in the Class **ArrayList** (Part 7 of 11)

Display 14.1 Some Methods in the Class ArrayList

MEMORY MANAGEMENT (SIZE AND CAPACITY)

```
public boolean isEmpty()
```

Returns true if the calling ArrayList is empty (that is, has size 0); otherwise, returns false.

(cont)

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-19

Display 14.1 Some Methods in the Class ArrayList

```
public int size()
```

Returns the number of elements in the calling ArrayList.

```
public void ensureCapacity(int newCapacity)
```

Increases the capacity of the calling ArrayList, if necessary, in order to ensure that the ArrayList can hold at least newCapacity elements. Using ensureCapacity can sometimes increase efficiency, but its use is not needed for any other reason.

```
public void trimToSize()
```

Trims the capacity of the calling ArrayList to the ArrayList's current size. This method is used to save storage space.

(continued)

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-20

Display 14.1 Some Methods in the Class ArrayList

MAKE A COPY

```
public Object[] toArray()
```

Returns an array containing all the elements on the list. Preserves the order of the elements.

```
public Type[] toArray(Type[] a)
```

Returns an array containing all the elements on the list. Preserves the order of the elements. *Type* can be any class types. If the list will fit in *a*, the elements are copied to *a* and *a* is returned. Any elements of *a* not needed for list elements are set to *null*. If the list will not fit in *a*, a new array is created.

(As we will discuss in Section 14.2, the correct Java syntax for this method heading is

```
public <Type> Type[] toArray(Type[] a)
```

However, at this point we have not yet explained this kind of type parameter syntax.)

(continued)

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-21

Some Methods in the Class ArrayList (Part 10 of 11)

Display 14.1 Some Methods in the Class ArrayList

```
public Object clone()
```

Returns a shallow copy of the calling ArrayList. Warning: The clone is not an independent copy. Subsequent changes to the clone may affect the calling object and vice versa. (See Chapter 5 for a discussion of shallow copy.)

(continued)

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-22

Some Methods in the Class **ArrayList** (Part 11 of 11)

Display 14.1 Some Methods in the Class **ArrayList**

EQUALITY

```
public boolean equals(Object other)
```

If *other* is another **ArrayList** (of any base type), then *equals* returns true if and only if both **ArrayLists** are of the same size and contain the same list of elements in the same order. (In fact, if *other* is any kind of *list*, then *equals* returns true if and only if both the calling **ArrayList** and *other* are of the same size and contain the same list of elements in the same order. *Lists* are discussed in Chapter 16.)

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-23

Why are Some Parameters of Type **Base_Type** and Others of type **Object**

- When looking at the methods available in the **ArrayList** class, there appears to be some inconsistency
 - In some cases, when a parameter is naturally an object of the base type, the parameter type is the base type
 - However, in other cases, it is the type **Object**
- This is because the **ArrayList** class implements a number of interfaces, and inherits methods from various ancestor classes
 - These interfaces and ancestor classes specify that certain parameters have type **Object**

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-24

The "For Each" Loop

- The **ArrayList** class is an example of a *collection* class
- Starting with version 5.0, Java has added a new kind of for loop called a *for-each* or *enhanced for* loop
 - This kind of loop has been designed to cycle through all the elements in a collection (like an **ArrayList**)

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-25

Display 14.2 A for-each Loop Used with an ArrayList

```
1 import java.util.ArrayList;
2 import java.util.Scanner;

3 public class ArrayListDemo
4 {
5     public static void main(String[] args)
6     {
7         ArrayList<String> toDoList = new ArrayList<String>(20);
8         System.out.println(
9             "Enter list entries, when prompted.");
10        boolean done = false;
11        String next = null;
12        String answer;
13        Scanner keyboard = new Scanner(System.in);
```

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-26

Display 14.2 A for-each Loop Used with an ArrayList

```
14     while (! done)
15     {
16         System.out.println("Input an entry:");
17         next = keyboard.nextLine();
18         toDoList.add(next);
19
20         System.out.print("More items for the list? ");
21         answer = keyboard.nextLine();
22         if (!(answer.equalsIgnoreCase("yes")))
23             done = true;
24     }
25
26     System.out.println("The list contains:");
27     for (String entry : toDoList)
28         System.out.println(entry);
29 }
```

(continued)

A for-each Loop Used with an ArrayList (Part 3 of 3)

Display 14.2 A for-each Loop Used with an ArrayList

SAMPLE DIALOGUE

```
Enter list entries, when prompted.
Input an entry:
Practice Dancing.
More items for the list? yes
Input an entry:
Buy tickets.
More items for the list? yes
Input an entry:
Pack clothes.
More items for the list? no
The list contains:
Practice Dancing.
Buy tickets.
Pack clothes.
```

play 14.3 Golf Score Program

```
import java.util.ArrayList;
import java.util.Scanner;

public class GolfScores
{
    /**
     Shows differences between each of a list of golf scores and their average.
    */
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        ArrayList<Double> score = new ArrayList<Double>();

        System.out.println("This program reads golf scores and shows");
        System.out.println("how much each differs from the average.");

        System.out.println("Enter golf scores:");
        fillArrayList(score);
        showDifference(score);      Parameters of type ArrayList<Double>() are
    }                                handled just like any other class parameter.
                                         (continued)

```

 Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-29

Golf Score Program (Part 2 of 6)

play 14.3 Golf Score Program

```
/**
 * Reads values into the array a.
 */
public static void fillArrayList(ArrayList<Double> a)
{
    System.out.println("Enter a list of nonnegative numbers.");
    System.out.println("Mark the end of the list with a negative number.");
    Scanner keyboard = new Scanner(System.in);
                                         (continued)

```

 Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-30

/ 14.3 Golf Score Program

```
double next;
int index = 0;
next = keyboard.nextDouble();
while (next >= 0)
{
    a.add(next);
    next = keyboard.nextDouble();
}
/**
 * Returns the average of numbers in a.
 */
public static double computeAverage(ArrayList<Double> a)
{
    double total = 0;
    for (Double element : a)
        total = total + element;
```

Because of automatic boxing, we can treat values of type double as if their type were Double.

A for-each loop is the nicest way to cycle through all the elements in an ArrayList.

(continued)

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-31

Golf Score Program (Part 4 of 6)

/ 14.3 Golf Score Program

```
int numberOfscores = a.size();
if (numberOfscores > 0)
{
    return (total/numberOfscores);
}
else
{
    System.out.println("ERROR: Trying to average 0 numbers.");
    System.out.println("computeAverage returns 0.");
    return 0;
}
```

(continued)

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-32

Golf Score Program (Part 5 of 6)

Display 14.3 Golf Score Program

```
/**  
 * Gives screen output showing how much each of the elements  
 * in a differ from their average.  
 */  
public static void showDifference(ArrayList<Double> a)  
{  
    double average = computeAverage(a);  
    System.out.println("Average of the " + a.size()  
                      + " scores = " + average);  
    System.out.println("The scores are:");  
    for (Double element : a)  
        System.out.println(element + " differs from average by "  
                           + (element - average));  
}  
}
```

(continued)

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-33

Golf Score Program (Part 6 of 6)

Display 14.3 Golf Score Program

SAMPLE DIALOGUE

```
This program reads golf scores and shows  
how much each differs from the average.  
Enter golf scores:  
Enter a list of nonnegative numbers.  
Mark the end of the list with a negative number.  
69 74 68 -1  
Average of the 3 scores = 70.3333  
The scores are:  
69.0 differs from average by -1.33333  
74.0 differs from average by 3.66667  
68.0 differs from average by -2.33333
```

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-34

Tip: Use `trimToSize` to Save Memory

- An `ArrayList` automatically increases its capacity when needed
 - However, the capacity may increase beyond what a program requires
 - In addition, although an `ArrayList` grows automatically when needed, it does not shrink automatically
- If an `ArrayList` has a large amount of excess capacity, an invocation of the method `trimToSize` will shrink the capacity of the `ArrayList` down to the size needed

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-35

Pitfall: The `clone` method Makes a Shallow Copy

- When a deep copy of an `ArrayList` is needed, using the `clone` method is not sufficient
 - Invoking `clone` on an `ArrayList` object produces a shallow copy, not a deep copy
- In order to make a deep copy, it must be possible to make a deep copy of objects of the base type
 - Then a deep copy of each element in the `ArrayList` can be created and placed into a new `ArrayList` object

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-36

The **Vector** Class

- The Java standard libraries have a class named **Vector** that behaves almost exactly the same as the class **ArrayList**
- In most situations, either class could be used
 - However the **ArrayList** class is newer, and is becoming the preferred class

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-37

Parameterized Classes and Generics

- The class **ArrayList** is a *parameterized class*
- It has a parameter, denoted by **Base_Type**, that can be replaced by any reference type to obtain a class for **ArrayLists** with the specified base type
- Starting with version 5.0, Java allows class definitions with parameters for types
 - These classes that have type parameters are called *parameterized class* or *generic definitions*, or, simply, *generics*

Copyright © 2017 Pearson Ltd. All rights reserved.

14-38

Nonparameterized **ArrayList** and **Vector** Classes

- The **ArrayList** and **Vector** classes discussed here have a type parameter for the base type
- There are also **ArrayList** and **Vector** classes with no parameter whose base type is **Object**
 - These classes are left over from earlier versions of Java