

Generics

CPT204 Advanced Object-Oriented Programming

Lecture 4 Generics

What are Generics?

- **Generics** is the capability to *parameterize types*
 - With this capability, you can define a class or a method with generic types that can be substituted using concrete types by the compiler
 - You may define a generic stack class that stores the elements of a generic type
 - From this generic class, you may create:
 - a stack object for holding Strings
 - a stack object for holding numbers

Strings and numbers are concrete types that replace the generic type

Why Generics?

- The key benefit of generics is to enable **errors to be detected at compile time** rather than at **runtime**
- A generic class or method permits you to specify allowable types of objects that the class or method may work with
 - We still do **code reuse**, e.g., write a single implementation for a special kind of data structure, like a single implementation of a generic stack and its standard methods
- **Most important advantage: If you attempt to use the class or method with an incompatible object, a compile error occurs**

W4 - Sample Questions on Generic

- Conceptual & Programming
- Example 1

Explain the following Java code using plain English.

```
public class Foobar< T > { }
```

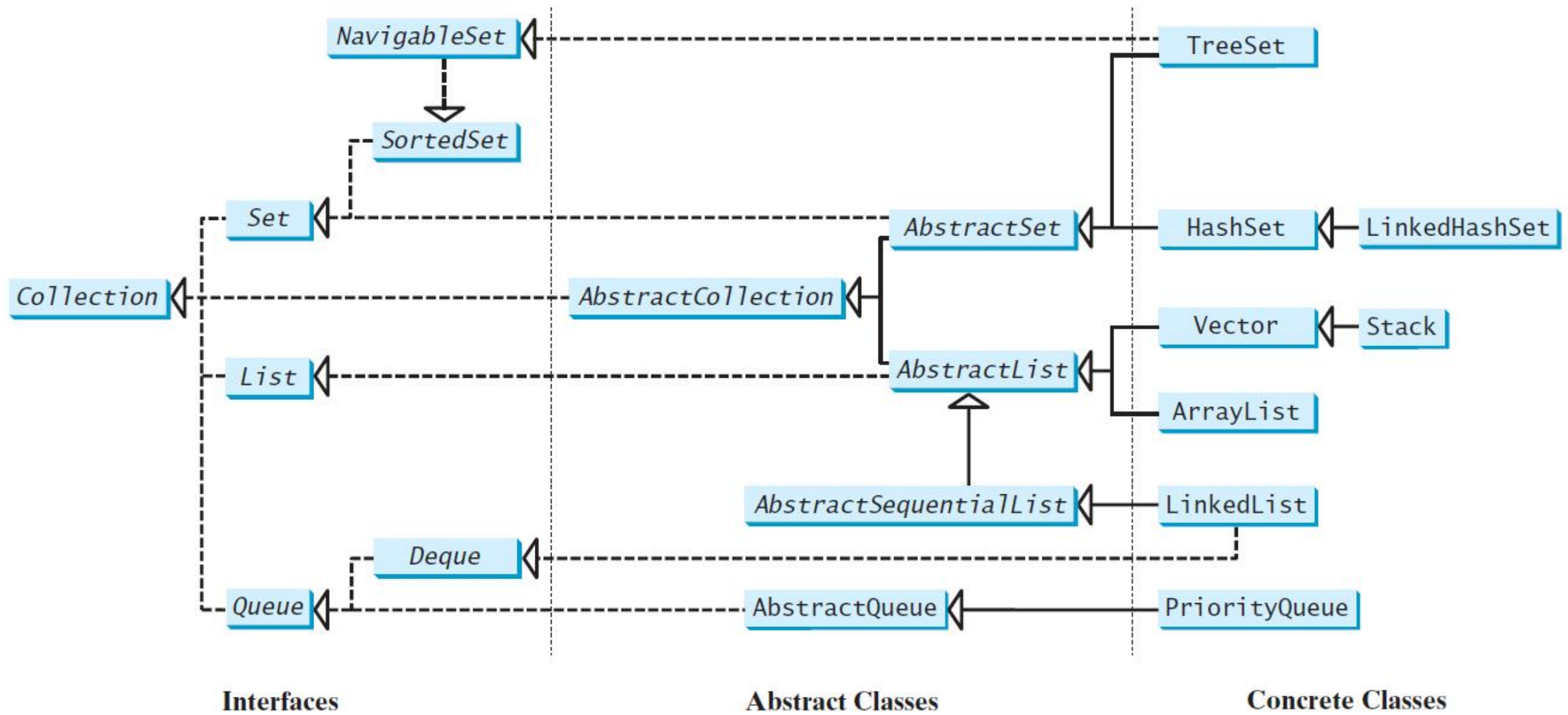
The code declares a class named Foobar with a single type parameter T.

- Example 2
 - Write Java code that declares a generic public class named Foobar with a single type parameter T.

Lists, Stacks, Queues, and Priority Queues

CPT204 Advanced Object-Oriented Programming

Lecture 5 Lists, Stacks, Queues, and Priority Queues



Iterators

- Each collection is **Iterable**
 - *Iterator* is a classic design pattern for walking through a data structure without having to expose the details of how data is stored in the data structure
 - Also used in for-each loops:

```
for(String element: collection)
    System.out.print(element + " ");
```
- The **Collection** interface extends the **Iterable** interface
 - You can obtain a collection **Iterator** object to traverse all the elements in the collection with the **iterator()** method in the **Iterable** interface which returns an instance of **Iterator**
 - The **Iterable** interface defines the **iterator** method, which returns an **Iterator**

W5 - Sample Questions on Lists, Stacks, Queues, and Priority Queues

- Conceptual & Programming
- Example 1

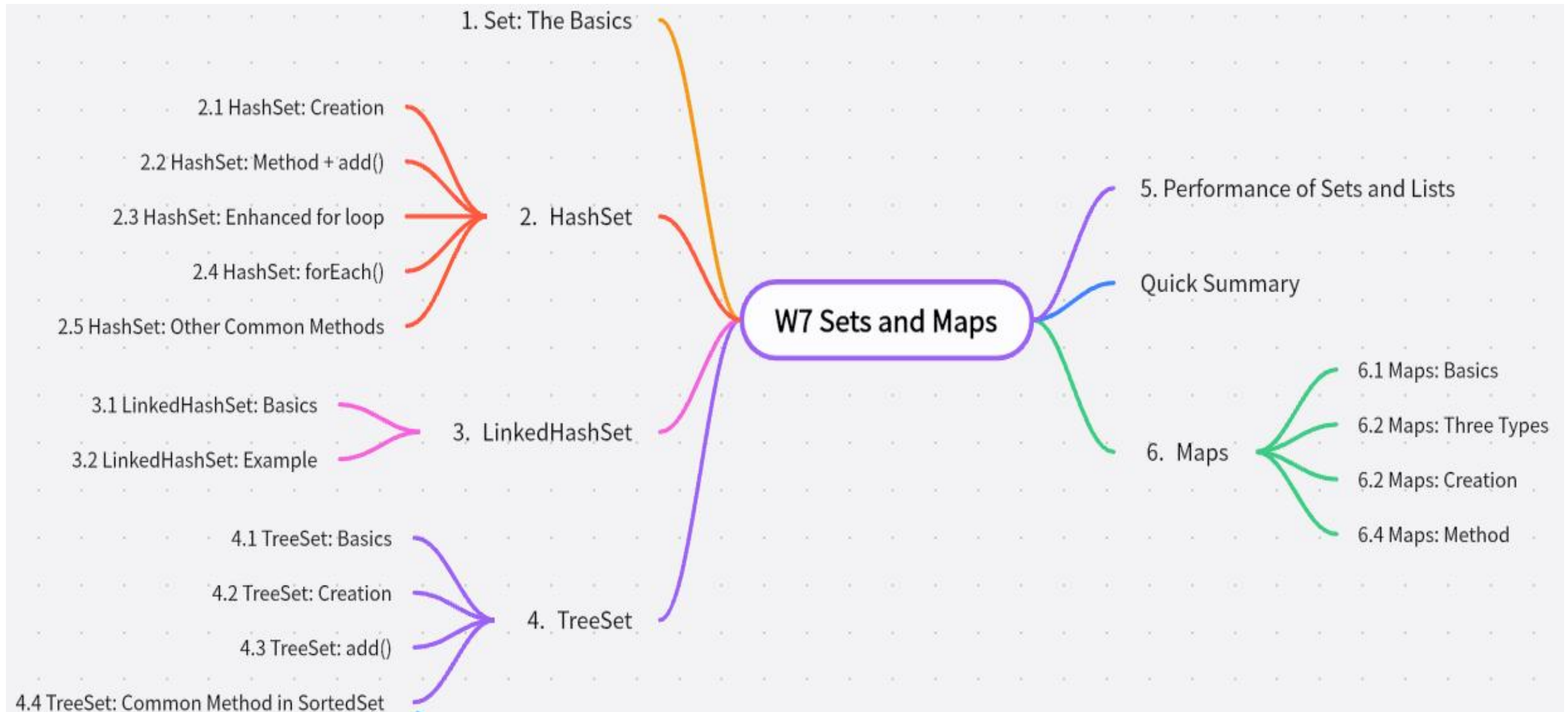
In a , elements are assigned priorities and the element with the highest priority is removed first.

- Example 2
 - Write Java code that (1) declares a priority queue of String type; (2) adds “A”, “a”, “1” into the priority queue; (3) output the 3 Strings.
- Just because we use priority queue as examples above, doesn't mean other containers are not important.

Sets and Maps

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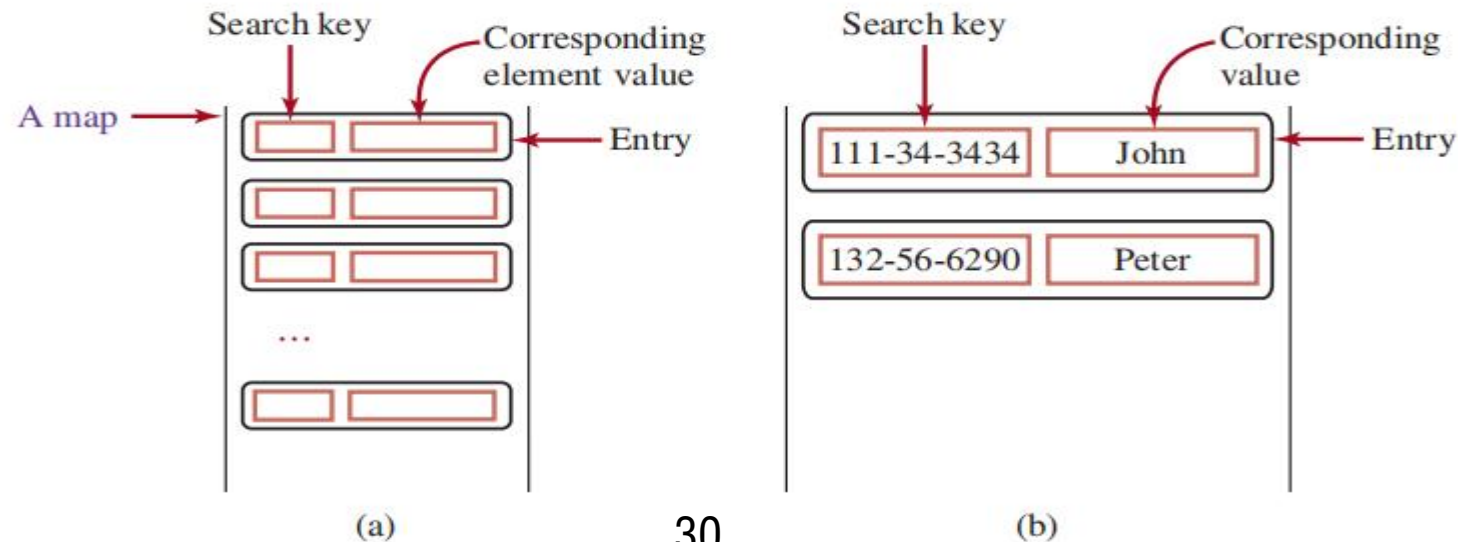


Set: The Basics

- **Set interface** is a sub-interface of **Collection**
- It extends the **Collection**, but does not introduce new methods or constants.
- However, the **Set interface stipulates** that an instance of **Set** **contains no duplicate elements**
 - That is, **no two elements e1 and e2** can be in the set such that **e1.equals(e2)** is true

Maps: Basics

- A **map** is a container object that stores a collection of key/value pairs.
- It enables fast retrieval, deletion, and updating of the pair through the key. A map stores the values along with the keys.
- In List, the indexes are integers. In Map, the keys can be any objects.
 - A map cannot contain duplicate keys.
 - Each key maps to one value.



W6 - Sets and Maps

- Conceptual & Programming
- Example 1

In a List, the indexes are integers. However, in a Map, the keys can be

- Example 2
 - Write a Java statement that (1) declares a Hash Set of String type; (2) adds “A”, “a”, “1” into the hash set; (3) output the 3 Strings.
- Just because we used hash set as examples above, doesn't mean other containers are not important