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org.apache.commons.collections4.comparators

## Class NullComparator<E>

* [java.lang.Object](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/lang/Object.html?is-external=true)
  + org.apache.commons.collections4.comparators.NullComparator<E>
* Type Parameters: E - the type of objects compared by this comparator All Implemented Interfaces: [Serializable](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/io/Serializable.html?is-external=true), [Comparator](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true)<E>  
    
  public class NullComparator<E>  
  extends [Object](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/lang/Object.html?is-external=true)  
  implements [Comparator](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true)<E>, [Serializable](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/io/Serializable.html?is-external=true)  
  A Comparator that will compare nulls to be either lower or higher than other objects.Since: 2.0 See Also: [Serialized Form](http://docs.google.com/serialized-form.html#org.apache.commons.collections4.comparators.NullComparator)

### Constructor SummaryConstructors

|  |
| --- |
| * + Constructor and Description |
| * + [NullComparator](http://docs.google.com/org/apache/commons/collections4/comparators/NullComparator.html#NullComparator--)() Construct an instance that sorts null higher than any non-null object it is compared with. |
| * + [NullComparator](http://docs.google.com/org/apache/commons/collections4/comparators/NullComparator.html#NullComparator-boolean-)(boolean nullsAreHigh) Construct an instance that sorts null higher or lower than any non-null object it is compared with. |
| * + [NullComparator](http://docs.google.com/org/apache/commons/collections4/comparators/NullComparator.html#NullComparator-java.util.Comparator-)([Comparator](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true)<? super [E](http://docs.google.com/org/apache/commons/collections4/comparators/NullComparator.html)> nonNullComparator) Construct an instance that sorts null higher than any non-null object it is compared with. |
| * + [NullComparator](http://docs.google.com/org/apache/commons/collections4/comparators/NullComparator.html#NullComparator-java.util.Comparator-boolean-)([Comparator](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true)<? super [E](http://docs.google.com/org/apache/commons/collections4/comparators/NullComparator.html)> nonNullComparator, boolean nullsAreHigh) Construct an instance that sorts null higher or lower than any non-null object it is compared with. |

### Method SummaryAll Methods Instance Methods Concrete Methods

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * + Modifier and Type | * + Method and Description |
| * + int | * + [compare](http://docs.google.com/org/apache/commons/collections4/comparators/NullComparator.html#compare-E-E-)([E](http://docs.google.com/org/apache/commons/collections4/comparators/NullComparator.html) o1, [E](http://docs.google.com/org/apache/commons/collections4/comparators/NullComparator.html) o2) Perform a comparison between two objects. |
| * + boolean | * + [equals](http://docs.google.com/org/apache/commons/collections4/comparators/NullComparator.html#equals-java.lang.Object-)([Object](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/lang/Object.html?is-external=true) obj) Determines whether the specified object represents a comparator that is equal to this comparator. |
| * + int | * + [hashCode](http://docs.google.com/org/apache/commons/collections4/comparators/NullComparator.html#hashCode--)() Implement a hash code for this comparator that is consistent with [equals(Object)](http://docs.google.com/org/apache/commons/collections4/comparators/NullComparator.html#equals-java.lang.Object-). |

### Methods inherited from class java.lang.[**Object**](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/lang/Object.html?is-external=true)[clone](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/lang/Object.html?is-external=true#clone--), [finalize](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/lang/Object.html?is-external=true#finalize--), [getClass](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/lang/Object.html?is-external=true#getClass--), [notify](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/lang/Object.html?is-external=true#notify--), [notifyAll](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/lang/Object.html?is-external=true#notifyAll--), [toString](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/lang/Object.html?is-external=true#toString--), [wait](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/lang/Object.html?is-external=true#wait--), [wait](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/lang/Object.html?is-external=true#wait-long-), [wait](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/lang/Object.html?is-external=true#wait-long-int-)

### Methods inherited from interface java.util.[**Comparator**](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true)[comparing](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true#comparing-java.util.function.Function-), [comparing](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true#comparing-java.util.function.Function-java.util.Comparator-), [comparingDouble](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true#comparingDouble-java.util.function.ToDoubleFunction-), [comparingInt](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true#comparingInt-java.util.function.ToIntFunction-), [comparingLong](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true#comparingLong-java.util.function.ToLongFunction-), [naturalOrder](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true#naturalOrder--), [nullsFirst](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true#nullsFirst-java.util.Comparator-), [nullsLast](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true#nullsLast-java.util.Comparator-), [reversed](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true#reversed--), [reverseOrder](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true#reverseOrder--), [thenComparing](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true#thenComparing-java.util.Comparator-), [thenComparing](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true#thenComparing-java.util.function.Function-), [thenComparing](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true#thenComparing-java.util.function.Function-java.util.Comparator-), [thenComparingDouble](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true#thenComparingDouble-java.util.function.ToDoubleFunction-), [thenComparingInt](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true#thenComparingInt-java.util.function.ToIntFunction-), [thenComparingLong](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true#thenComparingLong-java.util.function.ToLongFunction-)

### Constructor Detail

#### NullComparator public NullComparator() Construct an instance that sorts null higher than any non-null object it is compared with. When comparing two non-null objects, the [ComparableComparator](http://docs.google.com/org/apache/commons/collections4/comparators/ComparableComparator.html) is used.

#### NullComparator public NullComparator([Comparator](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true)<? super [E](http://docs.google.com/org/apache/commons/collections4/comparators/NullComparator.html)> nonNullComparator) Construct an instance that sorts null higher than any non-null object it is compared with. When comparing two non-null objects, the specified [Comparator](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true) is used.Parameters: nonNullComparator - the comparator to use when comparing two non-null objects. This argument cannot be null Throws: [NullPointerException](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/lang/NullPointerException.html?is-external=true) - if nonNullComparator is null

#### NullComparator public NullComparator(boolean nullsAreHigh) Construct an instance that sorts null higher or lower than any non-null object it is compared with. When comparing two non-null objects, the [ComparableComparator](http://docs.google.com/org/apache/commons/collections4/comparators/ComparableComparator.html) is used.Parameters: nullsAreHigh - a true value indicates that null should be compared as higher than a non-null object. A false value indicates that null should be compared as lower than a non-null object.

#### NullComparator public NullComparator([Comparator](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true)<? super [E](http://docs.google.com/org/apache/commons/collections4/comparators/NullComparator.html)> nonNullComparator, boolean nullsAreHigh) Construct an instance that sorts null higher or lower than any non-null object it is compared with. When comparing two non-null objects, the specified [Comparator](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true) is used.Parameters: nonNullComparator - the comparator to use when comparing two non-null objects. This argument cannot be null nullsAreHigh - a true value indicates that null should be compared as higher than a non-null object. A false value indicates that null should be compared as lower than a non-null object. Throws: [NullPointerException](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/lang/NullPointerException.html?is-external=true) - if nonNullComparator is null

### Method Detail

#### compare public int compare([E](http://docs.google.com/org/apache/commons/collections4/comparators/NullComparator.html) o1, [E](http://docs.google.com/org/apache/commons/collections4/comparators/NullComparator.html) o2) Perform a comparison between two objects. If both objects are null, a 0 value is returned. If one object is null and the other is not, the result is determined on whether the Comparator was constructed to have nulls as higher or lower than other objects. If neither object is null, an underlying comparator specified in the constructor (or the default) is used to compare the non-null objects.Specified by: [compare](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true#compare-T-T-) in interface [Comparator](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true)<[E](http://docs.google.com/org/apache/commons/collections4/comparators/NullComparator.html)> Parameters: o1 - the first object to compare o2 - the object to compare it to. Returns: -1 if o1 is "lower" than (less than, before, etc.) o2; 1 if o1 is "higher" than (greater than, after, etc.) o2; or 0 if o1 and o2 are equal.

#### hashCode public int hashCode() Implement a hash code for this comparator that is consistent with [equals(Object)](http://docs.google.com/org/apache/commons/collections4/comparators/NullComparator.html#equals-java.lang.Object-).Overrides: [hashCode](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/lang/Object.html?is-external=true#hashCode--) in class [Object](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/lang/Object.html?is-external=true) Returns: a hash code for this comparator.

#### equals public boolean equals([Object](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/lang/Object.html?is-external=true) obj) Determines whether the specified object represents a comparator that is equal to this comparator.Specified by: [equals](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true#equals-java.lang.Object-) in interface [Comparator](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Comparator.html?is-external=true)<[E](http://docs.google.com/org/apache/commons/collections4/comparators/NullComparator.html)> Overrides: [equals](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/lang/Object.html?is-external=true#equals-java.lang.Object-) in class [Object](https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/lang/Object.html?is-external=true) Parameters: obj - the object to compare this comparator with. Returns: true if the specified object is a NullComparator with equivalent null comparison behavior (i.e. null high or low) and with equivalent underlying non-null object comparators.

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