

## Rational of Collation Function Translation

The design adapts C collation functions (``strcoll``, ``strxfrm``, ``wcscoll``, ``wcsxfrm``) into Java's object-oriented and Unicode-compatible environment, at the same time improvements for clarity, and alignment with Java's conventions.

## Design Choices and Naming

### 1. Collation Class:

- ``Collation``: The ``Collation`` class name reflects its primary purpose of handling locale-specific collation.
  - ``setLocale`` and ``getLocale``: In C, ``setlocale`` serves both to set and retrieve the locale, which is unexpected and can surprise the user. By splitting this functionality into two distinct methods, the design enhances readability.
  - ``compareStringWithCollation``: This method corresponds to C's ``strcoll`` and ``wcscoll``, which compare two strings based on locale rules. In C, ``strcoll`` and ``wcscoll`` are necessary because ``char`` is single-byte and ``wchar_t`` supports multi-byte or wide characters. However, Java's ``String`` inherently supports Unicode, so we combine these two functions into one. The naming was also adjusted to improve clarity, avoiding abbreviations like ``w`` and ``coll``, and explicitly mentioning "compare."
  - ``transformStringWithCollation``: This method adapts ``strxfrm`` and ``wcsxfrm``, applying locale-based transformations to a portion of a string. In C, separate functions for ``char`` and ``wchar_t`` were necessary, but Java's ``String`` supports Unicode, so both functions are also combined here.
- In the Java translation, memory overlap checks were eliminated because Java's immutable String and memory management prevent such issues. In C, the ``size`` argument is unsigned, but java doesn't have unsigned. So added argument check for ``size`` to throw exceptions for negative input.

### 2. Enum ``LocaleCategory``:

- The ``LocaleCategory`` enum represents specific locale categories, such as ``LC_COLLATE`` and ``LC_CTYPE``. It mirrors the original design in C (using the same enum values), making it easier for users familiar with C to transition to this Java API.

## Translation Design Principles Used

### 1. Java-Specific Adjustments:

- Java's ``String`` class supports Unicode, which eliminates the need for separate functions for narrow (``char``) and wide (``wchar_t``) characters as in C.

### 2. Consistency with Java Conventions:

- The API follows Java naming conventions, such as camelCase for methods, and adopts an object-oriented design.

### 3. Translation with Improvements:

- The API translates all C functions and closely follows the original function names unless the naming was unclear or could be misleading (such as ``setlocale``, ``strcoll``, ``wcscoll``, ``strxfrm``, ``wcsxfrm``).