

Being somewhat new to the Java language I'm trying to familiarize myself with all the ways (or at least the non-pathological ones) that one might iterate through a list (or perhaps other collections) and the advantages or disadvantages of each.

Given a `List<E>` list object, I know of the following ways to loop through all elements:

Basic [for loop](#) (of course, there're equivalent `while / do while` loops as well)

```
// Not recommended (see below)!
for (int i = 0; i < list.size(); i++) {
    E element = list.get(i);
    // 1 - can call methods of element
    // 2 - can use i to make index-based calls to methods of list

    // ...
}
```

Note: As @amarseillan pointed out, this form is a poor choice for iterating over Lists because the actual implementation of the `get` method may not be as efficient as when using an `Iterator`. For example, `LinkedList` implementations must traverse all of the elements preceding `i` to get the `i`-th element. In the above example there's no way for the `List` implementation to "save its place" to make future iterations more efficient. For an `ArrayList` it doesn't really matter because the complexity/cost of `get` is constant time ($O(1)$) whereas for a `LinkedList` is it proportional to the size of the list ($O(n)$). For more information about the computational complexity of the built-in `Collections` implementations, check out [this question](#).

Enhanced [for loop](#) (nicely explained [in this question](#))

```
for (E element : list) {
    // 1 - can call methods of element

    // ...
}
```

[Iterator](#)

```
for (Iterator<E> iter = list.iterator(); iter.hasNext(); ) {
    E element = iter.next();
    // 1 - can call methods of element
    // 2 - can use iter.remove() to remove the current element from the list

    // ...
}
```

EDIT: Added `ListIterator`

[ListIterator](#)

```
for (ListIterator<E> iter = list.listIterator(); iter.hasNext(); ) {
    E element = iter.next();
    // 1 - can call methods of element
    // 2 - can use iter.remove() to remove the current element from the list
    // 3 - can use iter.add(...) to insert a new element into the list
    //     between element and iter->next()
    // 4 - can use iter.set(...) to replace the current element

    // ...
}
```

EDIT: Added "functional-style" solution (thanks Dave Newton)

[Functional Java](#)

```
list.map({E e => e++ } // can apply a transformation function for e
```

What other ways are there, if any?

I feel like this has got to be a duplicate, but I haven't been able to find what I'm looking for, so I apologize for this question potentially being redundant. (BTW, my interest does not stem at all from a desire to [optimize performance](#); I just want to know what forms are available to me as a developer.)

EDIT: Moved `ListIterationExample.java` to a suggested answer