

Multiple Dispatch for Java

Francisco Fialho - 98843

Miguel Marcelino - 98684

Group 28

Outline

**1. Base
Implementation**



2. Extensions



3. Final Thoughts

Problem

- Solve Dynamic Dispatch in Java
 - Using dynamic dispatch not only for the receiver but also for arguments
- Finding most specific method available and removing unexpected results

Algorithm

Algorithm

- **invoke**
 - Parses **args** into a list for search
 - Filters methods with less or more arguments than specified
 - Calls **findBestMethod** to find the most specific method
- **findBestMethod** finds most specific method in 2 steps:
 1. Filter out methods where parameters don't match
 2. Find the most specific method amongst filtered methods

Invoke Function

```
public static Object invoke(Object receiver, String name, Object... args) {  
    try {  
        ArrayList<Object> objects =  
            Arrays.stream(args).collect(Collectors.toCollection(ArrayList::new));  
        Class classType = receiver.getClass();  
  
        ArrayList<Method> methodList = Arrays.stream(classType.getMethods())  
            .filter(method -> method.getName().equals(name) &&  
                method.getParameterCount() == objects.size())  
            .collect(Collectors.toCollection(ArrayList::new));  
  
        Method method = findBestMethod(methodList, objects);  
        return method.invoke(receiver, args);  
    } catch (IllegalAccessException | InvocationTargetException |  
        NoSuchMethodException e) {  
        throw new RuntimeException(e.getMessage());  
    }  
}
```

} Parse args

} Filter methods

} Call findBestMethod

Algorithm - 1

```
static Method findBestMethod(ArrayList<Method> methodList, ArrayList<Object> objects)
    throws NoSuchMethodException {
    List<Method> matchingMethods = methodList.stream()
        .filter(method -> {
            Class[] parameterTypes = method.getParameterTypes();
            for (int i = 0; i < objects.size(); i++) {
                if (!parameterTypes[i].isAssignableFrom(objects.get(i).getClass()))
                    return false;
            }
            return true;
        }).collect(Collectors.toList());

    if (matchingMethods.isEmpty()) throw new NoSuchMethodException();
    Method best = matchingMethods.get(0);

    ...
}
```

**Filter methods where
parameters are not a
match**

Algorithm - 2

```
...
for (Method method : matchingMethods) {
    boolean isBest = true;
    boolean isMoreSpecific = false;
    Class[] parameterTypes = method.getParameterTypes();
    Class[] currBestMethodParams = best.getParameterTypes();
    for (int i = 0; i < objects.size() && isBest && !isMoreSpecific; i++) {
        if (currBestMethodParams[i].isAssignableFrom(parameterTypes[i])) {
            if (currBestMethodParams[i] != parameterTypes[i])
                isMoreSpecific = true;
        } else {
            isBest = false;
        }
    }

    if (isMoreSpecific) best = method;
}
return best;
}
```

**Find the most
specific method**

Extensions

Dealing with Boxing and Unboxing

- Input array was added to **invoke** to specify elements that need to be unboxed
- **findBestMethod** needs to convert an object to a primitive type if its position is specified in the input array
- In our implementation:
 - `someMethod(int) → someMethod(int) or someMethod(Integer)`
 - `someMethod(Integer) → someMethod(Integer)`

Invoke Function

```
public static Object invoke(Object receiver, String name, Integer[] primitiveObjPositions, Object... args) {
    try {
        ArrayList<Object> objects =
            Arrays.stream(args).collect(Collectors.toCollection(ArrayList::new));
        ArrayList<Integer> primitivePositions =
            Arrays.stream(primitiveObjPositions);
        Class classType = receiver.getClass();

        ArrayList<Method> methodList = Arrays.stream(classType.getMethods())
            .filter(method -> method.getName().equals(name) &&
                method.getParameterCount() == objects.size())
            .collect(Collectors.toCollection(ArrayList::new));

        Method method = findBestMethod(methodList, objects, primitivePositions);
        return method.invoke(receiver, args);
    } catch (IllegalAccessException | InvocationTargetException |
        NoSuchMethodException e) {
        throw new RuntimeException(e.getMessage());
    }
}
```

} New parsing

} Adds
primitivePositions

Algorithm Boxing/Unboxing - 1

```
static Method findBestMethod(ArrayList<Method> methodList, ArrayList<Object> objects,
                             ArrayList<Integer> primitivePositions) throws NoSuchMethodException {
    List<Method> matchingMethods = methodList.stream().filter(method -> {
        Class[] parameterTypes = method.getParameterTypes();
        for (int i = 0; i < objects.size(); i++) {
            Class objectClass = objects.get(i).getClass();
            if (primitivePositions.contains(i)) {
                Class primitiveClass = getPrimitiveType(objectClass);
                if (parameterTypes[i].isPrimitive()) {
                    if (!parameterTypes[i].isAssignableFrom(primitiveClass))
                        return false;
                } else {
                    if (!parameterTypes[i].isAssignableFrom(objectClass))
                        return false;
                }
            } else {
                if (!parameterTypes[i].isAssignableFrom(objectClass))
                    return false;
            }
        }
        return true;
    }).collect(Collectors.toList());
}
```

New condition verification

Algorithm Boxing/Unboxing - 2

```
if (matchingMethods.isEmpty()) throw new NoSuchMethodException();
Method best = matchingMethods.get(0);

for (Method method : matchingMethods) {
    boolean isBest = true;
    boolean isMoreSpecific = false;
    Class[] parameterTypes = method.getParameterTypes();
    Class[] currBestMethodParams = best.getParameterTypes();
    for (int i = 0; i < objects.size() && isBest && !isMoreSpecific; i++) {
        if (primitivePositions.contains(i)) {
            if (!currBestMethodParams[i].isPrimitive()) {
                if (parameterTypes[i].isPrimitive())
                    isMoreSpecific = true;
            }
        }
    }
}
```

} New
condition
verification

Example:

```
currBestMethodParams[i] = Integer
parameterTypes[i] = int
```

Algorithm Boxing/Unboxing - 3

```
        } else {
            if (currBestMethodParams[i].isAssignableFrom(parameterTypes[i])) {
                if (currBestMethodParams[i] != parameterTypes[i])
                    isMoreSpecific = true;
                } else {
                    isBest = false;
                }
            }
        }

        if (isMoreSpecific) best = method;
    }

    return best;
}
```

Dealing with Interface hierarchy

- Requires another condition
 - Find most specific Interface
- In our implementation:

Classes:

```
public class Test1 extends Test implements ITest1, ITest2, ITest3 → ITest1 {...}  
public class Test2 extends Test implements ITest2, ITest1, ITest3 → ITest2 {...}
```

Invoke:

```
UsingMultipleDispatchInterface.invoke(new Screen(), "draw", new Test1());  
UsingMultipleDispatchInterface.invoke(new Screen(), "draw", new Test2());
```

In Class Screen:

```
public void draw(ITest1 t) {System.err.println("drawing a line on screen TEST1");}  
public void draw(ITest2 t) {System.err.println("drawing a line on screen TEST2");}  
public void draw(ITest3 t) {System.err.println("drawing a line on screen TEST3");}
```

Algorithm Interfaces - 1

```
...  
if (matchingMethods.isEmpty()) throw new NoSuchMethodException();  
Method best = matchingMethods.get(0);  
  
for (Method method : matchingMethods) {  
    boolean isBest = true;  
    boolean isMoreSpecific = false;  
    Class[] parameterTypes = method.getParameterTypes();  
    Class[] currBestMethodParams = best.getParameterTypes();  
    for (int i = 0; i < objects.size() && isBest && !isMoreSpecific; i++) {  
        if (currBestMethodParams[i].isAssignableFrom(parameterTypes[i])) {  
            if (currBestMethodParams[i] != parameterTypes[i])  
                isMoreSpecific = true;  
        } else {  
            ...  
        }  
    }  
}
```


Algorithm Interfaces - 2

New
Conditions

```
...
    if (currBestMethodParams[i].isInterface() && parameterTypes[i].isInterface()) {
        ArrayList<Class> interfaces =
            Arrays.stream(objects.get(i).getClass().getInterfaces())
                .collect(Collectors.toCollection(ArrayList::new));
        if (!interfaces.isEmpty()) {
            if (interfaces.indexOf(currBestMethodParams[i]) <
                interfaces.indexOf(parameterTypes[i]))
                isBest = false;
            else
                isMoreSpecific = true;
        }
    } else {
        isBest = false;
    }
}
}
if (isMoreSpecific) best = method;
...
}
```

Final Thoughts

Final Thoughts

- These are complex topics
- Our algorithm tries to maintain as many java properties as possible
- Interface implementation could get more specific

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