



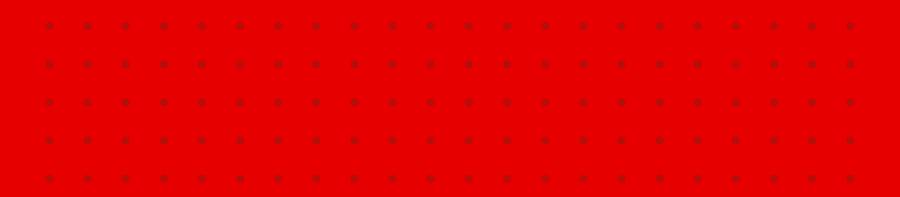
An introduction to the Java Collections Framework

Bogdan ŞTEFAN Radu HOAGHE Ciprian PARASCHIVESCU **Outline**

- 1. General concepts
- 2. Containers in Java
- 3. Container utility classes



General concepts

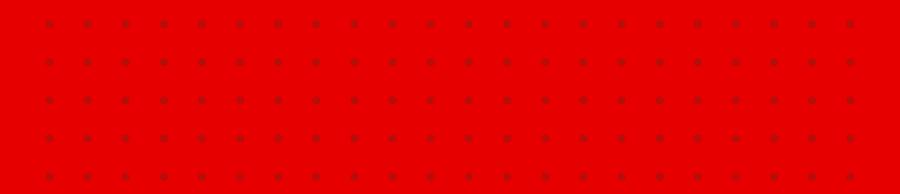


General concepts • • • • •

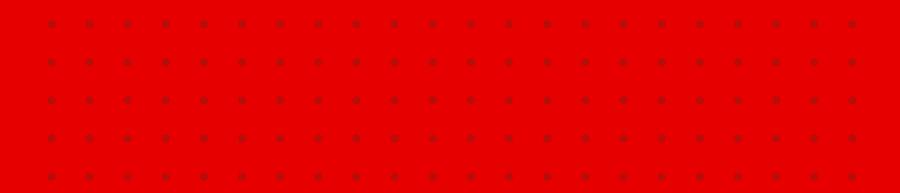
- Every programming language makes use of some base data structures to assist in developer productivity.
- □ In programming literature these are known as compound data types – and are especially useful for dynamicity at run-time.
- □ They are split into three categories, which we'll henceforth call containers:
 - 1. Tuples
 - 2. Lists
 - 3. Dictionaries

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Containers... the Java way



But first, a few words about Tuples! ©



Tuples

☐ They represent **ordered** (not sorted!) sequences of elements.

.

- ☐ They are **immutable** (i.e. they cannot be changed at element level).
- Not part of Java, by default.
- ☐ Their purpose: ??? Let's find out... ⓒ

Tuples – Quick example

Problem formulation:

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
    Sample samplesA = generateRandomSample(10);
    Sample samplesB = generateRandomSample(10);
    System.out.println(samplesA);
    System.out.println(samplesB);
}

process finished with exit code 0
Given multiple
batches of experimental
data
```

Tuples – Quick example (2)

Problem formulation:

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
    Sample samplesA = generateRandomSample(10);
    Sample samplesB = generateRandomSample(10);
    System.out.println(samplesA);
    System.out.println(samplesB);
}
```

```
"C:\Program ...

[9258, 555, 6693, 1861, 961, 429, 4868, 200, 4522, 6207]

[8288, 128, 8551, 4589, 6809, 7278, 5998, 4861, 5520, 9258]

samplesA(min, max): (200, 9258)

samplesB(min, max): (128, 9258)

Process finished with exit code 0

the max
```

We'd like to compute both the minimum and the maximum...

using a single method!

Tuples – Quick example (3)

We define a **2-Tuple** to hold our data:

```
public class TwoTuple<A, B> {
    public final A first;
    public final B second;

public TwoTuple(A first, B second) {
        this.first = first;
        this.second = second;
    }

public String toString() { return "(" + first + ", " + second + ")"; }
}
```

public access, immutable holders for 1st and 2nd element

In the future, we might need 3 items? No problem!

adding a 3rd holder item using inheritance;

We now have a 3-Tuple

Tuples – Quick example (3)

We define a **2-Tuple** to hold our data:

```
public class TwoTuple<A, B> {
   public final A first;
    public final B second;
   public TwoTuple(A first, B second) {
        this.first = first;
        this.second = second:
   public String toString() { return "(" + first + ", " + second + ")"; }
```

public access, immutable holders for 1st and 2nd element

Build our algorithm*, using above type

```
public static TwoTuple<Integer, Integer>
computeBatchCharacteristics(Sample sampleBatch) {
   // Compute minimum and maximum
   return tuple(min(sampleBatch), // and return
                max(sampleBatch)); // as a 2-tuple
                        return a 2-tuple
```

Tuples – Conclusions

☐ They represent ordered (not sorted!) sequences of elements.

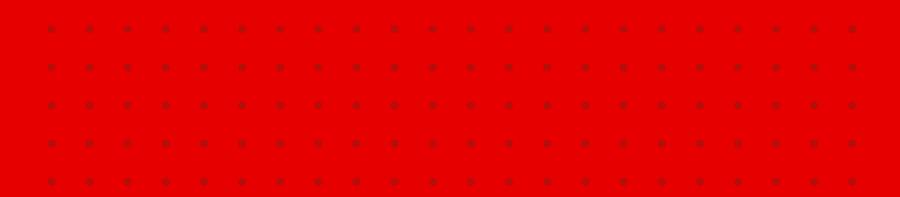
☐ They are immutable (they cannot be changed at element level).

■ Not part of Java JDK, by default.

☐ Their purpose: they allow **multi-return** in methods/functions.

2.1

Arrays in Java



Array(s) •

☐ The most basic (primitive) "containers" of any statically typed programming language.

Declaration (two alternatives):

Setting values explicitly:

```
// Explicitly setting values
arrayOfIntegers[0] = 1; // Notice: the first entry always starts at position '0' !!!
arrayOfIntegers[1] = 3;
explicit position a.k.a.
explicit value
"the array Index"
```

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Array(s) – Adding and retrieving values

Adding values (most often done way):

Retrieval/accessing (explicit):

```
// Retrieving values explicitly
int firstValue = arrayOfIntegers[0]; // Access first value, save its reference Value
int secondValue = arrayOfIntegers[1]; // Access second value, save its reference Value
```

☐ They offer the best **random access performance*** compared with any other containers (for both *addition* and *retrieval* of data).

Array(s) – Further notes on retrieval •

Retrieval (*classic* vs. *foreach* iteration):

```
// --- Does it contain number '5'?
      // A flag to denote discovery
      boolean containsFive = false:
                                                                    Using
      // Automate retrieval by iterating over array
                                                                      "foreach"
      for (int_arrayOfInteger : arrayOfIntegers) {
      Validate each retrieved value against '5'
elem
                                                                            Simpler access to
          if (arrayOfInteger == 5) {
                                                                            elements, instead of
              // Set flag to true
                                                                            "i (ndex)"-based
              containsFive = true:
                                                                            values
              break; // No need to proceed any further
      // Print conclusion
      System.out.println(containsFive ? "Five's in here!" : "Sorry buddy, no five for you!");
```

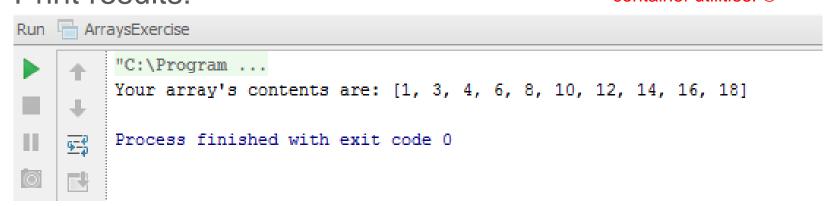
Array(s) – Printing

Printing (user friendly way):

A-ha, what's this?!

First contact with container utilities! ©

Print results:



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- **Array**(s) − "99 problemz" ©
- ☐ They are really really fast; specifically, they provide an *efficient* performance, however at a *low-level*.
- ☐ They do not play well with *generics*; actually, it is more accurate to state that "*generics are fairly hostile against arrays*."[1]
- ☐ Their main issues?

They (must) have a (pre-known) fixed size.

Generally *very expensive to expand*, to hold *other items* (think at BIG scale things!).



Changing requirements

■ What if we want to deal with any known number of "items", dynamically at run-time?

Think in terms of

"dynamic memory management"...

OMG!!! Omagawd!!!
What do we do?!
What... do we...
doo?!!



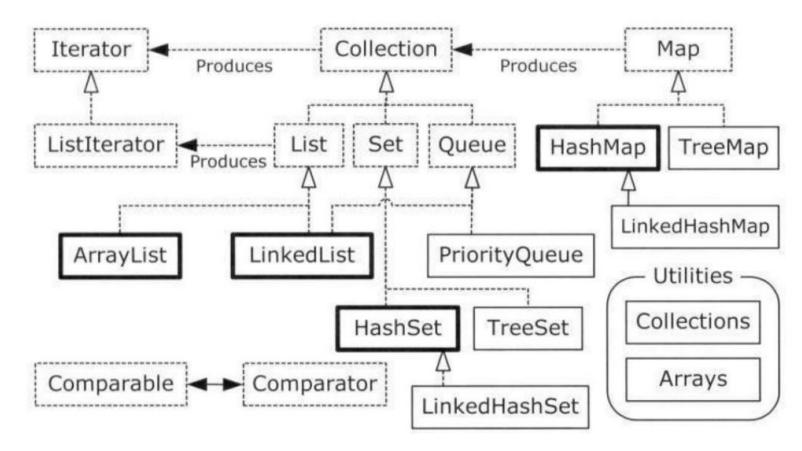
Changing requirements

- What if we want to deal with any known number of "items", dynamically at run-time?
- What if we had some kind of utility that could hold elements and expand in a natural sort of way, if needed?

How about we take a look at what's inside the java.util package?

The java.util "toolbox"

Here's an overview of the most often used Java containers:



A first word about Java containers

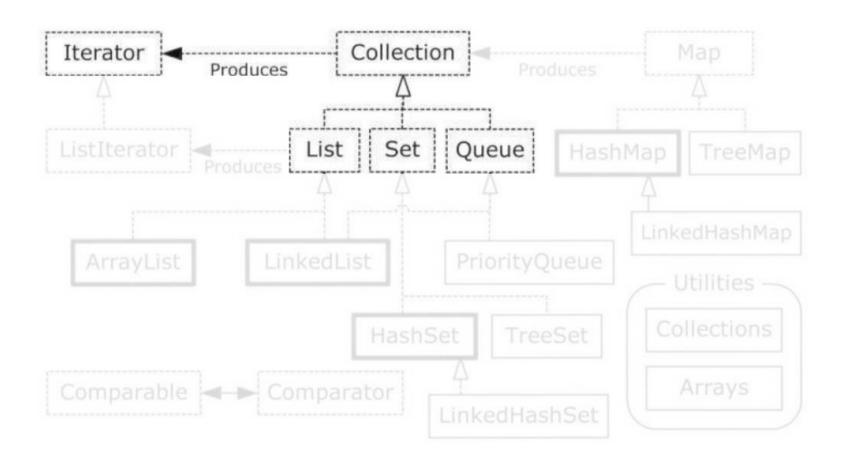
Categories:

- Collections sequences which can hold individual elements based on one or more rules.
- 2. Maps a group of associated pairs of elements (also known as a *dictionary*, in programming literature).

Container utilities: java.util.Arrays & collections classes

Teamnet

java.util.Collection(s)



java.util.Collection

Collection

The basic single-item containers in Java are known as **collections**.

The Collection interface generalizes the idea of a sequence — a way of holding a group of objects.

Crudely put, a collection is a container that can hold any number of objects (possibly taking into account some rules).



java.util.Collection

Collection

Why would one use such data structures?

Advantages:

 No expansion limits theoretically.

(making them *perfect* for dynamic memory management)

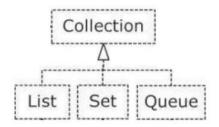
Disadvantages:

None

(well, sort of - because they are task specific - this illustrates that they have weaknesses of their own, which you need to be aware of) ©



java.util.Collection(s)



Java collections can *initially* be split into:

- Lists
- Sets
- Queues

(these are all just interfaces)

Again, each comes with strengths and weaknesses, and is suitable for a specific task, as we'll see next.

Short Quiz:

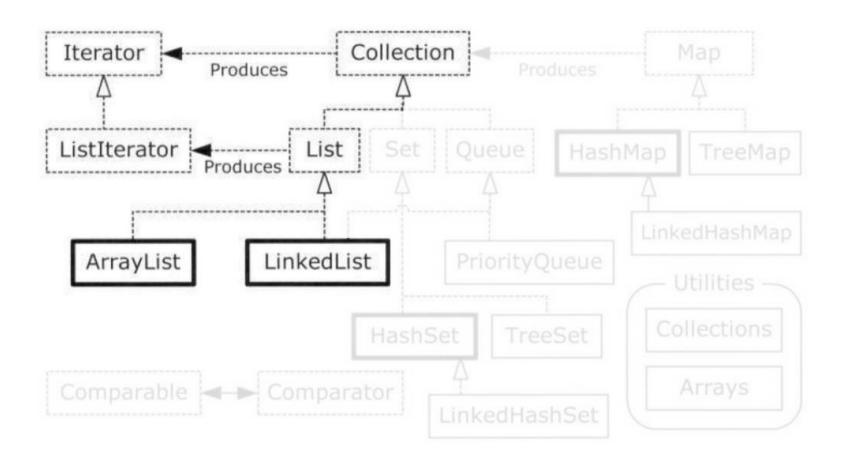
```
public void omg(int w00t) {
  try {
     this.mustStillPayAttention(w00t);
  } catch (BrainMeltException o 0) {
     System.err.println(
                     o_0.getMessage());
 "Let's take a 5 minute break, guys!" ©
```

2.2

Lists in Java



java.util.List(s)



java.util.List(s) - Notes · · · · · · · · · · ·

☐ They can hold single elements/objects.

☐ They allow duplicates to be inserted.

□ They are ordered, by default (not sorted – careful here!).

□ Adequate for LIFO and FIFO behavior (as stacks & queues – later on this).

java.util.List(s) - Quick example

Given the following:

```
class Motherboard {
   private final String serialNumber;
   public Motherboard() { this.serialNumber = generateSerialNumber("MBD"); }
   public void listPartDetails() {
        System.out.println("I'm a " + this.getClass().getSimpleName()
                + "\nS/N: " + this.serialNumber);
class CPU {
   private final String serialNumber;
   public CPU () {
        this.serialNumber = generateSerialNumber("CPU");
   public void listPartDetails() {
       System.out.println("I'm a " + this.getClass().getSimpleName()
               + "\nS/N: " + this.serialNumber);
```

java.util.List(s) - Quick example (2)

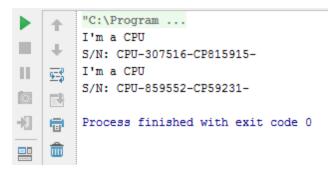
Let's put them into practice:

```
@SuppressWarnings("unchecked")
public static void main(String[] args) {
                                                                        Simple declaration
    // A guick declaration
   ArrayList partsList = new ArrayList();
   // Add some parts to our list
   partsList.add(new CPU());
    partsList.add(new CPU());
                                                                        Adding elements
   partsList.add(new Motherboard());
    for (int i = 0; i < partsList.size(); i++) {</pre>
        // Retrieve and cast to CPUs
                                                                        Explicit retrieval by item
        ((CPU)partsList.get(i)).listPartDetails();
                                                                        Index
       "C:\Program ...
       Exception in thread "main" java.lang.ClassCastException: lists.ListsExercise$Motherboard cannot be cast to lists.ListsExercise$CPU
           at lists.ListsExercise.main(ListsExercise.java:132) <5 internal calls>
       S/N: CPU-128430
      I'm a CPU
      S/N: CPU-644387
                                                                       How could we solve this
       Process finished with exit code 1
                                                                       problem?
```

java.util.List(s) – Quick example (3)

Fix by adding a rule: establish bounds

```
@SuppressWarnings("unchecked")
                                                           @SuppressWarnings("unchecked")
public static void main(String[] args) {
                                                           public static void main(String[] args) {
   // A guick declaration
                                                               // A bounded list (can hold only CPU)
   ArrayList partsList = new ArrayList();
                                                               ArrayList<CPU> partsList = new ArrayList<CPU>();
   // Add some parts to our list
                                                               // Add some parts to our list
   partsList.add(new CPU());
                                                               partsList.add(new CPU());
   partsList.add(new CPU());
                                                               partsList.add(new CPU());
                                                               // ! partsList.add(new Motherboard()); // Not allowed anymore
   partsList.add(new Motherboard());
    for (int i = 0; i < partsList.size(); i++) {</pre>
                                                               for (CPU part : partsList) {
        // Retrieve and cast to CPUs
                                                                   // Easier retrieval as well
        ((CPU)partsList.get(i)).listPartDetails();
                                                                   part.listPartDetails();
```



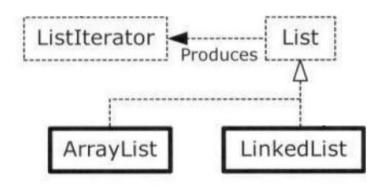
Hey, what about the poor Motherboard? *⊗*

java.util.List(s) – Quick example (4)

Easy fix: lowering the bounds, through polymorphism

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
                                                                                Both CPU and
   // A bounded list (can hold any Part)
                                                                                Motherboard
   ArrayList<Part> partsList = new ArrayList<Part>(); <
   // Add some parts to our list
                                                                                are some kind of
   partsList.add(new CPU());
                                                                                Part
   partsList.add(new CPU());
    partsList.add(new Motherboard()); // Allowed now
   partsList.add(new Motherboard());
    for (Part part : partsList) {
        // Easier retrieval as well
       part.listPartDetails();
         "C:\Program ...
         I'm a CPU
         S/N: CPU-385229-CP62893-
         I'm a CPU
         S/N: CPU-73361-CP811429-
         I'm a Motherboard
         S/N: MBD-36526-CP22908-
         I'm a Motherboard
         S/N: MBD-603444-CP97315-
         Process finished with exit code 0
```

java.util.List(s)



Most often used **Lists** are:

- ArrayList
- LinkedList

Legacy:

Vector

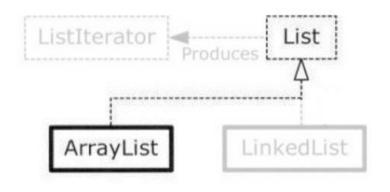
(may be old school, but it offered thread-safety — now replaced by CopyOnWriteArrayList)

When and why would one use such data structures?



java.util.ArrayList

The most basic type of sequence.

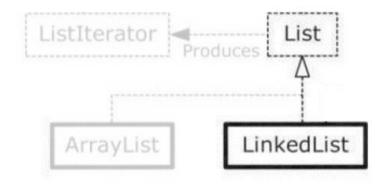


Excels at randomly accessing elements.

The drawback: **slower** when **insert**ing elements in the **middle**.



java.util.LinkedList •



A general purpose sequence: can be used as a **stack**, as a **queue** and **double-ended queue**.

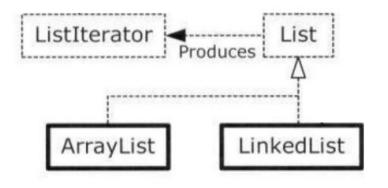
Larger feature set than an ArrayList.

Best for *sequential* access; inexpensive insertions and deletions in the middle.

The drawback: **slow** for **random access**.



java.util.List(s)



The most **common operations** you will do with/on a **List** are:

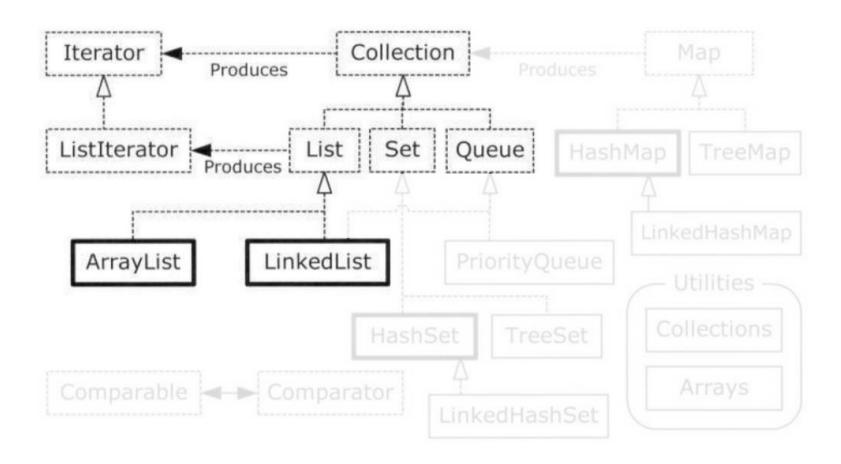
- add(obj) (at the end)
- addAll(collection)
- insert(atPosition)
- contains(obj)
- get(position)
- remove(position/obj)
- iterator()

2.2.1

A case for Iterators



java.util.lterator



- java.util.lterator Notes (1)
- Any container must be able to accept as well as retrieve items.

(But you could say: well, we have **add()** and **get()** for exactly that.)

□ However, the idea is to think at a higher-level, and thus, there is a drawback using the previous approach: you need to program to the exact type of container.

(What if we write code for a List and later decide it would apply to a Set as well – since both are collections after all ?)

(Or what if, we want, from the beginning, to write general purpose code that applies to every collection, no matter its type?)

☐ The concept of an Iterator (a design pattern) can be used to achieve this abstraction.

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- java.util.lterator Notes (2)
- ☐ An **iterator** is a *lightweight object* that **moves** through a **sequence**.
- □ It selects each element of that sequence without having the programmer worry about the underlying type's specific access logic (i.e. enforces *loose coupling*).
- A usual interaction with an iterator would look like:
 - Ask a Collection for an Iterator, by calling .iterator()
 - 2. Get the next object in the sequence using .next()
 - 3. See if there are more elements with .hasNext()
 - 4. Remove the last element returned using .remove()

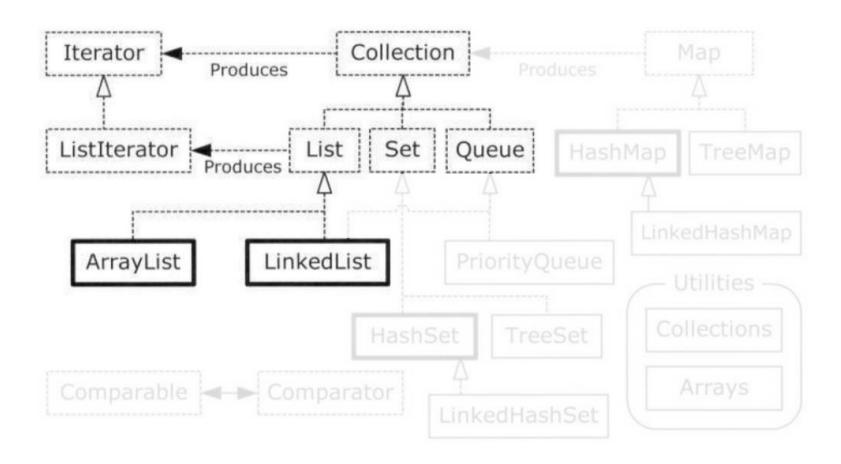
java.util.lterator - Quick example

public static void main(String[] args) { List<Pet> pets = Pets.arrayList(12); ask for the // Iteration via iterator collection's Iterator Iterator<Pet> it = pets.iterator(); while (it.hasNext()) { if there are elements Pet p = it.next(); in the sequence System.out.print(p.id() + retrieve an element System.out.println(); // A simpler approach, when possible: for (Pet p : pets) System.out.print(p.id() + ":" + p + " use foreach when reading System.out.println(); // An Iterator can also remove elements: it = pets.iterator(); for (int i = 0; i < 6; i++) { it.next(); it.remove(); remove the current element System.out.println(pets);

java.util.lterator - A (better) typical use case •

```
if there are elements
public class CrossContainerIteration {
                                                                    in the sequence
   public static void display(Iterator<Pet> it
        while (it.hasNext())
            Pet p = it.next();
                                                                     retrieve an
            System.out.print(p.id() + ":" + p +
                                                                     element via
                                                                     next()
        System.out.println();
   public static void main(String[] args) {
       ArrayList<Pet> pets = Pets.arrayList(8);
        LinkedList<Pet> petsLL = new LinkedList<Pet>(pets);
        HashSet<Pet> petsHS = new HashSet<Pet>(pets);
        TreeSet<Pet> petsTS = new TreeSet<Pet>(pets);
        display(pets.iterator());
                                                               hand-over each
        display(petsLL.iterator());
                                                               container's Iterator
        display(petsHS.iterator());
        display(petsTS.iterator());
```

java.util.ListIterator •



java.util.ListIterator •

- □ A more *powerful* iterator produced only by List implementations.
- □ Apart from the forward version of the general implementation, a ListIterator is bidirectional; traversal can be done both ways.
- ☐ Can also produce **indexes** of the **next** and **previous** elements, relative to where the iterator is pointing in the list.

.

□ It can replace the last element visited, using the set() method.

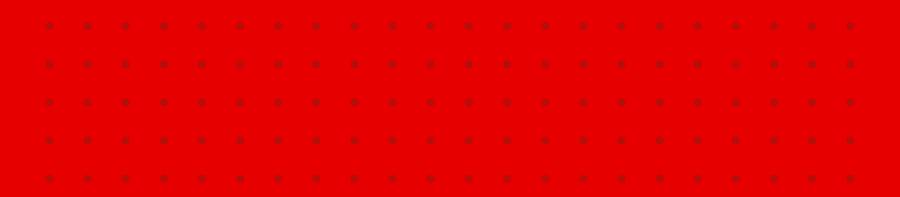
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java.util.ListIterator – Quick example

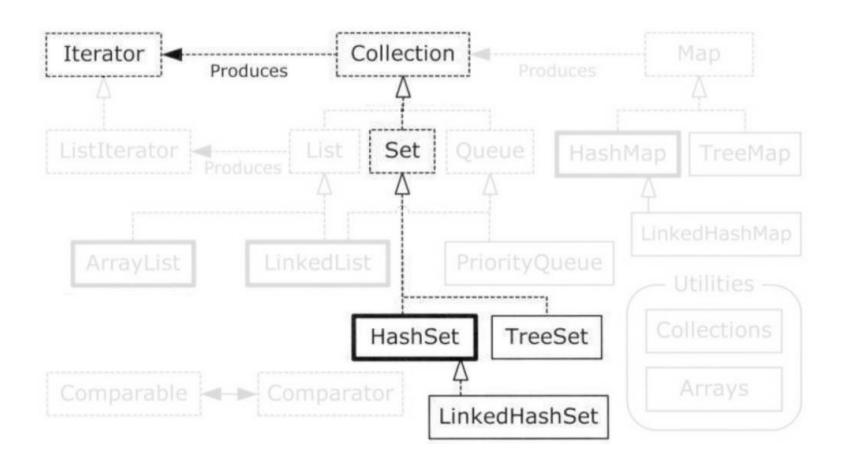
```
ask for the
public static void main(String[] args) {
   List<Pet> pets = Pets.arrayList(8);
                                                         collection's Iterator
   ListIterator<Pet> it = pets.listIterator();
                                                                     forward facing
   while (it.hasNext()) -
        System.out.print(it.next() + ", " + it.nextIndex() +
                                                                              access indexes
                ", " + it.previousIndex() + "; ");
   System.out.println();
    // Backwards:
   while (it.hasPrevious()) ◆
                                               reverse direction
        System.out.print(it.previous().id() + " ");
   System.out.println();
   System.out.println(pets);
   it = pets.listIterator(3);
   while (it.hasNext()) {
                                                          change current iterator
        it.next();
                                                          element using set()
        it.set(Pets.randomPet());
    System.out.println(pets);
```

2.3

Sets in Java



java.util.Set(s)



java.util.Set(s) - Notes • • • • • • • • • •

☐ Like lists, they can hold single elements.

☐ They **DO NOT** allow duplicates.

☐ Used for *querying* held elements, via contains(obj) method (e.g. *test for membership*).

■ Because of this, **lookup** is typically the most **important** operation for a Set.

java.util.Set(s) - Quick example •

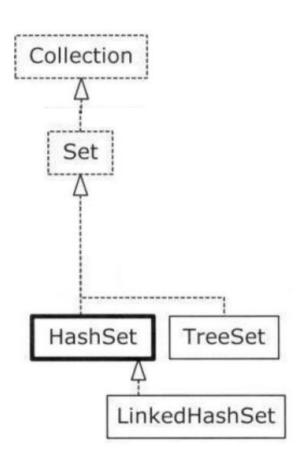
```
"C:\Program ...
[0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 16, 19, 18, 21, 20, 23, 22, 25, 24, 27, 26, 29, 28]

Process finished with exit code 0

No duplicates, although
```

10,000 integers were added.

java.util.Set(s)



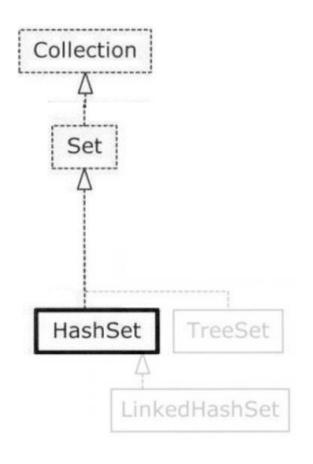
Sets are available in many flavors. The **three** most used are:

- HashSet
- LinkedHashSet
- TreeSet

When and why would one use such data structures?



java.util.HashSet



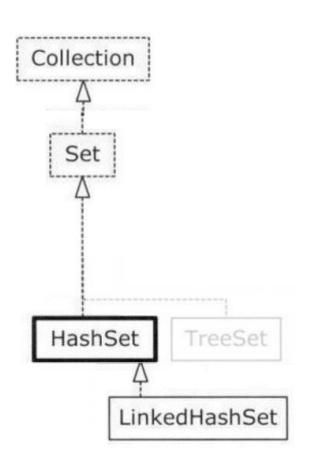
Used when **fast lookup time** is important.

Utilizes a *hashing function* for speed.

Because of this elements appears to be in no particular order.



java.util.LinkedHashSet



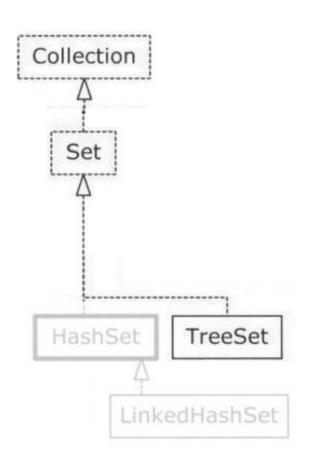
Typically as fast as HashSet, in matters of lookup speed.

Elements held appear to be ordered based on insertion order.

This is because the ordering is based on an underlying linked list.



java.util.TreeSet •



Totally different paradigm than the previous two.

An importance is placed strictly on the principle of sorting of elements.

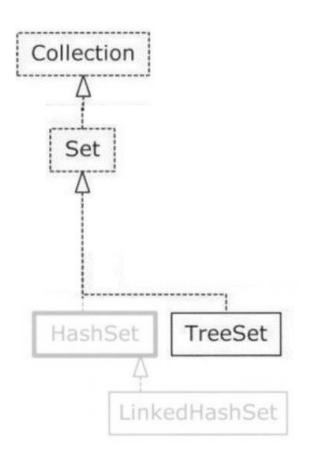
Sorting is made possible because of the underlying data structure: a red-black tree.



java.util.TreeSet – Quick example

```
public class SortedSetOfStrings {
   private static final String poem =
            "It matters not how strait the gate,\n"+
            "How charged with punishments the scroll.\n"+
                                                                     Notice the use of
            "I am the master of my fate:\n"+
                                                                     SortedSet
            "I am the captain of my soul.";
                                                                     interface
    public static void main(String[] args
        SortedSet<String> words =
                                                                             A comparator is
                new TreeSet<String>(String.CASE INSENSITIVE ORDER);<
                                                                             given; not
        words.addAll(Arrays.asList(poem.split("\\W+")));
                                                                             mandatory
        System.out.println(words);
                                                                   Quick collection building
                                                                    via Arrays.asList(T... a)
                                                                    utility method
  "C:\Program ...
  [am, captain, charged, fate, gate, how, I, It, master, matters, my, not, of, punishments, scroll, soul, strait, the, with]
  Process finished with exit code 0
```

java.util.TreeSet •



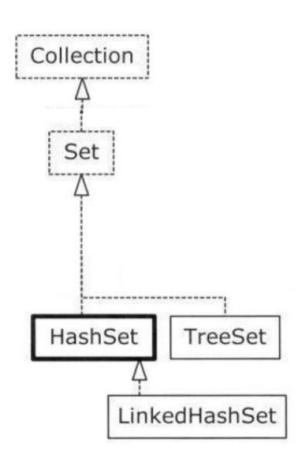
Thus, the elements in a SortedSet are guaranteed to be in **sorted order**.

This allows for the following interesting methods:

- first()
- last()
- subSet(from, to)
- headSet(uptoElement)
- tailSet(fromElement)



java.util.Set(s)

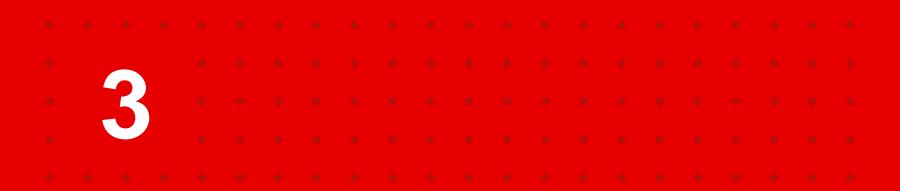


The most **common operations** you will do with/on a **Set** are:

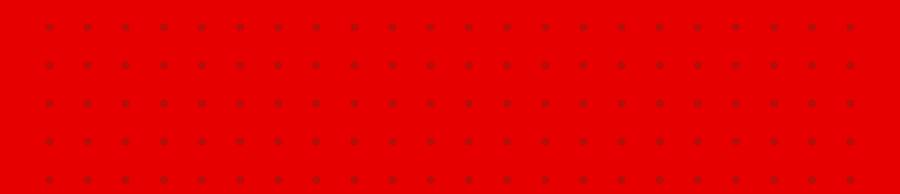
- add(obj)
- addAll(collection)
- contains(obj)
- iterator()
- remove(obj)

- java.util.Set(s) Conclusions • • • •
- □ A Set only accepts one of each type of objects (no duplicates!).
- Automatic resizing to accommodate new items, if needed.
- ☐ HashSet(s) are best used for **fast lookup time**.
- ☐ LinkedHashSet(s) have similar lookup time, and maintain an **order** based on **insertion**.
- □ TreeSet(s) are a breed apart, focusing on a sorting order for held elements.

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Container utility classes



The most **common operations** you will do with the java.util.Arrays utility class are:

- asList(T... a)
- toString(Object [] a)
- sort(Object [] a)
- fill(Object[] a, Object val)

Sort an Array •

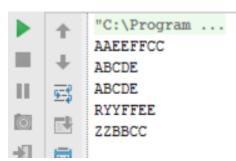
```
public class Main {

public static void main(String[] args) {

   String[] stringArray = {"ZZBBCC", "ABCDE", "AAEEFFCC", "RYYFFEE", "ABCDE"};

   Arrays.sort(stringArray);

   for (String s : stringArray) {
       System.out.println(s);
   }
}
```



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Fill an Array

```
public class Main {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        int arr[] = new int[] {1, 6, 3, 2, 9};
        // let us print the values
        System.out.println("Actual values: ");
        for (int value : arr) {
            System.out.println("Value = " + value);
        // using fill for placing 18
        Arrays.fill(arr, 18);
        // let us print the values
        System.out.println("New values after using fill() method: ");
        for (int value : arr) {
            System.out.println("Value = " + value);
            "C:\Program ...
            Actual values:
            Value = 1
            Value = 6
       <del>ن</del> و
            Value = 3
            Value = 2
            Value = 9
  <u>...</u>
            New values after using fill() method:
            Value = 18
            Value = 18
            Value = 18
            Value = 18
            Value = 18
```

The most **common operations** you will do with the java.util.Collections utility class are:

- addAll(Collection c, T... elements);
- sort(List<?> list)
- shuffle(List<?> list)
- reverse(List<?> list)
- max(Collection<?> list)
- min(Collection<?> list)
- frequency(Collection<?> c, Object o)

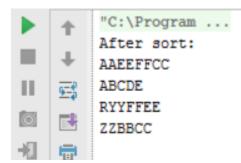
Sort a List •

```
public class Main {

public static void main(String[] args) {
    List<String> list = new ArrayList<String>();
    list.add("ZZBBCC");
    list.add("ABCDE");
    list.add("AAEEFFCC");
    list.add("RYYFFEE");

Collections.sort(list);

System.out.println("After sort: ");
    for(String s:list) {
        System.out.println(s);
    }
}
```



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Shuffle a List •

```
public class Main {
   public static void main(String[] args) {
        List<String> list = new ArrayList<String>();
        list.add("ZZBBCC");
       list.add("ABCDE");
        list.add("AAEEFFCC");
        list.add("RYYFFEE");
        Collections.shuffle(list);
        System.out.println("After shuffle: ");
        for (String s : list) {
            System.out.println(s);
          "C:\Program ...
         After shuffle:
         ZZBBCC
Ш
         RYYFFEE
     4 - 5
         AAEEFFCC
         ABCDE
```

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Reverse a List

```
public class Main {
   public static void main(String[] args) {
       List<String> list = new ArrayList<String>();
       list.add("ZZBBCC");
       list.add("ABCDE");
       list.add("AAEEFFCC");
       list.add("RYYFFEE");
       Collections.reverse(list);
       System.out.println("After reverse: ");
        for (String s : list) {
            System.out.println(s);
          "C:\Program ...
         After reverse:
         RYYFFEE
    AAEEFFCC
         ABCDE
         ZZBBCC
```

Max/Min from a Collection/List •

```
public class Main {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        List<Integer> list = new ArrayList<Integer>();
       list.add(4);
       list.add(12);
        list.add(2);
        list.add(10);
        list.add(5);
        Integer maxName=Collections.max(list);
        System.out.println("Max from list is: "+maxName);
        Integer minName=Collections.min(list);
        System.out.println("Min from list is: "+minName);
         "C:\Program ...
         Max from list is: 12
         Min from list is: 2
```

Frequency from a list •

```
public class Main {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        List<String> list = new ArrayList<String>();
        list.add("ZZBBCC");
        list.add("ABCDE");
        list.add("AAEEFFCC");
        list.add("RYYFFEE");
        list.add("ABCDE");

        Integer frequency=Collections.frequency(list,"ABCDE");

        System.out.println("Frequency is "+frequency);
}
```

```
"C:\Program ...
Frequency is 2
```





Thank you!

Questions or comments on these topics and more, are welcome:

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We salute you! ©