NDK
native API crunch

NDK Integration (JNI)

Lecture 6

Android Native Development Kit

1 April 2014

Outline

Arrays

- Java arrays - reference type in JNI
- JNI treats primitive arrays and object arrays differently
- Primitive arrays contain primitives
- Object arrays contain class instances or other arrays
  - `Object[]` and `int[][]` are object arrays
- `jarray` and subtypes (`jintArray, jobjectArray`)

New Array

- `New<Type>Array` where `Type` is `Int`, `Char`, `Boolean`, etc.

```
jintArray javaArray = env->NewIntArray(10);
```

- In case of memory overflow
  - Function returns NULL
  - Exception is thrown in the VM
  - Native code should be stopped

Accessing Array Elements using a Copy

- Copy Java array into C array or obtain a direct pointer to the array elements
- Copy Java array into C array
  - `Get<Type>ArrayRegion`

```
jint nativeArray[10];
env->GetIntArrayRegion(javaArray, 0, 10, nativeArray);
```

- Make changes on the array elements
- Copy C array back into Java array
  - `Set<Type>ArrayRegion`

```
env->SetIntArrayRegion(javaArray, 0, 10, nativeArray);
```

- Performance problem for big array size

Operating on Direct Pointer

- Obtain a direct pointer to the array elements when possible
- `Get<Type>ArrayElements`

```
jint* nativeDirectArray;
jboolean isCopy;
nativeDirectArray = env->GetIntArrayElements(
javaArray, &isCopy);
```

- `isCopy` - the C array points to a copy or a pinned array in heap
- Returns NULL if operation fails

Releasing a Direct Pointer

- Release array returned by `Get<Type>ArrayElements`
- `Release<Type>ArrayElements`

```
env->ReleaseIntArrayElements(javaArray,
nativeDirectArray, 0);
```

- Last parameter - release mode
  - 0 - copy back content, free native array
  - JNI_COMMIT - copy back content, do not free native array (update Java array)
  - JNI_ABORT - do not copy back content, free native array
- `GetArrayLength`
- `Get/ReleasePrimitiveArrayCritical`

Object Array

- Create new object array
  - `NewObjectArray`

```
jobjectArray arr = env->NewObjectArray(size,
javaClass, NULL);
```

  - Params: length, class and initialization value
- Obtain an element from an object array
  - `GetObjectArrayElement`
  - Cannot obtain all object elements

```
jstring js = (jstring)env->
GetObjectArrayElement(arr, i);
```

- Update an element in an object array
  - `SetObjectArrayElement`

```
env->SetObjectArrayElement(arr, i, js);
```

Outline

NIO Operations

- Native I/O - buffer management, scalable network and file I/O
- Better performance - deliver data between native and Java app
- Create a direct byte buffer to be used in the Java app
  - `NewDirectByteBuffer`

```
unsigned char* buffer = (unsigned char*) malloc(1024);
jobject directBuffer;
directBuffer = env->NewDirectByteBuffer(buffer, 1024);
```

  - Based on a native byte array
- Obtain native byte array from Java byte buffer
  - `GetDirectBufferAddress`

```
unsigned char* buffer;
buffer = (unsigned char*) env->GetDirectBufferAddress
(directBuffer);
```

  - The direct byte buffer can also be created in the Java app

Outline

Field Types

- In Java: static fields and instance fields
- Each instance has its own copy of the instance fields

```
private String instanceField = "Instance Field";
```

- All instances share the same static fields

```
private static String staticField = "Static Field";
```

- JNI functions for both types of fields

Get Field ID

- Obtain class object from instance
  - `GetObjectClass`

```
jclass cl = env->GetObjectClass(instance);
```

- Obtain field ID of an instance field
  - `GetFieldID`

```
jfieldID instanceFieldId;
instanceFieldId = env->GetFieldID(cl,
"instanceField", "Ljava/lang/String;");
```

  - Last parameter - field descriptor
- Obtain field ID of static field
  - `GetStaticFieldID`

```
jfieldID staticFieldId;
staticFieldId = env->GetStaticFieldID(cl,
"staticField", "Ljava/lang/String;");
```

Get Fields

- Obtain an instance field
  - `Get<Type>Field`

```
jstring instanceField;
instanceField = env->GetObjectField(instance,
instanceFieldId);
```

- Obtain a static field
  - `GetStatic<Type>Field`

```
jstring staticField;
staticField = env->GetStaticObjectField(cl,
staticFieldId);
```

- Type = Object, Primitive type
- Return NULL in case of memory overflow
- Performance overhead
  - Recommended to pass parameters to native methods

Outline

Types of Methods

- In Java: instance and static methods
- Instance method

```
private String instanceMethod() {
        return "Instance Method";
}
```

- Static method

```
private static String staticMethod() {
        return "Static Method";
}
```

- JNI functions to access both types

Get Method ID

- Obtain method ID of an instance method
  - `GetMethodID`

```
jmethodID instanceMethodId;
instanceMethodId = env->GetMethodID(cl,
"instanceMethod", "()Ljava/lang/String;");
```

  - Last parameter - method descriptor (signature)
- Obtain method ID of a static method
  - `GetStaticMethodID`

```
jmethodID staticMethodId;
staticMethodId = env->GetStaticMethodID(cl,
"staticMethod", "()Ljava/lang/String;");
```

Get Methods

- Call instance method
  - `Call<Type>Method`

```
jstring instanceMethodResult;
instanceMethodResult = env->CallObjectMethod
(instance, instanceMethodId);
```

- Call static method
  - `CallStatic<Type>Field`

```
jstring staticMethodResult;
staticMethodResult = env->CallStaticObjectMethod
(cl, staticMethodId);
```

- Type = Void, Object, Primitive type
- Specify method arguments after method ID
- Return NULL in case of memory overflow
- Performance overhead
  - Minimize transitions between Java and native code

Field & Method Descriptors

Java Type	Signature
Boolean	Z
Byte	B
Char	C
Short	S
Int	I
Long	J
Float	F
Double	D
fully-qualified-class	Lfully-qualified-class
type[]	[type
method type	(arg-type)ret-type

- Use `javap` to obtain descriptors associated to a Java class

Outline

Catch Exceptions

- Handling exceptions is important in Java
- VM catches exception, clears exception and executes handling block
- In native code developers must implement exception handling flow
- Catch an exception generated while calling a Java method
  - `ExceptionOccured`

```
env->CallVoidMethod(instance, methodID);
jthrowable ex = env->ExceptionOccurred();
if (ex != NULL) {
        env->ExceptionClear();
        /* Handle exception here */
}
```

Throw Exceptions

- Native code can throw Java exceptions
- First obtain exception class
- Throw exception
  - `ThrowNew`

```
jclass cl = env->FindClass
("java/lang/NullPointerException");
if (cl != NULL) {
        env->ThrowNew(cl, "Message");
}
```

- Does not automatically stop native method and transfer control to exception handler
  - Should free resources and return

Outline

References

- The VM tracks object references and garbage collects the ones that are not referenced
- JNI allows native code to manage object references and lifetimes
- 3 types of references: local, global and weak global

Local References

- Most JNI functions return local references
- Cannot be cached and reused in subsequent invocations
- Lifetime limited to the native method - freed when method returns
- Minimum 16 local references for the native code in the VM
- Free local references while making memory-intensive operations
- Manually free local reference
  - `DeleteLocalRef`

```
jclass cl = env->FindClass("java/lang/String");
env->DeleteLocalRef(cl);
```

Global References

- Valid during subsequent invocations of the native method
- Until explicitly freed
- Create new global reference
  - `NewGlobalRef`

```
jclass localCl = env->FindClass("java/lang/String");
jclass globalCl = env->NewGlobalRef(localCl);
env->DeleteLocalRef(localCl);
```

- Delete global reference when no longer used
  - `DeleteGlobalRef`

```
env->DeleteGlobalRef(globalCl);
```

- Can be used by other native methods or native threads

Weak Global References

- Valid during subsequent invocations of the native method
- The object can be garbage collected
- Create new weak global reference
  - `NewWeakGlobalRef`

```
jclass weakGlobalCl;
weakGlobalCl = env->NewWeakGlobalRef(localCl);
```

Weak Global References

- Verify if the reference is still pointing to an instance
  - `IsSameObject`

```
if (env->IsSameObject(weakGlobalCl, NULL) == JNI_-
FALSE) {
        /* Object is still live */
} else {
        /* Object is garbage collected */
}
```

- Delete weak global reference
  - `DeleteWeakGlobalRef`

```
env->DeleteWeakGlobalRef(weakGlobalCl);
```

Outline

Threads

- Multithreaded environment
- Threads vs. references
  - Local references valid only in the thread context executing the native method
  - Local references cannot be shared between multiple threads
  - Global references can be shared between multiple threads
- Threads vs. JNIEnv
  - Interface pointer valid only in the thread executing the native method
  - Cannot be cached and used by other threads

Native Threads

- Use threads for running tasks in parallel
- Linux threads, scheduled by the kernel
- Started from managed code with Thread.start
- Can also be started with pthread_create
- Native threads not known by the VM until they are attached
  - No JNIEnv
  - Cannot make JNI calls

- First attach native thread to the VM
  - `AttachCurrentThread`

```
JavaVM* cachedJvm;
JNIEnv* env;
cachedJvm->AttachCurrentThread(&env, NULL);
```

  - Obtain a JNIEnv interface pointer for the current thread
  - `java.lang.Thread` object added to main ThreadGroup
  - Last argument: JavaVMAttachArgs structure - can specify other thread group
- `AttachCurrentThreadAsDaemon`
- After communication with the Java app, detach from VM
  - `DetachCurrentThread`

```
cachedJvm->DetachCurrentThread();
```

- Synchronization using monitors based on Java objects
- Only one thread can hold a monitor at a time
- Acquire a monitor
  - `MonitorEnter`

```
env->MonitorEnter(obj);
```

  - `obj` is a Java object
  - If another thread owns the monitor, waits until it's released
  - If no other thread owns the monitor, becomes owner, entry counter $= 1$
  - If the current thread owns the monitor, increments the entry counter

- Release monitor
  - `MonitorExit`

```
env->MonitorExit(obj);
```

  - The current thread must be the owner of the monitor
  - Entry counter is decremented
  - When counter $= 0$, the current thread releases the monitor

Outline

Standard JNI vs. Android JNI

- All JNI 1.6 features are supported by Android JNI
- Exception: DefineClass not implemented
  - No Java bytecodes or class files in Android
  - Not useful
- JNI does not include proper error checks
- Android includes CheckJNI mode
  - Performs series of checks before the actual JNI function is called
  - Enable CheckJNI from `adb shell`
  - Enabled by default on emulator

CheckJNI

- Attempt to allocate negative-sized arrays
- Passing a bad pointer(jobject, jclass, jarray, jstring) to a JNI call
- Passing a NULL pointer to a JNI call when argument should not be NULL
- Passing a class name not correctly specified to a JNI call
- Making a JNI call in a critical region
- Passing invalid arguments to NewDirectByteBuffer
- Making a JNI call while an exception is pending

CheckJNI

- Using JNIEnv* in the wrong thread
- Using NULL, wrong type fieldID, static/instance mismatch
- Using invalid jmethodID, incorrect return type, static/instance mismatch, invalid instance/class
- Using DeleteGlobal/LocalRef on the wrong reference
- Passing a bad release mode, other than 0, JNI_COMMIT, JNI_ABORT
- Returning incompatible type from native method
- Passing invalid UTF-8 sequence to a JNI call

Outline

NDK
native API crunch

- Primitive array
- Object array
- Direct pointer
- Native I/O
- Static/instance fields
- Static/instance methods
- Field/method ID
- Field/method descriptor
- Catch/throw exception
- Local/global/weak global references
- Native threads
- Monitor
- CheckJNI