LINQ

Language Integrated Queries in C#

LINQ

- Language-Integrated Query (LINQ)
- It extends powerful query capabilities to the language syntax of C#
- LINQ introduces standard, easily-learned patterns for querying and updating data
- The technology can be extended to support potentially any kind of data store.
- Visual Studio includes LINQ provider assemblies that enable the use of LINQ with .NET Framework collections, SQL Server databases, ADO.NET Datasets, and XML documents.

What is LINQ?

- · Language-Integrated Query
- New from .NET 3.5 and VS 2008
- Enables using same query language for disparate data sources- SQL, XML or, web services, .NET objects.
- Also enables usage of queries against collections.
- Object oriented query language
- Namespace System.Linq provides the LINQ support.

LINQ Overview

- LINQ is a querying language and has a great power of querying on any source of data, data source could be the collections of objects, database or XML files.
- We can easily retrieve data from any object that implements the IEnumerable<T> interface.
- Microsoft basically divides LINQ into three areas and that are given below.
- · LINQ to Object
- · LINQ to ADO.Net
- · LINQ to SQL
- LINQ to DataSet
- LINQ to Entities
- LINQ to XML

LINQ Provider

- The LINQ Provider takes the query that we create in code and converts it into commands that the data source will be able to execute.
- On return from executing commands the provider also converts the data into objects that create our query results.



The Core LINQ Assemblies

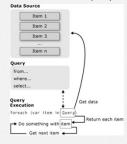
- In order to work with LINQ to Objects, you must make sure that every C# code file that contains LINQ queries imports the System.Linq namespace.
- Core LINQ-centric Assemblies

Assembly	Purpose
System.Core.dll	Defines the types that represent the core LINQ API. This is the one assembly you must have access to if you wish to use any LINQ API, including LINQ to Objects.
System.Data.DataSetExtensions.dll	Defines a handful of types to integrate ADO.NET types into the LINQ programming paradigm (LINQ to DataSet).
System.Xml.Linq.dll	Provides functionality for using LINQ with XML document data (LINQ to XML).

Microsoft . Net - C# - Customized

Structure of a LINQ Query

- A LINQ Query contains a combination of clauses that specify data sources and iteration variables for the query.
- The query expression can also include optional clauses that specify instructions for:
- Filtering
- Sorting
- Grouping
- Joining
- Calculating



General form of the query

- · Declarative query syntax :
 - var x= from data_source
 - where condition
 - select item;
- The guery variable x only stores the guery commands
- The actual execution happens only when some operation is requested like iteration. This is refereed to as deferred execution
- While the syntax allows usage of "var" keyword, what the query really returns is a IEnumerable object. Hence foreach can be used with the result of LINQ.
- · Note that LINQ guery is case sensitive.

C# LINQ Query Operators

• Various LINQ Query Operators

Query Operators	Purpose
from, in	Used to define the backbone for any LINQ expression, which allows you to extract a subset of data from a fitting container.
where	Used to define a restriction for which items to extract from a container.
select	Used to select a sequence from the container.
join, on, equals, into	Performs joins based on specified key. Remember, these "joins" do not need to have anything to do with data in a relational database.
orderby, ascending, descending	Allows the resulting subset to be ordered in ascending or descending order.
group, by	Yields a subset with data grouped by a specified value.

System.Ling.Enumerable class

- In addition to operators shown in previous slide, the System.Linq.Enumerable class provides a set of methods that do not have a direct C# query operator shorthand notation, but are instead exposed as extension methods.
- These generic methods can be called to transform a result set in various manners (Reverse<>(), ToArray<>(), ToList<>(), etc.).
- Some are used to extract singletons from a result set, others perform various set operations (Distinct<>(), Union<>(), Intersect<>(), etc.), and still others aggregate results (Count<>(), Sum<>(), Min<>(), Max<>(), etc.).

Example

LINQ with Objects

- The term "LINQ to Objects" refers to the use of LINQ queries
 Objects that implement IEnumerable, meaning all collection
 classes like List, Dictionary as well as arrays and string can use
 LINQ.
- The collection name become the data source.
- The **from** clause similar to the **foreach** statement.
- An identifier is used to refer to individual item in the collection.
 The where clause uses this identifier name to filter the collection.
- This is a very powerful tool since a collection can be filtered using multiple where conditions. Where clause can use any C# condition that evaluated to a boolean value.
- The query returns IEnumerable object.

LINQ with Arrays

Deferred Execution

• Linq Query is not executed when it is framed it is executed only when it is iterated upon.

```
using System;
using System.Linq;
class Program
{
    static void Main(string[] args)
    {
        int[] ar = { 1, 5, 2, 15, 19, 30, 21, 6, 4 };
        var query = from n in ar
            where n % 2 == 0
        select n;
        foreach (var n in query)
            Console.Write(n + " ");
        ar[2] = 7; //Earlier ar[2] = 2
        foreach (var n in query)
            Console.Write(n + " ");
    }
}
```

The Role of Immediate Execution

- When you wish to evaluate a LINQ expression from outside the confines of foreach logic, you are able to call any number of extension methods defined by the Enumerable type.
- These methods will cause a LINQ query to execute at the exact moment you call them. Once you have done so, the snapshot of data may be independently manipulated.

```
static void ImmediateExecution()
{
  int[] numbers = { 10, 20, 30, 40, 1, 2, 3, 8 };
  // Get data RIGHT NOW as int[].
  int[] subsetAsIntArray =
  (from i in numbers where i < 10 select i).ToArray<int>();
  // Get data RIGHT NOW as List<int>.
  List<int> subsetAsListOfInts =
  (from i in numbers where i < 10 select i).ToList<int>();
```

Example: LINQ with string

- String is nothing but an array of characters.
- Therefore LINQ query can be used with the string to search based on characters.

LINQ with string Cont.

More on select and from clause

Select can be used to return a computed value as well.

```
var fQuery = from flower in flowers
    where (flower.StartsWith("d"))
    select flower.ToUpper();
```

 For the collection that implements IEnumerable<T> it is not compulsory to specify the type in the from clause.
 But for the collection that implements IEnumerable, the type has to be specified in from clause

Multiple where clause and let

Query can have any number of where clause to filter that
data

```
var fQuery = from flower in flowers
   where flower.StartsWith("d")
   where flower.Length > 7
   select flower;
```

This is same as

• The keyword let can be used retain temporary value.

```
var lquery = from flower in flowers
let len = flower.Length
where len > 5 && len < 7
select flower;
```

Compound from clauses

 Data from multiple data sources can be obtained using multiple from clause. The example listed results in producing Cartesian product between the two data sources.

```
using System;
using System.Linq;
using System.Collections.Generic;
struct Flowerfruit
{
   public string flower;
   public string fruit;
   public Flowerfruit(string fl, string fr)
   {
     flower = fl;
        fruit = fr;
   }
}
```

Cont...

Returning the Result of a LINQ Query

- It is possible to define a field within a class (or structure) whose value is the result of a LINQ query.
- To do so, however, you cannot make use of implicit typing, as the var keyword cannot be used for fields and the target of the LINQ query cannot be instance level data, therefore it must be static.
- Given these limitations, you will seldom need to author code like the following:

Example

Returning the Result ...

- More often than not, LINQ queries are defined within the scope of a method or property.
- Moreover, to simplify your programming, the variable used to hold the result set will be stored in an implicitly typed local variable using the var keyword.
- Implicitly typed variables cannot be used to define parameters, return values, or fields of a class or structure, you may wonder exactly how you could return a query result to an external caller.
- If you have a result set consisting of strongly typed data such as an array of strings or a List<T> of objects, you could abandon the use of the var keyword and use a proper IEnumerable<T> or IEnumerable type.

Microsoft . Net - C# - Customized

Returning LINQ Results via Immediate Execution

- The example in previous slide works as expected, only because the return value of the GetStringSubset() and the LINQ query within this method has been strongly typed.
- If you used var keyword to define the subset variable, it
 would be permissible to return the value only if the method
 is still prototyped to return |Enumerable<string> and if the
 implicitly typed local variable is in fact compatible with the
 specified return type.
- Rather than returning IEnumerable<string>, you could simply return a string[], provided that you transform the sequence to a strongly typed array.

Returning LINQ Results ...

Sorting

- orderby clause is used to sort on one or more fields.
- orderby default arranges the elements in ascending order.
- orderby ascending or order by descending can also be used to arranges the elements in ascending order or descending order.

```
using System;
using System.Linq;
using System.Collections.Generic;
class Flower
{
    public Flower(string n, int p)
    {
        Name = n;
        Petals = p;
    public string Name { get; set; }
    public int Petals { get; set; }
}
```

Sorting cont.

group

- A LINQ query starts with from clause and end with either a select clause or group clause.
- group clause allows grouping the results with respect to certain criteria.

Joining

- Joining refers to combining data from two data sources based on some common fields in both the data sources.
- · Syntax:

from var1 in DataSource1 join var2 in DataSource2 on var1.property equals var2.property

```
Example

using System;
using System.Linq;
class Student
{
    public int Id { get; set; }
    public string Name { get; set; }
    public student(int id, string name)
    {
        this.Id = id;
        this.Name = name;
    }
}
class Enroll
{
    public int Id { get; set; }
    public string CourseName { get; set; }
    public Enroll(int id, string name)
    {
        this.Id = id;
        this.Name = name;
    }
}
```

Cont...

```
class StudentEnroll
{
   public int Id { get; set; }
   public string Name { get; set; }
   public string CourseName { get; set; }
   public StudentEnroll(int id, string name, string cname)
   {
      this.Id = id;
      this.Name = name;
      this.CourseName = cname;
   }
}
```

Cont...

Query continuation

- The temporary results can be saved and can be used in the subsequent part of the query. This is called query continuation or just continuation.
- into clause is used to achieve this.
- If we need the result of the previous example grouped by the course name then the query would be:

Removing Duplicates

- You might wish to remove duplicate entries in your data.
- To do so, simply call the Distinct() extension method, as shown here:


```
LINQ - Arrays Cont.

//Deferred Execution:Linq Query is not executed when it is framed Its executed only when it is iterated upon. ar[2] = ?; //Earlier ar[2] = 2 foreach (var n in query)
Console.Write(n + " "); query = from number in ar select Doublet(number); foreach (var n in query)
Console.Write(n + " "); query = query.Tolist(); Console.WriteLine("Result of ToList"); foreach (var n in query)
Console.Write(n + " "); //Orderby Example
query = from n in ar orderby n descending select n; foreach (var n in query)
Console.Write(n + " "); query = from n in ar orderby n descending select n; foreach (var n in query)
Console.Write(n + " "); query = from n in query where n > 16 select n; foreach (var n in query)
Console.Write(n + " ");
```

LINQ - Arrays Cont.

```
//Projection Query
query = from n in ar
select n + 1;
foreach (var n in query)
Console.Write(n + " ");

//Anonymous objects
string[] words = { "aPPLE", "MANGO", "BananNa", "GraPeS" };
var upperlowerWords = from w in words
select new { ToLower = w. ToLower(), ToUpper = w. ToUpper();
//upperlowerWords is a collection of anonymous object where every
object has properties Upper and Lower.
foreach (var ul in upperlowerWords)
Console.WriteLine("Uppercase: {0}, Lowercase: {1}",
ul.ToUpper, ul.ToLower);
//Compound Queries
int[] numbersA = { 0, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 };
int[] numbersB = { 1, 3, 5, 7, 8 };
var pairs =
from a in numbersA
from b in numbersB
where a < b
select new a b };
Console.WriteLinet("Pairs where a < b:");
foreach (var pair in pairs)
Console.WriteLine("(0) is less than {1}", pair.a, pair.b);
```

LINQ - Arrays Cont.

LINQ - Arrays Cont.

LINQ Practice – Custom Object

```
using System;
using System.Collections.Generic;
using System.Linq;
using System.Collections;
class Student
{
   public int RollNo; public string Name; public double Marks;
   public Student(int r, string n, double m)
   {
      RollNo = r; Name = n; Marks = m;
   }
   public static ListCstudent> GetStudents()
   {
      ListCstudent> IstStudents = new ListCstudent>();
      lstStudents.Add(new Student(1, "S1", 10));
      lstStudents.Add(new Student(3, "S3", 30));
      lstStudents.Add(new Student(4, "S4", 30));
      lstStudents.Add(new Student(4, "S4", 40));
      lstStudents.Add(new Student(6, "S6", 60));
      lstStudents.Add(new Student(6, "S5", 50));
      return lstStudents;
   }
}
```

Custom Object Cont.

Custom Object Cont.

Custom Object Cont.

```
//Dictionary of Students where key is RollNo
Dictionary(int, Student) dic = letStuds.ToDictionary(s => s.RollNo);
Console Writeline(lstStuds.TirstStudent)(s => s.Marks > 50).Name);
Console.Writeline(lstStuds.Last<Student)(s => s.Marks < 50).Name);
Console.Writeline(lstStuds.Last<Student)(s => s.NalNo == 3).Name);
Console.Writeline(lstStuds.Single<Student)(s >> s.RollNo == 3).Name);
Console.Writeline(lstStuds.Elementat<Student)(s >> s.RollNo == 3).Name);
//XOrDefault - Follwing method returns NULL if record is not found.
Student stud = lstStuds.FirstOrDefault<Student)(s >> s.Marks >> 90);
if (stud == null)
Console.Writeline("No student has marks greater than 90");
else
else
Console.Writeline("First Student with Marks Greater than 90: "
+stud.Name);
//Example or Any (result is same as above) = Any Return Boolean
if (lstStuds.Any(s => s.Marks >> 90))
stud = lstStuds.First<Student)();
else
stud = null;
bool isGoodClass = lstStuds.All(s => s.Marks >> 35);
Console.Writeline("Is Good Class: " + isGoodClass);
//To check if the object is in collection. = Returns True or False
lstStuds.Contains<Student>(stud);
//Get a list of students with MIN marks.
}
```

Lambda Expressions

- Lambda expressions are nothing more than a very concise way to author anonymous methods and ultimately simplify how we work with the .NET delegate type.
- Before starting working with Lambda Expressions lets compare a same method using three ways:
 - Traditional Delegate Syntax
- · Anonymous Method Syntax
- Lambda Expression Syntax

Start Coding

- Create a new Console Application named LambdaExpExample.
- · Add three different methods named
- TraditionalDelegateSyntax();
- AnonymousMethodSyntax();
- LambdaExpressionSyntax();
- Call them in Main() and see the output of each will be same but obtained through different method.
- These different methods helps you to understand, how Lambdas are much easier and robust.
- Lets consider the code blocks given in further slides

Example - Finding Even Numbers



Example - Finding Even Numbers

```
static void TraditionalDelegateSyntax()
     // Make a list of integers
    List<int> list = new List<int>():
    list.AddRange(new int[] { 20, 1, 4, 8, 9, 44 });
    // Call FindAll() using traditional delegate syntax.
Predicate<int> callback = new Predicate<int>(IsEvenNumber);
List<int> evenNumbers = list.FindAll(callback);
    Console.WriteLine("Here are your even numbers:");
   Console.WriteLine("By Traditional Delegate Syntax");
foreach (int evenNumber in evenNumbers)
          Console.Write("{0}\t", evenNumber);
    Console.WriteLine():
```

Example - Finding Even Numbers

```
List<int> list = new List<int>();
list AddRange(new int[] { 20, 1, 4, 8, 9, 44 });
List<int> evenNumbers = list.FindAll(delegate(int i)
{ return (i % 2) == 0; });
Console.WriteLine("Dy Anonymous Method Syntax");
foreach (int evenNumber in evenNumbers)
         Console.Write("{0}\t", evenNumber);
}
Console.WriteLine();
                             static void LambdaExpressionSyntax()
                                      List(int> list = new List(int>();
list.AddRange(new int[] { 20, 1, 4, 8, 9, 44 });
List(int) evenNumbers = list.FindAll(i => (i % 2) == 0);
Console.WriteLine("By Lambda Expression Syntax:");
foreach (int evenNumbers)
                                               Console.Write("{0}\t", evenNumber);
                                       }
Console.WriteLine();
```

Few LINQ Examples using Lambda

```
using System;
using System.Linq;
using System.Collections;
public static class Program
                        public static bool IsVowel(this char ch)
                                                     return "AEIOU".Contains(Char.ToUpper(ch));
                            }
static void Main(string[] args)
                                                 int[] ar = { 1, 5, 2, 15, 19, 30, 21, 6, 4 };
string[] words = { "aPPLE", "MaNGO", "BanaNNa", "GraPeS" };
var query = ar.Where(n > n % 2 == 0);
foreach (var n in query)
Console.Write(n + "");
Console.Write(n + "");
console.Write(n + "");
query = ar.Where(n > n % 2 == 0);
query = query.OrderBy(n >> n);
var query1 = from n in query where n % 2 == 0 select n;
query = (from n in query) orderby n select n;
query = from n in ar where n % 2 == 0 orderby n select n;
query = (from n in ar where n % 2 == 0 orderby n select n;
query = (from n in ar where n % 2 == 0 orderby n select n;
query = (from n in ar where n % 2 == 0 orderby n select n;
query = (from n in ar where n % 2 == 0 orderby n select n;
query = (from n in ar where n % 2 == 0 orderby n select n;
query = (from n in ar where n % 2 == 0 orderby n select n;
query = (from n in ar where n % 2 == 0 orderby n select n;
query = (from n in ar where n % 2 == 0 orderby n select n;
query = (from n in ar where n % 2 == 0 orderby n select n;
query = (from n in ar where n % 2 == 0 orderby n select n;
query = (from n in ar where n % 2 == 0 orderby n select n;
query = (from n in ar where n % 2 == 0 orderby n select n;
query = (from n in ar where n % 2 == 0 orderby n select n;
```

Few LINQ Examples using Lambda

Few LINQ Examples using Lambda

```
foreach (var n in newwords.Distinct())
Console.Write(n + " ");
Console.Write(n
                                   CONSIDERWITE THE INTERPRETATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT
```

Few LINQ Examples using Lambda

