



Database access and JDBC

Tecniche di Programmazione – A.A. 2022/2023



Outline

- Introduction to JDBC
- 2. Accessing a database: practical steps
- 3. Prepared statements
- 4. Design patterns (DAO)
- 5. Object-Relational Mapping
- 6. Connection pooling





Introduction to JDBC

Database access and JDBC

Goals

- Enable Java applications to access data stored in Relational Data Bases
 - Query existing data
 - Modify existing data
 - Insert new data
- Data can be used by
 - The algorithms running in the application
 - The user, through the user interface

JDBC

- Standard library for accessing relational databases
 - Compatible with most/all different databases
- ▶ JDBC : Java Database Connectivity
 - Defined in package java.sql and javax.sql
- Documentation:
 - Doc Index: http://docs.oracle.com/javase/8/docs/technotes/guides/jdbc/index.html
 - Tutorial http://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/jdbc/basics/index.html
 - API documentation:
 https://docs.oracle.com/en/java/javase/19/docs/api/java.sql/module-summary.html
 - Class diagrams: https://falkhausen.de/Java-I0/java.sql/index.html https://falkhausen.de/Java-I0/javax.sql/index.html

JDBC scope

Standardizes

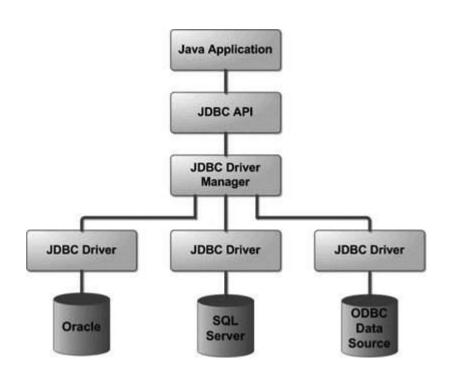
- Mechanism for connecting to DBMSs
- Syntax for sending queries
- Structure representing the results

Does not standardize

> SQL syntax: dialects, variants, extensions, ...



Architecture



- Java application (in our case, JavaFX)
- ▶ JDBC Driver Manager (or Data Source – later on)
 - For loading the JDBCDriver
- JDBC Driver
 - From DBMS vendor
- DBMS
 - In our case, MySQL or MariaDB



Accessing a database: practical steps

Database access and JDBC

Basic steps

- Define the connection URL
- Establish the connection
- 3. Create a statement object
- 4. Execute a query or update
- 5. Process the results
- Close the connection

JDBC Driver

- A Driver is a DMBS-vendor provided class, that must be available to the Java application
 - Should reside in the project's libraries
 - Should be accessible in the project's Class Path
- The application usually doesn't know the driver class name until run-time (to ease the migration to other DMBSs)
- Needs to find and load the class at run-time

MySQL_m

MySQL JDBC driver

- MySQL Connector/J
 - http://dev.mysql.com/downloads/connector/j/
 - Provides mysql-connector-java-[version]-bin.jar
 - Copy or link into project libraries
- The driver is in class
 - com.mysql.jdbc.Driver
 - ...but we don't need (want) to know it!
- Documentation: https://dev.mysql.com/doc/connector-j/8.0/en/



MariaDB JDBC driver

- MariaDB Connector/J
 - https://mariadb.com/kb/en/mariadb-connector-j/
 - Provides mariadb-java-client-2.6.0.jar
- Provides the class org.mariadb.jdbc.Driver
- Responds to JDBC URLs
 - jdbc:mariadb://....
 - jdbc:mysql://....

TdP Maven Archetype

The Maven Archetype for TdP already includes the MariaDB JDBC Driver... you don't need to download, install nor configure anything

1. Define the connection URL

- The Driver Manager needs some information to connect to the DBMS
 - The database type (to call the proper Driver, that we already loaded in the first step)
 - The server address
 - Authentication information (user/pass)
 - Database / schema to connect to
- All these parameters are encoded into a string
 - The exact format depends on the Driver vendor

MySQL Connection URL format

- idbc:mysql://[host:port],[host:port].../
 [database][?propertyName1][=propertyValue1
][&propertyName2][=propertyValue2]...
 - jdbc:mysql:// -or- jdbc:mariadb://
 - host:port (usually:localhost)
 - /database
 - ?user=username
 - &password=ppppppp (omit for XAMPP)

https://dev.mysql.com/doc/connectorj/8.0/en/connector-j-reference-configurationproperties.html

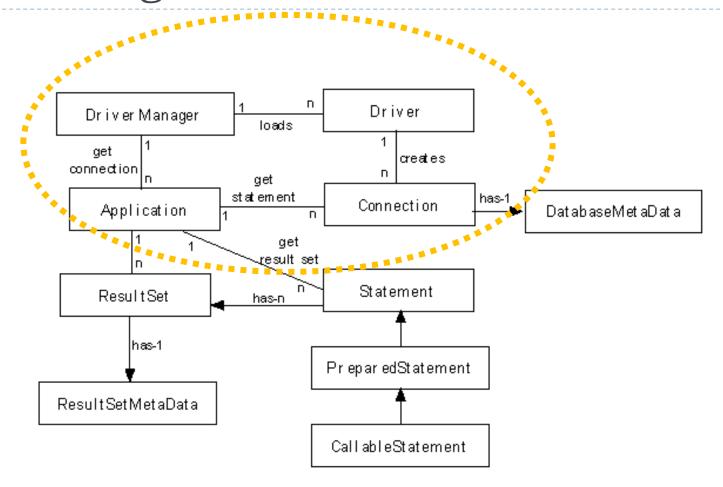
2. Establish the connection

- Use DriverManager.getConnection
 - Uses the appropriate driver according to the connection URL
 - Returns a Connection object
- Connection connection = DriverManager.getConnection(URLString)
- Contacts DBMS, validates user and selects the database
- On the Connection object subsequent commands will execute queries

Example

```
import java.sql.Connection;
import java.sql.DriverManager;
import java.sql.SQLException;
        try {
            Connection conn = DriverManager.getConnection(
"jdbc:mysql://localhost/test?user=monty&password=secret");
            // Do something with the Connection
        } catch (SQLException ex) {
            // handle any errors
            System.out.println("SQLException: " + ex.getMessage());
            System.out.println("SQLState: " + ex.getSQLState());
            System.out.println("VendorError: " + ex.getErrorCode());
```

Class diagram



6. Close the connection

- When no additional queries are needed, close the connection to the database:
 - connection.close();

3. Create a Statement object

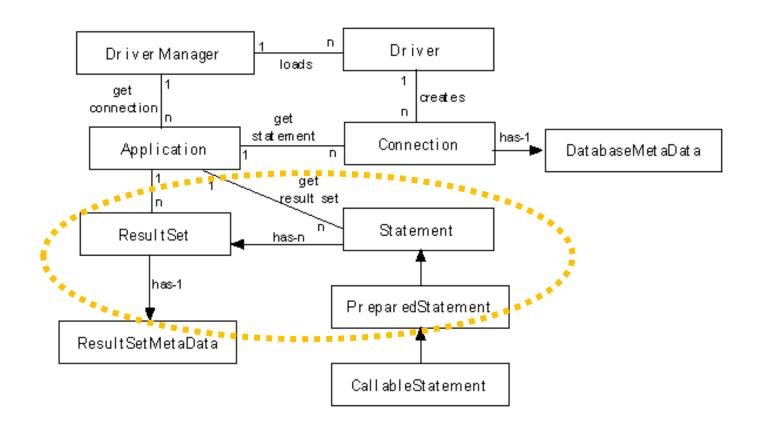
- Statement statement =
 connection.createStatement();
- Creates a Statement object for sending SQL statements to the database.
- SQL statements without parameters are normally executed using Statement objects.

For efficiency and security reasons, we will always use a PreparedStatement object (see later...).

4. Execute a query

- Use the executeQuery method of the Statement class
 - ResultSet executeQuery(String sql)
 - sql contains a SELECT statement
- Returns a ResultSet object, that will be used to retrieve the query results

Class diagram



Other execute methods

- int executeUpdate(String sql)
 - ▶ For INSERT, UPDATE, or DELETE statements
 - For other SQL statements that don't return a resultset (e.g., CREATE TABLE)
 - returns either the row count for INSERT, UPDATE or DELETE statements, or 0 for SQL statements that return nothing
- boolean execute(String sql)
 - For general SQL statements

Example

```
String query = "SELECT id, name FROM user" ;
ResultSet resultSet =
statement.executeQuery(query);
```

Parametric queries

- ▶ SQL queries may depend on user input data
- Example: find item whose code is specified by the user
- Method I: String interpolation (with concatenation or String.format)

```
String query =
  "SELECT * FROM items
WHERE code='"+userCode+"'";
```

Parametric queries

- > SQL queries may depend on user input data
- Example: find item whose code is specified by the user
- Method I: String interpolation (with concatenation or String.format)

```
String query =
  "SELECT * FROM items
WHERE code='"+userCode+"'";
```

- Method 2: use Prepared Statements
 - Always preferable
 - Always
 - See later...

5. Process the result

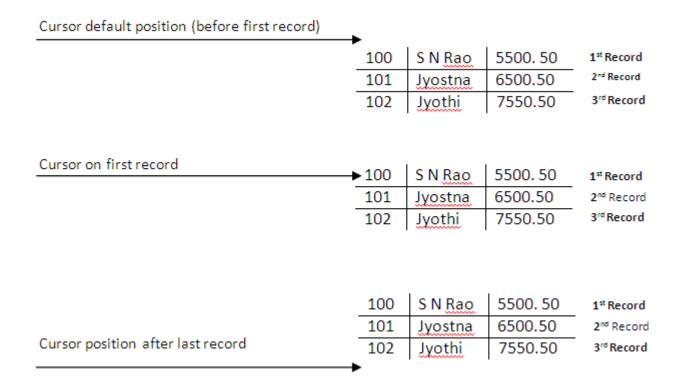
- ▶ The ResultSet object implements a "cursor" over the query results
 - Data are available a row at a time
 - Method ResultSet.next() goes to the next row
 - The column values (for the selected row) are available through getXXX methods
 - getInt, getString, getBoolean, getDate, getDouble, ...
 - Data types are converted from SQL types to Java types

Full list at

https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/sql/ResultSet.html

https://falkhausen.de/Java-I0/java.sql/ResultSet.html

Cursor



ResultSet.getXXX methods

- XXX is the desired datatype
 - Must be compatible with the column type
 - String is almost always acceptable
- Two versions
 - petXXX(int columnIndex)
 - ▶ number of column to retrieve (starting from 1 beware!)
 - petXXX(String columnName)
 - name of column to retrieve
 - Always preferred

ResultSet navigation methods

- boolean next()
 - Moves the cursor down one row from its current position.
 - A ResultSet cursor is initially positioned **before the first row**:
 - the first call to the method next makes the first row the current row
 - ▶ the second call makes the second row the current row, ...

Other navigation methods (1/2)

Query cursor position

- boolean isFirst()
- boolean isLast()
- boolean isBeforeFirst()
- boolean isAfterLast()

Other navigation methods (2/2)

Move cursor

- void beforeFirst()
- void afterLast()
- boolean first()
- boolean last()
- boolean absolute(int row)
- boolean relative(int rows) // positive or negative offset
- boolean previous()

Example

```
while( resultSet.next() )
{
    out.println(
       resultSet.getInt("ID") + " - " +
       resultSet.getString("name") ) ;
}
```

Datatype conversions (MySQL)

These MySQL Data Types	Can always be converted to these Java types
CHAR, VARCHAR, BLOB, TEXT, ENUM, and SET	<pre>java.lang.String, java.io.InputStream, java.io.Reader, java.sql.Blob, java.sql.Clob</pre>
FLOAT, REAL, DOUBLE PRECISION, NUMERIC, DECIMAL, TINYINT, SMALLINT, MEDIUMINT, INTEGER, BIGINT	<pre>java.lang.String, java.lang.Short, java.lang.Integer, java.lang.Long, java.lang.Double, java.math.BigDecimal</pre>
DATE, TIME, DATETIME, TIMESTAMP	<pre>java.lang.String, java.sql.Date, java.sql.Timestamp</pre>

Datatype conversions

	TINYINT	SMALLINT	INTEGER	BIGINT	REAL	FLOAT	DOUBLE	DECIMAL	NUMERIC	BIT	CHAR	VARCHAR	LONGVARCHAR	BINARY	VARBINARY	LONGVARBINARY	DATE	TIME	TIMESTAMP	CLOB	BLOB	ARRAY	REF	STRUCT	JAVA OBJECT
getByte	Х	x	х	x	x	x	x	x	x	х	x	x	X												
getShort	х	Х	х	х	x	x	x	x	х	х	x	х	х												
getInt	х	х	X	х	x	x	x	x	х	х	x	х	х												
getLong	x	x	x	Х	x	x	x	x	x	х	x	x	X												
getFloat	х	x	х	x	X	x	x	x	x	х	x	х	x												
getDouble	х	х	х	х	x	Х	X	x	х	х	x	х	х												
getBigDecimal	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Х	Х	x	x	x	x												
getBoolean	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Х	x	x	x												
getString	х	х	х	х	x	x	x	х	х	х	Х	х	х	x	x	х	X	x	х						
getBytes														Х	X	x									
getDate											x	x	X				X		х						
getTime											x	х	х					Х	х						
getTimestamp											x	х	х				X	x	х						
getAsciiStream											x	x	Х	x	x	x									
getUnicodeStream											x	х	X	x	x	х									
getBinaryStream														x	х	х									
getClob																				X					
getBlob																					Х				
getArray																						Х			
getRef																							X		
getCharacterStream											x	X	Х	X	x	X									
getObject	X	x	x	X	X	x	x	x	X	x	x	X	X	X	x	X	x	X	x	x	x	x	X	X	X

Table 5.1: Use of ResultSet.getXXX Methods to Retrieve JDBC Types

6. Close the connection

- ▶ Additional queries may be done on the same connection.
 - Each returns a different ResultSet object, unless you re-use it
 - When no longer needed, ResultSet resources can be freed by 'closing' it: resultSet.close()
- When no additional queries are needed, close the connection to the database:
 - connection.close();



Prepared statements Callable statements

Database access and JDBC

What's wrong with statements?

```
> String user =
  txtUserName.getText(); // JavaFX
```

String sql = "select * from users where
username='" + user + "'";

Problems:

- Security
- Performance

Security risk

- ▶ SQL injection syntax errors or privilege escalation
- Example
 - Username:'; delete * from users; --



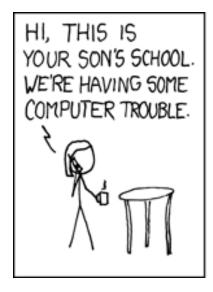
```
select * from users where
username=''; delete * from
users ; -- '
```

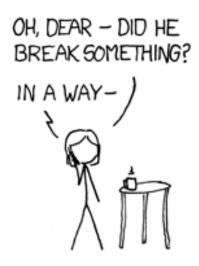
- Must detect or escape all dangerous characters!
 - Will never be perfect...
- Never trust user-entered data. Never. Not once. Really.

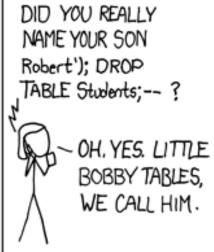
SQL injection attempt ©



SQL injection attempt ©









http://xkcd.com/327/

Performance limitations

- Performance limit
 - Query must be re-parsed and re-optimized every time
 - Complex queries require significant set-up overhead
- When the same query is repeated (even with different data), parsing and optimization wastes CPU time in the DBMS server
 - Increased response-time latency
 - Decreased scalability of the system

Prepared statements

- Separate statement creation from statement execution
 - At creation time: define SQL syntax (template), with placeholders for variable quantities (parameters)
 - At execution time: define actual quantities for placeholders (parameter values), and run the statement
- Prepared statements can be re-run many times
- Parameter values are automatically
 - Converted according to their Java type
 - Escaped, if they contain dangerous characters
 - Handle non-character data (serialization)

Example

```
Connection connection =
DriverManager.getConnection(url, username, password);
String template =
"UPDATE music SET price = ? WHERE id = ?";
PreparedStatement statement =
connection.prepareStatement(template);
float[] newPrices = getNewPrices();
int[] recordingIDs = getIDs();
for(int i=0; i<recordingIDs.length; i++) {</pre>
   statement.setFloat(1, newPrices[i]); // Price
   statement.setInt(2, recordingIDs[i]); // ID
   statement.execute();
```

Prepared statements

- Easier to write
 - Data type conversion done by JDBC library
- Secure (no SQL injection possible)
 - Quoting is done by JDBC library
- More efficient
 - Query re-use
 - Parameter values sent in binary form
- ▶ The bottom line: **Always use prepared statements**.

Callable statements

- Many DBMSs allow defining "stored procedures", directly defined at the DB level
- Stored procedures are SQL queries (with parameters), or sequences of queries
 - Language for defining stored procedures is DBMS-dependent: not portable!
- MySql: http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.5/en/stored-programs-views.html (chapter 18)
- Calling stored procedures: use CallableStatement in JDBC
 - Example: http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.5/en/connector-j-usagenotes-basic.html#connector-j-examples-stored-procedure



Design patterns (DAO)

Database access and JDBC

Problems

- Database code involves a lot of «specific» knowledge
 - Connection parameters
 - ▶ SQL commands
 - The structure of the database
- Bad practice to «mix» this low-level information with main application code
 - Reduces portability and maintainability
 - Creates more complex code
 - Breaks the «one-class one-task» assumption
- What it a better code organization?

Goals

- Encapsulate DataBase access into separate classes, distinct from application ones
 - All other classes should be shielded from DB details
- DataBase access should be indepentent from application needs
 - Potentially reusable in different parts of the application
- Develop a reusable development patterns that can be easily applied to different situations

Data Access Object (DAO) – 1/2

«Client» classes:

- Application code that needs to access the database
- ▶ Ignorant of database details (connection, queries, schema, ...)

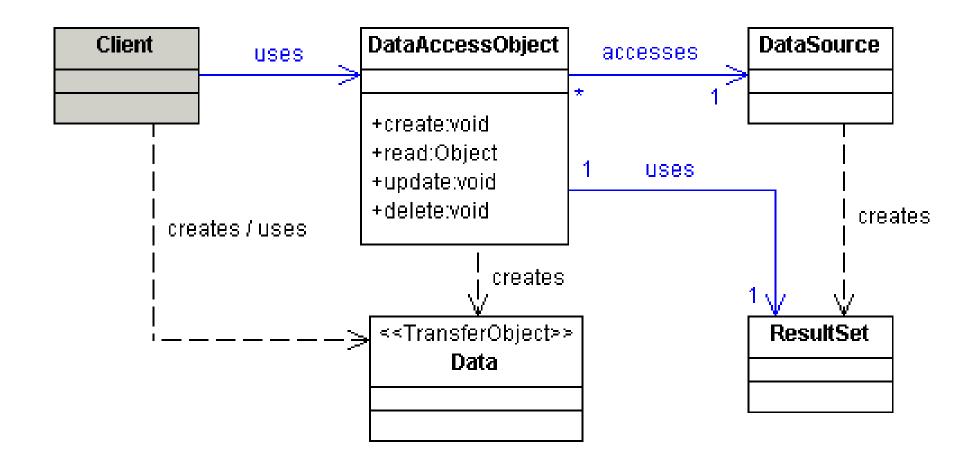
» «DAO» classes:

- Encapsulate all database access code (JDBC)
- The only ones that will ever contact the database
- Ignorant of the goal of the Client

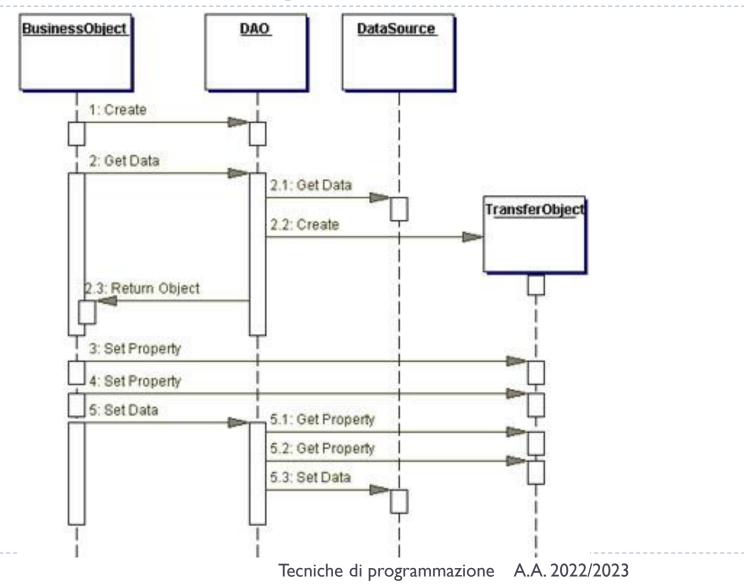
Data Access Object (DAO) – 2/2

- Low-level database classes: DriverManager, DataSource,
 ResultSet, etc
 - Used by DAO (only!) but invisible to Client
- «Transfer Object» (TO) or «Data Transfer Object» (DTO) classes
 - Contain data sent from Client to Dao and/or returned by DAO to Client
 - Represent the data model, as seen by the application
 - Usually POJO or JavaBean
 - Ignorant of DAO, ignorant of database, ignorant of Client

DAO class diagram



DAO Sequence diagram



DAO design criteria

- DAO has no state
 - No instance variables (except Connection maybe)
- DAO manages one 'kind' of data
 - Uses a small number of DTO classes and interacts with a small number of DB tables
 - If you need more, create many DAO classes
- DAO offers CRUD methods
 - Create, Read, Update, Delete
- DAO may offer search methods
 - Returning collections of DTO

public interface/class UserDAO

- public User find(Long id)
 - public boolean find(Long id, User u)
 - public boolean find(User u) // uses u.id
- public User find(String email, String password)
- public List<User> list()
- List<User> searchUserByName(String name)
 - List<User> searchByName(User u); // only u.name matters

public interface/class UserDAO

- public void create(User user)
 - public Long create(User user) // returns new
 ID
- public void update(User user) // modify all except ID
- public void delete(User user)
- public boolean existEmail(String email)
- public void changePassword(User user)



Object-Relational Mapping

Database access and JDBC

Mapping Tables to Objects

- Goal: guidelines for creating a set of Java POJOs (Plain Old Java Objects) to represent information stored in a relational database: will be used as DTO
- Goal: guidelines for designing the set of methods for DAO objects

Tables → POJO ORM rules

- I. Create one POJO per each main database entity
 - Except tables used to store n:m relationships!
- 2. POJO names should match table names
 - In the singular form (Utente; User)
- 3. The POJO should have one private property for each column in the table, with matching names
 - According to Java naming conventions (NUMERO_DATI -> numeroDati)
 - Match the data type
 - Except columns uses as foreign keys

Tables → POJO ORM rules

- The main constructor must accept all the fields in the bean (one full data row)
 - Fields corresponding to foreign keys may not be present in the constructor (lazy object creation)
- Add get()/set() methods for all properties
- Define equals and hashCode, using the exact set of fields that compose the primary key of the table

Relationships, Foreign keys -> Beans

- Define additional attributes in the POJO classes, for every relationship that we want to easily navigate in our application
 - Not necessarily *all* relationships!

Cardinality-1 relationship

- A relationship with cardinality 1 maps to an attribute referring to the corresponding Java object
 - not the PK value
- Use singular nouns.

1:1 relationship

```
STUDENTE
               PERSONA
matricola (PK) codice_fiscale (PK)
fk_persona
           fk_studente
class Studente { private Persona persona ; }
              { private String codice_fiscale ; }
class Persona { private Studente studente ; }
              { private int matricola ; }
```

Cardinality-N relationship

- A relationship with cardinality N maps to an attribute containing a collection
 - The elements of the collection are corresponding Java objects (not PK values).
 - Use plural nouns.
 - The collection may be Set or List.
- The bean should have methods for reading (get, ...) and modifying (add, ...) the collection

1:N relationship

```
STUDENTE
                       CITTA
matricola (PK)
                       cod_citta (PK)
fk_citta_residenza
                       nome_citta
class Studente {
   private Citta cittaResidenza ; }
class Citta {
  private Collection<Studente> studentiResidenti ; }
```

1:N relationship

```
STUDENTE
                            CTTTA
matricola (PK)
                            cod_citta (PK)
                                                  In SQL, there is no «explicit»
                                                   Citta->Studente foreign key.
fk citta residenza
                            nome_citta
                                                     The same FK is used to
                                                   navigate the relationship in
                                                        both directions.
class Studente {
   private Citta cittaResidenza ; }
                                                    In Java, both directions (if
                                                  needed) must be represented
                                                           explicitly.
class Citta {
  private Collection<Studente> studentiResidenti ; }
```

N:M relationship

```
ARTICLE
                 AUTHORSHIP
                                   CREATOR
id_article (PK)
                 id_article (FK,PK*)
                                       id_creator (PK)
Article data...
                 id creator (FK,PK*) Creator data...
                 id_authorship (PK*)
class Article
  { private Collection<Creator> creators ; }
class Creator
  { private Collection<Article> articles ; }
```

N:M relationship

In SQL, there is an extra table just for the N:M relationship.

```
ARTICLE
                    AUTHORSHIP
id_article (PK)
                    id_article (FK,PK*)
                                            id_creator (PK)
Article data...
                    id creator (FK,PK*)
                                            Creator data
                    id_authorship (PK*)
                                             The PK may be an extra
                                            field (#) or a combination
                                                 of the FKs (*)
class Article
  { private Collection<Creator> creators ; }
class Creator
  { private Collection<Article> article>
```

The extra table is not represented.

The PK is not used.

Storing Keys vs Objects

```
private int
idCittaResidenza ;
```

- Store the value of the foreign key
- Easy to retrieve
- Must call CittaDao.readCitta(id) to have the real data
- Tends to perform more queries

```
private Citta
cittaResidenza ;
```

- Store a fully initialized object, corresponding to the matching foreign row
- Harder to retrieve (must use a Join or multiple/nested queries)
- Gets all data at the same time (eager loading)
- All data is readily available
- Maybe such data will not be needed

Storing Keys vs Objects (3rd way)

```
private Citta
cittaResidenza ; // Lazy
```

- Store a partially initialized object, with only the 'id' field set
 - Or even a null field
- Easy to retrieve
- Must call CittaDao.readCitta(id) to have the real data (lazy loading), but only once
- Loading details may be hidden behind getters

Identity problem

- It may happen that a single object gets retrieved many times, in different queries
 - Especially in the case of N:M relationships

```
List<Article> articles = dao.listArticle();
for(Article a: articles) {
  List<Creator> authors = dao.getCreatorsFor(a);
  a.setCreators(authors);
}
```

```
while(rs.next()) {
   Creator c = new Creator( rs.getInt("id"), ... );
   result.add(c);
}
return result;
```

Identity problem

- It may happen that a single object gets r times, in different queries
 - Especially in the case of N:M relationships

```
List<Article> articles = dao.listArticle()
for(Article a: articles) {
  List<Creator> authors = dao.getCreator
  a.setCreators(authors);
}
```

If the same Creator is author of many articles, a new object (with identical information) will be created, one per each article.

A new, distinct object. They will all be .equals() to each other.

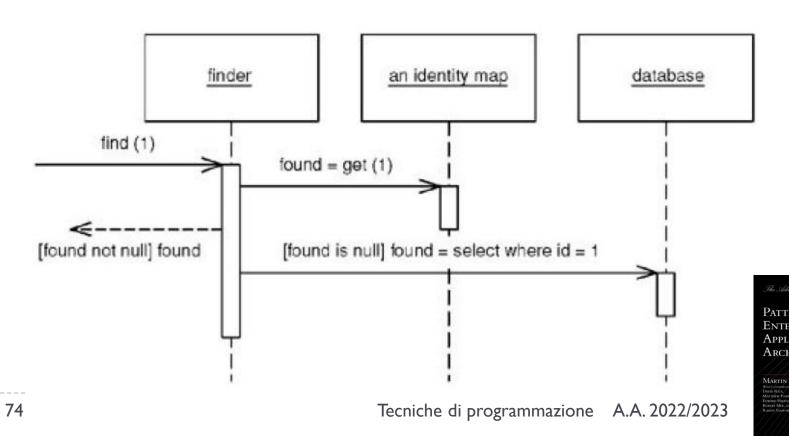
```
while(rs.next()) {
   Creator c = new Creator( rs.getInt("id"), ... );
   result.add(c);
}
return result;
```

Identity problem

- It may happen that a single object gets retrieved many times, in different queries
 - Especially in the case of N:M relationships
- Different «identical» objects will be created (new)
 - They can be used interchangeably: .equals() and .hashCode() match
 - They waste memory space
 - They can't be compared for identity (== or !=)
 - You can't store additional information in those objects
- Solution: avoid creating pseudo-identical objects
 - Store all retrieved objects in a shared Map<>
 - Don't create an object if it's already in the map

Identity Map pattern

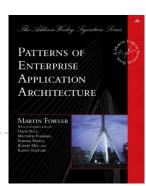
- Ensures that each object gets loaded only once, by keeping every loaded object in a map
- Looks up objects using the map when referring to them.



Creating an Identity Map

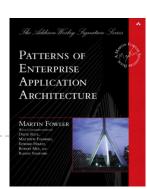
- One IdMap per database table
- The IdMap stores a private map
 - Key = field(s) of the Table that constitute the Primary Key
 - Value = Object representing the table

```
private Map<Key, TableName> TableIdMap ;
```



Using the Identity Map

- Create and store the IdMap in the Model
- Pass a reference to the IdMap to the DAO methods
- In the DAO, when loading an object from the database, first check the map
 - If there is a corresponding object, return it (and don't create a new one)
 - If there is no corresponding object, create a new object and put it into the map, for future reference
- If possible, check the map before doing the query







Connection pooling

Database access and JDBC

Connection pooling

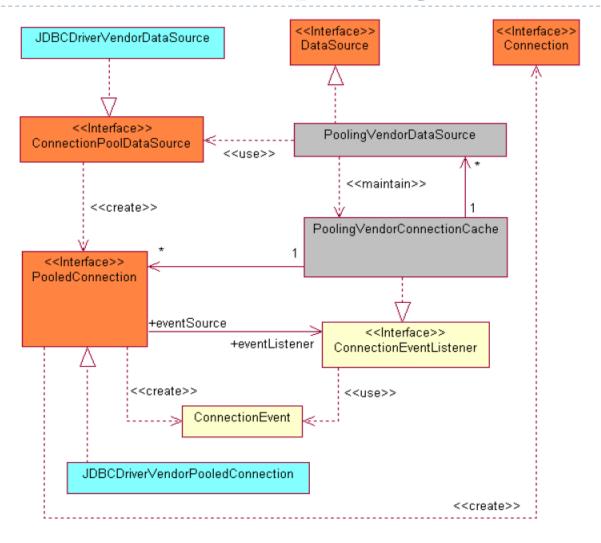
Opening and closing DB connection is expensive

- Requires setting up TCP/IP connection, checking authorization, ...
- After just I-2 queries, the connection is dropped and all partial results are lost in the DBMS

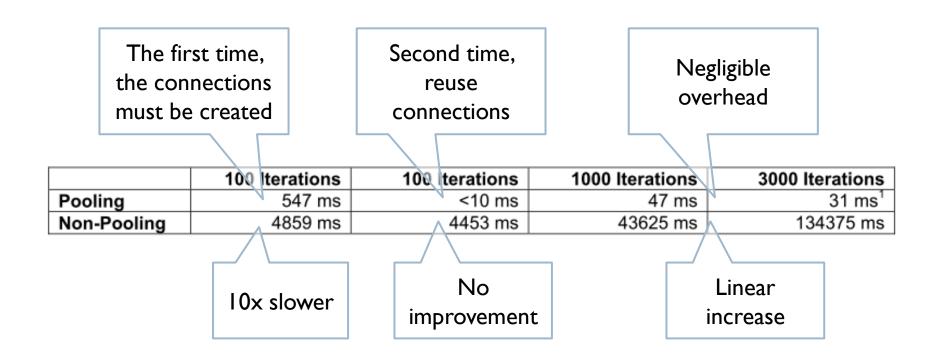
Connection pool

- A set of "already open" database connections
- DAO methods "lend" a connection for a short period, running queries
- The connection is then returned to the pool (not closed!) and is ready for the next DAO needing it

JDBC 3.0 Connection pooling architecture



Benchmarks



Connection Pooling libraries

光 = «Light», «Ray»



c3p0 - JDBC3 Connection and Statement Pooling

https://brettwooldridge.github.io/HikariCP/

https://www.mchange.com/projects/c3p0/

https://translate.google.com/?client=firefox-b-d&um=I&ie=UTF-8&hl=en&client=tw-ob#ja/en/%E5%85%89

HikariCP library for CP

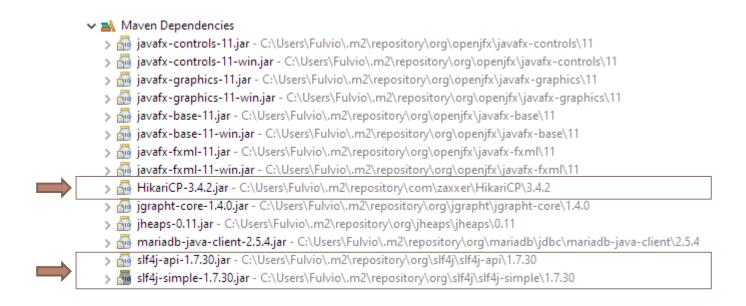


- Open source library for adding connection pooling capabilities to JDBC drivers
 - https://brettwooldridge.github.io/HikariCP
 - https://github.com/brettwooldridge/HikariCP
- Connection Pooling
- Prepared Statement cache
 - Better at Driver level
 - https://github.com/brettwooldridge/HikariCP/issues/488
- Requirement: SLF4J (Simple Logging Facade for Java) https://www.slf4j.org/

Detour: Logging

TdP Maven Archetype

The Maven Archetype for TdP already includes the HikariCP library (and SLF4J dependency)... you don't need to download, install nor configure anything



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Using HikariCP

```
import com.zaxxer.hikari.*;
...

HikariDataSource ds = new HikariDataSource();

ds.setJdbcUrl("jdbc:mysql://localhost:3306/simpsons");
ds.setUsername("bart");
ds.setPassword("51mp50n");
...

ds.getConnection();
```

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Closing up

- ▶ To release a connection to the pool:
 - connection.close();
 - ...otherwise the pool will run out of available connections!
- ▶ To destroy the connection pool and clean up resources:
 - b ds.close();
 - Also disconnects from database.
 - May be placed in a stop() method in the main JavaFX class
- Alternatively
 - DataSources.destroy(ds);

JDBC Basics: Tutorial

- http://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/jdbc/TOC.html
- http://pdf.coreservlets.com/Accessing-Databases-JDBC.pdf

More advanced tutorials

https://www3.ntu.edu.sg/home/ehchua/programming/java/JDBC_Intermediate.html

JDBC reference guide

http://docs.oracle.com/javase/6/docs/technotes/guides/jdbc/getstart/ GettingStartedTOC.fm.html

JDBC JavaDoc

- http://docs.oracle.com/javase/6/docs/api/java/sql/packagesummary.html
- http://docs.oracle.com/javase/6/docs/api/javax/sql/packagesummary.html

- Comparison of different SQL implementations
 - http://troels.arvin.dk/db/rdbms/
 - essential!
- DAO pattern
 - http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/dataaccessobject-138824.html
 - http://www.corej2eepatterns.com/Patterns2ndEd/DataAccessO bject.htm
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_Access_Object
 - http://balusc.blogspot.it/2008/07/dao-tutorial-data-layer.html

ORM patterns and Identity Map

 Patterns of Enterprise Application Architecture, By Martin Fowler, David Rice, Matthew Foemmel, Edward Hieatt, Robert Mee, Randy Stafford, Addison Wesley, 2002, ISBN 0-321-12742-0

Connection pooling

- Introduction: http://www.datadirect.com/resources/jdbc/connection-pooling/index.html
- with MySql Connector/J: http://dev.mysql.com/techresources/articles/connection_pooling_with_connectorj.html
- http://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.5/en/connector-j-usagenotesj2ee.html#connector-j-usagenotes-tomcat
- ► Tomcat tutorial: http://tomcat.apache.org/tomcat-5.5-doc/jndi-resources-howto.html#JDBC%20Data%20Sources
- HikariCP: A solid high-performance JDBC connection pool at last https://github.com/brettwooldridge/HikariCP

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