Exception Handling in Java

The **exception handling in java** is one of the powerful *mechanism to handle the runtime errors* so that normal flow of the application can be maintained.

What is exception

Exception is an abnormal condition.

In java, exception is an event that disrupts the normal flow of the program. It is an object which is thrown at runtime.

What is exception handling

Exception Handling is a mechanism to handle runtime errors such as ClassNotFound, IO, SQL, Remote etc.

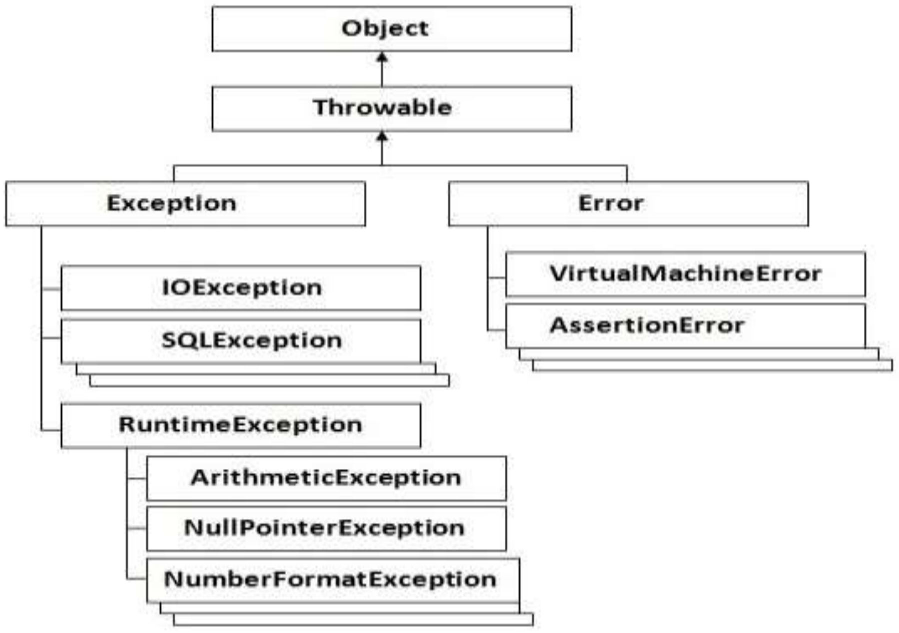
Advantage of Exception Handling

The core advantage of exception handling is **to maintain the normal flow of the application**. Exception normally disrupts the normal flow of the application that is why we use exception handling. Let's take below scenario:

1. statement 1;
2. statement 2;
3. statement 3;
4. statement 4;
5. statement 5;//exception occurs
6. statement 6;
7. statement 7;
8. statement 8;
9. statement 9;
10. statement 10;

Suppose there is 10 statements in your program and there occurs an exception at statement 5, rest of the code will not be executed i.e. statement 6 to 10 will not run. If we perform exception handling, rest of the exception will be executed. That is why we use exception handling in java.

Hierarchy of Java Exception classes



Types of Exception

There are mainly two types of exceptions: checked and unchecked

where error is considered as unchecked exception.

The sun microsystem says there are three types of exceptions:

1. Checked Exception (compile time errors)
2. Unchecked Exception (run time errors)
3. Error

Difference between checked and unchecked exceptions

1) Checked Exception

The classes that extend Throwable class except RuntimeException and Error are known as checked exceptions e.g.IOException, SQLException etc. Checked exceptions are checked at compile-time.

2) Unchecked Exception

The classes that extend RuntimeException are known as unchecked exceptions e.g. ArithmeticException, NullPointerException, ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException etc.

Unchecked exceptions are not checked at compile-time rather they are checked at runtime.

3) Error

Error is irrecoverable e.g. OutOfMemoryError, VirtualMachineError, AssertionError etc.

Common scenarios where exceptions may occur

There are given some scenarios where unchecked exceptions can occur. They are as follows:

1) Scenario where ArithmeticException occurs

If we divide any number by zero, there occurs an ArithmeticException.

```
int a=50/0;//ArithmeticException
```

---

2) Scenario where NullPointerException occurs

If we have null value in any variable, performing any operation by the variable occurs an NullPointerException.

```
String s=null;
```

```
2. System.out.println(s.length());//NullPointerException
```

---

3) Scenario where NumberFormatException occurs

The wrong formatting of any value, may occur NumberFormatException. Suppose I have a string variable that have characters, converting this variable into digit will occur NumberFormatException.

```
1. String s="abc";
2. int i=Integer.parseInt(s);//NumberFormatException
```

---

4) Scenario where ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException occurs

If you are inserting any value in the wrong index, it would result ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException as shown below:

```
int a[]=new int[5];

1. a[10]=50; //ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException
```

Java Exception Handling Keywords

There are 5 keywords used in java exception handling.

1. try
2. catch
3. finally
4. throw
5. throws

Java try-catch:

Java try block

Java try block is used to enclose the code that might throw an exception. It must be used within the method.

Java try block must be followed by either catch or finally block.

Syntax of java try-catch

```
try{
//code that may throw exception
}catch(Exception_class_Name ref){}
```

Syntax of try-finally block

```
try{
//code that may throw exception
}finally{}
```

Java catch block

Java catch block is used to handle the Exception. It must be used after the try block only.

You can use multiple catch block with a single try.

Problem without exception handling

```
public class Testtrycatch1{
  public static void main(String args[]){
      int data=50/0;//may throw exception
      System.out.println("rest of the code...");
}
}
```

Output:

```
Exception in thread main
java.lang.ArithmeticException:/ by zero
```

As displayed in the above example, rest of the code is not executed (in such case, rest of the code... statement is not printed).

There can be 100 lines of code after exception. So all the code after exception will not be executed.

Solution by exception handling:

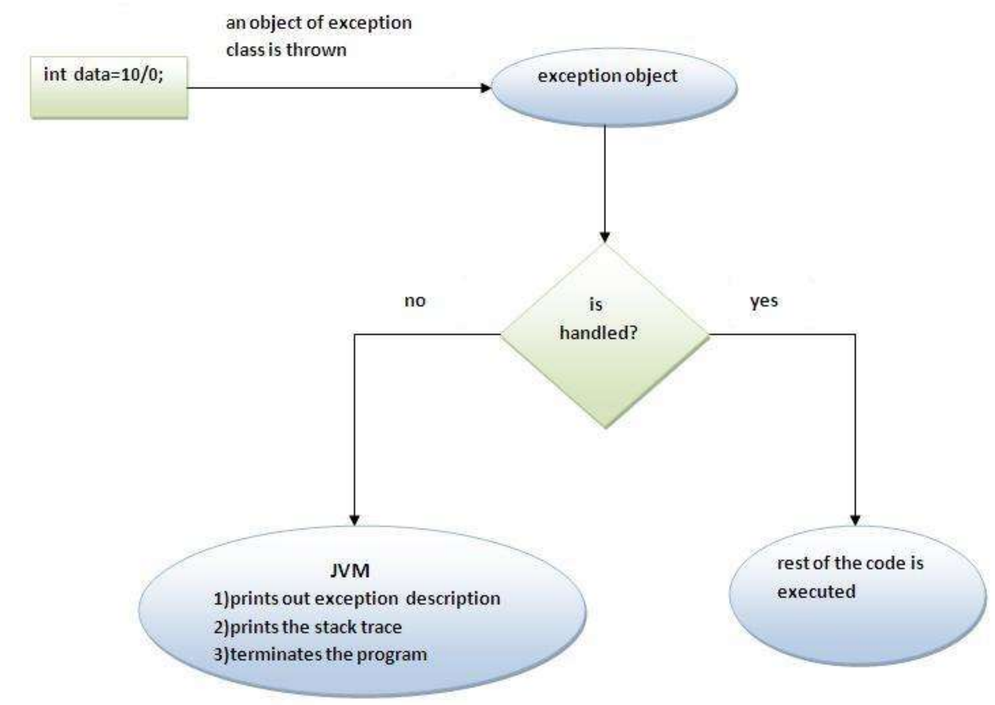
```
public class Testtrycatch2{
  public static void main(String args[]){
   try{
      int data=50/0;
   }catch(ArithmeticException e){System.out.println(e);}
   System.out.println("rest of the code...");
}
}
```

Output:

```
Exception in thread main
java.lang.ArithmeticException:/ by zero
rest of the code...
```

Now, as displayed in the above example, rest of the code is executed i.e. rest of the code... statement is printed.

Internal working of java try-catch block


int data=10/0;
an object of exception class is thrown
exception object
is handled?
no
yes
JVM
1)prints out exception description
2)prints the stack trace
3)terminates the program
rest of the code is executed

The JVM firstly checks whether the exception is handled or not. If exception is not handled, JVM provides a default exception handler that performs the following tasks:

- Prints out exception description.
- Prints the stack trace (Hierarchy of methods where the exception occurred).
- Causes the program to terminate.

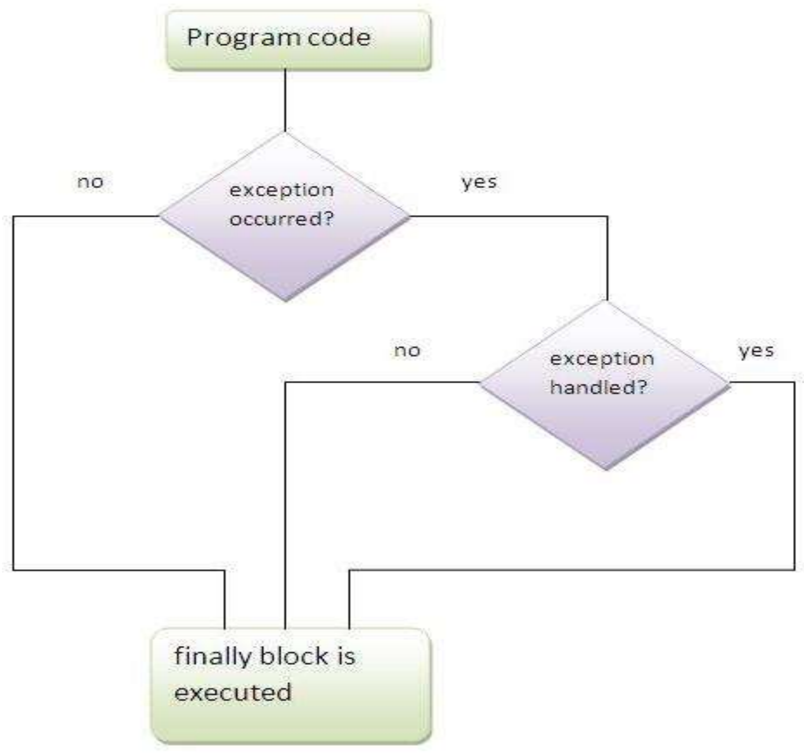
But if exception is handled by the application programmer, normal flow of the application is maintained i.e. rest of the code is executed.

Java finally block

Java finally block is a block that is used *to execute important code* such as closing connection, stream etc.

Java finally block is always executed whether exception is handled or not.

Java finally block must be followed by try or catch block.



Note: If you don't handle exception, before terminating the program, JVM executes finally block(if any).

Why use java finally

Finally block in java can be used to put "cleanup" code such as closing a file, closing connection etc.

Usage of Java finally

Let's see the different cases where java finally block can be used.

Case 1

Let's see the java finally example where **exception doesn't occur**.

```
class TestFinallyBlock{
  public static void main(String args[]){
  try{
   int data=25/5;
   System.out.println(data);
  }
  catch(NullPointerException e){System.out.println(e);}
  finally{System.out.println("finally block is always execute
d");}
  System.out.println("rest of the code...");
  }
}
```

```
Output:5
    finally block is always executed
    rest of the code...
```

Case 2

Let's see the java finally example where **exception occurs and not handled**.

```
class TestFinallyBlock1{
  public static void main(String args[]){
  try{
   int data=25/0;
  System.out.println(data);
 }
 catch(NullPointerException e){System.out.println(e);
}
 finally{System.out.println("finally block is always exe
cuted");}
 System.out.println("rest of the code...");
 }
}
```

```
Output:finally block is always executed
       Exception in thread main java.lang.ArithmeticException:/ by zero
```

Case 3

Let's see the java finally example where **exception occurs and handled**.

```
public class TestFinallyBlock2{
 public static void main(String args[]){
 try{
  int data=25/0;
  System.out.println(data);
 }
 catch(ArithmeticException e){System.out.println(e);}
 finally{System.out.println("finally block is always executed");}
 System.out.println("rest of the code...");
 }
}
```

```
Output:Exception in thread main java.lang.ArithmeticException:/ by zero
   finally block is always executed

    rest of the code...
```

Rule: For each try block there can be zero or more catch blocks, but only one finally block.

Note: The finally block will not be executed if program exits(either by calling System.exit() or by causing a fatal error that causes the process to abort).

Java throw exception

Java throw keyword

The Java throw keyword is used to explicitly throw an exception.

We can throw either checked or uncheked exception in java by throw keyword. The throw keyword is mainly used to throw custom exception.

The syntax of java throw keyword is given below.

1. **throw** exception;

Let's see the example of throw IOException.

1. **throw new** IOException("sorry device error”);

java throw keyword example

In this example, we have created the validate method that takes integer value as a parameter. If the age is less than 18, we are throwing the ArithmeticException otherwise print a message welcome to vote.

```
public class TestThrow1{
  static void validate(int age){
    if(age<18)
     throw new ArithmeticException("not valid");
    else
     System.out.println("welcome to vote");
  }
  public static void main(String args[]){
     validate(13);
     System.out.println("rest of the code...");
 }
}
```

Output:

```
Exception in thread main java.lang.ArithmeticException:not valid
```

Java throws keyword

The **Java throws keyword** is used to declare an exception. It gives an information to the programmer that there may occur an exception so it is better for the programmer to provide the exception handling code so that normal flow can be maintained.

Exception Handling is mainly used to handle the checked exceptions. If there occurs any unchecked exception such as NullPointerException, it is programmers fault that he is not performing check up before the code being used.

Syntax of java throws

```
return_type method_name() throws exception_class_name{
//method code
}
```

Which exception should be declared

Ans) checked exception only, because:

- **unchecked Exception:** under your control so correct your code.
- **error:** beyond your control e.g. you are unable to do anything if there occurs VirtualMachineError or StackOverflowError.