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Scala – How to find the unique items in a List, Array, Vector (sequence)

By Alvin Alexander. Last updated: Nov 24, 2014

Scala FAQ: How do I find the *unique* items in a `List`, `Array`, `Vector`, or other Scala sequence?

Solution: Use the `distinct` method.

Here's a simple example using a `List` of integers:

```
scala> val x = List(1,1,1,2,2,3,3)
x: List[Int] = List(1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3)

scala> x.distinct
res0: List[Int] = List(1, 2, 3)
```

As you can see, `res0` now contains only the unique elements in the list.

Here's another example with a list of strings:

```
scala> val x = List("a", "a", "b", "b", "c")
x: List[String] = List(a, a, b, b, c)

scala> x.distinct
res1: List[String] = List(a, b, c)
```

Last but not least, here's a list of a custom type, a `Person` class defined as a case class:

```
scala> case class Person(name: String, age: Int)
defined class Person

scala> List(Person("joe",20), Person("fred",22), Person("joe", 20), Person("mary", 24)).distinct
res2: List[Person] = List(Person(joe,20), Person(fred,22), Person(mary,24))

scala> List(Person("joe",20), Person("fred",22), Person("joe", 20), Person("fred",22)).distinct
res3: List[Person] = List(Person(joe,20), Person(fred,22))
```

If you need to find the unique elements in a list/sequence in Scala, I hope this has been helpful.

Scala Cookbook
By Alvin Alexander
Ebook: $27.99
Print & Ebook: $60.49
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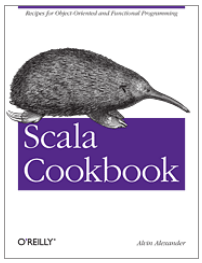

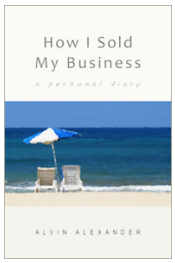

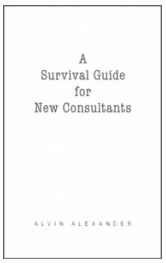

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