

Advanced Programming Techniques in Java

Recursion III & Stacks

Lecture 22



Class Objectives

- Backtracking (Section 12.5)



Stacks (Chapter 14)



Review: Recursive Alg Towers of Hanoi

Recursive Algorithm for n -Disk Problem: Move
Peg to the Destination Peg if n is 1 move disk 1
the starting peg to the destination peg else
move the top $n - 1$ disks from the starting peg
starting nor destination peg) move disk n (the
starting peg to the destination peg move the
peg to the destination peg



Review: Counting Cells Design

Algorithm **for** `countCells(x, y)`

```
if the cell at (x, y) is outside
    the grid the result is 0
else if the color of the cell at (x, y)
    abnormal color the result is 0
else
```



set the color of the cell at (x, y) to the
temporary color the result is 1 plus the number of
cells in each piece of the blob that is adjacent to the
nearest neighbor

Review: Counting Cells in a Blob

- Verify that the code works for the following cases:
 - A starting cell that is on the edge of the blob



- A starting cell that has no neighbors
- A starting cell whose only abnormal neighbors are diagonally connected to it
- A "bull's-eye": a starting cell whose neighbors are normal but their neighbors are abnormal
- A starting cell that is normal
- A grid that contains all abnormal cells
- A grid that contains all normal cells

Backtracking

Backtracking



- Backtracking is an approach to finding a path using systematic trial and error search for a solution.
- An example is finding a path from a start node to a goal node.
- If you are attempting to walk through a maze, you probably walk down a path until you reach a dead end.
 - Eventually, you will reach your destination or be able to go any farther.



- If you can't go any farther, you w
alternative paths
- Backtracking is a systematic, nonre
trying alternative paths and elimi
don't work

Backtracking (cont.)

- If you never try the same path n
will eventually find a solution path
- Problems that are solved by backtrack
as a set of choices made by s



- Recursion allows you to implement a relatively straightforward manner
 - Each activation frame is used to undo the choice that was made at that point
- A program that plays chess may use a form of backtracking algorithm

Finding a Path through

- Problem



- Use backtracking to find and display
- From each point in a maze, next cell in a horizontal or vertical cell is not blocked



Finding a Path through

□ Analysis

- The maze will consist of a grid
- The starting point is at the top left
- The exit point is at the bottom right
(`getNCols() - 1, getNRows()`)
- All cells on the path will be `BACKGROUND_COLOR`
- All cells that represent barriers will be `0`
- Cells that we have visited will be `1`
- If we find a path, all cells on the path will be `2`



Recursive Algorithm for Maze Path

Recursive Algorithm for findMazePath(x, y)

```
if the current cell is outside the
    maze return false (you are
    out of bounds)
else if the current cell is part of the b
    been visited return false (you are o
    cycle)
else if the current cell is the maze e
    to the pathcolor and return true
    successfully completed the maze)
else // Try to find a path from the c
```



```
mark the current cell as on the path
    pathcolor
for each neighbor of the current cell
    pathexists from the neighbor to
    maze exit return true
// No neighbor of the current cell is on the path
recolor the current cell to the temporary
    (visited) and return
false
```

Testing

- Test for a variety of test cases
 - Mazes that can be solved



- Mazes that can't be solved
- A maze with no barrier cells
- A maze with a single barrier cell

StackAbstract

Stack AbstractData





- A stack is one of the most used data structures in computer science
- A stack can be compared to a dispenser
 - Only the top item can be accessed
 - You can extract only one item
- The top element in the stack is the element most recently added to the stack
- The stack's storage policy is *First-Out*, or *LIFO*



Specification of the Stack Data Type

- Only the top element of a stack
number of operations performed
- We need the ability to
 - test for an empty stack (empty)
 - inspect the top element (peek)
 - retrieve the top element (pop)
 - put a new element on the stack



Methods	Behavior
<code>boolean empty()</code>	Returns true if the stack is empty
<code>E peek()</code>	Returns the object at the top of the stack
<code>E pop()</code>	Returns the object at the top of the stack and removes it
<code>E push(E obj)</code>	Pushes an item onto the top of the stack

A Stack of Strings

Jonathan
Dustin
Robin
Debbie
Rich

(a)

Dustin
Robin
Debbie
Rich


(b)

- “Rich” is the oldest element on the stack a
(Figure a)
- `String last = names.peek();` store
“Jonathan” in last
- `String temp = names.pop();` remove
reference to it in temp (Figure b)
- `names.push(“Philip”);` pushes “Ph
c)



Stack Application

Finding Palindromes

- 
- Palindrome: a string that reads the same in either direction, letter by letter
 - kayak
 - "I saw I was I"
 - "Able was I ere I saw Elba"
 - "Level, madam, level"

- Problem: Write a program that
and determines whether



Finding Pal

Data Fields	Attributes
<code>private String inputString</code>	The input string
<code>private Stack<Character> charStack</code>	The stack where
Methods	Behavior
<code>public PalindromeFinder(String str)</code>	Initializes a new ence to the para character onto t
<code>private void fillStack()</code>	Fills the stack w
<code>private String buildReverse()</code>	Returns the strin the stack and jo
<code>public boolean isPalindrome()</code>	Returns true if buildReverse l Otherwise, retur



Finding Pal

```
import java.util.*;

public class PalindromeFinder {
    private String inputString;
    private Stack<Character> charStack = new Stack<>();

    public PalindromeFinder(String str) {
        inputString = str;
        fillStack();
    }
}
```




Finding Pal

}

...

- Solving using a stack:
 - Push each string character onto a stack



Finding Pal

ayk
ayk
aky
ak
k

k a y a k

```
private void fillStack() {  
    for(int i = 0; i < inputString.length()  
        charStack.push(inputString.charAt  
    }  
}
```

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- Solving using a stack
 - Pop each character
 - each to the
 - StringBuilder result



Finding Pal

ay
aa
yak _____ k a y a k
ak _____
k _____

```
private String buildReverse() {  
    StringBuilder result = new Str  
    while (!charStack.empty()) {result.append  
    } return  
    result.toString();  
}
```

...



Finding Pal

```
public boolean isPalindrome() {  
    return inputString.equalsIgnor  
}  
}
```



Testing

- We can test this class with the following inputs:
 - a single character (always a palindrome)
 - multiple characters in a word
 - multiple words
 - different cases
 - even-length strings
 - odd-length strings
 - the empty string (considered a palindrome)



Balanced Parentheses

- When analyzing arithmetic expressions, it is important to determine whether an expression is balanced with respect to parentheses.

$(a + b * (c / (d - e$

- The problem is further complicated when square brackets are used in conjunction with parentheses.
- The solution is to use a stack data structure.



Balanced Pa

Method	Behavior
public static boolean isBalanced(String expression)	Returns true if respect to pare
private static boolean isOpen(char ch)	Returns true if
private static boolean isClose(char ch)	Returns true if



Balanced Pa

Algorithm for method isBalanced

1. Create an empty stack of characters.
2. Assume that the expression is balanced.
3. Set index to 0.
4. **while** balanced is **true** and index < the
5. Get the next character in the data
6. **if** the next character is an opening
7. Push it onto the stack.
8. **else if** the next character is a clo
9. Pop the top of the stack.
10. **if** stack was empty or its to
11. Set balanced to **false**.
12. Increment index.
13. Return **true** if balanced is **true** and the



Balanced Pa

Expression: $(w * [x$
 $y] /$
 $z)$

(w	*	[
---	---	---	---

0 1 2 3





Balanced Pa



Expression: (w
[x + y] /
z)



0 1 2 3





Balanced Pa

balanced :



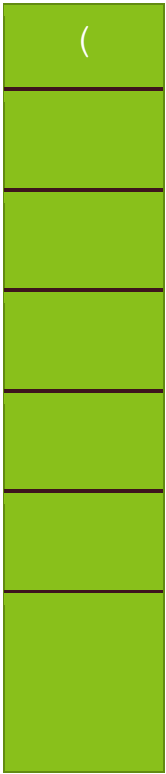
true

Expression: (w
[x + y] /
z)



0 1 2 3





Balanced Pa

balanced :
2

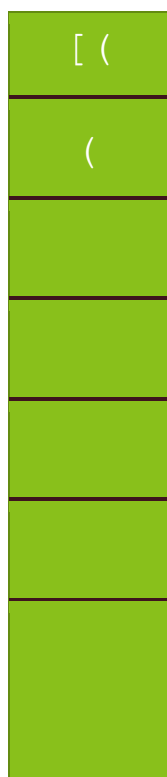


Expression: (w
[x + y] /
z)



0 1 2 3





Balanced Pa

balanced : **true**



Expression: (w
[x + y] /
z)



0 1 2 3





Balanced Pa

balanced : **true**

Expression: (w
[x + y] /
z)



0 1 2 3





Balanced Pa

balanced : **true**
5

Expression: (w
[x + y] /
z)



0 1 2 3





Balanced Pa

balanced : **true** inc

Expression: (w
[x + y] /
z)



0 1 2 3





Matches!
Balanced still
true

d Pa
balanced : **true** inc

Expression: (w
[x + y] /
z)



0 1 2 3



Balanced Pa

balanced : **true** inc

Expression: (w
[x + y] /
z)



0 1 2 3





Balanced Pa

balanced : **true** inc

Expression: ($w_0 * [x_1 +$
 $z]$)

0 1 2 3





Matches!
Balanced still
true

balanced :
true index
10

(w * [

d Pa



Testing

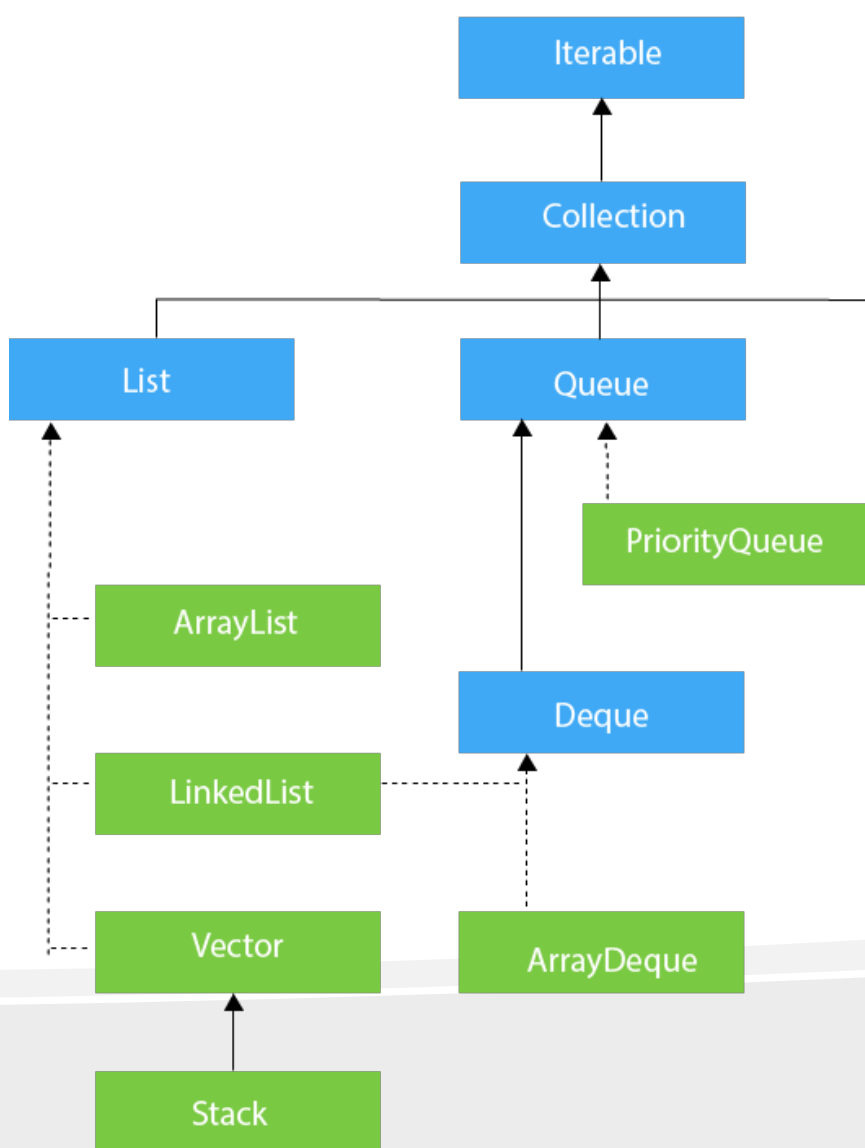
- Provide a variety of input expressions
true or false
- Try several levels of nested parentheses
- Try nested parentheses where closing parentheses are not of the same type
- Try unbalanced parentheses



- PITFALL: attempting to pop an empty stack throws an `EmptyStackException`. You can avoid this by either testing for an empty stack before popping or by catching the exception.



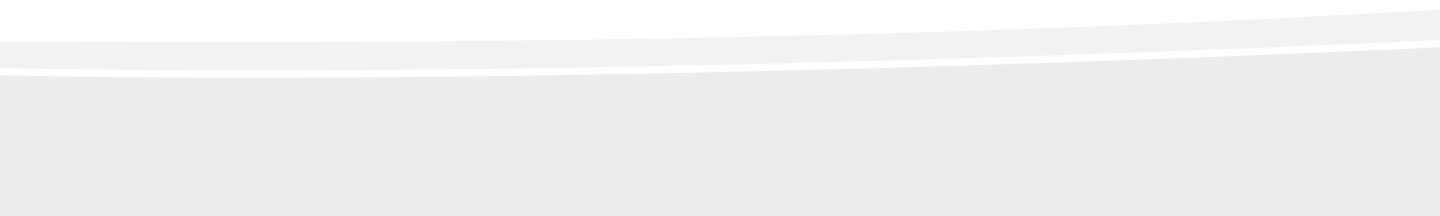
Collections Framework Diagram





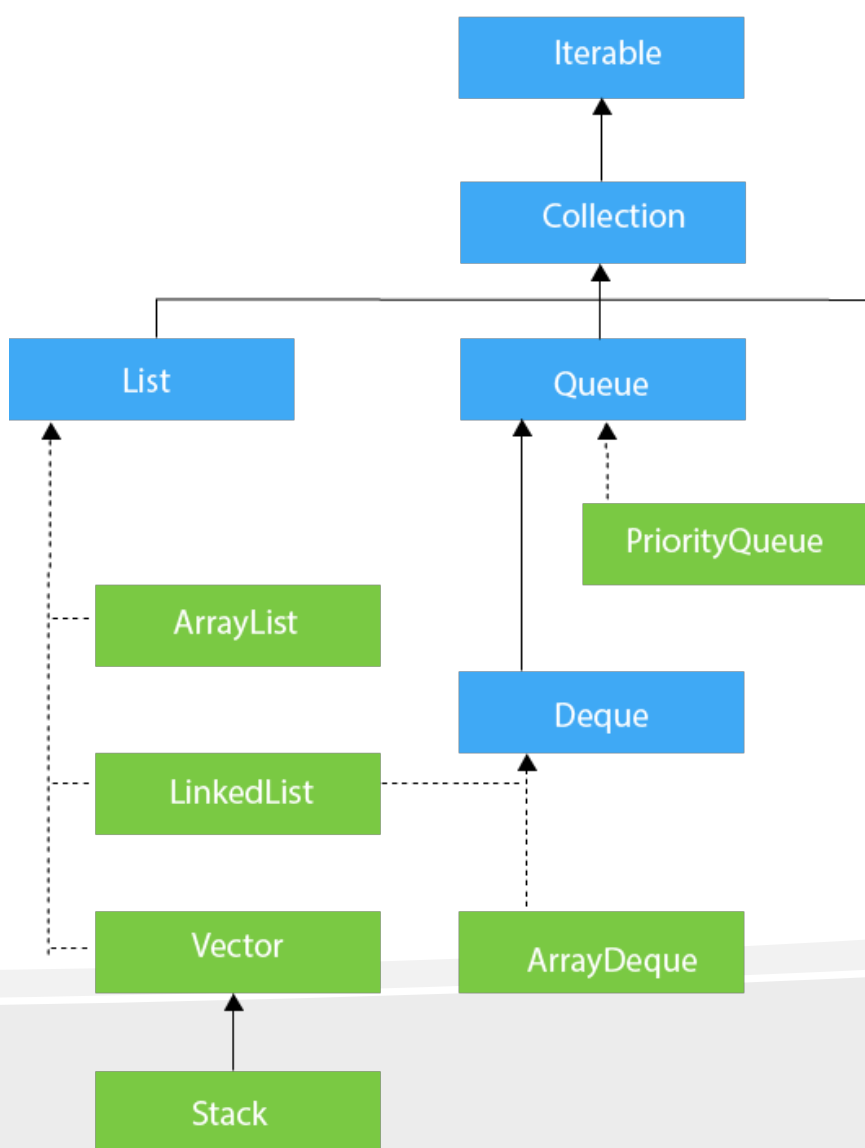
Implementing a Stack as a Vector (cont.)

- Because a Stack *is a* Vector, all vector operations can be applied to it, including searches and access by index.
- But, since only the top element can be accessible, this violates information hiding.





Review: Collections Framework D





Sets

Words in a book

- Write an application that reads in the text of a book, lets the user type words, and tells whether those words are in the book.
- How would we implement this with a List?



Sets

- **Set:** A collection of unique values (no duplicates allowed)
operations efficiently:
 - add, remove, **search** (`contains`)
 - We don't think of a set as having indexes; we just add or remove
worry about order



`set.contains("to")`
→
`set.contains("be")`

