Iterator Helpers Update

July 2022 · 91st meeting of TC39 Michael Ficarra & Kevin Gibbons

Proposal Summary

https://github.com/tc39/proposal-iterator-helpers

Proposal Summary

- Iterator()
- Iterator.from(O)
- Iterator.prototype
 - o .constructor
 - o .map(mapper)
 - .filter(predicate)
 - .take(limit)
 - o .drop(limit)
 - o .indexed()
 - .flatMap(mapper)
 - .reduce(reducer [, initialValue])
 - o .toArray()
 - .forEach(effect)
 - .some(predicate)
 - .every(predicate)
 - .find(predicate)
 - o [@@toStringTag]

- AsyncIterator()
- AsyncIterator.from(O)
- AsyncIterator.prototype
 - .constructor
 - .map(mapper)
 - .filter(predicate)
 - .take(limit)
 - o .drop(limit)
 - \circ .indexed()
 - .flatMap(mapper)
 - .reduce(reducer [, initialValue])
 - o .toArray()
 - .forEach(effect)
 - .some(predicate)
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 - .find(predicate)
 - o [@@toStringTag]

Proposal Summary

- we consider this to be a minimal first step
- mostly overlaps with familiar Array methods
- very little flexibility in their design space
- many promising proposals for future additions (see later)

Resolutions

throw RangeError in take/drop when input is NaN-ish

https://github.com/tc39/proposal-iterator-helpers/pull/181

- iterator.drop("not a number") // RangeError, not .drop(0)
- iterator.drop() // RangeError, not .drop(0)
- iterator.drop("2") // .drop(2)

don't preserve the generator protocol

https://github.com/tc39/proposal-iterator-helpers/pull/194

Iterator helpers can't coherently preserve the generator protocol, so they shouldn't try.

AsyncIterator.from uses the PromiseResolve AO

https://github.com/tc39/proposal-iterator-helpers/pull/197

- Now does Promise.resolve(underlying.next())
 - (with a try-catch to turn sync errors into rejected promises)
- Previously did new Promise(res => res(underlying.next())
- Difference is fewer ticks, and the identity of the Promise

AsyncIterator#toArray does not await promises

https://github.com/tc39/proposal-iterator-helpers/issues/168

matches for-await-of and Array.fromAsync proposal

Open Questions

or issues

Iterator.prototype.flat?

- We have map and flatMap, but not flat
- is flatMap(x => x) good enough for now?

Iterator.prototype.toAsync?

AsyncIterator.from(iter) works, but is kind of annoying in a chain

```
arr.values()
.map(foo)
.toAsync()
.filter(async x => await bar(x))
.filter(async x => await bar(x))
.filter(async x => await bar(x))
AsyncIterator.from(
arr.values()
.map(foo)
.map(foo)
.filter(async x => await bar(x))
```

https://github.com/tc39/proposal-iterator-helpers/pull/202

Should .drop be eager?

- Currently specified as lazy
- Will wait until resulting iterator is advanced for the first time to advance past dropped entries

web compat: writability of toStringTag on Iterator.prototype

https://github.com/tc39/proposal-iterator-helpers/issues/115

- regenerator-runtime depends on writing to toStringTag of Generator.prototype
 - o in older versions, which are shipped in a lot of places
- Generator.prototype inherits from Iterator.prototype
- toStringTag added as non-writable on Iterator.prototype (and everything else)
- strict mode code, so it throws
- possible solutions:
 - o writable toStringTag
 - o don't add toStringTag
 - o ???

reachability of new intrinisics from the global

https://github.com/tc39/proposal-iterator-helpers/issues/173

- %WrapForValidIteratorPrototype% and
 %WrapForValidAsyncIteratorPrototype% are not reachable via repeated member access from the global
- don't think this should be a requirement imposed on all new intrinsics

Future Work

THESE ARE NOT PART OF THIS PROPOSAL

More helpers

- .takeWhile(predicate) / .takeUntil(predicate) / .dropWhile(predicate) / .dropUntil(predicate)
 .zip(otherIter) / .zipWith(combineFn, otherIter) / .zipLongest(fillerElem, otherIter)
 .tap(effect)
 .chunks(length) / .windows(size)
- Iterator.concat(...iterators)
- Iterator.repeat(value)
- probably other stuff!

Cleanup

https://github.com/tc39/proposal-iterator-helpers/issues/162

https://github.com/tc39/proposal-iterator-helpers/issues/164

```
function idsToUser(idIter) {
  let dbHandle = getDbHandle();
  return idIter.map(i => dbHandle.getId(i));
  // how to close dbHandle when this iterator is closed?
}
```

Call for Stage 2 Reviewers!