Java & XML

Objectives

Learn the basics of processing XML with Java

- How to read XML documents
- How to write XML documents

Get familiar with the three common techniques used for processing XML docs with Java

- SAX (Simple API for XML)
- StAX (Streaming API for XML)
- DOM (Document Object Model)

Reminder: XML

 XML data (not necessarily stored in files) is organized as a <u>hierarchical tree</u>, with <u>optional</u> <u>attributes for the nodes</u>:

```
[attr1=example]
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
                                                                       root
<root attr1="example">
    <level1 attr2="abc">
                                                                             [attr2=def]
                                                          [attr2=abc]
        <level2>Content of level 2</level2>
                                                                            level1
                                                                level:
    </level1>
    <level1 attr2="def">
        <level2>Content of 2nd level 2</level2>
    </level1>
                                                                            [level2
                                                                level
</root>
                                                                             [Content of
                                                      [Content of level 21
                                                                             2nd level 21
```

Reminder: XML Terminology

```
XML declaration
            <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
            <root attr1="example">
                                           XML attributes (name="value")
                <level1(attr2="abc">
                   <level2*Content of level</pre>
                                               2</le>
XML elements
               ►</level1>
<start-tag>
                                                        text content/
</end-tag>
                                                   character data (CDATA)
                <level1 attr2="def">
                    <level2×Content of 2nd level 2×/level2>
                </level1>
            </root>
```

Reminder: XML Terminology

- Parsing XML data means <u>reading</u> an XML document into the application's memomy
- Parsing XML resembles traversing a tree
- Serialize XML is the <u>opposite</u> of parsing XML, i.e., XML data is <u>written</u> to a document
- Well-formedness of an XML document means that:
 - the document has <u>exactly one root element</u> and
 - all begin- and end-tags of elements are <u>correctly</u> <u>nested</u>, with <u>none missing</u> and <u>none</u> <u>overlapping</u>

Java and XML

- Java provides a broad functionality for dealing with XML data
- Two main mechanisms to parse XML:
 - To parse your data sequentially <u>as a stream</u> of events
 - To build an <u>object representation</u> of it
- Several XML toolkits are available for Java, e.g.:
 - JAXP is part of the Java platform
 - JDOM is open source

Java API for XML Processing (JAXP)

- JAXP is a <u>Java API</u> for processing XML data
- Independent of a particular XML processor implementation
- Provides the capability of <u>parsing</u>, <u>validating</u>, <u>transforming</u>, <u>and querying</u> XML documents
- Implements common XML techniques such as:
 - SAX (Simple API for XML)
 - DOM (Document Object Model)
 - StAX (Streaming API for XML)

Java Factories

- A Factory (or virtual constructor) is an object which can be used to create another object
- The Factory object has a static method to create the new Factory object (Factory.newInstance())
- This Factory object offers static methods for creating new objects (e.g., newDocument())

```
Factory factory = Factory.newInstance();
Builder builder = factory.newDocument();
```

- Factories are often used in APIs that have more than one possible implementation
- JAXP provides several Factories for creating objects that can be used for processing XML

SAX Parsing

- SAX (Simple API for XML) allows you to parse your XML data <u>as a stream of events</u>
- Traverses the XML document from the beginning to the end (serial) while interpreting the XML syntax
- A SAX parser reacts on XML components while reading the XML data and creates (SAX-)events:
 - Start/end reading a document
 - Opening/closing an element
 - etc.

SAX Parsing

```
<root>
    <level1>Content of level 1</level1>
    <level1>Content of 2nd level 1</level1>
</root>
```

- SAX events that are created by the SAX parser while reading the example document:
 - 1. document starts
 - 2. start tag <root> found
 - 3. start tag <level1> found
 - 4. text "Content of level 1" found
 - 5. end tag </level1> found
 - 6. start tag <level1> found
 - 7. text "Content of 2nd level 1" found
 - 8. end tag </level1> found
 - 9. end tag </root> found
 - 10. document ends

SAX Parsing

- SAX parsing is like <u>"waiting"</u> for the content of an XML document which will be delivered by the parser
- We do not have to care about the flow of control, but wait for the events to push our class ("inversion of control")
- This is also called push parsing

SAX (Dis-)Advantages

- Advantages
 - Fast (good performance), few overhead
 - Can handle big amounts of XML data
- Disadvantages
 - <u>Linear access</u> to the XML data (we only see that part of the document that the parser is processing at a certain moment)
 - Access to the information of <u>one node at a time</u> no access to the tree context/hierarchy
 - No write support: XML data is parsed in readonly modus
 拉丁语 read mode

Loading an XML File with SAX

- SAX Parsers can be used to access huge amounts of XML data in a serial way
- Your class has to be extended:

```
import org.xml.sax.helpers.DefaultHandler;
public class ParseXml extends DefaultHandler {
```

Creating a SAX parser:

```
DefaultHandler handler = new ParseXml();
SAXParser saxParser = SAXParserFactory.newInstance().newSAXParser();
saxParser.parse(new File("file.xml"), handler);
```

→ The parsing process starts and the XML data is pushed into your application (push parser)

Reacting on SAX Events

 To catch the pushed in data, methods have to be written which are reacting on XML events:

Reacting on SAX Events

```
public void startElement(String namespaceURI,
                        String localName, // local name
                        String qName, // qualified name
                        Attributes attrs)
                        throws SAXException {
   if(qName.equals("level1")){
      String temp = attrs.getValue(attrs.getIndex("attr2"));
      //Do something ...
```

StAX Parsing

- Stax (Streaming API for XML) allows you to parse XML data <u>serial</u>, like SAX
- Our calling class has the control over the parsing process and pulls (reads) the data from the XML parser
- This is also called pull parsing
- Two variants of StAX
 - Cursor API
 - Event-iterator API
 (we take a look at this variant)

StAX Parsing

- The <u>event-iterator API</u> allows <u>high-level access</u> to XML events
- A parser of the event-iterator API represents an Iterator over XMLEvent objects
- This Iterator provides XML events one after the other
- Methods hasNext() and next() iterate on XML components
- Every XML component is represented by a separate Java interface that is derived from XMLEvent

StAX (Dis-)Advantages

- Advantages
 - Can handle huge amounts of XML data
 - Additionally, it can create (serialize) XML documents
- Disadvantages
 - No treeview available
 - Not possible to modify an existing XML document
 - Usually more complex than SAX

Loading an XML File with StAX

Necessary imports:

```
import javax.xml.stream.*; //provides XMLEventReader/-factory
import javax.xml.stream.events.*; //all types of XMLEvents
```

Creating a StAX parser:

- XMLInputFactory: Defines a factory API that enables applications to obtain a parser that represents an Iterator over XMLEvent objects from XML documents.
- XMLEventReader: Defines the API to obtain XMLEvents. Using this class, an application programmer can iterate over XMLEvent objects.

StAX Reading

 Iterating through all xMLEvents (representing XML components) in the whole XML document:

```
while (eventReader.hasNext()) {
    XMLEvent event = eventReader.nextEvent();
    // process XML event
    ...
}
```

* XMLEvent: An XMLEvent is the <u>base interface</u> for all the other (more specific) interfaces such as StartDocument, EndElement, Characters, Attribute, etc.

StAX Event Types

- There is a <u>separate interface</u> for each XML event that might occur in an XML document
- All XML event types inherit from XMLEvent
- All interfaces are in package: javax.xml.stream.events
- Some of the interfaces:

Interface name	Interface represents
XMLEvent	base event interface for handling markup events
StartDocument	start of the document
EndDocument	end of the document
StartElement	start of an element
EndElement	end of an element
Attribute	an attribute
Characters	content, CData, and whitespace
Comment	a comment

StAX Event Types

 Retrieve event type (as int) with method XMLEvent.getEventType(): 1: StartElement 2: EndElement 4: Characters 5: Comment 7: StartDocument 8: EndDocument 10: Attribute Or with individual methods (as boolean values): XMLEvent.isStartElement() XMLEvent.isEndElement() XMLEvent.isAttribute() XMLEvent.isEndDocument() XMLEvent.isCharacters()

StAX Event Types

- In order to query the properties of a specific event, we might want to cast an xMLEvent to the subinterface that it represents
- Casting may result in a class cast exception if the event to be casted is of another type

```
if (event.isStartElement()) { //prevent class cast exception
    StartElement se = event.asStartElement(); //casting
    System.out.println(se.getName()); //access properties
}

if (event.isCharacters()) { //prevent class cast exception
    Characters c = event.asCharacters(); //casting
    System.out.println(c.getData()); //access properties
}
```

Reading the Whole Document with StAX

```
Stack<String> stack = new Stack<String>();
while (eventReader.hasNext()) {
   XMLEvent event = eventReader.nextEvent();
   if (event.isStartElement()) {
      stack.push(event.asStartElement().getName().getLocalPart());
      Iterator<Attribute> it = event.asStartElement().getAttributes();
      while (it.hasNext()) {
         Attribute a = it.next();
         System.out.println(stack + " " + a.getName().getLocalPart()
                                        + "=\"" + a.getValue() + "\"");
   if (event.isCharacters()) {
      String s = event.asCharacters().getData();
      if (s.trim().length() > 0) {
         System.out.println(stack + " \"" + s + "\"");
                                  Example output:
   if (event.isEndElement()) {
                                   [root] attrl="example"
      stack.pop();
                                   [root, level1] attr2="abc"
                                   [root, level1, level2] "Content of level 2"
                                   [root, level1] attr2="def"
                                   [root, level1, level2] "Content of 2nd level 2"
```

Example taken from:

http://www.torsten-horn.de/techdocs/java-xml.htm

StAX Writing

Necessary imports:

```
import javax.xml.stream.*; //provides XMLEventReader/-factory
```

Creating a StAX writer:

- XMLOutputFactory: Defines a factory API that enables applications to obtain XML writers.
- XMLEventWriter: Defines the interface to write XML documents.
- XMLEventFactory: Defines the interface for creating instances of XMLEvents.

StAX Writing

- Procedure to write an XML document with StAX:
 - 1. Get xMLEvents: either take xMLEvents from a parsed XML document or create new xMLEvents with the help of an xMLEventFactory.
 - 2. Write **xmlevents**: an XML document can be written with the help of an **xmleventWriter**.
- The order in which XMLEvents are written determines the structure of the resulting XML document.
- The order in which the xMLEvents are created is independent of the output.

Creating XMLEvents in StAX

 Some important methods of the XMLEventFactory for creating XMLEvents:

Method	Parameter	Return type
newInstance		XMLEventFactory
createStartDocument	String encoding, String version, boolean standalone	StartDocument
createEndDocument		EndDocument
createStartElement	String prefix, String namespaceUri, String localName	StartElement
createEndElement	String prefix, String namespaceUri, String localName	EndElement
createAttribute	String localName, String value	Attribute
createCharacters	String content	Characters
createComment	String text	Comment

Creating XMLEvents in StAX

Some examples of creating XMLEvents:

```
StartDocument startDocument = eventFactory.createStartDocument();
StartElement startRoot = eventFactory.createStartElement(
Attribute attr1 = eventFactory.createAttribute("attr1", "example");
EndElement endRoot = eventFactory.createEndElement("", "", "root");
StartElement startLevel1 = eventFactory.createStartElement(
                                                      ', "", "level1");
Attribute attr2 = eventFactory.createAttribute("attr2", "abc");
StartElement startLevel2 = eventFactory.createStartElement(
Characters contentLevel2 = eventFactory.createCharacters(
                                                "Content of level 2");
EndElement endLevel2 = eventFactory.createEndElement("", "", "level2");
EndElement endLevel1 = eventFactory.createEndElement("", "", "level1");
EndDocument = eventFactory.createEndDocument();
```

Writing XMLEvents in StAX

 Assuming we have created an xMLEventWriter and all the xMLEvents from the last slides, we can write the data to an XML document:

```
writer.add(startDocument);
writer.add(startRoot);
writer.add(attr1);
writer.add(startLevel1);
writer.add(startLevel2);
writer.add(contentLevel2);
writer.add(endLevel2);
writer.add(endLevel1);
writer.add(endRoot);
writer.add(endDocument);
writer.close(); //do not forget to close the writer
```

 This output is not well formatted: it will produce a file with all content on one line and without spaces.

Writing XMLEvents in StAX

 It is better to create further Characters events in order to adjust line breaks and indentation. For example:

```
Characters indent = eventFactory.createCharacters("
Characters newLine = eventFactory.createCharacters("\n");
writer.add(startDocument);
writer.add(newLine);
writer.add(startRoot);
writer.add(attr1);
writer.add(newLine);
writer.add(indent);
writer.add(startLevel1);
writer.add(attr2);
writer.add(newLine);
writer.add(indent);
writer.add(indent);
writer.add(startLevel2);
writer.add(contentLevel2);
writer.add(endLevel2);
writer.add(newLine);
writer.add(indent);
writer.add(endLevel1);
writer.add(newLine);
writer.add(endRoot);
writer.add(newLine);
writer.add(endDocument);
```

```
Example output file "out.xml":
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<root attr1="example">
    <level1 attr2="abc">
        <level2>Content of level 2</level2>
    </level1>
</root>
```

DOM Parsing

- DOM (Document Object Model) is an official standard of the W3C
- Allows you to <u>build an object representation of</u> your XML data
- The data is represented as a tree:
 - The tree resists completely in the memory
- DOM is not restricted to XML data/files

DOM (Dis-)Advantages

- Advantages
 - It is possible to navigate the tree (back and forth)
 - Nodes can be modified, added, or removed
 - XML documents can be created (serialized)
- Disadvantages
 - DOM parsing needs huge resources of computer memory and performance
 - → DOM parsing is only possible for relative small amounts of XML data (~ 10 MB)

Loading an XML File into a DOM Object

```
import javax.xml.parsers.*; //provides DocumentBuilder/-factory
import org.w3c.dom.*; //the Document and many more tools

DocumentBuilderFactory fac = DocumentBuilderFactory.newInstance();
DocumentBuilder builder = fac.newDocumentBuilder();
Document document = builder.parse(new File("file.xml"));
```

- DocumentBuilderFactory: Defines a factory API that enables applications to obtain a parser that produces DOM object trees from XML documents.
- DocumentBuilder: Defines the API to obtain DOM Document instances from an XML document. Using this class, an application programmer can obtain a Document from XML.
- Document: The Document interface represents the entire HTML or XML document. Conceptually, it is the root of the document tree, and provides the primary access to the document's data.

Handling an (XML) String as a DOM Object

```
import java.io.StringReader;
import org.xml.sax.InputSource;
//rest as above

//variable "xml" contains the XML data
String xml = "<root><element>Hello world</element></root>";

DocumentBuilderFactory fac = DocumentBuilderFactory.newInstance();
DocumentBuilder builder = fac.newDocumentBuilder();
StringReader stringReader = new StringReader(xml);
InputSource inputSource = new InputSource(stringReader);
Document document = builder.parse(inputSource);
```

DOM Reading

Visit all child **nodes** of a **node**:

```
private void visitNode(Node node) {
    // process node...

    // iterate over all children of a node
    for (int i = 0; i < node.getChildNodes().getLength(); i++) {
        // recursively visit all child nodes
        visitNode(node.getChildNodes().item(i));
    }
}</pre>
```

- Go through all Nodes in the whole XML document by calling the visitNode method with the root node of an XML DOM tree: visitNode(document.getDocumentElement());
- org.w3c.dom.Node: The Node interface is the primary datatype for the entire Document Object Model. It represents a single node in the document tree and is the base interface for all the other (more specific) nodes such as Document, Element, Text, Attr, etc.

DOM Node Types

- There is a separate interface for each node type that might occur in an XML document
- All node types inherit from class Node
- All interfaces are in package org.w3c.dom
- Some of the interfaces:

Interface name	Interface represents
Node	base node interface for handling nodes in an XML document
Document	the document
Element	an element
Attr	an attribute of an element
Text	textual content
CDATASection	CDATA content

DOM Node Types

Retrieve node type with method short Node.getNodeType():

- 1: element node
- 2: attribute node
- 3: text node
- 4: cdata
- 8: comment

. . .

Important Methods of the **Node** Object (reading)

Method	Return type	Explanation
getChildNodes	NodeList	A list of all child nodes
getAttributes	NamedNodeMap	The attributes of the node
getNodeName	String	Name of the node
getParentNode	Node	The parent of the node
getNodeType	short	Type of the node
getNodeValue		The value of the node
getElementsByName	NodeList	All nodes of a given name

Iterating over all children of a **Node**:

```
for (int i=0; i< node.getChildNodes().getLength(); i++) {
    // the actual child:
    Node aChild = node.getChildNodes().item(i);

    // process child node
    ...
}</pre>
```

DOM Nodes & Elements

Differences between a **Node** and an **Element**:

The **Element** can query its properties (for example, attributes) by name, while the **Node** has just an anonymous Iterator-view on them.

 Example 1: Extract root node as a <u>Node object</u> and extract attribute <u>attr1</u>:

```
Node rootNode = document.getDocumentElement();
NamedNodeMap nnm = rootNode.getAttributes();
Node attr1Node = nnm.getNamedItem("attr1");
String attr1 = ((Attr) attr1Node).getValue();
```

 Example 2: Extract root node as an <u>Element</u> object and extract attribute <u>attr1</u>:

```
Element rootElement = document.getDocumentElement();
String attr1 = rootElement.getAttribute("attr1");
```

DOM Nodes & Elements

- org.w3c.dom.NodeList: The NodeList interface provides the abstraction of an ordered collection of Nodes (for example: the children of a Node).
- org.w3c.dom.NamedNodeMap: Objects implementing the NamedNodeMap interface are used to represent collections of Nodes that can be accessed by name (for example: attributes).
- org.w3c.dom.Element: The Element interface represents an element in an HTML or XML document (inherits from Node).

Reading the Whole Document with DOM

```
private static void visitNode(Node node) {
  if (node.getNodeType() == 1) {
     System.out.print("\n" + node.getNodeName() + ": ");
     NamedNodeMap attributes = node.getAttributes();
      if (attributes != null) {
         for (int i = 0; i < attributes.getLength(); i++) {</pre>
            System.out.print(attributes.item(i) + " ");
  if (node.getNodeType() == 3 && !node.getTextContent().trim().isEmpty()) {
     System.out.print("\"" + node.getTextContent().trim() + "\"");
  NodeList nodeList = node.getChildNodes();
  for (int i = 0; i < nodeList.getLength(); i++) {</pre>
     visitNode(nodeList.item(i));
                                              Example output:
                                              root: attr1="example"
                                              level1: attr2="abc"
Initial call:
                                              level2: "Content of level 2"
visitNode(document.getDocumentElement());
                                              level1: attr2="def"
                                              level2: "Content of second level 2"
```

Important Methods of the **Node** Object (writing)

Method	Return type	Explanation
createElement	Element	Create a new node
createTextNode	Text	Text-content of a node
appendChild	void	Add a child to a node
createAttribute	Attr	Creates an attribute

In general, creating XML trees with DOM is a bottom-up procedure:

- 1. create a **Node**
- 2. create the content of the **Node** (text, attributes, ...) and add it to the **Node**
- 3. add the **Node** to its parent **Node**

Creating Nodes with DOM

```
DocumentBuilder documentBuilder =
          DocumentBuilderFactory.newInstance().newDocumentBuilder();
Document document = documentBuilder.newDocument();
// First, we create all the necessary elements:
Element root = document.createElement("root");
root.setAttribute("attr1", "example");
Element level1 = document.createElement("level1");
level1.setAttribute("attr2", "abc");
Element level2 = document.createElement("level2");
level2.setTextContent("Content of level 2");
// Appending the children in bottom-up-order:
level1.appendChild(level2);
root.appendChild(level1);
                                  Resulting XML:
document.appendChild(root);
                                  <root attr1="example">
                                     <level1 attr2="abc">
                                        <level2>Content of level 2</level2>
                                     </level1>
                                  </root>
```

Modifying Nodes with DOM

- It is also possible to modify existing elements with DOM.
- Adding new elements to existing Nodes:

```
Element level1 = doc.createElement("level1");
level1.setAttributes("attr1", "content");
root.addChild(level1); // "root" already existed
```

Existing attributes will be overwritten:

```
// "level1" already had an attribute "attr1"
level1.setAttributes("attr1", "newattr");
```

Transformers

- Transformers are generic APIs for processing transformation instructions and performing a transformation from a source (DOM tree) to another output format.
- Examples: transforming a DOM tree to a String, transforming DOM trees with XSL

Transforming a DOM Tree to a String

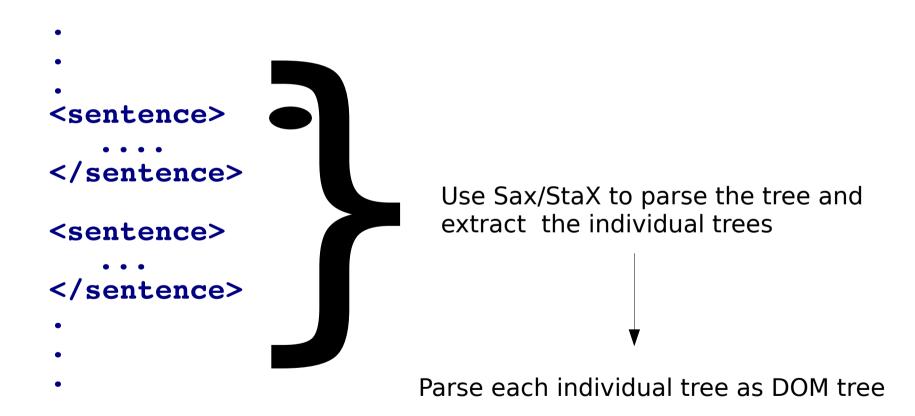
```
Import java.io.*;
import javax.xml.transform.Transformer;
import javax.xml.transform.TransformerFactory;
import javax.xml.transform.OutputKeys;
import javax.xml.transform.stream.StreamResult;
import javax.xml.transform.dom.DOMSource;
TransformerFactory transformerFactory = TransformerFactory.newInstance();
transformerFactory.setAttribute("indent-number", 4);
Transformer transformer = transformerFactory.newTransformer();
transformer.setOutputProperty(OutputKeys.OMIT XML DECLARATION, "no");
transformer.setOutputProperty(OutputKeys.INDENT, "yes");
StringWriter stringWriter = new StringWriter();
StreamResult result = new StreamResult(stringWriter);
DOMSource source = new DOMSource(document);
transformer.transform(source, result);
String xml = writer.toString();
Writer writer = new BufferedWriter(new OutputStreamWriter(new
FileOutputStream(new File("out.xml"))));
writer.write(xml);
writer.close();
```

Which Technology is Better?

- There is no one answer to that question
- All three technologies SAX, StAX, and DOM have their advantages and disadvantages
- It always depends on the concrete application which technology to choose
 - Stream-based processing is e.g. preferred if the documents are huge, but their structure is rather simple
 - Model-based processing is e.g. preferred if the documents are complex and much navigation (back and forth) is required

Combining S(t)AX & DOM

Sometimes, huge amounts of XML data are a serial collection of trees:



Reading Material

- For this topic of XML processing with Java, there is no single book chapter that you have to read.
- Please find all information in one of the following books and internet sources or google for further information:
- "Java und XML Grundlagen, Einsatz, Referenz" by Michael Scholz & Stephan Niedermeier (chs. 2.1, 2.3, 2.4.1 + appropriate subchapters of chs. 3, 4, 6)
- "Java ist auch eine Insel" by Christian Ullenboom (ch. 13): http://openbook.galileocomputing.de/javainsel/javainsel_16_001.html#dodtp411227 dd-8e3b-4ef7-9be3-33b57be542fe
- "Java 7 Mehr als eine Insel" by Christian Ullenboom (ch. 7): http://openbook.galileocomputing.de/java7/1507_07_001.html#dodtp4f411983-98d0-4afd-bfac-b60f6ec2991a
- "Java & XML" by Brett D. McLaughlin & Justin Edelson
- http://www.torsten-horn.de/techdocs/java-xml.htm