

Generics



Generics

- “Generic” is a built-in language feature.
- Enable generic algorithms
- It helps reducing run-time bugs possibly occurred when some classes/interfaces are to be used with any types of objects (the *Object* class).



A Box of “Any object”



Box

Object item;

void putIn(Object)
Object takeOut()



```
public class Box{  
    Object item =null;  
    public void putIn(Object o){  
        item =o;  
    }  
    public Object takeOut(){  
        return item;  
    }  
}
```

Write a program that puts an object of type Integer into the box and take it out into a variable



```
public static void main(...){  
    Box box = new Box();  
    box.putIn(new Rectangle());  
    Integer o = (Integer) box.takeOut();  
    System.out.println(o);  
}
```

Compile-time Error
???



Generics (not yet)

```
public static void main(...){  
    Box box = new Box();  
    box.putIn(new Rectangle());  
    Integer o =  
        (Integer)box.takeOut();  
    System.out.println(o);  
}
```



Compile with no
errors

bytecode



----- JVM -----

Exception in thread "main" java.lang.ClassCastException:
java.awt.Rectangle cannot be cast to java.lang.Integer
at Box.main(Box.java:13)

Run-time Error



Generics

```
public class Box <T>{  
    T item = null;  
    public void putIn(T o){  
        item = o;  
    }  
    public T takeOut(){  
        return item;  
    }  
}
```

If this is not an Integer object, the compiler will not allow. This way, the programmer knows at compile-time.

```
public static void main(String [] args){  
    Box <Integer> box = new <Integer> Box();  
    box.putIn(new Integer(88));  
    Integer o =  
        (Integer)box.takeOut();  
    System.out.println(o);  
}
```



Naming Convention

- Single, uppercase character
- The most commonly used type parameter names are:
 - **E** : Element (used extensively by the Java Collections Framework)
 - **K** : Key
 - **N** : Number
 - **T** : Type
 - **V** : Value
- Used throughout the Java SE API



Generic Type Wildcards

<? extends T>

An unknown type that is a subclass of *T*, possibly *T* itself

<? super T>

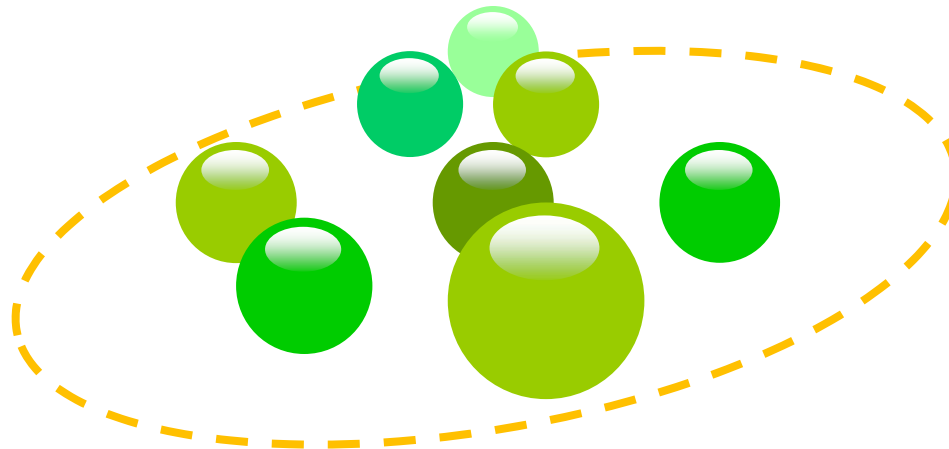
An unknown type that is a superclass of *T*, possibly *T* itself

<?>

An unknown type
(i.e. <? extends Object>)

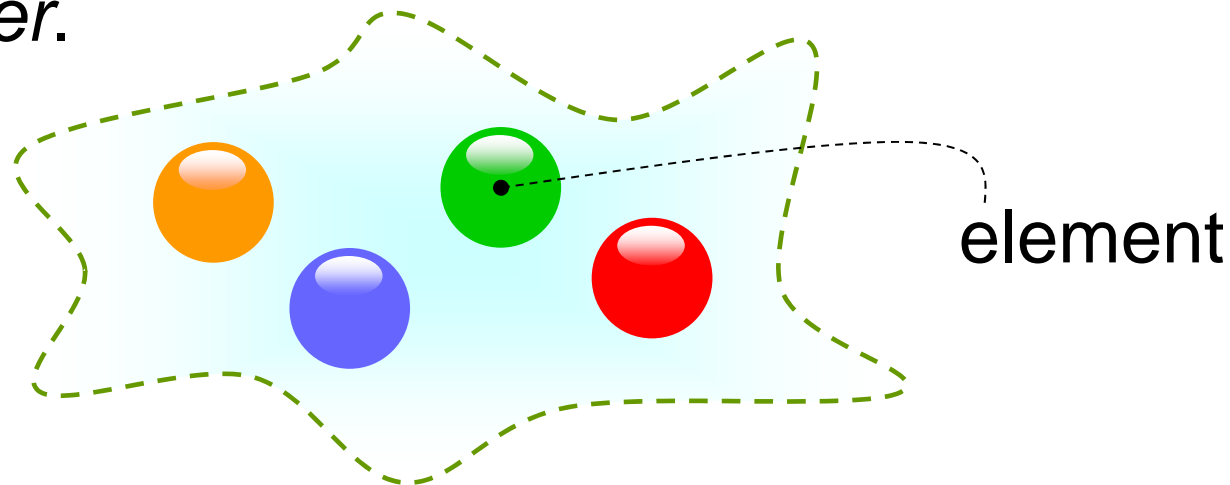


Collections Framework



Java Collections Framework

- A *collection* is an *object that groups multiple elements* into a single unit, sometime called a *container*.



- The *Collections Framework* provides a well-designed set of interfaces and classes for storing and manipulating groups of data.



Interfaces/Implementations/Algorithms

Interfaces

- Abstract data type
- Allow collections to be manipulated independently of the details of implementation

Implementations

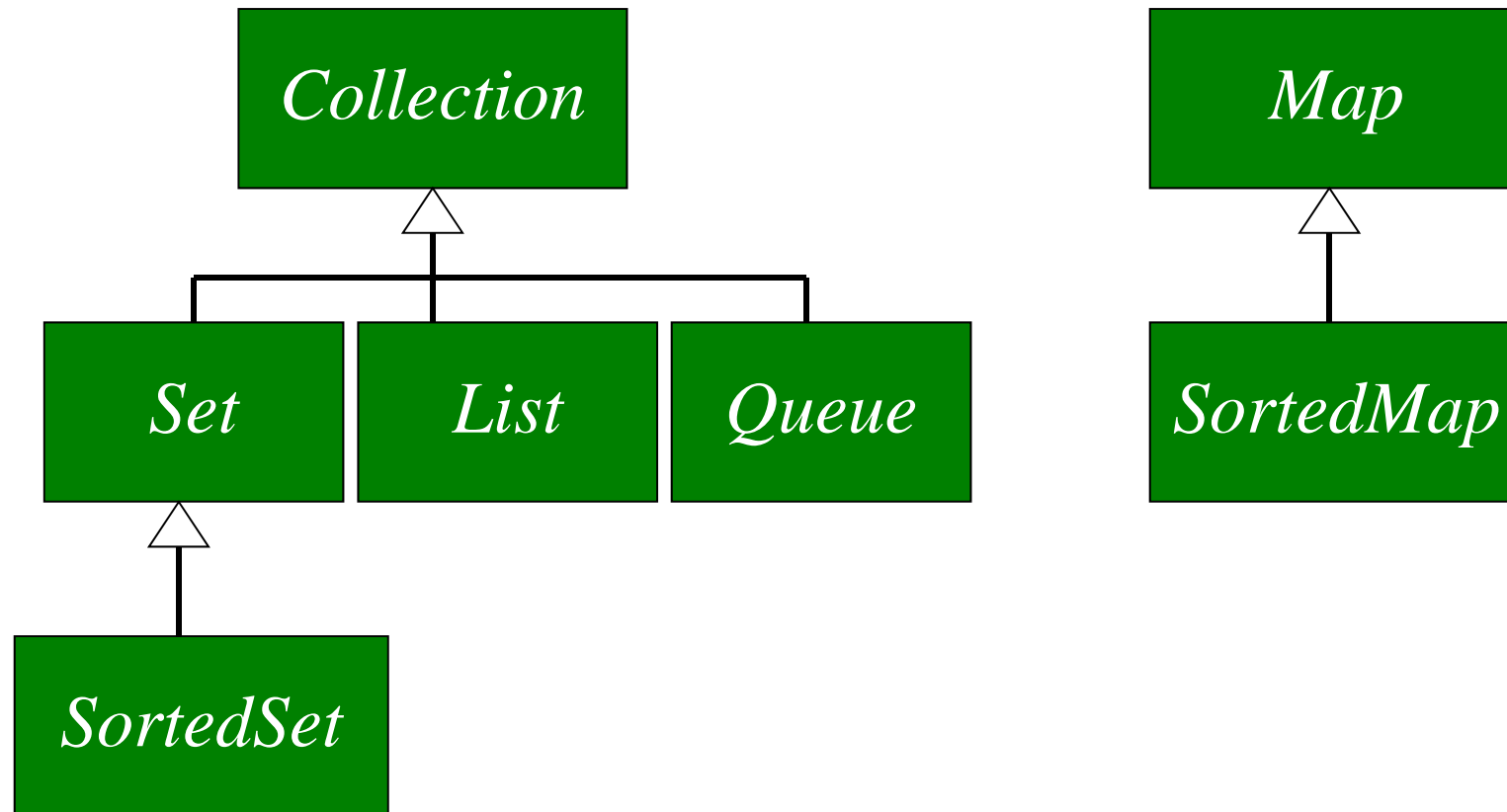
- Concrete classes
- Reusable data structures

Algorithms

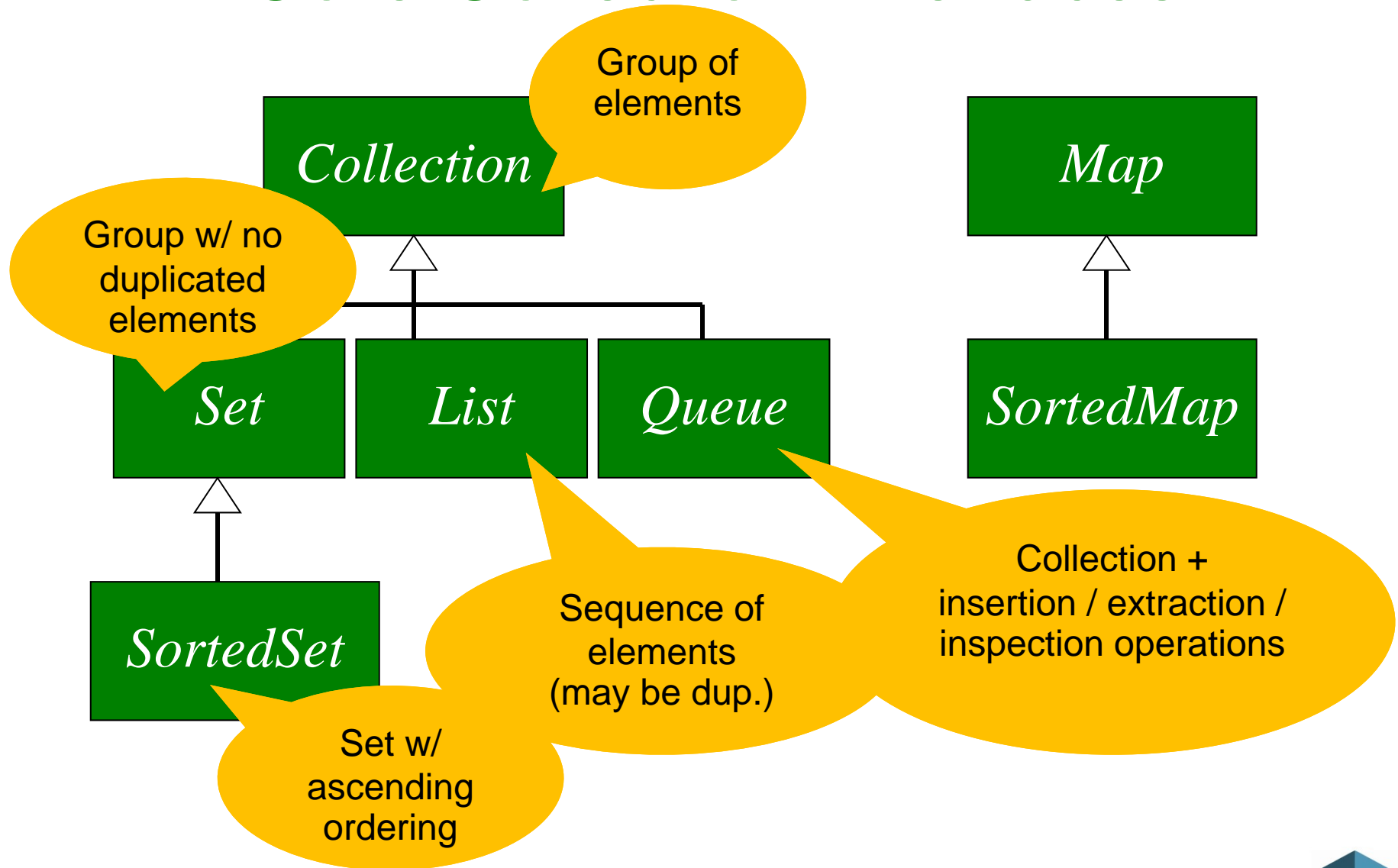
- Useful methods
- Polymorphics → The same method can be used on many implementations.



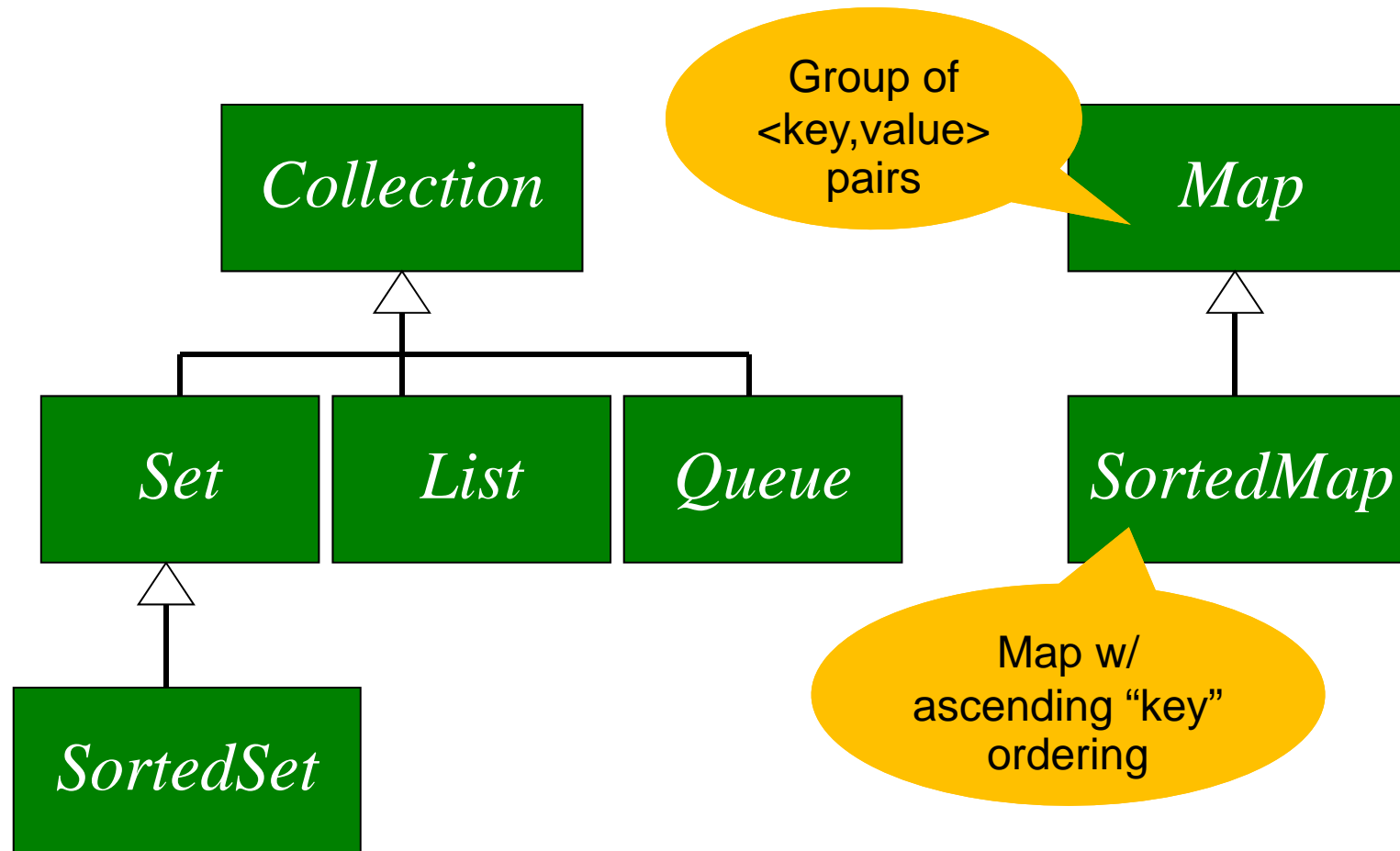
Core Collection Interfaces



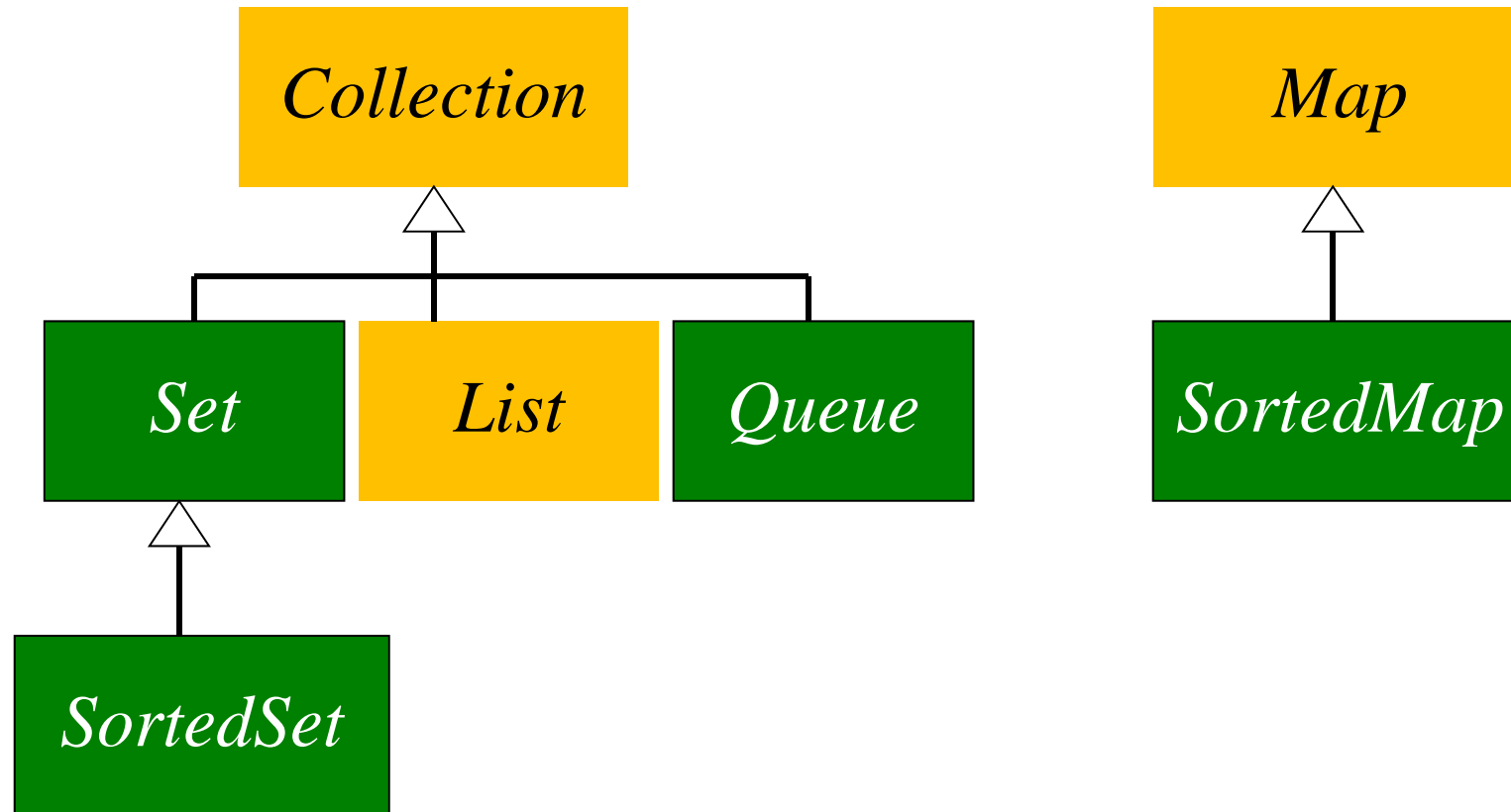
Core Collection Interfaces



Core Collection Interfaces



Core Collection Interfaces



Collection interface

```
public interface Collection <E>
    extends Iterable <E> {
    // Basic operations
    int size();
    boolean isEmpty();
    boolean contains(Object element);
    boolean add(E element);
    boolean remove(Object element);
    Iterator <E> iterator();

    // Bulk operations
    :
    // Array operations
}
```



Collection interface

```
public interface Collection <E>
    extends Iterable <E>{
    // Basic operations
        :
    // Bulk operations
    boolean containsAll(Collection<?> c);
    boolean addAll(Collection<? extends E> c);
    boolean removeAll(Collection<?> c);
    boolean retainAll(Collection<?> c);
    void clear();

    // Array operations
    Object []toArray();
    <T> T []toArray(T [] a);
}
```



Traversing Collections

Using the
for-each
construct

or

Using
Iterator

```
import java.util.ArrayList;
public class TraversingDemo1{
    public static void main(String []args){
        ArrayList <String> listOfStrings
            =new ArrayList<String> ();
        listOfStrings.add("ONE");
        listOfStrings.add("TWO");
        listOfStrings.add("THREE");
        listOfStrings.add("FOUR");
        for(String s :listOfStrings){
            System.out.println(s);
        }
    }
}
```



Iterator

- An iterator is an object that let you:
 - Traversing a collection
 - Removing elements from the collection selectively
- Get an iterator from a collection by calling *iterator()* on that object of collection.

```
public interface Iterator <E>{  
    boolean hasNext();  
    E next();  
    void remove();  
}
```



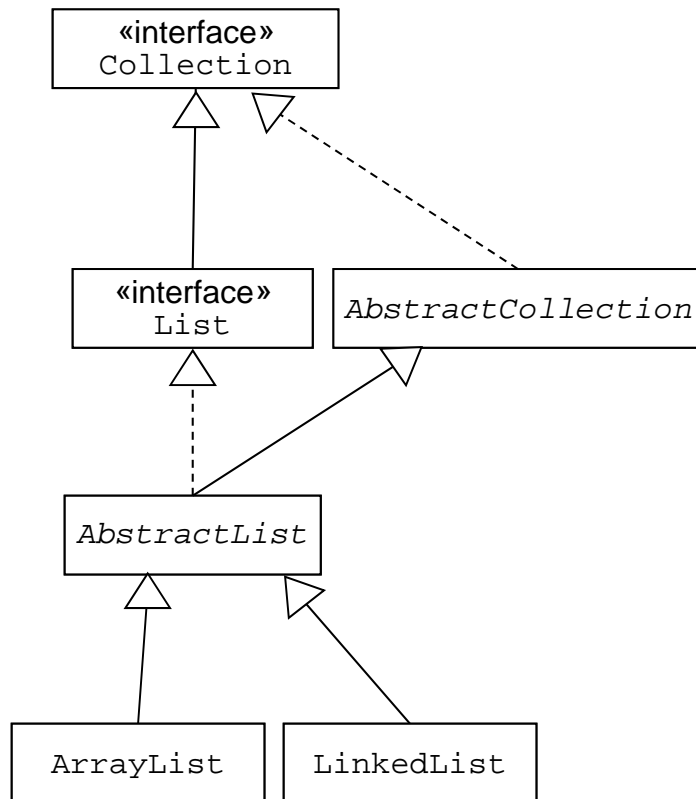
Traversing Collections

Using
Iterator

```
import java.util.ArrayList;
import java.util.Iterator;
public class TraversingDemo1{
    public static void main(String[] args){
        ArrayList <String> listOfStrings
            = new ArrayList <String>();
        listOfStrings.add("ONE");
        listOfStrings.add("TWO");
        listOfStrings.add("THREE");
        listOfStrings.add("FOUR");
        Iterator <String> it =
            listOfStrings.iterator();
        while(it.hasNext()){
            System.out.println(it.next());
        }
    }
}
```



List : Interface & Implementations



A *List* instance is a

sequence.

The *List* interface contains methods inherited from *Collection* plus:

Positional Access

Search

Range View



List : Interface & Implementations

```
public interface List <E> extends Collection <E>{
    // Positional access
    E get(int index);
    E set(int index, E element);
    boolean add(E element);
    void add(int index, E element);
    E remove(int index);
    boolean addAll(int index, Collection<? extends E> c);

    // Search
    int indexOf(Object o);
    int lastIndexOf(Object o);

    // Iteration
    // Range-view
}
```

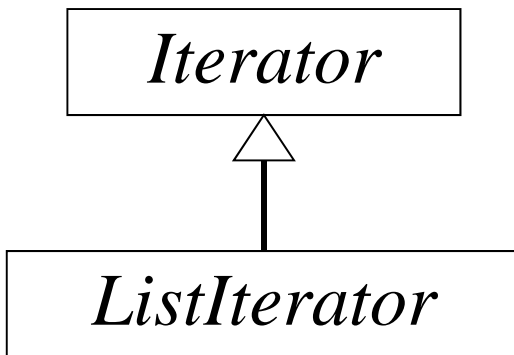


List : Interface & Implementations

```
public interface List<E> extends Collection<E>{  
    //Positional access  
    :  
    //Search  
    :  
    //Iteration  
    ListIterator<E> listIterator();  
    ListIterator<E> listIterator(int index);  
  
    //Range-view  
    List<E> subList(int from, int to);  
}
```

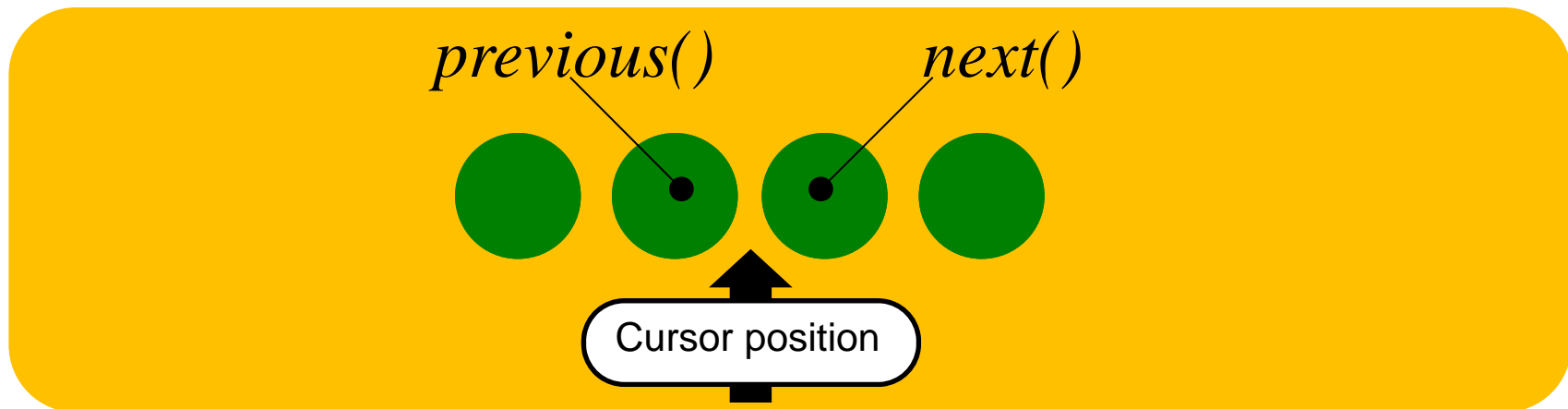


ListIterator Interface



Allows traversal in **either direction**.

A *ListIterator* has no current element; its **cursor position** always lies between the element that would be returned by a call to *previous()* and the element that would be returned by a call to *next()*

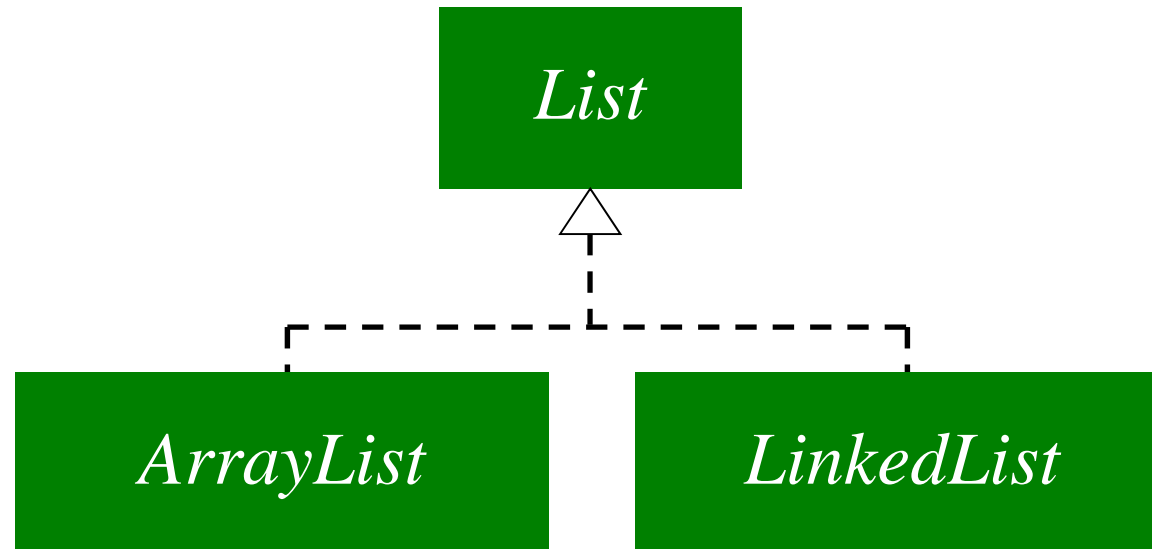


ListIterator Interface

```
public interface ListIterator<E> extends Iterator<E>
{
    boolean hasNext();
    E next();
    boolean hasPrevious();
    E previous();
    int nextIndex();
    int previousIndex();
    void remove();
    void set(E e);
    void add(E e);
}
```



List Implementations



Resizable array

- Largely unused space
- Penalty when size exceeds capacity
- More efficient on methods using indices

Doubly Linked List

- Waste no space



Polymorphic Algorithms for *List*

java.util.Collections

Static Method Examples:

`static void`

rotate(`List<?> list`, `int distance`)

Rotates the elements in the specified list by the specified distance.

`static void`

shuffle(`List<?> list`)

Randomly permutes the specified list using a default source of randomness.

`static <T extends Comparable<? super T>>
void`

sort(`List<T> list`)

Sorts the specified list into ascending order, according to the **natural ordering** of its elements.



Polymorphic Algorithms for *List*

sort — sorts a *List* using a merge sort algorithm, which provides a fast, stable sort. (A *stable sort* is one that does not reorder equal elements.)

shuffle — randomly permutes the elements in a *List*.

reverse — reverses the order of the elements in a *List*.

rotate — rotates all the elements in a *List* by a specified distance.

swap — swaps the elements at specified positions in a *List*.

replaceAll — replaces all occurrences of one specified value with another.

fill — overwrites every element in a *List* with the specified value.

copy — copies the source *List* into the destination *List*.

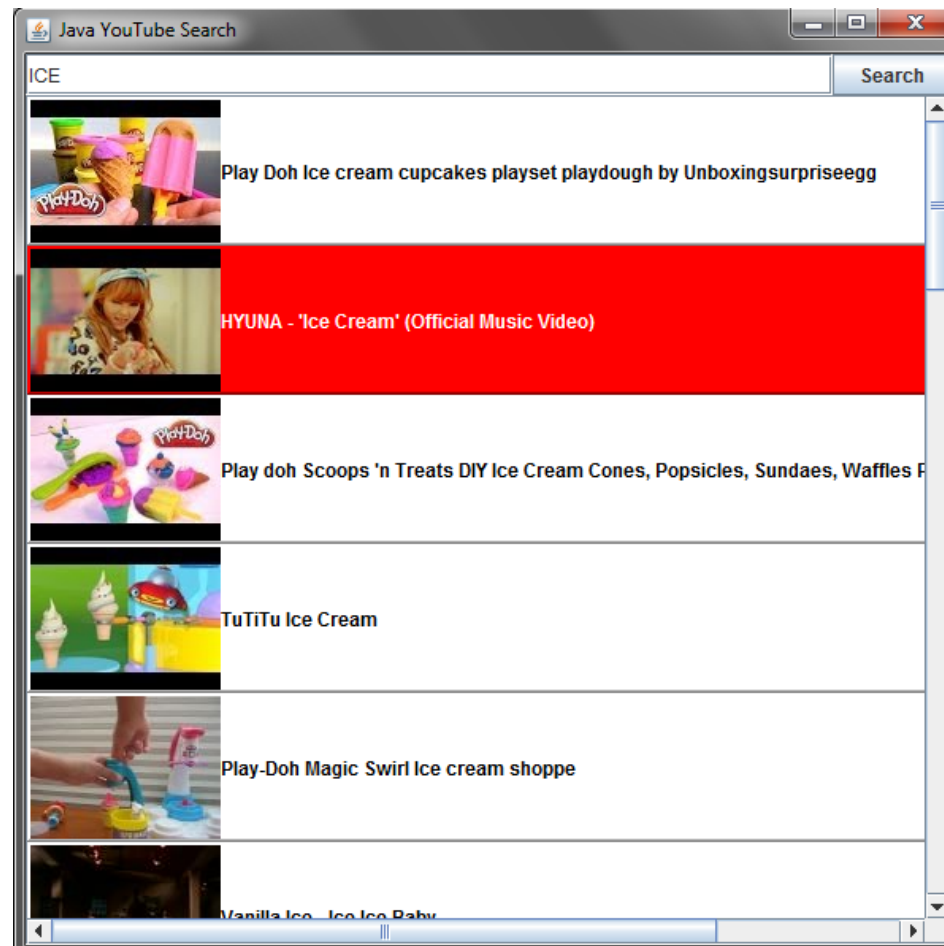
binarySearch — searches for an element in an ordered *List* using the binary search algorithm.

indexOfSubList — returns the index of the first sublist of one *List* that is equal to another.

lastIndexOfSubList — returns the index of the last sublist of one *List* that is equal to another.



Example



Self-Study for Topic 5

Lesson: Generics (Updated)

<http://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/java/generics/index.html>

Read all pages, except “Type Erasure” and its subpages.

Trail: Collections

<http://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/collections/TOC.html>

Read
“The List Interface” & “The Map Interface”



Self-Study Test: Topic 4

The test must be done during:

Saturday 13 September
to Monday 15 September

in the “Assessment” section of

my
CourseVille

