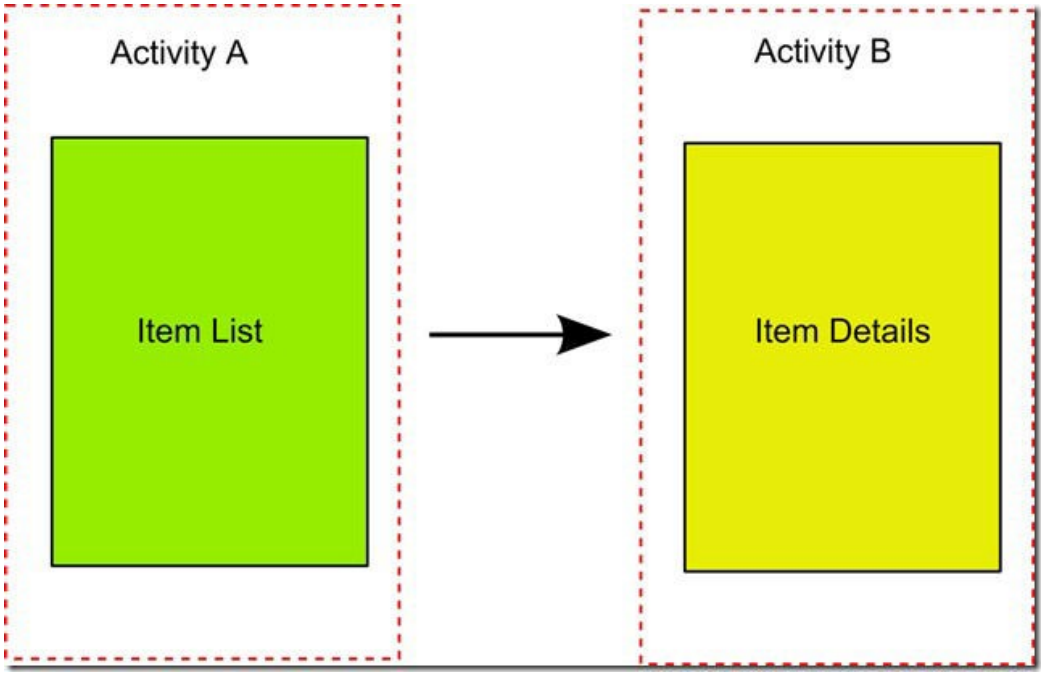
9. Multiple Activities and Intents

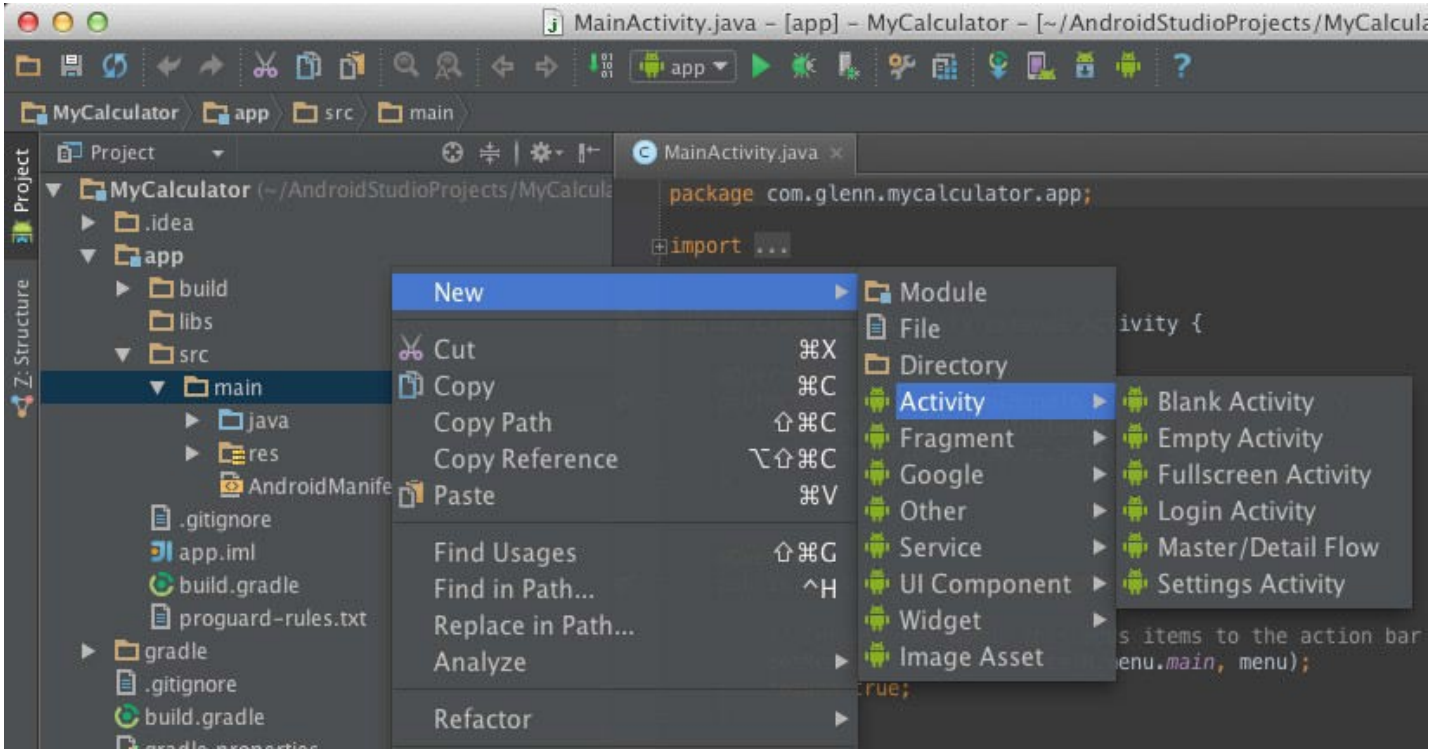
Multiple Activities

- Many apps have **multiple activities**.
  - Example: In an address book app, the main activity is a list of contacts, and clicking on a contact goes to another activity for viewing details.
  - An activity A can launch another activity B in response to an event.
  - The activity A can pass data to B.
  - The second activity B can send data back to A when it is done.



Adding an Activity

- in Android Studio, right click "**app**" at left: **New -> Activity**
  - creates a new **.XML file** in **res/layouts**
  - creates a new **.java class** in **src/java**
  - adds information to **AndroidManifest.xml** about the activity (without this information, the app will not allow the activity)



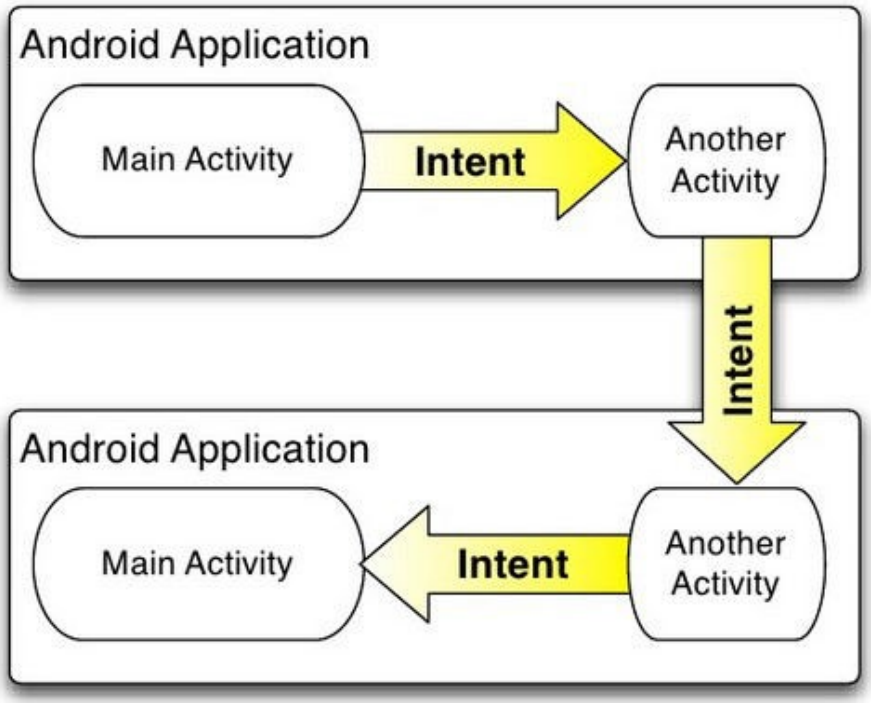
Activities in Manifest

- Every activity has an entry in project's **AndroidManifest.xml**, added automatically by Android Studio:

```
<manifest xmlns:android="http://schemas.android.com/apk/res/android"
    package="com.example.myusername.myapplication" >
    <application android:allowBackup="true"
                 android:icon="@drawable/ic_launcher"
                 android:label="@string/app_name"
                 android:theme="@style/AppTheme" >
        <activity android:name=".MainActivity"
                  android:label="@string/app_name" >
            <intent-filter>
                <action android:name="android.intent.action.MAIN" />
                <category android:name="android.intent.category.LAUNCHER" />
            </intent-filter>
        </activity>
        <activity android:name=".SecondActivity"
                  android:label="@string/title_activity_second"
                  android:parentActivityName=".SecondActivity" >
            <meta-data android:name="android.support.PARENT_ACTIVITY"
                android:value="com.example.myusername.myapplication.MainActivity" />
        </activity>
    </application>
</manifest>
```

Intents

- **intent**: a bridge between activities;
  a way for one activity to invoke another
  - the activity can be in the same app or in a different app
  - can store **extra data** to pass as "parameters" to that activity
  - second activity can "**return**" information back to the caller if needed



Creating an Intent

- To launch another activity (usually in response to an event), create an Intent object and call `startActivity` with it:

```
Intent intent = new Intent(this, ActivityName.class);
startActivity(intent);
```

- If you need to pass any parameters or data to the second activity, call `putExtra` on the intent.
  - It stores "extra" data as key/value pairs, not unlike a Map.

```
Intent intent = new Intent(this, ActivityName.class);
intent.putExtra("name", value);
intent.putExtra("name", value);
startActivity(intent);
```

Extracting extra data

- In the second activity that was invoked, you can grab any extra data that was passed to it by the calling act.
  - You can access the Intent that spawned you by calling `getIntent`.
  - The Intent has methods like `getExtra`, `getIntExtra`, `getStringExtra`, etc. to extract any data that was stored inside the intent.

```
public class SecondActivity extends Activity {
    ...
    public void onCreate(Bundle savedState) {
        super.onCreate(savedState);
        setContentView(R.layout.activity_second);
        Intent intent = getIntent();
        String extra = intent.getExtra("name");
        ...
    }
}
```

Intent methods

getData()	returns URI of associated data
hasExtra("*name*")	true if extra data exists with given key name
putExtra("*name*", *value*);	adds extra data with given key name
putExtras(*bundle*);	adds all key/value pairs from the given bundle/intent as extra data
removeExtra("*name*");	delete the given extra data
replaceExtras(*bundle*);	wipe out all extra data and replace it w/ data from given bundle/intent
setData(*uri*);	sets URI of associated data
setFlags(*flags*);	various flags and settings

Waiting for a result

- If calling activity wants to wait for a result from called activity:
  - Call **startActivityForResult** rather than startActivity.
    - startActivityForResult requires you to pass a **unique ID** number to represent the action being performed.
    - By convention, you declare a final int constant with a value of your choice.
    - The call to startActivityForResult will not wait; it will return immediately.
  - Write an **onActivityResult** method that will be called when the second activity is done.
    - Check for your unique ID as was passed to startActivityForResult. If
    - you see your unique ID, you can ask the intent for any extra data.
  - **Modify the called activity** to send a result back.
    - Use its setResult and finish methods to end the called activity.

Sending back a result

- In the second activity that was invoked, send data back:
  - Need to create an Intent to go back.
  - Store any extra data in that intent; call setResult and finish.

```
public class SecondActivity extends Activity {
    ...
    public void myOnClick(View view) {
        Intent intent = new Intent();
        intent.putExtra("name", value);
        setResult(RESULT_OK, intent);
        finish();   // calls onDestroy
    }
}
```

Grabbing the result

```
public class FirstActivity extends Activity {
    private static final int REQ_CODE = 123;    // MUST be 0-65535

    public void myOnClick(View view) {
        Intent intent = getIntent(this, SecondActivity.class);
        startActivityForResult(intent,  REQ_CODE);
    }

    protected void onActivityResult(int requestCode,
            int resultCode, Intent intent) {
        super.onActivityResult(requestCode,  resultCode, intent);
        if (requestCode == REQ_CODE) {
            // came back from SecondActivity
            String data = intent.getStringExtra("name");
            Toast.makeText(this, "Got back: " + data,
                           Toast.LENGTH_SHORT).show();
        }
    }
}
```

Implicit Intent

- **implicit intent**: One that launches another app, without naming that specific app, to handle a given type of request or action.
  - examples: invoke default browser; load music player to play a song

```
// make a phone call
Uri number = Uri.parse("tel:5551234");
Intent callIntent = new Intent(Intent.ACTION_DIAL, number);

// go to a web page in the default browser
Uri webpage = Uri.parse("http://www.stanford.edu/");
Intent webIntent = new Intent(Intent.ACTION_VIEW, webpage);

// openamap  pointing  at a given latitude/longitude (z=zoom)
Uri location = Uri.parse("geo:37.422219,-122.08364?z=14");
Intent mapIntent = new Intent(Intent.ACTION_VIEW, location);
```