

# MATCH PARENTHESIS IN AN EXPRESSION

CHECK WHETHER AN EXPRESSION HAS WELL-FORMED PARENTHESIS I.E. THE OPENING AND THE CLOSING BRACKETS MATCH

USE A STACK TO STORE THE OPENING BRACKETS EACH TIME YOU ENCOUNTER ONE

FOR EVERY CLOSING BRACKET COMPARE TO THE LAST ELEMENT PUSHED ONTO THE STACK

# MATCH PARENTHESIS IN AN EXPRESSION

LET'S SEE SOME EXAMPLES:

(ABC) {DEF} [XYZ (LMN)]

MATCH

(ABC {DEF} [XYZ (LMN)]

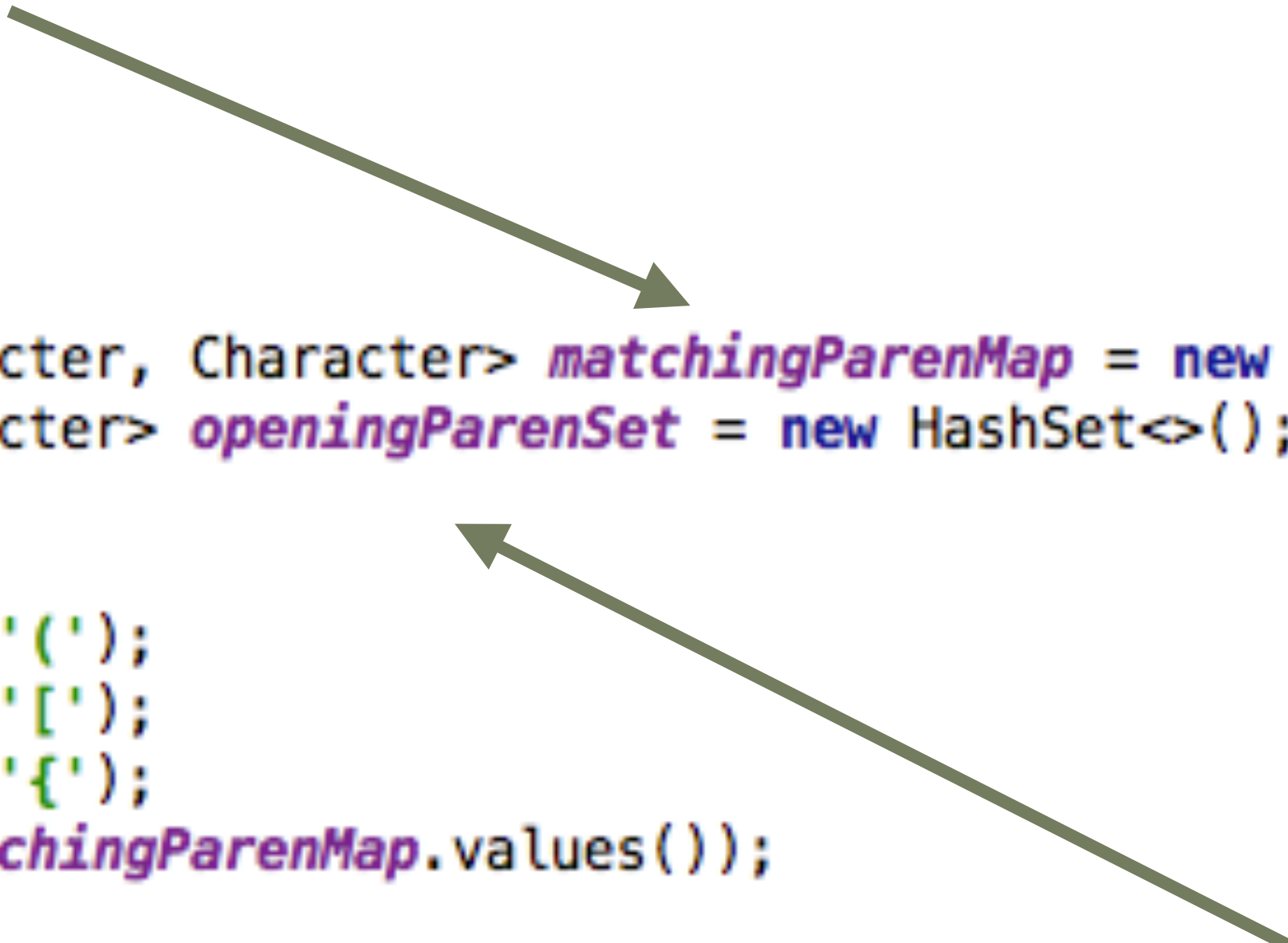
MISMATCH

(ABC) {DEF} [XYZ (LMN)]}

MISMATCH

# FIND MATCHING PARENTHESIS

MAP THE CLOSING BRACKETS WITH  
THE CORRESPONDING OPENING  
BRACKETS



```
private static final Map<Character, Character> matchingParenMap = new HashMap<>();  
private static final Set<Character> openingParenSet = new HashSet<>();  
  
static {  
    matchingParenMap.put(')', '(');  
    matchingParenMap.put(']', '[');  
    matchingParenMap.put('}', '{');  
    openingParenSet.addAll(matchingParenMap.values());  
}
```

The diagram consists of two green arrows. The first arrow originates from the text 'MAP THE CLOSING BRACKETS WITH THE CORRESPONDING OPENING BRACKETS' and points to the *matchingParenMap* variable in the code. The second arrow originates from the text 'SET OF OPENING BRACKETS' and points to the *openingParenSet* variable in the code.

SET OF OPENING BRACKETS



# CHECK IF THE PARENTHESIS MATCH

SET UP A STACK TO HOLD ALL  
OPENING BRACKETS

```
public static boolean hasMatchingParens(String input) {
```

```
    try {  
        Stack<Character> parenStack = new Stack<>();  
        for (int i = 0; i < input.length(); i++) {  
            char ch = input.charAt(i);  
            // Add to the stack for an opening paren.  
            if (openingParenSet.contains(ch)) {  
                parenStack.push(ch);  
            }  
            if (matchingParenMap.containsKey(ch)) {  
                Character lastParen = parenStack.pop();  
                if (lastParen != matchingParenMap.get(ch)) {  
                    return false;  
                }  
            }  
        }  
    }
```

PUSH THE BRACKETS FOUND ON TO  
THE STACK WHENEVER WE SEE AN  
OPENING BRACKET

IF IT'S A CLOSING BRACKET, POP  
THE TOP ELEMENT OF THE STACK  
TO SEE IF THE STACK HOLDS THE  
MATCHING OPENING BRACKET

```
        return parenStack.isEmpty();  
    } catch (Stack.StackOverflowException soe) {  
        System.err.println("Stack Overflow");  
    } catch (Stack.StackUnderflowException sue) {  
        System.err.println("Stack Underflow");  
    }  
}
```

IF THERE IS A MISMATCH  
RETURN FALSE

```
    return false;  
}
```

IF WE RUN THROUGH THE ENTIRE STRING AND THE  
STACK IS EMPTY AT THE END, THE BRACKETS ALL  
MATCH!