# Programming assignment 2

Aljaž Koželj

Fakulteta za računalništvo in informatiko Univerza v Ljubljani ak6689@student.uni-1j.si

#### 1 Introduction

For the second programming assignment, we were tasked with implementing three different approaches of structured data extraction from the web. The methods were: using regular expressions, using xpath expressions and implementing a Roadrunner-like algorithm.

This report covers the implementation and explanation for the first two methods (regular expressions and xpath expressions). Due to time constraints, we were unable to implement a Roadrunner-like algorithm. We are, however, confident in the implementation of the other two methods.

## 2 Technologies used

### 2.1 Java

We used Java as our programming language of choice. Java is a robust and mature language, that is familiar to the authors of this report. It offers a rich collection of libraries, which are provided by a large community. Both methods were implemented using this language.

#### 2.2 Apache Maven

Apache Maven is a software project management and build automation tool. We use it to compile and build our implementations of methods into a single runnable jar. This tool is used also for including extra dependencies in our build. For this we use the maven-assembly-plugin plugin, which allows us to build a fat jar. A fat jar is a jar which includes all extra dependencies, so we don't have to provide them via classpath.

#### 2.3 HtmlCleaner library

HtmlCleaner is a Java library, that is used for parsing and cleaning of HTML content. We use it to clean html, which results in valid markup. It is included in the fat jar via Maven.

#### 2.4 Gson library

Gson is a Java library, that is used for serializing and deserializing of JSON content from and to Java objects. We use it to build the output of the methods. It is included in the fat jar via Maven.

## 3 Project structure

We used the standard Maven Java project structure as a base.

- -/: In the root of the project we can find the Maven pom.xml, where the maven project is defined, together with the dependencies and plugins. We can also find a README.md file and the source folder.
- /src/main/java/si/fri/kozelj/: This package (directory) is the root folder of our Java code. It contains the main java class (App.java), an utility class (Utility.java) and further packages.
- /src/main/java/si/fri/kozelj/models/: This package contains all models used for serialization. There's at least one model per type of web page.
   Web pages with lists of items have an additional model class, that wraps a list of data items. All fields in the objects are annotated with Gson annotations, which allow for correct JSON object structure.
- /src/main/java/si/fri/kozelj/parsers/: Contains a parser interface (Parser.java),
   a parser factory (ParserFactory.java) and packages with method (and page type) specific implementations of the parser interface.
- /src/main/java/si/fri/kozelj/parsers/regex/: This package contains
  the abstract implementation of a regex parser and it's further implementations, that are specific for a page type.
- /src/main/java/si/fri/kozelj/parsers/xpath/: This package contains the abstract implementation of a xpath parser and it's further implementations, that are specific for a page type.
- /src/main/resources/pages/: This directory contains are web pages to be tested on. It includes both the provided pages and the pages we had to selected ourselves.

#### 4 Components

#### 4.1 App. java (main class)

This is the main class, that is run, when the fat jar is run. The main class expects two arguments to be included, else it exits the program. This program supports web page selection in two ways. The user can parse the web pages, that are included in the resources, or he can provide a path to his own local files. Do note that the local files have to be of a page type, that is supported by the program. This includes rtv, overstock and our own chosen web pages.

The first argument defines the method that should be used to extract structure data from a web page. The possible values are:

```
regexregex-via-pathxpathxpath-via-path
```

By providing a method name, that has a suffix of "-via-path", the program expects a path to a local html file to be provided in the second argument. Without this suffix, the program will attempt to access the web pages that are included in the resources folder.

The main class then loads the file content and asks the parser factory for a parser instance. The parser returns a serialized JSON object, which the main class then prints to the standard output.

#### 4.2 Parser.java (parser interface)

This is the interface, that has to be implemented by all parsers. It contains a one default and one non-default method:

Method parseJson() is the one that provides the serialized JSON content, while the cleanMatch(String match) method provides very basic string cleaning, that couldn't be achieved with only regex or xpath expressions.

#### 4.3 ParserFactory.java (parser factory)

This class works as a factory for the parsers. During construction of the factory, we provide the method and file name. Using those, it constructs the correct parser implementation.

The class also includes a private enum class, that is used to determine the page type:

```
private enum PageType {
   OVERSTOCK("^.*jewelry\\d+.html$"),
   RTV("^.*rtv\\d+.html$"),
   BOOKS("^.*books\\d+.html$"),
   NOTFOUND("$a");

   private final String filePrefix;

   PageType(String filePrefix) {
```

As seen above, the page types are defined by regex patterns. The program expects the html page types to respect the previously web page names, while allowing for a slight (number) variation. The regex patterns are useful here, because they work for both direct web page names or full paths to web page files.

# 4.4 AbstractRegexParser.java (abstract class for regex parser implementations)

This is the class, that has to be implemented by all regex parser implementations. It provides a method, that extracts all regex matches by using the given regex pattern object.

Classes, that implement this abstract class, use this method to extract a specific item.

# 4.5 AbstractXPathParser.java (abstract class for xpath parser implementations)

This is the class, that has to be implemented by all xpath parser implementations.

During the parser's construction, it builds a org.w3c.dom.Document object, that can later be used to extract data via xpath expressions. The Document object is meant to represent XML objects. Here we encountered problems during the development, since the provided web pages were not valid XML syntax. There were many unclosed tags and those had to be corrected. In order to fix that, we used the HtmlCleaner library, as can be seen below:

```
public AbstractXPathParser(String pageContent) {
    this . gson = new Gson();
    this.xPath = XPathFactory.newInstance().newXPath
       ();
    TagNode tagNode = new HtmlCleaner().clean(
       pageContent);
    try {
         * Clean markup and save into string. We do
             this step, in order to preserve UTF-8
            encoding, while
         * building the Document object.
         */
        CleanerProperties cleanerProperties = new
           CleanerProperties();
        cleanerProperties.setCharset("UTF-8");
        String cleanedHtmlContent = new
            PrettyXmlSerializer(cleanerProperties).
           getAsString(tagNode);
        DocumentBuilderFactory dbFactory =
           DocumentBuilderFactory.newInstance();
        DocumentBuilder dBuilder = dbFactory.
           newDocumentBuilder();
        pageDocument = dBuilder.parse(new
           ByteArrayInputStream (\ cleanedHtmlContent\ .
           getBytes (Charset.forName ("UTF-8")));
    } catch (ParserConfigurationException |
       SAXException | IOException e) {
        throw new RuntimeException ("Error while
           cleaning markup");
}
```

From the initial pageContent string, we build another string object (after cleaning it) and that one is used in the creation of the Document object.

Data is extracted with the following code:

```
private NodeList getNodeList(String expression) {
    NodeList nodeList;
    try {
        nodeList = (NodeList) xPath.compile(
            expression).evaluate(pageDocument,
            XPathConstants.NODESET);
    } catch (XPathExpressionException e) {
        throw new RuntimeException ("Error while
            evaluation expression: " + expression);
    }
    return nodeList;
}
List < String > getMatches (String expression) {
    NodeList nodeList = getNodeList(expression);
    List < String > foundMatches = new ArrayList <>();
    for (int i = 0; i < nodeList.getLength(); i++) {
        String nodeValue = nodeList.item(i).
            getNodeValue();
        foundMatches.add(cleanMatch(nodeValue));
    }
    return foundMatches;
}
```

We provide a valid xpath expression and get returned an iterable NodeList object, that contains all matches. These are then used in methods that iterate over the object. In some cases we use an additional regex pattern object together with the xpath expression, in order to extract the correct part of the xpath expression result:

```
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```

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## 5 Web page selection

For this assignment, we had to select our own two similar web pages. We picked the following ones:

- https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/3.Best\_Science\_Fiction\_Fantasy\_Books
- https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/425.Weirdest\_Books\_Ever

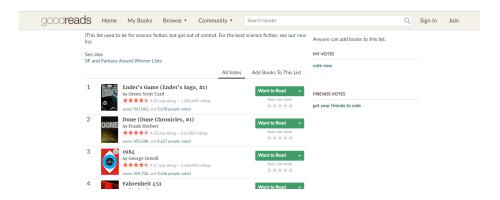


Fig. 1. Web page screenshot

We named them as books01.html and books02.html. Both are included in the resource folder. This pair of web pages include a list of 100 book items on each page. Here we picked the 6 data items, we were to extract:



Fig. 2. Data items

## 6 Web page target data

#### 6.1 Overstock



Fig. 3. Data item with data objects marked

We can see from the image above, that there was no distinct class or identifier, that could be used in the regex expressions.

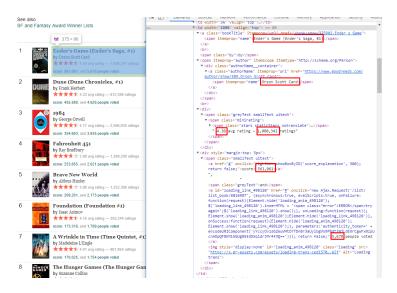
## 6.2 Rtv



 ${\bf Fig.\,4.}$  Page with data objects marked

With this page, we could extensively make use of very specific class-es, that we used to define the regex expressions.

## 6.3 Books



 ${\bf Fig.\,5.}$  Data item with data objects marked

Here too, we make use of very specific class-es. We use constant strings as well.

## 7 Extraction outputs

In this section we display a part of the outputs. Full and all outputs are available in the /outputs folder in the project.

### 7.1 Overstock

Fig. 6. Overstock output

Here is the output of the overstock web page being parsed by regex. Note that around the JSON array, we have a JSON object, with a data property. In this property, we save the JSON array.

#### 7.2 Rtv

```
"Author": "Minh Marijah",
   "PublishedTime"; "St. december 2018 ob 08:51",
   "TublishedTime"; "St. december 2018 ob 08:51",
   "TublishedTime"; "St. december 2018 ob 08:51",
   "TublishedTime"; "Teas now generacije",
   "Lead": "To e nowi sudi AK 10 TDT (questro: namir v premijskem razredu",
   "BubTile!": Teas nowe generacije",
   "Lead": "To e nowi sudi AK 10 Turared najdražjih in najbolj premijskih žreboev je vmesel nemiz, še pr eden je
   spleh sapeljal na paržimi prostor, reserviran sa izvršnega direktorja.",
   "Content": "Zama podjeta nejeovo masko 7 to ogramo satovoje z radarji na rakem položaju, da se ti na
   avocesni tudi pri 110 km/h vzi spoželjavo umikojo, azj so prepričani, da gre sa Pa horjev ali Šarčev avoc.
   Saveda, novi AK ishko cesto in promet skentara s kar petnim tradazij, petnim kamarani, infrardebo kamero za
   nočni vud, dvamajstini ultrazvočnimi semocji in lazerskim čitalnikom 7 lidatjem. V glavnem vojaška
   tehnologija v službi varnosti sa fa ne, ki seo radi jedebali Top Oum, Borda in druge možaškaja s finimi
   igazdani. Novo poglavyoVoznižki dalovni prostor je novo poglavje digitalne dobe, r dvena ogramina
   razlomoma, ki tako ton napredenjeji telefoni dregnejo blazinice vskih pravov, kot se sprehajske po stellu. A
   ša bolj se nam ndi pomembno, da so oznovna stikali tam, kjer jih pričakijstem. Naprej se otorej sagotovili
   monoravo norovo, tisti bol) "advanod" vorniki pa si lishe nato vse skupaj še valsko bolj prilagodijo.
   Valik korak naprej pri kabinašem ubobju zas navajo tudi na sadnji klopi, tam je prostora v vseh memera

   precej vsel, če vam pogled na Audijsve spisek dodanne opreme ne odvama volje od čivljenej, popena vzakakor
   topio priporočano nakup sračnega vzmevenja, saj dobi z njih Ač več različnih in vomiško zalo uporabni h
   kazattorajev Ankav osija sa seska lidi: a innalejamno martinčno ozvelitivitje, pa za špormo podovoze in
   vvenskor za štiribolesno krmijesis. 3 tem postane Až med ovnihi v občutku na volamni še velico krajši in
   vvenskor za štiribol
```

Fig. 7. Rtv output

## 7.3 Books

```
"data": © {
    "data": © {
        "Title": "Ender\u0027s Game (Ender\u0027s Saga, $1)",
        "Author": "Orson Scott Card",
        "Aughasing": "4, 300",
        "Ratings": "1, 000, 341",
        "Socre": "561, 061",
        "Votes": "5, 678"
},
        [
        "Title": "Dune (Dune Chronicles, $1)",
        "Author": "Frank Herbert",
        "Aughating": "4, 22",
        "Ratings": "612, 38 6",
        "Socre": "455, 588",
        "Votes": "4, 626"
},
        [
        "Title": "1884",
        "Aughating": "4, 17",
        "Ratings": "4, 17",
        "Aughating": "4, 17",
        "Aughating": "4, 17",
        "Ratings": "4, 17",
        "Aughating": "4, 17",
```

Fig. 8. Books output

Same as the overstock items we wrap the array with a json object, who has a data property (that evaluates to the array of extracted data items).

## 8 Regex data extraction

In this section we show the regex expressions we used for data extraction. These are provided by images of expressions, since the latex formatting is a nightmare for those regex expressions. The source regex expressions can be accessed in the java classes, that are contained in the si.fri.kozelj.parsers.regex package.

## 8.1 Overstock (OverstockRegexParser.java)

#### 8.1.1 Title

Fig. 9. Title pattern

Here we take advantage of the fact that the title is inside a link tag and the further wrapped between bold tags. To further filter the selection, the expression expects a break tag and a table tag in the next few lines.

#### 8.1.2 ListPrice

Fig. 10. ListPrice pattern

This expression was rather simple, since we can use the string "List Price" to pinpoint the content easily. We capture the text between the strikethrough tags.

#### 8.1.3 Price

Fig. 11. Price pattern

This expression is quite similar to the one above. Only difference is, that the text is wrapped in an extra span tag. We also have to be careful here, if we want to extract the span tag together with the text, so we don't match the "List Price" data as well.

### **8.1.4** Saving

Fig. 12. Saving pattern

Again, we use the common string "You Save", in order to find the correct location. Here there are two items we want, so we need to be careful to select only the first one.

#### 8.1.5 Saving Percent

Fig. 13. SavingPercent pattern

Nearly identical regex expression. We just change the selection to the second item in the span. We had to be careful and not forget to escape the brackets with a backslash.

### 8.1.6 Content

Fig. 14. Content pattern

Here we reused the previous regex expression to move further down the string to where the content is located. This includes matching multiple new line and return characters and multiple rows, until we reach a html row item and a span inside of it. We select the content of the preceding span tag up until the break tag. Thus we don't have to filter out the link tag later on.

## 8.2 Rtv (RtvRegexParser.java)

### 8.2.1 Author

Fig. 15. Author pattern

We use a class that uniquely defines the data we are looking for.

### 8.2.2 PublishedTime

$$\label{linear_solution} $$ \div class="publish-meta">(?:.|\r|\n)*?([^\t]*?)\div $$$$

 ${f Fig.\,16.}$  PublishedTime pattern

Here we had to modify the regex expression, because there's some extra, unwanted, data in the second part of the div with the target class. We capture from a new line to when the break tag appears.

## 8.2.3 Title

Fig. 17. Title pattern

Title is uniquely defined with a h1 tag.

#### 8.2.4 SubTitle

Fig. 18. SubTitle pattern

Again, we use a class that uniquely defines the data we are looking for.

#### 8.2.5 Lead

Fig. 19. Lead pattern

Again, we use a class that uniquely defines the data we are looking for.

#### 8.2.6 Content

Fig. 20. Content pattern

Here we capture all inside the article tags. We had to do some extra processing, in order to make the output prettier. The method is the following one: si.fri.kozelj.Utility#cleanRtvContent . We used this to extract only content from p tags, while also trying to do some basic handling of list items in the article.

## 8.3 Books (BookRegexParser.java)

### 8.3.1 Title

Fig. 21. Title pattern

This data was well defined by the "bookTitle" class.

## 8.3.2 Author

Fig. 22. Author pattern

This data was well defined by the "authorName" class.

## 8.3.3 AvgRating

$$([\d\.]+)\savg$$
 rating

 ${\bf Fig.~23.~} {\bf AvgRating~pattern}$ 

Here we match to the string "avg rating". Our target is located left of this string.

## 8.3.4 Ratings

avg rating 
$$[^{d}*(.*?)$$
 ratings

Fig. 24. Ratings pattern

Ratings data is nested between "avg rating" and "ratings" strings.

### 8.3.5 Score

Fig. 25. Score pattern

Score data is defined by the "score" string.

## 8.3.6 Votes

Fig. 26. Votes pattern

Votes data is defined by the "people voted" string.

#### 9 XPath data extraction

In this section we show the xpath expressions we used for data extraction. Along with those, there are sometimes additional regex expressions, that were necessary to extrac data. Both are provided by images of expressions, since the latex formatting is a nightmare for those regex expressions. The source regex expressions can be accessed in the java classes, that are contained in the si.fri.kozelj.parsers.xpath package.

## 9.1 Overstock (Overstock XPathParser.java)

Here we made all xpath expressions by traversing a DOM tree of multiple table elements. We won't go into detail at each one, because there is nothing concrete to be said. All expressions share the same relative prefix, since they are all located near each other. After we found this root, it was just a matter of choosing the right path and extracting text data at the end.

A good decision to note, is at the first tr tag in all expressions. Since we selected the second tr child there, we automatically removed all occurrences, where there is only a single tr child there. Similar decisions were made in some expressions towards the end.

#### 9.1.1 Title

//table/tbody/tr[2]/td/table/tbody/tr/td/table/tbody/tr/td/a/b/text()

Fig. 27. Title pattern

#### 9.1.2 ListPrice

// table/tbody/tr[2]/td/table/tbody/tr/td[2]/table/tbody/tr/td[1]/table/tbody/tr[1]/td[2]/s/text()

Fig. 28. ListPrice pattern

## 9.1.3 Price

// table/tbody/tr[2]/td/table/tbody/tr/td/table/tbody/tr/td[2]/table/tbody/tr/td[1]/table/tbody/tr[2]/td[2]/span/b/text()

Fig. 29. Price pattern

## 9.1.4 Saving

//table/tbody/tr[2]/td/table/tbody/tr/td[2]/table/tbody/tr/td[2]/table/tbody/tr[3]/td[2]/span/text()

 $\mathbf{Fig.~30.}\ \mathrm{Saving\ pattern}$ 

## 9.1.5 Saving Percent

// table/tbody/tr[2]/td/table/tbody/tr/td/table/tbody/tr/td[2]/table/tbody/tr/td[1]/table/tbody/tr[3]/td[2]/span/text()

Fig. 31. SavingPercent pattern

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## 9.1.6 Content

// table/tbody/tr[2]/td/table/tbody/tr/td/table/tbody/tr/td[2]/table/tbody/tr/td[2]/span/text()[1]

Fig. 32. Content pattern

## 9.2 Rtv (RtvXPathParser.java)

Similarly to the regex Rtv parser, we use specific / unique classes extensively

#### 9.2.1 Author

Fig. 33. Author pattern

We use a class that uniquely defines the data we are looking for and collect it's text content.

#### 9.2.2 PublishedTime

Fig. 34. PublishedTime pattern

Again, we access the node via a specific class and then choose the first text chunk.

#### 9.2.3 Title

Fig. 35. Title pattern

Title is uniquely defined with a h1 tag, we take the text value from it.

#### 9.2.4 SubTitle

# //div[@class='subtitle']/text()

Fig. 36. SubTitle pattern

Again, we use a class that uniquely defines the data we are looking for and retrieve its text value.

#### 9.2.5 Lead

Fig. 37. Lead pattern

Again, we use a class that uniquely defines the data we are looking for and retrieve its text value.

#### 9.2.6 Content

# //article

Fig. 38. Content pattern

Here we retrieve the whole article node with all it's contents (with the method si.fri.kozelj.parsers.xpath.AbstractXPathParsergetRawMatches). We don't extract the text value, unlike other expressions. Instead we take the node and fully transform it into a string of html nodes (with the method si.fri.kozelj.Utility#getNodeString). After that we filter the content with the same method as the regex parser (si.fri.kozelj.Utility#cleanRtvContent) and the results should be nearly the same. We did notice a few encoding differences between the regex and xpath ways.

## 9.3 Books (BookXPathParser.java)

With this parser, we encountered some interesting situations, where a xpath expression was not enough to extract the correct content. In some cases, we needed to use extra regex expressions to extract the correct data.

Similarly

#### 9.3.1 Title

Fig. 39. Title pattern

This data was well defined by the "bookTitle" class. We extract the text from the inner span.

### 9.3.2 Author

Fig. 40. Author pattern

This data was well defined by the "authorName" class. We extract the text from the inner span.

## 9.3.3 AvgRating

# //span[@class='minirating']/text()[2]

Fig. 41. AvgRating pattern

(.\*?) avg rating

 ${f Fig.\,42.}$  AvgRating extra regex pattern

The xpath returns a string that contains both avg rating and ratings data information. The location of this string is specified by the "minirating" class. With this data type we match to the string "avg rating" and extract the left side information.

## 9.3.4 Ratings

# //span[@class='minirating']/text()[2]

 $\textbf{Fig. 43.} \ \text{Ratings pattern}$ 

avg rating.\*?(\d+.\*?) ratings

 ${\bf Fig.\,44.}$  Ratings extra regex pattern

Here we reuse the same xpath expressions that we used above. Ratings data is nested between "avg rating" and "ratings" strings, so we use an extra regex expression to extract the necessary data.

### 9.3.5 Score

//a[@class='bookTitle']/following-sibling::div[2]/span/a[1]/text()

Fig. 45. Score pattern

score: (.\*)\$

Fig. 46. Score extra regex pattern

Here we use xpath axes to select the second div tag sibling of the link tag with class "bookTitle". AFter that we follow the structure to the text value. Again, the text value isn't just the data we need, so we extract the necessary

### 9.3.6 Votes

//a[@class='bookTitle']/following-sibling::div[2]/span/a[2]/text()

Fig. 47. Votes pattern

^(.\*?) people voted

Fig. 48. Votes extra regex pattern

Votes data is extracted with a similar xpath expression as the score data. Again we have to apply a regex pattern, to extract the necessary data.

## 10 Conclusion

Despite missing one of the three methods, we would consider this assignment as a success. We learned a lot about regex and xpath patterns and both were implemented in an orderly fashion. There were some starter issues in how to approach a new pattern, but over time it came about naturally.