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 - Java 8 in Action, Raoul-Gabriel Urma, Mario Fusco, and Alan Mycroft

Initial Words

Yes, my slides are heavy.

I do so, because I want people to go through the slides at their own pace w/o having to watch an accompanying video.

On each slide you'll find the crucial information. In the notes to each slide you'll find more details and related information, which would be part of the talk I gave.

Have fun!

Flatting of Streams - Part I

Let's assume a List<Person>, primaryPersons, and each Person has a List<Person> as friends:

Person patricia = new Person("Patricia", 38);
patricia.setFriends(List.of(new Person("Henry", 41)));
Person bonnie = new Person("Bonnie", 37);
bonnie.setFriends(List.of(new Person("Roger", 33), new Person("Bill", 40)));
Person conny = new Person("Conny", 32);
conny.setFriends(List.of(new Person("Gary", 67), new Person("Lex", 54)));
List<Person> primaryPersons = List.of(patricia, bonnie, conny);

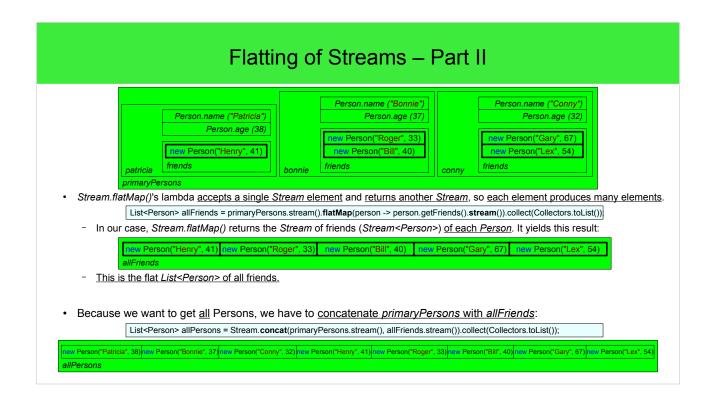
- Further assume following task: get a *List* of all *Person*s and their friends!
- What we need is a way to get all elements contained in Lists in yet another List, i.e. we need a flat List of Persons.
 - Such an operation, a <u>flattening</u> operation, is very common in fp. The <u>Stream operator <u>Stream.flatMap()</u> does this job for us:</u>



- Stream.flatMap()'s signature looks tricky, but it is really simple to use:

List<Person> allFriends = primaryPersons.stream(), flatMap(person -> person.getFriends().stream()).collect(Collectors.toList()); List<Person> allPersons = Stream.concat(primaryPersons.stream(), allFriends.stream()).collect(Collectors.toList());

· Let's dissect what we have done here.



 There also exists Stream.flatMapToInt(), Stream.flatMapToLong() and Stream.flatMapToDouble().

Grouping of Streams with Maps - Part I

- We have to re-discuss Collectors. Collectors unleash their power, when we use them to group data.
 - Grouping means, that data is put into distinct groups after a certain criterion.
- Before we focus on grouping, we discuss a related operation: collecting Stream elements to Maps.
 - Therefor we use the Collector created by Collectors.toMap().

```
Collectors
+ toMap(keyMapper : Function<T, K>, valueMapper : Function<T, U>) : Collector<T, ?, Map<K,U>>
```

• Let's create a Map, that associates each name (String) to its length:

```
Map<String, Integer> nameToLength = Stream.of("Ashley", "Lisa", "Samuel", "Pat", "Marion")
.collect(Collectors.toMap(name -> name, name -> name.length()));
// nameToLength = {"Samuel" : 6, "Pat" : 3, "Ashley" : 6, "Marion" : 6, "Lisa" : 4}
```

• Yes, it is really simple, but we can have it even simpler:

```
Map<String, Integer> nameToLength = Stream.of("Ashley", "Lisa", "Samuel", "Pat", "Marion")
.collect(Collectors.toMap(Function.identity(), String::length));
// nameToLength = {"Samuel" : 6, "Pat" : 3, "Ashley" : 6, "Marion" : 6, "Lisa" : 4}
```

- We can use Function.identity(), because the keyMapper just maps each name (a String) to itself.
- That we can use the method reference String::length instead of the lambda name -> name.length() should be clear.

Grouping of Streams with Maps - Part II

• Next, let's collect more complex objects into a Map: a Stream<Person> to a Map of a Person's name and the Person:

Map<String, Person> persons = Stream.of(new Person("Ashley", 67), new Person("Lisa", 17), new Person("Ashley", 23))
.collect(Collectors.toMap(Person::getName, Function.identity()));

But, this one doesn't work:

// Invalid! IllegalStateException Duplicate key Ashley (attempted merging values name = Ashley, age = 67 and name = Ashley, age = 23)

- After reading the IllegalStateException's message and having another look at the collect call the reason is clear:
 - We have multiple *Person*s with the same name ("Ashley"), which cannot be added as keys to a *Map*!
 - How can we collect multiple *Person*s of the same name into a *Map*?
- · We have to address two things:
 - (1) We must use <u>another value-type</u> for the *Map*, namely a <u>List<Person></u>, not only Person!
 - (2) We must handle and collect *Persons*, whose <u>name was already collected as key</u>, i.e. we must handle the "key clash".
- Let's have a look at this Map-Collector using a mergeFunction, with which we can handle these things:

Collectors	
+ <t, k,="" u=""> toMap(keyMapper : Function<t, k="">, valueMapper : Function<t, u="">, mergeFunction : BinaryOperator<u>) : Collector<t, ?,="" map<k,u<="" th=""><th>·></th></t,></u></t,></t,></t,>	·>

Grouping of Streams with Maps - Part III

Collectors

+ <T, K, U> toMap(keyMapper : Function<T, K>, valueMapper : Function<T, U>, mergeFunction : BinaryOperator<U>) : Collector<T, ?, Map<K,U>

... and how do we have to address the *List-value type* and key clashes? Let's inspect the code:

- (1) The keyMapper stays the same, it is still the <u>name of the Person</u>.
- (2) The valueMapper accepts a Person and puts this Person into a new List.
- (3) The mergeFunction is called, if for the Person in question a key was already collected (there is already a List for the Person).
 - I.e. here, key clashes are handled.
 - collectedPersons contains the <u>already collected Persons</u>, newPersons contains the <u>List</u> with the <u>specific Person</u> introducing the clash.
 - · The "merge activity" we do is just adding the new Person into the List of already collected Persons of the same name.
 - Here we have the power of the mergeFunction: we can do any more or less complex merge activity beyond just adding all together.

Grouping of Streams with Groups - Part I

- This way to put multiple elements of the same key into a List is pretty complex (not complicated, but complex).
 - Maps keeping multiple values under the same key are sometimes called multimaps.
 - Actually, putting multiple elements matching the same criterion is so a common operation, that it got extra support with Streams.
- The Map-collection shown above is a so called grouping operation.
 - We can use the *Collector* created by *Collectors.groupingBy()* to get the same grouping as above with much less code:

```
Map<String, List<Person>> persons = Stream.of(new Person("Ashley", 67), new Person("Lisa", 17), new Person("Ashley", 23))
.collect(Collectors.groupingBy(Person::getName));
```

Grouping of Streams with Groups - Part II

• Although grouping is a pretty mighty *Collector*, its setup is <u>super easy</u> to use:

Collectors
+ <T, K> groupingBy(classifier : Function<T, K>) : Collector<T, ?, Map<K, List<T>>>

- The terminology regarding grouping is also more precise in comparison to Collector.toMap():
 - First and foremost, we also get a *Map*, more exactly a <u>multimap</u>, which maps <u>single keys to *Lists*.</u>
 - And those individual entries of keys and *List*s make up the actual groups.
 - A key, which designates an individual group is called <u>class</u>. In our case, the class is the <u>name of each *Person*</u>.
 - The function, that provides the class for each group is therefore called *classifier*.
- · Internally, grouping collects elements of the Stream into Lists corresponding to the classifier.

Map<String, List<Person>> persons = Stream.of(new Person("Ashley", 67), new Person("Lisa", 17), new Person("Ashley", 23))
.collect(Collectors.groupingBy(Person::getName));



Grouping of Streams with Groups - Part III

· Effectively, following three snippets we have discussed up to here perform the same grouping operation:

```
// Traditional imperative implementation:
public static Map<String, List<Person>> collectPersons(List<Person>> source) {
    Map<String, List<Person>> collected = new HashMap<>();
    for (Person person : source) {
        if (collected.containsKey(person.getName())) {
            collected get(person.getName()).add(person);
        } else {
            collected.put(person.getName(), new ArrayList<>(List.of(person)));
        }
    }
    return collected;
}

/// Functional implementation with the vavr library:
public static Map<String, List<Person>> collectPersons(List<Person>> source, Map<String, List<Person>> collected) {
        return !source.isEmpty()
        ? collectPersons(source.tail(),
            collected.containsKey(source.head().getName())
            ? collected.containsKey(source.head().getName(), collected.get(source.head().getName()).get().append(source.head()))
            : collected;
}

/// With Streams:
Map<String, List<Person>> result = Stream.of(new Person("Ashley", 67), new Person("Lisa", 17), new Person("Ashley", 23))
            .collect(Collectors.groupingBy(Person.:getName));
```

Grouping of Streams with Partitioning

- · A simple form of grouping is partitioning.
 - Partitioning means to put the elements of the Stream into one of just two groups.
 - In other words: partitioning is a grouping with a boolean classifier and it results in a Map with a Boolean key type.
- To create Person groups of "being adult" and "being child" after the age, we could use Collectors.groupingBy():

Map<Boolean, List<Person>> adultPersons = Stream.of(new Person("Ashley", 67), new Person("Lisa", 17), new Person("Ashley", 23))
.collect(Collectors.groupingBy(person -> person.getAge() > 18));

- Instead we can use the Collector created via <u>Collectors.partitioningBy()</u> and partition by the age:

Map<Boolean, List<Person>> adultPersons = Stream.of(new Person("Ashley", 67), new Person("Lisa", 17), new Person("Ashley", 23))
.collect(Collectors.partitioningBy(person -> person.getAge() > 18));

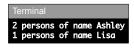
- Both Collectors provide the same result:



- · Remarks:
 - Partitioning is slightly more efficient than grouping because it uses an optimized Map for Boolean keys.
 - The resulting Map of the partitioning operation will always contain entries for true and false.
 - If there are no entries for either key, the associated List will just be empty.

Downstream Collectors - Part I

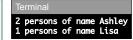
- In many cases, we want to do follow-up operations with the data we got after Stream.collect().
 - Consider following code, which determines the count of elements per group:



· Collectors can be built with so called downstream Collectors. E.g. an overload of Collectors.groupingBy() accepts such one:

```
Collectors
+ <T, K, A, D> groupingBy(classifier : Function<?, ?>, downstream : Collector<?, A, D>) : Collector<T, ?, Map<K, D>>
```

- The idea of downstream Collectors is not directly visible: the idea is to apply yet another Collector on a collected result.
- So, a downstream Collector is just a Collector, which is applied on the result of another Collector.
- We can use the Collector created by Collectors.counting() to apply counting of the groups' elements in the downstream:



Downstream Collectors - Part II

- · Downstream Collectors allow follow-up collects on a collected result without leaving the fluent expression and pipeline.
 - Mind, that Stream.collect() is a terminal operation, with downstream Collectors we can do more operations but "stay intermediate".
- · Collectors offers many simple factories for Collectors being used as downstream Collectors or accepting downstream C.:

Collectors
+ <t> counting() : Collector<t, ?,="" long=""></t,></t>
+ <t> averagingInt(mapper : ToIntFunction<? >) : Collector<t, ?,="" double=""></t,></t>
+ <t, a,="" r=""> filtering(predicate : Predicate<? >, downstream : Collector<?, A, R>) : Collector<t, ?,="" r=""></t,></t,>
+ <t, a,="" r="" u,=""> mapping(mapper: Function<?, ?>, downstream: Collector<?, A, R>): Collector<t, ?,="" r=""></t,></t,>
+ <t, a,="" r="" u,=""> flatMapping(mapper: Function<? super T, ? extends Stream<?>>, downstream: Collector<? super U, A, R>): Collector<t, ?,="" r=""></t,></t,>
+ <t> summingDouble(mapper : ToDoubleFunction<? >) : Collector<t, ?,="" double=""></t,></t>
+ <t> minBy(comparator : Comparator<? >) : Collector<t, ?,="" optional<t="">></t,></t>

- The usage of those is often not easy to grab and requires reading tutorials, documentation and "inspiration".
- Many of the Collectors, offered by the companion class Collectors are only meant to be used as downstream Collectors.
 - Esp. those Collectors used for aggregate functions like counting, summing and averaging, we'll discuss aggregate functions for extremes in a minute.
- · To open the perspective for downstream Collectors, we should know which Collectors primary accept them:

	Collectors				
+ <t, a,="" d="" k,=""> groupingBy(classifier : Function<?, ?</th><th>?>, downstream : Colle</th><th>ector<?, A, D>)</th><th>: Collector<t, ?<="" th=""><th>, Map<k, d="">></k,></th><th></th></t,></th></t,>	?>, downstream : Colle	ector , A, D)	: Collector <t, ?<="" th=""><th>, Map<k, d="">></k,></th><th></th></t,>	, Map <k, d="">></k,>	
+ <t, a="" d,=""> partitioningBy(predicate : Predicate<? ></t,>	>, downstream : Collec	tor , A, D):	Collector <t, ?,="" i<="" th=""><th>Map<boolean,< th=""><th>D>></th></boolean,<></th></t,>	Map <boolean,< th=""><th>D>></th></boolean,<>	D>>

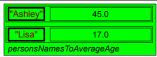
It makes sense, because grouping and partitioning are closely related.

 Aggregate function is a term from SQL, where functions can be applied on groups.

Downstream Collectors - Part III

- For the time being we will show applications of <u>Collectors.averagingInt()</u> and <u>Collectors.filtering()</u>.
- Following grouping will downstream each <u>Person</u> name to the <u>average age of its group</u>:

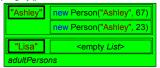
Map<String, Double> personsNamesToAverageAge
= Stream.of(new Person("Ashley", 67), new Person("Lisa", 17), new Person("Ashley", 23))
.collect(Collectors.groupingBy(Person::getName, Collectors.averagingInt(Person::getAge)));



• Following grouping will downstream only adult Persons into its name-group:

Map<String, List<Person>> adultPersons
= Stream.of(new Person("Ashley", 67), new Person("Lisa", 17), new Person("Ashley", 23))
.collect(Collectors.groupingBy(Person::getName, Collectors.filtering(person -> 18 <= person.getAge(), Collectors.toList())));

We cascade 3 Collectors: Collectors.groupingBy() downstreams to Collectors.filtering(), which downstreams to Collectors.toList():



It works, because <u>Collections.filtering()</u> accepts a downstream <u>Collector</u>.

	Collectors	15
+ <t, a,="" r=""> filtering(pre</t,>	dicate, downstream)	: Collector <t, ?,="" r=""></t,>

Downstream Collectors - Subgroups - Part IV

- · Another important aspect of downstream Collectors is, that we can create subgroups.
 - This expressions groups Persons after their names and then in the name groups, the Persons are grouped after their adulthood:

```
Map<String, Map<Boolean, List<Person>>> adultPersons
= Stream.of(new Person("Ashley", 67), new Person("Lisa", 17), new Person("Ashley", 23))
.collect(Collectors.groupingBy(Person::getName, Collectors.partitioningBy(person -> 18 <= person.getAge())));
```

- The code expresses something like "group after name, then group (or partition) after adulthood".
 - Just think about how many cascaded loops can be saved by just applying this Stream expression! It yields a pretty complex result:



- (If we had used Collectors.groupingBy() instead of Collectors.partitioningBy(), no empty Lists per partition would be created.)

Downstream Collectors - Finishers - Part V

• The Collector created by <u>Collectors.collectingAndThen()</u> can be used to <u>apply a finisher function to a collected result</u>.

Collectors + <T, A, R, RR> collectingAndThen(downstream : Collector<T, A, R>, finisher : Function<R, RR>) : Collector<T, A, RR>

- E.g. we can put the resulting *Map* of a grouping into an unmodifiable *Map*:

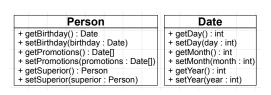
```
Map<String, List<Person>> persons
= Stream.of(new Person("Ashley", 67), new Person("Lisa", 17), new Person("Ashley", 23))
.collect(Collectors.collectingAndThen(Collectors.groupingBy(Person::getName), Collections::unmodifiableMap));
```

Further Tips using Collectors

- Having knowledge about the spectrum of <u>predefined</u> *Collectors* makes sense:
 - Collectors also work with parallel Streams, esp. also for the thread safe concatenation of Strings.
 - Downstream *Collectors* allow solving <u>complex problems with pretty readable code</u>.
 - Esp. aggregation Collectors and sub-grouping safes us a lot of cascaded loops!
- Tips using Collectors:
 - As soon as "doing something with the groups" is required, have a look into the predefined *Collectors* to safe loops!
- The JDK provides many predefined *Collectors*, nevertheless there are situations, in which we have to program our own.

Reviewing Object Navigation in Java

• Let's assume the classes Person and Date and create a Person object referring a Date object and other Person objects:



Person maggie = new Person(); maggie.setName("Maggie"); Date promotion = new Date(); promotion.setDay(1); promotion.setMonth(3); promotion.setYear(2001); Person michael = new Person(); michael.setAge(54); michael.setName("Michael"); michael.setPromotions(new Date[] {promotion}); michael.setSuperior(maggie);

We can use dot-operators to access/modify objects following the references. This is called object navigation:

```
// Read the name of Michael's superior:
// Nead the Internation Windles Superior () getName()); 
// Modifying the month of Michael's first promotion: 
michael.getPromotions()[0].setMonth(12);
```

if (michael != null && michael.getSuperior() != null) {
 System.out.println(michael.getSuperior().getName()); Safe object navigation

But this is not safe:

• If a reference is null in the navigation-chain and we're accessing it, we will get an NullPointerException.

// Print the name of Michael's superior to the console

• If an array index does not exist in the navigation-chain and we're accessing it, we will get an ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException.

- To make safe object navigation, we have to add null-checks and array-bounds-checks.

Making Object Navigation safe with Optional

- Per se, safe object navigation is of course no problem, it is rather required to program null-aware code.
 - But there are syntactical flaws, that prove problematic with the Stream API.
- Safe object navigation must be done via multiple statements, because null-check and access are syntactically separated.
 - And in fp we want to write everything into a single expression ideally.
- · Java's syntax wasn't extended, instead the class Optional was added, it leverages safe object navigation to a fluent API.
- Without further ado, we can formulate the just discusses safe object navigation with Optional:

- The syntactic style makes clear, that the last call ifPresent() executes its lambda only if the full object navigation was successful.

Creating Optionals

- Optional is a generic class, whose instances wrap an object, which can be potentially null, i.e. being "optional".
 - Its most important methods support null-aware navigation without accessing the optional data until the last moment.
 - And this is possible, because these methods support a <u>fluent interface</u>: <u>many methods return *Optionals*</u>:

Optional
t <t> ofNullable(value : T) : Optional<t> t <t> empty() : Optional<t≥ <u="" t=""> map(mapper : Function<? super T, ? extends U>) : Optional<u> filter(predicate : Predicate<? super T>) : Optional<t> ifPresent(action : Consumer<? super T>) isPresent() : boolean tsEmpty() : boolean get() : T</t></u></t≥></t></t></t>

- We can create Optionals from any reference.
 - If the reference in question <u>could be a null-reference</u>, we should use <u>Optional.ofNullable()</u>:

Optional<Person> optionalMichael = Optional.ofNullable(michael);

- If we pass a null-reference to Optional.ofNullable(), the result will be Optional.empty():

Optional<Person> optionalOfNullReference= Optional.ofNullable(null); // optionalOfNullReference = Optional.empty()

- If the reference in question is guaranteed to be no null-reference, we could use Optional.of().
 - If we pass a null-reference to Optional.of(), an NPE will be raised, therefor Optionals.of(Nullable() is the recommended way to go.

Checking an Optional's State and Accessing its Value

- The "unpresence" of a value can be expressed via <u>Optional.empty()</u>. <u>Actually, Optional.empty()</u> is kind of the "new null<u>"</u>:

 Optional<Person> optionalOfNullReference = Optional.empty();
- We can use the predicate Optional.isPresent() or its negation Optional.isEmpty() to check the presence of a value:

```
boolean isPresent = optionalOfNullReference.isPresent(); // isPresent = false boolean isEmpty = optionalOfNullReference.isEmpty(); // isEmpty = true
```

- In case *michael* was actually a null-reference, *optionalMichael.isPresent()* would return false:

| boolean michaellsNotNull = optionalMichael.isPresent();

• We can get the reference wrapped into the Optional with the method optionalMichael.get():

```
Person michael2 = optionalMichael.get();
```

- Optional.get() will never return a null-reference!
- If michael was actually a null-reference, Optional.get() will throw an NPE.

Fp-Style Branching with Optional

• So optionalMichael.get() could throw a NPE, therefor it should only be called, if optionalMichael.isPresent() returns true.

-	We could use the combination of Option	onal.isPresent() and Optional	.get() to acces	ss the	e wrapped	referer	nce <mark>nu</mark>	ıll-saf	ely:	:
		if (antionalMichael isPresent()) (_		_	_	

if (optionalMichael.isPresent()) {
 Person michael = optionalMichael.get();
 System.out.println(michael.getName());
}

Optional

+ ifPresent(action : Consumer<? super T>)

- Optional.ifPresent() combines the check of presence and null-safe access into only one expression:

optionalMichael.ifPresent(michael -> System.out.println(michael.getName()));

- Effectively, both solutions do the same; esp. if the wrapped reference is a null-reference just nothing will happen.

With Optional.ifPresentOrElse() we can handle the if and else case of a reference's presence in an fp-style:



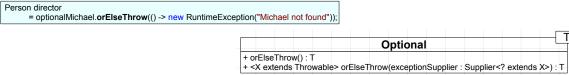
For Optional, "else-case" means the function, that is called, if the Optional is empty.

Handling unpresence of Optional Values

• Optional also allows to handle the unpresence of a reference (empty Optional) nicely with a default value:



- Optional.orElse() provides a predefined default value directly.
- Optional.orElseGet() provides a default value <u>lazily</u>.
- Optional can also be used to throw an Exception instead of providing a default value in case of unpresence.



- Optional.orElseThrow() throws a <u>NoSuchElementException</u> in case of value-unpresence.
- The other overload of Optional.orElseThrow() throws a user-created Throwable.

Using Optional's fluent Interface

- The operations of Optional we saw up to here exist more or less to evaluate the wrapped reference to a value.
- However, Optional unleashes its real power, when we keep the access to referenced data also in the expression.
 - Optional.map() is meant to access data of an Optional object. The trick: the method will put the accessed data also into an Optional

Optional + <U> map(mapper : Function<? super T, ? extends U>) : Optional<U>

Optional.map() allows to keep access to cascaded data in a single expression but fully null-aware:



Optional.ofNullable(michael) .map(Person::getSuperior) .ifPresent(superior -> System.out.println(superior.getName()));

• Optional's fluent API allows transparent accessing of deeply cascaded data: adding cascading-levels is super easy:

if (michael != null && michael.getSuperior() != null && michael.getSuperior().getName() != null) { System.out.println(michael.getSuperior().getName());



- Instead of adding more control flow via extra conditions in the if statement, we just extend the Optional expression.
- In opposite to Stream.map(), Optional.map()'s behavioral argument can be stateful!

Optional is like a Stream with only one optional element.

Good to know
Java 9 introduces Optional.stream() to convert an Optional into a single-element or empty Stream.

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- Optional/Stream.map() and Optional/Stream.filter() correspond more or less exactly and Optional.ifPresent() corresponds to Stream.forEach().

Optional's primitive Specializations (OptionalInt)

- Many of the operations possible with *Optional* are also interesting for <u>primitive types</u>, esp. when *Streams* come into play.
- But Optional is a generic type and we already know, that generic types cannot have primitive types as type argument.
- The JDK solves this problems for us like it was solved for Streams: there exist primitive Optional specializations.
 - Another aspect is of course, that we want to avoid unnecessary boxing operations.
- Namely the JDK offers the types OptionalInt, OptionalDouble and OptionalLong.

OptionalInt
+ of(value : int) : OptionalInt
+ ifPresent(action : IntConsumer)
+ isPresent() : boolean
+ orElse(other : int) : int
+ orElseThrow() : int
+ ifPresentOrElse(action : IntConsumer, emptyAction : Runnable)
+ getAsInt(): int

- Those specialized versions of Optional lack filter() and map() methods, because they make only sense for cascading data.
- The specializations use specialized functional interfaces for behavioral parameters like *IntConsumer*.

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- Instead of a common get() method, we have getAsInt(), getAsDouble() and getAtLong(), which return primitive values.

Is Optional the "better null"?

- Well, the question is: "What is the purpose of Optional?"
- Initially, many developers hoped, that Optional should more or less replace null.
 - In many other languages, also the JRE-based language Scala have such a type (Option in Scala) to "hide" the null idiom.
 - The believe is, that "null is bad" and people should strive to avoid null.
 - Advantage: using Optional in an API makes visible, where a value could be unpresent.
 - Advantage: we can tell error-cases from "unpresence"-cases: Map.get() returns null, if the key is not set or if its value is null.
- But Optional was not so intrinsically added into Java, i.e. it is no idiomatic replacement for null with language support etc.
 - Optional is only used as return type in a few interfaces and by no means pervasively!
 - Instead the JDK returns and accepts null-references since Java 1, such cannot be modified to feature a "cleaner" Optional concept.
 - => Pervasive replacement of dealing with null-references to Optionals would hurt Java's backward compatibility.
- And ... what is the purpose of Optional?
 - Optional is not there to hide null-references, but to enable safe navigation with its fluent API.
 - The idea is to appreciate <u>fluent chains</u> of Optional.map(), Optional.filter(), Optional.ifPresent(), Optional.orElse() etc.

Tips using Optional

· Usage:

- In new UDTs expose Optionals only as return type!
- In a method's code you can of course use Optional freely to your liking.
- When creating Optionals rather use Optional.ofNullable().
- Optional.equals() and Optional.hashCode() forward calls to the wrapped reference.

· Some warnings:

- Optional can lead to expressive, but not necessarily more readable code!
 - In many cases in Java, esp. with Collections and objects representing the problem domain, the null-object design pattern proves better.
 - I.e. it makes sense to <u>underscore Java being an oo-language</u>, when the <u>oo-design of the problem domain</u> comes into play.
- Like with Streams' fluent call chains, debugging can be more difficult due to deferred execution.
- <u>Identity comparisons</u> of *Optionals* (esp. reference comparisons via ==) can have unpredictable results and should be <u>avoided</u>.
 - This is a hint, that the type Optional might get a more idiomatic role in future Java versions. Catchword: user defined value-types.

Picking Elements from potentially empty Streams

- After we have <u>laid the foundation with the type Optional</u>, we can discuss more Stream operations.
- Remember Stream.anyMatch(), it checks if any Stream element matches the passed predicate:

```
boolean anyPersonIsAdult
= Stream.of(new Person("Ashley", 67), new Person("Lisa", 17), new Person("Ashley", 23))
.anyMatch(person -> person.getAge() >= 18);
```

- Stream.anyMatch() just checks a predicate! If we want to get the element matching the predicate, we've to create another Stream.
- Instead of Stream.anyMatch(), we had to use Stream.filter():

```
Stream<Person> adultPersons
= Stream.of(new Person("Ashley", 67), new Person("Lisa", 17), new Person("Ashley", 23))
.filter(person -> person.getAge() >= 18);
```

- But we only want to get a single element matching the criterion. Because it could be more that one we can pick any or the first one:

```
Optional<Person> optionalAdultPerson = adultPersons.findFirst();
optionalAdultPerson.map(Person::getName).ifPresent(name -> System.out.printf("%s is an adult person%n", name));

**FindAny() : Optional<T>
+ findAny() : Optional<T>
+ findFirst() : Optional<T>
```

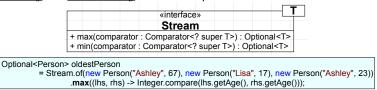
- Stream.findFirst() returns an Optional<T> referencing the first T in the Stream, the Optional is empty, if the Stream is empty.
- Stream.findAny() is free to select any element, not strictly the first one. It can be more performant than .findFirst() for parallel Streams.

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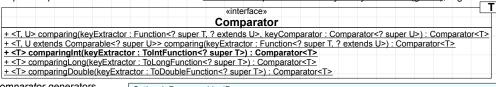
• The nature of Stream.findAny() and Stream.findFirst() makes them short cut operations.

Picking min and max Elements from Streams

• The operators <u>Stream.min()</u> and <u>Stream.max()</u> also return *Optionals*:



- It makes sense, the problem is similar to the one with Stream.findFirst(): What should those operators return if the Stream is empty?
- Answer: an empty Optional, on which operations like Optional.ifPresent() just do nothing.
- Stream.min() and Stream.max() accept Comparators and the boilerplate code to create one from getters can be avoided.
 - Comparator provides a set of static methods to create a Comparator from only a key-extractor (getter), e.g. as method reference.



 Comparator-generators are fairly simple to use:

Optional<Person> oldestPerson
= Stream.of(new Person("Ashley", 67), new Person("Lisa", 17), new Person("Ashley", 23))
.max(Comparator.comparingInt(Person::getAge));

Grouping to min and max Elements and Teeing of Collectors

• We can also create Collectors to collect extreme values via Collectors.maxBy() and Collectors.minBy() to Optionals:

Map<String, Optional<Person>> personsNamesToYoungestPersons
= Stream .of(new Person("Ashley", 67), new Person("Lisa", 17), new Person("Ashley", 23))
.collect(Collectors.groupingBy(Person::getName, Collectors.minBy(Comparator.comparingInt(Person::getAge))));

"Ashley" | new Person("Ashley", 23) |
"Lisa" | new Person("Lisa", 17) |
personsNamesToYoungestPersons

Collectors
+ <t> maxBy(comparator : Comparator<? super T>) : Collector<t, ?,="" optional<t="">></t,></t>
+ <t> minBy(comparator : Comparator<? super T>) : Collector<t, ?,="" optional<t="">></t,></t>

- ... those are the missing aggregate functions for extremes (max/min), when we use those *Collectors* as downstream *Collectors* for grouping.
- The Collector created with Collectors.teeing() (Java 12+) creates a Collector collecting the results of two independent C.

Collectors
+ <T, R1, R2, R> teeing(downstream1 : Collector<?, ?, R1>, downstream2 : Collector<?, ?, R2>, merger : BiFunction<?, ?, R>) : Collector<T, ?, R>

- It looks more complicated as it is: the downstream Collectors provide their results and the merger puts the results into an object:

new Person("Lisa", 17) o new Person("Ashley", 67) o extremePersons

- The resulting Person[2] just contains the youngest and oldest Person.
- => In the *merger* we can basically create any kind of object <u>combining the input *Collectors* fitting our needs</u>.

Cascaded Collector Teeing

• We can use teeing Collectors as downstream Collectors of yet other teeing Collectors to collect yet more data at once:

```
new Integer(3) 0 new Person("Lisa", 17) 1 new Person("Ashley", 67) 2 dataAboutPersons
```

- Here, we use two teeing Collectors and merge their results in two steps into an Object[] because we have heterogenous results.
- We need a heterogeneous array because we have to collect the integral count and two "extremely aged" Persons.
- As can be seen, we can use the teeing Collector to combine as many other Collectors we want.
 - The downside lies more or less only in the type of the target object, into which the result of each Collector must be put in.
 - It would be more beneficial to have a record or tuple type in Java, which could be used as type of the target object.
 - Currently (Java 12) we have to resort to explicitly defined classes or Object[].

Statistical Collectors

- For <u>numeric Streams</u>, we can also use special <u>statistical Collectors</u> to collect <u>multiple data at once</u>.
 - Those can be created by Collectors.summarizingInt(), Collectors.summarizingDouble() and Collectors.summarizingLong():

```
Collectors

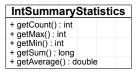
+ <T> summarizingInt(mapper : ToIntFunction<? super T>) : Collector<T, ?, IntSummaryStatistics>
+ <T> summarizingDouble(mapper : ToDoubleFunction<? super T>) : Collector<T, ?, DoubleSummaryStatistics>
+ <T> summarizingLong(mapper : ToLongFunction<? super T>) : Collector<T, ?, LongSummaryStatistics>
```

- E.g. Collectors.summarizingInt() can be used to collect information about our Persons' ages:

```
IntSummaryStatistics ageStatistics
= Stream .of(new Person("Ashley", 67), new Person("Lisa", 17), new Person("Ashley", 23))
.collect(Collectors.summarizingInt(Person::getAge));

System.out.println(ageStatistics);
// >IntSummaryStatistics{count=3, sum=107, min=17, average=35,666667, max=67}
```

• The type *IntSummaryStatistics* presents the collected information:



Excursus: creating own Collectors - Part I

- To understand how Collectors function, we will implement our own.
 - But before doing this, lets inspect Stream.collect()'s overloads once more:



- First lets concentrate on the overload accepting a <u>supplier</u>, <u>accumulator</u> and <u>combiner</u> and leaving <u>Collector</u> on its own.
 - The *supplier*'s job is to supply (maybe create) <u>an object to hold the result of collect</u>. This object is called <u>target container</u>.
 - The supplier supplies a target container.
 - The accumulator's job is to add an element to the target container applying its specific "collect-rule".
 - The *combiner*'s job is to combine <u>two target containers</u>.

Excursus: creating own Collectors - Part II



- Stream.collect() applies supplier, accumulator and combiner depending on the sequential/parallel execution mode.
- If the source Stream is sequential:
 - supplier is used to create a target container.
 - Then each element is collected into the target container by accumulator.
 - The combiner is not required.
- If the source Stream is parallel:
 - In the fork-phase, the Stream's workload is split into segments that are associated to tasks.
 - The tasks are executed in parallel in the execution-phase.
 - In the execution-phase each task creates its on target container via the supplier.
 - => Therefor, the supplier is not just a value, but a function!
 - Each task uses the accumulator to collect the elements into its target container.
 - In the join-phase the target containers of all tasks are combined with the combiner to get the final result.

Excursus: creating own Collectors - Part III

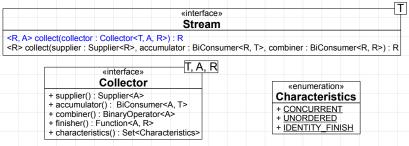
- · Now we can implement our own variant of a collection of statistical data.
 - First, we create a <u>new target container type</u>, just containing some <u>public double</u> fields to collect data:

```
public class StatisticsContainer {
    public double sum;
    public double count;
    public double min;
    public double max;
}
```

- The call of Stream.collect() must then be done with a suitable supplier, accumulator and combiner.

Excursus: creating own Collectors - Part IV

• Now we'll head to the Collector interface.



- We can relate the three methods supplier(), accumulator() and combiner() to the other Stream.collect() overload.
- · finisher()'s function is executed, when the collection was done, it is applied against the resulting target container.
- · characteristics() provides a Set<Characteristics>, which controls execution of the Collector in detail.
 - Characteristics is a nested enum in Collector.
 - Example: when a Collector specifies Characteristics.IDENTITY_FINISH, it means the finisher() can be skipped.

Excursus: creating own Collectors - Part V

- In some sense, objects implementing the interface Collector are more or less "containers for some functions".
- There are three ways we could implement new *Collectors*:
 - We could use the <u>simple factories</u> in the <u>companion class *Collectors*</u>.
 - We could just "traditionally" <u>implement the interface *Collector*</u> in a new class.
 - We could use an overload of *Collector.of()* to directly <u>create a *Collector* from "some functions"</u>.

	TAD
«interface»	1, A, R
Collector	
+ <t, a,="" r=""> of(supplier; Supplier<r>, accu; BiConsumer<r, t="">, combi; BinaryOperator<r>, fin; Function<a, r="">, chis; Character</a,></r></r,></r></t,>	ristics): Collector <t, a="" r,=""></t,>
+ <t, r=""> of(supplier: Supplier<r>, accu: BiConsumer<r, t="">, combi: BinaryOperator<r>, chis: Characteristics): Collector<t, f<="" td=""><td>₹, R></td></t,></r></r,></r></t,>	₹, R>

• Let's transform our former collect()-call into a Collector-object and use Collector.of() to create the Collector...

Excursus: creating own Collectors - Part VI

```
StatisticsContainer ageStatistics
                                                                                                                      // Create Collector
= Stream.of(new Person("Ashley", 67), new Person("Lisa", 17), new Person("Ashley", 23))
                                                                                                                      Collector<Person, StatisticsContainer, StatisticsContainer> statsCollector
                                                                                                                      = Collector.of(
        .collect(
             ++sc.count;
                                                                                                                                   ++sc.count;
                                                                                                                                   rescount,
sc.sum += person.getAge();
sc.min =sc.min == 0
? person.getAge()
: Math.min(sc.min, person.getAge());
sc.max = Math.max(sc.max, person.getAge());
                    sc.sum += person.getAge();
                    sc.sum += person.getAge();

sc.min = sc.min == 0

? person.getAge()

: Math.min(sc.min, person.getAge());

sc.max = Math.max(sc.max, person.getAge());
                                                                                                                              },
(StatisticsContainer sc, StatisticsContainer sc2) -> { // combiner
             (StatisticsContainer sc, StatisticsContainer sc2) -> { // combiner
                    sc.count += sc2.count;
sc.sum += sc2.sum;
                                                                                                                                   sc.count += sc2.count;
sc.sum += sc2.sum;
                    sc.min = Math.min(sc.min, sc2.min);
sc.max = Math.max(sc.max, sc2.max);
                                                                                                                                   sc.min = Math.min(sc.min, sc2.min);
sc.max = Math.max(sc.max, sc2.max);
             }
                                                                                                                                   return sc;
                                                                                                                      // Apply Collector:
                                                                                                                      StatisticsContainer ageStatistics
                                                                                                                      = Stream.of(new Person("Ashley", 67), new Person("Lisa", 17)
, new Person("Ashley", 23))
.collect(statsCollector);
```

- There is only one notable difference: the Collector's combiner is a BinaryOperator, i.e. it must return something.
 - In this case, we just return the lhs StatisticsContainer.

... but Java's Stream.collect() Operator is no Fp-Style!

- Stream.collect() is probably the mightiest Stream operation.
 - We already have a lot of <u>predefined</u> Collectors in the JDK.
 - The valuable type Optional and primitive specialization help us writing mighty, yet expressive code.
 - The ability to write own Collectors allows to collect basically anything from a Stream.
- Nevertheless, collect is not a real fp-style operation! What?
- Well, the problem is visible in the accumulator and combiner.

```
BinaryOperator<StatisticsContainer> combiner
= (StatisticsContainer sc, StatisticsContainer sc2) -> {
    sc.count += sc2.count; // modifies sc
    sc.sum += sc2.sum; // modifies sc
    sc.min = Math.min(sc.min, sc2.min); // modifies sc
    sc.max = Math.max(sc.max, sc2.max); // modifies sc
    return sc;
};
```

- A remarkable fact is that the target container is modified, we have side effects on the parameters!
- This form of side effect is appreciated by the Stream API, Stream.collect() is explicitly designated as mutable reduction operation.
- The Stream API also provides a <u>"really fp-style" immutable reduction operation</u>. We'll now discuss <u>Stream.reduce()</u>.

Stream Reduction

• Stream.reduce() is represented with three overloads:

• We can easily program our former age Statistics using Stream.reduce() instead of Stream.collect():

Stream.collect() vs Stream.reduce()

- Stream.reduce()'s overload we are using has an accumulator and combiner like Stream.collect().
 - But the accumulator and combiner must be implemented differently respectively.
- Stream.collect(): combiner and accumulator operate on a mutable target container and modify parameters:

StatisticsContainer ageStatistics = Stream.of(new Person("Ashley", 67), new Person("Lisa", 17), new Person("Ashley", 23))
.collect(StatisticsContainer::new, accumulator, combiner);

<u>Stream.reduce()</u>: combiner and accumulator operate on a <u>immutable target container</u>, but <u>return new target containers</u>:

```
BiFunction<StatisticsContainer, Person, StatisticsContainer> accumulator
= (StatisticsContainer sc, Person person) -> {
    StatisticsContainer newSc = new StatisticsContainer();
    newSc.count = sc.count + 1;
    newSc.sum = sc.sum + person.getAge();
    newSc.min = sc.min == 0 ? person.getAge();
    newSc.max = Math.max(sc.max, person.getAge());
    return newSc;
};

BinaryOperator<StatisticsContainer> combiner
= (StatisticsContainer sc, StatisticsContainer sc2) -> {
    StatisticsContainer newSc = new StatisticsContainer();
    newSc.count = sc.count + 1;
    newSc.sum = sc.sum + sc2.sum;
    newSc.sum = sc.sum + sc2.sum;
    newSc.min = Math.min(sc.min, sc2.min);
    newSc.max = Math.max(sc.max, sc2.max);
    return newSc;
};
```

StatisticsContainer ageStatistics = Stream.of(new Person("Ashley", 67), new Person("Lisa", 17), new Person("Ashley", 23))
.reduce(new StatisticsContainer(), accumulator, combiner);

Why do we have Stream.collect() and Stream.reduce()?

- · Both operations are there for reduction, Stream.collect() for mutable and Stream.reduce() for immutable reduction.
- In an ideal "functional programming world" there would be no mutable state! Then Stream.reduce() would be enough!
 - Stream.reduce() should be used with immutable target containers and maybe also Strings (which are immutable in Java).
- · But Java is no fp language! It is an oo language, which intrinsically applies state modifications in objects.
 - Therefor, we also have Stream.collect(), which is based on mutable state, it is esp. allowed to mutate target containers.
- If the Stream API only provided immutable reduction (Stream.reduce()), reduction would be more costly than required.
 - Stream.reduce() forces accumulators and combiners to create a considerable amount of temporary target containers.
 - It not only means that many objects are created, it also means, that there is a lot of garbage. (Fp languages are optimized for the many temporaries.)
 - One could argue, that immutable algorithms may cost more memory, but they are thread safe.
 - We have to provide thread safe accumulators and combiners for Stream.collect(), then the mutable reduction is thread safe.
 - => The same reduction expressed with Stream.reduce() is often significantly slower as if expressed with Stream.collect().
- => Take away: In Java we should rather use mutable reduction via Stream.collect().

Not discussed Stream-related Topics

- More details on parallel Streams.
- Stream builders

