

Java 8 Lambda Expression Syntax

“Code with Passion!”



Topics

- What is and Why Lambda Expression (or simply Lambda)?
- Lambda implementation in Java
- What is Functional interface?
- Lambda expression syntax in Java 8
- Effectively final local variables

What is and Why Lambda Expression?

What is Lambda Expression (Lambda)?

- A formal system for “expressing computational behavior” (or “parameterizing behavior”)
 - > Through functions (function objects)
- Function objects are first-class citizens
 - > Function object can be assigned to a variable
 - > Function object can be passed to a method as an argument
 - > Function object can be returned as a return value
- Many modern programming languages support Lambda expression
 - > JavaScript, List, Scheme, Ruby, Scala, Clojure, etc.
- Java 8 now supports Lambda expression
 - > Biggest language change since Generics of Java SE 5

Why Lambda?

- Let you declare what to do, not how to do it
 - > Cleaner, more concise, more expressive code
 - > High productivity, flexible, “fluent” style programming is possible
- Promotes immutability
 - > Less concurrency issues
- Enables parallel programming & lazy evaluation
 - > Higher performance
- Forms the basis of functional programming paradigm
 - > When functional programming is used, many set of problems are easier to solve, and results in cleaner code
- Richer collection APIs possible
 - > Stream API
 - > New methods in Iterable<T>, List<T>, and Map<K,V>

Java 8 Implementation of Lambda Expression

Lambda: Concept vs. Implementation

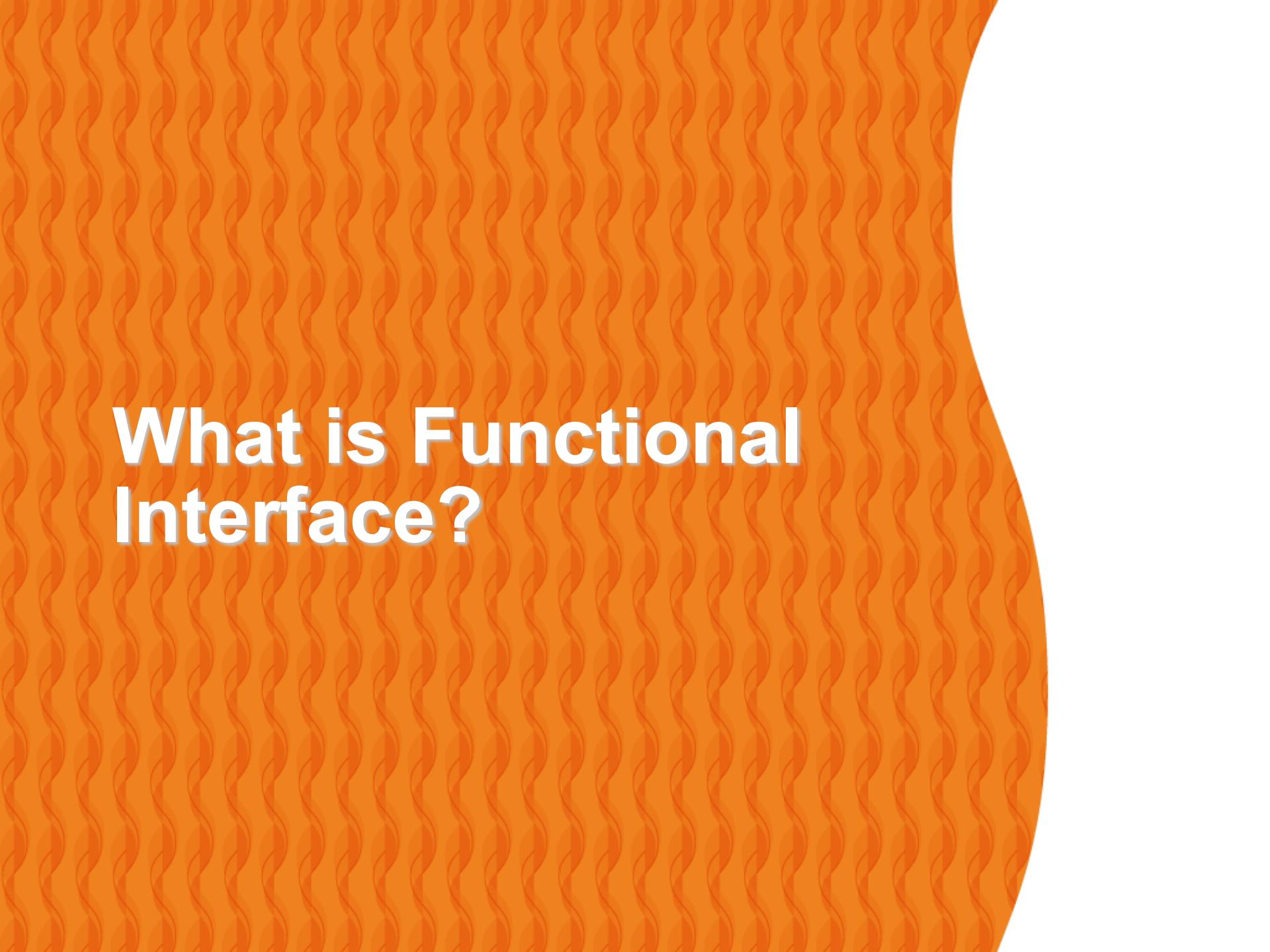
- Lambda expression is a concept
 - > Different programming languages have different implementations of Lambda expression
- You, as a Java developer, need to learn both
 - > General concept of Lambda expression and
 - > How Java 8 implements Lambda expression

Java 8 Implementation of Lambda

- In Java, a Lambda expression is implemented essentially as an anonymous function
 - > A Lambda expression is considered as an instance of a functional interface (an interface with a single abstract method)
 - > The type of Lambda expression is indeed that functional interface
- There is no native “function” type (unlike in other languages), however, in Java 8 Lambda implementation
 - > This is a deliberate decision by Java 8 Lambda designers

Usage Areas of Lambda in Java Programs

- Replacement of anonymous inner class
- Event handling
- Iteration over list
- Parallel processing of collection elements at the API level
- Functional programming
- Streams



What is Functional Interface?

What is a Functional Interface (FI)?

- A regular Java interface with a single (abstract) method
 - > It is common in Java programs
 - > Sometimes called Single Abstract Method (SAM)
- Just like any other Java interface, it can be used as a reference type (type of a variable or type of an argument)
 - > `MyFunctionalInterface x = (x, y) -> x+y;`
- Even though it is a Java interface, it represents a function
 - > The arguments and the body of the method represents a function
(arguments) -> {code block}

FI is simply an Interface with a single method

- In fact, previous versions of Java (Java 7 and earlier versions) have several functional interfaces already

```
// Runnable interface  
public interface Runnable {  
    public abstract void run();  
}
```

```
// ActionListener interface  
public interface ActionListener extends EventListener {  
    public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent e);  
}
```

```
// Comparator interface  
public interface Comparator<T> {  
    int compare(T o1, T o2);  
    boolean equals(Object o); // This is not considered as an abstract method  
}
```

Backward Compatibility

- Any interface with a single method is considered as a functional interface by Java 8
- Java 8 Lambda works with old libraries that use functional interfaces without any need to recompile or modification of them

@FunctionallInterface Annotation

- When used, Java 8 compiler produces an error if the interface has more than one method - helps developers at compile time (just like @Override annotation helps developers find at compile time incorrect method name)

```
@FunctionallInterface
public interface MyInterface {
    public String myMethod();
}
```

```
// Generates Invalid @FunctionallInterface compile error
@FunctionallInterface
public interface MyInterface {
    public String myMethod();
    public String myMethod2();
}
```

Where to use Lambda Expression in Java app?

- Concept
 - > You use Lambda expression wherever a functional behavior is required
- Java app
 - > You can use Lambda expression in any place where the functional interface type is expected
- Examples
 - > You can assign a lambda expression to a variable whose type is a functional interface
 - > You can pass a lambda expression to a method as an argument whose type is a functional interface

Example #1: Variable is functional interface type

- Let's say we have a functional interface

```
@FunctionalInterface  
public interface Calculator {  
    int calculate(int x, int y);  
}
```

- A variable whose type is a functional interface can be assigned with a lambda expression

```
Calculator multiply = (x,y) -> x*y;  
Calculator divide = (x,y) ->x/y;  
int product = multiply.calculate(50,10);  
int quotient = divide.calculate(50,10);
```

Example #2: An argument is functional interface

- Let's say we have a functional interface (same as in prev. slide)

```
@FunctionalInterface  
public interface Calculator {  
    int calculate(int x, int y);  
}
```

- Types of arguments are functional interface

```
public static void myMethod(Calculator m, Calculator d){  
    int product = m.calculate(60, 10);  
    int quotient = d.calculate(60, 10);  
    System.out.println("product = " + product + " quotient = " + quotient);  
}
```

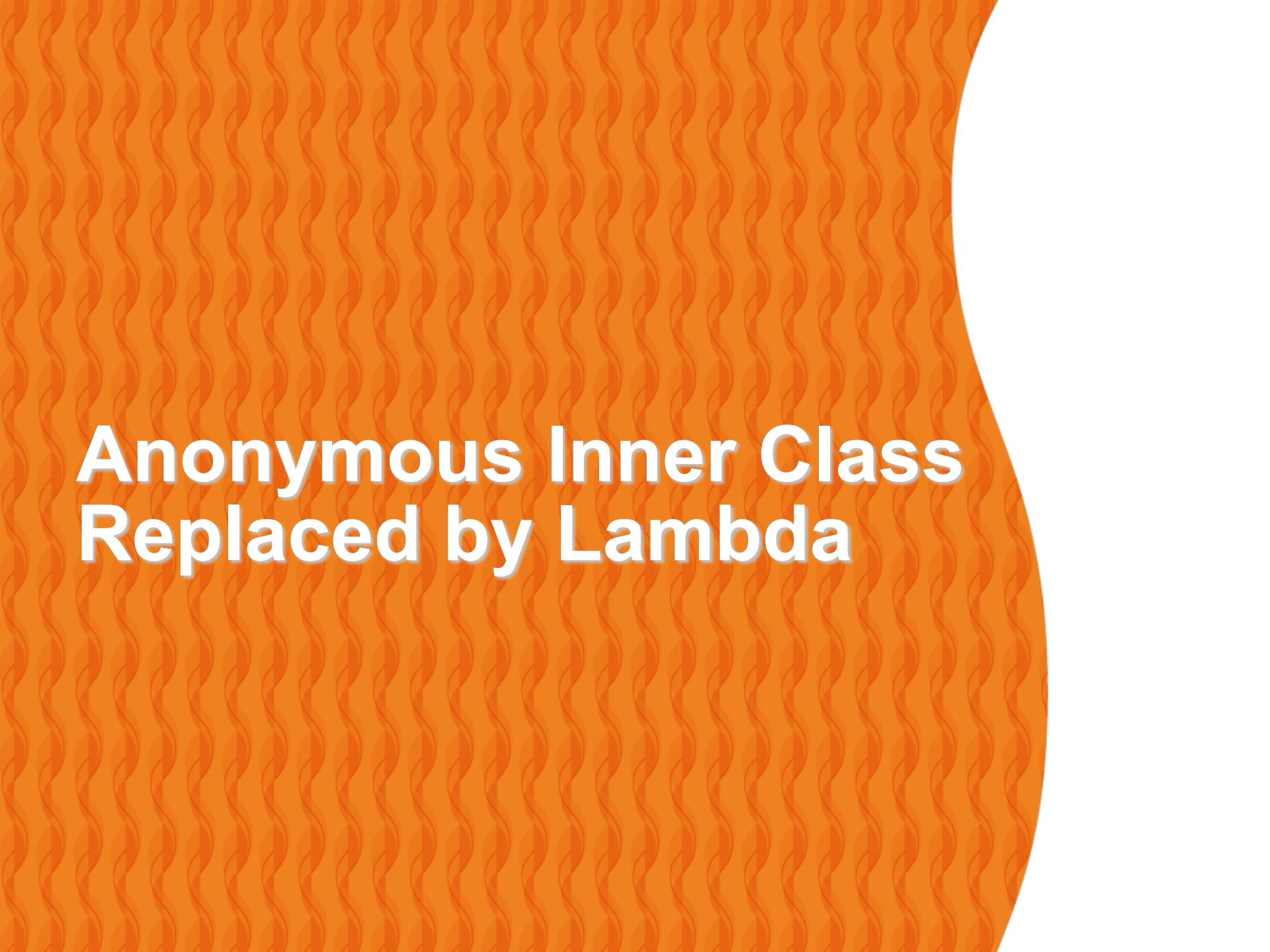
- Pass lambda expressions as arguments of a method

```
myMethod((x,y)->x+y, (x,y)->x/y);
```

Lab:

**Exercise 1: Functional Interface
1611_javase8_lambda_syntax.zip**





Anonymous Inner Class Replaced by Lambda

Anonymous Inner Class and Lambda

- Given that typical usage of anonymous inner class is an example of an argument whose type is a functional interface, you can now replace it with a Lambda expression
 - In Java programs (of pre-Java 8 versions), anonymous inner class has been used as a kludge solution for passing a functional behavior (before Lambda is available in Java 8)
- Any code that uses Anonymous Inner class now can be simplified through the usage of Lambda
 - Just take the arguments and code block with following Lambda syntax removing everything else
(arguments) -> {code block}

Example #1: Runnable

- Anonymous Runnable replaced by Lambda

```
// Anonymous Runnable
Runnable r1 = new Runnable() {
    @Override
    public void run() {
        System.out.println("Hello world one!");
    }
};
r1.run();
```

Just take the arguments
and body to make
lambda expression

```
// Lambda Runnable
Runnable r2 = () -> System.out.println("Hello world two!");
r2.run();
```

Example #2: ActionListener

- Anonymous ActionListener replaced by Lambda

```
// Anonymous ActionListener  
testButton1.addActionListener(new ActionListener() {  
    @Override  
    public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent event) {  
        System.out.println("Click Detected by Anonymous Listener");  
    }  
});
```

Just take arguments
and body to make
lambda expression

```
// Lambda ActionListener  
testButton2.addActionListener(event -> System.out.println("Click Detected by Lambda  
Listener"));
```

Example #3: Comparator

- Anonymous Comparator replaced by Lambda

```
// Anonymous Comparator  
Collections.sort(personList, new Comparator<Person>(){  
    public int compare(Person p1, Person p2){  
        return p1.getSurName().compareTo(p2.getSurName());  
    }  
});
```

Just take arguments
and body to make
lambda expression

```
// Lambda Comparator  
Collections.sort(personList, (Person p1, Person p2) →  
    p1.getSurName().compareTo(p2.getSurName()));
```

Lab:

**Exercise 2: Rewriting Anonymous
Inner Class with Lambda Expression**
[1611_javase8_lambda_syntax.zip](#)



Lambda Expression Syntax in Java

Lambda Expression Syntax

- General syntax
 - > (argument list) -> { code block}
- Syntax can be simplified in the following ways
 - > #1: Type inferencing for the arguments
 - > #2: Omitting parentheses for a single argument
 - > #3: When a body has only a single expression
 - > (1) no need to use return
 - > (2) no need to use semi-colon
 - > (3) no need to use curly braces {..}

#1: Type inferencing for the arguments

- Types in argument list can be omitted
 - > Java compiler already knows the types of the arguments from the single method signature of the functional interface of the lambda expression

```
// Instead of this  
(String myArg1, Integer myArg2) → {... }
```

```
// You can do this because types of the arguments can be inferred by the compiler  
(myArg1, myArg2) → {... }
```

#2: Single argument with no ()

- If there is a single argument, parentheses () are optional

```
// Instead of this  
(myArg1) → {... }
```

```
// You can do this because there is a single argument  
myArg1 → {... }
```

#3: When body has only a single expression

- When the body (code block) has only a single expression, the value of the expression automatically becomes a return value
 - > No need to specify return statement
 - > No need to use semi-colon at the end
 - > No need to enclose the expression with { }
- If the body has multi-line code, then no simplification is allowed

```
// Instead of this  
(myArg1, myArg2) → { return (someExpression); }
```

```
// You can do this because the body has only a single expression  
(myArg1, myArg2) → someExpression
```

Simplification Examples of Lambda Expression

(int x, int y) -> { return x+y;}

(x,y) -> { return x+y;}

(x,y) -> x+y

x -> x*2

() -> System.out.println("Hello, world!")

x -> { System.out.println(x);
System.out.println(x*x);
return x*x; }

You must use curly braces {}
and use return statement because
there are multiple statements

Lab:

**Exercise 3: Lambda Expression Syntax
Simplification**

1611_javase8_lambda_syntax.zip



Effectively Final Local Variables

Effectively Final Local variables

- The local variables in the enclosing body can be accessible to Lambda expression
- Lambda expression, however, cannot change them - they are behaving like final variables – hence the reason why they are called “effectively final local variables”

```
public class Main {  
  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
  
        int myInt = 100;  
        Calculator multiply = (int x, int y) -> {return x * y * myInt};  
        Calculator divide = (int x, int y) -> {myInt=30; return x * y * myInt}; // compile error  
    }  
}
```

Lab:

**Exercise 4: Effectively Final
Local Variables**
1611_javase8_lambda_syntax.zip



Code with Passion!

