SortedMap Interface Quick Reference Guide

What is SortedMap interface?

SortedMap is a Map i.e. SortedMap extends Map, that provides total ordering in the Map based on its Keys. The Map is ordered by the contract provided by Comparable interface on keys or by Comparator which can be typically specified at Sorted map’s creation time.

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| Method | Description |
| **Comparator<? super K> comparator()** | comparator() method returns the Comparator that is used to order the keys in this Map. It will return null if Comparable is used for natural ordering of keys. |
| **SortedMap<K,V>**  **subMap(K fromKey, K toKey)** | subMap method returns the Map from *fromKey* inclusive to *toKey* exclusive. If the *fromKey* and *toKey* are same then empty map is returned. Remember the map returned is backed by this map so changes in this map will reflect changes in returned map and vice-versa. |
| **SortedMap<K,V> headMap(K toKey)** | headMap returns a map whose keys are less than *toKey*. Remember the map returned is backed by this map so changes in this map will reflect changes in returned map and vice-versa. |
| **SortedMap<K,V> tailMap(K fromKey)** | tailMap returns a map whose keys are greater than or equals to *fromKey*. Remember the map returned is backed by this map so changes in this map will reflect changes in returned map and vice-versa. |
| **K firstKey()** | Returns the first(lowest) key currently in this map. |
| **K lastKey()** | Returns the last(highest) key currently in this map. |
| **Set<K> keySet()** | Returns Set, view of keys contained in this Map. The set returned is backed by Map so the changed in Set are reflected in Map and vice-versa. This Set does not support add and addAll methods. |
| **Collection<V> values()** | Returns a Collection view of values contained in this map. Collection’s iterator returns value in ascending order of corresponding keys. The collection is backed by map so changed in map are reflected in collection and vice-versa. This Collection does not support add and addAll methods. |
| **Set<Map.Entry<K, V>> entrySet()** | Returns the Set view of mappings contained in this Map. Entries are in ascending order as they are sorted. The set is backed by map so changes in map are reflected in this set and vice-versa. It does not support add and addAll methods. |