PROGRAMMING AND DATA STRUCTURES

GENERICS (TEMPLATES)

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OUTLINE

- What are generics?
- Using generic classes (ArrayList) and generic methods (sort)
- Creating new generic classes with one type parameter or more
- Creating generic methods
- Restrictions on generic type

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this chapter, you should be able to:

- Use generic classes, generic interfaces, and generic methods from the Java API
- Implement your own generic classes and generic methods

- Generics allow to specify a range of types allowable for a class, an interface, or a method
- Used to create classes that hold data of different types
- Used to create methods that accept parameters of different types

interface Comparable<E> can be implemented for any reference type E

```
interface Comparable<E> {
  int compareTo(E obj);
}
```

- ◆ Generic Class Class of type <E>
- ★ E is the type parameter or generic type
- ★ E can be replaced by any reference type String, Integer, or Student

- Primitive types are not allowed as generic type parameters (int, double, char, ...)
- ◆ Can use any name for the generic type (between <>) but the convention is <E> or <T>

Generic Class - java.util.ArrayList

- Array of objects of any type
- Array of any size
- ♦ The size of the array may increase or decrease at runtime
- ◆ Like a Wrapper class for Arrays

java.util.ArrayList<E>

```
+ArrayList()
+ArrayList(int capacity)
+add(int index, E item): void
+add(E item): void
+get(int index): E
+set(int index, E item): E
+remove(int index): boolean
+size(): int
+isEmpty(): boolean
+clear(): void
+contains(Object obj): boolean
+indexOf(Object obj): int
+lastIndexOf(Object obj): int
+remove(Object obj): boolean
```



ArrayList<E>

+ArrayList()

+ArrayList(int capacity)

Default constructor: creates an array of 10 elements

Second constructor: creates an array of **capacity** elements



ArrayList<E>

+add(int index, E item): void

+add(E item): void

adds item at location index.

All elements from index to

size()-1 are pushed one

position up

adds **item** at the first unused location



ArrayList<E>

```
+get(int index): E
```

+set(int index, E item): E

returns element at location index

replaces element at location index with item - returns the old value of the item at index



ArrayList<E>

```
+size(): int
```

+isEmpty(): boolean

+clear(): void

returns the actual size of the array (not the capacity)

returns true if the array is empty

reset size to 0

GENERICS

ArrayList

ArrayList<E>

+contains(Object obj): boolean

Returns true is **obj** is found in the array

+indexOf(Object obj): int

Returns the index of obj if found, -1 otherwise

+lastIndexOf(Object obj): int

Returns the index of the last occurrence of obj if found, -1 otherwise

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ArrayList<E>

+remove(int ind): boolean

+remove(Object obj): boolean

Returns true if **index** is valid and element at index removed, false otherwise

Returns true if **obj** is found and removed, and false otherwise

```
import java.util.ArrayList;

public static void main(String[] args){

   // Create an array words of 10 String elements
   ArrayList<String> words = new ArrayList<>();
}
```

Instantiating ArrayList for type String

```
import java.util.ArrayList;
public static void main(String[] args) {
  // Create an array words of 10 String elements
 ArrayList<String> words = new ArrayList<>();
  // Adding string "Tree" to array words -
  // position 0
  words.add("Tree");
```

```
import java.util.ArrayList;
public static void main(String[] args) {
  // Create an array words of 10 String elements
 ArrayList<String> words = new ArrayList<>();
  // Adding string "Tree" to words - position 0
 words.add("Tree");
  // Adding string "Sky" to words - position 1
 words.add("Sky");
  // Adding string "Bird" to words - position 2
 words.add("Bird");
```

```
import java.util.ArrayList;
public static void main(String[] args) {
  // Create an array words of 10 String elements
  ArrayList<String> words = new ArrayList<>();
  // Adding string "Tree" to words - position 0
  words.add("Tree");
  // Adding string "Sky" to words - position 1
  words.add("Sky");
  // Adding string "Bird" to words - position 2
  words.add("Bird");
  words.add(1, "Squirrel");
  // squirrel at position 1, Sky moves to 2
  // and Bird moves to 3
   System.out.println(words.size()); // 4
```

```
import java.util.ArrayList;
public static void main(String[] args){

//Create an arraylist accounts of 25 Integer elements

ArrayList<Integer> accounts = new ArrayList<>(25);
}
```

```
import java.util.ArrayList;
public static void main(String[] args) {
//Create accounts with 25 Integer elements
  ArrayList<Integer> accounts =
                            new ArrayList<>(25);
  // Adding number 112244 to accounts-position 0
  accounts.add(112244); // Auto-Boxing
  // Adding number 112244 to accounts-position 1
  accounts.add(221133);
```

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```
import java.util.ArrayList;
public static void main(String[] args) {
//Create an array accounts of 25 Integer elements
  ArrayList<Integer> accounts =
                            new ArrayList<>(25);
  // Adding number 112244 to accounts -position 0
  accounts.add(112244); // Auto-Boxing
  // Adding number 112244 to accounts -position 1
  accounts.add(221133);
  int account = accounts.get(1); // Auto-Unboxing
  System.out.println(accounts.size()); // 2
```

```
import java.util.ArrayList;
public static void main(String[] args) {
    // Create numbers with 10 int elements
    // Error
    ArrayList<int> numbers = new ArrayList<>();
}
```

ArrayList comes with an enhanced loop to access the array elements (For each loop)

```
import java.util.ArrayList;
public static void main(String[] args) {
//Create an array accounts of 25 Integer elements
  ArrayList<Integer> accounts =
                             new ArrayList<>(25);
 for(Integer item: accounts) {
   System.out.println(item);
```

- A generic type can be defined for a class or an interface
- A concrete type must be specified when using the generic class/ interface
- Either to create objects or use the class as a reference type

Creating a generic class

```
Stack<E>
-elements: ArrayList<E>
+Stack()
+push (E item): void
+pop(): E
+peek(): E
+isEmpty(): boolean
+size(): int
+toString(): String
```

```
import java.util.ArrayList;
public class Stack<E> {
 private ArrayList<E> elements;
 public Stack() {
  elements = new ArrayList<>();
 public int size() {
  return elements.size();
 public boolean isEmpty() {
  return elements.isEmpty();
```

```
public class Stack<E> {
  public void push(E item) {
  elements.add(item);
 public E peek() {
  return elements.get(size()-1);
 public E pop() {
  E item = elements.get(size()-1);
  elements.remove(size()-1);
  return item;
```

```
import java.util.ArrayList;
     public class Stack<E> {
         private ArrayList<E> elements;
         public Stack() {
          elements = new ArrayList<>();
         public int size() {
          return elements.size();
         public boolean isEmpty() {
          return elements.isEmpty();
         public void push(E item) {
          elements.add(item);
         public E peek() {
          return elements.get(size()-1);
         public E pop() {
          E item = elements.get(size()-1);
          elements.remove(size()-1);
          return item;
         public String toString() {
          return "Stack: " + elements.toString();
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```

```
public class TestStack {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Stack<String> cityStack = new Stack<>();
    cityStack.push("New York");
    cityStack.push("London");
    cityStack.push("Paris");
    cityStack.push("Tokyo");
    System.out.println("Stack of Cities");
    System.out.println(cityStack.toString());
    System.out.println("Top element:
                        cityStack.peek());
```

```
public class TestStack {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Stack<String> cityStack = new Stack<>();
    cityStack.push("New York");
    cityStack.push("London");
    cityStack.push("Paris");
    cityStack.push("Tokyo");
    System.out.println("Stack of Cities");
    System.out.println(cityStack.toString());
    System.out.println("Top element: " +
                         cityStack.peek());
             Stack of Cities
             Stack: [New York, London, Paris, Tokyo]
```

Top element: Tokyo

```
public class TestStack {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Stack<Integer> numberStack = new Stack<>();
    numberStack.push(11);
    numberStack.push(22);
    numberStack.push(33);
    numberStack.push(44);
    numberStack.push(55);
    System.out.println("Stack of numbers");
    System.out.println(numberStack.toString());
    System.out.println("Top element:
                         numberStack.peek());
```

Top element: 55

```
public class TestStack {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Stack<Integer> numberStack = new Stack<>();
    numberStack.push(11);
    numberStack.push(22);
    numberStack.push(33);
    numberStack.push(44);
    numberStack.push(55);
    System.out.println("Stack of numbers");
    System.out.println(numberStack.toString());
    System.out.println("Top element:
                          numberStack.peek());
             Stack of numbers
             Stack: [11, 22, 33, 44, 55]
```

- After compile time, E is removed and replaced with the raw type (Object) Erasure of the generic type
- ◆ Old way of implementing generics: use type Object instead of E
- Using array with elements of typeObject would also work

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```
public class ObjectStack {
  private Object[] elements;
   int size;
   public ObjectStack() {
    elements = new Object[10]; size = 0;
   public void push(Object item) { elements[size++] = item; }
   public Object peek() { return elements[size-1]; }
   public int size() { return size; }
   public Object pop() { return elements[-size]; }
   public boolean isEmpty() { return (size == 0); }
   public String toString(){
      String s = "Stack: [";
      for(int i=0; i<size-1; i++){
         s+= elements[i].toString() + " ");
      s+= elements[i].toString() + "]";
      return s;
```

```
public class TestObjectStack {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    ObjectStack cityStack = new ObjectStack();
    cityStack.push("New York");
    cityStack.push("London");
    cityStack.push("Paris");
    cityStack.push("Tokyo");
    cityStack.push(22); // ok
    System.out.println("Stack of Cities\n" +
                             cityStack.toString());
    System.out.println("Top element: " + cityStack.peek());
```

Generic Class - Stack<E>

```
public class TestObjectStack {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    ObjectStack cityStack = new ObjectStack();
    cityStack.push("New York");
    cityStack.push("London");
    cityStack.push("Paris");
    cityStack.push("Tokyo");
    cityStack.push(22); // ok
    System.out.println("Stack of Cities\n" +
                             cityStack.toString());
    System.out.println("Top element: " + cityStack.peek());
                  Stack of Cities
```

Generic Class - Stack<E>

Using Generics improves software reliability and readability

Errors are detected at compile time

Generic Class - Stack<E>

```
public class TestStack {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Stack<String> cityStack = new Stack<>();
    cityStack.push("New York");
    cityStack.push("London");
    cityStack.push("Paris");
    cityStack.push("Tokyo");
    cityStack.push(22);
    The method push(String) in the type Stack<String>
    is not applicable for the arguments (int)
                         cityStack.peek());
```

Restriction 1

Cannot create instances using the generic type **<E>**

```
E item = new E();
```

Restriction 2

Cannot create an array of type E

```
E[] list = new E[20];
```

→ Restriction 3

Generic type is not allowed in a static context

```
public static E item;
```

public static void m(E object)

Restriction 4

Exception classes cannot be generic

```
public class MyException<T> extends Exception{ }

public static void main(String[] args){
   try{
      Cannot check the thrown exception
   }
   catch(MyException<T> ex){
   }
}
```

- A class may have multiple type parameters (generic types)
- ◆ Class Pair<E1, E2> two generic types
- Pair of string and number (name and id) for example

```
Pair<E1, E2>
-first: E1
-second: E2
+Pair()
+Pair(E1 f, E2 s)
+getFirst(): E1
+getSecond(): E2
+setFirst(E1 f): void
+setSecond(E2 s): void
+toString(): String
+equals(Object obj):boolean
```

```
public class Pair<E1, E2> {
  private E1 first;
  private E2 second;
}
```

```
public class Pair<E1, E2> {
 private E1 first;
 private E2 second;
 public Pair(E1 first, E2 second) {
  this.first = first;
   this.second = second;
```

```
public class Pair<E1, E2> {
 private E1 first;
 private E2 second;
 public Pair(E1 first, E2 second) {
   this.first = first;
   this.second = second;
 public void setFirst(E1 first) {
   this.first = first;
 public void setSecond(E2 second) {
   this.second = second;
```

```
public class Pair<E1, E2> {
  private E1 first;
  private E2 second;
  public Pair(E1 first, E2 second) {
     this.first = first;
     this.second = second;
  public void setFirst(E1 first) {
     this.first = first;
  public void setSecond(E2 second) {
     this.second = second;
  public E1 getFirst() {
     return first;
  public E2 getSecond() {
     return second;
```

```
public class Pair<E1, E2> {
 public String toString() {
   return "(" + first.toString() + ", " +
                 second.toString() + ")";
 public boolean equals(Object obj) {
   Pair<E1, E2> p = (Pair<E1, E2>) obj;
   boolean eq1 = p.getFirst().equals(first);
   boolean eq2 = p.getSecond().equals(second);
    return eq1 && eq2;
```

```
import java.util.ArrayList;
public class TestPair {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    ArrayList<Pair<Integer, String>> list = new ArrayList<>();
    Pair<Integer, String> p;
    p = new Pair<Integer, String>(12345, "Lisa Bello");
    list.add(p);
     p = new Pair<Integer, String>(54321, "Karl Johnson");
    list.add(p);
     p = new Pair<Integer, String>(12543, "Jack Green");
    list.add(p);
     p = new Pair<Integer, String>(53241, "Emma Carlson");
    list.add(p);
    System.out.println(list.toString());
```

```
import java.util.ArrayList;
public class TestPair {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    ArrayList<Pair<Integer, String>> list = new ArrayList<>();
    Pair<Integer, String> p;
    p = new Pair<Integer, String>(12345, "Lisa Bello");
    list.add(p);
     p = new Pair<Integer, String>(54321, "Karl Johnson");
    list.add(p);
     p = new Pair<Integer, String>(12543, "Jack Green");
    list.add(p);
     p = new Pair<Integer, String>(53241, "Emma Carlson");
    list.add(p);
    System.out.println(list.toString());
                                  [(12345, Lisa Bello),
                                   (54321, Karl Johnson),
```

```
import java.util.ArrayList;
public class TestPair {
public static void main(String[] args) {
  ArrayList<Pair<String, String>> list = new ArrayList<>();
 Pair<String, String> p;
 p = new Pair<String, String>("New York, "New York City");
 list.add(p);
 p = new Pair<String, String>("Pennsylvania", "Harrisburg");
 list.add(p);
 p = new Pair<String, String>("Ohio", "Columbus");
 list.add(p);
 p = new Pair<String, String>("California", "Sacramento");
 list.add(p);
  System.out.println(list.toString());
```

- A method can be generic parameters or return value are of type generic
- Printing arrays of different types printArray()
- Searching arrays of different types
- ◆ Sorting arrays of different types java.util.Arrays.sort()

Generic method to print arrays of any type E

```
public static <E> void printArray(E[] list)
```

```
public static <E> void printArray(E[] list) {
    System.out.print("[ ");
    for (int i=0; i<list.length; i++)
        System.out.print(list[i] + " ");
    System.out.println("]");
}</pre>
```

```
public class GenericPrint{
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Integer[] numbers = \{11, 22, 33, 44, 55\};
    printArray(numbers);
  public static <E> void printArray(E[] list) {
    System.out.print("[ ");
    for (int i=0; i<list.length; i++)
      System.out.print(list[i] + " ");
    System.out.println("]");
```

```
public class GenericPrint{
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Integer[] numbers = \{11, 22, 33, 44, 55\};
    printArray(numbers);
    String[] words = {"Apple", "Orange", "Banana",
                    "Kiwi", "Strawberry", "Raspberry"};
    printArray(words);
  public static <E> void printArray(E[] list) {
    System.out.print("[ ");
    for (int i=0; i<list.length; i++)
      System.out.print(list[i] + " ");
    System.out.println("]");
```

```
public class GenericPrint{
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Integer[] numbers = \{11, 22, 33, 44, 55\};
    String[] words = {"Apple", "Orange", "Banana",
                    "Kiwi", "Strawberry", "Raspberry"};
    printArray(numbers);
    printArray(words);
  public static <E> void printArray(E[] list) {
    System.out.print("[ ");
    for (int i=0; i<list.length; i++)
      System.out.print(list[i] + " ");
    System.out.println("]");
               11 22 33 44 55 ]
```

[Apple Orange Banana Kiwi Strawberry Raspberry]

- ♦ Sorting arrays of different types java.util.Arrays.sort()
- sort() needs to compare the elements (order them)
- Elements of the array need to be compared - must be comparable



```
public static <E extends Comparable<E>> void sort(E[] list)
```

Generic Type **E**

E must be a subtype of Comparable

Type E has a definition for the method compareTo()

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```
public static <E extends Comparable<E>> void sort(E[] list)
     // Selection Sort
     int currentMinIndex;
     E currentMin;
     for (int i=0; i<list.length-1; i++) {</pre>
        currentMinIndex = i;
        currentMin = list[i];
        for(int j=i+1; j<list.length; j++) {</pre>
           if(currentMin.compareTo(list[j]) > 0) {
             currentMin = list[j];
             currentMinIndex = j;
        if (currentMinIndex != i) {
           list[currentMinIndex] = list[i];
          list[i] = currentMin;
```

```
public class GenericSort {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Integer[] numbers = \{22, 11, 55, 44, 33\};
    String[] words = {"Apple", "Orange", "Banana", "Kiwi",
                        "Strawberry", "Raspberry"};
    printArray(numbers);
    printArray(words);
    sort(numbers);
    sort(words);
    printArray(numbers);
    printArray(words);
```

```
public class GenericSort {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Integer[] numbers = \{22, 11, 55, 44, 33\};
    String[] words = {"Apple", "Orange", "Banana", "Kiwi",
                         "Strawberry", "Raspberry"};
    printArray(numbers);
    printArray(words);
    sort(numbers);
    sort(words);
    printArray(numbers);
    printArray(words);
               Before sort:
```

```
Before sort:
[ 22 11 55 44 33 ]
[ Apple Orange Banana Kiwi Strawberry Raspberry ]
After sort:
[ 11 22 33 44 55 ]
[ Apple Banana Kiwi Orange Raspberry Strawberry ]
```

```
java.util.Comparator

public interface Comparator<T>{
   int compare(T obj1, T obj2);
}
```

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
    Shape[] s = {new Circle(),
                 new Circle("Red", 5.0),
                 new Circle("Blue", 2.5),
                 new Rectangle(),
                 new Rectangle("Green", 10.5, 5.5),
                 new Rectangle("Yellow", 4.0, 2.5)};
    printArray(s);
    System.out.println("\n");
    java.util.Arrays.sort(s, new ComparatorByArea());
    printArray(s);
    System.out.println("\n");
    java.util.Arrays.sort(s, new ComparatorByColor());
    printArray(s);
```

Type Circle Circle Circle Rectangle Rectangle Rectangle	Color Black Red Blue Black Green Yellow	Dimensions 1.00 5.00 2.50 1.00 10.00 4.00	1.00 5.50 2.50	Area 3.14 78.54 19.63 1.00 55.00 10.00	Perimeter 6.28 31.42 15.71 4.00 31.00 13.00
List of shapes sorted by area:					
Rectangle Circle	Black Black Yellow Blue Green Red	1.00 1.00 4.00 2.50 10.00 5.00	1.00 2.50 5.50	1.00 3.14 10.00 19.63 55.00 78.54	4.00 6.28 13.00 15.71 31.00 31.42
List of shapes sorted by color:					
Rectangle Circle Circle Rectangle Circle Rectangle	Black Black Blue Green Red Yellow	1.00 1.00 2.50 10.00 5.00 4.00	1.00 5.50 2.50	1.00 3.14 19.63 55.00 78.54 10.00	4.00 6.28 15.71 31.00 31.42 13.00

A generic class or interface used without specifying a concrete type, is raw type and will be replaced with **Object**

Stack stack = new Stack();

Equivalent to:

Stack<Object> = new Stack<>();

Raw types are used for backward compatibility only

- Old Java version of the interfaceComparable is not generic
 - int compareTo(Object obj)
- Raw types are unsafe may generate runtime errors
- Raw types should not be used unless backward compatibility is required

- Generic type can be restricted to specific types or groups of types
- **<E extends Comparable<E>>**restricts the type **E** to be a subtype of **Comparable**
- ◆ Types of wildcards: ?, ? extends
 T, and ? Super T

- Unbounded wildcard ?
 - Equivalent to ? extends Object
- → Bounded wildcard ? extends T
 - ◆ Generic Type must be **T** or a subtype of **T**
- ◆ Lower bound wildcard ? Super T
 - ♦ Generic type must be **T** or super type of **T**

Parameter is a Stack with any type that extends **Object**

```
public static void print(Stack<?> stack)
  System.out.print("From top: [");
 while(!stack.isEmpty()) {
     System.out.print(stack.top() + ", ");
     stack.pop();
 System.out.println("]");
```

Parameter **stack2** must be of type **T** or a super type of **T**

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
  Stack<String> cities = new Stack<>();
  cities.push("New York");
  cities.push("London");
  cities.push("Paris");
  cities.push("Tokyo");
  Stack<Object> mix = new Stack<>();
  mix.push("Bangkok");
  mix.push(333);
  mix.push(75.25);
  add(cities, mix); // OK
  print(mix);
```

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
  Stack<String> cities = new Stack<>();
  cities.push("New York");
  cities.push("London");
  cities.push("Paris");
  cities.push("Tokyo");
  Stack<Object> mix = new Stack<>();
  mix.push("Bangkok");
  mix.push(333);
  mix.push(75.25);
  add(cities, mix); // OK
  print(mix);
From top: [New York, London, Paris, Tokyo, 75.25, 333, Bangkok]
```

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
  Stack<String> cities = new Stack<>();
  cities.push("New York");
  cities.push("London");
  cities.push("Paris");
  cities.push("Tokyo");
  Stack<Integer> mix = new Stack<>();
  mix.push(1267);
  mix.push(333);
  mix.push(755);
  add(cities, mix); // Error
  print(mix);
```

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
  Stack<String> cities = new Stack<>();
  cities.push("New York");
  cities.push("London");
  cities.push("Paris");
  cities.push("Tokyo");
  Stack<Integer> mix = new Stack<>();
  mix.push(1267);
  mix.push(333);
  mix.push(755);
  add(cities, mix); // Error
              The method add(Stack<T>, Stack<? super T>) in the type
  print(mix);
              TestStack is not applicable for the arguments
               (Stack<String>, Stack<Integer>)
```

SUMMARY

- Generic classes and interfaces
- Generic methods
- Raw types (unsafe)
- Restrictions on generic types
- Wildcard generic types