

Advanced Programming Methods

Lecture 12 - Scala

Content

- Introduction
- Functional Programming
- Case classes
- Pattern matching
- Traits
- Genericity
- Tuples

References

NOTE: The slides are based on the following free tutorials. You may want to consult them too.

1. <https://docs.scala-lang.org/tutorials/scala-for-java-programmers.html>
2. <https://docs.scala-lang.org/tour/tour-of-scala.html>
3. <https://docs.scala-lang.org/overviews/scala-book/introduction.html>

Example

```
object HelloWorld {  
  def main(args: Array[String]): Unit = {  
    println("Hello, world!")  
  }  
}
```

- method main takes the command line arguments, an array of strings, as parameter
- the main method does not return a value. Therefore, its return type is declared as Unit.

Example

```
object HelloWorld {  
  def main(args: Array[String]): Unit = {  
    println("Hello, world!")  
  }  
}
```

- **a singleton object**, that is a class with a single instance.
- This instance is created on demand, the first time it is used.
- the main method is not declared as static here
- static members (methods or fields) do not exist in Scala. Rather than defining static members, the Scala programmer declares these members in singleton objects.

Interaction with Java

- very easy to interact with Java code.
- `java.lang` package is imported by default
- there is no need to implement equivalent classes in the Scala class library—we can simply import the classes of the corresponding Java packages
- it is also possible to inherit from Java classes and implement Java interfaces directly in Scala.
- multiple classes can be imported from the same package by enclosing them in curly braces
- when importing all the names of a package or class, one uses the underscore character (`_`) instead of the asterisk (`*`)

Interaction with Java

```
import java.util.{Date, Locale}
import java.text.DateFormat._

object FrenchDate {
  def main(args: Array[String]): Unit = {

    val now = new Date
    val df = getDateInstance(LONG, Locale.FRANCE)
    println(df format now)
  }
}
```

- Methods taking one argument can be used with an infix syntax:

```
df format now
```

Instead of

```
df.format(now)
```

Everything is an OBJECT

- is a **pure** object-oriented language in the sense that everything is an object, including numbers or functions
- numbers are objects and operators are methods (operators symbols are valid Scala identifiers)

`1 + 2 * 3 / x`

is equivalent to

`1.+(2.*(3)./(x))`

Functional Programming

- **pass functions as arguments**
 - **store them in variables**
 - **return them from other functions.**
-
- **functions are also objects in Scala**
-
- **function passing should be familiar to many programmers: it is often used in user-interface code, to register call-back functions which get called when some event occurs.**

Functional Programming

```
object Timer {  
  def oncePerSecond(callback: () => Unit): Unit = {  
    while (true) { callback(); Thread sleep 1000 }  
  }  
  def timeFlies(): Unit = {  
    println("time flies like an arrow...")  
  }  
  def main(args: Array[String]): Unit = {  
    oncePerSecond(timeFlies)  
  }  
}
```

- a call-back function as argument.
- **() => Unit** is the type of all functions which take no arguments and return nothing (the type Unit is similar to void in C/C++)

Functional Programming

```
object TimerAnonymous {  
  def oncePerSecond(callback: () => Unit): Unit = {  
    while (true) { callback(); Thread sleep 1000 }  
  }  
  def main(args: Array[String]): Unit = {  
    oncePerSecond(() =>  
      println("time flies like an arrow..."))  
  }  
}
```

- in Scala we can use **anonymous functions**, when a function is only used once

Classes

- Classes in Scala are declared using a syntax which is close to Java's syntax
- Scala classes can have parameters

```
class Complex(real: Double, imaginary: Double) {  
  def re() = real  
  def im() = imaginary  
}
```

Classes

```
class Complex(real: Double, imaginary: Double) {  
    def re() = real  
    def im() = imaginary  
}
```

- Complex class takes two arguments, which are the real and imaginary part
- These arguments must be passed when creating an instance of class Complex, as follows: **new Complex(1.5, 2.3)**
- the return type of two methods **re** and **im** is not given explicitly and it is inferred automatically by the compiler

Methods without arguments

- in order to call the methods **re** and **im**, one has to put an empty pair of parenthesis after their name:

```
object ComplexNumbers {  
  def main(args: Array[String]): Unit = {  
    val c = new Complex(1.2, 3.4)  
    println("imaginary part: " + c.im())  
  }  
}
```

Methods without arguments

- methods without arguments differ from methods with zero arguments in that they don't have parenthesis after their name, neither in their definition nor in their use:

```
class Complex(real: Double, imaginary: Double) {  
  def re = real  
  def im = imaginary  
}
```

Inheritance and overriding

- all classes in Scala inherit from a super-class
- when no super-class is specified, as in the Complex example `scala.AnyRef` is implicitly used.
- `AnyRef` corresponds to `java.lang.Object`.
- It is mandatory to explicitly specify that a method overrides another one using the `override` modifier, in order to avoid accidental overriding.

```
class Complex(real: Double, imaginary: Double) {  
  def re = real  
  def im = imaginary  
  override def toString() =  
    "" + re + (if (im >= 0) "+" else "") + im + "i"  
}
```

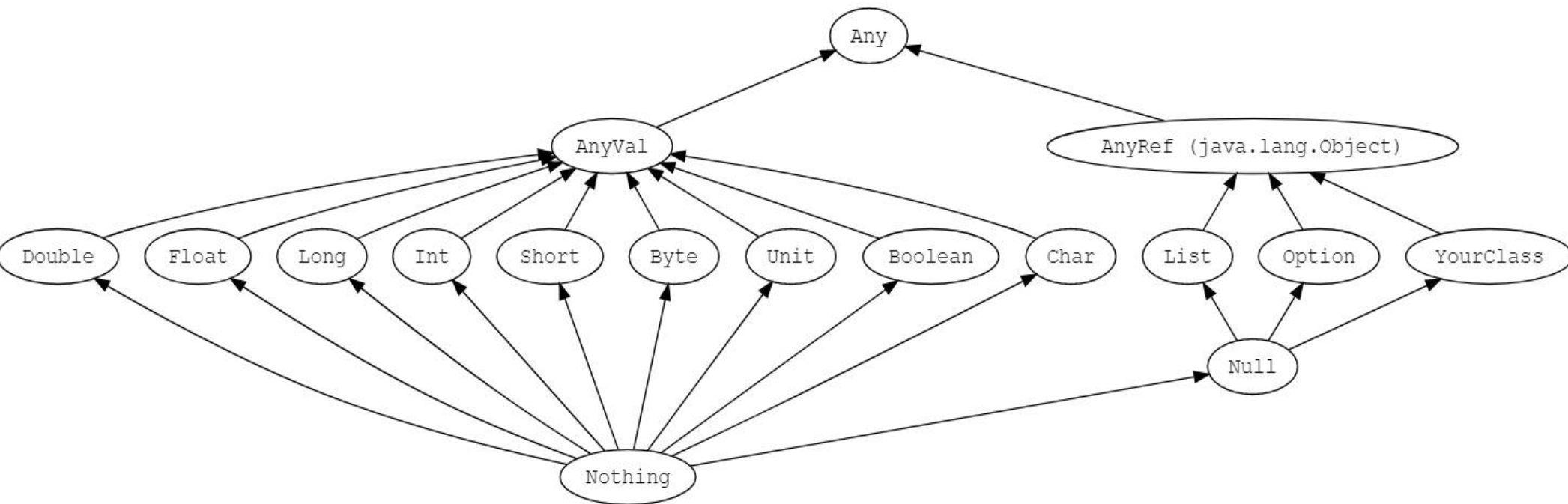

Inheritance and overriding

- usage of the overriding method

```
object ComplexNumbers {  
  def main(args: Array[String]): Unit = {  
    val c = new Complex(1.2, 3.4)  
    println("Overridden toString(): " + c.toString)  
  }  
}
```

Scala Type Hierarchy

- unified types for both references and values
- **Any** is the supertype of all types, also called the top type
- **AnyVal** represents value types.
- **AnyRef** represents reference types.



Unified Type

```
val list: List[Any] = List(  
  "a string",  
  732, // an integer  
  'c', // a character  
  true, // a boolean value  
  () => "an anonymous function returning a string"  
)
```

```
list.foreach(element => println(element))
```

- the output is:

a string

732

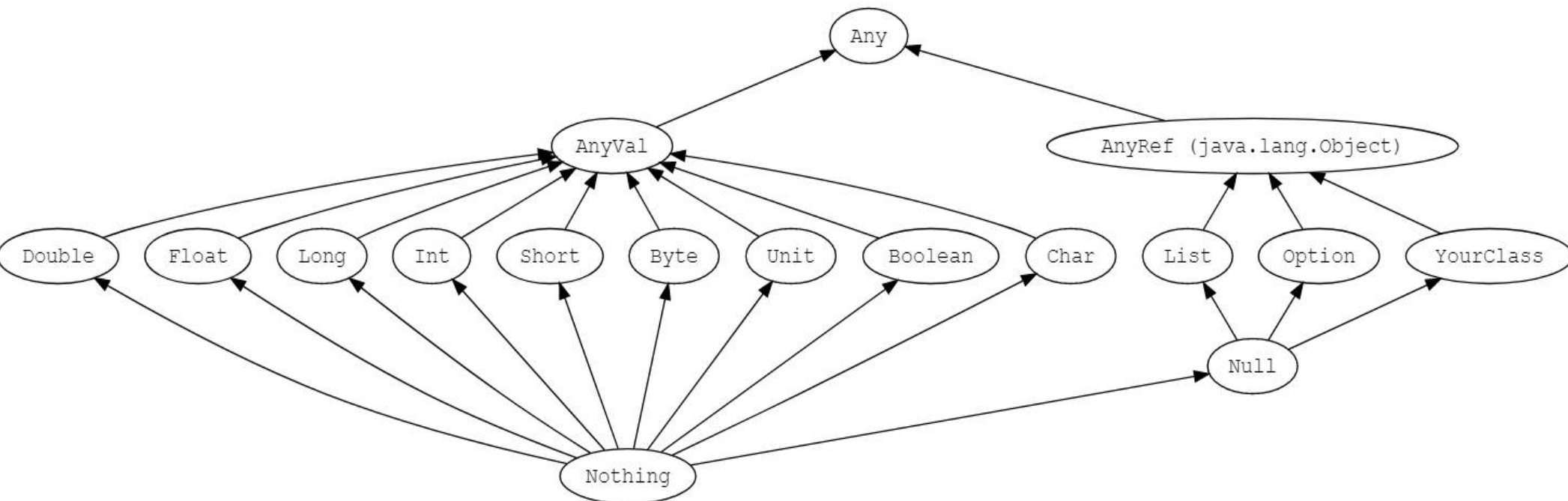
c

true

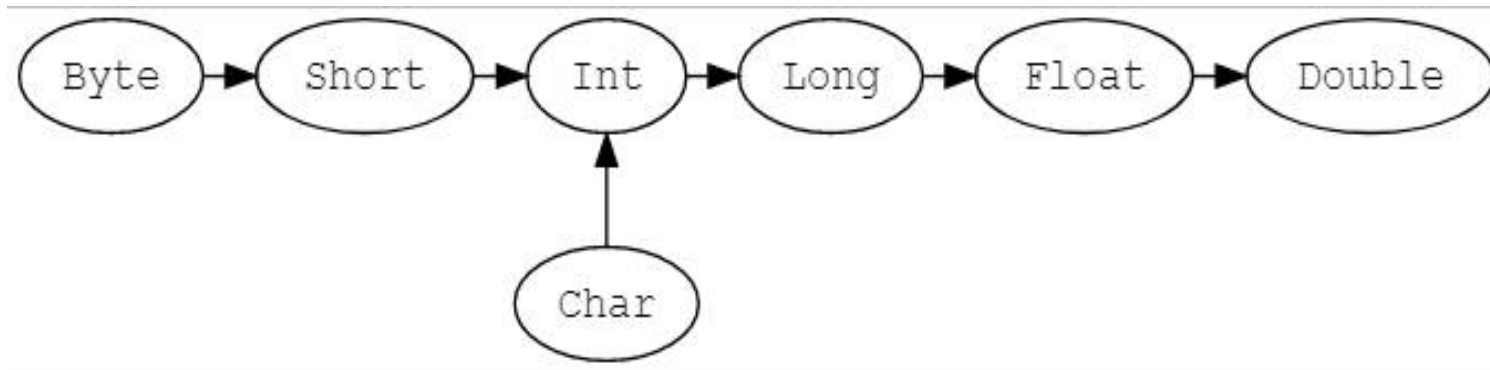
<function>

Scala Type Hierarchy

- **Nothing** is a subtype of all types, also called the bottom type. There is no value that has type Nothing. A common use is to signal non-termination such as a thrown exception, program exit, or an infinite loop (i.e., it is the type of an expression which does not evaluate to a value, or a method that does not return normally).
- **Null** is a subtype of all reference types (i.e. any subtype of AnyRef). It has a single value identified by the keyword literal **null**. Null is provided mostly for interoperability with other JVM languages



Value Type Casting



```
val x: Long = 987654321
val y: Float = x // 9.8765434E8 (note that some precision is lost in this case)

val face: Char = '😊'
val number: Int = face // 9786
```

Case Classes

- **Problem:** a program to manipulate very simple arithmetic expressions composed of sums, integer constants and variables, for instance $1+2$ and $(x+x) + (7+y)$
- **Problem Representation:** as a tree, where nodes are operations (here, the addition) and leaves are values (here constants or variables).
 - Java representation: an abstract super-class for the trees, and one concrete sub-class per node or leaf.
 - functional programming language: an algebraic data-type
 - Scala: **case classes** which is somewhat in between the two

Case Classes

classes Sum, Var and Const are declared as case classes

```
abstract class Tree
case class Sum(l: Tree, r: Tree) extends Tree
case class Var(n: String) extends Tree
case class Const(v: Int) extends Tree
```

Case Classes

Differences from standard classes:

- the **new** keyword is not mandatory to create instances of these classes (i.e., one can write **Const(5)** instead of **new Const(5)**)
- getter functions are automatically defined for the constructor parameters (i.e., it is possible to get the value of the **v** constructor parameter of some instance **c** of class **Const** just by writing **c.v**)
- default definitions for methods **equals** and **hashCode** are provided, which work on the structure of the instances and not on their identity
- a default definition for method **toString** is provided, and prints the value in a “source form” (e.g., the tree for expression **x+1** prints as **Sum(Var(x),Const(1))**)
- instances of these classes can be decomposed through **pattern matching**

Pattern Matching

- **Problem:** a function to evaluate an expression in some environment.
 - The aim of the environment is to give values to variables.
 - For example, the expression $x+1$ evaluated in an environment which associates the value 5 to variable x , written $\{ x \rightarrow 5 \}$, gives 6 as result.
- Environment representation:
 - some associative data-structure like a hash table
 - a function which associates a value to a (variable) name
- **Scala:** a function which, when given the string "x" as argument, returns the integer 5, and fails with an exception otherwise.

```
{ case "x" => 5 }
```

Pattern Matching

- use the type **String => Int** for environments, but it simplifies the program if we introduce a name for this type, and makes future changes easier
- the type **Environment** can be used as an alias of the type of functions from **String to Int**

```
type Environment = String => Int
```

Pattern Matching

Pattern matching over the tree **t**:

1. checks if the tree **t** is a **Sum**, and if it is, it binds the left sub-tree to a new variable called **l** and the right sub-tree to a variable called **r**, and then proceeds with the evaluation of the expression following the arrow;

```
def eval(t: Tree, env: Environment): Int = t match {  
  case Sum(l, r) => eval(l, env) + eval(r, env)  
  case Var(n)    => env(n)  
  case Const(v)  => v  
}
```

Pattern Matching

Pattern matching over the tree t:

2. if the tree is not a **Sum**, it goes on and checks if **t** is a **Var**; if it is, it binds the name contained in the **Var** node to a variable **n** and proceeds with the right-hand expression

```
def eval(t: Tree, env: Environment): Int = t match {  
  case Sum(l, r) => eval(l, env) + eval(r, env)  
  case Var(n)    => env(n)  
  case Const(v)  => v  
}
```

Pattern Matching

Pattern matching over the tree t:

3. if the second check also fails, that is if **t** is neither a **Sum** nor a **Var**, it checks if it is a **Const**, and if it is, it binds the value contained in the **Const** node to a variable **v** and proceeds with the right-hand side,

```
def eval(t: Tree, env: Environment): Int = t match {  
  case Sum(l, r) => eval(l, env) + eval(r, env)  
  case Var(n)    => env(n)  
  case Const(v)  => v  
}
```

Pattern Matching

Pattern matching over the tree t:

4. finally, if all checks fail, an exception is raised to signal the failure of the pattern matching expression; this could happen here only if more sub-classes of **Tree** were declared

```
def eval(t: Tree, env: Environment): Int = t match {  
  case Sum(l, r) => eval(l, env) + eval(r, env)  
  case Var(n)    => env(n)  
  case Const(v)  => v  
}
```

Pattern Matching

why we did not define eval as a method of class Tree and its subclasses?

Deciding whether to use pattern matching or methods has important implications on extensibility:

- **when using methods:** it is easy to add a new kind of node as this can be done just by defining a sub-class of **Tree** for it; on the other hand, adding a new operation to manipulate the tree is tedious, as it requires modifications to all sub-classes of **Tree**
- **when using pattern matching:** the situation is reversed: adding a new kind of node requires the modification of all functions which do pattern matching on the tree, to take the new node into account; on the other hand, adding a new operation is easy, by just defining it as an independent function.

Pattern Matching

Derivative Example:

1. the derivative of a sum is the sum of the derivatives
2. the derivative of some variable **v** is one if **v** is the variable relative to which the derivation takes place, and zero otherwise
3. the derivative of a constant is zero

```
def derive(t: Tree, v: String): Tree = t match {  
  case Sum(l, r) => Sum(derive(l, v), derive(r, v))  
  case Var(n) if (v == n) => Const(1)  
  case _ => Const(0)  
}
```


Pattern Matching

- **the case expression for variables has a guard**, an expression following the if keyword. This guard prevents pattern matching from succeeding unless its expression is true
- **the wildcard, written `_`**, which is a pattern matching any value, without giving it a name

```
def derive(t: Tree, v: String): Tree = t match {  
  case Sum(l, r) => Sum(derive(l, v), derive(r, v))  
  case Var(n) if (v == n) => Const(1)  
  case _ => Const(0)  
}
```

Pattern Matching

```
def main(args: Array[String]): Unit = {  
  val exp: Tree = Sum(Sum(Var("x"), Var("x")), Sum(Const(7), Var("y")))  
  val env: Environment = { case "x" => 5 case "y" => 7 }  
  println("Expression: " + exp)  
  println("Evaluation with x=5, y=7: " + eval(exp, env))  
  println("Derivative relative to x:\n " + derive(exp, "x"))  
  println("Derivative relative to y:\n " + derive(exp, "y"))  
}
```

Pattern Matching

the output:

Expression: `Sum(Sum(Var(x), Var(x)), Sum(Const(7), Var(y)))`

Evaluation with `x=5, y=7`: `24`

Derivative relative to `x`:

`Sum(Sum(Const(1), Const(1)), Sum(Const(0), Const(0)))`

Derivative relative to `y`:

`Sum(Sum(Const(0), Const(0)), Sum(Const(0), Const(1)))`

Traits

- can be viewed as interfaces which can also contain code. Since Java 8, Java interfaces can also contain code, either using the default keyword, or as static methods
- In Scala, when a class inherits from a trait, it implements that trait's interface, and inherits all the code contained in the trait.

Example:

- When comparing objects, six different predicates can be useful: smaller, smaller or equal, equal, not equal, greater or equal, and greater.
- defining all of them is fastidious, especially since four out of these six can be expressed using the remaining two.
- given the equal and smaller predicates (for example), one can express the other ones.

Traits

- a new type called **Ord**, which plays the same role as Java's **Comparable** interface,
- default implementations of three predicates in terms of a fourth, abstract one.
- the predicates for equality and inequality do not appear here since they are by default present in all objects.

```
trait Ord {  
  def < (that: Any): Boolean  
  def <=(that: Any): Boolean = (this < that) || (this == that)  
  def > (that: Any): Boolean = !(this <= that)  
  def >=(that: Any): Boolean = !(this < that)  
}
```

Traits

- To make objects of a class comparable, it is therefore sufficient to define the predicates which test equality and inferiority, and mix in the **Ord** class

```
class Date(y: Int, m: Int, d: Int) extends Ord {  
  def year = y  
  def month = m  
  def day = d  
  override def toString(): String = year + "-" + month + "-" + day  
}
```

Traits

- we redefine the **equals** method, inherited from **Object**, so that it correctly compares dates by comparing their individual fields

```
override def equals(that: Any): Boolean =  
    that.isInstanceOf[Date] && {  
        val o = that.asInstanceOf[Date]  
        o.day == day && o.month == month && o.year == year  
    }
```

- **isInstanceOf**, corresponds to Java's instanceof operator, and returns true if and only if the object on which it is applied is an instance of the given type
- **asInstanceOf**, corresponds to Java's cast operator: if the object is an instance of the given type, it is viewed as such, otherwise a **ClassCastException** is thrown

Traits

```
def <(that: Any): Boolean = {  
  if (!that.isInstanceOf[Date])  
    sys.error("cannot compare " + that + " and a Date")  
  
  val o = that.asInstanceOf[Date]  
  (year < o.year) ||  
  (year == o.year && (month < o.month ||  
                      (month == o.month && day < o.day)))  
}
```

- **error** from the package object **scala.sys**, which throws an exception with the given error message

Genericity

- the ability to write code parametrized by types

Java:

- programmers resort to using Object, which is the super-type of all objects.
- this solution is however far from being ideal, since it doesn't work for basic types (int, long, float, etc.) and it implies that a lot of dynamic type casts have to be inserted by the programmer

Genericity

- the initial value given to **contents** variable is **_**, which represents a default value.
- default value is 0 for numeric types, false for the Boolean type, () for the Unit type and null for all object types.

```
class Reference[T] {  
  private var contents: T = _  
  def set(value: T) { contents = value }  
  def get: T = contents  
}
```

Genericity

```
object IntegerReference {  
  def main(args: Array[String]): Unit = {  
    val cell = new Reference[Int]  
    cell.set(13)  
    println("Reference contains the half of " + (cell.get * 2))  
  }  
}
```

Tuples

- a tuple is a value that contains a fixed number of elements, each with a distinct type.
- are immutable
- are especially handy for returning multiple values from a method

```
val ingredient = ("Sugar" , 25)
```

- The inferred type of ingredient is (String, Int), which is shorthand for Tuple2[String, Int]
- To represent tuples, Scala uses a series of classes: Tuple2, Tuple3, etc., through Tuple22

Tuples

- One way of accessing tuple elements is by position.
- The individual elements are named `_1`, `_2`, and so forth

```
println(ingredient._1) // Sugar  
println(ingredient._2) // 25
```

Tuples

- A tuple can also be taken apart using pattern matching

```
val (name, quantity) = ingredient  
println(name) // Sugar  
println(quantity) // 25
```

Tuples

```
val planets =  
  List(("Mercury", 57.9), ("Venus", 108.2), ("Earth", 149.6),  
        ("Mars", 227.9), ("Jupiter", 778.3))  
planets.foreach{  
  case ("Earth", distance) =>  
    println(s"Our planet is $distance million kilometers from the sun")  
  case _ =>  
}
```

Tuples

- Or, in for comprehension:

```
val numPairs = List((2, 5), (3, -7), (20, 56))  
for ((a, b) <- numPairs) {  
  println(a * b)  
}
```


For comprehensions

- a lightweight notation for expressing sequence comprehensions
- have the form **for (enumerators) yield e**, where
 - enumerators refers to a semicolon-separated list of enumerators. An enumerator is either a generator which introduces new variables, or it is a filter.
 - A comprehension evaluates the body **e** for each binding generated by the enumerators and returns a sequence of these values

For comprehensions

```
case class User(name: String, age: Int)
```

```
val userBase = List(User("Travis", 28),  
  User("Kelly", 33),  
  User("Jennifer", 44),  
  User("Dennis", 23))
```

```
val twentySomethings = for (user <- userBase if (user.age >= 20 && user.age < 30))  
  yield user.name // i.e. add this to a list
```

```
twentySomethings.foreach(name => println(name)) // prints Travis Dennis
```

For comprehensions

```
def foo(n: Int, v: Int) =  
  for (i <- 0 until n;  
       j <- 0 until n if i + j == v)  
  yield (i, j)  
  
foo(10, 10) foreach {  
  case (i, j) =>  
    println(s"($i, $j) ") // prints (1, 9) (2, 8) (3, 7) (4, 6) (5, 5) (6, 4) (7, 3) (8, 2) (9, 1)  
}
```

For comprehensions

```
def foo(n: Int, v: Int) =  
  for (i <- 0 until n;  
        j <- 0 until n if i + j == v)  
    println(s"($i, $j)")  
  
foo(10, 10)
```

Mixins

Mixins are traits which are used to compose a class

```
abstract class A {  
    val message: String  
}  
class B extends A {  
    val message = "I'm an instance of class B"  
}  
trait C extends A {  
    def loudMessage = message.toUpperCase()  
}  
class D extends B with C  
  
val d = new D  
  
println(d.message) // I'm an instance of class B  
println(d.loudMessage) // I'M AN INSTANCE OF CLASS B
```