Lesson 9 The Stream API:

Solving Problems by Engaging Deeper Values of Intelligence

<u>Wholeness of the Lesson</u>: The stream API is an abstraction of collections that supports aggregrate operations like filter and map. These operations make it possible to process collections in a declarative style that supports parallelization, compact and readable code, and processing without side effects.

<u>Maharishi's Science of Consciousness</u>: Deeper laws of nature are ultimately responsible for how things appear in the world. Efforts to modify the world from the surface level only lead to struggle and partial success. Affecting the world by accessing the deep underlying laws that structure everything can produce enormous impact with little effort. The key to accessing and winning support from deeper laws is going beyond the surface of awareness to the depths within.

What Are Streams and Why Are They Used?

- 1. A stream is a way of representing data in a collection (and in a few other data structures) which supports functional-style operations to manipulate the data. From the API docs: A stream is "a sequence of elements supporting sequential and parallel aggregate operations."
- 2. To understand why they are used, consider the following task as an example: Given a list of words (say from a book), count how many of the words have length > 12.
 - A. Imperative-style solution:

```
int count = 0;
for(String word : list) {
    if(word.length() > 12)
        count++;
}
```

Issues:

- i. Relies on mutable variable count, so not threadsafe
- ii. Commits to a particular sequence of steps for iteration
- iii. Emphasis is on how to obtain the result, not what
- B. Functional-style solution (using ideas introduced in Lesson 2)

```
final long count = words.stream().filter(w -> w.length() > 12).count();
```

Advantages:

- i. Purely functional, so threadsafe
- ii. Makes no commitment to an iteration path, so more parallelizable
- iii. Declarative style "what, not how"

Example of parallelizing stream processing: (on a multi-core processor, this is a real speedup)

```
final long count = words.parallelStream().filter(w -> w.length() > 12).count();
```

Facts About Streams

- 1. Streams do not store the elements they operate on. Typically they are stored in an underlying collection, or they may be generated on demand.
- 2. *Stream operations do not mutate their source*. Instead, they return new streams that hold the result.
- 3. Stream operations are lazy whenever possible. So they are not executed until their result is needed. Example: In previous example, if you request only the first 5 words of length > 12, the filter method will stop filtering after the fifth match. This makes it possible to have *infinite streams*.

Template for Using Streams

- 1. Create a stream. Typically, the stream is obtained from some kind of Collection, but streams can also be generated from scratch.
- 2. Create a *pipeline of operations*. Each of the operations transforms the stream in some way, and returns a new stream.
- 3. End with a *terminal operation*. The terminal operation produces a result. It also forces lazy execution of the operations that precede it.

NOTE: After a terminal operation on a pipeline of operations on a stream, the stream can no longer be used. You have to be careful not to attempt to re-use a stream after a terminal operation has been called on it.

Example from Lesson 8:

Ways of Creating Streams

- 1. Obtain a Stream from any Collection object with a call to stream() (this method was added to the Collection interface in Java 8)
- 2. Get a Stream from an array like this:

```
int[] arrOfInt = {1, 3, 5, 7};
Stream<Integer> strOfInt = Stream.of(arrOfInt);
```

3. Get a Stream from any sequence of arguments: (the of method accepts a varargs argument)

```
Stream<String> song = Stream.of("gently", "down", "the", "stream");
```

- 4. Two ways to obtain *infinite* streams: *generate* and *iterate* (remember stream operations are lazy)
 - a. The generate function accepts a Supplier<T> argument; in practice, this means that it accepts functions (lambda expressions) with zero parameters.

```
interface Supplier<T> {
   T get();
}
```

Example: Stream of constant values ("Echo"):

```
Stream<String> echoes = Stream.generate(() -> "Echo");
```

Example: Stream of random numbers:

```
Stream<Double> randoms = Stream.generate(Math::random);
```

b. The iterate function accepts a seed value (of type \mathtt{T}) and a <code>UnaryOperator<T></code> argument.

```
interface UnaryOperator<T> {
   T apply(T t);
}
```

Example: Stream of natural numbers: (Here, T is BigInteger)

Extracting Substreams and Combining Streams

1. stream.limit(n) returns a new stream that ends after n elements (or when the original stream ends if it is shorter). This method is useful for cutting infinite streams down to size.

Example:

```
Stream<Double> randoms = Stream.generate(Math::random).limit(100);
yields a stream with 100 random numbers.
```

- 2. stream.skip(n) The call stream.skip(n) discards the first n elements.
- 3. stream. stream. concat (Stream) You can concatenate two streams with the static concat method of the Stream class:

Example:

```
Stream<Character> combined =
    Stream.concat(characterStream("Hello"),
characterStream("World"));

// Yields the stream ['H', 'e', 'l', 'l', 'o', 'W', 'o', 'r', 'l', 'd']
```

Note: For concatenation, the first stream should not be infinite—otherwise the second wouldn't ever get a chance.

Stream Operations:

Use filter to Extract a Substream that Satisfies Specified Criteria

1. filter accepts as its argument a Predicate<T> interface.

```
interface Predicate<T> {
    boolean test(T t);
}
```

Recall the earlier example:

```
final long count = words.stream().filter(w -> w.length() > 12).count();
```

2. The return value of filter is another Stream, so filters can be chained: Recall Lab 8:

```
words.stream()
    .filter(name -> name.contains(""+c))
    .filter(name -> !name.contains(""+d))
    .filter(name -> name.length()==len)
    .count();
```

Stream Operations:

Use map to Transform Each Element of a Substream

 $\textbf{1.} \quad \texttt{map accepts a} \; \texttt{Function interface}. \; \textbf{Typical special case of the} \; \texttt{Function interface is}$

```
interface Function<T,R> {
   R apply(T t);
}
```

2. A map accepts this type of Function interface and returns a Stream<R> -- a stream of values each having type R, which is the return type of the Function interface. maps can therefore be chained.

Example: Given a list List<Integer> of Integers, obtain a list of Strings representing those Integers (T is Integer, R is String)

Application: Using map with Constructor References

- 1. *Class::new* is a fourth type of method reference, where the method is the *new* operator. Examples:
 - A. Button::new compiler must select which Button constructor to use; determined by context. When used with map, the Button(String) constructor would be used, and the constructor reference Button::new resolves to the following lambda: str -> new Button(str) (which realizes a Function interface, as required by map).

```
List<String> labels = ...;
Stream<Button> stream = labels.stream().map(Button::new);
List<Button> buttons = stream.collect(Collectors.toList());
```

In this example, map passed each label in labels into the Button constructor and creates in this way a stream of labeled buttons, which are then collected together into a list at the end.

B. String::new.

Note: In this case, String::new is short for the lambda expression charArray -> new String(charArray), which can be viewed as a realization of the Function interface. But types for lambda expressions are not uniquely determined; here, it is also true that this lambda expression realizes the user-defined FuncIf interface.

c. int[]::new is another constructor reference, short for the lambda expression
len -> new int[len] (where len is an integer that is used as the new array length)

```
See Demo: lesson3lecture.constructorref.IntArrayExample
```

Question: In this example, Is it possible to start with a stream of randomly generated ints, obtained using the generate method of Stream? (Coming up later in this lesson.)

2. Solving the "no generic arrays" limitation for streams. For any generic type T, the compiler does not allow you to form arrays of the form T[], or arrays like List<T>[]. In particular, you cannot create a List<String>[] array.

If you have created a <code>Stream<String></code>, we have seen how to output a <code>List<String></code> from this stream, using <code>collect</code> (more on this later), but how to obtain an array <code>String[]</code>? The obvious thing the library creators would try (but doesn't work) is provide a <code>toArray</code> method:

```
Stream<String> stringStream = //...
String[] vals = stringStream.toArray(); //compiler error
```

The toArray method exists, but produces an <code>Object[]</code>, not a <code>String[]</code>. Can solve with a constructor reference:

```
String[] vals = stringStream.toArray(String[]::new);
```

See Demo: lesson9.lecture.constructorref.GenericArray.

Stream Operations, continued:

Use flatMap to Transform Each Element of a Substream and Flatten the Result

We illustrate flatMap with an example:

```
Consider the following function, which takes a String like "ball" and turns it into a Stream
```

```
['b', 'a', 'l', 'l'].

public static Stream<Character> characterStream(String s) {
    List<Character> result = new ArrayList<>();
    for (char c : s.toCharArray()) result.add(c);
    return result.stream();
}
```

Suppose we apply this characterStream method to each element of a list, using map:

```
List<String> list = Arrays.asList("Joe", "Tom", "Abe");
Stream<Stream<Character>> result = list.stream().map(s -> characterStream(s))
The result Stream looks like a list of lists:
```

```
[['J', 'o', 'e'],['T', 'o', 'm'],['A', 'b', 'e']].
```

"Flattening" this Stream means putting all elements together in a single list. This is accomplished using flatMap in place of map:

```
Stream<Character> flatResult = list.stream().flatMap(s -> characterStream(s))
```

Output in this case has been flattened:

```
['J', 'o', 'e', 'T', 'o', 'm', 'A', 'b', 'e'].
```

Stateful Transformations

- 1. The transformations discussed so far map, filter, limit, skip, concat -- have been stateless: each element of the stream is processed and forgotten.
- 2. Two stateful transformations available from a Stream are distinct and sorted.
- 3. Example of distinct:

4. Example of sorted: (sorted accepts a Comparator parameter)

Note: This code uses some functional techniques, but notice that the Comparator still has the flavor of "how" rather than "what".

Implementing Comparators with More Functional Style

[see package lesson9.lecture.comparators1]

1. We are seeking to sort "by String length", in reverse order. Rather than specifying how to do that, we can use the new static comparing method in Comparator:

2. Comparator.comparing takes a Function<T, U> argument. The type T is the type of the object being compared – in the example, T is String. The type U is the types of object that will actually be compared - since we are comparing lengths of words, the type U is Integer in this case.

Knowing these points makes it possible to write the call to sort even more intuitively.

- 3. Support for Comparators that are consistent with equals.
 - Recall when we wanted to sort Employees (where an Employee has a name and a salary) by name, we need to consider also the salary, or else the Comparator is not consistent with equals.

```
Collections.sort(emps, (e1,e2) ->
{
    if(method == SortMethod.BYNAME) {
        return e1.name.compareTo(e2.name);
    } else {
        if(e1.salary == e2.salary) return 0;
        else if(e1.salary < e2.salary) return -1;
        else return 1;
    }
});</pre>
```

- This approach is "how"-oriented, and can be made much more declarative by using the comparing and thenComparing methods of Comparator

```
if(method == SortMethod.BYNAME) {
   Collections.sort(emps, Comparator.comparing(byName).thenComparing(bySalary));
} else {
   Collections.sort(emps, Comparator.comparing(bySalary).thenComparing(byName));
}
```

 We can get rid of unthreadsafe if/else branching using a HashMap, together with a Pair class, in a clever way. See Lab 9, Problem 3.

Getting Outputs from Streams:

Reduction Methods

- 1. The last step in a pipeline of Streams is an operation that produces a final output such operations are called *terminal operations* because, once they are called, the stream can no longer be used. They are also called *reduction methods* because they reduce the stream to some final value.
- 2. count: Counts the number of elements in a Stream.

```
List<String> words = //...
int numLongWords = words.stream().filter(w -> w.length() > 12).count();
```

3. max, min, findFirst, findAny search a stream for particular values and will return a NullPointerException if not handled properly. An easy way to handle (but not the best):

Example: max

An Optional is a wrapper for the answer — either the found String can be read via get(), or a boolean flag can be read that says no value was found (if stream was empty, in this case).

Example: findFirst

Example: findAny This operation returns true if any match is found, false otherwise; this one works well with parallel streams:

Working with Optional - A Better Way to Handle Nulls

1. The previous slide introduced Optional class. Optional was added to Java to make handling of nulls less error prone. However notice

```
if (optionalValue.isPresent()) optionalValue.get().someMethod();
is no easier than
  if (value != null) value.someMethod();
```

The Optional class, however, supports other techniques that are superior to checking nulls.

2. The orElse method — if result is null, give alternative output using orElse

```
//OLD WAY

public static void pickName(List<String> names,
String startingLetter) {
   String foundName = null;
   for(String name : names) {
      if (name.startsWith(startingLetter)) {
         foundName = name;
         break;
      }
   }
   System.out.print(String.format("A name
        starting with %s: ", startingLetter));
   if(foundName != null) {
        System.out.println(foundName);
   } else {
        System.out.println("No name found");
   }
}
```

3. Use ifPresent (Function) to invoke an action and skip the null case completely.

4. Can use orElse and Optional.ofNullable as an alternative to this pattern (commonly used to get a JDBC Connection)

"If X is null, populate X. Return X."

```
//OLD WAY

private static Connection conn = null;
public Connection getConnection() throws SQLException {
    if(conn == null) {
        conn = DriverManager.getConnection(DB_URL, USERNAME, PASSWORD);
        System.out.println("Got connection...");
    }
    System.out.println("Is conn null? " + (conn==null));
    return conn;
}
```

```
//NEW WAY

private Connection conn = null;
private Connection myGetConn() {
    try {
        conn = DriverManager.getConnection(DB_URL, USERNAME, PASSWORD);
        return conn;
    } catch(SQLException e) {
        throw new RuntimeException(e);
    }
}

public Connection getConnection() {
    Optional<Connection> connWrapper = Optional.ofNullable(conn);
        return connWrapper.orElse(myGetConn());
}
```

The reduce Operation

The reduce operation lets you combine the terms of a stream into a single value by repeatedly applying an operation.

<u>Example</u> We wish to sum the values in a list of numbers. Procedural code:

```
int sum = 0;
for (int x : numbers) {
    sum += x;
}
```

Using the reduce operation, the code looks like this:

```
int sum = numbers.stream().reduce(0, (a, b) -> a + b);
```

First argument is an initial value; it is the value that is returned if the stream is empty. The second argument is a lambda for BinaryOperator<T>

```
interface BinaryOperator<T> {
   T apply(T a, T b);
}
```

Applied to a list of numbers, this reduce operation returns the sum of all the numbers. The initial value makes sense here because the "sum of an empty set of numbers is 0".

The initial value is also used to produce the final computation. For example, if numbers is [2,1,4,3], then the reduce method performs the following computation:

$$(((0+2)+1)+4)+3$$

How could we form the *product* of a list of numbers?

<u>Example</u> We form the product of a list numbers of numbers. For the initial value, we ask, "What is the product of an empty set of numbers?" By convention, the product is 1. Here is the line of code that does the job:

```
int product = numbers.stream().reduce(1, (a, b) -> a * b);
```

<u>Example</u>. What happens when the following line of code is executed? Try it when numbers is the list [1, 4, 3, 2].

```
int difference = numbers.stream().reduce(0, (a, b) -> b - a);
```

Here, the computation proceeds like this:

$$2 - (3 - (4 - (1 - 0)))$$

The problem here is that performing this computation in parallel gives a different result; subtractions are grouped differently for a parallel computation. For this reason, a best practice concerning reduce is:

Only use reduce on associative operations.

(Note that + and * are associative, but subtraction is not.)

See the demo lesson9.lecture.reduce.

The reduce method has an overridden version with only one argument.

Continuing with the sum example, here is a computation with the overridden version:

```
Optional<Integer> sum = numbers.stream().reduce((a, b) -> (a + b));
```

This version produces the same output when the stream is nonempty. When the stream is empty, though, the reduce operation returns a null, which is then embedded in an Optional.

Main Point 1

When a Collection is converted to a Stream, it becomes possible to rapidly make transformations and extract information in ways that would be much less efficient, maintainable, and understandable without the use of Streams. In this sense, Streams in Java represent a deeper level of intelligence of the concept of "collection" that has been implemented in the Java language. When intelligence expands, challenges and tasks that seemed difficult and time-consuming before can become effortless and meet with consistent success. This is one of the documented benefits of regular TM practice.

Collecting Results

One kind of terminal operation in a stream pipeline is a *reduction* that outputs a single value, like max or count. Another kind of terminal operation collects the elements of the Stream into some type of collection, like an array, list, or map. We have seen examples already.

```
Example: Collecting into an array
     String[] result = words.toArray(String[]::new);
Example: Collecting into a List
     List<String> result = stream.collect(Collectors.toList());
Example: Collecting into a Set
     Set<String> result = stream.collect(Collectors.toSet());
Example: Collecting into a particular kind of Set (same idea for particular kinds of lists, maps
     TreeSet<String> result =
                     stream.collect(Collectors.toCollection(TreeSet::new));
Example: Collect all strings in a stream by concatenating them:
     String result = stream.collect(Collectors.joining());
     //separates strings by commas
     String result = stream.collect(Collectors.joining(", "));
     //prepares objects as strings before joining
     String result = stream.map(Object::toString).collect(Collectors.joining(","));
Example: Collecting into a map — two typical examples
    //key = id, value = name
    Map<Integer, String> idToName
      = people.collect(Collectors.toMap(Person::getId, Person::getName));
    //key = id, value = the person object
    Map<Integer, Person> idToPerson
      = people.collect(Collectors.toMap(Person::getId, Function.identity()));
```

Example: Collecting "summary statistics" for number-valued streams, providing sum, average, maximum, and minimum

Similar SummaryStatistics classes are available for Double and Long types too.

Can Streams Be Re-Used?

- Once a terminal operation has been called on a stream, the stream becomes unusable, and if you do try to use it, you will get an IllegalStateException.
- But sometimes it would make sense to have a Stream ready to be used for multiple purposes.
- Example: We have a Stream<String> that we might want to use for different purposes:

```
Folks.friends.stream().filter(name -> name.startsWith("N"))
```

- We may want to count the number of names obtained for one purpose, and output the names in upper case to a List, for another purpose. But once the stream has been used once, we can't use it again.
- <u>Solution #1</u> One solution is to place the stream-creation code in a method and call it for different purposes. See Good solution in package lesson9.lecture.streamreuse
- Solution #2 Another solution is to use a higher-order function to capture all the free variables in the first approach as parameters of some kind of a Function (might be a BiFunction, TriFunction, etc, depending on the number of parameters). See Reuse solution in package lesson9.lecture.streamreuse

Primitive Type Streams

For efficiency, certain Streams are dedicated to primitive types: int, double, and long — they are, respectively, IntStream, DoubleStream, and LongStream. To store primitive types short, char, byte, and boolean, use IntStream; to store floats, use DoubleStream.

Points about IntStream:

1. Creation methods are similar to those for Stream:

```
a. IntStream ints = IntStream.of(1, 2, 4, 8);
b. IntStream ones = IntStream.generate(() -> 1);
c. IntStream naturalNums = IntStream.iterate(1, n -> n+1);
```

2. IntStream (and also LongStream) have static methods range and rangeClosed that generate integer ranges with step size one:

```
// Upper bound is excluded
IntStream zeroToNinetyNine = IntStream.range(0, 100);
// Upper bound is included
IntStream zeroToHundred = IntStream.rangeClosed(0, 100);
```

3. To convert a primitive type stream to an object stream, use the boxed method:

```
Stream<Integer> integers = Integer.range(0, 100).boxed();
```

4. To convert an object stream to a primitive type stream, there are methods mapToInt, mapToLong, and mapToDouble. In the examples, a Stream of strings is converted to an IntStream (of lengths).

```
Stream<String> words = ...;
IntStream lengths = words.mapToInt(String::length);
```

- 5. The methods on primitive type streams are analogous to those on object streams. Here are the main differences:
 - a. The toArray methods return primitive type arrays.
 - b. Methods that yield an optional result return an OptionalInt, OptionalLong, or OptionalDouble. These classes are analogous to the Optional class, but they have methods getAsInt, getAsLong, and getAsDouble instead of the get method.
 - c. There are methods sum, average, max, and min that return the sum, average, maximum, and minimum. These methods are not defined for object streams.

Creating a Lambda Library

One of the biggest innovations in Java 8 is the ability to perform *queries* to extract or manipulate data in a Collection of some kind. Combining the use of lambdas and streams, one can almost always obtain the same efficient query statements one could expect to formulate using SQL (to obtain similar results).

<u>Database Problem</u>. You have a database table named Customer. Return a collection of the names of those Customers whose city of residence begins with the string "Ma", arranged in sorted order.

```
Solution. SELECT name FROM Customer WHERE city LIKE 'Ma%' ORDER BY name
```

<u>Java Problem</u>: You have a List of Customers. Output to a list, in sorted order, the names of those Customers whose city of residence begins with the string "Ma."

Solution.

Turning Your Lambda/Stream Pipeline into a Library Element

To turn this Java solution into a reusable element in a Lambda Library, identify the parameters that are combined together in your pipeline, and consider those to be arguments for some kind of Java function-type interface (Function, BiFunction, TriFunction, etc).

Parameters:

- An input list of type List<Customer>
- A target string used to compare with name of city, of type String
- Return type: a list of strings: List<String>

These suggest using a BiFunction as follows:

The Java solution can now be rewritten like this:

```
List<String> listStr = LambdaLibrary.NAMES_IN_CITY.apply(list, "Ma");
```

See the code in lesson9.lecture.lambdalibrary.

CONNECTING THE PARTS OF KNOWLEDGE WITH THE WHOLENESS OF KNOWLEDGE

LAMBDA LIBRARIES

- 1. Prior to the release of Java 8, extracting or manipulating data in one or more lists or other Collection classes involved multiple loops and code that is often difficult to understand.
- 2. With the introduction of lambdas and streams, Java 8 makes it possible to create compact, readable, reusable expressions that accomplish list-processing tasks in a very efficient way. These can be accumulated in a Lambda Library.
- 3. *Transcendental Consciousness* is the field that underlies all thinking and creativity, and, ultimately, all manifest existence.
- 4. Impulses Within the Transcendental Field. The hidden self-referral dynamics within the field of pure intelligence provides the blueprint for emergence of all diversity. This blueprint is formed from compact expressions of intelligence coherently arranged this blueprint is called the Veda.
- 5. Wholeness Moving Within Itself. In Unity Consciousness, the fundamental forms out of which manifest existence is structured are seen to be vibratory modes of ones own consciousness.

