



J14 Collections

The collections framework
Common collection types
Iterator and Stream interfaces
Ordering collections

The Collections Framework

(in `java.util`)

- Interfaces
 - Implementation-agnostic interfaces for collections
- Implementations
 - Concrete implementations
- Algorithms
 - Searching, sorting, etc.

Using the framework saves writing your own: better performance, fewer bugs, less work, etc.

The Collection Interface

- Basic operators
 - `size()`, `isEmpty()`, `contains()`, `add()`, `remove()`
- Traversal
 - Iterators (abbreviated for loop syntax), `forEach()`.
- Bulk operators
 - `containsAll()`, `addAll()`, `removeAll()`, `retainAll()`, `clear()`
- Array operators
 - convert to and from arrays

Collection Types

- Primary collection types:
 - **Set** (no duplicates, mathematical set)
 - **List** (ordered elements)
 - **Queue** (ordered sequence with restrictions)
 - **Map** (<key, value> pairs)
- Each collection type is defined as an interface
 - You need to choose a concrete class to instantiate
 - Your choice will depend on your needs

Concrete Collection Types

	<i>Implemented Using</i>				
Interfaces	Hash table	Resizable array	Tree	Linked list	Hash table + linked list
Set	HashSet		TreeSet		LinkedHashSet
List		ArrayList		LinkedList	
Queue		ArrayDeque		LinkedList	
Map	HashMap		TreeMap		LinkedHashMap

Based on table from <http://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/collections/implementations/index.html>

Four Commonly Used Collection Types

- HashSet implements a **set** as a hash table
 - Makes no ordering guarantees
- ArrayList implements a **list** using an array
 - Very fast access
- HashMap implements a **map** using a hash table
 - Makes no ordering guarantees
- LinkedList implements a **queue** or **list** using a linked list
 - First-in-first-out (FIFO) queue ordering

Iterable<T> interface

Collections implement the Iterable<T> interface, which enables use of the “For-Each loop”:

```
for (var t : things) {  
    System.out.println(t);  
}
```

and also a forEach method to apply lambda expression:

```
things.forEach(t -> System.out.println(t));
```

Stream<T> Interface

Collections can be accessed as a stream via the `stream()` method, enabling a more **functional programming** style:

```
List<Integer> list = List.of(1, 2, 3, 4, 5); // immutable list!
var count = list.stream()
    .filter(x -> x > 2)
    .count();

var nList = list.stream()
    .filter(x -> x > 2)
    .map(x -> Integer.toString(x + 2))
    .toList(); // immutable, otherwise collect(...)
```

Ordering Collections

The Comparable interface defines a ‘natural’ ordering for all instances of a given type, T:

```
public interface Comparable<T> {  
    int compareTo(T o);  
}
```

The return value is either negative, 0, or positive depending if the receiver comes before, equal, or after the argument, o.

The Comparator *functional* interface allows a type T to be ordered in ad-hoc ways:

```
public interface Comparator<T> {  
    int compare(T o1, T o2);  
}
```

java.util.Collections

Some useful static methods for collections:

- sort, min, max, reverse, frequency, addAll

List also has a sort instance method:

- When provided with `null` it uses the natural order of elements (given by Comparable)
- Can use bespoke ordering when provided a lambda expression (Comparator functional interface):
 $(T\ a,\ T\ b) \rightarrow \{ \text{return } <\!\!\text{expression}\!\!>; \}$



Josh Bloch Item 25: Prefer lists to arrays

Why?

- Arrays are *covariant*, Generics are *invariant*
 - if A `extends` B, then A[] is a subclass of B[]
 - but List<A> has no relationship to List

```
// Fails at runtime!
Object[] array = new Long[1];
objectArray[0] = "I don't fit in"; // Throws ArrayStoreException

// Won't compile!
List<Object> list = new ArrayList<Long>(); // Incompatible types
list.add("I don't fit in");
```

