301AA - Advanced Programming

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AP-2018-23: Streams in Java 8
Java 8: language extensions

Java 8 is the biggest change to Java since the inception of the language. Main new features:

- **Lambda expressions**
  - Method references
  - Default methods in interfaces
  - Improved type inference

- **Stream API**

A big challenge was to introduce lambdas without requiring recompilation of existing binaries
Streams in Java 8

The `java.util.stream` package provides utilities to support functional-style operations on streams of values. **Streams** differ from **collections** in several ways:

- **No storage.** A stream is not a data structure that stores elements; instead, it conveys elements from a **source** (a data structure, an array, a generator function, an I/O channel,...) through a **pipeline** of computational operations.

- **Functional in nature.** An operation on a stream produces a result, but does not modify its source.
Streams in Java 8 (cont’d)

• **Laziness-seeking.** Many stream operations, can be implemented lazily, exposing opportunities for optimization. Stream operations are divided into **intermediate** (stream-producing) operations and **terminal** (value- or side-effect-producing) operations. *Intermediate operations are always lazy.*

• **Possibly unbounded.** Collections have a finite size, streams need not. Short-circuiting operations such as `limit(n)` or `findFirst()` can allow computations on infinite streams to complete in finite time.

• **Consumable.** The elements of a stream are only visited once during the life of a stream. Like an *Iterator*, a new stream must be generated to revisit the same elements of the source.
Pipelines

• A typical pipeline contains
  – A **source**, producing (by need) the elements of the stream
  – Zero or more **intermediate operations**, producing streams
  – A **terminal operation**, producing side-effects or non-stream values

• Example of typical pattern: filter / map / reduce

```java
double average = listing
  .stream() // stream wrapper over a collection
  .filter(p -> p.getGender() == Person.Sex.MALE) // filter
  .mapToInt(Person::getAge) // extracts stream of ages
  .average() // computes average (reduce/fold)
  .getAsDouble(); // extracts result from OptionalDouble
```
Anatomy of the Stream Pipeline

• A Stream is processed through a pipeline of operations
• A Stream starts with a source
• Intermediate methods are performed on the Stream elements. These methods produce Streams and are not processed until the terminal method is called.
• The Stream is considered consumed when a terminal operation is invoked. No other operation can be performed on the Stream elements afterwards
• A Stream pipeline may contain some short-circuit methods (which could be intermediate or terminal methods) that cause the earlier intermediate methods to be processed only until the short-circuit method can be evaluated.
Stream sources

Streams can be obtained in a number of ways:

- From a `Collection` via the `stream()` and `parallelStream()` methods;
- From an array via `Arrays.stream(Object[])`;
- From static factory methods on the stream classes, such as `Stream.of(Object[])`, `IntStream.range(int, int)` or `Stream.iterate(Object, UnaryOperator)`;
- The lines of a file can be obtained from `BufferedReader.lines()`;
- Streams of file paths can be obtained from methods in `Files`;
- Streams of random numbers can be obtained from `Random.ints()`;
- Generators, like `generate` or `iterate`;
- Numerous other methods in the JDK...
Intermediate Operations

- An intermediate operation keeps a stream open for further operations. Intermediate operations are lazy.
- Several intermediate operations have arguments of functional interfaces, thus lambdas can be used.

```java
Stream<T> filter(Predicate<? super T> predicate) // filter
IntStream mapToInt(ToIntFunction<? super T> mapper) // map f:T -> int
<R> Stream<R> map(Function<? super T,? extends R> mapper) // map f:T->R
Stream<T> peek(Consumer<? super T> action) //performs action on elements
Stream<T> distinct() // remove duplicates – stateful
Stream<T> sorted() // sort elements of the stream – stateful
Stream<T> limit(long maxSize) // truncate
Stream<T> skip(long n) // skips first n elements
```
Using peek...

- **peek** does not affect the stream
- A typical use is for debugging

```java
IntStream.of(1, 2, 3, 4)
    .filter(e -> e > 2)
    .peek(e -> System.out.println("Filtered value: " + e))
    .map(e -> e * e)
    .peek(e -> System.out.println("Mapped value: " + e))
    .sum();
```
Terminal Operations

• A **terminal operation** must be the final operation on a stream. Once a terminal operation is invoked, the stream is consumed and is no longer usable.

• Typical: collect values in a data structure, reduce to a value, print or other side effects.

```java
void forEach(Consumer<? super T> action)

Object[] toArray()

T reduce(T identity, BinaryOperator<T> accumulator)  // fold

Optional<T> reduce(BinaryOperator<T> accumulator)  // fold

Optional<T> min(Comparator<? super T> comparator)

boolean allMatch(Predicate<? super T> predicate)  // short-circuiting

boolean anyMatch(Predicate<? super T> predicate)  // short-circuiting

Optional<T> findAny()  // short-circuiting
```
Types of Streams

• Streams only for reference types, int, long and double
  – Minor primitive types are missing

"Hello world!".chars()
   .forEach(System.out::print);

// prints
721011081081113211911111410810033

// fixing it:
"Hello world!".chars()
   .forEach(x -> System.out.print((char) x));
From Reduce to Collect: Mutable Reduction

• Suppose we want to concatenate a stream of strings.
• The following works but is highly inefficient (it builds one new string for each element):

```java
String concatenated = listOfStrings
    .stream()
    .reduce("", String::concat);
```

• Better to “accumulate” the elements in a mutable object (a StringBuilder, a collection, ...)
• The **mutable reduction operation** is called `collect()`. It requires three functions:
  – a **supplier** function to construct new instances of the result container,
  – an **accumulator** function to incorporate an input element into a result container,
  – a **combining function** to merge the contents of one result container into another.

```java
<R> R collect(Supplier<R> supplier,
    BiConsumer<R, ? super T> accumulator,
    BiConsumer<R, R> combiner);
```
Mutable reductions: examples

- Collecting the String representations of the elements of a stream into an ArrayList:

```java
// no streams
ArrayList<String> strings = new ArrayList<>();
for (T element : stream) {
    strings.add(element.toString());
}

// with streams and lambdas
ArrayList<String> strings =
    stream.collect(() -> new ArrayList<>(), //Supplier
        (c, e) -> c.add(e.toString()), // Accumulator
        (c1, c2) -> c1.addAll(c2)); //Combining
```

```java
// with streams and method references
ArrayList<String> strings = stream.map(Object::toString)
    .collect(ArrayList::new, ArrayList::add, ArrayList::addAll);
```
Mutable reductions: Collectors

- Method `collect` can also be invoked with a `Collector` argument:

```
<R,A> R collect(Collector<? super T,A,R> collector)
```

- A `Collector` encapsulates the functions used as arguments to `collect(Supplier, BiConsumer, BiConsumer)`, allowing for reuse of collection strategies and composition of collect operations.

// The following will accumulate strings into an ArrayList:

```java
List<String> asList = stringStream.collect(Collectors.toList());
```

// The following will classify Person objects by city:

```java
Map<String, List<Person>> peopleByCity = personStream.collect(Collectors.groupingBy(Person::getCity));
```
Infinite Streams

• Streams wrapping collections are finite
• Infinite streams can be generated with:
  – iterate
  – generate

```java
static <T> Stream<T> iterate(T seed, UnaryOperator<T> f)

// Example: summing first 10 elements of an infinite stream
int sum = Stream.iterate(0, x -> x+1).limit(10).reduce(0, (x, s) -> x+s);

static <T> Stream<T> generate(Supplier<T> s)

// Example: printing 10 random numbers
Stream.generate(Math::random).limit(10).forEach(System.out::println);
```
Parallelism

• Streams facilitate parallel execution
• Stream operations can execute either in serial (default) or in parallel

```java
double average = persons
    .parallelStream()  // members in parallel
    .filter(p -> p.getGender() == Person.Sex.MALE)
    .mapToInt(Person::getAge)
    .average()
    .getAsDouble();
```

• The runtime support takes care of using multithreading for parallel execution, in a transparent way
• If operations don’t have side-effects, **thread-safety is guaranteed** even if non-thread-safe collections are used (e.g.: ArrayList)
Parallelism (2)

- Concurrent mutable reduction supported for parallel streams
  - Suitable methods of Collector
- Order of processing stream elements depends on serial/parallel execution and intermediate operations

```java
Integer[] intArray = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8};
List<Integer> listOfIntegers = new ArrayList<>(Arrays.asList(intArray));
listOfIntegers.stream()
    .forEach(e -> System.out.print(e + " "));
// prints: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
listOfIntegers.parallelStream()
    .forEach(e -> System.out.print(e + " "));
// may print: 3 4 1 6 2 5 7 8
```
A simple parallel stream example

• Consider this for-loop (.96 s runtime; dual-core laptop)
  ```java
  long sum = 0;
  for (long j = 0; j < Integer.MAX_VALUE; j++) sum += j;
  ```

• Equivalent stream computation (1.5 s)
  ```java
  long sum = LongStream.range(0, Integer.MAX_VALUE).sum();
  ```

• Equivalent parallel computation (.77 s)
  ```java
  long sum = LongStream.range(0,Integer.MAX_VALUE).parallel().sum();
  ```

• Fastest handcrafted parallel code I could write (.48 s)
  – You don't want to see the code. It took hours.
When to use a parallel stream – loosely speaking

• When operations are independent, and

• Either or both:
  – Operations are computationally expensive
  – Operations are applied to many elements of efficiently splittable data structures

• **Always measure before and after parallelizing!**
  – Jackson’s third law of optimization
SplitIterator: Streams from collections

• A stream wrapping a collection uses a SplitIterator over the collection

• This is the parallel analogue of an Iterator: it describes a (possibly infinite) collection of elements with support for
  – sequentially advancing,
  – *applying an action* to the next or to all remaining elements
  – splitting off some portion of the input into another splitterator which can be processed in parallel.

• At the lowest level, all streams are driven by a splitterator.
When to use a parallel stream – in detail

• Consider `s.parallelStream().operation(f)` if
  – `f`, the per-element function, is independent
    • i.e., computation for each element doesn't rely on or impact any other
  – `s`, the source collection, is efficiently splittable
    • Most collections, and `java.util.SplittableRandom`
    • NOT most I/O-based sources
  – Total time to execute sequential version roughly > 100µs
    • “Multiply N (number of elements) by Q (cost per element of f),
      guestimating Q as the number of operations or lines of code, and then
      checking that N*Q is at least 10,000.
Critical issues

• Non-interference
  – Behavioural parameters (like lambdas) of stream operations should not affect the source (non-interfering behaviour)
  – Risk of ConcurrentModificationExceptions, even if in single thread

• Stateless behaviours
  – Statless behaviour for intermediate operations is encouraged, as it facilitates parallelism, and functional style, thus maintenance

• Parallelism and thread safety
  – For parallel streams with side-effects, ensuring thread safety is the programmers’ responsibility
try {
    List<String> listOfStrings =
        new ArrayList<>(Arrays.asList("one", "two"));

    String concatenatedString = listOfStrings
        .stream()
        // Don't do this! Interference occurs here.
        .peek(s -> listOfStrings.add("three"))
        .reduce((a, b) -> a + " " + b)
        .get();
    System.out.println("Concatenated string: " + concatenatedString);
} catch (Exception e) {
    System.out.println("Exception caught: " + e.toString());
}

MONADS IN JAVA....
Monads in Java:Optional and Stream

```java
public static <T> Optional<T> of(T value)
// Returns an Optional with the specified present non-null value.

<U> Optional<U> flatMap(Function<? super T,Optional<U>> mapper)
/* If a value is present, apply the provided Optional-bearing mapping function to it, return that result, otherwise return an empty Optional. */
```

```java
static <T> Stream<T> of(T t)
// Returns a sequential Stream containing a single element.

<R> Stream<R> flatMap(
    Function<? super T,? extends Stream<? extends R>> mapper)
/* Returns a stream consisting of the results of replacing each element of this stream with the contents of a mapped stream produced by applying the provided mapping function to each element. */
```
Functional programming and monads in Java

• About the way monads entered the Java landscape I suggest reading the slides on Monadic Java by Mario Fusco.

• More on functional programming in Java in the book Java 8 in action