Principles of Programming Languages

http://www.di.unipi.it/~andrea/Didattica/PLP-15/

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Lesson 30 – Java 8

• Lambdas and 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 reccompilation of existing binaries
Benefits of Lambdas in Java 8

• Enabling functional programming
  – Being able to pass behaviors as well as data to functions
  – Introduction of lazy evaluation with stream processing

• Writing cleaner and more compact code

• Facilitating parallel programming

• Developing more generic, flexible and reusable APIs
Lambda expression syntax:
Print a list of integers with a lambda

List<Integer> intSeq = Arrays.asList(1,2,3);

intSeq.forEach(x -> System.out.println(x));

• x -> System.out.println(x)
is a lambda expression that defines an anonymous function (method)
with one parameter named x of type Integer

// equivalent syntax
intSeq.forEach((Integer x) -> System.out.println(x));

intSeq.forEach(x -> {System.out.println(x);});

intSeq.forEach(System.out::println); //method reference

• Type of parameter inferred by the compiler if missing
Multiline lambda, local variables, variable capture, no new scope

List<Integer> intSeq = Arrays.asList(1,2,3);
   // multiline: curly brackets necessary
intSeq.forEach(x -> {
   x += 2;
   System.out.println(x);
});
   // local variable declaration
intSeq.forEach(x -> {
   int y = x + 2;
   System.out.println(y);
});
   // variable capture
[final] int y = 2;  // must be [effectively] final
intSeq.forEach(x -> {
   System.out.println(x + y);
});
   // no new scope!!!
int x = 0;
intSeq.forEach(x -> {  //error: x already defined
   System.out.println(x + 2);
});
Implementation of Java 8 Lambdas

• The Java 8 compiler first converts a lambda expression into a function
• It then calls the generated function
• For example, $x \rightarrow \text{System.out.println}(x)$ could be converted into a generated static function

```java
public static void genName(Integer x) {
    System.out.println(x);
}
```
• But what type should be generated for this function? How should it be called? What class should it go in?
Functional Interfaces

• Design decision: Java 8 lambdas are instances of *functional interfaces*.

• A **functional interface** is a Java interface with exactly one abstract method. E.g.,

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

public interface Runnable { //java.lang
    void run();
}

public interface Callable<V> { //java.util.concurrent
    V call() throws Exception;
}
```
Functional interfaces and lambdas

• Functional Interfaces can be used as target type of lambda expressions, i.e.
  – As type of variable to which the lambda is assigned
  – As type of formal parameter to which the lambda is passed
• The compiler uses type inference based on target type
• Arguments and result types of the lambda must match those of the unique abstract method of the functional interface
• Lambdas can be interpreted as instances of anonymous inner classes implementing the functional interface
• The lambda is invoked by calling the only abstract method of the functional interface
public class Calculator1 {  // Pre Java 8
    
    interface IntegerMath {  // (inner) functional interface
        int operation(int a, int b);
    }
  
    public int operateBinary(int a, int b, IntegerMath op) {
        return op.operation(a, b);
    }  // parameter type is functional interface
  // inner class implementing the interface
    static class IntMath$Add implements IntegerMath{
        public int operation(int a, int b){
            return a + b;
        }
    }
  
    public static void main(String... args) {
        Calculator1 myApp = new Calculator1();
        System.out.println("40 + 2 = " +
            myApp.operateBinary(40, 2, new IntMath$Add()));
  // anonymous inner class implementing the interface
        IntegerMath subtraction = new IntegerMath(){
            public int operation(int a, int b){
                return a - b;
            }
        };
        System.out.println("20 - 10 = " +
            myApp.operateBinary(20, 10, subtraction));
    }
... to lambda expressions

```java
public class Calculator {

    interface IntegerMath { // (inner) functional interface
        int operation(int a, int b);
    }

    public int operateBinary(int a, int b, IntegerMath op) {
        return op.operation(a, b);
    } // parameter type is functional interface

    public static void main(String... args) {
        Calculator myApp = new Calculator();
        // lambda assigned to functional interface variables
        IntegerMath addition = (a, b) -> a + b;
        System.out.println("40 + 2 = "+ myApp.operateBinary(40, 2, addition));
        // lambda passed to functional interface formal parameter
        System.out.println("20 - 10 = "+ myApp.operateBinary(20, 10, (a, b) -> a - b));
    }
}
```
public class ThreadTest {  // using functional interface Runnable
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Runnable r1 = new Runnable() {  // anonymous inner class
            @Override
            public void run() {
                System.out.println("Old Java Way");
            }
        };
        Runnable r2 = () -> {
            System.out.println("New Java Way");
        };
        new Thread(r1).start();
        new Thread(r2).start();
    }
}
Other examples of lambdas: Listener

```java
JButton button = new JButton("Click Me!");

// pre Java 8
button.addActionListener(new ActionListener() {
    public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent evt) {
        System.out.println("Handled by anonymous class listener");
    }
});

// Java 8
button.addActionListener(
    e -> System.out.println("Handled by Lambda listener"));
```
New Functional Interfaces in package java.util.function

```java
public interface Consumer<T> {
    void accept(T t);
}

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

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

public interface Function<T,R> {
    R apply(T t);
}
```
Other examples of lambdas

```java
List<Integer> intSeq = new ArrayList<>(Arrays.asList(1,2,3));

// sort list in descending order using Comparator<Integer>
intSeq.sort((x,z) -> z - x);  // lambda with two arguments
intSeq.forEach(System.out::println);

// remove odd numbers using a Predicate<Integer>
intSeq.removeIf(x -> x%2 == 1);
intSeq.forEach(System.out::println);  // prints only ‘2’
```

// default method of Interface List<E>
default void sort(Comparator<? super E> c)
// default method of Interface Collection<E>
default boolean removeIf(Predicate<? super E> filter)
// default method of Interface Iterable<T>
default void forEach(Consumer<? super T> action)
```
Default Methods

Adding new abstract methods to an interface breaks existing implementations of the interface
Java 8 allows interface to include
• Abstract (instance) methods, as usual
• Static methods
• Default methods, defined in terms of other possibly abstract methods
Java 8 uses lambda expressions and default methods in conjunction with the Java collections framework to achieve backward compatibility with existing published interfaces
Method References

• Method references can be used to pass an existing function in places where a lambda is expected
• The signature of the referenced method needs to match the signature of the functional interface method

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method Reference Type</th>
<th>Syntax</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>static</td>
<td>ClassName::StaticMethodName</td>
<td>String::valueOf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>constructor</td>
<td>ClassName::new</td>
<td>ArrayList::new</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>specific object instance</td>
<td>objectReference::MethodName</td>
<td>x::toString</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arbitrary object of a given type</td>
<td>ClassName::InstanceMethodName</td>
<td>Object::toString</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Streams in Java 8

The new 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, such as *filtering*, *mapping*, or *duplicate removal*, 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.** While 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 // collection of Person
  .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 contains 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. Some examples include:

• 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()`;
• Numerous other stream-bearing 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.
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.
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);

<R> Stream<R> flatMap(Function<? super T, ? extends Stream<? extends R>> mapper)
```
Parallelism & Streams from Collections

• Streams facilitate parallel execution
• Stream operations can execute either in serial (default) or in parallel
• A stream wrapping a collection uses a Splititerator over the collection
• Does not provide methods for returning elements but
  – For applying an action to the next or to all remaining elements
  – For splitting: If parallel, the split() method creates a new Splititerator and partitions the stream
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, ensuring thread safety is the programmers’ responsibility
public static <T> Optional<T> of(T value)
// Returns an Optional with the specified present non-null value.

<R> 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. */

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. */
References

• The Java Tutorials, http://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/java/index.html
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