

Java Review 2 – Errors, Exceptions, Debugging



Nelson Padua-Perez
Chau-Wen Tseng

Department of Computer Science
University of Maryland, College Park

Java Review Topics

- **Errors** ←
- **Exceptions**
- **Debugging**

Program Errors

- **Types of errors**
 - Compile-time (syntax) errors
 - Run-time errors
 - Logic errors

Program Errors – Compile Time

- **Compile-time (syntax) errors**
 - Errors in code construction
 - Lexical (typographical), grammatical, types
 - Detected during compilation
 - Usually easy to correct quickly
- **Examples**
 - Misspelled keyword
 - Missing or misplaced symbol
 - Incorrect operator for variable type

Program Errors – Run Time

- **Run-time errors**
 - Operations illegal / impossible to execute
 - Detected during program execution
 - But not detectable at compile time
 - Treated as **exceptions** in Java
- **Example**
 - Division by zero
 - Array index out of bounds
 - Using null pointer
 - Illegal format conversion

Program Errors – Logic

- **Logic errors**
 - Operations leading to incorrect program state
 - May (or may not) lead to run-time errors
 - Problem in design or implementation of algorithm
- **Examples**
 - Computing incorrect arithmetic value
 - Ignoring illegal input
- **Hardest error to handle**
- **Detect by testing, debugging**

Java Review Topics

- Errors
- Exceptions ←
- Debugging

Exceptions

- Rare event outside normal behavior of code
- Examples
 - Division by zero
 - Access past end of array
 - Out of memory
 - Number input in wrong format (float vs. integer)
 - Unable to write output to file
 - Missing input file

Exception Handling – Throw Exception

■ Approach

- Throw exception

■ Example

```
A() {  
    if (error) throw new ExceptionType();  
}  
B() {  
    try {  
        A();  
    }  
    catch (ExceptionType e) { ...action... }  
}
```

Java exception backtracks to caller(s) until matching catch block found

Representing Exceptions in Java

■ Exceptions represented as

- Objects derived from class Throwable

■ Code

```
public class Throwable( ) extends Object {  
    Throwable( ) // No error message  
    Throwable( String msg ) // Error message  
    String getMessage() // Return error msg  
    void printStackTrace( ) { ... } // Record methods  
    ... // called & location  
}
```

Generating & Handling Exceptions

- **Java primitives**
 - Try
 - Throw
 - Catch
 - Finally
- **Procedure for using exceptions**
 1. Enclose code generating exceptions in **try** block
 2. Use **throw** to actually generate exception
 3. Use **catch** to specify exception handlers
 4. Use **finally** to specify actions after exception

Java Syntax

```
try {  
    throw new eType1();  
} } // try block encloses throws  
    // throw jumps to catch  
catch (eType1 e) {  
    ...action...  
} } // catch block 1  
    // run if type match  
catch (eType2 e) {  
    ...action...  
} } // catch block 2  
    // run if type match  
finally {  
    ...action...  
} } // final block  
    // always executes
```

Exceptions – Examples

- **FileNotFoundException (java.io)**
 - Request to open file fails
- **IllegalArgumentException (java.lang)**
 - Method passed illegal / inappropriate argument
- **IOException (java.io)**
 - Generic I/O error
- **NullPointerException (java.lang)**
 - Attend to access object using null reference
- **UnsupportedOperationException (java.lang)**
 - Object does not provide requested operation

Java Review Topics

- **Errors**
- **Exceptions**
- **Debugging** ←

Debugging

- **Process of finding and fixing software errors**
 - After testing detects error
- **Goal**
 - Determine cause of run-time & logic errors
 - Correct errors (without introducing new errors)
- **Similar to detective work**
 - Carefully inspect information in program
 - Code
 - Values of variables
 - Program behavior

Debugging – Approaches

- **Classic**
 - Insert debugging statements
 - Trace program control flow
 - Display value of variables
- **Modern**
 - IDE (integrated development environment)
 - Interactive debugger

Interactive Debugger

- **Capabilities**
 - Provides trace of program execution
 - Shows location in code where error encountered
 - Interactive program execution
 - **Single step** through code
 - Run to **breakpoints**
 - Displays values of variables
 - For current state of program

Interactive Debugger

- **Single step**
 - Execute single line of code at a time
 - When executing method, can
 - Finish entire method
 - Execute first line in method
 - Tedious (or impractical) for long-running programs

Interactive Debugger

- **Breakpoint**
 - Specify location(s) in code
 - Execute program until breakpoint encountered
 - Can skip past uninteresting code