CMSC 132: Object-Oriented Programming II

Collection Abstractions & Java Collections

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Collection

• Programs represent and manipulate abstractions (chunks of information)
  – Examples: roster of students, deck of cards
• One of the most universal abstractions is a collection
  – Represents an aggregation of multiple objects
  – Plus, perhaps, a relation between elements
  – Examples: list, set, ordered set, map, array, tree
  – Supporting different operations
Data Structures

- Data structure
  - A way of representing & storing information
- Choice of data structure affects
  - Abstractions supported
  - Amount of storage required
  - Which operations can be efficiently performed
- Collections may be implemented using many different data structures
Graph Abstractions

- Many-to-many relationship between elements
  - Each element has **multiple** predecessors
  - Each element has **multiple** successors
Graph abstractions

- Undirected graph
  - Undirected edges
- Directed graph
  - Directed edges
- Directed acyclic graph (DAG)
  - Directed edges, no cycles
Tree abstractions

• One-to-many relationship between elements
  – Each element has unique predecessor
  – Each element has multiple successors
Tree Abstractions

- Tree
  - Only one node (the root) that doesn’t have a parent
- Binary Tree
  - A tree where each node has at most 2 children
Sequence Abstractions

• One-to-one relationship between elements
  – Each element has unique predecessor
  – Each element has unique successor
Sequences or Ordered Collections

• List
  – A sequence of elements
  – The user of this interface has precise control over where in the list each element is inserted.
  – The user can access elements by their integer index (position in the list), and search for elements in the list.
Limited Sequences

• Queue
  - Can add only at the tail
  - Can only access or remove at the head
  - First-in, First-out (FIFO)

• Stack
  - Can add only at the top
  - Can only access or remove at the top
  - Last-in, First-out (LIFO)

• Deque: double ended queue
  - Can add, access or remove at either end
Set Data Structures

- No relationship between elements
  - Elements have no predecessor / successor
  - Only one copy of element allowed in set
Abstraction Taxonomy

- Classification scheme for data structures
  - Based on relationships between element
- Category Relationship
  - Graph many ⇒ many
  - Hierarchical one ⇒ many
  - Linear one ⇒ one
  - Set no explicit relationship
Desert Island Abstraction

- If you could have only one abstraction with you on a desert island...
- Graph is the most general
  - Can represent any of the other abstractions
    - E.g., A set is a graph with no edges
- But more specific abstractions have advantages
  - Some things are unique and well defined (e.g., first element)
  - Implementations for more specific abstractions can support more efficient operations
Java Collection Framework (JCF)

- Java provides several interfaces and classes for manipulating & organizing data
  - Example: List, Set, Map interfaces
- Java Collection Framework consists of
  - Interfaces
    - Abstract data types
  - Implementations
    - Reusable data structures
  - Algorithms
    - Reusable functionality
Collection Hierarchy

Interface (red)
Class (black)
Collection Interface

- [http://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Collection.html](http://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Collection.html)
- **Core operations**
  - Add element
  - Remove element
  - Determine size (number of elements)
  - Iterate through all elements
- **Additional operations supported by some collections**
  - Find first element
  - Find kth element
  - Find largest element
  - Sort elements
- **Collection vs. Collections**
  - Collections is a class