Lecture Set #16: Collections

1. New Looping construct
   1. for each loop
2. Collections
   1. Stack
   2. ArrayList

Collections in Java

- Arrays are collections
  - Arrays are objects
  - Arrays are sequences of elements in base type
  - These elements are collected together in one object: the array
- Java includes many other collection mechanisms
  - Arrays good for some applications (fixed-length sequences), not others (varying-length sequences)
  - Other collections tuned for different purposes
  - General observation holds, however:
    - Collections are objects...
    - ...that contain other objects in a given type
- We’ll study two (more in CMSC132): Stack, ArrayList

for ... each ... in

- New construct available in Java 1.5 (not available in older versions of Java)
- Use with arrays
- Use with any iterable collection
- Limitations:
  - Modifications limited
    - can’t add items to the list being iterated over
    - can’t remove items from the list being iterated over
    - can’t replace items in the list being iterated over
  - access only one
    - only a single collection can be traversed at a time
    - can’t access the one before or the one after on this iteration
    - limited to forward and one at a time
    - can’t traverse the list in the reverse order
    - can’t go to every other element or any variation
Stacks in Java

- Recall: a stack is a data structure ("device" for holding values) – FILO (First In, Last Out)
- Typical operations on a stack
  - push: add a new value into the stack
  - pop: remove the most recently added value still in stack
  - top: return the most recently added value in stack
  - is empty: returns true if the stack is currently empty or false otherwise

Example of stack concept (not Java specific)

- Stack s
- s.isEmpty() == ?? true
- s.push (3); s.isEmpty() == ?? false
- s.push (4); s.peek == ?? 4
- s.pop (); s.push (5); s.peek == ?? 5

Stacks in Java (cont.)

- Java includes a generic class for stack objects
  - Stack objects contain other objects
  - All objects in stack must have same type
  - Only objects may be stored in stacks (no primitive-type values)
- Syntax: Stack<E>
  - Stack<E> is a generic class
  - E is a class variable representing the base type
  - Replace E by a specific type to get a stack of that type of elements
  - Class is in java.util package
- Documentation:
  - http://java.sun.com/j2se/1.5.0/docs/api/java/util/Stack.html
- See example: StackExample.java
  - Stack<String> stack = new Stack<String>();
    Creates a stack of strings
    - extend this to be stack of cats
  - Stack<Integer> stack = new Stack<Integer>();
    Creates a stack of integer values
    - extend this to be stack of cats
ArrayList Collection

- Like arrays ... but support for inserting/deleting new elements
- Sequences of elements
- All elements must be in same (base) type
- Syntax: `ArrayList<E>`
- Documentation: http://java.sun.com/j2se/1.5.0/docs/api/java/util/ArrayList.html
- See example: `ArrayListExample.java`
  - `ArrayList<String> a = new ArrayList<String>();`
  - Creates an ArrayList of strings
  - `Collections.sort` may be used on `ArrayList<String>` objects?
  - Reason
    - `String` implements `Comparable` interface
    - `ArrayList<E>` implements `List<E>` interface