CS 211: Generics

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Week 10-2
Front Matter

Goals Today
Generics: Classes with Type Parameters

Immediate Reading
Lab Manual Ch 17: Generics

Later Reading
- BJP Ch 10.1: Using ArrayList
- BJP Ch 15: Implementing ArrayList

Upcoming
- P4 Due Tonight: Questions?
- Lab 10: Task

Schedule
- 3/28 Mon Exceptions
- 3/30 Wed Exceptions, Generics
- 3/31 Thu Lab 10 Task
- 4/5 Mon Review
- 4/7 Wed Exam 2
Consider the Array

- How do you make an array of Integers?
- An array of Strings?
- An array of Scanners?
- How does one assign the 4th element of each of these arrays?
- How does one access the 8th element of each?
- How does one determine the length of any of the arrays?
Type parameters

Arrays

- Arrays are a container, hold stuff
- Can hold any type of thing, parameterized type:
- Not just an array, a String array
- Create/Assign/Access semantics independent content types
- Algorithms based on these semantics won’t change either

Exercise: Pair Class

- Attempt to define a Pair class to hold pairs of "stuff"
- What solutions can you come up with and what are their limitations?
- How would your solution work with
  - A pair of Strings
  - A pair of Integers
  - A pair of Coords
Defining Generic Classes

▶ Angle brackets set up type parameters
▶ A compile-time variable to hold a type
▶ Class definitions <T> or <K,V> or whatever
▶ Can also be associated with methods
▶ Use type param T or K or whatever wherever unknown type exists
▶ T specified at use time as String or Integer or whatever

```java
public class Pair<T>{
    private T first;
    private T second;

    public Pair(T f, T s){
        this.first = f;
        this.second = s;
    }

    public T getFirst(){
        return this.first;
    }

    public T getSecond(){
        return this.second;
    }

    String toString(){
        return String.format("(%s,%s)", first,second);
    }
}
```
Using Generic Classes

I want a Pair of Strings and Pair of Doubles

Pair<String> ps = new Pair<String>("spike","faye");
Pair<Double> pd = new Pair<Double>(1.23, 4.56);
String s = ps.getFirst();
Double x = pd.getSecond();

Double y = ps.getSecond(); // ?

- Pairs are parameterized on a type
- Pairs are defined in Pairs.java

Want a mixed pair? Try DisparatePair

DisparatePair<String,Integer> si =
   new Dis disparatePair<String,Integer>("jet",42);
String s = si.getFirst();
Integer i = si.getSecond();
Warmup: Generic Construction

How do I declare an ArrayList which holds

- Integers
- Coords
- Pairs of Integers
- DisparatePairs of Strings and Coords

How do I declare a ..

- Pair of String ArrayLists
- DisparatePair of Integer ArrayList and Coord ArrayList
- A Pair of ArrayLists holding DisparatePairs of (Integer, String)
Restriction on Generics: Boxed v Unboxed

Primitives not allowed with Generics

- Generics require a uniform memory model
- Restricted Reference Types Only

Compile errors

```java
ArrayList<int> al = new ArrayList<int>();
DisparatePair<int,double> p =
    new DisparatePair<int,double>(1,3.3);
```

Works Fine

```java
ArrayList<Integer> al = new ArrayList<Integer>();
DisparatePair<Integer,Double> p =
    new DisparatePair<Integer,Double>(1,3.3);
```

How is this alternative different under the hood?
Auto-pugilism (Autoboxing)

Every primitive has a reference equivalent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primitive</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>int</td>
<td>Integer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>double</td>
<td>Double</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>char</td>
<td>Character</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boolean</td>
<td>Boolean</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Java compiler is reasonably smart
- Will insert code to convert between them
- Spares us much suffering

See AutoPugilism.java
Trouble with Refs

Easy to get twisted around with interchanging primitives and their bigger siblings, particularly wrt to equality

- Primitives work with ==
- References don’t (always)

```java
class TroubleWithRefs {
    public static void demo1(){
        int i=1, j=1;
        System.out.println(i==j);  // True or False?

        Integer w=new Integer(i), z=new Integer(j);
        System.out.println(w==z);  // True or False?

        Integer x=i, y=j;
        System.out.println(x==y);  // True or False?
    }
}
```

See: TroubleWithRefs.java for other twisted conversions
Generics are Complex

Skipping lots of semi-interesting stuff
"I can hold subclasses of generic type E"

Collection<? extends E>

"I work with a superclass of generic type E"

Comparator<? super E>

- Mostly these are to satisfy the compiler
- I fiddle with types until javac shuts up
  - (Type theorists cringe, all four of them)