

Java 8,11,15,16

Lambda Expressions and Streams



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Extracting employee names

```
public List<String> empNames(List<Employee> employees) {  
    List<String> e = new ArrayList<>();  
    for (Employee emp : employees)  
        e.add(emp.getName());  
    return e;  
}
```

Extracting employee ages

```
public List<Integer> empAges(List<Employee> employees) {  
    List<Integer> e = new ArrayList<>();  
    for (Employee emp : employees)  
        e.add(emp.getAge());  
    return e;  
}
```

Extracting employee names

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public List<String> empNames(List<Employee> employees) {  
    List<String> e = new ArrayList<>();  
    for (Employee emp : employees)  
        e.add(emp.getName());  
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    List<Integer> e = new ArrayList<>();  
    for (Employee emp : employees)  
        e.add(emp.getAge());  
    return e;  
}
```

Variation Duplication

Life before Java 8 (cont.)

Lets identify the control structure, and extract the behavior into an object

```
public List<String> empNames(List<Employee> employees) {  
    List<String> e = new ArrayList<>();  
    for (Employee emp : employees)  
        e.add(emp.getName());  
    return $;  
}
```

```
public interface Mapper<U, T> {  
    public T map(U u);  
}
```

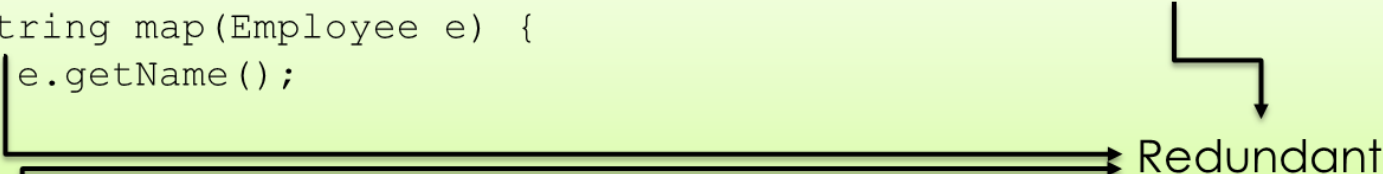
```
public <U, T> List<T> map(  
    List<U> list, Mapper<? super U, ? extends T> m) {  
    List<T> e = new ArrayList<>();  
    for (U u : list)  
        e.add(m.map(u));  
    return e;  
}
```

Life before Java 8 (cont.)

Extracting employee names

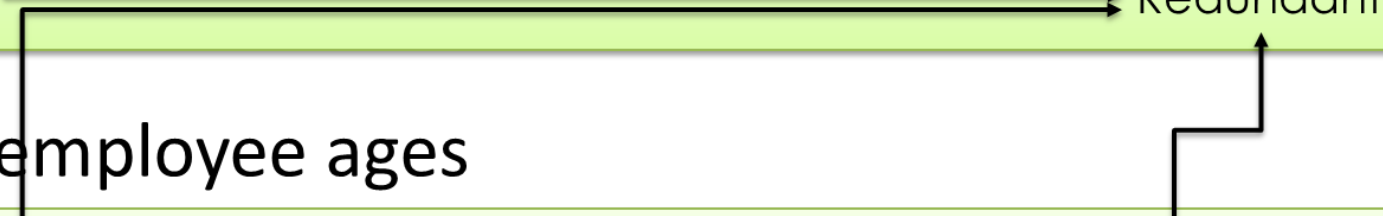
```
List<String> empNames = map(employees, new Mapper<Employee,String>() {  
    public String map(Employee e) {  
        return e.getName();  
    }  
});
```

Redundant



Extracting employee ages

```
List<Integer> empAges = map(employees, new Mapper<Employee,Integer>() {  
    public Integer map(Employee e) {  
        return e.getAge();  
    }  
});
```



In the Kingdom of Nouns

We removed the code duplication, but this is still very verbose...

► Semantically, `map` is a **higher level function**

► This means that it accepts a function as an **argument** (or returns a function)

► Syntactically, functions do not exist as first class entities

► All verbs (functions) have to be accompanied by a noun (class)

► <http://steve-yegge.blogspot.co.il/2006/03/execution-in-kingdom-of-nouns.html>

► translation: <https://ru.hexlet.io/blog/posts/javaland>

► Prior to Java 8, Java was the only programming language in popular use without anonymous functions / blocks / lambdas / function pointers

► This is **not** purely a **syntactic** issue; Java also lacked proper support for such function in its **collections** and **standard libraries**

► Some libraries, like [Guava](#), attempted to fill the void

- Extracting employee names:

```
List<String> empNames = employees.stream()  
    .map(x -> x.getName())  
    .collect(Collectors.toList());
```

- Extracting employee ages:

```
List<Integer> empAge = employees.stream()  
    .map(Employee::getAge) // method reference instead of lambda  
    .collect(Collectors.toList());
```

- Still very verbose compared to other languages (C#, Scala, Python)
 - “boiler-plate” ratio lessens when we compose actions (see later)

Let's take a deeper look...

```
List<String> empNames = employees.stream()  
    .map(x -> x.getName())  
    .collect(Collectors.toList());
```

- ▶ `stream()` is a **default** method of `List`
- ▶ `map` is a higher level function of `Stream`
- ▶ `x -> x.getName()` is a **lambda expression**
- ▶ `collect` turns the `Stream` back to a normal `Collection` (in our case, a `List`)
- ▶ Let's go over each of these terms one by one

default Methods

```
List<String> empNames = employees.stream()  
    .map(x -> x.getName())  
    .collect(Collectors.toList());
```

- **default** methods are (default) implementations for **interfaces**
 - Can be **overridden** extending interfaces and implementing classes

```
interface Foo {  
    void a(); // regular abstract method  
    default void b() { // can also be overridden  
        System.out.println("I'm a default method!");  
    }  
}
```

- Adds **new** functionality to an existing interface without **breaking** all client code
 - In our case, we added the **stream()** method to **Collection**

Comparison to other languages / features

- ▶ So is this the same as **multiple inheritance**?
 - ▶ Nope; more similar to **Traits**
 - ▶ There is neither **conflict resolution** nor **constructors**, so the model is much **simpler**
- ▶ So are these **extension methods** (a la C#)?
 - ▶ No, because extension methods are actually **syntactic sugar** for **static decorators**
 - ▶ *You can't add methods to library classes (e.g., in C# you can add extension methods to **String**).*
- ▶ Solutions in other languages
 - ▶ Ruby – mixins
 - ▶ Python/Javascript – monkey patching
 - ▶ Scala – implicits / pimp my library
 - ▶ Haskell – type classes

Higher order functions

```
List<String> empNames = employees.stream()  
    .map(x -> x.getName())  
    .collect(Collectors.toList());
```

- ▶ `map` is a higher order function in `stream`
 - ▶ A function that takes a function
- ▶ Other higher order functions in `Stream`
 - ▶ `filter`, `map`, `flatMap`, `sorted`, `reduce`, ...
- ▶ Similar libraries in other languages
 - ▶ LINQ in **C#**, `itertools` in **Python**, `Enumerable` in **Ruby**, etc.

Streams

- `Stream` is the **gateway** to the "functional collections" in Java 8
 - Provide a **uniform API** (why is this important?)
- We only iterate over a stream once, even if we have two or more higher level functions
- This is because streams are **lazily evaluated**
 - Until we **collect** (or form some other **reduction**), no iteration takes place
 - **collect** is a form of **mutable reduction**
 - i.e., it reduces to a mutable container
 - Other reductions include `forEach` and, well, `reduce`
- Streams also give us “free” **parallelization** (why is it so easy?)

```
List<String> empNames = employees.stream()  
    .parallel()  
    .map(x -> x.getName())  
    .collect(Collectors.toList());
```

Streams: Caveats

- Streams are “single serving” only!
 - This code will throw an exception:

```
Stream<Student> stream = students.stream();  
Stream<String> names = stream.map(Student::getName);  
Stream<Integer> ages = stream.map(Student::getAge);
```

- This too:

```
Stream<String> names = students.stream.map(Student::getName);  
stream.forEach(this::printStudent);  
stream.forEach(this::addStudentToDatabase);
```

- Avoid returning `Stream` from a **public** function, or keeping one as a field,
 - An `Iterable` or `Collection` is usually more suitable
 - Although there are some (rare) cases where it's appropriate, there are usually better (monadic) types

Lambdas and SAMs

```
List<String> empNames = employees.stream()  
    .map(x -> x.getName())  
    .collect(Collectors.toList());
```

- The signature for `map` is:
`map(Function<? super T, ? extends R> mapper)`
- And here is the signature for `Function` (**default** methods retracted):

```
interface Function<T, R> { R apply(T t); }
```
- An **interface** which has **single abstract** (i.e., non-**default**) method (often abbreviated **SAM**) can be called a **functional interface**
- **Lambdas** are just **syntactic sugar** for implementing functional interfaces
 - Method reference (`:::`) and lambdas are interchangeable, where applicable
 - References are considered “more elegant” (as we will see later)
- So is Java a **functional** language now?
 - Functions aren’t first-class citizens; functions aren’t even a proper part of the Java language, just a standard library **interface**
 - Although an alternative interpretation could argue that interfaces are the new functions

Lambdas (cont.)

This design choice has a great pro: we can also use lambda with legacy API!

► Old code

```
new Thread(new Runnable() {  
    @Override  
    public void run() {  
        System.out.println("Kill me :[");  
    }  
}).start();
```

► New code

```
new Thread(() -> System.out.println("PARTEH! :D|-< :D/-< :D\-<)).start();
```

► We can use the convenience `@FunctionalInterface` annotation to tell the compiler that the interface should be functional (a la `@Override`)

```
@FunctionalInterface  
interface Foo { void bar(); void bazz(); } // won't compile
```

More API examples

- Assure we are not hiring anyone underage

```
assert employees.stream().noneMatch(x -> x.age < 18);
```

- Find the highest paid individual in the company

```
Optional<Employee> opt = employees.stream().maxBy((x, y) -> x.salary - y.salary);
```

- What is returned if the list is **empty**?
- Instead of working with **null**, a new type **Optional<T>** is returned
 - **Optional<T>** can be present (i.e. not **null**) or **empty** (i.e. **null**)
 - Has a method **get()** that returns **T** or throws an exception

More API examples

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Wait, what's wrong with `nulls`?

- [The billion dollar mistake](#)
- `nulls` are incredibly dangerous!
 - Often **unchecked** until used
 - a “sleeper agent” that destroys the application, its origin is hard to trace
 - By returning an `Optional`, we are **explicit** in our result type
 - **Types are better than comments!**
- `Optional` also has **higher order functions**

```
Optional<Employee> richest = ...  
Optional<Integer> ageOfRichest =  
richest.map(Employee::getAge);
```

- `filter` will return `empty` if the predicate returns **false**

```
richestEmployee.filter(x -> x.age >= 18);
```

► Optionals **compose** using **flatMap**

```
// working with nulls
Student s = getStudent();
if (s == null)
    return null;
Course c = s.getCourse("Software Design");
if (c == null)
    return null;
Exam e = c.getMoedA();
if (e == null)
    return null;
return e.getGrade();
```

```
// but if we returned Optionals...
getStudent()
    .flatMap(Student::getCourse)
    .flatMap(Course::getMoedA)
    .flatMap(Exam::getGrade)
```

A more complex example

- Get Ukrainian students with a top grade sorted by name in Java 7

```
List<Student> topGrades = new ArrayList<>();
Collections.sort(students, new Comparator<Student>() {
    public int compare(Student student1, Student student2) {
        return student1.getName().compareTo(student2.getName());
    }
});
for (Student student: students)
    if ("Ukraine".equals(student.getCountry()))
        if (student.getGrade() >= 90)
            topGrades.add(student);
```

A more complex example

- Get Ukrainian students with a top grade sorted by name in Java 7

Sorts in
place!
Why is this
bad?



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```

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for (Student student: students)
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        if (student.getGrade() >= 90)
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```

Depth of
3!



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        return student1.getName().compareTo(student2.getName());
    }
});
for (Student student: students)
    if ("Ukraine".equals(student.getCountry()))
        if (student.getGrade() >= 90)
            topGrades.add(student);
```

Depth of
3!



- In Java 8 and later:

```
List<Students> topStudents = students.stream()
    .filter(x -> "Ukraine".equals(x.getCountry()))
    .filter(x -> x.getGrade() >= 90)
    .sorted(Comparator.comparing(Student::getName))
    .collect(Collectors.toList());
```

Other cool tricks

- Sum of all salaries in the company with "map-reduce"

```
employees.stream()
    .mapToInt(Employee::getSalary)// note the mapToInt... why?
    .reduce(0, Integer::sum)
// could also be done with Lambdas, or simply .sum()
```

- Count the number of employees **by** rank

```
Map<Rank, Long> countByRank =
employees.stream().collectors(
    Collectors.groupingBy(Employee::getRank,
        Collectors.counting()));
```

- Streams **compose** using **flatMap** too!

```
List<Student> allIsraeliStudents = universities.stream()
    .flatMap(u -> u.getFaculties().stream())
    .flatMap(f -> f.getStudents().stream())
    .collect(Collectors.toList());
```


Declarative versus Imperative programming

Streams and Optionals are an example of moving from **imperative** code to **declarative** code

- In imperative code we write the **exact, low level** steps:
 - **Create** a new list object
 - **Iterate** over the original list
 - For every entry, **apply some function** f on it
 - **Add** the result of f in the new list
 - **Return** the new list
- In declarative programming, we write a **higher level description**:
 - **map** all elements in the list using some function f
 - **collect** to a `List`

Declarative versus Imperative (Cont.)

Declarative code is **shorter**, more **precise** and **explicit**, more **readable**, and less **error-prone**

- ▶ You can do pretty **anything** inside a **for** loop
- ▶ That means you have to **read** the **entire body** to know what's going on
- ▶ More room for **bugs**

Declarative code is written in a higher level of abstraction

- ▶ In our case, **maps** and **filters**, rather than object **creation** and **modification**
- ▶ **Higher order functions** instead of **control structures** and **primitive checks**
- ▶ **Less moving parts**, hide the **unnecessary details**

- ▶ Before Java 5, we had to iterate by **index**, or use the **iterator** directly
 - ▶ Even more bugs: infinite loop, index modifications
- ▶ Using `list.add` is more declarative than managing the internal data structure on your own
 - ▶ Using a library/function is usually more declarative than inlining its code
- ▶ Applies to **syntax**, not just **semantics**
 - ▶ An array initializer (`new int[] {1, 2, 3}`) is more declarative than doing it manually
 - ▶ A **lambda expression** is more declarative than an **anonymous functions**, but a **method reference** is more declarative than a lambda expression
 - ▶ Rule of thumb: Less **tokens** \Rightarrow More declarative

- **Avoid loops, use Streams**
 - Almost any loop can be replaced with a Stream call
 - The new version of IntelliJ does this automatically
- **Avoid `nulls`, use `Optionals`**
 - `Optionals` are clearer, safer, compose better, and support higher level functions
 - Only use `nulls` when dealing with **legacy** APIs
- **Prefer `declarative` to `imperative` code whenever possible**

```
Demo.java x
package demo;

import ...

public class Demo {
    private static int withPrefix(List<Set<String>> nested, String prefix) {
        int count = 0;
        for (Set<String> element : nested) {
            if (element != null) {
                for (String str : element) {
                    if (str.startsWith(prefix)) {
                        count += str.length();
                    }
                }
            }
        }
        return count;
    }
}
```

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