

Metaprogramming

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Outline

- 1 Metaprogramming
- 2 Manipulating References to Methods
- 3 Reflexion
- 4 Annotations
- 5 Real Life: JUnit



Metaprogramming: programming a program

- Programming = data manipulations
- Meta-programming = consider program as data
- Why?
 - ▶ Automatic documentation: read code, write doc
 - ▶ Generic programming
 - ★ Java Persistence API (write Java, let it do the SQL)
<http://www.vogella.com/tutorials/JavaPersistenceAPI/article.html>
 - ★ XML serialization (annotate Java classes, get XML serialization for free), e.g. Java Architecture for XML Binding (JAXB).
 - ★ ...
 - ▶ Static checks (turn runtime errors into compile-time errors)
 - ▶ Have fun :-)



Motivating Example: Unit Tests

- A typical unit test framework does (pseudo-code):

```
for (m : thingsToTest) {  
    backend.notifyThatTestIsRunning(); // System.out.println("Running test");  
    try {  
        m.run(); // Run the test  
        backend.notifyThatTestPasses();  
    } catch {  
        backend.notifyThatTestFails();  
    }  
}
```

- Types of `m` and `thingsToTest`?

- ▶ `m`: a method, “something that can be ran” \rightsquigarrow
`java.lang Runnable` or `java.lang.reflect.Method`.
- ▶ `thingsToTest`: a set of runnables (e.g. `List<Runnable>`)



Home Made Unit Test Framework

- In real life: use JUnit
- This course: write our own framework (Homemade-JUnit), several versions:
 - 1 Ask the user to list methods to test
 - 2 Reflexion: list methods in a class, run those starting with `test`
 - 3 Annotation (= JUnit 4's solution): user annotates test methods with `@Test`
- Available in the course's repo, `homemade-junit/`.



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Homemade-JUnit v0: No Framework

- How to use it:

```
class ClassToTest {  
    void testMethod1 () { ... }  
    void testMethod2 () { ... }  
}
```

```
ClassToTest tc = new ClassToTest ();
```

```
tc.testMethod1 ();
```

```
tc.testMethod2 ();
```

- Limitations:

- ▶ User has to call methods explicitly
- ▶ Any code to execute for each method has to be replicated



Homemade-JUnit v0: No Framework

- Tentative extension:

```
ClassToTest tc = new ClassToTest();

int failures = 0;
try {
    tc.testMethod1();
} catch (AssertionError e) {
    failures++;
}
try {
    tc.testMethod2();
} catch (AssertionError e) {
    failures++;
}
System.out.println(failures + " failures");
```

- Ouch, ugly cut-and-paste :-)



Homemade-JUnit v1: Explicit List of Methods

- How to use it:

```
ClassToTest tc = new ClassToTest ();

TestRunnerExplicitList runner =
    new TestRunnerExplicitList (tc);
runner.addTestMethod (tc::testMethod1);
runner.addTestMethod (tc::testMethod2);

runner.run ();
```



Homemade-JUnit v1: Explicit List of Methods

- How it is implemented (1/2):

```
public class TestRunnerExplicitList {
    Object objectUnderTest;
    List<Runnable> methodsToTest =
        new ArrayList<Runnable>();

    public TestRunnerExplicitList(Object tc) {
        objectUnderTest = tc;
    }

    public void addTestMethod(Runnable m) {
        methodsToTest.add(m);
    }

    public void run() { ... } }
```



Homemade-JUnit v1: Explicit List of Methods

- How it is implemented (2/2, missing exception treatment):

```
public class TestRunnerExplicitList {  
    List<Runnable> methodsToTest;  
    ...  
    public void run() {  
  
        for (Runnable m : methodsToTest) {  
  
            m.run();  
        }  
  
    }  
}
```



Homemade-JUnit v1: Explicit List of Methods

- How it is implemented (2/2, missing exception treatment):

```
public class TestRunnerExplicitList {
    List<Runnable> methodsToTest;
    ...
    public void run() {
        String name =
            objectUnderTest.getClass().getName();
        System.out.println(
            "Testing class " + name + "...");
        for (Runnable m : methodsToTest) {
            System.out.println("  testing one method");
            m.run();
        }
        System.out.println(
            "Testing class " + name + ": DONE");
    }
}
```



Homemade-JUnit v1: Explicit List of Methods

- Pros:
 - ▶ Generic code written once, executed once for each test method
 - ▶ 'System.out' could be replaced by IDE integration easily
- Cons:
 - ▶ User still has to specify list of methods
 - ▶ It's easy to forget one 'addTestMethod' ...
- Next: get the list automatically



Functional Interface in Java

- Functional Interface = interface for classes that represent functions = interface containing only one method (optionally annotated with `@FunctionalInterface`)
- Example:

```
@FunctionalInterface
interface IntToInt {
    abstract int run(int x);
}
class C {
    static int increment(int x) { return x + 1; }
}
```

```
// Lambda function assigned to functional interface
IntToInt fi = x -> x + 1;
// Reference to method assigned to funct. interface
fi = C::increment;
```



Method References: How to Use Them?

```
ClassToTest tc = new ClassToTest();

// Reference to an instance method
// of a particular object
Runnable m1 = tc::testMethod1;
m1.run(); // tc.testMethod1();

// Reference to an instance method of an
// arbitrary object of a particular type
Consumer<ClassToTest> m2 = ClassToTest::testMethod2;
m2.accept(tc); // tc.testMethod2();

BiConsumer<ClassToTest, Integer> m3
    = ClassToTest::testMethodWithArg;
m3.accept(tc, 42); // tc.testMethodWithArg(42)
```

<https://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/java/java00/methodreferences.html>



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Homemade-JUnit v2: Automatic List of Methods

- How to use it:

```
ClassToTest tc = new ClassToTest ();
TestRunnerWithoutAnn runner =
    new TestRunnerWithoutAnn(tc);
// Run all methods in ClassToTest
// with name starting with "test"
runner.run();
```



Homemade-JUnit v2: Automatic List of Methods

- Implementation (1/2):

```
public class TestRunnerWithoutAnn {
    Object objectUnderTest;

    public TestRunnerWithoutAnn(Object tc) {
        objectUnderTest = tc;
    }

    public void run() {
        ...
    }
}
```



Homemade-JUnit v2: Automatic List of Methods

- Implementation (2/2, exception processing missing):

```
public void run() {
    Class<? extends Object> cut
        = objectUnderTest.getClass();

    for (Method method : cut.getMethods()) {
        if (method.getName().startsWith("test") &&
            method.getParameterCount() == 0) {

            method.invoke(objectUnderTest);
        }
    }
}
```



Homemade-JUnit v2: Automatic List of Methods

- Implementation (2/2, exception processing missing):

```
public void run() {
    Class<? extends Object> cut
        = objectUnderTest.getClass();
    System.out.println(
        "testing " + cut.getName() + "...");
    for (Method method : cut.getMethods()) {
        if (method.getName().startsWith("test") &&
            method.getParameterCount() == 0) {
            System.out.println(
                "  invoking " + method.getName());
            method.invoke(objectUnderTest);
        }
    }
    System.out.println("testing " +
        cut.getName() + "... DONE");
}
```



Homemade-JUnit v2: Automatic List of Methods

- Pros:
 - ▶ Less code to write for the user (no explicit list)
 - ▶ Still well factored (like v1)
- Cons:
 - ▶ Requires a naming convention (debatable). FYI, this is what JUnit v3 did.
- Possible improvements:
 - ▶ Complain instead of skipping silently when finding a method 'testSomething' with arguments
 - ▶ ... or: invent a way to pass meaningful arguments



Reflexion (« reflexivité » in French)

```
// Get an _object_ describing the _class_  
Class<ClassToTest> x = ClassToTest.class  
  
// Get an object describing the class of someObject.  
Class <? extends Object> c = someObject.getClass();  
  
// List of methods of the class  
o.getMethods()  
  
// Object describing a method  
// (contains more metadata than just the pointer)  
Method m = ...;  
// Get metadata  
m.getName(); m.getParameterCount();  
  
// Call object.method(arg2, ...)  
m.invoke(object, arg2, ...);
```



Reflexivity in Other Languages

- Scheme/LISP:
 - ▶ Program = data
 - ▶ Powerful macro mechanism (function code → code)
- Python:
 - ▶ Everything is dynamic
 - ▶ Ability to add/modify methods at runtime
- C: no reflexivity¹
- C++:
 - ▶ Weak reflexivity support
 - ▶ RTTI exposes class name, but not list of methods
 - ▶ Meta-programming = static checks, static code generation (but not reflexivity)

¹Unless you count `dlopen (NULL)` and read the debug info or symbol table as “reflexivity”...



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Annotations in Java

- What does it look like?

```
@SomeClassAnnotation
class Foo {

    @SomeMethodAnnotation(arg1, arg2)
    void someMethod() { ... }

}
```

- Uses:

- ▶ By the compiler: static checks (e.g. `@Override`, `@Deprecated`)
- ▶ By external tools: documentation generators (JavaDoc), code generators
- ▶ By other classes in the same application

- Things that can be annotated: package, class, interface, enum, annotation, constructor, method, parameter, class field, local variable.



Homemade-JUnit v3: Annotation-based

- How to use it?

```
class ClassToTest {  
    public void notATestCase () {  
        ...  
    }  
  
    @HomeMadeTest  
    public void testMethod1 () {  
        ...  
    }  
  
    @HomeMadeTest  
    public void testMethod2 () {  
        ...  
    }  
}
```



Homemade-JUnit v3: Annotation-based

- Implementation: declare annotation

```
@Retention(RetentionPolicy.RUNTIME)
@Target(ElementType.METHOD)
public @interface HomeMadeTest {
    // Nothing!
}
```

- An object of type `HomeMadeTest` attached to each method decorated with `@HomeMadeTest`
- Don't forget `Retention(RetentionPolicy.RUNTIME)`: default is `CLASS` which keeps the annotations in `.class` files, but doesn't load them at runtime.



Homemade-JUnit v3: Annotation-based

```
public class TestRunnerWithAnn {
    Object objectUnderTest;
    public TestRunnerWithAnn(Object tc) {
        objectUnderTest = tc;
    }

    public void run() {
        Class<? extends Object> cut
            = objectUnderTest.getClass();
        for (Method method : cut.getMethods()) {
            processMethod(method);
        }
    }

    void processMethod(Method method) { ... } }
```



Homemade-JUnit v3: Annotation-based

```
private void processMethod(Method method) {
    HomeMadeTest a
        = method.getAnnotation(HomeMadeTest.class);
    if (a != null) {
        method.invoke(objectUnderTest);
    }
}
```



Homemade-JUnit v3.1: Parameterized Tests

- Sometimes, one wants to run the same test with multiple inputs
- Non-meta-programming way:

```
tc.testMethodWithArg(1);  
tc.testMethodWithArg(2);  
tc.testMethodWithArg(33);
```

- Our annotation-based way:

```
@HomeMadeTest  
@HomeMadeArgs({1, 2, 33})  
public void testMethodWithArg(int x) {  
    ...  
}
```



Homemade-JUnit v3.1: Parameterized Tests

- Annotation declaration:

```
@Retention(RetentionPolicy.RUNTIME)
@Target(ElementType.METHOD)
public @interface HomeMadeArgs {
    int[] value();
}
```



Homemade-JUnit v3.1: Parameterized Tests

- Implementation:

```
private void processMethod(Method method) {
    HomeMadeTest a
        = method.getAnnotation(HomeMadeTest.class);
    if (a != null) {
        HomeMadeArgs args
            = method.getAnnotation(HomeMadeArgs.class);
        if (args != null) {
            for (int arg : args.value()) {
                method.invoke(objectUnderTest, arg);
            }
        } else {
            method.invoke(objectUnderTest);
        }
    }
}
```



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JUnit and Annotations

- Example JUnit test class:

```
public class PlainJUnit {
    @Test
    public void test() {
        SomeClass c = new SomeClass();
        c.doSomething();
        assertEquals(42, c.getResult());
    }

    @Test(expected=MyException.class)
    public void testExcept() throws MyException {
        // test fails if following line removed
        throw new MyException();
    }
}
```



JUnit and Annotations

```
@RunWith(Parameterized.class)
public class FibonacciTest {
    @Parameters
    public static Collection<Object[]> data() {
        return Arrays.asList(new Object[][] {
            {0, 0}, {1, 1}, {2, 1}, {3, 2},
            {4, 3}, {5, 5}, {6, 8}
        });
    }
    private int fInput, fExpected;

    public FibonacciTest(int input, int expected) {
        this.fInput = input; this.fExpected = expected;
    }

    @Test
    public void test() {
        assertEquals(fExpected, Fibonacci.compute(fInput));
    }
}
```

} <https://github.com/junit-team/junit4/wiki/parameterized-tests>

