



UNIVERSITY OF MISKOLC
FACULTY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
AND INFORMATICS

Java programming

GEIAL31A-B2a

Data structures in Java

Tamás Tompa, PhD

assistant professor

Department of Information Technology

Based on materials prepared by Miklós Szűcs

Miskolc, 2026

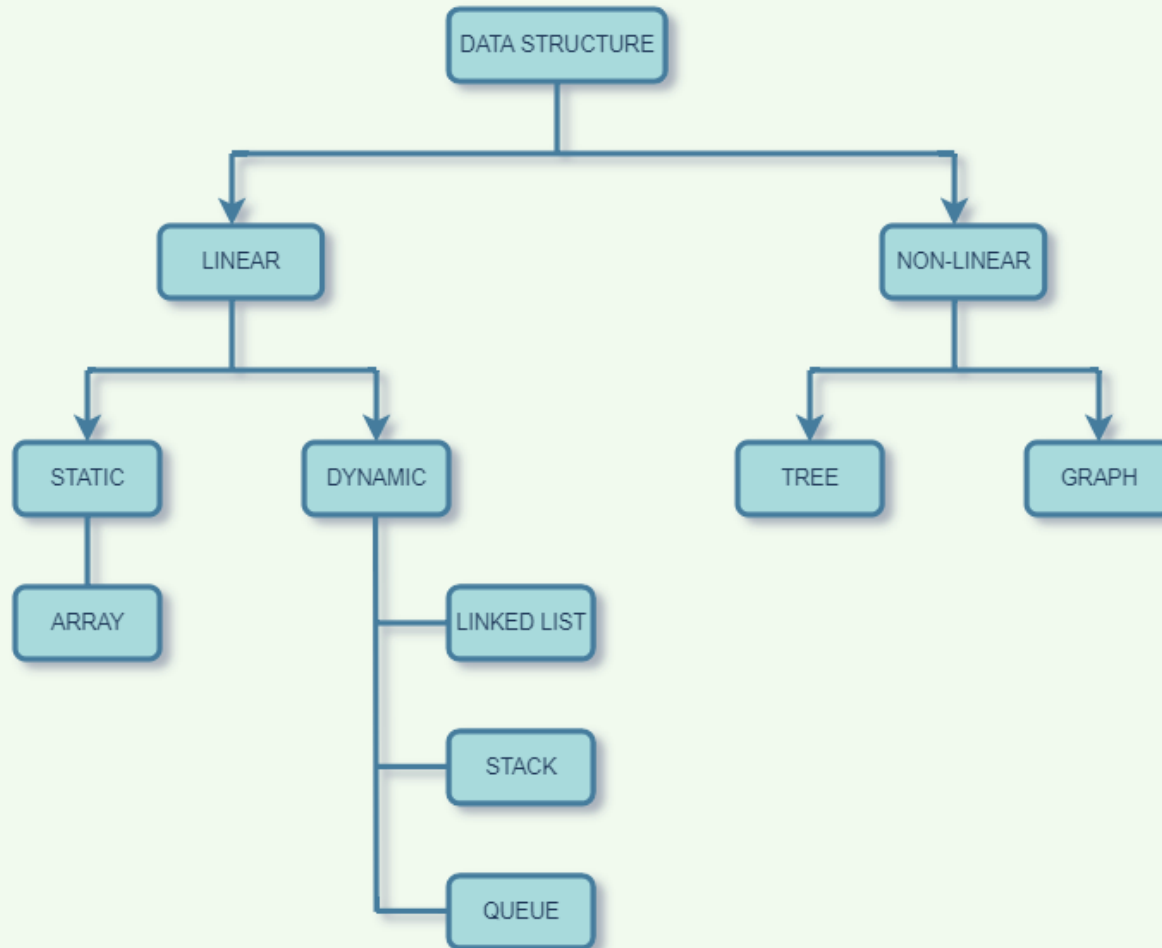
Definition

- Data structures are fundamental to any programming language
- A data structure is **defined as a format for arranging, processing, accessing, and storing data**
- Data structures are the combination of both simple and complex forms, all of which are made to **organise data for a certain use**
- Java includes many other data structures
 - arrays
 - collections (list, map, set, etc.)

Types

- There are two types of data structures:
 - **primitive data structures**
 - byte, short, int, float, char, boolean, long, double
 - **non-primitive data structures**
 - **linear data structures**
 - the elements arranged in a linear fashion
 - each element is connected to one other element only
 - arrays, stack, queue, linked list
 - **non-linear data structures**
 - the elements arranged in a non-linear fashion
 - each element is connected to n-other elements
 - trees, heap, hash

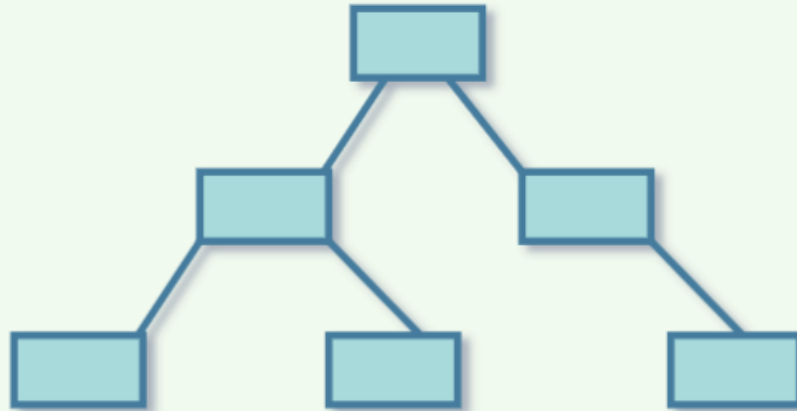
Types



Types



LINEAR DATA
STRUCTURE



NON- LINEAR DATA
STRUCTURE

Arrays

- Arrays are used to **store multiple values in a single variable**
 - instead of declaring separate variables for each value
- To declare an array, define the variable type with **square brackets []**
- Can be **accessed** an array element **by** referring to the **index** number
- Java uses static arrays, which means that **the number of elements is fixed** and cannot be changed
- **Array indexes start at 0**
 - the index must be an integer between 0 and (numberOfElements - 1)

Arrays - examples

```
String[] cars;  
String[] cars = {"Volvo", "BMW", "Ford", "Mazda"};
```

```
int[] myNum = {10, 20, 30, 40};
```

```
String[] cars = {"Volvo", "BMW", "Ford", "Mazda"};  
System.out.println(cars[0]);  
// Outputs Volvo
```

Index	Element
0	Volvo
1	BMW
2	Ford
3	Mazda

Arrays - Instantiation

- `new type[number of elements];`
- **The number of elements in an array cannot be changed later**
- Accessing array elements: `arrayVariable[index]`
- In the case of reference arrays, each array element is a reference
- When the array is created, the referenced objects are not created

```
String[] cars = new String[4]; // size is 4
```

```
cars[0] = "Volvo";  
cars[1] = "BMW";  
cars[2] = "Ford";  
cars[3] = "Mazda";
```

```
System.out.println(cars[0]); // Outputs Volvo
```

Arrays - Loop Through

- Loop through the array elements with the **for loop**, and use the **length property** to specify how many times the loop should run

```
String[] cars = {"Volvo", "BMW", "Ford", "Mazda"};

for (int i = 0; i < cars.length; i++) {
    System.out.println(cars[i]);
}
```

- Or can be used foreach loop

```
String[] cars = {"Volvo", "BMW", "Ford", "Mazda"};

for (String items : cars) {
    System.out.println(items);
}
```

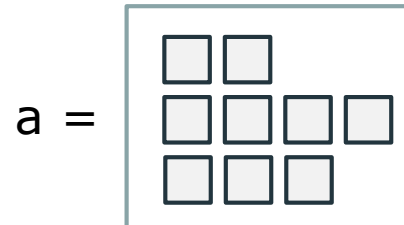
Multidimensional arrays

- A multidimensional array is **an array that contains other arrays**
- Java supports multidimensional arrays with an arbitrary number of dimensions
- **Two-dimensional array:** write each row inside its own curly braces:

```
int[][] a = new int[5][2];  
a[0][0] = 12;
```

- **Jagged array** (array with rows of different lengths)

```
int[][] a = new int[3][];  
a[0] = new int[2];  
a[1] = new int[4];  
a[2] = new int[3];
```



Multidimensional arrays

```
int[][] myNumbers = { {1, 4, 2}, {3, 6, 8} };
```

	COLUMN 0	COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2
ROW 0	1	4	2
ROW 1	3	6	8

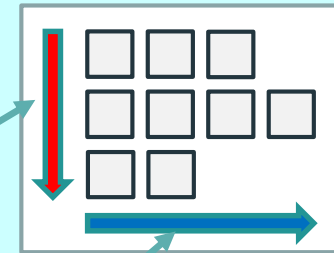
○ Access elements

- To access an element of a two-dimensional array, need **two indexes**
 - the **row**
 - the **column**

```
System.out.println(myNumbers[1][2]);  
// Outputs 8
```

Multidimensional arrays

```
public class ArrayP2 {  
    public static void main(String args[]) {  
        int t [][] = {  
            {0,0,0},  
            {0,0,0,0},  
            {0,0}  
        };  
        for (int i=0; i<t.length; i++)  
            for (int j=0; j<t[i].length; j++)  
                t[i][j] = (int)(Math.random()*9)+1;  
        for(int[] x: t){  
            System.out.println();  
            for(int y: x)  
                System.out.print(y+" ");  
        }  
    }  
}
```



```
6 2 5  
1 7 9 2  
9 2
```

Multidimensional arrays

- 1 Creating a matrix instance with initial values
- 2 `t.length`: number of rows
- 3 `t[i].length`: length of the given row (number of elements)
- 4 Accessing a matrix element using its indices
- 5 Enhanced for loop over a matrix. first, a row is assigned to an array,
7 then the elements of that array are assigned to individual variables
- 6 Printing an empty line to improve readability
- 8 Printing the value of a matrix element

Enums

- An enum is a **special "class"** that represents a **group of constants** (unchangeable variables, like final variables)
- To create an enum, use the enum keyword and separate the constants with a comma
- Superclass: `java.lang.Enum`
- Enum constants do not require explicit values, they are **referenced by their names** only

```
enum Level
{
    LOW,
    MEDIUM,
    HIGH
}
```

```
Level myVar = Level.MEDIUM;
```

Enums

- Inside a class

```
public class Main {
    enum Level {
        LOW,
        MEDIUM,
        HIGH
    }

    public static void main(String[]
args) {
        Level myVar = Level.MEDIUM;
        System.out.println(myVar);
    }
}
```

Enums

- An enum can also have a **constructor** just like a class
- The constructor is called automatically when the constants are created
- For example, each constant in the enum has a value (a string) that is set through the constructor

Enums

```
enum Level {
    LOW("Low level"),
    MEDIUM("Medium level"),
    HIGH("High level");

    private String description;

    private Level(String
description) {
        this.description =
description;
    }

    public String
getDescription() {
        return description;
    }
}
```

```
public class Main {
    public static void main(String[]
args) {
        Level myVar = Level.MEDIUM;

        System.out.println(myVar.getDescriptio
n());
    }
}
```

Enums

- Can be loop through the constants and print their values using the `values()` method:

```
for (Level myVar : Level.values()) {  
    System.out.println(myVar + ": " + myVar.getDescription());  
}
```

```
LOW: Low level  
MEDIUM: Medium level  
HIGH: High level
```

Collections framework

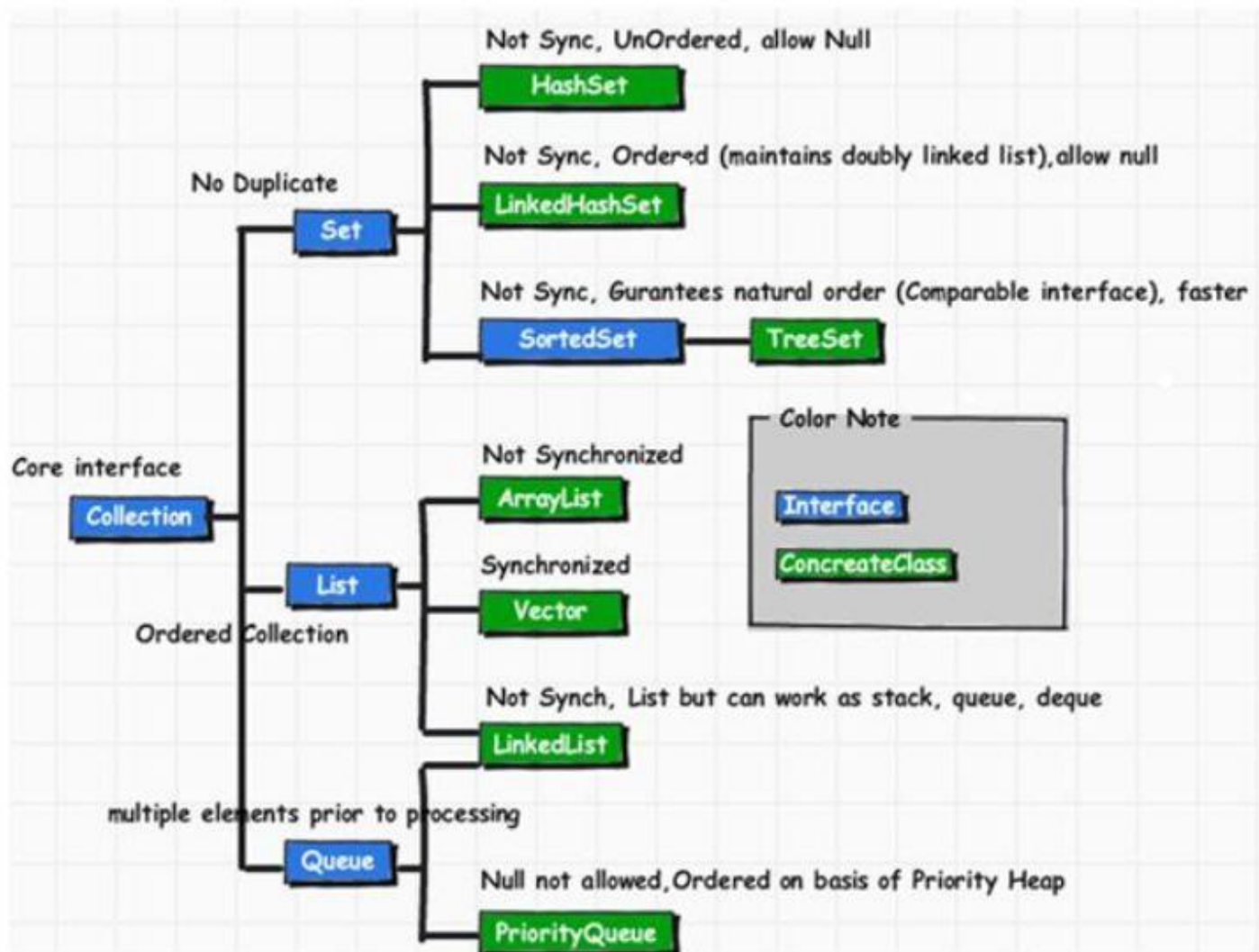
○ Limitations of arrays

- **fixed size**, the size cannot be increased dynamically
- if the **size** is chosen **too large**, it results in **wasted memory**
- modifying an array:
 - problems: inserting an element, deleting an element
 - **searching**: all elements must be checked (**linear search**)

○ Solution

- **Collections: dynamically resizable data structures**
- Framework: in the `java.util` package
- **provides a set of interfaces** (List, Set, Map) and a set of classes (ArrayList, HashSet, HashMap, etc.) that implement those interfaces

Collections framework



ArrayList

- An ArrayList is like a **resizable array**
- It is part of the `java.util` package and implements the List interface
- The difference between a built-in array and an ArrayList, is that the size of an array cannot be modified
- The list **must be instantiated**
- **Only wrapper (reference) classes can be used** as the element type. Integer, Double, Character, Long, Boolean,
- A list **can store only reference types**, therefore primitive types cannot be stored directly

```
import java.util.ArrayList; // Import the ArrayList class

ArrayList<String> cars = new ArrayList<String>();
```

ArrayList - add elements

- ○ Add elements to an ArrayList, **use the add() method:**

```
ArrayList<String> cars = new ArrayList<String>();
cars.add("Volvo");
cars.add("BMW");
cars.add("Ford");
cars.add("Mazda");
System.out.println(cars);
}
```

- Also add an element at a specified position **by referring to the index number:**

```
ArrayList<String> cars = new ArrayList<String>();
cars.add("Volvo");
cars.add("BMW");
cars.add("Ford");

cars.add(0, "Mazda"); // Insert element at the beginning of the list (0)
```

ArrayList - operations

○ Access an element

- to access an element in the `ArrayList`, use the **`get()` method** and refer to the index number:

```
cars.get(0); // Get the first element
```

○ Change an element

- to modify an element, use the **`set()` method** and refer to the index number:

```
cars.set(0, "Opel");
```

○ Remove an element

- to remove an element, use the **`remove()` method** and refer to the index number:

```
cars.remove(0);
```

ArrayList - operations

○ Remove all elements

- to remove all the elements **use the clear() method:**

```
cars.clear();
```

○ Size of ArrayList

- to find out how many elements an ArrayList have, **use the size() method:**

```
cars.size();
```

ArrayList - iterate

- Loop through the elements of an `ArrayList` with a **for loop**, and use the `size()` method to specify how many times the loop should run:

```
ArrayList<String> cars = new ArrayList<String>();
cars.add("Volvo");
cars.add("BMW");
cars.add("Ford");
cars.add("Mazda");

for (int i = 0; i < cars.size(); i++) {
    System.out.println(cars.get(i));
}
}
```

ArrayList - iterate

- Loop through the elements of an ArrayList with a for loop, can be used the **for-each loop**:

```
for (String item : cars) {  
    System.out.println(item);  
}
```

ArrayList - other types

- To use other types, such as int, you must specify an equivalent **wrapper class**
 - Integer for int, Boolean for boolean, Character for char, Double for double, etc:

```
ArrayList<Integer> myNumbers = new ArrayList<Integer>();
myNumbers.add(10);
myNumbers.add(15);
myNumbers.add(20);
myNumbers.add(25);

for (int i : myNumbers) {
    System.out.println(i);
}
```

ArrayList - sort

- The **sort() method** for sorting lists alphabetically or numerically:

```
ArrayList<String> cars = new ArrayList<String>();
cars.add("Volvo");
cars.add("BMW");
cars.add("Ford");
cars.add("Mazda");

Collections.sort(cars); // Sort cars

for (String i : cars) {
    System.out.println(i);
}
```

Set

- The Set is used to store a collection of unique elements
- Unlike a List, a Set does not allow duplicates, and it does not preserve the order of elements
- Common classes that implement Set:
 - HashSet - fast and unordered
 - TreeSet - sorted set
 - LinkedHashSet - ordered by insertion

List	Set
Allows duplicates	Does not allow duplicates
Maintains order	Does not guarantee order
Access by index	No index-based access

HashSet

- Every element is unique

```
import java.util.HashSet; // Import the HashSet class  
  
HashSet<String> cars = new HashSet<String>();
```

```
cars.add("Volvo");  
cars.add("BMW");  
cars.add("Ford");  
cars.add("BMW"); // Duplicate  
cars.add("Mazda");  
System.out.println(cars);
```

```
[Volvo, Mazda, Ford, BMW]
```

Hashset

- Check if an element exists

```
cars.contains("Mazda");
```

```
true
```

- Remove an element

```
cars.remove(„Volvo“);
```

```
[Mazda, Ford, BMW]
```

- Remove all elements

```
cars.clear();
```

```
[]
```

- Size

```
cars.size();
```

```
4
```

TreeSet

- It stores **unique elements in sorted order**
 - the elements will be sorted automatically
 - the duplicated elements will only appear once

```
TreeSet<String> cars = new TreeSet<>();
cars.add("Volvo");
cars.add("BMW");
cars.add("Ford");
cars.add("BMW"); // Duplicate
cars.add("Mazda");

System.out.println(cars);
```

```
[BMW, Ford, Mazda, Volvo]
```

Map

- It is used to **store key-value pairs**
 - each **key** must be **unique**, but **values** can be **duplicated**
- Interface
- Common classes that implement Map:
 - HashMap - fast and unordered
 - TreeMap - sorted by key
 - LinkedHashMap - ordered by insertion

Method	Description
put()	Adds or updates a key-value pair
get()	Returns the value for a given key
remove()	Removes the key and its value
containsKey()	Checks if the map contains the key
keySet()	Returns a set of all keys

HashMap

- It stores items in **key/value pairs**, where each key maps to a specific value
- It implements the Map interface
- Instead of accessing elements by an index, can be used a key to retrieve its associated value
- A HashMap can store many different combinations:
 - String keys and Integer values
 - String keys and String values

```
import java.util.HashMap; // Import the HashMap class

HashMap<String, String> capitalCities = new HashMap<>();
```

HashMap - add items

```
HashMap<String, String> capitalCities = new HashMap<String, String>();  
  
// Add keys and values (Country, City)  
capitalCities.put("England", "London");  
capitalCities.put("India", "New Dehli");  
capitalCities.put("Austria", "Wien");  
capitalCities.put("Norway", "Oslo");  
capitalCities.put("Norway", "Oslo"); // Duplicate  
capitalCities.put("USA", "Washington DC");  
  
System.out.println(capitalCities);
```

```
{Austria=Wien, USA=Washington DC, Norway=Oslo, England=London, India=New Dehli}
```

HashMap - operations

- **Access an item**

```
capitalCities.get("England");
```

```
London
```

- **Remove an item**

```
capitalCities.remove("England");
```

```
{Austria=Wien, USA=Washington DC, Norway=Oslo, India=New Dehli}
```

- **Remove all item**

```
capitalCities.clear();
```

TreeMap

- It stores **key/value pairs in sorted order by key**
- It implements the Map interface

```
import java.util.TreeMap; // Import the TreeMap class

TreeMap<String, String> capitalCities = new TreeMap<>();

capitalCities.put("England", "London");
capitalCities.put("India", "New Dehli");
capitalCities.put("Austria", "Wien");
capitalCities.put("Norway", "Oslo");
capitalCities.put("Norway", "Oslo"); // Duplicate
capitalCities.put("USA", "Washington DC");

System.out.println(capitalCities);
```

```
{Austria=Wien, England=London, India=New Dehli, Norway=Oslo, USA=Washington DC}
```

Iterator

- An Iterator is **an object that can be used to loop through collections**
- It is called an "iterator" because "iterating" is the technical term for looping
- To use an Iterator, you must import it from the `java.util` package

```
ArrayList<String> cars = new ArrayList<String>();  
cars.add("Volvo");  
cars.add("BMW");  
cars.add("Ford");  
cars.add("Mazda");  
  
Iterator<String> it = cars.iterator();  
  
// Print the first item  
System.out.println(it.next());
```

Summerize

Interface	Common classes	Description
List	ArrayList, LinkedList	Ordered collection that allows duplicates
Set	HashSet, TreeSet, LinkedHashSet	Collection of unique elements
Map	HashMap, TreeMap, LinkedHashMap	Stores key-value pairs with unique keys

Equals() and hashCode()

○ Equals()

- The equals(Object o) method is used to **check logical (content) equality**
- The default implementation in Object compares references (==)
- It is usually overridden to define when two objects should be considered equal
- Typical rule: compare the significant fields of the class
- Example: Two Book objects are equal if their author and title are the same

Equals() and hashCode()

○ hashCode()

- The hashCode() method **returns an integer hash value for an object**
- It is used by hash-based collections:
 - HashSet
 - HashMap
 - HashTable
- The hash code is used to speed up searching, not to decide equality by itself

Equals() and hashCode()

- Java defines a strict rule
- **If `a.equals(b) == true` then `a.hashCode() == b.hashCode()` must also be true**
- **The reverse is not required**
 - same `hashCode()` \neq guaranteed equality
- Whenever `equals()` is overridden, `hashCode()` must also be overridden
- `hashCode()`: fast filtering (which bucket?)
- `equals()`: exact comparison (are they really equal?)

Sorting objects

- **Comparable and Comparator interfaces** are used for sorting objects
- The main difference between Comparable and Comparator:
 - **Comparable:** it is used to define the **natural ordering** of the objects within the class
 - implemented inside the class (`class Book implements Comparable<Book>`)
 - `compareTo()` method
 - `Arrays.sort(array)` (no comparator needed)
 - **Comparator:** it is used to define **custom sorting logic externally**
 - implemented in a separate class or nested class
 - `compare()` method
 - `Arrays.sort(array, comparator)`
 - `Arrays.sort(array, new Employee.NameSorter());`

Sorting objects

○ Java8 comparator

- Java 8 introduced a more simple way to write comparators using **lambda expressions**
- one criterion, ascending

```
Arrays.sort(array, Comparator.comparing(Person::getAge));
```

- one criterion, descending

```
Comparator<Employee> compByAge = Comparator.comparing(Person::getAge);  
Arrays.sort(array, compByAge.reversed());
```

- multiple criteria (tie-breakers)

```
Arrays.sort(array, Comparator.comparing(Employee::getSalary)  
    .thenComparing(Person::getAge)  
    .thenComparing(Person::getName));
```

Sorting objects

○ Summerrize

● Comparable

- natural ordering inside the class

● Comparator

- alternative ordering outside the class

● Java 8 Comparator

- clean, chainable comparators using `comparing(...)`, `thenComparing(...)`, `reversed()`

Thank you for your attention!

