

What Is a Collection?

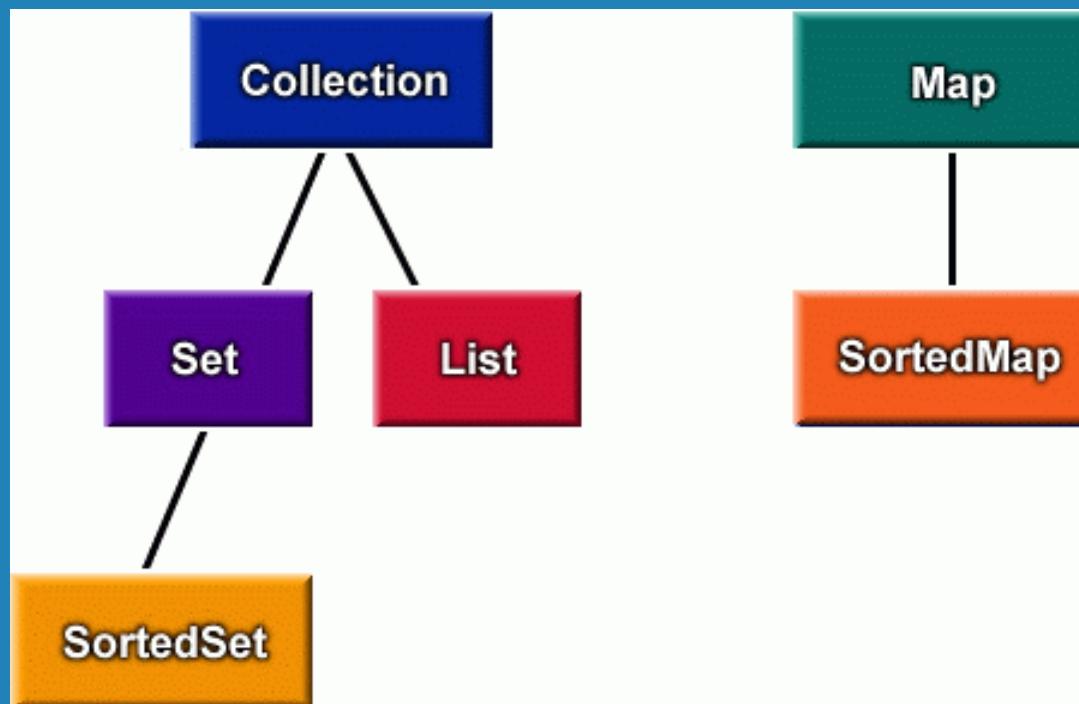
- A collection (sometimes called a container) is simply an object that groups multiple elements into a single unit.

- Collections typically represent data items that form a natural group, like a poker hand (a collection of cards), a mail folder (a collection of letters), or a telephone directory (a collection of name-to-phone-number mappings).

What are the Benefits of Collections?

- It reduces programming effort
- It increases program speed and quality
- It allows interoperability among unrelated APIs
- It reduces the effort to learn and use new APIs
- It reduces effort to design new APIs
- It fosters software reuse

Collection: Interfaces



Object Ordering

There are two ways to order objects:

- The Comparable interface provides automatic natural order on classes that implement it
- The Comparator interface gives the programmer complete control over object ordering

Collection: Basic Operations

```
public interface Collection {  
    ...  
    int size();  
    boolean isEmpty();  
    boolean contains(Object element);  
    boolean add(Object element);      // Optional  
    boolean remove(Object element); // Optional  
    Iterator iterator();  
    ...
```

Collection: Bulk Operations

...

```
boolean containsAll(Collection c);  
boolean addAll(Collection c);      // Optional  
boolean removeAll(Collection c); // Optional  
boolean retainAll(Collection c); // Optional  
void clear();
```

...

Collection: Array Operations

...

`Object[] toArray();`

`Object[] toArray(Object a[]);`

...

The Iterator Interface

```
public interface Iterator {  
    boolean hasNext();  
    Object next();  
    void remove(); // Optional  
}
```

Using Iterators

```
static void filter(Collection c) {  
    for (Iterator i = c.iterator(); i.hasNext();)  
        if (!cond(i.next()))  
            i.remove();  
}
```

- Note: the code is polymorphic: it works for any Collection that supports element removal, regardless of implementation. That's how easy it is to write a polymorphic algorithm under the collections framework!

The List interface

A List is an ordered Collection(sometimes called a sequence). Lists may contain duplicate elements. In addition to the operations inherited from Collection, the List interface includes operations for:

- **Positional Access:** manipulate elements based on their numerical position in the list.
- **Search:** search for a specified object in the list and return its numerical position.
- **List Iteration:** extend Iterator semantics to take advantage of the list's sequential nature.
- **Range-view:** perform arbitrary range operations on the list.

List: Positional Access

```
Object get(int index);  
Object set(int index, Object element);  
    // Optional  
void add(int index, Object element);  
    // Optional  
Object remove(int index);  
    // Optional  
abstract boolean addAll(int index,  
Collection c); // Optional
```

List: Search

```
int indexOf(Object o);  
int lastIndexOf(Object o);
```

List: Iteration

```
ListIterator listIterator();  
ListIterator listIterator(int index);
```

List: Range-view

```
List subList(int from, int to);
```

The Map Interface

A Map is an object that maps keys to values. A map cannot contain duplicate keys: Each key can map to at most one value. The Map interface includes operations for:

- Basic Operations
- Bulk Operations
- Collection Views
- Interface for `entrySet` elements

Map: Basic Operations

```
Object put(Object key, Object value);  
Object get(Object key);  
Object remove(Object key);  
boolean containsKey(Object key);  
boolean containsValue(Object value);  
int size();  
boolean isEmpty();
```

Map: Bulk Operations

```
void putAll(Map t) ;  
void clear() ;
```

Map: Collection Views

```
public Set keySet();  
public Collection values();  
public Set entrySet();
```

Example

```
import java.util.*;  
  
public class Freq {  
    private static final Integer ONE = new Integer(1);  
    public static void main(String args[]) {  
        Map m = new HashMap();  
        // Initialize frequency table from command line  
        for (int i=0; i<args.length; i++) {  
            Integer freq = (Integer) m.get(args[i]);  
            m.put(args[i], (freq==null ? ONE :  
                new Integer(freq.intValue() + 1)));  
        }  
        System.out.println(m.size()+" distinct words  
                           detected:");  
        System.out.println(m);  
    }  
}
```