Topic 15
Implementing and Using Stacks

"stack n.
The set of things a person has to do in the future. "I haven't done it yet because every time I pop my stack something new gets pushed." If you are interrupted several times in the middle of a conversation, "My stack overflowed" means "I forget what we were talking about."

-The Hacker's Dictionary

Friedrich L. Bauer
German computer scientist who proposed "stack method of expression evaluation" in 1955.
Sharper Tools

Lists

Stacks
Stacks

- Access is allowed only at one point of the structure, normally termed the *top* of the stack
  - access to the most recently added item only

- Operations are limited:
  - push (add item to stack)
  - pop (remove top item from stack)
  - top (get top item without removing it)
  - isEmpty

- Described as a "Last In First Out" (LIFO) data structure
Stack Operations

Assume a simple stack for integers.
Stack<Integer> s = new Stack<Integer>();
s.push(12);
s.push(4);
s.push(s.top() + 2);
s.pop();
s.pop();
s.push(s.top());
//what are contents of stack?
Stack Operations

Write a method to print out contents of stack in reverse order.
Uses of Stacks

- The runtime stack used by a process (running program) to keep track of methods in progress
- Search problems
- Undo, redo, back, forward
What is Output?

Stack<Integer> s = new Stack<Integer>();
// put stuff in stack
for(int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
    s.push(si);
// Print out contents of stack
// while emptying it.
// Assume there is a size method.
for(int i = 0; i < s.size(); i++)
    System.out.print(s.pop() + " ");

A 0 1 2 3 4
B 4 3 2 1 0
C 4 3 2
D 2 3 4
E No output due to runtime error
Corrected Version

Stack<Integer> s = new Stack<Integer>();
// put stuff in stack
for(int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
    s.push(i);
// print out contents of stack
// while emptying it
int limit = s.size();
for(int i = 0; i < limit; i++)
    System.out.print(s.pop() + " ");
//or
// while( !s.isEmpty() )
//     System.out.println(s.pop());
Implementing a stack

- need an underlying collection to hold the elements of the stack
- 2 obvious choices
  - array (native or ArrayList)
  - linked list

Adding a *layer of abstraction*. A big idea.

- array implementation
- linked list implementation
Applications of Stacks
Mathematical Calculations

- What does $3 + 2 \times 4$ equal?
  $2 \times 4 + 3$?  $3 \times 2 + 4$?

- The precedence of operators affects the order of operations.

- A mathematical expression cannot simply be evaluated left to right.

- A challenge when evaluating a program.

- *Lexical analysis* is the process of interpreting a program.

What about $1 - 2 - 4^5 \times 3 \times 6 / 7^2^3$
Infix and Postfix Expressions

- The way we are use to writing expressions is known as infix notation.
- Postfix expression does not require any precedence rules.
- 3 2 * 1 + is postfix of 3 * 2 + 1
- Evaluate the following postfix expressions and write out a corresponding infix expression:
  
  2 3 2 4 * + *
  1 2 - 3 2 ^ 3 * 6 / +
  2 5 ^ 1 -
Clicker Question 2

What does the following postfix expression evaluate to?

\[ 6 \, 3 \, 2 \, + \, * \]

A. 18
B. 36
C. 24
D. 11
E. 30
Evaluation of Postfix Expressions

- Easy to do with a stack
- given a proper postfix expression:
  - get the next token
  - if it is an operand push it onto the stack
  - else if it is an operator
    - pop the stack for the right hand operand
    - pop the stack for the left hand operand
    - apply the operator to the two operands
    - push the result onto the stack
  - when the expression has been exhausted the result is the top (and only element) of the stack
Infix to Postfix

Convert the following equations from infix to postfix:

- $2 \ ^ \ 3 \ ^ \ 3 \ + \ 5 \ * \ 1$
- $11 \ + \ 2 \ - \ 1 \ * \ 3 \ / \ 3 \ + \ 2 \ ^ \ 2 \ / \ 3$

Problems:
- Negative numbers?
- Parentheses in expression
Infix to Postfix Conversion

- Requires operator precedence parsing algorithm
  - parse v. To determine the syntactic structure of a sentence or other utterance

Operands: add to expression

Close parenthesis: pop stack symbols until an open parenthesis appears

Operators:
  - Have an on stack and off stack precedence
  - Pop all stack symbols until a symbol of lower precedence appears. Then push the operator

End of input: Pop all remaining stack symbols and add to the expression
Simple Example

Infix Expression: \(3 + 2 \times 4\)

PostFix Expression:

Operator Stack:

Precedence Table

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Simple Example

Infix Expression: \[ + 2 \times 4 \]
PostFix Expression: \[ 3 \]
Operator Stack:

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Simple Example

Infix Expression: $2 * 4$
PostFix Expression: 3
Operator Stack: +

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Simple Example

Infix Expression: \(*\ 4\)
PostFix Expression: \(3\ 2\)
Operator Stack: \(+\)

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Simple Example

Infix Expression: 4
PostFix Expression: 3 2
Operator Stack: + *

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Simple Example

Infix Expression:

PostFix Expression: 3 2 4

Operator Stack: + *

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Simple Example

Infix Expression:

PostFix Expression: 3 2 4 *

Operator Stack: +

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Simple Example

Infix Expression: 3 2 4 * +

PostFix Expression: 3 2 4 * +

Operator Stack:

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Example

$11 + 2^4^3 - ((4 + 5) \times 6)^2$

Show algorithm in action on above equation
Balanced Symbol Checking

- In processing programs and working with computer languages there are many instances when symbols must be balanced \{ \} , [ ] , ( )

A stack is useful for checking symbol balance. When a closing symbol is found it must match the most recent opening symbol of the same type.

- Applicable to checking html and xml tags!
Algorithm for Balanced Symbol Checking

- Make an empty stack
- read symbols until end of file
  - if the symbol is an opening symbol push it onto the stack
  - if it is a closing symbol do the following
    • if the stack is empty report an error
    • otherwise pop the stack. If the symbol popped does not match the closing symbol report an error
- At the end of the file if the stack is not empty report an error
Algorithm in practice

- \( \text{list}[i] = 3 \times (44 - \text{method}(\text{foo}(\text{list}[2 \times (i + 1) + \text{foo}(\text{list}[i - 1])]) / 2) - \text{list}[\text{method}(\text{list}[0])]); \)

- Complications
  - when is it not an error to have non-matching symbols?

- Processing a file
  - *Tokenization*: the process of scanning an input stream. Each independent chunk is a token.

- Tokens may be made up of 1 or more characters