JAVA GENERICS
Early versions of Java lacked generics...

interface Collection {
    /** Return true iff the collection contains ob */
    boolean contains(Object ob);

    /** Add ob to the collection; return true iff
    * the collection is changed. */
    boolean add(Object ob);

    /** Remove ob from the collection; return true iff
    * the collection is changed. */
    boolean remove(Object ob);
    ...
}

Java Collections

Lack of generics was painful because programmers had to manually cast.

```java
Collection c = ...
c.add("Hello")
c.add("World");
...
for (Object ob : c) {
    String s = (String) ob;
    System.out.println(s + " : " + s.length());
}
```

… and people often made mistakes!
Using Java Collections

Limitation seemed especially awkward because built-in arrays do not have the same problem!

```java
String[] a = ...
a[0]= ("Hello")
a[1]= ("World");
...
for (String s : a) {
    System.out.println(s);
}
```

In late 1990s, Sun Microsystems initiated a design process to add generics to the language ...
Arrays → Generics

Array of Strings, ArrayList of strings ---same concept with a different syntax

We should be able to do the same thing with object types generated by classes!

```
Object[] oa = ... // array of Objects
String[] sa = ... // array of Strings
ArrayList<Object> oA = ... // ArrayList of Objects
ArrayList<String> oA = ... // ArrayList of Strings
```
Proposals for adding Generics to Java

Andrew Meyers

Turing Award winner Barbara Liskov

Nate Foster

PolyJ

Pizza/GJ

LOOJ
With generics, the Collection interface becomes...

```java
interface Collection<T> {
    /** Return true iff the collection contains x */
    boolean contains(T x);

    /** Add x to the collection; return true iff
     * the collection is changed. */
    boolean add(T x);

    /** Remove x from the collection; return true iff
     * the collection is changed. */
    boolean remove(T x);
    ...
}
```
Using Java Collections

With generics, no casts are needed...

```java
Collection<String> c = ...;
c.add("Hello");
c.add("World");
...
for (String s : c) {
    System.out.println(s + " : " + s.length());
}
```

... and mistakes (usually) get caught!
Type checking (at compile time)

The compiler can automatically detect uses of collections with incorrect types...

```java
// This is Demo0
Collection<String> c = ...
c.add("Hello")  /* Okay */
c.add(1979);    /* Illegal: static error! */
```

Generally speaking,

Collection<String>

behaves like the parameterized type

Collection<T>

where all occurrences of T have been replaced by String.
Subtyping extends naturally to generic types.

```java
interface Collection<T> { ... }
interface List<T> extends Collection<T> { ... }
class LinkedList<T> implements List<T> { ... }
class ArrayList<T> implements List<T> { ... }

/* The following statements are all legal. */
List<String> l = new LinkedList<String>();
ArrayList<String> a = new ArrayList<String>();
Collection<String> c = a;
l = a
c = l;
```
Array Subtyping

Java’s type system allows the analogous rule for arrays:

```java
// This is Demo1
String[] as = new String[10];
Object[] ao = new Object[10];

ao = as;                                          //Type-checks: considered outdated design
ao[0] = 2110;                                     //Type-checks: Integer subtype Object
String s = as[0];                                 //Type-checks: as is a String array
```

What happens when this code is run? TRY IT OUT!
It throws an `ArrayStoreException`! Because arrays are built into Java right from beginning, it could be defined to detect such errors.
Java’s type system allows the analogous rule for arrays:

```java
// This is Demo1
String[] as = new String[10];
Object[] ao = new Object[10];

ao = as;
ao[0] = 2110;
String s = as[0];
```

Is this legal? TRY IT OUT!
String[] is a subtype of Object[]

...is ArrayList<String> a subtype of ArrayList<Object>? 

```java
// This is Demo1
ArrayList<String> ls = new ArrayList<String>();
ArrayList<Object> lo = new ArrayList<Object>();

lo = ls; //Suppose this is legal
lo.add(2110); //Type-checks: Integer subtype Object
String s = ls.get(0); //Type-checks: ls is a List<String>
```

TRY IT OUT!  The answer is NO. ArrayList<String> is NOT a subtype of ArrayList<Object>
A type parameter for a method

Demo 2
/** Replace all values x in list ts by y. */
public void replaceAll(List<Double> ts, Double x, Double y) {
    for (int i = 0; i < ts.size(); i = i+1)
        if (Objects.equals(ts.get(i), x))
            ts.set(i, y);
}

We would like to rewrite the parameter declarations so this method can be used for ANY list, no matter the type of its elements.
A type parameter for a method

Try replacing `Double` by some “Type parameter” `T`, and Java will still complain that type `T` is unknown.

```java
/** Replace all values x in list ts by y. */
public void replaceAll(List<Double> ts, Double x, Double y) {
    for (int i = 0; i < ts.size(); i = i + 1)
        if (Objects.equals(ts.get(i), x))
            ts.set(i, y);
}
```

Somehow, Java must be told that `T` is a type parameter and not a real type. Next slide says how to do this
Placing `<T>` after the access modifier indicates that T is to be considered as a type parameter, to be replaced when method is called.

```java
/** Replace all values x in list ts by y. */
public <T> void replaceAll(List<T> ts, T x, T y) {
    for (int i = 0; i < ts.size(); i = i + 1)
        if (Objects.equals(ts.get(i), x))
            ts.set(i, y);
}
```
Suppose we want to write a method to print every value in a Collection<T>.

```java
void print(Collection<Object> c) {
    for (Object x : c) {
        System.out.println(x);
    }
}
...  
Collection<Integer> c = ...  
c.add(42);  
print(c);  /* Illegal: Collection<Integer> is not a  
* subtype of Collection<Object>! */
```
Wildcards

To get around this problem, Java’s designers added *wildcards* to the language.

```java
void print(Collection<?> c) {
    for (Object x : c) {
        System.out.println(x);
    }
}
...
Collection<Integer> c = ... 
c.add(42);
print(c); /* Legal! */
```

One can think of `Collection<?>` as “Collection of *some* unknown type of values”.
Wildcards

We can’t add values to collections whose types are wildcards ...

```java
void doIt(Collection<?> c) {
    c.add(42); /* Illegal! */
}
...
Collection<String> c = ...
doIt(c); /* Legal! */
```

42 can be added to
• Collection<Integer>
• Collection<Number>
• Collection<Object>
but `c` could be `Collection` of anything, not just supertypes of `Integer`.

How to say that? Can be a supertype of `Integer`?
Bounded Wildcards

Sometimes it is useful to have some information about a wildcard. Can do this by adding bounds...

```java
void doIt(Collection<? super Integer> c) {
    c.add(42); /* Legal! */
}
...
Collection<Object> c = ...
doIt(c); /* Legal! */
Collection<Float> c = ...
doIt(c); /* Illegal! */
```

“? super” is useful when you are only giving values to the object, such as putting values into a Collection
“? extends” is useful when you are only receiving values from the object, such as getting values out of a Collection.

```java
void doIt(Collection<? extends Shape> c) {
    for (Shape s : c)
        s.draw();
}
...
Collection<Circle> c = ...
doIt(c); /* Legal! */
Collection<Object> c = ...
doIt(c); /* Illegal! */
```
Wildcards can be nested. The following receives Collections from an Iterable and then gives floats to those Collections.

```java
void doIt(Iterable<? extends Collection<? super Float>> cs) {
    for(Collection<? super Float> c : cs)
        c.add(0.0f);
}
...
List<Set<Float>> l= ...
doIt(l); /* Legal! */
Collection<List<Number>> c= ...
doIt(c); /* Legal! */
Iterable<Iterable<Float>> i= ...
doIt(i); /* Illegal! */
ArrayList<? extends Set<? super Number>> a= ...
doIt(a); /* Legal! */
```

We skip over this in lecture. Far too intricate for everyone to understand. We won’t quiz you on this.
Generic Methods

Here’s the printing example again. Written with a method type-parameter.

```java
<T> void print(Collection<T> c) { // T is a type parameter
    for (T x : c) {
        System.out.println(x);
    }
}
...
Collection<Integer> c = ...
c.add(42);
print(c);  /* More explicitly: this.<Integer>print(c) */
```

But wildcards are preferred when just as expressive.
Suppose we want to concatenate a list of lists into one list. We want the return type to depend on what the input type is.

Return this list

\[ 3 \rightarrow 6 \rightarrow 8 \rightarrow 7 \rightarrow 5 \rightarrow 2 \]
**Concatenating Lists**

The return type depends on what the input type is.

```java
/** Return the flattened version of ls. */
<T> List<T> flatten(List<? extends List<T>> lists) {
    List<T> flat = new ArrayList<T>();
    for (List<T> l : lists)
        flat.addAll(l);
    return flat;
}
...
List<List<Integer>> is = ...;
List<Integer> i = flatten(is);
List<List<String>> ss = ...;
List<String> s = flatten(ss);
```
Interface Comparable

Interface Comparable\(<T>\) declares a method for comparing one object to another.

```java
interface Comparable\(<T>\) {
    /* Return a negative number, 0, or positive number
     * depending on whether this is less than,
     * equal to, or greater than that */
    int compareTo(T that);
}
```

Integer, Double, Character, and String are all Comparable with themselves.
Our binary search

Type parameter: anything T that implements Comparable<T>

```java
/** Return h such that c[0..h] <= x < c[h+1..].
 * Precondition: c is sorted according to .. */
public static <T extends Comparable<T>>
    int indexOf1(List<T> c, T x) {
        int h = -1;
        int t = c.size();
        // inv: h < t && c[0..h] <= x < c[t..]
        while (h + 1 < t) {
            int e = (h + t) / 2;
            if (c.get(e).compareTo(x) <= 0) {
                h = e;
            } else {
                t = e;
            }
        }
        return h;
    }
```
Those who fully grok generics write:

Type parameter: anything $T$ that implements `Comparable<T>`

```java
/**
 * Return $h$ such that $c[0..h] \leq x < c[h+1..]$.  
 * Precondition: $c$ is sorted according to .. */
public static <T extends Comparable<? super T>>
    int indexOf1(List<T> c, T x) {
        int h = -1;
        int t = c.size();
        // inv: $h < t$ && $c[0..h] \leq x < c[t..]$
        while (h + 1 < t) {
            int e = (h + t) / 2;
            if (c.get(e).compareTo(x) <= 0)
                h = e;
            else t = e;
        }
        return h;
    }
```

Anything that is a superclass of $T$.

Don’t be concerned with this! You don’t have to fully understand this.