

CS61B Lecture #12: Exceptions

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Catching Exceptions

Each active method call to *terminate abruptly*, until we come to a **try** block.

Exceptions and do something corrective with **try**:

that might throw exception:

```
try {  
    SomeException e) {  
        // something reasonable;  
    }  
    catch (SomeOtherException e) {  
        // something else reasonable;  
    }  
}
```

go on with life;

When an exception occurs in "Stuff...", we immediately do something reasonable and then "go on with life."

The error message (if any) available as `e.getMessage()` for error and the like.

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Unchecked Exceptions

Precondition errors: many library functions throw `IllegalArgumentException` when one fails to meet a precondition.

Protected by the basic Java system: e.g.,

Accessing `x.y` when `x` is null,

Accessing `A[i]` when `i` is out of bounds,

Accessing `(String) x` when `x` turns out not to point to a `String`.

Catastrophic failures, such as running out of memory.

Can happen anywhere at any time with no special preparation.

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Recreation

Wrote a JUnit test:

```
void mogrifyTest() {  
    assertEquals("mogrify fails", new int[] { 2, 4, 8, 12 },  
        MyClass.mogrify(new int[] { 1, 2, 4, 6 }));  
}
```

It always seems to fail, no matter what `mogrify` does. Why?

Check this in an autograder log:

proj0/game2048 directory.

Why is this the problem?

Why does he not see his `proj0` submission under the Scores tab. What is the problem?

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What to do About Errors?

A significant portion of any production program devoted to detecting and handling errors.

Some are external (bad input, network failures); others are internal errors in programs.

As the programmer has stated precondition, it's the client's job to comply.

It's the programmer's job to detect and report client's errors.

Throwing exception objects, typically:

```
throw new SomeException (optional description);
```

These are exception objects. By convention, they are given two constructors: one with no arguments, and one with a descriptive string argument (the exception stores).

Some methods throw some exceptions implicitly, as when you dereference a null pointer, or exceed an array bound.

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Exceptions: Checked vs. Unchecked

Exceptions thrown by **throw** command must be a subtype of `Throwable` (e.g., `Exception`).

Java declares several such subtypes, among them:

`IOException` and `SQLException` are intended for serious, unrecoverable errors;

`RuntimeException` and `Error` are intended for all other exceptions;

`IOException` and `SQLException` are intended for errors too common to be worth declaring.

All exceptions are all subtypes of one of these.

Exceptions of type `IOException` or `SQLException` are said to be *checked*.

Exceptions of type `RuntimeException` or `Error` are said to be *unchecked*.

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Good Practice

tions rather than using print statements and System.exit

esponse to a problem may depend on the *caller*, not just
e problem arises.

ow an exception when programmer violates preconditions.

good idea to throw an exception rather than let bad
a data structure.

document when methods throw exceptions.

formation about the cause of exceptional condition, put
exception rather than into some global variable:

```
id extends Exception {           try { ...  
intList errs;                   } catch (MyBad e) {  
atList nums) { errs=nums; }     ... e.errs ...  
                                }  
                                }
```

Checked Exceptions

indicate exceptional circumstances that are not neces-
sarily programmer errors. Examples:

ing to open a file that does not exist.

output errors on a file.

an interrupt.

ed exception that can occur inside a method must ei-
ther be handled by a try statement, or reported in the method's

```
id() throws IOException, InterruptedException { ... }
```

tryRead (or something it calls) *might* throw IOException
InterruptedException.

Sign: Why did Java make the following illegal?

```
nt {           class Child extends Parent {  
) { ... }     void f () throws IOException { ... }  
              }
```