Comparators, Iterators

Discussion 04: September 23, 2024

1 OHQueue

Meshan is designing the new 61B Office Hours Queue. The code below for OHRequest represents a single request. It has a reference to the next request. description and name contain the description of the bug and name of the person on the queue, and isSetup marks the ticket as being a setup issue or not.

```
public class OHRequest {
    public String description;
    public String name;
    public boolean isSetup;
    public OHRequest next;

public OHRequest(String description, String name, boolean isSetup, OHRequest next) {
        this.description = description;
        this.name = name;
        this.isSetup = isSetup;
        this.next = next;
    }
}
```

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(a) Create a class OHIterator that implements an Iterator over OHRequests and only returns requests with good descriptions (using the isGood function). Our OHIterator's constructor takes in an OHRequest that represents the first OHRequest on the queue. If we run out of office hour requests, we should throw a NoSuchElementException when our iterator tries to get another request, like so:

throw new NoSuchElementException();
Solution:

```
public class OHIterator implements Iterator<OHRequest> {
    private OHRequest curr;
    public OHIterator(OHRequest request) {
        curr = request;
    }
    public static boolean isGood(String description) { return description.length() >= 5; }
    @Override
    public boolean hasNext() {
        while (curr != null && !isGood(curr.description)) {
            curr = curr.next;
        }
        return curr != null;
    }
    @Override
    public OHRequest next() {
        if (!hasNext()) {
            throw new NoSuchElementException();
        }
        OHRequest temp = curr;
        curr = curr.next;
        return temp;
    }
}
```

Explanation: The OHRequest object queue passed into OHIterator's constructor represents the first OHRequest on the queue. Initializing curr to queue in the constructor allows our OHIterator to start at this first request. Since OHIterator implements an Iterator over OHRequests, we must provide implementations for the interface methods hasNext() and next(). The hasNext() method handles checking whether there are more OHRequests. However, we only want requests with good (as defined by isGood) descriptions, so we must check the descriptions of each OHRequest and skip over the ones with bad descriptions before determining whether there are OHRequests left.

(b) Define a class OHQueue below: we want our OHQueue to be Iterable so that we can process OHRequest objects with good descriptions. Our constructor takes in the first OHRequest object on the queue.

Solution:

```
public class OHQueue implements Iterable<OHRequest> {
    private OHRequest request;

public OHQueue(OHRequest request) {
        this.request = request;
    }

@Override
    public Iterator<OHRequest> iterator() {
        return new OHIterator(request);
    }
}
```

Explanation: If we want our OHQueue to be Iterable, OHQueue has to implement the interface Iterable. A condition of this is implementing the methods of the interface (which in the case of Iterable, is the iterator() method). As our OHQueue processes OHRequest objects, iterator() in OHQueue should return an OHIterator over OHRequest objects.

(c) Suppose we notice a bug in our office hours system: if a ticket's description contains the words "thank u", it is put on the queue twice. To combat this, we'd like to define a new iterator, TYIterator.

If the current item's description contains the words "thank u", it should skip the next item on the queue, because we know the next item is an accidental duplicate from our buggy system. As an example, if there were 4 OHRequest objects on the queue with descriptions ["thank u", "thank u", "im bored", "help me"], calls to next() should return the 0th, 2nd, and 3rd OHRequest objects on the queue.

To check if a String s contains the substring "thank u", you can use: s.contains("thank u")

Hint - we've already enforced good descriptions with our regular OHIterator. Using inheritance, how can we reuse that functionality without repeating ourselves? Also, notice that OHIterator's instance variables are private, so we can't access them from subclasses of OHIterator.

Solution:

```
public class TYIterator extends OHIterator {
    public TYIterator(OHRequest queue) {
        super(queue);
    }

    @Override
    public OHRequest next() {
        OHRequest result = super.next();
        if (result.description.contains("thank u")) {
            super.next();
        }
        return result;
    }
}
```

(d) Now assume the OHQueue uses a TYIterator as its iterator. Fill in the blanks to print only the names of tickets from the queue beginning at \$1 with good descriptions, skipping over duplicate descriptions that contain "thank u". What would be printed after we run the main method?

Solution:

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
    OHRequest s5 = new OHRequest("I deleted all of my files, thank u", "Elana", true, null);
    OHRequest s4 = new OHRequest("conceptual: what is Java", "Mihir", false, s5);
    OHRequest s3 = new OHRequest("git: I never did lab 1", "Kevin", true, s4);
    OHRequest s2 = new OHRequest("help", "Angel", false, s3);
    OHRequest s1 = new OHRequest("no I haven't tried stepping through", "Ashley", false, s2);

OHQueue q = new OHQueue(s1);
    for (OHRequest r: q) {
        System.out.println(r.name);
    }
}
```

Overall, we print:

Ashley

Kevin Mihir

Elana

(e) Meshan would like to find a way to prioritize setup tickets on the queue so that they appear at the top. He wants to implement this based on the isSetup field of each OHRequest, but sometimes students forget to set it to true, so he decides to use description as backup to break ties.

Fill in the compare method of OHRequestComparator below. First, if one but not both of the OHRequests have their isSetup set to **true**, the one with isSetup set to **true** should take priority (ie. earlier on the queue). If both or neither of the OHRequests have their isSetup set to **true**, tiebreak with the description: the description has to **exactly match "setup"** in order to be counted as a setup issue. If both requests have such descriptions, it's a true tie and return 0.

Hint - if o1 is prioritized over o2, then o1 is considered less than o2

Solution:

```
public class OHRequestComparator implements Comparator<OHRequest> {
   public int compare(OHRequest o1, OHRequest o2) {
        boolean isO1DescSetup = o1.description.equals("setup");
        boolean isO2DescSetup = o2.description.equals("setup");
        if (o1.isSetup && !o2.isSetup) {
            return -1;
        } else if (!o1.isSetup && o2.isSetup) {
            return 1;
        } else if (is01DescSetup && !is02DescSetup) {
            return -1;
        } else if (!isO1DescSetup && isO2DescSetup) {
            return 1;
        }
        return 0;
   }
}
Alternate:
public class OHRequestComparator implements Comparator<OHRequest> {
   public int compare(OHRequest o1, OHRequest o2) {
        if (o1.isSetup == o2.isSetup) {
            boolean isO1DescSetup = o1.description.equals("setup");
            boolean isO2DescSetup = o2.description.equals("setup");
            return Boolean.compare(isO1DescSetup, isO2DescSetup);
        return Boolean.compare(o1.isSetup, o2.isSetup);
   }
```

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}

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Explanation: The compare method should return a negative integer if s1 has higher priority than s2, zero if the two requests are of equal priority, and a positive integer if s1 has lower priority than s2. We are given that if either (but not both) request has their isSetUp set to true, the request with the true value receives higher priority. The two possible combinations of this scenario are covered in the first two if statements. We only check description if both or neither requests have isSetUp set to true, so the description checks must come after those of isSetUp.

The alternate uses the same idea, but exploits the fact that Boolean.compare compares two booleans for us. This allows us to condense the if-statements. Note that we use == to check for equality on primitives and .equals to check for equality on reference types (e.g. String).