

# **Iterators**

a Key Concept

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#### **What You Will Learn**

- What is an iterator?
- Understand the power of iterators
- Offer an overview of iterators in Pharo

## Applying a message and collecting the results

For example, image we want to get whether a number is odd or not for a complete collection:

```
#(2 -3 4 -35 4) areOddNumbers
>>> #(false true false true)
```

#### A possible limited solution

```
| result aCol|
aCol := #(2 -3 4 -35 4).
result := Array new: aCol size.
1 to: aCol size do:
[:each | result at: each put: (aCol at: each) odd].
result
```

### A better solution: Using collect:

collect: applies the block to each element and returns a collection (of the same kind than the receiver) with the results

- Works on any collection (Set, Array, OrderedCollection,...)
- collect: evaluates the block for each element (using value:)
- In the block, each element is sent odd
- collect: returns a new collection (of the same kind of the receiver) with all results
- [Think object] We ask the collection to do something for us

```
\#(2-34-354) collect: [:each | each odd] >>> \#(false true false true)
```

## **Another collect: Example**

We want to know the absolute value of each element

>>> #(16 11 68 19)

#### **Basic Iterators Overview**

- do: (iterate)
- collect: (iterate and collect results)
- select: (select matching elements)
- reject: (reject matching elements)
- detect: (get first element matching)
- detect:ifNone: (get first element matching or a default value)
- includes: (test inclusion)
- and a lot more...

#### do: an Action on Each Clement

- Iterates on each elements
- Applies the block on each elements

```
#(16 11 68 19) do: [ :each | Transcript show: each ; cr ]
```

Here we print each element and insert a carriage return

× - 🗆	Transcript	~
16		
11		
68		
19		

#### select: Elements Matching a Criteria

To select some elements, use select:

```
#(16 11 68 19) select: [ :i | i odd ]
> #(11 19)
```

### With Unary Messages, No Block Needed

When a block is just one message, we can pass an unary message selector

```
#(16 11 68 19) select: [:i|i odd]
```

is equivalent to

#(16 11 68 19) select: #odd

#### reject: Some Elements Matching a Criteria

To filter some elements, use reject:

```
#(16 11 68 19) reject: [:i|i odd] > #(16 68)
```

#### detect: The First Elements That...

To find the first element that matches, use detect:

```
#(16 11 68 19) detect: [:i|iodd] > 11
```



#### detect:ifNone:

To find the first element that matches else return a value, use detect:ifNone:

```
#(16 12 68 20) detect: [:i|i odd]ifNone:[0] > 0
```



### **Pharo code is Compact!**

```
ArrayList<String> strings = new ArrayList<String>();
for(Person person: persons)
  strings.add(person.name());
```

is expressed as

```
strings := persons collect: [ :person | person name ]
```

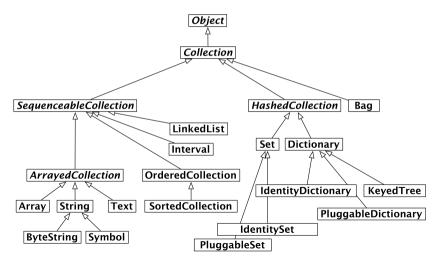
Yes in Java 8.0 it is finally simpler

```
strings = persons.stream().map(person -> person.getName())
```

- But it is like that in Pharo since day one!
- Iterators are deep into the core of the language and libraries

### **Part of the Collection Hierarchy**

Iterators work polymorphically on the entire collection hierarchy. Below a part of the Collection hierarchy.



#### Think objects!

- With iterators we tell the collection to iterate on itself
- As a client we do not have to know the internal logic of the collection
- Each collection can implement differently the iterator

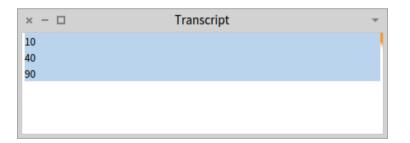
#### **Some Powerful Iterators**

- anySatisfy: (tests if one object is satisfying the criteria)
- allSatisfy: (tests if all objects are satisfying the criteria)
- reverseDo: (do an action on the collection starting from the end)
- doWithIndex: (do an action with the element and its index)
- pairsDo: (evaluate aBlock with my elements taken two at a time.)
- permutationsDo: ...

#### **Iterating Two Structures**

To iterate with:do:

```
#(1 2 3)
with: #(10 20 30)
do: [ :x :y | Transcript show: (y * x) ; cr ]
```



with:do: requires two structures of the same length

### A little challenge

```
#() xxx
>>> ''
#('a') xxx
>>> 'a'
#('a' 'b') xxx
>>> 'a, b'
#('a' 'b' 'c') xxx
>>> 'a, b, c'
```

#### **Use do:separatedBy:**

```
String streamContents: [:s|
    #('a' 'b' 'c')
    do: [:each | s << each ]
    separatedBy: [s << ', ']
]
>>> 'a, b, c'
```

#### **Grouping Elements**

To group elements according to a grouping function: groupedBy:

#(1 2 3 4 5 6 7) groupedBy: #even

> a PluggableDictionary(false->#(1 3 5 7) true->#(2 4 6))



#### **Flattening Results**

How to remove one level of nesting in a collection? Use flatCollect:

```
#( #(1 2) #(3) #(4) #(5 6)) collect: [ :each | each ]
> #(#(1 2) #(3) #(4) #(5 6)))
```

```
#( #(1 2) #(3) #(4) #(5 6)) flatCollect: [ :each | each ] > #(1 2 3 4 5 6 )
```

## **Opening The Box**

- You can learn and discover the system
- You can define your own iterator
- For example how do: is implemented?

#### SequenceableCollection >> do: aBlock

"Evaluate aBlock with each of the receiver's elements as the argument."

1 to: self size do: [:i | aBlock value: (self at: i)]

#### **Analysis**

- Iterators are really powerful because they support polymorphic code
- All the collections support them
- New ones are defined
- Missing controlled navigation as in the Iterator design pattern

### **Summary**

- Iterators are your best friends
- Simple and powerful
- Enforce encapsulation of collections and containers

#### Resources

- Pharo Mooc W3S09 Videos http://mooc.pharo.org
- Pharo by Example http://books.pharo.org

A course by Stéphane Ducasse http://stephane.ducasse.free.fr

Reusing some parts of the Pharo Mooc by

Damien Cassou, Stéphane Ducasse, Luc Fabresse http://mooc.pharo.org

