Java Synchronized Collections

Douglas C. Schmidt
d.schmidt@vanderbilt.edu
www.dre.vanderbilt.edu/~schmidt

Institute for Software
Integrated Systems
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, Tennessee, USA

Learning Objectives in this Lesson

- Recognize the capabilities & limits of Java's synchronized collections

Collections Method
`synchronizedCollection(coll)`
`synchronizedList(list)`
`synchronizedMap(map)`
`synchronizedSet(set)`

Overview of Java Synchronized Collections

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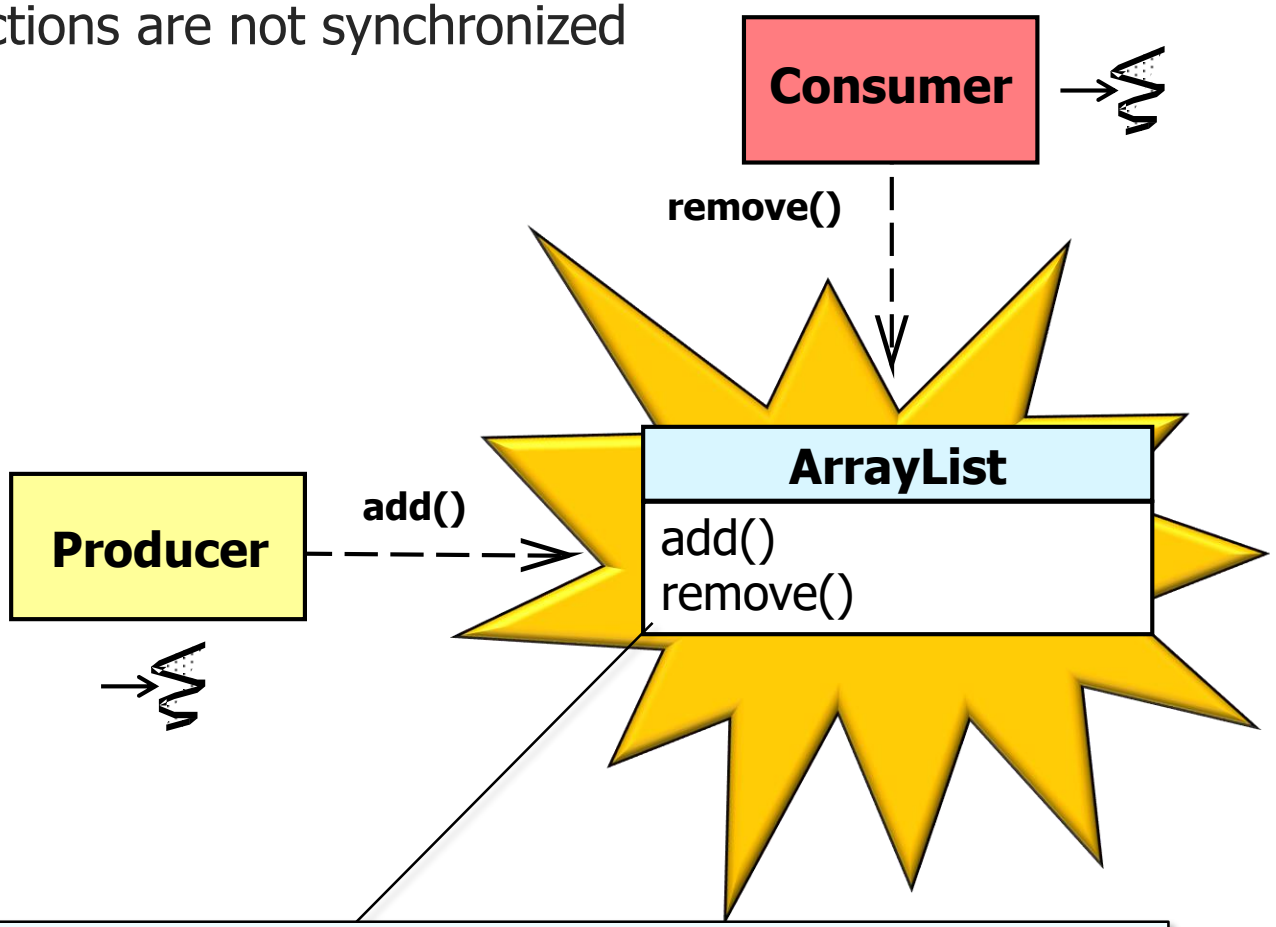
- By default, Java collections are not synchronized

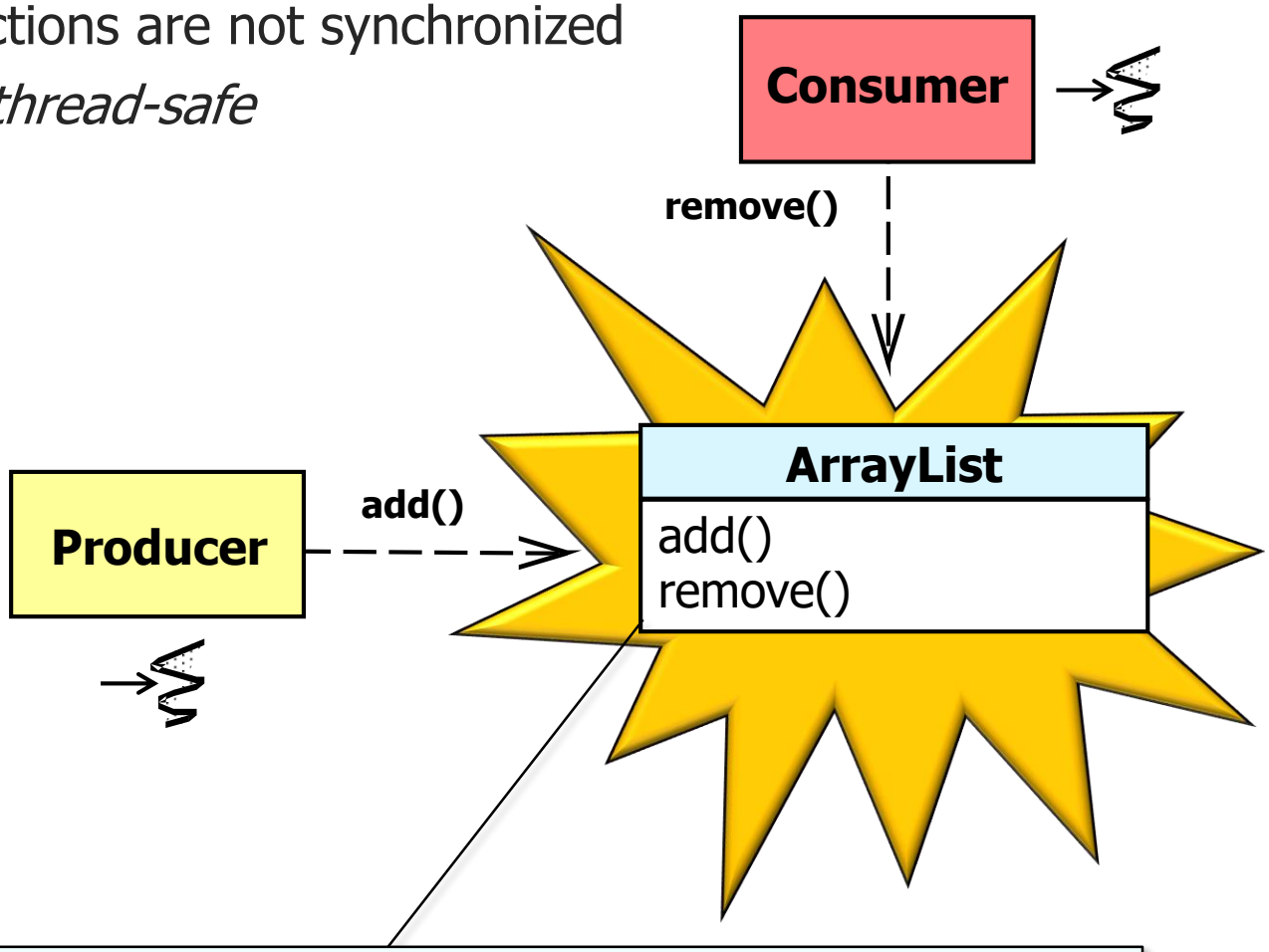


Note that this implementation is not synchronized. *If multiple threads access an ArrayList instance concurrently, and at least one of the threads modifies the list structurally, it must be synchronized externally*

See docs.oracle.com/javase/8/docs/api/java/util/ArrayList.html

Overview of Java Synchronized Collections

- By default, Java collections are not synchronized
  - Thus, they are not *thread-safe*



Code is thread-safe if it only manipulates shared data structures in a manner that avoids race conditions by multiple concurrent threads

See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thread_safety

Overview of Java Synchronized Collections

- Java's synchronized collection *wrappers* are created via static factory methods

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See docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/collections/implementations/wrapper.html

Overview of Java Synchronized Collections

- Java's synchronized collection *wrappers* are created via static factory methods, e.g.
  - Ensure that method calls are *thread-safe*

```
public class Collections {
  public static <K,V>
  Map<K,V> synchronizedMap
                (Map<K,V> m) {
    return new
      SynchronizedMap<>(m);
  }
```

e.g., the Map parameter is simply wrapped by a SynchronizedMap

Overview of Java Synchronized Collections

- Java's synchronized collection *wrappers* are created via static factory methods, e.g.
  - Ensure that method calls are *thread-safe*

This factory method converts a non-thread-safe map into a thread-safe map via the synchronization wrapper

```
Map<Integer, String>
    mMap = new HashMap<>();

mMap = Collections.
       synchronizedMap(mMap);

// Thread t1:
mMap.put(1, "Newton");
mMap.put(4, "Favre");
mMap.put(7, "Elway");
mMap.put(12, "Brady");
mMap.put(13, "Warner");
mMap.put(18, "Manning");

// Thread t2:
String s1 = mMap.get(12);

// Thread t3:
String s2 = mMap.get(13);

// Thread t4:
String s3 = mMap.get(18);
```

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// Thread t2:
String s1 = mMap.get(12);

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// Thread t4:
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Multiple threads can thus access & update the synchronized collection

Overview of Java Synchronized Collections

- Java's synchronized collection *wrappers* are created via static factory methods, e.g.
  - Ensure that method calls are *thread-safe*
  - Synchronized collections aren't optimized for concurrent access

A synchronized collection is thread-safe & governed by one mutual exclusion lock

```
class SynchronizedMap<K,V>
   implements Map<K,V> ... {
  // Backing Map
  private final Map<K,V> m;
  // Synchronizer object
  final Object mutex;

  SynchronizedMap(Map<K,V> m) {
    this.m = Objects
      .requireNonNull(m);
    mutex = this;
  }

  public V get(Object key) {
    synchronized (mutex) {
      return m.get(key);
    }
  } ...
```

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Implemented by decorating each method in a `synchronized` *block*

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```

See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decorator_pattern

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A single mutual exclusion lock can yield excessive contention

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  } ...
```

See www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/en/SS3KLZ/com.ibm.java.diagnostics.healthcenter.doc/topics/resolving.html

End of Java Synchronized Collections