

Lab #2: Using the Collection classes

For this lab, you will write one program to get more experience with the Java Collection classes.

Description:

We need a data structure for a shipping company which handles packages from various companies. We'll be dealing with millions of packages and need a fast way to be able to locate a package using only the **package locator**.

A package object has:

- a. A package locator
- b. The cost of sending the package
- c. Destination zip code (really we should have a full address, but we'll just use zipcode)

A package locator has:

- a. The company name (e.g. "DHL", "UPS", or "FedEx")
- b. A 7 to 10 digit company code (only digits – e.g., 2134563 or 8134093476)
- c. A 2 to 5 digit location (only digits – e.g., 125 or 34567) which identifies the destination region

Part I: Use an **unordered** collection

1. Write a **method** that will add a number of Package objects to your data structure.
2. Call that method from your main() function to initialize the data structure
3. In the main() method test that given **only** a package locator, you can retrieve a Package object from your data structure (you should be able to retrieve it without doing a linear search).

Part II: Use an **ordered** collection

Repeat what you did for Part I, but this time create a second data structure which is **ordered**. When using an iterator to walk through your data structure, the Packages should come out ordered by the package locator. Specifically the order should be as follows:

1. Sorted first by company name
2. Sorted second by the 2 to 5 digit location (using a numeric ordering)
3. Sorted lastly by the company code (use a numeric ordering)

Even though this data structure is ordered (when using an iterator), you still should be able to look up a Package object using only a package locator. Like part I, this lookup should be very fast. If you use an iterator with this data structure, however, the packages should come out sorted by package locator:

For example what if we had the following package locators:

DHL	4234567	151
DHL	4234567	25
UPS	21345678	101
DHL	34586213	101
UPS	123456789	101
UPS	12345678	101

The order when using an iterator would be (company name first, then location, then company code – company code and locator should be compared as numbers):

DHL	4234567	25
DHL	4234567	151
DHL	34586213	101
UPS	12345678	101
UPS	21345678	101
UPS	123456789	101

You can simply add this Part II data structure into your existing code that you have for Part I (in other words you'll be creating and testing two data structures – the one you did in Part I and the one you do in Part II).