

SPL for the masses

Marcus Börger

What is SPL

- A collection of standard interfaces and classes
- A few helper functions

What is SPL about & what for

- Captures some common patterns
 - More to follow
- Advanced Iterators
- Functional programming
- Exception hierarchy with documented semantics
- Makes `__autoload()` useable

What are Iterators

- Iterators are a concept to iterate anything that contains other things. Examples:
 - Values and Keys in an array
 - Text lines in a file
 - Database query results
 - Files in a directory
 - Elements or Attributes in XML
 - Bits in an image
 - Dates in a calendar range
- Iterators allow to encapsulate algorithms

The basic concepts

- Iterators can be internal or external
also referred to as active or passive
- An internal iterator modifies the object itself
- An external iterator points to another object
without modifying it
- PHP always uses external iterators at engine-level

The big difference



Arrays

- require memory for all elements
- allow to access any element directly



Iterators

- only know one element at a time
- only require memory for the current element
- forward access only
- Access done by method calls

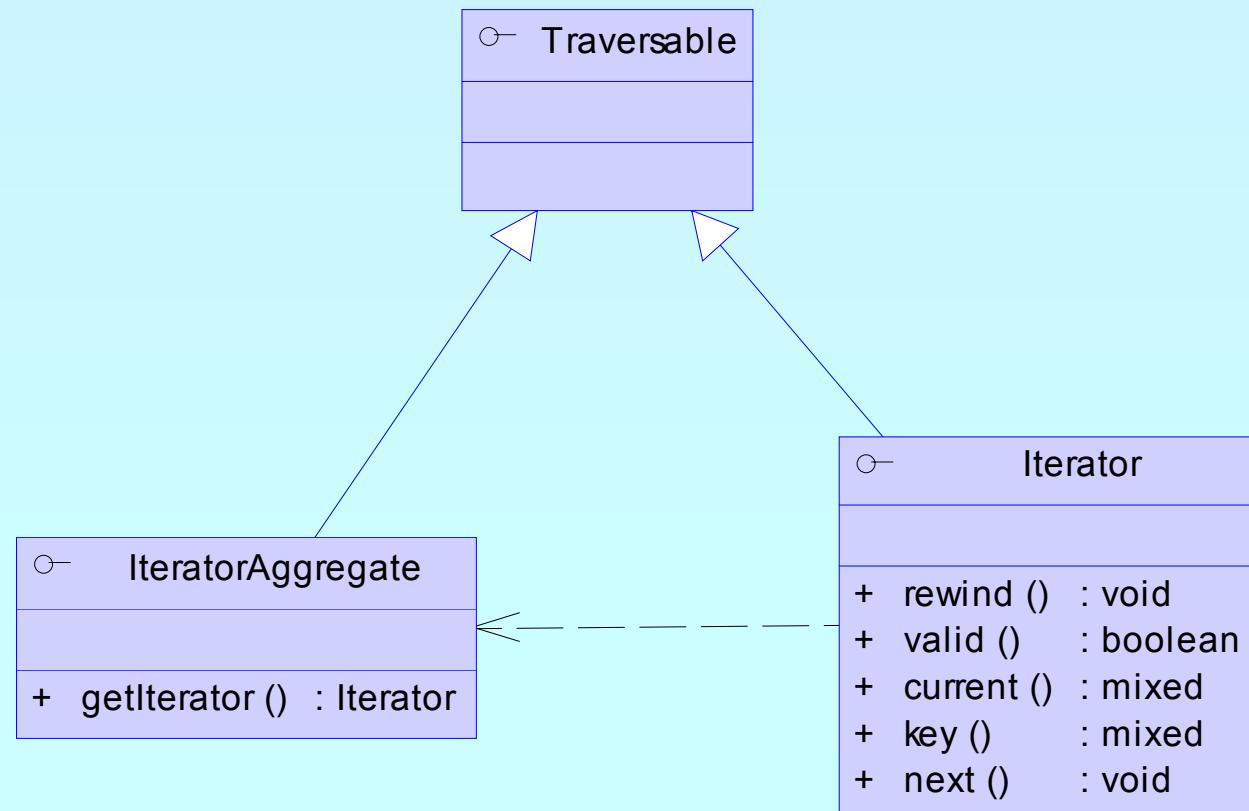


Containers

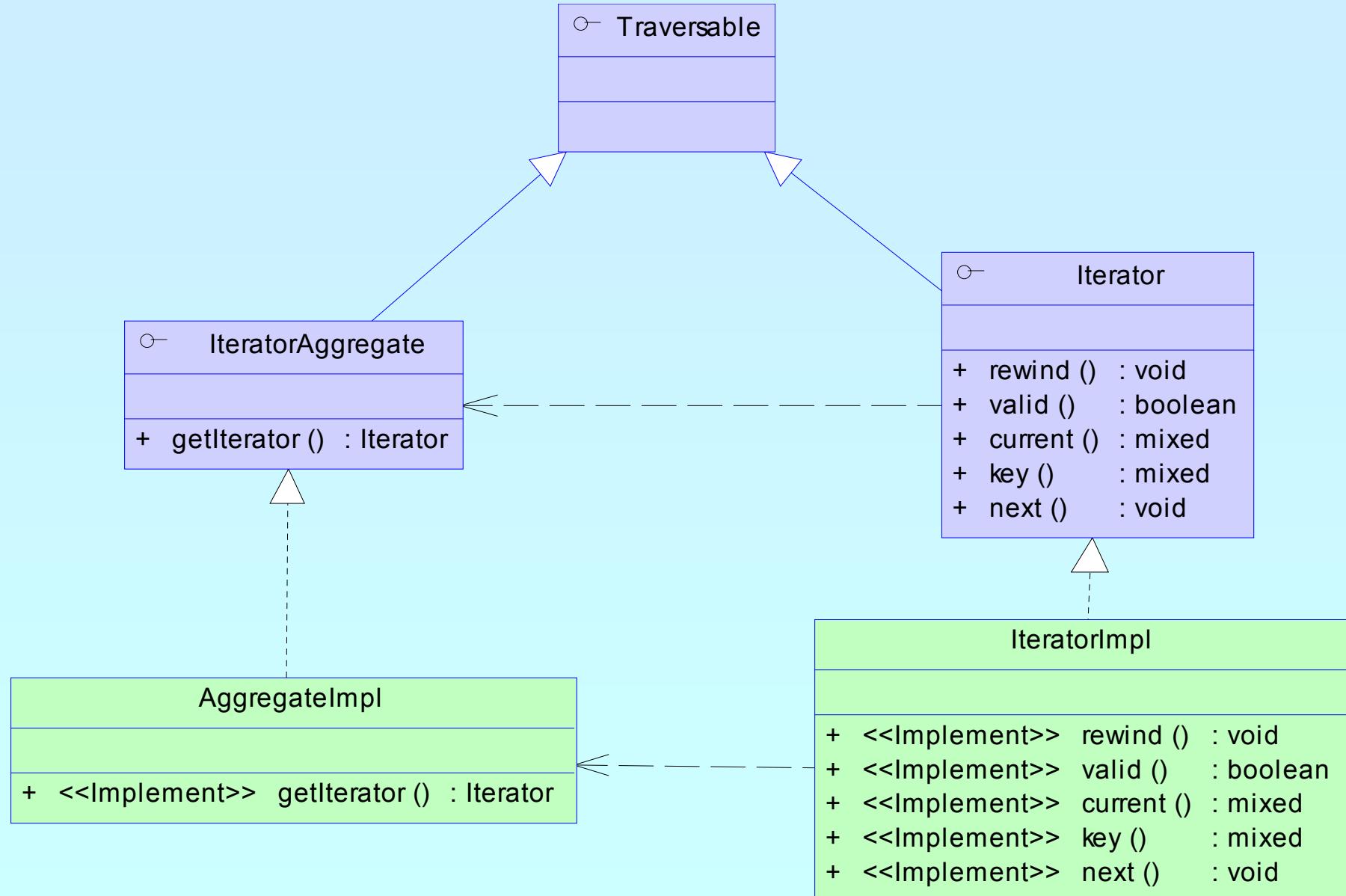
- require memory for all elements
- allow to access any element directly
- can create external Iterators or are internal Iterators

PHP Iterators

- Anything that can be iterated implements **Traversable**
- Objects implementing **Traversable** can be used in **foreach**
- User classes cannot implement **Traversable**
- Aggregate** is used for objects that use external iterators
- Iterator** is used for internal traversal or external iterators



Implementing Iterators



How Iterators work

- Iterators can be used manually

```
<?php
$o = new ArrayIterator(array(1, 2, 3));
$o->rewind();
while ($o->valid()) {
    $key = $o->key();
    $val = $o->current();
    // some code
    $o->next();
}
?>
```

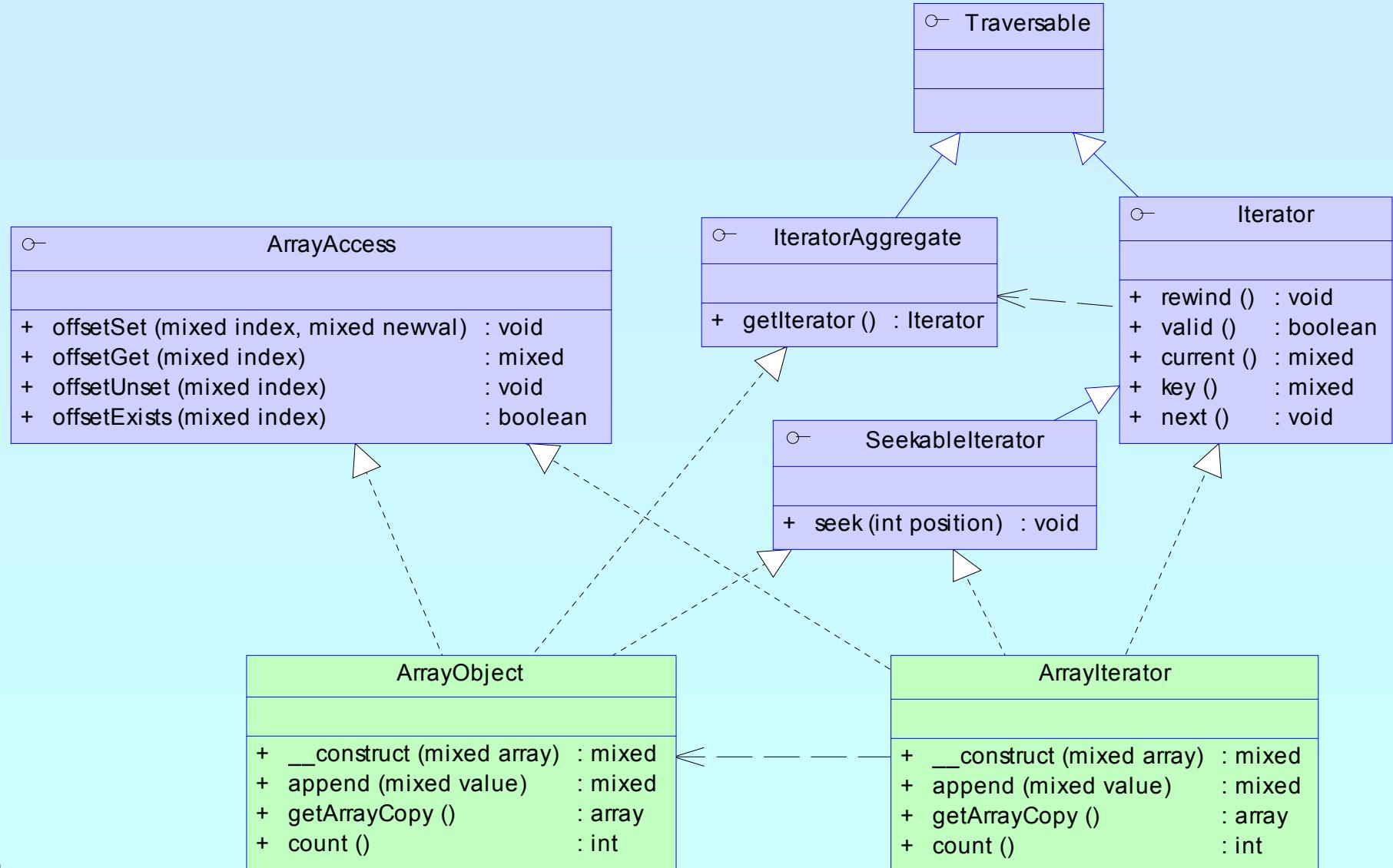
- Iterators can be used implicitly with **foreach**

```
<?php
$o = new ArrayIterator(array(1, 2, 3));
foreach($o as $key => $val) {
    // some code
}
?>
```

Array and property traversal

- ArrayObject** allows external traversal of arrays
- ArrayObject** creates **ArrayIterator** instances
- Multiple **ArrayIterator** instances can reference the same target with different states
- Both implement **SeekableIterator** which allows to 'jump' to any position in the Array directly.

Array and property traversal



Functional programming?

- Abstract from the actual data (types)
- Implement algorithms without knowing the data

Example: Sorting

- ☞ Sorting requires a container for elements
- ☞ Sorting requires element comparison
- ☞ Containers provide access to elements

- ☞ Sorting and Containers must not know data

An example

- Reading a menu definition from an array
- Writing it to the output

Problem

- ☞ Handling of hierarchy
- ☞ Detecting recursion
- ☞ Formatting the output

Recursion with arrays



- A typical solution is to directly call array functions
- No code reuse possible

```
<?php
function recurse_array($ar)
{
    // do something before recursion
    while (!is_null(key($ar))) {
        if (is_array(current($ar))) {
            recurse_array(current($ar));
        }
        // do something
        next($ar);
    }
    // do something after recursion
}
?>
```

Detecting Recursion



An array is recursive

- If the current element itself is an Array
- In other words `current()` has children
- This is detectable by `is_array()`
- Recursing requires creating a new wrapper instance for the child array
- `RecursiveIterator` is the interface to unify Recursion
- `RecursiveIteratorIterator` handles the recursion

```
class RecursiveArrayIterator
    extends ArrayIterator implements RecursiveIterator
{
    function hasChildren() {
        return is_array($this->current());
    }
    function getChildren() {
        return new RecursiveArrayIterator($this->current());
    }
}
```

Debug Session



```
<?php
$a = array('1','2',array('31','32'),'4');
$o = new RecursiveArrayIterator($a);
$i = new RecursiveIteratorIterator($o);
foreach($i as $key => $val) {
    echo "$key => $val\n";
}
?>
```

```
0 => 1
1 => 2
0 => 31
1 => 32
3 => 3
```

```
<?php
class RecursiveArrayIterator implements RecursiveIterator {
    protected $ar;
    function __construct(Array $ar) {
        $this->ar = $ar; }
    function rewind() {
        reset($this->ar); }
    function valid() {
        return !is_null(key($this->ar)); }
    function key() {
        return key($this->ar); }
    function current() {
        return current($this->ar); }
    function next() {
        next($this->ar); }
    function hasChildren() {
        return is_array(current($this->ar)); }
    function getChildren() {
        return new RecursiveArrayIterator($this->current()); }
}
?>
```

Making ArrayObject recursive

- Change class type of ArrayObjects Iterator
 - 👉 We simply need to change `getIterator()`

```
<?php
class RecursiveArrayObject
    extends ArrayObject
{
    function getIterator() {
        return new RecursiveArrayIterator($this);
    }
}
?>
```

Output HTML

- Problem how to format the output using
 - ☞ Detecting recursion begin/end

```
<?php
class MenuOutput
    extends RecursiveIteratorIterator
{
    function __construct(Menu $m) {
        parent::__construct($m);
    }
    function beginChildren() {
        echo str_repeat(' ', $this->getDepth())."<ul>\n";
    }
    function endChildren() {
        echo str_repeat(' ', $this->getDepth())."</ul>\n";
    }
}
?>
```

Output HTML



Problem how to write the output

- ☞ Echo the output within **foreach**

```
<?php
class MenuOutput
    extends RecursiveIteratorIterator
{
    function __construct(Menu $m) {
        parent::__construct($m);
    }
    function beginChildren() {
        echo str_repeat(' ', $this->getDepth())."<ul>\n";
    }
    function endChildren() {
        echo str_repeat(' ', $this->getDepth()+1)."</ul>\n";
    }
}
$ar = array('1','2',array('31','32'),'4');
$it = new MenuOutput(new RecursiveArrayIterator($ar));
echo "<ul>\n"; // for the intro
foreach($it as $m) {
    echo str_repeat(' ', $it->getDepth()+1)."<li>$m</li>\n";
}
echo "</ul>\n"; // for the outro
?>
```

```
<ul>
<li>1</li>
<li>2</li>
<ul>
<li>31</li>
<li>32</li>
</ul>
<li>4</li>
</ul>
```

Filtering

Problem

- ☞ Only recurse into active Menu elements
- ☞ Only show visible Menu elements
- ☠ Changes prevent `recurse_array` from reuse

```
<?php
class Menu
{
    function isActive() // return true if active
    function isVisible() // return true if visible
}
function recurse_array($ar)
{
    // do something before recursion
    while (!is_null(key($ar))) {
        if (is_array(current($ar)) && current($ar)->isActive()) {
            recurse_array(current($ar));
        }
        if (current($ar)->current()->isActive()) {
            // do something
        }
        next($ar);
    }
    // do something after recursion
}
?>
```

Filtering

Solution Filter the incoming data

- ☞ Unaccepted data simply needs to be skipped
- ☞ Do not accept inactive menu elements
- ☞ Using a **FilterIterator**

```
<?php
class Menu extends RecursiveArrayIterator
{
    function isActive() // return true if active
    function isVisible() // return true if visible
}
?>
```

FilterIterator

- ✓ **FilterIterator** is an abstract **OuterIterator**
 - ✓ Constructor takes an **Iterator** (called inner iterator)
 - ✓ Any iterator operation is executed on the inner iterator
 - ✓ For every element accept() is called after current/key
- ➔ All you have to do is implementing accept()

Debug Session

```
<?php
$a = array(1,2,5,8);
$i = new EvenFilter(new MyIterator($a));
foreach($i as $key => $val) {
    echo "$key => $val\n";
}
?>
```

```
1 => 2
3 => 8
```

```
<?php
class EvenFilter extends FilterIterator {
    function __construct(Iterator $it) {
        parent::__construct($it);
    }
    function accept() {
        return $this->current() % 2 == 0;
    }
}
class MyIterator implements Iterator {
    function __construct($ar) {
        $this->ar = $ar;
    }
    function rewind() {
        reset($this->ar);
    }
    function valid() {
        return !is_null(key($this->ar));
    }
    function current() {
        return current($this->ar);
    }
    function key() {
        return key($this->ar);
    }
    function next() {
        next($this->ar);
    }
}
?>
```

Filtering

Using a FilterIterator

```
<?php
class MenuFilter extends FilterIterator
    implements RecursiveIterator
{
    function __construct(Menu $m) {
        parent::__construct($m);
    }
    function accept() {
        return $this->current()->isVisible();
    }
    function hasChildren() {
        return $this->current()->hasChildren()
            && $this->current()->isActive();
    }
    function getChildren() {
        return new MenuFilter($this->current());
    }
}
?>
```

Putting it together

Make **MenuOutput** operate on **MenuFilter**

- ☞ Pass a **Menu** to the constructor (guarded by type hint)
- ☞ Create a **MenuFilter** from the **Menu**
- ☞ **MenuFilter** implements **RecursiveIterator**

```
<?php
class MenuOutput extends RecursiveIteratorIterator
{
    function __construct(Menu $m) {
        parent::__construct(new MenuFilter($m));
    }
    function beginChildren() {
        echo "<ul>\n";
    }
    function endChildren() {
        echo "</ul>\n";
    }
}
?>
```



What now

- If your menu structure comes from a database
- If your menu structure comes from XML
 - ☞ You have to change `Menu`
 - ☞ Detection of recursion works differently
 - ☞ No single change in `MenuOutput` needed
 - ☞ No single change in `MenuFilter` needed

Using XML

- Change Menu to inherit from SimpleXMLIterator

```
<?php
class Menu extends SimpleXMLIterator
{
    static function factory($xml)
    {
        return simplexml_load_string($xml, 'Menu');
    }
    function isActive() {
        return $this['active']; // access attribute
    }
    function isVisible() {
        return $this['visible']; // access attribute
    }
    // getChildren already returns Menu instances
}
?>
```

Using PDO

- Change Menu to read from database

- ☞ PDO supports Iterator based access
- ☞ PDO can create and read into objects
- ☞ PDO will be integrated into PHP 5.1
- ☞ PDO is under heavy development

```
<?php
$db = new PDO("mysql://..."); 
$stmt= $db->prepare("SELECT ... FROM Menu ...", "Menu");
foreach($stmt->execute() as $m) {
    // fetch now returns Menu instances
    echo $m; // call $m->__toString()
}
?>
```

Filtering

- An OuterIterator may not pass data from its InnerIterator directly

Example:

Provide a 404 handler that looks for similar pages

- Use a RecursiveDirectoryIterator to test all files
- Use a FilterIterator to skip all files with low similarity
- Sort by similarity -> convert iterated data to array

Looking for files

- ✓ In PHP 4 you would use standard dir funcs

```
function search($path, $search, $limit, &$files) {  
    if ($dir = @opendir($path)) {  
        while (($found = readdir($dir) !== false) {  
            switch(filetype("$path/$found")) {  
                case 'file':  
                    if (($s=similariry($search, $found)) >= $limit) {  
                        $files["$path/$found"] = $s;  
                    }  
                    break;  
                case 'dir':  
                    if ($found != '.' && $found != '..') {  
                        search("$path/$found", $search, $limit, $files);  
                    }  
                    break;  
            }  
        }  
        closedir($dir);  
    }  
}
```

Looking for files

- PHP 5 offers RecursiveDirectoryIterator

```
class Findsimilar extends FilterIterator {  
    protected $search, $limit, $key;  
    function __construct($root, $search, $limit) {  
        parent::__construct(  
            new RecursiveIteratorIterator(  
                new RecursiveDirectoryIterator($root)));  
        $this->search = $search;  
        $this->limit = min(max(0, $limit), 100);  
    }  
    function current() {  
        return similarity($this->search, $this->current());  
    }  
    function key() {  
        return $this->getSubPathname();  
    }  
    function accept() {  
        return $this->isFile() && $this->current() >= $this->limit;  
    }  
}
```

Error404.php

- Displaying alternatives in an error 404 handler

```
<html>
<head><title>File not found</title></head>
<body>
<?php
if (array_key_exists('missing', $_REQUEST)) {
    $missing = urldecode($_REQUEST['missing']);
    url_split($missing, $protocol, $host, $path, $ext, $query);
    $files = iterator_to_array($path, $missing, 35);
    asort($files);
    foreach($files as $file => $similarity) {
        echo "<a href=\"" . $file . "\">";
        echo $file . " [" . $similarity . "%]</a><br/>";
    }
} else {
    echo "No alternatives were found\n";
}
?>
</body>
</html>
```



Conclusion so far

- Iterators require a new way of programming
- Iterators allow to implement algorithms abstracted from data
- Iterators promote code reuse
- Some things are already in SPL
 - Filtering
 - Handling recursion
 - Limiting

Dynamic class loading

`__autoload()` is good **when you're alone**

- Requires a single file for each class
- Only load class files when necessary
 - No need to parse/compile unneeded classes
 - No need to check which class files to load

Additional user space code

Only one single loader model is possible

__autoload & require_once

- ✓ Store the class loader in an include file
 - ✓ In each script:
 require_once('<path>/autoload.inc')
 - ✓ Use INI option:
 auto_prepend_file=<path>/autoload.inc

```
<?php
function __autoload($class_name)
{
    require_once(dirname(__FILE__) . '/' .
    $class_name . '.p5c');
}
?>
```

SPL's class loading

- Supports fast default implementation
 - Look into path's specified by INI option include_path
 - Look for specified file extensions (.inc, .inc.php)
- Ability to register multiple user defined loaders
- Overwrites ZEND engine's __autoload() cache
 - You need to register __autoload if using spl's autoload

```
<?php
    spl_autoload_register('spl_autoload');
    spl_autoload_register('__autoload');
?>
```

SPL's class loading



`spl_autoload($class_name)`

Load a class though registered class loaders

Fast c cod eimplementation



`spl_autoload_extensions([$extensions])`

Get or set files extensions



`spl_autoload_register($loader_function)`

Registers a single loader function



`spl_autoload_unregister($loader_function)`

Unregister a single loader function



`spl_autoload_functions()`

List all registered loader functions



`spl_autoload_call($class_name)`

Load a class though registered class loaders

Use `spl_autoload()` as fallback

Exceptions



Respect these rules

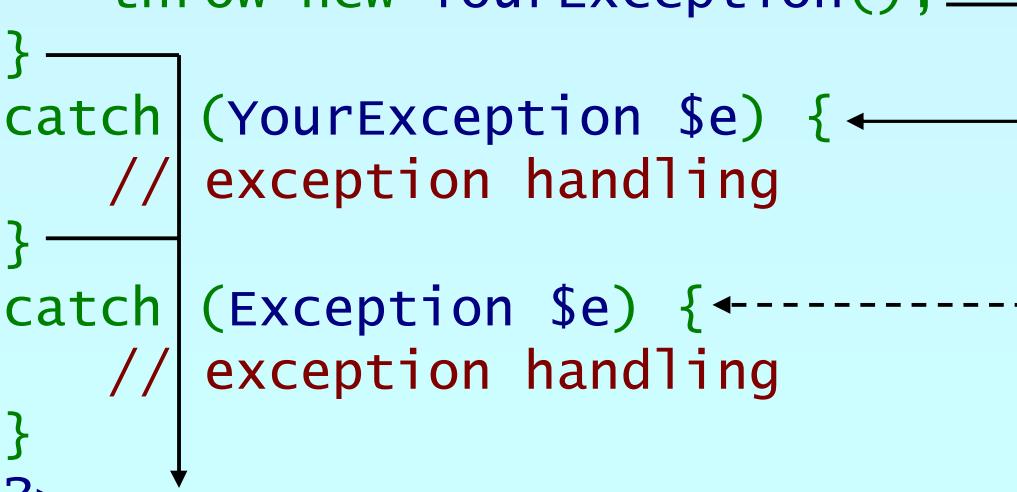
1. Exceptions are exceptions
2. Never use exceptions for control flow
3. Never ever use exceptions for parameter passing

```
<?php
try {
    // your code
    throw new Exception();
}
catch (Exception $e) {
    // exception handling
}
?>
```

Exception specialization

- Exceptions should be specialized
- Exceptions should inherit built in class exception

```
<?php
class YourException extends Exception {
}
try {
    // your code
    throw new YourException();
}
catch (YourException $e) { ←
    // exception handling
}
catch (Exception $e) { ←-----}
    // exception handling
}
?>
```



Exception specialization

- ✓ Exception blocks can be nested
- ✓ Exceptions can be re thrown

```
<?php
class YourException extends Exception { }
try {
    try {
        // your code
        throw new YourException(); ——————
    }
    catch (YourException $e) {
        // exception handling
        throw $e; ——————
    }
    catch (Exception $e) {
        // exception handling
    }
}
catch (YourException $e) {
    // exception handling
}
?>
```

The diagram illustrates the execution flow of the PHP code. It shows three nested try blocks. The innermost try block contains a throw statement that creates a new `YourException`. This exception is caught by the first catch block, which then re-throws it. This re-thrown exception is caught by the outermost catch block, which also handles it. Arrows indicate the flow from the throw statement to the first catch block, and from there to the second catch block.

Constructor failure

- Constructors do not return the created object
- Exceptions allow to handle failed constructors

```
<?php
class Object {
    function __construct() {
        throw new Exception;
    }
}
try {
    $o = new Object;
}
catch (Exception $e) {
    echo "Object could not be instantiated\n";
}
?>
```

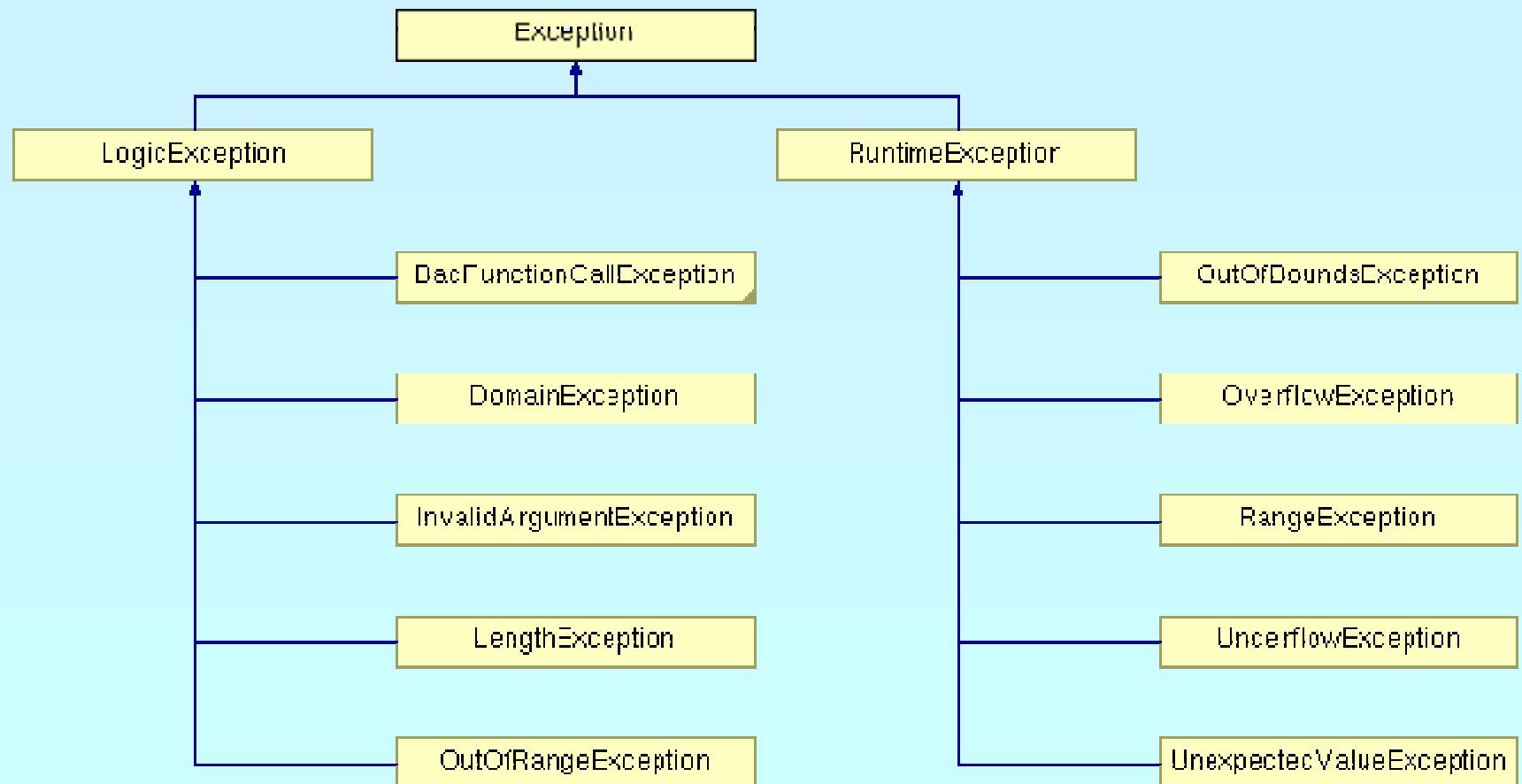
Convert Errors to Exceptions

- Implementing PHP 5.1 class ErrorException

```
<?php
class ErrorException extends Exception {
    protected $severity;
    function __construct($message, $code, $severity){
        parent::__construct($message, $code);
        $this->severity = $severity;
    }
    function getSeverity() {
        return $this->severity;
    }
}
function ErrorsToExceptions($severity, $message) {
    throw new ErrorException($message, 0, $severity);
}
set_error_handler('ErrorsToExceptions');
?>
```

SPL Exceptions

- SPL provides a standard set of exceptions
- Class Exception **must** be the root of all exceptions



General distinguishing



LogicException

→ Anything that could have been detected at compile time or during application design



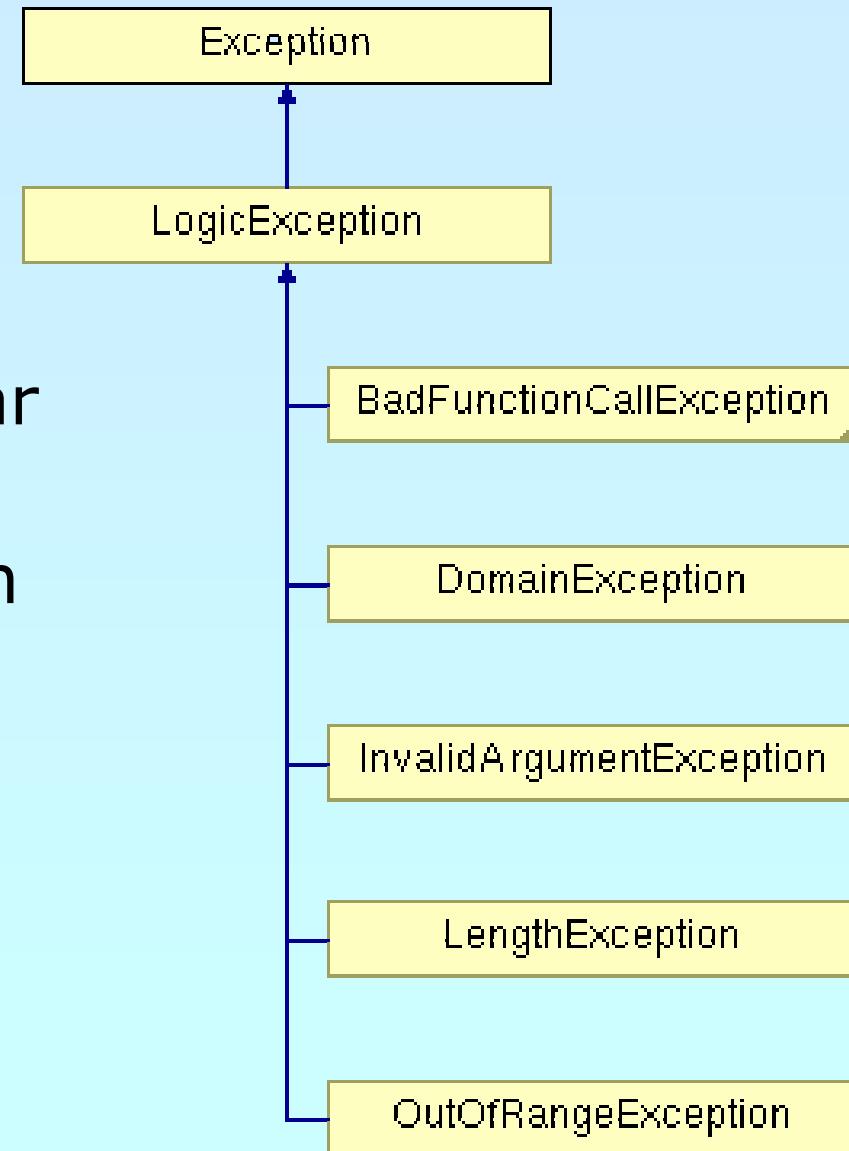
RuntimeException

→ Anything that is unexpected during runtime

→ Base Exception for all database extensions

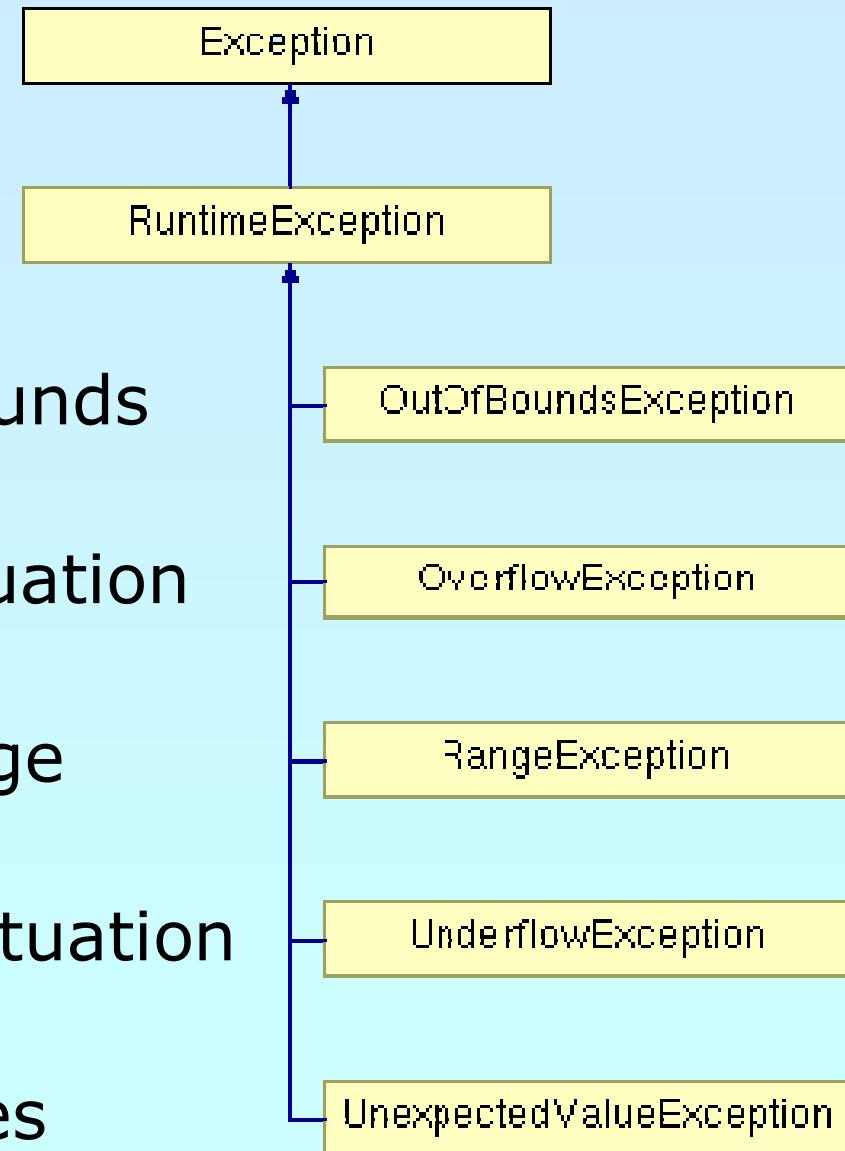
LogicException

- Function not found or similar
- Value not in allowed domain
- Argument not valid
- Length exceeded
- Some index is out of range



RunTimeException

- An actual value is out of bounds
- Buffer or other overflow situation
- Value outside expected range
- Buffer or other underflow situation
- Any other unexpected values



THANK YOU

<http://somabo.de/talks/>

<http://php.net/~helly>