REGION-BASED FINALIZATION

Mallik I. Hassan, Kenneth B. Kent, Gerhard W. Dueck

University of New Brunswick, IBM Canada Faculty of Computer Science mallik.hassan@unb.ca, ken@unb.ca, gdueck@unb.ca

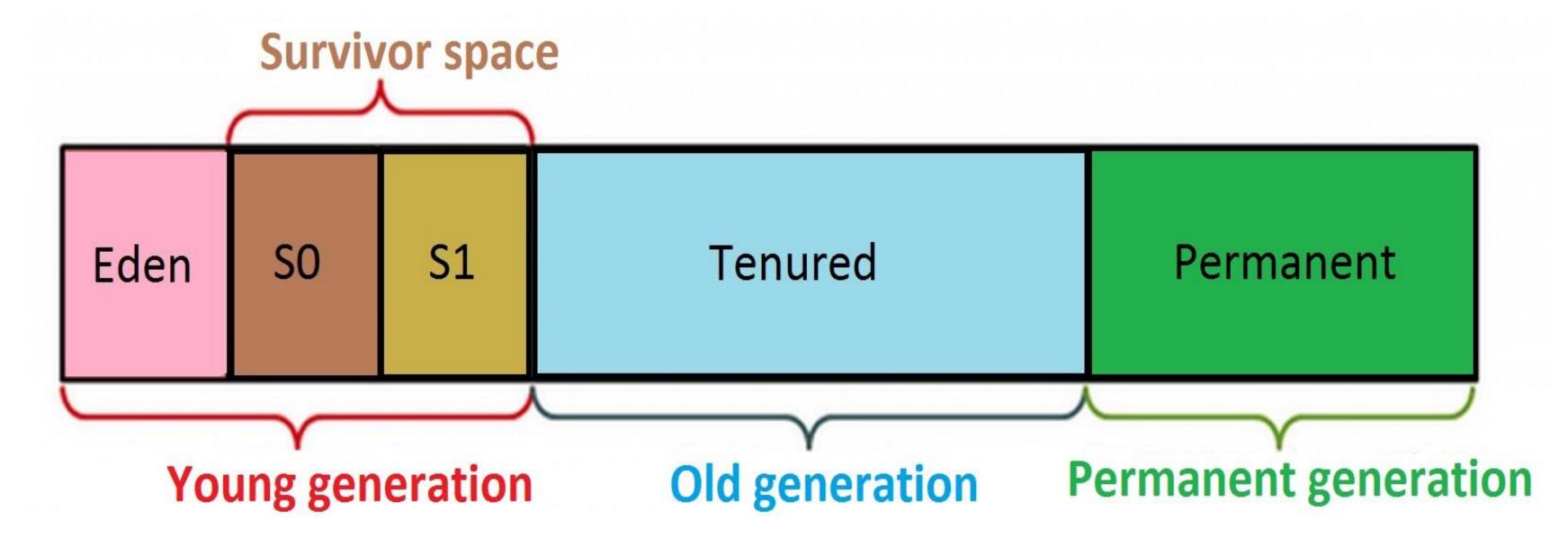
OBJECTIVE

To reduce garbage collection (GC) time by improving efficiency of finalization task.

BACKGROUND

Region Based GC

- ☐ An object becomes eligible for GC when there is no live reference for that object or it can not be reached by any live thread.
- ☐ In region based GC, heap is divided into regions to make GC faster.
- "Young objects die early" philosophy.

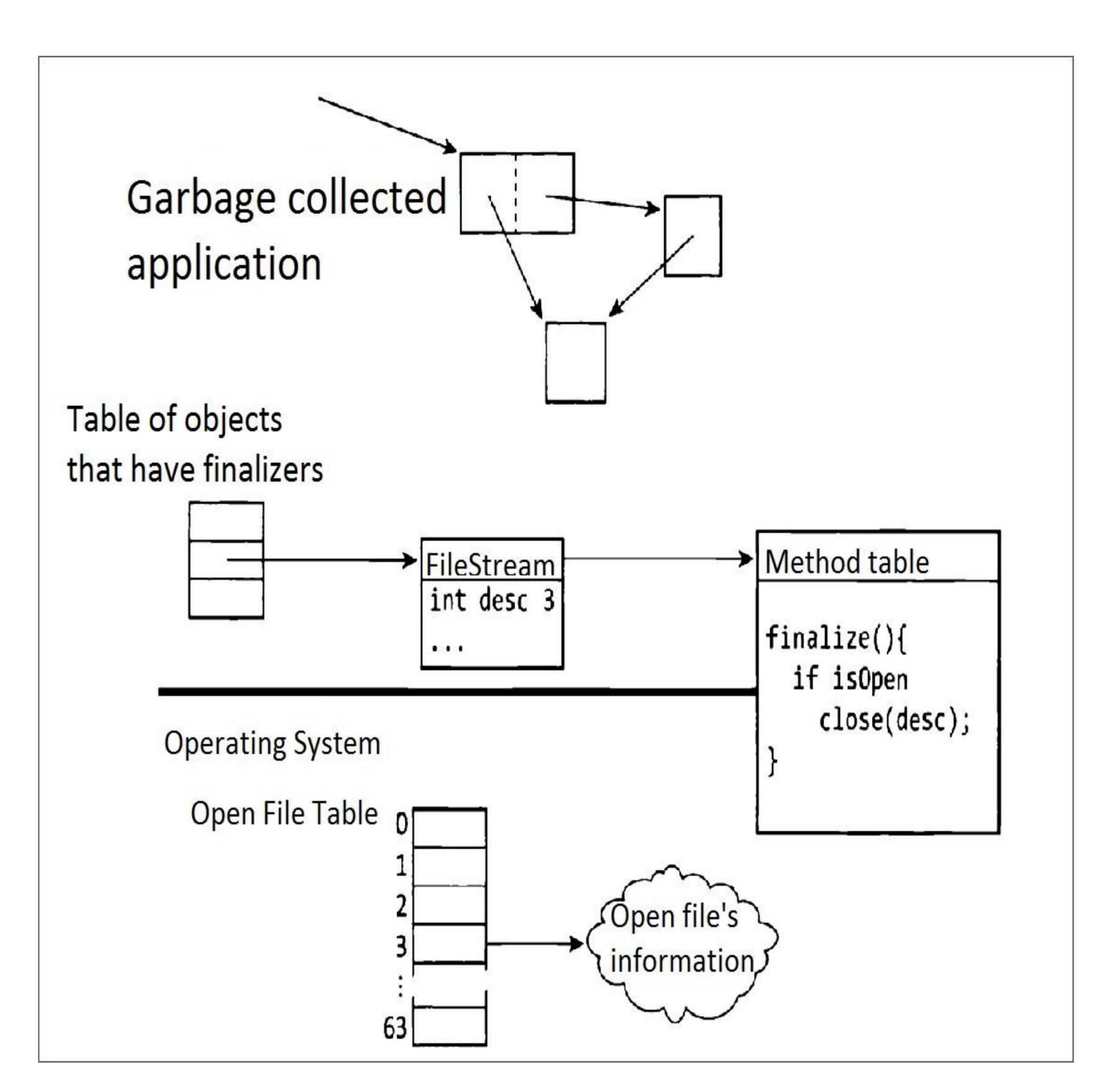


Finalization

- ☐ A procedure to free the resources occupied by dead objects.
- ☐ Occurs after GC is completed.
- ☐ References to finalizable objects are stored in a table which is called finalization queue.
- ☐ This table is accessible only by collectors and not by mutators.
- ☐ One cannot precisely guess when or how often the content of the finalization queue will be processed.
- ☐ Java guarantees that finalization occurs only once for a specific object.

Finalization Thread

- ☐ A thread which is responsible for finalization task.
- ☐ Multiple finalization threads may exist.
- ☐ Multiple finalization threads can run concurrently.
- ☐ Run(s) in background.



RESEARCH AREA

- ☐ Divide heap space into regions with objects needing finalization and those that do not. Analyze finalization execution time.
- ☐ Collect finalizable objects after several GCs, when the size of finalizable region reaches a specific threshold.
- ☐ Analyze performance for different threshold values.



IBM Centre for Advanced Studies - Atlantic a smarter planet FACULTY OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

