CMSC 330: Organization of Programming Languages

Array, Hashes, Code Blocks, Equality
Arrays and Hashes

- Ruby data structures are typically constructed from Arrays and Hashes
  - Built-in syntax for both
  - Each has a rich set of standard library methods
  - They are integrated/used by methods of other classes
Arrays of objects are instances of class Array

- Arrays may be heterogeneous
  - a = [1, "foo", 2.14]

C-like syntax for accessing elements

- indexed from 0
- return nil if no element at given index

```ruby
irb(main):001:0> b = []; b[0] = 0; b[0]
=> 0
irb(main):002:0> b[1]  # no element at this index
=> nil
```
Arrays Grow and Shrink

- Arrays are **growable**
  - Increase in size automatically as you access elements
    ```ruby
    irb(main):001:0> b = []; b[0] = 0; b[5] = 0; b
    => [0, nil, nil, nil, nil, 0]
    - `[]` is the empty array, same as `Array.new`

- Arrays can also **shrink**
  - Contents shift left when you delete elements
    ```ruby
    a = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
    a.delete_at(3)  # delete at position 3; a = [1,2,3,5]
    a.delete(2)    # delete element = 2; a = [1,3,5]
    ```
Iterating Through Arrays

- It's easy to iterate over an array with `while`
  - `length` method returns array’s current length

```ruby
a = [1,2,3,4,5]
i = 0
while i < a.length
    puts a[i]
i = i + 1
end
```

- Looping through elements of an array is common
  - We’ll see a better way soon, using code blocks
Arrays as Stacks and Queues

Arrays can model stacks and queues

```javascript
a = [1, 2, 3]
a.push("a")  // a = [1, 2, 3, "a"]
x = a.pop    // x = "a"
a.unshift("b") // a = ["b", 1, 2, 3]
y = a.shift  // y = "b"
```

Note that `push`, `pop`, `shift`, and `unshift` all permanently modify the array.
Hash

A hash acts like an associative array

- Elements can be indexed by *any kind* of values
- Every Ruby object can be used as a hash key, because the **Object** class has a `hash` method

Elements are referred to like array elements

```ruby
italy = Hash.new
italy["population"] = 58103033
italy["continent"] = "europe"
italy[1861] = "independence"
pop = italy["population"] # pop is 58103033
planet = italy["planet"] # planet is nil
```
Hash methods

- **new(o)** returns hash whose default value is o
  - h = Hash.new("fish"); h["go"]  # returns "fish"
- **values** returns array of a hash’s values
- **keys** returns an array of a hash’s keys
- **delete(k)** deletes mapping with key k
- **has_key?(k)** is true if mapping with key k present
  - has_value?(v) is similar
Hash creation

Convenient syntax for creating literal hashes

- Use `{ key => value, ... }` to create hash table

```ruby
credits = {
    "cmsc131" => 4,
    "cmsc330" => 3,
}
```

```ruby
x = credits["cmsc330"]  # x now 3
credits["cmsc311"] = 3
```

- Use `{} for the empty hash
Quiz 1: What is the output

```python
a = {}
a["foo"] = 1
print a["foo"]
print a["bar"]
```

A. 1  
B. 1bar  
C. Error  
D. foobar
Quiz 1: What is the output

```python
a = {}
a["foo"] = 1
print a["foo"]
print a["bar"]
```

A. 1
B. 1bar
C. Error
D. foobar
Quiz 2: What is the output

a = {}
a[“Spade”] = [ ]
a[“Spade”][“Club”] = “Heart”
puts a[“Spade”][“Club”]

A. Heart
B. [ ]
C. Error
D. { }
Quiz 2: What is the output

```ruby
a = {}
a["Spade"] = []
a["Spade"]["Club"] = "Heart"
puts a["Spade"]["Club"]
```

A. Heart
B. []
C. Error
D. {}
Quiz 3: What is the output

```python
a = {}
a[1] = "foo"
print a[0]
```

A. Error
B. 0
C. foo
D. Nothing is printed.
Quiz 3: What is the output

```
{ 
a[1] = "foo"
print a[0]
```

A. Error
B. 0
C. foo
D. Nothing is printed.
Code Blocks

- A code block is a piece of code that is invoked by another piece of code

- Code blocks are useful for encapsulating repetitive computations
Array Iteration with Code Blocks

- The **Array** class has an **each** method
  - Takes a code block as an argument

```ruby
a = [1,2,3,4,5]
a.each { |x| puts x }
```

- code block delimited by `{ }`'s or do...end
- parameter name (optional)
- body
More Examples of Code Block Usage

- Sum up the elements of an array
  
  ```ruby
  a = [1,2,3,4,5]
  sum = 0
  a.each { |x| sum = sum + x }
  printf("sum is %d\n", sum)
  ```

- Print out each segment of the string as divided up by commas (commas are printed trailing each segment)
  
  - Can use any delimiter

  ```ruby
  s = "Student,Sally,099112233,A"
  s.split(',\').each { |x| puts x }
  ```

  (“delimiter” = symbol used to denote boundaries)
Yet More Examples of Code Blocks

- `n.times` runs code block `n` times
- `n.upto(m)` runs code block for integers `n..m`
- `a.find` returns first element `x` of array such that the block returns true for `x`
- `a.collect` applies block to each element of array and returns new array (`a.collect!` modifies the original)

```ruby
3.times { puts "hello"; puts "goodbye" }
5.upto(10) { |x| puts(x + 1) }
[1,2,3,4,5].find { |y| y % 2 == 0 }
[5,4,3].collect { |x| -x }
```
Still Another Example of Code Blocks

```ruby
File.open("test.txt", "r") do |f|
  f.readlines.each { |line| puts line }
end
```

alternative syntax: do … end instead of { … }

- **open** method takes code block with file argument
  - File automatically closed after block executed
- **readlines** reads all lines from a file and returns an array of the lines read
  - Use each to iterate
- Can do something similar on strings directly:
  - "r1\nr2\n\nr4".each_line { |rec| puts rec }
  - Apply code block to each newline-separated substring
Can iterate over keys and values separately

```ruby
population = {}
population[“USA”] = 319
population[“Italy”] = 60
population.each { |c, p|
  puts “population of #{c} is #{p} million”
}
```

```ruby
population.keys.each { |k|
  print “key: “, k, “ value: “, population[k]
}

population.values.each { |v|
  print “value: “, v
}
```
Using Yield To Call Code Blocks

- Any method can be called with a code block
  - Inside the method, the block is called with `yield`
- After the code block completes
  - Control returns to the caller after the yield instruction

```ruby
def countx(x)
  for i in (1..x)
    puts i
    yield
  end
end

countx(4) { puts "foo" }
```

```
1
foo
2
foo
3
foo
4
foo
```
So What Are Code Blocks?

- A code block is just a special kind of method
  - `{ |y| x = y + 1; puts x }` is almost the same as
  - `def m(y) x = y + 1; puts x end`

- The `each` method takes a code block as a parameter
  - This is called higher-order programming
    - In other words, methods take other methods as arguments
    - We’ll see a lot more of this in OCaml

- We’ll see other library classes with `each` methods
  - And other methods that take code blocks as arguments
  - As we saw, your methods can use code blocks too!
Ranges

- 1..3 is an object of class Range
  - Integers between 1 and 3 inclusively
- 1…3 also has class Range
  - Integers between 1 and 3 but not including 3 itself.

- Not just for integers
  - ‘a’..'z' represents the range of letters ‘a’ to ‘z’
  - 1.3…2.7 is the continuous range [1.3,2.7)
    - (1.3…2.7).include? 2.0 # => true

- Discrete ranges offer the each method to iterate
  - And can convert to an array via to_a; e.g., (1..2).to_a
Object Copy vs. Reference Copy

Consider the following code
- Assume an object/reference model like Java or Ruby
  - Or even two pointers pointing to the same structure

```plaintext
x = "groundhog" ; y = x
```

Which of these occur?

- **Object copy**
  - `x` (reference) → "groundhog" (object)
  - `y` → "groundhog"

- **Reference copy**
  - `x` (reference) → "groundhog" (object)
  - `y` → "groundhog"
Object Copy vs. Reference Copy (cont.)

- For
  
  ```ruby
  x = "groundhog" ; y = x
  ```
  
  - Ruby and Java would both do a reference copy

- But for

  ```ruby
  x = "groundhog"
  y = String.new(x)
  ```

  - Ruby would cause an object copy
  - Unnecessary in Java since Strings are immutable
Physical vs. Structural Equality

Consider these cases again:

- The references, or the contents of the objects they point to?

If we compare \( x \) and \( y \), what is compared?
- The references, or the contents of the objects they point to?

If references are compared (physical equality) the first would return false but the second true.

If objects are compared both would return true.
String Equality

- In Java, `x == y` is physical equality, always
  - Compares references, not string contents
- In Ruby, `x == y` for strings uses structural equality
  - Compares contents, not references
  - `==` is a method that can be overridden in Ruby!
  - To check physical equality, use the `equal?` method
    - Inherited from the `Object` class
- It’s always important to know whether you’re doing a reference or object copy
  - And physical or structural comparison
## Comparing Equality

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Physical equality</th>
<th>Structural equality</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Java</td>
<td><code>a == b</code></td>
<td><code>a.equals(b)</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td><code>a == b</code></td>
<td><code>*a == *b</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby</td>
<td><code>a.equal?(b)</code></td>
<td><code>a == b</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocaml</td>
<td><code>a == b</code></td>
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<td><code>(equal? a b)</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Basic .NET</td>
<td><code>a Is b</code></td>
<td><code>a = b</code></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>