CMSC 330: Organization of Programming Languages

More Ruby:

Methods, Classes, Arrays, Hashes

In Ruby, everything is an Object

- Ruby is object-oriented
- All values are (references to) objects
  - Java/C/C++ distinguish *primitives* from *objects*
- Objects communicate via method calls
- Each object has its own (private) state
- Every object is an instance of a class
  - An object's class determines its behavior:
  - The class contains method and field definitions
    - Both instance fields and per-class ("static") fields

Everything is an Object

- Examples
  - (-4).abs  No-argument instance method of Fixnum
    - integers are instances of class Fixnum
  - 3 + 4
    - infix notation for "invoke the + method of 3 on argument 4"
  - "programming".length
    - strings are instances of String
  - String.new
    - classes are objects with a new method
  - 4.13.class
    - use the class method to get the class for an object
    - floating point numbers are instances of Float

Ruby Classes

- Class names begin with an uppercase letter
- The new method creates an object
  - s = String.new creates a new String and makes s refer to it
- Every class inherits from Object

Objects and Classes

- Objects are data
- Classes are types (the kind of data which things are)
- Classes are *also* objects

Object	Class (aka *type*)
10	Integer
-3.30	Float
"CMSC 330"	String
String.new	String
[‘a’, ‘b’, ‘c’]	Array
Integer	Class

- Integer, Float, and String are *objects* of type Class
  - So is Class itself!

Two Cool Things to Do with Classes

- Since classes are objects, you can manipulate them however you like
  - Here, the type of y depends on p
    - Either a String or a Time object

```
if p then
  x = String
else
  x = Time
End
y = x.new
```

- You can get names of all the methods of a class
  - Object.methods
    - => ["send", "name", "class_eval", "object_id", "new", "autoload?", "singleton_methods", ...]

Creating Strings in Ruby (cont.)

- Ruby has printf and sprintf
  - printf("Hello, %s\n", name);
  - sprintf("%d: %s", count, Time.now)
    - Returns a String
- to_s returns a String representation of an object
  - Can be invoked implicitly – write puts(p) instead of puts(p.to_s)
    - Like Java's toString()
- inspect converts any object to a string

```
irb(main):033:0> p.inspect
=> "#<Point:0x54574 @y=4, @x=7>"
```

Symbols

- Ruby *symbols* begin with a colon
  - :foo, :baz_42, :"Any string at all"
- Symbols are “interned” Strings
  - The same symbol is at the same physical address
  - Can be compared with physical equality

```
“foo” == “foo”       # true
“foo”.equal? “foo”   # false
:foo == :foo         # true
:foo.equal :foo      # true
```

- Are symbols worth it? Probably not…

The nil Object

- Ruby uses nil (not null)
  - All uninitialized fields set to nil (@ prefix used for fields)

```
irb(main):004:0> @x
=> nil
```

- nil is an object of class NilClass
  - Unlike null in Java, which is a non-object
  - nil is a *singleton object* – there is only one instance of it
    - NilClass does not have a **new** method
  - nil has methods like to_s, but not other methods

```
irb(main):006:0> nil + 2
NoMethodError: undefined method `+' for nil:NilClass
```

Quiz 1

- What is the type of variable x at the end of the following program?

```
p = nil
x = 3
if p then
  x = "hello"
else
  x = nil
end
```

A. Integer
B. NilClass
C. String
D. *Nothing* – there's a type error

Quiz 1

- What is the type of variable x at the end of the following program?

```
p = nil
x = 3
if p then
  x = "hello"
else
  x = nil
end
```

A. Integer
B. **NilClass**
C. String
D. *Nothing* – there's a type error

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

Array

- 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

```
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

```
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

```
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

```
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

```
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 value
  - 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

```
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

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

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

- Use { } for the empty hash

Quiz 2: What is the output?

```
a = {“foo” => “bar”}
a[0] = ”baz”
print a[1]
print a[“foo”]
```

A. Error
B. bar
C. bazbar
D. baznilbar

Quiz 2: What is the output?

```
a = {“foo” => “bar”}
a[0] = ”baz”
print a[1]
print a[“foo”]
```

A. Error
B. bar
C. bazbar
D. baznilbar

Quiz 3: What is the output?

```
a = { "Yellow" => [] }
a["Yellow"] = {}
a["Yellow"]["Red"] = ["Green", "Blue"]
print a["Yellow"]["Red"][1]
```

A. Green
B. *(nothing)*
C. Blue
D. *Error*

Quiz 3: What is the output?

```
a = { "Yellow" => [] }
a["Yellow"] = {}
a["Yellow"]["Red"] = ["Green", "Blue"]
print a["Yellow"]["Green"][1]
```

A. Green
B. *(nothing)*
C. Blue
D. *Error*

Quiz 4: What is the output?

```
a = [1,2,3]
a[1] = 0
a.shift
print a[1]
```

A. *Error*

B. 2

C. 3

D. 0

Quiz 4: What is the output?

```
a = [1,2,3]
a[1] = 0
a.shift
print a[1]
```

A. *Error*

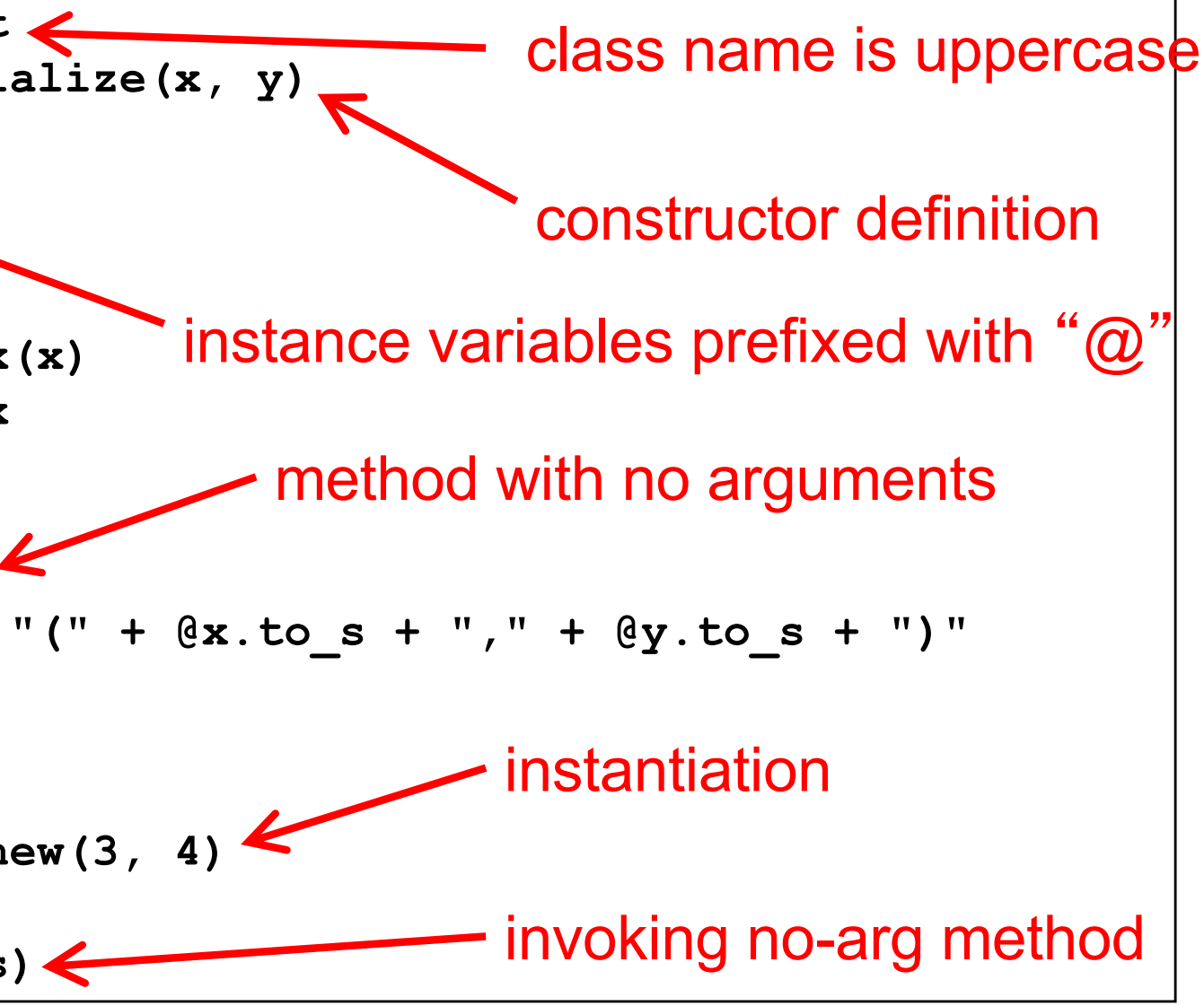
B. 2

C. 3

D. 0

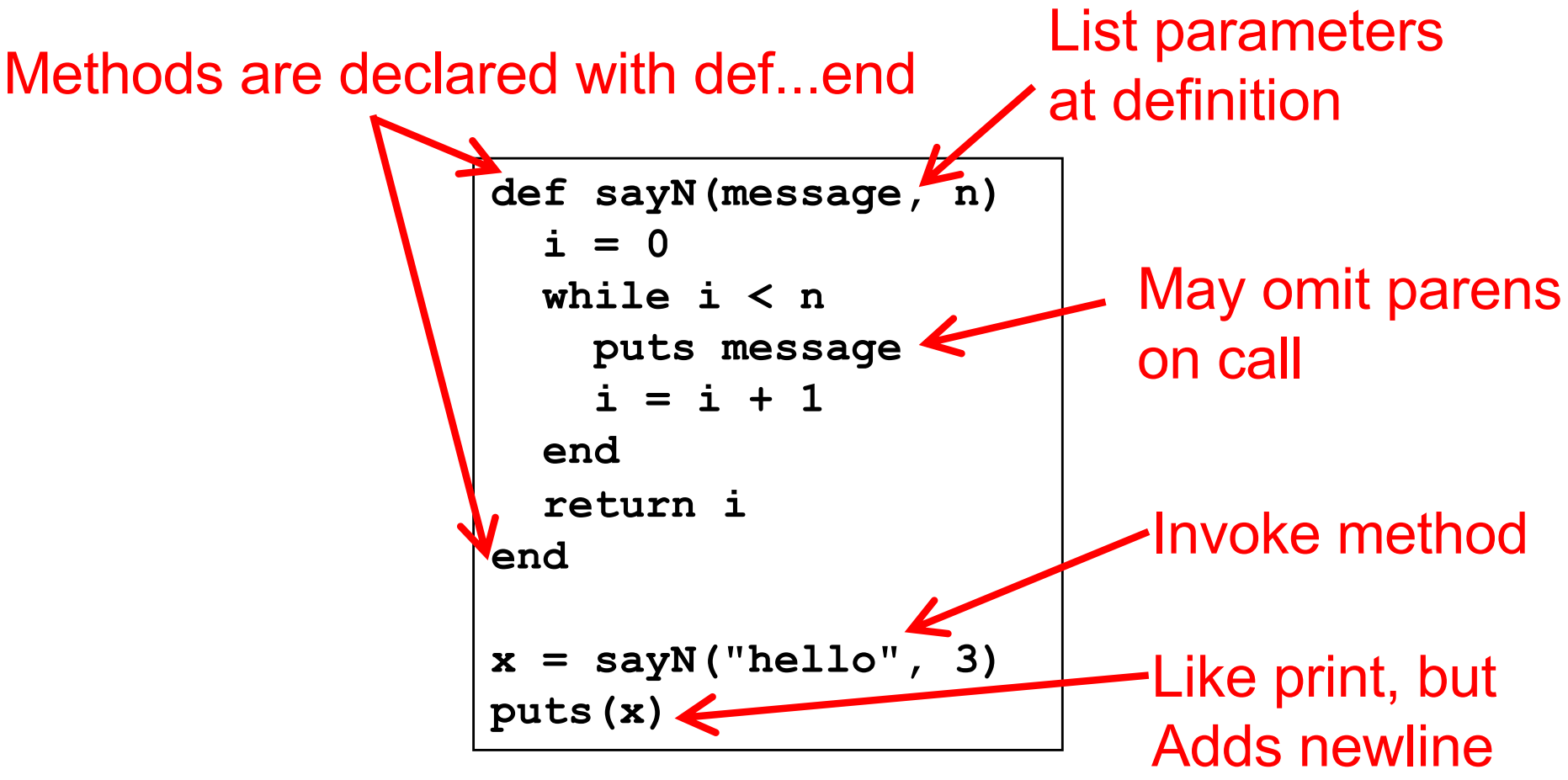
Defining Your Own Classes

```
class Point
  def initialize(x, y)
    @x = x
    @y = y
  end

  def add_x(x)
    @x += x
  end

  def to_s
    return "(" + @x.to_s + "," + @y.to_s + ")"
  end
end

p = Point.new(3, 4)
p.add_x(4)
puts(p.to_s)
```



Methods in Ruby

Note: Methods need not be part of a class



Methods should begin with lowercase letter and be defined before they are called
Variable names that begin with uppercase letter are *constants* (only assigned once)

Methods: Terminology

- Formal parameters
  - Variable parameters used in the method
  - def sayN(message, n) in our example
- Actual arguments
  - Values passed in to the method at a call
  - x = sayN("hello", 3) in our example
- Top-level methods are “global”
  - Not part of a class. sayN is a top-level method.

Method Return Values

- Value of the return is the value of the last executed statement in the method
  - These are the same:

```
def add_three(x)
  return x+3
end
```

```
def add_three(x)
  x+3
end
```

- Methods can return multiple results (as an Array)

```
def dup(x)
  return x,x
end
```

Method naming style

- Names of methods that return **`true`** or **`false`** should end in **`?`**
- Names of methods that modify an object's state should end in **`!`**
- Example: suppose **`x = [3,1,2]`** (this is an array)
  - **`x.member? 3`** returns true since **`3`** is in the array **`x`**
  - **`x.sort`** returns a **new** array that is sorted
  - **`x.sort!`** modifies **`x`** in place

No Outside Access To Internal State

- An object's instance variables (with `@`) can be directly accessed only by instance methods
- Outside class, they require accessors:

A typical getter

```
def x
   @x
end
```

A typical setter

```
def x= (value)
   @x = value
end
```

- Very common, so Ruby provides a shortcut

```
class ClassWithXandY
   attr_accessor :x, :y
end
```

Says to generate the `x=` and `x` and `y=` and `y` methods

No Method Overloading in Ruby

- Thus there can only be one initialize method
  - A typical Java class might have two or more constructors
- No overloading of methods in general
  - You can code up your own overloading by using a variable number of arguments, and checking at run-time the number/types of arguments
- Ruby does issue an exception or warning if a class defines more than one initialize method
  - But last initialize method defined is the valid one