

CMSC 330: Organization of Programming Languages

Introduction to Ruby

Clickers improve student engagement

Biochem Mol Biol Educ. 2009 Mar;37(2):84-91. doi: 10.1002/bmb.20264.

Using clickers to improve student engagement and performance class.

Addison S¹, Wright A, Milner R.

[+](#) Author information

Abstract



Students say

 **ren**
@rennnn__

Clickers are the invention of satan I'm convinced.

5:45 PM - 26 Nov 2012 · San Diego, CA, United States



 Follow

 **Rachel Paddock**
@RachelPaddock

Whoever invented clickers.... I despise you.

11:33 AM - 29 Nov 2012



 **Cait Corf**
@caitcorf

BUT WHY MUST I BE SO STUPID?! The only reason I stayed is because it this class has I clickers,guess what I forgot to bring to class today?

12:18 PM - 15 Mar 2013



 Follow

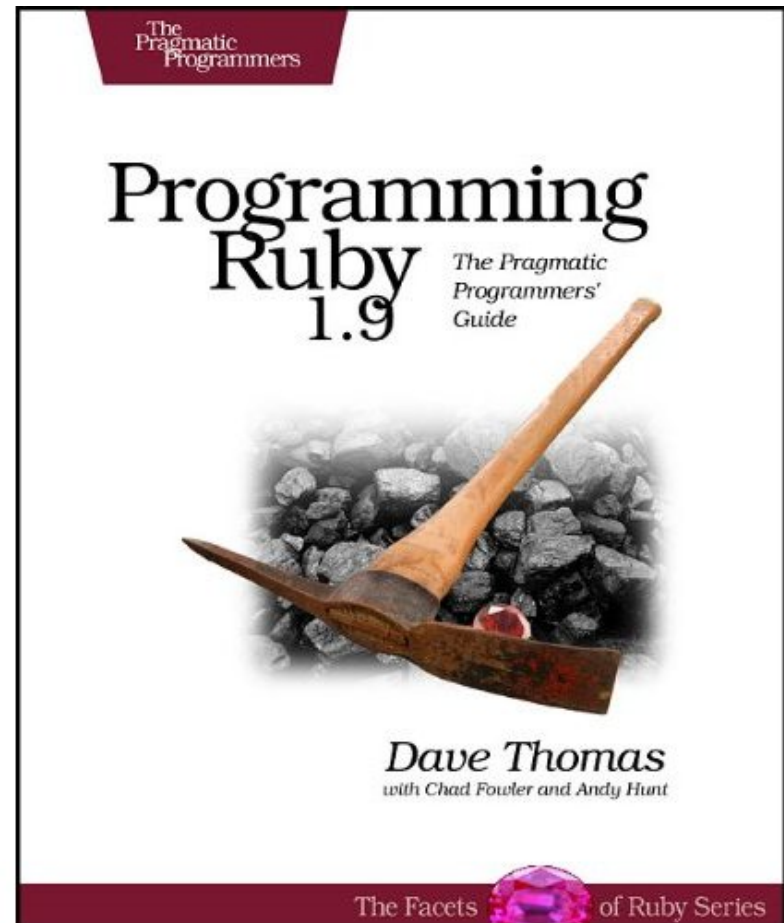
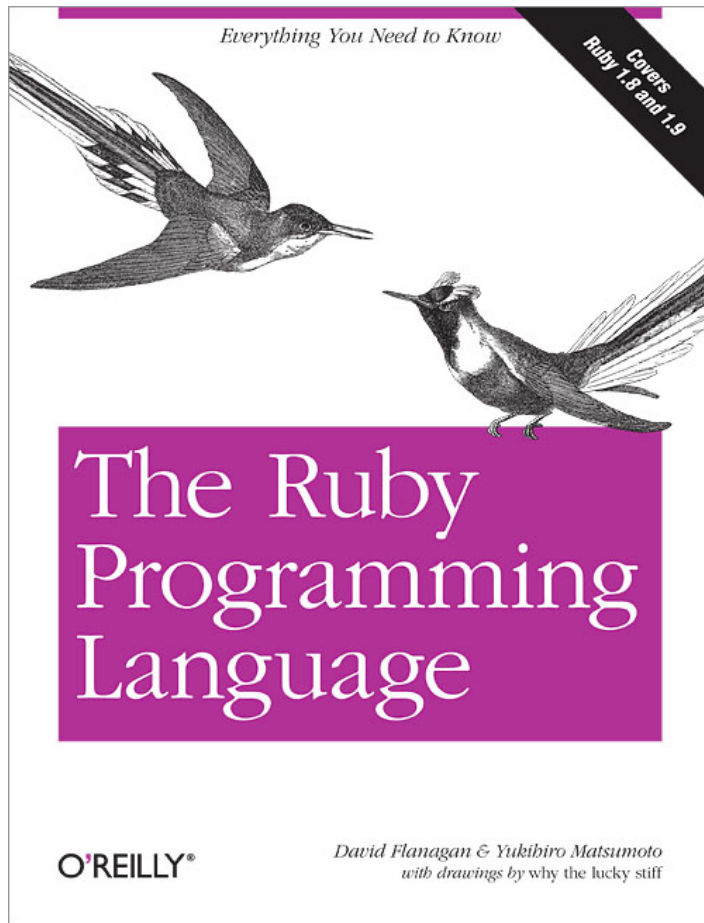
I have my clicker

- A. True
- B. False

Ruby

- ▶ *An object-oriented, imperative, dynamically typed (scripting) language*
 - Created in 1993 by Yukihiro Matsumoto (Matz)
 - “Ruby is designed to make programmers happy”
 - Core of Ruby on Rails web programming framework (a key to its popularity)
 - Similar in flavor to many other scripting languages
 - Much cleaner than perl
 - Full object-orientation (even primitives are objects!)

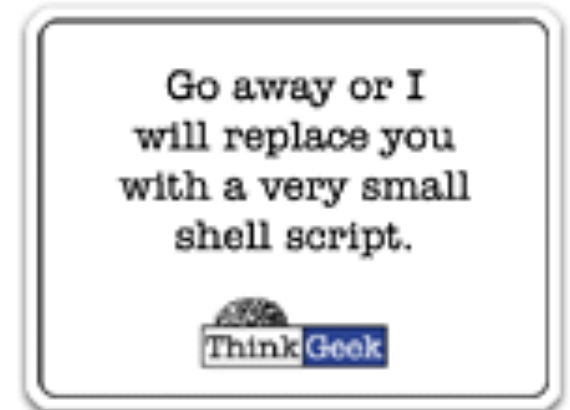
Books on Ruby



- Earlier version of Thomas book available on web
 - See course web page

Applications of Scripting Languages

- ▶ Scripting languages have many uses
 - Automating system administration
 - Automating user tasks
 - Quick-and-dirty development
- ▶ Motivating application



Text processing

Output from Command-Line Tool

```
% wc *
  271      674      5323 AST.c
  100      392      3219 AST.h
  117     1459    238788 AST.o
 1874     5428     47461 AST_defs.c
 1375     6307     53667 AST_defs.h
  371      884      9483 AST_parent.c
  810     2328     24589 AST_print.c
  640     3070     33530 AST_types.h
  285      846      7081 AST_utils.c
   59      274      2154 AST_utils.h
   50      400     28756 AST_utils.o
  866     2757     25873 Makefile
  270      725      5578 Makefile.am
  866     2743     27320 Makefile.in
   38      175      1154 alloca.c
 2035     4516     47721 aloctypes.c
   86      350      3286 aloctypes.h
  104     1051     66848 aloctypes.o
```

...

Climate Data for IAD in August, 2005

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6A | 6B | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | | AVG MX 2MIN | | | | | | | | |
| DY | MAX | MIN | AVG | DEP | HDD | CDD | WTR | SNW | DPTH | SPD | SPD | DIR | MIN | PSBL | S-S | WX | SPD | DR |
| 1 | 87 | 66 | 77 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 0.00 | 0.0 | 0 | 2.5 | 9 | 200 | M | M | 7 | 18 | 12 | 210 |
| 2 | 92 | 67 | 80 | 4 | 0 | 15 | 0.00 | 0.0 | 0 | 3.5 | 10 | 10 | M | M | 3 | 18 | 17 | 320 |
| 3 | 93 | 69 | 81 | 5 | 0 | 16 | 0.00 | 0.0 | 0 | 4.1 | 13 | 360 | M | M | 2 | 18 | 17 | 360 |
| 4 | 95 | 69 | 82 | 6 | 0 | 17 | 0.00 | 0.0 | 0 | 3.6 | 9 | 310 | M | M | 3 | 18 | 12 | 290 |
| 5 | 94 | 73 | 84 | 8 | 0 | 19 | 0.00 | 0.0 | 0 | 5.9 | 18 | 10 | M | M | 3 | 18 | 25 | 360 |
| 6 | 89 | 70 | 80 | 4 | 0 | 15 | 0.02 | 0.0 | 0 | 5.3 | 20 | 200 | M | M | 6 | 138 | 23 | 210 |
| 7 | 89 | 69 | 79 | 3 | 0 | 14 | 0.00 | 0.0 | 0 | 3.6 | 14 | 200 | M | M | 7 | 1 | 16 | 210 |
| 8 | 86 | 70 | 78 | 3 | 0 | 13 | 0.74 | 0.0 | 0 | 4.4 | 17 | 150 | M | M | 10 | 18 | 23 | 150 |
| 9 | 76 | 70 | 73 | -2 | 0 | 8 | 0.19 | 0.0 | 0 | 4.1 | 9 | 90 | M | M | 9 | 18 | 13 | 90 |
| 10 | 87 | 71 | 79 | 4 | 0 | 14 | 0.00 | 0.0 | 0 | 2.3 | 8 | 260 | M | M | 8 | 1 | 10 | 210 |
| ... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Raw Census 2000 Data for DC

u108_S,DC,000,01,0000001,572059,72264,572059,12.6,572059,572059,572059,0,0,
0,0,572059,175306,343213,2006,14762,383,21728,14661,572059,527044,15861
7,340061,1560,14605,291,1638,10272,45015,16689,3152,446,157,92,20090,43
89,572059,268827,3362,3048,3170,3241,3504,3286,3270,3475,3939,3647,3525
,3044,2928,2913,2769,2752,2933,2703,4056,5501,5217,4969,13555,24995,242
16,23726,20721,18802,16523,12318,4345,5810,3423,4690,7105,5739,3260,234
7,303232,3329,3057,2935,3429,3326,3456,3257,3754,3192,3523,3336,3276,29
89,2838,2824,2624,2807,2871,4941,6588,5625,5563,17177,27475,24377,22818
,21319,20851,19117,15260,5066,6708,4257,6117,10741,9427,6807,6175,57205
9,536373,370675,115963,55603,60360,57949,129440,122518,3754,3168,22448,
9967,4638,14110,16160,165698,61049,47694,13355,71578,60875,10703,33071,
35686,7573,28113,248590,108569,47694,60875,140021,115963,58050,21654,36
396,57913,10355,4065,6290,47558,25229,22329,24058,13355,10703,70088,657
37,37112,21742,12267,9475,9723,2573,2314,760,28625,8207,7469,738,19185,
18172,1013,1233,4351,3610,741,248590,199456,94221,46274,21443,24831,479
47,8705,3979,4726,39242,25175,14067,105235,82928,22307,49134,21742,1177
6,211,11565,9966,1650,86,1564,8316,54,8262,27392,25641,1751,248590,1159
63,4999,22466,26165,24062,16529,12409,7594,1739,132627,11670,32445,2322
5,21661,16234,12795,10563,4034,248590,115963,48738,28914,19259,10312,47
48,3992,132627,108569,19284,2713,1209,509,218,125

...

A Simple Example

- ▶ Let's start with a simple Ruby program

ruby1.rb:

```
# This is a ruby program
x = 37
y = x + 5
print(y)
print("\n")
```

```
% ruby -w ruby1.rb
```

```
42
```

```
%
```

Language Basics

comments begin with #, go to end of line

variables need not
be declared

```
# This is a ruby program
x = 37
y = x + 5
print(y)
print("\n")
```

no special main()
function or
method

line break separates
expressions
(can also use ";"
to be safe)

Run Ruby, Run

There are two basic ways to run a Ruby program

- `ruby -w filename` – execute script in *filename*
 - tip: the `-w` will cause Ruby to print a bit more if something bad happens
 - Ruby filenames should end with `‘.rb’` extension
- `irb` – launch interactive Ruby shell
 - Can type in Ruby programs one line at a time, and watch as each line is executed

```
irb(main):001:0> 3+4
=>7
```
 - Can load Ruby programs via `load` command
 - Form: `load string`
 - String must be name of file containing Ruby program
 - E.g.: `load ‘foo.rb’`

▶ Ruby 1.9.3 is installed on Grace cluster (upgrading to 2.4)

Run Ruby, Run (cont.)

- ▶ Suppose you want to run a Ruby script as if it were an executable (e.g. “double-click”, or as a command)
 - Windows
 - Must associate .rb file extension with ruby command
 - If you installed Ruby using the Windows installer, this was done automatically
 - The Ruby web site has information on how to make this association

Run Ruby, Run (cont.)

- ▶ Suppose you want to run a Ruby script as if it were an executable (cont.)
 - *nix (Linux / Unix / etc.)

```
#!/usr/local/bin/ruby -w
print("Hello, world!\n")
```

- The first line (“shebang”) tells the system where to find the program to interpret this text file
- Must `chmod u+x filename` first, or `chmod a+x filename` so everyone has exec permission
- Warning: Not very portable: Depends on location of Ruby interpreter
 - `/usr/local/bin/ruby` vs. `/usr/bin/ruby` vs. `/opt/local/bin/ruby` etc.

Some Ruby Language Features

- ▶ Implicit declarations
 - Java, C have explicit declarations
- ▶ Dynamic typing
 - Java, C have (mostly) static typing
- ▶ Everything is an object
 - No distinction between objects and primitive data
 - Even “null” is an object (called *nil* in Ruby), as are classes
- ▶ No outside access to private object state
 - *Must* use getters, setters
- ▶ No method overloading
- ▶ Class-based and Mixin inheritance

Implicit vs. Explicit Declarations

- ▶ In Ruby, variables are **implicitly declared**
 - First use of a variable declares it and determines type

```
x = 37; // no declaration needed – created when assigned to
y = x + 5
```

 - `x`, `y` now exist, are integers
- ▶ Java and C/C++ use **explicit variable declarations**
 - Variables are named and typed before they are used

```
int x, y; // declaration
x = 37; // use
y = x + 5; // use
```

Tradeoffs?

Explicit Declarations

More text to type

Helps prevent typos

Implicit Declarations

Less text to type

Easy to mistype variable name

```
var = 37  
If (rare-condition)  
y = vsr + 5
```

Typo!



Only caught when this line is actually run.
Bug could be latent for quite a while

Static Type Checking (Static Typing)

- ▶ **Before** program is run
 - Types of all expressions are determined
 - Disallowed operations cause compile-time error
 - Cannot run the program

- ▶ Static types are often **explicit** (*aka manifest*)
 - Specified in text (at variable declaration)
 - C, C++, Java, C#
 - But may also be inferred – compiler determines type based on usage
 - OCaml, C# and Go (limited)

Dynamic Type Checking

- ▶ **During** program execution
 - Can determine type from run-time value
 - Type is checked before use
 - Disallowed operations cause run-time exception
 - Type errors may be latent in code for a long time
- ▶ Dynamic types are **not manifest** (aka implicit)
 - Variables are just introduced/used without types
 - Examples
 - **Ruby**, Python, Javascript, Lisp

Static and Dynamic Typing

- ▶ Ruby is dynamically typed, C is statically typed

```
# Ruby
x = 3
x = "foo" # gives x a
          # new type
x.foo     # NoMethodError
          # at runtime
```

```
/* C */
int x;
x = 3;
x = "foo"; /* not allowed */
/* program doesn't compile */
```

▶ Notes

- Can always run the Ruby program; may fail when run
- C variables declared, with types
 - Ruby variables declared *implicitly*
 - Implicit declarations most natural with dynamic typing

Tradeoffs?

- ▶ **Static type checking**
 - More work for programmer (at first)
 - Catches more (and subtle) errors at compile time
 - Precludes some correct programs
 - May require a contorted rewrite
 - More efficient code (fewer run-time checks)
- ▶ **Dynamic type checking**
 - Less work for programmer (at first)
 - Delays some errors to run time
 - Allows more programs
 - Including ones that will fail
 - Less efficient code (more run-time checks)

Java: *Mostly* Static Typing

- ▶ In Java, types are mostly checked statically

```
Object x = new Object();  
x.println("hello"); // No such method error at compile time
```

- ▶ But sometimes checks occur at run-time

```
Object o = new Object();  
String s = (String) o; // No compiler warning, fails at run time  
// (Some Java compilers may be smart enough to warn about  
// above cast)
```

Quiz 1: Get out your **clickers!**

- ▶ **True or false:** This program has a type error

```
# Ruby
x = 3
y = "foo"
x = y
```

- A. True
- B. False

- ▶ **True or false:** This program has a type error

```
/* C */
void foo() {
    int x = 3;
    char *y = "foo";
    x = y;
}
```

- A. True
- B. False

Quiz 1: Get out your **clickers!**

- ▶ **True or false:** This program has a type error

```
# Ruby
x = 3
y = "foo"
x = y
```

- A. True**
- B. False**

- ▶ **True or false:** This program has a type error

```
/* C */
void foo() {
    int x = 3;
    char *y = "foo";
    x = y;
}
```

- A. True**
- B. False**

Control Statements in Ruby

- ▶ A **control statement** is one that affects which instruction is executed next

- While loops
- Conditionals

```
i = 0
while i < n
  i = i + 1
end
```

```
if grade >= 90 then
  puts "You got an A"
elsif grade >= 80 then
  puts "You got a B"
elsif grade >= 70 then
  puts "You got a C"
else
  puts "You're not doing so well"
end
```

Conditionals and Loops Must End!

- ▶ All Ruby conditional and looping statements must be terminated with the `end` keyword.
- ▶ Examples

- ```
if grade >= 90 then
 puts "You got an A"
end
```

- ```
if grade >= 90 then
  puts "You got an A"
else
  puts "No A, sorry"
end
```

- ```
i = 0
while i < n
 i = i + 1
end
```

# What is True?

---

- ▶ The **guard** of a conditional is the expression that determines which branch is taken

```
if grade >= 90 then
 ...
```



Guard

- ▶ The **true** branch is taken if the guard evaluates to anything except
  - false
  - nil
- ▶ Warning to C programmers: **0 is not false!**

# Yet More Control Statements in Ruby

---

- ▶ **unless** cond **then** stmt-f **else** stmt-t **end**
  - Same as “if not cond then stmt-t else stmt-f end”

```
unless grade < 90 then
 puts "You got an A"
else unless grade < 80 then
 puts "You got a B"
end
```

- ▶ **until** cond **body** **end**
  - Same as “while not cond body end”

```
until i >= n
 puts message
 i = i + 1
end
```

# Using If and Unless as Modifiers

---

- ▶ Can write if and unless **after** an expression
  - puts "You got an A" if grade  $\geq 90$
  - puts "You got an A" unless grade  $< 90$
  
- ▶ Why so many control statements?
  - Is this a good idea? Why or why not?
    - **Good**: can make program more readable, expressing programs more directly. In natural language, many ways to say the same thing, which supports brevity and adds style.
    - **Bad**: many ways to do the same thing may lead to confusion and hurt maintainability (if future programmers don't understand all styles)

# Methods in Ruby

---

Methods are declared with `def...end`

List parameters at definition

```
def sayN(message, n)
 i = 0
 while i < n
 puts message
 i = i + 1
 end
 return i
end
```

May omit parens on call

Invoke method

```
x = sayN("hello", 3)
puts(x)
```

Like print, but Adds newline

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)

# 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
```

# Everything is an Object


---

- ▶ 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

# 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 <i>type</i> ) |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 10              | Fixnum                   |
| -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", ... ]`

# The nil Object

---

- ▶ Ruby uses a special object `nil`
  - All uninitialized fields set to `nil` (`@` prefix used for fields)  
irb(main):004:0> `@x`  
=> `nil`
  - Like `NULL` or `0` in C/C++ and `null` in Java
- ▶ `nil` is an object of class `NilClass`
  - It's 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 2

---

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

```
p = 0
if p then
 x = nil
else
 x = "hello"
end
```

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



# Quiz 2

---

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

```
p = 0
if p then
 x = nil
else
 x = "hello"
end
```

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

# Creating Strings in Ruby

---

- ▶ Substitution in double-quoted strings with `#{ }`
  - `course = "330"; msg = "Welcome to #{course}"`
  - `"It is now #{Time.new}"`
  - The contents of `#{ }` may be an arbitrary expression
  - Can also use single-quote as delimiter
    - No expression substitution, fewer escaping characters

- ▶ Here-documents

```
s = <<END
```

```
This is a text message on multiple lines
and typing \n is annoying
```

```
END
```

# 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>"
```

# Standard Library: String

---

- ▶ The `String` class has many useful methods
  - `s.length`           # length of string
  - `s1 == s2`           # structural equality (string contents)
  - `s = "A line\n"; s.chomp` # returns "A line"
    - Return new string with `s`'s contents except newline at end of line removed
  - `s = "A line\n"; s.chomp!`
    - Destructively removes newline from `s`
    - *Convention:* methods ending in `!` modify the object
    - *Another convention:* methods ending in `?` observe the object

# 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...

# 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)
```

class name is uppercase

constructor definition

instance variables prefixed with "@"

method with no arguments

instantiation

invoking no-arg method

# No Outside Access To Internal State

---

- ▶ 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 runtime 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



## Quiz 3: What is the output?

---

```
class Animal
 def eat(food)
 "I ate #{food}"
 end
 def eat(food, amount)
 "I ate #{amount} pounds of #{food}"
 end
end
animal = Animal.new
puts animal.eat("meat")
```

- A. I ate #{food}
- B. I ate meat
- C. I ate pounds of meat
- D. Error

## Quiz 3: What is the output?

---

```
class Animal
 def eat(food)
 "I ate #{food}"
 end
 def eat(food, amount)
 "I ate #{amount} pounds of #{food}"
 end
end
animal = Animal.new
puts animal.eat("meat")
```

- A. I ate #{food}
- B. I ate meat
- C. I ate pounds of meat
- D. Error**

## Quiz 4: What is the output?

```
class Animal
 def eat(food)
 "I ate #{food}"
 end
 def eat(food, amount)
 "I ate #{amount} pounds of #{food}"
 end
End
animal = Animal.new
puts animal.eat("meat", 23)
```

- A. I ate meat
- B. I ate 23 pounds of meat
- C. Error
- D. I ate #{amount} pounds pf #{food}

## Quiz 4: What is the output?

```
class Animal
 def eat(food)
 "I ate #{food}"
 end
 def eat(food, amount)
 "I ate #{amount} pounds of #{food}"
 end
End
animal = Animal.new
puts animal.eat("meat", 23)
```

- A. I ate meat
- B. I ate 23 pounds of meat**
- C. Error
- D. I ate #{amount} pounds pf #{food}

# Inheritance

---

- ▶ Recall that every class inherits from **Object**

```
class A ## < Object
 def add(x)
 return x + 1
 end
end

class B < A
 def add(y)
 return (super(y) + 1)
 end
end

b = B.new
puts (b.add(3))
```

extend superclass



invoke add method  
of parent



```
b.is_a? A
true
b.instance_of? A
false
```

# Mixins

---

- ▶ Another form of code reuse is “mix-in” inclusion
  - `include` A “inlines” A’s methods at that point
    - Referred-to variables/methods captured from context
    - In effect: it adds those methods to the current class

```
class OneDPoint
 attr_accessor :x
 include Comparable
 def <=>(other) # used by Comparable
 if @x < other.x then return -1
 elsif @x > other.x then return 1
 else return 0
 end
 end
end
```

```
p = OneDPoint.new
p.x = 1
q = OneDPoint.new
q.x = 2
x < y # true
puts [y,x].sort
prints x, then y
```

# super( ) in Ruby

---

- ▶ Within the body of a method
  - Call to `super( )` acts just like a call to that original method
  - Except that search for method body starts in the superclass of the object that was found to contain the original method

# Global Variables in Ruby

---

- ▶ Ruby has two kinds of global variables
  - Class variables beginning with @@ (static in Java)
  - Global variables across classes beginning with \$

```
class Global
 @@x = 0

 def Global.inc
 @@x = @@x + 1; $x = $x + 1
 end

 def Global.get
 return @@x
 end
end
```

```
$x = 0
Global.inc
$x = $x + 1
Global.inc
puts (Global.get)
puts ($x)
```

define a class  
("singleton") method



# Special Global Variables

---

- ▶ Ruby has a special set of global variables that are implicitly set by methods
- ▶ The most insidious one: `$_`
  - Last line of input read by `gets` or `readline`

- ▶ Example program

```
gets # implicitly reads input line into $_
print # implicitly prints out $_
```

- ▶ Using `$_` leads to shorter programs
  - And confusion
  - We suggest you avoid using it

# What is a Program?

---

- ▶ In C/C++, a program is...
  - A collection of declarations and definitions
  - With a distinguished function definition
    - `int main(int argc, char *argv[]) { ... }`
  - When you run a C/C++ program, it's like the OS calls `main(...)`
- ▶ In Java, a program is...
  - A collection of class definitions
  - With some class (say, `MyClass`) containing a method
    - `public static void main(String[] args)`
  - When you run `java MyClass`, the main method of class `MyClass` is invoked

# A Ruby Program is...

---

## ▶ The class `Object`

- When the class is loaded, any expressions not in method bodies are executed

defines a method of `Object`  
(i.e., top-level methods belong to `Object`)

invokes `self.sayN`

invokes `self.puts`  
(part of `Object`)

```
def sayN(message, n)
 i = 0
 while i < n
 puts message
 i = i + 1
 end
 return i
end

x = sayN("hello", 3)
puts(x)
```

## Quiz 5: What is the output?

---

```
class Thing
 @@things = 0
 def initialize(name)
 @name = name
 @@things += 1
 end
 def self.get_things
 return @@things
 end
end
Thing.new("thing20");
Thing.new("thing6")
puts Thing.get_things
```

- A. 0
- B. 1
- C. 2
- D. 3

## Quiz 5: What is the output?

---

```
class Thing
 @@things = 0
 def initialize(name)
 @name = name
 @@things += 1
 end
 def self.get_things
 return @@things
 end
end
Thing.new("thing20");
Thing.new("thing6")
puts Thing.get_things
```

- A. 0
- B. 1
- C. 2
- D. 3

## Quiz 6: What is the output?

---

```
class Dog
 def initialize
 @bark = "ruff ruff"
 end
 def speak
 "I like to #{@bark}"
 end
end
fido = Dog.new
puts fido.speak()
```

- A. I like to bark
- B. I like to #{@bark}
- C. I like to ruff ruff
- D. ruff ruff

## Quiz 6: What is the output?

---

```
class Dog
 def initialize
 @bark = "ruff ruff"
 end
 def speak
 "I like to #{@bark}"
 end
end
fido = Dog.new
puts fido.speak()
```

- A. I like to bark
- B. I like to #{@bark}
- C. I like to ruff ruff**
- D. ruff ruff

## Quiz 7: What is the output?

---

```
class Computer
 def initialize
 @sound = "beep beep"
 end
 def self.about
 "Sometimes I go #{@sound}"
 end
end
print Computer.about
```

- A. Sometimes I go #{@sound}"
- B. Sometimes I go
- C. Error
- D. Sometimes I go nil



## Quiz 7: What is the output?

---

```
class Computer
 def initialize
 @sound = "beep beep"
 end
 def self.about
 "Sometimes I go #{@sound}"
 end
end
print Computer.about
```

- A. Sometimes I go #{@sound}"
- B. Sometimes I go**
- C. Error
- D. Sometimes I go nil

## Quiz 8: What is the output?

---

```
class Person
 def initialize(first, last)
 @first = first
 @last = last
 end
 def full_name
 "#{@first} #{@last}"
 end
end
class Doctor < Person
 def full_name
 "Dr. #{super}"
 end
end
d = Doctor.new("Phil", "McGraw")
print d.full_name
```

- A. Dr. #{super}
- B. Dr.
- C. Dr. Phil McGraw
- D. Error

## Quiz 8: What is the output?

---

```
class Person
 def initialize(first, last)
 @first = first
 @last = last
 end
 def full_name
 "#{@first} #{@last}"
 end
end
class Doctor < Person
 def full_name
 "Dr. #{super}"
 end
end
d = Doctor.new("Phil", "McGraw")
print d.full_name
```

- A. Dr. #{super}
- B. Dr.
- C. Dr. Phil McGraw
- D. Error