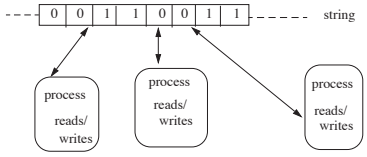
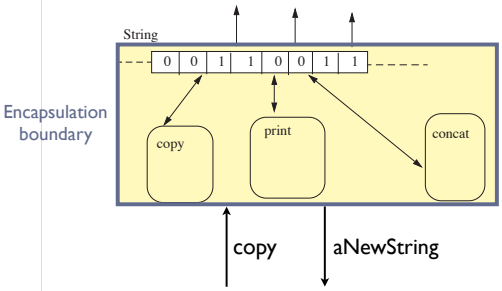
Introduction to Object-oriented Programming in Smalltalk

Objects are responsible for their own actions!

- In procedural programming, I write code that reaches into the internals of some data structure and twiddles with the bits



- In O-O programming, I politely request some other object to perform some work on my behalf, and it politely answers me



Computation as Simulation

- Encapsulation is key
- Autonomous objects in the program represent objects in the real world
  - just like discreet event simulation
- Antropomorphize!
  - It's OK to think about *this* object talking to *that* object…
  - in fact, it's recommended

Programming Philosophy

- Object-Oriented programming is programming by simulation.
  - The algorithm is less important than the structure of the solution.
- When requirements change:
  - If the structure represented the structure of some 'reality', then the new requirements will be consistent in that reality.
  - Object-oriented design is the search for this structure: uncover the structure rather than construct in isolation.

Shopping vs. Building

- Constructing an Object-oriented application is a process of shopping for the components that one needs
  - occasionally we add a new item to the shelf.
  - usually we can find a component that *almost* fits.
- The *openness* of an OO language allows the programmer to change the component that *almost* fits into one that is a *good* fit.
  - works only if we have a rich set of components on the shelf, and if they are open to change.

Is this the *only* view of OO Programming?

No! People disagree on the meaning and role of:

1. Encapsulation
2. Types
3. Inheritance
4. Polymorphism
5. Sets and classes

Smalltalk

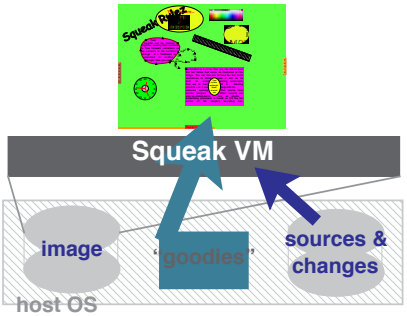
- Squeak is an open-source version of Smalltalk.
  - Smalltalk is still the best example of a Pure O-O language
  - The Squeak workspace is a place in which you can create and interact with objects.
- Large and active community of contributors
  - Runs "bit identical" on just about any platform, including many PDAs

The Squeak Environment

A "place" to experiment with objects

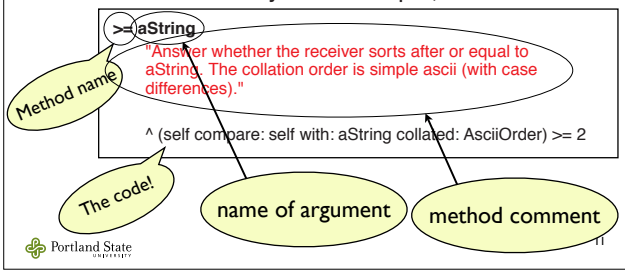
- Forget applications, files, compilers, data...
- Focus on objects

The Squeak World



Smalltalk Syntax

- No syntax for classes, packages, *etc.*
  - Class creation and method categorization are done *imperatively* using the development tools
- The method syntax is simple, but different



Read code

- The best way to become familiar with Smalltalk programming is to read the code in the image
- Expect to read 10 to 100 lines of code for each one that you write
  - If you find that you are writing long methods, you haven't "got it" yet.
  - Find a method in the image that does something like what you want, an learn from it

Smalltalk — The Language

Literal Objects

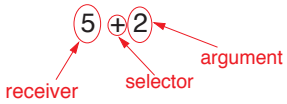
27	The unique object 27
18.5	The floating point number 18.5
1.85e1	same as above
'a string'	a string
#request	the symbol *request*. It is unique; two symbols with the same name denote the same object
$r	the single character *r*
#(3 2.7 'a string')	an array literal. This is a heterogeneous array containing an integer, a float, and a string

Sending Messages

Unary Message (no arguments)

- selector is a keyword-like *symbol*
  - examples: 3 factorial
    7 negated
    $c asInteger
  - note: no colon at the end of the symbol

Binary Message (one argument!)



- selector is one or two special characters

7 = 5	message *= 5* sent to object 7
i + 3	message *+ 3* sent to object *i*
17 // 3	message *// 3* sent to integer object 17 (result is 5)
17 / 3	message */ 3* sent to integer object 17 (result is)

Not exactly; *i* is not an object. It's a variable that's bound to an object

Keyword Messages

- one or more arguments
  - Examples:

    #(3 5 7 9 11) at: 2

    game movefrom: pinA to: pinB using: pinC

    5 between: 0 and: 9
- The colon '**:**' indicates to the parser that an argument follows the keyword.

Order of Evaluation

- The receiver (or an argument) can be another invocation (message expression)
- Evaluation order is
  - parenthesized invocations
  - unary invocation, evaluated *left to right*
  - binary invocations, evaluated *left to right*
  - keyword invocations
- No "priorities" for particular operators
  - * does not bind more tightly than +

Cascaded Messages (syntactic sugar)

```
anArray at: 1 put: 9.
anArray at: 2 put: 11.
anArray at: 3 put: 13.
```

- This can be abbreviated as

```
anArray at: 1 put: 9; at: 2 put: 11; at: 3 put: 13
```

receiver for all 3 messages

"receiverless messages"

- Result is that of the last message send

```
Transcript show: 'Hello World'; cr
```

Variables

Instance Variables

- The names of the "slots" in an object, which make up its representation.
- declared in the class

  instanceVariableNames: 'name1 name2'

Temporaries

- Names local to a method body or block

  | *aStudent numberOfEntries* |

Assignment

x := 3 + 5

– make *x* name the object resulting from the evaluation of the expression *3 + 5*

y := Array new: 1000000

– make *y* name a new 1MB array

- Variables name objects
  – They do not provide storage for objects
- Assigning to a variable makes it name a different object
  – no object is created or copied by assignment

Learning More

- Finding Classes
  – By name or fragment of a name
  - command-f in the Class-category pane of a browser
  – By selecting a morph and choosing browse morph class from the debug menu

- Finding methods
  – By name fragment or by example — with the method finder
  – Smalltalk browseMethodsWhoseNamesContain: 'screen'
  – Smalltalk browseMethodsWithString: 'useful', or highlight the string and type *command-E*
  – highlight a selector, choose implementors of … (*command-m*) or senders of …(*command-n*)

Finding Answers

Some invaluable resources:

- The Squeak "Swiki"
  – a wiki is a website where anyone is free to contribute to editing and maintenance
  – http://wiki.squeak.org/squeak/
- Squeak.org
  – Documentation, tutorials, swikis, other sites, books and papers, downloads, and information on …

- The Squeak mailing list
  – a friendly place where "newbies" are made welcome
  – squeak-request@cs.uiuc.edu
- http://SqueakByExample.org