



---

# Introduction to Eiffel

Martin Nordio, Christian Estler  
ETH Zurich

Distributed Software Engineering Lab

## Part 1: Language Constructs

- Basics: class definition, if then else, expressions, loops and across, creation procedures
- Inheritance: redefinition and multiple inheritance
- Exception Handling
- Once Routines
- Style rules
- Generics
- Information Hiding

## Part 2: Contracts

- Preconditions, postconditions and class invariants
- Contracts in inheritance

## Part 3: Tuples and Agents

Go to:

<http://codeboard.io>

If you don't have an account yet, please sign-up and sign-in before doing the exercises.

Once you're done with a programming exercise, submit your solution.

---

Part 1: Language constructs

# 1.1 BASICS



# Class declaration: Eiffel vs Java:

---



```
class  
  ACCOUNT  
end
```

```
public class Account {  
  
}
```

# Constructors

---



```
class
  ACCOUNT
create
  make,
  make_balance
feature
  make
    do ...
  end
  make_balance (i: INTEGER)
    do ...
  end

end
```

```
public class Account {
    public Account() {...}
    public Account (int b) {...}
}
```

# Constructors

**class**

*ACCOUNT*

**create**

*make, make\_balance,  
make\_name*

**feature**

*make*

**do ...**

**end**

*make\_balance (i: INTEGER)*

**do ...**

**end**

*make\_name (s: STRING)*

**do ...**

**end**

**end**

```
public class Account {  
    public Account() {...}  
    public Account (int b) {...}  
    public Account (string s) {...}  
}
```

Constructors can have any name; use the **create** clause to declare a routine as constructor



# Overloading

```
class
  PRINTER

feature
  print_int (a_int: INTEGER)
    do ... end

  print_real (a_real: REAL)
    do ... end

  print_string (a_str: STRING)
    do ... end

end
```

```
public class Printer {
  public void print(int i) {...}
  public void print(float f) {...}
  public void print(String s) {...}
}
```

Eiffel does not support overloading!





# Creating Objects

---



**class**

*BANK*

**feature**

*pay\_bill*

**local**

*b1: ACCOUNT*

**do**

**create** *b1.make*

**end**

**end**

```
public class Bank {  
    public void payBill() {  
        Account b1 = new Account();  
    }  
}
```

# Creating Objects



```
class  
  BANK
```

```
feature
```

```
  pay_bill
```

```
    local
```

```
      b1, b2: ACCOUNT
```

```
    do
```

```
      create b1.make
```

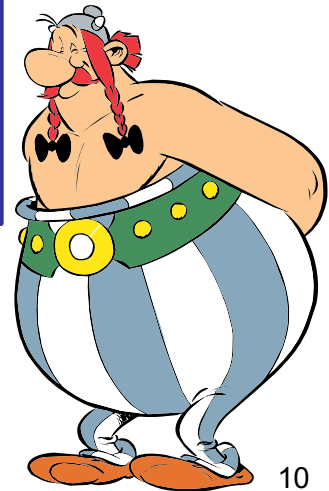
```
      create b2.make_balance(2)
```

```
    end
```

```
end
```

```
public class Bank {  
  public void payBill() {  
    Account b1 = new Account();  
    Account b2 = new Account (2);  
  }  
}
```

Create objects using the **create** keyword; declare the local variables in the **local** clause



# Let's code...

---



Go to:

<https://codeboard.io/projects/8744>

*Task:* create a local ACCOUNT object in the constructor of the APPLICATION class

*Task:* modify the creation procedure of ACCOUNT to print a confirmation that an account was created

*Task:* write a new creation procedure in class ACCOUNT that lets you create an account with an initial balance; use it from APPLICATION

# Creating Objects: default create



```
class
  MAIN

feature
  root
    local
      b1: BANK
    do
      create b1
      -- corresponds to
      -- create b1.default_create
      b1.pay_bill
    end
end
```

```
class
  BANK

feature
  pay_bill
    do
      ...
    end
end
```



All classes inherit from ANY (Object in Java). If no creation procedure is specified, *default\_create* is used (inherited from ANY)

# Creating Objects: default create



```
class
  BANK
inherit
  ANY
  redefine
    default_create
end
```

```
create
  default_create
```

```
feature
  ...
end
```

*The routine default\_create  
can be redefined*



# Let's code...

---



Go to:

<https://codeboard.io/projects/8744>

*Task:* override the `default_create` in class `CUSTOMER` to print a confirmation message

*Task:* create a customer object in the `APPLICATION` class

*Task:* write a creation procedure for class `CUSTOMER` that takes, `name`, `first_name` and `age` as arguments; use it to create a customer

# Features

```
class
  ACCOUNT
feature -- Initialization
  make   do ... end
  make_balance (i: INTEGER)
    do ... end
  make_name (s: STRING)
    do ... end

feature -- Basic operations
  deposit (i: INTEGER) do ... end
  withdraw (i: INTEGER) do ... end
  transfer (b: ACCOUNT) do ... end

feature -- Access
  balance: INTEGER do ... end
end
```

```
public class Account {
  public Account() {...}
  public Account (int b) {...}
  public Account (string s) {...}
  public void deposit (int i) {...}
  public void withdraw (int i) {...}
  public void transfer(Account b) .
  public int balance() {...}
}
```

The **feature** clause is used to group routines and for information hiding (see 1.8)



# Expressions and Conditionals



```
feature
  foo
  do
    if b and (c or d) then
      x := 5
      ...
    end
  end
end
```

```
  foo
  do
    if b and then (c or else d) then
      ...
    end
  end
end
```

```
public foo() {
  if (b & (c | d)) {
    x = 5;
    ...
  }
}
```

```
public foo() {
  if (b && (c || d)) {
    ...
  }
}
```



# Let's code...



Go to:

<https://codeboard.io/projects/8744>

*Task:* write a condition that only allows to withdraw money if the balance is sufficient; otherwise print an error message; make two withdraws that show the regular and the exceptional behavior

*Hint:* `x.out` gives you the string for integer `x`

# Return and breaks

```
class
  B

feature
  foo: INTEGER
  do
    Result := 5
  end

end
```

```
public class B {
  public int foo() {
    return 5;
  }
}
```

Eiffel does not support neither breaks, continues nor return



# Loops



```
print  
  local  
    i: INTEGER  
  do  
    from  
      i := 1  
    until  
      i >= 10  
    loop  
      ...  
      i := i + 1  
    end  
end
```

```
public class Printer {  
    public void print() {  
        for(int i=0;i<10;i++) {  
            ...  
        }  
    }  
}
```

# Loops: Example 2

---



```
print  
local  
  i: INTEGER  
do  
  from  
    i := 1  
  until  
    i >= 10  
  loop  
    ...  
    i := i + 1  
  end  
end
```

```
public class Printer {  
    public void print() {  
        int i=0;  
        while(i<10) {  
            i++;  
        }  
    }  
}
```

# Let's code...

---



Go to:

<https://codeboard.io/projects/8746>

*Task:* implement the 'print\_log' functionality for in the class ACCOUNT; complete class ACCOUNT to log deposits and withdraws

# Loops: Traversing a list



*print\_using\_from*

**do**

**from** *list.start*

**until** *list.after*

**loop**

*list.item.print*

*list.forth*

**end**

**end**

*print\_using\_across*

**do**

**across** *list as e loop*

*e.item.print*

**end**

**end**

```
public class Printer {  
    public void print() {  
        for(Element e: list) {  
            e.print();  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Eiffel:

BOOLEAN

CHARACTER

INTEGER

INTEGER\_64

REAL

DOUBLE

Java:

boolean

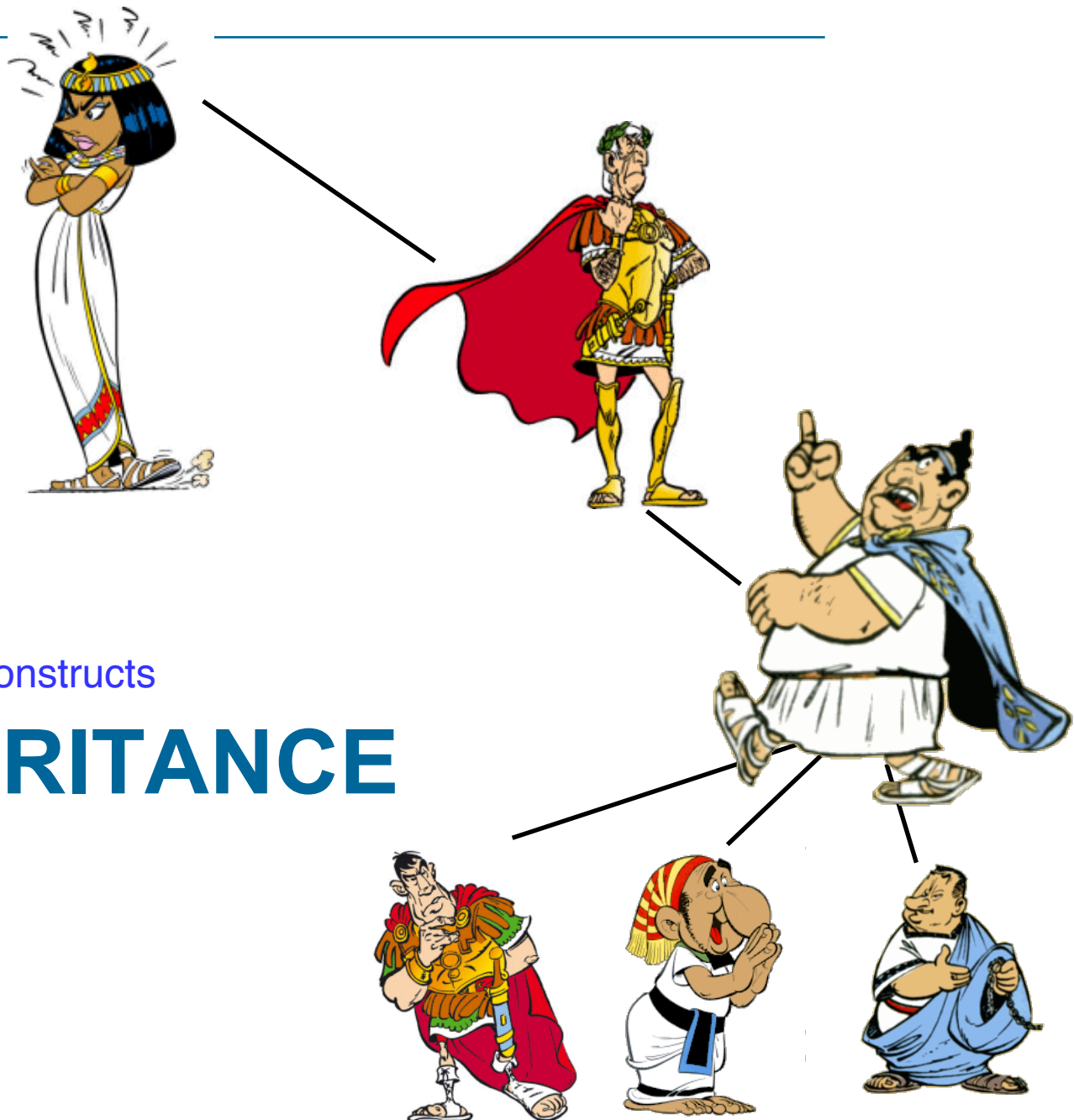
char, byte

short, int

long

float

double



Part 1: Language constructs

# 1.2 INHERITANCE



# Deferred Class (abstract class)

**deferred class**  
*ACCOUNT*

**feature**

*deposit (a\_num: INT)*  
**deferred**  
**end**

**end**

```
abstract class Account {  
    abstract void deposit(int a);  
}
```

A class must be **deferred** if it has at least one deferred routine. A class can be deferred without any deferred routines.



# Simple Inheritance

---



```
class  
  ACCOUNT  
inherit  
  ANY  
end
```

```
public class Account  
  extends Object {  
  
}
```

# Let's code...

---



Go to:

<https://codeboard.io/projects/8746>

*Task:* create a deferred class PERSON; move the properties 'name' and 'age' from class CUSTOMER into the deferred class PERSON; make sure the program behavior did not change

# Feature redefinition

```
class
  ACCOUNT
inherit
  ANY
  redefine out end

feature

  out: STRING
  do
    Result := "abc"
  end

end
```

```
public class Account
  extends Object {

  String toString() {
    return "abc";
  }

}
```

All routines that are redefined must be listed in the inherit clause.



# Precursor call

---



```
class
  ACCOUNT
inherit
  ANY
      redefine out end
feature
    out: STRING
    do
      Result :=
        Precursor {ANY}
    end
end
```

```
public class Account
  extends Object {
    String toString() {
      return super.toString();
    }
  }
}
```

# Multiple Inheritance



```
class
  A
feature
  foo do end
end
```

```
class
  B
feature
  foo do end
end
```

Option 1:

```
class
  C
inherit
  A
  B rename foo as foo_b end
end
```

Class *C* will have two features *foo* and *foo\_b*

Option 2:

```
class
  C
inherit
  A
  B undefine foo end
end
```

*foo* from *B* becomes deferred; implemented in *C* by *foo* from *A*

# Let's code...

---



Go to:

<https://codeboard.io/projects/8748>

*Task:* redefine the 'print\_self' routine in class B to print the correct message

*Task:* redefine the 'print\_self' routine in class C to print the correct message; what happens when you try to compile?

*Task:* resolve the conflict that was created due to multiple inheritance (hint: there is more than 1 way to do that)

# Structure of inherit clause

inherit

*A*

rename

...

undefine

...

redefine

...

end

*B*

rename

...

undefine

...

redefine

...

end



A **redefine** clause must be structured in the order *rename, undefine, redefine*.



# Frozen class / frozen routine



```
frozen class  
  ACCOUNT  
inherit  
  ANY  
end
```

```
final class Account  
  extends Object {  
  }  
}
```

```
class  
  ACCOUNT  
feature  
  frozen deposit (a_num: INT)  
  do  
    ...  
  end  
end
```

```
class Account {  
  final void deposit(int a) {  
    ...  
  }  
}
```

A frozen class cannot be inherited; a frozen routine cannot be redefined.



# Expanded class

---



**expanded class**

*MY\_INT*

**end**

int, float, double, char