



---

# Introduction to Eiffel

**Martin Nordio**

**ETH Zurich**

**[martin.nordio@inf.ethz.ch](mailto:martin.nordio@inf.ethz.ch)**

**Distributed and Outsourced Software  
Engineering - ETH course, Fall 2012**

## 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
- Agents and Tuples
- Information Hiding

## Part 2: Contracts

- Preconditions, postconditions and class invariants
- Contracts in inheritance

## Part 3: Libraries

- EiffelBase and Vision2

## Part 4: EiffelStudio

- Editor, browsing, compiler and debugger

Version 7.1

The full version number is 7.1.8.8986

[http://sourceforge.net/projects/eiffelstudio/files/EiffelStudio%207.1/Build\\_88986/](http://sourceforge.net/projects/eiffelstudio/files/EiffelStudio%207.1/Build_88986/)

Make sure to have a look at all the resources listed in the wiki:

<https://github.com/DOSE-ETH/dose2012/wiki/Eiffel>

---

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



# 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*



# 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)) {
    ...
  }
}
```

# 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=1;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=1;  
        while(i<10) {  
            i++;  
        }  
    }  
}
```

# Loops: Traversing a list



*print\_1*

```
do
  from list.start
  until list.after
  loop
    list.item.print
    list.forth
  end
end
```

*print\_2*

```
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

STRING

Java:

boolean

char, byte

short, int

long

float

double

String