

Review

iPhone Application Programming Lecture 2: Objective-C, Cocoa

Gero Herkenrath
Media Computing Group
RWTH Aachen University
Winter Semester 2013/2014
<http://hci.rwth-aachen.de/iphone>

- Device restrictions
- Interaction paradigm changes

Objective-C

- Roots in the early 1980's
- Strongly influenced by Smalltalk
- Mainly used in NeXTSTEP, OS X, iPhone OS



Characteristics

- Strict superset of C
 - Can be mixed with C and C++
- Single inheritance
- Dynamic runtime
- Loosely typed (if you want it)
- Memory management
 - Automatic or manual reference counting

Syntax differences from C

- New types
 - Anonymous object (id)
 - Class
 - Selector
- Class definition
- Object messaging
- Properties
- Enumeration

New Types

```
// represents an objective-c class
Class aClass

// reference to an objective-c method
SEL someMethod

// reference to an instance of a specific objective-c class
Person *aPerson

// reference to an instance of any objective-c class
id aPerson

// boolean (YES or NO)
BOOL isAlive
```

Object Identifier: id

```
// id is defined as a pointer to an object
typedef struct objc_object {
    Class isa;
} *id;

// The Class type is defined as a pointer
typedef struct objc_class *Class;
```

Dynamic Typing

- `id` is completely unrestrictive
- The type of an object is only determined at runtime
- Allows for introspection

Object Messaging

```
// message without argument
[receiver message]

// message with single argument
[receiver message:argument]

// message with multiple arguments
[receiver message:arg1 argument2:arg2]

// receiving a return value
int status = [receiver message];

// message with a variable number of arguments
[receiver makeGroup:group, memberOne, memberTwo, memberThree];
```

Object Messaging Terminology

- Message expression
 - `[receiver method:argument]`
- Message
 - `[receiver method:argument]`
- Selector
 - `[receiver method:argument]`
- Method
 - The code selected by a message

Object Messaging

```
// message without argument
[rectangle draw]

// message with single argument
[rectangle setColor:blue]

// message with multiple arguments
[rectangle setStrokeColor:blue andThickness:2.0]

// receiving a return value
double length = [rectangle circumference];

// message with a variable number of arguments
[NSArray arrayWithObjects:one, two, three, nil];
```

Exercise

Java

```
Rectangle rect = Rectangle(someWidth, someHeight);
println(rect.getHeight());
boolean inside = rect.contains(x,y);
```

Objective-C

```
Rectangle *rect = [[Rectangle alloc] initWithWidth:someWidth
                                              andHeight:someHeight];
NSLog(@"%f", [rect height]);
BOOL inside = [rect containsPointWithX:x andY:y]
```

Identity vs. Equality

```
// test for object identity:
BOOL identical = @"Peter" == @"Peter"; //YES
              identical = @"Peter" == @"Peter "; //NO

// test for string equality: will return YES
NSString *aName = @"Peter";
NSMutableString *anotherName =
    [NSMutableString stringWithString:@"P"];

[anotherName appendString:@"eter"];

BOOL same = [aName isEqualToString:anotherName]; //YES
BOOL equal = (aName == anotherName);             //NO

// test for existence
BOOL exists = (object != nil);
```

Selector

```
id object;

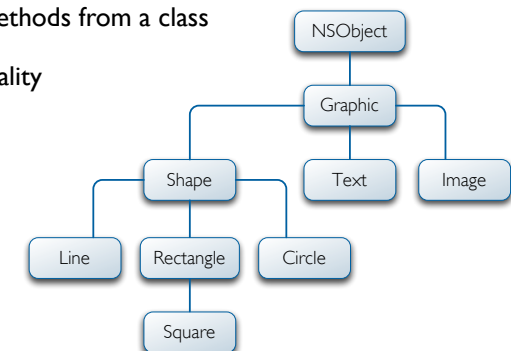
// create a selector for action:
SEL anAction = @selector(action:);

// check if the selector can be performed on object
if([object respondsToSelector:anAction]) {

    // perform the selector on object with a parameter
    [object performSelector:anAction withObject:self];
}
```

Class Inheritance

- Class definitions are additive
- Inherit variables and methods from a class
- Modify or add functionality



NSObject

- **NSObject** is root class
 - Similar to class Object in Java
- Provides functionality for
 - Memory management (allocation, release)
 - Object equality
 - Introspection
- Abstract class

Class Definition



Header File

contains public class declaration



Implementation File

contains method implementation

- To use a class, import the header file
 - The implementation file must also import its own header

Class Definition: Header

```
#import <Foundation/Foundation.h>
@interface Person : NSObject {
    NSString *name;
    int age;
}
// accessor for name
- (NSString *)name;
- (void)setName:(NSString *)newName;

// accessor for age
- (int)age;
- (void)setAge:(int)newAge;

// actions
- (BOOL)isAllowedToVote;
- (void)castBallot;
@end
```

Class Definition: Implementation

```
#import "Person.h"

@implementation Person

- (int)age {
    return age;
}

- (void)setAge:(int)value {
    age = value;
}

//... and other methods

@end
```

Using a Class

- To create an instance of a class
 - Dynamically **allocate** memory
 - **Initialize** that memory with appropriate values

```
id anObject = [[SomeClass alloc] init];

- (id) init
{
    self = [super init];
    if (self) {
        // initializations
    }
    return self;
}
```

Class Instantiation

```
- (Person *)createPersonWithName:(NSString *)aName {
    // create a new instance of the class Person
    Person *aPerson = [[Person alloc] init];

    // use the accessors to assign property values
    [aPerson setName:aName];
    [aPerson setAge:21];

    // return the instance
    return aPerson;
}
```

Class Inheritance

```
@interface Student : Person {
    NSString *major;
}
@end

@implementation Student
// Constructor for a student
- (id) init
{
    self = [super init];
    if (self != nil) {
        // set attributes
        [self setMajor:@"Undefined"];
    }
    return self;
}
@end
```

Demo

Protocols

```
// MyServiceDelegate.h (or MyService.h)
@protocol MyServiceDelegate

// required protocol method
- (void)myService:(MyService *)myService didUpdateWithResult:
(id)object;

// optional methods
@optional
...
@end

// MyController.h
@interface MyController : NSObject <MyServiceDelegate> {}
@end
// For Objects:
id<MyServiceDelegate> anObject;
```

Review

- History
- Characteristics
- Naming conventions
 - How would you name a function that inserts a string into an existing string at a certain index?

Categories

```
// NSString+Moo.h
@interface NSString (Moo)
// define a new method for NSString
- (NSString *)stringWithMoo;
@end

// NSString+Moo.m
@implementation NSString (Moo)
// implement the new method for NSString
- (NSString *)stringWithMoo {
    return [self stringByAppendingString:@"Moo"];
}
@end

// extend NSString with the category
#import "NSString+Moo.h"

// log "FooMoo" to console
NSLog(@"Foo" stringWithMoo);
```

Class Extensions

```
// Person.h
@interface Person : NSObject {
// define instance
variables...
}
NSNumber *age;
BOOL pictureIsUploaded;
- (void)startPictureUpload;
@end

// Person.m
@implementation Person
...
@end
```

Class Extensions

```
// Person.h
@interface Person : NSObject {
    // define instance
    variables...
    NSInteger *age;
}
@end

// Person.m
@interface Person ()
{
    BOOL pictureIsUploaded;
}
- (void)startPictureUpload;
@end

@implementation Person
...
@end
```

Class Extensions

```
// Person.h
@interface Person : NSObject {
    // define instance
    variables...
    NSInteger *age;
}
@end

// Person.m
@interface Person ()
{
    BOOL pictureIsUploaded;
}
@end

@implementation Person
...
@end
```

Demo

Properties

```
// Person.h
@interface Person : NSObject {
    int age;
}

// accessor for age
- (int)age;
- (void)setAge:(int)newAge;
@end

// Person.m
@implementation Person

- (int)age {
    return age;
}

- (void)setAge:(int)value {
    age = value;
}

@end
```

Properties

```
// Person.h
@interface Person : NSObject {
    int age;
}

// age property
@property(assign) int age;

@end

// Person.m
@implementation Person

@synthesize age;

@end
```

Properties

```
// Person.h
@interface Person : NSObject {
    int _age;
}

// age property
@property(assign) int age;

@end

// Person.m
@implementation Person

@synthesize age;

@end
```

Properties

```
// Person.h
@interface Person : NSObject {
    
}

// age property
@property(assign) int age;

@end

// Person.m
@implementation Person



@end
```

Using Properties

```
// The statements below result in the exact same code
// access the value of a property
age = person.age;
age = [person age];

// change the value of a property
person.age = 12;
[person setAge:12];

document.author.name = @"Peter";
[[document author] setName:@"Peter"];
```

Advanced Properties

```
// Imagine a class Rectangle
// A property does not necessarily have to relate to an ivar
@property (readonly) float circumference;

// The value is only calculated when required
- (float)circumference
{
    return 2*(width+height);
}
```

(Fast) Enumeration

```
// we have an array of Person objects
NSArray *people = ...;

// declare person variable outside the for loop
Person *person;

// fast enumeration of the people array
for(person in people) {

    // do something with all persons in the array
    [person castBallot];
}
```

Memory Management

	Java	C	Core Foundation	Cocoa / UIKit
Garbage collection	✓			
Malloc/free		✓	✓	
Retain/Release			✓	✓
ARC				✓

Object Lifecycle

- Objective-C uses reference counting
 - [object retain] increases retain counter
 - [object release] decreases retain counter
 - object is deallocated if the retain counter reaches 0
- Object is initialized with retain count of 1
 - [NSObject alloc]
 - [NSObject copy]

Basic Rules

- You own an object you create
- You take ownership of an object by calling *retain*
- You must relinquish ownership of unused objects you own (by calling *release* or *autorelease*)

The Retain Count

```
NSNumber *age = [[NSNumber alloc] initWithInt:42];
//retain count = 1
...
[age retain]; //retain count = 2
...
[age release]; //retain count = 1
...
[age release]; //retain count = 0 -> Object deallocated
```

Clean up

```
@interface Person : NSObject
@property(retain) NSNumber *age;
@end

- (id)init
{
    NSNumber *someAge = [[NSNumber alloc] initWithInt:42];
    self.age = someAge;
    [someAge release]
}

- (void)dealloc
{
    // With synthesized setters, you set the object
    // to nil to release it
    // If delegate would be just a simple ivar,
    // we would call [_delegate release];
    self.age = nil;
}
```

Retain/release for Instance Variables

```
// Person.h
@interface Person {
    NSString *name;
}
@end

// Person.m
@implementation Person
- (void)setName:(NSString *)aName {

    if(name == aName) return; // prevent unnecessary assignments

    // always retain before releasing
    [aName retain];
    [name release];

    name = aName; // forget the old name and assign the new name
}
// cleanup (called when this object is released)
- (void)dealloc
{
    [name release];
    [super dealloc];
}
@end
```

(to be continued next week)