Objeck Programmer's Guide

Randy Hollines objeck@gmail.com

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Abstract

Provides an introduction to the Objeck programming language and it's features. This article is intended to introduce programmers and compiler enthusiasts to the unique features and design of the Objeck programming language. Unless otherwise noted, this article covers functionality that is included in release 1.3.0.1. For additional information please refer to the general and technical project websites.

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1 Introduction

The Objeck program language is an object-oriented computer language with functional features. The language was designed to be an easy to use general purpose programming system. The Objeck language allows programmers to quickly create solutions by leveraging packaged class libraries. The syntax for the language was designed with symmetry in mind and enforces the notion that there should one intuitive way to do things. Features of the current release include:

- Support for object-oriented programming (all data types are treated as objects)
- Functional support (higher-order functions)
- Cross platform (support for OS X, Linux and Windows)
- Concurrent runtime JIT support for Intel processors
- Multi-threaded memory management (garbage collector)
- Peephole optimizations
- Support for static libraries
- Command-line debugger

2 Getting Started

The Objeck computer language consist of a compiler and virtual machine. The compiler binary is named obc, while the runtime virtual machine (VM) binary is named obr. Here is the world famous "Hello World" program written in the Objeck language:

```
bundle Default {
   class Hello {
     function : Main(args : String[]) ~ Nil {
        "Hello World!"->PrintLine();
     }
   }
}
```

2.1 Compiling Source

The example below compiles the source program hello.obs into the target binary file hello.obe. The two output file types that the compilers supports are executables and shared libraries. Shared libraries are binary files that contain all of the metadata needed by the compiler to relink them into programs. Both executables and shared libraries contain enough metadata to support runtime introspection (a feature that will be added in a future release). As a naming convention, executables must end in *.obe while shared libraries must end in *.obl.

Below is an example of compiling the "Hello World" program

obc -src tests\hello.obs -dest hello.obe

Here's a more advanced example of linking in two required class libraries to compiler an executable.

obc -src examples/xml_parser.obs -lib struct.obl,xml.obl -dest a.obe
Additional compiler options are:

Option	Description	
-src	path to source files, delimited by the ',' character	
-lib	path to library files, delimited by the ',' character	
-tar	target output exe for executable and lib for library; default is exe	
-opt optimization level s0-s3 with s3 being the most aggressive; default is		
-dest	dest output file name	
-debug	if set, produces debug out for use by the interactive debugger (see below)	

2.2 Executing

The command-line example below executes the hello.obe executable. Note, for executables all required libraries are statically linked in the target output file. When compiling shared libraries, other shared libraries are <u>not</u> linked into the target output library file.

obr hello.obe

3 The Basics

Now lets introduce you the core features of the Objeck programming language.

Let's first start with a list of keywords that exist in language. These words are reserved for the language and may not be used as variable, class or enum identifiers.

Keywords					
and	As	Bool	break	bundle	
Byte	Char	class	critical	do	
each	else	enum	false	Float	
for	from	function	if	Int	
interface	label	method	native	New	
or	other	Parent	private	public	
return	select	static	true	use	
virtual		while	_	xor	

In Objeck, all data types (excluding higher-order functions) are treated as objects. Basic objects provide supports for boolean, character, byte, integer and decimal types. These basic objects can be used to create more complex user defined objects. The listing below defines the basic objects that are supported in the language:

Type	Description
Char	1-byte character
Char[]	character array
Bool	boolean value
Bool[]	boolean array
Byte	1-byte integer
Byte[]	byte array
Int	4-byte integer
Int[]	integer array
Float	8-byte decimal
Float[]	decimal array
Function	Two 4-byte integers

As mentioned above, basic types are objects and have associated methods for each basic class type. For example:

```
13->Min(3)->PrintLine();
3.89->Sin()->PrintLine();
-22->Abs()->PrintLine();
Float->Pi()->PrintLine();
```

3.1 Variable Declarations

Variables can be declared for all of the basic types described above and for user defined objects. Variables can be declared anywhere in a program and are bound to traditional block scoping rules. Variable assignments can be made during a declaration or at any other point in a program. Variables may be declared as local, instance or class variables. Class level variables are declared using the static keyword. A class that is derived from another class may access it's parents variables if the parent class is declared in one of the source programs. If a class is derived from a class declared in a shared library then that class cannot access it's parents variables, unless an accessor method is provided. Local variables can be declared without specifying their data type, such variables are bound to a type peceeding their first assignment. Three different declaration styles are shown below:

```
a : Int;
b : Int := 13;
c := 7;
```

Types that are not initialized at declaration time are initialized with the following default values:

Type	Initialization
Char	'\0'
Byte	0
Int	0
Float	0.0
Array	Nil
Object	Nil
Function	Nil

3.2 Expressions

The Objeck language supports various type of expressions. Some of these expression include mathematical, logical, array and method call expressions. The preceding sections describe some of the expressions that are supported in the Objeck.

3.2.1 Mathematical and Logical Expressions

The following code example demonstrates two ways to printing the number 42. The first way invokes the PrintLine() method for the literal 42. The second prints the product of a variable and a literal.

```
bundle Default {
  class Test {
    function : Main() ~ Nil {
      42->PrintLine();
      eight := 8;
      (eight * 7)->PrintLine();
    }
}
```

The following mathematical operators are supported in the Objeck language for integers and decimal types:

- addition (+)
- subtraction (-)
- multiplication (*)
- division (/)
- modulus (% for integer values only)
- shift left (<< for integer values only)
- shift right (>> for integer values only)

In addition the following assignment operators are supported:

- addition-equals (+=)
- subtraction-equals (-=)
- multiplication-equals (*=)
- division-equals (/=)

The following bitwise operators are also supported for integer types:

- and (and)
- or (or)
- xor (xor)

The [*, /, %] operators have a higher precedence than the [+, -] operators are naturally enforced by the language. Operators of the same precedence are evaluated from left-to-right. Logical operations are of lower precedence than mathematical operations. All logical operators are of the same precedence and order is determined via left-to-right evaluation. The [&, |] logical operators use short-circuit logic; meaning that some expressions may not be executed if evaluation criteria is not satisfied.

The following logical operators are supported in the Objeck language:

- and (&)
- or (|)
- equal (=)
- not-equal (<>)
- less-than (<)
- greater-than (>)
- less-than-equal (<=)
- greater-than-equal (>=)

3.2.2 Arrays

Objeck supports single and multi-dimensional arrays. Arrays are allocated dynamically from the system heap. The memory that is allocated for arrays is managed automatically by the runtime garbage collector. All of the basic types described above (as well as user defined types) can be allocated as arrays. The code example below shows how a two-dimensional array of type Int is allocated and dereferenced.

```
array := Int->New[2,3];
array[0,2] := 13;
array[1,0] := 7;
```

The size of an array can be obtained by calling the array's Size() method. The Size() method will return the number of elements in a given array. For a multi-dimensional array the size method returns the number of elements in the first dimension. Character array literals are allocated as String objects. It should also be noted that language also String class that provides support for advanced string operations.

```
string := "Hello World!";
string->Size()->PrintLine();
strings := ["Hello","World!"];
strings->Size()->PrintLine();
```

3.3 Statements

Besides providing support for declaration statements the language has support for conditional and control statements. As with other languages, control statements can be nested in order to provide finer grain logical control. General control statements include if and select statements. Basic looping statements include while, do/while, for and each loops. Note, all statements end with the ';' character.

3.3.1 If Statement

An if statement is a control statement that executes the associated block of code if it evaluates to true. If the evaluation statement does not evaluate

to true than an else if statement may be evaluated (if it exists), otherwise an else statement will be executed (if it exists). The example below demonstrates an if statement.

```
value : Int := Console->ReadLine()->ToInt();
if(value <> 3) {
    "Not equal to 3"->PrintLine();
}
else if(value < 13) {
    "Less than 13"->PrintLine();
}
else {
    "Some other number"->PrintLine();
};
```

3.3.2 Select Statement

A select statement maps a value to 1 or more labels. Labels are associated to statement blocks. A label may either be a literal or an enum value. Multiple labels can be mapped to the same statement block. Below is an example of a select statement.

```
select(v) {
    label Color->Red: {
        "Red"->PrintLine();
    }

    label 9:
    label 19: {
        v->PrintLine();
    }

    label 27: {
        (3 * 9)->PrintLine();
    }
};
```

3.3.3 While Statement

A while statement is a control statement that will continue to execute its main body as long as its conditional expression evaluates to true. When its conditional expression evaluates to false than the loop body will cease to execute.

```
i : Int := 10;
while(i > 0) {
   i->PrintLine();
   i := i - 1;
}
```

3.3.4 Do/While Statement

A do/while statement is a control statement that will execute its main body at least once and continue to execute its main body as long as its conditional expression evaluates to true. When its conditional expression evaluates to false than the loop body will cease to execute.

```
i : Int := 10;
do {
    i->PrintLine();
    i := i - 1;
}
while(i > 0);
```

3.3.5 For Statements

The for statement is another common looping construct. The for loop consists of a pre-condition statement followed by an evaluation expression and an update statement.

```
name : Char[] := "John"->ToCharArray();
for(i : Int := 0; i < name->Size(); i := i + 1;) {
   name[i]->PrintLine();
}
```

3.3.6 Each Statements

The each statement is a specialized version of a for statement. The each loop consists of a counter variable and a data structure that has a Size method, such as arrays and Vector classes. The statement iterates thru all elements in the data structure.

```
values := Int->New[3];
values[0] := 3;
values[1] := 9;
values[2] := 1;
each(i : values) {
  values[i]->PrintLine();
};
```

4 Custom Types

4.1 Enums

Enums are user defined enumerated types. The main use of an enum is to group a class of countable values, for example colors, into a distinct class. Once enum values have been defined they may not be assigned or associated to a other enum groups or integer classes. The valid operations for enums are as follows:

- assignment (:=)
- equal (=)
- not-equal (<>)

In addition, enum values may be used in **select** statements as conditional tests or labels.

```
enum Color {
   Red,
   Black,
   Green
}
```

4.2 Classes

Classes are user defined types that allow programmers to create specialized data types. Classes are made up of attributes (data) and operations (methods). Classes are used to encapsulate programming logic and localize information. Operations that are associated to a class may either be at the class level or instance level. Class instances are created by calling an object's New() function. Note, an object instance can only be created if one or more New() functions have been defined.

4.2.1 Class Inheritance

Classes may be derived from other classes using the from keyword. Class inheritance allows classes to share common functionality. The Objeck language supports single class inheritance, meaning that a derived class may only have one parent. The language also supports virtual classes, which assures that derived classes have been defined for all required operations declared in the base class. Virtual classes also allow the programmer to define non-virtual methods that contain program behavior. Virtual classes are dynamically bound to implementation classes at runtime.

```
class Foo {
    @lhs : Int;

New(lhs : Int) {
    @lhs := lhs;
}

method : native : AddTwo(rhs : Int) ~ Int {
    return 2 + rhs;
}

method : virtual : AddThree(int rhs) ~ Int;

method : GetLhs() ~ Int {
    return lhs;
}
```

```
class Bar from Foo {
  New(value : Int) {
    Parent(value);
}

method : native : AddThree(rhs : Int) ~ Int {
    return 3 + rhs;
}

function : Main() ~ Nil {
    bar : b := Bar->New(31);
    b->AddThree(9)->PrintLine();
}
```

4.2.2 Class Casting and Identification

An object that is inherited from another object may be either upcasted or downcasted. Object casting can be performed using the As() operator. The Object language detects upcasting and downcasting at compile time. Upcasting requires a runtime check, while down casting does not. If cross casting is detected then a compile time error will be generated.

```
method : public : Compare(right : Base) ~ Int {
  if(right <> Nil) {
   if(GetClassID() = right->GetClassID()) {
      a : A := right->As(A);

  if(@value = a->Get()) {
      return 0;
    };
   ...
```

The class that a given object instance belongs to can found by calling its GetClassID method. This method returns an enum that is associated with that instance's class type. This method is generally used to determine if two object instances are of the same or different classes.

4.2.3 Methods and Functions

The Objeck language support both methods and functions. Functions are public static procedures that may be executed by any class. Methods are operations that may be performed on an object instance. Methods have public and private qualifiers. Methods that are private may only be called from within the same class, while public methods may be called from other classes. Note, methods are private by default. The Objeck language supports polymorphic methods and functions, meaning that there can be multiple methods with the same name within the same class as long as their declaration arguments vary.

Methods and functions can either be executed in an interpreted or JIT compiled mode. Interpreted execution mimics microprocessor functions in a platform independent manner. JIT execution takes the compiled stack code an produces native machine code. Note, that there is initial overhead involved in the JIT compilation process since it occurs at runtime. In addition, some methods can not be compiled into native machine code but this is a rare case. The keyword native is used to JIT compile methods and function at runtime.

A function or method may be defined as virtual meaning that any class that originates from that class must implement all of the class's virtual methods or functions. Virtual methods are a way to ensure that certain operations are available to a family of classes. If a class declares a virtual method then the class become virtual, meaning that it cannot be directly instantiated.

Below is an example of declaring a virtual method:

```
method : virtual : public : Compare(right : Base ~ Int;
```

4.3 Interfaces

As a modern object-oriented language, Objeck supports interfaces. Interfaces define virtual methods that must be implemented by a given class. A class may implement one or more interfaces. Interface references may be passed and dereferenced in a similar manner to class references. Below is an example of an interface definition:

```
interface Color {
  method : virtual : public : GetColor() ~ String;
```

4.4 Higher-Order Functions

The Objeck language supports the notion of higher-order functions such that a given function may be bound to a variable at runtime. Variables are assigned based upon functional prototypes. Prototypes enforce strong type checking by ensuring that a function parameters and return type are consistent between assignments. Once a variable is bound, it may be assigned to other variables, passed to other functions/methods, returned from other functions/method or dynamically evoked. Please note, methods are not treated as higher-order constructs only functions.

4.4.1 Assigning and Passing Functions

The following example shows how a function is defined and assigned to a variable:

```
class Foo {
  function : GetSize(s : String) ~ Int {
    return s->Size();
```

```
}
}
....
s1 : (String) ~ Int := Foo-> GetSize(String) ~ Int;
s2 := Foo-> GetSize(String) ~ Int;
size := EnvokeSize("Hello", s2);
```

4.4.2 Envoking Functions

The following example shows how a function variable is envoked:

```
method : public : EnvokeSize(s : String, f : (String) ~ Int) ~ Int {
  return f(s);
}
```

5 Debugger

The Objeck compiler toolset contains a simple interactive read-only debugger, which allows programmers to inspect values within their programs. The debugger allows programmers to set breakpoints within methods based upon source line numbers. The debugger can also calculate simple arithmetic expressions involving variables and constants. The following commands are currently supported:

5.1 Starting the Debugger

The source program must be compiled with the -debug set. The command line debugger is started up running the odb executable. The -exe option must be present and specify the path to the executable. The The -src option is optional and specifies the path to the program source. Also note, to print instance level variables the path must start with @self→.

5.2 Debugging Commands

Command	Description	Example
[b]reak	sets a breakpoint	b hello.obs:10
breaks	shows all breakpoints	
[d]elete	deletes a breakpoint	d hello.obs:10
clear	clears all breakpoints	
[n]ext	moves to the next line	
	with debug informa-	
	tion	
[o]ut	jumps out of an exist-	
	ing method/function	
	and moves to the next	
	line with debug infor-	
	mation	
args	specifies program ar-	args "Hello World"
	guments	
[r]un	runs a loaded program	
[p]rint	prints the value of an	p @self→value
	expression, along with	
F2.7.	metadata	
[l]ist	lists a range of lines	l hello.obs:10
	in a source file or the lines near the current	
[i]nfo	breakpoint displays the vari-	i class=Foo method=New
[1]1110	ables for a class or	1 Class-roo method-new
	method/function	
stack	displays the	
Stack	method/function	
	call stack	
exe	loads a new exe-	exe ".//test.obe"
	cutable	·
src	specifies a new source	src "//"
	path	
[q]uit	exits a given debug-	
	ging session	

6 Class Libraries

Objeck includes class libraries that provides access to system resources, such as files and sockets, while also providing support for basic data structures like lists and vectors. As new class libraries are added they will be documented in this section.

6.1 Core Libraries

6.1.1 Base

Base class for all objects.

- GetClassID returns the class ID
 - method: public: native: GetClassID(), ClassID
- GetInstanceID returns a unique instance ID
 - method : public : native : GetInstanceID(), Int

6.1.2 Bool

- Print prints the current value
 - method : native : Print(), Nil
- PrintLine prints the current value along with a line return
 - method : native : PrintLine(), Nil
- ToString converts the current value to a String object instance
 - method : native : ToString(), String

6.1.3 Char

- IsDigit determines if the character is a digit (in the range of 0-9)
 - method : native : IsDigit(), Bool
- IsChar determines if the character is a alpha (in the range of A-Z or a-z)

- method : native : IsChar(), Bool
- Min returns the smallest of the two numbers; returns the same number if they are equal
 - method: native: Min(r: Byte), Byte
- Max returns the largest of the two numbers; returns the same number if they are equal
 - method: native: Max(r: Byte), Byte
- Print prints the current value
 - method : native : Print(), Nil
- PrintLine prints the current value along with a line return
 - method : native : PrintLine(), Nil
- ToString converts the current value to a String object instance
 - method : native : ToString(), String

6.1.4 Byte/Int

- Min returns the smallest of the two numbers; returns the same number if they are equal
 - method: native: Min(r: Byte), Byte
- \bullet Max returns the largest of the two numbers; returns the same number if they are equal
 - method: native: Max(r: Byte), Byte
- Abs returns the absolute value of the current number
 - method : native : Abs(), Byte
- Print prints the current value
 - method : native : Print(), Nil

- PrintLine prints the current value along with a line return
 - method : native : PrintLine(), Nil
- ToString converts the current value to a String object instance
 - method : native : ToString(), String

6.1.5 Float

- Min returns the smallest of the two numbers; returns the same number if they are equal
 - method : native : Min(r : Byte), Float
- Max returns the largest of the two numbers; returns the same number if they are equal
 - method: native: Max(r: Byte), Float
- Abs returns the absolute value of the current number
 - method : native : Abs(), Float
- Floor returns the floor of the current number
 - method : Floor(), Float
- Ceiling returns the ceiling of the current number
 - method : Ceiling(), Float
- Sin returns the sine of the radian value
 - method : Sin(), Float
- Cos returns the cosine of the radian value
 - method : Cos(), Float
- Tan returns the tangent of the radian value
 - method : Tan(), Float

- Log returns the natural log of the radian value
 - method : Log(), Float
- Pi returns the value of Pi
 - function : Pi(), Float
- Power returns the exponential power value
 - method : Power(), Float
- SquareRoot returns the square root
 - method : SquareRoot(), Float
- Random returns a puedo-random number between 0.0 and 1.0
 - function : Random(), Float
- Print prints the current value
 - method : native : Print(), Nil
- PrintLine prints the current value along with a line return
 - method : native : PrintLine(), Nil
- ToString converts the current value to a String object instance
 - method : native : ToString(), String

6.1.6 String

- New
 - New()
 - New(s : String)
 - New(a : Char[])
 - New(a : Byte[])
- Append Appends a String, Char[], Char, Int or Float to the current String instance

- method: public: native: Append(s: String), Nil
- method: public: native: Append(c: Char), Nil
- method : public : native : Append(b : Byte), Nil
- method: public: native: Append(i: Int), Nil
- method : public : native : Append(f : Float), Nil
- method: public: native: Append(a: Char[]), Nil
- Find returns the index of the first occurrence of a given Character;
 -1 if not found
 - method: public: native: Find(c: Char), Int

Find - returns the index of the first occurrence of a given Character; -1 if not found

- method: public: native: Find(offset: Int, c: Char), Int
- Find returns the index of the first occurrence of a given String; -1 if not found
 - method: public: native: Find(s: String), Int
- Size returns the size of the String
 - method: public: native: Size(), Int
- Get returns the Character at the given index or -1 if not found
 - method: public: native: Get(i: Int), Char
- ToCharArray converts a string to a Char[]
 - method : public : native : ToCharArray(), Char[]
- ToInt converts a string to a Int
 - method: public: native: ToInt(), Int
- ToFloat converts a string to a Float
 - method : public : native : ToFloat(), Int

- SubString creates a new string that contains a subset of the string's contents
 - method: public: native: SubString(offset: Int), String
 - method : public : native : SubString(offset : Int, length : Int),String
- Trim removes all leading and trailing whitespace
 - method : public : native : Trim(), String
- StartsWith returns true if String starts with matching pattern; returns false otherwise
 - method: public: native: StartsWith(), Bool
- EndsWith returns true if String ends with matching pattern; returns false otherwise
 - method: public: native: EndsWith(), Bool
- ToUpper coverts all lowercase characters to uppercase characters
 - method : public : native : ToUpper(), String
- ToLower coverts all uppercase characters to lowercase characters
 - method : public : native : ToLower(), String
- Reverse returns a string with reversed characters
 - method: public: native: Reverse(), String
- Equals compares two string returns true if they are equal
 - method: public: Equals(rhs: String), Bool
- Compare compares two string returns 0 if they are equal
 - method: public: native: Compare(rhs: Compare), Int
- Split breaks a string into tokens based upon a given delimiter
 - method : public : native : Split(delim : String), String[]

- Print prints the current value
 - method : native : Print(), Nil
- PrintLine prints the current value along with a line return
 - method : native : PrintLine(), Nil

6.2 Data Structures

Please note that these classes are in the 'Structure' bundle.

6.2.1 Compare

Base class for all objects that use comparative algorithms.

- Compare compares two object instances; 0 if equal, less-then 0 if less and greater-then 0 if greater.
 - method: virtual: public: Compare(rhs: System.Compare), Int
- HashID returns a unique value for the given class type
 - method: virtual: public: HashID(), Int

6.2.2 List/IntList/FloatList

The List class allow values to be added, removed and deleted from a list. There are two specialized version of this class: IntList and FloatList. The IntList and FloatList classes use Int and Float types respectively instead of Compare type. The general class supports the following operations:

- AddBack adds a new value to the back of the list
 - method: public: native: AddBack(value: Compare), Nil
- RemoveBack removes the last element in the list
 - method : public : RemoveBack(), Nil
- AddFront adds a new value to the front of the list
 - method: public: native: AddFront(value: Compare), Nil

- RemoveFront removes the first element in the list
 - method : public : RemoveFront(), Nil
- Find finds an element in the list
 - method : public : Find(value : Compare), Bool
- Has returns true if item is in list
 - method: public: Has(value: Compare), Bool
- Insert inserts a new value in the position pointed to the cursor
 - method : public : Insert(value : Compare), Bool
- Remove removes the last element in the list
 - method : public : Remove(), Nil
- Insert inserts an element into the current cursor position
 - method : public : Insert(value : Compare), Bool
- Next advances the internal cursor by one element
 - method : public : Next(), Nil
- Pervious retreats the internal cursor by one element
 - method : public : Pervious(), Nil
- Get returns the value of the element pointed to by the cursor
 - method : public : Get(), Compare
- Forward moves the cursor to the end of the list
 - method : public : Forward(), Nil
- Rewind moves the cursor to the start of the list
 - method : public : Rewind(), Nil
- IsStart returns true if cursor is at the start of the list

- method : public : IsStart(), Bool
- IsEnd returns true if cursor is at the end of the list
 - method: public: IsEnd(), Bool
- Size returns the size of the list

6.2.3 Stack/IntStack/FloatStack

The Stack class support the concept of a growing stack. There are two specialized version of this class: IntStack and FloatStack. The IntStack and FloatStack classes use Int and Float types respectively instead of Base type. The general class supports the following operations:

- Push pushes a new value onto the stack
 - method: public: Push(value: Base), Nil
- Pop pops a values from the top of the stack
 - method : public : Pop(), Base
- Top retrieves the top value from the stack (without popping the stack)
 - method : public : Top(), Base
- IsEmpty returns true if stack is empty
 - method : public : IsEmpty(), Bool
- Size returns the stack size
 - method : public : Size(), Int

6.2.4 Vector/CompareVector/IntVector/FloatVector

The Vector class support the concept of a growing array. There are three specialized version of this class: CompareVector, IntVector and FloatVector. The IntVector, FloatVector and CompareVector classes use Int, Float and Compare types respectively instead of Base type. The general class supports the following operations:

- New
 - New()
 - New(values : Base[])
 - New(values : Vector)
- AddBack adds a new value to the back of the vector
 - method: public: AddBack(value: Base), Nil
- RemoveBack removes the last element in the vector
 - method: public: RemoveBack(), Nil
- Get returns the value of the element pointed to by the cursor
 - method : public : Get(index : Int), Base
- Set replaces the list value based upon the given index
 - method: public: Set(value: Base, index: Int), Bool
- Size returns the size of the list
 - method : public : Size(), Int
- ToArray returns an array of elements
 - method: public: ToArray(), Base

Additional methods for CompareVector/IntVector/FloatVector

- Sort sorts a vector of values using a merge sort algorithm in $O(n \log_2 n)$ time.
 - method : public : Sort(), Nil
- BinarySearch performs a binary search for an element in a *sorted* vector using an iterative binary search algorithm in $O(\log_2 n)$ time.
 - method: public: BinarySearch(v: Compare), Nil

Additional methods for IntVector/FloatVector

- Min returns the smallest value in the vector
 - method: public: native: Min(), Int/Float
- Max returns the largest value in the vector
 - method : public : native : Max(), Int/Float
- Average returns the calculated average for all values in the list
 - method : public : native : Average(), Int/Float
- Filter applys the result of the passed in function to each element in the array
 - method : public : Filter(func : (Int/Float/Compare) ~ Bool),
 IntVector/FloatVector/CompareVector
- Apply applys the result of the passed in function to each element in the array
 - method : public : Apply (func : (Int/Float) \sim Int/Float), IntVector/FloatVector

6.2.5 Map/IntMap/FloatMap/StringMap

The Map class supports the concept of an associative array with key/value pairs. The class implements a balance binary tree algorithm such that inserts, deletes and searches are $O(\log_2 n)$.

- New
 - New()
- Insert adds a new value to the tree
 - method: public: Insert(key: Compare, value: Base), Nil
- Remove removes a value from the tree
 - method : public : Remove(key : Compare), Nil
- Find searches for a value based upon a key

- method: public: Find(key: Compare), Base
- Has returns true if item is in map
 - method: public: Has(value: Compare), Bool
- GetKeys returns a vector of keys
 - method : public : GetKeys(), Vector

6.2.6 Hash/StringHash

The Hash class supports the concept of a hash table with key/value pairs. The class implements a hashing algorithm that is optimized for pairs of 256 elements or less (consider using the Map class for larger sets):

- Insert adds a new value to the hash table
 - method: public: Insert(key: Compare, value: Base), Nil
- Remove removes a value from the hash table
 - method : public : Remove(key : Compare), Nil
- Find searches for a value based upon a key
 - method: public: Find(key: Compare), Base
- Has returns true if item is in hash
 - method: public: Has(value: Compare), Bool
- GetKeys returns a vector of keys
 - method : public : GetKeys(), Vector
- GetValues returns a vector of values
 - method : public : GetValues(), Vector

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6.3 System Libraries

6.3.1 Runtime

The Runtime class provides information about the runtime VM environment.

- GetPlatform returns a string containing information about the runtime environment
 - function : GetPlatform(), String
- GetTime returns the current time
 - method : public : GetTime(), Time
- Exit exits the current running program
 - method : public : Exit(), Nil

6.3.2 Console

The Console class allows programmers to read and write information to the system console. The class supports the following operations:

- Print prints all basic types including String and Char[] to standard out.
 - function : Print(t : type), ConsoleIO
- PrintLine prints all basic types including String and Char[] to standard out followed by a newline.
 - function : PrintLine(t : type), ConsoleIO
- ReadString reads in a line of text as a Char[] from standard in.
 - method : public : ReadString(), String

6.3.3 Thread

The Thread class allows programmers to invoke a method in a separately running system thread.

- New
 - New(name : String)
- Execute Execute a Thread() by calling the thread's Run() method in a separate thread.
 - method: public: Execute(param: System.Base), Nil
- Sleep Sleeps a given thread for a number of milliseconds.
 - function : Sleep(t : Int), Nil
- Join Joins a thread instance with the creating thread
 - method : public : Join(), Nil
- GetName Returns the name of the thread
 - method: public: GetName(), String
- GetRunID Returns running thread ID
 - method: public: GetName(), String
- Run Method that is executed by the new thread
 - method: virtual: public: Run(param: System.Base), Nil

6.3.4 ThreadMutex

The ThreadMutex class is used for thread synchronization i.e. locking and unlocking running threads.

- New
 - New(name : String)
- GetName Returns the name of the thread
 - method : public : GetName(), String

6.3.5 Time

The Time class allows programmers gain access to the current system time. The class supports the following operations:

- New
 - New()
- GetDay return the current day as an Int.
 - method : public : GetDay(), Int
- GetMonth return the current month as an Int.
 - method : public : GetMonth(), Int
- GetYear return the current year as an Int.
 - method : public : GetYear(), Int
- GetHours return the current hour as an Int.
 - method : public : GetHours(), Int
- GetMinutes return the current minutes as an Int.
 - method : public : GetMinutes(), Int
- GetSeconds return the current seconds as an Int.
 - method : public : GetSeconds(), Int
- IsSavingsTime return true if daylights saving time, false otherwise
 - method : public : IsSavingsTime(), Bool

6.3.6 File

The File class allows programmers manipulate system files. This class is in the 'IO' bundle. The class supports the following operations:

- New
 - New(name : String)
- IsOpen returns true if file is open.
 - method : public : IsOpen(), Bool
- IsEOF returns true if the file pointer is at the EOF.
 - method : public : IsEOF(), Bool
- Seek seeks to a position in a file.
 - method: public: Seek(p: Int), Bool
- Rewind moves the file pointer to the beginning of a file.
 - method : public : Rewind(), Nil
- Size returns the size of the file.
 - function : Size(name : String), Int
- Remove deletes a file.
 - function : Remove(n : String), Bool
- Exists returns true if the file exists.
 - function : Exists(n : String), Bool
- Rename renames a file
 - function: Rename(from: String, to: String), Bool

6.3.7 FileReader

The FileReader is inherited from the File class and allows programmers read files. This class is in the 'IO' bundle. The class supports the following operations:

- New
 - New(name : String)
- Close closes a file.
 - method : public : Close(), Nil
- ReadByte reads a byte from a file.
 - method : public : ReadByte(), Byte
- ReadFile reads an entire file into a String.
 - function: public: ReadFile(file: String), String
- ReadBuffer reads n number of bytes from a file.
 - method : public : ReadBuffer(offset : Int, num : Int, buffer : Byte[]), Int
- ReadString reads a line from a file.
 - method: public: ReadString(), String
- ReadFile reads an entire file.
 - method : public : ReadFile(), String

6.3.8 FileWriter

The FileReader is inherited from the File class and allows programmers read files. This class is in the 'IO' bundle. The class supports the following operations:

- Close closes a file.
 - method : public : Close(), Nil

- WriteByte writes a byte to a file.
 - method : public : WriteByte(b : Int), Bool
- WriteBuffer writes n number of bytes to a file.
 - method : public : WriteBuffer(offset : Int, num : Int, buffer : Byte[]), Int
- WriteString writes a string to a file.
 - method : public : WriteString(s : String), Nil

6.3.9 Directory

The Directory class allows programmers manipulate file system directories. This class is in the 'IO' bundle. The class supports the following operations:

- Create creates a new directory.
 - function : Create(n : String), Bool
- Exists returns true if the directory exists.
 - function : Exists(n : String), Bool
- List returns vector of file and directory names.
 - function : List(n : String), String[]

6.3.10 TCPSocket

The TCPSocket class allows programmers connect to TCP/IP socket servers. This class in the 'Net' bundle. The class supports the following operations:

- New
 - New(address : String, port : Int)
- IsOpen returns true if the socket is connected.
 - method : public : IsOpen(), Bool
- Close closes a connected socket.

- method : public : Close(), Nil
- WriteByte writes a byte to a file.
 - method: public: WriteByte(b: Int), Bool
- WriteBuffer writes n number of bytes to a file.
 - method : public : WriteBuffer(offset : Int, num : Int, buffer : Byte[]), Int
- WriteString writes a string to a file.
 - method : public : WriteString(s : String), Nil
- ReadByte reads a byte from a file.
 - method : public : ReadByte(), Byte
- ReadBuffer reads n number of bytes from a file.
 - method : public : ReadBuffer (offset : Int, num : Int, buffer : Byte[]), Int
- ReadString reads a line from a file.
 - method: public: ReadString(), String
- HostName returns the host name
 - function : HostName(), String

6.3.11 HttpClient

The HttpClient class allows programmers access HTTP 1.1 websites. This class in the 'Net' bundle:

- New
 - New(url : String, port : Int)
- New
 - New(url : String, content_type: String, port : Int)

- Post Performs a HTTP POST to the connected website, returns true is successful
 - method : public : Post(content : String), Bool
- Get Performs a HTTP GET from the connected website, returns a Vector of strings
 - method : public : Get(), Vector
- GetHeaders Returns a Map of headers information. HTTP header information is populated after a HTTP GET request.
 - method : GetHeaders(), Map

6.3.12 XMLParser

The XMLParser class allows programmers to parse and search XML documents using a simplified DOM structure. This class in the 'XML' bundle:

- New
 - New(buffer : Char[])
 - New(buffer : String)
- ToString serializes the DOM into a string
 - method : public : ToString(), String
- Parse Parses an XML stream into a DOM structure. Returns true if successful; false otherwise.
 - method: public: Parse(), Bool
- GetVersion returns the XML document version
 - method : public : GetVersion(), String
- GetEncoding returns the XML character encoding
 - method : public : GetEncoding(), String
- GetRoot Returns the root node of the DOM.

- method : public : GetRoot(), XMLElement
- GetError Returns the last parsing error; if one occurred.
 - method: public: Parse(), Bool

6.3.13 XMLBuilder

The XMLBuilder class allows a programmer to dynamically build an XML DOM. Once the DOM is build it may be traversed and/or serialized into a string. This class in the 'XML' bundle:

- New
 - New(root : String)
 - New(root : String, version : String, encoding : String)
- GetRoot Returns the root element.
 - method : public : GetRoot(), XMLElement
- ToString Serializes an element into a string
 - method : public : ToString(), String
- GetVersion Returns the version name.
 - method : public : GetVersion(), String
- SetVersion Sets the version name.
 - method: public: SetVersion(name: String), Nil
- GetEncoding Returns the encoding name.
 - method : public : GetEncoding(), String
- SetEncoding Sets the encoding name.
 - method : public : SetEncoding(name : String), Nil

6.3.14 XMLElement

The XMLElement class represents a canonical XML node within a DOM. This class in the 'XML' bundle:

- New
 - New(type: XMLElementType, name: String)
 - New(type: XMLElementType, name: String, content: String)
 - New(type: XMLElementType, name: String, attribs: String-Hash, content: String)
- GetName Returns the element name.
 - method : public : GetName(), String
- SetName Sets the element name.
 - method : public : SetName(name : String), Nil
- GetRoot Returns the root element.
 - method : public : GetRoot(), XMLElement
- GetType Returns the element type.
 - method : public : GetType(), XMLElementType
- SetType Sets the element type.
 - method : public : SetType(type : XMLElementType), Nil
- GetParent Gets the parent element
 - method : public : GetParent(), XMLElement
- SetParent Sets the parent element
 - method : public : SetParent(parent : XMLElement), Nil
- GetContent Returns the XML content between two tags.
 - method : public : GetContent(), String

- SetContent Sets the XML content between two tags.
 - method : public : SetContent(content : String), Nil
- GetChildCount Returns number of logical child elements.
 - method : public : GetChildCount(), Int
- FindElements returns all elements that match the given query string. The following XPath expressions are supported ¡num¿, ¡attrib_name¿, first() and last().
 - method: public: FindElements(path: String), Vector
- GetChildren Returns all child elements.
 - method : public : GetChildren() Vector
- GetChildren Returns all child elements that match the given name.
 - method : public : GetChildren(name : String) Vector
- GetChild Returns a child element.
 - method : public : GetChild(i : Int) XMLElement
- AddChild adds a child element.
 - method: public: AddChild(child: XMLElement) Nil
- GetAttribute Returns the value of a given attribute.
 - method: public: GetAttribute(name: String), String
- SetAttribute Sets the name/value of a given attribute.
 - method: public: SetAttribute(name: String, value: String), Nil
- ToString Serializes an element into a string
 - method : public : ToString(), String
- DecodeString Decodes an XML encoded string
 - function : DecodeString(in : String), String

- EncodeString Encodes an XML encoded string
 - function : EncodeString(in : String), String

7 Examples

7.1 Prime Numbers

```
bundle Default {
  class FindPrime {
    function : Main() ~ Nil {
      Run(1000000);
    }
    function : native : Run(topCandidate : Int)~ Nil {
      candidate : Int := 2;
      while(candidate <= topCandidate) {</pre>
        trialDivisor : Int := 2;
        prime : Int := 1;
        found : Bool := true;
        while(trialDivisor * trialDivisor <= candidate & found) {</pre>
          if(candidate % trialDivisor = 0) {
            prime := 0;
            found := false;
          }
          else {
            trialDivisor := trialDivisor + 1;
          };
        };
        if(found) {
          candidate->PrintLine();
        candidate := candidate + 1;
      };
   }
```

}

7.2 Simple HTTP client

```
use Net;
use IO;
use Structure;
bundle Default {
  class HttpTest {
    function : Main(args : String[]) ~ Nil {
      if(args->Size() = 1) {
        client := HttpClient->New(args[0], 80);
        lines := client->Get();
        for(i := 0; i < lines->Size(); i := i + 1;) {
          lines->Get(i)->As(String)->PrintLine();
        };
      };
    }
  }
}
```

7.3 XML Parsing and XPath Querying

```
element := results->Get(i)->As(XMLElement);
        element->GetAttribute("total")->PrintLine();
     };
    };
    else {
        parser->GetError()->PrintLine();
     };
    };
}
```

8 Appendix A: Example Debugging Session

8.1 Sample Source

```
bundle Default {
  class Bar {
    v1 : Float;
    v2 : Int;
    New() {
      v1 := 2.31;
      v2 := 26;
  }
  class Foo {
    bar : Bar;
    value : Int;
    New(v : Int) {
      value := v;z
    }
    method : public : Get() ~ Int {
      return value;
    }
    method : public : SetBar() ~ Nil {
      bar := Bar->New();
    }
  }
  class Test {
    function : Main(args : System.String[]) ~ Nil {
      d : Float := 11.12;
      z := Int->New[5,6];
      z[2,3] := 27;
```

```
f := Foo->New(24);
f->SetBar();
v := f->Get();
}
}
```

The sample file is named debug.obs.

8.2 Compiling the Source and Starting the Debugger

8.3 Setting a Breakpoint and Running the Program

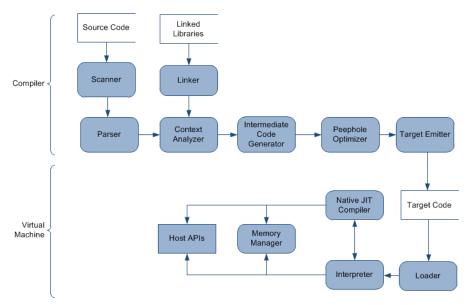
```
> b debug.obs:31
added break point: file='debug.obs:31'
> r
break: file='debug.obs:31', method='Test->Main(..)'
> 1
    List
        26:    }
        27:    }
        28:
        29: class Test {
        30: function: Main(args: System.String[]) ~ Nil {
=> 31: d: Float:= 11.12;
        32: z:= Int->New[5,6];
        33: z[2,3]:= 27;
        34:
        35: f:= Foo->New(24);
```

```
36: f->SetBar();
> n
break: file='debug2.obs:32', method='Test->Main(..)'
```

8.4 Printing a Value

```
> p d
print: type=Float, value=11.12
> b debug.obs:37
added break point: file='debug.obs:37'
> c
break: file='debug2.obs:37', method='Test->Main(..)'
> p z
print: type=Int[], value=2197556(0x218834), dimension=2, size=30
> p z[2,3]
print: type=Int[], value=27(0x1b)
> p f->value
print: type=Int, value=24
> p f->bar
print: type=Bar, value=0x218864
> p f->bar->v1
print: type=Float, value=2.31
> q
> p f->bar->v1 * 3.5
print: type=Float, value=8.085
goodbye.
```

9 Appendix B: Compiler and VM Design



The following section gives a brief overview of the major architectural components the comprise the Objeck language compiler and virtual machine.

9.1 Compiler

The language compiler is written in C++ and makes heavy use of the C++ STL for portability across platforms. As mentioned in the introduction, the compiler accepts source files and shared libraries as inputs and produces either executables or shared libraries. Note, the compiler has two modes of operation: User Mode compiles traditional end-user programs, while System Mode compiles system libraries and processes special system language directives.

9.1.1 Scanner and Parser

The scanner component reads source files and parses the text into tokens. The scanner works in conjugation with the LL(k) parser by providing k lookahead tokens for parsing. Note, the scanner can only scan system language directives while in System Mode. The source parser is a recursive-decent parser that generates an abstract parser tree, which is passed to the Contextual Analyser for validation.

9.1.2 Contextual Analyser

The Contextual Analyser is responsible for ensuring that a source program is valid. In addition, the context analyser also creates relationships between contextually resolved entities (i.e. methods ←→ method calls). The analyser accepts an abstract parser tree and shared libraries as input and produces a decorated parse tree as output. The decorated parse tree is then passed to the Intermediate Code Generator for the production of VM instructions.

9.1.3 Intermediate Code Generator and Optimzier

The Intermediate Code Generator accepts a decorated parse and produces a flat list of VM stack instructions. These instruction lists are then passed to the Optimizer for basic block optimizations (constant folding, strength reduction, instruction simplification and method inlining).

9.1.4 Target Emitter

Finally, the improved intermediate code is passed to code emitter component, which writes it to a file.

9.2 Virtual Machine

The language VM is written in C/C++ and was designed to be highly portable. The VM makes heavy use of operating system specific APIs (i.e. WIN32 and POSIX) but does so in an abstracted manner. The JIT compiler is targeted to produce machine code for the IA-32 and AMD64 (future) hardware architectures.

9.2.1 Loader

The loader component allows the VM to read target code structures such as classes, methods and VM instructions. The loader create an in-memory representation of this information, which is used by the VM interpreter and JIT compiler. In addition, the loader processes command-line parameters that are passed into the VM prior to execution.

9.2.2 Interpreter

The Interpreter executes stack based VM instructions (listed below) and manages two primary stacks: the execution stack and call stack. The execution stack is used to manage the data that is needed for VM calculations. The call stack is used to manage function/method calls and the states between those calls.

9.2.3 JIT Compiler

The JIT compiler translates stack based VM instruction into processor specific machine code (i.e. IA-32). The JIT compiler is evoked by the interpreter and methods are translated in a separate execution thread. This process allow methods to be executed concurrently in an interpreted manner while they are being compiled into machine code. Note, methods are only converted into machine code once.

9.2.4 Memory Manager

The Memory Manager component allows the runtime system to manage the user allocation/deallocation of heap memory. The memory mangers implementes a multi-thread "mark and sweep" algorithm. The marking stage of the process is multi-thread, such that, each root in scanned in a separate thread. The sweeping stage is done in a single thread since the data structures that are needed to manage the state of the running program are modified.

10 Appendix C: VM Instruction Set

The appendix below lists the types of stack instructions that are executed by the Objeck VM. The VM was designed to be portable and language independent. Early development versions of the VM included an inline assembler, which may be re-added in future releases.

Stack Operators			
Mnemonic	Opcode(s)	Description	
LOAD_INT_LIT	4-byte integer	pushes integer onto stack	
LOAD_FLOAT_LIT	8-byte float	pushes float onto stack	
LOAD_INT_VAR	variable index	pushes integer onto stack	
LOAD_FLOAT_VAR	variable index	pushes float onto stack	
LOAD_FUNC_VAR	variable index	pushes float onto stack	
LOAD_SELF	n/a	pushes self integer on stack	
STOR_INT_VAR	variable index	pops integer from stack and saves to index location	
STOR_FLOAT_VAR	variable index	pops float from stack and saves to index location	
STOR_FUNC_VAR	variable index	pops float from stack and saves to index location	
COPY_INT_VAR	variable index	copies an integer from stack and saves to index location	
COPY_FLOAT_VAR	variable index	copies a float from stack and saves to index location	
LOAD_BYTE_ARY_ELM	array dimension	pushes byte onto stack; assumes array address was pushed prior	
LOAD_INT_ARY_ELM	array dimension	pushes integer onto stack; assumes array address was pushed prior	
LOAD_FLOAT_ARY_ELM	array dimension	pushes float onto stack; assumes array address was pushed prior	
LOAD_ARY_SIZE	n/a	pushes array size as integer onto stack; assumes array address was pushed prior	
STOR_BYTE_ARY_ELM	variable index	stores byte at index location; assumes array address was pushed prior	
STOR_INT_ARY_ELM	variable index	stores integer at index location ; assumes array address was pushed prior	
STOR_FLOAT_ARY_ELM	variable index	stores float at index location; as- sumes array address was pushed prior	

Logical Operators		
Mnemonic	Opcode(s)	Description
EQL_INT	n/a	pops top two integer values and pushes result of equal operation
NEQL_INT	n/a	pops top two integer values and pushes result of not-equal opera- tion
LES_INT	n/a	pops top two integer values and pushes result of less-than opera- tion
GTR_INT	n/a	pops top two integer values and pushes result of greater-than op- eration
LES_EQL_INT	n/a	pops top two integer values and pushes result of less-than-equal operation
GTR_EQL_INT	n/a	pops top two integer values and pushes result of greater-than- equal operation
EQL_FLOAT	n/a	pops top two floats values and pushes result of equal operation
NEQL_FLOAT	n/a	pops top two floats values and pushes result of not-equal opera- tion
LES_FLOAT	n/a	pops top two floats values and pushes result of less-than opera- tion
GTR_FLOAT	n/a	pops top two floats values and pushes result of greater-than op- eration
LES_EQL_FLOAT	n/a	pops top two floats values and pushes result of less-than-equal operation
GTR_EQL_FLOAT	n/a	pops top two floats values and pushes result of greater-than- equal operation

Logical Operators		
Mnemonic	Opcode(s)	Description
AND_INT	n/a	pops top two integer values and pushes result of add operation
OR_INT	n/a	pops top two integer values and pushes result of or operation

Mathematical Operators		
Mnemonic	Opcode(s)	Description
ADD_INT	n/a	pops top two integer values and
		pushes result of add operation
SUB_INT	n/a	pops top two integer values and
		pushes result of subtract opera-
		tion
MUL_INT	n/a	pops top two integer values and
		pushes result of multiply opera-
		tion
DIV_INT	n/a	pops top two integer values and
		pushes result of divide operation
SHL_INT	n/a	pops top two floats values and
		pushes result of shift left opera-
		tion
SHR_INT	n/a	pops top two floats values and
		pushes result of shift right oper-
		ation
MOD_INT	n/a	pops top two integer values and
		pushes result of modulus opera-
		tion
ADD_FLOAT	n/a	pops top two floats values and
		pushes result of greater-than-
		equal operation
SUB_FLOAT	n/a	pops top two floats values and
		pushes result of subtract opera-
		tion
MUL_FLOAT	n/a	pops top two floats values and
		pushes result of multiply opera-
		tion
DIV_FLOAT	n/a	pops top two floats values and
		pushes result of divide operation
I2F	n/a	pop top integer and pushes result
		of float cast
F2I	n/a	pop top float and pushes result of
		integer cast

${ m Objects/Methods/Traps}$			
Mnemonic	Opcode(s)	Description	
SWAP_INT	n/a	swaps the top two integer values on the stack	
POP_INT	n/a	control pop of an integer from the stack	
POP_FLOAT	n/a	control pop of a float from the stack	
RTRN	n/a	exits existing method returning control to callee	
MTHD_CALL	integer values for class id and method id	synchronous call to given method releasing control	
DYN_MTHD_CALL	pops integer values for class id and method id	dynamic synchronous call to given method releasing control	
ASYNC_MTHD_CALL	integer values for class id and method id; pushes new thread id	asynchronous call to given method	
ASYNC_JOIN	thread id	waits for identified thread to end execution	
LBL	label id	identifies a jump label	
JMP	label id and conditional context (1=true, 0=unconditional, -1=false)	jump to label id	
NEW_BYTE_ARY	array dimension	pushes address of new byte array	
NEW_INT_ARY	array dimension	pushes address of new integer array	
NEW_FLOAT_ARY	array dimension	pushes address of new float array	
NEW_OBJ_INST	integer value for class id	pushes address of new class instance	
OBJ_INST_CAST	integer values for "from" class and "to" class	performs runtime class cast check (note: only required for up casting)	

${ m Objects/Methods/Traps}$			
Mnemonic	Opcode(s)	Description	
THREAD_CREATE	n/a	creates an new thread instance	
		(calculation stack and stack	
		pointer)	
THREAD_WAIT	n/a	waits for worker threads to stop	
		execution	
CRITICAL_START	n/a	creates a mutex such that only	
		one thread can execute in a given	
		section	
CRITICAL_END	n/a	releases a system mutex	
TRAP	integer value for trap	calls runtime subroutine releasing	
	id	control	
TRAP_RTRN	integer value for trap	calls runtime subroutine releasing	
	id and number of ar-	control and then process an inte-	
	guments	ger return value	
LIB_NEW_OBJ_INST	n/a	symbolic library link for a new ob-	
		ject instance	
LIB_MTHD_CALL	n/a	symbolic library link for a method	
		call	
LIB_OBJ_INST_CAST	n/a	symbolic library link for an object	
		cast	