CONTENTS IN DETAIL

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	xv
INTRODUCTION	xvii
What Is Ruby?	xviii
What Is Rails?	
Matters of Ruby Style	
How to Read This Book	
Digging Deeper	
Making Sense of the Text	
Downloading Ruby	
Running Ruby Programs	
The Ruby Library Documentation	xxi
1 STRINGS, NUMBERS, CLASSES, AND OBJECTS	1
Getting and Putting Input	2
Strings and Embedded Evaluation	
Numbers	
Comments	
Testing a Condition: ifthen	
Local and Global Variables	
Classes and Objects	
Instance Variables	
Messages, Methods, and Polymorphism	
Constructors: new and initialize	
Inspecting Objects	11
2 CLASS HIERARCHIES, ATTRIBUTES, AND CLASS VARIABLES	15
Superclasses and Subclasses	17
Passing Arguments to the Superclass	
Accessor Methods	
Attribute Readers and Writers	
Class Variables	
Digging Deeper	
Superclasses	
The Root of All Classes	29
Constants Inside Classes	30
Partial Classes	30

3 STRIN	IGS AND RANGES	33
User-De	fined String Delimiters	3.5
	otes	
	andling	
Ü	Concatenation	
	What About Commas?	
	String Assignment	
	Indexing into a String	39
	Removing Newline Characters: chop and chomp	
	Format Strings	
Ranges		
	Ranges of Strings	
D: :	Iterating with a Range	
Digging	Deeper	
	Heredocs String Literals	
	Siring Liferals	40
4 ARRA	YS AND HASHES	47
Arrays		47
7 ti Tay 3	Creating Arrays	
	Multidimensional Arrays	
	Iterating over Arrays	
	Indexing into Arrays	
	Copying Arrays	
	Testing Arrays for Equality	
	Sorting Arrays	54
	Comparing Values	
	Array Methods	
Hashes		
	Creating Hashes	
	Indexing into a Hash	
	Copying a Hash	
	Hash Order	
	Sorting a Hash	
D::	Hash Methods	
Digging	Deeper	
	Treating Hashes as Arrays	
	Vectors and Matrices	
	Sets	
5 LOOP	S AND ITERATORS	67
	os	-
	nd Block Parameters	
	unto and downto	70 70

Multiple Iterator Arguments	
while Loops	
while Modifiers	
Ensuring a while Loop Executes at Least Once	
until Loopsloop	
Digging Deeper	
The Enumerable Module	
Custom Comparisons	
each and yield	
,	
6 CONDITIONAL STATEMENTS	83
ifthenelse	
and, or, and not	
Negation if .elsif	
unless	
if and unless Modifiers	
Case Statements	
The === Method	
Alternative Case Syntax	
Digging Deeper	
Boolean Operators	93
Eccentricities of Boolean Operators	
catch and throw	94
7	
METHODS	97
Class Methods	
What Are Class Methods For?	
Class Variables	
Ruby Constructors: new or initialize?	
Singleton Methods	
Singleton Classes	
Overriding Methods	۱۱۰
Digging Deeper	
Protected and Private Methods in Descendant Classes	112
Invading the Privacy of Private Methods	116
Singleton Class Methods	116
Nested Methods	
Method Names	119
8	
PASSING ARGUMENTS AND RETURNING VALUES	121
Summarizing Instance, Class, and Singleton, Methods	121
Returning Values	123

Returning Multiple Values	
Default and Multiple Arguments	
Assignment and Parameter Passing	
Integers Are Special	127
The One-Way-In, One-Way-Out Principle	
Modifying Receivers and Yielding New Objects	130
Potential Side Effects of Reliance on Argument Values	
Parallel Assignment	
Digging Deeper	
By Reference or By Value?	
Are Assignments Copies or References? Tests for Equality: == or equal?	133
When Are Two Objects Identical?	130
Parentheses Avoid Ambiguity	
9	
EXCEPTION HANDLING	139
rescue: Execute Code When Error Occurs	
ensure: Execute Code Whether or Not an Error Occurs	
else: Execute Code When No Error Occurs Error Numbers	
retry: Attempt to Execute Code Again After an Error	
raise: Reactivate a Handled Error	
Digging Deeper	
Omitting begin and end	
catchthrow	
10 BLOCKS, PROCS, AND LAMBDAS	155
What Is a Block?	
Line Breaks Are Significant	
Nameless Functions	
Look Familiar?	
Blocks and Arrays	
Procs and Lambdas	
Creating Objects from Blocks	
What Is a Closure?	
vield	
Blocks Within Blocks	
Passing Named Proc Arguments	
Precedence Rules	
Blocks as Iterators	
Digging Deeper	
Returning Blocks from Methods	175
Blocks and Instance Variables	
Blocks and Local Variables	1 <i>77</i>

11 SYMBOLS	181
Symbols and Strings	. 182
Symbols and Variables	
Why Use Symbols?	
Digging Deeper	
What Is a Symbol?	. 190
12	
	191
A Module Is Like a Class	
Module Methods	
Modules as Namespaces	
Included Modules, or "Mixins"	
Name Conflicts Alias Methods	
Mix In with Care!	
Including Modules from Files	
Digging Deeper	
Modules and Classes	
Predefined Modules	. 205
Scope Resolution	. 208
Module Functions	
Extending Objects	
Freezing Objects	. 211
13 FILES AND IO	213
	_
Opening and Closing Files	
Characters and Compatibility	
Files and Directories	
Copying Files	
A Discursion into Recursion	
Sorting by Size	
Digging Deeper	
Recursion Made Simple	
14 YAML	227
Converting to YAML	
Nested Sequences Saving YAML Data	
Omitting Variables on Saving	
Multiple Documents, One File	
A YAML Database	

Adventures in YAML	
Digging Deeper	237
A Brief Guide to YAML	237
15	
MARSHAL	239
Saving and Loading Data	239
Omitting Variables on Saving	240
Saving Singletons	
YAML and Singletons	
Marshal and Singletons	. 243
Digging Deeper	
Marshal Version Numbers	. 246
16	
	249
Making Matches	
Match Groups	
MatchData	
Prematch and Postmatch	
Greedy Matching	
String Methods	
File Operations	
Digging Deeper	200 260
Regular Expression Examples	
Symbols and Regular Expressions	
17	
	263
Creating Threads	. 264
Running Threads	
Going Native	
The Main Thread	
Thread Status	
Ensuring That a Thread Executes	
Thread Priorities	
The Main Thread Priority	
Mutexes	
Fibers	
Digging Deeper	
Passing Execution to Other Threads	. 2/8
18	
DEBUGGING AND TESTING	283
IRB: Interactive Ruby	283
Debugging	

	ailable When Unit Testing	
Line Breaks Aı	e Significant	296
Graphical Del	ouggers	297
10		
19	_	
RUBY ON RAILS	•	299
Installing Rails		300
	ll-in-One" Installer	
	oplication	
	ion	
	ails Application	
	r Script Summarized	
	tabase	
	/SQL Database	
9		
	ers	
Other Ruby Fr	ameworks	324
20		
DYNAMIC PRO	GRAMMING	325
		224
	s	
	Methods	
. •	ntime	
Bindings		
	ods	
	ntime	
Freezing Obje	ects	342

345

DOCUMENTING RUBY WITH RDOC

B INSTALLING MYSQL FOR RUBY ON RAILS	349
Downloading MySQL	350
Installing MySQL	
Configuring MySQL	351
Can't Find the Database?	351
c	
FURTHER READING	353
Books	353
Ebooks	355
Websites	355
D	
RUBY AND RAILS DEVELOPMENT SOFTWARE	357
IDEs and Editors	357
Web Servers	358
Databases	358
Ruby Implementations	359
INDEX	361