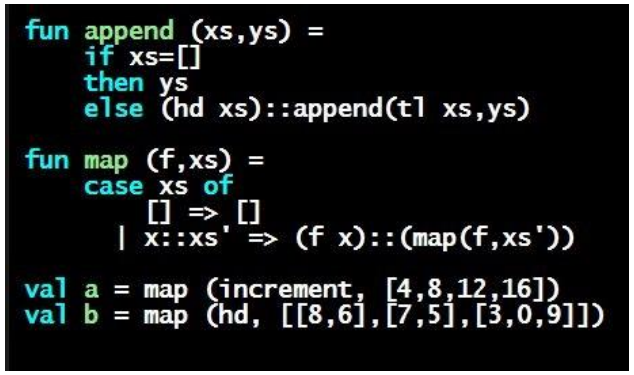

Programming Languages

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Everything is an Object

Pure OOP

- Ruby is fully committed to OOP:

  Every value is a reference to an object

- Simpler, smaller semantics

- Can call methods on anything
  - May just get a dynamic “undefined method” error

- Almost everything is a method call
  - Example: `3 + 4`

Some examples

- Numbers have methods like **`+`**, **`abs`**, **`nonzero?`**, etc.

- **`nil`** is an object used as a “nothing” object
  - Like **`null`** in Java/C#/C++ except it is an object
  - Every object has a **`nil?`** method, where **`nil`** returns **`true`** for it
  - Note: **`nil`** and **`false`** are “false”, everything else is “true”

- Strings also have a **`+`** method
  - String concatenation
  - Example: **`"hello" + 3.to_s`**

All code is methods

- All methods you define are part of a class
- Top-level methods (in file or REPL) just added to **`Object`** class
- Subclassing discussion coming later, but:
  - Since all classes you define are *subclasses* of **`Object`**, all *inherit* the top-level methods
  - So you can call these methods anywhere in the program
  - Unless a class overrides (*roughly-not-exactly*, shadows) it by defining a method with the same name

Reflection and exploratory programming

- All objects also have methods like:
  - **`methods`**
  - **`class`**

- Can use at run-time to query "what an object can do" and respond accordingly
  - Called *reflection*

- Also useful in the REPL to explore what methods are available
  - May be quicker than consulting full documentation

- Another example of "just objects and method calls"