

Pharo, the immersive programming experience

Hilaire Fernandes

NCHC, Hsinchu, Taiwan

August 2015

About Pharo

- `http://pharo.org`
- Pure object language
- Inspired by Smalltalk
- Great community with talented researchers, engineers and programmers
- Powerful, elegant and fun to program
- Living system under your fingers

Stephane Ducasse, Pharo project leader



- Delivering a clean, innovative, free open source environment to build mission critical application
- Research director at INRIA
- Personal page

Alan Kay, Dynabook vision



- Grand project to invent modern computing at Xerox Parc in the '70.
- You know the story about Steve Jobs visiting and picking up ideas from Xerox Parc's lab to build Macintosh.
- Received 2003 ACM Turing award for work on OOP
- Lead of View Point Research Institute

- 1 About this hands on
- 2 Pharo syntax
- 3 Practical session I
- 4 Pharo IDE
- 5 Language constructs
- 6 Practical session II
- 7 Pharo Object model
- 8 Food for the mind
- 9 Resources

What it is

This hands on is about learning:

- the Pharo syntax,
- the standard class libraries,
- the Pharo object model (a bit),
- some IDE tools as Finder, Playground, Spotter, Nautilus and Inspector,
- write Roassal scripts.

What it is not

This hands on is **not** about learning:

- oriented object programming,
- good design practices,
- to write a desktop application,
- to write a web application,
- to manage Pharo source code for team work,

Acknowledge

Contents of this hands on course comes from different sources:

- Stephane Ducasse
- Damien Cassou
- Hilaire Fernandes

Syntax in a postcard

exampleWithNumber: x

"A method that illustrates every part of Smalltalk method syntax except primitives. It has unary, binary, and keyword messages, declares arguments and temporaries, accesses a global variable (but not an instance variable), uses literals (array, character, symbol, string, integer, float), uses the pseudo variable true false, nil, self, and super, and has sequence, assignment, return and cascade. It has both zero argument and one argument blocks."

|y|

true & false not & (nil isNil) ifFalse: [self halt].

y := self size + super size.

#\$a \$z #a "a" 1 1.0 do:

[:each | Transcript show: (each class name); show: ' '].

^ x < y

Pharo syntax

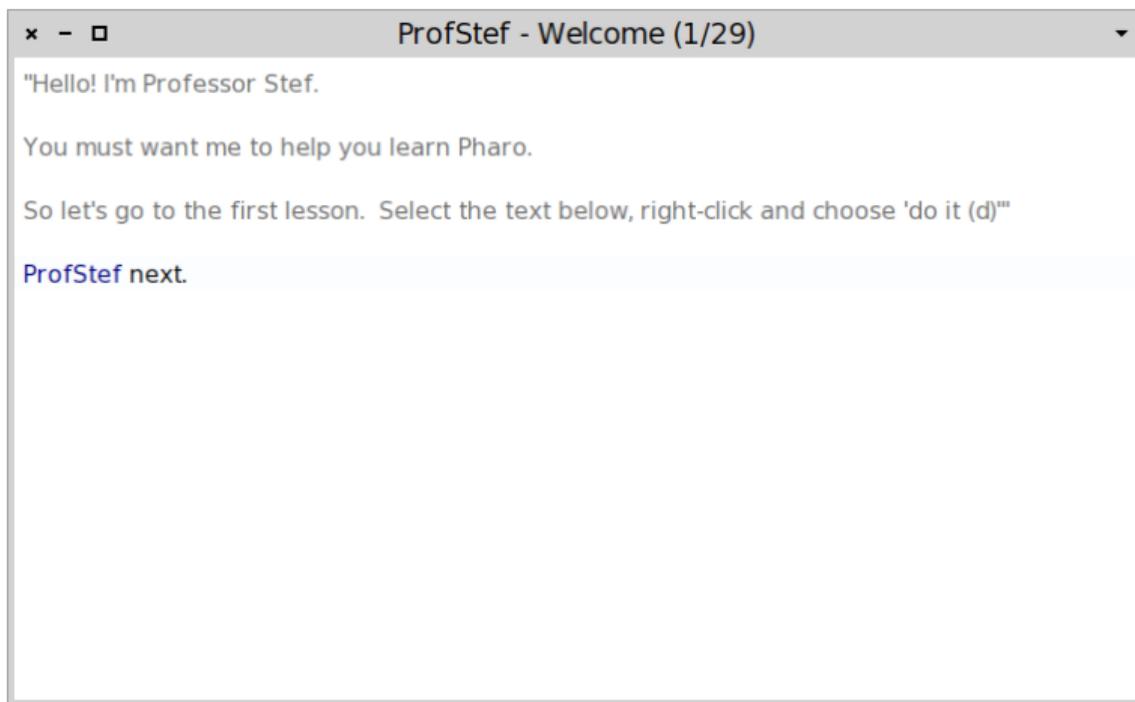
Pharo syntax is very small.

- Get started with the syntax
- The runtime architecture
- Variables and arguments are simple
- **Three** ways to send a message (*i.e.* call a function)
- Delayed code execution with Blocks [...]

Message sending and block are the building elements of what you may call language constructs in other programming languages.

Training with ProfStef

In a Playground window, execute the code `ProfStef go`, you get a tutorial window. It is already open in the hands on environment:



Exercise 1

Given a collection of numbers from 0 to 50, connect each to its modulo 5:

```
| b |  
b := RTMondrian new.  
b shape label.  
b nodes: #replaceMe .  
b edges connectFrom: [ #replaceMe ].  
b layout circle.  
b
```

Imagine variations in the code:

- collection, consider only even number, etc.
- nature of the connection
- layout

Exercise 2

- In this script, designate a unary, binary and keyword messages (3).
- The example below draws a French flag. How will you add an Italian flag?

```
| view shape elements flags |  
view := RTView new.  
shape := RTCompositeShape new.  
shape add: (RTBox new color: #second ; height: 20; width: 15).  
shape add: (RTBox new color: #third; height: 20; width: 15) translateBy: 15 @ 0.  
shape add: (RTBox new color: #fourth ; height: 20; width: 15) translateBy: 30 @ 0.  
shape add: (RTRotatedLabel new angleInDegree: 270; height: 8; text: #first) translateBy: -15@0.  
  
flags := OrderedCollection new.  
flags add: (Array with: 'France' with: Color blue with: Color white with: Color red).  
  
elements := shape elementsOn: flags.  
view addAll: elements.  
RTGridLayout new on: elements.  
view
```

Exercise 3

- Designate 2 blocks in this example.
- This code is not well written, there are repeated sequences to build the menu. It deserves to be factored. With the help of collections (Array and OrderedCollection) and iterator rewrite the code.

```
| v map hsinchu taipei greensIsland movingCamera menu|
../..
"Place to go"
hsinchu := 24.8098@120.9689.
taipei := 25.083@121.55.
greensIsland := 22.666667@121.483333.
../..
"Adding a menu"
../..
mb menu: 'Hsinchu' callback: [ movingCamera value: hsinchu ].
mb menu: 'Taipei' callback: [ movingCamera value: taipei].
mb menu: 'Green Island' callback: [ movingCamera value: greensIsland].
../..
```

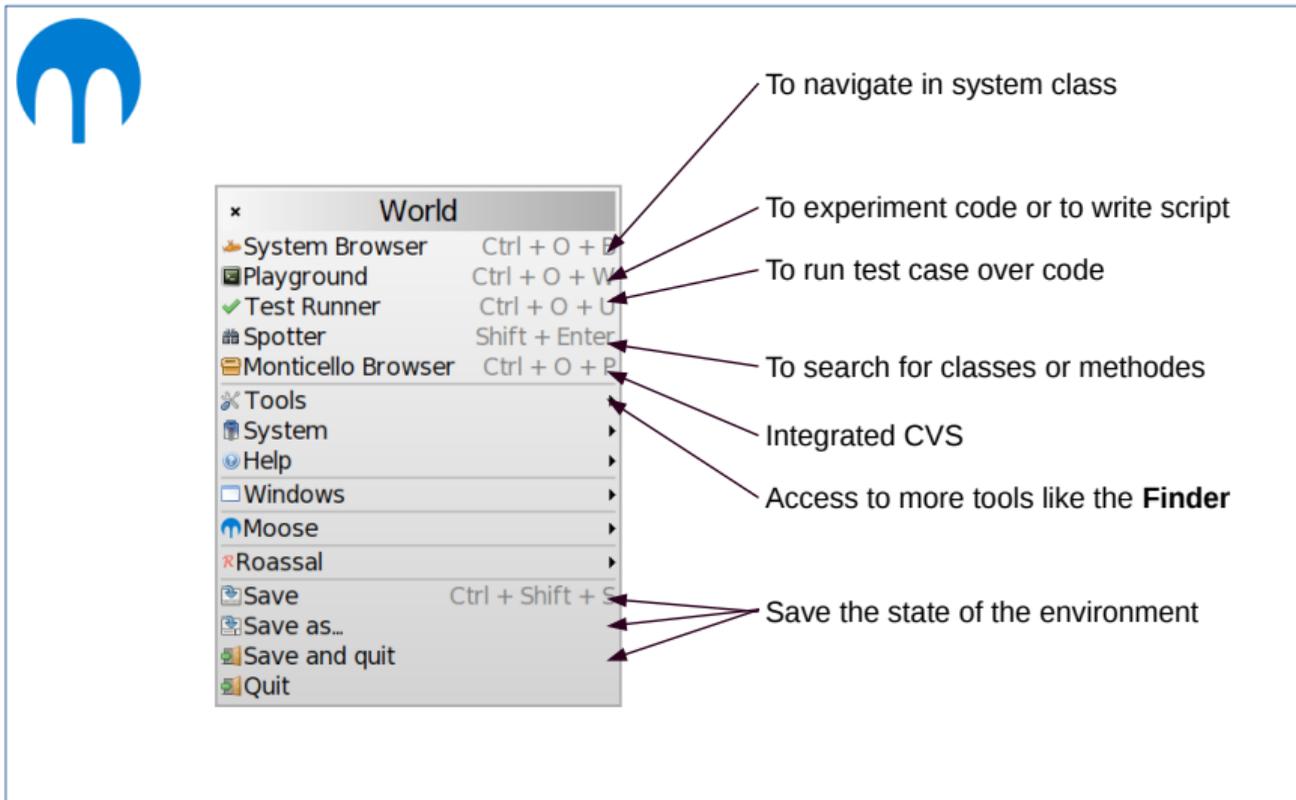
Pharo IDE

We present the following tools:

- The **World menu**, to access to the tools
- The **playground**, the place to write script
- The **class browser**, to browser the source code
- The **finder**, to search for methods

The World

A mouse left button clic in Pharo opens the **World** menu:



The screenshot shows the Pharo IDE logo (a blue stylized 'M') in the top left corner. Below it is a 'World' menu window with the following items and keyboard shortcuts:

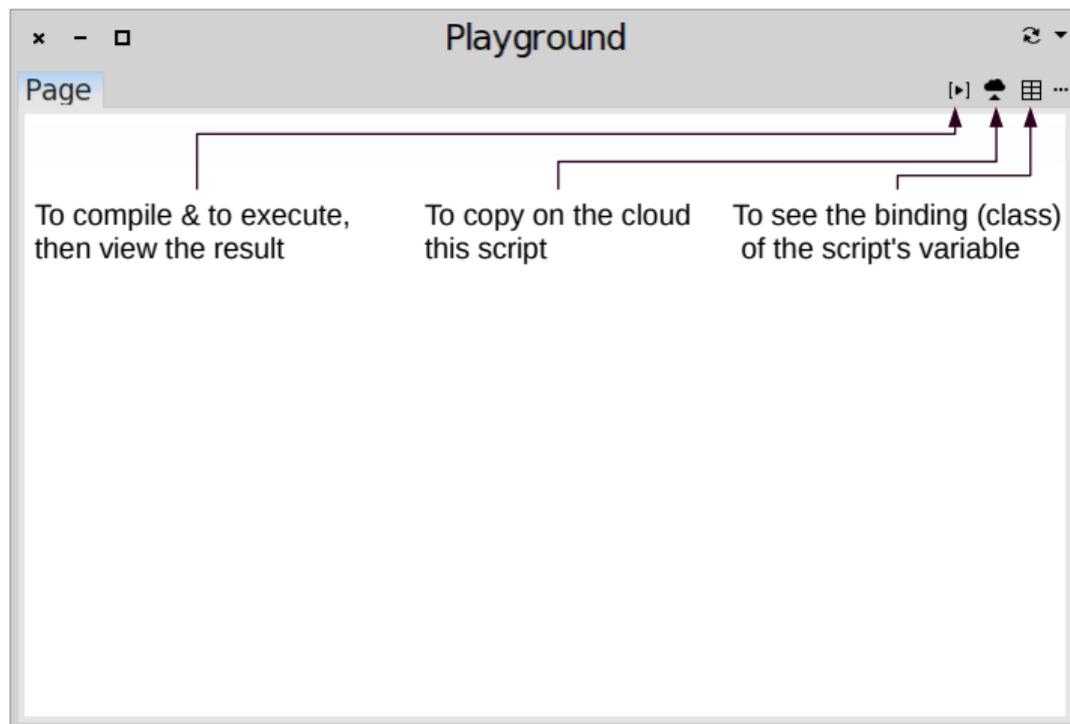
Item	Keyboard Shortcut
System Browser	Ctrl + O + F
Playground	Ctrl + O + W
Test Runner	Ctrl + O + U
Spotter	Shift + Enter
Monticello Browser	Ctrl + O + P
Tools	
System	
Help	
Windows	
Moose	
Roassal	
Save	Ctrl + Shift + S
Save as...	
Save and quit	
Quit	

Annotations with arrows point to the following items:

- To navigate in system class (points to System Browser)
- To experiment code or to write script (points to Playground)
- To run test case over code (points to Test Runner)
- To search for classes or methodes (points to Spotter)
- To search for classes or methodes (points to Monticello Browser)
- Integrated CVS (points to System)
- Access to more tools like the **Finder** (points to Tools)
- Save the state of the environment (points to Save)
- Save the state of the environment (points to Save as...)
- Save the state of the environment (points to Save and quit)

Playground

- **It is** the preferred place to try out code idea or to write script.
- **It isn't** the place to write application or class.



Playground extended

The screenshot shows the Pharo IDE Playground window. The script executed is `| a | a := $a to: $z`. The result is an array of 26 items, displayed in a table view with columns for Index and Item. The table shows the first 12 items: \$a through \$l. Red callout boxes with arrows point to various UI elements:

- A nice view of the script result**: Points to the script execution area.
- Raw view**: Points to the 'Raw' tab in the table view.
- View the model**: Points to the 'Meta' tab in the table view.
- Close the inspector**: Points to the close button (X) in the top right of the table view.
- Browse the model**: Points to the search icon (magnifying glass) in the top right of the table view.
- Navigate in the panes**: Points to the navigation buttons (back, forward, search) at the bottom of the playground.

Index	Item
1	\$a
2	\$b
3	\$c
4	\$d
5	\$e
6	\$f
7	\$g
8	\$h
9	\$i
10	\$j
11	\$k
12	\$l

Playground shortcut

Mouse right clic in the text area for action on the code (with partially selected code or not):

- `Do it and go`: compile, run and see the result of the code in a pane inspector, just at the right
- `Do it`: compile and run the code
- `Print it`: compile, run and print the result just after the code
- `Inspect it`: compile, run and inspect the result in a new inspector window
- `Debug it`: compile and run the code within a debugger
- `Profile it`: compile, run and profile the code. A new profiler window shows the result

The class browser

It is the tool to see class source code and to write new one. In our course, we just need it to explore the system classes. Mouse right clic on each pane open a specific menu.

The screenshot displays the Pharo IDE's Class Browser interface. It is divided into several panes:

- Left Pane:** A tree view of class categories. A callout points to the "Numbers" category, stating: "The class categories (libraries), here Numbers category".
- Middle Pane:** A list of classes within the "Numbers" category. The "Number" class is selected. A callout points to it: "The classes in the Numbers category, here Number class".
- Right Pane (Top):** A list of method categories for the "Number" class. The "arithmetic" category is selected. A callout points to it: "The methods in the arithmetic category, here abs method".
- Right Pane (Bottom):** The source code for the "abs" method. A callout points to the "abs" method name: "The method categories, in the Number class, Here arithmetic category".
- Bottom Pane:** The source code of the "abs" method. A callout points to the code: "View the method source code, here abs method code".
- Bottom Right:** A callout points to the class comment: "Read the class comments".
- Bottom Right:** A callout points to the class variables: "See the use of the Class and instance variables".
- Bottom Left:** A callout points to the class side methods: "Edit the class side methods".

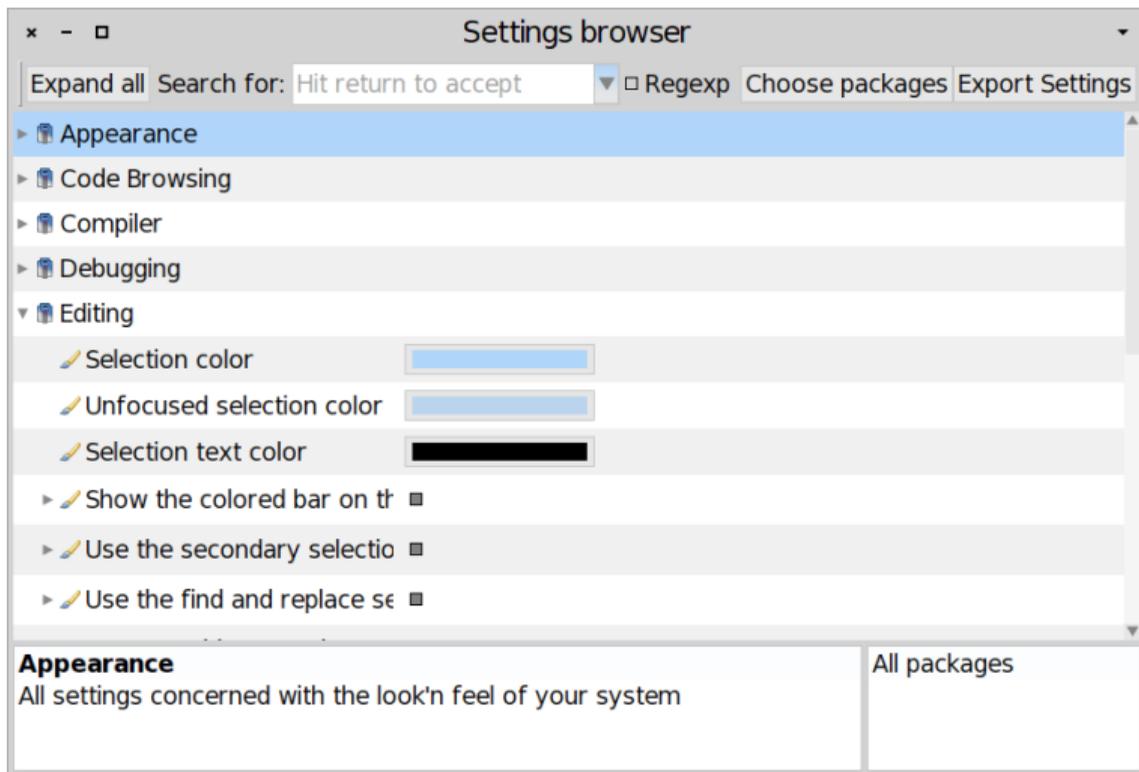
The source code for the "abs" method is as follows:

```
abs
"Answer a Number that is the absolute value (positive magnitude) of the receiver."

self < 0
  ifTrue: [^self negated]
  ifFalse: [^self]
```

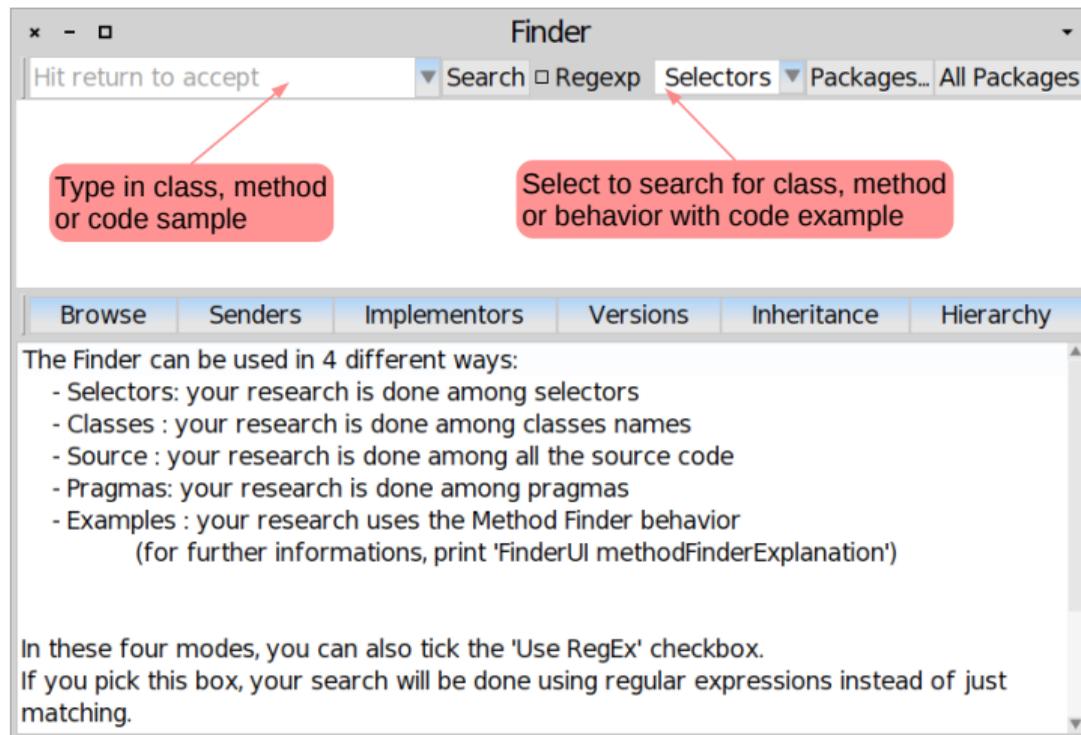
Settings browser

Open from World menu>System>Settings to edit Pharo behaviours and user interface.



The Finder

Open from World menu>Tools>Finder to search for code behaviours, classes, methods.



The finder, examples 1/2

Try to search for behaviours with **Examples** option in the Finder:

- Find out addition, multiplication, square:

```
2 . 2 . 4
```

- Find week day:

```
'2015/8/17' asDate . 'Monday'
```

- How to concatenate to string:

```
'NCHC ' . 'Taiwan' . 'NCHC Taiwan'
```

- How to calculate square root:

```
9 . 3
```

- How to get the greatest between two numbers:

```
14 . 85 . 85
```

The finder, examples 2/2

Try to search for behaviours with **Examples** option in the Finder:

- How to get the greatest number in a collection:

```
 #(1 10 8 -5) . 10
```

- How to remove unnecessary space:

```
' hello ' . 'hello'
```

- How to capitalize sentence:

```
'hello world' . 'Hello world'
```

- How to upper case:

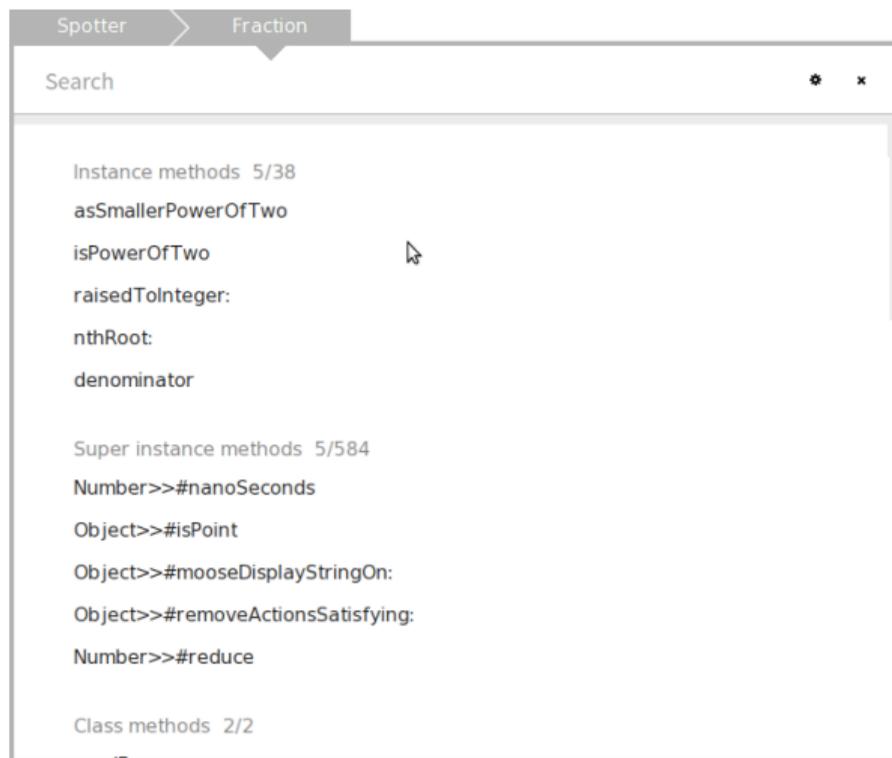
```
'hello' . 'HELLO'
```

- Find the substrings composing a string:

```
'hello my dear' . {'hello' . 'my' . 'dear'}
```

Spotter

To quickly search for classes or methods, open **Spotter** with the short-cut [Shift]+Space, then type in a class or method name:



Language constructs

What you call syntax in other programming language is implemented with Pharo itself in the **Pharo class libraries**:

- Numbers
- Booleans
- Collections (*i.e.* array/table/list/dictionary, etc.)
- Iterators
- (...) or [...]?

Exercises 4

We want to display the directory hierarchy with a tree view. Each rectangle represents a file or directory. It should be coloured in red when it's a directory, otherwise in blue.

```
| b|  
b := RTMondrian new.  
  
b shape rectangle color: [ :aFile |  
  aFile isDirectory  
  "Paint me in red when directory  
  otherwise blue"].  
b nodes: FileLocator image parent allChildren.  
b edges connectFrom: #parent.  
b normalizer normalizeSize: #size using: #sqrt.  
b layout tree.  
b
```

Exercise 5

Edit the script to display earth quake from last five days, or from Japan:

```
| tab b |  
tab := RTTabTable new input: 'http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/feed/v1.0/summary/2.5_month.csv'  
      asUrl retrieveContents usingDelimiter: $,.  
  
tab removeFirstRow.  
tab replaceEmptyValuesWith: '0' inColumns: #(2 3 4 5).  
tab convertColumnsAsFloat: #(2 3 4 5).  
tab convertColumnAsDateAndTime: 1.  
  
b := RTMapLocationBuilder new.  
b shape circle  
  size: [ :v | (2 raisedTo: v) / 2 ];  
  color: (Color red alpha: 0.3).  
tab values do: [ :row |  
  b addPoint: row second @ row third value: row fifth].  
b  
"ignore me $"
```

Exercise 6

Modify this script:

- Size is scaled logarithmically
- Over a certain threshold, the colour of the shape is different
- The popup text to contain both the country code and the hit in a nice sentence
- linear layout, elements sorted

```
| data view shape elements |
data := NeoJSONReader
  fromString: (FileLocator imageDirectory / 'WorldCountry.json') contents.
view := RTView new.
shape := RTCompositeShape new.
shape add: (RTEllipse new
  size: [:sample | sample second / 68000];
  color: (Color red alpha: 0.5)).
shape add: (RTLabel new text: #first).
elements := shape elementsOn: data.
view addAll: elements.
elements @ (RTPopup new text: [:sample | sample second ]).
```

Pharo Object model

The motto of Pharo object model is simplicity and understanding.

- The model introduction
- Class and method definition
- Instantiate object with Class methods

Food for the mind

- How will you implement **not**?
- How will you implement **or** (| in Pharo)?
- Why this question? What these questions want to show us?

Need a course? Read Design, essence of dispatch

Resources

- Pharo, visit documentation section
- Pharo by Example book. Will be updated soon.
- Roassal documentation
- Recommended reading:
 - ▶ Smalltalk with style
 - ▶ *Smalltalk design pattern companion book* (a must for OOP design)
 - ▶ More free books
- Pharo user forum. It is the mirror of the Pharo user mailing list. It is also possible to subscribe to newsgroup `gmane.comp.lang.smalltalk.pharo.user`