

# Variables

Stéphane Ducasse and Damien Cassou

<http://stephane.ducasse.free.fr> stephane.ducasse@inria.fr

# Lowercase for local variables

- temporary variables

```
| str |
str := 'Tiramisu'
```

- instance variables

```
Object subclass: #Point
instanceVarNames: 'x y'
```

- method or block arguments

```
raisedTo: power
[ :x | ]
```

# Special Variables

`self` , `super` , `thisContext` , `true` , `false` , `nil`

- `self` : the receiver of the message (this in Java).
- `super` : refers to the receiver but look method in the super class of the class defining the method.
- `thisContext` refers to the current stack.
- `true` , `false` are the Booleans
  - ▶ `true` is instance of `True`
  - ▶ `false` is instance of the class `False`
- `nil` is `UndefinedObject` instance

## Shared or Global starts with Uppercase

- Transcript is an object that is globally accessible a kind of stdout

```
Transcript cr .  
Transcript show: 'hello world'.  
Transcript cr .
```

- Class Object is global

```
Object subclass: #Point
```

# ClassVariables are Shared Variables

- How to share information between all the instances of a class and subclasses
- Use a classVariable

```
Object subclass: #CombinedChar
instanceVariableNames: 'codes combined'
classVariableNames: 'Compositions Decompositions Diacriticals'
category: 'Kernel-BasicObjects'
```

- Here Compositions is shared between all the CombinedChar instances and instances of subclasses

## Summary

- Lowercase are used for local/private/temporary variables
- Uppercase are used for shared or global variables