

# 0% DropOuts, From 0 To GUI Programming in 1 Semester

- After 1<sup>st</sup> month (after four weeks)
  - ooRexx: [Loops](#), [routines](#), [functions](#), [classes](#) ([attributes](#), [methods](#)), [multiple inheritance](#), [commands](#) with [redirection](#) & [piping](#), [JSON](#), [curl](#), interacting with [LLMs](#)
- After 2<sup>nd</sup> month (after 7<sup>th</sup> week)
  - ooRexx: Windows [OLE/COM](#), [VBS/VBA](#) (Visual Basic Script/Application), programming [wsh](#) (Windows shell), [MSIE](#) (Internet Explorer) and [DOM](#) (document object model), [MS Office](#) ([Word](#), [Excel](#)), [ADSI](#) (active directory service interfaces), [WMI](#) (Windows management instrumentation) et.al.
- After 3<sup>rd</sup> month (after 11<sup>th</sup> week)
  - ooRexx-Java bridge: [GUI](#) ([java.awt](#), [java.swing](#)), Internet programming with [sockets](#) ([java.net](#), [javax.net](#), [javax.net.ssl](#)) either [OpenOffice/LibreOffice](#) or [ML](#) (machine learning employing [Weka](#)), [XML](#) parsing ([SAX](#), [DOM](#) with [recursion](#)) and [XSLT](#)
- After 4<sup>th</sup> month (after 14<sup>th</sup> week)
  - ooRexx-Java bridge: External Java class libraries, [CLASSPATH](#), modular Java, Java startup options, [Jsoup](#), Java scripting framework ([javax.script](#)), [RexxScriptEngine](#), [JavaFX](#), [NetRexx](#), [JDOR](#) ([Java2D](#) ooRexx command language)

# EAPROG - Erfolgsbedingungen für Anfänger zum Erlernen der Programmierung portabler GUIs in einem Semester

(Critical Factors from Zero to Portable GUI Programming in Four Hours)

SE25-Workshop (Karlsruhe, 2026-02-23)

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Business Programming 1 (BP1, Months 1+2, 7 Installments)

Business Programming 2 (BP2, Months 3+4, 7 Installments)



**REXX**



**ooRexx**



**BSF4ooRexx850 (Java Bridge)**

Basics,  
Parsing

Commands,  
APIs

Message  
Paradigm,  
Classes

Windows  
(OLE, MS Office)

GUIs  
(awt,  
swing)

Sockets  
SSL/TLS

XML  
SAX/DOM  
Jsoup

Scripting  
AOO/LO  
(UNO)

Rexx  
Script  
Engine

Portable  
GUIs  
(JavaFX)

# Overview

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- **Part 1:** Background, Goals, Cognitive Load Theory, Critical Success Factors
- **Part 2:** Critical Success Factor "Programming Language"  
[Rexx/ooRexx](#): Overview, Concepts and Nutshell Examples
- **Part 3:** Critical Lectures
  - 1st Installment: Onboarding
  - 3rd Installment: Messaging and Object-Orientation
  - 5th Installment: COM/OLE for Windows Applications
  - 8th Installment: Java and ooRexx Java Bindings
- **Part 4:** Hands-on: Installations, Running Nutshell Examples
- **Workshop Roundup, Links, Addendum**

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# **Part 1**

## **Background**

## **Goals**

## **Cognitive Load Theory**

## **Critical Success Factors**

# "Business Programming" – What Students Learn

- Teach novices in a single semester (four months, 4h per week)
  - **First half of the semester** (two months)
    - Object-oriented programming
    - Programming of Windows OLE applications including MS Office
  - **Second half of the semester** (two months)
    - Programming using Java classes and interacting with Java objects
      - Possible because Java gets camouflaged
      - Platform independence all programs run *unchanged* on Windows, macOS and Linux
    - Learn to create GUIs (awt/swing, JavaFX), learn client/server socket programming, learn to process XML and HTML files, interface with OpenOffice/LibreOffice
- Total teaching load 8 ECTS points (total of 200 hours)

# WU (Business Administration University)

- Located in Vienna, Austria
  - WU (acronym from "Wirtschaftsuniversität")
  - Founded 1898 as a "World Trade High School" ("Hochschule für Welthandel")
- More than 20,000 students
  - One of the largest universities of its kind
- Department of Information Systems (IS) and Operations Management
  - One of eleven departments at WU
  - Currently eight institutes, in alphabetic order
    - "Complex Networks", "Data, Energy, and Sustainability", "Data, Process, and Knowledge Management", "Digital Economy", "Distributed Ledgers and Token Economy", "Information Management and Control", "Information Systems and Society", "Production Management"

# Evolution of "Business Programming"

- **Original challenge:** "is it possible to teach interested novice BA students programming in a single semester such that the students become able to program MS Office?"
- **More than 35 years of evolution** (appr. 120 lectures – two each semester)
  - Each lecture's installment got systematically analyzed
  - Observing and analyzing students' problems in understanding taught concepts
  - Constantly reworking focus areas, slides, nutshell examples accordingly
  - Experimenting with various programming languages ([VBA](#), [VBS](#), [Java](#), [REXX/ooRexx](#))
- **Current status** (2025)
  - BA students learn in a *four hour lecture (8 ECTS points)* in a *single semester (four months)*
    - Fundamentals of object-oriented programming
    - Windows and MS Office, OpenOffice/LibreOffice programming via COM/OLE
    - Platform independent programming via Java: GUIs, client/server, OpenOffice/LibreOffice, ...
- **Key success factors:** Programming language [ooRexx](#)

# What to Learn and to Apply, 1

- Statement, comment, symbol, variable, block, comparison, branch, loop
- Routine, label, scope, function, associative arrays, commands
- Exception, handler, routine and requires directive, arguments by reference
- OO: Abstract datatype (ADT), class/type, attribute, method, creating objects/instances/values, message
- Class hierarchy, inheritance, collection classes and iteration
- Windows: COM, OLE, Windows registry, ooRexx class OLEObject to camouflage Windows, MS Excel, MS Word, OpenOffice/LibreOffice as ooRexx
- Fundamentals of HTML and XML, Instrumentating InternetExplorer (sic!) via OLE, and cURL using redirected commands from ooRexx



# What to Learn and to Apply, 2

- Introduction to Java and the ooRexx Java bridge (BSF4ooRexx850)
- Thanks to employing Java all programs run on Windows, macOS and Linux
  - GUI concepts with events (and callbacks), Socket programming (client/server)
  - OpenOffice/LibreOffice: UNO architecture, swriter, scalc, simpress
  - XML: concepts, using SAX (callbacks) and DOM to parse XML text files
  - HTML: concepts, applying the Jsoup class library
  - Java scripting framework: BSF4ooRexx850' RexxScriptEngine (allows ooRexx to be used as a Java scripting language in all Java applications)
  - JavaFX: concepts, creating most complex GUIs in an easy manner

# Some Challenges

- There are **many different concepts to learn** and to apply
- Students should **master the course and *not* drop out!**
- Everything should be taught and learned in a *single* semester only

How can this reliably be achieved?

What has to be taken into account for teaching all of this, how do humans learn?

# In a Nutshell, 1 (Sweller, 1988; Garner, 2002; Sweller & Van Merriënboer, 2005; Paas et al. 2003)

- Knowledge is stored in **long-term memory** as schemata
  - A schema is treated as a single element by our brain, but can itself be made up of several elements
- Learning means constructing a new (more complex) schema by combining existing schemata with the help of **working memory**
  - The goal of teaching is to enable the construction of increasingly complex schemata and to facilitate their automation through practice (Paas et al., 2003)
  - **Learning requires active involvement of the working memory**
    - Working memory can only deal in parallel with a **limited number of elements/schemata**

# In a Nutshell, 2 (Sweller, 1988; Garner, 2002; Sweller & Van Merriënboer, 2005; Paas et al. 2003)

- Three cognitive load types competing for the limited working memory
  - **Intrinsic cognitive load:** the complexity of the subject to learn
  - **Extraneous cognitive load:** the context of learning, e.g. the burden induced by bad teaching techniques (e.g. complicated explanations) or laborious research needs
  - **Germane cognitive load:** learning through thinking about new information and concepts
- The more working memory capacity is available (low intrinsic/external cognitive load), the faster learning takes place (high germane cognitive load)

# CSF # 1: Use an *easy to learn* programming language!

- Saves precious lecture time which is better used for explaining and digesting, understanding, applying fundamental programming concepts
- Experimented with various languages (e.g. Pascal, BASIC, VBS/VBA, Java, Rexx/ooRexx), *surprisingly* Rexx was *the most efficient language for novices*
- **ooRexx** (acronym for "open object Rexx")
  - Students learned it fastest, the saved time can be used to teach additional content
  - Human-centric design
    - Easy syntax, reads almost like pseudo code
    - Incorporates object-oriented concepts to "play with"
  - Interpreter, can be used interactively (rexstry.rex, trace)
  - Developed originally by IBM handed over to the non-profit special interest group RexxLA.org
    - Professional and powerful programming language
  - Open-source and free for all major platforms (Windows, Linux, macOS)

# CSF # 2: Pareto principle

- Impossible to teach everything in detail in an *introductory* course, therefore
  - Teach conceptual, overview knowledge
  - Select the most "important concepts"
    - E.g., object-oriented paradigm, COM/OLE on Windows and MS Office, Java interface to be able to create portable (Windows, Linux, MacOS), GUI, Internet (socket) programs, OpenOffice/LibreOffice, parsing XML and HTML text
- **Pareto principle:** "teach 80% of the most important concepts in 20% of the time"
  - Rather than targeting 100% which would impose an additional 80% of time, which is not available
  - *If the students become curious they will research on their own!*

### CSF # 3: Humboldt's ideal

- Observe the students
  - What do they understand immediately, what questions do they ask?
  - What problems do they get and why (complex concept or missed classes)?
- If necessary
  - Create new paths to ease understanding
  - Rework or add new slides, remove complex slides and improve nutshell examples
  - Retest the new/updated slides and nutshell examples
- Allows to gradually improve the course and its materials over time

# CSF # 4: No student is left alone

- Create groups of two students (pair programming)
  - Inhibits drop-outs
  - Enables direct help
- Mix students' skills if possible at all
  - A skilled student becomes "buddy tutor"
  - for a Zero-skilled student in that group



# CSF # 5: Searching the Internet

- Modern programming is about searching the Internet!
- Find one own's coding problems and possible solutions
  - Follow links to explanations and tutorials for the problem at hand
- Find additional learning resources in all media forms on the Internet
  - E.g., tutorials for concepts that are not yet understood, Youtube-videos for demonstrating the handling of development tools, AI-supported research and explanations of concepts

# CSF # 6: Nutshell examples

- Make it as easy as possible to learn programming
- Use easy to understand, small ("nutshell") programs
  - *As short as possible*
  - Demonstrate a single concept, if possible at all
  - Allow for experimenting with the code and by doing so experimenting with the concept
- Show the output of nutshell programs on the slides
  - "Seeing is better than believing"

# CSF # 7: Weekly coding assignments

- Create two short (!) programs together in the group
  - Students become able to help each other
  - Novices can usually handle short assignments and are normally also able to understand short programs from other groups on their own
- Weekly assignments must be shared with all students
  - Allows studying other students' programs
  - Stimulus for programming ideas

# CSF # 8: Concluding project assignment

- Students suggest three projects combining with ooRexx
  - Three **Windows** programs ("Business Programming 1")
    - After two months, at the end of the first half of the semester
  - Three **Java** jar class libraries ("Business Programming 2")
    - After another two months, at the end of the (second half of the) semester where
      - JRE (**Java** runtime environment) counts as a proper jar class library
      - In addition **JavaFX** counts as a proper jar class library
- One project will be picked and needs to be implemented within a week
  - Project gets presented and demonstrated
  - Students experience success
  - Students realize the skills and knowledge they have acquired in the course!

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# Part 2

## CSF # 1: "Programming Language"

**Rexx/ooRexx:**  
Overview, Concepts and Nutshell Examples

# Developing Business Programming

- Specialisation in **"(Business) Information Systems"**
  - As customary at the time, the *most popular languages* were used to teach beginners: Pascal, BASIC, COBOL, C, PROLOG, Visual Basic Script (VBS) / Applications (VBA), Java, ...
- **Surprise** when experimenting with the Rexx programming language
  - Novices learn **much faster and more in-depth** than with popular languages
  - Analysing the **critical success** factors showed that the most important aspect was **the programming language**
- 35 years of **participant observation** (two lectures per semester)
  - Observed difficulties yielded changes in: content, slides, nutshell examples, infrastructure, presentation, ...

# Some Historical Bits on Rexx

- Created for IBM mainframes to make programming easier compared to the rather awkward EXEC2
  - **Rexx design goals:** "human centric", "keep the language small", "easy to learn", "easy to understand hence easy to maintain"
  - **Rexx** is **still instrumental for IBM mainframe operating systems** today!
- Extremely successful in the 80'ies
  - Companies selling Rexx interpreters successfully, **ANSI/INCITS standard** (!)
- Object-oriented successor ("**Object Rexx**") in the 90'ies by IBM
  - **Open-sourced** in 2005 by [RexxLA.org](http://RexxLA.org) – "open object Rexx" (ooRexx)
    - Available for **all major operating systems**
    - Possible to program even MS Windows applications via **OLE** ...



# Fundamental Rexx Concepts, 1



- "Everything is a string"
  - If a string represents a number, one can carry out arithmetic
- Three instruction types
  - 1) Assignment
    - Variable name followed by the assignment operator (=) and an expression
  - 2) Keyword instruction
    - Keywords are English words conveying the intent of the keyword instruction, e.g. SAY, DO, IF, LOOP, CALL, PARSE, SELECT, ITERATE, LEAVE, INTERPRET, ...
    - Makes Rexx code legible as if it was pseudocode
  - 3) Commands
    - A string passed to the operating system for execution (as if typed in a window)



# Fundamental Rexx Concepts, 2

- White space can be freely used to format code for better legibility
  - Space around operators gets removed
  - White space between symbols will be reduced to a single space serving as concatenation operator
  - Hence indentations (for better legibility) with white space not significant
- Case of symbols *irrelevant*
  - Rexx uppercases everything outside of quoted strings
  - No (frustrating) casing errors for novices
- **Rexx** nutshell examples to stress fundamental concepts
  - Illustrate the language
  - Same examples in the popular **Python** language to allow direct comparisons

# Part 2 – Rexx Nutshell Example, 1

## Instructions



```
/* an assignment instruction: */
a="hello world" /* assigns "hello world" to a variable named a */

/* a keyword instruction: */
say a /* output: hello world */

/* a command instruction: */
/* a command (could be typed into a command line window) */
"echo Hello World 2" /* execute command */
/* variable RC contains the command's return code, 0 means success */
if rc=0 then say "success!"
else say "some problem occurred, rc="rc /* show return code */
```

### Output:

```
hello world
Hello World 2
Success!
```



```
# an assignment instruction
a="hello world" # assigns "hello world" to a variable named a

# no keyword instruction for output, using built-in function print()
print(a)

# no command instruction using module subprocess instead
import subprocess # import subprocess module
# execute command
completedProcess=subprocess.run("echo Hello World 2", shell=True) # run
rc=completedProcess.returncode # fetch return code, an int
if rc==0:
    print("success!") # indentation mandatory (forcing a block)
else: # must use + (concatenation operator) with str() function
    print("some problem occurred, rc="+str(rc)) # turn rc into a string
```

### Output:

```
hello world
Hello World 2
Success!
```

# Blocks, Selection, Multiple Selections



```
max=5          /* number of repetitions */
loop a=1 to max /* loop block */
  select      /* nested block # 1 */
    when a=1 then say a": first round"
    when a=2 then say a": second round"
    when a=3 then say a": third round"
    otherwise say "(a="a")"
  end

  if a=max then
  do          /* nested block # 2 */
    say "-> a=max"
    say "-> last round!"
    say "-> loop will end"
  end
end
```

### Output:

```
1: first round
2: second round
3: third round
(a=4)
(a=5)
-> a=max
-> last round!
-> loop will end
```



```
max=5          # number of repetitions
for a in range(1,max+1): # loop with range() function, must add 1 to max
    # must use str() function with + (concatenation operator)
    match a:
        # must be indented, "match" needs Python 3.10 or higher
        case 1: print(str(a)+": first round") # nested block # 1
        case 2: print(str(a)+": second round") # nested block # 1
        case 3: print(str(a)+": third round") # nested block # 1
        case _: print("(a="+str(a)+")") # default, nested block # 1

    if a==max: # must be indented, must use == instead of =
        print("-> a==max") # nested block # 2
        print("-> last round!") # nested block # 2
        print("-> loop will end") # nested block # 2
```

### Output:

```
1: first round
2: second round
3: third round
(a=4)
(a=5)
-> a==max
-> last round!
-> loop will end
```

## Part 2 – Rexx Nutshell Example, 3

# Parsing Strings



```
text = " John      Doe   Vienna Austria"
parse var text firstName lastName city country
say "first name:" firstName, "last name:" lastName, "city:" city
```

```
text = "Mary Doe Tokyo Japan"
parse var text firstName lastName city . /* ignore country */
say "first name:" firstName, "last name:" lastName, "city:" city
```

### Output:

```
first name: John, last name: Doe, city: Vienna
first name: Mary, last name: Doe, city: Tokyo
```



```
text      = " John      Doe   Vienna Austria"
words     = text.split() # create list of words
firstName = words[0]     # assign to variable
lastName  = words[1]     # assign to variable
city      = words[2]     # assign to variable
print("first name:", firstName+",", "last name:", lastName+",", "city:", city)
```

```
text = "Mary Doe Tokyo Japan"
words = text.split() # create list of words
# assign multiple elements in a single statement
firstName, lastName, city = [words[i] for i in (0, 1, 2)]
print("first name:", firstName+",", "last name:", lastName+",", "city:", city)
```

### Output:

```
first name: John, last name: Doe, city: Vienna
first name: Mary, last name: Doe, city: Tokyo
```

# Some Thoughts ...

- Popular languages are **not** the best choice for teaching **novices** programming!
- **Rexx**' *human centric design* allows novices to learn programming *much faster*
  - **Intrinsic load much lower**
    - Less syntax rules
    - Keywords imply intent (intuitive, looks almost like pseudo code)
    - Very easy to instrumentalize one own's computer with commands
  - **Lower cognitive load is a critical success factor** for teaching *novices* programming with almost no drop-outs
- The learned programming concepts can be applied to any other programming language (**Java**, **Python**, ...) quickly
  - In effect, *additional languages can be learned in a fraction of the time!*



*I'm sorry that I long ago coined the term "objects" for this topic because it gets many people to focus on the lesser idea. The big idea is "messaging".* – Alan Kay ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan\\_Kay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Kay))

- **ooRexx** has been influenced by **SmallTalk** including its *message paradigm*
- **ooRexx** adds *message expressions* and *directive instructions* to Rexx

# Fundamental ooRexx Concepts, 2

- *"Everything is an object (synonyms: value, instance)"*
  - An **object** is conceptually regarded as if it was *a living thing*
  - One can only interact with an object by sending it *messages*
- A *message expression* consists of a **receiver**, the message operator ~ (tilde) and the **message name**, optionally followed by arguments in parentheses
  - The **receiver** will search a *method* by the *name* of the received message, invokes it and returns any result to the sender
  - No one can invoke methods directly but the **receiver** (encapsulation)
  - As a result the **sender** does not need to know anything about implementation details

## Part 2 – ooRexx Nutshell Example Messages



```
say reverse("olleh")    -- classic Rexx BIF (built-in function)
say "olleh"~reverse      -- message to string object
```

### Output:

```
hello
hello
```

```
a="dlrowolleh"          -- assign string to variable
-- use built-in-functions (BIFs) reverse(), substr()
say substr(reverse(a),1,5) substr(reverse(a),6)

-- use String methods reverse and substr
say a~reverse~substr(1,5) a~reverse~substr(6)
```

### Output:

```
hello world
hello world
```





- *Directive* instruction
  - If present then always placed at the end of a program
  - Led in by two consecutive colons (::) serving as an eye catcher
    - Directives that cause **ooRexx** to create classes with attributes and methods during the setup phase
      - `::CLASS name, ::ATTRIBUTE name, ::METHOD name, ...`
- Classes with attributes and methods
  - Can be defined with directive instructions or dynamically at runtime
  - Instances get created by sending the class the message **new**
    - The **new** method will create the object and before returning it, the newly created object gets the message **init** sent with the arguments supplied to the **new** message, if any
      - Hence, defining a method named **init** will always run at construction time (constructor)

# Creating A Class with Directives and Dynamically

Not for novices,  
just for this audience! :)

```
say ".dog:" .dog      -- string value of the class
d=.dog~new           -- create and assign a dog
d~bark               -- let the dog bark
say "d:" d", an instance of:" d~class

::class dog          -- class directive
::method bark        -- method routine directive
  say "wuff!"        -- code to run
```

### Output:

```
.dog: The DOG class
wuff!
d: a DOG, an instance of: The DOG class
```

```
clz=.object~subclass("DOG") -- create the dog class
say "clz:" clz -- string value of the class
m=.method~new("bark", 'say "wuff!"') -- create method
clz~define("bark",m) -- define as instance method for class

d=clz~new           -- create and assign a dog
d~bark             -- let the dog bark
say "d:" d", an instance of:" d~class
```

### Output:

```
clz: The DOG class
wuff!
d: a DOG, an instance of: The DOG class
```



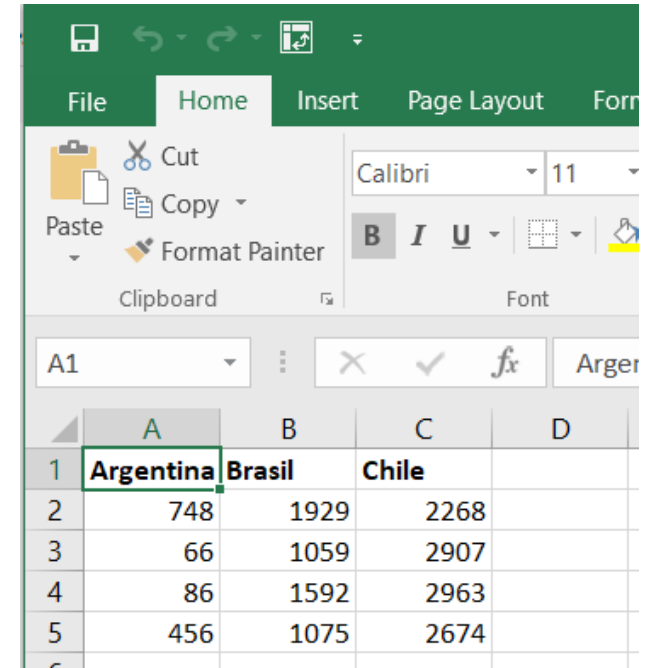
- Quickly familiar, intuitive for novices
- Seeing **objects as living things** makes it easy to accept behaviours and concepts like
  - The **new** method of a class will send the **init** message to the newly created object (a method named **init** is therefore a constructor)
  - An object using the *class hierarchy* to locate the method to invoke (inheritance)
  - *Multiple inheritance* (!) deviating the search carried out by the object
  - Intercepting messages for which no method could be found as the object then sends the **unknown** message to itself (simply implement a method **unknown**)
  - The variables **self** (reference to the object that invoked the method) and **super** (reference to the immediate superclass) in methods
  - As **objects** know how to find and invoke methods, the **sender** does not need to know that (black box) at all, alleviating the (novice) programmer



- Addressing complex software infrastructures can be made easy for message senders (programmers)
  - Create a proxy class in **ooRexx** and process the received messages, marshall the arguments and unmarshal the return value
- Example Windows and Windows programs
  - **ooRexx** for Windows has **ooRexx** classes for Windows support
  - The **OLEObject** class is the proxy class for interacting via **OLE** (Object Linking and Embedding) with any **OLE** Windows component
    - Its **unknown** method will intercept all messages for which no method can be found on the **ooRexx** side, such that it gets forwarded to the proxied Windows object by searching and invoking the appropriate Windows method
    - To exploit this functionality no implementation knowledge of **COM** or **OLE** is needed!

```
excApp = .OLEObject~new("Excel.Application") -- create Excel object
excApp~visible = .true -- make Excel visible
sheet = excApp~Workbooks~Add~Worksheets[1] -- add and get sheet
-- set titles from an ooRexx array
titleRange=sheet~range("A1:C1") -- get title cell range
titleRange~value = .array~of("Argentina", "Brasil", "Chile")
titleRange~font~bold = .true -- make font bold
sheet~range("A2:C5")~value = createRows(4) -- create and assign array
excApp~displayAlerts = .false -- no alerts (should file exist already)
fileName=directory()~test.xlsx -- save in current directory
Say 'fileName:' fileName -- show fully qualified file name
sheet~SaveAs(fileName) -- save file (no alerts, see above)
excApp~quit -- quit (end) Excel
```

```
::routine createRows -- return two-dimensional array with random data
use arg items -- fetch argument
arr=.array~new -- create Rexx array
do i=1 to items -- create random(min,max) numbers
    arr[i,1] = random( 0,1000) -- Argentina
    arr[i,2] = random(1001,2000) -- Brazil
    arr[i,3] = random(2001,3000) -- Chile
end
return arr -- return two-dimensional Rexx array
```



|   | A         | B      | C     | D |
|---|-----------|--------|-------|---|
| 1 | Argentina | Brasil | Chile |   |
| 2 | 748       | 1929   | 2268  |   |
| 3 | 66        | 1059   | 2907  |   |
| 4 | 86        | 1592   | 2963  |   |
| 5 | 456       | 1075   | 2674  |   |

### Possible Output:

```
fileName: C:\Program Files\JetBrains\IntelliJ IDEA\jbr\bin\test.xlsx
```



- Addressing complex software infrastructures can be made easy for message senders (programmers)
  - Create a proxy class in **ooRexx** and process the received messages, marshall the arguments and unmarshal the return value
- Example **Java** and **Java** class libraries
  - **BSF4ooRexx850** for Windows, macOS and Linux implements an **ooRexx-Java** bridge
  - Its **BSF** class is the **ooRexx** proxy class for interacting with **Java**
    - Its **unknown** method will intercept all messages for which no method can be found on the **ooRexx** side, such that it gets forwarded to the proxied **Java** object by searching and invoking the appropriate **Java** method
    - To exploit this functionality no implementation knowledge of **BSF4ooRexx850** is needed!



```
dim=.bsf~new("java.awt.Dimension",111,222)
say "dim:      " dim, dim~class:" dim~class
say "dim~toString:" dim~toString -- Java method
-- use Java fields as if ooRexx attributes
say "dim~width:  " dim~width  -- Java field
say "dim~height: " dim~height -- Java field
dim~setSize(333,444) -- Java method
say "dim~toString:" dim~toString -- Java method
-- use Java fields as if ooRexx attributes
dim~width=555      -- setting Java field
dim~height=666     -- setting Java field
say "dim~toString:" dim~toString -- Java method
```

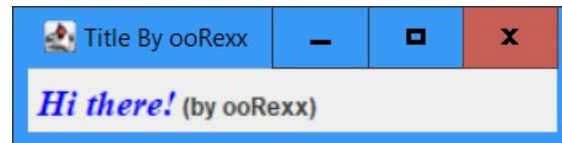
```
::requires "BSF.CLS" -- get ooRexx-Java bridge
```

### Output:

```
dim:      java.awt.Dimension@1c4af82c, dim~class: The BSF class
dim~toString: java.awt.Dimension[width=111,height=222]
dim~width:  111
dim~height: 222
dim~toString: java.awt.Dimension[width=333,height=444]
dim~toString: java.awt.Dimension[width=555,height=666]
```

```
jf = .bsf~new("javax.swing.JFrame", "Title By ooRexx") -- create JFrame
style = 'style="color: blue; font-family: serif; font-size: 18;'"
lblText = '<html><em style">&nbsp;Hi there!</em> (by ooRexx) </html>'
lbl = .bsf~new("javax.swing.JLabel", lblText) -- create JLabel
jf~add(lbl) -- add JLabel to JFrame
jf~setSize(280,70) -- set size
jf~setLocation(50,200) -- set JFrame's location on screen
jf~visible=.true -- make JFrame visible
jf~ToFront -- place JFrame in front of all windows
say 'Hit <enter> on the keyboard to proceed (end) ...'
parse pull data -- wait until user presses <enter>
```

```
::requires "BSF.CLS" -- get ooRexx-Java bridge
```



### Output:

```
Hit <enter> on the keyboard to proceed (end) ...
```

- Message paradigm
  - ***Easy and intuitive for novices!***
  - All important object-oriented concepts can be informally (!) explained and understood by novices
- **Proxy classes** allow **the message paradigm to be extended to other software systems**
  - Windows **COM/OLE**, proxy class **OLEObject** (supplied by **ooRexx**)
  - **Java**, proxy class **BSF** (supplied by **BSF4ooRexx850**)
  - ***Novice students do not care and are not afraid! :-)***
    - They "only" send messages and need not know any implementation details!
    - The supplied nutshell examples allow novices to exploit **OLE** and **Java**
      - Windows: MS Excel, MS Word, MS PowerPoint, AOO swriter, LO scalc, ...
      - **Java**: from (secure!) socket programming to **JavaFX** GUIs!



# Part 3

## Critical Lectures

### Overview of the Slides

- 1<sup>st</sup> Installment: Onboarding, Fundamental Programming Concepts
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Installment: Messaging and Object-Orientation
- 5<sup>th</sup> Installment: COM/OLE for Windows Applications
- 8<sup>th</sup> Installment: **Java** and **ooRexx** Java Bindings

# Slides and Critical Installments

- Slides and their nutshell examples are made freely available
  - See link section in the back of this presentation
- Led-in number in filename suggests the sequence position in the course
- Filename includes the version of the slides or nutshell zip archives
- Example filenames
  - If it starts with "010\_ooRexx" then
    - "010\_ooRexx\_V11.odp" ... Apache OpenOffice (AOO a.k.a. OOo) presentation file
      - **odp** ("open **d**ocumeent **p**resentation") files are standardized and can be usually processed by other presentation programs like LibreOffice, PowerPoint , Keynote and the like
      - AOO is open source , cf. <https://OpenOffice.org> which also supplies download links
    - "010\_ooRexx\_V11.pdf" ... PDF version of the slides
    - "010\_ooRexx\_code\_V11.zip" ... zip archive of the nutshell examples in the slides
- Critical installments are highlighted in red in the addendum

- Goals
  - Make the students comfortable, assure they can manage and complete the course
- Introduction round, overview and organization of the course, 90'
  - Introduction round, each student tells
    - Name, prior school, study program at University, any programming experiences (if so which languages, which skills), why in this course, what does the student expect from the course
      - Students will see that there are novices and maybe experts, novices will see they are not alone
  - Encourage "stupid questions"
    - There are no stupid questions, those who ask concentrate on the answer
  - Pair programming: no one is on her/his own
    - If possible mix a novice with a skilled student who takes on a tutor role

- Introduction round, overview and organization of the course (continued)
  - Homework assignment
    - Two programs, ***as short (!) as possible***, applying newly learned concepts
    - Send in the two programs via a shared mailing list, such that everyone can see each others' code (and potentially rehearse the concepts by studying the code of others)
  - Stressing that it is important to help each other and *to ask actively for help!*
  - Concluding project after two months
    - Students come up with three project ideas (can be funny!), one gets picked and assigned
    - Students will program the project, create a presentation and demo the program
- Important *to start slowly* to introduce the students to **010\_ooRexx**, 90'
  - Take time for explaining each slide!
  - Ask whether there are questions about each slide before going on!
    - Take time to answer any questions!



- Overwhelming!
  - **040\_ooRexx**, 90'
    - Confront the students with the most important OO terminology and concepts, no details
  - **050\_ooRexx**, 90': *repeats 040\_ooRexx*, adds details, allows students to digest
- Message paradigm
  - *Easy to understand for novices!*
  - *Difficult for people who know to program already* and have never been exposed to it
  - Allows to conceptually picture objects as living things with which programmers interact by sending messages and receiving answers if any returned
    - The objects are conceptually responsible for looking up and invoking the methods named after the received message thereby abstracting the resolution process
    - The programmer does not need to know about any complexities a message may induce



- Message paradigm (continued)
  - Explicit message operator ~ (tilde), receiving object is always on the left, message name on the right, optionally with arguments in parentheses
  - *Message chaining*: result (answer) of a message becomes receiver of a new message
  - *Message cascading* (always returns the object that receives the message)
    - Receiver of a message gets returned such that the next message is aimed at the same object
    - A difficult concept at first, students are relieved when they learn that one can forgo them
      - Students can accept that this concept is taught for "pedagogical reasons"
    - Message cascading, once understood, can considerably simplify certain coding needs

- Object-orientation
  - Terminology *confounding* at first!
    - Synonyms "object"="instance"="value", "class"="type"="structure"
      - Intentionally speak out all three synonyms in this lecture to accustom the students
      - Note: these terms get informally defined
    - Homonym "object"
      - Generic term for an instance of a class/type/structure or denotes the root class named "Object"?
  - Class hierarchy, inheritance
    - Nutshell "Animal SIG": distracts by modelling and implementing normal dogs, little and big dogs
  - Multithreading: expose students to the concept, then tell them to forget about it ;)
    - Inter object multithreading
    - Intra object multithreading

- **110\_AutoWin**, 90'
  - Important to understand *conceptually*
    - **COM** ("component object model") and **OLE** ("object linking and embedding")
      - **OLE**: standardized way of interacting with methods, attributes, events, constants
      - **Windows** programs can communicate via **COM/OLE** with other **Windows** programs
    - The **Windows** registry
      - Central database organized in hives, each **COM Windows** program stored in this registry
      - **Windows** can consult the registry to find and run **COM** classes on behalf of ourselves
  - **ooRexx** proxy class **OLEObject**
    - Can be used to instantiate or fetch any **OLE Windows** program
    - Messages to **OLEObject** instances get forwarded to **Windows** via **OLE** *if unknown*
      - Published methods, attributes, events and constants can be queried via **ooRexx**
      - Marshalling and unmarshalling done transparently, no need to know any details!





- **110\_AutoWin** (continued)
  - Explain important **ooRexx** OLE nutshell samples ([ooRexx/samples/ole](#))
    - Empowers the students to study the remaining nutshells in their groups
    - Empowers students to create programs that interact with MS Office and AOO/LO
    - MS Internet Explorer (MSIE)
      - Deprecated by Microsoft, yet in Windows 10 available via [OLE](#)
      - "Spectacular" for students to be able to "remote control" MSIE and navigate
    - MS Excel
      - Explain conceptually the MS Excel model and why it is important to make MS Excel visible
      - Explain all details of the MS Excel nutshell such that students understand all of it
    - Nutshell using [Windows OLE](#) program with the ProgID "[Wscript.Network](#)"
      - Explain 0-based **C** which shines through this sample (**ooRexx** is 1-based)
      - Explain programming technique to use a single dimensioned array to represent data that would be better represented in a two dimensional array



- **210\_AutoJava\_BSF4ooRexx**, 180' (entire installment)
  - Nutshell example "`java.awt.Dimension`" to demonstrate how easy it is to use **Java** classes and objects from **ooRexx**
  - Important to understand *conceptually* **Java**
    - Stress differences to ooRexx: static language, strictly typed, case sensitive, compiled
    - Stress primitive types (`boolean`, `byte`, `char`, `short`, `int`, `long`, `float`, `double`)
      - Boxing to and unboxing from **Java** wrapper classes like e.g. `java.lang.Boolean`, ...
      - Values of primitive types can be represented as simple strings in **Rexx**
    - Stress access rights `public`, `private`, `protected` and `package private` (no access modifier)
      - **BSF4ooRexx850** allows access only to `public` classes, fields and methods and to inherited `protected` fields and methods
    - Stress platform independence, i.e. compiled **Java** classes do not need to be recompiled



- **210\_AutoJava\_BSF4ooRexx** (continued)
  - Stress "javadoc" making it possible to find all **Java** documentation on the Internet
    - Find any **Java** documentation on the Internet and look it up with any browser: easy and fast to find and complete documentation with links to related documentation
  - Make explicitly clear that
    - **Java** classes correspond to **ooRexx** classes
    - **Java** fields correspond to **ooRexx** attributes (object variables)
    - **Java** methods correspond to **ooRexx** methods
  - Introduce the **ooRexx-Java** bridge **BSF4ooRexx850**, explain its name
    - **BSF**: "**B**ean **S**cripting **F**ramework" (**Java** scripting framework from Apache/ASF)
    - **8**: **Java** version 8 or later
    - **50**: **ooRexx** version 5.0 or later
    - Developed for more than 25 years by Rony G. Flatscher



- **210\_AutoJava\_BSF4ooRexx** (continued)
  - The **ooRexx** proxy class **BSF** is defined in the *package* **BSF.CLS** (an **ooRexx** program)
    - Requiring **BSF.CLS** makes all its public classes and public routines available
      - E.g the public proxy class **BSF** or the public routines **box()** and **unbox()** for primitive Java types
    - The proxy class **BSF** camouflages **Java** objects as **ooRexx** objects
      - Camouflaged **Java** objects are therefore able to process plain **ooRexx** messages
        - **BSF** forwards unknown messages to the **ooRexx-Java** bridge in which the corresponding **Java** method gets looked up, any arguments marshalled, the **Java** method invoked and its return value unmarshalled and returned to **ooRexx**
      - The case of messages does not need to match the **Java** case of field or method names, the **ooRexx-Java** bridge will resolve any case mismatches transparently



- **210\_AutoJava\_BSF4ooRexx** (continued)
  - **Java** arrays are strictly typed, have a predefined size and have 0-based indices
    - Returned **Java** arrays get automatically camouflaged as **ooRexx** arrays by the bridge
    - **BSF.CLS** includes public routines to ease the creation of **Java** arrays directly from **ooRexx** and automatically camouflages them as **ooRexx** arrays
  - **BSF4ooRexx850** camouflages **Java** arrays as **ooRexx** arrays hence
    - 1-based indices as if they were an **ooRexx** array
    - **ooRexx** array methods like **makeArray**, **supplier**, **at**, **put** are available
      - Among other things this support allows for iterating over **Java** arrays with **do ... over** !

# Part 4

## Hands-on: Installations, Running Nutshell Examples

ooRexx 5 or Higher

Java 8 or Higher (**with** *JavaFX!*)

ooRexx Java Bindings (BSF4ooRexx850)

Nutshell Examples

- General remarks ad **Windows** and **macOS**
  - Files downloaded from the Internet get flagged as dangerous
  - Unzipping zip archives using **Windows** or **MacOS** supplied tools will flag all extracted files as well
  - If executables are signed then they will still execute, unsigned binaries will not
    - Signing costs money (on a yearly basis) and many open-source projects can not afford it
- Allowing open-source binaries to run ("**de-quarantize**")
  - **Windows**
    - Right mouse click to get the properties of the downloaded file, click "**unblock**" and "**apply**"
    - Or in a command prompt issue: `powershell Unblock-File filename`
  - **MacOS**
    - In a terminal window issue: `xattr -d com.apple.quarantine filename`

- **ooRexx**
  - URL (as of 2026-02-10)
    - Recommended: <https://sourceforge.net/projects/ooress/files/ooress/5.2.0beta/>
    - Released version: <https://sourceforge.net/projects/ooress/files/ooress/5.1.0/>
    - "portable" subdirectory : contains portable versions that can be used without installation
  - Installation package: system wide installation, needs administrator rights to install
- **macOS**
  - There is a package that installs both, **ooRexx** and **BSF4ooRexx850**, see **BSF4ooRexx850**
    - Needs **Java** already installed because of the contained **ooRexx-Java** bridge



- **Java/OpenJDK**
  - **Java** name rights with Oracle , **OpenJDK** *same as Java* but by others and OSS license
    - **OpenJDK Java** e.g. from Amazon, IBM, Microsoft, SAP, and many more ...
    - Make sure you install the package with the **JavaFX** modules, e.g.
      - <https://bell-sw.com/pages/downloads/> choose "Package Type" and set "Full JRE" or "Full JDK"
      - <https://www.azul.com/downloads/?package=jre-fx#zulu> choose "Java Package" and set "JRE FX" or "JDK FX"
  - Notes on Version **8** (LTS, **long term support**)
    - Last non-modular **Java** version (released 2014), supported at least until March 2031!
    - Runs **Java** programs that exploit **Java** internals which may be prohibited in modular **Java**
  - Notes on modular versions of **OpenJDK Java**
    - Bi-annually a new version, LTS versions are "long-term support" and used by businesses
    - Continuous development, rolled out much earlier (for testing) than non-modular versions

- **BSF4ooRexx850**
  - Prerequisite: **ooRexx 5+** and **Java 8+** need to be installed/available via **PATH**
  - URL (as of 2026-02-10)
    - <https://sourceforge.net/projects/bsf4oorexx/files/GA/BSF4ooRexx-850.20240304-GA/>
      - Release, no reported open bugs!
  - Installation package: system wide installation, needs administrator rights to install
    - Change into `bsf4oorexx/install/{windows|linux}` and run `install.{cmd|sh}`
  - Portable: de-quarantize, unzip, change into "`bsf4oorexx/install`", run "`rexx setupBSF.rex`" use resulting shell scripts
- **macOS**
  - There is a universal package that installs both, **ooRexx** and **BSF4ooRexx850**
  - URL (as of 2026-02-10)
    - <https://sourceforge.net/projects/bsf4oorexx/files/GA/BSF4ooRexx-850.20240304-GA/>
    - De-quarantize, unzip and run installer



- [ooRexx](#) (as of 2026-02-10), selection
  - [oorexx/samples](#): demonstrate important [ooRexx](#) capabilities
    - [oorexx/samples/0ReadMe.first](#): brief overview of samples directories
    - [oorexx/samples/api](#): C and C++ samples to demonstrate writing libraries
    - [oorexx/samples/misc](#): a drop file handler sample
    - [oorexx/samples/oodialog](#): a set of samples of the ooDialog GUI framework for [ooRexx](#)
    - [oorexx/samples/ole](#): OLE (Object Linking and Embedding) samples
    - [oorexx/samples/ole/adsis](#): Active directory service samples (managing [Windows](#))
    - [oorexx/samples/ole/apps](#): [Windows](#) Shell, MS Office, OpenOffice/LibreOffice samples
    - [oorexx/samples/ole/wmi](#): [Windows](#) management instrumentation (managing [Windows](#))
    - [oorexx/samples/ole/methinfo](#): [Windows](#) GUI to inspect [OLE Windows](#) methods



- [BSFooRexx850](#) (as of 2026-02-10), selection
  - [BSF4ooRexx850/samples](#): demonstrate important [BSF4ooRexx850](#) capabilities
    - Hint: open the [index.html](#) file, it briefly documents each sample in the directory and allows for changing into subdirectories that have [index.html](#) files for the same purpose!
    - [BSF4ooRexx850/samples/clr](#): .Net/CLR samples, needs [Windows](#) and [Java 8](#)
    - [BSF4ooRexx850/samples/{DOM|SAX}](#) samples processing [XML](#) files
    - [BSF4ooRexx850/samples/{Java|NetRexx}](#): [Java/NetRexx](#) samples to demonstrate the [Java](#) scripting framework, implementing [Rexx exit handlers](#) in [Java/NetRexx](#)
    - [BSF4ooRexx850/samples/OOo](#): numerous Apache OpenOffice (LibreOffice) samples
    - [BSF4ooRexx850/samples/LeePeedin](#): samples demonstrating [swing](#) and dialog related GUI functionalities, including formatting
    - [BSF4ooRexx850/samples/ReneJansen](#): samples demonstrating [XSLT](#) and [JDBC](#) ([MySQL/MariaDB](#), [Apache Derby](#), [HyperSQL](#), [PostgreSQL](#), [SQLite](#), [H2](#))

# Workshop Roundup

- **"Business Programming"**: introducing novices to programming and its application
  - Four weekly contact hours for one semester (four months)
  - 8 ECTS points, total net teaching load of 200 hours
  - *Novices* get empowered by being able to learn programming quickly
  - *Novices* get empowered by learning and applying the concepts on Windows with OLE (e.g., MS Office programming) and portable (exploiting the **ooRexx Java** bindings) client/server programming, GUI-programming, XML SAX & DOM parsing, web scraping (**cURL**, **Jsoup**), ...
- *Critical success factor "programming language": **ooRexx***
  - **Popular languages** are usually **not adequate to teach novices** programming!
  - **ooRexx**: easy to learn programming and much more, especially suited for novices!
  - Learning and exploiting **Java** directly becomes possible in a fraction of the time usually needed
- *All materials (slides, software for all platforms) are freely available*
- Last but not least: **no dropouts** (!) despite the overwhelming learning outcomes!

# Links (As of 2026-02-10), 1

- **WU (English):** <https://www.wu.ac.at/en/the-university/about-wu/facts-figures/studierende/>
  - **Business Programming 1 (BP1):** first half of semester (two months)
    - Syllabus (German use e.g. Google translate, deepl.com) 2025/26:  
<http://wi.wu.ac.at/rgf/wu/lehre/autowin/2025wBP1/BP1-autowin-2025w-uebersicht.pdf>
    - Slides (English): <https://wi.wu.ac.at/rgf/wu/lehre/autowin/material/foils/>
  - **Business Programming 2 (BP2):** second half of semester (two months)
    - Syllabus (German use e.g. Google translate, deepl.com) 2025/26:  
<https://wi.wu.ac.at/rgf/wu/lehre/autojava/2025wBP2/BP2-autojava-2025w-uebersicht.pdf>
    - Slides (English): <https://wi.wu.ac.at/rgf/wu/lehre/autojava/material/foils/>
  - **Some seminar papers, Bachelor and Master theses with ooRexx, BSF4ooRexx:** <https://wi.wu.ac.at/rgf/diplomarbeiten/>
- **Software**
  - **ooRexx 5.1:** <https://sourceforge.net/projects/oorexx/files/oorexx/5.1.0beta/>
  - **Java/OpenJDK with JavaFX** modules, e.g. <https://www.azul.com/downloads/?package=jdk-fx#zulu>
  - **BSF4ooRexx850:** <https://sourceforge.net/projects/bsf4oorexx/files/GA/BSF4ooRexx-850.20240304-GA/>
- Hock-Chuan, Chua: *"Java Game Programming: 2D Graphics, Java2D and Images"; AffineTransformDemo:*  
[https://www3.ntu.edu.sg/home/ehchua/programming/java/J8b\\_Game\\_2DGraphics.html#zz-2.2](https://www3.ntu.edu.sg/home/ehchua/programming/java/J8b_Game_2DGraphics.html#zz-2.2)
- REXX history (initial specification): <https://speleotrove.com/rexxhist/REXinitspec-1979.pdf>

# Links (As of 2026-02-10), 2

- **JavaFX SceneBuilder:** <https://www.jetbrains.com/idea/download/>
  - Interactive [JavaFX](#) GUI editor (create and edit FXML GUI definitions): <https://gluonhq.com/products/scene-builder/>
- **JetBrain's IntelliJ:** <https://www.jetbrains.com/idea/download/>
  - Community edition for free, education license for additional professional tools
  - ooRexx plugin and directions: <https://sourceforge.net/projects/bsf4oorex/ files/Sandbox/aseik/ooRexxIDEA/GA/>
- **RexxLA:** <https://www.rexxla.org/>
  - Non-profit interest group developing and maintaining open-source Rexx related software and standards
  - US based, but members from all over the world
  - Organizes yearly international Rexx symposium: <https://www.rexxla.org/events/>
  - Members encompass creators and maintainers of various Rexx software, including the creator of Rexx, Mike F. Cowlishaw
    - Membership free: <https://www.rexxla.org/members/index.rsp?action=join>

# Some Literature: ooRexx

- Flatscher, R. G. (2024). Introduction to Rexx and ooRexx. RexxLA, ISBN 9789403 739298 (glossy white paper, preferred) or ISBN 9789403 755038 (regular white paper).
- Flatscher, R. G., & Müller, G. (2021). "Business Programming" – Critical Factors from Zero to Portable GUI Programming in Four Hours. In Marko Kolakovic, Tin Horvatinovic, Ivan Turcic (Ed.), 6th Business and Entrepreneurial Economics 2021 - Conference Proceedings (pp. 76-82):  
[https://research.wu.ac.at/files/32933925/2021\\_BusinessProgramming\\_BEE2021\\_accordingToGuidelines.pdf](https://research.wu.ac.at/files/32933925/2021_BusinessProgramming_BEE2021_accordingToGuidelines.pdf)
- Flatscher, R. G. (2023). Proposing ooRexx and BSF4ooRexx for Teaching Programming and Fundamental Programming Concepts. In 2023 Program Guide ISECON: Information Systems Education Conference (pp. 89-102):  
[https://research.wu.ac.at/files/41301564/ISECON23\\_Flatscher\\_Proposing\\_ooRexx\\_article.pdf](https://research.wu.ac.at/files/41301564/ISECON23_Flatscher_Proposing_ooRexx_article.pdf)
- Winkler, T., & Flatscher, R. G. (2023). Cognitive Load in Programming Education: Easing the Burden on Beginners with REXX. in Central European Conference on Information and Intelligent Systems (S. 171-178). Faculty of Organization and Informatics.  
[https://research.wu.ac.at/files/46150789/CECIIS\\_CLT\\_REXX.pdf](https://research.wu.ac.at/files/46150789/CECIIS_CLT_REXX.pdf)
- Flatscher, R. G., & Winkler, T. (2024). Concepts that Allow Learning the Programming Language Rexx Much Faster than Other Languages. Accepted paper for MIPRO 2024, 47th Convention, engineering education track.  
[https://research.wu.ac.at/files/64505014/mipro24\\_9192\\_Flatscher\\_Winkler\\_LearningProgrammingFast\\_final-5.pdf](https://research.wu.ac.at/files/64505014/mipro24_9192_Flatscher_Winkler_LearningProgrammingFast_final-5.pdf)
- Flatscher, R. G., & Winkler, T. (2024). Employing the Message Paradigm to Ease Learning Object-oriented Concepts and Programming. Accepted paper for MIPRO 2024, 47th Convention, engineering education track.  
[https://research.wu.ac.at/files/64505159/mipro24\\_9194\\_Flatscher\\_Winkler\\_EmployingMessageParadigm\\_final-4.pdf](https://research.wu.ac.at/files/64505159/mipro24_9194_Flatscher_Winkler_EmployingMessageParadigm_final-4.pdf)



# Literature: Cognitive Load Theory

- Sweller, J. (1988). Cognitive load during problem solving: Effects on learning. *Cognitive science*, 12(2), 257-285.
- Sweller, J., & Van Merriënboer, J. J. G. (2005). Cognitive load theory and complex learning: Recent developments and future directions. *Educational Psychology Review*, 53(3), 147-177
- Garner, S. (2002). Reducing the cognitive load on novice programmers (pp. 578-583). Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE).
- Paas, F., Renkl, A., & Sweller, J. (2003). Cognitive load theory and instructional design: Recent developments. *Educational psychologist*, 38(1), 1-4.

# Overview of BP1-Slides, 1

- **010\_ooRexx, installment 1**, 90': history, symbols, comparisons, blocks, loops, commands
- **020\_ooRexx**, installment 2, 90': labels, internal routines, functions, search order, scopes, associative arrays, parsing strings, parsing keyboard input, parsing arguments
- **030\_ooRexx**, installment 2, 90': exceptions (conditions, includes a brief lecture on [stdin](#), [stdout](#), [stderr](#) and redirection), references, directives ([::routine](#), [::requires](#))
- **040\_ooRexx, installment 3**, 90': abstract datatype (ADT), classes, methods, attributes, messages, class hierarchy, inheritance, inter and intra object multithreading
- **050\_ooRexx, installment 3**, 90': *repetition* of abstract datatype (ADT), classes, methods, attributes, messages, class hierarchy, inheritance, add details compared to *040\_ooRexx*
- **051\_ooRexx**, installment 4, 90': ordered and unordered collections, iterating over collections
- **340\_JSON**, installment 4, 15': JSON, json.cls, reading and creating JSON data
- **060\_ooRexx\_commands**, installment 4, 30': process, environment variables, standard files (stdin, stdout, stderr), redirection, pipes, commands, curl
- **350\_LLM\_curl**, installment 4, 45': generative AI's, interface with with chatgpt, grok

# Overview of BP1-Slides, 2

- **110\_AutoWin**, *installment 5*, 90': [COM](#), [OLE](#), proxy class [OLEObject](#), explaining key nutshell programs coming with the Windows version of **ooRexx** (`%ProgramFiles%\ooRexx\samples\ole`), like MS Excel, AD (active directory services), WMI (windows management instrumentation) and more
- **120\_AutoWin\_markup**, installment 5, 90': introduction to HTML, XML (learned concepts will be reused in BP2's [SAX](#), [DOM](#) and [Jsoup](#) lectures!), nutshell sample for MS InternetExplorer (still accessible via [OLE](#)), allows retrieving and analyzing text from webserver
- Installment 6: students present project ideas, then the following slides
  - **130\_AutoWin\_oleinfo**, 30' : utility to query all registered [COM](#) classes and to generate HTML documentations of the published [OLE](#) interfaces of any Windows [OLE](#) program
  - **140\_AutoWin\_vba**, 30': overview of [VBA](#), [VBA](#) macros, how to map [VBA](#) to **ooRexx** and vice versa
  - **060\_ooRexx\_commands**, 60': on processes, standard files, redirection of Rexx commands, [cURL](#)
  - **070\_ooRexx\_trace\_debug**, 30': optional, turn on (off) trace to learn how statements execute exactly and how one can debug interactively at program runtime
  - **080\_ooRexx\_environment\_symbols**, 15': optional, **ooRexx** runtime environment and resolution of environment symbols
- Installment 7: presentation and demonstration of each assigned student project

# Overview of BP1-Slides, 3

- **210\_AutoJava\_BSF4ooRexx**, *installment 8*, 180': overview of **Java**, static language, strictly typed, case sensitive, qualified and unqualified class names, **Java** arrays (strictly typed, fixed size), mapping of classes/methods/fields to **ooRexx** classes/methods/attributes, **JavaDocs** on the Internet; **ooRexx** external function package **BSF4ooRexx850**, ooRexx program **BSF.CLS** defining the proxy class **BSF** for camouflaging **Java** objects as ooRexx, **BsfCreateRexxProxy()** function to create a Java **RexxProxy** (a Java object) to allow interaction from **Java** with embedded **ooRexx** objects
  - **Exploiting Java has the effect that all ooRexx programs run unchanged on Windows, macOS and Linux!**
- **220\_AutoJava\_gui**, instalment 9, 90': introduction to GUIs, event thread, events (**Java** event callbacks to **ooRexx**), **awt** nutshell sample
- **230\_AutoJava\_Sockets**, installment 9, 90': switchboard and sockets, IP addresses, client/server, **java.net.Socket**, **java.net.ServerSocket**, data encrypted client/server with SSL/TLS (**javax.net.ssl**)
- **240\_AutoJava\_AOO\_LO**, installment 10, 180': **AOO/LO** via their **Java** APIs, history, programming model, **UNO** framework, **UNO** classes, nutshells for the modules **swriter**, **scalc**, **simpres**
  - or –
- **350\_Weka\_ML**, installment 10, 180': machine learning (**ML**), concepts, **Weka** structure, **Weka GUI**, **Weka commandline**, **Weka Java APIs**, nutshell examples for supervised and unsupervised learning, plotting

# Overview of BP1-Slides, 4

- **250\_AutoJava\_XML\_SAX**, installment 11, 90': [SAX](#) programming model, callbacks to ooRexx, nutshells that extract text, element names, element hierarchy
- **252\_AutoJava\_XML\_DOM**, installment 11, 90': [DOM](#) programming model, walk trees recursively, nutshells that extract text, element names, element hierarchy; in addition [xhtml](#) and [xslt](#)
- **254\_AutoJava\_jsoup**, installment 11, 30': [Jsoup](#) programming model, nutshells
- **260\_AutoJava\_RexxScript**, installment 12, 90': **Java** scripting framework ([javax.script](#)), features, application, [RexxScript](#) scripting engine implementation, nutshells
- **270\_AutoJava\_JavaFX**, installment 12, 90': history, concepts, [SceneBuilder](#), [FXML](#) and exploiting [Java](#) scripting framework, nutshells
- Installment 13: students present project ideas, then the following slides
  - **280\_AutoJava\_Environment**, 30': **Java** environment, [CLASSPATH](#), **Java** modules
  - **320\_Codepages**, 30': ASCII, 8-bit codepages (Windows cp1252), Unicode, UTF-8, nutshells
  - **330\_Paths**, 15': source, current home, temporary directory, environment variables, [java.lang.System](#)
  - **340\_JSON**, 30': concepts, nutshells
- Installment 14: presentation and demonstration of each assigned student project