

## Ruby - Bug #4517

### ArgumentError when sorting array of objects

03/22/2011 08:14 PM - knirrr (Milo Thurston)

<b>Status:</b>	Third Party's Issue	
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal	
<b>Assignee:</b>		
<b>Target version:</b>		
<b>ruby -v:</b>	1.9.2p180	<b>Backport:</b>
<b>Description</b> =begin I've got some Rails (v. 3.0.4) code wherein an array of objects (referred to as 'Thing' here) need to be sorted:  stuff = array of Things stuff.sort! {[a,b] a.value <=> b.value }  ...where value is a String. On Ruby 1.9.2p136 the array "stuff" is sorted successfully, but running the same code on 1.9.2p180 I get the following error:  ArgumentError (comparison of Thing with Thing failed)  I can reproduce the error in the console as well as when running the Rails application. Thanks for taking a look. =end		

#### History

##### #1 - 06/11/2011 05:11 PM - ko1 (Koichi Sasada)

Could you show the reproducible code?

##### #2 - 06/26/2011 06:37 PM - naruse (Yui NARUSE)

- Status changed from Open to Feedback

##### #3 - 07/16/2011 12:43 PM - jbl26 (Brian Lindauer)

```
=begin
I did some investigation into this. The following code does not trigger the error
class Thing
  attr_accessor :value

  def initialize(value)
    @value = value
  end
end

stuff = [Thing.new("Fred"), Thing.new("Wilma"), Thing.new("Barney")]
stuff.sort! {[a,b] a.value <=> b.value}
```

Reading through the Ruby source, I discovered that the only way this particular error text could be printed (in {{{rb\_cmperr}}})) would be if there was a comparison involving a numeric value, not just string/string comparison. Then I tried modifying the input array above to include a numeric value.

```
stuff = [Thing.new(4), Thing.new("Wilma"), Thing.new("Barney")]
stuff.sort! {[a,b] a.value <=> b.value}
```

This does, in fact, trigger the error.

in `sort!': comparison of Thing with Thing failed (ArgumentError)

I think the OP must have had a bug in his own code that resulted in a numeric-typed value in one of the instances of Thing.  
=end

##### #4 - 08/02/2011 05:09 PM - nagachika (Tomoyuki Chikanaga)

- Status changed from Feedback to Third Party's Issue