



Dresden, Germany
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TAMING ASPECTS



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University of Chile








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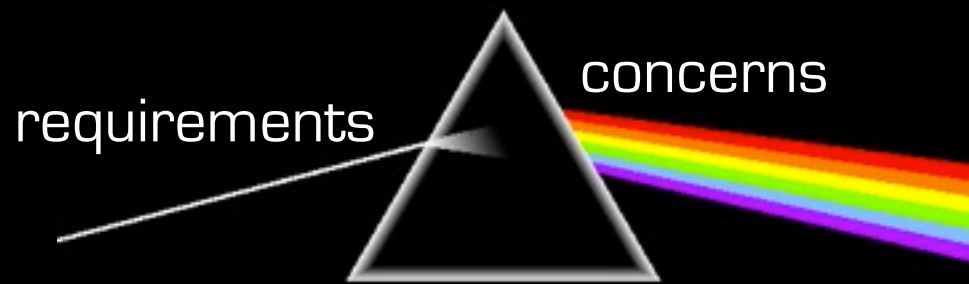
ASPECTS?

WHAT ARE ASPECTS?

Modular implementation of **crosscutting** concerns

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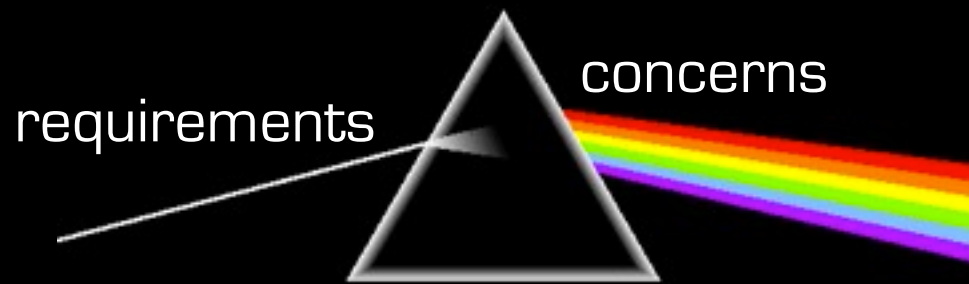


WHAT ARE ASPECTS?

Modular implementation of **crosscutting** concerns

Monitoring
Security
Coordination

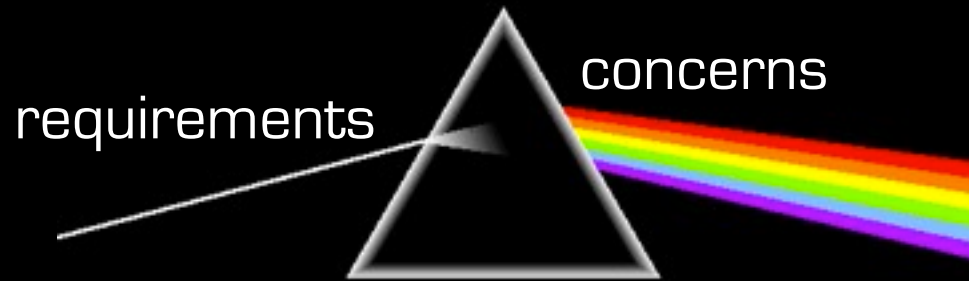
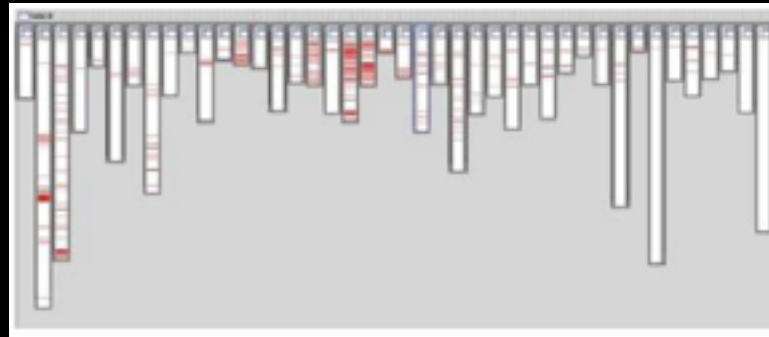
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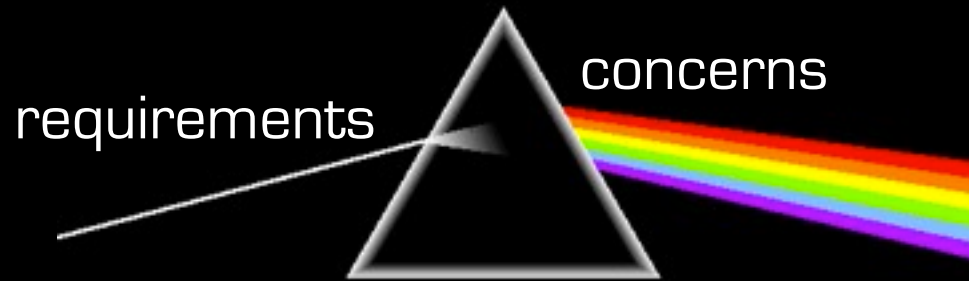
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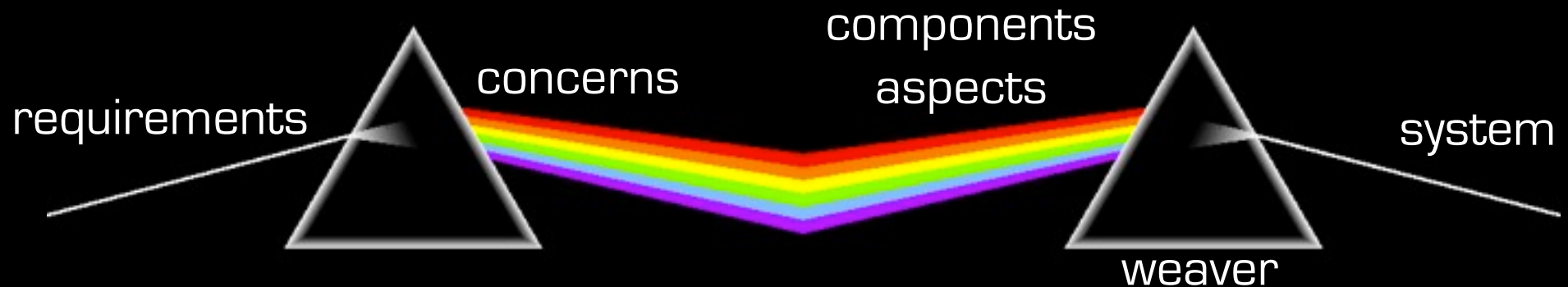
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WHAT ARE ASPECTS?

Modular implementation of **crosscutting** concerns

Monitoring
Security
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...



one **goal**, different **mechanisms**

POINTCUT / ADVICE

A novel programming language mechanism

- interesting in its own right!

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pointcut

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advice

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join points



pointcut

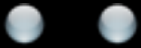


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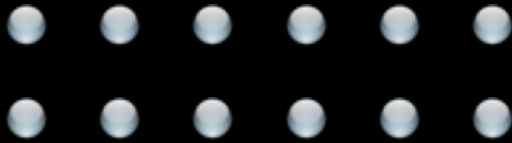


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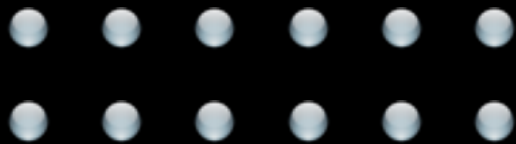


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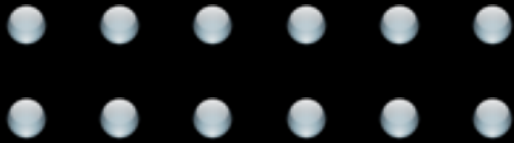
pointcut



advice

“glorification” of the observer pattern

QUANTIFICATION



join points



pointcut



advice

QUANTIFICATION



join points



pointcut



advice

QUANTIFICATION



join points



pointcut



advice

```
execution(* Shape+.set*(..))
```

QUANTIFICATION



join points



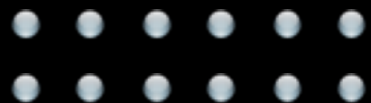
pointcut



advice

```
execution(* Shape+.set*(..))  
&& this(s)
```

QUANTIFICATION



join points



pointcut



advice

```
pointcut change(Shape s):  
    execution(* Shape+.set*(..))  
    && this(s)
```

QUANTIFICATION



join points



pointcut



advice

```
pointcut change(Shape s):  
    execution(* Shape+.set*(..))  
    && this(s)
```

```
after(Shape s): change(s){  
    // update observers  
}
```


a join point



a join point



a join point



computation
inside!

a join point



computation
inside!



a join point



computation
inside!



“around” advice can ignore it

a join point



computation
inside!



“around” advice can ignore it
or proceed

a join point



computation
inside!



“around” advice can ignore it
or proceed
and proceed...

a join point



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this is more than 1-way notifications

WHY IS THIS EXCITING?

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crosscutting is a real problem

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pointcut/advice is effective for handling crosscutting

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- more declarative, esp. wrt **quantification** (pointcuts)
- more amenable to analysis (or so it seems)

WHY IS THIS EXCITING?

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pointcut/advice is effective for handling crosscutting

- behavioral reflection for mere mortals
- more declarative, esp. wrt **quantification** (pointcuts)
- more amenable to analysis (or so it seems)

still not there yet

- lots of open challenges

STATE OF THE PRACTICE



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- advice can do anything
 - proceed 0..n times
 - change arguments, return value
 - arbitrary side effects



FEATURE	APPLICATION

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all execution steps are join points,
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unanticipated evolution,
“obliviousness”

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almost all aspects!

BUT...

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```
void around(): call(int Fib.calc(int)){  
    System.out = myPrivateStream;  
    return -1;  
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Break semantics!

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No more security!

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void around(Person p): execution(void *()) && this(p){  
    proceed(new Person());  
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ClassCastException!

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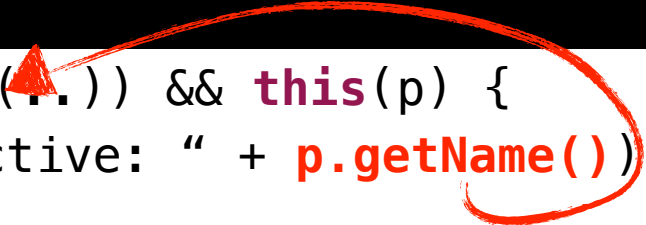
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StackOverflow!

ASPECT

ORIENTATION

A SPECT

O RIENTATION

ASPECT



??

ORIENTATION

ASPECT

ORIENTATION



T AMING

A SPECT

O RIENTATION

T AMING

A SPECT

O RIENTATION

Power



Control



Scoping

Interfaces

Types

Effects



Scoping

Interfaces

Types

Effects

Dynamic



Static



Scoping

Interfaces

Types

Effects



Scoping

Can we restrict quantification to well-defined boundaries?

What abstractions are meaningful?

Interfaces

Types

Effects

GLOBAL QUANTIFICATION

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Global visibility of join points exacerbates many issues

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- accidental matches

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- etc.

MITIGATING THE ISSUE

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Explicit announcement of join points

- explicit join points [Hoffman, 2012]
- quantified typed events [Rajan, 2008]
- closure join points [Bodden, 2011]
- open applications
- etc.

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Expressive pointcuts

- rich pointcuts for robust patterns [Gybels, 2003], [Ostermann, 2005]
- application-specific pointcuts [Brichau, 2008]
- annotations [Kiczales, 2005]
- etc.

SCOPED QUANTIFICATION

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Global quantification

- just as bad as global mutable variables!

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Different scoping disciplines for identifiers

- lexical scope
- dynamic scope
- thread-local
- per object, class, module

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All have been explored for aspects as well

- CaesarJ, AspectScheme, Eos, AspectJ...

SCOPED QUANTIFICATION: ADVANCED MODELS

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Scoping strategies [Tanter, 2008/2009/2010a]

- killer app: access control [Toledo, 2011/ 2012]

Execution levels [Tanter, 2010b]

Membranes [Tanter, 2012]

SCOPED QUANTIFICATION: ADVANCED MODELS

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EXECUTION LEVELS

COMPOSING DYNAMIC ANALYSES

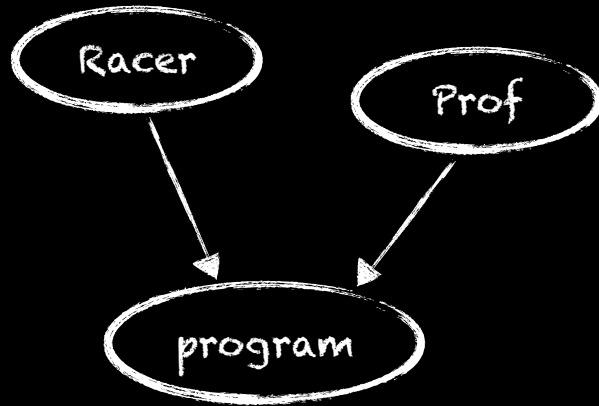
joint work with
Walter Binder & co

[Tanter, 2010c]

COMPOSING DYNAMIC ANALYSES

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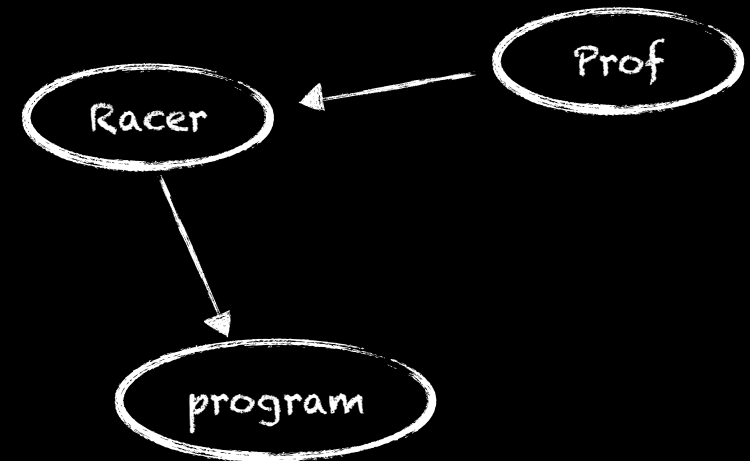
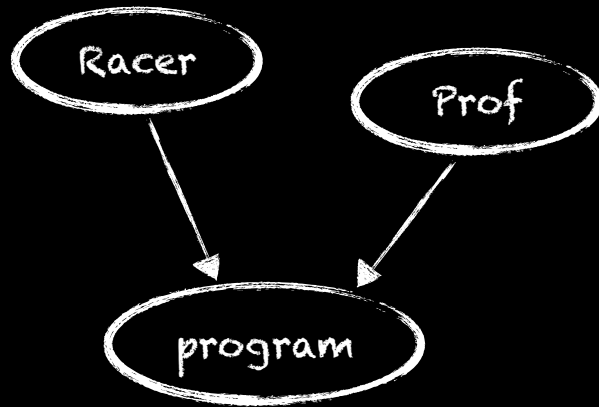
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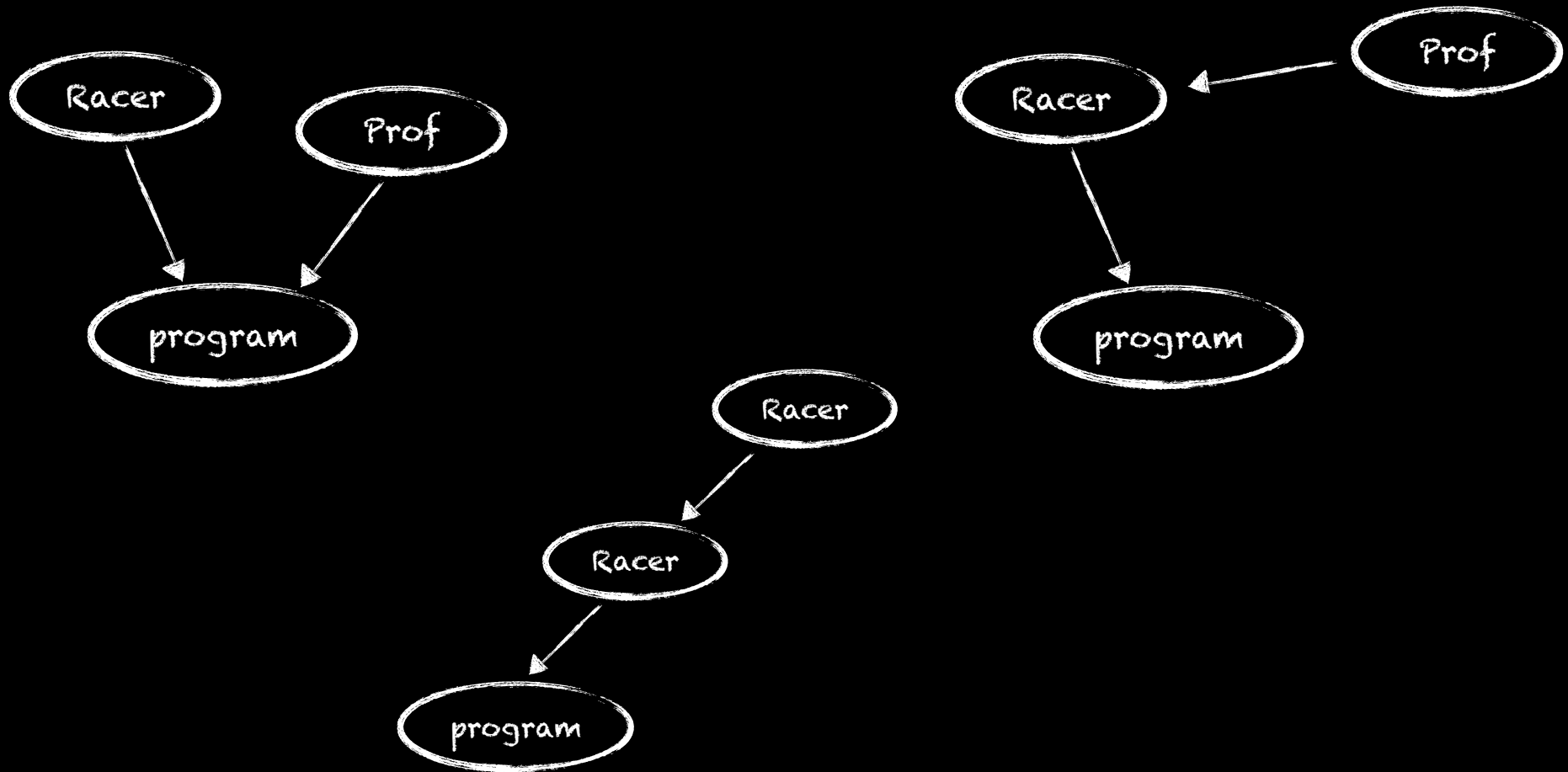
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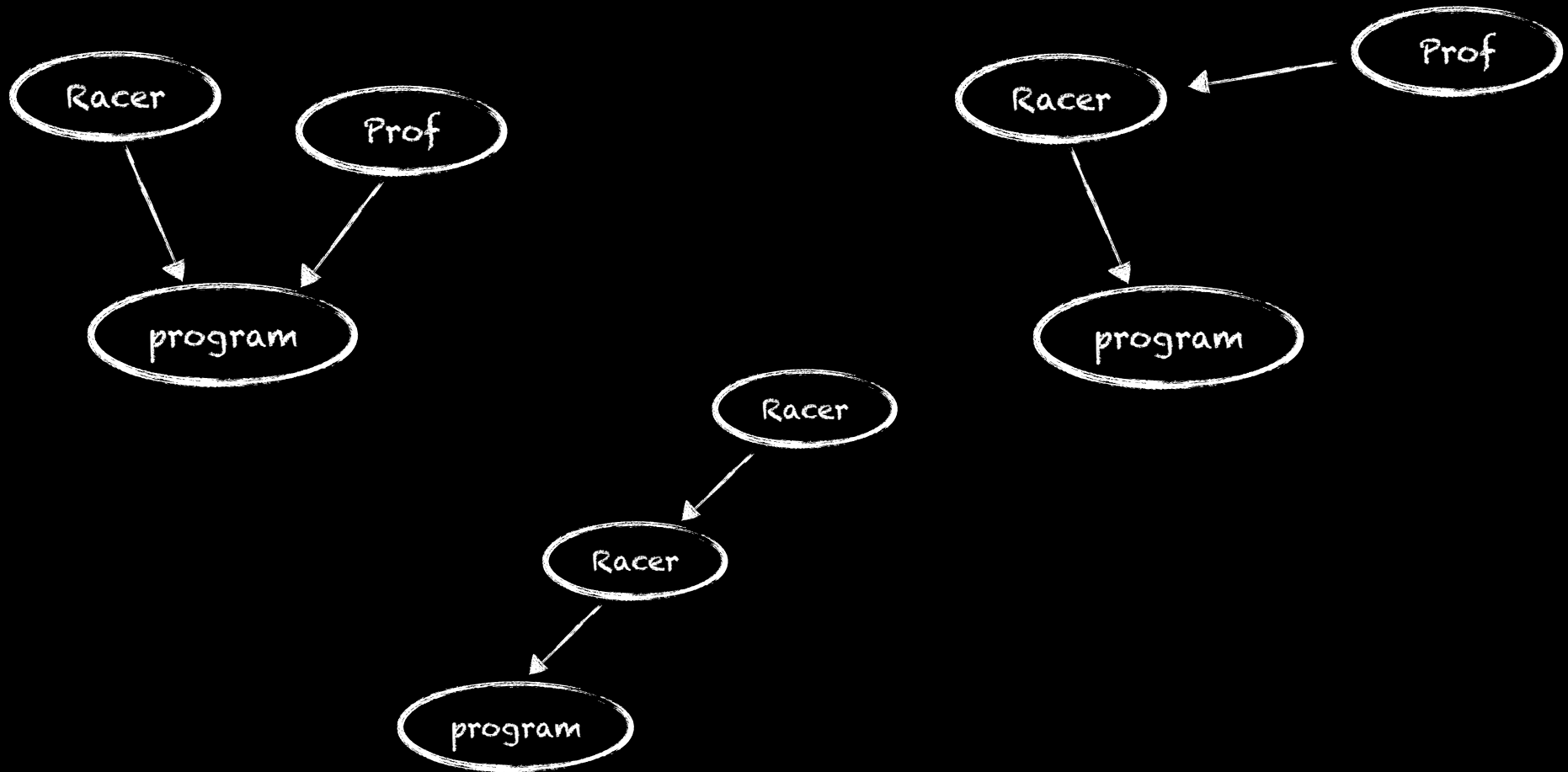
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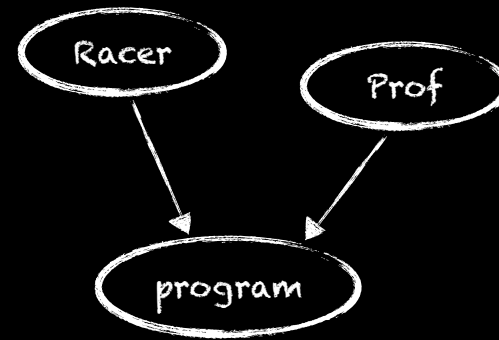
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NONE CAN BE IMPLEMENTED! (until now...)

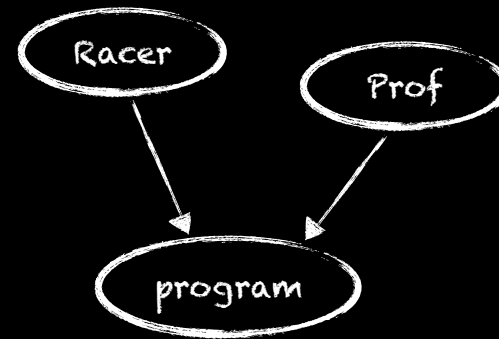
WHY?



WHY?

Each aspect alters the observation of others

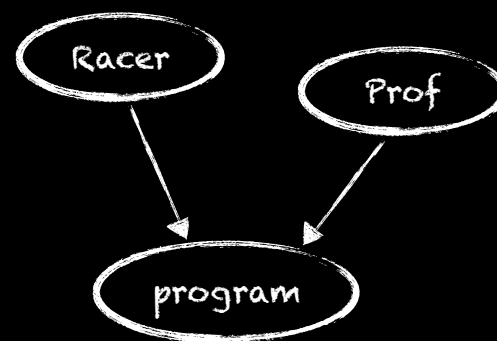
- Racer creates objects
- Prof accesses fields



WHY?

Each aspect alters the observation of others

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Each aspect potentially sees itself

- infinite regression



Structure computation in levels

- aspects stand at specific levels
- observe computation below

EXECUTION LEVELS

[Tanter, 2010b]

Structure computation in levels

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level 0



EXECUTION LEVELS

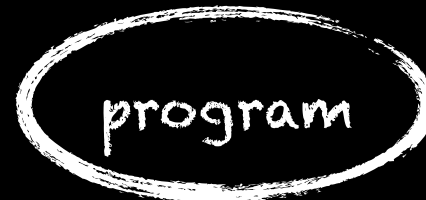
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Structure computation in levels

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level 1

level 0

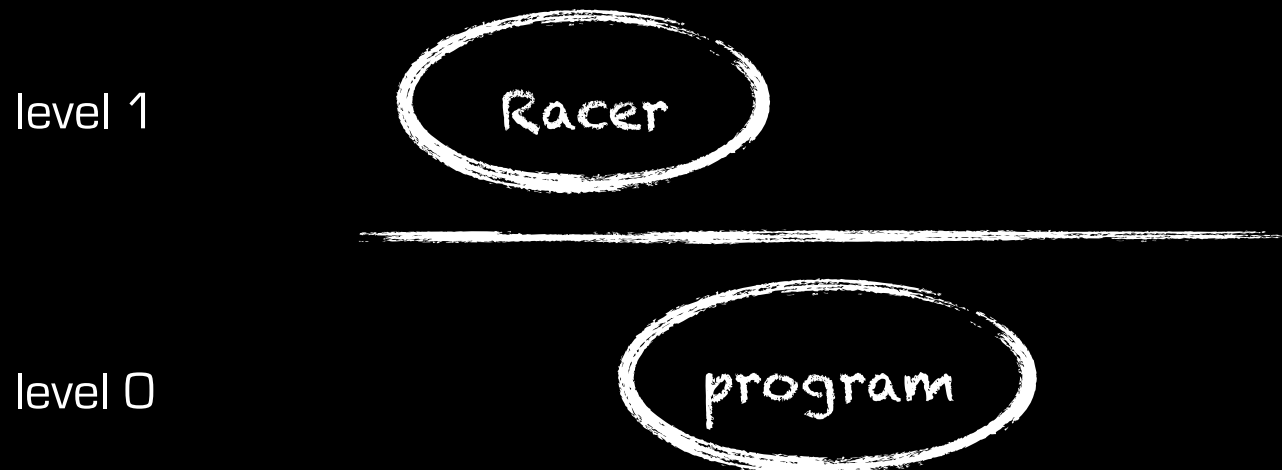


EXECUTION LEVELS

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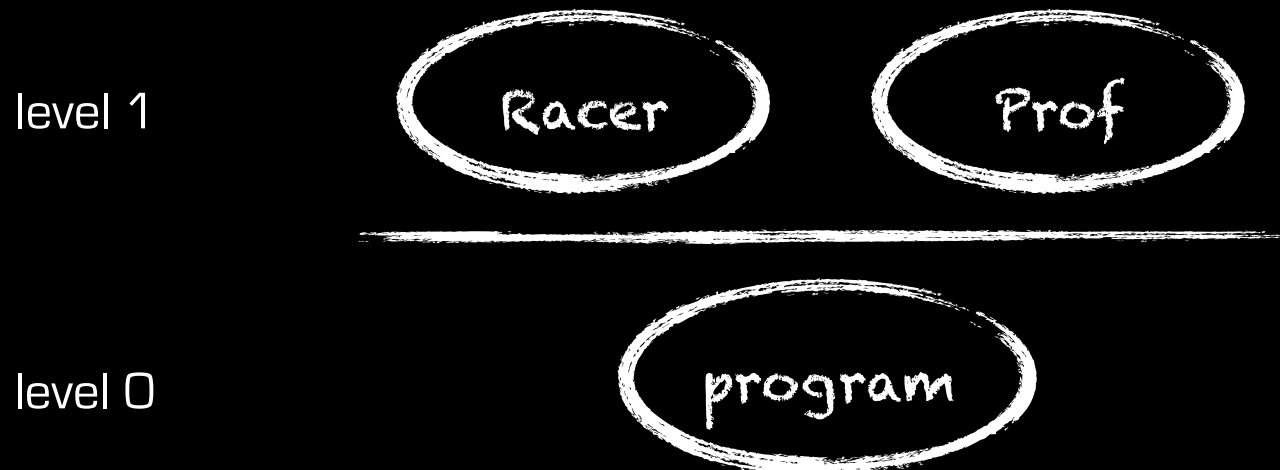


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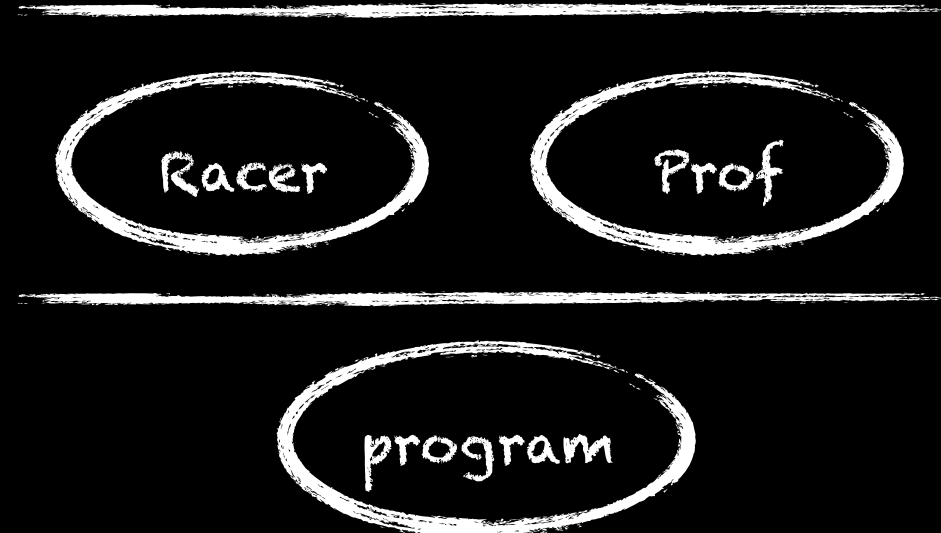
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level 2

level 1

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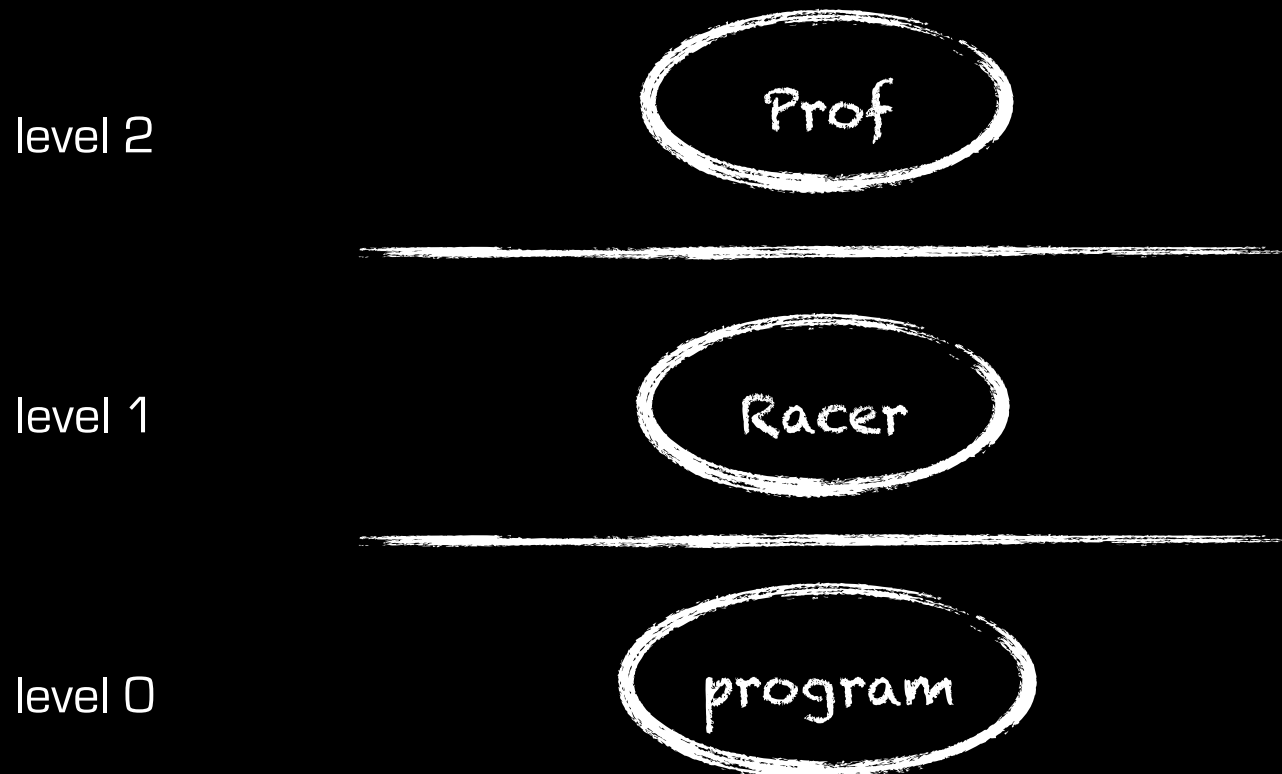


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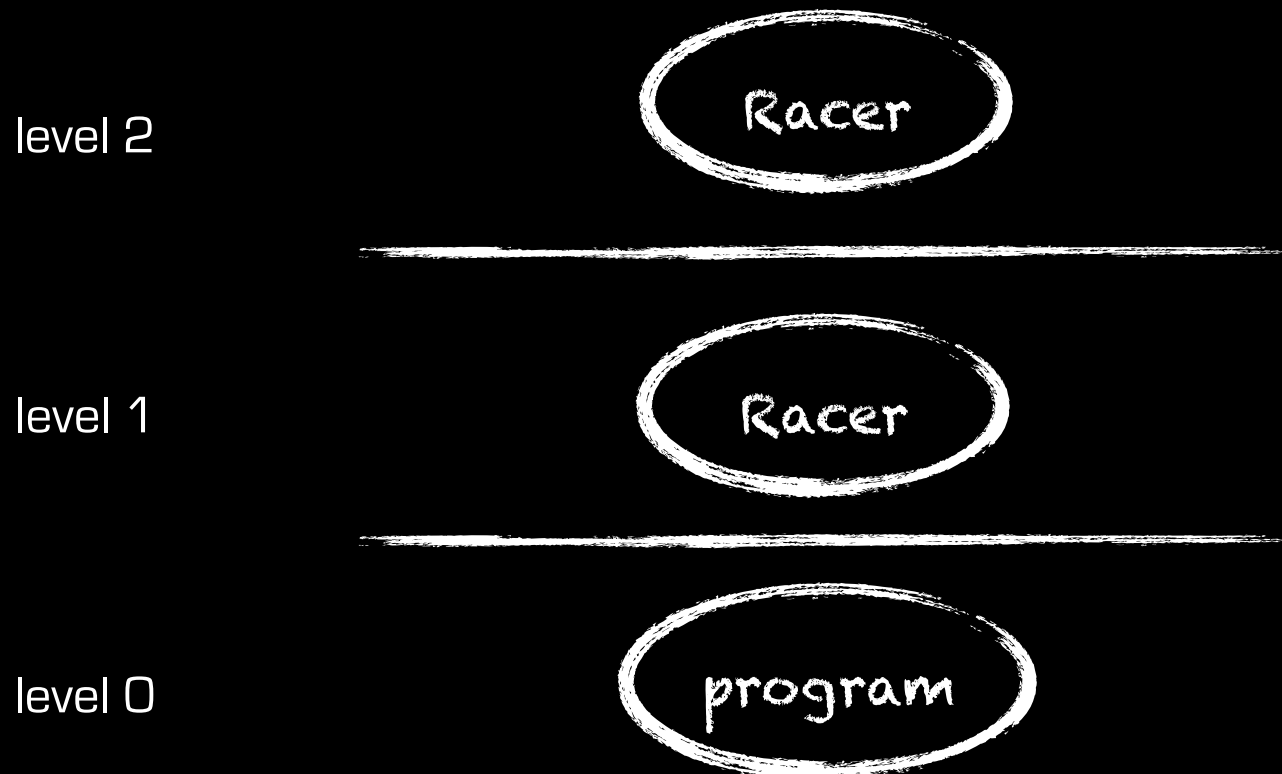


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LEVELS: THEORY AND PRACTICE

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Strong guarantee: aspect loops are avoided

joint work with
Nicolas Tabareau
Ismael Figueroa

LEVELS: THEORY AND PRACTICE

Strong guarantee: aspect loops are avoided

Can be implemented efficiently [Tanter, 2010c; Moret, 2011]

joint work with

Walter Binder

Philippe Moret, Danilo Ansaloni

LEVELS: THEORY AND PRACTICE

Strong guarantee: aspect loops are avoided

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Ad-hoc checks in practice

- 1/3 of all aspects in the “AspectJ in Action” book
- 18% of all pointcuts in corpus of ≈ 500 aspects
- all aspects work out-of-the-box with default level semantics

TOPOLOGICAL SCOPING

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Execution levels

- give structure to computation
- use this structure to define scoping
- come with some properties (eg. no loop)

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- what about others?

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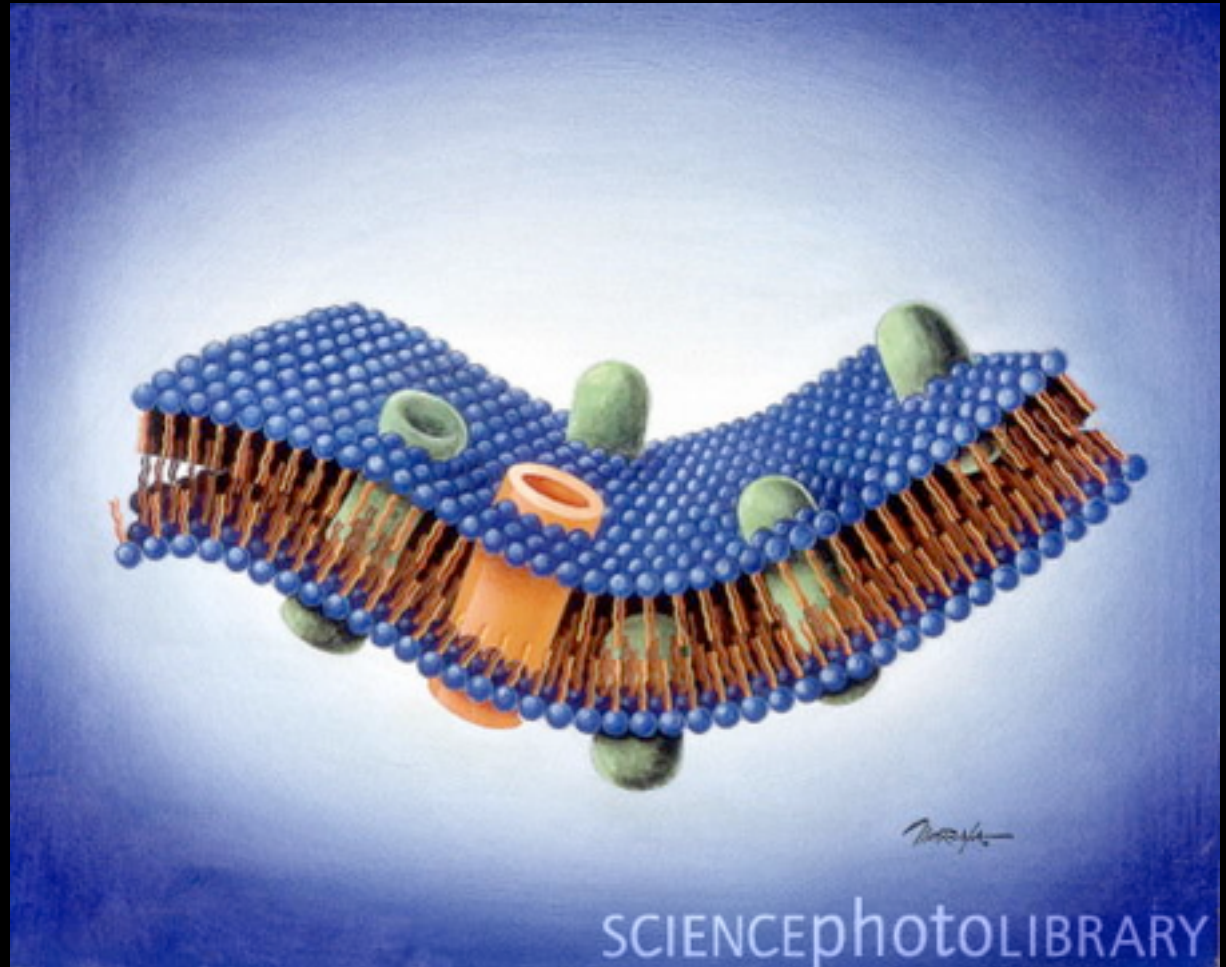
MEMBRANES FOR AOP

joint work with
Nicolas Tabareau
Rémi Douence
Ismael Figueroa

GIVING STRUCTURE TO COMPUTATION

Programmable membranes [Boudol, 2004; Schmitt, 2004]

- inspired by membranes in biology



Why not use membranes for AOP?

- gives rise to flexible topological scoping
- supports control over certain effects

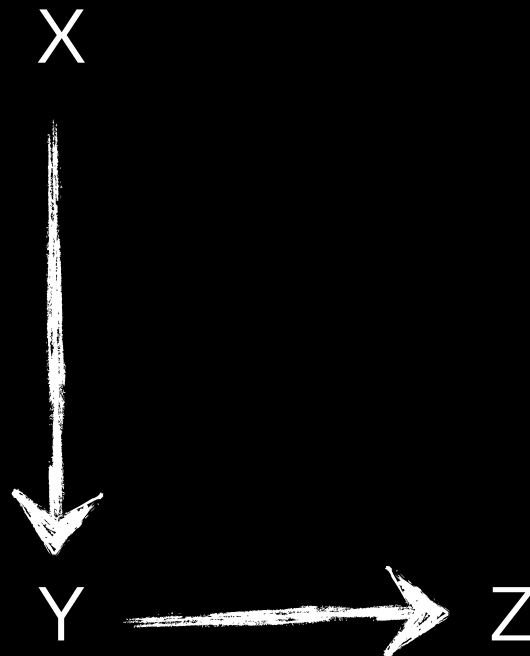
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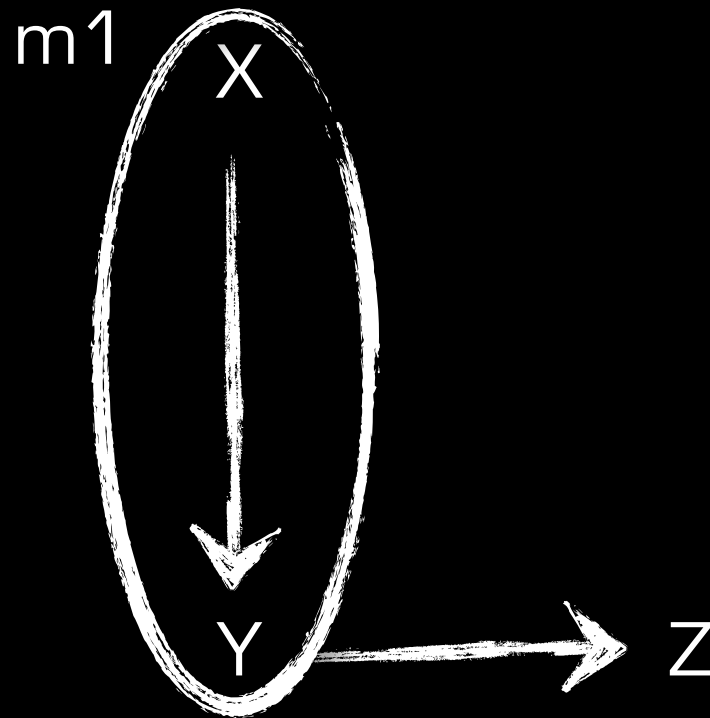
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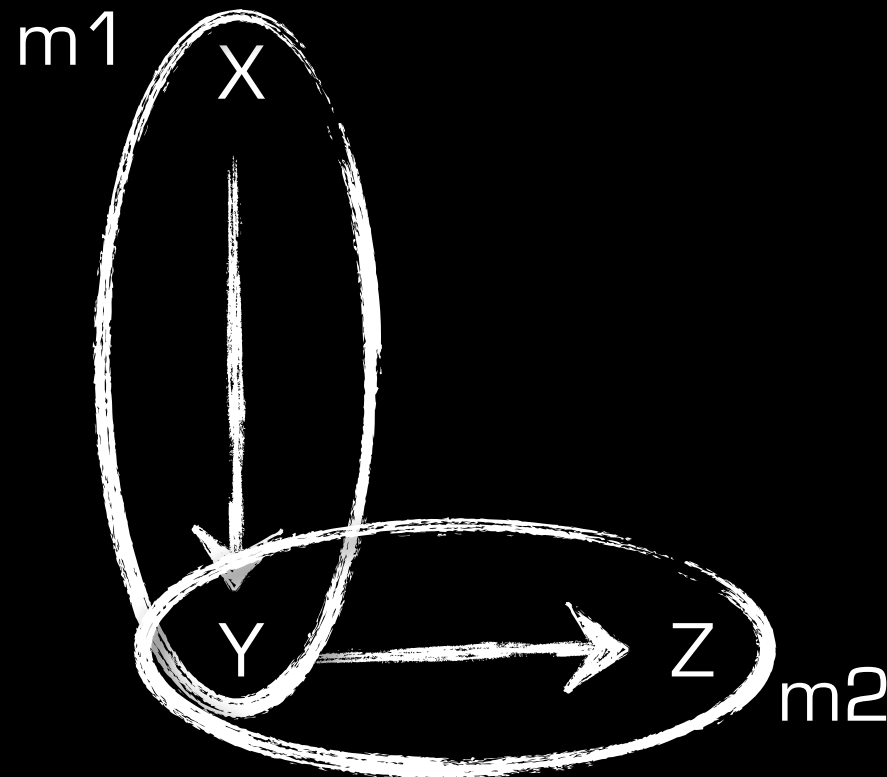
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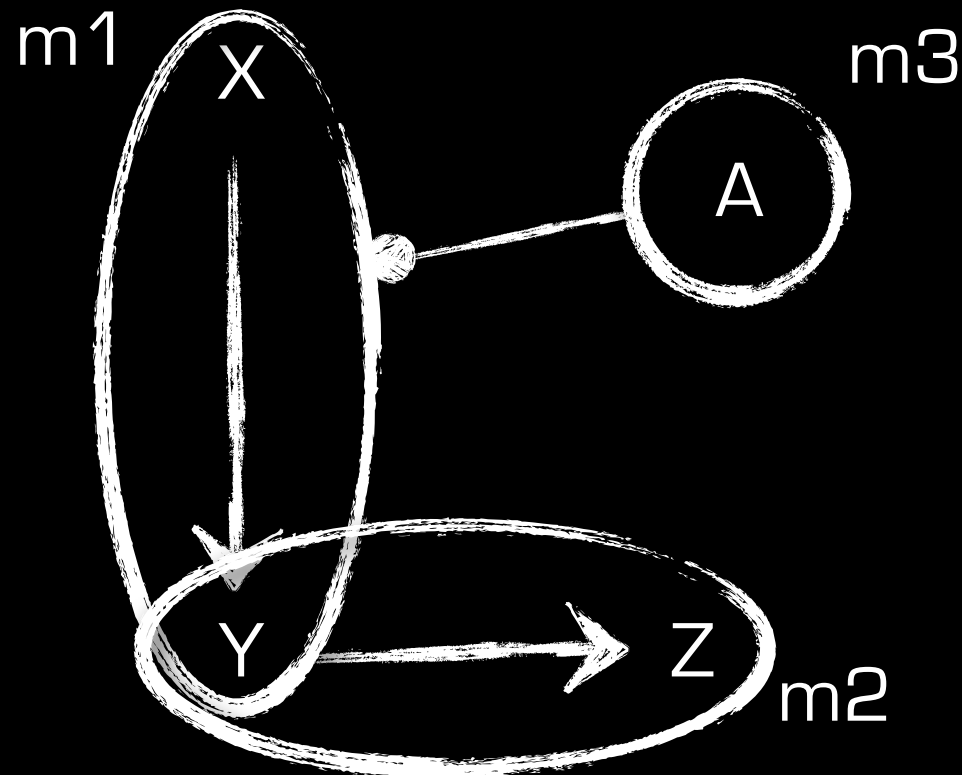
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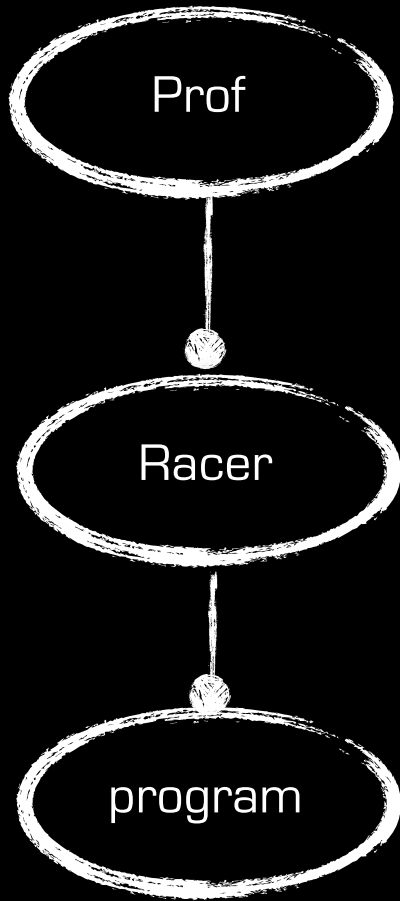
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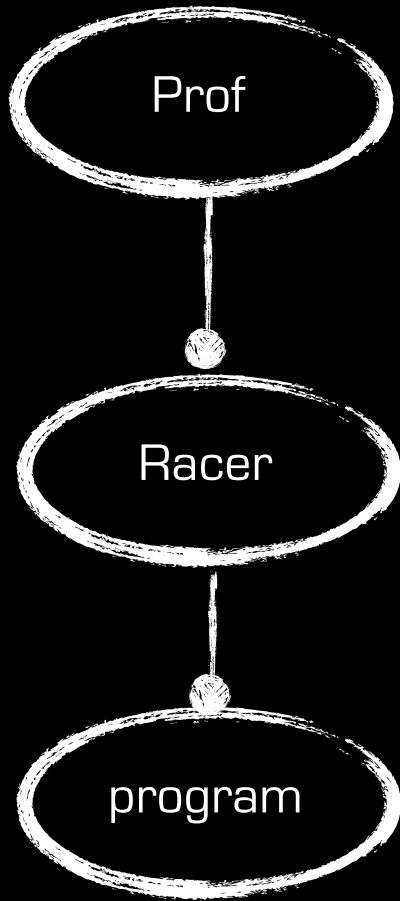
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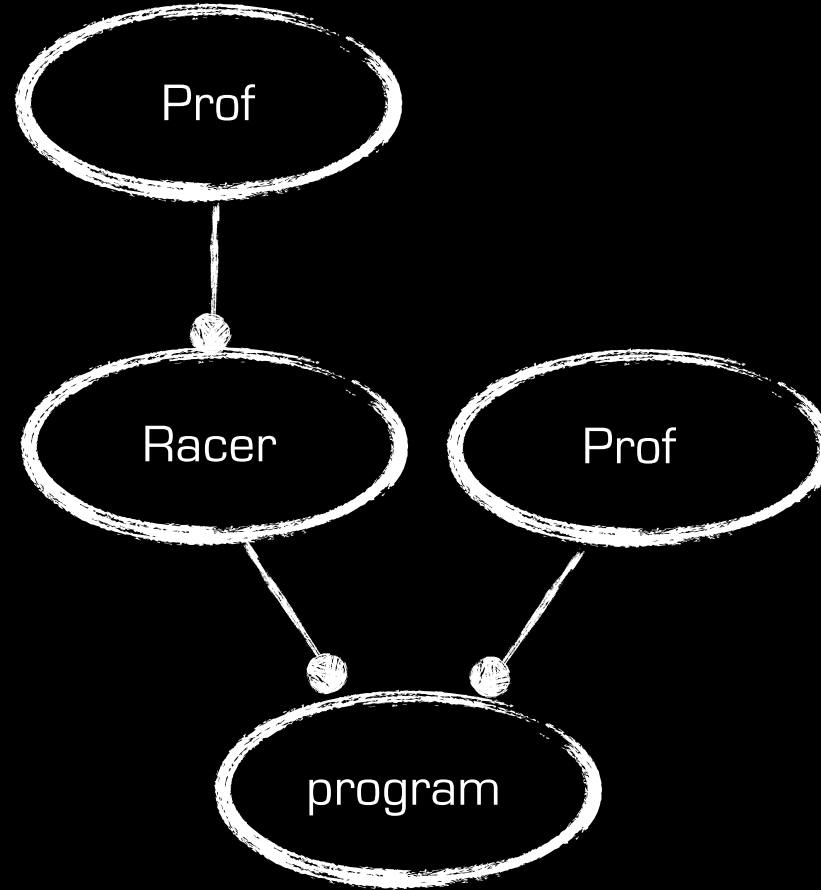


execution levels

TOPOLOGICAL SCOPING WITH MEMBRANES

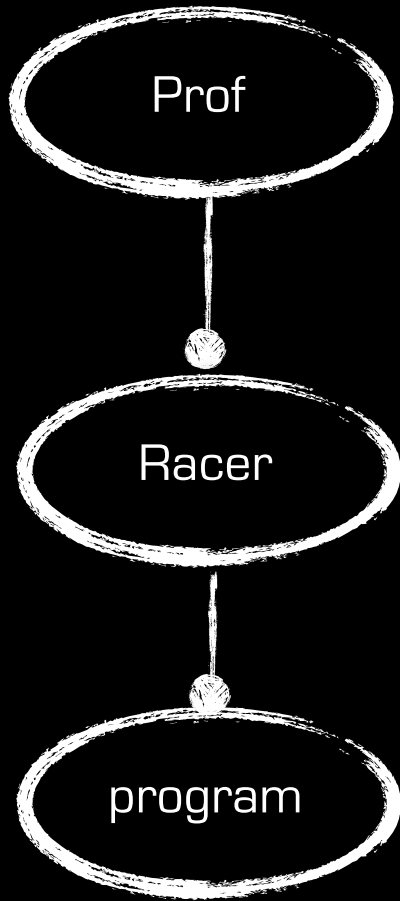


execution levels

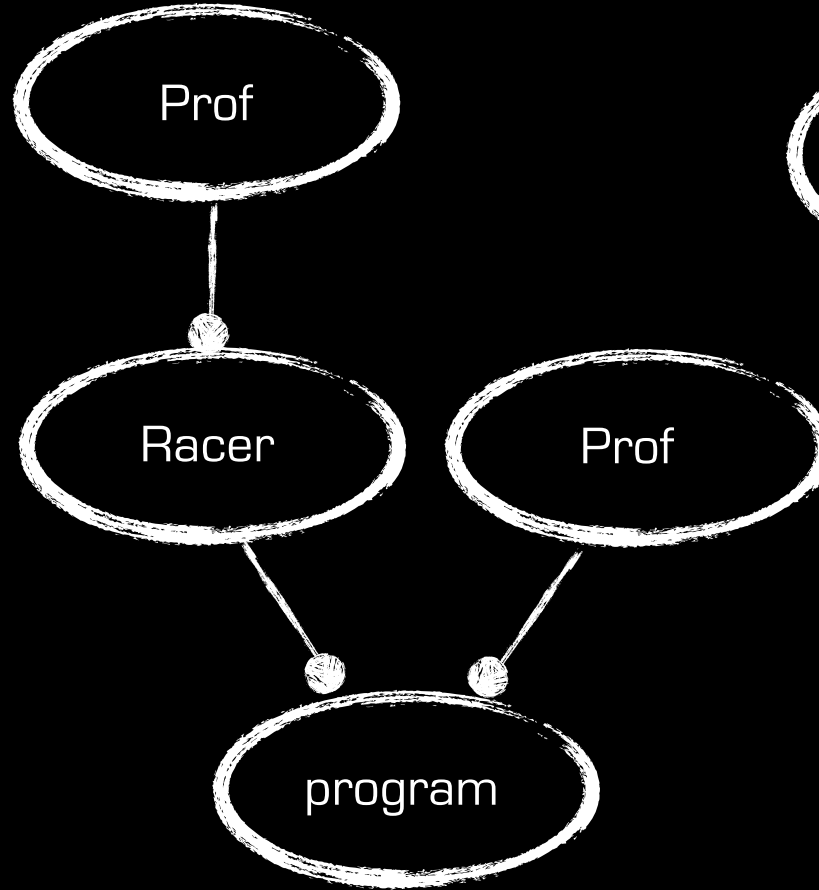


tree

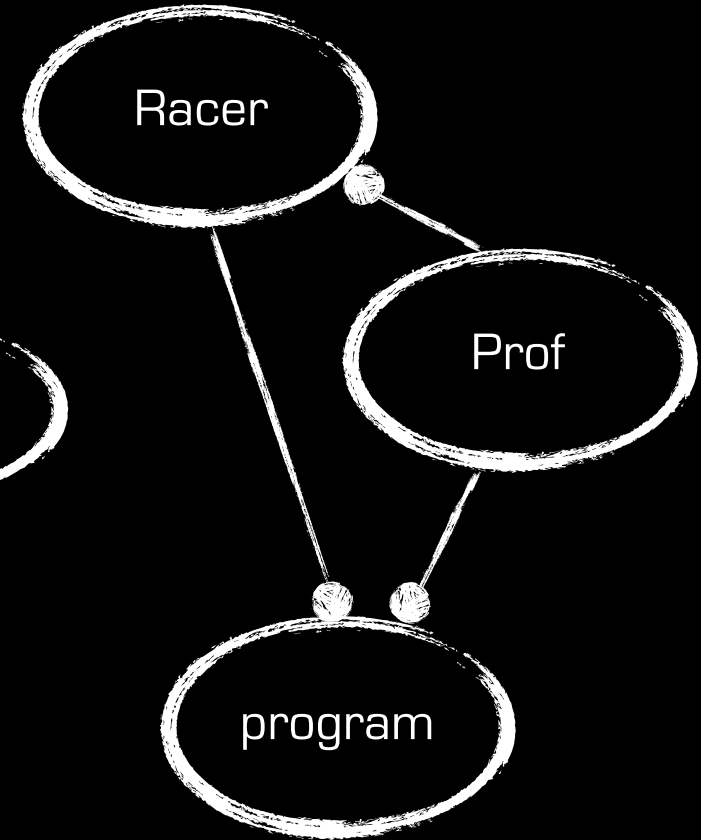
TOPOLOGICAL SCOPING WITH MEMBRANES



execution levels



tree



DAG

MEMBRANES: THEORY AND PRACTICE

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Wide design space

- how to create, deploy and configure membranes?
- can membranes crosscut? organized hierarchically?
- what guarantees are expected? tradeoff?
- MAScheme

MEMBRANES: THEORY AND PRACTICE

Wide design space

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Exploit programmability

- ensure safety properties
- what language is useful to program membranes?
- Kell calculus



Scoping

Interfaces

Types

Effects



Scoping

Interfaces

Can we reconcile quantification
with modular reasoning?

What kind of static interfaces
allow independent development?

Types

Effects

ISSUES WITH POINTCUT/ADVICE

class A

class B

class C

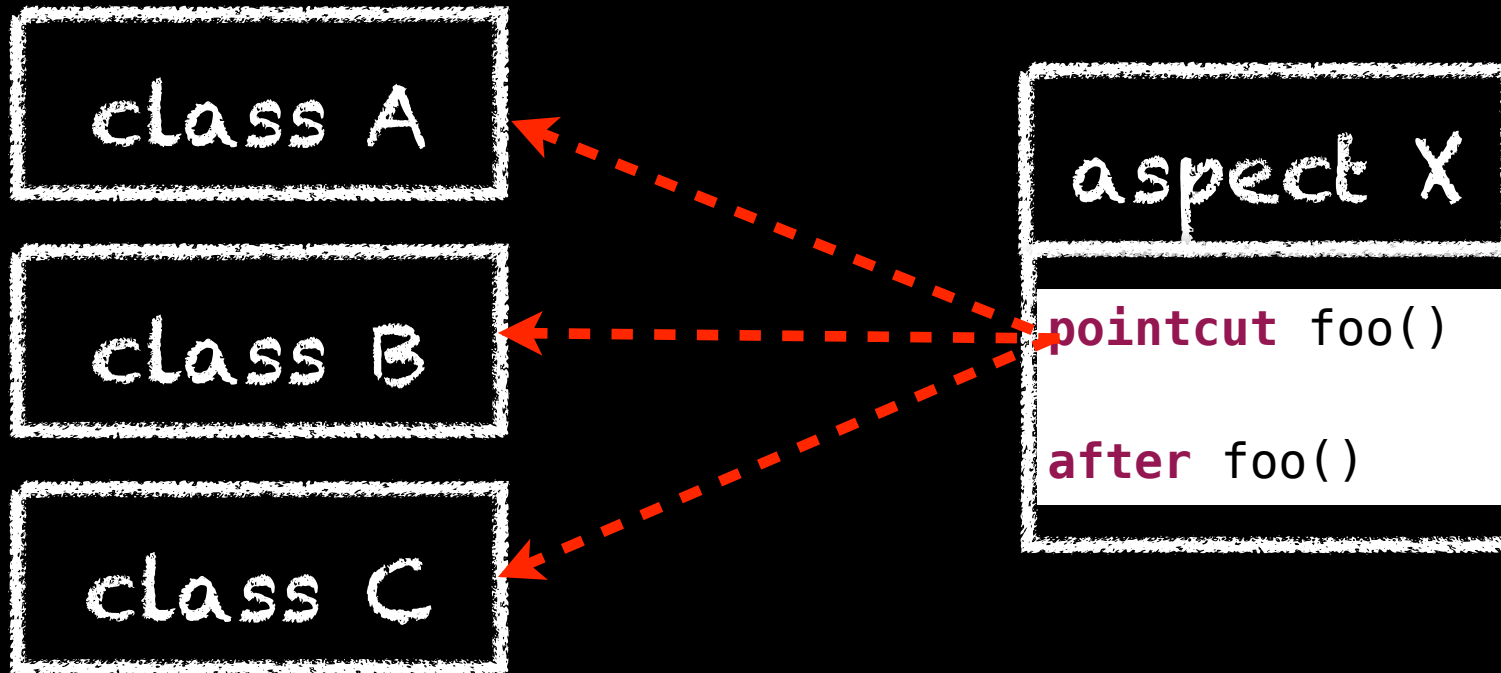
aspect X

pointcut foo()

after foo()

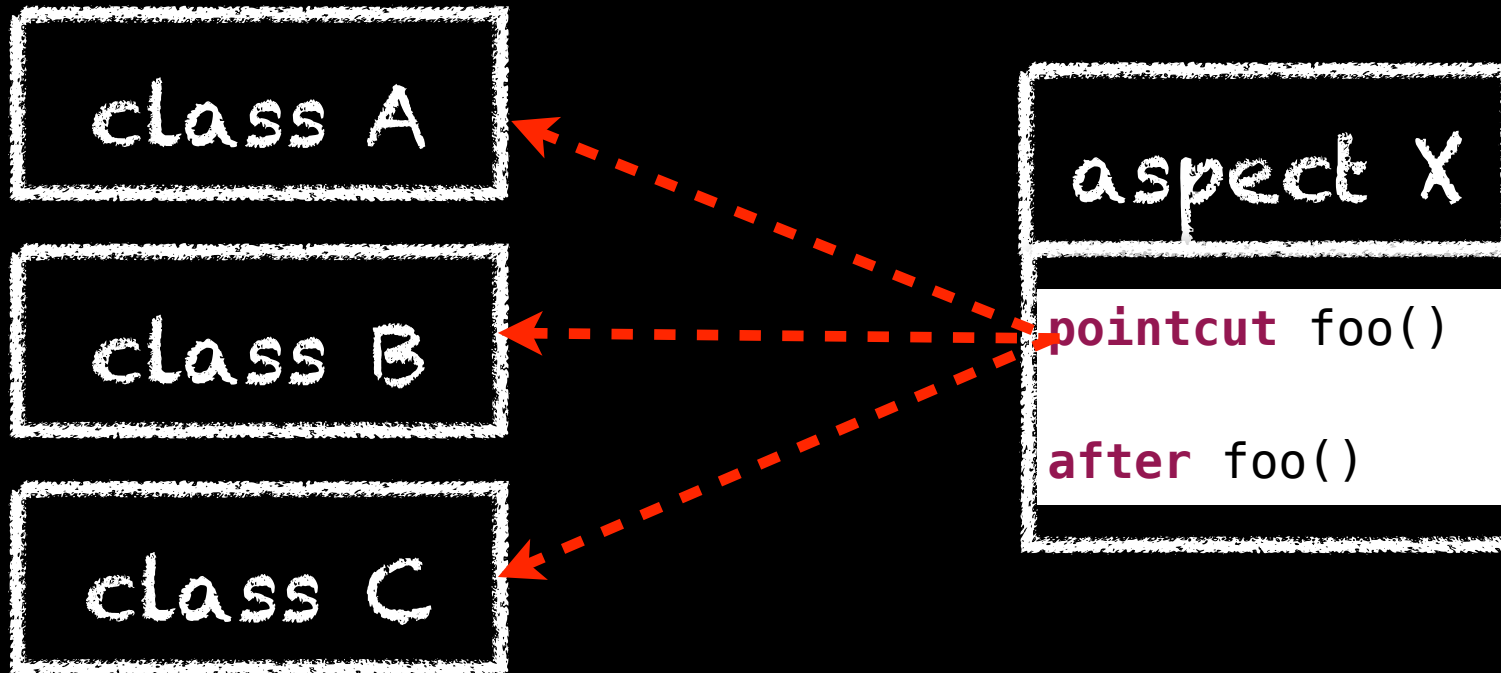
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fragile dependencies



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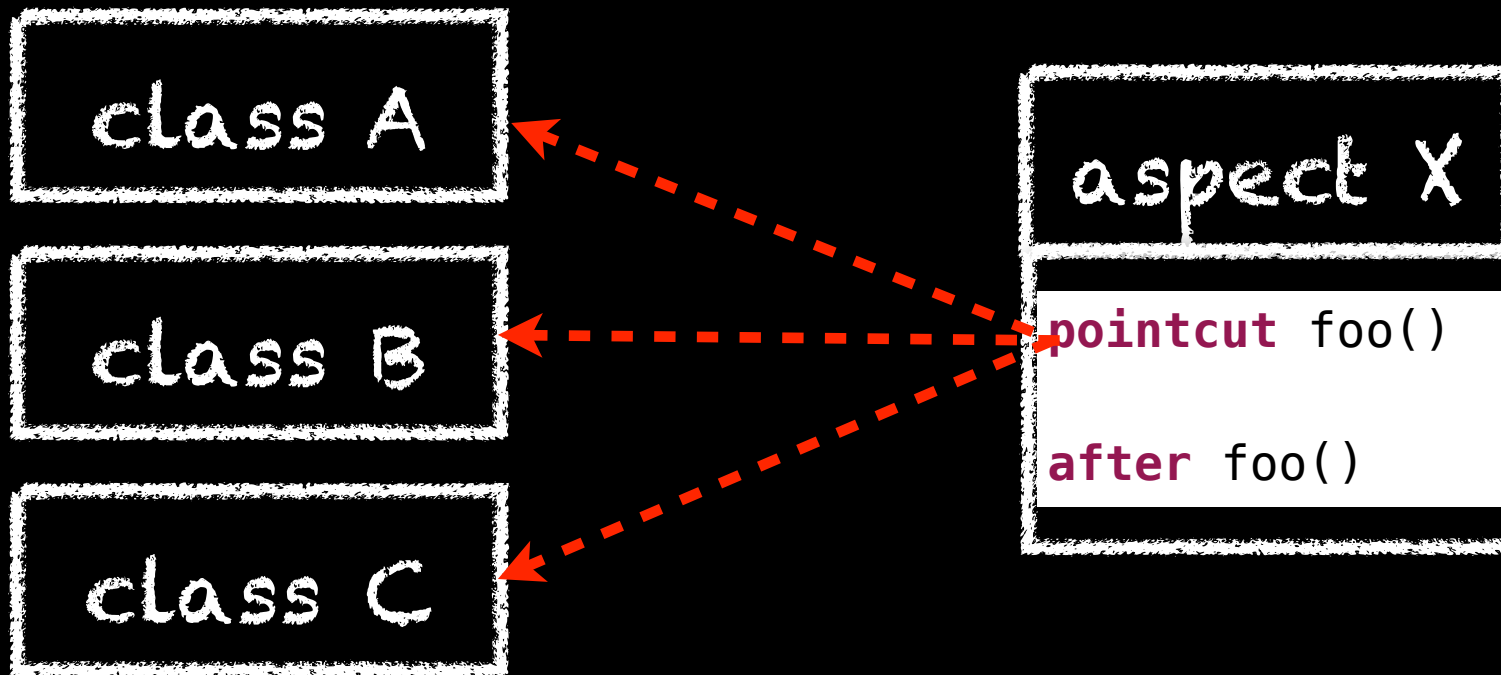


oblivious

⇒ no idea what is relied upon

ISSUES WITH POINTCUT/ADVICE

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modular reasoning?

independent development?

MODULAR REASONING?

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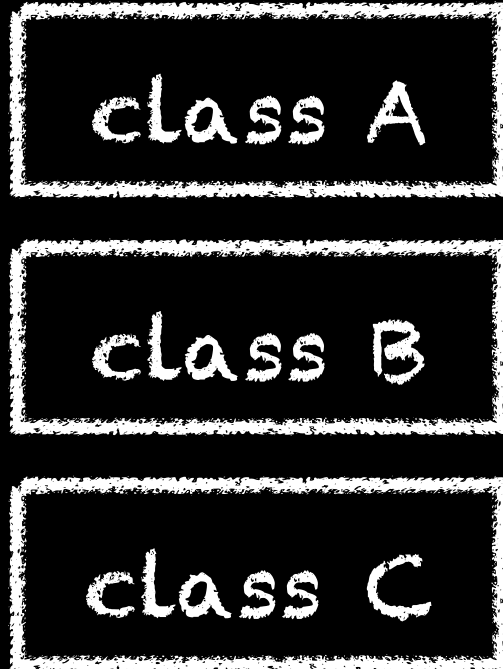
aspect-aware interfaces

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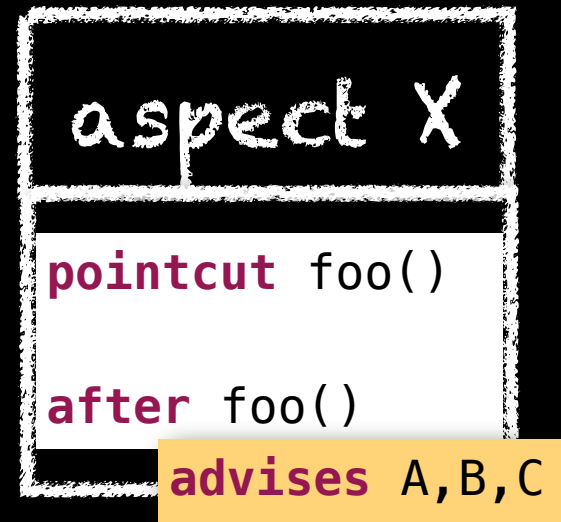
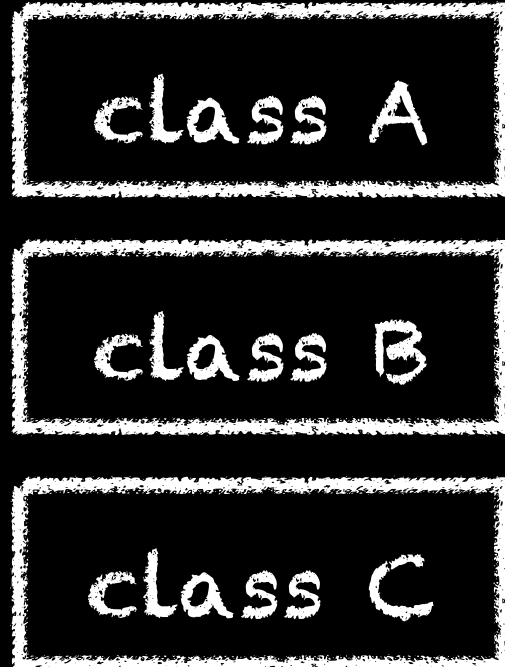


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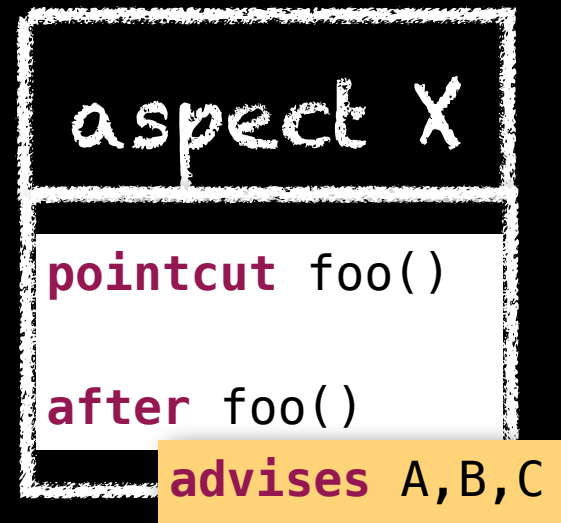
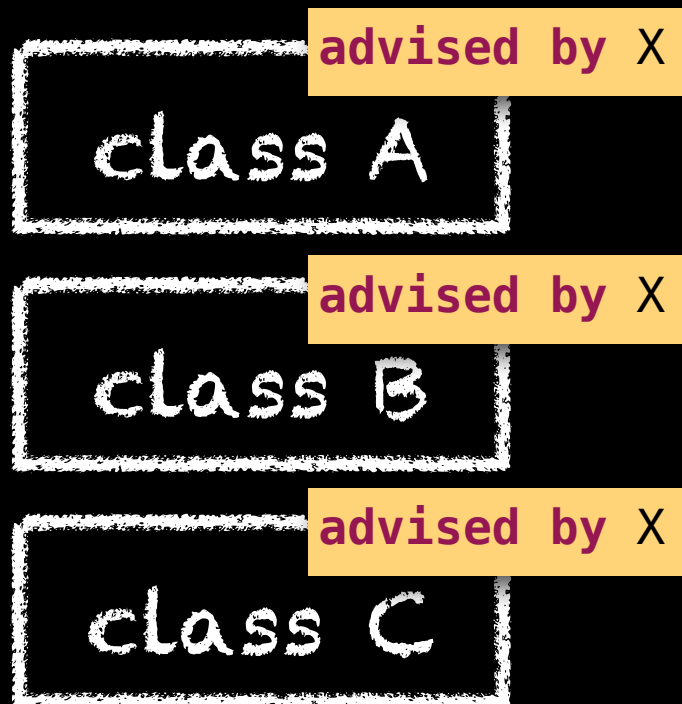


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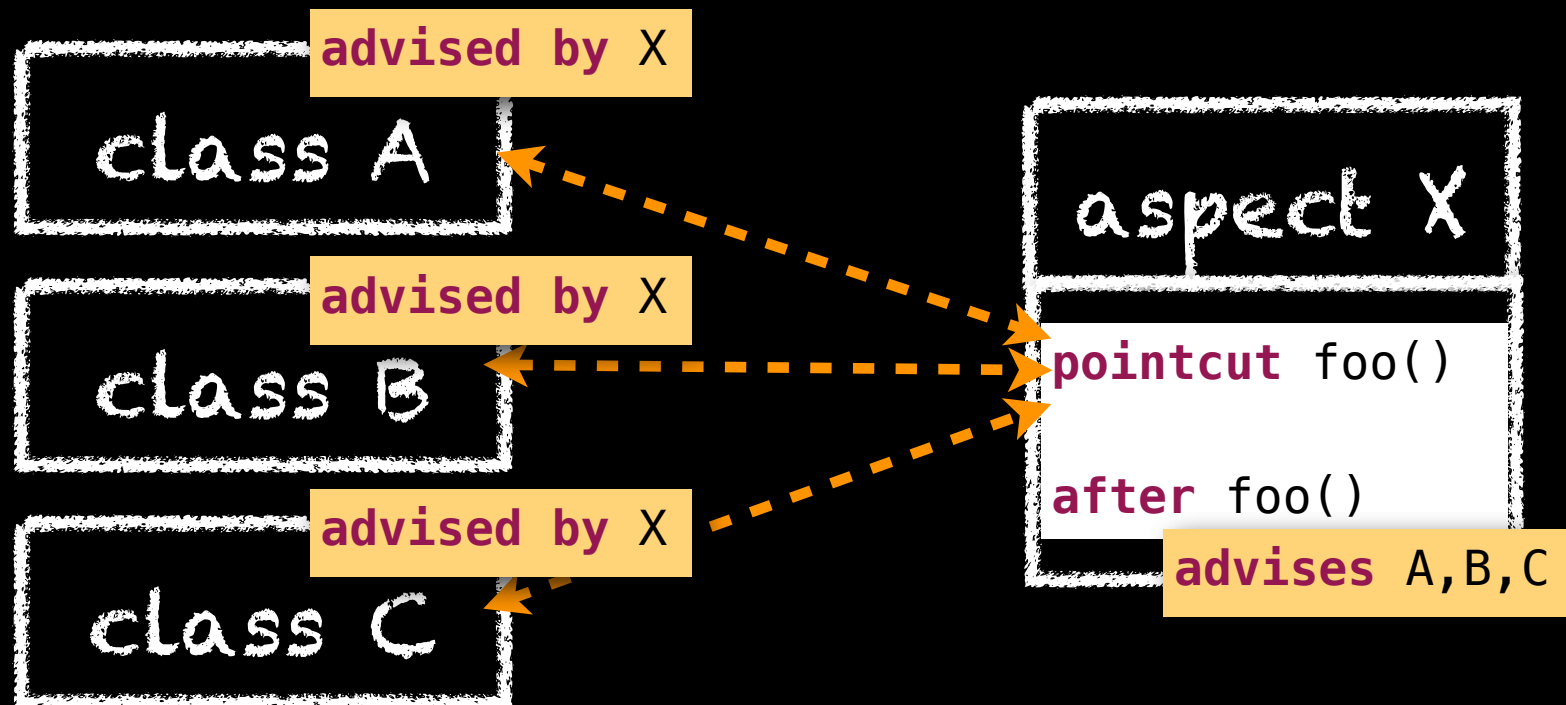


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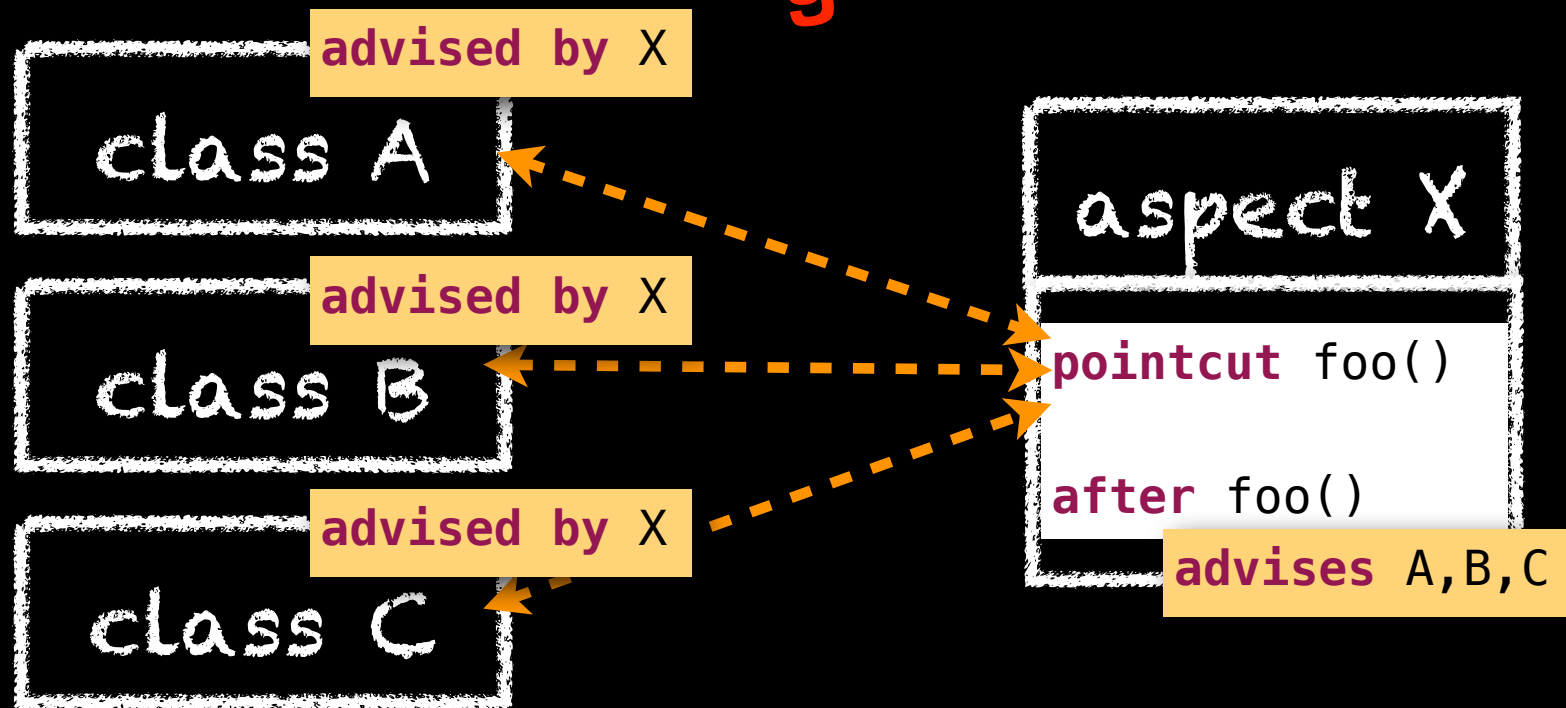
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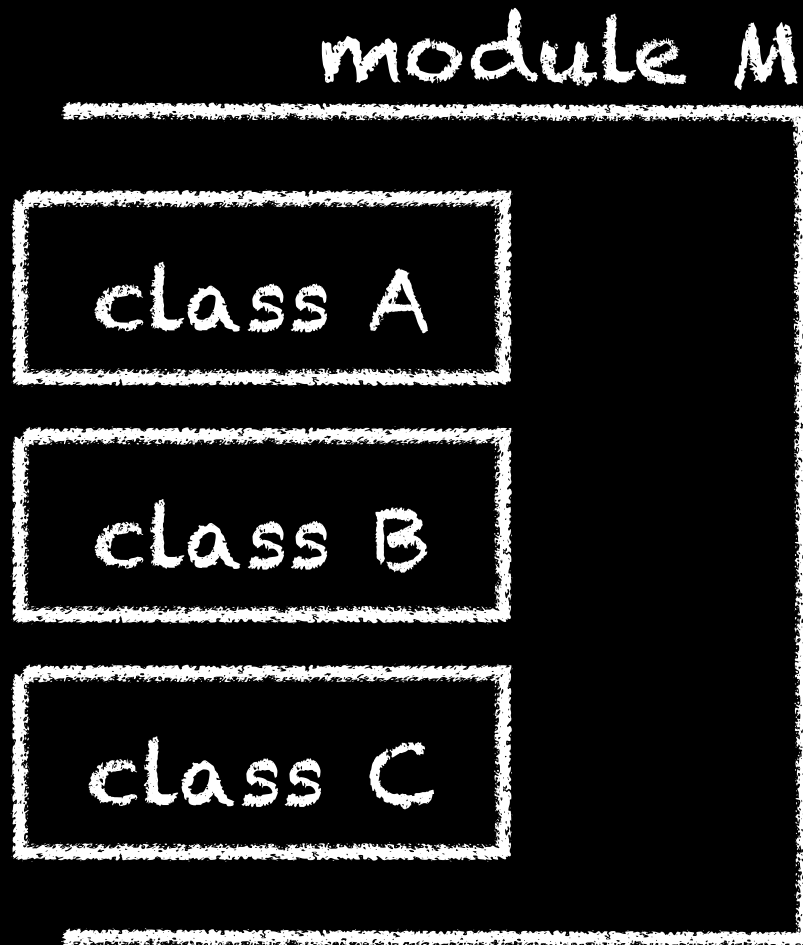
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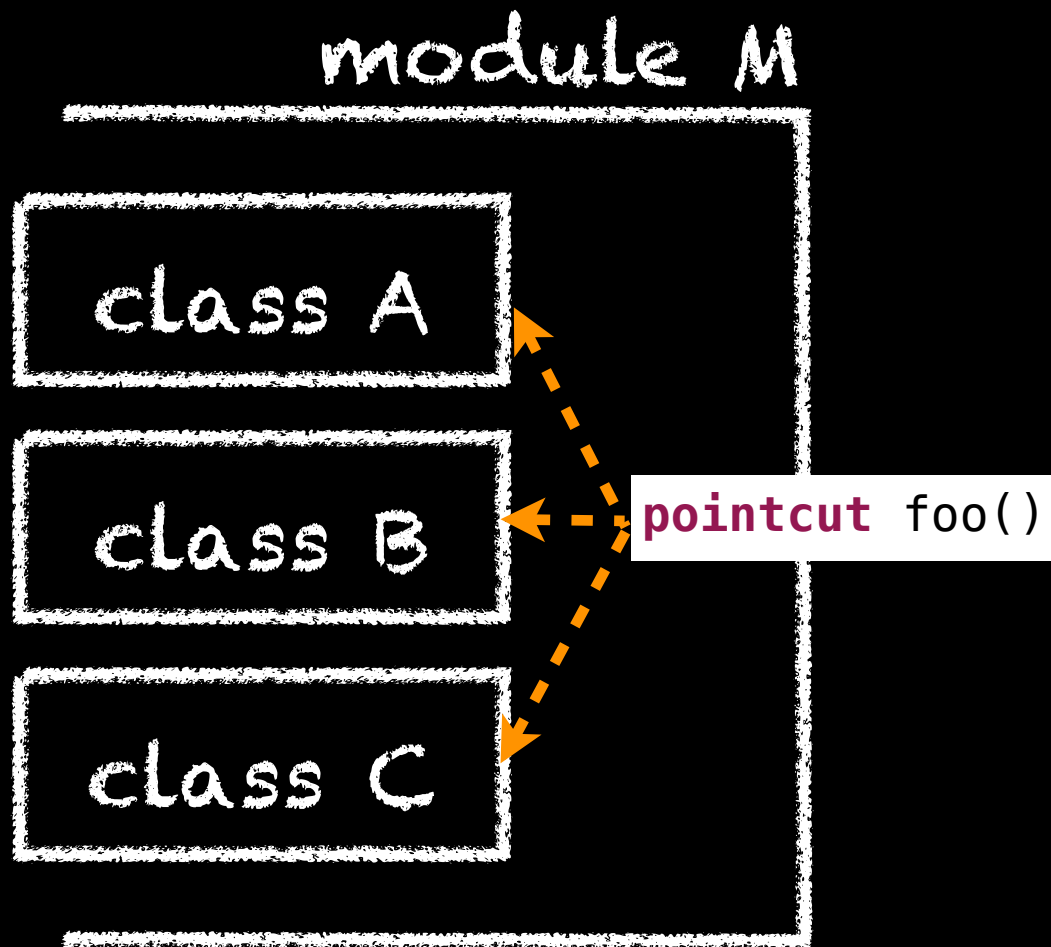
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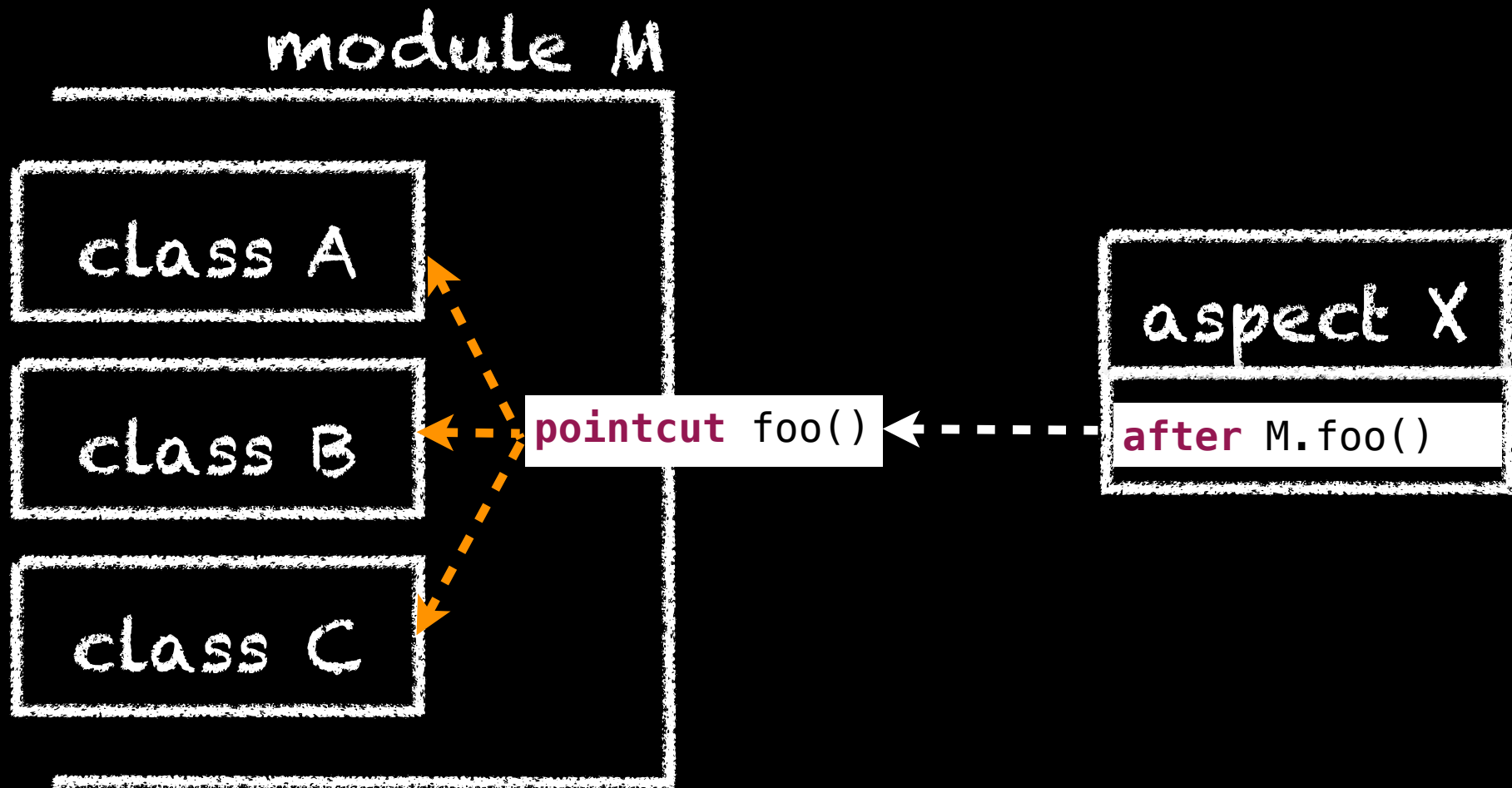
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JOIN POINT TYPES

[Steimann, 2010]

class A

class B

class C

aspect X

JOIN POINT TYPES

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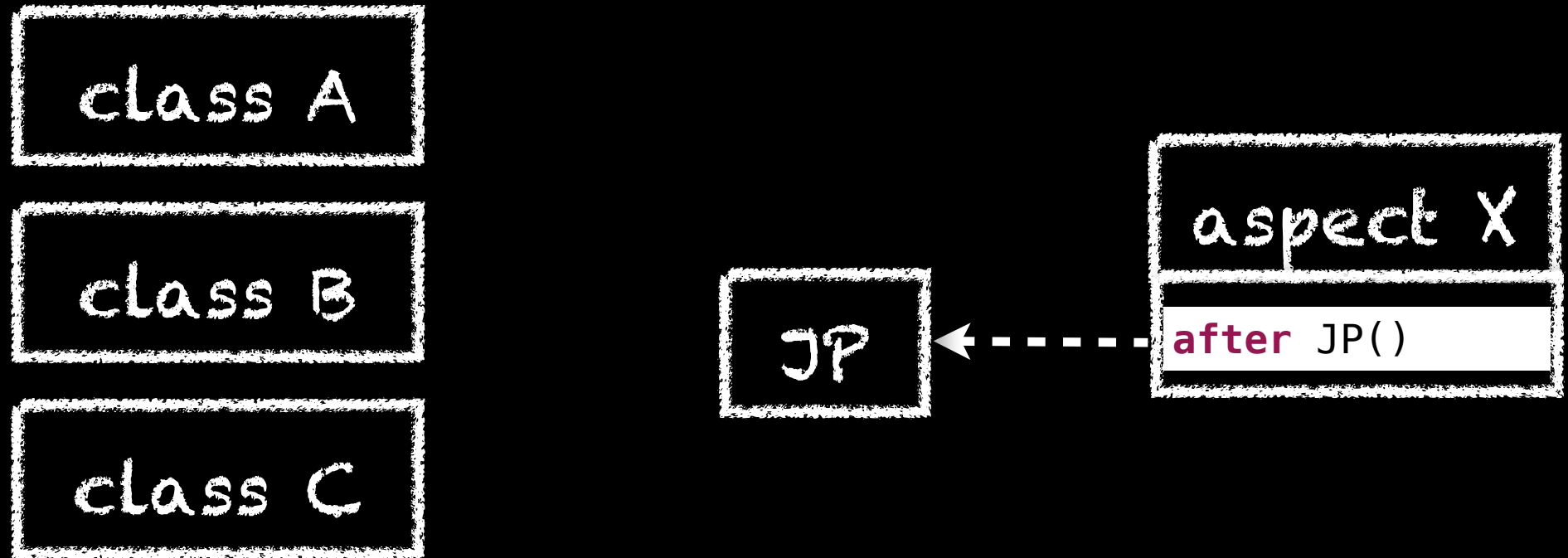
class C

JP

aspect X

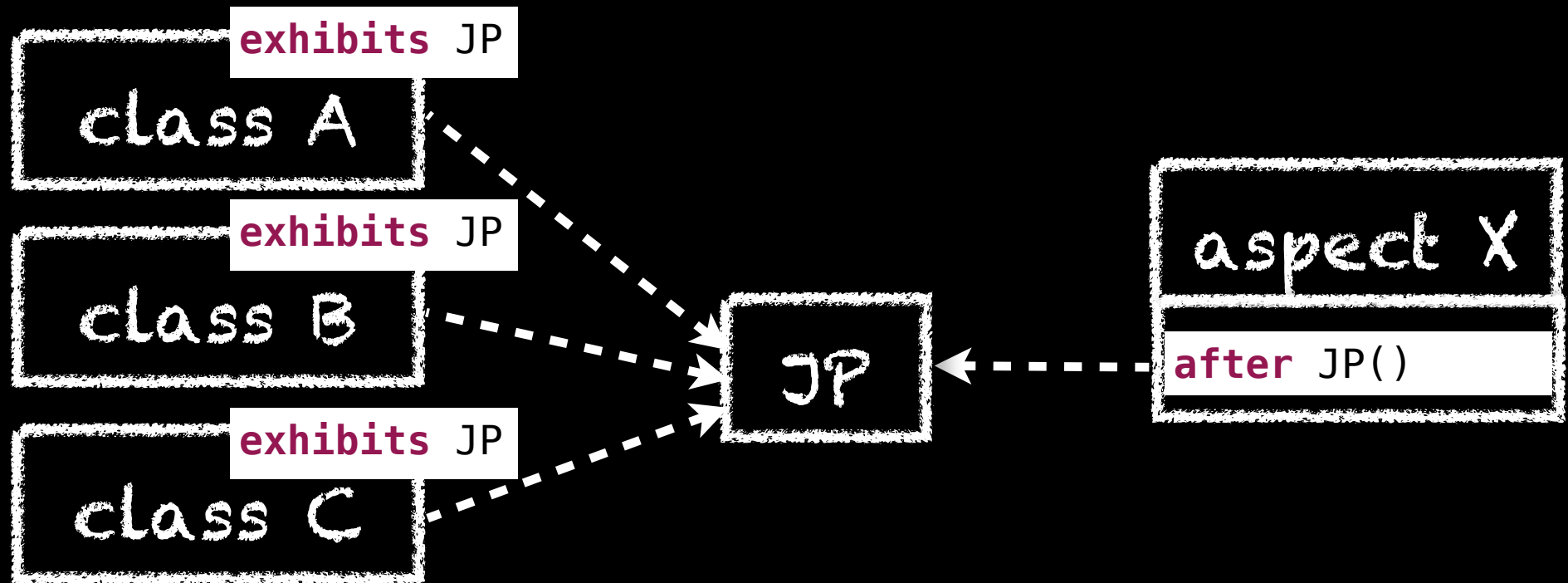
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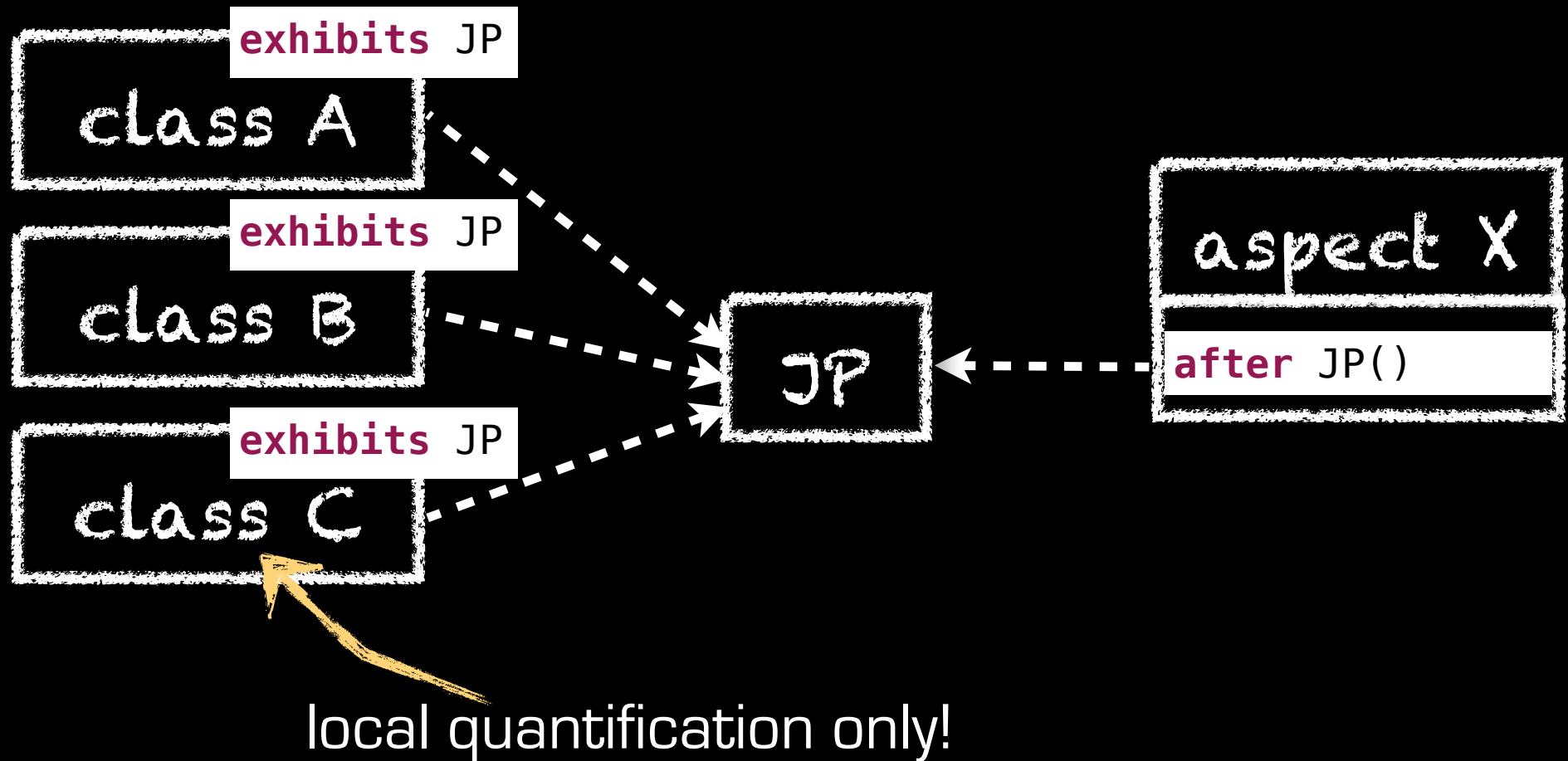
JOIN POINT TYPES

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JOIN POINT TYPES

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```
class C exhibits JP {  
    pointcut JP: execution(void setX(..)) || ...  
    //...  
}
```

MODULARITY ISSUES

```
joinpointtype CheckingOut {  
    float price;  
    Customer cus;  
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interface IFoo {  
    m(float p, String s);  
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return type?
checked exceptions?

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return type?
checked exceptions?

not type safe

JOIN POINT INTERFACES

[Inostroza, 2011]

joint work with
Milton Inostroza
Eric Bodden

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“Join Point Types Revisited”

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“Join Point Types Revisited”

- no fragile name dependencies
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```
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Fix other shortcomings

- join point polymorphism semantics (multiple dispatch)
- unsound use of variant typing (later)
- etc.

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	# exhibits
LawOfDemeter	130

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Cannot really ignore this kind of aspects!

CONTROLLED GLOBAL QUANTIFICATION

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jpi JP(): execution(* *.*(..))
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sealed class C {  
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class B {  
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PERSPECTIVES

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Modular
reasoning

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- exploit a taxonomy of aspects
 - quantification: narrow vs. wide
 - life cycle: development vs. production



Scoping

Interfaces

Types

Effects



Scoping

Interfaces

Types

Can we ensure that aspects do not break type soundness?

Effects

Interaction with other features?
(eg. polymorphism)

TYPING ASPECTS

Safe pointcut/advice binding

- advice can replace computation
- should not introduce runtime type errors

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well-typed
composed program
???

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SUBTYPE POLYMORPHISM

ASPECTS AND SUBTYPING

signature = function type

Principles

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- pointcut signature \leq : join point signatures
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[AspectJ, Join Point Types]

INVARIANCE IN PRACTICE

joint work with
Milton Inostroza
Eric Bodden

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A simple solution is to prohibit type variance

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	# advices	
	AspectJ	JPI
AJHotDraw	49	77
LawOfDemeter	6	68

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Beyond genericity: type ranges [De Fraine, 2008/2010]

- flexible type-safe replacement advice
- ... added complexity (no free lunch :/)

PARAMETRIC POLYMORPHISM

joint work with
Ismael Figueroa
Nicolas Tabareau

A TYPED FUNCTIONAL EMBEDDING OF FIRST-CLASS ASPECTS

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join points represent function applications

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how to ensure the aspect is well-typed? (broken)

MATCHED TYPES

annotate PC with their **matched type**

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```
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possibly matches applications of functions $a \rightarrow b$

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```

enforce that both types are compatible

```
data Aspect a b = Aspect (PC a b) (Advice a b)
```

MATCHED TYPES

annotate PC with their **matched type**

```
data PC a b = PC (forall a' b'. JP a' b' → Bool)
```

possibly matches applications of functions $a \rightarrow b$

```
pc :: PC a a  
pc = pcCall id
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enforce that both types are compatible

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(broken)

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```
adv :: Advice Char Char  
adv proceed c = proceed (toUpper c)
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id 'a'
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```
id [True, False]
```



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data Aspect a b = Aspect (PC a b) (Advice a b)
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```

✓ unifiable

```
id 'a'
```



```
id [True, False]
```



Problem: unification is symmetric

WELL-TYPED ASPECTS

```
data Aspect a b c d = Aspect (PC a b) (Advice c d)
```


WELL-TYPED ASPECTS

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A multi-parameter type class defines a **relation** between types

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data Aspect a b c d = (LessGen (a → b) (c → d)) ⇒  
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primitive pointcut designators

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pcCall, pcType :: (a → b) → PC a b
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pcAnd :: PC a b → PC c d → PC e f
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```

```
pcOr :: (LeastGen (a→b) (c→d) (e→f)) ⇒  
        PC a b → PC c d → PC e f
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pc1 :: PC Int Int
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```
pcOr :: (LeastGen (a→b) (c→d) (e→f)) ⇒  
        PC a b → PC c d → PC e f
```

rely on anti-unification

ADVANTAGES OF THE APPROACH

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Type soundness

- proof follows from correctness of LeastGen
- much simpler than AspectML (ad hoc calculus & type system)

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Compact implementation

- 1K vs. 15-25K for AspectML and AspectualCaml

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Monadic embedding as a Haskell library



Scoping

Interfaces

Types

Effects



Scoping

Interfaces

Types

Effects

Can we control what advice can do?
(proceed, args/return, side effects)

BEYOND TYPES

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Type soundness does not tell much

- control effects through proceed?
- arbitrary effects?

BEYOND TYPES

Type soundness does not tell much

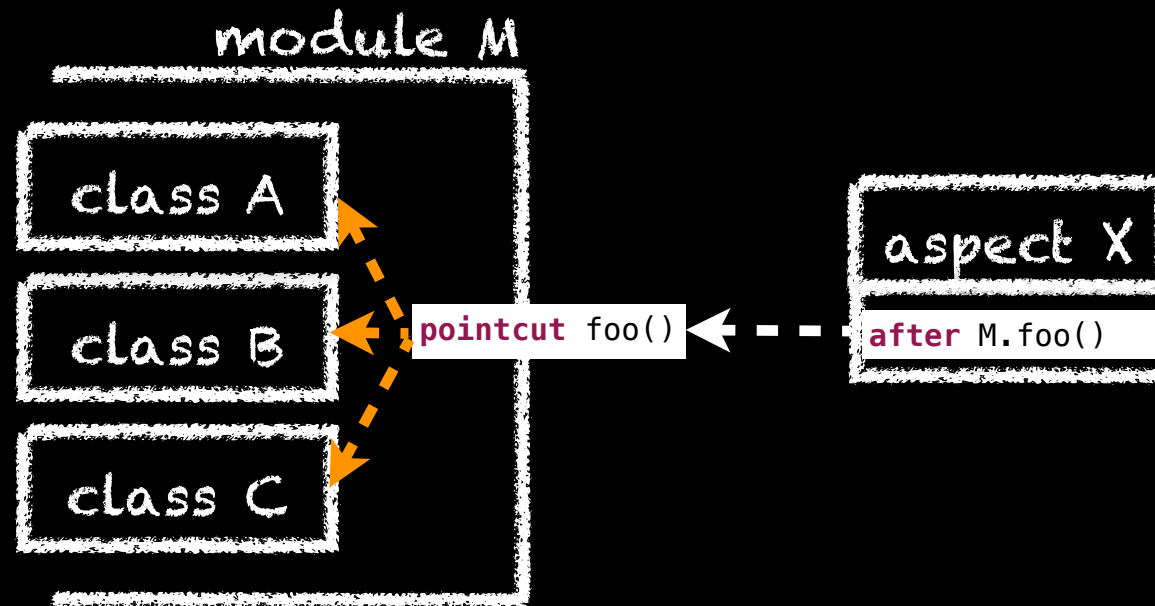
- control effects through proceed?
- arbitrary effects?

Expressive aspect specifications

- black-box behavioral contracts [Skotiniotis, 2004; Zhao, 2003]...
- control effects [Rinard, 2004]
- translucent contracts [Bagherzadeh, 2011]
- model checking [Katz, 2003; Krishnamurthi, 2004]...

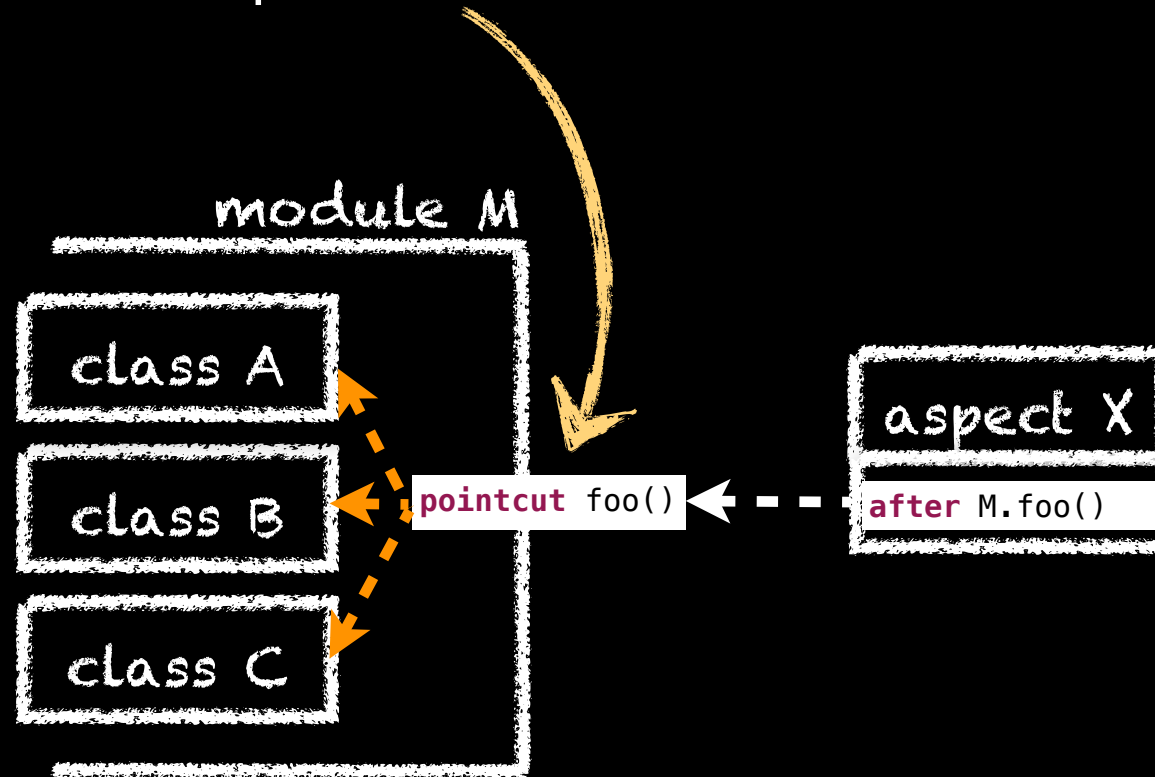
RICH TYPES

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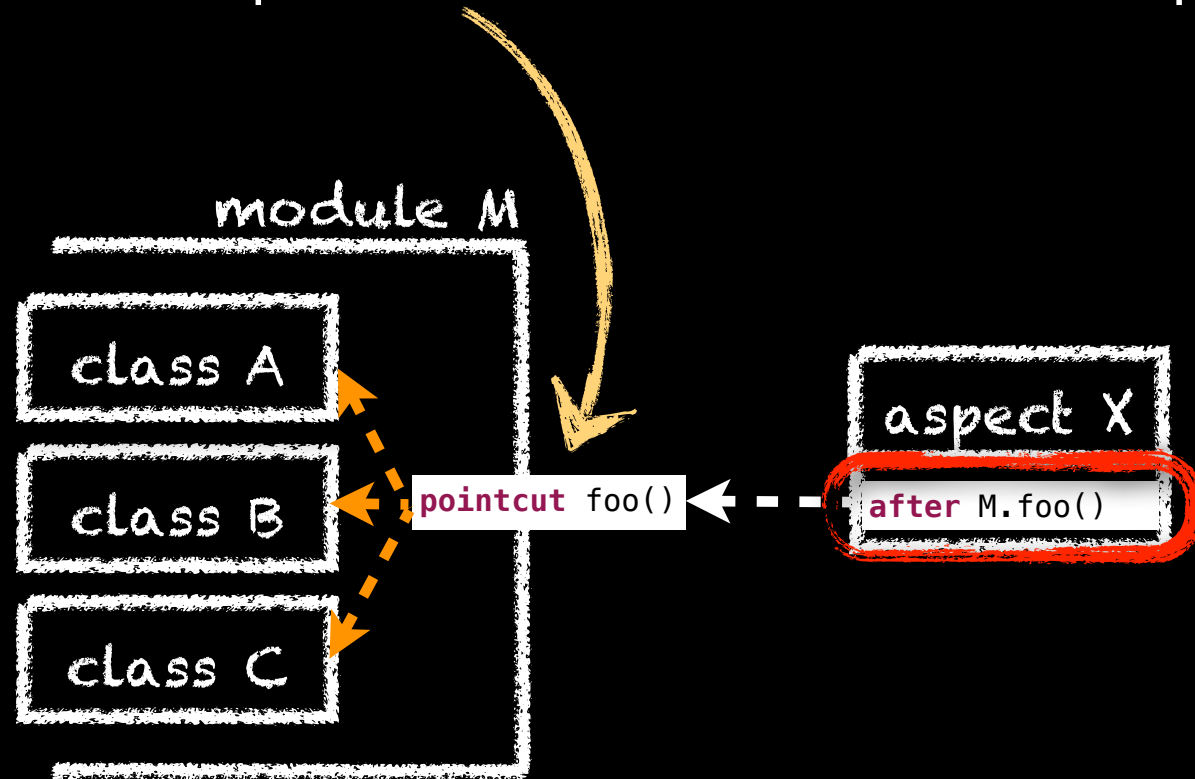
RICH TYPES

Can we enrich aspect interfaces with effect specs?



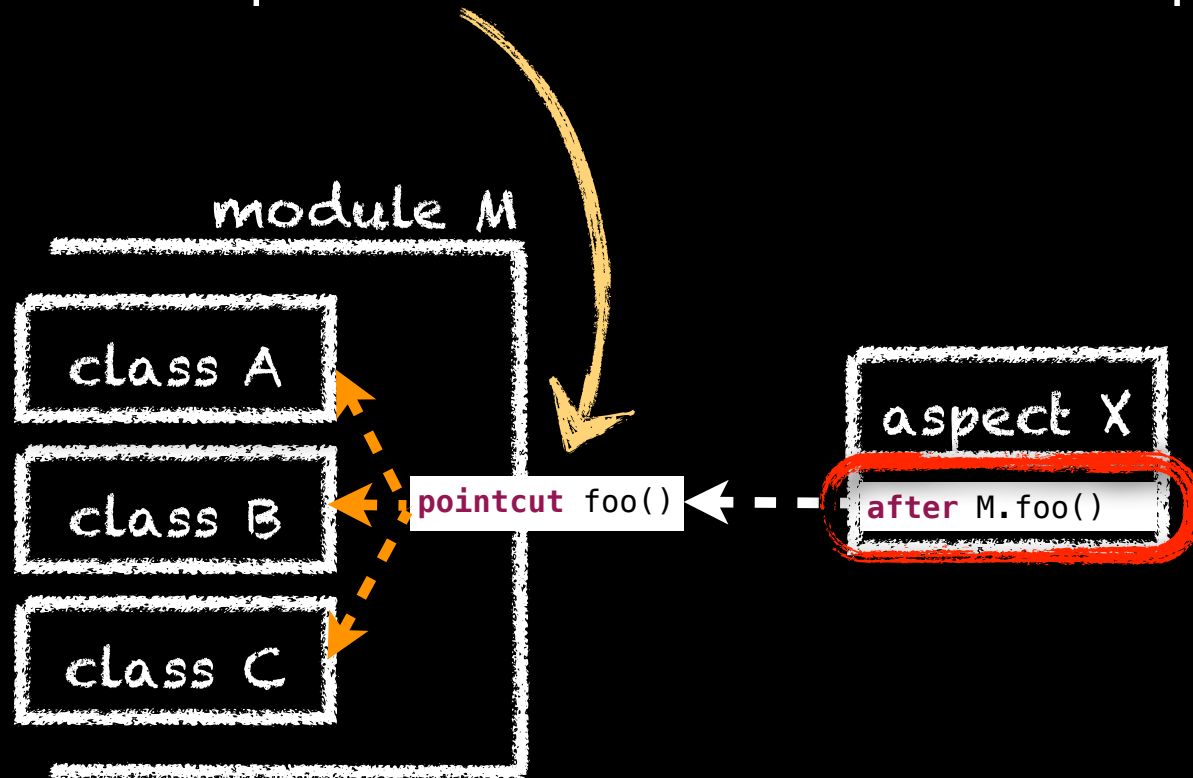
RICH TYPES

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RICH TYPES

Can we enrich aspect interfaces with effect specs?



The Haskell type system deals with effects!

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MONADS (for this talk)

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Purity is the default

```
foo :: Int → Int
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Side effects reflected in types

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monads

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type App = ReaderT AppConfig (StateT AppState IO)
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monad transformers

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“effect stack”

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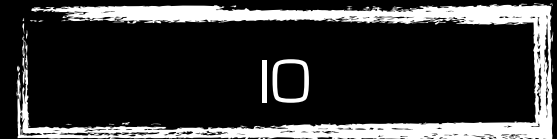
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Reader AppConfig

State AppState

IO

“effect stack”

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foo :: Int → (State Char) Int
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Several effects

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```
type App = ReaderT AppConfig (StateT AppState IO)
```



“effect stack”

```
foo :: (Monad m) ⇒ Int → m Int
```

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MONADS (for this talk)

Purity is the default

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foo :: Int → Int
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Side effects reflected in types

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“effect stack”

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```

(we'll omit the constraints on monadic type variables) 57

TALKING ABOUT EFFECTS

joint work with
Ismael Figueroa
Nicolas Tabareau

Parametrize the model by the effect stack

```
data JP a b = JP (a → b) a
data PC a b = PC (forall a' b'. JP a' b' → Bool)
type Advice a b = (a → b) → a → b
data Aspect a b c d =
  (LessGen (a→b) (c→d)) ⇒ Aspect (PC a b) (Advice c d)
```

TALKING ABOUT EFFECTS

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Parametrize the model by the effect stack

```
data JP m a b = JP (a → m b) a
data PC m a b = PC (forall a' b'. m JP a' b' → m Bool)
type Advice m a b = (a → m b) → a → m b
data Aspect m a b c d =
  (LessGen (a→b) (c→d)) ⇒ Aspect (PC m a b) (Advice m c d)
```

TALKING ABOUT EFFECTS

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Parametrize the model by the effect stack

```
data JP m a b = JP (a → m b) a
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data Aspect m a b c d =
  (LessGen (a→b) (c→d)) ⇒ Aspect (PC m a b) (Advice m c d)
```

Computation happens within the AOT monad transformer

```
newtype AOT m a = ...
```

(used to pass the aspect environment around)

EMBEDDING TYPE CONSTRAINTS IN POINTCUTS



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```
module Fib (fib, pcFib) where
```

EMBEDDING TYPE CONSTRAINTS IN POINTCUTS

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```
innerFib = ...  
fib = ...
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EMBEDDING TYPE CONSTRAINTS IN POINTCUTS

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module Fib (fib, pcFib) where
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```
pcFib :: PC m Int Int  
pcFib = pcCall innerFib
```

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module Fib (fib, pcFib) where
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module Fib (fib, pcFib) where
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innerFib = ...  
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```
pcFib :: PC m Int Int  
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```

```
comb :: t → Advice m a b
```

EMBEDDING TYPE CONSTRAINTS IN POINTCUTS

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module Fib (fib, pcFib) where
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innerFib = ...  
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EMBEDDING TYPE CONSTRAINTS IN POINTCUTS

```
module Fib (fib, ppcFib) where
```

```
innerFib = ...  
fib = ...
```

```
ppcFib :: ProtectedPC m Int Int t a b  
ppcFib = protectPC pcFib comb
```

```
pcFib :: PC m Int Int  
pcFib = pcCall innerFib
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```
myadvice :: t  
myadvice = ...
```

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```
myaspect = aspect ppcFib myadvice
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control effects & side effects

CONTROL FLOW EFFECTS

[Rinard, 2004]

CONTROL FLOW EFFECTS

[Rinard, 2004]	definition
combination	free
replacement	no proceed
augmentation	proceed once same arg/ret
narrowing	proceed at most once same arg/ret

CONTROL FLOW EFFECTS

EffectiveAdvice
[Oliveira, 2010]

[Rinard, 2004]	definition	type
combination	free	Advice m a b
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CONTROL FLOW EFFECTS

EffectiveAdvice
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CONTROL FLOW EFFECTS

EffectiveAdvice
[Oliveira, 2010]

[Rinard, 2004]

	definition	type
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ENFORCING NARROWING ADVICE

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type Narrow m a b c = (a → m Bool, Augment m a b c, Replace m a b)
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combinator that requires Narrow

```
narrow :: Narrow m a b c → Advice m a b  
narrow (pred, aug, rep) proceed x =  
  do b <- pred x  
    if b then replace rep proceed x  
    else augment aug proceed x
```

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```
crazy :: Advice ...  
crazy = ...
```



EFFECT INTERFERENCE

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Reason about interferences base/aspects [Oliveira, 2010]

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AOT m a

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AOT m a

Error d

Reader c

State b

IO

EFFECT INTERFERENCE

Reason about interferences base/aspects [Oliveira, 2010]

NIAOT t m a

Error d

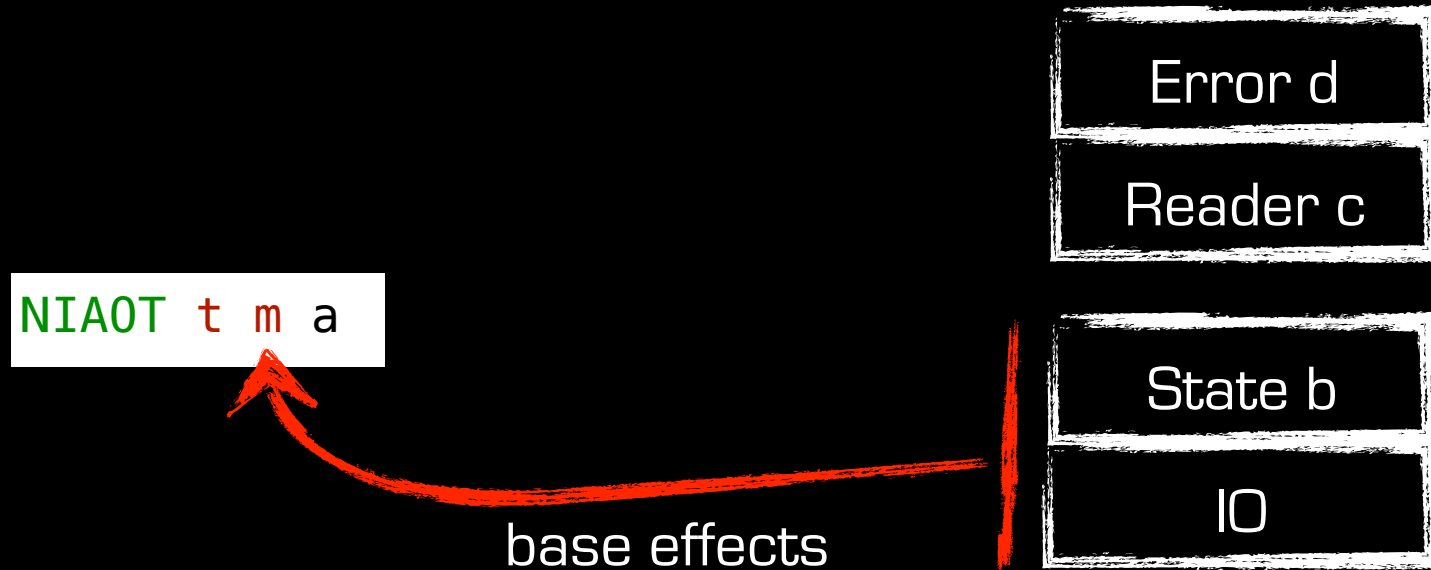
Reader c

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IO

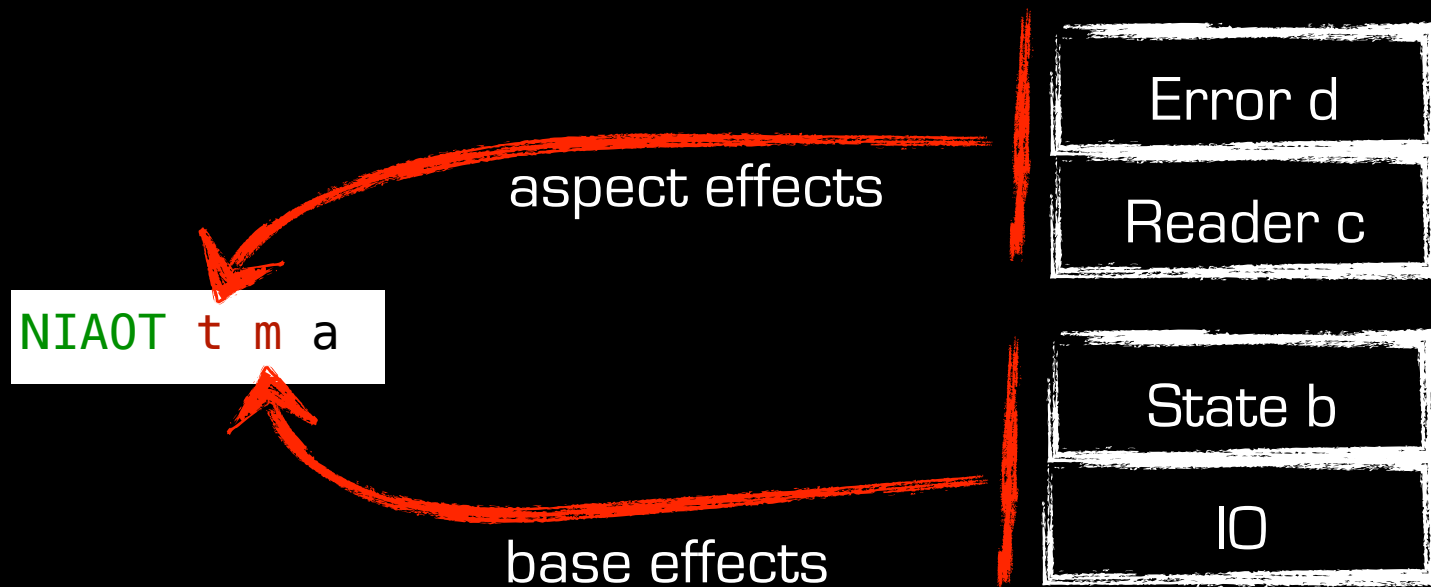
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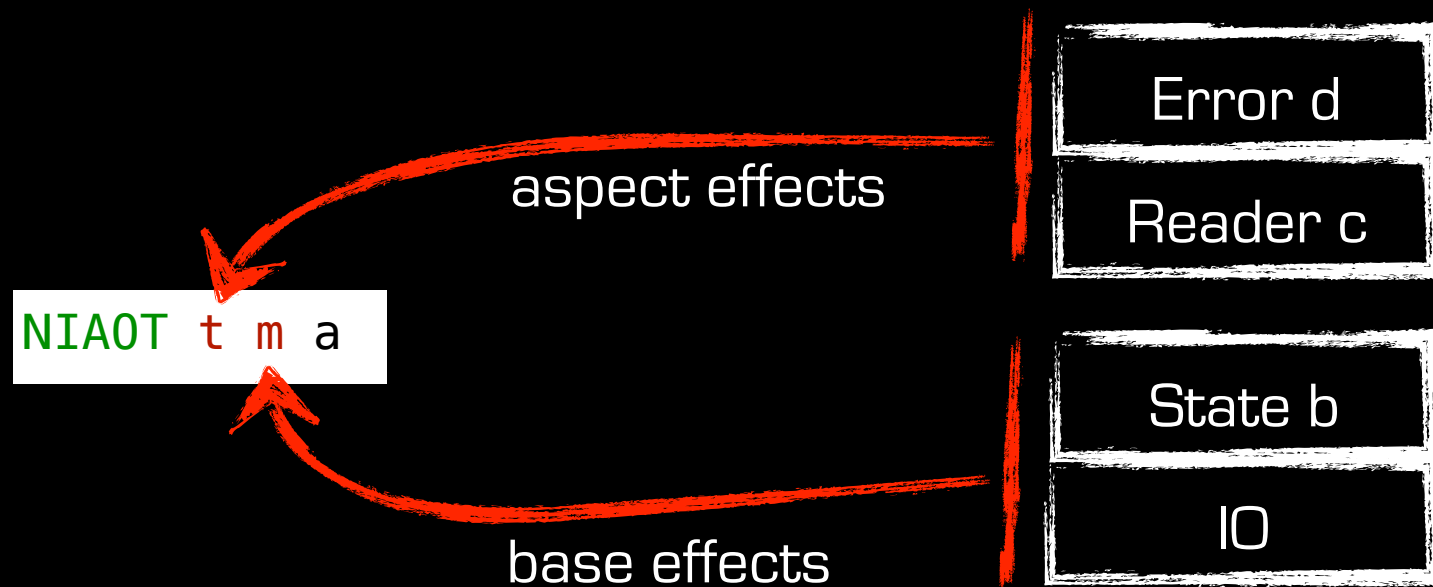
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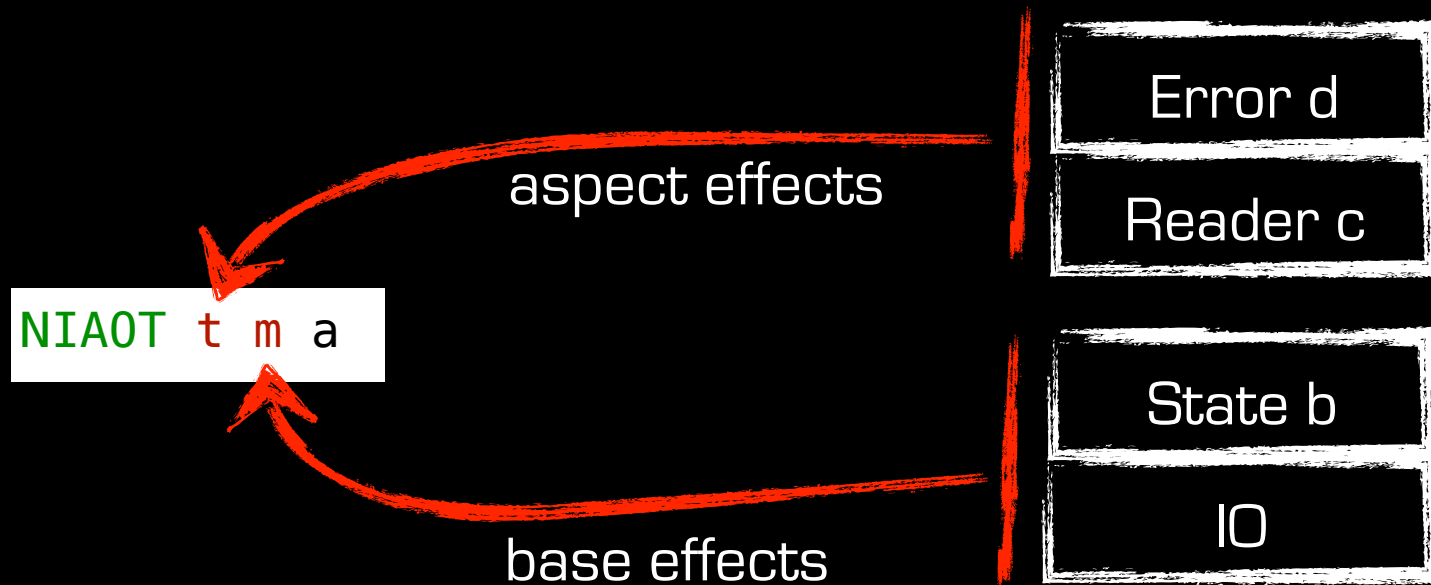
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rely on parametricity to enforce non-interference

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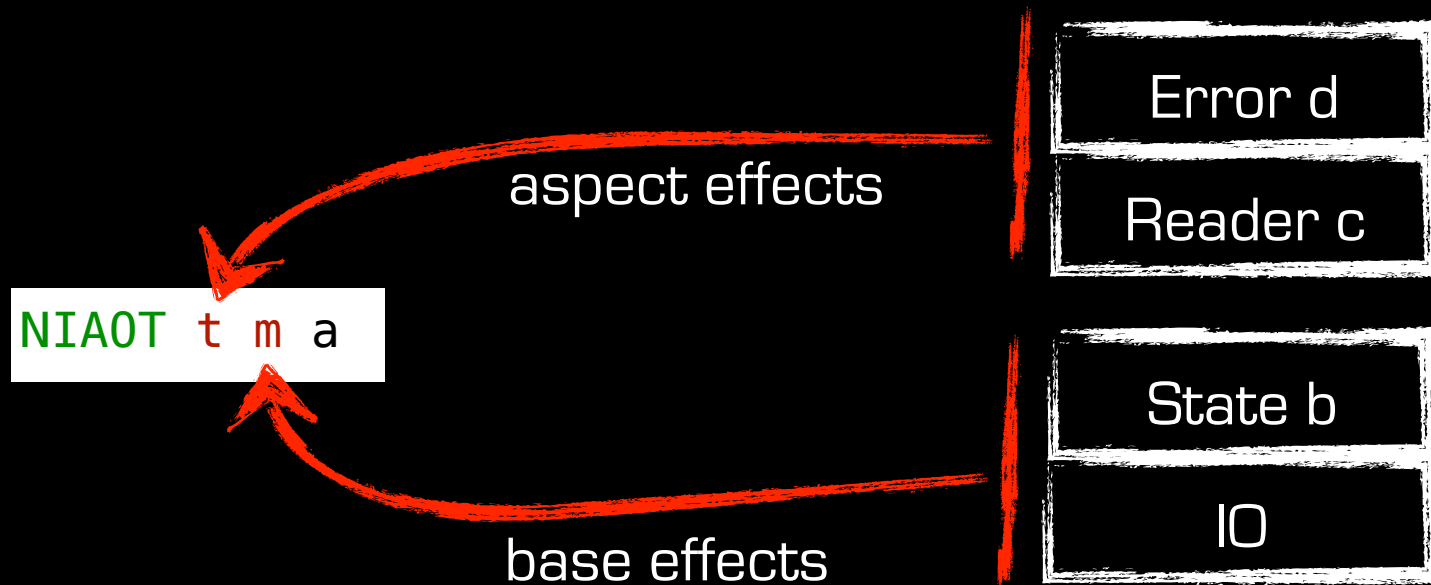


rely on parametricity to enforce non-interference

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type NIAdvice t a b = forall m. Advice (NIAOT t m) a b
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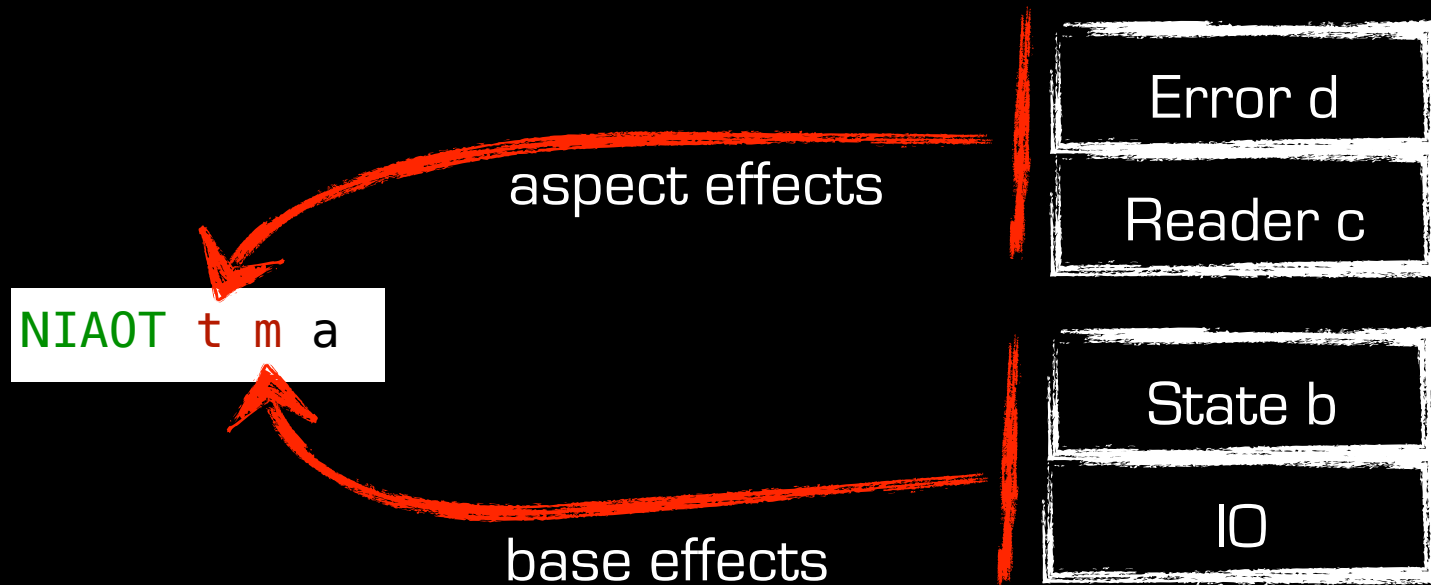


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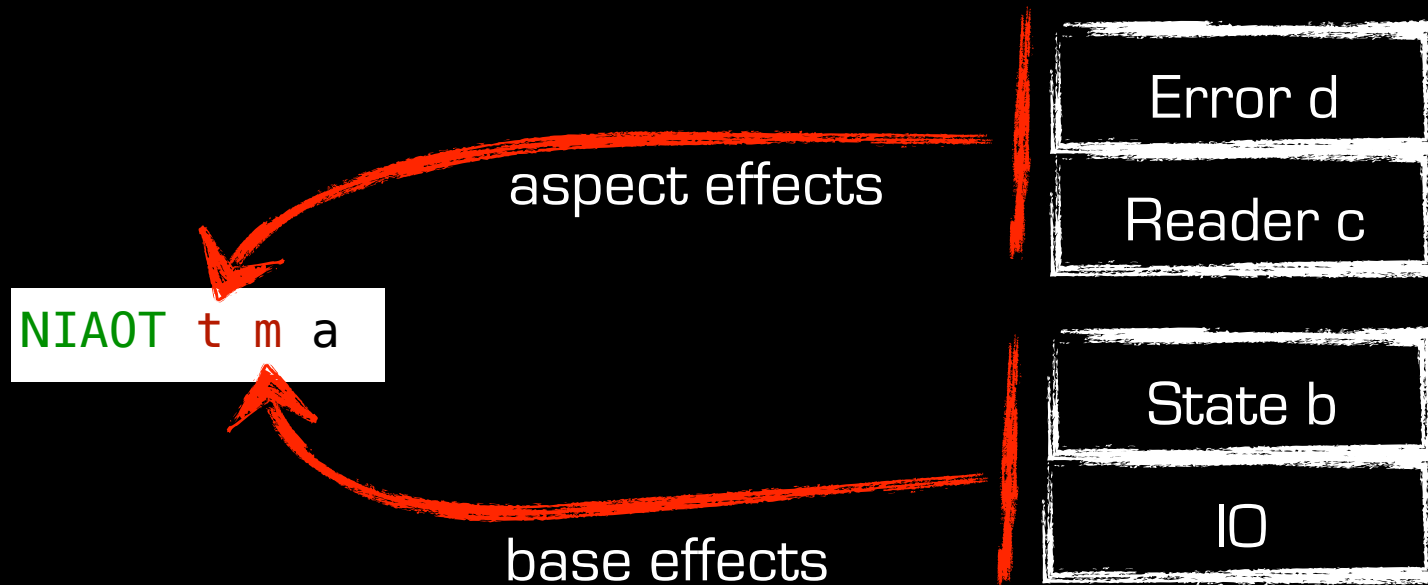


rely on parametricity to enforce non-interference

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type NIAdvice t a b = forall m. Advice (NIAOT t m) a b
type NIPC t a b = forall m. PC (NIAOT t m) a b
```

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type NIPC t a b = forall m. PC (NIAOT t m) a b
```

```
type NIBase m a b = forall t. a -> NIAOT t m b
```

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PERSPECTIVES

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extend EffectiveAdvice to deal with **quantification**

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extend EffectiveAdvice to deal with **quantification**

extend Open Modules to deal with **effects**

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Challenges

- beyond the base/aspects distinction
- compose restrictions (eg. non-interfering + narrowing)
- type system challenges
 - higher-rank polymorphism
 - managing the monadic stack: views [Schrijvers, 2011]

CONCLUSIONS



Scoping

- balance flexibility / guarantees
- practical & efficient implementations
- new models



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Interfaces

- time to try them out for real
- need a gradual adoption path



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Interfaces

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Typing

- Holy Grail: expressiveness vs. complexity

Effects

- exploit the (existing) type system or design specific analyses?
- lightweight & practical



T AMING

A SPECT

O RIENTATION

Power



Control

To be continued...

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