

Script generated by TTT



Programming Languages

Aspect Oriented Programming

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“Is modularity the key principle to organizing software?”

Learning outcomes

- 1 AOP Motivation and Weaving basics
- 2 Bundling aspects with static crosscutting
- 3 Join points, Pointcuts and Advice
- 4 Composing Pointcut Designators
- 5 Implementation of Advices and Pointcuts

Motivation



- Traditional modules directly correspond to code blocks
- Aspects can be thought of seperately but are smeared over modules ~> *Tangling of aspects*
- Focus on *Aspects of Concern*

~> Aspect Oriented Programming

Motivation

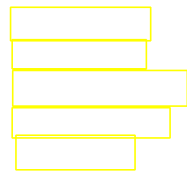


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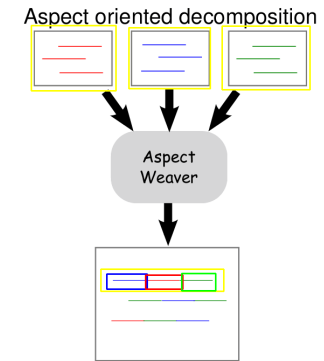
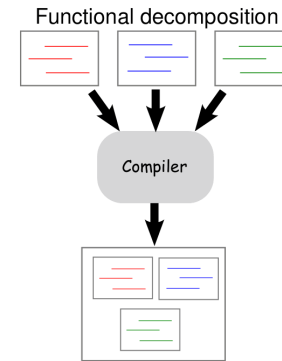
~> *Aspect Oriented Programming*

Aspect Oriented Programming

- Express a system's aspects of concerns cross-cutting modules
- Automatically combine separate Aspects with a *Weaver* into a program



Static Crosscutting



Adding External Defintions



inter-type declaration

```
class Expr {}
class Const extends Expr {
    public int val;
    public Const(int val) {
        this.val=val;
    }
}
class Add extends Expr {
    public Expr l,r;
    public Add(Expr l, Expr r) {
        this.l=l;this.r=r;
    }
}

aspect ExprEval {
    abstract int Expr.eval();
    int Const.eval(){return val; };
    int Add.eval() {return l.eval()
        + r.eval(); }
}
```



equivalent code

```
// aspectj-patched code
abstract class Expr {
    abstract int eval();
}
class Const extends Expr {
    public int val;
    public int eval(){ return val; };
    public Const(int val) {
        this.val=val;
    }
}
class Add extends Expr {
    public Expr l,r;
    public int eval() { return l.eval()
        + r.eval(); }
    public Add(Expr l, Expr r) {
        this.l=l;this.r=r;
    }
}
```

Join Points



Well-defined points in the control flow of a program

method/constr. call	executing the actual method-call statement
method/constr. execution	the individual method is executed
field get	a field is read
field set	a field is set
exception handler execution	an exception handler is invoked
class initialization	static initializers are run
object initialization	dynamic initializers are run

Pointcuts and Designators



Definition (Pointcut)

A pointcut is a *set of join points* and optionally some of the runtime values when program execution reaches a referred join point.

Pointcut designators can be defined and named by the programmer:

```
<userdef> ::= 'pointcut' <id> '(' <idlist>? ')' ':' <expr> ';'
```

```
<idlist> ::= <id> (',' <id>)*
```

```
<expr> ::= '!' <expr>  
| <expr> '&&' <expr>  
| <expr> '||' <expr>  
| '(' <expr> ')'  
| <primitive>
```

Example:

```
pointcut dfs(): execution (void Tree.dfs()) ||  
execution (void Leaf.dfs());
```

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pointcut dfs(): execution (void Tree.dfs()) ||  
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Advice



... are method-like constructs, used to define additional behaviour at joinpoints:

- `before(formal)`
- `after(formal)`
- `after(formal) returning (formal)`
- `after(formal) throwing (formal)`

For example:

```
aspect Doubler {
  before(): call(int C.foo(int)) {
    System.out.println("About to call foo");
  }
}
```

Binding Pointcut Parameters in Advices



Certain pointcut primitives add dependencies on the context:

- `args(arglist)`

This binds identifiers to parameter values for use in in advices.

```
aspect Doubler {
  before(int i: call(int C.foo(int)) && args(i)) {
    i = i*2;
  }
}
```

`arglist` actually is a flexible expression:

$\langle arglist \rangle ::= (\langle arg \rangle (',' \langle arg \rangle)^*)^?$

$\langle arg \rangle ::=$	$\langle identifier \rangle$	binds a value to this identifier
	$\langle typename \rangle$	filters only this type
	'*'	matches all types
	'..'	matches several arguments

Advice



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Around Advice



Unusual treatment is necessary for

- `type around(formal)`

⚠ Here, we need to pinpoint, where the advice is wrapped around the join point – this is achieved via `proceed()`:

```
aspect Doubler {
  int around(int i): call(int C.foo(Object, int)) && args(i) {
    int newi = proceed(i*2);
    return newi/2;
  }
}
```

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`arglist` actually is a flexible expression:

`<arglist> ::= { <arg> (',' <arg>)* }?`

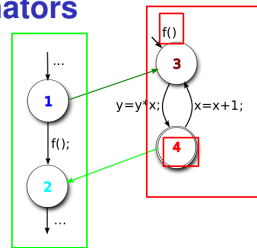
`<arg> ::= <identifier>`
 | `<typename>`
 | `'*'`
 | `'..'`

binds a value to this identifier
 filters only this type
 matches all types
 matches several arguments

Method Related Designators



- `call(signature)`
- `execution(signature)`



Matches call/execution join points at which the method or constructor called matches the given *signature*. The syntax of a method/constructor *signature* is:

`ResultTypeName RecvrTypeName.meth_id(ParamTypeName, ...)`
`NewObjectTypeName.new(ParamTypeName, ...)`

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    return newi/2;
  }
}
```

Method Related Designators



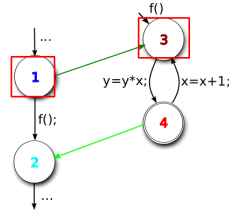
```
class MyClass{
  public String toString() {
    return "silly me ";
  }
  public static void main(String[] args){
    MyClass c = new MyClass();
    System.out.println(c + c.toString());
  }
}
aspect CallAspect {
  pointcut calltostring() : call(String MyClass.toString());
  pointcut exectoststring() : execution(String MyClass.toString());
  before() : calltostring() || exectoststring() {
    System.out.println("advice!");
  }
}
```

```
advice!
advice!
advice!
silly me silly me
```

Method Related Designators



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- `execution(signature)`



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```
ResultTypeName RecvrTypeName.meth_id(ParamTypeName, ...)  
NewObjectTypeName.new(ParamTypeName, ...)
```

Field Related Designators



- `get(fieldqualifier)`
- `set(fieldqualifier)`

Matches field get/set join points at which the field accessed matches the signature. The syntax of a field qualifier is:

```
FieldTypeName ObjectTypeName.field_id
```

⚠ : However, set has an argument which is bound via `args`:

```
aspect GuardedSetter {  
  before(int newval): set(static int MyClass.x) && args(newval) {  
    if (Math.abs(newval) - MyClass.x > 100)  
      throw new RuntimeException();  
  }  
}
```

Method Related Designators



```
class MyClass{  
  public String toString(){  
    return "silly me";  
  }  
  public static void main(String[] args){  
    MyClass c = new MyClass();  
    System.out.println(c + c.toString());  
  }  
}  
aspect CallAspect {  
  pointcut calltoString() : call(*)(String MyClass.toString());  
  pointcut execttoString() : execution(*)(String MyClass.toString());  
  before() : calltoString() || execttoString() {  
    System.out.println("advice!");  
  }  
}
```

```
advice!  
advice!  
advice!  
silly me silly me
```

Type based

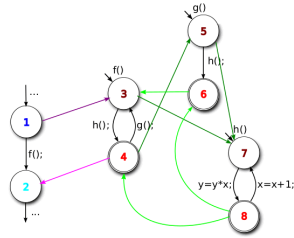


- `target(typeoid)`
- `within(typepattern)`
- `withincode(methodpattern)`

Matches join points of any kind which

- are referring to the receiver of type `typeoid`
- is contained in the class body of type `typepattern`
- is contained within the method defined by `methodpattern`

Flow and State Based



- `cflow(arbitrary_pointcut)`

Matches join points of *any kind* that occur strictly between entry and exit of each join point matched by `arbitrary_pointcut`.

- `if(boolean_expression)`

Picks join points based on a dynamic property:

```

aspect GuardedSetter {
  before(): if(thisJoinPoint.getKind().equals(METHOD_CALL)) && within(MyClass) {
    System.out.println("What an inefficient way to match calls");
  }
}
  
```

Implementation



Aspect Weaving:

- Pre-processor
- During compilation
- Post-compile-processor
- During Runtime in the Virtual Machine
- A combination of the above methods

Which advice is served first?



Advices are defined in different aspects

- If statement `declare precedence: A, B;` exists, then advice in aspect A has precedence over advice in aspect B for the same join point.
- Otherwise, if aspect A is a subspect of aspect B, then advice defined in A has precedence over advice defined in B.
- Otherwise, (i.e. if two pieces of advice are defined in two different aspects), it is *undefined* which one has precedence.

Advices are defined in the same aspect

- If either are *after advice*, then the one that appears *later* in the aspect has precedence over the one that appears earlier.
- Otherwise, then the one that appears *earlier* in the aspect has precedence over the one that appears later.

Woven JVM Code



```

Expr one = new Const(1);
one.val = 42;
  
```

```

aspect MyAspect {
  pointcut settingconst(): set(int Const.val);
  before () : settingconst() {
    System.out.println("setter");
  }
}
  
```

```

...
117: aload_1
118: iconst_1
119: dup_x1
120: invokestatic #73 // Method MyAspect.aspectOf():LMyAspect;
123: invokevirtual #79 // Method MyAspect.ajc$before$MyAspect$2$704a2754:()V
126: putfield #54 // Field Const.val:I
...
  
```

```
Expr one = new Const(1);
Expr e = new Add(one,one);
String s = e.toString();
System.out.println(s);
```

```
aspect MyAspect {
    pointcut callingtoString():
        call (String Object.toString()) && target(Expr);
    before () : callingtoString() {
        System.out.println("calling");
    }
}
```

```
...
72: aload_2
73: instanceof #1 // class Expr
76: ifeq 85
79: invokestatic #67 // Method MyAspect.aspectOf():MyAspect;
82: invokevirtual #70 // Method MyAspect.ajc$before$MyAspect$1$4c1f7c11:()V
85: aload_2
86: invokevirtual #33 // Method java/lang/Object.toString():Ljava/lang/String;
89: astore_3
...
```

Pointcut Parameters and Around/Proceed

Around clauses often refer to parameters and `proceed()` – sometimes across different contexts!

```
class C {
    int foo(int i) { return 42+i; }
}
aspect Doubler {
    int around(int i): call(int *.foo(Object, int)) && args(i) {
        int newi = proceed(i*2);
        return newi/2;
    }
}
```

⚠ Now, imagine code like:

```
public static void main(String[] args){
    new C().foo(42);
}
```

Pointcut Parameters and Around/Proceed

Around clauses often refer to parameters and `proceed()` – sometimes across different contexts!

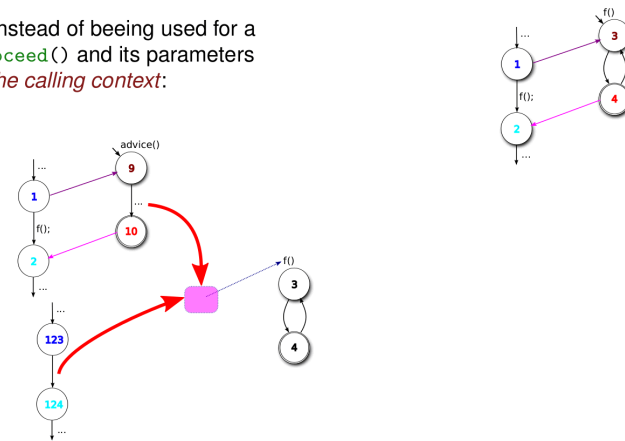
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}
```

⚠ Now, imagine code like:

```
public static void main(String[] args){
    new C().foo(42);
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```

Escaping the Calling Context

⚠ However, instead of being used for a direct call, `proceed()` and its parameters may *escape the calling context*:



Pointcut parameters and Scope



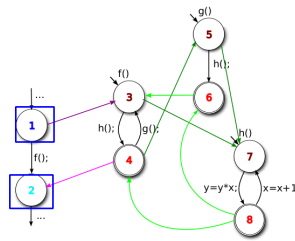
- ⚠️ `proceed()` might not even be in the same scope as the original method!
- ⚠️ even worse, the scope of the exposed parameters might have expired!

```
class C {
    int foo(int i) { return 42+i; }
    public static void main(String[] str){ new C().foo(42); }
}
aspect Doubler {
    Executor executor;
    Future<Integer> f;
    int around(int i): call(int *.foo(Object, int)) && args(i) {
        Callable<Integer> c = () -> proceed(i*2)/2;
        f = executor.submit(c);
        return i/2;
    }
    public int getCacheValue() throws Exception {
        return f.get();
    }
}
```

Property Based Crosscutting



```
after(int i) : call(void h()) &&
    cflow( call(void f(int)) &&
        args(i))
{ ... };
```



Idea 1: Stack based

- At each `call`-match, check runtime stack for `cflow`-match
- ~ Naive implementation
- ~ Poor runtime performance

Idea 2: State based

- Keep separate stack of states
- ~ Only modify stack at `cflow`-relevant pointcuts
- ~ Check stack for emptiness

Even more optimizations in practice
 ~ state-sharing, ~ counters,
 ~ static analysis

Shadow Classes and Closures

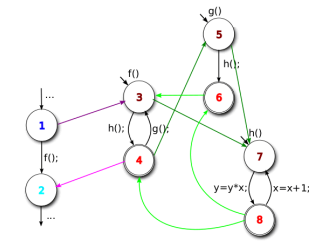


```
// aspectj patched code
class Doubler { // shadow class, holding the fields for the advice
    Future<Integer> f;
    ExecutorService executor;
    ...
    public int ajc$around$Doubler$1$9158ff14(int i, AroundClosure c){
        Callable<Integer> c = lambda$0(i,c);
        f = executor.submit(c);
        return i/2;
    }
    public static int ajc$around$Doubler$1$9158ff14proceed(int i, AroundClosure c)
        throws Throwable{
        Object[] params = new Object[] { Conversions.intObject(i) };
        return Conversions.intValue(c.run(params));
    }
    static Integer lambda$0(int i, AroundClosure c) throws Exception{
        return Integer.valueOf(ajc$around$Doubler$1$9158ff14proceed(i*2, c)/2);
    }
}
class C_AjcClosure1 extends AroundClosure{ // closure class for pointcut params
    C_AjcClosure1(Object[] params){ super(params); }
    Object run(Object[] params) {
        C c = (C) params[0];
        int i = Conversions.intValue(params[1]);
        return Conversions.intObject(C.foo_aroundBody0(c, i));
    }
}
```

Property Based Crosscutting



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Translation scheme implications:

before/after Advice ... ranges from *inlined code* to distribution into *several methods and closures*

Joinpoints ... in the original program that have advices may get *explicitly dispatching wrappers*

Dynamic dispatching ... can require a *runtime test* to correctly interpret certain joinpoint designators

Flow sensitive pointcuts ... runtime penalty for the naive implementation, optimized version still *costly*

Further reading...

- [1] P. Avgustinov, A. S. Christensen, L. Hendren, S. Kuzins, J. Lhoták, O. Lhoták, O. de Moor, D. Sereni, G. Sittampalam, and J. Tibble.
Optimising aspectj.
SIGPLAN Not., 40(6):117–128, June 2005.
- [2] G. Kiczales.
Aspect-oriented programming.
ACM Comput. Surv., 28(4es), 1996.
- [3] G. Kiczales, E. Hilsdale, J. Hugunin, M. Kersten, J. Palm, and W. Griswold.
An overview of aspectj.
ECOOP 2001 — Object-Oriented Programming, 2072:327–354, 2001.
- [4] H. Masuhara, G. Kiczales, and C. Dutchyn.
A compilation and optimization model for aspect-oriented programs.
Compiler Construction, 2622:46–60, 2003.

Pro

- Un-tangling of concerns
- Late extension across boundaries of hierarchies
- Aspects provide another level of abstraction

Contra

- Weaving generates runtime overhead
- nontransparent control flow and interactions between aspects
- Debugging and Development needs IDE Support