



Lisp

Didier Verna

General  
Introduction

Part I: Performance

Part II: Genericity

# Performance and Genericity

the forgotten power of Lisp

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# Some Background

Which explains a lot...

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Part II: Genericity

- **Assistant professor in computer science**
  - ▶ Research on the performance and expressiveness of Common Lisp
  - ▶ Teaching (amongst other things) functional programming to imperative-biased students
- **Imperative-educated myself**
  - ▶ But I resisted
- **Member of the XEmacs core maintainers team**
  - ▶ 11 years

# Why Lisp?

What else do you need ?



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- Functional, purely or not
- Imperative
- Object-Oriented / MOP
- Aspect- / Context-Oriented
- Declarative
- Reflexive (introspection / intercession)
- Macro
- Regular expressions, foreign-functions inter-  
web clients, OpenGL, multi-threading
- Forms or pattern-matching, currying
- Strict evaluation or not
- Dynamically Typed, or not
- Lexically scoped, or not
- Interpreted / Byte-Compiled / Compiled, Embeddable
- No real difference between run-time and compile-time



# From Simon's keynote

Simon's big picture... was almost complete

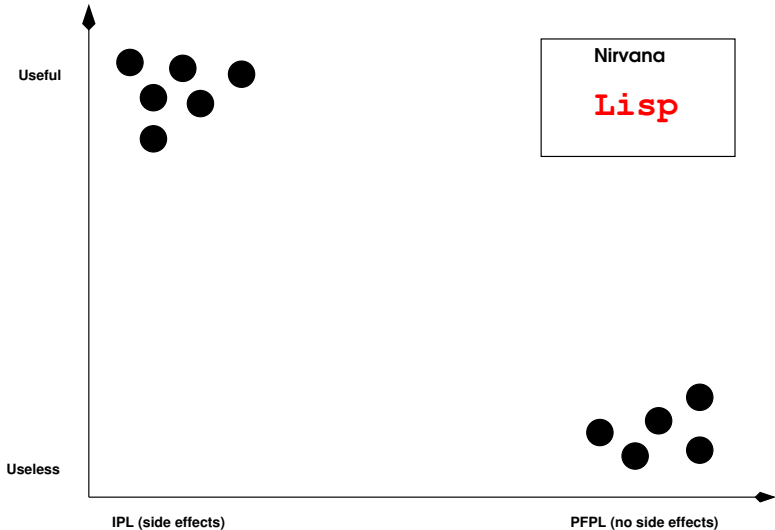
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# From Andrei's keynote

Let's be realistic, I can't win

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## I'm a peaceful guy...

- Please continue using your favorite language
- Please continue *wishing* you could use your favorite language
- Please don't feel aggressed  
“**This** is cool”  $\neq$  “**That** is bad”

## ... BUT:

- Don't you dare complaining about the parens
- Don't you dare thinking that Lisp is dead  
*It doesn't even smell funny*
  - ▶ Old  $\neq$  dead
  - ▶ Old = *mature*
  - ▶ Please *at least* have the decency to mention it !



# Because if you can read this...

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```
template <template <class> class M, typename T,  
struct ch_value_<M<tag::value_<T>>, V>  
{ typedef M<V> ret; };
```

```
template <template <class> class M, typename I,  
struct ch_value_<M<tag::image_<I>>, V>  
{ typedef M<mln_ch_value(I, V)> ret; };
```

```
template <template <class, class> class M, type  
struct ch_value_<M<tag::value_<T>, tag::image_<  
{ typedef mln_ch_value(I, V) ret; };
```

```
template <template <class, class> class M, type  
struct ch_value_<M<tag::psite_<P>, tag::value_<  
{ typedef M<P, V> ret; };
```



... sure you can read that !

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```
(template (template (class) (class M) (typename  
(struct (ch_value_ (M (tag::value_ T)) V)  
(typedef (M V) ret))))
```

```
(template (template (class) (class M) (typename  
(struct (ch_value_ (M (tag::image_ I)) V)  
(typedef (M (mln_ch_value I V)) ret))))
```

```
(template (template (class class) (class M) (ty  
(struct (ch_value_ (M (tag::value_ T) (tag::ima  
(typedef (mln_ch_value I V) ret))))
```

```
(template (template (class class) (class M) (ty  
(struct (ch_value_ (M (tag::psite_ P) (tag::val  
(typedef (M P V) ret))))
```



# Performance

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- 1 Experimental Conditions
- 2 C Programs and Benchmarks
- 3 Lisp programs and benchmarks
  - Raw Lisp
  - Typed Lisp
  - Results
- 4 Type inference





# Genericity

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- 5 Binary Methods non-issues
  - Types, Classes, Inheritance
  - Corollary: method combinations
  
- 6 Enforcing the concept – usage level
  - Introspection
  - Binary function class
  
- 7 Enforcing the concept – implementation level
  - Misimplementations
  - Strong binary functions



# Subliminal slide

You didn't notice. . .

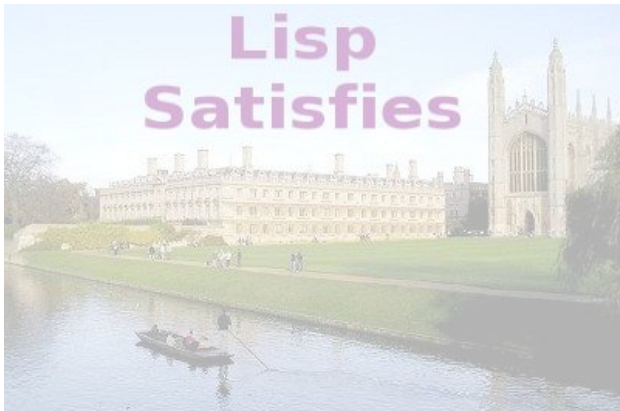
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## Part I

# Performance

Breaking the legend of slowness



# Introduction

## False beliefs

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- Yobbo sez: “But Lisp is slow right ?”
- Me: “How do you know that ?”
- Yobbo replies (*choose your favorite answer*):
  - ▶ Huh, it’s a well known fact
  - ▶ Well, that’s what I was told
  - ▶ Hmm, last time I checked... (yeah, in 84)



# Facts

Old ones actually

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## ■ Lisp is not slow

- ▶ It's been 20 years
  - **Smart compilers** ( $\Rightarrow$  native machine code)
  - **Weak typing** (types known at compile-time)
  - **Safety levels** (compiler optimizations)
  - **Efficient data structures** (arrays, hash tables *etc.*)
  - Today's machines  $\neq$  1960's machines

## ■ We need rock solid evidence:

- ▶ Comparative C and Lisp benchmarks (part 1: full dedication)
- ▶ 4 simple image processing algorithms
- ▶ Pixel storage and access / arithmetic operations



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# Experimental conditions

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- **The algorithms:** the “point-wise” class
  - ▶ Pixel assignment / addition / multiplication / division
  - ▶ Soft parameters: image size / type / storage / access
  - ▶ Hard parameters: compilers / optimization level
  - ▶ ⇒ More than 1000 individual test cases
- **The protocol**
  - ▶ Debian GNU Linux / 2.4.27-2-686 packaged kernel
  - ▶ Pentium 4 / 3GHz / 1GB RAM / 1MB level 2 cache
  - ▶ Single user mode / SMP off (no hyperthreading)
  - ▶ Measures on 200 consecutive iterations



# C code sample

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## The `add` function

```
void add (image *to, image *from, float val)
{
    int i;
    const int n = ima->n;

    for (i = 0; i < n; ++i)
        to->data[i] = from->data[i] + val;
}
```

- *Gcc* 4.0.3 (Debian package)
- Full optimization: `-O3 -DNDEBUG` plus inlining
- *Note*: inlining should be almost negligible





# Results

In terms of behavior

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- **1D implementation *slightly* better** (10%  $\Rightarrow$  20%)
- **Linear access faster** (15  $\Rightarrow$  35 times)
  - ▶ Arithmetic overhead: only 4x – 6x
  - ▶ Main cause: hardware cache optimization
- **Optimized code** faster (60%) in linear case, irrelevant in pseudo-random access
- **Inlining negligible** (2%)



# Results

In terms of performance

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## Fully optimized inlined C code

Algorithm	Integer Image	Float Image
<b>Assignment</b>	0.29	0.29
<b>Addition</b>	0.48	0.47
<b>Multiplication</b>	0.48	0.46
<b>Division</b>	0.58	1.93

- Not much difference between pixel types
- **Surprise:** integer division should be costly
  - ▶ “Constant Integer Optimization” (with inlining)
  - ▶ **Do not neglect inlining !**



# First shot at Lisp code

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## The `add` function, take 1

```
(defun add (to from val)
  (let ((size (array-dimension to 0)))
    (dotimes (i size)
      (setf (aref to i) (+ (aref from i) val))))))
```

- Common Lisp's standard `simple-array` type
- **Interpreted version:** 2300x
- **Compiled version:** 60x
- **Optimized version:** 20x

**Untyped source code  $\Rightarrow$  *dynamic* type checking !**



# Typing mechanisms

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## ■ Typing paradigm:

- ▶ **Type information** (Common Lisp standard)  
Declare the *expected* types of Lisp objects
- ▶ **Type information is optional**  
Declare only what you know; give hints to the compilers
- ▶ Both a *statically* and *dynamically* typed language

## ■ Typing mechanisms:

- ▶ **Function arguments:**  
`(make-array size :element-type 'single-float)`
- ▶ **Type declarations:**  
Function parameter / freshly bound local variable
- ▶ ...



# Typed Lisp code sample

## Declaring the types of function parameters

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### The `add` function, take 2

```
(defun add (to from val)
  (declare (type (simple-array single-float (*)) to from))
  (declare (type single-float val))
  (let ((size (array-dimension to 0)))
    (dotimes (i size)
      (setf (aref to i) (+ (aref from i) val))))))
```

- `simple-array's` ...
- `of single-float's` ...
- uni-dimensional.



# Object representation

Why typing matters for performance

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- Dynamic typing  $\Rightarrow$  objects of any type (worse: any size)
- Lisp variables don't carry type information: objects do

## The "boxed" representation of Lisp objects

Pointer to Lisp Object



Type information



Actual value

- **Dynamic type checking is costly !**



# The benefits of typing

2 examples

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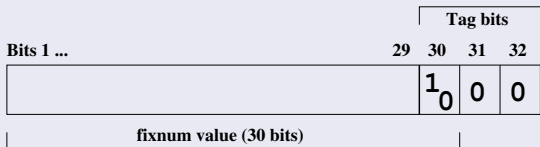
## ■ Array storage layout:

- ▶ Homogeneous arrays of a known type  
⇒ native representation usable
- ▶ Specialization of the `aref` function
- ▶ “Open Coding”

## ■ Immediate objects:

- ▶ Short (less than a memory word)
- ▶ Special “tag bits” (invalid as pointer values)
- ▶ ⇒ Encoded inline

## Unboxed `fixnum` representation





# Typed Lisp code sample

## Declaring the types of function parameters

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### The `add` function, take 2

```
(defun add (to from val)
  (declare (type (simple-array single-float (*)) to from))
  (declare (type single-float val))
  (let ((size (array-dimension to 0)))
    (dotimes (i size)
      (setf (aref to i) (+ (aref from i) val))))))
```

- `simple-array's` ...
- `of single-float's` ...
- uni-dimensional.





# Example: optimizing a loop index

(dotimes (i 100) ...)

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## Disassembly of a `dotimes` macro

```
58701478: .ENTRY FOO()
          90: POP     DWORD PTR [EBP-8]
          93: LEA    ESP, [EBP-32]
          96: XOR    EAX, EAX
          98: JMP    L1
          9A: L0:   ADD    EAX, 4
          9D: L1:   CMP    EAX, 400
          A2: JL    L0
          A4: MOV    EDX, #x2800000B
          A9: MOV    ECX, [EBP-8]
          AC: MOV    EAX, [EBP-4]
          AF: ADD    ECX, 2
          B2: MOV    ESP, EBP
          B4: MOV    EBP, EAX
          B6: JMP    ECX
```



# Activating optimization

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- “Qualities” (Common Lisp standard): between 0 and 3
- safety, speed *etc.*
- Global or local declarations in source code (no compiler flag)

## Global qualities declaration

```
(declaim (optimize (speed 3)
                  (compilation-speed 0)
                  (safety 0)
                  (debug 0)))
```

- **Safe code:** declarations treated as assertions
- **Optimized code:** declarations trusted



# Final Lisp code sample

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## The `add` function

```
(defun add (to from val)
  (declare (type (simple-array single-float (*)) to from))
  (declare (type single-float val))
  (let ((size (array-dimension to 0)))
    (dotimes (i size)
      (setf (aref to i) (+ (aref from i) val))))))
```

- CMU-CL (19c), SBCL (0.9.9), ACL (7.0)
- Full optimization: `(speed 3)`, 0 elsewhere
- Array type: 1D, 2D
- Array access: `aref`, `row-major-aref`, `svref`



# Comparative results

In terms of behavior

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- ≠ **Plain 2D implementation *much* slower** ( $2.8x \Rightarrow 4.5x$ )
- = **Linear access faster** (30 times)
  - ▶ Same reasons, same behavior...
- = **Optimized code** faster in linear case, irrelevant in pseudo-random access
  - ≠ Gain more important in Lisp ( $3x \Rightarrow 5x$ )
  - ≠ Gain more important on floating point numbers
  - ⇒ **In Lisp, *safety* is costly**
- = **Inlining negligible**
  - ≠ No “Constant Integer Optimization”
  - ≠ Negative impact on performance (-15%), if any
  - ⇒ **Inlining still a “hot” topic** (register allocation policies ?)



# Comparative results

In terms of performance

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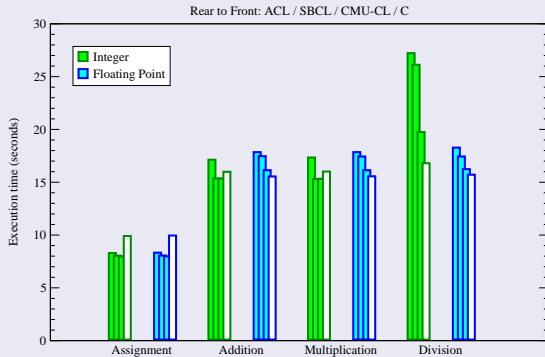
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## Pseudo-random access

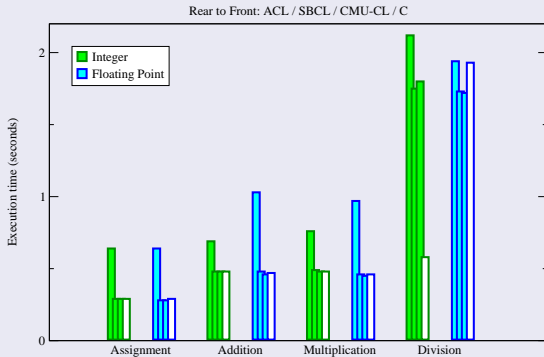


- Assignment: Lisp 19% faster than C
- Other: insignificant (5%)
- Exception: integer division

# Comparative results

In terms of performance

## Linear access



- ACL: poor performance
- CMU-CL, SBCL: strictly equivalent to C
- C wins on integer division, loses on floating-point one

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# Type inference

A weakness of Common Lisp ...

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- **Static typing cumbersome** (source code annotations)
  - ▶ Can we provide *minimal* type declarations ...
  - ▶ ... and rely on type inference ?
- **Incremental typing** by compilation log examination
- **Unfortunately:**
  - ▶ Compiler messages not necessarily ergonomic
  - ▶ Type inference systems not necessarily clever



# Example of (missing) type inference

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## multiply excerpt

```
;; ...  
(declare (type (simple-array fixnum (*)) to from))  
(declare (type fixnum val))  
;; ...  
(setf (aref to i) (the fixnum (* (aref from i) val))))))
```

- $(* \text{ fixnum } \text{ fixnum}) \neq \text{fixnum}$  in general, but...
  - ▶ to declared as an array of `fixnum`'s,
  - ▶ so the multiplication **has** to return a `fixnum`
- CMU-CL and SBCL ok, ACL not ok.
  - ▶ Need for further explicit type information
  - ▶ *worse* in ACL:  
`declared-fixnums-remain-fixnums-switch`





# Conclusion

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## ■ In terms of behavior

- ▶ External parameters: no surprise
- ▶ Internal parameters: differences, attenuated by optimization

## ■ In terms of performance

- ▶ Comparable results in both languages
- ▶ Very smart Lisp compilers (given language expressiveness)

## ■ However:

- ▶ Typing can be cumbersome
- ▶ Difficult to provide both correct and minimal information (weakness of the Common Lisp standard)
- ▶ Inlining is still an issue



# Perspectives

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- **Low level:** try other compilers / architectures (and compiler / architecture specific optimization settings)
- **Medium level:** try more sophisticated algorithms (neighborhoods, front-propagation)
- **High level:** try different levels of genericity (dynamic object orientation, static meta-programming)
  
- **Do not restrict to image processing**



# Subliminal slide

You didn't notice. . .

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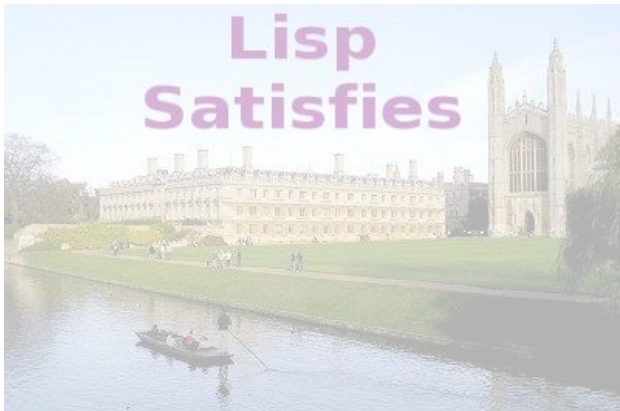
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## Part II

# Genericity

a guided-tour through binary methods



# Introduction

What are binary methods?

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- **Binary Operation:** 2 *arguments* of the same *type*  
Examples: arithmetic / ordering relations ( $=, +, >$  *etc.*)
- **OO Programming:** 2 *objects* of the same *class*  
Benefit from polymorphism *etc.*
- $\Rightarrow$  Hence the term **binary method**
- **However:** [Bruce et al., 1995]
  - ▶ problematic concept in traditional OO languages
  - ▶ type / class relationship in the context of inheritance



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  - Corollary: method combinations
  
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# Types, Classes, Inheritance

## Problem #1

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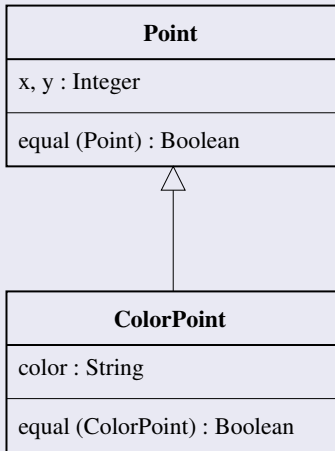
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### The `Point` class UML hierarchy





# C++ implementation attempt #1

Details omitted

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## The C++ Point class hierarchy

```
class Point
{
    int x, y;

    bool equal (Point& p)
    { return x == p.x && y == p.y; }
};

class ColorPoint : public Point
{
    std::string color;

    bool equal (ColorPoint& cp)
    { return color == cp.color && Point::equal (cp); }
};
```





# But this doesn't work...

Overloading is not what we want

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## Looking through base class references

```
int main (int argc, char *argv [])  
{  
    Point& p1 = * new ColorPoint (1, 2, "red");  
    Point& p2 = * new ColorPoint (1, 2, "green");  
  
    std::cout << p1.equal (p2) << std::endl;  
    // => True. #### Wrong !  
}
```

- `ColorPoint::equal` **only overloads** `Point::equal` in the derived class
- From the base class, only `Point::equal` is seen
- What we want is to use the definition from the **exact** class



# C++ implementation attempt #2

Details still omitted

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## The C++ Point class hierarchy

```
class Point
{
    int x, y;

    virtual bool equal (Point& p)
    { return x == p.x && y == p.y; }
};

class ColorPoint : public Point
{
    std::string color;

    virtual bool equal (ColorPoint& cp)
    { return color == cp.color && Point::equal (cp); }
};
```



# But this doesn't work either...

Still got overloading, still not what we want

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## The forbidden fruit

```
virtual bool equal (Point& p);  
virtual bool equal (ColorPoint& cp); // #### Forbidden !
```

- **Invariance** required on virtual methods argument types
- **Worse:** here, the `virtual` keyword is *silently* ignored
- And we get an overloading behavior, as before
- **Why?** To preserve type safety



# Why the typing would be unsafe

And lead to errors at run-time

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## Example of run-time typing error

In fact, a ColorPoint

Just a Point

```
bool foo (Point& p1, Point& p2)
{
    return p1.equal (p2);
}
```

The ColorPoint implementation  
expects a ColorPoint argument  
(ex. accesses the color field)

But gets only a Point !



# Constraints for type safety

covariance, contravariance... invariance

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- When **subtyping a polymorphic method**, we must
  - ▶ **supertype** the arguments (*contravariance*)
  - ▶ **subtype** the return value (*covariance*)
- **Note:** C++ is even more constrained
  - ▶ The argument types must be *invariant*
- **Note:** Eiffel allows for arguments covariance
  - ▶ But this leads to possible run-time errors
- **Analysis:** [Castagna, 1995].
  - ▶ *Lack of expressiveness*  
subtyping (by subclassing)  $\neq$  specialization
  - ▶ *Object model defect*  
single dispatch (not the record-based model)



# CLOS: the Common Lisp Object System

A different model

Lisp

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## ■ **Methods vs. Generic Functions**

- ▶ C++ methods belong to classes
- ▶ CLOS generic functions look like ordinary functions (outside classes)

## ■ **Single dispatch vs. Multi-Methods**

- ▶ C++ dispatch based on the first (hidden) argument type (`this`)
- ▶ CLOS dispatch based on the type of *any* number of arguments

- **Note:** a CLOS “method” is a specialized implementation of a generic function



# CLOS implementation

No detail omitted

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## The CLOS `Point` class hierarchy

```
(defclass point ())  
  ((x :initarg :x :reader point-x)  
   (y :initarg :y :reader point-y)))  
  
(defclass color-point (point)  
  ((color :initarg :color :reader point-color)))  
  
;; optional  
(defgeneric point= (a b))  
  
(defmethod point= ((a point) (b point))  
  (and (= (point-x a) (point-x b))  
        (= (point-y a) (point-y b))))  
  
(defmethod point= ((a color-point) (b color-point))  
  (and (string= (point-color a) (point-color b))  
        (call-next-method)))
```



# How to use it?

Just like ordinary function calls

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## Using the generic function

```
(let ((p1 (make-point :x 1 :y 2))
      (p2 (make-point :x 1 :y 2))
      (cp1 (make-color-point :x 1 :y 2 :color "red"))
      (cp2 (make-color-point :x 1 :y 2 :color "green")))
  (values (point= p1 p2)
          (point= cp1 cp2)))
;; => (T NIL)
```

- Proper *method* selected based on *both* arguments (multiple dispatch)
- Function call syntax, more pleasant aesthetically  
(p1.equal(p2) or p2.equal(p1)?)
- ⇒ Hence the term **binary function**





# Applicable methods

There are more than one...

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## ■ To avoid code duplication:

- ▶ **C++:** `Point::equal()`
- ▶ **CLOS:** `(call-next-method)`

## ■ Applicable methods:

- ▶ All methods compatible with the arguments classes
- ▶ Sorted by (decreasing) specificity order
- ▶ `call-next-method` calls the next most specific applicable method

## ■ Method combinations:

- ▶ Ways of calling several (all) applicable methods (not just the most specific one)
- ▶ Predefined method combinations: `and`, `or`, `progn` *etc.*
- ▶ User definable



# C++ implementation attempt #1

Details omitted

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## The C++ Point class hierarchy

```
class Point
{
    int x, y;

    bool equal (Point& p)
    { return x == p.x && y == p.y; }
};

class ColorPoint : public Point
{
    std::string color;

    bool equal (ColorPoint& cp)
    { return color == cp.color && Point::equal (cp); }
};
```



# CLOS implementation

No detail omitted

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## The CLOS `Point` class hierarchy

```
(defclass point ())
  ((x :initarg :x :reader point-x)
   (y :initarg :y :reader point-y)))

(defclass color-point (point)
  ((color :initarg :color :reader point-color)))

;; optional
(defgeneric point= (a b))

(defmethod point= ((a point) (b point))
  (and (= (point-x a) (point-x b))
        (= (point-y a) (point-y b))))

(defmethod point= ((a color-point) (b color-point))
  (and (string= (point-color a) (point-color b))
        (call-next-method)))
```



# Applicable methods

There are more than one...

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## ■ To avoid code duplication:

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- ▶ User definable



# Using the `and` method combination

Comes in handy for the equality concept

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## The `and` method combination

```
(defgeneric point= (a b)
  (:method-combination and)
)

(defmethod point= and ((a point) (b point))
  (and (= (point-x a) (point-x b))
        (= (point-y a) (point-y b))))

(defmethod point= and ((a color-point) (b color-point))
  (and (call-next-method)
   (string= (point-color a) (point-color b))
  )
)
```

- ⇒ In CLOS, the generic dispatch is (re-)programmable



# Binary methods could be misused

Can we protect against it?

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## The `point=` function used incorrectly

```
(let ((p (make-point :x 1 :y 2))
      (cp (make-color-point :x 1 :y 2 :color "red")))
  (point= p cp))
;; => T #### Wrong !
```

- `(point= <point> <point>)` is an applicable method (because a `color-point` *is* a `point`)
- $\Rightarrow$  The code above is valid
- $\Rightarrow$  And the error goes unnoticed



# Introspection in CLOS

Inquiring the class of an object

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## Using the function `class-of`

```
(assert (eq (class-of a) (class-of b)))
```

### ■ When to perform the check?

- ▶ In all methods: code duplication
- ▶ In the basic method: not efficient
- ▶ In a `before-method`: not available with the `and` method combination
- ▶ In a user-defined method combination: not the place

### ■ Where to perform the check? (a better question)

- ▶ Nowhere near the code for `point=`
- ▶ Part of the binary function concept, not `point=`

### ■ ⇒ We should implement the binary function **concept**

- ▶ A specialized class of generic function?



# The CLOS Meta-Object Protocol

aka the CLOS MOP

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## ■ CLOS *itself* is object-oriented

- ▶ The CLOS MOP: a *de facto* implementation standard
- ▶ The CLOS components (classes *etc.*) are (meta-)objects of some (meta-)classes
- ▶ Generic functions are meta-objects of the `standard-generic-function` meta-class

■ ⇒ We can subclass `standard-generic-function`

## The `binary-function` meta-class

```
(defclass binary-function (standard-generic-function)
  ()
  (:metaclass funcallable-standard-class))
```

```
(defmacro defbinary (function-name lambda-list &rest options)
  '(defgeneric ,function-name ,lambda-list
    (:generic-function-class binary-function)
    ,@options))
```





# Back to introspection

Hooking the check

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## ■ Calling a generic function involves:

- ▶ Computing the list of applicable methods
- ▶ Sorting and combining them
- ▶ Calling the resulting *effective* method

## ■ `compute-applicable-methods-using-classes`

- ▶ Does as its name suggests
- ▶ Based on the classes of the arguments
- ▶ A good place to hook

## ■ We can specialize it!

- ▶ It is a generic function ...

## Specializing the `c-a-m-u-c` generic function

```
(defmethod c-a-m-u-c :before ((bf binary-function) classes)  
  (assert (equal (car classes) (cadr classes))))
```



# Binary methods could be misimplemented

Can we protect against it?

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- We protected against calling  
(point= <point> <color-point>)
- Can we protect against *implementing* it?
- add-method
  - ▶ Registers a new method (created with `defmethod`)
  - ▶ We can specialize it!
    - It is a generic function ...

## Specializing the `add-method` generic function

```
(defmethod add-method :before ((bf binary-function) method)  
  (assert (apply #'equal (method-specializers method))))
```



# Binary methods could be forgotten

Can we protect against it?

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## ■ Strong binary functions:

- ▶ Every subclass of `point` should specialize `point=`
- ▶ Late checking: at generic function call time (preserve interactive development)

## ■ Binary completeness:

- 1 There is a specialization on the arguments' exact class
- 2 There are specializations for all super-classes

## ■ Introspection:

- ▶ Binary completeness of the list of applicable methods
- ▶ `c-a-m-u-c` returns this!

## Hooking the check

```
(defmethod c-a-m-u-c ((bf binary-function) classes)
  (multiple-value-bind (methods ok) (call-next-method)
    ;; ...
    (values methods ok)))
```



# Is there a bottommost specialization?

Check #1

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- `classes = ' (<exact> <exact>)`
- `method-specializers` returns the arguments classes from the `defmethod` call
- $\Rightarrow$  We should compare `<exact>` with the specialization of the first applicable method

## Check #1

```
(let* ((method (car methods))
      (class (car (method-specializers method))))
  (assert (equal (list class class) classes))
  ;; ...
)
```

# Are there specializations for all super-classes?

## Check #2

- `find-method` retrieves a generic function's method given a set of qualifiers / specializers
- `method-qualifiers` does as its name suggests
- `class-direct-superclasses` as well

## Check #2

```
(labels ((check-binary-completeness (class)
          (find-method bf (method-qualifiers method)
                        (list class class))
          (dolist
            (cls (remove-if
                  #'(lambda (elt)
                     (eq elt (find-class
                              'standard-object)))
                  (class-direct-superclasses class)))
              (check-binary-completeness cls))))
  (check-binary-completeness class))
```

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# Conclusion

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- Binary methods problematic in traditional OOP
- Multi-methods as in CLOS remove the problem
- CLOS and the CLOS MOP let you support the concept:
  - ▶ make it available
  - ▶ ensure a correct usage
  - ▶ ensure a correct implementation
- **But the concept is implemented explicitly**
  - ▶ CLOS is not just an object system
  - ▶ CLOS is not even just a customizable object system

**CLOS is an object system designed to let you program  
new object systems**



# Lisp satisfies

Alive and kicking

Lisp

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- Lisp is a truly multi-paradigm programming language  
*Probably the most versatile of them*
- Lisp is the language of freedom  
*PPP: Permissive Programming Paradigm*
- Freedom means more ways to shoot yourself in the foot
- But also the ability to be extremely defensive if you want to



# What's the next challenge in computer languages ?

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- Not functional programming (we won)  
Threads are dead, long live Erlang!
- Dynamic vs. static languages
- Simon: “Be pure by default, impure when needed”
- Me: “Be dynamic by default, static when needed”





# Articles

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On binary methods.

*Theory and Practice of Object Systems*, 1(3):221–242.



Castagna, G. (1995).

Covariance and contravariance: conflict without a cause.

*ACM Transactions on Programming Languages and Systems*, 17(3):431–447.



Verna, D. (2006).

Beating C in scientific computing applications.

In *Third European Lisp Workshop at ECOOP*, Nantes, France.



Verna, D. (2008).

Binary methods: the CLOS perspective.

To appear in *First European Lisp Symposium*, Bordeaux, France.



# Books and stuff

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- Practical Common Lisp (Peter Seibel)
- Structure and implementation of Computer programs [scheme] (Abelson, Sussman)
- Have a look at the link section on my website



# Next Events

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- **1st European Lisp Symposium**, May 22-23 2008, Bordeaux, France.  
<http://prog.vub.ac.be/~pcostanza/els08/>
- **5th European Lisp Workshop**, July 7 2008, Cyprus, co-located with ECOOP.  
<http://elw.bknr.net/2008>
- **Next International Lisp Conference ... 2009**  
MIT, Cambridge



# Congratulations !

Remember ? I'm a peaceful guy...

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I've just heard that C++ is going  
to have lambda expressions...  
48 years after Lisp !

