

# Context Oriented J

Bastian Kruck, 27.01.2015

# Touchquery

The screenshot shows a software interface for querying data. At the top, there's a navigation bar with icons for back, forward, search, and a refresh button. The URL is 172.16.59.1:8000/demo.html#workspaces/32. Below the URL is a search bar labeled "Suchen". The main workspace title is "stat: energy diff - touchquery". A toolbar below the title includes "Workspaces", "stat: energy diff", "Revision: c9c084c", and a "undo" button.

The workspace content consists of a query editor and a data viewer. The query editor at the top shows a sequence of tokens: "table", "=", a placeholder box, and "electricPower". Below this is a row of tokens: "#", "&", "table", "(", "<", "'DEU'", ')', "=", "0", "sc", and another "table". A "Tally | Copy" dialog is open over the query editor, displaying:

Type:	Verb
Monadic rank:	-
Dyadic rank:	1 _

A "Documentation" button is also present in the dialog. To the right of the query editor is a data viewer showing a table of energy data for Yemen from 1971 to 1981. The columns are labeled with years and values. The data is as follows:

Year	Value
1971	33.519030
1972	34.000803
1973	32.087307
1974	36.701642
1975	38.407365
1976	43.746058
1977	44.617836
1978	48.908691
1979	51.554964
1980	63.308824
1981	65.653602

# What is J?

www.jsoftware.com/jwiki/FrontPage

FrontPage www.js

www.jsoftware.com/wsxn/addons/trunk/?#a0b40758157c8f16fa703ca3be466fa8a

**SUBVERSION REPOSITORIES ADDONS**

(root)/trunk/ - Rev 5715

Rev HEAD Go

**J User Community**

**LAST**

Rev 571

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- [Forum Mailing Lists](#)
- [User Groups: J User Groups](#)
- [IRC: Live chat with other Jers, via IRC.](#)
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- [Web Resources: Web sites and user pages](#)
- Twitter:  tweets on the J language, and a members of the  J Twitter community compiled by [TracyHarms](#)
- [Demographics: Who uses J? Please add yourself to the growing community of J users.](#)

	demos/	5544	1400	00n	blam	 Log	 Download	 RSS
	docs/	5636	41d	14h	chris	 Log	 Download	 RSS
	finance/	5365	170d	12h	chris	 Log	 Download	 RSS
	format/	5528	114d	07h	chris	 Log	 Download	 RSS
	games/	5621	50d	17h	chris	 Log	 Download	 RSS
	general/	5657	30d	01h	blam	 Log	 Download	 RSS
	graphics/	5701	7d	09h	blam	 Log	 Download	 RSS
	gui/	5365	170d	12h	chris	 Log	 Download	 RSS

Home Page:  [www.jsoftware.com](#)

[ Same • Left ] Same • Right { Catalogue • From }

Context Oriented J | Bastian Kruck | 3

# What is J? - Array Programming

- J is great in processing numeric data

$$\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ \hline 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 \end{array} - \begin{array}{cc} 5 & 6 \end{array} = \begin{array}{cccc} -4 & -3 & -2 & -1 \\ \hline -1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{array}$$

$$(1\ 2\ 3\ 4, :\ 5\ 6\ 7\ 8) - 5\ 6$$

$$\underline{-4\ -3\ -2\ -1}$$

$$\underline{\quad 1\ 0\ 1\ 2}$$

# What is J? - OOP in J

Collection
+ items
+ create()
+ add(item)
+ remove(item)
+ inspect()
+ destroy

define class “Collection”

```
coclass 'Collection'
  create  := monad : 'items =: 0 $ 0'
  add     := monad : '# items =: (< y) , items'
  remove  := monad : '# items =: items -. < y'
  inspect := monad : 'items'
  destroy := codestroy_z_
  cocurrent <'base'
```

return to “base” scope to  
end the class definition

borrow destructor “codestroy”

from scope “z”

create a new object

call method add

```
myCollection =: 0 conew 'Collection'
add__myCollection 'Python'
add__myCollection 'Smalltalk'
add__myCollection 'C'
```

from object “myCollection”

# Survey on Modularity In J

**Modularity in J**

I used to work on <http://swatouch.hpi.uni-potsdam.de/> and currently think about modularity in J as part of my studies. I'm thinking about how the J package system looks like and if it could take advantage of Context-Oriented Programming. For instance, jdb users could make use of a layered implementation to temporarily turn off validation, transactions when running a database import. Here I ask you about your experience:

**Do you sometimes use those parts of J: locale system, package system, object system?**

**Have you ever had to customize a package or locale? Which one? How did you do it?**

**Anything else that comes to your mind when thinking about modularity in J?**

Did you ever want some verb or conjunction to change its behavior depending on some "outer" context? Maybe you used @. (Agenda) for implementing different modi or feature switches. What did you do?

"Context-Oriented Array Programming"

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# Survey on Modularity In J - Answers

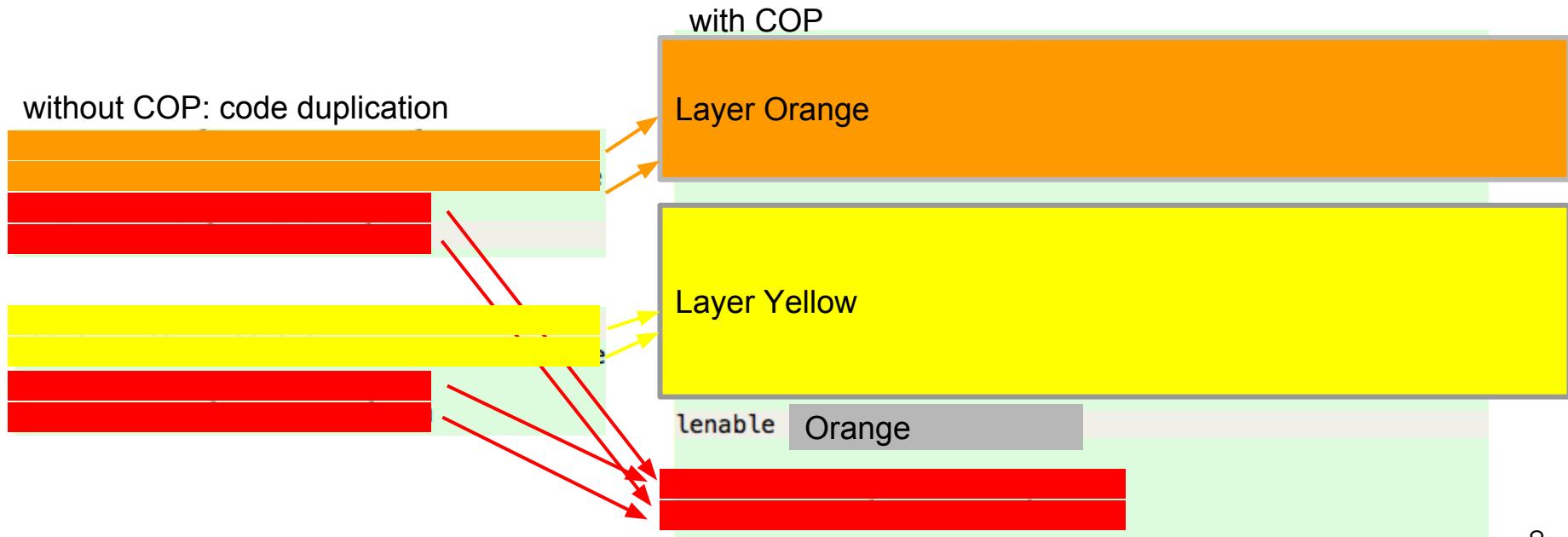
"Well written J allows "**equational modularity**" which is to say: you can change the architecture and/or control flow and/or the data structures with minimal coding changes."

"**Verbs (functions) tend to be modular by nature** if one avoids globals. In tacit J, there are no named items, so there can't be globals."

"I also commonly use plot, viewmat and some of the math solvers. **Are these packages?**"

# Survey on Modularity In J - Results

- 3 ppl. answered
- packages, locales and OOP in J seem to be known, although being a minor part of the code
- It appears that many scripts are written with few architecture and maintainability in mind
- **modularity on assignment-level** will help in both, small scribbles and more advanced programs
- Idea: assignment-level layering



# Where do we need COP in J? - Representations



## Where do we need COP in J? - Representations



clear\_fld 7 3  
KABOOM!!

2**		
2*3		
111232211		
*11***1		
12233321		
13*2 1*1		
2**2 111		
3*4311		
*3*2*1		

You lost! Try again?



## Where do we need COP in J? - Representations

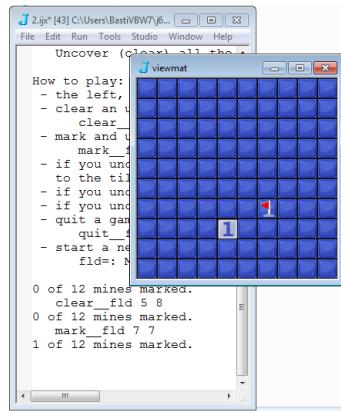
```
12  
2 1  
clear_fld 7 3  
KABOOM!!
```

```

    2**
    2*3
111232211
*11***1
12233321
13*2 1*1
2**2 111
3*4311
*3*2*1

```

You lost! Try again?



## Where do we need COP in J? - Representations

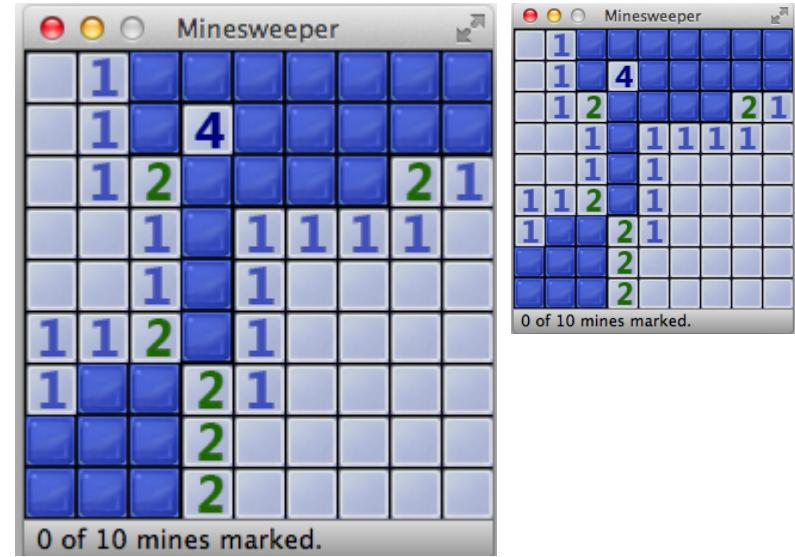
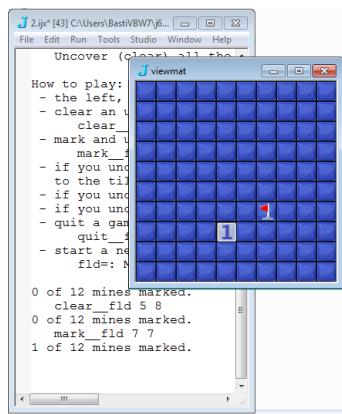


## Output:

```
..12....  
.....  
.....  
2....1  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....
```

2**
2*3
111232211
*11****1
12233321
13*2 1*1
2**2 111
3*4311
*3*2*1

You lost! Try again?



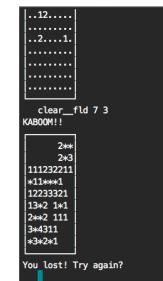
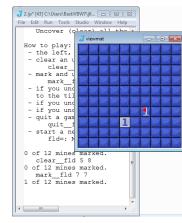
# Where do we need COP in J? - Representations



Output:

```

NB.TilesG26=: '' NB. dummy variable
TilesG26=: ,((2 2 $ #) <;_.3 ]) reading AddonPath,'tiles26.png' NB. can uncomment on
TilesA=: '12345678**.?'
TextDisplay=: 0
  
```

Uncomment a line, comment a line and set a flag to change the behavior from  to 

## Where do we need COP in J? - Representations



## Output:

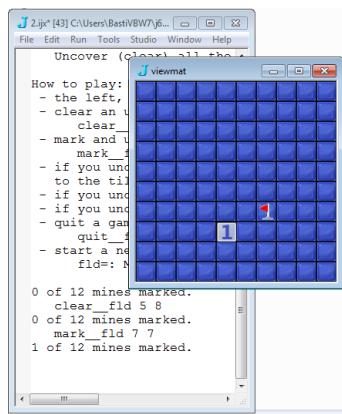
```
12  
2 1  
clear_fld 7 3  
KABOOM!!
```

```

    2**
    2*3
111232211
*11***1
12233321
13*2 1*1
2**2 111
3*4311
*3*2*1

```

You lost! Try again?



# Where do we need COP in J? - Representations



Output:

```

NB. Tiles=: ,((2 2 $ #)<;_3 ]) reading AddonPath,'tiles18.png'
Tiles=: ,((2 2 $ #) <;_3 ]) reading AddonPath,'tiles26.png'
  
```

Uncomment a line and comment a line to change the behavior from to



# Where do we need COP in J? - Representations



Output:

```

(function(){
    if. IFQT do.
        readimg=: readimg_jqtide_
    elseif. 'Android'=:UNAME do.
        readimg=: readimg_ja_
    end.
    empty'''
})()

AddonPath=.. jpath '~addons/games/minesweeper/'
NB. Tiles=: ,((2 2 $ #)<;_.3 ]) readimg AddonPath,'tiles18.png'
Tiles=: ,((2 2 $ #) <;_.3 ]) readimg AddonPath,'tiles26.png'
  
```

Uncomment a line and comment a line to change the behavior from to



# Where do we need COP in J? - Representations



Output:

```

| 3 : 0'' | ←
if. IFQT do.
    reading=: reading_jqtide_
elseif. 'Android'=:UNAME do.
    reading=: reading_ja_
end.
empty''
)
  
```

```

AddonPath=.. jpath '~addons/games/minesweeper/'
NB. Tiles=: ,((2 2 $ #)<;_.3 ]) reading AddonPath,'tiles18.png'
Tiles=: ,((2 2 $ #) <;_.3 ]) reading AddonPath,'tiles26.png'
  
```

NB: if-then-else only exist in function definitions that are not nestable

Uncomment a line and comment a line to change the behavior from to



Naming is hard

# ContextJ

Naming is hard

JCop

# Naming is hard

# COJ

# COJ: before and after

without COJ

```

AddonPath=. jpath '~addons/games/minesweeper/'
NB.TilesG26=: ''          NB. dummy variable
TilesG26=: ,((2 2 $ #) <;_3 ]) reading AddonPath
TilesA=: ' 12345678**.*?'
TextDisplay=: 0
NB. set to zero

NB. . . .

mscon_update=: 3 : 0
  'isend msg'=: eval ''
  IsEnd=: isend
  smoutput msg
  tiles=. TextDisplay{.. TilesG26;TilesA
  display Tiles showField isend
  if. isend do.
    msg=. ('K'={.msg) {:: 'won';'lost'
    smoutput 'You ',msg,'! Try again?'
    destroy ''
  end.
  empty''
)

NB. . . .

display=: 3 : 0
  if. TextDisplay do
    smoutput@< y
  else.
    closeall_jviewmat_ :: ] '''
    ([: viewrgb@; ,.&.>/"]1) y
  end.
  empty''
```

with COJ

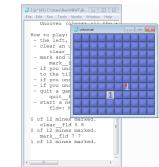
```

coinsert 'coj'

NB. describe mineswpcon when we are in J6
'mineswpcon' lwhen 'J6'
  NB. use viewmat
  AddonPath=. jpath '~addons/games/minesweeper/'
  Tiles=: ,((2 2 $ #) <;_3 ]) reading AddonPath
  display =: monad define
    closeall_jviewmat_ :: ] '''
    ([: viewrgb@; ,.&.>/"]1) y
    NB. proceed...
    display_mineswpconLayerZ_ ''
  ).


```

J6 Layer



```

NB. describe mineswpcon when we are not in J6
'mineswpcon' lwhen 'NotJ6'
  Tiles=: ' 12345678**.*?'
  NB. asdf.
  display =: monad define
    smoutput@< y
    display_mineswpconLayerZ_ ''
  ).


```

NotJ6 Layer



```

NB. describe mineswpcon shared layer
'mineswpcon' lwhen 'Z'
  display=: monad define
    empty''
  ).

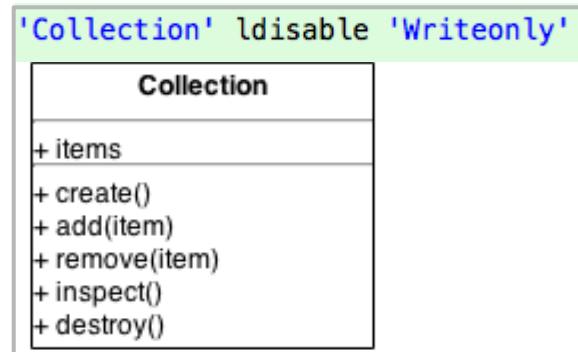
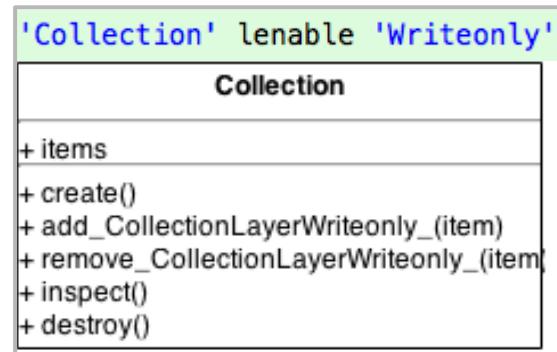
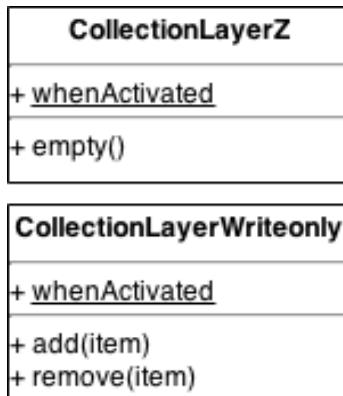
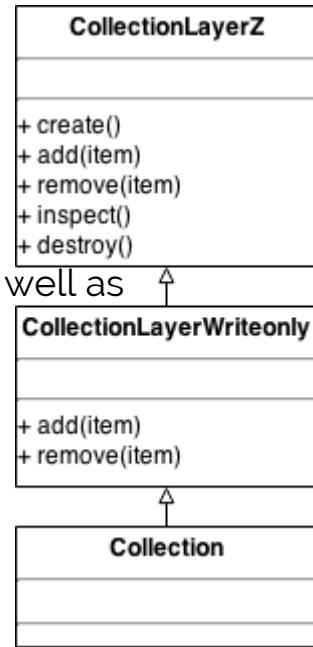
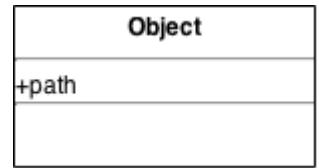

```

Shared Layer

'mineswpcon' lenable 'NotJ6'

# COJ Implementation: Alternatives When Implementing Layers

- Alter inheritance chain
  - enabling a layer requires update of lookup path of all affected objects (as well as classes)
  - expensive activation time lookup (both, CPU and memory)
  - call time lookup with stub method possible, although complex
- Override named things with the layered implementation
  - no runtime speed loss
  - acceptable activation time (no need to touch the objects)
  - proceed by calling a method from an explicitly named layer
  - order of activation is maintained
  - deactivation can be realized by activating the remaining layers in the right order



# COJ Implementation: Details

- Implementation in 2 files (utils and core)
- 3 test suites with 12 tests in sum
- 316 LOC (202 LOC are tests)

```

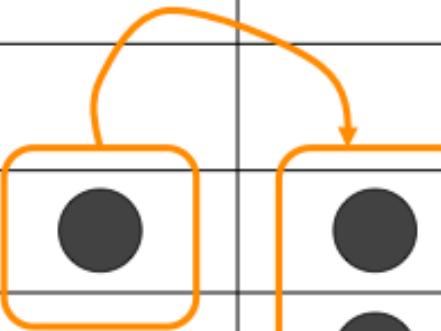
      require 'general/unittest'
      unittest jpath '~user/projects/coj/utils_test.ijss'
Test: /users/reflektor/j64-802-user/projects/coj/utils_test.ijss
copy_methods ..... OK
extractModifiedNames ..... OK
fromLocale ..... OK
replaceFakeParen ..... OK
replaceFakeParenMultiRow ..... OK
replaceFakeParenOfNoString ..... OK

      unittest jpath '~user/projects/coj/layer2_test.ijss'
Test: /users/reflektor/j64-802-user/projects/coj/layer2_test.ijss
lname ..... OK
lnameShape ..... OK
lwhen_collectionWriteonly ..... OK
lwhen_lwhenActivatedChanges ..... OK

      unittest jpath '~user/projects/coj/minesweeper_test.ijss'
Test: /users/reflektor/j64-802-user/projects/coj/minesweeper_test.ijss
J6_Tiles ..... OK
NoJ6_Tiles ..... OK

```

# AOP, FOP, and COP

	AOP	FOP	COP	COJ
Inverse dependencies	●			
1:n relationships	●			
Layers				●
Dynamic activation				
Scoping	●			●

# Summary: COJ is a COP Framework for J

- COJ is an assignment-based layer-in-class COP Framework for J
- activation-time lookup
- no call-time overhead
- build in userland without VM modifications
- state: prototype
- with COJ, you can replace immediate functions and smelling constructs with semantically structured code

```
if. IFQT do.
  readimg=: readimg_jqtide_
else. 'Android'=:UNAME do.
  readimg=: readimg_ja_
end.
empty''
```

No more immediate functions

NB.TilesG26=: '' NB. dummy variable  
 TilesG26=: ,((2 \$ #) <,.3 ] reading AddonPath 'tiles26.png' NB. can uncomment on J6  
 TilesA=: '12345678\*\*.?'  
 TextDisplay=: 0  
 NB. set to zero to display minefield using viewmat

Uncomment a line, comment a line and set a flag to change the behavior from to

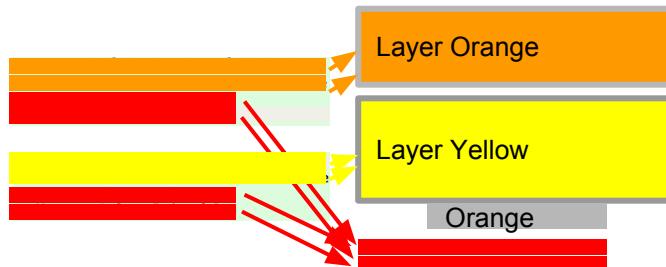
No more uncommend-comment-flag constructs

coinsert 'coj'	
NB. describe mineswpcon when we are in J6 'mineswpcon' lwhen '36' NB. use viewmat AddonPath=: jpath '~addons/games/minesweeper/' Tiles=: ,((2 \$ #) <,.3 ] reading AddonPath display=: monad define closeall_jviewmat_ :: ] '' (: viewrgb; ,,.>"/1") y NB. proceed... display_mineswpconLayerZ_ '' )	
J6 Layer	
NB. describe mineswpcon when we are not in J6 'mineswpcon' lwhen 'NotJ6' Tiles=: '12345678**.?' NB. asdf. display=: monad define smoutput< y display_mineswpconlayerZ_ '' )	
NotJ6 Layer	
NB. describe mineswpcon shared layer 'mineswpcon' lwhen '2' display=: monad define empty'' )	
Shared Layer	

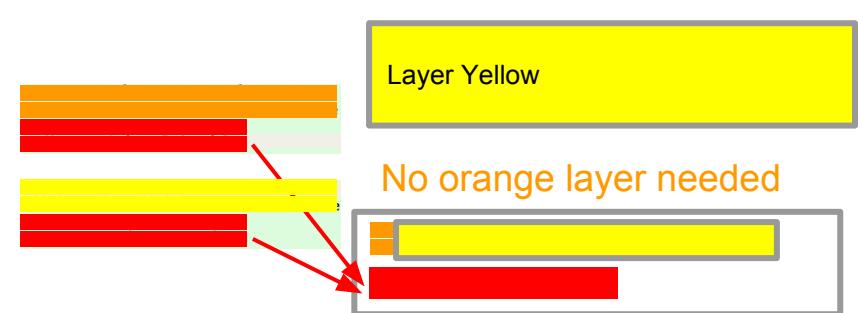
Semantically structured code

# Future work

- **enable implicit proceeding** when having multiple layers enabled
- enable or disable layers across classes (is currently per-class)
- build conjunction (higher order function) to use COJ in tacits (parameter-less definitions) and time-critical cases  
`'add ''gehtNicht''' lwith C1 ' Readonly'`
- examine activation orders to enable inlining of default layer (e.g. z )



Without Smart Activation Order

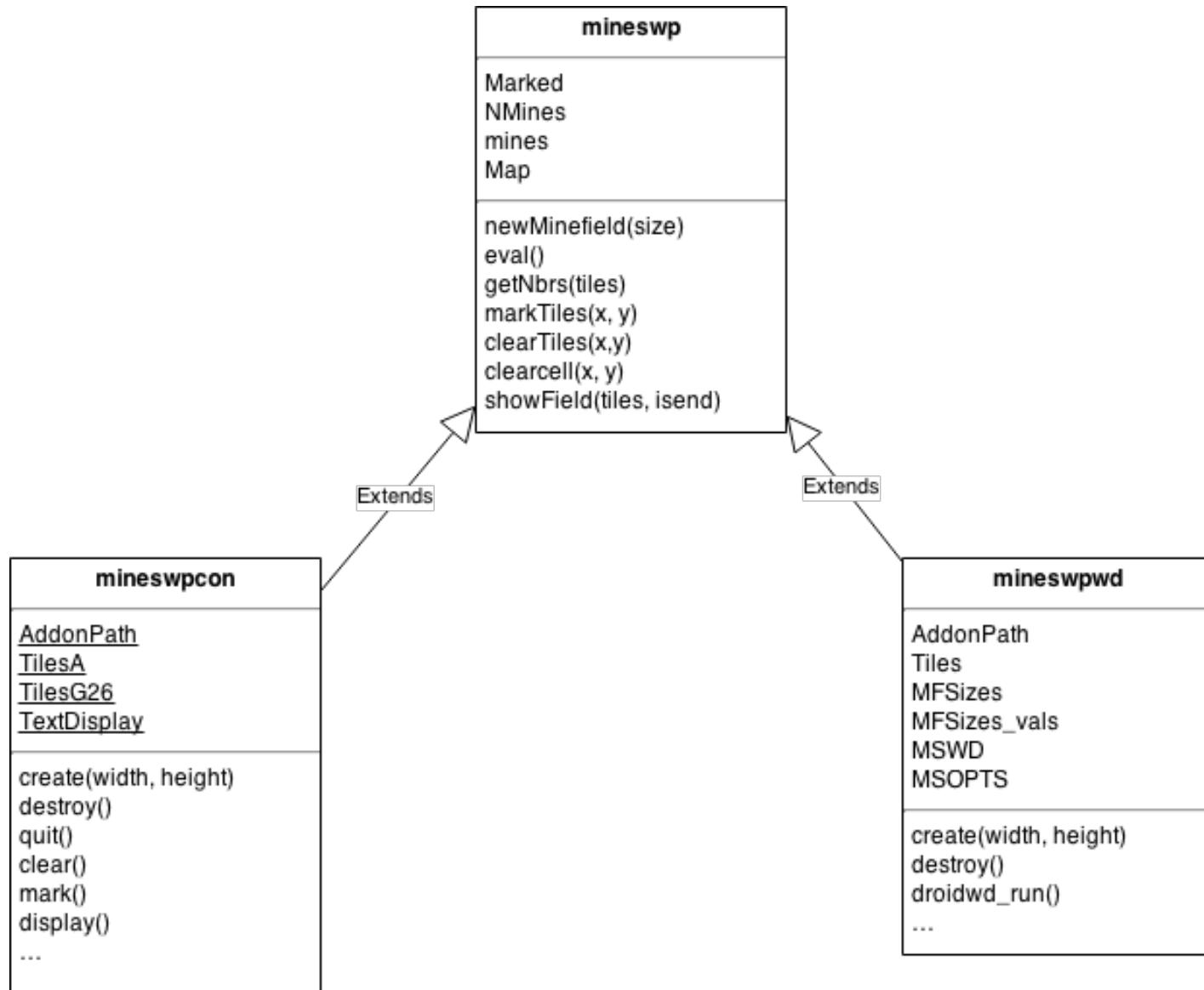


With Smart Activation Order

- examine need private layer variables
- bundle and share it

# Sources

- <http://swatouch.hpi.uni-potsdam.de/demo.html#workspaces/77f926b9627ebb7b1ab5527f35016205>
- Minus <http://www.jsoftware.com/help/dictionary/d120.htm>
- /FG\_SoftwareArchitekturen/ContextOrientedProgramming/Handouts/Cop14\_02\_AopCop.pptx.pdf
- [http://www.hpi.uni-potsdam.de/hirschfeld/publications/media/AppeltauerHirschfeldHauptLinckePerscheid\\_2009\\_AComparisonOfContextOrientedProgrammingLang uages\\_AcmDL.pdf](http://www.hpi.uni-potsdam.de/hirschfeld/publications/media/AppeltauerHirschfeldHauptLinckePerscheid_2009_AComparisonOfContextOrientedProgrammingLang uages_AcmDL.pdf)
- <http://www.jsoftware.com/help/learning/24.htm>
- <http://www.jsoftware.com/help/learning/25.htm>
- <http://www.jsoftware.com/help/dictionary/dx018.htm>
- [https://hpi.de/studium/lehrveranstaltungen/it-systems-engineering/lehrveranstaltung/course/2014/kontextorientiertes\\_programmieren.html](https://hpi.de/studium/lehrveranstaltungen/it-systems-engineering/lehrveranstaltung/course/2014/kontextorientiertes_programmieren.html)
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J\\_%28programming\\_language%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J_%28programming_language%29)
- <http://www.hpi.uni-potsdam.de/hirschfeld/cop/implementations/index.html>
- <http://www.jsoftware.com/jwiki/Addons/games/minesweeper>
- <http://draw.io> for diagrams
- [http://www.jsoftware.com/help/jforc/control\\_structures.htm](http://www.jsoftware.com/help/jforc/control_structures.htm)
- <http://www.jsoftware.com/help/dictionary/d001.htm>
- <http://www.jsoftware.com/jwiki/Vocabulary/fdot>



```

NB. define a Collection
coclass 'Collection'
  create  := 3 : 'items =: 0 $ 0'
  add     := 3 : '# items =: (< y) , items'
  remove  := 3 : '# items =: items -. < y'
  inspect := 3 : 'items'
  destroy := codestroy

NB. build a collection
cocurrent <'base'
  C1 := 0 conew 'Collection'

NB. add_Collection_    := 3 : '# items =: (< y) , items'
NB. remove_Collection_ := 3 : '# items =: items -. < y'

lwith := dyad : 0
  oldLocale =. coname'''
  cocurrent y

NB. imagine we looked up those methods from Readonly layer
add      =. 3 : '# items'
remove   =. 3 : '# items'

NB. run it!
(0!:100)x

cocurrent oldLocale
)

```

```

1   add__C1 'geht'
1   inspect__C1 ''
  geht
    'add ''gehtNicht''' lwith C1 NB. 'Readonly'
    add 'gehtNicht'
1   'add' lwith C1 NB. 'Readonly'
    add
3 : '# items'
    inspect__C1 ''
  geht
    add__C1 'gehtWieder'
2   inspect__C1 ''
  gehtWieder geht

```

## layer2.ijs (Page 1)

```
lcreate := 3 : 0
  oldLocale =. coname ''
  cocurrent <y
  coinsert 'layer2'
  cocurrent oldLocale
)

NB. builds the name of the locale where we save the callbacks
lname := 3 : 0
  NB. monadic case falls back to current locale
  (>coname '') lname y
:

< ([ lcreate) x,'Layer',y
)

NB. saves an activation callback for the layer _y_
lwhen := 3 : 0
  NB. monadic case falls back to current locale
  (>coname '') lwhen y
:
targetLocale =. x lname y
lwhenActivatedTxt__targetLocale := replaceFakeParen noun define
lwhenActivatedChanges__targetLocale := extractModifiedNames lwhenActivatedTxt__targetLocale

NB. initialize in the layer locale to allow proceeding by explicitly calling the layer
x lenable__targetLocale y
)

lwhenActivated_z_ := 3 :'0!:100 lwhenActivatedTxt'
```

## layer2.ijs (Page 2)

```

NB. enables layer _y_ in layer _x_
lenable := 3 : 0
  NB. monadic case falls back to current locale
  (>coname '') lenable y
:
oldLocale =. coname"
targetLocale =. x lname y
if. (type 'lwhenActivatedTxt__targetLocale') -: <'not defined' do.
  smoutput 'error: lwhenActivatedTxt_', (>targetLocale), '_ is not defined'
  return.
end.

NB. apply callback to layer x
cocurrent <x
(0!:100) lwhenActivatedTxt__targetLocale
cocurrent oldLocale
)

ldisable := 3 : 0
  NB. monadic case falls back to current locale
  (>coname '') lenable y
:
NB. TBD
NB. lwhenActivatedChanges__targetLocale extractModifiers (x lname 'Z')
)

```

## utils.ijs (only the finally used parts)

```

NB. replaces ). in the given noun by )
replaceFakeParen := ] #~ (1&,@:-.@:(2 ').'&:- \ ])` ([]&'' )@.(( ,0) -: $)

load 'regex'
NB. extracts the modified names out of a string of J code
extractModifiedNames_regexp := '([[:alpha:]]|[[:alnum:]:_]*|[[:space:]]*)*='
extractModifiedNames := 1{"1 extractModifiedNames_regexp&(rxmatches rxfrom ]

```

## test\_replaceFakePareMultiRow from utils\_test.ijs

```
fp_multiRow_input =: noun define
multiple
rows
).
no new line ).
no dot )
and no paren .
done
)

fp_multiRow_output =: noun define
multiple
rows
)
fp_multiRow_output =: fp_multiRow_output , ' )', (10{a.),'no new line '), noun define
no dot )
and no paren .
done
)

test_replaceFakePareMultiRow =: 3 : 0
  assert fp_multiRow_output -: replaceFakePare fp_multiRow_input
)
```

## test\_lwhen\_collectionWriteonly from layer2\_test.ijs

```

NB. describe the writeonly layer
'Collection' lwhen 'Writeonly'
    add =: 3 : '# items'
    remove =: 3 : '# items'
    destroy =: 3 : '0'
)
'iCollection' lwhen 'Writeable'
    add      =: 3 : '# items =: (< y) , items'
    remove   =: 3 : '# items =: items -. < y'
    destroy  =: codestroy
)
test_lwhen_collectionWriteonly =: 3 : 0
cocurrent <'base'
'Collection' lenable 'Writeable'
assert 2 = #inspect_C1 ''
add_C1 'bar'
assert 3 = #inspect_C1 '' NB. modification

'Collection' lenable 'Writeonly'
add_C1 'bar'
assert 3 = #inspect_C1 '' NB. no modification
)

```