

# “design patterns” in dynamic languages

**NEAL FORD** thoughtworker / meme wrangler

**ThoughtWorks**

14 Wall St, Suite 2019,      New York, NY      10005

nford@thoughtworks.com  
[www.nealford.com](http://www.nealford.com)  
[www.thoughtworks.com](http://www.thoughtworks.com)  
[memeagora.blogspot.com](http://memeagora.blogspot.com)

memewrangler@thoughtworks.com

The screenshot shows a Mac OS X desktop environment with a browser window open to the [nealford.com](http://nealford.com) website. The browser has a standard OS X look with red, yellow, and green window control buttons. The address bar displays "nealford.com". The main content area features a large logo "NF" and the URL "nealford.com". Below the logo is a sidebar menu with links: "nealford.com", "About me (Bio)", "Book Club", "Triathlon", "Music", "Travel", "Read my Blog", "Conference Slides & Samples" (which is highlighted with a red oval), and "Email Neal". The main content area is titled "Neal Ford" and "ThoughtWorker / Meme Wrangler". It includes a welcome message, a statement about the site's purpose, and a request for visitors to browse around. A section for "Upcoming Conferences" is present but currently empty. The right side of the browser window shows vertical scroll bars.

nealford.com

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**Neal Ford**

**ThoughtWorker / Meme Wrangler**

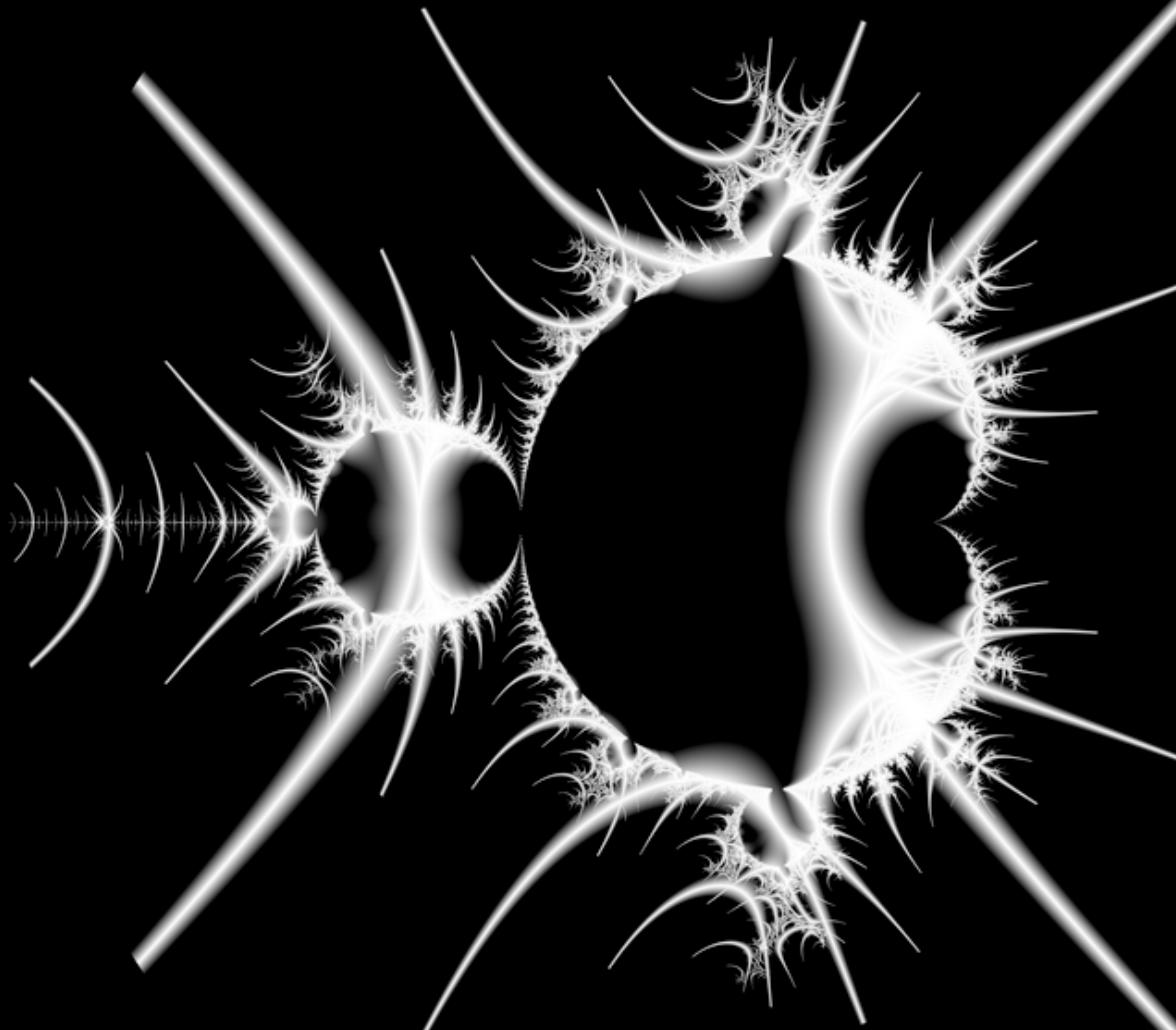
Welcome to the web site of Neal Ford. The purpose of this site is twofold. First, it is an informational site about my professional life, including appearances, articles, presentations, etc. For this type of information, consult the news page (this page) and the [About Me](#) pages.

The second purpose for this site is to serve as a forum for the things I enjoy and want to share with the rest of the world. This includes (but is not limited to) reading (Book Club), Triathlon, and Music. This material is highly individualized and all mine!

Please feel free to browse around. I hope you enjoy what you find.

**Upcoming Conferences**

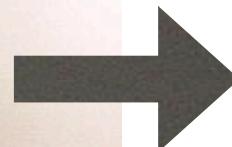
# pattern solutions from weaker languages



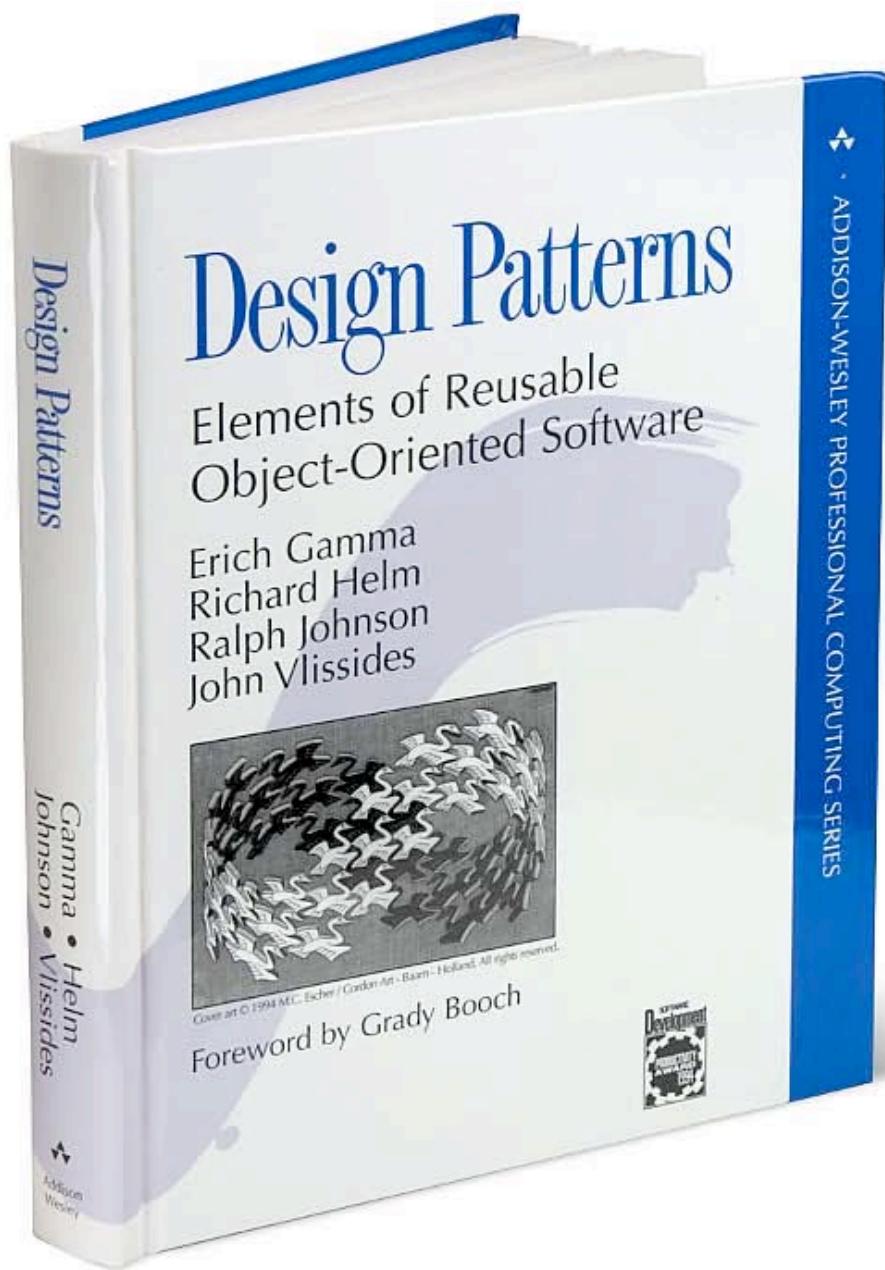
have more elegant solutions

blended whisky  
is made from  
several  
single malts





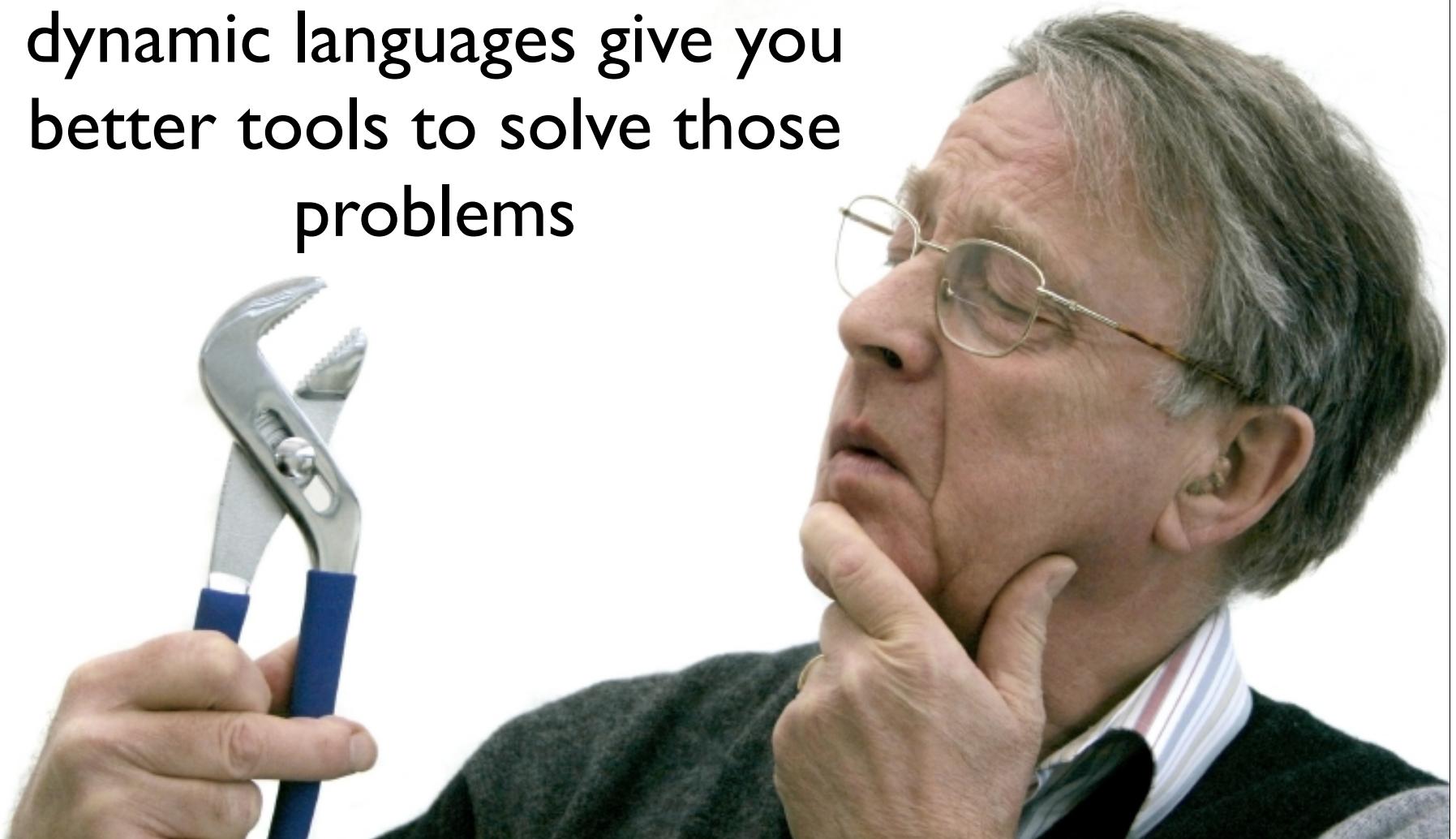
cask strength



Making  
C++  
Suck  
Less

patterns define common  
problems

dynamic languages give you  
better tools to solve those  
problems

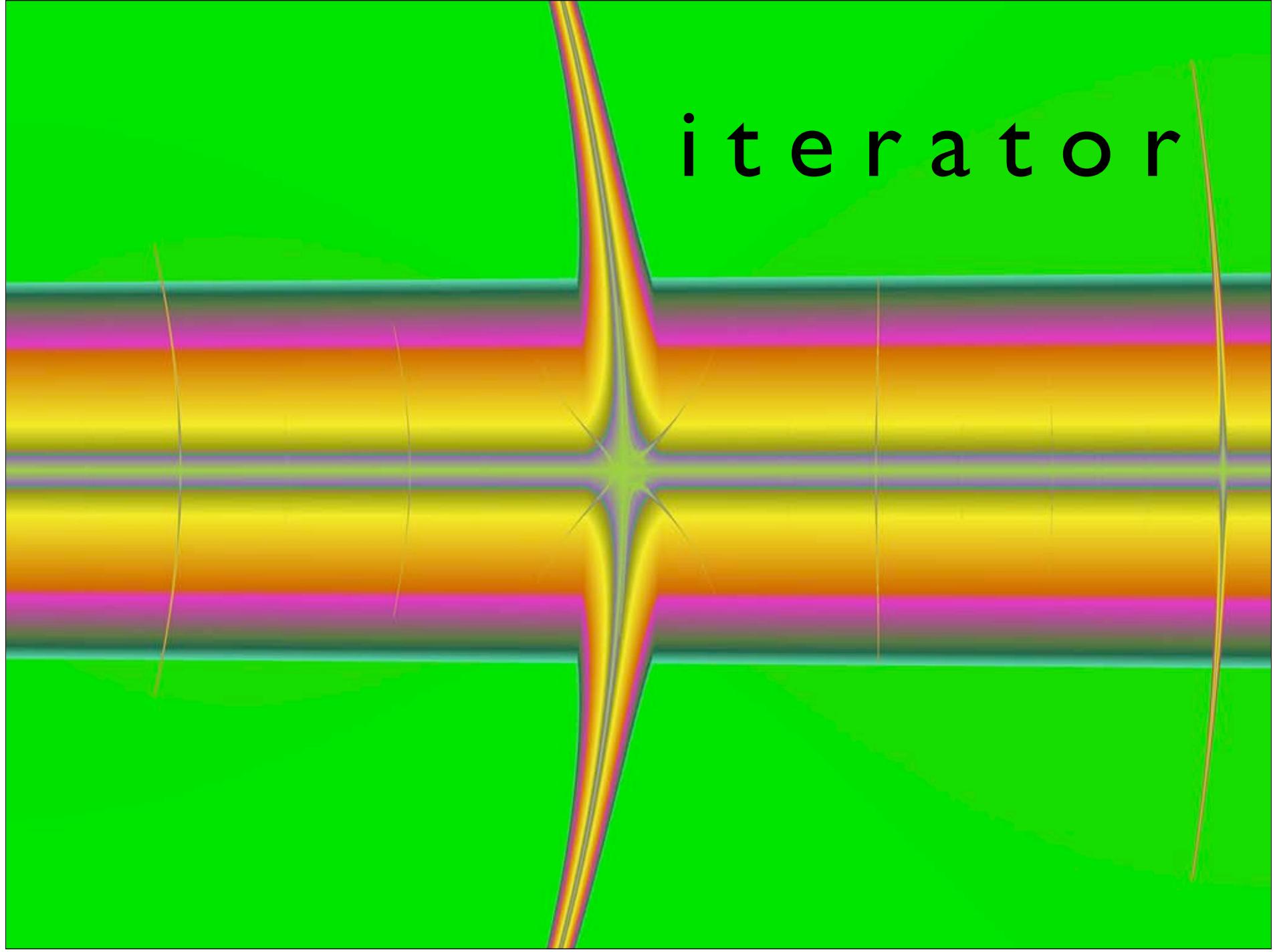


stationary vs. dynamic

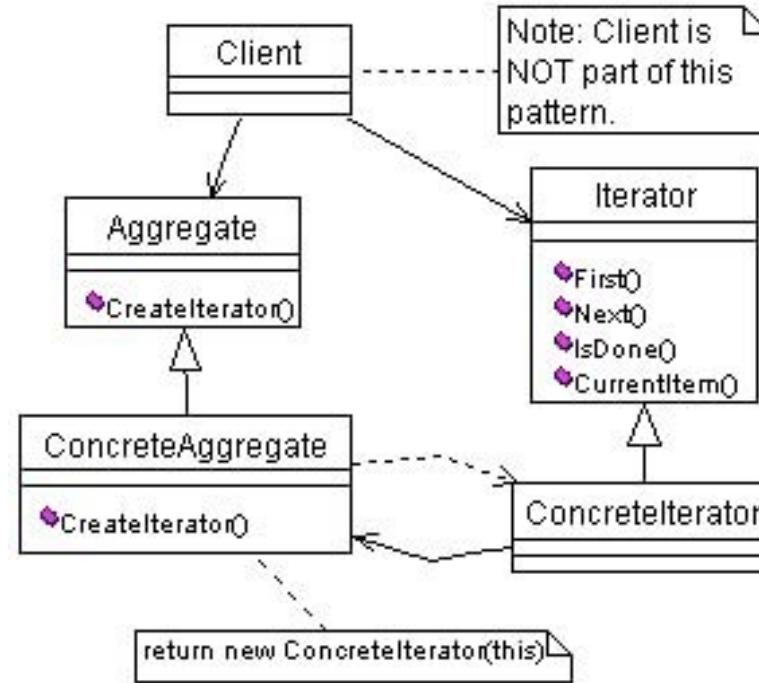


*ceremony* vs. *essence*

the patterns



iterator



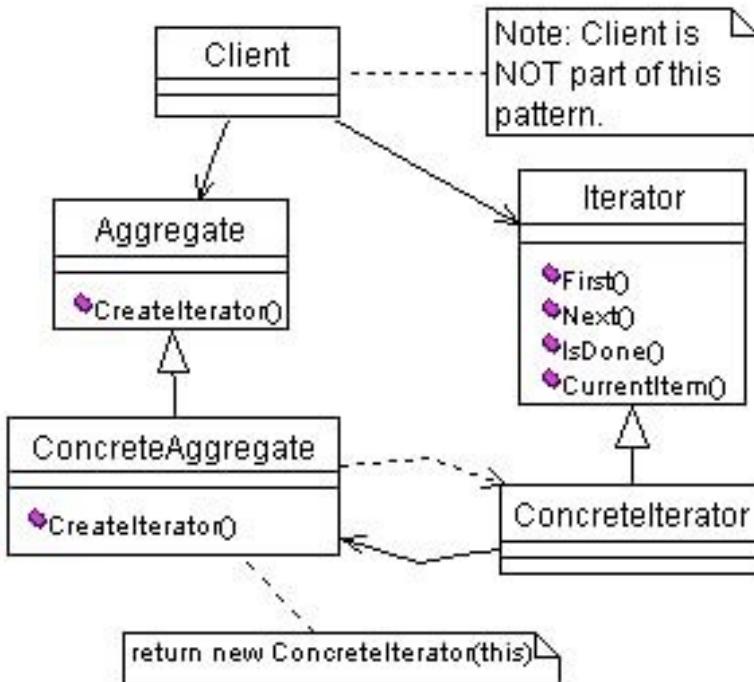
Provide a way to access the elements of an aggregate object sequentially without exposing its underlying representation.

```
def printAll(container) {  
    for (item in container) { println item }  
}
```

```
def numbers = [1,2,3,4]  
def months = [Mar:31, Apr:30, May:31]  
def colors = [java.awt.Color.BLACK, java.awt.Color.WHITE]  
printAll numbers  
printAll months  
printAll colors
```

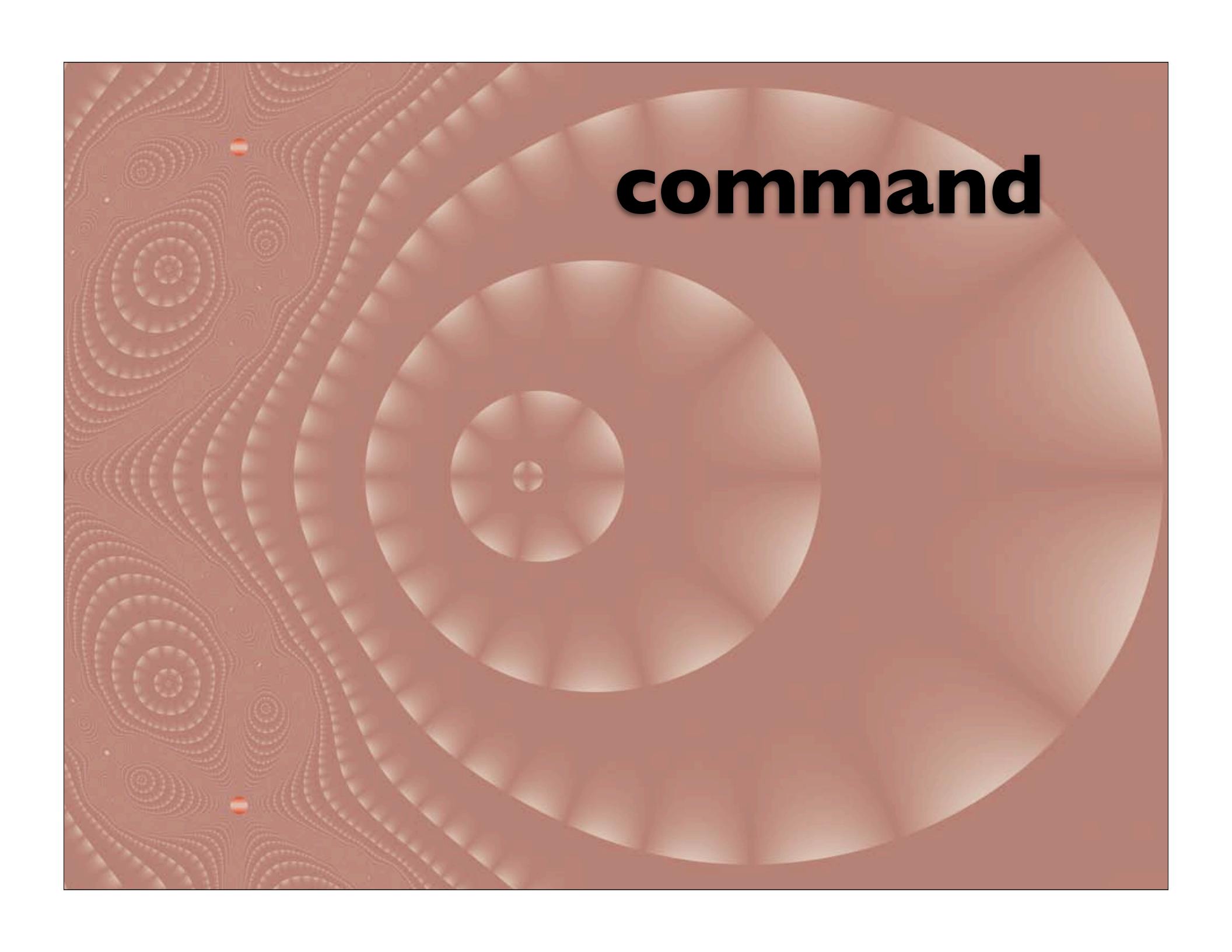
```
numbers.each { n ->  
    println n  
}
```



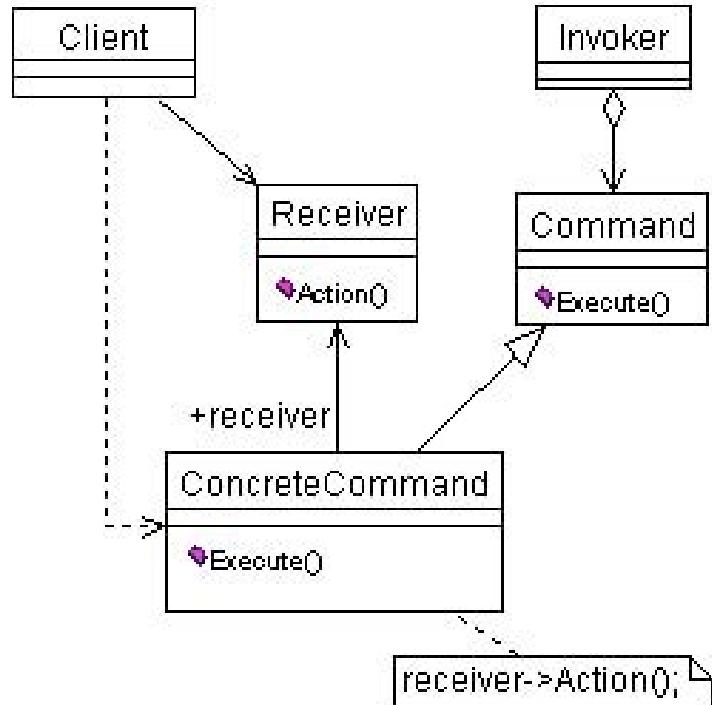


VS.

```
def printAll(container) {
    for (item in container) { println item }
}
```

The background features a large, light orange circle on the right side, which is divided into four quadrants by a diagonal line. Inside this circle is a smaller, darker orange circle with a central dot. To the left of this main circle is a complex, organic shape composed of many smaller, overlapping circles in shades of orange and yellow, creating a spiral-like effect.

**command**



Encapsulate a request as an object, thereby letting you parameterize clients with different requests, queue or log requests, and support undoable operations.

**commands == closures**

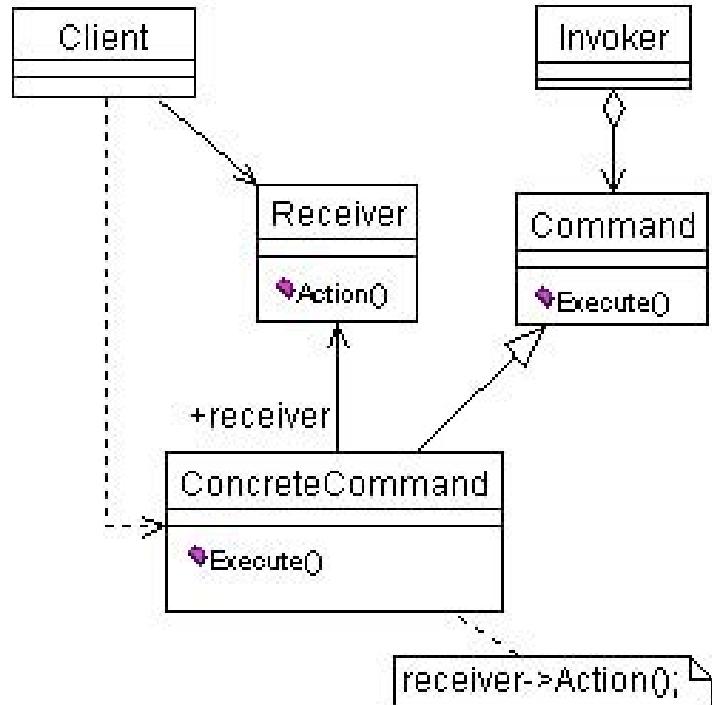


```
def count = 0
def commands = []

1.upto(10) { i ->
    commands.add { count++ }
}

println "count is initially ${count}"
commands.each { cmd ->
    cmd()
}
println "did all commands, count is ${count}"
```

count is initially 0  
did all commands, count is 10



Encapsulate a request as an object, thereby letting you parameterize clients with different requests, queue or log requests, and ***support undoable operations***.

```
class Command {  
    def cmd, uncmd  
  
    Command(doCommand, undoCommand) {  
        cmd = doCommand  
        uncmd = undoCommand  
    }  
  
    def doCommand() {  
        cmd()  
    }  
  
    def undoCommand() {  
        uncmd()  
    }  
}
```



```
def count = 0
def commands = []
1.upto(10) { i ->
    commands.add(new Command({count++}, {count--}))
}

println "count is initially ${count}"
commands.each { c -> c.doCommand() }
commands.reverseEach { c -> c.undoCommand() }
println "undid all commands, count is ${count}"
commands.each { c -> c.doCommand() }
println "redid all command, count is ${count}"
```



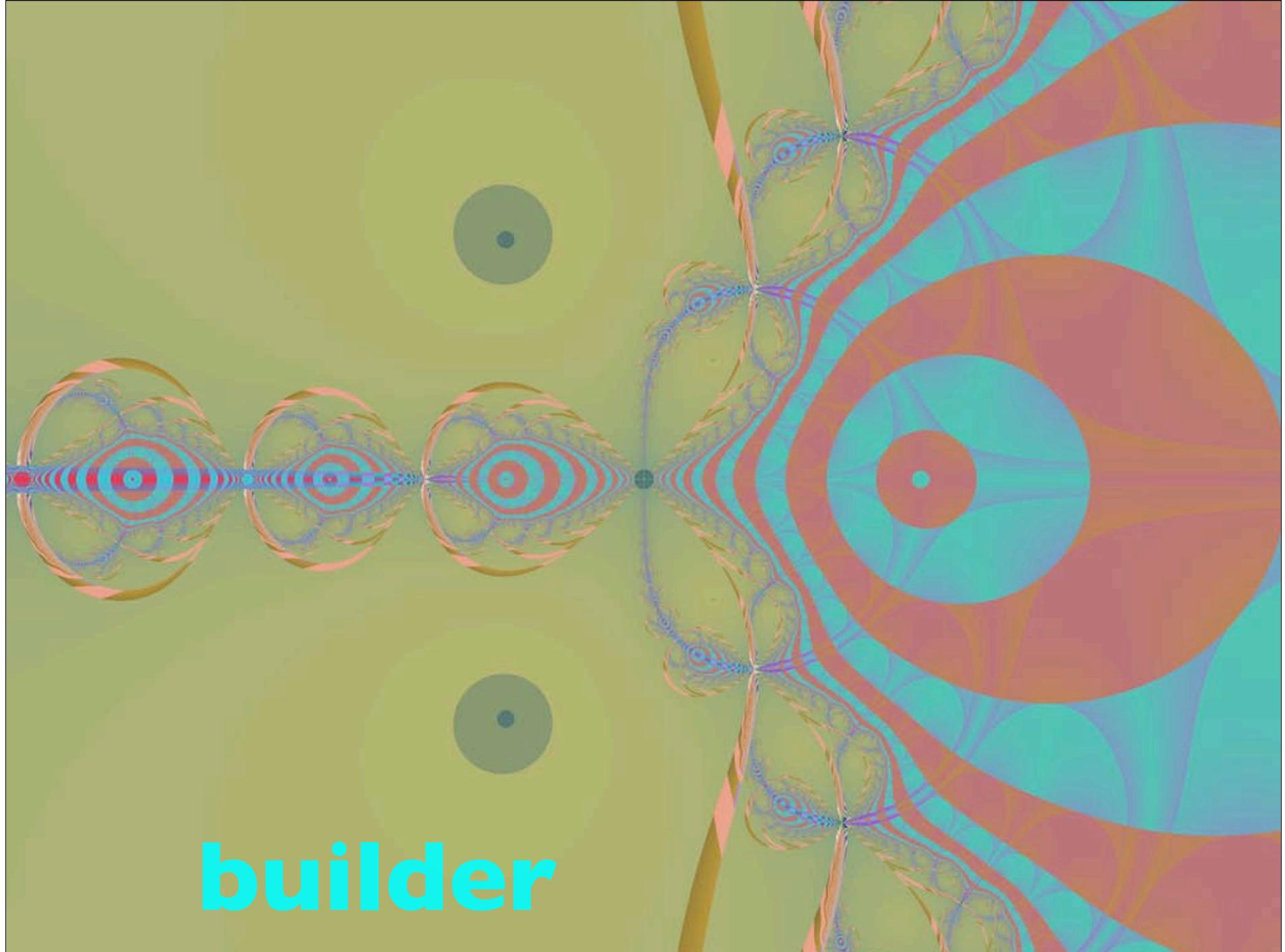
```
count is initially 0
undid all commands, count is 0
redid all command, count is 10
```



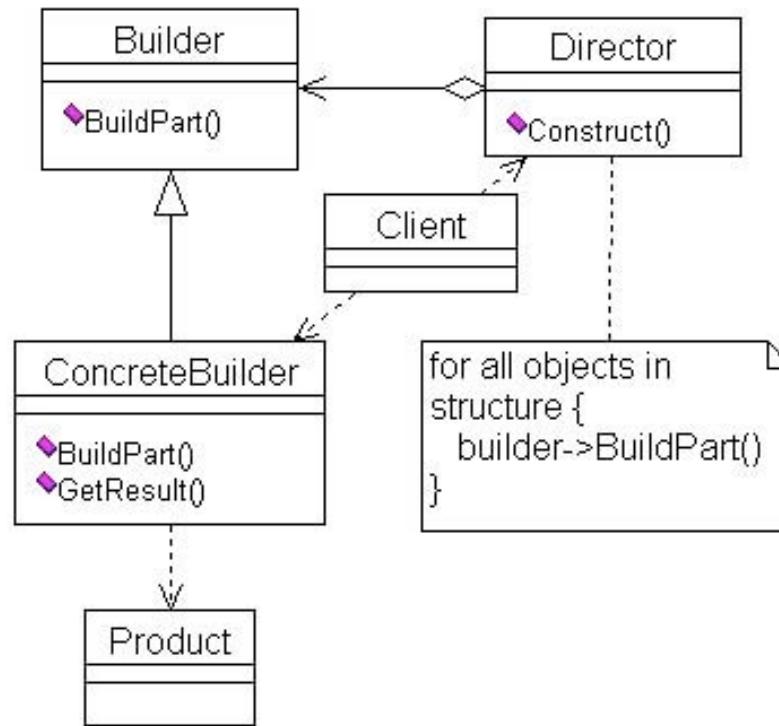
```
commands = []
(1..10).each do |i|
  commands << Command.new( proc { count += i }, proc { count -= i } )
end

puts "count is initially #{count}"
commands.each { |cmd| cmd.do_command }
puts "did all commands, count is #{count}"
commands.reverse_each { |cmd| cmd.undo_command }
puts "undid all commands, count is #{count}"
commands.each { |cmd| cmd.do_command }
puts "redid all commands, count is #{count}"
```

the command design pattern  
is built into languages with  
closures



**builder**



Separate the construction of a complex object from its representation so that the same construction process can create different representations.

“traditional” builder

```
class Computer
  attr_accessor :display, :motherboard, :drives

  def initialize(display=:crt, motherboard=Motherboard.new, drives=[])
    @motherboard = motherboard
    @drives = drives
    @display = display
  end

end

class CPU
  # CPU stuff
end

class BasicCPU < CPU
  # not very fast CPU stuff
end

class TurboCPU < CPU
  # very fast CPU stuff
end
```



```
class Motherboard
  attr_accessor :cpu, :memory_size

  def initialize(cpu=BasicCPU.new, memory_size=1000)
    @cpu = cpu
    @memory_size = memory_size
  end
end

class Drive
  attr_reader :type, :size, :writable

  def initialize(type, size, writable)
    @type = type
    @size = size
    @writable = writable
  end
end
```



```
class ComputerBuilder
  attr_reader :computer

  def initialize
    @computer = Computer.new
  end

  def turbo(has_turbo_cpu=true)
    @computer.motherboard.cpu = TurboCPU.new
  end

  def display=(display)
    @computer.display = display
  end

  def memory_size=(size_in_mb)
    @computer.motherboard.memory_size = size_in_mb
  end

  def add_cd(writer=false)
    @computer.drives << Drive.new(:cd, 760, writer)
  end
```



```
def test_builder
  b = ComputerBuilder.new
  b.turbo
  b.add_cd(true)
  b.add_dvd
  b.add_hard_disk(100000)
  computer = b.computer
  assert computer.motherboard.cpu.is_a? TurboCPU
  assert computer.drives.size == 3
end
```



**add dynamic behavior: ad  
hoc combinations**

# in computer\_builder:

```
def method_missing(name, *args)
  words = name.to_s.split("_")
  return super(name, *args) unless words.shift == 'add'
  words.each do |word|
    next if word == 'and'
    add_cd if word == 'cd'
    add_dvd if word == 'dvd'
    add_hard_disk(100000) if word == 'harddisk'
    turbo if word == 'turbo'
  end
end
```



```
def test_synthetic_method
  b = ComputerBuilder.new
  b.add_turbo_and_dvd_and_harddisk
  assert b.computer.motherboard.cpu.is_a? TurboCPU
  assert b.computer.drives.size == 2
end
```



**the problem: sharing code  
templates in eclipse**

```
<?xml version\="1.0" encoding\="UTF-8"?>

<templates>
    <template autoinsert\="true" context\="java"
        deleted\="false" description\="" enabled\="true"
        name\="my_test">
        @Test public void ${var}() {\n\n}
    </template>
</templates>
```

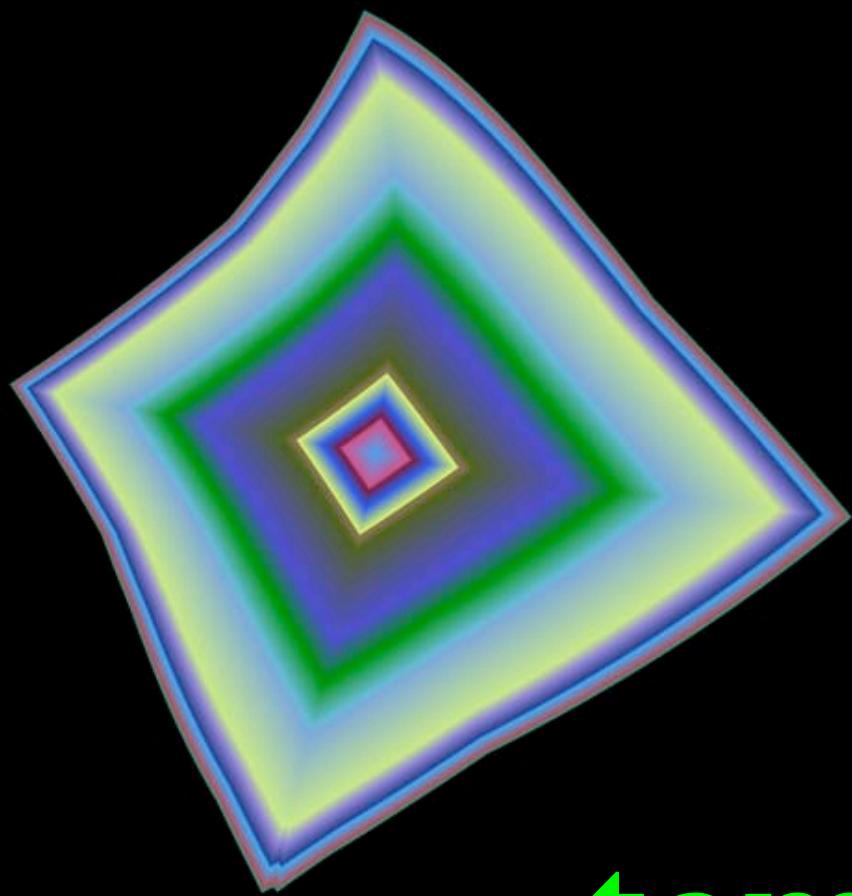




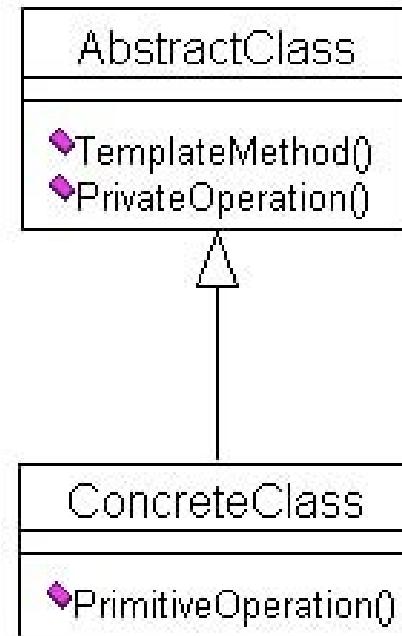
```
class EclipseTemplateBuilder {  
    def writer  
    def b  
  
    def EclipseTemplateBuilder() {  
        writer = new StringWriter()  
        b = new MarkupBuilder(writer)  
        b.setDoubleQuotes(true)  
    }  
  
    def templateMarkup() {  
        b.templates() {  
            template(autoinsert: "true", context:"java",  
                    deleted:"false", description:"",  
                    enabled:"true", name:"my_test",  
                    "@Test public void \$\{var\}() {\n\n}")  
        }  
        writer.toString()  
    }  
}
```

A close-up, low-angle photograph of a hedgehog's spines. The spines are dark, sharp, and numerous, radiating outwards from the center. The lighting highlights the texture and points of the spines.

never cuddle  
sharp things



**template**



Define the skeleton of an algorithm in an operation, deferring some steps to subclasses. Template Method lets subclasses redefine certain steps of an algorithm without changing the algorithm's structure.

```
abstract class Customer {  
    def plan  
  
    def Customer() {  
        plan = []  
    }  
  
    def abstract checkCredit()  
    def abstract checkInventory()  
    def abstract ship()  
  
    def process() {  
        checkCredit()  
        checkInventory()  
        ship()  
    }  
}
```



```
class UsCustomer extends Customer {  
    def checkCredit() {  
        plan.add "checking US customer credit"  
    }  
  
    def checkInventory() {  
        plan.add "checking US warehouses"  
    }  
  
    def ship() {  
        plan.add "Shipping to US address"  
    }  
}
```



```
class EuropeanCustomer extends Customer {  
    def checkCredit() {  
        plan.add "checking European customer credit"  
    }  
  
    def checkInventory() {  
        plan.add "checking European warehouses"  
    }  
  
    def ship() {  
        plan.add "Shipping to European address"  
    }  
}
```



```
@Test void customers() {  
    def c = new UsCustomer()  
    c.process()  
    assertThat "checking US customer credit", is(c.plan[0])  
    assertThat "checking US warehouses", is(c.plan[1])  
    assertThat "Shipping to US address", is(c.plan[2])  
    def e = new EuropeanCustomer()  
    e.process()  
    assertThat "checking European customer credit", is(e.plan[0])  
    assertThat "checking European warehouses", is(e.plan[1])  
    assertThat "Shipping to European address", is(e.plan[2])  
}
```



# what's dynamic?

so far, this is the “traditional” template-method

why not blocks as placeholders

```
class CustomerBlocks {  
    def plan, checkCredit, checkInventory, ship  
  
    def CustomerBlocks() {  
        plan = []  
    }  
  
    def process() {  
        checkCredit()  
        checkInventory()  
        ship()  
    }  
}
```



```
class UsCustomerBlocks extends CustomerBlocks{
    def UsCustomerBlocks() {
        checkCredit = { plan.add "checking US customer credit" }
        checkInventory = { plan.add "checking US warehouses" }
        ship = { plan.add "Shipping to US address" }
    }
}
```



# advantages of blocks

less overhead

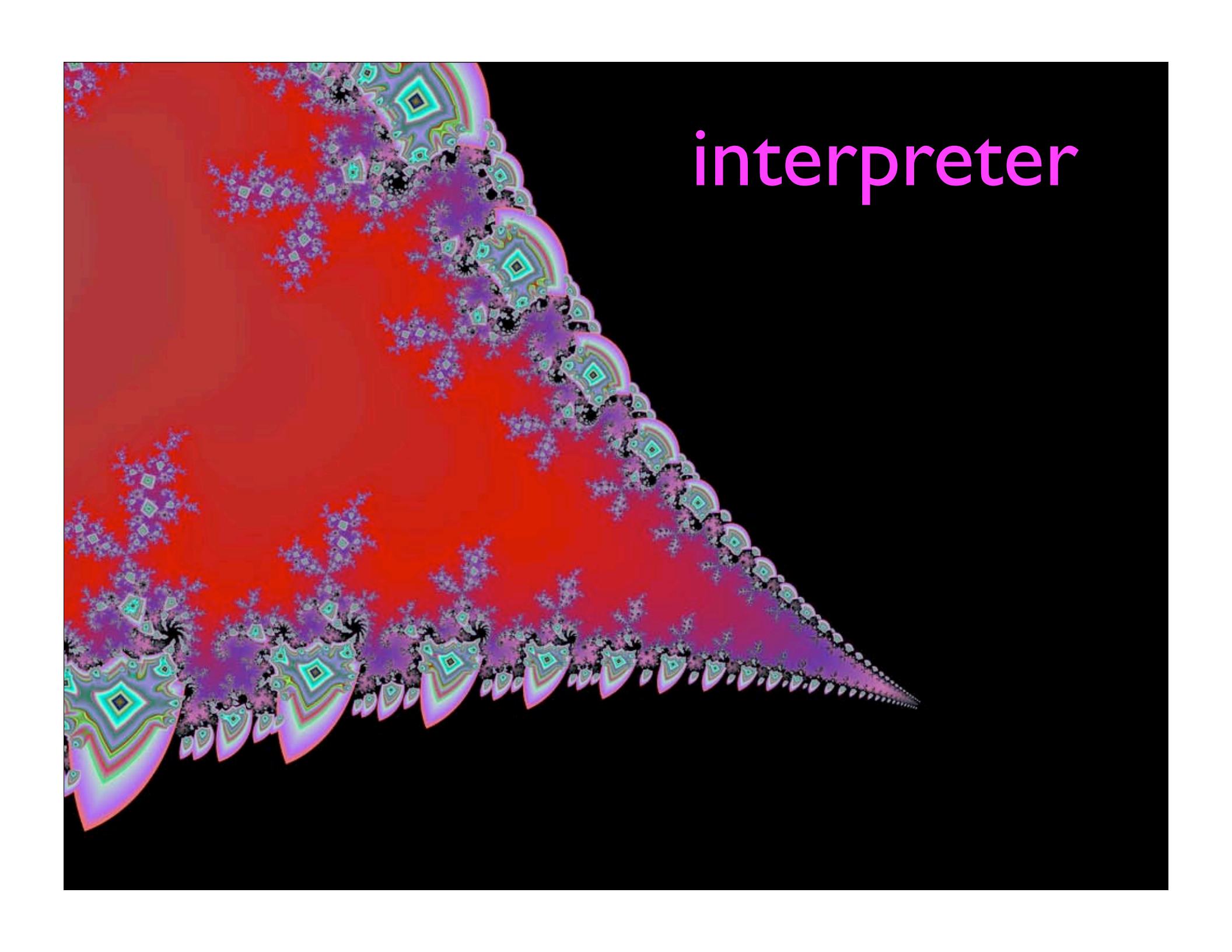
easier to skip optional steps if needed

# disadvantages(?)

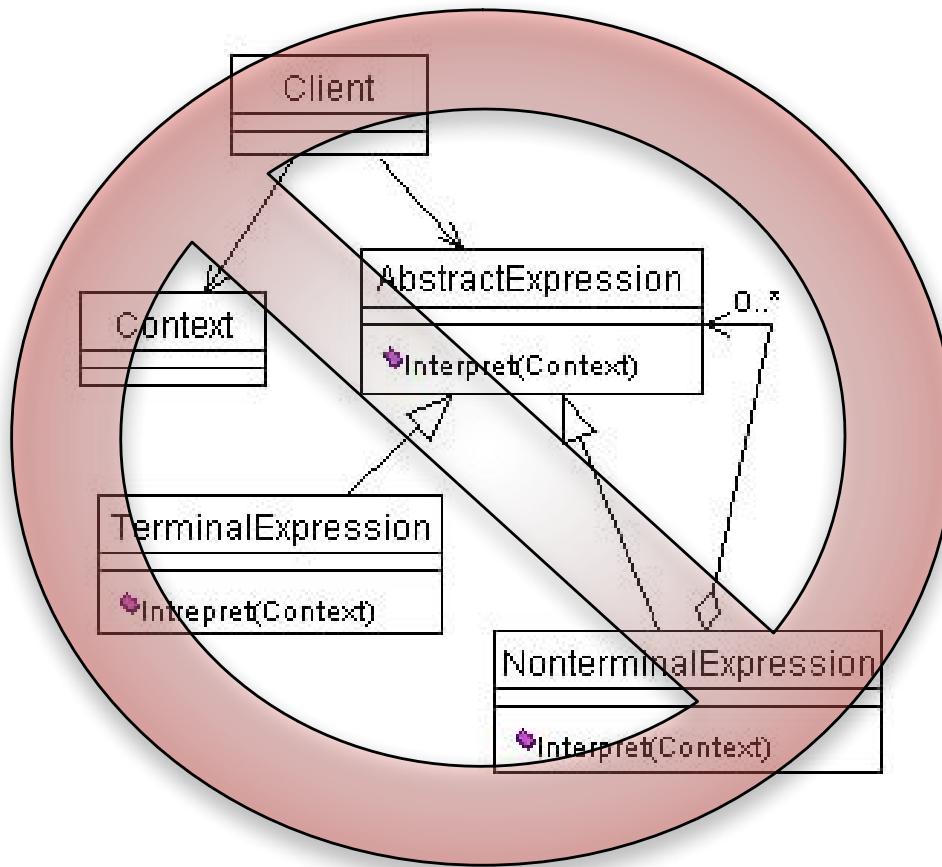
you can skip steps!

protections can be placed to ensure blocks are assigned

realizes less of the intent of the pattern

A fractal image of the Mandelbrot set, rendered in shades of red, orange, and purple against a black background. The fractal is highly detailed and symmetric, resembling a cross-section of a brain or a complex crystal structure. A large, semi-transparent watermark in a bright pink color reads "interpreter" in a bold, sans-serif font, positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image.

interpreter



Given a language, define a representation for its grammar along with an interpreter that uses the representation to interpret sentences in the language.

building domain specific  
languages atop groovy

Groovy

BAKERY

# the goal

```
@Test void test_add_multiple_ingredients() {  
    def recipe = new Recipe("Smoky Flour")  
    recipe.add 1.pound.of("Flour")  
    recipe.add 2.grams.of("Nutmeg")  
    assertThat 2, is(recipe.ingredients.size)  
    assertThat "Flour", is(recipe.ingredients.get(0).name)  
    assertThat "Nutmeg", is(recipe.ingredients.get(1).name)  
}
```



# expando property

```
Integer.metaClass.getGram = {->
    delegate.intValue()
}
Integer.metaClass.getGrams = { -> delegate.gram }

@Test void test_gram_as_property() {
    assertThat 1, is(1.gram)
}

@Test void test_grams() {
    assertThat 2, is(2.grams)
}
```



# open classes for recipes

```
Integer.metaClass.getGram = {->
    delegate.intValue()
}
Integer.metaClass.getGrams = { -> delegate.gram }

Integer.metaClass.gram = { ->
    delegate.intValue()
}

Integer.metaClass.getPound = {->
    delegate * 453.59237
}
Integer.metaClass.getPounds = {-> delegate.pound }
Integer.metaClass.getLb = { -> delegate.pound }
Integer.metaClass.getLbs = { -> delegate.pound }
```



# recipe redux

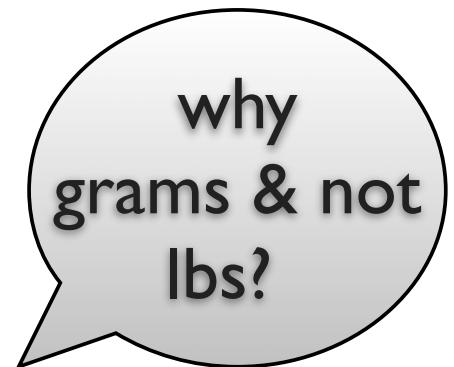
```
@Test void test_add_multiple_ingredients() {  
    def recipe = new Recipe("Smoky Flour")  
    recipe.add 1.pound.of("Flour")  
    recipe.add 2.grams.of("Nutmeg")  
    assertThat 2, is(recipe.ingredients.size)  
    assertThat "Flour", is(recipe.ingredients.get(0).name)  
    assertThat "Nutmeg", is(recipe.ingredients.get(1).name)  
}
```



# of

```
Integer.metaClass.of = { name ->
    def ingredient = new Ingredient(name)
    ingredient.quantity = delegate.intValue()
    ingredient
}

@Test void test_of() {
    i = 2.grams.of("Flour")
    assertTrue i instanceof Ingredient
    def i = 2.lbs.of("Flour")
    assertTrue i instanceof Ingredient
}
```



# of redux

```
Integer.metaClass.of = { name ->
    def ingredient = new Ingredient(name)
    ingredient.quantity = delegate.intValue()
    ingredient
}

BigDecimal.metaClass.of = { name ->
    def ingredient = new Ingredient(name)
    ingredient.quantity = delegate.intValue()
    ingredient
}
```



# who returns what?

BigDecimal

Ingredient

1. pound.of("Flour")

Integer

Ingredient

# type transmogrification

*transform types as needed as part of a fluent interface call*

# embedded interpreter

```

ingredient "flour" has Protein=11.5, Lipid=1.45, Sugars=1.12, Calcium=20, Sodium=0
ingredient "nutmeg" has Protein=5.84, Lipid=36.31, Sugars=28.49, Calcium=184, Sodium=16
ingredient "milk" has Protein=3.22, Lipid=3.25, Sugars=5.26, Calcium=113, Sodium=40

class NutritionProfile
  attr_accessor :name, :protein, :lipid, :sugars, :calcium, :sodium

  def initialize(name, protein=0, lipid=0, sugars=0, calcium=0, sodium=0)
    @name = name
    @protein, @lipid, @sugars = protein, lipid, sugars
    @calcium, @sodium = calcium, sodium
  end

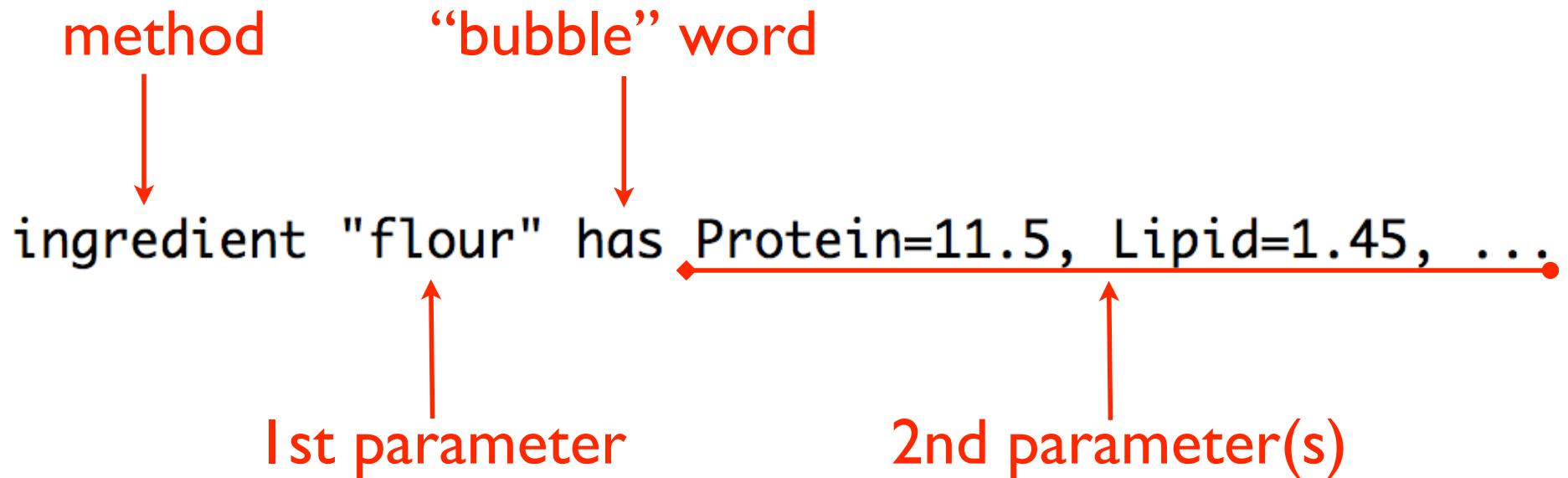
  def self.create_from_hash(name, h)
    new(name, h['protein'], h['lipid'], h['sugars'], h['calcium'], h['sodium'])
  end

  def to_s()
    "\tProtein: " + @protein.to_s      +
    "\n\tLipid: " + @lipid.to_s        +
    "\n\tSugars: " + @sugars.to_s      +
    "\n\tCalcium: " + @calcium.to_s    +
    "\n\tSodium: " + @sodium.to_s
  end
end

```



# what is this?



```
class NutritionProfileDefinition
  class << Self
    def const_missing(sym)
      sym.to_s.downcase
    end
  end

  def ingredient(name, ingredients)
    NutritionProfile.create_from_hash name, ingredients
  end

  def process_definition(definition)
    t = polish_text(definition)
    instance_eval polish_text(definition)
  end

  def polish_text(definition_line)
    polished_text = definition_line.clone
    polished_text.gsub!(/=/, '=>')
    polished_text.sub!(/and /, '')
    polished_text.sub!(/has /, ',')
    polished_text
  end
end
```



```
def test_polish_text
  test_text = "ingredient \"flour\" has Protein=11.5, Lipid=1.45, Sugars=1.12, Calcium=20, and Sodium=0"
  expected = 'ingredient "flour" ,Protein=>11.5, Lipid=>1.45, Sugars=>1.12, Calcium=>20, Sodium=>0'
  assert_equal expected, NutritionProfileDefinition.new.polish_text(test_text)
end
```



```
def polish_text(definition_line)
  polished_text = definition_line.clone
  polished_text.gsub!(/=/, '=>')
  polished_text.sub!(/and /, '')
  polished_text.sub!(/has /, ',')
  polished_text
end
```



**warning! do not try to parse text using  
regular expressions!**



**warning! *do not try to parse  
text using regular expressions!***



```
def process_definition(definition)
  t = polish_text(definition)
  instance_eval polish_text(definition)
end
```

'ingredient "flour" ,Protein=>11.5, Lipid=>1.45,



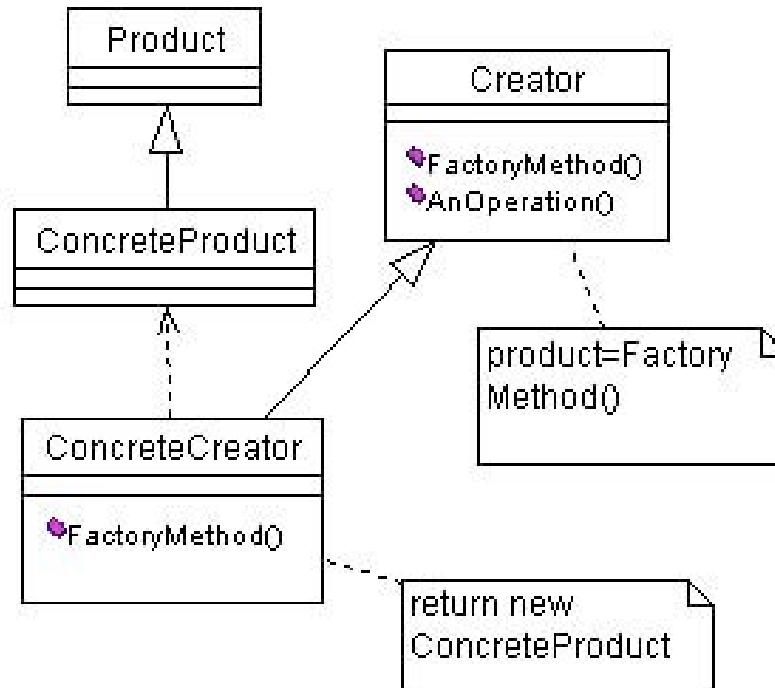
```
def ingredient(name, ingredients)
  NutritionProfile.create_from_hash name, ingredients
end
```



**internal dsl's == embedded interpreter**



**factory**



Define an interface for creating an object, but let subclasses decide which class to instantiate. Factory method lets a class defer instantiation to subclasses.

```
import java.util.*;  
  
class CollectionFactory {  
    def List getCollection(description) {  
        if (description == "Array-like")  
            return new ArrayList()  
        else if (description == "Stack-like")  
            return new Stack()  
    }  
}
```



```
@Test void get_an_array() {  
    def l = f.getCollection("Array-like")  
    assertTrue l instanceof java.util.ArrayList  
    l.add("foo")  
    assertThat l.get(0), is("foo")  
    l.removeAll(l)  
    assertThat l.size(), is(0)  
}
```



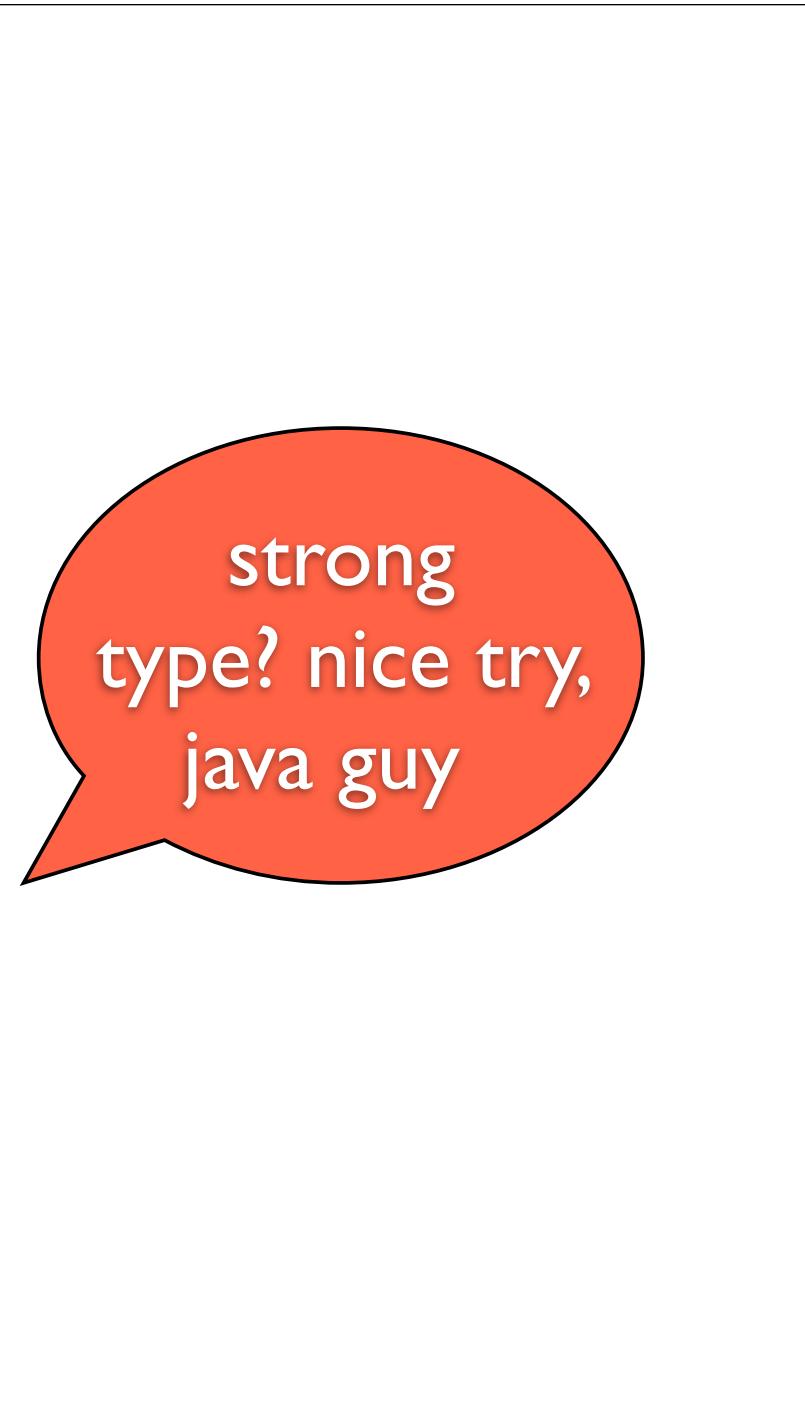
```
@Test void get_a_stack() {  
    def s = f.getCollection("Stack-like")  
    assertTrue s instanceof java.util.Stack  
    s.add("foo")  
    assertThat s.get(0), is("foo")  
    s.removeAll(s)  
    assertThat s.size(), is(0)  
    s.push("bar")  
    assertThat s.size(), is(1)  
    def r = s.pop()  
    assertThat r, is("bar")  
    assertThat s.size(), is(0)  
}
```



```
@Test
void test_search() {
    List l = f.getCollection("Stack-like")
    assertTrue l instanceof java.util.Stack
    l.push("foo")
    assertThat l.size(), is(1)
    def r = l.search("foo")          search exists on Stack
}
```

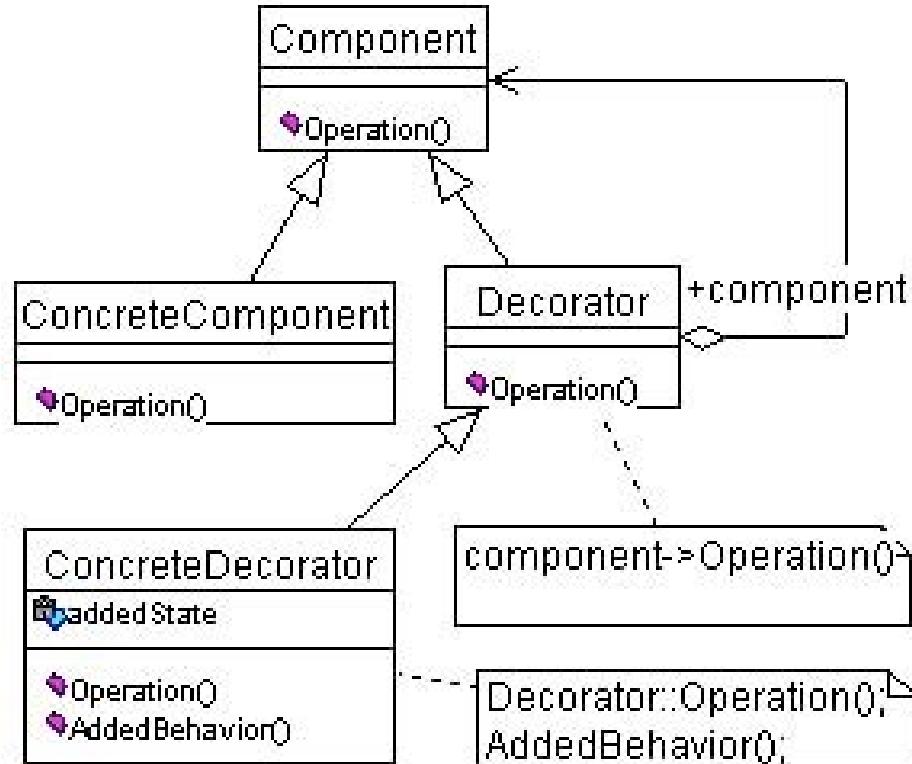
```
@Test(expected=groovy.lang.MissingMethodException.class)
void verify_that_typing_does_not_help() {
    List l = f.getCollection("Array-like")
    assertTrue l instanceof java.util.ArrayList
    l.add("foo")
    assertThat l.size(), is(1)
    def r = l.search("foo")          but not on ArrayList
}
```

or List!



The background of the image is a fractal pattern, likely a Mandelbrot set, featuring intricate, colorful, and symmetric patterns of triangles and diamonds in shades of pink, purple, blue, and yellow against a dark background.

decorator



Attach additional responsibilities to an object dynamically. Decorators provide a flexible alternative to subclassing for extending functionality.

# “traditional” decorator

```
class Logger {  
    def log(String message) {  
        println message  
    }  
}
```



```
class TimeStampingLogger extends Logger {  
    private Logger logger  
    TimeStampingLogger(logger) {  
        this.logger = logger  
    }  
    def log(String message) {  
        def now = Calendar.instance  
        logger.log("$now.time: $message")  
    }  
}  
  
class UpperLogger extends Logger {  
    private Logger logger  
    UpperLogger(logger) {  
        this.logger = logger  
    }  
    def log(String message) {  
        logger.log(message.toUpperCase())  
    }  
}
```





```
def logger = new UpperLogger(  
    new TimeStampingLogger(  
        new Logger()))  
  
logger.log("Groovy Rocks")
```

Tue May 22 07:13:50 EST 2007: GROOVY ROCKS

step I: make it more  
dynamic

```
class GenericLowerDecorator {  
    private delegate  
    GenericLowerDecorator(delegate) {  
        this.delegate = delegate  
    }  
  
    def invokeMethod(String name, args) {  
        def newargs = args.collect{ arg ->  
            if (arg instanceof String) return arg.toLowerCase()  
            else return arg  
        }  
        delegate.invokeMethod(name, newargs)  
    }  
}
```





```
logger = new GenericLowerDecorator(  
    new TimeStampingLogger(  
        new Logger()))  
  
logger.log('IMPORTANT Message')
```

Tue May 22 07:27:18 EST 2007: important message

**step 2: decorate in place**

```
GroovySystem.metaClassRegistry.metaClassCreationHandle =  
    new ExpandoMetaClassCreationHandle()  
  
def logger = new Logger()  
logger.metaClass.log = {  
    String m -> println 'message: ' + m.toUpperCase()  
}  
logger.log('x')
```



decoration via  
smart dispatch



```
module Decorator
  def initialize(decorated)
    @decorated = decorated
  end

  def method_missing(method, *args)
    args.empty? ?
      @decorated.send(method) :
      @decorated.send(method, args)
  end
end
```





```
class Coffee
  def cost
    2
  end
end
```

```
class Milk
  include Decorator

  def cost
    @decorated.cost + 0.4
  end
end
```

```
class Whip
  include Decorator

  def cost
    @decorated.cost + 0.2
  end
end
```

```
class Sprinkles
  include Decorator

  def cost
    @decorated.cost + 0.3
  end
end
```

```
def test_that_decoration_works
  assert_equal 2.2,
    Whip.new(Coffee.new).cost
  assert_equal 2.9,
    Sprinkles.new(Whip.new(Milk.new(Coffee.new))).cost
end
```



```
module Whipped
  def cost
    super + 0.2
  end
end

module Sprinkles
  def cost
    super + 0.3
  end
end

class Coffee
  def self.with(*args)
    args.inject(self.new) {|memo, val| memo.extend val}
  end

  def cost
    2
  end
end
```



```
def test_decorator_works_via_inject
  x = Coffee.with Sprinkles, Whipped
  assert_equal 2.5, x.cost
end
```





the ultimate decorator:  
the ashcroft pattern

```
class Recorder
  def initialize
    @messages = []
  end

  def method_missing(method, *args, &block)
    @messages << [method, args, block]
  end

  def play_back_to(obj)
    @messages.each do |method, args, block|
      obj.send(method, *args, &block)
    end
  end
end
```



```
def test_recorder
  r = Recorder.new
  r.sub!(/Java/) { "Ruby" }
  r.upcase!
  r[11, 5] = "Universe"
  r << "!"

  s = "Hello Java World"
  r.play_back_to(s)
  assert_equal "HELLO RUBY Universe!", s
end
```

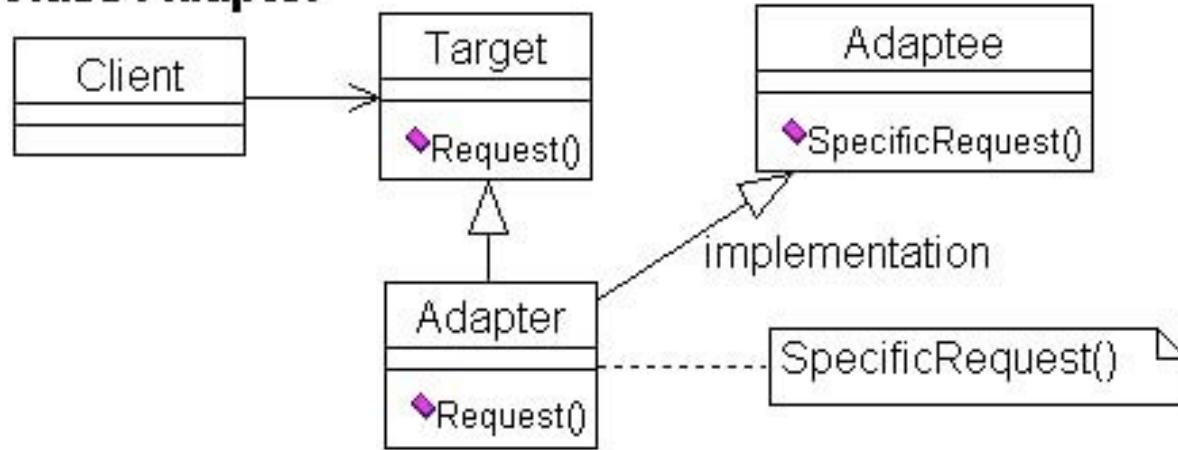


the ashcroft pattern is much  
easier in ruby because  
method invocations are  
messages

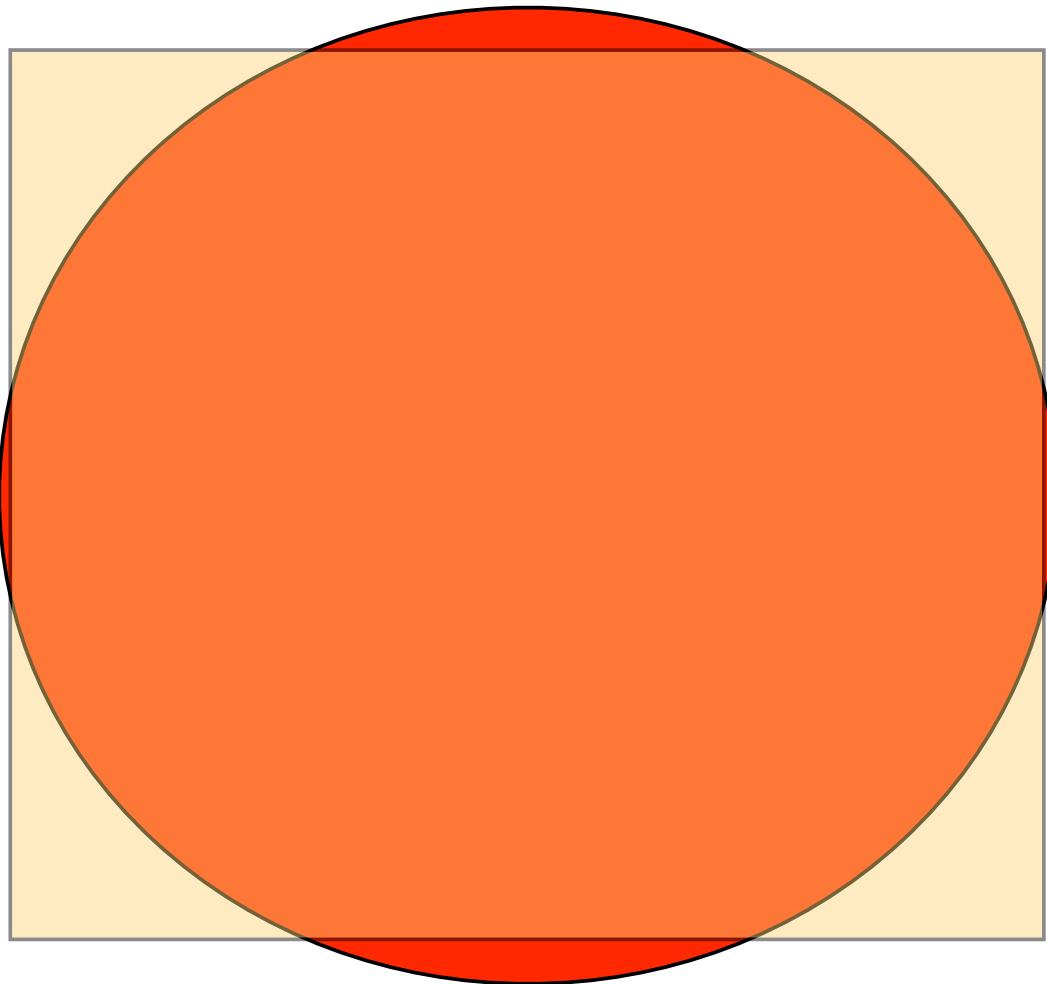


adapter

## Class Adapter



Convert the interface of a class into another interface clients expect. Adapter lets classes work together that couldn't otherwise because of incompatible interfaces.



```
class SquarePeg {  
    def width  
}  
  
class RoundPeg {  
    def radius  
}  
  
class RoundHole {  
    def radius  
    def pegFits(peg) {  
        peg.radius <= radius  
    }  
    String toString() { "RoundHole with radius $radius" }  
}
```



```
class SquarePegAdapter {  
    def peg  
    def getRadius() {  
        Math.sqrt(((peg.width/2) ** 2)*2)  
    }  
    String toString() {  
        "SquarePegAdapter with peg width $peg.width "+  
        "(and notional radius $radius)"  
    }  
}
```



```
@Test void pegs_and_holes() {
    def hole = new RoundHole(radius:4.0)
    (4..7).each { w ->
        def peg = new SquarePegAdapter(
            peg:new SquarePeg(width:w))
        if (w < 6 )
            assertTrue hole.pegFits(peg)
        else
            assertFalse hole.pegFits(peg)
    }
}
```



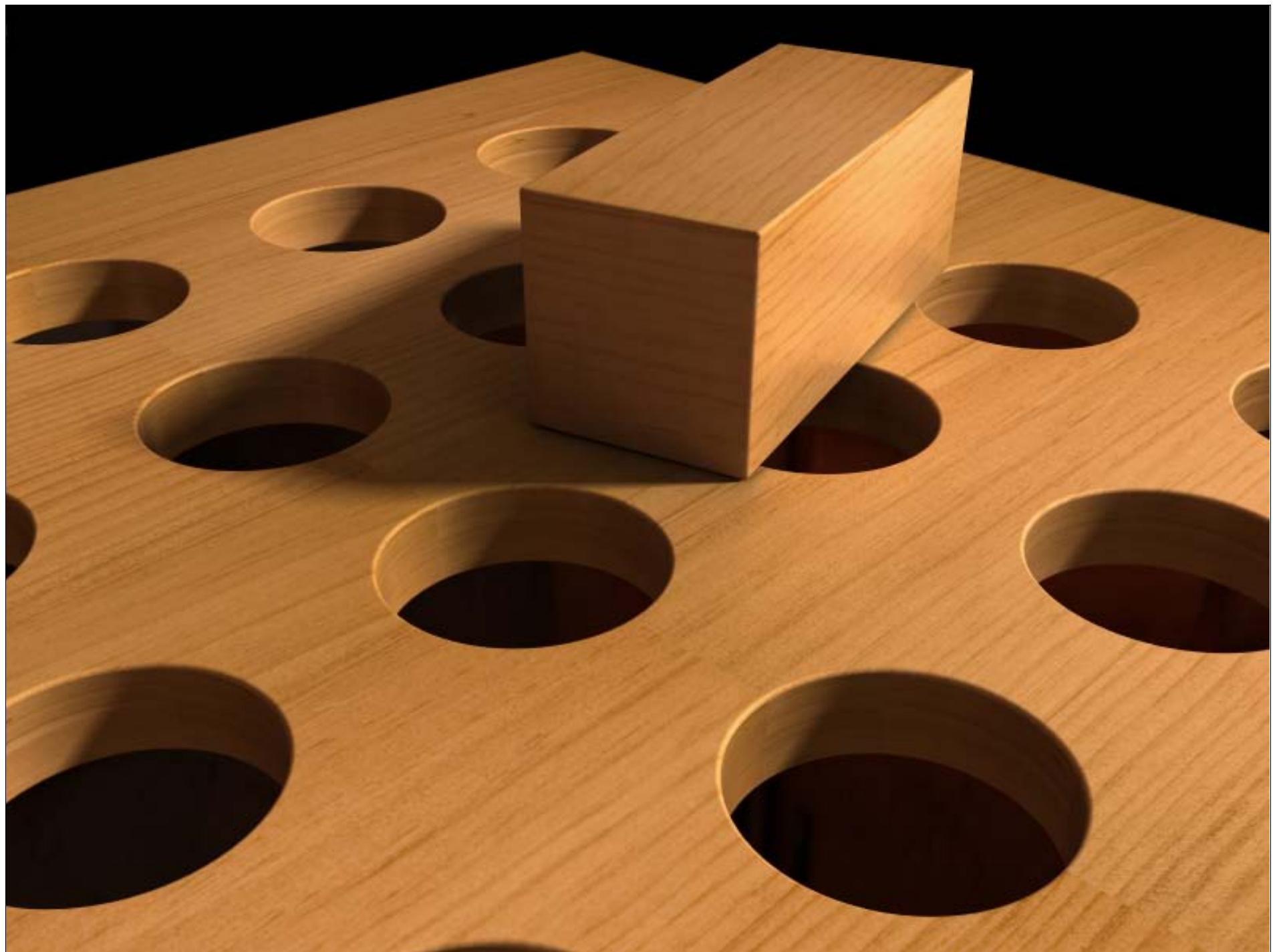
```
class SquarePegAdapterUsingInheritance
    extends SquarePeg {

    def getRadius() {
        Math.sqrt(((width/2) ** 2)*2)
    }
    String toString() {
        "SquarePegAdapter with width $width "+
        "(and notional radius $radius)"
    }
}
```



```
@Test void pegs_with_inherited_adaptor() {  
    def hole = new RoundHole(radius:4.0)  
    (4..7).each { w ->  
        def peg = new SquarePegAdapterUsingInheritance(width:w)  
        if (w < 6)  
            assertTrue hole.pegFits(peg)  
        else  
            assertFalse hole.pegFits(peg)  
    }  
}
```





```
interface RoundThing {  
    def getRadius()  
}
```



```
@Test void pegs_and_holes() {
    def adapter = { p ->
        [getRadius:{Math.sqrt(
            ((p.width/2) ** 2)*2)}] as RoundThing
    }
    def hole = new RoundHole(radius:4.0)
    (4..7).each { w ->
        def peg = new SquarePeg(width:w)
        if (w < 6)
            assertTrue hole.pegFits(adapter(peg))
        else
            assertFalse hole.pegFits(adapter(peg))
    }
}
```





```
static {
    SquarePeg.metaClass.getRadius = { ->
        Math.sqrt(((delegate.width/2) ** 2)*2)
    }
}

@Test void expando_adapter() {
    def hole = new RoundHole(radius:4.0)
    (4..7).each { w ->
        def peg = new SquarePeg(width:w)
        if (w < 6)
            assertTrue hole.pegFits(peg)
        else
            assertFalse hole.pegFits(peg)
    }
}
```



what if open class added  
adaptor methods clash with  
existing methods?

```
class SquarePeg
  include InterfaceSwitching

  def width
    @width
  end

  def_interface :normal, :width

  def width
    @width / 3
  end

  def_interface :holes, :width

  def initialize(width)
    set_interface :normal
    @width = width
  end
end
```



```
def test_pegs_switching
  hole = RoundHole.new( 4.0 )
  4.upto(7) do |i|
    peg = SquarePeg.new(i.to_f)
    peg.with_interface(:holes) do
      if (i < 6)
        assert hole.peg_fits?(peg)
      else
        assert ! hole.peg_fits?(peg)
      end
    end
  end
end
```



```
class Class
  def def_interface(interface, *syms)
    @_interface_ ||= {}
    a = (@_interface_[interface] ||= [])
    syms.each do |s|
      a << s unless a.include? s
      alias_method "__#{s}__#{interface}__".intern, s
      remove_method s
    end
  end
end
```



```
module InterfaceSwitching
  def set_interface(interface)
    unless self.class.instance_eval{ @_interface__[interface] }
      raise "Interface for #{self.inspect} not understood."
    end
    i_hash = self.class.instance_eval "@_interface__[interface]"
    i_hash.each do |meth|
      class << self; self end.class_eval <-EOF
        def #{meth}(*args,&block)
          send(:__#{meth}__#{interface}__, *args, &block)
        end
      EOF
    end
    @_interface__ = interface
  end

  def with_interface(interface)
    oldinterface = @_interface__
    set_interface(interface)
    begin
      yield self
    ensure
      set_interface(oldinterface)
    end
  end
end
```



more solutions !=  
better

given 1000 possibilities...

...how do you decide?

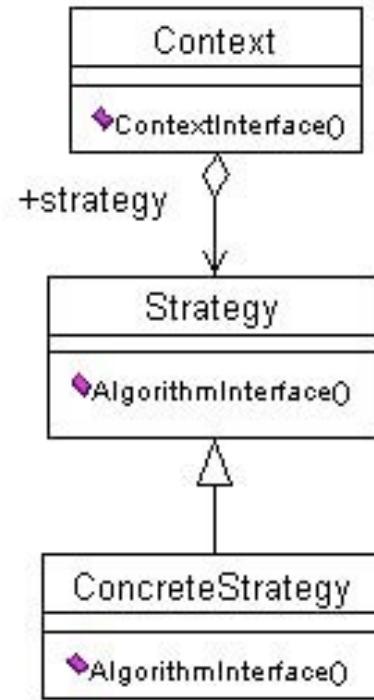
principle of least surprise

principle of least ceremony

proceed with courage



**strategy**



Define a family of algorithms, encapsulate each one, and make them interchangeable. Strategy lets the algorithm vary independently from clients that use it.

```
interface Calc {  
    def execute(n, m)  
}  
  
class CalcByMult implements Calc {  
    def execute(n, m) { n * m }  
}  
  
class CalcByManyAdds implements Calc {  
    def execute(n, m) {  
        def result = 0  
        n.times{  
            result += m  
        }  
        return result  
    }  
}
```



```
def sampleData = [
    [3, 4, 12],
    [5, -5, -25]
]

Calc[] multiplicationStrategies = [
    new CalcByMult(),
    new CalcByManyAdds()
]

sampleData.each{ data ->
    multiplicationStrategies.each{ calc ->
        assert data[2] == calc.execute(data[0], data[1])
    }
}
```



**why bother with extra  
structure?**

# *Execution in the Kingdom of Nouns*

steve  
yegge

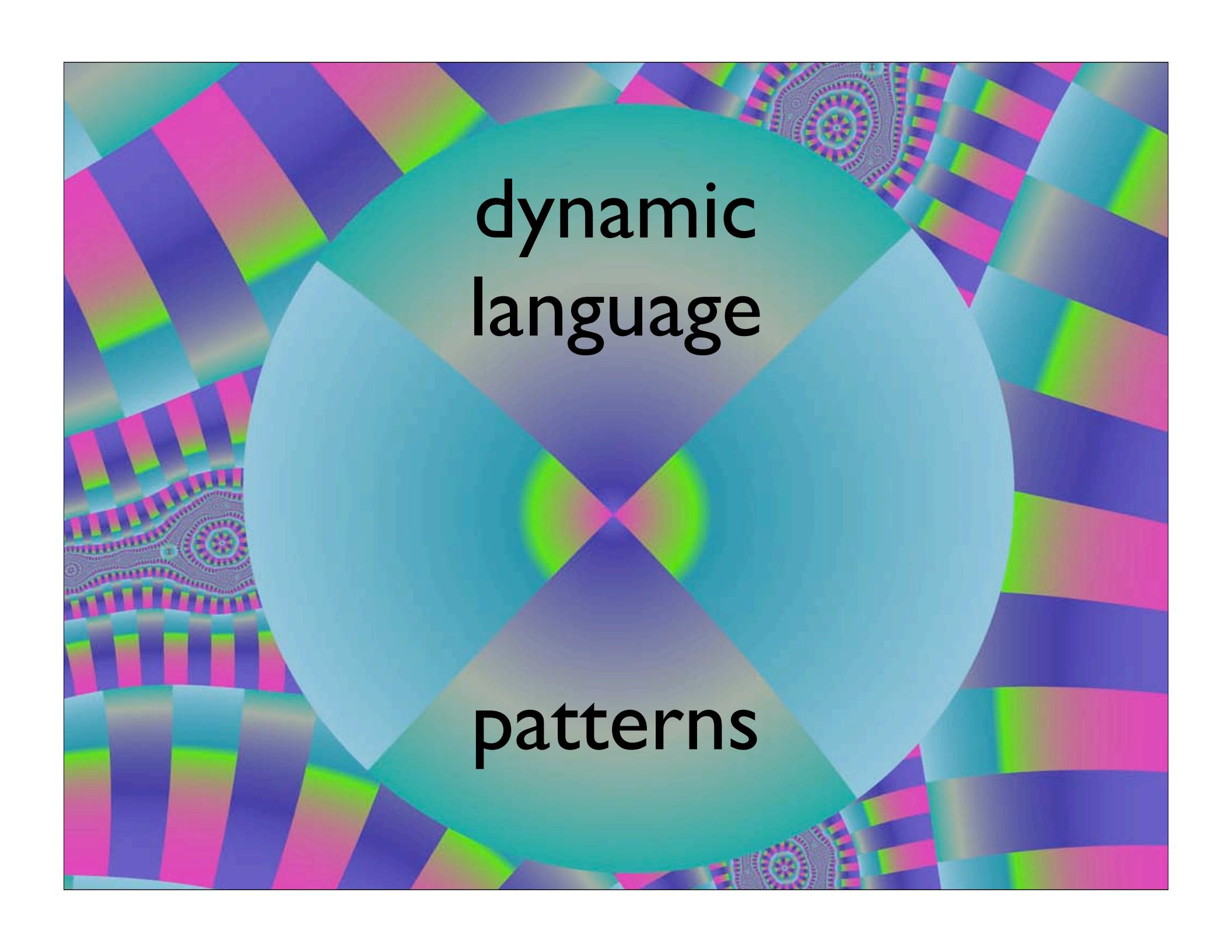




```
def multiplicationStrategies = [
    { n, m -> n * m },
    { n, m -> def result = 0
        n.times{ result += m }
        result
    }
]

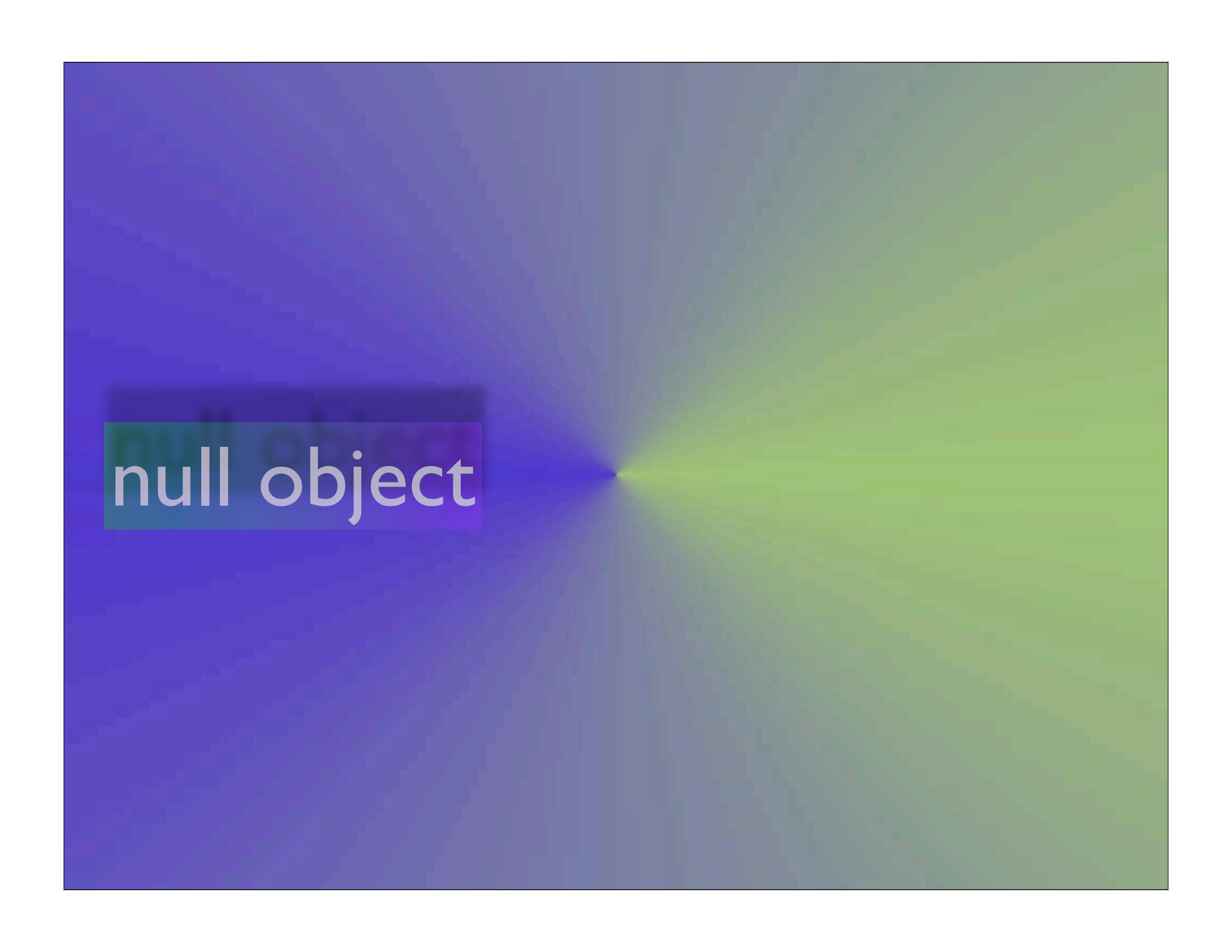
def sampleData = [
    [3, 4, 12],
    [5, -5, -25]
]

sampleData.each{ data ->
    multiplicationStrategies.each{ calc ->
        assert data[2] == calc(data[0], data[1])
    }
}
```

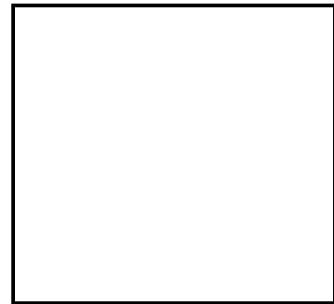
The background of the slide features a complex, abstract design composed of various geometric shapes. It includes large, light blue and teal triangles, several large white circles, and smaller, multi-colored rectangles in shades of pink, purple, and green. Interspersed among these are intricate, colorful fractal-like patterns that resemble traditional mandala designs. The overall effect is one of dynamic movement and mathematical complexity.

**dynamic  
language**

**patterns**



null object



The null object pattern uses a special object representing null, instead of using an actual null. The result of using the null object should semantically be equivalent to doing nothing.



```
class Job {  
    def salary  
}  
  
class Person {  
    def name  
    def Job job  
}  
  
def people = [  
    new Person(name:'Tom', job:new Job(salary:1000)),  
    new Person(name:'Dick', job:new Job(salary:1200)),  
]  
  
def biggestSalary = people.collect{ p -> p.job.salary }.max()  
println biggestSalary
```



```
people << new Person(name:'Harry')
```

```
def biggestSalary = people.collect{ p -> p.job.salary }.max()  
println biggestSalary
```

# java.lang.NullPointerException

```
class NullJob extends Job { def salary = 0 }
```

```
people << new Person(name:'Harry', job:new NullJob())  
biggestSalary = people.collect{ p -> p.job.salary }.max()  
println biggestSalary
```

```
people << new Person(name:'Harry')
biggestSalary = people.collect{
    p -> p.job?.salary
}.max()
println biggestSalary
```

p?.job?.salary



this pattern doesn't  
exist in ruby

NilClass is already  
defined



```
class NilClass
  def blank?
    true
  end
end
```



```

class NilClass
  WHINERS = [ ::ActiveRecord::Base, ::Array ]

  @@method_class_map = Hash.new

  WHINERS.each do |klass|
    methods = klass.public_instance_methods - public_instance_methods
    methods.each do |method|
      @@method_class_map[method.to_sym] = klass
    end
  end

  def id
    raise RuntimeError, "Called id for nil..."
  end

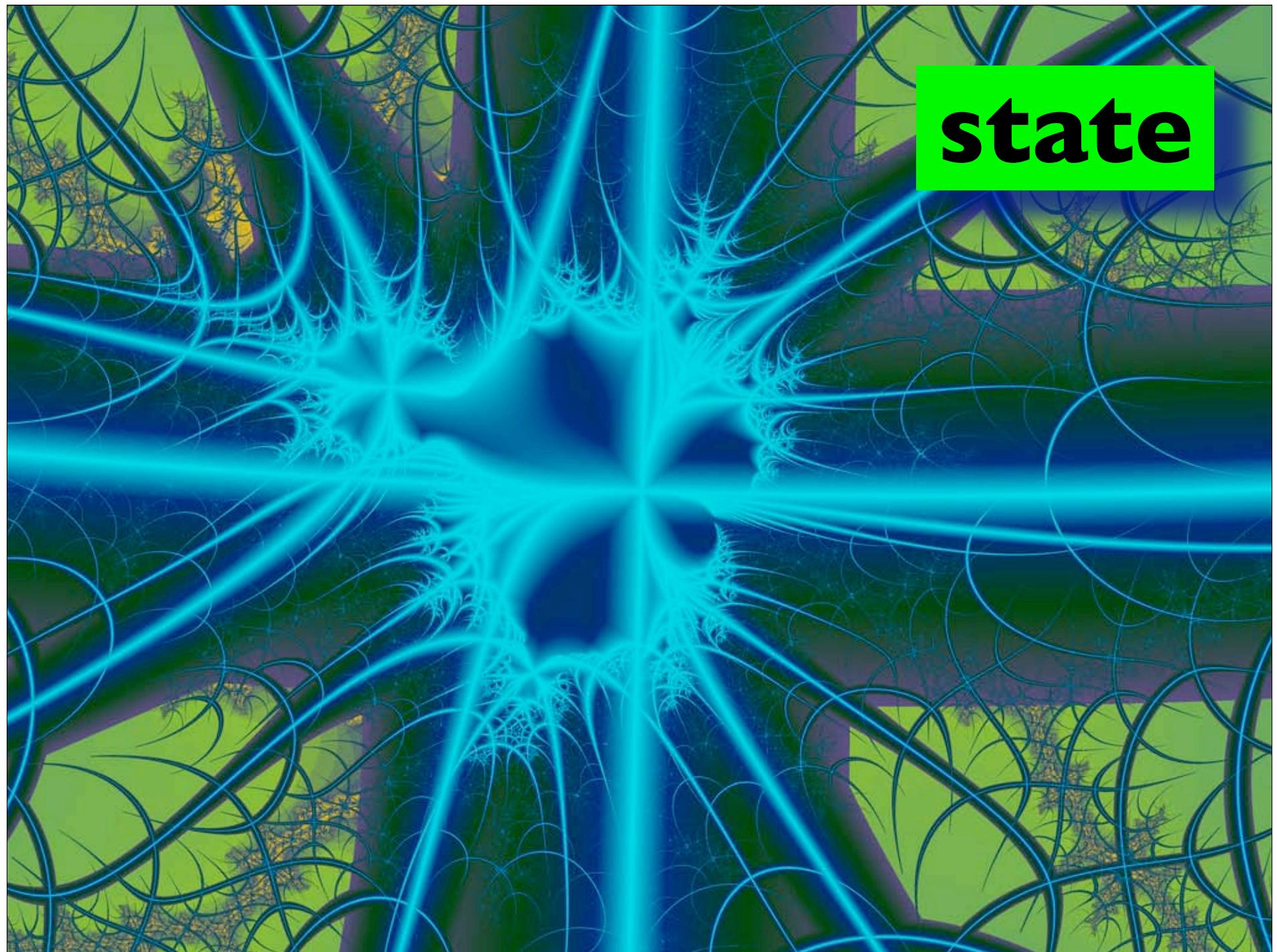
  private
  def method_missing(method, *args, &block)
    raise_nil_warning_for @@method_class_map[method], method, caller
  end

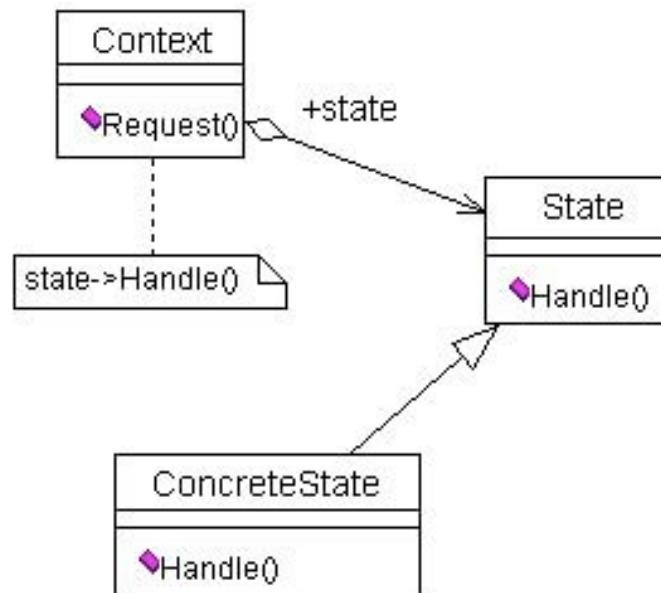
  def raise_nil_warning_for(klass = nil, selector = nil, with_caller = nil)
    message = "You have a nil object when you didn't expect it!"
    message << "\nYou might have expected an instance of #{klass}." if klass
    message << "\nThe error occurred while evaluating nil.#{selector}" if selector

    raise NoMethodError, message, with_caller || caller
  end
end

```







Allow an object to alter its behavior when its internal state changes. The object will appear to change its class.

# mixology?

a gem developed during thoughtworks project  
work by:

Pat Farley, anonymous z, Dan Manges, Clint Bishop

ruby allows you to mix-in behavior

mixology allows you to easily unmix behavior

state pattern on steroids

```

class Door

  def initialize(open = false)
    if open
      extend Open
    else
      extend Closed
    end

    def closed?
      kind_of? Closed
    end

    def opened?
      kind_of? Open
    end
  end
end

module Closed
  def knock
    puts "knock, knock"
  end

  def open
    extend Open
  end
end

module Open
  def knock
    raise "just come on in"
  end

  def close
    extend Closed
  end
end

```



```
class DoorTest < Test::Unit::TestCase
  def test_an_open_door_is_opened_and_not_closed
    door = Door.new :open
    assert door.opened?
    assert !door.closed?
  end

  def test_a_closed_door_is_closed_and_not_opened
    door = Door.new
    assert door.closed?
    assert !door.opened?
  end

  def test_closing_an_open_door_makes_the_door_closed_but_not_opened
    door = Door.new :open
    door.close
    assert door.closed?
    assert !door.opened?
  end

  def test_opening_a_closed_door_makes_the_door_opened_but_not_closed
    door = Door.new
    door.open
    assert door.opened?
    assert !door.closed?
  end
end
```



```
Loaded suite door
Started
..FF
Finished in 0.006623 seconds.

1) Failure:
test_closing_an_open_door_makes_the_door_closed_but_not_opened(DoorTest)
[door.rb:67]:
is not true.

2) Failure:
test_opening_a_closed_door_makes_the_door_opened_but_not_closed(DoorTest)
[door.rb:74]:
is not true.

4 tests, 8 assertions, 2 failures, 0 errors
```

state transitions fail because the old  
mixin is still mixed in

```
class Door
  def initialize(open = false)
    @open = open
    if open
      mixin Open
    else
      mixin Closed
    end

    def closed?
      kind_of? Closed
    end

    def opened?
      kind_of? Open
    end
  end
```

```
module Closed
  def open
    unmix Closed
    mixin Open
  end
end
```

```
module Open
  def close
    unmix Open
    mixin Closed
  end
end
end
```



The screenshot shows a Mac OS X window titled "door\_mix\_test.rb — RubyMate". The window has a purple header bar with the "RubyMate" logo and a "copy output" button. The main content area displays the following text:

```
RubyMate r8136 running Ruby r1.8.6
(/System/Library/Frameworks/Ruby.framework/Versions/1.8/usr/bin/ruby)
>>> door_mix_test.rb

Loaded suite
/Users/nealford/dev/ruby/conf_metaprogramming/mixology/door_mix_test
Started
....
Finished in 0.000537 seconds.

4 tests, 8 assertions, 0 failures, 0 errors
```

Below the output window, the status bar displays the message "Program exited."

A detailed, computer-generated illustration of a plant's root system or a similar organic structure. The main body is a thick, curved, translucent green tube with a yellowish glow along its edges. Numerous thin, hair-like extensions, also in a translucent green color, branch off from the main body, ending in small, spiky, star-shaped tips. The entire structure is set against a solid black background.

aridifier

# The Pragmatic Programmer



from journeyman  
to master

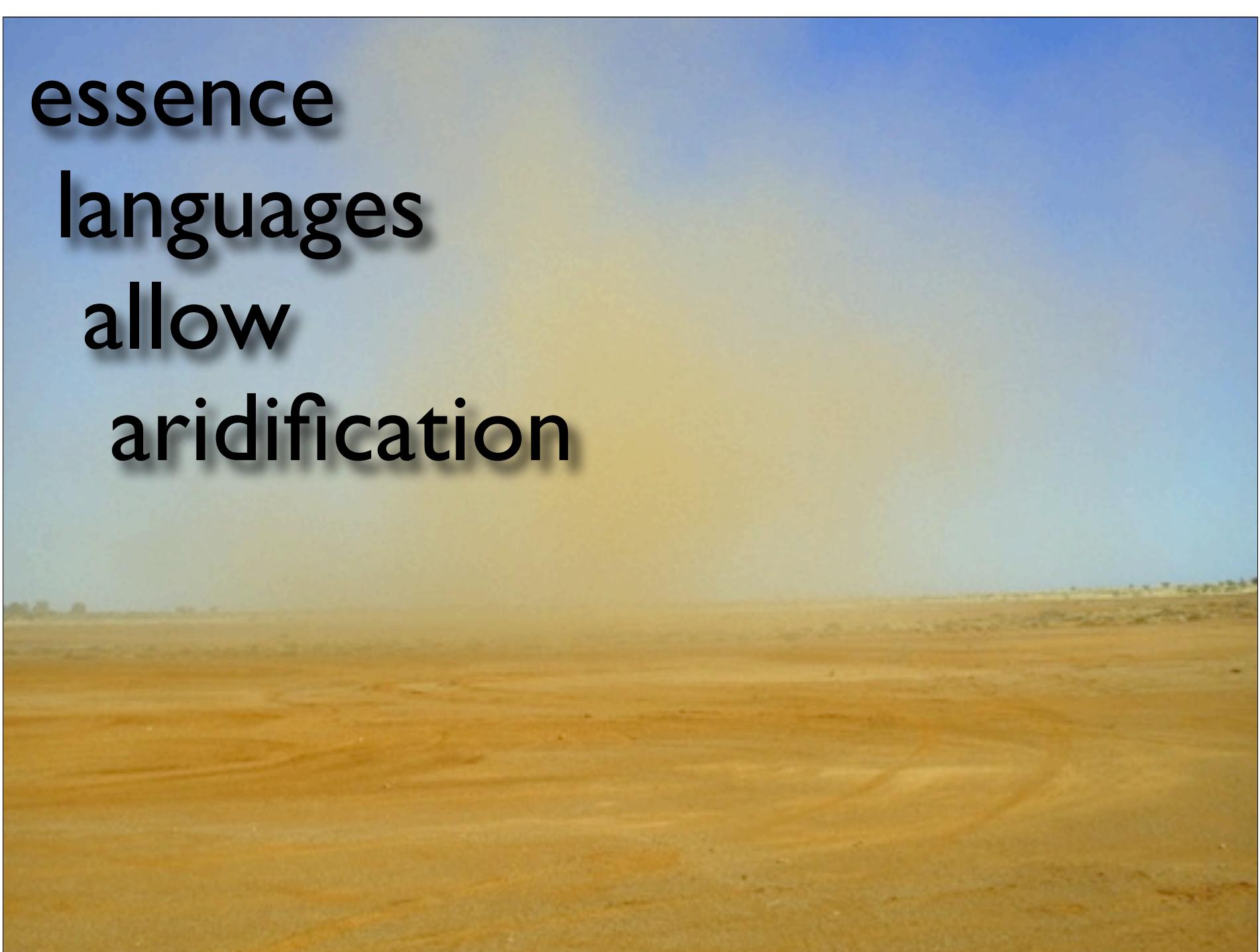
Andrew Hunt  
David Thomas

d r y

don't  
repeat  
yourself

**ceremonious languages  
generate floods**





essence  
languages  
allow  
aridification

```
class Grade
  class << self
    def for_score_of(grade)
      case grade
        when 90..100: 'A'
        when 80..90 : 'B'
        when 70..80 : 'C'
        when 60..70 : 'D'
        when Integer: 'F'
        when /[A-D]/, /[F]/ : grade
        else raise "Not a grade: #{grade}"
      end
    end
  end
end
```



```
def test_numerical_grades
    assert_equal "A", Grade.for_score_of(95)
    for g in 90..100
        assert_equal "A", Grade.for_score_of(g)
    end
    for g in 80...90
        assert_equal "B", Grade.for_score_of(g)
    end
end
```

```
TestGrades.class_eval do
  grade_range = {
    'A' => 90..100,
    'B' => 80...90,
    'C' => 70...80,
    'D' => 60...70,
    'F' => 0...60}

  grade_range.each do |k, v|
    method_name = ("test_" + k + "_letter_grade").to_sym
    define_method method_name do
      for g in v
        assert_equal k, Grade.for_score_of(g)
      end
    end
  end
end
```





# moist tests?

```
def test_delegating_to_array
  arr = Array.new
  q = FQueue.new arr
  q.enqueue "one"
  assert_equal 1, q.size
  assert_equal "one", q.dequeue
end

def test_delegating_to_a_queue
  a = Queue.new
  q = FQueue.new a
  q.enqueue "one"
  assert_equal 1, q.size
  assert_equal "one", q.dequeue
end

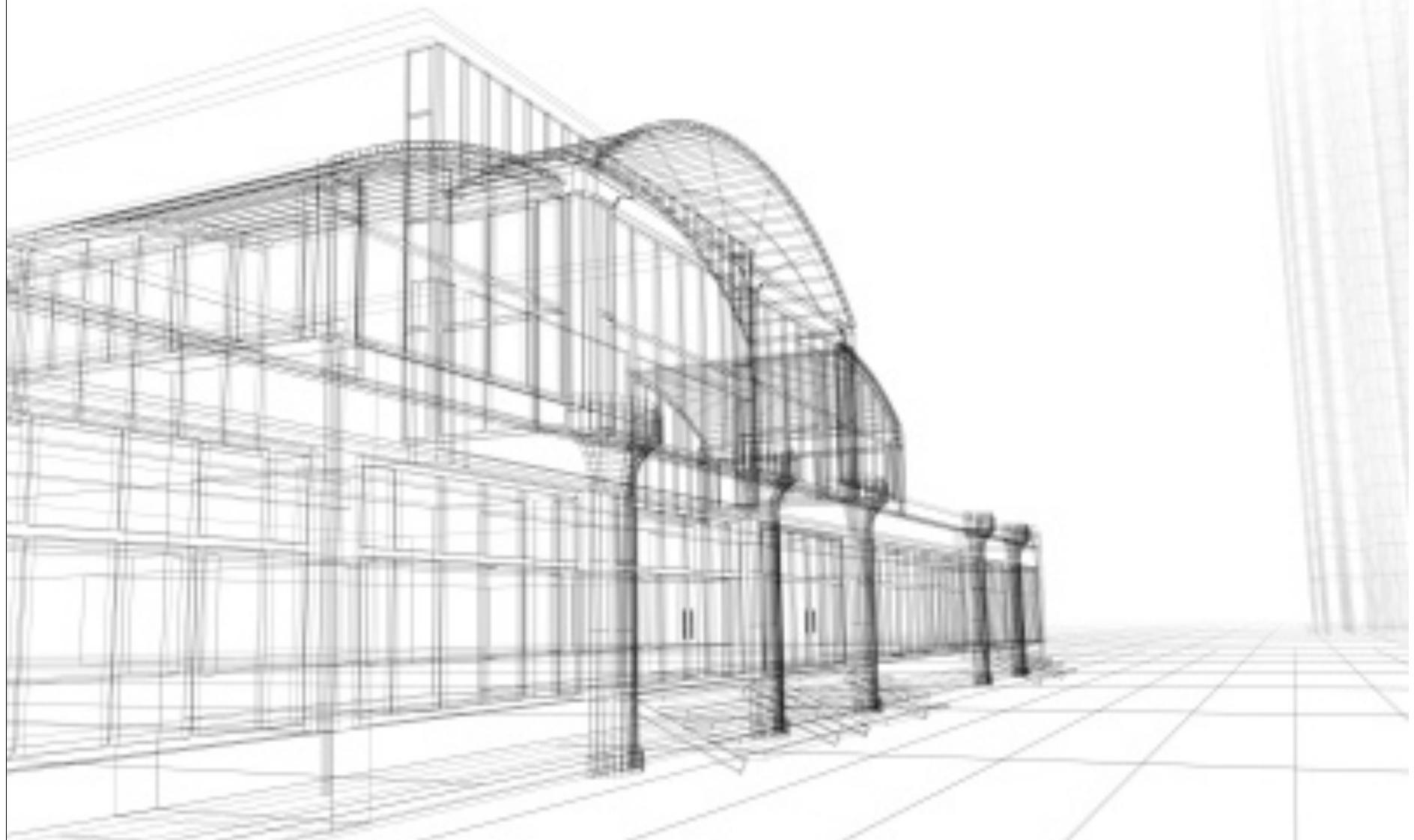
def test_delegating_to_a_sized_queue
  a = SizedQueue.new(12)
  q = FQueue.new a
  q.enqueue "one"
  assert_equal 1, q.size
  assert_equal "one", q.dequeue
end
```

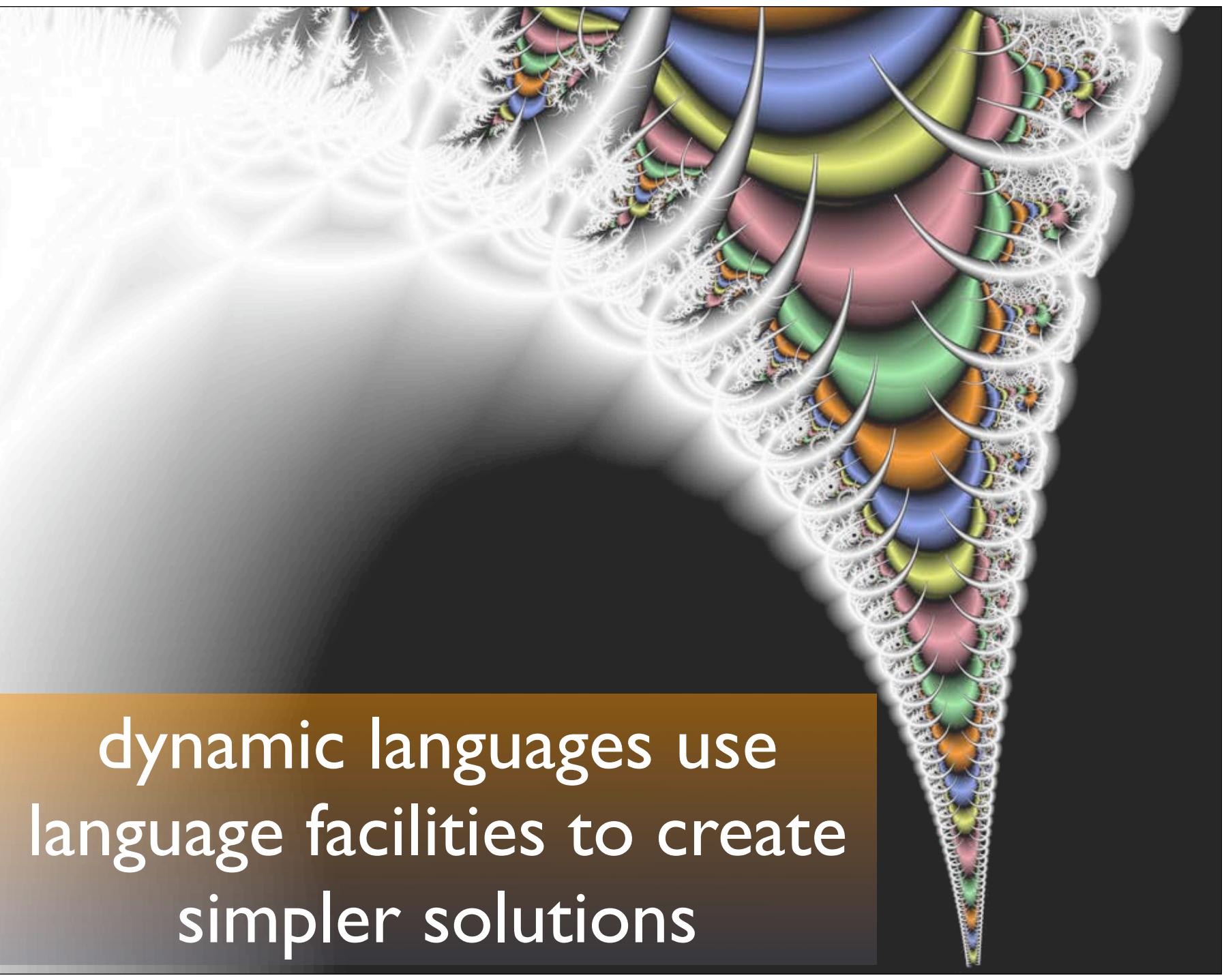
# drier tests

```
TestForwardQueue.class_eval do
  [Array, Queue, SizedQueue].each do |c|
    method_name = ("test_queue_delegated_to_" + c.to_s).to_sym
    define_method method_name, lambda {
      if c == SizedQueue
        a = c.new 12
      else
        a = c.new
      end
      q = FQueue.new a
      q.enqueue "one"
      assert_equal 1, q.size
      assert_equal "one", q.dequeue
    }
  end
end
```

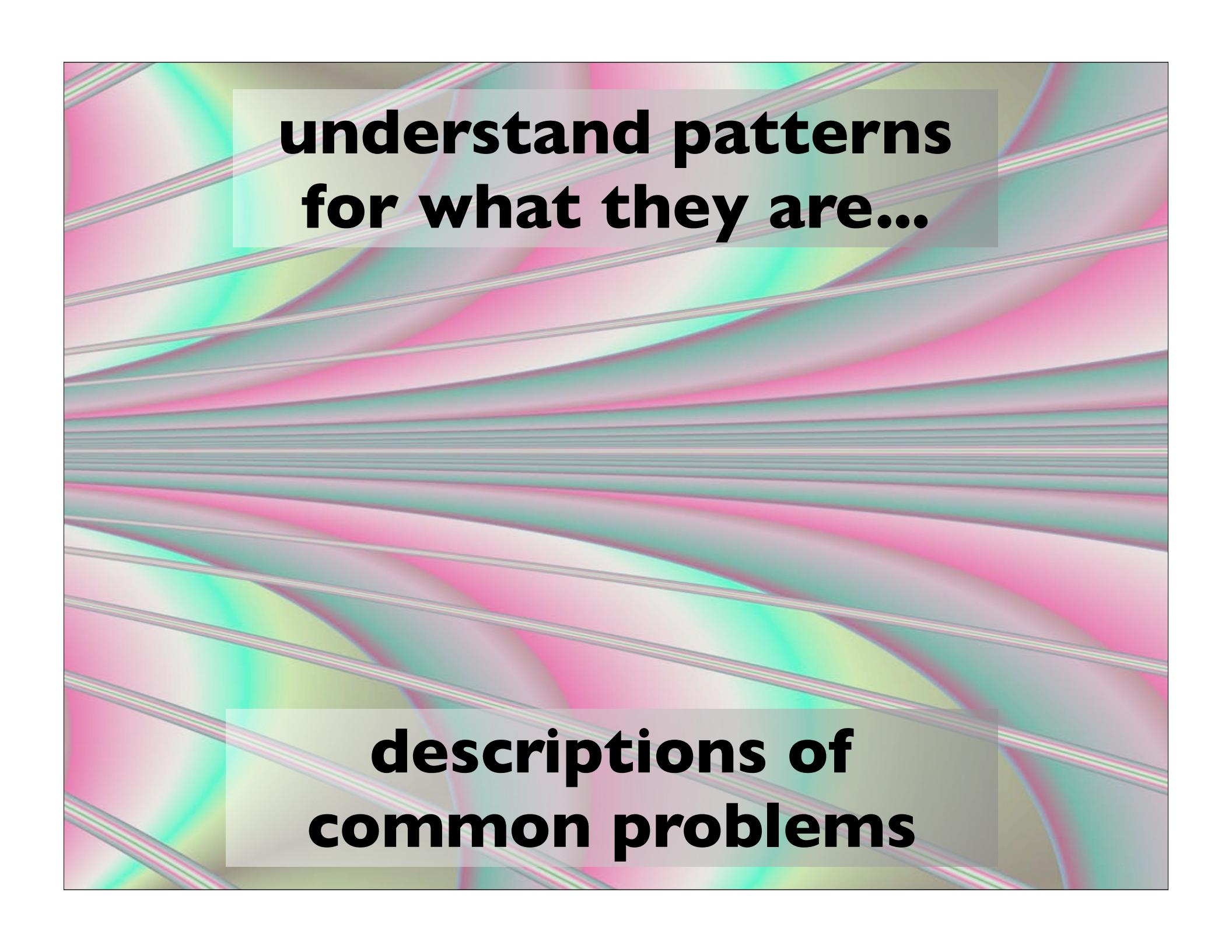


“traditional” design patterns rely  
heavily on *structure* to solve problems





dynamic languages use  
language facilities to create  
simpler solutions



**understand patterns  
for what they are...**

**descriptions of  
common problems**

A complex fractal pattern with a central pink dot. The pattern consists of many nested, curved, and branching shapes in shades of purple, green, and blue.

implement solutions that  
take advantage of your tools

# questions?

please fill out the session evaluations  
slides & samples available at [nealford.com](http://nealford.com)



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**NEAL FORD** thoughtworker / meme wrangler

**Thought**Works

14 Wall St, Suite 2019, New York, NY 10005

nford@thoughtworks.com  
[www.nealford.com](http://www.nealford.com)  
[www.thoughtworks.com](http://www.thoughtworks.com)  
[memeagora.blogspot.com](http://memeagora.blogspot.com)

[memeagora.blogspot.com](http://memeagora.blogspot.com)

# resources

*Execution in the Kingdom of Nouns* Steve Yegge

<http://steve-yegge.blogspot.com/2006/03/execution-in-kingdom-of-nouns.html>

Design Patterns in Groovy on [groovy.codehaus.org](http://groovy.codehaus.org)

<http://groovy.codehaus.org/Design+Patterns+with+Groovy>

*Design Patterns in Ruby*

Russ Olsen