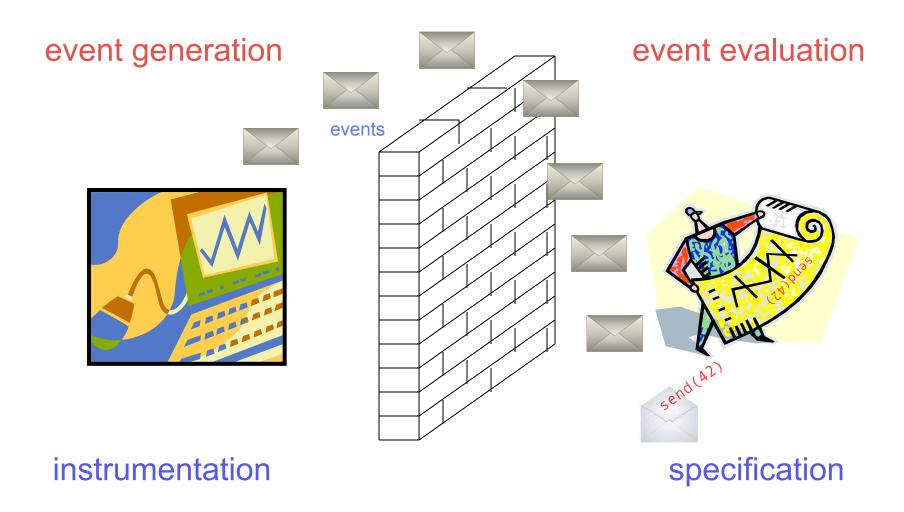
introduction to AspectJ

CS 119

here viewed as a:

- program instrumentation and
- monitoring
 framework

monitoring



why AspectJ?

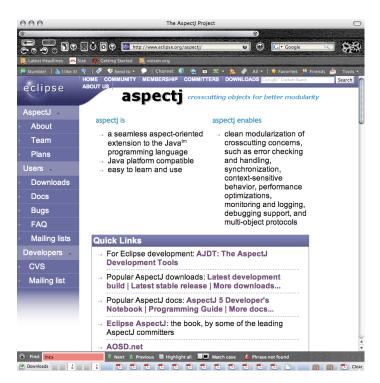
- so, ... monitoring a program's execution requires these two elements:
 - instrumentation
 - specification
- both elements are provided by AspectJ:
 - instrumentation
 - AspectJ's extension to Java
 - specification
 - Java

outline

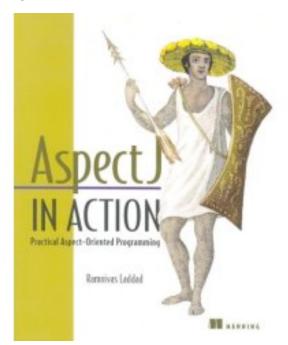
- this lesson: introducing the language
- next lesson: monitoring with AspectJ

resources

http://www.eclipse.org/aspectj



optional reading

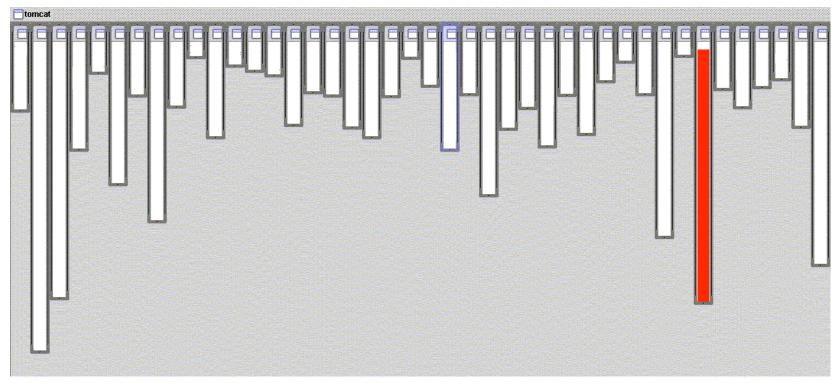


AspectJ

- AspectJ, launched 1998 at Xerox PARC
- an extension of Java
- a new way of modularizing programs compared to object oriented programming
- emphasis on separating out cross-cutting concerns. Logging for example is a concern. That is, code for one aspect of the program is collected together in one place
- we shall use it purely for monitoring, and we do not focus on the broader application of AOP as a programming paradigm
- we will, however, briefly explain the more general purpose of AOP
- the AspectJ compiler is free and open source, very mature
- AspectJ works with Eclipse, and other IDEs
- outputs .class files compatible with any JVM

XML parsing

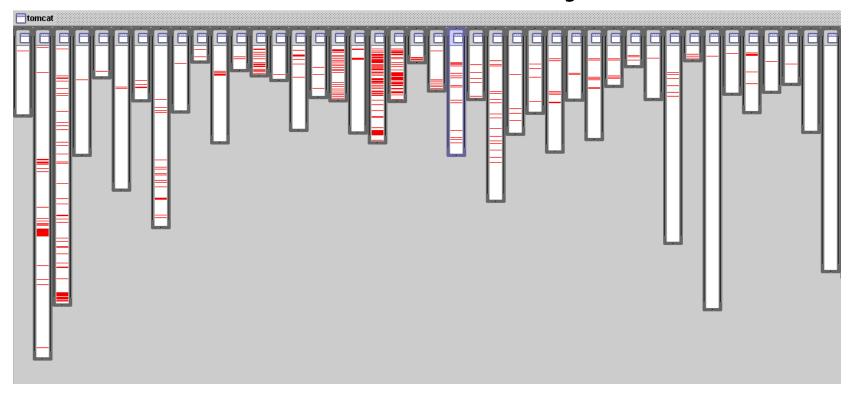
good modularity



- XML parsing in org.apache.tomcat
 - red shows relevant lines of code
 - nicely fits in one box

logging

bad modularity

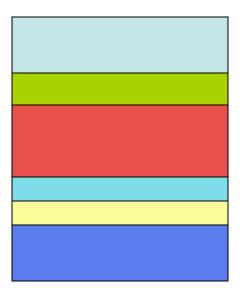


- where is logging in org.apache.tomcat
 - red shows lines of code that handle logging
 - not in just one place
 - not even in a small number of places

two central problems AOP tries to solve

code trangling:

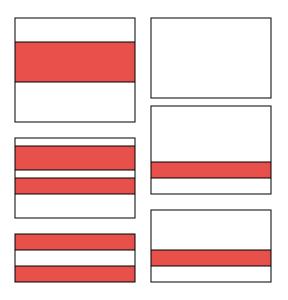
one module many concerns



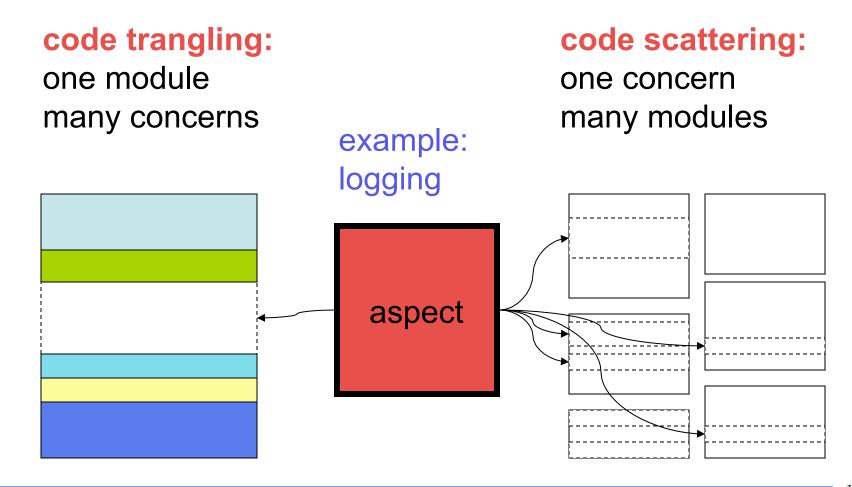
example: logging

code scattering:

one concern many modules



two central problems AOP tries to solve



examples of crosscutting code

- logging (tracking program behavior)
- verification (checking program behavior)
- policy enforcement (correcting behavior)
- security management (preventing attacks)
- profiling (exploring where a program spends its time)
- memory management
- visualization of program executions
- •

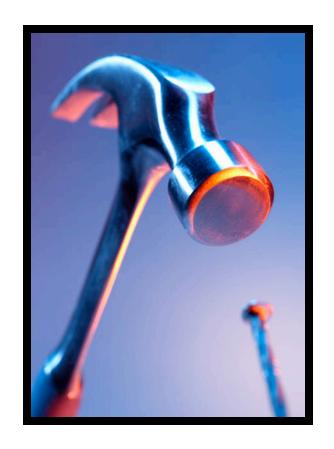
the problem

- the flow of the core logic gets obscured, harder to follow, the core logic is tangled with the new code.
- the new code code gets scattered throughout the code base
 - lots of typing
 - big picture (in one place) is missing
 - difficult to find what is new code and how it works
 - difficult to change new code
 - increases probability of consistency errors

very simplified view of AOP

```
informal
while(more())
                                      when send(msg)
                                                           notation
                                         check(msg);
                       weaver
  send(msg);
  •••
                                          aspect
   program
                  while(more())
                     check(msg);
                     send(msg);
```

that's it



except for notation, all the details, usage,

. . .

basic mechanisms

- join points
 - points in a Java program
- three main additions to Java
 - pointcut
 - picks out join points and values at those points
 - primitive and user-defined pointcuts
 - advice
 - additional action to take at join points matching a pointcut
 - aspect
 - a modular unit of crosscutting behavior
 - normal Java declarations
 - pointcut definitions
 - advice



terminology as equations

Program:

Joinpoint = well-defined point in the program

AspectJ:

Pointcut = Joinpoint-set

```
Advice = Kind × Pointcut × Code
where Kind = {before, after, around}
```

Aspect = Advice-list

example

```
class Power {
  int balance;

void deposit(int amount) {
   balance = balance + amount;
}

boolean withdraw(int amount) {
  if (balance - amount > 0) {
    balance = balance - amount;
    return true;
  } else return false;
}
```

logging class

```
class Logger {
  private PrintStream stream;

Logger() {
    ... create stream
  }

void log(String message) {
    stream.println(message);
  }
}
```

logging the traditional way

```
logging
class Power {
  int balance;
  Logger logger = new Logger();
 void deposit(int amount) {
    logger.log("deposit amount: " + amount);
    balance = balance + amount;
  boolean withdraw(int amount) {
    logger.log("withdraw amount: " + amount);
    if (balance - amount >= 0) {
      balance = balance - amount;
      return true;
    } else return false;
```

logging the AOP way

```
aspect Logging {
  Logger logger = new Logger();

when deposit(amount) {
   logger.log("deposit amount : " + amount);
  }

when withdraw(amount) {
   logger.log("withdraw amount : " + amount);
  }
}
```

that's not quite how it is written though

logging the AOP way

```
advice kind
 aspect Logging {
   Logger logger = new Logger();
                                      advice parameter
   before(int amount) *
     call(void Power.deposit(int)) && args(amount) {
       logger.log("deposit amount : " + amount);
                          call pointcut | args pointcut
   before(int amount)
     call(boolean Power.withdraw(int)) && args(amount) {
       løgger.log("withdraw amount : " + amount);
advice body
                  the AspectJ way
```

primitive pointcuts

a pointcut is a predicate on join points that:

- can match or not match any given join point and
- optionally, can pull out some of the values at that join point

Example:

call(void Power.deposit(int))

matches any join point that is a: call of a method with this signature

explaining parameters...

of advice

- variable is bound by advice declaration
 - pointcut supplies value for variable
 - value is available in advice body

parameter data flow

- value is 'pulled'
 - right to left across ':' from pointcuts to advice
 - and then to advice body

```
before(int amount) :
    call(void Power.deposit(int)) && args(amount) {
      logger.log("deposit amount : " + amount);
    }
```

pointcut naming and patterns

named pointcut

```
aspect Balance {
    pointcut powerChange(Power power) :
        (call(* deposit(..)) || call(* withdraw(..)))
    && target(power);
        pointcut patterns

after(Power power) : powerChange(power) {
        System.out.println("balance = " + power.balance);
    }
}

"after" advice
target pointcut
```

privileged aspects

can access private fields and methods

```
privileged aspect Balance {
    pointcut powerChange(Power power) :
        (call(* deposit(..)) || call(* withdraw(..)))
        && target(power);

    after(Power power) : powerChange(power) {
        System.out.println("balance = " + power.balance);
    }
}
```

suppose power.balance is a private variable. Then the aspect must be privileged.

args, this and target pointcuts

```
before(Rover rover, Power power, int amount) :
    call(void Power.deposit(int))
    && args(amount) && this(rover) && target(power) {...}
                   Object R
                                                      Object P
                                  class Power {
   class Rover {
     void execute(...)
                                   void deposit(int amount){
      power.deposit(500);
```

target pointcut

target(TypeName | VariableName)

does two things:

- predicate on join points any join point at which target object is an instance of TypeName or of the same type as VariableName. "any join point " can be:
 - method call join points
 - field get & set join points
 - •
- exposes target if argument is a variable name

target(Power) :

matches when target object is of type Power

target(power) :

- ditto, since power is of type Power
- in addition it binds the target object to power

Power is a type

power is a variable

parameter data flow again

- value is 'pulled'
 - right to left across ':' from pointcuts to user-defined pointcuts
 - from pointcuts to advice
 - and then to advice body

```
pointcut powerChange(Power power) :
    (call(* deposit(..)) || call(* withdraw(..)))
    && target(power);

after(Power power) : powerChange(power) {
    System.out.println("balance = " + power.balance);
}
```

contract checking

- pre-conditions
 - check that parameter is valid
- post-conditions
 - check that result is correct
- policy enforcement
 - check, and correct if check fails
- invariants
 - check that some condition on the state "always" holds

pre-condition

fictive notation

```
boolean withdraw(int amount) {
   pre balance - amount > 50;
   ...
   // implementation:
   ...
}
```

using before advice

pre-condition

```
aspect WithDrawPreCond {
  final int MIN_BALANCE = 50;

before(Power power, int amount) :
    call(boolean Power.withdraw(int)) &&
    target(power) && args(amount)
  {
    assert power.balance - amount > MIN_BALANCE :
        "withdrawal too big: " + amount;
  }
}
```

post condition

fictive notation

using before & after advice

post-condition

```
public aspect WithDrawPostCond {
  int old_balance;
  before(Power power)
      call(boolean Power.withdraw(int)) && target(power)
  {
   old_balance = power.balance;
 after(Power power, int amount) returning(boolean changed) :
      call(boolean Power.withdraw(int)) &&
      target(power) && args(amount)
    assert changed == (old_balance - amount) >= 0 &&
           power.balance ==
             (changed ? old_balance-amount : old_balance);
```

using around advice

post-condition

around advice

```
aspect WithDrawPostCondAround {
  int old_balance;
  boolean around(Power power, int amount) :
      call(boolean Power.withdraw(int)) &&
      target(power) && args(amount)
    old_balance = power.balance;
    boolean changed = proceed(power,amount);
    assert changed == (old_balance - amount) >= 0;
    assert power.balance ==
            (changed ? old_balance-amount : old_balance);
    return changed;
                                           proceed statement
```

the proceed "method"

for each around advice with the signature:

T around(*T1* arg1, *T2* arg2, ...)

there is a special method with the signature:

T proceed(*T1*, *T2*, ...)

calling this method means:

"run what would have run if this around advice had not been defined"

policy enforcement

fictive notation

```
boolean withdraw(int amount) {
   pre balance - amount > 50 {
        System.out.println("withdrawal rejected");
        return false;
   }
   ...
   // implementation:
   ...
}
```

policy enforcement

around advice

```
aspect WithdrawCorrect {
  final int MIN_BALANCE _
  boolean around(Power power, int amount) :
    call(boolean Power.withdraw(int)) &&
    target(power) && args(amount)
    if(power.balance - amount >= MIN_BALANCE)
      return proceed(power,amount);
    else {
      System.out.println("withdrawal rejected");
      return false;
                                    proceed statement
```

invariant checking

fictive notation

```
class Power {
  int balance;

invariant balance >= 500;

void deposit(int amount) {
  ...
  }

boolean withdraw(int amount) {
  ...
  }
}
```

invariant checking

```
aspect Invariant {
  boolean invariant(int balance) {
    return balance >= 500;
  pointcut write(int balance) :
   set(int Power.balance) && args(balance);
 before(int balance) : write(balance) { //every update
    if (!invariant(balance))
     System.out.println("invariant violated");
            after(Power power) :
              execution(* Power.*(..)) && target(power)
              if (!invariant(power.balance))
                System.out.println("invariant violated");
               // at method bounderies
```

examples of patterns

Type names:

```
Command
*Command
java.*.Date
Java..*
```

Combined Types:

Method Signatures:

```
public void Power.set*(*)
boolean Power.withdraw(int)
bo* Po*.wi*w(i*)
!static * *.*(..)
rover..command.Command+.check(int,..)
```

reflexive information available at all joinpoints

thisJoinPoint

- getArgs() : Object[]
- getTarget() : Object
- getThis() : Object
- getStaticPart() : JoinPointStaticPart

thisJoinPointStaticPart

- getKind() : String
- getSignature() : Signature
- getSourceLocation(): SourceLocation

logging exceptions using this Join Point

```
aspect LogExceptions {
  Logger logger = new Logger();

after() throwing (Error e): call(* *(..)) {
   logger.log("exception thrown " +
        thisJoinPoint + ":" + e);
  }
}
```

logged information in the case of an assertion error in call of withdraw:

. . .

exception thrown call(boolean core.Power.withdraw(int)):java.lang.AssertionError

·· thisJoinPoint

dynamic check

checking object creation

```
class CmdFactory {
  static Command mkTurnCommand(int budget, int degrees) {
    return new TurnCommand(budget, degrees);
                                  want to ensure that any creation of
                                  commands goes through the
                                 factory methods mk...
aspect FactoryCheck {
  pointcut illegalNewCommand():
    call(Command+.new(..)) &&
     !withincode(* CmdFactory.mk*(..));
  before(): illegalNewCommand() {
    throw new Error("Use factory method instead.");
```

static check

checking object creation

```
class CmdFactory {
  static Command mkTurnCommand(int budget, int degrees) {
    return new TurnCommand(budget, degrees);
                                   want to ensure that any creation of
                                   commands goes through the
                                   factory methods mk...
aspect FactoryCheckStatic {
                                           must be a "static pointcut"
  pointcut illegalNewCommand():
     call(Command+.new(..)) &&
     !withincode(* CmdFactory.mk*(..));
                                                      static
  declare error : illegalNewCommand()
                                                      declare
     "Use factory method instead.";
                                                  causes check to be
}
                                                  performed at compile
                                                  time
```

inter-type declarations

inside an aspect:
 adding declarations to a class C

```
aspect A {
  int    counter = 0;
  void    count() {counter++;}
  ...
}
```

inter-type declarations

one must indicate what class:

```
aspect A {
  int C.counter = 0;
  void C.count() {counter++;}
  ...
}
```

inserting fields and methods

verify that a command is executed no more than once!

requires a counter per Command object.

field and method inserted in Command object but accessible only to aspect.

```
aspect ExecuteOnlyOnce {
  private int Command.counter = 0;
  private void Command.count() {counter++;}

before(Command cmd) :
     call(void Command+.execute()) && target(cmd)
  {
    assert cmd.counter == 0 : "command executed again";
    cmd.count();
  }
}
```

same property

verify that a command is executed no more than once!

eliminating: private, +, count method, assert message

```
aspect ExecuteOnlyOnce {
  int Command.counter = 0;

before(Command cmd) :
     call(void Command.execute()) && target(cmd)
  {
    assert cmd.counter++ == 0;
  }
}
```

it does not get much shorter than this

aspect association

- instances of aspects:
 - one per virtual machine (the default)
 - one per object (perthis, pertarget)
 - one per control-flow (percflow, percflowbelow)

aspect association

- perthis(pc):
 - when a pointcut satisfying pc is reached, and this(x) holds, and x does not already have an associated aspect instance of this type, a new instance is created for x (to track x)
- pertarget(pc):
 - similar, except we use target(x)
- percflow(pc):
 - when a pointcut satisfying pc is reached, a new instance is created, which lasts as long as the control flow under this pc does

same property

verify that a command is executed no more than once!

this time using object association : one aspect per Command target of the execute command.

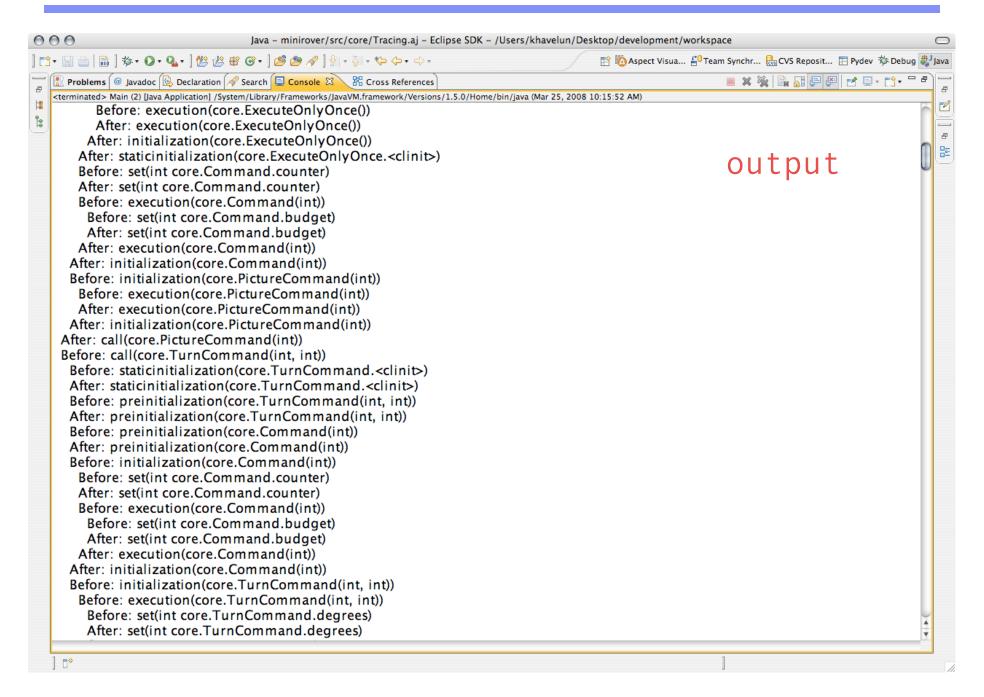
```
aspect ExecuteOnlyOnce2 pertarget(execute()){
  int counter = 0;

  pointcut execute() : call(void Command.execute());

  before() : execute() {
    assert counter++ == 0;
  }
}
```

Tracing aspect

```
all pointcuts
aspect Tracing {
                                                   except within
    private int callDepth = -1;
                                                   Tracing aspect
    pointcut tracePoint() : !within(Tracing);
    before() : tracePoint() {
      callDepth++; print("Before", thisJoinPoint);
    after() : tracePoint() {
      print("After", thisJoinPoint); callDepth--;
    private void print(String prefix, Object message) {
      for(int i = 0, spaces = callDepth * 2; i < spaces; i++)</pre>
        System.out.print(" ");
      System.out.println(prefix + ": " + message);
```



abstract pointcuts

- what if we want to trace specific events? do we edit the Tracing aspect? no, we can define the pointcut as abstract
- a pointcut can be defined as abstract without a "righthand" side:

```
abstract pointcut something(T x);
```

- advices can be defined on the abstract pointcut
- specialization of aspect can later define the pointcut
- this resembles parameterization with poincuts
- similar to the way methods can be defined abstract and later defined in sub-classes

abstract Tracing aspect

```
aspect and
abstract aspect AbstractTracing {
                                                   pointcut are now
    private int callDepth = -1;
                                                   abstract, the rest
                                                   is the same!
    abstract pointcut tracePoint();
    before() : tracePoint() {
      callDepth++; print("Before", thisJoinPoint);
    after() : tracePoint() {
      print("After", thisJoinPoint); callDepth--;
    private void print(String prefix, Object message) {
      for(int i = 0, spaces = callDepth * 2; i < spaces; i++)</pre>
        System.out.print(" ");
      System.out.println(prefix + ": " + message);
```

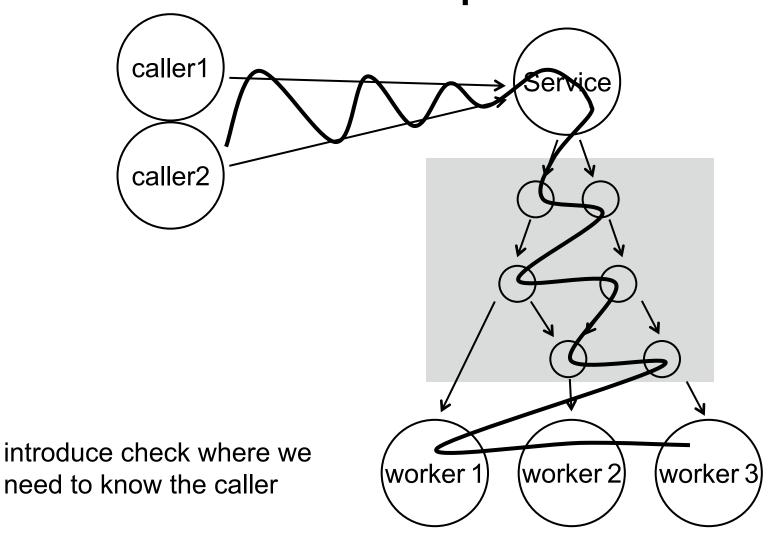
concrete tracing aspect

we just define the pointcut

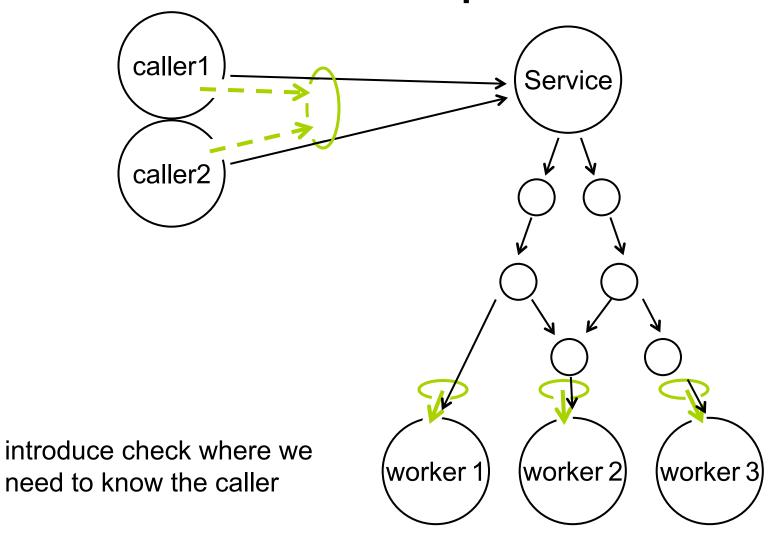
control flow pointcuts

cflow (Pointcut) all join points in the dynamic control flow of any join point picked out by Pointcut cflowbelow (Pointcut) all join points in the dynamic control flow below any join point picked out by *Pointcut* top pointcut not included

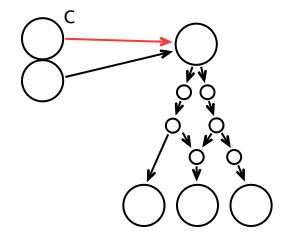
example



example



```
pointcut invocation(Caller c):
   this(c) && call(void Service.doService(String));
```



```
pointcut invocation(Caller c):
    this(c) && call(void Service.doService(String));

pointcut workPoint(Worker w):
    target(w) && call(void Worker.doTask(Task));
```

```
pointcut invocation(Caller c):
    this(c) && call(void Service.doService(String));

pointcut workPoint(Worker w):
    target(w) && call(void Worker.doTask(Task));

pointcut calledWork(Caller c, Worker w):
    cflow(invocation(c)) && workPoint(w);
```

```
abstract aspect CapabilityChecking {
 pointcut invocation(Caller c):
    this(c) && call(void Service.doService(String));
 pointcut workPoint(Worker w):
    target(w) && call(void Worker.doTask(Task));
 pointcut calledWork(Caller c, Worker w):
    cflow(invocation(c)) && workPoint(w);
 before (Caller c, Worker w): calledWork(c, w) {
   verifyCalledWork(c,w);
```

advice precedence

what happens if two pieces of advice apply to the same join point?

```
aspect Policy {
  pointcut scope() : !cflow(adviceexecution());
  ...
  before(): call(* *.*(..)) && scope() {
    if (!isAllowed(thisJoinPoint))
       error("invalid ");
  }

  declare precedence: Policy, *;
}
```

order undefined unless:

- in same aspect,
- in sub-aspect, or
- using declare precedence...

```
aspect LogIt {
  pointcut scope() :!cflow(adviceexecution());

before(): call(* *.*(..)) && scope() {
    System.out.println("Entering " + thisJoinPoint);
  }
}
```

advice precedence rules

```
assume that aspect L has lower priority than aspect H (L < H) and consider a particular joinpoint
```

- H executes its before advice before
 L's before advice
- H executes its after advice after
 L's after advice
- H's around advice encloses
 - L's around advice

beginner mistake

not controlling circularity of advice

pointcuts sometimes match more than expected

```
aspect A {
  before(): call(String toString()) {
    System.err.println(thisJoinPoint);
  }
}
```

use within, cflow, adviceexecution() to control

```
aspect A {
  before(): call(String toString()) && !within(A) {
    System.err.println(thisJoinPoint);
  }
}
```

summary

pointcuts

primitive

call

execution

handler

get set

initialization

this target args

within withincode

cflow cflowbelow

user-defined

pointcut

advice

before

after

around

inter-type decls

Type.field

Type.method()

<u>declare</u>

error

parents

precedence

reflection

thisJoinPoint

thisJoinPointStaticPart

pointcut overview (see aspect next two slides)

```
class Rover { within(Rover)
 Power power = new Power(); ←-----
                                        call(Power.new())
 boolean error = false;
 void execute(Command[] plan) {
     withincode(* Rover.execute(..))
   power.deposit(500);
                                         call(void deposit(int))
  →for(Command cmd : plan) {
     try {cmd.execute();}
                                         call(boolean Power.withdraw(int))
       catch(ExecException e) {
                                         cflow(call(* Power.withdraw(..)))
         e.printStackTrace();
                                         handler(ExecException)
     else {
       error = true; ----- set(boolean Rover.error)
       System.out.println("terminating");
       break;
   execution(void Rover.execute(Command□))
```

an aspect that gets "around"

```
public aspect Monitor {
 static boolean tracing0n = true;
 pointcut scope() : if(tracing0n) && !cflow(adviceexecution());
 pointcut handlethrow(ExecException e) : handler(ExecException) && args(e);
 before(ExecException e) : handlethrow(e) && scope() {
   print("*** bad luck: " + e);
 after() returning (Power power) : call(Power.new()) && scope() {
   print("power object created " + power);
 before(int amount) : call(void deposit(int)) && args(amount) && scope() {
   print("depositing: " + amount);
 after(int amount) returning (boolean success):
   call(boolean Power.withdraw(int)) && args(amount) && scope() {
   print("withdrawing " + amount + ":" + success);
```

```
void around(Command[] plan) :
   execution(void Rover.execute(Command[])) && args(plan) && scope() {
   if (!validatePlan(plan))
     proceed(correctPlan(plan));
   else
                                                       ... continued
     proceed(plan);
after() returning(Power power):
   get(Power Rover.power) && within(Rover) && scope() {
  print("reading power " + power);
 before(boolean value) :
   set(boolean Rover.error) && args(value) && if(value)
  && withincode(* Rover.execute(..)) && scope() {
   print("error flag being set to " + value);
 before() : call(* *.*(..)) && cflow(call(* Power.withdraw(..))) && scope() {
   print("function call " + thisJoinPointStaticPart.getSignature());
 before(Rover rover, Command command) :
   call(* Command.execute()) &&
   this(rover) && target(command) && scope() {
   print("Rover " + rover + " executing command " + command);
```

abstract syntax for AspectJ

- contains most elements of language
- look at quick guide
- look at examples

AspectJ syntax aspect declarations

```
AspectDecl ::=
 [ privileged ] [ Modifiers ] aspect Id
    [ extends Type ] [ implements TypeList ]
   [PerClause]
 { BodyDecl* }
PerClause ::=
  pertarget ( Pointcut ) | perthis ( Pointcut )
 | percflow ( Pointcut ) | percflowbelow ( Pointcut ) | issingleton ()
BodyDecl ::=
 JavaBodyDecl
 | IntertypeDecl
 PointcutDecl
 AdviceDecl
```

AspectJ syntax intertype declarations

```
InterTypeDecl ::=
   [ Modifiers ] Type Type . Id ( Formals ) [ throws TypeList ] { Body }
   [ Modifiers ] Type . new ( Formals ) [ throws TypeList ] { Body }
   [ Modifiers ] Type Type . Id [ = Expression ] ;
   | declare warning : Pointcut : String ;
   | declare error : Pointcut : String ;
   | declare precedence : TypePatList ;
```

AspectJ syntax pointcut and advice declarations

```
PointcutDecl ::=
  abstract [Modifiers] pointcut Id ( Formals );
 | [Modifiers] pointcut Id (Formals): Pointcut;
AdviceDecl ::=
AdviceSpec [throws TypeList]: Pointcut { Body }
AdviceSpec ::=
 before (Formals)
 after (Formals)
 after (Formals) returning [(Formal)]
 after (Formals) throwing [(Formal)]
 Type around (Formals)
```

AspectJ syntax pointcuts

```
Pointcut ::=
    call(MethodPat) | call(ConstructorPat)
    | execution(MethodPat) | execution(ConstructorPat)
    | initialization(ConstructorPat) | preinitialization(ConstructorPat)
    | staticinitialization(TypePat)
    | get(FieldPat) | set(FieldPat)
    | handler(TypePat)
    | adviceexecution()
    | within(TypePat) | withincode(MethodPat) | withincode(ConstructorPat)
    | cflow(Pointcut) | cflowbelow(Pointcut)
    | if(Expression)
    | this(Type | Var) | target(Type | Var) | args(Type | Var , ...)
```

AspectJ syntax patterns

```
MethodPat ::=
 [ModifiersPat] TypePat [TypePat . ] IdPat (TypePat | .., ... )
 [throws ThrowsPat]
ConstructorPat ::=
 [ModifiersPat ] [TypePat . ] new ( TypePat | ..., ...)
 [throws ThrowsPat]
FieldPat ::= [ModifiersPat] TypePat [TypePat . ] IdPat
TypePat ::=
  IdPat [ + ] [ [] ... ]
 |! TypePat
 | TypePat && TypePat
                                           IdPat ::=
 | TypePat || TypePat
                                            Java id with `*'s mixed in
 I (TypePat)
```

AspectJ syntax special expressions and statements

```
Expression ::=
    thisJoinPoint
    | thisJoinPointStaticPart
    | thisEnclosingJoinPointStaticPart

StatementExpression ::=
    proceed (Arguments )
```

end