

Metaprogramming with Macros

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Macros

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Macros realize the notion of textual abstraction.

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Textual abstraction:

- ▶ Recognize pieces of text that match a specification
- ▶ Replace them according to a procedure

Example

```
(let (x 42) (print x))
```

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```
(let (x 42) (print x))
```

```
((lambda (x) (print x)) 42)
```

Step 1. Recognize pieces of text

```
(let (x 42) (print x))
```

```
(defmacro let args
```

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(let (x 42) (print x))
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(defmacro let args
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((lambda (x) (print x)) 42)
```


Step 2. Replace them according to a procedure

```
(let (x 42) (print x))
```

```
(defmacro let args  
  (cons  
    (cons 'lambda  
          (cons (list (caar args))  
                  (cdr args))))  
    (cdar args)))
```

```
((lambda (x) (print x)) 42)
```

Step 2. Replace them according to a procedure

```
(let (x 42) (print x))
```

```
(defmacro let args  
  (cons  
    (cons 'lambda  
          (cons (list (caar args))  
                  (cdr args)))  
    (cdar args)))
```

```
((lambda (x) (print x)) 42)
```

The essence of macros

- ▶ Recognize pieces of text that match a specification
- ▶ Replace them according to a procedure

Why macros?

- ▶ Deeply embedded DSLs (database access, testing)
- ▶ Optimization (programmable inlining, fusion)
- ▶ Analysis (integrated proof-checker)
- ▶ Effects (effect containment and propagation)
- ▶ ...

Today's talk

Macrology is vast:

- ▶ Notation
- ▶ Variable capture
- ▶ Typechecking meta-programs
- ▶ Syntax extensibility
- ▶ ...

Surveyed papers are versatile as well.

Today's talk

Going into all the details would be a genuine pleasure.

But instead let me tell you a story.

Outline

The prelude of macros

The tale of bindings

The trilogy of tongues

The vision of the days to come

Anaphoric if

```
(aif (calculate)
      (print it)
      (error "does not compute"))
```


Anaphoric if

```
(aif (calculate)
      (print it)
      (error "does not compute"))
```

```
(let* ((temp (calculate))
        (it temp))
      (if temp
          (print it)
          (error "does not compute")))
```

The aif macro

```
(aif (calculate)
     (print it)
     (error "does not compute"))
```

```
(defmacro aif args
```

```
(let* ((temp (calculate))
       (it temp))
  (if temp
      (print it)
      (error "does not compute"))))
```

Start with a notation

```
(aif (calculate)
      (print it)
      (error "does not compute"))
```

```
(defmacro aif args
  (let* ((temp (car args))
         (it temp))
    (if temp
        (cadr args)
        (caddr args)))))
```

```
(let* ((temp (calculate))
       (it temp))
  (if temp
      (print it)
      (error "does not compute")))
```

Surround it with parentheses

```
(aif (calculate)
      (print it)
      (error "does not compute"))
```

```
(defmacro aif args
  (list 'let* (list (list 'temp (car args))
                    (list 'it 'temp))
        (list 'if 'temp
                (cadr args)
                (caddr args))))
```

```
(let* ((temp (calculate))
       (it temp))
  (if temp
      (print it)
      (error "does not compute")))
```

Quasiquote

```
(aif (calculate)
  (print it)
  (error "does not compute"))
```

```
(defmacro aif args
  (let* ((temp .....))
    (it temp))
  (if temp
    .....
    .....)))
```

```
(let* ((temp (calculate))
  (it temp))
  (if temp
    (print it)
    (error "does not compute")))
```

Quasiquote

```
(aif (calculate)
      (print it)
      (error "does not compute"))
```

```
(defmacro aif args
  ' (let* ((temp .....))
        (it temp))
      (if temp
          .....
          .....)))
```

```
(let* ((temp (calculate))
        (it temp))
      (if temp
          (print it)
          (error "does not compute")))
```

Unquote

```
(aif (calculate)
      (print it)
      (error "does not compute"))
```

```
(defmacro aif args
  ' (let* ((temp ,(car args))
            (it temp))
      (if temp
          ,(cadr args)
          ,(caddr args))))
```

```
(let* ((temp (calculate))
       (it temp))
  (if temp
      (print it)
      (error "does not compute")))
```

Unquote

```
(aif (calculate)
  (print it)
  (error "does not compute"))

(defmacro aif args

  '(let* ((temp ,(car args))
          (it temp))
    (if temp
      ,(cadr args)
      ,(caddr args))))

(let* ((temp (calculate))
      (it temp))
  (if temp
    (print it)
    (error "does not compute")))
```


Macro by example (MBE)

```
(aif (calculate)
  (print it)
  (error "does not compute"))

(defmacro+ aif
  (aif cond then else)
  (let* ((temp cond)
        (it temp))
    (if temp
        then
        else)))

(let* ((temp (calculate))
      (it temp))
  (if temp
    (print it)
    (error "does not compute")))
```

Interlude

- ▶ Macros are regular functions that happen to work with syntax objects
- ▶ Quasiquotes = static templates + dynamic holes

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Anaphoric if

```
(defmacro+ aif
  (aif cond then else)
  (let* ((temp cond)
        (it temp))
    (if temp then else)))
```

- ▶ So far macros are simple: define a function, recognize pieces of text and replace them with a template
- ▶ This is so immediately useful, that we could wrap up right now

But actually

The aif macro has two bugs

What's wrong?

```
(defmacro+ aif
  (aif cond then else)
  (let* ((temp cond)
        (it temp))
    (if temp then else)))
```

What's wrong?

```
(aif (calculate)
      (print it)
      (error "does not compute"))
```

```
(defmacro+ aif
  (aif cond then else)
  (let* ((temp cond)
         (it temp))
    (if temp then else)))
```

What's wrong?

```
(aif (calculate)
      (print it)
      (error "does not compute"))
```

```
(defmacro+ aif
  (aif cond then else)
  (let* ((temp cond)
         (it temp))
    (if temp then else)))
```


What's wrong?

```
(aif (calculate)
  (print it)
  (error "does not compute"))

(defmacro+ aif
  (aif cond then else)
  (let* ((temp cond)
        (it temp))
    (if temp then else)))

(let* ((temp (calculate))
      (it temp))
  (if temp
    (print it)
    (error "does not compute")))
```

Bug #1: Violation of hygiene

```
(let ((temp 451°F))  
  (aif (calculate)  
    (print it)  
    (print temp)))
```

```
(defmacro+ aif  
  (aif cond then else)  
  (let* ((temp cond)  
    (it temp))  
    (if temp then else)))
```

```
(let ((temp 451°F))  
  (let* ((temp (calculate))  
    (it temp))  
    (if temp  
      (print it)  
      (print temp))))
```

Bug #2: Violation of referential transparency

```
(let ((if hijacked))  
  (aif (calculate)  
    (print it)  
    (error "does not compute"))))
```

```
(defmacro+ aif  
  (aif cond then else)  
  (let* ((temp cond)  
    (it temp))  
    (if temp then else)))
```

```
(let ((if hijacked))  
  (let* ((temp (calculate))  
    (it temp))  
    (if temp  
      (print it)  
      (error "does not compute")))))
```

Old school

```
(defmacro+ aif
  (aif cond then else)

  (let* ((temp cond)
        (it temp))
    (if temp then else)))
```

Old school

```
(defmacro+ aif
  (aif cond then else)
  (let ((temp (gensym)))
    (let* ((temp cond)
           (it temp))
      (if temp then else))))
```

And please don't rename core forms

Interlude

- ▶ Cross-pollination of scopes can lead to inadvertent variable capture
- ▶ Violation of hygiene = def site harms call site
- ▶ Violation of referential transparency = call site harms def site

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Template Haskell

```
aif :: Q Exp -> Q Exp -> Q Exp -> Q Exp
aif cond then' else' =
  [| let temp = $cond
      it = temp
      in if temp /= 0 then $then' else $else' |]
```


Template Haskell

```
$(aif [| calculate |]  
    [| putStrLn (show it) |]  
    [| error "does not compute" |])
```

```
aif :: Q Exp -> Q Exp -> Q Exp -> Q Exp
```

```
aif cond then' else' =
```

```
    [| let temp = $cond
```

```
        it = temp
```

```
        in if temp /= 0 then $then' else $else' |]
```

Template Haskell

```
$(aif [| calculate |]  
    [| putStrLn (show it) |]  
    [| error "does not compute" |])
```

```
aif :: Q Exp -> Q Exp -> Q Exp -> Q Exp
```

```
aif cond then' else' =
```

```
    [| let temp = $cond  
        it = temp  
        in if temp /= 0 then $then' else $else' |]
```

```
let temp_almx = calculate
```

```
    it_almy = temp_almx
```

```
in if (temp_almx /= 0)  
    then putStrLn (show it)  
    else error "does not compute"
```

Not in scope: 'it'

The Q monad

```
aif cond then' else' =  
  [| let temp = $cond  
      it = temp  
      in if temp /= 0 then $then' else $else' |]
```

The Q monad

```
aif cond then' else' =  
  [| let temp = $cond  
      it = temp  
      in if temp /= 0 then $then' else $else' |]
```

```
aif :: Q Exp -> Q Exp -> Q Exp -> Q Exp
```

```
aif cond' then'' else'' =  
  do { temp <- newName "temp"  
      ; it <- newName "it"  
      ; cond <- cond'  
      ; then' <- then''  
      ; else' <- else''  
      ; let notEq = mkNameG_v "ghc-prim" "GHC.Classes" "/="   
      in return  
      (LetE [ValD (VarP temp) (NormalB cond) [],  
             ValD (VarP it) (NormalB (VarE temp)) []]  
        (Conde (... (VarE notEq) ...) then' else'))  
  }
```

Perils of hygiene

```
$(aif [| calculate |]  
  [| putStrLn (show $(dyn "it")) |]  
  [| error "does not compute" |])
```

```
aif :: Q Exp -> Q Exp -> Q Exp -> Q Exp
```

```
aif cond then' else' =
```

```
  [| let temp = $cond
```

```
    it = temp
```

```
    in if temp /= 0 then $then' else $else' |]
```

Summary: Template Haskell

- ▶ Quasiquotes in Template Haskell are automatically hygienic and referentially transparent
- ▶ That's because they are translated into Q monad, which takes care of gensymming and fully qualified names
- ▶ When hygiene fails, we are forced to drop to low level

Nemerle

```
macro aif(cond, then, else_) {  
  <[  
    def temp = $cond;  
    def it = temp;  
    if (temp != 0) $then else $else_  
  ]>  
}
```

Nemerle

```
aif(calculate,  
    WriteLine(it),  
    throw Exception("does not compute"))
```

```
macro aif(cond, then, else_) {  
  <[  
    def temp = $cond;  
    def it = temp;  
    if (temp != 0) $then else $else_  
  ]>  
}
```


Nemerle

```
aif(calculate,  
    WriteLine(it),  
    throw Exception("does not compute"))
```

```
macro aif(cond, then, else_) {  
  <[  
    def temp = $cond;  
    def it = temp;  
    if (temp != 0) $then else $else_  
  ]>  
}
```

```
def calculate = 42;  
def temp_1087 = calculate;  
def it_1088 = temp_1087;  
if (temp_1087 != 0) WriteLine(it) else throw Exception("...")
```

error: unbound name 'it'

Coloring algorithm

```
def calculate = 42;
aif(calculate,
    WriteLine(it),
    throw Exception("does not compute"))
```

```
macro aif(cond, then, else_) {
  <[
    def temp = $cond;
    def = temp;
    if (temp != 0) $then else $else_
  ]>
}
```

```
def calculate = 42;
def temp = calculate;
def it = temp;
if (temp != 0) WriteLine(it) else throw Exception("...")
```

Coloring algorithm: normal code gets a vanilla color

```
def calculate = 42;                                // vanilla color
aif(calculate,
    WriteLine(it),
    throw Exception("does not compute"))
```

```
macro aif(cond, then, else_) {
  <[
    def temp = $cond;
    def = temp;
    if (temp != 0) $then else $else_
  ]>
}
```

```
def calculate = 42;
def temp = calculate;
def it = temp;
if (temp != 0) WriteLine(it) else throw Exception("...")
```

Coloring algorithm: each expansion gets unique colors

```
def calculate = 42;                                // vanilla color
aif(calculate,
  WriteLine(it),
  throw Exception("does not compute"))

macro aif(cond, then, else_) {                      // expansion color
  <[
    def temp = $cond;
    def it = temp;
    if (temp != 0) $then else $else_
  ]>
}

def calculate = 42;
def temp = calculate;
def it = temp;
if (temp != 0) WriteLine(it) else throw Exception("...")
```

Coloring algorithm: at the end of the day

```
def calculate = 42;                                // vanilla color
aif(calculate,
  WriteLine(it),
  throw Exception("does not compute"))

macro aif(cond, then, else_) {                      // expansion color
  <[
    def temp = $cond;
    def it = temp;
    if (temp != 0) $then else $else_
  ]>
}

def calculate = 42;
def temp = calculate;
def it = temp;
if (temp != 0) WriteLine(it) else throw Exception("...")
```

Coloring algorithm: inherit use site

```
def calculate = 42;                                // vanilla color
aif(calculate,
    WriteLine(it),
    throw Exception("does not compute"))

macro aif(cond, then, else_) {                       // expansion color
    <[
        def temp = $cond;
        def $("it": usesite) = temp;
        if (temp != 0) $then else $else_
    ]>
}

def calculate = 42;
def temp = calculate;
def it = temp;
if (temp != 0) WriteLine(it) else throw Exception("...")
```

Coloring algorithm: polychromatic

```
def calculate = 42;                                // vanilla color
aif(calculate,
    WriteLine(it),
    throw Exception("does not compute"))

macro aif(cond, then, else_) {                      // expansion color
  <[
    def temp = $cond;
    def $("it": dyn) = temp;
    if (temp != 0) $then else $else_
  ]>
}
```

```
def calculate = 42;
def temp = calculate;
def it = temp;
if (temp != 0) WriteLine(it) else throw Exception("...")
```

Summary: Nemerle

- ▶ Nemerle takes care of hygiene with a coloring algorithm of impressive simplicity and power
- ▶ No complex translation algorithms are necessary
- ▶ As another bonus programmer can fine-tune colors with `MacroColors`
- ▶ Referential transparency works as well

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