# Aspect-Oriented Programming with C++ and AspectC++

## AOSD 2007 Tutorial

University of Erlangen-Nuremberg
Computer Science 4

# Presenters

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# Schedule

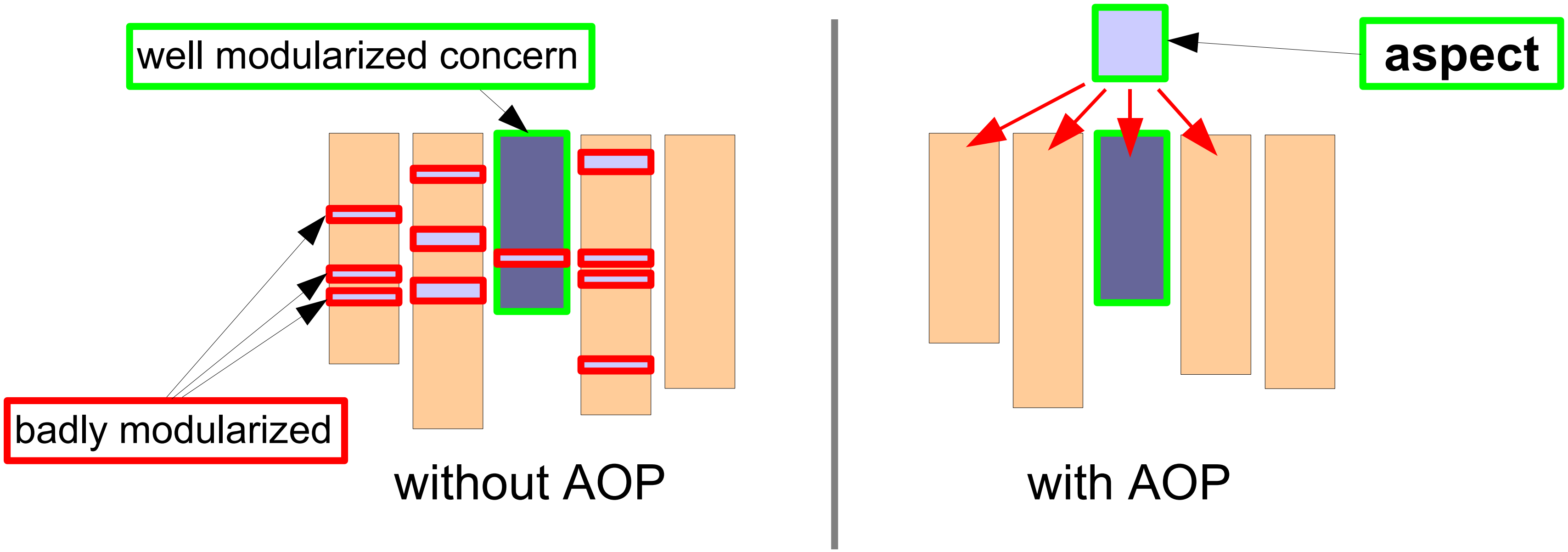
| Part | Title | Time |
|---|---|---|
| I | Introduction | 10m |
| II | AOP with pure C++ | 40m |
| III | AOP with AspectC++ | 70m |
| IV | Tool support for AspectC++ | 30m |
| V | Real-World Examples | 20m |
| VI | Summary and Discussion | 10m |

# This Tutorial is about ...

- Writing aspect-oriented code with **pure C++**
  - basic implementation techniques using C++ idioms
  - limitations of the pure C++ approach
- Programming with **AspectC++**
  - language concepts, implementation, tool support
  - **this is an AspectC++ tutorial**
- Programming languages and concepts
  - no coverage of other AOSD topics like analysis or design

# Aspect-Oriented Programming

- AOP is about modularizing crosscutting concerns

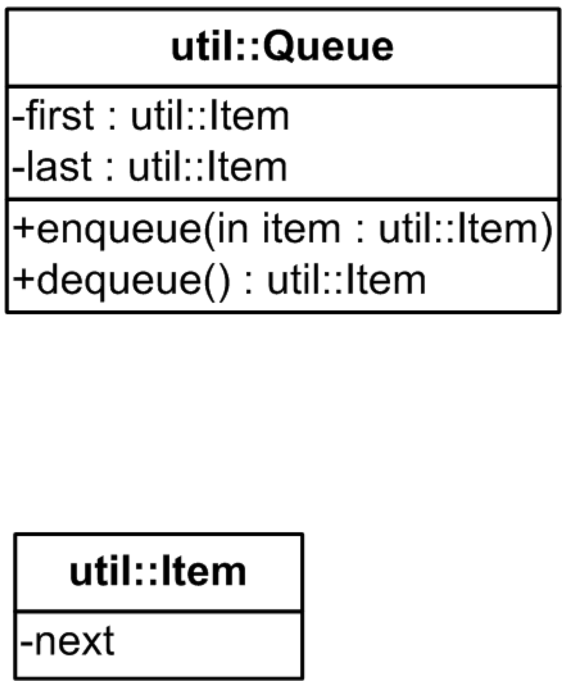


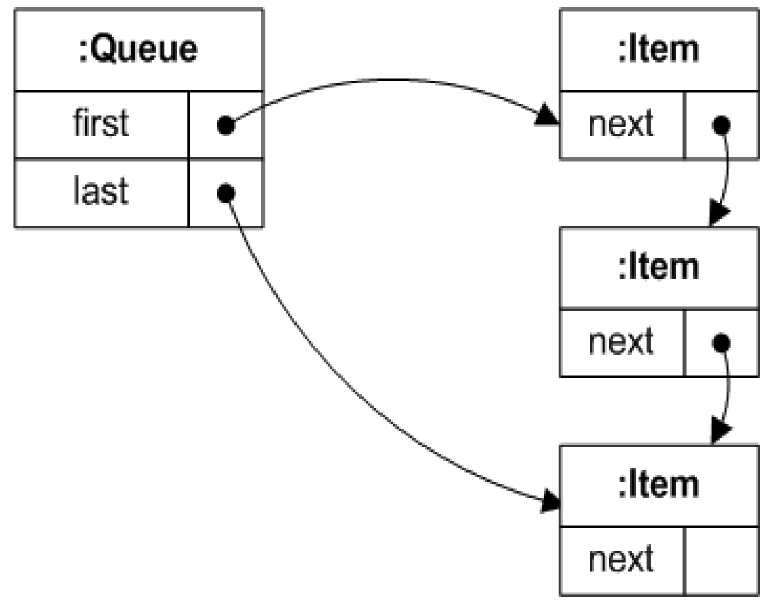

- Examples: tracing, synchronization, security, buffering, error handling, constraint checks, ...

# Why AOP with C++?

- Widely accepted benefits from using AOP
  - avoidance of code redundancy, better reusability, maintainability, configurability, the code better reflects the design, ...
- Enormous existing C++ code base
  - maintainance: extensions are often crosscutting
- Millions of programmers use C++
  - for many domains C++ is *the* adequate language
  - they want to benefit from AOP (as Java programmers do)
- How can the AOP community help?
  - Part II: describe how to apply AOP with built-in mechanisms
  - Part III-V: provide special language mechanisms for AOP

# Scenario: A Queue utility class



# The Simple Queue Class

```
namespace util {
  class Item {
    friend class Queue;
    Item* next;
  public:
    Item() : next(0){}
  };

  class Queue {
    Item* first;
    Item* last;
  public:
    Queue() : first(0), last(0) {}

    void enqueue( Item* item ) {
      printf( "  > Queue::enqueue()\n" );
      if( last ) {
        last->next = item;
        last = item;
      } else
        last = first = item;
      printf( "  < Queue::enqueue()\n" );
    }
```

```
    Item* dequeue() {
      printf("  > Queue::dequeue()\n");
      Item* res = first;
      if( first == last )
        first = last = 0;
      else
        first = first->next;
      printf("  < Queue::dequeue()\n");
      return res;
    }
  }; // class Queue
} // namespace util
```

# Scenario: The Problem

Various users of Queue demand extensions:

I want Queue to throw exceptions!

Please extend the Queue class by an element counter!

Queue should be thread-safe!

# The Not So Simple Queue Class

```
class Queue {
  Item *first, *last;
  int counter;
  os::Mutex lock;
public:
  Queue () : first(0), last(0) {
    counter = 0;
  }
  void enqueue(Item* item) {
    lock.enter();
    try {
      if (item == 0)
        throw QueueInvalidItemError();
      if (last) {
        last->next = item;
        last = item;
      } else { last = first = item; }
      ++counter;
    } catch (...) {
      lock.leave(); throw;
    }
    lock.leave();
  }
```

```
  Item* dequeue() {
    Item* res;
    lock.enter();
    try {
      res = first;
      if (first == last)
        first = last = 0;
      else first = first->next;
      if (counter > 0) –counter;
      if (res == 0)
        throw QueueEmptyError();
    } catch (...) {
      lock.leave();
      throw;
    }
    lock.leave();
    return res;
  }
  int count() { return counter; }
}; // class Queue
```

# What Code Does What?

```
class Queue {
  Item *first, *last;
  int counter;
  os::Mutex lock;
public:
  Queue () : first(0), last(0) {
    counter = 0;
  }
  void enqueue(Item* item) {
    lock.enter();
    try {
      if (item == 0)
        throw QueueInvalidItemError();
      if (last) {
        last->next = item;
        last = item;
      } else { last = first = item; }
      ++counter;
    } catch (...) {
      lock.leave(); throw;
    }
    lock.leave();
  }
```

```
  Item* dequeue() {
    Item* res;
    lock.enter();
    try {
      res = first;
      if (first == last)
        first = last = 0;
      else first = first->next;
      if (counter > 0) --counter;
      if (res == 0)
        throw QueueEmptyError();
    } catch (...) {
      lock.leave();
      throw;
    }
    lock.leave();
    return res;
  }
  int count() { return counter; }
}; // class Queue
```

# Problem Summary

The component code is "polluted" with code for several logically independent concerns, thus it is ...

- hard to **write** the code
  - many different things have to be considered simultaneously
- hard to **read** the code
  - many things are going on at the same time
- hard to **maintain** and **evolve** the code
  - the implementation of concerns such as locking is **scattered** over the entire source base (a "*crosscutting concern*")
- hard to **configure** at compile time
  - the users get a "one fits all" queue class

# Aspect-Oriented Programming with C++ and AspectC++

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# Part III – Aspect C++

# The Simple Queue Class Revisited

```
namespace util {
  class Item {
    friend class Queue;
    Item* next;
  public:
    Item() : next(0){}
  };

  class Queue {
    Item* first;
    Item* last;
  public:
    Queue() : first(0), last(0) {}

    void enqueue( Item* item ) {
      printf( "  > Queue::enqueue()\n" );
      if( last ) {
        last->next = item;
        last = item;
      } else
        last = first = item;
      printf( "  < Queue::enqueue()\n" );
    }
```

```
    Item* dequeue() {
      printf("  > Queue::dequeue()\n");
      Item* res = first;
      if( first == last )
        first = last = 0;
      else
        first = first->next;
      printf("  < Queue::dequeue()\n");
      return res;
    }
  }; // class Queue

} // namespace util
```

# Queue: Demanded Extensions

I. Element counting

Please extend the Queue class by an element counter!

II. Errorhandling
(signaling of errors by exceptions)

III. Thread safety
(synchronization by mutex variables)

# Element counting: The Idea

- Increment a counter variable after each execution of `util::Queue::enqueue()`
- Decrement it after each execution of `util::Queue::dequeue()`

# ElementCounter1

```
aspect ElementCounter {

  int counter;
  ElementCounter() {
    counter = 0;
  }

  advice execution("% util::Queue::enqueue(...)") : after() {
    ++counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", counter );
  }
  advice execution("% util::Queue::dequeue(...)") : after() {
    if( counter > 0 ) --counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", counter );
  }
};
```

ElementCounter1.ah

# ElementCounter1 - Elements

```
aspect ElementCounter {

  int counter;
  ElementCounter() {
    counter = 0;
  }

  advice execution("% util::Queue::enqueue(...)") : after() {
    ++counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", counter );
  }
  advice execution("% util::Queue::dequeue(...)") : after() {
    if( counter > 0 ) --counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", counter );
  }
};
```

ElementCounter1.ah

We introduced a new **aspect** named *ElementCounter*.
An aspect starts with the keyword aspect and is syntactically much like a class.

# ElementCounter1 - Elements

```
aspect ElementCounter {

  int counter;
  ElementCounter() {
    counter = 0;
  }

  advice execution("% util::Queue::enqueue(...)") : after() {
    ++counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", counter );
  }
  advice execution("% util::Queue::dequeue(...)") : after() {
    if( counter > 0 ) --counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", counter );
  }
};
```

Like a class, an aspect can define data members, constructors and so on

ElementCounter1.ah

# ElementCounter1 - Elements

```
aspect ElementCounter {

  int counter;
  ElementCounter() {
    counter = 0;
  }

  advice execution("% util::Queue::enqueue(...)") : after() {
    ++counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", counter );
  }
  advice execution("% util::Queue::dequeue(...)") : after() {
    if( counter > 0 ) --counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", counter );
  }
};
```

ElementCounter1.ah

We give **after advice** (= some crosscuting code to be executed after certain control flow positions)

# ElementCounter1 - Elements

This **pointcut expression** denotes where the advice should be given. (After **execution** of methods that match the pattern)

```
aspect ElementCounter {

  int counter;
  ElementCounter() {
    counter = 0;
  }

  advice execution("% util::Queue::enqueue(...)") : after() {
    ++counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", counter );
  }
  advice execution("% util::Queue::dequeue(...)") : after() {
    if( counter > 0 ) --counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", counter );
  }
};
```

ElementCounter1.ah

# ElementCounter1 - Elements

```
aspect ElementCounter {

  int counter;
  ElementCounter() {
    counter = 0;
  }

  advice execution("% util::Queue::enqueue(...)") : after() {
    ++counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", counter );
  }
  advice execution("% util::Queue::dequeue(...)") : after() {
    if( counter > 0 ) --counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", counter );
  }
};
```

Aspect member elements can be accessed from within the advice body

ElementCounter1.ah

# ElementCounter1 - Result

```
int main() {
  util::Queue queue;

  printf("main(): enqueueing an item\n");
  queue.enqueue( new util::Item );

  printf("main(): dequeueing two items\n");
  Util::Item* item;
  item = queue.dequeue();
  item = queue.dequeue();
}
```

main.cc

```
main(): enqueueing am item
  > Queue::enqueue(00320FD0)
  < Queue::enqueue(00320FD0)
  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = 1
 main(): dequeueing two items
  > Queue::dequeue()
  < Queue::dequeue() returning 00320FD0
  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = 0
  > Queue::dequeue()
  < Queue::dequeue() returning 00000000
  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = 0
```

<Output>

# ElementCounter1 – What's next?

- The aspect is not the ideal place to store the counter, because it is shared between all Queue instances
- Ideally, counter becomes a member of Queue
- In the next step, we
  - move counter into Queue by **introduction**
  - **expose context** about the aspect invocation to access the current Queue instance

# ElementCounter2

```
aspect ElementCounter {

  advice "util::Queue" : slice class {
    int counter;
  public:
    int count() const { return counter; }
  };
  advice execution("% util::Queue::enqueue(...)")
                  && that(queue) : after( util::Queue& queue )  {
    ++queue.counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", queue.count() );
  }
  advice execution("% util::Queue::dequeue(...)")
                  && that(queue) : after( util::Queue& queue )  {
    if( queue.count() > 0 ) --queue.counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", queue.count() );
  }
  advice construction("util::Queue")
                  && that(queue) : before( util::Queue& queue ) {
    queue.counter = 0;
  }
};
```

ElementCounter2.ah

# ElementCounter2 - Elements

```
aspect ElementCounter {

  advice "util::Queue" : slice class {
    int counter;
  public:
    int count() const { return counter; }
  };
  advice execution("% util::Queue::enqueue(...)")
                   && that(queue) : after( util::Queue& queue )  {
    ++queue.counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", queue.count() );
  }
  advice execution("% util::Queue::dequeue(...)")
                   && that(queue) : after( util::Queue& queue )  {
    if( queue.count() > 0 ) --queue.counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", queue.count() );
  }
  advice construction("util::Queue")
                   && that(queue) : before( util::Queue& queue ) {
    queue.counter = 0;
  }
};
```

**Introduces** a **slice** of members into all classes denoted by the pointcut "util::Queue"

ElementCounter2.ah

# ElementCounter2 - Elements

```
aspect ElementCounter {

  advice "util::Queue" : slice class {
    int counter;
  public:
    int count() const { return counter; }
  };
  advice execution("% util::Queue::enqueue(...)")
                   && that(queue) : after( util::Queue& queue )  {
    ++queue.counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", queue.count() );
  }
  advice execution("% util::Queue::dequeue(...)")
                   && that(queue) : after( util::Queue& queue )  {
    if( queue.count() > 0 ) --queue.counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", queue.count() );
  }
  advice construction("util::Queue")
                   && that(queue) : before( util::Queue& queue ) {
    queue.counter = 0;
  }
};
```

We introduce a private *counter* element and a public method to read it





ElementCounter2.ah

# ElementCounter2 - Elements

```
aspect ElementCounter {

  advice "util::Queue" : slice class {
    int counter;
  public:
    int count() const { return counter; }
  };
  advice execution("% util::Queue::enqueue(...)")
                    && that(queue) : after( util::Queue& queue )  {
    ++queue.counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", queue.count() );
  }
  advice execution("% util::Queue::dequeue(...)")
                    && that(queue) : after( util::Queue& queue )  {
    if( queue.count() > 0 ) --queue.counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", queue.count() );
  }
  advice construction("util::Queue")
                    && that(queue) : before( util::Queue& queue ) {
    queue.counter = 0;
  }
};
```

A **context variable** *queue* is bound to *that* (the calling instance). The calling instance has to be an util::Queue

ElementCounter2.ah

# ElementCounter2 - Elements

```
aspect ElementCounter {

  advice "util::Queue" : slice class {
    int counter;
  public:
    int count() const { return counter; }
  };
  advice execution("% util::Queue::enqueue(...)")
                   && that(queue) : after( util::Queue& queue )  {
    ++queue.counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", queue.count() );
  }
  advice execution("% util::Queue::dequeue(...)")
                   && that(queue) : after( util::Queue& queue )  {
    if( queue.count() > 0 ) --queue.counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", queue.count() );
  }
  advice construction("util::Queue")
                   && that(queue) : before( util::Queue& queue ) {
    queue.counter = 0;
  }
};
```

The context variable *queue* is used to access the calling instance.

ElementCounter2.ah

# ElementCounter2 - Elements

```
aspect ElementCounter {

  advice "util::Queue" : slice class {
    int counter;
  public:
    int count() const { return counter; }
  };
  advice execution("% util::Queue::enqueue(...)")
                  && that(queue) : after( util::Queue& queue )  {
    ++queue.counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", queue.count() );
  }
  advice execution("% util::Queue::dequeue(...)")
                  && that(queue) : after( util::Queue& queue )  {
    if( queue.count() > 0 ) --queue.counter;
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = %d\n", queue.count() );
  }
  advice construction("util::Queue")
                  && that(queue) : before( util::Queue& queue ) {
    queue.counter = 0;
  }
};
```

By giving **construction advice** we ensure that counter gets initialized

ElementCounter2.ah

# ElementCounter2 - Result

```
int main() {
  util::Queue queue;
  printf("main(): Queue contains %d items\n", queue.count());
  printf("main(): enqueueing some items\n");
  queue.enqueue(new util::Item);
  queue.enqueue(new util::Item);
  printf("main(): Queue contains %d items\n", queue.count());
  printf("main(): dequeueing one items\n");
  util::Item* item;
  item = queue.dequeue();
  printf("main(): Queue contains %d items\n", queue.count());
}
```

main.cc

# ElementCounter2 - Result

```
int main() {
  util::Queue queue;
  printf("main(): Queue contains %d items\n", queue.count());
  printf("main(): enqueueing some items\n");
  queue.enqueue(new util::Item);
  queue.enqueue(new util::Item);
  printf("main(): Queue contains
  printf("main(): dequeueing one
  util::Item* item;
  item = queue.dequeue();
  printf("main(): Queue contains
}
```

main.cc

```
main(): Queue contains 0 items
main(): enqueueing some items
  > Queue::enqueue(00320FD0)
  < Queue::enqueue(00320FD0)
  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = 1
  > Queue::enqueue(00321000)
  < Queue]::enqueue(00321000)
  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = 2
main(): Queue contains 2 items
main(): dequeueing one items
  > Queue::dequeue()
  < Queue::dequeue() returning 00320FD0
  Aspect ElementCounter: # of elements = 1
main(): Queue contains 1 items
```

<Output>

# ElementCounter – Lessons Learned

You have seen...

- the most important concepts of AspectC++
  - Aspects are introduced with the keyword *aspect*
  - They are much like a class, may contain methods, data members, types, inner classes, etc.
  - Additionaly, aspects can give *advice* to be woven in at certain positions (*joinpoints*). Advice can be given to
    - Functions/Methods/Constructors: code to execute (*code advice*)
    - Classes or structs: new elements (*introductions*)
  - Joinpoints are described by *pointcut expressions*
- We will now take a closer look at some of them

# Syntactic Elements

aspect name

pointcut expression

advice type

```
aspect ElementCounter {

  advice execution("% util::Queue::enqueue(...)") : after()
  {
    printf( "  Aspect ElementCounter: after Queue::enqueue!\n" );
  }

  ...
};
```

ElementCounter1.ah

advice body

# Joinpoints

- A **joinpoint** denotes a position to give advice
  - **Code** joinpoint
    a point in the **control flow** of a running program, e.g.
    - **execution** of a function
    - **call** of a function
  - **Name** joinpoint
    - a **named C++ program entity** (identifier)
    - class, function, method, type, namespace
- Joinpoints are given by **pointcut expressions**
    - a pointcut expression describes a **set of joinpoints**

# Pointcut Expressions

- Pointcut expressions are made from ...
  - **match expressions**, e.g. "% util::queue::enqueue(...)"
    - are matched against C++ programm entities → name joinpoints
    - support wildcards
  - **pointcut functions**, e.g execution(...), call(...), that(...)
    - **execution:** all points in the control flow, where a function is about to be executed → code joinpoints
    - **call:** all points in the control flow, where a function is about to be called → code joinpoints
- Pointcut functions can be combined into expressions
  - using logical connectors: &&, ||, !
  - Example: call("% util::Queue::enqueue(...)") && within("% main(...)")

# Advice

## Advice to functions

- **before advice**
  - Advice code is executed **before** the original code
  - Advice may read/modify parameter values
- **after advice**
  - Advice code is executed **after** the original code
  - Advice may read/modify return value
- **around advice**
  - Advice code is executed **instead of** the original code
  - Original code may be called explicitly: `tjp->proceed()`

## Introductions

- A *slice* of additional methods, types, etc. is added to the class
- Can be used to extend the interface of a class

# Before / After Advice

**with execution joinpoints:**

**advice execution**("void ClassA::foo()") : **before**()

**advice execution**("void ClassA::foo()") : **after**()

```
class ClassA {
public:
  void foo(){
    printf("ClassA::foo()"\n);
  }
}
```

**with call joinpoints:**

**advice call** ("void ClassA::foo()") : **before**()

**advice call** ("void ClassA::foo()") : **after**()

```
int main(){
  printf("main()\n");
  ClassA a;
  a.foo();
}
```

# Around Advice

**with execution joinpoints:**

**advice execution**(“void ClassA::foo()”) : **around**()
  *before code*

  **tjp->proceed()**

  *after code*

```
class ClassA {
public:
  void foo(){
    printf(“ClassA::foo()”\n);
  }
}
```

**with call joinpoints:**

**advice call**(“void ClassA::foo()”) : **around**()
  *before code*

  **tjp->proceed()**

  *after code*

```
int main(){
  printf(“main()\n”);
  ClassA a;
  a.foo();
}
```

# Introductions

**advice** “ClassA” : **slice class** {
   *element to introduce*

**public:**
   *element to introduce*
};

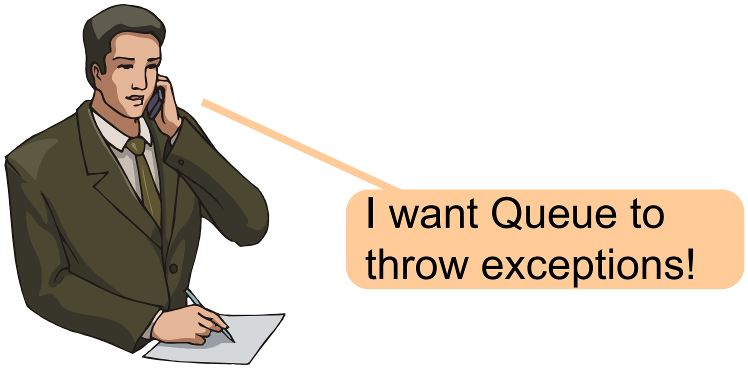
```
class ClassA {

public:

  void foo(){
    printf(“ClassA::foo()”\n);
  }
}
```

# Queue: Demanded Extensions

I. Element counting




II. Errorhandling
(signaling of errors by exceptions)

III. Thread safety
(synchronization by mutex variables)

# Errorhandling: The Idea

- We want to check the following constraints:
  - enqueue() is never called with a NULL item
  - dequeue() is never called on an empty queue
- In case of an error an exception should be thrown

- To implement this, we need access to ...
  - the parameter passed to enqueue()
  - the return value returned by dequeue()

  ... from within the advice

# ErrorException

```
namespace util {
  struct QueueInvalidItemError {};
  struct QueueEmptyError {};
}

aspect ErrorException {

  advice execution("% util::Queue::enqueue(...)") && args(item)
      : before(util::Item* item) {
    if( item == 0 )
      throw util::QueueInvalidItemError();
  }
  advice execution("% util::Queue::dequeue(...)") && result(item)
      : after(util::Item* item) {
    if( item == 0 )
      throw util::QueueEmptyError();
  }
};
```

ErrorException.ah

# ErrorException - Elements

```
namespace util {
  struct QueueInvalidItemError {};
  struct QueueEmptyError {};
}

aspect ErrorException {

  advice execution("% util::Queue::enqueue(...)") && args(item)
      : before(util::Item* item) {
    if( item == 0 )
      throw util::QueueInvalidItemError();
  }
  advice execution("% util::Queue::dequeue(...)") && result(item)
      : after(util::Item* item) {
    if( item == 0 )
      throw util::QueueEmptyError();
  }
};
```

ErrorException.ah

We give advice to be executed *before* enqueue() and *after* dequeue()

# ErrorException - Elements

```
namespace util {
  struct QueueInvalidItemEr
  struct QueueEmptyError {};
}

aspect ErrorException {

  advice execution("% util::Queue::enqueue(...)") && args(item)
      : before(util::Item* item) {
    if( item == 0 )
      throw util::QueueInvalidItemError();
  }
  advice execution("% util::Queue::dequeue(...)") && result(item)
      : after(util::Item* item) {
    if( item == 0 )
      throw util::QueueEmptyError();
  }
};
```

A **context variable** *item* is bound to the first **argument** of type *util::Item** passed to the matching methods

ErrorException.ah

# ErrorException - Elements

```
namespace util {
  struct QueueInvalidItemEr
  struct QueueEmptyError {};
}

aspect ErrorException {

  advice execution("% util::Queue::enqueue(...)") && args(item)
      : before(util::Item* item) {
    if( item == 0 )
      throw util::QueueInvalidItemError();
  }
  advice execution("% util::Queue::dequeue(...)") && result(item)
      : after(util::Item* item) {
    if( item == 0 )
      throw util::QueueEmptyError();
  }
};
```

Here the **context variable** *item* is bound to the **result** of type *util::Item** returned by the matching methods

ErrorException.ah

# ErrorException – Lessons Learned

You have seen how to ...

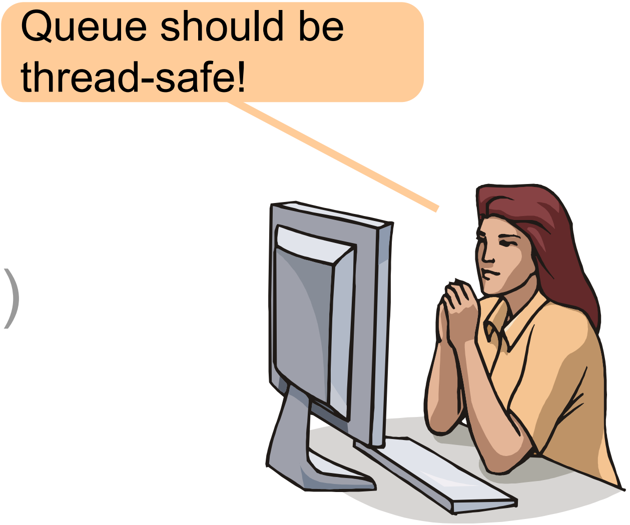
- use different types of advice
  - **before** advice
  - **after** advice
- expose context in the advice body
  - by using **args** to read/modify parameter values
  - by using **result** to read/modify the return value

# Queue: Demanded Extensions

I. Element counting

II. Errorhandling
(signaling of errors by exceptions)

III. Thread safety
(synchronization by mutex variables)



# Thread Safety: The Idea

- Protect enqueue() and dequeue() by a mutex object
- To implement this, we need to
  - introduce a mutex variable into class Queue
  - lock the mutex before the execution of enqueue() / dequeue()
  - unlock the mutex after execution of enqueue() / dequeue()
- The aspect implementation should be exception safe!
  - in case of an exception, pending after advice is not called
  - solution: use around advice

# LockingMutex

```
aspect LockingMutex {
  advice "util::Queue" : slice class { os::Mutex lock; };

  pointcut sync_methods() = "% util::Queue::%queue(...)";

  advice execution(sync_methods()) && that(queue)
  : around( util::Queue& queue ) {
    queue.lock.enter();
    try {
      tjp->proceed();
    }
    catch(...) {
      queue.lock.leave();
      throw;
    }
    queue.lock.leave();
  }
};
```

LockingMutex.ah

# LockingMutex - Elements

```
aspect LockingMutex {
  advice "util::Queue" : slice class { os::Mutex lock; };

  pointcut sync_methods() = "% util::Queue::%queue(...)";

  advice execution(sync_methods()) && that(queue)
  : around( util::Queue& queue ) {
    queue.lock.enter();
    try {
      tjp->proceed();
    }
    catch(...) {
      queue.lock.leave();
      throw;
    }
    queue.lock.leave();
  }
};
```

LockingMutex.ah

We introduce a mutex member into class Queue

# LockingMutex - Elements

```
aspect LockingMutex {
  advice "util::Queue" : slice class { os::Mutex lock; };

  pointcut sync_methods() = "% util::Queue::%queue(...)";

  advice execution(sync_methods()) && that(queue)
  : around( util::Queue& queue ) {
    queue.lock.enter();
    try {
      tjp->proceed();
    }
    catch(...) {
      queue.lock.leave();
      throw;
    }
    queue.lock.leave();
  }
};
```

LockingMutex.ah

Pointcuts can be named. *sync_methods* describes all methods that have to be synchronized by the mutex

# LockingMutex - Elements

```
aspect LockingMutex {
  advice "util::Queue" : slice class { os::Mutex lock; };

  pointcut sync_methods() = "% util::Queue::%queue(...)";

  advice execution(sync_methods()) && that(queue)
  : around( util::Queue& queue ) {
    queue.lock.enter();
    try {
      tjp->proceed();
    }
    catch(...) {
      queue.lock.leave();
      throw;
    }
    queue.lock.leave();
  }
};
```

LockingMutex.ah

*sync_methods* is used to give around advice to the execution of the methods

# LockingMutex - Elements

```
aspect LockingMutex {
  advice "util::Queue" : slice class { os::Mutex lock; };

  pointcut sync_methods() = "% util::Queue::%queue(...)";

  advice execution(sync_methods()) && that(queue)
  : around( util::Queue& queue ) {
    queue.lock.enter();
    try {
      tjp->proceed();
    }
    catch(...) {
      queue.lock.leave();
      throw;
    }
    queue.lock.leave();
  }
};
```

LockingMutex.ah

By calling tjp->proceed() the original method is executed

# LockingMutex – Lessons Learned

You have seen how to ...

- use named pointcuts
  - to increase readability of pointcut expressions
  - to reuse pointcut expressions
- use around advice
  - to deal with exception safety
  - to explicit invoke (or don't invoke) the original code by calling `tjp->proceed()`
- use wildcards in match expressions
  - "% util::Queue::%queue(...)" matches both enqueue() and dequeue()

# Queue: A new Requirement

I. Element counting

II. Errorhandling
(signaling of errors by exceptions)

III. Thread safety
(synchronization by mutex variables)

IV. Interrupt safety
(synchronization on interrupt level)

# Interrupt Safety: The Idea

- Scenario
  - Queue is used to transport objects between kernel code (interrupt handlers) and application code
  - If application code accesses the queue, interrupts must be disabled first
  - If kernel code accesses the queue, interrupts must not be disabled
- To implement this, we need to distinguish
  - if the call is made from kernel code, or
  - if the call is made from application code

# LockingIRQ1

```
aspect LockingIRQ {

  pointcut sync_methods() = "% util::Queue::%queue(...)";
  pointcut kernel_code()  = "% kernel::%(...)";

  advice call(sync_methods()) && !within(kernel_code()) : around() {
    os::disable_int();
    try {
      tjp->proceed();
    }
    catch(...) {
      os::enable_int();
      throw;
    }
    os::enable_int();
  }
};
```

LockingIRQ1.ah

# LockingIRQ1 – Elements

```
aspect LockingIRQ {

  pointcut sync_methods() = "% util::Queue::%queue(...)";
  pointcut kernel_code()  = "% kernel::%(...)";

  advice call(sync_methods()) && !within(kernel_code()) : around() {
    os::disable_int();
    try {
      tjp->proceed();
    }
    catch(...) {
      os::enable_int();
      throw;
    }
    os::enable_int();
  }
};
```

We define two pointcuts. One for the methods to be synchronized and one for all kernel functions

LockingIRQ1.ah

# LockingIRQ1 – Elements

```
aspect LockingIRQ {

  pointcut sync_methods() = "% util::Queue::%queue(...)";
  pointcut kernel_code()  = "% kernel::%(...)";

  advice call(sync_methods()) && !within(kernel_code()) : around() {
    os::disable_int();
    try {
      tjp->proceed();
    }
    catch(...) {
      os::enable_int();
      throw;
    }
    os::enable_int();
  }
};
```

This pointcut expression matches any call to a *sync_method* that is **not** done from *kernel_code*

LockingIRQ1.ah

# LockingIRQ1 – Result

```
util::Queue queue;
void do_something() {
  printf("do_something()\n");
  queue.enqueue( new util::Item );
}
namespace kernel {
  void irq_handler() {
    printf("kernel::irq_handler()\n")
    queue.enqueue(new util::Item);
    do_something();
  }
}
int main() {
  printf("main()\n");
  queue.enqueue(new util::Item);
  kernel::irq_handler();  // irq
  printf("back in main()\n");
  queue.dequeue();
}
```

main.cc

```
main()
os::disable_int()
  > Queue::enqueue(00320FD0)
  < Queue::enqueue()
os::enable_int()
kernel::irq_handler()
  > Queue::enqueue(00321030)
  < Queue::enqueue()
do_something()
os::disable_int()
  > Queue::enqueue(00321060)
  < Queue::enqueue()
os::enable_int()
back in main()
os::disable_int()
  > Queue::dequeue()
  < Queue::dequeue() returning 00320FD0
os::enable_int()
```

<Output>

# LockingIRQ1 – Problem

```
util::Queue queue;
void do_something() {
  printf("do_something()\n");
  queue.enqueue( new util::Item );
}
namespace kernel {
  void irq_handler() {
    printf("kernel::irq_handler()\n");
    queue.enqueue(new util::Item);
    do_something();
  }
}
int main() {
  printf("main()\n");
  queue.enqueue(new util::Item);
  kernel::irq_handler();  // irq
  printf("back in main()\n");
  queue.dequeue();
}
```

main.cc

The pointcut within(*kernel_code*) does not match any **indirect** calls to *sync_methods*

```
ma
os
  > Queue::enqueue(00320FD0)
  < Queue::enqueue()
os::enable_int()
kernel::irq_handler()
  > Queue::enqueue(00321030)
  < Queue::enqueue()
do_something()
os::disable_int()
  > Queue::enqueue(00321060)
  < Queue::enqueue()
os::enable_int()
back in main()
os::disable_int()
  > Queue::dequeue()
  < Queue::dequeue() returning 00320FD0
os::enable_int()
```

<Output>

# LockingIRQ2

```
aspect LockingIRQ {

  pointcut sync_methods() = "% util::Queue::%queue(...)";
  pointcut kernel_code()  = "% kernel::%(...)";

  advice execution(sync_methods())
  && !cflow(execution(kernel_code())) : around() {
    os::disable_int();
    try {
      tjp->proceed();
    }
    catch(...) {
      os::enable_int();
      throw;
    }
    os::enable_int();
  }
};
```

**Solution**
Using the **cflow** pointcut function

LockingIRQ2.ah

# LockingIRQ2 – Elements

```
aspect LockingIRQ {

  pointcut sync_methods() = "% util::Queue::%queue(...)";
  pointcut kernel_code()  = "% kernel::%(...)";

  advice execution(sync_methods())
  && !cflow(execution(kernel_code())) : around() {
    os::disable_int();
    try {
      tjp->proceed();
    }
    catch(...) {
      os::enable_int();
      throw;
    }
    os::enable_int();
  }
};
```

LockingIRQ2.ah

This pointcut expression matches the execution of *sync_methods* if no *kernel_code* is on the call stack.
cflow checks the call stack (control flow) at runtime.

# LockingIRQ2 – Result

```
util::Queue queue;
void do_something() {
  printf("do_something()\n");
  queue.enqueue( new util::Item );
}
namespace kernel {
  void irq_handler() {
    printf("kernel::irq_handler()\n");
    queue.enqueue(new util::Item);
    do_something();
  }
}
int main() {
  printf("main()\n");
  queue.enqueue(new util::Item);
  kernel::irq_handler();  // irq
  printf("back in main()\n");
  queue.dequeue();
}
```

main.cc

```
main()
os::disable_int()
  > Queue::enqueue(00320FD0)
  < Queue::enqueue()
os::enable_int()
kernel::irq_handler()
  > Queue::enqueue(00321030)
  < Queue::enqueue()
do_something()
  > Queue::enqueue(00321060)
  < Queue::enqueue()
back in main()
os::disable_int()
  > Queue::dequeue()
  < Queue::dequeue() returning 00320FD0
os::enable_int()
```

<Output>

# LockingIRQ – Lessons Learned

You have seen how to ...

- restrict advice invocation to a specific calling context
- use the within(...) and cflow(...) pointcut functions
  - **within** is evaluated at **compile time** and returns all code joinpoints of a class' or namespaces lexical scope
  - **cflow** is evaluated at **runtime** and returns all joinpoints where the control flow is below a specific code joinpoint

# AspectC++: A First Summary

- The Queue example has presented the most important features of the AspectC++ language
  - aspect, advice, joinpoint, pointcut expression, pointcut function, ...
- Additionaly, AspectC++ provides some more advanced concepts and features
  - to increase the expressive power of aspectual code
  - to write broadly reusable aspects
  - to deal with aspect interdependence and ordering
- In the following, we give a short overview on these advanced language elements

# AspectC++: Advanced Concepts

- Join Point API
  - provides a uniform interface to the aspect invocation context, both at runtime and compile-time
- Abstract Aspects and Aspect Inheritance
  - comparable to class inheritance, aspect inheritance allows to reuse parts of an aspect and overwrite other parts
- Generic Advice
  - exploits static type information in advice code
- Aspect Ordering
  - allows to specify the invocation order of multiple aspects
- Aspect Instantiation
  - allows to implement user-defined aspect instantiation models

# The Joinpoint API

- Inside an advice body, the current joinpoint context is available via the **implicitly passed tjp** variable:

```
advice ... {
  struct JoinPoint {
    ...
  } *tjp;      // implicitly available in advice code
  ...
}
```

- You have already seen how to use tjp, to ...
  - execute the original code in around advice with **tjp->proceed()**
- The joinpoint API provides a rich interface
  - to expose context **independently** of the aspect target
  - this is especially useful in writing **reusable aspect code**

# The Join Point API (Excerpt)

## Types (compile-time)

```
// object type (initiator)
That

// object type (receiver)
Target

// result type of the affected function
Result

// type of the i'th argument of the affected
// function (with 0 <= i < ARGS)
Arg<i>::Type
Arg<i>::ReferredType
```

## Consts (compile-time)

```
// number of arguments
ARGS

// unique numeric identifier for this join point
JPID

// numeric identifier for the type of this join
// point (AC::CALL, AC::EXECUTION, ...)
JPTYPE
```

## Values (runtime)

```
// pointer to the object initiating a call
That* that()

// pointer to the object that is target of a call
Target* target()

// pointer to the result value
Result* result()

// typed pointer the i'th argument value of a
// function call (compile-time index)
Arg<i>::ReferredType* arg()

// pointer the i'th argument value of a
// function call (runtime index)
void* arg( int i )

// textual representation of the joinpoint
// (function/class name, parameter types...)
static const char* signature()

// executes the original joinpoint code
// in an around advice
void proceed()

// returns the runtime action object
AC::Action& action()
```

# Abstract Aspects and Inheritance

- Aspects can inherit from other aspects...
  - Reuse aspect definitions
  - Override methods and pointcuts
- Pointcuts can be pure virtual
  - Postpone the concrete definition to derived aspects
  - An aspect with a pure virtual pointcut is called **abstract aspect**
- Common usage: Reusable aspect implementations
  - Abstract aspect defines advice code, but pure virtual pointcuts
  - Aspect code uses the joinpoint API to expose context
  - Concrete aspect inherits the advice code and overrides pointcuts

# Abstract Aspects and Inheritance

The abstract locking aspect declares two **pure virtual pointcuts** and uses the **joinpoint API** for an context-independent advice implementation.

```
#include "mutex.h"
aspect LockingA {
  pointcut virtual sync_classes() = 0;
  pointcut virtual sync_methods() = 0;

  advice sync_classes() : slice class {
    os::Mutex lock;
  };
  advice execution(sync_methods()) : around() {
    tjp->that()->lock.enter();
    try {
      tjp->proceed();
    }
    catch(...) {
      tjp->that()->lock.leave();
      throw;
    }
    tjp->that()->lock.leave();
  }
};
```

LockingA.ah

```
#include "LockingA.ah"

aspect LockingQueue : public LockingA {
  pointcut sync_classes() =
    "util::Queue";
  pointcut sync_methods() =
    "% util::Queue::%queue(...)";
};
```

LockingQueue.ah

# Abstract Aspects and Inheritance

```
#include "mutex.h"
aspect LockingA {
  pointcut virtual sync_classes() = 0;
  pointcut virtual sync_methods() = 0;

  advice sync_classes() : slice class {
    os::Mutex lock;
  };
  advice execution(sync_methods()) : around() {
    tjp->that()->lock.enter();
    try {
      tjp->proceed();
    }
    catch(...) {
      tjp->that()->lock.leave();
      throw;
    }
    tjp->that()->lock.leave();
  }
};
```

LockingA.ah

The concrete locking aspect **derives** from the abstract aspect and **overrides** the pointcuts.

```
#include "LockingA.ah"

aspect LockingQueue : public LockingA {
  pointcut sync_classes() =
    "util::Queue";
  pointcut sync_methods() =
    "% util::Queue::%queue(...)";
};
```

LockingQueue.ah

# Generic Advice

Uses static JP-specific type information in advice code

- in combination with C++ overloading
- to instantiate C++ templates and template meta-programs

```
aspect TraceService {
  advice call(...) : after() {
    ...
    cout << *tjp->result();
  }
};
```

... operator <<(..., **int**)

... operator <<(..., **long**)

... operator <<(..., **bool**)

... operator <<(..., **Foo**)

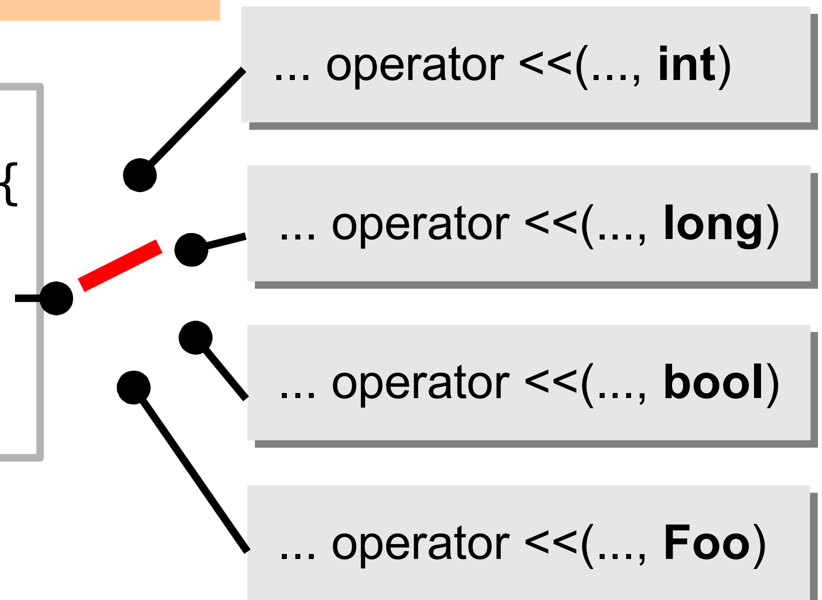
# Generic Advice

## Uses static JP-specific type information in advice code

- in combination with C++ overloading
- ...nplate meta-programs

> Resolves to the **statically typed** return value
> - no runtime type checks are needed
> - unhandled types are detected at compile-time
> - functions can be inlined

```
aspect TraceService {
  advice call(...) : after() {
    ...
    cout << *tjp->result();
  }
};
```



# Aspect Ordering

- Aspects should be independent of other aspects
  - However, sometimes inter-aspect dependencies are unavoidable
  - Example: Locking should be activated before any other aspects
- Order advice
  - The aspect order can be defined by ***order advice***
    advice *pointcut-expr* : order(*high, ..., low*)
  - Different aspect orders can be defined for different pointcuts
- Example

```
advice "% util::Queue::%queue(...)"
       : order( "LockingIRQ", "%" && !"LockingIRQ" );
```

# Aspect Instantiation

- Aspects are singletons by default
  - **aspectof()** returns pointer to the one-and-only aspect instance
- By overriding aspectof() this can be changed
  - e.g. one instance per client or one instance per thread

```
aspect MyAspect {
  // ....
  static MyAspect* aspectof() {
    static __declspec(thread) MyAspect* theAspect;
        if( theAspect == 0 )
          theAspect = new MyAspect;
    return theAspect;
  }
};
```

MyAspect.ah

**Example of an user-defined aspectof() implementation for per-thread aspect instantiation by using thread-local storage.**

**(Visual C++)**

# Summary

- AspectC++ facilitates AOP with C++
  - AspectJ-like syntax and semantics
- Full obliviousness and quantification
  - aspect code is given by **advice**
  - joinpoints are given declaratively by **pointcuts**
  - implementation of crosscutting concerns is fully encapsulated in **aspects**
- Good support for reusable and generic aspect code
  - **aspect inheritance** and **virtual pointcuts**
  - rich **joinpoint API**

And what about tool support?