Functional Programming at Work in Object-Oriented Programming

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Functional Programming at Work in Object-Oriented Programming

• Claim:

Adding functional programming capabilities to an object-oriented language leads to benefits in object-oriented programming design.

Existing Languages with a FP-OOP Mix

• Some old and less old languages with FP+OOP:

- For instance, Smalltalk, Common Lisp (CLOS).
- More recently, Python or Ruby.

Notations: **FP**, Functional programming; **OOP**, Object-oriented programming,

FP techniques emulated in OOP

- Practices in OOP languages include emulations of FP techniques:
 - C++ programmers: function pointers and overloadings of the () operator, i.e.
 "object-functions" or functors.
 - Java programmers: anonymous classes and introspection/reflexion.

Existence of FP-OOP Comparison Points

- The idea of using FP to enrich OOP is old, see e.g. the discussions about the problem of the user-defined datatype extension:
 - User-defined types and procedural data structures as complementary approaches to data abstraction. Reynolds. 1975.
 - The Expression Problem. Wadler. 1998.

A Trend: FP Extensions for OO Languages

- A recent trend: to propose and include typed FP extensions in mainstream static OO languages.
 - Extensions for C++ (see e.g. Laufer, Striegnitz, McNamara, Smaragdakis), and work in progress in the C++ standard committees.
 - Java 7 expected to include FP constructs.
 - C# offers FP constructs (even more in its 3.0 version).
- Also in modern research languages with sophisticated typed frameworks: e.g., OCaml, Scala.

- Mix of FP with OOP not so much practiced.
- → Purpose of this talk: a practical synthesis about what a programer can expect when FP is available in OOP (using C# 3.0).

Some References

- Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs. Abelson, Sussman. MIT Press, 1985.
- Synthesizing Object-Oriented and Functional Design to Promote Re-Use. Krishnamurthi, Felleisen, Friedman. 1998.
- *Essentials of Programming Languages*. Friedman, Wand, Haynes. MIT Press, 1992.
- CLOS: integrating object-oriented and functional programming. Gabriel, White, Bobrow. 1991.
- Bridging Functional and Object-Oriented Programming (FC++). Smaragdakis, McNamara. 2000.
- Confessions of a used programming language salesman. Meijer. OOPSLA'07.
- C# 3.0 Design Patterns. J. M. Bishop, O'Reilly, 2008.

• Specific points discussed in this talk:

- Oriteria to check that FP techniques are possible.
- Idiomatic and architectural effects of having FP capabilities in OOP.
- FP analysis of some classic OO design patterns.

Criterion: First-Class Values. Functions/methods should be first-class citizens.

Rule:

When Criterion 1 holds, most FP techniques can be applied.

Remark: First-class functions generally \Rightarrow **anonymous functions**.

Criterion:

Closures. First-class functions/methods should be implemented as closures, i.e. they should be associated with specific private environments.

Rule:

When Criterion 2 only holds with non-complete closures, most nice properties due to pure FP are expected to be lost. However, FP techniques can still be applied.

Granularity Mismatch

- FP and OOP operate on different design granularity levels :
 - Functions/methods: "programming in the small" level.
 - Classes/objects/modules: "programming in the large" level,
- \Rightarrow At least two questions:
 - Where do we locate the source of individual functions in an OOP architecture?
 - How do we relate such individual functions to an OOP architecture?
- $\bullet \Rightarrow$ design granularity mismatch.

Criterion: FP-OOP interrelation tools: Standalone functions/methods should be explicitly relatable to the class/object level.

Rule:

When Criterion 3 holds, it helps solving some of the FP-OOP design granularity mismatch problem.

Criterion:

FP Support: The FP-oriented features should be reinforced by related constructs, predefined definitions, occurrences in standard libraries, etc.

Rule:

When Criterion 4 holds, an OOP language acknowledges the fact that FP is one of its fully integrated tool.

An Object-Oriented FP Construct: the Delegates

• C# offers a FP feature called delegates:

```
delegate string StringFunType(string s); //declaration
```

```
string G1(string s) {// a method whose type matches StringFunType
  return "some string" + s;
}
```

```
StringFunType f1;// declaration of a delegate variablef1 = G1;// direct method value assignmentf1("some string");// application of the delegate variable
```

Delegates are first-class values.

1. Delegates as First-Class Values

 Delegate types can type method parameters, and delegates can be passed as arguments as any other values:

2. Delegates as First-Class Values

 Delegates can be returned as a computation of a method. For instance, assuming G is a method of type string => string and implemented in SomeClass:

```
StringFun Gf2() { //delegate as a return value
[...]
return (new SomeClass()).G;
}
WriteLine(Gf2()("some string")); //call
```

• Delegates can take place into data structures:

• C# delegates may be anonymous:

```
delegate(string s) { return s + "some string"; };
```

 Anonymous delegates can look even more like lambda expressions:

```
(s => { return s + "some string"});
s => s + "some string";
```

• No strict closures in C# (intrinsically "impure FP"):

```
StringFun f1, f2;
int counter = 1000;
f1 = s => s + counter.ToString();
f2 = s => s + counter.ToString();
```

● ⇒ Usual enclosing technique in impure FP:

```
StringFun F() {
    int _counter = 1000;
    return s => { return s + _counter.ToString(); };
}
```

An Interrelation FP/OOP: the Extension Methods

 Extension methods: enable a programmer to add methods to existing classes without creating new derived classes:

```
static int SimpleWordCount (this String str) {
  return str.Split(new char[] { ' ' }).Length;
}
String s1 = "aaa bb cccc";
String s1 = "some chain";
s1.SimpleWordCount(); // usable as a String method
SimpleWordCount(s1); // also usable as a standalone method
```

An Interrelation FP/OOP: the Extension Methods

Another classic example of extension method:

```
static IEnumerable<T> MySort<T>(this IEnumerable<T> obj)
where T : IComparable<T> {
  [...]
}
List<int> someList = [...];
someList.MySort();
```

An Interrelation FP/OOP: the Extension Methods

- Functions/methods implemented for delegates are often defined as extension methods.
- Extension methods: related to "open-classes" (see e.g., CLOS, Ruby, Multijava).
- Extension methods have harsh constraints in C#:
 - Only static !
 - Not polymorphic (not virtual) !
- For Java 7, closure conversions are proposed.
- In Groovy, explicit closure conversions exist.

 Basic Delegates Predefinitions. C# offers functional and procedural generic delegate predefined types for arity up to 4... (respectively under the name Func and Action):

```
delegate TResult Func<TResult>();
delegate TResult Func<T,TResult>(T a1);
delegate TResult Func<T1,T2,TResult>(T1 a1, T2 a2);
delegate void Action<T>(T a1);
[...]
```

NB: overloading applies for generic delegates too.

FP Integration in C#

- First-Class Multiple Invocation and Multicasting. A delegate may itself contain an "invocation list" of delegates.
- When such delegate is called, methods of the included delegate are invoked in the order in which they appear in the list.
- The result value is determined by the last method called in the list.
- Management of multicasting: + and are overloaded to act on these invocation lists:

```
menuItem1.Click += [...]; // some delegate
```

• Function Marshalling and Serialization. C# allows lambda expressions to be represented as data structures called *expression trees*:

```
Expression < Func < int, int >> expression = x => x + 1;
```

```
var d = expression.Compile();
d.Invoke(2);
```

• As such, they may be stored and transmitted.

General FP Techniques in OOP

 Some idiomatic and technical effects of having FP capabilities in OOP:



- Code factoring at a function/method granularity level,
- 2 Generic iterator and loop operations



Operation compositions (and sequence comprehensions).



Function partial applications and currying.

Code Abstraction at a Function/Method Level

A simple code:

```
float M(int y) {
    int x1 = [...]; int x2 = [...];
    [...]
    [...code...]; //some code using x1, x2, y
    [...]
}
```

• With functional abstraction:

```
public delegate int Fun(int x, int y, int z);
float MFun(Fun f, int x2, int y) {
    int x1 = [...];
    [...]
    f(x1, x2, y);
    [...]
}
int z1 = MFun(F1, 1, 2);
int z2 = MFun(F2, 3, 4);
```

• \Rightarrow No local duplications + separation of concerns.

Generic Iterator and Loop Operations

- A simple and effective application of the functional abstraction: generic higher-order iterated operations over data.
- For instance, the internal iterators (Maps):

```
IEnumerable<T2>
Map<T1, T2>(this IEnumerable<T1> data, Func<T1, T2> f) {
   foreach (T1 x in data)
        yield return f(x);
}
someList.Map(i => i * i );
```

Operation Compositions

• $FP \Rightarrow$ Easy operation compositions.

An initial method code:

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• A first factoring using higher-order functions:

• A second factoring using extension methods:

• \Rightarrow Increased readability.

Operation Compositions

 In C#, such operation compositions are often used with the "Language Integrated Query" (LINQ) – defined to unify programming with relational data or XML, e.g. (Meijer):

```
var q = programmers
.Where(p => p.Age > 20)
.OrderByDescending(p => p.Age)
.GroupBy(p => p.Language, p.Name)
.Select(g => new{ Language = g.Key,
    Size = g.Count(), Names = g});
```

 ⇒ Solve some of the "impedance mismatch" between OOP and data base exploitation.

Function Partial Applications and Currying

 With first-class functions, every *n*-ary function can be transformed into a composition of *n* unary functions, that is, into a curried function:

Func<int, int, int> lam1 = $(x, y) \Rightarrow x + y;$

Func<int, Func<int, int>> $lam2 = x \Rightarrow (y \Rightarrow x + y);$

Func<int, int> lam3 = lam2(3); //partial application

• Curryfying:

```
public static Func<T1, Func<T2, TRes>>
Curry<T1, T2, TRes> (this Func<T1, T2, TRes> f) {
    return (x => (y => f(x, y)));
}
Func<int, int> lam4 = lam1.Curry()(3); //partial application
```

Architectural FP Techniques in OOP

• Some architectural effects of having FP capabilities in OOP:



- Reduction of the number of object/class definitions.
- 2 Name abstraction at a function/method level.



Operation compositions (and sequence comprehensions).



Function partial applications and currying.

Limitation of the Number of Object/Class Definitions

 Functional abstraction ⇒ Avoid cluttering the OO architecture with new classes:

```
interface IFun{ int F(int x, int y, int z);}
class F1 : IFun {
    public int F(int x, int y, int z) { [...] } }
class F2 : IFun {
    public int F(int x, int y, int z) { [...] } }
float M(IFun funobj, int x2, int y) {
    int x1 = [...val1...]
    [...]
    funobj.F(x1, x2, y);
    [...]
int z_1 = M(\text{new } F_1(), 1, 2);
int z_2 = M(\text{new } F_2(), 3, 4);
```
Using first-class methods allows parameters to be instantiated by any method satisfying their declared types.

interface IStringFun{ string F1(string s); }

```
IStringFun obj1 = [...];
[...] obj1.F1 [...]
```

- \Rightarrow Name abstraction.
- ⇒ Induce some "structuralness" into nominal-oriented OOP, i.e. flexibility.

- Example of name abstraction with a Bridge:
 - The initial code:

```
public class Window {
    private WindowSys _imp;
    void DrawFigure ([...]) {
        _imp.DeviceFigure ([...]);
}
```

With delegates:

```
public delegate void DeviceFigureFun([...]);
public class Window {
    private DeviceFigureFun _devfig;
    void DrawFigure ([...]) {
       _devfig([...]);
    }
```

• Without delegates: **must use Adapters** (see e.g. ActionListener in Java).

- Another example of name abstraction with an Abstract Factory:
 - The initial code:

```
public interface Maze {[...]};
public interface Wall {[...]};
public interface Room {[...]};
public interface MazeFactory {
   Maze MakeMaze();
   Wall MakeWall();
   Room MakeRoom();
}
```

• With delegates:

public delegate Maze MakeMazeFun(); public delegate Wall MakeWallFun(); public delegate Room MakeRoomFun();

public abstract class MazeFactoryFun {
 MakeMazeFun MakeMaze;
 MakeWallFun MakeWall;

MakeRoomFun MakeRoom;

- Name abstraction ⇒ More flexibility.
- But also ⇒ More looseness and problems of architecture organization.

FP Design Granularity Mismatch

- Where do we put the sources of the standalone methods?:
 - Solution with Basic Modules: functions as static methods in some utility class or module.
 - \Rightarrow Not easily extensible, and does not mix so well with class hierarchy.
 - Solution with anonymous constructs: function implementations of function directly into the calls:

 \Rightarrow Spread the code all over the calls, and may lead to no reusability.

Some classic OOP Design Patterns with FP

- Some of the classic OOP Design Patterns can be considered under FP influence...:
 - Strategy, Command.
 - Observer.





Strategy

• A Strategy pattern is to let an algorithm vary independently of clients that use it.



(The pattern figures are taken from the GoF book.)

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- A Strategy: just a case of abstracting code at a method level (⇒ No need of OO encapsulation and new class hierarchies).
- For instance in the .NET Framework:

public delegate int Comparison<T>(T x, T y)
public void Sort(Comparison<T> comparison)

public delegate bool Predicate<T>(T obj)
public List<T> FindAll(Predicate<T> match)

Strategy with FP



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Command

- The Command pattern encapsulates requests (method calls) as objects so that they can easily be transmitted, stored, and applied.
- \Rightarrow Same as Strategy.
- For instance, menu implementations:

```
public delegate void EventHandler(Object sender, EventArgs e)
public event EventHandler Click

private void menuItem1_Click(object sender, System.EventArgs e) {
    OpenFileDialog fd = new OpenFileDialog();
    fd.DefaultExt = "*.*"; fd.ShowDialog();
}
public void CreateMyMenu() {
    MainMenu mainMenu1 = new MainMenu();
    MenuItem menuItem1 = new MenuItem();
    [...]
    menuItem1.Click += new System.EventHandler(menuItem1_Click);
}
```

Command with FP



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• The **Observer** pattern: a one-to-many dependency between objects so that when one object changes state, all its dependents are notified and updated.



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```
public interface Observer<S> {
    void Update(S s);
public abstract class Subject<S> {
  private List<Observer<S>> _observ = new List<Observer<S>>();
  public void Attach(Observer<S> obs) {
          _observ.Add(obs);
 public void Notify(S s) {
          foreach (Observer<S> obs in _observ) {
                  obs.Update(s);
```

Observer with FP

FP ⇒ Observer with functional values as updaters:

```
public delegate void UpdateFun<S>(S s);
public abstract class Subject<S> {
    private UpdateFun<S> _updateHandler;
public void Attach(UpdateFun f) {
    _updateHandler += f;
}
public void Notify(S s) {
    _updateHandler(s);
}
}
```

⇒ No need of observer classes with methods called Update().

Observer with FP



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Virtual Proxy

 The Virtual Proxy pattern: placeholders for other objects such that their data are created/computed only when needed.



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```
public class SimpleProxy : I {
    private Simple _simple;
    private int _arg;
    protected Simple GetSimple() {
        if (_simple == null)
            this._simple = new Simple(this._arg);
        return _simple;
    }
    public SimpleProxy(int i) { this._arg = i; }
    public void Process() {
        GetSimple().Process();
    }
}
```

Virtual Proxy with FP Lazyness

● FP ⇒ Less need of specific Proxy classes:

```
public class SimpleLazyProxy : I {
    private Lazy<Simple> _simpleLazy;
    public SimpleLazyProxy(int i) {
        this._simpleLazy =
            new Lazy<Simple>(() => new Simple(i));
    }
    public void Process() {
        this._simpleLazy.Value.Process();
    }
}
```

- The Visitor pattern: lets you define new operations without changing the classes of the elements on which they operate
- Without Visitors, each subclass of a hierarchy has to be edited or derived separately.
- NB: Visitors are at the crux of many of the programming design problems...

Visitor



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Classic Visitor

```
public interface IFigure {
   String GetName();
   void Accept<T>(IFigureVisitor<T> v);
}
public class SimpleFigure : IFigure {
    private String _name;
    public SimpleFigure(String name) { this._name = name; }
    public String GetName() { return this._name; }
    public void Accept<T>(IFigureVisitor<T> v) {
        v.Visit(this);
public class CompositeFigure : IFigure {
    private String _name;
    private IFigure[] _figureArray;
    public CompositeFigure(String name, IFigure[] s) {
        this._name = name; this._figureArray = s;
    public String GetName() { return this._name; }
    public void Accept<T>(IFigureVisitor<T> v) {
        foreach (IFigure f in _figureArray)
            f.Accept(v);
        v. Visit(this);
```

```
public interface IFigureVisitor<T> {
   T GetVisitorState();
   void Visit(SimpleFigure f);
   void Visit(CompositeFigure f);
}
public class NameFigureVisitor : IFigureVisitor < string > {
    private string _fullName = "";
    public string GetVisitorState() { return _fullName; }
    public void Visit(SimpleFigure f) {
       _fullName += f.GetName() + " ";
    public void Visit(CompositeFigure f) {
       _fullName += f.GetName() + "/";
```

Weaknesses of Visitors

- Some well-known weaknesses of Visitors:
 - Refactoring Resistance. A Visitor definition is dependent on the set of client classes on which it operates.
 - **Staticness**. A Visitor is static in its implementation (type-safety but less flexibility).
 - Invasiveness. A Visitor needs that the client classes anticipate and/or participate in making the selection of the right method.
 - Naming Inflexibility. A Visitor needs that all the different implementations of the visit methods be similarly named.

Visitor and Extension Methods

 An attempt to solve Visitor problems with extension methods (cf. "open classes" – but not ok in C#):

```
public interface IFigure {
     String GetName(); // no Accept method required
 }
[...]
public static class NameFigureVisitor {
    public static void NameVisit(this SimpleEFigure f)
        { _state = f.GetName() + " " + _state; }
    static void NameVisit(this CompositeFigure f) {
       _fullName = f.GetName() + ":" + _fullName;
       foreach (IFigure g in f.GetFigureArray())
           g.NameVisit(); // !!! dynamic dispatch required ...
     .
[...]
```

• FP \Rightarrow Visitors can be functions:

```
public delegate T VisitorFun\langle V, T \rangle \langle V f \rangle;
 public interface IFigureF {
      String GetName();
      T Accept<T>(VisitorFun<lFigureF, T> v);
 public class SimpleFigureF : IFigureF {
      private String _name;
      public SimpleFigureF(String name) { this._name = name; }
      public String GetName() { return this._name; }
      public T Accept<T>(VisitorFun<IFigureF, T> v) {
          return v(this);
[...]
```

```
public class CompositeFigureF : IFigureF {
    private String _name;
    private IFigureF[] _figureArray;
    public CompositeFigureF(String name, IFigureF[] s) {
        this._name = name; this._figureArray = s;
    }
    public String GetName() { return this._name; }
    public T Accept<T>(VisitorFun <IFigureF, T> v) {
        foreach (IFigureF f in _figureArray) {
            f.Accept(v);
        }
        return v(this);
    }
}
```

Visitor with FP

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Functional Visitors

• A simple functional Visitor:

```
public static VisitorFun<IFigureF, String>
MakeNameFigureVisitorFun() {
    string _state = "";
    return obj => {
        if (obj is SimpleFigureF)
            _state += f.GetName() + " "; else
        if (obj is CompositeFigureF)
            _state += f.GetName() + "/";
        return _state;
    };
}
```

● But ⇒ Ad-hoc explicit selection needed...

Visitor with Functional Data-Driven Programming

- A Visitor with functional data-driven programming made of:
 - Dictionaries of pairs in the form (type, method).
 - Generic "accept" able to exploit these dictionnaries and call the right method corresponding to a given type.
- \Rightarrow Explicit generic selection mechanism.

Visitor with Functional Data-Driven Programming

• Use of data-driven oriented Visitor:

Visitor with Functional Data-Driven Programming

- FP ⇒ Data-driven Functional Visitors.
- ⇒ Less refactoring resistance, less name rigidity, and less staticness.
- But \Rightarrow
 - Possible type incoherences...
 - Syntax intricacies...

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 - Method encapsulation in objects (rich but heavy).
 - Method management by introspection/reflection and plug-in capabilities (flexible but type unsafe and technically cumbersome).
- → A possible answer is to include a typed first-class method granularity level.

Summing Up

• OOP with FP granularity level \Rightarrow

- Code Abstraction at a function/method level.
- Convenient generic iterator/loop implementations.
- Operation compositions, sequence/query comprehensions.
- Function partial applications.
- Limitations of the number of object/class definitions.
- Name abstractions at a function/method level.
- And :
 - Lazyness emulations (used e.g. in Virtual Proxies).
 - Data-driven or table-driven programming (used e.g. in Visitors).
Summing up

• **FP + OOP** \Rightarrow

- Architecture simplifications.
- Increased flexibility.

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Summing up

- **FP + OOP** \Rightarrow
 - Architecture simplifications.
 - Increased flexibility.
- But ⇒ Design granularity mismatch (functions at a finer design level than classes/objects/modules) ⇒
 - Architecture inhomogeneity.
 - Lack of type coherence.
 - no easy reusability.

Summing up

- **FP** + **OOP** \Rightarrow
 - Architecture simplifications.
 - Increased flexibility.
- But ⇒ Design granularity mismatch (functions at a finer design level than classes/objects/modules) ⇒
 - Architecture inhomogeneity.
 - Lack of type coherence.
 - no easy reusability.
- Some partial solutions of granularity mismatch:
 - Specific modular organizations.
 - Anonymous constructs.
 - Interrelation means like "extension methods".

• The Claim:

Adding functional programming capabilities to an object-oriented language leads to benefits in object-oriented programming design.

A Claim about Programming Styles

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• OK, but without being a silver bullet...

• The Claim:

Adding functional programming capabilities to an object-oriented language leads to benefits in object-oriented programming design.

- OK, but without being a silver bullet...
- Remark: anyway, FP is expected in Java, C++, Sprutch...