Introducing abc

- why we are building it -



A workbench for AOP research

- Extensions:
 - Parametric introductions
 - Symmetric class composition (Hyper/J, GenVoca)
 - Trace cuts
 - Dataflow pointcuts
- New static checks:
 - Pure aspects
 - Optimisations:
 - Eliminate runtime overheads for cflow
 - Avoid closures in around

require extensible frontend

require analysis framework

Requirements

Syntactic changes should be easy

 \Rightarrow

Generate parser from grammar

jflex + javacup: parser generator

Frontend framework designed for extensibility:

- Changes to environment type
- Augment existing type objects
- Same override on many existing AST classes
- Override in middle of AST inheritance hierarchy

Polyglot: extensible Java compiler

Backend framework:

- Clean intermediate representation
- Rich set of existing analyses
- Easy to plug in new transformations

Soot:

manipulate classfiles, 3-addr IR for analysis and transformation



abc team

- Chris Allan Oxford (tracecuts)
- Pavel Avgustinov Oxford (test harness, privileged, lexer)
- Aske Simon Christensen Århus (architecture, decl parents, pattern matcher)
- Laurie Hendren McGill (grammar and scanner, initial weaver)
- Sascha Kuzins Oxford (around weaver)
- Jennifer Lhoták McGill (JavaToJimple, initial weaver)



- Ondrej Lhoták McGill (initial weaver, soot class and method handling)
- Oege de Moor Oxford (frontend, intertype weaver)
- Damien Sereni Oxford (cflow optimisations)
- Ganesh Sittampalam Oxford (pointcut matching, advice weaver, optimisations, class and method handling)
- Julian Tibble Oxford (EAJ language extensions)



Suggested schedule

Morning:

introductory talks about abc (why, what and how)

Afternoon: discuss

- difficult points in language design
- plans for future of AspectJ
- opportunities for ajc/abc collaboration



Plan for the morning

- Architecture (Aske Simon Christensen)
- Scanner and Parser (Laurie Hendren)
- Polyglot and frontend (Oege de Moor)
- Introduction to Soot (Ondrej Lhoták)
- Advice weaver (Ganesh Sittampalam)
- Around weaver (Sascha Kuzins)
- Language extensions (Julian Tibble)
- Current status and plans (Oege de Moor)

