

Compiler Construction 2010/2011

Functional Programming Languages

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Functional Programming Languages

- Based on the mathematical notion of function
- Equational reasoning: $f(a) = f(a)$
- Pure/impure functional programming languages
- Characteristic feature:
higher-order functions with nested lexical scope
see also: delegates, anonymous classes, ...

Outline

- 1 FunJava
- 2 Closures
- 3 PureFunJava
- 4 Inline Expansion
- 5 Closure Conversion
- 6 Tail Recursion
- 7 Lazy Evaluation
- 8 Java JSR 335

Three Flavors of FP

FunJava

- MiniJava with higher-order functions
- Side effects permitted, cf. Scheme, ML, Smalltalk
- Impure, HO functional language

PureFunJava

- FunJava w/o side effects
- Pure, HO functional language

LazyFunJava

- PureFunJava with lazy evaluation
- Nonstrict, pure functional, cf. Haskell

MiniJava + function types

```
ClassDecl = type id = TypeExp;  
TypeExp  = TypeExp -> TypeExp  
          = (TypeList) -> TypeExp  
          = (TypeExp)  
          = Type  
TypeList = TypeExp TypeRest*  
          =  
TypeRest = , TypeExp
```

MiniJava + function calls

$$Exp = Exp(ExpList)$$
$$Exp = Exp.id$$

- If v is an object with method `int m (int[])`, then `v.m` evaluates to a function of type `(int[]) -> int`.
- Evaluating `v.m` does not invoke the method.

Expressions and Statements

MethodDecl = `public Type id(FormalList) Compound`
Compound = `{ VarDecl* MethodDecl* Statement*
 return Exp; }`
Exp = *Compound*
 = `if (Exp) Exp else Exp`

- Variables and functions/methods can be declared at the beginning of each block. (Nested functions)
- `return` produces the result for the next enclosing block.
`{ return 3; } + { return 4; }` yields 7.
- The `if` statement is replaced by an `if` expression.

FunJava Example Program

```
type intf = int -> int
class C {
  public intf add (n: int) {
    public int h (int m) { return m+n; }
    return h;
  }
  public intf twice (f: intf) {
    public int g (int x) { return f (f (x)); }
    return g;
  }
  public int test () {
    intf addFive = add (5);
    intf addSeven = add (7);
    int twenty = addFive (15);
    int twentyTwo = addSeven (15);
    intf addTen = twice (addFive);
    int seventeen = twice (add (5)) (7);
    intf addTwentyFour = twice (twice (add (6)));
    return addTwentyFour (seventeen);
  }
}
```


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Closures

Representation of Function Values

- Without nested functions (C): function pointers
Function value = address of function's code

- In the IR:

```
MOVE (TEMP (t_ff), NAME (L_function))  
CALL (TEMP (t_ff), ... parameters ...)
```

- Not sufficient for nested functions like `h` and `g`:
 - where does `n` come from?
 - where does `f` come from?
- Solution: represent function value by a closure
- Closure = a data structure that contains the code address and the values of free variables (environment)
- Similar to object with one method and several instance variables

Activation Records

- Function (`add`) may return a locally defined function (`h`)
- ⇒ This function `h` may refer to parameters and local variables of the enclosing function `add` (in particular, `n`)
- ⇒ Parameters and local variables cannot be allocated on the stack, but must be put in an activation record on the heap.
- Activation record holds a static link to the last activation record of the next enclosing function.

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Immutable Variables

- Equational reasoning not sound for FunJava
- ⇒ PureFunJava prohibits side effects
- No assignments to variables (exception: variable initialization)
 - No assignments to fields of records (exception: initialization in the constructor)
 - No calls to side-effecting external functions like `println`
 - Programs in functional style produce new objects (partial copies) instead of changing existing ones.

Special Constructor Syntax

Syntax Changes for PureFunJava

ClassDecl = class *id*
 { *VarDecl** *MethodDecl** *Constructor* }

Constructor = public *id* (*FormalList*) { *Init** }

Init = this.*id* = *id*

Continuation-Based I/O

- How to do I/O if side effects are disallowed?
- Answer: Enforce proper sequencing by using function calls
- I/O visible to type checker: `answer` type

Interface for functional I/O

```
type answer // special built-in type
type intConsumer = int -> answer
type cont = () -> answer

interface ContIO {
  public answer readByte (intConsumer c);
  public answer putByte (int i, cont c);
  public answer exit ();
}
```

Language Changes

- Remove `System.out.println`
- Add functional I/O types and operations
- Remove assignment and while loops
- Each block is limited to one statement following the declarations

PureFunJava, Example Program

```
public answer getInt (intConsumer done) {
    public answer nextDigit (int accum) {
        public answer eatChar (int dgt) {
            return if (isDigit (dgt))
                nextDigit (accum*10+dgt-48)
                else done (accum);
        }
        return ContIO.readByte (eatChar);
    }
    return nextDigit (0);
}
```

Optimization of PureFunJava

- PureFunJava is a proper subset of FunJava
- All existing optimizations apply
- Computing the control flow graph is more demanding
- Additionally, optimization can exploit equational reasoning

Exploiting Equational Reasoning

Example Program

```
class G {  
    int a; int b;  
    public G (int a, int b) {  
        this.a = a;  
        this.b = b;  
    }  
}
```

```
int a1 = 5;  
int b1 = 7;  
G r = new G (a1, b1);
```

```
int x = f (r); // no change of r possible
```

```
int y = r.a + r.b; // must be equivalent to  
int y = a1 + b1;
```

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Inline Expansion

- Replace a function call by its definition
- Substitute actual parameter expressions for formal parameters
- Essential optimization for FP
 - many short functions
 - specializes higher-order functions
- Further optimization possible after inline expansion (inlining)

Avoiding Variable Capture

Program with hole in scope

```
int x = 5
int g (int y) {
    return y+x;
}
int f (int x) {
    return g (1)+ x;
}
void main () { ... f(2)+x ... }
```

Avoiding Variable Capture

Program with hole in scope

```
int x = 5
int g (int y) {
    return y+x;
}
int f (int x) {
    return g (1)+ x;
}
void main () { ... f(2)+x ... }
```

Naive inlining of g into f

```
int f (int x) {
    return { return 1+x; } + x;
}
```

Avoiding Variable Capture

α -Conversion — Renaming of Bound Variables

First rename local variable

```
int g (int y) {  
    return y+x;  
}  
int f (int a) {      // renamed x -> a  
    return g (1)+ a;  
}
```


Avoiding Variable Capture

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int g (int y) {  
    return y+x;  
}  
int f (int a) {      // renamed x -> a  
    return g (1)+ a;  
}
```

Then substitute g into f

```
int f (int a) {  
    return { return 1+x; } + a;  
}
```

Avoiding Variable Capture

α -Conversion — Renaming of Bound Variables

First rename local variable

```
int g (int y) {  
    return y+x;  
}  
int f (int a) {      // renamed x -> a  
    return g (1)+ a;  
}
```

Then substitute g into f

```
int f (int a) {  
    return { return 1+x; } + a;  
}
```

Alternative

Rename all local variables so that each variable is bound at most once in the program.

Inline Expansion Algorithm

If actual parameters are variables . . .

Let $f(a_1, \dots, a_n)B$ be in scope

Let $f(i_1, \dots, i_n)$ be a call with i_j variables

Replace the call with

$B[a_1 \mapsto i_1, \dots, a_n \mapsto i_n]$

Inline Expansion Algorithm

If actual parameters are variables ...

Let $f(a_1, \dots, a_n)B$ be in scope

Let $f(i_1, \dots, i_n)$ be a call with i_j variables

Replace the call with

$B[a_1 \mapsto i_1, \dots, a_n \mapsto i_n]$

If actual parameters are expressions ...

Let $f(a_1, \dots, a_n)B$ be in scope

Let $f(e_1, \dots, e_n)$ be a call with e_j non-trivial expressions

Rewrite the call to

$\{\text{int } i_1 = e_1; \dots \text{int } i_n = e_n; \text{return } B[a_1 \mapsto i_1, \dots, a_n \mapsto i_n]\}$
where i_j are fresh variables

Comments on Inline Expansion Algorithm

- Let `int double (j) { return j+j; }`
- Consider expanding the call `double (g (x))` ignoring that the actual argument is a non-trivial expression
- Result: `g (x) + g (x)`
 - Computation is repeated (expensive)
 - If impure, then side effect of `g (x)` is repeated and each call may yield a different result
- Correct inlining avoids these problems:
`{ i = g (x); return i+i; }`

Comments on Inline Expansion Algorithm

- `Let int double (j) { return j+j; }`
- Consider expanding the call `double (g (x))` ignoring that the actual argument is a non-trivial expression
- Result: `g (x) + g (x)`
 - Computation is repeated (expensive)
 - If impure, then side effect of `g (x)` is repeated and each call may yield a different result
- Correct inlining avoids these problems:
`{ i = g (x); return i+i; }`
- Remarks
 - An implementation would handle each argument separately
 - Dead function elimination possible after inlining

Inlining Recursive Functions

Some Example Code

```
class list {int head; int tail;} // constructor omitted
type observeInt = (int, cont) -> answer

public answer doList (observeInt f, list l, cont c) {
  return
    if (l===null)
      c ();
    else {
      public answer doRest () {
        return doList (f, l.tail, c);
      }
      return f (l.head, doRest);
    };
}

public answer printTable (list l, cont c) {
  return doList (printDouble, l, c);
}
```

Inlining Recursive Functions

Inlining `doList` **into** `printTable` **does not yield the desired result:**

```
public answer printTableDL (list l, cont c) {
  return
    if (l===null)
      c ();
    else {
      public answer doRest () {
        return doList (printDouble, l.tail, c);
      }
      return printDouble (l.head, doRest);
    };
}
```


Inlining Recursive Functions

Inlining `doList` **into** `printTable` **does not yield the desired result:**

```
public answer printTableDL (list l, cont c) {
  return
    if (l===null)
      c ();
    else {
      public answer doRest () {
        return doList (printDouble, l.tail, c);
      }
      return printDouble (l.head, doRest);
    };
}
```

- Only the first element is processed directly with `printDouble`, the remaining are still processed with the generic `doList`

Inlining Recursive Functions

Loop-Preheader Transformation

Given recursive function $\text{int } f(a_1, \dots, a_n)B$

Transform to

```
int  f(a'_1, \dots, a'_n){  
    int f'(a_1, \dots, a_n)B[f \mapsto f']  
    return f'(a'_1, \dots, a'_n);  
}
```

Inlining Recursive Functions

Loop-Preheader Transformation

Given recursive function $\text{int } f(a_1, \dots, a_n)B$
Transform to

```
int  f(a'_1, \dots, a'_n){  
    int f'(a_1, \dots, a_n)B[f \mapsto f']  
    return f'(a'_1, \dots, a'_n);  
}
```

- Inlining now copies the specialized local function f' into the target

Inlining Recursive Functions

Loop-Preheader Transformation Applied

```
public answer doList (observeInt fX, list lX, cont cX) {  
    public answer doListX (observeInt f, list l, cont c) {  
        return  
            if (l===null)  
                c ();  
            else {  
                public answer doRest () {  
                    return doListX (f, l.tail, c);  
                }  
                return f (l.head, doRest);  
            };  
    }  
    return doListX (fX, lX, cX);  
}
```

Inlining Recursive Functions

Loop-Preheader Transformation Applied

```
public answer doList (observeInt fX, list lX, cont cX) {
  public answer doListX (observeInt f, list l, cont c) {
    return
      if (l===null)
        c ();
      else {
        public answer doRest () {
          return doListX (f, l.tail, c);
        }
        return f (l.head, doRest);
      };
  }
  return doListX (fX, lX, cX);
}
```

- Observation: arguments f and c are loop invariant
- Replace by outer parameters

Inlining Recursive Functions

Hoisting Loop-Invariant Arguments

```
public answer doList (observeInt f, list lX, cont c) {
  public answer doListX (list l) {
    return
      if (l===null)
        c ();
      else {
        public answer doRest () {
          return doListX (l.tail);
        }
        return f (l.head, doRest);
      };
  }
  return doListX (lX);
}
```

Inlining Recursive Functions

Inlining of `doList` into `printTable` continued

```
public answer printTable (list lX, cont c) {  
  public answer doListX (list l) {  
    return  
      if (l===null)  
        c ();  
      else {  
        public answer doRest () {  
          return doListX (l.tail);  
        }  
        return printDouble (l.head, doRest);  
      };  
  }  
  return doListX (lX);  
}
```

- `printDouble` is called directly and can be inlined!

Inlining Recursive Functions

Cascaded Inlining

```
public answer printTable (list lX, cont c) {
  public answer doListX (list l) {
    return
      if (l===null)
        c ();
      else {
        public answer doRest () {
          return doListX (l.tail);
        }
        return {
          int i = l.head;
          public answer again() {return putInt (i+i, doRest);
          return putInt (i, again);
        };
      };
    }
  return doListX (lX);
}
```


Avoiding Code Explosion

- Inline expansion copies function bodies
- ⇒ The program text becomes bigger
- ⇒ Expansion may not terminate
- Controlling inlining
 - 1 Expand very frequently executed call sites
determine frequency by static estimation or execution profiling
 - 2 Expand functions with very small bodies
 - 3 Expand functions called only once
rely on dead function elimination

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Closure Conversion

- Closure = code address + environment
- One representation of closures: objects
- Closure conversion transforms the program so that no function appears to access free variables
- Approach: represent a function value of type $t1 \rightarrow t2$ by an object implementing the interface

```
interface I_t1_t2 {  
    public t2 exec (t1 x);  
}
```

There is a different implementation class for each function, as the free variables differ

Closure Conversion

Example

```
class doRest implements I_list_answer {
    doListX dlx; list l;
    public answer exec () { return dlx.exec (l.tail); }
}
class again implements I_void_answer {
    doListX dlx; list l; int i;
    public answer exec () {return putInt (i+i, new doRest (dlx, l));}
}
class doListX implements I_list_answer {
    cont c;
    public answer exec (list l) {
        return
            if (l===null) c.exec ();
            else {
                return { int i = l.head;
                    return putInt (i, new again (this, l, i)); };
            }
}
class printTable implements I_list_cont_answer {
    public exec (list lX, cont c) {
        return new doListX (c).exec (lX);
    }
}
```

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Tail Recursion

- Functional programs have no loops
- Efficient (iterative) recursion through tail recursion
- A function is tail recursive if each recursive function call is a tail call
- Tail calls defined by contexts:

$$\begin{aligned} B &= \{t_1 x_1 = e_1; \dots t_n x_n = e_n; \text{return } B'\} \\ B' &= \square \mid B \mid \text{if}(e) B' \text{ else } B' \end{aligned}$$

- A call to g is a tail call if it occurs in a function definition as follows

$$t f(a_1, \dots, a_n) B[g(e_1, \dots, e_m)]$$

Implementation of Tail Calls

Example

```
int g (int y) { int x = h(y); return f(x); }
```

- `h(y)` is not a tail call
- `f(x)` is a tail call
- Tail calls can be implemented more efficiently by a jump instead of a call
- Calling sequence for tail call:
 - 1 Move actual parameters into argument registers
 - 2 Restore callee-save registers
 - 3 Pop stack frame of the calling function (if it has one)
 - 4 Jump to the callee

Effects of Tail Calls

- In `printTable`, all calls are tail calls
- ⇒ Can all be implemented with jumps
- The generated code is very similar to the code generated for the equivalent imperative program (with a while loop)
- Difference: activation block on the heap vs. on the stack
- Amendment
 - By compile-time escape analysis: objects that do not escape can be stack-allocated
 - By extremely cheap heap allocation and garbage collection

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Lazy Evaluation

- β -reduction: important law in equational reasoning
- Reminder β -reduction: if $f(x) = B$, then $f(e) = B[x \mapsto e]$
- PureFunJava violates this law

Unsound β -Reduction in PureFunJava

```
{
  int loop (int z) {
    return
      if (z>0) 42
      else loop (z));
  }
  int f (int x) {
    return if (y>8) x
           else -y;
  }
  return f (loop (y));
}
```

```
{
  int loop (int z) {
    return
      if (z>0) 42
      else loop (z));
  }
  int f (int x) {
    return if (y>8) x
           else -y;
  }
  return if (y>8) loop (y)
         else -y;
}
```

- For $y = 0$, left loops, but right terminates

Remedy: LazyJava With Call-By-Name Evaluation

- LazyJava
 - same syntax as PureFunJava
 - but with lazy evaluation:
expressions are only evaluated if and when their value is demanded by execution of the program
- First step: call-by-name evaluation
 - Transform each expression to a thunk
 - Thunk: parameterless procedure that yields the value of the expression when invoked
 - Advantage: evaluation only when needed
 - Disadvantage: evaluation can be repeated arbitrarily often

Introducing Thunks

Original Program (lookup in binary tree)

```
class tree {
    String key;
    int binding;
    tree left;
    tree right;
}
public int look (tree t, String k) {
    int c = t.key.compareTo(k);
    if (c < 0) return look (t.left, k);
    else if (c > 0) return look (t.right, k);
    else return t.binding;
}
```

Introducing Thunks

Transformed Program (lookup in binary tree)

```
type th_int = () -> int;
type th_tree = () -> tree;
type th_string = () -> String;

class tree {
  th_String key;
  th_int binding;
  th_tree left;
  th_tree right;
}

public th_int look (th_tree t, th_String k) {
  th_int c = t ().key ().compareTo(k);
  if (c () < 0) return look (t ().left, k);
  else if (c () > 0) return look (t ().right, k);
  else return t ().binding;
}
```

Call-By-Need Evaluation

- Second step: call-by-need evaluation
- Call-by-name evaluation with caching of result
- First invocation of thunk stores result in memo slot of the thunk's closure
- Further invocations return the value from the memo slot
- (exploits / requires purity)

Call-By-Need Transformation

Example

Recall

```
int y;  
f (loop (y))
```

is transformed to

```
th_int y;  
f.exec (new intThunk () {  
    public int eval () {  
        return loop.exec (y);  
    };  
}))
```

With supportive definitions (requiring assignment)

```
abstract class intThunk {  
    int memo; boolean done = false;  
    abstract public int eval();  
    public int exec () {  
        if (!done) {  
            memo = this.eval();  
            done = true;  
        }  
        return memo;  
    }  
}
```


Example Evaluation of a Lazy Program

```
{
  int fact (int i) {
    return if (i==0) 1 else i * fact (i-1);
  }
  tree t0 = new tree ("",0,null,null);
  tree t1 = t0.enter ("-one", fact (-1));
  tree t2 = t1.enter ("three", fact (3));
  return putInt (t2.look ("three", exit));
}
```

- Fortunately, `fact (-1)` is never evaluated!

- All the standard optimizations apply
- Additional optimization opportunities due to equational reasoning
 - Invariant hoisting
 - Dead-code removal
 - Deforestation

Invariant Hoisting

```
type intfun = int -> int
```

```
intfun f (int i) {  
  public int g (int j) {  
    return h (i) * j;  
  }  
  return g;  
}
```

```
type intfun = int -> int
```

```
intfun f (int i) {  
  int hi = h (i);  
  public int g (int j) {  
    return hi * j;  
  }  
  return g;  
}
```

- In lazy functional language, left can be transformed into right
- Incorrect in strict language: $h(i)$ may not terminate or yield different results on each call

Dead-Code Removal

```
int f (int i) {  
    int d = g (x);  
    return i+2;  
}
```

- `d` is dead after its definition
- The LFL compiler removes this definition
- Incorrect in strict language!

Deforestation

Example Program

Common modularization in FP

```
class intList {int head, intList tail;}
type intfun = int -> int;
type int2fun = (int,int) -> int;

public int sumSq (intfun inc, int2fun mul, int2fun add) {
  public intList range (int i, int j) {
    return if (i>j) then null
           else new intList (i, range (inc (i), j));
  }
  public intList squares (intList l) {
    return if (l==null) null
           else new intList (mul (l.head, l.head), squares (l.tail));
  }
  public int sum (int accum, intList l) {
    return if (l==null) accum
           else sum (add (accum, l.head), l.tail);
  }
  return sum (0, squares (range (1,100)));
}
```

Result of Deforestation

```
public int sumSq (intfun inc, int2fun mul, int2fun add)
  public int f (int accum, int i, int j) {
    return if (i>j) accum
           else f (add (accum, mul (i,i)), inc (i));
  }
  return f (0,1,100);
}
```

- Deforestation removes intermediate data structures
- Rearranges the order of function calls
- Only legal in a pure FL

Strictness Analysis

- A function is strict in an argument, if this argument is always needed to produce the result of the function.
- Put formally:
A function $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ is strict in x_i if whenever the expression a fails to terminate, then the function call $f(b_1, \dots, b_{i-1}, a, b_{i+1}, \dots, b_n)$ fails to terminate.
- If the compiler knows that a function is strict, then it need not allocate a thunk for the argument, but it can evaluate it right away.
- Program analysis can approximate strictness

Examples: Strictness

```
int f (int x, int y) { return x + x + y; }
```

```
int g (int x, int y) { return if (x>0) y else x; }
```

```
tree h (String x, int y) {  
    return new tree (x, y, null, null);  
}
```

```
int j (int x) { return j(0); }
```

- **f** strict in x and y
- **g** strict in x not in y
- **h** not strict
- **j** strict in x

Using Strictness Information

- Lookup in a tree is strict in the tree and in the key
- But the binding information as well as the fields in the tree are not strict

```
th_String look (tree t, key k) {  
    return if (k < t.key.eval())  
        look (t.left.eval (), k)  
    else if (k > t.key.eval())  
        look (t.right.eval (), k)  
    else  
        t.binding;  
}
```

Strictness Analysis

- Exact strictness information is not computable
- Conservative approximation needed
- Domain: $b \in \{0, 1\}$
 - 1 (true) evaluation may terminate
 - 0 (false) evaluation does not terminate (definitely)
- Result is set H containing pairs (f, \vec{b})
- f strict in x_i if $(f, (1, \dots, 1, 0, 1, \dots, 1)) \notin H$

Strictness Analysis

For First-Order Functions

$$\begin{aligned}M(c, \sigma) &= 1 \\M(x, \sigma) &= x \in \sigma \\M(E_1 + E_2, \sigma) &= M(E_1, \sigma) \wedge M(E_2, \sigma) \\M(\text{new}(E_1, \dots), \sigma) &= 1 \\M(\text{if } E_1 \ E_2 \ E_3, \sigma) &= M(E_1, \sigma) \wedge (M(E_2, \sigma) \vee M(E_3, \sigma)) \\M(f(E_1, \dots), \sigma) &= (f, (M(E_1, \sigma), \dots)) \in H\end{aligned}$$

Strictness Analysis

Fixpoint Iteration

```
 $H \leftarrow \{\}$   
repeat  
   $done \leftarrow \text{true}$   
  for each function  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = B$  do  
    for each sequence  $(b_1, \dots, b_n) \in \{0, 1\}^n$  do  
      if  $(f, (b_1, \dots, b_n)) \notin H$  then  
         $\sigma \leftarrow \{x_i \mid b_i = 1\}$   
        if  $M(B, \sigma)$  then  
           $done \leftarrow \text{false}$   
           $H \leftarrow H \cup \{(f, (b_1, \dots, b_n))\}$   
        end if  
      end if  
    end for  
  end for  
until  $done$ 
```

Strictness Analysis

Assessment

- Basic analysis, quite expensive
- Not applicable to full LazyJava
- Does not handle data structures
- Does not handle higher order functions
- Better algorithms exist that handle both
- Used in compilers for, e.g., Haskell

Outline

- 1 FunJava
- 2 Closures
- 3 PureFunJava
- 4 Inline Expansion
- 5 Closure Conversion
- 6 Tail Recursion
- 7 Lazy Evaluation
- 8 Java JSR 335**

JSR 335: Higher-Order Functions for Java

This JSR will extend the Java Programming Language Specification and the Java Virtual Machine Specification to support the following features:

- Lambda Expressions (anonymous functions)
- SAM Conversion
- Method References
- Virtual Extension Methods

Scheduled for Java SE 8

Java already has “closures” in the guise of anonymous inner classes.

Definition

```
1 public interface CallbackHandler {  
2     public void callback(Context c);  
3 }
```

Use

```
1 foo.doSomething(new CallbackHandler() {  
2     public void callback(Context c) {  
3         System.out.println("pippo");  
4     }  
5     });
```


Drawbacks of Anonymous Inner Classes

- 1 Bulky syntax
- 2 Inability to capture non-final local variables
- 3 Transparency issues surrounding the meaning of return, break, continue, and 'this'
- 4 No nonlocal control flow operators

The proposal mainly addresses items 1, 2, and 3.

Adding Lambda Expressions

- Replacing the machinery of anonymous inner classes
- Without introducing function types
- Instead: SAM conversion
- SAM = Single Abstract Method
 - Many common interfaces and abstract classes have this property, such as `Runnable`, `Callable`, `EventHandler`, or `Comparator`.
 - These are SAM types.
 - SAM-ness is a structural property identified by the compiler
- Introduce syntax to simplify the creation of SAM instances

Syntax of Lambda Expressions

- `#{ -> 42 }` or even `#{ 42 }`
no arguments, returns 42
- `#{ int x -> x + 1 }`
an `int` argument, returns `x+1`
- In general,
 - body can be an expression or
 - a statement list like a method body.

SAM Conversion

- A lambda expression is only legal in a context, where a SAM type is expected.
- The compiler infers the argument, return, and exception types.
- It checks them for assignment compatibility with the type of the method of the expected SAM type.
- The name of the method is ignored.
- Example:

```
1 CallbackHandler cb =  
2     #{ Context c -> System.out.println("pippo") };
```

- Illegal:

```
1 Object o = #{ 42 };
```

Method References

- Transforming a method reference to a function
- Example

```
1 class Person {  
2   private final String name;  
3   private final int age;  
4  
5   public static int compareByAge(Person a, Person b)  
6     { ... }  
7   public static int compareByName(Person a, Person b)  
8     { ... }  
9 }  
10  
11 Person[] people = ...  
12 Arrays.sort(people, #Person.compareByAge);
```

Extension Methods

- Existing interfaces cannot be extended without breaking implementations.
- Closures give new opportunities for useful API additions, e.g., in the collection classes.
- Extension methods propose a way out of this dilemma.
- The proposal permits to extend an interface safely by providing a default implementation.
- Example:

```
1 public interface Set<T> extends Collection<T> {  
2     public int size();  
3     // The rest of the existing Set methods  
4     public extension T reduce(Reducer<T> r)  
5         default Collections.<T>setReducer;  
6 }
```