Oscar M. Nierstrasz (Ed.)

ECOOP '93 – Object-Oriented Programming

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Preface

It is now more than twenty-five years since object-oriented programming was "invented" (actually, more than thirty years since work on Simula started), but, by all accounts, it would appear as if object-oriented technology has only been "discovered" in the past ten years! When the first European Conference on Object-Oriented Programming was held in Paris in 1987, I think it was generally assumed that Object-Oriented Programming, like Structured Programming, would quickly enter the vernacular, and that a conference on the subject would rapidly become superfluous. On the contrary, the range and impact of object-oriented approaches and methods continues to expand, and, despite the inevitable oversell and hype, object-oriented technology has reached a level of scientific maturity that few could have foreseen ten years ago.

Object-oriented technology also cuts across scientific cultural boundaries like perhaps no other field of computer science, as object-oriented concepts can be applied to virtually all the other areas and affect virtually all aspects of the software life cycle. (So, in retrospect, emphasizing just Programming in the name of the conference was perhaps somewhat short-sighted, but at least the acronym is pronounceable and easy to remember!) This year's ECOOP attracted 146 submissions from around the world — making the selection process even tougher than usual. The selected papers range in topic from programming language and database issues to analysis and design and reuse, and from experience reports to theoretical contributions.

The selection of papers was carried out during a two-day Programme Committee meeting in Geneva. All papers were reviewed in advance by at least three people. Papers were judged according to their originality, relevance and presentation quality. All papers were judged purely on their own merits, independently of other submissions. In most cases, authors of rejected papers received detailed comments on how to improve their manuscripts. In general, the quality of submissions was quite high, but we noted that many authors were making some common errors in the presentation of their results (such as not clearly demonstrating what was new or original). Authors who are in any doubt about how to prepare their papers for ECOOP are well advised to consult the excellent article by Alan Snyder in the January 1991 issue of the ACM OOPS Messenger on "How to Get Your Paper Accepted at OOPSLA." Although the article was not written with ECOOP in mind, it contains much good advice for authors submitting manuscripts to any conference!

This year's ECOOP is the first which is being run under the auspices of a formal international body rather than an ad hoc steering committee. AITO is the Association Internationale pour les Technologies Objets (the acronym is more pronounceable in French than in English — and turns out to mean "genuine" in Finnish!), and was founded during ECOOP 92 in Utrecht by a number of people who have been involved in various ways in running previous ECOOPs. AITO not only provides a formal mechanism for ensuring the continuation of ECOOP, but it also provides a legal (non-profit) entity that can facilitate the financing of future conferences. ECOOP 94 is now planned to be held in Bologna, Italy. Bids will be considered by AITO for hosting future ECOOPs. Please direct all inquiries to the AITO president, Pierre Cointe, (Ecole des Mines de Nantes, 3 rue Marcel Sembat 44049 Nantes Cedex 04, France. E-mail: cointe@emn.fr).
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# Referees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bruno Achauer</th>
<th>Yutaka Ishikawa</th>
<th>Werner Retschitzegger</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter Andersen</td>
<td>Dirk Jonscher</td>
<td>Peter Roesch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jean-Marc Andreoli</td>
<td>Karl-Heinz Köster</td>
<td>Jean-Claude Royer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marc Andries</td>
<td>Jørgen Lindskov Knudsen</td>
<td>Andreas Rueping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marie-Jo Bellotta</td>
<td>Hiroki Konaka</td>
<td>Elmer Sandvad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dag Belsnes</td>
<td>Shinji Kono</td>
<td>Ichiro Satoh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andreas Birrer</td>
<td>Dimitri Konstantas</td>
<td>Bruno Schäffer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anders Björnerstedt</td>
<td>Angelika Kotz-Dittrich</td>
<td>Stefan Scherrer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Boehnlein</td>
<td>Stein Krogdahl</td>
<td>Alex Schill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marc Bourgois</td>
<td>Michel Kurtz</td>
<td>Joachim Schimpf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Bouschen</td>
<td>Tsu-Min Kuo</td>
<td>Duri Schmidt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Søren Brandt</td>
<td>Morten Kyng</td>
<td>Michael Schrefl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Breiteneder</td>
<td>Danny Lange</td>
<td>Michael Schwartzbach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolf de By</td>
<td>Doug Lea</td>
<td>Emil Sekerinski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eduardo Casais</td>
<td>Torsten Leidig</td>
<td>Jon Skretting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shigeru Chiba</td>
<td>Lone Leth</td>
<td>Paal Soergaard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hagen Conradi</td>
<td>Anund Lie</td>
<td>Markus Stumptner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurent Dami</td>
<td>Frank J. van der Linden</td>
<td>Antero Taivalsaari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birgit Demuth</td>
<td>Thomas Lindner</td>
<td>Akikazu Takeuchi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roland Ducournau</td>
<td>Ling Liu</td>
<td>Takao Tenma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregor Engels</td>
<td>Kim Jensen Møller</td>
<td>Bent Thomsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabrizio Ferrandina</td>
<td>Kai-Uwe Mätzel</td>
<td>Dave Thomson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oliver Frick</td>
<td>Gerhard Müller</td>
<td>Hideki Tsuiki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harald Fuchs</td>
<td>Munenori Maeda</td>
<td>Stefan Vieweg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nobuhisa Fujinami</td>
<td>Satoshi Matsuoka</td>
<td>Juha Vihavainen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippe Gautron</td>
<td>Shahrzade Mazaher</td>
<td>Andrei Voronkov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hans-Werner Gellersen</td>
<td>Jeff McAffer</td>
<td>Shigeru Watari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andreas Geppert</td>
<td>Vicki de Mey</td>
<td>Andrew Watson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolfgang Gerteis</td>
<td>Sten Minör</td>
<td>Franz Weber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbert Gold</td>
<td>Peter Axel Nielsen</td>
<td>Clazien Wezeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan Goossenaerts</td>
<td>Silvia Nittel</td>
<td>Helmut Wiegmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thorsten Gorchs</td>
<td>Jan Overbeck</td>
<td>Alan Wills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicolas Graube</td>
<td>Jens Palsberg</td>
<td>Jeremy Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachid Guerraoui</td>
<td>Michael Papathomas</td>
<td>Mike Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michel Habib</td>
<td>Jean François Perrot</td>
<td>Philip Yelland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Görel Hedin</td>
<td>Steven Proctor</td>
<td>Peter Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Hofmann</td>
<td>Georg Raeder</td>
<td>Andreas Zamperoni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kohei Honda</td>
<td>G.H.B. Rafsanjani</td>
<td>Christian Zeidler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yasuaki Honda</td>
<td>Stefan Rausch-Schott</td>
<td>Walter Zimmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marianne Huchard</td>
<td>Tim Regan</td>
<td>Eddy G. Zondag</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Contents

**Keynote Address (Abstract)**

Intimate Computing and the Memory Prosthesis: A Challenge for Computer Systems Research? ................................................................. 1  
*Michael G. Lamming (Rank Xerox EuroPARC)*

**Frameworks and Reuse**

Active Programming Strategies in Reuse ............................................. 4  
*Mary Beth Rosson and John M. Carroll (IBM — T.J. Watson Research Center)*

*Andreas Birrer and Thomas Eggenschwiler (Union Bank of Switzerland)*

Integrating Independently-Developed Components in Object-Oriented Languages ........................................................................................................ 36  
*Urs Hölzle (Stanford University)*

**Concurrency and Distribution I**

Encapsulating Plurality ........................................................................ 57  
*Andrew P. Black and Mark P. Immel (Digital Equipment Corporation)*

Object Oriented Interoperability ............................................................. 80  
*Dimitri Konstantas (University of Geneva)*

Implementation of Distributed Trellis .................................................... 103  
*Bruno Achauer (University of Karlsruhe)*

**Types & Subtypes**

A New Definition of the Subtype Relation------------------------------- 118  
*Barbara Liskov (MIT Lab for Computer Science) and Jeannette M. Wing (Carnegie-Mellon University)*

Attaching Second-Order Types to Methods in an Object-Oriented Language..... 142  
*Yves Caseau (Bellcore) and Laurent Perron (Ecole Normale Supérieure)*

Typed Sets as a Basis for Object-Oriented Database Schemas .................. 161  
*Herman Balsters, Rolf A. de By (University of Twente) and Roberto Zicari (Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität)*

**Invited Talk**

The OSI Managed-Object Model............................................................ 185  
*Colin Ashford (Bell-Northern Research)*

---

- **Frameworks and Reuse**
  - Active Programming Strategies in Reuse
    - Mary Beth Rosson and John M. Carroll (IBM — T.J. Watson Research Center)
    - Andreas Birrer and Thomas Eggenschwiler (Union Bank of Switzerland)
  - Integrating Independently-Developed Components in Object-Oriented Languages
    - Urs Hölzle (Stanford University)

- **Concurrency and Distribution I**
  - Encapsulating Plurality
    - Andrew P. Black and Mark P. Immel (Digital Equipment Corporation)
  - Object Oriented Interoperability
    - Dimitri Konstantas (University of Geneva)
  - Implementation of Distributed Trellis
    - Bruno Achauer (University of Karlsruhe)

- **Types & Subtypes**
  - A New Definition of the Subtype Relation
    - Barbara Liskov (MIT Lab for Computer Science) and Jeannette M. Wing (Carnegie-Mellon University)
  - Attaching Second-Order Types to Methods in an Object-Oriented Language
    - Yves Caseau (Bellcore) and Laurent Perron (Ecole Normale Supérieure)
  - Typed Sets as a Basis for Object-Oriented Database Schemas
    - Herman Balsters, Rolf A. de By (University of Twente) and Roberto Zicari (Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität)

- **Invited Talk**
  - The OSI Managed-Object Model
    - Colin Ashford (Bell-Northern Research)
Languages and Inheritance

Nested Mixin-Methods in Agora .............................................................................. 197
Patrick Steyaert, Wim Codenie, Theo D'Hondt, Koen De Hondt, Carine Lucas
and Marc Van Limberghen (Free University of Brussels)

Solving the Inheritance Anomaly in Concurrent Object-Oriented
Programming ........................................................................................................ 220
José Meseguer (SRI International)

Type Inference of SELF: Analysis of Objects with Dynamic and Multiple
Inheritance ............................................................................................................ 247
Ole Agesen (Stanford University), Jens Palsberg and Michael I. Schwartzbach
(Aarhus University)

Time-Dependent Behaviour

Predicate Classes ........................................................................................................ 268
Craig Chambers (University of Washington)

TOOA: A Temporal Object-Oriented Algebra ................................................................ 297
Ellen Rose (University of Toledo) and Arie Segev (University of California)

A Timed Calculus for Distributed Objects with Clocks ............................................. 326
Ichiro Satoh (Keio University) and Mario Tokoro (Sony CSL / Keio University)

Concurrency and Distribution II

A Language Framework for Multi-Object Coordination ........................................... 346
Svend Frølund and Gul Agha (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

PANDA — Supporting Distributed Programming in C++ ........................................ 361
Holger Assenmacher, Thomas Breitbach, Peter Buhler, Volker Hübsch and
Reinhard Schwarz (University of Kaiserslautern)

Transparent Parallelisation Through Reuse: Between a Compiler and a Library
Approach ................................................................................................................. 384
Jean-Marc Jézéquel (IRISA)

OO Analysis and Design

Design Patterns: Abstraction and Reuse of Object-Oriented Design ....................... 406
Erich Gamma (Taligent, Inc.), Richard Helm (IBM - T.J. Watson Research
Center), Ralph E. Johnson (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and
John Vlissides (IBM - T.J. Watson Research Center)

ObjChart: Tangible Specification of Reactive Object Behavior ................................ 432
Dipayan Gangopadhyay (IBM - T.J. Watson Research Center) and Subrata
Mitra (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
O-O Requirements Analysis: an Agent Perspective .................................................. 458
   Eric Dubois, Philippe Du Bois and Michaël Petit (Facultés Universitaires de Namur)

Reflection

Designing an Extensible Distributed Language with a Meta-Level Architecture................................................................. 482
   Shigeru Chiba and Takashi Masuda (University of Tokyo)

MetaFlex: A Flexible Metaclass Generator .............................................................. 502
   Richard Johnson and Muru Palaniappan (Aldus Engineering)

Panel Discussion (Position Statements)

Aims, Means, and Futures of Object-Oriented Languages: Programming Styles and Tool Support................................................................. 528
   Mike Banahan (European C++ User Group), L. Peter Deutsch (Sun Laboratories), Boris Magnusson (University of Lund), and Jens Palsberg (Chairperson, Aarhus University)

Author Index .................................................................................................... 531