

6.945 Spring 2009

# Generic Operator Discovery

*Laura Harris <lch> and Bryan Newbold <bnewbold>*

# Once generics are Registered...

```
; As a referesh, in case you forgot...
; these procedures and generic-operator-table are defined in ghelper.scm

(define add1 (make-generic-operator 1 #f 'add1))      ; note the symbols
(define sub1 (make-generic-operator 1 #f 'sub1))
(define double (make-generic-operator 1 #f 'double))
(define square (make-generic-operator 1 #f 'square))
(defhandler add1 (lambda (x) (+ x 1)) number?)
(defhandler sub1 (lambda (x) (- x 1)) number?)
(defhandler double (lambda (x) (* 2 x)) number?)
(defhandler square (lambda (x) (* x x)) number?)
```

# ... they can be Discovered...

```
; discover:named-opers-for searches *generic-operator-table* for  
; the set of named (meaning defined with name symbols) operators  
; which can be applied to the arguments
```

```
(discover:named-opers-for 4.5)
```

```
;Value 84: (double square add1 sub1 thingaling)
```

# ... and leveraged

```
; discover:satisfy-sequence takes a [predicate?] and [. args]
```

```
(discover:satisfy-sequence (lambda (x) (eq? x 9)) (/ 1 2))
```

```
;Value 8:  ((9) square double add1)  
           ((9) square add1 inverse))
```

# Assumptions

- Dispatch predicates are *fast*, operator procedures may be *slow*
- Operator “return value” type is indeterminant

# Remarks

- This isn't a good way! Brute force, but...
- Unknown systems with existing operators
- Flexibility, reusability
- Lazily Distribute

# Possible Applications

- File/media conversion and visualization
- Fix data corruption
  - CRC or hash as predicate
  - bitshifts and simple operations as operators
- Exploration of new systems, libraries
- Tool in the toolbox

# Example Screenshot

