



Dilbert, by Scott Adams

CS 152: *Programming Language Paradigms*



Contracts

Prof. Tom Austin

San José State University

What is a contract?



Contracts:

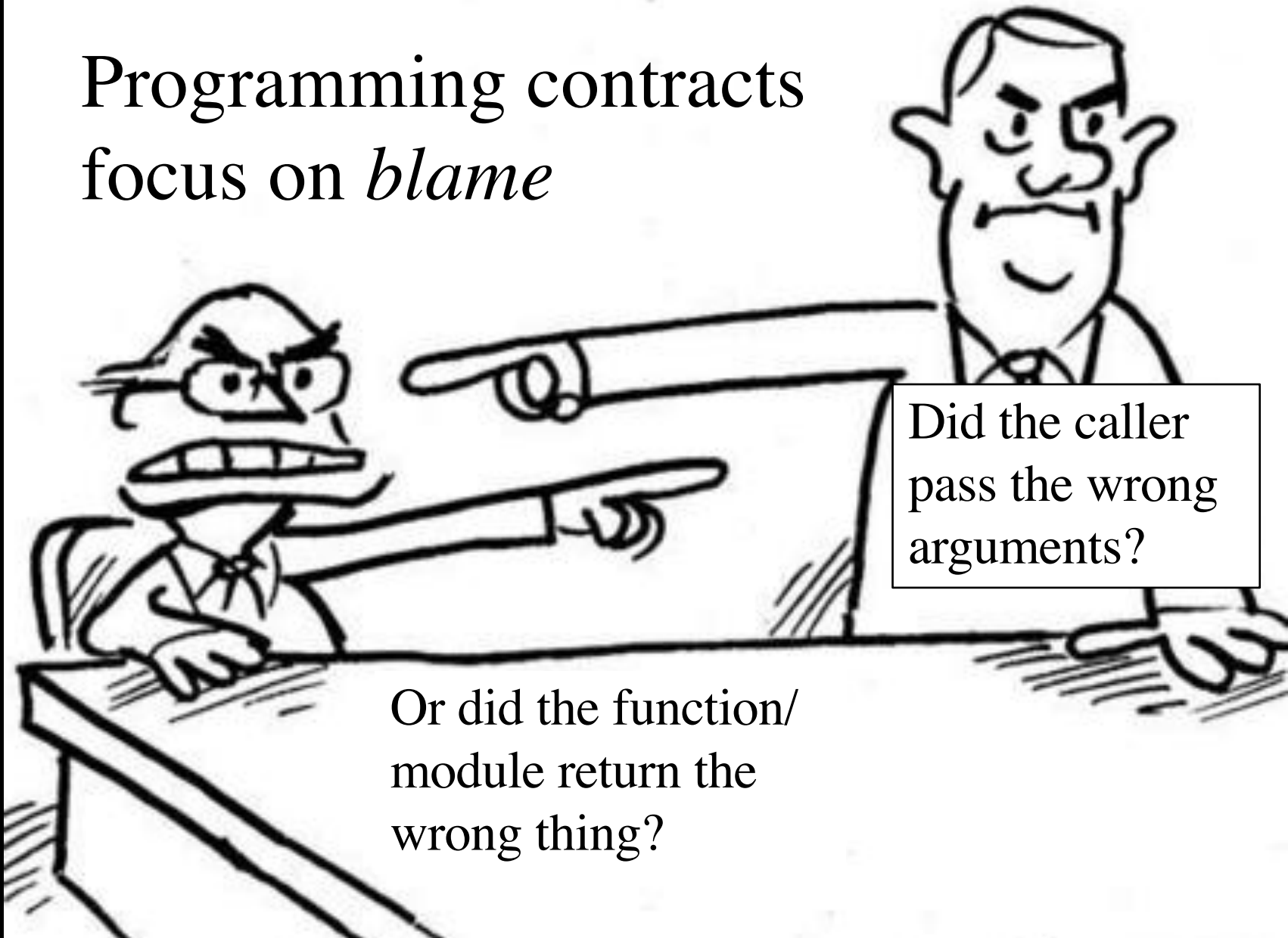
- clearly delineate obligations and responsibilities for each party
- let each party know what guarantees to expect from others
- *establish who is to blame when something goes wrong*

So what is a programming contract?



I can sort that list
of numbers in three
weeks for \$4K,
cash up front.

Programming contracts focus on *blame*



Did the caller
pass the wrong
arguments?

Or did the function/
module return the
wrong thing?

A programming contract consists of:

- **Preconditions:** requirements for the input
 - if they do not hold, we blame the caller
- **Postconditions:** promises for the output
 - if they do not hold, we blame the library

Contracts in Racket



Review: modules

```
(provide add-one fav-num)
```

```
(define fav-num 42)
```

```
(define (add-one x)  
  (+ x 1))
```

```
(define (dec-one x)  
  (- x 1))
```

add-one and
fav-num are
public.

Using a module

```
(require "math-module.rkt")
```

```
(add-one fav-num)  
; evaluates to 43
```

Import module
from specified file

```
(dec-one 10)
```

```
dec-one: unbound  
identifier in  
module in: dec-one
```

Contracts & Boundaries

- Modules provide natural boundaries between code.
- `contract-out` specifies the requirements.

But what *is* a contract in Racket?

A function (predicate) that:

- Takes exactly one argument
- Returns `#t` or `#f`

Any predicate is a valid contract.

```
(provide (contract-out
  [fav-num number?])
)
```

The module
guarantees that
fav-num is a
number

```
(define fav-num "four")
```

```
(define (add-one x)
  (+ x 1))
```

But...

```
(define (dec-one x)
  (- x 1))
```

```
(require "math-module.rkt")  
(+ fav-num 1)
```

```
fav-num: broke its contract  
promised: number?  
produced: "four"  
in: number?  
contract from:  
    ../math-module.rkt  
blaming: ../math-module.rkt  
at: ../math-module.rkt:6.11
```

```
(provide (contract-out
  [fav-num number?]
  [add-one (-> number? number?) ] ) )
```

```
(define fav-num 42)
```

```
(define (add-one x)
  (+ x 1))
```

```
(define (dec-one x)
  (- x 1))
```

-> is a *contract combinator*.

It combines a contract on the input with a contract on the output

```
(provide (contract-out
  [fav-num number?]
  [add-one
    (number? . -> . number?) ]))
```

```
(define fav-num 42)
```

```
(define (add-one x)
  (+ x 1))
```

```
(define (dec-one x)
  (- x 1))
```



Alternate
format.

```
(require "math-module.rkt")  
(add-one "forty-nine")
```

```
add-one: contract violation  
expected: number?  
given: "forty-nine"  
in: the 1st argument of  
      (-> number? number?)  
contract from:  
      ../math-module.rkt  
blaming: ../using-contract.rkt  
at: ../math-module.rkt:7.11
```

Contracts on Functions

- **The good:** able to catch internal errors.
- **The bad:** repeats checking of contracts
 - degrades performance.

Contract on a function

```
(define/contract  
  (make-num-pair x y)  
    (-> number? number? pair?)  
  (cons x y))
```

Quicksort

(in-class)

Contracts & structs lab

- Implement contracts for a banking account module.
- See Canvas for details.
- For more information on contracts, see <http://docs.racket-lang.org/guide/contracts.html>