
Virtual Values for Language Extension

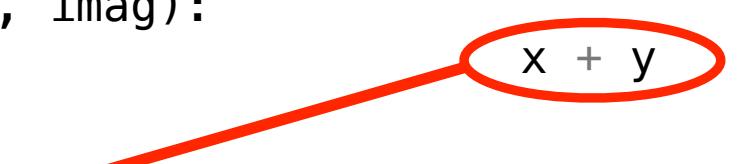
Thomas H. Austin Tim Disney Cormac Flanagan
University of California Santa Cruz
ICFP'11

x + y

Extensibility in Python is **clean**

```
class Complex(object):  
    def __init__(self, real, imag):  
        self.r = real  
        self.i = imag  
  
    def __add__(self, other):  
        return Complex(self.r + other.r,  
                      self.i + other.i)
```

x = Complex(2, 1)
y = Complex(3, 1)



x + y

Extensibility in JavaScript is ugly

```
function Complex(real, imag) {  
    this.r = real;  
    this.i = imag;  
}  
Complex.prototype.plus = function(other) {  
    return new Complex(this.r + other.r,  
                      this.i + other.i);  
}  
  
var x = new Complex(2, 1);  
var y = new Complex(3, 1);  
x.plus(y);
```



Even **worse** than ugly!

```
function matrixMult(a, b) { ... }

matrixMult([ [-3,-8,3],
            [-2,1,4]])

matrixMult([[new Complex(4,1), new Complex(2,1)],
            [new Complex(5,1), new Complex(8,1)]])
```

x + y

vs.

x.plus(y)

Virtual Values:

Virtualize the interface
between **code** and **data**

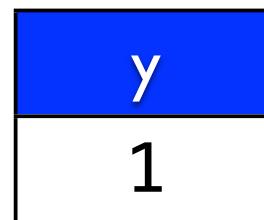
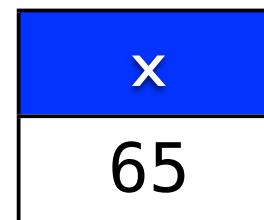
Standard Addition

Code

$x = 65$
 $y = 1$

$z = x + y$

Data



Virtualized Addition

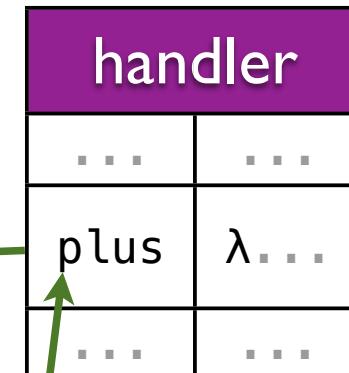
Code

```
handler = {  
    ...  
    plus: λr.  
        1 + r  
}
```

```
p = proxy(handler)
```

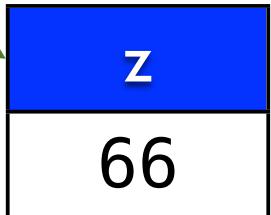
```
z = p + 65
```

Data



65

p



λ proxy

Idealized JavaScript-like language

proxy(handler)

$\lambda x. \ e$

{ f : v }

24

$e_1(e_2)$

o[f]

true

o[f] = v

!true

24 + 42

if b e₁ e₂

```
handler = {  
  get:  λf...
```

p = proxy(h)
 $p[f]$ $\rightarrow h.get(f)$

Code

```
obj = {  
  "f": 42  
}
```

```
handler = {  
  get: lambda n:  
    log(...)  
    obj[n]  
  ...  
}
```

```
p = proxy(handler)  
  
p["f"]
```

Data

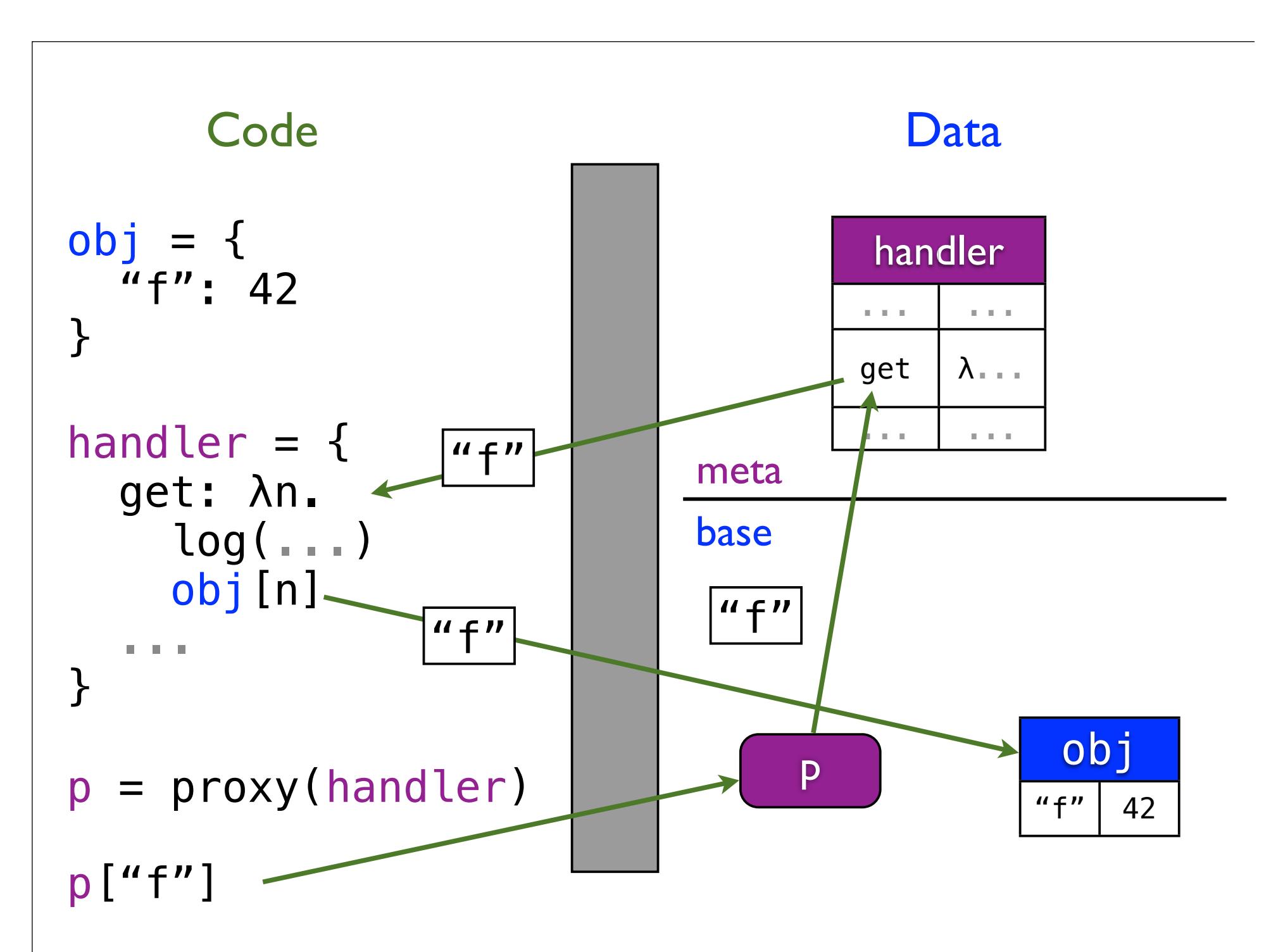
handler	
...	...
get	λ...
...	...

meta
base

"f"

P

obj	
"f"	42



```
handler = {  
    get:    λf...  
    set:    λf,v...  
    call:   λv...  
    geti:   λr...  
    seti:   λr,v...  
    unary:  λo...  
    left:   λo,r...  
    right:  λo,l...  
    test:   λ...  
}
```

p	= proxy(h)
p[f]	→ h.get(f)
p[f] = v	→ h.set(f,v)
p(v)	→ h.call(v)
r[p]	→ h.geti(r)
r[p] = v	→ h.seti(r,v)
!p	→ h.unary("!")
p + x	→ h.left("+",x)
x + p	→ h.right("+",x)
if p e e	→ if h.test() e e

```
1 private secret = {}
```

```
2
3         x = 4.0 + (1.0 * i)
```

```
4         y = 3.0 + (1.0 * i)
```

```
5         x + y
```

7

real

2

imaginary

```
23             else
24                 complexBinOps[o] r i y 0
25             right: λo,y. complexBinOps[o] y 0 r i
26             test : λ.    true // all Complex are non-false
27         }
28
29     isComplex :: Any → Bool = λx. if (unProxy secret x) true false
30
31     i :: Complex = makeComplex 0 1
32
33     Complex = Flatc isComplex
```

```

1 private secret = {}
2
3 private makeQuantity :: String → Int → Quantity → Quantity = λu,i,n.
4   let h = unProxy secret n
5   if (i = 0)           // drop zero-ary unit

```

`meter = makeUnit("meter")`

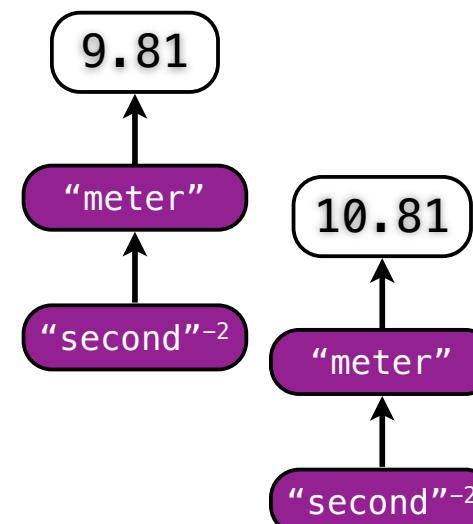
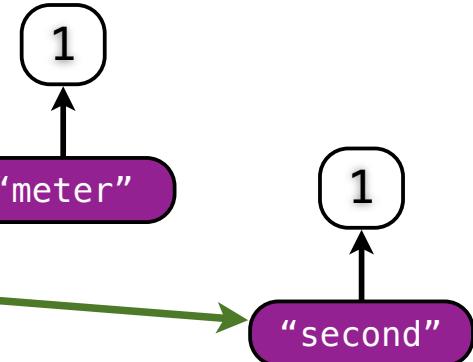
`second = makeUnit("second")`

`g = 9.81 * meter / second / second`

`print(g) // "9.81 meters seconds^-2"`

`g + 1 // Error: Units not compatible!`

`g + 1 * meter / second / second`



```

46 private dropUnit :: String → Int → Quantity → Quantity = λu,i,n.
47   let h = unProxy secret n
48   assert h != false && h.unit = u && h.index = i
49   h.value
50
51 makeUnit :: String → Quantity = λu. makeQuantity u 1 1
52 Quantity = Flatc (λx. if (isNum x || unProxy secret x) true false)

```

```
isTainted(taint(4) + 5) == true
```

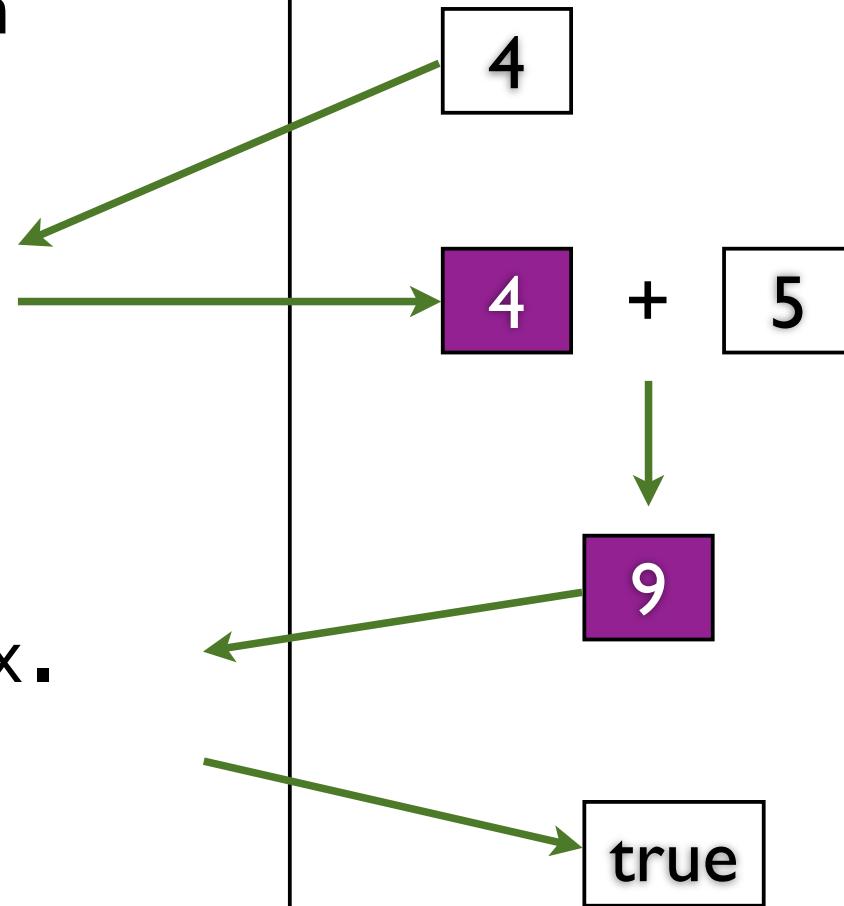
Tainting Extension

taint = $\lambda x.$

...

isTainted = $\lambda x.$

...



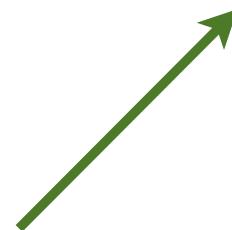
Security

Extensibility: wants to **extend** behavior
of library extensions

Security: wants to **restrict** behavior
of adversaries

Security

`isProxy(x)`



Always tells the truth

Stop proxies...

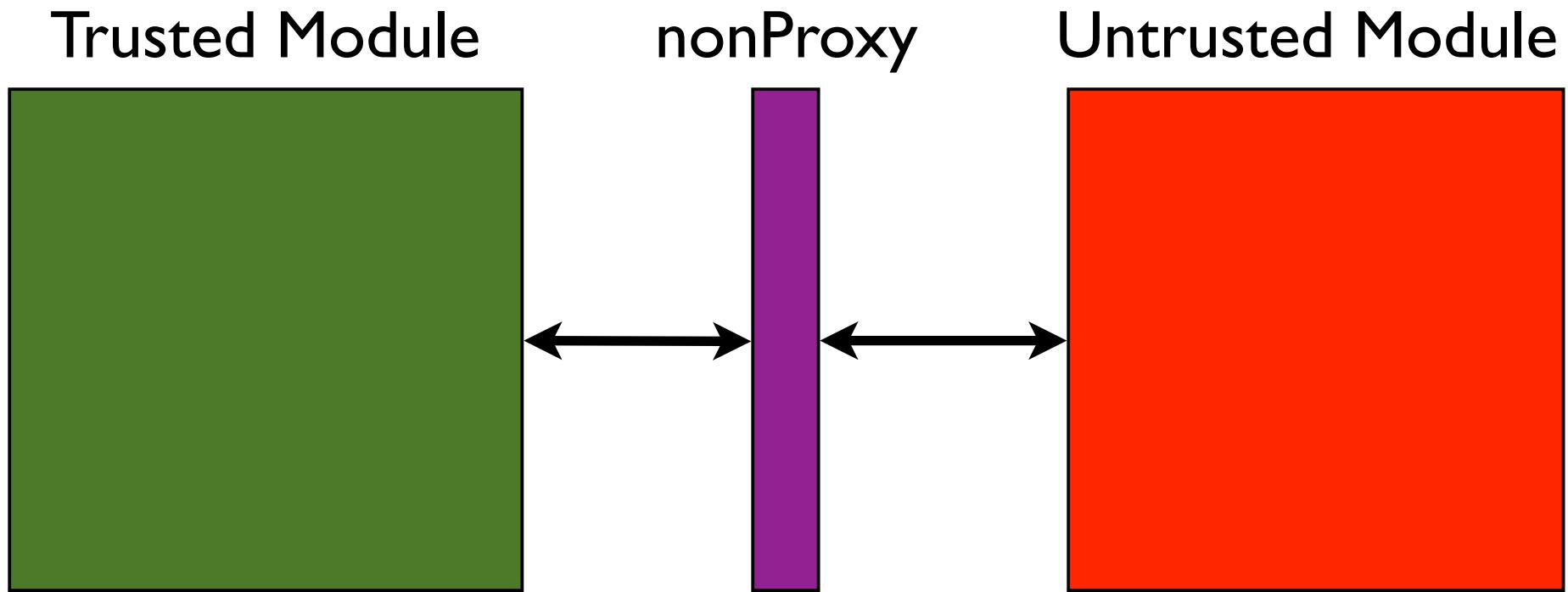
```
critical = λx.  
  if isProxy(x)  
    then err()  
  else ...
```

...not quite

```
critical = λx.  
  if isProxy(x)  
    then err()  
  else  
    y = x()
```

■ ■ ■

The nonProxy proxy!



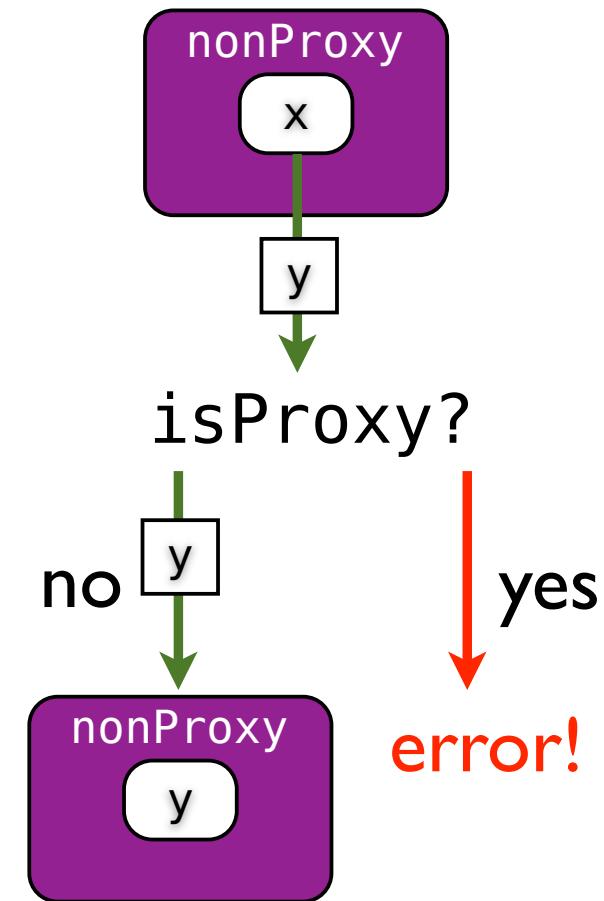
The nonProxy proxy!

```
1 private secret = {}  
2
```

critical = $\lambda x.$
 $x = \text{nonProxy}(x)$
 $y = x()$

■ ■ ■

```
16    swap : (x,y) (swap 1) (swap 2)  
17    unary:  $\lambda o.$  swap (unaryOps[o] x)  
18    left :  $\lambda o,r.$  swap (binOps[o] x (swap r))  
19    right:  $\lambda o,l.$  swap (binOps[o] (swap l) x)  
20    test :  $\lambda .$  if (x) true false  
21 }
```



```
handler = {
```

get:	...	JavaScript Proxies
set:	...	contracts
call:	...	nonProxy membranes

geti:	...	
seti:	...	Virtual Values
unary:	...	complex
left:	...	taint tracking
right:	...	units
test:	...	lazy evaluation

```
}
```