

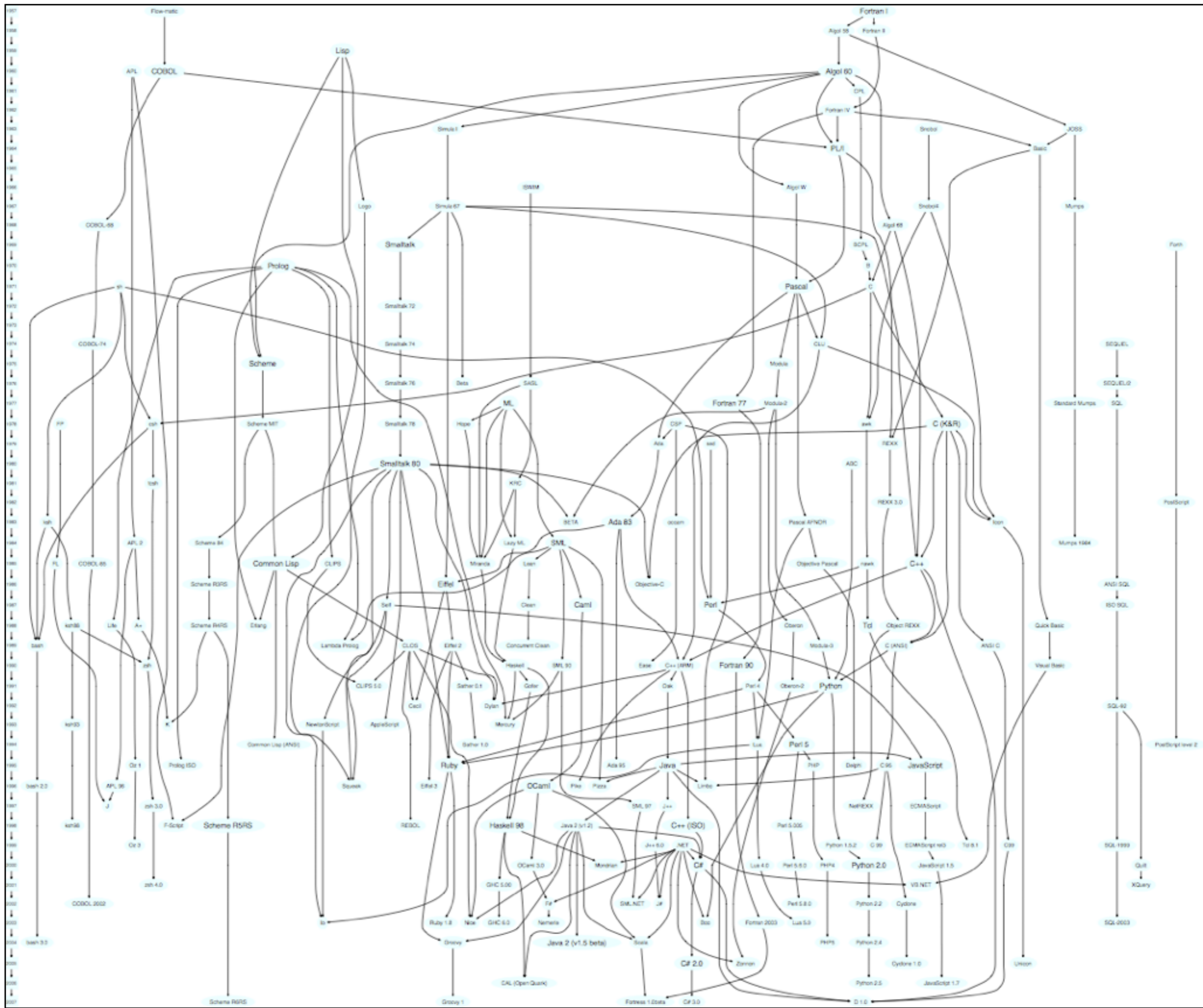
# Topic List

---

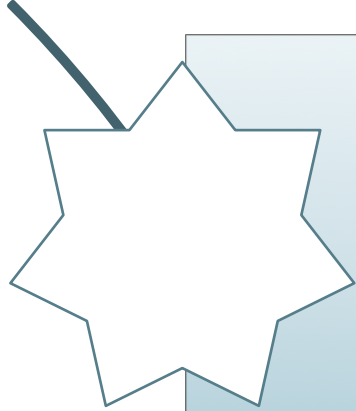
## Programming Languages:

- Family Trees.
- Characteristics.
- Typing Spectrum.

# Family Tree



# Family Tree

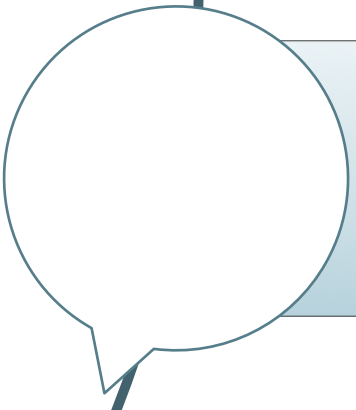


Lisp - designed late 1950s -  
departure from existing languages  
(e.g. Fortran).

## Lisp, Fortran Cluster



*“Lisp is the Chuck Norris of  
programming languages.”*



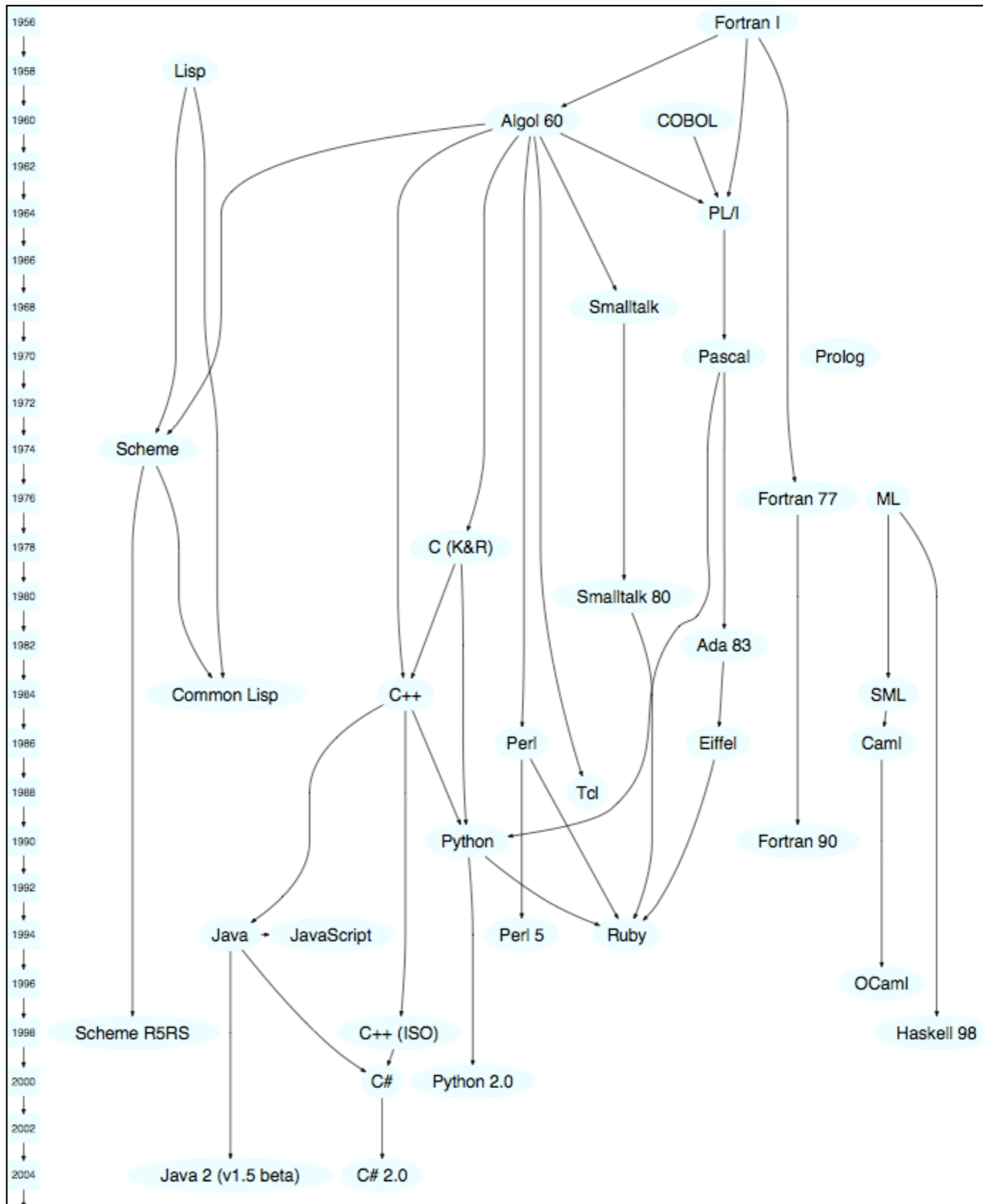
*“Lisp is the bar other languages  
are measured against.”*



*“Knowing Lisp demonstrates  
developer enlightenment.”*

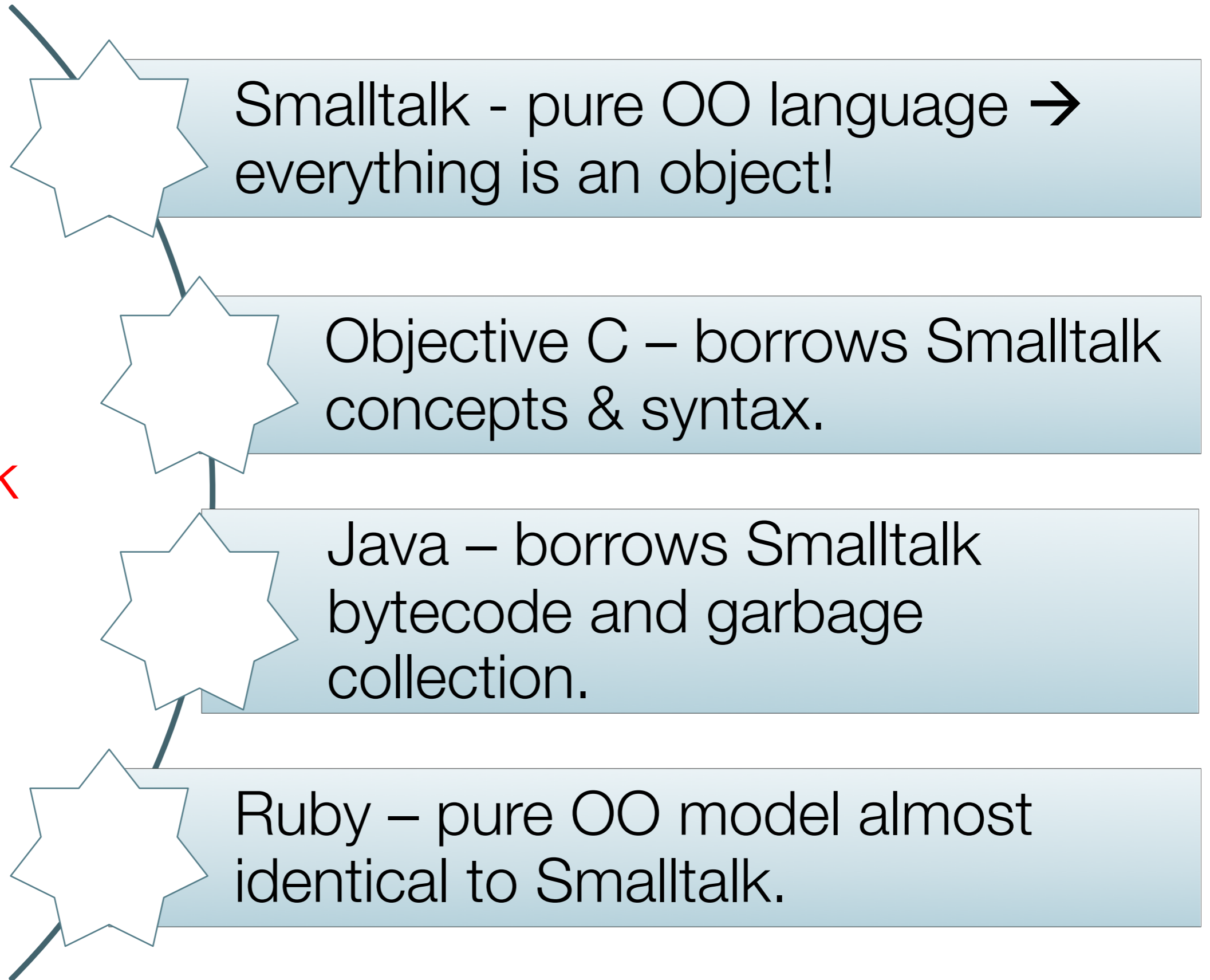
# Family Tree

Lisp,  
Fortran  
Cluster



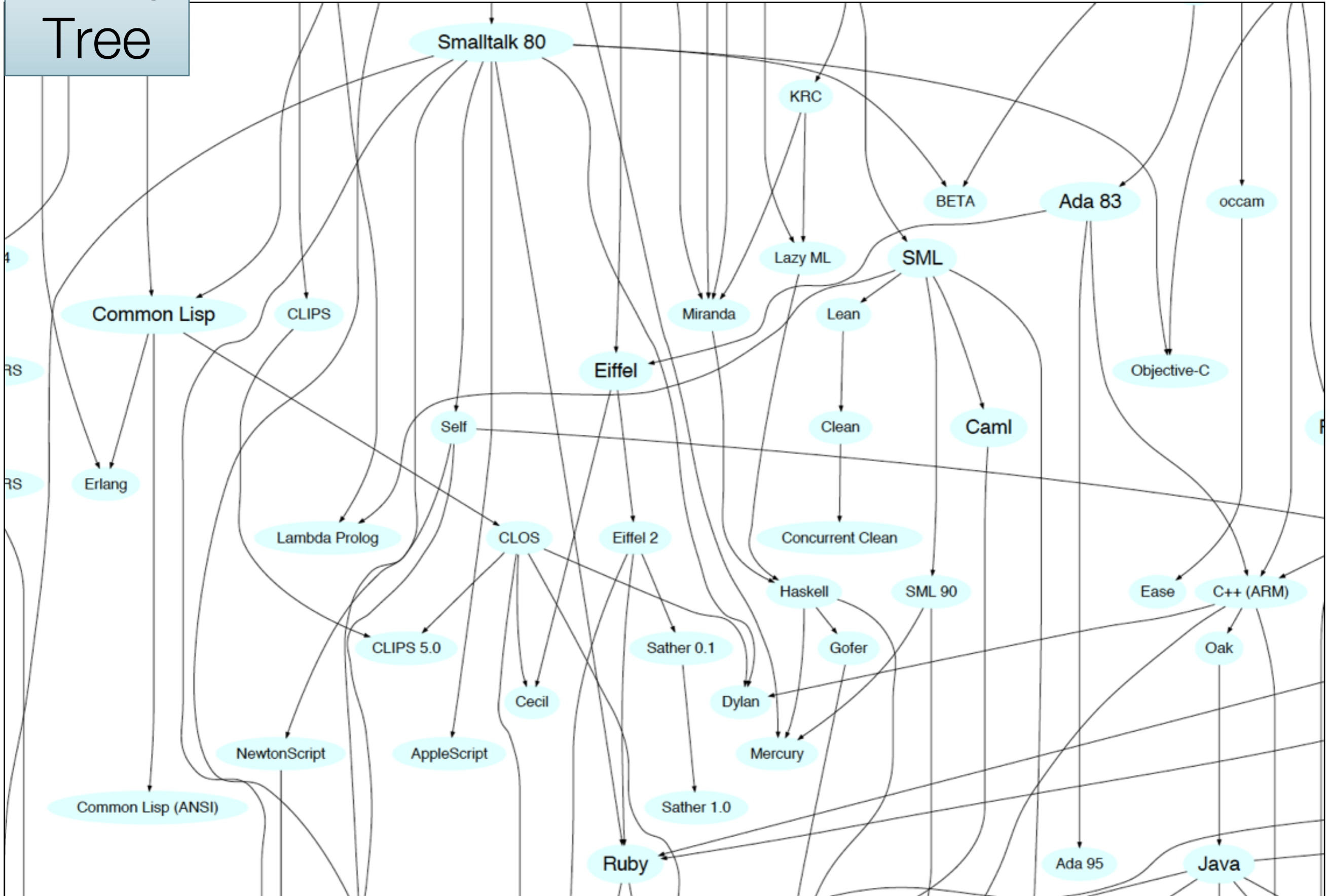
# Family Tree

## Smalltalk Cluster



# Family Tree

# Smalltalk Cluster



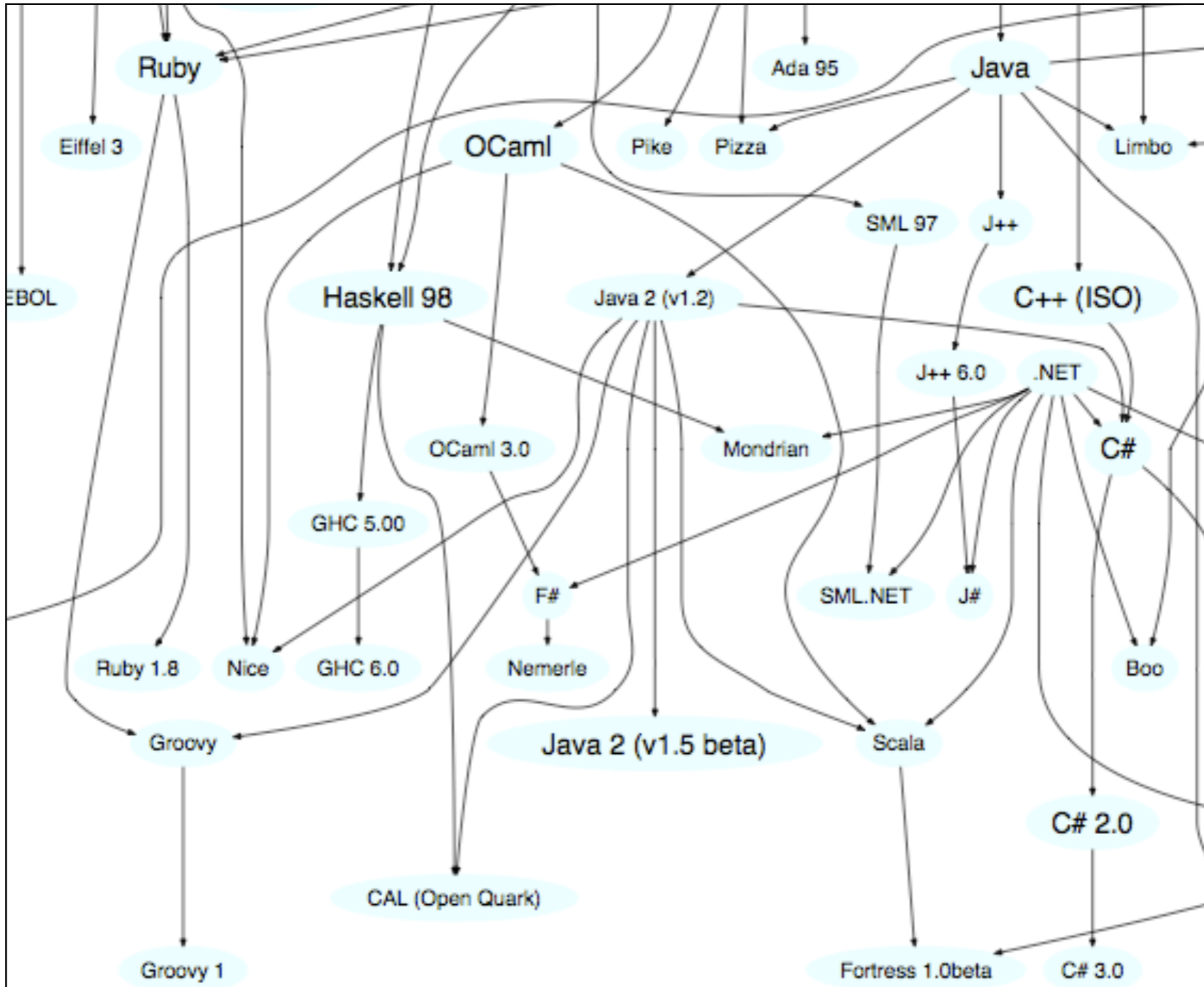


Smalltalk

Mainstream  
OO Languages

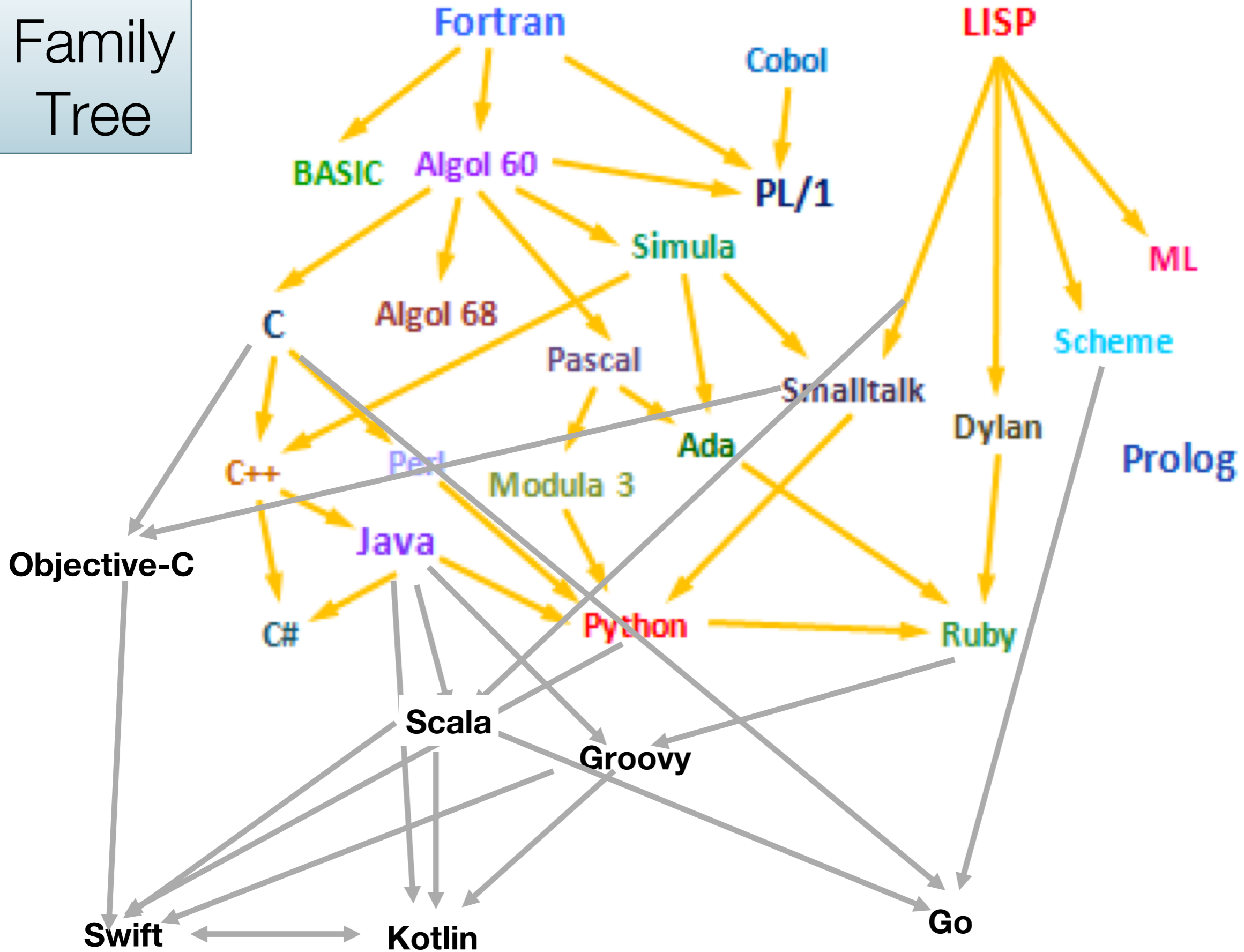
# Family Tree

## Ruby, Groovy, Java, Scala Cluster





Family Tree



*Why so many  
programming  
languages?*

# Programming Languages as Reactions

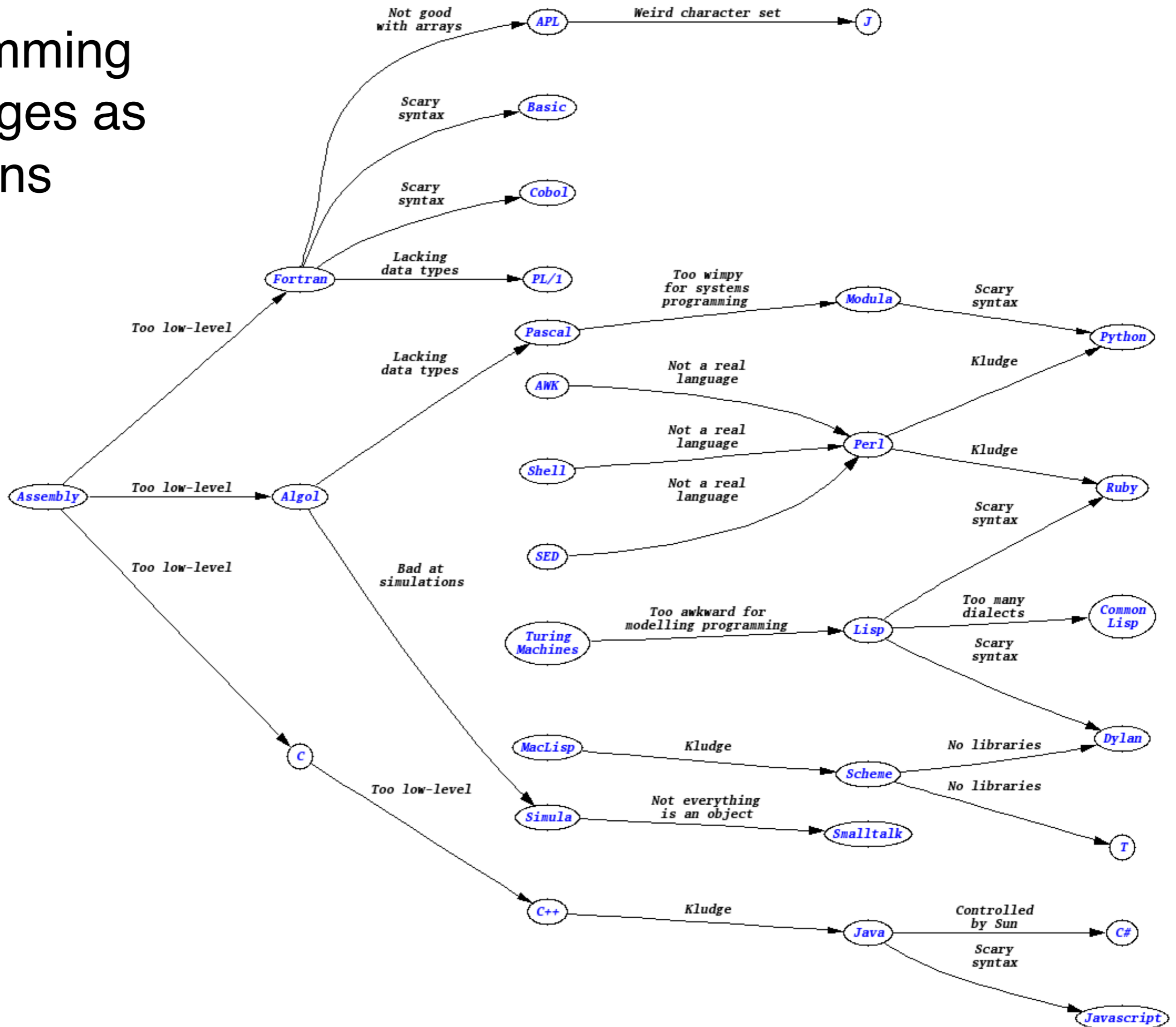
---

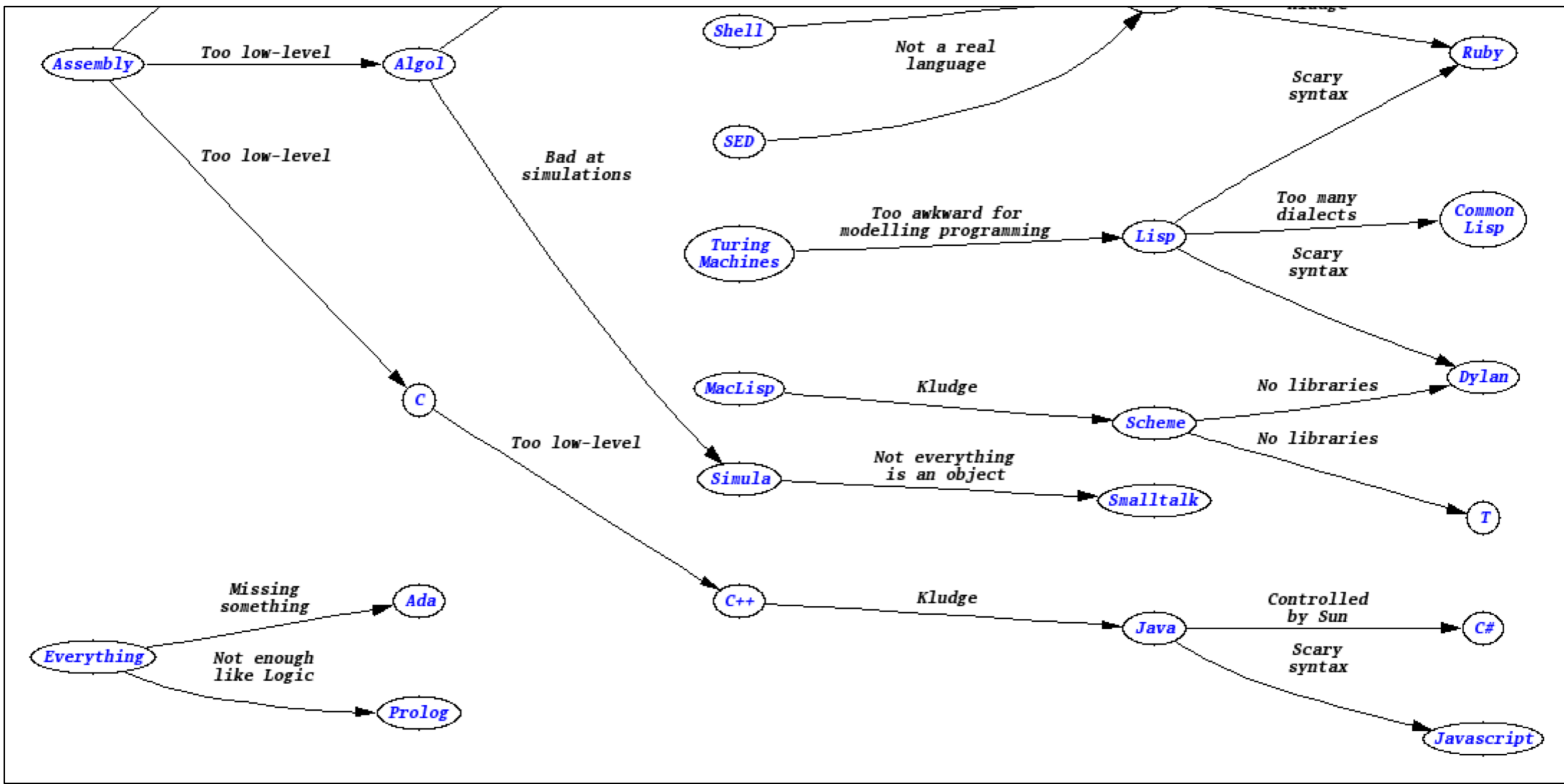
*“Kevin Kelleher suggested an interesting way to compare programming languages:*

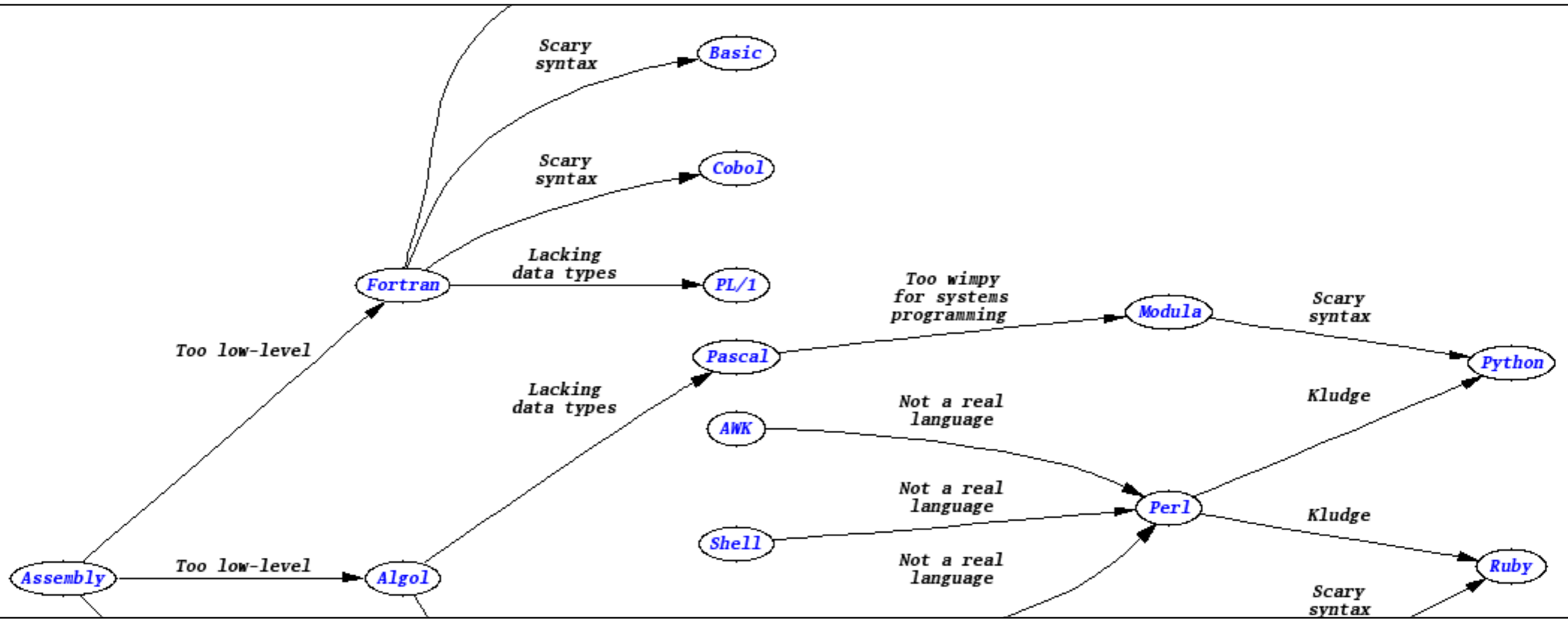
*to describe each in terms of the problem it fixes.*

*The surprising thing is how many, and how well, languages can be described this way.”*

# Programming Languages as Reactions







# Paul Graham's Wish List for a Programming Language

---

- Lisp was designed in late 1950s.
- It was a radical departure from existing languages e.g. Fortran.
- It embodied nine new ideas, which can be looked upon as a wish list for a programming language.

# Paul Graham's Wish List for a Programming Language

---

Wish List	Description / Example
Conditionals	If-the-else constructs are taken for granted now, but Fortran didn't have them.
A function type	Functions as data type just like integers or strings and can be stored in variables, passed as arguments, etc.
Recursion	The solution to a problem depends on solutions to smaller instances of the same problem i.e. by allowing a function to call itself within the program text.
Dynamic typing	Where values have types, not the variables.
Garbage collection	Automatic memory management by reclaiming memory occupied by objects that are no longer in use.
Programs composed of expressions	As opposed to a series of statements.
A symbol type	Symbols are effectively pointers to strings stored in a hash table. So you can test equality by comparing a pointer, instead of comparing each character.
A notation for code using trees of symbols and constants	e.g. expressing programs directly in parse trees that get built behind the scenes.
The whole language there all the time	i.e. no real distinction between read-time, compile-time and runtime.



# Java

---

## Wish List

Conditionals

A function type (from Java 8)

Recursion

Dynamic typing

Garbage collection

Programs composed of expressions

A symbol type

A notation for code using trees of symbols and constants

The whole language there all the time

# Groovy/Ruby/Python/Scala/Xtend/Kotlin

(from Neal Ford)

---

Wish List
Conditionals
A function type
Recursion
Dynamic typing
Garbage collection
Programs composed of expressions
A symbol type
A notation for code using trees of symbols and constants
The whole language there all the time

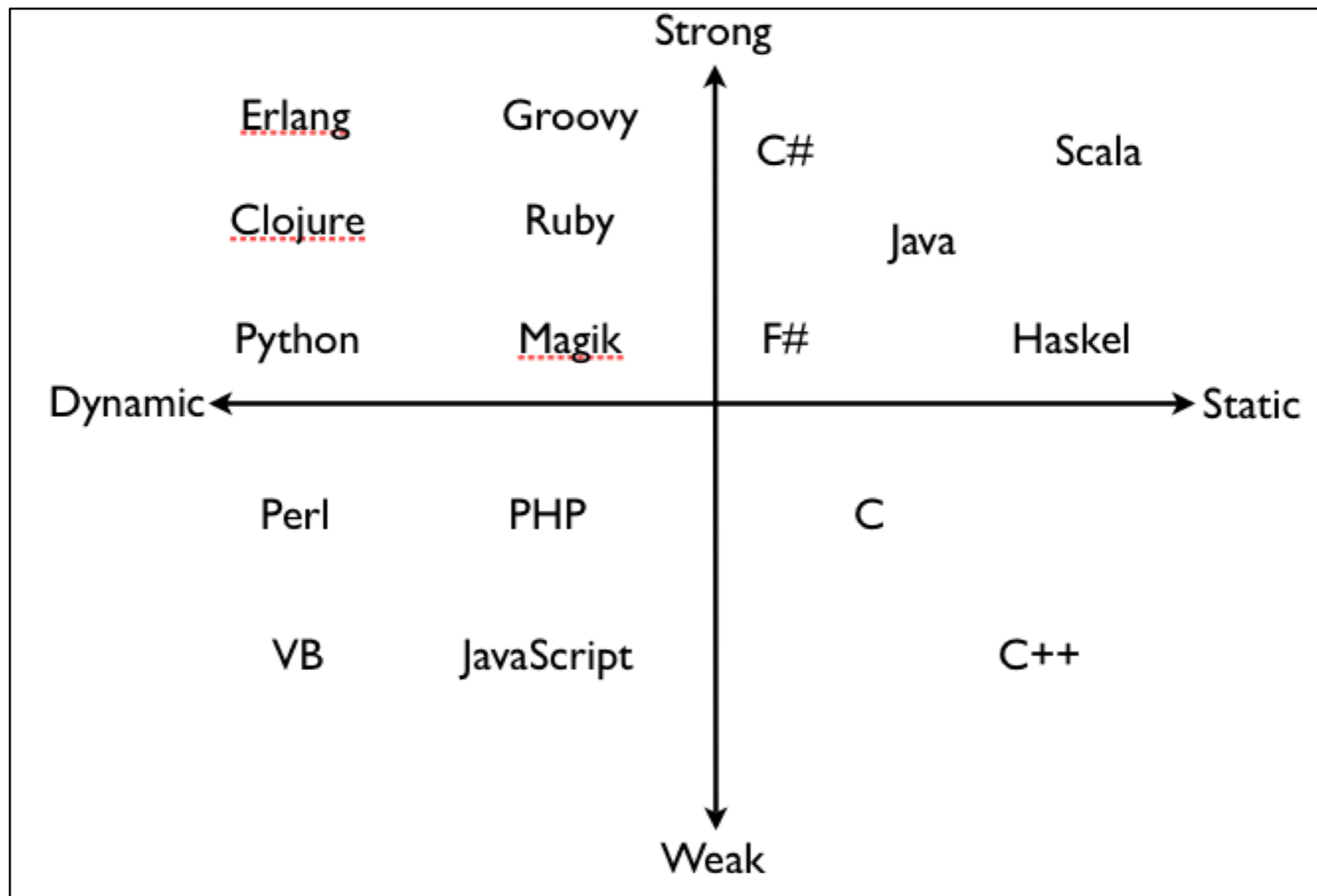
# Typing

*The concept of applying a “type” to a variable*

# Typing Spectrum

---

Languages are often classified based on their approach to typing...



# Defining Typing Terms...

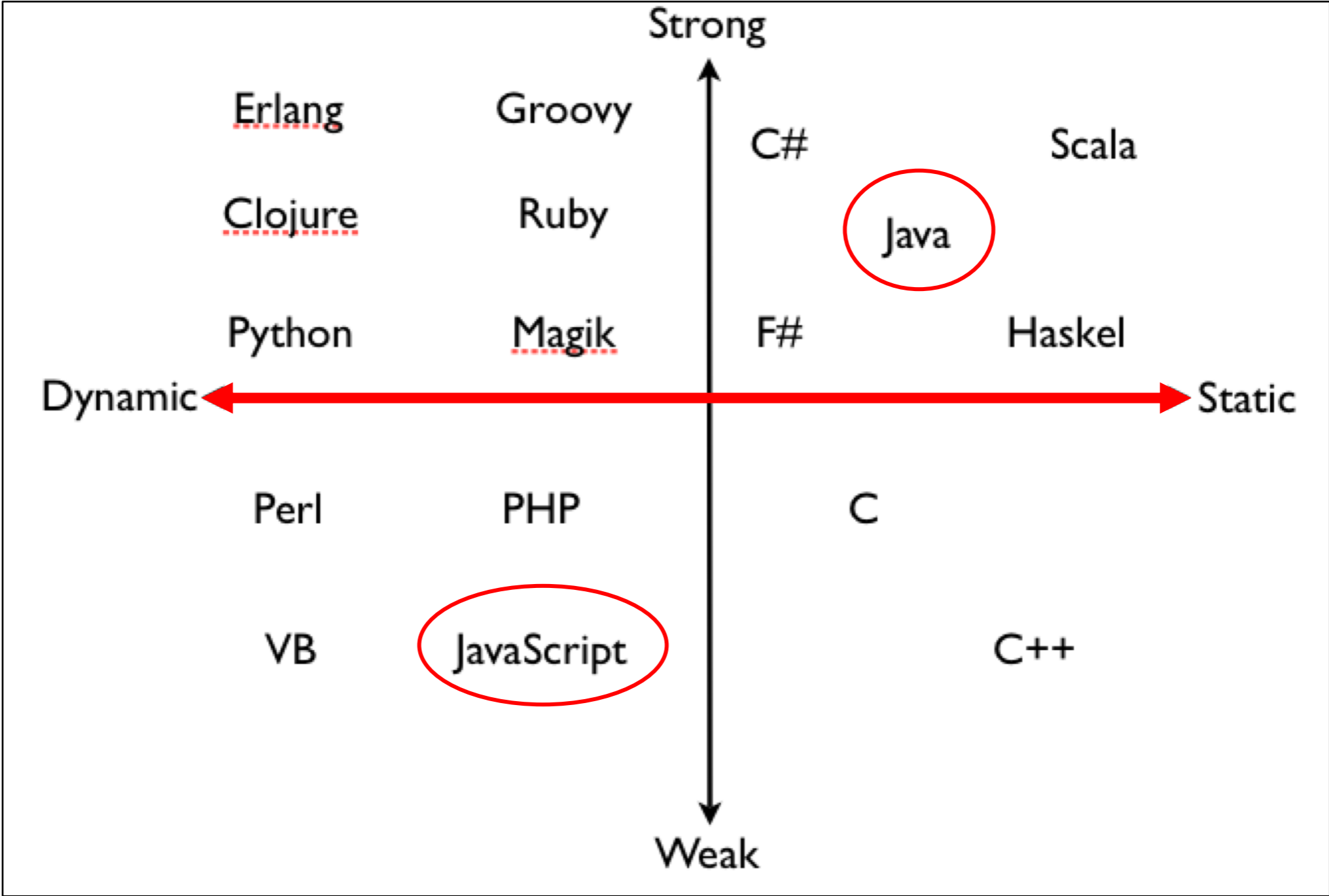
---

*“There is widespread confusion or disagreement about the meanings of the words*

***static, dynamic, strong and weak***

*when used to describe the type systems of programming languages”*





# Dynamic Typing

---

*“Variables’ type declarations  
are not mandatory  
and they will be  
generated/inferred on the fly,  
by their first use.”*

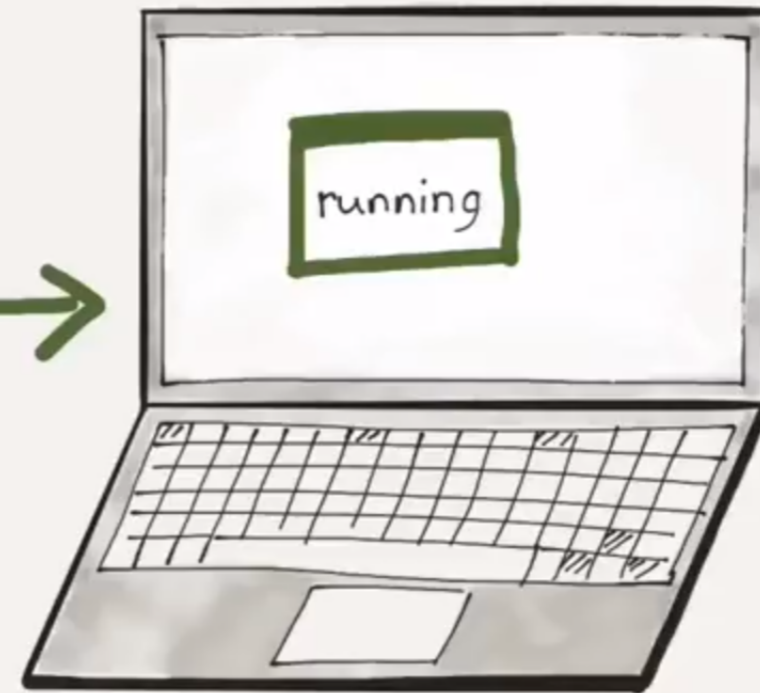


```
int a = 10;
char *str = "hello";
int
main()
{
  printf("%d\n", a);
  printf("%s\n", str);
}
// ...
```

Compile time



Runtime



Check types here

(Dynamic typing)



# Dynamic Typing – Example



```
var greeting = ; //undefined  
var someRandomInteger = 100;  
var aDoubleVariable = 2.2;  
greeting = "Hello!";
```

A type is NOT assigned to the variables.

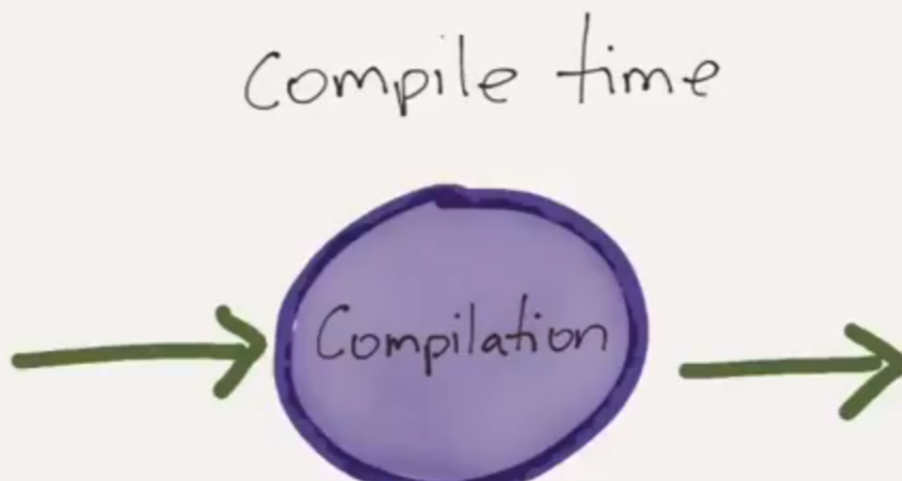
The JavaScript engine will choose a type that it feels best describes the data that's contained inside of your variable → assign datatype behind the scenes.

# Static Typing

---

*“Variable declarations are mandatory before usage, else results in a compile-time error”*

```
int a = 40;  
char *s = "hello";  
let  
main:  
    int i;  
    for(i=0; i<s.length; i++)  
        cout << s[i] << " ";  
    return 0;  
}
```



Check types here  
(Static typing)

Compile time

Runtime



# Static Typing – Example



```
String greeting = "Hello!";  
int someRandomInteger = 100;  
double aDoubleVariable = 2.2;
```

A type is  
assigned to  
each variable.

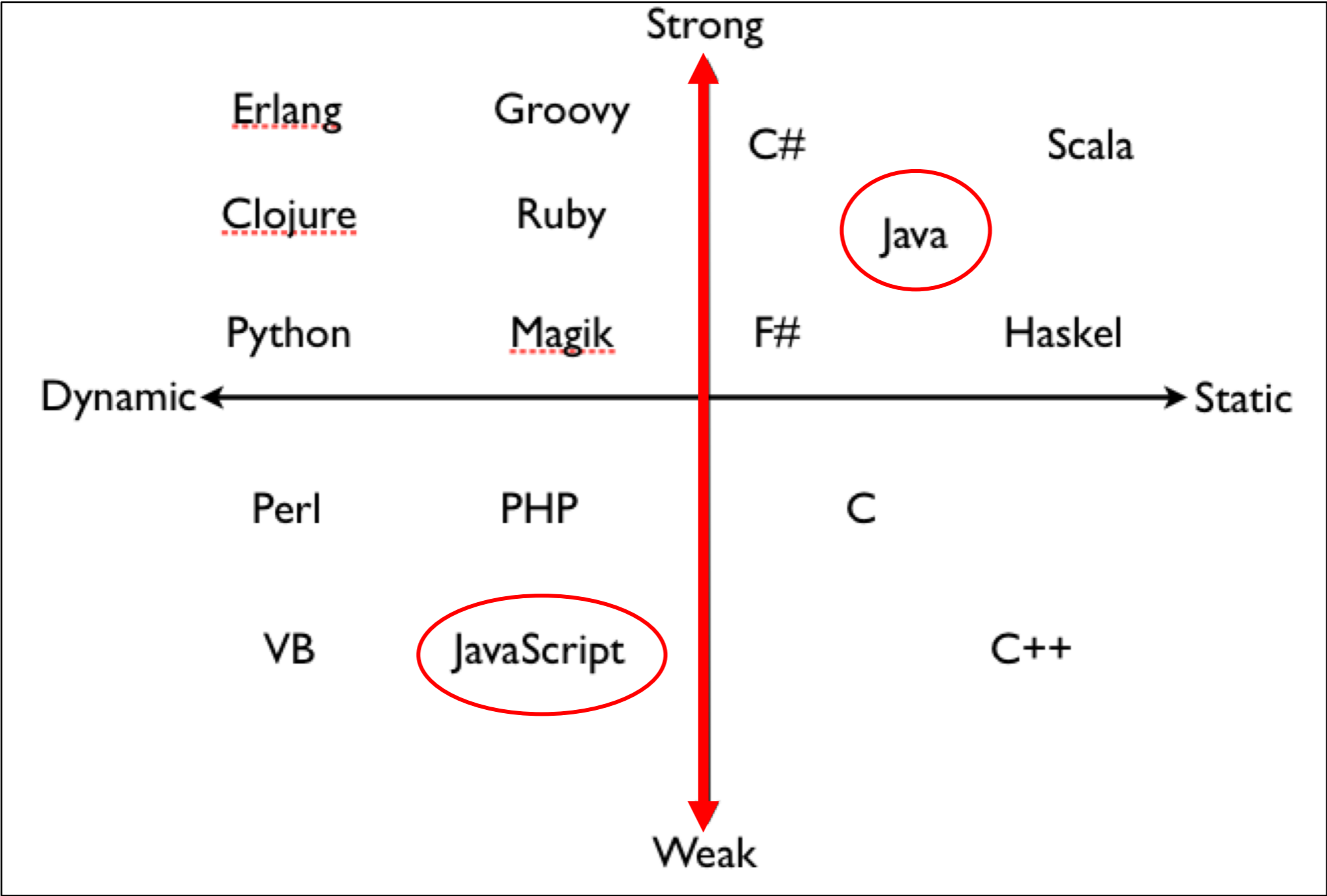
In Java, if we don't assign a  
type, we get a compiler error  
→ Java is statically typed.

Types determine the  
operations we can perform on  
the variables.



Amount of type checking enforced by the compiler vs. leaving it to the runtime







# Strong Typing

---

*“Once a variable is declared as a specific data type, it will be bound to that particular data type.*

*You can explicitly cast the data type though.”*

# Strong Typing – Example 1



```
*StrongTyping.java x
1
2 public class StrongTyping {
3
4     public static void main(String[] args) {
5
6         int numberOne = 4;    //static typing
7         int numberTwo;
8
9         numberTwo = 4.6;
10
11     }
12
13 }
14
```

Type mismatch: cannot convert from double to int  
2 quick fixes available:  
• [Add cast to 'int'](#)  
• [Change type of 'numberTwo' to 'double'](#)  
Press 'F2' for focus

# Strong Typing – Example 1 (fix with casting)



```
*StrongTyping.java ✕
1
2 public class StrongTyping {
3
4     public static void main(String[] args) {
5
6         int numberOne = 4;        //static typing
7         int numberTwo;
8
9         numberTwo = (int) 4.6;
10
11     }
12
13 }
```

Casting resolves  
the type  
mismatch error

# Strong Typing – Example 1 (fix with type)



Changing type  
to double from  
int.

```
*StrongTyping.java ✖
1
2 public class StrongTyping {
3
4     public static void main(String[] args) {
5
6         int numberOne = 4;        //static typing
7         double numberTwo;
8
9         numberTwo = 4.6;
10
11     }
12
13 }
```

# Strong Typing – Example 2



```
StrongTyping.java x
1
2 public class StrongTyping {
3
4     public static void main(String[] args) {
5
6         int a = 4;           //static typing
7         String b = "8";     //static typing
8
9         System.out.print("a * b gives: ");
10        System.out.print(a * b);
11    }
12
13 }
14
```

The operator \* is undefined for the argument type(s) int, String  
Press 'F2' for focus

# Weak Typing

---



*“Variables are not of a specific data type.*

*However it doesn't mean that variables are not “bound” to a specific data type.*

*In weakly typed languages, once a block of memory is associated with an object it can be reinterpreted as a different type of object.”*

# Weak Typing – Example 1



 **codingground** | Online Javascript Editor (Javascript) 

Preview | Embed | index.htm



```
1 <html>
2 <script>
3 function weakTyping() {
4     var a = 4;           //dynamic typing
5     var b = '8';        //dynamic typing
6     document.write("a + b gives: ");
7     document.write(a + b); //weak typing
8 }
9 weakTyping();
10 </script>
11 </html>
```

**Result**

a + b gives: 48

# Weak Typing – Example 2



 **codingground** | Online Javascript Editor (Javascript) 

Preview | Embed | index.htm

```
1 <html>
2 <script>
3 function weakTyping() {
4     var a = 4;           //dynamic typing
5     var b = '8';        //dynamic typing
6     document.write("a * b gives: ");
7     document.write(a * b); //weak typing
8 }
9 weakTyping();
10 </script>
11 </html>
```



**Result**

a \* b gives: 32



# Weak Typing – Example 3



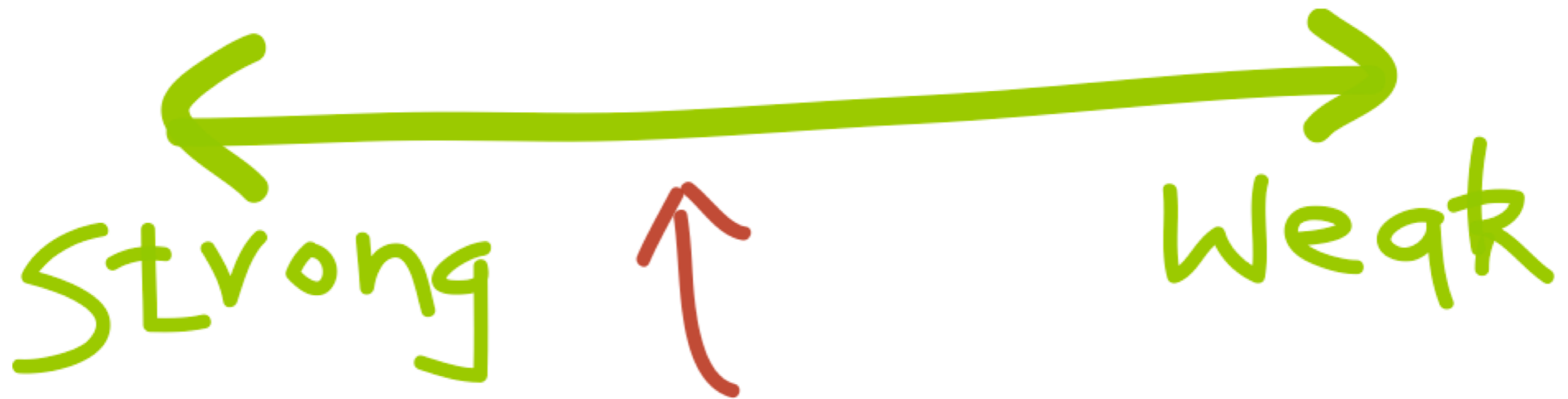
 **codingground** | Online Javascript Editor (Javascript) 

Preview | Embed | index.htm

```
i 1 <html>
2 <script>
3 function weakTyping() {
4     var a = 4;           //dynamic typing
5     var b = true;       //dynamic typing
6     document.write("a + b gives: ");
7     document.write(a + b); //weak typing
8 }
9 weakTyping();
10 </script>
11 </html>
```

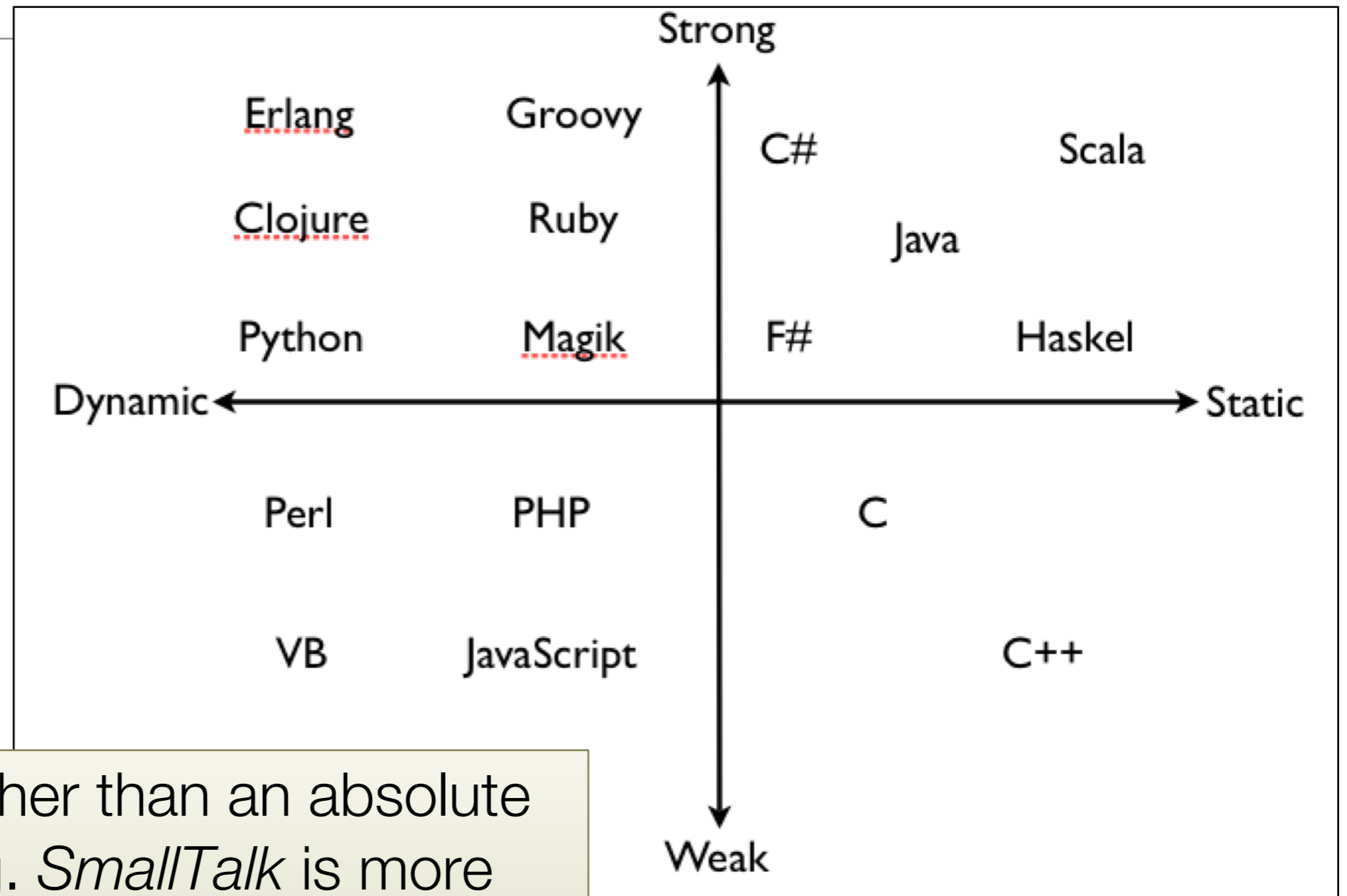
**Result**

a + b gives: 5



How the runtime constraints you from treating objects of different types (in other words treating memory as blobs or specific data types)

# Typing Spectrum



*Continuum* rather than an absolute measure; e.g. *SmallTalk* is more strongly typed compared to *Python* which is more strongly typed than *JavaScript*.