



Andrew Myers @AndrewCMyers · Oct 18

OO languages have dominated for decades, the whole time occupying a remarkably small slice of the mainstream PL research portfolio. I think people were hoping they would magically go away, meaning they don't understand why OO wins in practice.



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Talia Ringer @TaliaRinger · Oct 21

Or it could mean that research is typically ahead of what follows in industry, as one would expect



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Liam O'Connor @kamatsu8 · Oct 21

i think OO did not really emerge from the mainstream of PL research though - it took the industry by storm and academia only caught on later



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Talia Ringer @TaliaRinger · Oct 21

It was hugely popular in academia in the 90s, was it not? Meanwhile at Amazon they were still writing code in Perl



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Liam O'Connor @kamatsu8 · Oct 21

In the late 90s it was popular in academia, but that was well after the industry took it up



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Talia Ringer @TaliaRinger · Oct 21

What portion of industry at that point?



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Liam O'Connor @kamatsu8 · Oct 21

Sun and Java in enterprise, NeXT and objective C, MS and C++...

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en.wikipedia.org
James Gosling - Wikipedia

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Talia Ringer @TaliaRinger · Oct 21

I am pretty sure that a huge portion of academia was doing OO research in the early to mid 90s as well, and that this happened in parallel to the industrial OO boom, which took a long time to reach larger companies



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Liam O'Connor @kamatsu8 · Oct 21

Even so, work done in parallel is not the same as research running long ahead of industrial uptake. Certainly I know some (very old) PL and modelling folks who felt "derailed" by the OO boom.



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Talia Ringer @TaliaRinger · Oct 21

It came out of Alan Kay's 1960s work in academia, as a professor at Utah, after which he left for industrial research. He was eventually recognized with a Turing Award. The massive popularity boom was in the 90s



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Talia Ringer @TaliaRinger · Oct 21

And when I left Amazon in 2015, migration from Perl to Java was still ongoing, because it takes that long to fully adopt new languages and migrate legacy code



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Talia Ringer @TaliaRinger · Oct 21

At the Martin Abadi AMA yesterday, he mentioned that one lesson from successful languages in industry is that they often ship with something else, IMO probably to offset some of the costs of migration of legacy systems--- easier to use a new language for a new thing



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Replying to @TaliaRinger @kamatsu8 and @AndrewCMyers

Replacing libc/coreutils is the #1 old thing for a new language. A Rust/(or Coq verified C) replacement for libc would be a big win. Bonus for CYK parsers that run on GPU.

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