Towards an Operational Code Aesthetics

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Code

- is created
- is modified
- must be understandable
- must be correct
Code

- must be aesthetically pleasing
A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*
Aesthetics, too
The Beauty of Code

- is more about how it solves a problem

```haskell
qsort [] = []
qsort (x:xs) = qsort lt ++ [x] ++ qsort gt
where lt = filter (< x) xs
      gt = filter (>= x) xs
```

- is less about how it is formatted

```haskell
qsort [] = []
qsort (x:xs) = qsort lt ++ [x] ++ qsort gt
where lt = filter (< x) xs
      gt = filter (>= x) xs
```
The Beauty of Modification

- is more about how it solves a problem

  ```
  if( pred1 ) ...
  ...
  -if( pred1 ) ...
  +if( pred1 && pred2 ) ...
  ...
  ```

- is less about how the code is formatted

  ```
  -if( pred1 ) ...
  +if (pred1) ...
  ...
  -if( pred1 ) ...
  +if (pred1 && pred2) ...
  ```
Minimal Changes

- Strive for changes that are minimal
  - The change itself will be pleasing
  - The overall code will be ugly anyway, before and after
- Smaller changes are easier to review
- We picked poor clang-format settings, though
Hell is other people

Jean-Paul Sarte
Who messed with *my* code?!?

- Take pride in the code you write
- Be prepared that others will modify it
  - to their taste, even
- You still are the domain expert, though
Your Code is Grazing on the Commons Now

- You offer code for the common good
- In return, others will shepherd it
- Be thankful

- No code was harmed in the making of this talk