

Philosophy & Programming

Dushan Wegner

Programmers are the
better philosophers.

Programmers are the
better philosophers.
(They just don't know it.)

- 1 Philosophy
- 2 Programming
- 3 Similarities
- 4 Differences
- 5 Finale

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What are philosophers
paid to do?

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Answer the “big questions”.

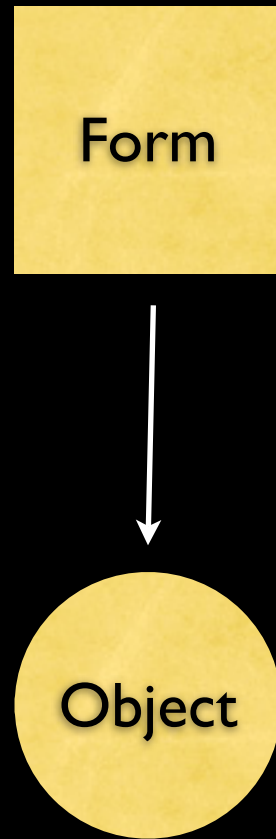
Big Questions

- What is the meaning of life?
- Do we even exist?
- Do we have a free will?
- What is knowledge?
- What is beauty?
- Are the universal facts?
- What is good? What is evil?
- What is reality, what is not?
- What is time?
- Do we live in a Matrix?

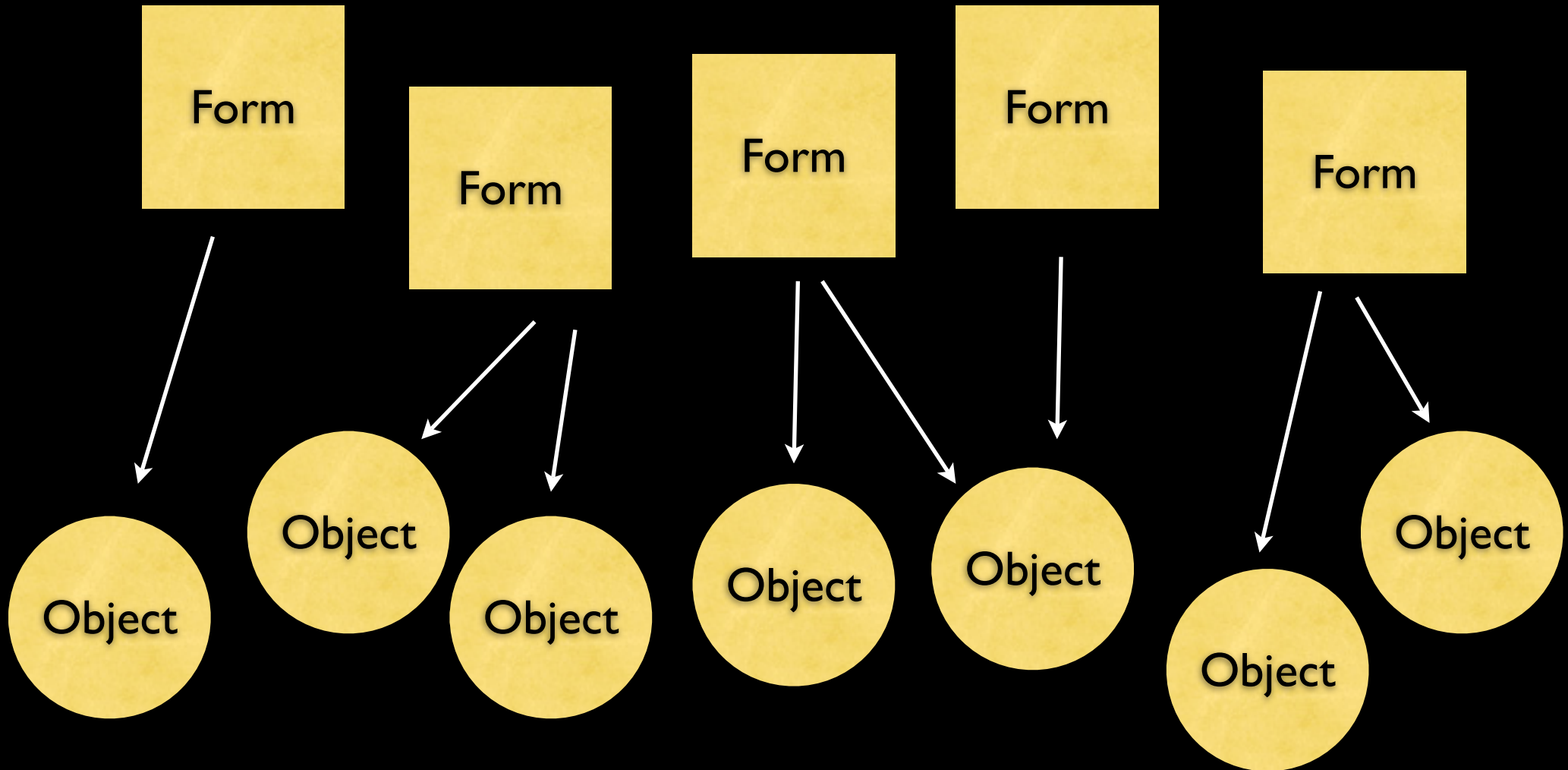
Inspired by [Wikipedia: List_of_philosophical_questions](#)

Example:
“Plato’s Forms”

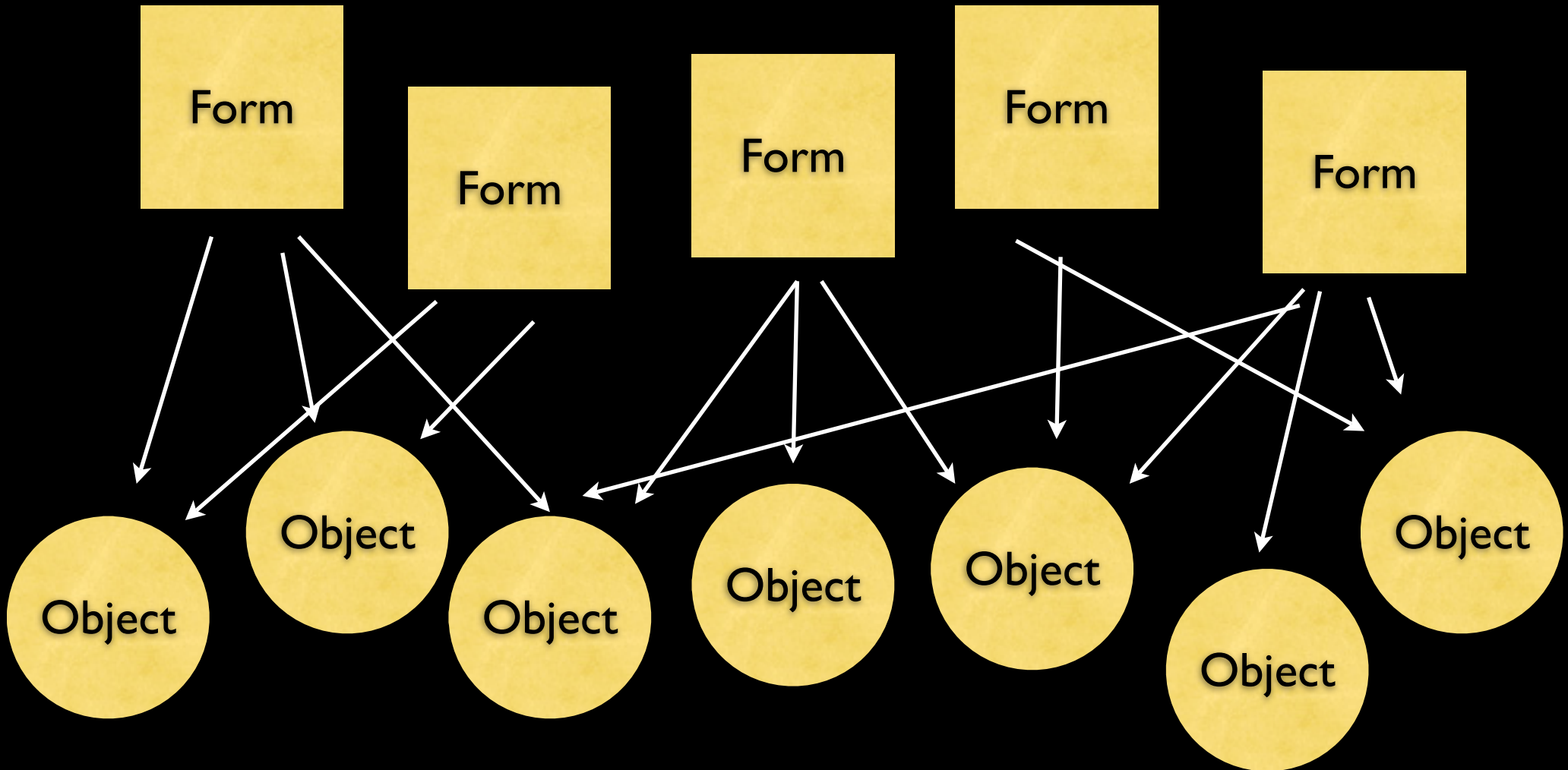
Plato's Forms



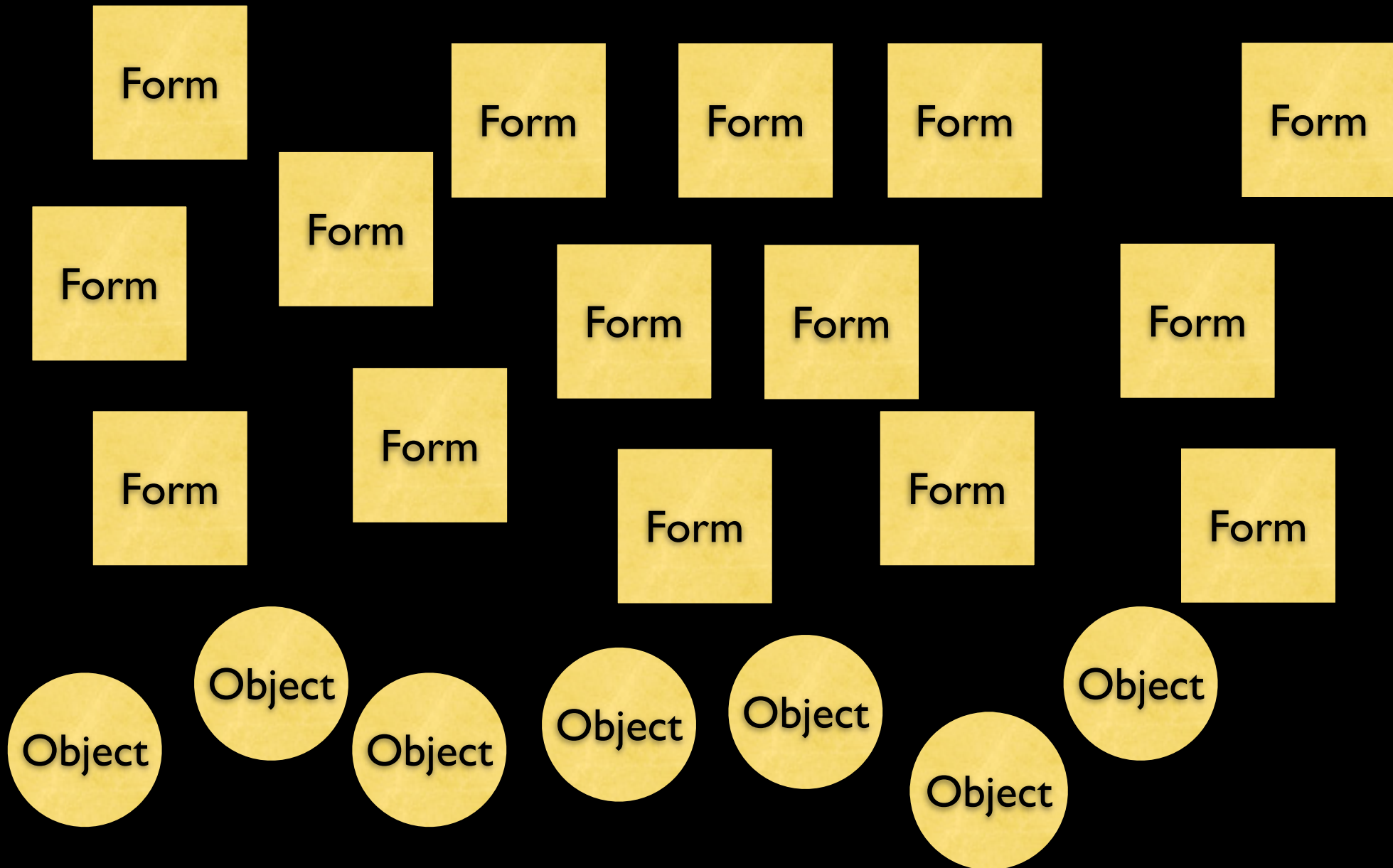
Plato's Forms



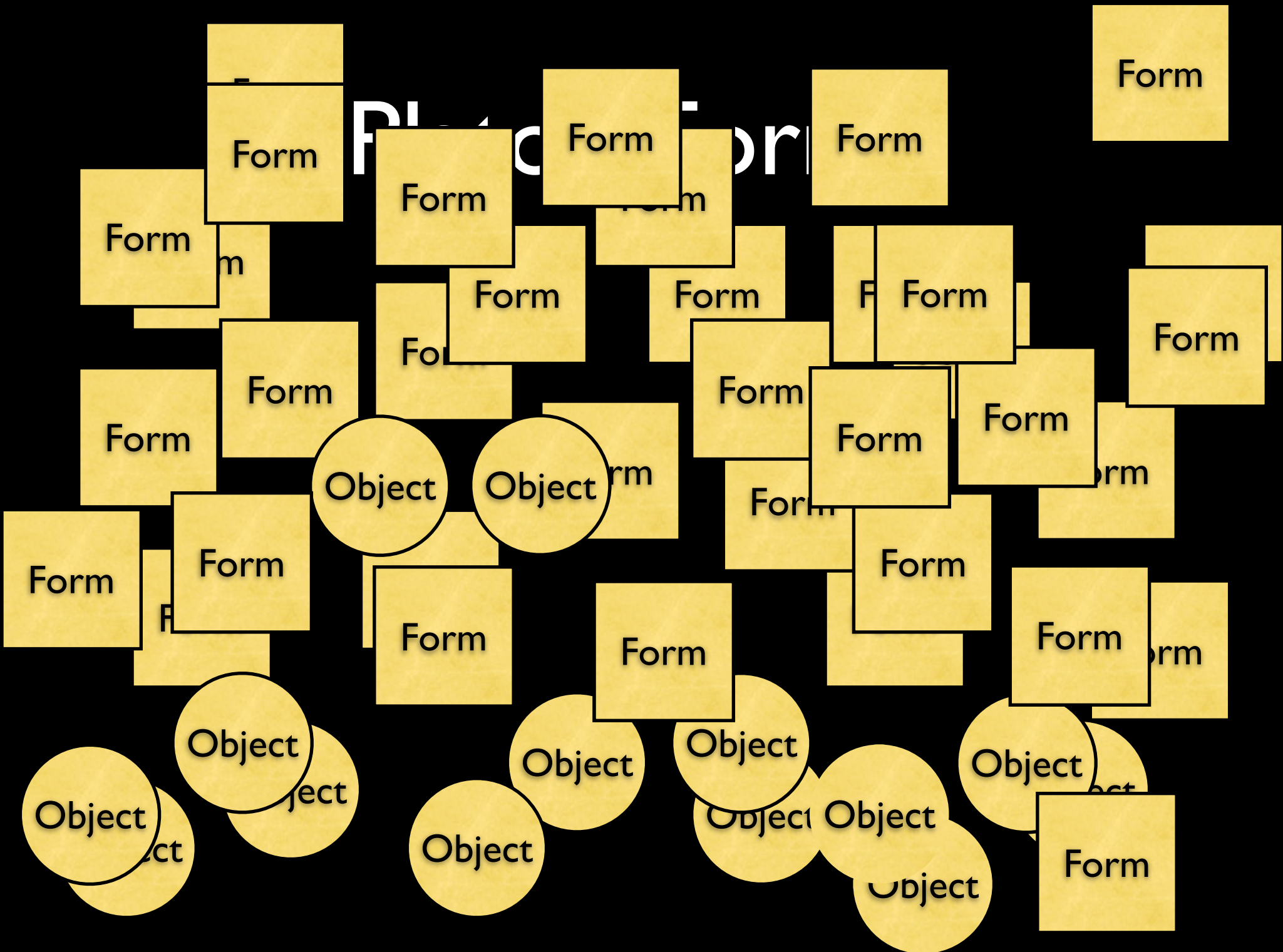
Plato's Forms



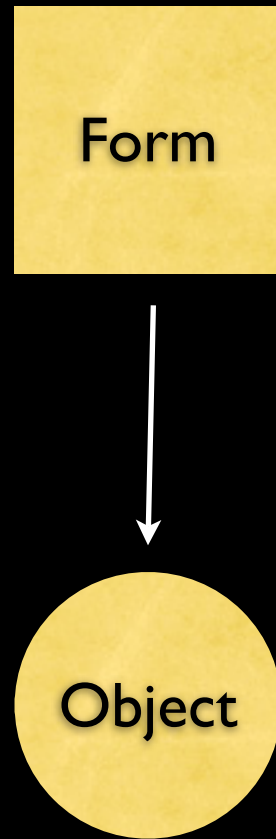
Plato's Forms



Place Form



Plato's Forms



Philosophy is describing
the structures of the world
as clear-cut, deep and as
sane as possible.

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Great software solutions
solve real world problems
in a new, simpler way.

Great software
is fun to program.

Fun

```
def is?  
  self if thinks?  
end
```

Beautiful code solves a real problem “just as if it was made for it”.

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Philosopher:
“What is the logical
structure of problem X?”

Programmer:
“What is the logical
structure of problem X?”

Philosophers and
Programmers both are
engaged in formalizing
real world problems.

Both in philosophy and programming progress means that you are getting closer to the real world and its structures.

Nic Williams:

“Good programming
touches the real world.”

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Programmer

- Classes are developed based on real world needs.
- Classes are developed by humans and are never perfect.
- If we work at them long enough they get better.

Reality Check
leads to better
world-description.

e.g. “feature-war”
vs. “do less better”

Collating features.

Get it out there!™

Reality Check

Reality Check

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Programmers
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Thank you.
(mail me: shtikl@mac.com)