

编程语言的设计原理 Design Principles of Programming Languages

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Peking University, Spring Term 2024

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Design Principle of Programming Language , Spring 2024

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Information

- Course website: <http://pku-dppl.github.io/2024>
	- Syllabus
	- News/Announcements
	- Lecture Notes (slides)
	- Other useful resources

- Time: Monday $7-9$ $(15:10-18:00)$
- Place: 昌平教学楼 206

Course Overview

Computer Science vs PL Construction

System = Specification + Program

" . . . the technology for coping with *large-scale computer systems* merges with the technology for *building new computer languages*, and *computer science itself* becomes no more (and no less) than the discipline of *constructing appropriate descriptive languages* "

Harold Abelson and Gerald Jay Sussman with Julie Sussman

Isn't PL a solved problem?

- An old field within CS
	- ……
	- 1930's:
	- 1940's:
	- 1950's
	- 1960's:
	- -1970 's:
	- 1980's:
	- -1990 's:
	- -2000 's:

– ……

- An old field within CS
	- 1930's: lambda-calculus
	- 1940's:

– ……

- 1950's: Fortran, LISP, COBOL. …
- 1960's: ALGOL60, PL/1, ALGOL68, …
- 1970's:C, Pascal, Smalltalk, MODULA, Scheme, ML, …
- 1980's: Ada, C++, …
- 1990's: Java, …
- 2000's: Rust, …

Programming Languages

- Touches most other areas of CS
	- Theory:
	- Systems:
	- Arch:
	- Numeric
	- DB:

– ….

- Networking:
- Graphics:
- Security:
- Software Engineering:
- Both *theory*(math) and *practice* (engineering)

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Programming Languages

- Touches most other areas of CS
	- Theory: DFAs, TMs, ….
	- Systems: system calls, memory management , …
	- Arch: compiler targets. Optimizations, stack frames , …
	- Numeric: FORTRAN, matlab , …
	- DB: SQL , …

– ….

- Networking: packet filter. protocols , …
- Graphics: OpenGL, LaTeX, PostScript , …
- Security: buffer overruns, .net, bytecode , …
- Software Engineering: bug finding, refactoring, types, …
- Both *theory* (math) and *practice* (engineering)

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- An introduction to programming
- A course on compiler
- A course on functional programming
- A course on language paradigms/styles

All the above are certainly helpful for your deep understanding of this course.

What is this course about?

- Study fundamental (formal) approaches to describing *program behaviors* that are both *precise* and *abstract*.
	- precise so that we can use mathematical tools to *formalize and check* interesting *properties*
	- abstract so that properties of interest can be *discussed clearly*, *without getting bogged down* in low-level details

What you can get out of this course?

- A more *sophisticated perspective* on programs, programming languages, and the activity of programming
	- How to *view programs and whole languages* as formal, mathematical objects
	- How to *make and prove rigorous claims* about them
	- Detailed *study* of a range of *basic language features*
- Powerful tools/techniques for language design, description, and analysis

- Basic knowledge on
	- Discrete mathematics: sets, functions, relations, orders
	- Algorithms: list, tree, graph, stack, queue, heap
	- Elementary logics: propositional logic, first-order logic
- Familiar with a *programming language* and basic knowledge of *compiler construction*

.

Textbook

- Types and Programming Languages
	- Benjamin Pierce
	- The MIT Press
	- 2002-02-01
	- ISBN 9780262162098

Outline

- Basic operational semantics and proof techniques
- Untyped Lambda calculus
- Simply typed Lambda calculus
- Simple extensions (basic and derived types) Reference
- References
- Exceptions
- Subtyping
- Recursive types
- Polymorphism
- [Higher-order systems]

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Outline

- Basic operational semantics and proof techniques
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- Polymorphism
- [Higher-order systems]

Grading

- Homework: 40%
- Activity in class + midTest : 20%
- Final (Report/Presentation): 40%

设计一个带类型系统的程序语言,解决实践中的问题,给出基本实现 设计一个语言, 保证永远不会发生内存/资源泄露。 设计一个汇编语言的类型系统 设计一个没有停机问题的编程语言 设计一个嵌入复杂度表示的类型系统, \bullet 保证编写的程序的复杂度不会高于类型标示的复杂度。 设计一个类型系统,使得敏感信息永远不会泄露。 设计一个类型系统, 使得写出的并行程序没有竞争问题 \bullet 设计一个类型系统, 保证所有的浮点计算都满足一定精度要求 \bullet 解决自己研究领域的具体问题

How to study this course?

- **Before class**: scanning through the chapters to learn and gain feeling about what will be studied
- **In class**: trying your best to understand the contents and *raising hands when you have questions at any time*
	- Discussion / lecture
- **After class**: doing exercises seriously

Chapter 1: Introduction

What is a type system What type systems are good for Type systems and programming languages

What is a type system (type theory)?

- A *type system* is a tractable syntactic method for proving the *absence of certain program behaviors* by classifying phrases according to the kinds of values they compute.
	- Tools for program reasoning
	- Classification of terms
		- according to the properties of the values that the terms (syntactic phrases) will compute when executed.
	- Static approximation
		- calculating a kind of static approximation to the run-time behaviors of the terms
	- Proving the absence rather than presence of bad program behaviors
		- Being static, type systems are necessarily conservative, and the tension between conservativity and expressiveness is a fundamental fact of life in the design of type systems
		- only guarantee that well-typed programs are free from certain kinds of misbehavior
	- Fully automatic (and efficient)
		- Typecheckers are typically built into compilers or linkers

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What are type systems good for?

- Detecting Errors
	- Many programming errors can be detected early, fixed intermediately and easily.
	- Errors can often be pinpointed more accurately during typechecking than at run time
	- Expressive type systems offer numerous "tricks" for encoding information about structure in terms of types.
- Abstraction
	- Type systems form the backbone of the module languages and tie together the components of large systems in the context of large-scale software composition
	- An interface itself can be viewed as "the type of a module" , providing a summary of the facilities provided by the module.
- Documentation
	- Type declarations in *procedure headers* and *module interfaces* constitute a form of (checkable) documentation, which cannot become outdated as it is checked during every run of the compiler.
	- This role of types is particularly important in module signatures.

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What are type systems good for?

- **Language Safety**
	- A safe language is one that protects its own abstractions.
	- Safety refers to the language's ability to guarantee *the integrity* of these abstractions and of higher-level abstractions introduced by the programmer using the definitional facilities of the language.
	- Language safety *is not the same thing* as static type safety, and can be achieved by static checking, but also by run-time checks.
- Efficiency
	- Removal of dynamic checking; smart code-generation.
	- Most high-performance compilers today rely heavily on information gathered by the typechecker during optimization and code-generation phases.

Type Systems and Languages Design

- Language design should go hand-in-hand with type system design.
	- Languages without type systems tend to offer features that make *type-checking difficult or infeasible*.
	- Concrete syntax of typed languages tends to be *more complicated* than that of untyped languages, since type annotations must be taken into account.

In typed languages the type system itself is often taken as the foundation of the design and the organizing principle in light of which every other aspect of the design is considered.

Design Programming Languages

- Simplicity
	- syntax
	- semantics
- Readability
- **Safety**
- Support for programming large systems
- Efficiency (of execution and compilation)

-- Hints on programming language design by C.A.R. Hoare

Design Programming Languages

- Choose a specific application area
- Make the design committee as small as possible
- Choose some precise design goals
- Release version one of the language to a small set of interested people
- Revise the language definition
- Attempt to build a prototype compiler / to provide a formal definition of the language semantics
- Revise the language definition again
- Produce a clear, concise language manual and release it
- Provide a production quality compiler and distribute it widely
- Write marvelously clear primers explaining how to use the language

-- "*Fundamentals of Programming Languages*" by Ellis Horowitz

Homework

• Read Chapters 1 and 2.

- Install OCaml and read "Basics"
	- Overview
		- <https://ocaml.org/docs/>
	- Installation
		- <https://ocaml.org/docs/up-and-running>

Chapter 3: Untyped Arithmetic Expressions

A small language of Numbers and Booleans

Basic aspects of programming languages

Grammar Programs Evaluation

Introduction

Grammar

Programs

Evaluation

t: *metavaraible* in the right-hand side (non-terminal symbol)

For the moment, the words *term* and *expression* are used interchangeably

• A *program* in the language is just *a term* built from *the forms* given by the grammar

```
if false then 0 else 1 (1 = succ 0)\rightarrow 1
iszero (pred (succ 0))
\rightarrow true
succ (succ (succ (0)))
\rightarrow?
```


Many ways of defining syntax (besides grammar)

The set of terms is the **smallest set** T such that

- 1. {true, false, $0 \subseteq T$;
- 2. if $t_1 \in T$,

then {succ t_1 , pred t_1 , iszero t_1 } \subseteq T;

3. if $t_1 \in T$, $t_2 \in T$, and $t_3 \in T$,

then if t_1 then t_2 else $t_3 \in T$.

The set of terms is defined by the following *rules*:

each rule: *If we have established the statements* in *the premise(s) listed above the line*, then we may derive *the conclusion* below the line

```
Inference rules = Axioms + Proper rules
```
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For each natural number i, define a set *Sⁱ* as follows:

$$
S_0 = \emptyset
$$

\n
$$
S_{i+1} = \{true, false, 0\}
$$

\n
$$
\cup \{succ t_1, pred t_1, is zero t_1 | t_1 \in S_i\}
$$

\n
$$
\cup \{if t_1 then t_2 else t_3 | t_1, t_2, t_3 \in S_i\}
$$

Finally, let

$$
S = \bigcup_i S_i.
$$

Exercise $[$ **]: How many elements does S_3 have? Proposition: T = S

Induction on Terms

Inductive definitions Inductive proofs

The set of *constants* appearing in a term *t*, written *Consts(t)*, is defined as:

- *Consts*(true) Consts(false) \equiv $Consts(0)$ $=$ Consts (succ t_1) \equiv Consts(pred t_1) *Consts*(iszero t_1) tн. Consts(if t_1 then t_2 else t_3)
	- $\{true\}$ ${false}$
	- $\{0\}$
	- $Consts(t_1)$
	- $Consts(t_1)$
	- $Consts(t_1)$
	- = $Consts(t_1) \cup Consts(t_2) \cup Consts(t_3)$

The size of a term *t*, written *size(t)*, is defined as follows:

size(true) size(false) \mathbf{I} $size(0)$ $size(t_1) + 1$ size(succ t_1) $size(t_1) + 1$ size(pred t_1) size(iszero t_1) $size(t_1) + 1$ $=$ size(if t_1 then t_2 else t_3) = $size(t_1) + size(t_2) + size(t_3) + 1$

The *depth* of a term *t*, written *depth(t)*, is defined as follows:

depth(true) $\mathbf 1$ *depth*(false) \perp $depth(0)$ $depth(succ t_1)$ $depth(pred t_1)$ \equiv $depth(iszero t_1)$ E *depth*(if t_1 then t_2 else t_3) $=$

1

$$
= \quad depth(\mathbf{t}_1) + 1
$$

$$
= depth(t_1) + 1
$$

$$
= depth(t_1) + 1
$$

 $max(depth(t₁), depth(t₂), depth(t₃))+1$

Lemma. The number of *distinct constants* in a term *t* is no greater than the *size* of *t*:

| Consts(t) | ≤ size(t)

Proof. By induction over the *depth* of *t.*

- Case *t* is a constant : $|Consts(t)| = |\{t\}| = 1 = size(t)$.
- Case *t* is pred t_1 , succ t_1 , or iszero t_1

By the induction hypothesis, $|Consts(t_1)| \leq size(t_1)$, and we have: $|Consts(t)| = |Consts(t_1)| \leq size(t_1) < size(t)$.

 $-$ Case t is if \mathfrak{t}_1 then \mathfrak{t}_2 else \mathfrak{t}_3

?

Inductive Proof

- Induction on depth/size of terms is analogous to complete induction on natural numbers
- Ordinary structural induction corresponds to the ordinary natural number induction principle where the induction step requires that P(n+1) be established from just the assumption P(n)

Theorem [Structural Induction]

If, for each term *s*,

given P(r) for all immediate subterms *r* of *s,* we can show P(s), then P(s) holds for all *s*.

suppose P is a predicate on terms,

and separately considering *each of the possible forms* that term *s* could have

Semantic Styles

Three basic approaches

- Operational semantics specifies the *behavior* of a programming language by defining a simple abstract machine for it.
- An example (often used in this course):
	- terms as *states,* rather than some low-level microprocessor instruction set
	- behavior : *transition from one state to another* as *simplification*
	- **meaning** of *t* is *the final state* starting from the state corresponding to *t*

Denotational Semantics

- The *meaning* of a *term* is taken to be some *mathematical object*, such as a number or a function
	- basically it's related to **mathematical functions,** which take **something as an input,** do some computation that you don't care about and produce **a result,** which you **care about**
- Giving denotational semantics for a language consists of
	- finding a *collection of semantic domains*, and then
	- defining an *interpretation function* mapping *terms* into *elements of these domains*.
- Main advantage: It abstracts from the gritty details of evaluation and highlights *the essential concepts* of the language.

- Axiomatic methods take the *laws* (properties) themselves *as the definition of the language.*
	- Instead of first defining the behaviors of programs (by giving some operational or denotational semantics) and then deriving laws from this definition
- The meaning of a *term* is just *what* can be proved about it
	- They focus attention on *the process of reasoning* about programs
	- Hoare logic: define the meaning of imperative languages

Evaluation

Evaluation relation (small-step/big-step) Normal form Confluence and termination

t evaluates to t' in one step

One-step Evaluation Relation

• The *one-step evaluation relation →* is the *smallest binary relation* on terms satisfying the three rules

if true then
$$
t_2
$$
 else $t_3 \rightarrow t_2$ (E-IFTRUE)
if false then t_2 else $t_3 \rightarrow t_3$ (E-IFFALSE)

$$
\frac{t_1 \rightarrow t'_1}{\text{if } t_1 \text{ then } t_2 \text{ else } t_3}
$$
 (E-IF)

$$
\rightarrow \text{if } t'_1 \text{ then } t_2 \text{ else } t_3
$$

• When the *pair (t, t')* is in the evaluation relation, we say that "t \rightarrow t' is *derivable*."

Derivation Tree

 $s \stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$ if true then false else false $t \stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$ if s then true else true $\mu \stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$ if false then true else true

• "if t then false else false \rightarrow if u then false else false" is witnessed by the following derivation tree:

Theorem [**Determinacy of one-step evaluation**]: If $t \rightarrow t'$ and $t \rightarrow t''$, then $t' = t''$.

Proof. By induction on derivation of $t \rightarrow t'$.

If *the last rule* used in the derivation of $t \rightarrow t'$ is E-IfTrue, then *t* has the form if true then t2 else t3.

It can be shown that there is only one way to reduce such *t*.

……

At each step of the induction, we assume the desired result for all smaller derivations, and proceed by a case analysis of the evaluation rule used at the root of the derivation.

- **Definition**: A term *t* is in normal form if *no evaluation rule* applies to it.
- **Theorem**: Every *value* is in normal form.
	- At present, the converse of this Theorem is also true: every normal form is a value.
- **Theorem**: If *t* is in normal form, then *t* is a *value*.
	- Prove by contradiction (then by structural induction).

- **Definition**: The multi-step evaluation relation →∗ is the *reflexive*, *transitive closure* of one-step evaluation.
- **Theorem** [Uniqueness of normal forms]:

If t \rightarrow * u and t \rightarrow * u', where u and u' are both normal forms, then $u = u'$.

• **Theorem** [Termination of Evaluation]: For every term t there is some normal form t' such that $t \rightarrow * t'$.

Extending Evaluation to Numbers

- Definition: A closed term is stuck if it is in *normal form* but *not a value*.
- Examples:
	- succ true
	- succ false
	- if zero then true else false

Big-step Evaluation

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- How to define syntax?
	- Grammar, Inductively, Inference Rules, Generative
- How to define semantics?
	- Operational, Denotational, Axomatic
- How to define evaluation relation (operational semantics)?
	- Small-step/Big-step evaluation relation
	- Normal form
	- Confluence/termination

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• Do Exercise 3.5.13 & 3.5.16 in Chapter 3.

Thanks for listening