

6.820

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Course Staff

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 - Instructor



What this course is about

The top N good ideas in programming languages that you might be embarrassed not to know about. ;)

What this course is about

- How we define the meanings of programs and programming languages unambiguously?
- How can we prove theorems about the behavior of individual programs?
- How can we design programming tools to automate that kind of understanding?

Applications:

-finding bugs

designing languages to prevent bugs

-synthesizing programs

-manipulating programs automatically (refactoring, optimization)

Course outline

Functional Programming

- learn about lambda calculus, Haskell, and OCaml
- learn to make formal arguments about program behavior
- Type Theory
 - learn how to design and reason about type systems
 - use type-based analysis to find synchronization errors, avoid information leaks and manage your memory efficiently
- Axiomatic Semantics/Program Logics
 - a different view of program semantics
 - learn how to make logical arguments about program correctness

Course Outline

Abstract Interpretation

- use abstraction to reason about the behavior of the program under all possible inputs

Model checking

- learn how to reason exhaustively about program states
- learn how abstraction and symbolic reasoning can help you find bugs in device drivers and protocol designs

Big Ideas (recurring throughout the units)

Operational Semantics

(give programs meanings via stylized *interpreters*) Program Proofs as Inductive Invariants (all induction, all the time!) Abstraction (model programs with *specifications*) Modularity

(break programs into *pieces* to analyze separately)

Skills

- Haskell
- Coq
- Ocaml
- Spin

Grading

6 homework assignments

- Each is 15-20% of your grade
- start on them early!

6 Homework Assignments

Pset 1 (out now, due in about 2 weeks!)

- Practice functional programming
- Build some Lambda Calculus interpreters

Pset 2

- Practice more functional programming
- Implement a type inference engine
- Practice writing proofs in Coq

Pset 3

- How to make formal arguments about the properties of a type system
- Coq proof of type safety for a simple language

Pset 4

- Learn about SMT solvers
- Implement your own verifier for simple C-like programs

Homework Assignments Cont.

Pset 5

 Implement an analysis to check for memory errors in C-like programs

Pset 6

- Practice LTL and CTL (two specification languages)
- Learn how to use a model checker

Functional Programming: Functions and Types

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Adapted from Arvind 2010

September 9, 2015

September 9, 2015

Function Execution by Substitution

plus $x y = x + y$							
1.	plus 2 3	\rightarrow	$2 + 3 \rightarrow 5$				
2.	plus (2*3) (plus 4 5)				
\rightarrow pl	us 6 (4+5)	\rightarrow (2*3) +(plus 4 5)					
\rightarrow pl	us 6 9		→ 6 + (4+5)				
\rightarrow 6 \cdot	+ 9		\rightarrow 6 + 9				
\rightarrow 15			\rightarrow 15				

The final answer did not depend upon the order in which reductions were performed

September 9, 2015

Informally - The order in which reductions are performed in a Functional program does not affect the final outcome

This is true for all functional programs regardless whether they are right or wrong

A formal definition will be given later

Blocks

- a variable can have at most one definition in a block
- ordering of bindings does not matter

Layout Convention in Haskell

This convention allows us to omit many delimiters

is the same as

Lexical Scoping



Lexically closest definition of a variable prevails.

Renaming Bound Identifiers (α-renaming)

let	-										let									
V	7 =	=	2	*	2						y	=	2	*	2					
X	: =	=	3	+	4						x	=	3	+	4					
Z	: =	=	10	et							 Z	=	le	et						
				X	=	5	*	5						x'	=	5	* 5	5		
				W	=	x	+	У	*	x				W	= x	′ .	+ y	7	*	x ′
			i	n									iı	n						
				٦	W									V	v					
in											in									
	X	4	-]	Z.	+ :	Z					2	к -	ΗJ	7 -	ŀΖ					

Lexical Scoping and α -renaming

plus x y = x + yplus' a b = a + b

plus and plus' are the same because plus'
can be obtained by systematic renaming of
bounded identifiers of plus

Capture of Free Variables



Suppose we rename the bound identifier f to g in the definition of foo

foo'
$$g x = g (g x)$$

foo \equiv foo' ? No

While renaming, entirely new names should be introduced!

Curried functions

plus x y = x + y
let
f = plus 1
in
f 3

$$\rightarrow$$
 (plus 1) 3 \rightarrow 1 + 3 \rightarrow 4
syntactic conventions:
e1 e2 e3 = ((e1 e2) e3)
x + y = (+) x y

September 9, 2015

Local Function Definitions





Local Function Definitions



Any function definition can be "closed" and "lifted"



All expressions in Haskell have a type

23 :: Int

"23 belongs to the set of integers" "The type of 23 is Int"

true :: Bool
"hello" :: String

Type of an expression

(sq 529) :: Int sq :: Int -> Int

"sq is a function, which when applied to an integer produces an integer"

"Int -> Int is the set of functions, each of which when applied to an integer produces an integer"

"The type of sq is Int -> Int"

Type of a Curried Function

	I	plus	xy	Y =	x +	У		
(plus	1)	3::	Int					
(plus	1)	•••	Int	->	Int			
plus		•••	Int	->	(Int	->	Int)	?

λ -Abstraction

Lambda notation makes it explicit that a value can be a function. Thus,

(plus 1) can be written as $y \rightarrow (1 + y)$

(In Haskell \mathbf{x} is a syntactic approximation of $\lambda \mathbf{x}$)

plus x y = x + y

can be written as

or as $plus = \langle x - \rangle \langle y - \rangle (x + y)$ $plus = \langle x y - \rangle (x + y)$

Parentheses Convention

- $f e1 e2 \equiv ((f e1) e2)$
- $f e1 e2 e3 \equiv (((f e1) e2) e3)$

application is *left associative*

Int -> (Int -> Int) = Int -> Int -> Int
type constructor "->" is right associative

Type of a Block



Type of a Conditional

(if e then e_1 else e_2) :: t

provided

е	•••	Bool
e ₁	•••	t
e ₂	•••	t

The type of expressions in both branches of conditional must be the same.

Polymorphism

twice
$$f x = f (f x)$$

1. twice (plus 3) 4

$$\rightarrow$$
 (Plus 3) ((plus 3) 4)
 \rightarrow ((plus 3) 7)
 \rightarrow 10
twice :: (Int \rightarrow Int) \rightarrow Int \rightarrow Int ?

2. twice (append "Zha") "Gabor"

 \rightarrow "ZhaZhaGabor"

twice :: (Str \rightarrow Str) \rightarrow Str \rightarrow Str ?

Deducing Types



Another Example: Compose

compose f g x = f (g x)
What is the type of compose ?

1. Assign types to every subexpression x :: t0 f :: t1 g :: t2 g x :: t3 f (g x) :: t4

 \Rightarrow compose :: t1 -> t2 -> t0 -> t4

- 2. Set up the constraints $t1 = t3 \rightarrow t4$ because of f (g x) $t2 = t0 \rightarrow t3$ because of (g x)
- 3. Resolve the constraints

 \Rightarrow compose ::

(t3 -> t4) -> (t0 -> t3) -> t0 -> t4

Now for some fun

- twice f x = f (f x)a = twice₁ (twice₂ succ) 4
- $b = twice_3 twice_4 succ 4$



Haskell and most modern functional languages follow the Hindley-Milner type system.

The main source of polymorphism in this system is the *Let block*.

The type of a variable can be instantiated differently within its lexical scope.

much more on this later ...

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6.820 Fundamentals of Program Analysis Fall 2015

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