TITLE - F SHARP

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ABSTRACT

This section will be abstract.

1 Introduction

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2 History

F# was originally developed at Microsoft Research [1],and the first version was released in May2005 [2]. F# is a functional-first, multi-paradigm language. The syntax of F# provides a friendly way to write code. Therefore, F# code is relatively easy to maintain compared to C#. In addition, F# is a powerful computing language for manipulating data, such as in the fields of data analysis, data visualizations, and high-performance analytics. Nowadays, F# is commonly utilized in data science and financial fields. For example, FsLab is a collection of popular F# open-source libraries for data science applications.

F# improves the language interoperability on the .NET Framework. One of the most important features of the .NET Framework is to allow developers using one language to interact with other languages [1]. Therefore, the .NET Framework provides a solution for developers to solve more complex tasks. Before F# emerged, C# and Visual Basic were the two languages in the .NET Framework ecosystem. Even they have some aspects of functional programming, but F# was designed specifically to bring together the utility of functional programming with the .NET library. After F# released, it became the perfect complement to C# and Visual Basic in the .NET Framework.

3 Data Types

F# is the newest programming language in the .NET family. It inherits a lot of features from C# and Visual Basic. F#, much like C# and Visual Basic, has data types like int and float. Additionally, F# has similar arithmetic operators. A type is a concept or abstraction, and is primarily about enforcing safety [3]. F# is statically typed which means that type checking will occur at compile time. For instance, if we try to assign a string to an integer type, we will receive a compiler error.

```
// Compile Error
let a : int = 1.20F
printfn "a: %d" a

//error FS0001: This expression was expected to have type
//     'int'
//but here has type
//     'float32'
//compiler exit status 1
```

Table 1: Integer Data Types

Type	Suffix	Range	Remarks	Example
byte	uy	0 to 255	8-bit unsigned integer	42uy
sbyte	y	128 to 127	8-bit signed integer	-11uy
int16	s	32,768 to 32,767	16-bit signed integer	42s
uint16	us	0 to 65,535	16-bit unsigned integer	12222us
int, int32		-2^{-31} 2^{-31} - 1	32-bit signed integer	1248
uint32	u	0 to 2^{32} - 1	32-bit unsigned integer	200u
int64	L	-2^{63} to 2^{63} - 1	64-bit signed integer	200L
uint64	UL	up to $2^{64} - 1$	64-bit unsigned integer	200UL
float32	F	1.5E-45 to 3.41E+38	32-bit signed floating point number (7 significant digits)	-11.0F
float		5.0E-324 to 1.7E+308	64-bit signed floating point number (15-16 significant digits)	-11.0
decimal	M	1.0E-28 to 7.9E28	128-bit signed floating point number (28-29 significant digits)	-11.0M
bool	true or false	Stores boolean values	true , false	
char			Single unicode characters	'a'
string			Unicode text	"Hello"

Table 2: Arithmetic operators

Operator	Description	Example	Result
+	Addition	1 + 2	3
-	Subtraction	1 - 2	-1
	Multiplication	2 * 3	6
/	Division	8L / 3L	2L
*	Power[*]	2.0 ** 5.0	32.0
%	Modulus	7 % 3	1
&&	And	true && false	false
||	Or	true || false	true
not	Not	not false	true

Caution: The ** operator, only works for float and float32 types. To raise the power of an integer value, you must either convert it to a floating-point number first or use the pown function [3].

```
// Simple example of Data type and Arithmetic operators
// initialize variables
let a : float32 = 1.20F
let b : float32 = 2.21F
printfn "a: %f" a
printfn "b: %f" b
printfn "sum: %f" (a + b)
```

```

// output:
// a: 1.200000
// b: 2.210000
// sum: 3.410000
```

Immutability: When you read F# documentation, it may be very hard to find the word variable. In some programming languages, we are allowed to re-assign the new value to the previous variable. However, in F#, we can not change the state after the declaration. In other words, we can not change the value of the "declared variable." If we want to change the state, we have to use the key word ***"mutable."***

```
// example of key word mutable
let mutable x : int = 10
x <- 15
printfn "x: %d" x

// output:
// x: 15
```

Tuple: A tuple is an ordered collection of data and an easy way to group common pieces of data together [3]. F# provides tuples that can contain any number of values of any type.

```
// example of Tuple

let names = ("John", 23)
printfn "name: %s" (fst names)
printfn "age: %d" (snd names)

// output:
// name: John
// age: 23
```

List: A list in F# is an ordered, immutable series of elements of the same type [4]. The syntax for a list is semicolon-delimited, or a semicolon is used to separate each element, and the whole list is in square brackets. The empty list is denoted as []. In addition, lists in F# support list comprehension syntax.

```
// Basic syntax of List
let odds  = [1; 3; 5; 7; 9]
let evens = [2; 4; 6; 8; 10]
```

Table 3: Some built-in List functions

Function	Type	Description
List.length	'a list -> int	Returns the length of a list.
List.head	'a list -> 'a	Returns the first element in a list.
List.tail	'a list -> 'a list	Returns the given list without the first element.
List.zip	('a -> bool) -> 'a list -> 'a list	Given two lists with the same length, returns a joined list of tuples.

```
// Examples:
// From: https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/fsharp/language-reference/lists
let list1 = [ 1; 2; 3 ]

printfn "list1.IsEmpty is %b" (list1.IsEmpty)
printfn "list1.Length is %d" (list1.Length)
printfn "list1.Head is %d" (list1.Head)
```

4 Control Structures

Control structures have a significant role in programming languages. When a program is in its executable stage, control structures allow computers to make running discussions via test expressions. There are three types of discussion modes that can be performed via control structures, ***Sequential mode***, ***Selection mode***, and ***Repetition mode*** [5]. Sequential mode is sequential execution of code statements. In other words, execution always begins at the first statement of the program, and statements are executed one at a time, in order, and from top to bottom [6]. Selection mode differs from sequential mode by choosing between two or more alternative paths [5]. The final discussion mode type, repetition, is used for repeating a piece of code multiple times [5].

4.1 Sequential mode

Sequential execution is the most commonly used case of a control structure. It executes the first statement at the top of the source code and sequentially runs the next statement. The following example demonstrates the sequential execution:

```
/* example of sequential execution */
let x : int = 2          // 1th code statement
let y : int = 5.         // 2th code statement
let z : int = x + y      // 3th code statement
printfn "x + y = %d" z   // final code statement

// output:
// x + y = 7
```

4.2 Selection mode

if-then statement The if statement uses the if and then keywords. The test expression must be of type Boolean and if it evaluates to true, then the given code is executed [3].

```
1  /* example of if-then statement */
2
3  let condition : bool = true
4
5  if condition then
6      printfn "conditional expression is ture, so I ran."
7
8  printfn "Hello, I am here now."
9
10 // output:
11 // conditional expression was ture, so I ran.
12 // Hello, I am here now.
```

If the test expression (at line 5) evaluates to false, the output will only be "Hello, I am here now.", because the then statement in the if-then expression will not run.

if-then-else statement If the test expression evaluates to true, then the first block of code executes; otherwise, the second block of code executes[3]. In other words, the if-else statement will choose which branch needs to be executed.

```
/* example of if-then-else statement */

let x : int = 3

if x % 2 = 1 then
    printfn "x is odd."
else
    printfn "x is even."

// output:
// x is odd.
```

An example of the else branch in the code above occurs when x is equal to 4, and x mod 2 is not equal to 1. The result of this test expression is false. Therefore, the else part will be executed. In this case, the output will be "x is even."

if-then-elif-else statement This statement allows developers to have multiple branches (or choices) and only executes one of them via the test expression. Each elif part has it own test expression.

```
/* example of if-then-elif-else */

//find_gpa : char -> float
let find_gpa (x : char) =
    if   x = 'A' then 4.0
    elif x = 'B' then 3.0
    elif x = 'C' then 2.0
    elif x = 'F' then 0.0
    else -1.0
printfn "GPA is = %.2f" (find_gpa 'A')
printfn "GPA is = %.2f" (find_gpa 'B')
printfn "GPA is = %.2f" (find_gpa 'C')
printfn "GPA is = %.2f" (find_gpa 'F')
printfn "GPA is = %.2f" (find_gpa 'Z')

// output:
// GPA is = 4.00
// GPA is = 3.00
// GPA is = 2.00
// GPA is = 0.00
// GPA is = -1.00
```

Match expressions Sometimes, it is hard to deal with multiple branches by using different types of if-elif- else statements. F# provides match expressions to compensate for programming requirements with many branches. The official F# documentation says, "The pattern matching expressions allow for complex branching based on the comparison of a test expression with a set of patterns. In the match expression, the test expression is compared with each pattern in turn, and when a match is found, the corresponding result expression is evaluated and the resulting value is returned as the value of the match expression."[4]. The syntax of match expressions and pattern matching are very similar to Haskell.

```
// from: https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/fsharp/language-reference/match-
    expressions#guards-on-patterns

// Match expression.
match test-expression with
| pattern1 [ when condition ] -> result-expression1
| pattern2 [ when condition ] -> result-expression2
| ...

// Pattern matching function.
function
| pattern1 [ when condition ] -> result-expression1
| pattern2 [ when condition ] -> result-expression2
| ...
```

4.3 Repetition mode

Repetition control structures allow us to efficiently repeat executing one or more statements up to a desired number of times or until a condition is met. 1 demonstrates this process, which shows how repetition control structures work. First, before the repetition control structure starts, one or more control variables need to be initialized. Second, the control variable is tested via the test expression. If it evaluates to true, the statements in the repetition control structure are executed; otherwise, it will stop executing code within the repetition. In F#, there are two types of repetition control structures, the for-loop and the while-loop. These are very similar to loops in Python or Java.

Compared to Haskell, F# provides repetitive control structures. In Haskell, recursion must be used to perform repetition. Sometimes, the implementation of recursion is much simpler than the iterative solution, but it may be harder to understand which could increase the cost of maintenance. Since F# provides iterative solutions, we can convert some understandable recursion solutions to iterative solutions. Therefore, as a functional language, F# will be more friendly and more flexible compared to Haskell in creating repetitive control structures.

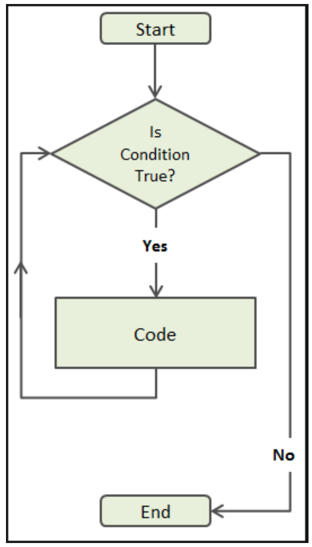

Figure 1: Repetition Control Structure

```
// for...to
for var = start-expr to end-expr do
    ... // loop body

//for...downto
for var = start-expr downto end-expr do
    ... // loop body

//for...in
for pattern in enumerable-expression do
   body-expression

//while-loop
while condition-expression do
   body-expression
```

```
/* example of for...to */
/* print number from 1 to 5 */

let for_to (x : int) =
     for i = x to 5 do
          printfn "i = %d" i

// call function for_to
for_to 1

/* example of for...downto */
/* print number from 5 to 1 */
let for_downto (x : int) =
     for i = x downto 1 do
          printfn "i = %d" i

// call function for_downto
for_downto 5

/* example of for...in */
/* traversing the list from the first element to the last element */
let list1 = [ 2; 4; 6; 8; 10 ]
for i in list1 do
```

```
    printfn "%d" i

/* example of while-do loop */
/* find sum of 1,2,3,4,5 */
let mutable i = 1
let mutable sum = 0
while (i <= 5) do
    sum <- sum + i
    i <- i + 1
printfn "%d" sum
```

5 Subprograms

6 Summary

References

[1] Dave Fancher. *Book of F#: Breaking Free with Managed Functional Programming*. San Francisco: No Starch Press, Incorporated, 1 edition, 2014.

[2] Wikipedia contributors. F sharp (programming language). `https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=F_Sharp_(programming_language)&oldid=939687212`, February 2020.

[3] Chris Smith. *Programming F# 3.0*. O'Reilly Media, Inc, 2 edition, October 2012.

[4] Microsoft. F# documentation. `https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/fsharp/language-reference/match-expressions`.

[5] Bob Myers. Control structures - intro, selection. `https://www.cs.fsu.edu/~myers/c++/notes/control1.html`, 2010.

[6] Jeffrey Elkner, Allen B. Downey, and Chris Meyers. How to think like a computer scientist. `http://ice-web.cc.gatech.edu/ce21/1/static/thinkcspy/toc.html`.