

A Simple Yet Effective Method Slicer

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We describe a simple heuristic for extracting method slices in well-formed source code using a Dyck counter.¹ It is common convention in many languages to prefix functions with a keyword, followed by a group of balanced brackets and one or more blank lines. Thus, we accumulate lines until brackets are balanced and a blank line is encountered, then reset. We observe this approach works on a variety of languages. An implementation in Kotlin is given below, which will output the following source code when run on itself:

```
fun String.sliceIntoMethods(kwds: Set<String> = setOf("fun ")) =
    lines().fold(-1 to List<String>(0)) { (dyckCtr, methods), ln ->
        if (dyckCtr < 0 && kwds.any { it in ln }) {
            ln.countBalancedBrackets() to (methods + ln)
        } else if (dyckCtr == 0) {
            if (ln.isBlank()) -1 to methods else 0 to methods.put(ln)
        } else if (dyckCtr > 0) {
            dyckCtr + ln.countBalancedBrackets() to methods.put(ln)
        } else -1 to methods
    }.second

fun List<String>.put(s: String) = dropLast(1) + (last() + "\n$s")

fun String.countBalancedBrackets() = fold(0) { s, c ->
    val (lbs, rbs) = setOf('(', '{', '[') to setOf(')', '}', ']')
    if (c in lbs) s + 1 else if (c in rbs) s - 1 else s
}

fun main(args: Array<String>) =
    println(args[0].sliceIntoMethods().joinToString("\n\n"))
```

¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dyck_language