

Examination 1

CSC315 Programming Language Concepts

09 October 2015

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Chapter 1

Eric Andow

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 - (a) Identify a language that requires the use of parentheses to enclose the index in a reference to an element of an array.
 - (b) Why did the designers of the language choose parentheses rather than brackets?

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2. What is the relationship between a lexeme and a token?

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Chapter 2

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- (a) Ada uses parentheses to enclose the index in a reference to an element of an array.
 - (b) Ada was designed this way so that array references and function calls in expressions would both use the same syntax. They wanted this uniformity because they are both mappings, and should therefore have the same syntax.

2. What is the relationship between a lexeme and a token?
-

A token is a category of its lexemes. An identifier is a token that can have many lexemes (or instances), such as `index` or `count`, but some tokens only have a single possible lexeme, i.e. `=` is the only lexeme for `equalSign` token.

3. (a) What kind of symbols are found at the internal nodes of a parse tree?

(b) What kind of symbols are found at the leaves of a parse tree?

(a) Internal nodes of a parse tree have a nonterminal symbol, such as `id` in angle brackets.

(b) Leaves of a parse tree have terminal symbols, such as `A`.

4. One of the most significant contributions from the developers of ALGOL 60 also limited the success of that language. What was that contribution?

ALGOL 60 was the first programming language to use BNF, or even to formally describe the syntax of the language at all. Even though nowadays BNF is widely used and recognized as an acceptable way to document programming language syntax, at the time BNF was not easily accepted since most viewed it as strange and complicated.

5. What problem were the creators of Common LISP trying to solve?
-

Mainly, the creators of LISP were trying to create a language that could do list processing. In particular, they needed a language that could support recursion, conditional expressions, and dynamic storage allocation or implicit deallocation. The creators were John McCarthy and Marvin Minsky from MIT.

6. What is an ambiguous context free grammar?
-

An ambiguous context free grammar is one where there are two or more distinct parse trees possible for a single statement. This commonly occurs when a grammar allows parse trees to grow both from the left and the right, instead of restricting it to one side.

7. Contrast the complexity of algorithms that can parse strings that conform to the most general kinds of context free grammars and the complexity

of the algorithms that can parse strings that conform to the grammars of programming languages?

Attribute grammars are used to describe more of the structure of a programming language than can be described with a context-free grammar. Rules of static semantics are described in attribute grammars, whereas context free grammars do not take these into consideration. Therefore, algorithms that parse strings for the grammars of programming languages are more complex because they must also account for static and dynamic semantics.

8. Java represents characters with Unicode. It is the first widely used programming language with this feature. What is the significance of this feature?
-

This feature is significant because as opposed to its predecessor, ASCII, the Unicode character set includes characters from most of the world's natural languages. Therefore, Unicode is needed to facilitate international communication with code. Also, Unicode encapsulates ASCII, and the first 128 characters of Unicode are the same as those from ASCII.

9. How does the binary coded decimal type differ from the floating point type?
-

Decimal types are able to precisely store decimal numbers, within a restricted range, which cannot be done with floating point types. Although this allows more accuracy in arithmetic operations, it is also mildly wasteful with memory since they are stored one or two digits per byte.

10. Identify a user-defined ordinal type in the Java programming language.
-

Enum is the class of user-defined ordinal types in Java.

11. Mathematicians and programmers might have different ideas about the precedence of Boolean operators. Explain.

In mathematics the OR and AND operators must have equal precedence, but in programming languages, specifically those that are C-based, a higher precedence is assigned to the AND operator over OR.

12. Programmers should use `===` rather than `==` to test the equality of the values of two expressions in JavaScript. Why?

A double equals allows coercion first, whereas the triple equals does not.

13. Describe a hazard of allowing short-circuited evaluation of expressions and side effects in expressions at the same time.

If a language allows short-circuited evaluation and side effects of an expression at the same time, then it is possible for a piece of the expression to not be evaluated, and therefore not have its side effect come into play. This can be a serious problem if the evaluation of the side effect was necessary for the program's correctness.

14. Briefly describe the three steps in the mark-sweep algorithm for garbage collection.

Mark-sweep starts with all cells in the heap having their indicators set to indicate that they are garbage. Next, each point in the program is traced into the heap, and all reachable cells are marked instead as not being garbage. Finally, all cells in the heap that were not marked as still being in use are returned to the list of available space.

15. What led Yukihiro Matsumoto to create the Ruby programming language?

He was unsatisfied with the Perl and Python languages, and wanted an-

other language that was purely object oriented in that it did not support non-object primitive types nor functions instead of method calls.

16. What did Microsoft aim to achieve with its development of the C# language?

Microsoft wanted to create a language for component-based software development, specifically for such development in the .NET framework that they had already established.

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14. Briefly describe the three steps in the mark-sweep algorithm for garbage collection.

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15. What led Yukihiro Matsumoto to create the Ruby programming language?

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16. What did Microsoft aim to achieve with its development of the C# language?

Write your answer here.

Chapter 13

Kat Sayrs

1. Most programming languages require the use of brackets to enclose the index in a reference to an element of an array.
 - (a) Identify a language that requires the use of parentheses to enclose the index in a reference to an element of an array.
 - (b) Why did the designers of the language choose parentheses rather than brackets?

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- (a) Write your answer here.
 - (b) Write your answer here.

2. What is the relationship between a lexeme and a token?

Write your answer here.

3.
 - (a) What kind of symbols are found at the internal nodes of a parse tree?
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- (a) Write your answer here.
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4. One of the most significant contributions from the developers of ALGOL 60 also limited the success of that language. What was that contribution?

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5. What problem were the creators of Common LISP trying to solve?

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6. What is an ambiguous context free grammar?

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7. Contrast the complexity of algorithms that can parse strings that conform to the most general kinds of context free grammars and the complexity of the algorithms that can parse strings that conform to the grammars of programming languages?

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8. Java represents characters with Unicode. It is the first widely used programming language with this feature. What is the significance of this feature?

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9. How does the binary coded decimal type differ from the floating point type?

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11. Mathematicians and programmers might have different ideas about the precedence of Boolean operators. Explain.

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Cameron Seebach

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