Imperial College London

Language Processors

Lab 3 – Grammars

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Polygen is a program which generates random text from grammars specified in a form similar to the BNF.

See examples nipponame.grm (comments are enclosed in (* and *)) and complaints.grm.

In polygen.tar.gz, in the src folder, you can find the Polygen binary (polygen) already compiled for the architecture of the lab computers (the source is written in the functional language OCaml). If you extract the archive and place the grm file in the same folder of the executable you can generate corresponding text calling the program as e.g.

./polygen nipponame.grm

Exercises:

Edit the examples in order to add your own variations.

Write a grammar which generates 'plausible' names for EEE/EIE courses e.g.:

EE2-15 Introduction to Electronic Fields EE3-44 Embedded Power Technology etc.

What else could be formulated using this kind of grammars? Identify a possible domain and write the corresponding grammar.