

The Welkin Standard

Oscar Bender-Stone

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This document describes the Welkin information language, a programming language aimed at preserving, analyzing, and extending information.

This edition of the standard, in English, is the basis for all other translations. Only the grammars will be given in an English (specifically ASCII) and should be copied identically. However, these grammars can be built upon via Section ??, and any other terms in this document may be translated or changed as necessary.

Throughout this document, every instance of “Welkin grammar” means “standard Welkin grammar.” Every instance of “Welkin interpreter” means “conformant Welkin interpreter.” For a definition of conformance, refer to ??.

1 Preliminaries

1.1 Mathematical Background

This standard requires a cursory background in discrete mathematics, parsing, Backus-Naur Form (BNF), and precedence. A reading of [] and [] suffices to understand this document. We clarify our mathematical notation below.

Whenever we require a specific mathematical symbol in a text file, we will write it in ASCII¹ with a different font. For example, we write x as **x**. Further notation is explicitly defined as needed.

Let A, B, C be sets and $n \in \mathbb{N}$. We define $[n] := \{0 \leq k \leq n-1\}$. We denote the disjoint union of A, B as $A \sqcup B$, and an arbitrary equivalence relation on A by \sim_A . We let A^* be the set of finite sequences of A (or **A*** in text), including the empty sequence $\varepsilon := \emptyset$ (**empty** in text), and we call each $w \in A^*$ a **word**.

Let $f : A \rightarrow B$, $g : B \rightarrow C$ be maps. We write $f(A_0)$ for the image of f under $A_0 \subseteq A$ and $f^{-1}(B_0)$ for the preimage of f under $B_0 \subseteq B$. We denote the

¹American Standard Code for Information Interchange. See ?? for more details.

composite $g \circ f$ as the map $g \circ f = g(f(x))$, the identity $\text{id}_A : A \rightarrow A$ as the map $\text{id}_A(a) = a$, and $f^* : A^* \rightarrow B^*$ as the map $f^*(a_1, \dots, a_n) = (f(a_1), \dots, f(a_n))$.

We frequently use the product and disjoint union of two maps. We explicitly define these for a family of sets $A = \{A_j\}_{j \in J}$, with $|J| = n$.²

- Cartesian products $P = \prod_{j \in J} A_j$ have **projections** $\pi_j : P \rightarrow A_j$, where $\pi_j(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = x_j$. For n functions $f_j : C \rightarrow A_j$, the **product map** $\prod_{j \in J} f_j := f : C \rightarrow P$ is the unique map such that $f_j = \pi_j \circ f$.
- Disjoint unions $D = \coprod_{j \in J} A_j$ have **injections** $i_j : A_j \rightarrow D$, where $i_j(x) = (x, j)$. For n functions $g_j : C \rightarrow A_j$ the **disjoint union of maps** $\coprod_{j \in J} g_j := g : D \rightarrow C$ is the unique map such that $g_j = g \circ i_j$.

Additionally, except when explicitly clarified, all statements with a free variable x (not bound by a quantifier) are universal, i.e., must hold for all $x \in X$.

Finally, two structures are **(categorically) equivalent** if their models share the same overarching properties (independent of any specific model). A more precise definition can be found in ?. Any structure in this standard may be considered modulo (categorical) equivalence. Thus, all conformant implementations need only to satisfy the properties in this document (see Section for more details). This includes (but is not limited to)

- Using different data structures, interfaces, and algorithms,
- Adding additional consistent properties,
- Extending Welkin with a larger theory or external tool.

Regardless of implementation, this document supports writing all information within Welkin files, and Welkin is designed to be highly customizable (see ??).

1.2 Character Encodings

We define text and character encodings and decodings as abstract notions. The discussion here may be carried out in terms of bytes and specific data formats, but these concepts are beyond the scope of this standard.

Definition 1.1 (Encodings). Let Char be a finite set. An **encoding** is an injective map $\mathcal{E} : \text{Char} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$. The associated **decoding** is the left-inverse $\mathcal{D} : \mathcal{E}^{-1}(\mathbb{N}) \rightarrow \text{Char}$ of \mathcal{E} . We denote $\text{CHAR} = \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{N})$.

Character encodings may be given as finite tables, matching natural numbers with characters. Several major encodings are defined in the following sources.

²These are all examples of universal properties found in category theory; see ? for further information.

- US-ASCII (?). We will refer to this simply as ASCII³, but there are subtle variations across specific nationalities and applications (see []). We denote the ASCII character corresponding to n (in hexadecimal) by `\0xn`. For example, `\0x09` encodes the tab character.
- UTF-8, UTF-16 ?. The Unicode Standard defines encodings across thousands of human languages and unique characters. We will not refer to Unicode directly, but we make it a requirement for Attribute and System Welkin.

Although ASCII is a subset of UTF-8, this standard will prioritize ASCII as much as possible. The BNF grammars for this standard (??) are written in ASCII as a unifying encoding, but users may create grammars using UTF-8, UTF-16, or their own encodings (see 1.2).

In addition to a set of characters, each BNF has an associated terminal signature for their set of terminals.

Definition 1.2. A **terminal signature** S consists of an encoding \mathcal{E} along with five subsets of CHAR^* ,

- NUMBERS
- WHITE_SPACES
- DELIMITERS
- STRING_ESCAPES
- RESERVED⁴

and an injective map $q : \text{NUMBERS} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ such that

- Every pair $d_1, d_2 \in \text{DELIMITERS}$ has an associated set $\text{ESCAPES}(d_1, d_2)$ and $\text{STRING_ESCAPES} = \bigcup_{d_1, d_2 \in \text{DELIMITERS}} \text{ESCAPES}(d_1, d_2)$,
- WHITE_SPACES is pair-wise disjoint with every other subset.

Moreover, let STRING be the associated set of strings over DELIMITERS , where a **string** is a word $d_1 w d_2$ such that

$$w \in (\text{CHAR} \setminus \{d_1, d_2\} \cup \text{ESCAPES}(d_1, d_2))^*.$$

Notice that $\text{DELIMITERS}, \text{STRING_ESCAPES}$ can be defined in terms of STRING , and the latter must be disjoint with WHITE_SPACES^* . Thus, it suffices to specify STRING in any terminal signature instead.

Our definition provides useful sets of terminals for a parser.

³American Standard Code for Information Exchange

⁴A set containing single characters is written with concatenation (possibly with spaces inbetween). For example, $\{x \ y\}$ denotes $\{x, \ y\}$.

- NUMBERS adds support for machine representations of numbers via q ,
- WHITE_SPACES distinguishes words from one another and can include arbitrary characters (not necessarily ASCII whitespace),
- STRING is used to define user-defined comments, descriptions, or other (non-processed) text,
- RESERVED is used by the parser to prioritize certain words.

All of these sets are optional and can be made empty with a different grammar (see Section). Every conformant parser must have builtin support for terminal signatures (Section).

Our BNF metasyntax uses the terminal signature S_{BNF} , consisting of the ASCII encoding with

- NUMBERS = \emptyset ,
- WHITE_SPACES = $\{\backslash x020, \backslash x090, \backslash x0d, \backslash x0A\}$ is the set of all ASCII whitespace characters,
- STRING consists of all ASCII characters enclosed by single or double quotes. We escape single (double) quotes via $\backslash ' (\backslash ")$. Moreover, to use backslashes, the word $\backslash \backslash$ written in a string represents \backslash .⁵ For consistency, we will write BNF grammars using double quotes.
- RESERVED = $\{= | . ; * + ? () []\} \cup \{->\}$.⁶

A **text** is a subset of CHAR^* . We will treat strings and files of text equally and not consider operating system related issues (see ??). Moreover, we will not consider streaming issues, i.e, we will assume every Welkin text is present at one time.

1.3 BNF Variant

Our variant of BNF uses the notation shown below and in Definition ??, with S_{BNF} defined in the previous section. Our notation, as well as every standard Welkin grammar, can be written purely in ASCII. For ease of use, we directly explain the direct connection to our notation and CFGs.

- Rules (productions) are denoted by $r = \alpha$, where r is a nonterminal and α is any string of terminals and non-terminals.
- All terminals are words and are written as strings.

⁵In this case, backslashes can be escaped (prefixed with another character). In general, this can be done by creating a superset $\text{ESCAPES} \supseteq \text{STRING_ESCAPES}$ and simplifying them in a parse tree. However, we do not require this superset in this standard.

⁶A set containing single characters is written with concatenation (possibly with spaces inbetween). For example, $\{x\ y\}$ denotes $\{x, y\}$.

- Choices, or alternations, between nonterminals uses $|$. Choices can be given names using \rightarrow (\rightarrow in text). For instance,

boolean = "true" \rightarrow true $|$ "false" \rightarrow false

is equivalent to

boolean = true $|$ false
true = "true"
false = "false"

- Multiplicity: $*$ means zero or more instances, $+$ means one or more instances, and $?$ means at most one instance of a nonterminal.
- We denote by $c \in C_0$, with $C_0 \subseteq \text{CHAR}$, the rule $c = c_0 | \dots | c_n$ for all n characters of C_0 . For simplicity, recognizing character subsets can be done with a separate component in the parser (see Section ??). Subsets of terminals will be capitalized. We will assume `WHITE_SPACES` is builtin to the parser (see Section ??) and we will not write these directly in any grammar.
- Normal concatenation, denoted $r.s$, means rule r must be immediately followed by s . With whitespaces, we add two shorthands for concatenating rules:

- $r \text{ } s$ denotes $r \text{ } \text{whitespace} * s$
- $r ; s$ denotes $r \text{ } \text{whitespace} + s$

Note that if `WHITE_SPACES` = \emptyset , both shorthands above are equivalent to $r.s$. Moreover, concatenation has a higher precedence than alternations.

- Parentheses group rules together and can be written as a separate new rule.
 - Groupings are left and right distributive under concatenation, i.e., $(r. | s;)q$ is equivalent to $r.q | s;q$, and $r (.s | ;q)$ is equivalent to $r.s |;r;q$.
- Rule substitution: suppose r appears in q . Then $q[r \rightarrow s]$ is the (new) rule where every instance r in q is replaced with s (and all other rules are fixed).
 - In case $s = \varepsilon$, $q[r \rightarrow \varepsilon]$ is the rule where every instance of r in q is removed.

A conformant parser for all three grammars should include the ability to compose and override rules. This ensures that any updates to inherited grammars are isolated (see Section 2).

In addition to our notation, we add support for semantics expanding on Knuth ?.

Definition 1.3. Let (V, N, S, P) be a CFG. A **interpretation** with **attribute set** A is a map $f : N \rightarrow A$ such that

- A contains the set of terminals,
- A_0, A_1 form a partition on A ,
- $A_0(S) = A_1(X) = \emptyset$, where X is a non-terminal.
- If a non-terminal r derives a terminal w , then $f(r) = f(w)$.

We assume that alternations and multiplicity ($*$, $+$, or $?$) have inherited attributes, taking the attribute of the derived terminal.

2 The Welkin Language

There are three fundamental variants of Welkin that define the foundation for the language:

- Base Welkin, mirroring the key properties of the core data structure.
- Attribute Welkin, extending Base Welkin with attributes. Attributes are a limited type of directive that can customize how the interpreter accepts or presents data. They are directly tied to the notion of attribute in attribute grammars (see Section ??)
- System Welkin, providing access to an arbitrary system, which is formally defined using Hoare logic (see ?). In short, systems consist of inputs, outputs, and a model, all of which are treated as vertices in Welkin. This provides an API for external tools to manipulate these systems.

Each of these variants are LALR grammars⁷ and have distinct semantics. All three variants require a Turing machine and can encode First Order Logic (see ??), but none are Turing complete (see ?). However, System Welkin does provide links to system resources, if pertinent (such as files or urls). External programs (in a operating system or related) can use Welkin files with arbitrary constraint. For these reasons, System Welkin is a separate variant and is not required to implement Attribute Welkin.

Syntax

The terminal signatures $S_{\text{base}}, S_{\text{attribute}}, S_{\text{system}}$ are defined with the ASCII encoding, in which

- NUMBERS consists of all words

$$\text{SIGN?}.\text{DIGIT}^*.(“.”.\text{DIGIT}^+)?.((“E” \mid “e”.\text{SIGN?}.\text{DIGIT}^+)?),$$

⁷LALR grammars are widely used for programming languages and are efficient and sufficiently expressive. Among many useful properties, LALR grammars are unambiguous.

where $SIGN = \{+ -\}$ and $DIGIT = \{0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9\}$.

- $STRING$ is defined from S_{BNF} ,
- Reserved sets are given by
 - $RESERVED_{base} = \{\{\} \} \cup \{->, <-, _ \{, \} \cup NUMBERS$
 - $RESERVED_{attribute} = \{\{\} \} \cup \{->, <-, _ \{, \} \cup NUMBERS\} \supset RESERVED_{base}$
 - $RESERVED_{system} = RESERVED_{attribute}$.

Each grammar is provided in Table 2.

terms	=	term*	
term	=	(connection alias graph member series)	
connection	=	term connector term	
connector	=	“-” vertex “-” \rightarrow edge “-” vertex “->” \rightarrow left_arrow “<-” vertex ‘-’ \rightarrow right_arrow	
alias	=	vertex “	=” vertex
graph	=	(member “_.”) “{” terms “}”	
series	=	term “,” (term “,”)* term “,”?	
member	=	“.” (ident string “#” number) element* unit? element+	
element	=	“.”.(ident string) “#”.number	
unit	=	ident string number	
ident	=	CHAR*	
string	=	STRING	
number	=	NUMBER	

term	=	"@".(directive graph[member → directive])
		construct graph connection
		member
directive	=	attributes
attributes	=	"import".tuple → import
		"self" (.member)? → self
		"extend".graphempty → extend
		"parse".(graph unit) → parse
		"validate".tuple → validate
–		"record".term → record
		"print".graph → print
		"attribute".graph → new_attribute
		unit.term → custom_attribute
construct	=	operation tuple list series all_terms
operation	=	term.tuple term unit term
tuple	=	"(" series ")"
list	=	"[" series "]"
all_terms	=	"*"
directive	=	attributes
–		system
system	=	"system".graphempty

Semantics

We break down our semantics first by terms. Directives are handled separately in the next section.

Equality of terms is straightforward to define: the contents of each production must be the same. We do consider two numbers to be equal if they represent the same value, e.g., **0.1** and **1E1**

A **scope** is recursively defined and intuitively is a level of terms.

Definition 2.1. (Scope) Let t be a term (or directive).

- If t is not contained in a graph, then $\text{scope}(\mathbf{term}) = 0$,
- If $U' \in U$ are both graphs and $\text{scope}(U') = n$, then for all $t \in U'$, $\text{scope}(t) = \text{scope}(U) + 1$.

Definition 2.2. A **valid** base Welkin file consists satisfies a unique naming rule: in every scope, there are no name collisions, i.e., no two terms in G with the same name are distinct. In particular, every graph must **only be defined once**. Note that, by the way equality was defined between two numbers, there can only be one representation of a given number in a scope. For example, using **1** and **10E-1** in the same scope would produce a name collision.

We first form an Abstract Syntax Tree (AST), from which we form the final stored data in a Welkin Information Graph.

Definition 2.3 (Base Parse Tree). Base Welkin is parsed into the following AST \mathcal{A} .

- Every term is a new subtree with its contents as children.
- Every graph is an ordered pair of its name and list of children.
- Every vertex is equal based on its sort.
- Every connection is an ordered pair:
 - * Left arrows $u \xrightarrow{e} v$ correspond to a triple (u, e, v) ;
 - * Right arrows $u \xrightarrow{e} v$ correspond to the triple (v, e, u) ;
 - * Edges correspond to both a left and right arrow.
- Every unit is encoded via \mathcal{E}^* . Numbers are mapped via q to their represented values.

Every node in a AST is labeled in the lexicographical order, *regardless of its scope*.

Every AST is then converted into Welkin’s core data structure (Definition 2), which consists of two main components. The first component is the unit graph, a tree-like structure that encodes a hierarchy of nodes.

Definition 2.4. A **unit graph** $U = (V, p)$ consists of

- a set V of **units**,
- a function $p : V_0 \subseteq V \rightarrow V$ called the **parent map**,

such that p is acyclic: $p^{(k)}(v) = v$ iff $k = 0$. We define

- $V^\top = V \setminus V_0$ as the set of **roots**, and
- $V^\perp = \{v : p^{(k)}(v) \neq u\}$ as the set of **sites**.

Equivalently, U is a forest, where each component has some root in V^\top and leaves in V^\perp .

Let $L = \{L_i\}_{i \in I}$ be a (possibly empty) family of finitely many unit graphs L_i , each with nodes V_i / \sim_{V_i} and parent map p_i . Abusing notation, we will write L_i for V_i / \sim_{V_i} . The unit graph L_i is said to **label** a unit graph $U = (V, p)$ if there exists a map $l_i : V \rightarrow L_i \sqcup \varepsilon$ such that

- l is a forest isomorphism:
 - * $p_i(v) = u$ iff $l(p(u)) = l(u)$,
 - * $v \in V^\top$ iff $l(v) \in V_i^\top$,
- whenever $l(u) = l(v)$, either
 - * $l(v) \neq \varepsilon$, or

- * $l(v) = \varepsilon$ and $p^{-1}(u) = p^{-1}(v)$
imply $u = v$.
- l is surjective on $L_i : f^{-1}(L_i) \neq \emptyset$.

In this case, we call \sim_{V_j} an **alias equivalence** and l_j a **labeling**. In general, we say that L labels U if each $L_i \in L$ labels U .

We assume that each L_i is pairwise disjoint. In practice, it may be possible to obtain identical labelings of the same graph from different users, and while the disjoint union operation prevents duplicate items, there is still an underlying duplication present. This issue is addressed in Section ??.

The second component is a connection graph, which does not (in general) rely on the overarching unit graph.

Definition 2.5. A **connection graph** $G = (V, C)$ consists of

- a set V of **vertices/nodes**, and
- a set $C \subseteq V^2 \cup V^3$ of **connections**.

Connections in V^2 are called **atomic connections** or **arcs**. A connection graph is **reflexive** if $(A, A), (A, A, A) \in C$ for each $A \in V$. In this case, there are mappings $A \mapsto (A, A), (A, A, A)$ from V into $C \cap V^2, C \cap V^3$, respectively. Abusing notation, we will write A synonymously with (A, A) and (A, A, A) .

We frequently use the **component** functions of C :

- The **source map** $s = \pi_1 \sqcup \pi_1 : C \rightarrow V$ returns the first entry in any connection,
- The **target map** $t = \pi_2 \sqcup \pi_2 : C \rightarrow V$, returns the second entry in an arc, or the third element in a non-atomic connection, and
- The **connector map** $c = \pi_2 : C \cap V^3 \rightarrow V$ returns the second entry in a non-atomic connection.

We may now present the core data structure of Welkin.

Definition 2.6. A **Welkin Information Graph (WIG)** $G = (V, p, C, L)$ consists of

- a unit graph (V, p) , with labels L (we say L labels G),
- a reflexive connection graph (V, C) .

Two WIGs are **structurally equal/identical** if they have the same unit and connection graphs.

WIGs are a special case of a (lean) bigraph Jensen and Milner (2003), in which there is a site for each element in V^\perp , a root for each $v \in V^\top$, and there are no inner or outer faces. In their terminology, a unit graph is a place graph, and a connection graph is a link graph (Jensen and Milner (2003)). Our definition excludes the notion of ports from link graphs, which are not needed in this standard. Additionally, labels are an independent component to a bigraph that do not alter its overarching structure, but directly corresponds to a user's naming conventions. To best preserve user created text, Welkin interpreters must store and maintain these labels, including aliases (see for more details).

To fulfill one a major goal of Welkin (Section), a key closure property is needed, which immediately follow by our definitions.⁸

Lemma 2.1. WIGs are closed under disjoint unions.

Lemma 2 ensures that WIGs may have an arbitrary size without special constraints. In fact, any new additions to the graph do not remove existing structure (see ??). It is possible for existing structure to be repeated, in which case, the complexity of the connection graph does not increase (see ?? for examples). As an important case, if G is structurally equal to H , $G \sqcup H$ is structurally equal to both, possibly with a larger set of labels. This ensures that WIGs with an identical structure are always identified and can be distinctly labeled by different users. As a shorthand, we will write $G \sqcup L' = (V_G, p_G C_G, L_G \sqcup L')$, where L' labels G .

To best identify equivalent structures, we introduce a WIG equivalence, a special case of (lean) support equivalence in ?.

Definition 2.7. Let $G = (V_G, p_G, C_G, L_G), H = (V_H, p_H, C_H, L_H)$ be WIGs. A **morphism** $f : G \rightarrow H$ consists of maps $(f_V : V_G \rightarrow V_H, f_C : C_G \rightarrow C_H)$ such that

- Parent maps are preserved: $p_H \circ f_V = f_V \circ p_G$,
- Connections are preserved:
 - * $(A, B) \in C_G$ implies $(f_V(A), f_V(B)) \in C_H$,
 - * $(A, e, B) \in C_G$ implies $(f_V(A), f_V(e), f_V(B)) \in C_H$.

Equivalently, the following equalities hold:⁹

- * $s_H \circ f_C = f_V \circ s_G$,
- * $t_H \circ f_C = f_V \circ t_G$,
- * $c_H \circ f_C = f_V \circ c_G$.

⁸Note that bigraphs have been completely described algebraically by Jensen and Milner, Theorem ?? Jensen and Milner (2003).

⁹Note that the first set of conditions ensures there is a map f_C such that the second set of equalities hold, and the converse is easy to deduce. While f_C is not necessary, we include it for clarity.

An **equivalence** is bijective morphism. We write $G \simeq H$ whenever WIGs G, H are equivalent.

Note that support equivalence includes a bijective graph homomorphism between link graphs (Jensen-Milner-Bigraph). Thus, this homomorphism is simultaneously stronger than subgraph isomorphism and weaker than graph isomorphism.¹⁰ This fact is crucial for Welkin interpreters: there is a polynomial time algorithm to determine bigraph equivalence, while no such algorithms are known for both subgraph and graph isomorphism. Determining WIG equivalence is another critical goal of Welkin (see ??), and we address how users may work with general graph equivalences (weak or strict) in ??.

A key property of WIG equivalence is that they are closed under labels.

Lemma 2.2. Let G, H be WIGs, and suppose $G \cong H$. Then $G \sqcup L' \simeq H \sqcup L''$ for any families L', L'' that label G, H , respectively.

In order to store WIGs for efficient retrieval, we define the associated canonical form, which is parameteric over the representation of nodes.

Definition 2.8. Let G be a WIG, and let $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow M$ be a bijection. The **Welkin Canonical Form (WCF) of G under f** is the WIG $\text{Can}_f(G) = (\text{Can}_f(V), \text{Can}_f(p), \text{Can}_f(C), \{L_i, \text{Can}(l_i)\})$, where

- $\text{Can}(V) = [|V|]$,
- Each $v \in V$ is assigned to a unique $\text{Can}(v) \in \text{Can}(V)$,
- $\text{Can}(p)(\text{Can}(v)) = \text{Can}(p(v))$,
- if $(A, B) \in C$, $\text{Can}(A, B) \in \text{Can}(C)$, and likewise, $\text{Can}(A, e, B)$
- $\text{Can}(l_i)(\text{Can}(v)) = l_i(v)$.

In case $f(n) = \text{id}_{\mathbb{N}}$, we say that the canonical form is “natural.”

We summarize some key properties in the next lemma, which immediately follows by and .

Lemma 2.3. For any WIGs G, H , and fixed representation f of nodes,

- $G \cong \text{Can}_f(G)$,
- $G \cong H$ iff $\text{Can}_{f,g}(G) = \text{Can}_{f,g'}(H)$ with g, g' arbitrary.

While this document does not fully delve into the results and overarching theory on Welkin, we do note that WIGs can define any concept from First Order Logic. We require . For sake of argument, we directly construct a theory for WIGs; we frequently refer to the models of the theory via sets.

¹⁰However, support equivalences are a type of weak equivalence in category theory, in which there is an isomorphism between maps (see [?]).

Definition 2.9. The theory W consists of the following axioms:

Theorem 2.4. First Order Logic is definable in W .

Proof. It is well known that Turing machines can directly define First Order Logic (Σ), so it suffices to show that Welkin can define a Turing machine. Equivalently we show that Attribute Welkin can define any **unrestricted grammar** (N, T, P, S) which consists of

- nonterminals N ,
- terminals T ,
- productions $P \subseteq (N \cup T)^+ \times (N \cup T)^*$
- a starting symbol $S \in N$,

such that N, T are disjoint. (See [?] for a proof of equivalence with Turing machines). Note that this definitions extends a CFG by allowing terminals to be on the left hand side of a production.

Now, we observe that \dots

is a WIG, completing the proof. \square

3 General Application Behavior

Abstract Models

Several concepts from operating systems are tantamount for Attribute and Binder Welkin. However, this standard only defines an abstract API, due to the difficulty in formally specifying them. We emphasize the abstract approach taken here, and it is not the role of this standard to specify the full behavior of processes, shells, or other related concepts. The most suitable implementation, however, is formally specified and verified on essential collections of properties, including correctness, security, and performance.

In lieu of using a full specification, we abstractly define the minimum concepts needed for Attribute and Base Welkin.

- A file is a text with requirements on its name. For full compatibility with prevalent operating systems (including Windows), we assume the file name is case insensitive.
- Operating systems create programs in their own process can, with special privileges, can create subprocesses.
 - * Threads can be accessed via the `@bind` attribute with some FFI (such as the C standard library).

Directives

Each directive relies on the Welkin pipeline.

Definition 3.1 (Pipeline). The Welkin **pipeline** consists of the following components.

- Input: processes a set of inputs.
 - * Directly processes input strings.
 - * Validates input file names to see if they exist and can be accessed. The validation is carried out by the Validator.
- Parser: takes in a Welkin file and generates an AST,
- Validator: checks whether a given input is valid (either as a file name or Welkin file), raising an error that directly points to a violation.
 - * Given via **validation cases**, conditions which the Validator checks.
 - * Validation cases need not have specific error messages. In fact, it is encouraged that these error messages are themselves written entirely in Base Welkin
- From here, an AST may be processed by three different means:
 - * Recorder (Base): takes the AST, converts it into a WIG in WCF, and serializes the data,
 - * Printer (Base): displays information provided in a Welkin file to the user.
 - * Evaluator (Binder): evaluates, executes, or binds commands into Welkin units.

Note that the Validator is used throughout the pipeline, but is most prevalent for syntactical and semantic validation

Definition 3.2. A **directive** consists of

- A set of **parameters (precondition)**,
- A set of **outputs (postcondition)**,
- A **validation set** containing validation cases

that are all written in Hoare logic.

We informally provide descriptions of each directive, but it is possible to formally state each directive using Hoare logic, with the preexisting notions above. Directives are called using the syntax in Table ??, with parameters as nodes. Directives are also nodes via the bootstrap file (see 3.0.1), and thus may be extended. Note, however, that parameters may not be directly removed (due to the functional nature of Welkin), but this behavior can be replicated by applying the validator in a custom grammar (see ??).

Two validation cases are enforced for all directives with parameters.

- Warning: undefined or unused parameters used,
- Error: required parameters are not supplied.

We first define all builtin attributes, along with their parameters.

In System Welkin, the added directive `@system` has extended semantics.

Definition 3.3. A **system** $S = (I, O, M)$ consists of a

- a set I of **inputs**,
- a set O of **outputs**,
- a **model** M

such that (via Hoare logic) $\{I\}M\{O\}$.

We now describe the API for system:

- Parameters:
- Output: O , presented directly in S
- Validation: implementation dependent. This largely depends how the implementation works with external tools. The system at hand can be extremely general and hard to formally describe. For example, providing a formal specification for an operating system is a monumental task, and a separate project should be implemented to address this issue. Because Welkin can encode First Order Logic (recall ??), it is possible to fully implement this specification as a library to Welkin, along with some formal verification tools. We will not address the details of this particular system here.

Binder Welkin’s directives are abstractly defined and solely defined in terms of the

3.0.1 Bootstrap

The bootstrap directory facilitates the user API in Attribute and System Welkin. It is currently located at <https://github.com/AstralBearStudios/welkin> and is essential for either variant.

3.1 Customization

All Welkin files are infinitely customizable via the welkin config file, which is written in Attribute Welkin. Any attribute can be used, and other Welkin files can be imported. A base config file is required to customize a Welkin grammar. From there, configs can be arbitrarily nested to create and connect any desired (context-free) grammar, validator, recorder, and display.

4 Core Algorithms

4.1 Parser

At anytime, this may be interrupted by the Validator (Section).

4.2 Validator

4.3 Graph Encoding

5 Conformance

A program may be conformant Welkin interpreter for some variant.

- A program conforms to Base Welkin if it provides the full Base pipeline (Section ??).
- A program conforms Attribute Welkin if
 - * It conforms to Base Welkin,
 - * It implements all attributes, including `@attribute` via bootstrapping (Section 3.0.1)

References

- O. H. Jensen and R. Milner, “Bigraphs and mobile processes,” University of Cambridge, Computer Laboratory, Tech. Rep. UCAM-CL-TR-570, Jul. 2003. [Online]. Available: <https://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/techreports/UCAM-CL-TR-570.pdf>