Programming with Algebra

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LambdaConf

Boulder, Colorado

26 May 2016

www.subscript-lang.org

Overview

- Introduction
- SubScript Examples
- Semantic Model
  - Algebra of Communicating Processes
  - VM
- Hands on: Debugger
  https://github.com/scala-subscript/examples
  https://github.com/scala-subscript/koans
- Syntax Matters
- Hands on: Koans, Example
- Conclusion

Programming is Still Hard

Mainstream programming languages: imperative

- good in batch processing
- not good in parsing, concurrency, event handling
- Callback Hell

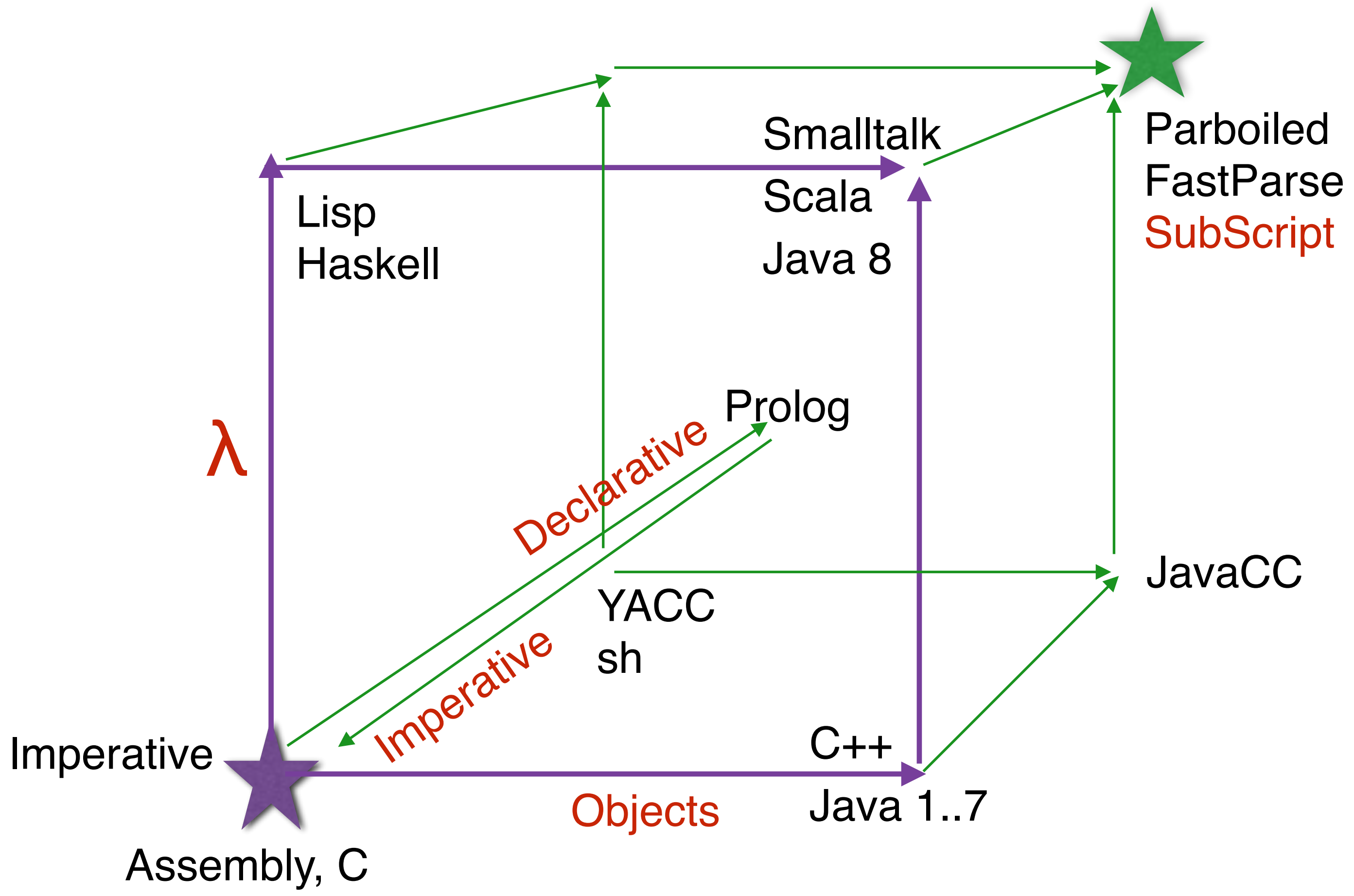
Neglected idioms

- Non-imperative choice: BNF, YACC
- Data flow: Unix pipes

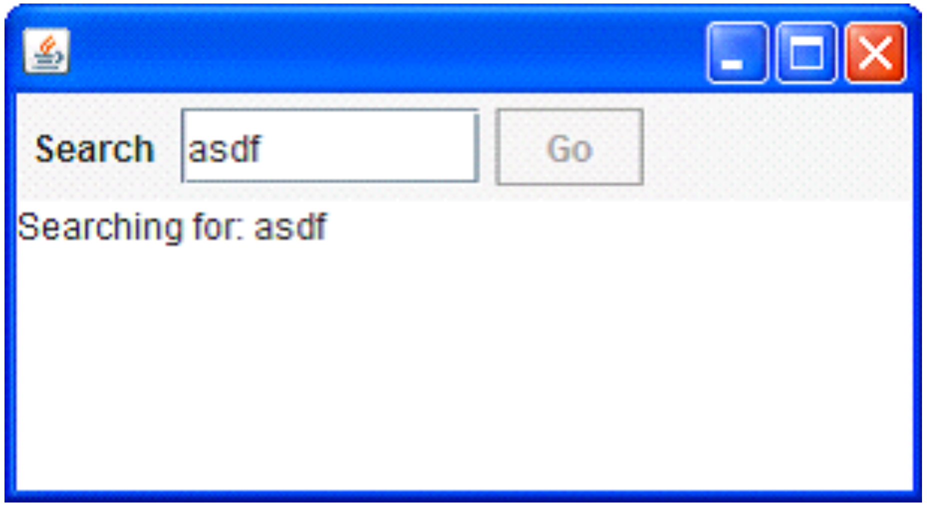
Math!

https://github.com/scala-subscript/examples
https://github.com/scala-subscript/koans

Programming Paradigms

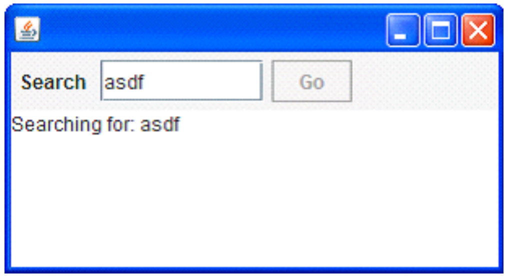


GUI application - 1



Searching for: asdf

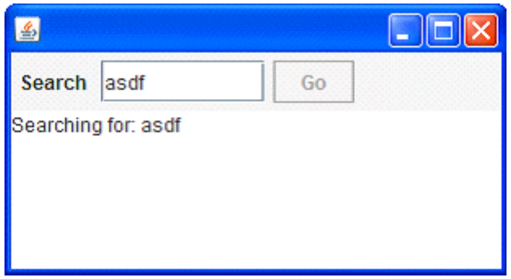
- Input Field
- Search Button
- Searching for…
- Results



Searching for: asdf

GUI application - 2

```
val searchButton = new Button("Go”) {
  reactions.+= {
    case ButtonClicked(b) =>
      enabled = false
      outputTA.text = "Starting search...”
      new Thread(new Runnable {
       def run() {
        Thread.sleep(3000)
        SwingUtilities.invokeLater(new Runnable{
          def run() {outputTA.text="Search ready”
                     enabled = true
        }})
      }}).start
  }
}
```

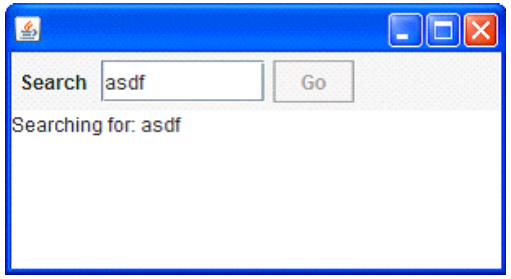


Searching for: asdf

GUI application - 3

```
live =      searchButton
       @gui: let outputTA.text="Starting search.."
             do* Thread.sleep(3000)
       @gui: let outputTA.text="Search ready"
             ...
```

- Sequence operator: white space and ;
- `gui`: code executor for
  - `SwingUtilities.InvokeLater+InvokeAndWait`
- `do*` ... : by executor for `new Thread`

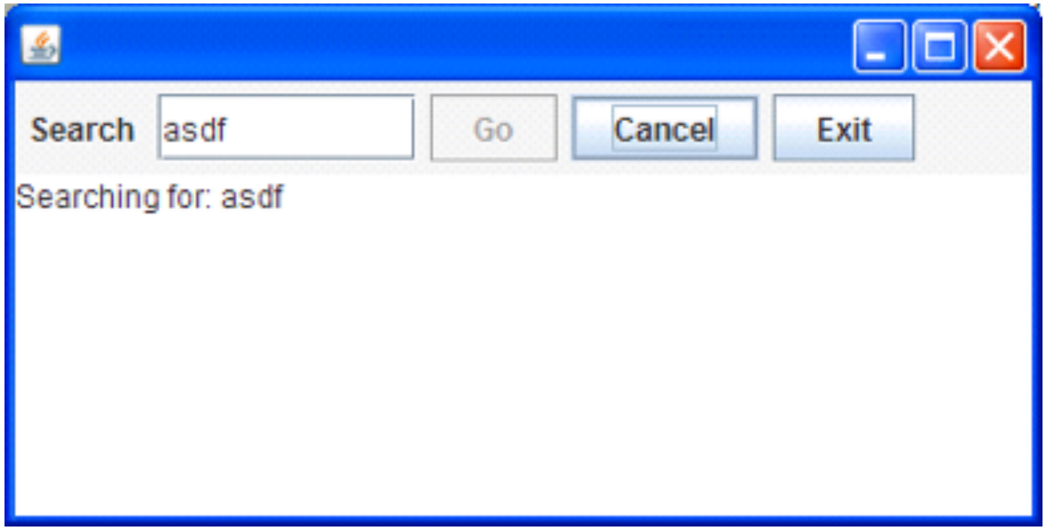

Search asdf Go

Searching for: asdf

GUI application - 4

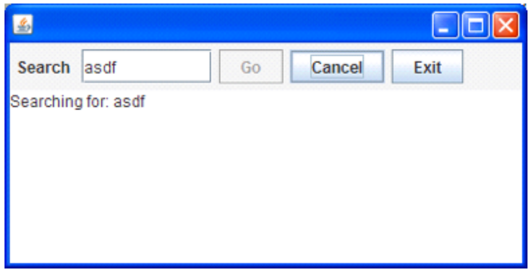
```
live               = searchSequence...

searchSequence     = searchCommand
                     showSearchingText
                     searchInDatabase
                     showSearchResults


searchCommand      = searchButton
showSearchingText  = @gui: let outputTA.text = "…"
showSearchResults  = @gui: let outputTA.text = "…"
searchInDatabase   =       do* Thread.sleep(3000)
```

GUI application - 5



Searching for: asdf

- Search: button or Enter key
- Cancel: button or Escape key
- Exit: button or ❎ ; ; "Are you sure?"…
- Search only allowed when input field **not** empty
- Progress indication



Searching for: asdf

GUI application - 6

```
live               = searchSequence... || exit

searchCommand      = searchButton + Key.Enter
cancelCommand      = cancelButton + Key.Escape
exitCommand        =   exitButton + windowClosing
exit               =   exitCommand @gui: confirmExit ~~> while !_
cancelSearch       = cancelCommand @gui: showCanceledText

searchSequence     = searchGuard searchCommand
                     showSearchingText searchInDatabase showSearchResults
                     / cancelSearch

searchGuard        = if !searchTF.text.isEmpty then break? anyEvent:searchTF ...

searchInDatabase   = progressMonitor || do* Thread.sleep: 3000
progressMonitor    = do* Thread.sleep: 250
                     @gui: let searchTF.text+=here.pass
                     ...
```

Example: Slick 3

Reactive Streams for Asynchronous Database Access in Scala

http://www.infoq.com/news/2015/05/slick3

```
val q = for (c<-coffees) yield c.name
val a = q.result
val f: Future[Seq[String]] = db.run(a)

f.onSuccess { case s => println(s"Result: $s") }
```

```
val q = for (c<-coffees) yield c.name

q ~~(s)~~> println: s"Result: $s"
```

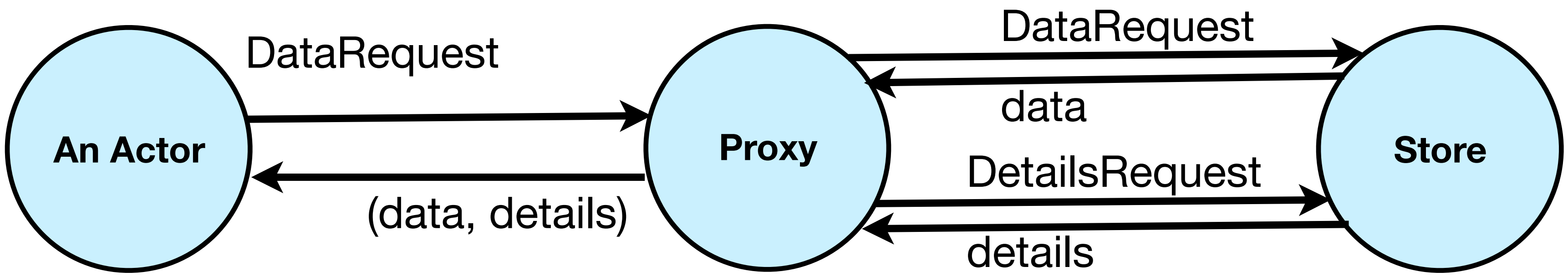
SubScript Actors: Ping Pong

```
class Ping(pong: ActorRef) extends Actor {
   override def receive: PartialFunction[Any,Unit] = {case _ =>}
     pong ! "Hello"
     pong ! "Hello"
     pong ! "Terminate"
}
```

```
class Pong1 extends SubScriptActor {
  override def receive: PartialFunction[Any,Unit] = {
    case "Hello"     => println("Hello")
    case "Terminate" => println("Done" ); context.stop(self)
  }
}
```

```
class Pong2 extends SubScriptActor {   var ping: ActorRef
  script ..
    live = ping ~~("Hello"    )~~> println: "Hello"   ...
         / ping ~~("Terminate")~~> println: "Done"
}
```

SubScript Actors: DataStore - 1

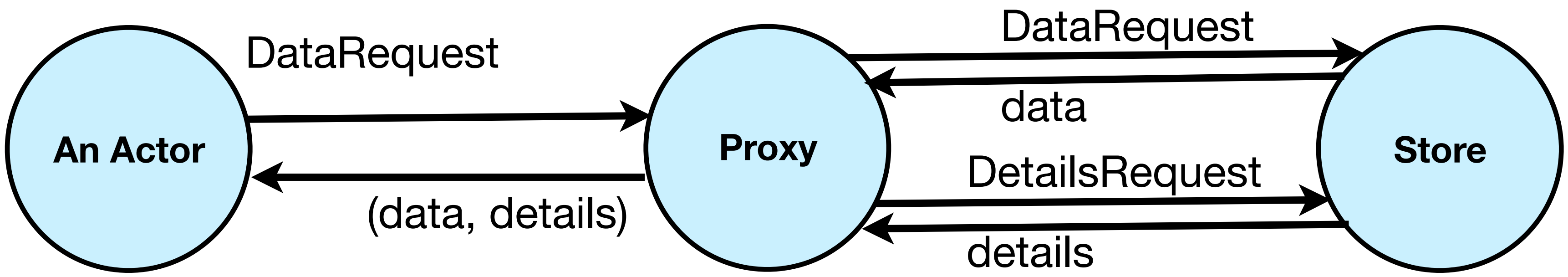


```
class DataStore extends Actor {

  def receive = {
    case     DataRequest(name) => sender ! getData    (name)
    case DetailsRequest(data) => sender ! getDetails(data)
  }

}
```

SubScript Actors: DataStore - 2

```
class DataProxy(dataStore: ActorRef) extends Actor {

  def waitingForRequest = {
    case req: DataRequest =>
      dataStore ! req
      context become waitingForData(sender)
  }

  def waitingForData(requester: ActorRef) = {
    case data: Data =>
      dataStore ! DetailsRequest(data)
      context become waitingForDetails(requester, data)
  }

  def waitingForDetails(requester: ActorRef, data: Data) = {
    case details: Details =>
      requester ! (data, details)
      context become waitingForRequest
  }
}
```

SubScript Actors: DataStore - 3



```
class DataProxy(dataStore: ActorRef) extends SubScriptActor {

 script live =

  ?anActor:ActorRef ~~(    req: DataRequest)~~> {dataStore ? req}
                    ~~(   data: Data       )~~> {dataStore ? DetailsRequest:data}
                    ~~(details: Details    )~~> do anActor ! (data, details)
   ...
}
```

Algebra of Communicating Processes - 1

Bergstra & Klop, Amsterdam, 1982 - ...

ACP$\sim$ Boolean Algebra

$+$	choice
$\cdot$	sequence
0	deadlock
1	empty process

atomic actions a,b,…
parallelism
communication
disruption, interruption
time, space, probabilities
money
...

Algebra of Communicating Processes - 2

Less known than CSP, CCS

Specification & Verification

- Communication Protocols
- Production Plants
- Railways
- Coins and Coffee Machines
- Money and Economy

Strengths

- Familiar syntax
- Precise semantics
- Reasoning by term rewriting
- Events as actions

Algebra of Communicating Processes - 3

$$\begin{aligned}
x+y &= y+x \\
(x+y)+z &= x+(y+z) \\
x+x &= x \\
\boxed{(x+y)\cdot z = x\cdot z+y\cdot z} \\
(x\cdot y)\cdot z &= x\cdot(y\cdot z)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
0+x &= x \\
0\cdot x &= 0 \\
\boxed{1\cdot x = x} \\
x\cdot 1 &= x
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
(x+1)\cdot y &= x\cdot y + 1\cdot y \\
&= x\cdot y + y
\end{aligned}$$

Algebra of Communicating Processes - 4

$$
\begin{aligned}
x \parallel y &= x \mathbin{⫡} y + y \mathbin{⫡} x + x \mid y \\
\\
(x+y) \mathbin{⫡} z &= \ldots \\
a \cdot x \mathbin{⫡} y &= \ldots \\
1 \mathbin{⫡} x &= \ldots \\
0 \mathbin{⫡} x &= \ldots \\
\\
(x+y) \mid z &= \ldots \\
\ldots &= \ldots
\end{aligned}
$$

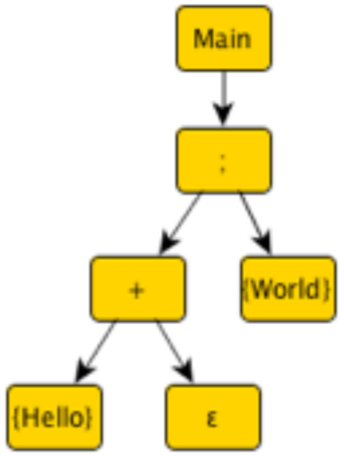
Implementation - 1

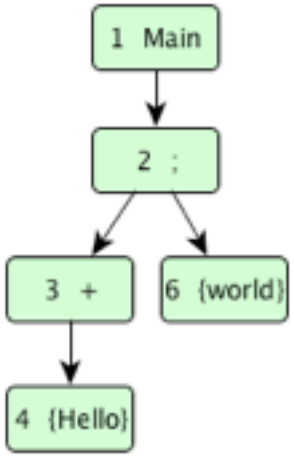
```
Main = (Hello + 1) · World
```

```
import subscript.DSL._


def Main = _script('Main) {
             _seq(_alt(_normal{here=>Hello}, _empty),
                       _normal{here=>World}          )
           }


def main(args: Array[String]): Unit = _execute(Main)
```

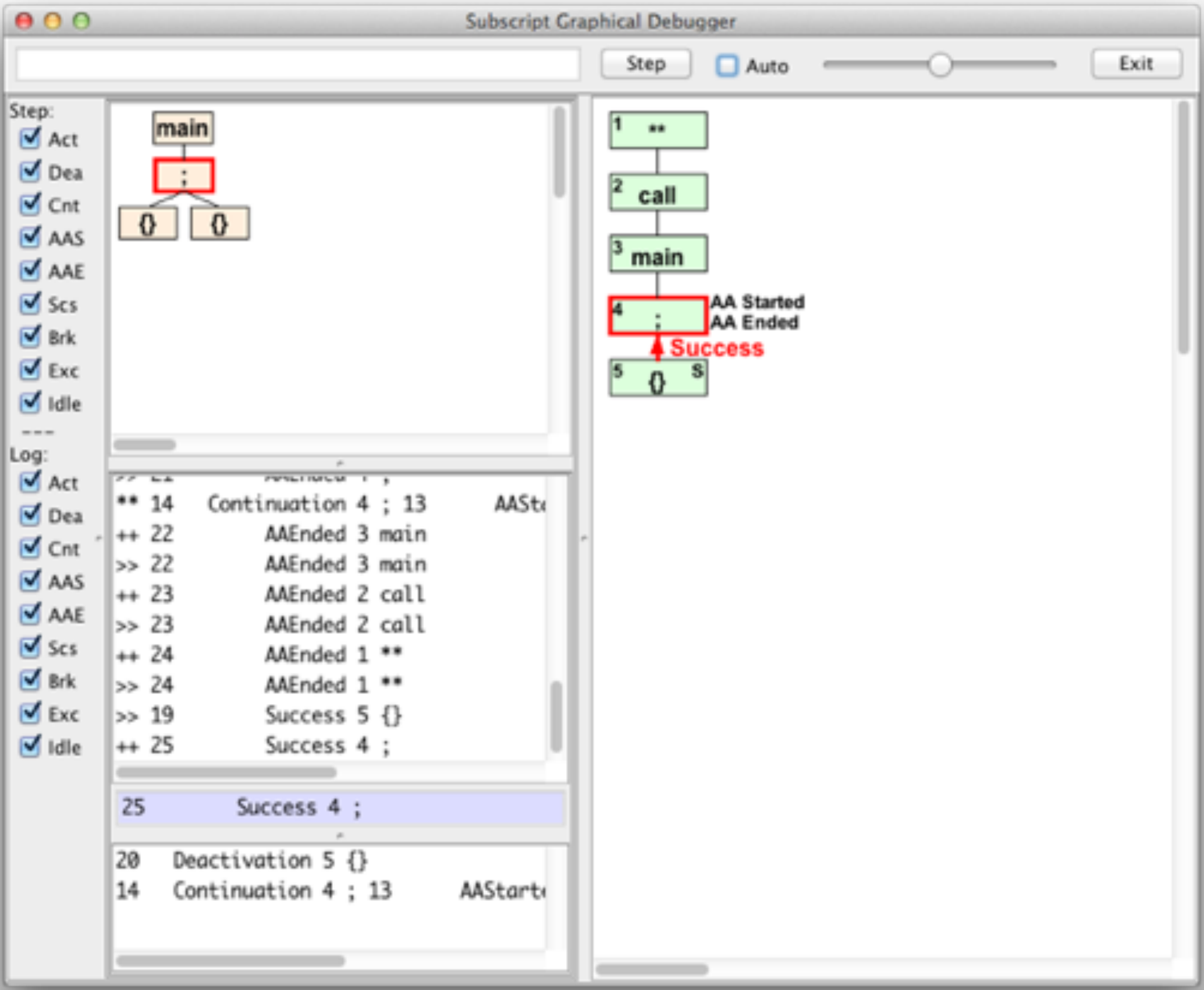
Virtual Machine: 2500 code lines

– static script trees
– dynamic Call Graph
– `here` `there`
– `onActivate` `onSuccess`





Debugger - 1



```
** 14    Continuation 4 ; 13      AASt
++ 22        AAEnded 3 main
>> 22        AAEnded 3 main
++ 23        AAEnded 2 call
>> 23        AAEnded 2 call
++ 24        AAEnded 1 **
>> 24        AAEnded 1 **
>> 19        Success 5 {}
++ 25        Success 4 ;
```

```
25          Success 4 ;
```

```
20   Deactivation 5 {}
14   Continuation 4 ; 13       AAStart
```

Hands On - 1

https://github.com/scala-subscript/examples

```
git clone https://github.com/scala-subscript/examples.git
cd examples

sbt
> project helloworld
> set mainClass in Compile := Some("subscript.example.Hello")
> ssDebug
```

Edit file:
examples/helloworld-example/src/main/scala/subscript/example/Hello.scala

```
Hello
Hello; World
Hello+[+];  World
```

Syntax Matters - 1

ACP: `Main = (Hello + 1) · World`

```
import subscript.DSL._

def Main = _script('Main) {
             _seq(_alt(_normal{here=>Hello}, _empty),
                       _normal{here=>World}          )
           }
```

Improve with specific syntax; mainly **simple** Sugar

Goals:

- DRY, less Boilerplate code
- Few (Parentheses), {Braces}, [Brackets]
- Few vars
- Refinement support
- Base layer with symbols, not keywords
- Top layer with well readable words
- Clear boundaries Scala <==> SubScript

Syntax Matters - 2

```
ACP:  Main = (Hello + 1) · World
```

```
import subscript.DSL._

def Main = _script('Main) {
             _seq(_alt(_normal{here=>Hello}, _empty),
                       _normal{here=>World}          )
           }
```

Year	Solution
2011	subscript.DSL
2012	Scalac branch: scanner, parser, typer
2015	Parboiled2 preprocessor + macros
2016..	FastParse + Dotty

Syntax Matters - 3

```
ACP:  Main = (Hello + 1) · World
```

```
import subscript.DSL._

def Main = _script('Main) {
             _seq(_alt(_normal{here=>Hello}, _empty),
                       _normal{here=>World}          )
           }
```

Influences

- Scala
- ACP
- YACC
- Prolog, Linda
- Basic
- Smalltalk
- Unix sh
- FastParse

Syntax Matters - 4

Construct	ACP	SubScript
Deadlock process	0	[-]
Empty process	1	[+]
Neutral process	0 or 1	[]
Neutral code		{: scala :}
Atomic actions	a, b, ...	{! scala !} {* *} {. .}
Choice	x+y	x+y
Sequence	x·y	x y x;y
Expression parentheses	(x+y)·z	[x+y] z x+y;z
Parallelism	x∥y	x&y x|y x&&y x||y
Sequential Iteration	x*y	..? x; y
Iterators	∑ ∏ ∥	..? ... while for
Break from expression		break? break
Process launching	cr(x)	[*x*]
Communication	a,b = c	shared scripts: multiple callers

Syntax Matters - 5

Construct	SubScript
N-ary Operators	whitespace ; + & && | || /
Grouping	[...]
Special terms	[+] [-] [] ..? ... while for break? break
Code fragments	{@ scala @} for @ in :, !, ?, *, ., ...
Annotations, call graph node	@there.onDeactivate{...}: here.pass
Declarations	val, var
Output parameters	s(?i:Int) s(?i) ?i ?j:Int
Constrained parameters	t(??i:Int) t(?i) t(?i ?if(_>3)) t(5)
Control	if-then-else do-then-else
Dataflow map	~~^ ~/~^ ~~^ +~/~^
Dataflow flatmap	~~> ~/~> ~~> +~/~>
Result values	Script[T] x^ x^^ x^^1 ^x
Scala terms	true 1 'a' "A" p p.q p.q(r) (..) {...}

Syntax Matters - 6

```
resolve(termType) =

  termType match {
    case t: Unit        => neutralCodeFragment
    case t: Script[_]   => scriptCall
    case other          => findImplicitConversionsFor(other) match {
                              case List(c) if c isInstanceOf[Unit]
                                             || c.isInstanceOf[Script[_]]
                                        => resolve(c.type)
                              case _ => error
                            }
  }
```

Syntax Matters - 7

```
resolve(termType) =

  ^termType
      ~~(t: Unit       )~~^ neutralCodeFragment
     +~~(t: Script[_])~~^ scriptCall
     +~~(other         )~~^ ^findImplicitConversionsFor: other
                               ~~(List(c) if c isInstanceOf[Unit]
                                           || c.isInstanceOf[Script[_]]
                                 )~~^ resolve: c.type
                              +~~^      error
```

```
([x]) = ???
```

Syntax Matters - 8

ACP: `Main = (Hello + 1) · World`

```
import subscript.DSL._

def Main = _script('Main) {
             _seq(_alt(_normal{here=>Hello}, _empty),
                       _normal{here=>World}           )
           }
```

Less boilerplate code,
(Parentheses), {Braces}

Process λ in Scala expressions
[*subscript expression syntax*]

```
import subscript.language
def Main = [ {!Hello!} + []; {!World!} ]
```

Few [Brackets]

script keyword

```
script Main = {!Hello!} + []; {!World!}
```

Syntax Matters - 9

```
script searchCommand      = searchButton
script showSearchingText = @gui: {: outputTA.text = "…" :}
script showSearchResults = @gui: {: outputTA.text = "…" :}
script searchInDatabase   =      {* Thread.sleep(3000)  *}
```

Top layer with well readable words ↓ Use `let` and `do`

```
script searchCommand      = searchButton
script showSearchingText = @gui: let outputTA.text = "…"
script showSearchResults = @gui: let outputTA.text = "…"
script searchInDatabase   =      do* Thread.sleep(3000)
```

DRY ↓ `script ..` section

```
script ..           // .. also for Scala (trait, class, def, val, var, ...)?

  searchCommand      = searchButton
  showSearchingText = @gui: let outputTA.text = "…"
  showSearchResults = @gui: let outputTA.text = "…"
  searchInDatabase   =      do* Thread.sleep(3000)
```

Syntax Matters - 10

Construct	Base form	Less {Braces}
Neutral code	`{:   scalaCode   :}`	`let   scalaCode`
Atomic action	`{!   scalaCode   !}`	`do!   scalaCode`
Threaded code	`{*   scalaCode   *}`	`do*   scalaCode`
Event handling code	`{.   scalaCode   .}`	`do.   scalaCode`
Persistent event handler	`{... scalaCode ...}`	`do... scalaCode`

Hands On - 2

https://github.com/scala-subscript/koans

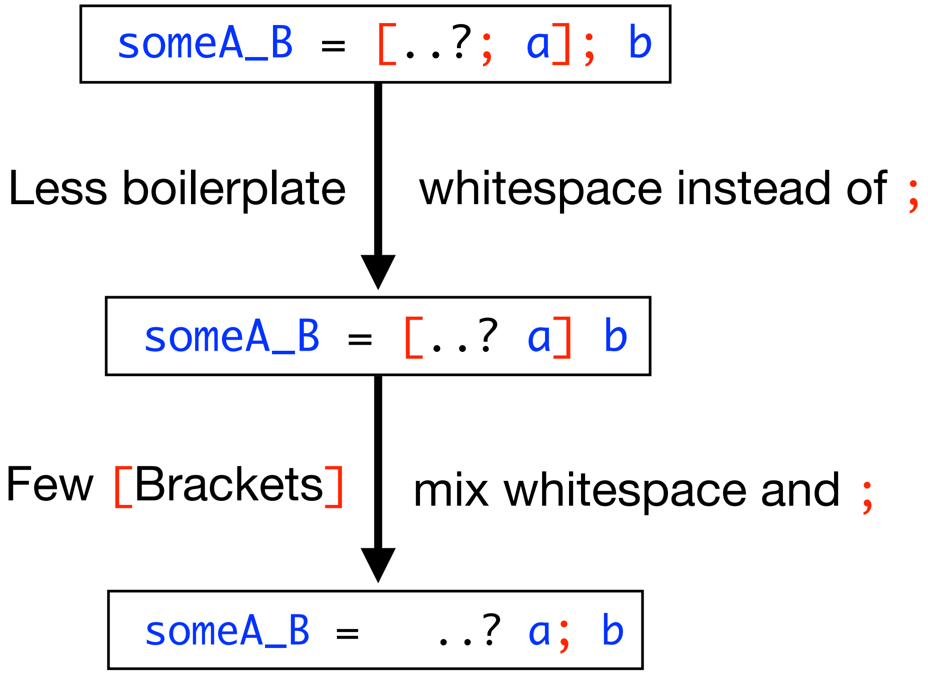
Download; unzip to koans/
cd koans

sbt
> koans

Edit; retry; ...

Syntax Matters - 11

```
ACP: a*b
```



```
someA_B = [..?; a]; b
```

```
someA_B = [..? a] b
```

```
someA_B =    ..? a; b
```

Syntax Matters - 12

```
searchCommand = clicked(searchButton) + pressed(Key.Escape)
cancelCommand = clicked(cancelButton) + pressed(Key.Escape)
  exitCommand = clicked(  exitButton) +  windowClosing
```

DRY ↓ Implicit Conversions

```
searchCommand = searchButton + Key.Escape
cancelCommand = cancelButton + Key.Escape
  exitCommand =   exitButton + windowClosing
```

Syntax Matters - 13

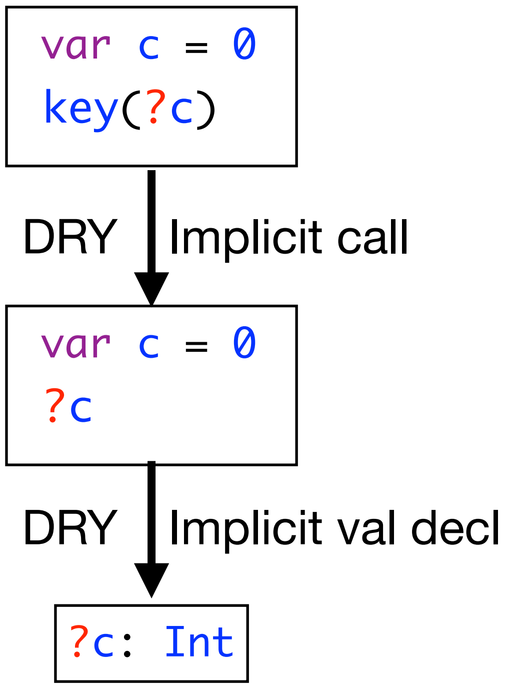
```
key(c: FormalConstrainedParameter[Int]) =
                             key(top, AdaptingParameter(c, {c = _}))

var c = 0
key(ActualOutputParameter(    c, {c = _}))
key(ActualConstraintParameter(c, {c = _}, {_<64}))
key(ActualValueParameter('x'))
```

DRY, Refinement support

Shorthand notations
Prolog, Linda style

```
key(??c: Int) = key(top, ??c)

var c = 0
key(?c)
key(?c ?if(_<64))
key('x')
```

Syntax Matters - 14

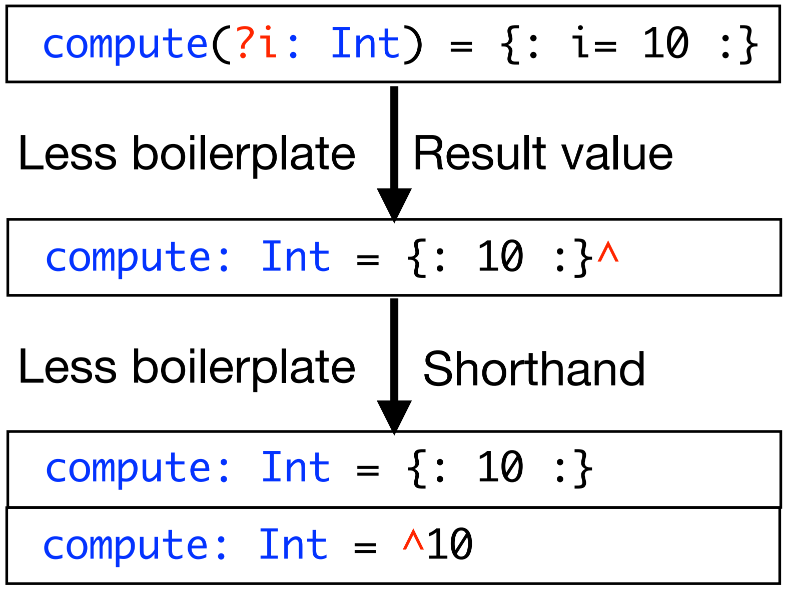


```
var c = 0
key(?c)
```

```
var c = 0
?c
```

```
?c: Int
```

Syntax Matters - 15



```
compute(?i: Int) = {: i= 10 :}
```

Less boilerplate | Result value

```
compute: Int = {: 10 :}^
```

Less boilerplate | Shorthand

```
compute: Int = {: 10 :}
```

```
compute: Int = ^10
```

```
compute^ println:"Ok"
```

```
naturalsUpTo(n: Int) = times:n ^pass^^
```

Syntax Matters - 16

```
naturalsUpTo(n: Int) = times:n ^pass^^
```

```
([x]) = x
```
in a λ

```
[x]^ =def= ([x])^
```

```
naturalsWithSquaresUpTo(n: Int) = times:n [ ^ pass       ^^1
                                            ^(pass*pass)^^2 ]^^
```

Syntax Matters - 17

```
x ~~(b:Boolean     )~~> y1
 +~~(i:Int if i<10)~~> y2
 +~~( _           )~~> y3
+~/~(e:IOException)~~> z1
+~/~(e:   Exception)~~> z2
+~/~(e:   Throwable)~~> z3
```

```
x ~~> case b:Boolean       => [y1]
      case i:Int if i<10 => [y2]
      case _              => [y3]
+~/~> case e:IOException => [z1]
      case e:   Exception => [z2]
      case e:   Throwable => [z3]
```

```
def x ~~> y +~/~> z  =
{
  var    x_node: N_call[Any] = null
  [ do @{x_node = there.asInstanceOf[N_call[Any]]}:
         x
    then y:x_node.$success ^
    else z:x_node.$failure ^
  ]
}
```

match+catch
flatmap

map:

`x ~~^ toString`

Syntax Matters - 17

```
everyIntervalLaunch(d: Duration, p: Script[_]) = wait:d [*p*] ...
```

```
everyIntervalLaunch(5*second, [x;y] )
```

Less *nested* parentheses $\downarrow$ Smalltalk-style calls

```
everyInterval: (5*second), launch: [x;y]
```

Hands On - 3

https://github.com/scala-subscript/examples

```
cd examples
sbt
> project lookupframe
> run

Multiple main classes detected, select one to run:

 [1] subscript.example.LookupFrame
 [2] subscript.example.LookupFrame2
 [3] subscript.example.LookupFrame2TBD

Enter number: 3
```

Edit file according to guidelines:
examples/lookup-example/src/main/scala/subscript/example/LookupFrame2TBD.scala

Open Source Project

- subscript-lang.org
  github.com/scala-subscript
- 10^4...10^5 actions per second
- Simple implementation: 6000 lines, 50%
  - Scalac branch ~~> Parboiled + Macro's
  - VM
  - scripts for actors, swing
- Jetbrains - IntelliJ Plugin
- ScalaParse + Dotty

FastParse & ScalaParse

- http://www.lihaoyi.com/fastparse/
- Better error messages than Parboiled2

- Inspiration for SubScript:
  - ^ - normal result value
  - ^^ - result values into List
  - ^^1, ^^2 - result values into tuple

```
script..
   s = var i= 0
       var j=10
       while(i<3) [^i^^1 ^j^^2]^^  {! i+=1; j-=1 !}

 test(1) {runScript(s).$ shouldBe Success(List((0,10),(1,9),(2,8)))}
```

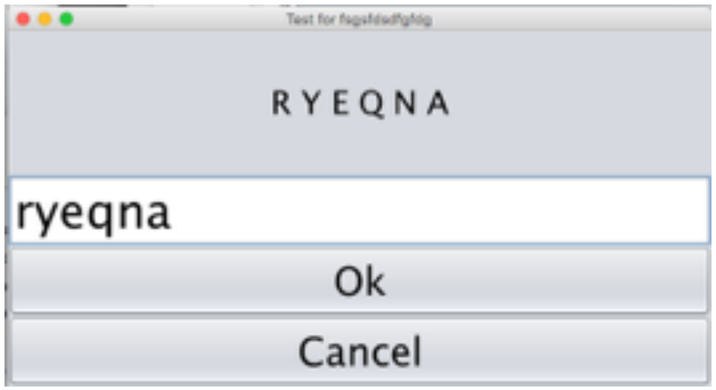
github.com/scala-subscript/koans

```
package subscript.koans

import subscript.language
import subscript.Predef._

import subscript.koans.util.KoanSuite

class AboutSubScript extends KoanSuite {
  koan(1)(
    """
    | Imports, scripts and atomic actions:
    |
    | To use SubScript in a file, it should have these two import statements:
    |
    | `import subscript.language`
    | ...
    """
  ) {
    var    flag = false
    script foo  = {! flag = true !}

    test(1) { runScript(foo); flag shouldBe __ }
  }
```

github.com/scala-subscript/examples

- helloworld
- lookupframe
- life
- filedownloader
- pingpong
- storage
- subscript-twitter-search
- taskprocessor

github.com/scala-subscript/eye-test



```
script..
  live = mainTestProcess^ / cancelBtn

  mainTestProcess = eyeTest("Right")^^1
                    eyeTest("Left" )^^2

  eyeTest(eyeName: String)
  = let testArea.font          = new Font("Ariel", java.awt.Font.PLAIN, 20)
    let testArea.text          = s"<html>Look with your $eyeName eye.</html>"
    let answerField.enabled = false
    sleep: 250
    Key.Enter + okBtn
    doTest( if(eyeName=="Right") previousScoreRight else previousScoreLeft )^
```

Conclusion

- Programming great again with Algebra
- Still much to do:
  - ScalaParse & Dotty
  - JS, NodeJS
  - ACP style communication
  - ...
- and to discover:
  - programming patterns
  - arXiv paper "Some New Directions in ACP Research"
- To join the project: andre.vandelft@gmail.com
- Sponsors also welcome