

Project Milestone 1

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What we have accomplished

- Defined the AST for a small subset of our source language MiniRacket (based on the Racket programming language)
- Created a lexer which takes raw text (string) and converts it into a list of tokens
- Created a parser which takes a list of tokens and converts it into an expression defined by our AST
- Created a library (a86) that represents a limited set of x86 assembly instructions and allows us to combine instructions quickly and convert them into a string of x86 instructions that we can then put into a file
 - It also changes how labels are handled depending on the OS type
- Created the compiler, which converts an expression defined by our AST into a list of a86 assembly instructions
- Created the compiler for a language with the single feature of printing integer literal values

What we will do next

Now that we have created most of the baseline for our compiler (i.e. created boilerplate code for lexer, parser, and compiler), we want to add more complicated features to our language. We will follow the goals set in our proposal as we add sets of features to our language. This will require updating each component of our system, including the AST, token types, lexer, parser, and compiler. Here is a list of features that we plan to add:

- Boolean and character literal values
- Unary operations including `add1` and `sub1`
- Binary operations including `+` and `-`
- Conditional expressions (i.e. if-else expressions)
- Variable binding with lexical scope through `let` expressions

These are the minimum set of features we will implement, however we plan on adding additional features including:

- List values including the empty list literal
- The binary `cons` operator for list construction
- Boxed values
- Unary operations `box` and `unbox`
- Expand on existing error checking/messages
- Vector and string values using a developed heap
- Top level function declarations and function calls

Lastly, we are currently using the runtime system from CMSC430, which is written in C. However, one of our advanced goals is to create a runtime system using Rust, so if time permits, we will replicate the C code in Rust.

Unexpected obstacles

We have not run into many obstacles yet. Much of the work we have completed required us to revisit some concepts we learned in CMSC330 (i.e. tokenizing raw text and creating a recursive descent parser). We were able to reference the lecture notes from CMSC388Z along with the extensive Rust documentation to implement our base compiler system, and have not yet run into any major issues. The most difficult aspect of this project so far was interfacing with assembly, and we are still in the process of resolving this by creating enums and structures to interface with x86 assembly more easily.

Which goal we expect to meet

We definitely expect to meet our 75% goal, and likely will be able to reach our 100% goal without much issue. Now that we have our base system, we simply need to add features to the language and will not have to make major structural changes to our code. We hope to achieve our 125% goal, however will primarily focus on achieving our 100% goal. We anticipate the most challenging aspects to be the x86 interfacing as well as implementing the runtime system using Rust.

Link to project repository

Our project repository can be found here: <https://github.com/apatelcs/CMSC388Z-Final-Project>