

"The trouble with programmers is that you can never tell what a programmer is doing until it's too late."

- Seymour Cray

CSE341 Programming Languages

Gebze Technical University Computer Engineering Department

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Functional Programming

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Largely adapted from V. Shmatikov, J. Mitchell and R.W. Sebesta

History

Lambda Calculus (Church, 1932-33)	formal model of computation
Lisp, Scheme , 70s (McCarthy, 1960)	symbolic computations with lists
APL (Iverson, 1962)	algebraic programming with arrays
ISWIM (Landin, 1966)	let and where clauses; equational reasoning; birth of "pure" functional programming ...
ML (Edinburgh, 1979) Caml 1985, Ocaml	originally meta language for theorem proving
SASL, KRC, Miranda (Turner, 1976-85)	lazy evaluation
Haskell (Hudak, Wadler, et al., 1988)	"Grand Unification" of functional languages ...

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2

1

2

Functional Programming

- Functional programming is a style of programming:

Imperative Programming:

- Program = Data + Algorithms

OO Programming:

- Program = Object. message (object)

Functional Programming:

- Program = Functions Functions

- Computation is done by application of functions

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3

3

Functional Programming Languages

- Functional language support and advocate for the style of FP
- Important Features:
 - Everything is function (input \rightarrow function \rightarrow output)
 - No variables or assignments (only constant values, arguments, and returned values \rightarrow no notion of state, memory location)
 - No loops (only recursive functions)
 - No side-effect (Referential Transparency)
 - The value of a function depends only on the values of its parameters
 - Evaluating a function with the same parameters gets the same results
 - There is no state
 - Evaluation order or execution path do not matter
 - `random()` and `getchar()` are not referentially transparent
 - Functions are first-class values: functions are values, can be parameters and return values, can be composed

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4

FP in Imperative Languages

- Imperative style

```
int sumto(int n){
    int i, sum = 0;
    for(i = 1; i <= n; i++) sum += i;
    return sum;
}
```

- Functional style:

```
int sumto(int n){
    if (n <= 0) return 0;
    else return sumto(n-1) + n;
}
```

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Why does it matter, anyway?

- The advantages of functional programming languages:

- Simple semantics, concise, flexible
- "No" side effect
- Less bugs

- It does have drawbacks:

- Execution efficiency
- More abstract and mathematical, thus more difficult to learn and use

- Even if we do not use FP languages:

- Features of recursion and higher-order functions have gotten into most programming languages

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Functional Programming Languages in Use

- Popular in prototyping, mathematical proof systems, AI and logic applications, research and education

- Scheme:

- Document Style Semantics and Specification Language (SGML stylesheets)
- GIMP
- Guile (GNU's official scripting language)
- Emacs

- Haskell

- Linspire (commercial Debian-based Linux distribution)
- xmonad (X Window Manager)

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Scheme

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Scheme: Lisp dialect

- Syntax (slightly simplified):

$expression \rightarrow atom \mid list$
 $atom \rightarrow number \mid string \mid identifier \mid character \mid boolean$
 $list \rightarrow '(' expression-sequence ')'$
 $expression-sequence \rightarrow expression \ expression-sequence \mid expression$

- Everything is an expression: programs, data, ...
Thus programs are executed by evaluating expressions
- Only 2 basic kinds of expressions:
 - atoms: unstructured
 - lists: the only structure (a slight simplification)

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Expressions

42	—a number
"hello"	—a string
#T	—the Boolean value "true"
#\a	—the character 'a'
(2.1 2.2 3.1)	—a list of numbers
hello	—a identifier
(+ 2 3)	—a list (identifier "+" and two numbers)
(* (+ 2 3) (/ 6 2))	—a list (identifier "*" and two lists)

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Evaluation of Expressions

Programs are executed by evaluating expressions. Thus semantics are defined by **evaluation rules** of expressions.

Evaluation Rules:

- number | string:** evaluate to itself
- Identifier:** looked up in the environment, i.e., dynamically maintained symbol table
- List:** recursively evaluate the elements

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Eager Evaluation

- A list is evaluated by recursively evaluating each element:
 - unspecified order
 - first element must evaluate to a function
This function is then applied to the evaluated values of the rest of the list (*prefix form*)

E.g.

3 + 4 * 5	(+ 3 (* 4 5))
(a == b) && (a != 0)	(and (= a b) (not (= a 0)))
gcd(10, 35)	(gcd 10 35)

- Most expressions use applicative order evaluation (**eager evaluation**): subexpressions are first evaluated, then the expression is evaluated
(**correspondingly in imperative language**: arguments are evaluated at a call site before they are passed to the called function)

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Lazy Evaluation: Special Forms

- `if` function (`(if a b c)`):
 - `a` is always evaluated
 - Either `b` or `c` (but not both) is evaluated and returned as result.
 - `c` is optional. (if `a` is false and `c` is missing, the value of the expression is undefined.)
 e.g., `(if (= a 0) 0 (/ 1 a))`
- `cond`: (`(cond (e1 v1) (e2 v2) ... (else vn))`)
 - The `(ei vi)` are considered in order
 - `ei` is evaluated. If it is true, `vi` is then evaluated, and the value is the result of the `cond` expression.
 - If no `ei` is evaluated to true, `vn` is then evaluated, and the value is the result of the `cond` expression.
 - If no `ei` is evaluated to true, and `vn` is missing, the value of the expression is undefined.`(cond ((= a 0) 0) ((= a 1) 1) (else (/ 1 a)))`

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13

13

Lazy Evaluation: Special Forms

- `define` function:
declare identifiers for constants and function, and thus put them into symbol table.
- ```
(define a b): define a name
(define (a p1 p2 ...): define a function a with parameters p1 p2 ...
```
- the first expression after `define` is never evaluated.
- e.g.,
- `(define x (+ 2 3))`
  - `(define (gcd u v) (if (= v 0) u (gcd v (remainder u v))))`

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14

14

## Lazy Evaluation: Special Forms

- Quote, or `'` for short, has as its whole purpose to *not* evaluate its argument:  
`(quote (2 3 4))` or `'(2 3 4)` returns just `(2 3 4)`.
- (we need a list of numbers as a data structure)
- `eval` function: get evaluation back  
`(eval '(+ 2 3))` returns `5`

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15

## Other Special Forms

- `let` function:  
create a **binding list** (a list of name-value associations), then evaluate an expression (based on the values of the names)
- ```
(let ((n1 e1) (n2 e2) ...) v1 v2 ...)
```
- e.g., `(let ((a 2) (b 3)) (+ a b))`
- Is this assignment?

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16

Lists

List

- Only data structure
- Used to construct other data structures
- Thus we must have functions to manipulate lists
- **cons**: construct a list
`(1 2 3) = (cons 1 (cons 2 (cons 3 '())))`
`(1 2 3) = (cons 1 '(2 3))`
- **car**: the first element (head), which is an expression
`(car '(1 2 3)) = 1`
- **cdr**: the tail, which is a list
`(cdr '(1 2 3)) = (2 3)`

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Data structures

```
(define L '((1 2) 3 (4 (5 6))))
(car (car L))
(cdr (car L))
(car (car (cdr (cdr L))))
```

Note:

```
car(car = caar
cdr(car = cdar
car(car(cdr(cdr = caaddr
```

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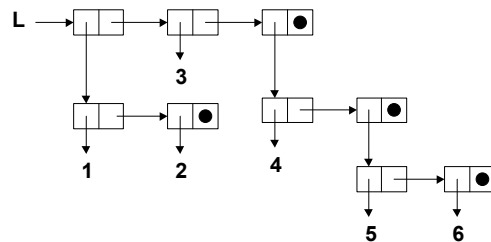
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Box diagrams

a List = (head expression, tail list)

`L = ((1 2) 3 (4 (5 6)))` looks as follows in memory



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Other list manipulations: based on car, cdr, cons

```
(define (append L M)
  (if (null? L)
      M
      (cons (car L) (append (cdr L) M))))

(define (reverse L)
  (if (null? L)
      M
      (append (reverse (cdr L)) (list (car L)))))
```

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Lambda expressions/function values

- A function can be created dynamically using a lambda expression, which returns a value that is a function:
`(lambda (x) (* x x))`
- The syntax of a lambda expression:
`(lambda list-of-parameters exp1 exp2 ...)`
- Indeed, the "function" form of `define` is just syntactic sugar for a lambda:
`(define (f x) (* x x))`
 is equivalent to:
`(define f (lambda (x) (* x x)))`

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Function values as data

- The result of a lambda can be manipulated as ordinary data:

```
> ((lambda (x) (* x x)) 5)
25

> (define (add-x x) (lambda (y) (+ x y)))
> (define add-2 (add-x 2))
> (add-2 15)
17
```

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Higher-order functions

- higher-order function:
 - a function that returns a function as its value
 - or takes a function as a parameter
 - or both
- E.g.:
 - `add-x`
 - `compose` (next slide)

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Higher-order functions

```
(define (compose f g)
  (lambda (x) (f (g x))))

(define (map f L)
  (if (null? L) L
      (cons (f (car L)) (map f (cdr L)))))

(define (filter p L)
  (cond
    ((null? L) L)
    ((p (car L)) (cons (car L)
                       (filter p (cdr L))))
    (else (filter p (cdr L)))))
```

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21

22

23

24

let expressions as lambdas:

- A `let` expression is really just a lambda applied immediately:
`(let ((x 2) (y 3)) (+ x y))`
 is the same as
`((lambda (x y) (+ x y)) 2 3)`
- This is why the following `let` expression is an error if we want `x = 2` throughout:
`(let ((x 2) (y (+ x 1))) (+ x y))`
- Nested `let` (lexical scoping)
`(let ((x 2)) (let ((y (+ x 1))) (+ x y)))`

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Lazy Evaluation

```
[1,2,3,4,5].map( x=>2*x )[0]
```

```
(2, 4, 6, 8, 10)[0]
```

2

```
lazyMap( [1,2,3,4,5], x => 2x )  
  .get( 0 )  
  
( x => 2*x )( [1,2,3,4,5][0] )  
( x => 2*x )( 1 )  
  
2
```

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```
def generator():  
    i = 1  
    while True:  
        yield i  
        i += 1
```

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27

Thank you for listening!

28

25

26

27