
PIPELINE LANGUAGE RESOURCE MANUAL

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Concurrent programming has become a very important paradigm in modern times, with mainstream languages such as Java, Python, and C++ offering concurrent programming mechanisms as part of their APIs. However, they tend to be complicated - sometimes necessarily - and invite a host of additional concerns like atomicity. Node.js has emerged as a framework with a unique approach toward asynchronous programming - the single-threaded (but not really) asynchronous programming. The event-driven architecture of Node.js and nonblocking I/O API makes it a perfect fit for backend web development.

Our intent with Pipeline is to build a simple language that encompasses these features from Javascript and the Node.js framework - easy asynchronous programming using the event-driven architecture and a speedy I/O API.

1.1 About Pipeline

Pipeline is a structured imperative C-style language that incorporates the asynchronous programming model of Node.js in the form of a pipeline. Pipeline expands on the idea of Javascript's promises, and makes this concept central to the design of the language in the form of a pipeline. A pipeline allows the programmer to chain functions together that must run synchronously and handle them asynchronously from the body of code in which it resides - a manner similar to Promises from Javascript, except with a more convenient syntax.

1.2 Your First Programs in Pipeline

1.2.1 An Oldie But a Goodie: "Hello World"

```
function main(char** argv, int argc)(void){
    printf("Hello World");
}
```

1.2.2 Getting to know the Pipeline with GCD

```
function gcd(int a, int b)(int)
{
    if a < 0 { a = -a;}
    if b < 0 { b = -b;}
    if b > a {
        int temp = a;
        a = b;
```

```
        b = temp;
    }
    while 1 {
        if b == 0 { return a;}
        a = a % b;
        if a == 0 { return b;}
        b = b % a;
    }
}

fun error(String err_message)() {
    printf(err_message);
    exit(1);
}

fun main(void)(int)
{ /* Here is one way to type it */
    pipe gcd(a, b)| gcd(1031940, pipe)| gcd(49980, pipe)| printf("gcd: %d", pipe) ||
        error("invalid numbers");
    pipe gcd(a, b)
    | gcd(1031940, _)
    | gcd(49980, _)
    | printf("gcd_2: %d", _)
    || error("invalid numbers"); /* Here is an alternative way to type the same thing*/

    /* the idea is that these two pipes will be executed asynchronously, but
    * the functions inside the pipe will be executed synchronously */
}
```

Chapter 2

Data Types

This is some text

2.1 Primitive Types

2.2 Complex Types

Chapter 3

Lexical Conventions

3.1 Identifiers

3.2 Literals

3.3 Tokens

3.4 Punctuation

Chapter 4

Expressions and Operatos

4.1 Assignment

4.2 Arithmetic Operations

4.3 Boolean Expressions

4.4 Pointers and References

4.5 Array access

4.6 Operator Precedence and Associativity

Chapter 5

Control Flow and Pipelines

5.1 Control Flow

As with any imperative programming language, Pipeline has control flow mechanisms. Control flow mechanisms control the order in which statements are executed within a program. Although this definition does not fully apply to Pipeline by design, control flow mechanisms in Pipeline still control the order in which statements are executed both inside of and, to an extent, outside of pipelines.

5.1.1 Conditionals

A conditional is a way to decide what action you wish to take based on the given situation. A conditional relies on some given expression that can be evaluated to true or false, or rather in Pipeline, like in C, any expression that can be evaluated to an integer. Pipeline uses the conventions established in C for evaluating an integer as true or false, where ANY non-zero value evaluates to true and only zero(0) evaluates to false. A conditional statement is written with the `if` statement followed by the aforementioned conditional statement and encloses the body of its text in curly braces ('{' and '}').

```
if <conditional expression> { <body_of_statements> }
```

It can then be followed by the optional `else if` statement, which executes its body if the `if` statement evaluates to false and the `else if` condition evaluates to true, and/or the `else` statement which acts as a catch all and executes when no previous condition was true.

```
if <conditional expression> {  
    <body_of_statements>  
} else if {  
    <body_of_statements>  
} else {  
    <body_of_statements>  
}
```

5.1.2 Loops

Loops are exactly what they sound like; they execute a body of code repeatedly. They are one of the most important tools in an imperative language for they allow the user to automate repetitive processes in an intuitive manner.

Pipeline uses the two most standard types of loops, while and for loops. The while loop works exactly like the conditional `if` statement, except after it executes its body of code it re-evaluates the expression and if it remains true (non-zero) it repeats the block of code. This continues until the condition becomes false,

at which point the program continues past the loop. The loop is constructed with the **while** keyword as follows:

```
while <conditional expression> {
    <body_of_statements>
}
```

5.2 Pipelines

There are two flavors of pipelines in Pipeline: The anonymous pipeline, and the named pipeline. The anonymous pipeline contains less features than its named counterpart, but it is concise. The named variety offers more features and is more flexible than its anonymous counterpart. The purposes of this section is merely an introduction to the vocabulary of the asynchronous pipeline features, but the use and explanation of asynchronous programming is located in chapter 7.

5.2.1 Anonymous Pipelines

An anonymous pipeline creates a non-blocking asynchronous chain of functions which themselves are executed synchronously. Anonymous pipelines are created with the **pipe** keyword followed by one or more functions joined by the pipe symbol, "|" from bash shell. At bare minimum requires the **pipe** keyword and one initial function, and the syntax of an anonymous pipeline is as follows:

```
pipe firstDoThis() | secondDoThis() | thirdDoThis() | fourthDoThis() || errorHandler();
```

As soon as `firstDoThis()` blocks, the program will continue on to the next line, without executing `secondDoThis()`. Only when `firstDoThis()` returns does `secondDoThis()` run with the return value of `firstDoThis()`. If there is an error in any function, then the pipeline jumps to `errorHandler()`.

5.2.2 Named Pipelines

The second variety is the named pipeline, which allows the programmer the flexibility of interleaving function calls that belong to a single pipe, as well as other features, such as coupling, not scene in the Anonymous pipeline. A named Pipeline is declared with the following syntax:

```
Pipeline <name_of_pipeline>;
/* this will be the syntax for the error handler function*
<name_of_pipeline> || errorHandler();
```

Once created any function or anonymous pipe with the name of the Pipeline in front is logically grouped together as a normal pipeline.

```
<name_of_pipeline> foo(param);
<name_of_pipeline> foo'(_)| foo''(_);
<name_of_pipeline>
/* they will be logically grouped together and work just like this:
pipe foo(param)| foo'(_)| foo''(_);
```

Chapter 6

Functions and the Standard Library

6.1 Anatomy of a Function

A function in pipeline is defined with the keyword `fun` followed by the function name, the parameters and then the return type or types if applicable. The function definition must contain these elements in order to be a viable function, and the body of the function must be enclosed in curly braces (`'{ '}'`). In general the function definition has the following syntax:

```
fun function_name(P_type_1 p_name_1, ..., P_type_n p_name_n)(ret_type_1,..., ret_type_n)
{
    <body of code>
}
```

A function need not take any parameters, nor need it return any values.

6.1.1 Declaration

In Pipeline, as in C, the function must exist before it is called to be used. Meaning, you cannot call any function within any other function unless it has been explicitly stated previous to that function was defined. A function declaration allows the programmer to declare a function exists before he/she has defined the function itself. A function declaration is almost identical to the above function definition, except that instead of curly braces and a code body, there is only a semicolon:

```
fun function_name(P_type_1 p_name_1, ..., P_type_n p_name_n)(ret_type_1,..., ret_type_n)
{
    <body of code>
}
```

6.1.2 Parameters and Return values

Pipeline is a pass by value language, meaning that whenever a value is passed to another function or from another function, it is merely a copy. This is why Pipeline provides pointers like C, so that they can pass and manipulate a given object in memory, and not a copy of that object that keeps the original intact. Therefore the scope of any variable is the function in which it was declared, and in order for it to exist external to that function a pointer to its memory location must be provided.

6.1.3 The "main" function

The main function is the function that is executed at run time. The main function has as parameters `char *string` and `int argc`, which are related to the command-line arguments provided at run-time. The `argv`

this that the other

variable holds a pointer to the array of the strings typed by the user at run-time, the first of which is always the name of the executable, and the `argc` variable is the number of those arguments including the executable name.

6.2 Decorators and Function Pointers

6.2.1 Function Pointers

6.2.2 Decorators

6.3 Standard Library

6.3.1 Built-in functions

Pipeline comes with several built-in functions in its standard library.

6.3.2 I/O

6.3.3 Memory

Chapter 7

Asynchronous Programming with Pipeline

Async control flow is incredibly useful when dealing with I/O operations, which are the foundation of web-based programming. When restricted to a single-threaded and single-process model, I/O operations in a programming language are blocking and a program can wait for an unbounded time. Introduce multi-threading or multi-process models, and a programming language becomes much more complex. The single-threaded asynchronous control flow model simplifies dealing with I/O operations such that the program does not halt because of them.

7.1 My First Pipeline

Consider the following example pipeline:

```
readFile('/home/user/you/data.txt')  
| processData(_)  
| saveProcessedData(_, '/home/user/you/processedData.txt')
```

Formally, the definition of a pipeline is as such:

```
function0(Type param0, ..., Type paramN) |  
function1(_, Type param0, ..., Type paramN) |  
function2(_, Type param0, ..., Type paramN) | ... |  
functionN(_, Type param0, ..., Type paramN)
```

How to interpret the above: "Type" references some actual type "Type param1, ..., Type paramN" references some (potentially zero-length) sequence of parameters to a function "_" acts as a placeholder for whatever value will be provided by the function one to the left in the pipeline

Note that:

The first function in the pipeline, function0, has no placeholder "_" because it has no function one to the left from which to take a value. The sequence of parameters can be of any finite length, including zero.

7.2 And Then There Were Two

Consider the terms "pipelineX" to refer to a sequence of functions arranged in a pipeline as detailed in the section "My First Pipeline," where X is a number serving as a unique ID for the pipeline. Now consider the two distinct pipelines, "pipeline0" and "pipeline1." Both pipelines contain functions which are blocking, waiting for the results of an I/O operation. The two pipelines are arranged as such in code:

```
pipeline0;
```

```
pipeline1;
```

Let's mimic the flow of a real program as it executes the two lines above. "Pipeline0" is executed and runs until there is a blocking operation. As soon as a blocking operation is encountered, the program moves it off to a worker thread, and then on the main thread continues on to execute "pipeline1."

Now we have a handful of different cases to consider.

7.3 Brief Summary of the Architecture?

Functions in a pipeline do not return. Rather, an entire pipeline may be thought of a series of nested functions, where what might be mistaken for the return value is simply passed as a parameter to the next nested function, and so on.

Therefore, if there is data you wish to manipulate or use after a function yields it, this manipulation/use should be done within the same pipeline.

The same state is kept throughout an entire pipeline

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Chapter 8

Tools for Web Developement

Pipeline is a language designed for backend web development. As such, there are certain tools necessary for the backend web programmer.

8.1 Comprehensive List of Tools for Web Development

8.1.1 subsection

subsubsection

Appendix A

The Pipe Directive

A.1 The Regular Expressions of Pipeline

A.2 Context-Free Grammar for Pipeline