

A (Not So Gentle) Introduction To ATS

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Outline

- The elevator pitch
- No runtime
- Exactly the same performance predictability
 - Decompiles to C
 - No optimizations (except TCO)
 - GCC does the rest
- Exactly the same control of C
 - Pointer arithmetic
 - malloc/free
 - stack allocation
- Completely verified at compile time
 - type system has zero overhead

- Alioth benchmark screenshot (unfortunately taken down)

- all benchmarks -

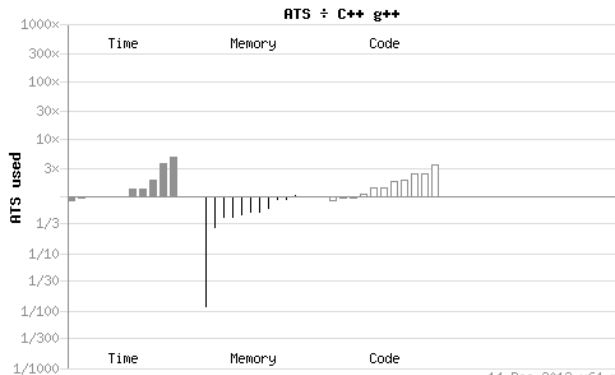
ATS

+ C++ g++

Show

1 : Are the ATS programs faster? At a glance.

Each chart bar shows, for one unidentified benchmark, how much the fastest ATS pro



14 Dec 2012 u64 n

- Is an ML (not standard)
 - ADTS, pattern-matching etc.
- Modules, but Modula-3!
- Linear logic to manage resources
 - Prove it exists, consume proof, repeat
 - file handles, sockets, anything
- But especially memory
 - Prove pointer is initialized, dereference, repeat
 - Type checked pointer arithmetic

- Refinement types

```
fun foo
  {
    (i : int ) ...
  }
```

- Optional GC

- Won't get in this much in this talk.
- Super handy

- Refinement types

```
fun foo
  {
    (i : int n) ...
  }
```

- Optional GC

- Won't get in this much in this talk.
- Super handy

- Refinement types

```
fun foo
  {n:int
    }
  (i : int n) ...
```

- Optional GC

- Won't get in this much in this talk.
- Super handy

- Refinement types

```
fun foo
  {n:int | n > 0          }
  (i : int n) ...
```

- Optional GC

- Won't get in this much in this talk.
- Super handy

- Refinement types

```
fun foo
  {n:int | n > 0 && n < 10}
  (i : int n) ...
```

- Optional GC

- Won't get in this much in this talk.
- Super handy

- Very Difficult
- Intersects
 - refinement types
 - linear logic
 - proofs
 - C
- Research!
 - Funded by the NSF
- No easy story, or newcomer "onboarding"
- Tiny community
- Sparse docs

- A slightly non-standard swap in C

```
void swap(void *i, void *j, size_t size) {  
    void* tmp = malloc(size);  
    memcpy(tmp, j, size);  
    memcpy(j, i, size);  
    memcpy(i, tmp, size);  
    free(tmp);  
}
```

- A slightly non-standard swap

```
void swap(void *i, void *j, size_t size) {  
    void* tmp = malloc(size);  
  
}
```

- A slightly non-standard swap

```
void swap(void *i, void *j, size_t size) {  
    void* tmp = malloc(size);  
    memcpy(tmp, j, size);  
    memcpy(j, i, size);  
    memcpy(i, tmp, size);  
}
```

- A slightly non-standard swap

```
void swap(void *i, void *j, size_t size) {  
    void* tmp = malloc(size);  
    memcpy(tmp, j, size);  
    memcpy(j, i, size);  
    memcpy(i, tmp, size);  
    free(tmp);  
}
```

- A slightly non-standard swap

```
%{  
    #include <stdio.h>  
    void swap(void *i, void *j, size_t size) {  
        ...  
    }  
%}
```


- A slightly non-standard swap

```
%{  
    #include <stdio.h>  
    void swap(void *i, void *j, size_t size) {  
        ...  
    }  
%}  
extern fun swap (i:ptr, j:ptr, s:size_t) : void = "ext#swap"
```

- A slightly non-standard swap

```
%{  
    #include <stdio.h>  
    void swap(void *i, void *j, size_t size) {  
        ...  
    }  
%}  
  
extern fun swap (i:ptr, j:ptr, s:size_t) : void = "ext#swap"  
extern fun malloc(s:size_t):ptr = "ext#malloc"
```

- Runner

```
implement main0 () =  
  let  
    val i = malloc(sizeof<int>)  
    val j = malloc(sizeof<double>)  
    val _ = swap(i,j,sizeof<double>)  
  in  
    ()  
  end
```

- Runner

```
implement main0 () =  
  let  
    val i = malloc(sizeof<int>) // all good  
  
  in  
  
  end
```

- Runner

```
implement main0 () =  
  let  
    val i = malloc(sizeof<int>)  
    val j = malloc(sizeof<double>) // uh oh!  
  
  in  
  
  end
```

- Runner

```
implement main0 () =  
  let  
    val i = malloc(sizeof<int>)  
    val j = malloc(sizeof<double>)  
    val _ = swap(i,j,sizeof<double>) // oh noes!  
  in  
  
  end
```

- Runner

```
implement main0 () =  
  let  
    val i = malloc(sizeof<int>)  
    val j = malloc(sizeof<double>)  
    val _ = swap(i,j,sizeof<double>)  
  in  
    () // free as in leak  
  end
```

- Can totally mimic C
- Including the bugs
- Gradual migration

- Safe swap

```
extern fun swap (i:ptr, j:ptr, s:size_t) : void = "ext#swap"
```

- Safe swap

```
extern fun swap
```

```
: void = "ext#swap"
```

- Safe swap

```
extern fun swap                                :      = "ext#swap"
```

- Safe swap

```
extern fun swap
```

```
= "ext#swap"
```

- Safe swap

```
extern fun swap  
  {a : t@type}
```

= "ext#swap"

- Safe swap

```
extern fun swap  
  {a : t@type}  
  {l1: addr |
```

```
}
```

= "ext#swap"

- Safe swap

```
extern fun swap  
  {a : t@type}  
  {l1: addr | l1 > null}
```

= "ext#swap"

- Safe swap

```
extern fun swap
```

```
  {a : t@type}
```

```
  {l1: addr | l1 > null}
```

```
  {l2: addr | l2 > null}
```

= "ext#swap"

- Safe swap

```
extern fun swap
  {a : t@type}
  {l1: addr | l1 > null}
  {l2: addr | l2 > null}
  (
    i : ptr l1
    = "ext#swap"
  ):
```

- Safe swap

```
extern fun swap
  {a : t@type}
  {l1: addr | l1 > null}
  {l2: addr | l2 > null}
  (
    i : ptr l1, j : ptr l2
    = "ext#swap"
  ):
```

- Safe swap

```
extern fun swap
  {a : t@type}
  {l1: addr | l1 > null}
  {l2: addr | l2 > null}
  (
    i : ptr l1, j : ptr l2, s: sizeof_t a):
    = "ext#swap"
```

- Safe swap

```
extern fun swap
  {a : t@type}
  {l1: addr | l1 > null}
  {l2: addr | l2 > null}
  (
    | i : ptr l1, j : ptr l2, s: sizeof_t a):
    = "ext#swap"
```

- Safe swap

```
extern fun swap
  {a : t@type}
  {l1: addr | l1 > null}
  {l2: addr | l2 > null}
  (a @ l1          | i : ptr l1, j : ptr l2, s: sizeof_t a):
    = "ext#swap"
```

- Safe swap

```
extern fun swap
  {a : t@type}
  {l1: addr | l1 > null}
  {l2: addr | l2 > null}
  (a @ l1 , a @ l2 | i : ptr l1, j : ptr l2, s: sizeof_t a):
    = "ext#swap"
```

- Safe swap

```
extern fun swap
  {a : t@type}
  {l1: addr | l1 > null}
  {l2: addr | l2 > null}
  (a @ l1 , a @ l2 | i : ptr l1, j : ptr l2, s: sizeof_t a):
    (                               ) = "ext#swap"
```

- Safe swap

```
extern fun swap
  {a : t@type}
  {l1: addr | l1 > null}
  {l2: addr | l2 > null}
  (a @ l1 , a @ l2 | i : ptr l1, j : ptr l2, s: sizeof_t a):
    (
      void) = "ext#swap"
```


- Safe swap

```
extern fun swap
  {a : t@type}
  {l1: addr | l1 > null}
  {l2: addr | l2 > null}
  (a @ l1 , a @ l2 | i : ptr l1, j : ptr l2, s: sizeof_t a):
    (                               | void) = "ext#swap"
```

- Safe swap

```
extern fun swap
  {a : t@type}
  {l1: addr | l1 > null}
  {l2: addr | l2 > null}
  (a @ l1 , a @ l2 | i : ptr l1, j : ptr l2, s: sizeof_t a):
    (a @ l1      | void) = "ext#swap"
```

- Safe swap

```
extern fun swap
  {a : t@type}
  {l1: addr | l1 > null}
  {l2: addr | l2 > null}
  (a @ l1 , a @ l2 | i : ptr l1, j : ptr l2, s: sizeof_t a):
    (a @ l1, a @ l2 | void) = "ext#swap"
```

- Safe swap

```
extern fun malloc(s:size_t):ptr = "ext#malloc"
```

- Safe swap

```
extern fun malloc
```

```
= "ext#malloc"
```

- Safe swap

```
extern fun malloc  
      {a:t@ype}
```

```
= "ext#malloc"
```

- Safe swap

```
extern fun malloc
  {a:t@type}
  (s:sizeof_t a):

= "ext#malloc"
```

- Safe swap

```
extern fun malloc
  {a:t@type}
  (s:sizeof_t a):
    (ptr 1)
= "ext#malloc"
```


- Safe swap

```
extern fun malloc
  {a:t@type}
  (s:sizeof_t a):
    (a? @ 1 | ptr 1)
= "ext#malloc"
```

- Safe swap

```
extern fun malloc
  {a:t@type}
  (s:sizeof_t a):
  [
    ] (a? @ 1 | ptr 1)
= "ext#malloc"
```

- Safe swap

```
extern fun malloc
  {a:t@type}
  (s:sizeof_t a):
    [l:addr          ] (a? @ 1 | ptr 1)
= "ext#malloc"
```

- Safe swap

```
extern fun malloc
  {a:t@ype}
  (s:sizeof_t a):
  [l:addr | l > null] (a? @ l | ptr l)
= "ext#malloc"
```

- Safe swap

```
implement main0 () = let  
  val (      i) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
```

```
in
```

```
end
```

- Safe swap

```
implement main0 () = let  
  val (    | i) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
```

```
in
```

```
end
```

- Safe swap

```
implement main0 () = let  
  val (pfi | i) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
```

```
in
```

```
end
```

- Safe swap

```
implement main0 () = let  
  val (pfi | i) = malloc (sizeof<int>)  
  val (pfj | j) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
```

in

end

- Safe swap

```
implement main0 () = let  
  val (pfi | i) = malloc (sizeof<int>)  
  val (pfj | j) = malloc (sizeof<int>)  
  val          = ptr_set(      i, 1)
```

in

end

- Safe swap

```
implement main0 () = let  
  val (pfi | i) = malloc (sizeof<int>)  
  val (pfj | j) = malloc (sizeof<int>)  
  val          = ptr_set(pfi | i, 1)
```

in

end

- Safe swap

```
implement main0 () = let  
  val (pfi | i) = malloc (sizeof<int>)  
  val (pfj | j) = malloc (sizeof<int>)  
  val (      ()) = ptr_set(pfi | i, 1)
```

in

end

- Safe swap

```
implement main0 () = let  
  val (pfi | i) = malloc (sizeof<int>)  
  val (pfj | j) = malloc (sizeof<int>)  
  val (pfi1 | ()) = ptr_set(pfi | i, 1)
```

in

end

- Safe swap

```
implement main0 () = let
  val (pfi | i) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
  val (pfj | j) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
  val (pfi1 | ()) = ptr_set(pfi | i, 1)
  val (pfj1 | ()) = ptr_set(pfj | j, 2)
```

in

end

- Safe swap

```
implement main0 () = let
  val (pfi | i) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
  val (pfj | j) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
  val (pfi1 | ()) = ptr_set(pfi | i, 1)
  val (pfj1 | ()) = ptr_set(pfj | j, 2)
  val          = swap(          i, j, sizeof<int>)
in

end
```

- Safe swap

```
implement main0 () = let
  val (pfi | i) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
  val (pfj | j) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
  val (pfi1 | ()) = ptr_set(pfi | i, 1)
  val (pfj1 | ()) = ptr_set(pfj | j, 2)
  val          = swap(          | i, j, sizeof<int>)
in

end
```

- Safe swap

```
implement main0 () = let
  val (pfi | i) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
  val (pfj | j) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
  val (pfi1 | ()) = ptr_set(pfi | i, 1)
  val (pfj1 | ()) = ptr_set(pfj | j, 2)
  val          = swap(pfi1          | i, j, sizeof<int>)
in

end
```


- Safe swap

```
implement main0 () = let
  val (pfi | i) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
  val (pfj | j) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
  val (pfi1 | ()) = ptr_set(pfi | i, 1)
  val (pfj1 | ()) = ptr_set(pfj | j, 2)
  val
      = swap(pfi1, pfj2 | i, j, sizeof<int>)
in

end
```

- Safe swap

```
implement main0 () = let
  val (pfi | i) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
  val (pfj | j) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
  val (pfi1 | ()) = ptr_set(pfi | i, 1)
  val (pfj1 | ()) = ptr_set(pfj | j, 2)
  val (      ()) = swap(pfi1, pfj2 | i, j, sizeof<int>)
in

end
```

- Safe swap

```
implement main0 () = let
  val (pfi | i) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
  val (pfj | j) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
  val (pfi1 | ()) = ptr_set(pfi | i, 1)
  val (pfj1 | ()) = ptr_set(pfj | j, 2)
  val (pfi2      | ()) = swap(pfi1, pfj1 | i, j, sizeof<int>)
in

end
```

- Safe swap

```
implement main0 () = let
  val (pfi | i) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
  val (pfj | j) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
  val (pfi1 | ()) = ptr_set(pfi | i, 1)
  val (pfj1 | ()) = ptr_set(pfj | j, 2)
  val (pfi2,pfj2| ()) = swap(pfi1, pfj1 | i, j, sizeof<int>)
in
```

```
end
```

- Safe swap

```
implement main0 () = let
  val (pfi | i) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
  val (pfj | j) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
  val (pfi1 | ()) = ptr_set(pfi | i, 1)
  val (pfj1 | ()) = ptr_set(pfj | j, 2)
  val (pfi2,pfj2| ()) = swap(pfi1, pfj2 | i, j, sizeof<int>)
in
  free(pfi2 | i);

end
```

- Safe swap

```
implement main0 () = let
  val (pfi | i) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
  val (pfj | j) = malloc (sizeof<int>)
  val (pfi1 | ()) = ptr_set(pfi | i, 1)
  val (pfj1 | ()) = ptr_set(pfj | j, 2)
  val (pfi2,pfj2| ()) = swap(pfi1, pfj1 | i, j, sizeof<int>)
in
  free(pfi2 | i);
  free(pfj2 | j);
end
```

- Safe swap

```
implement main0 () = let
  val (pfi    ) = malloc
      ^^^
  val (pfi1 | ()) = ptr_set(pfi |    )
      ^^^^^      ^^^
```

in

end

- Safe swap

```
implement main0 () = let
```

```
  val (pfi1 | ()) =  
    ^^^^^
```

```
  val (pfi2,      | ()) == swap(pfi1,      |  
in    ^^^^^      ^^^^^
```

```
end
```


- Safe swap

```
implement main0 () = let
```

```
    val (pfi2,      | ()) =  
in      ^^^^^  
    free(pfi2 |  );  
      ^^^^^  
end
```

- Idiomatic swap

```
fun {a:t@type}
  swap{l1,l2:addr}
  (..) : void =
let
  val tmp = !p1
in
  !p1 := !p2;
  !p2 := tmp
end
```

Factorial

- Factorial

```
fun factorial
  { n : int | n >= 1 }
  (i : int n) : double =
let
  fun loop
    { n : int | n >= 1 }
    .<n>.
    (acc : double, i : int (n)) : double =
  case- i of
  | 1 => acc
  | i when i > 1 => loop(acc * i, i - 1)

in
  loop(1.0, i)
end
```

Factorial

- Factorial

```
fun factorial
```

```
  let
```

```
    fun loop
```

```
  in
```

```
    loop(1.0, i)
```

```
end
```

Factorial

- Factorial

```
fun factorial  
  { n : int | n >= 1 }
```

```
let  
  fun loop
```

```
in  
  loop(1.0, i)  
end
```

Factorial

- Factorial

```
fun factorial
  { n : int | n >= 1 }
  (i : int n) : double =
let
  fun loop

in
  loop(1.0, i)
end
```

Factorial

- Factorial

```
fun factorial
  { n : int | n >= 1 }
  (i : int n) : double =
let
  fun loop
    { n : int | n >= 1 }

in
  loop(1.0, i)
end
```

Factorial

- Factorial

```
fun factorial
  { n : int | n >= 1 }
  (i : int n) : double =
let
  fun loop
    { n : int | n >= 1 }

    (acc : double, i : int (n)) : double =

in
  loop(1.0, i)
end
```


Factorial

- Factorial

```
fun factorial
  { n : int | n >= 1 }
  (i : int n) : double =
let
  fun loop
    { n : int | n >= 1 }
    .<n>.
    (acc : double, i : int (n)) : double =

in
  loop(1.0, i)
end
```

Factorial

- Factorial

```
fun factorial
  { n : int | n >= 1 }
  (i : int n) : double =
let
  fun loop
    { n : int | n >= 1 }
    .<n>.
    (acc : double, i : int (n)) : double =
      case- i of

in
  loop(1.0, i)
end
```

Factorial

- Factorial

```
fun factorial
  { n : int | n >= 1 }
  (i : int n) : double =
let
  fun loop
    { n : int | n >= 1 }
    .<n>.
    (acc : double, i : int (n)) : double =
  case- i of
  | 1 => acc
  |

in
  loop(1.0, i)
end
```

Factorial

- Factorial

```
fun factorial
  { n : int | n >= 1 }
  (i : int n) : double =
let
  fun loop
    { n : int | n >= 1 }
    .<n>.
    (acc : double, i : int (n)) : double =
  case- i of
  | 1 => acc
  | i

in
  loop(1.0, i)
end
```

Factorial

- Factorial

```
fun factorial
  { n : int | n >= 1 }
  (i : int n) : double =
let
  fun loop
    { n : int | n >= 1 }
    .<n>.
    (acc : double, i : int (n)) : double =
  case- i of
  | 1 => acc
  | i when i > 1

in
  loop(1.0, i)
end
```

Factorial

- Factorial

```
fun factorial
  { n : int | n >= 1 }
  (i : int n) : double =
let
  fun loop
    { n : int | n >= 1 }
    .<n>.
    (acc : double, i : int (n)) : double =
  case- i of
  | 1 => acc
  | i when i > 1 => loop(acc * i, i - 1)

in
  loop(1.0, i)
end
```

Factorial

- Factorial

```
fun factorial
```

```
  let
```

```
    fun loop
```

```
      { n : int | n >= 1 } <---
```

```
      case- i of
```

```
      |
```

```
      | i when i > 1 => loop(acc * i, i - 1)
```

```
      ~~~~~
```

```
  in
```

```
    loop(1.0, i)
```

```
end
```

Factorial

- Factorial

```
fun factorial
```

```
  let
```

```
    fun loop
```

```
      { n : int | n >= 1 } <---
```

```
      case- i of
```

```
      |
```

```
      | i when i > 1 => loop(acc * i, i - 1)
```

```
      ^^^^^
```

```
  in
```

```
    loop(1.0, i)
```

```
end
```


Factorial

- Factorial

```
fun factorial
```

```
  let
```

```
    fun loop
```

```
      .<n>. <---
```

```
      case- i of
```

```
      |
```

```
      | i when i > 1 => loop(acc * i, i + 1)
```

```
          ^^^^^
```

```
  in
```

```
    loop(1.0, i)
```

```
end
```

- ADT describing an array of pointers

```
dataview array_v
(  
  a:t@type,  
  l: addr,  
  n : int  
) =  
  array_v_nil  (a, l, 0)  
| array_v_cons (a, l, n) of  
  (a @ l, array_v (a, l+sizeof a, n-1))
```

- ADT describing an array of pointers

```
dataview array_v
(
) =
```

- ADT describing an array of pointers

```
dataview array_v  
(  
  
  
)  
=  
  array_v_nil  
  |
```

- ADT describing an array of pointers

```
dataview array_v  
(  
  
)  
=  
  array_v_nil  
| array_v_cons
```

- ADT describing an array of pointers

```
dataview array_v  
(  
  a:t@type,  
  
) =  
  array_v_nil  
| array_v_cons
```

- ADT describing an array of pointers

```
dataview array_v  
(  
  a:t@type,  
  l: addr,  
  
) =  
  array_v_nil  
| array_v_cons
```

- ADT describing an array of pointers

```
dataview array_v  
(  
  a:t@type,  
  l: addr,  
  n : int  
) =  
  array_v_nil  
  | array_v_cons
```


- ADT describing an array of pointers

```
dataview array_v  
(  
  a:t@type,  
  l: addr,  
  n : int  
) =  
  array_v_nil  (a, l, 0)  
  | array_v_cons
```

- ADT describing an array of pointers

```
dataview array_v
(  
  a:t@type,  
  l: addr,  
  n : int  
) =  
  array_v_nil  (a, l, 0)  
| array_v_cons (a, l, n)
```

- ADT describing an array of pointers

```
dataview array_v
(
  a:t@type,
  l: addr,
  n : int
) =
  array_v_nil  (a, l, 0)
| array_v_cons (a, l, n) of
  (a @ l,      )
```

- ADT describing an array of pointers

```
dataview array_v
(
  a:t@type,
  l: addr,
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) =
  array_v_nil  (a, l, 0)
| array_v_cons (a, l, n) of
  (a @ l, array_v (
```

- ADT describing an array of pointers

```
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  a:t@type,
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) =
  array_v_nil  (a, l, 0)
| array_v_cons (a, l, n) of
  (a @ l, array_v (a,          ))
```

- ADT describing an array of pointers

```
dataview array_v
(
  a:t@type,
  l: addr,
  n : int
) =
  array_v_nil  (a, l, 0)
| array_v_cons (a, l, n) of
  (a @ l, array_v (a, l+sizeof a,    ))
```

- ADT describing an array of pointers

```
dataview array_v
(  
  a:t@type,  
  l: addr,  
  n : int  
) =  
  array_v_nil (a, l, 0)  
| array_v_cons (a, l, n) of  
  (a @ l, array_v (a, l+sizeof a, n-1))
```