Military Techincal Academy

Principles of Programming Language

Brief History

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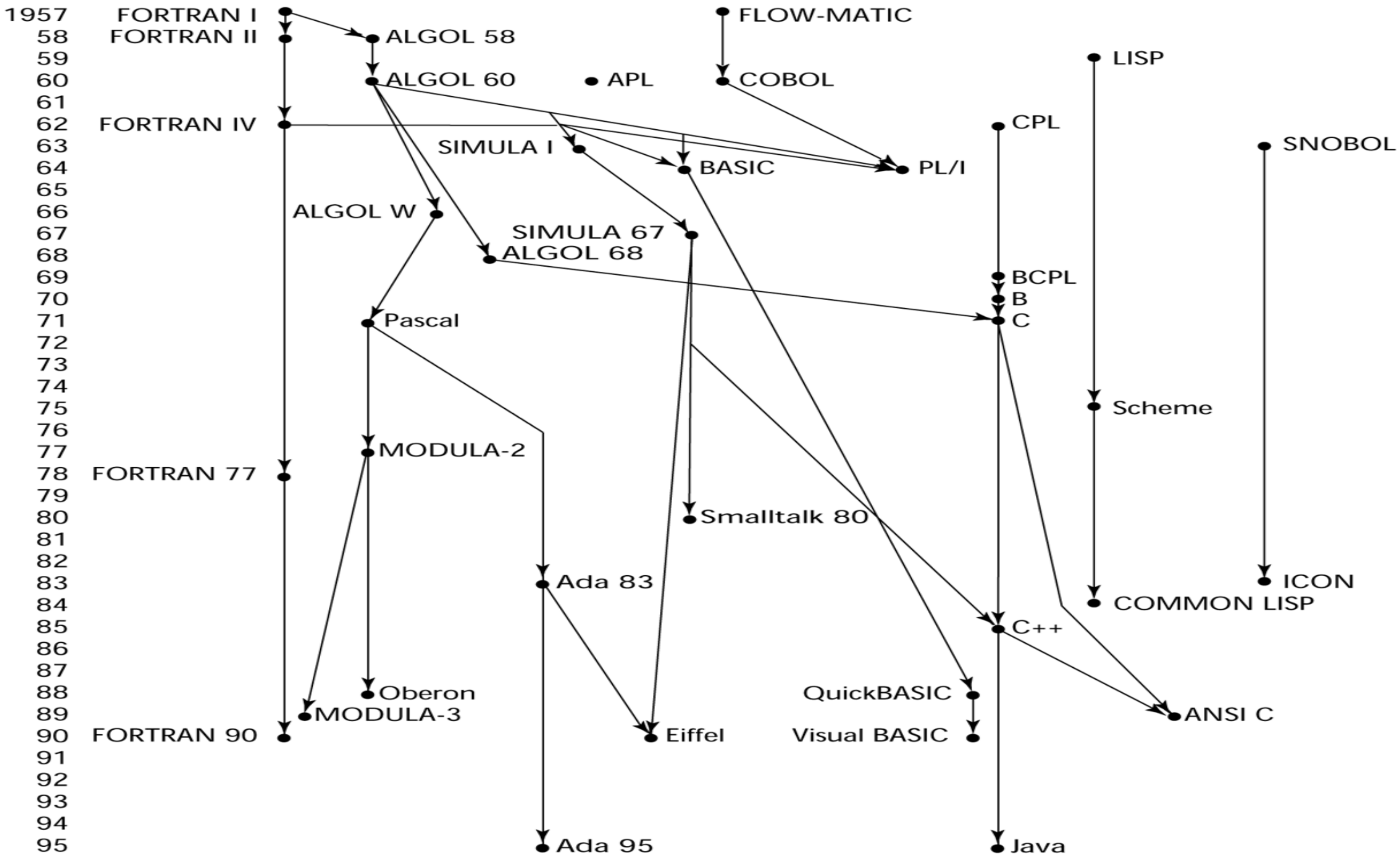


Zuse's Plankalkül

- First "high-level" language
- Designed in 1945, but not published until 1972
- Never implemented
- Advanced data structures
  - floating point, arrays, records

Konrad Zuse
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Konrad_Zuse

Plankalkül Syntax

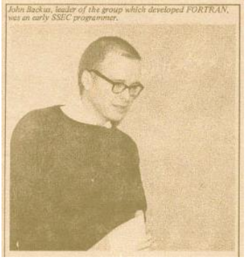
- An assignment statement to assign the expression A[4] + 1 to A[5]

```
     |  A + 1 => A
  V  |  4         5            (subscripts)
  S  |  1.n       1.n          (data types)
```

FORTRAN

- Fortran 0: 1954 - not implemented
- Fortran I:1957
  - Designed for the new IBM 704, which had index registers and floating point hardware

    - This led to the idea of compiled programming languages, because there was no place to hide the cost of interpretation (no floating-point software)
  - Environment of development
    - Computers were small and unreliable
    - Applications were scientific
    - No programming methodology or tools
    - Machine efficiency was the most important concern
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fortran


John Backus, leader of the group which developed FORTRAN, was an early SSEC programmer.

John Backus

Design Process of Fortran

- Impact of environment on design of Fortran I

  - No need for dynamic storage
  - Need good array handling and counting loops
  - No string handling, decimal arithmetic, or powerful input/output (for business software)

Fortran I Overview

- First implemented version of Fortran
    - Names could have up to six characters
    - Post-test counting loop (`DO`)
    - Formatted I/O
    - User-defined subprograms
    - Three-way selection statement (arithmetic `IF`)
    - No data typing statements

Fortran I Overview

- First implemented version of FORTRAN
  - No separate compilation
  - Compiler released in April 1957, after 18 worker-years of effort
  - Programs larger than 400 lines rarely compiled correctly, mainly due to poor reliability of 704
  - Code was very fast
  - Quickly became widely used

Fortran II

- Distributed in 1958
  - Independent compilation
  - Fixed the bugs

Fortran IV

- Evolved during 1960-62
    - Explicit type declarations
    - Logical selection statement
    - Subprogram names could be parameters
    - ANSI standard in 1966

Fortran 77

- Became the new standard in 1978
  - Character string handling
  - Logical loop control statement
  - **`IF-THEN-ELSE`** statement

Fortran 90

- Most significant changes from Fortran 77
  - Modules
  - Dynamic arrays
  - Pointers
  - Recursion
  - **`CASE`** statement
  - Parameter type checking

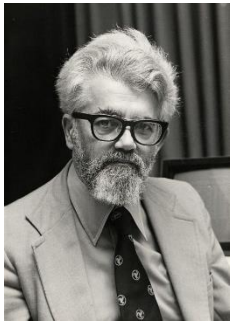
Latest versions of Fortran

- Fortran 95 – relatively minor additions, plus some deletions
- Fortran 2003 - ditto

Fortran Evaluation

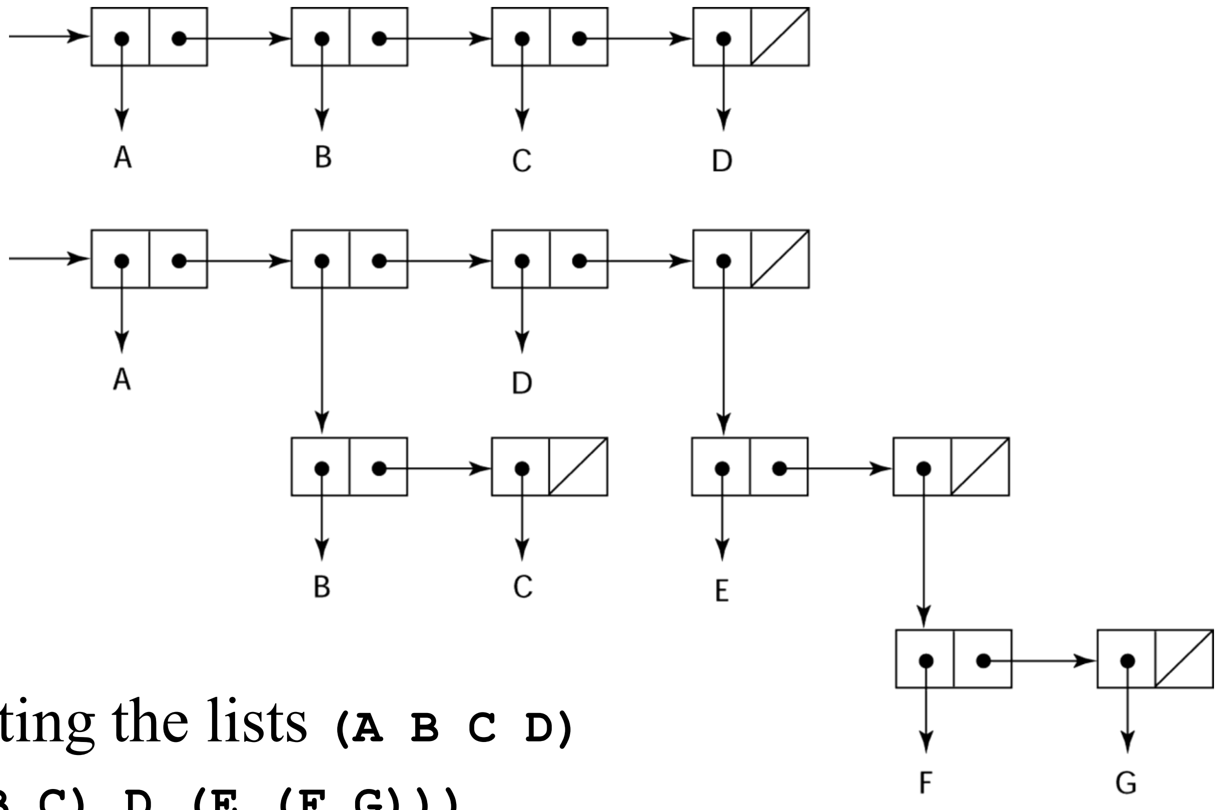
- Highly optimizing compilers (all versions before 90)
  - Types and storage of all variables are fixed before run time
- Dramatically changed forever the way computers are used
- Characterized as the *lingua franca* of the computing world

Functional Programming: LISP



- LISt Processing language
  - Designed at MIT by McCarthy
- AI research needed a language to
  - Process data in lists (rather than arrays)
  - Symbolic computation (rather than numeric)
- Only two data types: atoms and lists
- Syntax is based on *lambda calculus*

Representation of Two LISP Lists



Representing the lists `(A B C D)`
and `(A (B C) D (E (F G)))`

LISP Evaluation

- Pioneered functional programming
  - No need for variables or assignment
  - Control via recursion and conditional expressions
- Still the dominant language for AI
- COMMON LISP and Scheme are contemporary dialects of LISP
- ML, Miranda, and Haskell are related languages

The First Step Toward Sophistication: ALGOL 60

- Environment of development
  - FORTRAN had (barely) arrived for IBM 70x
  - Many other languages were being developed, all for specific machines
  - No portable language; all were machine-dependent
  - No universal language for communicating algorithms
- ALGOL 60 was the result of efforts to design a universal language

Early Design Process

- ACM and GAMM met for four days for design (May 27 to June 1, 1958)

- Goals of the language
  - Close to mathematical notation
  - Good for describing algorithms
  - Must be translatable to machine code

ALGOL 58

- Concept of type was formalized
- Names could be any length
- Arrays could have any number of subscripts
- Parameters were separated by mode (in & out)
- Subscripts were placed in brackets
- Compound statements (**`begin ... end`**)
- Semicolon as a statement separator
- Assignment operator was :=
- **`if`** had an **`else-if`** clause
- No I/O - "would make it machine dependent"

ALGOL 58 Implementation

- Not meant to be implemented, but variations of it were (MAD, JOVIAL)
- Although IBM was initially enthusiastic, all support was dropped by mid 1959

ALGOL 60 Overview

- Modified ALGOL 58 at 6-day meeting in Paris
- New features
  - Block structure (local scope)
  - Two parameter passing methods
  - Subprogram recursion
  - Stack-dynamic arrays

  - Still no I/O and no string handling

ALGOL 60 Evaluation

- Successes
  - It was the standard way to publish algorithms for over 20 years
  - All subsequent imperative languages are based on it
  - First machine-independent language
  - First language whose syntax was formally defined (BNF)

ALGOL 60 Evaluation (continued)

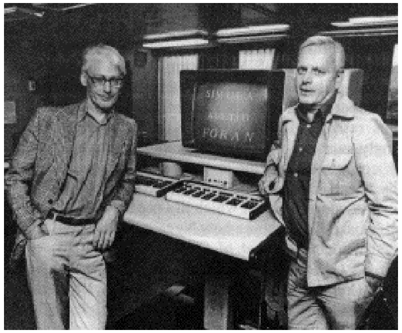
- Failure
  - Never widely used, especially in U.S.
  - Reasons
    - Lack of I/O and the character set made programs non-portable
    - Too flexible--hard to implement
    - Entrenchment of Fortran
    - Formal syntax description
    - Lack of support from IBM

The Beginning of Timesharing: BASIC

- Designed by Kemeny & Kurtz at Dartmouth
- Design Goals:
  - Easy to learn and use for non-science students
  - Must be “pleasant and friendly”
  - Fast turnaround for homework
  - Free and private access
  - User time is more important than computer time
- Current popular dialect: Visual BASIC
- First widely used language with time sharing

The Beginning of Data Abstraction: SIMULA 67

- Designed primarily for system simulation in Norway by Nygaard and Dahl



- Based on ALGOL 60 and SIMULA I
- Primary Contributions
  - Coroutines - a kind of subprogram
  - Classes, objects, and inheritance
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simula

Orthogonal Design: ALGOL 68

- From the continued development of ALGOL 60 but not a superset of that language
- Source of several new ideas (even though the language itself never achieved widespread use)
- Design is based on the concept of orthogonality
  - A few basic concepts, plus a few combining mechanisms

ALGOL 68 Evaluation

- Contributions
  - User-defined data structures
  - Reference types
  - Dynamic arrays (called flex arrays)

- Comments
  - Less usage than ALGOL 60
  - Had strong influence on subsequent languages, especially Pascal, C, and Ada

Pascal - 1971

- Developed by Niklaus Wirth (a former member of the ALGOL 68 committee)
- Designed for teaching structured programming
- Small, simple, nothing really new
- Largest impact was on teaching programming
  - From mid-1970s until the late 1990s, it was the most widely used language for teaching programming

C - 1972

- Designed for systems programming (at Bell Labs by Dennis Richie)
- Evolved primarily from BCLP, B, but also ALGOL 68
- Powerful set of operators, but poor type checking
- Initially spread through UNIX
- Many areas of application

Perl

- Related to ALGOL only through C
- A scripting language
  - A *script* (file) contains instructions to be executed
  - Other examples: sh, awk, tcl/tk
- Developed by Larry Wall
- Perl variables are statically typed and implicitly declared
  - Three distinctive namespaces, denoted by the first character of a variable's name
- Powerful but somewhat dangerous
- Widely used as a general purpose language and for CGI programming on the Web

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Programming Based on Logic: Prolog

- Developed, by Comerauer and Roussel (University of Aix-Marseille), with help from Kowalski (University of Edinburgh)
- Based on formal logic
- Non-procedural
- Can be summarized as being an intelligent database system that uses an inferencing process to infer the truth of given queries
- Highly inefficient, small application areas

History's Largest Design Effort: Ada

- Huge design effort, involving hundreds of people, much money, and about eight years
  - Strawman requirements (April 1975)
  - Woodman requirements (August 1975)
  - Tinman requirements (1976)
  - Ironman equipments (1977)
  - Steelman requirements (1978)

- Named Ada after Augusta Ada Byron, the first programmer

Ada Evaluation

- Contributions
  - Packages - support for data abstraction
  - Exception handling - elaborate
  - Generic program units
  - Concurrency - through the tasking model
- Comments
  - Competitive design
  - Included all that was then known about software engineering and language design
  - First compilers were very difficult; the first really usable compiler came nearly five years after the language design was completed

Ada 95

- Ada 95 (began in 1988)
  - Support for OOP through type derivation
  - Better control mechanisms for shared data
  - New concurrency features
  - More flexible libraries
- Popularity suffered because the DoD no longer requires its use but also because of popularity of C++

Object-Oriented Programming: Smalltalk

- Developed at Xerox PARC, initially by Alan Kay, later by Adele Goldberg
- First full implementation of an object-oriented language (data abstraction, inheritance, and dynamic binding)
- Pioneered the graphical user interface design
- Promoted OOP

Combining Imperative and Object-Oriented Programming: C++

- Developed at Bell Labs by Stroustrup in 1980
- Evolved from C and SIMULA 67
- Facilities for object-oriented programming, taken partially from SIMULA 67
- Provides exception handling
- A large and complex language, in part because it supports both procedural and OO programming
- Rapidly grew in popularity, along with OOP
- ANSI standard approved in November 1997
- Microsoft's version (released with .NET in 2002): Managed C++
  - delegates, interfaces, no multiple inheritance

An Imperative-Based Object-Oriented Language: Java

- Developed at Sun in the early 1990s
  - C and C++ were not satisfactory for embedded electronic devices
- Based on C++
  - Significantly simplified (does not include **`struct`**, **`union`**, **`enum`**, pointer arithmetic, and half of the assignment coercions of C++)
  - Supports *only* OOP
  - Has references, but not pointers
  - Includes support for applets and a form of concurrency

Java Evaluation

- Eliminated many unsafe features of C++
- Supports concurrency
- Libraries for applets, GUIs, database access
- Portable: Java Virtual Machine concept, JIT compilers
- Widely used for Web programming
- Use increased faster than any previous language
- Most recent version, 5.0, released in 2004

Scripting Languages for the Web

- JavaScript
  - Began at Netscape, but later became a joint venture of Netscape and Sun Microsystems
  - A client-side HTML-embedded scripting language, often used to create dynamic HTML documents
  - Purely interpreted
  - Related to Java only through similar syntax
- PHP
  - PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor, designed by Rasmus Lerdorf
  - A server-side HTML-embedded scripting language, often used for form processing and database access through the Web
  - Purely interpreted
- Python
  - An OO interpreted scripting language
  - Type checked but dynamically typed
  - Used for CGI programming and form processing
  - Dynamically typed, but type checked
  - Supports lists, tuples, and hashes

A C-Based Language for the New Millennium: C#

- Part of the .NET development platform (2000)
- Based on C++ , Java, and Delphi
- Provides a language for component-based software development
- All .NET languages (C#, Visual BASIC.NET, Managed C++, J#.NET, and Jscript.NET) use Common Type System (CTS), which provides a common class library

Summary

- Development, development environment, and evaluation of a number of important programming languages

- Perspective into current issues in language design