

平成 XX 年度修士論文

タイトル



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Abstract

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第1章 序論

この章では，どのような研究背景があり，そのためにどのような研究の動機が生じ，自分の研究の目的が何であるかを明確にする．

科学技術論文の場合は，句読点は「、」「。」ではなく，「,」「.」を使う．

卒論はしっかり書きましょう．就職する人は学生生活最後の一番大きなレポートとなります．いつも言っていることですが，社会に出たら「成績」を評価されるのではなく「業績」を評価されます．学生時代の学業の評価をされるときに一番最初に聞かれるのは「卒論では何をやったの？」という質問です．卒業論文をしっかりと書いて後で人に見せられる状態にしておくのは後々必ず役に立ちます．

研究の動機と目的を記した後に，各章の章立てを説明する．

以下に本論文の構成を示す．第2章では，関連研究について述べる．第3章では，第4章で自分が行った研究を遂行するために必要となった理論などを説明する．第4章では，自分が提案する手法の説明をし，第5章で，シミュレーションや実験などによる具体的な結果を示すと共に研究成果に対する考察を述べる．最後に，第6章で，結論を述べる．

第2章 関連研究

自分が目的とした研究課題の動向や理論・手法などについて関連する先行研究について説明する.

第3章 try-with 構文のステップ実行

第4章 4

第5章 5

5.1 Stepping OCaml in the Classroom

Since 2016, we have been using (earlier versions of) our stepper in an introductory OCaml course called “Functional Programming”, taught by the third author at Ochanomizu University.

5.1.1 The OCaml Course

The “Functional Programming” course teaches how to program with functions and types, covering basic topics such as recursion, datatypes, effects, and modules. The course consists of 15, weekly lab sessions, and each session consists of 90 minutes lab-style class per week. (Many students remain in the lab after 90 minutes up until around 150 minutes.) Throughout the course, students build a program that searches for the shortest path based on Dijkstra’s algorithm. The participants of the course are second-year undergraduate students majoring in computer science (around 40 students each year). All students enter this course after a CS 1 course in the C programming language.

The course is taught in a “flipped classroom” style. Before every meeting, students are asked to study assigned readings and videos prepared by the instructor and answer simple quizzes. In the classroom, they practice the newly covered topics through exercises, with assistance of the instructor as well as five to six teaching assistants (including the first and second authors).

The exercises include simple practice problems and report problems. The former are for confirming students’ understanding of the topics and are expected to be completed within a class. The latter problems (for credit) are due in one week. Whenever a student executes a program, by either step execution or standard exe-

cution, the program as well as its execution log (syntax errors, type errors, or the result of execution) are recorded.

For most of the problems (up to the 12th week), we provide a check system where students can submit their solutions to see whether they pass the given tests. To earn points for report problems, students are required to have their programs pass the check system.

5.1.2 The Uses of the Stepper

We introduced the stepper into Functional Programming in 2016. Although the steppers used in the past had almost the same user-interface as the one shown in Figure ??, they differ in the following ways:

2016 This first version supported function definitions, conditionals, records, lists, and recursion. However, there were various operations that were not supported. As such, the usability of the stepper was low. Moreover, when the instructor introduced the stepper to students, he only mildly encouraged to use it. Although we do not know how much the stepper was used in 2016 since we did not log the execution of stepper, we expect it was used only rarely in the first few weeks of the course.

2017 Based on the lessons from the previous year, the second version supported most operations used in the first six weeks. The instructor introduced the stepper up front at the first class and showed how to use the stepper with various examples in the subsequent classes.

2018 The third version supported almost all the constructs needed for the course, including modules, exception handling, sequential execution, printing, references, and arrays. It also supported skipping of function application. The instructor introduced the stepper as though the stepper was the only way to execute OCaml programs, encouraging the uses of the stepper. (Students gradually realized that they could execute a program in the interpreter in a few weeks.)

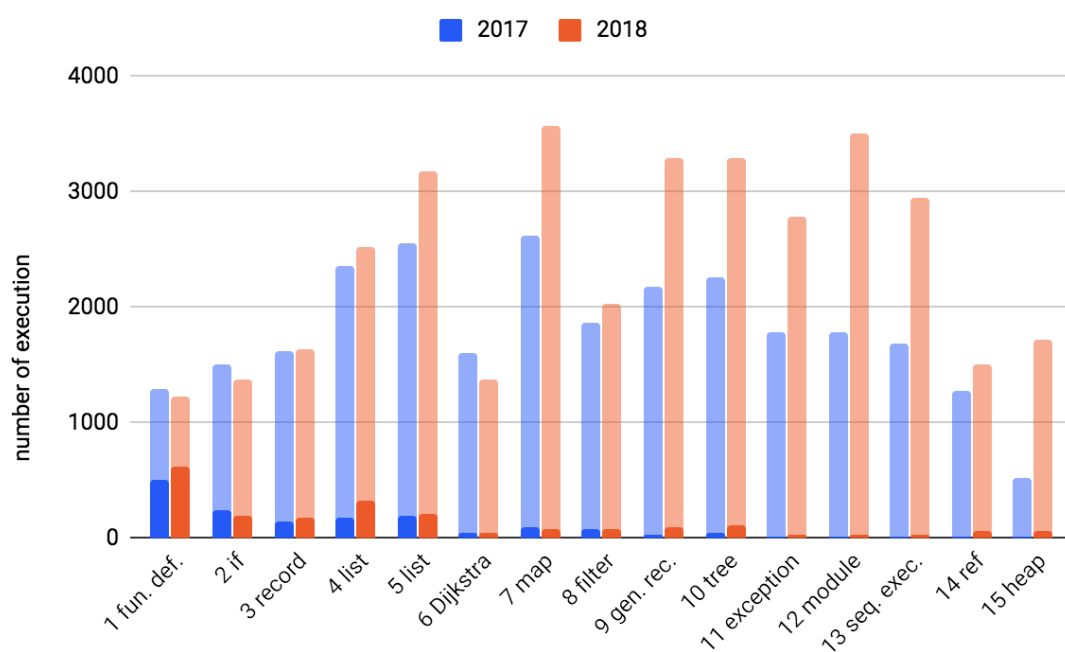


图 5.1: Frequency of standard execution (light-colored) and step execution (dark-colored) in each week in 2017 and 2018. The stepper was not used at all toward the end of the course in 2017, but it was used in some degree in 2018.

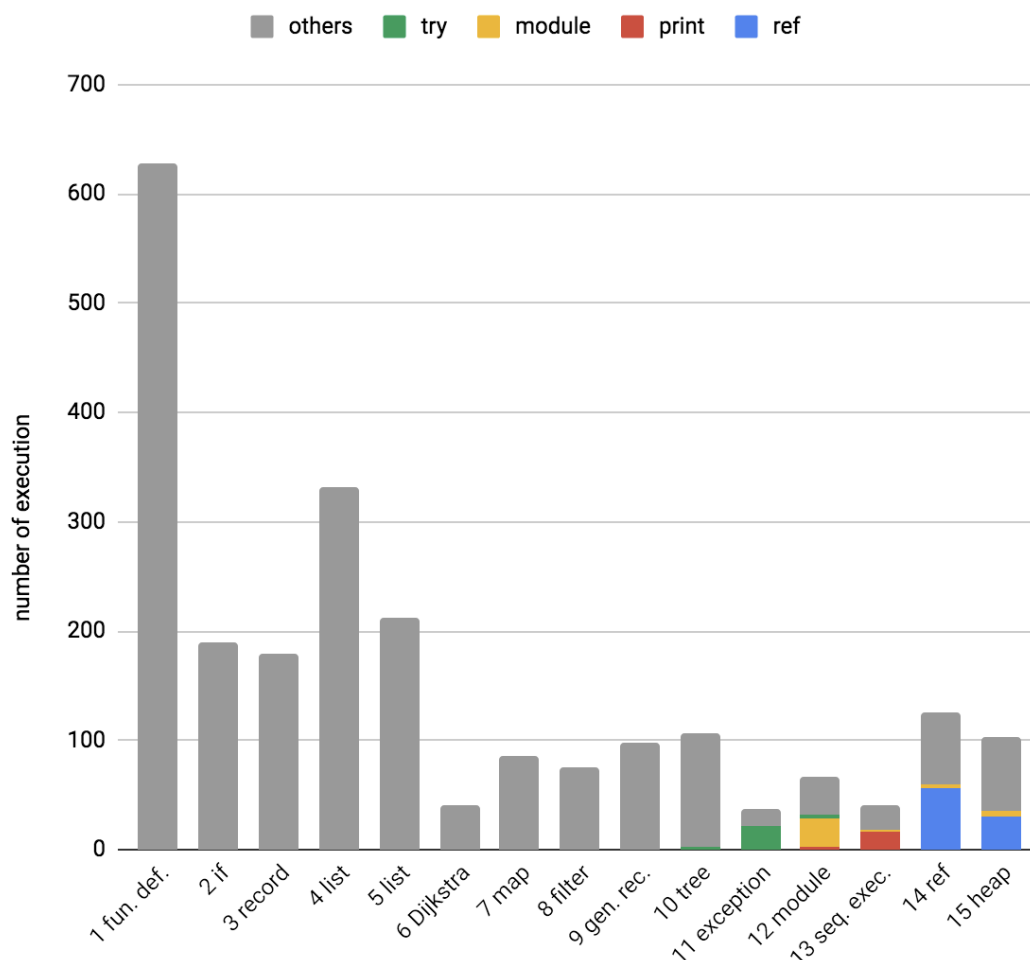


图 5.2: Number of times the stepper was used to evaluate a program with “try”, “module”, “print” or “ref” in 2018.

Figure 5.1 shows how many times students used the stepper among all the executions including the ones that ended up in an error. In both 2017 and 2018, the stepper was used quite often until week 5. This is partly because we encouraged students to use the stepper when they had trouble finding bugs and understanding recursion. After week 5, the number decreases, because students started using an interpreter, too, as programs became larger.

In 2017, the number of stepper uses decreases toward the end of the course. In contrast, in 2018, certain number of stepper uses is observed, thanks to the support

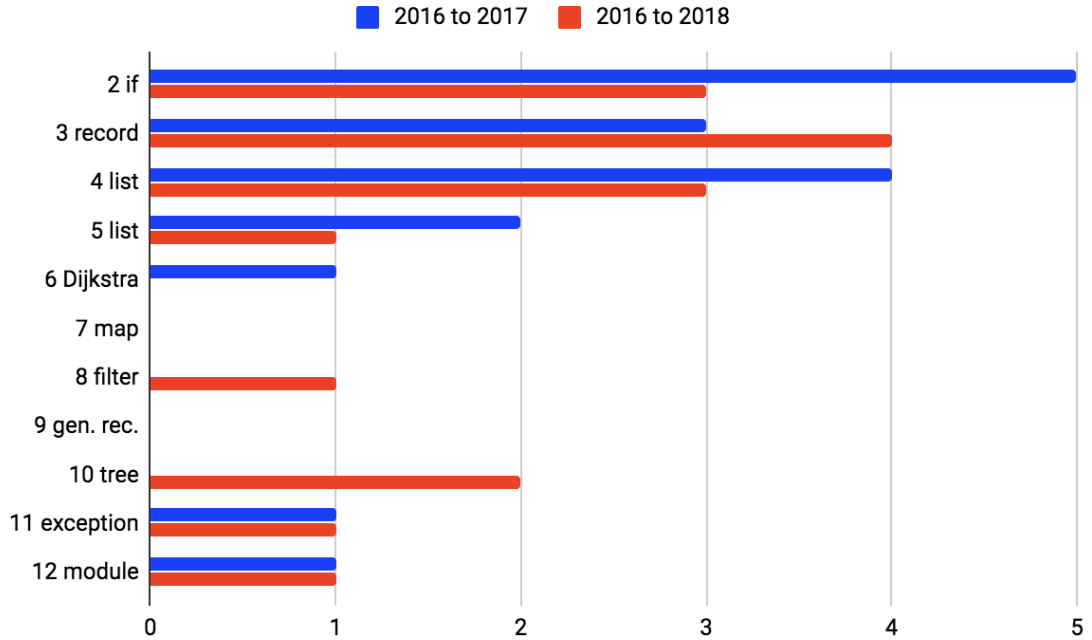


图 5.3: Number of questions where students arrived at a correct answer significantly faster in 2017 and 2018 than 2016.

of exception handling, modules, and references. Figure 5.2 shows the number of execution of programs using these features during step-execution in 2018. From the figure, we can see that there is a demand for step execution of advanced constructs such as exception handling and modules.

The exact numbers of execution are available in Table ?? in the Appendix.

5.1.3 Effects of Stepper

It is not easy to see the effect of a tool like a stepper on the learning of students. In the case of improving error messages of a compiler, for example, one can classify various errors and see how many of them are covered by the improved error messages objectively. For the stepper, it is unclear how to show such numeric data.

As an attempt to measure the effect of the stepper, we examined how long students took to submit correct solutions to the check system. Among all the submitted correct solutions, we gathered the (wall-clock) times of submissions recorded in

the check system that are within 100 minutes from the beginning of the class and compared the average times among 2016, 2017, and 2018.

Figure 5.3 shows the number of questions for which students submitted a correct answer within significantly shorter time in 2017 and 2018 compared to 2016. The data are based on one-sided t-testing with $p\text{-value} < 0.05$; we refer the reader to Table ?? of the appendix for details. Note that we did not include week 1 because we had a special pre-test in the first lecture in 2018.

From the figure, we can see improvement of submission times after the (real) introduction of the stepper, especially in earlier problems. However, there is an exception: for one problem in the 6th week, correct submissions come significantly later in 2018 than in 2016. The problem simply asks students to write a recursive function that adds 1 to each element of a given list. We do not know why it took so long in 2018. The result of t-testing all the problems together is $t(1778) = 2.819$ ($p=0.002$) in 2017 and $t(2111) = 2.592$ ($p=0.005$) in 2018.

We also compared the average times between 2017 and 2018. For earlier weeks (up to week 5), submissions in 2017 were significantly earlier, while for later weeks, there were no significant difference (except for two problems where the average times for 2018 were earlier). Putting all the problems together, the two were not significantly different with $t(1953)=0.455$ ($p=0.324$).

Threats to validity. It is possible that the results of our experiment were affected by the enrolled students in each year (there was no over-lapping). In all the three years, the instructor started the class with some introductory comments that vary in length. Although the instructor made similar comments in each year, they were not exactly the same, which could have affected.

5.1.4 Students' Evaluation

At the end of the semester of 2018, we asked the students to share their thoughts on the stepper. We received responses from 38 out of 42 students. We first asked whether the stepper was useful on the 0 to 4 point scale. The results, which we present in Table 5.1, suggest that the stepper is not a silver bullet that is useful for all the time. However, most students could solve the problems at hand sometimes

	score	# of students
Using the stepper, I could almost always understand the behavior of programs or the cause of errors.	4	3
Using the stepper, I could often solve problems at hand.	3	8
Using the stepper, I could sometimes solve problems at hand.	2	25
I could rarely find new things using the stepper.	1	2
The stepper was useless. I did not use the stepper.	0	0

表 5.1: Students’ scoring of the stepper in 2018. 38 students out of 42 answered. The average is 2.3.

using the stepper. We are encouraged to see some students choose “the stepper was almost always useful”.

We next asked students to write when the stepper was useful (if any), such as when they found their misunderstanding, or when they could deepen their understanding. We summarize the answers in two categories.

Understanding of the behavior of programs. Seven students answered they could deepen their understanding of the behavior of programs. In particular, five students among them wrote explicitly that the stepper helped them figure out how functions consume recursive data. We imagine it was particularly instructive to see how a recursive function definition is unfolded in nesting application.

Other students answered that they could observe the behavior of programs in general. They found that arguments of a function are evaluated before the function call, and that the elements of a list are evaluated one by one. Among them, one student observed the right-to-left execution employed in OCaml. Previously, such subtle behavior was taught only in passing without much emphasis.

Debugging. Many students found the stepper useful for debugging. Sixteen students answered they could find what was wrong when their program did not pass test cases. By observing each step of execution, they could identify when the program behaved differently from their expectation. This is an important step toward debugging in general. Because printing (and side effects) is handled at the end of the

course, the only debugging method for students had been unit testing: they checked whether all the component functions worked as expected. With the stepper, they can simply observe execution of the program and see when it goes wrong.

Three students found the stepper useful to understand why their program did not terminate. Without printing, it is not easy for students to identify the cause of infinite loops. Using the stepper, one of the students could not only observe the infinite loop, but also see how far her program went well and when it went wrong.

第6章 結論

自分が行った研究の概要を簡単に述べ，それがどのような意味があるのかについて述べる．将来的な課題などについて触れる．結論はおよそ2ページくらい書けばよいでしょう．

感想文にならないように研究成果の報告をする章だということを念頭において書くことに気をつけてください．

[1]

謝辞

～に感謝いたします。

関連図書

- [1] Tsukino Furukawa, Youyou Cong, and Kenichi Asai. Stepping OCaml. In Proceedings Seventh International Workshop on *Trends in Functional Programming in Education*, Chalmers University, Gothenburg, Sweden, 14th June 2018, Vol. 295 of *Electronic Proceedings in Theoretical Computer Science*, pp. 17–34, 2019.

付 録 A 実験でもちいたデータ

ここには，実験のデータなど，論文の本文中に載せられなかったが，読者にとって役に立つとおもわれるデータなどを付録として掲載する．

付 録B ふろく

B.1 section

B.2 2

付 録 C furoku