

Compiling ParL to PArIR in Rust

A report on the Rust compiler for the ParL programming language.

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Abstract

In this report, we discuss the implementation details of a compiler for ParL, an expression-based strongly typed programming language. Code written in ParL is compiled to PArIR, which is the proprietary assembly-like language that is used to drive the programmable pixel art displays designed by the company PArDis. The ParL compiler was written in Rust, due to its strong type system and performance characteristics. It was implemented incrementally, as to ensure each component can be run in isolation, and is working correctly before moving on to the next one.

1 Lexical Analysis

The first step in the compilation process is the lexical analysis. A recurring theme in the implementation of this compiler is the use of *abstraction* to achieve *modularity*.