GeoDraw: Language Specification

Isabel Grondin and Meredith Wolf

Spring 2022

1 Introduction

GeoDraw is a language that lets you use basic math equations (lines, circles, parabolas, etc) to construct basic cartoon drawings. This is inspired by a project in high school that was designed to help us learn more about geometry through drawing cartoons using geometrical equations. It was difficult to find a graphing calculator online that made this particular project easy, for example, one where you have control over the colors of your lines. GeoDraw will be a be a fun educational tool to strengthen students knowledge of geometrical equations.

This language can also be viewed as a gentle introduction to computer graphics, which use much more complex mathematical equations, and to programming more generally. For that reason simplicity is an important part of our language design. Finally, this language allows users to bring out their inner artist, by experimenting with our fun brush designs, or customizing their own!

2 Design Principles

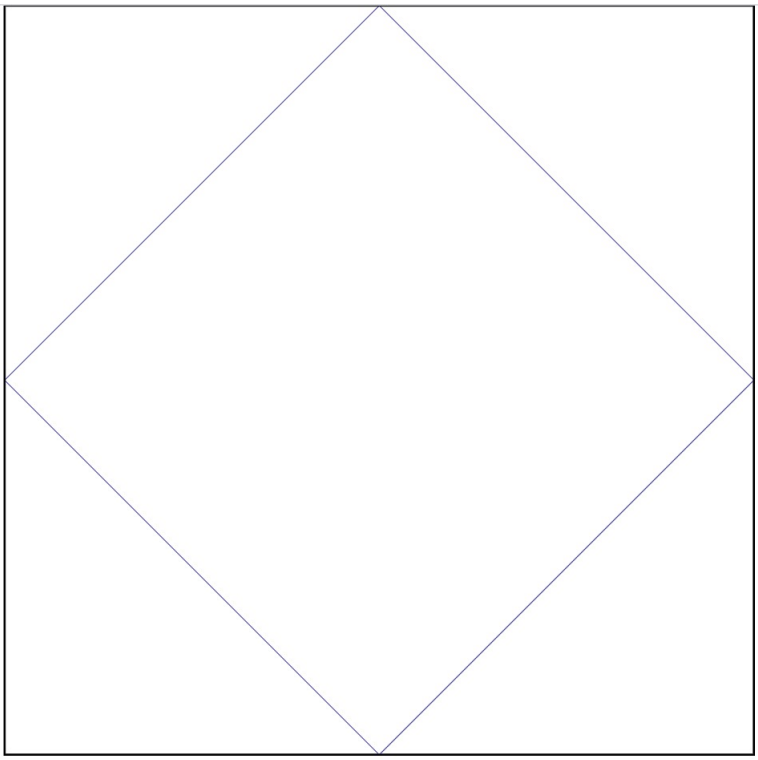
Our guiding principles are simplicity and readability. Since this language is targeted towards younger populations, who are most likely being introduced to programming, we want the language to be fairly intuitive. Furthermore, GeoDraw is a tool aiding students in learning graphing skills, and we do not want the complexity of the language to detract from that core objective.

3 Example Programs

All of the following examples can be run using typing ”dotnet run example-X.geo” on the command line from the lang folder, with X representing the example number. Running the code will output a SVG file matching the name of the example in the lang folder. For example, example-1.geo with have an output file example-1.geo.svg. This SVG file can be opened and displayed in a browser. The output of the SVG files are displayed below.

Example 1: Diamond

```
canvas(400, 400)
draw(y = abs((x - 200)), [], (74, 70, 166), 'simple')
draw(y = ((-1 * abs((x - 200))) + 400), [], (74, 70, 166), 'simple')
```



Example 2: Smiley Face

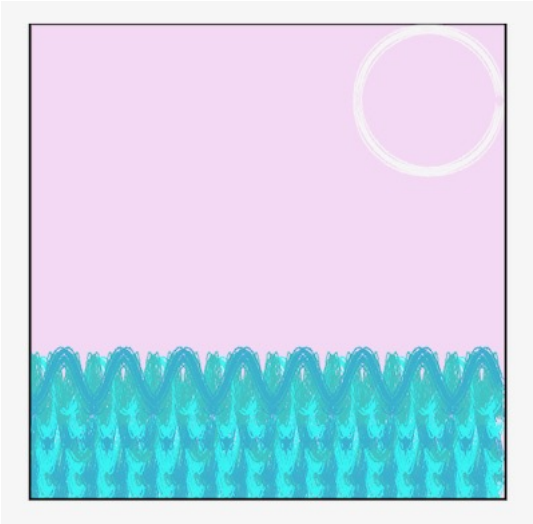
```
canvas(300, 300, (245, 212, 83))
draw(y = ((((x - 150) / 10) ^ 2) + 50), [x > 50, x < 250], (128, 96, 69), 'funky')
draw(y = ((-1 * (((x - 100) / 2.5) ^ 2)) + 250), [y > 200], (128, 96, 69), 'funky')
draw(y = ((-1 * (((x - 200) / 2.5) ^ 2)) + 250), [y > 200], (128, 96, 69), 'funky')
```

Example 3: Ocean

```
canvas(200, 200, (255,226,255))

# Create the waves
draw(y = (sin((x * .5)) * 10.5), [], (14, 255, 255), "thick")
draw(y = ((sin(((x * .5) + 5)) * 10.5) + 5), [], (65, 202, 202), "thick")
draw(y = ((sin(((x * .5) + 10)) * 10.5) + 10), [], (57, 183, 215), "thick")
draw(y = ((sin((x * .5)) * 10.5) + 15), [], (14, 255, 255), "thick")
draw(y = ((sin(((x * .5) + 5)) * 10.5) + 20), [], (65, 202, 202), "thick")
draw(y = ((sin(((x * .5) + 10)) * 10.5) + 20), [], (57, 183, 215), "thick")
draw(y = ((sin((x * .5)) * 10.5) + 25), [], (14, 255, 255), "thick")
draw(y = ((sin(((x * .25) + 5)) * 10.5) + 30), [], (65, 202, 202), "thick")
draw(y = ((sin(((x * .75) + 10)) * 10.5) + 35), [], (57, 183, 215), "thick")
draw(y = ((sin((x * .5)) * 10.5) + 40), [], (14, 255, 255), "thick")
draw(y = ((sin(((x * .75) + 5)) * 10.5) + 45), [], (65, 202, 202), "thick")
draw(y = ((sin(((x * .25) + 10)) * 10.5) + 50), [], (57, 183, 215), "thick")
draw(y = ((sin((x * .25)) * 10.5) + 50), [], (14, 255, 255), "thick")
draw(y = ((sin(((x * .75) + 5)) * 10.5) + 52), [], (65, 202, 202), "thick")
draw(y = ((sin(((x * .25) + 10)) * 10.5) + 54), [], (57, 183, 215), "thick")

# Create the moon
draw(y = (170 + sqrt (((30^2) - ((x - 170)^ 2)) )), [], (255, 255, 255), "thick")
draw(y = (170 - sqrt (((30^2) - ((x - 170)^ 2)) )), [], (255, 255, 255), "thick")
```



4 Language Concepts

The core concept a user needs to understand for GeoDraw is how to create an equation of the form `<Y><eq><Exp>` to generate the desired line. An Expression,`<Exp>` consists of the primitive data types X, real numbers, and operations. `Draw` is a combining form in our language that is made up of an equation, color, bounds, and brush style. Finally, more advanced users can play with our `brush` assignments or call `gridlines(i)` where `i` is the interval between each line.

5 Syntax

The syntax of the language is as follows:

- The overall program creates a drawing. A drawing is made up of:
  - Canvas: The canvas is made up of the the height and the width of a canvas and a background color. The user does not need to specify a background color; the default color is white. The bottom left of the canvas is the point (0,0).
  - Draw: The draw function creates a line using the specified equation and bounds. Furthermore, the user must specify a color and a brush style for the line. We have three build in brush types: Simple, Funky, and Thick.

Here is the equivalent, formal definition of the grammar in Backus-Naur of GeoDraw (whitespace is ommitted for simplicity, but it can be added anywhere):

```
< Sequence >     ::= <Canvas><Expr>+
< Expr >         ::= <Draw> | <Sequence> | <Gridlines> | <Assignment>
<Draw>           ::= draw(<Equation>,<Bound>,<Color>,<Brush>)
<Canvas>         ::= canvas(<CanvasNum>,<CanvasNum>,<Color>)|canvas(<CanvasNum>,<CanvasNum>)
<Equation>       ::= <Y><Equality><Oper>
<Y>              ::= Y | x
<X>              ::= X | x
<Equality>       ::= < | = | >
<Oper>           ::= <Add> | <Sub> | <Div> | <Mult> | <X> | <Num>
<Sub>            ::= (<Oper> − <Oper>)
<Div>            ::= (<Oper> / <Oper>)
<Add>            ::= (<Oper> + <Oper>)
<Mult>           ::= (<Oper> ∗ <Oper>)
<Pow>            ::= (<Oper> ∧ <Oper>)
<Sin>            ::= sin(<Oper>)
<Cos>            ::= cos(<Oper>)
<Sqrt>           ::= sqrt(<Oper>)
<Abs>            ::= abs(<Oper>)
<Bound>          ::= [<SingleBound>]|[<BoundList>]|[NoBounds]
<SingleBound>    ::= <Var><Equality><Num>
<BoundList>      ::= <SingleBound><SingleBound>+
<Var>            ::= <Xvar> | <Yvar>
<Xvar>           ::= X | x
<Yvar>           ::= Y| y
<Color>          ::= (<ColNum>,<ColNum>,<ColNum>)
<Brush>          ::= Simple | Funky | Thick | Sparse | Wide | Other
<Num>            ::= R
<ColNum>         ::= 0 ≤ Int ≤ 255
<CanvasNum>      ::= 0 ≤ Int ≤ 600
<Gridlines>      ::= <Int>
<Assignment>     ::= brush <String> = <PointList>
<PointList>      ::= <Point> +
<Point>          ::= <Float><FLoat>
```

6 Semantics

We have the following primitive types: `x`, `y`, `float`, and equality symbols. Our main combining forms are `canvas`, `Color`, `Bound`, `Oper`, `Equation`, and `draw`. The first call of a program should always be `canvas`, and after that

every call should be `draw`.

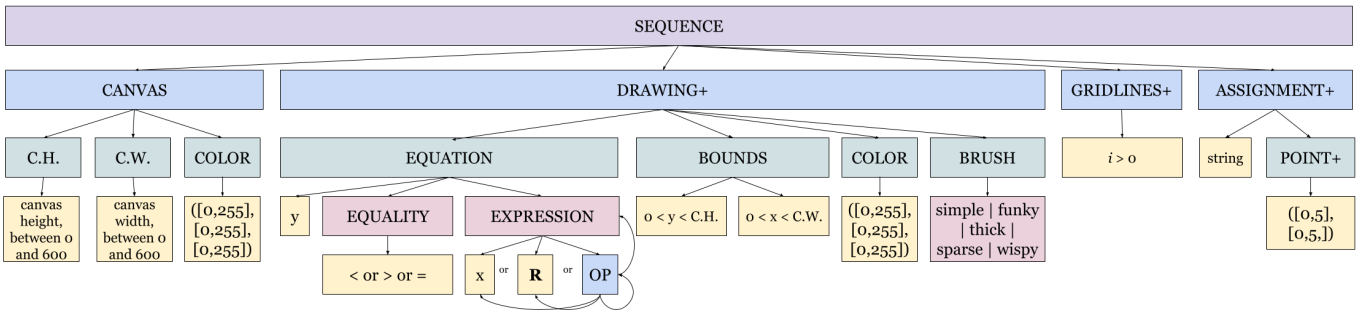
Syntax	Abstract Syntax	Type	Prec./Assoc.	Meaning
n	Num of float	float	N/A	Primitive value, represent using the f# float type
$Y\|y$	Y	Y	N/A	Primitive value that we use when graphing equations
$Y\|y$	varY	Var	N/A	Primitive value used inside of bounds
$X\|x$	X	Oper	N/A	Primitive value that we use when graphing equations
$X\|x$	varX	Var	N/A	Primitive value used inside of bounds
$<$	Less	Equality	N/A	Primitive value that we will use later when coloring shapes
$=$	Equal	Equality	N/A	Primitive value that we will use later when coloring shapes
$>$	Greater	Equality	N/A	Primitive value that we will use later when coloring shapes
$(o1 + o2)$	Add of Oper * Oper	Oper	Unambiguous (parens)	Combining form that we use when calculating the line to graph
$(o1 - o2)$	Sub of Oper * Oper	Oper	Unambiguous (parens)	Combining form that we use when calculating the line to graph
$(o1/o2)$	Div of Oper * Oper	Oper	Unambiguous (parens)	Combining form that we use when calculating the line to graph
$(o1 * o2)$	Mult of Oper * Oper	Oper	Unambiguous (parens)	Combining form that we use when calculating the line to graph
$(o1 \wedge o2)$	Pow of Oper $\wedge$ Oper	Oper	Unambiguous (parens)	Combining form that we use when calculating the line to graph
$\sin o1$	Sin of Oper	Oper	Unambiguous (parens)	Combining form that we use when calculating the line to graph
$\cos o1$	Cos of Oper	Oper	Unambiguous (parens)	Combining form that we use when calculating the line to graph
sqrt $o1$	Sqrt of Oper	Oper	Unambiguous (parens)	Combining form that we use when calculating the line to graph
abs $o1$	Abs of Oper	Oper	Unambiguous (parens)	Combining form that we use when calculating the line to graph
$y = o$	Equation of Y * Equality * Oper	Equation	N/A	Combining form that gives an equation for a line or curve to graph
$x < n \mid x > n \mid y < n \mid y > n$	SingleBound of Var * Equality * float	Bound	N/A	Restricts the region that a line is graphed on
(n, n, n)	Color of float list	Color	N/A	Represents a color in RGB format
'simple' | 'funky' | 'thick' | 'sparse' | 'wide' | s	Simple | Funky | Thick | Sparse | Wide | Other of s	Brush	N/A	Brush type to use when drawing a specific line. Simple is a single line, while Funky and Thick are preprogrammed
draw(e, [bounds], c, brush)	Draw of Equation * Bound * Color * Brush	Expr	N/A	Combining form to draw a line. Contains the equation for the line, bounds within which the line should be drawn, color for the line, and brush type for the line.

canvas(n, n) | canvas(n, n, c)	Canvas of float * float * Color	Expr	N/A	Sets the canvas on which the user will be drawing, and sets its background color optionally. This line MUST be called as the first line in a program, and must not be called again.
gridlines(i)	Gridline of int	Expr	N/A	Adds a grid to the canvas at the specified interval i. i must be a positive integer
brush s = [points]	Assignment of string * (float*float) list	Expr	N/A	Creates a custom brush with the specified points, where *points* is a list of float 2-tuples where x and y are on the interval $[0, 5]$
# s	N/A	N/A	N/A	Everything on a line after the '#' is a comment and will not be parsed. Comments cannot have additional pound signs within them.

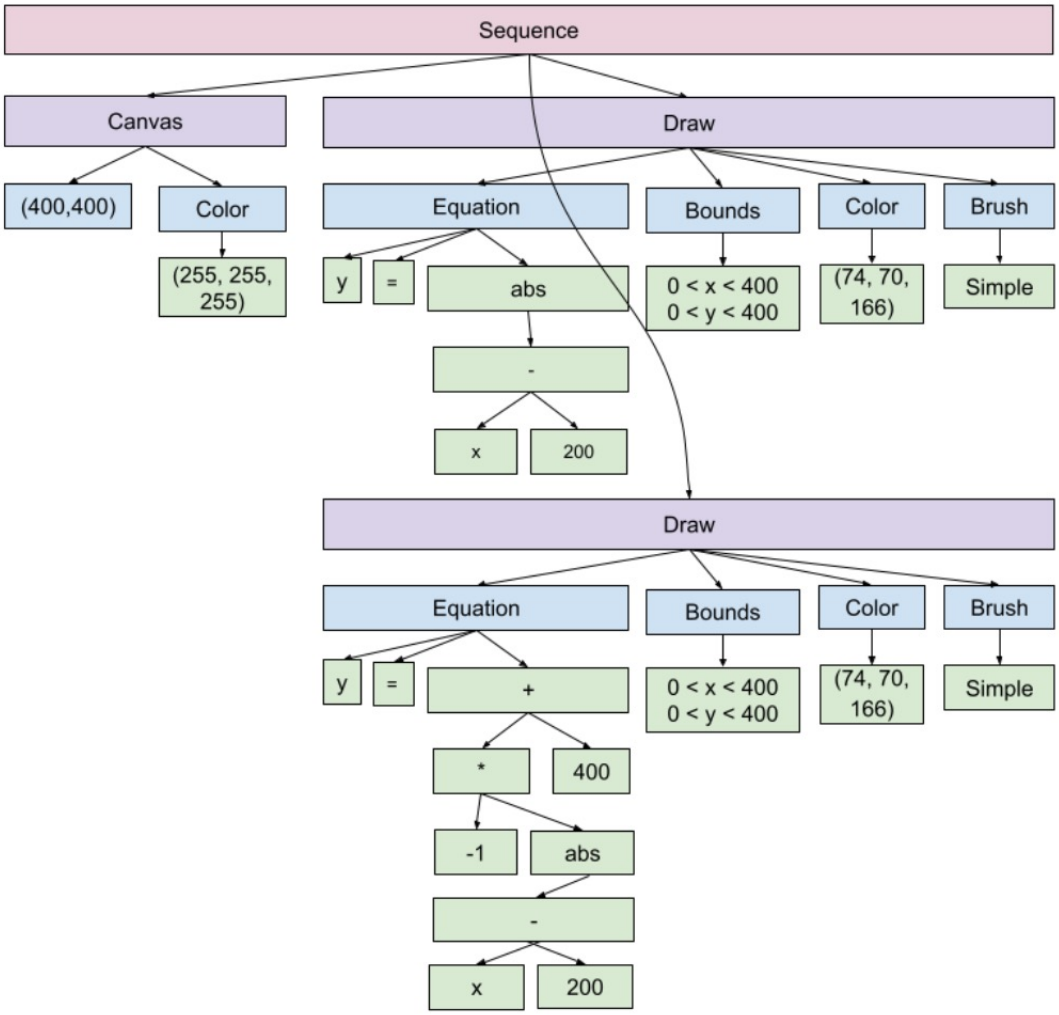
The user must first create a canvas by inputting a height, width and an optional background color. Drawings will end at the sides of the canvas unless bounds are specified. Drawings are the main elements in the language. They are a combination of an equation, its bounds, a color, and a brush style. Equations must have the y variable on the left, an $=$, followed by a mathematical expression. Bounds denote the limits of the equation for x, y, or both. Mathematical expressions combine our operations, real numbers, and the x variable. Brush styles consist of a string, which indicates a brush strokes type we have created.

Our programs does not read any input. The user must input a program as a file. The output of evaluating the program is a drawing consisting of the lines specified in the program. This is in the form of an SVG file.

Hierarchy Drawing:



AST for Example 1:



7 Remaining Work:

Right now, all equations must be functions with x as the independent variable and y as the dependent variable. We would like to add functionality to allow x on the left side of the equation to improve user experience and allow for vertical lines. We would also like to implement inequality shading for our equations.
Finally, as a stretch goal, sometimes more complex programs, such as `cow.geo`, can get a bit repetitive. It would be nice to add variables for numbers and `for` loops to ease the repetition.