

# The Tiger Programming Language

(Appel, Appendix A)

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Source: Lecture Notes "Compiler Construction", © T. Grust, Univ. Konstanz

# **The Tiger Language**

 The source language Tiger is a small—yet interesting and complete—procedural programming language.

Tiger feature	in C?
usual control constructs (while, if)	
built-in types int, string	
user-defined types	
arrays with reference semantics	
record values with reference semantics	
no (explicit) pointers	
nested scopes (let)	
nested functions	
small standard library of support functions	



```
____ 01.tig _
   /* sample Tiger program */
   print ("Roar!\n")
4
   /* known escape sequences:
      \n
               newline
      \t
               TAB
     \^c control character c (e.g., \^G = BEL)
     \ddd
             ASCII character with decimal code ddd
      \" double quote (")
10
              the backslash character
11
      ١...١
              line continuation
12
13
```





```
/* procedure declaration, procedure call, sequencing */

let function newline () =
    print ("\n")
in
    print ("foo");
    print ("bar");
    newline ()
end

/* nested scopes, hiding */
```

```
/* nested scopes, hiding */

let var v := "foo"

in

print (v);

let var v := "bar"

in print (v)

end;

print (v);

print (v);

print (v);

print (v);

end
```



```
77.tig

/* sequenced expressions (...;...) */

let var x := "foo"
    var y := "bar"
    var z := ""

in
    print ((z := concat (x, y); z := concat (z, "\n"); z))

end
```

• Similarly, the value of let...in  $e_1$ ;...;  $e_n$  end is the value of  $e_n$  (if  $e_n$  has a value).



Tiger

```
_ 08.tig _
   /* arrays,
    * array access,
    * arrays have reference semantics
    */
   let type strings = array of string
       var a := strings [10] of "foo"
       var b := a
10
   in
11
       print (a[0]);
12
    print (a[9]);
13
      b[5] := "bar";
14
      print (a[5]);
15
      print ("\n")
16
17
   end
```

Compare this to the C semantics of the type t [10] for some C type t.



```
09.tig
    /* ''matrices'',
    * separate type and function/variable name spaces
    */
   let type vec = array of string
       type mat = array of vec
       var row := vec [10] of "foo"
       var mat := mat [10] of row
   in
10
       let var r1 := mat[2]
11
           var r2 := mat[3]
12
13
       in
           r1[5] := "bar";
14
           print (r2[5])
15
       end
16
17
   end
```

• Which string value will the above Tiger program print?



```
_ 10.tig ____
    /* records,
    * record constants,
    * record access,
    * nil,
    * records (like arrays) have reference semantics
    */
 6
7
   let
       type strings = { hd: string, tl: strings }
10
       var xs := strings { hd = "foo", tl = nil }
11
       var ys := xs
12
13
   in
       print (ys.hd);
14
       xs.hd := "bar";
15
       print (ys.hd);
16
       print ("\n")
17
18
   end
```



```
_ 11.tig ___
   /* build a string from a linked list of digits,
    * nested functions
    */
4
   let type ints = { hd: int, tl: ints }
6
       function digits (ds : ints) : string =
7
           let
8
                function digit (d : int) : string =
9
                    chr (d + ord ("0"))
10
           in
11
                if ds = nil then ""
12
                            else concat (digit (ds.hd), digits (ds.tl))
13
            end
14
15
       var i := ints { hd = 4, tl = ints { hd = 2, tl = nil } }
16
17
   in
       print (digits (i));
18
       print ("\n")
19
   end
20
```

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```
_ 12.tig _
   /* read a string from the terminal, print its reverse image,
    * standard library: getchar (), substring (s,fst,len), size (s)
2
3
    */
4
   let
5
       function reverse (s : string) : string =
6
           if size (s) <= 1 then s
7
           else
               concat (reverse (substring (s, 1, size (s) - 1)),
9
                        substring (s, 0, 1))
10
11
       /* read string from terminal until newline seen */
12
       function getstring () : string =
13
           let var c := getchar() /* c is string of length 1 */
14
15
           in
               if c = "\n" then ""
16
                            else concat (c, getstring ())
17
           end
18
19
   in
       print (reverse (getstring ()));
20
       print ("\n")
21
22
   end
```



#### **Additional Remarks**

Tiger supports while e<sub>1</sub> do e<sub>2</sub> as well as break with the "obvious" semantics.



```
break.tig_
    /* semantics of nested break */
 2
   let function f () =
          let function g (i : int) : int =
                  if i = 3 then break
          in
              for i := 0 to 9 do
                   (g (i); print (chr (i + ord ("0"))))
          end
10
   in
       f ()
11
12
   end
13
```

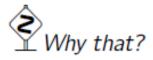


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#### **Additional Remarks**

- Functions may be (mutually) recursive.
- Type declarations may be (mutually) recursive as long as any cycle in a group of recursive type declarations passes through an array or record type.



#### Example:

```
_{-} forest.tig _{-}
   let type forest = { hd: tree, tl: forest }
        type tree = { node: int, children: forest }
   in
 4
       tree { node = 1,
              children = forest { hd = tree { node = 2,
                                               children = nil },
 7
                                   tl = forest { hd = tree { node = 3,
                                                              children = nil },
                                                 tl = nil }
10
11
            }
12
13
   end
```

