



FAKULTÄT FÜR INFORMATIK

DER TECHNISCHEN UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN

Master Thesis in Informatics

Adding C++ Support to MBEDDR

Zaur Molotnikov





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C++ Unterstützung für MBEDDR

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Ich versichere, dass ich diese Masterarbeit selbständig verfasst und nur die angegebenen Quellen und Hilfsmittel verwendet habe.

München, den 16. September 2013

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Acknowledgments

If someone contributed to the thesis... might be good to thank them here.

Abstract

An abstracts abstracts the thesis!

Contents

Acknowledgements	vii
Abstract	ix
1 Introduction	1
2 Foundations	3
3 Technologies in Use	5
4 Projectional C++ Implementation	7
5 Evaluation	9
6 Conclusion	11
Appendix	15
Glossary	15
Bibliography	17

1 Introduction

In embedded programming the C++ programming language is widely spread, [4]. Being a general purpose programming language, C++ does not provide any special support for an embedded systems programmer.

By changing the language itself, together with a tool set for it, it is possible to get a better environment for specifically embedded programming.

The first possible approach is stripping some language features of, to get the language, which is simpler. As an example, a subset of C++, called Embedded C++ can be brought, [2]. The approach taken in Embedded C++ is stripping very many core features of C++ off, allows for a higher degree of optimizations by compiler possible. Embedded C++ was intended to ([1]) allow higher software quality through better understanding of the limited C++ by programmers, higher quality of compilers, better suitability for the embedded domain. This approach, however, has been criticized by the C++ community ([5]), specifically for the inability of the limited language to take advantage of the C++ standard library, which requires the C++ language features, absent in Embedded C++.

The second approach to modify a language, to get it more suitable for the embedded development, consists of extending the language with constructions specific to the domain. Such approach is taken, for example, in the MBEDDR Project ([6]), for C programming language. Extensions to C language developed in MBEDDR Project include state machines and decision tables.

A special language engineering environment can be used to support modular and incremental language development, e.g. JetBrains MPS. A language is split in a special class-like items, called concepts. As an example of a concept expression can be taken. Over the inheritance mechanisms, it is possible to extend languages, providing new concepts. For example, expression concept can be extended to support new sort of expressions. Building a general purpose programming language in a language engineering environment brings a basis to develop domain specific extensions to a well-known general purpose language.

Additionally to the language modification, the integrated development environment (Integrated Development Environment, e.g. MS Visual Studio, Eclipse, etc. (IDE)) can be improved to support domain specific development. Various analyses can be built in into the code editor in order to detect inconsistencies, or, simply, “dangerous” constructs, and inform the programmer. Certain code formatting, or standard requirements could be enforced as well, and many more.

A mixture of the three techniques could be used in an attempt to achieve a “better” C++ for embedded development. A special IDE can be created together with a new C++ language flavor, which prohibits the most “dangerous” C++ constructs, and allows for modular creation of extensions.

Before the chance to create extensions to the C++ language, the C++ language itself together with a special IDE for it has to be created. This is the problem to be solved by this Master Thesis.

The approach taken in this work goes even further into exploring the language modularity. While building the C++ programming language itself with the goal of extensions for it in mind, the C++ itself is being build as extension to the C language itself.

Although the C++ is a separate from C language, the high degree of similarity allows to make use of the C programming language, implemented by the MBEDDR Project as a foundation.

This work explores further the support, provided by JetBrains MPS for the modular language construction, [3], and reviews it from the architectural point of view.

The C++ programming language is provided with a number of analyses for it. The question of analyses run-time and complexity is discussed.

2 Foundations

3 Technologies in Use

4 Projectional C++ Implementation

5 Evaluation

6 Conclusion

Appendix

Glossary

concept is a class-like item, representing a modularity base of a language, e.g. expression, statement, method, etc.. 1

Embedded C++ is a language subset of the C++ programming language, intended to support embedded software development. 1

IDE Integrated Development Environment, e.g. MS Visual Studio, Eclipse, etc.. 1

JetBrains MPS is a language engineering environment allowing to construct incrementally defined domain specific languages. 1, 2

MBEDDR Project is a JetBrains MPS based language workbench, representing C language and domain specific extensions for the embedded software development. 1, 2

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