Easy Ada tooling with Libadalang

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The need

In three bullet points

- A library that allows users to query/alter data about Ada sources
- Both low & high level APIS:
 - What is the type of this expression?
 - How many references to this variable?
 - Give me the source location of this token
 - Rename this entity
 - Etc.
- Multi-language: Easy binding generation to other languages/ecosystems
 - Today: Python, Ada, C
- Easy scripting: Be able to create a prototype quickly & interactively



The need - IDEs

```
174
       end record:
176 ~
       type Cond Branch Context is limited record
          Decision Stack : Decision Occurrence Vectors.
178
          -- The stack of open decision occurrences
179
180
          Basic Blocks : Basic_Block_Sets.Set;
181
          -- All basic blocks in the routine being ana
182
183
          Stats
                         : Branch Statistics;
184
          -- Statistics on conditional branches in the
185
186
          Subpra : Address Info Acc:
187
          -- Info of enclosing subprogram
188
       end record:
189
190 ~
       procedure Analyze Routine
191
         (Name : String Access;
```

Figure 1: Syntax & block highlighting



The need - IDEs

```
end record:
174
176~
       type Cond Branch Context is limited record
          Decision_Stack : Decision_Occurrence_Vectors.
           -- The stack of open decision occurrences
180
          Basic Blocks : Basic Block Sets.Set:
181
          -- All basic blocks in the routine being ana
                         : Branch Statistics:
184
          -- Statistics on conditional branches
                                                   n the
186
          Subpra
                         : Address Info Acc;
187
          -- Info of enclosing subprogram
188
       end record:
189
190 ~
       procedure Analyze Routine
         (Name : String Access:
                                           54 ~
                                                 type Set is tagged private
                                                 with Constant Indexing => Constant Reference,
                                           56
                                                      Default Iterator => Iterate.
                                                      Iterator Element => Element Type:
```

Figure 2: Cross references



The need - IDEs

```
function "+"-
9
        (S1, S2 : Unbounded String)
         return Unbounded_String is
        (S1 & "." & S2);
      function Concat (Ns : String Array) return String
14
      is
         R : Unbounded_String;
      begin
         for N of Ns loop
                                             8 4
                                                   function Concat
18~
            if Length (R) = 0 then
                                            9
                                                     (S1, S2 : Unbounded String)
               R := N;
                                                     return Unbounded String is
            else
                                                     (S1 & "." & S2);
               R := R & N;
            end if;
                                                   function Concat (Ns : String Array) return String
         end loop:
                                            14
                                                   is
24
      end Concat;
                                                     R : Unbounded_String;
                                            16
                                                   begin
                                                      for N of Ns loop
                                            18 ~
                                                        if Length (R) = 0 then
                                                            R := N;
                                                         else
                                                            R := Concat(R, N);
                                                        end if:
                                                      end loop;
                                            24
                                                   end Concat;
```

Figure 3: Refactoring



The need - command line tools

```
procedure Main is
  type my_int is new Integer range 1 .. 10;
  Var : my_int := 12;
begin
  null;
end Main;
```

```
$ ./my_custom_lal_checker main.adb
main.adb:2:9: Variable name should start with lowercase letter
main.adb:3:4: Type name should start with uppercase letter
```



Why not ASIS/GNAT?

Challenges

- Incremental: don't recompute everything when the code changes
- Error recovery: ability to compute partial results on incorrect code
- Long running: be able to run for 3 days without crashing your machine

GNAT and AdaCore's ASIS implementation are ill suited to those challenges.



API Part 1: Tokens

```
-- main.adb
procedure Main is null;
```

```
ctx = lal.AnalysisContext()
unit = ctx.get_from_file('main.adb')
for token in unit.root.tokens:
    print 'Token: {}'.format(token)
```

Outputs:

```
Token: <Token Procedure u'procedure' at 1:1-1:10>
Token: <Token Identifier u'Main' at 1:11-1:15>
Token: <Token Is u'is' at 1:16-1:18>
Token: <Token Null u'null' at 1:19-1:23>
```

Token: <Token Semicolon u':' at 1:23-1:24>



API Part 2: Syntax

```
procedure Main is
   A : Integer := 12;
   B, C : Integer := 15;
begin
   A := B + C;
end Main;
```

```
for object_decl in unit.root.findall(lal.ObjectDecl):
    print object_decl.sloc_range, object_decl.text
```

Outputs:

```
2:4-2:22 A : Integer := 12;
3:4-3:25 B, C : Integer := 15;
```



API Part 3: Semantic

```
with Ada.Text_IO; use Ada.Text_IO;
procedure Main is
   function Double (I : Integer) return Integer is (I * 2);
   function Double (I : Float) return Float is (I * 2.0);
begin
   Put_Line (Integer'Image (Double (12)));
end Main;
```

```
double_call = unit.root.find(
    lambda n: n.is_a(lal.CallExpr) and n.f_name.text == 'Double'
)
print double_call.f_name.p_referenced_decl.text
```

Outputs:

```
function Double (I : Integer) return Integer is (I * 2);
```



API Part 4: Tree rewriting (not finished yet!)

```
procedure Main is
begin
   Put_Line ("Hello world");
end Main;
```

Let's rewrite:

```
call = unit.root.findall(lal.CallExpr) # Find the call
diff = ctx.start_rewriting() # Start a rewriting
param_diff = diff.get_node(call.f_suffix[0]) # Get the param of the call
# Replace the expression of the parameter with a new node
param_diff.f_expr = lal.rewriting.StringLiteral('"Bye world"')
diff.apply()
```

Outputs:

```
procedure Main is
begin
   Put_Line ("Bye world");
end Main;
```



An example

```
import sys
import libadalang as lal
def check_ident(ident):
    if ident.text[0].isupper():
        print '{}:{}: variable name "{}" should be capitalized'.format(
            ident.unit.filename.ident.sloc range.start.ident.text
ctx = lal.AnalysisContext()
for filename in sys.argv[1:]:
    u = ctx.get from file(filename)
    for d in u.diagnostics:
        print '{}:{}'.format(filename, d)
    if u.root:
        for decl in u.root.findall(lal.ObjectDecl):
            for ident in decl.f_ids:
                check_ident(ident)
```



Technical prototypes/demos

Syntax highlighter/Xref explorer

```
with Ada. Text IO; use Ada. Text IO;
use all type Ada. Text IO. File Type;
procedure Example is
   subtype Nat is Integer range 0 .. Integer'Last;
   type Rec (N : Natural) is tagged record
      S : String (1 .. N);
   end record;
   type Money Type is delta 0.01 digits 14;
   generic
      with procedure Put Line (S : String);
   package Things is
      procedure Process (S : access Wide String)
        with Pre => S /= null and then S'Length > 0
                    and then (for all I in S.all'Range =>
                              S.all (I) / ASCII.NUL);
   end Things;
```

Figure 4: Libadalang based highlighter



Syntax based static analyzers

Those 20 lines of code found 1 bug in GNAT, 3 bugs in CodePeer, and 1 bug in GPS (despite extensive testing and static analysis).

More info on our blog



Semantic based static analyzers

```
with Ada.Text_IO; use Ada.Text_IO;
procedure Main is
   Input : File Type;
begin
   Open (File => Input, Mode => In File, Name => "input.txt");
  while not End Of File (Input) loop
      declare
         Line : String := Get_Line (Input); <--- WARNING: File might be closed</pre>
      beain
         Put Line (Line);
         Close (Input); <--- WARNING: File might be closed
      end:
   end loop:
end Main:
```

- Very simple and targeted abstract interpretation
- DSL to specify new checkers
- Work in progress! Repository here https://github.com/AdaCore/lal-checkers



Copy paste detector

- Done with Python API too
- Very lightweight (few hundreds lines of code)
- Full article here: https://blog.adacore.com/ a-usable-copy-paste-detector-in-few-lines-of-python



Applications

- Inside Adacore: change semantic engine in GPS, new versions of GNATmetric, GNATStub, GNATpp
- Outside: clients using it in production for various needs such as:
 - Code instrumentation
 - Automatic refactorings
 - Generation of serializers/deserializers



Conclusion

- Sources are on GitHub: https://github.com/AdaCore/libadalang
- Come open issues and create pull requests!
- API is still a moving target

