MASR — Meta Abstract Semantics Representation

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Contents

1	Abstract				
2	Summary and Cheat Sheet 2.1 Tables	6			
3	3.2 ASDL is Moribund	11 11 11 11 11			
4	4.2 Clojure is not Moribund	12 12 12 12 12			
5	MASR Definitions				
6	MASR Tenets				
7	Base Specs 7.1 Atoms: int, float, bool, nat	16 16 17			
8	8.2 identifier $[sic]$	18 18 20 22			

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9	Spec	cs	25
	9.1	intent	26
	9.2	TODO unit	32
	9.3	TODO symbol	33
	9.4	storage_type	34
	9.5	access	35
	9.6	TODO deftype	35
	9.7	presence	36
	9.8	abi	37
	9.9	TODO stmt	40
	9.10	TODO expr	41
	9.11	ttype	42
	9.12	TODO restriction_arg	42
	9.13	TODO binop	43
	9.14	TODO logicalbinop	44
		TODO cmpop	45
	9.16	TODO integerboz	46
	9.17	TODO arraybound	47
	9.18	TODO arraystorage	48
	9.19	TODO cast_kind	49
	9.20	dimension	50
	9.21	TODO alloc_arg	52
	9.22	TODO attribute	53
	9.23	TODO attribute_arg	54
	9.24	TODO call_arg	55
	9.25	TODO tbind	56
	9.26	TODO array_index	57
	9.27	TODO do_loop_head	58
	9.28	TODO case_stmt	59
	9.29	TODO type_stmt	60
	9.30	TODO enumtype	61
10		licit Terms	62
		symtab_id	
	10.2	TODO symbol table	63

1 Abstract

Abstract Semantics Representation (ASR) is a novel intermediate representation (IR)¹ for a new collection of LCompilers [sic].² ASR is independent of the particular programming language under compilation. Current compiler front-ends targeting ASR include LFortran³ and LPython.⁴ ASR is also agnostic to the compiler back end. Current back ends targeted *from* ASR include LLVM, x86, C, and WASM⁵

Being agnostic means that it is easy to write new compilers, both at the front end and the back end. LCompiler back ends are reusable because ASR eliminates all original language syntax from the IR. For example. LFortran predates LPython. When the need for a Python compiler arose, only a front end was necessary. It took only a few days to create a new end-to-end compiler, LPython.

In addition to being more flexible, LCompilers are faster than average because optimizers are not hampered by impertinent syntactic structure.

Current specifications for ASR are written in ASDL,⁶ a metalanguage similar in spirit to yacc but less rich, by design.⁷ To build an LCompiler like LFortran or LPython, the ASDL grammar⁸ for ASR is parsed, and a library, libasr,⁹ in C++, is generated. Compiler front ends call functions in this library to manipulate ASR and to send it to the back ends.

ASDL has several deficiencies, and MASR, ¹⁰ described in this document, alleviates them. Chief among the deficiencies is the lack of type-checking. MASR adds a meta-type system to ASR.

We aim to replace ASDL with MASR and to integrate MASR with the LCompiler code base. When integrated in the future, MASR will be called LASR.

This document is pedagogical, both explaining MASR and teaching how to extend and maintain its Clojure code.

This document may lag the Clojure code. It may also lag the current state of libasr, at least until MASR replaces ASDL. The document mirrors an ASDL snapshot.⁸

 $^{^{1} \}verb|https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intermediate_representation|$

²https://github.com/lcompilers/libasr

³https://lfortran.org/

⁴https://lpython.org/

 $^{^{5}}$ https://webassembly.org/

⁶https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abstract-Type_and_Scheme-Definition_ Language

⁷https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yacc

 $^{^{8}}$ https://github.com/rebcabin/masr/blob/main/ASR_2023_APR_06_snapshot.asdl

 $^{^9\}mathrm{https://github.com/lfortran/lfortran/tree/c648a8d824242b676512a038bf2257f3b28dad3b/src/libasr$

¹⁰pronounced "maser;" it is a Physics pun

2 Summary and Cheat Sheet

2.1 Tables

MASR defines *terms* and *heads* for the semantics of programs. Terms are top-most in the ASR grammar and heads are at the bottom level. Terms and heads have *specs*. Specs double as *types*, constituting ASR's meta-type system.

The following tables summarize this document via conforming examples. The examples are usually written in short, heavily sugared form (see Section 2.4 for light versus heavy sugar). Every spec *qua* type has a full form as well as one or more sugared forms. Sugared forms are shorter and recommended much of the time.

Equally important are non-conforming examples. See the body of this document, the tests in specs.clj, and the deftest's in core_tests for many non-conforming examples.

Specs are registered in Clojure via *fully qualified keywords*. All MASR spec keywords are in namespace masr.specs. For example, ::nat is short for :masr.specs/nat.

Table 1: Atomic and Naked Specs: No Suga)

Spec	Predicate	link	Example
::symtab-id	::nat	10.1	42
::bool	boolean?	7.1	true
::float	float?	7.1	3.142
::int	int?	7.1	-1789

Table 2: Top-Level term-like Specs

Spec	link	Sugared Conforming Example	
::nat	7.1.1	(nat 42)	
::identifier	8.2	(identifier 'boofar)	
::identifier-set	8.3	<pre>(identifier-set ['a 'a])</pre>	
::identifier-list	8.3	(identifier-list ['a 'a])	
::identifier-suit	8.3	(identifier-suit ['a 'b])	
::dimensions	8.1	(dimensions [[6 60] [1 42]])	

¹¹https://clojure.org/guides/spec

Table 3: Higher-Order Specs with Sugar

Spec	Ref'd Spec	Example
::symtab-id	::nat=	(symtab-id 42)
::value-attr	::bool	(value-attr false)
::dependencies	::identifier-set	(dependencies ['a 'b 'c])
::symbolic-value	TODO empty?	(symbolic-value ())
::value	TODO empty?	(value ())
::type-declaration	TODO nilable symtab-id	(type-declaration nil)
::varnym	::identifier	(varnym 'x)

Table 4: *Term* Multi-Specs

Multi-Spec	term	link	Sugared Conforming Example
::asr-term	::dimension	9.20	(dimension [6 60])
::asr-term	::intent	9.1	(intent 'Local)
::asr-term	::storage-type	9.4	(storage-type 'Default)
::asr-term	::abi	9.8	(abi 'Source)
::asr-term	::access	9.5	(access 'Public)
::asr-term	::presence	9.7	(presence 'Required)

Table 5: ::asr-term's with Nested Head Multi-Specs

term	head	link	Sugared Conforming Example
::ttype	::Integer	9.11	(Integer 4 [[6 60] [1 42]])
::ttype	::Real	9.11	(Real 8 [[6 60] [1 42]])
::ttype	::Complex	9.11	(Complex 4 [[6 60] [1 42]])
::ttype	::Logical	9.11	(Logical 1 [[6 60] [1 42]])
· · symbol	··Variable	931	(Variable 42 'x (Integer 4)

2.2 Multi-Specs

Hash-maps that conform to multi-spec ::asr-term have a ::term attribute that matches a defmethod. For instance, the following example is a valid ::asr-term; its ::term attribute is ::intent:

where

```
(s/def ::intent-enum
  #{'Local 'In 'Out 'InOut 'ReturnVar 'Unspecified})
```

The ::term, ::intent, matches the defmethod below. The keyword, ::term, doubles as a key in the dictionary and as a tag for a defmulti and a defmethod. 12

Here is another ::asr-term, this time, matching ::abi:

where

```
(s/def ::abi-external ::bool)
```

The other ::asr-term's follow the obvious pattern. The ::term attributes, ::intent, ::abi, etc., match one of the term defmethod's:

```
(defmulti term ::term)
(defmethod term ::intent [_]
  (s/keys :req [::term ::intent-enum]))
(defmethod term ::dimension [_] ,,,)
(defmethod term ::abi [_] ,,,)
(defmethod term ::ttype [_] ,,,)
(defmethod term ::symbol [_] ,,,)
;; etc.
```

Finally, the multi-spec itself is named ::asr-term:

```
;; name of the mult-spec defmulti tag fn
;; -----
(s/def ::asr-term (s/multi-spec term ::term))
```

The multi-spec ties together the defmulti, the defmethod's, and the tag qua key ::term. Specs that conform to ::asr-term include dimension, abi, ttype, symbol, etc., in fact, all the terms in the ASDL grammar.⁸

¹²https://clojuredocs.org/clojure.core/defmulti

2.3 Nested Multi-Specs

Contents of multi-specs can, themselves, be multi-specs. Such cases obtain when an ::asr-term has multiple function-like heads. Examples include ::ttype, ::symbol, ::expr, and ::stmt.

The names of all multi-specs in MASR, nested or not, begin with ::asr-and end with either term or <some-term>-head. Examples: ::asr-term and ::asr-ttype-head. There is only one level of nesting: terms above heads.

Here is the ::asr-term spec for ::ttype; the *nested* multi-spec for contents is named ::asr-type-head.

```
(defmethod term ::ttype [_]
  (s/keys :req [::term ::asr-ttype-head]))
```

where

Here is a conforming example in full-form:

Likewise, here is the ::asr-term spec for ::symbol:

Here is a conforming example for :: Variable in full-form, abbreviated:

```
(s/valid?
::asr-term {::term ::symbol,
    ::asr-symbol-head
    {::symbol-head ::Variable
    ::symtab-id (nat 2)
    ::varnym (identifier 'x)
    ::intent (intent 'Local)
    ::ttype (ttype (Integer 4 [[0 42])) ,,, }})
```

2.4 Light Sugar, Heavy Sugar

Light-sugar forms are longer and more explicit than heavy-sugar forms, but shorter than full-form. Heavy-sugar forms require positional arguments, and are thus more brittle, especially for long specifications with many arguments, where the risk is high of getting them out of order in hand-written code.

Light-sugar specs have names with trailing hyphens. Light sugar specs typically have keyword arguments, partitioned into required and optional-with-defaults. The keyword argument lists of light-sugar specs do not depend on order. For example, the following conform to both ::asr-term and to ::ttype:

```
(ttype (Integer- {:dimensions [], :kind 4}))
(ttype (Integer- {:kind 4, :dimensions []}))
```

Heavy-sugar specs have names without trailing hyphens. Heavy-sugar specs are compatible with current 'libasr –show-asr' syntax. Heavy-sugar specs employ positional arguments that depend on order. Final arguments may have defaults. For example, the following conform to both ::asr-term and to ::ttype:

```
(ttype (Integer))
(ttype (Integer 4))
(ttype (Integer 2 []))
(ttype (Integer 8 [[6 60] [1 42]]))
```

Here is a conforming spec for :: Variable in heavy sugar; it also conforms to :: asr-term:

2.4.1 Term Entity-Key Specs

It is not convenient for terms to conform *only* to ::asr-term. Therefore, we define redundant *term-entity-key* specs, like ::tterm.

Entity-key specs for asr-terms are defined as follows:

Because we have several such definitions, it is convenient to write a macro with a helper function:

Here are some of the invocations of that macro:

```
(def-term-entity-key dimension)
  (def-term-entity-key abi)
  (def-term-entity-key ttype)
```

Here are some examples of extra conformance tests for sugared specs:

```
(s/valid? ::asr-term (dimension []))
                                           := true
(s/valid? ::asr-term (dimension '(1 60)))
                                           := true
(s/valid? ::asr-term (dimension '()))
                                          := true
(s/valid? ::dimension (dimension []))
                                          := true
(s/valid? ::dimension (dimension '(1 60))) := true
(s/valid? ::dimension (dimension '()))
                                          := true
(s/valid? ::asr-term (ttype (Integer 4))) := true
(s/valid? ::asr-term (ttype (Integer 4 []))) := true
(s/valid? ::ttype
                   (ttype (Integer 4)))
                                           := true
(s/valid? ::ttype
                   (ttype (Integer 4 []))) := true
```

Entity-key specs are defined automatically for all *enum-like* terms via the <code>enum-like</code> macro:

Here are some examples of extra conformance tests for automatically defined enumlike specs:

2.4.2 Term-Head Entity-Key Specs

For terms like ::symbol and ::stmt with multiple heads like ::Variable and ::Assignment, respectively, it is convenient to define redundant entity-key specs like the following:

We define these with another macro, def-term-head--entity-key. The definition of this macro is found in the file specs.clj An example of conformance to :: Variable is found above, in Section 2.4.

We do not define term-head entity-key specs for every term, but only where convenient. For example, we don't define term-head entity-key specs for ::Integer, ::Real, ::Complex, and ::Logical ttypes. Conformance of such specs to ::ttype suffice.

3 Issues with ASDL

Clojure solves the following issues with ASDL:

3.1 ASDL is not Type-Checked

Type-checking for ASR instances written in ASDL is expressed only in hand-written C++ code. This situation is brittle. It's much better to have a specification language for ASR that expresses a type system.

3.2 ASDL is Moribund

ASDL has not progressed since originally published in 1987. We know of no other projects adopting ASDL. We should replace ASDL with a modern metalanguage that has a robust, lively ecosystem.

3.3 ASDL is Incomplete

Much of the semantics of ASR in ASDL, beyond type-checking, is expressed only in hand-written C++ code. The reason is that ASDL is not sufficiently expressive to cover the needed cases.

As usual with such a design, it's more time-consuming and error-prone than necessary to prototype, verify, validate, visualize, modify, and debug. Something more expressive than ASDL is needed to take some responsibility off of hand-written C++ code.

3.4 ASDL's ASR is Volatile

The ASDL for ASR changes frequently, for good reasons. However, stand-aside tools like asr-tester¹³ must chase the specification. Just keeping up with ASR-in-ASDL consumes almost all development time for asr-tester. We should unify the language that expresses ASR with the tools that verify and test ASR.

3.5 ASDL is Ambiguous

There are many syntactic and semantic ambiguities in the ASDL grammar.⁸. For example, the type notation integer* might mean, in one place, a list of integer with duplicate entries allowed, and, in another place, a set of integer with duplicate entries not allowed.

ASDL is not sufficient to express such distinctions. In practice, the hand-written C++ implementations implicitly make these distinctions, hiding them from view and making them difficult to revise. It is bad practice to hide fine distinctions that have observable effects in implementations. Instead, we should express those distinctions directly in the specifications.

Because ASDL cannot express such distinctions, we must adopt something more expressive than ASDL.

¹³https://github.com/rebcabin/asr-tester

4 Clojure Solves ASDL Issues

4.1 Clojure Is a Complete Fit for ASR

ASR expressions, being trees, have a natural representation in S-Expressions. ¹⁴ Clojure, being a modern Lisp, natively handles S-Expressions.

4.2 Clojure is not Moribund

Clojure is up-to-date, lively, and production-ready.

4.3 Clojure Has Type-Checking Tools

Clojure.spec, ¹⁵ is a *force majeure* for precision, completeness, verification, and validation. The collection of MASR specs amounts to a meta-type system for ASR.

Clojure specs are arbitrary predicate functions. Clojure specs can easily express the difference between *list* and *set*, solving the ambiguity issue outlined in Section 3.5. Clojure specs, moreover, can flexibly express type-system features beyond the logics of typical, hard-coded type systems. That flexibility affords new long-term opportunities, say for experiments in dependent types and concurrency types.¹⁶. In the short run, clojure spec will make type constraints for ASDL explicit and manifest, and will relieve the burden on C++ programmers to manage implicit constraints.

4.4 ASR in Clojure Solves Volatility

We aim to replace ASDL with MASR in Clojure. When integrated with LCompilers in the future, MASR will be called LASR. There will be no gap or lag between ASR specs and their implementations.

¹⁴https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S-expression

¹⁵https://clojuredocs.org/clojure.spec.alpha

¹⁶https://rholang.io/

5 MASR Definitions

Definition 1. A *spec* is a predicate function that tests an expression for conformance. *Spec* is a synonym for *type* in this document.

Definition 2. *Terms* are the "objects" or "productions" of ASR, like symbol or dimension.

Names of terms appear to the left of equals signs in the ASDL grammar.⁸ Names of terms are generally in lower-case.

Table 6 exhibits terms, ambiguous types, and term-like types. Ambiguous types and term-like types are used but not defined in the ASDL grammar, but are explicitly defined in MASR.

The ambiguous types, symbol_table and symtab_id, are called out. The ASDL grammar conflates these two, having only symbol_table to mean either a full hash-map entity or an integer ID, depending on criteria hidden in hand-written C++ code. A primary objective of MASR is to remove this kind of ambiguity. This kind of ambiguity is not a deficiency of ASDL like that explained in Section 3.5. Unlike the difference between a list and a set, ASDL can express the difference between a hash-map and an integer ID. The failure to do so is a design flaw in the current ASDL grammar.

The contents of Table 6 have been greatly abbreviated and edited for presentation.

Definition 3. *Heads* are expressions like Local and CaseStmt, generally in PascalCase, that appear on the right-hand sides of equals signs in Table 6.

See the blog post in the footnote¹⁷ for an informal description of *PascalCase*.

There are two kinds of heads:

function-like heads — have parentheses and typed parameters,
 e.g., CaseStmt (expr*, stmt*)

enum-like heads — no parentheses, e.g., Local

MASR has a Clojure spec and syntactic sugar for each head. There are about 250 heads by a recent count.

Definition 4. An *ASR entity* is a compound type like CaseStmt (expr*, stmt*), with a function-like head and zero-or more arguments, possibly with names, that require recursive conformance.

¹⁷https://alok-verma6597.medium.com/case-styles-in-development-camel-pascal-snake-and-kebab-case-ed

	Table 6: Nodes in the ASDL Grammar			
	term	partial expansion		
1	unit	<pre>TranslationUnit(symbol_table, node*)</pre>		
2	symbol	many heads		
3	storage_type	Default Save Parameter Allocatable		
4	access	Public Private		
5	intent	Local In Out InOut		
6	deftype	Implementation Interface		
7	presence	Required Optional		
8	abi	Source LFortranModule Intrinsic		
9	stmt	many heads		
10	expr	many heads		
11	ttype	<pre>Integer(int, dimension*) </pre>		
12	restriction_arg	RestrictionArg(ident, symbol)		
13	binop	Add Sub BitRShift		
14	logicalbinop	And Or Xor NEqv Eqv		
15	cmpop	Eq NotEq Lt LtE Gt GtE		
16	integerboz	Binary Hex Octal		
17	arraybound	LBound UBound		
18	arraystorage	RowMajor ColMajor		
19	cast_kind	RealToInteger IntegerToReal		
20	dimension	(expr? start, expr? length)		
21	alloc_arg	(expr a, dimension* dims)		
22	attribute	Attribute(ident name, attr-arg* args)		
23	attribute_arg	(ident arg)		
24	call_arg	(expr? value)		
25	tbind	Bind(string lang, string name)		
26	array_index	<pre>(expr? left, expr? right, expr? step)</pre>		
27	do_loop_head	(expr? v, expr? start expr? end, expr? step)		
28	case_stmt	CaseStmt(expr*, stmt*)		
29	type_stmt	<pre>TypeStmtName(symbol, stmt*) </pre>		
30	enumtype	IntegerConsecutiveFromZero		
	ambiguous			
31	symbol_table	Clojure maps		
32	symtab_id	int (new in MASR; not in ASDL)		
	*term-like			
0	dimensions	dimension*, via Clojure vectors or lists		
0	atoms	int float bool nat bignat		
0	identifier	by regex		
0	identifiers	identifier*, via Clojure sets		

6 MASR Tenets

- **Entity Hash-Maps** ASR entities¹¹ in full-form shall be hash-maps with fully-qualified keywords as keys (see Section 9.1 for motivating example).
- **Multi-Specs** ASR entity hash-maps shall be recursively checked and generated via Clojure multi-specs. ¹¹
- **Full-Form** Every entity has a fully explicit form in which all attributes are spelled out. Full-form hash-maps shall contain all necessary information, even at the cost of verbosity. Defaults and optionals appear only sparingly
- **Syntax Sugar** Certain constructor functions may supply default entity-attribute values so as to shorten common-case expressions. See Section 9.11 for an example and see Issue 3 on MASR's GitHub repo.¹⁸

 $^{^{18}}$ https://github.com/rebcabin/masr/issues/3

7 Base Specs

The specs in this section are the *atoms* in Table 1 and atoms in the *term-like* grouping in Table 6.

7.1 Atoms: int, float, bool, nat

The specs for int, float, and bool are straightforward:

```
(s/def ::int int?) ;; java.lang.Long
(s/def ::float float?)
(s/def ::bool boolean?)
```

7.1.1 Sugar

We restrict the spec, nat, for natural numbers, to int, for practical reasons:

```
(s/def ::nat nat-int?)
;; sugar
(defn nat [it]
  (let [cit (s/conform ::nat it)]
    (if (s/invalid? cit)
        ::invalid-nat
        cit)))
```

```
(tests
(s/valid? ::nat (nat 42))
                                 := true
(s/valid? :: nat (nat -42))
                                  := false
(s/valid? ::nat (nat 0))
                                 := true
(s/valid? ::nat (nat -0xFFFFFFFFFFFFFFF)) := false
(s/valid?
 ::nat
 (nat (unchecked-long 0xFFFFFFFFFFFFFF))) := false
(s/valid?
 ::nat
 (s/valid? ::nat (nat 0x7FFFFFFFFFFFFFF))
                                 := true)
```

7.2 Notes

A Clojure *int* is a Java *Long*, with some peculiar behavior for hex literals.¹⁹ The gist is that hex literals for negative numbers in Clojure must have explicit minus signs, lest they become clojure.lang.BigInt, which we disallow for dimension (9.20) and dimensions (8.1) in MASR. To get negative java.lang.Long, one employs Clojure's unchecked-long.

 $^{^{19} \}mathtt{https://clojurians.slack.com/archives/C03S1KBA2/p1681690965585429}$

8 Term-Like Nodes

This section of the document exhibits specs for the *term-like nodes* in Tables 2 and 6: namely dimensions (plural), identifier, and identifiers. These are not terms, but share some similarities with terms. Note carefully the singulars and plurals in the names of the specs. dimension (singular) is a term and covered in Section 9.20.

8.1 dimensions [sic]

A MASR dimensions [sic], dimension* in ASDL, is a homogeneous ordered collection (list or vector) of zero or more dimension instances (9.20). Because ::dimensions [sic] is not a term, we do not need nested multi-specs. However, because ::dimension [sic] is a term, the elements of a dimensions* must conform to ::dimension, which is an asr-term multi-spec. We ensure such conformance with a general-purpose function that selects terms that match a given spec, dimension in this case. We may reuse that function in other specs that represent non-term collections.

Remark 1. The notation # (...%...) is Clojure shorthand for an anonymous function (lambda) with a positional argument denoted by %, and positional arguments %1, %2, ... when there are two or more arguments. Applying a keyword like ::term as a function picks that keyword out of its hash-map argument.

Here is the spec, ::dimensions, for dimensions. We limit the number of dimensions to 9 for practical reasons. The meaning of an empty ::dimensions instance is an open question (Issue 7^{20}).

 $^{^{20}}$ https://github.com/rebcabin/masr/issues/7

8.1.1 FullForm

The following tests show a couple of ways of writing out a ::dimensions instance in full-form. The first is necessary in files other than specs.clj, say in core_tests.clj. The second can be used in specs.clj:

8.1.2 Sugar

The following tests illustrate the sugar for ::dimensions:

8.2 identifier [sic]

An ASR identifier is a C or Fortran identifier, which begins with an alphabetic glyph or an underscore, and has alpha-numeric characters or underscores following. The only complication in the spec is the need to generate instances via s/with-gen. The spec solves the generation problem for identifiers, plus shows a pattern for other specs that need custom generators.

```
(let [alpha-re #"[a-zA-Z_]" ;; "let over lambda."
     alphameric-re #"[a-zA-Z0-9_] *"]
 (def alpha?
   #(re-matches alpha-re %))
 (def alphameric?
    #(re-matches alphameric-re %))
  (defn identifier? [sy]
   ;; exclude strings, numbers, quoted numbers
    (and (symbol? sy)
         (let [s (str sy)]
           (and (alpha? (subs s 0 1))
                (alphameric? (subs s 1))))))
 (def identifier-generator
    (tgen/let [c (gen/char-alpha)
               s (gen/string-alphanumeric)]
      (symbol (str c s))))
 (s/def ::identifier
    (s/with-gen
     identifier?
     ;; fn wrapping a macro:
      (fn [] identifier-generator))))
```

The following tests illustrate validation and generation:

```
(tests
  (s/valid? :masr.specs/identifier 'foobar) := true
  (s/valid? :masr.specs/identifier '_f_547) := true
  (s/valid? :masr.specs/identifier '1234) := false)
#_
  (gen/sample (s/gen :masr.specs/identifier))
;; => (e c Q G Z2qP fXzg1 sRx2J6 YIhKlV k6 f7k1Xl4)
;; => (k hM LV QWC qW0X RGk3u W Kg6X Q2YvF0621 ODUt9)
```

8.2.1 Sugar

We define a simple function for creating conforming identifiers and illustrate it with a couple of tests:

8.3 identifiers [sic]

ASDL identifier* is ambiguous. There are three kinds of identifier collections in MASR: $^{\!21}$

identifier-set — unordered, no duplicates

identifier-list — ordered, duplicates allowed (we use vector)

identifier-suit — ordered, duplicates not allowed

For all three kinds, we limit the number of identifiers to 99 for practical purposes:

```
(def MIN-NUMBER-OF-IDENTIFIERS 0)
(def MAX-NUMBER-OF-IDENTIFIERS 99)
```

8.3.1 identifier-set

The spec for a set of identifiers is straightforward because of Clojure's literal syntax, #{\ldots}, for sets, including the empty set:

See the code for uninteresting details of the sugar-function, identifier-set. The following tests show it at work:

²¹https://github.com/rebcabin/masr/issues/1

8.3.2 identifier-list

The spec for a list of identifiers is almost the same as the spec for a set of identifiers. It differs only in the :into clause — into a vector rather than into a set:

The implementation of the sugar-function for identifier-list is uninteresting. The following tests show it at work:

```
(tests
(let [x (identifier-list ['a 'a])]
   (s/valid? ::identifier-list x) := true
   (vector? x)
                                  := true
  (count
           x)
                                  := 2)
(let [x (identifier-list [])]
  (s/valid? ::identifier-list x) := true
   (vector? x)
  (count
           x)
                                  := 0)
 (let [x (identifier-list ['a '1])]
  (s/valid? :: identifier-list x) := false
  x := ::invalid-identifier-list))
```

8.3.3 identifier-suit

The spec for an identifier-suit is almost the same as for identifier-list, only checking that there are no duplicate elements

Here are the tests for the (uninteresting) sugar-function:

```
(tests
(let [x (identifier-suit ['a 'a])]
  (s/valid? ::identifier-suit x) := false
   (vector? x)
(let [x (identifier-suit ['a 'b])]
  (s/valid? ::identifier-suit x) := true
   (vector? x)
                                  := true
   (count
           x)
                                  := 2)
(let [x (identifier-suit [])]
   (s/valid? ::identifier-suit x) := true
   (vector? x)
                                   := true
                                  := 0)
  (count
           x)
 (let [x (identifier-suit ['a '1])]
  (s/valid? ::identifier-suit x) := false
  x := ::invalid-identifier-suit))
```

9 Specs

The following sections

- summarize the Clojure specs for all ASR terms and heads (see Tables 4 and 5).
- pedagogically explain the architecture and approach taken in the Clojure code so that anyone may extend and maintain it.

The architecture is the remainder from several experiments. For example, defrecord and defprotocol for polymorphism were tried and discarded in favor of multi-specs.¹¹

The tests in <code>core_test.clj</code> exhibit many examples that pass and, more importantly, fail the specs. We also keep lightweight, load-time tests inline to the source file for the specs, <code>specs.clj</code>. The balance between inline tests and separate tests is fluid.

The best way to learn the code is to study the tests and to run them in the Clojure REPL or in the CIDER debugger in Emacs.²²

We present the terms somewhat out of the order of Table 6. First is *intent*, as it is the archetype for several enum-like terms and heads.

 $^{^{22} \}verb|https://docs.cider.mx/cider/debugging/debugger.html|$

9.1 intent

9.1.1 Sets for Contents

An ASR intent is one of the symbols

```
Local, In, Out, InOut, ReturnVar, Unspecified.
```

The spec for the *contents* of an intent is simply this set of enum-like heads. Any Clojure set (e.g., in $\#\{\dots\}$ brackets) doubles as a predicate function for set membership. In the following two examples, the set appears in the function position of the usual Clojure function-call syntax (*function args**):

If a candidate member is in a set, the result of calling the set like a function is the candidate member.

```
(#{'Local 'In 'Out 'InOut 'ReturnVar 'Unspecified} 'Local)
```

Local

When the candidate element, say fubar, is not in the set, the result is nil, which does not print:

```
(#{'Local 'In 'Out 'InOut 'ReturnVar 'Unspecified} 'fubar)
```

Any predicate function can be registered as a Clojure spec. ¹⁵ Therefore the spec for *intent contents* is just the set of valid members.

9.1.2 Specs have Fully Qualified Keyword Names

The name of the spec is ::intent-enum. The double colon in ::intent-enum is shorthand. In the file specs.clj, double colon implicitly signifies that a keyword like intent-enum is in the namespace masr.specs. In other files, like core_test.clj, the same keyword is spelled :masr.specs/intent-enum.

The names of all Clojure specs must be fully qualified in namespaces.

```
(s/def ::intent-enum
  #{'Local 'In 'Out 'InOut 'ReturnVar 'Unspecified})
```

9.1.3 How to Use Specs

To check an expression like 'Local against the ::intent-enum spec, write

```
(s/valid? ::intent-enum 'Local)
;; => true
(s/valid? ::intent-enum 'fubar)
;; => false
```

To produce conforming or non-conforming (invalid) entities in other code, write

```
(s/conform ::intent-enum 'Local)
;; => Local
(s/conform ::intent-enum 'fubar)
;; => :clojure.spec.alpha/invalid
```

To generate a few conforming samples, write

```
(gen/sample (s/gen ::intent-enum) 5)
;; => (Unspecified Unspecified Out Unspecified Local)
```

or, with conformance explanation (trivial in this case):

```
(s/exercise ::intent-enum 5)
;; => ([Out Out]
;;        [ReturnVar ReturnVar]
;;        [In In]
;;        [Local Local]
;;        [ReturnVar ReturnVar])
```

Strip out the conformance information as follows:

```
(map second (s/exercise ::intent-enum 5))
;; => (In ReturnVar Out In ReturnVar)
```

s/valid?, s/conform, gen/sample, and s/exercise pertain to any Clojure specs, no matter how complex or rich.

9.1.4 The Spec that Contains the Contents

::intent-enum is just the spec for the *contents* of an intent, not for the intent itself. The spec for the intent itself is an implementation of a polymorphic Clojure *multi-spec*, ¹¹::asr-term.

9.1.5 Multi-Specs

A multi-spec is like a tagged union in C. The multi-spec, ::asr-term, pertains to all Clojure hash-maps²³ that have a tag named ::term with a value like ::intent or ::storage-type, etc. The values, if themselves fully qualified keywords, are recursively checked.

A multi-spec has three components:

defmulti²⁴ — a polymorphic interface that declares the tag-fetcher function,
 ::term in this case. The tag-fetcher function fetches a tag's value from
 any candidate hash-map. The defmulti dispatches to a defmethod that
 matches the fetched tag value, ::intent in this case. ::term is a fully qual ified keyword of course, but all keywords double as tag-fetchers for hash maps.²⁵

defmethod²⁶ — individual specs, each implementing the interface; in this case, if the ::term of a hash-map matches ::intent, then the corresponding defmethod is invoked (see Section 9.1.7 below).

s/multi-spec — tying together the defmulti and, redundantly, the tag-fetcher.²⁷

9.1.6 Specs for All Terms

Start with a spec for ::term:

```
;; like ::intent, ::symbol, ::expr, ...
(s/def ::term qualified-keyword?)
```

The spec says that any fully qualified keyword, like ::intent, is a MASR term. This spec leaves room for growth of MASR by adding more fully qualified keywords for more MASR types-qua-terms.

s/def stands for clojure.spec.alpha/def, the def macro in the clojure.spec.alpha namespace. The namespace is aliased to s.

Next, specify the defmulti polymorphic interface, term, (no colons) for all term specs:

```
(defmulti term ::term)
```

This defmulti dispatches to a defmethod based on the results of applying the keyword-qua-function::term to a hash-map:

```
(::term {::term ::intent ...})
```

equals::intent.

²³https://clojuredocs.org/clojure.core/hash-map

²⁴ https://clojuredocs.org/clojure.core/defmulti

 $^{^{25} \}texttt{https://stackoverflow.com/questions/6915531}$

²⁶https://clojuredocs.org/clojure.core/defmethod

²⁷Multi-specs allow re-tagging, but we do not need that level of generality.

The spec is named ::term and the tag-fetcher is named ::term. They don't need to be the same. They could have different names.

9.1.7 Spec for intent

If applying ::term to a Clojure hash-map produces ::intent, the following spec, which specifies all intents, will be invoked. It ignores its argument, _:

```
(defmethod term ::intent [_]
  (s/keys :req [::term ::intent-enum]))
```

This spec states that an *intent* is a Clojure hash-map with a ::term keyword and an ::intent-enum keyword.

9.1.8 The Multi-Spec Itself: ::asr-term

s/multi-spec ties defmulti term to the tag-fetcher ::term. The multi-spec
itself is named ::asr-term:

```
;; name of the mult-spec defmulti tag fn
;; -----
(s/def ::asr-term (s/multi-spec term ::term))
```

9.1.9 Examples of Intent

The following shows a valid example:

true

Here is an invalid sample:

false

Generate a few valid samples:

9.1.10 Another asr-term: a Pattern Emerges

To define another asr-term, specify the contents and write a defmethod. The one multi-spec, ::asr-term, suffices for all.

For example, another asr-term for an enum-like is storage-type:

```
(s/def ::storage-type-enum
  #{'Default, 'Save, 'Parameter, 'Allocatable})

(defmethod term ::storage-type [_]
  (s/keys :req [::term ::storage-type-enum]))
```

All enum-like specs follow this pattern.

9.1.11 Syntax Sugar

{::term ::intent, ::intent-enum 'Local}, a valid asr-term entity, is long and ugly. Write a short function, intent, via s/conform, explained in Section 9.1.3:

Entities have shorter expression with the sugar:

All our specs are like that: a long-form hash-map and a short-form sugar function that does a conformance check.

9.1.12 Capture the Enum-Like Pattern in a Macro

All enum-likes have a *contents* spec, a defmethod term, and a syntax-sugar function. The following macro pertains to all such enum-like multi-specs:

```
(defmacro enum-like [term, heads]
 (let [ns "masr.specs"
       tkw (keyword ns (str term))
       tke (keyword ns (str term "-enum"))
       tki (keyword ns (str "invalid-" term))]
   ` (do
       (s/def ~tke ~heads)
                                ;; the set
       (defmethod term ~tkw [_#] ;; the multi-spec
         (s/keys :req [:masr.specs/term ~tke]))
       (defn ~term [it#]
                              ;; the syntax
         (let [st# (s/conform
                    :masr.specs/asr-term
                    {:masr.specs/term ~tkw
                     ~tke it#})]
           (if (s/invalid? st#) ~tki, st#))))))
```

Use the macro like this:

```
(enum-like
  intent
  #{'Local 'In 'Out 'InOut 'ReturnVar 'Unspecified})
(enum-like
  storage-type
  #{'Default, 'Save, 'Parameter, 'Allocatable})
```

9.2 TODO unit

9.3 TODO symbol

9.3.1 TODO Variable

Here is an example of the full form for a :: Variable with conforming instances in light sugar (Section 2.4):

```
(let [a-var-head
    {::symbol-head ::Variable
     ::symtab-id (nat 2)
                     (varnym 'x)
     ::varnym
              (ttype (Integer 4 []))
     ::ttype
     ::type-declaration (type-declaration nil)
     ::dependencies (identifier-set ())
::intent 'Local'
                     (intent 'Local)
     ::intent
     ::symbolic-value () ;; TODO sugar
     (abi 'Source :external false)
     ::abi
     ::access
                     (access 'Public)
     ::presence
                     (presence 'Required)
     ::value-attr
                     false ;; TODO sugar
   a-var {::term ::symbol
        ::asr-symbol-head a-var-head}
   a-var-light (Variable-
              :varnym
                         (identifier 'x)
              :symtab-id 2
                      (ttype (Integer 4)))]
              :ttype
```

```
(tests
a-var-light := (s/conform ::asr-term a-var)
a-var-light := (s/conform ::Variable a-var)

(s/valid? ::asr-symbol-head a-var-head) := true

(s/valid? ::asr-term a-var) := true
(s/valid? ::asr-term a-var-light) := true

(s/valid? ::Variable a-var) := true
(s/valid? ::Variable a-var) := true
(s/valid? ::Variable a-var-light) := true
))
```

9.4 storage_type

The following tests illustrate conformance:

The implementation is covered in Section 9.1.12 on the enum-like macro.

9.5 access

```
(enum-like access #{'Public 'Private})
(tests
  (let [public (access 'Public)]
      (s/conform ::asr-term public) := public)
      (access 'foobar) := ::invalid-access)
```

9.6 **TODO** deftype

9.7 presence

```
(enum-like presence #{'Required 'Optional})
(tests
  (let [required (presence 'Required)]
      (s/conform ::asr-term required) := required)
      (presence 'fubar) := ::invalid-presence)
```

9.8 abi

Abi is a rich case. It is enum-like, similar to *intent* (Section 9.1), but with restrictions. Its heads include several *external-abis*:

and one *internal-abi*, specified as a Clojure set to get the membership-test functionality:

```
(def internal-abis #{'Source})
```

The *abi-enum* spec for the contents of an *abi* term is the unions of these two sets:

```
(s/def ::abi-enum
  (set/union external-abis internal-abis))
```

Specify an additional key in a conforming *abi* hash-map with a ::bool predicate:

```
(s/def ::abi-external ::bool)
```

Add a convenience function for logic:

```
(defn iff [a b]
(or (and a b)
(not (or a b))))
```

Specify the defmethod for the *abi* itself with a hand-written generator (clojure.spec is not quite strong enough to create the generator automatically):

Generate a few conforming samples:

```
(gen/sample (s/gen (s/and
                    ::asr/asr-term
                    #(= ::asr/abi (::asr/term %))))
            5)
;; => (#::asr{:term ::asr/abi,
              :abi-enum Interactive, :abi-external true}
       #::asr{:term ::asr/abi,
;;
              :abi-enum Source, :abi-external false}
;;
       #::asr{:term ::asr/abi,
;;
              :abi-enum Source, :abi-external false}
;;
       #::asr{:term ::asr/abi,
;;
              :abi-enum Source, :abi-external false}
;;
       #::asr{:term ::asr/abi,
;;
;;
              :abi-enum Interactive, :abi-external true})
```

9.8.1 Syntax Sugar

The light-sugar for *abi* uses Clojure destructuring^{28, 29} for keyword arguments. Conforming examples:

```
(abi 'Source :external false)
(abi 'LFortranModule :external true)
(abi 'GFortranModule :external true)
(abi 'BindC :external true)
(abi 'Interactive :external true)
(abi 'Intrinsic :external true)
```

Non-conforming due to incorrect boolean:

```
(abi 'Source :external true)
(abi 'LFortranModule :external false)
(abi 'GFortranModule :external false)
(abi 'BindC :external false)
(abi 'Interactive :external false)
(abi 'Intrinsic :external false)
```

 $^{^{28} \}verb|https://clojure.org/guides/destructuring|$

²⁹https://gist.github.com/rebcabin/a3c24be3e17135f355348c834ab14141

Non-conforming due to incorrect types or structure:

```
(abi 'Source :external 42)  ;; types are not ::bool
(abi 'Source :external "foo") ;; |
(abi 'Source :external 'foo) ;; -=-
(abi 'Source false) ;; no :external keyword
(abi 'Source true) ;; |
(abi 'Source 42) ;; |
(abi 'foo true) ;; |
(abi 'foo false) ;; -=-
```

We don't show tests of incorrect arity.

Here is the implementation of the sugar, exhibiting the destructuring technique:

9.9 TODO stmt

9.10 TODO expr

9.11 ttype

Ttype [*sic*] features a nested multi-spec. Ttype is an archetype for all function-like heads, just as *intent* is an archetype for all enum-like heads.

```
(defmulti ttype-head ::ttype-head)
(defmethod ttype-head ::Integer [_]
  (s/keys :req [::ttype-head ::bytes-kind ::dimensions]))
(s/def ::asr-ttype-head
  (s/multi-spec ttype-head ::ttype-head))
```

```
(defmethod term ::ttype [_]
  (s/keys :req [::term ::asr-ttype-head]))
```

9.11.1 Full Form

One may always write out ttype specs in full:

9.11.2 Sugar for Integer, Real, Complex, Logical

Sugar for ttypes comes in two varieties, *light sugar* and *heavy sugar*. See Section 2.4 for rationale.

1. Light Sugar Examples

```
(ttype (Integer- {:dimensions [], :kind 4}))
(ttype (Integer- {:kind 4, :dimensions []}))
```

2. Heavy Sugar Examples

```
(ttype (Integer))
(ttype (Integer 4))
(ttype (Integer 2 []))
(ttype (Integer 8 [[6 60] [1 42]]))
```

See the tests for many more examples.

9.11.3 **TODO** Character

9.12 TODO restriction_arg

9.13 TODO binop

9.14 TODO logicalbinop

9.15 TODO cmpop

9.16 **TODO** integerboz

9.17 **TODO** arraybound

9.18 **TODO** arraystorage

9.19 TODO cast_kind

9.20 dimension

A dimension is 0 or 2 nats in a Clojure list or vector:

If there are two nats, the first nat specifies the starting index of any array dimension that enjoys the instance, and the second nat specifies the length. For example, in the ttype (Integer 4 [[6 60]]) (9.11), the one dimension in the dimensions [sic] (8.1) of the ttype is [6 60]. The ttype specifies a rank-1 array of 60 4-byte integers with indices starting at 6 and running through 65.

If there are no nats, i.e., the array dimension of any array enjoying the instance is of zero length. For an example, consider the ttype (Integer 4 [[]]) (9.11). This meaning of this type is an open question. 20

9.20.1 Empty Dimensions

Empty dimensions [sic], as in (Integer 4 []) specify non-array types. These are often called, loosely, scalars. Pedantically, the term scalar only pertains with respect to a vector space.

An empty dimension, as in (Integer 4 [[]]), specifies a rank-1 array of zero length. Such items are discussed further in Issue 7 and in Section 8.1.

9.20.2 TODO: Issue 7: Zero Length

The following specs, in context of a ttype (9.11) for convenience, are legal in the ASDL grammar.⁸ They all denote arrays of length 0, and the meaning of an array of length 0 is **unspecified**:

```
(Integer 4 [[]])
(Integer 4 [[0]])
(Integer 4 [[6 0]])
```

See Issue 7 in MASR's GitHub repo.²⁰

9.20.3 FullForm

The following tests illustrate the full form for *dimension*:

9.20.4 Sugar

The following tests illustrate the syntactic sugar for *dimension*:

```
(tests
(s/conform ::asr-term
           {::term ::dimension,
            ::dimension-content '(1 60)}) :=
(dimension '(1 60))
(s/valid? ::asr-term (dimension 60))
                                               := false
(s/valid? ::asr-term (dimension [[]]))
                                               := false
(s/valid? ::asr-term (dimension 'foobar))
                                               := false
(s/valid? ::asr-term (dimension ['foobar]))
                                               := false
;; throw arity (s/valid? ::asr-term (dimension)) := false
(s/valid? ::asr-term (dimension []))
                                               := true
(s/valid? ::asr-term (dimension [60]))
                                               := false
(s/valid? ::asr-term (dimension [0]))
                                                := false
(s/valid? ::asr-term (dimension '(1 60)))
                                               := true
(s/valid? ::asr-term (dimension '()))
                                               := true)
```

9.21 TODO alloc_arg

9.22 **TODO** attribute

9.23 **TODO** attribute_arg

9.24 TODO call_arg

9.25 TODO tbind

9.26 **TODO** array_index

9.27 TODO do_loop_head

9.28 TODO case_stmt

9.29 TODO type_stmt

9.30 **TODO** enumtype

10 Implicit Terms

Terms used, explicitly or implicitly, but not defined in ASDL. Some items specified in ASDL as *symbol_table* are actually *symtab_id*.

10.1 symtab_id

```
(s/def ::symtab-id ::nat)
```

10.2 **TODO** symbol_table

(s/def ::symbol-table map?