Abstract

Parser combinators are domain-specific languages that allow users to write parsers in a high-level manner strongly resembling their original grammar. However, as with any large framework, there are idiomatic ways to write clean and maintainable code using these libraries. New users may not be aware of these design patterns or struggle to apply them effectively in the correct contexts.

This project addresses this issue for the parsley parser combinator library in Scala, by developing an accompanying linter named parsley-garnish. Unlike the majority of linters, which are designed to detect generic issues in general-purpose languages, parsley-garnish is tailored to the specific idioms of parser combinators. parsley-garnish is the first domain-specific linter for parser combinators. This project presents a set of lint rules designed to improve the quality of parsley codebases, and to help users write idiomatic parsers using established design patterns. Notably, parsley-garnish is able to automatically refactor left-recursive parsers into a correct and idiomatic form that parsley would otherwise be unable to handle.

Finally, this project also demonstrates and implements the infrastructure required to write complex domainspecific lint rules that transform parser representations in a high-level and declarative manner. This allows future lint rules to be written with ease, and for parsley-garnish to be extended with more powerful automatic code fixes in the future.

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