

Bibliotech - smart cafe

Programming Languages: Some news for the last N years.

Ruslan Shevchenko
<ruslan@shevchenko.kiev.ua>

@rssh1
<https://github.com/rssh>

Programming languages:

- ❖ Industry / Academic
 - ❖ what's hot now:
 - ❖ academic research from 70-th
 - ❖ 'freaky' things from 2000

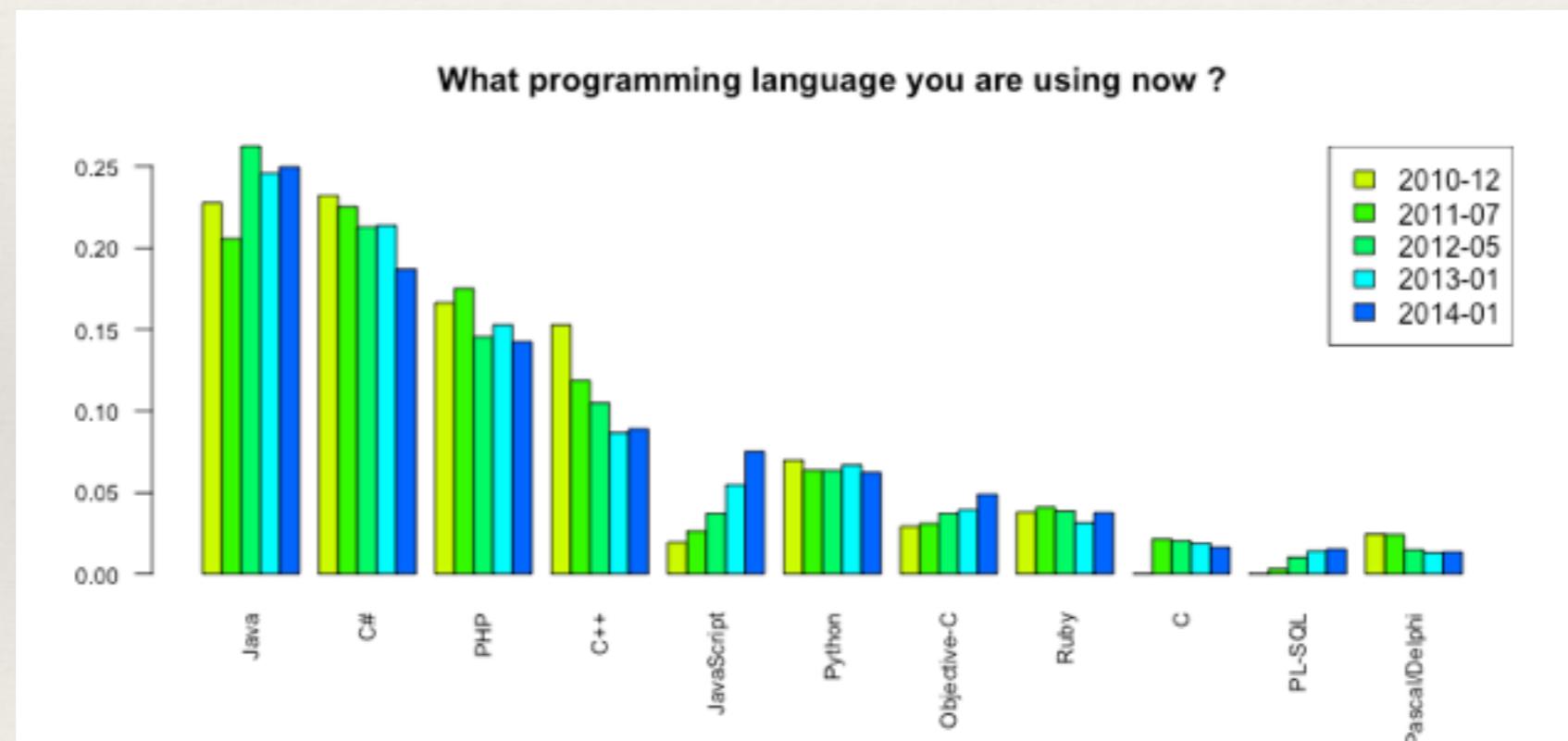
Where is progress ?

What we will see in industry from today-s academic ?
from today-s freaks ?

Statement from 80-th:

Full change of language and tools during 2-3 years

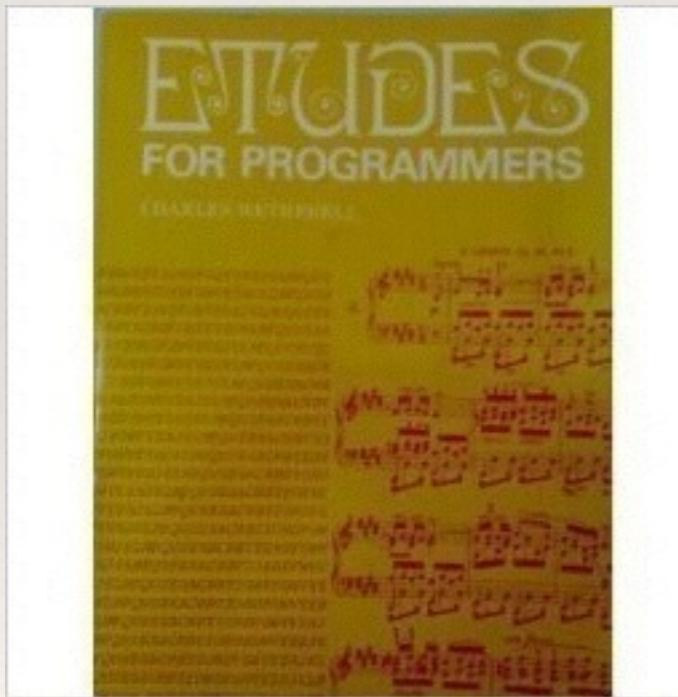
<http://dou.ua>



Actual situation in 2014:

Top 11 languages are the same: 2010 - 2014

Can we track progress in PL ?



- ❖ Estimations
- ❖ Code size / project duration

Evolution is slow



If we think about ideal language ?





What is:

- ❖ all ?
- ❖ good ?
- ❖ make ?

Make all good

- Object and processes from real world,
represented in computer
- Operations with this representation.
- Mapping of result back to real world

Syntax [parsing / ast manipulation]

Semantics [type systems]

“New” functionality

Syntax

Traditional approach: context free grammars

Syntax structure is fixed

Now in practice:

Context-dependent keywords (C++)

Multi-language programming

Extensible syntax

Seed 7: Syntax definitions of operations with priority

```
syntax expr: .(). + .() is -> 7;
```

```
syntax expr: .loop().until().do().end.loop is -> 25;
```

Nemerle: macros

macro for (init, cond, change, body)

```
syntax ("for", "(", init, ";", cond, ";", change, ")",
      body)
```

XL Compiler plugins

Extensible syntax

// Idris

```
boolCase : (x:Bool) -> Lazy a -> Lazy a -> a;  
boolCase True t e = t;  
boolCase False t e = e;
```

syntax "if" [test] "then" [t] "else" [e] = boolCase test t e;

syntax "for" {x} "in" [xs] ":" [body] = forLoop xs ($\lambda x \Rightarrow$ body)

// introducing new binding

// DSL — map object to Idris language constructions

XL: Concept programming

Active library = Library + compiler plugin

Concept in real life. In computer - representation

Metrics:

Syntax noise / signal what part of code is about business

Bandwidth what part of concept is represented

Complexity source

Articulate programming

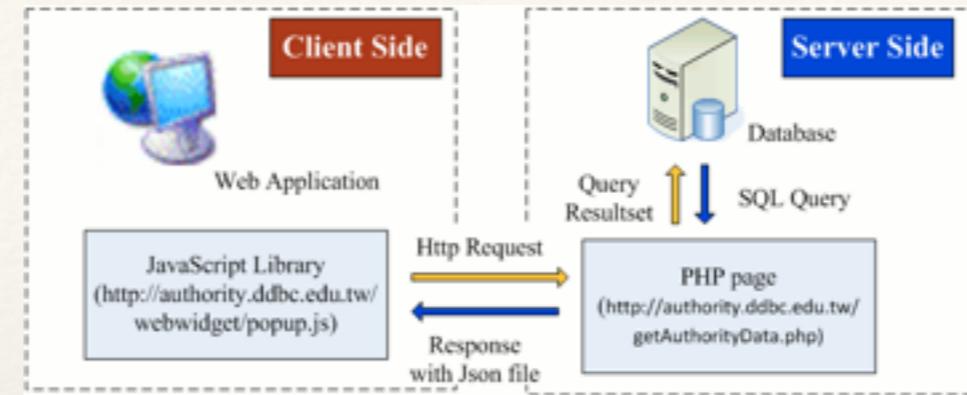
Avail: SmallTalk-based, static typing

Try to deduce 'needed' value from context.

like scala implicit, but *all* is implicit

Syntax

Multi-language programming



- ❖ Do nothing (mess)
- ❖ Embed all in one language [lifted evaluation]
 - ❖ (like LINQ or scala slick or idris DSL)
- ❖ Define and use 'part of grammar' with type.

Wyvern: <https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~aldrich/wyvern/>

//Type-specific tokens

```
let imageBase : URL = <images.example.com>
let bgImage : URL = <%imageBase%>/background.png>
new : SearchServer
  def resultsFor(searchQuery, page)
    serve(~) (* serve : HTML -> Unit *)
      >html
        >head
          >title Search Results
        >style ~
          body { background-image: url(%bgImage%) }
          #search { background-color: ..
```

Wyvern: <https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~aldrich/wyvern/>

//Type-specific tokens

```
let imageBase : URL = <images.example.com>
let bgImage : URL = <%imageBase%/background.png>
new : SearchServer
  def resultsFor(searchQuery, page)
    serve(~) (* serve : HTML -> Unit *)
    >html
      >head
        >title Search Results
      >style ~
        body { background-image: url(%bgImage%) }
        #search { background-color: ..
```

Wyvern: <https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~aldrich/wyvern/>

//Type-specific tokens

```
let imageBase : URL = <images.example.com>
let bgImage : URL = <%imageBase% /background.png>
new : SearchServer
  def resultsFor(searchQuery, page)
    serve(~) (* serve : HTML -> Unit *)
```

```
  >html
    >head
      >title Search Results
    >style ~
      body { background-image: url(%bgImage%) }
      #search { background-color: ..
```

Type Systems

Static/Dynamic —> Gradual

Dynamic:

- ❖ clojure -> core.typed
- ❖ python -> type annotations
- ❖ groovy -> type annotations

Static:

- ❖ Dynamic type
- fromDynamic[T]: D => Option[T]
toDynamic[T](x: T) => Dynamic

needed for reflective typing

Clojure: core/typed.

```
(ann clojure.core/first
  (All [x]
    (Fn [(Option (EmptySeqable x)) -> nil]
        [(NonEmptySeqable x) -> x]
        [(Option (Seqable x)) -> (Option x)])))
  )
```

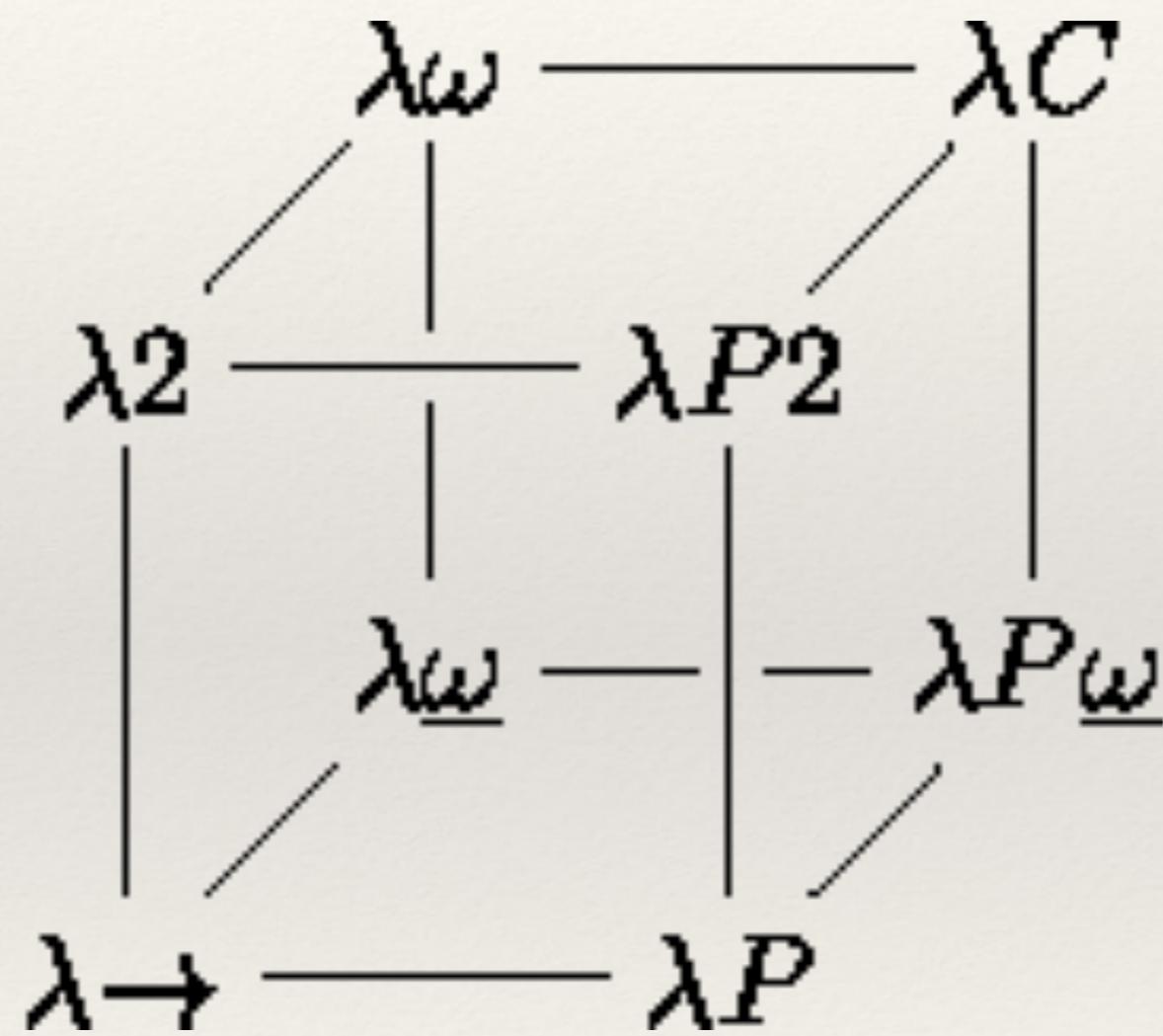
- static empty -> nil
- static non-empty -> not-nil
- unknown -> x or nil,

Type Systems

typing => static analysis at compile-time

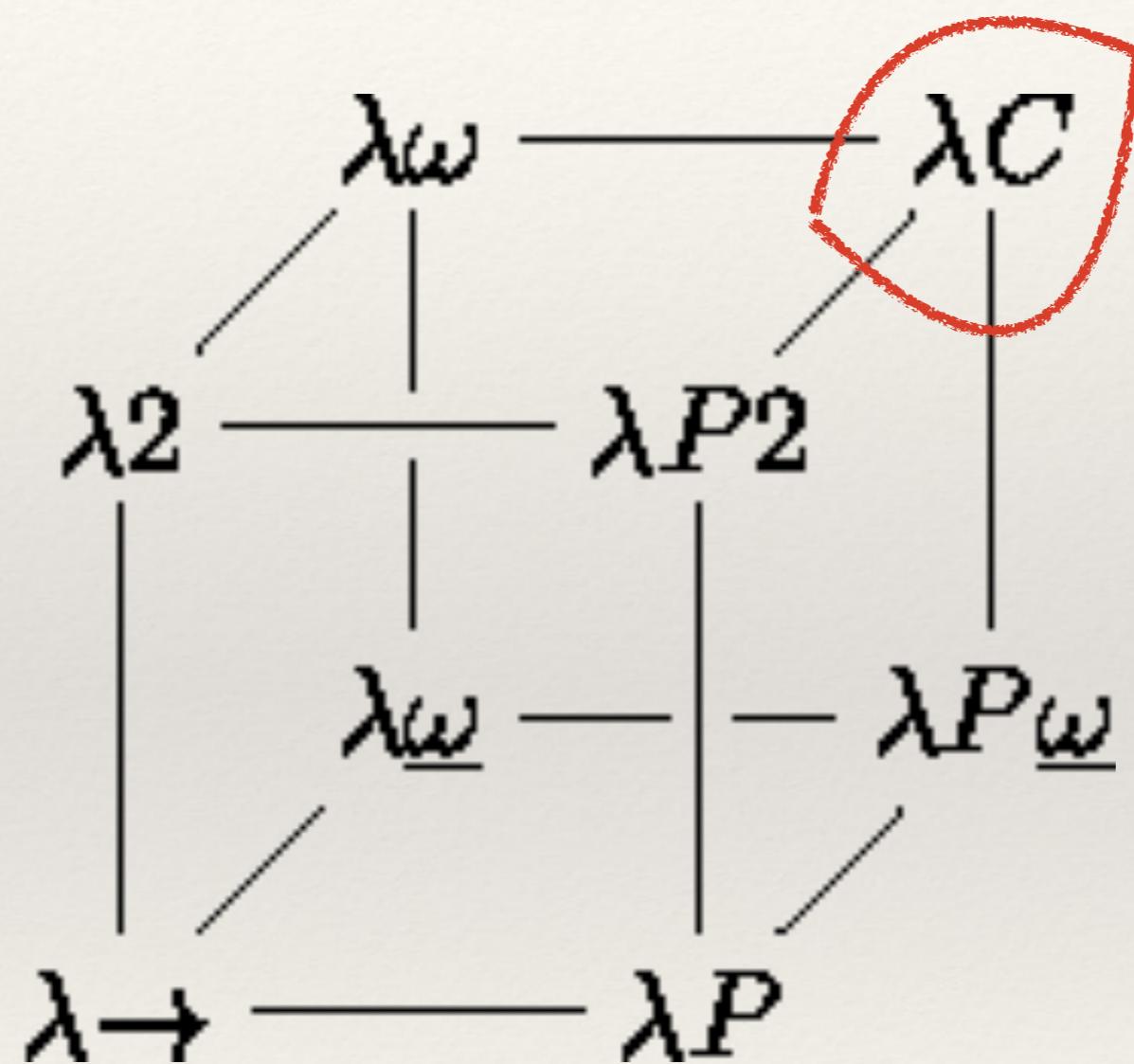
compilation => optimization of interpretation

Type Systems



Type Systems

Dependent types



Non-dependent types example

```
trait CInt { type Succ <: CInt }           // church numeration
trait CPos extends CInt

trait CSucc[P <: CPos] extends CInt {
    type Succ = CSucc[CSucc[Int]]
}

final class _0 extends CPos {
    type Succ = CSucc[0]
}

type _1 = _0#Succ
type _2 = _1#Succ
```

Non-dependent types example

```
trait LimitedVector[+A, N<:CInt]
{
    .....
    def append[B <: A, NX <:CInt](x: LimitedVector[B,NX]):
        LimitedVector[B,Plus[N,NX]]
    .....
}
```

// shapeless full of such tricks

Dependent types example

```
trait LimitedVector[+A, n:Int]
{
    .....
    def append[B <: A, nx:Int](x: LimitedVector[B,nx]): LimitedVector[B, n+nx]
    .....
}
```

// warning: pseudocode, impossible in scala

Dependent types example

```
data Vect : Nat -> Type -> Type // Idris
where
  Nil : Vect 0 a
  (::) : a -> Vect k a -> Vect (k+1) a
```

Calculus of constructions: Idris, Coq, Agda

Dependent types:

Track properties, which can be proven by structural induction

Function, which call SQL inside no more than 3 times.

Resource with balanced acquire / release for all execution paths.

Type depends from value \Leftrightarrow Type must be available as value

```
data Parity : Nat -> Type where
  even : Parity (n + n)
  odd : Parity (S (n + n))
```

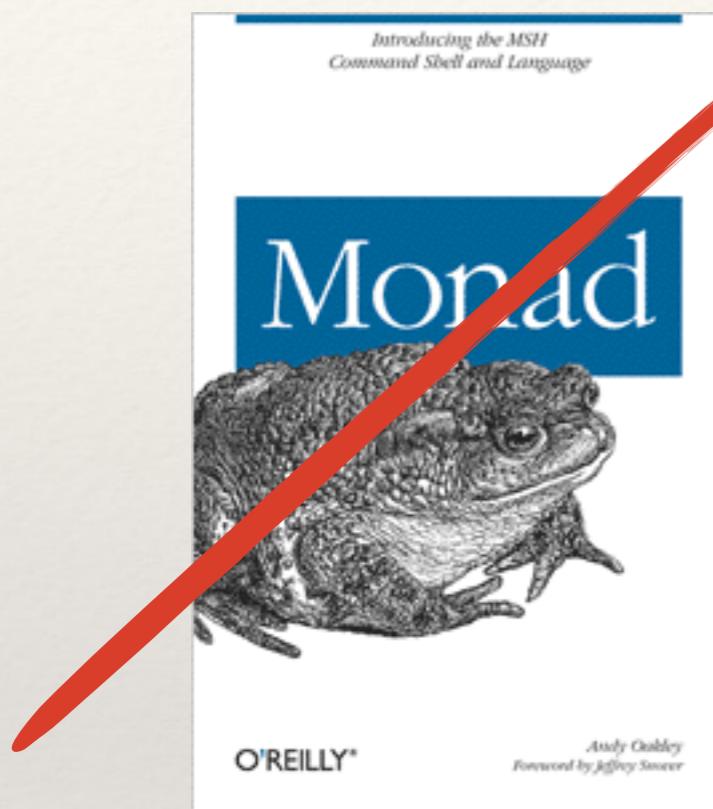
Dependent types:

intuitionistic logic

absence ($p \mid\mid \neg p$)

Type:Type - logical bomb

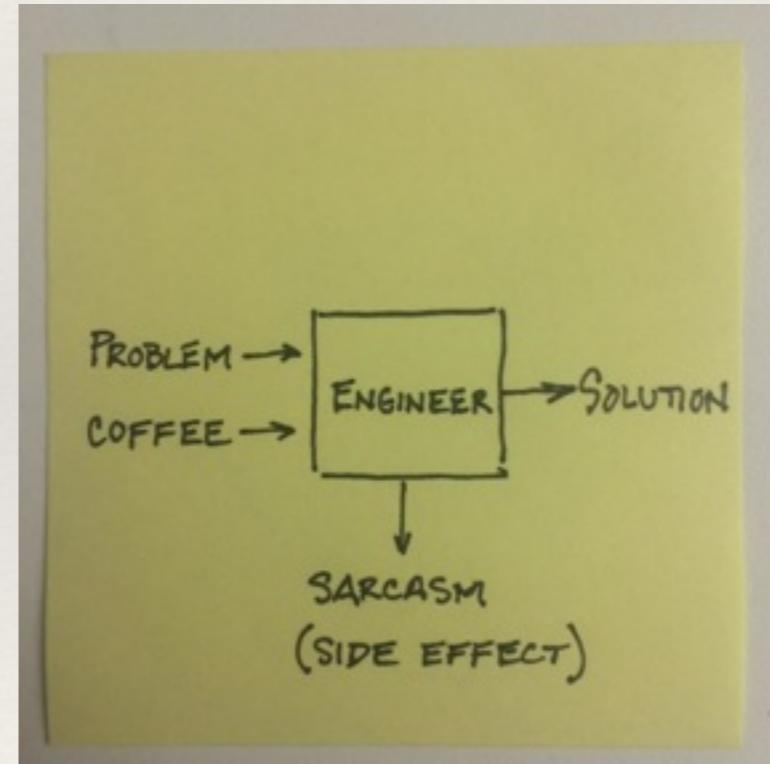
Effects tracking:



- Idris
- Eff

No more IO monads !!!!

List of effects as part of type.



Knowledge-based programming

Let's add structured information about problem domain.

Wolfram Alpha:

Mathematics domain. Near 5000 built-in functions.

Household lexicon: approx 4000

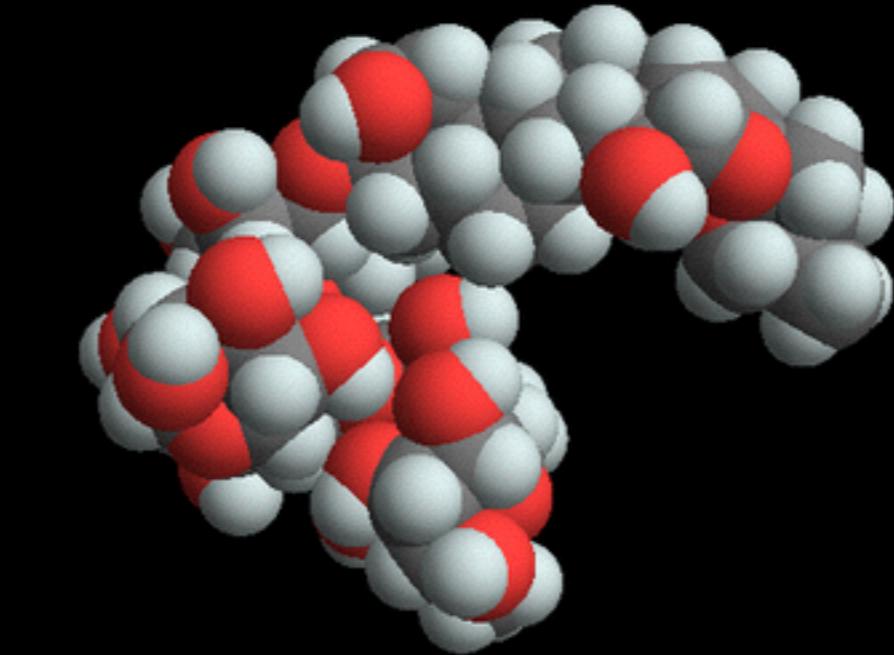
Differ from community repository: all interfaces are consistent

Wolfram:

Tweet-a-program



```
Show[ChemicalData["Digitonin", "SpaceFillingMoleculePlot"],  
Background -> Black]
```



Wolfram Language | Tweet-a-Program @wolframtap

Wolfram:

Tweet-a-program

 `ImageCollage[Colorize[#, ColorFunction -> ColorData["Pastel"]]] & /@
##[RandomSample[##["Pokemon", "Entities"], 25], "Image"] & @
EntityValue]`



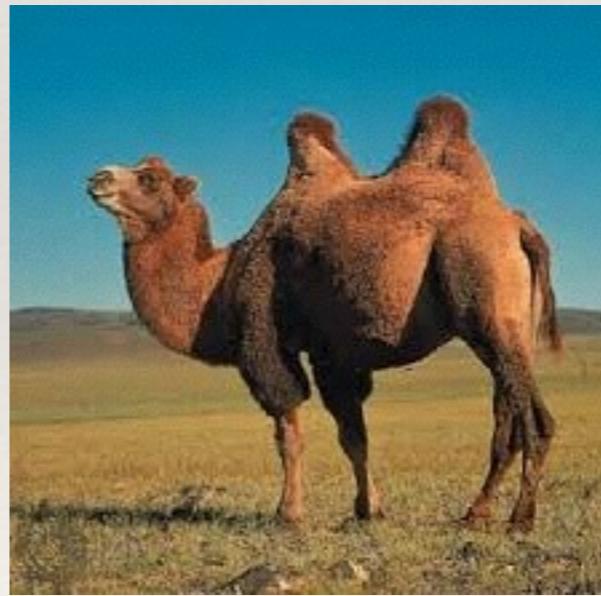
Wolfram Language | Tweet-a-Program @wolframtap



Make all good

- Syntax, defined in problem-domain specific library
- Vocabulary similar to one in natural language
- Advanced type theory with refinement specs.

Implementation



Implementation

Compilation/Interpretation	[both - hard]
VM/System	both - impossible without divergence
JVM	no continuations (?)
LLVM	non-trivial gc (?)

Complexity.

Let's rewrite all with callbacks, because it's more easy than fix JVM/OS

CORBA story:

Let's do remote and local call undistinguished (1996)

Local calls: fast

Remote calls: slow

Common antipattern: build fine-grained object model in RPC

Akka:

Let's do remote and local call undistinguished (2014)

// hope, now things will move forward more accurate

So, we must

choose one level of abstraction

or

build family of systems

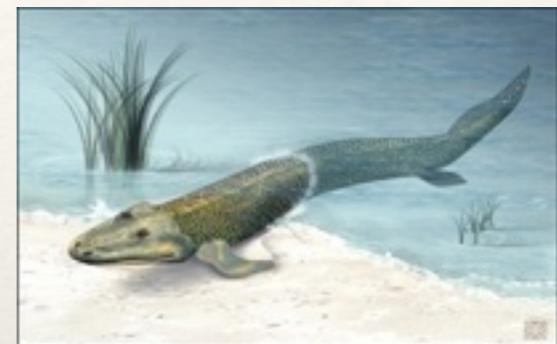


otherwise — abstraction leaks



Ok, assume we build ideal language. (in academia or as freaks)

When it will be in industry ?



- ❖ Success in sense of adoption => evolution slowdown

Haskell:

- ❖ avoid success of all costs => be open for evolution,
live in a water

Scala: from research to engineering

(LMS, attempt to remove skolem types, ... etc)

Sociology of programming languages

Leo Meyerovich

Average 'incubation' period before wider adoption: 12 years

before - specialized in some niche

Adoption => social, marketing, not technical.

What will be in industry tomorrow: landscape now.

General purpose: need some time for current adoption
JVM land: scala, clojure

Trends: integrating other paradigms

System: D / Rust instead C++ (?)

Application/ Scripting: [place is vacant]
// JavaScript successor [?]

What will be **not** in industry tomorrow:

academic/OSS

Better VM-s

New paradigms



Depends from you

// niche as social issue

Thanks.

ruslan@shevchenko.kiev.ua

<https://github.com/rssh>

@rssh1

If you build something interesting - ping me.