Master Thesis

A Haskell Web-Application for data-mining competition-results from StarExec

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presented by

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Summary

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Acknowledgements

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1

Introduction

This is a guide to the Star-Exec-Presenter, a web-based visualization and data-mining software developed in preparation of this thesis. The Star-Exec-Presenter is intended to be an efficient to use software for members of the termination community of the StarExec service, as well as other communities or users of StarExec. The web application features essential functionalities such as starting competitions, loading results and other data from StarExec or visualizing and filtering such data.

Termination is a branch of theoretical computer science where programs such as algorithms are examined, whether they terminate, that is whether they complete. In terms of StarExec, solvers are running over a bunch of problems returning an answer for each problem: Yes, No or Maybe.

The Termination Competition is an annual event of the termination community of StarExec, where solvers from different contributors compete in several categories. In 2014 the competition was organized by my adviser, Prof. Johannes Waldman, and me. Our goal was to do both, starting the competition run as well as to present it via an automatically updated web-interface.

Our additional goal was to be able to compare the results from the 2014 competition with those from previous ones. So we added an option to import the data from the 2007 competition hosted by the Laboratory of Computer Science at Université Paris-Sud and the following competitions hosted by the University of Innsbruck.

"StarExec is a cross community logic solving service developed at the University of Iowa (…)." (StarExec 2013) It is a technical infrastructure providing the service to run logic solvers on a powerful cluster of CPUs. It also provides an extensive web-based user interface to upload and run solvers and problems, referred to as benchmarks. A REST-based[1] API is utalized by the Star-Exec-Presenter.

The Star-Exec-Presenter is the software developed as the concrete work for this thesis. It is a web application programmed in Haskel[2] with the utalization of the Yesod Web Framework[3].

Motivation

The motivation of this thesis is to provide a tool for StarExec users for further research as well as some kind of standardization of hosting and running future termination competition and competitions of other StarExec communities. The goal for Star-Exec-Presenter is to be a tool, that is easy to use as well as easy to install and run. It is open source, so it can be forked und changed to better meet future needs.

With Star-Exec-Presenter we wanted to extend the ability of the StarExec service with filtering of the results and comparing them with older ones from previous competitions. Contributers of solvers should be able to track their progress of development of their respective solver through time.

[1] Representational state transfer, a paradigm to implement a server-client communication
[2] a functional, non-strict, declarative programming language (http://www.haskell.org/)
[3] a REST-based web application framework (http://www.yesodweb.com/)

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Termination Competition

In this chapter I will discuss the terms of Termination and Termination of Term Rewriting. I also will describe the Termination Competition, as its 2014 incarnation was one of the goals towards the Star-Exec-Presenter was developed.

Termination of Term Rewriting

Termination Community

Termination Competition

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StarExec

StarExec is the service that is utilized by the Termination Community and other communities to run their research as well as the latest Termination Competition. This chapter will examine the interfaces from which the relevant data is fetched as well as their special characteristics. I will go into the details of how StarExec works and how to get the data.

Interfaces

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Star-Exec-Presenter

The Star-Exec-Presenter is actually the concrete work of this thesis. As a REST-based web application it is an interface to the StarExec service and it provides a caching mechanism. This chapter will give detailed insights in the architectural approach to build the Star-Exec-Presenter according to the requirements.

Application Structure

REST interface

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Requirements

This chapter discusses the requirements that were agreed to. Which data is important and how is it handled? How should the application be build, which kind of data should be accessible through the Star-Exec-Presenter? And how should the application incorporate with StarExec?

Solver and Post processor output

Caching

Compact web interface

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Use Cases

7

Implementation

The Star-Exec-Presenter is a web application written in Haskell and based upon the Yesod Web Framework. In this chapter I will talk about the actual implementation of the tool as well as about the benefits of using especially Haskell and Yesod.

Haskell

Yesod Web Framework

Routes

Templates

Persistence

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Evaluation

Future considerations

- caching could be automated with a permanent background-worker which traverses the database's content after a given time period
- ajax-based implementation of the web-interface
-

A

Appendix topics

References

StarExec. 2013. "About StarExec." https://www.starexec.org/starexec/public/about.jsp.