

PCGSL: Playing Card Game Simulation Language

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Chapter 1

Introduction

The Playing Card Game Simulation Language (PCGSL) is designed to be a simple programming language for programming card games. Our language allows a programmer to work within a standard set of conventions and procedures for playing card games, without having to write a large amount of code as one would have to in a general-purpose language. This allows the programmer to focus on creating randomized simulations of popular games or hands, as well as quick mock-ups of new games based around standard 52-card decks.

1.1 Simple

PCGSL is simple to learn. Using well known C-style imperative syntax conventions, our language...

Chapter 2

Language Tutorial

Chapter 3

Language Manual

3.1 Lexical Conventions

This section covers the lexical conventions including comments and tokens. A token is a series of contiguous characters that the compiler treats as a unit. Blanks, tabs, newlines, and comments are collectively known as white space. White space is ignored except as it serves to separate tokens. Some white space is required to separate otherwise adjacent identifiers, keywords, and constants. If the input stream has been parsed into tokens up to a given character, the next token is taken to include the longest string of characters that could possibly constitute a token.

3.1.1 Comments

The `//` characters introduce a comment; a newline terminates a comment. The `//` characters do not indicate a comment when occurring within a string literal. Comments do not nest. Once the `//` introducing a comment are seen, all other characters are ignored until the ending newline is encountered.

3.1.2 Identifiers

An identifier is a sequence of letters, digits, and underscores (`_`). The first character cannot be a digit. Uppercase and lowercase letters are distinct. Identifier length is unlimited.

3.1.3 Keywords

The identifiers listed below are reserved for use as keywords and cannot be used for any other purpose. Among these are a group of reserved identifiers corresponds to card names for a standard 52-card deck.

break Play CardEntities return else Start false true Globals while If WinCondition Include
var null H2 H3 H4 H5 H6 H7 H8 H9 H10 HJ HQ HK HA D2 D3 D4 D5 D6 D7 D8 D9 D10
DJ DQ DK DA C2 C3 C4 C5 C6 C7 C8 C9 C10 CJ CQ CK CA S2 S3 S4 S5 S6 S7 S8 S9
S10 SJ SQ SK SA

3.1.4 Constants

The two types of constants are integer and character string.

Integer Constants

An integer constant consists of a sequence of one or more digits, and is always considered decimal.

String Constants

A string constant is a sequence of characters surrounded by double quotation marks, such as Hello World!. We consider characters to be ASCII printable characters.

3.1.5 Operators

An operator specifies an operation to be performed. The operators are shown below:

<-	++	+	--	-	*	/	+=	-=	*=	/=	==	=	!=	
<	<=	>	>=	&&		::		~	^	@	#	\$	>>	<<

3.1.6 Meaning of Identifiers

Identifiers are disambiguated by their type, scope, and namespace. No identifier will have linkage, and storage duration will be determined by the scope, e.g. identifiers within the

same scope will have the same storage duration.

Type

Our language has four fundamental object types `int`, `string`, `boolean`, and `Card`. In addition, there are two derived types: `list` and `CardEntity`. There is no notion of a floating point number since it is not really needed in card games. There is also no need for a `char` type, since it can be simulated by a string consisting of a single ASCII symbol.

- `int`: the `int` type can represent an arbitrary integer since it will be mapped to the OCaml integer internally.
- `bool`: the `bool` type represents a boolean, either of the value `'true'` or `'false'`. It is mapped to OCaml boolean internally.
- `string`: the `string` type will be able to hold arbitrary strings since it will also be mapped to OCaml strings internally.
- `Card`: the `Card` type is a basic type that represents one of the 52 cards in a standard playing card deck.
- `list`: the `list` type is a derived type since it is a collection of fundamental objects. They have an attribute called `length` that stores the length of the list.
- `CardEntity`: The `CardEntity` type represents a certain participant in the card game who can be active (e.g. a player) or passive (e.g. a deck or a flop). Each `CardEntity` has a list of `Card` objects that belongs to it, and special operators for transferring `Card` objects among `CardEntity` objects.

3.1.7 Scope, Namespace, and Storage Duration

Unlike C identifiers, PCGSL identifiers have no linkage, e.g. the scopes are disjoint.

Scope

The scope specifies the region where certain identifiers are visible. PCGSL employs static scope. There are two kinds of scope, and they do not intersect:

- Global scope variables defined within the Globals block have global scope. Global variables cannot be defined in functions or any other block. Global variables are accessed via the '#' symbol. Therefore there are no intersections with the local scope.
- Function/Block scope variables declared within a function or block will be visible within that function or block. Nested functions or blocks are disallowed in the language.

Namespace

Functions and blocks share a namespace. Variables have their own namespace, as do CardEntities. None of these three namespaces overlap.

Storage Duration

Local variables have automatic storage duration. Their lifetime expires after the function in which they are defined returns. Global variables have static storage duration and live from their declaration to the end of program execution.

3.2 Declarations

A declaration specifies the interpretation given to a set of identifiers. Declarations in PCGSL define variables (including lists), CardEntity objects, and functions. Variable declarations are untyped. Declarations have the following form:

1. Variable Declaration: *var identifier*;
2. Function Declaration: *identifier (parameter-list) {body}*;

3.2.1 Variables

Declared variables consist of the keyword *var* followed by an identifier. They are uninitialized, and are given a Null value when declared. Null is a special data type that can be compared to any other data type.

3.2.2 Functions

Functions in PCGSL have no return type (returning the wrong type generates a runtime error). Functions may only be declared in the global scope. The *parameter-type-list* is the list of parameter identifiers, separated by commas with each preceded by the keyword *var*. The *body* is optional, and contains variable declarations as well as statements to be executed.

3.2.3 Special Blocks

There are several special required blocks that are declared in global scope. All blocks must exist in every PCGSL program, and appear at the beginning of the source file in the order below (followed by function declarations):

1. *Include* {*file-list*} ; Block containing a comma delimited list of files to import (e.g. "stdlib/stdlib.cgl")
2. *CardEntities* {*entity-list*} ; Block containing a comma delimited list of card entities (e.g. player1)
3. *Globals* {*declaration-list*} ; Block containing variable declarations. These variables, and only these variables, have global scope.
4. *Start* {*statement-list*} ; Block containing the code executed at initialization of the program.
5. *Play* {*statement-list*}; Block that is called after the Start block. This block is executed repeatedly until the WinCondition block returns a non-Null value.
6. *WinCondition* {*statement-list*} ; Block that is called automatically after every play() function. The game stops when this returns a non-Null value.

All code in PCGSL must be contained in one of the above blocks or inside function bodies.