Chapter 2

Evolution of the Major Programming Languages
Chapter 2 Topics

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Genealogy of Common Languages
Zuse’s Plankalkül

- Designed in 1945, but not published until 1972
- Never implemented
- Advanced data structures
  - floating point, arrays, records
- Invariants
Plankalkül Syntax


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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$A + 1$</td>
<td>$A$</td>
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<tr>
<td>$V$</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>$S$</td>
<td>1.n</td>
<td>1.n</td>
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(subscripts)  (data types)
Minimal Hardware Programming: Pseudocodes

• What was wrong with using machine code?
  – Poor readability
  – Poor modifiability
  – Expression coding was tedious
  – Machine deficiencies—no indexing or floating point
Pseudocodes: Short Code

- Short Code developed by Mauchly in 1949 for BINAC computers
  - Expressions were coded, left to right
  - Example of operations:

  01 - 06 abs value
  02 ) 07 +
  03 = 08 pause
  04 / 09 ( 1^n (n+2)nd power
  02 ) 07 + 2^n (n+2)nd root
  03 = 08 pause 4n if <= n
  04 / 09 ( 58 print and tab
Pseudocodes: Speedcoding

- Speedcoding developed by Backus in 1954 for IBM 701
  - Pseudo ops for arithmetic and math functions
  - Conditional and unconditional branching
  - Auto-increment registers for array access
  - Slow!
  - Only 700 words left for user program
Pseudocodes: Related Systems

• The UNIVAC Compiling System
  – Developed by a team led by Grace Hopper
  – Pseudocode expanded into machine code

• David J. Wheeler (Cambridge University)
  – developed a method of using blocks of relocatable addresses to solve the problem of absolute addressing
IBM 704 and Fortran

• Fortran 0: 1954 – not implemented
• Fortran I: 1957
  – Designed for the new IBM 704, which had index registers and floating point hardware
  – This led to the idea of compiled programming languages, because there was no place to hide the cost of interpretation (no floating-point software)

  – Environment of development
    • Computers were small and unreliable
    • Applications were scientific
    • No programming methodology or tools
    • Machine efficiency was the most important concern
Design Process of Fortran

• Impact of environment on design of Fortran I
  – No need for dynamic storage
  – Need good array handling and counting loops
  – No string handling, decimal arithmetic, or powerful input/output (for business software)
Fortran I Overview

- First implemented version of Fortran
  - Names could have up to six characters
  - Post-test counting loop (DO)
  - Formatted I/O
  - User-defined subprograms
  - Three-way selection statement (arithmetic IF)
  - No data typing statements
Fortran I Overview (continued)

- First implemented version of FORTRAN
  - No separate compilation
  - Compiler released in April 1957, after 18 worker-years of effort
  - Programs larger than 400 lines rarely compiled correctly, mainly due to poor reliability of 704
  - Code was very fast
  - Quickly became widely used
Fortran II

• Distributed in 1958
  – Independent compilation
  – Fixed the bugs
Fortran IV

• Evolved during 1960–62
  – Explicit type declarations
  – Logical selection statement
  – Subprogram names could be parameters
  – ANSI standard in 1966
Fortran 77

• Became the new standard in 1978
  – Character string handling
  – Logical loop control statement
  – IF–THEN–ELSE statement
Fortran 90

- Most significant changes from Fortran 77
  - Modules
  - Dynamic arrays
  - Pointers
  - Recursion
  - CASE statement
  - Parameter type checking
Latest versions of Fortran

• Fortran 95 – relatively minor additions, plus some deletions
• Fortran 2003 – support for OOP, procedure pointers, interoperability with C
• Fortran 2008 – blocks for local scopes, co-arrays, Do Concurrent
Fortran Evaluation

- Highly optimizing compilers (all versions before 90)
  - Types and storage of all variables are fixed before run time
- Dramatically changed forever the way computers are used
Functional Programming: Lisp

- LISt Processing language
  - Designed at MIT by McCarthy
- AI research needed a language to
  - Process data in lists (rather than arrays)
  - Symbolic computation (rather than numeric)
- Only two data types: atoms and lists
- Syntax is based on \textit{lambda calculus}
Representation of Two Lisp Lists

Representing the lists (A B C D) and (A (B C) D (E (F G))))
Lisp Evaluation

- Pioneered functional programming
  - No need for variables or assignment
  - Control via recursion and conditional expressions
- Still the dominant language for AI
- Common Lisp and Scheme are contemporary dialects of Lisp
- ML, Haskell, and F# are also functional programming languages, but use very different syntax
Scheme

- Developed at MIT in mid 1970s
- Small
- Extensive use of static scoping
- Functions as first-class entities
- Simple syntax (and small size) make it ideal for educational applications
Common Lisp

- An effort to combine features of several dialects of Lisp into a single language
- Large, complex, used in industry for some large applications
The First Step Toward Sophistication: ALGOL 60

• Environment of development
  – FORTRAN had (barely) arrived for IBM 70x
  – Many other languages were being developed, all for specific machines
  – No portable language; all were machine-dependent
  – No universal language for communicating algorithms

• ALGOL 60 was the result of efforts to design a universal language
Early Design Process

• ACM and GAMM met for four days for design (May 27 to June 1, 1958)

• Goals of the language
  – Close to mathematical notation
  – Good for describing algorithms
  – Must be translatable to machine code
ALGOL 58

- Concept of type was formalized
- Names could be any length
- Arrays could have any number of subscripts
- Parameters were separated by mode (in & out)
- Subscripts were placed in brackets
- Compound statements (*begin ... end*)
- Semicolon as a statement separator
- Assignment operator was :=
- *if* had an *else-if* clause
- No I/O – “would make it machine dependent”
ALGOL 58 Implementation

- Not meant to be implemented, but variations of it were (MAD, JOVIAL)
- Although IBM was initially enthusiastic, all support was dropped by mid 1959
ALGOL 60 Overview

• Modified ALGOL 58 at 6–day meeting in Paris
• New features
  – Block structure (local scope)
  – Two parameter passing methods
  – Subprogram recursion
  – Stack–dynamic arrays

  – Still no I/O and no string handling
ALGOL 60 Evaluation

• Successes
  – It was the standard way to publish algorithms for over 20 years
  – All subsequent imperative languages are based on it
  – First machine-independent language
  – First language whose syntax was formally defined (BNF)
ALGOL 60 Evaluation (continued)

• Failure
  – Never widely used, especially in U.S.
  – Reasons
    • Lack of I/O and the character set made programs non-portable
    • Too flexible—hard to implement
    • Entrenchment of Fortran
    • Formal syntax description
    • Lack of support from IBM
Computerizing Business Records: COBOL

- Environment of development
  - UNIVAC was beginning to use FLOW–MATIC
  - USAF was beginning to use AIMACO
  - IBM was developing COMTRAN
COBOL Historical Background

- Based on FLOW–MATIC
- FLOW–MATIC features
  - Names up to 12 characters, with embedded hyphens
  - English names for arithmetic operators (no arithmetic expressions)
  - Data and code were completely separate
  - The first word in every statement was a verb
COBOL Design Process

• First Design Meeting (Pentagon) – May 1959
• Design goals
  – Must look like simple English
  – Must be easy to use, even if that means it will be less powerful
  – Must broaden the base of computer users
  – Must not be biased by current compiler problems
• Design committee members were all from computer manufacturers and DoD branches
• Design Problems: arithmetic expressions? subscripts? Fights among manufacturers
COBOL Evaluation

• Contributions
  – First macro facility in a high-level language
  – Hierarchical data structures (records)
  – Nested selection statements
  – Long names (up to 30 characters), with hyphens
  – Separate data division
COBOL: DoD Influence

• First language required by DoD
  – would have failed without DoD
• Still the most widely used business applications language
The Beginning of Timesharing: Basic

• Designed by Kemeny & Kurtz at Dartmouth

• Design Goals:
  – Easy to learn and use for non-science students
  – Must be “pleasant and friendly”
  – Fast turnaround for homework
  – Free and private access
  – User time is more important than computer time

• Current popular dialect: Visual Basic

• First widely used language with time sharing
2.8 Everything for Everybody: PL/I

• Designed by IBM and SHARE

• Computing situation in 1964 (IBM's point of view)
  – Scientific computing
    • IBM 1620 and 7090 computers
    • FORTRAN
    • SHARE user group
  – Business computing
    • IBM 1401, 7080 computers
    • COBOL
    • GUIDE user group
PL/I: Background

• By 1963
  – Scientific users began to need more elaborate I/O, like COBOL had; business users began to need floating point and arrays for MIS
  – It looked like many shops would begin to need two kinds of computers, languages, and support staff—too costly

• The obvious solution
  – Build a new computer to do both kinds of applications
  – Design a new language to do both kinds of applications
PL/I: Design Process

- Designed in five months by the 3 X 3 Committee
  - Three members from IBM, three members from SHARE
- Initial concept
  - An extension of Fortran IV
- Initially called NPL (New Programming Language)
- Name changed to PL/I in 1965
PL/I: Evaluation

- **PL/I contributions**
  - First unit-level concurrency
  - First exception handling
  - Switch-selectable recursion
  - First pointer data type
  - First array cross sections

- **Concerns**
  - Many new features were poorly designed
  - Too large and too complex
Two Early Dynamic Languages: APL and SNOBOL

• Characterized by dynamic typing and dynamic storage allocation
• Variables are untyped
  – A variable acquires a type when it is assigned a value
• Storage is allocated to a variable when it is assigned a value
APL: A Programming Language

- Designed as a hardware description language at IBM by Ken Iverson around 1960
  - Highly expressive (many operators, for both scalars and arrays of various dimensions)
  - Programs are very difficult to read
- Still in use; minimal changes
SNOBOL

- Designed as a string manipulation language at Bell Labs by Farber, Griswold, and Polensky in 1964
- Powerful operators for string pattern matching
- Slower than alternative languages (and thus no longer used for writing editors)
- Still used for certain text processing tasks
The Beginning of Data Abstraction: SIMULA 67

• Designed primarily for system simulation in Norway by Nygaard and Dahl

• Based on ALGOL 60 and SIMULA I

• Primary Contributions
  - Coroutines – a kind of subprogram
  - Classes, objects, and inheritance
Orthogonal Design: ALGOL 68

• From the continued development of ALGOL 60 but not a superset of that language
• Source of several new ideas (even though the language itself never achieved widespread use)
• Design is based on the concept of orthogonality
  – A few basic concepts, plus a few combining mechanisms
ALGOL 68 Evaluation

• Contributions
  – User-defined data structures
  – Reference types
  – Dynamic arrays (called flex arrays)

• Comments
  – Less usage than ALGOL 60
  – Had strong influence on subsequent languages, especially Pascal, C, and Ada
Pascal – 1971

- Developed by Wirth (a former member of the ALGOL 68 committee)
- Designed for teaching structured programming
- Small, simple, nothing really new
- Largest impact was on teaching programming
  - From mid-1970s until the late 1990s, it was the most widely used language for teaching programming
C – 1972

- Designed for systems programming (at Bell Labs by Dennis Richie)
- Evolved primarily from BCLP and B, but also ALGOL 68
- Powerful set of operators, but poor type checking
- Initially spread through UNIX
- Though designed as a systems language, it has been used in many application areas
Programming Based on Logic: Prolog

- Developed, by Comerauer and Roussel (University of Aix–Marseille), with help from Kowalski (University of Edinburgh)
- Based on formal logic
- Non-procedural
- Can be summarized as being an intelligent database system that uses an inferencing process to infer the truth of given queries
- Comparatively inefficient
- Few application areas
History’s Largest Design Effort: Ada

- Huge design effort, involving hundreds of people, much money, and about eight years
- Sequence of requirements (1975–1978)
  - (Strawman, Woodman, Tinman, Ironman, Steelman)
- Named Ada after Augusta Ada Byron, the first programmer
Ada Evaluation

• Contributions
  - Packages – support for data abstraction
  - Exception handling – elaborate
  - Generic program units
  - Concurrency – through the tasking model

• Comments
  - Competitive design
  - Included all that was then known about software engineering and language design
  - First compilers were very difficult; the first really usable compiler came nearly five years after the language design was completed
Ada 95

- Ada 95 (began in 1988)
  - Support for OOP through type derivation
  - Better control mechanisms for shared data
  - New concurrency features
  - More flexible libraries

- Ada 2005
  - Interfaces and synchronizing interfaces

- Popularity suffered because the DoD no longer requires its use but also because of popularity of C++
Object-Oriented Programming: Smalltalk

- Developed at Xerox PARC, initially by Alan Kay, later by Adele Goldberg
- First full implementation of an object-oriented language (data abstraction, inheritance, and dynamic binding)
- Pioneered the graphical user interface design
- Promoted OOP
Combining Imperative and Object-Oriented Programming: C++

- Developed at Bell Labs by Stroustrup in 1980
- Evolved from C and SIMULA 67
- Facilities for object-oriented programming, taken partially from SIMULA 67
- A large and complex language, in part because it supports both procedural and OO programming
- Rapidly grew in popularity, along with OOP
- ANSI standard approved in November 1997
- Microsoft’s version: MC++
  - Properties, delegates, interfaces, no multiple inheritance
A Related OOP Language

- **Swift** – a replacement for Objective-C
  - Released in 2014
  - Two categories of types, classes and struct, like C#
  - Used by Apple for systems programs

- **Delphi** – another related language
  - A hybrid language, like C++
  - Began as an object-oriented version of Pascal
  - Designed by Anders Hejlsberg, who also designed Turbo Pascal and C#
An Imperative–Based Object–Oriented Language: Java

- Developed at Sun in the early 1990s
  - C and C++ were not satisfactory for embedded electronic devices

- Based on C++
  - Significantly simplified (does not include `struct`, `union`, `enum`, pointer arithmetic, and half of the assignment coercions of C++)
  - Supports only OOP
  - Has references, but not pointers
  - Includes support for applets and a form of concurrency
Java Evaluation

- Eliminated many unsafe features of C++
- Supports concurrency
- Libraries for applets, GUIs, database access
- Portable: Java Virtual Machine concept, JIT compilers
- Widely used for Web programming
- Use increased faster than any previous language
- Most recent version, 8, released in 2014
Scripting Languages for the Web

• Perl
  - Designed by Larry Wall—first released in 1987
  - Variables are statically typed but implicitly declared
  - Three distinctive namespaces, denoted by the first character of a variable’s name
  - Powerful, but somewhat dangerous
  - Gained widespread use for CGI programming on the Web
  - Also used for a replacement for UNIX system administration language

• JavaScript
  - Began at Netscape, but later became a joint venture of Netscape and Sun Microsystems
  - A client–side HTML–embedded scripting language, often used to create dynamic HTML documents
  - Purely interpreted
  - Related to Java only through similar syntax

• PHP
  - PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor, designed by Rasmus Lerdorf
  - A server–side HTML–embedded scripting language, often used for form processing and database access through the Web
  - Purely interpreted
Scripting Languages for the Web

• Python
  – An OO interpreted scripting language
  – Type checked but dynamically typed
  – Used for form processing
  – Dynamically typed, but type checked
  – Supports lists, tuples, and hashes

• Ruby
  – Designed in Japan by Yukihiro Matsumoto (a.k.a, “Matz”)
  – Began as a replacement for Perl and Python
  – A pure object-oriented scripting language
    – All data are objects
  – Most operators are implemented as methods, which can be redefined by user code
  – Purely interpreted
The Flagship .NET Language: C#

- Part of the .NET development platform (2000)
- Based on C++, Java, and Delphi
- Includes pointers, delegates, properties, enumeration types, a limited kind of dynamic typing, and anonymous types
- Is evolving rapidly
Markup/Programming Hybrid Languages

• XSLT
  - eXtensible Markup Language (XML): a metamarkup language
  - eXtensible Stylesheet Language Transformation (XSTL) transforms XML documents for display
  - Programming constructs (e.g., looping)

• JSP
  - Java Server Pages: a collection of technologies to support dynamic Web documents
  - JSTL, a JSP library, includes programming constructs in the form of HTML elements
Summary

• Development, development environment, and evaluation of a number of important programming languages
• Perspective into current issues in language design