History of Programming Languages

Functional Programming

Before I hand out the reading list, is there anyone here with CPR training?

I’ve got a bad feeling about this class.
Cunning Plan

- History Lesson
- Functional Programming
  - OCaml
  - Types
  - Pattern Matching
  - Higher-Order Functions
- Basic Syntax
- Data Structures
- Higher-Order Functions
  - Fold
Gone In Sixty Seconds

- **Imperative:** change state, assignments
- **Structured:** if/block/routine control flow
- **Object-Oriented:** message passing (= dynamic dispatch), inheritance
- **Functional:** functions are first-class citizens that can be passed around or called recursively. We can avoid changing state by passing copies.
Why Study History?

• Those who cannot remember George Santayana are condemned to misquote him.
  - *Supernatural*, 1999
Why Study History?

- Progress, far from consisting in change, depends on retentiveness. Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

- Through meticulous analysis of history I will find a way to make the people worship me. By studying the conquerors of days gone by, I’ll discover the mistakes that made them go awry.
  - The Brain, *A Meticulous Analysis of History*
JUBA (Reuters) - Rebels in South Sudan's volatile Jonglei state killed at least 41 people and wounded 46 others in a raid on three cattle camps on Sunday, a local official said.

Since breaking from Sudan in 2011, oil-producing South Sudan has struggled to assert control over remote territories awash with weapons after a 1983-2005 war with the north and torn by ethnic rivalries.

Dau Akoi, commissioner of Twic East, a county in Jonglei, said rebels loyal to former theology student David Yau Yau were believed to be behind the attack.

Yau Yau last year recruited armed youths antagonized by a government campaign to end tribal violence in Jonglei, which human rights groups say was marked by abuses by soldiers.

More than 1,500 people have been killed in Jonglei since independence, according to the United Nations. Yau Yau has refused President Salva Kiir's offer of amnesty.

Akoi said all the cattle were taken in the raid that killed 41 people and wounded 46.

(Reporting by Andrew Green; Writing by Drazen Jorgic; Editing by Alison Williams)
Surprise Liberal Arts Trivia

• The Ulster Cycle (or Red Branch Cycle) is one of the four great sagas of this country's mythology. It includes prominent figures such as Cú Chulainn and queen Méabh, as well as the tragic Deirdre (source of Yeats and Synge plays). The earliest of the stories available is dated to the 8th century and refers to events and characters of the 7th.
So What's It About?

- The longest and most important story of the cycle is the Táin Bó Cúailnge or "Cattle Raid of Cooley", in which Medb raises an enormous army to invade the Cooley peninsula and steal the Ulaid's prize bull [...] Warfare mainly takes the form of cattle raids [...] Cú Chulainn [...] staves off Medb's army for months, slaying every champion the queen sends to meet him. [...] Medb, of course, is not finished with Cú Chulainn, and seeks her revenge on him through more trickery.
  - Wikipedia and others, emphasis mine

- In order words: “A deadly cycle of cattle raids and revenge attacks between some of the country's groups.”
One Reason Why

- Reason is a biological product -- a tool whose power is inherently and substantially restricted. It has improved how we do things; it has not changed why we do things. Reason has generated knowledge enabling us to fly around the world in less than two days. Yet we still travel for the same purposes that drove our ancient ancestors -- commerce, conquest, religion, romance, curiosity, or escape from overcrowding, poverty, and persecution. To deny that reason has a role in setting our goals seems, at first, rather odd. A personal decision to go on a diet or take more exercise appears to be based upon reason. The same might be said for a government decision to raise taxes or sign a trade treaty. But reason is only contributing to the 'how' portion of these decisions; the more fundamental 'why' element, for all of these examples, is driven by instinctive self-preservation, emotional needs, and cultural attitudes. We are usually reluctant to admit the extent to which these forces govern our behavior, and accordingly we often recruit reason to explain and justify our actions.

- Donald B. Calne, *Within Reason: Rationality and Human Behavior*
Modern Era

• 1972 - C
  Systems programming, ASM
• 1983 - Ada
  US DOD, static type safety
• 1983 - C++
  classes, default args, STL
• 1987 - Perl
  dynamic scripting language
• 1990 - Python
  interp OO + readability
• 1991 - Java
  portable OO lang (for iTV)
• 1993 - Ruby
  Perl + Smalltalk
• 1996 - OCaml
  ML + C++
• 2000 - C#
  “simple” Java + delegates

I invented the term Object-Oriented, and I did not have C++ in mind.
- Alan Kay
Time Travel

• Back to an earlier time when the US was worried about a Communist “perfect attack”

• In Soviet Russia, noun verbs you! (-1 Redundant)
The Land Before Time

- It was a time very different now ...
- **Senator Joseph McCarthy 1950**
  - "I have here in my hand a list of 205 — a list of names ..."
- **John McCarthy 1958**
  - **LISP** = List Processing Language
  - basic datatype is the List, programs themselves are lists, can self-modify, dynamic allocation, garbage collection (!), functional
There are only two kinds of programming languages: those people always [complain] about and those nobody uses.
- Bjarne Stroustrup

Oh what a tangled web we weave,
When first we practise to deceive!
- Sir Walter Scott, 1771-1832

I fear the new OO systems may suffer the fate of LISP, in that they can do many things, but the complexity of the class hierarchies may cause them to collapse under their own weight.
- Bill Joy

Computer language design is just like a stroll in the park. Jurassic Park, that is.
- Larry Wall
Functional Programming

• You know OO and Structured Imperative

• **Functional Programming**
  - Computation = evaluating (math) functions
  - Avoid “global state” and “mutable data”
  - Get stuff done = apply (higher-order) functions
  - Avoid sequential commands

• Important Features
  - Higher-order, first-class functions
  - Closures and recursion
  - Lists and list processing
State

- The **state** of a program is all of the current variable and heap values
- **Imperative** programs destructively modify existing state

\[
\text{SET} \{x\} \quad \text{add\_elem(SET, y)}
\]
State

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\[
\text{SET } \{x, y\}
\]
State

- The **state** of a program is all of the current variable and heap values
- **Imperative** programs destructively modify existing state
- **Functional** programs yield new similar states over time

```
SET_1 = {x}
SET_2 = add_elem(SET_1, y)
```
State

- The **state** of a program is all of the current variable and heap values
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\[
\text{SET}_2 = \text{add}_\text{elem} (\text{SET}_1, y)
\]
Basic OCaml

- Let's Start With C

double avg(int x, int y) {
double z = (double)(x + y);
z = z / 2;
printf("Answer is \%g\n", z);
return z;
}
Basic OCaml

• Let's Start With C

```c
double avg(int x, int y) {
    double z = (double)(x + y);
    z = z / 2;
    printf(“Answer is %g\n”, z);
    return z;
}
```

```ocaml
let avg (x:int) (y:int) : float = begin
    let z = (float)(x + y) /. 2
    printf (“Answer is %g\n”, z);
    z
end
```
Basic OCaml

• Let's Start With C

double avg(int x, int y) {
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}

let avg (x:int) (y:int) : float = begin
    let z = float_of_int (x + y) in
    end
Basic OCaml

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  let z = z /. 2.0 in
end
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Basic OCaml

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    let z = z /. 2.0 in
    printf “Answer is %g\n” z ;
    z
end
The Tuple (or Pair)

let x = (22, 58) in (* tuple creation *)
...
let y, z = x in (* tuple field extraction *)
printf “first element is %d\n” y ; ...

let add_points p1 p2 =
let x1, y1 = p1 in
let x2, y2 = p2 in
(x1 + x2, y1 + y2)
List Syntax in OCaml

- Empty List  
  \[ ]

- Singleton  
  \[ \text{element} \]

- Longer List  
  \[ e_1 ; e_2 ; e_3 \]

- Cons  
  \( x :: [y;z] = [x;y;z] \)

- Append  
  \[w;x]@[y;z] = [w;x;y;z] \]

- List.length, List.filter, List.fold, List.map ...

- More on these later!

- Every element in list must have same type
Functional Example

• Simple Functional Set (built out of lists)
  let rec add_elem (s, e) =
  if s = [] then [e]
  else if List.hd s = e then s
  else List.hd s :: add_elem(List.tl s, e)

• Pattern-Matching Functional (same effect)
  let rec add_elem (s,e) = match s with
  | [] -> [e]
  | hd :: tl when e = hd -> s
  | hd :: tl -> hd :: add_elem(tl, e)
Imperative Code

• More cases to handle

```c
List* add_elem(List *s, item e) {
    if (s == NULL)
        return list(e, NULL);
    else if (s->hd == e)
        return s;
    else if (s->tl == NULL) {
        s->tl = list(e, NULL); return s;
    } else
        return add_elem(s->tl, e);
}
```

“I have stopped reading Stephen King novels. Now I just read C code instead.
- Richard O’Keefe
Real-World Languages

• This Indo-European language spans 34 centuries of written records. It arose from Phoenician and in turn served as the basis for Latin and Cyrillic. It boasts a number of Western canon works, including the Odyssey, Iliad, Platonic dialogues, and Christian New Testament.
Functional-Style Advantages

- Tractable program semantics
  - Procedures are functions
  - Formulate and prove assertions about code
  - More readable

- Referential transparency
  - Replace any expression by its value without changing the result

- No side-effects
  - Fewer errors
Functional-Style Disadvantages

- **Efficiency**
  - Copying takes time

- **Compiler implementation**
  - Frequent memory allocation

- **Unfamiliar (to you!)**
  - New programming style

- **Not appropriate for every program**
  - Operating systems, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Speed</th>
<th>Space</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C (gcc)</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C++ (g++)</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCaml</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Java (JDK -server)</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisp</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C# (mono)</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>5.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Python</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17 small benchmarks
ML Innovative Features

- Type system
  - Strongly typed
  - Type inference
  - Abstraction

- Modules
- Patterns
- Polymorphism
- Higher-order functions
- Concise formal semantics

There are many ways of trying to understand programs. People often rely too much on one way, which is called “debugging” and consists of running a partly-understood program to see if it does what you expected. Another way, which ML advocates, is to install some means of understanding in the very programs themselves.

- Robin Milner, 1997
Type System

• Type Inference
  
  let rec add_elem (s,e) = match s with
    | [] -> [e]
    | hd :: tl when e = hd -> s
    | hd :: tl -> hd :: add_elem(tl, e)
  
  val add_elem : α list * α -> α list

  - “α list” means “List<T>” or “List<α>”

• ML infers types
  - Inconsistent or incomplete type is an error

• Optional type declarations (exp : type)
  - Clarify ambiguous cases, documentation
Pattern Matching

- Simplifies Code (eliminates ifs, accessors)

```ocaml
type btree = (* binary tree of strings *)
  | Node of btree * string * btree
  | Leaf of string

let rec height tree = match tree with
  | Leaf _ -> 1
  | Node(x,_,y) -> 1 + max (height x) (height y)

let rec mem tree elt = match tree with
  | Leaf str -> str = elt
  | Node(x,str,y) -> str = elt || mem x elt || mem y elt
```
Pattern Matching Mistakes

• What if I forget a case?
  - let rec is_odd x = match x with
    - | 0 -> false
    - | 2 -> false
    - | x when x > 2 -> is_odd (x-2)
    - Warning P: this pattern-matching is not exhaustive.
  - Here is an example of a value that is not matched: 1
Polymorphism

- Functions and type inference are **polymorphic**
  - Operate on more than one type

```ml
let rec length x = match x with
| [] -> 0
| hd :: tl -> 1 + length tl

val length : \alpha\ list -> int
length [1;2;3] = 3
length ["algol"; "smalltalk"; "ml"] = 3
length [1; "algol"] = ?
```

\(\alpha\) means “any one type”
Higher-Order Functions

• Function are first-class values
  - Can be used whenever a value is expected
  - Notably, can be passed around
  - Closure captures the environment

```ocaml
let rec map f lst = match lst with
| [] -> []
| hd :: tl -> f hd :: map f tl
val map : (\alpha -> \beta) -> \alpha list -> \beta list
```

```ocaml
let offset = 10 in
let myfun x = x + offset in
val myfun : int -> int
map myfun [1;8;22] = [11;18;32]
```

• Extremely powerful programming technique
  - General iterators
  - Implement abstraction
The Story of Fold

• We’ve seen **length** and **map**

• We can also imagine ...

  - **sum** \([1; 5; 8]\) = 14
  - **product** \([1; 5; 8]\) = 40
  - **and** \([\text{true}; \text{true}; \text{false}]\) = false
  - **or** \([\text{true}; \text{true}; \text{false}]\) = true
  - **filter** \((\text{fun } x \rightarrow x>4)\) \([1; 5; 8]\) = \([5; 8]\)
  - **reverse** \([1; 5; 8]\) = \([8; 5; 1]\)
  - **mem** 5 \([1; 5; 8]\) = true

• Can we build all of these?
The House That Fold Built

- The **fold** operator comes from Recursion Theory (Kleene, 1952)

  let rec fold f acc lst = match lst with
  | [] -> acc
  | hd :: tl -> fold f (f acc hd) tl

  val fold : (α -> β -> α) -> α -> β list -> α

- Imagine we’re summing a list (f = addition):

  \[
  \begin{array}{c}
  9 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 7 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 5 \rightarrow \{ \} \\
  \end{array}
  \quad \begin{array}{c}
  \text{acc} \\
  11 \rightarrow 7 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 5 \rightarrow \{ \}
  \end{array}
  \quad \begin{array}{c}
  \text{lst} \\
  \quad 18 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 5 \rightarrow \{ \}
  \end{array}
  \quad \begin{array}{c}
  \text{f} \\
  \quad 27
  \end{array}
  \]
It’s Lego Time

• Let’s build things out of Fold!
  - `length` `lst = fold (fun acc elt -> acc + 1) 0 lst`
  - `sum` `lst = fold (fun acc elt -> acc + elt) 0 lst`
  - `product` `lst= fold (fun acc elt -> acc * elt) 1 lst`
  - `and` `lst = fold (fun acc elt -> acc & elt) true lst`

• How would we do `or`?
• How would we do `reverse`?
Tougher Legos

• Examples:
  - **reverse** \( \text{lst} = \text{fold} \ (\text{fun} \ \text{acc} \ \text{e} \rightarrow \text{acc} \ @ \ [\text{e}]) \ [\] \ \text{lst} \)
    - Note typing: \((\text{acc} : \alpha \ \text{list}) \ (\text{e} : \alpha)\)
  - **filter** keep_it \( \text{lst} = \text{fold} \ (\text{fun} \ \text{acc} \ \text{elt} \rightarrow \)
    - if keep_it elt then elt :: acc else acc) \ [\] \ \text{lst}
  - **mem** wanted \( \text{lst} = \text{fold} \ (\text{fun} \ \text{acc} \ \text{elt} \rightarrow \)
    - acc || wanted = elt) false \ \text{lst}
    - Note typing: \((\text{acc} : \text{bool}) \ (\text{e} : \alpha)\)

• How do we do **map**?
  - Recall: map (fun x -> x +10) [1;2] = [11;12]
  - Let’s write it on the board …
Map From Fold

let map myfun lst =
  fold (fun acc elt -> (myfun elt) :: acc) [] lst

- Types: (myfun : α -> β)
- Types: (lst : α list)
- Types: (acc : β list)
- Types: (elt : α)

• How do we do sort?
  (sort : (α * α -> bool) -> α list -> α list)

Do nothing which is of no use.
- Miyamoto Musashi, 1584-1645
Sorting Examples

• langs = [ “fortran”; “algol”; “c” ]
• courses = [ 216; 333; 415]

• sort (fun a b -> a < b) langs
  - [ “algol”; “c”; “fortran” ]

• sort (fun a b -> a > b) langs
  - [ “fortran”; “c”; “algol” ]

• sort (fun a b -> strlen a < strlen b) langs
  - [ “c”; “algol”; “fortran” ]

• sort (fun a b -> match is_odd a, is_odd b with
  • | true, false -> true (* odd numbers first *)
  • | false, true -> false (* even numbers last *)
  • | _, _ -> a < b (* otherwise ascending *)
  ) courses
  - [ 333 ; 415 ; 216 ]
Partial Application and Currying

let myadd \( x \) \( y \) = \( x + y \)

val myadd : int -> int -> int

myadd 3 5 = 8

let addtwo = myadd 2

- How do we know what this means? We use referential transparency! Basically, just substitute it in.

val addtwo : int -> int

addtwo 77 = 79

- Currying: “if you fix some arguments, you get a function of the remaining arguments”
• ML, Python and Ruby all support functional programming
  - closures, anonymous functions, etc.
• ML has strong static typing and type inference (as in this lecture)
• Ruby and Python have “strong” dynamic typing (or duck typing)
• All three combine OO and Functional
  - ... although it is rare to use both.
Homework

- Cool Reference Manual
- Backus paper on Speedcoding
- PA1c due Monday