Compilers and Formal Languages (1)

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The Goal of this Course

Write A Compiler

The Goal of this Course

lexer input: a string

”read(n);”

lexer output: a sequence of tokens

`key(read); lpar; id(n); rpar; semi`

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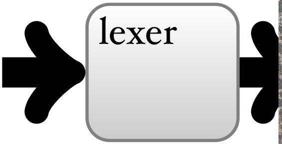
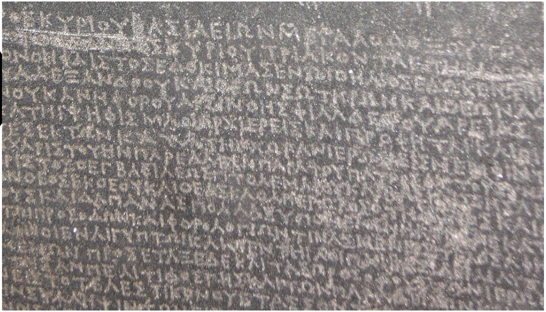
”read(n);”

lexer output: a sequence of tokens

```
key(read); lpar; id(n); rpar; semi
```



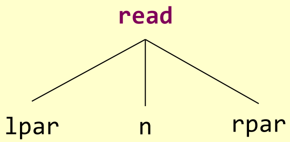


lexing ⇒ recognising words (Stone of Rosetta)

The Goal of this Course

parser input: a sequence of token

parser output: an abstract syntax tree



The Goal of this Course

code generator:

```
istore 2
iload 2
ldc 10
isub
ifeq Label2
iload 2
...
```

e A Compiler

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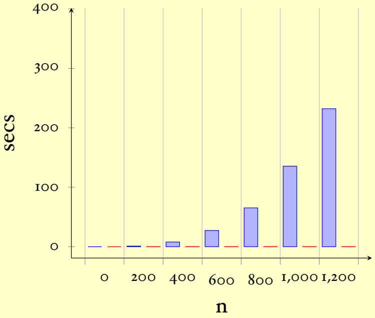
e A Compiler

parse



The subject is quite old

- Turing Machines, 1936
- Regular Expressions, 1956
- The first compiler for COBOL, 1957 (Grace Hopper)
- But surprisingly research papers are still published nowadays

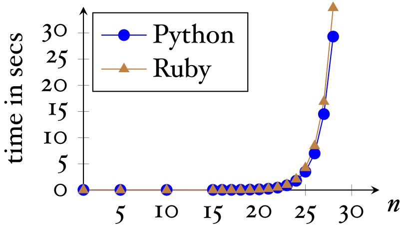
Grace Hopper

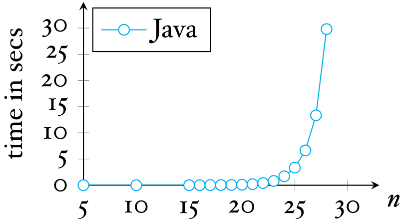
(she made it to David Letterman's Tonight Show,

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZOxtURhfEU)

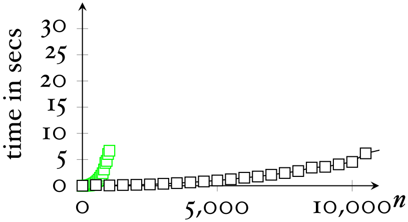
Why Bother?

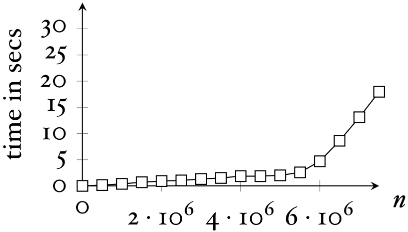
Ruby, Python, Java





Us (after next lecture)





matching `[a?]{n}[a]{n}` and `[a*]*b` against $\underbrace{\texttt{a...a}}_{n}$

Lectures 1 - 5

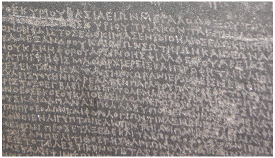
transforming strings into structured data

Lexing based on regular expressions

(recognising "words")

Parsing

(recognising "sentences")



Stone of Rosetta

Familiar Regular Expr.

`[a-z0-9_.-]+ @ [a-z0-9.-]+ . [a-z.]{2,6}`

`re*`	matches 0 or more times
`re+`	matches 1 or more times
`re?`	matches 0 or 1 times
`re{n}`	matches exactly `n` number of times
`re{n,m}`	matches at least `n` and at most `m` times
`[...]`	matches any single character inside the brackets
`[^...]`	matches any single character not inside the brackets
`a-zA-Z`	character ranges
`\d`	matches digits; equivalent to `[0-9]`
`.`	matches every character except newline
`(re)`	groups regular expressions and remembers the matched text

Today

- While the ultimate goal is to implement a small compiler (a really small one for the JVM)...

Let's start with:

- a web-crawler
- an email harvester
- (a web-scraper)

A Web-Crawler

1. given an URL, read the corresponding webpage
2. extract all links from it
3. call the web-crawler again for all these links

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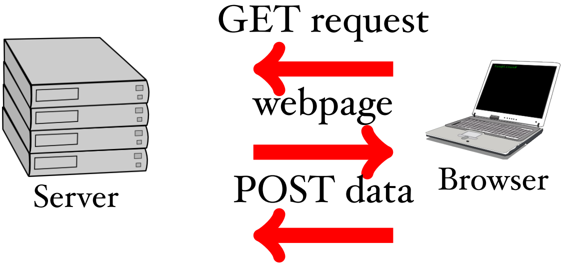
(we need a bound for the number of recursive calls)
(the purpose is to check all links on my own webpage)


GET request
webpage
POST data
Server
Browser

Scala

A simple Scala function for reading webpages:

```scala
import io.Source

def get_page(url: String) : String = {
  Source.fromURL(url).take(10000).mkString
}
```

Scala

A simple Scala function for reading webpages:

```
import io.Source

def get_page(url: String) : String = {
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}

get_page(”””http://www.inf.kcl.ac.uk/staff/urbanc/”””)
```

Scala

A simple Scala function for reading webpages:

```
import io.Source

def get_page(url: String) : String = {
  Source.fromURL(url).take(10000).mkString
}

get_page(”””http://www.inf.kcl.ac.uk/staff/urbanc/”””)
```

A slightly more complicated version for handling errors:

```
def get_page(url: String) : String = {
  Try(Source.fromURL(url).take(10000).mkString).
     getOrElse { println(s”  Problem with: $url”); ””}
}
```

A Regular Expression

- ... is a pattern or template for specifying strings

```
"https?://[^"]*"
```

matches for example

```
"http://www.foobar.com"
"https://www.tls.org"
```

A Regular Expression

- ... is a pattern or template for specifying strings

```
””””https?://[^”]*””””.r
```

matches for example

```
”http://www.foobar.com”
”https://www.tls.org”
```

Finding Operations

`rexp.findAllIn(string)`

returns a list of all (sub)strings that match the regular expression

`rexp.findFirstIn(string)`

returns either

- `None` if no (sub)string matches or
- `Some(s)` with the first (sub)string

```
val http_pattern = ””””https?://[^”]*””””.r

def unquote(s: String) = s.drop(1).dropRight(1)

def get_all_URLs(page: String) : Set[String] =
  http_pattern.findAllIn(page).map(unquote).toSet

def crawl(url: String, n: Int) : Unit = {
  if (n == 0) ()
  else {
    println(s”Visiting: $n $url”)
    for (u <- get_all_URLs(get_page(url))) crawl(u, n - 1)
  }
}

crawl(some_start_URL, 2)
```

A version that only crawls links in "my" domain:

```
val my_urls = ”””urbanc”””.r

def crawl(url: String, n: Int) : Unit = {
  if (n == 0) ()
  else if (my_urls.findFirstIn(url) == None) {
    println(s”Visiting: $n $url”)
    get_page(url); ()
  }
  else {
    println(s”Visiting: $n $url”)
    for (u <- get_all_URLs(get_page(url))) crawl(u, n - 1)
  }
}
```

A little email harvester:

```
val http_pattern = """https?://[^"]*""".r
val email_pattern =
  """([a-z0-9_\.-]+)@([\da-z\.-]+)\.([a-z\.]{2,6})""".r

def print_str(s: String) =
  if (s == "") () else println(s)

def crawl(url: String, n: Int) : Unit = {
  if (n == 0) ()
  else {
    println(s"Visiting: $n $url")
    val page = get_page(url)
    print_str(email_pattern.findAllIn(page).mkString("\n"))
    for (u <- get_all_URLs(page).par) crawl(u, n - 1)
  }
}
```

http://net.tutsplus.com/tutorials/other/8-regular-expressions-you-should-know/

Regular Expressions

Their inductive definition:

$$
\begin{array}{rcll}
r & ::= & \mathbf{0} & \text{null} \\
  & \mid & \mathbf{1} & \text{empty string / "" / []} \\
  & \mid & c & \text{character} \\
  & \mid & r_1 + r_2 & \text{alternative / choice} \\
  & \mid & r_1 \cdot r_2 & \text{sequence} \\
  & \mid & r^* & \text{star (zero or more)}
\end{array}
$$

```
abstract class Rexp
case object ZERO extends Rexp
case object ONE extends Rexp
case class CHAR(c: Char) extends Rexp
case class ALT(r1: Rexp, r2: Rexp) extends Rexp
case class SEQ(r1: Rexp, r2: Rexp) extends Rexp
case class STAR(r: Rexp) extends Rexp
```

Th

$$
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$$

Strings

...are lists of characters. For example `"hello"`

$$[h, e, l, l, o] \text{ or just } hello$$

the empty string: $[]$ or $""$

the concatenation of two strings:

$$s_1 @ s_2$$

$foo @ bar = foobar, baz @ [] = baz$

Languages, Strings

- **Strings** are lists of characters, for example

  $[\,], abc$ (Pattern match: $c::s$)

- A **language** is a set of strings, for example

  $$\{[\,], hello, foobar, a, abc\}$$

- **Concatenation** of strings and languages

$$\begin{array}{rcl} foo\ @\ bar & = & foobar \\ A\ @\ B & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} & \{s_1 @ s_2 \mid s_1 \in A \wedge s_2 \in B\} \end{array}$$

The Meaning of a Regular Expression

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
L(\mathbf{0}) & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} & \{\} \\
L(\mathbf{1}) & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} & \{[]\} \\
L(c) & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} & \{[c]\} \\
L(r_1 + r_2) & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} & L(r_1) \cup L(r_2) \\
L(r_1 \cdot r_2) & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} & \{s_1 @ s_2 \mid s_1 \in L(r_1) \wedge s_2 \in L(r_2)\} \\
L(r^*) & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} &
\end{array}
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\begin{array}{rcl}
L(r)^0 & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} & \{[]\} \\
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(append on sets)

$\{s_1 @ s_2 \mid s_1 \in L(r) \wedge s_2 \in L(r)^n\}$

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L(r^*) & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} & \bigcup_{0 \leq n} L(r)^n
\end{array}
$$

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
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$$

(append on sets)

$\{s_1 @ s_2 \mid s_1 \in L(r) \wedge s_2 \in L(r)^n\}$

The Meaning of Matching

A regular expression r matches a string s provided

$$s \in L(r)$$

...and the point of the next lecture is to decide this problem as fast as possible (unlike Python, Ruby, Java)

Written Exam

- Accounts for 80%.
- You will understand the question "*Is this relevant for the exam?*" is very demotivating for the lecturer!
- Deal: Whatever is in the homework (and is not marked "*optional*") is relevant for the exam.
- Each lecture has also a handout. There are also handouts about notation and Scala.

Coursework

- Accounts for 20%. Two strands. Choose **one**!

Strand 1

- four programming tasks:
  - matcher (4%, 19.10.)
  - lexer (5%, 03.11.)
  - parser (5%, 23.11.)
  - compiler (6%, 7.12.)

Strand 2

- one task: prove the correctness of a regular expression matcher in the Isabelle theorem prover
- 20%, submission 7.12.

- Solving more than one strand will **not** give you more marks.

Lecture Capture

- Hope it works...

Lecture Capture

- Hope it works...
- It is important to use lecture capture wisely:
  - Lecture recordings are a study and revision aid.
  - Statistically, there is a clear and direct link between attendance and attainment: Students who do not attend lectures, do less well in exams.
- Attending a lecture is more than watching it online – if you do not attend, you miss out!

Questions?