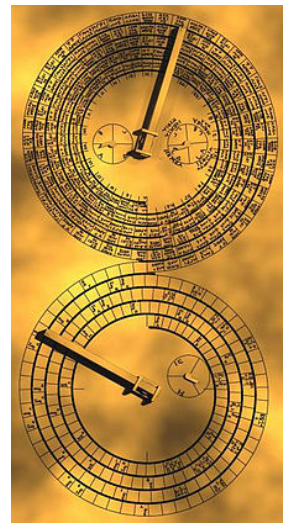
Automata and Formal Languages (1)



Antikythera automaton, 100 BC (Archimedes?)

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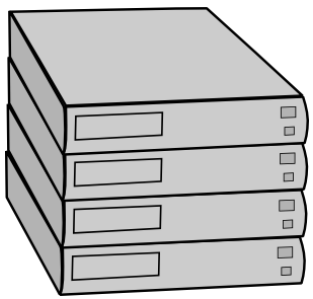
Slides: KEATS



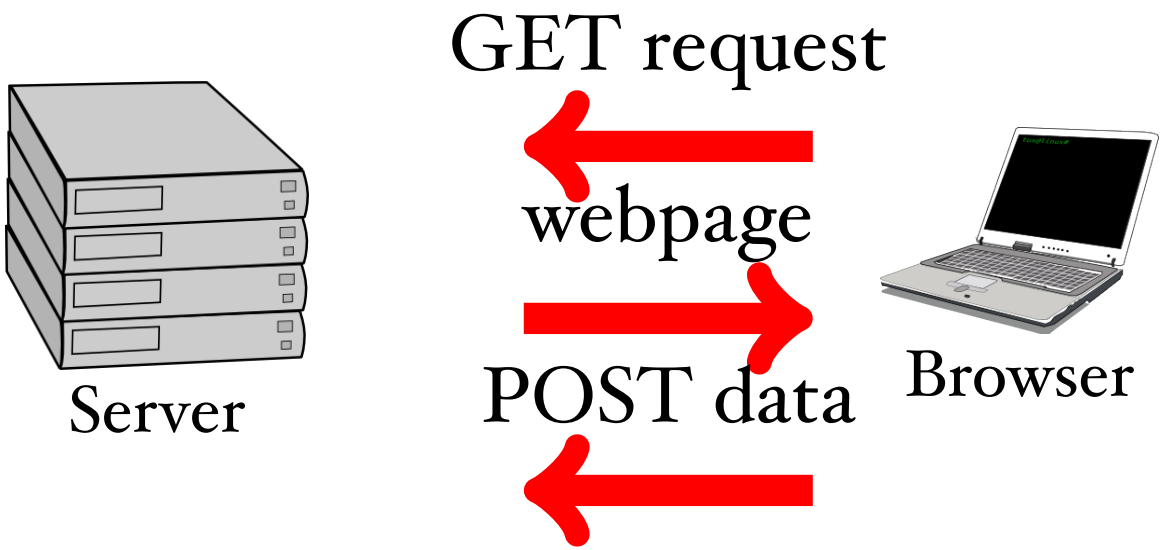
Server

GET request

webpage

POST data

Browser



- programming languages, compilers

transforming strings into structured data

Lexing

(recognising “words”)

Parsing

(recognising “sentences”)

The subject is quite old:

- Turing Machines, 1936
- first compiler for COBOL, 1957 (Grace Hopper)
- but surprisingly research papers are still published now

Grace Hopper

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

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

This Course

- 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)

Scala

a simple Scala function for reading webpages

```
1  import io.Source
2
3  def get_page(url: String) : String = {
4    Source.fromURL(url).take(10000).mkString
```

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1 import io.Source
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get_page("""http://www.inf.kcl.ac.uk/staff/urbanc/""")
```

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

slightly more complicated for handling errors properly:

```
1 def get_page(url: String) : String =
2   Try(Source.fromURL(url).take(10000).mkString) getOrE
3     { 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"
```

`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

```
1  val http_pattern = """\"https?://[^\"]*\"""".r
2
3  def unquote(s: String) = s.drop(1).dropRight(1)
4
5  def get_all_URLs(page: String) : Set[String] = {
6    http_pattern.findAllIn(page).map(unquote).toSet
7  }
8
9  def crawl(url: String, n: Int) : Unit = {
10   if (n == 0) ()
11   else {
12     println(s"Visiting: $n $url")
13     for (u <- get_all_URLs(get_page(url)))
14       crawl(u, n - 1)
15   }
16 }

crawl(some_start_URL, 2)
```

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

```
1  val my_urls = """urbanc""".r
2
3  def crawl(url: String, n: Int) : Unit = {
4    if (n == 0) ()
5    else if (my_urls.findFirstIn(url) == None) ()
6    else {
7      println(s"Visiting: $n $url")
8      for (u <- get_all_URLs(get_page(url)))
9        crawl(u, n - 1)
10   }
11 }
```

a little email "harvester":

```
1  val http_pattern = """\"https?://[^\"]*\"""".r
2  val my_urls = """urbanc""".r
3  val email_pattern =
4    """([a-z0-9_\.-]+)@([\da-z\.-]+)\.([a-z\.]{2,6})""".
5
6  def crawl(url: String, n: Int) : Unit = {
7    if (n == 0) ()
8    else {
9      println(s"Visiting: $n $url")
10     val page = get_page(url)
11     println(email_pattern.findAllIn(page).mkString("\n
12     for (u <- get_all_URLs(page))
13       crawl(u, n - 1)
14   }
15 }
```

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

Regular Expressions

Their inductive definition:

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

Regular Expressions

In Scala:

```
1  abstract class Rexp
2
3  case object NULL extends Rexp
4  case object EMPTY extends Rexp
5  case class CHAR(c: Char) extends Rexp
6  case class ALT(r1: Rexp, r2: Rexp) extends Rexp
7  case class SEQ(r1: Rexp, r2: Rexp) extends Rexp
8  case class STAR(r: Rexp) extends Rexp
```

The Meaning of a Regular Expression

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
L(\varnothing) & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} & \varnothing \\
L(\epsilon) & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} & \{""\} \\
L(c) & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} & \{"c"\} \\
L(r_1 + r_2) & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} & L(r_1) \cup L(r_2) \\
L(r_1 \cdot r_2) & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} & \{\, s_1 @ s_2 \mid s_1 \in L(r_1) \wedge s_2 \in L(r_2) \,\} \\
L(r^*) & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} &
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$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
L(r)^0 & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} & \{""\} \\
L(r)^{n+1} & \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} & L(r) @ L(r)^n
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(append on sets)

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

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
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The Meaning of Matching

a regular expression r matches a string s is defined as

$$s \in L(r)$$

This Course

We will have a look at:

- regular expressions / regular expression matching
- derivatives
- automata
- parsing
- grammars
- a small interpreter / compiler

Exam

- The question “Is this relevant for the exam?” is not appreciated!

  Whatever is in the homework sheets (and is not marked “optional”) is relevant for the exam.
  No code needs to be written in the exam.