Programming Languages A Journey into Abstraction and Composition

Introduction to Programming Languages

Prof. Dr. Guido Salvaneschi

School of Computer Science

University of St.Gallen

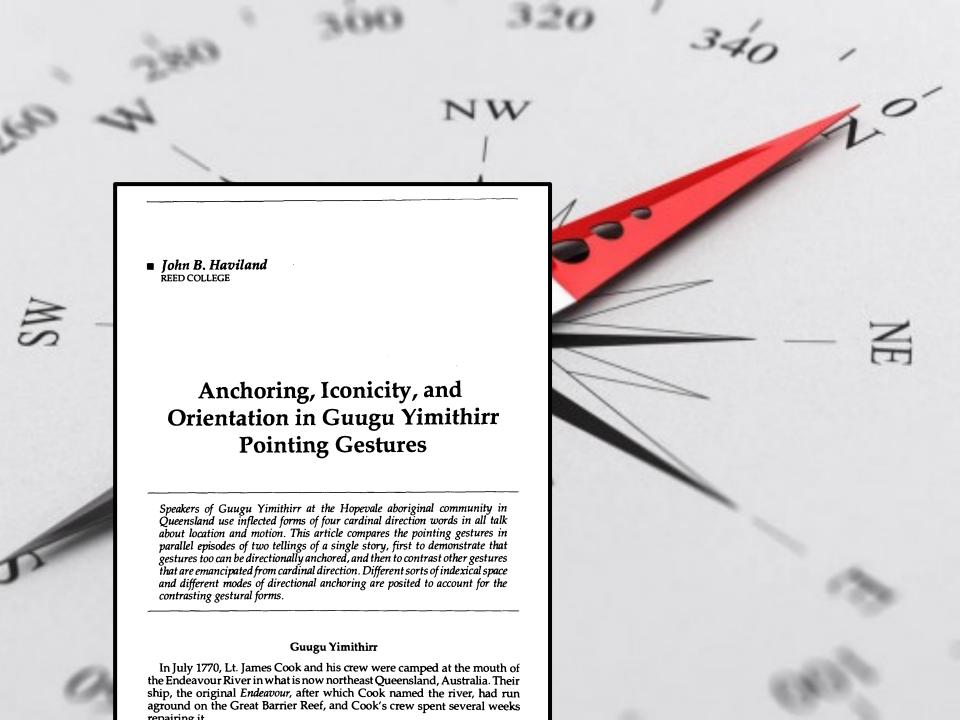
LANGUAGE AND MIND

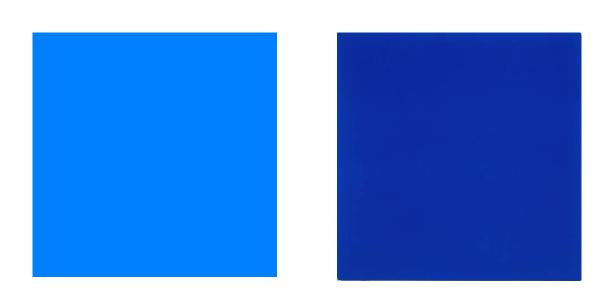
Language shapes the way we think, and determines what we can think about.

Benjamin Lee Whorf







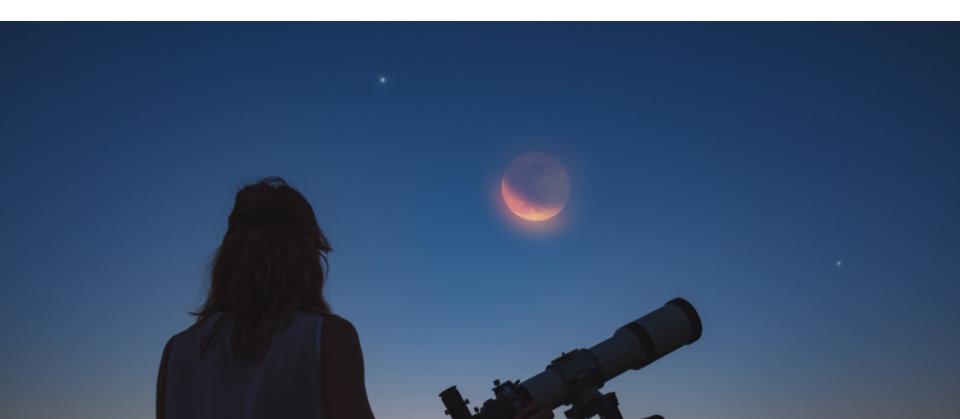




LANGUAGE AND COMPUTERS

How to talk to a computer?

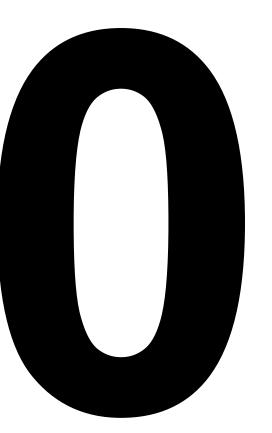
I saw a woman with a telescope wrapped in paper

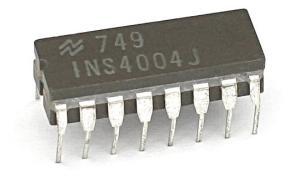


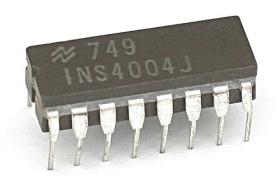


a alamy stock photo

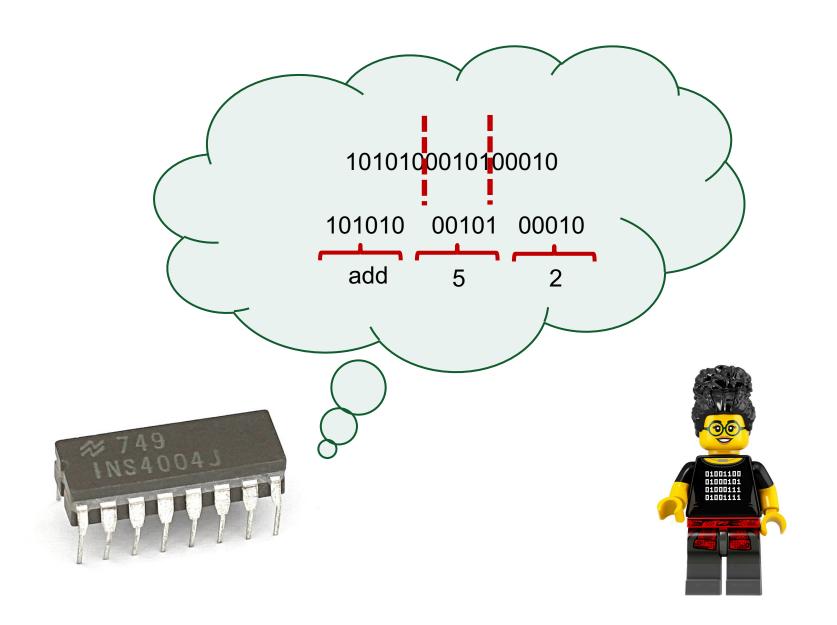
CT65R5 www.alamy.com

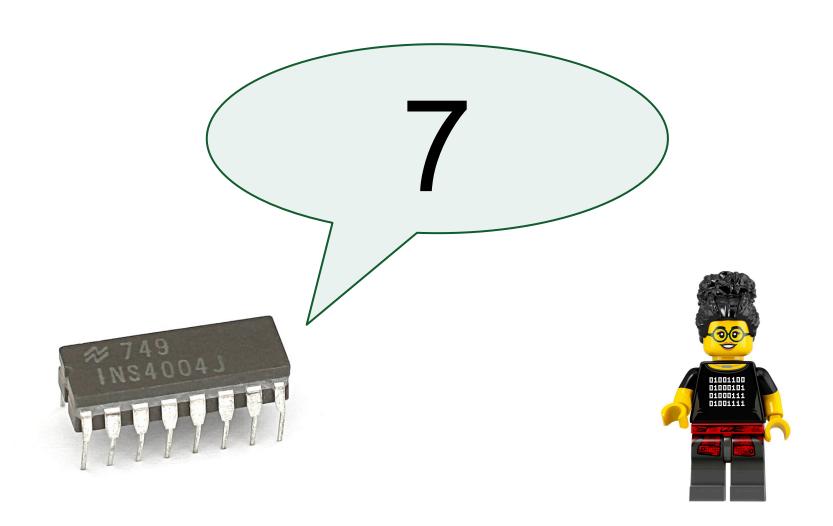


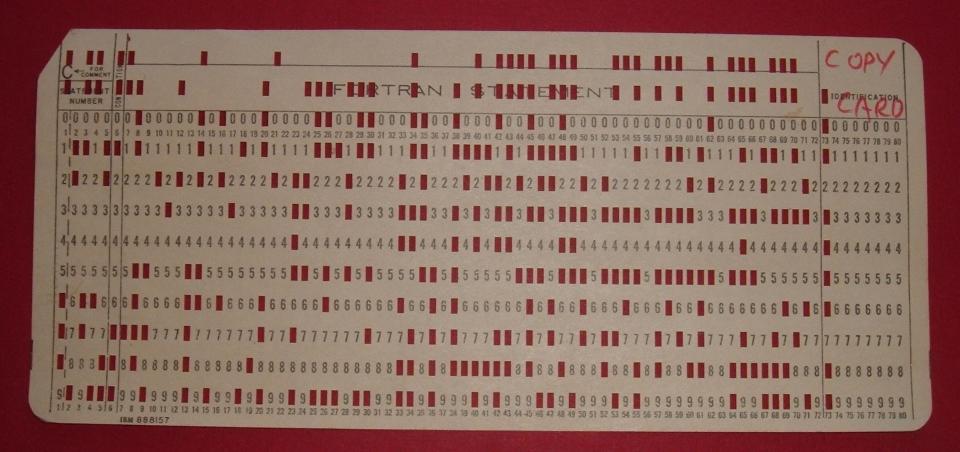
















A TALE OF ABSTRACTION

Language shapes the way we think, and determines what we can think about.

Benjamin Lee Whorf



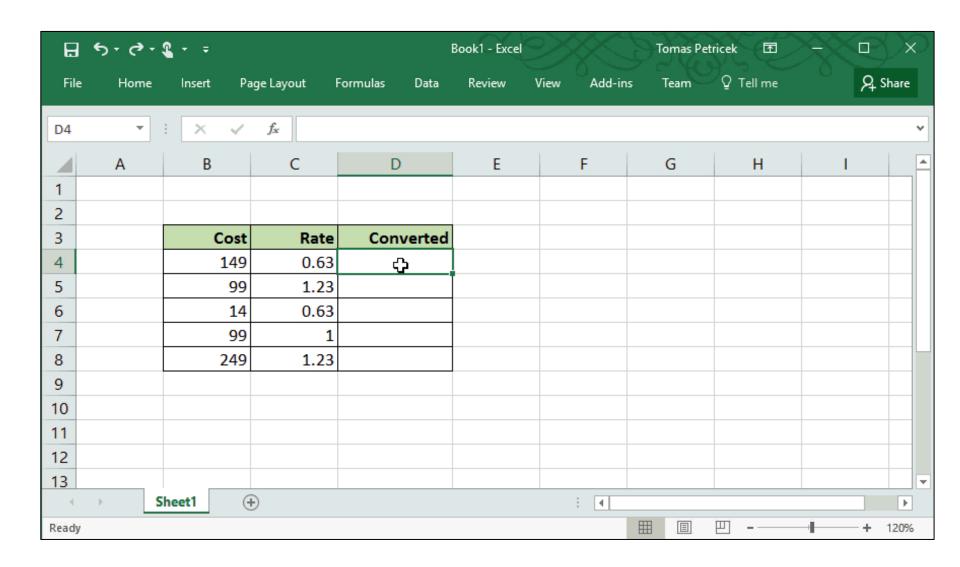
ABSTRACTION CONCEPTS 1010100010100010

The Joy of Variables

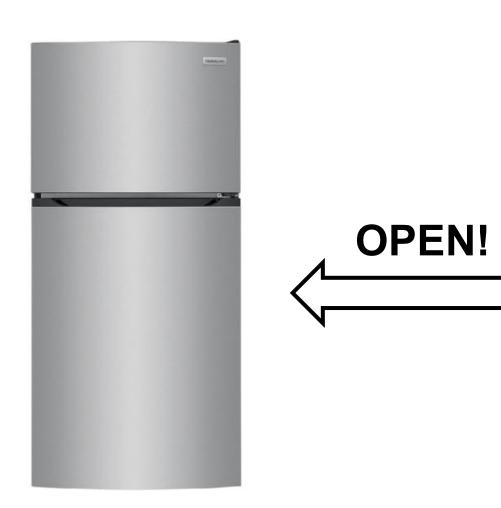
```
addNumbers() {
    x = 2;
    y = 5;

    z = x + y;
}
```

Spread Sheets



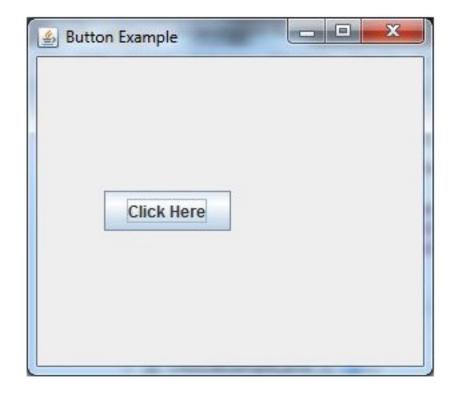






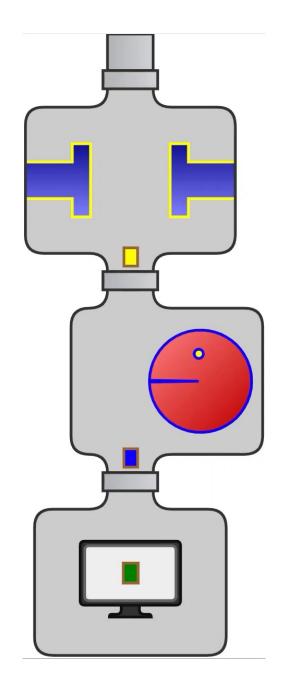
Object-oriented Programming

```
w = new window()
w.setSize(300x300)
w.setTitle("Button Example")
w.addButton("Click Here")
...
w.show()
```





shapesEventStream
.transform(toSquare)
.filter(notYellow)
.show(screen)



How Different are Programming Languages, Really?

Calculate the square of the even numbers between 1 and 10

How Different are Programming Languages, Really?

Calculate the square of the even numbers between 1 and 10

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Even: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10

Squares: 4, 16, 36, 64, 100

```
import java.util.*;
public class HelloWorld{
   public static void main(String []args){
     ArrayList<Integer> list1 =
        new ArrayList<>(Arrays.asList(1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10));
     ArrayList<Integer> list2 = new ArrayList();
     for (Integer e : list1){
        if (isEven(e)){
          list2.add((int) Math.pow(e, 2));
                                                              [x^2 | x < [1..10], even x]
     System.out.println(list2);
```

Java

Haskell

import java.util.*;



public static void main(String []args){

```
ArrayList<Integer> list1 =
  new ArrayList<>(Arrays.asList(1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10));
ArrayList<Integer> list2 = new ArrayList();
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Java

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Java

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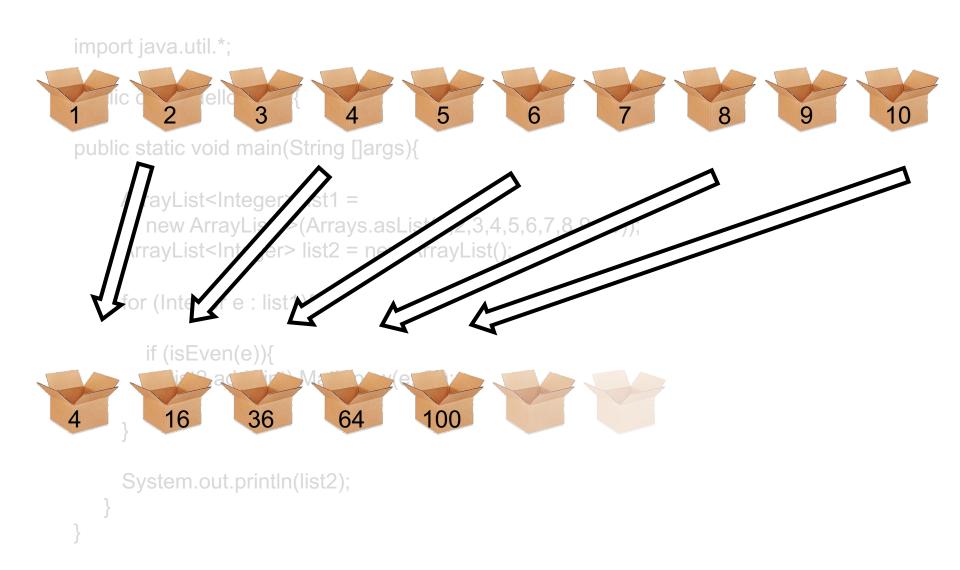
Java

import java.util.*; public static void main(String []args){ ArrayList<Integer> list1 = Even?ew ArrayList<>(Arrays.asList(1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10)); ArrayList<Integer> list2 = new ArrayList(); nteger e : list1){ if (isEven(e)){ System.out.println(list2);

Java

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Java



Java

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                                                              [x^2 | x < [1..10], even x]
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```

Java

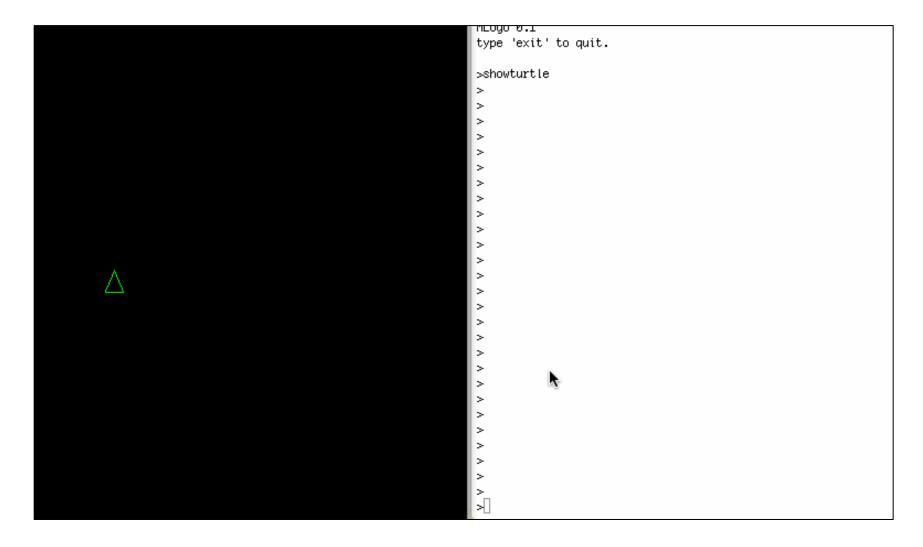
Haskell

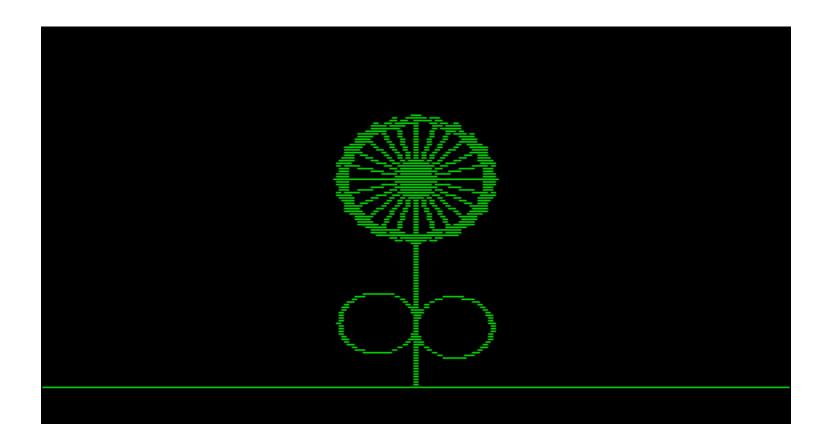
```
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public class HelloWorld{
public static void main(String []args){
    ArrayList<Integer> list1 =
        new ArrayList<>(Arrays.asList(1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10));
     ArrayList<Integer> list2 = new ArrayList();
     for (Integer e : list1){
       if (isEven(e)){
          list2.add((int) Math.pow(e, 2)); \{x^2 \mid 1 \le x \le 10, x\%2 = 0, x \in \mathbb{N}\}
                                                               [x^2 | x < [1..10], even x]
     System.out.println(list2);
```

Java

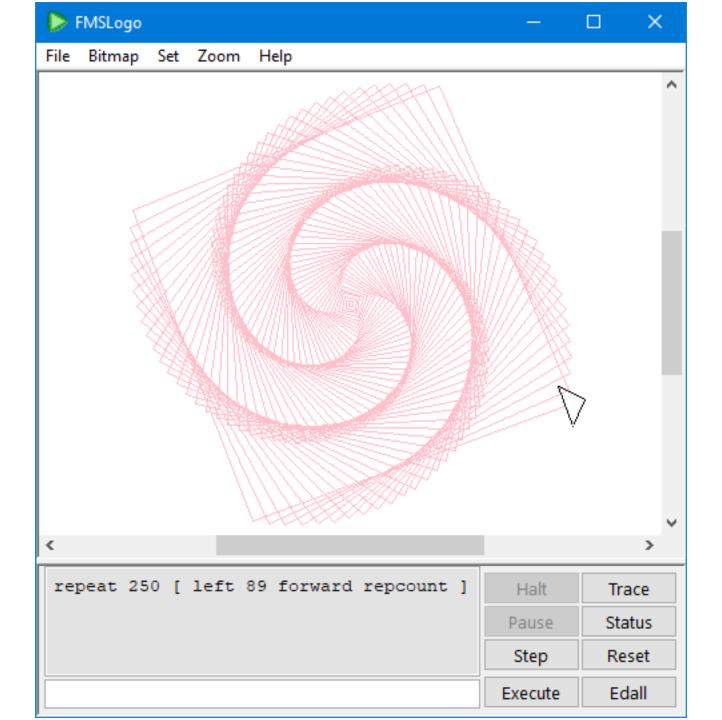
Haskell

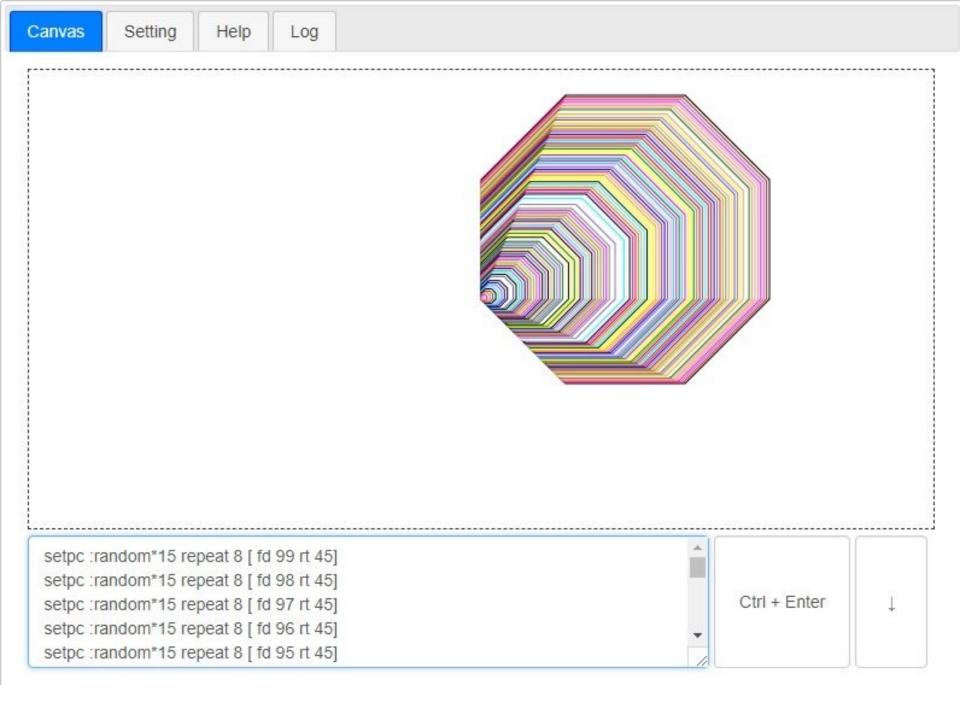
The Logo Programming language

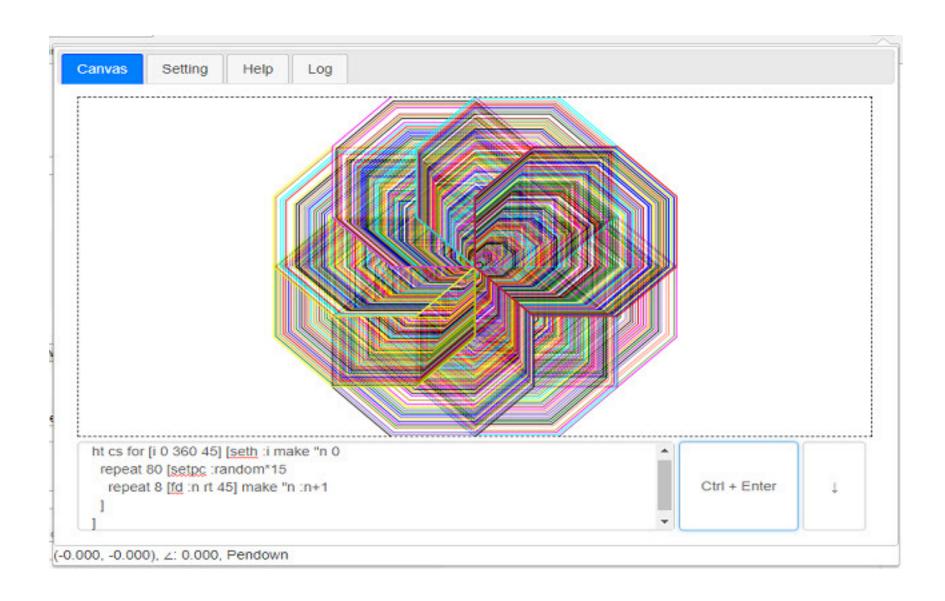












Domain-specific Languages

A Domain-Specific Language for Payroll Calculations: a Case Study at DATEV

Markus Voelter, Sergej Koščejev, Marcel Riedel, Anna Deitsch and Andreas Hinkelmann

1 Introduction

Over the last three years, DATEV, a leading German payroll services provider, has been developing a domain-specific language (DSL) for expressing the calculation logic at the core of their payroll systems. The goal is to allow the business programmers to express and test the calculations and their evolution over time in a way that is completely independent of the technical infrastructure that is used to execute them in the data center. Business programmers are people who are experts in the intricacies of the payroll domain and its governing laws and regulations (LaR) – but not in software development – which leads to interesting tradeoffs in the design of the DSL. The specific set of challenges that motivated the development of the DSL are given in Sec. 3.2. Payroll might seem dull and not too complicated ("just a bunch of decisions and some math"). However, the need to work on data that changes over time, to follow the evolution of the LaR, and to keep the language understandable for non-expert programmers makes it interesting from a language design perspective. The need for execution independent of the deployment infrastructure in the data center and on other devices plus

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Domain-specific languages

A Domain-Specific Language for Payroll Calculations: a Case Study at DATEV

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```
val taxRate
                                      // type explicitly given
                    = 20%
val minIncome : EUR = 2000 EUR
val minTax
                                      // type inferred
                    = 200 EUR
val deadline
                    = /2019 01 01/
fun calcTax(income: EUR, d: date)
  = if d > deadline
                                      // compare dates
     then if income > minIncome
                                      // compare currency
             then (taxRate of income) // work with percentages
             else minTax + 10 EUR
                                     // calculate with currency
     else 0 EUR
```

language understandable for non-expert programmers makes it interesting from a language design perspective. The need for execution independent of the deployment infrastructure in the data center and on other devices plus

```
Markus Voelter independent/itemis, e-mail: voelter@acm.org
Sergej Koščejev independent/itemis, e-mail: sergej@koscejev.cz
Marcel Riedel
DATEV e.G., e-mail: marcel.riedel@datev.de
```

HMusic: A domain specific language for music programming and live coding

André Rauber Du Bois Programa de Pós-Graduação em Computação Universidade Federal de Pelotas Pelotas - RS - Brazil dubois@inf.ufpel.edu.br Rodrigo Geraldo Ribeiro Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciência da Computação Universidade Federal de Ouro Preto Ouro Preto - MG - Brazil rodrigo@decsi.ufop.br

ABSTRACT

This paper presents HMusic, a domain specific language based on music patterns that can be used to write music and live coding. The main abstractions provided by the language are patterns and tracks. Code written in HMusic looks like patterns and multi-tracks available in music sequencers, drum machines and DAWs. HMusic provides primitives to design and compose patterns generating new patterns. The basic abstractions provided by the language have an inductive definition and HMusic is embedded in the Haskell functional programming language, hence programmers can design functions to manipulate music on the fly. The current implementation of the language is compiled into Sonic Pi [10] and can be downloaded from [9].

Author Keywords

Live coding, Functional Programming, Haskell

CCS Concepts

•Applied computing \rightarrow Sound and music computing; *Performing arts*; •Software and its engineering \rightarrow Functional languages;

1. INTRODUCTION

Computers are generic abstract machines that can be programmed with different goals in a variety of domains, including arts in general, and music. Computer music is usually associated with the use of software applications to create music, but on the other hand, there is a growing interest in programming languages that let artists write software as an expression of art. There are a number of programming languages that allow artists to write music, e.g., CSound [2], Max [13, 28], Pure Data [23], Supercollider [19], Chuck [27], FAUST [22], to name a few. Besides writing songs, all these languages also allow the live coding of music. Live coding is the idea of writing programs that represent music

very similar to the grids available in sequencers, drum machines and DAWs. The difference is that these abstractions have an inductive definition, hence programmers can write functions that manipulate these tracks in real time. As the DSL is embedded in Haskell, it is possible to use all the power of functional programming in our benefit to define new abstractions over patterns of songs. To understand the paper the reader needs no previous knowledge of Haskell, although some knowledge of functional programming and recursive definitions would help. We try to introduce the concepts and syntax of Haskell needed to understand the paper as we go along.

The contributions of this paper are as follows:

- We describe the design and implementation of HMusic, a DSL for music programming that provides the abstractions of patterns and tracks, together with a set of functions to manipulate and combine these abstractions. The interesting aspect of the language is that basic programs look like the grids available in drum machines and sequencers, which is a concept familiar to music composers.
- We describe a simple interface for live coding based on looping tracks and function application to modify tracks in real time.

In the current implementation of HMusic, tracks can load pre-recorded samples. As it is currently compiled into Sonic Pi [10], any sample accessible by the Sonic Pi environment can be loaded and manipulated in tracks. The current implementation of the HMusic language can be downloaded from [9].

The paper is organized as follows. First we describe the main constructors for pattern (Section 2.1) and track (Section 2.2) design and their basic operations. Next, we examine the important abstraction of track composition, i.e., combining different multi-tracks to form a new track (Section 2.3). The abstraction provided by HMusic for live cod-

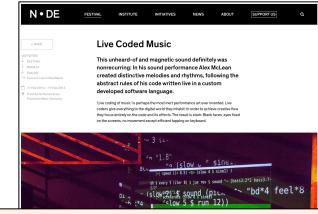
```
Spike pyTabs
Text 🔀
        Name "Dim na vodi"
        Author "Tim1"
        Beat 4/4
        Tempo 120
import
bass "instruments/Soundfont BassFing.sf2"
guitar "instruments/Saber 5ths and 3rds.sf2"
sequence guitar-solo guitar tabs
EI-0--3----3-----3-----3-----3-----3---0-II
Tekst Neki Selection Label
```

```
Name "Dim na vodi"
                                                song
   Author "Tim1"
                                                meta
   Beat 4/4
                                                data
   Tempo 120
import
                                                import
bass "instruments/Soundfont BassFing.sf2"
                                                section
guitar "instruments/Saber_5ths_and_3rds.sf2"
sequence guitar-solo bass_tabs
sequences
                                                section
E|-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-3-2-1-0-0-3-3-5-5-3-3-0-|
sequence guitar-rhythm guitar_chords
   A(4) B(4) C(4) D(4) E(4) F(4) G(4)
segment Chorus
                                               song
   bass tabs : bass
                                               segments
   guitar_chords : guitar
                                                section
timeline
                                                song
                                                timeline
   Chorus
```



DJs of the Future Don't Spin Records—They **Write Code**

"Live-coding" parties are the latest phenomenon in underground electronic music culture.





dance music and 'algorave' – how got cool

FINANCIAL TIMES

nputer code are being blended to create an entrancing experience

RENICK BELL IS standing in front of his computer at a small table in the middle of the dance floor. The stoic. bespectacled musician types quickly and efficiently, his eyes locked to his computer screen. Around him in a wide circle, the crowd bobs to his music. Sputtering tom rolls, blobby techno synths, and crystalline cymbal taps blossom and spill out of the theater's massive surround-sound system. All the lights are off, and the



EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

Why don't we use **the same** PL?

What is **the best** PL?

How many PLs are there?

Why don't we add all possible concepts to a single PL?

Programming Languages as a Social Process

Reports and Articles

Social Processes and Proofs of Theorems and Programs

Richard A. De Millo Georgia Institute of Technology

Richard J. Lipton and Alan J. Perlis Yale University

It is argued that formal verifications of programs, no matter how obtained, will not play the same key role in the development of computer science and software engineering as proofs do in mathematics. Furthermore the absence of continuity, the inevitability of change, and the complexity of specification of significantly many real programs make the formal verification process difficult to justify and manage. It is felt that ease of formal verification should not dominate program language design.

Key Words and Phrases: formal mathematics, mathematical proofs, program verification, program specification

CR Categories: 2.10, 4.6, 5.24

I should like to ask the same question that Descartes asked. You are proposing to give a precise definition of logical correctness which is to be the same as my vague intuitive feeling for logical correctness. How do you intend to show that they are the same? ... The average mathematician should not forget that intuition is the final authority.

J. Barkley Rosser

Many people have argued that computer programming should strive to become more like mathematics. Maybe so, but not in the way they seem to think. The aim of program verification, an attempt to make programming more mathematics-like, is to increase dramatically one's confidence in the correct functioning of a piece of software, and the device that verifiers use to achieve this goal is a long chain of formal, deductive logic. In mathematics, the aim is to increase one's confidence in the correctness of a theorem, and it's true that one of the devices mathematicians could in theory use to achieve this goal is a long chain of formal logic. But in fact they don't. What they use is a proof, a very different animal. Nor does the proof settle the matter; contrary to what its name suggests, a proof is only one step in the direction of confidence. We believe that, in the end, it is a social process that determines whether mathematicians feel confident about a theorem—and we believe that,

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A good analogy: artificial languages are similar to **human languages**

Cultural heritage, social groups



Effect of companies and market

- Microsoft: C#

Apple: Objective-C, Swift

- Google: Go, Dart









[Obj-C]



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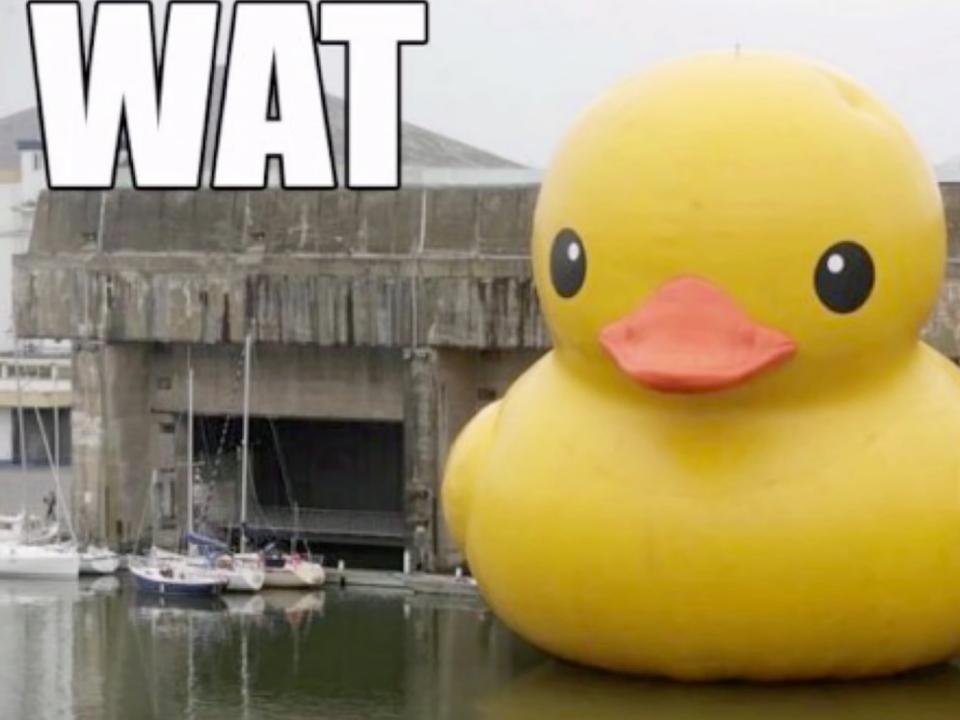
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Interplay between technologies

- Early '90s: e-commerce becomes popular
- April 1995: at Netscape, Brendan Eich designs JavaScript





JavaScript: let's Figure out the Semantics

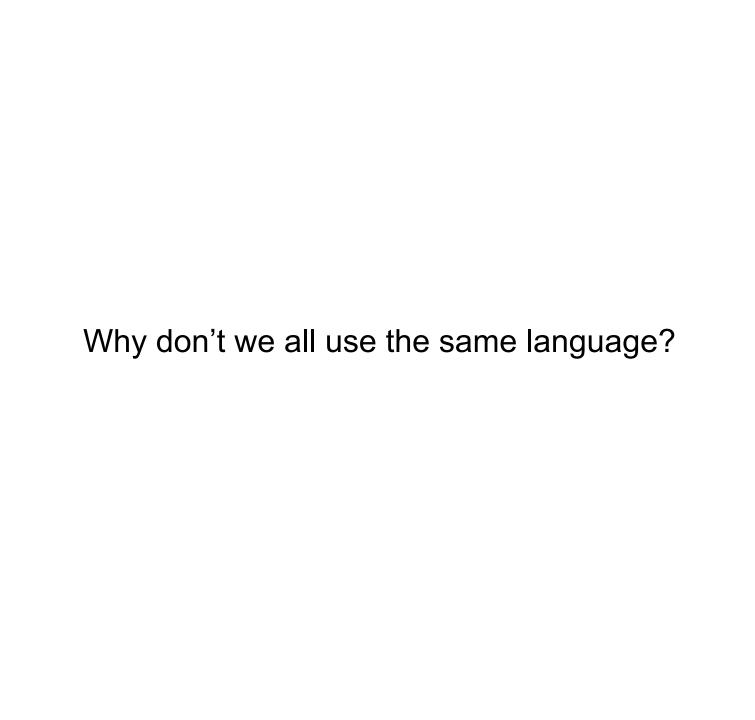
Sergio Maffeis, John C. Mitchell, and Ankur Taly. 2008. **An Operational Semantics for JavaScript.** In Proceedings of the 6th Asian Symposium on Programming Languages and Systems (APLAS '08), G. Ramalingam (Ed.). Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, 307-325.

Arjun Guha, Claudiu Saftoiu, and Shriram Krishnamurthi. 2010. **The essence of javascript**. In Proceedings of the 24th European conference on Object-oriented programming (ECOOP'10), Theo D'Hondt (Ed.). Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, 126-150.

Daejun Park, Andrei Stefănescu, and Grigore Roşu. 2015. **KJS: a complete formal semantics of JavaScript.** In Proceedings of the 36th ACM SIGPLAN Conference on Programming Language Design and Implementation (PLDI '15). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 346-356.

. . .





Why don't we all use the same language?

Which one?

Uh... What about the most common?

Why don't we all speak Chinese?

What is the best language?

No clear answer (what's the "best" human language!?)

Some languages are very effective for certain tasks

- E.g., Python for data science



How many languages exist?

Wikipedia lists 700 "recognized" languages

In practice, many more. Could be ~10.000

What is a 'new' language anyway?

For comparison, ~6000 human languages

TIOBE Index for October 2021

10

17

19

14

15

12

13

16

37

10

11

12

13

14

16

17

18

October Headline: Python programming language number 1!

For the first time in more than 20 years we have a new leader of the pack: the Python programming language. The long-standing hegemony of Java and C is over. Python, which started as a simple scripting language, as an alternative to Perl, has become mature. Its ease of learning, its huge amount of libraries, and its widespread use in all kinds of domains, has made it the most popular programming language of today. Congratulations Guido van Rossum! Proficiat! — Paul Jansen CEO TIOBE Software

The TIOBE Programming Community index is an indicator of the popularity of programming languages. The index is updated once a month. The ratings are based on the number of skilled engineers world-wide, courses and third party vendors. Popular search engines such as Google, Bing, Yahool, Wikipedia, Amazon, YouTube and Baidu are used to calculate the ratings. It is important to note that the TIOBE index is not about the best programming language or the language in which most lines of code have been written.

The index can be used to check whether your programming skills are still up to date or to make a strategic decision about what programming language should be adopted when starting to build a new software system. The definition of the TIOBE index can be found here.

Oct 2021	Oct 2020	Change	Programming Language	Ratings	Change
1	3	^	Python	11.27%	-0.00%
2	1	~	G c	11.16%	-5.79%
3	2	~	🥞, Java	10.46%	-2.11%
4	4		G C++	7.50%	+0.57%
5	5		G C#	5.26%	+1.10%
6	6		VB Visual Basic	5.24%	+1.27%
7	7		JS JavaScript		

Assembly language

Classic Visual Basic

MATLAB

Groovy

Swift

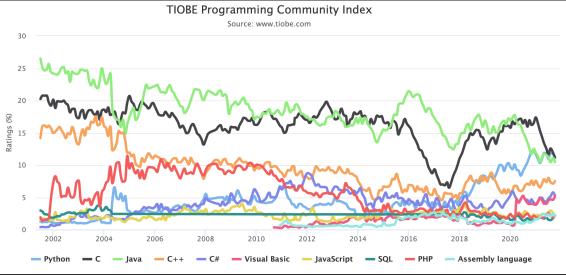
Fortran

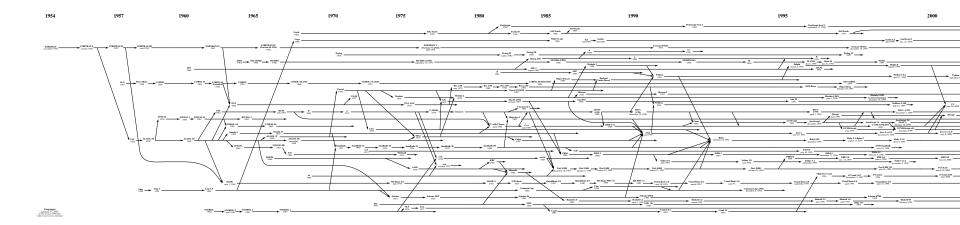
1.08%

0.93%

+0.70%

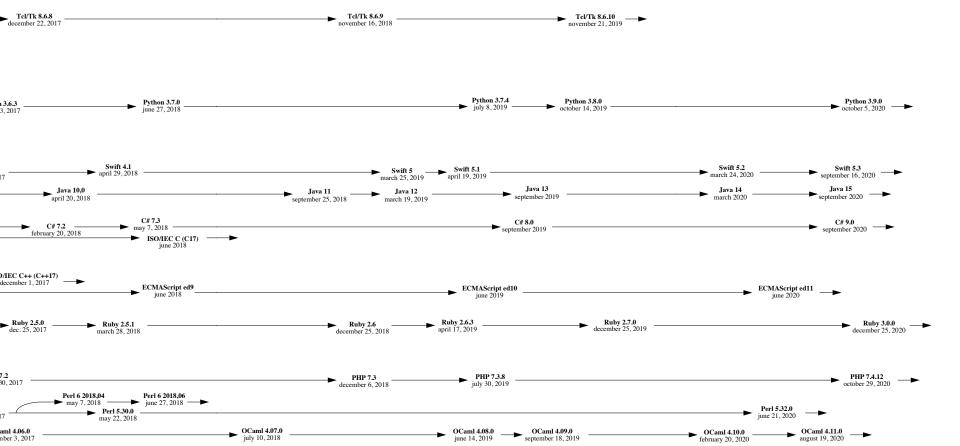
-0.49%





Languages january 1^{SI}, 2021 © Éric Lévénez 1999-2021 http://www.levenez.com/lang/>
 SNOBOL
 SNOBOL 2
 SNOBOL 3
 SNOBOL 4

 1962
 april 1964
 1965
 1967



Why don't we add all possible concepts to a single language?

Chinese characters + German grammar + UK humor + Latin declinations + ...



DOES IT MATTER?

When Abstraction Goes Wrong

```
addNumbers() {
    x = 2;
    y = 5;

    z = x + y;
}
```

1010100010100010

When Abstraction Goes Wrong

```
addNumbers() {
    x = 2147483647;
    y = 5;
    z = x + y;
}
```

01001100
11000101
01101100
01011001
01000101
11011000

Abstraction Gone Wrong: The Ariane 5





*** STOP: 0x00000019 (0x00000000.0xC00E0FF0.0xFFFFEFD4.0xC0000000) BAD_POOL_HEADER

CPUID: Genuine Intel 5.2.c irgl:1f SYSVER 0xf0000565

```
D11 Base DateStmp - Name
8010000 3202c07e - ntoskrn1.exe
80001000 31ed06b4 - atapi.sys
802c6000 31ed06bf - aic78xx.sys
802c6000 31ed6c7a - CLASS2.SYS
802c1000 31ec6c7a - Floppy.SYS
802c1000 31ec6c7a - Rec.SYS
80
```

Address dword dump Build [1381] - Name
fec32d84 80143e00 80143e00 80144000 ffdff000 00070b02 - KSecDD.SYS
801471c8 80144000 80144000 ffdff000 c03000b0 00000001 - ntoskrnl.exe
801471dc 80122000 f0003fe0 f030eee0 e133c4b4 e133cd40 - ntoskrnl.exe
80147304 803023f0 0000023c 00000034 00000000 00000000 - ntoskrnl.exe

Restart and set the recovery options in the system control panel or the /CRASHDEBUG system start option.





Z 50

The Software Engineering Process

REQUIREMENTS

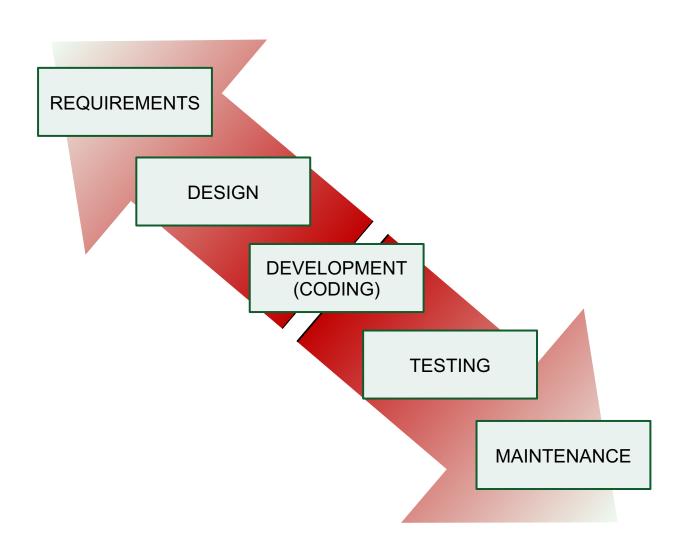
DESIGN

DEVELOPMENT (CODING)

TESTING

MAINTENANCE

The Software Engineering Process



Ferguson's Covid 19 Epidemic Model

"From tomorrow, if you have coronavirus symptoms, however mild [...] you should stay at home for at least 7 days to protect others [...]"

Boris Johnson, March 12th, 2020

Ferguson's Covid 19 Epidemic Model

"From tomorrow, if you have coronavirus symptoms, however mild [...] you should stay at home for at least 7 days to protect others [...]"

Boris Johnson, March 12th, 2020

March 16th: Imperial team's model, released

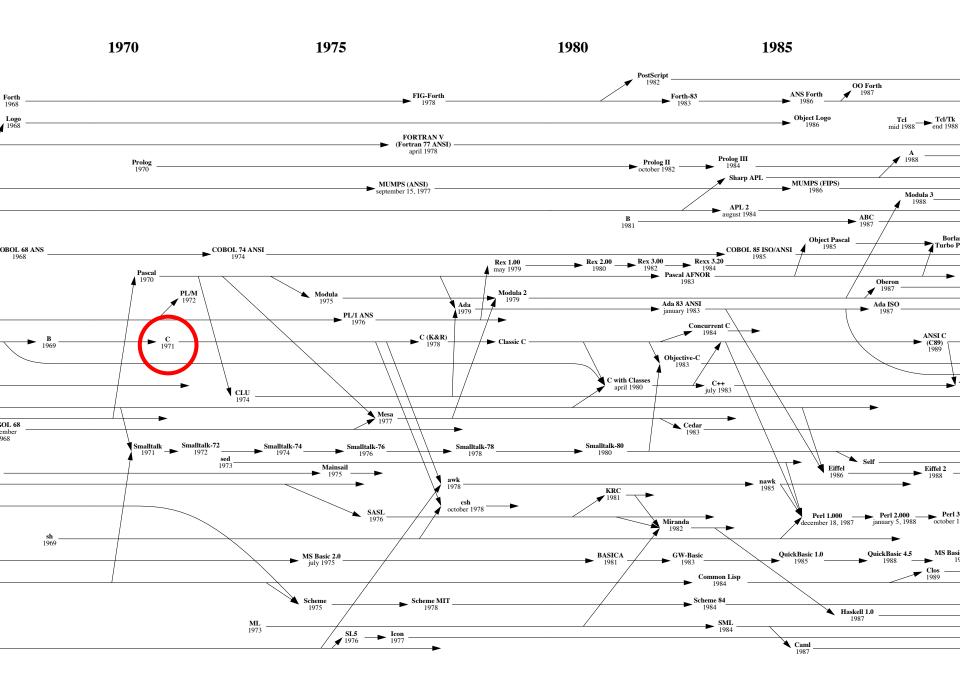
- With no countermeasures, UK's health service overwhelmed.
- UK: As many as 500,000 deaths
- United States might face 2.2 million deaths.

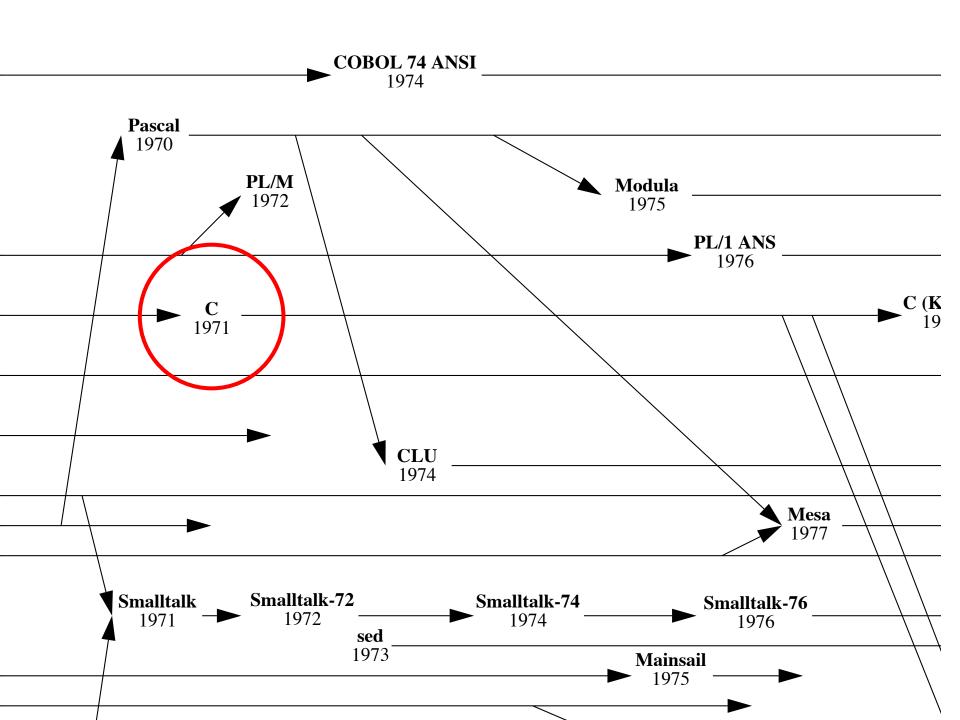


I'm conscious that lots of people would like to see and run the pandemic simulation code we are using to model control measures against COVID-19. To explain the background - I wrote the code (thousands of lines of undocumented C) 13+ years ago to model flu pandemics...

10:13 PM · Mar 22, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

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Replying to @neil_ferguson

I am happy to say that @Microsoft and @GitHub are working with @Imperial_JIDEA and @MRC_Outbreak to document, refactor and extend the code to allow others to use without the multiple days training it would currently require (and which we don't have time to give)...

17 287

C) 1.2K

...



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They are also working with us to develop a web-based front end to allow public health policy makers from around the world to make use of the model in planning. We hope to make v1 releases of both the source and front end in the next 7-10 days...

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That timescale reflects the balancing of those priorities with the multitude of other urgent policy-relevant COVID-19 questions we are addressing....