

CSc 372

Comparative Programming Languages

1 : Introduction

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Why learn programming languages?

- In this class we will study two languages: Prolog and Haskell.
- There are several reasons why you would want to learn a large number of languages:
 - 1 There will always be new languages used in industry. Recently, we've gone from C to Ada to C++ to Java and (maybe) to C#. Every computer scientist should be ready to make this change.
 - 2 Learning a new **programming paradigm** teaches you new ways to solve problems.

Functional Programming (FP)

- Functional programming is a way to program in a more “mathematical” way.
- An FP program consists of a collection of simple functions which are combined into more complex functions, which are combined. . . , etc.
- FP programs are easier to reason about mathematically than imperative (C) or object-oriented programs.
- We are going to study **Haskell**, one of the more popular modern FP languages.

Logic Programming (FP)

- Logic programming is a way to program using ideas from logic, such as first order predicate calculus.
- There really is only one well-known language in this class, **Prolog**, and that is what we will study.
- Prolog allows you to solve some very complex problems very easily.

A Preview

You Are Not Supposed to
Understand This Lecture!!!

yet...



Hello World (Prolog)

_____ The file `hello.pl` _____

```
hello :-  
    write('Hello World!'), nl.
```

_____ Loading and running _____

```
> gprolog  
| ?- ['hello.pl'].  
| ?- hello.  
Hello World!  
  
yes  
| ?-
```

Hello World (Haskell)

_____ The file `hello.hs` _____

```
main = putStr (" Hello World")
```

_____ Loading and running _____

```
> ghci  
  
Main> :load hello.hs  
Main> main  
Hello World  
Main>
```


Hello World (Java)

```
class Hello {  
    String message;  
    Hello(String message) {  
        this.message = message;  
    }  
    void sayit() {  
        System.out.println(message);  
    }  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        Hello myHello = new Hello("Hello World");  
        myHello.sayit();  
    }  
}
```

Repeating Hello World (Prolog)

_____ The file `hello.pl` _____

```
hello2(0).  
hello2(N) :-  
    N > 0,  
    write('Hello World!'), nl,  
    N1 is N - 1,  
    hello2(N1).
```

_____ Loading and running _____

```
> gprolog  
| ? - ['hello.pl'].  
| ? - hello2(2).  
Hello World!  
Hello World!
```

Repeating Hello World (Haskell)

_____ The file `hello.hs` _____

```
main n = putStr ( unlines (
                    take n (repeat "Hello World!") ))
```

_____ Loading and running _____

```
> ghci
Main> :load hello.hs
Main> main 2
Hello World!
Hello World!
```

- `repeat "Hello World!"` generates an infinite list of strings.
- `take n [...]` returns first `n` elements of a list.
- `unlines [...]` concatenates a list of strings into one string.

Remember...

You Are Not Supposed to
Understand This Lecture!!!

yet... ...but you will need to know it all for the final!



- Hello World! in over two hundred languages:

<http://www2.latech.edu/~acm/HelloWorld.shtml>.

Exercise

- Go to the 372 web page and browse around the information about the different languages.
- If you own your own computer, download and install the different compilers/interpreters.
- Try to run the examples in this lecture, on your own machine, on `lectura`, or on the Windows machines in the lab.

Summary

- In this class we will study two languages: Prolog and Haskell.
- Haskell is a functional programming languages.
- Prolog is a logic programming language.