CS 432 Fall 2018

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Type Systems and the Visitor Design Pattern

General theme

- Pattern matching over a tree is very useful in compilers
 - Debug output (P3)
 - Type checking & other static analysis (P4)
 - Code generation (P5)
 - Instruction selection
- Theory and practice
 - Type systems describe correctly-typed program trees
 - Visitor design pattern allows clean implementation in a nonfunctional language
 - Generalization of tree traversal (CS 240 approach)



- A type is an abstract category characterizing a range of data values
 - Base types: integer, character, boolean, floating-point
 - Enumerated types (finite list of constants)
 - Pointer types ("address of X")
 - Array or list types ("list of X")
 - Compound/record types (named collections of other types)
 - Function types: (type1, type2, type3) \rightarrow type4

Type Systems

- A type system is a set of type rules
 - Rules: valid types, type compatibility, and how values can be used
 - A type judgment is an assertion that expression \mathbf{x} has type t
 - Often requires the context of a type environment (i.e., symbol table)
 - "Strongly typed" if every expression can be assigned an unambiguous type
 - "Statically typed" if all types can be assigned at compile time
 - "Dynamically typed" if some types can only be discovered at runtime
- Benefits of a robust type system
 - Earlier error detection
 - Better documentation
 - Increased modularization

- A formal type system is a set of type inference rules
 - Each rule has a name, zero or more premises (above the line), and a conclusion (below the line)
 - Premises and conclusions are type judgments $(A \vdash x : t)$
 - " \vdash " is a ternary operator connecting expressions with types
 - Omit type for statements (" $A \vdash s$ " means "s is well-typed in environment A")

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{TDec} \hline & \text{TDec} & \text{TTrue} \hline & \text{TTrue} \hline & \text{TLoc} & \frac{\text{ID} : \tau \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash \text{ID} : \tau} \\ \\ \text{TAdd} \hline & \frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \text{int} \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \text{int}}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 `+` e_2 : \text{int}} \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} \text{TAssign} \hline & \frac{\text{ID} : \tau \in \Gamma \quad \Gamma \vdash e : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \text{ID} `=` e `;`} \\ \\ \text{TFuncCall} \hline & \frac{\text{ID} : (\tau_1, \tau_2, ..., \tau_n) \rightarrow \tau_r \in \Gamma \quad \Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_2 \quad ... \quad \Gamma \vdash e_n : \tau_n}{\Gamma \vdash \text{ID} `(` e_1, e_2, ..., e_n `)` : \tau_r} \end{array}$$

- Type proofs consist of composing multiple type rules
 - Apply rule instances recursively to form proof trees
 - Type environments (e.g., symbol tables, marked in rules with
 – operator)
 provide type context information
 - Proof structure is based on the AST structure ("syntax-directed")
 - Curry-Howard correspondence ("proofs as programs")

$$\begin{array}{c} \underline{y: int \in A} \\ \text{TFuncCall} & \underline{foo: (int) \rightarrow int \in A} \\ \hline \text{TFuncCall} & \underline{foo: (int) \rightarrow int \in A} \\ \hline \text{TAdd} & \underline{A \vdash foo(y): int} \\ \hline \text{TAdd} & \underline{A \vdash foo(y): int} \\ \hline \text{A} \vdash 1: int} \\ \hline \text{A} \vdash x = foo(y) + 1 \\ \hline \text{TAssign} \end{array}$$

A = { foo : int \rightarrow int, x : int, y : int }

- Is the following Decaf expression well-typed in the given environment?
 - If so, what is its type?

x + 4A = { x : int }



$$TLoc - \frac{ID : \tau \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash ID : \tau} \qquad TDec - \frac{\Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash DEC : int}$$

TAdd
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \mathbf{int} \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \mathbf{int}}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 `+` e_2 : \mathbf{int}}$$

TLoc
$$x : int \in A$$
TDec $A \vdash x :$ $A \vdash 4 : int$ TAdd $A \vdash x + 4 :$ $A \vdash x + 4 :$

 $A = \{ x : int \}$

$$TLoc - \frac{ID : \tau \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash ID : \tau} \qquad TDec - \frac{\Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash DEC : int}$$

TAdd
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \mathbf{int} \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \mathbf{int}}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 `+` e_2 : \mathbf{int}}$$

TLoc
$$x : int \in A$$
TDec $A \vdash x : int$ $A \vdash 4 : int$ TAdd $A \vdash x + 4 : int$ $A \vdash x + 4 : int$

 $A = \{ x : int \}$

P4: Static Analysis

- Language and project specifications provide rules to check at each type of AST node while traversing the AST
 - E.g., at ASTWhileLoop, make sure the conditional has a boolean type
 - E.g., at ASTBinaryExpr, if it's an add make sure both operands are integers (or if it's an equals make sure the operand types match)

P4: Static Analysis

- General idea: traverse AST and reject invalid programs
 - Need to traverse the tree multiple times
 - Build symbol tables
 - Perform type checking
 - Later compiler passes
 - We could write the tree traversal code every time, but that would get tedious and would result in a lot of code duplication
 - Software engineering provides a better way in the form of the visitor design pattern

A brief digression ...

• What are "design patterns"?

(HINT: remember them from CS 345!)

A brief digression ...

- What are "design patterns"?
 - A reusable "template" or "pattern" that solves a common design problem
 - "Tried and true" solutions
 - Main reference: <u>Design Patterns: Elements of</u> <u>Reusable Object-Oriented Software</u>
 - "Gang of Four:" Erich Gamma, Richard Helm, Ralph Johnson, and John Vlissides

Common Design Patterns

- Adapter Converts one interface into another
- Factory Allows clients to create objects without specifying a concrete class
- Flyweight Manages large numbers of similar objects efficiently via sharing
- Iterator Provides sequential access to a collection
- Monitor Ensures mutually-exclusive access to member variables
- Null Object Prevents null pointer dereferences by providing "default" object
- **Observer** Track and update multiple dependents automatically on events
- **Singleton** Provides global access to a single instance object
- **Strategy** Encapsulate interchangeable algorithms
- Thread Pool Manages allocation of available resources to queued tasks
- **Visitor** Provides an iterator over a (usually recursive) structure

Design Patterns

• Pros

- Faster development
- More robust code (if implemented properly)
- More readable code (for those familiar with the patterns)
- Improved maintainability
- Cons
 - Increased abstraction
 - Increased complexity
 - Philosophical: Suggests language deficiencies
 - Solution: Consider using a different language

Visitor Pattern

- Visitor design pattern: don't mix data and actions
 - Separates the representation of an object structure from the definition of operations on that structure
 - Keeps data class definitions cleaner
 - Allows the creation of new operations without modifying all data classes
 - Solves a general issue with OO languages
 - Lack of multiple dispatch (choosing a concrete method based on two objects' data types)
 - NOTE: This is stronger than parametric polymorphism alone
 - Less useful in functional languages with more robust pattern matching

General Form

- Data: AbstractElement (ASTNode)
 - ConcreteElement1 (ASTProgram)
 - ConcreteElement2 (ASTVariable)
 - ConcreteElement3 (ASTFunction)
 - etc.
 - All elements define "Accept()" method that recursively calls "Accept()" on any child nodes (this is the actual tree traversal code!)
- Actions: AbstractVisitor (DefaultASTVisitor)
 - ConcreteVisitor1 (BuildParentLinks)
 - ConcreteVisitor2 (CalculateNodeDepths)
 - ConcreteVisitor3 (StaticAnalysis)
 - BuildSymbolTables
 - MyDecafAnalysis
 - All visitors have "VisitX()" methods for each element type

Benefits

- Adding new operations is easy
 - Just create a new concrete visitor
 - In our compiler, create a new DefaultASTVisitor subclass
- No wasted space for state in data classes
 - Just maintain state in the visitors
 - In our compiler, we will make a few exceptions for state that is shared across many visitors (e.g., symbol tables)

Drawbacks

- Adding new data classes is hard
 - This won't matter for us, because our AST types are dictated by the grammar and won't change
- Breaks encapsulation for data members
 - Visitors often need access to all data members
 - This is ok for us, because our data objects are basically just structs anyway (all data is public)

Minor Modifications

- "Accept()" \rightarrow "traverse()"
- "Visit()" \rightarrow "preVisit()" and "postVisit()"
 - preVisit() allows preorder operations
 - postVisit() allows postorder operations
 - Also, a single inorder method: inVisit(ASTBinaryExpr)
- DefaultASTVisitor class
 - Implements ASTVisitor interface
 - Contains empty implementations of all "visit" methods
 - Allows subclasses to define only the relevant visit methods

Visitor example

```
public class WhileLoopCounter extends DefaultASTVisitor
{
    private int numWhileLoops = 0;
    @Override
    public void preVisit(ASTWhileLoop node)
    ł
        numWhileLoops++;
    }
    @Override
    public void postVisit(ASTProgram node)
    {
        System.out.println("Number of while loops = " +
                numWhileLoops);
    }
}
```

In DecafCompiler.java:

ast.traverse(new WhileLoopCounter());

Decaf Project

- Project 3
 - ASTVisitor
 - DefaultASTVisitor (implements ASTVisitor)
 - PrintDebugTree
 - ExportTreeDOT
 - BuildParentLinks (activity)
 - CalculateNodeDepths (activity)
- Project 4
 - PrintDebugSymbolTables (extends DefaultASTVisitor)
 - StaticAnalysis (extends DefaultASTVisitor)
 - BuildSymbolTables
 - DecafAnalysis + MyDecafAnalysis
- Project 5
 - ILOCGenerator + MyILOCGenerator