

CS 432  
Fall 2023

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$\Gamma$   
 $\tau$   $\lambda$

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

# Type Systems and the Visitor Design Pattern

# General theme

- *Pattern matching* over a tree is very useful in compilers
  - Debug output (P2)
  - **Type checking & other static analysis (P3)**
  - Code generation (P4)
  - Instruction selection
- Theory and practice
  - **Type systems** describe correctly-typed program trees
  - **Visitor design pattern** allows clean implementation in a non-functional language
    - Generalization of **tree traversal** (CS 240 approach)

# Types

- 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) → type4

**Not all of these will be necessary for Decaf**

# 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 **x** has type **t**
    - Written as “**x : t**” (e.g., “**3 : int**” and “**true : bool**”)
    - 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

# Formal Type Theory

- A **formal type system** is a set of **type 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** ( $\mathbf{A} \vdash \mathbf{x} : \mathbf{t}$ )
  - “ $\vdash$ ” is a ternary operator connecting **type environments**, expressions, and types
  - Omit type for statements (“ $\mathbf{A} \vdash \mathbf{s}$ ” means “s is well-typed in environment A”)

$$\text{TDec} \frac{}{\vdash \text{DEC} : \mathbf{int}}$$

$$\text{TTrue} \frac{}{\vdash \text{true} : \mathbf{bool}}$$

$$\text{TLoc} \frac{\text{ID} : \tau \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash \text{ID} : \tau}$$

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

$$\text{TAssign} \frac{\Gamma \vdash \text{ID} : \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash e : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \text{ID} \text{ '=' } e \text{ ';'}}$$

$$\text{TFuncCall} \frac{\text{ID} : (\tau_1, \tau_2, \dots, \tau_n) \rightarrow \tau_r \in \Gamma \quad \Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_2 \quad \dots \quad \Gamma \vdash e_n : \tau_n}{\Gamma \vdash \text{ID} \text{ '(' } e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n \text{ ')' : } \tau_r}$$



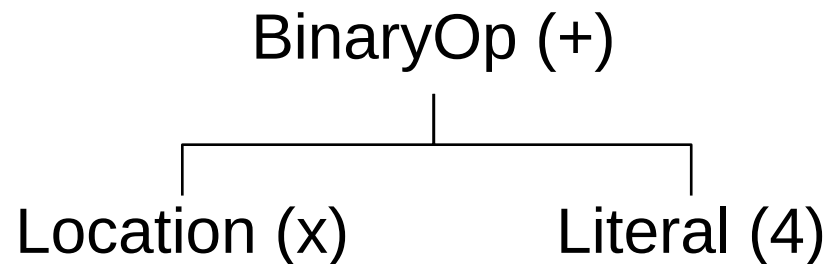
# Formal Type Theory

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

$x + 4$

$A = \{ x : \text{int} \}$

AST:



# Formal Type Theory

$$\text{TLoc} \frac{\text{ID} : \tau \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash \text{ID} : \tau}$$

$$\text{TDec} \frac{}{\vdash \text{DEC} : \text{int}}$$

$$\text{TAdd} \frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \text{int} \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \text{int}}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 \text{ '+' } e_2 : \text{int}}$$

$$\frac{\text{TLoc} \frac{x : \text{int} \in A}{A \vdash x : \text{int}} \quad \frac{}{A \vdash 4 : \text{int}} \text{TDec}}{A \vdash x + 4 : \text{int}} \text{TAdd}$$

$$A = \{ x : \text{int} \}$$



# P3: Static Analysis

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

$$\text{TDec} \frac{}{\vdash \text{DEC} : \text{int}}$$

$$\text{THex} \frac{}{\vdash \text{HEX} : \text{int}}$$

$$\text{TStr} \frac{}{\vdash \text{STR} : \text{str}}$$

$$\text{TTrue} \frac{}{\vdash \text{true} : \text{bool}}$$

$$\text{TFalse} \frac{}{\vdash \text{false} : \text{bool}}$$

$$\text{TSubExpr} \frac{\Gamma \vdash e : t}{\Gamma \vdash \text{'(' e ')} : t}$$

$$\text{TAdd} \frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \text{int} \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \text{int}}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 \text{'+' } e_2 : \text{int}} \quad (\text{similar for TSub (-), TMul (*), TDiv (/) and TMod (\%)})$$

$$\text{TEq} \frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : t \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : t}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 \text{'==' } e_2 : \text{bool}} \quad (\text{similar for TNeq (!=)})$$

$$\text{TWhile} \frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \text{bool} \quad \Gamma \vdash b}{\Gamma \vdash \text{while '(' e ')'} b}$$

# P3: Static Analysis

- General idea: traverse AST and reject invalid programs
  - Need to traverse the tree multiple times
    - Print debug output
    - Build symbol tables
    - Perform type checking
    - Later compiler passes
  - We could write the tree traversal code every time, but that would be tedious w/ 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"?

*(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: Design Patterns: Elements of Reusable Object-Oriented Software
    - "Gang of Four:" Erich Gamma, Richard Helm, Ralph Johnson, and John Vlissides

*(excerpt scanned as  
PDF in Canvas)*



# 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
    - Consider a more appropriate language if many patterns are needed

# 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 most OO languages
    - Lack of **multiple dispatch** (choosing a concrete method based on two objects' data types)
      - NOTE: This is stronger than single dispatch + overloading alone
    - Less useful in functional languages with more robust pattern matching
    - In C, we'll handle this manually with function pointers

# General Form

- Data: **AbstractElement** (ASTNode)
  - ConcreteElement1 (Program)
  - ConcreteElement2 (VarDecl)
  - ConcreteElement3 (FuncDecl)
  - (etc.)
  - All elements define "Accept ( )" method that recursively calls "Accept ( )" on any child nodes (this is the actual tree traversal code!)
- Actions: **AbstractVisitor** (NodeVisitor)
  - ConcreteVisitor1 (PrintVisitor)
  - ConcreteVisitor2 (SetParentVisitor)
  - ConcreteVisitor3 (CalcDepthVisitor)
  - (etc.)
  - All visitors have "previsit\_X( )" and "postvisit\_X( )" methods for each element type (i.e., AST node type)



# Benefits

- Adding new operations is easy
  - Just create a new concrete visitor
  - In our compiler, create a new `NodeVisitor` struct
- No wasted space for state in data classes
  - Just maintain state in the visitors (e.g, `AnalysisData`)
  - In our compiler, we will make a few exceptions for state that is shared across many visitors (e.g., symbol tables)
    - These are stored as “attributes” in the AST

# 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 just structs anyway (all data is public)

# Minor Modifications

- "Accept()" → "traverse()"
- "Visit()" → "previsit\_X()" and "postvisit\_X()"
  - previsit\_X() allows preorder operations
  - postvisit\_X() allows postorder operations
  - Also, a single inorder method: `invisit_binaryop()`
- NodeVisitor struct
  - Function pointers for all visitor methods
    - CS 430 note: this is a manual implementation of **virtual method tables!**
  - No type checking – be careful when building the struct!
  - NULL pointers for unneeded methods
  - Allows subclasses to define only the relevant visit methods

# Visitor example

```
typedef struct {
    int loop_count;
} CountLoopsData;

#define DATA ((CountLoopsData*)(visitor->data))

void CountLoopsVisitor_previsit_program
    (NodeVisitor* visitor, ASTNode* node)
{
    DATA->loop_count = 0;
}

void CountLoopsVisitor_previsit_whileloop
    (NodeVisitor* visitor, ASTNode* node)
{
    DATA->loop_count++;
}

void CountLoopsVisitor_postvisit_program
    (NodeVisitor* visitor, ASTNode* node)
{
    printf("%d\n", DATA->loop_count);
}
```

# Visitor example

```
NodeVisitor* CountLoopsVisitor_new ()
{
    NodeVisitor* v = NodeVisitor_new();
    v->data = malloc(sizeof(CountLoopsData));
    v->dtor = free;
    v->previsit_program    = CountLoopsVisitor_previsit_program;
    v->previsit_whileloop = CountLoopsVisitor_previsit_whileloop;
    v->postvisit_program   = CountLoopsVisitor_postvisit_program;
    return v;
}
```

In main.c:

```
NodeVisitor_traverse_and_free(CountLoopsVisitor_new(), tree);
```

# Decaf Project

- Project 2 (parser)
  - NodeVisitor (blank)
  - PrintVisitor
  - GenerateASTGraph
  - SetParentVisitor
  - CalcDepthVisitor
- Project 3 (analysis)
  - PrintSymbolsVisitor
  - BuildSymbolTablesVisitor
  - Your static analysis (custom NodeVisitor)
- Project 4 (code gen)
  - Your code generator (custom NodeVisitor)