

Scoping and Types

Martin Kellogg

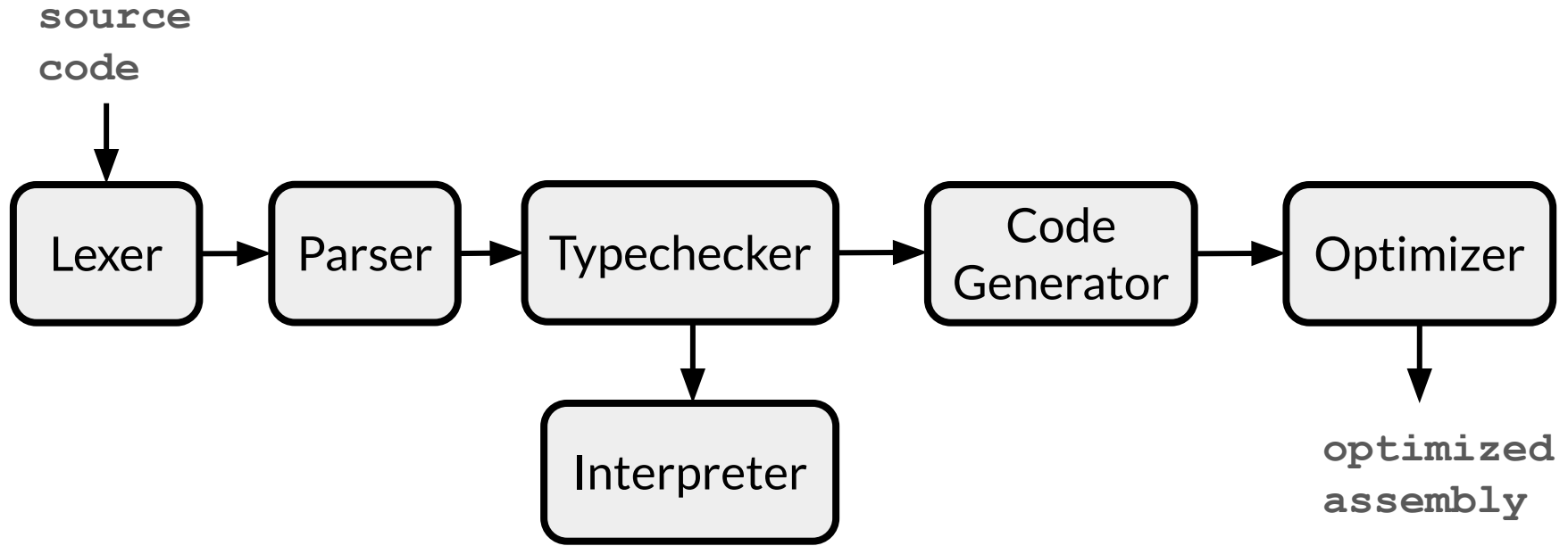
Today's Agenda

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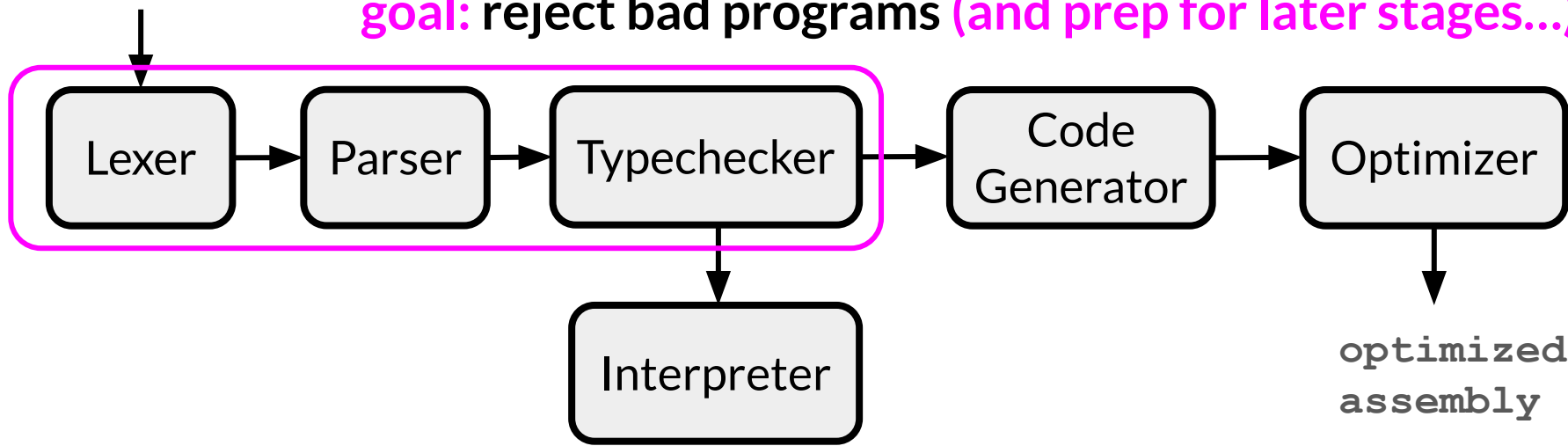
- **Overview of the role of semantic analysis in a compiler**
- Scoping and symbol tables
- Introduction to types

Traditional compiler/interpreter structure



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Together, these three stages can be thought of as a “frontend” for either a compiler or an interpreter. Their goal: reject bad programs (and prep for later stages...).



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Three “Compiler Frontend” stages that reject bad programs:

- Lexical analysis
 - Detects inputs with illegal tokens
- Parsing
 - Detects inputs with ill-formed parse trees
- Semantic analysis
 - Last “frontend” phase
 - Catches more errors! But what kinds of errors...

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- Lexing and parsing cannot catch some errors
 - Why? Some language constructs are **not context-free!**
- Examples:
 - All used variables must have been declared (i.e. **scoping**)
 - A method must be invoked with arguments of proper type (i.e. **typing**)
 - A class must not be defined more than once
 - etc.

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2. Static Types
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Let's look at one example: *scoping*

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 - Different scopes for same name don't overlap
- *Scoping rules* match identifier uses with identifier declarations
- Checking scoping rules is an important semantic analysis step in most languages
 - including Cool, Java, and C++ (and even Python has `global`)

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 - Cool, Java, C++, C#, etc., have static scope
- Ancient history: *dynamically scoped* languages
 - Scope depends on execution of the program
 - e.g., Lisp, SNOBOL, Tex, Perl, PostScript
 - though modern Lisp has changed to mostly static scoping

Static Scoping Example

```
let x: Int <- 0 in
{
  x;
  { let x: Int <- 1 in
    x; } ;
  x;
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Redefining a variable like `x` in this example is sometimes called “*shadowing* `x`”

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 - Class declarations (introduce class names)
 - Method definitions (introduce method names)
 - Let expressions (introduce object ids)
 - Formal parameters (introduce object ids)
 - Attribute definitions in a class (introduce object ids)
 - Case expressions (introduce object ids)

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- x can be used in exactly the AST subtree corresponding to e

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- A **symbol table** is a data structure that tracks the current **bindings** of identifiers in this manner
 - You'll need to make one for PA2
 - OCaml's `Hashtbl` is specifically designed to be a symbol table

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Cool UBD example (classes):

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class Foo {  
    ... let y : Test in ...  
};  
  
class Test {  
    ...  
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Cool UBD example (attributes):

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class Foo {  
    f(): Int { tm };  
    tm: Int <- 0;  
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 - Methods may also be redefined (overridden)

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For PA2, use **as many passes as you'd like** - we aren't evaluating you on efficiency, but on correctness.

Trivia Break:

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- Scoping and symbol tables
- **Introduction to types**

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- goal of a type system: **prevent errors** at run time due to unexpected values
- **type theory** is the discipline of math (yes!) that studies the formal properties of type systems
- most programming languages include some kind of type system
 - exceptions: assembly, Lisp, a few others

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- Regardless of their **logical** types, all of these have the **same assembly language implementation!**
 - one goal of typechecking: prevent mixing these up

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- A type system provides a concise **formalization** for a set of semantic checking rules

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  open (x: String) : File {  
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  }  
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- ...and arbitrarily-complex other properties (wait for **pluggable types** lecture later)

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Dynamic typing is sometimes called **duck typing**

- “if it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, you can treat it as a duck”

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Most “production” code written in a statically-typed language with **escape hatches**

- e.g., unsafe casts in C, native methods in Java

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- **Strength** of the type system
 - not all type systems can prove the same properties
 - e.g., Kotlin **guarantees no null-pointer dereferences**, but Java doesn't (both compile to Java bytecode)
 - stronger types can be added to a language (**ask me more**)
 - this is “pluggable types” from a few slides ago...

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 - **SELF_TYPE**
- There are **no unboxed base types** (like e.g., **int** in Java)
- The user must **declare** a type for all identifiers
 - “declare” here is just a fancy way to say “write down by hand”
- The compiler then **infers** types for expressions
 - for *every* expression!
 - Java, C, C++, etc., do this too

Aside: Typechecking vs. Type Inference

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 - Which do you think is harder?

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You can think of rules of inference as a compact notation for **If-Then** statements/conditionals

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Pronounced “we can prove that...”

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Inference Rule Examples

Valid use of the [Add] rule:

$$\frac{\vdash \text{false} : \text{Int} \quad \vdash \text{true} : \text{Int}}{\vdash \text{false} + \text{true} : \text{Int}}$$
$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} i \text{ is any integer} \\ \text{constant} \end{array}}{\vdash i : \text{Int}} \quad [\text{Int}]$$

describing how to type integers and +
expressions

- By filling in the templates, we can produce **complete typings** for expressions
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Baby's First Type Derivation

$$\vdash 1 + 2 : \text{Int}$$

on the whiteboard...

Course Announcements

- My OH this week are modified:
 - no OH this afternoon (faculty meeting)
- Don't forget: PA2c1 is due **Friday**
 - this is a testing assignment: you'll just write Cool programs
- PA1 grades will come out "soon"