

Review

Programming Languages

CS 214



Summary (Scope)

Dynamic-scoped languages bind identifiers at *run-time*

- Traversing *control-links* down the run-time stack.

Static-scoped languages bind locals at *compile-time*

- But binding for non-locals still occurs at run-time via *access links*

Static- and dynamic-scoping behave exactly the same, except when resolving accesses to non-local variables.

- If you never use non-locals, you'll never have scope problems, regardless of which kind of scope a language uses!



Summary (Object Oriented)

Object-oriented analysis and design is a way to build a system made up of a hierarchy of classes that reflects *real-world relationships*.

- A *subclass* inherits the attributes (data + operations) of its *superclass*.
- *Run-time binding* (or *dynamic dispatch*) ensures that when a message is sent to an object, the message is delivered to that object *first*:
 - If its class defines that message, that definition is invoked;
 - Otherwise, the message is sent “upward” in the hierarchy to the parent class, where the process is repeated.
 - If the message reaches the root class without finding a definition, a run-time error occurs.

This is called *polymorphism*, because the same message: *handle msg* may produce very different behaviors, depending on the receiver.

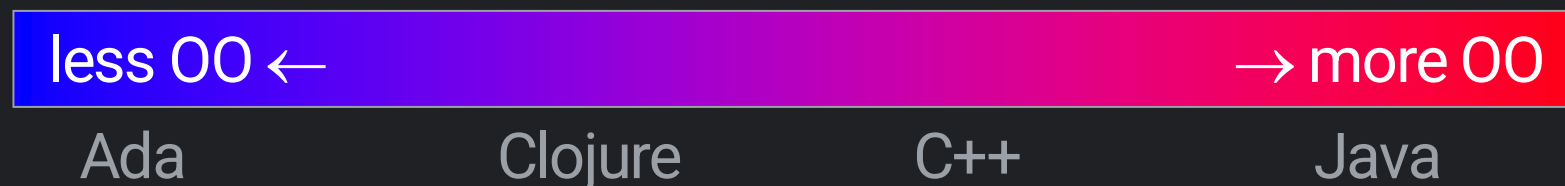


Summary (ii) (Object Oriented)

“OO” languages differ in how easy/simple they make OOP:

language/ binding	Ada	C++	Java	Clojure
compile time (static)	<i>default</i>	<i>default</i>	final (method)	<i>not supported</i>
run time (dynamic)	tagged T (type), and T'Class (handle)	virtual (method)	<i>default</i>	<i>all methods</i>

“OO” languages thus lie on an OO continuum:



Summary (Types 2)

A type consists of *data* and *operations*.

The set constructors: *product*, *function*, and *Kleene closure* provide a formal way to represent type construction, using *product* and *Kleene closure* to represent the *data*, and *function* to represent the *operations* on the new type.

Enumerations let us use *real-world values* for type data.

Subranges constrain the values of existing data types.

Arrays and *vectors* are sequences stored in *adjacent memory locations* that permit $O(1)$ time access to any value.

Lists are sequences stored in *dynamically allocated nodes*, that require $O(n)$ time (average) to access a random value.



Summary (ii) (Types 2)

Aggregates store multiple values of arbitrary types.

Pointers store addresses, permit us to build linked nodes.

A type system performs type-checking using structural equivalence or a version of name equivalence.

Type-checking may be:

- *Static*: done at *compile-time*; and/or
- *Dynamic*: done at *run-time*.

The more type-checking a language requires, the stronger its type-system, and the fewer type-errors slip past.

Ada has a very strong type-system.



Summary (encapsulation)

To achieve the goals of abstract data typing, we need:

- *Encapsulation*: data and operations in 1 syntactic unit;
- *Data hiding*: the ability to restrict access to ADT data.

Three different mechanisms have evolved for doing so:

- *The module*: a container for storing a data-type and its operations
- *The class*: a type-constructor that stores data and operations.
- *The Function*: the fulfillment of a contract, maintaining data within its own closure.

The class is better for *flexibility, reusability, and maintenance*,
the module is better for *time-efficiency and performance*,
Functions are better for *Multithreading and performance*.

Containers are packages or classes that store data-values.

- *Generic packages* and *templates* support strongly typed containers.
- *Generic containers* can be built in most modern languages.



Summary (Concurrency)

- *Concurrent computations* consist of multiple entities:
 - *Processes* in Smalltalk, MPI
 - *Tasks* in Ada
 - *Threads* in C/C++, C#, Java, Go, Python, Ruby, Scala, ...
- On a shared-memory multiprocessor:
 - The *Semaphore* was the first synchronization primitive
 - *Java* provides a *Semaphore* class for synchronizing threads
 - *Locks* and *condition variables* separate a semaphore's mutual-exclusion usage (locks) from its synchronization usage (c.v.s)
 - *Monitors* are higher-level, self-synchronizing objects
 - *Java* classes have an associated (simplified) monitor
- On a distributed system:
 - *Ada* tasks provide self-synchronizing *entry procedures*
 - *Erlang, Scala, MPI* support message-passing between processes



Summary (Formal Languages)

The Chomsky Hierarchy names four “levels” of language, plus the weakest machine able to recognize at each level:

3 Regular Expressions	→ Finite State Machine
2 Context Free Languages	→ Pushdown Automata
1 Context Sensitive Languages	→ Linear Bounded Automata
0 Unrestricted Languages	→ Turing Machine

The **TM** is the most powerful of the machines, able to

- recognize any language capable of being recognized.
- compute any function capable of being computed.

The **RAM** is a computational model that is

- as powerful as the TM
- more convenient than the TM for studying HLL constructs.

