

Language Design Proposal: ScalelScript

Student Name(s): Kyle Dewey

Language Name: ScalelScript

Compiler Implementation Language and Reasoning: Scala. I'm familiar with the language already, and it provides pattern matching.

Target Language: JavaScript

Language Description: has a Scala-like syntax (<https://www.scala-lang.org/>), but with a feature set that somewhat resembles Haskell (<https://www.haskell.org/>). Like Scala, it has mutable state and eager evaluation. Like Haskell, it has algebraic data types and typeclasses. The syntax used for typeclasses is based on Rust (<https://www.rust-lang.org/>). Given the high-level target, this is primarily an exploration of typechecking.

Planned Restrictions: there is no type inference, hindering practical usage. Moreover, tuples are required all over the place, which is very inconvenient. This is intentional to make the language itself simpler, at the cost of making its use more obnoxious. There are no optimizations.

Syntax:

`var` is a variable

`uname` is a user-defined type name

`cn` `us` a user-defined constructor name

`traitname` is a user-defined trait (typeclass) name

`typevar` is a type variable

`str` is a string

`i` is an integer

`type ::= String | Int | Unit | Built-in types`

`Self` | **used in a trait definition to refer to the type an implementation is defined for**

`type => type` | **Higher-order function type**

`(type+)` | **Tuple type. Must contain at least two types**

`uname[type*]` | **Generic user defined type. [] required**

`typevar` **Type variables**

`op ::= + | - | * | /` **Arithmetic operations**

`exp ::= var | str | i` | **Variables, strings, and integers are expressions**

`unit` | **Expression that creates a value of type Unit**

`self` | **Expression that refers to the data that a trait implementation is for**

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println(exp) | Prints something to the console
exp op exp | Arithmetic operations
(x: type) => e | Creates a higher-order function
exp(exp) | Calls a higher-order function
fn(exp) | Calls a toplevel function
exp.fn(exp) | Calls a function defined in a typeclass
{ stmt* exp } | Block (statements and an expression)
(exp+) | Creates a tuple. Must contain at least two
         expressions
cn[type*] | Creates a user-defined type, with given
           generic type parameters
e match { case* } Pattern matching
stmt ::= val x: type = exp | Immutable variable initialization
       var x: type = exp | Mutable variable initialization
       x = eep | Mutable variable assignment
case ::= pattern => exp
pattern ::= x | Introduces a new variable
          _ | Matches everything
          cn(pattern) | Matches constructor
          (pattern*) | Matches tuples
tintro ::= typevar | typevar : traitname | Introduces a type
                                                variable, possibly with
                                                a constraint that it
                                                implements a typeclass
tdef ::= data un[tintro*] = cdef+ Algebraic datatype definition
cdef ::= cn(type) Constructor definition
fdef ::= def fn[tintro*](x: type): type = exp Function
                                                definition
trait ::= trait traitname { fdef* } Trait (typeclass) definition
toplevel ::= tdef | fdef | trait Toplevel definitions
program ::= toplevel* exp Expression is the entry point

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Computation Abstraction Non-Trivial Feature: Typeclasses. Rust's OOP-like syntax is used.

Non-Trivial Feature #2: Type variables / generics.

Non-Trivial Feature #3: Full pattern matching.

Work Planned for Custom Component: Typeclass implementation. Until the custom component deadline, typeclasses will not be supported.