

# Language Design Proposal: ScalelScript

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**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.

**Key Features:** Typeclasses, type variables / generics, algebraic data types, pattern matching with exhaustivity checking, tuples, mutable and immutable variables, higher-order functions.

**Planned Restrictions:** there is no type inference, hindering practical usage. There are no optimizations.

## Suggested Scoring and Justification:

- **Lexer:** 2%. Only support for reserved words, identifiers, and integers. No comments.
- **Parser:** 5%. Uses S-expressions.
- **Typechecker:** 40%. Typeclasses, higher-order functions, tuples, generics, algebraic data types, exhaustivity checking on pattern matching.
- **Code Generator:** 33%. Will **not** use higher-order functions in the translation, and will instead compile these down to objects in JavaScript which behave like closures. Typeclasses will pass around a JavaScript object that has these sorts of functions on it.

## Syntax:

`var` is a variable

`algnam` is an algebraic datatype name

`consname` is a constructor name

`traitname` is a trait (typeclass) name

`typevar` is a type variable

`str` is a string

`i` is an integer

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type ::= `String` | `Int` | `Unit` | Built-in types
      `Self` | used in trait definitions like Rust, referring
to the type the typeclass is implemented on
      `( `=> `(` type* `)` type `)` | Higher-order function
type, params first and return type last
      `( `tuple` type type+ `)` | Tuples
      `( `alg` algname type* `)` | Generic algebraic type
      typevar Type variable
op ::= `+` | `-` | `*` | `/` Arithmetic operations

param ::= `( ` type var `)`
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
      `( `println` exp `)` | Prints something to the console
      `( `op` exp exp `)` | Arithmetic operations
      `( `=> `(` param* `)` exp `)` | Creates a higher-order
function
      `( `call` exp exp* `)` | Calls a high-order function
      `( `call` fn `( ` type* `)` exp*) | Calls a toplevel
function, with given generic type parameters
      `( `mcall` exp fn `( ` type* `)` exp* `)` | Calls a
function defined in a typeclass, with given generic type
parameters
      `( `block` stmt* exp `)` | Blocks
      `( `tuple` exp exp+ `)` | Creates a tuple
      `( `cons` consname `( ` type* `)` exp* `)` | Creates a
user-defined type, with given generic type parameters
      `( `match` exp case `)` | Pattern matching
stmt ::= `( `val` type var exp `)` | Immutable variable
initialization
      `( `var` type var exp `)` | Mutable variable
initialization
      `( `=` var exp `)` | Mutable variable assignment
case ::= `( `case` pattern exp `)`
pattern ::= x | Introduces a new variable
          `_` | Matches everything
           $\overline{\quad}$  | Matches
constructor
          `( `tuple` pattern pattern+ `)` | Matches tuples
tintro ::= typevar | `( `extends` typevar traitname `)`
      Introduces a type variable, possibly with a constraint that
it implements a typeclass
algdef ::= `( `algdef` algname `( ` tintro* `)` consdef+ `)`

```

### **Algebraic datatype definition**

consdef ::= `( `cons` consname type\* `)` **Constructor definition**

funcdef ::= `( `def` fn `( `tintro\* `)` `( `param\* `)`  
type exp `)` **Function definition**

trait ::= `( `trait` traitname funcdef\* `)` **Trait (typeclass)  
definition**

toplevel ::= algdef | funcdef | trait **Toplevel definitions**

program ::= toplevel\* exp **Expression is the entry point**