Course Information

Course structure for Spring 2004

The course focuses on programming languages concepts such as binding, evaluation, and types, exhibited on representative languages from the functional and logic programming paradigms. The goal is to establish thorough working knowledge of two programming languages, Standard ML and Prolog, and to practise the craft of programming in different paradigms. The course is fast-paced, and involves extensive programming assignments. Familiarity with the procedural and functional paradigm is assumed, as described below.

Here is a detailed list of topics the students should expect to have mastered by the end of the course:

- Typed Functional Programming (the programming language ML):
  - Purely functional programs in the ML core language.
  - The type system of ML.
  - Type reconstruction.
  - Higher-order functions for list processing.
  - Data types and their operators.
  - Programming in the point-free style.
  - The ML module language.

- Logic Programming (the programming language Prolog):
  - Declarative and logic programming in general.
  - Prolog search:
    - Unification.
    - Resolution.
  - Impure features of Prolog.
  - Efficient programming techniques in Prolog.

- Programming Language Design and Implementation:
  - Language syntax:
    * Introduction to parsing techniques.
  - Language semantics:
    * Introduction to semantics specification techniques.
  - Language implementation:
    * Overview of interpretation and compilation.
    * Exercises in small-language interpretation.

Assignments and grading

Several (approx. 10) short in-class quizzes (10%), mid-term exam (15%), final exam (covering the entire course) (25%), about 10 written homework assignments (50%). You are expected to attend class regularly, read the assigned reading before class, and participate in class discussion.
Attendance (same rules as in CS 257)

Your attendance at lectures is mandatory. Unfortunately, it is not practical for me to take attendance before each lecture. Consequently, to encourage attendance, quizzes will be unannounced and in-class.

Prerequisites in detail

Experience with developing substantial applications in functional and imperative (especially object-oriented) programming languages is required. UNM CS courses CS 257 - Nonimperative Programming and CS 351 - Design of Large Programs provide appropriate background in Scheme and in C++ or Java, respectively. If you have not used Scheme before (or another functional language such as ML or Haskell), you must take CS 257 before enrolling in CS 451.

Lectures

Mondays & Wednesdays, 4:00 - 5:15, in Dane Smith Hall 225.

Instructor

Darko Stefanovic, office FEC 345C, phone 2776561, email darko@cs.unm.edu — office hours Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, 3:00-3:50.

Teaching assistant

Clint Morgan, office FEC 345D, email clint@cs.unm.edu — office hours Mondays 2:30-3:30 and Thursdays 4:00-5:00.

UNM statement of compliance with ADA

Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact the instructor as soon as possible to ensure their needs are met in a timely manner. Handouts are available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

Textbooks

(The bookstore has ordered the titles marked with *.)

Required reading

Optional reading


Homework and programming assignment hand-in policy

This course covers a lot of material and being late with assignments would hamper your ability to learn the next section of the course. Therefore, homework assignments are due on the date assigned, no extensions will be granted, and no credit will be given for late homework. Hand-in mechanisms (usually electronic) will be specified with each assignment.

Programming questions on homework assignments

When an assignment asks you to write a program, that means that you must design a program, type it into a computer, compile (depending on the language at hand), and run, and then submit a listing of the program and its output, making sure that your set of test inputs is carefully designed. The textual layout of the program must be logically sound and aesthetically pleasing. The names used must be descriptive. Code comments and additional documentation must accompany non-trivial programs, and must provide informal argumentation that the program satisfies the specification. Occasionally you may be asked to provide a formal correctness proof of a program—include that proof as part of program documentation.
Cooperation and cheating

Feel free to discuss homework assignments with classmates and the instructor. However, do not look at or copy another’s solution. If a problem appears too difficult, or you lack the background to solve it, you are expected to talk to the instructor promptly. Once you have the background necessary to solve a problem, you must provide your own solution. Exchanging homework solutions is cheating and will be reported to the University administration; students involved may not be permitted to continue in the class. You are responsible for exercising due diligence in protecting your homework files from unauthorized access. In case two or more students present essentially similar homework, all involved students will be reported to the University administration. Occasionally we will reuse problems that have been used in previous courses. Searching on the web for verbatim solutions is not the best application of your time, and you will receive no credit for it.

Each assignment handed in must be accompanied by the following statement: “I pledge my honor that in the preparation of this assignment I have complied with the University of New Mexico Board of Regents’ Policy Manual, including Section 4.8, Academic Dishonesty.” The manual is available at http://www.unm.edu/~brpm/index.html; please read it.

Lecture Plan Overview (subject to change)

- Organizational meeting and background review (1 lecture; 1 homework)
- Typed functional programming and Standard ML (12 lectures; 4 homeworks)
- Mid-term (1 class period)
- Prolog (8 lectures; 3 homeworks)
- Advanced topics (8 lectures; 1 homework)
- Review (1 class period)
- Final exam