Language concepts in old and recent programming languages

Programming Languages Guest Lecture

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Agenda

01 Motivation

- Why "old" programming languages are still relevant
- O2 Selected programming languages• RPG, COBOL, PL/I, C, Java Script
- 03

Selected language concepts

- Parameterization und Reuse
- Program generators and 4th Level Languages

04 Conclusion





Who we are

About itestra

itestra GmbH = information technology and strategy

Foundet in 2003 gegründet, bis heute technologisch und finanziell unabhängig

Currently approx. 75 employees and 25 students

8 locations across Europe - Munich, Cologne, Stuttgart, Nuremberg, Hamburg, Hannover, Madrid, Tallinn



Service Portfolio



We ensure and reestablish IT efficiency.



Our Clients



Automotive / Industry	Banks	Insurance	IT/Software	Others	
		GENERALI Informatik Services	O ₂	Sizer Font a car	
	ebase	Advocard	e∙plus	KUEHNE+NAGEL	
DAIMLER	HypoVereinsbank			✓ Lufthansa	
	.comdirect	ZURICH	BITMARCK TECHNIK GMBH	M Flughafen München	
thyssenkrupp	S finanz informatik			Deutsche Post 👷	
eon		AXA		CHIRON	
EVN	₃ Banken EDV	ADAC		nSev	
7 R #	GAD IT für Banken	SwissLife	In total ~ 100 ~ 500 M	core applications w io LoC analyzed.	ith

Reality in most large scale enterprises

100s or even 1.000s of "applications"
(from standard products to individual SW)
10 - 100 Mio. LoC, value of 100 – 1.000 Mio. €
often several decades old

Languages

- COBOL, Java, ABAP
- Assembler
- PL/I, RPG, NATURAL, C/C++
- VaGen, DeltaGen,
- SAS, Easytrieve, PowerBuilder, Gupta, Synon, ...

age & size mean success!



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Heterogenity is unavoidable in practice!

Long lifecycle, too big to reimplement/migrate everything every 10 years

Mergers & acquisitions

(besides, heterogenity also due to hypes/personal preferences, lack of strategy, ...)



We get to see interesting systems ...



1968

- Salary calculation system in COBOL
- Extended and modified for now 50 years!

1970

- Life Insurance
- 5 Mio LoC Assembler

1980+

– Diverse systems in proprietary "4 GLs": Coolgen, VaGen, Gupta, PowerBuilder,...

2012

- General insurance
- 1 Mio LoC Java
 - \rightarrow very messy and extremely high costs ;-)





Motivation (1)



A significant amount of all **business critical software systems** is implemented in programming languages, which

- are not being taught anymore
 → difficult to find staff, knowledge loss,
- do not offer concepts of modern languages,
- have limited tool-support,
- yet still need to be mastered in order to be able to maintain, run and develop the extremely important systems built with them



Motivation (2)



Supposedly "new" products and approaches often lack important basic concepts. The consequences can be studied using existing systems, implemented in "old" languages.

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

George Santayana (US Philosoph, 1863-1952)



How are languages chosen for projects?



In the absence of alternatives

(in the past there were (even) less proven-in-use languages available)

Dependency on hardware and infrastructure software

Successful marketing and sales by the providers

Compatibility to already existing components

(if a system is already implemented in COBOL, new modifications cannot be done in an arbitrary language)

Inherited system, e.g. from a merger

Available **qualifications**

Concepts / Performance? ... secondary!



History of development

Major developments 1960 – 2010s (1/2)



Hardware

Punch cards \rightarrow magnetic tape \rightarrow disks (i.e. from bytes to terabytes) Closed systems \rightarrow Internet \rightarrow mobile Computing & Cloud Performance of the CPUs, Multi-Core, Memory kBytes \rightarrow GBytes

Infrastructural software

OS: Single-User & Task \rightarrow Scheduling, parallelism DB: Files \rightarrow hierarchical databases \rightarrow relational databases \rightarrow distributed DB Compiler: text replacement \rightarrow attributed parse trees



Major developments 1960 – 2010s (2/2)



Software Engineering

Separation of Concerns, etc.

User requirements and market

Personal talk at the bank / insurance / ... and written communication \rightarrow 7x24 online, complete transparency, social networks Established sales network \rightarrow fast monopolization through technology and venture capital, willingness to switch





Programming Paradigms





Some important conceptual features



Syntactic structure

- Tokens vs. columns, Lines vs. statements (in some languages only 1 per line)
- Fixed vs. variable number of operands

Scope

- Local variables in blocks (methods, ...)
- Differentiated control (private, public, friend, static, ...)

Modularization, Parameterization, Reuse

- Parameterization (Units: procedures, functions, classes, packages, ...)
- Encapsulation of data AND operations
- Inheritance, Generic data structures and polymorphism
- Library concept (none vs. technical via text-inclusion and linker vs. language)

Avoidance of programming errors

- Compile-time checking of types, signatures, ...
- Memory management: Garbage Collection

The existence/ absence of these concepts has enormous consequences!



Selected languages: RPG

RPG



Report Program Generator

Developed by IBM in 1959

For the creation of commercial reports

Data processing using tabulating machines and punch cards \rightarrow column-based Syntax

Global variables per RPG-program

Data access only via "file" cursors

Still new systems developed in RPG in the 90s!



с	#LASTP	IFEQ 'V01004'		B003
С		MOVEL#PLAS	#LASTP	
С		MOVEL#PPGM	PIAPGM	
Î*				
С	PINDAB	IFEQ *ZEROS		B004
С	PIAM07	ANDEQ'1'		
С		Z-ADD32	PINRTC	DAB EING.
С		MOVEL'V01001'	PIACAL	
С		ELSE		X004
С		MOVEL#PCAL	PIACAL	
с		ENDIF		E004
Î*				
С		ENDIF		E003



Selected languages: COBOL





COBOL stands for "Common Business Oriented Language"

First version: 1960, created as part of US DoD program

Objectives:

- Human-readable, no need for computer scientists
 ADD STEUER TO NETTO GIVING BRUTTO.
- Hardware-independent, standardized, problem-oriented language
- Easy-to-implement solutions for commercial problems

Instructions



Instructions: conditions, loops



No user-defined functions (SECTION does not return any value)

Program-global variables, no parameters or local vars to SECTIONs

Functionality is often integrated in the language (thus >300 keywords), e.g. INSPECT, UNSTRING, REWIND, COMPUTE,

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Data

Data: Structures, Fixed Size Arrays (only!)

05 HF-3-AZSPF-FELDER. 10 HF-3-AZSPF-STATUS

88 HF-OHNE-3-AZSPF-VERARB VALUE ZERO. VALUE 1. 88 HF-MIT-3-AZSPF-VERARB 10 HE-3-AZSPE-VV-STATUS PIC 9 VALUE ZERO. 88 HF-OHNE-3-AZSPF-VV-VERARB VALUE ZERO. 88 HF-MIT-3-AZSPF-VV-VERARB VALUE 1. 10 HF-3-AZSPF-DAUER PIC 59(02) COMP-3 VALUE ZERO. ····•·*A·1·B··•···2··**B**·•···3···••··4···•5···••6···•6···•7··I·•···8 10 HE-VG-DDAT-ZE PIC X(08) VALUE SPACES. 10 HF-VG-DDAT-ZF-R REDEFINES HF-VG-DDAT-ZF. 15 HF-VG-DDAT-ZF-JHJJ PIC 9(04). 15 HF-VG-DDAT-ZF-MMTT PIC 9(04). 15 FILLER REDEFINES HF-VG-DDAT-ZF-MMTT. 20 HF-VG-DDAT-ZF-MM PIC 9(02). PIC 9(02). 20 HF-VG-DDAT-ZF-TT 10 HF-VG-DDAT-ZF-9 REDEFINES HF-VG-DDAT-ZF

PIC 9(08).

PIC 9

VALUE ZERO.

No reusable definition of custom types (except with COPY)

Native fix-comma types and arithmetics – still one important argument why COBOL is used for financial purposes – compare Java BigDecimal: brutto = steuer.Add(netto)

Generally intensive use of nested structures and REDEFINEs (storage overlay) – amongst others also because type definition is not possible



Firs	at approach for reuse of interface definitions
•••••	*A.1.B

UEBERGABE-BEREICH IN DIESES AGSBCEMU UND AGSBREMU

UEBERGABE-BEREICH IN AUFGERUFENES AGSBEEMU

UEBERGABE-BEREICH IN AUFGERUFENES AGSBFEMU

UEBERGABEBEREICH IN SUPER.AAKBUEMU

COPY-Concept

COPY XSQLRETW.

COPY AGSBREMW.

COPY AGSBEEMW.

COPY AGSBFEMW. COPY AAKBUEMW. Sometimes misused, e.g. for inclusion of code

····*A·1·B··•···2
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
*** PROCEDURE-COPY-STRECKEN OHNE SQL-ZUGRIFF ***

*** SECTIONS ZUM AUFRUF DES UNTERPROGRAMMS XDBCOSYU ZUM AN- BZW.
*** ABMELDEN VON DER DATENBANK
COPY XDBCOSYP.
*** DATEI-FILESTATUS IN SYSTEMUNABHAENGIGEN RETURNCODE UMSETZEN
COPY XDFSRCFP.
*** SYSTEMABH. SQL-RETURNCODE IN SYSTEMUNABH. RETURNCODE UMSETZEN
COPY XSQLRCFP.
*** SECTION ZUR AUFBEREITUNG VON FELDERN
COPY XFLDAIUP.



SQL and transactions



Embedded SQL

Embedded CICS (e.g. EXEC CICS LINK, oder GETMAIN, ...)





Selected languages: PL/I

Remarks

- Developed in the 1960s
- Available on: z/OS, AS/400, Unix, Windows, ...

Objectives

- Domain-independent programming language
- So far: Focus on specific application scope
- Replace COBOL and Fortran on the Mainframe
- Very powerful preprocessor (subset of PL/I)
- Powerful features regarding it's age, but difficult to compile and not widespread
- No reserved keywords
 IF IF = THEN THEN THEN = ELSE; ELSE ELSE = IF;



- Memory allocation, Pointer arithmetic
- Fixed-point und floating-point arithmetic
- Many data types, definition of data structures
- Exceptions (Conditions)
- Local variables, parameters (!)
- Built-in functions



Selected languages: C

Remarks



- All executable code structured as **functions** \rightarrow positive
- No generic data structures (except by using pointer arithmetic),
 Only weak type safety
- Library concept is based on macros and external tools (preprocessor, linker) not a language feature!
 Thus (amongst others):
 - Limited ability to compile separately
 - Explicit inclusion order spec. and multiple inclusion prevention needed
 - Misuse possible (e.g. code in includes)
- No objects/inheritance, limited encapsulation
 → no powerful libraries besides basic funcs (e.g. no generic collection)
- Side effects \rightarrow high risks for correctness & security

Consequences: see for example Obfuscated C Contest (counter measure e.g. MISRA)

Hashmap example



```
static inline khint t kh put ##name(kh ##name## t *h, khkey t key, int *ret) \
    khint t x;
    if (h \rightarrow n \text{ occupied} \rightarrow = h \rightarrow upper bound) {
        if (h->n buckets > (h->size<<1)) kh resize ##name(h, h->n buckets - 1); \
        else kh resize ##name(h, h->n buckets + 1);
        khint t inc, k, i, site, last;
        x = site = h->n buckets; k = hash func(key); i = k % h->n buckets; \
        if ( ac isempty(h->flags, i)) x = i;
        else {
            inc = 1 + k % (h->n buckets - 1); last = i;
            while (! ac isempty(h->flags, i) && ( ac isdel(h->flags, i) || ! ha
                if ( ac isdel(h->flags, i)) site = i;
                if (i + inc >= h->n buckets) i = i + inc - h->n buckets; \
                else i += inc;
                if (i == last) { x = site; break; }
            if (x == h->n buckets) {
                if ( ac isempty(h->flags, i) && site != h->n buckets) x = site; `
                else x = i;
```



Selected languages: Java Script

Remarks



- Weak type safety (including object orientation)
 - \rightarrow many errors at runtime
 - → Creation of TypeScript
- Dynamic execution (eval) \rightarrow static analysis limited, possible runtime errors
- Library concept based on includes

```
// Position area object. Represents a location and precision area.
var geoPositionArea = {
    area: L.circle([0.0, 0.0], 0.0),
    position: L.circleMarker([0.0, 0.0]),
    addToLayer: function(map) {
        map.addLayer(this.area);
        map.addLayer(this.position);
    },
    removeFromLayer: function(map) {
        map.removeLayer(this.area);
        map.removeLayer(this.position);
    }
}
```



Parameterization and Reuse

Parameterization



Idea: Extraction of common parts, parameterized reuse

Missing e.g. in COBOL

Consequences

High duplication

Large SECTIONs and files (80.000 LoC max.)

Lots of technical code, no separation between technical and business code

Enormous overhead for the development process

Key feature of Java and other newer languages

User created functionality can be encapsulated and reused Separation of concerns

Cloning: Example



Modul A

EINMALBEITRA	٨G.
* BERECHNU	JNGEN FUER VERSICHERUNGEN GEGEN EINMALBEITRAG
* NACH BEG	JINN DER ALTERSRENTE
EB-RECHNUNGS	SGRUNDLAGEN.
MOVE 0.0	040 TO IP IV.
MOVE 0.9	96153846 TO VAUP VAUV.
MOVE 0.3	33 TO ALPHAP.
*****COMPUTE	ALTERSOK = X + N - 65.
ADD X	N GIVING ALTERSOK.
SUBTRACT	F 65 FROM ALTERSOK.
IF ALTER	SOK GREATER Ø
******COMPUT	FE ALPHAP = ALPHAP - ALTERSOK * 0.01.
MULTIP	PLY ALTERSOK BY 0.01 GIVING ZW8-1
SUBTRA	ACT ZW8-1 FROM ALPHAP.
IF ALP	PHAP < 0 MOVE 0 TO ALPHAP.
MOVE 0.0	015 TO BETA.
MOVE 0	TO GAMMA.
MOVE 0.0	05 TO GAMMA1.
MOVE 0.0	15 TO GAMMA2.
MOVE GAM	MA2 TO GAMMAF.
MOVE 1	TO ZILLKO.
MOVE 1	TO RIKOAR.
MOVE ALF	PHAP TO AMZU.
MOVE 0	TO ALPHAV STKZ STORNO PXN PXNZ PIXN PSTR AQ
	TV TVZ TVK TVB TR.
MOVE 704	400 TO FKZ.

Modul B

EINMALBE	ITRAG.		
* BERE	CHNUNGEN FUER	VERSICHERUNGEN GEGEN EINMALBEITRAG	
* NACH	BEGINN DER AL	LTERSRENTE	
EB-RECHN	UNGSGRUNDLAGEN	Ν.	
MOVE	0.035 TO	D IP.	
MOVE	0.96618357 TO	D VAUP.	
MOVE	0.35 TO	D ALPHAP.	
*****COMPI	UTE ALTERSOK =	= X + N - 65.	
ADD	X N GIVING	ALTERSOK.	
SUBT	RACT 65 FROM	M ALTERSOK.	
IF A	LTERSOK GREATE	ER 0	
*******CO	MPUTE ALPHAP =	= ALPHAP - ALTERSOK * 0.01.	
MU	LTIPLY ALTERS	SOK BY 0.01 GIVING ZW8-1	
SUI	BTRACT ZW8-1	FROM ALPHAP.	
(//////////////////////////////////////			
MOVE	0.015 TO	D BETA.	
MOVE	0 TO	D GAMMA.	
MOVE	0.005 TO	D GAMMA1.	
MOVE	0.015 TO	D GAMMA2.	
MOVE	GAMMA2 TO	D GAMMAF.	
MOVE	1 TO	D ZILLKO.	
MOVE	1 TO	O RIKOAR.	
MOVE	ALPHAP TO	D AMZU.	
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		TV TVZ TVK TVB TR.	
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Possibilities for clone avoidance



Inheritance, polymorphism Extraction of common logic



The Model-driven disaster (1)



Two projects with intensive MDA/MDD usage:

Parameterization in the model barely possible \rightarrow Cloning in the model and the generated classes

Enormous amount of trivial, highly redundant code (increases compile, deploy, debug costs etc.)

The worst observed productivity in Java yet!



Inheritance/Interfaces



Allows the development of Frameworks, i.e.

- Generic solution
- Reuse of algorithms
- E.g.: HashMap, Persistence Layer

Dictionary <tkey, tvalue="">(Int32, IEqualityComparer<tkey>)</tkey></tkey,>	Initializes a new instance of the Dictionary <tkey, tvalue=""> class that is empty, has the specified initial capacity, and uses the specified IEqualityComparer<t>.</t></tkey,>

Modeling of Parent-Child relations

– E.g. Domain model, UI elements

Libraries, COBOL example



Nearly all "necessary" base functionality is integrated in laguage (keywords) Hardly any COBOL libraries available

High effort for simple functionality (if not language integrated): e.g. String.trim() in COBOL:

String being "inspected" for spaces from left and right

MOVE FUNCTION REVERSE (STRING-TO-TRIM) TO INPUT-R. INSPECT INPUT-R TALLYING COUNTER FOR LEADING SPACES. COMPUTE INP-LEN = LENGTH OF INPUT-R - COUNTER. MOVE INPUT(1:INP-LEN) TO R-TRIMED-STRING

INSPECT R-TRIMED-STRING TALLYING COUNTER FOR LEADING SPACES. COMPUTE INP-LEN = LENGTH OF R-TRIMED-STRING - COUNTER. MOVE R-TRIMED-STRING(1:INP-LEN) TO TRIMMED-STRING

Special chars like tab are not matched!

Libraries, Java example



In Java

Easy packaging of modules in jar files, easy integration and execution by Java-VM (no recompile). OO allows for powerful, generic frameworks

Consequences

Large collection of useful libraries, frameworks, ... E.g. Apache commons, Guava, JSF,...



Visibilities / Encapsulation



Java

public / protected / private for methods, variables and classes

How about larger components?

→ no established, language-integrated solutions besides "package" level, further possibilities include

- different Eclipse projects
- OSGI
- Java 9 Jigsaw

COBOL

All variables are program-global

Example for large information system (~800kSLoC): more than 5.000 variable accessible in nearly all programs

Complete static analysis of access impossible due to memory overlay, ...





Program generators, proprietary languages and click-tools



he excellen

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Idea



Assumption: Requirements are already specified in a formal way (diagrams, tables)

Thus: Generate code directly from the requirements

Code generation exists since the 70s

- ~2000: Hype "Model Driven Architecture" (MDA), "Domain Specific Languages" (DSLs)
- Modeling of business objects and processes with UML, subsequent multi-stage generation, promoted by OMG
- Graphical or textual DSLs, Oriented towards a business domain, e.g. insurance
- Amongst others: support in Visual Studio (Domain-Specific Language Tools) and Eclipse (EMF)





Program generators, MDA, DSLs



Code generation, MDA, DSLs are no "Silver Bullets"

- No technology is able to completely reproduce **complicated business logic** within a **simplified model**
- A model language, powerful enough to describe all the specific cases (and these do occur!), is usually too complicated itself

Generation is almost obsolete in powerful, modern languages (Java) (instead: skillful usage of OO-concepts, AOP etc.)

- Generation is primarily a relict from COBOL-times!
- Exceptions: Adapter for fixed interfaces, very high performance (e.g. parser)

"Clicking-up" of program logic is often more time-consuming than typing, full feature search, refactorings, etc. are often not even possible!

Besides that:

- Generation should always be automated and reproducible
 Otherwise: Instant Legacy (efficient change with one-shot is impossible)
- The lifecycle of the generator is essential (open source?)

VisualAge generator



×

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C ZGV8024	78 22	04.2	MOVE #GVEDAT_AUF	SETZPUN	KT TO CGV80240.GVE	DAT: ZEIT-				
	-		MOVE #GVEZEIT_AUPSETZPUNKT TO CGV80240.GVEZEIT; MOVE CGV80200 #GVNR_AUPSETZPUNKT TO CGV80240.GVNR;					AND T1.KOLVS_NR = :CGV80244.KOLVS_NR AND T1.GVNR = T2.GVNR		
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The Model-driven Disaster (2)



Two projects with intensive MDA/MDD usage:

Basic functionality not available in the tool:

- merge
- Diff
- concurrent editing
- \rightarrow Editing conflicts between the developers
- \rightarrow Weekly (!) update because of slow code generation
- \rightarrow In the meantime: manual change of the generated code



Conclusion

Conclusion



Older programming languages are in practice still very important (and exciting!) for computer scientists

These languages often miss essential concepts from today's point of view

Particular relevance is attributed to the concepts of:

- **Composition** and **(parameterized)** reuse of components
- Definition of **visibilities**/scopes

Type safety and other approaches for error avoidance (e.g. Garbage Collection)

"Modern" products and technologies (rule engines, MDA, scripting languages, ...) should be carefully examined to this effect!

New ways of programming?



```
@Constraint(validatedBv = ValidAmountOfDoorsValidator.class)
@Target({ElementType.METHOD, ElementType.FIELD, ElementType.ANNOTATION TYPE,
ElementType.CONSTRUCTOR. ElementType.PARAMETER. ElementType.TYPE USE})
@Retention(RetentionPolicy.RUNTIME)
@interface ValidAmountOfDoors {
   String message() default
"{ibiss.common.example.model.constraints.ValidAmountOfDoors.message}":
   Class<?>[] groups() default {};
   Class<? extends Payload>[] payload() default {};
@ValidAmountOfDoors
class CarBE { /*...*/ }
class ValidAmountOfDoorsValidator implements ConstraintValidator<ValidAmountOfDoors,
CarBE> {
@Override
   public boolean isValid(final CarBE car, final ConstraintValidatorContext context) {
        context.buildConstraintViolationWithTemplate(
context.getDefaultConstraintMessageTemplate() )
                .addPropertyNode( CarBE.PROPERTY AMOUNT DOORS )
                .addConstraintViolation()
                .disableDefaultConstraintViolation();
       final CarTypeEnum carType = car.getCarType();
       final int amntDoors = car.getAmountOfDoors();
       return CAR TYPE TO DOORS.get(carType).contains(amntDoors);
```

New ways of programming?



orElseThrow

We can indicate the optional to throw an exception in case its value is null:

```
1 Optional optionalCarNull = Optional.ofNullable( carNull );
2 optionalCarNull.orElseThrow( IllegalStateException::new );
```

ifPresent

And also the option to execute actions directly when the value is present, in combination with Lambdas:

```
1 Optional stringToUse = Optional.of( "optional is there" );
2 stringToUse.ifPresent( System.out::println );
```



Optimization Examples

Hashmap in COBOL (1)



Column-wise storage of stock rates in a DB table

Search over

- Date (Index ✓)
- FOKZN (Stock ID)

Current approach:

- Read the line for the searched date
- Linear search for FOKZN in the (not sorted) data structure

Alternative:



	Fonds 1			Fonds 2	s 2				
		BWFR		BWFER		BWFRU		BWFER	
Datum	FOKZN	UECK	ERT	Т	FOKZN	ECK	ERT	Т	•••
1.10.2010	AA	4,38	0,00	0,00	AH	12,88	0,00	0,00	
2.10.2010	AA	4,12	0,00	0,00	AH				
3.10.2010	AA				AH				

1x calculate: Hashtable

Stock-rate-table

Index	Fonds
1	AA
2	AH
3	AD
4	AC

Hashmap in COBOL (2)







Weiteres Interesse?

Informatiker/innen gefragt!

- Festanstellung
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- Praktikum
- Abschlussarbeiten (Bachelor & Master)







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