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# **Instructor's Solutions Manual**

to

## **Concepts of Programming Languages**

Tenth Edition

R.W. Sebesta



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# **Changes for the Tenth Edition**

he goals, overall structure, and approach of this tenth edition of *Concepts of Programming Languages* remain the same as those of the nine earlier editions. The principal goals are to introduce the main constructs of contemporary programming languages and to provide the reader with the tools necessary for the critical evaluation of existing and future programming languages. A secondary goal is to prepare the reader for the study of compiler design, by providing an indepth discussion of programming language structures, presenting a formal method of describing syntax and introducing approaches to lexical and syntatic analysis.

The tenth edition evolved from the ninth through several different kinds of changes. To maintain the currency of the material, some of the discussion of older programming languages has been removed. For example, the description of COBOL's record operations was removed from Chapter 6 and that of Fortran's Do statement was removed from Chapter 8. Likewise, the description of Ada's generic subprograms was removed from Chapter 9 and the discussion of Ada's asynchronous message passing was removed from Chapter 13.

On the other hand, a section on closures, a section on calling subprograms indirectly, and a section on generic functions in F# were added to Chapter 9; sections on Objective-C were added to Chapters 11 and 12; a section on concurrency in functional programming languages was added to Chapter 13; a section on C# event handling was added to Chapter 14;. a section on F# and a section on support for functional programming in primarily imperative languages were added to Chapter 15.

In some cases, material has been moved. For example, several different discussions of constructs in functional programming languages were moved from Chapter 15 to earlier chapters. Among these were the descriptions of the control statements in functional programming languages to Chapter 8 and the lists and list operations of Scheme and ML to Chapter 6. These moves indicate a significant shift in the philosophy of the book—in a sense, the mainstreaming of some of the constructs of functional programming languages. In previous editions, all discussions of functional programming language constructs were segregated in Chapter 15.

Chapters 11, 12, and 15 were substantially revised, with five figures being added to Chapter 12.

Finally, numerous minor changes were made to a large number of sections of the book, primarily to improve clarity.

## **The Vision**

This book describes the fundamental concepts of programming languages by discussing the design issues of the various language constructs, examining the design choices for these constructs in some of the most common languages, and critically comparing design alternatives.

Any serious study of programming languages requires an examination of some related topics, among which are formal methods of describing the syntax and semantics of programming languages, which are covered in Chapter 3. Also, implementation techniques for various language constructs must be considered: Lexical and syntax analysis are discussed in Chapter 4, and implementation of subprogram linkage is covered in Chapter 10. Implementation of some other language constructs is discussed in various other parts of the book.

The following paragraphs outline the contents of the ninth edition.

## **Chapter Outlines**

Chapter 1 begins with a rationale for studying programming languages. It then discusses the criteria used for evaluating programming languages and language constructs. The primary influences on language design, common design trade-offs, and the basic approaches to implementation are also examined.

Chapter 2 outlines the evolution of most of the important languages discussed in this book. Although no language is described completely, the origins, purposes, and contributions of each are discussed. This historical overview is valuable, because it provides the background necessary to understanding the practical and theoretical basis for contemporary language design. It also motivates further study of language design and evaluation. In addition, because none of the remainder of the book depends on Chapter 2, it can be read on its own, independent of the other chapters.

Chapter 3 describes the primary formal method for describing the syntax of programming language—BNF. This is followed by a description of attribute grammars, which describe both the syntax and static semantics of languages. The difficult task of semantic description is then explored, including brief introductions to the three most common methods: operational, denotational, and axiomatic semantics.

Chapter 4 introduces lexical and syntax analysis. This chapter is targeted to those colleges that no longer require a compiler design course in their curricula. Like Chapter 2, this chapter stands alone and can be read independently of the rest of the book.

Chapters 5 through 14 describe in detail the design issues for the primary constructs of programming languages. In each case, the design choices for several example languages are presented and evaluated. Specifically, Chapter 5 covers the many characteristics of variables, Chapter 6 covers data types, and Chapter 7 explains expressions and assignment statements. Chapter 8 describes control statements, and

Chapters 9 and 10 discuss subprograms and their implementation. Chapter 11 examines data abstraction facilities. Chapter 12 provides an in-depth discussion of language features that support object-oriented programming (inheritance and dynamic method binding), Chapter 13 discusses concurrent program units, and Chapter 14 is about exception handling, along with a brief discussion of event handling.

The last two chapters (15 and 16) describe two of the most important alternative programming paradigms: functional programming and logic programming. However, some of the data structures and control constructs of functional programming languages are discussed in Chapters 6 and 8. Chapter 15 presents an introduction to Scheme, including descriptions of some of its primitive functions, special forms, and functional forms, as well as some examples of simple functions written in Scheme. Brief introductions to ML, Haskell, and F# are given to illustrate some different directions in functional language design. Chapter 16 introduces logic programming and the logic programming language, Prolog.

## To the Instructor

In the junior-level programming language course at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, the book is used as follows: We typically cover Chapters 1 and 3 in detail, and though students find it interesting and beneficial reading, Chapter 2 receives little lecture time due to its lack of hard technical content. Because no material in subsequent chapters depends on Chapter 2, as noted earlier, it can be skipped entirely, and because we require a course in compiler design, Chapter 4 is not covered.

Chapters 5 through 9 should be relatively easy for students with extensive programming experience in  $C_{++}$ , Java, or  $C_{+}$ . Chapters 10 through 14 are more challenging and require more detailed lectures.

Chapters 15 and 16 are entirely new to most students at the junior level. Ideally, language processors for Scheme and Prolog should be available for students required to learn the material in these chapters. Sufficient material is included to allow students to dabble with some simple programs.

Undergraduate courses will probably not be able to cover all of the material in the last two chapters. Graduate courses, however, should be able to completely discuss the material in those chapters by skipping over parts of the early chapters on imperative languages.

## **Supplemental Materials**

The following supplements are available to all readers of this book at *www.aw.com/cssupport*.

- A set of lecture note slides. PowerPoint slides are available for each chapter in the book.
- PowerPoint slides containing all the figures in the book.

To reinforce learning in the classroom, to assist with the hands-on lab component of this course, and/or to facilitate students in a distanceaccess companion learning situation, the Web site at www.aw.com/sebesta. This site contains mini-manuals (approximately 100-page tutorials) on a handful of languages. These proceed on the assumption that the student knows how to program in some other language, giving the student enough information to complete the chapter materials in each language. Currently the site includes manuals for C++, C, Java, and Smalltalk.

Solutions to many of the problem sets are available to qualified instructors in our Instructor Resource Center at *www.aw-bc.com/irc*. Please contact your school's Pearson Education representative or send an email to *computing@aw.com* for more information.

#### Language Processor Availability

Processors for and information about some of the programming languages discussed in this book can be found at the following Web sites:

C, C++, Fortran, and Ada	gcc.gnu.org
C# and F#	microsoft.com
Java	java.sun.com
Haskell	haskell.org
Lua	www.lua.org
Scheme	www.plt-
	scheme.org/software/drscheme
Perl	www.perl.com
Python	www.python.org
Ruby	www.ruby-lang.org

JavaScript is included in virtually all browsers; PHP is included in virtually all Web servers.

All this information is also included on the companion Web site.

## **Acknowledgments**

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# Contents

Chapter 1	Preliminaries	
	1.1	Reasons for Studying Concepts of Programming Languages
	1.2	Programming Domains
	1.3	Language Evaluation Criteria
	1.4	Influences on Language Design
	1.5	Language Categories
	1.6	Language Design Trade-Offs
	1.7	Implementation Methods
	1.8	Programming Environments
	Summary • Review Questions • Problem Set	
Chapter 2	Evolution of the Major Programming Languages	
	2.1	Zuse's Plankalkül
	2.2	Minimal Hardware Programming: Pseudocodes
	2.3	The IBM 704 and Fortran
	2.4	Functional Programming: LISP
	2.5	The First Step Toward Sophistication: ALGOL 60
	2.6	Computerizing Business Records: COBOL
	2.7	The Beginnings of Timesharing: BASIC
	Interview: Alan Cooper—User Design and Language Design	
	2.8	Everything for Everybody: PL/I
	2.9	Two Early Dynamic Languages: APL and SNOBOL
	2.10	The Beginnings of Data Abstraction: SIMULA 67
	2.11	Orthogonal Design: ALGOL 68
	2.12	Some Early Descendants of the ALGOLs

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	2.13	Programming Based on Logic: Prolog
	2.14	History's Largest Design Effort: Ada
	2.15	Object-Oriented Programming: Smalltalk
	2.16	Combining Imperative and Object-Oriented Features: C++
	2.17	An Imperative-Based Object-Oriented Language: Java
	2.18	Scripting Languages
	2.19	The Flagship .NET Language: C#
	2.20	Markup/Programming Hybrid Languages
		ary • Bibliographic Notes • Review Questions • Problem Set • mming Exercises
Chapter 3	Descr	ibing Syntax and Semantics
	3.1	Introduction
	3.2	The General Problem of Describing Syntax
	3.3	Formal Methods of Describing Syntax
	3.4	Attribute Grammars
		History Note
	3.5	Describing the Meanings of Programs: Dynamic Semantics
		History Note
	Summa	ary • Bibliographic Notes • Review Questions • Problem Set
Chapter 4	Lexica	al and Syntax Analysis
	4.1	Introduction
	4.2	Lexical Analysis
	4.3	The Parsing Problem
	4.4	Recursive-Descent Parsing
	4.5	Bottom-Up Parsing
	Summa	ary • Review Questions • Problem Set • Programming Exercises
Chapter 5	Name	s, Bindings, and Scopes
	5.1	Introduction
	5.2	Names
		History Note
		History Note

	5.3	Variables
		History Note
	5.4	The Concept of Binding
		ew: Rasmus Lerdorf—Scripting Languages and Other Examples of Slick
	5.5	Scope
		History Note
	5.6	Scope and Lifetime
	5.7	Referencing Environments
	5.8	Named Constants
	Summa	ry • Review Questions • Problem Set • Programming Exercises
Chapter 6	Data T	ypes
	6.1	Introduction
	6.2	Primitive Data Types
	6.3	Character String Types
		History Note
	6.4	User-Defined Ordinal Types
	6.5	Array Types
		History Note
		History Note
	6.6	Associative Arrays
	Intervie	w: ROBERTO IERUSALIMSCHY—Lua
	6.7	Record Types
	6.8	Tuple Types
	6.9	List Types
	6.10	Union Types
	6.11	Pointer Types
		History Note
	6.12	Type Checking
	6.13	Strong Typing
	6.14	Type Equivalence
	6.15	Theory and Data Types
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		nary • Bibliographic Notes • Review Questions • em Set • Programming Exercises		
Chapter 7	Expr	Expressions and Assignment Statements		
-	7.1	Introduction		
	7.2	Arithmetic Expressions		
	7.3	Overloaded Operators		
	7.4	Type Conversions		
		History Note		
	7.5	Relational and Boolean Expressions		
		History Note		
	7.6	Short-Circuit Evaluation		
	7.7	Assignment Statements		
		History Note		
	7.8	Mixed-Mode Assignment		
	Sumn	nary • Review Questions • Problem Set • Programming Exercises		
Chapter 8	State	ment-Level Control Structures		
	8.1	Introduction		
	8.2	Selection Statements		
		History Note		
		History Note		
	8.3	Iterative Statements		
		History Note		
	Interview: Larry Wall—Part 1: Linguistics and the Birth of Perl			
		History Note		
	8.4	Unconditional Branching		
	8.5	Guarded Commands		
	8.6	Conclusions		
	Sumn	nary • Review Questions • Problem Set • Programming Exercises		

Chapter 9	Subpr	ograms
	9.1	Introduction
	9.2	Fundamentals of Subprograms
	9.3	Design Issues for Subprograms
	9.4	Local Referencing Environments
	9.5	Parameter-Passing Methods
	Intervie and Pe	ew: Larry Wall—Part 2: Scripting Languages in General rl in Particular
		History Note
		History Note
		History Note
	9.6	Parameters That Are Subprograms
		History Note
	9.7	Calling Subprograms Indirectly
	9.8	Overloaded Subprograms
	9.9	Generic Subprograms
	9.10	Design Issues for Functions
	9.11	User-Defined Overloaded Operators
	9.12	Closures
	9.13	Coroutines
		History Note
	Summa	ary • Review Questions • Problem Set • Programming Exercises
Chapter 10	Impler	menting Subprograms
	10.1	The General Semantics of Calls and Returns
	10.2	Implementing "Simple" Subprograms
	10.3	Implementing Subprograms with Stack-Dynamic Local Variables
	10.4	Nested Subprograms
	Interview: Niklaus Wirth—Keeping It Simple	
	10.5	Blocks
	10.6	Implementing Dynamic Scoping
	Summa	ary • Review Questions • Problem Set • Programming Exercises
Chapter 11	Abstra	act Data Types and Encapsulation Constructs
	11.1	The Concept of Abstraction
	11.2	Introduction to Data Abstraction
	11.3	Design Issues for Abstract Data Types
	11.4	Language Examples
		· ····

	Interview: Bjarne Stroustrup—C++: Its Birth, Its Ubiquitousness, and Common Criticisms	
	11.5	Parameterized Abstract Data Types
	11.6	Encapsulation Constructs
	11.7	Naming Encapsulations
	Summa	ary • Review Questions • Problem Set • Programming Exercises
Chapter 12	Suppo	ort for Object-Oriented Programming
	12.1	Introduction
	12.2	Object-Oriented Programming
	12.3	Design Issues for Object-Oriented Languages
	12.4	Support for Object-Oriented Programming in Smalltalk
	12.5	Support for Object-Oriented Programming in C++
		ew: Bjarne Stroustrup—On Paradigms and Programming
	12.6	Support for Object-Oriented Programming in Objective-C
	12.7	Support for Object-Oriented Programming in Java
	12.8	Support for Object-Oriented Programming in C#
	12.9	Support for Object-Oriented Programming in Ada 95
	12.10	Support for Object-Oriented Programming in Ruby
	12.11	Implementation of Object-Oriented Constructs
	Summa	ary • Review Questions • Problem Set • Programming Exercises
Chapter 13	Concu	irrency
Chapter 13		
Chapter 13	13.1	Introduction
Chapter 13	13.1 13.2	
Chapter 13		Introduction to Subprogram-Level Concurrency
Chapter 13		
Chapter 13	13.2	Introduction to Subprogram-Level Concurrency
Chapter 13	13.2 13.3	Introduction to Subprogram-Level Concurrency History Note Semaphores
Chapter 13	13.2 13.3 13.4	Introduction to Subprogram-Level Concurrency History Note Semaphores Monitors
Chapter 13	13.2 13.3 13.4 13.5	Semaphores Monitors Message Passing
Chapter 13	13.2 13.3 13.4 13.5 13.6	Introduction to Subprogram-Level Concurrency History Note Semaphores Monitors Message Passing Ada Support for Concurrency
Chapter 13	13.2 13.3 13.4 13.5 13.6 13.7	Introduction to Subprogram-Level Concurrency
Chapter 13	13.2 13.3 13.4 13.5 13.6 13.7 13.8	Introduction to Subprogram-Level Concurrency History Note Semaphores Monitors Message Passing Ada Support for Concurrency Java Threads C# Threads Concurrency in Functional Programming Languages
Chapter 13	13.2 13.3 13.4 13.5 13.6 13.7 13.8 13.9 13.10 Summa	Introduction to Subprogram-Level Concurrency History Note Semaphores Monitors Message Passing Ada Support for Concurrency Java Threads C# Threads Concurrency in Functional Programming Languages Statement-Level Concurrency ary • Bibliographic Notes • Review Questions • Problem Set •
Chapter 13 Chapter 14	13.2 13.3 13.4 13.5 13.6 13.7 13.8 13.9 13.10 Summa Program	Introduction to Subprogram-Level Concurrency History Note Semaphores Monitors Message Passing Ada Support for Concurrency Java Threads C# Threads Concurrency in Functional Programming Languages Statement-Level Concurrency

		History Note	
	14.2	Exception Handling in Ada	
	14.3	Exception Handling in C++	
	14.4	Exception Handling in Java	
	Interview: James Gosling—The Birth of Java		
	14.5	Introduction to Event Handling	
	14.6	Event Handling with Java	
	14.7	Event Handling with C#	
		ry • Bibliographic Notes • Review Questions • Problem Set • nming Exercises	
Chapter 15	Functional Programming Languages		
	15.1	Introduction	
	15.2	Mathematical Functions	
	15.3	Fundamentals of Functional Programming Languages	
	15.4	The First Functional Programming Language: LISP	
	15.5	An Introduction to Scheme	
	15.6	COMMON LISP	
	15.7	ML	
	15.8	Haskell	
	15.9	F#	
	15.10	Support for Functional Programming in Primarily Imperative Languages	
	15.11	A Comparison of Functional and Imperative Languages	
		ry • Bibliographic Notes • Review Questions • Problem Set • nming Exercises	
Chapter 16	Logic I	Programming Languages	
	16.1	Introduction	
	16.2	A Brief Introduction to Predicate Calculus	
	16.3	Predicate Calculus and Proving Theorems	
	16.4	An Overview of Logic Programming	
	16.5	The Origins of Prolog	
	16.6	The Basic Elements of Prolog	
	16.7	Deficiencies of Prolog	
	16.8	Applications of Logic Programming	
		ry • Bibliographic Notes • Review Questions • Problem Set • nming Exercises	
	Bibliog	Jraphy	

Index .....

# **Answers to Selected Problems**

#### Chapter 1

#### Problem Set:

3. Some arguments for having a single language for all programming domains are: It would dramatically cut the costs of programming training and compiler purchase and maintenance; it would simplify programmer recruiting and justify the development of numerous language dependent software development aids.

4. Some arguments against having a single language for all programming domains are: The language would necessarily be huge and complex; compilers would be expensive and costly to maintain; the language would probably not be very good for any programming domain, either in compiler efficiency or in the efficiency of the code it generated. More importantly, it would not be easy to use, because regardless of the application area, the language would include many unnecessary and confusing features and constructs (those meant for other application areas). Different users would learn different subsets, making maintenance difficult.

5. One possibility is wordiness. In some languages, a great deal of text is required for even simple complete programs. For example, COBOL is a very wordy language. In Ada, programs require a lot of duplication of declarations. Wordiness is usually considered a disadvantage, because it slows program creation, takes more file space for the source programs, and can cause programs to be more difficult to read.

7. The argument for using the right brace to close all compounds is simplicity—a right brace always terminates a compound. The argument against it is that when you see a right brace in a program, the location of its matching left brace is not always obvious, in part because all multiple-statement control constructs end with a right brace.

8. The reasons why a language would distinguish between uppercase and lowercase in its identifiers are: (1) So that variable identifiers may look different than identifiers that are names for constants, such as the convention of using uppercase for constant names and using lowercase for variable names in C, and (2) so that catenated words as names can have their first letter distinguished, as in TotalWords. (Some think it is better to include a connector, such as underscore.) The primary reason why a language would not distinguish between uppercase and lowercase in identifiers is it makes programs less readable, because words that look very similar are actually completely different, such as SUM and Sum.

10. One of the main arguments is that regardless of the cost of hardware, it is not free. Why write a program that executes slower than is necessary. Furthermore, the difference between a well-written efficient program and one that is poorly written can be a factor of two or three. In many other fields of endeavor, the difference between a good job and a poor job may be 10 or 20 percent. In programming, the difference is much greater.

15. The use of type declaration statements for simple scalar variables may have very little effect on the readability of programs. If a language has no type declarations at all, it may be an aid to readability, because regardless of where a variable is seen in the program text, its type can be determined without looking elsewhere. Unfortunately, most languages that allow implicitly declared variables also include explicit declarations. In a program in such a language, the declaration of a variable must be found before the reader can determine the type of that variable when it is used in the program.

18. The main disadvantage of using paired delimiters for comments is that it results in diminished reliability. It is easy to inadvertently leave off the final delimiter, which extends the comment to the end of the next comment, effectively removing code from the program. The advantage of paired delimiters is that you *can* comment out areas of a program. The disadvantage of using only beginning delimiters is that they must be repeated on every line of a block of comments. This can be tedious and therefore error-prone. The advantage is that you cannot make the mistake of forgetting the closing delimiter.

### **Chapter 2**

#### Problem Set:

6. Because of the simple syntax of LISP, few syntax errors occur in LISP programs. Unmatched parentheses is the most common mistake.

7. The main reason why imperative features were put in LISP was to increase its execution efficiency.

10. The main motivation for the development of PL/I was to provide a single tool for computer centers that must support both scientific and commercial applications. IBM believed that the needs of the two classes of applications were merging, at least to some degree. They felt that the simplest solution for a provider of systems, both hardware and software, was to furnish a single hardware system running a single programming language that served both scientific and commercial applications.

11. IBM was, for the most part, incorrect in its view of the future of the uses of computers, at least as far as languages are concerned. Commercial applications are nearly all done in languages that are specifically designed for them. Likewise for scientific applications. On the other hand, the IBM design of the 360 line of computers was a great success--it still dominates the area of computers between supercomputers and minicomputers. Furthermore, 360 series computers and their descendants have been widely used for both scientific and commercial applications. These applications have been done, in large part, in Fortran and COBOL.

14. The argument for typeless languages is their great flexibility for the programmer. Literally any storage location can be used to store any type value. This is useful for very low-level languages used for systems programming. The drawback is that type checking is impossible, so that it is entirely the programmer's responsibility to insure that expressions and assignments are correct.

18. A good deal of restraint must be used in revising programming languages. The greatest danger is that the revision process will continually add new features, so that the language grows more and more complex. Compounding the problem is the reluctance, because of existing software, to remove obsolete features.

22. One situation in which pure interpretation is acceptable for scripting languages is when the amount of computation is small, for which the processing time will be negligible. Another situation is when the amount of computation is relatively small and it is done in an interactive environment, where the processor is often idle because of the slow speed of human interactions.

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24. New scripting languages may appear more frequently than new compiled languages because they are often smaller and simpler and focused on more narrow applications, which means their libraries need not be nearly as large.

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