

CMSC 22610
Winter 2004

Implementation
of
Computer Languages

Project 4
February 23, 2004

Mini-Lua interpreter
Due: March 12, 2004

1 Introduction

The last programming project is the implementation of an interpreter for Mini-Lua. This part of the project involves two steps. First, the abstract syntax tree (AST) produced in Part 3 must be converted to *executable tree* (ET) format. Then you must implement an interpreter for ET.

2 A core semantics for Mini-Lua

To guide your implementation effort, we describe in this section an operational semantics for a significant subset of Mini-Lua.

2.1 Abstract syntax

The dynamic semantics of Mini-Lua is given in terms of the abstract syntax of a core subset of the language. This syntax is given in Figure 1. We use VAR to denote the set of Mini-Lua variables and STMT to denote the set of terms that represent statements.

2.2 Locations

Mini-Lua is an imperative language, so need a notion of location in our semantics. Environments map variables to locations, while the store maps locations to values.

$$\begin{aligned}\rho &\in \text{LOC} && \text{locations} \\ \Gamma &\in \text{ENV} = \text{VAR} \xrightarrow{\text{fin}} \text{LOC} && \text{environments} \\ \Sigma &\in \text{STORE} = \text{LOC} \xrightarrow{\text{fin}} \text{VALUE} && \text{stores}\end{aligned}$$

2.3 Values

Values in Mini-Lua are either primitive (`nil`, booleans, numbers, or strings), functions, or tables. Functions are represented by closures, while tables are represented by locations, which in turn are

$$\begin{aligned}
s &::= s_1 ; s_2 \\
&| l = e \\
&| e(e_1, \dots, e_n) \\
&| \mathbf{do} \ s \ \mathbf{end} \\
&| \mathbf{while} \ e \ \mathbf{do} \ s \\
&| \mathbf{if} \ e \ \mathbf{then} \ s_1 \ \mathbf{else} \ s_2 \\
&| \mathbf{return} \ e \\
&| \mathbf{function} \ f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \ s \\
&| \mathbf{local} \ \mathbf{function} \ f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \ s \\
&| \mathbf{local} \ x = e \\
\\
l &::= x \\
&| e[e] \\
\\
e &::= b \\
&| l \\
&| e(e_1, \dots, e_n) \\
&| \{ [e_1] = e'_1, \dots, [e_n] = e'_n \} \\
\\
b &::= \mathbf{nil} \mid \mathbf{true} \mid \mathbf{false} \mid \dots
\end{aligned}$$

Figure 1: Abstract syntax for Core Mini-Lua

mapped to finite functions from values to locations.

v	\in	$\text{VALUE} = \text{PRIM} \cup \text{CLOS} \cup \text{LOC} \cup \text{TABLE}$	values
b	\in	$\text{PRIM} = \{\mathbf{nil}, \mathbf{true}, \mathbf{false}, \dots\}$	primitive values
$[\Gamma, (x_1, \dots, x_n), s]$	\in	$\text{CLOS} = \text{ENV} \times \text{VAR}^* \times \text{STMT}$	closures
Θ	\in	$\text{TABLE} = (\text{VALUE} \setminus \{\mathbf{nil}\}) \xrightarrow{\text{fin}} \text{LOC}$	tables

We use the notation $[\Gamma, (x_1, \dots, x_n), s]$ for a closure with environment Γ , parameters x_1, \dots, x_n , and body s .

2.4 Evaluation judgments

The dynamic semantics of Mini-Lua are specified using five evaluation judgment forms. For programs, the judgment

$$\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash p \Downarrow$$

states that starting with an initial store Σ and initial environment Γ , the program p runs to completion. For statement evaluation, we have a small complication that is required to handle function returns. The result of evaluating an expression is either a store/environment pair

$$\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash s \Rightarrow \Sigma', \Gamma'$$

or a return value/store pair

$$\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash s \Rightarrow \mathbf{Ret}(v, \Sigma')$$

We use R to denote the result of evaluating a statement, when the form it takes does not matter. Function applications for both statements and expressions are described by the application evaluation judgment.

$$\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e(e_1, \dots, e_n) \Rightarrow R$$

Expression evaluation is broken into two evaluation judgment forms. One for evaluating left-hand-side expressions, which return locations,

$$\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash l \Rightarrow \rho, \Sigma'$$

and one for evaluation right-hand-side expression

$$\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e \Rightarrow v, \Sigma'$$

2.5 Program evaluation

Let $\text{Global}(p)$ be the set of global variables in the program p . Then the rule for program evaluation is:

$$\frac{\Sigma_0 = \{\rho_x \mapsto \mathbf{nil} \mid x \in \text{Global}(p)\} \quad \Gamma_0 = \{x \mapsto \rho_x \mid x \in \text{Global}(p)\} \quad \Sigma_0, \Gamma_0 \vdash p \Rightarrow \Sigma', \Gamma'}{\Sigma_0, \Gamma_0 \vdash p \Downarrow}$$

2.6 Statement evaluation

We evaluate sequences of statements from left to right, propagating the store and environment. If we hit a **return** statement, then evaluation is short-circuited.

$$\frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash s_1 \Rightarrow \Sigma_1, \Gamma_1 \quad \Sigma_1, \Gamma_1 \vdash s_2 \Rightarrow \Sigma_2, \Gamma_2}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash s_1 ; s_2 \Rightarrow \Sigma_2, \Gamma_2}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash s_1 \Rightarrow \mathbf{Ret}(v, \Sigma')}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash s_1 ; s_2 \Rightarrow \mathbf{Ret}(v, \Sigma')}$$

Assignment modifies the store, but has no effect on the environment.

$$\frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash l \Rightarrow \rho, \Sigma' \quad \Sigma', \Gamma \vdash e \Rightarrow v, \Sigma''}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash l = e \Rightarrow \Sigma'' \pm \{\rho \mapsto v\}, \Gamma}$$

There are two cases for function evaluation, depending on if the function returns a value.

$$\frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e(e_1, \dots, e_n) \Rightarrow \mathbf{Ret}(v, \Sigma')}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e(e_1, \dots, e_n) \Rightarrow \Sigma', \Gamma}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e(e_1, \dots, e_n) \Rightarrow \Sigma', \Gamma'}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e(e_1, \dots, e_n) \Rightarrow \Sigma', \Gamma}$$

Blocks limit the scope of the environment.

$$\frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash s \Rightarrow \Sigma', \Gamma'}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash \mathbf{do} \ s \ \mathbf{end} \Rightarrow \Sigma', \Gamma}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash s \Rightarrow \mathbf{Ret}(v, \Sigma')}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash \mathbf{do} \ s \ \mathbf{end} \Rightarrow \mathbf{Ret}(v, \Sigma')}$$

While loops terminate when either the condition is **false**, or a **return** statement is executed in the loop body.

$$\frac{\frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e \Rightarrow \mathbf{false}, \Sigma'}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash \mathbf{while} \ e \ \mathbf{do} \ s \Rightarrow \Sigma', \Gamma}}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e \Rightarrow \mathbf{true}, \Sigma' \quad \Sigma', \Gamma \vdash s \Rightarrow \Sigma'', \Gamma'' \quad \Sigma'', \Gamma \vdash \mathbf{while} \ e \ \mathbf{do} \ s \Rightarrow \Sigma''', \Gamma}}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash \mathbf{while} \ e \ \mathbf{do} \ s \Rightarrow \Sigma''', \Gamma}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e \Rightarrow \mathbf{true}, \Sigma' \quad \Sigma', \Gamma \vdash s \Rightarrow \mathbf{Ret}(v, \Sigma'')}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash \mathbf{while} \ e \ \mathbf{do} \ s \Rightarrow \mathbf{Ret}(v, \Sigma'')}$$

If statements test their condition and then execute the appropriate branch.

$$\frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e \Rightarrow \mathbf{true}, \Sigma' \quad \Sigma', \Gamma \vdash s_1 \Rightarrow \Sigma_1, \Gamma_1}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash \mathbf{if} \ e \ \mathbf{then} \ s_1 \ \mathbf{else} \ s_2 \Rightarrow \Sigma_1, \Gamma}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e \Rightarrow \mathbf{true}, \Sigma' \quad \Sigma', \Gamma \vdash s_1 \Rightarrow \mathbf{Ret}(v, \Sigma_1)}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash \mathbf{if} \ e \ \mathbf{then} \ s_1 \ \mathbf{else} \ s_2 \Rightarrow \mathbf{Ret}(v, \Sigma_1)}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e \Rightarrow \mathbf{false}, \Sigma' \quad \Sigma', \Gamma \vdash s_2 \Rightarrow \Sigma_2, \Gamma_2}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash \mathbf{if} \ e \ \mathbf{then} \ s_1 \ \mathbf{else} \ s_2 \Rightarrow \Sigma_2, \Gamma}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e \Rightarrow \mathbf{false}, \Sigma' \quad \Sigma', \Gamma \vdash s_2 \Rightarrow \mathbf{Ret}(v, \Sigma_2)}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash \mathbf{if} \ e \ \mathbf{then} \ s_1 \ \mathbf{else} \ s_2 \Rightarrow \mathbf{Ret}(v, \Sigma_1)}$$

The return statement returns a value/store pair.

$$\frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e \Rightarrow v, \Sigma'}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash \mathbf{return} \ e \Rightarrow \mathbf{Ret}(v, \Sigma')}$$

A function definition modifies the store to map the function name to a newly formed closure value.

$$\frac{\rho = \Gamma(f) \quad \Gamma_f = \Gamma \downarrow (\mathbf{FV}(s) \setminus \{x_1, \dots, x_n\})}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash \mathbf{function} \ f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \ s \Rightarrow \Sigma \pm \{\rho \mapsto [\Gamma_f, (x_1, \dots, x_n), s]\}, \Gamma}$$

A local function definition binds the function name to a new location, which is initialized to hold a closure.

$$\frac{\rho \notin \text{dom}(\Sigma) \quad \Gamma_f = \Gamma \downarrow (\mathbf{FV}(s) \setminus \{x_1, \dots, x_n\})}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash \mathbf{local} \ \mathbf{function} \ f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \ s \Rightarrow \Sigma \pm \{\rho \mapsto [\Gamma_f, (x_1, \dots, x_n), s]\}, \Gamma}$$

A local variable declaration binds the variable name to a new location, which is initialized to hold the value of the right-hand side expression.

$$\frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e \Rightarrow v, \Sigma' \quad \rho \notin \text{dom}(\Sigma')}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash \mathbf{local} \ x = e \Rightarrow \Sigma' \pm \{\rho \mapsto v\}, \Gamma \pm \{x \mapsto \rho\}}$$

2.7 Function application evaluation

Applying a function requires first evaluating the function expression and argument expressions from left to right and then applying the function's closure to the argument values.

$$\frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e \Rightarrow [\Gamma', (x_1, \dots, x_n), s], \Sigma' \quad \Sigma', \Gamma \vdash e_1 \Rightarrow v_1, \Sigma_1 \quad \dots \quad \Sigma_{n-1}, \Gamma \vdash e_n \Rightarrow v_n, \Sigma_n \quad \Sigma_n, \Gamma' \pm \{x_1 \mapsto v_1, \dots, x_n \mapsto v_n\} \vdash s \Rightarrow R}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e(e_1, \dots, e_n) \Rightarrow R}$$

2.8 Left-hand side evaluation

Left-hand side expressions evaluate to locations. For variables, this means looking up the location in the environment.

$$\frac{\rho = \Gamma(x)}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash x \Rightarrow \Sigma(\rho), \Sigma}$$

Tables map values to locations; if no mapping exists, a new one is added.

$$\frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e_1 \Rightarrow \rho, \Sigma_1 \quad \Sigma_1, \Gamma \vdash e_2 \Rightarrow v, \Sigma_2 \quad \Sigma_2(\rho) = \Theta \quad v \in \text{dom}(\Theta)}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e_1[e_2] \Rightarrow \Theta(v), \Sigma_2}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e_1 \Rightarrow \rho, \Sigma_1 \quad \Sigma_1, \Gamma \vdash e_2 \Rightarrow v, \Sigma_2 \quad \Sigma_2(\rho) = \Theta \quad v \notin \text{dom}(\Theta) \quad v \neq \mathbf{nil} \quad \rho' \notin \text{dom}(\Sigma_2)}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e_1[e_2] \Rightarrow \rho', \Sigma_2 \pm \{\rho \mapsto \Theta \pm \{v \mapsto \rho'\}, \rho' \mapsto \mathbf{nil}\}}$$

2.9 Expression evaluation

Primitive values evaluate to themselves.

$$\overline{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash b \Rightarrow b, \Sigma}$$

Lef-hand-side values evaluate to the value stored at their location.

$$\frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash l \Rightarrow \rho, \Sigma'}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash l \Rightarrow \Sigma'(\rho), \Sigma'}$$

A function call evaluates to its return value (if there is no return value, then a runtime error has occurred).

$$\frac{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e(e_1, \dots, e_n) \Rightarrow \mathbf{Ret}(v, \Sigma')}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e(e_1, \dots, e_n) \Rightarrow v, \Sigma'}$$

Table expressions are evaluated from left to right (note that if multiple fields have the same index, then the rightmost field will define the value). The result of a table expression is the table's location.

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \Sigma, \Gamma \vdash e_1 \Rightarrow v_1, \Sigma_1 \quad \Sigma_1, \Gamma \vdash e'_1 \Rightarrow v'_1, \Sigma'_1 \\ \dots \\ \Sigma'_{n-1}, \Gamma \vdash e_n \Rightarrow v_n, \Sigma_n \quad \Sigma_n, \Gamma \vdash e'_n \Rightarrow v'_n, \Sigma'_n \\ v_i \neq \mathbf{nil} \text{ for } i \in [1..n] \\ \rho, \rho_1, \dots, \rho_n \notin \text{dom}(\Sigma'_n) \text{ are unique} \\ \Theta = \{v_1 \mapsto \rho_1\} \pm \dots \pm \{v_n \mapsto \rho_n\} \\ \Sigma' = \Sigma'_n \pm \{\rho \mapsto \Theta, \rho_1 \mapsto v'_1, \dots, \rho_n \mapsto v'_n\} \end{array}}{\Sigma, \Gamma \vdash \{ [e_1] = e'_1, \dots, [e_n] = e'_n \} \Rightarrow \rho, \Sigma'}$$

3 Builtin functions

Your implementation should include support for the following builtin Mini-Lua functions:

`error(msg)`

Print the message `msg` to the standard error stream and terminate the Mini-Lua interpreter. This function does not return any results.

`loadfile (filename)`

Loads a file as a Mini-Lua chunk (without running it). If no errors are returned, then it returns the compiled chunk as a function, otherwise it returns `nil`. Errors loading the file are reported to the standard error stream. Note that this operation will extend the global environment of the program.

`next (table, index)`

Return the next element of *table* after *index*. The order of table entries is undefined. If `nil` is given as the index, then the first element in the table is returned.

`print (s)`

prints the string *s* to the standard output. This function does not return any results.

`tonumber (s)`

converts *s*, which should be a decimal string, to a number. Leading and trailing whitespace is ignored; `nil` is returned if there is an error.

`tostring (value)`

Returns a string representation of *value*. For primitive values, this string should be the representation of the value, for functions it should be "`<function>`" and for tables it should be "`<table>`".

`type (value)`

Returns the type of *value* encoded as a string. The possible results are: "`nil`", "`number`", "`string`", "`boolean`", "`table`", and "`function`".

`string.byte (s,i)`

Returns the integer value of the *i*th character in the string *s*. Returns `nil` if there is an error.

`string.len (s)`

Returns the length of the string *s* or else `nil` if *s* is not a string.

`string.sub (s,i,j)`

Returns the substring of *s* from index *i* to *j* (inclusive). If *i* is greater than *j*, then it returns the empty string. It returns `nil` if there is a type error.

4 Requirements

We will supply the execution tree representation. Your job will be to do the following three things:

- Extend your typechecker to handle the builtin functions.
- Translate the AST produced by your typechecker to the execution tree format.
- Write an interpreter for the execution tree format.

The assignment is due on the last day of classes (March 12).