

VC: A Virtual Classroom Language



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Motivation

- Programming language designed for teachers to create arithmetic tests.
- Simple creation of a gradable test with a variety of multiple choice, true/false, and fill in the blank questions.
- Generate options for multiple choice answers.

Language Functionality

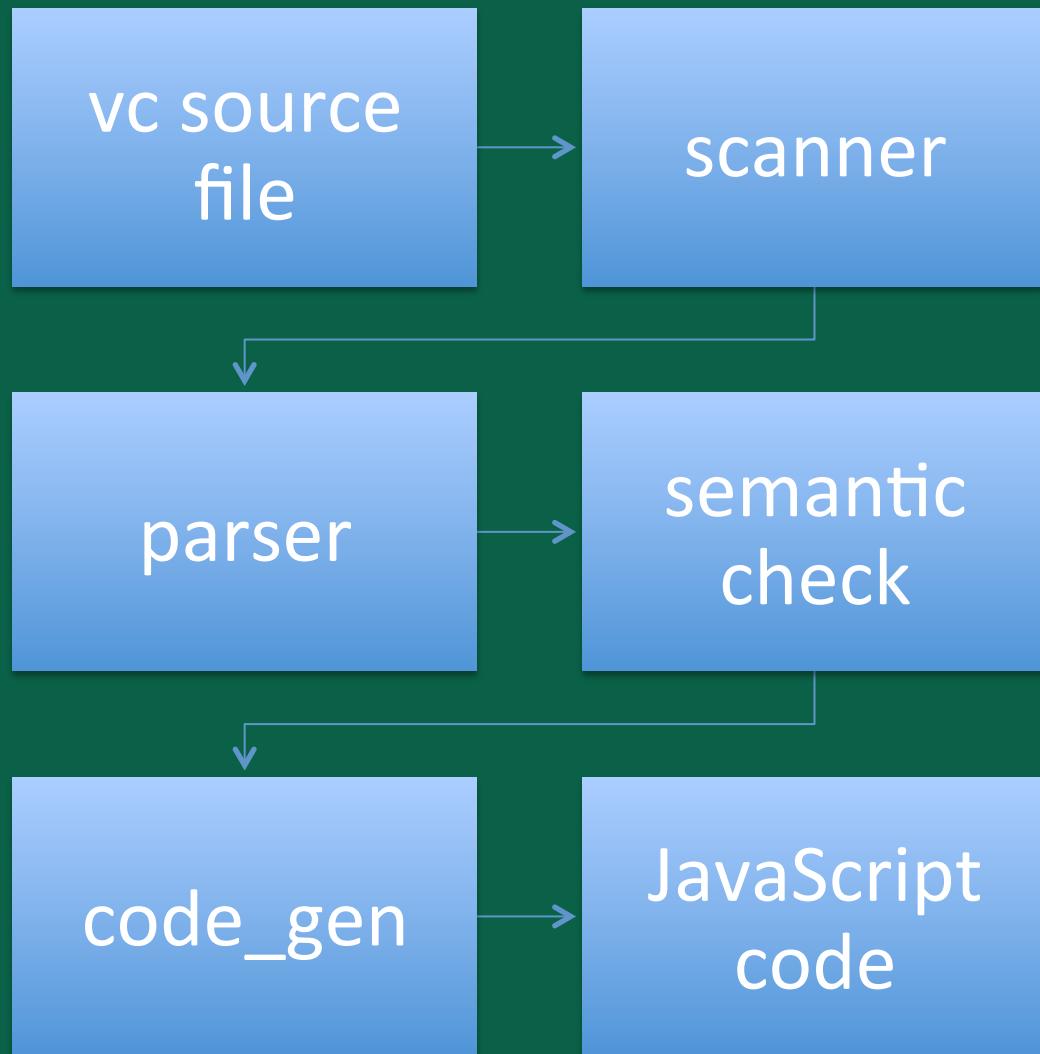
- Language allows the teacher to write functions for generating questions, create multiple choice options, and shuffle answers.
- Built-in functions to print, convert to string, generate random integers, string manipulations, etc. for the teacher to use in functions.
- Final test is displayed in an HTML/JavaScript format

Built-In Functions

- ❑ **print**
 - ❑ print to console
- ❑ **rand**
 - ❑ generate random integers
 - ❑ allows teacher to generate questions with similar formats and varying values
- ❑ **str**
 - ❑ convert type of variable or expression to a string
 - ❑ used to create string versions of questions
- ❑ **evalDouble**
 - ❑ evaluate a string expression into a double
 - ❑ used to evaluate string questions to determine the correct answer
- ❑ **evalInt**
 - ❑ evaluate a string expression into an integer
 - ❑ used to evaluate string questions to determine the correct answer

Built-In Functions continued...

- `get_char_at(<string>, <index>)`
 - get the character at the specified index
 - use cases: teacher can manipulate questions
 - e.g. `var op = get_char_at(question1, 2)`
- `length(<string | list>)`
 - use cases: for loops, creating functions, manipulate answers array
- `strReplace(<string>, <string_to_replace>, <string_replace_with>)`
 - finds a `<string_to_replace>` within the input `<string>` and replaces it with `<string_replace_with>`
 - allows teacher to manipulate string questions in order to generate incorrect multiple choice answers
 - e.g. `strReplace(question1, "(" , ")")` and `strReplace(question2, ")" , ")")`



VC source file

```
function evalWithoutParens returns double
(string q){
    string newq=strReplace(q, "(", ")");
    newq=strReplace(newq, ")", "");
    double ans = evalDouble(newq);
    return ans;
}
function produceWrongAns returns
double(string q){
    double b=evalDouble(q);
    b=b+rand(5);
    return b;
}
string list operators = ["+", "-", "*", "/"];
function createQ returns string (){
    int len=length(operators);
    int randInd= rand(len)-1;
    string q;
    string b= operators[randInd];
    randInd=rand(len) -1;
    string c = operators[randInd];
    q=
str(rand(100))~b~"(~str(rand(100))~c~str(ra
nd(100))~)";
    return q;
}

function run returns none (){
/*string q1=createQ();
int len=length(operators);
int randInd= rand(len)-1;
string b= operators[randInd];
q1=q1~b~createQ();
int a1 = evalInt(q1);
int wa = evalWithoutParens(q1);
int wa2 = produceWrongAns(q1);
display_radio(q1,[wa,a1, wa2,a1],"q1");*/
int a;
loop conditions (start: a=0; check: a < 10;
change: a=a+1) do {
    string name = "q"~str(a);
    string q1=createQ();
    int len=length(operators);
    int randInd= rand(len)-1;
    string b= operators[randInd];
    q1=q1~b~createQ();
    double a1 = evalDouble(q1);
    double wa = evalWithoutParens(q1);
    double wa2 = produceWrongAns(q1);
    display_radio(q1,[wa,a1, wa2,a1],name);
}
```

The Environment

```
type environment = {
    functions: func_decl list;
    scope: string;
    locals: var_scope;
    globals: var_scope;
    has_return: bool;
    return_val: expr;
    return_type: var_type;
}

and var_scope = {
    prims: (string * var_type * expr) list;
    lists: (string * var_type * expr list) list
(*Form (type, list_id, Tlist contents) *)
}
```

AST -> SAST via Semantic Check

```
and get_sexpr env ex = match ex with
  Literal(l) -> (match l with
    Int_Literal(i) -> SLiteral(SInt_Literal(i), Int)
    | Double_Literal(d) -> SLiteral(SDouble_Literal(d), Double)
    | String_Literal(s) -> SLiteral(SSString_Literal(s), String)
    | Bool_Literal(b) -> SLiteral(SBool_Literal(b), Bool)
    | _ -> raise(Error("Can't get SLiteral of this")))
    (*| Any -> SLiteral(SAny, String))*
  | Id(v) -> SId(v, check_expr env ex)
  | Unop(u, e) -> SUnop(u, get_sexpr env e, check_expr env ex)
  | Binop(e1, op, e2) -> SBinop(get_sexpr env e1, op, get_sexpr env e2)
  | Call(str, el) -> SCall(str, List.map (fun e -> get_sexpr env e) el)
  | Let(rec, b, e) -> SLet(rec, b, get_sexpr env e)

and check_stmt env stmt =
  prerr_string("Calling check_stmt\n"); match stmt with
  | Block(stmt_list) ->
    prerr_string("Calling Block from check_stmt\n");
    let new_env = env in
    let (checked_stmts, up_env) = List.fold_left (fun (l, e) s ->
      (check_stmt env s, up_env))
    in
      SBlock(checked_stmts, up_env)
```

Semantic Error Check

```
Var_Decl_Assign: Checking operators and type is string
Starting to check function: evalWithoutParens.
Calling check_stmt
Calling Var_decl from check_stmt
Var_Decl_Assign: Checking newq type is string
strReplace function is being called
check_expr: q id called
strReplace function is being called
check_expr: q id called
check_expr: q id called
Calling check_stmt
Calling expression from check_stmtAssign being called
from check_expr
strReplace function is being called
check_expr: newq id called
tl = string tr = string.
strReplace function is being called
check_expr: newq id called
check_expr: newq id called
Calling check_stmt
Calling Var_decl from check_stmt
Var_Decl_Assign: Checking ans type is double
Evaluate function is being called
check_expr: newq id called
Evaluate function is being called
check_expr: newq id called
check_expr: newq id called
Calling check_stmt
Return from check_stmtcheck_expr: b id called
check_expr: b id called
Starting to check function: createQ.
Calling check_stmt
Calling Var_decl from check_stmt
Var_Decl_Assign: Checking len type is int
length function is being called
check_expr: operators id called
length function is being called
check_expr: operators id called
check_expr: operators id called
Starting to check function: produceWrongAns.
```

```
Calling check_stmt
Calling Var_decl from check_stmt
Var_Decl_Assign: Checking b type is double
Evaluate function is being called
check_expr: q id called
Evaluate function is being called
check_expr: q id called
check_expr: q id called
Calling check_stmt
Calling expression from check_stmtAssign being called
from check_expr
check_expr: b id called
Rand function is being called
tl = double tr = double.
check_expr: b id called
Rand function is being called
Rand function is being called
check_expr: b id called
Calling check_stmt
Return from check_stmtcheck_expr: b id called
check_expr: b id called
Starting to check function: createQ.
Calling check_stmt
Calling Var_decl from check_stmt
Var_Decl_Assign: Checking len type is int
length function is being called
check_expr: operators id called
length function is being called
check_expr: operators id called
check_expr: operators id called
Calling check_stmt
```

Code Generation

```
let gen_literal lit = match lit with
| SInt_Literal(i)      -> string_of_int i
| SDouble_Literal(d)   -> string_of_float d
| SBool_Literal(b)    -> string_of_bool b
| SString_Literal(str) -> "\"" ^ str ^ "\""

let rec gen_literal_list ll = match ll with
| [] -> ""
| head::[] -> gen_literal head
| head::tail -> gen_literal head ^ ", " ^ gen_literal_list tail

let rec gen_expr expr = match expr with
| SLiteral(l,t)          -> gen_literal l
| SId(v,t)               -> v
| SUnop(u, e, t)          -> gen_unop u ^ "(" ^ gen_expr e ^ ")"
| SBinop(e1, op, e2, t)   -> (match op with
| Concat -> gen_expr e1 ^ ".concat(" ^ gen_expr e2 ^ ")"
| Exp     -> "Math.pow(" ^ gen_expr e1 ^ ", " ^ gen_expr e2 ^ ")"
| _       -> gen_expr e1 ^ gen_binop op ^ gen_expr e2)
| SCall(id, e1, t)        -> if(id="print") then gen_print e1
```

JavaScript Source Code

```
1 $( document ).ready(function() {
2     var operators = ["+","-","*","/"];
3
4     var a;
5
6         for (a = 0; a<10; a = a+1){
7             var name = "q".concat(a.toString());
8
9             var q1 = createQ();
10
11             var len = operators.length;
12
13             var randInd = Math.floor((Math.random() * len + 1))-1;
14
15             var b = operators[randInd];
16
17             q1 = q1.concat(b).concat(createQ());
18             var a1 = eval(q1);
19
20             var wa = evalWithoutParens(q1);
21
22             var wa2 = produceWrongAns(q1);
23
24             display_radio(q1, [wa,a1,wa2,a1], name);
25         }
26         function createQ() {
27             var len = operators.length;
28
29             var randInd = Math.floor((Math.random() * len + 1))-1;
30
31             var q;
32
33             var b = operators[randInd];
34
35             randInd = Math.floor((Math.random() * len + 1))-1;
36             var c = operators[randInd];
37
38             q = Math.floor((Math.random() * 100 + 1)).toString().concat(c);
39             return q
40         }
41         function produceWrongAns(q) {
42             var b = eval(q);
43         }
44     }
45 }
```

HTML output

1. $52/(93+46)+39-(6+61)$
 18.55913978494624 -27.62589928057554 -26.62589928057554

2. $57+(12+96)*47/(14*37)$
 77.71042471042472 66.7992277992278 70.7992277992278

3. $8+(5*38)+78*(90*50)$
 351198 351198 351202

4. $96*(29+77)+84-(3+67)$
 2875 10190 10193

5. $86+(66/46)/49*(91-69)$
 86.64418811002662 86.64418811002662 87.64418811002662

6. $57+(91+90)-10-(67+56)$
 105 105 108

7. $11/(58*94)+85+(81+48)$
 231.82758620689657 214.00201760821716 216.00201760821716

8. $54/(70/16)/19/(33+55)$
 0.000028836295283663707 0.007382091592617909 5.007382091592618

9. $27*(13-58)+56-(39/20)$
 347.05 -1160.95 -1159.95

10. $5/(61/23)-38+(17+35)$
 14.003563791874555 15.885245901639344 17.885245901639344

To compile and run

```
open Unix
open String
open Filename
type action = Ast | Sast | JavaScript | Help

let usage (name:string) =
  "usage:\n" ^ name ^ "\n" ^
  "  -a source.vc          (Print AST of an vc source)\n" ^
  "  -s source.vc          (Run Semantic Analysis over source)\n" ^
  "  -j source.vc [target.js]  (Generate JavaScript code for vc)\n" ^
  "  -c source.vc [target.out] (Compile vc to executable)\n" ^
  "  -h                      (Shows this menu)"

let backend_path = "../backend/src/"
let target_path = backend_path ^ "com/vc/"
```

do: make

then: ./vc -[option] source.vc

options:

- a to print AST
- s to run semantic analysis on source code
- j to compile and output JavaScript and HTML source code
- h for help

Lessons Learned