Extra Project Assignment - Reproducibility of Published Results

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1. Choose a paper presented in a recent compiler related conference, such as CGO, PLDI or CC.

I chose the paper titled "flap: A Deterministic Parser with Fused Lexing," published at PLDI 2023. It was written by Jeremy Yallop, Ningning Xie, and Neel Krishnaswami, and it is available at: https://dl.acm.org/doi/pdf/10.1145/3591269.

2. Download the material that the authors have made publicly available for the paper. If there is no such material, but the student still wants to reproduce the paper's results, he/she can write to the authors of the paper, asking for their implementation.

Done. The materials are publicly available at https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7824835.

- 3. Run the implementation, trying to reproduce at least one of the experiments in the paper. Even if it is not possible to reproduce the experiments, the student can still write a report about his/her tries, to claim the extra points. Done. It was possible to reproduce some of the experiments. I will talk about this procedure and the results in the next section.
- 4. Write a short report about the entire procedure. This report must contain the URL of the material that has been downloaded, plus a brief description of the student's experience with it. If the student has not been able to reproduce those experiments, than the report must explain the reasons for this failure.

It is possible to reproduce 18 claims of the authors in total. Each of these are described below:

1 - The paper claims that flap has the architecture depicted in a figure:

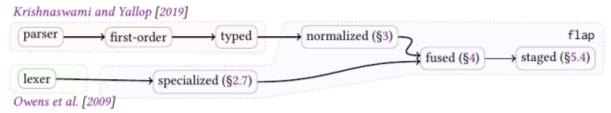


Fig. 1. Architecture of flap

We can verify this by examining the code. By running cat /home/opam/flap/lib/flap.ml we can see the first-order parser representation:

```
type ('ctx, 'a, 'd) t' =
    Eps : 'a V.t -> ('ctx, 'a, 'd) t'
    | Seq : ('ctx, 'a, 'd) t * ('ctx, 'b, 'd) t -> ('ctx, 'a * 'b, 'd) t'
    | Tok : 'a tag -> ('ctx, 'a, 'd) t'
    | Bot : ('ctx, 'a, 'd) t'
    | Alt : ('ctx, 'a, 'd) t * ('ctx, 'a, 'd) t -> ('ctx, 'a, 'd) t'
    | Map : ('a V.t -> 'b V.t) * ('ctx, 'a, 'd) t -> ('ctx, 'b, 'd) t'
    | Fix : ('a * 'ctx, 'a, 'd) t -> ('ctx, 'a, 'd) t'
    | Var : ('ctx, 'a) var -> ('ctx, 'a, 'd) t'
    | Star : ('ctx, 'a, 'd) t -> ('ctx, 'a list, 'd) t'
    and ('ctx, 'a, 'd) t = 'd * ('ctx, 'a, 'd) t'
```

It is also possible to verify the typed parser implementation in the same file:

```
let rec typeof : type ctx a d. ctx TpEnv.t -> (ctx, a, d) t -> (ctx, a, Tp.t) t =
    fun env (_, g) ->
   match g with
     Eps v -> (Tp.eps, Eps v)
    | Seq (g1, g2) -> let guarded tp = {tp with Tp.guarded = true} in
                      let g1 = typeof env g1 in
                      let g2 = typeof (TpEnv.map {TpEnv.f = guarded} env) g2 in
                      (Tp.seq (data g1) (data g2), Seq(g1, g2))
     Tok (tag,f) -> (Tp.tok tag, Tok (tag,f))
     Bot -> (Tp.bot, Bot)
    Alt (g1, g2) -> let g1 = typeof env g1 in
                      let g2 = typeof env g2 in
                      (Tp.alt (data g1) (data g2), Alt(g1, g2))
    | Map(f, g') -> let g' = typeof env g' in
                    (data g', Map(f, g'))
    | Star g -> let g = typeof env g in
                (Tp.star (data g), Star g)
     Fix g' -> let tp = Tp.fix (fun tp -> data (typeof (tp :: env) g')) in
                 if tp.guarded then let g' = typeof (tp :: env) g' in (data g', Fix g')
                 else Format.kasprintf failwith "guarded %a" Tp.pp tp
    | Var n -> (TpEnv.lookup env n, Var n)
end
```

By running cat /home/opam/flap/lib/normal.mli it is possible to verify the normalized parser representation:

By running cat /home/opam/flap/lib/flap.mli it is possible to verify the lexer interface:

```
type rhs = Skip | Error of string | Return of Term.t
val compile : (Reex.t * rhs) list -> 'a t -> ((string -> 'a) code, string) result
```

- **2** The paper claims that the parser interface is the same as the one described in Krishnaswami & Yallop's 2019 article A Typed, Algebraic Approach to Parsing. I couldn't reproduce this claim, because the commands used to verify it do not show the expected output for some reason.
- **3** The paper claims that the regular expressions used in flap provide various combinators, and that the lexer is constructed as a mapping from regexes to actions. I also couldn't reproduce this claim because of the same reason from claim 2.
- **4 -** Flap's fusion produces token-free code. This can be verified by examining the code generated in the initial setting of the project:

```
match Stdlib.String.unsafe_get s_8 i_5 with | '*'...'\255'|'!'...'\''|'\011'...'\031'|'\000'...'\b' ->
```

5 - The paper claims that flap uses MetaOCaml's staging facilities in the last step. This can be verified by examining the files code.ml and compiler.ml:

```
opam@585ee05adaf0:~/flap/lib$ cat code.ml
type 'a value = Atomic of 'a code
              | Pair : 'a value * 'b value -> ('a * 'b) value
type 'a cd = Value of 'a value
           | LetComp : 'a code * ('a code -> 'b cd) -> 'b cd
type 'a t = 'a cd
let rec fst : type a b. (a * b) cd \rightarrow a cd = function
   Value (Atomic v) → Value (Atomic .<Stdlib.fst .~v>.)
   Value (Pair (x,_)) \rightarrow Value x
  | LetComp (e, k) -> LetComp (e, fun x -> fst (k x))
let rec snd : type a b. (a * b) cd -> b cd = function
  Value (Atomic v) -> Value (Atomic .<Stdlib.snd .~v>.)
  | Value (Pair ( ,y)) -> Value y
  LetComp (e, k) -> LetComp (e, fun x -> snd (k x))
let rec pair : type a b. a cd -> b cd -> (a * b) cd =
 fun x y ->
 match x, y with
  | Value x, Value y -> Value (Pair (x, y))
  | LetComp (e, k), e2 -> LetComp (e, fun x -> pair (k x) e2)
  | Value x, LetComp (e, k) -> LetComp (e, fun y -> pair (Value x) (k y))
let inj : type a. a code -> a cd = fun e -> LetComp (e, fun x -> Value (Atomic x))
let injv : type a. a code -> a cd = fun v -> Value (Atomic v)
let rec dyn : type a. a cd -> a code = function
   Value (Atomic c) -> c
   Value (Pair (x, y)) -> .< (.\sim(dyn (Value x)), .\sim(dyn (Value y))) >.
  | LetComp (e, k) -> .< let x = .\sim in .\sim (dyn (k .< x>.)) >.
let rec let_ : type a b. a cd -> (a cd -> b cd) -> b cd =
 fun e k ->
 match e with
   Value \_ as v \rightarrow k v
  | LetComp (e1, k1) -> LetComp (e1, fun x -> let_ (k1 x) k)
let unit = Value (Atomic .<()>.)
opam@585ee05adaf0:~/flap/lib$
```

```
opam@585ee05adaf0:~/flap/lib$ cat code.ml
type 'a value = Atomic of 'a code
              | Pair : 'a value * 'b value -> ('a * 'b) value
type 'a cd = Value of 'a value
           LetComp : 'a code * ('a code -> 'b cd) -> 'b cd
type 'a t = 'a cd
let rec fst : type a b. (a * b) cd -> a cd = function
    Value (Atomic v) -> Value (Atomic .<Stdlib.fst .~v>.)
    Value (Pair (x,_)) \rightarrow Value x
   LetComp (e, k) -> LetComp (e, fun x -> fst (k x))
let rec snd : type a b. (a * b) cd -> b cd = function
    Value (Atomic v) -> Value (Atomic .<Stdlib.snd .~v>.)
    Value (Pair (_,y)) -> Value y
  | LetComp (e, k) -> LetComp (e, fun x -> snd (k x))
let rec pair : type a b. a cd -> b cd -> (a * b) cd =
  fun x y ->
  match x, y with
  | Value x, Value y -> Value (Pair (x, y))
  | LetComp (e, k), e2 -> LetComp (e, fun x -> pair (k x) e2)
  | Value x, LetComp (e, k) -> LetComp (e, fun y -> pair (Value x) (k y))
let inj : type a. a code -> a cd = fun e -> LetComp (e, fun x -> Value (Atomic x))
let injv : type a. a code -> a cd = fun v -> Value (Atomic v)
let rec dyn : type a. a cd -> a code = function
    Value (Atomic c) -> c
    Value (Pair (x, y)) -> .< (.\sim(dyn (Value x)), .\sim(dyn (Value y))) >.
  | LetComp (e, k) -> .< let x = .~e in .~(dyn (k .<x>.)) >.
let rec let_ : type a b. a cd -> (a cd -> b cd) -> b cd =
  fun e k ->
  match e with
    Value _ as v -> k v
  | LetComp (e1, k1) -> LetComp (e1, fun x -> let_ (k1 x) k)
let unit = Value (Atomic .<()>.)
```

It is possible to note that the files contain various occurrences of MetaOCaml's quotation (.< ... >.) and splicing (.~) constructs.

6 - The paper claims that flap uses a letrec insertion library for generating mutually-recursive functions. By examining the compiler.ml file, we can see that it contains calls to build a module Rec using letrec and calls to components of Rec:

module Rec = Letrec.Make(Idx)

7 - The paper claims that the generated code operates on OCaml's flat array representation of strings rather than on linked lists. We can verify it by examining the code generated by setting the example grammar proposed by the authors:

```
and len_3 = Stdlib.String.length s_1 in
match Stdlib.String.unsafe_get s_45 i_42 with
```

8 - The paper claims that flap optimises the end-of-input check by checking for a nullterminator rather than checking the length of the input. This can be verified using the same code of the previous claim. The code matches the input against '\000' rather than checking the length:

```
match Stdlib.String.unsafe_get s_45 i_42 with | '*'...'\255'|'!'...'\''|'\011'...'\031'|'\000'...'\b' ->
```

- **9** The paper claims that flap generates code that branches on character classes rather than on characters. This can also be verified with the code from the previous claim. We note that the functions that examine characters contain patterns such as 'u'..'\255' that match character ranges.
- **10** The paper claims that OCaml compiles tail calls to known functions to efficient code. This can be verified by compiling code with tail calls and examining the generated assembly:

```
opam@585ee05adaf0:~/flap/lib$ cat /tmp/test.s
       .file "
       .section .rodata.cst8, "a",@progbits
       .align 16
caml_negf_mask:
       .quad 0x80000000000000000
       .quad 0
caml_absf_mask:
       .quad 0x7fffffffffffffff
       .quad
       .data
       .globl camlTest__data_begin
camlTest__data_begin:
        .text
       .globl camlTest__code_begin
camlTest__code_begin:
       .data
       .align 8
       .data
       .align 8
       .quad 6135
camlTest_1:
       .quad
              camlTest__f_80
       .quad
       .quad 3321
       .quad
             camlTest_g_81
       .quad
       .data
       .align 8
       .quad 2816
       .globl camlTest
camlTest:
       .quad
       .quad
       .data
       .align 8
       .globl camlTest__gc_roots
camlTest__gc_roots:
       .quad camlTest
       .quad
       .text
       .align 16
       .globl camlTest__f_80
camlTest__f_80:
       .cfi_startproc
.L103:
       movq
              %rax, %rbx
              $1, %rbx
       cmpq
               .L102
              $4, %eax
       mov1
       subq %rbx, %rax
       jmp
              camlTest_g_81@PLT
       .align 4
```

I won't show all the code, but it is possible to verify that the assembly code do not contain call instructions.

- **11** The paper claims that the evaluation compares six parser implementations:
- (a) ocamlyacc
- (b) menhir in table-generation mode
- (c) menhir in code-generation mode
- (d) flap

- (e) asp [Krishnaswami and Yallop 2019]
- (f) ParTS [Casinghino and Roux 2020]

This can be verified by examining the subdirectories of /home/opam/flap/benchmarks:

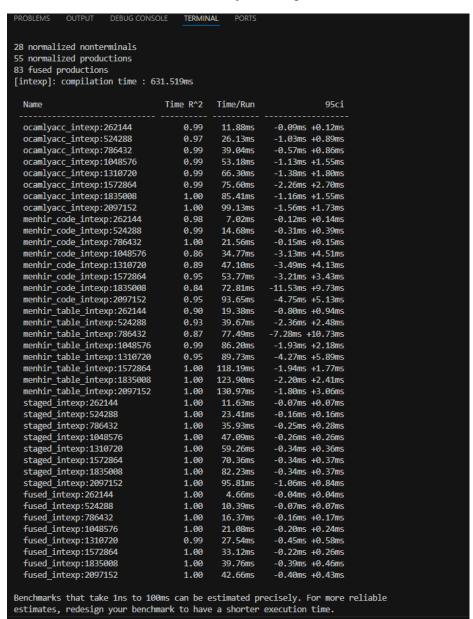
```
opam@585ee05adaf0:~/flap/benchmarks$ ls

README.md common csv intexp json munge.py pgn ppm sexp

opam@585ee05adaf0:~/flap/benchmarks/json$ is

README.md dune json_lexer.mll json_lexer_menhir_table.mll json_parser_menhir_code.mly json_parts.ml json_tokens.ml jso
```

12 - The authors claim that flap has the best throughput of the implementations evaluated. This can be verified by running the benchmarks with make bench:



For each benchmark, for each input size, the fused implementation have the lowest running time.

The authors also provide a script that calculates the throughputs from the time recorded. By running python throughput.py it is possible to verify that the fused implementation has the highest throughput for most of the benchmarks:

```
opam@72a7e95dae2b:~/flap$ python throughput.py
benchmark,fused_staged_ocamlyacc_menhir_table,menhir_code,parts,menhir_normalized_table,menhir_normalized_code,ocamlyacc_normalized_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized_sode,ocamlyacc_normalized
```

13 - The paper claims that the benchmark implementations use either ocamllex or combinators. This can be verified by examining the benchmark code:

```
let lex =
  let open Json_tokens_base in
  fix @@ fun lex ->
    (chr '[' $ (fun _ -> .< Some (T (LBRACKET, ())) >.))
<|> (chr ']' $ (fun -> .< Some (T (RBRACKET, ())) >.))
          '{' $ (fun _ -> .< Some (T (LBRACE, ())) >.))
<|> (chr '}' $ (fun _ -> .< Some (T (RBRACE, ())) >.))
<|> (chr ',' $ (fun _ -> .< Some (T (COMMA, ())) >.))
          ':' $ (fun _ -> .< Some (T (COLON, ())) >.))
<|> (chr
<|> (chr
     chr 'u' >>>
     chr '1' >>>
     chr 'l' $ fun _ -> .< Some (T (NULL, ()))>.)
<|> (chr 't'
     chr 'r' >>>
     chr 'u' >>>
          'e'
     chr
              $ fun _ -> .<Some (T (TRUE, ()))>.)
<>> (chr 'f'
              >>>
     chr 'a' >>>
     chr '1' >>>
          's' >>>
     chr 'e' $ fun _ -> .<Some (T (FALSE, ()))>.)
< > (string $ (fun s -> .<Some (T (STRING, .~s))>.))
<|> (decimal $ (fun s -> .<Some (T (DECIMAL, .~s))>.))
<|> (charset " \t\r\n" >>>
     lex $ fun p -> .< snd .~p >.)
<|> eps .<None>.
```

14 - The paper claims that the evaluation uses identically-structured parsers for ocamlyacc and menhir and identically-structured parsers for ParTS, asp and flap. This can also be verified by examining the benchmark code. For the json benchmark for example, we can confirm that the parsers for the first three benchmarks are identical, since two of the files are symbolic links to the other:

```
opam@585ee05adat0:~/flap$ 1s -1 benchmarks/json/*parser*mly
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 1329 Apr 12 2023 benchmarks/json/json_parser.mly
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 15 Apr 12 2023 benchmarks/json/json_parser_menhir_code.mly -> json_parser.mly
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 15 Apr 12 2023 benchmarks/json/json_parser_menhir_table.mly -> json_parser.mly
opam@585ee05adaf0:~/flap$
```

15 - The paper claims that flap and the other implementations have linear-time parsing. This can be verified by examining the ratios between input sizes and running times in the figures reported in claim 12:

```
fused_intexp:262144
                                   1.00
                                            4.66ms
fused intexp:524288
                                   1.00
                                           10.39ms
                                                       -0.07ms +0.07ms
fused intexp:786432
                                                       -0.16ms +0.17ms
                                   1.00
                                           16.37ms
fused intexp:1048576
                                   1.00
                                           21.08ms
                                                       -0.20ms +0.24ms
                                                       -0.45ms +0.58ms
fused intexp:1310720
                                   0.99
                                           27.54ms
fused intexp:1572864
                                           33.12ms
                                                       -0.22ms +0.26ms
                                   1.00
                                                       -0.39ms +0.46ms
fused intexp:1835008
                                   1.00
                                           39.76ms
fused intexp:2097152
                                   1.00
                                           42.66ms
                                                       -0.40ms +0.43ms
```

16 - The paper claims that the evaluation is based on six benchmarks. This can be verified by examining the six subdirectories of the /home/opam/flap/benchmarks directory, which correspond to the six benchmarks described in the paper:

```
opam@585ee05adat0:~/tlap$ ls /home/opam/tlap/benchmarks
README.md common csv intexp json munge.py pgn ppm sexp
```

17 - The paper claims that normalized grammars have certain sizes. This can be verified by running the example grammars provided by the authors. For example, the results of table 1 of the paper for the sexp grammar, it's possible to verify the numbers by running the example grammars:

```
# Sexp_grammar.code;;
3 normalized nonterminals
6 normalized productions
9 fused productions
[sexp]: compilation time : 1.718ms
- : unit = ()
#
```

18 - The authors claim that compilation time is acceptable. We can verify this by running dune runtest -f:

```
opam@585ee05adaf0:~/flap$ dune runtest -f
  4 lexing rules
7824835/flap.tgz pe expressions nonterminals for normalized productions from 1 
 [sexp]: compilation time : 0.401ms
 13 lexing rules
  95 context-free expressions
 38 normalized nonterminals
53 normalized productions
 91 fused productions
 [pgn]: compilation time : 324.96ms
  6 lexing rules
 10 context-free expressions
  5 normalized nonterminals
 6 normalized productions
 16 fused productions
  [ppm]: compilation time : 5.606ms
  12 lexing rules
  42 context-free expressions
  9 normalized nonterminals
   33 normalized productions
  42 fused productions
 [json]: compilation time : 44.311ms
   3 lexing rules
  14 context-free expressions
 5 normalized nonterminals
  7 normalized productions
   7 fused productions
  [csv]: compilation time : 0.99ms
 14 lexing rules
 143 context-free expressions
 28 normalized nonterminals
  55 normalized productions
 83 fused productions
 [intexp]: compilation time : 718.882ms
  4 lexing rules
  11 context-free expressions
 File "/tmp/build_ce2c87_dune/runnac41ce.ml", line 37, characters 44-50:
37 | let x_5187 =
Warning 26: unused variable x_5187.

File "/tmp/build_ce2c87_dune/runnac41ce.ml", line 76, characters 44-50:

let x_5184 =
 Warning 26: unused variable x_5184. 3 normalized nonterminals
 6 normalized productions
 9 fused productions
  3 lexing rules
```

```
Warning 26: unused variable x 5184.
3 normalized nonterminals
6 normalized productions
9 fused productions
3 lexing rules
8 context-free expressions
....1 normalized nonterminals
3 normalized productions
3 fused productions
3 normalized nonterminals
6 normalized productions
9 fused productions
1 normalized nonterminals
3 normalized productions
3 fused productions
1 normalized nonterminals
3 normalized productions
3 fused productions
3 normalized nonterminals
6 normalized productions
9 fused productions
1 normalized nonterminals
3 normalized productions
3 fused productions
1 normalized nonterminals
3 normalized productions
3 fused productions
3 normalized nonterminals
6 normalized productions
9 fused productions
1 normalized nonterminals
3 normalized productions
3 fused productions
1 normalized nonterminals
3 normalized productions
3 fused productions
3 normalized nonterminals
6 normalized productions
9 fused productions
1 normalized nonterminals
3 normalized productions
3 fused productions
Ran: 4 tests in: 0.13 seconds.
1 normalized nonterminals
3 normalized productions
3 fused productions
3 normalized nonterminals
6 normalized productions
9 fused productions
1 normalized nonterminals
3 normalized productions
3 fused productions
opam@585ee05adaf0:~/flap$
```

In the output it is possible to note that all tests runned in 0.13 seconds, which is an acceptable compilation time.

Overall, I had a very positive experience with reproducing the experiments of the paper. The instructions of the authors to reproduce the experiments were very clear and easy to follow.