Programming as collaborative reference



Oleg Kiselyov Chung-chieh Shan

28 January 2012

1 3 2 Programming as collaborative reference

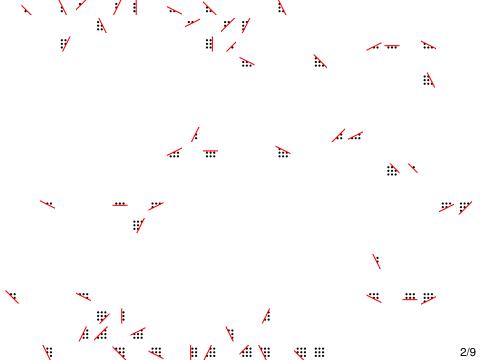


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Communication bottleneck: So many meanings, so little time.

the president him Can everyone hear me?

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```
the president
him
Can everyone hear me?
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We convey precise meanings flexibly:

- use context (Kaplan, Grice, ...)
- exchange feedback (Clark & Wilkes-Gibbs, ...)

"There are two aspects pertaining to referencing:
what to refer to and how to refer to it."

—Lopes, Dourish, Lorenz, Lieberherr (2003)

Communication bottleneck: So many meanings, so little time.

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We convey precise meanings flexibly:

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use context (Kaplan, Grice, ...)
scope, type inference, overloading resolution, ...
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exchange feedback (Clark & Wilkes-Gibbs, ...) identifier completion, continuous compilation, ...

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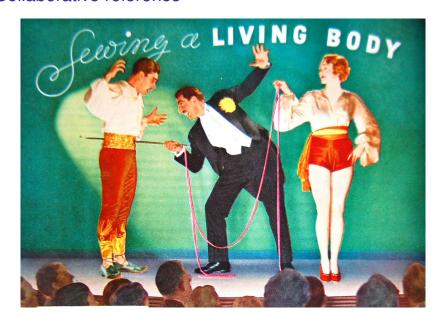
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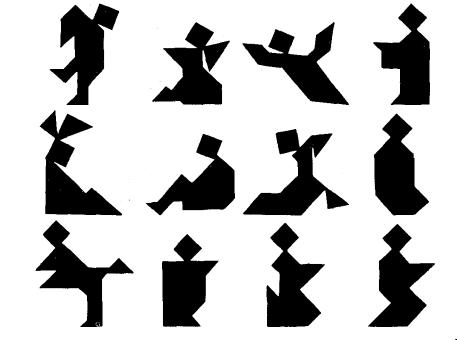
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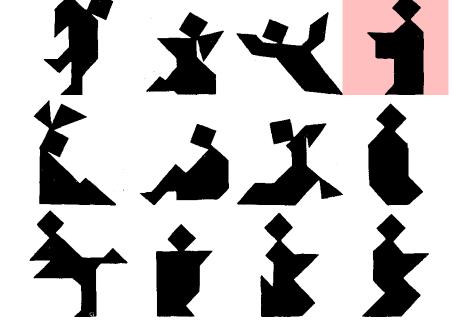
- use context (Kaplan, Grice, ...) scope, type inference, overloading resolution, ...
- exchange feedback (Clark & Wilkes-Gibbs, ...) identifier completion, continuous compilation, ...

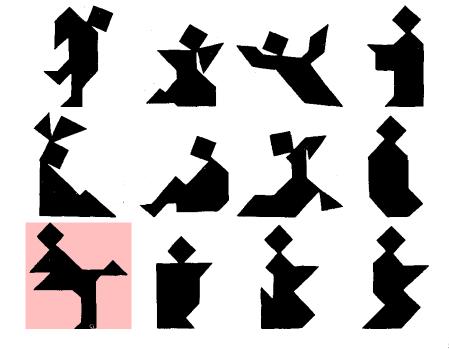
Herbert H. Clark and Deanna Wilkes-Gibbs. 1986. "Referring as a collaborative process." *Cognition* 22(1):1–39.

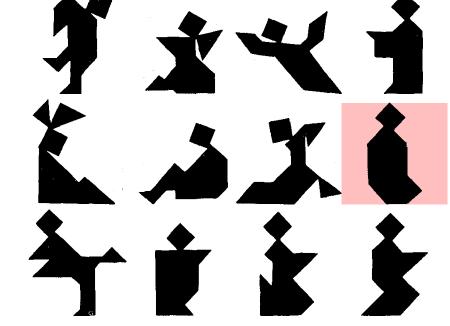
Collaborative reference













Interactive, not literary.

A: the guy reading with, holding his book to the left.

B: Okay, kind of standing up?

A: Yeah.

B: Okay.

Context and feedback!



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B: Okay, kind of standing up?

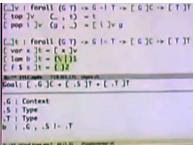
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Context and feedback!



Marble madness







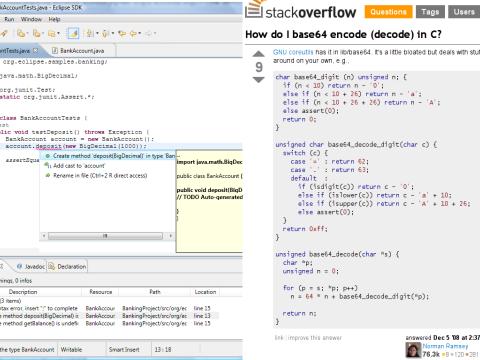
ふるいけやかわずとびこむみずのおと

古池やかわず飛び込む水の音



古池や蛙飛込む水の音





We Can Do It!

Tools:

- ► Logic!
- Meta!
- Types!
- Monads!

COREF demo.

We Can Do It!

Tools:

- Logic!
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- Types!
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COREF demo.

Targets:

- Overloading resolution: overlapping?
- Type inference: undecidable?

A principled distinction between what's said & what's meant.