

Push

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Instructors (1)



Lee Spector is a Professor of Computer Science in the School of Cognitive Science at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, and an adjunct professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He received a B.A. in Philosophy from Oberlin College in 1984 and a Ph.D. from the Department of Computer Science at the University of Maryland in 1992. His areas of teaching and research include genetic and evolutionary computation, quantum computation, and a variety of intersections between computer science, cognitive science, evolutionary biology, and the arts. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Genetic Programming and Evolvable Machines* (published by Springer) and a member of the editorial board of *Evolutionary Computation* (published by MIT Press). He is also a member of the SIGEVO executive committee and he was named a Fellow of the International Society for Genetic and Evolutionary Computation.

More info: <http://hampshire.edu/lspector>

Instructors (2)



Nicholas Freitag McPhee is a Professor of Computer Science in the Division of Science and Mathematics at the University of Minnesota, Morris, in Morris, Minnesota. He received a B.A. in Mathematics from Reed College in 1986 and a Ph.D. from the Department of Computer Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin in 1993. His areas of teaching and research include genetic and evolutionary computation, machine learning, software development, and, when circumstances allow, photography and American roots music. He is a co-author of *A field guide to genetic programming*, and a member of the editorial board of the journal *Genetic Programming and Evolvable Machines* (published by Springer).

More info: <http://facultypages.morris.umn.edu/~mcphee>

Outline

- The Push programming language
- Types and control without syntax
- Evolving Push programs
- Examples of Push program evolution
- Evolving Push program evolution

Push

- Programming language for programs that evolve
- Data flows via per-type stacks, not syntax
- Trivial syntax, rich data and control structures
- PushGP: GP system that evolves Push programs
- Clojure, Python, C++, Common Lisp, Elixir, Java, Javascript, Racket, Ruby, Scala, Scheme, Swift; **build your own in any language quickly**
- <http://pushlanguage.org>

Expressive

- Multiple types
- Arbitrary control
- Multiple tasks (use lexicase selection)
- Self reproduction/variation (optional)

The Push VM

integer_mult		True		
boolean_and	7	False		
(3 string_dup)	-20	True	"Hello"	
integer_add	100	True	"Push"	
		False	"Evolution!"	
Exec	Integer	Boolean	String	...

Push Execution

- Push the program onto the **exec** stack.
- While **exec** isn't empty and we haven't hit the step limit, pop **exec** and do the top:
 - If it's an instruction, execute it.
(Insufficient arguments? Do nothing.)
 - If it's a literal, push it onto the appropriate stack.
 - If it's a list, push its elements back onto the **exec** stack one at a time.

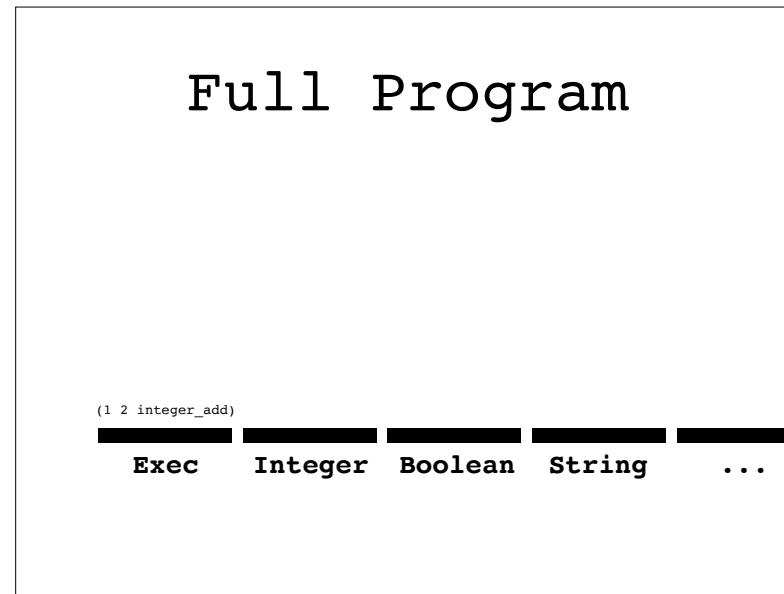
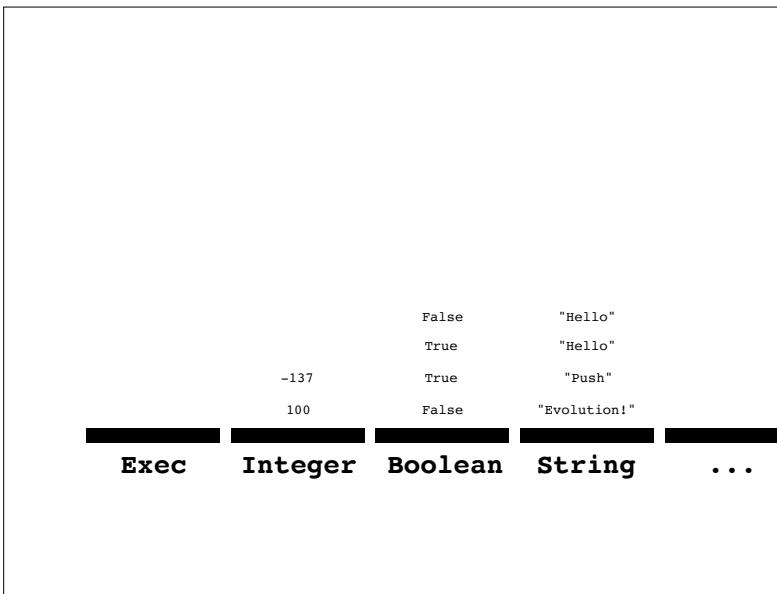
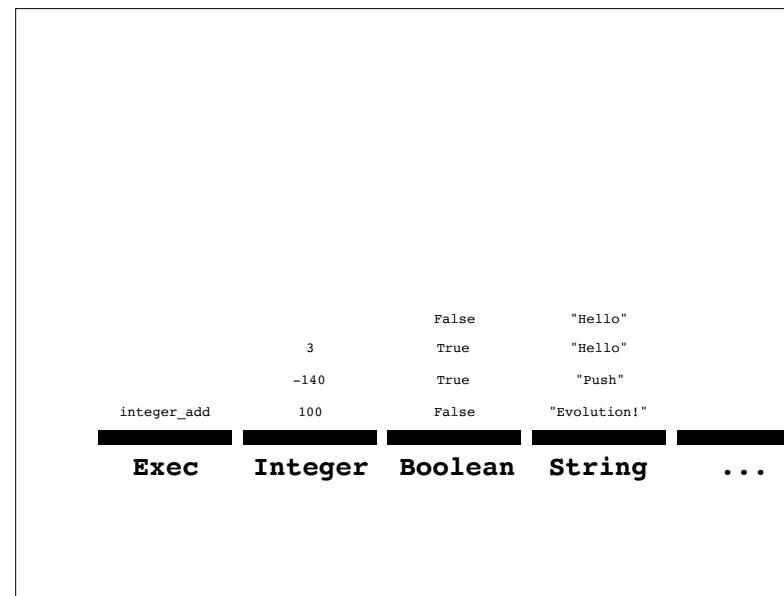
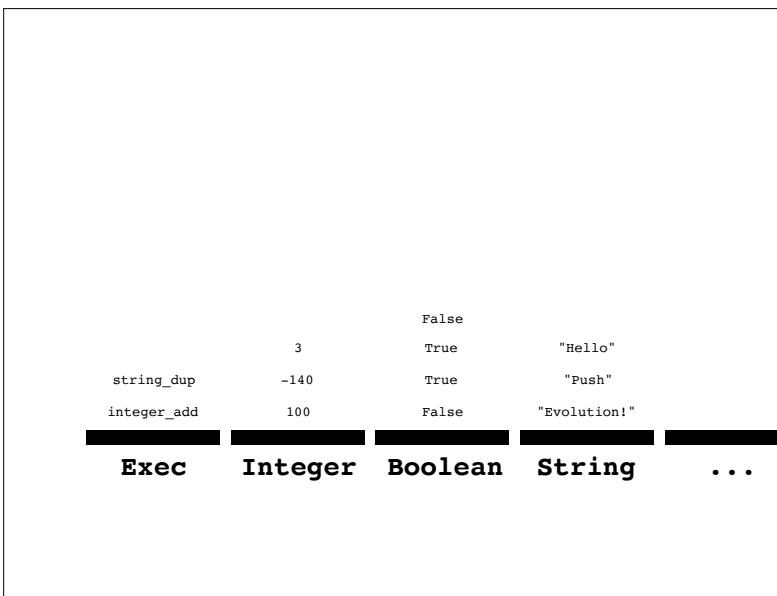
Example Execution

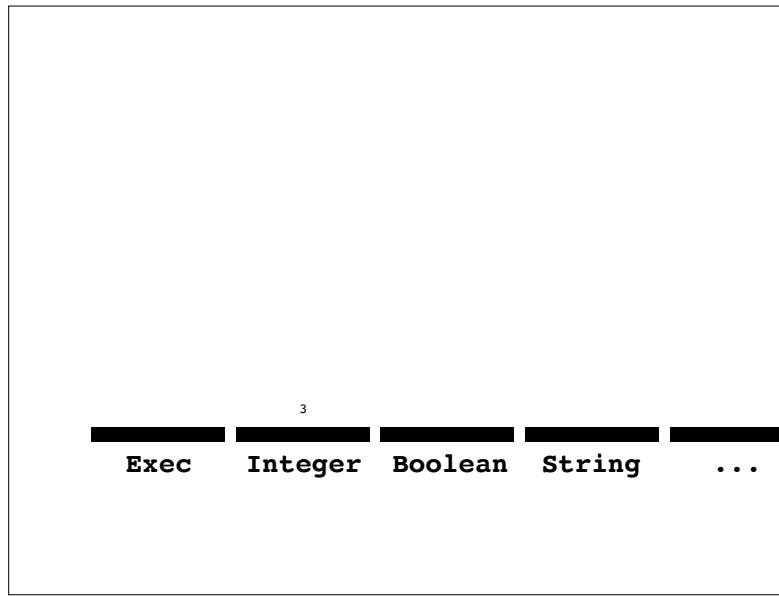
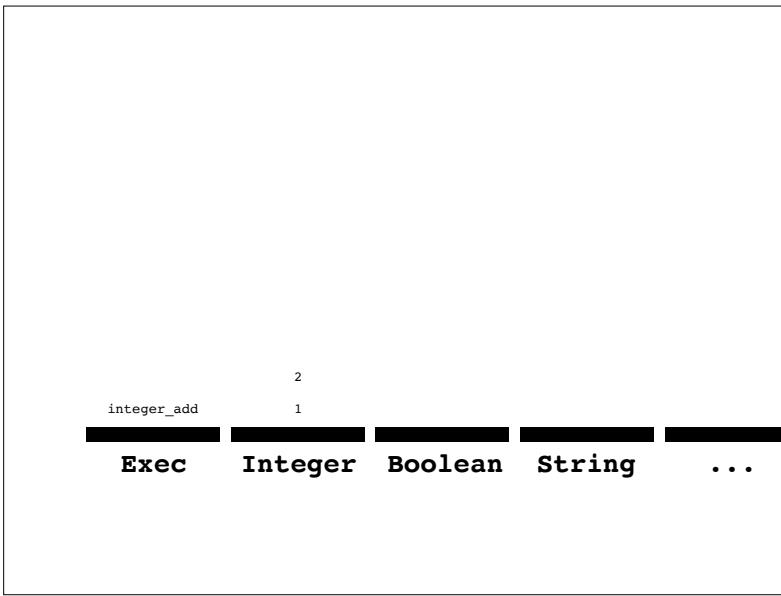
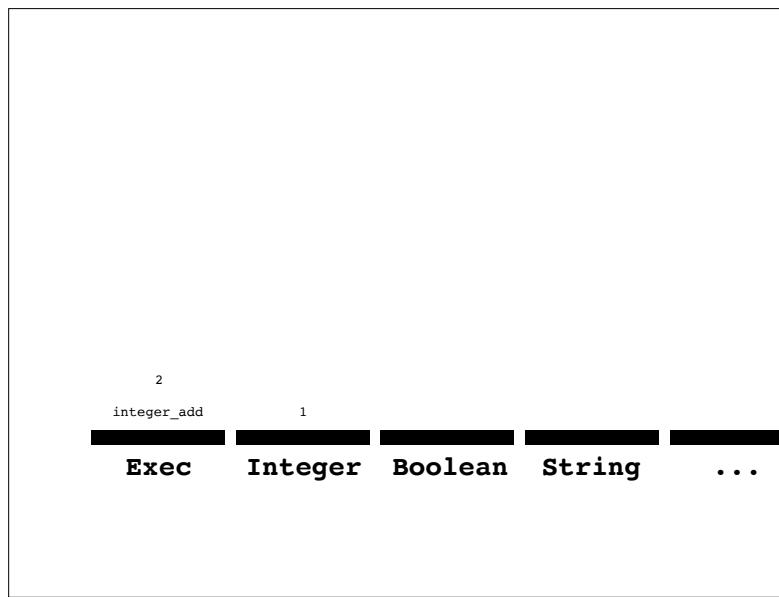
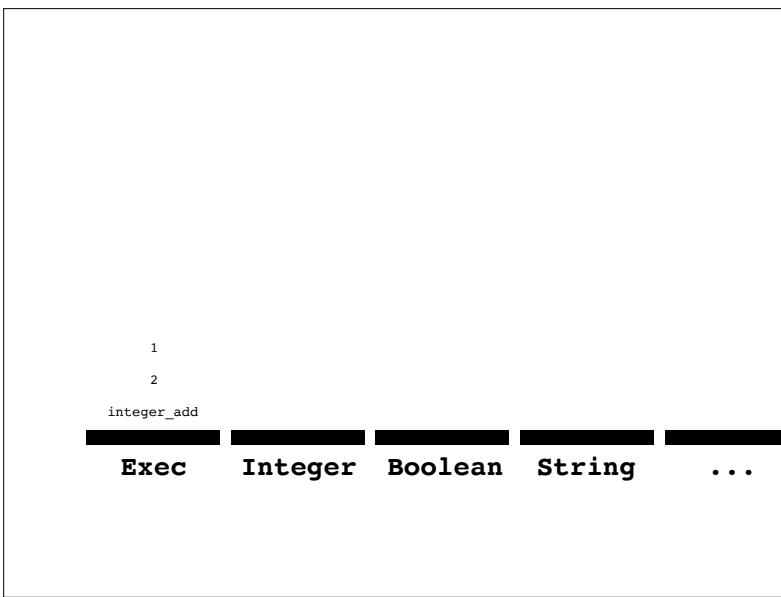
				True
integer_mult				False
boolean_and	7	True	"Hello"	
(3 string_dup)	-20	True	"Push"	
integer_add	100	False	"Evolution!"	
Exec	Integer	Boolean	String	...

				True
boolean_and				False
(3 string_dup)	-140	True	"Hello"	
integer_add	100	False	"Push"	
integer_add			"Evolution!"	
Exec	Integer	Boolean	String	...

				False
boolean_and				True
(3 string_dup)	-140	True	"Hello"	
integer_add	100	False	"Push"	
integer_add			"Evolution!"	
Exec	Integer	Boolean	String	...

				False
string_dup	3	True	"Hello"	
integer_add	-140	True	"Push"	
integer_add	100	False	"Evolution!"	
Exec	Integer	Boolean	String	...





```
(1 2 integer_add)
          leaves 3 on the integer stack

(True False boolean_or boolean_not)
          leaves False on the boolean stack

(3 5 integer_lte)
          leaves True on the boolean stack

(3 5 integer_lte exec_if (1 "yes") (2 "no"))
          leaves "yes" on string, 1 on integer
```

For Most Types

- <type>_dup
- <type>_empty
- <type>_eq
- <type>_flush
- <type>_pop
- <type>_rot
- <type>_shove
- <type>_stackdepth
- <type>_swap
- <type>_yank
- <type>_yankdup

Selected Integer Instructions

```
integer_add integer_dec integer_div
integer_gt integer_fromstring integer_min
integer_mult integer_rand
```

Selected Boolean Instructions

```
boolean_and boolean_xor boolean_frominteger
```

Selected String Instructions

```
string_concat string_contains string_length
string_removechar string_replacechar
```

Exec (selected)

Conditionals:
exec_if exec_when

General loops:
exec_do*while

"For" loops:
exec_do*range exec_do*times

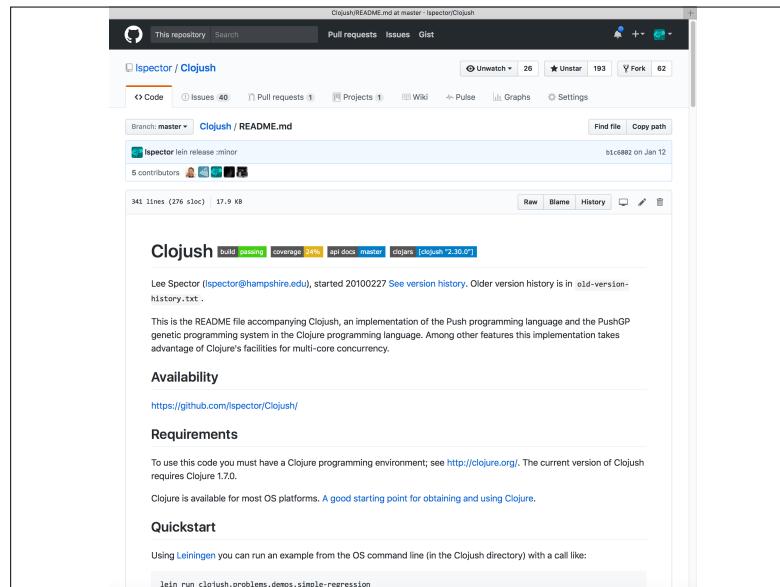
Looping over structures:
exec_do*vector_integer exec_string_iterate

Combinators:
exec_k exec_y exec_s

More

More

- Input instructions
 - Print instructions
 - Associative storage via tags
 - Environment/return stacks
 - Limits, termination modes



```
;; https://github.com/lspceptor/Clojush/
=> (run-push '(1 2 integer_add) (make-push-state))

:exec ((1 2 integer_add)
:integer ()

:exec (1 2 integer_add)
:integer ()

:exec (2 integer_add)
:integer (1)

:exec (integer_add)
:integer (2 1)

:exec ()
:integer (3)
```

```
=> (run-push '(2 3 integer_mult
              4.1 5.2 float_add
              true false boolean_or)
              (make-push-state))

:exec ()
:integer (6)
:float (9.3)
:boolean (true)
```

In other words

- Put 2×3 on the integer stack
- Put $4.1 + 5.2$ on the float stack
- Put *true* \vee *false* on the boolean stack

```
=> (run-push '(2 boolean_and 4.1 true integer_div
              false 3 5.2 boolean_or integer_mult
              float_add)
              (make-push-state))

:exec ()
:integer (6)
:float (9.3)
:boolean (true)
```

Same as before, but

- Several operations (e.g., *boolean_and*) become NOOPs
- Interleaved operations
 - Extremely common
 - Complicates understanding evolved programs

```
=> (run-push
      '(4.0 exec_dup (3.13 float_mult) 10.0 float_div)
      (make-push-state))

:exec ((4.0 exec_dup (3.13 float_mult) 10.0 float_div))
:float ()

:exec (4.0 exec_dup (3.13 float_mult) 10.0 float_div)
:float ()

:exec (exec_dup (3.13 float_mult) 10.0 float_div)
:float (4.0)

:exec((3.13 float_mult) (3.13 float_mult) 10.0 float_div)
:float (4.0)

...
:exec ()
:float (3.91876)
```

Computes $4.0 \times 3.13 \times 3.13 / 10.0$

```
=> (run-push '(1 8 exec_do*range integer_mult)
              (make-push-state))

:integer (40320)
```

Computes $8!$ in a fairly “human” way

```
=> (run-push '(code_quote
  (code_quote (integer_pop 1)
    code_quote (code_dup integer_dup
      1 integer_sub code_do
      integer_mult)
    integer_dup 2 integer_lt code_if)
  code_dup
  8
  code_do)
  (make-push-state))

:code ((code_quote (integer_pop 1) code_quote (code_dup
  integer_dup 1 integer_sub code_do integer_mult)
  integer_dup 2 integer_lt code_if))
:integer (40320)
```

A less "obvious" recursive calculation of 8! achieved by code duplication

```
=> (run-push '(0 true exec_while
  (1 integer_add true))
  (make-push-state))

:exec (1 integer_add true exec_while (1 integer_add
  true))
:integer (199)
:termination :abnormal
```

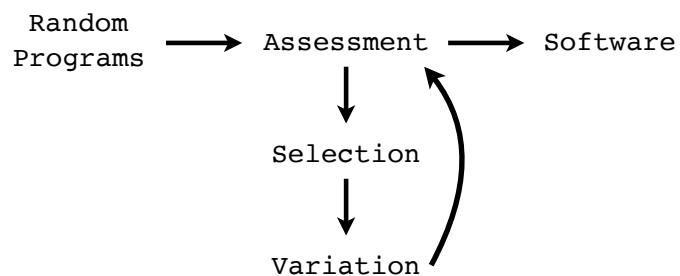
- An infinite loop
 - Terminated by eval limit
 - Probably happens a lot in evolution
 - Result taken from appropriate stack(s) upon termination

```
=> (run-push '(in1 in1 float_mult 3.141592 float_mult)
  (push-item 2.5 :input (make-push-state)))

:float (19.63495)
:input (2.5)
```

Computes the area of a circle with the given radius: $3.141592 \times \text{in1} \times \text{in1}$

Genetic Programming



Linear Genomes

- Support uniform variation
- Structure where we want it, via translation
- PLUSH: epigenetic markers (Clojush)
- Plushy: close instructions (plushi, propel)

Uniform Variation

- All genetic material that a child inherits should be \approx likely to be mutated
- Parts of both parents should be \approx likely to appear in children (at least if they are \approx in size), and to appear in a range of combinations
- Should be applicable to genomes of varying size and structure

Structure

- Parentheses matter mostly for defining code blocks for **exec** instructions
- Openings of blocks can be determined by placement of relevant **exec** instructions
- Closings of blocks can be encoded in genomes in several ways

Plush

Instruction	integer_eq	exec_dup	char_swap	integer_add	exec_if	
Close?	2	0	0	0	1	
Silence?	1	0	0	1	0	

- Linear sequences of instructions and literals
- Instructions specify opens; epigenetic markers specify closes
- Permits uniform linear genetic operators
- Facilitates useful placement of code blocks
- Allows for epigenetic hill-climbing

Plushy

- Instructions specify opens
- "close" pseudo-instructions specify closes
- Used in plushy, propel

Genetic Operators

- Uniform mutation
- Alternation
- Uniform crossover
- Uniform mutation by addition and deletion (UMAD)
- Autoconstruction (genome instructions)

PushGP in Clojush

```
(pushgp
  {:error-function
   (fn [{:keys [program] :as individual}]
     (assoc individual :errors
       (vec
         (for [input (mapv float (range 10))]
           (let [output (-> (make-push-state)
                           (push-item input :input)
                           (run-push program)
                           (top-item :float)))
               (if (number? output)
                   (Math/abs (float (- output
                                         (- (* input input input)
                                            (* 2 input input)
                                            input)))))
               1000000))))))
  :atom-generators
  '(in1 float_div float_mult float_add float_sub)})
```

DEMO

Problems Solved by PushGP in the GECCO-2005 Paper on Push3

- Reversing a list
- Factorial (many algorithms)
- Fibonacci (many algorithms)
- Parity (any size input)
- Exponentiation
- Sorting

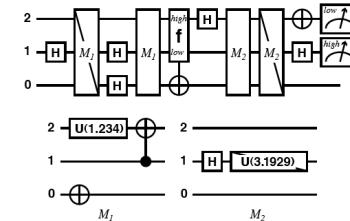
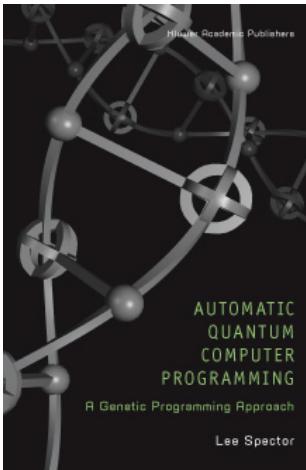


Figure 8.7: A gate array diagram for an evolved version of Grover's database search algorithm for a 4-item database. The full gate array is shown at the top, with M_1 and M_2 standing for the smaller gate arrays shown at the bottom. A diagonal line through a gate symbol indicates that the matrix for the gate is transposed.

**Humies 2004
GOLD MEDAL**

Genetic Programming for Finite Algebras

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**Humies 2008
GOLD MEDAL**

29 Software Synthesis Benchmarks

- Number IO, Small or Large, For Loop Index, Compare String Lengths, Double Letters, [Collatz Numbers](#), Replace Space with Newline, String Differences, Even Squares, [Wallis Pi](#), String Lengths Backwards, Last Index of Zero, Vector Average, Count Odds, Mirror Image, [Super Anagrams](#), Sum of Squares, Vectors Summed, X-Word Lines, [Pig Latin](#), Negative to Zero, Scrabble Score, [Word Stats](#), Checksum, Digits, Grade, Median, Smallest, Syllables
- PushGP has solved all of these except for the ones in [blue](#)
- Presented in a GECCO-2015 GP track paper

Auto-Simplification

- Loop:
 - Make it randomly simpler
 - Keep simpler if as good or better; otherwise revert
 - GECCO-2014 poster: efficiently and reliably reduces the size of the evolved programs
 - GECCO-2014 student paper: used as genetic operator
 - GECCO-2017 GP best paper nominee: improves generalization

Checksum

Multiple types, looping, and code blocks

Simplified solution:

```
("Check sum is " print_string
    inl 64 exec_string_iterate (integer_fromchar integer_add)
    64 integer_mod
    \space integer_fromchar integer_add char_frominteger
    print_char)
```

SUCCESS at generation 20

Auto-simplifying with starting size: 23

• • •

Checksum

Multiple types, looping, and code blocks

Simplified solution:

```
("Check sum is " print_string
    inl 64 exec_string_iterate (integer_fromchar integer_add)
    64 integer_mod
    \space integer_fromchar integer_add char_frominteger
    print_char)
```

First: Print out the header

Checksum

Multiple types, looping, and code blocks

Simplified solution:

```
("Check sum is " print_string
 in1 64 exec_string_iterate (integer_fromchar integer_add)
 64 integer_mod
 \space integer_fromchar integer_add char_frominteger
 print_char)
```

Second: Convert each character to an integer, sum, and add to 64.

Checksum

Multiple types, looping, and code blocks

Simplified solution:

```
("Check sum is " print_string
 in1 64 exec_string_iterate (integer_fromchar integer_add)
 64 integer_mod
 \space integer_fromchar integer_add char_frominteger
 print_char)
```

Third: Mod result by 64

Checksum

Multiple types, looping, and code blocks

Simplified solution:

```
("Check sum is " print_string
 in1 64 exec_string_iterate (integer_fromchar integer_add)
 64 integer_mod
 \space integer_fromchar integer_add char_frominteger
 print_char)
```

Third: Add modulus result to 32 and convert to char

Checksum

Multiple types, looping, and code blocks

Simplified solution:

```
("Check sum is " print_string
 in1 64 exec_string_iterate (integer_fromchar integer_add)
 64 integer_mod
 \space integer_fromchar integer_add char_frominteger
 print_char)
```

Fourth: Print resulting char

3 different evolved solutions to Syllables

Syllables: essentially "Count the vowels"

- 3 very different evolved solutions
 - One uses explicit looping
 - One "unrolls" the loop
 - One is crazy and mysterious
- All starting from same initial population

3 Syllables solutions

Explicit looping

```
(string_empty integer_empty \y
  "The number of syllables is "
  integer_empty \e integer_empty \a \o \i \u
  print_string
  exec_dup
    (exec_do*while
      (integer_add in1 string_occurrencesofchar))
    integer_add print_integer)
```

Push 4 false's onto boolean stack

3 Syllables solutions

Explicit looping

```
(string_empty integer_empty \y
  "The number of syllables is "
  integer_empty \e integer_empty \a \o \i \u
  print_string
  exec_dup
    (exec_do*while
      (integer_add in1 string_occurrencesofchar))
    integer_add print_integer)
```

Push 6 vowels onto character stack

3 Syllables solutions

Explicit looping

```
(string_empty integer_empty \y
  "The number of syllables is "
  integer_empty \e integer_empty \a \o \i \u
  print_string
  exec_dup
    (exec_do*while
      (integer_add in1 string_occurrencesofchar))
    integer_add print_integer)
```

Print intro string

3 Syllables solutions

Explicit looping

```
(string_empty integer_empty \y
  "The number of syllables is "
  integer_empty \e integer_empty \a \o \i \u
  print_string
exec_dup
  (exec_do*while
    (integer_add in1 string_occurrencesofchar))
  integer_add print_integer)
```

Make two copies of the loop

3 Syllables solutions

Explicit looping

```
(string_empty integer_empty \y
  "The number of syllables is "
  integer_empty \e integer_empty \a \o \i \u
  print_string
(exec do*while
  (integer_add in1 string_occurrencesofchar))
  (exec_do*while
    (integer_add in1 string_occurrencesofchar)
  integer_add print_integer))
```

Process 5 vowels (4 true's and one free)

3 Syllables solutions

Explicit looping

```
(string_empty integer_empty \y
  "The number of syllables is "
  integer_empty \e integer_empty \a \o \i \u
  print_string
  (exec_do*while
    (integer_add in1 string_occurrencesofchar))
  (exec do*while
    (integer_add in1 string_occurrencesofchar))
  integer_add print_integer)
```

Process last vowel (1 free loop in do*while)

3 Syllables solutions

Explicit looping

```
(string_empty integer_empty \y
  "The number of syllables is "
  integer_empty \e integer_empty \a \o \i \u
  print_string
  (exec_do*while
    (integer_add in1 string_occurrencesofchar))
  (exec_do*while
    (integer_add in1 string_occurrencesofchar)
  integer add print integer))
```

Final addition and print

3 Syllables solutions

"Unrolling" the loop

```
("The number of syllables is " print_string \e \y \u
exec_s (\o inl \i)
  (inl \a string_occurrencesofchar
    string_occurrencesofchar)
(exec_dup
  (inl integer_add string_occurrencesofchar integer_add))
print_integer)
```

To simplify, let's first "Apply" exec_s and exec_dup. (Not how it actually works.)

3 Syllables solutions

"Unrolling" the loop

```
("The number of syllables is " print_string \e \y \u
(\o inl \i)
(inl integer_add string_occurrencesofchar integer_add)
(inl integer_add string_occurrencesofchar integer_add)
(inl \a string_occurrencesofchar string_occurrencesofchar)
(inl integer_add string_occurrencesofchar integer_add)
(inl integer_add string_occurrencesofchar integer_add)
print_integer)
```

Now we have 6 string_occurrencesofchar calls,
one for each vowel

3 Syllables solutions

"Unrolling" the loop

```
("The number of syllables is " print_string \e \y \u
(\o inl \i)
(inl integer_add string_occurrencesofchar integer_add)
(inl integer_add string_occurrencesofchar integer_add)
(inl \a string_occurrencesofchar string_occurrencesofchar)
(inl integer_add string_occurrencesofchar integer_add)
(inl integer_add string_occurrencesofchar integer_add)
print_integer)
```

And (more than) enough integer_add's to sum up the results; 1st three do nothing

3 Syllables solutions

Haven't really worked this one out yet, but it works and generalizes!

```
(\o boolean_empty char_iswhitespace \e exec_empty
char_stackdepth exec_empty \u boolean_stackdepth
boolean_flush "The number of syllables is " \i \o
char_dup_items \o char_dup \a print_string boolean_empty
char_isdigit \i \y \o inl char_dup exec_rot (exec_dup
(char_dup \i boolean_stackdepth \o char_yankdup char_dup
char_stackdepth boolean_yank \y exec_dup (exec_do*count
(integer_mult \a string_replacefirstchar)) \e \a
string_frominteger boolean_flush char_rot string_concat))
string_reverse (exec_yankdup string_nth
string_occurrencesofchar print_integer)
```

Replace Space With Newline

Multiple types, looping, multiple tasks

Simplified solution:

```
(\space char_dup exec_dup in1  
  \newline string_replacechar print_string  
  string_removechar string_length)
```

Replace Space With Newline

Multiple types, looping, multiple tasks

Simplified solution:

```
(\space char_dup exec_dup in1  
  \newline string_replacechar print_string  
  string_removechar string_length)
```

First: Duplicate space character and input string for use in both tasks

Replace Space With Newline

Multiple types, looping, multiple tasks

Simplified solution:

```
(\space char_dup exec_dup in1  
  \newline string_replacechar print_string  
  string_removechar string_length)
```

Second: Replace spaces with newlines and print

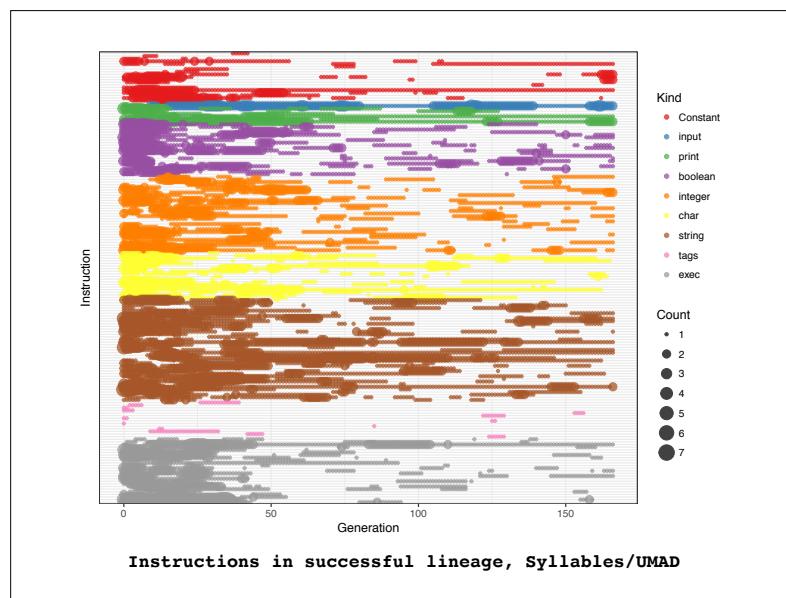
Replace Space With Newline

Multiple types, looping, multiple tasks

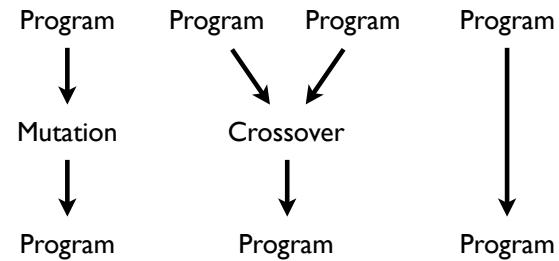
Simplified solution:

```
(\space char_dup exec_dup in1  
  \newline string_replacechar print_string  
  string_removechar string_length)
```

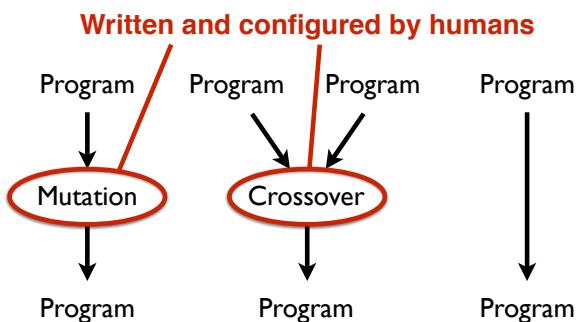
Third: Remove all spaces from second copy of input, and push length of result on integer stack for return



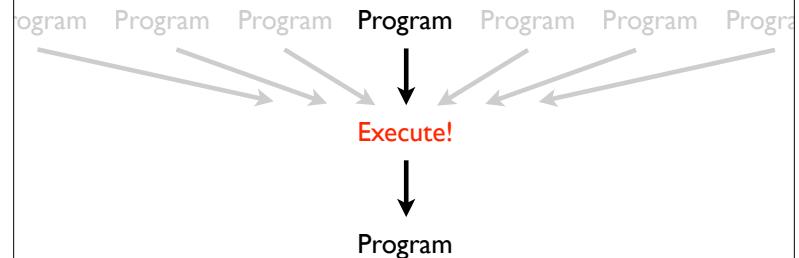
Variation in GP



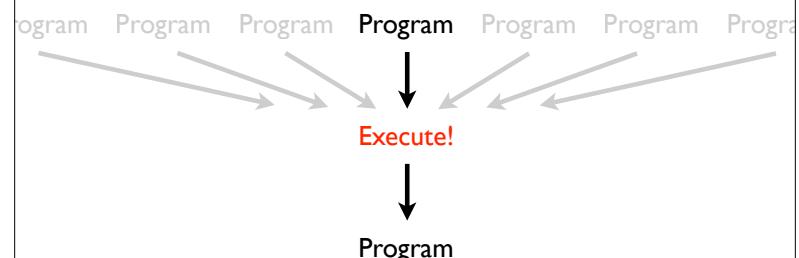
Variation in GP



Autoconstruction



Autoconstruction



A bit more complicated when genomes distinguished from programs

Autoconstruction

- Evolve evolution while evolving solutions
- How? Individuals produce and vary their own children, with methods that are subject to variation
- Requires understanding the evolution of variation
- Hope: May produce EC systems more powerful than we can write by hand

Autoconstruction

- A 15 year old project (building on older and broader-based ideas)
- Like genetic programming, but harder and less successful! But with greater potential?
- Recent versions sometimes solve significant problems, intriguing patterns of evolving evolution

For Evolution²

- Diversity: Individuals vary
- Diversification: Individuals produce descendants that vary, in various ways
- Recursive Variance: Individuals produce descendants that vary in the ways that they vary their offspring

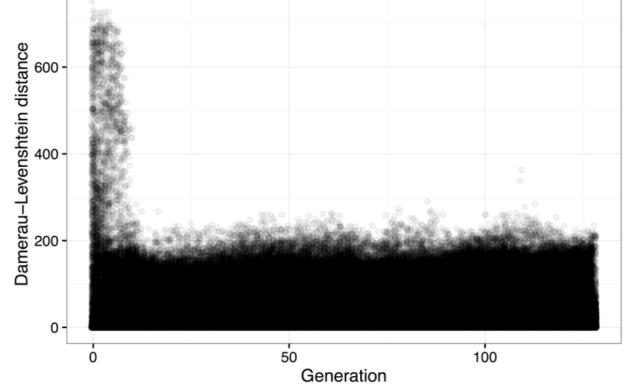


Figure 1: DL-distances between parent and child during a single non-autoconstructive run of GP on the Replace Space With Newline problem

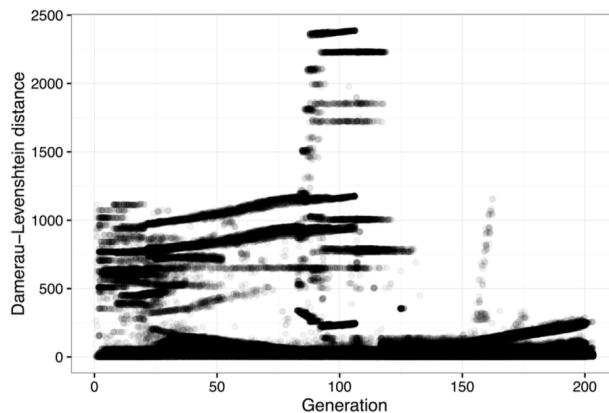


Figure 3: DL-distances between parent and child during a single autoconstructive run of GP on the Replace Space With Newline problem

Evolution Evolving

- Autoconstructive evolution can sometimes succeed as much and as fast as non-autoconstructive evolution
- Autoconstruction found solutions for the string differences software synthesis problem before ordinary GP

Conclusions

- Push supports evolution of expressive programs that use arbitrary types and control structures, possibly to perform multiple tasks
- Push interpreters, and GP systems that evolve Push programs, are easy to write
- Push supports research on expressiveness in genetic programming, for example to support the evolution of modularity

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Software

Implementations of several versions of Push and PushGP, in several host languages, are listed at <http://faculty.hampshire.edu/lspector/push.html>.

Among the most current and actively maintained projects are:

Clojure:

- **Clojush**, full-featured Push/PushGP research platform: <http://github.com/lspector/Clojush>
- **Propel**, minimalist implementation of Push/PushGP: <https://github.com/lspector/propel>
- **Klapaucius**, Push only (no GP), with expanded types and instructions: <https://github.com/Vaguery/Klapaucius>

Python:

- **PyshGP**, an implementation of Push in Python: <https://github.com/erp12/PyshGP>
- **Plushi**, an embeddable language agnostic Push interpreter for running Push programs via a JSON interface: <https://github.com/erp12/plushi>