Scripting languages

- **shell programs are good for personal tools**
  - tailoring environment
  - abbreviating common operations

    (aliases do the same)
- **gluing together existing programs into new ones**
- **prototyping**
- **sometimes for production use**
  - e.g., configuration scripts

- **But:**
  - shell is poor at arithmetic, editing
  - macro processing is a mess
  - quoting is a mess
  - sometimes too slow
  - can't get at some things that are really necessary

- **this leads to scripting languages**

Over-simplified history of programming languages

• 1940's	machine language	
• 1950's	assembly language	
• 1960's	high-level languages:	scripting languages:
	Algol, Fortran, Cobol, Basic	Snobol
• 1970's	systems programming: C	shell
• 1980's	object-oriented: C++	Awk
• 1990's	strongly-hyped: Java	Perl, Python, PHP, …
• 2000's	lookalike languages: C#	Javascript
• 2010's	retry? Scala, Go	Dart?

AWK

- **a language for pattern scanning and processing**
  - Al Aho, Brian Kernighan, Peter Weinberger, at Bell Labs, ~1977
- **intended for simple data processing:**

- **selection, validation:**

  "Print all lines longer than 80 characters"

  ```
  length > 80
  ```

- **transforming, rearranging:**

  "Print first two fields in the opposite order"

  ```
  { print $2, $1 }
  ```

- **report generation:**

  "Add up the numbers in the first field,
  then print the sum and average"

  ```
        { sum += $1 }
  END  { print sum, sum/NR }
  ```

Structure of an AWK program:

- **a sequence of pattern-action statements**

```
pattern      { action }
pattern      { action }
…
```

- **"pattern" is a regular expression, numeric expression, string expression or combination of these**
- **"action" is executable code, similar to C**

- **usage:**

```
awk 'program' [ file1 file2 ... ]
awk -f progfile [ file1 file2 ... ]
```

- **operation:**

```
for each file
  for each input line
    for each pattern
      if pattern matches input line
        do the action
```

AWK features:

- **input is read automatically across multiple files**
  - lines are split into fields ($1, ..., $NF; $0 for whole line)
- **variables contain string or numeric values (or both)**
  - no declarations: type determined by context and use
  - initialized to 0 and empty string
  - built-in variables for frequently-used values
- **operators work on strings or numbers**
  - coerce type / value according to context
- **associative arrays (arbitrary subscripts)**
- **regular expressions** (like egrep)
- **control flow statements similar to C: if-else, while, for, do**
- **built-in and user-defined functions**
  - arithmetic, string, regular expression, text edit, ...
- **`printf` for formatted output**
- **`getline` for input from files or processes**

Basic AWK programs, part 1

`{ print NR, $0 }`	*precede each line by line number*
`{ $1 = NR; print }`	*replace first field by line number*
`{ print $2, $1 }`	*print field 2, then field 1*
`{ temp = $1; $1 = $2; $2 = temp; print }`	*flip $1, $2*
`{ $2 = ""; print }`	*zap field 2*
`{ print $NF }`	*print last field*

`NF > 0`	*print non-empty lines*
`NF > 4`	*print if more than 4 fields*
`$NF > 4`	*print if last field greater than 4*
`/regexpr/`	*print matching lines (egrep)*
`$1 ~ /regexpr/`	*print lines where first field matches*

Basic AWK programs, part 2

```
NF > 0 {print $1, $2}
```

print two fields of non-empty lines

```
END { print NR }
```

line count

```
    { nc += length($0) + 1; nw += NF }
END { print NR, "lines", nw, "words", nc, "characters" }
```

wc command

```
length($0) > max { max = length($0); line = $0 }
END      { print max, line }
```

print longest line

Control flow

- **if-else, while, for, do...while, break, continue**
  - as in C, but no switch

- **for (i in array)**
  - go through each subscript of an associative array

- **next** start next iteration of main loop
- **exit** leave main loop, go to END block

```
{ sum = 0
  for (i = 1; i <= NF; i++)
     sum += $i
  print sum
}


{ for (i = 1; i <= NF; i++)
     sum += $i
}
END { print sum }
```

Awk text formatter

```
#!/bin/sh
# f - format text into 60-char lines

awk '
/./  { for (i = 1; i <= NF; i++)
           addword($i) }
/^$/ { printline(); print "" }
END  { printline() }

function addword(w) {
    if (length(line) + length(w) > 60)
        printline()
    line = line space w
    space = " "
}

function printline() {
    if (length(line) > 0)
        print line
    line = space = ""
}
' "$@"
```

Arrays

- **common case: array subscripts are integers**

- **reverse a file:**

```
      { x[NR] = $0 }   # put each line into array x
END   { for (i = NR; i > 0; i--)
            print x[i] }
```

- **make an array:**

```
n = split(string, array, separator)
```

  - splits "string" into array[1] ... array[n]
  - returns number of elements
  - optional "separator" can be any regular expression

Associative Arrays

- **array subscripts can have any value, not just integers**
- **canonical example: adding up name-value pairs**

- **input:**

```
pizza      200
beer       100
pizza      500
beer       50
```

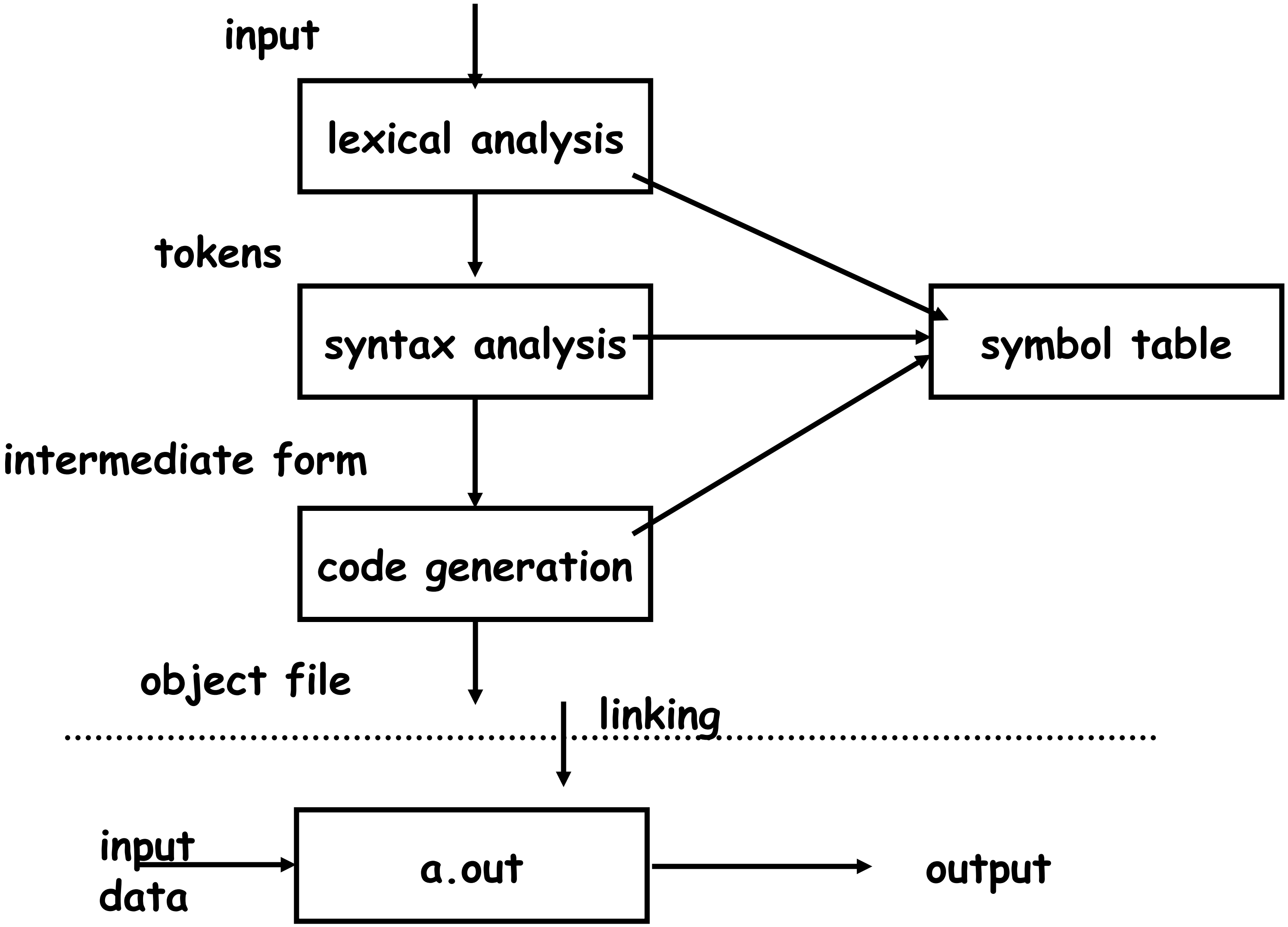
- **output:**

```
pizza      700
beer       150
```

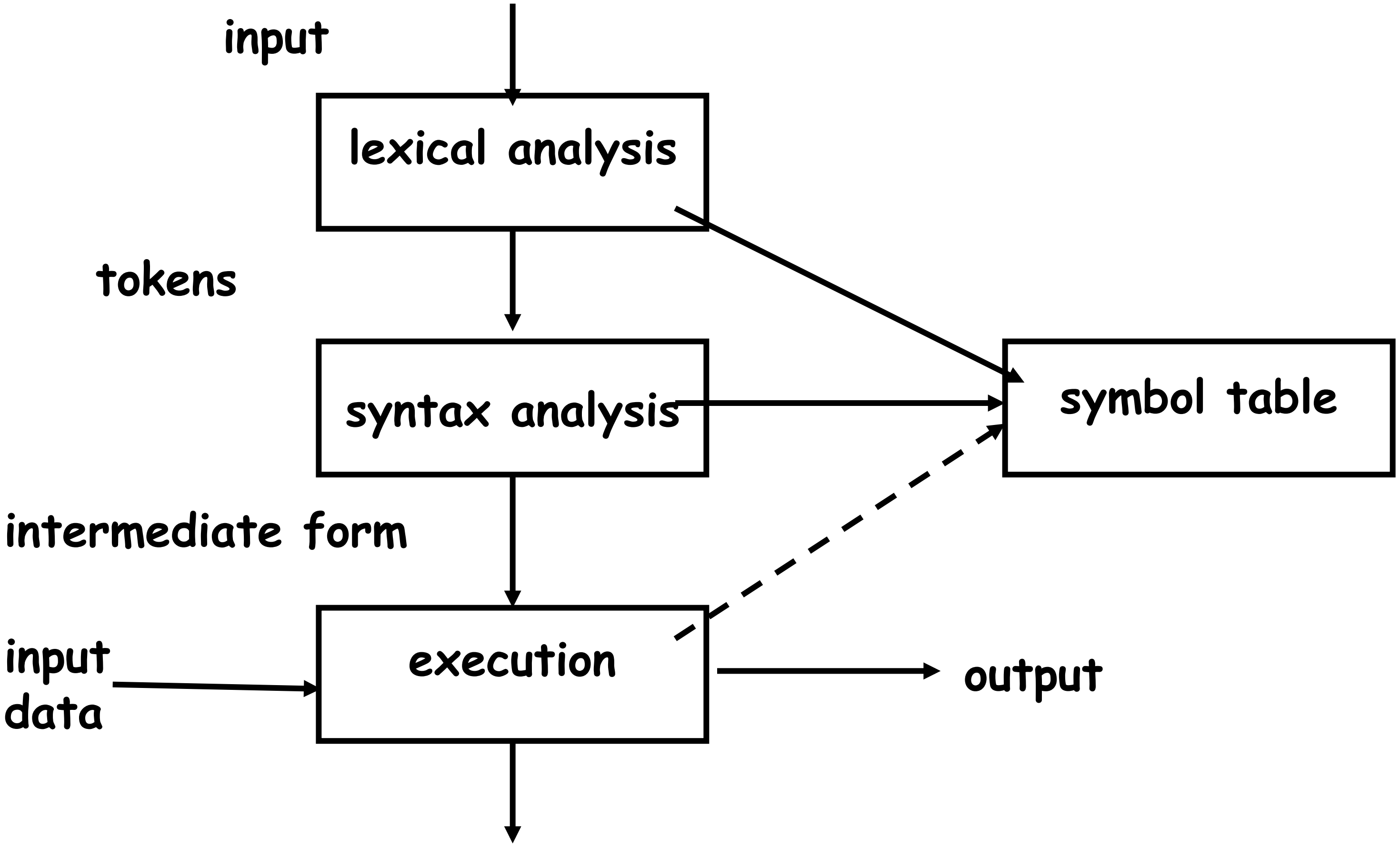
- **program:**

```
      { amount[$1] += $2 }
  END { for (name in amount)
            print name, amount[name] | "sort +1 -nr"
  }
```

Anatomy of a compiler



Anatomy of an interpreter



Parsing by recursive descent

```
expr:      term | expr + term | expr - term
term:      factor | term * factor | term / factor
factor:    NUMBER | ( expr )
```

```
NF > 0 {
    f = 1
    e = expr()
    if (f <= NF) printf("error at %s\n", $f)
    else printf("\t%.8g\n", e)
}
function expr(  e) {      # term | term [+-] term
    e = term()
    while ($f == "+" || $f == "-")
        e = $(f++) == "+" ? e + term() : e - term()
    return e
}
function term(  e) {      # factor | factor [*/] factor
    e = factor()
    while ($f == "*" || $f == "/")
        e = $(f++) == "*" ? e * factor() : e / factor()
    return e
}
function factor(  e) {    # number | (expr)
    if ($f ~ /^[+-]?([0-9]+[.]?[0-9]*|[.][0-9]+)$/) {
        return $(f++)
    } else if ($f == "(") {
        f++
        e = expr()
        if ($(f++) != ")")
            printf("error: missing ) at %s\n", $f)
        return e
    } else {
        printf("error: expected number or ( at %s\n", $f)
        return 0
    }
}
```

YACC and LEX

- **languages/tools for building [parts of] compilers and interpreters**

- **YACC: "yet another compiler compiler" (S. C. Johnson, ~ 1972)**
  - converts a grammar and semantic actions into a parser for that grammar

- **LEX: lexical analyzer generator (M. E. Lesk, ~ 1974)**
  - converts regular expressions for tokens into a lexical analyzer that recognizes those tokens

- **parser calls lexer each time it needs another input token**
- **lexer returns a token and its lexical type**

- **when to think of using them:**
  - real grammatical structures (e.g., recursively defined)
  - complicated lexical structures
  - rapid development time is important
  - language design might change

YACC overview

- **YACC converts grammar rules & semantic actions into parsing fcn yyparse()**
  - yyparse parses programs written in that grammar, performs semantic actions as grammatical constructs are recognized
- **semantic actions usually build a parse tree**
  - each node represents a particular syntactic type, children are components
- **code generator walks the tree to generate code**
  - may rewrite tree as part of optimization
- **an interpreter could**
  - run directly from the program (TCL, shells)
  - interpret directly from the tree (AWK, Perl?):

    at each node, interpret children (recursion), do operation of node itself, return result
  - generate byte code output to run elsewhere (Java)
  - generate byte code (Python, …)
  - generate C to be compiled later
- **compiled code runs faster**
  - but compilation takes longer, needs object files, less portable, …
- **interpreters start faster, but run slower**
  - for 1- or 2-line programs, interpreter is better
  - on the fly / just in time compilers merge these (e.g., C# .NET, some Java)

Grammar specified in YACC

- **grammar rules give syntax**
- **the action part of a rule gives semantics**
  - usually used to build a parse tree

```
statement :
     IF ( expression ) statement
                    create node(IF, expr, stmt, 0)
     IF ( expression ) statement ELSE statement
                    create node(IF, expr, stmt1, stmt2)
     WHILE (expression ) statement
                    create node(WHILE, expr, stmt)
     variable = expression
                    create node(ASSIGN, var, expr)
     ...
expression :
     expression + expression
     expression - expression
     ...
```

- **YACC creates a parser from this**
- **when the parser runs, it creates a parse tree**
- **a compiler walks the tree to generate code**
- **an interpreter walks the tree to execute it**

Excerpts from AWK grammar

```
term:
 | term '+' term           { $$ = op2(ADD, $1, $3); }
 | term '-' term           { $$ = op2(MINUS, $1, $3); }
 | term '*' term           { $$ = op2(MULT, $1, $3); }
 | term '/' term           { $$ = op2(DIVIDE, $1, $3); }
 | term '%' term           { $$ = op2(MOD, $1, $3); }
 | '-' term %prec UMINUS   { $$ = op1(UMINUS, $2); }
 | INCR var                { $$ = op1(PREINCR, $2); }
 | var INCR                { $$ = op1(POSTINCR, $1); }

stmt:
 | while {inloop++;} stmt  {--inloop; $$ = stat2(WHILE,$1,$3);}
 | if stmt else stmt       { $$ = stat3(IF, $1, $2, $4); }
 | if stmt                  { $$ = stat3(IF, $1, $2, NIL); }
 | lbrace stmtlist rbrace    { $$ = $2; }

while:
   WHILE '(' pattern rparen    { $$ = notnull($3); }
```

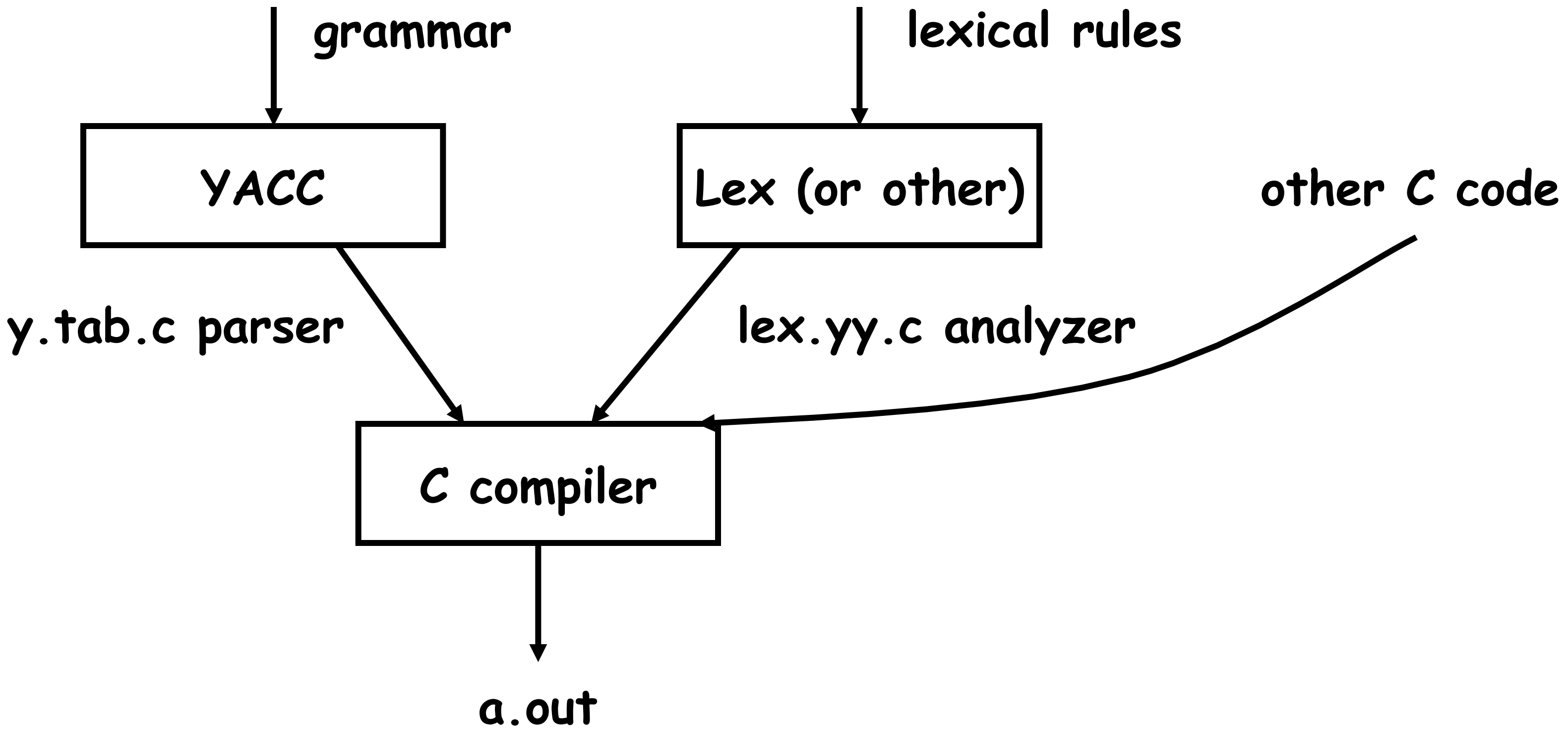
Excerpts from a LEX analyzer

```
"++"         { yylval.i = INCR; RET(INCR); }
"--"         { yylval.i = DECR; RET(DECR); }

([0-9]+(\.?)[0-9]*|\.[0-9]+)([eE](\+|-)?[0-9]+)? {
    yylval.cp = setsymtab(yytext, tostring(yytext),
                    atof(yytext), CON|NUM, symtab);
    RET(NUMBER); }

while   { RET(WHILE); }
for     { RET(FOR); }
do      { RET(DO); }
if      { RET(IF); }
else    { RET(ELSE); }
return  { if (!infunc)
             ERROR "return not in function" SYNTAX;
          RET(RETURN);
        }
•       { RET(yylval.i = yytext[0]); /* everything else */ }
```

The whole process



AWK implementation

- source code is about 6500 lines of C and YACC
- compiles (almost) without change on Unix/Linux, Windows, Mac

- parse tree nodes:

```
typedef struct Node {
    int  type;  /* ARITH, … */
    Node *next;
    Node *child[4];
} Node;
```

- leaf nodes (values):

```
typedef struct Cell {
    int  type;   /* VAR, FLD, … */
    Cell *next;
    char *name;
    char *sval;  /* string value */
    double fval; /* numeric value */
    int state;   /* STR | NUM | ARR … */
} Cell;
```

Unit testing

- **code that exercises/tests small area of functionality**
  - single method, function, ...
- **helps make sure that code works and stays working**
  - make sure small local things work so can build larger things on top
- **very often used in "the real world"**
  - e.g., can't check in code unless has tests and passes them
- **often have tools to help write tests, run them automatically**
  - e.g., JUnit

```
struct {
  int yesno; char *re; char *text;
} tests[100] = {
  1, "x", "x",
  0, "x", "y",
  0, 0, 0
};
main() {
   for (int i = 0; tests[i].re != 0; i++) {
      if (match(tests[i].re, tests[i].text) != tests[i].yesno)
         printf("%d failed: %d [%s] [%s]\n", i,
            tests[i].yesno, tests[i].re, tests[i].text);
  }
}
```

Lessons

- **people use tools in unexpected, perverse ways**
  - compiler writing: implementing languages and other tools
  - object language (programs generate Awk)
  - first programming language
- **existence of a language encourages programs to generate it**
  - machine generated inputs stress differently than people do
- **mistakes are inevitable and hard to change**
  - concatenation syntax
  - ambiguities, especially with >
  - function syntax
  - creeping featurism from user pressure
  - difficulty of changing a "standard"
- **bugs last forever**

"One thing [the language designer] should not do is to include untried ideas of his own."

(C. A. R. Hoare, *Hints on Programming Language Design*, 1973)