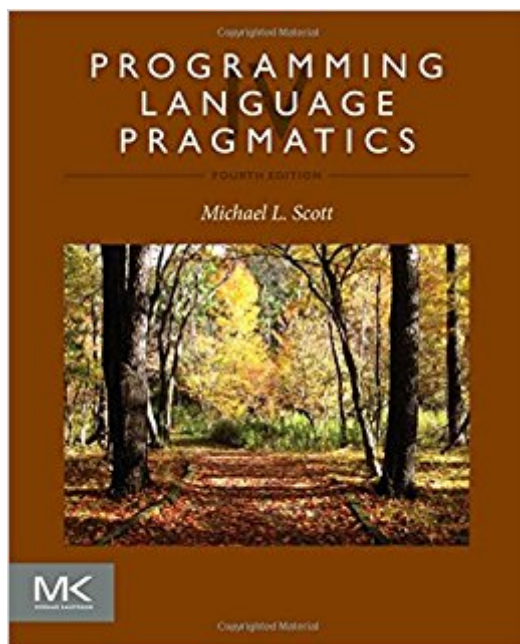


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Programming Language Pragmatics, Fourth Edition



Synopsis

Programming Language Pragmatics, Fourth Edition, is the most comprehensive programming language textbook available today. It is distinguished and acclaimed for its integrated treatment of language design and implementation, with an emphasis on the fundamental tradeoffs that continue to drive software development. The book provides readers with a solid foundation in the syntax, semantics, and pragmatics of the full range of programming languages, from traditional languages like C to the latest in functional, scripting, and object-oriented programming. This fourth edition has been heavily revised throughout, with expanded coverage of type systems and functional programming, a unified treatment of polymorphism, highlights of the newest language standards, and examples featuring the ARM and x86 64-bit architectures. Updated coverage of the latest developments in programming language design, including C & C++11, Java 8, C# 5, Scala, Go, Swift, Python 3, and HTML 5. Updated treatment of functional programming, with extensive coverage of OCaml. New chapters devoted to type systems and composite types. Unified and updated treatment of polymorphism in all its forms. New examples featuring the ARM and x86 64-bit architectures.

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"Michael Scott's book could have been entitled 'Why Programming Languages Work' ... Its comprehensive and integrated presentation of language design and implementation illustrates and explains admirably the many deep and profitable connections among these fields." — Jim Larus,

Microsoft Research" This book is the best and most complete on this topic that I've seen."
 •Klaus Ostermann, Darmstadt University of Technology

Michael L. Scott is a professor and past Chair of the Computer Science Department at the University of Rochester. He is best known for work on synchronization and concurrent data structures: algorithms from his group appear in a wide variety of commercial and open-source systems. A Fellow of the ACM and the IEEE, he shared the 2006 Dijkstra Prize in Distributed Computing. In 2001 he received the University's Robert and Pamela Goergen Award for Distinguished Achievement and Artistry in Undergraduate Teaching.

great book if you are taking courses on programming language and compilers courses. I bought this book for my course because it was recommended by my Professor, but I will be keeping it even after the completion of the course. I got the ebook version. Too good!

UPDATED 3/2011: I had originally posted the review below, complaining that the Kindle version of Programming Language Pragmatics was a rip-off, because (1) you didn't get the CD that accompanies the print version, and (2) that missing CD includes large portions of the book. In March 2011, the publisher posted a responsive comment providing a link to an on-line copy of the material on the CD. Currently, the url is [...] . Given that the missing parts of the book are now available even if one buys the Kindle version, my original complaints about the book are no longer valid. I've kept the original review below just for context, but please note that I now have only good things to say about the book, which is worth reading in its entirety. ORIGINAL REVIEW from 12/2010 (NOW SUPERSEDED - see above): Michael L. Scott's Programming Language Pragmatics is an excellent book about programming languages, language design, and compilers. Unfortunately, the Kindle edition simply omits large portions of the book. It's a rip-off. If you want the complete book, stick with the print edition. Here's the problem. Starting with the second edition, and continuing with the third edition, parts of the print edition were moved to a companion CD - for example, parts of chapters 2, 3, and 4, and all of chapter 5, are on the companion CD that accompanies the print edition - in order to keep the print edition from being too thick. Unfortunately, in the Kindle edition, they have neither integrated the companion CD into the text, nor provided you with the CD (or its contents) - you simply don't get those portions of the book at all. This is a rip-off - you are paying just as much for the Kindle edition as you would for the print edition, but not getting the entire book. I was looking forward to reading this on my Kindle, having read prior editions in hardcopy, but once I realized that

I didn't get the entire book, I had refund my money and ordered the print edition.

If you don't know how programming languages work, I would say this is your book. It contains plenty of examples in different languages. It explains the trade-offs and internals in a very accessible language. The way to explain the different compiler stages and features is very natural. If you are looking for a concrete topic it is in the book. On the other hand, the book contains complementary stuff in a CD. Along the book some topics are covered in digital content only. One extreme case is the last chapter "Code Improvement", it is digital entirely. It would be great if all chapters had a minimal "core" of content. By the way, the bibliography would be more useful in digital format only. Great book on programming languages!

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I would highly recommend this book for the seasoned developer. The author has a dry sense of humor in writing (to this very dry topic), and much of the language is lost if the reader does not have a solid foundation in programming languages; which I did not. When purchased, I started to read, and immediately thought my new career move should be abandoned. However, after purchasing books that are at the beginner level, I am thoroughly enjoying Scott's book, as with each reading, I "get" more of what he is writing about. Even beginners should buy this book. Put it in clear view on the bookshelf, and work towards it.

About as thorough a survey of programming languages and their design challenges/decisions as I could imagine. However, conspicuously omits some of the newer languages from much of its discussion, so -1 star.

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