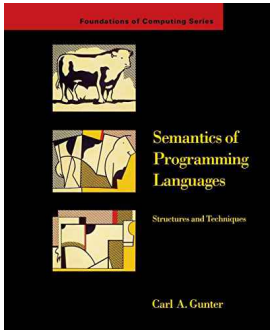


Semantics of Programming Languages: Structures and Techniques (Foundations of Computing)



Semantics of Programming Languages: Structures and Techniques (Foundations of Computing)

BM-83553

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3.5/5 From 782 Reviews

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12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Deep, lucid, interesting textbook on formal semantics using the lambda calculus. By Benjamin L. Russell As an undergraduate student in the Computer Science major at Yale University during the spring semester of 1992 - 93, I used this textbook in Professor Paul Hudak's class "Computer Science 430b: Formal Semantics." Personally, I enjoyed using this textbook. It went into great detail into the theory of formal semantics of programming languages, using the lambda calculus. Having come from a background in the Scheme programming language, I immediately found the syntax of the lambda calculus familiar, as it had originally been used as the basis for the LISP programming language, of which Scheme was a variant. Most of the equations and proofs were clear and relatively easy to understand with reasonable effort, although Professor Hudak did suggest more elegant alternatives for some of the equations. The simply-typed lambda calculus, introduced in Chapter 2, proved a relatively easy-to-understand beginning basis for grasping the concepts of formal semantics. The book ventured on to discuss category theory, fixed-point semantics, untyped lambda calculus, and domain theory, among many other topics. In particular, I found the discussions on the simply-typed lambda calculus, category theory, and domain theory interesting. This textbook, together with Paul Hudak's crisp and easy-to-understand teaching style, remain as some of my more pleasant memories from the otherwise brutal and grinding Yale computer science curriculum. Together, they are part of the reason that Scheme, with its basis on the lambda calculus, remains one of my favorite programming languages for the study of programming methodologies. Benjamin L. Russell 3 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Theoretical computer science - Semantics By Asim This book has a deep coverage; should be enjoyed with a lot of patience and suitable cross references.

Semantics of Programming Languages exposes the basic motivations and

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