Chapter 2: The Functional Approach to Collections

Sergei Winitzki

Academy by the Bay

November 22, 2017

Tuples

- Pair of values:
  ```
  val a: (Int, String) = (123, "xyz")
  ```
- Triple of values:
  ```
  val b: (Boolean, Int, Int) = (true, 3, 4)
  ```
- Tuples can be nested:
  ```
  val c: (Boolean, (String, Int), Boolean) =
   (true, ("abc", 3), false)
  ```
- Parts of the tuple can be accessed by number:
  ```
  val x: (String, Int) = c._2
  ```
- Functions on tuples:
  ```
  def f(p: (Boolean, Int), q: Int): Boolean = p._1 && (p._2 > q)
  ```

Pattern-matching syntax for tuples

Scala allows pattern matching in two places:

- `val` *pattern* `= ...` (value assignment)
- `case` *pattern* $\Rightarrow$ `...` (partial function)

Examples:

- `val a = (1, 2, 3); val (x, y, z) = a`
- `val f: ((Int, Int, Int)) ⇒ Int = { case (x, y, z) ⇒ x + y + z }; f(a)`

Combining tuple types with other types

We can use tuple types anywhere:

- Tuple of functions:
  `val q: (Int ⇒ Int, Int ⇒ Int) = (x ⇒ x + 1, x ⇒ x - 1)`
- Sequence of tuples:

```
val s: Seq[(String, Int)] =
  Seq(("apples", 3), ("oranges", 2), ("pears", 0))
```

- Tuples (esp. pairs) are used a lot in the Scala standard library...
  - `zip: (Seq[A], Seq[B]) ⇒ Seq[(A, B)]`
  - `map: (Map[K, V], (K, V) ⇒ R) ⇒ Seq[R]`
    - ★ Note: the syntax `(a → b)` means the same as the pair `(a, b)`
  - `toMap: Seq[(K, V)] ⇒ Map[K, V]`
  - `toSeq: Map[K, V] ⇒ Seq[(K, V)]`

Worked examples

1. for a given sequence a_i, compute the sequence of pairs $b_i = (\cos a_i, \sin a_i)$ – use `.map`, assume `a: Seq[Double]`
2. in a given sequence a_i, count how many times $\cos a_i > \sin a_i$ occurs – use `.count`, assume `a: Seq[Double]`
3. for given sequences a_i and b_i, compute the sequence of differences $c_i = a_i - b_i$ (use `.zip`, `.map`, assume `a, b: Seq[Double]`)
4. in a given sequence a_i, count how many times $a_i > a_{i+1}$ occurs
5. for a given $k > 0$, compute the sequence $b_i = \max(a_{i-k}, ..., a_{i+k})$ – use `.sliding`
6. create a multiplication table as a value of type `Map[(Int, Int), Int]` – use `.flatMap`
7. for a given sequence a_i, compute the combined set of the numbers a_i, $\cos a_i$ $\sin a_i$ and find its maximum value – use `.map`, `.flatMap`, `.max`
8. from a `Map[String, String]` mapping names to addresses, and assuming that the addresses do not repeat, compute a `Map[String, String]` mapping addresses to names – use `.toMap`, `.map`
   - Write this as a function with type parameters `Name` and `Address` instead of the fixed type `String`

Exercises I

1. Find all i, j within $(0, 1, ..., 9)$ such that $i + 4 * j > i * j$ (use `.flatMap`)
   - Same task for i, j, k and the condition $i + 4 * j + 9 * k > i * j * k$
2. Given two sequences `a: Seq[String]` and `b: Seq[Boolean]` of equal length, compute a `Seq[String]` with those elements of `a` for which the corresponding element of `b` is `true` – use `.zip`, `.map`, `.filter`
3. Convert a `Seq[Int]` into a `Seq[(Int, Boolean)]` where the Boolean value is `true` when the element is followed by a larger value; e.g. `Seq(1,3,2,4)` is to be converted into `Seq((1,true),(3,false),(2,true))`
4. Given `a: Seq[String]` and `b: Seq[Int]` of equal length, and assuming that elements of `b` do not repeat, compute a `Map[Int, String]` that maps numbers from `b` to their corresponding strings from `a`
   - Write this as a function with type parameters `S` and `I` instead of the fixed types `String` and `Int`; test it with `S=Boolean` and `I=Set[Int]`
5. Given `a: Seq[String]` and `b: Seq[Int]` of equal length, compute a `Seq[String]` that contains the strings from `a` ordered according to the corresponding numbers from `b` – use `.sortBy`
   - Write this as a function with type parameter `S` instead of `String`

Exercises II

1. Given a `Seq[(String, Int)]` showing a list of purchased items (names may repeat), compute `Map[String, Int]` showing the total counts: e.g. given a `Seq(("apple", 2), ("pear", 3), ("apple", 5))`, compute `Map("apple" → 7, "pear" → 3)` – use `.groupBy`, `.map`, `.sum`
   - Write this as a function with type parameter `S` instead of `String`
2. Given a `Seq[List[Int]]`, compute a `Seq[List[Int]]` where each new inner list contains the three largest elements from the initial inner list – use `.sortBy`, `.take`, `.map`
3. Given two sets `a`, `b` of type `Set[Int]`, compute a `Set[(Int, Int)]` representing the Cartesian product of the sets `a` and `b` – use `.flatMap`
   - Write this as a function with type parameters `I`, `J` instead of `Int`
4. * Given a `Seq[Map[Person, Amount]]`, showing the amounts various people paid on each day, compute a `Map[Person, Seq[Amount]]`, showing the sequence of payments for each person (assume `Person` and `Amount` are type parameters; use `.flatMap`, `.toSeq`, `.groupBy`)

Mathematical induction I

Computing a number from a sequence

Typical problem:

- Compute an integer value from the sequence of its decimal digits

```
def fromDigits(digits: Seq[Int]): Int = ???
fromDigits(Seq(1, 3, 0, 0)) == 1300
```

Mathematical formulation uses *induction*

- base case: empty sequence: `fromDigits(Seq()) = 0`
- induction step: if `fromDigits` is already computed for a sequence *previous...*, how to compute it for a sequence with one more element: `fromDigits(Seq(`*previous...*`, x)) = 10 * fromDigits(`*previous...*`) + x`
  - the result still needs to be divided by 10

Translating mathematical induction into code:

- use recursion
- use standard library functions `fold`, `scan`, etc.

Mathematical induction II

Writing a recursive function by hand

- base case vs. inductive step needs to be decided in the code
- the function calls itself recursively

```
def fromDigits(digits: Seq[Int]): Int =
 if (digits.isEmpty) 0
 else {
    val x = digits.head
    val rest = digits.drop(1)
    10 * fromDigits(rest) + x
 }
}
```

- lots of code...
  - not very different from writing a loop

Tail recursion

The "accumulator" technique

The code of `fromDigits` calls itself *in the middle* of an expression:

```
def fromDigits(...) = if (...) 0
else f(..., fromDigits(...), ...)
```

- The intermediate expression grows, causing expression overflow
  - this crashes our program with a "stack overflow" error
- To remedy this: use **tail recursion** (`fromDigits` is called at the "tail")

```
@tailrec def fromDigits(...) = if (...) ... else {
  val x = ...
  fromDigits(... x ...)
}
```

- The "accumulator technique" makes *some* functions tail-recursive
  - add another argument that accumulates the final result

```
@tailrec def fromDigits(digits: Seq[Int], res: Int) =
  if (digits.isEmpty) res
  else fromDigits(digits.drop(1), 10 * res + digits.head)
```

Mathematical induction III

Computing a number from a sequence

The library function `foldLeft` implements general induction:

- base case is the first argument to `foldLeft`
- induction step is represented by a function `(previous, x) ⇒ next`

```
def fromDigits(digits: Seq[Int]): Int =
  digits.foldLeft(0){ case (prev, x) ⇒ prev * 10 + x }
```

- see other library functions: `.foldRight`, `.fold`, `.reduce`
- most of these functions are tail-recursive

Mathematical induction IV

Computing a sequence from a number (`iterate`)

Typical problem:

- Compute the sequence of decimal digits of a given integer
  - we cannot solve this with `.map`, `.zip`, `.fold` etc., because the length of the resulting sequence is unknown
  - we need to "unfold" into a sequence of unknown length, and terminate it when some condition holds
- Inductive definition: given $n > 0$, build sequence (m_k, d_k) until $(0, 0)$:

$$(m_0, d_0) = (n, 0)$$
$$(m_k, d_k) = \left(\frac{m_{k-1}}{10}, (m_{k-1} \bmod 10)\right) \text{ for } k > 0$$

The `Iterator.iterate` method can do this:

```
Iterator.iterate((n, 0)) { case (m, _) ⇒ (m / 10, m % 10) }
.takeWhile{case (m, d) ⇒ m > 0 || d > 0 }
.drop(1).map(_._2) // extract sequence of digits
```

Mathematical induction V

Computing a sequence from another sequence (`scan`)

Typical problem:

- Compute partial sums of the given sequence: $b_k = \sum_{i=0}^{k} a_i$
- Definition by induction:

$$b_0 = 0$$
$$b_k = a_k + b_{k-1} \text{ for } k > 0$$

- Example code:

```
val a = Seq(1, 2, 3, 4)
val b = a.scan(0) { (x, y) ⇒ x + y } // yields Seq(0, 1, 3, 6, 10)
```

- `scanLeft` implements general induction:
  - base case is the first argument to `scanLeft`
  - induction step is represented by a function `(previous, x) ⇒ next`

Summary

What problems can we solve now?

- Compute mathematical expressions involving arbitrary recursion
- Use tail recursion when possible
- Use arbitrary inductive (i.e. recursive) formulas to:
  - convert sequences to numbers ("aggregate")
  - create new sequences from scratch
  - transform existing sequences

What problems are not solved with these tools?

- Compute non-tail recursive functions without expression overflow
  - The accumulator trick does not always work

Worked examples

1. Compute the smallest n such that $f(f(f(...f(1)...) > 1000$, where the function f is applied n times (use `iterate` and test on $f(x) = 2x + 1$)
   - Write this as a function taking f, 1, and 1000 as arguments
2. Find the k-th largest element in an (unsorted) sequence of integers – use `.foldLeft`
3. Find the last element of a nonempty sequence – use pattern matching, `.drop`, and tail recursion
4. Implement binary search over a sorted `Array[Int]` – use tail recursion
5. For a given `n: Int`, compute the sequence $(s_0, s_1, s_2, ...)$ defined by $s_0 = SD(n)$ and $s_k = SD(s_{k-1})$ for $k > 0$, where $SD(p)$ is the sum of the decimal digits of the integer p, e.g. $SD(123) = 6$ (use `iterate`)
6. For a given sequence $(s_0, s_1, s_2, ...)$ of type `Iterator[T]`, compute the "half-speed" sequence $(s_0, s_0, s_1, s_1, s_2, s_2, ...)$ – use `.flatMap`
7. Cut off a given sequence $(s_0, s_1, s_2, ...)$ at a place k where an element s_k equals some earlier element s_i with $i < k$ – use `.zip`, `.takeWhile`

Exercises III

1. Compute the sum of squared digits of a given integer; e.g., `dsq(123)=14`
   - Same task for an arbitrary function `f: Int⇒Int` instead of squaring
2. For a given integer n, compute the sum of cubed digits, then the sum of cubed digits of the result, etc.; determine whether the resulting sequence starts repeating itself, and if so, whether it ever reaches 1
3. For a given integer n, compute the Collatz sequence: $c_0 = n$ and

$$c_{k+1} = \begin{cases} c_k/2 & \text{if } c_k \text{ is even,} \\ 3c_k + 1 & \text{if } c_k \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$$

   - Stop the sequence when it reaches 1
4. For `a,b,c` of type `Set[Int]`, compute the set of all sets of the form `Set(x,y,z)` where `x` is from `a`, `y` from `b`, and `z` from `c` (use `.flatMap`)
5. * Same task for a `Set[Set[Int]]` instead of just three sets `a`,`b`,`c` – use `.foldLeft`