

# Chapter 3: The Logic of Types, Part I

## Higher-order functions

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# Types and syntax of functions that return functions

## “Curried functions” in Scala

- A function that returns a function:

```
def logWith(topic: String): (String ⇒ Unit) = {  
  x ⇒ println(s"$topic: $x")  
}
```

- Calling this function:

```
val statusLogger: (String ⇒ Unit) = logWith("Result status")  
statusLogger("success")
```

- One-line syntax: `logWith("Result status")("success")`

- Alternative syntax – “Curried” function:

```
val logWith: String ⇒ String ⇒ Unit =  
  topic ⇒ x ⇒ println(s"$topic: $x")
```

- Syntax conventions:  $x \Rightarrow y \Rightarrow z$  means  $x \Rightarrow (y \Rightarrow z)$

► This is so because  $f(g)(h)$  means  $(f(g))(h)$

# Functions with fully parametric types

“No argument type left non-parametric”

Compare these two functions (note tuple type syntax):

```
def hypotenuse = (x: Double, y: Double) ⇒ math.sqrt(x*x + y*y)
def swap: ((Double, Double)) ⇒ (Double, Double) =
  { case (x, y) ⇒ (y, x) }
```

- We can fully parameterize the argument types for `swap`:

```
def swap[X, Y]: ((X, Y)) ⇒ (Y, X) = { case (x, y) ⇒ (y, x) }
```

- (The first function is too specific to generalize the argument types.)
- Note: Scala does not support a `val` with a parametric type
  - ▶ Instead we can use `def` or parametric classes/traits
- More examples:

```
def id[T]: (T ⇒ T) = x ⇒ x
def const[C, X]: (C ⇒ X ⇒ C) = c ⇒ x ⇒ c
def compose[X, Y, Z](f: X ⇒ Y, g: Y ⇒ Z): X ⇒ Z = x ⇒ g(f(x))
```

- Functions with fully parametric types *are* useful despite appearances!

# Worked examples

- For the functions `const` and `id` defined above, what is the value `const(id)` and what is its type? Write out the type parameters.
- Define a function `twice` that takes a function  $f$  as its argument and returns a *function* that applies  $f$  twice. E.g., `twice((x:Int)  $\Rightarrow$  x+3)` must return a function equivalent to  $x \Rightarrow x+6$ . Find the type of `twice`.
- What does `twice(twice)` do? Test your answer on this expression: `twice(twice[Int])(x  $\Rightarrow$  x+3)(10)`. What are the type parameters here?
- Take a function with two arguments, fix the value of the first argument, and return the function of the remaining one argument. Define this operation as a function with fully parametric types:  
`def firstArg[X, Y, Z](f: (X, Y)  $\Rightarrow$  Z, x0: X): Y  $\Rightarrow$  Z = ???`
- Implement a function that applies a given function  $f$  repeatedly to an initial value  $x_0$ , until a given condition function `cond` returns true:  
`def converge[X](f: X  $\Rightarrow$  X, x0: X, cond: X  $\Rightarrow$  Boolean): X = ???`
- Infer types in `def p[...]:... = f  $\Rightarrow$  f(2)`. Does `p(p)` work?
- Infer types in `def q[...]:... = f  $\Rightarrow$  g  $\Rightarrow$  g(f)`. What are `q(q)`, `q(q(q))`?

# Exercises I

- For the function `id` defined above, what is `id(id)` and what is its type? Same question for `id(const)`. Does `id(id)(id)` or `id(id(id))` work?
- For the function `const` above, what is `const(const)`, what is its type?
- For the function `twice` above, what does `twice(twice(twice)))` do? Write out the type parameters. Test your answer on an example.
- Define a function `thrice` that applies its argument function 3 times, similarly to `twice`. What does `thrice(thrice(thrice)))` do?
- Define a function `once` that applies a given function  $n$  times.
- Take a function with two arguments, and define a function of these two arguments swapped. Package this functionality as a function `swapFunc` with fully parametric types. To test:  

```
def f(x: Int, y: Int) = x - y // check that f(10, 2) gives 8  
val g = swapFunc(f) // now check that g(10, 2) gives (- 8)
```
- Infer types in `def r[...]:... = f ⇒ f(g ⇒ g(f))`
- Infer types in `def s[...]:... = f ⇒ g ⇒ g(x ⇒ f(g(x)))`