Chapter 8: Applicative and traversable functors

Part 1: Practical examples

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Motivation for applicative functors

- Monads are inconvenient for expressing *independent* effects

Monads perform effects *sequentially* even if effects are independent:

```
x ← Future { c1 }
y ← Future { c2 }
z ← Future { c3 }
```

```
Future { c1 }.flatMap { x ⇒
  Future { c2 }.flatMap { y ⇒
    Future { c3 }.map { z ⇒ ...}
} }
```

- We would like to parallelize independent computations
- We would like to accumulate *all* errors, rather than stop at the first one

Changing the order of monad's effects will (generally) change the result:

```
for {
  x ← List(1, 2)
  y ← List(10, 20)
} yield f(x, y)
// f(1, 10), f(1, 20), f(2, 10), f(2, 20)
```

```
for {
  y ← List(10, 20)
  x ← List(1, 2)
} yield f(x, y)
// f(1, 10), f(2, 10), f(1, 20), f(2, 20)
```

- We would like to express a computation where effects are unordered
  - This can be done using a method `map2`, *not* defined via `flatMap`: the desired type signature is $\text{map2} : F^A \times F^B \Rightarrow (A \times B \Rightarrow C) \Rightarrow F^C$
  - An **applicative functor** has `map2` but is not necessarily a monad

Defining `map2`, `map3`, etc.

Consider 1, 2, 3, ... commutative and independent "effects"

`for { x1 ← c1` `} yield f(x1)`	`c1.map(f)`

`for { x1 ← c1`
`  x2 ← c2`
`} yield f(x1, x2)`
	`(c1, c2).map2(f)`

`for { x ← c1`
`  x2 ← c2`
`  x3 ← c3`
`} yield f(x1, x2, x3)`
	`(c1, c2, c3).map3(f)`

- Generalize to `mapN` from

$$\text{map}_1 : F^A \Rightarrow (A \Rightarrow Z) \Rightarrow F^Z$$
$$\text{map}_2 : F^A \times F^B \Rightarrow (A \times B \Rightarrow Z) \Rightarrow F^Z$$
$$\text{map}_3 : F^A \times F^B \times F^C \Rightarrow (A \times B \times C \Rightarrow Z) \Rightarrow F^Z$$

- Can we avoid having to define map_n separately for each n?

Examples of using `mapN`

- $F^A \equiv Z + A$ where Z is a monoid: collect all errors
- $F^A = Z + A$: Create a validated case class out of validated parts
- $F^A \equiv$ `Future[A]`: perform several computations concurrently
- $F^A \equiv E \Rightarrow A$: pass arguments to functions automatically
- $F^A \equiv \text{List}^A$: transposing a matrix is an applicative operation
- "fold fusion": automatically merge several `fold`s into one

Deriving the `ap` operation from `map2`

- Use curried arguments, $\text{fmap}_2 : (A \Rightarrow B \Rightarrow Z) \Rightarrow F^A \Rightarrow F^B \Rightarrow F^Z$
- Set $A = B \Rightarrow Z$ and apply fmap_2 to the identity $\text{id}^{(B\Rightarrow Z)\Rightarrow(B\Rightarrow Z)}$: obtain

$$\text{ap} : F^{B\Rightarrow Z} \Rightarrow F^B \Rightarrow F^Z \equiv \text{fmap}_2\,(\text{id})$$

- The functions `fmap2` and `ap` are computationally equivalent:

$$\text{fmap}_2\, f^{A\Rightarrow B\Rightarrow Z} = \text{fmap}\, f \circ \text{ap}$$

$$\begin{tikzcd}
 & F^{B\Rightarrow Z} \arrow[dr, "\text{ap}"] & \\
F^A \arrow[ur, "\text{fmap}\, f"] \arrow[rr, "\text{fmap}_2\,(f^{A\Rightarrow B\Rightarrow Z})"'] & & (F^B \Rightarrow F^Z)
\end{tikzcd}$$

- The functions `fmap3`, `fmap4` etc. can be defined similarly:

$$\text{fmap}_3\, f^{A\Rightarrow B\Rightarrow C\Rightarrow Z} = \text{fmap}\, f \circ \text{ap} \circ \text{fmap}_{F^B\Rightarrow ?}\text{ap}$$

$$\begin{tikzcd}
 & F^{B\Rightarrow C\Rightarrow Z} \arrow[r, "\text{ap}"] & (F^B \Rightarrow F^{C\Rightarrow Z}) \arrow[dr, "\text{fmap}_{F^B\Rightarrow ?}\text{ap}"] & \\
F^A \arrow[ur, "\text{fmap}\, f"] \arrow[rrr, "\text{fmap}_3\,(f^{A\Rightarrow B\Rightarrow C\Rightarrow Z})"'] & & & (F^B \Rightarrow F^C \Rightarrow F^Z)
\end{tikzcd}$$

Intuition: the `zip` operation on lists

- Note: Function types $A \Rightarrow B \Rightarrow C$ and $A \times B \Rightarrow C$ are equivalent
- Uncurry fmap_2 to $\text{fmap2} : (A \times B \Rightarrow C) \Rightarrow F^A \times F^B \Rightarrow F^C$
- Compute $\text{fmap2}\,(f)$ with $f = \text{id}^{A \times B \Rightarrow A \times B}$, expecting to obtain a simpler natural transformation:

$$\text{zip} : F^A \times F^B \Rightarrow F^{A \times B}$$

- This is quite similar to `zip` for lists:
  `List(1, 2).zip(List(10, 20)) = List((1, 10), (2, 20))`
- The functions `zip` and `fmap2` are computationally equivalent:

$$\text{zip} = \text{fmap2}\,(\text{id})$$

$$\text{fmap2}\,(f^{A \times B \Rightarrow C}) = \text{zip} \circ \text{fmap}\, f$$

$$\begin{tikzcd} & F^{A \times B} \arrow[dr, "\text{fmap}\, f^{A \times B \Rightarrow C}"] & \\ F^A \times F^B \arrow[ur, "\text{zip}"] \arrow[rr, "\text{fmap2}\,(f^{A \times B \Rightarrow C})"'] & & F^C \end{tikzcd}$$

- The functor F is "zippable" if such a `zip` exists

Deriving the `ap` operation from `zip`

- Set $A \equiv B \Rightarrow C$, get $\text{zip}^{[B\Rightarrow C,B]} : F^{B\Rightarrow C} \times F^{B} \Rightarrow F^{(B\Rightarrow C)\times B}$
- Use `eval` $: (B \Rightarrow C) \times B \Rightarrow C$ and $\text{fmap}\,(\text{eval}) : F^{(B\Rightarrow C)\times B} \Rightarrow F^{C}$
- Define $\text{app}^{[B,C]} : F^{B\Rightarrow C} \times F^{B} \Rightarrow F^{C} \equiv \text{zip} \circ \text{fmap}\,(\text{eval})$
- The functions `zip` and `app` are computationally equivalent:
  - use $\text{pair} : (A \Rightarrow B \Rightarrow A \times B) = a^{A} \Rightarrow b^{B} \Rightarrow a \times b$
  - use $\text{fmap}\,(\text{pair}) \equiv \text{pair}^{\uparrow}$ on an $fa^{F^{A}}$, get $(\text{pair}^{\uparrow} fa) : F^{B\Rightarrow A\times B}$; then

$$\text{zip}\,(fa \times fb) = \text{app}\left((\text{pair}^{\uparrow} fa) \times fb\right)$$

$$\text{app}^{[B\Rightarrow C,B]} = \text{zip}^{[B\Rightarrow C,B]} \circ \text{fmap}\,(\text{eval})$$

$$\begin{tikzcd}
 & F^{(B\Rightarrow C)\times B} \arrow[dr, "\text{fmap(eval)}"] & \\
F^{B\Rightarrow C} \times F^{B} \arrow[ur, "\text{zip}"] \arrow[rr, "\text{app}^{[B\Rightarrow C,B]}"'] & & F^{C}
\end{tikzcd}$$

- Rewrite this using curried arguments: $\text{fzip}^{[A,B]} : F^{A} \Rightarrow F^{B} \Rightarrow F^{A\times B}$; $\text{ap}^{[B,C]} : F^{B\Rightarrow C} \Rightarrow F^{B} \Rightarrow F^{C}$; then $\text{ap}\,f = \text{fzip}\,f \circ \text{fmap}\,(\text{eval})$.
- Now $\text{fzip}\,p^{F^{A}} q^{F^{B}} = \text{ap}\,(\text{pair}^{\uparrow} p)\,q$, hence we can write as point-free: $\text{fzip} = \text{pair}^{\uparrow} \circ \text{ap}$. With explicit types: $\text{fzip}^{[A,B]} = \text{pair}^{\uparrow} \circ \text{ap}^{[B,A\Rightarrow B]}$.