Functional Thinking, Part 2 Concepts

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Tue 21 Oct 2025 Session #15

Recap: Functors

Recap: Functors

Intro to Effects and Specialized Functors

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An Example From Hughes

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An Example From Hughes

A Quick Tour of Zippers

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Appendix: Another Hughes Example

Announcements

- Assignment timing
- Reading:
 - Zippers
 - You could have invented Zippers
 - Huet Zippers
 - Zippers as Derivatives (optional)
 - Hughes, Why Functional Programming Matters
 - Commentary on Hughes with Python examples
 - Starting sequence on categories
 - What is Category Theory?
 - Definitions and Examples
 - What is a Functor? Part 1
 - What is a Functor? Part 2
 - Fibonacci Functor
 - Natural Transformations
 - Backus, Can Programming be Liberated from the Von Neumann Architecture
- Homework:
 - classification-tree-basic assignment due Thu 23 Oct.
 - Push outstanding mini-assignments when complete

Recap: Functors

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Appendix: Another Hughes Example

Recap: Functors

```
trait Functor (f : Type \rightarrow Type) where map : (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow f a \rightarrow f b
```

A functor is a type constructor with an associated function that *lifts* a transformation of values to a transformation of "containers." (We could call it lift!)

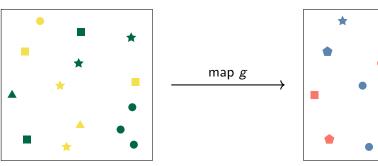
Functors satisfy two important laws:

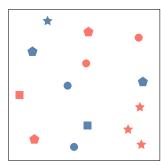
```
1 map id == id
2 (map g) . (map f) == map (g . f)
```

The first law says that lifting the identity gives you the identity. The second law says that composing the lift of g and the lift of f is the same as lifting $g \circ f$. This is equivalent to compose (map f) (map g) == map (compose f g).

Functors as a Computational Context

We can view functors as a *computational context* where we can transform the "results" inside it while preserving the context's "shape."





```
map : (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
laws Functor where
    map id == id
    map g . map h == map (g . h)
```

trait Functor (f : Type -> Type) where

```
trait Functor (f : Type \rightarrow Type) where map : (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow f a \rightarrow f b
```

Some fundamental examples:

```
trait Functor (f : Type -> Type) where
    map : (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow f a \rightarrow f b
Some fundamental examples:
data Maybe : Type -> Type where
  None: Maybe a
  Some : a -> Maybe a
implements Functor Maybe where
  map : (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow Maybe a \rightarrow Maybe b
  map f None = None
  map f (Some x) = Some (f x)
```

```
trait Functor (f : Type -> Type) where
    map : (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow f a \rightarrow f b
Some fundamental examples:
data List (a : Type) where
  : List a
  (::) : a -> List a -> List a
implements Functor List where
  map : (a -> b) -> List a -> List b
  map f [] = []
  map f (x :: rest) = (f x) :: (map f rest)
```

```
trait Functor (f : Type -> Type) where
     map : (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow f a \rightarrow f b
Some fundamental examples:
implements Functor ((->) r) where
  map : (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow (r \rightarrow a) \rightarrow (r \rightarrow b)
  map f g = f \cdot g -- (.) is composition
  -- or equivalently
  map f g x = f (g x)
```

```
trait Functor (f : Type -> Type) where
    map : (a -> b) -> f a -> f b

Some fundamental examples:

data BinaryTree a = Node (BinaryTree a) a (BinaryTree a)

implements Functor BinaryTree where
    map : (a -> b) -> BinaryTree a -> BinaryTree b

map f (Node left x right) = Node (map f left) (f x) (map f right)
```

```
trait Functor (f : Type -> Type) where
    map : (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow f a \rightarrow f b
Some fundamental examples:
data Tree a = record Node { value : a
                             , children : List (Tree a)
implements Functor Tree where
  map : (a -> b) -> Tree a -> Tree b
  map f tree = Node { value = f(tree.value)
                      , children = map (map f) (tree.children)
```

Brief Demo

FP-Concepts (nearing completion, but see documents)

Recap: Functors

Intro to Effects and Specialized Functors

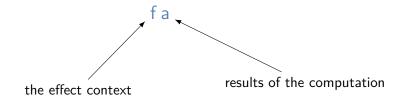
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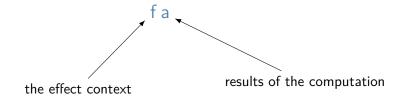
Effects

Effects refer to ordinary computations augmented with some extra capabilities. We represent effects with types f: Type -> Type that *lift* calculations to actions.



Effects

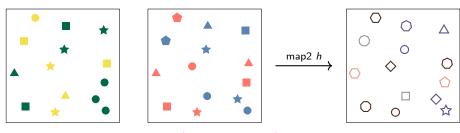
Effects refer to ordinary computations augmented with some extra capabilities. We represent effects with types f: Type -> Type that *lift* calculations to actions.



There are many different, commonly-used effects. These can all be expressed as Functors, but in practice we need more power to use them than map alone can give.

Effects

```
List a
                                         Pair c a
            (non-determinism)
                                         (conjunction)
  Maybe a
                                                     Either e a
  (partiality)
                                                      (disjunction)
                              IO a
                           (input/output)
Reader r a
                                                     Random g a
(environment)
                                                      (randomness)
                            many more
             Writer w a
                                        State s a
                (logging)
                                       (updating state)
```

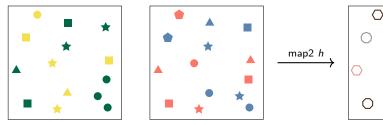


```
trait Functor f => Applicative (f : Type -> Type) where
   pure : a -> f a
   map2 : (a -> b -> c) -> f a -> f b -> f c -- lift2 := map2 h
   ap : f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
   unit : f Unit -- Unit equiv ()
   combine : f a -> f b -> f (a, b)
```

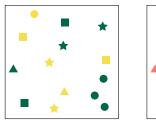
Can derive pairs pure and map2, pure and ap, and unit and combine from each other.

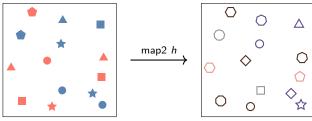
```
laws Applicative where
   combine unit a ~= a ~= combine a unit
   combine a (combine b c) ~= combine (combine a b) c
   combine (map g fa) (map h fb) == bimap g h (combine fa fb)
```

The laws can also be stated in terms of pure and ap or pure and map2.



```
trait Functor f => Applicative (f : Type -> Type) where
     pure : a -> f a
     map2: (a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow f a \rightarrow f b \rightarrow f c -- lift2 := map2 h
     ap: f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
     unit : f Unit
                                                               -- Unit equiv ()
     combine : f a \rightarrow f b \rightarrow f (a, b)
implements Applicative Maybe where
     pure : a -> Maybe a
     pure x =
     map2 : (a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow Maybe a \rightarrow Maybe b \rightarrow Maybe c
     map2 f xs ys =
```

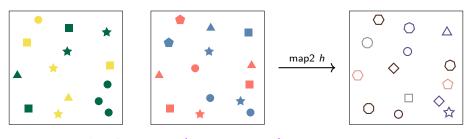




```
trait Functor f => Applicative (f : Type -> Type) where
    pure : a -> f a
    map2 : (a -> b -> c) -> f a -> f b -> f c -- lift2 := map2 h
    ap : f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
    unit : f Unit -- Unit equiv ()
    combine : f a -> f b -> f (a, b)

implements Applicative Maybe where
    pure : a -> Maybe a
    pure = Some

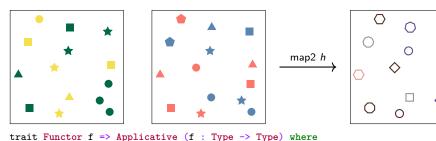
map2 : (a -> b -> c) -> Maybe a -> Maybe b -> Maybe c
    map2 f (Some x) (Some y) = Some (f x y)
    map2 f _ = Nothing
```



```
trait Functor f => Applicative (f : Type -> Type) where
    pure : a -> f a
    map2 : (a -> b -> c) -> f a -> f b -> f c -- lift2 := map2 h
    ap : f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
    unit : f Unit -- Unit equiv ()
    combine : f a -> f b -> f (a, b)

implements Applicative List where
    pure : a -> List a
    pure x =

map2 : (a -> b -> c) -> List a -> List b -> List c
map2 f xs ys =
```

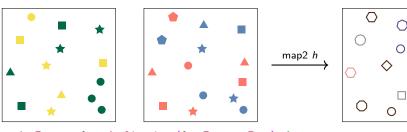


```
pure : a -> f a
  map2 : (a -> b -> c) -> f a -> f b -> f c -- lift2 := map2 h
  ap : f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
  unit : f Unit -- Unit equiv ()
  combine : f a -> f b -> f (a, b)

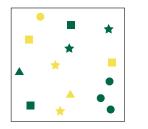
implements Applicative List where
  pure : a -> List a
  pure x = [x]

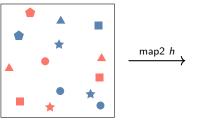
map2 : (a -> b -> c) -> List a -> List b -> List c
  map2 f xs ys = [f x y for x <- xs, y <- ys]</pre>
```

map2 (+) [1, 2, 3] [10, 11] == [11, 12, 12, 13, 13, 14]



```
trait Functor f => Applicative (f : Type -> Type) where
    pure : a -> f a
    map2 : (a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow f a \rightarrow f b \rightarrow f c -- lift2 := map2 h
    ap : f(a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow fa \rightarrow fb
    unit : f Unit
                                                        -- Unit equiv ()
    combine : f a \rightarrow f b \rightarrow f (a, b)
newtype ZipList a = ZipList (List a) -- newtype is alternative wrapper for a type
implements Applicative ZipList where
    pure : a -> ZipList a
    pure x = ZipList [x]
    map2 : (a -> b -> c) -> ZipList a -> ZipList b -> ZipList c
    map2 _ _ Nil = ZipList Nil
    map2 _ Nil _ = ZipList Nil
    map2 f (x :: xs) (y :: ys) = (f x y) :: (map2 f xs ys)
map2 (+) (ZipList [1, 2, 3]) (ZipList [10, 11]) == ZipList [10, 13]
                                                                                        10 / 31
```





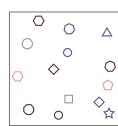
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   ap : f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
   unit : f Unit -- Unit equiv ()
   combine : f a -> f b -> f (a, b)
```

How do we derive unit and combine?

```
unit =
combine fa fb =
```





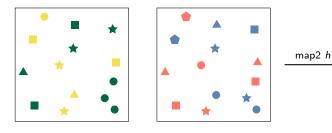


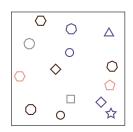
map2 h

```
trait Functor f => Applicative (f : Type -> Type) where
   pure : a -> f a
   map2 : (a -> b -> c) -> f a -> f b -> f c -- lift2 := map2 h
   ap : f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
   unit : f Unit
   combine : f a -> f b -> f (a, b)
```

unit is an identity (up to isomorphism) and combine is associative (up to isomorphism)

```
unit = pure ()
combine fa fb = map2 (,) fa fb
```

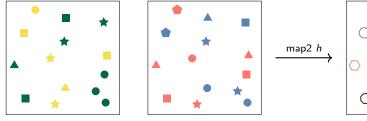




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   combine : f a -> f b -> f (a, b)
```

Can you go the other way, defining pure and map2 from unit and combine (and map)?

```
pure a =
map2 g fa fb =
```



```
trait Functor f => Applicative (f : Type -> Type) where
   pure : a -> f a
   map2 : (a -> b -> c) -> f a -> f b -> f c -- lift2 := map2 h
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```

Remember Applicative is a Functor. These are equivalent up to isomorphism only.

```
pure a = map (const a) unit
map2 g fa fb = map (uncurry g) (combine fa fb)
```

Here, const a is the constant function and uncurry : (a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow (a, b) \rightarrow c reconfigures a function's arguments.

Brief Demo

FP-Concepts (nearing completion, but see documents)

Folds, Traversals, and Filters

Contexts that can be reduced to a summary value one piece at a time are *foldable*:

```
trait Foldable (f : Type -> Type) where
    foldM : Monoid m => (a -> m) -> f a -> m
    fold : (a -> b -> a) -> a -> f b -> a
```

Contexts in which elements can be removed are *filterable*:

```
trait Functor f => Filterable (f : Type -> Type) where
  mapMaybe : (a -> Maybe a) -> f a -> f b
```

Contexts that can be transformed to one of the same *shape* by executing an *effectful* function one element at a time are *traversable*:

```
trait (Functor t, Foldable t) => Traversable (t : Type -> Type) where traverse : Applicative f => (a \rightarrow f b) \rightarrow t a \rightarrow f (t b) sequence : Applicative f => t (f a) \rightarrow f (t a)
```

Brief Demo

FP-Concepts (nearing completion, but see documents)

A Common Pattern: Composing Programs

$$f(x) = 3x^2 + 4 = (3 + 4) \circ (3 - 4) \circ (3 - 4)$$

Function composition is associative with a unit (a monoid).

We can think of programs as being composed in a similar way.

```
def a(x):
    print('Hello, ', end='')
    return x + 1

def b(x):
    print('world!')
    return x + 2

def main():
    c = a(1) + b(2)
    print( f'c = {c}')
    return 0
def alt_main():
    c = b(2) + a(1)
    print( f'c = {c}')
    return 0
```

Are main and alt_main the same program?

Composing Programs (cont'd)

In Python/R, + is adding numbers, and addition should be *commutative*.

But we are not adding numbers, we are adding programs!

```
a : Int -> IO Int
b : Int -> IO Int
(+) : Int -> Int -> Int
```

We need a distinction between calculations and actions/effects.

Composing Programs (cont'd)

In general, we want to compose programs, but we cannot just do it (Int \rightarrow IO Int does not compose with Int \rightarrow IO Int).

```
(.) : (b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow (a \rightarrow c)

semicolon : (b \rightarrow I0 c) \rightarrow (a \rightarrow I0 b) \rightarrow (a \rightarrow I0 c)
```

Composition of programs – computations with context attached.

Examples of other computations:

- Async functions
- Random Variables
- Missing Data

Let's see these in action

A **monad** is a strategy for structuring, composing, and sequencing computations augmented with additional context.

Monads are Applicative Functors with even more power and expressiveness.

```
trait Applicative m => Monad (m : Type -> Type) where
bind : m a -> (a -> m b) -> m b
  join : m (m a) -> m a

-- derived method, look familiar?
kleisli : (b -> m c) -> (a -> m b) -> (a -> m c)
```

Both bind and join can be defined in terms of the other.

```
laws Monad where
bind (pure x) f == f x
bind m pure == m
bind (bind m f) g == bind m (\x -> bind (f x) g)
```

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```
trait Applicative m => Monad (m : Type -> Type) where
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-- derived method, look familiar?
kleisli : (b -> m c) -> (a -> m b) -> (a -> m c)
```

Laws easier to express (and more familiar!) in terms of kleisli:

```
kleisli pure f == f
kleisli f pure == f
kleisli (kleisli f g) h == kleisli f (kleisli g h)
```

A **monad** is a strategy for structuring, composing, and sequencing computations augmented with additional context.

Monads are Applicative Functors with even more power and expressiveness.

```
trait Applicative m => Monad (m : Type -> Type) where
    bind : m a -> (a -> m b) -> m b
    join : m (m a) -> m a
    -- derived method, look familiar?
    kleisli : (b \rightarrow m c) \rightarrow (a \rightarrow m b) \rightarrow (a \rightarrow m c)
implements Monad Maybe where
    bind : Maybe a -> (a -> Maybe b) -> Maybe b
    bind Nothing _ =
    bind (Some x) f =
    join : Maybe (Maybe a) -> Maybe a
    join Nothing =
    join (Some m) =
```

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Monads are Applicative Functors with even more power and expressiveness.

```
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implements Monad Maybe where
    bind: Maybe a -> (a -> Maybe b) -> Maybe b
    bind Nothing _ = Nothing
    bind (Some x) f = f x
    join : Maybe (Maybe a) -> Maybe a
    join Nothing = Nothing
    join (Some m) = m
```

Two Useful Examples

Let \mathcal{A} be a set and let $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{A})$ be its *power set*. Then \mathbb{P} is a monad with

$$pure(x) = \{x\}$$
$$join(\mathcal{P}) = \bigcup_{\mathcal{B} \in \mathcal{P}} \mathcal{B}$$

where $x \in \mathcal{A}$ and $\mathcal{P} \in \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{A}))$. (Note that join maps to $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{A})$.)

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Let $\mathcal F$ be a finite set and let $\mathbb D(\mathcal F)$ be the set of probability distributions supported in $\mathcal F$. Then $\mathbb D$ is a monad with

$$\operatorname{pure}(x) = \delta_x$$
$$\operatorname{bind}(d, c) = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{F}} c(\blacksquare \mid x) d(x).$$

What are d and c here?

Two Useful Examples

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$$pure(x) = \{x\}$$
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Let $\mathcal F$ be a finite set and let $\mathbb D(\mathcal F)$ be the set of probability distributions supported in $\mathcal F$. Then $\mathbb D$ is a monad with

$$\operatorname{pure}(x) = \delta_x$$
$$\operatorname{bind}(d,c) = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{F}} c(\blacksquare \mid x) d(x).$$

What are d and c here?

We can think of these monads as representing values in an enhanced context.

Brief Demo

FP-Concepts (nearing completion, but see documents)

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Appendix: Another Hughes Example

Newton-Raphson Square Roots

Consider the recurrence relation $a_{n+1}=(a_n+x/a_n)/2$ for x>0 and $a_0=x$. As n increases, $a_n\to \sqrt{x}$.

We might compute with this typically with

```
def sqrt(x, tolerance=1e-7):
    u = x
    v = x + 2.0 * tolerance
    while abs(u - v) > tolerance:
        v = u
        u = 0.5 * (u + x / u)
    return u
```

We will put this in a more modular style with ingredients that can be reused for other problems.

Newton-Raphson Square Roots (cont'd)

```
next : Real -> Real -> Real
next x a = (a + x / a) / 2
iterate f x = x :: (iterate f (f x)) -- a lazy sequence
iterate (next x) init -- lazy sequence of sqrt approximations
within : Real -> Sequence Real -> Real
within tol (a0 :: (a1 :: rest))
   | (abs(a0 - a1) \le tol) = a1
   otherwise
                       = within tol (a1 :: rest)
relative : Real -> Sequence Real -> Real
relative tol (a0 :: (a1 :: rest))
   | (abs(a0/a1 - 1) \le tol) = a1
                           = relative tol (a1 :: rest)
   otherwise
a_sqrt init tol = within tol (iterate (next x) init)
r_sqrt init tol x = relative tol (iterate (next x) init)
```

These same primitives apply to give us other approximations, e.g., numerical differentiation, integration, . . .

Implementation: Lazy Sequences

```
iterate f x = x :: (iterate f (f x)) creates a lazy sequence of the form x, f(x), f(f(x)), f(f(f(x))), \ldots
```

Let's create an implementation of iterate as well as functions

- take n lazy_seq that returns a list of the first n items from lazy_seq.
- drop n lazy_seq that returns the tail of lazy_seq that drops the first n items.
- split_at n lazy_seq that returns a pair: a list with the first n items and the lazy sequence of remaining items.

We can then use this to implement the above.

Numerical Derivatives

```
divDiff f x h = (f (x + h) - f x) / h
halve x = x / 2
derivative f \times h0 = map (divDiff f x) (iterate halve h0)
within tol (derivative f x h0)
-- sharpen error terms that look like a + b h^n
sharpen n (a :: (b :: rest))
  = ((b * (2**n) - a) / (2**n - 1)) :: (sharpen n (b :: rest))
order (a :: (b :: (c :: rest)))
  = round (\log 2 ((a - c) / (b - c) - 1))
improve seq = sharpen (order seq) seq
within tol (improve (derivative f x h0))
within tol (improve (improve (derivative f x h0)))
- ... can improve even further.
```

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Zippers for Trees

Zippers are a data structure that enable the exploration and modification of other data structures (like trees) in a functional way.

Goals: Move freely through a tree, allow local modifications that can maintain the original tree while efficiently sharing structure.

Metaphor: Moving through the directory/folder tree on your computer.

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Minimax Analysis of Game Trees

Consider a traditional, two-player perfect-information game like tic-tac-toe or chess. We can analyze a game by looking at the "game tree" and scoring positions heuristically.

Assume we have types Player and Position. For instance,

```
data Player = X | O
data Position = TopLeft | TopMid | TopRight | ... | BotRight
```

We will let these be generic types as they can apply to any game.

To keep things simple, we'll start by ignoring the player, assuming that player can be determined from a position.

We have a function

We could handle the player as follows.

But we'll keep to the simple version in what follows.

Now imagine that we have some heuristic static evaluator for some position:

```
static : Position -> Number
```

Assume that the results are negative when they favor one player and positive when they favor another. This is a local guess that we will refine by analyzing the game tree. Note that map static: Tree Position -> Tree Number.

To extend our static analyzer, we lookahead in the tree, taking account of the best (greedy) move at each stage.

```
maximize : Tree Number -> Number
maximize (Node v []) = v
maximize (Node v sub) = max (map minimize sub)

minimize : Tree Number -> Number
minimize (Node v []) = v
minimize (Node v sub) = min (map maximize sub)

evaluate : Position -> Number
evaluate = maximize . map static . gameTree
```

This is fine, but it might not terminate. (Why?) And it can take a long time in any case.

We need to prune the tree.

```
prune : Natural -> Tree a -> Tree a
prune 0 (Node v cs) =
prune n (Node v cs) =
```

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```
prune : Natural -> Tree a -> Tree a
prune 0 (Node v cs) = Node v []
prune n (Node v cs) = Node v (map (prune (n - 1)) cs)
```

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```

Now we have a more realistic evaluation

```
evaluate : Position -> Number
evaluate = maximize . map static . prune 4 . gameTree
```

which gives a lookahead of 4 moves.

We are using *lazy evaluation* here. This evaluates positions only as *demanded* by maximize so the whole tree is never in memory.

We can optimize this further.

THE END