

Chapter 7 High Order Functions

→ A function is high order if it takes a function as an argument or returns a function as a result.

Ex: $\text{twice} :: (a \rightarrow a) \rightarrow a \rightarrow a$
 $\text{twice } f \ x = f(f \ x)$

→ Common programming patterns can be coded using high order function

→ Domain specific languages (DSL) can be defined as collections of high order functions

→ Algebraic properties of high order functions can be helpful for programs

→ Fold function, number of functions on lists can be applied using the pattern of primitive recursion

Ex: $f [] = v$

$f(x:xs) = x \oplus f \ xs$

↓
Generic infix operator

$\text{sum} [] = 0$

$v = 0$

$\text{sum}(x:xs) = x + \text{sum } xs$

$\oplus = +$

→ High order library function. **fold** (fold right) takes v and \oplus as arguments

Ex: $\text{sum} = \text{fold} (+) 0$ → Base case

$\text{product} = \text{fold} (*) 1$
↳ Recursion

→ Think of fold non-recursively

Ex: $\text{sum} [1,2,3]$

$= \text{fold} (+) 0 [1,2,3]$

$= \text{fold} (+) 0 (1 : (2 : (3 : [])))$

Replace $(:)$ with operator and $[]$ with base case

$$= 1 + (2 + (3 + 0))$$

$$= 6$$

→ Some functions on lists, such as sum are simpler to define using fold.

→ Advanced programming optimization can be simpler if fold is used instead of explicit recursion.