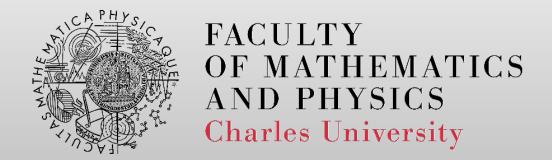
# Statically-typed Class-based languages – Scala

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#### Scala

- Statically-typed language
- Compiles to bytecode
- Modern concepts



## **Syntax inference**

- A line ending is treated as a semicolon unless one of the following conditions is true:
  - The line in question ends in a word that would not be legal as the end of a statement, such as a period or an infix operator.
  - The next line begins with a word that cannot start a statement.
  - The line ends while inside parentheses (...) or brackets [...], because these cannot contain multiple statements anyway.

- Blocks are based on indentation
  - Possible to use curly braces (version 2 syntax)



# Static vs. dynamic typing

- Target function is determined
  - at compile time static typing
  - at runtime dynamic typing



# Classes vs. objects

- Scala does not have static method
- Instead it features a singleton object
  - Defines a class and a singleton instance

• Example: E03

Decompiled – AppLogger, Logger



# **Type inference**

- Types can be omitted they are inferred automatically
  - At compile time



# **Type Hierarchy**

- Everything is an object
  - primitive data types behind the scene (boxing/unboxing)
- Compiler optimizes the use of primitive types
  - a primitive type is used if possible



# **Companion object**

- A class and object may have the same name
  - Must be defined in the same source

• Then the class and object may access each others private fields



#### **Constructors**

- One primary constructor
  - class parameters
  - can invoke superclass constructor

- Auxiliary constructors
  - must invoke the primary constructor (as the first one)
  - must not invoke superclass constructor



#### **Operators**

- Scala allows almost arbitrary method names (including operators)
- A method may be called without a dot
- Prefix operators have special names



## Flexibility in Identifiers and Operators

- Alphanumeric identifier
  - starts with letter or underscore
- Operator identifier
  - an operator character belongs to the Unicode set of mathematical symbols(Sm) or other symbols(So), or to the 7-bit ASCII characters that are not letters, digits
  - any sequence of them
- Mixed identifier
  - e.g. unary\_- to denote a prefix operator
- Literal identifier
  - with backticks (e.g. `class`) to avoid clashes with reserved words, etc.

#### **Operator precedences**

- Operator precedence determined by the first character
  - Only if the operator ends with "=", the last character is used

```
(all other special characters)
* / %
= !
< >
(all letters)
(all assignment operators)
```

#### **Extensions**

- Similar to C#, Scala makes it possible to declare an extension of an existing type
- The extensions have to be brought to scope
  - Typically imported

# **Context parameters (aka givens)**

- Scala allows naming instances (called "givens") that define canonical values of certain types
  - used to synthetize arguments for context parameters
- Givens have to be brought to scope to be applicable
  - Special import notation



# **Implicit conversions**

- Scala allows specifying functions that are applied automatically to make the code correct
  - conversion to the type of the argument or to the type of the receiver
  - the conversion is brough in as a "given" same rules apply for making it visible as for other givens

• Example: E09 + H1



#### **Rich wrappers**

- Implicit conversions used to implement so called Rich wrappers
- Standard library contains rich types for the basic ones
  - E.g. RichInt defines methods to, until, ...



#### Namespaces

- Scala allows groups classes to packages (similar to Java and C#)
- Similar to C#, it allows defining multiple classes and even packages in the same file



#### **First-class functions**

- Functions are first-class citizens
- May be passed as parameters
- Anonymous functions, ...
- Anonymous functions are instances of classes
  - Function1, Function2, ...



#### **Tail recursion**

- The compiler can do simple tail recursion
  - If the return value of a function is a recursive call to the function itself

## For-comprehension

- Generalized for-loops
  - generators, definitions, filters

- Translated to operations over collections
  - map, flatMap, withFilter, foreach



#### **Traits**

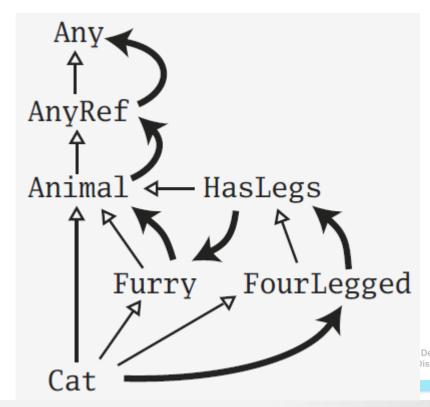
- Scala does not have interfaces
  - It has something stronger mixins (called traits)
- A trait is like an interface, but allows for defining methods and variables

#### Linearization

 As opposed to multiple inheritance, traits do not suffer from the diamond problem

This is because the semantics of super is determined only when

the final type is defined



# **Composing Traits**

- Composition of traits can be used to address the same problem as Dependency injection addresses
  - "Cake pattern"



# **Abstract types**

• What about if we want methods in a subclass to specialize method parameters?

• Example: E17 + H2

# **Embedding and exporting**

- Alternative to composing functionalities by traits
- Instead of extending a class, an object is embedded and its methods are exported on the interface
  - Invocation of those methods act on the embedded object
- This is similar to type embedding in Go
  - But since Go lacks inheritance or mixins, the embedding (with all its limits) is the only way of composing functinality



#### **New control structures**

- Currying function that returns function
- By-name parameters
  - omitting empty parameter list in an anonymous function



# Case-classes, pattern matching

- Scala allows for simple pattern matching (similar to Prolog terms)
- Case-classes
  - factory method (no new necessary)
  - all parameters are vals



# **Case sequences & Partial functions**

- Functions may be defined as case sequences
  - It's like a function with more entry points

- Since the case sequence does not have to cover all cases, it yields a partial function
  - Partial function may be queried if a given value is in its domain
  - or it throws a runtime exception if called with an unsupported input argument

• Example: E21 + H3



#### **Extractors**

- Pattern matching relies on method unapply
  - apply takes arguments, returns an object
  - unapply takes an object, returns a tuple or sequence of arguments

Allows creating custom matchers

• Example: E22, E23



# **String interpolation**

- String interpolation implemented by rewriting code at compile time
- Standard interpolators
  - s interpolator

    val name = "reader"

    println(s"Hello, \$name!")
    raw interpolator
  - raw interpolator
    println(raw"No\\\escape!") // prints: No\\\escape!
  - f interpolator (printf-like formatter)
    f"\${math.Pi}%.5f"
- Custom interpolators can be defined
- Example: E24



## **Regular Expressions**

- Regular expressions are normal library class
- They can be used as extractors
  - Even more interesting when combined with string interpolation



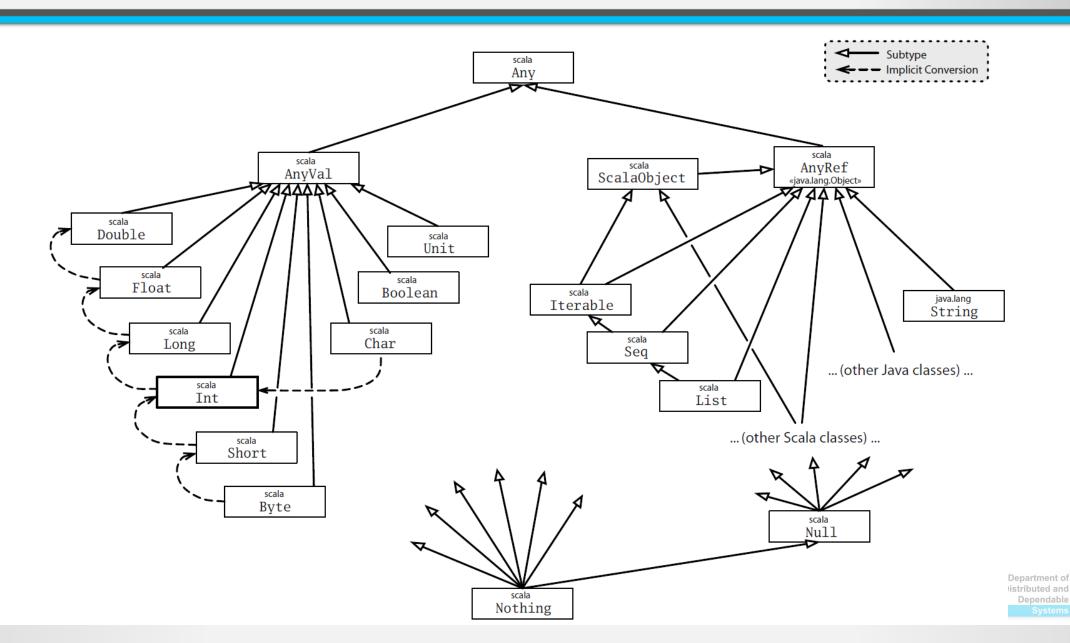
## Type parameterization

• Each class and method may be parameterized by a type

Lower and upper bounds



# **Type Hierarchy**



# **Null and Nothing types**

- null is singleton instance of Null
  - can be assigned to any AnyRef

- Nothing is a subtype of everything
  - Can be assigned to anything, but does not have any instance

```
def doesNotReturn(): Nothing =
  throw new Exception
```



## **Nothing in Use I**

```
def fail(msg: String): Nothing =
    println(msg)
    sys.exit(1)
```

```
val y = if x != null then x else fail("$&#@!")
```

## **Nothing in Use II**

```
abstract class Option[+A]:
 def isEmpty
 def get: A
case class Some[+A](x: A) extends Option[A]:
 def isEmpty = false
 def get = x
case object None extends Option[Nothing]:
  def isEmpty = true
 def get = throw NoSuchElementException()
```



#### **Type variance**

- Assuming: A <: B (A subtype of B) and X[T]</li>
- What is the relation of X[A] and X[B] ?
  - X[A] <: X[B] ... X is covariant in its type parameter T</p>
  - X[A] >: X[B] ... X is contravariant in its type parameter T
  - No relation ... X is invariant w.r.t. to the type parameter T



## Instance private data

 The mutable state in a class typically prevents the covariance/contravariance

Why?

#### **Collections**

- Scala offers immutable and mutable variants of collections (immutable ones preferred)
  - List vs. ListBuffer
  - HashSet vs. mutable.HashSet
  - HashMap vs. mutable.HashMap

 To achieve performance, immutable types are internally often backed by mutable structures

# Path dependent types

- Nested traits/classes are specific to the instance of the outer class
- This makes types different based on the instance they are tied with
  - Though this is a runtime property, it can be with some effort checked statically

# Structural subtyping

It is possible to specify only properties of a type

# Ways to achieve polymorphism

- Overloaded methods
  - Target types represented as variants of the same method

- Interfaces/traits/inheritance
  - Target types are individual sub-classes or they need to be wrapped by and adaptor

Typeclasses – ad-hoc polymorphism

## **Typeclasses**

- I.e. grouping/set of types
- Used for ad-hoc polymorphism

• Example: E31, E32

• Homework: H4

#### Inline

- Inline modifier enforces expansion in-place
- Possible to apply also to parameters, val and if
  - Enforces that the evaluation is done at compile time

Possible to use this as simple macros

• Example: E33, E34

#### **Macros**

- Compile-time evaluation of expressions
- Possible to manipulate the AST of the program
  - Compile-time reflection

