The Type Astronaut's Guide to Shapeless



August 2016

Dave Gurnell



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Chapter 1

Introduction

This book is a guide to using shapeless, a library for *generic programming* in Scala. Shapeless is large library, so rather than cover everything it has to offer, we will concentrate on a few compelling use cases and use them to build a picture of the tools and patterns available.

Before we start, let's talk about what generic programming is and why shapeless is so exciting to Scala developers.

1.1 What is generic programming?

As Scala developers we are used to types. Types are helpful because they are specific: they show us how different pieces of code fit together, help us prevent bugs, and guide us toward solutions when we code.

Sometimes, however, types are *too* specific. There are situations where we want to exploit similarities between types to avoid repetition and boilerplate. For example, consider the following definitions:

```
case class Employee(name: String, number: Int, manager: Boolean)

case class IceCream(name: String, numCherries: Int, inCone: Boolean)
```

These two case classes represent different kinds of data but they have clear similarities: they both contain three fields of the same types. Suppose we want to implement a generic operation such as serializing to a CSV file. Despite the similarity between the two types, we have to write two separate serialization methods:

```
def employeeCsv(e: Employee): List[String] =
  List(e.name, e.number.toString, e.manager.toString)

def iceCreamCsv(c: IceCream): List[String] =
  List(c.name, c.numCherries.toString, c.inCone.toString)
```

Generic programming is about overcoming differences like these. Shapeless makes it convenient to convert specific types into generic ones that we can manipulate with common code.

For example, we can use the code below to convert employees and ice creams to values of the same type. Don't worry if you don't follow this example yet: we'll get to grips with the various concepts later on:

Now that both sets of data are the same type, we can serialize them with the same function:

```
// res2: List[String] = List(Dave, 123, false)
genericCsv(genericIceCream)
// res3: List[String] = List(Sundae, 1, false)
```

This example is basic but it hints at the essence of generic programming. We reformulate problems so we can solve them use generic building blocks, and write small kernels of code that work with a wide variety of types. Generic programming with shapeless allows us to eliminate huge amounts of boilerplate, making Scala applications easier to read, write, and maintain.

Does that sound compelling? Thought so. Let's jump in!

1.2 About this book

This book is divided into chapters that introduce parts of the shapeless machinery.

In Chapter ?? we introduce *generic representations* and shapeless' Generic type class, which can produce a generic encoding for any case class or sealed trait. The main use case will be something basic: converting one type of data to another.

In Chapter ?? we use Generic to derive instances of a custom type class. We use CSV encoding as an example, but these techniques can be extended to many situations. We will introduce shapeless' Lazy type, which lets us handle recursive data like lists and trees.

In Chapter ?? we cover some more theory: dependent types, dependently typed functions, and type level programming. We will introduce the programming patterns we need to generalise from deriving type class instances to doing more advanced things in shapeless.

In Chapter ?? we introduce LabelledGeneric, a variant of Generic that exposes field and type names as part of its generic representations. We also introduce some new theory: literal types, singleton types, phantom types, and type tagging. In our examples we upgrade from CSV encoding to writing JSON encoders that preserve field and type names in their output.

In Chapter ?? we open the shapeless toolbox, introducing a variety of operations on generic representations including mapping and filtering. We also introduce *polymorphic functions* that can have different output types depending on their parameter types.

TODO: Function and tuple interop

TODO: Counting with types

TODO: Polymorphic functions

Chapter 2

Algebraic data types and generic representations

The main idea behind generic programming is to solve problems for a wide variety of types by writing a small amount of generic code. Shapeless provides two sets of tools to this end:

- 1. a set of generic data types that can be inspected, traversed, and manipulated at the type level:
- automatic mapping between algebraic data types (ADTs) (encoded in Scala as case classes and sealed traits) and these generic representations.

In this chapter we will start by recapping on what algebraic data types are and why they might be familiar to Scala developers. Then we will look at the data types shapeless uses as generic representations and discuss how they map on to concrete ADTs. Finally, we will introduce a type class called Generic that provides automatic mapping back and forth between ADTs and generic representations. We will finish with some simple examples using Generic to convert values from one type to another.

2.1 Recap: algebraic data types

Algebraic data types (ADTs¹) are a functional programming concept with a fancy name but a very simple meaning. They are simply an idiomatic way of representing data using "ands" and "ors". For example:

- a shape is a rectangle or a circle
- a rectangle has a width and a height
- a circle has a radius

In ADT terminology, "and" types such as rectangle and circle are called *products*, and "or" types such as shape are called *coproducts*. In Scala we typically represent products using case classes and coproducts using sealed traits:

```
sealed trait Shape
final case class Rectangle(width: Double, height: Double) extends Shape
final case class Circle(radius: Double) extends Shape

val rect: Shape = Rectangle(3.0, 4.0)
val circ: Shape = Circle(1.0)
```

The beauty of ADTs is that they are completely type safe. The compiler has complete knowledge of the algebras we define, so it can support us in writing complete, correctly typed methods involving our types:

```
def area(shape: Shape): Double =
  shape match {
    case Rectangle(w, h) => w * h
    case Circle(r) => math.Pi * r * r
  }
area(rect)
// res1: Double = 12.0
```

¹Be careful not to confuse algebraic data types with "abstract data types", which are a different modelling tool with little bearing on the discussion here.

```
area(circ)
// res2: Double = 3.141592653589793
```

2.1.1 Alternative encodings

Sealed traits and case classes are undoubtedly the most convenient encoding of ADTs in Scala. However, they aren't the *only* encoding. For example, the Scala standard library provides generic products in the form of Tuples and a generic coproduct in the form of Either. We could have chosen these to encode our Shape:

```
type Rectangle2 = (Double, Double)
type Circle2 = Double
type Shape2 = Either[Rectangle2, Circle2]

val rect2: Shape2 = Left((3.0, 4.0))
val circ2: Shape2 = Right(1.0)
```

While this encoding is less readable than the case class encoding above, it does have some of the same desirable properties. We can still write completely type safe operations involving Shape2:

```
def area2(shape: Shape2): Double =
    shape match {
    case Left((w, h)) => w * h
      case Right(r) => math.Pi * r * r
    }
    area2(rect2)
// res4: Double = 12.0

area2(circ2)
// res5: Double = 3.141592653589793
```

Importantly, Shape2 is a more *generic* encoding than Shape². Any code that operates on a pair of Doubles will be able to operate on a Rectangle2 and

²We're using "generic" with an informal way here, not the formal meaning of "a type with a type parameter".

vice versa. As Scala developers we tend to see interoperability as a bad thing: what havoc will we accidentally wreak across our codebase with such freedom?! However, in some cases it is a desirable feature. For example, if we're serializing data to disk, we don't care about the difference between a pair of Doubles and a Rectangle2. Just write or read two numbers and we're done.

shapeless gives us the best of both worlds: we can use friendly sealed traits and case classes by default, and switch to generic representations when we want interoperability (more on this later). However, instead of using Tuples and Either, shapeless uses its own data types to represent generic products and coproducts. We'll introduce to these types in the next sections.

2.2 Generic product encodings

In the previous section we introduced tuples as a generic representation of products. Unfortunately, Scala's built-in tuples have a couple of disadvantages that make them unsuitable for shapeless' purposes:

- 1. each size of tuple has a different, unrelated type, making it difficult to write code that abstracts over sizes;
- 2. there are no types for 0- and 1-length tuples, which are important for representing products with 0 and 1 fields.

For these reasons, shapeless uses a different generic encoding for product types called *heterogeneous lists* or HLists³.

An HList is either the empty list HNil, or a pair :: [H, T] where H is an arbitrary type and T is another HList. Because every :: has its own H and T, the type each element is encoded separately in the type of the overall list:

³Product is perhaps a better name for HList, but the standard library unfortunately already has a type scala.Product.

```
import shapeless.{HList, ::, HNil}

val product: String :: Int :: Boolean :: HNil =
    "Sunday" :: 1 :: false :: HNil
```

The types and values of the HLists above mirror one another. Both represent three members: a String, an Int, and a Boolean. We can retrieve the head and tail and the types of the elements are preserved:

```
val first: String =
  product.head
// first: String = Sunday

val second: Int =
  product.tail.head
// second: Int = 1

val rest: Boolean :: HNil =
  product.tail.tail
// rest: shapeless.::[Boolean,shapeless.HNil] = false :: HNil
```

The compiler knows the exact length of each HList, so it becomes a compilation error to take the head or tail of an empty list:

```
product.tail.tail.tail.head
// <console>:15: error: could not find implicit value for parameter c:
        shapeless.ops.hlist.IsHCons[shapeless.HNil]
// product.tail.tail.tail.head
// ^
```

We can manipulate and transform HLists in addition to being able to inspect and traverse them. For example, we can prepend an element with the :: method. Again, notice how the type of the result reflects the number and types of its elements:

```
false :: HNil
```

Shapeless also provides tools for performing more complex operations such as mapping, filtering, and concatenating lists. We'll discuss these in more detail in later chapters.

DJG: INSERT CHAPTER NUMBER ABOVE

2.2.1 Switching representations using **Generic**

Shapeless provides a type class called Generic that allows us to switch back and forth between a concrete ADT and its generic representation. There's some macro magic going on behind the scenes that allows us to summon instances of Generic without boilerplate:

```
import shapeless.Generic

case class IceCream(name: String, numCherries: Int, inCone: Boolean)

val iceCreamGen = Generic[IceCream]

// iceCreamGen: shapeless.Generic[IceCream]{type Repr = shapeless.::[
    String,shapeless.::[Int,shapeless.::[Boolean,shapeless.HNil]]]} = anon$macro$4$1@731b5935
```

Note that the instance of Generic has a type member Repr containing the type of its generic representation. In this case iceCreamGen.Repr is String :: Int :: Boolean :: HNil. Instances of Generic have two methods: one for converting to Repr and one for converting from it:

```
val iceCream: IceCream =
   IceCream("Sundae", 1, false)
// iceCream: IceCream = IceCream(Sundae,1,false)

val repr: iceCreamGen.Repr =
   iceCreamGen.to(iceCream)
// repr: iceCreamGen.Repr = Sundae :: 1 :: false :: HNil

val iceCream2: IceCream =
```

```
iceCreamGen.from(repr)
// iceCream2: IceCream = IceCream(Sundae,1,false)
```

If two ADTs have the same Repr, we can convert back and forth between them using their Generics:

```
case class Employee(name: String, number: Int, manager: Boolean)

// Create an employee from an ice cream:
val strangeEmployee: Employee =
   Generic[Employee].from(Generic[IceCream].to(iceCream))
// strangeEmployee: Employee = Employee(Sundae,1,false)
```

2.3 Generic coproducts

Now we know how shapeless encodes product types. What about coproducts? We looked at Either earlier, but that suffers from a similar drawback to tuples: we have no way of representing a disjunction of fewer than two types. For this reason, shapeless provides a different encoding that is similar to HList.

The type of a Coproduct encodes all the possible types in the disjunction, but each concrete instantiation contains a value for just one of the possibilities.

```
import shapeless.{Coproduct, :+:, CNil}

case class Red()
case class Amber()
case class Green()

type Light = Red :+: Amber :+: Green :+: CNil
```

In general, coproducts take the form A:+: B:+: C:+: CNil meaning "A or B or C".:+: can be loosely interpreted as an Either, with subtypes Inl and Inr corresponding loosely to Left and Right. CNil is an empty type with no values, similar to Nothing, so we can never instantiate an empty Coproduct. Similarly, we can never create a Coproduct purely from instances of Inr. We always have to have exactly one Inl in a value:

```
import shapeless.{Inl, Inr}

val red: Light =
   Inl(Red())

val green: Light =
   Inr(Inr(Inl(Green())))
```

2.3.1 Switching encodings using Generic

Coproduct types are difficult to parse on first glance. However, it is relatively easy to see how they fit into the larger picture of generic encodings. In addition to understanding case classes and case objects, shapeless' Generic type class also understands sealed traits and abstract classes:

```
import shapeless.Generic

sealed trait Shape
final case class Rectangle(width: Double, height: Double) extends Shape
final case class Circle(radius: Double) extends Shape

val gen = Generic[Shape]
// gen: shapeless.Generic[Shape] { type Repr = shapeless.:+:[Rectangle, shapeless.:+:[Circle,shapeless.CNil]]} = anon$macro$1$1@60892506
```

Note that the Repr of the Generic is a Coproduct of the subtypes of the sealed trait: Rectangle :+: Circle :+: CNil. We can use the to and from methods of the generic to map back and forth between Shape and gen.Repr:

```
gen.to(Rectangle(3.0, 4.0))
// res5: gen.Repr = Inl(Rectangle(3.0,4.0))

gen.to(Circle(1.0))
// res6: gen.Repr = Inr(Inl(Circle(1.0)))
```

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2.4 Summary

In this chapter we discussed the generic representations shapeless provides for algebraic data types in Scala: HLists for product types and Coproducts for coproduct types. We also introduced the Generic type class to map back and forth between concrete ADTs and their generic representations. We haven't yet discussed why generic encodings are so attractive. The one use case we did cover—converting between ADTs—is fun but not tremendously useful.

The real power of HLists and Coproducts comes from their recursive structure. We can write code to traverse the structures and calculate values from their constituents. In the next chapter we will look at our first real use case: automatically deriving type class instances.

Chapter 3

Automatically deriving type class instances

In the last chapter we saw how the Generic type class allowed us to convert any instance of an ADT to a generic encoding made of HLists and Coproducts. In this chapter we will look at our first serious use case: automatic derivation of type class instances.

3.1 Recap: type classes

Before we get into the depths of instance derivation, let's quickly recap on the important aspects of type classes.

Type classes are a programming pattern borrowed from Haskell (the word "class" has nothing to do with classes in object oriented programming). We encode them in Scala using traits and implicit parameters. A *type class* is a generic trait representing some sort of general functionality that we would like to apply to a wide range of types:

```
// Turn a value of type A into a row of cells in a CSV file:
trait CsvEncoder[A] {
```

```
def encode(value: A): List[String]
}
```

We implement our type class with instances for each type we care about:

```
// Helper method for creating CsvEncoder instances:
def createEncoder[A](func: A => List[String]): CsvEncoder[A] =
    new CsvEncoder[A] {
    def encode(value: A): List[String] =
        func(value)
    }

// Custom data type:
case class Employee(name: String, number: Int, manager: Boolean)

// CsvEncoder instance for the custom data type:
implicit val employeeEncoder: CsvEncoder[Employee] =
    createEncoder(e => List(e.name, e.number.toString, if(e.manager) "yes"
        else "no"))
```

We mark each instance with the keyword implicit, and define a generic *entry point* method that accepts an implicit parameter of the corresponding type:

```
def writeCsv[A](values: List[A])(implicit encoder: CsvEncoder[A]):
    String =
  values.map(value => encoder.encode(value).mkString(",")).mkString("\n"
    )
```

When we call the entry point method, the compiler calculates the value of the type parameter and searches for an implicit CsvWriter of the corresponding type:

```
val employees: List[Employee] = List(
   Employee("Bill", 1, true),
   Employee("Peter", 2, false),
   Employee("Milton", 3, false)
)

// The compiler inserts a CsvEncoder[Employee] parameter:
writeCsv(employees)
```

```
// res7: String =
// Bill,1,yes
// Peter,2,no
// Milton,3,no
```

We can use writeCsv with any data type we like provided we define an implicit CsvEncoder and place it in scope:

```
case class IceCream(name: String, numCherries: Int, inCone: Boolean)
implicit val iceCreamEncoder: CsvEncoder[IceCream] =
   createEncoder(i => List(i.name, i.numCherries.toString, if(i.inCone) "
        yes" else "no"))

val iceCreams: List[IceCream] = List(
   IceCream("Sundae", 1, false),
   IceCream("Cornetto", 0, true),
   IceCream("Banana Split", 0, false)
)

writeCsv(iceCreams)
// res10: String =
// Sundae,1,no
// Cornetto,0,yes
// Banana Split,0,no
```

3.1.1 Deriving instances

Type classes are very flexible but they require us to define instances for every type we care about. Fortunately, the Scala compiler has a few tricks up its sleeve to create instances for us given rules. For example, we can write a rule that creates an instance to encode pairs of type (A, B) given CsvEncoders for A and B:

```
implicit def pairEncoder[A, B](
  implicit
  aEncoder: CsvEncoder[A],
  bEncoder: CsvEncoder[B]
): CsvEncoder[(A, B)] =
```

```
createEncoder {
  case (a, b) =>
   aEncoder.encode(a) ++ bEncoder.encode(b)
}
```

When all the parameters to an implicit def are themselves marked as implicit, the compiler can use it as a *derivation rule* to create instances from other instances. For example, if we call writeCsv and pass in a List[(Employee, IceCream)], the compiler is able to combine pairEncoder, employeeEncoder, and iceCreamEncoder to produce the required CsvEncoder[(Employee, IceCream)]:

```
writeCsv(employees zip iceCreams)
// res11: String =
// Bill,1,yes,Sundae,1,no
// Peter,2,no,Cornetto,0,yes
// Milton,3,no,Banana Split,0,no
```

Given a set of rules encoded as implicit vals and implicit defs, the compiler is capable of *searching* for combinations to give it the required instances. This behaviour, known as "implicit derivation", is what makes the type class pattern so powerful.

Traditionally the only limitation to has been ADTs. The compiler can't pick apart the types of case classes and sealed traits, so developers have always had to define instances for ADTs by hand. Shapeless' generic representations change all of this, allowing us to derive instances for any ADT for free.

3.2 Deriving instances for products

In this section we're going to use shapeless to derive type class instances for products (i.e. case classes). We'll use two intuitions:

1. If we have a type class instance for the head and tail of an HList, we can derive an instance for the whole HI ist.

2. If we have a case class A, a Generic[A], and a type class instance for generic's Repr. we can combine them to create an instance for A

Take CsvEncoder and IceCream as examples:

- IceCream has a generic Reprof type String :: Int :: Boolean :: HNil.
- The Repr is made up of a String, an Int, a Boolean, and an HNil. If we have CsvEncoders for these types, we can create an encoder for the whole thing.
- If we can derive a CsvEncoder for the Repr, we can create one for TceCream.

3.2.1 Instances for HLists

Let's start by writing CsvEncoders for String, Int, and Boolean:

```
implicit val stringEncoder: CsvEncoder[String] =
  createEncoder(str => List(str))

implicit val intEncoder: CsvEncoder[Int] =
  createEncoder(num => List(num.toString))

implicit val booleanEncoder: CsvEncoder[Boolean] =
  createEncoder(bool => List(if(bool) "yes" else "no"))
```

We can combine these building blocks to create an encoder for our HList. We'll use two rules: one for an HNil and one for :::

```
import shapeless.{HList, ::, HNil}

implicit val hnilEncoder: CsvEncoder[HNil] =
   createEncoder(hnil => Nil)

implicit def hlistEncoder[H, T <: HList](
   implicit</pre>
```

```
hEncoder: CsvEncoder[H],
  tEncoder: CsvEncoder[T]
): CsvEncoder[H :: T] =
  createEncoder {
    case h :: t =>
      hEncoder.encode(h) ++ tEncoder.encode(t)
}
```

Taken together, these five rules allow us to summon CsvEncoders for any HList involving Strings, Ints, and Booleans:

```
val reprEncoder: CsvEncoder[String :: Int :: Boolean :: HNil] =
  implicitly

reprEncoder.encode("abc" :: 123 :: true :: HNil)
// res8: List[String] = List(abc, 123, yes)
```

3.2.2 Instances for concrete products

We can combine our derivation rules for HLists with an instance of Generic to produce a CsvEncoder for IceCream:

```
import shapeless.Generic

implicit val iceCreamEncoder: CsvEncoder[IceCream] = {
  val gen = Generic[IceCream]
  val enc = implicitly[CsvEncoder[gen.Repr]]
  createEncoder(iceCream => enc.encode(gen.to(iceCream)))
}

writeCsv(iceCreams)
// res10: String =
// Sundae,1,no
// Cornetto,0,yes
// Banana Split,0,no
```

This solution is specific to IceCream, but ideally we'd like to have a single rule that handles all case classes that have a Generic and a matching CsvEncoder. Let's work through the derivation step by step. Here's a first cut:

```
implicit def genericEncoder[A](
  implicit
  gen: Generic[A],
  enc: CsvEncoder[???]
): CsvEncoder[A] = createEncoder(a => enc.encode(gen.to(a)))
```

The first problem we have is selecting a type to put in place of the ???. We want to write the Repr type associated with gen, but we can't do this:

```
implicit def genericEncoder[A](
  implicit
  gen: Generic[A],
  enc: CsvEncoder[gen.Repr]
): CsvEncoder[A] = createEncoder(a => enc.encode(gen.to(a)))
// <console>:26: error: illegal dependent method type: parameter may
  only be referenced in a subsequent parameter section
// gen: Generic[A],
/// ^
```

The problem here is a scoping issue: we can't refer to a type member of one parameter from another parameter in the same block. We won't dwell on the details here, but the trick to solving this kind of problem is to introduce a new type parameter to our method and refer to it in each of the associated parameters:

```
implicit def genericEncoder[A, R](
  implicit
  gen: Generic[A] { type Repr = R },
  enc: CsvEncoder[R]
): CsvEncoder[A] = createEncoder(a => enc.encode(gen.to(a)))
```

We'll cover this general coding style in more detail the next chapter. Suffice to say, this definition now compiles and works as expected and we can use it with any case class as expected. Intuitively, this definition says:

Given a type A and an HList type R, an implicit Generic to map A to R, and a CsvEncoder for R, create a CsvEncoder for A.

The compiler expands a call like:

```
writeCsv(iceCreams)
```

to use our family of derivation rules:

```
writeCsv(iceCreams)(
  genericEncoder(
  Generic[IceCream],
  hlistEncoder(stringEncoder,
    hlistEncoder(intEncoder,
    hlistEncoder(booleanEncoder, hnilEncoder)))))
```

Aux type aliases

Type refinements like Generic[A] { type Repr = L } are verbose and difficult to read, so shapeless provides a type alias Generic.Aux to rephrase the type member as a type parameter:

```
package shapeless

object Generic {
  type Aux[A, R] = Generic[A] { type Repr = R }
}
```

Using this alias we get a much more readable definition:

```
implicit def genericEncoder[A, R](
  implicit
  gen: Generic.Aux[A, R],
  env: CsvEncoder[R]
): CsvEncoder[A] = createEncoder(a => env.encode(gen.to(a)))
```

3.2.3 So what are the downsides?

If all of the above seems pretty magical, allow us to provide one significant dose of reality. If things go wrong, the compiler isn't great at telling us why.

There are two main reasons the code above might fail to compile. The first is when we can't find an implicit Generic for our type:

The error message here is relatively easy to understand: if shapeless we can't calculate a Generic it means that the type in question isn't an ADT—somewhere in the algebra there is a type that isn't a case class or a sealed abstract type.

The other potential source of failure is when the compiler can't calculate a CsvEncoder for our HList. This normally happens because we don't have an encoder for one of the fields in our ADT:

The message we get here isn't very helpful. All the compiler knows is it tried a lot of implicit resolution rules and couldn't make them work. It has no idea which combination came closest to the desired result, so it can't tell us where the source(s) of failure lie.

We'll discuss debugging implicit resolution in more detail next chapter. For now, the good news is that implicit resolution always fails at compile time. There's relatively little chance that we will end up with code that fails during execution.

3.3 Deriving instances for coproducts

In the last section we created a set of rules to automatically derive a CsvEncoder for any product type. In this section we will apply the same patterns to coproducts. Let's return to our shape ADT as an example:

```
sealed trait Shape
final case class Rectangle(width: Double, height: Double) extends Shape
final case class Circle(radius: Double) extends Shape
```

The generic representation for Shape is Rectangle :+: Circle :+: CNil. We can write generic CsvEncoders for :+: and CNil using the same principles we used for HLists. Our existing encoders will take care of Rectangle and Circle:

```
import shapeless.{Coproduct, :+:, CNil, Inl, Inr}

implicit val cnilEncoder: CsvEncoder[CNil] =
    createEncoder(cnil => throw new Exception("Universe exploded! Abort!")
    )

implicit def coproductEncoder[H, T <: Coproduct](
    implicit
    hEncoder: CsvEncoder[H],
    tEncoder: CsvEncoder[T]
): CsvEncoder[H :+: T] = createEncoder {
    case Inl(h) => hEncoder.encode(h)
    case Inr(t) => tEncoder.encode(t)
}
```

There are two key points of note:

- 1. Alarmingly, the encoder for CNil rather throws an exception! Don't panic, though. Remember that we can't actually create any values of type CNil. It's just there as a marker for the compiler. We're right to fail abruptly here because we should never reach this point.
- 2. Because Coproducts are *disjunctions* of types, the encoder for :+: has to *choose* whether to encode a left or right value. We pattern match on the two subtypes of :+:: Inl for left and Inr for right.

With these definitions and the definitions we wrote for product types, we should be able to serialize a list of shapes. Let's give it a try:

```
val shapes: List[Shape] = List(
  Rectangle(3.0, 4.0),
  Circle(1.0)
)

writeCsv(shapes)
// <console>:33: error: could not find implicit value for parameter
  encoder: CsvEncoder[Shape]
// writeCsv(shapes)
/// ^
```

Oh no, it failed! The error message is unhelpful as we discussed earlier. The reason for the failure is we don't have a CsvEncoder instance for Double.

```
implicit val doubleEncoder: CsvEncoder[Double] =
  createEncoder(d => List(d.toString))
```

With this definition in place, everything works as expected:

```
writeCsv(shapes)
// res7: String =
// 3.0,4.0
// 1.0
```

3.3.1 Exercise: Aligning columns in CSV output

It would perhaps be better if we separated the data for rectangles and circles into two separate sets of columns. We can do this by adding a width field to CsyEncoder:

```
trait CsvEncoder[A] {
  def width: Int
  def encode(value: A): List[String]
}
```

If we follow through with all of our definitions, we can produce instances that place each field in the ADT in a different column. We will leave this as an exercise to the reader.

See the solution

3.4 Deriving instances for recursive types

Let's try something more ambitious—a binary tree:

```
sealed trait Tree[A]
final case class Branch[A](left: Tree[A], right: Tree[A]) extends Tree[A
    ]
final case class Leaf[A](value: A) extends Tree[A]
```

Theoretically we should already have all of the definitions in place to summon a CSV writer for this definition. However, calls to writeCsv fail to compile:

```
implicitly[CsvEncoder[Tree[Int]]]
// <console>:24: error: could not find implicit value for parameter e:
        CsvEncoder[Tree[Int]]
// implicitly[CsvEncoder[Tree[Int]]]
// ^
```

The problem here is that the compiler is preventing itself going into an infinite loop searching for implicits. If it sees the same type constructor twice in any branch of search, it assumes implicit resolution is diverging and gives up. Branch is recursive so the rule for CsvEncoder[Branch] is triggering this behaviour.

In fact, the situation is worse than this. If the compiler sees the same type constructor twice and the complexity of the type parameters is *increasing*, it also gives up. This is a problem for shapeless because types like ::[H, T] and :+:[H, T] come up in different generic representations and cause the compiler to give up prematurely.

3.4.1 **Lazy**

Fortunately, shapeless provides a type called Lazy as a workaround. Lazy does two things:

- 1. it delays resolution of an implicit parameter until it is strictly needed, permitting the derivation of self-referential implicits.
- 2. it guards against some of the aforementioned over-defensive heuristics.

As a rule of thumb, it is always a good idea to wrap the "head" parameter of any HList or Coproduct rule and the "repr" parameter of any Generic rule in Lazy:

```
implicit def hlistEncoder[H, T <: HList](</pre>
  implicit
  hEncoder: Lazy[CsvEncoder[H]],
  tEncoder: CsvEncoder[T]
): CsvEncoder[H :: T] = createEncoder {
  case h :: t =>
    hEncoder.value.encode(h) ++ tEncoder.encode(t)
}
implicit def coproductEncoder[H, T <: Coproduct](</pre>
  implicit
  hEncoder: Lazy[CsvEncoder[H]], // wrapped in Lazy
  tEncoder: CsvEncoder[T]
): CsvEncoder[H :+: T] = createEncoder {
  case Inl(h) => hEncoder.value.encode(h)
  case Inr(t) => tEncoder.encode(t)
}
implicit def genericEncoder[A, R](
  implicit
  gen: Generic.Aux[A, R],
  rEncoder: Lazy[CsvEncoder[R]] // wrapped in Lazy
): CsvEncoder[A] = createEncoder { value =>
  rEncoder.value.encode(gen.to(value))
}
```

This prevents the compiler giving up prematurely, and enables the solution to work on complex/recursive types like Tree:

```
implicitly[CsvEncoder[Tree[Int]]]
// res0: CsvEncoder[Tree[Int]] = $anon$1@481e08a9
```

3.5 Summary

In this chapter we discussed how to use Generic, HLists, and Coproducts to automatically derive type class instances. We also covered the Lazy type as a means of handling complex/recursive types.

Taking all of this into account, we can write a common skeleton for deriving type class instances as follows:

```
import shapeless.{HList, ::, HNil, Coproduct, :+:, CNil, Generic, Lazy}

// Step 1. Define the type class

trait MyTC[A] {
    // etc...
}

// Step 2. Define basic instances

implicit def intInstance: MyTC[Int] = ???

// Step 3. Define instances for HList and Coproduct

implicit def hnilInstance: MyTC[HNil] = ???

implicit def hlistInstance[H, T <: HList](
    implicit
    hInstance: Lazy[MyTC[H]], // wrap in Lazy
    tInstance: MyTC[T]
): MyTC[H :: T] = ???

implicit def cnilInstance: MyTC[CNil] = ???</pre>
```

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```
implicit def coproductInstance[H, T <: Coproduct](
  implicit
  hInstance: Lazy[MyTC[H]], // wrap in Lazy
  tInstance: MyTC[T]
): MyTC[H :+: T] = ???

// Step 4. Define an instance for Generic

implicit def genericInstance[A, R](
  implicit
  generic: Generic.Aux[A, R], // wrap in Lazy
  rInstance: Lazy[MyTC[R]]
): MyTC[A] = ???</pre>
```

In the next chapter we'll cover some useful theory, programming patterns, and debugging techniques to help write code in this style.

In the chapter following we will revisit type class derivation using a variant of Generic that allows us to inspect field and type names in our ADTs.

Chapter 4

Working with types and implicits

In the last chapter we saw one of the most compelling use cases for shapeless: automatically deriving type class instances. There are plenty of even more powerful examples coming later. However, before we move on, we should take time to dicuss some of theory we've overlooked and establish a set of patterns for writing and debugging type- and implicit-heavy code.

4.1 Theory: dependent types

Last chapter we spent a lot of time using Generic, the type class for mapping ADT types to generic representations. However, we haven't yet discussed an important bit of theory that underpins much of shapeless, including Generic: dependent types.

To illustrate this, let's take a closer look at Generic. Here's a simplified version of the definition:

```
package shapeless

trait Generic[A] {
  type Repr
  def to(value: A): Repr
```

```
def from(value: Repr): A
}
```

Instances of Generic reference two other types: a type parameter A and a type member Repr. Suppose we implement a method getRepr as follows. What type will we get back?

```
import shapeless.Generic

def getRepr[A](value: A)(implicit gen: Generic[A]) =
   gen.to(value)
```

The answer is it depends on the instance we get for gen. In expanding the call to getRepr, the compiler will search for a Generic[A] and the result type will be whatever Repr is defined in that instance:

What we're seeing here *dependent typing*: the return type of getRepr is dependent on type members in its parameters.

Suppose we had specified Repr as type parameter on Generic instead of a type member:

```
trait Generic2[A, Repr]

def getRepr2[A, R](value: A)(implicit generic: Generic2[A, R]): R =
   ???
```

We would have had to pass the desired value of Repr to getRepr as a type parameter, effectively making getRepr useless.

The intuitive take-away from this is that type parameters are useful as "inputs" and type members are useful as "outputs".

4.2 Dependently typed functions

Shapeless uses dependent types all over the place: in Generic, in Witness (which we will see next chapter), and in a host of other implicit values that operate on HLists.

For example, shapeless provides a type class called Last that returns the last element in an HList:

```
import shapeless.{HList, ::, HNil}
import shapeless.ops.hlist.Last

val last = implicitly[Last[String :: Int :: HNil]]
// last: shapeless.ops.hlist.Last[shapeless.::[String,shapeless.::[Int, shapeless.HNil]]] = shapeless.ops.hlist$Last$$anon$34@14b67e4b
```

In each case note that the Out type is dependent on the HList type we started with. Also note that instances can only be summoned if the input HList has at least one element:

As a further example, let's implement our own type class, called Second, that returns the second element in an HList:

```
trait Second[H <: HList] {
  type Out
  def apply(value: H): Out
}</pre>
```

```
implicit def hlistSecond[A, B, Rest <: HList]: Second[A :: B :: Rest] =
  new Second[A :: B :: Rest] {
    type Out = B
    def apply(value: A :: B :: Rest): B =
        value.tail.head
  }

val second = implicitly[Second[String :: Boolean :: Int :: HNil]]

// second: Second[shapeless.::[String,shapeless.::[Boolean,shapeless.::[
    Int,shapeless.HNil]]]] = $anon$1@2a090006

second("Woo!" :: true :: 321 :: HNil)

// res3: second.Out = true</pre>
```

4.2.1 Chaining dependent functions

We can see dependently typed functions as a way of calculating one type from another type: we use a Generic to calculate a Repr for a case class, and so on.

What about calculations involving more than one step? Suppose, for example, we want to find the last item in an HList. To do this we need a combination of Generic and Last. Let's try writing this:

Unfortunately this doesn't compile. This is the same problem we had last chapter when creating the CsvWriter for HList pairs. As a general rule, we always write code in this style by lifting all the variable types out as type parameters and letting the compiler unify them with appropriate types:

```
def lastField[A, Repr <: HList](input: A)(
  implicit
  gen: Generic.Aux[A, Repr],
  last: Last[Repr]
): last.Out = last.apply(gen.to(input))

lastField(Rect(Vec(1, 2), Vec(3, 4)))
// res4: Vec = Vec(3,4)</pre>
```

This goes for more subtle constraints as well. For example, suppose we wanted to get the contents of a case class of exactly one field. We might be tempted to write this:

```
def getWrappedValue[A, Head](input: A)(
  implicit
  gen: Generic.Aux[A, Head :: HNil]
): Head = gen.to(input).head
```

The result here is more insidious. The method definition compiles, but it never finds the implicits its needs for the call site to compile:

The error message hints at the problem:

```
error: could not find implicit value for parameter gen:
Generic.Aux[Wrapper, Head :: HNil]
```

The clue is in the appearance of the type Head. This is the name of a type parameter in the method: it shouldn't be appearing in the type the compiler is trying to unify. The problem is that the gen parameter is over-constrained: the compiler isn't capable of finding a Repr and ensuring it is an HList with

one field at the same time. Other "smell" types include Nothing, which often appears when the compiler fails to unify covariant type parameters.

The solution is to separate the problem out into steps:

- 1. find a Generic with a suitable Repr for A;
- 2. provide that the Repr has a Head type.

Here's a revised version of the method that tries to use this using =:=:

```
def getWrappedValue[A, Repr <: HList, Head, Tail <: HList](input: A)(
   implicit
   gen: Generic.Aux[A, Repr],
   ev: (Head :: Tail) =:= Repr
): Head = gen.to(input).head
// <console>:21: error: could not find implicit value for parameter c:
        shapeless.ops.hlist.IsHCons[gen.Repr]
// ): Head = gen.to(input).head
/// ^
```

This doesn't compile because the head method in the method body requires an implicit parameter of type IsHCons. This is a much simpler error message to fix—we just need to learn a tool from shapeless' toolbox. IsHCons is a type class shapeless uses to split an HList into a Head and Tail type: we should be using IsHCons instead of =:=:

```
import shapeless.ops.hlist.IsHCons

def getWrappedValue[A, Repr <: HList, Head, Tail <: HList](input: A)(
   implicit
   gen: Generic.Aux[A, Repr],
   isHCons: IsHCons.Aux[Repr, Head, Tail]
): Head = gen.to(input).head</pre>
```

This fixes the bug and allows our method to find implicits as expected:

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```
getWrappedValue(Wrapper(42))
// res7: Int = 42
```

The take home point here isn't IsHCons. Shapeless provides a lot of tools like this and where tools are missing we can write them ourselves. The important point is the process of writing code that compiles and is capable of finding solutions. We'll finish off this section with a step-by-step guide summarising our findings so far.

4.3 Summary

When coding with shapeless, we are often trying to find a target type that depends on the types we start with. This relationship is called *dependent typing*.

Problems involving dependent types can be conveniently expressed using implicit search, allowing the compiler to resolve intermediate and target types given a starting point at the call site.

We often have to use multiple resolution steps to calculate a result (e.g. using a Generic to get a Repr, then using another type class to get to another type). When doing this, there are a few rules we should follow to ensure our code compiles and works as expected:

- 1. Extract every intermediate type out to a type parameter. Many type parameters won't be used in the result, but the compiler needs them to know which types it has to unify.
- The compiler resolves implicits from left to right, backtracking if it can't find a working combination. Write implicits in the order you'll need them, using one or more type variables to connect them to previous implicits.
- 3. The compiler can only solve for one constraint at a time, so don't overconstrain any implicit.
- 4. Write the return type explicitly, specifying any type parameters and type members you may need to use elsewhere.

5. If you're creating your own dependently typed functions, consider introducing an Aux type alias to make them easier to use.

TODO: Other tips?

Always put return types on implicits?

Ensure those return types include type members when declaring dependently typed implicits?

TODO: Section on debugging using implicitly?

Section on debugging using reify?

Chapter 5

Accessing names during implicit derivation

Often, the type class instances we define need access to more than just types. Field and type names are often important, and sometimes we need to parameterize our instances based on other criteria.

In this chapter we will look the additional tools shapeless gives us for type class derivation. The bulk of this content involves a variant of Generic called LabelledGeneric that gives us access to field names and type names.

To begin with we have some theory to cover. LabelledGeneric uses some clever techniques to expose field and type names at the type level. Understanding these techniques means talking about *literal types*, *singleton types*, *phantom types*, and *type tagging*.

5.1 Literal types

As Scala developers, we are used to the notion that a value may have multiple types. For example, the string "hello" has at least three types: String,

AnyRef, and Any1:

```
"hello" : String
// res0: String = hello

"hello" : AnyRef
// res1: AnyRef = hello

"hello" : Any
// res2: Any = hello
```

Interestingly, "hello" also has another type: a "singleton type" that belongs exclusively to that one value. This is similar to the singleton type we get when we define a companion object:

```
object Foo
val foo: Foo.type = Foo
```

Singleton types applied to literal values are called *literal types*. We don't normally interact with them because the default behaviour of the compiler is to "cast" literals to their nearest non-singleton type. So, for example, these two expressions are essentially equivalent:

```
"hello"
// res4: String = hello

("hello" : String)
// res5: String = hello
```

Shapeless provides a few tools for working with literal types. First, there is a narrow macro that converts a literal expression into a singleton-typed literal expression:

¹String has a bunch of other types like Serializable and Comparable but let's ignore those for now.

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```
import shapeless.syntax.singleton._
var x = 42.narrow
// x: Int(42) = 42
```

Note the type of x here: Int (42) is a literal type. It is a subtype of Int that only contains the value 42. If we attempt to assign a different number to x, we get a compile error:

However, x is still an Int according to normal subtyping rules. If we operate on x we get a regular type of result:

```
x + 1
// res6: Int = 43
```

We can use narrow on any literal in Scala:

```
1.narrow
// res7: Int(1) = 1

true.narrow
// res8: Boolean(true) = true

"hello".narrow
// res9: String("hello") = hello

// and so on...
```

However, we can't use it on compound expressions: the compiler has to be able to determine the literal value straight from the source:

```
math.sqrt(4).narrow
// <console>:17: error: Expression scala.math.`package`.sqrt(4.0) does
    not evaluate to a constant or a stable reference value
// math.sqrt(4).narrow
// <console>:17: error: value narrow is not a member of Double
// math.sqrt(4).narrow
//
```

Literal types in Scala

There is no syntax for writing literal types in Scala 2.11 in the regular compiler maintained by Lightbend. However, syntax has been added to Typelevel Scala 2.11.8 prior to their scheduled inclusion in Lightbend Scala 2.12.1. In these versions of Scala we can write declarations like the following:

```
val theAnswer: 42 = 42
```

The Typelevel and Lightbend Scala compilers produce binary-compatible output and are actively kept in sync by the community. Additionally, as of SBT 0.13.11-M1 it is trivial to switch compilers in your build definition. If you're interested in playing with literal types, we strongly recommend giving Typelevel Scala a try. Follow the link above for installation instructions.

5.2 Type tagging and phantom types

Shapeless uses literal types to model the names of fields in case classes. It does this by "tagging" the types of the fields with the literal types of their names. Before we see how shapeless does this, we'll do it ourselves to show that there's no magic. Suppose we have a number:

```
val number = 42
```

This number is an Int in two worlds: at runtime, where it has methods like + and *, and at compile-time, where the compiler uses the type to calculate which pieces of code work together and to search for implicits.

We can modify the type of number at compile time without modifying its runtime behaviour by "tagging" it with a "phantom type". Phantom types are types with no run-time semantics, like this:

```
trait Cherries
```

If can tag number using asInstanceOf, we end up with a value that is both an Int and a Cherries at compile-time and an Int at run-time:

```
val numCherries = number.asInstanceOf[Int with Cherries]
// numCherries: Int with Cherries = 42
```

Shapeless uses this trick to tag the types of fields in a case classes with the singleton types of their names. If you find using asInstanceOf uncomfortable then don't worry: there's explicit syntax for tagging that avoids such unsavoriness:

Here we are tagging someNumber with the phantom type KeyTag[String("numCherries") Int]. The tag encodes both the name and type of the field, both of which are useful when searching for entries in a Repr. Shapeless also provides us with a type alias to make it easy to extract the key tag and value from a type:

```
type FieldType[K, V] = V with KeyTag[K,V]
```

Now we understand how shapeless tags the type of a value with its field name. But the key tag is just a phantom type: how do we convert it to a value we can use at runtime? Shapeless provides a type class called Witness for this purpose. If we combine Witness and FieldType, we get something very compelling: the ability extract the field name from a tagged field:

5.2.1 Records and LabelledGeneric

Shapeless includes a set of tools for working with data structures called *records*. Records are HLists of items that are each tagged with type-level identifiers:

For clarity, the type of garfield is as follows:

```
type GarfieldType =
  FieldType[String("cat"), String] ::
  FieldType[String("orange"), Boolean] ::
  HNil
```

We won't go into records in any more detail here, suffice to say shapeless provides support for many Map-like operations: looking up a (correctly typed) value by key, iterating over keys, converting to a regular Map, and so on.

Importantly, records are the generic representation used by the Labelled-Generic type class that we will discuss next. LabelledGeneric tags each item in a product or coproduct with the corresponding field or type name from the concrete ADT (although the names are represented slightly differently, as we will see). Accessing names without using reflection is incredibly compelling, so let's derive some type class instances using LabelledGeneric.

5.3 Deriving product instances with LabelledGeneric

We'll use a running example of JSON encoding to illustrate LabelledGeneric. Imagine a JsonEncoder type class that converts values to a JSON AST. This is the approach taken by argonaut, circe, play-json, spray-json, and many other Scala JSON libraries:

```
def createEncoder[A](func: A => JsonValue): JsonEncoder[A] =
  new JsonEncoder[A] {
    def encode(value: A): JsonValue =
      func(value)
  }
// Base type class instances:
implicit val stringEncoder: JsonEncoder[String] =
  createEncoder(str => JsonString(str))
implicit val doubleEncoder: JsonEncoder[Double] =
  createEncoder(num => JsonNumber(num))
implicit val intEncoder: JsonEncoder[Int] =
  createEncoder(num => JsonNumber(num))
implicit val booleanEncoder: JsonEncoder[Boolean] =
  createEncoder(bool => JsonBoolean(bool))
implicit def listEncoder[A](implicit encoder: JsonEncoder[A]):
    JsonEncoder[List[A]] =
  createEncoder(list => JsonArray(list.map(encoder.encode)))
implicit def optionEncoder[A](implicit encoder: JsonEncoder[A]):
    JsonEncoder[Option[A]] =
  createEncoder(opt => opt.map(encoder.encode).get0rElse(JsonNull))
```

Ideally, when we encode ADTs as JSON, we would like to use the correct field names in the output JSON:

This is where Labell edGeneric comes in. Let's summon an instance for Ice-

Cream and see what kind of representation it produces:

```
import shapeless.LabelledGeneric

LabelledGeneric[IceCream].to(iceCream)

// res14: shapeless.::[String with shapeless.labelled.KeyTag[Symbol with shapeless.tag.Tagged[String("name")],String],shapeless.::[Int with shapeless.labelled.KeyTag[Symbol with shapeless.tag.Tagged[String ("numCherries")],Int],shapeless.::[Boolean with shapeless.labelled. KeyTag[Symbol with shapeless.tag.Tagged[String("inCone")],Boolean], shapeless.HNil]]] = Sundae :: 1 :: false :: HNil
```

For clarity, the full type of the HList is:

```
// String with KeyTag[Symbol with Tagged[String("name")], String]
    ::
// Int    with KeyTag[Symbol with Tagged[String("numCherries")], Int]
    ::
// Boolean with KeyTag[Symbol with Tagged[String("inCone")], Boolean]
    ::
// HNil
```

The type here is slightly more complex than we have seen. Instead of representing the field names with literal string types, shapeless is representing them with symbols tagged with literal string types. The details of the implementation aren't particularly important: we can still use Witness and FieldType to extract the tags, but they come out as Symbols instead of Strings.

5.3.1 Instances for HLists

Let's define some JsonEncoder instances for HNil and ::. These encoders are going to generate and manipulate JsonObjects, so we'll introduce a new type of encoder to make that easier:

```
trait JsonObjectEncoder[A] extends JsonEncoder[A] {
  def encode(value: A): JsonObject
}
```

The definition for HNil is then straightforward:

```
import shapeless.{HList, ::, HNil, Lazy}

implicit val hnilEncoder: JsonObjectEncoder[HNil] =
    createObjectEncoder(hnil => JsonObject(Nil))
```

The definition of hlistEncoder involves a few moving parts so we'll go through it piece by piece. We'll start with the definition we might expect if we were using regular Generic:

```
implicit def hlistObjectEncoder[H, T <: HList](
  implicit
  hEncoder: Lazy[JsonObjectEncoder[H]],
  tEncoder: JsonObjectEncoder[T]
): JsonEncoder[H :: T] = ???</pre>
```

LabelledGeneric will give us an HList of tagged types, so let's start by introducing a new type variable for the key type:

```
import shapeless.Witness
import shapeless.labelled.FieldType

implicit def hlistObjectEncoder[K, H, T <: HList](
   implicit
   hEncoder: Lazy[JsonEncoder[H]],
   tEncoder: JsonObjectEncoder[T]
): JsonObjectEncoder[FieldType[K, H] :: T] = ???</pre>
```

In the body of our method we're going to need the value associated with K. We'll add an implicit Witness [K] to do this for us:

```
implicit def hlistObjectEncoder[K, H, T <: HList](
  implicit
  witness: Witness.Aux[K],
  hEncoder: Lazy[JsonEncoder[H]],
  tEncoder: JsonObjectEncoder[T]
): JsonObjectEncoder[FieldType[K, H] :: T] = {
  val fieldName = witness.value
  ???
}</pre>
```

We can access the value of K using witness.value, but the compiler has no way of knowing what type of tag we're going to get. LabelledGeneric uses Symbols as the tag types, so we'll put a type bound on K and use symbol.name to convert it to a String:

```
implicit def hlistObjectEncoder[K <: Symbol, H, T <: HList](
  implicit
  witness: Witness.Aux[K],
  hEncoder: Lazy[JsonEncoder[H]],
  tEncoder: JsonObjectEncoder[T]
): JsonObjectEncoder[FieldType[K, H] :: T] = {
  val fieldName: String = witness.value.name
  ???
}</pre>
```

The rest of the definition uses the principles we covered in the previous chapter:

```
implicit def hlistObjectEncoder[K <: Symbol, H, T <: HList](
  implicit
  witness: Witness.Aux[K],
  hEncoder: Lazy[JsonEncoder[H]],
  tEncoder: JsonObjectEncoder[T]
): JsonObjectEncoder[FieldType[K, H] :: T] = {
  val fieldName: String = witness.value.name
  createObjectEncoder { hlist =>
   val head = hEncoder.value.encode(hlist.head)
  val tail = tEncoder.encode(hlist.tail)
  JsonObject((fieldName, head) :: tail.fields)
}
```

```
}
```

5.3.2 Instances for concrete products

Finally let's turn to our generic instance. This is identical to the definitions we've seen before, except that we're using LabelledGeneric instead of Generic:

```
import shapeless.LabelledGeneric

implicit def genericObjectEncoder[A, H <: HList](
   implicit
   generic: LabelledGeneric.Aux[A, H],
   hEncoder: Lazy[JsonObjectEncoder[H]]
): JsonEncoder[A] =
   createObjectEncoder(value => hEncoder.value.encode(generic.to(value)))
```

And that's all we need! With these definitions in place we can serialize instances of any case class and retain the field names in the resulting JSON:

```
implicitly[JsonEncoder[IceCream]].encode(iceCream)
// res19: JsonValue = JsonObject(List((name, JsonString(Sundae)), (
    numCherries, JsonNumber(1.0)), (inCone, JsonBoolean(false))))
```

5.4 Deriving coproduct instances with LabelledGeneric

Applying LabelledGeneric with Coproducts involves a mixture of the concepts we've covered already. Let's start by examining a Coproduct type derived by LabelledGeneric. We'll re-visit our Shape ADT from Chapter 2:

```
import shapeless.LabelledGeneric

sealed trait Shape
final case class Rectangle(width: Double, height: Double) extends Shape
final case class Circle(radius: Double) extends Shape
```

```
LabelledGeneric[Shape].to(Circle(1.0))
// res5: shapeless.:+:[Rectangle with shapeless.labelled.KeyTag[Symbol
    with shapeless.tag.Tagged[String("Rectangle")],Rectangle],shapeless
    .:+:[Circle with shapeless.labelled.KeyTag[Symbol with shapeless.
    tag.Tagged[String("Circle")],Circle],shapeless.CNil]] = Inr(Inl(
    Circle(1.0)))
```

Here is that Coproduct type in a more readable format:

```
// Rectangle with KeyTag[Symbol with Tagged[String("Rectangle")],
    Rectangle] :+:
// Circle with KeyTag[Symbol with Tagged[String("Circle")], Circle
    ] :+:
// CNil
```

As you can see, the result is a Coproduct of the subtypes of Shape, each tagged with the type name. We can use this information to write JsonEncoders for :+: and CNil:

```
import shapeless.{Coproduct, :+:, CNil, Inl, Inr, Witness, Lazy}
import shapeless.labelled.FieldType
implicit val cnilObjectEncoder: JsonObjectEncoder[CNil] =
  createObjectEncoder(cnil => ???)
implicit def coproductObjectEncoder[K <: Symbol, H, T <: Coproduct](</pre>
  implicit
 witness: Witness.Aux[K],
  hEncoder: Lazy[JsonEncoder[H]],
  tEncoder: JsonObjectEncoder[T]
): JsonObjectEncoder[FieldType[K, H] :+: T] = {
  val typeName = witness.value.name
  createObjectEncoder {
    case Inl(h) => JsonObject(List(typeName -> hEncoder.value.encode(h))
    )
    case Inr(t) => tEncoder.encode(t)
 }
}
```

coproductEncoder follows the same pattern as hlistEncoder. We have three type parameters: K for the type name, H for the value at the head of

the HList, and T for the value at the tail. We use FieldType and :+: in the result type to declare the relationships between the three, and we use a Witness to access the runtime value of the type name. The result is an object containing a single key/value pair: the key being the type name and the value the result:

```
val shape: Shape = Circle(1.0)
// shape: Shape = Circle(1.0)

implicitly[JsonEncoder[Shape]].encode(shape)
// res8: JsonValue = JsonObject(List((Circle, JsonObject(List((radius, JsonNumber(1.0))))))))
```

5.5 Summary

In this chapter we discussed LabelledGeneric, a variant of Generic that exposes type and field names in its generic representations.

The names exposed by LabelledGeneric are encoded at as type-level tags, so we can target them during implicit resolution. We started the chapter discussing *literal types* and the way shapeless uses them in its tags. We also discussed the Witness type class, which is used to reify literal types as values.

Finally, we brought LabelledGeneric, literal types, and Witness together to build a JsonEcoder library that includes sensible names in its output.

The key take home point from this chapter is that none of this code uses runtime reflection: it's all done with types, implicits, and a small set of macros that are internal to shapeless. The code we're generating is consequently very fast, and there is comparatively little risk of it failing at runtime.

Chapter 6

Notes

This stuff won't be here when the book is done.

6.1 Outline

TODO: Introduce illTyped wherever makes sense.

- DONE Introduction
 - What is generic programming?
 - Abstracting over types
 - Abstracting over arity
 - Patterns in our code
 - Algebraic data types
 - Type classes
 - The rest of this book
- DONE Generic representations
 - Products and coproducts
 - Hlist

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- Coproduct
- Generic
- Converting to/from generic representations
- Converting between different specific representations
- Deriving type class instances
 - Example using Generic and products
 - * Lazy (probably)
 - * Strict (maybe)
 - Example using Generic, products, and coproducts
- Making use of field and type names
 - Witness and singleton types
 - * Widen and Narrow, SingletonOps
 - * narrow from shapeless.syntax.singleton
 - LabelledGeneric
 - * FieldType, KeyTag, field
 - * ->> from shapeless.syntax.singleton
- · Other useful tools
 - Typeable
 - Annotation and Annotations
 - Default, Default. AsRecord, and Default. AsOptions
- Counting with types
 - Nat
 - ToInt
- Working with tuples
 - Tupler
 - shapeless.Tuple.fill (depends on Nat)

6.1. OUTLINE 61

- · Working with functions
 - FnFromProduct and FnToProduct
 - shapeless.syntax.std.function.{fromProduct, toProduct}
 - ProductArgs and FromProductArgs ??
- Performance concerns
 - Cached
 - Lazy and Strict
 - cachedImplicit
- · Working with HLists
 - go through the most common ops from the use cases
- Working with tuples
 - this would be a short section
 - relate a lot of this back to HI ists
- Working with coproducts
 - go through the most common ops from the use cases
- Working with records (include this? not used much)
 - What is a record?
 - these in no particular order
 - Keys
 - RemoveAll
 - Remover
 - Selector
 - Values
- Polymorphic functions (include this? not used much)

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- Poly and Case
- Dealing with higher kinds (include this? not used much)
 - Generic1
 - IsHCons1
 - IsCCons1

6.2 Libraries

6.2.1 Select well-known libraries using shapeless

argonaut-shapeless

JSON codec derivation.

- shapeless.Cached
- shapeless.LowPriority
- shapeless.Strict
- shapeless.Widen
- shapeless.Witness
- shapeless.labelled.field
- shapeless.labelled.FieldType
- shapeless.nat
- shapeless.tag
- shapeless.test.illTyped

circe

JSON codec derivation, partial JSON codecs.

- shapeless.HList
- shapeless.Coproduct
- shapeless.LabelledGeneric
- shapeless.Lazy

6.2. LIBRARIES 63

- shapeless.Nat
- shapeless.Witness
- shapeless.labelled.field
- shapeless.labelled.FieldType
- shapeless.labelled.KeyTag
- shapeless.ops.function.FnFromProduct
- shapeless.ops.record.RemoveAll
- shapeless.test.illTyped

doobie

Reading/writing data from SQL/result-sets.

- shapeless.HList
- shapeless.Generic
- shapeless.Lazy
- shapeless.labelled.field
- shapeless.labelled.FieldType
- shapeless.ops.hlist.lsHCons
- shapeless.test.illTyped

Ensime

JSON formats for wire protocols (Jerky and Swanky).

- shapeless.cachedImplicit
- shapeless.HList
- shapeless.Poly1
- shapeless.Typeable
- shapeless.Generic
- shapeless.syntax.typeable._

Finch

Type-safe DSL for creating and combining endpoints.

• shapeless.HList

- shapeless.Coproduct
- shapeless.Generic
- shapeless.Witness
- shapeless.DepFn2
- shapeless.Poly1
- shapeless.poly.Case (TODO: The interesting stuff here is in FromParams.scala)
- shapeless.poly.Case1
- shapeless.ops.adjoin.Adjoin
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Tupler
- shapeless.labelled.FieldType, field
- shapeless.ops.function.FnToProduct

Frameless

Reading/writing data from Spark datasets/dataframes.

- shapeless.HList
- shapeless.Generic
- shapeless.LabelledGeneric
- shapeless.Lazy
- shapeless.ProductArgs
- shapeless.SingletonProductArgs
- shapeless.Witness
- shapeless.labelled.FieldType
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Prepend
- shapeless.ops.hlist.ToTraversable
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Tupler
- shapeless.ops.record.Selector
- shapeless.test.illTyped

kittens

Equivalent of shapeless-contrib-scalaz for Cats.

- shapeless.HList
- shapeless.Coproduct

6.2. LIBRARIES 65

- shapeless.Lazy
- shapeless.Generic
- shapeless.Generic1
- shapeless.LabelledGeneric
- shapeless.Poly
- shapeless.Const
- shapeless.ld
- shapeless.Cached (TODO: related to cachedImplicit?)
- shapeless.lsHCons1
- shapeless.lsCCons1
- shapeless.Split1
- shapeless.ProductArgs
- shapeless.pack, unpack, fh, ft, fo, fi (TODO: what are these?)
- shapeless.ops.function.FnToProduct
- shapeless.ops.function.FnFromProduct
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Mapper
- shapeless.ops.hlist.ZipWithKeys
- shapeless.ops.record.Keys
- shapeless.ops.record.Values
- shapeless.syntax.std.function.toProduct, fromProduct

Monocle

Provides accessories for shapeless products/coproducts etc, rather than using shapeless to provide other functionality.

- shapeless.HList
- shapeless.Coproduct
- shapeless.Generic
- shapeless.Nat
- shapeless.ops.coproduct.Inject
- shapeless.ops.coproduct.Selector
- shapeless.ops.hlist.At
- shapeless.ops.hlist.lnit
- shapeless.ops.hlist.lsHCons
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Last

- shapeless.ops.hlist.Prepend
- shapeless.ops.hlist.ReplaceAt
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Reverse
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Tupler
- shapeless.ops.tuple.Reverse

refined

Various kinds of refined types.

- shapeless.Nat
- shapeless.Witness
- shapeless.ops.nat.ToInt
- shapeless.test.illTyped

parboiled2

TODO: Summarise parboiled2's use of shapeless.

- shapeless.HList
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Prepend
- shapeless.ops.hlist.ReversePrepend

scalamo

DynamoDB driver for Scala.

TODO: Document scalamo's use of shapeless.

scodec

TODO: Summarise scodec's use of shapeless.

- shapeless.HList
- shapeless.Coproduct
- shapeless.DepFn1
- shapeless.Lazy
- shapeless.Typeable

6.2. LIBRARIES 67

- shapeless.Sized
- shapeless.Nat
- shapeless.Generic
- shapeless.LabelledGeneric
- shapeless.=:!= <- nice !!
- shapeless.-> <- whaaat ??
- shapeless.UnaryTCConstraint <- whaaat ??
- shapeless.labelled.FieldType
- shapeless.Poly
- shapeless.poly.Case
- shapeless.poly.~>
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Reverse
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Prepend
- shapeless.ops.hlist.RightFolder
- shapeless.ops.hlist.lnit
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Last
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Length
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Mapper
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Split
- shapeless.ops.nat.ToInt
- shapeless.ops.coproduct.Inject
- shapeless.ops.coproduct.Length
- shapeless.ops.coproduct.Selector
- shapeless.ops.coproduct.Sized
- shapeless.ops.coproduct.Align
- shapeless.ops.record.Keys
- shapeless.ops.record.Remover
- shapeless.ops.union.Keys
- shapeless.syntax.sized.sized(size)

shapeless-contrib (scalacheck component)

Spire type class instance derivation.

- shapeless.HList
- shapeless.Coproduct

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- shapeless.Orphan
- shapeless.TypeClass
- shapeless.TypeClassCompanion

shapeless-contrib (scalaz component)

Scalaz type class instance derivation.

- shapeless.HList
- shapeless.Coproduct
- shapeless.Lazy
- shapeless.Lens
- shapeless.Poly
- shapeless.TypeClass
- shapeless.TypeClassCompanion
- shapeless.ops.function.Apply
- shapeless.ops.function.FnToProduct, FnFromProduct
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Mapper
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Sequencer
- shapeless.syntax.std.function._

Questions:

When would one use this over other lens implementations (esp. Monocle)?

shapeless-contrib (spire component)

Spire type class instance derivation.

- shapeless.HList
- shapeless.Orphan
- shapeless.ProductTypeClass
- shapeless.ProductTypeClassCompanion

6.2. LIBRARIES 69

spray-json-shapeless

JSON codec derivation.

- shapeless.LabelledGeneric
- shapeless.Typeable
- shapeless.labelled.field
- shapeless.labelled.FieldType

6.2.2 Select smaller-scale libraries using shapeless

akka-stream-extensions

Model streams of coproducts; dispatch to coproducts of streams.

- shapeless.ops.coproduct.Inject
- shapeless.ops.coproduct.Length
- shapeless.ops.nat.Nat
- shapeless.ops.nat.ToInt

bulletin

(type class instance derivation)

- shapeless.HList
- shapeless.Lazy
- shapeless.Witness
- shapeless.LabelledGeneric
- shapeless.labelled.field
- shapeless.labelled.FieldType
- shapeless.test.illTyped

case-app

Command line parameter parsing.

• shapeless.HList

- shapeless.Coproduct
- shapeless.Typeable
- shapeless.Witness
- shapeless.Generic
- shapeless.LabelledGeneric
- shapeless.DepFn0
- shapeless.CaseClassMacros <- what is this?
- shapeless.@@ (or custom variant thereof)
- shapeless.compat.Annotation, Annotations <- what is this?
- shapeless.compat.Default, Default.AsOptions <- what is this?
- shapeless.compat.Strict <- what is this?
- shapeless.labelled.field
- shapeless.labelled.FieldType

diff

Calculate differences between two data structures.

- shapeless.HList
- shapeless.Coproduct
- shapeless.Lazv
- shapeless.Witness
- shapeless.LabelledGeneric
- shapeless.labelled.FieldType

PureCSV (??)

CSV codec derivation.

- shapeless.HList
- shapeless.Generic

PureConfig

Automatic config reader derivation.

• shapeless.HList

6.2. LIBRARIES 71

- shapeless.Coproduct
- shapeless.Lazy
- shapeless.Witness
- shapeless.LabelledGeneric
- shapeless.labelled.field
- shapeless.labelled.FieldType

slickless

Slick/shapeless integration.

- shapeless.HList
- shapeless.Generic

value-wrapper

Wrap and unwrap value classes.

- shapeless.HList
- shapeless.Generic
- shapeless.Lazy

6.2.3 Transposed dependencies (what uses what)

Bits of shapeless and what uses them:

- shapeless.-> scodec
- shapeless.=:!= scodec
- shapeless.@@ case-app
- shapeless.Cached argonaut-shapeless
- shapeless.Cached kittens
- shapeless.cachedImplicit ensime
- shapeless.CaseClassMacros case-app
- shapeless.compat.Annotation case-app
- shapeless.compat.Annotations case-app

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- shapeless.compat.Default case-app
- shapeless.compat.Default.AsOptions case-app
- shapeless.compat.Strict case-app
- shapeless.Const kittens
- shapeless.Coproduct case-app
- shapeless.Coproduct circe
- shapeless.Coproduct diff
- shapeless.Coproduct finch
- shapeless.Coproduct kittens
- shapeless.Coproduct monocle
- shapeless.Coproduct PureConfig
- shapeless.Coproduct scodec
- shapeless.Coproduct shapeless-contrib/scalacheck
- shapeless.Coproduct shapeless-contrib/scalaz
- shapeless.DepFn0 case-app
- shapeless.DepFn1 scodec
- shapeless.DepFn2 finch
- shapeless.fh kittens
- shapeless.fi kittens
- shapeless.fo kittens
- shapeless.ft kittens
- shapeless.Generic case-app
- shapeless.Generic doobie
- shapeless.Generic ensime
- shapeless.Generic finch
- shapeless.Generic frameless
- shapeless.Generic kittens
- shapeless.Generic monocle
- shapeless.Generic PureCSV
- shapeless.Generic scodec
- shapeless.Generic slickless
- shapeless.Generic value-wrapper
- shapeless.Generic1 kittens
- shapeless.HList bulletin
- shapeless.HList case-app
- shapeless.HList circe

6.2. LIBRARIES 73

- shapeless.HList diff
- shapeless.HList doobie
- shapeless.HList ensime
- shapeless.HList finch
- shapeless.HList frameless
- shapeless.HList kittens
- shapeless.HList monocle
- shapeless.HList parboiled2
- shapeless.HList PureConfig
- shapeless.HList PureCSV
- shapeless.HList scodec
- shapeless.HList shapeless-contrib/scalacheck
- shapeless.HList shapeless-contrib/scalaz
- shapeless.HList shapeless-contrib/spire
- shapeless.HList slickless
- shapeless.HList value-wrapper
- shapeless.ld kittens
- shapeless.lsCCons1 kittens
- shapeless.lsHCons1 kittens
- shapeless.labelled.field argonaut-shapeless
- shapeless.labelled.field bulletin
- shapeless.labelled.field case-app
- shapeless.labelled.field circe
- shapeless.labelled.field doobie
- shapeless.labelled.field finch
- shapeless.labelled.field PureConfig
- shapeless.labelled.field spray-ison-shapeless
- shapeless.labelled.FieldType argonaut-shapeless
- shapeless.labelled.FieldType bulletin
- shapeless.labelled.FieldType case-app
- shapeless.labelled.FieldType circe
- shapeless.labelled.FieldType diff
- shapeless.labelled.FieldType doobie
- shapeless.labelled.FieldType finch
- shapeless.labelled.FieldType frameless
- shapeless.labelled.FieldType PureConfig

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- shapeless.labelled.FieldType scodec
- shapeless.labelled.FieldType spray-json-shapeless
- shapeless.labelled.KeyTag circe
- shapeless.LabelledGeneric bulletin
- shapeless.LabelledGeneric case-app
- shapeless.LabelledGeneric circe
- shapeless.LabelledGeneric diff
- shapeless.LabelledGeneric frameless
- shapeless.LabelledGeneric kittens
- shapeless.LabelledGeneric PureConfig
- shapeless.LabelledGeneric scodec
- shapeless.LabelledGeneric spray-json-shapeless
- shapeless.Lazy bulletin
- shapeless.Lazy circe
- shapeless.Lazy diff
- shapeless.Lazy doobie
- shapeless.Lazy frameless
- shapeless.Lazy kittens
- shapeless.Lazy PureConfig
- shapeless.Lazy scodec
- shapeless.Lazy shapeless-contrib/scalaz
- shapeless.Lazy value-wrapper
- shapeless.Lens shapeless-contrib/scalaz
- shapeless.LowPriority argonaut-shapeless
- shapeless.nat argonaut-shapeless
- shapeless.Nat circe
- shapeless.Nat monocle
- shapeless.Nat refined
- shapeless.Nat scodec
- shapeless.ops.adjoin.Adjoin finch
- shapeless.ops.coproduct.Align scodec
- shapeless.ops.coproduct.Inject akka-stream-extensions
- shapeless.ops.coproduct.Inject monocle
- shapeless.ops.coproduct.Inject scodec
- shapeless.ops.coproduct.Length akka-stream-extensions
- shapeless.ops.coproduct.Length scodec

6.2. LIBRARIES 75

- shapeless.ops.coproduct.Selector monocle
- shapeless.ops.coproduct.Selector scodec
- shapeless.ops.coproduct.Sized scodec
- shapeless.ops.function.Apply shapeless-contrib/scalaz
- shapeless.ops.function.FnFromProduct circe
- shapeless.ops.function.FnFromProduct kittens
- shapeless.ops.function.FnFromProduct shapeless-contrib/scalaz
- shapeless.ops.function.FnToProduct finch
- shapeless.ops.function.FnToProduct kittens
- shapeless.ops.function.FnToProduct shapeless-contrib/scalaz
- shapeless.ops.hlist.At monocle
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Init monocle
- shapeless.ops.hlist.lnit scodec
- shapeless.ops.hlist.lsHCons doobie
- shapeless.ops.hlist.lsHCons monocle
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Last monocle
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Last scodec
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Length scodec
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Mapper kittens
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Mapper scodec
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Mapper shapeless-contrib/scalaz
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Prepend frameless
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Prepend monocle
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Prepend parboiled2
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Prepend scodec
- shapeless.ops.hlist.ReplaceAt monocle
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Reverse monocle
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Reverse scodec
- shapeless.ops.hlist.ReversePrepend parboiled2
- shapeless.ops.hlist.RightFolder scodec
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Sequencer shapeless-contrib/scalaz
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Split scodec
- shapeless.ops.hlist.ToTraversable frameless
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Tupler finch
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Tupler frameless
- shapeless.ops.hlist.Tupler monocle

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- shapeless.ops.hlist.ZipWithKeys kittens
- shapeless.ops.nat.Nat akka-stream-extensions
- shapeless.ops.nat.ToInt akka-stream-extensions
- shapeless.ops.nat.ToInt refined
- shapeless.ops.nat.ToInt scodec
- shapeless.ops.record.Keys kittens
- shapeless.ops.record.Keys scodec
- shapeless.ops.record.RemoveAll circe
- shapeless.ops.record.Remover scodec
- shapeless.ops.record.Selector frameless
- shapeless.ops.record.Values kittens
- shapeless.ops.tuple.Reverse monocle
- shapeless.ops.union.Keys scodec
- shapeless.Orphan shapeless-contrib/scalacheck
- shapeless.Orphan shapeless-contrib/spire
- shapeless.pack kittens
- shapeless.Poly kittens
- shapeless.Poly scodec
- shapeless.Poly shapeless-contrib/scalaz
- shapeless.poly.Case finch
- shapeless.poly.Case scodec
- shapeless.poly.Case1 finch
- shapeless.poly.~> scodec
- shapeless.Poly1 ensime
- shapeless.Poly1 finch
- shapeless.ProductArgs frameless
- shapeless.ProductArgs kittens
- shapeless.ProductTypeClass shapeless-contrib/spire
- shapeless.ProductTypeClassCompanion shapeless-contrib/spire
- shapeless.SingletonProductArgs frameless
- shapeless.Sized scodec
- shapeless.Split1 kittens
- shapeless.Strict argonaut-shapeless
- shapeless.syntax.sized scodec
- shapeless.syntax.std.function. shapeless-contrib/scalaz
- shapeless.syntax.std.function.fromProduct kittens

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- shapeless.syntax.std.function.toProduct kittens
- shapeless.syntax.typeable. ensime
- shapeless.tag argonaut-shapeless
- shapeless.test.illTyped argonaut-shapeless
- shapeless.test.illTyped bulletin
- shapeless.test.illTyped circe
- shapeless.test.illTyped doobie
- shapeless.test.illTvped frameless
- shapeless.test.illTyped refined
- shapeless.Typeable case-app
- shapeless. Typeable ensime
- shapeless.Typeable scodec
- shapeless. Typeable spray-json-shapeless
- shapeless.TypeClass shapeless-contrib/scalacheck
- shapeless.TypeClass shapeless-contrib/scalaz
- shapeless.TypeClassCompanion shapeless-contrib/scalacheck
- shapeless.TypeClassCompanion shapeless-contrib/scalaz
- shapeless.UnaryTCConstraint scodec
- shapeless.unpack kittens
- shapeless.Widen argonaut-shapeless
- shapeless. Witness argonaut-shapeless
- shapeless.Witness bulletin
- shapeless.Witness case-app
- shapeless.Witness circe
- shapeless.Witness diff
- shapeless.Witness finch
- shapeless.Witness frameless
- shapeless.Witness PureConfig
- shapeless.Witness refined

Appendix A

Solutions to Exercises

A.1 Automatically deriving type class instances

A.1.1 Solution to: Aligning columns in CSV output

We start by modifying the definition of createEncoder to accept a width parameter:

Then we modify our base encoders to each record a width of 1:

```
implicit val stringEncoder: CsvEncoder[String] =
  createEncoder(1)(str => List(str))

implicit val intEncoder: CsvEncoder[Int] =
  createEncoder(1)(num => List(num.toString))
```

```
implicit val booleanEncoder: CsvEncoder[Boolean] =
   createEncoder(1)(bool => List(if(bool) "cone" else "glass"))

implicit val doubleEncoder: CsvEncoder[Double] =
   createEncoder(1)(d => List(d.toString))
```

Our encoders for HNil and CNil have width 0 and our encoders for :: and :+: have a width determined by the encoders for their heads and tails:

```
import shapeless.{HList, HNil, ::}

implicit val hnilEncoder: CsvEncoder[HNil] =
    createEncoder(0)(hnil => Nil)

implicit def hlistEncoder[H, T <: HList](
    implicit
    hEncoder: CsvEncoder[H],
    tEncoder: CsvEncoder[T]
): CsvEncoder[H :: T] =
    createEncoder(hEncoder.width + tEncoder.width) {
    case h :: t =>
        hEncoder.encode(h) ++ tEncoder.encode(t)
}
```

Our :+: encoder pads its output with a number of columns equal to the width of the encoder it isn't using for serialization:

```
import shapeless.{Coproduct, CNil, :+:, Inl, Inr}

implicit val cnilEncoder: CsvEncoder[CNil] =
    createEncoder(0) { cnil =>
        throw new Exception("The impossible has happened!")
}

implicit def coproductEncoder[H, T <: Coproduct](
    implicit
    hEncoder: CsvEncoder[H],
    tEncoder: CsvEncoder[T]
): CsvEncoder[H :+: T] =
    createEncoder(hEncoder.width + tEncoder.width) {</pre>
```

```
case Inl(h) => hEncoder.encode(h) ++ List.fill(tEncoder.width)("")
case Inr(t) => List.fill(hEncoder.width)("") ++ tEncoder.encode(t)
}
```

Finally, our ADT encoder mirrors the width of the encoder for its generic representation:

```
import shapeless.Generic

implicit def genericEncoder[A, R](
   implicit
   gen: Generic.Aux[A, R],
   lEncoder: CsvEncoder[R]
): CsvEncoder[A] =
   createEncoder(lEncoder.width) { value =>
    lEncoder.encode(gen.to(value))
}
```

With all these definitions in place, our writeCsv method gains the ability to align its output correctly:

```
writeCsv(shapes)
// res16: String =
// 3.0,4.0,
// ,,1.0
```

Return to the exercise