

The Type Astronaut's Guide to Shapeless



August 2016

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Contents

1	Introduction	5
1.1	What is generic programming?	5
1.2	About this book	6
2	Algebraic data types and generic representations	9
2.1	Recap: algebraic data types	9
2.1.1	Alternative encodings	10
2.2	Generic product encodings	11
2.2.1	Switching representations using <i>Generic</i>	12
2.3	Generic coproducts	13
2.3.1	Switching encodings using <i>Generic</i>	14
2.4	Summary	14
3	Automatically deriving type class instances	17
3.1	Recap: type classes	17
3.1.1	Deriving instances	18
3.2	Deriving instances for products	19
3.2.1	Instances for <i>HLists</i>	20
3.2.2	Instances for concrete products	20
3.2.3	So what are the downsides?	22
3.3	Deriving instances for coproducts	23
3.3.1	Exercise: Aligning columns in CSV output	24
3.4	Deriving instances for recursive types	25
3.4.1	<i>Lazy</i>	25
3.5	Summary	26
4	Working with types and implicits	29
4.1	Theory: dependent types	29
4.2	Dependently typed functions	30
4.2.1	Chaining dependent functions	31
4.3	Summary	33

5	Accessing names during implicit derivation	35
5.1	Literal types	35
5.2	Type tagging and phantom types	37
5.2.1	Records and <i>LabelledGeneric</i>	38
5.3	Deriving product instances with <i>LabelledGeneric</i>	39
5.3.1	Instances for <i>HLists</i>	40
5.3.2	Instances for concrete products	42
5.4	Deriving coproduct instances with <i>LabelledGeneric</i>	43
5.5	Summary	44
6	Notes	45
6.1	Outline	45
6.2	Libraries	47
6.2.1	Select well-known libraries using <i>shapeless</i>	47
6.2.2	Select smaller-scale libraries using <i>shapeless</i>	52
6.2.3	Transposed dependencies (what uses what)	54
A	Solutions to Exercises	59
A.1	Automatically deriving type class instances	59
A.1.1	Solution to: Aligning columns in CSV output	59

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 such a compelling tool.

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, helping us prevent bugs, and guiding 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 types:

```
1 case class Employee(name: String, number: Int, manager: Boolean)
2
3 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:

```
1 def employeeCsv(e: Employee): List[String] =
2   List(e.name, e.number.toString, e.manager.toString)
3
4 def iceCreamCsv(c: IceCream): List[String] =
5   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 concepts in play later on:

```
1 import shapeless._
2 // import shapeless._
3
4 val genericEmployee = Generic[Employee].to(Employee("Dave", 123, false))
```

```

5 // genericEmployee: shapeless...[String,shapeless...[Int,shapeless...[Boolean,shapeless.HNil]]] = Dave
  :: 123 :: false :: HNil
6
7 val genericIceCream = Generic[IceCream].to(IceCream("Sundae", 1, false))
8 // genericIceCream: shapeless...[String,shapeless...[Int,shapeless...[Boolean,shapeless.HNil]]] =
  Sundae :: 1 :: false :: HNil

```

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

```

1 def genericCsv(gen: String :: Int :: Boolean :: HNil): List[String] =
2   List(gen(0), gen(1).toString, gen(2).toString)
3 // genericCsv: (gen: shapeless...[String,shapeless...[Int,shapeless...[Boolean,shapeless.HNil]]])List[
  String]
4
5 genericCsv(genericEmployee)
6 // res2: List[String] = List(Dave, 123, false)
7
8 genericCsv(genericIceCream)
9 // res3: List[String] = List(Sundae, 1, false)

```

This example is very basic but it hints at the essence of generic programming: reformulating problems so we can solve them use generic building blocks, and writing code that works with a wide variety of types as a result. 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!

Tip

Formatting in code samples

We're using Rob Norris' awesome tool [Tut](#) to type check and run the code samples in this book.

Unfortunately, as you can see, shapeless tends to generate verbose output and we haven't solved the problem of line wrapping in LaTeX yet.

We'll address this in a future version of the book. In the mean time, we'll call it out manually when we need to reference output that's wider than the page.

1.2 About this book

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

In Chapter 2 we will 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 3 we will use `Generic` to derive instances for a type class. We will use CSV encoding as an example, but we will write one set of encoders that can handle any case class or sealed trait. We will also introduce shapeless' `Lazy` type, which lets us handle recursive data like lists and trees.

In Chapter 4 we will introduce `LabelledGeneric`, a variant of `Generic` that exposes field and type names as part of its generic representations. We will also introduce some new theory: literal types, singleton types, phantom types, and type tagging. In our examples we will upgrade from CSV encoding to writing JSON encoders that preserve names from their source types.

In Chapter 5 we will 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 6 we will open the shapeless toolbox, introducing some type-level operations that may come in handy in certain situations.

Warning

TODO: Function and tuple interop

Warning

TODO: Counting with types

Warning

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;
2. 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 (ADTs)*¹ 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:

```
1 sealed trait Shape
2 final case class Rectangle(width: Double, height: Double) extends Shape
3 final case class Circle(radius: Double) extends Shape
4
5 val rect: Shape = Rectangle(3.0, 4.0)
6 val circ: Shape = Circle(1.0)
```

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.

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:

```
1 def area(shape: Shape): Double =
2   shape match {
3     case Rectangle(w, h) => w * h
4     case Circle(r)       => math.Pi * r * r
5   }
6 // area: (shape: Shape)Double
```

```
1 area(rect)
2 // res1: Double = 12.0
3
4 area(circ)
5 // 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:

```
1 type Rectangle2 = (Double, Double)
2 type Circle2    = Double
3 type Shape2     = Either[Rectangle2, Circle2]
4
5 val rect2: Shape2 = Left((3.0, 4.0))
6 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:

```
1 def area2(shape: Shape2): Double =
2   shape match {
3     case Left((w, h)) => w * h
4     case Right(r)     => math.Pi * r * r
5   }
```

```
1 area2(rect2)
2 // res4: Double = 12.0
3
4 area2(circ2)
5 // 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 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

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

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. Here's an inheritance diagram:

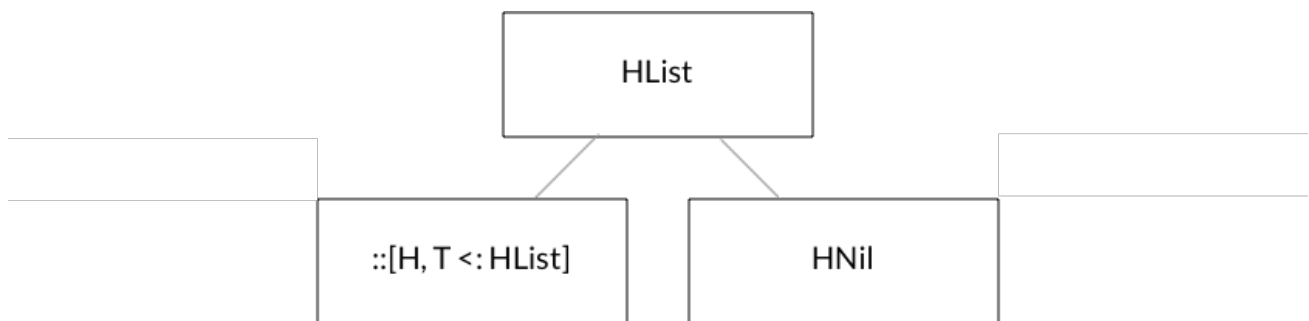


Figure 2.1: Inheritance diagram for HList

HLists resemble regular lists, except that the type of each element is maintained in the overall type of the list:

```

1 import shapeless.{HList, ::, HNil}
2
3 val product: String :: Int :: Boolean :: HNil =
4   "Sunday" :: 1 :: false :: HNil
  
```

Note that the type and value of the HList mirror one another. Both represent the String, Int, and Boolean members. We can retrieve the head and tail and the types of the elements are preserved:

```

1 val first: String =
2   product.head
3 // first: String = Sunday
4
5 val second: Int =
6   product.tail.head
7 // second: Int = 1
  
```

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

```

8
9 val rest: Boolean :: HNil =
10   product.tail.tail
11 // 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:

```

1 product.tail.tail.tail.head
2 // <console>:15: error: could not find implicit value for parameter c: shapeless.ops.hlist.IsHCons[
   shapeless.HNil]
3 //       product.tail.tail.tail.head
4 //                               ^

```

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:

```

1 val newProduct: Long :: String :: Int :: Boolean :: HNil =
2   42L :: product
3 // newProduct: shapeless.:[Long,shapeless.:[String,shapeless.:[Int,shapeless.:[Boolean,shapeless.
   HNil]]]] = 42 :: Sunday :: 1 :: 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.

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:

```

1 import shapeless.Generic
2
3 case class IceCream(name: String, numCherries: Int, inCone: Boolean)

```

```

1 val iceCreamGen = Generic[IceCream]
2 // iceCreamGen: shapeless.Generic[IceCream]{type Repr = shapeless.:[String,shapeless.:[Int,shapeless
   .:[Boolean,shapeless.HNil]]]} = anon$macro$4$1@36929eff

```

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:

```

1 val iceCream: IceCream =
2   IceCream("Sundae", 1, false)
3 // iceCream: IceCream = IceCream(Sundae,1,false)
4
5 val repr: iceCreamGen.Repr =

```

```

6   iceCreamGen.to(iceCream)
7   // repr: iceCreamGen.Repr = Sundae :: 1 :: false :: HNil
8
9   val iceCream2: IceCream =
10    iceCreamGen.from(repr)
11    // iceCream2: IceCream = IceCream(Sundae,1,false)

```

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

```

1   case class Employee(name: String, number: Int, manager: Boolean)
2   // defined class Employee

```

```

1   // Create an employee from an ice cream:
2   val strangeEmployee: Employee =
3     Generic[Employee].from(repr)
4   // 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`:

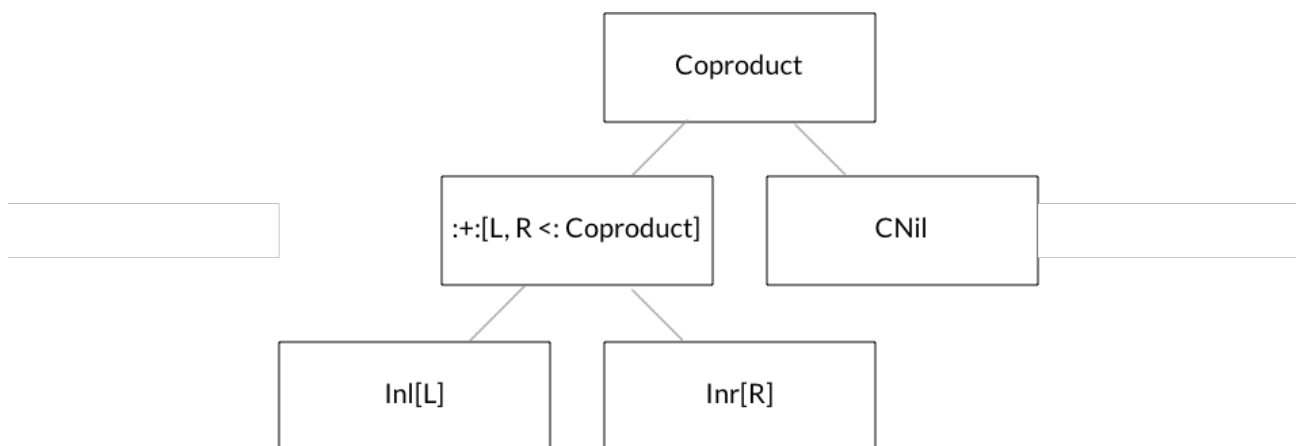


Figure 2.2: Inheritance diagram for Coproduct

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:

```

1   case class Red()
2   case class Amber()
3   case class Green()
4
5   import shapeless.{Coproduct, :+:, CNil}
6
7   type Light = Red :+: Amber :+: Green :+: CNil

```

General coproduct types 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:

```
1 import shapeless.{Inl, Inr}
2
3 val red: Light =
4   Inl(Red())
5
6 val green: Light =
7   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:

```
1 import shapeless.Generic
2
3 sealed trait Shape
4 final case class Rectangle(width: Double, height: Double) extends Shape
5 final case class Circle(radius: Double) extends Shape
```

```
1 val gen = Generic[Shape]
2 // gen: shapeless.Generic[Shape]{type Repr = shapeless :+: [Rectangle, shapeless :+: [Circle, shapeless.
   // CNil]]} = anon$macro$1$1@5130f024
```

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`:

```
1 gen.to(Rectangle(3.0, 4.0))
2 // res5: gen.Repr = Inl(Rectangle(3.0,4.0))
3
4 gen.to(Circle(1.0))
5 // res6: gen.Repr = Inr(Inl(Circle(1.0)))
```

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:

```
1 // Turn a value of type A into a row of cells in a CSV file:
2 trait CsvEncoder[A] {
3   def encode(value: A): List[String]
4 }
```

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

```
1 // Helper method for creating CsvEncoder instances:
2 def createEncoder[A](func: A => List[String]): CsvEncoder[A] =
3   new CsvEncoder[A] {
4     def encode(value: A): List[String] =
5       func(value)
6   }
7
8 // Custom data type:
9 case class Employee(name: String, number: Int, manager: Boolean)
10
11 // CsvEncoder instance for the custom data type:
12 implicit val employeeEncoder: CsvEncoder[Employee] =
13   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:

```

1 def writeCsv[A](values: List[A])(implicit encoder: CsvEncoder[A]): String =
2   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:

```

1 val employees: List[Employee] = List(
2   Employee("Bill", 1, true),
3   Employee("Peter", 2, false),
4   Employee("Milton", 3, false)
5 )

```

```

1 // The compiler inserts a CsvEncoder[Employee] parameter:
2 writeCsv(employees)
3 // res7: String =
4 // Bill,1,yes
5 // Peter,2,no
6 // Milton,3,no

```

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

```

1 case class IceCream(name: String, numCherries: Int, inCone: Boolean)
2
3 implicit val iceCreamEncoder: CsvEncoder[IceCream] =
4   createEncoder(i => List(i.name, i.numCherries.toString, if(i.inCone) "yes" else "no"))
5
6 val iceCreams: List[IceCream] = List(
7   IceCream("Sundae", 1, false),
8   IceCream("Cornetto", 0, true),
9   IceCream("Banana Split", 0, false)
10 )

```

```

1 writeCsv(iceCreams)
2 // res10: String =
3 // Sundae,1,no
4 // Cornetto,0,yes
5 // 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`:

```

1 implicit def pairEncoder[A, B](
2   implicit
3   aEncoder: CsvEncoder[A],

```

```

4   bEncoder: CsvEncoder[B]
5   ): CsvEncoder[(A, B)] =
6   createEncoder {
7     case (a, b) =>
8       aEncoder.encode(a) ++ bEncoder.encode(b)
9   }

```

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)]`:

```

1 writeCsv(employees zip iceCreams)
2 // res11: String =
3 // Bill,1,yes,Sundae,1,no
4 // Peter,2,no,Cornetto,0,yes
5 // 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 `HList`.
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 `Repr` of 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 `IceCream`.

3.2.1 Instances for *HLists*

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

```
1 implicit val stringEncoder: CsvEncoder[String] =
2   createEncoder(str => List(str))
3
4 implicit val intEncoder: CsvEncoder[Int] =
5   createEncoder(num => List(num.toString))
6
7 implicit val booleanEncoder: CsvEncoder[Boolean] =
8   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 `::`:

```
1 import shapeless.{HList, ::, HNil}
2
3 implicit val hnilEncoder: CsvEncoder[HNil] =
4   createEncoder(hnil => Nil)
5
6 implicit def hlistEncoder[H, T <: HList](
7   implicit
8   hEncoder: CsvEncoder[H],
9   tEncoder: CsvEncoder[T]
10 ): CsvEncoder[H :: T] =
11   createEncoder {
12     case h :: t =>
13       hEncoder.encode(h) ++ tEncoder.encode(t)
14   }
```

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

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

```
1 reprEncoder.encode("abc" :: 123 :: true :: HNil)
2 // 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`:

```
1 import shapeless.Generic
2
3 implicit val iceCreamEncoder: CsvEncoder[IceCream] = {
4   val gen = Generic[IceCream]
5   val enc = implicitly[CsvEncoder[gen.Repr]]
6   createEncoder(iceCream => enc.encode(gen.to(iceCream)))
```

```
7 }
```

```
1 writeCsv(iceCreams)
2 // res10: String =
3 // Sundae,1,no
4 // Cornetto,0,yes
5 // 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:

```
1 implicit def genericEncoder[A](
2   implicit
3   gen: Generic[A],
4   enc: CsvEncoder[???]
5 ): 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:

```
1 implicit def genericEncoder[A](
2   implicit
3   gen: Generic[A],
4   enc: CsvEncoder[gen.Repr]
5 ): CsvEncoder[A] = createEncoder(a => enc.encode(gen.to(a)))
6 // <console>:26: error: illegal dependent method type: parameter may only be referenced in a subsequent
7 //           parameter section
8 //           gen: Generic[A],
9 //           ^
```

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:

```
1 implicit def genericEncoder[A, R](
2   implicit
3   gen: Generic[A] { type Repr = R },
4   enc: CsvEncoder[R]
5 ): 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:

```
1 writeCsv(iceCreams)
```

to use our family of derivation rules:

```
1 writeCsv(iceCreams)(
2   genericEncoder(
3     Generic[IceCream],
4     hlistEncoder(stringEncoder,
5       hlistEncoder(intEncoder,
6         hlistEncoder(booleanEncoder, hnilEncoder))))))
```

Tip

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:

```
1 package shapeless
2
3 object Generic {
4   type Aux[A, R] = Generic[A] { type Repr = R }
5 }
```

Using this alias we get a much more readable definition:

```
1 implicit def genericEncoder[A, R](
2   implicit
3   gen: Generic.Aux[A, R],
4   env: CsvEncoder[R]
5 ): 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:

```
1 // Not a case class:
2 class Foo(bar: String, baz: Int)
```

```
1 writeCsv(List(new Foo("abc", 123)))
2 // <console>:30: error: could not find implicit value for parameter encoder: CsvEncoder[Foo]
3 //       writeCsv(List(new Foo("abc", 123)))
4 //           ^
```

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:

```
1 import java.util.Date
2
3 case class Booking(room: String, date: Date)

1 writeCsv(List(Booking("Lecture hall", new Date())))
2 // <console>:32: error: could not find implicit value for parameter encoder: CsvEncoder[Booking]
3 //       writeCsv(List(Booking("Lecture hall", new Date())))
4 //           ^
```

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:

```
1 sealed trait Shape
2 final case class Rectangle(width: Double, height: Double) extends Shape
3 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`:

```
1 import shapeless.{Coproduct, :+:, CNil, Inl, Inr}
2
3 implicit val cnilEncoder: CsvEncoder[CNil] =
4   createEncoder(cnil => throw new Exception("Universe exploded! Abort!"))
5
6 implicit def coproductEncoder[H, T <: Coproduct](
7   implicit
8     hEncoder: CsvEncoder[H],
9     tEncoder: CsvEncoder[T]
10 ): CsvEncoder[H :+: T] = createEncoder {
11   case Inl(h) => hEncoder.encode(h)
12   case Inr(t) => tEncoder.encode(t)
13 }
```

There are two key points of note:

1. Alarming, 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:

```
1 val shapes: List[Shape] = List(
2   Rectangle(3.0, 4.0),
3   Circle(1.0)
4 )
```

```
1 writeCsv(shapes)
2 // <console>:33: error: could not find implicit value for parameter encoder: CsvEncoder[Shape]
3 //       writeCsv(shapes)
4 //               ^
```

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`.

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

With this definition in place, everything works as expected:

```
1 writeCsv(shapes)
2 // res7: String =
3 // 3.0,4.0
4 // 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 `CsvEncoder`:

```
1 trait CsvEncoder[A] {
2   def width: Int
3   def encode(value: A): List[String]
4 }
```

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:

```
1 sealed trait Tree[A]
2 final case class Branch[A](left: Tree[A], right: Tree[A]) extends Tree[A]
3 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:

```
1 implicitly[CsvEncoder[Tree[Int]]]
2 // <console>:24: error: could not find implicit value for parameter e: CsvEncoder[Tree[Int]]
3 //     implicitly[CsvEncoder[Tree[Int]]]
4 //           ^
```

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`:

```
1 implicit def hlistEncoder[H, T <: HList](
2   implicit
3   hEncoder: Lazy[CsvEncoder[H]],
4   tEncoder: CsvEncoder[T]
5 ): CsvEncoder[H :: T] = createEncoder {
6   case h :: t =>
7     hEncoder.value.encode(h) ++ tEncoder.encode(t)
8 }
```

```
1 implicit def coproductEncoder[H, T <: Coproduct](
2   implicit
3   hEncoder: Lazy[CsvEncoder[H]], // wrapped in Lazy
4   tEncoder: CsvEncoder[T]
5 ): CsvEncoder[H :+: T] = createEncoder {
6   case Inl(h) => hEncoder.value.encode(h)
```

```

7 |   case Inr(t) => tEncoder.encode(t)
8 | }

```

```

1 | implicit def genericEncoder[A, R](
2 |   implicit
3 |   gen: Generic.Aux[A, R],
4 |   rEncoder: Lazy[CsvEncoder[R]] // wrapped in Lazy
5 | ): CsvEncoder[A] = createEncoder { value =>
6 |   rEncoder.value.encode(gen.to(value))
7 | }

```

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

```

1 | implicitly[CsvEncoder[Tree[Int]]]
2 | // res0: CsvEncoder[Tree[Int]] = $anon$l@4f9c143d

```

3.5 Summary

In this chapter we discussed how to use `Generic`, `HList`s, and `Coproduct`s 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:

```

1 | import shapeless.{HList, ::, HNil, Coproduct, :+:, CNil, Generic, Lazy}
2 |
3 | // Step 1. Define the type class
4 |
5 | trait MyTC[A] {
6 |   // etc...
7 | }
8 |
9 | // Step 2. Define basic instances
10 |
11 | implicit def intInstance: MyTC[Int] = ???
12 |
13 | // Step 3. Define instances for HList and Coproduct
14 |
15 | implicit def hnilInstance: MyTC[HNil] = ???
16 |
17 | implicit def hlistInstance[H, T <: HList](
18 |   implicit
19 |   hInstance: Lazy[MyTC[H]], // wrap in Lazy
20 |   tInstance: MyTC[T]
21 | ): MyTC[H :: T] = ???
22 |
23 | implicit def cnilInstance: MyTC[CNil] = ???
24 |
25 | implicit def coproductInstance[H, T <: Coproduct](
26 |   implicit
27 |   hInstance: Lazy[MyTC[H]], // wrap in Lazy
28 |   tInstance: MyTC[T]
29 | ): MyTC[H :+: T] = ???

```

```
30 |
31 | // Step 4. Define an instance for Generic
32 |
33 | implicit def genericInstance[A, R](
34 |   implicit
35 |     generic: Generic.Aux[A, R], // wrap in Lazy
36 |     rInstance: Lazy[MyTC[R]]
37 | ): MyTC[A] = ???
```

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 discuss some of the 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:

```
1 package shapeless
2
3 trait Generic[A] {
4   type Repr
5   def to(value: A): Repr
6   def from(value: Repr): A
7 }
```

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?

```
1 import shapeless.Generic
2
3 def getRepr[A](value: A)(implicit gen: Generic[A]) =
4   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:

```
1 case class Vec(x: Int, y: Int)
2 case class Rect(origin: Vec, size: Vec)
```

```

1 getRepr(Vec(1, 2))
2 // res1: shapeless.::[Int,shapeless.::[Int,shapeless.HNil]] = 1 :: 2 :: HNil
3
4 getRepr(Rect(Vec(0, 0), Vec(5, 5)))
5 // res2: shapeless.::[Vec,shapeless.::[Vec,shapeless.HNil]] = Vec(0,0) :: Vec(5,5) :: HNil

```

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:

```

1 trait Generic2[A, Repr]
2
3 def getRepr2[A, R](value: A)(implicit generic: Generic2[A, R]): R =
4   ???

```

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 `HList`s.

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

```

1 import shapeless.{HList, ::, HNil}
2
3 import shapeless.ops.hlist.Last

```

```

1 val last = implicitly[Last[String :: Int :: HNil]]
2 // last: shapeless.ops.hlist.Last[shapeless.::[String,shapeless.::[Int,shapeless.HNil]]] = shapeless.
   ops.hlist$Last$$anon$34@7943827e

```

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:

```

1 implicitly[Last[HNil]]
2 // <console>:15: error: Implicit not found: shapeless.Ops.Last[shapeless.HNil]. shapeless.HNil is empty
   , so there is no last element.
3 //     implicitly[Last[HNil]]
4 //           ^

```

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

```

1 trait Second[H <: HList] {
2   type Out
3   def apply(value: H): Out
4 }
5
6 implicit def hlistSecond[A, B, Rest <: HList]: Second[A :: B :: Rest] =
7   new Second[A :: B :: Rest] {
8     type Out = B
9     def apply(value: A :: B :: Rest): B =
10       value.tail.head
11   }

```

```

1 val second = implicitly[Second[String :: Boolean :: Int :: HNil]]
2 // second: Second[shapeless.:::[String,shapeless.:::[Boolean,shapeless.:::[Int,shapeless.HNil]]]] =
3   $anon$l@1b2c3d09
4 second("Woo!" :: true :: 321 :: HNil)
5 // res3: second.Out = true

```

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:

```

1 def lastField[A](input: A)(
2   implicit
3   gen: Generic[A],
4   last: Last[gen.Repr]
5 ): last.Out = last.apply(gen.to(input))
6 // <console>:20: error: illegal dependent method type: parameter may only be referenced in a subsequent
7   parameter section
8 //       gen: Generic[A],
9 //       ^

```

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:

```

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

```

```

1 lastField(Rect(Vec(1, 2), Vec(3, 4)))
2 // res4: Vec = Vec(3,4)

```

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:

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

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

```
1 case class Wrapper(value: Int)
```

```
1 getWrappedValue(Wrapper(42))
2 // <console>:21: error: could not find implicit value for parameter gen: shapeless.Generic.Aux[Wrapper,
3 //     shapeless.::[Head,shapeless.HNil]]
4 //     getWrappedValue(Wrapper(42))
5 //     ^
```

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 `==:`

```
1 def getWrappedValue[A, Repr <: HList, Head, Tail <: HList](input: A)(
2   implicit
3   gen: Generic.Aux[A, Repr],
4   ev: (Head :: Tail) == Repr
5 ): Head = gen.to(input).head
6 // <console>:21: error: could not find implicit value for parameter c: shapeless.ops.hlist.IsHCons[gen.
7 //     Repr]
8 //     ): Head = gen.to(input).head
9 //     ^
```

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 `==:`


```
1 import shapeless.ops.hlist.IsHCons
2
3 def getWrappedValue[A, Repr <: HList, Head, Tail <: HList](input: A)(
4   implicit
5     gen: Generic.Aux[A, Repr],
6     isHCons: IsHCons.Aux[Repr, Head, Tail]
7 ): Head = gen.to(input).head
```

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

```
1 getWrappedValue(Wrapper(42))
2 // 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.
2. 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 over-constrain 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.

Warning

TODO: Other tips?

Always put return types on implicits?

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

Warning

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 `Any`¹:

```
1 "hello" : String
2 // res0: String = hello
3
4 "hello" : AnyRef
5 // res1: AnyRef = hello
6
7 "hello" : Any
8 // 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:

```
1 object Foo
2
3 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:

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

```

1 "hello"
2 // res4: String = hello
3
4 ("hello" : String)
5 // 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:

```

1 import shapeless.syntax.singleton._

```

```

1 var x = 42.narrow
2 // 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:

```

1 x = 43
2 // <console>:16: error: type mismatch;
3 //   found   : Int(43)
4 //   required: Int(42)
5 //       x = 43
6 //       ^

```

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

```

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

```

We can use `narrow` on any literal in Scala:

```

1 1.narrow
2 // res7: Int(1) = 1
3
4 true.narrow
5 // res8: Boolean(true) = true
6
7 "hello".narrow
8 // res9: String("hello") = hello
9
10 // 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:

```

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

```

```

3 //      math.sqrt(4).narrow
4 //      ^
5 // <console>:17: error: value narrow is not a member of Double
6 //      math.sqrt(4).narrow
7 //      ^

```

Tip*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 you can write declarations like the following:

```
1 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:

```
1 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 run-time behaviour by “tagging” it with a “phantom type”. Phantom types are types with no run-time semantics, like this:

```
1 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:

```

1 val numCherries = number.asInstanceOf[Int with Cherries]
2 // 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:

```

1 import shapeless.labelled.{KeyTag, FieldType}
2 import shapeless.syntax.singleton._
3
4 val someNumber = 123

```

```

1 val numCherries = "numCherries" ->> someNumber
2 // numCherries: Int with shapeless.labelled.KeyTag[String("numCherries"),Int] = 123

```

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:

```

1 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:

```

1 import shapeless.Witness
2
3 def getFieldName[K, V](value: FieldType[K, V])(implicit witness: Witness.Aux[K]): K =
4   witness.value
5
6 // For completeness:
7 def getFieldValue[K, V](value: FieldType[K, V]): V =
8   value

```

```

1 val numCherries = "numCherries" ->> someNumber
2 // numCherries: Int with shapeless.labelled.KeyTag[String("numCherries"),Int] = 123
3
4 getFieldName(numCherries)
5 // res16: String = numCherries
6
7 getFieldValue(numCherries)
8 // res17: Int = 123

```

5.2.1 Records and *LabelledGeneric*

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

```

1 import shapeless.{HList, ::, HNil}
2 // import shapeless.{HList, $colon$colon, HNil}
3
4 val garfield = ("cat" ->> "Garfield") :: ("orange" ->> true) :: HNil
5 // garfield: shapeless.::[String with shapeless.labelled.KeyTag[String("cat"),String],shapeless.::[
6   Boolean with shapeless.labelled.KeyTag[String("orange"),Boolean],shapeless.HNil]] = Garfield ::
7   true :: HNil

```

For clarity, the type of `garfield` is as follows:

```
1 type GarfieldType =
2   FieldType[String("cat"), String] ::
3   FieldType[String("orange"), Boolean] ::
4   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 `LabelledGeneric` 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:

```
1 // JSON data type:
2 sealed trait JsonValue
3 final case class JsonObject(fields: List[(String, JsonValue)]) extends JsonValue
4 final case class JsonArray(items: List[JsonValue]) extends JsonValue
5 final case class JsonString(value: String) extends JsonValue
6 final case class JsonNumber(value: Double) extends JsonValue
7 final case class JsonBoolean(value: Boolean) extends JsonValue
8 case object JsonNull extends JsonValue
9
10 // JSON encoder type class:
11 trait JsonEncoder[A] {
12   def encode(value: A): JsonValue
13 }
14
15 def createEncoder[A](func: A => JsonValue): JsonEncoder[A] =
16   new JsonEncoder[A] {
17     def encode(value: A): JsonValue =
18       func(value)
19   }
20
21 // Base type class instances:
22 implicit val stringEncoder: JsonEncoder[String] =
23   createEncoder(str => JsonString(str))
24
25 implicit val doubleEncoder: JsonEncoder[Double] =
26   createEncoder(num => JsonNumber(num))
27
28 implicit val intEncoder: JsonEncoder[Int] =
29   createEncoder(num => JsonNumber(num))
```

```

30
31 implicit val booleanEncoder: JsonEncoder[Boolean] =
32   createEncoder(bool => JsonBoolean(bool))
33
34 implicit def listEncoder[A](implicit encoder: JsonEncoder[A]): JsonEncoder[List[A]] =
35   createEncoder(list => JsonArray(list.map(encoder.encode)))
36
37 implicit def optionEncoder[A](implicit encoder: JsonEncoder[A]): JsonEncoder[Option[A]] =
38   createEncoder(opt => opt.map(encoder.encode).getOrElse(JsonNull))

```

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

```

1 case class IceCream(name: String, numCherries: Int, inCone: Boolean)
2
3 val iceCream = IceCream("Sundae", 1, false)
4
5 // Ideally we'd like to produce something like this:
6 val iceCreamJson: JsonValue =
7   JsonObject(List(
8     "name"      -> JsonString("Sundae"),
9     "numCherries" -> JsonNumber(1),
10    "inCone"     -> JsonBoolean(false)
11  ))

```

This is where `LabelledGeneric` comes in. Let's summon an instance for `IceCream` and see what kind of representation it produces:

```

1 import shapeless.LabelledGeneric

```

```

1 LabelledGeneric[IceCream].to(iceCream)
2 // 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 those of you who can't read off the right hand side of the page, the full type of the `HList` is:

```

1 // String with KeyTag[Symbol with Tagged[String("name")]], String]    ::
2 // Int with KeyTag[Symbol with Tagged[String("numCherries")]], Int]    ::
3 // Boolean with KeyTag[Symbol with Tagged[String("inCone")]], Boolean]  ::
4 // 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 `JsonObject`s, so we'll introduce a new type of encoder to make that easier:


```

1 trait JsonObjectEncoder[A] extends JsonEncoder[A] {
2   def encode(value: A): JsonObject
3 }
4
5 def createObjectEncoder[A](func: A => JsonObject): JsonObjectEncoder[A] =
6   new JsonObjectEncoder[A] {
7     def encode(value: A): JsonObject =
8       func(value)
9   }

```

The definition for HNil is then straightforward:

```

1 import shapeless.{HList, ::, HNil, Lazy}
2
3 implicit val hnilEncoder: JsonObjectEncoder[HNil] =
4   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:

```

1 implicit def hlistObjectEncoder[H, T <: HList](
2   implicit
3   hEncoder: Lazy[JsonObjectEncoder[H]],
4   tEncoder: JsonObjectEncoder[T]
5 ): JsonEncoder[H :: T] = ???

```

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

```

1 import shapeless.Witness
2 import shapeless.labelled.FieldType
3
4 implicit def hlistObjectEncoder[K, H, T <: HList](
5   implicit
6   hEncoder: Lazy[JsonEncoder[H]],
7   tEncoder: JsonObjectEncoder[T]
8 ): JsonObjectEncoder[FieldType[K, H] :: T] = ???

```

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:

```

1 implicit def hlistObjectEncoder[K, H, T <: HList](
2   implicit
3   witness: Witness.Aux[K],
4   hEncoder: Lazy[JsonEncoder[H]],
5   tEncoder: JsonObjectEncoder[T]
6 ): JsonObjectEncoder[FieldType[K, H] :: T] = {
7   val fieldName = witness.value
8   ???
9 }

```

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`:

```
1 implicit def hlistObjectEncoder[K <: Symbol, H, T <: HList](
2   implicit
3   witness: Witness.Aux[K],
4   hEncoder: Lazy[JsonEncoder[H]],
5   tEncoder: JsonObjectEncoder[T]
6 ): JsonObjectEncoder[FieldType[K, H] :: T] = {
7   val fieldName: String = witness.value.name
8   ???
9 }
```

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

```
1 implicit def hlistObjectEncoder[K <: Symbol, H, T <: HList](
2   implicit
3   witness: Witness.Aux[K],
4   hEncoder: Lazy[JsonEncoder[H]],
5   tEncoder: JsonObjectEncoder[T]
6 ): JsonObjectEncoder[FieldType[K, H] :: T] = {
7   val fieldName: String = witness.value.name
8   createObjectEncoder { hlist =>
9     val head = hEncoder.value.encode(hlist.head)
10    val tail = tEncoder.encode(hlist.tail)
11    JsonObject((fieldName, head) :: tail.fields)
12  }
13 }
```

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`:

```
1 import shapeless.LabelledGeneric
2
3 implicit def genericObjectEncoder[A, H <: HList](
4   implicit
5   generic: LabelledGeneric.Aux[A, H],
6   hEncoder: Lazy[JsonObjectEncoder[H]]
7 ): JsonEncoder[A] =
8   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:

```
1 implicitly[JsonEncoder[IceCream]].encode(iceCream)
2 // res19: JsonValue = JsonObject(List((name,JsonString(Sundae)), (numCherries,JsonNumber(1.0)), (inCone
3   ,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:

```
1 import shapeless.LabelledGeneric
2
3 sealed trait Shape
4 final case class Rectangle(width: Double, height: Double) extends Shape
5 final case class Circle(radius: Double) extends Shape
```

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

Here is that Coproduct type in a more readable format:

```
1 // Rectangle with KeyTag[Symbol with Tagged[String("Rectangle")], Rectangle] :+:
2 // Circle    with KeyTag[Symbol with Tagged[String("Circle")],   Circle]   :+:
3 // 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*:

```
1 import shapeless.{Coproduct, :+:, CNil, Inl, Inr, Witness, Lazy}
2 import shapeless.labelled.FieldType
3
4 implicit val cnilObjectEncoder: JsonObjectEncoder[CNil] =
5   createObjectEncoder(cnil => ???)
6
7 implicit def coproductObjectEncoder[K <: Symbol, H, T <: Coproduct](
8   implicit
9     witness: Witness.Aux[K],
10    hEncoder: Lazy[JsonEncoder[H]],
11    tEncoder: JsonObjectEncoder[T]
12 ): JsonObjectEncoder[FieldType[K, H] :+: T] = {
13   val typeName = witness.value.name
14   createObjectEncoder {
15     case Inl(h) => JsonObject(List(typeName -> hEncoder.value.encode(h)))
16     case Inr(t) => tEncoder.encode(t)
17   }
18 }
```

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:

```
1 val shape: Shape = Circle(1.0)
2 // shape: Shape = Circle(1.0)
3
4 implicitly[JsonEncoder[Shape]].encode(shape)
5 // res11: 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 `JsonEncoder` 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`
 - `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
 - Tuples
 - `shapeless.Tuple.fill` (depends on Nat)
- 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 HLists
- 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)
 - 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
- 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.IsHCons`
- `shapeless.test.illTyped`

Enzyme

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`
- `shapeless.Lazy`
- `shapeless.Generic`
- `shapeless.Generic1`
- `shapeless.LabelledGeneric`
- `shapeless.Poly`
- `shapeless.Const`
- `shapeless.Id`
- `shapeless.Cached` (TODO: related to `cachedImplicit?`)
- `shapeless.IsHCons1`
- `shapeless.IsCCons1`
- `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.Init`
- `shapeless.ops.hlist.IsHCons`
- `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`
- `shapeless.Sized`
- `shapeless.Nat`
- `shapeless.Generic`
- `shapeless.LabelledGeneric`
- `shapeless.:=!=` <- nice !!
- `shapeless.->` <- whaaat ??
- `shapeless.UnaryTCCConstraint` <- 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.Init`
- `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`
- `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`

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.Lazy`
- `shapeless.Witness`
- `shapeless.LabelledGeneric`
- `shapeless.labelled.FieldType`

PureCSV (??)

CSV codec derivation.

- `shapeless.HList`
- `shapeless.Generic`

PureConfig

Automatic config reader derivation.

- `shapeless.HList`
- `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
- 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
- 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.Id` – `kittens`
- `shapeless.IsCCons1` – `kittens`
- `shapeless.IsHCons1` – `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-json-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`
- `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`
- `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.Init` – `scodec`
- `shapeless.ops.hlist.IsHCons` – `doobie`
- `shapeless.ops.hlist.IsHCons` – `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`
- `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`
- `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.illTyped` – `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.UnaryTConstraint` – 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:

```
1 def createEncoder[A](cols: Int)(func: A => List[String]): CsvEncoder[A] =
2   new CsvEncoder[A] {
3     val width = cols
4     def encode(value: A): List[String] =
5       func(value)
6   }
```

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

```
1 implicit val stringEncoder: CsvEncoder[String] =
2   createEncoder(1)(str => List(str))
3
4 implicit val intEncoder: CsvEncoder[Int] =
5   createEncoder(1)(num => List(num.toString))
6
7 implicit val booleanEncoder: CsvEncoder[Boolean] =
8   createEncoder(1)(bool => List(if(bool) "cone" else "glass"))
9
10 implicit val doubleEncoder: CsvEncoder[Double] =
11   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:

```
1 import shapeless.{HList, HNil, ::}
2
3 implicit val hnilEncoder: CsvEncoder[HNil] =
4   createEncoder(0)(hnil => Nil)
5
6 implicit def hlistEncoder[H, T <: HList](
7   implicit
8   hEncoder: CsvEncoder[H],
9   tEncoder: CsvEncoder[T])
```

```

10 ): CsvEncoder[H :: T] =
11   createEncoder(hEncoder.width + tEncoder.width) {
12     case h :: t =>
13       hEncoder.encode(h) ++ tEncoder.encode(t)
14   }

```

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

```

1 import shapeless.{Coproduct, CNil, :+:, Inl, Inr}
2
3 implicit val cnilEncoder: CsvEncoder[CNil] =
4   createEncoder(0) { cnil =>
5     throw new Exception("The impossible has happened!")
6   }
7
8 implicit def coproductEncoder[H, T <: Coproduct](
9   implicit
10   hEncoder: CsvEncoder[H],
11   tEncoder: CsvEncoder[T]
12 ): CsvEncoder[H :+: T] =
13   createEncoder(hEncoder.width + tEncoder.width) {
14     case Inl(h) => hEncoder.encode(h) ++ List.fill(tEncoder.width)(" ")
15     case Inr(t) => List.fill(hEncoder.width)(" ") ++ tEncoder.encode(t)
16   }

```

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

```

1 import shapeless.Generic
2
3 implicit def genericEncoder[A, R](
4   implicit
5   gen: Generic.Aux[A, R],
6   lEncoder: CsvEncoder[R]
7 ): CsvEncoder[A] =
8   createEncoder(lEncoder.width) { value =>
9     lEncoder.encode(gen.to(value))
10   }

```

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

```

1 writeCsv(shapes)
2 // res16: String =
3 // 3.0,4.0,
4 // ,,1.0

```

[Return to the exercise](#)