



B3 - Haskell Pool

B-FUN-300

Day 01

a gentle introduction to functional programming



1.0



Day 01

binary name: My.hs
repository name: FUN_day1_\$ACADEMICYEAR
repository rights: ramassage-tek
language: haskell



- Your repository must contain the totality of your source files, but no useless files (binary, temp files, obj files,...).
- All the bonus files (including a potential specific Makefile) should be in a directory named *bonus*.

Today's goal is to learn the basics of Haskell and functional programming in a bottom up manner.

You will have to implement from scratch a bunch of functions which are present in a way or another in the Haskell's standard library.

Therefore, for today's tasks most of Haskell's more advanced tools will be forbidden to you.

STEP 0 - PREREQUISITES

+ GHC AND GHCI

For this functional pool, you will need GHC, The Glorious Glasgow Haskell Compilation System, in version 8 or superior (check the version installed in the official docker image if in doubt)

You should have the commands **ghc** and **ghci** installed.

If you don't, now is a good time to install them.



Now is also a good time to configure your favorite editor (which is Emacs) to handle syntax highlighting and default indentation.



+ WHAT TO TURN IN

You have to turn in a file called `My.hs` which will contain several haskell functions and no main.

We will compile it with our own main to test it.

Our compilation line will look like this:

```
Terminal
~/B-FUN-300> ghc -Wall My.hs main.hs
```

GHCI is the interactive version of GHC, which is very useful to test your functions:

```
Terminal
~/B-FUN-300> ghci My.hs
Prelude> mySucc 41
42
```

+ AUTHORIZED AND FORBIDDEN FUNCTIONS AND SYNTAX

For today tasks, most of the functions of the standard library and some Haskell's syntax construct will be forbidden.

You are only allowed to use data types constructors and the **error** function from the standard library. You are allowed to use arithmetic operators (`+`, `-`, `*`, `...`, `==`, `<`, `...`). All other functions are forbidden (especially `++` and `!!`).

You are also forbidden to use the **if-then-else** (use **case-of** instead), the **do** syntax and list comprehensions. **let-in** and **where** are authorized.

You can use any function you have coded yourself to implement another function. Even if a task requires to implement a single function, this function may need auxiliary functions to be implemented, you are free to use as many functions as you want.



STEP 1 - BASIC FUNCTIONS

Let's start with a bunch of very easy functions. Each task starts with the function's signature (prototype). All your functions must have an explicit signature and must abide to the signature specified in the subject.

+ TASK 01

```
mySucc :: Int -> Int
```

A function which takes one Int as argument and returns its successor.
For example: **mySucc 41** returns **42**.

+ TASK 02

```
myIsNeg :: Int -> Bool
```

A function which takes one Int as argument and returns True if it's negative or False otherwise.

+ TASK 03

```
myAbs :: Int -> Int
```

A function which takes one Int as argument and returns its absolute value.

+ TASK 04

```
myMin :: Int -> Int -> Int
```

A function which takes two Ints as arguments and returns the minimum of the two.

+ TASK 05

```
myMax :: Int -> Int -> Int
```

I'm sure you can guess what this function returns :).



STEP 2 - TUPLES

Tuples are data structures which allow to “pack” values in groups.



you can also “unpack” a tuple and bind its content to values thanks to pattern matching...

+ TASK 06

```
myTuple :: a -> b -> (a, b)
```

A function which takes two arguments and a return a tuple of those.

+ TASK 07

```
myTruple :: a -> b -> c -> (a, b, c)
```

A function which takes three arguments and a return a tuple of those.

+ TASK 08

```
myFst :: (a, b) -> a
```

A function which takes a tuple as argument and returns its first value.



Of course, the function fst is forbidden...

+ TASK 09

```
mySnd :: (a, b) -> b
```

A function which takes a tuple as argument and returns its second value.



Guess what? snd is forbidden too!



+ TASK 10

```
mySwap :: (a, b) -> (b, a)
```

A function which takes a tuple as argument and returns a new tuple, with its two values swapped.

STEP 3 - SIMPLE LISTS

Let's see a more advanced data structure: **lists**.

Like tuples, you can manipulate a list with its constructors and using pattern matching.

+ TASK 11

```
myHead :: [a] -> a
```

A function which takes a list as argument and returns its first value. If the list is empty, an exception is raised with the function **error**.

+ TASK 12

```
myTail :: [a] -> [a]
```

A function which takes a list as argument and returns a new list without its first element. If the list is empty, an exception is raised with the function **error**.

+ TASK 13

```
myLength :: [a] -> Int
```

A function which takes a list as argument and returns the number of elements in the list.

+ TASK 14

```
myNth :: [a] -> Int -> a
```

A function which takes a list and an Int (N) as argument and returns the element at index N in the list, or an error if the index is too large or negative.



This function can be written as : **myNth = (!!)** , but that's cheating, you have to implement it yourself.



+ TASK 15

```
myTake :: Int -> [a] -> [a]
```

A function which takes an Int (N) and a list and returns a list with the Nth first elements of the list. If the list is too short the whole list is returned.

+ TASK 16

```
myDrop :: Int -> [a] -> [a]
```

A function which takes an Int (n) and a list and returns a list without the N first elements. If the list is too short an empty list is returned.

+ TASK 17

```
myAppend :: [a] -> [a] -> [a]
```

A function which takes two lists and returns a new list with the second list appended to the first one.



Of course, the function ++ is forbidden...

+ TASK 18

```
myReverse :: [a] -> [a]
```

A function which takes a list and returns a list with all its elements in reverse order.

+ TASK 19

```
myInit :: [a] -> [a]
```

A function which takes a list and returns a list with all its elements except the last one, or an error if the list is empty.

+ TASK 20

```
myLast :: [a] -> a
```

A function which takes a list and returns its last element, or an error if the list is empty.



+ TASK 21

```
myZip :: [a] -> [b] -> [(a, b)]
```

A function which takes two lists as arguments, and returns a list of tuples. The list produced is as long as the shortest list.

+ TASK 22

```
myUnzip :: [(a,b)] -> ([a], [b])
```

A function which takes a list of tuples, and return a tuple of lists.

STEP 4 - ADVANCED LISTS

Hold on tight, we're almost there for today. The functions in this section are very useful and are present in a form or another in all functional language or library. Most of them have the characteristic that they are taking another function in argument to do their thing: they are higher-order functions.



They all exist in Haskell's standard library, playing with them is a good way to understand how they work and how to re-implement them...

+ TASK 23

```
myMap :: (a -> b) -> [a] -> [b]
```

A function which takes a function and a list, and apply this function to every element of the list.

+ TASK 24

```
myFilter :: (a -> Bool) -> [a] -> [a]
```

A function which takes a predicate (a function returning a boolean value) and a list, and returns a list of all the elements for which the predicate has returned True.

+ TASK 25

```
myFoldl :: (b -> a -> b) -> b -> [a] -> b
```

A function which takes a function, a starting value and a list as argument.

It takes the second argument and the first item of the list and applies the function to them, then feeds the function with this result and the second argument and so on.



Examples:

```
Terminal
~/B-FUN-300> ghci
Prelude> myFoldl (\ acc x -> acc + x) 0 [1,2,3,4,5]
15
Prelude> myFoldl myAppend "foo" ["bar","baz"]
"foobarbaz"
Prelude> myFoldl (\ acc x -> x : acc) [] [1,2,3,4,5]
[5,4,3,2,1]
```

+ TASK 26

`myFoldr :: (a -> b -> b) -> b -> [a] -> b`

Like `myFoldl`, but from right to left.

+ TASK 27

`mySpan :: (a -> Bool) -> [a] -> ([a], [a])`

A function which takes a predicate and a list as argument, and returns a tuple of lists, with in the first list the elements for which the predicate returns true, and in the second list the other elements.



ERRATUM: this function is actually not the **span** function of the standard library but the **partition** function found in the module `Data.List`. The description in the subject is correct and is the expected behavior.

+ TASK 28

`myQuickSort :: (a -> a -> Bool) -> [a] -> [a]`

A function which takes a predicate and a list as arguments, and returns the list sorted according to the predicate.

Example

```
Terminal
~/B-FUN-300> ghci
Prelude> myQuickSort (\ x y -> x < y) [9,1,8,2,7,3,6,4,5]
[1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9]
Prelude> myQuickSort (>) ["alice", "eve", "carl", "bob"]
["eve","carl","bob","alice"]
```



The functions you have already coded may be very helpful to implement this one...

STEP 5 - CONCLUSION

Now that you have implemented quite advanced functions, you may want to go back to the simpler ones and think if you can implement them in a better, shorter way (maybe using other functions).

Are you sure all your functions are behaving correctly? There's only one way to be sure: write unit tests for all of them!



There is the HUnit module for Haskell which has everything needed to write unit tests, go check it out.