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## CATEGORY THEORY FOR PROGRAMMERS

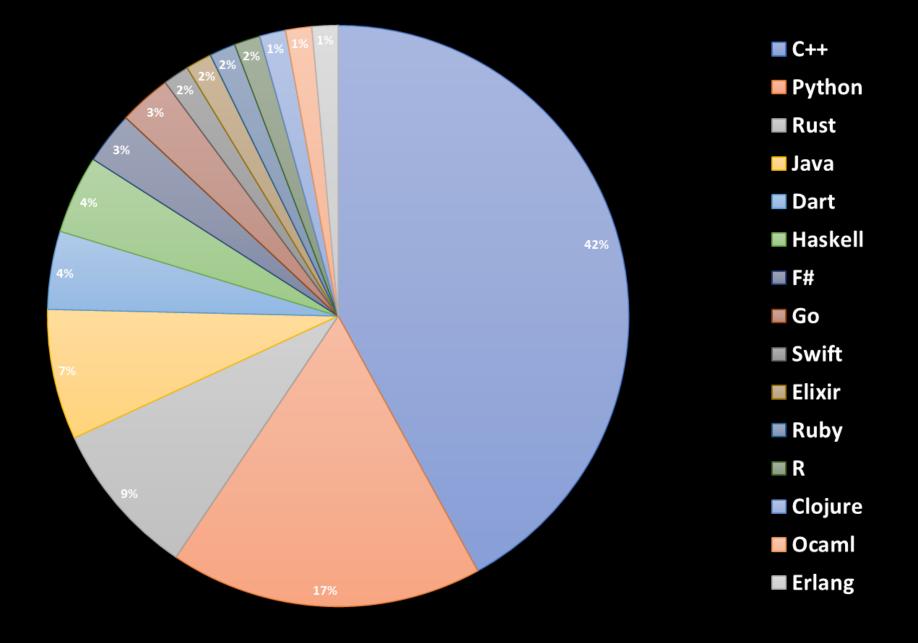


**Bartosz Milewski** 

# Category Theory for

Programmers
Chapter 2:

Types & Functions



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THE CATEGORY OF TYPES AND FUNCTIONS plays an important role in programming, so let's talk about what types are and why we need them.

#### 2.1 Who Needs Types?

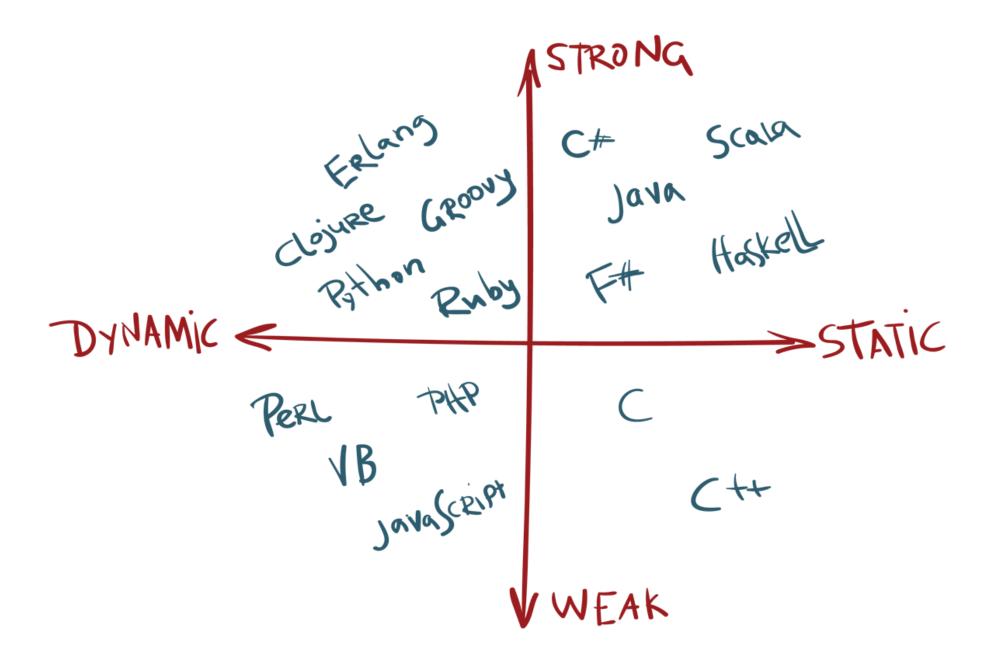
There seems to be some controversy about the advantages of static vs. dynamic and strong vs. weak typing.

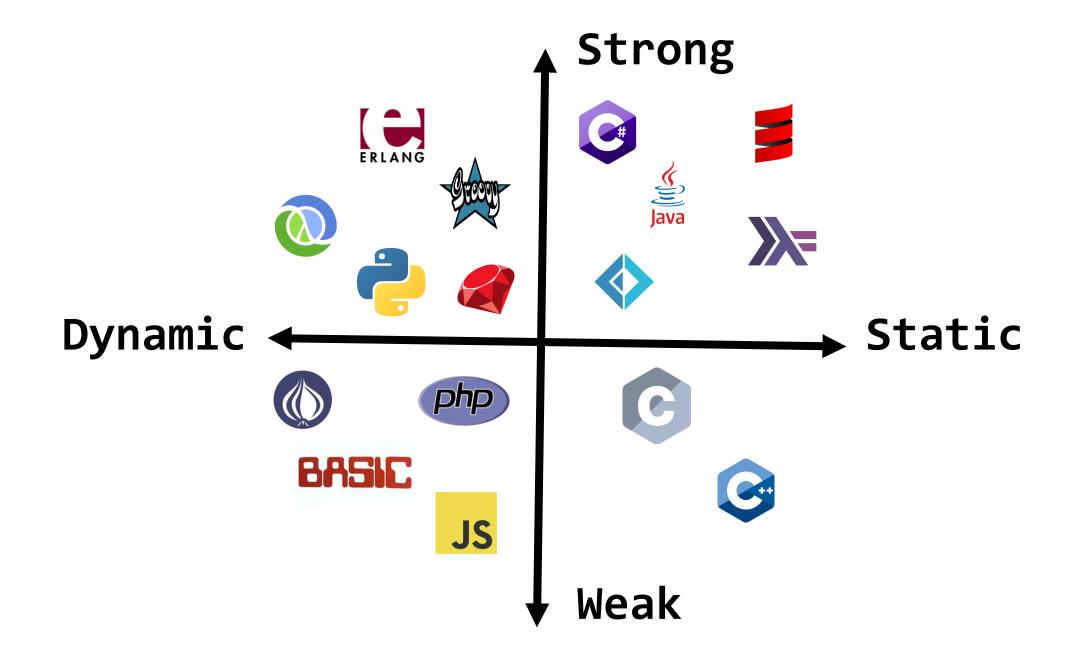


Anyone know any lazy-by-default, dynamically typed functional programming languages?
#functionalprogramming

@planetclojure @kotlin @fsharporg @erlang\_org @elixirlang @scala\_lang @elmlang @OCamlLang @racketlang #haskell #lisp #schemelang #fsharp #clojure #scala #elixir #kotlin

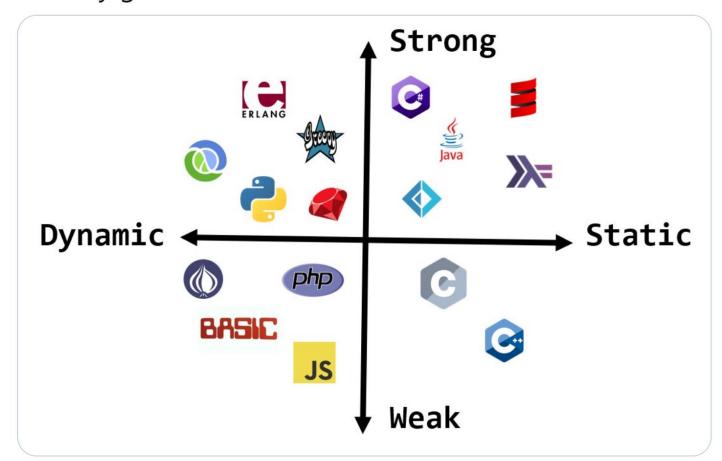




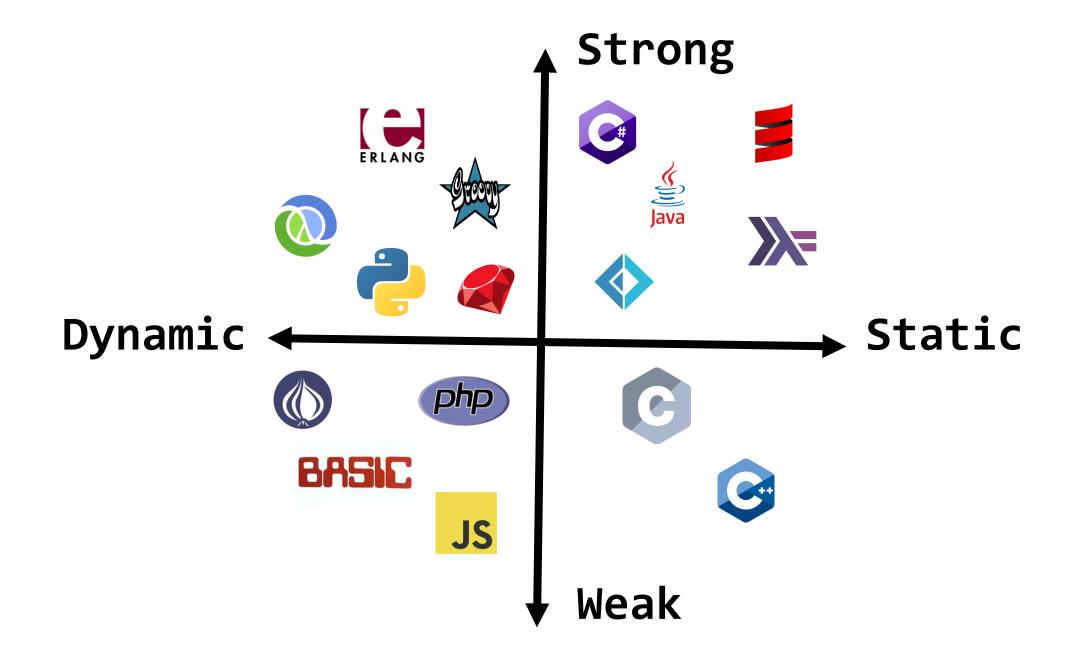


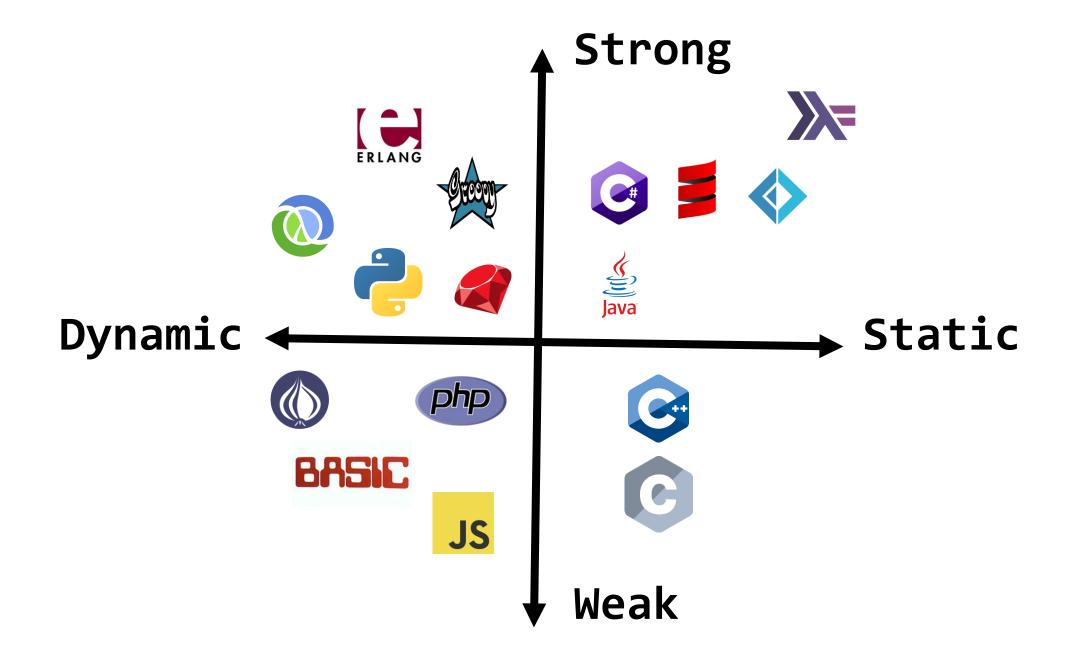
**Cunningham's Law** states "the best way to get the right answer on the internet is not to ask a question; it's to post the wrong answer."

What #programminglanguages are missing and where do they go?



5:42 PM · Feb 5, 2021 · Twitter Web App





#### 2.3 What Are Types?

The simplest intuition for types is that they are sets of values. The type Bool (remember, concrete types start with a capital letter in Haskell) is a two-element set of True and False. Type Char is a set of all Unicode characters like a or a.

But there is an alternative. It's called *denotational semantics* and it's based on math. In denotational semantics every programming construct is given its mathematical interpretation. With that, if you want to prove a property of a program, you just prove a mathematical theorem.



```
fact n = product [1 .. n]
```



```
int fact ( int n) {
    int result = 1;
    for (int i = 2; i <= n; ++ i)
        result *= i;
    return result;
}</pre>
```



```
using namespace std::ranges;
auto fact(int n) -> int {
   auto vals = views::iota(1, n);
   return std::reduce(begin(vals), end(vals), 1, std::multiplies{});
}
```



```
using namespace std::ranges;
auto fact(int n) -> int {
   return views::iota(1, n) | fold(1, std::multiplies{});
}
```



```
fn fact(n: i32) -> i32 {
    (1..=n).product()
}
```



### fact n = product [1 .. n]



```
auto fact(int n) -> int {
    auto vals = views::iota(1, n);
    return std::reduce(begin(vals), end(vals), 1, std::multiplies{});
}
```



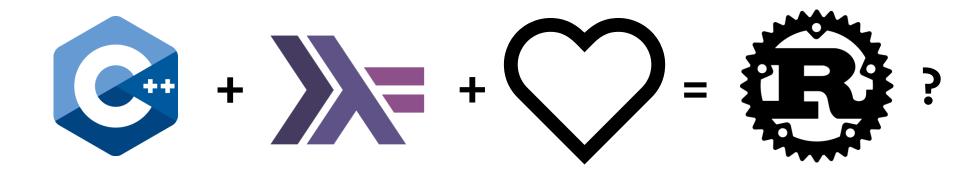
```
fn fact(n: i32) -> i32 {
     (1..=n).product()
}
```



"I've been referring to it [Rust] sa a love child between Haskell and C++."

- quote from @roeschinc on Episode 77 of @fngeekery Another awesome episode! #Haskell #cplusplus @rustlang

12:45 PM  $\cdot$  Aug 26, 2019 from Sunnyvale, CA  $\cdot$  Twitter for Android



In programming languages, functions that always produce the same result given the same input and have no side effects are called *pure functions*. In a pure functional language like Haskell all functions are pure.

Functions that can be implemented with the same formula for any type are called parametrically polymorphic.

Functions to Bool are called *predicates*. For instance, the Haskell library Data. Char is full of predicates like isAlpha or isDigit.



1. Define a higher-order function (or a function object) memoize in your favorite language. This function takes a pure function f as an argument and returns a function that behaves almost exactly like f, except that it only calls the original function once for every argument, stores the result internally, and subsequently returns this stored result every time it's called with the same argument. You can tell the memoized function from the original by watching its performance. For instance, try to memoize a function that takes a long time to evaluate. You'll have to wait for the result the first time you call it, but on subsequent calls, with the same argument, you should get the result immediately.



```
auto memoize(auto fn) {
    return [done = std::map<int,int>{}, fn](auto n) mutable {
        if (auto it = done.find(n); it != done.end())
            return it->second;
        auto const val = fn(n);
       done[n] = val;
       return val;
```



```
auto memoize(auto fn) {
    return [done = std::map<int,int>{}, fn](auto n) mutable {
        if (auto it = done.find(n); it != done.end())
            return it->second;
        return done[n] = fn(n);
    };
}
```



5. How many different functions are there from Bool to Bool? Can you implement them all?

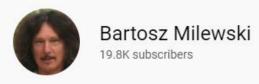


```
auto same_(bool b) -> bool { return b; }
auto diff_(bool b) -> bool { return !b; }
auto true_(bool b) -> bool { return true; }
auto fals_(bool b) -> bool { return false; }
```



```
same ← ⊢
diff ← ~
true ← 1 ∘ ⊢
false ← 0 ∘ ⊢
```





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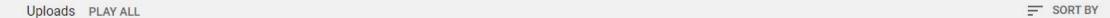
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