## Why teaching functional programming to undergraduates at CUNY is important

Evan Misshula

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#### Plan for the talk

Why Functional Programming is intellectually interesting

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 Why Functional Programming is intellectually interesting (particularly with Haskell)

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Why Functional Programming is intellectually interesting

(particularly with Haskell)

- The size and growth of the Tech sector in NYC
- The size, growth and earnings of CUNY CS grads
- The demographic biasis of the Tech Industry relative to NYC Population
- My thoughts on how helping to close this gap can benefit you and your employer

### First computers were imperative by necessity

```
55 89 e5 53 83 ec 04 83 e4 f0 e8 31 00 00 00 89 c3 e8 2a 00 00 00 39 c3 74 10 8d b6 00 00 00 39 c3 7e 13 29 c3 39 c3 75 f6 89 1c 24 e8 6e 00 00 00 8b 5d fc c9 c3 29 d8 eb eb 90
```

## Programming languages help us think

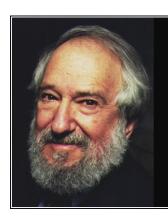


A powerful programming language is more than just a means for instructing a computer to perform tasks. The language also serves as a framework within which we organize our ideas about processes.

- Hal Abelson -

AZQUOTES

## Languages encourage patterns of thought



A programming language is like a natural, human language in that it favors certain methaphors, images, and ways of thinking.

— Seymour Papert —

AZ QUOTES

## There are dissenting opinions

# The Value of Programming Paradigms

- ·To be taught in universities
- · To ignite flamewars
- · To characterize programming languages
- · To inspire memes



## Counterexamples of good languages

## **Confusing Syntax 2**

```
1 A="Hello World"
2 if [ $A == $A ]; then
3 echo "Yes"
4 else
5 echo "No"
6 fi
```

- Outputs: "No"
- Is actually a syntax error!!
- \$A must be wrapped in double quotes

## Counterexamples of good languages

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actually the slide is wrong

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```

- actually the slide is wrong
- comparison should be [[

## You can't talk about poor language design and not mention JS

```
console.log(0.1 + 0.2);
console.log(0.1 + 0.2 == 0.3);
```

## You can't talk about poor language design and not mention .IS

```
console.log(0.1 + 0.2);
console.log(0.1 + 0.2 == 0.3);
```

- 0.300000000000000004
- false

## Comparisons can fail

```
console.log(1 < 2 < 3); console.log(3 > 2 > 1);
```

## Comparisons can fail

```
console.log(1 < 2 < 3); console.log(3 > 2 > 1);
```

- true (1<2) -> true is implicitly coerced to 1 and 1<3
- false (3>2) -> true coerced to 1 and and 1>1 is false

## Even assignment is perilous

```
var a= [1,2,3];
a[10]=99;
console.log(a[10])
console.log(a[6])
```

## Even assignment is perilous

```
var a= [1,2,3];
a[10]=99;
console.log(a[10])
console.log(a[6])
```

- 99
- [1, 2, 3, <7 empty items>, 99]

• Explore recursion both in functions and in data structures

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- Rewrite classic sort algorithms in breathtakingly simple form

- Explore recursion both in functions and in data structures
- Rewrite classic sort algorithms in breathtakingly simple form
- Introduce students to algebraic ideas on functions so that they can master abstraction

## Right triangle problem

#### Let's find a problem that puts constraints on tuples

• Which right triangle that has integers for all sides and all sides equal to or smaller than 10 has a perimeter of 24?

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## Right triangle problem

#### Let's find a problem that puts constraints on tuples

- Which right triangle that has integers for all sides and all sides equal to or smaller than 10 has a perimeter of 24?
- crack the problem like an egg
- Opportunity to teach: solution by problem relaxation

## Right triangle problem relax solution

## Integer sides all < 10 and perimeter = 24

• generate all tuples of sides less than 10

## Right triangle problem relax solution

#### Integer sides all < 10 and perimeter = 24

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- ullet designate z as the hypotenuse (bigger than x and y)

## Right triangle problem relax solution

#### Integer sides all < 10 and perimeter = 24

- generate all tuples of sides less than 10
- ullet designate z as the hypotenuse (bigger than x and y)

• make 
$$x^2 + y^2 = z^2$$

```
:set +m
length([(x,y,z) | x<-[1..10],y<-[1..10],
z<-[1..10],y<z,x<z,
(x^2 + y^2 == z^2)])
i==i</pre>
```

Prelude Control.Applicative | Prelude Control.Applicative | 4

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## Adding the perimeter constraint

#### Let's add constraints

- the perimeter equal 24
- a + b + c = 24

```
:set +m
length([(x,y,z) | x<-[1..10],y<-[1..10],z<-[1..10],
y<z,
x+y+z==24,
(x^2 + y^2 == z^2)])
[(x,y,z) | x<-[1..10],y<-[1..10],z<-[1..10],y<z,
    x+y+z==24,
    (x^2 + y^2 == z^2)]
i==i</pre>
```

## Type system

#### Haskell is statically typed

- Haskell allows students inquire about the type
  - We can see that type by using the ':t' command in the repl:

```
:t 'a'
 :t True
 :t "HELLO!"
 :t (True, 'a')
 :t 4 == 5
1==1
'a' :: Char
True :: Bool
"HELLO!" :: [Char]
(True, 'a') :: (Bool, Char)
4 == 5 :: Bool
```

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'a' :: Char
True :: Bool
"HELLO!" :: [Char]
(True, 'a') :: (Bool, Char)
4 == 5 :: Bool
```

## Decompose the typeclass

$$(==) :: Eq a => a -> a -> Bool$$

- Typeclass constraint
  - The declaration we can read says:

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## Decompose the typeclass

#### (==) :: Eq a => a -> a -> Bool

- Typeclass constraint
  - The declaration we can read says:
- The equality function takes two variables of the same type and returns a Bool
- The new part 'Eq a =>' says:
- The type must be part of Eq typeclass
  - This is called the class constraint

## Interface of Eq

## The Eq typeclass provides an interface for testing for equality

- Eq is used for types that support equality testing
  - Its members implement both:
    - '=='
    - '/='

```
5/=5
'a' == 'a'
"Ho Ha" == "Ho Ha"
3.4 == 3.4
1==1
```

True

5==5

False

True

True

## Introducing Ord typeclass

#### Ord is for types that have an ordering

- We can see the type of '>' comparison
- We can see some functions which rely on being in the ord typeclass

```
:t(>)
"Abc"< "Zev"
compare "Abc" "Zev"
5 >= 2
compare 5 3
1==1
(>) :: Ord a => a -> a -> Bool
True
LT
True
GT
```

#### Ord has a connection with inference

#### Ord is important in statistics

• Ord can be used to explain: ordinal levels of measurement

## Ord has a connection with inference

## Ord is important in statistics

- Ord can be used to explain: ordinal levels of measurement
- Ord can also be used to introduce: utility curves

# Introducing Show typeclass

## Everything except function has been part of show

- It works like Java or Ruby's toString methods
- Mostly we use it to examine a value

```
show 3
show 5.334
show True
1==1
```

3 5.334

True

# Introducing Read typeclass

#### Read is the inverse of show

 It works reads a string and returns a type which supports the interface Read

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- You can use it to create Javascript like craziness

# Introducing Read typeclass

#### Read is the inverse of show

- It works reads a string and returns a type which supports the interface Read
- You can use it to create Javascript like craziness
- But you have to work at it

```
read "True" || False
read "8.2" + 3.8
read "5" - 2
read "[1,2,3,4]" ++ [3]
1==1
True
12.0
```

3

# Limits to the type inference system

## Let's look at a type error

```
read 4
1==1
```

```
<interactive>:2327:6: error:
```

- Could not deduce (Num String) arising from the literal from the context: Read a bound by the inferred type of it :: Read a => a at <interactive>:2327:1-6
- In the first argument of 'read', namely '4'
  In the expression: read 4
  In an equation for 'it': it = read 4
- GHCI is saying it does not know what type to return
  - Do you want an Float or an Integer?

# Type specification

## We can specify a type

We just add '::<Type>' and read will work

```
read "5" :: Int
read "5" :: Float
(read "5" :: Int) * 4
read "[1,2,3,4]" :: [Int]
read "(3,'a')" :: (Int, Char)
1==1
5
5.0
20
[1,2,3,4]
(3, 'a')
```

Evan Misshula

# Enum type class

## Sequentially ordered types

- Being sequentialy ordered means that they can be counted in order
- This property is also called being enumerable
- We can use them in list ranges
  - they each have a predecessor which you can get with 'pred'
  - they each have a successor which you can get with 'succ'

```
['a'..'e']
[LT .. GT]
[3..7]
succ 'B'
1==1
abcde
[LT,EQ,GT]
```

[3.4.5.6.7]

## Bounded Type class

## Bounded type class has concrete types

- with maximum and minimum elements
  - minBound and maxBound are functions with polymorphic type
    - (Bounded a) => a

```
maxBound :: Char
maxBound :: Bool
minBound :: Bool
i==i
-9223372036854775808
'\1114111'
True
False
```

minBound :: Int.

# Numeric Types

(5 :: Int) \* 6

:t (\*)

## Numeric types can be operated on mathematically

Let's look at this type

(5 :: Int) \* (6 :: Integer)

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# Integral and Floating types

## Integral and Floating types

- The Integral typeclass only includes Integer and Int
- The Floating typeclass only includes floats and double

```
:t fromIntegral
fromIntegral (length [1,2,3,4]) + 3.2
i==i
fromIntegral :: (Num b, Integral a) => a -> b
7.2
```

#### Curried Functions

## Every function in haskell only takes one argument

- But what about 'max' or min?
- We actually apply parameters to functions one at time
  - These are called "curried" functions

```
• This is after Haskell Curry max (Ord a) => a -> a -> a max (Ord a) => a -> (a -> a)
```

 If we call a function with to few parameters we get back a partially applied function

```
:set +m
-- multThree :: (Num a) => a -> a -> a -> a
multThree x y z = x * y * z
multThree 3 5 9 == ((multThree 3) 5) 9
i==1
```

# Curried comparison

#### Here is a curried comparison

- These are the same because 'x' is on both sides of the equation
- -- compareWithHundred :: (Num a, Ord a, Show a) => a -> Ordering compareWithHundred x = compare 100 x
- -- compareWithHundred1 :: (Num a, Ord a, Show a) => a -> Order: compareWithHundred1 = compare 100

# Example partial application

#### Let's look at an infix function

- simply surround the function with parentheses and only supply one of the parameters
- this is called 'sectioning'

```
-- divideByTen :: (Floating a) => a -> a
divideByTen = (/10)
```

# partial application of a string function

## String functions can be partially applied too

- this is written in point free style
- it is also sectioned

```
-- isUpperAlphanum :: Char -> Bool
isUpperAlphanum = ('elem' ['A'..'Z'])
```

#### Returned functions

#### Functions can return functions

• take a function and apply it twice

```
-- applyTwice :: (a \rightarrow a) \rightarrow a \rightarrow a applyTwice f x = f (f x)
```

# ZipWith

#### We are going to implement ZipWith

 It joins two lists and performs a function on the corresponding elements

```
-- zipWith' :: (a -> b -> c) -> [a] -> [b] -> [c]
zipWith' _ [] _ = []
zipWith' _ _ [] = []
zipWith' f (x:xs) (y:ys) = f x y : zipWith' f xs ys
```

# flip

## flip changes the order of the arguements

# Maps and Filters

## Map

• map takes a function applies the function to each element of a list

```
-- map :: (a -> b) -> [a] -> [b]
map _ [] = []
map f (x:xs) = f x : map f xs
```

#### Filter

#### Filter

- 'filter' take a function called a predicate and a list of any type
- the predicate takes an element of the list and returns a Bool
  - the filter returns elements for which the predicate is True

#### Lambdas

## Lamdas are anonymous functions

- These are unnamed functions
- They are passed as parameters to other functions
- They work like composition in math
- They are called 'lambdas' because of the 'lambda calculus'

# Church and Turing





**Turing Machine** Lambda calculus Two mathematical ways to ask questions about "computability"

Functional Programming

Computability

#### Lambda Calculus

## Lambda Calculus is a formal system for computation

- it is equivelent to calculation by Turing Machine
- invented by Alonzo Church in the 1930's
- Church was Turing's thesis advisor
  - ullet a function is denoted by the greek letter  $\lambda$
  - a function f(x) that maps  $x \to f(x)$  is:
    - λx.y

# Example of a lambda

## We can pass a lambda to ZipWith

- a lambda function in Haskell starts with '\'
- can't define several parameters for one para, eters

```
zipWith (\a b -> (a * 30 + 3) / b) [5,4,3,2,1] [1,2,3,4,5] 1==1
```

## Quicksort

#### specification

```
-- quicksort :: (Ord a) => [a] -> [a]
quicksort [] = []
quicksort (x:xs) =
    let smallerSorted = quicksort [a | a <- xs, a <= x]
biggerSorted = quicksort [a | a <- xs, a > x]
    in smallerSorted ++ [x] ++ biggerSorted
1==1
```

#### Folds

## Folds encapsulate several functions with (x:xs) patterns

- they reduce a list to a single value
- 'foldl' is the left fold function

```
sum' :: (Num a) => [a] -> a
sum' xs = foldl (\acc x -> acc + x) 0 xs
sum'' :: (Num a) => [a] -> a
sum'' = foldl (+) 0
1==1
```



# Function application

## Function application with \$

- '\$' is called the function application
- changes to right association
- keeps us from writing parentheses

```
map ($ 3) [(4+), (10*), (^2), sqrt]
1==1
```

```
[7.0,30.0,9.0,1.7320508075688772*** Exception: <interactive>:23
```

# Function composition

#### Function composition is just like math

- In math  $f \cdot g(x) = f(g(x))$
- Let's look at Haskell function
- g takes a -> b
- f takes b -> c

# Function composition

## Function composition is just like math

- In math  $f \cdot g(x) = f(g(x))$
- Let's look at Haskell function
- g takes a -> b
- f takes b -> c
- ullet so the composition take f . g takes a -> c

(.) :: 
$$(b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow a \rightarrow c$$
  
f .  $g = \x \rightarrow f (g x)$ 



# Function composition examples

#### Function composition examples

- with a  $\lambda$
- with point free notation

```
map (\x -> negate (abs x)) [5,-3,-6,7,-3,2,-19,24] map (negate . abs) [5,-3,-6,7,-3,2,-19,24]
```

# Polymorphism on a higher level

- Types are not part of a hierarchy
- We can think about how they should act
  - then connect them with typeclasses

#### Functors defined

## Definition (definition)

A functor is a typeclass for all the things that can be mapped over

#### Functors defined

## Definition (definition)

A functor is a typeclass for all the things that can be mapped over

# Definition (Haskell syntax definition)

class Functor f where

# Analogy with other typeclasses

#### Typeclasses define functions

- Eq defines concrete types that are equatable
  - functions ('=') and ('/')
- Ord defines concrete types that 'orderabe'
  - implements the 'compare' function
- Enum defines concrete types that enumerable
  - defines '..' a range

## List Functor examples

## Example (List Functor Examples)

- map:: (a -> b) -> [a] -> [b]
- instance Functor [] where
  - fmap = map

# Functor code in the repl

#### List Functor in the repl

:t map

## Maybe Functor examples

## Example (Maybe Functor Examples)

```
instance Functor myMaybe where
  fmap f (Just x) = Just (f x)
  fmap f Nothing = Nothing
```

## Maybe Functor code in the repl

## Maybe Functor in the repl

```
:t fmap
fmap (++ " HEY GUYS IM INSIDE THE JUST") (Just "Something serio
fmap (++ " HEY GUYS IM INSIDE THE JUST") Nothing
fmap (*2) (Just 200)
fmap (*2) Nothing
i == i
fmap :: Functor f \Rightarrow (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow f a \rightarrow f b
Just "Something serious. HEY GUYS IM INSIDE THE JUST"
Nothing
Just 400
Nothing
```

#### Functor Law intuition

#### If functors mean that something can be mapped over...

- then calling 'fmap' on a functor should
  - map a function over the functor

#### Functor Law intuition

#### If functors mean that something can be mapped over...

- then calling 'fmap' on a functor should
  - map a function over the functor
- Nothing else

#### The First Functor Laws

#### Definition (The First Functor Law)

states that if we map the identity (id) function over a functor, we get the functor

• fmap id = id

## Identity in the Repl

## Identity functions in the repl

```
fmap id (Just 3)
id (Just 3)
fmap id [1..5]
id [1..5]
fmap id []
fmap id Nothing
1==1
Just 3
Just 3
[1,2,3,4,5]
[1,2,3,4,5]
```

Nothing

#### The Second Functor Law

### Definition (The Second Functor Law says)

The Second Functor Law says that composing two functions and then mapping the composed function over a functor is the same as first mapping one function over the functor and then mapping the other one.

- fmap(f.g) = fmap f . fmap g
- fmap (f.g) F = fmap f (fmap g F)

## Composition in the Repl

#### Composition functions in the repl

```
fmap ((+1).(*2)) (Just 3)
fmap (+1) (fmap (*2) (Just 3))
fmap ((+1).(*2)) [1..5]
fmap (+1) (fmap (*2) [1..5])
1==1

Just 7
Just 7
[3,5,7,9,11]
[3,5,7,9,11]
```

## What if we map a multi-parameter function over a functor?

Look at the type signature

```
a = fmap (*) [1..4]
:t a
fmap (\f -> f 9) a
1==1
```

```
a :: (Num a, Enum a) => [a -> a] [9,18,27,36]
```

#### What if we want to take a function out of a Just

## Let's take a Just (3 \*) and map

and map it over Just 5

```
:set +m
:{
class (Functor f) => Applicative f where
    pure :: a -> f a;
    (<*>) :: f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
:}
```

## Maybe Applicative

#### Let's look at the Applicative for Maybe

```
:set +m
:{
instance Applicative MyMaybe where
   pure = Just
   Nothing <*> _ = Nothing
   (Just f) <*> something = fmap f something
:}
```

## Maybe Applicative inside the repl

## Using the Maybe Applicative

```
-- :add Control.Applicative
Just (+3) <*> Just 9
pure (*2) <*> Just 10
pure (+3) <*> Just 9
Just (++"!!") <*> Just "Go now"
Nothing <*> Just "woot"
1==1
```

#### <interactive>:2476:1: error:

- Could not deduce (Applicative Maybe) arising from a use from the context: Num b bound by the inferred type of it :: Num b => Maybe b at <interactive>:2476:1-20
- In the expression: Just (+ 3) <\*> Just 9

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## Fmap as an infix operator

### Control.Applicative exports a function called <\$>

which is fmap as an infix operator

$$(<$>)$$
 :: (Functor f) => (a->b) -> f a -> f b f <\$> x = fmap f x

## Compare Applicatives in the repl

### Infix fmap in the repl

```
(++) <$> Just "John " <*> Just "Travolta" (++) "John " "Travolta" 1==1
```

#### <interactive>:2486:1: error:

- No instance for (Applicative Maybe) arising from a use of
- In the expression: (++) <\$> Just "John " <\*> Just "Travo"
  In an equation for 'it':

```
it = (++) <$> Just "John " <*> Just "Travolta"
```

John Travolta

## Lists are Applicative Functors

#### Definition (Definition of the Applicative for a list)

• Literally a Cartesian product of functions and list values

```
:set +m
:{
instance Applicative [] where
    pure x = [x]
    fs <*> xs = [f x | f <- fs, x<- xs]
:}</pre>
```

## Applicative Functors of lists in the repl

### Applicative Functors of lists in the repl

```
[(*0),(+100),(^2)] <*> [1..4]
[(+),(*)] <*>[1,2] <*> [3,4]
(++) <$> ["ha","heh","hmm"] <*> ["?","!","."]
1==1

[0,0,0,0,101,102,103,104,1,4,9,16]
[4,5,5,6,3,4,6,8]
["ha?","ha!","ha.","heh?","heh!","heh.","hmm?","hmm!","hmm."]
```

## IO is an Applicative

#### Let's see how the IO Applicative is implemented:

```
:set +m
:{
instance Applicative IO where
    pure = return
    a <*> b = do

f <- a
x <- b
return (f x)
:}</pre>
```

## Concatenating IO strings

# Two ways to concatenate two lines of user input string

• Imperative code

```
:set +m
:{
myAction :: IO String
myAction = do
    a <- getLine
    b <- getLine
    return $ a ++ b
:}</pre>
```

# Applicative way to concatenate two lines of user input string

Applicative code

```
:set +m
:{
myAction :: IO String
myAction = (++)
     <$> getLine
     <*> getLine
:}
```

## The first Applicative Functor Law

## Theorem (The first Applicative Functor Law)

• pure f < \*> x = fmap f x

## Some lessons we've skipped

## Defining types

- data will define a new algebraic type
- type creates a type synonym
- newtype creates new types from old types

## Applicative Functor in two ways

#### function left, each argument right

```
:m Control.Applicative
[(+1),(*100),(*5)] <*> [1..3]
1==1
```

[2,3,4,100,200,300,5,10,15]

# function left, every argument right

```
:set +m
:{
instance Applicative ZipList wh
pure x = ZipList (repeat x)
ZipList fs <*> ZipList xs = Zip
:}
  getZipList $ ZipList [(+1),(*
-- getZipList $
-- ZipList [(+1),(*100),(*5)]
-- <*> ZipList [1,2,3]
```

Prelude Control.Applicative | Pr

1==1

## The newtype keyword

#### 'newtype' takes one type and wrap it

to present it as another type

```
newtype ZipList a = ZipList {getZipList :: [a]}
```

• data can have multiple value contstructors

## type vs. newtype vs. data examples

#### 'data' to make new types

Here are additive and multiplicative types with multiple constructors

```
data Profession = Fighter | Archer | Wizard
data Species = Human | Elf | Orc | Goblin
data PlayerCharacter = PlayerCharacter Species Profession
```

## Using newtype to drive typeclass properties

```
newtype
```

```
newtype CharList = CharList {getCharList :: [Char]} deriving(EcharList "this will be shown!"
CharList "benny" == CharList "benny"
CharList "benny" == CharList "oisters"
1==1
CharList {getCharList = "this will be shown!"}
True
False
```

#### Monoid Definition

#### Definition (Monoid definition)

A data type, category or set is a monoid if it has a binary operation • which is associative and has an identity.

```
• \forall a, b, c \in S, (a \bullet b) \bullet c = a \bullet (b \bullet c)
   \bullet e \bullet a = a \bullet e = a
:set +m
: ₹
class Monoid m where
      mempty :: m
      mappend :: m \rightarrow m \rightarrow m
      mconcat :: [m] -> m
      mconcat = foldr mappend mempty
: }
```

#### Monoid functions defined

### Defining the monoid functions

- 'mempty' is just the identity function
- mappend is the binary function
  - it doesn't just append
- mconcat reduces a list of monoid values and reduces them to one by applying mappend

#### Monoid Laws

## Theorem (The Monoid Laws are just the definition in Haskell)

- mappend mempty x = x
- $mappend \times mempty = x$
- mappend (mappend x y) z = mappend x (mappend y z)

## Monoid examples

#### Example (List is a monoid)

- [] with (++) is a monoid
  - id = ""
- Natural numbers with (\*) is a monoid
  - id = 1
- Natural numbers with (+) is a monoid
  - id = 0

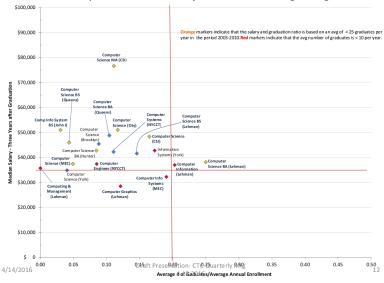
## Why is all of this important to you

- BLS Statistics
- 2015 median salary is \$100,690
- Number of jobs: 1,114,000
- Job growth: 17% (much faster than average)

## From NY State Comptroller's office

- The Technology Sector in New York City 4/2018
- New York State had the third-largest tech sector in the nation in 2016.
- Employment in NYC's tech sector increased by 57% between 2010 and 2016 (46,900 jobs), 3x faster than the rest of the private sector
- The average salary increased 3x faster than the rest of the City's private sector to reach a record \$147,300 by 2016

#### Estimated Median Annual Salary & Graduation Ratio by Academic Major Computer Science-Related Majors in Baccalaureate Degree Programs



## NYC Demographics

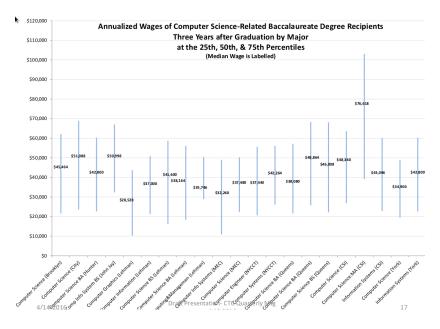
In New York City, 44.6% of the population is white, 25.1% is black, and 11.8% are of Asian descent. Hispanics of any race represent about 27.5% percent of New York City's population

US Census 2018

## NYC Tech Sector does not reflect our diversity

[B]lacks and Latinos constitute 25.1 percent and 27.5 percent of the population, respectively, but only 9 percent and 11 percent, respectively, are employed in the tech sector.

• City Limits: Why is NYC Tech so White?



#### References

- CUNY Student Experience 2016
- NYC Tech is 62% White, 60% male
- NYC Tech Profile
- Why NYC's Growing Tech Sector is so White
- Numbers say New York's tech boom is real
- Will Silicon Alley Be the Next Silicon Valley?
- The Technology Sector in New York City
- NYC Population
- CUNY 2x Initiative
- Peter Drake's Prog Lang Course Materials
- http://learnyouahaskell.com/

