

Exploring type-directed, test-driven development

A case study using FizzBuzz

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Abstract

An expressive static type system is one of the most joyful and powerful tools for prototyping, designing, and maintaining programs. In this performance-theatrical presentation, I will provide a taste of how to use types, in conjunction with tests, to drive iterative development of a particular program, the famous FizzBuzz problem. We will solve generalizations of this problem, changing and adding requirements, to illustrate the pleasures and benefits of “type thinking”.

The Scala language will be used as the vehicle for this demonstration, but the techniques apply immediately to any industrial-strength statically typed language, such as Haskell, OCaml, F#, Rust, and most recently, Swift.

(Note: this presentation will use live human volunteers to play the roles of various programming concepts.)

Outline

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- Introduction
- Original FizzBuzz
- FizzBuzz 2
- FizzBuzz 3
- Parallel FizzBuzz
- Conclusion

1 Introduction

1.1 Goals

Goals of this presentation

- Give a taste of a *type*-directed, *test*-driven software development process.
 - See testing frameworks in action.
 - See types in action.
- Using `FizzBuzz` because:
 - The basic problem is easy to understand.
 - Modifications will be easy to understand.
 - You will see something surprising and cool!
- Encourage you to explore further.

1.2 Test-driven development (TDD)

What is test-driven development (TDD)?

- First, write a test case.
- Then, write code.
- Rerun the test.
- Repeat.

1.3 Type systems

What is a type system?

- For this presentation: a *syntactic* method for *proving* the absence of certain program behaviors.
- Versus: runtime tag system.

“Debating” types “versus” tests?
- Let’s not argue.
- Let’s use both!

1.4 Crappy versus decent type systems

Crappy versus decent type systems

- Archaic *1960s-1970s*-era type systems give types a bad reputation!
 - C, C++, Objective C
 - Java
- “Modern” *1980s-1990s*-era type systems.
 - ML (**Standard ML**, **OCaml**, **F#**): I first used in 1994 (20 years ago)
 - **Haskell**: I first used in 1995
 - **Scala**: first released in 2004
 - **Rust**: not yet version 1.0
 - **Swift**: announced by Apple on June 2, 2014!

2 The original FizzBuzz problem

2.1 Original FizzBuzz problem statement

Original FizzBuzz problem statement

Write a program that prints the numbers from 1 to 100. But for multiples of three, print “Fizz” instead of the number. And for the multiples of five, print “Buzz”. For numbers which are multiples of both three and five, print “FizzBuzz”.

2.2 Starter Scala code: main driver

Starter Scala code: main driver



Let’s use Scala, a modern *object-oriented* and *functional* language.

```
object Main extends App {  
  // Will not compile yet!  
  runToSeq(1, 100).foreach(println)  
}
```

- Type-directed design: separate out effects (such as printing to terminal) from the real work.
- Type-directed feedback: compilation fails when something is not implemented yet.

2.3 The joys of continuous compilation and testing

The joys of continuous compilation and testing



Let's use **SBT**, a build tool supporting Scala, Java, etc.

- Source file changes trigger smart recompilation!
- Source file changes trigger rerun of the tests that depend on changed code!

```
$ sbt
> ~testQuick
[info] Compiling 1 Scala source to ...
[error] ...Main.scala:16: not found: value runToSeq
[error]   runToSeq(1, 100) foreach println
[error]   ^
[error] one error found
[error] (compile:compile) Compilation failed
```

Fix compilation error using stub

```
object Main extends App {
  runToSeq(1, 100) foreach println

  def runToSeq(start: Int, end: Int): Seq[String] = {
    ???
  }
}
```

- Write desired type signature.
- ??? is super-convenient for stubbing.
 - From Scala standard library.
 - Just does `throw new NotImplementedError`.

2.4 Acceptance test (simplified)

Acceptance test (simplified)



Let's use **specs2**, a popular testing framework for Scala, Java, etc.

```
class MainSpec extends Specification { def is = s2"""
  ${Main.runToSeq(1, 16) ==== 'strings for 1 to 16'}
  """

  val 'strings for 1 to 16' = Seq(
    "1", "2", "Fizz", "4", "Buzz", "Fizz",
    "7", "8", "Fizz", "Buzz", "11", "Fizz",
    "13", "14", "FizzBuzz", "16"
  )
}
```

- A realistic acceptance test would involve I/O.
- Omitted in presentation to save time.

The test compiles, but fails

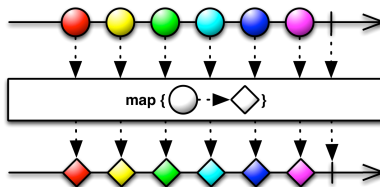
- Save brand new source file `MainSpec.scala`.
- Incremental compilation/testing continues.

```
Waiting for source changes... (press enter to interrupt)
[info] MainSpec
[info]   x Main.runToSeq(1, 16) ==== 'strings for 1 to 16
[error]   an implementation is missing (Main.scala:19)
```

Outside-in: toward a `FizzBuzz` unit

Use types to assemble code like shapes in a jigsaw puzzle:

```
def runToSeq(start: Int, end: Int): Seq[String] = {
  (start to end) map FizzBuzz.evaluate
}
```



- `(start to end): Seq[Int]`, where `Seq[_]` is a *type constructor* that, given a type `A`, returns a type of `Seq[A]`.
- For any value of type `Seq[A]`, `map: (A => B) => Seq[B]`.
- So, we need to implement `FizzBuzz.evaluate: Int => String`.

2.5 Test-driven units

Starting the FizzBuzz module

```
object FizzBuzz {  
  type Evaluator = Int => String  
  
  val evaluate: Evaluator = { i =>  
    ???  
  }  
}
```

- Acceptance test drives need for units.
- Outside-in implementation drives discovery of a type: `Int => String`.
- I like to write *type synonyms* as *documentation*:
 - `type FizzBuzzer = Int => String`.
 - I dislike *comments*. Comments are not executable and checkable, unlike types and tests.

First unit tests: example-based

```
class FizzBuzzSpec extends Specification { def is = s2"""  
  ${FizzBuzz.evaluate(15) ==== "FizzBuzz"}  
  ${FizzBuzz.evaluate(20) ==== "Buzz"}  
  ${FizzBuzz.evaluate(6) ==== "Fizz"}  
  ${FizzBuzz.evaluate(17) ==== "17"}  
  """  
}
```

2.6 Property-based tests

The joy of property-based tests



Let's use `ScalaCheck` to write *property-based* tests.

```
class FizzBuzzSpec extends Specification  
  with ScalaCheck { def is = s2"""  
    ${'Multiple of both 3 and 5 => "FizzBuzz"'}  
    """  
  
    def 'Multiple of both 3 and 5 => "FizzBuzz"' =  
      prop { i: Int => (i % 3 == 0 && i % 5 == 0) ==>  
        { FizzBuzz.evaluate(i) ==== "FizzBuzz" }  
      }  
  }
```

- *Type-driven*: here, random `Int` values are generated.
- Automatically randomly generates tests for each property (defaults to 100).

Property-based tests, continued

The other three cases of interest:

```
def 'Multiple of only 3 => "Fizz"' =
  prop { i: Int => (i % 3 == 0 && i % 5 != 0) ==>
    { FizzBuzz.evaluate(i) ==== "Fizz" }
}

def 'Multiple of only 5 => "Buzz"' =
  prop { i: Int => (i % 3 != 0 && i % 5 == 0) ==>
    { FizzBuzz.evaluate(i) ==== "Buzz" }
}

def 'Not a multiple of either 3 or 5 => number' =
  prop { i: Int => (i % 3 != 0 && i % 5 != 0) ==>
    { FizzBuzz.evaluate(i) ==== i.toString }
}
```

2.7 Solving the FizzBuzz problem

A wrong and ugly solution

```
// Buggy and ugly!
val evaluate: Evaluator = { i =>
  if (i % 3 == 0)
    "Fizz"
  else if (i % 5 == 0)
    "Buzz"
  else if (i % 3 == 0 && i % 5 == 0)
    "FizzBuzz"
  else
    i.toString
}

[info] FizzBuzzSpec
[info]   x FizzBuzz.evaluate(15) ==== "FizzBuzz"
[error]   'Fizz' is not equal to 'FizzBuzz'
        (FizzBuzzSpec.scala:14)
```

Booleans are evil!

The “maze of twisty little conditionals, all different”.

- Conditions can be arbitrary: depend on *any* combination of data.
- A computation leading to a Boolean value by essence **loses information about the original data**.
- Multiple conditions: combinatorial explosion (two conditions led to four cases).
- Possibly overlapping conditions: order dependency subtleties.
- Possibly duplicated checking of the some condition.
- **No help from type system to catch wrongly written sets of nested, combined conditionals.**

Pattern matching organizes information

```
val evaluate: Evaluator = { i =>
  (i % 3 == 0, i % 5 == 0) match {
    case (true, false) => "Fizz"
    case (false, true)  => "Buzz"
    case (true, true)   => "FizzBuzz"
    case (false, false) => i.toString
  }
}
```

- Visual *beauty* and clarity.
- No ordering dependency.
- No overlapping.
- No duplicated conditionals.
- *Type checker* verifies *full coverage* of cases.

Example of non-exhaustive pattern matching

```
val evaluate: Evaluator = { i =>
  (i % 3 == 0, i % 5 == 0) match {
    case (true, false) => "Fizz"
    case (false, true)  => "Buzz"
    case (true, true)   => "FizzBuzz"
  }
}
```

```
[warn] ...FizzBuzz.scala:46: match may not be exhaustive.
[warn] It would fail on the following input: (false, false)
[warn]      (i % 3 == 0, i % 5 == 0) match {
[warn]      ^
```


Acceptance test passed, finally

```
[info] MainSpec
[info]   + Main.runToSeq(1, 16) ==== 'strings for 1 to 16
```

Are we done?

3 FizzBuzz 2: allow configuration

3.1 Adding new features

Adding new features

Client was pleased with our FizzBuzz solution.

In the real world, we are never “done”. Client wants to:

- Specify two *arbitrary* divisors in place of 3 and 5 (such as 4 and 7).
- Specify other *arbitrary* words in place of "Fizz" and "Buzz" (such as "Moo" and "Quack").

3.2 Type-driven refactoring

Type-driven refactoring

Types make refactoring much more fun.

- Add *new* tests.
- Change types and code enough to make the new tests *type check*.
- *Refactor* the original code to use the new APIs.
- Keep passing the *old* tests.

More features means more types

Change `Main.runToSeq` driver:

```
def runToSeq(start: Int, end: Int): Seq[String] = {
  (start to end) map Defaults.fizzBuzzer
}
```

Add new types to `FizzBuzz` module:

```
type Evaluator = Int => String
case class Config(pair1: (Int, String),
                  pair2: (Int, String))
type Compiler = Config => Evaluator

val compile: Compiler = {
  case Config((divisor1, word1), (divisor2, word2)) =>
```

```

    { i =>
      ???
    }
  }
}

```

Extract original default configuration

```

object Defaults {
  val fizzBuzzerConfig: Config =
    Config(3 -> "Fizz", 5 -> "Buzz")

  val fizzBuzzer: Evaluator =
    FizzBuzz.compile(fizzBuzzerConfig)

  // Useful to keep old implementation
  val oldFizzBuzzer: Evaluator = { i =>
    (i % 3 == 0, i % 5 == 0) match {
      case (true, false) => "Fizz"
      case (false, true) => "Buzz"
      case (true, true) => "FizzBuzz"
      case (false, false) => i.toString
    }
  }
}

```

More types means more tests

A property-based test over *arbitrary* user configurations:

```

val arbitraryConfig: Arbitrary[Config] =
  Arbitrary { for {
    (d1, d2, w1, w2) <-
      arbitrary[(Int, Int, String, String)]
  } yield Config(d1 -> w1, d2 -> w2)
}

def 'Arbitrary pair of divisors: divisible by first' =
  arbitraryConfig { config: Config =>
    val runner = FizzBuzz.compile(config)
    val Config((d1, w1), (d2, _)) = config
    prop { i: Int =>
      (i % d1 == 0 && i % d2 != 0) ==>
        { runner(i) == w1 }
    }
  }
}

```

3.3 Refining types

Our config type was too coarse

```
[info]    ! Arbitrary divisor/word pair fizzBuzzers
[error]   ArithmeticException: :
          A counter-example is 'Config((0,),(0,))':
          java.lang.ArithmeticException: / by zero
          (after 0 try) (FizzBuzzSpec.scala:58)
```

- 0 as a divisor *crashes!*
- Discovery of client's *underspecification*.
- We talk to client: client meant only divisors within 2 and 100.

Need to:

- Incorporate runtime *validation* when constructing `Config`.
- Correct our random `Config` generator.

Add runtime validation

(Quick and dirty) *runtime* precondition checking using Scala standard library throwing an *exception* (yuck).

```
val DIVISOR_MIN = 2
val DIVISOR_MAX = 100

def validatePair(pair: (Int, String)) = pair match {
  case (d, _) =>
    require(d >= DIVISOR_MIN,
      s"divisor $d must be >= $DIVISOR_MIN")
    require(d <= DIVISOR_MAX,
      s"divisor $d must be <= $DIVISOR_MAX")
}

case class Config(pair1: (Int, String),
  pair2: (Int, String)) {
  validatePair(pair1); validatePair(pair2)
}
```

More notes on validation

- (No time to cover): in real life, prefer type-based solution such as *Scalaz validation*.
- Note: there are languages with more powerful type systems (*dependent type system*), such as *Idris*, that enable defining and checking more precise types (such as “integer within 2 and 100”).

- Heartbleed could have been prevented by coding in the systems language ATS.
- Do not use a weaker type system as an *excuse* not to write tedious validation code or tests!
 - Heartbleed could have been prevented using good validation and testing practices.

Improve random config generator

```
val arbitraryConfig: Arbitrary[Config] =
  Arbitrary {
    for {
      d1 <- choose(DIVISOR_MIN, DIVISOR_MAX)
      d2 <- choose(DIVISOR_MIN, DIVISOR_MAX)
      w1 <- arbitrary[String]
      w2 <- arbitrary[String]
    } yield Config(d1 -> w1, d2 -> w2)
  }
```

New test runs further, stills fails

Now refactor old code to `FizzBuzz.compile`:

```
val compile: Compiler = {
  case Config((d1, w1), (d2, w2)) =>
    // Precompute, hence "compiler".
    val w = w1 + w2
    // Return an Evaluator.
    { i =>
      (i % d1 == 0, i % d2 == 0) match {
        case (true, false) => w1
        case (false, true) => w2
        case (true, true) => w
        case (false, false) => i.toString
      }
    }
}
```

- Old tests now succeed.
- New test also succeeds.

4 FizzBuzz 3: FizzBuzzPop

4.1 Generalizing to more than two divisors

Generalizing to more than two divisors

Our client wants us to support `FizzBuzzPop`:

- Specify three divisors, such as 3, 5, 7.
- Print a string combining segments of three words, such as `"Fizz"`, `"Buzz"`, `"Pop"`; or a numerical string if an integer is not a multiple of any of 3, 5, 7.
- Still get to choose the three words.
- Example: 21 should output `"FizzPop"`.

How to refactor to support `FizzBuzzPop`?

Thought-driven development

Software development is not primarily about *coding*, but *thinking*.

- Deep fact: solving a more general problem is often easier than solving the specific problem.
- There are four important numbers in the Universe:
 - 0 emptiness
 - 1 existence
 - 2 other (relationship)
 - many community

4.2 More features means more types (again)

More features means more types (again)

Write new tests for a proposed `Defaults.fizzBuzzPopper`:

```
def is = s2"""
${Defaults.fizzBuzzPopper(2) ==== "2"}
${Defaults.fizzBuzzPopper(21) ==== "FizzPop"}
${Defaults.fizzBuzzPopper(9) ==== "Fizz"}
${Defaults.fizzBuzzPopper(7) ==== "Pop"}
${Defaults.fizzBuzzPopper(35) ==== "BuzzPop"}
"""
```

Add `Defaults.fizzBuzzPopper`:

```
val fizzBuzzPopperConfig: Config =
  Config(Seq(
    3 -> "Fizz", 5 -> "Buzz", 7 -> "Pop"
  ))

val fizzBuzzPopper: Evaluator =
  FizzBuzz.compile(fizzBuzzPopperConfig)
```

Test-driven type refactoring (again)

```
[error] ...Defaults.scala:29: not enough arguments for
method apply:
  (pair1: (Int, String), pair2: (Int, String))
  com.franklinchen.FizzBuzz.Config in object Config
[error] Unspecified value parameter pair2.
[error]       Config(Seq(
[error]                ^
```

Change *type* `Config` to allow a sequence of pairs rather than just two:

```
case class Config(pairs: Seq[(Int, String)]) {
  pairs foreach validatePair
}
```

Note how our iterative development process promotes *reuse* (here, of validation logic).

Fix remaining type errors

Most significant required change reveals the unimplemented case of more than two divisors:

```
val compile: Compiler = {
  case Config(Seq((d1, w1), (d2, w2))) =>
    val w = w1 + w2

    { i =>
      (i % d1 == 0, i % d2 == 0) match {
        case (true, false) => w1
        case (false, true) => w2
        case (true, true)  => w
        case (false, false) => i.toString
      }
    }
  case _ => // TODO handle more than 2
    { i => ??? }
}
```

General observations

- Return a sum of a subset of the configured words, if there is any divisor match.
- If there is *no* divisor match, return the numerical string.

More computation equals more types

- Each potential divisor (such as 3, 5, or 7 in FizzBuzzPop) should result in a *rule* that can be applied to any input number to get a string.
- Once we have a bunch of rules, we can apply them all to the input, then combine the partial results.

```
type Rule = Int => String

val buildRule: ((Int, String)) => Rule = {
  case (n, word) => { i =>
    if (i % n == 0)
      word
    else
      ""
  }
}
```

4.3 Demo

Demo time

Demo time!

Volunteers, please step up to demonstrate FizzBuzzPop!

Jigsaw puzzle time again

```
type Evaluator = Int => String
type Compiler = Config => Evaluator
type Rule = Int => String
val compile: Compiler = { case Config(pairs) =>
  // Precompute, hence "compiler".
  val rules: Seq[Rule] = pairs map buildRule
  // Return an Evaluator.
  { i =>
    val words: Seq[String] = rules map { rule => rule(i) }
    val combinedWords: String = words.mkString
    if (combinedWords.isEmpty)
      i.toString
    else
      combinedWords
  }
}
```

Test failure reflecting poor use of types

Did you see this coming?

```

nfo]    x Arbitrary pair of divisors: divisible by first
rror]  A counter-example is 'Config(List((8,), (32,)))'
(after 0 try)
rror]  A counter-example is '32405464'
(after 0 try - shrunk ('1150076488' -> '32405464'))
rror]  '32405464' is not equal to ''
(FizzBuzzSpec.scala:71)

```

Property-based testing again shows us the *unexpected*.

- Empty “fizz” and “buzz” words are a strange corner case.
- Unexpected ambiguity:

Intended behavior Output a number only if it has none of the divisors.

Actual behavior 1649349 is divisible by 13 but not 91, yet 1649349 was output.

Why?

4.4 `Option[A]` type

An empty string is *not* equivalent to no string

Presence of something “empty” is *not* equivalent to the absence of something (contrary to how some programming languages work).

Problem Special case condition, testing for an empty string, conflated an empty combined string with “failed to be a multiple at all”.

Solution Add another type!

`Option[A]` type

`Option[A]` is one of two possibilities:

- `None`
- `Some(a)` wraps a value `a` of type `A`.

For example, `Some("")` is not the same as `None`:

```

val fizzFor1029 = Some("")    // multiple of 3
val buzzFor1029 = None        // not multiple of 5
val fizzbuzzFor1029 = Some("") // fizzed ""

val fizzFor2 = None           // not multiple of 3
val buzzFor2 = None           // not multiple of 5
val fizzbuzzFor2 = None       // not multiple of any

```


Cleaning up the types

Change type `Rule`:

```
// old: type Rule = Int => String
type Rule = Int => Option[String]
```

Immediately get type errors:

```
und    : String
quired: Option[String]
      word
      ^

und    : String("")
quired: Option[String]
      ""
      ^

und    : Seq[Option[String]]
quired: Seq[String]
      val words: Seq[String] = rules map { rule => rule(i) }
      ^
```

Fix the type errors

```
val buildRule: ((Int, String)) => Rule = {
  case (n, word) => { i =>
    if (i % n == 0) Some(word) else None
  }
}

val compile: Compiler = { case Config(pairs) =>
  val rules: Seq[Rule] = pairs map buildRule

  { i =>
    val words: Seq[Option[String]] =
      rules map { rule => rule(i) }
    val combinedWords: Option[String] =
      words reduce addOption
    combinedWords.getOrElse i.toString
  }
}
```

Monoids

“Addition” for `Option[String]`:

```
def addOption(a1: Option[String],
              a2: Option[String])
  : Option[String] = (a1, a2) match {
```

```

case (Some(s1), None)      => Some(s1)
case (None,      Some(s2)) => Some(s2)
case (Some(s1), Some(s2)) => Some(s1 + s2)
case (None,      None)    => None
}

```

Monoid:

- There is an identity element.
- There is a binary associative operator.

5 Parallel FizzBuzz

Parallelism

- All code here using *map* can be parallelized; Scala provides high-performance **parallel collections**.
- The place where *reduce* is used can be parallelized because of the monoid property.
- We discovered a theoretical speedup for generalized **FizzBuzz** from $O(n)$ to $O(\log n)$ (subtleties omitted).

Parallelism (code)

```

val parallelCompile: Compiler = {
  case Config(pairs) =>
    val rules = pairs.toArray.
      toPar.
      map(buildRule)

    { i: Int => rules.
      map(rule => rule(i)).
      reduce(addOption).
      getOrElse(i.toString)
    }
}

```

Conclusion

Conclusion

- *Tests* are useful.
- *Types* are useful.

- Tests and types work well together to drive design and program evolution!

All materials for this talk are available at <https://github.com/franklinchen/talk-on-type-directed-tdd-using-fizzbuzz>. The hyperlinks on the slide PDFs are clickable.