# Learn Physics with Functional Programming

Scott N. Walck

Graham Strickland

June 7, 2025

#### 4 Describing Motion

4.2 For  $f(x) = x^3$ , we have  $f'(x) = 3x^2$ , so that the relative error is defined by

$$\operatorname{err}(x,a) = \left| \frac{\frac{f(x+a/2) - f(x-a/2)}{a} - f'(x)}{f'(x)} \right|$$

$$= \left| \frac{\frac{(x+a/2)^3 - (x-a/2)^3}{3x^2} - 3x^2}{3x^2} \right|$$

$$= \left| \frac{[x^3 + (3x^2a)/2 + (3xa^2)/4 + a^3/8]}{-[x^3 - (3x^2a)/2 + (3xa^2)/4 - a^3/8]} - 3x^2 \right|$$

$$= \left| \frac{\frac{3x^2a + a^3/4 - 3x^2a}{a}}{3x^2} \right|$$

$$= \left| \frac{\frac{a^2}{4}}{3x^2} \right|$$

$$= \left| \frac{a^2}{12x^2} \right|$$

$$= \frac{a^2}{12x^2},$$

since  $a^2 \ge 0$  and  $x^2 \ge 0$ .

Thus we have an error of 1 percent if

$$err(x, a) = 0.01$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{a^2}{12x^2} = 0.01$$

$$\Leftrightarrow a^2 = 0.12x^2$$

$$\Leftrightarrow a = |x|\sqrt{0.12}$$

Then, for x = 4, we have

$$a = 4\sqrt{0.12}$$

$$\approx 1.3856406460551018$$

and for x = 0.1, we have

$$a = 0.1\sqrt{0.12}$$
  
  $\approx 3.4641016151377546 \times 10^{-2}$ .

4.3 Suppose we have a function f and independent variable, say x, such that derivative 0.01 f x produces at least a 10 percent error,  $\operatorname{err}(x, \epsilon)$ , compared to the exact derivative, f'(x). Then, we have

$$\operatorname{err}(x,\epsilon) = \operatorname{err}(x,0.01)$$

$$= \left| \frac{\frac{f(x+\epsilon/2) - f(x-\epsilon/2)}{\epsilon} - f'(x)}{f'(x)} \right|$$

$$= \left| \frac{\frac{f(x+0.01/2) - f(x-0.01/2)}{0.01} - f'(x)}{f'(x)} \right|$$

$$= \left| \frac{\frac{f(x+0.005) - f(x-0.005)}{0.01} - f'(x)}{f'(x)} \right|$$

$$> 0.1$$

If we substitute  $\epsilon = 0.01$ ,  $x = \pi \approx 3.141592653589793$ , and  $f(x) = \cos x$  into the above, we have  $f'(x) = -\sin x$ , so that

$$err(x, \epsilon) = err(\pi, 0.01) 
= \left| \frac{\cos(\pi + 0.005) - \cos(\pi - 0.005)}{0.01} + \sin \pi \right| 
\approx 1.0 
\geq 0.1.$$

4.4 We cannot apply our error function in 4.3 to derivative a cos, since it results in division by 0, but at values close to t = 0, we see an initial increase in the error as we move from small values of a which stop increasing as we increase a by multiples of 10 past a = 10.

For the following definition of the error function

```
err :: (R \rightarrow R) \rightarrow (R \rightarrow R) \rightarrow R \rightarrow R \rightarrow R
err f df t a = abs ((derivative a f t - df t) / df t)
```

we have the following output from ghci:

```
ghci> err (\x -> \cos x) (\x -> -\sin x) 0.1 0.01
4.166661374023121e-6
ghci> err (\x -> \cos x) (\x -> -\sin x) 0.1 0.1
4.166145864253412e-4
ghci> err (\x -> \cos x) (\x -> -\sin x) 0.1 1
4.114892279159413e-2
ghci> err (\x -> \cos x) (\x -> -\sin x) 0.1 10
1.191784854932627
ghci> err (\x -> \cos x) (\x -> -\sin x) 0.1 100
1.0052474970740786
ghci> err (\x -> \cos x) (\x -> -\sin x) 0.1 1000
1.000935543610645
ghci> err (\x -> \cos x) (\x -> -\sin x) 0.1 10000
1.000197593287754
ghci> err (x \rightarrow \cos x) (x \rightarrow -\sin x) 0.1 100000
1.0000199968037815
ghci> err (x \rightarrow \cos x) (x \rightarrow -\sin x) 0.1 1000000
0.999999644337597
ghci> err (\x -> \cos x) (\x -> -\sin x) 0.1 10000000
1.000000195308493
```

### 5 Working with Lists

5.4 We have the function range with the following definition in src/Ch05/Range.hs:

range returns a list containing all the integers between the argument (inclusive) and 0 in increasing order, i.e,  $\operatorname{range}(2) = 0, 1, 2$ ,  $\operatorname{range}(-4) = -4, -3, \ldots, 0$ , and  $\operatorname{range}(0) = 0$ .

We demonstrate as follows:

```
ghci> range (-4)
[-4,-3,-2,-1,0]
ghci> range 2
[0,1,2]
```

```
ghci> range (-4)
[-4,-3,-2,-1,0]
ghci> range 0
[0]
```

We have the function null' with the following definition in src/Ch05/Null.hs::

 $5.5~{\tt import~Data.Foldable}$ 

```
null' :: (Foldable t) => t a -> Bool
null' xs = case toList xs of
   [] -> True
   (_ : _) -> False
```

null' returns True if an argument t of type a is empty, otherwise False. Since we are using the Foldable type, we import Data.Foldable.

We demonstrate as follows:

```
ghci> null' []
True
ghci> null' [1, 2, 3]
False
ghci> null' [1..]
False
```

We have the function last' with the following definition in src/Ch05/Last.hs:

5.6 import GHC.Stack (HasCallStack)

```
last' :: HasCallStack => [a] -> a
last' x = head (reverse x)
```

last' returns the last item in an argument with type that implements HasCallStack, an error if the argument is empty, or hangs indefinitely if the variable has infinite length.

We demonstrate as follows:

```
ghci> last' [1, 2, 3]
3
ghci> last' ["check", "mate"]
"mate"
ghci> last' []
*** Exception: Prelude.head: empty list
CallStack (from HasCallStack):
  error, called at libraries/base/GHC/List.hs:1646:3
  in base:GHC.List
```

```
errorEmptyList, called at libraries/base/GHC/List.hs:85:11
  in base:GHC.List
badHead, called at libraries/base/GHC/List.hs:81:28
  in base:GHC.List
head, called at last.hs:4:11 in main:Main
last', called at <interactive>:4:1 in interactive:Ghci3
```

We have the function palindrome with the following definition  ${\tt src/Ch05/Palindrome.hs}$ :

5.7 import Distribution.Simple.Utils

```
palindrome :: String -> Bool
palindrome s = reverse (lowercase s) == lowercase s
```

palindrome uses the function Distribution.Simple.Utils.lowercase to check if the lowercase version of a string is the same as the lowercase version reversed, i.e., is the string a palindrome.

We demonstrate as follows:

```
ghci> palindrome "Radar"
True
ghci> palindrome "MadamImAdam"
True
ghci> palindrome "racecar"
True
ghci> palindrome "dog"
False
```

We find the first five elements of the infinite list  $[9, 1, \ldots]$  as follows:

Thus we see that the first five elements are given by

$$[9, 1, \ldots] = [9, 1, -7, -15, -23, \ldots].$$

5.9 We have the function cycle' with the following definition in src/Ch05/ Cycle.hs:

import GHC.Stack (HasCallStack)

```
cycle' :: forall a. HasCallStack => [a] -> [a]
cycle' xs = concat (repeat xs)
```

cycle' repeats an argument which implements HasCallStack an infinite number of times.

We demonstrate as follows:

```
ghci> take 10 (cycle' [4,7,8])
[4,7,8,4,7,8,4,7,8,4]
ghci> take 10 (cycle' [1])
[1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1]
```

- 5.10 (a) ["hello", 42] is not a valid expression, since it attempts to construct a list from elements of two different types, String and —Int—.
  - (b) ['h', "ello"] is not a valid expression, since it attempts to construct a list from elements of two different types, Char and —String—.
  - (c) ['a', 'b', 'c'] is a valid expression.
  - (d) length ['w', 'h', 'o'] is a valid expression.
  - (e) length "hello" is a valid expression.
  - (f) reverse is a valid expression, even though GHCI cannot print it.
- 5.11 It seems as if an arithmetic sequence will end at the last integer in the sequence before the last element in the constructor if the sequence is an integer sequence.

If it is a floating point sequence, i.e., one of the elements in the constructor was of floating point type, then the last number in the sequence will be the number in the sequence occurring after the last element in the constructor if that last element is further than the midpoint between two elements in the sequence, otherwise it will be the number occurring before.

We demonstrate as follows:

```
ghci> [0,3..7.5]
[0.0,3.0,6.0,9.0]
ghci> [0,3..7.49]
[0.0,3.0,6.0]
ghci> [0,3..7.499999999]
[0.0,3.0,6.0]
ghci > [0,3...7]
[0,3,6]
ghci> [0,3..8]
[0,3,6]
ghci> [0,3..9]
[0,3,6,9]
```

We have the following expression in src/Ch05/GeometricSeries.hs:

5.12 series :: Double series = sum [1.0 / n | n <- [1..100]]used to calculate

$$\sum_{n=1}^{100} \frac{1}{n^2}.$$

Evaluating this in ghci results in the following:

```
ghci> series
    5.187377517639621
     We have the following expression in src/Ch05/Factorial.hs:
5.13 fact :: Integer -> Integer
     fact n = product [1..n]
    used to calculate n!. Evaluating this in ghci results in the following:
    ghci> fact 1
    ghci> fact 2
    ghci> fact 3
    ghci> fact 4
    24
     ghci> fact 5
     120
     We have the following set of functions in src/Ch05/Exponential.hs:
5.14 type R = Double
     expList :: R -> [R]
     expList x = [(1.0 + x / n) ** n | n <- [1 ..]]
     expErr :: R -> R -> R
     expErr x approx = abs (exp x - approx)
    calcMinExpErr :: Int -> R -> R -> Int
    calcMinExpErr n x eps approx =
       if expErr x (expList x !! n) < eps</pre>
         else calcMinExpErr (n + 1) x eps approx
     s approx
    In order to calculate how big n needs to be to get within 1 percent of the
    correct value for x = 1, we have the following:
    ghci> calcMinExpErr 1 1 0.01
    To calculate how big n needs to be to get within 1 percent of the correct
     value for x = 10, we have:
```

ghci> calcMinExpErr 1 10 0.01

This does not return a value within 10 minutes.

5.15 For this question, we update the code in src/Ch05/Exponential.hs to allow us to pass in a different approximation function, in this case the function expSeries and calculate the result. Thus we have

```
type R = Double

expList :: R -> [R]
expList x = [(1.0 + x / n) ** n | n <- [1 ..]]

expSeries :: R -> [R]
expSeries x = [(x ** n) / product [1 .. n] | n <- [1 ..]]

expErr :: R -> R -> R
expErr x approx = abs (exp x - approx)

calcMinExpErr :: Int -> R -> R -> (R -> [R]) -> Int
calcMinExpErr x (approx x !! n) < eps
    then n
    else calcMinExpErr (n + 1) x eps approx
s approx</pre>
```

However, this does not return a result even for x=1 within any reasonable time frame, so these functions must be optimized to produce a result more quickly.

## 6 Higher-Order Functions

6.1 We have the following function definitions in src/Ch06/RockTrajectory.

```
type R = Double

yRock :: R -> R -> R
yRock v0 t = v0 * t - 4.9 * t^2

vRock :: R -> R -> R
vRock v0 t = v0 - 9.8 * t
```

The first corresponds to the equation

$$y = v_0 t - \frac{1}{2}gt^2$$

and the second to

$$v = v_0 - gt.$$

6.2 We have the following

```
ghci> :t take 4
take 4 :: [a] -> [a]
```

We have the following

6.3 ghci> : t map

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

ghci> :t not

not :: Bool -> Bool
ghci> :t map not

map not :: [Bool] -> [Bool]

where not substitutes the type Bool for a and b in the definition of map, so that map not has the type [Bool] -> [Bool].

6.4 We have the following definition in the file src/Ch06/Geq.hs

```
greaterThanOrEq7' n = n >= 7
which we test with
ghci> greaterThanOrEq7' 10
True
ghci> greaterThanOrEq7' 7
```

greaterThanOrEq7' :: Int -> Bool

True
ghci> greaterThanOrEq7' 5

False

We have the following definition in the file src/Ch06/IntStrBool.hs

 $6.5~{\tt import~Data.Char}$ 

The function intStringBool takes an Int n and returns a function that checks if any ASCII character in a string is equivalent to the number n and returns True if it is and False if it does not find a match. We demonstrate as follows

```
ghci> intStringBool 48 "Hello1"
False
ghci> intStringBool 49 "Hello1"
True
```

We have the following definition in the file src/Ch06/Predicate.hs

```
6.6 hasMoreThan6Elements :: [a] -> Bool
hasMoreThan6Elements xs = length xs > 6
which we test with

ghci> hasMoreThan6Elements "Hello, world!"
True
ghci> hasMoreThan6Elements "Hello"
False
ghci> hasMoreThan6Elements [1,2,3,4,5,6]
False
ghci> hasMoreThan6Elements [1,2,3,4,5,6,7]
True
```

The function replicate has the following definition

6.7 ghci> :t replicate
replicate :: Int -> a -> [a]

which indicates that it takes an input of type Int and an input of type a and produces a list of type [a]. The first three examples use types that are concatenated into lists. The fourth example uses the value 'x' of type Char, which when concatenated together 3 times produces a list of Char which is simplified to the equivalent String, since a String is a list of Char.

6.8 We have the following definition in the file src/Ch06/Squares.hs

```
first1000Squares :: [Int]
first1000Squares = take 1000 [x ^ 2 | x <- [1..]]
which we test using
ghci> take 10 first1000Squares
[1,4,9,16,25,36,49,64,81,100]
```

We have the following definition in the file src/Ch06/Repeat.hs

```
6.9 repeat' :: a -> [a]
  repeat' = iterate id
  which we test using

ghci> take 10 (repeat' 'x')
  "xxxxxxxxxx"
```

We have the following definition in the file src/Ch06/Replicate.hs

```
6.10 replicate' :: Int -> a -> [a] replicate' n x = take n (repeat x) which we test using
```

We have the following test using GHCi

- 6.11 ghci> take 10 (iterate (\t -> t + 5) 0) [0,5,10,15,20,25,30,35,40,45]
- 6.12 We have the following definition in the file src/Ch06/Map.hs

which we test using

We have the following definition in the file src/Ch06/Filter.hs

ghci> filter' (
$$n \rightarrow n < 10$$
) [6,4,8,13,7] [6,4,8,7]

6.14 We have the following definition in the file src/Ch06/Average.hs

```
average :: [R] -> R
average xs = sum xs / fromIntegral (length xs)
which we test using
ghci> average [1.0, 2.0, 3.0]
2.0
```

Table 1 explains the two ways of thinking about the higher-order function drop and Table 2 provides the same for replicate:

Way of thinking	Input to drop	Output from drop
One-input thinking	Int	[a] -> [a]
Two-input thinking	<pre>Int and then [a]</pre>	[a]

Table 1: Two Ways of Thinking About the Higher-Order Function drop

Way of thinking	Input to replicate	Output from replicate
One-input thinking	Int	a -> [a]
Two-input thinking	Int and then a	[a]

Table 2: Two Ways of Thinking About the Higher-Order Function replicate

6.16 We have the following definition in the file src/Ch06/TrapezoidalRule.

```
trapSingle :: R \rightarrow (R \rightarrow R) \rightarrow R \rightarrow R
trapSingle dt fn x =
    let dx = dt / 4
     in sum [f * dx |
         f <- [
             0.5 * fn x,
             fn (x + dx),
             fn (x + 2 * dx),
             fn (x + 3 * dx),
             0.5 * fn (x + 4 * dx)
     ]
                              -- # of trapezoids n
trapIntegrate :: Int
               \rightarrow (R \rightarrow R) \rightarrow function f
               -> R
                               -- lower limit a
                               -- upper limit b
               -> R
                               -- result
trapIntegrate n f a b =
    let dt = (b - a) / fromIntegral n
     in sum [trapSingle dt f t | t <- [a, a + dt \dots b - dt]]
which we test using the helper function calcTrapIntegrateErr as follows:
ghci> calcTrapIntegrateErr 1 (\x -> x ^ 3) 0 1 0.001
ghci> calcTrapIntegrateErr 1 (\x -> x ^ 3) 0 1e-6 0.001
ghci> calcTrapIntegrateErr 1 (\x -> exp (-x^2)) 0 1 0.001
```

# 7 Graphing Functions

7.1 We have the following definition in the file src/Ch07/SinPlot.hs

```
sinFunc :: R -> R
```

```
sinFunc = sin
sinPlot :: IO ()
sinPlot =
    plotFunc
        [Key (Just ["noautotitle"])]
        [-10, -9.9 .. 10]
        sinFunc
which we execute using
ghci> :1
Ok, no modules loaded.
ghci> :m
ghci> :1 Ch07.SinPlot
[1 of 1] Compiling Ch07.SinPlot
( src/Ch07/SinPlot.hs, interpreted )
Ok, one module loaded.
ghci> sinPlot
to produce the plot in Figure 1.
```

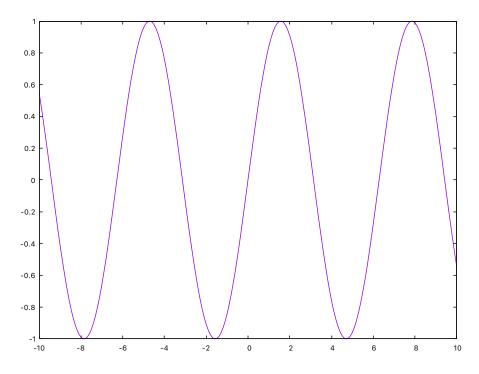


Figure 1: Plot of sin(x) from x = -10 to x = 10

7.2 We have the following definition in the file src/Ch07/PlotYRock30.hs

```
yRock30 :: R -> R
yRock30 t = 30 * t - 0.5 * 9.8 * t ** 2

yRock30Plot :: IO ()
yRock30Plot =
    plotFunc
        [Key (Just ["noautotitle"])]
        [0, 0.1 .. 6]
        yRock30
```

from which we produce the plot in Figure 2.

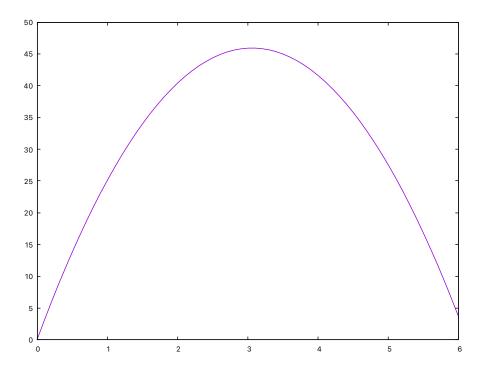


Figure 2: Plot of yRock30 function from t=0 to t=6s

7.3 We have the following definition in the file src/Ch07/PlotYRock30.hs

```
yRock :: R -> R -> R
yRock v0 t = v0 * t - 0.5 * 9.8 * t ** 2
yRock20Plot :: IO ()
yRock20Plot =
```

```
plotFunc
  [Key (Just ["noautotitle"])]
  [0, 0.1 .. 4]
  (yRock 20)
```

from which we produce the plot in Figure 3.

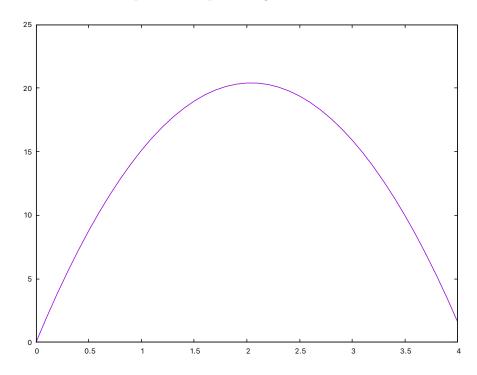


Figure 3: Plot of yRock 20 function from t = 0 to t = 4s

## 8 Type Classes

- 8.1 Yes, for example, the type Float belongs to both Floating and Fractional.
- 8.2 (a) Two functions f and g are equal if and only if they have the same domain and range, and for every element of the domain, they map to the same element of the range, i.e., if  $f: X \to Y$  and  $g: X \to Y$ , then

$$f = g$$
  
$$\Leftrightarrow f(x) = g(x) \forall x \in X.$$

- (b) The computer cannot necessarily compute each element of the domain in a reasonable time to ensure that both functions map each element of the domain to the same element in the range.
- (c) f :: Bool  $a \Rightarrow a \rightarrow a$
- 8.3 No, the function (/2) computes division by 2, while the function (2/) computes division by 2 of another argument, e.g.,  $1/2 \neq 2/1$ .