

Learn Physics with Functional Programming

—
Scott N. Walck

Graham Strickland

April 19, 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

$$\begin{aligned}\text{err}(x, a) &= \left| \frac{\frac{f(x+a/2)-f(x-a/2)}{a} - f'(x)}{f'(x)} \right| \\ &= \left| \frac{\frac{(x+a/2)^3-(x-a/2)^3}{a} - 3x^2}{3x^2} \right| \\ &= \left| \frac{\frac{[x^3 + (3x^2a)/2 + (3xa^2)/4 + a^3/8] - [x^3 - (3x^2a)/2 + (3xa^2)/4 - a^3/8]}{a} - 3x^2}{3x^2} \right| \\ &= \left| \frac{\frac{3x^2a + a^3/4 - 3x^2a}{a}}{3x^2} \right| \\ &= \left| \frac{\frac{a^2}{4}}{3x^2} \right| \\ &= \left| \frac{a^2}{12x^2} \right| \\ &= \frac{a^2}{12x^2},\end{aligned}$$

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

Thus we have an error of 1 percent if

$$\begin{aligned}\text{err}(x, a) &= 0.01 \\ \Leftrightarrow \frac{a^2}{12x^2} &= 0.01 \\ \Leftrightarrow a^2 &= 0.12x^2 \\ \Leftrightarrow a &= |x|\sqrt{0.12}\end{aligned}$$

Then, for $x = 4$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}a &= 4\sqrt{0.12} \\ &\approx 1.3856406460551018\end{aligned}$$

and for $x = 0.1$, we have

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

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, $\text{err}(x, \epsilon)$, compared to the exact derivative, $f'(x)$. Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\text{err}(x, \epsilon) &= \text{err}(x, 0.01) \\ &= \left| \frac{\frac{f(x+\epsilon/2)-f(x-\epsilon/2)}{\epsilon} - f'(x)}{f'(x)} \right| \\ &= \left| \frac{\frac{f(x+0.01/2)-f(x-0.01/2)}{0.01} - f'(x)}{f'(x)} \right| \\ &= \left| \frac{\frac{f(x+0.005)-f(x-0.005)}{0.01} - f'(x)}{f'(x)} \right| \\ &\geq 0.1.\end{aligned}$$

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

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

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 $\pi = 0$, 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 -> R) -> (R -> R) -> R -> R -> 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 -> cos x) (\x -> -sin x) 0.1 100000
1.0000199968037815
ghci> err (\x -> cos x) (\x -> -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 :: Int -> [Int]
range x = if x >= 0
          then [0..x]
          else [x..0]
```

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

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 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 `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, ...]` as follows:

5.8 `ghci> take 5 [9, 1..]`
`[9, 1, -7, -15, -23]`

Thus we see that the first five elements are given by

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

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
1
ghci> fact 2
2
ghci> fact 3
6
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
  then n
  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
134
```

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 n x eps approx =
  if expErr x (approx x !! n) < eps
  then n
  else calcMinExpErr (n + 1) x eps approx
s approx
```

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.hs`

```
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

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

and the second to

$$v = v_0 - g t.$$

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' :: Int -> Bool
greaterThanOrEq7' n = n >= 7
```

which we test with

```
ghci> greaterThanOrEq7' 10
True
ghci> greaterThanOrEq7' 7
True
ghci> greaterThanOrEq7' 5
False
```

We have the following definition in the file `src/ch06/intstrbool.hs`

6.5 `import Data.Char`

```
intStringBool :: Int -> String -> Bool
intStringBool n cs = case cs of
    [] -> False
    (c:cs) -> ord c == n || intStringBool n cs
```

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
```

```
ghci> replicate' 3 'x'  
"xxx"
```

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`

```
map' :: (a -> b) -> [a] -> [b]  
map' fn as = [fn a | a <- as]
```

which we test using

```
ghci> map' sqrt [1,4,9]  
[1.0,2.0,3.0]
```