

Lecture 4: Higher Order Functions

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HIGHER ORDER FUNCTIONS

The order of a function



Definition

- A first order function is a function whose input and output are not functions.
- A function has order n + 1 if its input or output contain a function of maximum order n
- A function with order $n \ge 2$ is a **higher order function**

The order of a function



•
$$f :: Num \ a \Rightarrow a \rightarrow a$$

 $f \ x = x + 5$

What order does this function have?

- is a **first order** function, since neither the input nor the output of the function is a function.
- add :: Num $a \Rightarrow a \rightarrow (a \rightarrow a)$ add x y = x + y

What order does this function have?

- It is a second order function, since it returns a first order function.
- add' :: $Num \ a \Rightarrow (a, a) \rightarrow a$ $add' \ (x, y) = x + y$

What order does this function have?

• It is a **first order** function

Why are higher order functions useful? Why are higher order functions useful?



Let's say that we want to sum all the even numbers in a list. If we have just learned about recursive list algorithms, we would likely end up with a function like

```
sumEvens :: [Int] \rightarrow Int

sumEvens [] = 0

sumEvens (x : xs) | even x = x + sumEvens xs

sumEvens (x : xs) | otherwise = sumEvens xs
```

If later, we are told to sum all the odd numbers as well

```
sumOdds :: [Int] \rightarrow Int

sumOdds [] = 0

sumOdds (x : xs) | odd x = x + sumOdds xs

sumOdds (x : xs) | otherwise = sumOdds xs
```

That's quite a lot of code for a simple problem!

Why are higher order functions useful?



A different approach is to use **higher order functions** from Haskell's standard library, to solve the problem. In this problem we use the higher order function *filter*:

```
sumEvens', sumOdds':: [Int] \rightarrow Int

sumEvens' = sum (filter even xs)

sumOdds' = sum (filter odd xs)
```

Less code to write, and less code to debug.

Why are higher order functions useful?



- A higher-order function can do much more than a "first order" one, because a part of its behaviour can be controlled by the caller.
 - We can replace many similar functions by one higher-order function, parameterised on the differences.
- Common programming idioms can be encoded as functions within the language itself.
- Domain specific languages can be defined as collections of higher-order functions.
- Algebraic properties of higher-order functions can be used to reason about programs.



LAMBDA FUNCTIONS Anonymous functions in Haskell

Lambda functions



The function definition in Haskell:

$$function param = expression$$

is internally represented by a lambda function in the compiler

function =
$$\lambda param \rightarrow expression$$

Above, the ($\lambda param \rightarrow expression$) is a lambda function. It is Haskell's way of defining *anonymous* functions, i.e. functions without a name.

When programming, we write (\param -> expression).

Lambda functions - Multiple parameters SYDDANS (UNIV.)



Several equivalent ways of defining the same function:

$$f :: Num \ a \Rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow a$$

$$f \ x \ y = 2 * x - y$$

$$f \ x = \lambda y \rightarrow 2 * x - y$$

$$f = \lambda x \rightarrow \lambda y \rightarrow 2 * x - y$$

$$f = \lambda x \rightarrow (\lambda y \rightarrow 2 * x - y)$$

$$f = \lambda x y \rightarrow 2 * x - y$$

Pattern matching on tuples is easily done using lambda functions also:

$$g:: Num \ a \rightarrow (a, a) \rightarrow a$$

 $g(x, y) = 2 * x - y$
 $g = \lambda(x, y) \rightarrow 2 * x - y$

Lambda functions - Pattern matching



Consider a function using pattern matching

$$sum [] = 0$$

$$sum (x:xs) = x + sum xs$$

As a lambda-function, we would define it by

$$sum = \lambda a \rightarrow \mathbf{case} \ a \ \mathbf{of}$$

$$[] \qquad \to 0$$

$$(x:xs) \to x + sum \ xs$$

This is also what the compiler does internally

Lambda functions - Guards



If you want guards

$$sign \ n \mid n < 0 = -1$$
$$\mid n \equiv 0 = 0$$
$$\mid otherwise = 1$$

but also want to write it in a lambda function, you can write

$$\begin{array}{l} \textit{sign} = \lambda n \rightarrow \textbf{case} \; () \; \textbf{of} \\ \quad _ \mid n < 0 \; \rightarrow -1 \\ \quad _ \mid n \equiv 0 \rightarrow 0 \\ \quad _ \qquad \rightarrow 1 \end{array}$$

Lambda functions - Local variables



If you want local variables

roots
$$a$$
 b c | d < 0 = []
| $d \equiv 0$ = [$-b$ / ($2*a$)]
| d > 0 = [($-b$ + $sqrt$ d) / ($2*a$), ($-b$ - $sqrt$ d) / ($2*a$)]
where
 $d = b \uparrow 2 - 4*a*c$

you can use **let**-statements:





```
map :: (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow ([a] \rightarrow [b])
map f [] = []
map f(x:xs) = fx:map fxs
map f xs = [f x | x \leftarrow xs]
filter :: (a \rightarrow Bool) \rightarrow ([a] \rightarrow [a])
               =[]
filter p []
filter p(x:xs) \mid px = x: filter pxs
                  | otherwise = filter p xs
                               = [x \mid x \leftarrow xs, p \ x]
filter p xs
concat :: [[a]] \rightarrow [a]
concat[] = []
concat (xs : xss) = xs + concat xss
concat xss = [x \mid xs \leftarrow xss.x \leftarrow xs]
```

Equational reasoning: Identities for map Syddians Universited



map id
$$xs \equiv xs$$

map f (map g xs) \equiv map $(f \circ g)$ xs

where

$$id :: a \rightarrow a$$

 $id x = x$

and

$$(\circ) :: (b \to c) \to (a \to b) \to (a \to c)$$
$$(f \circ g) \ x = f \ (g \ x)$$

map, filter and concat: The basic primitives of list comprehensions

Just 3 functions makes it possible to express every program written using list comprehensions

$$[f \ x \mid x \leftarrow xs] \equiv map \ f \ xs$$

$$[x \mid x \leftarrow xs, p \ x] \equiv filter \ p \ xs$$

$$[e \mid Q, P] \equiv concat \ [[e \mid P] \mid Q]$$

$$[e \mid Q, x \leftarrow [d \mid P]] \equiv [e \ [x := d] \mid Q, P]$$

EXAMPLE 1

```
 [x \mid xs \leftarrow xss, \neg (null \ xs), x \leftarrow xs] 
 \equiv concat [[x \mid x \leftarrow xs] \mid xs \leftarrow xss, \neg (null \ xs)] 
 \equiv concat [xs \mid xs \leftarrow xss, \neg (null \ xs)] 
 \equiv concat (filter (\neg \circ null) \ xss)
```

map, filter and concat: The basic primitives of list comprehensions

Just 3 functions makes it possible to express every program written using list comprehensions

EXAMPLE 2

$$[y \mid xs \leftarrow xss, y \leftarrow [x * x \mid x \leftarrow xs]]$$

$$\equiv [x * x \mid xs \leftarrow xss, x \leftarrow xs]$$

$$\equiv concat [[x * x \mid x \leftarrow xs] \mid xs \leftarrow xss]$$

$$\equiv concat [map square xs \mid xs \leftarrow xss]$$

$$\equiv concat (map (map square) xss)$$

Function composition and function applications

$$(\circ) :: (b \to c) \to (a \to b) \to (a \to c)$$

$$(f \circ g) \ x = f \ (g \ x)$$

$$(\$) :: (a \to b) \to a \to b$$

$$f \$ x = f \ x$$

Identities for map



```
map (f \circ g) \equiv map f \circ map g

map f \circ concat \equiv concat \circ map (map f)

map f (xs + ys) \equiv map f xs + map f ys

map \qquad :: (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow [b]

map \circ map \qquad :: (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow [[a]] \rightarrow [[b]]

map \circ map \circ map :: (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow [[a]] \rightarrow [[b]]
```

Identities for *filter*



```
filter p \circ filter \ q \equiv filter \ q \circ filter \ p

filter p \circ filter \ q \equiv filter \ (\lambda x \to p \ x \land q \ x)

filter p \circ concat \equiv concat \circ map \ (filter \ p)

filter p \ (xs + ys) \equiv (filter \ p \ xs) + (filter \ p \ ys)
```

The constant function *const*



$$const :: a \rightarrow b \rightarrow a$$

 $const x = \setminus \rightarrow x$

Sometimes useful in combination with higher-order functions. The length-function could be defined by

$$length :: [a] \rightarrow Int$$

 $length xs = sum (map (const 1) xs)$

$$length' :: [a] \rightarrow Int$$

 $length' = sum \circ map (const 1)$

The identity function id



$$id :: a \rightarrow a$$

 $id x = x$

Sometimes useful in combination with higher-order functions.

```
or :: [Bool] \rightarrow Bool

or = \neg \circ null \circ filter id
```

```
or [True, False, False] = (\neg \circ (null \circ filter id)) [True, False, False]
= \neg ((null \circ filter id) [True, False, False])
= \neg (null (filter id [True, False, False]))
= \neg (null [True])
= \neg False
= True
```

How would we define and? $and = null \circ filter \neg$

curry, uncurry, flip



- *curry* converts a function on pairs to a curried function.
- *uncurry* converts a curried function to a function on pairs.
- *flip* flips the arguments of a function

curry
$$:: ((a,b) \to c) \to (a \to b \to c)$$

curry $f \times y = f(x,y)$
uncurry $:: (a \to b \to c) \to ((a,b) \to c)$
uncurry $f(x,y) = f \times y$
flip $:: (b \to a \to c) \to (a \to b \to c)$
flip $f \circ a \circ b = f \circ b \circ a$

We could have defined

$$zipWith f xs ys = map (uncurry f) (zip xs ys)$$

Puzzle for the break



Use only the functions above to define a function

$$swap :: (a,b) \rightarrow (b,a)$$

 $swap = ???$

Solution: (uncurry (flip (curry id)))



FOLD AND UNFOLD

Abstract away recursion



```
[] + ys = ys
                                          (x1:(x2:(x3:[]))) + ys
(x:xs) + ys = x:(xs + ys)
                                        \equiv x1:(x2:(x3:ys))
concat[] = []
                                          concat (x1:(x2:(x3:[])))
concat(xs:xss) = xs + concat xss
                                        \equiv x1 + (x2 + (x3 + []))
and [] = True
                                          and (x1:(x2:(x3:[])))
and (x:xs) = x \land and xs
                                        = x1 \wedge (x2 \wedge (x3 \wedge True))
length[] = 0
                                       length (x1:(x2:(x3:[])))
length(x:xs) = 1 + length xs
                                        \equiv 1 + (1 + (1 + []))
reverse [] = []
                                       reverse (x1:(x2:(x3:[])))
reverse (x : xs) = reverse xs + [x]
                                        \equiv (([] + [x3]) + [x2]) + [x1]
```

Abstract away recursion



$$[] + ys = ys$$

(x:xs) + ys = x:(xs + ys)

$$concat[] = []$$

 $concat(xs:xss) = xs + concatxss$

and []
$$=$$
 True and $(x:xs)$ $=$ $x \land$ and xs

$$length[] = 0$$

 $length(x:xs) = 1 + length(xs)$

reverse
$$[]$$
 = $[]$
reverse $(x:xs)$ = reverse $xs + [x]$

In general, all of the functions mentioned here are of the form

$$h[] = e$$

 $h(x:xs) = x \oplus h xs$

where e is an expression and \oplus is some binary operator. The result directly follows the structure of the list:

$$h (x1:(x2:(x3:[])))$$

= $(x1 \oplus (x2 \oplus (x3 \oplus e))))$

Abstract away recursion



In general, all of the functions mentioned here are of the form

$$[] + ys = ys$$

$$(x:xs) + ys = x:(xs + ys)$$

$$concat [] = []$$

$$concat (xs:xss) = xs + concat xss$$

and [] = True
and
$$(x:xs) = x \land and xs$$

$$length[] = 0$$

 $length(x:xs) = 1 + length xs$

reverse [] = []
reverse
$$(x:xs) = reverse xs + [x]$$

$$h[] = e$$

 $h(x:xs) = x \oplus h xs$

where e is an expression and \oplus is some binary operator.

What is e and \oplus for each of the functions on the left?

•
$$(++)$$
 :: $[a] \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow [a]$

•
$$concat :: [[a]] \rightarrow [a]$$

• and ::
$$[Bool] \rightarrow Bool$$

•
$$length :: [a] \rightarrow Int$$

• reverse ::
$$[a] \rightarrow [a]$$

foldr to the rescue



$$foldr :: (a \to b \to b) \to b \to [a] \to b$$

$$foldr f z [] = z$$

$$foldr f z (x : xs) = f x (foldr f z xs)$$

$$foldr (\oplus) e [x1, x2, x3] \equiv x1 \oplus (x2 \oplus (x3 \oplus e))$$

The functions from before become:

$$xs + ys = foldr$$
 (:) $ys xs$
 $concat xss = foldr$ (++) [] xss
 $and xs = foldr$ (\wedge) $True xs$
 $length xs = foldr$ ($const$ (1+)) 0 xs
 $reverse xs = foldr$ ($\lambda x ys \rightarrow ys + + [x]$) [] xs

Fixing reverse



Recall, that we last time defined

```
reverse :: [a] \rightarrow [a]

reverse [] = []

reverse (x : xs) = reverse \ xs + [x]
```

and that it used $O(n^2)$ reductions, due to the fact that there are n applications of (+), where the i'th application consists of i reductions.



Fixing reverse

Now we propose a new solution which avoids (#):

```
reverse :: [a] \rightarrow [a]
reverse xs = reverse' xs []
  where
     reverse'[] ys = ys
     reverse'(x:xs) ys = reverse'xs(x:ys)
reverse [1,2,3] \equiv reverse' [1,2,3] []
                  \equiv reverse' [2,3] [1]
                  \equiv reverse' [3] [2,1]
                  \equiv reverse' [] [3,2,1]
                  \equiv [3, 2, 1]
```

O(n) reductions!

Introducing foldl



We want to generalize the concept of recursive function on lists, which use an accumulating parameter. This is all functions which have the following structure:

$$h [] acc = acc$$

 $h (x : xs) acc = h xs (acc \oplus x)$

for some some binary operation \oplus and a value e. Execution results in evaluation:

$$h[x1, x2, x3] e \equiv ((e \oplus x1) \oplus x2) \oplus x3$$

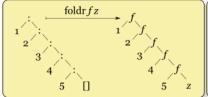
Introducing foldl

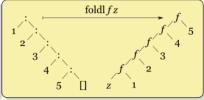


foldr::
$$(a \rightarrow b \rightarrow b) \rightarrow b \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow b$$

foldr f z [] = z
foldr f z (x:xs) = f x (foldr f z xs)
foldl:: $(a \rightarrow b \rightarrow a) \rightarrow a \rightarrow [b] \rightarrow a$
foldl f z [] = z
foldl f z (x:xs) = foldl f (f z x) xs

foldr
$$(\oplus)$$
 e $[x1, x2, x3] \equiv x1 \oplus (x2 \oplus (x3 \oplus e))$
foldl (\oplus) e $[x1, x2, x3] \equiv ((e \oplus x1) \oplus x2) \oplus x3$





Examples



```
reverse xs = foldl (flip (:)) [] xs

sum xs = foldl (+) 0 xs

product xs = foldl (*) 1 xs

maximum [] = error "Empty list"

maximum (x:xs) = foldl max x xs
```

Functions using folds and their time complexities

	f	z	foldl	foldr
reverse xs	$flip (:) :: [a] \rightarrow a \rightarrow [a]$	[]	O(n)	-
reverse xs	$(\lambda x \ z \to z + [x]) :: a \to [a] \to [a]$	[]	-	$O(n^2)$
sum xs	$(+)$:: Num $a \Rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow a$	0	<i>O</i> (<i>n</i>)	O(n)
product xs	$(*)$:: Num $a \Rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow a$	1	O(n)	O(n)
maximum (x:xs)	$max :: Ord \ a \Rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow a$	x	O(n)	O(n)
minimum (x:xs)	$min :: Ord \ a \Rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow a$	\boldsymbol{x}	O(n)	O(n)
xs + ys	$(:)::a\to [a]\to [a]$	ys	-	O(n)
concat xss	$(++) :: [a] \to [a] \to [a]$	[]	$O(m^2n)$	$O(mn)^1$
length xs	$const\ (1+) :: a \to Int \to Int$	0	-	<i>O</i> (<i>n</i>)
and xs	$(\land) :: Bool \rightarrow Bool \rightarrow Bool$	True	O(n)	$O(i)^2$
or xs	(\vee) :: $Bool \rightarrow Bool \rightarrow Bool$	False	O(n)	$O(i)^3$

 $^{^{1}}m$ is length of xss, n is length of sublists

²*i* is index of first *False* occurence

³*i* is index of first *True* occurence

Elaboration on concat



concat
$$[x1, x2 ... xn] \equiv foldl (++) [] [x1, x2 ... xn]$$

 $\equiv (...([] ++ x1) ++ x2) ++ ...) ++ xn$

(#+) runs over all preceding lists when appending a new list! $\rightarrow O(m^2n)$.

concat
$$[x1, x2 ... xn] \equiv foldr (++) [] [x1, x2 ... xn]$$

 $\equiv x1 + (x2 + (...(xn ++ [])))$

This one only runs through each sublist once. $\rightarrow O(mn)$.

First duality theorem



Suppose \oplus is associative with unit e. Then

$$foldr (\oplus) e xs = foldl (\oplus) e xs$$

for all finite lists xs. **Examples:**

$$sum = foldl (+) 0$$

 $and = foldl (\land) True$
 $concat = foldl (++) []$

So: In this case, *foldr* and *foldl* gives the same result, but their performance characteristics might differ!

A type with such operations + and e is called a **Monoid**, and in Haskell, there is a corresponding type class.

How would map look like for Tree a?



Recall that for Lists, we write a *map* function like this:

```
data List a = Nil \mid Cons \ a \ (List \ a)
listMap :: (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow List \ a \rightarrow List \ b
listMap f Nil
                  = Nil
listMap\ f\ (Cons\ x\ xs) = Cons\ (f\ x)\ (listMap\ f\ xs)
data Tree a = Nil \mid Node \ a \ (Tree \ a) \ (Tree \ a)
treeMap :: (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow Tree \ a \rightarrow Tree \ b
treeMap f Nil
                  = Nil
treeMap\ f\ (Node\ x\ l\ r) = Node\ (f\ x)\ (treeMap\ f\ l)\ (treeMap\ f\ r)
instance (Functor Tree) where
  fmap f Nil
                  = Nil
  fmap \ f \ (Node \ x \ l \ r) = Node \ (f \ x) \ (fmap \ f \ l) \ (fmap \ f \ r)
```





class Functor
$$f$$
 where $fmap :: (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow f \ a \rightarrow f \ b$

Note that *f* in the above should be a *type constructor*. Every functor *F* should satisfy the Functor laws:

$$fmap id \equiv id$$

$$fmap (f \circ g) \equiv fmap f \circ fmap g$$

More examples:

instance
$$Functor((,) a)$$
 where $fmap f(x,y) = (x,f y)$ instance $Functor(Maybe)$ where $fmap f(Nothing = Nothing fmap f(Just(x) = Just(f(x))$

Unfolding



$$unfoldr :: (b \rightarrow Maybe (a, b)) \rightarrow b \rightarrow [a]$$

The *unfoldr* function is a 'dual' to *foldr*: While *foldr* reduces a list to a summary value, *unfoldr* builds a list from a seed value.

- The function takes the element and
 - returns Nothing if it is done producing the list or
 - returns Just(a,b), in which case, a is a prepended to the list and b is used as the next element in a recursive call.

unfoldr example: digits



$$unfoldr :: (b \rightarrow Maybe (a, b)) \rightarrow b \rightarrow [a]$$

In the first lecture, we saw

```
digits :: Integer \rightarrow [Integer]
digits n
\mid n \equiv 0 = []
\mid otherwise = n 'mod' 10 : digits (n 'div' 10)
```

This function corresponds to an "unfoldr" of the number, namely

```
digits = unfoldr \ (\lambda n \rightarrow \mathbf{case} \ n \ \mathbf{of} \ 0 \rightarrow Nothing \ \_ \rightarrow Just \ (n \ 'mod' \ 10, n \ 'div' \ 10)
```





```
unfoldr :: (b \rightarrow Maybe\ (a,b)) \rightarrow b \rightarrow [a]

digits :: Integer \rightarrow [Integer]

digits = unfoldr (\lambda n \rightarrow \mathbf{case}\ n\ \mathbf{of}
0 \rightarrow Nothing
_- \rightarrow Just\ (n\ 'mod'\ 10, n\ 'div'\ 10)
```

In this case, we can fold/unfold back and forth:

digits 1337
$$\equiv [7,3,3,1]$$

foldr $(\lambda x \ y \rightarrow x + 10 * y) \ 0 \ [7,3,3,1] \equiv 1337$

Discovering variants of the fold function working variants of the fold function



Recall the type

$$foldr :: (a \rightarrow b \rightarrow b) \rightarrow b \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow b$$

We could have given foldr a similar type to unfoldr.
 To give it a different name, the fold function is here named cata (short for catamorphism - the general name for folds over algebraic data types)

unfoldr ::
$$(b \rightarrow Maybe\ (a,b)) \rightarrow (b \rightarrow [a])$$

cata :: $(Maybe\ (a,b) \rightarrow b) \rightarrow ([a] \rightarrow b)$

where e.g. foldr (+) 0 would correspond to cata plus with

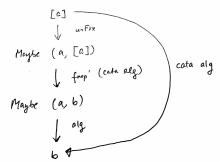
$$plus\ Nothing = 0$$

 $plus\ (Just\ (x,y)) = x + y$

Discovering variants of the fold function with the state of the s



```
unFix :: [a] \rightarrow Maybe (a, [a])
unFix [] = Nothing
unFix (x : xs) = Just (x, xs)
fmap' :: (b \rightarrow b') \rightarrow (Maybe (a, b) \rightarrow Maybe (a, b'))
fmap' = fmap \circ fmap
cata :: (Maybe (a, b) \rightarrow b) \rightarrow ([a] \rightarrow b)
cata \ alg = \ alg \circ fmap' (cata \ alg) \circ unFix
```



Discovering variants of the fold function SUDDANS UNIT



In general, for a recursive algebraic datatype - e.g.

$$data \ List \ a = Nil \mid Cons \ a \ (List \ a)$$

we can associate a non-recursive variant, by introducing an extra type parameter:

data
$$ListF \ a \ b = NilF \ | \ ConsF \ a \ b$$

The fold-function would then be of the type

$$cata :: (ListF \ a \ b \rightarrow b) \rightarrow (List \ a \rightarrow b)$$

The types $ListF\ a\ b$ and $Maybe\ (a,b)$ are isomorphic.

- Nothing corresponds to NilF
- *Just* (*x*, *y*) corresponds to *ConsF x y*

Complete example of "general" fold on lists

```
data ListF \ a \ b = NilF \mid ConsF \ a \ b
data List a = Nil \mid Cons \ a \ (List \ a)
unFix :: List \ a \rightarrow ListF \ a \ (List \ a)
unFix Nil = NilF
unFix (Cons x xs) = ConsF x xs
instance Functor (ListF a) where
  fmap \ \_NilF = NilF
  fmap \ f \ (ConsF \ x \ xs) = ConsF \ x \ (f \ xs)
cata :: (ListF \ a \ b \rightarrow b) \rightarrow (List \ a \rightarrow b)
cata alg = alg \circ fmap (cata alg) \circ unFix
```

Final example



```
data ListF \ a \ b = NilF \ | \ ConsF \ a \ b
newtype Fix f = Fx (f (Fix f))
type List a = Fix (ListF a)
unFix :: Fix f \rightarrow f (Fix f)
unFix (Fx x) = x
instance Functor (ListF a) where
  fmap \ \_NilF = NilF
  fmap \ f \ (ConsF \ x \ xs) = ConsF \ x \ (f \ xs)
cata :: (ListF a b \rightarrow b) \rightarrow (List a \rightarrow b)
cata alg = alg \circ fmap (cata alg) \circ unFix
```