

# Scrabble assignment

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**The project is to be done in groups of at least two or at most three (unless you are eligible from a previous year in which case you may only work with other already eligible people).**

This project revolves around creating a program capable of playing Scrabble according to the [official scrabble tournament rules](#). Before you start you should familiarise yourself with these rules (they are not long at all) as the rest of the document assumes that you know them.

To help with the project we have created a Scrabble server that you will interact with and a scrabble bot of our own that you can compete against and see how it operates. The server will keep an internal state of your game and ensure that all rules are followed. You will interact with the server using a given protocol. The server accepts a list of clients and have these play against each other. This means that you can play against us, against your class mates, or against yourself.

Moreover, unless you create your own dictionary using a Trie or a Gaddag you can only use a scaled down Trie that only accepts words of odd length. Creating a Trie on your own can be done in around ten lines of code and we highly recommend you do that. The Gaddag is there if you want to scale up your ambitions.

Finally, all clients and the server will be published to a private NuGet repository. This will make it easy for you to import other bots to play against and export your own. It will also make setup a lot easier as all dependencies are handled automatically by the NuGet package manager.

We will make very precise and even provide code for some parts of this project, while leaving others more open-ended. To be more precise, the well-specified parts of this project are

- The protocols communicating with the server
- Setting up and maintaining a connection to the server
- The DSL that defines the scrabble boards
- The rules that the game follows

The parts that are more open-ended are

- Your algorithm for determining the best possible moves
- How to maintain the scrabble board in memory after initialisation
- How to maintain a consistent internal state with that of the server (you will have all necessary information).

Finally, while we do adhere to the standard tournament rules for Scrabble we have also generalised our approach somewhat to make things a bit more interesting. The idea here is not to make things much harder, but rather provide a solid exercise in structuring your code in a general manner where game varieties can be created just by modifying some key parameters. More precisely, we allow

- Infinite boards
- Boards with holes in them
- Pieces that are placed on the board are represented of sets of characters and point values. The wild-card piece can then be seen as the set of all characters worth zero points, whereas a letter piece is a singleton set with that letter and its point value.
- Tiles are functions that that operate on the words placed over them

Before we start, however, one important note.

In this project we hope that you will publish your clients to the NuGet server to compete and try to see how you fare against each other. Publishing the bot will also be required for the final hand-in. We should not have to say this, but prior experience unfortunately says otherwise: **you may not share your source code with other groups**. If two groups hand in identical source code then both will be reported for plagiarism. To be on the safe side

1. Share ideas, not code. We have seen students excel at exams who have taken the time to explain concepts to their class mates rather than handing them code. Talking someone through an algorithm on paper is great, giving them working code is a serious offence.
2. When publishing your client make sure that all `.fsi` files hide everything except the one function that will interface with the server (this will be made clear later) You can also use the `internal` keyword to hide modules and types (`module internal MyModule = ...` and `type internal myType = ...` for instance). We will give you a top-level program that sets up the communication with the server and from here it is very easy to see what is visible or not.
3. Any code provided by us for the project you may use and hand in without referencing us a source.

This project is worth six points

- Two points for playing against yourself on an infinite board. You do not have to play well but you have to be able to stay in the game. Continuous passing is not playing the game ;). (Mandatory)
- One point for playing against other people and implementing a Trie or a Gaddag as your dictionary
- One point for being able to parse and finish a game on all boards using the DSL
- One point for parallelising the algorithm
- One point for writing an algorithm that respects the timeout flag

## Setting up your project

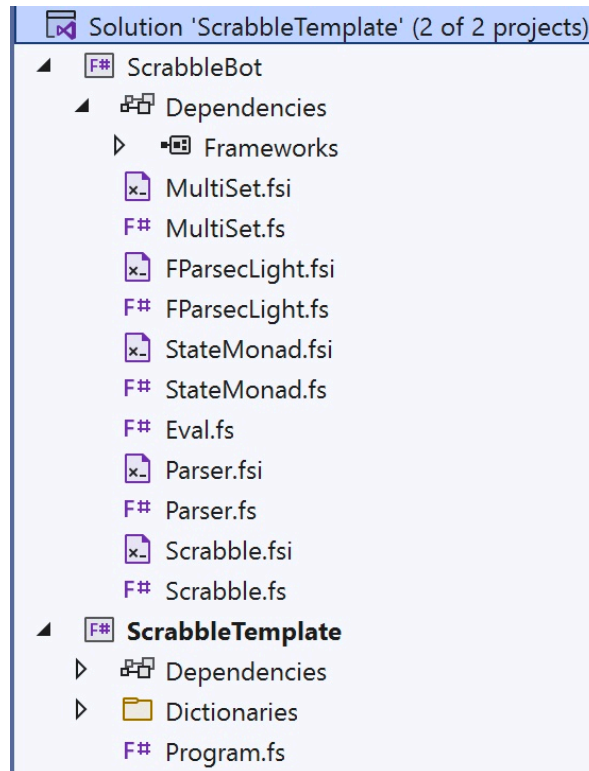
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In this section we will cover how to set up your project for the first time as well as publish your bot to the NuGet Server.

You will get a Visual Studio solution containing two projects -- one library `ScrabbleBot`, which will be your scrabble bot, and one executable `ScrabbleTemplate` that can load existing bots and have them play against each other.

**Important:** This project will build, but will throw exceptions when you run it until you have imported the relevant parts from your assignment.

The `ScrabbleTemplate` solution that you will work off of looks as follows.



In addition, these projects depend on three NuGet packages

- `ScrabbleServer` - Allows you to hook up an arbitrary amount of clients to play against each other, or several instances of the same client to play against itself.
- `ScrabbleUtil` - a utility library that contains the minimum required datatypes, a few boards to play on, and primitives for server communication, and a means to set up a common dictionary among several bots (you only have to implement one for yourself)
- `Oxyphenbutazone` - Jesper's scrabble bot. It follows a greedy approach and always plays the highest-scoring move it can find.

To set this up there are three things you need to do:

1. Connect to the NuGet Server.
2. Set up a NuGet package with a unique name and push it to the server
3. Import your solutions from previous assignments to the `ScrabbleBot` project.

Before we start we will have a brief look at the main program in `Program.fs` that sets up communication between the clients. This will give you a high-level view of how the system functions. We go into detail more later.

```
let main argv =
    ScrabbleUtil.DebugPrint.toggleDebugPrint true // Change to false to suppress debug
    output

    System.Console.BackgroundColor <- System.ConsoleColor.White
    System.Console.ForegroundColor <- System.ConsoleColor.Black
    System.Console.Clear()

    let board = ScrabbleUtil.StandardBoard.standardBoard ()
```

```

// let board      = ScrabbleUtil.InfiniteBoard.infiniteBoard ()

// let board      = ScrabbleUtil.RandomBoard.randomBoard ()
// let board      = ScrabbleUtil.RandomBoard.randomBoardSeed (Some 42)
// let board      = ScrabbleUtil.InfiniteRandomBoard.infiniteRandomBoard ()
// let board      = ScrabbleUtil.InfiniteRandomBoard.infiniteRandomBoardSeed (Some
42)

// let board      = ScrabbleUtil.HoleBoard.holeBoard ()
// let board      = ScrabbleUtil.InfiniteHoleBoard.infiniteHoleBoard ()

let words        = readLines "../.../Dictionaries/English.txt"

let handSize     = 7u
let timeout      = None
let tiles        = ScrabbleUtil.English.tiles 1u
let seed         = None
let port         = 13001

let dictAPI =
    // Uncomment if you have implemented a dictionary. last element None if you
have not implemented a GADDAG
    // Some (Dictionary.empty, Dictionary.insert, Dictionary.step, Some
Dictionary.reverse)
    None

let (dictionary, time) =
    time (fun () -> ScrabbleUtil.Dictionary.mkDict words dictAPI)

// Uncomment to test your dictionary
// ScrabbleUtil.DebugPrint.debugPrint ("Dictionary test sucessful\n")
// let incorrectWords = ScrabbleUtil.Dictionary.test words 10 (dictionary false)
// change to true if using a GADDAG

// match incorrectWords with
// | [] -> ScrabbleUtil.DebugPrint.debugPrint ("Dictionary test sucessful!\n")
// | _ ->
//     ScrabbleUtil.DebugPrint.debugPrint ("Dictionary test failed for at least the
following words: \n")
//     List.iter (fun str -> ScrabbleUtil.DebugPrint.debugPrint (sprintf "%s\n"
str)) incorrectWords

// Uncomment this line to call your client
// let players    = [("Your name here", dictionary,
YourClientName.Scrabble.startGame)]
let players = spawnMultiples "OxyphenButazone" dictionary
Oxyphenbutazone.Scrabble.startGame 2

do ScrabbleServer.Comm.startGame

```

```
board dictionary handSize timeout tiles seed port players
```

```
ScrabbleUtil.DebugPrint.forcePrint ("Server has terminated. Press Enter to exit  
program.\n")  
System.Console.ReadLine () |> ignore  
  
0
```

This file allows the user to set up the board being played on, the dictionary being used, the size of the hand of the players, the timeout (if any), the tiles you will be playing with and a random seed (if any) which is useful for debugging as the behaviour of the program becomes more deterministic. There is also a list `players` which is the list of bots that will be playing against each other. As a default it is set up to pair two versions of Jesper's bot Oxyphenbutazone against themselves.

The function `ScrabbleUtil.Dictionary.mkDict` takes the dictionary that you have implemented in Assignment 4 (either a Trie or a Gaddag), by initialising it with your functions, and returns a wrapper for that dictionary so that your client, other clients, and the server can use it. The reason for this is that building dictionaries takes time and if every client builds their own then we literally can have to wait minutes before we start depending on how efficient your implementations are. If you have not implemented a dictionary then setting the `dictAPI` variable to `None` provides you with a dictionary that can only recognise words of odd length.

The function `ScrabbleUtil.Dictionary.test` tests that your dictionary is equivalent to the one that Oxyphenbutazone uses. This test takes time and is only there for your debugging purposes.

Finally, the function `ScrabbleServer.Comm.startGame` starts a game of Scrabble with all of the settings that you have done.

We will come back to this in more detail later, but for now, we cover how to set up the project.

## Connect to the NuGetServer

Before you start ensure that you have installed:

- The latest version of the NuGet Command Line Interface (6.0.0 or later should work). This CLI is accessed by typing `dotnet nuget` from the command line, not `nuget`.
- The latest version of .Net Core (net6.0) (which requires VisualStudio 2022 if you are running that)

If you run into problems it is likely that one of these two need to be upgraded.

To load the packages immediately in Visual Studio you must add the NuGet server to your environment. This is best done from the comand line using the following command:

```
dotnet nuget add source https://nuget.pkg.github.com/jesper-bengtson/index.json -n  
FP2022 -u jesper-bengtson -p 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 --store-  
password-in-clear-text
```

The last flag `--store-password-in-clear-text` is necessary for non-Windows setups. If you are running Windows you can skip it. This token (the password) is unique to these packages only and does not give access to anything sensitive, nor does it grant access to remove your packages.

If successful, you should get the following message

```
Package source with Name: FP2022 added successfully.
```

You should now be able to open and build the projects in the solution. Contact a TA if you are having problems.

## Running the project

You should now be able to run two instances of Jesper's bot Oxyphenbutazone against each other. After a completed game, the board can look like this (note that only words of odd length have been played since you have not provided a dictionary yet):

```
OxyphenButazone1          334 points
OxyphenButazone2          249 points

# # # # # # # # # # # # # # #
# d      a      d      D J I N S #
#   C   U   b      H   O   c   #
#   R c N   R a   P E R I L   #
# a O   G   E   B   N   N   F #
#   F O L I A   A   R U T   I #
#   T   U   W I N D Y   U   b T #
#       a E   O a   a       R a L #
# d      D   K O R      M E A T Y #
#       a       E a E a T   S a A #
#   b      b   D A W      V   #
# A      M A N G O   I c      #
# B      O      X E N I C      a #
# I   c A      Z   a G   I c   #
# D E P T H b O      E D G E D   #
# E      S   S A V E D   a      d #
# # # # # # # # # # # # # # #
Player 2 <- Server :
RCM (CMPlayed (1u, [((4, 5), (9u, ('I', 1)))]), 6))
Player 2 -> Server :
SMPass
Server -> Player 2 :
RCM (CMGameOver [(2u, 238); (1u, 334)])
Server -> Player 1 :
RCM (CMGameOver [(2u, 238); (1u, 334)])
```



```

Player 2 <- Server :
RCM (CMGameOver [(2u, 238); (1u, 334)])
Listener <- Server :
RCM (CMGameOver [(2u, 238); (1u, 334)])
Player 1 <- Server :
RCM (CMGameOver [(2u, 238); (1u, 334)])
Game over
OxyphenButazone2          238 points
OxyphenButazone1          334 points

```

Best move was played by OxyphenButazone1 for 40 points  
 Server has terminated. Press Enter to exit program.

It will print the entire game with debug output (that you can switch off if you wish). In this game `Oxyphenbutazone1` won the game with 334 points to 238 and played the best move for 40 points.

## Setting up a NuGet package

The next step is to push your Scrabble bot to the server. Your bot will build, but not run at this point as you have not included the solutions to your assignments yet.

In the `ScrabbleBot` project you will find the XML-collection `PropertyGroup` in `ScrabbleBot.fsproj`

```

<PropertyGroup>
  <RepositoryUrl>https://github.com/jesper-bengtson/Scrabble-FP2022/</RepositoryUrl>
  <TargetFramework>net6.0</TargetFramework>
  <GeneratePackageOnBuild>true</GeneratePackageOnBuild>
  <Company>IT University of Copenhagen</Company>

  <Version>1.0.0</Version>
  <PackageId>YourIdGoesHere</PackageId>
  <AssemblyName>YourIdGoesHere</AssemblyName>
  <Authors>Your names go here (optional)</Authors>
  <Product>The bot name goes here</Product>
  <Description>Scrabble Bot for Functional Programming 2022

  Group name: &lt;Your group name goes here&gt; (optional)</Description>
</PropertyGroup>

```

Some of these fields need to be changed. In particular the fields of interest for you are:

- Version -- increase the version number when you push new versions of your bot. For now, leave it as it is.
- PackageId -- A unique package identifier. This should be close to the name of your bot, but it may only

be one word and there are restrictions to what characters you may use.

- `AssemblyName` - A unique assembly name (warnings can be thrown if we send around assemblies with the same name). Pick the same name as your unique package identifier.
- `Authors` -- Fill in your names here. However, since these packages are on a public GitHub this step is optional.
- `Product` -- Fill in the name of your bot here
- `Description` -- Put your group name here (optional)

The only thing that should change from this point forward is the version number as you release new versions of your bot.

After you have built your project, type the following command into the root of the `ScrabbleBot` project (assuming your NuGet package has been placed in the `bin/Release` folder, otherwise change the path).

```
dotnet nuget push bin/Release/<YourIdGoesHere (packageID)>.<1.0.0 (Version)>.nupkg --
source https://nuget.pkg.github.com/jesper-bengtson/index.json --api-key
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
```

Where the path is changed to correspond to your `PackageId` and `Version` fields from `ScrabbleBot.fsproj`. If successful, you should get the following output:

```
Pushing <YourIdGoesHere (packageID)>.<1.0.0 (Version)>.nupkg to
'https://nuget.pkg.github.com/jesper-bengtson' ...
PUT https://nuget.pkg.github.com/jesper-bengtson/
OK https://nuget.pkg.github.com/jesper-bengtson/ 1199ms
Your package was pushed.
```

Whenever you push a new version of your bot, increase the version number `1.0.0` to `1.0.1`, and so on. If you do not, you will get a conflict when you try to push.

## Import your assignments

Finally, you need to get your assignments imported into the project. For all of these you need to be a bit careful about your namespaces in case you have renamed anything from your assignments. Look at the placeholder `.fsi` files to see what should be there.

The project compiles from the start. Add a little bit at a time and make sure that it keeps compiling as you add your assignments as it can be difficult to find a bug otherwise.

First of all, make sure that all of your modules and types, except for the ones in `Scrabble.fs` and `Scrabble.fsi` are internal so that they are not exported through your NuGet package. That is, all `module Name ...` should be `module internal Name ...` and any type outside of a module (inside is fine as they will be hidden by the module itself) of the form `type name ...` should be changed to `type internal name ...`.

Setondly,

- In `Program.fs` in the `ScrabbleTemplate` project, find the `main` function and the following code



```

let dictAPI =
    // Uncomment if you have implemented a dictionary.
    // last element None if you have not implemented a GADDAG
    // Some (Dictionary.empty, Dictionary.insert, Dictionary.step,
    //      Some Dictionary.reverse)
    None

let (dictionary, time) =
    time (fun () -> ScrabbleUtil.Dictionary.mkDict words dictAPI)

```

Leave this code as it is if you have not implemented a dictionary, otherwise comment out the `None` expression, uncomment the commented out rows and add references to your dictionary (that you should preferably place in a module called Dictionary). If you have implemented a GADDAG then the last argument should be `Some Dictionary.reverse` and `None` otherwise.

Finally, you have to set up your own bot.

In the project `ScrabbleBot`, while maintaining the module structure (keep the module names from the `.fsi` files and make sure they are internal)

- Replace `Multiset.fsi` and `Multiset.fs` with your solution from Assignment 4
- Replace `StateMonad.fs` with your solution from Assignment 6. `StateMonad.fsi` is the same as before and can remain the same.
- Replace `Eval.fs` with your solution from Assignment 6, but which was upgraded in Assignment 7.
- Replace `Parser.fs` with your solution from Assignment 7. Make sure that:
  - It uses `FParsecLight` and not `JParsec`. The interfaces are identical. You should not have to alter a single line of code, except for the `open` statement, in your program to make this switch.
  - Remove the `Ass7` module and merge it with `ImpParser` (look at `Parser.fsi` for details)
  - Add the line `open ScrabbleUtil` to the `Parser.fs`.
  - The types `boardProg`, `coord`, and `squareProg` are defined in the `ScrabbleUtil` library. Remove them from this file.
- In `Scrabble.fsi` and `Scrabble.fs`
  - change the namespace name to your `ProjectId` that you used for your `ScrabbleBot.fsproj` file.
  - In the function `startGame` there are two rows where one is commented out depending on whether or not you have used a Gaddag.

```

//let dict = dictf true // Uncomment if using a gaddag for your dictionary
let dict = dictf false // Uncomment if using a trie for your dictionary

```

Use the first one if you have implemented a Gaddag in `Dictionary.fs` and the second one if you have implemented a Trie.

- In `Program.fs`, in the `ScrabbleTemplate` project, in the `main` function, comment out the line that says:

```
let players = spawnMultiples "OxyphenButazone" Oxyphenbutazone.Scrabble.startGame 2
```

and uncomment the line that says:

```
let players = [("Your name here", YourClientName.Scrabble.startGame)]
```

Change "Your name here" to the name of your Scrabble Bot (this is for pretty-printing purposes only) and change `YourClientName` to `ProjectId` from your `ScrabbleBot.fsproj` file.

Build and run your project. You should see something like this:

```
# # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # #
# d   a       d       a       d #
#   c   b           b       c   #
#     c       a   a       c     #
# a     c       a       c       a #
#   b     b           b       b   #
#                                     #
#     a       a   a       a       #
# d     a           a       d     #
#     a       a   a       a       #
#                                     #
#   b     b           b       b   #
# a     c       a       c       a #
#     c       a   a       c     #
#   c     b           b       c   #
# d     a       d       a       d #
# # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # #
```

```
0 -> (set
      [('A', 0); ('B', 0); ('C', 0); ('D', 0); ('E', 0); ('F', 0); ('G', 0);
       ('H', 0); ('I', 0); ...], 1)
1 -> (set [('A', 1)], 1)
4 -> (set [('D', 2)], 1)
5 -> (set [('E', 1)], 2)
9 -> (set [('I', 1)], 1)
16 -> (set [('P', 3)], 1)
Input move (format '<x-coordinate><y-coordinate> <piece id><character><point-value>'
)*', note the absence of space between the last inputs)
```

The board is displayed just like above.

Moreover your hand is displayed. Each tile is represented by a set of possible characters that it can be instantiated to. In this example, all letters are singleton sets but the top one is the wildcard tile that can be instantiated with any letter. You will always have seven pieces on hand until the server runs out, and the line `4 -> (set [('D', 2)], 1)` means that you have one piece where the character `D` worth `2` points is

a valid instantiation (remember that you can have sets of characters which the first line demonstrates) and that the unique id for this tile is `4`.

To play a word you type in the letters that you want to play on one line in the following format `<x-coordinate> <y-coordinate> <tile id><character><point-value>`. For instance, if you wanted to write the word `DO` on the board starting at the centre and going down you would write

```
0 0 4D2 0 1 000
```

where the second tile makes use of the wild-card character. At this moment the servers internal game state is updated, but we have not updated the local client state which should be one of the first things you do. We will talk more about state soon. But once you get this set up you have something to work off of.

## Writing a Scrabble bot

We have covered how to set up your project so that you can either watch Oxyphenbutazone play, or enter your own moves by hand.

To write a working Scrabble bot you must:

1. **Maintain a consistent state with the server** This includes keeping track of things like what pieces you have on hand, who's turn it is, how many players are left in the game, what positions on the board are available to start new words on, etc.
2. **Finding valid moves to play** Find valid moves using the pieces you have on hand and the state of the board find. You may use whatever heuristics you like for this but a few examples could be
  - First move you find
  - Longest word you find
  - Highest scoring word you find
  - ...

You are not required to calculate points to pass this assignment, but you are required to be able to stay in a game (continuously passing does not count)

3. **Communicate your moves to the server** You are given a robust protocol with which you can communicate with the server. We will cover these protocols in detail later, but they boil down to:
  - Send your moves to the server
  - Receive information about the success of your actions, as well as the actions of the other players, and update your internal state accordingly.

Aside from the server communication this part of the project is deliberately left open ended. How you maintain your state, and how you find which moves to play is up to you. A few words of caution though:

**Warning:** It may be tempting to create a function that given the tiles you have on hand returns all of the possible words you could write with them. This is a bad approach as it does not take into consideration the tiles that have already been placed on the board. In fact, this tactic only works for the very first word you place on the board and even then it does not work if you want to optimise for score. A much better approach is to start from a square on the board and build a word by incrementally interleave placing pieces from your hand and using ones that are already placed on the board. The `step` function from `Dictionary.fs` from Assignment 4 is useful here.

# The ScrabbleUtil library

The `scrabbleServer` NuGet package comes with a library called `ScrabbleUtil`. This library

- Provides a small set of datatypes for board representations (that you used to have in Assignment 7)
- Provides a wrapper for your dictionary so that it can be shared with other players and the server
- Contains functions for communicating with the Scrabble Server
- Contains several test boards that you can play off of.

## Types

**Coordinate systems** We work in a discrete two-dimensional coordinate space. Since boards can be infinite in all directions coordinates are given as pairs of integers

```
type coord = int * int
```

The center of the board is typically at `(0, 0)` but it does not have to be.

**Squares** Squares have the following type

```
type squareProg = Map<int, string>
```

The string value in the map is a program written in our DSL (you can find several examples in Assignment 7) and the integer key is the priority of the function. This priority is important when we calculating points and we will come back to this in detail later.

**Tiles** tiles are the pieces your place on the individual squares of the board. They have the following type

```
type tile = Set<char * int>
```

A tile can be a set of letters and their point values. For instance, the letter `A` which is worth one point is represented as the singleton set `{('A', 1)}`, while the wild-card tiles that can represent any letter are represented as a set of pairs of all letters in the alphabet each worth zero points.

**Boards** The type for boards looks as follows:

```
type boardProg = {  
    prog          : string;  
    squares       : Map<int, squareProg>  
    usedSquare    : int  
    center        : coord  
  
    isInfinite    : bool    // For pretty-printing purposes only  
    ppSquare      : string  // For pretty-printing purposes only  
}
```

Boards are represented using the DSL that we created before. The program `prog` will have two variables `_x_` and `_y_` as arguments which represents the coordinates and will store an integer in a variable called `_result_`. This integer is a unique identifier for the square at this coordinate and the program for that square can be obtained from the `squares` lookup table. If the number is not in the `squares` then that part of the board is blank (we do support boards with holes in them).

Boards also have a `center` coordinate over which the first word must be placed.

There is also a `usedSquare` that we use to calculate points for tiles that have already been placed on the board -- if a piece is placed over a Double Letter Score square, for instance, then that square cannot be used again but the point value of the piece itself can. In effect placing a piece on a square changes the square to something else, but it's the same square for all used squares.

There are also some fields for pretty-printing but all of that is handled internally by the server.

From Assignment 7 you already have the code required to parse values of type `boardProg` into a usable data structure.

## The Dictionary wrapper

Building dictionaries takes time, especially if you have implemented a GADDAG, and having all clients and the server build their own dictionaries at startup takes even longer. We therefore provide a wrapper that allows you to pass your own dictionary to the server and to other clients (and your own client).

The library `ScrabbleUtil` contains the following module.

```
module Dictionary =

  type Dict

  type 'a dictAPI =
    (unit -> 'a) *                // empty
    (string -> 'a -> 'a) *        // insert
    (char -> 'a -> (bool * 'a) option) * // step
    ('a -> (bool * 'a) option) option // reverse

  val mkDict<'a> :
    string seq ->                // word list (your dictionary)
    ('a dictAPI option) ->
    (bool -> Dict)

  val test : string seq -> int -> Dict -> string list

  val isGaddag : Dict -> bool
  val lookup : string -> Dict -> bool
  val step : char -> Dict -> (bool * Dict) option
  val reverse : Dict -> (bool * Dict) option
```

The module contains a type `Dict` which is the dictionary that all bots and the server use. It provides three functions that these can use:

- `lookup : string -> Dict -> bool` that given a string `s` and a dictionary `d` returns `true` if `s` is in `d` and false otherwise.
- `step : char -> Dict -> (bool * Dict)` that given a character `c` and a dictionary `d` takes one step down the trie and returns a tuple `(b, d')` where `b` is `true` if traversing `c` completed a word and `false` otherwise, and where `d'` is the next level of the trie.

- `reverse : Dict -> (bool * Dict)` behaves the same way as `step` but parses the special reverse character. Only works on GADDAGs.

There is also the `isGaddag` function but this is only really useful if you want to create a bot that can play using both types of dictionaries. Oxyphenbutazone can do this, but there is no reason for you to support both.

There is also a `test` function that you can use to test that your dictionary works. It takes a sequence of strings (that you used to build your dictionary and which it checks for membership), an integer which determines how many incorrect matches it will return (default is set to 10) and your dictionary. If this function returns an empty list that means that your dictionary works as well as the one that Oxyphenbutazone uses. For the final tournament you must pass this test or use the cut-down dictionary that only handles words of odd length.

To construct the dictionary you need to parametrise it with the dictionary functions you created in Assignment 4.

The function `mkFun` takes functions `empty`, `insert`, and `step` from your Assignment 4, an optional argument for the `reverse` function if you have implemented a GADDAG rather than a trie, a sequence of words to place in the dictionary, and returns a function of type `bool -> dict` that you will have to instantiate with `true` if your bot expects a GADDAG, and `false` if it expects a trie. For an example of how this function is used look at `Program.fs` in the `ScrabbleTemplate` executable project.

There is an important restriction to this setup.

- If `Dict` is instantiated with a GADDAG (a reverse function is provided) then it can be used by bots that **either** use a GADDAG or a trie.
- If `Dict` is instantiated with a Trie (a reverse function is not provided) then it can **only** be used by bots that use a trie (not a GADDAG).

What this means in practice is that if you have implemented a GADDAG then you can import all bots, even those that use tries and give them your dictionary, but if you have implemented a trie you cannot give that to bots that expect a GADDAG.

**Important:** The fact that a trie cannot be used as a dictionary for a bot that expects a GADDAG is not counted negatively in any way. A GADDAG is an optimisation for those who want faster bots, they are not strictly necessary.

Oxyphenbutazone works on both tries and GADDAGs.

## Setting up the bot

Your scrabble client exposes a single function that the server can call to set up a game.



```

val startGame :
    boardProg -> (* Scrabble board *)
    (bool -> Dictionary.Dict) -> (* Dictionary (call with true if using a GADDAG,
                                   and false if using a Trie) *)
    uint32 -> (* Number of players *)
    uint32 -> (* Your player number *)
    uint32 -> (* starting player number *)
    (uint32 * uint32) list -> (* starting hand (tile id, number of tiles) *)
    Map<uint32, tile> -> (* Tile lookup table *)
    uint32 option -> (* Timeout in milliseconds *)
    Stream -> (* Communication channel to the server *)
    (unit -> unit) (* Delay to allow everyone to start at the same time
after setup *)

```

This function takes everything you need to set up your game. A `boardProg` that you can parse using your parser from Assignment 7, a dictionary as describe in the `scrabbleUtil` section (initialise the function with `true` if your bot uses a GADDAG, and false otherwise), the number of players, your player number (determined by the server), the starting player's number, your starting hand, a tile lookup table, an optional timeout for the maximum amount of time your client has to submit a move (only needed if you want six points on the assignment), and a stream that we use to communicate with the server.

If you take a closer look at the tile lookup table you can see that it is a map from `uint32` to `tile` (tiles are described in the `scrabbleUtil` section). This map is provided at startup but the server will only from this point onwards communicate tiles by their identity number. An example of this can be seen in the starting hand which has the type `(uint32 * uint32) list` where the first element of each pair in the list is the identifier for a tile (a key in the lookup table) and the second is the amount of those tiles that you are given. We will later cover the protocol that communicates with the server which contain these identifiers rather than the tiles themselves.

## Setting up the server

The server is set up for you. It exposes a single setup function. All other communication between the server and the clients is handled over the network. The server is instantiated in the `Program.fs` file in the `ScrabbleTemplate` project via a `startGame` function.

```

val startGame :
    boardProg -> (* Board *)
    (bool -> Dictionary.Dict) -> (* dictionary *)
    uint32 -> (* hand size *)
    uint32 option -> (* timeout *)
    (tile * uint32) list -> (* tiles *)
    int option -> (* random seed *)
    int -> (* port *)
    (string * (bool -> Dictionary.Dict) *
    (boardProg ->
    (bool -> Dictionary.Dict) ->
    uint32 -> uint32 -> uint32 ->
    (uint32 * uint32) list -> Map<uint32, tile> ->

```

```
uint32 option -> NetworkStream -> (unit -> unit))) list ->
unit
```

The first arguments (Board-random seed) are the same as for your client setup. The port determines which port you communicate on (you should never have to change this, but sometimes it can help to be able to switch the port). Finally there is a list of pairs of client names (for pretty-printing purposes) and functions that have the same type as the clients only exposed `startGame` function. To see an example of how clients are communicated with the server have a look at the `ScrabbleTemplate` project and the `Program.fs` file.

## Maintaining a state

To play the game you will have to maintain the state of the current game. Exactly what this is is up to you, but we highly recommend that you keep it in a record structure of your own. In `Scrabble.fs` in the `ScrabbleBot` project you will find the following data structure.

```
type state = {
    board      : Parser.board
    dict       : ScrabbleUtil.Dictionary.Dict
    playerNumber : uint32
    hand       : MultiSet.MultiSet<uint32>
}
```

The state record contains four fields `board`, `dict`, `playerNumber` and `hand`, where `board` is the board you are playing on (parsed by the functions you wrote in Assignment 7), `dict` is the dictionary you are using (wrapped by the `ScrabbleUtil` library), `playerNumber` is your player id, and the field `hand` contains the current tiles you have on hand as a multiset of integers. In combination with the tile lookup table from the previous section you can ensure that you know which concrete pieces you have on hand.

Other things that you need to keep track of is who's turn it is, how many players there are, who has forfeited the game, etc. This list is by no means exhaustive, but enough to get you started and enough to create a scrabble-bot that only plays against itself.

## The main game loop

We are providing the code that sets up the game for you so that all you have to worry about is the logic of the actual game. You communicate to the server via a `Stream` using TCP/IP. A skeleton game loop can be found here that communicates using a stream called `cstream`.

This is a high-level description. We will cover the exact protocol used to communicate with the server in the next section.

```
let rec aux (st : State.state) =
    Print.printHand pieces (State.hand st)

    forcePrint
    "Input move
    (format '<x-coordinate> <y-coordinate> <piece id><character><point-value> )*',
    note the absence of space between the last inputs)\n\n"
```

```

let input = System.Console.ReadLine()
let move = RegEx.parseMove input

debugPrint (sprintf "Player %d -> Server:\n%A\n" (State.playerNumber st) move)
send cstream (SMPlay move)

let msg = recv cstream
debugPrint (sprintf "Player %d <- Server:\n%A\n" (State.playerNumber st) move)

match msg with
| RCM (CMPlaySuccess(ms, points, newPieces)) ->
    (* Successful play by you. Update your state
    (remove old tiles, add the new ones, change turn, etc) *)
    let st' = st // This state needs to be updated
    aux st'
| RCM (CMPlayed (pid, ms, points)) ->
    (* Successful play by other player. Update your state *)
    let st' = st // This state needs to be updated
    aux st'
| RCM (CMPlayFailed (pid, ms)) ->
    (* Failed play. Update your state *)
    let st' = st // This state needs to be updated
    aux st'
| RCM (CMGameOver _) -> ()
| RCM a -> failwith (sprintf "not implmented: %A" a)
| RGPE err -> printfn "Gameplay Error:\n%A" err; aux st

aux st

```

We use the functions `send` and `recv` from `ScrabbleUtil` to communicate with the server. We can then match on the messages we receive, update our state accordingly, and recurse.

Note the use of `debugPrint`. This function allows you to print in a multi-threaded environment. We require that you use these rather than `printf` as they can be switched off easily when they are no longer needed.

Look over this loop and try to see its internal logic and how it works. At the moment, it sends moves to the server that you type on the keyboard -- `let move = RegEx.parseMove input`.

**The main goal of this project is to replace this line with a call to a function that finds `move` for you.**

## Server communication

The following type detail the information that is sent to and received from the server. They are covered in detail below but this gives a good overview.

```

type ServerMessage =
| SMPlay      of (coord * (uint32 * (char * int))) list
| SMPass
| SMForfeit
| SMChange    of uint32 list

```

```

type ClientMessage =
| CMPlayed          of uint32 * (coord * (uint32 * (char * int))) list * int
| CMPlaySuccess     of (coord * (uint32 * (char * int))) list *
                        int * (uint32 * uint32) list
| CMPlayFailed      of uint32 * (coord * (uint32 * (char * int))) list
| CMPassed          of uint32
| CMForfeit         of uint32
| CMChange           of uint32 * uint32
| CMChangeSuccess    of (uint32 * uint32) list
| CMTimeout         of uint32
| CMGameOver        of (uint32 * int) list

type GameplayError =
| GPEOccupiedTile of (char * int) * coord * (char * int)
| GPEWordNotOnRowOrColumn of coord list
| GPEEmptyMove
| GPEInvalidPieceInst of uint32 * (char * int)
| GPEPieceDoesNotExist of uint32
| GPEEmptyTile of coord
| GPEPlayerDoesNotHavePiece of uint32 * uint32
| GPEWordNotConnected
| GPEWordOutsideBoard
| GPEWordNotInDictionary of string
| GPEFirstWordNotOverCenter of coord
| GPEFirstWordTooShort
| GPENotEnoughPieces of uint32 * uint32
| GPEWordNotAdjacent

```

## Messages to the server

There are only four types of messages you can send to a server the server - playing a move, passing, swapping pieces, and resigning.

### Playing a move

<b>Name:</b>	SMPlay tiles
<b>Type:</b>	(coord * (uint32 * (char * int))) list -> ServerMessage

Attempts to place the tiles in the list `tiles` on the board. The elements of the list has the form `(coordinate : coord, (tileId : uint32, tileInstantiation : (char * int)))`. The term `coordinate` is where an individual tile is placed, the term `tileId` is the id-number of the tile being placed, and `tileInstantiation` is a valid instantiation of that piece (character and score). The coordinates **do not** have to be ordered in any special way. The server will figure out placement on its own.

### On success

- The message `CMPlaySuccess` is sent to the player who made the move
- The message `CMPlayed` is sent to all other players

### On Failure

- A list of gameplay errors is returned to the player who made the move
- The message `CMPlayFailed` is sent to all other players

If a move fails, that player's turn is over and the turn goes to the next player.

### Possible errors

- `GPEOccupiedTile` - The player tried to place a piece on an occupied tile
- `GPEWordNotOnRowOrColumn` - The player attempted to place pieces that were not along a single row or column on the board
- `GPEEmptyMove` - The player tried to make an empty move (in effect this will work like passing since turn goes over to the next player)
- `GPEInvalidPieceInst` - The player tried to instantiate a piece with id `pieceId` with an invalid instantiation `pieceInstantiation`
- `GPEPieceDoesNotExist` - The player attempted to place a piece with id `pieceId` which does not exist in the collection
- `GPEEmptyTile` - The player attempted to place a piece outside of the board
- `GPEPlayerDoesNotHavePiece` - The player attempted to place a piece that they do not own
- `GPEWordNotConnected` - The pieces were placed along one row or column, but they did not form one cohesive word with pieces already on the board
- `GPEWordOutsideBoard` - Part of the word landed outside of the board
- `GPEWordNotInDictionary` - One of the words formed was not in the dictionary
- `GPEFirstWordNotOverCenter` - The player tried to place a word on an empty board where the word did not cross the center coordinate
- `GPEFirstWordTooShort` - The player tried to play a word on an empty board that was less than two characters long
- `GPENotAdjacent` - The player tried to place a word on a non-empty board that was not adjacent to an already existing word

## Passing

Name:	<code>SMPass</code>
Type:	<code>ServerMessage</code>

This function always succeeds and the message `CMPassed` is broadcast to all players. If all players pass for three consecutive turns the game ends.

## Forfeiting the game

<b>Name:</b>	<code>SMForfeit</code>
<b>Type:</b>	<code>ServerMessage</code>

This function always succeeds and the message `CMForfeit` is broadcast to all players. This player will no longer be a part of the player list and it is therefore important that the clients keep track of who is still playing so that they do not wait for people who are no longer in the game.

## Change pieces

<b>Name:</b>	<code>SMChange</code>
<b>Type:</b>	<code>uint32 list -&gt; ServerMessage</code>

A player attempts to swap tiles from their hand. If successful, the server will send back new tiles. Changing pieces ends your turn.

### On success

The server sends `CMChangeSuccess` to the player changing pieces and broadcasts `SMChange` to everyone else.

### On failure

- `GPENotEnoughPieces` - The player tried to switch more pieces than there are free pieces left in the game
- `GPEPlayerDoesNotHavePiece` - The player tried to change a piece they do not possess
- `GPEPieceDoesNotExist` - The player tried to change a piece that does not exist

## Messages to the client

---

These messages are used to communicate game state changes to the players so that they can keep up to date.



## Successful play by other player

<b>Name:</b>	<code>CMPlayed(playerId, move, points)</code>
<b>Type:</b>	<code>uint32 * (coord * (uint32 * (char * int))) * int -&gt; ClientMessage</code>

The player `playerId` successfully played the pieces `move` (which is on the same format as in `SMMove`) and received `points` points.

## Successful play by you

<b>Name:</b>	<code>CMPlaySuccess(move, points, newTiles)</code>
<b>Type:</b>	<code>(coord * (uint32 * (char * int))) * int * (uint32 * uint32) list -&gt; ClientMessage</code>

You successfully played the tiles `move` (which is on the same format as in `SMMove`), received `points` points, and the new tiles `newTiles` (again on the same format as your initial hand in `SMMove`) to replace the ones you played.

## Failed play

<b>Name:</b>	<code>CMPlayFailed(playerId, move)</code>
<b>Type:</b>	<code>uint32 * (coord * (uint32 * (char * int))) -&gt; ClientMessage</code>

The player `playerId` failed to play the tiles `move` (which is on the same format as in `SMMove`).

## Player passed

<b>Name:</b>	<code>CMPassed(playerId)</code>
<b>Type:</b>	<code>uint32 -&gt; ClientMessage</code>

The player `playerId` passed

# Player forfeit

Name:	CMForfeit(playerId)
Type:	uint32 -> ClientMessage

The player playerId left the game

# Other player successfully changed pieces

Name:	CMChange(playerId, numberOfTiles)
Type:	uint32 * uint32 -> ClientMessage

The player playerId successfully changed numberOfTiles tiles

# You successfully changed pieces

Name:	CMChangeSuccess(newTiles)
Type:	(uint32 * uint32) list-> ClientMessage

You successfully changed pieces and received newPieces to replace the ones you changed (on the same format as for SMSend ).

# Player timeout

Name:	CMTIMEout(playerId)
Type:	uint32 -> ClientMessage

The player playerId timed out. This counts as passing for all gameplay purposes.

# Game over

<b>Name:</b>	<code>CMGameOver(finalScore)</code>
<b>Type:</b>	<code>(uint32 * int list) -&gt; ClientMessage</code>

The game is over and a list of player identifiers and their final score is returned.

## Gameplay errors

The following errors are used whenever invalid moves are attempted by the players. We will use the name `instantiation` to mean things of type `char * int`, i.e. a letter that has actually been placed (or is about to be placed) on the board.

### Placing piece on occupied square

<b>Name:</b>	<code>GPEOccupiedTile(instantiation, coordinate, currentInstantiation)</code>
<b>Type:</b>	<code>(char * int) * coord * (char * int) -&gt; GameplayError</code>

You attempted to place `instantiation` on the coordinate `coordinate` but the letter `currentInstantiation` was already placed there.

### Pieces not placed along a row or column

<b>Name:</b>	<code>GPEWordNotOnRowOrColumn(coordinates)</code>
<b>Type:</b>	<code>coordinate list -&gt; GameplayError</code>

Tried to place pieces on the coordinates `coordinates` that were not along a single row or column.

### Empty move

<b>Name:</b>	<code>GPEEmptyMove</code>
<b>Type:</b>	<code>GameplayError</code>

You played a move without any pieces.

# Invalid tile instantiation

Name:	GPEInvalidPieceInst(tileId, instantiation)
Type:	uint32 * (char * int) -> GameplayError

You tried to instantiate the tile `pieceId` with an invalid instantiation `instantiation`. This happens if your instantiation is not a member of the set of valid instantiations of the piece represented by `tileId`

# Trying to place a tile that does not exist

Name:	GPEPiecedoesNotExist(tileId)
Type:	uint32 -> GameplayError

You tried to use a piece with id `tileID` does not exist.

# Trying to place tile on empty square

Name:	GPEEmptyTile(coordinate)
Type:	coordinate -> GameplayError

You tried to place a tile on an empty square at coordinate `coordinate`

# Placing a tile that you do not have

Name:	GPEPlayerDoesNotHavePiece(playerId, tileId)
Type:	uint32 * uint32 -> GameplayError

You (player `playerId`) tried to use a piece with id `tileId` that you do not have.

# Placing a word that is not connected

<b>Name:</b>	<code>GPEWordNotConnected</code>
<b>Type:</b>	<code>GameplayError</code>

You tried to place a word that was on a single row or column, but the pieces did not form one cohesive word with the pieces already on the board.

## Placing a word partially outside the board

<b>Name:</b>	<code>GPEWordOutsideBoard</code>
<b>Type:</b>	<code>GameplayError</code>

You tried to place a word that was at least partially outside the board.

## Word not in dictionary

<b>Name:</b>	<code>GPEWordNotInDictionary(word)</code>
<b>Type:</b>	<code>string -&gt; GameplayError</code>

The pieces you placed formed a word `word` that is not in the dictionary.

## First word is not over the center

<b>Name:</b>	<code>GPEFirstWordNotOverCenter(coordinate)</code>
<b>Type:</b>	<code>coord -&gt; GameplayError</code>

As the first move of the game you tried to place a word that was not over the center coordinate `coordinate`.

## First word is too short

<b>Name:</b>	<code>GPEFirstWordTooShort</code>
<b>Type:</b>	<code>GameplayError</code>

As the first move of the game you tried to place a word that was not at least 2 characters long.

## Not enough tiles

<b>Name:</b>	<code>GPENotEnoughPieces(changeTiles, availableTiles)</code>
<b>Type:</b>	<code>uint32 * uint32 -&gt; GameplayError</code>

You tried to change `changeTiles` number of tiles, but there are only `availableTiles` number of tiles left in the game.

## Word placed is not adjacent to another one

<b>Name:</b>	<code>GPEWordNotAdjacent</code>
<b>Type:</b>	<code>GameplayError</code>

You tried to place a word that is not adjacent to any other words on the board.

## Calculating points

Calculating points is not necessary to pass the project, but it is necessary to play well.

What makes point calculation interesting is that there are squares on the board that take the entire word you place into consideration not just the tile you place on top of them.

Recall that we have the following types:

```
type word = (char * int) list
type squareProg = Map<int, string>
type square = Map<int, word -> int -> int -> int>

val : parseSquareProg : squareProg -> square
```

Every square can have `SquareProg` (unless it is empty) that details how points are calculated. The key of the map is the priority of the function -- the lower the number the sooner that function will be run. The general idea is that after having placed tiles over a set of squares, all functions are collected, sorted according to their priority and run in order passing the results from one into the next. Assignment 2 makes this precise. The `string` value is a program itself and it is written in our DSL. The program has two special variables `_pos_` and `_acc_` where `_acc_` is the number of points that have been calculated and `_pos_`, which is the position in the word of the character that is placed over this square. Finally the variable `_result_` stores the return value of the program that is passed on to the next function in the priority chain.

For a standard Scrabble board, the program looks like this (as described in Assignment 7).



```

let singleLetterScore =
  Map.add 0 "_result_" := pointValue(_pos_) + _acc_ Map.empty
let doubleLetterScore =
  Map.add 0 "_result_" := pointValue(_pos_) * 2 + _acc_ Map.empty
let tripleLetterScore =
  Map.add 0 "_result_" := pointValue(_pos_) * 3 + _acc_ Map.empty

let doubleWordScore = Map.add 1 "_result_" := _acc_ * 2 singleLetterScore
let tripleWordScore = Map.add 1 "_result_" := _acc_ * 3 singleLetterScore

```

After compiling these functions with `parseSquareProg` you will get actual `F#` functions in the `square` type that have been constructed by parsing and evaluating programs in `squareProg`.

We will see how this works through an example:

We will use SLS to mean single letter score, DWS to mean double word score, and so on.

Consider that we are placing the word QIN (`[('Q', 10); ('I', 1); ('N', 1)]`) over the tiles triple letter score, single letter score, and double word score. By following the rules of Scrabble this should calculate to 64 points. We have three squares of the form

1. `map [(0, TLS)]`
2. `map [(0, SLS)]`
3. `map [(0, SLS); (1, DWS)]`

Where SLS, TLS, and DWS have the type `word -> int -> int -> int`

By partially applying these function with the word QIN and the position of the letter that is placed on the tile, we get the following maps (your evaluation function from Assignment 6 and seven will already do this)

1. `map [(0, fun acc -> 10 * 3 + acc)]`
2. `map [(0, fun acc -> 1 + acc)]`
3. `map [(0, fun acc -> 1 + acc); (1, fun acc -> acc * 2)]`

By collapsing the map into a list, sortyng by priority, and keeping the functions, we get the following functions in order.

1. `fun acc -> 10 * 3 + acc`
2. `fun acc -> 1 + acc`
3. `fun acc -> 1 + acc`
4. `fun acc -> acc * 2`

Composing these with function composition or pipes and instantiating the accumulator to 0 gives us the following evaluation.

```

0 |> fun acc -> 10 * 3 + acc |> fun acc -> 1 + acc |>
fun acc -> 1 + acc |> fun acc -> acc * 2 ==>

10 * 3 + 0 |> fun acc -> 1 + acc |>
fun acc -> 1 + acc |> fun acc -> acc * 2 ==>

```

```

30 |> fun acc -> 1 + acc |>
fun acc -> 1 + acc |> fun acc -> acc * 2 ==>

1 + 30 |> fun acc -> 1 + acc |> fun acc -> acc * 2 ==>

31 |> fun acc -> 1 + acc |> fun acc -> acc * 2 ==>

1 + 31 |> fun acc -> acc * 2 ==>

32 |> fun acc -> acc * 2 ==>

32 * 2 ==>

64

```

Which is indeed the expected result.

Your solution for Assignment 3.8 (which uses your solution from Assignment 2.17) already does the lion's share of the work. but the square type in 3.8 was `type square = (int * squareFun) list` rather than a map. Converting your map to a list and appealing to 3.8 calculates the points.

## Parallelism and interrupts

Parallelising a scrabble engine is in principle close to trivial as very few of the computations depend on previous one.

- Building a word from one requires no information from words built on other tiles
- Using one piece from your hand on a tile to continue a word can be done in parallel with choosing another letter from your hand and continue another word
- Using one element from one the piece sets can be done in parallel with choosing another element from the same set.

In reality, however, things are not quite as easy. Setting up parallelism produces overhead and if you were to parallelise all of the steps mentioned above then you would end up with an algorithm that is slower than the linear one. You will have to experiment a bit to see what sticks.

### Options for parallelism

When it comes to parallelism you have two choices. The first is to use the `Async` framework to fork of asynchronous processors and collect the data. For instance, if you have a function `doAction : input -> Async<result>` then you can, given input, obtain an asynchronous process that calculates the result. You can then use `Async.Parallel : Async<'a> list -> Async<'a[]>` to do the computation. As an example, assume you have a list `actions : Async<result>` then you can do the following at the top-level.

```

actions |>
Async.Parallel |>
Async.RunSynchronously

```

This command will then return an array of results that you can collect by folding over the array.

Another (and most likely simpler) option is to use `System.Threading.Tasks.Parallel.ForEach : IEnumerable<'a> -> ('a -> unit) -> ParallelLoopResult`

This can, for instance be set up in the following way (assuming that you have a function `doAction : input -> ()`).

```
open System.Threading.Tasks
Parallel.ForEach (inputSet, doAction) |> ignore
```

Since this action does not return a result you will need to store the information somehow, and this can be used by a mutable variable. You do, however, have to be careful as you can get race conditions on this variable. By far the easiest way to handle this is by using mailboxes. It's short, succinct, and elegant and described in depth [here](#).

Using mailboxes it is safe to have a mutable field that stores your best move so far as the mailboxes will make sure that changes to this field are only applied in order. The best (functional) way to do it is, however, to have two types of messages that you can put in your mailbox — one message that puts things in the mailbox, and one message containing a continuation that takes a message out of the mailbox and passes it to the continuation. You are, however, free to use mutable data if you wish.

Another option is to use locks, but this is really more error-prone and more complicated. We highly recommend you use the mailboxes.

## Cancelling actions

We have timeouts in the game as otherwise we would not be able to handle that people drop out of the game for whatever reason (buggy code, internet malfunction, ...). Timeouts are handled in .NET using something called [cancellation tokens](#). These can be used to cancel ongoing tasks. For Async workflows, for instance, you can use `Async.Start : Async<unit> * CancellationToken -> unit` that starts an asynchronous task but that can be cancelled using a cancellation token. For more information read [this post](#).

You can also cancel `Parallel.ForEach` with cancellation tokens. The following code sets up a task that will be cancelled automatically after a specific timeout.

```
use cts = new System.Threading.CancellationTokenSource(timeoutInMilliseconds)
let po = new ParallelOptions()
po.CancellationToken <- cts.Token
po.MaxDegreeOfParallelism <- System.Environment.ProcessorCount

try
    Parallel.ForEach (inputSet, po, doAction) |> ignore
with
| :? System.OperationCanceledException -> printfn "Timeout"
```

Note that whenever the operation is cancelled an exception is thrown that you will have to catch and then return the best move that you have discovered so far (again using mutable variables and/or mailboxes).