Chapter 10: Free type constructions

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The interpreter pattern I. Expression trees

Main idea: Represent a program as a data structure, run it later

Example: a simple DSL for complex numbers

```
val a = "1+2*i".toComplex
val b = a * "3-4*i".toComplex
b.conj
Conj(
Mul(
Str("1+2*i"), Str("3-4*i")
))
```

Unevaluated operations Str, Mul, Conj are defined as case classes:

```
sealed trait Prg
case class Str(s: String) extends Prg
case class Mul(p1: Prg, p2: Prg) extends Prg
case class Conj(p: Prg) extends Prg
```

An interpreter will "run" the program and return a complex number

```
def run(prg: Prg): (Double, Double) = ...
```

- Benefits: programs are data, can compose & transform before running
- Shortcomings: this DSL works only with simple expressions
 - Cannot represent variable binding and conditional computations
 - ► Cannot use any non-DSL code (e.g. a numerical algorithms library)

The interpreter pattern II. Variable binding

A DSL with variable binding and conditional computations

- Example: imperative API for reading and writing files
 - ▶ Need to bind a *non-DSL variable* to a value computed by DSL
 - ▶ Later, need to use that non-DSL variable in DSL expressions
 - ▶ The rest of the DSL program is a (Scala) function of that variable

```
val p = path("/file")
val str: String = read(p)
if (str.nonEmpty)
  read(path(str))
else "Error: empty path"

Bind(
  Read(Path(Literal("/file"))),
{ str \( \Rightarrow / / \) read value 'str'
  if (str.nonEmpty)
      Read(Path(Literal(str)))
  else Literal("Error: empty path")
})
```

Unevaluated operations are implemented via case classes:

```
sealed trait Prg
case class Bind(p: Prg, f: String ⇒ Prg) extends Prg
case class Literal(s: String) extends Prg
case class Path(s: Prg) extends Prg
case class Read(p: Prg) extends Prg
.
```

• Interpreter: def run(prg: Prg): String = ...

The interpreter pattern III. Type safety

- So far, the DSL has no type safety: every value is a Prg
 - ▶ We want to avoid errors, e.g. Read(Read(...)) should not compile
- Let Prg[A] denote a DSL program returning value of type A when run:

```
sealed trait Prg[A]
case class Bind(p: Prg[String], f: String ⇒ Prg[String])
  extends Prg[String]
case class Literal(s: String) extends Prg[String]
case class Path(s: Prg[String]) extends Prg[nio.file.Path]
case class Read(p: Prg[nio.file.Path]) extends Prg[String]
```

- Interpreter: def run(prg: Prg[String]): String = ...
- Our example DSL program is type-safe now:

```
val prg: Prg[String] = Bind(
  Read(Path(Literal("/file"))),
     { str: String ⇒
     if (str.nonEmpty)
        Read(Path(Literal(str)))
     else Literal("Error: empty path")
})
```

The interpreter pattern IV. Cleaning up the DSL

Our DSL so far:

```
sealed trait Prg[A]
case class Bind(p: Prg[String], f: String ⇒ Prg[String])
  extends Prg[String]
case class Literal(s: String) extends Prg[String]
case class Path(s: Prg[String]) extends Prg[nio.file.Path]
case class Read(p: Prg[nio.file.Path]) extends Prg[String]
```

Problems with this DSL:

- Cannot use Read(p: nio.file.Path), only Read(p: Prg[nio.file.Path])
- Cannot bind variables or return values other than String

To fix these problems, make Literal a fully parameterized operation and replace Prg[A] by A in case class arguments

```
sealed trait Prg[A]
case class Bind[A, B](p: Prg[A], f: A⇒Prg[B]) extends Prg[B]
case class Literal[A](a: A) extends Prg[A]
case class Path(s: String) extends Prg[nio.file.Path]
case class Read(p: nio.file.Path) extends Prg[String]
```

• The type signatures of Bind and Literal are like flatMap and pure

The interpreter pattern V. Define Monad-like methods

• We can actually define the methods map, flatMap, pure:

```
sealed trait Prg[A] {
  def flatMap[B](f: A \Rightarrow Prg[B]): Prg[B] = Bind(this, f)
  def map[B](f: A \Rightarrow B): Prg[B] = flatMap(this, f andThen Prg.pure)
object Prg { def pure[A](a: A): Prg[A] = Literal(a) }
```

- These methods don't run anything, only create unevaluated structures
- DSL programs can now be written as functor blocks and composed:

```
def readPath(p: String): Prg[String] = for {
  path \leftarrow Path(p)
  str \leftarrow Read(path)
} yield str
val prg: Prg[String] = for {
  str \( \text{readPath("/file")} \)
  result ← if (str.nonEmpty)
      readPath(str)
    else Prg.pure("Error: empty path")
} yield result
```

Interpreter: def run[A](prg: Prg[A]): A = ...

The interpreter pattern VI. Refactoring to an abstract DSL

• Write a DSL for complex numbers in a similar way:

```
sealed trait Prg[A] { def flatMap ... } // no code changes case class Bind[A, B] (p: Prg[A], f: A \Rightarrow Prg[B]) extends Prg[B] case class Literal[A] (a: A) extends Prg[A] type Complex = (Double, Double) // custom code starts here case class Str(s: String) extends Prg[Complex] case class Mul(c1: Complex, C2: Complex) extends Prg[Complex] case class Conj(c: Complex) extends Prg[Complex]
```

Refactor this DSL to separate common code from custom code:

```
sealed trait DSL[F[_], A] { def flatMap ... } // no code changes type Prg[A] = DSL[F, A] // just for convenience case class Bind[A, B](p: Prg[A], f: A \Rightarrow Prg[B]) extends Prg[B] case class Literal[A](a: A) extends Prg[A] custom operations here
```

Interpreter is parameterized by a "value extractor"
 Ex^F ≡ ∀A. (F^A ⇒ A)
 def run[F[_], A](ex: Ex[F])(prg: DSL[F, A]): A = ...

The interpreter pattern VII. Handling errors

- To handle errors, we want to evaluate DSL[F[_], A] to Either[Err, A]
- Suppose we have a value extractor of type $\operatorname{Ex}^F \equiv \forall A. (F^A \Rightarrow \operatorname{Err} + A)$
- The code of the interpreter is almost unchanged:

```
def run[F[_], A](extract: Ex[F])(prg: DSL[F, A]): Either[Err, A] =
  prg match {
    case b: Bind[F, _, A] ⇒ b match { case Bind(p, f) ⇒
            run(extract)(p).flatMap(f andThen run(extract))
    } // Here, the .flatMap is from Either.
    case Literal(a) ⇒ Right(a) // pure: A ⇒ Err + A
    case Ops(f) ⇒ extract(f)
}
```

- The code of run only uses flatMap and pure from Either
- We can generalize to any other monad M^A instead of Either[Err, A]

The resulting construction:

- Start with an "operations type constructor" F^A (often not a functor)
- Use DSL^{F,A} and interpreter run^{M,A}: $(\forall X.F^X \Rightarrow M^X) \Rightarrow DSL^{F,A} \Rightarrow M^A$
- Create a DSL program prg : DSL^{F,A} and an extractor $ex^X : F^X \Rightarrow M^X$
- Run the program with the extractor: run(ex)(prg); get a value M^A

The interpreter pattern VIII. Monadic DSLs: summary

- Begin with a number of operations, which are typically functions of fixed known types such as $A_1 \Rightarrow B_1$, $A_2 \Rightarrow B_2$ etc.
- Define a type constructor (typically not a functor) encapsulating all the operations as case classes, with or without type parameters

```
sealed trait F[A]
case class Op1(a1: A1) extends F[B1]
case class Op2(a1: A2) extends F[B2]
```

- Use DSL[F,A] with this F to write monadic DSL programs prg: DSL[F,A]
- Choose a target monad M[A] and implement an extractor $ex:F[A] \Rightarrow M[A]$
- Run the program with the extractor, val res: M[A] = run(ex)(prg)

Further directions (out of scope for this chapter):

- May choose another monad N[A] and use interpreter $M[A] \Rightarrow N[A]$
 - ▶ E.g. transform into another monadic DSL to optimize, test, etc.
- Since DSL[F,A] has a monad API, we can use monad transformers on it
- Can combine two or more DSLs in a disjunction: $DSL^{F+G+H,A}$

Monad laws for DSL programs

Monad laws hold for DSL programs only after evaluating them

- Consider the law flm (pure) = id; both functions $DSL^{F,A} \Rightarrow DSL^{F,A}$
- ullet Apply both sides to some prg : $DSL^{F,A}$ and get the new value

```
prg.flatMap(pure) == Bind(prg, a ⇒ Literal(a))
```

- This new value is not equal to prg, so this monad law fails!
 - Other laws fail as well because operations never reduce anything
- After interpreting this program into a target monad M^A , the law holds:

```
run(ex)(prg).flatMap((a ⇒ Literal(a)) andThen run(ex))
== run(ex)(prg).flatMap(a ⇒ run(ex)(Literal(a))
== run(ex)(prg).flatMap(a ⇒ pure(a))
== run(ex)(prg)
```

- \blacktriangleright Here we have assumed that the laws hold for M^A
- ightharpoonup All other laws also hold after interpreting into a lawful monad M^A

The monad law violations are "not observable"

Free constructions in mathematics: Example I

- Consider the Russian letter μ (tsè) and the Chinese word χ (shui)
- We want to *multiply* ц by 水. Multiply how?
- Say, we want an associative (but noncommutative) product of them
 - ► So we want to define a *semigroup* that *contains* ц and 水 as elements
- * while we still know nothing about μ and 水

 Consider the set of all unevaluated expressions such as w.水
- Consider the set of all *unevaluated expressions* such as μ·水·水·μ·水
 - ▶ Here \mathbf{u} · \mathbf{x} is different from \mathbf{x} · \mathbf{u} but $(a \cdot b) \cdot c = a \cdot (b \cdot c)$
- ullet All these expressions form a **free semigroup** generated by ц and x
 - ▶ This is the most unrestricted semigroup that contains ц and 水
- Example calculation: (水水)·(ц·水)·ц = 水·水·ц·水·ц

How to represent this as a data type:

- Tree encoding: the full expression tree: (((水,水),(ц,水)),ц)
 - ▶ Implement the operation $a \cdot b$ as pair constructor (easy)
- Reduced encoding, as a "smart" structure: List(水,水,ц,水,ц)
 - ▶ Implement $a \cdot b$ by concatenating the lists (more expensive)

Free constructions in mathematics: Example II

- ullet Want to define a product operation for *n*-dimensional vectors: ${f v}_1 \otimes {f v}_2$
- The ⊗ must be linear and distributive (but not commutative):

$$\begin{split} u_1 \otimes v_1 + (u_2 \otimes v_2 + u_3 \otimes v_3) &= (u_1 \otimes v_1 + u_2 \otimes v_2) + u_3 \otimes v_3 \\ u \otimes (a_1 v_1 + a_2 v_2) &= a_1 (u \otimes v_1) + a_2 (u \otimes v_2) \\ (a_1 v_1 + a_2 v_2) \otimes u &= a_1 (v_1 \otimes u) + a_2 (v_2 \otimes u) \end{split}$$

- ▶ We have such a product for 3-dimensional vectors only; ignore that
- Consider unevaluated expressions of the form $\mathbf{u}_1 \otimes \mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{u}_2 \otimes \mathbf{v}_2 + ...$
 - A free vector space generated by pairs of vectors
- Impose the equivalence relationships shown above
 - ► The result is known as the **tensor product**
- Tree encoding: full unevaluated expression tree
 - ▶ A list of any number of vector pairs $\sum_i \mathbf{u}_i \otimes \mathbf{v}_i$
- Reduced encoding: an $n \times n$ matrix
 - Reduced encoding requires proofs and more complex operations

Worked example: Free semigroup

Implement a free semigroup FSIS generated by two types Int and String

- A value of FSIS can be an Int; it can also be a String
- If x, y are of type FSIS then so is x |+| y

```
sealed trait FSIS // tree encoding: full expression tree
case class Wrap1(x: Int) extends FSIS
case class Wrap2(x: String) extends FSIS
case class Comb(x: FSIS, y: FSIS) extends FSIS
```

- Short type notation: $FSIS \equiv Int + String + FSIS \times FSIS$
- ullet For a semigroup S and given $\operatorname{Int} \Rightarrow S$ and $\operatorname{String} \Rightarrow S$, map $\operatorname{FSIS} \Rightarrow S$
- Simplify and generalize this construction by setting Z = Int + String
 The tree encoding is FS^Z ≡ Z + FS^Z × FS^Z

```
def |+|(x: FS[Z], y: FS[Z]): FS[Z] = Comb(x, y)
def run[S: Semigroup, Z](extract: Z \Rightarrow S): FS[Z] \Rightarrow S = {
   case Wrap(z) \Rightarrow extract(z)
   case Comb(x, y) \Rightarrow run(extract)(x) |+| run(extract)(y)
} // Semigroup laws will hold after applying run().
```

- The reduced encoding is $FSR^Z \equiv Z \times List^Z$ (non-empty list of Z's)
 - x |+| y requires concatenating the lists, but run() is faster

Worked example: Free monoid

Implement a free monoid FM[Z] generated by type Z

- A value of FM[Z] can be the empty value; it can also be a Z
- If x, y are of type FM[Z] then so is x |+| y

```
sealed trait FM[Z] // tree encoding
case class Empty[Z]() extends FM[Z]
case class Wrap[Z](z: Z) extends FM[Z]
case class Comb[Z](x: FM[Z], y: FM[Z]) extends FM[Z]
```

- Short type notation: $\mathsf{FM}^{\mathsf{Z}} \equiv 1 + Z + \mathsf{FM}^{\mathsf{Z}} \times \mathsf{FM}^{\mathsf{Z}}$
- For a monoid M and given $Z \Rightarrow M$, map $FM^Z \Rightarrow M$

```
def |+|(x: FM[Z], y: FM[Z]): FM[Z] = Comb(x, y)
def run[M: Monoid, Z](extract: Z \Rightarrow M): FM[Z] \Rightarrow M = {
   case Empty() \Rightarrow Monoid[M].empty
   case Wrap(z) \Rightarrow extract(z)
   case Comb(x, y) \Rightarrow run(extract)(x) |+| run(extract)(y)
} // Monoid laws will hold after applying run().
```

- The reduced encoding is $FMR^Z \equiv List^Z$ (list of Z's)
 - ► Implementing |+| requires concatenating the lists
- Reduced encoding and tree encoding give identical results after run()

Mapping a free semigroup to different targets

What if we interpret FS^X into another free semigroup?

- Given $Y \Rightarrow Z$, can we map $FS^Y \Rightarrow FS^Z$?
 - ▶ Need to map $FS^Y \equiv Y + FS^Y \times FS^Y \Rightarrow Z + FS^Z \times FS^Z$
 - ▶ This is straightforward since FS^X is a functor in X:

```
def fmap[Y, Z](f: Y \Rightarrow Z): FS[Y] \Rightarrow FS[Z] = {
  case Wrap(y) \Rightarrow Wrap(f(y))
  case Comb(a, b) \Rightarrow Comb(fmap(f)(a), fmap(f)(b))
}
```

- Now we can use run to interpret $FS^X \Rightarrow FS^Y \Rightarrow FS^Z \Rightarrow S$, etc.
 - ► Functor laws hold for FS^X, so fmap is composable as usual
 - ► The "interpreter" commutes with fmap as well (naturality law):

$$\mathsf{FS}^X \xrightarrow{\mathsf{run}^S(f \circ g)^{X \Rightarrow S}} S$$

• Combine two free semigroups: FS^{X+Y} ; inject parts: $FS^X \Rightarrow FS^{X+Y}$

Church encoding I. Motivation

- Multiple target semigroups S_i require many "extractors" $ex_i : Z \Rightarrow S_i$
- Refactor extractors ex_i into evidence of a typeclass constraint on S_i

```
// Typeclass ExZ[S] has the single method 'extract: Z \Rightarrow S'. implicit val exZ: ExZ[MySemigroup] = { z \Rightarrow ... } def run[S: ExZ: Semigroup](fm: FM[Z]): S = fm match { case Wrap(z) \Rightarrow implicitly[ExZ[S]].extract(z) case Comb(x, y) \Rightarrow run(x) |+| run(y) }
```

Refactor run using a helper function wrap

```
def wrap[S: ExZ](z: Z): S = implicitly[ExZ[S]].extract(z)
```

- Refactor the rest of run into functions with constraint [S: ExZ],
 - def x[S: ExZ : Semigroup]: S = wrap(1) |+| wrap(2)
- The type of x is $\forall S. (Z \Rightarrow S) \times (S \times S \Rightarrow S) \Rightarrow S$; equivalently:

$$\forall S. (Z \Rightarrow S) \times (S \times S \Rightarrow S) \Rightarrow S \cong \forall S. ((Z + S \times S) \Rightarrow S) \Rightarrow S$$

- This is known as the "Church encoding" (for the free semigroup)
- Church encoding works for any type: $A \cong \forall X. (A \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow X$
 - which resembles the type of the continuation monad, $(A \Rightarrow R) \Rightarrow R$
 - lacktriangle but orall X makes the function fully generic and a natural transformation

Church encoding II. Disjunction types

- Consider the Church encoding for the disjunction type P + Q
 - ▶ The encoding is $\forall X. (P + Q \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow X \cong \forall X. (P \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow (Q \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow X$ trait Disj[P, Q] { def run[X] (cp: P \Rightarrow X) (cq: Q \Rightarrow X): X }
- Define some values of this type:

```
def left[P, Q](p: P) = new Disj[P, Q] { def run[X](cp: P \Rightarrow X)(cq: Q \Rightarrow X): X = cp(p) }
```

- Now we can implement the analog of the case expression simply as val result = disj.run {p ⇒ ...} {q ⇒ ...}
- This works in programming languages that have no disjunction types
 General recipe for implementing the Church encoding:

```
trait Blah { def run[X](cont: ... \Rightarrow X): X }
```

- For convenience, define a type class Ex describing the inner function:
 trait Ex[X] { def cp: P ⇒ X; def cq: Q ⇒ X }
 - ▶ Different methods of this class return X; convenient with disjunctions
- Church-encoded types have to be "run" for pattern-matching

Church encoding III. How it works

Why is the type $\operatorname{Ch}^A \equiv \forall X. (A \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow X$ equivalent to the type A? trait $\operatorname{Ch}[A]$ { def run[X] (cont: $A \Rightarrow X$): X }

• If we have a value of A, we can get Ch^A

```
def a2c[A](a: A): Ch[A] = new Ch[A] {
  def run[X](cont: A ⇒ X): X = cont(a)
}
```

• If we have Ch^A, we can extract an A out of it

```
def c2a[A](ch: Ch[A]): A = ch.run[A](a\Rightarrowa)
```

- The functions a2c and c2a are inverses of each other
 - ► To implement a value ch^{:Ch^A}, we must compute an $x^{:X}$ given $f^{:A\Rightarrow X}$, for any X, which requires having a value $a^{:A}$ available
- To show that ch = a2c(c2a(ch)), apply both sides to an f: $A \Rightarrow X$ and get $ch.run(f) = a2c(c2a(ch)).run(f) = f(c2a(ch)) = f(ch.run(a \Rightarrow a))$
 - ▶ This is naturality of ch.run as a transformation between Reader and Id
 - ★ Naturality of ch.run follows from parametricity
 - ▶ It is straightforward to compute c2a(a2c(a)) = identity(a) = a

Church encoding IV. Recursive types and type constructors

- Consider the recursive type $P \equiv Z + P \times P$ (tree with Z-typed leaves)
 - ▶ The Church encoding is $\forall X.((Z + X \times X) \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow X$
 - ightharpoonup This is *non-recursive*: the recursive use of P is replaced by X
- Generalize to recursive type $P \equiv S^P$ where S is a "structure functor":
 - ▶ The Church encoding is $\forall X. (S^X \Rightarrow X) \Rightarrow X$
 - ★ Church encoding of recursive types is non-recursive
- Church encoding for a type constructor P^{\bullet} :
 - ▶ Notation: P• is a type function; Scala syntax is P[_]
 - ▶ The Church encoding is $Ch^{P^{\bullet},A} = \forall F^{\bullet}. (\forall X.P^X \Rightarrow F^X) \Rightarrow F^A$
 - ▶ Note: $\forall X.P^X \Rightarrow F^X$ or $P^{\bullet} \leadsto F^{\bullet}$ resembles a natural transformation
 - \star Except that P^{\bullet} and F^{\bullet} are not necessarily functors, so no naturality law
- Church encoding for a recursively defined type constructor P^{\bullet} :
 - ▶ Definition: $P^A \equiv S^{P^{\bullet},A}$ where $S^{\bullet^{\bullet},A}$ is the "structure transformation"
 - ▶ Notation: $S^{\bullet \bullet, A}$ is a higher-order type function; Scala syntax: $S[_[], A]$
 - ★ Example: List^A $\equiv 1 + A \times \text{List}^A \equiv S^{\text{List}^{\bullet}, A}$ where $S^{P^{\bullet}, A} \equiv 1 + A \times P^A$
 - ▶ The Church encoding of P^A is $Ch^{P^{\bullet},A} = \forall F^{\bullet}. (S^{F^{\bullet}} \leadsto F^{\bullet}) \Rightarrow F^A$
- Works the same if P^{\bullet} belongs to a typeclass use $\forall F^{\bullet}: C. (...)$

Properties of free type constructions

Generalizing from our examples so far:

- We "enriched" Z to a monoid FM^Z and F^A to a monad $DSL^{F,A}$
 - ▶ The "enrichment" adds case classes representing the needed operations
 - ▶ Very similar recipe for a type Z and for a type constructor F^A
- Obtain a free type construction, which performs no computations
- A value of a free construction can be "run" to yield concrete values

Questions:

- Can we construct a free typeclass C over any type constructor F^A ?
 - ▶ Yes, with typeclasses: (contra)functor, filterable, monad, applicative
- Which of the possible encodings to use?
 - Tree encoding, reduced encodings, Church encoding
- What are the laws for the FreeC F,A "free instance of C over F"?
 - ▶ For all F^{\bullet} , must have wrap[A] : $F^{A} \Rightarrow \text{FreeC}^{F,A}$ or $F^{\bullet} \leadsto \text{FreeC}^{F,\bullet}$
 - ▶ For all M^{\bullet} : C, given $F^{\bullet} \rightsquigarrow M^{\bullet}$, must have run: Free $C^{F, \bullet} \rightsquigarrow M^{\bullet}$
 - The laws of typeclass C must hold after interpreting into an M^{\bullet} : C
 - ▶ Given any $f: F^{\bullet} \leadsto G^{\bullet}$, must have $fmap(f): FreeC^{F, \bullet} \leadsto FreeC^{G, \bullet}$

Worked example: free functor

Generalize

Worked example: free contrafunctor

Generalize

Worked example: free pointed functor

- Also consider the case when we start from a functor F
- ullet Free monad when starting from a functor F

Worked example: free filterable

Generalie

Worked example: free applicative

Generalize

Free constructions as "universal" DSL programs

Generalize

Exercises

- ① Implement a free semigroup generated by a type Z in the tree encoding and in the reduced encoding. Show that the semigroup laws hold for the reduced encoding but not for the tree encoding before interpreting into a lawful semigroup S.
- ② Consider a free monoid generated by a type Z when Z is already a monoid. Show that the resulting type is not equivalent to Z.yes