

Programming Paradigms 2025

Session 12: Catching up once more

Problems

Hans Hüttel

25 November 2025

1 Problems that we will definitely talk about

1. The goal of this problem is to define a function `frequencies` that, given a string s , creates a list of pairs $[(x_1, f_1), \dots, (x_k, f_k)]$ such that if the character x_i occurs a total number of f_i times throughout the list s , then the list of pairs will contain the pair (x_i, f_i) .

As an example of this,

```
frequencies "regn timer"
```

should return the list

```
[( 'r', 2), ( 'e', 2), ( 'g', 2), ( 'n', 2), ( 'i', 1)]
```

- a) What should the type of the function be?
 - b) Use *recursion* to give a definition of `frequencies`.
2. Here is a type declaration for simple expressions.

```
data Exp a = Var a | Val Integer | Add (Exp a) (Exp a) | Mult (Exp a) (Exp a) deriving Show
```

Show how do make this type into an instance of `Functor`.

When would it be useful to think of `Exp a` as a functor? Think of a good example!

3. Consider trees whose elements are values of some type in the type class `Ord`. The type `Tree a` is defined by

```
data Tree a = Leaf a | Node (Tree a) (Tree a)
```

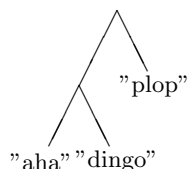


Figure 1: The ordered mytree1

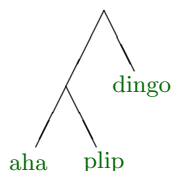


Figure 2: The unordered mytree2

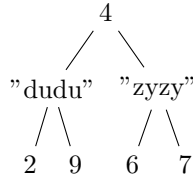


Figure 3: A mixed `Int`, `String`-tree that is layered

Use a *monad* to write a function `minorder` that takes such a tree and checks if the numbers in the structure are in non-decreasing order when read from left to right. If it is, the function should return `Just k`, where `k` is the smallest number in the tree, otherwise it should return `Nothing`. The tree `mytree` shown in Figure 1 is ordered, so `minorder mytree1` should return `Just "aha"`, but the tree in Figure 2 is not ordered, so `minorder mytree2` should return `Nothing`.

First define another function `minmax` that finds the minimal and the maximal element in a tree under the assumption that the tree is ordered. Then use `minmax` to define `minorder`.

Hints: First, find some good test cases. Then find out which monad you should use.

Warning! Only use monadic notation!

Additional problems

1. Define a `foldM` function whose type should be

```
foldM :: Monad m => (t1 -> t2 -> m t2) -> [t1] -> t2 -> m t2
```

The idea is that the function works like `foldl` but folds over a monad.

Here is an example that shows what will happen if we fold over the `IO` monad. If we let

```
dingo x = do
  putStrLn (show x)
  return x
```

then we should see the following behaviour.

```
*Main> foldM (\x y -> (dingo (x+y))) [1,2,3,4] 0
1
3
6
10
```

2. This goal of this problem is to define a data structure and a function over it.

We consider a data structure that we call mixed *a, b*-trees. Let *a* and *b* be any types. Then we say that a tree is a mixed *a, b*-tree if it has one of these forms given below.

- It can be an empty leaf
- It can be a leaf labelled with an element of type *a*
- It can be a leaf labelled with an element of type *b*
- It can consist of a node labelled with an element of type *a* and a left and right subtree that are also mixed *a, b*-trees.
- It can consist of a node labelled with an element of type *b* and a left and right subtree that are also mixed *a, b*-trees.

Figures 3 and 4 show two mixed `Int`, `String`-trees; empty leaves are not shown.

- a) Define a datatype `MixedTree` for mixed *a, b*-trees in Haskell.
- b) Represent the tree in Figure 3 as a term of type `MixedTree`.

We say that a mixed *a, b*-tree *t* is *layered* if the following holds:

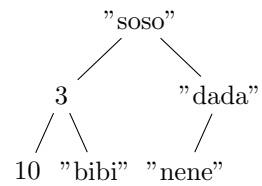


Figure 4: A mixed `Int`, `String`-tree that is not layered

- Every node in t labelled with an element of type a has all its children labelled with elements of type b .
- Every node in t labelled with an element of type b has all its children labelled with elements of type a .

The tree in Figure 3 is layered, the tree in Figure 4 is not.

Define a function `islayered` which takes a tree as argument and tells us if the tree is layered.