

# An Invitation to Haskell

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My name is Emily Pillmore.

I am a programmer, and a math enthusiast.

- ▶ Author/Maintainer of more than 30 packages, some bigger than others
- ▶ Served on the Haskell Core Libraries and .Org committees
- ▶ Twitter ([@yandereidiot](#))
- ▶ Meetups in NYC: NY Homotopy Type Theory, NY Category Theory, and the NY Haskell User Group.
- ▶ All of my slides, general scribbles, research, and meetup content are hosted at [cohomolo.gy](#).

If you ever want to talk math or programming, I'm around.

I helped start the [Haskell Foundation](#) and served on the executive leadership team as a duo (CTO) with Andrew Boardman (ED).



I now work at a company called **Kadena**, as the lead of the language, its ecosystem, and its execution layers.



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So what is Functional Programming?



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- ▶ A programming style? (emphasis on recursion, "math", small static combinators, shunting as many errors to the compiler as possible)

## So what is Functional Programming?

- ▶ A collection of features? (lambdas, first class HOF's, static type system...)
- ▶ A programming style? (emphasis on recursion, "math", small static combinators, shunting as many errors to the compiler as possible)
- ▶ A cult?

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In 1977, John Backus wrote everything we needed to know about FP.

Compositionality! Equational Reasoning! Sound foundational principles!

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Haskell builds a equational foundation on **purity**.



This means that functions may not have *side effects*. In conjunction with not allowing side effects anywhere, this allows expressions to be completely deterministic, and therefore *referentially transparent*.

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- ▶ It has functions (read: function definitions, lambdas)
- ▶ It has builtins (integers, IEEE floating points, machine words, characters etc.)
- ▶ It has generics

Haskell has a global notion of parametricity everywhere you want it which may be reasoned about equationally, and therefore free theorems you can reason about.

It has a form of ad-hoc polymorphism for generics called "Typeclasses".



For more, see:

- ▶ Wadler - [Theorems for Free](#)
- ▶ My talk - [Type Arithmetic](#)

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- ▶ Laziness (a limited form of mutation) turns out to be enough to recover amortized analysis

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- ▶ This requires a different take on analysis (think counting techniques etc.) which causes you to think in a whole new paradigm.

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- ▶ The amortized analysis (cheap small steps paying off a more expensive larger step) needed to talk about the best/average/worst case of operations goes out the window (your amortized cost becomes your worst case for many operations).
- ▶ Laziness (a limited form of mutation) turns out to be enough to recover amortized analysis.
- ▶ This requires a different take on analysis (think counting techniques etc.) which causes some tension.

Immutability + Laziness, though, is a super power. Friedman-Wise posed an important question back in 1976.



Inherently easy to spread about on multiple cores. With commutative, associative, and unital (see: commutative monoidal) functions, map-reduce is possible.

It also makes scheduling parallelism and concurrency a simpler.

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