

# Functional Programming in Scala

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Function are values, i.e., a function can be

	Value	Function
• Anonymous	3	$x \Rightarrow x + 1$
• Assigned to a variable	$x = 3$	$f = x \Rightarrow x + 1$
• Passed as input/output parameter	$f(3)$	$f(x \Rightarrow x + 1)$
• Created dynamically	$3 + 4$	$f \circ g$

- Imperative languages  $\Rightarrow$  Von Neumann Architecture
  - Efficiency
- Functional languages  $\Rightarrow$  Lambda Calculus
  - A solid theoretical basis that is also closer to the user, but
  - relatively unconcerned with the architecture of the machines on which programs will run

- A mathematical function is
  - a mapping of members of one set, called the domain set, to another set, called the range set
- A **lambda expression** specifies the parameter(s) and the mapping of a function in the following form

$\lambda(x) x * x * x$

for the function cube

$\text{cube}(x) = x * x * x$

- Lambda expressions describe nameless functions
- Lambda expressions are applied to parameter(s) by placing the parameter(s) after the expression

$(\lambda(x) x * x * x)(2)$

which evaluates to 8

- A higher-order function is one that either takes functions as parameters or yields a function as its result, or both
- For example,
  - Function composition
  - Apply-to-all
  - Forall/Exists
  - Insert-left/Insert-right
  - Functions as parameters
  - Closures

A function that

- takes two functions as parameters and
- yields a function whose value is the first actual parameter function applied to the application of the second

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

$$\text{For } f(x) = x + 2; g(x) = x * x; f \circ g (x) = x * x + 2$$

Example in Scala,

---

```
val f = (x:Double) => x + 2
val g = (x:Double) => x * x
val h = f compose g
h(3)
val k = f andThen g
k(3)
```

---

A functional form that

- takes a single function as a parameter and
- yields a list of values obtained by applying the given function to each element of a list of parameters

$$\alpha f : \langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle = \langle f : x_1, f : x_2, \dots, f : x_n \rangle$$

For  $h(x)=x*x \Rightarrow \alpha h:(1,2,3)$  yields  $(1,4,9)$

Example in Scala,

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```
List(2,3,4).map((x:Int) => x * x)
def inc (x:Int) = x + 1
List(4,5,6).map(inc)
```

---



A functional form that

- takes a single **predicate** function as a parameter and
- yields a value obtained by applying the given function to each element of a list of parameters and take the **and/or** of the results

$$\begin{aligned}\forall f : \langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle &= \bigcap f : x_i \\ \exists f : \langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle &= \bigcup f : x_i\end{aligned}$$

Example in Scala,

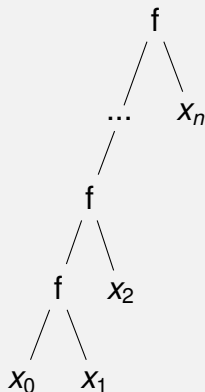
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```
def isEqualToThree(x:Int) = x == 3
List(2,3,4).forall(isEqualToThree)
                // yield false
List(2,3,4).exists(isEqualToThree)
                // yield true
```

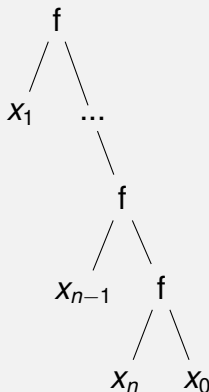
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# Insert Left / Insert Right

$/f : \langle x_0 \rangle, \langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle$



$\backslash f : \langle x_0 \rangle, \langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle$



## Example in Scala

---

```
List(2,3,4).foldLeft(0)((a,b) => a+b) // yield 9
List(2,3,4).foldLeft(1)((a,b) => a*b) // yield 24
List(2,3,4).foldLeft("A")((a,b) => a + b)
                // yield "A234"
List(2,3,4).foldRight("A")((a,b) => a + b)
                // yield "234A"
```

---

In user-defined functions, functions can be passed as parameters.

---

```
def apply(x:Int)(f:Int=>Int) = f(x)
val inc1 = (x:Int) => x + 1
val sq = (x:Int) => x * x
val fl = List(inc1,sq)
fl.map(apply(3)) //yield List(4,9)
```

---

"An object is data with functions. A closure is a function with data." - John D. Cook

---

```
def power(exp:Double) =  
    (x:Double) => math.pow(x,exp)  
val square = power(2)  
square(4) //yield 16.0  
val cube = power(3)  
cube(3) //yield 27.0
```

---

**Closure = function + binding of its free variables**

$f : X_1 \times X_2 \times \dots \times X_n \rightarrow Y$

curry:  $f : X_1 \rightarrow X_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow X_n \rightarrow Y$

Example in Scala

---

```
def add(x:Int, y:Int) = x + y
add(1,3)
add(1) add(1) (3)
def plus(x:Int)(y:Int) = x + y
plus(1)(3)
val incl = plus(1) _
incl(3)
val addCurried = (add _).curried
val plusUncurried = Function.uncurried(plus _)
```

---

Read more on Partially Applied Functions [2]

- Immutable: Cannot change
- In Java, strings are immutable  
"Hello".toUpperCase() doesn't change "Hello" but returns a new string "HELLO"
- In Scala, **val** is immutable  
val num = 12  
num = 10 // wrong
- Pure functional programming: No mutations
- Don't mutate—always return the result as a new value
- Functions that don't mutate state are inherently parallelizable

---

```
abstract class IntStack
  def push(x: Int): IntStack =
    new IntNonEmptyStack(x, this)
  def isEmpty: Boolean
  def top: Int
  def pop: IntStack
class StackEmpty extends IntStack
  def isEmpty = true
  def top = error("EmptyStack.top")
  def pop = error("EmptyStack.pop")
class IntNonEmptyStack(elem: Int, rest: IntStack)
  extends IntStack
  def isEmpty = false
  def top = elem
  def pop = rest
```

---



# Everything is an expression

- Body of a function is an expression, i.e. evaluating to a value
- If there are many expressions, the value of the last executed expression will be returned
- No **return** required

Example in Scala,

---

```
def fact(x:Int):Int =  
    if (x == 0) 1 else x * fact(x - 1)  
val s = for (x <- 1 to 25 if x*x > 50) yield 2*x
```

---

- Like **switch**, but much more powerful

Syntax:

```
<exp> match {  
  case <pattern 1> => <exp1>  
  case <pattern 2> => <exp2>  
  ...  
}
```

Example in Scala,

---

```
def mathTest(x : Int): String = x match {  
  case 1 => "one"  
  case 2 => "two"  
  case _ => "many"  
}
```

---

- With recursive functions, return type is obligated  
**def** fact(n:Int):Int = **if** (x == 0) 1 **else** n \* fact(n - 1)
- Need **def** because the name is used on the right
- Iteration (while, for) can always be expressed as recursion

Example in Scala,

---

```
def mem(x:Int, lst:List[Int]):Boolean = lst match {  
  case List() => false  
  case head :: tail => if (x == head) true  
                        else mem(x, tail)  
}
```

---

- Expressions are **eagerly** evaluated, by default, where they appeared
- Lazy evaluation means the expression is just evaluated when the associated variable is firstly referred.

**lazy val** `x = 1 + y`

The expression `1 + y` is evaluated just when `x` is firstly used

- Pass-by-name parameter

```
def foo(b:Boolean,x:=>Int,y:=>Int) = if (b) x else y  
foo(a==0,1,b/a)
```

- Scala is strongly typed. Any value has a type guarantee
- Just like C++:  
`char* greeting = "Hello";`  
`greeting = 42; //Type Error`
- But without having to declare types:  
`val greeting = "Hello";`
- Contrast with scripting languages such as JavaScript  
`var greeting = 'Hello'; //This is JavaScript`  
`greeting = 42; //Ok`  
`alert(greeting.length); //Runtime Error`

- Can override inferred type (only to a supertype, of course).

```
var greeting : Any = "Hello"  
greeting = 42//Ok
```

- Parameter type must be declared

```
def mystery (x) = 42 * x // Error  
def mystery (x : Int) = 42 * x // Ok
```

- Return type can be inferred

If x is Int, then 42 \* x is also Int

- Exception, recursive function requires return type declared

- When a function parameter type is known, an anonymous function can be supplied without specifying its parameter types

```
def twice(f: (Int)=>Int,x:Int) = f(f(x))
twice(x=>42*x, 3) // Ok, x:Int is inferred from context
```
- Very useful when calling library functions

```
List(1,2,3).filter(x=> x%2==0)
```

  - `List[A].filter(p:(A)=>Boolean) : List[A]`
  - `A` is `Int` since `List(1,2,3)` is a `List[Int]`
  - `p`: must be `(Int) => Boolean`
  - `X` must be `Int`

- Ok to omit () around a single inferred parameter  
`List(1, 2, 3).filter(x => x % 2 == 0)`  
`List(1, 2, 3).sortWith((x,y) => x > y)`  
// need () with 2 or more parameters
- Use `_` for a parameter that occurs only once in a body  
`List(1, 2, 3).filter(_ % 2 == 0)`  
`List(1, 2, 3).sortWith( _ > _ )`



- Functional programming languages use **function application**, **conditional expressions**, **recursion**, and **functional forms** to control program execution instead of imperative features such as variables and assignments
- Purely functional languages have advantages over imperative alternatives, but their **lower efficiency** on existing machine architectures has prevented them from enjoying widespread use

- [1] **Methods and Closures**, <http://www.artima.com/pinsltd/functions-and-closures.html>, 19 06 2014.
- [2] **Function Currying in Scala**, <http://www.codecommit.com/blog/scala/function-currying-in-scala>, 19 06 2014.
- [3] **Case classes and pattern matching**,  
<http://www.artima.com/pinsltd/case-classes-and-pattern-matching.html>, 19 06 2014.
- [4] **Control Abstraction**, <http://www.artima.com/pinsltd/control-abstraction.html>, 19 06 2014.