Functional Programming Test data generators

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An application of type classes and monads

Remember QuickCheck for testing

- Automatic generation of test cases to test properties specified by the programmer
- So far restricted to properties on predefined types

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But really...

Test data can be generated for the instances of a type class Arbitrary (defined by QuickCheck)

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Test data can be generated for the instances of a type class Arbitrary (defined by QuickCheck)

To extend the scope of QuickCheck...

- we only need to write new instance of Arbitrary!
- (requires the IO monad to generate random numbers)

An example

```
prop_binomi :: Integer -> Integer -> Bool
prop_binomi a b = (a + b) ^ 2 == a ^ 2 + 2 * a * b + b ^ 2
can be checked
```

Main> quickCheck prop_binomi
+++ OK, passed 100 tests.

Arbitrary and Gen

Type class Arbitrary

```
class Arbitrary a where
```

```
arbitrary :: Gen a -- generate values of type a shrink :: a -> [a] -- shrink values of type a
```

Type Gen a: instructions for creating a random value of type a (a monad)

Arbitrary and Gen

Type class Arbitrary

```
class Arbitrary a where
  arbitrary :: Gen a -- generate values of type a
  shrink :: a -> [a] -- shrink values of type a
```

Type Gen a: instructions for creating a random value of type a (a monad)

Functions for sampling a random generator

```
sample :: Show a => Gen a -> IO ()
sample' :: Gen a -> IO [a]
generate :: Gen a -> IO a
```

```
Remember sample' :: Gen a -> IO [a]
```

Main> sample' arbitrary

- Main> sample' arbitrary
- [(),(),(),(),(),(),(),(),(),()]

- Main> sample' arbitrary
- [(),(),(),(),(),(),(),(),(),()]
- Main> sample' (arbitrary :: Gen Bool)

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- [0,2,0,6,5,2,-12,9,-15,-2,20]

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- Main> sample' (arbitrary :: Gen Int)
- [0,-1,0,5,3,-1,-11,-8,14,-10,-19]

Building generators

```
elements :: [a] -> Gen a
oneof :: [Gen a] -> Gen a
frequency :: [(Int,Gen a)] -> Gen a
listOf :: Gen a -> Gen [a]
vectorOf :: Int -> Gen a -> Gen [a]
choose :: Random a => (a,a) -> Gen a
```

- Random is a predefined type class for generating random data.
- (some experiments)

Generating a Suit

```
data Suit = Spades | Hearts | Diamonds | Clubs
    deriving (Show, Eq)
```

Generating a Rank

Generating a card

```
data Card = Card { rank :: Rank, suit :: Suit }
    deriving (Show)
```

- need to combine a generator for Rank and one for Suit
- no provision in the QuickCheck library, but . . .

Gen is a monad

- Gen a is the type of instructions to generate random values of type a.
- IO a is the type of instructions for IO operations with result a.
- Both are monads ⇒ use bind >>= to combine generators.
- Alternatively, the do notation can be used with Gen.

Examples

Generate

- Card
- constant, twice
- even integers, non-negative integers
- Hand

Task: Check the generator

- Rank contains useless values.
- Does its generator rRank only yield useful values?

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```
Test it!
```

```
validRank :: Rank -> Bool
validRank (Numeric n) = 2 <= n && n <= 10
validRank _ = True
prop_all_validRank = forAll rRank validRank</pre>
```

Checking properties of test data

```
prop_all_valid_rank_collect r = collect r (validRank r)
```

- collect x does not change the test.
- collects values of x and creates a histogram.

Task

• Define a property that yields a histogram of generated Hands.

Testing properties of insert

Testing properties of insert

Example

- insert x xs inserts a value x in an ordered list xs.
- The output should be ordered again (along with other properties).
- How do we test that?

First attempt

```
prop_insert_1 :: Integer -> [Integer] -> Bool
prop_insert_1 x xs = isOrdered (insert x xs)
```

Second attempt

```
prop_insert_2 :: Integer -> [Integer] -> Property
prop_insert_2 x xs = isOrdered xs ==> isOrdered (insert x xs)
```

Third attempt

A dedicated generator for sorted lists

```
orderedList :: (Arbitrary a, Ord a) => Gen [a]
```

(How would you implement this generator?)

Third attempt

A dedicated generator for sorted lists

```
orderedList :: (Arbitrary a, Ord a) => Gen [a]
```

(How would you implement this generator?)

Usage

```
prop_insert_3 x =
    forAll orderedList (\xs->isOrdered (insert x xs))
```

Fourth attempt

```
A dedicated generator for sorted lists (defined by QuickCheck)

data OrderedList a = Ordered [a]

instance (Ord a, Arbitrary a)

=> Arbitrary (OrderedList a) where
arbitrary = orderedList >>= (return . Ordered)
```

Fourth attempt

A dedicated generator for sorted lists (defined by QuickCheck)

```
data OrderedList a = Ordered [a]
```

Usage

```
prop_insert_4 x (Ordered xs) = isOrdered (insert x xs)
```

Wrapup

Roll your own test data generators

- Populate the class Arbitrary with the types you want to generate.
- Generation of values managed by monad Gen.
- Conditional test generation is important for meaningful testing.