Functional Programming

Mohd Faiz Hasim

faiz.hasim@servicerocket.com ~ faizhasim@gmail.com

Some Info

- Also available as PDF, EPUB and MOBI formats.
- Hosted at Github.
- Mistakes? Improvements? Make me a pull request.

What is Functional Programming???

Computation as Functions

- Lambda Calculus
- Evaluating functions
- Avoid mutability
- Promotes declarative programming

Lambda Calculus - From Wikipedia

- sumOfSquares(x,y) = $(x \times x) + (y \times y)$
- (x,y) $(x \times x) + (y \times y)$
- $((x,y) (x \times x) + (y \times y))(5,2)$
- $(((x,y) (x \times x) + (y \times y))(5))(2)$



Imperative vs Functional

Example data

```
var subsribersOfSocialMedias = [{
   serviceName: 'facebook',
   count: 35433,
   hasOfficalSupport: true
}, {
   serviceName: 'twitter',
   count: 25433,
   hasOfficalSupport: true
}, {
   serviceName: 'instagram',
   count: 2348,
   hasOfficalSupport: false
}];
```

Should give total count of 63214.

```
var total = 0;
for (var i = 0; i < subsribersOfSocialMedias.length; i++) {
  total += subsribersOfSocialMedias[i].count;</pre>
```

```
}
console.log(total);
Imperative approach...
var subsriberCount = function(subsriberInfo) {
 return subsriberInfo.count;
var accumulate = function(previousValue, currentValue) {
 return previousValue + currentValue;
var total = subsribersOfSocialMedias
              .map(subsriberCount)
              .reduce(accumulate);
console.log(total);
Functional approach...
var withOfficialSupport = function(officiallySupported) {
 return function(subsriberInfo) {
    return subsriberInfo.hasOfficalSupport === officiallySupported;
}
var total = subsribersOfSocialMedias
              .filter(withOfficialSupport(true))
              .map(subsriberCount)
              .reduce(accumulate);
And, to filter by the officially supported social medias.
```

Exact same code with CoffeeScript:



subsriberCount = (subsriberInfo) -> subsriberInfo.count

ECMAScript 6



- Array#reduce
- Array#map
- $\bullet \ \ \, Array\#filter$
- Array#forEach

Libraries that Promotes Functional

Underscore.JS

- Very clean API and source code.
- Older established framework and products uses this (eg Confluence).
- My recommendation:



Figure 1: All modern browsers (\times 1E 9)



Figure 2: Should we continue?

Lo-Dash

- Very similar to Underscore.JS, except more performant.
- Roadmap: Lazy sequence/stream.
- Supports compatibility with Underscore API.
- My recommendation:

Lazy.js

- Just like underscore, but not compatible at all.
- Key feature: Lazy evaluation on collections or stream.
- My recommendation:

Allong.es

- $\bullet\,$ Facilitate using functions as first-class values.
- $\bullet\,$ Fundementally build from curry-ing and partial applications.
- $\bullet\,$ My recommendation: If you think you need it, use it.



Figure 3: I like Curry... do you? Let's talk curry.

Partial Application and Currying

Recommended reads

- Chapter 5 Higher-Order Functions of Eloquent Javascript by Marijn Haverbeke
- JavaScript Allongé by Reg Braithwaite

Curry

Revisiting previous equations

- $sumOfSquares(x,y) = (x \times x) + (y \times y)$
- (x,y) $(x \times x) + (y \times y)$
- $((x,y) (x \times x) + (y \times y))(5,2)$
- $(((x,y) (x \times x) + (y \times y))(5))(2)$

 $sumOfSquares(x,y) = (x \times x) + (y \times y)$

var sumOfSquares = function(x, y) {
 return (x x x) + (y x y);
}

```
(x,y) (x x x) + (y x y)
function(x, y) {
  return (x x x) + (y x y);
}
Just a lambda (anonymous function)
```

Currying?

```
Turning ((x,y) (x \times x) + (y \times y))(5,2) into (((x,y) (x \times x) + (y \times y))(5))(2)

Mathematically, if f(x,y) = (x \times x) + (y \times y), then:

h(x) = y f(x,y)
```

Partial application?

```
h(x) = y f(x,y)
```

h(x) is a partial application of the full application.

Curry + Partial Application

```
Using allong.es at allong.es/try:

var curry = allong.es.curry;

var giveGreetingFrom = curry(function(greeter, targetPerson) {
   return greeter + ' is saying "hi" to ' + targetPerson;
})

var giveGreetingFromTom = giveGreetingFrom('Tom');

console.log(giveGreetingFromTom);

// Will return unary partial application function
```

```
console.log(giveGreetingFromTom('Bill'));
// Tom is saying "hi" to Bill

console.log(giveGreetingFrom('Tom', 'Bill'));
// Tom is saying "hi" to Bill

console.log(giveGreetingFrom('Tom')('Bill'));
// Tom is saying "hi" to Bill
```

Useful functions allong.es

Shamelessly taken from allong.es/try.

Fluent

```
var fluent = allong.es.fluent;
Role = function () {};
Role.prototype.set = fluent( function (property, name) {
 this[property] = name
});
var doomed = new Role()
  .set('name', "Fredo")
  .set('relationship', 'brother')
  .set('parts', ['I', 'II']);
doomed
  //=> {"name":"Fredo", "relationship":"brother", "parts":["I", "II"]}
Once
var once = allong.es.once;
var message = once( function () { return "Hello, it's me"; });
message()
 //=> "Hello, it's me"
message()
```

```
//=> undefined
message()
  //=> undefined
message()
  //=> undefined
```

Also available with underscore.

Trampolining

Stack-friendly recursion.