Scala Tutorial I

Jan Macháček

June 14, 2018

Abstract

Scala is a fusion language that combines functional and object-oriented programming paradigms in a syntax that is similar to most other C-like languages. The ...

1 Syntax crash-course

Scala's syntax follows the syntax of other C-like languages, though—like Pascal—the type specification follows an identifier. Scala's class behaves exactly like Java's class, and its syntax is not wildly different. (See Listing 1.)

```
Class declaration means the same thing as Java; constructor parameters are specified in the block immediately following the class name. Note that the types follow the identifier; instead of String constructorParam1 Scala uses constructorParam1: String class MyClass(constructorParam1: String, constructorParam2: Int) {

Methods begin with the keyword def, followed by name and parameters. The return type follows similar pattern; Unit means void. The body of the method follows the equals sign.

def execute(methodParam1: List[Int]): Unit = {

}

Constructing instances uses the typical new keyword...

new MyClass("foo", 42)

Method invocation is exactly like Java's

. execute(List(1, 2, 3))
```

Listing 1: Classes and methods

Most of this syntax is familiar and unsurprising; the only thing that might feel odd is the square bracket for "generics" in List[Int]: in Java, this would be written as List(Int). This is part of Scala's legacy. A long, long time ago, XML was very exciting; and Scala allowed (and still allows!) XML literals. These XML literals use the angle brackets. This meant that a different symbol had to be used for type parameters. Because the square bracket is used for type parameters, array indexing is also done using regular parentheses¹.

Interfaces use the trait keyword in Scala; their usage and features are similar to interface in Java (particularly Java 8 which adds default implementations). It is possible to make anonymous implementations of a trait, as well as to implement it in ordinary class es. (Viz Listing 2.)

```
Apart from the trait keyword, the syntax is unremarkable trait ReportGenerator {
    Interface methods are public and abstract; they specify parameters and return type def generate(userId: Int): Array[Byte]
}

A trait can be implemented in a class using the keyword extends. Additional traits to be implemented use the with keyword class ReportGeneratorImpl extends ReportGenerator with Cloneable {
    Instead of the @Override annotation Scala uses the override keyword.
    override def generate(userId: Int): Array[Byte] = ...
    override def clone(): AnyRef = ...
}

It is also possible to make an anonymous implementation of a trait using the new keyword.

new ReportGenerator {
    override def generate(userId: Int): Array[Byte] = ...
}

Listing 2: Traits
```

¹I know, it looks like VisualBasic or Fortran (formerly FORTRAN)!

It is worth noting that there is no special syntax for array of X in Scala. Instead, it uses Array with the specified type parameter. (So, Java's byte[] becomes Array[Byte], User[] becomes Array[User], and so on.) Also notice the AnyRef in the implementation of the clone() method—it is equivalent to java.lang.Object.

So far, there are no major surprises: classes and interfaces work just like most other languages, constructor, method, and parameter definition also looks fairly ordinary. The syntax for functions (finally!) uses parameters (each with its type following the : symbol, if needed) followed by fat arrow \Rightarrow , and the body of the function. Usage is the same as Java 8; and Scala's collections library contains concepts that are fairly similar.

```
Double every Int in the list List (1, 2, 3, \ldots) .map \{(x: Int) \Rightarrow 2 * x \} Scala can infer the type of x, so there's no need to specify it List (1, 2, 3, \ldots) .map \{(x \Rightarrow 2 * x)\} An alternative syntax uses paretheses in place of brackets List (1, 2, 3, \ldots) .map (x \Rightarrow 2 * x) It is possible to avoid having to declare the parameter x, and use _ instead. Scala compiler replaces the every occurrence of with a fresh parameter declaration. List (1, 2, 3, \ldots) .map(2 * -) Finally, the "shape" of the function * in the Int instance has the right type, so it can be used directly. List (1, 2, 3, \ldots) .map(2 * -)
```

Listing 3: Fields & variables

The last forms 2* and 2.* are somewhat unusual and worthy of further explanation. The Scala compiler mechanically translates each underscore in the function body into a parameter (and "replaces" the underscore with that parameter); 2* is translated into $p_-0 \Rightarrow 2*$ p_-0 , and this satisfies the type that the map function expects. The type of the function * in the Int type is $Int \Rightarrow Int$ because it is defined as def*(that: Int): Int: one can read this as "when applied to a value of type Int, a value of type Int remains". The type of 2.* is therefore $Int \Rightarrow Int$, just like the type of 2*, or 2*, or 2*, or 2*, or 2*, or 2* assuming the parameter can be inferred to be 2*. Consequently, it is possible to leave out the underscore in the 2* function and only write 2* 2*, 2*, 3*, 2*, 3*, 2*,

Finally, fields (and variables) use the keywords val and var. The first declares an immutable variable (and a getter if field), the second declares a mutable variable (and a getter and setter if field); see Listing 4.

```
Field definitions have to specify initial value; use _ for default value.
class User {
  var id: Long = _
  var name: String = _
  var dob: Date = _
}
```

Listing 4: Fields & variables

This code is terrible! The default value for reference types (AnyRefs) is null, and variants of zero for primitive types. The name and dob fields in the user instance are null, and id is ∂L . What's worse, the class has setters for these fields, and it's possible to invoke them. The syntax is somewhat nicer—it looks like plain assignment using the = operator, though it is actually invoking a setter—but the semantics of the code in Listing 5 is terrible.

```
Field definitions have to specify initial value; use _ for default value.

class User {
   var id: Long = _
   var name: String = _
   var dob: Date = _
}

val user = new User
user.id = 5
user.name = "Foo_Quux"
user.dob = ...
```

Listing 5: Fields & variables II

While syntactically valid code, it is very confusing. The user variable is declared immutable, yet it is possible to invoke its setters. The equivalent Java code would declare the user variable final, but then still use the setters to mutate it.

²This might be somewhat familiar to Java 8 programmers with method references with the double colons

2 Killer features

The syntax (and its application) so far looks just like Java with less typing. There must be something else that makes it worth leaving the creature comforts of Java. The following points are also the code that is most likely to be encountered in typical Scala codebases. Typical here refers to code that uses Scala and its ecosystem of libraries; it does not refer to the code that might be found in the bowels of the libraries themselves.

- everything is an expression
- case classes
- pattern matching
- for comprehensions
- implicits
- rich type system

2.1 Everything is an expression.

In Java, C, and similar languages, there are statements and expressions. Statements do not have value, they are typical control-flow constructs. For example, in Java, if (a == b) X else Y cannot be assigned to a variable, because if-then-else is a statement. In Scala, everything except definitions of identifiers (i.e. variables, functions, classes, etc.) yields a value that can be assigned to a variable. There are languages where "the value of a function is the value of the last evaluated statement," and that's a good starting point for thinking about expressions and their values in Scala. Listing 6 shows a very Java-esque implementation of a method that checks whether a date is the user's birthday.

```
class User {
  var dob: Date = _

This is a very Java-style implementation; though to make it a bit more interesting, the asOf parameter has a default value set to "now".

def hasBirthday(asOf: Date = new Date()): Boolean = {
  if (dob ≠ null && asOf ≠ null) {
    val c1 = Calendar.getInstance()
    val c2 = Calendar.getInstance()
    c1.setTime(dob)
    c2.setTime(asOf)
  if (c2.get(Calendar.MONIH) == c1.get(Calendar.MONIH)) {
      c2.get(Calendar.DAY_OF_MONTH) == c1.get(Calendar.DAY_OF_MONTH)
    } else false
  } else false
}
```

Listing 6: Expressions

The $java.util.Date code^3$ muddles the explanation; removing it yields code in Listing 7.

Listing 7: Expressions

 $^{^3}$ This project refuses to include DateUtils!

Notice the pattern where everything that follows the = sign can be and is evaluated. This applies to variable declarations $val\ x:\ Tpe=\ldots$; $def\ x():\ Tpe=\ldots$. Simple expressions do not have to be surrounded by curly braces. It is not surprising that $val\ x=3$; $val\ msg=if\ (x\ \%\ 2==0)$ "Even" else "Odd" results in the declaration of a variable msg of type String, whose value is "Odd", because the value of x is 3. It might be somewhat surprising that the same syntax applies to methods: $def\ m(x:\ Int):\ String=if\ (x\ \%\ 2==0)$ "Even" else "Odd" is just as legal Scala code.

Exercise: Fizz Buzz

Create the "Fizz Buzz" function that takes an Int and evaluates to a String such that

- if the input is divisible by 3, the output is "Fizz"
- if the input is divisible by 5, the output is "Buzz"
- if the input is divisible by 3 and 5, the output is "FizzBuzz"
- for all other input values, the output is the String representation of the input

In src/main/scala, in the com.acme package, create a new class FizzBuzzMain and complete the body of the fizzBuzz function.

Listing 8: Fizz Buzz

2.2 Case classes.

A case class is just like a class in that it is a container for data and methods, but the fields it contains only have getters. (Immutability only goes as far as immutability of the references. Even in Scala, immutability without any additional code is equivalent to using final in Java.) Nevertheless, case classes are fantastically convenient to define data structures. Consider the Person case class defined in Listing 9.

This is all it takes to define an immutable structure (with the T&Cs from above) with the fields firstName, lastName, and age; but also with appropriate toString, hashCode, and equals implementations. These automatically generated implementations delegate to the toString, hashCode, and equals methods of all the fields, in the order in which they are specified.

To create an instance of a case class, do not use the new keyword; instead, write the parameters directly after the case class name, as shown in Listing 10.

```
Notice that there is no new keyword; the parameter values are applied directly after the case class name. 

val fq = Person("Foo", "Quux", 42)

To access the fields, use the familiar . notation. 
fq.firstName | "Foo"

Invoking the toString method prints a reasonable representation of the case class. 
fq.toString | "Person(Foo,Quux,42)"

It is possible to vary the order of the parameters if the parameter names are also specified. This can help readability. 
val fb = Person(lastName = "Baz", firstName = "Foo", age = 50) 
fb.toString | "Person(Foo,Baz,50)"

Equality is implemented by delegation to the parameters' hashCode and equals methods. 
Person("Foo", "Quux", 42) == fq | true, even though they are different instances. 
fq == Person("Foo", "Quux", 42) | true, even though they are different instances.
```

Listing 10: Using case class Person

The consciseness of Scala's syntax is beginning to show. It would have been much more cumbersome to implement all this (including correct hashCode, equals, and reasonable toString) in Java. Even with correct implementations, it would not have been possible to use == to test for instance equality.

Exercise: Using case classes and functions

Create a new case class Person file in src/main/scala/com.acme from Listing 9. Then use List.fill(N) (Person(...)) and useful methods in scala.util.Random to generate N random Person instances. Assign those to a variable.

- find the oldest person in the list. (Hint: use map, max, and find functions on the $List \lceil Person \rceil$.)
- find the 10 youngest people in the list. (Hint: use sortBy or sortWith, followed by take.)

```
object PersonMain extends App {
  List.fill(100) ...
}
```

Listing 11: Pattern matching

Case classes are also called product types. The word product refers to the possible number of values that a case class can hold. Take $case\ class\ ABC(a:Boolean,\ b:Boolean,\ c:Boolean)$: there are eight possible values: $ABC(false,\ false,\ false)$, ..., $ABC(true,\ true,\ true)$. The value 8 is the result of multiplying the possible values of all parameters. Boolean s have two values; three Boolean values yield $2\times2\times2$ possible values of the ABC type. Similarly, $case\ class\ IB(i:Int,\ b:Boolean)$ has 4294967295×2 possible values.

Imagine, for a moment, that Boolean is not a built-in primitive. It would be defined as the sum of two [degenerate] products of 1 value: $sealed\ trait\ Boolean$; $case\ object\ True\ extends\ Boolean$; $case\ object\ False\ extends\ Boolean$. The products $True\ and\ False\ have\ exactly\ one\ value$; consequently, the sum type $Boolean\ has\ 1+1$ possible values. Languages like Haskell[3], F#[2], and others have convenient syntax for sum types; see Listing 12.

Finally, using the keyword <code>sealed</code> specifies that the trait cannot be extended outside the current source file. This allows the Scala compiler to verify that pattern matches (using the <code>match ... case</code> construct) cover every possible case, reporting a warning if a case is missed.

Sums of products are very useful way to express alternatives that might not have anything in common other than being of the given type, without clumsy instanceof checks with pattern matching.

2.3 Pattern matching.

A pattern match is a way to check that a value has the right "shape", and to pull out some or all values from that shape. Think of the simplest pattern matching expression as Java's switch statement in Listing 13.

```
This is the equivalent of Java's switch statement, with multi-case and a default case. Random.nextInt(10) match { Matches values 0.3 case 0|1|2|3 \Rightarrow Matches only value 6
```

```
case 6 ⇒
Matches all other values
case _ ⇒
```

Listing 13: Pattern matching

It is possible to match on much more complicated structures; such as tuples. A tuple is a collection of a specific length with elements of arbitrary types. For example (1, "foo") is a tuple of 2 elements of types Int and String; ("foo", "bar", 1.3) is a tuple of 3 elements of types String, String, and Double. It is possible to pattern match on those, as shown in Listing 14

```
import scala.util.Random
(Random.nextString(Random.nextInt(16)), Random.nextInt(100)) match {
   Matches tuples with any first element, and second element == 10.
   case (s, 10) ⇒ The first element is accessible as s here.

Matches only the ("Lucky?", 42) tuple.
   case ("Lucky?", 42) ⇒ None of the elements are accessible here.

Matches any tuple as long as the first element is longer than 5 characters and second element is less than 10.
   case (x, y) if x.length > 5 && y < 10 ⇒ Both first and second elements are accessible as x and y.

Matches any value
   case _</pre>
    ⇒ None of the elements are accessible here.

    None of the elements are accessible here.
```

Listing 14: Pattern matching II

As useful as tuples are for quick ad-hoc structures, the real deal in pattern matching are case classes. Just like matching on a tuple, it is possible to match on case classes and extract their fields as needed. In addition to using the *match* keyword followed by *case* s, pattern matching also applies to declarations of variables in Listing 15.

```
Pattern matches on the right-hand side, pulls out the first parameter as val first: String.

val Person(first, _, _) = Person("Foo", "Bar", 99)

Pattern matches on the right-hand side, comparing the value of the first parameter to be equal to in-scope variable first. (Notice the backticks.)

val Person('first', _, _) = Person("Foo", "Bar", 99)

Because there are no alternatives, if the val pattern match fails, it raises an exception.

val Person('first', _, _) = Person("Fooz", "Bar", 99)
```

Listing 15: Pattern matching III

The pattern match that raises an exception if it fails is often convenient to use in tests. Suppose there

Exercise: Using case classes and pattern matching

Build an numerical expression evaluator; the evaluator should support binary operators $+, -, \times, /$ and support arbitrary nesting. It should be able to evaluate, for example 4 + 3(5/(12 - 7)). To make things simpler, it is not necessary to include error reporting (division by zero, for example), and it is not necessary to provide a way to turn a String into an expression.

```
The sum type Expr's subtypes define the "operations" we support.

sealed trait Expr
The different cases need to support our operations and constants.

case class Plus(left: Expr, right: Expr) extends Expr
...

case class Const(const: Int) extends Expr

It will be convenient to package our evaluator in its own module.

object Evaluator {

Hint: you will need to pattern-match on the different Exprs.

def eval(expr: Expr): Int = expr match {

    case Const(x) ⇒ x

    ...

}

object EvaluatorMain extends App {

val e = Evaluator.eval(Plus(Plus(Const(4), Const(5)), Const(3)))

println(e) | = 12
```

Listing 16: Expression evaluator

Exercise (extra): logical expression simplifier

Build a logical expression simplifier that reduces the number of logical operations to be performed, and can spot tautologies and contraditions. For example, $(a \land b) \lor (a \land b)$ should simplify to just $a \land b$; $(a \lor \neg a)$ should simplify to \bot (contradiction; always false).

Listing 17: Logical expression simplifier

2.4 For comprehensions

The for keyword in Scala can be used in the familiar "for loop" style, but it is actually much more powerful construct. Java has two styles of the for loop: the old-school one with for (init; condition; step) { body } as well as the "for-each" style for (element: iterable) body. Apart from the convenience of the for-each version, both loops ultimately express only iteration. Scala also has two basic styles of the for expression.

- $for\ (element \leftarrow iterable)\ body$. This style of the for expression evaluates iterates over all elements in the given iterable, and applies body to each element; each element is accessible using the name element in the body. It is the same as writing iterable for $each\ (element \Rightarrow body\ (element))$.
- $for\ (element \leftarrow iterable)\ yield\ body$. This style's value has the same type as iterable, but the elements of the evaluated iterable are the results of applying expression to each one. It is the same as writing $iterable . map(element \Rightarrow body(element))$

Writing $for \ (x \leftarrow List(1, 2, 3, \ldots)) \ yield \ x*2$ might be more natural way to write $List(1, 2, 3, \ldots) \cdot map(x \Rightarrow x*2)$; and in simple expressions, the choice between using the map, flatMap, and filter versus using the for expression can be left to one's taste (or the project's code-style). The real power of Scala's for expressions comes from the fact that it is possible to map & flatten, map, and filter multiple values together. The rule to be able to decipher and write for expressions in Scala is to remember that:

- the first expression inside for has to be $element \leftarrow value$, where value contains the method flatMap,
- subsequent \leftarrow operation also means flatMap,
- subsequent = operation means map,
- ullet subsequent if statement means filter,
- if the expression ends with $yield\ body$, the value of the for expression is the value of the $yield\ body$ represented in the same type as the first value on the right of \leftarrow ,

• if the expression does not end with yield but just body, the value of the for expression is Unit.

This is indeed so much power that it inspired a meme in Figure 1 and code in Listing 18 with examples of different styles of for.

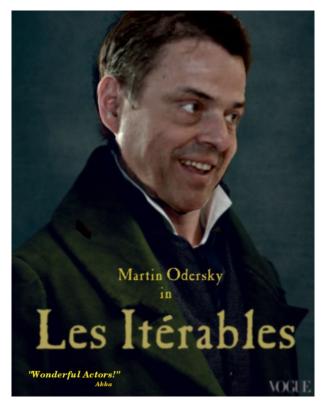


Figure 1: Les Itérables

```
val listOfTen = List(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)
↓ types to Unit, because this is the variant without yield body.
for {
  x ← listOfTen
 y ← listOfTen
                        \mid \cong the Cartesian product of the two lists: (1, 1), (1, 2), \ldots, (1, 10), \ldots, (10, 9), (10, 10)
\} println(x, y)
types to List [(Int, Int)], because the original iterable was List, and the yield body evaluates to type (Int, Int); contains 100 elements.
\begin{array}{c} \textbf{for} \ \{ \\ \textbf{x} \leftarrow \texttt{listOfTen} \end{array}
y \leftarrow listOfTen
} yield (x, y)
↓ types to List [(Int, Int)]; contains 50 elements because of the if filter.
for {
   x ← listOfTen
   \mathbf{i}\,\mathbf{f}\ \mathbf{x}\ \%\ 2\ ==\ 0
  y \leftarrow listOfTen
} yield (x, y)
↓ types to List [(Int, List [Int])]; contains only 10 elements.
for {
x \leftarrow listOfTen
   y = listOfTen
 yield (x, y)
```

Listing 18: Various for expessions

In fact, the word iterable is somewhat misleading; the values used in the for expression only have to contain the functions map, flatMap, and filter. The for expression is actually a syntactic sugar that translates \leftarrow

to flatMap, = to map, and if to filter⁴. This means that the for expression can be used on values such as Option, Either, ..., even your own types, as long as the requirements for mapping, mapping & flattening, and filtering are satisfied. Even better, the compiler only checks that the requirements are satisfied as they are needed.

Option and Either. The types $Option^{-5}$ and Either are a part of the Scala standard library; they are used to pack "one or none" value (Option) and "exclusive or of two values" (Either). The type Optional[A] is a sum of two products: Some[A](value:A) and None; what these values represent is self-evident. The type Either[L, R] is a sum of two products: Left[L](value:L) and Right[R](value:R). By convention, the value Right[R] is used to indicate "the right value—success", and the value Left[L] is used to indicate failure. Unlike None, which carries no further information other than "missing", the value Left[L](value:L) carries a value; this value is typically some kind of error message. Crucially, both Option and Either include the flatMap functions, which means that they can be used in the for expression. Table 1 outlines the behaviour of the map and flatMap in Option and Either.

	map	flatMap	filter
$Option\left[A ight]$	$f: A \Rightarrow B$ $Some(a) \Rightarrow Some(f(a))$ $None \Rightarrow None$	$f: A \Rightarrow Option[B]$ $Some(a) \Rightarrow f(a)$ $None \Rightarrow None$	$f: A \Rightarrow Boolean$ $Some(a) if f(a) \Rightarrow Some(a)$ $A \Rightarrow None$
Either[L, R]	$\begin{array}{l} f \colon R1 \Rightarrow R2 \\ Right(r) \Rightarrow Right(f(r)) \\ Left(l) \Rightarrow Left(l) \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{l} f \colon R1 \Rightarrow Either[L, R2] \\ Right(r) \Rightarrow f(r) \\ Left(l) \Rightarrow Left(l) \end{array}$	- - -

Table 1. map and flatMap

Putting it simply once Option becomes None it stays None; once Either becomes Left it stays Left. Thanks to None not carrying any value, Option can implement the filter method; because Left contains a value it cannot contain the filter method. (In case the filtering function returned false, what would the value on the Left be?) Nevertheless, the concept of filtering is useful, it only needs to be extended a little; so Either[L, R] contains the $filterOrElse(predicate: R \Rightarrow Boolean, zero: L)$ function. If the predicate returns false, the function evaluates to Left carrying the value of the zero parameter.

Exercise: Error reporting for the evaluator

Improve the evaluator so it doesn't throw exception on division by zero. Instead of relying on exceptions, use Either as the returned type. Use plain String for the error type, keep Int as the evaluated type. In other words, the eval function will return Left(e) (where e's type is Error) in case of errors; and Right(x) (where x's type is Int). Make the most of the for expression.

Listing 19: Expression evaluator

Hint: recall the Either.filterOrElse function; it applies the predicate on values on the right; if the predicate fails, it returns the value of the second parameter on the left. For example, $Right(5).filterOrElse(_<5,_{bould_be_more_than_5"})$ evaluates to $Left("Should_be_more_than_5")$.

 $^{^4}$ Actually—and for efficiency—the de-sugaring prefers to use with Filter instead of filter, which avoids having to create intermediate iterables

 $^{^5}$ Java includes Optional, C++ std::optional, Swift Optional; the only sore thumb is Haskell with Maybe. Nevertheless, all languages include the concept of flatMap, map, and filter on optionals.

2.5 Implicits

Implicits are one of the key features of Scala. As the word suggests, implicit parameter values are supplied "automatically" by the compiler looking for the appropriate values in the current *implicit scope*⁶. The look-up ignores the parameter names, it only cares about the types. Implicits also apply when the compiler encounters an identifier on a value of some type that the type does not implement. In that case, the compiler will follow the same implicit scoping rules to find an implicit conversion that turns the given type into another type that contains the identifier.

Listing 20: Simple implicits

Defining implicit String s demonstrates the principle, but it is rather useless because values of type String are so ubiquitous in typical programs. Different types are sometimes more useful; consider a javax.sql. Connection which might be passed implicitly to various data access code to avoid having to do too much typing. The ability to turn values into values that contain identifiers that are not available on the original types are also quite useful. The real power, though, comes from the fact that the implicit resolution does not stop at the first step. The compiler follows all possible paths, using as many conversions as necessary, to get the code to compile.

Pimp my library. Providing implicit conversions from existing types to other types that contain useful or convenient identifiers is called *pimp my library*. It is a fancy name for the adapter pattern[1], but implicits provide the convenience to avoid having to create instances of the adapters manually. It is a useful way to construct domain-specific languages, particularly when combined with Scala's ability to call single parameter method without dots and braces, as though it were an operator.

```
implicit class RichDouble(x: Double) {
  def ^(y: Double): Double = math.pow(x, y)
}

val x: Double = 42
x ^ 2 | Computes the second power of x by essentially doing new RichDouble(x).^(2).
```

Exercise: Pimp my library

Build a DSL that allows the expression evaluator to be written using natural-looking Scala code—though sadly not using the standard +, -, *, / operators, but using our own plus, minus, mult, div instead. The expression 5 plus 10 should evaluate to Plus(Const(5), Const(10)). The type Int and Expr do not contain the methods plus, ..., div; it will be necessary to implement implicit conversions (use implicit class for convenience) that contains those methods.

Listing 21: Pimp my library

```
It will be useful to package the PML conversions in their own module.

object Expr {

Two conversions will be necessary: Int → Expr, Expr → RichExpr. The two P.M.L. implicit classes will contain the same functions; the only exception is that the one for Int will need to box the given Int into Const.

implicit class RichInt(x: Int) {

def plus(that: Expr): Expr = Plus(Const(x), that)

...
}

implicit class RichExpr(x: Expr) {

def plus(that: Expr): Expr = Plus(x, that)

...
```

⁶The implicit scope is somewhat complex; for now, it will be sufficient to remember that implicit scoping is similar to regular visibility scoping

```
}

object EvaluatorMain extends App {
  import Expr._
  val e = Evaluator.eval((5 plus 10) minus 8)
  println(e)
}
```

Listing 22: Expression evaluator

Hints:

- because the methods plus(r: Expr): Expr, ..., div(r: Expr): Expr would be the same, consider defining them in a trait (trait ExprOps would be a jolly good name!) that is then mixed into the implicit classes, where the trait defines abstract member self: Expr, which is then used as the left-hand side in the Expr data constructors; the right-hand side coming from the parameter of the method.
- implementing a class that adds the methods plus, ..., div to Int will allow for code such as $10 \ plus$ Const(5), but it will not compile $10 \ plus$ 5, because there is no function plus, ..., div that takes an Int. The preferred option is to add those over implicit conversion from Int to Expr: implicit def intToExpr(i:Int): Expr is generally frowned-upon because it allows silent and potentially very powerful conversions.

If you are feeling inventive or perhaps mischievous, pick Unicode identifiers for the boring ASCII method names in the DSL. Resurrect APL by using \div instead of div!

Type classes. Type class is a concept from Haskell[3]; it is a definition of methods that can be implemented for some type. A type class is therefore an interface parametrized by a type; the implementations are instances of this interface for some types. Suppose the expression evaluator needs to be able to evaluate not just Int s, but also other number-like values. The only change to its structure is an interface that implements the addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division for *some* number-like type; see Listing 23.

```
Define the typeclass that defines the methods that instances for the type A must implement.
trait NumberLike[A] {
  def plus (x: A, y: A): A
   def div(x: A, y: A): A
sealed trait Expr
Modify the Const data constructor to take any type A instead of the concrete Int.
case class Const [A] (a: A) extends Expr
object Evaluator {
  The eval function now needs to take the interface that implements the number-like behaviour for type A.
   def eval [A] (expr: Expr, numberLike: NumberLike[A]): Either [Error, A] = expr match {
     case Plus(1, r) ⇒
        for { 1 ← eval(1, numberLike); r ← eval(r, numberLike) } yield numberLike.plus(1, r)
     case Const(a: A) ⇒ a
  }
object EvaluatorMain extends App {
  import Expr. .
  import Evaluator.
   \mathbf{val} \ \exp \mathbf{r} = 5 \ \mathrm{plus} \ 10
  eval(expr, new NumberLike[Int] {
    def plus(x: Int, y: Int): Int = x + y
     \mathbf{def} \ \mathrm{div} \, (\, \mathrm{x} \colon \ \mathrm{Int} \, , \ \ \mathrm{y} \colon \ \mathrm{Int} \, ) \colon \ \mathrm{Int} \, = \, \mathrm{x} \ \ / \ \ \mathrm{y}
      | evaluates to Right (15).
}
```

Listing 23: Expression evaluator without typeclasses

This is rather tedious to write, especially all the points where the numberLike instance has to be passed around to the recursive calls of eval. Moving it to the implicit parameter list makes the code cleaner in Listing 24.

Listing 24: Expression evaluator with typeclasses-ish

This is an improvement, though it is still annoying to have to explicitly specify the value of the numberLike parameter in the implicit (sic!) parameter list in EvaluatorMain. The Scala compiler is able to find the implicit value, if one is available in the implicit scope; all that remains to be done is to provide an instance of the NumberLike typeclass for the type Int, and any other required types. (Viz Listing 25.)

```
trait NumberLike[A] { ... }
object EvaluatorMain extends App {
  import Expr.
  import Evaluator . .
  implicit object IntNumberLike extends NumberLike[Int] {
    def plus(x: Int, y: Int): Int = x + y
  Complex numbers are numbers too!
  case object Complex {
    val e: Complex = ...
    val pi: Complex = ...
    val i: Complex = ...
  case class Complex(re: Double, im: Double) {
    def +(rhs: Complex): Complex = ...
def ^(rhs: Complex): Complex = ...
  implicit object ComplexNumberLike extends NumberLike [Complex] {
    def plus(x: Complex, y: Complex): Complex = x + y
  }
  And now the evaluator works for any type A that lies in the NumberLike typeclass; i.e. where there is an in-scope
  way to access or follow steps to create instances of NumberLike [A].
  eval[Int](5 plus 10)
                                   evaluates to Right (15)
  eval [Complex] (e ^ (pi * i)) | evaluates to Right (-1)
}
```

Listing 25: Expression evaluator with typeclasses

Exercise: Flexible evaluator

Allow the expression evaluator to operate on any number-like types, not just Int s. Instead of relying on inheritance, forcing all users of the evaluator to evaluate values conforming to some trait (with the number-crunching methods +, -, *, /), use parametric polymorphism and type classes. The Const data constructor will need to take any type instead of Int; RichInt implicit class will need to pimp any type, not just Int; the eval method will also need to be generic, but will need to (implicitly) require a typeclass: use the Fractional provided by the standard library, or define your own NumberLike typeclass. (The Scala standard library defines Fractional and Integral type classes, which contain the division operation whereas Numeric typeclass does not. Pick one, the limitation that not all types are fractional or integral. "Dotty will fix this!")

```
object Expr {
   trait ExprOps {
    def self: Expr
    def plus... This will need to take generic type A.
```

```
implicit class RichA... This will need to take generic type A.
  implicit class RichExpr(val self: Expr) extends ExprOps
sealed trait Expr
case class Const . . . This will need to take generic type A.
object Evaluator {
  It will be convenient to use the full implicit syntax here
  def eval[A](expr: Expr)...: Either[Error, A] = expr match {
}
object EvaluatorMain extends App {
  import Expr. .
  The point of application constrains the generic parameter, it is necessary to specify the type A. in eval.
  val e = Evaluator.eval [Double] ((5.4 plus math.Pi) minus 8.8)
}
```

Listing 26: Flexible evaluator with DSL and typeclasses

Hints:

- it is not necessary to constrain the type of the Const data constructor; it can be "forall A." Const [A].
- it will be convenient to use the full implicit syntax in the eval method: def eval[A](expr: Expr)(implicit N: Fractional [A]: A instead of def eval [A: Fractional] (expr: Expr): A
- the type information for the generic type A will be erased, causing compiler warning in the pattern match. It is possible to eliminate the warning by using another type class. Look for Scala type tags and manifests.

Unlike subtype polymorphism, typeclasses bring parametric polymorphism. Parametric polymorphism is a different way of requiring values to contain specified behaviour. Subtype polymorphism for the evaluator would require the values in the Const data constructor to be some supertype of all numbers. That does not sound so bad until one realises that the methods plus, ..., div in this supertype would have to return that supertype. Imagine in Listing 27 that it is possible to extend the types in scala.lang, like Int.

```
trait Num {
  def plus(that: Num): Num
  def minus(that: Num): Num
This isn't actually allowed, but humour the author.
class MyInt extends Int with Num {
  Attempts to implement the Num trait won't be successful...
  def plus(that: Num): Num = this + that
                                          \uparrow this doesn't quite work: can't add Int and Num.
  Or the implementation won't at all be satisfying.
  def plus(that: Num): Num = that match {
     case x: MyInt \Rightarrow this + x
     case \rightarrow \uparrow now what? throw exception?; add toInt() method to Num?
This is Scala's common approach to static of-like methods in Java. Recall Optional. of and similar.
object MyInt {
  def apply(i: Int): MyInt = new MyInt(i)
But never mind all above, the show must go on.
case class Const(a: Num) extends Expr
def eval(expr: Expr): Either[Error, Num] = expr match {
  case Plus(l, r) \Rightarrow for \{ l \leftarrow eval(l); r \leftarrow eval(r) \} yield l.plus(r)
I allowed Int to be extended; requiring integer literals to be instances of MyInt is too much!
```

Using the object MyInt.apply allows us to avoid the new keyword in this case

Listing 27: Exploring the Num supertype

The code in Listing 27 is bad enough now, but it has the potential to become much worse if it becomes widely used. The authors of the code were able to implement sensible inheritance structure for MyInt s, MyDouble s, even MyBigDecimal s and shipped the JAR. Then someone else decided to use the expression evaluator for complex numbers; but even with the implementation of class Complex extends Num $\{\ldots\}$, it is still possible to call MyInt(5). plus(Complex(1, 4)). The class MyInt has no knowledge about the Complex class! (Exactly what happens in that call depends on the implementation of the MyInt. plus method, but it won't be pretty.)

Parametric polymorphism, as demonstrated in your own work on the Flexible evaluator exercise, presents a neat solution. It is possible to use typeclasses to add behaviour for concrete types without losing the concreteness.

Parametric polymorphism in other languages. Scala's take on typeclasses should clarify Haskellers' usual statement that "typeclasses are not like OOP classes, they are more like interfaces." Quite: a typeclass is an interface with a type parameter that defines behaviour for the type. Its implementations specify a concrete type and implement the behaviour. Typeclass instances are then regular values (remember the singletons from the Scala code?) that implement the typeclass interface.

```
Require the type A to have an instance of the NumberLike trait available for it.
Compiler will supply the value in the parameter N of the implicit parameter list.
def eval [A] (expr: Expr) (implicit N: NumberLike [A]): A = expr match {
  Call the typeclass's methods using the standard method call notation.
  case Plus(l, r) \Rightarrow N.plus(l, r)
}
Define the typeclass NumberLike for type a with methods like plus, ...
class NumberLike a where
  plus :: a \rightarrow a \rightarrow a
Provide an instance of NumberLike for the type Int.
instance NumberLike Int where
  plus x y = x + y ≡ addl %rdx, %rax | Hoping that we have fastcall convention and the parameters are in %rax and %rdx.
Provide an instance of NumberLike for the type Complex
instance NumberLike Complex where
Just like the Scala version, eval requires the type a to lie in the NumberLike typeclass;
that is, that there is an instance of NumberLike for that a
eval :: (NumberLike a) ⇒ Expr -
However, the typeclass instance does not get a name in the function. Instead, all its functions
plus, ... are available in the function without any additional notation.
eval (Plus l r) = plus (eval l) (eval r)
                       ↑ In Scala, this would be N. plus (eval(1), eval(r))
```

There are other languages that include features that may considered to be parametric polymorphism. For example, Swift's protocol conformance and extension methods, particularly with type constraints, certainly feel like typeclasses. Consider adding equality to arrays: two arrays can be Equatable of their elements are Equatable and what that might look like using parametric polymorphism in Listing 28.

```
protocol Equatable {
    static func == (Self, Self) → Bool
}

An array is Equatable if its elements lie in the Equatable typeclass. No, wait, that's not what Swift programmers say. They say "an array is equatable if its elements conform to the Equatable protocol".
extension Array : Equatable where Element : Equatable {
    static func ==(lhs: Array<Element>, rhs: Array<Element>) → Bool {
        if lhs.count ≠ rhs.count { return false }
            for i in lhs.indices {
                if lhs[i] ≠ rhs[i] { return false }
            }
        return true
    }
}

trait Equatable[A] {
    def ==(lhs: A, rhs: A): Boolean
```

```
}
The Scala compiler can create an instance of Equatable for Array of elements of type A as long as the type A
lies in the Equatable typeclass.
 \mathbf{def} \ \operatorname{arrayEquatable} \ [A] \ (\mathbf{implicit} \ E : \ \operatorname{Equatable} \ [A]) : \ \operatorname{Equatable} \ [\operatorname{Array} \ [A]] \ = \ \operatorname{equatable} \ [A] \ (\mathbf{implicit} \ E : \ \operatorname{Equatable} \ [A]) : \ \operatorname{Equatable} \ [A] \ (\mathbf{implicit} \ E : \ \operatorname{Equatable} \ [A]) : \ \operatorname{Equatable} \ [A] \ (\mathbf{implicit} \ E : \ \mathbf{Equatable} \ [A]) : \ \mathbf{Equatable} \ [A] \ (\mathbf{implicit} \ E : \ \mathbf{Equatable} \ [A]) : \ \mathbf{Equatable} \ [A] \ (\mathbf{implicit} \ E : \ \mathbf{Equatable} \ [A]) : \ \mathbf{Equatable} \ [A] \ (\mathbf{implicit} \ E : \ \mathbf{Equatable} \ [A]) : \ \mathbf{Equatable} \ [A] \ (\mathbf{implicit} \ E : \ \mathbf{Equatable} \ [A]) : \ \mathbf{Equatable} \ [A] \ (\mathbf{implicit} \ E : \ \mathbf{Equatable} \ [A]) : \ \mathbf{Equatable} \ [A] \ (\mathbf{implicit} \ E : \ \mathbf{Equatable} \ [A]) : \ \mathbf{Equatable} \ [\mathbf{equatable} \ [\mathbf{eq
                    \mathbf{new} \;\; \mathbf{Equatable} \left[ \, \mathbf{Array} \left[ \mathbf{A} \, \right] \, \right] \;\; \\
                                         def == (lhs: Array[A], rhs: Array[A]) {
                                                               if (lhs.length ≠ rhs.length) false
else lhs.indices.forall(i ⇒ E.==(lhs(i), rhs(i)))
                     }
```

Listing 28: Extension methods and protocol conformance

2.6 Rich type system.

The type parameters encountered so far look like generics; a bit more powerful, but generics nonetheless. However, Scala's type system is much more powerful than just generics. Of course, the type parameters are translated into generics, and they look like generics. List/A, Option/A certainly look just like their Java counterparts Optional < A >, List < A >. Unfortunately, generics become rather complicated in the presence of subtype polymorphism. It is obvious that Number is a supertype of Integer, and that $List \lceil Number \rceil$ is exactly the same as $List \lceil Number \rceil$. But what is the typing position of List/Number and List/Integer; what is the typing position of OutputStream/Numberand OutputStream [Integer]?

Variance. Kinds & Type constructors. Higher-kinded types.

Exercise: Flexible evaluator II

Explore and explain the difference in just adding the generic parameter to the Const data constructor (leaving $sealed\ trait\ Expr\ intact)$, or letting $Expr\ become\ sealed\ trait\ Expr/A$. Explain the effects of covariant type parameter in $sealed\ trait\ Expr/+A$. (Try $val\ e:\ BigDecimal\ =\ Evaluator.eval\ (Const(4))$ with invariant Expr and then with covariant Expr to get started.)

Listing 29: Variance

3 The standard library

The Scala standard library defines many standard structures in case classes. Picking the two most useful ones, Option and Either are defined as case classes. This means that it is possible to pattern match on their values.

These are the definition in the standard library; note that the actual definitions are more complex, but this code expresses the essence.

```
Option [A] has two alternatives: Some [A] and None. It is used to express one-or-missing values.
sealed trait Option[A]
case class Some[A](a: A) extends Option[A]
case object None extends Option Nothing
Either [L, R] has also two alternatives: Left [L] and Right [R]. It is used to express success or failure, with success by convention
on the right and failure on the left.
sealed trait Either [L, R]
 \textbf{case class } \operatorname{Right}\left[R\right]\left(\:r:\:R\right) \ \textbf{extends } \operatorname{Either}\left[\:\operatorname{Nothing}\:,\:\:R\right] 
case class Left [L](l: L) extends Either [L, Nothing]
                                                     Listing 30: Pattern matching in stdlib
```

Spring Framework 4

The Spring Framework is a dependency injection framework; it encourages composition over inheritance, it encourages expressing dependencies as interfaces rather than concrete implementations. The framework takes care of instantiating the components in the correct order; most components (the ones that fall into the @Component stereotype) are singletons. This means that it is possible to treat the @Component -annotated components as namespaces rather than containers of state'. The reason why Spring Framework encourages programming to interfaces is to make the software easily testable: there can be separate implementations or mocks for unit and integration tests.

⁷In fact if the methods in @Component -annotated classes mutates & accesses its fields, it will suffer from race conditions.

```
interface ReportGenerator {
    Generates the PDF report for the given user,
    returns the byte array representing the PDF contents
    byte[] generate(final String user);
}

@Component
public class ReportService {
    private final ReportGenerator reportGenerator;

@Inject
    public ReportService(final ReportGenerator reportGenerator) {
        this.reportGenerator = reportGenerator;
}

public void reportAll() {
    for (final String user : Arrays.asList("a", "b", "c")) {
        final byte[] pdf = this.reportGenerator.generate(user);
        Now you're on your own...
    }
}
```

Listing 31: Components

For a Spring Framework application to be able to construct the ReportService, it needs to be able to construct exactly one component that implements the ReportGenerator interface.

Listing 32: Components

Without a DI framework, the work of constructing the dependencies would fall on the programmers, yielding code similar to Listing 33.

```
Typically in public static void main(String[] args) or in a test:

ReportGenerator rg = new JasperReportsReportGenerator();

ReportService rs = new ReportService(rg);
```

Listing 33: Manual DI

Constructing the instances of the JasperReportsReportGenerator and ReportService using their constructors isn't a problem per se, but with growing number of dependencies this grows to be tedious.

5 Zero to hundred

FizzBuzz is a typical program that follows Hello, world, adding iteration and conditions. The Scala version of FizzBuzz is shown in Listing 34–it shows the definition of a function def, followed by name and arguments, and its implementation that follows the = sign. The loop (for) and condition (if, else) keywords are the old friends from other languages.

```
def fizzBuzz = {
  for (i ← 1 to 100) {
    if (i % 15 == 0) println("FizzBuzz")
    else if (i % 3 == 0) println("Fizz")
    else if (i % 5 == 0) println("Buzz")
    else println(i)
  }
}
```

Listing 34: Fizz Buzz

The FizzBuzz from Listing 34 isn't particularly re-usable: it simply prints 100 elements to the standard output, nothing else and nothing more. There is no way, for example, to direct the output to a web socket, or to use it to determine how it maps of the value in the integer domain to the "FizzBuzz domain". Hmm!-mapping and domain sound like mathematics; and functional programming is supposed to be somehow more mathematical. And mathematics is jolly wonderful.

The first step in making the fizzBuzz more mathematical is to make it map an input to exactly one useful output. Right now, its return type now is Unit, which is a bit like void in Java and C; changing its definition to $def\ fizzBuzz2\ (max:\ Int)$: $Unit\ (and\ then\ using\ the\ max\ parameter\ in\ the\ loop)$ isn't particularly useful: it

is a mapping from a number to Unit. And, if this were mathematics, there can be only one such mapping: def fizzBuzz2(max: Int): Unit = (). Instead of printing the elements to the console, the implementation needs to return a value that can be printed. A a simple String would do, but a Seq of String s is better. The type becomes $Int \Rightarrow Seq[String]$, and the implementation is shown in Listing 35.

```
 \begin{aligned} & \textbf{def fizzBuzz} \, (\text{max: Int}) \colon \, \text{Seq} \, [\, \text{String} \, ] = \{ \\ & \textbf{var} \, \, \text{result} \, = \, \text{List.empty} \, [\, \text{String} \, ] \\ & \textbf{for} \, \, (\, \text{i} \, \leftarrow \, 1 \, \, \text{to} \, \, \text{max}) \, \, \{ \\ & \textbf{if} \, \, (\, \text{i} \, \% \, \, 15 \, = \, 0) \, \, \text{result} \, = \, \text{result} \, :+ \, \, \text{``FizzBuzz''} \\ & \textbf{else} \, \, \textbf{if} \, \, (\, \text{i} \, \% \, \, 3 \, = \, 0) \, \, \text{result} \, = \, \text{result} \, :+ \, \, \text{``Fizz''} \\ & \textbf{else} \, \, \textbf{if} \, \, (\, \text{i} \, \% \, \, 3 \, = \, 0) \, \, \text{result} \, = \, \text{result} \, :+ \, \, \text{``Buzz''} \\ & \textbf{else} \, \, \, \textbf{if} \, \, (\, \text{i} \, \% \, \, 5 \, = \, 0) \, \, \text{result} \, = \, \text{result} \, :+ \, \, \text{``Buzz''} \\ & \textbf{else} \, \, \, \text{result} \, = \, \text{result} \, :+ \, \, \text{i.toString} \\ & \text{result} \, \\ \} \end{aligned}
```

Listing 35: Fizz Buzz

This is a huge improvement! The fizzBuzz is now indeed a function: it maps input to output and its result depends only on the value of the parameter. It would even be possible to pre-compute the result for all possible values of the input and replace the function's body with a look-up in that table: the function would become just data!

Well, the outside looks great, but the implementation stinks! It uses mutation, and what about the strange :+ operator in result :+ "Fizz", never mind the for ($i \leftarrow 1$ to max) {...} nonsense!

```
def fizzBuzz(max: Int): Seq[String] = {
  def fb(i: Int): String =
    if (i % 15 == 0) "FizzBuzz"
    else if (i % 3 == 0) "Fizz"
    else if (i % 5 == 0) "Buzz"
    else i.toString
(1 to max).map(fb)
```

Listing 36: Fizz Buzz

In Scala, every concrete type (except Nothing) can have a value: for example, the type Boolean is inhabited by values true, false; the type Int is inhabited by values such as 5, 42, -100, 0, ...; the type String is inhabited by values such as "Hi", ":)", ""; the type Unit is inhabited by the only value (). (No, really, it's perfectly good Scala syntax to write () as value. It's just not particularly useful.) The only type that does not have any inhabitants is Nothing: it represents expressions that diverge, for example throwing an exception.

Taking a more precise look at def fizzBuzz reveals its type to be Unit; it evaluates to only one value, namely (). If it were a function in the sense of strictly mapping input to output, it would be no different from any other () constant. But fizzBuzz does some additional work before returning (); this additional work is not represented by its type, even though it is its raison d'être.

In Java and C, there is no value of type voidAs it stands, its type is $() \Rightarrow Unit$,

6 Pattern matching

sasd

7

References

- $[1] \quad \textit{Adapter Pattern.} \ \texttt{https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adapter_pattern.}$
- [2] F#. https://fsharp.org.
- $[3] \quad \textit{Haskell}. \ \texttt{https://www.haskell.org}.$