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CSYE 7200

Big-Data Sys Engr Using Scala

Sprint 2021

Assignment 2

Task:

Assignment 2 is designed to test your understanding of the second week of CSYE7200 lectures, in particular, Scala's mechanism for dealing with lazy values. Furthermore, working through the assignment, you will understand that features like *LazyList* in Scala are not "magic." We can create our own, simply using a function for the lazily-evaluated tail (*MyLazyList*).

You can find the code under the *assignment-lazy* directory in the REPO. Make sure you do a pull first.

You are to submit evidence of all unit tests (in *MyLazyListSpec*) passing (use a screenshot). In order to get the tests to succeed, you must implement the *from* method in the companion object of *MyLazyList*. Replace the *??? //...* with your own working code. There are plenty of other examples of similar functionality in the *MyLazyList* module. Submit, along with your unit test screenshots, the expression that you used to implement the *from* method.

Unit Test Screenshot

The screenshot displays an IDE window for a project named "assignment-lazy". The main editor shows the file `MyLazyList.scala` with the following Scala code:

```
401 * greater than their predecessors by <code>step</code>.
402 *
403 * @param start the value of the first element.
404 * @param step the difference between successive elements.
405 * @return a <code>ListLike[X]</code> with an infinite number of element (whose values are <code>x</code>,
406 * <code>x+step</code>, etc.).
407 */
408 def from(start: Int, step: Int): ListLike[Int] = MyLazyList(start, () => from(start + step, step))
409
410 /**
411 * Construct a stream of Integers starting with <code>start</code> and with successive elements being
412 * the next greater Int.
413 *
414 * @param start the value of the first element.
415 * @return a <code>ListLike[X]</code> with an infinite number of element (whose values are <code>x</code>,
416 * <code>x+1</code>, etc.).
417 */
418 def from(start: Int): ListLike[Int] = from(start, 1)
419 }
420
421 case class LazyListException(w: String) extends Exception(s"LazyList exception: $w")
422
```

The left sidebar shows the project structure, with the `MyLazyList` class highlighted under the `asstll` package. The bottom panel shows the terminal output of the test run:

```
[info] apply
[info] - should produce a stream of a single 1
[info] continually
[info] - should produce a stream of 1s
[info] - should produce a stream of 1 thru 3
[info] LazyList as a monad
[info] - should support a for-comprehension
[info] - should support a for-comprehension with filter
[info] Run completed in 599 milliseconds.
[info] Total number of tests run: 62
[info] Suites: completed 2, aborted 0
[info] Tests: succeeded 62, failed 0, canceled 0, ignored 0, pending 0
[info] All tests passed.
[success] Total time: 8 s, completed 2021年?月?日 4:39:29
```

The status bar at the bottom indicates the current file is `MyLazyList` and the cursor is at line 408, column 101.

Questions

1. (a) what is the chief way by which *MyLazyList* differs from *LazyList* (the built-in Scala class that does the same thing). Don't mention the methods that *MyLazyList* does or doesn't implement--I want to know what is the *structural* difference.

(b) Why do you think there is this difference?

Answer:

a: *MyLazyList* class has constructor and *MyLazyList* is a case class, but *LazyList* is not.

MyLazyList class is same as the *cons* class in *Stream*, the *Stream* class is a wrap class of *cons*.

b: The constructor can create an instance and covered in object with *apply* method, *LazyList* can do the same work.

LazyList is build with *cons*, it can find tail by using less memory. But for *MyLazyList* we have to evaluate each one until we reach the last one to reach the tail.

The case class can optimize *MyLazyList* if the pattern match.

2. Explain what the following code actually does and why is it needed?

```
def tail = lazyTail()
```

Answer:

It help to make *MyLazyList* class to a lazy evaluate. It's a lazylist, only the head be evaluated. It defined the tail called by the function. It will evaluate and return a *ListLike* object contains the rest of the list behind the head.

3. List all of the recursive calls that you can find in *MyLazyList* (give line numbers).

98, 116, 130, 361, 383, 408

4. List all of the mutable variables and mutable collections that you can find in *MyLazyList* (give line numbers).

42, 69, 388

5. What is the purpose of the *zip* method?

Combine two different list together. The purpose of the zip method can process two list at the same time, you can zip another list into the current one.

6. Why is there no *length* (or *size*) method for *MyLazyList*?

MyLazyList is build with an actual list, we need to evaluate each element in the list in order to get the length of the list.

If the list is infinite, the stack will be overflow. MyLazyList can not have length method.