

Engaging, Large-Scale Functional Programming Education in Physical and Virtual Space

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Technical University of Munich

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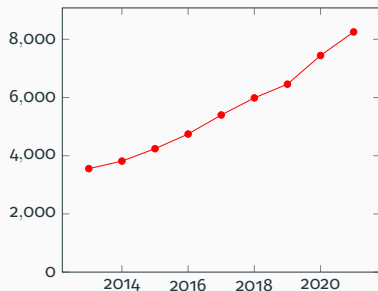
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Challenges

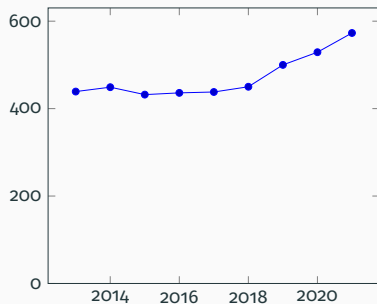
1. Number of Computer Science students exploded

Soaring Enrolments

Example: Computer Science at TU Munich



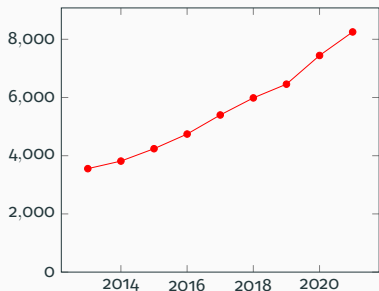
Number of CS students
(132% increase)



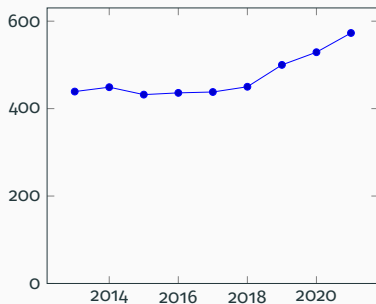
Number of CS academic staff
(31% increase)

Soaring Enrolments

Example: Computer Science at TU Munich



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1000+ students per course are the new normal

2. Radical transition to online classes

The Pandemic

How can we go from here...



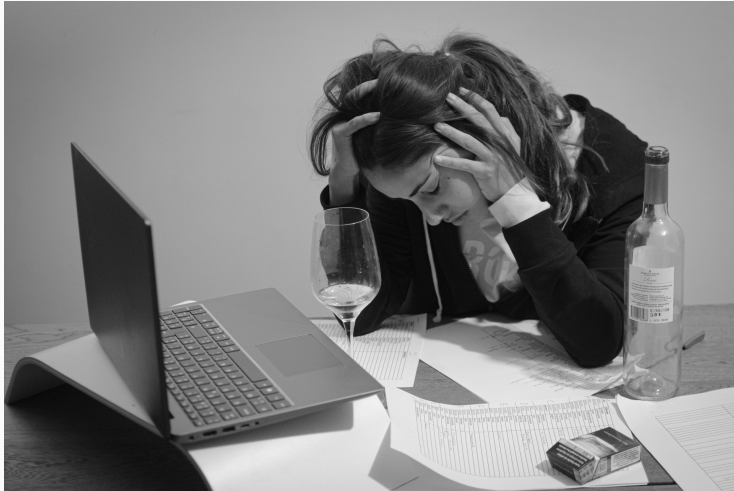
The Pandemic

to here...



The Pandemic

without ending up here?



3. Students question the usefulness of functional languages
beyond academia

Usefulness of Functional Programming



xkcd.com/1312



xkcd.com/1270

There is hope!

- We managed to cope with all these challenges

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- We share our insights, tools, and exercises for other educators

You can find our resources on:

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Note: We used Haskell, but most ideas apply to any functional programming course

Practical Part

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Engagement Mechanisms

Feedback must come fast!

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- Automated testing and feedback

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 - *Check Your Proof* for automated proof checking

Instant Feedback

Lemma: $xs ++ (ys ++ zs) .=. (xs ++ ys) ++ zs$

Proof *by induction on List xs*

Case $[]$

To show: $[] ++ (ys ++ zs) .=. ([] ++ ys) ++ zs$

Proof

$[] ++ (ys ++ zs)$

$(\text{by def } ++)$ $.=. ys ++ zs$

$(\text{by def } ++)$ $.=. ([] ++ ys) ++ zs$

QED

Case $x : xs$

To show: $(x : xs) ++ (ys ++ zs) .=. ((x : xs) ++ ys) ++ zs$

IH: $xs ++ (ys ++ zs) .=. (xs ++ ys) ++ zs$

Proof

...

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- Manual reviews turned out to be inefficient...

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- Manual reviews turned out to be inefficient...
 - *HLint* offers feedback more directly

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Maybe you want to offer a workshop as well? :)

Offer challenges to go beyond the syllabus!

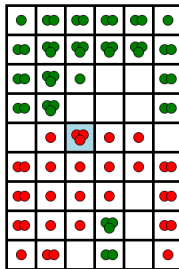
Offer challenges to go beyond the syllabus!

- Diverse, weekly competition exercises





Competitions

Tobias Markus vs. Severin Schmidmeier

Winner:  Severin Schmidmeier



Stats

  Statistic	 Tobias Markus	 Severin Schmidmeier
Moves made	49	49
Orbs captured	40	89
Capture/loss ratio	0.4494	2.2250

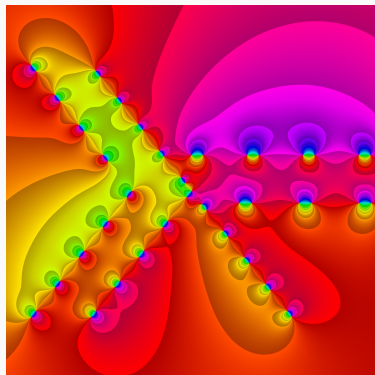
Competitions

Scoreboard (FROZEN)



Place	Team						
1.	haskellhackers						
	050 17:23:27	515 17:42:00	010 17:16:05	515 18:29:07	010 19:35:35	010 17:47:02	515 19:31:05
2.	ghzi						
	010 17:15:27	111 18:36:54	133 20:27:54	111 18:17:40	010 19:52:40	111 17:29:31	414 20:42:05
3.	maol						
	010 17:11:54	717 17:59:03	010 17:10:48	717 19:27:56	212 18:46:35	313 18:30:55	212 21:00:30
4.	gbs2021						
	616 18:33:43	111 17:28:10	313 18:19:06	717 19:06:18	212 19:51:59	111 17:52:30	515 20:52:36
5.	niniaturtles						

Competitions



```
module Exercise_13 where

import Data.Bool (bool)
import Data.Maybe (fromMaybe)
import Data.List (stripPrefix, isPrefixOf, findIndex, genericIndex)
import Data.Char (ord)
import Data.Word (Word8)
import qualified Data.ByteString as B
import Transform

animate :: [(String, Transform -> Transform)] -> String -> [String]
animate a s = map svg $ scanl (flip applyAnim) (parseInput s) $ map (:[]) a

paint :: String -> String
paint = svg . parseInput
```

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Maybe you want to offer awards or competitions as well? :)

I/O Mocking

Motivation

- Submissions (primarily) tested with QuickCheck

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So how do we test I/O in Haskell?

The Standard Way

```
copyFile :: FilePath -> FilePath -> IO ()  
copyFile = _
```

The Standard Way

```
copyFile :: MonadFileSystem m =>  
          FilePath -> FilePath -> m ()  
copyFile = _
```

The Standard Way

```
import qualified Prelude
import Prelude hiding (readFile, writeFile)

class Monad m => MonadFileSystem m where
    readFile :: FilePath -> m String
    writeFile :: FilePath -> String -> m ()

copyFile :: MonadFileSystem m =>
    FilePath -> FilePath -> m ()
copyFile = _
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The Standard Way

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class Monad m => MonadFileSystem m where
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```

```
copyFile :: MonadFileSystem m =>
  FilePath -> FilePath -> m ()
```

```
copyFile source target = do
  content <- readFile source
  writeFile target content
```

Multiple Instantiations

```
instance MonadFileSystem IO where  
  readFile = Prelude.readFile  
  writeFile = Prelude.readFile
```

Multiple Instantiations

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instance MonadFileSystem IO where  
  readFile = Prelude.readFile  
  writeFile = Prelude.readFile
```

```
data MockFileSystem =  
  MockFileSystem (Map FilePath String)  
instance MonadFileSystem (State MockFileSystem) where  
  readFile = _  
  writeFile = _
```


The Problem

What is the problem with

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copyFile :: MonadFileSystem m =>  
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Lack of transparency!

The Solution

Delay mocking to the compilation stage

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by replacing the *IO* module with a mixin.

The Mixin

```
data RealWord = RealWord {  
  workDir :: FilePath,  
  files :: Map File Text,  
  handles :: Map Handle HandleData,  
  user :: IO (),  
  ...  
}
```

The Mixin

```
data RealWorld = RealWorld {  
  workDir :: FilePath,  
  files  :: Map File Text,  
  handles :: Map Handle HandleData,  
  user  :: IO (),  
  ...  
}
```

```
newtype IO a = IO { unwrapIO ::  
  ExceptT IOException (PauseT (State RealWorld)) a }
```

The Pause Monad

```
class Monad m => MonadPause m where  
  pause :: m ()  
  stepPauseT :: m a -> m (Either (m a) a)
```

An Example Interaction

Student submission

```
main = do
  x <- getLine
  putStrLn $ "Hi " ++ x
```

Mock user

```
user s = do
  hPutStrLn stdin s
  out <- hGetLine stdout
  when (out /= _)
    (fail $ _)
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Find more in our repository!

- A music synthesiser, UNO framework, turtle graphics,...
- Proof checker for inductive and equational reasoning
- More engagement mechanisms and insights, our technical setup,...

github.com/kappelmann/engaging-large-scale-functional-programming

The background is a stylized, colorful illustration of a bridge and a city skyline. The bridge is a large, arched structure with a complex internal truss system, rendered in shades of blue, yellow, and red. Below the bridge, there are silhouettes of city buildings in various colors. The overall style is graphic and artistic, with a soft, painterly texture.

Any questions?

Thanks to Tobias Nipkow, Manuel Eberl, our student assistants, our industry partners (Active Group, QAware, TNG Technology Consulting, and Well-Typed), and our 2000 Haskell students