

Controlling Execution Flow with Pattern Matching



Zoran Horvat

CEO AT CODING HELMET

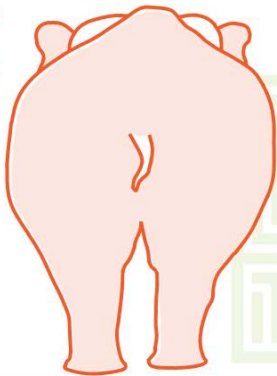
@zoranh75

<http://csharpmentor.com>

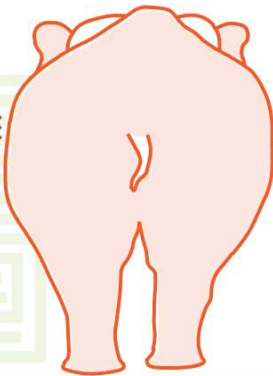


The Secret Life of Functions

Mathematics



Computing



The Secret Life of Functions

Pattern matching

input



The Secret Life of Functions

Pattern matching



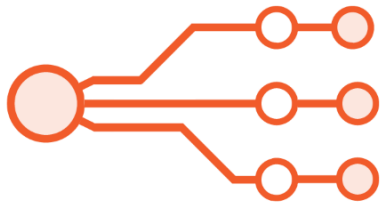
The Secret Life of Functions

Pattern matching

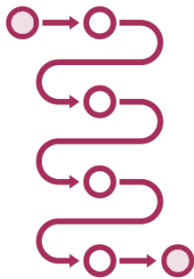


The Secret Life of Functions

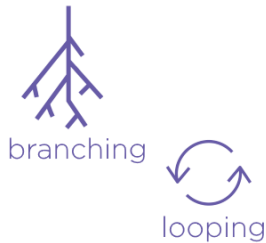
Pattern matching



Function
composition
(pipelining)

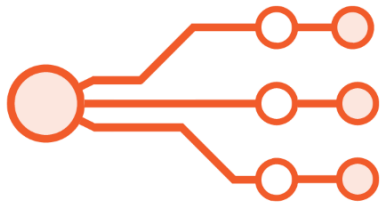


Imperative
control
flow

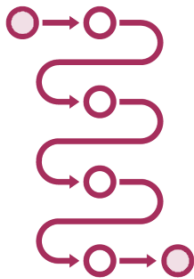


The Secret Life of Functions

Pattern matching



Function
composition
(pipelining)



Imperative
control
flow



Defining a Function

```
static void Subtract(  
    this Amount from,  
    Amount amount)
```

Fail

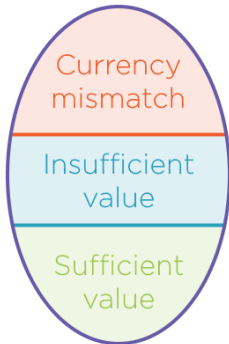
from.Currency \neq amount.Currency

Succeed partially

from.Currency = amount.Currency
from.Value < amount.Value

Succeed

from.Currency = amount.Currency
from.Value \geq amount.Value



Mutually exclusive
Intersections
of cases are empty

Complete
Union of all cases
is the entire domain

Defining a Function

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Succeed partially

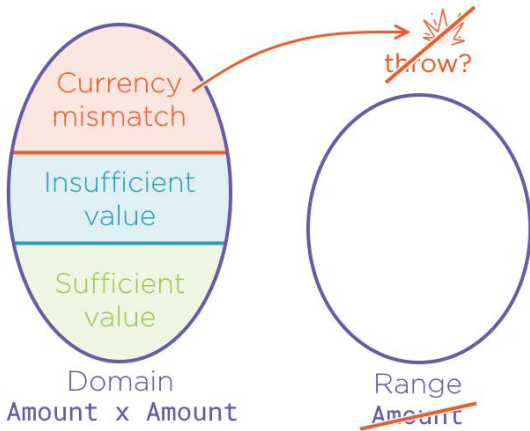
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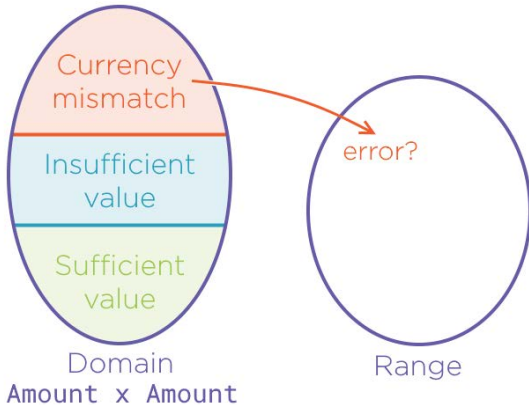
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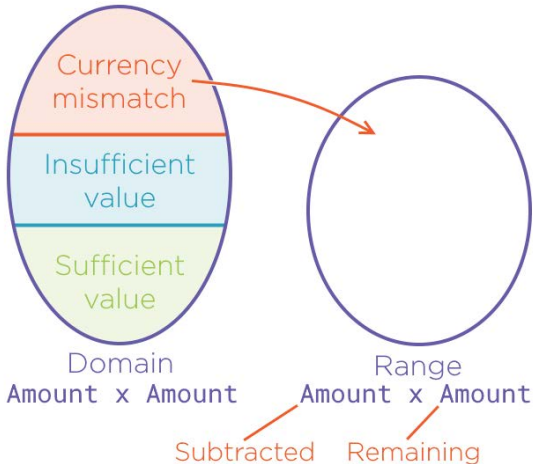
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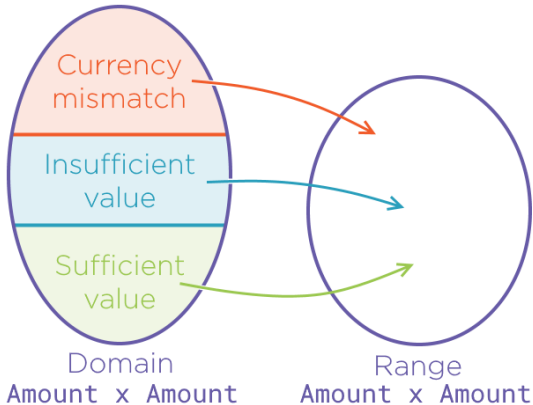
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Succeed

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switch vs. Ternary Operator

switch money



Cash ✓



GiftCard

with ValidBefore
in the future ✓

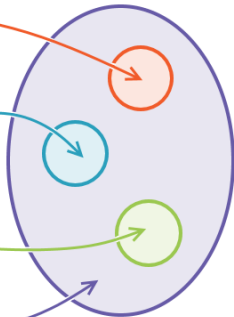


BankCard

with ValidBefore
in the future ✓



Anything else ✗



Ternary operators



Summary



Equality tests and pattern matching

- Patterns often call `Equals()`
- Patterns often test runtime type

Test type and set variable (C# 7)

- Used to mimic pattern matching

Chain of ternary operators

- Progressively constrains the domain

Switch instruction with type matching

- Declares patterns from specific to general
- Compiler handles evaluation



Summary



Pattern matching as a control flow

- The only form of branching

Applicable to some functions

- When a function looks like a “union” of several functions
- Pattern matching used to select one of the functions/mappings



Next module:

Working with Sequences
in Functional Way

