Introduction to Haskell

Functional programming in Haskell

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Functional

- Functions as first-class citizens
- Higher order functions
- Declarative style

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Pure

- Side effect separation
- Equational reasoning
- Simplified parallelism

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Lazy

- Infinite data structures
- Compositional programming style
- Tricky to evaluate complexity

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Statically typed

- "If a program compiles, it probably works"
- Expressive type system
- Type inference

Installing Haskell toolchain

Official installer GHCup

- GHC (Glasgow Haskell Compiler)
- GHCi interactive REPL-like environment
- HLS (Haskell Language Server) integration with editors
- cabal and stack tools for package management and development

\$ ghc --version
The Glorious Glasgow Haskell Compilation System,
version 9.4.8

Note: any version 9.x.x or above will be fine



https://www.haskell.org/ghcup/

GHC interactive

Using GHCi

- :? help
- :quit or :q quit
- :load or :l load module
- :reload or :r reload modules
- :info or :i information about identifier
- :type or :t type of expression
- :set / :unset set or unset options

```
$ ahci
GHCi, version 9.4.8:
https://www.haskell.org/ghc/ :? for help
ghci> 2
ahci> True
True
ghci> 'a'
'a'
ahci> "Hello"
"Hello"
ahci> [1.2.3]
[1.2.3]
ghci> (12, True)
(12, True)
ahic> :a
Leaving GHCi.
```

Evaluating expressions

Arithmetic

ahci> 2 + 3

```
qhci> 2 + 3 * 2
ahci> (-2) * 4
- 8
ghci> 5.0 / 2.0
2.5
ahci> 5 `div` 2
ghci> 5 `mod` 2
```

Booleans and comparisons

```
ahci> True && False
False
ghci> True || False
True
ahci> not True
False
ahci> 5 == 2 + 3
True
ahci > 5 /= 2 + 3
False
ghci> True > False
True
```

Operators are functions

```
ahci> (+) 2 3
ghci> div 5 2
ghci> max 5 2
ghci> 5 `max` 2
```

Associativity and precedence

Symbolic operators

- Any non-alphanumeric identifier is considered operator and *infix* by default
- But can be made *prefix* by enclosing in parentheses
- Associativity and precedence must be explicitly specified

Alphanumeric functions

- Any alphanumeric identifier is prefix by default
- But can be made *infix* by enclosing in backticks
- Function application has highest precedence and always left-associative

```
ahci > 2 + (3 * 2)
ghci> :i (+)
type Num :: * -> Constraint
class Num a where
  (+) :: a -> a -> a
    -- Defined in `GHC.Num'
infixl 6 +
ahci> :i (*)
type Num :: * -> Constraint
class Num a where
  (*) :: a -> a -> a
    -- Defined in `GHC.Num'
infixl 7 *
```

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Alphanumeric functions

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```
ghci> max 2 3 + 2
4
ghci> (max 2 3) + 2
4
ghci> max 2 (3 + 2)
5
ghci> min 4 (max 2 3)
3
```

Lists and tuples

Lists

- Homogeneous linked lists
 - [] empty list
 - (:) constructor "cons"
 - (++) concatenation
- Enumeration notation [1..10]

```
ahci > [1,2,3]
[1,2,3]
ghci> []
ghci> 1 : []
[1]
ahci > [3,4] ++ [1,2]
[3,4,1,2]
ghci> 1 : 2 : 3 : []
[1.2.3]
ghci> 1 : 2 : 3 : [] == [1,2,3]
True
ghci> [1..5]
[1,2,3,4,5]
ghci> [1,3..10]
[1,3,5,7,9]
```

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Lists

- Homogeneous linked lists
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Tuples

- Cartesian product of several types
- Except for pairs should not be used anywhere (Haskell provides better ways via custom data structures)
 - fst and snd are only for pairs

```
ghci> (1,2)
(1,2)
ghci> (True,2)
(True,2)
ghci> fst (True,2)
True
ghci> snd (True,2)
2
ghci> (True,[1,2],42)
(True,[1,2],42)
```

Strings

Strings are lists

- Strings are lists of Unicode characters¹
- Characters can be enumerated
- Strings can be compared lexicographically
- In real world more efficient implementations are used (see text and bytestring)

```
ahci> 'a'
'a'
ahci> \lambda
'\120582'
ghci> putStrLn "\lambda"
ghci> "abc123"
"abc123"
ghci> ['a','b','c']
"abc"
ghci> 'a' : "bc" == "abc"
True
ahci> ['a'..'f']
"abcdef"
ahci> "Haskell" > "C++"
True
```

¹Actually Unicode code points

More functions

List functions

```
ghci> length "Haskell"
ghci> reverse "Haskell"
"lleksaH"
ghci> take 2 "Hello" ++ drop 5 "Haskell"
"Hell"
ghci> filter even [1..10]
[2,4,6,8,10]
ghci> sum (filter even [1..10])
30
ghci> map odd [1..5]
[True, False, True, False, True]
```

More functions

List functions

```
ahci> length "Haskell"
ghci> reverse "Haskell"
"lleksaH"
ghci> take 2 "Hello" ++ drop 5 "Haskell"
"Hell"
ghci> filter even [1..10]
[2.4.6.8.10]
ghci> sum (filter even [1..10])
30
ghci> map odd [1..5]
[True.False.True.False.True]
```

Anonymous functions¹

```
ghci> (\x -> 3 * x + 2) 2
8
ghci> map (\x -> 3 * x + 2) [1..5]
[5,8,11,14,17]
ghci> (\x y -> x + y) 2 3
5
ghci> zipWith (\x y -> x + y) [1..5] [6..10]
[7,9,11,13,15]
ghci> zipWith (+) [1..5] [6..10]
[7,9,11,13,15]
```

¹Also known as *lambda functions*

Types

Inspecting types in GHCi

```
ghci> :t 'a'
'a' :: Char
ghci> :t True
True :: Bool
ghci> :t [True,False]
[True.False] :: [Bool]
ghci> :t (True,'a')
(True, 'a') :: (Bool, Char)
ghci> :t ('a',True)
('a', True) :: (Char, Bool)
ghci> :t not
not :: Bool -> Bool
  • :: reads as "has type"
```

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ghci> :t [True,False]
[True.False] :: [Bool]
ghci> :t (True,'a')
(True, 'a') :: (Bool, Char)
ghci> :t ('a',True)
('a'.True) :: (Char. Bool)
ghci> :t not
not :: Bool -> Bool
```

• :: reads as "has type"

Parametric polymorphism

```
ahci> :t reverse
reverse :: [a] -> [a]
ahci> reverse [1,2,3]
[3,2,1]
ghci> reverse "Haskell"
"lleksaH"
ahci> :t fst
fst :: (a, b) -> a
```

- Lower-case identifiers in type signatures are type variables
- Concrete types always start with upper-case letter

Currying

- Functions with multiple parameters are always curried¹
 - Accept exactly one argument and return another function
- -> is right-associative, so following type signatures are the same

```
take :: Int -> [a] -> [a]
take :: Int -> ([a] -> [a])
```

 Allows partial application of function to the first argument(s)

```
ghci> :t take
take :: Int -> [a] -> [a]
ghci> :t take 2
take 2 :: [a] -> [a]
ghci> :t take 2 "abc"
take 2 "abc" :: [Char]
ghci> :t map
map :: (a -> b) -> [a] -> [b]
ghci> :t map (take 2)
map (take 2) :: [[all -> [[all
ghci> map (take 2) ["abc", "def"]
["ab"."de"]
```

¹This idea was first introduced by *Moses Schönfinkel* and then further developed and popularized by *Haskell Curry*

Overloading

- Type variables of polymorphic functions can have additional constraints¹ denoted by => clause
- In that case we say that they are overloaded
- Overloaded functions use some specific API provided by those constraints in their implementation
- Ord means something comparable
- Num is any number-like type (Int, Integer, Double) (+) :: Num a => a -> a -> a
- Foldable is a generalization of any container-like type²

```
ghci> :t max
\max :: Ord a => a -> a -> a
ghci> max "Haskell" "C++"
"Haskell"
ghci> max 3 5
ahci> :t (>)
(>) :: Ord a => a -> a -> Bool
ghci>:t(+)
ghci> :t length
length :: Foldable t => t a -> Int
```

¹Such constraints are called *type classes* and we will encounter them a lot during semester

²For now consider it to be simply list type

Types

Built-in types

- Numeric literals are overloaded
- We can explicitly specify type for any expression
- Int fixed-precision integer type
 - Guaranteed to be at least $[-2^{29}, 2^{29} 1]^1$, but usually is machine word sized
- Integer arbitrary-precision integer type
 - Implemented internally via GNU Multiple Precision Arithmetic Library (GMP)²
- Float single-precision floating point type
- Double double-precision floating point type
- Char Unicode code point (character)
- () Unit type

```
ahci>:t2
2 :: Num a => a
ghci> :t maxBound
maxBound :: Bounded a => a
ghci> maxBound
()
ghci> maxBound :: Int
9223372036854775807
ghci> maxBound :: Char
'\1114111'
ahci> 2^100
1267650600228229401496703205376
ahci> 2^100 :: Int
0
ghci> 2^100 :: Integer
1267650600228229401496703205376
```

¹See Haskell 2010 Language Report, Section 6.4 Numbers

²See integer-gmp package

Explicit effects

- All functions in Haskell are pure by default
- Impure functions explicitly marked with I0 type
- I0 () represents action that does not yield any result but produces some side effect
- Side effects include
 - Interacting with stdin/stdout
 - Mutating global program state
 - Reading and writing files
 - Accessing database
 - Sending or receiving TCP/IP requests
- Show constraint provides conversion from given type to String via show function
- Under the hood GHCi uses print to show expressions on screen

```
ghci> :t putStrLn
putStrLn :: String -> IO ()
ghci> putStrLn "Hello"
Hello
ghci> "Hello"
"Hello"
ahci> :t print
print :: Show a => a -> IO ()
ghci> print "Hello"
"Hello"
ahci> show "Hello"
"\"Hello\""
ghci> print [1,2,3]
[1.2.3]
ghci> show [1,2,3]
"[1,2,3]"
```

Program structure

Modules

- Haskell program consists of modules
- Each module corresponds to single .hs or .lhs (literate Haskell) file
- Each module contains declarations:
 - Function declarations (bindings)
 - Type signatures
 - Fixity declarations (associativity and precedence of operators)
 - Type declarations
 - And many others...
- Order of declarations does not matter

Prelude

- Prelude is an implicitly imported module containing standard function and type declarations
- Most of the functions we have seen so far come from Prelude module
- Very little is actually built into Haskell language itself



https://hackage.haskell.org/package/base-4.21.0.0/docs/Prelude.html

$$n! = 1 \cdot 2 \cdot \ldots \cdot n$$

$$n! = 1 \cdot 2 \cdot ... \cdot n$$

$$F_1(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & n = 0 \\ n \cdot F_1(n-1) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$n! = 1 \cdot 2 \cdot \dots \cdot n$$

$$F_1(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & n = 0 \\ n \cdot F_1(n-1) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

```
F_1(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & n = 0 \\ n \cdot F_1(n-1) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} fact1 n \mid n == 0 = 1  \mid \text{otherwise} = n * \text{fact1 } (n-1)
```

$$n! = 1 \cdot 2 \cdot ... \cdot n$$

$$F_1(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & n = 0 \\ n \cdot F_1(n-1) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$F_2(0) = 1$$

$$F_2(n) = n \cdot F_2(n-1)$$

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$$F_2(0) = 1$$

$$F_2(n) = n \cdot F_2(n-1)$$

$$F_3(n) = \prod_{x=1..n} x$$

```
fact1 :: Integer -> Integer
fact1 n
  | n == 0 = 1
  l otherwise = n * fact1 (n - 1)
fact2 :: Integer -> Integer
fact2 0 = 1
fact2 n = n * fact2 (n - 1)
```

$$n! = 1 \cdot 2 \cdot \dots \cdot n$$

$$F_1(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & n = 0 \\ n \cdot F_1(n-1) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$F_2(0) = 1$$

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fact1 n
  | n == 0 = 1
  l otherwise = n * fact1 (n - 1)
fact2 :: Integer -> Integer
fact2 0 = 1
fact2 n = n * fact2 (n - 1)
fact3 :: Integer -> Integer
fact3 n = product [1..n]
```

$$n! = 1 \cdot 2 \cdot \dots \cdot n$$

$$F_1(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & n = 0 \\ n \cdot F_1(n-1) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$F_2(0) = 1$$

 $F_2(n) = n \cdot F_2(n-1)$

$$F_3(n) = \prod_{x=1,n} x$$

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fact1 :: Integer -> Integer
fact1 n
  | n == 0 = 1
  l otherwise = n * fact1 (n - 1)
fact2 :: Integer -> Integer
fact2 0 = 1
fact2 n = n * fact2 (n - 1)
fact3 :: Integer -> Integer
fact3 n = product [1..n]
```

¹Checkout more factorials in "The Evolution of a Haskell Programmer"

Q&A