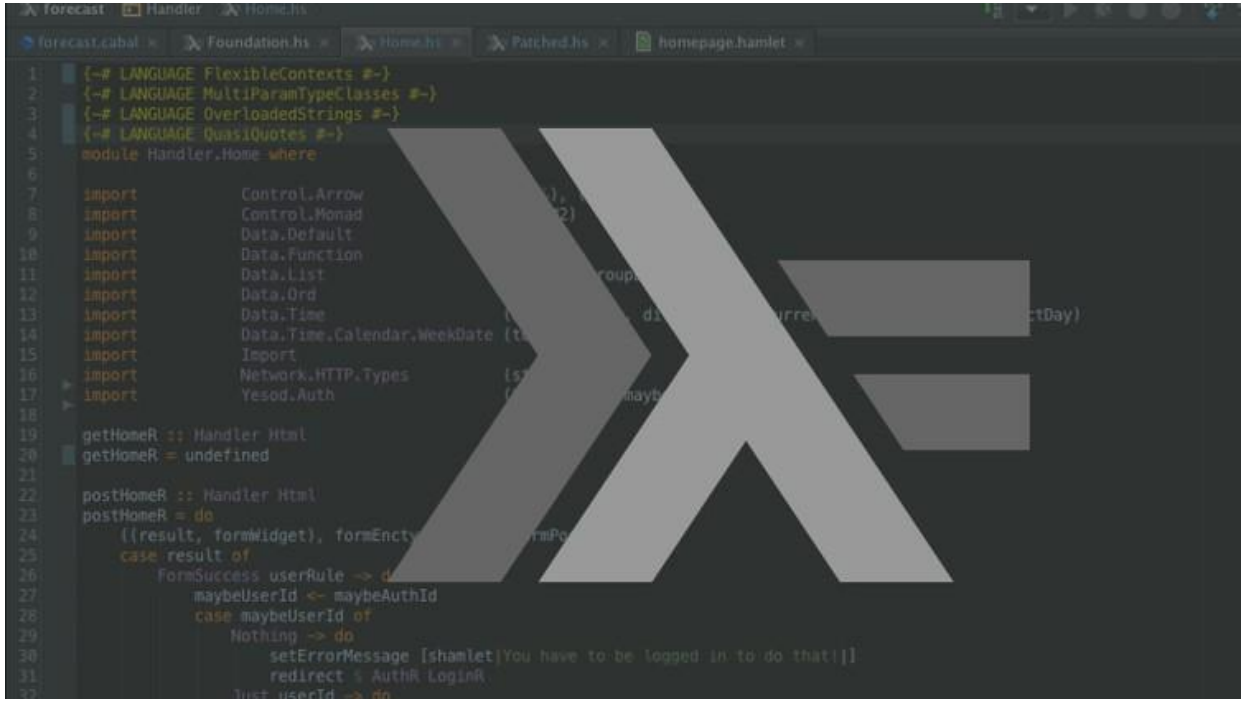
Introduction to Functions



Functions in Haskell

- Functions in Haskell are *pures*: they only return results calculated relative to their parameters.
- Functions do not have *side effects*.
  - they do not modify the parameters
  - they do not modify the memory
  - they do not modify the input/output
- A function always returns the same result applied to the same parameters.

Definition of Functions

Function identifiers start with a lowercase.

To introduce a function:

1. First, its type declaration (header) is given.
2. Then its definition is given, using formal parameters.

Definition of Functions

Examples:

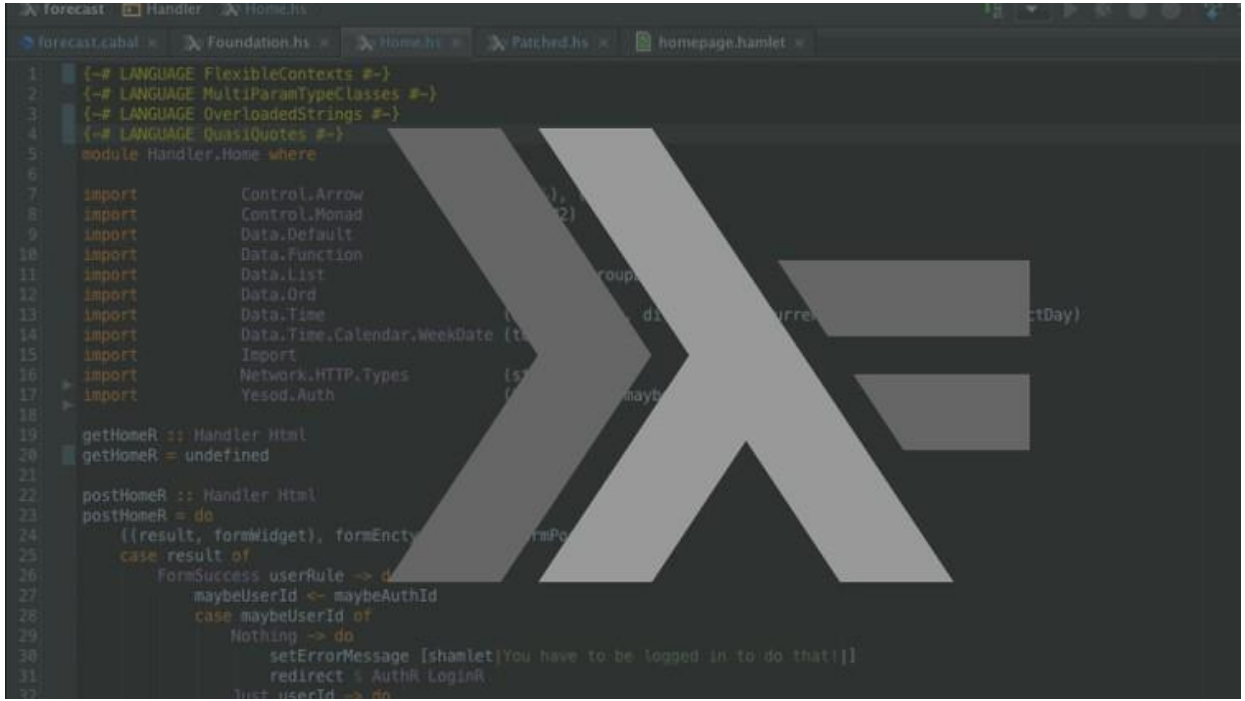
```haskell
double :: Int -> Int                        -- calculates the double of a value
double x = 2 * x

perimeter :: Int -> Int -> Int              -- calculates the perimeter of a rectangle
perimeter width height = double (width + height)

xOr :: Bool -> Bool -> Bool                 -- exclusive or (also called xor)
xOr a b = (a || b) && not (a && b)

factorial :: Integer -> Integer             -- calculates the factorial of a natural
factorial n = if n == 0 then 1 else n * factorial (n - 1)
```

Definition with Patterns



Definition with Patterns

Functions can be defined with patterns:

```haskell
factorial :: Integer -> Integer
    -- calculates the factorial of a natural

factorial 0 = 1
factorial n = n * factorial (n - 1)
```

The evaluation of the patterns is from top to bottom and returns the result of the first matching branch.

Patterns are considered more elegant than the `if-then-else` and they have many more applications.

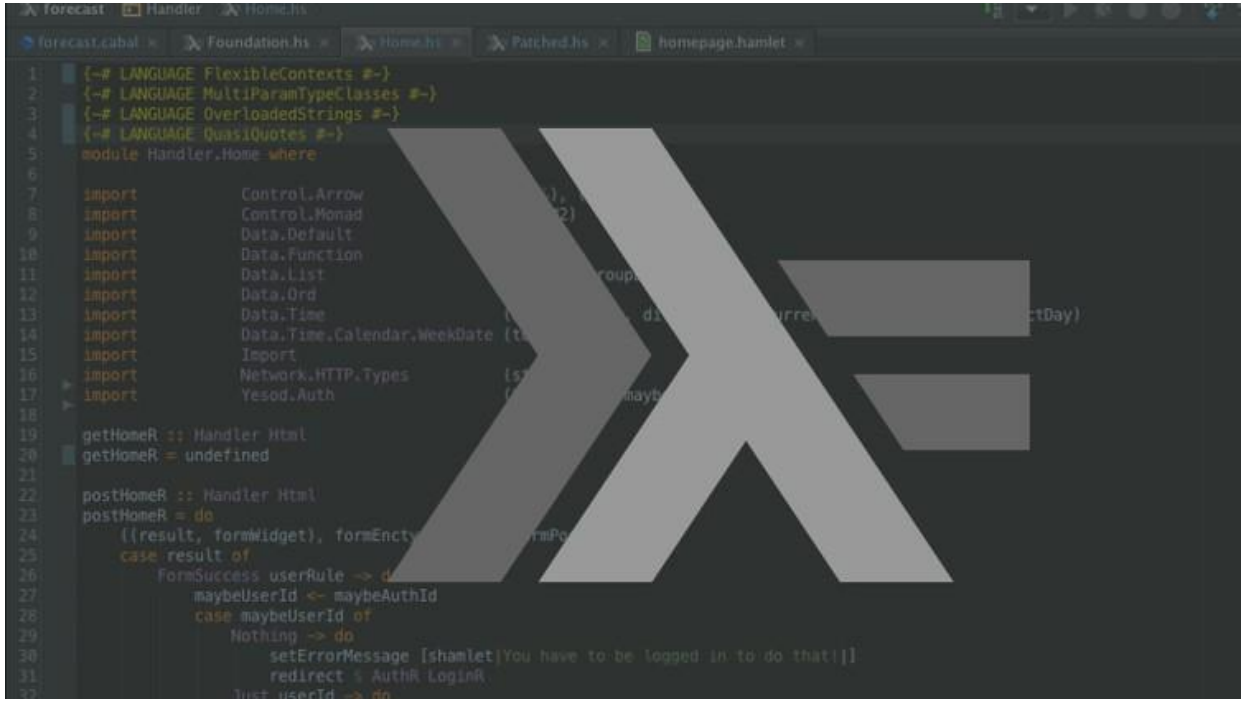
Definition with Patterns

`_` represents a **anonymous variable**: (there is no relation between different `_`)

```haskell
nand :: Bool -> Bool -> Bool              -- negated conjuction

nand True True = False
nand _ _ = True
```

Definition with Guards



Definition with Guards

Functions can be defined with **guards**:

```haskell
valAbs :: Int -> Int
    -- returns the absolute value of an integer

valAbs n
    | n >= 0    =  n
    | otherwise = -n
```

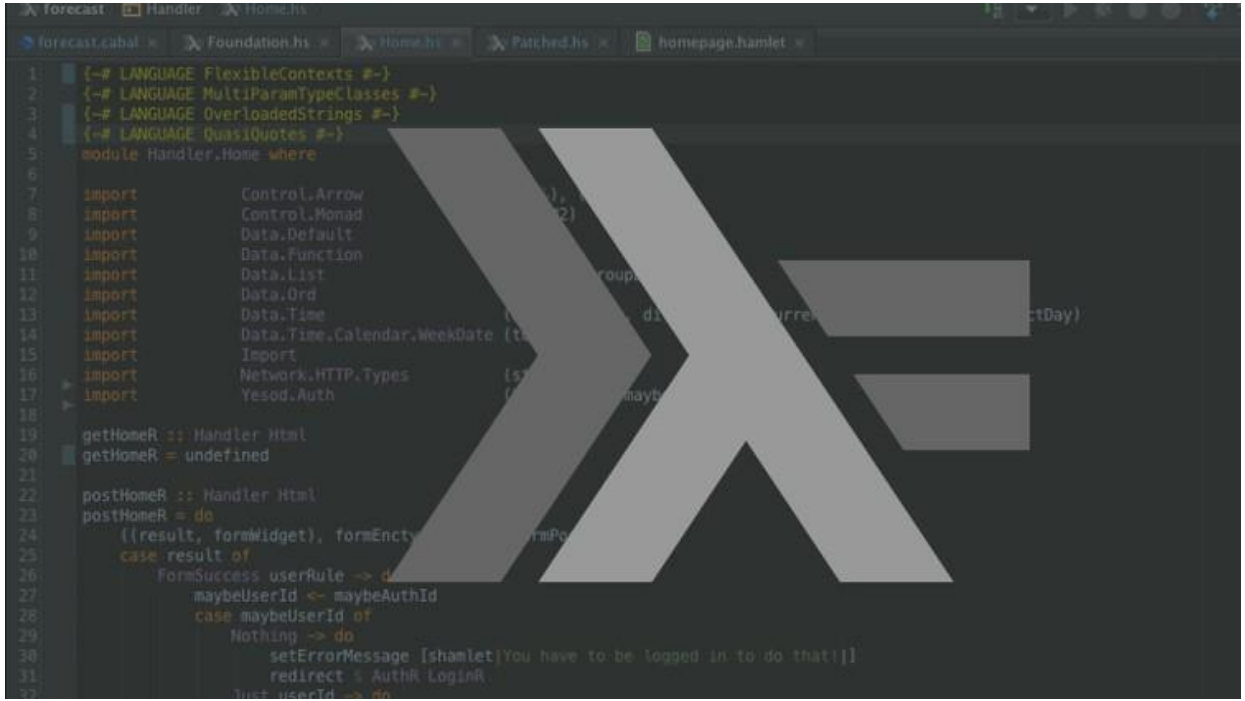
Guard evaluation is top-down and returns the result of the first true branch.

Pattern definitions can also have guards.

The `otherwise` is the same as `True`, but more readable.

⚠ Equality goes after every guard!

Local Definitions



Local Definitions

To define local names in an expression it is used the `let-in`:

```haskell
fastExp :: Integer -> Integer -> Integer        -- fast exponentiation

fastExp _ 0 = 1
fastExp x n =
    let y   = fastExp x n_halved
        n_halved  = div n 2
    in
        if even n
        then y * y
        else y * y * x
```

Local Definitions

The `where` allows names to be defined in more than one expression:

```haskell
fastExp :: Integer -> Integer        -- fast exponentiation

fastExp _ 0 = 1
fastExp x n
    | even n    = y * y
    | otherwise = y * y * x
    where
        y  = fastExp x n_halved
        n_halved = div n 2
```

The indentation of the `where` defines its scope.