

# Functional JavaScript

## Why or Why Not?

JSDC 2014

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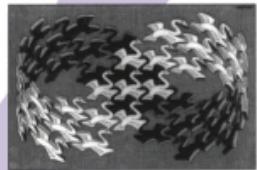
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# Design Patterns

## Elements of Reusable Object-Oriented Software

Erich Gamma  
Richard Helm  
Ralph Johnson  
John Vlissides



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Foreword by Grady Booch

ADDISON-WESLEY PROFESSIONAL COMPUTING SERIES

**JavaScript:  
The World's Most Misunderstood  
Programming Language**

Douglas Crockford  
[www.crockford.com](http://www.crockford.com)

JavaScript, aka Mocha, aka LiveScript, aka JScript, aka ECMAScript, is one of the world's most popular programming languages. Virtually every personal computer in the world has at least one JavaScript interpreter installed on it and in active use. JavaScript's popularity is due entirely to its role as the scripting language of the WWW.

Despite its popularity, few know that JavaScript is a very nice dynamic object-oriented general-purpose programming language. How can this be a secret? Why is this language so misunderstood?

**The Name**

The *Java*-prefix suggests that JavaScript is somehow related to Java, that it is a subset or less capable version of Java. It seems that the name was intentionally selected to create confusion, and from confusion comes misunderstanding. JavaScript is not interpreted Java. Java is interpreted Java. JavaScript is a different language.

JavaScript has a syntactic similarity to Java, much as Java has to C. But it is no more a subset of Java than Java is a subset of C. It is better than Java in the applications that Java (fka Oak) was originally intended for.

JavaScript was not developed at Sun Microsystems, the home of Java. JavaScript was developed at Netscape. It was originally called LiveScript, but that name wasn't confusing enough.

The *-Script* suffix suggests that it is not a real programming language, that a scripting language is less than a programming language. But it is really a matter of specialization. Compared to C, JavaScript trades performance for expressive power and dynamism.

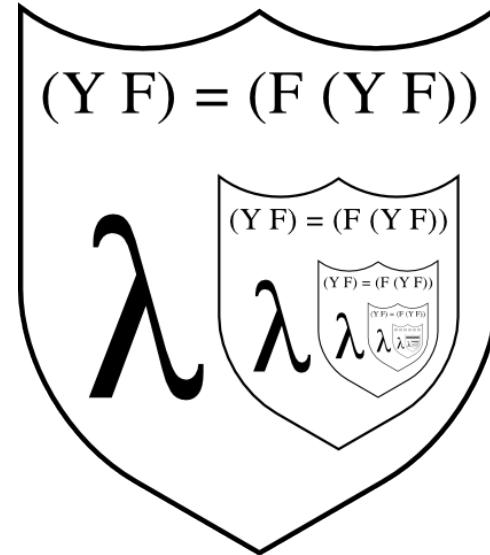
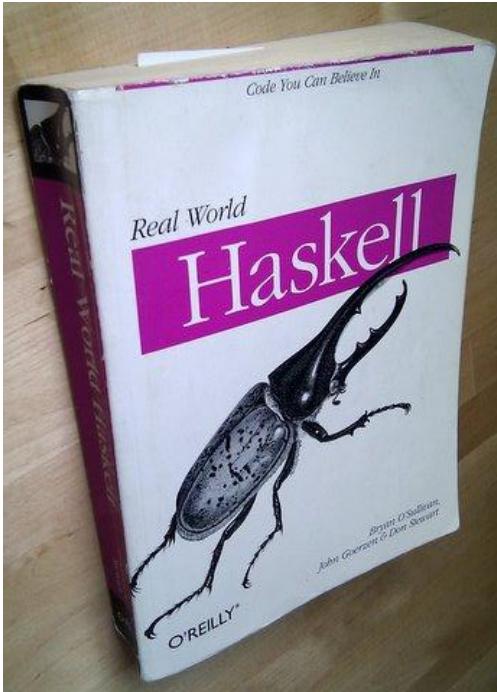
**Lisp in C's Clothing**

JavaScript's C-like syntax, including curly braces and the chunky *for* statement, makes it appear to be an ordinary procedural language. This is misleading because JavaScript has more in common with functional languages like *Lisp* or *Scheme* than with C or Java. It has arrays instead of lists and objects instead of property lists. Functions are first class. It has closures. You get lambdas without having to balance all those parens.

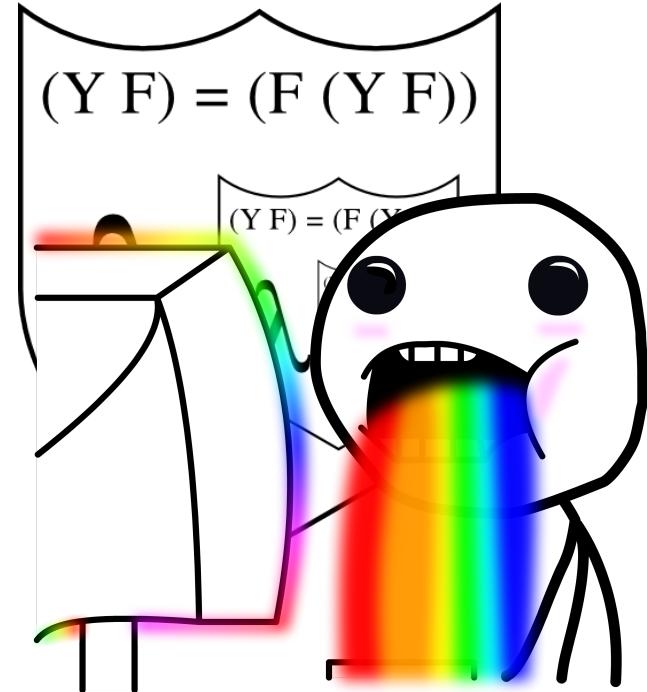
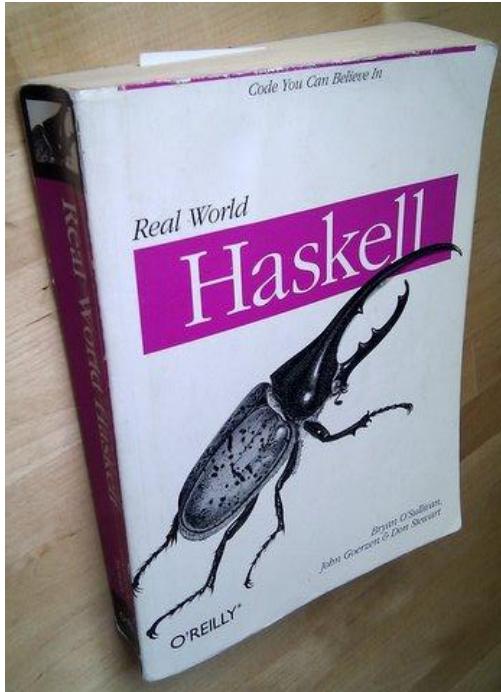
**Typecasting**

JavaScript was designed to run in Netscape Navigator. Its success there led to it becoming standard

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# Outline

# This talk is about...

- Why Functional Programming is **useful**
- What **features** we can use immediately
- How many **libraries** are ready now
- Trade-off: if feature **X** doesn't exist, is it **worth** to implement it?

# Motivation

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window displaying a news article from Mozilla's blog. The article is titled "從 JavaScript 的 Map/Reduce 談起 Functional Programming" (Discussing Functional Programming from JavaScript's Map/Reduce). It was posted by "snowmantw" on April 7, 2014. The article discusses how ECMAScript 5.1 introduced map and reduce methods to arrays, simplifying array operations like filtering and mapping. Below the article, two code snippets are shown: one using a loop and another using map/reduce.

**關於作者**

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**文章搜尋**



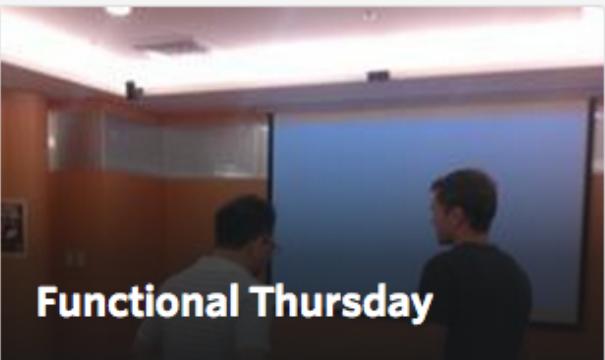
```
function useLoop(arr) {
    function doMap() {
        var isOdd = [];
        for (var i = 0; i != arr.length; i++) {
            isOdd[i] = (0 !== arr[i] % 2);
        }
        return isOdd;
    }

    function doReduce() {
        var acc = 0;
        for (var i = 0; i != arr.length; i++) {
            acc += arr[i];
        }
        return acc;
    }
}

function useMapReduce(arr) {
    function doMap() {
        var isOdd = arr.map(function(e, i, a) {
            return (0 !== e % 2);
        });
        return isOdd;
    }

    function doReduce() {
        var acc = arr.reduce(function(p, c) {
            return p + c;
        }, 0);
        return acc;
    }
}
```

# Motivation



Functional Thursday

77 Functors

Next Meetup: Oct 2



ORGANIZER



Taipei Beginner  
Programmers

45 Coders



CO-  
ORGANIZER



Taipei Javascript  
Enthusiasts

294 Hackers



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# Premise

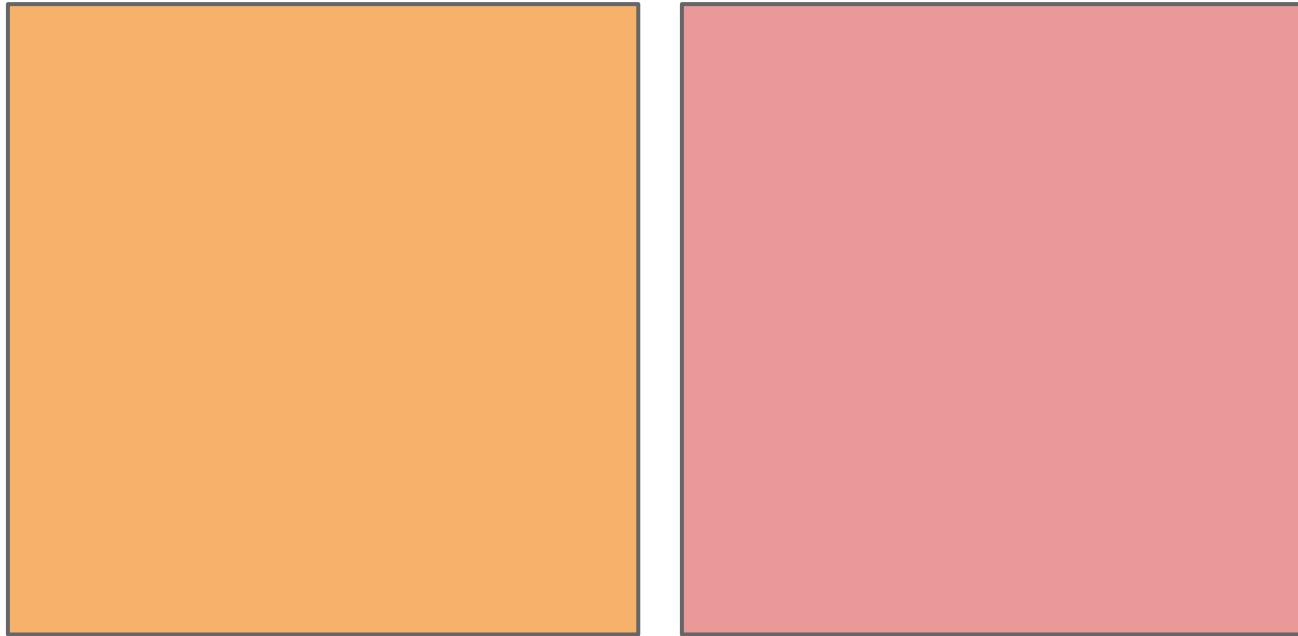
## No Compiler

*(No magic!)*

Why  
Functional  
Programming  
is useful

# Why Functional Programming is useful

*...not really*



Which one is better?



OOP

FP

Which one is ~~better~~  
much useful?

# Programming Functionally brings you

- A way to re-think about :**programming**:
- Other efficient **patterns** to complete your work
- **Fun.** The more you dig the more fun you'll get

# Basic concepts of Functional Programming

First-class function | High-order functions | Function composition | Closure

Purity | Managed side-effects | Laziness

Recursion | Tail-recursion optimization | (Type)

# Basic concepts of Functional Programming

First-class function | High-order functions | Function composition | Closure

Purity | Managed side-effects | Laziness *Need some hard works*

Recursion | Tail-recursion optimization | (Type)

*Impossible if runtime  
doesn't support it (well)*

*Discuss it later...*

*JavaScript Ready*

`function() {}`  
is **everything**

~~function()~~ ↗

is everything

Or  $O \Rightarrow \{ \}$  if you're  
a lucky bastard



Use Firefox to embrace  $() \Rightarrow$  'the power of ES6!'  
(Arrow Functions)

# Part I

**Computation =**  
**Transformation**

# Computation = Transformation

65535

-- Number (\*yes, it's a function)

65535 + 1

-- Number → Number

[1]

-- Number → Array Number

[1, 2, 3]

-- Array Number → Array Number

[1, 2, 3].length

-- Array Number → Number

[1, 2, 3].map((x) => `\${x}`)

-- Array Number →  
(Number → String) →  
Array String

# Computation = Transformation

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-- Array Number →  
(Number → String) →  
Array String



Use FirefoxNightly to embrace 'the \${power} of ES6!'  
(Quasi-Literals)

# About the signature

Array Number → (Number → String) → Array String

argument

function as argument

"return value"

[a] → (a → b) → [b]

a, b: type variables

Computation =  
Transformation +  
Composition

# High-order Function

# Composition: High-order function

High-order Function: receive **functions** as **arguments**

map:: [a] → (a → b) → [b]

reduce:: [a] → (a → b → b) → [a] → b

-- Note: these are \*NOT\* correct signatures in Haskell

-- but in JavaScript, we can treat [1,2,3].map as map::[a]...

-- which makes the code matches the type better

# Composition: High-order function

High-order Function: receive **functions** as **arguments**

`map:: [a] → (a → b) → [b]`

`reduce:: [a] → (a → b → b) → [a] → b`

*Not only useful for calculations*

# Composition: High-order function

Use `map` & `reduce` in different cases

Replace lots of old tricks of the plain loop

```
var result = {};
for (var i = 0; i < selectors.length; i++) {
  var selector = selectors[i];
  result.push(document.querySelector(selector));
}
```

```
var result =
selectors.map((selector) => document.querySelector(selector));
```

*Use list methods usually make code clearer*

# Composition: High-order function

shared/js/nfc\_utils.js [View full changes](#)

((91 lines not shown))

```
+  
+    // Now decode all other records and attach their data to poster.  
+    for (var r = 0; r < records.length; r += 1) {  
+        var record = records[r];  
+        var typeStr = NfcUtils.toUTF8(record.type);  
+  
+        if (NfcUtils.equalArrays(record.type, NDEF.RTD_TEXT)) {  
+            poster.text = poster.text || {};  
+  
+            var textData = NDEF.payload.decodeText(record.payload);  
+  
+            if (poster.text[textData.language]) {  
+                // According to NFCForum-SmartPoster_RTD_1.0 3.3.2,  
+                // there MUST NOT be two or more records with  
+                // the same language identifier.  
+                return null;  
+            }  
+        }  
+    }  
+
```

more...

[Records] →  
Poster

reducing ≈ building

A real case in Gaia project (Bug 1039245)

# Composition: High-order function

```
238 + // Now decode all other records and attach their data to poster.  
239 + return records.reduce((poster, record) => {  
240 +   var typeStr = NfcUtils.toUTF8(record.type);  
241 +  
242 +   if (NfcUtils.equalArrays(record.type, NDEF.RTD_TEXT)) {  
243 +     poster.text = poster.text || {};  
244 +  
245 +     var textData = NDEF.payload.decodeText(record.payload);  
246 +  
247 +     if (poster.text[textData.language]) {  
248 +       // According to NFCForum-SmartPoster_RTD_1.0 3.3.2,  
249 +       // there MUST NOT be two or more records with  
250 +       // the same language identifier.  
251 +       return null;  
252 +     }  
253 +  
254 +     poster.text[textData.language] = textData.text;  
255 +   } else if ('act' === typeStr) {  
256 +     poster.action = record.payload[0];  
257 +   } else if (NDEF.TNF_MIME_MEDIA === record.tnf) {  
258 +     poster.icons = poster.icons || [];  
259 +     poster.icons.push({  
260 +       type: NfcUtils.toUTF8(record.type),  
261 +       bytes: record.payload  
262 +     });  
263 +   }  
264 +   return poster;  
265 + }, uriPoster);  
266 + },
```

[Records] →  
Poster

reducing ≈ building

*It's not about SLOC; it's about semantics.*

# Composition: High-order function

Use `map` & `reduce` in different cases

Thinking in type brings us more possibilities

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```
urls.map((url) => Http.get(url))                                // map URL -> IO to [ URL ]
  .filter((response) => response.status !== 404 )
  .map((response) => Parser.comment(response))
  .map((comment) => UI.renderComment(comment))
  .execute()  // If we have lazy IO & async mixed Monad Transformer...will discuss it later
```

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  .map((comment) => UI.renderComment(comment))  
  .execute() // If we have lazy IO & async mixed Monad Transformer...will discuss it later
```

*In fact you can't do that because of async & eager evaluation*

# Composition: High-order function

Some advanced high-order functions of list

forEach::  $[a] \rightarrow \underline{(a \rightarrow \text{SideEffect}; \text{ will discuss it later})}$

filter::  $[a] \rightarrow (a \rightarrow \text{Bool}) \rightarrow [a]$  \* the type is similar with map

groupBy::  $[a] \rightarrow (a \rightarrow a \rightarrow \text{Bool}) \rightarrow [[a]]$  \* lo-dash has it

zipWith:  $[a] \rightarrow [b] \rightarrow (a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow [c]$  \* worth to implement

*Recommend use lo-dash library to obtain more functions of list*

# Composition: High-order function

High-order functions are not only useful for list

Although the list-transformation model is powerful

[URL] → [IO], [Datum] → DOM, [Event] → [Transition]

*IMO it's definitely worth to use these functions.*

# Function Composition

# Composition: Function composition

Function composition: compose tiny functions into larger one

```
compose :: (b → c) → (a → b) → a → c
```

```
(negate . sum . tail) [1,2,3] -- Haskell
```

# Composition: Function composition

Function composition: compose tiny functions into larger one

compose:: ( $b \rightarrow c$ )  $\rightarrow$  ( $a \rightarrow b$ )  $\rightarrow a \rightarrow c$

\* In fact, using an operator is better than function call, since:

(negate . sum . tail) [1,2,3]

# Composition: Function composition

Function composition: compose tiny functions into larger one

```
compose:: (b → c) → (a → b) → a → c
```

\* In fact, using an operator is better than function call, since:

```
(negate . sum . tail) [1,2,3]
```

is MUCH better than:

```
compose(compose(negate, sum), tail) [1,2,3]
```

# Composition: Function composition

Function composition: compose tiny functions into larger one

compose:: (**b** → **c**) → (**a** → **b**) → **a** → **c**

\* In fact, using an operator is better than function call, since:

(**negate** . **sum** . **tail**) [1,2,3]

So this is a feature IMO should not use massively in JS,  
unless we can have some better interfaces.

is MUCH better than:

Lo-dash has one \_compose, can try with that.

compose(compose(**negate**, **sum**), **tail**) [1,2,3]

# Composition: Function composition

Function composition: compose tiny functions into larger one

Try to make the interface better...

```
functA . functB . functC ... // our target
```

```
c(functA, functB, functC) // *not* success...
```

```
funcA.c(functB).c(functC) // need to hack Function.prototype
```

# Composition: Function composition

Function composition: compose tiny functions into larger one

You can live without that, even in Functional language.

But when you have nice syntax and type system,

it would become more powerful. *Unfortunately in JS we don't have that*

# Partial Application

# Composition: Partial application

Partial application: generate a new function with something bounded

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Examples:

`map :: [a] → (a → b) → [b]`

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`map::`  $[a] \rightarrow (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow [b]$

`map [1, 2, 3]::`  $(a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow [b]$

# Composition: Partial application

Partial application: generate a new function with something bounded

Examples:

`map::`  $[a] \rightarrow (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow [b]$

`map [1, 2, 3]::`  $(a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow [b]$

`map [1, 2, 3] toChar:: [b]`

# Composition: Partial application

Partial application: generate a new function with something bounded

Examples:

map::  $[a] \rightarrow (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow [b]$

map [1, 2, 3]::  $(a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow [b]$

map [1, 2, 3] toChar::  $[b]$

*Of course this not works in ordinary JavaScript functions*

# Why we need this?

# Why we need Partial application

This feature makes program **reusable** & **flexible**

```
map [1,2,3] (add 2)
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```
map [1,2,3] ((y)=> add 2+y) -- need new anonymous fn OR
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```
map [1,2,3] (add 2)
```

is much better than:

```
map [1,2,3] ((y)=> add 2+y) -- need new anonymous fn OR
```

```
let add2 = (y)=> add 2+y; map [1,2,3] add2
```

-- need to define a new and named function

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It's powerful also because you can complete the computation freely

```
fetchComment:: ArticleID → IO Comment
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fetchComment:: ArticleID → IO Comment
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```
let doFetch = (flip map) fetchComment -- we don't have [a] now.
```

**flip map: (a → b) → [a] → [b]**

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```
fetchComment :: ArticleID → IO Comment
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```
let doFetch = (flip map) fetchComment -- we don't have [a] now.
```

**flip map:  $(a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow [b]$**

```
-- we do `flip` here because our map use different signature from Haskell's
```

# Why we need Partial application

It's powerful also because you can complete the computation freely

```
fetchComment:: ArticleID → IO Comment
```

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let doFetch = (flip map) fetchComment -- we don't have [a] now.
```

**flip map: (a → b) → [a] → [b]**

```
renderComments:: [IO Comment] → IO DOM
```

# Why we need Partial application

It's powerful also because you can complete the computation freely

```
fetchComment:: ArticleID → IO Comment
```

```
let doFetch = (flip map) fetchComment -- we don't have [a] now.
```

*flip map: (a → b) → [a] → [b]*

```
renderComments:: [IO Comment] → IO DOM
```

(...after we get the article IDs): renderComments (doFetch IDs)

*flip map: (a → b) → [a] → [b]*

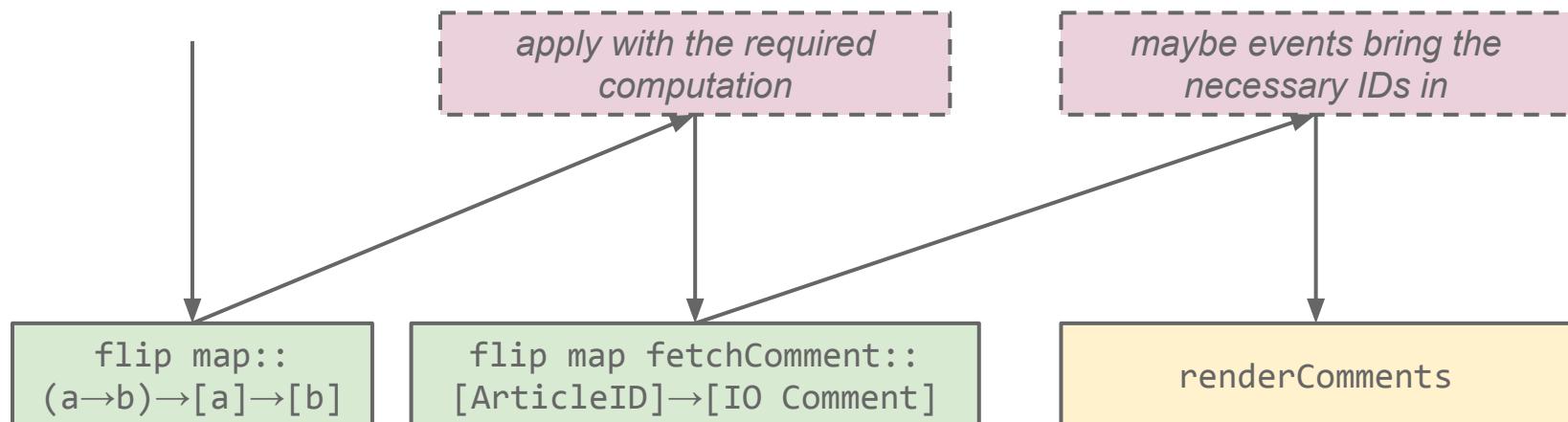
# Why we need Partial application

Just like a hero need to **collect all** things to clean the stage...



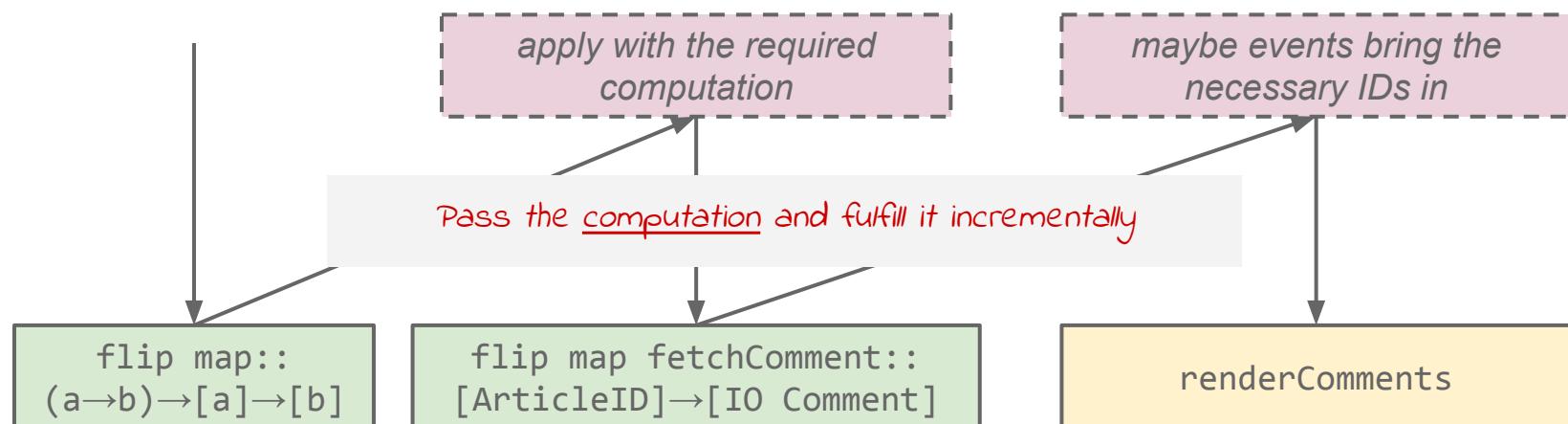
# Why we need Partial application

A partially applied function can be fulfilled later in a correct time



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# How to use it in JavaScript?

# Partial Application in JavaScript

A simple "partial application" is ready if you play the `'bind'` trick

# Partial Application in JavaScript

A simple "partial application" is ready if you play the `bind` trick

```
var map = (array, fn) => array.map(fn)      // make it pure (no 'this' is required)
var flip = (fn) => (a, b) => fn(b, a)        // yes this is valid with ES6 syntax
var fetchComment = (articleId) => { /*do IO and return IO comment*/ }
var renderComments = (comments) => { /*do rendering*/ }

var doFetch = flip(map).bind({}, fetchComment) // partially apply the 'fetchComment'
var onArticleIDsCome = (IDs) => renderComments (doFetch IDs)
```

# Partial Application in JavaScript

A simple "partial application" is ready if you play the `bind` trick

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```

*Note: bind is usually used to bind the 'this' in callbacks, but it can bind other arguments as well*

# Partial Application in JavaScript

Or, you can use lo-dash's `\_.partial` method

```
// copy from lo-dash's API page
var greet = function(greeting, name) { return greeting + ' ' + name; };
var hi = _.partial(greet, 'hi');
hi('fred');
// → 'hi fred'
```

*It depends whether you want to introduce a library in your project.*

# Currying

# Composition: Currying

Curry:  $(a, b, c, d) \rightarrow (a)(b)(c)(d)$

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Or, if you like more formal introduction:

*In mathematics and computer science, currying is the technique of translating the evaluation of a function that takes multiple arguments (or a tuple of arguments) into evaluating a sequence of functions, each with a single argument (partial application). It was introduced by Moses Schönfinkel and later developed by Haskell Curry.*

-- Wikipedia(en): Currying

# Composition: Currying

Curry:  $(a, b, c, d) \rightarrow (a)(b)(c)(d)$

With curry, we can turn this

```
switchApp(appCurrent, appNext,  
         switching, openAnimation, closeAnimation)
```

Steal from Gaia, System::AppwindowManager

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Steal from Gaia, System::AppwindowManager

Into this

```
curriedSwitchApp(appCurrent)(appNext)  
          (switching)(openAnimation)(closeAnimation)
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In fact this is not a good example to show partial application & curry. But it's arity is so high, so...

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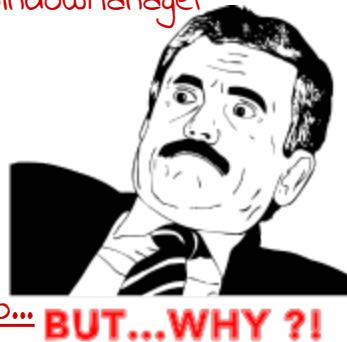
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In fact this is not a good example to show partial application & curry. But it's arity is so high, so...



**BUT...WHY ?!**

# Composition: Currying

With nice syntax, curry is natural

```
let result = foldr (\x y -> x + y) 0 [1..13]
```

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With nice syntax, curry is natural

```
let result = foldr (\x y -> x + y) 0 [1..13]
```

Without such sugar, it becomes very clumsy

```
var result = foldr ((x, y) => x + y)) (0) (_.range(1, 13))
```

# Composition: Currying

With nice syntax, curry is natural

```
curriedSwitchApp appCurrent appNext  
                  switching openAnimation closeAnimation
```

Without such sugar, it becomes very clumsy

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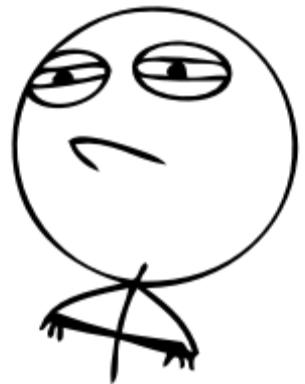
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```

Without such sugar, it becomes very clumsy

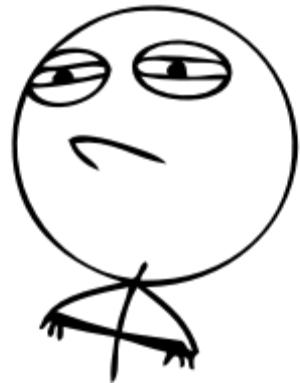
```
curriedSwitchApp(appCurrent)(appNext)  
                  (switching)(openAnimation)(closeAnimation)
```

*We'll see more parentheses hell later, when we discuss the 'Monad'*

But this can't stop us to implement this feature!



# How to Curry JavaScript Functions



# How to Curry JavaScript functions

Two ways lead to currying:

1. Define as curried function
2. Call helper to curry or uncurry it dynamically



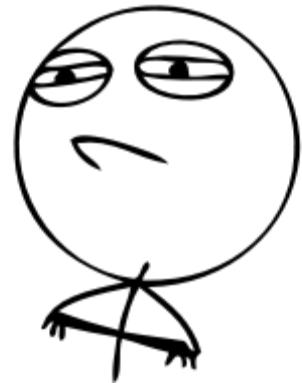
# How to Curry JavaScript functions

Two ways lead to currying:

1. Define as curried function
2. Call helper to curry or uncurry it dynamically

lo-dash has this: `_.curry`, but no `_.uncurry`

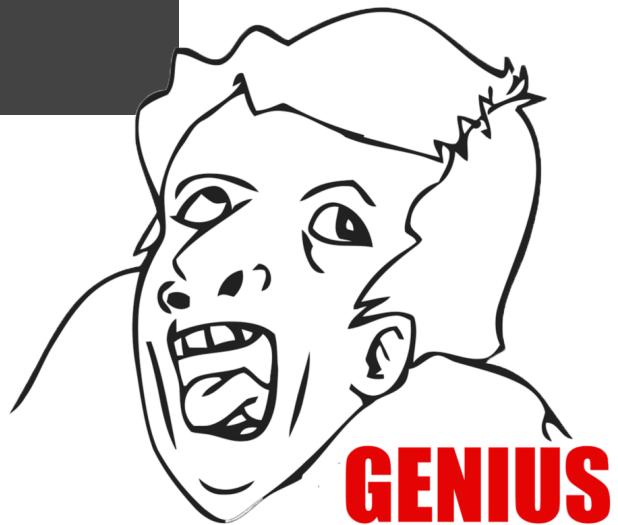
without ES6, it could be a disaster.



# How to Curry JavaScript functions

Define a curried function without ES6 supporting...

```
var curriedSwitchApp =  
function (appCurrent) {  
return function (appNext) {  
return function (switching) {  
return function (openAnimation) {  
return function (closeAnimation) {  
// do something...  
}}}}}
```



# How to Curry JavaScript functions

With ES6 (fat arrow function)

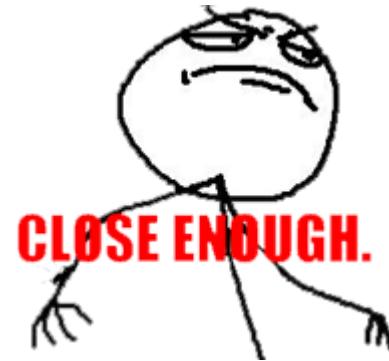
```
var curriedSwitchApp =  
  (appCurrent) => (appNext) => (switching) => (openAnimation) => (closeAnimation) => {  
  // do something...  
}
```

# How to Curry JavaScript functions

Compare to Haskell...

```
var curriedSwitchApp =  
  (appCurrent) => (appNext) => (switching) => (openAnimation) => (closeAnimation) => {  
    // do something...  
}
```

```
let curriedSwitchApp appCurrent appNext switching openAnimation closeAnimation = -- do something
```



# How to Curry JavaScript functions

Always use fat arrow to define pure function (binding no 'this')

```
var curriedSwitchApp =  
  (appCurrent) => (appNext) => (switching) => (openAnimation) => (closeAnimation) => {  
    // do something...  
}
```

```
var curriedSwitchApp =  
  function (appCurrent) {  
    return function (appNext) {  
      return function (switching) {  
        return function (openAnimation) {  
          return function (closeAnimation) {  
            // do something...  
          }  
        }  
      }  
    }  
  }
```

...but, why we need Currying, after all?

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Currying naturally make functions can be applied partially

And partial application makes program **reusable** & **flexible**

...but, why we need Currying, after all?

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And partial application makes program **reusable** & **flexible**

*IMO to use it is worth if we can adopt these in a basic library or framework*

# Part II

Computation =  
Transformation +  
Composition +  
Context

# Context

Let's think about the type of map

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$[a] \rightarrow (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow [b]$

$m\ a \rightarrow (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow m\ b$ , while  $m/[ ]$

Again, I don't follow Haskell's signatures strictly.

# Context

Let's think about the type of map

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So the `List#map` is only a special case of such 'map'...

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$Maybe\ a \rightarrow (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow Maybe\ b$

$HTTP\ Request \rightarrow (Request \rightarrow Response) \rightarrow HTTP\ Response$

So the `List#map` is only a special case of such 'map'...

# Context

Note their only difference is they're in different contexts

[a] → (a → b) → [b]

m a → (a → b) → m b, while m/[ ]

Maybe a → (a → b) → Maybe b

HTTP Request → (Request → Response) → HTTP Response

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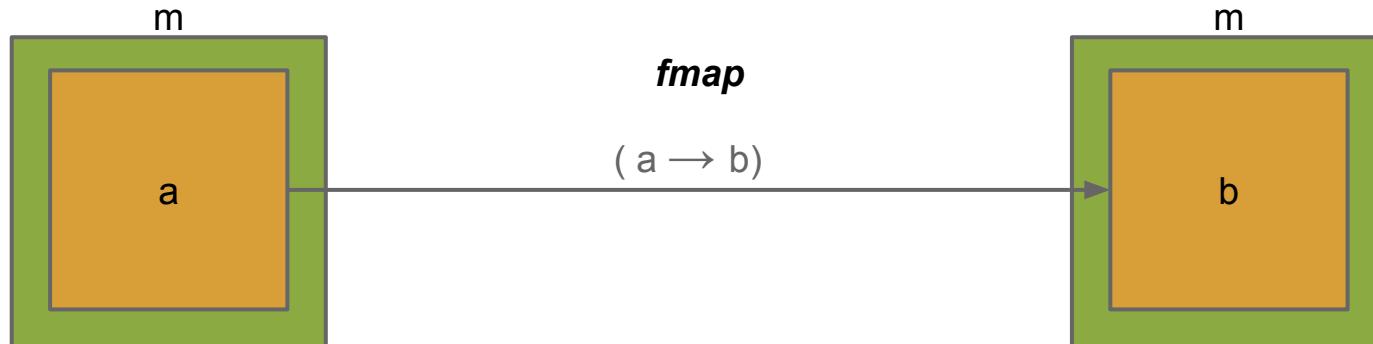
HTTP Request → (Request → Response) → HTTP Response

*In fact, this kind of map called `fmap` in Haskell. Things with `fmap` called Functor*

# Functor

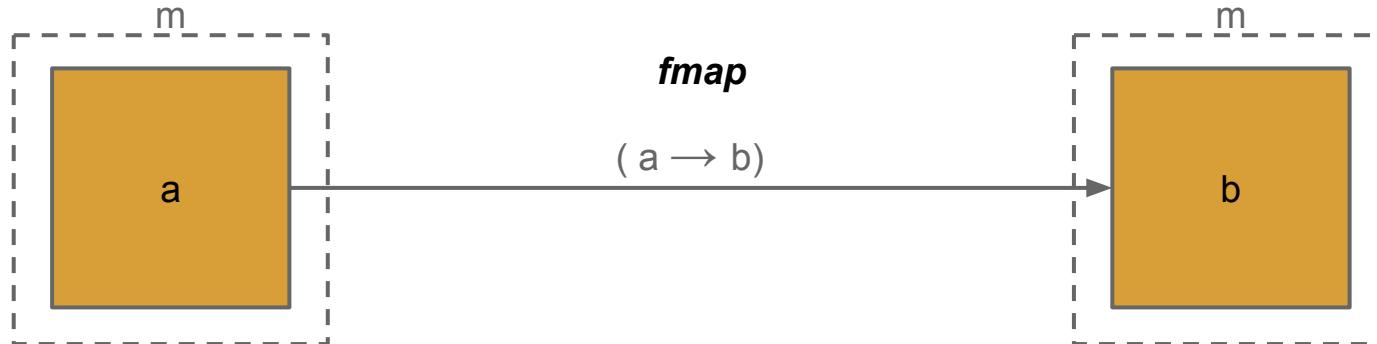
# Context: Functor

Functor can lift a function into the specific context



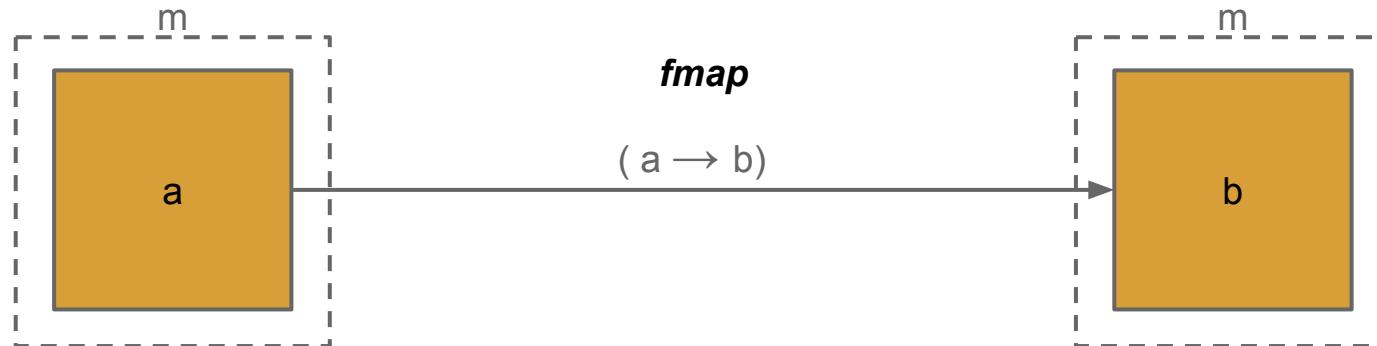
# Context: Functor

The function, needn't to know anything about the context



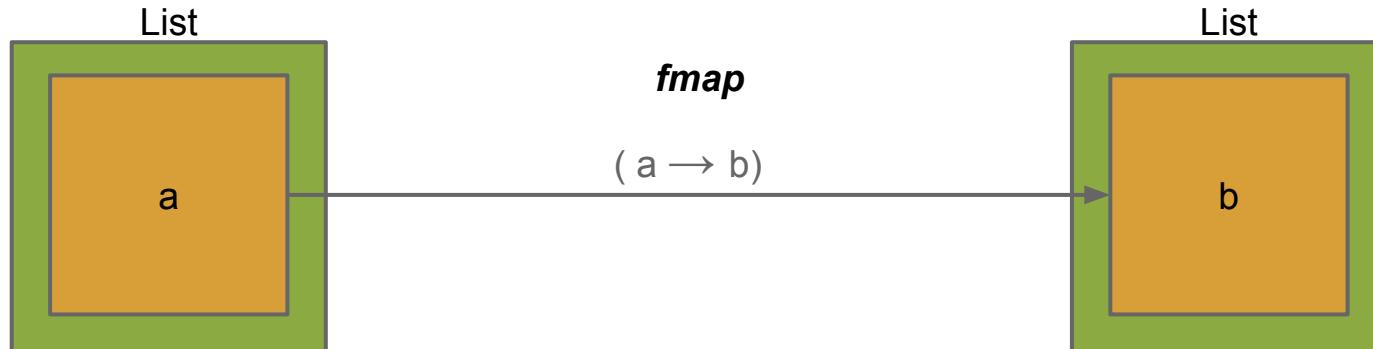
# Context: Functor

It only need to care how turn the value from **a** to **b**



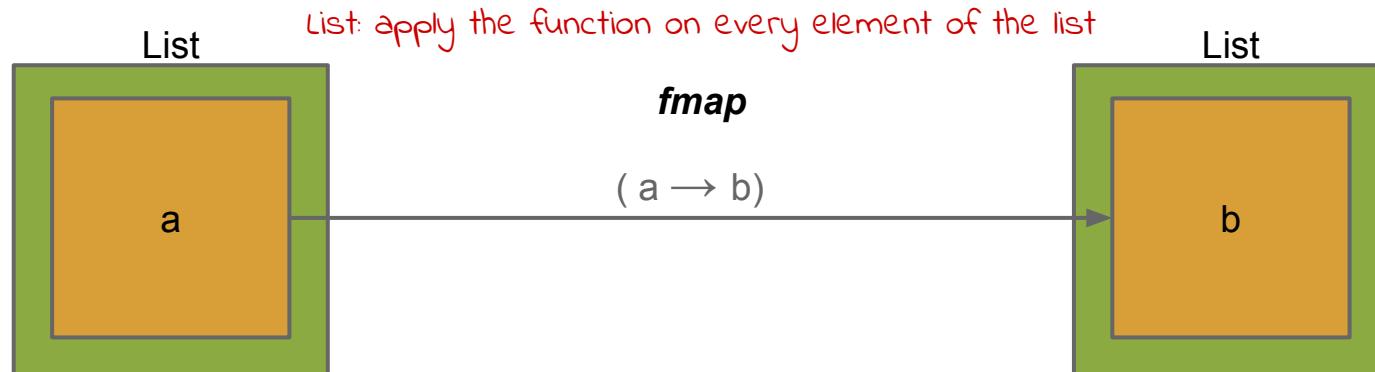
# Context: Functor

How to apply context-relevant rules is encapsulated by *fmap*



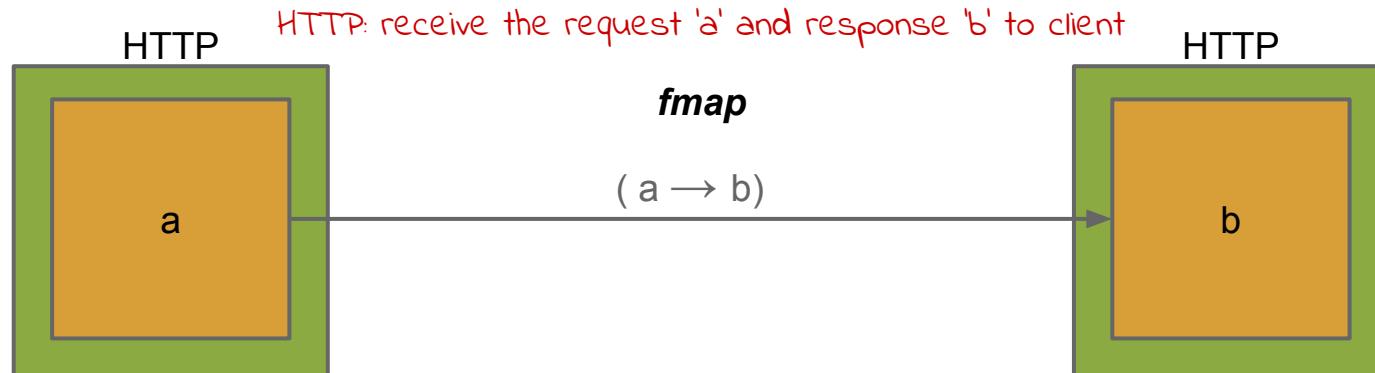
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List#fmap:: apply **fn** on every elements of the list

Maybe#fmap:: apply **fn** on the value OR not: if the value is Nothing then do nothing; otherwise, apply on and update it

HTTP#fmap:: apply **fn** on the request to get the response, and do some underlying IO to send to the client

# Context: Functor

Therefore the interface keep the same but implementations are **various**

```
List#fmap:: fmap [1,2] (+1) -- [2, 3]
```

```
Maybe#fmap:: fmap (Just 1) Nothing -- Maybe Just Nothing
```

```
fmap (Nothing) 99      -- Maybe Nothing
```

```
HTTP#fmap:: fmap someRequest response404 -- (client get 404 page)
```

# Context: Functor

We still need some **constructor** to lift pure value into a **Functor**

List#(constructor):: [] -- [1,2,3] gives a List

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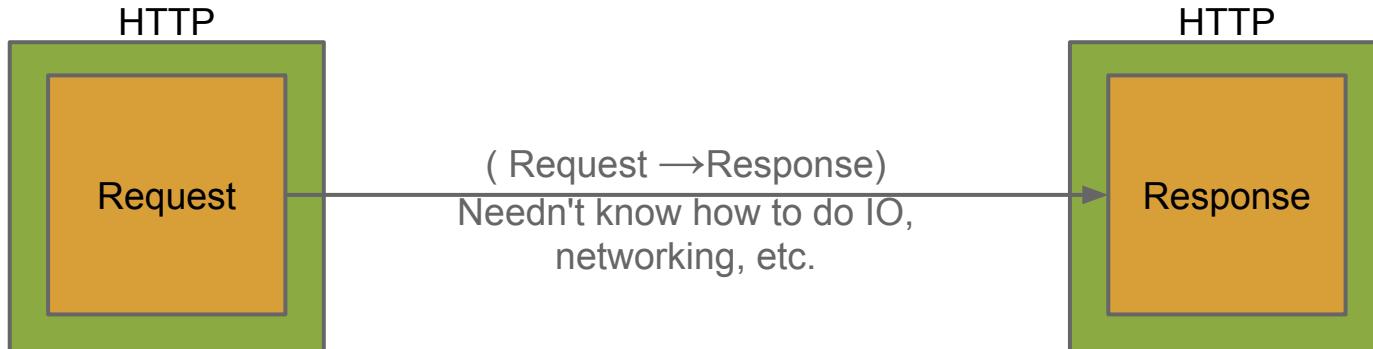
Maybe#(constructor):: Just a | Nothing -- Just 3 gives a Maybe;  
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HTTP#(constructor):: startHTTPServer + client request, maybe

# Context: Functor

This concept is useful because the **function** can keep simple

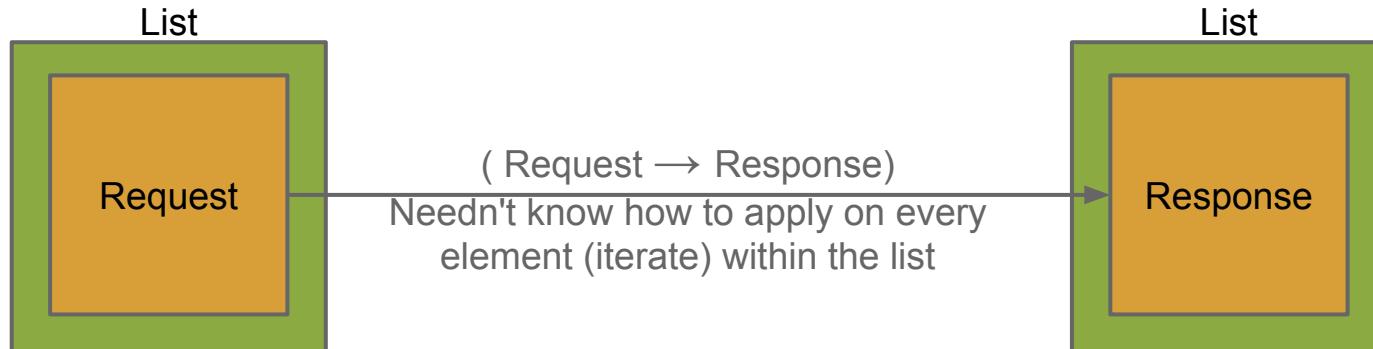
And apply them into **different contexts** (to do different things)



# Context: Functor

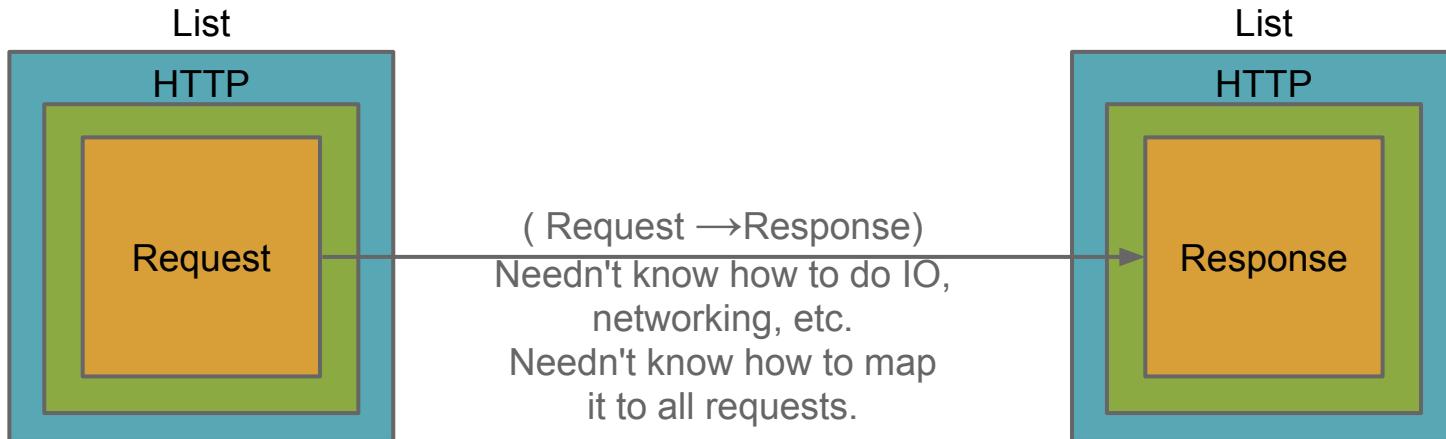
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# Context: Functor

Contexts also can be stockpiled to do complex computations

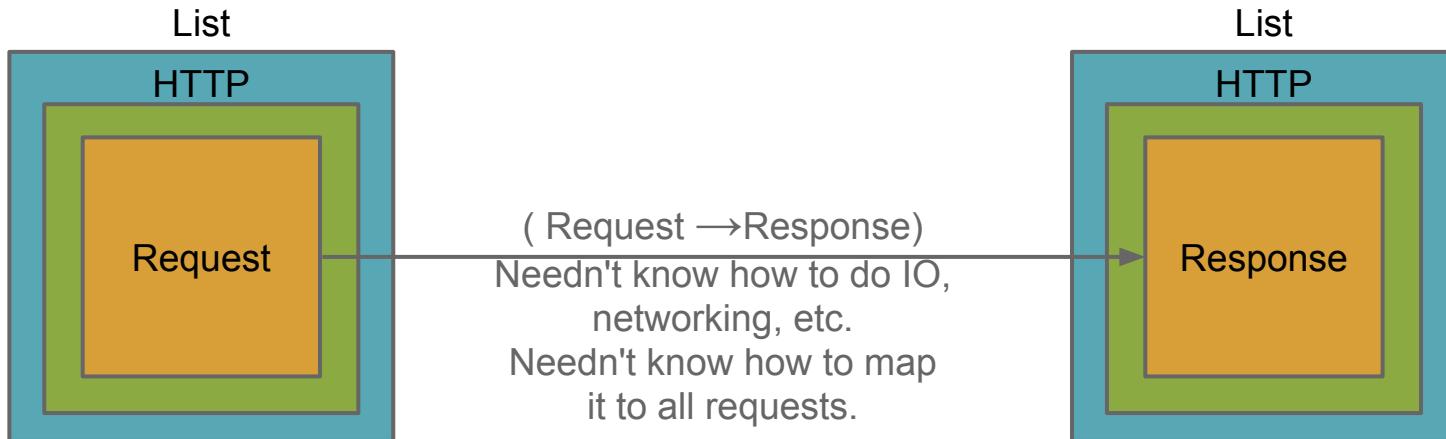


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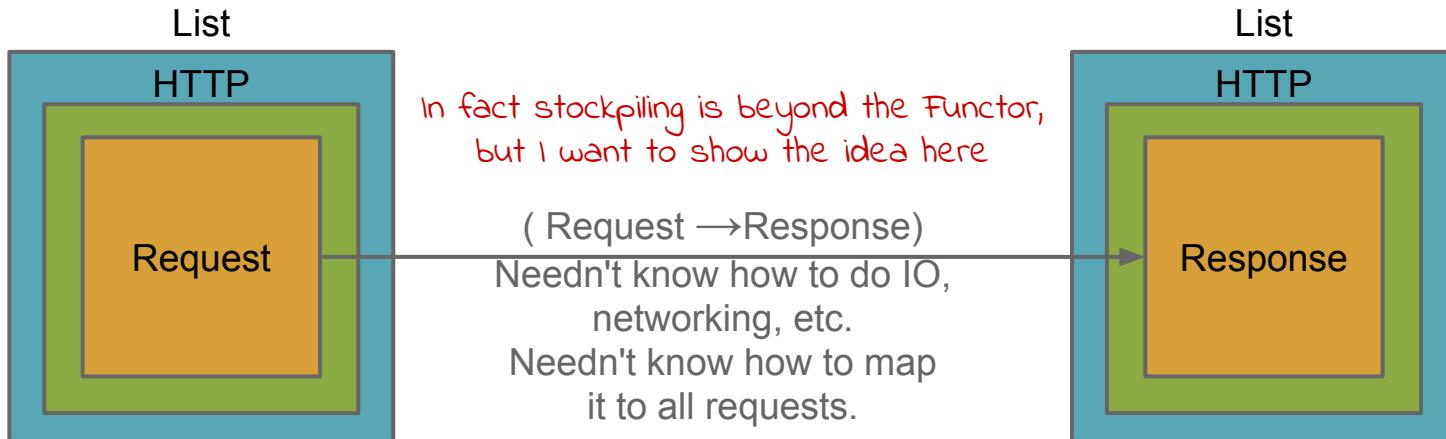
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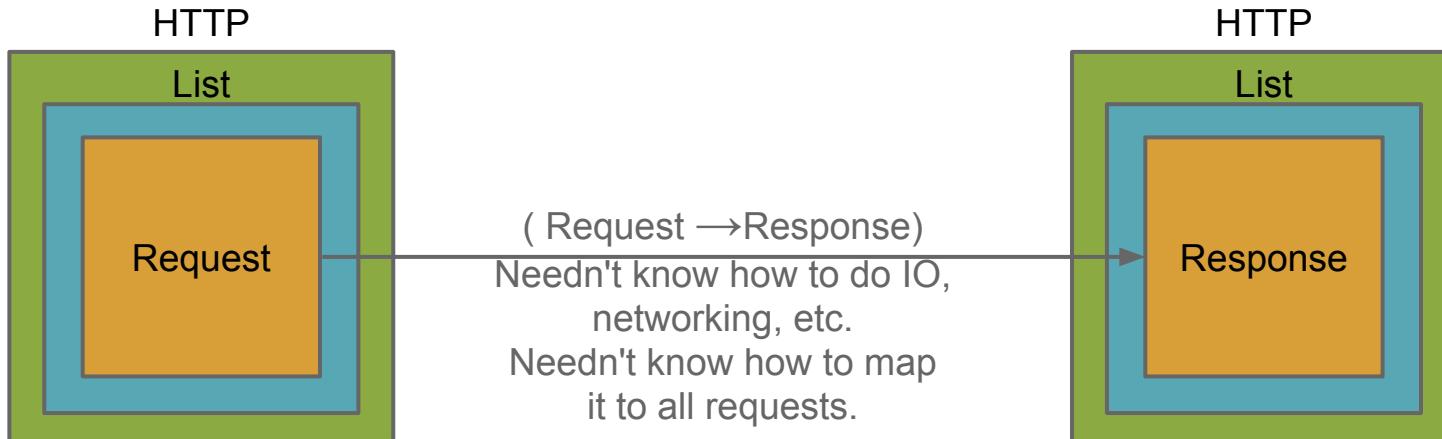
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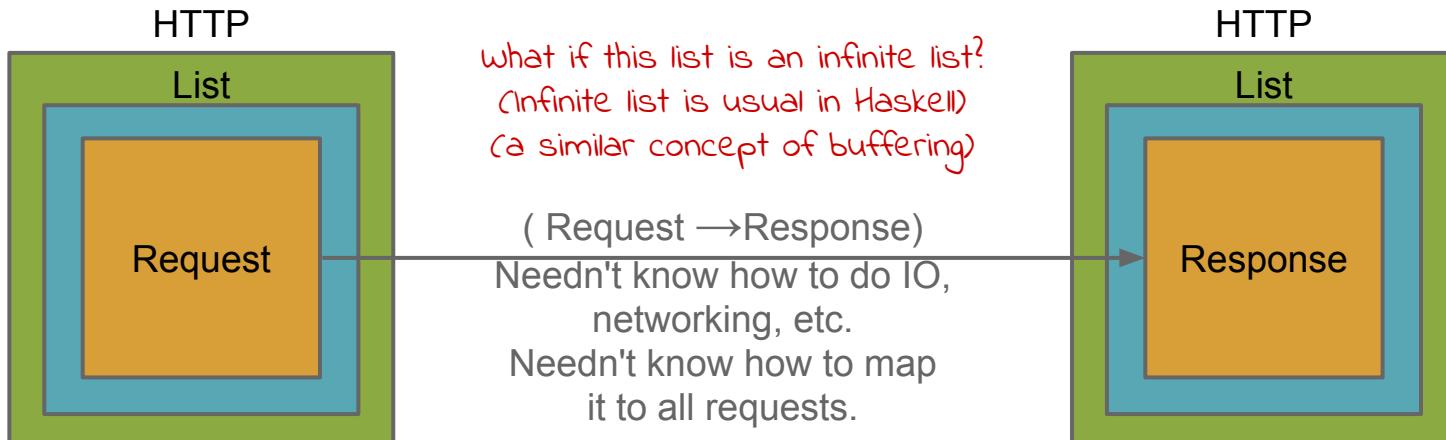
# Context: Functor

Tip: the stockpiling order matters...



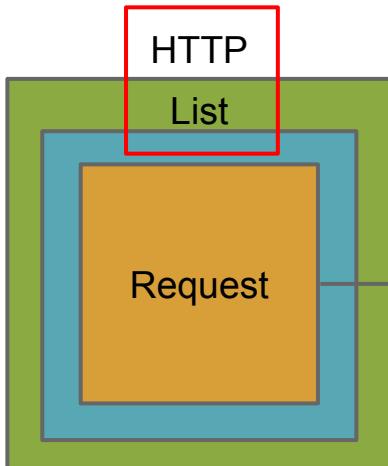
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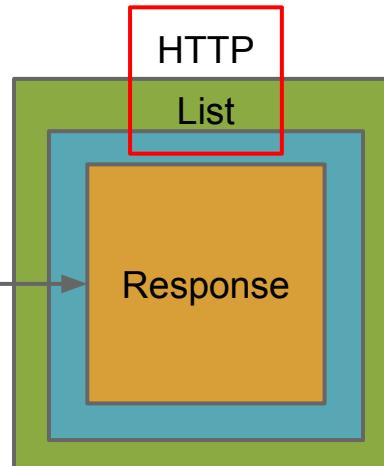
# Context: Functor

How to define the **transformer** is also important



what if this list is an infinite list?  
(Infinite list is usual in Haskell)  
(a similar concept of buffering)

( Request → Response)  
Needn't know how to do IO,  
networking, etc.  
Needn't know how to map  
it to all requests.



# Context: Functor

Functor is useful, but it's not enough

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`range:: (Number,Number) → [] Number`

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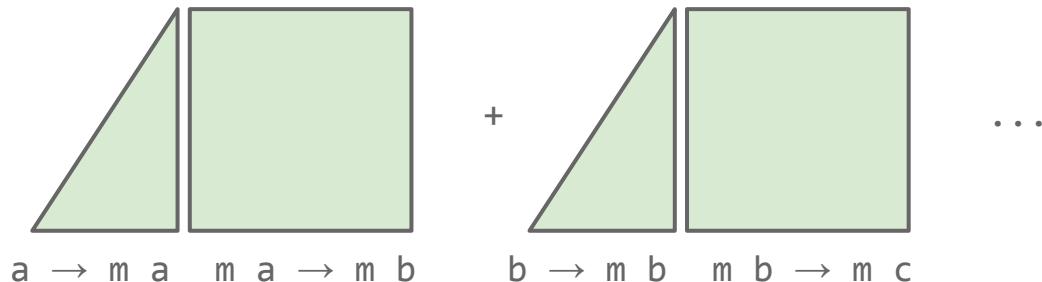
`fileStatus:: FilePath → IO FileStatus`

`range:: (Number, Number) → [] Number`

*That's why I don't show Functor in JavaScript here. And yes, I omit the Applicative here...*

# Context: Functor

So we need an advanced structure to describe the computations under the context, with some reasonable ways to compose them together



# Monad

# Context: Monad

Monad give us the power to control lifting & processing in bind

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Monad give us the power to control lifting & processing in bind

fmap:::  $m\ a \rightarrow (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow m\ b$  -- Functor

bind:::  $m\ a \rightarrow (a \rightarrow m\ b) \rightarrow m\ b$  -- Monad

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fmap::  $m\ a \rightarrow (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow m\ b$  -- Functor

bind::  $m\ a \rightarrow (a \rightarrow m\ b) \rightarrow m\ b$  -- Monad

-- bind do unwrap ' $m\ b$ ' to ' $b$ ' implicitly, and pass it to next step  
-- Things with bind and 'return' become Monad. And in theory,  
-- every monad is an applicative functor (as well as a functor)

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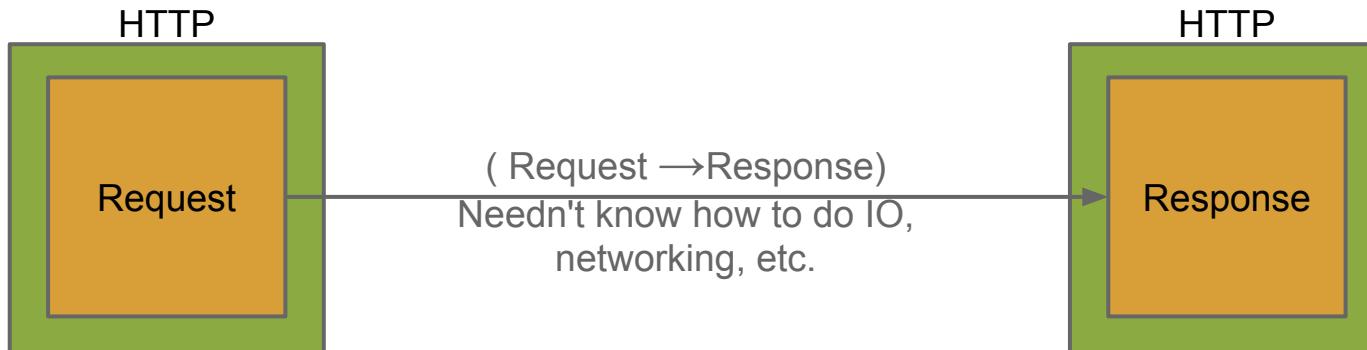
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-- Things with bind and 'return' become Monad. And in theory,  
-- every monad is an applicative functor (as well as a functor)

*Yeah, I know this is not exactly express what Monad is, since there are so many tutorials and math explanations.*

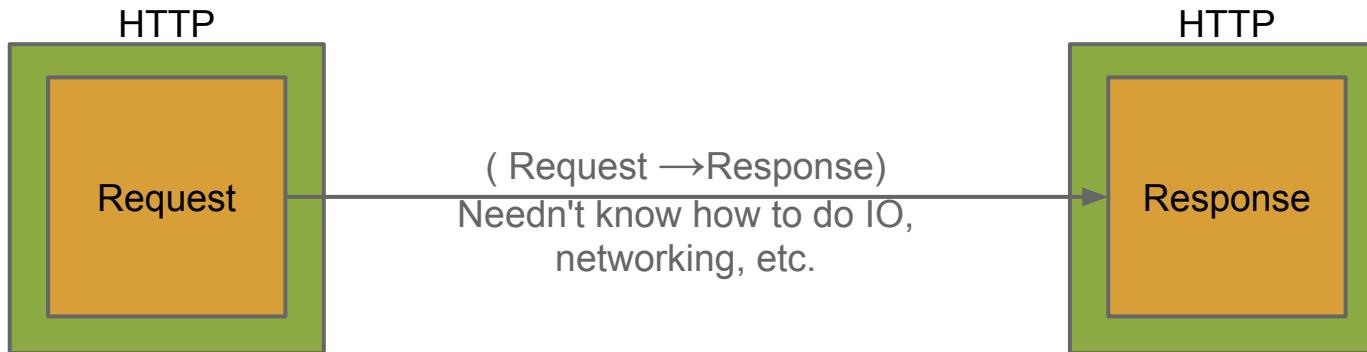
# Context: Monad

For example, in our HTTP Functor:

$$\text{fmap} :: m\ a \rightarrow (\underline{a \rightarrow b}) \rightarrow m\ b$$


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$$\text{fmap} :: m\ a \rightarrow \underline{(a \rightarrow b)} \rightarrow m\ b$$


*But we can't concat these handlers to push things sequentially to client (pushlet), or to change the behavior according to the previous result*

# Context: Monad

The need to sequentially manipulate values in the context



...

# Context: Monad

The need to sequentially manipulate values in the context

```
fmap clientRequest responseHello
      clientRequest
        >>= (\req -> return loginPage)
        >>= (\authReq -> case (doAuth authReq) of
          True -> return contentPage
          False -> return loginPage))
```

*In Haskell, the '>>=' is the function 'bind', infix.*

# Context: Monad

```
clientRequest
  >>= (\req -> return LoginPage)
  >>= (\authReq -> case (doAuth authReq) of
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```

# Context: Monad

```
clientRequest  
    >>= (\req -> return loginPage)  
    >>= (\authReq -> case (doAuth authReq) of  
the 'bind' function, infix           True -> return contentPage  
                                         False -> return loginPage))  
  
                                *NOT* that 'return'!
```

# Context: Monad

The 'return' means the default wrapping (lifting) function

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```
(\req -> return LoginPage):: Request → HTTP Response
```

```
m      #return a = m a
```

```
List #return a = [a]
```

```
Maybe#return a = Just a
```

```
HTTP #return a = HTTP a
```

# Context: Monad

The 'return' means the default wrapping (lifting) function

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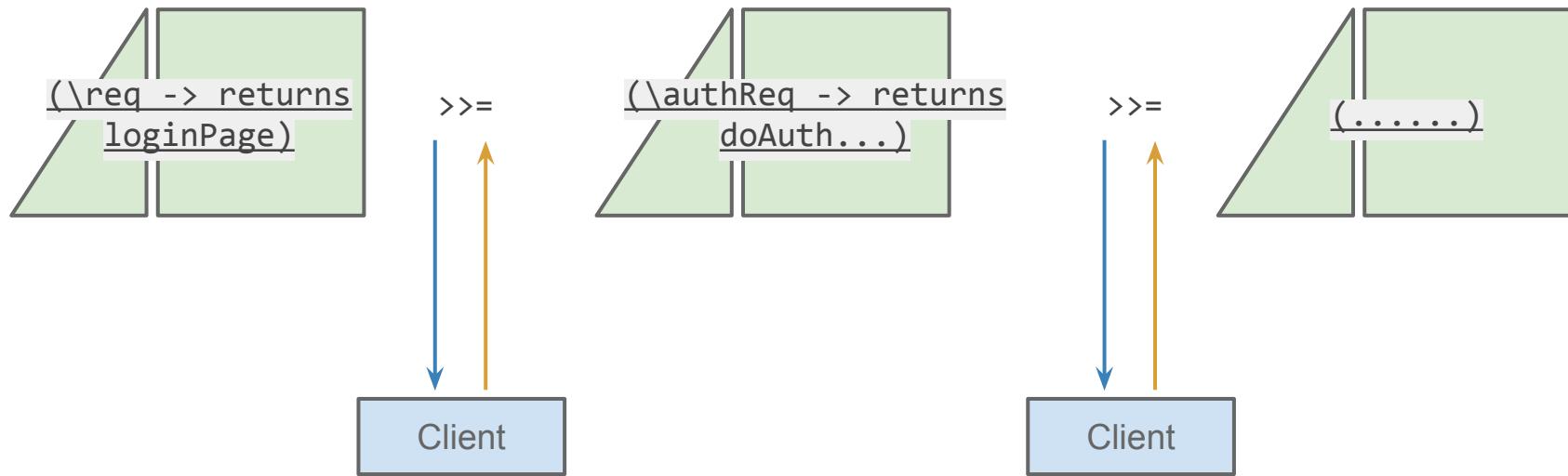
```
Maybe#return a = Just a
```

```
HTTP #return a = HTTP a
```

*I know the name is confused...if you're used to other language's 'return'*

# Context: Monad

How bind works (example)



# Context: Monad

Monad allow us compose computations with more possibilities

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1. Implement statements, state machine, etc.

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2. Encapsulate side-effects and keep program pure\*

*Yes, I know this is controversial, but people use Monad to do that*

# Context: Monad

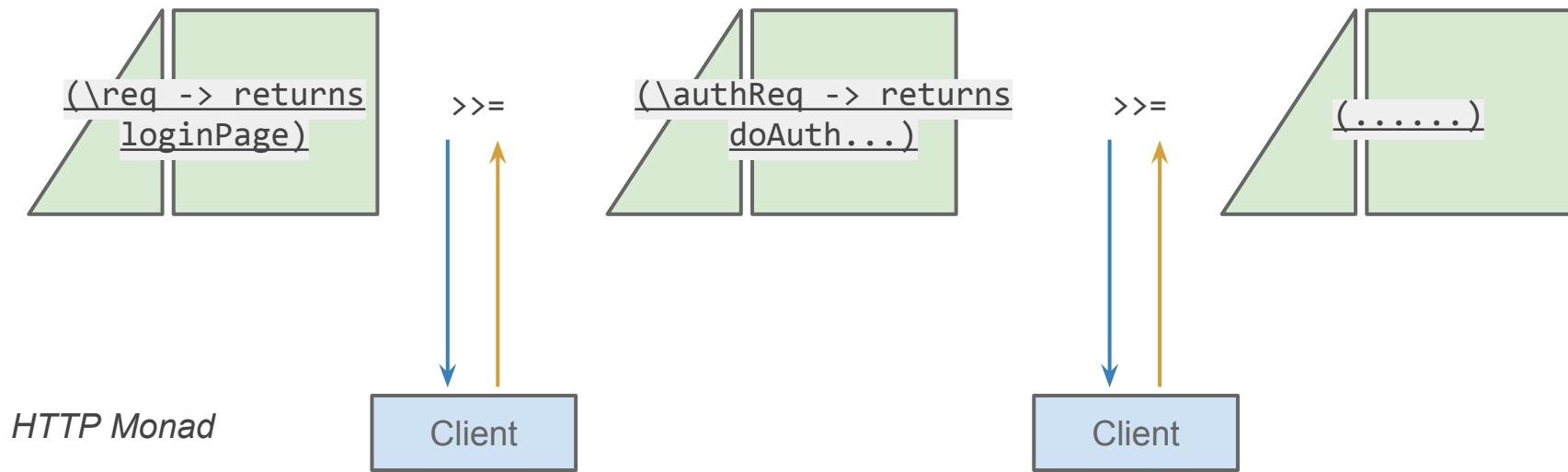
Monad allow us compose computations with more possibilities

1. Implement statements, state machine, etc.
2. Encapsulate side-effects and keep program pure\*
3. Stockpile different Monads to gain more abilities

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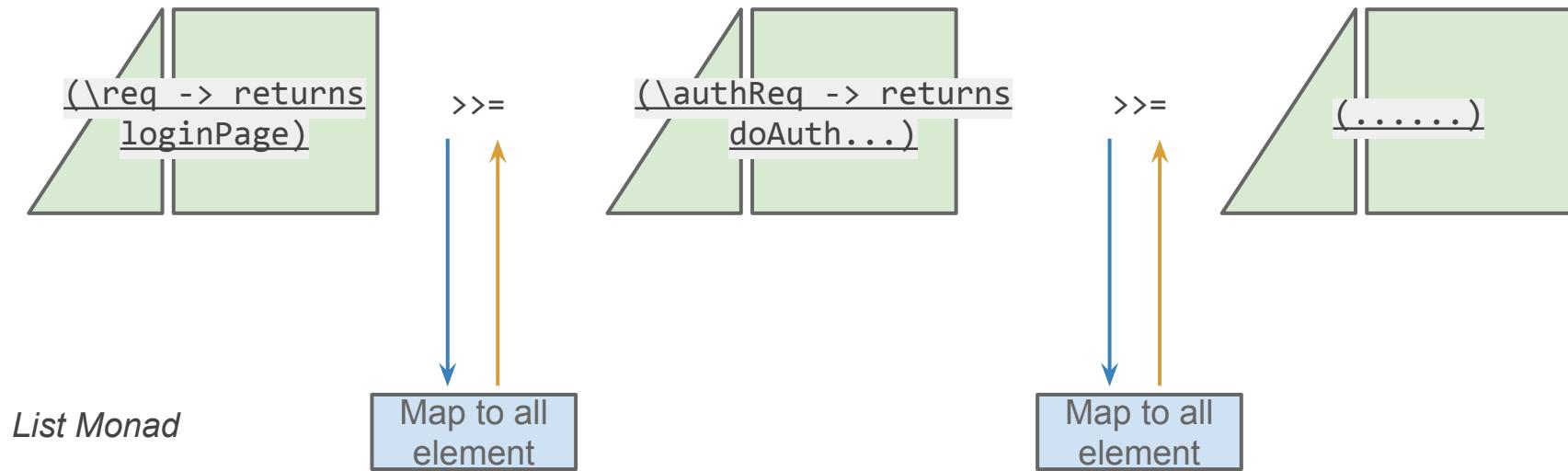
# Context: Monad

Different **Monad** has the same bind with different implementations



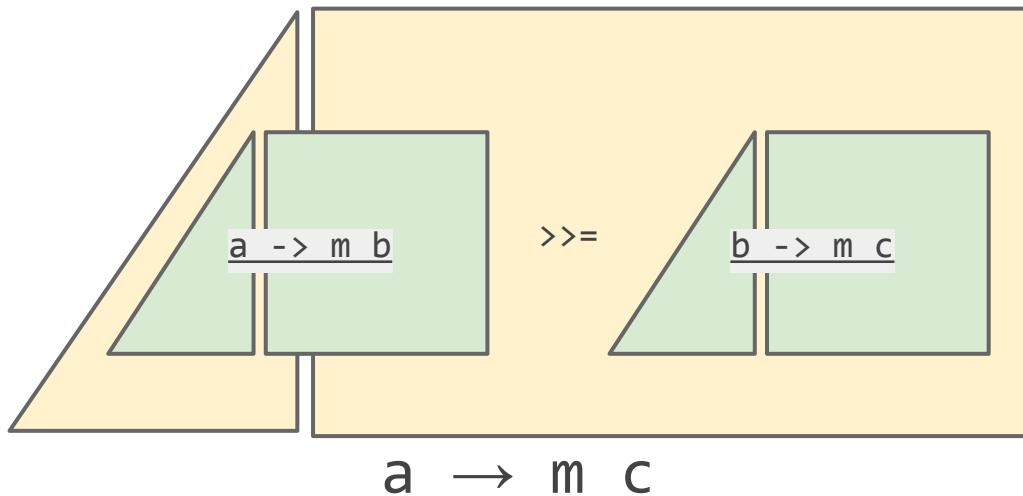
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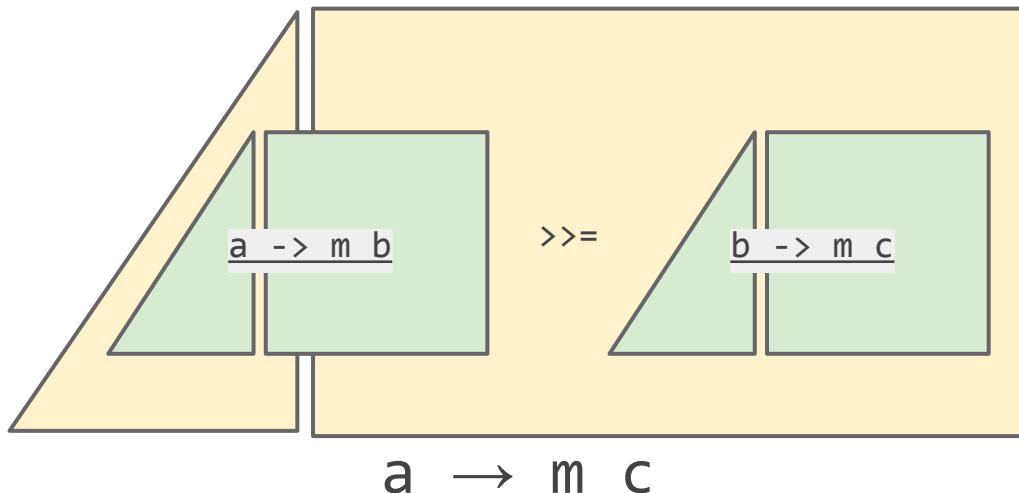
# Context: Monad

Monadic actions can be chained with other actions while remaining the same type



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Monadic actions can be chained with other actions while remaining the same type



```
actionFoo = actionA >>= actionB  
 actionBar = actionFoo >>= actionC
```

(and so on...)

# Context: Monad

Monadic actions and pure functions can be distinguished to prevent unexpected side-effects, if all methods with side-effects are wrapped

+, -, \* ...

compress

tail

par

getString

forkIO

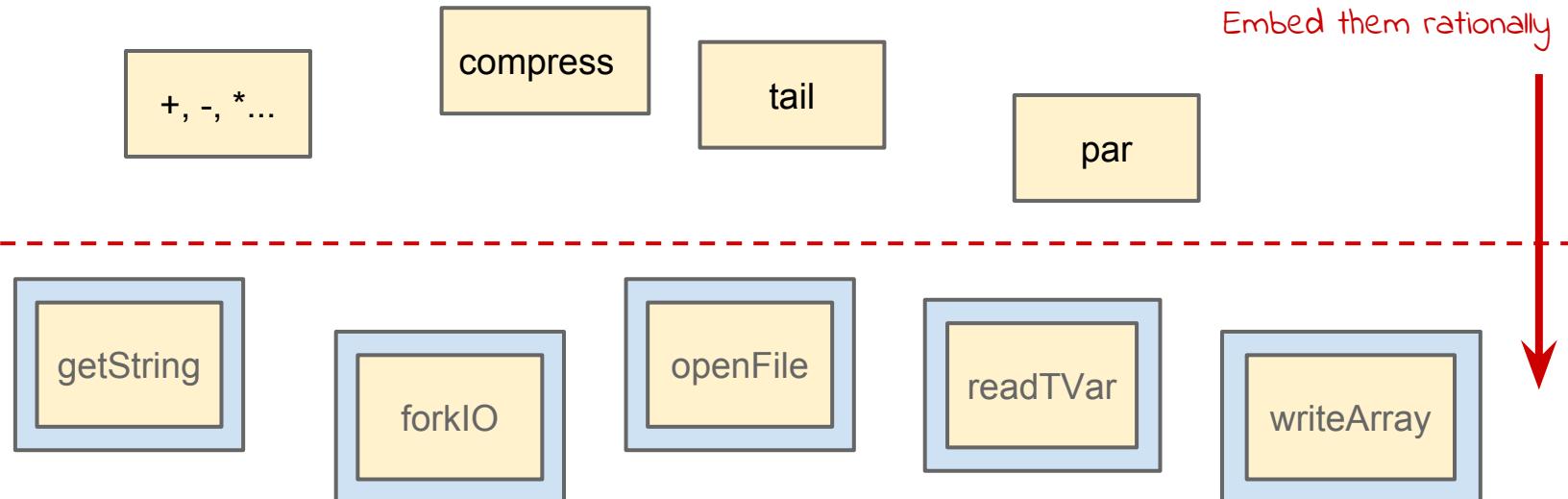
openFile

readTVar

writeArray

# Context: Monad

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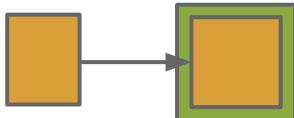


# Context: Monad

Another reason that Monad could encapsulate **side-effects** is:

`m#return:: a → m a`

`m#bind:: m a → (a → m b) → m b`

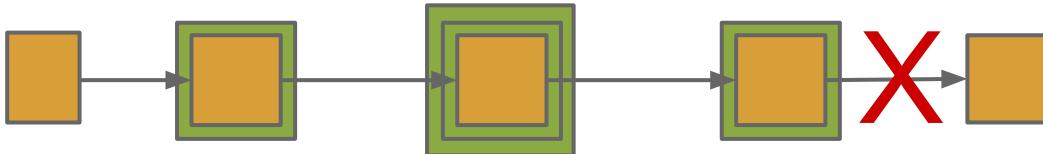


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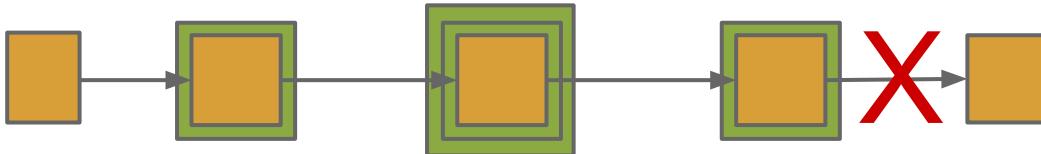


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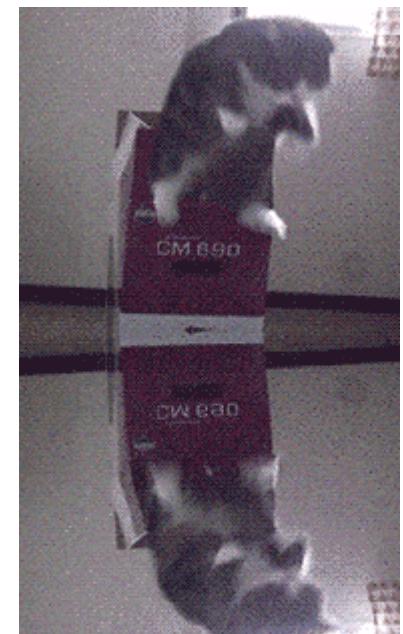
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There is no way to allow a monadic value escape:

`m#unwrap:: m a → a`

*(Yes, I know Comonad or unsafe-\* can do that, but...)*



# Context: Monad

So once your value get **tainted** via IO Monad (get from IO), you can never extract it to feed other outside computations

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So once your value get **tainted** via IO Monad (get from IO), you can never extract it to feed other outside computations

This is because IO operations come with **side-effects**

# Context: Monad

The similar case in JavaScript is the Promised actions:

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```
var promised =  
Promise(() => {...})  
.then((a) => {...})  
.then((b) => {...})  
.then((c) => {...})
```

# Context: Monad

The similar case in JavaScript is the Promised actions:

```
var promised =  
Promise(() => {...})  
.then((a) => {...})  
.then((b) => {...})  
.then((c) => {...})
```

*There is no way to get the correct value from outside. You must embed your function into the promise*

# Context: Monad

In fact, if we only care what **Monad** could bring to us, not type and other additional rules, we can find lots of similar usages in JS

```
Promise(() => {...})  
  .then((a) => {...})  
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```
Promise(() => {...})  
  .then((a) => {...})  
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```

**Context:** Ensure the following step only be executed after the previous one get done.

# Context: Monad

In fact, if we only care what **Monad** could bring to us, not type and other additional rules, we can find lots of similar usages in JS

```
$('some-selector')  
.each(...)  
.animate(...)  
.append(...)
```

**Context:** Select, manipulate and check  
the DOM element(s)

# Context: Monad

In fact, if we only care what **Monad** could bring to us, not type and other additional rules, we can find lots of similar usages in JS

```
_chain(someValue)  
.filter(...)  
.groupBy(...)  
.map(...)  
.reduce(...)
```

**Context:** Guarantee the value would be transformed by lo-dash functions

# Context: Monad

In fact, if we only care what **Monad** could bring to us, not type and other additional rules, we can find lots of similar usages in JS

```
ensure()  
  .frame()  
  .element(...)  
  .actions()  
    .pulls(0, 400)  
    .perform()  
  .must(...)
```

**Context:** Ensure the integration test  
only do what user can do, rather than  
do something magically

*(from Gaia project)*

# Context: Monad

These computations focus on the specific transforming of the context,  
just like what **Monads** do in Haskell

Promise(() => {...})	\$( 'some-selector' )	_ .chain( someValue )
.then((a) => {...})	.each( ... )	.filter( ... )
.then((b) => {...})	.animate( ... )	.groupBy( ... )
.then((c) => {...})	.append( ... )	.map( ... )
		.reduce( ... )

Async

DOM

-

# Context: Monad

These computations focus on the specific transforming of the context,  
just like what **Monads** do in Haskell

```
threeCoins = do
    a <- randomSt
    b <- randomSt
    c <- randomSt
    return (a,b,c)
```

State

```
main = do
    a <- ask "Name?"
    b <- ask "Age?"
    return ()
```

IO

```
add mx my = do
    x <- mx
    y <- my
    return (x + y)
```

Maybe

# Context: Monad

So the question is not "*why we need Monad in JavaScript*", but  
*"is it worth to implement the fluent interface more Monadic"*?

# How to make

# JavaScript

# More Monadic?

# How to make JavaScript more Monadic?

Some requirements to get closer with real Monad

1. Eager vs. Lazy
2. Flow control mixed
3. Not enough type supporting
4. Need to follow how much Monad laws

# How to make JavaScript more Monadic?

In fact it's easy to make our 'Monad' lazy with some type supporting

```
var action = (new Maybe()).Just(3)
.then((v) => {
  return (new Maybe()).Just(v+99); }
.then((v) => {
  return (new Maybe()).Just(v-12); }
.then((v) => {
  return (new Maybe()).Nothing(); }
.then((v) => {
  return (new Maybe()).Just(v+12); }

// Execute it with `action.done()`.
```

```
action = (Just 3)
>>= \v -> return (v + 99)
>>= \v -> return (v - 12)
>>= \v -> Nothing
>>= \v -> return (v + 12)
```

[https://github.com/snowmantw/  
warmfuzzything.js/blob/master/maybe.js](https://github.com/snowmantw/warmfuzzything.js/blob/master/maybe.js)

# How to make JavaScript more Monadic?

But things become **crazy** when the 'Monad' need to mix with **Promise**  
(to support async steps natively)

```
var action = (new PromiseMaybe()).Just(3)
.then((mSelf, v) => {
  mSelf.returns((new PromiseMaybe).Just(v+99)); })
.then((mSelf, v) => {
  setTimeout(function() { // Only for test. Meaningless.
    mSelf.returns((new PromiseMaybe).Just(v-12));
  }, 3000); })
.then((mSelf, v) => {
  mSelf.returns((new PromiseMaybe).Nothing()); })
.then((mSelf, v) => {
  mSelf.returns((new PromiseMaybe).Just(v+12)); });
```

[https://github.com/snowmantw/  
warmfuzzything.js/blob/master/promise\\_maybe.js](https://github.com/snowmantw/warmfuzzything.js/blob/master/promise_maybe.js)

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[https://github.com/snowmantw/warmfuzzything.js/blob/master/promise\\_maybe.js](https://github.com/snowmantw/warmfuzzything.js/blob/master/promise_maybe.js)

It can be better, but the real problem is it's implementation is very tricky

# How to make JavaScript more Monadic?

And currently it doesn't follow [Monad laws](#)...

# How to make JavaScript more Monadic?

As a conclusion: to try to play with **fluent interface** and **Monad** may benefit us, but the more we gain the more we must pay

or someone must pay for us

# How to make JavaScript more Monadic?

As a conclusion: to try to play with **fluent interface** and **Monad** may benefit us, but the more we gain the more we must pay

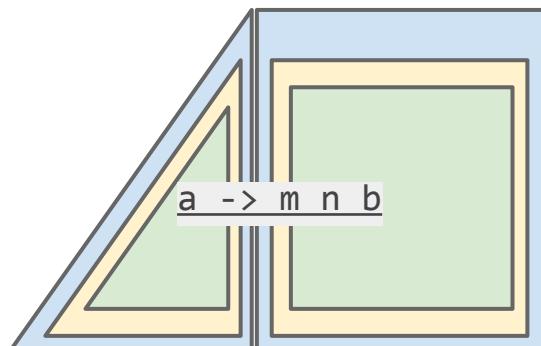
or someone must pay for us

*And we still have an unresolved issue here...*

# Monad Transformer

# Context: Monad Transformer

How to **stockpile** two or more **Monads** to do various things?



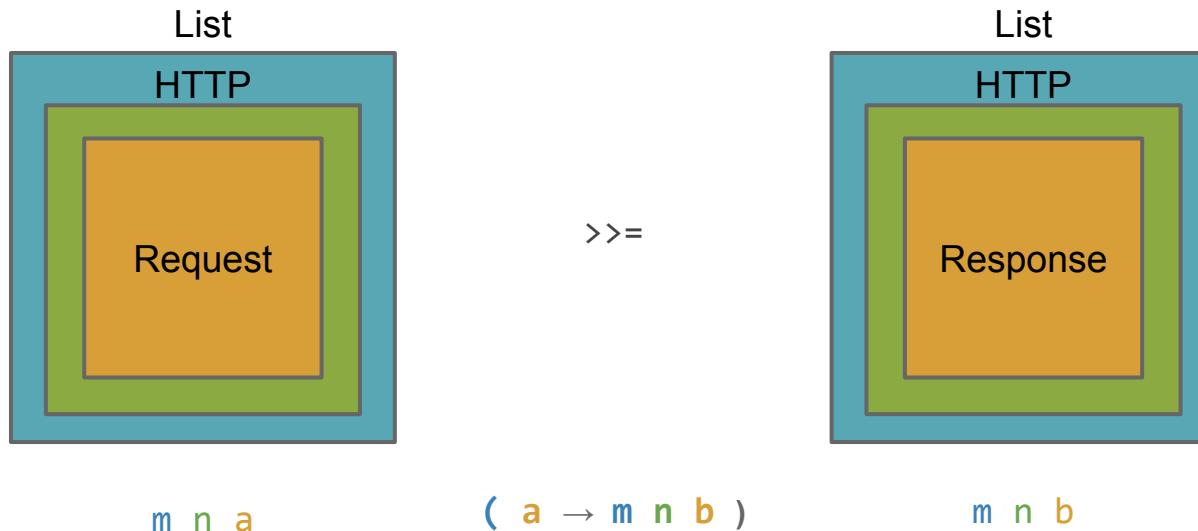
Composing Behaviors By Transformation



[CSE230 Wi14 - Monad Transformers](#)

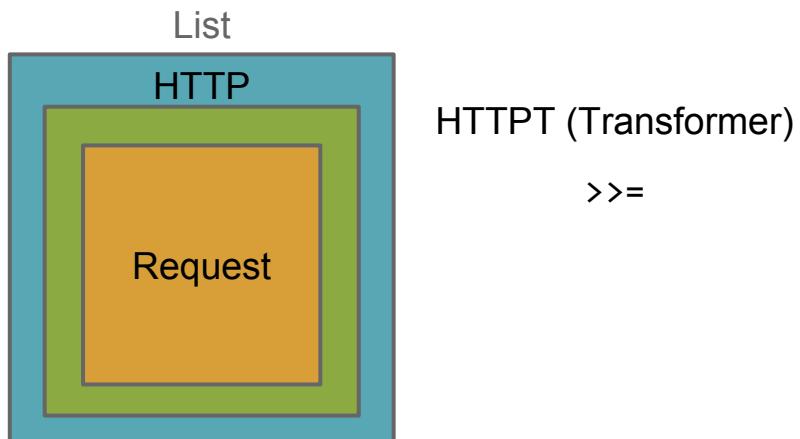
# Context: Monad Transformer

How to **stockpile** two or more **Monads** to do various things?



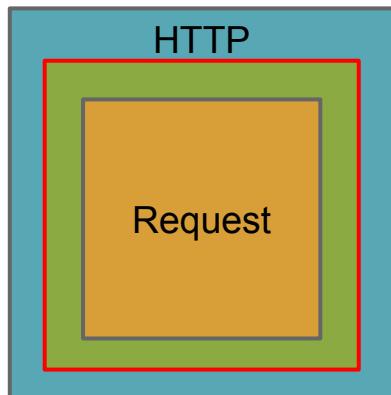
# Context: Monad Transformer

This require a **Monad Transformer** to 'bind' two kinds of **Monads**



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HTTP ( "T"Transformer ) would not  
List m care what the outer monad is

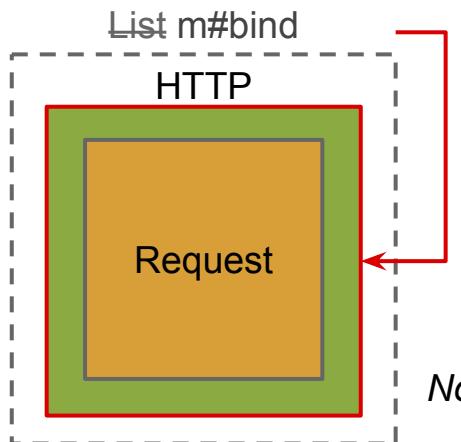
HTTPPT (Transformer)

>>=

The transformer only know the **inner one**  
is the specific Monad it can handle with  
ex: (MaybeT → Maybe, HTTPT → HTTP)

# Context: Monad Transformer

The **bind** function in a **Monad Transformer** would:



*apply **m#bind** on the  
HTTP monadic value*

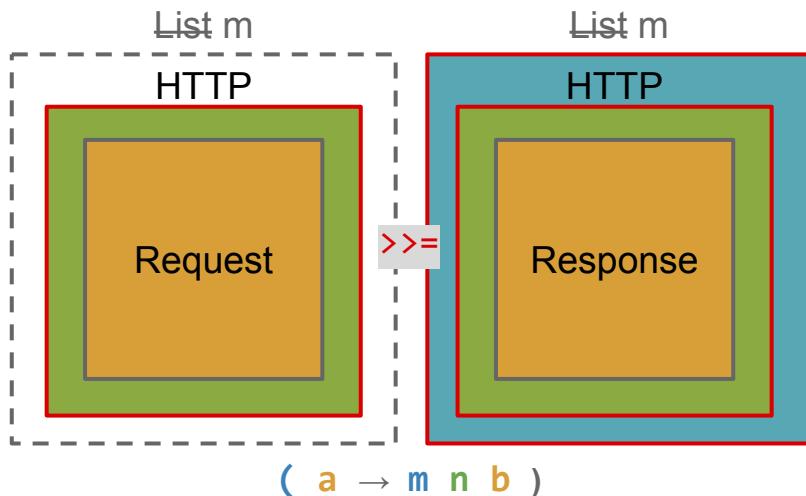
*HTTPPT doesn't know  
what the 'm' is*

*Now we're in the inner monad layer*

First transformer would call the outer one's **bind** function to apply the rule on the inner monadic value, and dig into the second layer (inner monad)

# Context: Monad Transformer

The **bind** function in a **Monad Transformer** would:



Then transformer apply the specific Monad's binding rules on the inner monadic value, including to call the embedded function, just like what the ordinary Monad does, but now we get (m n b) rather than (m b)

[http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Monad\\_transformers#A\\_simple\\_monad\\_transformer:\\_MaybeT](http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Monad_transformers#A_simple_monad_transformer:_MaybeT)

# Context: Monad Transformer

A not so successful try: PromiseMaybeT

Now it can **stockpile arbitrary** PromiseMonad on one PromiseMaybe monadic action with another

But since our basic '**Monad**' is tricky, the transformer, is tricky, too

After all...

Is it **worth** to make 'real'  
Monad in JavaScript?

It's worth if you...

- Already use libraries with **fluent interface** like jQuery, lo-dash or even the native Promise
- Care about how to restrict some effects within a **specific domain** only, meanwhile keep the code **reusable** and **flexible**

The reasons makes playing with Monad become too expensive:

- Rather than to see what **effects** Monad can bring to us, focusing on **type** and **syntax** issues too much, while this language indeed lacks some important features for Monad
- Need to implement several basic components in the Monad form

# Part III

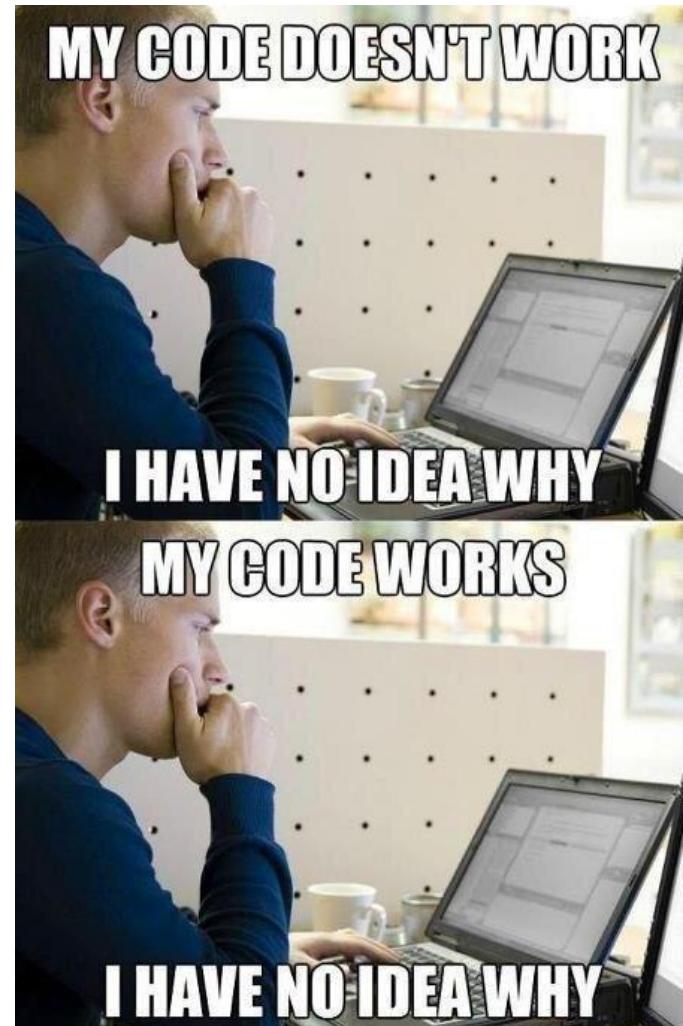
# Purity

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Nobody like surprises

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Nobody like surprises



# Purity

In theory, purity means no side-effects

# Purity

In theory, purity means no side-effects

`putStrLn:: String → IO ()`

# Purity

In theory, purity means no side-effects

`putStrLn:: String → IO ()`

-- the truth is...

`putStrLn:: String → RealWorld → ((), RealWorld')`

# Purity

In JavaScript we needn't play such magic...

# Purity

In JavaScript we needn't play such magic...

*But to isolate different effects and compose them together rationally is still good for us*

```
290 addNotification: function ns_addNotification(detail) {
291   // LockScreen window may not opened while this singleton got initialized.
292   this.lockScreenContainer = this.lockScreenContainer ||
293     document.getElementById('notifications-lockscreen-container');
294   var notificationNode = document.createElement('div');
295   notificationNode.classList.add('notification');
296   notificationNode.setAttribute('role', 'link');
297
298   notificationNode.dataset.notificationId = detail.id;
299   notificationNode.dataset.obsoleteAPI = 'false';
300   if (typeof detail.id === 'string' &&
301       detail.id.indexOf('app-notif-') === 0) {
302     notificationNode.dataset.obsoleteAPI = 'true';
303   }
304   var type = detail.type || 'desktop-notification';
305   notificationNode.dataset.type = type;
306   var manifestURL = detail.manifestURL || '';
307   notificationNode.dataset.manifestURL = manifestURL;
308
309   if (detail.icon) {
310     var icon = document.createElement('img');
311     icon.src = detail.icon;
312     icon.setAttribute('role', 'presentation');
313     notificationNode.appendChild(icon);
314   }
315
316   var dir = (detail.bidi === 'ltr' ||
317             detail.bidi === 'rtl') ?
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319
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322   titleContainer.lang = detail.lang;
323   titleContainer.dir = dir;
324
325   var title = document.createElement('div');
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330   titleContainer.appendChild(title);
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332   var time = document.createElement('span');
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```

from Gaia/System/notifications.js (v2.0)

line: 290 ~ 490 (200 lines)

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from Gaia/System/notifications.js (v2.0)

line: 290 ~ 490 (200 lines)

- Create notification
  - Detecting gesture
  - Append notification
  - Play sound
  - Color one container
  - Scroll container to top
- ...

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line: 290 ~ 490 (200 lines)

There are so many  
requests  
from so many different  
contexts



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from Gaia/System/notifications.js (v2.0)

line: 290 ~ 490 (200 lines)

Even without any FP ideas,  
to response these requests  
with individual logic units is  
trivial and reasonable



DOM

Create notification

Change container's style

UI

Append notification

Scroll container to top

Gesture

Detect gesture on notification

Sound

Play sound

Asynchronous

Manage asynchronous operations

Conditional Statements

If...else to do or not to do things

I/O

Get/write data and control device

...

High-order Function

Partial Application

Curry

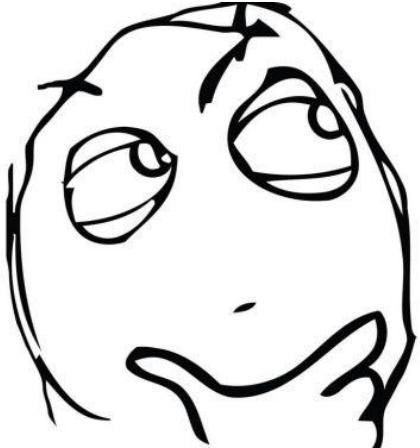
Functor

Monad

Monad Transformer

...

**It looks like FP concerns  
data level only...?**



**"But 80% of my work is for  
UI changes"**

That's why  
**React + Flux rocks**

*Let's think about what is an GUI program...*

**Behavior** trigger event

**Data** changed

**View** redraw

*Let's think about what is an GUI program...*

**Behavior** trigger event

**Data** changed

**View** redraw

*It's so simple, right?*

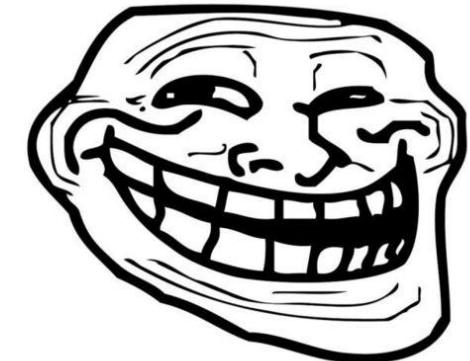
*Let's think about what is an GUI program...*

**Behavior** trigger event

**Data** changed

**View** redraw

---



**problem?**

*Let's think about what is an GUI program...*

# Behavior

trigger event

Can be done purely, while  
IO is relatively simple than drawing

# Data

changed

# View

redraw

Lots of side-effects  
(The nature of DOM APIs)



**problem?**

With **React** we only care  
about data changes

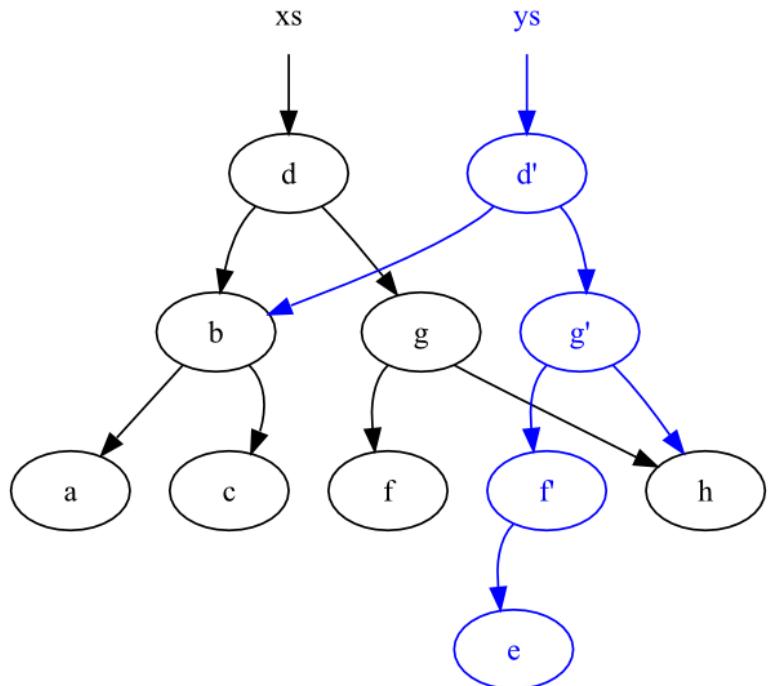
And '**create**' a new view  
every time it get changed

**And 'create' a new view  
every time it get changed**

*and efficiency is what React should care about*

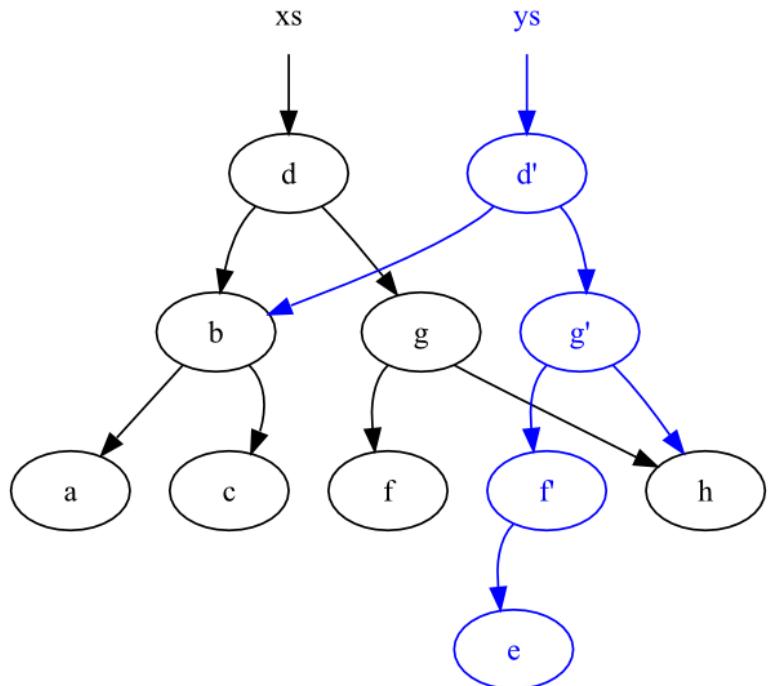
This is like what the **immutable** data structure become **mutable** in FP...

ys = insert ("e", xs)

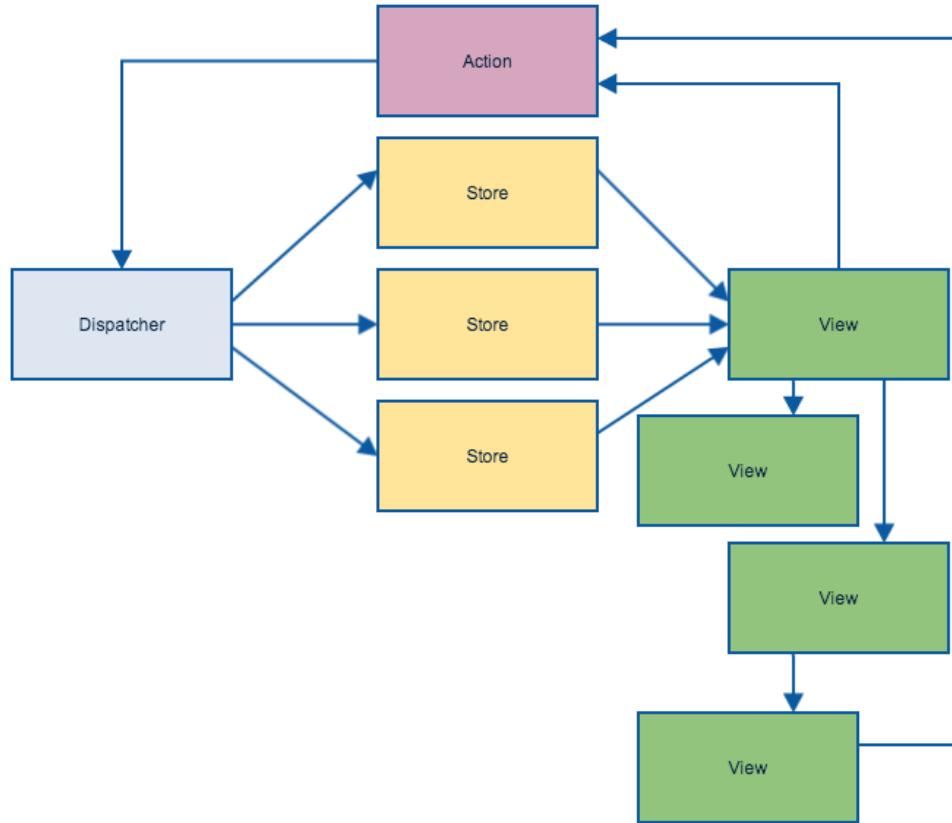


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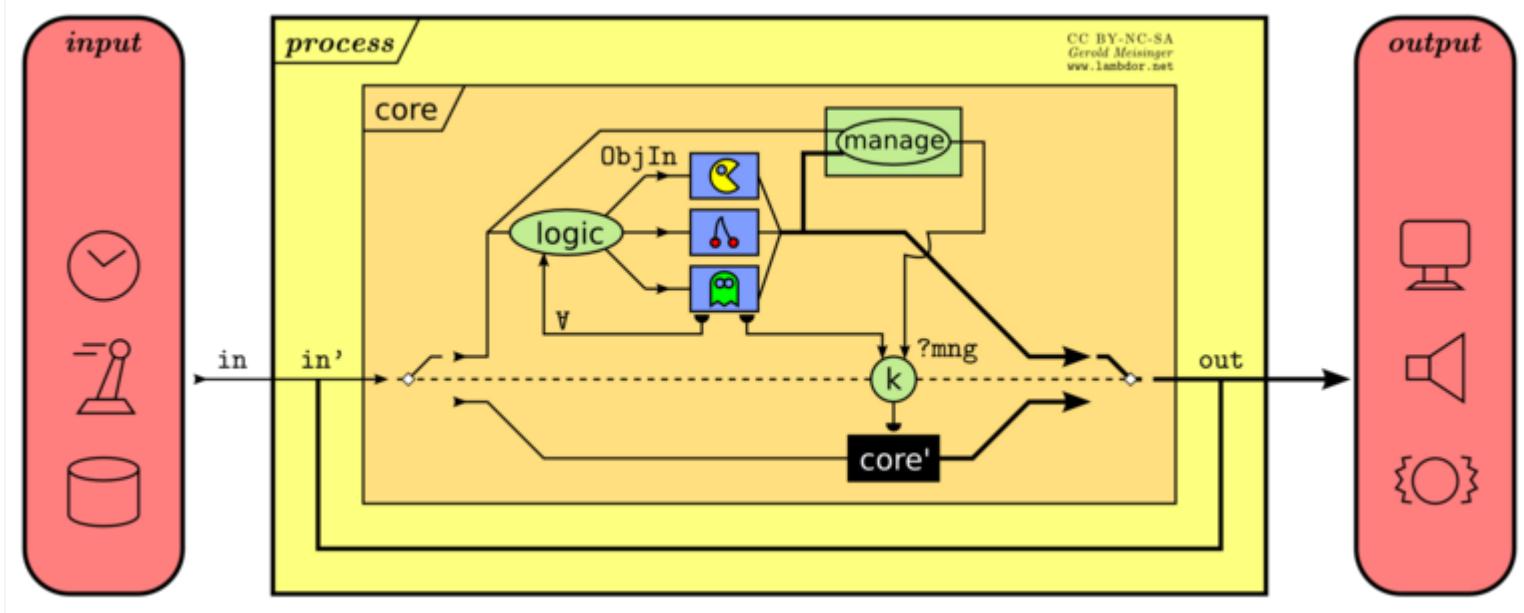
`view' = render(..)`



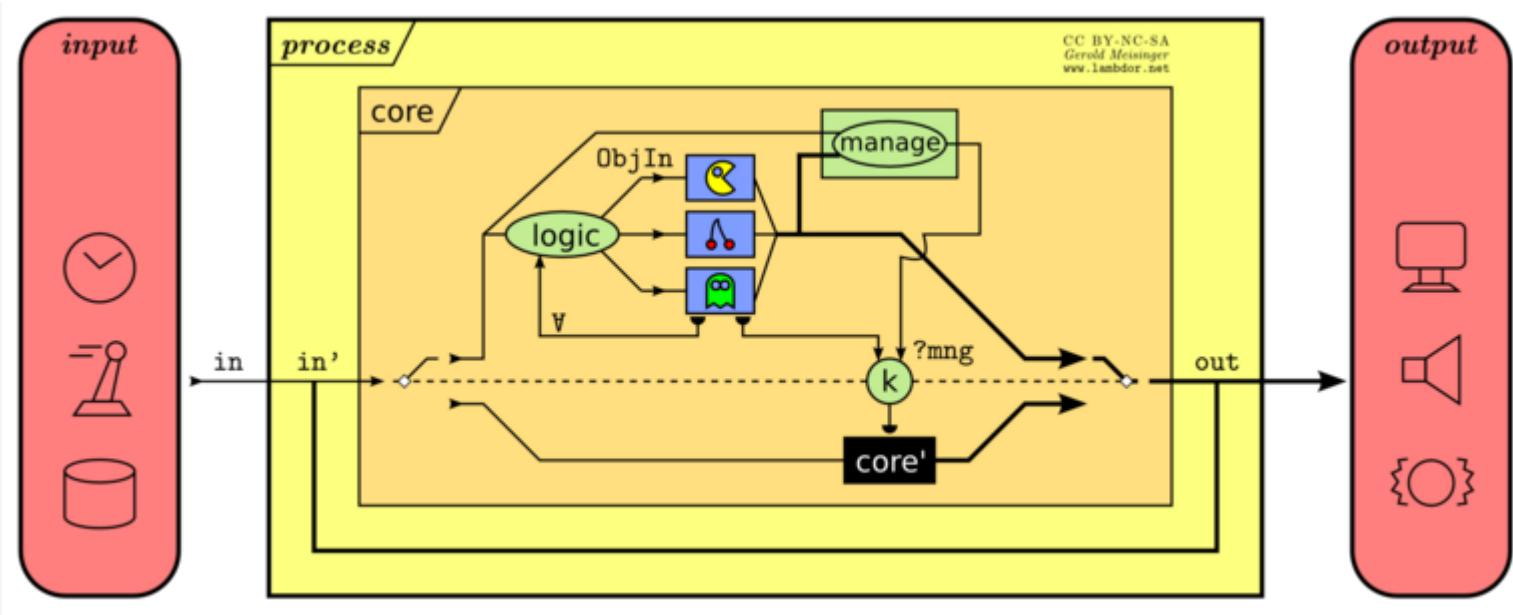
# And this is what Flux looks like...



# And this is what Flux looks like...



# And this is what Flux looks like...



[Yampa](#), a Functional Reactive Programming framework in Haskell

**So React & Flux is really close to FP...**

So React & Flux is really close to FP...

*It's great because we can build a full  
Functional Programming stack on it*

# So React & Flux is really close to FP...

*It's great because we can build a full Functional Programming stack on it*

...with high-order function, partial application, functor, Monad, Monad Transformer, etc.

# Conclusion

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# Conclusion

- Use High-order Functions as much as possible, including to define and customize it
- Use fluent interface as much as possible: use it to enforce computation focusing on special domains, to benefit from isolation and managed side-effects
- If libraries are ready, consider to use Partial Application or Currying
- If it's possible, consider making fluent interface more monadic, including laziness, purity, etc.

# Conclusion: library & framework

- lo-dash is your friend
- transducer in JavaScript is a good way to understand reducing deeply
- immutable-js make your code purer
- React & Flux bring you a whole new FRP world

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In fact there are lots of 'functional' related libraries...

# Thanks and Q & A