

# Fusion: Applying Equational Transforms to Simplify Programs

`github.com/ryanorendorff/lc-2017-fusion`

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Motivation: Simple Programs versus Performance

A brief introduction to GHC

List fusion with *foldr/build*

Stream Fusion

Applications of Fusion

## Common way to process a list: map and fold!

As an example, say we want to square all the elements in a list and then sum the result. [1-4]

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$$sq x = x * x$$
$$\text{foldr} :: (a \rightarrow b \rightarrow b) \rightarrow b \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow b$$
$$\text{foldr } z [] = z$$
$$\text{foldr } f z (x : xs) = f x (\text{foldr } f z xs)$$
$$\text{sum} = \text{foldr } (+) 0$$

## How fast is *process*?

So now that we have our *process* function, how fast does it run?

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Let's try to process a million elements with our *process* and *process'*, which uses the standard Prelude *foldr* and *map*.

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*How does the Prelude do better with the same functions?*



## We can get good performance with manual code

We can try to get better performance by writing our program as a recursive function.

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It seems we have matched GHC's performance!

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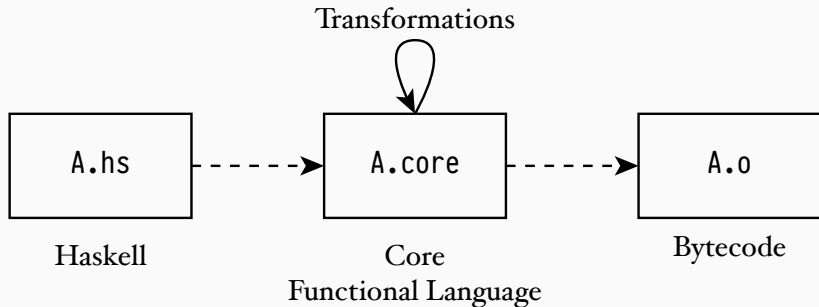
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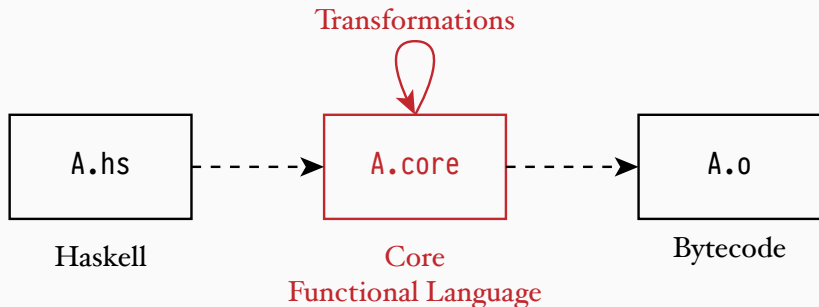
## The GHC Compilation Pipeline converts Haskell into an intermediate language and then bytecode

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## Rewrite Rules allow us to say two expressions are equivalent

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- After the period are the equivalent statements.

## Rules have some restrictions

Rewrite rules have some gotchas. [8]

- Rules doesn't prevent you from doing something silly

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{-# RULES "fxy" forall x y. f x y = f y x #-}
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- If multiple rules are possible, GHC arbitrarily chooses one.

## We can combine maps to traverse a list once

Let us introduce the following rule about maps. [4]

```
{-# RULES "map/map" forall f g xs.  
  map_fuse f (map_fuse g xs) = map_fuse (f.g) xs #-}
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```

$$\text{mapTest} :: [Int] \rightarrow [Int]$$
$$\text{mapTest } xs = \text{map } (+1) (\text{map } (*2) xs)$$
$$\text{mapTest}_{\text{fuse}} :: [Int] \rightarrow [Int]$$
$$\text{mapTest}_{\text{fuse}} xs = \text{map}_{\text{fuse}} (+1) (\text{map}_{\text{fuse}} (*2) xs)$$

## Our map fusion performs (a bit) better!

We can test our functions on a million elements

$$\text{mapTest } xs = \text{map } (+1) (\text{map } (*2) xs)$$
$$\text{mapTest}_{\text{fuse}} xs = \text{map}_{\text{fuse}} (+1) (\text{map}_{\text{fuse}} (*2) xs)$$

and find we get a bit better time and space performance.

Function	Time (ms)	Memory (MB)
$\text{mapTest}$	26.4	256.00
$\text{mapTest}_{\text{fuse}}$	17.6	184.00



## Through rules, GHC performs fusion

Rules allow us to perform *fusion*, where we remove intermediate data structures from the computation.

In our *process* function, we create an intermediate list

$$\text{process} :: [Int] \rightarrow Int$$
$$\text{process } xs = \text{sum} \circ \text{map } \text{sq} \$ xs$$

whereas our "fused" form did not make any intermediate structure, and used an accumulator instead.

$$\text{process}_{\text{hand}} :: [Int] \rightarrow Int$$
$$\text{process}_{\text{hand}} [] = 0$$
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$$\textit{build} g = g (:) []$$

$$\textit{build1} l \equiv [1, 2, 3]$$

**where**

$$l \text{ cons } nil = 1 \text{ 'cons' } (2 \text{ 'cons' } (3 \text{ 'cons' } nil))$$

## The *foldr/build* rule removes intermediate fold/build pairs

To remove intermediate data structures (those created by *build*), we eliminate *foldr/build* pairs with a rule.

```
{-# RULES
```

```
"foldr/build"
```

```
∀ f z (g :: ∀ b. (a -> b -> b) -> b -> b) .
```

```
foldr f z (build g) = g f z #-}
```

$$\text{foldr } (+) \, 0 \, (\text{build } l) \equiv l \, (+) \, 0 \equiv 1 + (2 + (3 + 0))$$

**where**

$$l \text{ cons } nil = 1 \text{ 'cons' } (2 \text{ 'cons' } (3 \text{ 'cons' } nil))$$

## We need a few extra rules to convert maps into fold/builds

To convert our definition of maps into a fold/build pair, we need the following helper function. [8, 9]

$$\begin{aligned} \text{mapFB} &:: (\text{elt} \rightarrow \text{lst} \rightarrow \text{lst}) \rightarrow (a \rightarrow \text{elt}) \rightarrow a \rightarrow \text{lst} \rightarrow \text{lst} \\ \text{mapFB } c \ f &= \lambda x \ \text{ys} \rightarrow c \ (f \ x) \ \text{ys} \end{aligned}$$



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As an example, lets apply the list cons  $c = (:)$  and  $f = sq$

$$\lambda x \ \text{ys} \rightarrow sq \ x : \text{ys}$$

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With that, we have all we need to convert map into build/fold.

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{-# RULES "map" [~1]  $\forall$  f xs. map f xs =  
    build (\c n -> foldr (mapFB c f) n xs) #-}
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We also provide a way to cancel failed fusion by converting back to a map.

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$$\begin{aligned} & \text{build } (\lambda c \ n \rightarrow \text{foldr } \text{mapFB } c \ f) \ n \ xs \\ \equiv & \ \{-\text{inline def of build -}\} \\ & (\lambda c \ n \rightarrow \text{foldr } \text{mapFB } c \ f) \ n \ xs \ (:) \ [] \\ \equiv & \ \{-\text{remove lambda -}\} \\ & \text{foldr } (\text{mapFB } (:) \ f) \ [] \ xs \end{aligned}$$

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Let's try applying the rewrite rules manually.

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$\equiv \{ \text{expand } sum \}$



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$foldr\ (\lambda x\ ys \rightarrow sq\ x + ys)\ 0\ xs$

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We now look at empty case

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Now let's do the  $(x : xs)$  case.

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$$\begin{aligned} process\ (x : xs) &= foldr\ (\lambda x\ ys \rightarrow sq\ x + ys)\ 0\ (x : xs) \\ &\equiv \{-expand\ foldr\ case:\ foldr\ f\ z\ (x : xs) = f\ x\ (foldr\ f\ z\ xs)\ -\} \\ &\quad (\lambda x\ ys \rightarrow sq\ x + ys)\ x\ (foldr\ (\lambda x\ ys \rightarrow sq\ x + ys)\ z\ xs) \\ &\equiv \{-use\ def\ of\ process_{fuse}:\ foldr\ f\ 0\ xs = process_{fuse}\ xs\ -\} \\ &\quad (\lambda x\ ys \rightarrow sq\ x + ys)\ x\ (process_{fuse}\ xs) \\ &\equiv \{-apply\ lambda\ -\} \end{aligned}$$

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## Bringing both cases back together

If we now combine our two cases, we have the following

$$\begin{aligned} \textit{process}_{\textit{fuse}} [] &= 0 \\ \textit{process}_{\textit{fuse}} (x : xs) &= x * x + \textit{process}_{\textit{fuse}} xs \end{aligned}$$

This is the same as what we had originally written manually!

$$\begin{aligned} \textit{process}_{\textit{hand}} [] &= 0 \\ \textit{process}_{\textit{hand}} (x : xs) &= x * x + \textit{process}_{\textit{hand}} xs \end{aligned}$$

## We achieved list fusion using *foldr* / *build* with rewrite rules

We managed to fuse *process* using our rewrite rules. We can look at the output of the compiler and it confirms what we expected.

$$process_{fuse} [] = 0$$

$$process_{fuse} (x : xs) = x * x + process_{fuse} xs$$

## We achieved list fusion using *foldr* / *build* with rewrite rules

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$$\begin{aligned} process_{fuse} [] &= 0 \\ process_{fuse} (x : xs) &= x * x + process_{fuse} xs \end{aligned}$$

As expected, we get the same performance after performing the fusion rules.

Function	Time (ms)	Memory (MB)
<i>process</i>	41.86	265.26
<i>process'</i>	26.60	96.65
<i>process<sub>hand</sub></i>	28.80	96.65
<i>process<sub>fuse</sub></i>	27.08	96.65

## There are many types of fusion concepts out there

While *foldr* / *build* works well, it can have problems fusing *zip* and *foldl*.

There are a few other systems out there. [2, 3]

- *unbuild* / *unfoldr*, where *unfoldr* builds a list and *unbuild* consumes a list. It can have problems fusing *filter*.

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While *foldr* / *build* works well, it can have problems fusing *zip* and *foldl*.

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- *unbuild* / *unfoldr*, where *unfoldr* builds a list and *unbuild* consumes a list. It can have problems fusing *filter*.
- stream fusion, which works by defining a *Stream* data type that acts like an iterator.

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# Introduction to Stream

The Stream fusion system attempts to do something similar, by defining a list as an iterator. [2, 3]

**data** *Stream a* **where**

*Stream* ::  $(s \rightarrow \text{Step } a \ s) \rightarrow s \rightarrow \text{Stream } a$

## Introduction to Stream

The Stream fusion system attempts to do something similar, by defining a list as an iterator. [2, 3]

**data** *Stream a where*

*Stream* ::  $(s \rightarrow \text{Step } a \ s) \rightarrow s \rightarrow \text{Stream } a$

where *Step a s* informs us how to keep processing the stream.

**data** *Step a s = Done*

| *Skip*  $s$

| *Yield a s*



## Streams have little helpers to make lists: `stream`

To work on standard lists, we introduce the following two functions to convert between lists and streams.

$$\text{stream} :: [a] \rightarrow \text{Stream } a$$
$$\text{stream } xs = \text{Stream } \text{uncons } xs$$

**where**

$$\text{uncons } [] = \text{Done}$$
$$\text{uncons } (y : ys) = \text{Yield } y \text{ } ys$$

## Streams have little helpers to make lists: unstream

To work on standard lists, we introduce the following two functions to convert between lists and streams.

$$\text{unstream} :: \text{Stream } a \rightarrow [a]$$
$$\text{unstream } (\text{Stream next } s0) = \text{unfold next } s0$$

**where**

$$\text{unfold next } s = \mathbf{case\ next\ } s \mathbf{\ of}$$
$$\text{Done} \quad \rightarrow []$$
$$\text{Skip } s' \quad \rightarrow \text{unfold next } s'$$
$$\text{Yield } x \ s' \rightarrow x : \text{unfold next } s'$$

## Let's define *map* for *Streams*

We can define some standard list processing functions on *Streams*.

Let's try *map*.

$$\text{map}_s :: (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow \text{Stream } a \rightarrow \text{Stream } b$$
$$\text{map}_s f (\text{Stream next0 } s0) = \text{Stream next } s0$$

**where**

$$\text{next } s = \mathbf{case} \text{ next0 } s \mathbf{ of}$$
$$\text{Done} \quad \rightarrow \text{Done}$$
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**where**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{next } s &= \mathbf{case} \text{ next0 } s \mathbf{ of} \\ \text{Done} &\quad \rightarrow \text{Done} \\ \text{Skip } s' &\quad \rightarrow \text{Skip} \quad s' \\ \text{Yield } x \ s' &\rightarrow \text{Yield } (f \ x) \ s' \end{aligned}$$
$$\begin{aligned} \text{map}_{[a]} &:: (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow [b] \\ \text{map}_{[a]} f &= \text{unstream} \circ \text{map}_s f \circ \text{stream} \end{aligned}$$

## Fusion on Streams

Fusion on streams only has one rewrite rule, and it is pretty simple.

```
{-# RULES "stream" ∀ (s :: Stream a).  
    stream (unstream s) = s #-}
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$$\text{mapTestStream} :: [Int] \rightarrow [Int]$$
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$\equiv \{-\text{expand mapl}-\}$

$\text{unstream} \circ \text{map}_s (+1) \circ \text{stream} \circ \text{unstream} \circ \text{map}_s (*2) \circ \text{stream}$

$\equiv \{-\text{apply "stream/unstream"}-\}$

$\text{unstream} \circ \text{map}_s (+1) \circ \text{map}_s (*2) \circ \text{stream}$

Our map example

$$\text{mapTestStream} :: [Int] \rightarrow [Int]$$
$$\text{mapTestStream } xs = \text{map}_{[a]} (+1) \circ \text{map}_{[a]} (*2) \$ xs$$

gets fused into this result.

$$\text{mapTestStreamCompiled} :: [Int] \rightarrow [Int]$$
$$\text{mapTestStreamCompiled } [] = []$$
$$\begin{aligned} \text{mapTestStreamCompiled } (x : xs) = \\ 1 + (x * 2) : \text{mapTestStreamCompiled } xs \end{aligned}$$



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## We can make *process* even faster with *Data.Vector*

The *Data.Vector* package uses stream fusion and many other rewrite rules behind the scenes in order to optimize array based computations.

$$\textit{process} \textit{xs} = \textit{sum0} \circ \textit{map} \textit{sq} \$ \textit{xs}$$

## We can make *process* even faster with *Data.Vector*

The *Data.Vector* package uses stream fusion and many other rewrite rules behind the scenes in order to optimize array based computations.

$$\textit{process } xs = \textit{sum0} \circ \textit{map } sq \$ xs$$

The vector version looks very similar.

```
import qualified Data.Vector as V
```

$$\textit{processVec } n = V.\textit{sum} \$ V.\textit{map } sq \$ V.\textit{enumFromTo } 1 (n :: Int)$$

## We can make *process* even faster with *Data.Vector*

```
processVec n = V.sum $ V.map sq $ V.enumFromTo 1 (n :: Int)
```

But has awesome performance!

Function	Time (ms)	Memory (MB)
<i>process</i>	41.86	265.26
<i>processFuse</i>	25.31	96.65
<i>processVec</i>	0.7	$16 \times 10^{-5}$

## What code does *Data.Vector* generate?

The *processVec* function is pretty simple in Haskell itself.

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processVec n = V.sum $ V.map sq $ V.enumFromTo 1 (n :: Int)
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When compiling, GHC fires *202 rules!*

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Specifically, this appears when using the debug flag  
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The *processVec* function is pretty simple in Haskell itself.

$$\text{processVec } n = V.\text{sum} \$ V.\text{map } \text{sq} \$ V.\text{enumFromTo } 1 (n :: \text{Int})$$

And the final code generated is the following.

```
processVecGHC n = loop 1 0
  where
    loop count acc = case count ≤ n of
      False → acc
      True  → loop (count + 1) (acc + (count * count))
```



Besides vector, stream fusion is used in a few other places.

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- Repa, a parallel list processing library [11]
- Vector instructions by SIMD [12]
- Pipes, a stream processing library [13]

What did we talk about today?

- Goal: simple code that performed as well as a optimized version.
- A brief introduction to compilation in GHC and rewrite rules.
- *foldr* / *build* fusion.
- Showed a second type of fusion: stream fusion.
- Went through some libraries using fusion.

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