Intro to Scala: Fear No More

Sujan Kapadia Philly Tech Week 2016



Workshop Goals

- Answer the question: What is Scala?
- Introduce you to basic programming constructs
- View **functions** as basic building blocks of behavior
- Hopefully dispel *some* of the fear around Scala
- Prepare you to continue further study of Scala (if you so desire)

What this won't cover

- In-depth functional programming
- Advanced type system (generics, variance, bounds)
- OO aspects of Scala (Classes, Traits, etc.)
- A lot of other stuff! Scala is a rich language...

Workshop Tasks

- Small exercises to explore the basics of Scala
- Parsing a CSV file (comma separated values)
- Representing the data from the CSV records
- Performing simple operations on this collection of data
- The source of data will be my Amazon purchase history since 2006
- If you have an Amazon account, you can also run a CSV report from here: http://www.amazon.com/gp/b2b/reports

What?

- Statically typed language that runs on the JVM
- Provides both *functional* and *object-oriented* constructs

Huh?

- **Type:** Something that takes on a specific range of values
- Examples:
- Color: Red, Blue, Green
- Date (some representation of time)
- Integer (has a minimum and maximum value)
- Types have names

Static Vs Dynamic Typing

• Static Typing:

- Types must be specified before your program is compiled.
- You provide the types or the compiler must be able to figure them out.
- Types are **enforced**: You cannot assign a name to an integer or pass in "Monday" where a date is expected
- If you try to assign a value of a different type, the compiler will return an error.

Static Vs Dynamic Typing

• Dynamic Typing:

- Types may not be known until the program is actually running.
- You don't have to specify types ahead of time.
- A variable could be assigned a number, and later on be changed to a Date or a Color
- Allows for a lot of flexibility, but can be easy to introduce errors and not know until you run your program.

JVM

- Java Virtual Machine
- Write Java, Scala, Groovy, Clojure, etc.
- Compilation produces $platform\ independent$ bytecode
- Bytecode is an intermediate representation that can be interpreted by the JVM
- The JVM will interpret and optimize and compile this to the target platform it runs on

Who, When, Where, Why?

- Who: Martin Odersky
- When: Publicly released in 2004
- Where: EPFL
- Why: Provide a JVM based language that supports functional programming and a rich, expressive type system

How?

- Scala Compiler: scalac
- Scala REPL: Read Eval Print Loop
- **SBT**: Build Tool / Dependency Management
- IDE: IntelliJ, Eclipse, etc.

IntelliJ Worksheet: Built-in interactive environment to explore Scala expressions

The Basics

Interactive Mode

- Make sure 'Interactive Mode' is checked.
- This causes any code on the left side to be immediately compiled whenever changes are made.
- Output is shown on the right side.

Type

res0: Int = 42

- Int: Integer type, 32 bit value
- The number 42 is evaluated
- Since we are not assigning this a name, the result is automatically stored in **res0**
 - In a REPL "session", one could use **res0** afterwards. Since the worksheet is recompiled every time, we can't here

Type

res0: Int = 42

- The identifier is followed by a colon and a type name
- Types are specified after an identifier!
- In this case, the type was automatically **inferred**

• Does anyone know the F to C conversion off the top of their head?

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- Formula:

$$C = (F - 32) * 5/9$$

- Does anyone know the F to C conversion off the top of their head?
- Formula:

$$C = (F - 32) * 5/9$$

- Let's enter the right hand side in the worksheet!
- My phone tells me the current temp is...

- The compiler evaluated an **expression**
- Without the parentheses, 32 * 5/9 would have been evaluated first (precedence)
- Scala is an *expression-oriented language*. All things evaluate to a value

- But hey that shouldn't be an integer! My calculator tells me it should be 11.111111
- What gives?
- In this expression, every part is an Int, so Scala assumes you want an integer and happily complies.
- We'll revisit this in more detail shortly.

How do we deal with decimals?

• Let's type in a number like **5.9**

How do we deal with decimals?

- Let's type in a number like 5.9
- res2: Double = 5.9
- This time, Scala evaluated the expression as a Double
- **Double** = 64-bit Floating Point Number
- There's also another type, **Float**: 32-bit Floating Point Number

Numeric Literals

- Temperature could easily fit in a Float, but a Double is automatically chosen
- A *literal* just means you're directly including the value
- In literal expressions, we can tell Scala what kind of number we want:
 - Float: append **f** or **F**
 - Double: append **d** or **D**
 - Long (64 bit integer): append l or L

Exercise 1 Revisited

- res5: Float = 11.1111111
- Why does that work?
- It turns out that these numbers have **operations** attached to them.
- The numbers are **objects** themselves.
- Type an Int in, then press Ctrl + Space
- Scroll down to the arithmetic operators

Exercise 1 Revisited

- Do the same for Float
- For Int, + and / take Int arguments and return
 Int
- For **Float**, + and / take **Float** arguments and return **Float**

Numbers are objects and you can invoke useful functions on them!

Text

- Type in "Hello Philadelphia"
- The String type represents a sequence of (Unicode) characters
- Strings are surrounded by double quotes
- A single character can be represented by using single quotes: 'c'
- Strings have many operations: startsWith, endsWith, length, toUppercase, etc.

Exercise 2

- What is the length of "Hello Philadelphia"?
- In two steps, convert "Hello Philadelphia" to "Yo Philly".
- Then add a "!" to the end of it
- Then upper case it.

Exercise 2

```
"Hello Philadelphia" replaceAll("Hello", "Yo")
    replaceAll("Philadelphia", "Philly")
    concat("!") // Shouting
    toUpperCase
```

- Operations can be invoked after a .
- Invocations can be *chained* together
- Strings also implement the + operator.
- Can you explain the difference between + and concat?
- Single line comments start with //

Values

- It would be painful to have to repeat literals or not refer to them by name.
- Scala allows us to assign an expression to a val

```
val productTitle: String = "Code: The
Hidden Language"
```

val productQuantity: Int = 1

val keyword + identifier + colon + Type = expression

Exercise 3a: Values

- Assign an Int to a value defined as String
- Assign a String to a value defined as Int
- What happens? Why?

Exercise 3a: Values

- Assign an Int to a value defined as String
- Assign a String to a value defined as Int
- What happens? Why?

Types are enforced.

Exercise 3b: Values

- Convert the Int value to a String
- Convert the String to an Int
- Hint: Look at the available operations!
- What happens if you try to convert "42abc" to an Int?

Exercise 3b: Values

- Convert the Int value to a String: 5.toString
- Convert the String to an Int: "42" to Int
- Hint: Look at the available operations!
- What happens if you try to convert "42abc" to an Int?
 - java.lang.NumberFormatException

Exercise 3c: Reassign the value

```
val priceOfItem1 = 5.75f
val priceOfItem2 = 12.50f
val totalPrice = priceOfItem1
```

- Add priceOfItem2 to totalPrice and reassign to totalPrice
- What happens?

Exercise 3c: Reassign the value

```
val priceOfItem1 = 5.75f
val priceOfItem2 = 12.50f
val totalPrice = priceOfItem1
```

- Add priceOfItem2 to totalPrice and reassign to totalPrice
- What happens?

Values are immutable!

Exercise 3c: Reassign the value

```
val priceOfItem1 = 5.75f
val priceOfItem2 = 12.50f
val totalPrice = priceOfItem1
```

- Add priceOfItem2 to totalPrice and reassign to totalPrice
- What happens?

Aside: By convention, constants are capitalized in Scala: val EarthGravity = 9.8f

Variables

• What if we want to capture a changing value?

```
var productQuantity = 1
productQuantity = productQuantity + 5
```

• var can be reassigned.

var keyword + identifier + colon + Type = expression

Why Values then?

- You want to return a value that cannot be changed
- You want to ensure that a value cannot get accidentally changed or corrupted by multiple users
- It's easier to reason about and test code when the system guarantees that a value cannot change.
- There are some cases where a **var** is useful we will show an example later.

String Interpolation

- With **vals**, we can build more complex expressions now
- A common operation is to build a message to display to the user, or log information to a file.

```
val productCost = 12.50f
val message = s"This item costs ${productCost}
US dollars"
```

- An interpolated string can reference expressions
- \${ expression }

String Interpolation

• More complex expressions can be used as well.

```
val priceOfItem1 = 5.75f
val priceOfItem2 = 12.50f
val message2 = s"The total cost of your
shopping cart is ${priceOfItem1 +
priceOfItem2}"
```

- How does it convert the expression to a String?
- All objects in Scala provide a toString operation
- We saw this earlier when converting an Int

Exercise 4

- Given a temperature in Fahrenheit, convert to Celsius and provide a friendly message indicating the current temperature.
- Given a price in US dollars and an exchange rate to Mexican pesos, provide a message indicating the cost in pesos.
 - Don't worry about rounding!

Conditionals and Booleans

• How do we make decisions based on expressions?

```
if (expression) {
 expressions
else if (expression) {
 expressions
else {
 expressions
```

Conditionals and Booleans

• We can perform comparisons with operators like the ones below:

Exercise 5a: Branches

- For inventory:
 - Greater than 50: "In Stock"
 - Less than or equal to 50: "Less than 50 remaining"
 - Less than or equal to 10: "Only a few left!"
 - Equal to 0: "Out of stock"

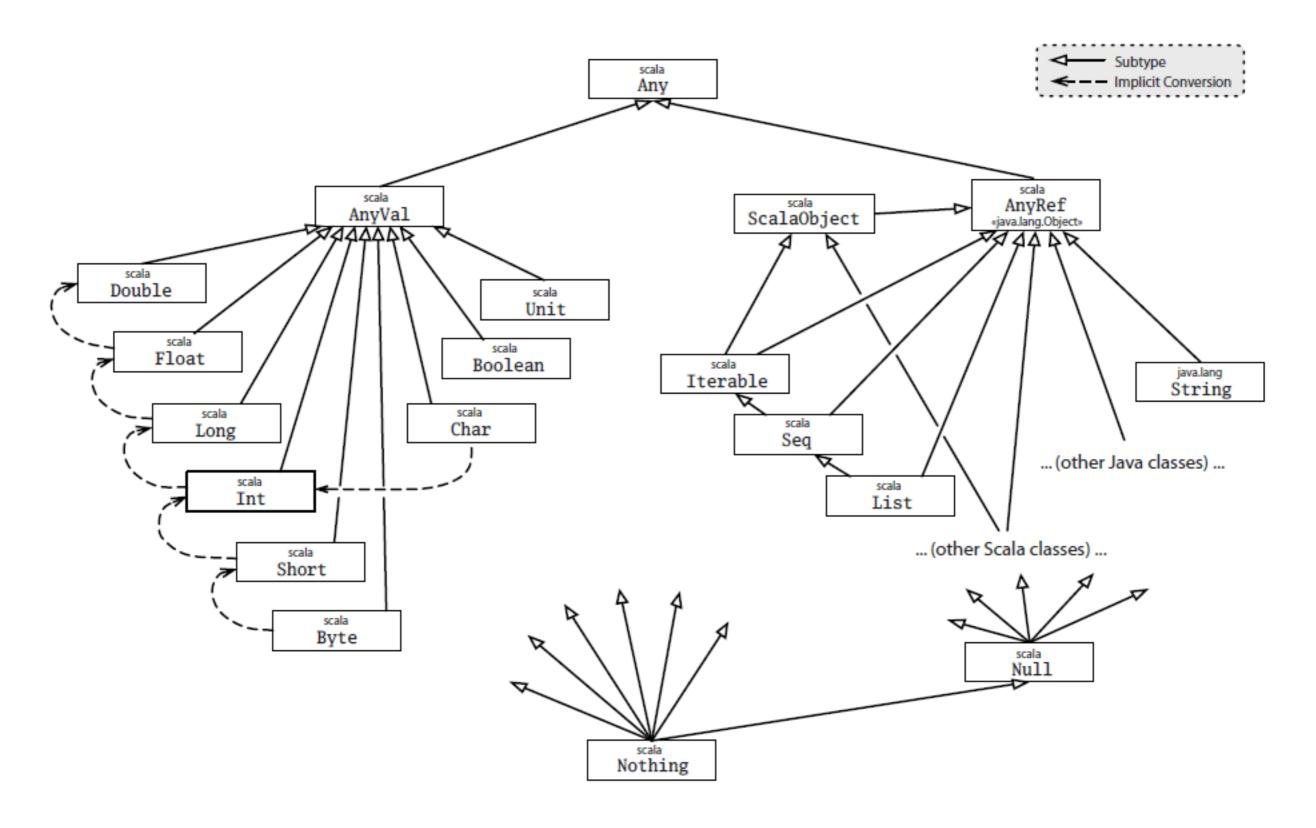
Exercise 5a: Branches

- What was the type of the result? Why?
- Wait, an **if** construct returns a result?
- An if construct is an **expression**

Exercise 5a: Branches

- What was the type of the result? **Any**
- Why?
 - Any is at the top of the type hierarchy
 - Since we did not provide an **else** branch, the compiler cannot determine the type in the case none of the branches are selected.
 - The most common type it can resort to is **Any**
- Provide an else branch so String type can be chosen

Aside: Type Hierarchy



Boolean expressions

- Boolean is a **true** or **false** value
- Example boolean expressions

```
val needMoreCoffee: Boolean = true
val currentTemp = 76
val isHot = (currentTemp >= 76 &&
currentTemp <= 100)</pre>
```

• The expression within an if statement must evaluate to a Boolean

Exercise 5b: String comparisons

- Example string: "Code: The Hidden Language of Computer Hardware and Software"
- Determine if the title has the word "Software" in it
- Determine if the title equals "code: the hidden Language of Computer Hardware and software"
- Hint: Look up the operations on String

Exercise 5b: String comparisons

- Example string: "Code: The Hidden Language of Computer Hardware and Software"
- Determine if the title has the word "Software" in it
 - contains
- Determine if the title equals "code: the hidden Language of Computer Hardware and software"
 - ==
 - equals
 - equalsIgnoreCase

Aside: Object Equality

- equals
 - Implemented by all objects
 - Can be customized (overridden)
- ==
 - Internally calls equals
 - Cannot be customized
 - Null Safe
 - If a value is not assigned, it is *null*
 - Trying to perform operations on *null* result in
 - a NullPointerException

Blocks

- The body of the if is called a **block**
- Blocks are surrounded by curly braces
- Blocks evaluate to a value
- They can contain one or more expressions
- The **last expression** in a block is what the block evaluates to

Exercise 6a: CSV Parsing: Naive Version

- Goal: Split a string into its column values, separated by commas
- Hint: Look through the operations on String

Exercise 6a: CSV Parsing: Naive Version

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- Hint: Look through the operations on String
- After you invoke the operation, what do you notice?
 - What is returned? What is the type?
 - Is the String split up as you would expect?

Exercise 6a: CSV Parsing: Naive Version

- After you invoke the operation, what do you notice?
 - What is returned? **Array**[String]
 - Is the String split up as you would expect? No, one of the column values itself contains commas!

Exercise 6b: CSV Parsing: Less Naive Version

- How can we solve the previous problem?
- This is a bit more complicated, so we'll work through this step by step.

Exercise 6b: CSV Parsing: Less Naive Version

Basic idea: Process the String one character at a time

- 1. If we are within double quotes:
 - 1. Process commas like any other character
 - 2. If we encounter a "" (a quote followed by a quote), process that as one quote
 - 3. If we encounter a ", we are now outside of double quotes

Exercise 6b: CSV Parsing: Less Naive Version

Basic idea:

Else:

- 1. If we encounter a ", we are within double quotes.
- 2. If we encounter a comma, take the characters for this column and build a String.
- 3. Otherwise, this character is part of the current column being processed.

Exercise 6b: CSV Parsing: While Loop

Process the String one character at a time:

```
while (boolean expression) {
  block
}
```

- When should the loop end?
- How do we express that boolean condition?
- How do we get the characters from a String?

Exercise 6b: CSV Parsing: Arrays

An **array** is a *mutable* collection of objects with a fixed length

Creation:

```
val temps: Array[Int] = Array(45, 32, 71)
```

val chars: Array[Char] = Array('s', 'c', 'a', 'l', 'a')

val length: Int = chars.length

val thirdChar: Char = chars[2]

Exercise 6b: CSV Parsing: Arrays

- Assign the character array to a value
- Get the length of the array
- For each iteration, get the character at that position
- Advance the position how do we keep track of it? val or var?

Exercise 6b: CSV Parsing: State

• Determine if the character is a quote and store the result in a val

Exercise 6b: CSV Parsing: State

- If the current character is a quote, we're in double quotes use a Boolean to mark this.
 - Else keep track of the current character
- Check if we're already within double quotes:
 - If we're processing a quote, we're outside of quotes now, set the Boolean to false
 - Else keep track of the current character

Exercise 6b: CSV Parsing: StringBuilder

How do we keep track of the current character? What do we add it to?

StringBuilder allows you to build strings character by character, and then return one String

- append(x: Char): StringBuilder
- toString

Exercise 6b: CSV Parsing: State

- If the current character is a quote, we're in double quotes use a Boolean to mark this.
 - Else if the current character is a comma, turn the StringBuilder into a String and add the column to a collection.
 - Else keep track of the current character
- Check if we're already within double quotes:
 - If we're processing a quote, we're outside of quotes now, set the Boolean to false
 - Else keep track of the current character

Exercise 6b: CSV Parsing: ListBuffer

- ListBuffer is our second collection! Our first was an Array
- This is also a *mutable* collection
- How can we add elements to it?

Exercise 6b: CSV Parsing: ListBuffer

- ListBuffer is our second collection! Our first was an Array
- This is also a *mutable* collection
- How can we add elements to it?
 - \bullet += operator
 - append

Exercise 6b: CSV Parsing: State

- If the current character is a quote, we're in double quotes use a Boolean to mark this.
 - Else if the current character is a comma, turn the StringBuilder into a String and add the column to a collection.
 - Let's get rid of leading and trailing spaces
 - Let's reuse the StringBuilder by clearing it

Exercise 6b: CSV Parsing: What's missing?

- Hey we're not getting the last column!
 - **Hint**: We still have characters in our StringBuilder that didn't get stored because we never hit a final comma
- We don't have time to cover the escaped quote case, but I'll show you the code.
 - It requires performing a *lookahead* by one character.

Functions

- It becomes very tedious to repeat code over and over again
- It would be great to wrap up our operations into reusable units of code
- What are functions?

Functions

- What are functions? They are named operations that can take zero or more parameters and return a result.
 - A *pure* function is like a mathematical function.
 - For a given input, it will **always** return the same output
 - It will produce no side effects

Functions

• What are functions?

```
def add(x: Int, y: Int): Int = x + y

def generateUniqueId: String = {
   // Code to generate id
}
```

Functions: Side Effects

• What are functions that produce side effects?

```
def writeToFile(line: String): Unit
```

```
println("Hello World")
```

- Functions that only produce side effects return the **Unit** type
- They do not return a useful value

Functions

• How do you invoke a function?

```
add(2, 2)
```

```
val result = add(2, 2)
```

Functions

• You can create *anonymous* functions (aka **closures**) and assign them to a **val**

```
val add = (x: Int, y: Int) => x + y
```

- Functions themselves are types in Scala
 - add: (Int, Int) => Int =<function2>

Exercise 8a: Celsius to Fahrenheit

• Write a function to perform this conversion

$$F = C * 9/5 + 32$$

Exercise 8b: Function Composition

• Imagine we had a function that mapped temperature to an English adjective:

```
def tempToDescription(currentTemp: Float): String = {
   if (currentTemp >= 0 && currentTemp <= 32) "freezing"
   else if (currentTemp > 32 && currentTemp < 60) "cold"
   else if (currentTemp >= 60 && currentTemp < 75) "warm"
   else if (currentTemp >= 76 && currentTemp < 100) "hot"
   else if (currentTemp == 75) "perfect"
   else "yikes"
}</pre>
```

Exercise 8b: Function Composition

• Perform a C to F conversion and then pass the result to this function:

```
def tempToDescription(currentTemp: Float): String = {
   if (currentTemp >= 0 && currentTemp <= 32) "freezing"
   else if (currentTemp > 32 && currentTemp < 60) "cold"
   else if (currentTemp >= 60 && currentTemp < 75) "warm"
   else if (currentTemp >= 76 && currentTemp < 100) "hot"
   else if (currentTemp == 75) "perfect"
   else "yikes"
}</pre>
```

Exercise 8b: Function Composition

• Perform a C to F conversion and then pass the result to this function:

```
val tempF = celsiusToFahrenheit(30)
tempToDescription(tempF)
tempToDescription(celsiusToFahrenheit(30))
```

Exercise 8b: Function Composition and Partially Applied

• You can build values out of functions!

```
val c2f = celsiusToFahrenheit _
val tempToDesc = tempToDescription _
```

• The underscore syntax means the argument will be provided later. It produces a function value!

```
val add = (x: Int, y: Int) => x + y
val inc = add(_: Int, 1)
```

Exercise 8b: Function Composition and Partially Applied

• Now you can compose functions in different ways

c2f andThen tempToDesc

tempToDesc compose c2f

• Let's refactor the line parser into a function!

- Let's refactor the line parser into a function!
- This is a pure function!
- Wait it has *mutating* state! But that state is never exposed outside the function they are **local** variables
- Why are we returning a mutable collection? The caller shouldn't be able to change the parsed result!

- Why are we returning a mutable collection? The caller shouldn't be able to change the parsed result!
- We can convert the ListBuffer into an immutable collection via the toList operation

- Immutable collections cannot be changed each change creates a new collection!
- For performance reasons, within the while loop we use mutable state (since its not exposed):
 - We avoid creating new values and collections repeatedly
- BUT Do not return mutable state from a function!

Aside: When possible avoid vars and while loops

- In fact, we can even avoid the while loop!
- While loops encourage a mutable style due to their in place looping.
- We could create a recursive function that processes one character at a time, and takes in all of the current state (position, within double quotes, etc.?). This would also be a pure function!
- If the final call is a call back to the same function, it can be turned into a loop!

BREAK

Collections and Structured Data

Immutable Collections

- We've already seen some mutable collections:
 Array and ListBuffer
- In our last exercise, we modified our parser function to a return a List
- What is a List?

List

- An immutable, ordered collection that can grow in size (backed by a linked list) and *cannot*randomly access
- CSV processing:
 - We need to process an unknown number of records
 - After processing, we don't need to directly access any specific element

List

- Let's create a few List instances
- Temperatures: List(41, 32, 75, 100)
- Names: List("Bob", "Alice", "John","Judy")
- Notice the types: List[Int], List[String]

List

- Computing the length requires traversing
- Getting the last element requires traversing
- Conversion to and from:
 - Array(1,2,3,4,5).toList

Higher Order Functions: map

- We can perform operations on collections by passing functions.
- A function that takes in and/or produces functions is called a **higher order function**

• If we want to transform every element in a List

```
map[B](f: (A) => B): List[B]
```

Examples

```
val temps:List[Float] = List(41,32,75,100)
temps.map(fahrenheitToCelsius)
temps.map { temp => fahrenheitToCelsius(temp) }
temps.map { fahrenheitToCelsius(_) }
```

```
map[B](f: (A) => B): List[B]
```

Exercise 10

- Given a List of lines from the CSV data, return a list of parsed records
- List[String] => List[List[String]]

Higher Order Functions: filter

- Returns a new collection with only the elements that pass the filter *predicate*.
- The return type remains the same.

```
filter(p: (A) => Boolean): List[A]
```

Exercise 11

- Before parsing, filter out empty lines
- After parsing, filter out records with all columns empty
 - Hint: Look at forall and exists (either can be used)
- Combine these steps and parsing into one function

Structuring Data: Case Classes

- Dealing with **Strings** is a pain. We don't know what the data is and can't manipulate it.
- How can we build up *meaningful types* from the parsed records?
- Case Classes!

Structuring Data: Case Classes

```
case class FullName(firstName: String,
lastName: String)
```

```
case class PurchaseOrder(productId: String,
orderDate: LocalDate, price: Double,
quantity: Int = 1)
```

Case classes are immutable.

Structuring Data: Case Classes

```
FullName("Sujan", "Kapadia")
```

```
PurchaseOrder(productId = "SomeProductID",
orderDate = LocalDate.of(2016, 5, 4), price
= 23.50d)
```

• Enter these into the worksheet and see the output

- AmazonProduct
 - Product ID
 - Title
 - Category
 - Condition

- AmazonProduct
 - Product ID: Has an ASIN Code
 - Title: String
 - Category: Could have things like parent category, etc.
 - Condition: Limited set of values enumerated

AmazonProduct

```
case class ProductId(asinCode: String)
case class Category(name: String)
case class AmazonProduct(id: ProductId, title:
String, category: Category)
```

Case Class Hierarchy

Condition (we won't be using this today)

```
sealed trait Condition
case object UsedCondition extends Condition
case object GoodCondition extends Condition
case object NewCondition extends Condition
```

Case objects have no properties. They are *singleton* instances

- PurchaseOrder
 - Order ID
 - AmazonProduct
 - Order Date
 - Unit Price
 - Quantity
 - Total Price

- PurchaseOrder
 - Order ID: String with a special format
 - AmazonProduct
 - Order Date: LocalDate
 - Unit Price: Double
 - Quantity: Int
 - Total Price: Double

PurchaseOrder

case class OrderId(value: String)

```
case class PurchaseOrder(id: OrderId, product:
AmazonProduct, orderDate: LocalDate,
unitPrice: Double, quantity: Int, totalPrice:
Double)
```

Exercise 12a: Convert record to PurchaseOrder

• Write a function that converts a List[String] to a PurchaseOrder

Exercise 12a: Hints

• Date conversion:

```
val df = DateTimeFormatter.ofPattern("MM/dd/yy")
val dateString = "06/21/2007"
LocalDate.parse(dateString, df)
```

• Converting a dollar amount to a Double:

```
val price = "$19.99"
price.drop(1).toDouble
```

• Accessing an element by index

```
val x = cols(1)
```

Data Modeling

• What List operation allows us to transform a List[A] (elements of type A) to List[B] (elements of type B)?

Exercise 12b: Convert a List of lines

- What List operation allows us to transform a List[A] (elements of type A) to List[B] (elements of type B)?
- map
- Convert lines List[String] to a List[PurchaseOrder]

Optional data: Option[T] type

- If you look at the data, you'll notice things like Condition and Category are sometimes empty
- An empty String or a **null** to represent this is a poor choice.
 - It's error prone have to always check for empty or null
 - It's not clear to the user of the API that the data is optional

Optional data: Option[T] type

- Scala provides an Option type
- An Option can take on one of two values
 - Some (value): this means its defined
 - None: this means its empty
- Let's see some examples

Exercise 13: Analyzing the data

- ullet Determine the unique set of categories
- Return all items greater than or equal to \$100
- Determine the total spent per category
 - Return the top 2
- Determine the total spent per year

What do Case Classes give us?

- equals method
- toString method
- copy method to create new, modified instances
- immutability
- pattern matching: very powerful and expressive, but we won't have time to review it today:(

Takeaways

- Values and immutability
- Expression-oriented language
- Static typing: Types are enforced
- Everything is an object; objects have operations
 - Primitives extend from AnyVal and all others from AnyRef
 - Any is the root type

Takeaways

- Immutable vs mutable collections
- Functions and higher order functions are the basic building blocks
- Functions themselves are objects
- Do not expose mutable state outside of a function!
- Choose the right data structure based on the constraints.

Takeaways

- Model data with case classes
- Use Option instead of relying on null
- Look up the operations, use ScalaDoc, even look at the actual Scala implementation!

SO MUCH more to cover

- Things not covered that are typically covered in a
 - 1 2 day Scala course:
 - Case Class Pattern Matching
 - For Comprehensions
 - Traits, Classes, Objects, Packaging
 - Functional processing of Lists
 - Type system
 - Unit testing (Scalatest)

Where to go next?

- Consider Lightbend's Fast Track to Scala Course
- Programming in Scala, 3rd Ed.
- www.scala-lang.org
- https://www.lightbend.com/resources/e-books
- <u>Functional Programming Principles in Scala</u>
 <u>Coursera</u>

THANK YOU!

Sujan Kapadia Philly Tech Week 2016

