

# **Haskell** **Programming** from first principles

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**Pure functional programming**

**without fear or frustration**

# Contents

<b>Contents</b>	<b>2</b>
License . . . . .	14
Authors' preface . . . . .	15
Acknowledgements . . . . .	18
Introduction . . . . .	21
Why This Book . . . . .	21
A few words to new programmers . . . . .	24
Haskevangelism . . . . .	25
What's in this book? . . . . .	27
Best practices for examples and exercises . . . . .	30
<b>1 All You Need is Lambda</b>	<b>33</b>
1.1 All You Need is Lambda . . . . .	34
1.2 What is functional programming? . . . . .	34
1.3 What is a function? . . . . .	35
1.4 The structure of lambda terms . . . . .	37
1.5 Beta reduction . . . . .	38
1.6 Multiple arguments . . . . .	42
1.7 Evaluation is simplification . . . . .	45
1.8 Combinators . . . . .	46
1.9 Divergence . . . . .	47
1.10 Summary . . . . .	47
1.11 Chapter Exercises . . . . .	48
1.12 Answers . . . . .	50
1.13 Definitions . . . . .	53
1.14 Follow-up resources . . . . .	53
<b>2 Hello, Haskell!</b>	<b>55</b>
2.1 Hello, Haskell . . . . .	56

2.2	Interacting with Haskell code . . . . .	56
2.3	Understanding expressions . . . . .	59
2.4	Functions . . . . .	60
2.5	Infix operators . . . . .	65
2.6	Declaring values . . . . .	69
2.7	Arithmetic functions in Haskell . . . . .	76
2.8	Negative numbers . . . . .	80
2.9	Parenthesizing infix functions . . . . .	81
2.10	Laws for quotients and remainders . . . . .	83
2.11	Evaluation . . . . .	84
2.12	Let and where . . . . .	85
2.13	Chapter Exercises . . . . .	90
2.14	Definitions . . . . .	97
2.15	Follow-up resources . . . . .	98
<b>3</b>	<b>Strings</b>	<b>99</b>
3.1	Printing strings . . . . .	100
3.2	A first look at types . . . . .	100
3.3	Printing simple strings . . . . .	101
3.4	Types of concatenation functions . . . . .	106
3.5	Concatenation and scoping . . . . .	109
3.6	More list functions . . . . .	111
3.7	Chapter Exercises . . . . .	112
3.8	Definitions . . . . .	117
<b>4</b>	<b>Basic datatypes</b>	<b>118</b>
4.1	Basic Datatypes . . . . .	119
4.2	Anatomy of a data declaration . . . . .	119
4.3	Numeric types . . . . .	121
4.4	Comparing values . . . . .	126
4.5	Tuples . . . . .	135
4.6	Lists . . . . .	136
4.7	Chapter Exercises . . . . .	138
4.8	Definitions . . . . .	142
<b>5</b>	<b>Types</b>	<b>144</b>
5.1	Types . . . . .	145
5.2	What are types? . . . . .	145
5.3	Querying and Reading Types . . . . .	148

5.4	Typeclass constrained type variables . . . . .	150
5.5	Currying . . . . .	153
5.6	Polymorphism . . . . .	164
5.7	Type inference . . . . .	169
5.8	Asserting types for declarations . . . . .	173
5.9	Chapter Exercises . . . . .	175
5.10	Definitions . . . . .	183
5.11	Follow-up resources . . . . .	186
<b>6</b>	<b>Typeclasses</b>	<b>187</b>
6.1	Typeclasses . . . . .	188
6.2	What are typeclasses? . . . . .	188
6.3	Back to Bool . . . . .	189
6.4	Eq . . . . .	190
6.5	Num . . . . .	193
6.6	Type-defaulting typeclasses . . . . .	196
6.7	Ord . . . . .	200
6.8	Enum . . . . .	204
6.9	Show . . . . .	205
6.10	Read . . . . .	210
6.11	Instances are dispatched by type . . . . .	210
6.12	Writing typeclass instances . . . . .	214
6.13	Gimme more operations . . . . .	225
6.14	Chapter Exercises . . . . .	229
6.15	Chapter Definitions . . . . .	235
6.16	Typeclass inheritance, partial . . . . .	237
6.17	Follow-up resources . . . . .	237
<b>7</b>	<b>More functional patterns</b>	<b>238</b>
7.1	Make it func-y . . . . .	239
7.2	Arguments and parameters . . . . .	239
7.3	Anonymous functions . . . . .	245
7.4	Pattern matching . . . . .	248
7.5	Case expressions . . . . .	257
7.6	Higher-order functions . . . . .	260
7.7	Guards . . . . .	268
7.8	Function composition . . . . .	274
7.9	Pointfree style . . . . .	278
7.10	Demonstrating composition . . . . .	280

7.11	Chapter Exercises . . . . .	283
7.12	Chapter Definitions . . . . .	287
7.13	Follow-up resources . . . . .	294
<b>8</b>	<b>Recursion</b>	<b>295</b>
8.1	Recursion . . . . .	296
8.2	Factorial . . . . .	297
8.3	Bottom . . . . .	303
8.4	Fibonacci numbers . . . . .	306
8.5	Integral division from scratch . . . . .	309
8.6	Chapter Exercises . . . . .	314
8.7	Definitions . . . . .	319
<b>9</b>	<b>Lists</b>	<b>320</b>
9.1	Lists . . . . .	321
9.2	The list datatype . . . . .	321
9.3	Pattern matching on lists . . . . .	322
9.4	List's syntactic sugar . . . . .	324
9.5	Using ranges to construct lists . . . . .	325
9.6	Extracting portions of lists . . . . .	328
9.7	List comprehensions . . . . .	332
9.8	Spines and non-strict evaluation . . . . .	337
9.9	Transforming lists of values . . . . .	346
9.10	Filtering lists of values . . . . .	353
9.11	Zippping lists . . . . .	355
9.12	Chapter Exercises . . . . .	357
9.13	Definitions . . . . .	364
9.14	Follow-up resources . . . . .	367
<b>10</b>	<b>Folding lists</b>	<b>368</b>
10.1	Folds . . . . .	369
10.2	Bringing you into the fold . . . . .	369
10.3	Recursive patterns . . . . .	370
10.4	Fold right . . . . .	372
10.5	Fold left . . . . .	379
10.6	How to write fold functions . . . . .	387
10.7	Folding and evaluation . . . . .	392
10.8	Summary . . . . .	393
10.9	Scans . . . . .	394

10.10 Chapter Exercises . . . . .	398
10.11 Definitions . . . . .	404
10.12 Follow-up resources . . . . .	406
<b>11 Algebraic datatypes</b>	<b>407</b>
11.1 Algebraic datatypes . . . . .	408
11.2 Data declarations review . . . . .	408
11.3 Data and type constructors . . . . .	410
11.4 Data constructors and values . . . . .	413
11.5 What's a type and what's data? . . . . .	416
11.6 Data constructor arities . . . . .	420
11.7 What makes these datatypes algebraic? . . . . .	423
11.8 Sum types . . . . .	430
11.9 Product types . . . . .	433
11.10 Normal form . . . . .	438
11.11 Constructing and deconstructing values . . . . .	442
11.12 Function type is exponential . . . . .	457
11.13 Higher-kinded datatypes . . . . .	462
11.14 Lists are polymorphic . . . . .	464
11.15 Binary Tree . . . . .	467
11.16 Chapter Exercises . . . . .	473
11.17 Definitions . . . . .	481
<b>12 Signaling adversity</b>	<b>482</b>
12.1 Signaling adversity . . . . .	483
12.2 How I learned to stop worrying and love Nothing . . .	483
12.3 Bleating either . . . . .	485
12.4 Kinds, a thousand stars in your types . . . . .	491
12.5 Chapter Exercises . . . . .	500
12.6 Definitions . . . . .	510
<b>13 Building projects</b>	<b>511</b>
13.1 Modules . . . . .	512
13.2 Making packages with Stack . . . . .	513
13.3 Working with a basic project . . . . .	514
13.4 Making our project a library . . . . .	517
13.5 Module exports . . . . .	519
13.6 More on importing modules . . . . .	521
13.7 Making our program interactive . . . . .	525

13.8	do syntax and IO . . . . .	528
13.9	Hangman game . . . . .	532
13.10	Step One: Importing modules . . . . .	534
13.11	Step Two: Generating a word list . . . . .	537
13.12	Step Three: Making a puzzle . . . . .	540
13.13	Adding a newtype . . . . .	548
13.14	Chapter exercises . . . . .	549
13.15	Follow-up resources . . . . .	551
<b>14</b>	<b>Testing</b>	<b>552</b>
14.1	Testing . . . . .	553
14.2	A quick tour of testing for the uninitiated . . . . .	553
14.3	Conventional testing . . . . .	555
14.4	Enter QuickCheck . . . . .	562
14.5	Morse code . . . . .	571
14.6	Kicking around QuickCheck . . . . .	582
14.7	Chapter Exercises . . . . .	590
14.8	Definitions . . . . .	596
14.9	Follow-up resources . . . . .	597
<b>15</b>	<b>Monoid, Semigroup</b>	<b>598</b>
15.1	Monoids and semigroups . . . . .	599
15.2	What we talk about when we talk about algebras . . . . .	599
15.3	Monoid . . . . .	600
15.4	How Monoid is defined in Haskell . . . . .	601
15.5	Examples of using Monoid . . . . .	602
15.6	Why Integer doesn't have a Monoid . . . . .	603
15.7	Why bother? . . . . .	607
15.8	Laws . . . . .	608
15.9	Different instance, same representation . . . . .	611
15.10	Reusing algebras by asking for algebras . . . . .	613
15.11	Madness . . . . .	621
15.12	Better living through QuickCheck . . . . .	622
15.13	Semigroup . . . . .	629
15.14	Chapter exercises . . . . .	634
15.15	Definitions . . . . .	642
15.16	Follow-up resources . . . . .	643
<b>16</b>	<b>Functor</b>	<b>644</b>

16.1	Functor . . . . .	645
16.2	What's a functor? . . . . .	646
16.3	There's a whole lot of fmap going round . . . . .	647
16.4	Let's talk about $f$ , baby . . . . .	648
16.5	Functor Laws . . . . .	657
16.6	The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly . . . . .	658
16.7	Commonly used functors . . . . .	662
16.8	Transforming the unapplied type argument . . . . .	673
16.9	QuickChecking Functor instances . . . . .	676
16.10	Exercises: Instances of Func . . . . .	678
16.11	Ignoring possibilities . . . . .	679
16.12	A somewhat surprising functor . . . . .	684
16.13	More structure, more functors . . . . .	686
16.14	IO Functor . . . . .	687
16.15	What if we want to do something different? . . . . .	689
16.16	Functors are unique to a datatype . . . . .	692
16.17	Chapter exercises . . . . .	693
16.18	Definitions . . . . .	698
16.19	Follow-up resources . . . . .	700
<b>17</b>	<b>Applicative</b>	<b>701</b>
17.1	Applicative . . . . .	702
17.2	Defining Applicative . . . . .	702
17.3	Functor vs. Applicative . . . . .	704
17.4	Applicative functors are monoidal functors . . . . .	705
17.5	Applicative in use . . . . .	711
17.6	Applicative laws . . . . .	733
17.7	You knew this was coming . . . . .	738
17.8	ZipList Monoid . . . . .	741
17.9	Chapter Exercises . . . . .	751
17.10	Definitions . . . . .	753
17.11	Follow-up resources . . . . .	753
<b>18</b>	<b>Monad</b>	<b>754</b>
18.1	Monad . . . . .	755
18.2	Sorry — Monad is not a burrito . . . . .	755
18.3	Do syntax and monads . . . . .	763
18.4	Examples of Monad use . . . . .	769
18.5	Monad laws . . . . .	784



18.6	Application and composition . . . . .	791
18.7	Chapter Exercises . . . . .	795
18.8	Definition . . . . .	798
18.9	Follow-up resources . . . . .	799
<b>19</b>	<b>Applying structure</b>	<b>800</b>
19.1	Applied structure . . . . .	801
19.2	Monoid . . . . .	801
19.3	Functor . . . . .	806
19.4	Applicative . . . . .	808
19.5	Monad . . . . .	813
19.6	An end-to-end example: URL shortener . . . . .	814
19.7	That's a wrap! . . . . .	827
19.8	Follow-up resources . . . . .	828
<b>20</b>	<b>Foldable</b>	<b>829</b>
20.1	Foldable . . . . .	830
20.2	The Foldable class . . . . .	830
20.3	Revenge of the monoids . . . . .	831
20.4	Demonstrating Foldable instances . . . . .	835
20.5	Some basic derived operations . . . . .	838
20.6	Chapter Exercises . . . . .	842
20.7	Follow-up resources . . . . .	844
<b>21</b>	<b>Traversable</b>	<b>845</b>
21.1	Traversable . . . . .	846
21.2	The Traversable typeclass definition . . . . .	846
21.3	sequenceA . . . . .	847
21.4	traverse . . . . .	849
21.5	So, what's traversable for? . . . . .	851
21.6	Morse code revisited . . . . .	852
21.7	Axing tedious code . . . . .	855
21.8	Do all the things . . . . .	857
21.9	Traversable instances . . . . .	859
21.10	Traversable Laws . . . . .	861
21.11	Quality Control . . . . .	862
21.12	Chapter Exercises . . . . .	863
21.13	Follow-up resources . . . . .	865

<b>22 Reader</b>	<b>866</b>
22.1 Reader . . . . .	867
22.2 A new beginning . . . . .	867
22.3 This is Reader . . . . .	874
22.4 Breaking down the Functor of functions . . . . .	874
22.5 But uh, Reader? . . . . .	877
22.6 Functions have an Applicative too . . . . .	879
22.7 The Monad of functions . . . . .	884
22.8 Reader Monad by itself is kinda boring . . . . .	887
22.9 You can change what comes below, but not above . . .	889
22.10 You tend to see ReaderT, not Reader . . . . .	889
22.11 Chapter Exercises . . . . .	889
22.12 Follow-up resources . . . . .	895
<b>23 State</b>	<b>896</b>
23.1 State . . . . .	897
23.2 What is state? . . . . .	897
23.3 Random numbers . . . . .	898
23.4 The State newtype . . . . .	901
23.5 Throw down . . . . .	903
23.6 Write State for yourself . . . . .	907
23.7 Get a coding job with one weird trick . . . . .	909
23.8 Chapter exercises . . . . .	913
23.9 Follow-up resources . . . . .	915
<b>24 Parser combinators</b>	<b>916</b>
24.1 Parser combinators . . . . .	917
24.2 A few more words of introduction . . . . .	918
24.3 Understanding the parsing process . . . . .	918
24.4 Parsing fractions . . . . .	929
24.5 Haskell's parsing ecosystem . . . . .	935
24.6 Alternative . . . . .	938
24.7 Parsing configuration files . . . . .	948
24.8 Character and token parsers . . . . .	958
24.9 Polymorphic parsers . . . . .	961
24.10 Marshalling from an AST to a datatype . . . . .	966
24.11 Chapter Exercises . . . . .	975
24.12 Definitions . . . . .	981
24.13 Follow-up resources . . . . .	981

<b>25 Composing types</b>	<b>983</b>
25.1 Composing types . . . . .	984
25.2 Common functions as types . . . . .	985
25.3 Two little functors sittin' in a tree, L-I-F-T-I-N-G . . . . .	987
25.4 Twinplicative . . . . .	989
25.5 Twonad? . . . . .	990
25.6 Exercises: Compose Instances . . . . .	992
25.7 Monad transformers . . . . .	993
25.8 IdentityT . . . . .	995
25.9 Finding a pattern . . . . .	1006
<b>26 Monad transformers</b>	<b>1008</b>
26.1 Monad transformers . . . . .	1009
26.2 MaybeT . . . . .	1009
26.3 EitherT . . . . .	1014
26.4 ReaderT . . . . .	1016
26.5 StateT . . . . .	1018
26.6 Types you probably don't want to use . . . . .	1021
26.7 Recovering an ordinary type from a transformer . . . . .	1022
26.8 Lexically inner is structurally outer . . . . .	1024
26.9 MonadTrans . . . . .	1026
26.10 MonadIO aka zoom-zoom . . . . .	1039
26.11 Monad transformers in use . . . . .	1041
26.12 Monads do not commute . . . . .	1051
26.13 Transform if you want to . . . . .	1051
26.14 Chapter Exercises . . . . .	1052
26.15 Follow-up resources . . . . .	1060
<b>27 Non-strictness</b>	<b>1061</b>
27.1 Laziness . . . . .	1062
27.2 Observational Bottom Theory . . . . .	1063
27.3 Outside in, inside out . . . . .	1064
27.4 What does the other way look like? . . . . .	1066
27.5 Call by name, call by need . . . . .	1079
27.6 Non-strict evaluation changes what we can do . . . . .	1080
27.7 Thunk Life . . . . .	1081
27.8 Sharing is caring . . . . .	1083
27.9 Refutable and irrefutable patterns . . . . .	1097

27.10	Bang-patterns . . . . .	1099
27.11	Strict and StrictData . . . . .	1102
27.12	Adding strictness . . . . .	1103
27.13	Chapter Exercises . . . . .	1108
27.14	Follow-up resources . . . . .	1110
<b>28</b>	<b>Basic libraries</b>	<b>1111</b>
28.1	Basic libraries and data structures . . . . .	1112
28.2	Benchmarking with Criterion . . . . .	1112
28.3	Profiling your programs . . . . .	1123
28.4	Constant applicative forms . . . . .	1126
28.5	Map . . . . .	1131
28.6	Set . . . . .	1133
28.7	Sequence . . . . .	1136
28.8	Vector . . . . .	1138
28.9	String types . . . . .	1147
28.10	Chapter Exercises . . . . .	1155
28.11	Follow-up resources . . . . .	1159
<b>29</b>	<b>IO</b>	<b>1160</b>
29.1	IO . . . . .	1161
29.2	Where IO explanations go astray . . . . .	1161
29.3	The reason we need this type . . . . .	1163
29.4	Sharing . . . . .	1164
29.5	IO doesn't disable sharing for everything . . . . .	1169
29.6	Purity is losing meaning . . . . .	1170
29.7	IO's Functor, Applicative, and Monad . . . . .	1172
29.8	Well, then, how do we MVar? . . . . .	1175
29.9	Chapter Exercises . . . . .	1177
29.10	Follow-up resources . . . . .	1179
<b>30</b>	<b>When things go wrong</b>	<b>1180</b>
30.1	Exceptions . . . . .	1181
30.2	The Exception class and methods . . . . .	1181
30.3	This machine kills programs . . . . .	1188
30.4	Want either? Try! . . . . .	1192
30.5	The unbearable imprecision of trying . . . . .	1196
30.6	Why throwIO? . . . . .	1197
30.7	Making our own exception types . . . . .	1199

30.8	Surprising interaction with bottom . . . . .	1204
30.9	Asynchronous Exceptions . . . . .	1206
30.10	Follow-up Reading . . . . .	1210
<b>31</b>	<b>Final project</b>	<b>1211</b>
31.1	Final project . . . . .	1212
31.2	fingerd . . . . .	1212
31.3	Exploring finger . . . . .	1213
31.4	Slightly modernized fingerd . . . . .	1219
31.5	Chapter Exercises . . . . .	1228

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## Authors' preface

### Chris's story

I've been programming for over 15 years, 8 of them professionally. I've worked primarily in Common Lisp, Clojure, and Python. I became interested in Haskell about 6 years ago. Haskell was the language that made me aware that progress is being made in programming language research and that there are benefits to using a language with a design informed by knowledge of those advancements.

I've had type errors in Clojure that multiple professional Clojure devs (including myself) couldn't resolve in less than 2 hours because of the source-to-sink distance caused by dynamic typing. We had copious tests. We added `println`'s everywhere. We tested individual functions from the REPL. It still took ages. It was only 250 lines of Clojure. I've had similar happen in Python and Common Lisp as well. I did finally fix it and found it was due to vectors in Clojure implementing `IFn`. The crazy values that propagated from the `IFn` usage of the vector allowed malformed data to propagate downward far away from the origin of the problem. The same issue in Haskell would be trivially resolved in a minute or less because the type-checker will identify precisely where you were inconsistent.

I use Haskell because I want to be able to refactor without fear, because I want maintenance to be something I don't resent. So I can reuse code freely. This doesn't come without learning new things. The difference between people that are "good at math" who "do it in their head" and professional mathematicians is that the latter show their work and use tools that help them get the job done. When you're using a dynamically typed language, you're forcing yourself unnecessarily to do it "in your head." As a human with limited working memory, I want all the help I can get to reason about and write correct code. Haskell provides that help.

Haskell is not a difficult language to use. Quite the opposite. I'm now able to tackle problems that I couldn't have tackled when I was primarily a Clojure, Common Lisp, or Python user. Haskell is difficult to teach effectively, and the ineffective pedagogy has made it hard for many people to learn.

It doesn't have to be that way.

I’ve spent the last two years actively teaching Haskell online and in person. Along the way, I started keeping notes on exercises and methods of teaching specific concepts and techniques that worked. Those notes eventually turned into my guide for learning Haskell. I’m still learning how to teach Haskell better by working with people locally in Austin, Texas, as well as online in the IRC channel I made for beginners to get help with learning Haskell.

I wrote this book because I had a hard time learning Haskell, and I don’t want others to struggle the way I did.

### Julie’s story

I met Chris Allen in spring 2014. We met on Twitter and quickly became friends. As anyone who has encountered Chris — probably in any medium, but certainly on Twitter — knows, it doesn’t take long before he starts urging you to learn Haskell.

I told him I had no interest in programming. I told him nothing and nobody had ever been able to interest me in programming before. When Chris learned of my background in linguistics, he thought I might be interested in natural language processing and exhorted me to learn Haskell for that purpose. I remained unconvinced.

Then he tried a different approach. He was spending a lot of time gathering and evaluating resources for teaching Haskell and refining his pedagogical techniques, and he convinced me to try to learn Haskell so that he could gain the experience of teaching a code-neophyte. Finally, with an “anything for science” attitude, I gave in.

Chris had already known that the available Haskell learning materials each had problems, but I don’t think even he realized just how frustrating they would be to me. All of the materials I ran across relied on a background with other programming languages and left many terms undefined or explained features of Haskell by analogy (often faulty) to features of other languages — features I had no experience with.

When I say I had no programming experience, I really, truly mean it. I had to start from learning what a compiler does, what version control means, what constitutes side effects, what is a library, what is a module, what on earth is a stack overflow. At the time of this



writing, that is where I was less than a year ago; by the time we finish writing this book and it is published, it will be almost two years.

I didn't think I would stick with it. It was too frustrating, too time-consuming, and I saw no practical purpose in it anyway. I felt like I wouldn't be able to learn it. Working with Chris kept me motivated and interested, though.

Eventually, as he realized that a new type of book for learning Haskell was necessary, he decided to write one. I agreed at the time to be his guinea pig. He would send me chapters and I would learn Haskell from them and send feedback. Through the fall, we worked like this, on and off, in short bursts. Eventually we found it more efficient for me to take on authorship duties. We developed a writing process where Chris made the first pass at a chapter, scaffolding the material it needed to cover. Then I filled in the parts that I understood and came up with questions that would elaborate and clarify the parts I didn't already know. He answered my questions until I understood, and I continued adding to and refining what was there. We each wrote exercises — I write much easier ones than he does, but the variety is beneficial.

I have tried, throughout the process, to keep thinking from the perspective of the absolute beginner. For one thing, I wanted my own understanding of Haskell to deepen as I wrote so I kept questioning the things I thought I knew. Also, I wanted this book to be accessible to everyone.

In interacting with other Haskell learners I often hear that other materials leave them feeling like Haskell is difficult and mysterious, a programming language best left to wizards.

It doesn't have to be that way.

## Acknowledgements

This book developed out of many efforts to teach and learn Haskell, online and off. We could not have done this without the help of the growing community of friendly Haskellers as well as the Haskell learners who have graciously offered time to help us make the book better.

First and foremost, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to our first-round reviewers, Angela May O'Connor and Martin Vlk for their tremendous patience. We have sent them each some very rough material, and they have been willing to work with it and send detailed feedback about what worked and what didn't work. Their reviews helped us ensure the book is both suitable for beginners and comprehensive. Also, they're both just wonderful people all around.

Martin DeMello, Daniel Gee, and Simon Yang have each sent us (many) smart criticisms and helpful suggestions. The book would have been shorter without their help, we think, but it's much more thorough and clear due to their help.

A number of people have contributed feedback and technical review for limited parts of the book. Thanks to Sean Chalmers, Erik de Castro Lopo, Alp Mestanogullari, Juan Alberto Sanchez, Jonathan Ferguson, Deborah Newton, Matt Parsons, Peter Harpending, Josh Cartwright, Eric Mertens, and George Makrydakis have all offered critiques of our writing and our technical coverage of different topics.

We have some very active early access readers who send us a stream of feedback, everything from minor typographical errors they find to questions about exercises, and we're pleased and grateful to have their input. The book would be messier and the exercises less useful if not for their help. Julien Baley and Jason Rose-Kuhrt have been particularly outstanding on this front, not only representing a non-trivial portion of our reader feedback over the course of several releases of the book, but also catching things nobody else noticed.

The book cover was designed by a reader and friend, David Deutsch (skore\_de on Twitter). He took pity on the state of our previous, original, super special early access cover, and took it upon himself to redesign it. We liked it so much we asked him to redo the book web site as well. He's talented and a pleasure to work with, and we're grateful for all the work he's done for us.

A special thank-you is owed to Soryu Moronuki, Julie's son, who agreed to try to use the book to teach himself Haskell and allowed us to use his feedback and occasionally blog about his progress.

A warm hello to all the reading groups, both online and in meatspace, that have formed so people can read the book and work through it together. We've had some wonderful feedback from these groups, and hope to visit with you all someday. We're delighted to see the Haskell community growing.

We would also like to thank Michael Neale for being funny and letting us use something he said on Twitter as an epigraph. Some day we hope to buy the gentleman a beer.

Thank you as well to Steven Proctor for having hosted us on his Functional Geekery podcast, and to Adam Stacoviak and Jerod Santo for inviting us onto their podcast, The Changelog — and to Zaki Manian for bringing us to Adam and Jerod's attention.

**Chris** I would like to thank the participants in the #haskell-beginners IRC channel, the teachers and the students, who have helped me practice and refine my teaching techniques. Many of the exercises and approaches in the book would've never happened without the wonderful Haskell IRC community to learn from.

I owe Alex Kurilin, Carter Schonwald, Aidan Coyne, and Mark Wotton thanks for being there when I was *really* bad at teaching, being kind and patient friends, and for giving me advice when I needed it. I wouldn't have scratched this itch without y'all.

**Julie** I would like to send a special shout-out to the Austin Haskell meetup group, especially Dan Lien, and to the Haskell Twitter community for making me feel welcome. The list of Haskellers who have responded to the kvetches and confusions of a complete Haskell beginner with help, humor, and advice would be very long indeed.

My husband and children have tolerated me spending uncountable hours immersed in the dark arts of thunkery. I am grateful for their love, patience, and support and hope that my kids will remember this: that it's never too late to learn something new. *Besos, mijos.*

Finally, a warm thank-you to our dear friend George Makrydakis for the ongoing dispensation of wisdom on matters to do with math,

programming, the weirding way, and life.

Any errors in the book, of course, remain the sole responsibility of the authors.

## Introduction

Welcome to a new way to learn Haskell. Perhaps you are coming to this book frustrated by previous attempts to learn Haskell. Perhaps you have only the faintest notion of what Haskell is. Perhaps you are coming here because you are not convinced that anything will ever be better than Common Lisp/Scala/Ruby/whatever language you love, and you want to argue with us. Perhaps you were just looking for the 18 billionth (*n.b.: this number may be inaccurate*) monad tutorial, certain that this time around you will understand monads once and for all. Whatever your situation, welcome and read on! It is our goal here to make Haskell as clear, painless, and practical as we can, no matter what prior experiences you're bringing to the table.

## Why This Book

If you are new to programming entirely, Haskell is a great first language. Haskell is a general purpose, functional programming language. It's applicable virtually anywhere one would use a program to solve a problem, save for some specific embedded applications. If you could write software to solve a problem, you could probably use Haskell.

If you are already a programmer, you may be looking to enrich your skills by learning Haskell for a variety of reasons — from love of pure functional programming itself to wanting to write functional Scala code to finding a bridge to PureScript or Idris. Languages such as Java are gradually adopting functional concepts, but most were not designed to be functional languages. Because Haskell is a pure functional language, it is a fertile environment for mastering functional programming. That way of thinking and problem solving is useful, no matter what other languages you might know or learn. We've heard from readers who are finding this book useful to their work in diverse languages such as Scala, F#, Frege, Swift, PureScript, Idris, and Elm.

Haskell has a bit of a reputation for being difficult. Writing Haskell may seem to be more difficult up front, not just because of the hassle of learning a language that is syntactically and conceptually different from a language you already know, but also because of features such

as strong typing that enforce some discipline in how you write your code. But what seems like a bug is a feature. Humans, unfortunately, have relatively limited abilities of short-term memory and concentration, even if we don't like to admit it. We *cannot* track all relevant metadata about our programs in our heads. Using up working memory for anything a computer can do for us is counter-productive, and computers are very good at keeping track of data for us, including metadata such as types.

We don't write Haskell because we're geniuses — we use tools like Haskell because we're not geniuses and it helps us. Good tools like Haskell enable us to work faster, make fewer mistakes, and have more information about what our code is supposed to do as we read it.

*We use Haskell because it is easier (over the long run) and enables us to do a better job. That's it.* There's a ramp-up required in order to get started, but that can be ameliorated with patience and a willingness to work through exercises.

### **OK, but I was just looking for a monad tutorial...**

The bad news is looking for an easy route into Haskell and functional programming is how a lot of people end up thinking it's "too hard" for them. The good news is we have a lot of experience teaching and we don't want that to happen to anyone, but especially not you, gentle reader.

We encourage you to forget what you might already know about programming and come at this course in Haskell with a beginner's mindset. Make yourself an empty vessel, ready to let the types flow through you.

If you are an experienced programmer, learning Haskell is more like learning to program all over again. If you're experienced in Python or Ruby, learning JavaScript is comparatively trivial. They share similar semantics, structure, type system (none, for all intents and purposes), and problem-solving patterns (e.g., representing everything as maps, loops, etc.). Learning Haskell imposes previously unknown problem-solving processes on most people already comfortable with an imperative or untyped programming language. This makes it harder to learn not because it is intrinsically harder, but because most people who have learned at least a couple of program-

ming languages are accustomed to the process being trivial, and their expectations have been set in a way that lends itself to burnout and failure.

If Haskell is your first language, or even if it is not, you may have noticed a specific problem with many Haskell learning resources: they assume a certain level of background with programming, so they frequently explain Haskell concepts in terms, by analogy or by contrast, of programming concepts from other languages. This is confusing for the student who doesn't know those other languages, but we posit that it is just as unhelpful for experienced programmers. Most attempts to compare Haskell with other languages only lead to a superficial understanding of Haskell, and making analogies to loops and other such constructs can lead to bad intuitions about how Haskell code works. For all of these reasons, we have tried to avoid relying on knowledge of other programming languages. Just as you can't achieve fluency in a human language so long as you are still attempting direct translations of concepts and structures from your native language to the target language, it's best to learn to understand Haskell on its own terms.

### **But I've heard Haskell is hard...**

There's a wild rumor that goes around the internet from time to time about needing a Ph.D. in mathematics and an understanding of monads just to write "hello, world"<sup>1</sup> in Haskell.

We will write "hello, world" in Chapter 3. We're going to do some arithmetic before that to get you used to function syntax and application in Haskell, but you will not need a Ph.D. in monadology to write it.

In truth, there will be a monad underlying our "hello, world," but you don't need to understand monads in order to interact with the examples. By the end of the book, you *will* understand monads, but you'll be interacting with monadic code long before you understand how it all works, and there is no problem with that. You'll find, at times, this book goes into more detail than you strictly need to be

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<sup>1</sup>Writing "hello, world" in a new programming language is a standard sort of "baby's first program," so the idea here is that if it's difficult to write a "hello, world" program, then the language must be impossible. There are languages that have purposely made it inhumanly difficult to write such programs, but Haskell is not one of them.

able to write Haskell successfully. And there is also no problem with that. You do not need to understand everything in here perfectly on the first try.

You are not a Spartan warrior who must come back with your shield or on it. Returning later to investigate things more deeply is an efficient technique, not a failure.

## A few words to new programmers

We’ve tried very hard to make this book as accessible as possible, no matter your level of previous experience. We have kept comparisons and mentions of other languages to a minimum, and we promise that if we compare something in Haskell to something in another language, that comparison is not itself crucial to understanding the Haskell — it’s just a little extra for those who do know the other language.

However, especially as the book progresses and the exercises and projects get more “real,” there are going to be terms and concepts that we do not have the space to explain fully but that are relatively well known among programmers. You may have to do internet searches for terms like *JSON*. The next section of this introduction references things that you may not know about but programmers will — don’t panic. We think you’ll still get something out of reading it, but if not, it’s not something to worry about. The fact that you don’t know every term in this book before you come to it is not a sign that you can’t learn Haskell or aren’t ready for this: it’s only a sign that you don’t *know everything yet*, and since no one does, you’re in fine company.

Along those same lines, this book does not offer much instruction on using the terminal and text editor. The instructions provided assume you know how to find your way around your terminal and understand how to do simple tasks like make a directory or open a file. Due to the number of text editors available, we do not provide specific instructions for any of them.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>If you’re quite new and unsure what to do about text editors, you might consider Atom. It’s free, open-source, and configurable. Sublime Text has served Julie well throughout the writing of the book, but is not free. Chris uses Emacs most of the time; Emacs is very popular among programmers, but has its own learning curve. Vim is another popular text editor with *its* own learning curve. If you have no experience with Emacs or Vim, we’d really recommend sticking with something like Sublime or Atom for now.



If you need help or would like to start getting to know the communities of functional programmers, there are several options. The Freenode IRC channel `#haskell-beginners` has teachers who will be glad to help you as well, and they especially welcome questions regarding specific problems that you are trying to solve.<sup>3</sup> There are also Slack channels and subreddits where Haskellers congregate along with a plethora of Haskell-oriented blogs, many of which are mentioned in footnotes and recommended readings throughout the book. Many of our readers also program in languages like Swift and Scala, so you may want to investigate those communities as well.

## Haskevangelism

The rest of this preface will give some background of Haskell and will make reference to other programming languages and styles. If you're a new programmer, it is possible not all of this will make sense, and that's okay. The rest of the book is written with beginners in mind, and the features we're outlining will make more sense as you work through the book.

We're going to compare Haskell a bit with other languages to demonstrate why we think using Haskell is valuable. Haskell is a language in a progression of languages dating back to 1973, when ML was invented by Robin Milner and others at the University of Edinburgh. ML was itself influenced by ISWIM, which was in turn influenced by ALGOL 60 and Lisp. We mention this lineage because Haskell *isn't* new. The most popular implementation of Haskell, GHC, is mature and well-made. Haskell brings together some very nice design choices which make for a language that offers more expressiveness than Ruby, but more type safety than any language presently in wide use commercially.

In 1968, the ALGOL68 dialect had the following features built into the language:

1. User defined record types

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<sup>3</sup> Freenode IRC (Internet Relay Chat) is a network of channels for textual chat. There are other IRC networks around, as well as other group chat platforms, but the Freenode IRC channels for Haskell are popular meeting places for the Haskell community. There are several ways to access Freenode IRC, including Irssi and HexChat, if you're interested in getting to know the community in their natural habitat.

2. User defined sum types (unions not limited to simple enumerations)
3. Switch/case expressions which support the sum types
4. Compile-time enforced constant values, declared with `=` rather than `:=`
5. Unified syntax for using value and reference types. No manual pointer dereferencing
6. Closures with lexical scoping (without this, many functional patterns fall apart)
7. Implementation-agnostic parallelized execution of procedures
8. Multi-pass compilation - you can declare stuff after you use it.

As of the early 21st century, many popular languages used commercially don't have anything equivalent to or better than what ALGOL68 had. We mention this because we believe technological progress in computer science, programming, and programming languages is possible, desirable, and critical to software becoming a true engineering discipline. By that, we mean that while the phrase "software engineering" is in common use, engineering disciplines involve the application of both scientific and practical knowledge to the creation and maintenance of better systems. As the available materials change and as knowledge grows, so must engineers.

Haskell leverages more of the developments in programming languages invented since ALGOL68 than most languages in popular use, but with the added benefit of a mature implementation and sound design. Sometimes we hear Haskell being dismissed as "academic" because it is relatively up-to-date with the current state of mathematics and computer science research. In our view, that progress is good and helps us solve practical problems in modern computing and software design.

Progress is possible and desirable, but it is not monotonic or inevitable. The history of the world is riddled with examples of uneven progress. For example, it is estimated that scurvy killed two million sailors between the years 1500 and 1800. Western culture has forgotten the cure for scurvy multiple times. As early as 1614, the

Surgeon General of the East India Company recommended bringing citrus on voyages for scurvy. It saved lives, but the understanding of *why* citrus cured scurvy was incorrect. This led to the use of limes, which have a lower vitamin C content than lemons, and scurvy returned until ascorbic acid was discovered in 1932. Indiscipline and stubbornness (the British Navy stuck with limes despite sailors continuing to die from scurvy) can hold back progress. We'd rather have a doctor who is willing to understand that he makes mistakes, will be responsive to new information, and even actively seek to expand his understanding rather than one that hunkers down with a pet theory informed by anecdote.

There are other ways to prevent scurvy, just as there are other programming languages you can use to write software. Or perhaps you are an explorer who doesn't believe scurvy can happen to you. But packing lemons provides some insurance on those long voyages. Similarly, having Haskell in your toolkit, even when it's not your only tool, provides type safety and predictability that can improve your software development. Buggy software might not literally make your teeth fall out, but software problems are far from trivial, and when there are better ways to solve those problems — not perfect, but better — it's worth your time to investigate them.

Set your limes aside for now, and join us at the lemonade stand.

## What's in this book?

This book is not something you want to just leaf through the first time you read it. It is more of a course than a book, something to be worked through. There are exercises sprinkled liberally throughout the book; we encourage you to do all of them, even when they seem simple. Those exercises are where the majority of your epiphanies will come from. No amount of chattering, no matter how well structured and suited to your temperament, will be as effective as *doing the work*. If you do get to a later chapter and find you did not understand a concept or structure well enough, you can always return to an earlier chapter and do more exercises until you understand it.

We believe that spaced repetition and iterative deepening are effective strategies for learning, and the structure of the book reflects this. You may notice we mention something only briefly at first,

then return to it over and over. As your experience with Haskell deepens, you have a base from which to move to a deeper level of understanding. Try not to worry that you don't understand something completely the first time we mention it. By moving through the exercises and returning to concepts, you can develop a solid intuition for functional programming.

The exercises in the first few chapters are designed to rapidly familiarize you with basic Haskell syntax and type signatures, but you should expect exercises to grow more challenging in each successive chapter. Where possible, reason through the code samples and exercises in your head first, then type them out — either into the REPL<sup>4</sup> or into a source file — and check to see if you were right. This will maximize your ability to understand and reason about programs and about Haskell. Later exercises may be difficult. If you get stuck on an exercise for an extended period of time, proceed and return to it at a later date.

We cover a mix of practical and abstract matters required to use Haskell for a wide variety of projects. Chris's experience is principally with production backend systems and frontend web applications. Julie is a linguist and teacher by training and education, and learning Haskell was her first experience with computer programming. The educational priorities of this book are biased by those experiences. Our goal is to help you not just write typesafe functional code but to understand it on a deep enough level that you can go from here to more advanced Haskell projects in a variety of ways, depending on your own interests and priorities.

Each chapter focuses on different aspects of a particular topic. We start with a short introduction to the lambda calculus. What does this have to do with programming? All modern functional languages are based on the lambda calculus, and a passing familiarity with it will help you down the road with Haskell. If you've understood the lambda calculus, understanding the feature of Haskell known as *currying* will be a breeze, for example.

The next few chapters cover basic expressions and functions in Haskell, some simple operations with strings (text), and a few essential types. You may feel a strong temptation, especially if you have programmed previously, to skim or skip those first chapters. *Please do not do this.* Even if those first chapters are covering concepts

you're familiar with, it's important to spend time getting comfortable with Haskell's terse syntax, making sure you understand the difference between working in the REPL and working in source files, and becoming familiar with the compiler's sometimes quirky error messages. Certainly you may work quickly through those chapters — just don't skip them.

From there, we build both outward and upward so that your understanding of Haskell both broadens and deepens. When you finish this book, you will not just know what monads are, you will know how to use them effectively in your own programs and understand the underlying algebra involved. We promise — you will. We only ask that you do not go on to write a monad tutorial on your blog that explains how monads are really just like jalapeno poppers.

In each chapter you can expect:

- additions to your vocabulary of standard functions;
- syntactic patterns that build on each other;
- theoretical foundations so you understand how Haskell works;
- illustrative examples of how to read Haskell code;
- step-by-step demonstrations of how to write your own functions;
- explanations of how to read common error messages and how to avoid those errors;
- exercises of varying difficulty sprinkled throughout;
- definitions of important terms.

We have put definitions at the end of each chapter. Each term is, of course, defined within the body of the chapter, but we added separate definitions at the end as a point of review. If you've taken some time off between one chapter and the next, the definitions can remind you of what you have already learned, and, of course, they may be referred to any time you need a refresher.

There are also recommendations at the end of most chapters for followup reading. They are certainly not required but are resources we personally found accessible and helpful that may help you learn more about topics covered in the chapter.

## Best practices for examples and exercises

We have tried to include a variety of examples and exercises in each chapter. While we have made every effort to include only exercises that serve a clear pedagogical purpose, we recognize that not all individuals enjoy or learn as much from every type of demonstration or exercise. Also, since our readers will necessarily come to the book with different backgrounds, some exercises may seem too easy or difficult to you but be just right for someone else. Do your best to work through as many exercises as seems practical for you. But if you skip all the types and typeclasses exercises and then find yourself confused when we get to Monoid, by all means, come back and do more exercises until you understand.

Here are a few things to keep in mind to get the most out of them:

- Examples are usually designed to demonstrate, with real code, what we've just talked or are about to talk about in further detail.
- You are intended to type *all* of the examples into the REPL or a file and load them. We *strongly* encourage you to attempt to modify the example and play with the code after you've made it work. Forming hypotheses about what effect changes will have and verifying them is critical! It is better to type the code examples and exercises yourself rather than copy and paste. Typing it out yourself makes you pay more attention to it, so you ultimately learn much more from doing so.
- Sometimes the examples are designed intentionally to be broken. Check surrounding prose if you're confused by an unexpected error as we will not show you code that doesn't work without commenting on the breakage. If it's still broken and it's not supposed to be, you should start checking your syntax for errors.
- Not every example is designed to be entered into the REPL. Not every example is designed to be entered into a file. We explain the syntactic differences between files and REPL expressions. You are expected to perform the translation between the two yourself after it has been explained. This is so you are accustomed to working with code in an interactive manner by the time you finish the book.

- Exercises in the body of the chapter are usually targeted to the information that was covered in the immediately preceding section(s).
- Exercises at the end of the chapter generally include some review questions covering material from previous chapters and are more or less ordered from easiest to most challenging. Your mileage may vary.
- Even exercises that seem easy can increase your fluency in a topic. We do not fetishize difficulty for difficulty's sake. We just want you to understand the topics as well as possible. That can mean coming at the same problem from different angles.
- We ask you to write and then rewrite (using different syntax) a lot of functions. Few problems have only one possible solution, and solving the same problem in different ways increases your fluency and comfort with the way Haskell works (its syntax, its semantics, and in some cases, its evaluation order).
- Do not feel obligated to do all the exercises in a single sitting or even in a first pass through the chapter. In fact, spaced repetition is generally a more effective strategy.
- Some exercises, particularly in the earlier chapters, may seem very contrived. Well, they are. But they are contrived to pinpoint certain lessons. As the book goes on and you have more Haskell under your belt, the exercises become less contrived and more like “real Haskell.”
- We recommend you move away from typing code examples and exercises directly into GHCi sooner rather than later and develop the habit of working in source files. It isn't just because the syntax can become unwieldy in the REPL. Editing and modifying code, as you will be doing a lot as you rework exercises, is easier and more practical in a source file. You will still load your code into the REPL from the file to run it, and we'll cover how to do this in the appropriate chapter.
- Another benefit to writing code in a source file and then loading it into the REPL is that you can write comments about the

process you went through in solving a problem. Writing out your own thought process can clarify your thoughts and make the solving of similar problems easier. At the very least, you can refer back to your comments and learn from yourself.

- Sometimes we intentionally underspecify function definitions. You'll commonly see things like:

```
f = undefined
```

Even when  $f$  will probably take named arguments in your implementation, we're not going to name them for you. Nobody will scaffold your code for you in your future projects, so don't expect this book to either.



## Chapter 1

# All You Need is Lambda

Even the greatest mathematicians, the ones that we would put into our mythology of great mathematicians, had to do a great deal of leg work in order to get to the solution in the end.

---

Daniel Tammett

## 1.1 All You Need is Lambda

This chapter provides a very brief introduction to the lambda calculus, a model of computation devised in the 1930s by Alonzo Church. A calculus is a method of calculation or reasoning; the lambda calculus is one process for formalizing a method. Like Turing machines, the lambda calculus formalizes the concept of effective computability, thus determining which problems, or classes of problems, can be solved.

You may be wondering where the Haskell is. You may be contemplating skipping this chapter. You may feel tempted to skip ahead to the fun stuff when we build a project.

*DON'T.*

We're starting from first principles here so that when we get around to building projects you know what you're doing. You don't start building a house from the attic down; you start from the foundation. Lambda calculus is your foundation, because Haskell is a pure functional programming language.

## 1.2 What is functional programming?

Functional programming is a computer programming paradigm that relies on functions modeled on mathematical functions. The essence of functional programming is that programs are a combination of *expressions*. Expressions include concrete values, variables, and also functions. Functions have a more specific definition: they are expressions that are applied to an argument or input, and once applied, can be *reduced* or *evaluated*. In Haskell, and in functional programming more generally, functions are *first-class*: they can be used as values or passed as arguments, or inputs, to yet more functions. We'll define these terms more carefully as we progress through the chapter.

Functional programming languages are all based on the lambda calculus. Some languages in this general category incorporate features into the language that aren't translatable into lambda expressions. Haskell is a *pure* functional language, because it does not. We'll address this notion of purity more later in the book, but it isn't a judgment of the moral worth of other languages.

The word *purity* in functional programming is sometimes also used to mean what is more properly called *referential transparency*. Referential transparency means that the same function, given the same values to evaluate, will always return the same result in pure functional programming, as they do in math.

Haskell’s pure functional basis also lends it a high degree of abstraction and composability. Abstraction allows you to write shorter, more concise programs by factoring common, repeated structures into more generic code that can be reused. Haskell programs are built from separate, independent functions, kind of like LEGO: the functions are bricks that can be assembled and reassembled.

These features also make Haskell’s syntax rather minimalist, as you’ll soon see.

### 1.3 What is a function?

If we step back from using the word “lambda,” you most likely already know what a function is. A function is a relation between a set of possible inputs and a set of possible outputs. The function itself defines and represents the relationship. When you apply a function such as addition to two inputs, it maps those two inputs to an output — the sum of those numbers.

For example, let’s imagine a function named  $f$  that defines the following relations where the first value is the input and the second is the output:

$$f(1) = A$$

$$f(2) = B$$

$$f(3) = C$$

The input set is  $\{1, 2, 3\}$  and the output set is  $\{A, B, C\}$ .<sup>1</sup> A crucial point about how these relations are defined: our hypothetical function will *always* return the value  $A$  given the input 1 — no exceptions!

---

<sup>1</sup> For those who would like precise terminology, the input set is known as the domain. A set of unique values that are possible outputs for the function is called the codomain. The set of all possible outputs related to different inputs is the range. All domains and codomains are sets of unique values. Ranges are sets of values, but the

In contrast, the following is *not* a valid function:

$$f(1) = X$$

$$f(1) = Y$$

$$f(2) = Z$$

This gets back to the referential transparency we mentioned earlier: given the same input, the output should be predictable.

Is the following function valid?

$$f(1) = A$$

$$f(2) = A$$

$$f(3) = A$$

Yes, having the same output for more than one input is valid. Imagine, for example, that you need a function that tests a value for being less than 10. You'd want it to return `True` when the input was less than 10 and `False` for all other cases. In that case, several different inputs will result in the output `True`; many more will give a result of `False`. Different inputs can lead to the same output.

What matters here is that the relationship of inputs and outputs is defined by the function, and that the output is predictable when you know the input and the function definition.

In the above examples, we didn't demonstrate a relationship between the inputs and outputs. Let's look at an example that does define the relationship. This function is again named  $f$ :

$$f(x) = x + 1$$

This function takes one argument, which we have named  $x$ . The relationship between the input,  $x$ , and the output is described in the function body. It will add 1 to whatever value  $x$  is and return that result. When we apply this function to a value, such as 1, we substitute the value in for  $x$ :

$$f(1) = 1 + 1$$

---

values in range sets need not be unique, and in practice very often are not unique; that is, the same value can appear multiple times in that set. Every value in a range must be a member of the function's codomain.

$f$  applied to 1 equals  $1 + 1$ . That tells us how to map the input to an output: 1 added to 1 becomes 2:

$$f(1) = 2$$

Understanding functions in this way — as a mapping of a set of inputs to a set of outputs — is crucial to understanding functional programming.

## 1.4 The structure of lambda terms

The lambda calculus has three basic components, or *lambda terms*: expressions, variables, and abstractions. The word *expression* refers to a superset of all those things: an expression can be a variable name, an abstraction, or a combination of those things. The simplest expression is a single variable. Variables here have no meaning or value; they are just names for potential inputs to functions.

An *abstraction* is a *function*. It is a lambda term that has a head (a lambda) and a body and is applied to an argument. An *argument* is an input value.

Abstractions consist of two parts: the *head* and the *body*. The head of the function is a  $\lambda$  (lambda) followed by a variable name. The body of the function is another expression. So, a simple function might look like this:

$$\lambda x.x$$

The variable named in the head is the *parameter* and *binds* all instances of that same variable in the body of the function. That means, when we apply this function to an argument, each  $x$  in the body of the function will have the value of that argument. We'll demonstrate this in the next section.

In the previous section, we were talking about functions called  $f$ , but the lambda abstraction  $\lambda x.x$  has no name. It is an *anonymous function*. A named function can be called by name by another function; an anonymous function cannot.

Let's break down the basic structure:

$$\lambda \ x \ . \ x$$

$$\wedge \ \top \ \wedge$$

└── the extent of the head of the lambda.

$\lambda x . x$

^── the single parameter of the function. This binds any variables with the same name in the body of the function.

$\lambda x . x$

^— body, the expression the lambda returns when applied. This is a bound variable.

The dot (.) separates the parameters of the lambda from the function body.

## Alpha equivalence

Often when people express this function in lambda calculus you'll see something like

$$\lambda x.x$$

The variable  $x$  here is not semantically meaningful except in its role in that single expression. Because of this, there's a form of equivalence between lambda terms called *alpha equivalence*. This is a way of saying that:

$$\lambda x.x$$

$$\lambda d.d$$

$$\lambda z.z$$

all mean the same thing. They're all the same function.

Let's look next at what happens when we apply this abstraction to a value.

## 1.5 Beta reduction

When we apply a function to an argument, we substitute the input expression for all instances of bound variables within the body of

the abstraction. You also eliminate the head of the abstraction, since its only purpose was to bind a variable. This process is called *beta reduction*.

Let's use the function we had above:

$$\lambda x.x$$

We'll do our first beta reduction using a number.<sup>2</sup> We apply the function above to 2, substitute 2 for each bound variable in the body of the function, and eliminate the head:

$$\begin{array}{c} (\lambda x.x) 2 \\ 2 \end{array}$$

The only bound variable is the single  $x$ , so applying this function to 2 returns 2. This function is the *identity* function.<sup>3</sup> All it does is accept a single argument  $x$  and return that same argument. The  $x$  has no inherent meaning, but, because it is bound in the head of this function, when the function is applied to an argument, all instances of  $x$  within the function body must have the same value.

Let's use an example that mixes some arithmetic into our lambda calculus. We use the parentheses here to clarify that the body expression is  $x + 1$ . In other words, we are not applying the function to the 1:

$$(\lambda x.x + 1)$$

What is the result if we apply this abstraction to 2? How about to 10?

Beta reduction is this process of applying a lambda term to an argument, replacing the bound variables with the value of the argument, and eliminating the head. Eliminating the head tells you the function has been applied.

We can also apply our identity function to another lambda abstraction:

---

<sup>2</sup>The lambda calculus can derive numbers from lambda abstractions, rather than using the numerals we are familiar with, but the applications can become quite cumbersome and difficult to read.

<sup>3</sup> Note that this is the same as the identity function in mathematical notation:  $f(x) = x$ . One difference is that  $f(x) = x$  is a declaration involving a function named  $f$  while the above lambda abstraction *is* a function.

$$(\lambda x.x)(\lambda y.y)$$

In this case, we'd substitute the entire abstraction in for  $x$ . We'll use a new syntax here,  $[x := z]$ , to indicate that  $z$  will be substituted for all occurrences of  $x$  (here  $z$  is the function  $\lambda y.y$ ). We reduce this application like this:

$$\begin{array}{c} (\lambda x.x)(\lambda y.y) \\ [x := (\lambda y.y)] \\ \lambda y.y \end{array}$$

Our final result is another identity function. There is no argument to apply it to, so we have nothing to reduce.

Once more, but this time we'll add another argument:

$$(\lambda x.x)(\lambda y.y)z$$

Applications in the lambda calculus are *left associative*. That is, unless specific parentheses suggest otherwise, they associate, or group, to the left. So, this:

$$(\lambda x.x)(\lambda y.y)z$$

can be rewritten as:

$$((\lambda x.x)(\lambda y.y))z$$

Onward with the reduction:

$$\begin{array}{c} ((\lambda x.x)(\lambda y.y))z \\ [x := (\lambda y.y)] \\ (\lambda y.y)z \\ [y := z] \\ z \end{array}$$

We can't reduce this any further as there is nothing left to apply, and we know nothing about  $z$ .

We'll look at functions below that have multiple heads and also *free variables* (that is, variables in the body that are not bound by



the head), but the basic process will remain the same. The process of beta reduction stops when there are either no more heads, or lambdas, left to apply or no more arguments to apply functions to. A computation therefore consists of an initial lambda expression (or two, if you want to separate the function and its input) plus a finite sequence of lambda terms, each deduced from the preceding term by one application of beta reduction. We keep following the rules of application, substituting arguments in for bound variables until there are no more heads left to evaluate or no more arguments to apply them to.

### Free variables

The purpose of the head of the function is to tell us which variables to replace when we apply our function, that is, to bind the variables. A bound variable must have the same value throughout the expression.

But sometimes the body expression has variables that are not named in the head. We call those variables *free variables*. In the following expression:

$$\lambda x.xy$$

The  $x$  in the body is a bound variable because it is named in the head of the function, while the  $y$  is a free variable because it is not. When we apply this function to an argument, nothing can be done with the  $y$ . It remains irreducible.

That whole abstraction can be applied to an argument,  $z$ , like this:  $(\lambda x.xy)z$ . We'll show an intermediate step, using the  $:=$  syntax we introduced above, that most lambda calculus literature does not show:

1.  $(\lambda x.xy)z$

We apply the lambda to the argument  $z$ .

2.  $(\lambda[x := z].xy)$

Since  $x$  is the bound variable, all instances of  $x$  in the body of the function will be replaced with  $z$ . The head will be eliminated, and we replace any  $x$  in the body with a  $z$ .

3.  $zy$

The head has been applied away, and there are no more heads

or bound variables. Since we know nothing about  $z$  or  $y$ , we can reduce this no further.

Note that alpha equivalence does not apply to free variables. That is,  $\lambda x.xz$  and  $\lambda x.xy$  are not equivalent because  $z$  and  $y$  might be different things. However,  $\lambda xy.yx$  and  $\lambda ab.ba$  are equivalent due to alpha equivalence, as are  $\lambda x.xz$  and  $\lambda y.yz$  because the free variable is left alone.

## 1.6 Multiple arguments

Each lambda can only bind one parameter and can only accept one argument. Functions that require multiple arguments have multiple, nested heads. When you apply it once and eliminate the first (leftmost) head, the next one is applied and so on. This formulation was originally discovered by Moses Schönfinkel in the 1920s but was later rediscovered and named after Haskell Curry and is commonly called *currying*.

What we mean by this description is that the following:

$$\lambda xy.xy$$

is a convenient shorthand for two nested lambdas (one for each argument,  $x$  and  $y$ ):

$$\lambda x.(\lambda y.xy)$$

When you apply the first argument, you're binding  $x$ , eliminating the outer lambda, and have  $\lambda y.xy$  with  $x$  being whatever the outer lambda was bound to.

To try to make this a little more concrete, let's suppose that we apply these lambdas to specific values. First, a simple example with the identity function:

1.  $\lambda x.x$
2.  $(\lambda x.x) 1$
3.  $[x := 1]$
4.  $1$

Now let's look at a “multiple” argument lambda:

1.  $\lambda xy.xy$
2.  $(\lambda xy.xy) 1 2$
3.  $(\lambda x(\lambda y.xy)) 1 2$
4.  $[x := 1]$
5.  $(\lambda y.1y) 2$
6.  $[y := 2]$
7.  $1 2$

That wasn't too interesting because it's like nested identity functions! We can't meaningfully apply a 1 to a 2. Let's try something different:

1.  $\lambda xy.xy$
2.  $(\lambda xy.xy)(\lambda z.a) 1$
3.  $(\lambda x(\lambda y.xy))(\lambda z.a) 1$
4.  $[x := (\lambda z.a)]$
5.  $(\lambda y.(\lambda z.a)y) 1$
6.  $[y := 1]$
7.  $(\lambda z.a) 1$  We still can apply this one more time.
8.  $[z := 1]$  But there is no  $z$  in the body of the function, so there is nowhere to put a 1. We eliminate the head, and the final result is
9.  $a$

It's more common in academic lambda calculus materials to refer to abstract variables rather than concrete values. The process of beta reduction is the same, regardless. The lambda calculus is a process or method, like a game with a few simple rules for transforming lambdas, but no specific meaning. We've just introduced concrete values to make the reduction somewhat easier to see.

The next example uses only abstract variables. Due to alpha equivalence, you sometimes see expressions in lambda calculus literature such as:

$$(\lambda xy.xxy)(\lambda x.xy)(\lambda x.xz)$$

The substitution process can become a tangle of  $x$ s that are not the same  $x$  because each was bound by a different head. To help make the reduction easier to read we're going to use different variables in each abstraction, but it's worth emphasizing that the name of the variable (the letter) has no meaning or significance:

$$1. (\lambda xyz.xz(yz))(\lambda mn.m)(\lambda p.p)$$

$$2. (\lambda x.\lambda y.\lambda z.xz(yz))(\lambda m.\lambda n.m)(\lambda p.p)$$

We've not reduced or applied anything here, just made the currying explicit.

$$3. (\lambda y.\lambda z.(\lambda m.\lambda n.m)z(yz))(\lambda p.p)$$

Our first reduction step was to apply the outermost lambda, which was binding the  $x$ , to the first argument,  $(\lambda m.\lambda n.m)$ .

$$4. \lambda z.(\lambda m.\lambda n.m)(z)((\lambda p.p)z)$$

We applied the  $y$  and replaced the single occurrence of  $y$  with the next argument, the term  $\lambda p.p$ . The outermost lambda binding  $z$  is, at this point, irreducible because it has no argument to apply to. What remains is to go inside the terms one layer at a time until we find something reducible.

$$5. \lambda z.(\lambda n.z)((\lambda p.p)z)$$

We can apply the lambda binding  $m$  to the argument  $z$ . We keep searching for terms we can apply. The next thing we can apply is the lambda binding  $n$  to the lambda term  $((\lambda p.p)z)$ .

$$6. \lambda z.z$$

In the final step, the reduction takes a turn that might look slightly odd. Here the outermost, leftmost *reducible* term is  $\lambda n.z$  applied to the entirety of  $((\lambda p.p)z)$ . As we saw in an example above, it doesn't matter what  $n$  got bound to,  $\lambda n.z$  unconditionally tosses the argument and returns  $z$ . So, we are left with an irreducible lambda expression.

**Intermission: Equivalence Exercises**

We'll give you a lambda expression. Keeping in mind both alpha equivalence and how multiple heads are nested, choose an answer that is equivalent to the listed lambda term.

1.  $\lambda xy.xz$

a)  $\lambda xz.xz$

b)  $\lambda mn.mz$

c)  $\lambda z(\lambda x.xz)$

2.  $\lambda xy.xxy$

a)  $\lambda mn.mnp$

b)  $\lambda x(\lambda y.xy)$

c)  $\lambda a(\lambda b.aab)$

3.  $\lambda xyz.zx$

a)  $\lambda x.(\lambda y.(\lambda z.z))$

b)  $\lambda tos.st$

c)  $\lambda mnp.mn$

**1.7 Evaluation is simplification**

There are multiple normal forms in lambda calculus, but here when we refer to normal form we mean *beta normal form*. Beta normal form is when you cannot beta reduce (apply lambdas to arguments) the terms any further. This corresponds to a fully evaluated expression, or, in programming, a fully executed program. This is important to know so that you know when you're done evaluating an expression. It's also valuable to have an appreciation for evaluation as a form of simplification when you get to the Haskell code as well.

Don't be intimidated by calling the reduced form of an expression its normal form. When you want to say "2," do you say 2000/1000 each time or do you just say 2? The expression 2000/1000 is not fully evaluated because the division function has not been fully applied (two arguments), so it could be reduced, or evaluated. In other words,

there's a simpler form it can be reduced to — the number two. The normal form, therefore, is 2.

Similarly, the normal form of the following is 600:

$$(10 + 2) * 100 / 2$$

We cannot reduce the number 600 any further. There are no more functions that we can beta reduce. Normal form just means there is nothing left that can be reduced.

The identity function,  $\lambda x.x$ , is fully reduced (that is, in normal form) because it hasn't yet been applied to anything. However,  $(\lambda x.x)z$  is *not* in beta normal form because the identity function hasn't been applied to a free variable  $z$  and hasn't been reduced. If we did reduce it, the final result, in beta normal form, would be  $z$ .

## 1.8 Combinators

A combinator is a lambda term with no free variables. Combinators, as the name suggests, serve only to *combine* the arguments it is given.

So the following are combinators because every term in the body occurs in the head:

1.  $\lambda x.x$   
 $x$  is the only variable and is bound because it is bound by the enclosing lambda.
2.  $\lambda xy.x$
3.  $\lambda xyz.xz(yz)$

And the following are not because there's one or more free variables:

1.  $\lambda y.x$   
Here  $y$  is bound (it occurs in the head of the lambda) but  $x$  is free.
2.  $\lambda x.xz$   
 $x$  is bound and is used in the body, but  $z$  is free.

We won't have a lot to say about combinators per se. The point is to call out a special class of lambda expressions that can *only* combine the arguments it is given, without injecting any new values or random data.

## 1.9 Divergence

Not all reducible lambda terms reduce neatly to a beta normal form. This isn't because they're already fully reduced, but rather because they *diverge*. Divergence here means that the reduction process never terminates or ends. Reducing terms should ordinarily *converge* to beta normal form, and divergence is the opposite of convergence, or normal form. Here's an example of a lambda term called *omega* that diverges:

1.  $(\lambda x.xx)(\lambda x.xx)$   
 $x$  in the first lambda's head becomes the second lambda
2.  $([x := (\lambda x.xx)]xx)$   
 Using  $[var := expr]$  to denote what  $x$  has been bound to.
3.  $(\lambda x.xx)(\lambda x.xx)$   
 Substituting  $(\lambda x.xx)$  for each for each occurrence of  $x$ . We're back to where we started and this reduction process never ends — we can say omega diverges.

This matters in programming because terms that diverge are terms that don't produce an *answer* or meaningful result. Understanding what will terminate means understanding what programs will do useful work and return the answer we want. We'll cover this idea more later.

## 1.10 Summary

The main points you should take away from this chapter are:

- Functional programming is based on expressions that include standalone variables or constant values, expressions combined with other expressions, and functions.

- Functions have a head and a body and are those expressions that can be applied to arguments and reduced, or evaluated, to a result.
- Variables may be bound in the function declaration, and every time a bound variable shows up in a function, it has the same value.
- All functions take one argument and return one result.
- Functions are a mapping of a unique set of inputs to a unique set of outputs. Given the same input, they always return the same result.

These things all apply to Haskell, as they do to any pure functional languages, because semantically Haskell is a lambda calculus. Haskell is a *typed* lambda calculus — more on types later — with a lot of surface-level decoration sprinkled on top, to make it easier for humans to write, but the semantics of the core language are the same as the lambda calculus. That is, the meaning of Haskell programs is centered around evaluating expressions rather than executing instructions, although Haskell has a way to execute instructions, too. We will still be making reference to the lambda calculus when we write about all the later, apparently very complex topics: function composition, monads, parser combinators. Don't worry if you don't know those words yet. If you understood this chapter, you have the foundation you need to understand them all.

## 1.11 Chapter Exercises

We're going to do the following exercises a bit differently than what you'll see in the rest of the book, as we will be providing some answers and explanations for the questions below.

**Combinators** Determine if each of the following are combinators or not.

1.  $\lambda x.xxx$
2.  $\lambda xy.zx$



3.  $\lambda xyz.xy(zx)$
4.  $\lambda xyz.xy(zxy)$
5.  $\lambda xy.xy(zxy)$

**Normal form or diverge?** Determine if each of the following can be reduced to a normal form or if they diverge.

1.  $\lambda x.xxx$
2.  $(\lambda z.zz)(\lambda y.yy)$
3.  $(\lambda x.xxx)z$

**Beta reduce** Evaluate (that is, beta reduce) each of the following expressions to normal form. We *strongly* recommend writing out the steps on paper with a pencil or pen.

1.  $(\lambda abc.cba)zz(\lambda wv.w)$
  2.  $(\lambda x.\lambda y.xyy)(\lambda a.a)b$
  3.  $(\lambda y.y)(\lambda x.xx)(\lambda z.zq)$
  4.  $(\lambda z.z)(\lambda z.zz)(\lambda z.zy)$
- Hint: alpha equivalence.
5.  $(\lambda x.\lambda y.xyy)(\lambda y.y)y$
  6.  $(\lambda a.aa)(\lambda b.ba)c$
  7.  $(\lambda xyz.xz(yz))(\lambda x.z)(\lambda x.a)$

## 1.12 Answers

Please note: At this time, this is the only chapter in the book for which we have provided answers. We provide them here due to the importance of being able to check your understanding of this material and the relative difficulty of checking answers that you probably wrote by hand in a notebook.

### Combinators

1.  $\lambda x.xxx$  is indeed a combinator, it refers only to the variable  $x$  which is introduced as an argument.
2.  $\lambda xy.zx$  is not a combinator, the variable  $z$  was not introduced as an argument and is thus a free variable.
3.  $\lambda xyz.xy(zx)$  is a combinator, all terms are bound. The head is  $\lambda xyz.$  and the body is  $xy(zx)$ . None of the arguments in the head have been applied so it's irreducible. The variables  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  are all bound in the head and are not free. This makes the lambda a combinator - no occurrences of free variables.
4.  $\lambda xyz.xy(zxy)$  is a combinator. The lambda has the head  $\lambda xyz.$  and the body:  $xy(zxy)$ . Again, none of the arguments have been applied so it's irreducible. All that is different is that the bound variable  $y$  is referenced twice rather than once. There are still no free variables so this is also a combinator.
5.  $\lambda xy.xy(zxy)$  is not a combinator,  $z$  is free. Note that  $z$  isn't bound in the head.

### Normal form or diverge?

1.  $\lambda x.xxx$  doesn't diverge, has no further reduction steps. If it had been applied to itself, it *would* diverge, but by itself does not as it is already in normal form.
2.  $(\lambda z.zz)(\lambda y.yy)$  diverges, it never reaches a point where the reduction is done. This is the *omega* term we showed you earlier, just with different names for the bindings. It's *alpha equivalent* to  $(\lambda x.xx)(\lambda x.xx)$ .
3.  $(\lambda x.xxx)z$  doesn't diverge, it reduces to  $zzz$ .

**Beta reduce** The following are evaluated in *normal order*, which is where terms in the outer-most and left-most positions get evaluated (applied) first. This means that if all terms are in the outermost position (none are nested), then it's left-to-right application order.

$$\begin{aligned}
 1. & (\lambda abc.cba)zz(\lambda wv.w) \\
 & (\lambda a.\lambda b.\lambda c.cba)(z)z(\lambda w.\lambda v.w) \\
 & (\lambda b.\lambda c.cbz)(z)(\lambda w.\lambda v.w) \\
 & (\lambda c.czz)(\lambda w.\lambda v.w) \\
 & (\lambda w.\lambda v.w)(z)z \\
 & (\lambda v.z)(z) \\
 & z
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 2. & (\lambda x.\lambda y.xyy)(\lambda a.a)b \\
 & (\lambda y.(\lambda a.a)yy)(b) \\
 & (\lambda a.a)(b)b \\
 & bb
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 3. & (\lambda y.y)(\lambda x.xx)(\lambda z.zq) \\
 & (\lambda x.xx)(\lambda z.zq) \\
 & (\lambda z.zq)(\lambda z.zq) \\
 & (\lambda z.zq)(q) \\
 & qq
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 4. & (\lambda z.z)(\lambda z.zz)(\lambda z.zy) \\
 & (\lambda z.zz)(\lambda z.zy) \\
 & (\lambda z.zy)(\lambda z.zy) \\
 & (\lambda z.zy)(y) \\
 & yy
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 5. & (\lambda x.\lambda y.xyy)(\lambda y.y)y \\
 & (\lambda y.(\lambda y.y)yy)(y) \\
 & (\lambda y.y)(y)y \\
 & yy
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 6. & (\lambda a.aa)(\lambda b.ba)c \\
 & (\lambda b.ba)(\lambda b.ba)c \\
 & (\lambda b.ba)(a)c \\
 & aac
 \end{aligned}$$

7. Steps we took

- a)  $(\lambda xyz.xz(yz))(\lambda x.z)(\lambda x.a)$
- b)  $(\lambda x.\lambda y.\lambda z.xz(yz))(\lambda x.z)(\lambda x.a)$
- c)  $(\lambda y.\lambda z1.(\lambda x.z)z1(yz1))(\lambda x.a)$
- d)  $(\lambda z1.(\lambda x.z)(z1)((\lambda x.a)z1))$
- e)  $(\lambda z1.z((\lambda x.a)(z1)))$
- f)  $(\lambda z1.za)$

How we got there, step by step

- a) Our expression we'll reduce.
- b) Add the implied lambdas to introduce each argument.
- c) Apply the leftmost  $x$  and bind it to  $(x.z)$ , rename leftmost  $z$  to  $z1$  for clarity to avoid confusion with the other  $z$ . Hereafter, "z" is exclusively the  $z$  in  $(x.z)$ .
- d) Apply  $y$ , it gets bound to  $(x.a)$ .
- e) Can't apply  $z1$  to anything, evaluation strategy is normal order so leftmost outermost is the order of the day. Our leftmost, outermost lambda has no remaining arguments to be applied so we now examine the terms nested within to see if they are in normal form.  $(x.z)$  gets applied to  $z1$ , tosses the  $z1$  away and returns  $z$ .  $z$  is now being applied to  $((x.a)(z1))$ .
- f) Cannot reduce  $z$  further, it's free and we know nothing, so we go inside yet another nesting and reduce  $((x.a)(z1))$ .  $x.a$  gets applied to  $z1$ , but tosses it away and returns the free variable  $a$ . The  $a$  is now part of the body of that expression. All of our terms are in normal order now.

### 1.13 Definitions

1. The *lambda* in lambda calculus is the greek letter  $\lambda$  used to introduce, or abstract, arguments for binding in an expression.
2. A lambda *abstraction* is an anonymous function or lambda term.

$(\lambda x.x + 1)$

Here the head of the lambda  $x$ . is abstracting out the term  $x + 1$ . We can apply it to any  $x$  and recompute different results for each  $x$  we applied the lambda to.

3. *Application* is how one evaluates or reduces lambdas, this binds the argument to whatever the lambda was applied to. Computations are performed in lambda calculus by applying lambdas to arguments until you run out of arguments to apply lambdas to.

$(\lambda x.x)1$

This example reduces to 1, the identity lambda  $x.x$  was applied to the value 1,  $x$  was bound to 1, and the lambda's body is just  $x$ , so it just kicks the 1 out. In a sense, applying the lambda  $x.x$  *consumed* it. We *reduced* the amount of structure we had.

4. *Lambda calculus* is a formal system for expressing programs in terms of abstraction and application.
5. *Normal order* is a common evaluation strategy in lambda calculi. Normal order means evaluating (ie, applying or beta reducing) the leftmost outermost lambdas first, evaluating terms nested within after you've run out of arguments to apply. Normal order isn't how Haskell code is evaluated - it's *call-by-need* instead. We'll explain this more later. Answers to the evaluation exercises were written in normal order.

### 1.14 Follow-up resources

These are *optional* and intended only to offer suggestions on how you might deepen your understanding of the preceding topic. Ordered approximately from most approachable to most thorough.

1. Raul Rojas. A Tutorial Introduction to the Lambda Calculus  
<http://www.inf.fu-berlin.de/lehre/WS03/alpi/lambda.pdf>
2. Henk Barendregt; Erik Barendsen. Introduction to Lambda Calculus  
<http://www.cse.chalmers.se/research/group/logic/TypesSS05/Extra/geuvers.pdf>
3. Jean-Yves Girard; P. Taylor; Yves Lafon. Proofs and Types  
<http://www.paultaylor.eu/stable/prot.pdf>

## Chapter 2

# Hello, Haskell!

Functions are beacons of  
constancy in a sea of turmoil.

---

Mike Hammond

## 2.1 Hello, Haskell

Welcome to your first step in learning Haskell. Before you begin with the main course of this book, you will need to install the tools necessary to work with the language in order to complete the exercises as you work through the book. You can find the installation instructions online at <https://github.com/bitenyapp/learnhaskell>. If you wish, you can complete the installation and practice only for GHCi now and wait to install Cabal, but you will need Cabal up and running for the chapter about building projects. The rest of this chapter will assume that you have completed the installation and are ready to begin working.

In this chapter, you will

- use Haskell code in the interactive environment and also from source files;
- understand the building blocks of Haskell: expressions and functions;
- learn some features of Haskell syntax and conventions of good Haskell style;
- modify simple functions.

## 2.2 Interacting with Haskell code

Haskell offers two primary ways of writing and compiling code. The first is inputting it directly into the interactive environment known as GHCi, or the REPL. The second is typing it into a text editor, saving, and then loading that source file into GHCi. This section offers an introduction to each method.

### Using the REPL

REPL is an acronym short for Read-Eval-Print Loop. REPLs are interactive programming environments where you can input code, have it evaluated by the language implementation, and see the result. They originated with `Lisp` but are now common to modern programming languages including Haskell.



Assuming you've completed your installation, you should be able to open your terminal or command prompt, enter `ghci`, hit enter, and see something like the following:

```
GHCi, version 7.8.3
Loading package ghc-prim ... linking ... done.
Loading package integer-gmp ... linking ... done.
Loading package base ... linking ... done.
Prelude>
```

It might not be exactly the same, depending on your configuration, but it should be very similar. If you are just downloading GHC for the first time, you may have the newest release number, which is 7.10.1. The newest version includes some important changes which we will cover in due time.

Now try entering some simple arithmetic at your prompt:

```
Prelude> 2 + 2
4
Prelude> 7 < 9
True
Prelude> 10 ^ 2
100
```

If you can enter simple equations at the prompt and get the expected results, congratulations — you are now a functional programmer! More to the point, your REPL is working well and you are ready to proceed.

To exit GHCi, use the command `:quit` or `:q`.

### Abbreviating GHCi commands

Throughout the book, we'll be using GHCi commands, such as `:quit` and `:info` in the REPL. We will present them in the text spelled out, but they can generally be abbreviated to just the colon and the first letter. That is, `:quit` becomes `:q`, `:info` becomes `:i` and so forth. It's good to type the word out the first few times you use it, to help you remember what the abbreviation stands for, but as you remember the commands, we will start abbreviating them and you will, too.

## Saving scripts and loading them

As nice as REPLs are, usually you want to store code in a file so you can build it incrementally. Almost all nontrivial programming you do will involve editing libraries or applications made of nested directories containing files with Haskell code in them. The basic process is to have the code and imports (more on that later) in a file, load it into the REPL, and interact with it there as you’re building, modifying, and testing it.

You’ll need a file named `test.hs`. The `.hs` file extension denotes a Haskell source code file. Depending on your setup and the workflow you’re comfortable with, you can make a file by that name and then open it in your text editor or you can open your text editor, open a new file, and then save the file with that file name.

Then enter the following code into the file and save it:

```
sayHello :: String -> IO ()  
sayHello x = putStrLn ("Hello, " ++ x ++ "!" )
```

Here, `::` is a way to write down a type signature. You can think of it as saying, “has the type.” So, `sayHello` has the type `String -> IO ()`. These first chapters are focused on syntax, so if you don’t understand what types or type signatures are, that’s okay — we will explain them soon. For now, keep going.

Then in the same directory where you’ve stored your `test.hs` file, open your `ghci` REPL and do the following:

```
Prelude> :load test.hs  
Prelude> sayHello "Tina"  
Hello, Tina!  
Prelude>
```

After using `:load` to load your `test.hs`, the `sayHello` function is visible in the REPL and you can pass it a string argument, such as “Tina” (note the quotation marks), and see the output.

Note that we used the command `:load` to load the file. Special commands that only `GHCi` understands begin with the `:` character. `:load` is *not* Haskell code; it’s just a `GHCi` feature. We will see more of these commands throughout the book.

## 2.3 Understanding expressions

Everything in Haskell is an expression or declaration. Expressions may be values, combinations of values, and/or functions applied to values. Expressions evaluate to a result. In the case of a literal value, the evaluation is trivial as it only evaluates to itself. In the case of an arithmetic equation, the evaluation process is the process of computing the operator and its arguments, as you might expect. But, even though not all of your programs will be about doing arithmetic, all of Haskell's expressions work in a similar way, evaluating to a result in a predictable, transparent manner. Expressions are the building blocks of our programs, and programs themselves are one big expression made of smaller expressions. Declarations we'll cover more later, but it suffices to say for now that they are top-level bindings which lets us give names to expressions which we can use to refer to them multiple times without copying and pasting the expressions.

The following are all expressions:

```
1
1 + 1
"Icarus"
```

Each can be examined in the GHCi REPL where you can enter the code at the prompt, then hit 'enter' to see the result of evaluating the expression. The numeric value 1, for example, has no further reduction step, so it stands for itself. If you haven't already, open up your terminal and at the prompt, enter `ghci` to get your REPL going and start following along with the code examples.

When we enter this into GHCi:

```
Prelude> 1
1
```

We see 1 printed because it cannot be reduced any further.

In the next example, GHCi reduces the expression `1 + 2` to 3, then prints the number 3. The reduction terminates with the value 3 because there are no more terms to evaluate:

```
Prelude> 1 + 2
3
```

Expressions can be nested in numbers limited only by our willingness to take the time to write them down, much like in arithmetic:

```
Prelude> (1 + 2) * 3
9
Prelude> ((1 + 2) * 3) + 100
109
```

You can keep expanding on this, nesting as many expressions as you'd like and evaluating them. But, we don't have to limit ourselves to expressions such as these.

**Normal form** We say that expressions are in *normal form* when there are no more evaluation steps that can be taken, or, put differently, when they've reached an irreducible form. The normal form of  $1 + 1$  is 2. Why? Because the expression  $1 + 1$  can be evaluated or reduced by applying the addition operator to the two arguments. In other words,  $1 + 1$  is a reducible expression, while 2 is an expression but is no longer reducible — it can't evaluate into anything other than itself. Reducible expressions are also called *redexes*. While we will generally refer to this process as evaluation or reduction, you may also hear it called “normalizing” or “executing” an expression.

## 2.4 Functions

Expressions are the most basic unit of a Haskell program, and functions are a specific type of expression. Functions in Haskell are related to functions in mathematics, which is to say they map an input or set of inputs to an output. A function is an expression that is applied to an argument and always returns a result. Because they are built purely of expressions, they will always evaluate to the same result when given the same values.

As in the lambda calculus, all functions in Haskell take one argument and return one result. The way to think of this is that, in Haskell, when it seems we are passing multiple arguments to a function, we are actually applying a series of nested functions, each to one argument. This is called currying, and it will be addressed in greater detail later.

You may have noticed that the expressions we've looked at so far use literal values with no variables or abstractions. Functions allow us to abstract the parts of code we'd want to reuse for different literal values. Instead of nesting addition expressions, for example, we could write a function that would add the value we wanted wherever we called that function.

For example, say you had a bunch of simple expressions you needed to multiply by 3. You could keep entering them as individual expressions like this:

```
Prelude> (1 + 2) * 3
9
Prelude> (4 + 5) * 3
27
Prelude> (10 + 5) * 3
45
```

But you don't want to do that. Functions are how we factor out the pattern into something we can reuse with different inputs. You do that by naming the function and introducing an independent variable as the argument to the function. Functions can also appear in the expressions that form the bodies of other functions or be used as arguments to functions, just as any other value can be.

In this case, we have a series of expressions that we want to multiply by 3. Let's think in terms of a function: what part is common to all the expressions? What part varies? We know we have to give functions a name and apply them to an argument, so what could we call this function and what sort of argument might we apply it to?

The common pattern is the `* 3` bit. The part that varies is the addition expression before it, so we will make that a variable. We will name our function and apply it to the variable. When we input a value for the variable, our function will evaluate that, multiply it by 3, and return a result. In the next section, we will formalize this into a proper Haskell function.

## Defining functions

Function definitions all share a few things in common. First, they start with the name of the function. This is followed by the formal

*parameters*<sup>1</sup> of the function, separated only by white space. Next there is an equal sign, which, notably, does not imply equality of value. Finally there is an expression that is the body of the function and can be evaluated to return a value.

Defining functions in a normal Haskell source code file and in GHCi are a little different. To introduce definitions of values or functions in GHCi you must use `let`, which looks like this:

```
Prelude> let triple x = x * 3
```

In a source file we would enter it like this:

```
triple x = x * 3
```

Let's examine each part of that:

```
triple x  =  x * 3
-- [1]  [2] [3] [ 4 ]
```

1. Name of the function we are defining. Note that it is lowercase.
2. Argument to our function. The arguments to our function correspond to the “head” of a lambda.
3. The `=` is used to define (or *declare*) values and functions. Reminder: this is *not* how we express equality between two values in Haskell.
4. Body of the function, an expression that could be evaluated if the function is applied to a value. What `triple` is applied to will be the value which the argument *x* is bound to. Here the expression `x * 3` constitutes the body of the function. So, if you have an expression like `triple 6`, *x* is bound to 6. Since you've applied the function, you can also replace the fully applied function with its body and bound arguments.

---

<sup>1</sup> In practice, the terms ‘argument’ and ‘parameter’ are often used interchangeably, but there is a difference. ‘Argument’ properly refers to the value(s) that are passed to the function's parameters when the function is applied, not to the variables that represent them in the function definition (or those in the type signature). See the definitions at the end of the chapter for more information.

**Capitalization matters!** Names of modules and names of types, such as `Integer`, start with a capital letter. They can also be `CamelCase` when you want to maintain readability of multiple-word names.

Function names start with lowercase letters. Sometimes for clarity in function names, you may want `camelBack` style, and that is good style provided the very first letter remains lowercase.

Variables are lowercase.

**Playing with the triple function** First, try entering the `triple` function directly into the REPL using `let`. Now call the function by name and introduce a numeric value for the  $x$  argument:

```
Prelude> triple 2
6
```

Next, enter the second version (the one without `let`) into a source file and save the file. Load it into `GHCi`, using the `:load` or `:l` command. Once it's loaded, you can call the function at the prompt using the function name, `triple`, followed by a numeric value, just as you did in the REPL example above. Try using different values for  $x$  — integer values or other arithmetic expressions. Then try changing the function itself in the source file and reloading it to see what changes.

## Evaluating functions

Calling the function by name and introducing a value for the  $x$  argument makes our function a reducible expression. In a pure functional language like Haskell, we can replace applications of functions with their definitions and get the same result, just like in math. As a result when we see:

```
triple 2
```

We can know that, since `triple` is defined as  $x = x * 3$ , the expression is equivalent to:

```
triple          2
(triple x = x * 3) 2
(triple 2 = 2 * 3)
2 * 3
6
```

What we’ve done here is apply `triple` to the value `2` and then reduce the expression to the final result `6`. Our expression `triple 2` is in canonical or *normal form* when it reaches the number `6` because the value `6` has no remaining reducible expressions.

You may notice that after loading code from a source file, the GHCi prompt is no longer `Prelude>`. To return to the `Prelude>` prompt, use the command `:m`, which is short for `:module`. This will unload the file from GHCi, so the code in that file will no longer be in scope in your REPL.

## Conventions for variables

Haskell uses a lot of variables, and some conventions have developed. It’s not critical that you memorize this, because for the most part, these are merely conventions, but familiarizing yourself with them will help you read Haskell code.

Type variables (that is, variables in type signatures) generally start at *a* and go from there: *a*, *b*, *c*, and so forth. You may occasionally see them with numbers appended to them, e.g., *a1*.

Functions can be used as arguments and in that case are typically labeled with variables starting at *f* (followed by *g* and so on). They may sometimes have numbers appended (e.g., *f1*) and may also sometimes be decorated with the *'* character as in *f'*. This would be pronounced “eff-prime,” should you have need to say it aloud. Usually this denotes a function that is closely related to or a helper function to function *f*. Functions may also be given variable names that are not on this spectrum as a mnemonic. For example, a function that results in a list of prime numbers might be called *p*, or a function that fetches some text might be called *txt*. Variables do not have to be a single letter, though they often are.

Arguments to functions are most often given names starting at *x*, again occasionally seen numbered as in *x1*. Other single-letter



variable names may be chosen when they serve a mnemonic role, such as choosing  $r$  to represent a value that is the radius of a circle.

If you have a list of things you have named  $x$ , by convention that will usually be called  $xs$ , that is, the plural of  $x$ . You will see this convention often in the form  $(x:xs)$ , which means you have a list in which the head of the list is  $x$  and the rest of the list is  $xs$ .

All of these, though, are merely conventions, not definite rules. While we will generally adhere to the conventions in this book, any Haskell code you see out in the wild may not. Calling a type variable  $x$  instead of  $a$  is not going to break anything. As in the lambda calculus, the names don't have any inherent meaning. We offer this information as a descriptive guide of Haskell conventions, not as rules you must follow in your own code.

### Exercises: Comprehension Check

1. Given the following lines of code as they might appear in a source file, how would you change them to use them directly in the REPL?

```
half x = x / 2
```

```
square x = x * x
```

2. Write one function that can accept one argument and work for all the following expressions. Be sure to name the function.

```
3.14 * (5 * 5)
```

```
3.14 * (10 * 10)
```

```
3.14 * (2 * 2)
```

```
3.14 * (4 * 4)
```

## 2.5 Infix operators

Functions in Haskell default to prefix syntax, meaning that the function being applied is at the beginning of the expression rather than the middle. We saw that with our `triple` function, and we see it with standard functions such as the `identity` or `id` function. This function just returns whatever value it is given as an argument:

```
Prelude> id 1
1
```

While this is the default syntax for functions, not all functions are prefix. There are a group of operators, such as the arithmetic operators we've been using, that are indeed functions (they apply to arguments to produce an output) but appear by default in an infix position.

Operators are functions which can be used in infix style. All operators are functions; not all functions are operators. While `triple` and `id` are prefix functions (*not* operators), the `+` function is an infix operator:

```
Prelude> 1 + 1
2
```

Now we'll try a few other mathematical operators:

```
Prelude> 100 + 100
200
Prelude> 768395 * 21356345
16410108716275
Prelude> 123123 / 123
1001.0
Prelude> 476 - 36
440
Prelude> 10 / 4
2.5
```

You can sometimes use functions in an infix or prefix style, with a small change in syntax:

```
Prelude> 10 `div` 4
2
Prelude> div 10 4
2
```

## Associativity and precedence

As you may remember from your math classes, there's a default associativity and precedence to the infix operators  $(*)$ ,  $(+)$ ,  $(-)$ , and  $(/)$ .

We can ask GHCi for information such as associativity and precedence of operators and functions by using the `:info` command. When you ask GHCi for the `:info` about an operator or function, it provides the type information and tells you whether it's an infix operator with precedence. We will focus on the precedence and associativity for infix operators. Here's what the code in Prelude says for  $(*)$ ,  $(+)$ , and  $(-)$  at time of writing:

```
:info (*)
infixl 7  *
-- [1] [2] [3]

:info (+) (-)
infixl 6  +, -
--      [4]
```

1. `infixl` means infix operator, left associative
2. 7 is the precedence: higher is applied first, on a scale of 0-9.
3. Infix function name: in this case, multiplication
4. We use the comma here to assign left-associativity and precedence 6 for two functions  $(+)$  and  $(-)$

Here `infixl` means the operator associates to the left. Let's play with parentheses and see what this means. Continue to follow along with the code via the REPL:

```
-- this
2 * 3 * 4

-- is evaluated as if it was
(2 * 3) * 4

-- Because of left-associativity from infixl
```

Here's an example of a right-associative infix operator:

```
Prelude> :info (^)
infixr 8  ^
-- [1] [2] [3]
```

1. `infixr` means infix operator, right associative
2. 8 is the precedence. Higher precedence, indicated by higher numbers, is applied first, so this is higher precedence than multiplication (7), addition, or subtraction (both 6).
3. Infix function name: in this case, exponentiation.

It was hard to tell before why associativity mattered with multiplication, because multiplication is associative. So shifting the parentheses around never changes the result. Exponentiation, however, is not associative and thus makes a prime candidate for demonstrating left vs. right associativity.

```
Prelude> 2 ^ 3 ^ 4
2417851639229258349412352
Prelude> 2 ^ (3 ^ 4)
2417851639229258349412352
Prelude> (2 ^ 3) ^ 4
4096
```

As you can see, adding parentheses starting from the right-hand side of the expression when the operator is right-associative doesn't change anything. However, if we parenthesize from the *left*, we get a different result when the expression is evaluated.

Your intuitions about precedence, associativity, and parenthesization from math classes will generally hold in Haskell:

```
2 + 3 * 4
```

```
(2 + 3) * 4
```

What's the difference between these two? Why are they different?

### Exercises: Parentheses and Association

Below are some pairs of functions that are alike except for parenthesization. Read them carefully and decide if the parentheses change the results of the function. Check your work in GHCi.

1. a)  $8 + 7 * 9$   
b)  $(8 + 7) * 9$
2. a) `perimeter x y = (x * 2) + (y * 2)`  
b) `perimeter x y = x * 2 + y * 2`
3. a)  $f\ x = x / 2 + 9$   
b)  $f\ x = x / (2 + 9)$

## 2.6 Declaring values

The order of declarations in a source code file doesn't matter because GHCi loads the entire file at once, so it knows all the values that have been specified, no matter what order they appear in. On the other hand, when you enter them one-by-one into the REPL, the order does matter.

For example, we can declare a series of expressions in the REPL like this:

```
Prelude> let y = 10
Prelude> let x = 10 * 5 + y
Prelude> let myResult = x * 5
```

As we've seen above when we worked with the `triple` function, we have to use `let` to declare something in the REPL.

We can now just type the names of the values and hit enter to see their values:

```
Prelude> x
60
Prelude> y
10
Prelude> myResult
300
```

To declare the same values in a file, such as `learn.hs`, we write the following:

```
-- learn.hs
```

```
module Learn where
```

```
-- First, we declare the name of our module so  
-- it can be imported by name in a project.  
-- We won't be doing a project of this size  
-- for a while yet.
```

```
x = 10 * 5 + y
```

```
myResult = x * 5
```

```
y = 10
```

Remember module names are capitalized, unlike variable names. Also, in this variable name, we've used camelBack case: the first letter is still lowercase, but we use an uppercase to delineate a word boundary for readability.

## Troubleshooting

It is easy to make mistakes in the process of typing `learn.hs` into your editor. We'll look at a few common mistakes in this section. One thing to keep in mind is that indentation of Haskell code is significant and can change the meaning of the code. Incorrect indentation of code can also break your code. Reminder: use spaces *not* tabs to indent your source code.

In general, whitespace is significant in Haskell. Efficient use of whitespace makes the syntax more concise. This can take some getting used to if you've been working in another programming language. Whitespace is often the only mark of a function call, unless parentheses are necessary due to conflicting precedence. Trailing whitespace, that is, extraneous whitespace at the end of lines of code, is considered bad style.

In source code files, indentation is important and often replaces syntactic markers like curly brackets, semicolons, and parentheses.

The basic rule is that code that is part of an expression should be indented under the beginning of that expression, even when the beginning of the expression is not at the leftmost margin. Furthermore, parts of the expression that are grouped should be indented to the same level. For example, in a block of code introduced by `let` or `do`, you might see something like this:

```
let
```

```
  x = 3
```

```
  y = 4
```

```
-- or
```

```
let x = 3
```

```
    y = 4
```

```
-- Note that this code won't work directly in a
```

```
-- source file without embedding in a
```

```
-- top-level declaration
```

Notice that the two definitions that are part of the expression line up in either case. It is incorrect to write:

```
let x = 3
```

```
  y = 4
```

```
-- or
```

```
let
```

```
  x = 3
```

```
  y = 4
```

If you have an expression that has multiple parts, your indentation will follow a pattern like this:

```
foo x =
```

```
  let y = x * 2
```

```
      z = x ^ 2
```

```
  in 2 * y * z
```

Notice that the definitions of  $y$  and  $z$  line up, and the definitions of `let` and `in` are also aligned. As you work through the book, try to pay careful attention to the indentation patterns as we have them printed. There are many cases where improper indentation will actually cause code not to work.

Also, when you write Haskell code, we reiterate here that you want to use spaces and *not* tabs for indentation. Using spaces will save you a nontrivial amount of grief. If you don't know how to make your editor only use spaces for indentation, *look it up!*

If you make a mistake like breaking up the declaration of  $x$  such that the rest of the expression began at the beginning of the next line:

```
module Learn where
-- First declare the name of our module so it
-- can be imported by name in a project.
-- We won't do this for a while yet.

x = 10
* 5 + y

myResult = x * 5

y = 10
```

You might see an error like:

```
Prelude> :l code/learn.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling Learn

code/learn.hs:10:1: parse error on input '*'
Failed, modules loaded: none.
```

Note that the first line of the error message tells you where the error occurred: `code/learn.hs:10:1` indicates that the mistake is in line 10, column 1, of the named file. That can make it easier to find the problem that needs to be fixed. Please note that the exact line and column numbers in your own error messages might be different from ours, depending on how you've entered the code into the file.



The way to fix this is to either put it all on one line, like this:

```
x = 10 * 5 + y
```

or to make certain when you break up lines of code that the second line begins at least one space from the beginning of that line (either of the following should work):

```
x = 10
  * 5 + y
```

-- or

```
x = 10
    * 5 + y
```

The second one looks a little better, and generally you should reserve breaking up of lines for when you have code exceeding 100 columns in width.

Another possible error is not starting a declaration at the beginning (left) column of the line:

```
-- learn.hs
```

```
module Learn where
```

```
  x = 10 * 5 + y
```

```
myResult = x * 5
```

```
y = 10
```

See that space before x? That will cause an error like:

```
Prelude> :l code/learn.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling Learn
```

```
code/learn.hs:11:1: parse error on input 'myResult'
Failed, modules loaded: none.
```

This may confuse you, as `myResult` is not where you need to modify your code. The error is only an extraneous space, but all declarations in the module must start at the same column. The column that all declarations within a module must start in is determined by the first declaration in the module. In this case, the error message gives a location that is different from where you should fix the problem because all the compiler knows is that the declaration of `x` made a single space the appropriate indentation for all declarations within that module, and the declaration of `myResult` began a column too early.

It is possible to fix this error by indenting the `myResult` and `y` declarations to the same level as the indented `x` declaration:

```
-- learn.hs
```

```
module Learn where
```

```
x = 10 * 5 + y
```

```
myResult = x * 5
```

```
y = 10
```

However, this is considered bad style and is not standard Haskell practice. There is almost never a good reason to indent all your declarations in this way, but noting this gives us some idea of how the compiler is reading the code. It is better, when confronted with an error message like this, to make sure that your first declaration is at the leftmost margin and proceed from there.

Another possible mistake is that you might've missed the second `-` in the `--` used to comment out source lines of code.

So this code:

```
- learn.hs
```

```
module Learn where
```

```
-- First declare the name of our module so it  
-- can be imported by name in a project.  
-- We won't do this for a while yet.
```

```
x = 10 * 5 + y
```

```
myResult = x * 5
```

```
y = 10
```

will cause this error:

```
Prelude> :r
```

```
[1 of 1] Compiling Main
```

```
code/learn.hs:7:1: parse error on input 'module'
```

```
Failed, modules loaded: none.
```

Note again that it says the parse error occurred at the beginning of the module declaration, but the issue is actually that `- learn.hs` had only one `-` when it needed two to form a syntactically correct Haskell comment.

Now we can see how to work with code that is saved in a source file from GHCi without manually copying and pasting the definitions into our REPL. Assuming we open our REPL in the same directory as we have `learn.hs` saved, we can do the following:

```
Prelude> :load learn.hs
```

```
[1 of 1] Compiling Learn
```

```
Ok, modules loaded: Learn.
```

```
Prelude> x
```

```
60
```

```
Prelude> y
```

```
10
```

```
Prelude> myResult
```

```
300
```

### Exercises: Heal the Sick

The following code samples are broken and won't compile. The first two are as you might enter into the REPL; the third is from a source file. Find the mistakes and fix them so that they will.

1. `let area x = 3. 14 * (x * x)`

2. `let double x = b * 2`

3. `x = 7`  
`y = 10`  
`f = x + y`

## 2.7 Arithmetic functions in Haskell

Let's work with a wider variety of arithmetic functions in Haskell. We will use some common operators and functions for arithmetic. The infix operators, their names, and their use in Haskell are listed here:

Operator	Name	Purpose/application
+	plus	addition
-	minus	subtraction
*	asterisk	multiplication
/	slash	fractional division
div	divide	integral division, round down
mod	modulo	similar to 'rem', but after modular division
quot	quotient	integral division, round towards zero
rem	remainder	remainder after division

At the risk of stating the obvious, “integral” division refers to division of integers. Because it's integral and not fractional, it takes integers as arguments and returns integers as results. That's why the results are rounded.

Here's an example of each in the REPL:

```
Prelude> 1 + 1
```

```
2
```

```
Prelude> 1 - 1
```

```
0
Prelude> 1 * 1
1
Prelude> 1 / 1
1.0
Prelude> div 1 1
1
Prelude> mod 1 1
0
Prelude> quot 1 1
1
Prelude> rem 1 1
0
```

Always use `div` for integral division unless you know what you’re doing. However, if the remainder of a division is the value you need, `rem` is usually the function you want. We will look at `(/)` in more detail later, as that will require some explanation of types and typeclasses.

### Using ‘`mod`’

This section is not a full discussion of modular arithmetic, but we want to give more direction in how to use `mod` in general, for those who may be unfamiliar with it, and how it works in Haskell specifically.

We’ve already mentioned that `mod` gives the remainder of a modular division. If you’re not already familiar with modular division, you may not understand the useful difference between `mod` and `rem`.

Modular arithmetic is a system of arithmetic for integers where numbers “wrap around” upon reaching a certain value, called the *modulus*. It is often explained in terms of a clock.

When we count time by a 12-hour clock, we have to wrap the counting around the 12. For example, if the time is now 8:00 and you want to know what time it will be 8 hours from now, you don’t simply add  $8 + 8$  and get a result of 16 o’clock.<sup>2</sup>

Instead, you wrap the count around every 12 hours. So, adding 8 hours to 8:00 means that we add 4 hours to get to the 12, and at the

---

<sup>2</sup>Obviously, with a 24-hour clock, such a time is possible; however, if we were starting from 8:00 p.m. and trying to find the time 8 hours later, the answer would not be 16:00 a.m. A 24-hour clock has a different modulus than a 12-hour clock.

12 we start over again as if it's 0 and add the remaining 4 hours of our 8, for an answer of 4:00. That is, 8 hours after 8:00 is 4:00.

This is arithmetic *modulo* 12. In our 12-hour clock, 12 is equivalent to both itself and to 0, so the time at 12:00 is also, in some sense 0:00. Arithmetic modulo 12 means that 12 is both 12 and 0.

Often, this will give you the same answer that `rem` does:

```
Prelude> mod 15 12
```

```
3
```

```
Prelude> rem 15 12
```

```
3
```

```
Prelude> mod 21 12
```

```
9
```

```
Prelude> rem 21 12
```

```
9
```

```
Prelude> mod 3 12
```

```
3
```

```
Prelude> rem 3 12
```

```
3
```

If you're wondering what the deal is with the last two examples, it's because `mod` and `rem` can only represent integral division. If all you have to work with is integers, then dividing a smaller number by a larger number results in an answer of 0 with a remainder of whatever the smaller number (the dividend) is. If you want to divide a smaller number by a larger number and return a fractional answer, then you need to use `(/)`, and you won't have a remainder.

Let's say we need to write a function that will determine what day of the week it was or will be a certain number of days before or after this one. For our purposes here, we will assign a number to each day of the week, using 0 to represent Sunday.<sup>3</sup> Then if today is Monday, and we want to know what day of the week it will be 23 days from now, we could do this:

```
Prelude> 1 + (mod 23 7)
```

---

<sup>3</sup> Sure, you may naturally think of the days of week as being numbered 1-7. But programmers like to index things from zero.

3

The 1 represents Monday, the current day, while 23 is the number of days we're trying to add. Using `mod` to wrap it around the 7 means it will return a number that corresponds to a day of the week in our numbering.

We can use `rem` to do the same thing with apparently equivalent accuracy:

```
Prelude> 1 + (rem 23 7)
3
```

However, if we want to *subtract* and find out what day of the week it was some number of days ago, then we'll see a difference. Let's try asking, if today is Wednesday (3), what day it was 12 days ago:

```
Prelude> 3 + (mod (-12) 7)
5
Prelude> 3 + (rem (-12) 7)
-2
```

The version with `mod` gives us a correct answer, while the `rem` version does not.

One key difference here is that, in Haskell (not in all languages), if one or both arguments are negative, the results of `mod` will have the same sign as the divisor, while the result of `rem` will have the same sign as the dividend:

```
Prelude> (-5) `mod` 2
1
Prelude> 5 `mod` (-2)
-1
Prelude> (-5) `mod` (-2)
-1
```

-- but

```
Prelude> (-5) `rem` 2
-1
Prelude> 5 `rem` (-2)
```

```
1
Prelude> (-5) `rem` (-2)
-1
```

Figuring out when you need `mod` takes some experience, and it may not be obvious right now. But you will need it later in the book.

## 2.8 Negative numbers

Due to the interaction of parentheses, currying, and infix syntax, negative numbers get special treatment in Haskell.

If you want a value that is a negative number by itself, this will work just fine:

```
Prelude> -1000
-1000
```

However, this will not work in some cases:

```
Prelude> 1000 + -9
<interactive>:3:1:
  Precedence parsing error
    cannot mix '+' [infixl 6] and
    prefix '-' [infixl 6]
    in the same infix expression
```

Fortunately, we were told about our mistake before any of our code was executed. Note how the error message tells you the problem has to do with precedence. Addition and subtraction have the same precedence (6), and GHCi doesn't know how to resolve the precedence and evaluate the expression. We need to make a small change before we can add a positive and a negative number together:

```
Prelude> 1000 + (-9)
991
```

The negation of numbers in Haskell by the use of a unary `-` is a form of *syntactic sugar*. Syntax is the grammar and structure of the text we use to express programs, and syntactic sugar is a means for us to make that text easier to read and write. Syntactic sugar is so-called



because while it can make the typing or reading of the code nicer, it changes nothing about the semantics of our programs and doesn't change how we solve our problems in code. Typically when code with syntactic sugar is processed by our REPL or compiler, a simple transformation from the shorter ("sweeter") form to a more verbose, truer representation is performed after the code has been parsed.

In the specific case of `-`, the syntax sugar means the operator now has two possible interpretations. The two possible interpretations of the syntactic `-` are that `-` is being used as an alias for `negate` or that it is the subtraction function. The following are semantically identical (that is, they have the same meaning, despite different syntax) because the `-` is translated into `negate`:

```
Prelude> 2000 + (-1234)
766
```

```
Prelude> 2000 + (negate 1234)
766
```

Whereas this is a case of `-` being used for subtraction:

```
Prelude> 2000 - 1234
766
```

Fortunately, syntactic overloading like this isn't common in Haskell.

## 2.9 Parenthesizing infix functions

There are times when you want to refer to an infix function without applying any arguments, and there are also times when you want to use them as prefix operators instead of infix. In both cases you must wrap the operator in parentheses. We will see more examples of the former case later in the book. For now, let's look at how we use infix operators as prefixes.

If your infix function is `>>` then you must write `(>>)` to refer to it as a value. `(+)` is the addition infix function without any arguments applied yet and `(+1)` is the same addition function but with one argument applied, making it return the next argument it's applied to plus one:

```
Prelude> 1 + 2
3
Prelude> (+) 1 2
3
Prelude> (+1) 2
3
```

The last case is known as *sectioning* and allows you to pass around partially-applied functions. With commutative functions, such as addition, it makes no difference if you use `(+1)` or `(1+)` because the order of the arguments won't change the result.

If you use sectioning with a function that is not commutative, the order matters:

```
Prelude> (1/) 2
0.5
Prelude> (/1) 2
2.0
```

Subtraction, `(-)`, is a special case. These will work:

```
Prelude> 2 - 1
1
Prelude> (-) 2 1
1
```

The following, however, won't work:

```
Prelude> (-2) 1
```

Enclosing a value inside the parentheses with the `-` indicates to GHCi that it's the argument of a function. Because the `-` function represents negation, not subtraction, when it's applied to a single argument, GHCi does not know what to do with that, and so it returns an error message. Here, `-` is a case of syntactic overloading disambiguated by how it is used.

You can use sectioning for subtraction, but it must be the first argument:

```
Prelude> let x = 5
Prelude> let y = (1 -)
Prelude> y x
-4
```

It may not be immediately obvious why you would ever want to do this, but you will see this syntax used throughout the book, particularly once we start wanting to apply functions to each value inside a list.

## 2.10 Laws for quotients and remainders

Programming often makes use of more division and remainder functions than standard arithmetic does, and it's helpful to be familiar with the laws about `quot/rem` and `div/mod`.<sup>4</sup>We'll take a look at those here.

$$(\text{quot } x \ y) * y + (\text{rem } x \ y) == x$$

$$(\text{div } x \ y) * y + (\text{mod } x \ y) == x$$

We won't walk through a proof exercise, but we can demonstrate these laws a bit:

$$(\text{quot } x \ y) * y + (\text{rem } x \ y)$$

Given `x` is 10 and `y` is (-4)

$$(\text{quot } 10 \ (-4)) * (-4) + (\text{rem } 10 \ (-4))$$

$$\text{quot } 10 \ (-4) == (-2) \quad \text{and} \quad \text{rem } 10 \ (-4) == 2$$

$$(-2) * (-4) + (2) == 10$$

$$10 == x == \text{yeppers.}$$

It's not worth getting overly invested in the meaning of "yeppers" there; it just means we got to the result we wanted.

Now for `div/mod`:

---

<sup>4</sup> From Lennart Augustsson's blog <http://augustss.blogspot.com/> or Stack Overflow answer at <http://stackoverflow.com/a/8111203>

```
(div x y)*y + (mod x y)
```

Given `x` is 10 and `y` is (-4)

```
(div 10 (-4))*(-4) + (mod 10 (-4))
```

```
div 10 (-4) == (-3)  and  mod 10 (-4) == -2
```

```
(-3)*(-4) + (-2) == 10
```

```
10 == x == yeppers.
```

## 2.11 Evaluation

When we talk about reducing an expression, we're talking about evaluating the terms until it reaches its simplest form. Once a term has reached its simplest form, we say that it is irreducible or finished evaluating. Usually, we call this a value. Haskell uses a non-strict evaluation (sometimes called "lazy evaluation") strategy which defers evaluation of terms until they're forced by other terms referring to them. We will return to this concept several times throughout the book as it takes time to fully understand.

Values are irreducible, but applications of functions to arguments are reducible. Reducing an expression means evaluating the terms until you're left with an irreducible value. As in the lambda calculus, application is evaluation, another theme that we will return to throughout the book.

Values are expressions, but cannot be reduced further. Values are a terminal point of reduction:

```
1
"Icarus"
```

The following expressions can be reduced (evaluated, if you will) to a value:

```
1 + 1
2 * 3 + 1
```

Each can be evaluated in the REPL, which reduces the expressions and then prints what it reduced to.

## 2.12 Let and where

We can use `let` and `where` to introduce names for expressions.

We'll start with an example of `where`:

```
-- FunctionWithWhere.hs
module FunctionWithWhere where

printInc n = print plusTwo
  where plusTwo = n + 2
```

And if we use this in the REPL:

```
Prelude> :l FunctionWithWhere.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling FunctionWithWhere ...
Ok, modules loaded: FunctionWithWhere.
Prelude> printInc 1
3
Prelude>
```

Now we have the same function, but using `let` in the place of `where`:

```
-- FunctionWithLet.hs
module FunctionWithLet where

printInc2 n = let plusTwo = n + 2
              in print plusTwo
```

When you see `let` followed by `in` you're looking at a *let expression*. Here's that function in the REPL:

```
Prelude> :load FunctionWithLet.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling FunctionWithLet ...
Ok, modules loaded: FunctionWithLet.
Prelude> printInc2 3
5
```

If you loaded the `FunctionWithLet` version of `printInc2` in the same REPL session as `FunctionWithWhere` then it will have unloaded the old version before loading the new one. That is one limitation of the `:load` command in `GHCi`. As we build larger projects that require having multiple modules in scope, we will use a project manager called `Cabal` and a `cabal repl` rather than `GHCi` itself.

Here's a demonstration of what is meant by `GHCi` unloading everything that had been defined in the REPL when you `:load` a file:

```
Prelude> :load FunctionWithWhere.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling FunctionWithWhere ...
Ok, modules loaded: FunctionWithWhere.
Prelude> print
print      printInc
Prelude> printInc 1
3
Prelude> :load FunctionWithLet.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling FunctionWithLet ...
Ok, modules loaded: FunctionWithLet.
Prelude> printInc2 10
12
Prelude> printInc 10
```

```
<interactive>:6:1:
  Not in scope: 'printInc'
  Perhaps you meant 'printInc2' (line 4)
```

`printInc` isn't in scope anymore because `GHCi` unloaded everything you'd defined or loaded after you used `:load` to load the `FunctionWithLet.hs` source file. Scope is the area of source code where a binding of a variable applies.

### Desugaring `let` to `lambda`

It turns out that `let` expressions have a fairly simple representation in `lambdas`. If we permit ourselves the writing of `lambdas` in Haskell using the provided `lambda` syntax, then we can transform the previous code in the following manner:

```
printInc2 n = let plusTwo = n + 2
              in print plusTwo
```

*-- turns into*

```
printInc2' n =
  (\plusTwo -> print plusTwo) (n + 2)
```

This doesn't work for every possible `let` expression as we don't have a good way to translate `let` expressions that use free variables recursively<sup>5</sup> into the lambda calculus. However, we want you to have a sense of how most things in Haskell can be translated into lambdas. It's all right if you don't understand right now why you'd care about this; we'll revisit this throughout the book.

### Exercises: A Head Code

Now for some exercises. First, determine in your head what the following expressions will return, then validate in the REPL:

1. `let x = 5 in x`
2. `let x = 5 in x * x`
3. `let x = 5; y = 6 in x * y`
4. `let x = 3; y = 1000 in x + 3`

Above, you entered some `let` expressions into your REPL to evaluate them. Now, we're going to open a file and rewrite some `let` expressions into `where` clauses. You will have to give the value you're binding a name, although the name can be just a letter if you like. For example,

*-- this should work in GHCi*

```
let x = 5; y = 6 in x * y
```

could be rewritten as

---

<sup>5</sup>Technically `let` and `lambda` are different primitives in GHC Haskell's underlying Core language. That's not the point, we're just trying to show you how programming languages can be lambdas under the hood.

```
-- put this in a file
mult1      = x * y
  where x = 5
         y = 6
```

Making the equals signs line up is a stylistic choice. As long as the expressions are nested in that way, the equals signs do not have to line up. But notice we use a name that we will use to refer to this value in the REPL:

```
*Main> :l practice.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling Main
Ok, modules loaded: Main.
*Main> mult1
30
```

Note: the filename you choose is unimportant except for the .hs extension.

### The lambdas beneath let expressions

It turns out that there's a fairly straightforward way to express lambdas in Haskell with the provided anonymous function syntax. Recall the identity function that we saw in the lambda calculus chapter:

$$\lambda x . x$$

Anonymous function syntax in Haskell uses a backslash to represent a lambda. It looks quite similar to the way it looks in the lambda calculus, and we can use it by wrapping it in parentheses and applying it to values:

```
Prelude> (\x -> x) 0
0
Prelude> (\x -> x) 1
1
Prelude> (\x -> x) "blah"
"blah"
```

We can also define the same function in the REPL using `let`:



```
Prelude> let id = \x -> x
Prelude> id 0
0
Prelude> id 1
1
```

Or we can define it this way:

```
Prelude> let id x = x
Prelude> id 0
0
Prelude> id 1
1
```

Let us translate a few `let` expressions into their lambda forms!

```
let a = b in c
```

```
-- equivalent to
```

```
(\a -> c) b
```

```
-- or a little less abstractly
```

```
let x = 10 in x + 9001
```

```
(\x -> x + 9001) 10
```

We can do a similar translation with `where`, although there are minute differences that we will not address here:

```
c where a = b
```

```
-- equivalent to
```

```
(\a -> c) b
```

```
-- Something more concrete again
```

```
x + 9001 where x = 10
```

```
(\x -> x + 9001) 10
```

We won't break down every single Haskell construct into the underlying lambdas, but try to keep this model in mind as you proceed.

### Exercises with let and where!

Rewrite the following let expressions into declarations with where clauses:

1. `let x = 3; y = 1000 in x * 3 + y`
2. `let y = 10; x = 10 * 5 + y in x * 5`
3. `let x = 7; y = negate x; z = y * 10 in z / x + y`

## 2.13 Chapter Exercises

The goal for all the following exercises is just to get you playing with code and forming hypotheses about what it should do. Read the code carefully, using what we've learned so far. Generate a hypothesis about what you think the code will do. Play with it in the REPL and find out where you were right or wrong.

### Parenthesization

Here we've listed the information that GHCi gives us for various infix operators. We have left the type signatures in this time, although it is not directly relevant to the following exercises. This will give

you a chance to look at the types if you're curious and also provide a more accurate picture of the `:info` command.

```
Prelude> :info (^)
(^) :: (Num a, Integral b) => a -> b -> a
infixr 8 ^
```

```
Prelude> :info (*)
class Num a where
  (*) :: a -> a -> a
infixl 7 *
```

```
Prelude> :info (+)
class Num a where
  (+) :: a -> a -> a
infixl 6 +
```

```
Prelude> :info (-)
class Num a where
  (-) :: a -> a -> a
infixl 6 -
```

```
Prelude> :info ($)
($) :: (a -> b) -> a -> b
infixr 0 $
```

We should take a moment to explain and demonstrate the `( $\$$ )` operator as you will run into it fairly frequently in Haskell code. The good news is it does almost nothing. The bad news is this fact sometimes trips people up.

First, here's the definition of `( $\$$ )`:

```
f $ a = f a
```

Immediately this seems a bit pointless until we remember that it's defined as an infix operator with the lowest possible precedence. The `( $\$$ )` operator is a convenience for when you want to express something with fewer pairs of parentheses.

Example of `( $\$$ )` in some expressions:

```
Prelude> (2^) $ 2 + 2
16
Prelude> (2^) (2 + 2)
16
Prelude> (2^) 2 + 2
6
```

If you like, a way to understand (\$) in words is: “evaluate everything to the right of me first.”

Also note that you can stack up multiple uses of (\$) in the same expression. For example, this works:

```
Prelude> (2^) $ (+2) $ 3*2
256
```

But this does not:

```
Prelude> (2^) $ 2 + 2 $ (*30)
-- A rather long and ugly type error about trying to
-- use numbers as if they were functions follows.
```

We can see for ourselves why this code doesn’t make sense if we examine the reduction steps.

```
-- Remember ($)’s definition
f $ a = f a

(2^) $ 2 + 2 $ (*30)
-- Given the right-associativity (infixr) of $
-- we must begin at the right-most position.
2 + 2 $ (*30)
-- reduce ($)
(2 + 2) (*30)
-- then we must evaluate (2 + 2) before we can apply it
4 (*30)
-- This doesn't make sense, we can't apply 4
-- as if it was a function to the argument (*30)!
```

Now let’s flip that expression around a bit so it works and then walk through a reduction:

```

(2^) $ (*30) $ 2 + 2
-- must evaluate right-side first
(2^) $ (*30) $ 2 + 2
-- application of the function (*30) to the
-- expression (2 + 2) forces evaluation
(2^) $ (*30) 4
-- then we reduce (*30) 4
(2^) $ 120
-- reduce ($) again.
(2^) 120
-- reduce (2^)
1329227995784915872903807060280344576

```

Given what we know about the precedence of (\*), (+), and (^), how can we parenthesize the following expressions more explicitly without changing their results? Put together an answer you think is correct, then test in the GHCi REPL.

Example:

```

-- We want to make this more explicit
2 + 2 * 3 - 3

-- this will produce the same result
2 + (2 * 3) - 3

```

Attempt the above on the following expressions.

1. `2 + 2 * 3 - 1`
2. `(^) 10 $ 1 + 1`
3. `2 ^ 2 * 4 ^ 5 + 1`

## Equivalent expressions

Which of the following pairs of expressions will return the same result when evaluated? Try to reason them out in your head by reading the code and then enter them into the REPL to check your work:

1.  $1 + 1$

$2$

2.  $10 \wedge 2$

$10 + 9 * 10$

3.  $400 - 37$

$(-) \ 37 \ 400$

4.  $100 \text{ `div` } 3$

$100 / 3$

5.  $2 * 5 + 18$

$2 * (5 + 18)$

### More fun with functions

Here is a bit of code as it might be entered into a source file. Remember that when you write code in a source file, the order is unimportant, but when writing code directly into the REPL the order does matter. Given that, look at this code and rewrite it such that it could be evaluated in the REPL (remember: you'll need `let` when entering it directly into the REPL). Be sure to enter your code into the REPL to make sure it evaluates correctly.

$z = 7$

$x = y \wedge 2$

$wax0n = x * 5$

$y = z + 8$

1. Now you have a value called `wax0n` in your REPL. What do you think will happen if you enter:

```

10 + wax0n
-- or
(+10) wax0n
-- or
(-) 15 wax0n
-- or
(-) wax0n 15

```

2. Earlier we looked at a function called `triple`. While your REPL has `wax0n` in session, re-enter the `triple` function at the prompt:

```
let triple x = x * 3
```

3. Now, what will happen if we enter this at our GHCi prompt. Try to reason out what you think will happen first, considering what role `wax0n` is playing in this function call. Then enter it, see what does happen, and check your understanding:

```
triple wax0n
```

4. Rewrite `wax0n` as a function with a `where` clause in your source file. Load it into your REPL and make sure it still works as expected!
5. Now to the same source file where you have `wax0n`, add the `triple` function. Remember: You don't need `let` and the function name should be at the left margin (that is, not nested as one of the `wax0n` expressions). Make sure it works by loading it into your REPL and then entering `triple wax0n` again at the REPL prompt. You should have the same answer as you did above.
6. Now, without changing what you've done so far in that file, add a new function called `wax0ff` that looks like this:

```
wax0ff x = triple x
```

7. Load the source file into your REPL and enter `wax0ff wax0n` at the prompt.

You now have a function, `wax0ff` that can be applied to a variety of arguments — not just `wax0n` but any (numeric) value you want to put in for  $x$ . Play with that a bit. What is the result of `wax0ff 10` or `wax0ff (-50)`? Try modifying your `wax0ff` function to do

something new — perhaps you want to first triple the  $x$  value and then square it or divide it by 10. Just spend some time getting comfortable with modifying the source file code, reloading it, and checking your modification in the REPL.



## 2.14 Definitions

1. The terms *argument* and *parameter* are often used interchangeably. However, it is worthwhile to understand the distinction. A *parameter*, or formal parameter, *represents* a value that will be passed to the function when the function is called. Thus, parameters are usually variables. An *argument* is an input value the function is applied to. A function's parameter is bound to the value of an argument when the function is applied to that argument. For example, in  $f\ x = x + 2$  which takes an argument and returns that value added to 2,  $x$  is the one parameter of our function. We run the code by applying  $f$  to some argument. If the argument we passed to the parameter  $x$  were 2, our result would be 4. However, arguments can themselves be variables or be expressions that include variables, thus the distinction is not always clear. When we use “parameter” in this book, it will always be referring to formal parameters, usually in a type signature, but we've taken the liberty of using “argument” somewhat more loosely.
2. An *expression* is a combination of symbols that conforms to syntactic rules and can be evaluated to some result. In Haskell, an expression is a well-structured combination of constants, variables, and functions. While irreducible constants are technically expressions, we usually refer to those as “values”, so we usually mean “reducible expression” when we use the term *expression*.
3. A *redex* is a reducible expression.
4. A *value* is an expression that cannot be reduced or evaluated any further.  $2 * 2$  is an expression, but not a value, whereas what it evaluates to, 4, is a value.
5. A *function* is a mathematical object whose capabilities are limited to being applied to an argument and returning a result. Functions can be described as a list of ordered pairs of their inputs and the resulting outputs, like a mapping. Given the function  $f\ x = x + 2$  applied to the argument 2, we would have the ordered pair (2, 4) of its input and output.

6. *Infix notation* is the style used in arithmetic and logic. Infix means that the operator is placed between the operands or *arguments*. An example would be the plus sign in an expression like  $2 + 2$ .
7. *Operators* are functions that are infix by default. In Haskell, operators must use symbols and not alphanumeric characters.
8. *Syntactic sugar* is syntax within a programming language designed to make expressions easier to write or read.

## 2.15 Follow-up resources

1. Haskell wiki article on Let vs. Where  
[https://wiki.haskell.org/Let\\_vs.\\_Where](https://wiki.haskell.org/Let_vs._Where)
2. How to desugar Haskell code; Gabriel Gonzalez  
<http://www.haskellforall.com/2014/10/how-to-desugar-haskell-code.html>

## Chapter 3

# Strings

Like punning, programming  
is a play on words

---

Alan Perlis

### 3.1 Printing strings

So far we’ve been looking at doing arithmetic using simple expressions. In this section, we will look at another type of basic expression that processes a different type of data called `String`.

Most programming languages refer to the data structures used to contain text as “strings,” usually represented as sequences, or lists, of characters. In this section, we will

- take an introductory look at types to understand the data structure called `String`;
- talk about the special syntax, or syntactic sugar, used for strings;
- print strings in the REPL environment;
- work with some simple functions that operate on this datatype.

### 3.2 A first look at types

First, since we will be working with strings, we want to start by understanding what these data structures are in Haskell and a bit of special syntax we use for them. We haven’t talked much about types yet, although you saw some examples of them in the last chapter. Types are important in Haskell, and the next two chapters are entirely devoted to them.

Types are a way of categorizing values. There are several types for numbers, for example, depending on whether they are integers, fractional numbers, etc. There is a type for boolean values, specifically the values `True` and `False`. The types we are primarily concerned with in this chapter are `Char` ‘character’ and `String`. Strings are lists of characters.

It is easy to find out the type of a value, expression, or function in GHCi. We do this with the `:type` command.

Open up your REPL, enter `:type 'a'` at the prompt, and you should see something like this:

```
Prelude> :type 'a'
'a' :: Char
```

We need to highlight a few things here. First, we’ve enclosed our character in single quotes. This lets GHCi know that the character is not a variable. If you enter `:type a` instead, it will think it’s a variable and give you an error message that the *a* is not in scope. That is, the variable *a* hasn’t been defined (is not in scope), so it has no way to know what the type of it is.

Second, the `::` symbol is read as “has the type.” You’ll see this often in Haskell. Whenever you see that double colon, you know you’re looking at a type signature. A type signature is a line of code that defines the types for a value, expression, or function.

And, finally, there is `Char`, the type. `Char` is the type that includes alphabetic characters, unicode characters, symbols, etc. So, asking GHCi `:type 'a'`, that is, “what is the type of ‘a’?”, gives us the information, `'a' :: Char`, that is, “‘a’ has the type of `Char`.”

Now, let’s try a string of text. This time we have to use double quotation marks, not single, to tell GHCi we have a string, not a single character:

```
Prelude> :type "Hello!"  
"Hello!" :: [Char]
```

We have something new in the type information. The square brackets around `Char` here are the syntactic sugar for a list. When we talk about lists in more detail later, we’ll see why this is considered syntactic sugar; for now, we just need to understand that GHCi says “Hello!” has the type *list of Char*.

### 3.3 Printing simple strings

Now, let’s look at some simple commands for printing strings of text in the REPL:

```
Prelude> print "hello world!"  
"hello world!"
```

Here we’ve used the command `print` to tell GHCi to print the string to the display, so it does, with the quotation marks still around it.

Other commands we can use to tell GHCi to print strings of text into the display have slightly different results:

```
Prelude> putStrLn "hello world!"
hello world!
Prelude>
```

```
Prelude> putStr "hello world!"
hello world!Prelude>
```

You can probably see that `putStr` and `putStrLn` are similar to each other, with one key difference. We also notice that both of these commands print the string to the display without the quotation marks. This is because, while they are superficially similar to `print`, they actually have a different type than `print` does. Functions that are similar on the surface can behave differently depending on the type or category they belong to.

Next, let's take a look at how to do these things from source files. Type the following into a file named `print1.hs`:

```
-- print1.hs
module Print1 where

main :: IO ()
main = putStrLn "hello world!"
```

Here's what you should see when you run this code by loading it in GHCi and running `main`:

```
Prelude> :l print1.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling Print1
Ok, modules loaded: Print1.
Prelude> main
hello world!
Prelude>
```

The `main` function is the default function when you build an executable or run it in a REPL. As you can see, `main` has the type `IO ()`. `IO` — that's the letters I as in eye and O as in oh — stands for input/output but has a specialized meaning in Haskell. It is a special type used by Haskell when the result of running the program involves side-effects as opposed to being a pure function or expression. Printing to the screen is a side-effect, so printing the output of a module must be

wrapped in this `IO` type. When you enter functions directly into the REPL, GHCi implicitly understands and implements `IO` without you having to specify that. Since the `main` function is the default executable function, this bit of code will be in a lot of source files that we build from here on out. We will explain its meaning in more detail in a later chapter.

Let's start another file:

```
-- print2.hs
module Print2 where

main :: IO ()
main = do
    putStrLn "Count to four for me:"
    putStr  "one, two"
    putStr  ", three, and"
    putStrLn " four!"
```

And here's what you should see when you run this one:

```
Prelude> :l print2.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling Print2
Ok, modules loaded: Print2.
Prelude> main
Count to four for me:
one, two, three, and four!
Prelude>
```

For a bit of fun, change the invocations of `putStr` to `putStrLn` and vice versa. Rerun the program and see what happens.

You'll note the `putStrLn` function prints to the current line, then starts a new line, where `putStr` prints to the current line but doesn't start a new one. The `Ln` in `putStrLn` indicates that it starts a new line.

## String concatenation

Concatenation, or to *concatenate* something, means to "link together." Usually when we talk about concatenation in programming we're talking about linear sequences such as lists or strings of text. If we

concatenate two strings "Curry" and " Rocks!" we will get the string "Curry Rocks!". Note the space at the beginning of " Rocks!". Without that, we'd get "CurryRocks!".

Let's start a new text file and type the following:

```
-- print3.hs
module Print3 where

myGreeting :: String
-- The above line reads as: "myGreeting has the type String"
myGreeting = "hello" ++ " world!"
-- Could also be: "hello" ++ " " ++ "world!"
-- to obtain the same result.

hello :: String
hello = "hello"

world :: String
world = "world!"

main :: IO ()
main = do
    putStrLn myGreeting
    putStrLn secondGreeting
    where secondGreeting = concat [hello, " ", world]
```

If you execute this, you should see something like:

```
Prelude> :load print3.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling Print3
Ok, modules loaded: Print3.
*Print3> main
hello world!
hello world!
*Print3>
```

Remember you can use `:m` to return to Prelude if desired.  
This little exercise demonstrates a few things:



1. We define values at the top level of a module: (`myGreeting`, `hello`, `world`, and `main`). That is, they are declared globally so that their values are available to all functions in the module.
2. We specify explicit types for top-level definitions.
3. We concatenate strings with `(++)` and `concat`.

### Global versus local definitions

What does it mean for something to be at the top level of a module? It means it is defined globally, not locally. To be locally defined would mean the declaration is nested within some other expression and is not visible to code importing the module. We practiced this in the previous chapter with `let` and `where`. Here's an example for review:

```
module GlobalLocal where

topLevelFunction :: Integer -> Integer
topLevelFunction x = x + woot + topLevelValue
  where woot :: Integer
        woot = 10

topLevelValue :: Integer
topLevelValue = 5
```

In the above, you could import and use `topLevelFunction` or `topLevelValue` from another module. However, `woot` is effectively invisible outside of `topLevelFunction`. The `where` and `let` clauses in Haskell introduce local bindings or declarations. To bind or declare something means to give an expression a name. You could pass around and use an anonymous version of `topLevelFunction` manually, but giving it a name and reusing it by that name is more pleasant and less repetitious. Also note we explicitly declared the type of `woot` in the `where` clause. This wasn't necessary (Haskell's type inference would've figured it out fine), but it was done here to show you how in case you need to. Be sure to load and run this code in your REPL:

```
Prelude> :l Global.hs
```

```
[1 of 1] Compiling GlobalLocal
Ok, modules loaded: GlobalLocal.
*GlobalLocal> topLevelFunction 5
20
```

Experiment with different arguments and make sure you understand the results you're getting by walking through the arithmetic in your head (or on paper).

### Exercises: Scope

1. These lines of code are from a REPL session. Is  $y$  in scope for  $z$ ?

```
Prelude> let x = 5
Prelude> let y = 7
Prelude> let z = x * y
```

2. These lines of code are from a REPL session. Is  $h$  in scope for function  $g$ ?

```
Prelude> let f = 3
Prelude> let g = 6 * f + h
```

3. This code sample is from a source file. Is everything we need to execute `area` in scope?

```
area d = pi * (r * r)
r = d / 2
```

4. This code is also from a source file. Now are  $r$  and  $d$  in scope for `area`?

```
area d = pi * (r * r)
  where r = d / 2
```

## 3.4 Types of concatenation functions

Let's look at the types of `(++)` and `concat`. The `++` function is an infix operator. When we need to refer to an infix operator in a position that is not infix — such as when we are using it in a prefix position or having it stand alone in order to query its type — we must put

parentheses around it. On the other hand, `concat` is a normal (not infix) function, so parentheses aren't necessary:

```
++      has the type [a] -> [a] -> [a]
concat has the type [[a]] -> [a]
```

```
-- Here's how we query that in ghci:
Prelude> :t (++)
(++) :: [a] -> [a] -> [a]
Prelude> :t concat
concat :: [[a]] -> [a]
```

(n.b., Assuming you are using GHC 7.10, if you check this type signature in your REPL, you will find an unexpected and possibly confusing result. We will explain the reason for it later in the book. For your purposes at this point, please understand `Foldable t => t [a]` as being `[[a]]`. The `Foldable t`, for our current purposes, can be thought of as another list. In truth, list is only one of the possible types here — types that have instances of the `Foldable` typeclass — but right now, lists are the only one we care about.)

But what do these types mean? Here's how we can break it down:

```
(++) :: [a] -> [a] -> [a]
--      [1]    [2]    [3]
```

Everything after the `::` is about our types, not our values. The 'a' inside the list type constructor `[]` is a type variable.

1. Take an argument of type `[a]`. This type is a list of elements of some type *a*. This function will not necessarily know what type *a* is, but in the context of our program the type of *a* will be known at some point.
2. Take another argument of type `[a]`, a list of elements whose type we don't know. Because the variables are the same, they must be the same type throughout (*a* == *a*).
3. Return a result of type `[a]`

As we'll see, because `String` is a type of list, the operators we use with strings can also be used on lists of other types, such as lists of

numbers. The type `[a]` means that we have a list with elements of a type `a` we do not yet know. If we use the operators to concatenate lists of numbers, then the `a` in `[a]` will be some type of number (for example, integers). If we are concatenating lists of characters, then `a` represents a `Char` because `String` is `[Char]`. The type variable `a` in `[a]` is polymorphic. Polymorphism is an important feature of Haskell. For concatenation, every list must be the same type of list; we cannot concatenate a list of numbers with a list of characters, for example. However, since the `a` is a variable at the type level, the literal values in each list we concatenate need not be the same, only the same type. In other words, `a` must equal `a` (`a == a`).

```
Prelude> "hello" ++ " Chris"
"hello Chris"
```

```
-- but
```

```
Prelude> "hello" ++ [1, 2, 3]
```

```
<interactive>:14:13:
  No instance for (Num Char) arising
    from the literal '1'
  In the expression: 1
  In the second argument of '(++)',
    namely '[1, 2, 3]'
  In the expression: "hello" ++ [1, 2, 3]
```

In the first example, we have two strings, so the type of `a` matches — they're both `Char` in `[Char]`, even though the literal values are different. Since the type matches, no type error occurs and we see the concatenated result. In the second example, we have two lists (a `String` and a list of numbers) whose types do not match, so we get the error message. GHCi asks for an instance of the numeric typeclass `Num` for the type `Char`. Unsurprisingly, `Char` isn't an instance of `Num`.

### Exercises: Syntax Errors

Read the syntax of the following functions and decide whether it will compile. Test them in your REPL and try to fix the syntax errors where they occur.

1. ++ [1, 2, 3] [4, 5, 6]
2. '<3' ++ ' Haskell'
3. concat ["<3", " Haskell"]

### 3.5 Concatenation and scoping

We will use parentheses to call ++ as a typical prefix (not infix) function:

```
-- print3flipped.hs
module Print3Flipped where

myGreeting :: String
myGreeting = (++) "hello" " world!"

hello :: String
hello = "hello"

world :: String
world = "world!"

main :: IO ()
main = do
    putStrLn myGreeting
    putStrLn secondGreeting
    where secondGreeting =
            (++) hello ((++) " " world)
-- could've been:
-- secondGreeting = hello ++ " " ++ world
```

In `myGreeting`, we moved ++ to the front like a typical prefix function invocation. Using it as a prefix function in the `secondGreeting`, though, forces us to shift some things around. Parenthesizing it that way emphasizes the right associativity of the ++ function.

The `where` clause creates local bindings for expressions that are not visible at the top level. In other words, the `where` clause in the `main` function introduces a definition visible only within the expression

or function it's attached to, rather than making it globally visible to the entire module. Something visible at the top level is in scope for all parts of the module and may be exported by the module or imported by a different module. Local definitions, on the other hand, are only visible to that one function. You cannot import into a different module and reuse `secondGreeting`.

To illustrate:

```
-- print3broken.hs
module Print3Broken where

printSecond :: IO ()
printSecond = do
    putStrLn greeting

main :: IO ()
main = do
    putStrLn greeting
    printSecond
    where greeting = "Yarrrrrr"
```

You should get an error like this:

```
Prelude> :l print3broken.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling Print3Broken      ( print3broken.hs, interpreted )

print3broken.hs:6:12: Not in scope: 'greeting'
Failed, modules loaded: none.
```

Let's take a closer look at this error:

```
print3broken.hs:6:12: Not in scope: 'greeting'
#           [1][2]   [3]           [4]
```

1. The line the error occurred on: in this case, line 6.
2. The column the error occurred on: column 12. Text on computers is often described in terms of lines and columns. These line and column numbers are about lines and columns in your text file containing the source code.

3. The actual problem. We refer to something not in scope, that is, not *visible* to the `printSecond` function.
4. The thing we referred to that isn't visible or in *scope*.

Now make the `Print3Broken` code compile. It should print “Yarrrrr” twice on two different lines and then exit.

### 3.6 More list functions

You can use most functions for manipulating lists on strings as well in Haskell, because a string is just a list of characters, `[Char]`, under the hood.

Here are some examples:

```
Prelude> :t 'c'
'c' :: Char
Prelude> :t "c"
"c" :: [Char] -- List of Char is String, same thing.

-- the : operator, called "cons," builds a list
Prelude> 'c' : "hris"
"chris"
Prelude> 'P' : ""
"P"

-- head returns the head or first element of a list
Prelude> head "Papuchon"
'p'

-- tail returns the list with the head chopped off
Prelude> tail "Papuchon"
"apuchon"

-- take returns the specified number of elements
-- from the list, starting from the left:
Prelude> take 1 "Papuchon"
"p"
Prelude> take 0 "Papuchon"
```

```
""
Prelude> take 6 "Papuchon"
"Papuch"

-- drop returns the remainder of the list after the
-- specified number of elements has been dropped:
Prelude> drop 4 "Papuchon"
"chon"
Prelude> drop 9001 "Papuchon"
""
Prelude> drop 1 "Papuchon"
"apuchon"

-- we've already seen the ++ operator
Prelude> "Papu" ++ "chon"
"Papuchon"
Prelude> "Papu" ++ ""
"Papu"

-- !! returns the element that is in the specified
-- position in the list. Note that this is an
-- indexing function, and indices in Haskell start
-- from 0. That means the first element of your
-- list is 0, not 1, when using this function.
Prelude> "Papuchon" !! 0
'p'
Prelude> "Papuchon" !! 4
'c'
```

## 3.7 Chapter Exercises

### Reading syntax

1. For the following lines of code, read the syntax carefully and decide if they are written correctly. Test them in your REPL after you've decided to check your work. Correct as many as you can.

a) `concat [[1, 2, 3], [4, 5, 6]]`



- b) `++ [1, 2, 3] [4, 5, 6]`
- c) `(++) "hello" " world"`
- d) `["hello" ++ " world"]`
- e) `4 !! "hello"`
- f) `(!!) "hello" 4`
- g) `take "4 lovely"`
- h) `take 3 "awesome"`

2. Next we have two sets: the first set is lines of code and the other is a set of results. Read the code and figure out which results came from which lines of code. Be sure to test them in the REPL.

- a) `concat [[1 * 6], [2 * 6], [3 * 6]]`
- b) `"rain" ++ drop 2 "elbow"`
- c) `10 * head [1, 2, 3]`
- d) `(take 3 "Julie") ++ (tail "yes")`
- e) `concat [tail [1, 2, 3],  
tail [4, 5, 6],  
tail [7, 8, 9]]`

Can you match each of the previous expressions to one of these results presented in a scrambled order?

- a) "Jules"
- b) [2,3,5,6,8,9]
- c) "rainbow"
- d) [6,12,18]
- e) 10

## Building functions

1. Given the list-manipulation functions mentioned in this chapter, write functions that take the following inputs and return the expected outputs. Do them directly in your REPL and use the `take` and `drop` functions you've already seen.

**Example**

```
-- If you apply your function to this value:  
"Hello World"  
-- Your function should return:  
"ello World"
```

The following would be a fine solution:

```
Prelude> drop 1 "Hello World"  
"ello World"
```

Now write expressions to perform the following transformations, just with the functions you've seen in this chapter. You do not need to do anything clever here.

```
a) -- Given  
   "Curry is awesome"  
   -- Return  
   "Curry is awesome!"  
  
b) -- Given  
   "Curry is awesome!"  
   -- Return  
   "y"  
  
c) -- Given  
   "Curry is awesome!"  
   -- Return  
   "awesome!"
```

2. Now take each of the above and rewrite it in a source file as a general function that could take different string inputs as arguments but retain the same behavior. Use a variable as the argument to your (named) functions. If you're unsure how to do this, refresh your memory by looking at the `waxOff` exercise from the previous chapter and the `GlobalLocal` module from this chapter.
3. Write a function of type `String -> Char` which returns the third character in a `String`. Remember to give the function a name

and apply it to a variable, not a specific String, so that it could be reused for different String inputs, as demonstrated (feel free to name the function something else. Be sure to fill in the type signature and fill in the function definition after the equals sign):

```
thirdLetter ::
thirdLetter x =

-- If you apply your function to this value:
"Curry is awesome"
-- Your function should return
`r`
```

Note that programming languages conventionally start indexing things by zero, so getting the zeroth index of a string will get you the first letter. Accordingly, indexing with 3 will actually get you the fourth. Keep this in mind as you write this function.

4. Now change that function so the string input is always the same and the variable represents the number of the letter you want to return (you can use “Curry is awesome!” as your string input or a different string if you prefer).

```
letterIndex :: Int -> Char
letterIndex x =
```

5. Using the take and drop functions we looked at above, see if you can write a function called `rvrs` (an abbreviation of ‘reverse’ used because there is a function called ‘reverse’ already in Prelude, so if you call your function the same name, you’ll get an error message). `rvrs` should take the string “Curry is awesome” and return the result “awesome is Curry.” This may not be the most lovely Haskell code you will ever write, but it is quite possible using only what we’ve learned so far. First write it as a single function in a source file. This doesn’t need, and shouldn’t, work for reversing the words of *any* sentence. You’re expected only to slice and dice this particular string with take and drop.

6. Let's see if we can expand that function into a module. Why would we want to? By expanding it into a module, we can add more functions later that can interact with each other. We can also then export it to other modules if we want to and use this code in those other modules. There are different ways you could lay it out, but for the sake of convenience, we'll show you a sample layout so that you can fill in the blanks:

```
module Reverse where
```

```
rvrs :: String -> String
```

```
rvrs x =
```

```
main :: IO ()
```

```
main = print ()
```

Into the parentheses after `print` you'll need to fill in your function name `rvrs` plus the argument you're applying `rvrs` to, in this case "Curry is awesome." That `rvrs` function plus its argument are now the argument to `print`. It's important to put them inside the parentheses so that that function gets applied and evaluated first, and then that result is printed.

Of course, we have also mentioned that you can use the `$` symbol to avoid using parentheses, too. Try modifying your `main` function to use that instead of the parentheses.

### 3.8 Definitions

1. A *String* is a sequence of characters. In Haskell, `String` is represented by a linked-list of `Char` values, aka `[Char]`.
2. A *type* or datatype is a classification of values or data. Types in Haskell determine what values are members of it or *inhabit* it. Unlike in other languages, datatypes in Haskell by default do not delimit the operations that can be performed on that data.
3. *Concatenation* is the joining together of sequences of values. Often in Haskell this is meant with respect to the `[]` or “List” datatype, which also applies to `String` which is `[Char]`. The *concatenation* function in Haskell is `(++)` which has type `[a] -> [a] -> [a]`. For example:

```
Prelude> "tacos" ++ " " ++ "rock"
"tacos rock"
```

4. *Scope* is where a variable referred to by name is valid. Another word used with the same meaning is *visibility*, because if a variable isn't *visible* it's not in *scope*.
5. *Local bindings* are bindings local to particular expressions. The primary delineation here from *global* bindings is that *local* bindings cannot be imported by other programs or modules.
6. *Global* or top level bindings in Haskell mean bindings visible to all code within a module and, if made available, can be imported by other modules or programs. Global bindings in the sense that a variable is unconditionally visible throughout an entire program do not exist in Haskell.
7. *Data structures* are a way of organizing data so that the data can be accessed conveniently or efficiently.

## Chapter 4

# Basic datatypes

There are many ways of trying to understand programs. People often rely too much on one way, which is called “debugging” and consists of running a partly-understood program to see if it does what you expected. Another way, which ML advocates, is to install some means of understanding in the very programs themselves.

---

Robin Milner

## 4.1 Basic Datatypes

Types are a powerful means of classifying, organizing, and delimiting data to only the forms we want to process in our programs. Types provide the means to build programs more quickly and also allow for greater ease of maintenance. As we learn more Haskell, we'll learn how to leverage types in a way that lets us accomplish the same things but with *less* code.

So far, we've looked at expressions involving numbers, characters, and lists of characters, also called strings. These are some of the standard built-in datatypes that categorize and delimit values. While those are useful datatypes and cover a lot of types of values, they certainly don't cover every type of data. In this chapter, we will

- review types we have seen in previous chapters;
- learn about datatypes, type constructors, and data constructors;
- work with predefined datatypes;
- learn more about type signatures and a bit about typeclasses.

## 4.2 Anatomy of a data declaration

Data declarations are how datatypes are defined.

The type constructor is the name of the type and is capitalized. When you are reading or writing type signatures (the type level of your code), the type names or type constructors are what you use.

Data constructors are the values that inhabit the type they are defined in. They are the values that show up in your code, at the term level instead of the type level. By “term level”, we mean they are the values as they appear in your code or the values that your code evaluates to.

We will start with a basic datatype to see how datatypes are structured and get acquainted with the vocabulary. `Bool` isn't a datatype we've seen yet in the book, but it provides for truth values. Because there are only two truth values, it's easy to list all the data constructors:

```
-- the definition of Bool
data Bool = False | True
--      [1]   [2] [3] [4]
```

1. Type constructor for datatype `Bool`. This is the name of the type and shows up in type signatures.
2. Data constructor for the value `False`.
3. Pipe `|` indicates logical disjunction, “or.” So, a `Bool` value is `True` or `False`.
4. Data constructor for the value `True`.

The whole thing is called a data declaration. Data declarations do not always follow precisely the same pattern — there are datatypes that use logical conjunction (“and”) instead of disjunction, and some type constructors and data constructors may have arguments. The thing they have in common is the keyword `data` followed by the type constructor (or name of the type that will appear in type signatures), the equals sign to denote a definition, and then data constructors (or names of values that inhabit your term-level code).

Let’s look at a very simple illustration of where the different parts show up in our code. If we query the type information for a function called `not` we see that it takes one `Bool` value and returns another `Bool` value, so the type signature makes reference to the type constructor, or datatype name:

```
Prelude> :t not
not :: Bool -> Bool
```

But when we use the `not` function, we use the data constructors, or values, in our code:

```
Prelude> not True
False
```

And our expression evaluates to another data constructor, or value — in this case the other data constructor for the same datatype.



### Exercises: Mood Swing

Given the following datatype, answer the following questions:

```
data Mood = Blah | Woot deriving Show
```

1. What is the type constructor, or name of this type?
2. If the function requires a `Mood` value, what are the values you could possibly use there?
3. We are trying to write a function `changeMood` to change Chris's mood instantaneously. So far, we've written a type signature `changeMood :: Mood -> Woot`. What's wrong with that?
4. Now we want to write the function that changes his mood. Given an input mood, it gives us the other one. Fix any mistakes and complete the function:

```
changeMood Mood = Woot  
changeMood    _ = Blah
```

5. Enter all of the above — datatype (including the “deriving `Show`” bit), your corrected type signature, and the corrected function into a source file. Load it and run it in `GHCi` to make sure you got it right.

### 4.3 Numeric types

Let's next look at numeric types, because we've already seen these types just a bit in previous chapters, and numbers are familiar territory. It's important to understand that Haskell does not just use one type of number. For most purposes, the types of numbers we need to be concerned with are:

**Integral numbers** : whole numbers, positive and negative.

1. `Int`: This type is a fixed-precision integer. By “fixed precision,” we mean it has a range, with a maximum and a minimum, and so it cannot be arbitrarily large or small — more about this in a moment.
2. `Integer`: This type is also for integers, but this one supports arbitrarily large (or small) numbers.

**Fractional** : These are not integers. Fractional values include the following four types:

1. **Float**: This is the type used for single-precision floating point numbers. Where fixed point number representations have immutable numbers of digits assigned for the parts of the number before and after the decimal point, floating point can shift how many bits it uses to represent numbers before or after the decimal point. This flexibility does, however, mean that floating point arithmetic violates some common assumptions and should only be used with great care. Generally, floating point numbers should not be used at all in business applications.
2. **Double**: This is a double-precision floating point number type. It has twice as many bits with which to describe numbers as the `Float` type.
3. **Rational**: This is a fractional number that represents a ratio of two integers. The value `1 / 2 :: Rational` will be a value carrying two `Integer` values, the numerator 1 and the denominator 2, and represents a ratio of 1 to 2. `Rational` is arbitrarily precise but not as efficient as `Scientific`.
4. **Scientific**: This is a space efficient and almost-arbitrary precision scientific number type. `Scientific` numbers are represented using scientific notation. It stores the coefficient as an `Integer` and the exponent as an `Int`. Since `Int` isn't arbitrarily-large there is technically a limit to the size of number you can express with `Scientific` but hitting that limit is quite unlikely.

These numeric datatypes all have instances of a typeclass called `Num`. We will talk about typeclasses in the upcoming chapters, but as we look at the types in this section, you will see `Num` listed in some of the type information. Typeclasses are a way of adding functionality to types that is reusable across all the types that have instances of that typeclass. `Num` is a typeclass for which most numeric types will have an instance because there are standard functions that are convenient to have available for all types of numbers. The `Num` typeclass is what provides your standard `(+)`, `(-)`, and `(*)` operators along with a few others. Any type that has an instance of `Num` can be used with those functions.

## Integral numbers

As we noted above, there are two main types of integral numbers: `Int` and `Integer`.

Integral numbers are whole numbers with no fractional component. The following are integral numbers:

```
1 2 199 32442353464675685678
```

The following are not integral numbers:

```
1.3 1/2
```

## Integer

The numbers of type `Integer` are straightforward enough; for the most part, they are the sorts of numbers we're all used to working with in arithmetic equations that involve whole numbers. They can be positive or negative, and `Integer` extends as far in either direction as one needs them to go.

The `Bool` datatype only has two possible values, so we can list them explicitly as data constructors. In the case of `Integer`, and most numeric datatypes, these data constructors are not written out because they include an infinite series of whole numbers. We'd need infinite data constructors stretching up and down from zero. Hypothetically we could represent `Integer` as a sum of three cases, recursive constructors headed towards negative infinity, zero, and recursive constructors headed towards positive infinity. This representation would be terribly inefficient so there's some GHC magic sprinkled on it.

## Why do we have `Int`?

The `Int` numeric type is an artifact of what computer hardware has supported natively over the years. Most programs should use `Integer` and not `Int`, unless the limitations of the type are understood and the additional performance makes a difference.

The danger of `Int` and the related types `Int8`, `Int16`, et al. is that they cannot express arbitrarily large quantities of information. Since they are integral, this means they cannot be arbitrarily large in the positive or negative sense.

Here's what happens if we try to represent a number too large for `Int8`:

```
Prelude> import GHC.Int
Prelude> 127 :: Int8
127
Prelude> 128 :: Int8

<interactive>:11:1: Warning:
    Literal 128 is out of the Int8 range -128..127
    If you are trying to write a large negative literal,
    use NegativeLiterals
-128
Prelude> (127 + 1) :: Int8
-128
```

The first computation is fine, because it is within the range of valid values of type `Int8`, but the `127 + 1` overflows and resets back to its smallest numeric value. Because the memory the value is allowed to occupy is fixed for `Int8`, it cannot grow to accommodate the value 128 the way `Integer` can. The representation used for the fixed-size `Int` types is *two's complement*. Here the 8 represents how many bits the type uses to represent integral numbers. Being of a fixed size can be useful in some applications, but most of the time `Integer` is preferred.

You can find out the minimum and maximum bounds of numeric types using the `minBound` and `maxBound` functions. Here's an example using our `Int8` and `Int16` example:

```
Prelude> import GHC.Int
Prelude> :t minBound
minBound :: Bounded a => a
Prelude> :t maxBound
maxBound :: Bounded a => a

Prelude> minBound :: Int8
-128
Prelude> minBound :: Int16
-32768
```

```
Prelude> minBound :: Int32
-2147483648
Prelude> minBound :: Int64
-9223372036854775808

Prelude> maxBound :: Int8
127
Prelude> maxBound :: Int16
32767
Prelude> maxBound :: Int32
2147483647
Prelude> maxBound :: Int64
9223372036854775807
```

These functions are from the typeclass `Bounded`, and they will work to tell you the limitations of possible values for any type that has an instance of that particular typeclass. In this case, we are able to find out the range of values we can represent with an `Int8` is `-128` to `127`.

## Fractional numbers

The four common Fractional types in use in Haskell are `Float`, `Double`, `Rational`, and `Scientific`. `Rational`, `Double`, and `Float` come with your install of GHC. `Scientific` comes from a library. `Rational` and `Scientific` are arbitrary precision, with the latter being much more efficient. Arbitrary precision means that these can be used to do calculations requiring a high degree of precision rather than being limited to a specific degree of precision, the way `Float` and `Double` are. You almost never want a `Float` unless you're doing graphics programming such as with `OpenGL`.

Some computations involving numbers will be fractional rather than integral. A good example of this is the division function `(/)` which has the type:

```
Prelude> :t (/)
(/) :: Fractional a => a -> a -> a
```

The notation `Fractional a =>` denotes a typeclass constraint. You can read it as “the type variable *a* must implement the `Fractional` typeclass.” This type information is telling us that whatever type of

number *a* turns out to be, it must be a type that has an instance of the `Fractional` typeclass. The `/` function will take one number that implements `Fractional`, divide it by another of the same type, and return a value of the same type as the result.

`Fractional` is a typeclass that requires types to already have an instance of the `Num` typeclass. We describe this relationship between typeclasses by saying that `Num` is a superclass of `Fractional`. So `(+)` and other functions from the `Num` typeclass can be used with `Fractional` numbers, but functions from the `Fractional` typeclass cannot be used with all types that have a `Num` instance:

Here's what happens when we use `(/)` in the REPL:

```
Prelude> 1 / 2
0.5
Prelude> 4 / 2
2.0
Prelude>
```

Note that even when we had a whole number as a result, the number was printed as `2.0`, despite having no fractional component. This is because values of `Fractional a => a` default to the floating point type `Double`. In most cases, you won't want to explicitly use `Double`. You're usually better off using the arbitrary precision sibling to `Integer`, `Scientific`, which is available in a library on Hackage.<sup>1</sup> Most people do not find it easy to reason about floating point arithmetic and find it difficult to code around the quirks (those quirks are actually by design, but that's another story), so in order to avoid making mistakes just use arbitrary-precision types as a matter of course.

## 4.4 Comparing values

Up to this point, most of our operations with numbers have involved doing simple arithmetic. We can also compare numbers to determine whether they are equal, greater than, or less than:

```
Prelude> let x = 5
Prelude> x == 5
```

---

<sup>1</sup>Hackage page for *scientific* <https://hackage.haskell.org/package/scientific>

```
True
Prelude> x == 6
False
Prelude> x < 7
True
Prelude> x > 3
True
Prelude> x /= 5
False
```

Notice here that we first declared a value for  $x$  using the standard equals sign. Now we know that for the remainder of our REPL session, all instances of  $x$  will be the value 5. Because the equals sign in Haskell is already used to define variables and functions, we must use a double equals sign, `==`, to have the specific meaning “is equal to.” The `/=` symbol means “is not equal to.” The other symbols should already be familiar to you.

Having done this, we see that GHCi is returning a result of either `True` or `False`, depending on whether the expression is true or false. `True` and `False` are the data constructors for the `Bool` datatype we saw above. `Bool` gets its name from boolean logic. If you look at the type information for any of these infix operators, you’ll find the result type listed as `Bool`:

```
Prelude> :t (==)
(==) :: Eq a => a -> a -> Bool
Prelude> :t (<)
(<) :: Ord a => a -> a -> Bool
```

Notice that we get some typeclass constraints again. `Eq` is a typeclass that includes everything that can be compared and determined to be equal in value; `Ord` is a typeclass that includes all things that can be ordered. Note that neither of these is limited to numbers. Numbers can be compared and ordered, of course, but so can letters, so this typeclass constraint allows for the maximum amount of flexibility. These equality and comparison functions can take any values that can be said to have equal value or can be ordered. The rest of the type information tells us that it takes one of these values, compares it to another value of the same type, and returns a `Bool` value. As we’ve already seen, the `Bool` values are `True` or `False`.

With this information, let's try playing with some other values:

```
Prelude> 'a' == 'a'
True
Prelude> 'a' == 'b'
False
Prelude> 'a' < 'b'
True
Prelude> 'a' > 'b'
False
Prelude> 'a' == 'A'
False
Prelude> "Julie" == "Chris"
False
```

These examples are easy enough to understand. We know that alphabetical characters can be ordered, although we do not normally think of 'a' as being "less than" 'b'. But we can understand that here it means '*a comes before b*' in alphabetical order. Further, we see this also works with strings such as "Julie" or "Chris." GHCi has faithfully determined that those two strings are not equal in value.

Now use your REPL to determine whether 'a' or 'A' is greater.

Next, take a look at this sample and see if you can figure out why GHCi returns the given results:

```
Prelude> "Julie" > "Chris"
True
Prelude> "Chris" > "Julie"
False
```

Good to see Haskell code that reflects reality. Julie is greater than Chris because J > C, if the words had been "Back" and "Brack" then it would've skipped the first letter to determine which was greater because B == B, then "Brack" would've been greater because r > a in the lexicographic ordering Haskell uses for characters. Note that this is leaning on the Ord typeclass instances for list *and* Char. You can only compare lists of items where the items themselves also have an instance of Ord. Accordingly, the following will work because Char and Integer have instances of Ord:



```

Prelude> ['a', 'b'] > ['b', 'a']
False
Prelude> 1 > 2
False
Prelude> [1, 2] > [2, 1]
False

```

A datatype that has no instance of `Ord` will not work with these functions:

```

Prelude> data Mood = Blah | Woot deriving Show
Prelude> [Blah, Woot]
[Blah,Woot]
Prelude> [Blah, Woot] > [Woot, Blah]

```

```

<interactive>:28:14:
  No instance for (Ord Mood) arising
    from a use of '>'
  In the expression: [Blah, Woot] > [Woot, Blah]
  In an equation for 'it':
    it = [Blah, Woot] > [Woot, Blah]

```

Here is another thing that doesn't work with these functions:

```

Prelude> "Julie" == 8

```

```

<interactive>:38:12:
  No instance for (Num [Char]) arising from
    the literal '8'

  In the second argument of '(==)', namely '8'
  In the expression: "Julie" == 8
  In an equation for 'it': it = "Julie" == 8

```

We said above that comparison functions are polymorphic and can work with a lot of different types. But we also noted that the type information only admitted values of matching types. Once you've given a term-level value that is a string such as "Julie," the type is determined and the other argument must have the same type. The error message we see above is telling us that the type of the

literal value '8' doesn't match the type of the first value, and for this function, it must.

## Go on and Bool me

In Haskell the `Bool` datatype comes standard in the Prelude. `Bool` is a sum type with two constructors. For now, it's enough to understand that sum type means *or*, or logical disjunction. We will look more closely at sum types in a later chapter.

In Haskell there are six categories of entities that have names. First, there are variables and data constructors which exist at the term-level. Term-level is where your values live and is the code that executes when your program is running. At the type-level, which is used during the static analysis & verification of your program, we have type variables, type constructors, and typeclasses. Lastly, for the purpose of organizing our code into coherent groupings across different files (more later), we have modules which have names as well.

```
data Bool = False | True
```

This declaration creates a datatype with the type constructor `Bool`, and we refer to specific types by their type constructors. We use type constructors in type signatures, not in the expressions that make up our term-level code. The type constructor `Bool` takes no arguments (some type constructors do take arguments). The definition of `Bool` above also creates two data constructors, `True` and `False`. Both of these values are of type `Bool`. Any function that accepts values of type `Bool` must allow for the possibility of `True or False`; you cannot specify in the type that it should only accept one specific value. An English language formulation of this datatype would be something like:

```
data Bool = False | True
-- The datatype Bool is represented by
-- the values True or False.
```

Now let's have some fun with `Bool` in action. We'll start by reviewing the `not` function:

```
Prelude> :t not
```

```
not :: Bool -> Bool
Prelude> not True
False
```

Note that we capitalize `True` and `False` because they are our data constructors. What happens if you try to use `not` without capitalizing them?

Let's try something slightly more complex:

```
Prelude> not (x == 5)
False
Prelude> not (x > 7)
True
```

We know that comparison functions evaluate to a `Bool` value, so we can use them with `not`.

Let's play with infix operators that deal directly with boolean logic. How we do use `Bool` and these associated functions?

```
-- && is conjunction, so
-- this means "true and true."
Prelude> True && True
True
-- || is disjunction, so
-- this means "false or true."
Prelude> False || True
True
Prelude> True && False
False
Prelude> not True
False
Prelude> not (True && True)
False
```

We can look up info about datatypes that are in scope (if they're not in scope, we have to import the module they live in to bring them into scope) using the `:info` command `GHCi` provides. Scope is a way to refer to where a named binding to an expression is valid. When we say something is "in scope", it means you can use that expression by its bound name, either because it was defined in the

same function or module, or because you imported it. What is built into Haskell's `Prelude` module is significant because everything in it is automatically imported and in scope. We will demonstrate how to shut this off later, but for now, this is what you want.

### Exercises: Find the Mistakes

The following lines of code may have mistakes — some of them won't compile! You know what you need to do.

1. `not True && true`
2. `not (x = 6)`
3. `(1 * 2) > 5`
4. `[Merry] > [Happy]`
5. `[1, 2, 3] ++ "look at me!"`

### Conditionals with if-then-else

Haskell doesn't have 'if' statements, but it does have *if expressions*. It's a built-in bit of syntax that works with the `Bool` datatype.

```
Prelude> if True then "Truthin'" else "Falsin'"
"Truthin'"
Prelude> if False then "Truthin'" else "Falsin'"
"Falsin'"
Prelude> :t if True then "Truthin'" else "Falsin'"
if True then "Truthin'" else "Falsin'" :: [Char]
```

The structure here is `if CONDITION then EXPRESSION_A else EXPRESSION_B`. If the condition (which must evaluate to `Bool`) reduces to the `Bool` value `True`, then `EXPRESSION_A` is the result, otherwise `EXPRESSION_B`. Here the type was `String` (aka `[Char]`) because that's the type of the value that is returned as a result.

If-expressions can be thought of as a way to choose between two values. You can embed a variety of expressions within the `if` of an if-then-else, as long as it evaluates to `Bool`. The types of the expressions in the `then` and `else` clauses must be the same, as in the following:

```
Prelude> let x = 0
Prelude> if (x + 1 == 1) then "AWESOME" else "wut"
"AWESOME"
```

Here's how it reduces:

```
-- Given:
x = 0

if (x + 1 == 1) then "AWESOME" else "wut"
-- x is zero

if (0 + 1 == 1) then "AWESOME" else "wut"
-- reduce 0 + 1 so we can see if it's equal to 1

if (1 == 1) then "AWESOME" else "wut"
-- Does 1 equal 1?

if True then "AWESOME" else "wut"
-- pick the branch based on the Bool value

"AWESOME"
-- dunzo
```

But this does not work:

```
Prelude> let x = 0
Prelude> if x * 100 then "adopt a dog" else "or a cat"
```

```
<interactive>:15:7:
  No instance for (Num Bool) arising
  from a use of '*'

In the expression: (x * 100)
In the expression:
  if (x * 100)
  then "adopt a dog"
  else "or a cat"
In an equation for 'it':
```

```
it = if (x * 100)
      then "adopt a dog"
      else "or a cat"
```

We got this type error because the condition passed to the `if` expression is of type `Num a => a`, not `Bool` and `Bool` doesn't implement the `Num` typeclass. To oversimplify, `(x * 100)` evaluates to a numeric result, and numbers aren't truth values. It would have typechecked had the condition been `x * 100 == 0` or `x * 100 == 9001`. In those cases, it would've been an equality check of two numbers which reduces to a `Bool` value.

Here's an example of a function that uses a `Bool` value in an `if` expression:

```
-- greetIfCool1.hs
module GreetIfCool1 where

greetIfCool :: String -> IO ()
greetIfCool coolness =
  if cool
  then putStrLn "eyyyyy. What's shakin'?"
  else
    putStrLn "pshhhh."
  where cool = coolness == "downright frosty yo"
```

If you test this in the REPL, it should play out like this:

```
Prelude> :l greetIfCool1.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling GreetIfCool1
Ok, modules loaded: GreetIfCool1.
Prelude> greetIfCool "downright frosty yo"
eyyyyy. What's shakin'?
Prelude> greetIfCool "please love me"
pshhhh.
```

Also note that `greetIfCool` could've been written with `cool` being a function rather than a value defined against the argument directly like so:

```
-- greetIfCool2.hs
module GreetIfCool2 where

greetIfCool :: String -> IO ()
greetIfCool coolness =
    if cool coolness
    then putStrLn "eyyyyy. What's shakin'?"
    else
        putStrLn "pshhhh."
    where cool v = v == "downright frosty yo"
```

## 4.5 Tuples

The tuple in Haskell is a type that allows you to store and pass around multiple values within a single value. Tuples have a distinctive, built-in syntax that is used at both type and term levels, and each tuple has a fixed number of constituents. We refer to tuples by how many constituents are in each tuple: the two-tuple or pair, for example, has two values inside it ( $x$ ,  $y$ ); the three-tuple or triple has three ( $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ ), and so on. This number is also known as the tuple's arity. As we will see, the values within a tuple do not have to be of the same type.

We will start by looking at the two-tuple, a tuple with two constituents. The two-tuple is expressed at both the type level and term level with the constructor `(,)`.

The two-tuple in Haskell has some default convenience functions for getting the first or second value. They're named `fst` and `snd`:

```
fst :: (a, b) -> a
snd :: (a, b) -> b
```

As you can see from the above types, there's nothing those functions could do other than return the first or second value respectively. Also note that there are two polymorphic type variables,  $a$  and  $b$  which are allowed to be different types. So, a two-tuple can have type `(Integer, String)` or `(Integer, Integer)` or anything else you can imagine for the types of  $a$  and  $b$ .

Here are some examples of manipulating tuples, specifically the two-tuple:

```
Prelude> let myTup = (1 :: Integer, "blah")
Prelude> :t myTup
myTup :: (Integer, [Char])
Prelude> fst myTup
1
Prelude> snd myTup
"blah"
Prelude> import Data.Tuple
Prelude> swap myTup
("blah",1)
```

We had to import `Data.Tuple` because `swap` isn't included in the Prelude.

We can also combine tuples with other expressions:

```
Prelude> 2 + fst (1, 2)
3
Prelude> 2 + snd (1, 2)
4
```

The `(x, y)` syntax of the tuple is special. The constructors you use in the type signatures and in your code (terms) are syntactically identical even though they're different things. Sometimes that type constructor is referred to without the type variables explicitly inside of it such as `(,)`. Other times, you'll see `(a, b)` - particularly in type signatures.

It's generally unwise to use tuples of an overly large size, both for efficiency and sanity reasons. Most tuples you see will be `(, , , , )` (5-tuple) or smaller.

## 4.6 Lists

Lists in Haskell are another type used to contain multiple values within a single value. However, they differ from tuples in three important ways: First, all constituents of a list must be of the same type. Second, Lists have their own distinct `[]` syntax. Like the tuple syntax, it is used for both the type constructor in type signatures and at the term level to express list values. Third, the number of



constituents within a list can change as you operate on the list, unlike tuples where the arity is set in the type and immutable.

Here's an example for your REPL:

```
Prelude> let awesome = ["Papuchon", "curry", ":)"]
Prelude> awesome
["Papuchon","curry",":)"]

Prelude> :t awesome
awesome :: [[Char]]
```

First thing to note is that `awesome` is a list of lists of `Char` values because it is a list of strings, and a string is itself just a type *alias* for `[Char]`. A type alias, or type synonym, is what it sounds like: we use one name for a type, usually for some convenience, that has another name. Here “string” is an alias or synonym for a *list of characters*. This means all the functions and operations valid for lists of any value, usually expressed as `[a]`, are valid for `String` because `[Char]` is more specific than `[a]`.

```
Prelude> let alsoAwesome = ["Quake", "The Simons"]
Prelude> :t (++)
(++) :: [a] -> [a] -> [a]
Prelude> awesome ++ alsoAwesome
["Papuchon","curry",":)","Quake","The Simons"]

Prelude> let allAwesome = [awesome, alsoAwesome]
Prelude> allAwesome
[["Papuchon","curry",":)","Quake","The Simons"]]
Prelude> :t allAwesome
allAwesome :: [[[Char]]]
Prelude> :t concat
concat :: [[a]] -> [a]
Prelude> concat allAwesome
["Papuchon","curry",":)","Quake","The Simons"]
```

We're going to go into much more detail about lists and operations with them in an upcoming chapter, because there is a lot you can do with this datatype.

## 4.7 Chapter Exercises

As in previous chapters, you will gain more by working out the answer before you check what GHCi tells you, but be sure to use your REPL to check your answers to the following exercises. Also, you will need to have the `awesome`, `alsoAwesome`, and `allAwesome` code from above in scope for this REPL session. For convenience of reference, here are those values again:

```
awesome = ["Papuchon", "curry", ":)"]
alsoAwesome = ["Quake", "The Simons"]
allAwesome = [awesome, alsoAwesome]
```

`length` is a function that takes a list and returns a result that tells how many items are in the list.

1. Given the definition of `length` above, what would the type signature be? How many arguments, of what type does it take? What is the type of the result it evaluates to?
2. What are the results of the following expressions?
  - a) `length [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]`
  - b) `length [(1, 2), (2, 3), (3, 4)]`
  - c) `length allAwesome`
  - d) `length (concat allAwesome)`
3. Given what we know about numeric types and the type signature of `length`, look at these two expressions. One works and one returns an error. Determine which will return an error and why. (n.b., If you're checking the type signature of `length` in GHC 7.10, you will find `Foldable t => t a` representing `[a]`, as with `concat` in the previous chapter. Again, consider `Foldable t` to represent a list here, even though `list` is only one of the possible types. We will explain it in detail later.)

```
Prelude> 6 / 3
-- and
Prelude> 6 / length [1, 2, 3]
```

4. How can you fix the broken code from the preceding exercise using a different division function/operator?
5. What is the type of the expression `2 + 3 == 5`? What would we expect as a result?
6. What is the type and expected result value of the following:

```
Prelude> let x = 5
Prelude> x + 3 == 5
```

7. Below are some bits of code. Which will work? Why or why not? If they will work, what value would these reduce to?

```
Prelude> length allAwesome == 2
Prelude> length [1, 'a', 3, 'b']
Prelude> length allAwesome + length awesome
Prelude> (8 == 8) && ('b' < 'a')
Prelude> (8 == 8) && 9
```

8. Write a function that tells you whether or not a given String (or list) is a palindrome. Here you'll want to use a function called 'reverse,' a predefined function that does just what it sounds like.

```
reverse :: [a] -> [a]
reverse "blah"
"halb"

isPalindrome :: (Eq a) => [a] -> Bool
isPalindrome x = undefined
```

9. Write a function to return the absolute value of a number using if-then-else

```
myAbs :: Integer -> Integer
myAbs = undefined
```

10. Fill in the definition of the following function, using `fst` and `snd`:

```
f :: (a, b) -> (c, d) -> ((b, d), (a, c))
f = undefined
```

## Correcting syntax

In the following examples, you'll be shown syntactically incorrect code. Type it in and try to correct it in your text editor, validating it with GHC or GHCi.

1. Here, we want a function that adds 1 to the length of a string argument and returns that result.

```
x = (+)
```

```
F xs = w 'x' 1
    where w = length xs
```

2. This is supposed to be the identity function, id.

```
\ x = x
```

3. When fixed, this function will return 1 from the value [1, 2, 3].  
Hint: you may need to refer back to the section about variables conventions in “Hello Haskell” to refresh your memory of this notation.

```
\ x : xs -> x
```

4. When fixed, this function will return 1 from the value (1, 2).

```
f (a b) = A
```

## Match the function names to their types

1. Which of the following types is the type of show?

a) `show a => a -> String`

b) `Show a -> a -> String`

c) `Show a => a -> String`

2. Which of the following types is the type of (==)?

a) `a -> a -> Bool`

b) `Eq a => a -> a -> Bool`

c) `Eq a -> a -> a -> Bool`

d) `Eq a => A -> Bool`

3. Which of the following types is the type of `fst`?

a) `(a, b) -> a`

b) `b -> a`

c) `(a, b) -> b`

4. Which of the following types is the type of `(+)`?

a) `Num a -> a -> a -> Bool`

b) `Num a => a -> a -> Bool`

c) `num a => a -> a -> a`

d) `Num a => a -> a -> a`

e) `a -> a -> a`

## 4.8 Definitions

1. A *tuple* is an ordered grouping of values. In Haskell, there is no singleton tuple, but there is a zero tuple also called *unit* or `()`. The types of the elements of tuples are allowed to vary, so you can have both `(String, String)` or `(Integer, String)`. Tuples in Haskell are the usual means of expressing an anonymous product.
2. A *typeclass* is a set of operations defined with respect to a polymorphic type. When a type is an instance of a typeclass, values of that type can be used in the standard operations defined for that typeclass. In Haskell, typeclasses are unique pairings of class and concrete instance. This means that if a given type *a* has an instance of `Eq`, it has *only* one instance of `Eq`.
3. *Data constructors* in Haskell provide a means of creating values that inhabit a given type. Data constructors in Haskell have a type and can either be constant values (nullary) or take one or more arguments just like functions. In the following example, `Cat` is a nullary data constructor for `Pet` and `Dog` is a data constructor that takes an argument:

```
-- Why name a cat? They don't answer anyway.
```

```
type Name = String
```

```
data Pet = Cat | Dog Name
```

The data constructors have the following types:

```
Prelude> :t Cat
Cat :: Pet
Prelude> :t Dog
Dog :: Name -> Pet
```

4. *Type constructors* in Haskell are *not* values and can only be used in type signatures. Just as data declarations generate data constructors to create values that inhabit that type, data declarations generate *type constructors* which can be used to denote that type. In the above example, `Pet` is the type constructor. A guideline

for differentiating the two kinds of constructors is that type constructors always go to the left of the = in a data declaration.

5. *Data declarations* define new datatypes in Haskell. Data declarations *always* create a new type constructor, but may or *may not* create new data constructors. Data declarations are how we refer to the entire definition that begins with the data keyword.
6. A *type alias* is a way to refer to a type constructor or type constant by an alternate name, usually to communicate something more specific or for brevity.

```
type Name = String
-- creates a new type alias Name of the
-- type String *not* a data declaration,
-- just a type alias declaration
```

7. *Arity* is the number of arguments a function accepts. This notion is a little slippery in Haskell as, due to currying, all functions are 1-arity and we handle accepting multiple arguments by nesting functions.
8. *Polymorphism* in Haskell means being able to write code in terms of values which may be one of several, or any, type. Polymorphism in Haskell is either *parametric* or *constrained*. The identity function, `id`, is an example of a parametrically polymorphic function:

```
id :: a -> a
id x = x
```

Here `id` works for a value of *any* type because it doesn't use any information specific to a given type or set of types. Whereas, the following function `isEqual`:

```
isEqual :: Eq a => a -> a -> Bool
isEqual x y = x == y
```

Is polymorphic, but *constrained* or *bounded* to the set of types which have an instance of the `Eq` typeclass. The different kinds of polymorphism will be discussed in greater detail in a later chapter.

## Chapter 5

# Types

She was the single artificer of  
the world  
In which she sang. And when  
she sang, the sea,  
Whatever self it had, became  
the self  
That was her song, for she was  
the maker.

---

Wallace Stevens, "The Idea of  
Order at Key West"



## 5.1 Types

Haskell has a robust and expressive type system. Types play an important role in the readability, safety, and maintainability of Haskell code. In the last chapter, we looked at some built-in datatypes, such as `Bool` and tuples, and we also looked just a bit at the typeclasses `Num` and `Eq`. In this section, we’re going to take a deeper look at the type system and

- learn more about querying and reading type signatures;
- see that currying has, unfortunately, nothing to do with food;
- take a closer look at different kinds of polymorphism;
- look at type inference and how to declare types for our functions.

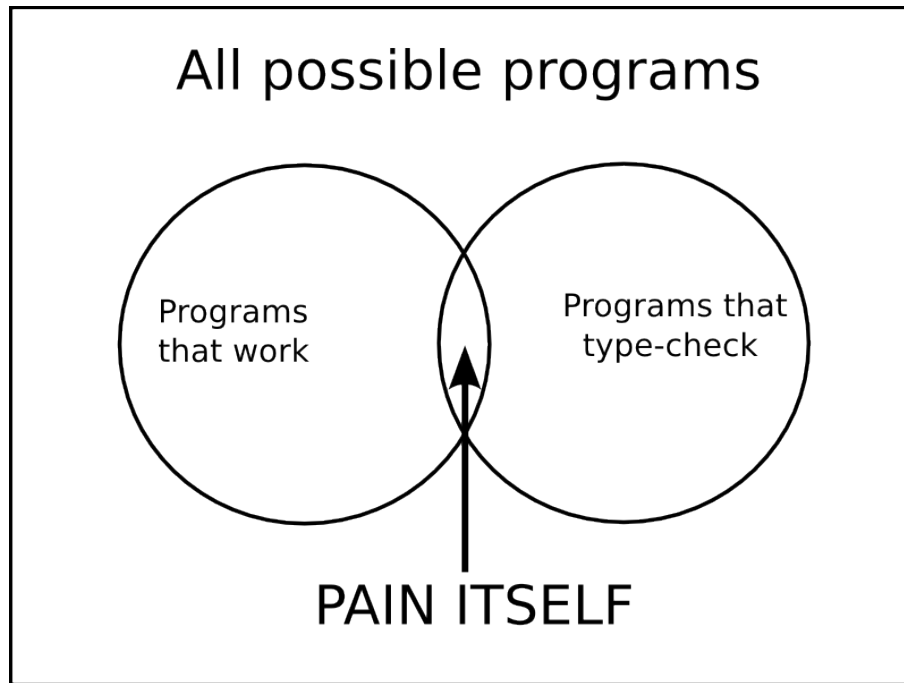
## 5.2 What are types?

Expressions, when evaluated, reduce to values. Every value has a type. Types are how we group a set of values together that share something in common. Sometimes that “something in common” is abstract, sometimes it’s a specific model of a particular concept or domain. If you’ve taken a mathematics course that covered sets, thinking about types as being like sets will help guide your intuition on what types are and how they work in a mathematical<sup>1</sup> sense.

As we saw in the last chapter, data constructors are the values of a particular type; they are also functions that let us create data, or values, of a particular type, as will become more clear in a later chapter. In Haskell, you cannot create untyped data, so except for a sprinkling of syntactic sugar for things like numbers or functions, everything originates in a data constructor from some definition of a type.

---

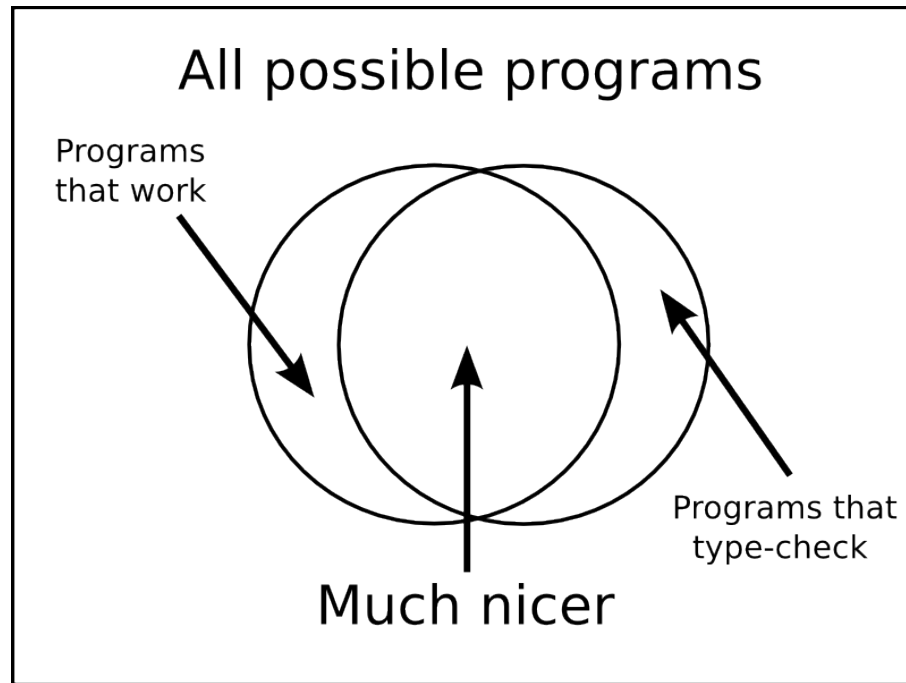
<sup>1</sup> Set theory is the study of mathematical collections of objects. Set theory was a precursor to type theory, the latter being used prolifically in the design of programming languages like Haskell. Logical operations like disjunction (or) and conjunction (and) used in the manipulation of sets have equivalents in Haskell’s type system.



Why pain? Because the overlap is so small!

This type system makes life difficult for us from *two* different directions. Not only does it allow bad (that is, not well-typed) programs, but the types don't let us express as many programs that *should* work! Many, perhaps most, programming languages have type systems that feel like arguing or bartering with a petty merchant. However, we believe Haskell provides a type system that more closely resembles a quiet, pleasant conversation with a colleague than an argument in the bazaar. Much of what we suggest with regards to putting code in a file, loading it in a REPL, querying types in the REPL, and so forth, is about creating habits conducive to having this pleasant back and forth with your type system.

An improved type system, in contrast to the one above, looks more like this:



The above is an example of what we would actually like, a type system which, as much as is possible, lets us only express programs that work and express *many* possible working programs.

Strong typing means that we are guaranteed not to have certain sorts of errors in our code. For example, if a function expects an integral value, you cannot put a string or some other type of value in that spot; it will not typecheck and it will not compile.

Static typing means that the types are known to the compiler and checked for mismatches, or type errors, at compile time. Code that typechecks at compile time may still break at runtime, but checking for type errors at compile time significantly reduces the risk of programs breaking at runtime. You may at first feel that the strong, static type system requires a lot of upfront work. As we will see, however, this upfront cost comes with a later payoff: code that is safer and, down the line, easier to maintain. Working with a good type system can eliminate those tests that only check that you're passing the right sort of data around, which can help tremendously.

Haskell's type system allows for a nifty feature known as type inference. We can declare our types when we write our programs, but the compiler will infer the types for expressions that have no declared

type. It is better to have explicit type declarations in any nontrivial program, but type inference can be helpful as you're learning and experimenting with writing new programs.

An example of a type is `Bool`, which we remember from the last chapter. The `Bool` type is a set with two inhabitants, `True` and `False`. Any time the value `True` or `False` occurs in a Haskell program, the typechecker will know they're members of the `Bool` set or type. The inverse is that anytime type `Bool` is declared in a type signature, the compiler will expect one of those two values and only one of those two values; you get a type error if you try to pass a number where a `Bool` is expected.

### 5.3 Querying and Reading Types

In previous chapters, we've seen that we can query types in the REPL by use of the `:type` or `:t` command. When we query the types of values, we see something like this:

```
Prelude> :type 't'
't' :: Char          -- 't' has the type Char
Prelude> :type "julie"
"julie" :: [Char]    -- "julie" has the type String
Prelude> :type True
True :: Bool         -- True has the type Bool
```

When we query the types of numeric values, we see typeclass information because the compiler doesn't know which specific numeric type a value is until the type is either declared (more on that later) or the compiler is forced to infer a specific type based on the function. For example, `13` may look like an integer to us, but that would only allow us to use it in computations that take integers (and not, say, in fractional division). For that reason, the compiler gives it the type with the broadest applicability (most polymorphic) and says it's a constrained polymorphic `Num a => a` value:

```
Prelude> :type 13
13 :: Num a => a
```

Now, let's look at the type signatures from some of the functions we've already learned:

```
Prelude> :type not
not :: Bool -> Bool
```

The arrow, `(->)`, you keep seeing in type signatures is the type constructor for functions in Haskell. It's baked into the language, but syntactically it works in very much the same way as all the other types you've seen so far. It's a type constructor, like `Bool`, except the `(->)` type constructor takes arguments and has no data constructors:

```
Prelude> :info (->)
data (->) a b
```

Since it has no data constructors, the value of type `(->)` that shows up at term-level is the function. *Functions are values.*

If you compare this to the first line of `:info` of the type constructor for the two-tuple, you see the similarity:

```
Prelude> :info (,)
data (,) a b = (,) a b
```

The function `fst` is a value of type `(a, b) -> a` where `->` is an infix type that takes two arguments:

```
fst :: (a, b) -> a
--      [1]   [2] [3]
```

1. Argument to `fst`, has the type `(a, b)`. Note that the tuple type itself `(,)` takes two arguments *a* and *b* here.
2. The function type, `(->)`. Here it has two parameters. One is `(a, b)` and one is the result *a*.
3. The result of the function, which has type *a*. It's the same *a* that was in the tuple `(a, b)`.

Let's look at another function:

```
Prelude> :type length
length :: [a] -> Int
```

The `length` function takes one argument that is a list — note the square brackets — and returns an `Int` result. The `Int` result in this case will be the number of items in the list. The type of the inhabitants of the list is left unspecified; this function does not care, in fact cannot care, what types of values are inside the list.

**Type signatures in GHC 7.10** The last release of GHC brought noticeable changes, including changes to type signatures. We aren't going to explain it in detail at this point (a later chapter on `Foldable` and `Traversable` will cover the change in depth). In GHC 7.10, the type of `length` is now `Foldable t => t a -> Int` where `Foldable` is a typeclass. This means `length` can now be used on any type that has an instance of the `Foldable` class, not only on lists. It does not affect how `length` will behave with lists, and you can easily force `length` to specialize from a constrained-polymorphic `t a` to `a [a]`. Until we've covered typeclasses in enough detail that this makes sense to you, we will continue to show the old type signatures. Note that this does not only affect `length` but many standard functions that we use with lists and strings.

## 5.4 Typeclass constrained type variables

Next, let's look at the types of some arithmetic functions. You may recall that the act of wrapping an infix operator in parentheses allows us to use the function just like a normal prefix function, including being able to query the type:

```
Prelude> :type (+)
(+) :: Num a => a -> a -> a
Prelude> :type (/)
(/) :: Fractional a => a -> a -> a
```

To describe these casually, we could say addition takes one numeric argument, adds it to a second numeric argument of the same type, and returns a numeric value of the same type as a result. Similarly, the fractional division function takes a fractional value, divides it by a second fractional value, and returns a third fractional value as a result. This isn't precise, and we'll explain why very soon.

As we saw with numeric datatypes, the compiler gives the least specific and most general type it can. Instead of limiting this function to a concrete type, we get a typeclass-constrained polymorphic type variable. We talked about typeclasses just a bit in the previous chapter, and we'll save a fuller explanation of them for the next chapter. What we need to know here is that `Num` and `Fractional` are typeclasses, not concrete types. Each typeclass offers a standard set of functions that can be used across several concrete types. When a typeclass is constraining a type variable in this way, the variable could represent any of the concrete types that have instances of that typeclass.

For now, we can think of the type `Num a => a` as saying, “variable *a* can have any type provided it satisfies the properties of being a number”. This generalization of number-hood is what lets us use the same numerical literals to represent numeric values of different types. In fact, we can start with a `Num a => a` value and then create specific versions of it with a concrete type. We say it's *constrained* because we still don't know the concrete type of *a*, but we do know it can only be one of the types that has a `Num` instance:

```
Prelude> let fifteen = 15
Prelude> :t fifteen
fifteen :: Num a => a
Prelude> let fifteenInt = fifteen :: Int
Prelude> let fifteenDouble = fifteen :: Double
Prelude> :t fifteenInt
fifteenInt :: Int
Prelude> :t fifteenDouble
fifteenDouble :: Double
```

So we've shown that you can make a type more specific, we went from `Num a => a` to `Int` and `Double`. This works because `Int` and `Double` each have an instance of the `Num` typeclass:

```
Prelude> :info Num
[...irrelevant bits elided...]
instance Num Int -- Defined in 'GHC.Num'
instance Num Double -- Defined in 'GHC.Float'

Prelude> fifteenInt + fifteenInt
```

```
30
Prelude> fifteenDouble + fifteenDouble
30.0
```

```
-- BUT:
```

```
Prelude> fifteenDouble + fifteenInt

Couldn't match expected type 'Double'
  with actual type 'Int'
In the second argument of '(+)',
  namely 'fifteenInt'
In the expression: fifteenDouble + fifteenInt
```

We can also make more specific versions of our `Num a => a` value named `fifteen` by simply using it in a way that requires it to become something more specific:

```
Prelude> fifteenDouble + fifteen
30.0
Prelude> fifteenInt + fifteen
30
```

A type signature might have multiple typeclass constraints on one or more of the variables. You will sometimes see (or write) type signatures such as:

```
(Num a, Num b) => a -> b -> b

-- or

(Ord a, Num a) => a -> Ordering
```

Here, the constraints look like a tuple but they don't add another function argument that you must provide, and they don't appear as a tuple at the value or term level. They do represent a product, or conjunction, of constraints.

In the first example above, there are two constraints, one for each variable. Both *a* and *b* must have instances of the `Num` typeclass. In



the second example, both of the constraints are on the one variable  $a$  — that is,  $a$  must be a type that implements *both* `Ord` and `Num`.

In either case, this isn't saying  $a$  must be a tuple or that the function will have a tuple at the term level, but that this intersection of constraints exists for the type.

### Exercises: Type Matching

Below you'll find a list of several standard functions we've talked about previously. Under that is a list of their type signatures. Match the function to its type signature. Try to do it without peeking at the type signatures (either in the text or in GHCi) and then check your work. You may find it easier to start from the types and work out what you think a function of that type would do.

1. Functions:

- a) `not`
- b) `length`
- c) `concat`
- d) `head`
- e) `(<)`

2. Type signatures:

- a) `_ :: [a] -> a`
- b) `_ :: [[a]] -> [a]`
- c) `_ :: Bool -> Bool`
- d) `_ :: [a] -> Int`
- e) `_ :: Ord a => a -> a -> Bool`

## 5.5 Currying

As stated earlier, arguments (*plural*) is a shorthand for the truth in Haskell. All functions in Haskell take one argument and return one result. Other programming languages, if you have any experience with them, typically allow you to define functions that can take multiple arguments. There is no support for this built into Haskell. Instead

there are syntactic conveniences that construct curried functions by default.

The arrows we’ve seen in type signatures denote the function type. Each arrow represents one argument and one result, with the final type being the final result. We can elaborate on that in a few ways:

```
(+) :: Num a => a -> a -> a
--      /   1   /
```

```
(+) :: Num a => a -> a -> a
--                /   2   /
```

```
(+) :: Num a => a -> a -> a
--                                [3]
```

1. Typeclass constraint saying that *a* must have an instance of `Num`.
2. The boundaries of 2 demarcate what you might call the two “arguments” to the function `(+)`, but really, all functions in Haskell take one argument and return one result. This is because functions in Haskell are nested like Matryoshka dolls in order to accept “multiple” arguments. The nesting is more apparent when one realizes that `(->)` is the type constructor for functions and that `a -> a -> a` represents successive function applications, each taking one argument and returning one result. The difference is that the function at the outermost layer is actually returning *another* function that accepts the next argument. This is called currying.
3. The result type for this function.

The way the type constructor for functions, `(->)`, is defined makes currying the default in Haskell. This is because it is an infix operator and right associative. Because it associates to the right, types get parenthesized like so:

```
a -> a -> a
```

```
-- gets paren'd into
```

```
a -> (a -> a)
```

and

```
(a -> b) -> [a] -> [b]
```

```
-- gets paren'd into
```

```
(a -> b) -> ([a] -> [b])
```

Let's see if we can unpack the notion of a right-associating infix operator giving us curried functions. As we saw with the lambda calculus, *application is evaluation*. Remember, when we have a lambda expression that appears to have two parameters, they are actually nested lambdas. Applying the expression to one argument returns a function that awaits application to a second argument. After you apply it to a second argument, you have a final result. You can nest more lambdas than two, of course, but the process is the same: one argument, one result, even though that result may be a function awaiting application to another argument.

The type constructor for functions and the types we see above are the same thing, but written in Haskell. When there are “two arguments” in Haskell, we apply our function to an argument, just like when we apply a lambda expression to an argument, and then return a result that is a function and needs to be applied to a second argument.

Let's kick around currying a bit to see what it does for us:

```
addStuff :: Integer -> Integer -> Integer
addStuff a b = a + b + 5
```

So, `addStuff` appears to take two `Integer` arguments and return an `Integer` result. But after loading that in `GHCi` we see that it is taking one argument and returning a function that takes one argument and returns one result:

```
Prelude> :t addStuff
addStuff :: Integer -> Integer -> Integer
Prelude> let addTen = addStuff 5
Prelude> let fifteen = addTen 5
Prelude> fifteen
```

```

15
Prelude> addTen 15
25
Prelude> addStuff 5 5
15

```

Here fifteen is equal to `addStuff 5 5`, because `addTen` is equal to `addStuff 5`. The ability to apply only some of a function's arguments is described as *partial application*. This lets us reuse `addStuff` and create a new function from it with one of the arguments applied.

When one considers that `(->)` is a type constructor and associates to the right, this becomes more clear.

```
addStuff :: Integer -> Integer -> Integer
```

```
-- but with explicit parenthesization
```

```
addStuff :: Integer -> (Integer -> Integer)
```

The way you can read the explicitly parenthesized type for `addStuff` is, “I take an `Integer` argument and return a function that takes an `Integer` and returns an `Integer`.” You saw this in action when we partially applied the `addStuff` function above.

## Binding variables to types

Let's next look at an example of the effect that binding arguments has on types. We will declare a function with a number of arguments that share the same type, but don't get used:

```
funcIgnoresArgs :: a -> a -> a -> String
funcIgnoresArgs x y z = "Blah"
```

Then we load this and apply the first argument in a few different ways to see what happens:

```

Prelude> :t funcIgnoresArgs
funcIgnoresArgs :: a -> a -> a -> String
-- Cool, this is the type we saw in the file

```

```
Prelude> :t funcIgnoresArgs (1 :: Integer)
funcIgnoresArgs (1 :: Integer) :: Integer
                                -> Integer
                                -> String
```

We lost one `(->)` because we applied one of our functions. The function `a -> a -> a -> String` is only conceptually, but not *actually* one function. Technically it's 3 functions nested one inside another. We could read it as `a -> (a -> (a -> String))`. One way to know how many function objects there are is by their type constructors, and `(->)` is the type constructor for functions. Let's run this same function through some drills to see what is meant.

```
-- 'undefined' can pretend to be any type
-- put differently, inhabits all types
Prelude> :t undefined
undefined :: t
Prelude> let u = undefined

Prelude> :t funcIgnoresArgs u
funcIgnoresArgs undefined :: a -> a -> String
Prelude> :t funcIgnoresArgs u u
funcIgnoresArgs u u :: a -> String
Prelude> :t funcIgnoresArgs u u u
funcIgnoresArgs u u u :: String
Prelude> funcIgnoresArgs u u u
"Blah"
```

Here `undefined`, sometimes also called “bottom”, provided no additional type information so the *a* in the type signature was never made more specific. The progression of type signatures went like so:

```

-- Remember
a -> a -> a -> String

-- is actually
a -> (a -> (a -> String))

-- So applying each argument
-- produces the following progression
a -> a -> a -> String

      a -> a -> String

            a -> String

                  String

```

Consider this next example for a function of a different type but with the same behavior:

```

-- Spaced out for readability
diffFunc :: a -> b -> c -> String
--           [1]   [2]   [3]

-- is actually

diffFunc :: a -> (b -> (c -> String))
--           [1]   [2]   [3]

```

1. First, outermost (->) type constructor. This has the type `a -> (b -> (c -> String))`. So the argument is *a* and the result is `b -> (c -> String)`.
2. Second function, nested inside the first function, has the type `b -> (c -> String)`, so the argument is *b* and the result is `c -> String`.
3. Third, innermost function. Has the type `c -> String`, so the argument is *c* and the result is `String`.

## Manual currying and Uncurry

Haskell is curried by default, but you can uncurry functions. “Uncurrying” means un-nesting the functions and replacing the two functions with a tuple of two values (these would be the two values you want to use as arguments). If you uncurry (+), the type changes from `Num a => a -> a -> a` to `Num a => (a, a) -> a` which better fits the description “takes two arguments, returns one result” than curried functions. Some older functional languages default to using a product type like tuples to express multiple arguments.

- Uncurried functions: One function, many arguments
- Curried functions: Many functions, one argument apiece

You can also de-sugar the automatic currying yourself, by nesting the arguments with lambdas, though there’s almost never a reason to do so.

We’ve used some syntax here that we haven’t introduced yet. This anonymous lambda syntax will be fully explained in a later chapter. For now, you can get a sense of what’s happening here without knowing that bit of syntax by comparing the functions directly and thinking of the backslash as a lambda:

```
nonsense :: Bool -> Integer
nonsense True = 805
nonsense False = 31337

typicalCurriedFunction :: Integer
                        -> Bool
                        -> Integer
typicalCurriedFunction i b =
    i + (nonsense b)

uncurriedFunction :: (Integer, Bool)
                  -> Integer
uncurriedFunction (i, b) =
    i + (nonsense b)

anonymous :: Integer -> Bool -> Integer
anonymous = \i b -> i + (nonsense b)
```

```

anonymousAndManuallyNested :: Integer
                                -> Bool
                                -> Integer
anonymousAndManuallyNested =
  \i -> \b -> i + (nonsense b)

```

Then when we test the functions from the REPL:

```

Prelude> typicalCurriedFunction 10 False
31347
Prelude> anonymous 10 False
31347
Prelude> anonymousAndManuallyNested 10 False
31347

```

They are all the same function, all giving the same results. In `anonymousAndManuallyNested`, we just manually nested the anonymous lambdas to get a function that was semantically identical to `typicalCurriedFunction` but didn't leverage the automatic currying. This means functions that *seem* to accept multiple arguments such as with `a -> a -> a -> a` are really *higher-order functions*: they yield more function values as each argument is applied until there are no more `(->)` type constructors and it terminates in a non-function value.

## Currying and uncurrying existing functions

It turns out, we can curry and uncurry functions of two arguments generically without writing new code for each one. Consider the following example for currying:

```

Prelude> let curry f a b = f (a, b)
Prelude> :t curry
curry :: ((t1, t2) -> t) -> t1 -> t2 -> t
Prelude> :t fst
fst :: (a, b) -> a
Prelude> :t curry fst
curry fst :: t -> b -> t
Prelude> fst (1, 2)
1
Prelude> curry fst 1 2

```



1

Then for uncurrying:

```
Prelude> let uncurry f (a, b) = f a b
Prelude> :t uncurry
uncurry :: (t1 -> t2 -> t) -> (t1, t2) -> t
Prelude> :t (+)
(+) :: Num a => a -> a -> a
Prelude> (+) 1 2
3
Prelude> uncurry (+) (1, 2)
3
```

Currying and uncurrying functions of three or more arguments automatically is quite possible, but trickier. We'll leave that be, but investigate on your own if you like.

### Exercises: Type Arguments

Given a function and its type, tell us what type results from applying some or all of the arguments.

You can check your work in the REPL like this (using the first question as an example):

```
Prelude> let f :: a -> a -> a -> a; f = undefined
Prelude> let x :: Char; x = undefined
Prelude> :t f x
```

It turns out that you can check the types of things that aren't really implemented yet, so long as you give GHCi an *undefined* to bind the signature to.

1. If the type of  $f$  is  $a \rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow a$ , and the type of  $x$  is `Char` then the type of  $f\ x$  is
  - a) `Char -> Char -> Char`
  - b) `x -> x -> x -> x`
  - c) `a -> a -> a`
  - d) `a -> a -> a -> Char`

2. If the type of `g` is `a -> b -> c -> b`, then the type of `g 0 'c' "woot"` is
  - a) `String`
  - b) `Char -> String`
  - c) `Int`
  - d) `Char`
3. If the type of `h` is `(Num a, Num b) => a -> b -> b`, then the type of `h 1.0 2` is
  - a) `Double`
  - b) `Integer`
  - c) `Integral b => b`
  - d) `Num b => b`
4. If the type of `h` is `(Num a, Num b) => a -> b -> b`, then the type of `h 1 (5.5 :: Double)` is
  - a) `Integer`
  - b) `Fractional b => b`
  - c) `Double`
  - d) `Num b => b`
5. If the type of `jackal` is `(Ord a, Eq b) => a -> b -> a`, then the type of `jackal "keyboard" "has the word jackal in it"`
  - a) `[Char]`
  - b) `Eq b => b`
  - c) `b -> [Char]`
  - d) `b`
  - e) `Eq b => b -> [Char]`
6. If the type of `jackal` is `(Ord a, Eq b) => a -> b -> a`, then the type of `jackal "keyboard"`
  - a) `b`

- b)  $\text{Eq } b \Rightarrow b$
- c)  $[\text{Char}]$
- d)  $b \rightarrow [\text{Char}]$
- e)  $\text{Eq } b \Rightarrow b \rightarrow [\text{Char}]$

7. If the type of `kessel` is  $(\text{Ord } a, \text{Num } b) \Rightarrow a \rightarrow b \rightarrow a$ , then the type of

`kessel 1 2` is

- a) Integer
- b) Int
- c) a
- d)  $(\text{Num } a, \text{Ord } a) \Rightarrow a$
- e)  $\text{Ord } a \Rightarrow a$
- f)  $\text{Num } a \Rightarrow a$

8. If the type of `kessel` is  $(\text{Ord } a, \text{Num } b) \Rightarrow a \rightarrow b \rightarrow a$ , then the type of

`kessel 1 (2 :: Integer)` is

- a)  $(\text{Num } a, \text{Ord } a) \Rightarrow a$
- b) Int
- c) a
- d)  $\text{Num } a \Rightarrow a$
- e)  $\text{Ord } a \Rightarrow a$
- f) Integer

9. If the type of `kessel` is  $(\text{Ord } a, \text{Num } b) \Rightarrow a \rightarrow b \rightarrow a$ , then the type of

`kessel (1 :: Integer) 2` is

- a)  $\text{Num } a \Rightarrow a$
- b)  $\text{Ord } a \Rightarrow a$
- c) Integer
- d)  $(\text{Num } a, \text{Ord } a) \Rightarrow a$
- e) a

To review your answers for the above, you can do this in the REPL, changing the relevant information for each:

```
Prelude> let f :: a -> a -> a -> a; f = undefined
Prelude> :t f undefined
f undefined :: a -> a -> a
Prelude> :t f 1
f 1 :: Num a => a -> a -> a
Prelude> :t f (1 :: Int)
f (1 :: Int) :: Int -> Int -> Int
```

## 5.6 Polymorphism

Polymorph is a word of relatively recent provenance. It was invented in the early 19th century from the Greek words *poly* for “many” and *morph* for “form”. The *-ic* suffix in polymorphic means “made of”. So, ‘polymorphic’ means “made of many forms”. In programming, this is understood to be in contrast with *monomorphic*, “made of one form.”

Polymorphic type variables give us the ability to implement expressions that can accept arguments and return results of different types without having to write variations on the same expression for each type. It would be inefficient if you were doing arithmetic and had to write the same code over and over for different numeric types. The good news is the numerical functions that come with your GHC installation and the Haskell Prelude are polymorphic by default. Broadly speaking, type signatures may have three kinds of types: concrete, constrained polymorphic, or parametrically polymorphic.

In Haskell, polymorphism divides into two categories: parametric polymorphism and constrained polymorphism. If you’ve encountered polymorphism before, it was probably a form of constrained, often called ad-hoc, polymorphism. Ad-hoc polymorphism<sup>2</sup> in Haskell is implemented with typeclasses.

Parametric polymorphism is broader than ad-hoc polymorphism. Parametric polymorphism refers to type variables, or *parameters*, that are fully polymorphic. When unconstrained by a typeclass, their

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<sup>2</sup>Wadler’s paper on making Ad-hoc polymorphism less ad-hoc <http://people.csail.mit.edu/dnj/teaching/6898/papers/wadler88.pdf>

final, concrete type could be anything. Constrained polymorphism, on the other hand, puts typeclass constraints on the variable, decreasing the number of concrete types it could be, but increasing what you can actually do with it by defining and bringing into scope a set of operations.

Recall that when you see a lowercase name in a type signature, it is a type variable and polymorphic (like *a*, *t*, etc). If the type is capitalized, it is a specific, concrete type such as `Int`, `Bool`, etc.

Let's consider a parametrically polymorphic function: *identity*. The `id` function comes with the Haskell Prelude and is called the identity function because it is the identity for any value in our language. In the next example, the type variable '*a*' is parametrically polymorphic and not constrained by a typeclass. Passing any value to `id` will return the same value:

```
id :: a -> a
-- For all 'a', get an argument of some type 'a',
-- return value of same type 'a'
```

This is the maximally polymorphic signature for `id`. It allows this function to work with any type of data:

```
Prelude> id 1
1
Prelude> id "blah"
"blah"
Prelude> let inc = (+1)
Prelude> inc 2
3
Prelude> (id inc) 2
3
```

Based on the type of `id`, we are guaranteed this behavior - it cannot do anything else! The *a* in the type signature cannot change because the type variable gets fixed to a concrete type throughout the entire type signature (*a* == *a*). If one applies `id` to a value of type `Int`, the *a* is fixed to type `Int`. By default (exceptions will be discussed later), type variables are resolved at the left-most part of the type signature and are fixed once sufficient information to bind them to a concrete type is available.

The arguments in parametrically polymorphic functions, like `id`, could be anything, any type or typeclass, so the terms of the function are more restricted because there are no methods or information attached to them. With the type `id :: a -> a`, it can do nothing other than return  $a$  because there is no information or method attached to its parameter at all — nothing can be done *with*  $a$ . On the other hand, a function like `negate`, with a similar-appearing type signature of `Num a => a -> a` constrains the  $a$  variable as an instance of the `Num` typeclass. Now  $a$  has fewer concrete types it could be, but there are a set of methods you can use, a set of things that can be done with  $a$ .

If a type is a set of possible values, then a type variable represents a set of possible types. When there is no typeclass constraint, the set of possible types a variable could represent is effectively unlimited. Typeclass constraints limit the set of potential types (and, thus, potential values) while also passing along the common functions that can be used with those values.

Concrete types have even more flexibility in terms of computation. This has to do with the additive nature of typeclasses for one thing. For example, an `Int` is only an `Int`, but it can make use of the methods of the `Num` *and* `Integral` typeclasses because it has instances of both.

In sum, if a variable could be *anything*, then there's little that can be done to it because it has no methods. If it can be *some* types (say, a type that is an instance of `Num`), then it has some methods. If it is a concrete type, you lose the type flexibility but, due to the additive nature of typeclass inheritance, gain more potential methods. It's important to note that this inheritance extends downward from a superclass, such as `Num` to subclasses such as `Integral` and then `Int` but not the other way around. That is, if something is an instance of `Num` but not an instance of `Integral`, it can't implement the methods of the `Integral` typeclass. A subclass cannot override the methods of its superclass.

A function is polymorphic when its type signature has variables that can represent more than one type. That is, its parameters are polymorphic. Parametric polymorphism refers to fully polymorphic (unconstrained by a typeclass) parameters. Parametricity is the property we get from having parametric polymorphism. *Parametricity* means that the behavior of a function with respect to the

types of its (parametrically polymorphic) arguments is uniform. The behavior can *not* change just because it was applied to an argument of a different type.

### Exercises: Parametricity

All you can really do with a parametrically polymorphic value is pass or not pass it to some other expression. Prove that to yourself with these small demonstrations.

1. Given the type  $a \rightarrow a$ , which is the type for `id`, attempt to make a function that is not bottom and terminates successfully that does something other than returning the same value. This is impossible, but you should try it anyway.
2. We can get a more comfortable appreciation of parametricity by looking at  $a \rightarrow a \rightarrow a$ . This hypothetical function  $a \rightarrow a \rightarrow a$  has two—and only two—implementations. Write both possible versions of  $a \rightarrow a \rightarrow a$ . After doing so, try to violate the constraints of parametrically polymorphic values we outlined above.
3. Implement  $a \rightarrow b \rightarrow b$ . How many implementations can it have? Does the behavior change when the types of  $a$  and  $b$  change?

### Polymorphic constants

We've seen that there are several types of numbers in Haskell and that they cannot be used willy-nilly wherever we like; there are constraints on using different types of numbers in different functions. But intuitively we see it would be odd if we could not do arithmetic along the lines of `-10 + 6.3`. Well, let's try it:

```
Prelude> (-10) + 6.3
-3.7
```

That works just fine. Why? Let's look at the types and see if we can find out:

```

Prelude> :t (-10) + 6.3
(-10) + 6.3 :: Fractional a => a
Prelude> :t (-10)
(-10) :: Num a => a

```

Numeric literals like  $-10$  and  $6.3$  are polymorphic and stay so until given a more specific type. The `Num a =>` or `Fractional a =>` is a typeclass constraint and the  $a$  is the type variable in scope. In the type for the entire equation, we see that the compiler inferred that it was working with `Fractional` numbers. It had to, to accommodate the fractional number  $6.3$ . Fine, but what about  $(-10)$ ? We see that the type of  $(-10)$  is given maximum polymorphism by only being an instance of the `Num` typeclass, which could be any type of number. We call this a polymorphic constant.  $(-10)$  is not a variable, of course, but the type that it instantiates could be any numeric type, so its underlying representation is polymorphic.

We can force the compiler to be more specific about the types of numbers by declaring the type:

```

Prelude> let x = 5 + 5
Prelude> :t x
x :: Num a => a
Prelude> let x = 5 + 5 :: Int
Prelude> :t x
x :: Int

```

In the first example, we did not specify a type for the numbers, so the type signature defaulted to the broadest interpretation, but in the second version, we told the compiler to use the `Int` type.

### Working around constraints

Previously, we've looked at a function called `length` that takes a list and counts the number of members and returns that number as an `Int` value. We saw in the last chapter that because `Int` is not a `Fractional` number, this function won't work:

```

Prelude> 6 / length [1, 2, 3]

```

```

No instance for (Fractional Int) arising

```



from a use of `'/'`

In the expression: `6 / length [1, 2, 3]`

In an equation for `'it'`: `it = 6 / length [1, 2, 3]`

Here the problem is `length` isn't polymorphic enough. `Fractional` includes several types of numbers, but `Int` isn't one of them, and that's all `length` can return. Haskell does offer ways to work around this type of conflict, though. In this case, we will use a function called `fromIntegral` that takes an integral value and forces it to implement the `Num` typeclass, rendering it polymorphic. Here's what the type signature looks like:

```
Prelude> :type fromIntegral
fromIntegral :: (Num b, Integral a) => a -> b
```

So, it takes a value, *a*, of an `Integral` type and returns it as a value, *b*, of any `Num` type. Let's see how that works with our fractional division problem:

```
Prelude> 6 / fromIntegral (length [1, 2, 3])
2.0
```

And now all is right with the world once again.

## 5.7 Type inference

Haskell does not obligate us to assert a type for every expression or value in our programs because it has *type inference*. Type inference is an algorithm for determining the types of expressions. Haskell's type inference is built on an extended version of the Damas-Hindley-Milner type system. Haskell will infer the most generally applicable (polymorphic) type that is still correct. Essentially, the compiler starts from the values whose types it knows and then works out the types of the other values. As you mature as a Haskell programmer, you'll find this is principally useful for when you're still figuring out new code rather than for code that is "done". Once your program is "done," you will certainly know the types of all the functions, and it's considered good practice to explicitly declare them. Remember when we suggested that a good type system was like a pleasant

conversation with a colleague? Think of type inference as a helpful colleague working through a problem with you.

For example, we can write `id` ourselves.

```
Prelude> let ourId x = x
Prelude> :t ourId
ourId :: t -> t
Prelude> ourId 1
1
Prelude> ourId "blah"
"blah"
```

Here we let GHCi infer the type of `ourId` itself. Due to alpha equivalence, the difference in letters (*t* here versus *a* above) makes no difference. Type variables have no meaning outside of the type signatures where they are bound.

For this function, we again ask the compiler to infer the type:

```
Prelude> let myGreet x = x ++ " Julie"
Prelude> myGreet "hello"
"hello Julie"
Prelude> :type myGreet
myGreet :: [Char] -> [Char]
```

The compiler knows the function `(++)` and has one value to work with already that it knows is a `String`. It doesn't have to work very hard to infer a type signature from that information. If, however, we take out the string value and replace it with another variable, see what happens:

```
Prelude> let myGreet x y = x ++ y
Prelude> :type myGreet
myGreet :: [a] -> [a] -> [a]
```

We're back to a polymorphic type signature, the same signature for `(++)` itself, because the compiler has no information by which to infer the types for any of those variables (other than that they are lists of some sort).

Let's see type inference at work. Open your editor of choice and enter the following snippet:

```
-- typeInference1.hs
module TypeInference1 where

f :: Num a => a -> a -> a
f x y = x + y + 3
```

Then when we load the code into GHCi to experiment:

```
Prelude> :l typeInference1.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling TypeInference1
Ok, modules loaded: TypeInference1.
Prelude> f 1 2
6
Prelude> :t f
f :: Num a => a -> a -> a
Prelude> :t f 1
f 1 :: Num a => a -> a
```

Because the numeric literals in Haskell have the (typeclass constrained) polymorphic type `Num a => a`, we don't get a more specific type when applying *f* to 1.

Look at what happens when we elide the explicit type signature for *f*:

```
-- typeInference2.hs
module TypeInference2 where

f x y = x + y + 3
```

No type signature for *f*, so does it compile? Does it work?

```
Prelude> :l typeInference2.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling TypeInference2
Ok, modules loaded: TypeInference2.
Prelude> :t f
f :: Num a => a -> a -> a
Prelude> f 1 2
6
```

Nothing changes. In certain cases there might be a change, usually when you are using typeclasses in a way that doesn't make it clear which type you mean unless you assert one.

### Exercises: Apply Yourself

Look at these pairs of functions. One function is unapplied, so the compiler will infer maximally polymorphic type. The second function has been applied to a value, so the inferred type signature may have become concrete, or at least less polymorphic. Figure out how the type would change and why, make a note of what you think the new inferred type would be and then check your work in GHCi.

1. *-- Type signature of general function*  
`(++) :: [a] -> [a] -> [a]`

*-- How might that change when we apply  
 -- it to the following value?*

`myConcat x = x ++ " yo"`

2. *-- General function*  
`(*) :: Num a => a -> a -> a`

*-- Applied to a value*

`myMult x = (x / 3) * 5`

3. `take :: Int -> [a] -> [a]`

`myTake x = take x "hey you"`

4. `(>) :: Ord a => a -> a -> Bool`

`myCom x = x > (length [1..10])`

5. `(<) :: Ord a => a -> a -> Bool`

`myAlph x = x < 'z'`

## 5.8 Asserting types for declarations

Most of the time, we want to declare our types, rather than relying on type inference. Adding type signatures to your code can provide guidance to you as you write your functions. It can also help the compiler give you information about where your code is going wrong. As programs become longer and more complex, type signatures become even more important, as they help you or other programmers trying to use your code read it and figure out what it's supposed to do. This section will look at how to declare types. We will start with some trivial examples.

You may remember the `triple` function we've seen before. If we allow the compiler to infer the type, we end up with this:

```
Prelude> let triple x = x * 3
Prelude> :type triple
triple :: Num a => a -> a
```

Here the `triple` function was made from the `(*)` function which has type `(*) :: Num a => a -> a -> a`, but we have already applied one of the arguments, which is the `3`, so there is one less parameter in this type signature. It is still polymorphic because it can't tell what type `3` is yet. If, however, we want to ensure that our inputs and result may only be integers, this is how we declare that:

```
Prelude> let triple x = x * 3 :: Integer
Prelude> :t triple
triple :: Integer -> Integer
```

```
-- Note the typeclass constraint is gone
-- because Integer implements Num
-- so that constraint is redundant.
```

Here's another example of a type declaration for our `triple` function, this one more like what you would see in a source file:

```
-- declaration of triple's type
triple :: Integer -> Integer

-- declaration of the function
triple x = x * 3
```

This is how most Haskell code you look at will be laid out, with separate top-level declarations for types and functions. The `let` and `where` clauses we've seen before are for declarations within other expressions.

It is possible, though uncommon, to declare types locally with `let` and `where` clauses. Here's an example of assigning a type within a `where` clause:

```
triple x = tripleItYo x
  where tripleItYo :: Integer -> Integer
        tripleItYo y = y * 3
```

Also note that we don't have to assert the type of `triple`:

```
Prelude> :t triple
triple :: Integer -> Integer
```

The assertion in the `where` clause narrowed our type down from `Num a => a -> a` to `Integer -> Integer`. It's worth remembering that GHC will pick up and propagate type information for inference from applications of functions, sub-expressions, definitions — almost anywhere. The type inference is strong with this one.

There *are* constraints on our ability to declare types. For example, if we try to make the `(+)` function return a `String`, we get an error message:

```
Prelude> let x = 5 + 5 :: String

No instance for (Num String) arising from a use of '+'
In the expression: 5 + 5 :: String
In an equation for 'x': x = 5 + 5 :: String
```

This is just telling us that this function cannot accept arguments of type `String`. In this case, it's overdetermined, both because the `(+)` function is limited to types implementing the `Num` typeclass and also because we've already passed it two numeric literals as values. The numeric literals could be any of several numeric types under the hood, but they can't be `String` because `String` does not implement the `Num` typeclass.

## 5.9 Chapter Exercises

Welcome to another round of “Knowing is not enough; we must apply.”

### Multiple choice

1. A value of type `[a]` is
  - a) a list of alphabetic characters
  - b) a list of lists
  - c) a list whose elements are all of some type *a*
  - d) a list whose elements are all of different types
2. A function of type `[[a]] -> [a]` could
  - a) take a list of strings as an argument
  - b) transform a character into a string
  - c) transform a string in to a list of strings
  - d) take two arguments
3. A function of type `[a] -> Int -> a`
  - a) takes one argument
  - b) returns one element of type *a* from a list
  - c) must return an `Int` value
  - d) is completely fictional
4. A function of type `(a, b) -> a`
  - a) takes a list argument and returns a `Char` value
  - b) has zero arguments
  - c) takes a tuple argument and returns the first value
  - d) requires that *a* and *b* be of different types

## Determine the type

For the following functions, determine the type of the specified value. Note: you can type them into a file and load the contents of the file in GHCi. You can then query the types after you've loaded them.

1. All function applications return a value. Determine the value returned by these function applications and the type of that value.

- a) `(* 9) 6`
- b) `head [(0,"doge"),(1,"kitteh")]`
- c) `head [(0 :: Integer , "doge"),(1,"kitteh")]`
- d) `if False then True else False`
- e) `length [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]`
- f) `(length [1, 2, 3, 4]) > (length "TACOCAT")`

2. Given

```
x = 5
y = x + 5
w = y * 10
```

What is the type of w?

3. Given

```
x = 5
y = x + 5
z y = y * 10
```

What is the type of z?

4. Given

```
x = 5
y = x + 5
f = 4 / y
```

What is the type of f?

5. Given



```

x = "Julie"
y = " <3 "
z = "Haskell"
f = x ++ y ++ z

```

What is the type of f?

### Does it compile?

For each set of expressions, figure out which expression, if any, causes the compiler to squawk at you (n.b. we do not mean literal squawking) and why. Fix it if you can.

1. `bigNum = (^) 5 $ 10`  
`wahoo = bigNum $ 10`
2. `x = print`  
`y = print "woohoo!"`  
`z = x "hello world"`
3. `a = (+)`  
`b = 5`  
`c = b 10`  
`d = c 200`
4. `a = 12 + b`  
`b = 10000 * c`

### Type variable or specific type constructor?

1. You will be shown a type declaration, and you should categorize each type. The choices are a fully polymorphic type variable, constrained polymorphic type variable, or concrete type constructor.

```

f :: Num a => a -> b -> Int -> Int
--           [0]  [1]  [2]   [3]

```

Here, the answer would be: constrained polymorphic (Num) ([0]), fully polymorphic ([1]), and concrete ([2] and [3]).

2. Categorize each component of the type signature as described in the previous example.

```
f :: zed -> Zed -> Blah
```

3. Categorize each component of the type signature

```
f :: Enum b => a -> b -> C
```

4. Categorize each component of the type signature

```
f :: f -> g -> C
```

### Write a type signature

For the following expressions, please add a type signature. You should be able to rely on GHCi type inference to check your work, although you might not have precisely the same answer as GHCi gives (due to polymorphism, etc).

1. While we haven't fully explained this syntax yet, you've seen it in Chapter 2 and as a solution to an exercise in Chapter 4. This syntax is a way of destructuring a single element of a list.

```
functionH ::  
functionH (x:_) = x
```

2. **functionC** ::  
**functionC** x y = if (x > y) then True else False

3. **functionS** ::  
**functionS** (x, y) = y

### Given a type, write the function

You will be shown a type and a function that needs to be written. Use the information the type provides to determine what the function should do. We'll also tell you how many ways there are to write the function. (Syntactically different but semantically equivalent implementations are not counted as being different).

1. There is only one implementation that typechecks.

```
i :: a -> a
i = undefined
```

2. There is only one version that works.

```
c :: a -> b -> a
c = undefined
```

3. Given alpha equivalence are  $c''$  and  $c$  (see above) the same thing?

```
c'' :: b -> a -> b
c'' = ?
```

4. Only one version that works.

```
c' :: a -> b -> b
c' = undefined
```

5. There are multiple possibilities, at least two of which you've seen in previous chapters.

```
r :: [a] -> [a]
r = undefined
```

6. Only one version that will typecheck.

```
co :: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> (a -> c)
co = undefined
```

7. One version will typecheck.

```
a :: (a -> c) -> a -> a
a = undefined
```

8. One version will typecheck.

```
a' :: (a -> b) -> a -> b
a' = undefined
```

### Fix it

Won't someone take pity on this poor broken code and fix it up? Be sure to check carefully for things like capitalization, parentheses, and indentation.

1. module sing where

```
fstString :: [Char] ++ [Char]
fstString x = x ++ " in the rain"

sndString :: [Char] -> Char
sndString x = x ++ " over the rainbow"

sing = if (x > y) then fstString x or sndString y
where x = "Singin"
      y = "Somewhere"
```

2. Now that it's fixed, make a minor change and make it sing the other song. If you're lucky, you'll end up with both songs stuck in your head!

3. `-- arith3broken.hs`  
**module** Arith3Broken **where**

```
main :: IO ()
Main = do
  print 1 + 2
  putStrLn 10
  print (negate -1)
  print ((+) 0 blah)
  where blah = negate 1
```

## Type-Kwon-Do

The name is courtesy of Phillip Wright<sup>3</sup>, thank you for the idea!

The focus here is on manipulating terms in order to get the types to fit. This *sort* of exercise is something you'll encounter in writing real Haskell code, so the practice will make it easier to deal with when you get there. Practicing this will make you better at writing ordinary code as well.

We provide the types and bottomed out (declared as “undefined”) terms. *Bottom* and *undefined* will be explained in more detail later. The contents of the terms are irrelevant here. You'll use only the

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<sup>3</sup> <https://twitter.com/SixBitProxyWax>

declarations provided and what the Prelude provides by default unless otherwise specified. Your goal is to make the ???'d declaration pass the typechecker by modifying it alone.

Here's a worked example for how we present these exercises and how you are expected to solve them. Given the following:

```
data Woot
```

```
data Blah
```

```
f :: Woot -> Blah
```

```
f = undefined
```

```
g :: (Blah, Woot) -> (Blah, Blah)
```

```
g = ???
```

Here it's *g* that you're supposed to implement; however, you can't evaluate anything. You're to only use type-checking and type-inference to validate your answers. Also note that we're using a trick for defining datatypes which can be named in a type signature, but have no values. Here's an example of a valid solution:

```
g :: (Blah, Woot) -> (Blah, Blah)
```

```
g (b, w) = (b, f w)
```

The idea is to only fill in what we've marked with ???.

*Not all terms will always be used in the intended solution for a problem.*

```
1. f :: Int -> String
```

```
    f = undefined
```

```
    g :: String -> Char
```

```
    g = undefined
```

```
    h :: Int -> Char
```

```
    h = ???
```

2. **data** **A**

**data** **B**

**data** **C**

**q** :: **A** -> **B**

**q** = undefined

**w** :: **B** -> **C**

**w** = undefined

**e** :: **A** -> **C**

**e** = ???

3. **data** **X**

**data** **Y**

**data** **Z**

**xz** :: **X** -> **Z**

**xz** = undefined

**yz** :: **Y** -> **Z**

**yz** = undefined

**xform** :: (**X**, **Y**) -> (**Z**, **Z**)

**xform** = ???

4. **munge** :: (**x** -> **y**) -> (**y** -> (**w**, **z**)) -> **x** -> **w**

**munge** = ???

## 5.10 Definitions

1. *Polymorphism* refers to type variables which may refer to more than one concrete type. In Haskell, this will usually manifest as *parametric* or *ad-hoc* polymorphism. By having a larger set of types, we intersect the commonalities of them all to produce a smaller set of correct terms. This makes it less likely we'll write an incorrect program and lets us reuse the code with other types.
2. With respect to Haskell, the *principal type* is the most generic type which still typechecks. More generally, *Principal type* is a property of the type system you're interacting with. Principal typing holds for that type system if a type can be found for a term in an environment for which all other types for that term are instances of the principal type. Here are some examples:

```
-- Given the inferred types
a
Num a => a
Int

-- The principal type here is the
-- parametrically polymorphic 'a'.

-- Given these types
(Ord a, Num a) => a
Integer

-- The principal type is
-- (Ord a, Num a) => a
```

3. *Type inference* is a faculty some programming languages, most notably Haskell and ML, have to *infer* principal types from terms without needing explicit type annotations. There are, in some cases, terms in Haskell which can be well-typed but which have no principal type. In those cases, an explicit type annotation must be added.

4. *Type variable* is a way to refer to an unspecified type or set of types in Haskell type signatures. Type variables ordinarily will be equal to themselves throughout a type signature. Let us consider some examples.

```
id :: a -> a
```

```
-- One type variable 'a' that occurs twice,  
-- once as an argument, once as a result.  
-- Parametrically polymorphic, could be  
-- strictly anything
```

```
(+) :: Num a => a -> a -> a
```

```
-- One type variable 'a', constrained to needing  
-- an instance of Num. Two arguments, one result.  
-- All the same type.
```

5. A *typeclass* is a means of expressing faculties or interfaces that multiple datatypes may have in common. This enables us to write code exclusively in terms of those commonalities without repeating yourself for each instance. Just as one may sum values of type `Int`, `Integer`, `Float`, `Double`, and `Rational`, we can avoid having different `(+)`, `(*)`, `(-)`, `negate`, etc. functions for each by unifying them into a single typeclass. Importantly, these can then be used with *all* types that have a `Num` instance. Thus, a typeclass provides us a means to write code in terms of those operators and have our functions be compatible with all types that have instances of that typeclass, whether they already exist or are yet to be invented (by you, perhaps).
6. *Parametricity* is the property that holds in the presence of parametric polymorphism. Parametricity states that the behavior of a function will be uniform across all concrete applications of the function. Parametricity<sup>4</sup> tells us that the function:

```
id :: a -> a
```

---

<sup>4</sup> Examples are courtesy of the @parametricity twitter account.  
<https://twitter.com/parametricity>



Can be understood to have the same exact behavior for every type in Haskell without us needing to see how it was written. It is the same property that tells us:

```
const :: a -> b -> a
```

`const` *must* return the first value — parametricity and the definition of the type requires it!

```
f :: a -> a -> a
```

Here, *f* can only return the first or second value, nothing else, and it will always return one or the other consistently without changing. If the function *f* made use of `(+)` or `(*)`, its type would necessarily be constrained by the typeclass `Num` and thus be an example of ad-hoc, rather than parametric, polymorphism.

```
blahFunc :: b -> String
```

`blahFunc` totally ignores its argument and is effectively a constant value of type `String` which requires a throw-away argument for no reason.

```
convList :: Maybe a -> [a]
```

Unless the result is `[]`, the resulting list has values that are all the same value.

7. *Ad-hoc polymorphism* (sometimes called “constrained polymorphism”) is polymorphism that applies one or more typeclass constraints to what would’ve otherwise been a parametrically polymorphic type variable. Here, rather than representing a uniformity of behavior across all concrete applications, the purpose of ad-hoc polymorphism is to allow the functions to have different behavior for each instance. This ad-hoc-ness is constrained by the types in the typeclass that defines the methods and Haskell’s requirement that typeclass instances be unique for a given type. For any given combination of typeclass and a type, such as `Ord` and `Bool`, there must only exist one unique instance in scope. This makes it considerably easier to reason about typeclasses. See the example for a disambiguation.

```
(+) :: Num a => a -> a -> a

-- the above function is leveraging
-- ad-hoc polymorphism via the Num typeclass

c' :: a -> a -> a

-- This function is not,
-- it's parametrically polymorphic in 'a'.
```

## 5.11 Follow-up resources

1. Luis Damas; Robin Milner. Principal type-schemes for functional programs  
[http://web.cs.wpi.edu/~cs4536/c12/milner-damas\\_principal\\_types.pdf](http://web.cs.wpi.edu/~cs4536/c12/milner-damas_principal_types.pdf)
2. Christopher Strachey. Fundamental Concepts in Programming Languages  
<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~crary/819-f09/Strachey67.pdf>  
Popular origin of the parametric/ad-hoc polymorphism distinction.

## Chapter 6

# Typeclasses

A blank cheque kills creativity.

---

Mokokoma Makhonoana

## 6.1 Typeclasses

You may have realized that it is very difficult to talk about or understand Haskell’s type system without also talking about typeclasses. So far we’ve been focused on the way they interact with type variables and numeric types, especially. This chapter explains some important predefined typeclasses, only some of which have to do with numbers, as well as going into more detail about how typeclasses work more generally. In this chapter we will

- examine the typeclasses `Eq`, `Num`, `Ord`, `Enum`, and `Show`;
- learn about type-defaulting typeclasses and typeclass inheritance;
- look at some common but often implicit functions that create side effects.

## 6.2 What are typeclasses?

Typeclasses and types in Haskell are, in a sense, opposites. Where a declaration of a type defines how that type in particular is created, a declaration of a typeclass defines how a set of types are *consumed* or used in computations. This tension is related to the expression problem which is about defining code in terms of how data is created or processed. As Philip Wadler put it, “The goal is to define a datatype by cases, where one can add new cases to the datatype and new functions over the datatype, without recompiling existing code, and while retaining static type safety (e.g., no casts).”<sup>1</sup> If you know other programming languages with a similar concept, it may help to think of typeclasses as being like *interfaces* to data that can work across multiple datatypes. The latter facility is why typeclasses are a means of ad-hoc polymorphism — “ad-hoc” because typeclass code is dispatched by type, something we will explain later in this chapter. We will continue calling it constrained polymorphism, though, as we think that term is generally more clear.

Simply put, typeclasses allow us to generalize over a set of types in order to define and execute a standard set of features for those types.

---

<sup>1</sup>Philip Wadler, “The Expression Problem” <http://homepages.inf.ed.ac.uk/wadler/papers/expression/expression.txt>

For example, the ability to test values for equality is useful, and we'd want to be able to use that function for data of various types. In fact, we can test any data that has a type that implements the typeclass known as `Eq` for equality. We do not need separate equality functions for each different type of data; as long as our datatype implements, or instantiates, the `Eq` typeclass, we can use the standard functions. Also, all the numeric literals and their various types implement a typeclass called `Num`, which defines a standard set of operators that can be used with any type of numbers.

### 6.3 Back to Bool

Let's return briefly to the `Bool` type to get a feel for what typeclass information really looks like. As you may recall, we can use the `GHCi` command `:info` to query information, including typeclass information about any function or type (and some values):

```
Prelude> :info Bool
data Bool = False | True
instance Bounded Bool
instance Enum Bool
instance Eq Bool
instance Ord Bool
instance Read Bool
instance Show Bool
```

The information includes the data declaration for `Bool`. In your `REPL`, it also tells you where the datatype and its instances are defined for the compiler. Next we see a list of instances. Each of these instances is a typeclass that `Bool` implements, and the instances are the unique specifications of how `Bool` makes use of the methods from that typeclass. In this chapter, we're only going to examine a few of these, namely `Eq`, `Ord`, and `Show`. Briefly, however, they mean the following:

1. `instance Bounded Bool` – Bounded for types that have an upper and lower bound
2. `instance Enum Bool` – Enum for things that can be enumerated

3. `instance Eq Bool` – `Eq` for things that can be tested for equality
4. `instance Ord Bool` – `Ord` for things that can be put into a sequential order
5. `instance Read Bool` – `Read` parses strings into things. Don't use it. No seriously, don't.
6. `instance Show Bool` – `Show` renders things into strings.

Typeclasses have a hierarchy of sorts,<sup>2</sup> as you might have guessed from our discussion of numeric types. All `Fractional` numbers implement the `Num` typeclass, but not all `Num` are `Fractional`. All members of `Ord` must be members of `Eq`, and all members of `Enum` must be members of `Ord`. To be able to put something in an enumerated list, they must be able to be ordered; to be able to order something, they must be able to be compared for equality.

## 6.4 Eq

In Haskell, equality is implemented with a typeclass called `Eq`. Some programming languages bake equality into every object in the language, but some datatypes do not have a sensible notion of equality, so Haskell does not encode equality into every type. `Eq` allows us to use standard measures of equality for quite a few datatypes, though.

`Eq` is defined this way:

```
Prelude> :info Eq
class Eq a where
  (==) :: a -> a -> Bool
  (/=) :: a -> a -> Bool

-- List of some Eq instances
instance Eq a => Eq [a]
instance Eq Ordering
instance Eq Int
```

---

<sup>2</sup>You can use a search engine like Hoogle at <http://haskell.org/hoogle> to find information on Haskell datatypes and typeclasses. This is useful for looking up what the deal is with things like `Fractional`. Hoogle is a Haskell API search engine, which allows you to search many standard Haskell libraries by function name or type signature. This becomes very useful as you become fluent in Haskell types as you will be able to input the type of the function you want and find the functions that match.

```
instance Eq Float
instance Eq Double
instance Eq Char
instance Eq Bool
instance (Eq a, Eq b) => Eq (a, b)
instance Eq ()
instance Eq a => Eq (Maybe a)
instance Eq Integer
```

If you do this in your REPL, you'll actually see *a lot* more information than this, but let's focus on this. First, it tells us we have a typeclass called `Eq` where there are two basic functions, equality and nonequality, and gives their type signatures. Next we see some of the instances of `Eq`. We see several numeric types, our old friend `Bool`, `Char` (unsurprising, as we've seen that we can compare characters for equality), and tuples. We know from this that any time we are using data of these types, we are implementing the `Eq` typeclass and therefore have generic functions we can use to compare their equality. Any type that has an instance of this typeclass implements the methods of the typeclass.

Here are some examples using this typeclass:

```
Prelude> 132 == 132
True
Prelude> 132 /= 132
False
Prelude> (1, 2) == (1, 1)
False
Prelude> (1, 1) == (1, 2)
False
Prelude> "doge" == "doge"
True
Prelude> "doge" == "doggie"
False
```

The types of `(==)` and `(/=)` in `Eq` tell us something important about these functions:

```
(==) :: Eq a => a -> a -> Bool
(/=) :: Eq a => a -> a -> Bool
```

Given these types, we know that they can be used for any type  $a$  which implements the `Eq` typeclass. We also know that both functions will take two arguments of the same type  $a$  and return `Bool`. We know they have to be the same because  $a$  must equal  $a$  in the same type signature.

When we apply `(==)` to a single argument, we can see how it specializes the arguments:

```
(==)           :: Eq a => a -> a -> Bool
-- if we specialized (==) for [Char] aka String
(==)           :: [Char] -> [Char] -> Bool
(==) "cat"     :: [Char] -> Bool
(==) "cat" "cat" :: Bool
```

You can experiment with this further in the REPL to see how applying types to arguments makes the type variables more specific.

What happens if the first two arguments  $a$  and  $a$  aren't the same type?

```
Prelude F M> (1, 2) == "puppies!"
```

```
Couldn't match expected type '(t0, t1)'
  with actual type '[Char]'
In the second argument of '(==)', namely "puppies!"
In the expression: (1, 2) == "puppies!"
In an equation for 'it': it = (1, 2) == "puppies!"
```

Let's break down this type error:

```
Couldn't match expected type '(t0, t1)'
  with actual type '[Char]'
```

This error means our `[Char]` wasn't the 2-tuple of types  $t0$  and  $t1$  that was expected. `(t0, t1)` was expected for the second argument where we supplied `"puppies!"` because that's the type of the first argument. Remember: the type of  $a$  is usually set by the leftmost instance of it and can't change in the signature `Eq a => a -> a -> Bool`. Applying `(==)` to `Integer` will bind the  $a$  type variable to `Integer`. This is as if the signature changed to:



```
Eq Integer => Integer -> Integer -> Bool
```

The typeclass constraint `Eq Integer =>` gets dropped because it's redundant. We can see the issue more clearly if we look at the typeclass instances on the 2-tuple `(,)`:

```
data (,) a b = (,) a b
instance (Eq a, Eq b) => Eq (a, b)
instance (Ord a, Ord b) => Ord (a, b)
instance (Read a, Read b) => Read (a, b)
instance (Show a, Show b) => Show (a, b)
```

We saw the `Eq` instance of `(,)` getting used earlier when we tested code like `(1, 2) == (1, 2)`. Critically, the `Eq` instance of `(a, b)` relies on the `Eq` instances of `a` and `b`. This tells us the equality of two tuples `(a, b)` depends on the equality of their constituent values `a` and `b`. This is why this works:

```
Prelude> (1, 'a') == (2, 'b')
False
```

But neither of these will work:

```
Prelude> (1, 2) == ('a', 'b')
```

```
Prelude> (1, 'a') == ('a', 1)
```

## 6.5 Num

`Num` is a typeclass implemented by most numeric types. As we see when we query the information, it has a set of predefined functions, like `Eq`:

```
class Num a where
  (+) :: a -> a -> a
  (*) :: a -> a -> a
  (-) :: a -> a -> a
  negate :: a -> a
  abs :: a -> a
  signum :: a -> a
  fromInteger :: Integer -> a
```

```
instance Num Integer
instance Num Int
instance Num Float
instance Num Double
```

We’ve seen most of this information before, in one form or another: common arithmetic functions with their type signatures at the top (`fromInteger` is similar to `fromIntegral` but restricted to `Integer` rather than all integral numbers) plus a list of types that implement this typeclass, numeric types we’ve looked at previously. No surprises here.

## Integral

The typeclass called `Integral` has the following definition:

```
class (Real a, Enum a) => Integral a where
  quot :: a -> a -> a
  rem  :: a -> a -> a
  div  :: a -> a -> a
  mod  :: a -> a -> a
  quotRem :: a -> a -> (a, a)
  divMod  :: a -> a -> (a, a)
  toInteger :: a -> Integer
```

The typeclass constraint `(Real a, Enum a) =>` means that any type that implements `Integral` must already have instances for `Real` *and* `Enum` typeclasses. In a very real sense the tuple syntax here denotes the conjunction of typeclass constraints on your type variables. An integral type must be both a real number and enumerable (more on `Enum` later) and therefore may employ the methods each of those typeclasses. In turn, the `Real` typeclass itself requires an instance of `Num`. So, the `Integral` typeclass may put the methods of `Real` and `Num` into effect (in addition to those of `Enum`). Since `Real` cannot override the methods of `Num`, this typeclass inheritance is *only* additive and the ambiguity problems caused by multiple inheritance in some programming languages — the so-called “deadly diamond of death” — are avoided.

**Exercises: Tuple Experiment** Look at the types given for `quotRem` and `divMod`. What do you think those functions do? Test your hypotheses by playing with them in the REPL. We’ve given you a sample to start with below:

```
Prelude> let ones x = snd (divMod x 10)
```

## Fractional

`Num` is a superclass of `Fractional`. The `Fractional` typeclass is defined as follows:

```
class (Num a) => Fractional a where
  (/)          :: a -> a -> a
  recip        :: a -> a
  fromRational :: Rational -> a
```

This typeclass declaration creates a class named `Fractional` which requires its type argument *a* to have an instance of `Num` in order to create an instance of `Fractional`. This is another example of typeclass inheritance. `Fractional` applies to fewer numbers than `Num` does, and instances of the `Fractional` class can use the functions defined in `Num` but not all `Num` can use the functions defined in `Fractional` because nothing in `Num`’s definition requires an instance of `Fractional`. There is a chart at the end of the chapter to help you visualize this information.

We can see this just with ordinary functions:

First let us consider the function, intentionally without a type provided:

```
divideThenAdd x y = (x / y) + 1
```

We’ll load this with a type that asks only for a `Num` instance:

```
divideThenAdd :: Num a => a -> a -> a
divideThenAdd x y = (x / y) + 1
```

And you’ll get the type error:

Could not deduce (Fractional a)  
 arising from a use of '/'  
 from the context (Num a)  
 bound by the type signature for  
 divideThenAdd :: Num a => a -> a -> a

Now if we only cared about having the Num constraint, we could modify our function to not use (/) which requires Fractional:

```
-- This works fine.
-- (+) and (-) are both provided by Num
```

```
subtractThenAdd :: Num a => a -> a -> a
subtractThenAdd x y = (x - y) + 1
```

Or we can change the type rather than modifying the function itself:

```
-- This works fine.

divideThenAdd :: Fractional a => a -> a -> a
divideThenAdd x y = (x / y) + 1
```

**Put on your thinking cap** Why didn't we need to make the type of the function we wrote require both typeclasses? Why didn't we have to do this:

```
f :: (Num a, Fractional a) => a -> a -> a
```

Consider what it means for something to be a *subset* of a larger set of objects.

## 6.6 Type-defaulting typeclasses

When you have a typeclass-constrained (ad-hoc) polymorphic value and need to evaluate it, the polymorphism must be resolved to a specific concrete type. The concrete type must have an instance for all the required typeclass instances (that is, if it is required to implement Num *and* Fractional then the concrete type can't be an Int). Ordinarily the concrete type would come from the type signature

you’ve specified or from type inference, such as when a `Num a => a` is used in an expression that expects an `Integer` which forces the polymorphic number value to concretize as an `Integer`. But in some cases, particularly when you’re working in the GHCi REPL you will not have specified a concrete type for a polymorphic value. In those situations, the typeclass will default to a concrete type, and the default types are already set in the libraries.

When we do this in the REPL:

```
Prelude> 1 / 2
0.5
```

Our result `0.5` appears the way it does because it defaults to `Double`. Using the type assignment operator `::` we can assign a more specific type and circumvent the default to `Double`:

```
Prelude> 1 / 2 :: Float
0.5
Prelude> 1 / 2 :: Double
0.5
Prelude> 1 / 2 :: Rational
1 % 2
```

The Haskell Report<sup>3</sup> specifies the following defaults relevant to numerical computations:

```
default Num Integer
default Real Integer
default Enum Integer
default Integral Integer
default Fractional Double
default RealFrac Double
default Floating Double
default RealFloat Double
```

`Num`, `Real`, etc. are typeclasses, and `Integer` and `Double` are the types they default to. This type defaulting for `Fractional` means that:

---

<sup>3</sup> The Haskell Report is the standard that specifies the language and standard libraries for Haskell. The most recent version is Haskell Report 2010, which can be found at <https://www.haskell.org/onlinereport/haskell2010/>.

```
(/) :: Fractional a => a -> a -> a
```

changes to

```
(/) :: Double -> Double -> Double
```

if you don't specify the concrete type desired for (/). A similar example but for Integral would be

```
div :: Integral a => a -> a -> a
```

defaulting to

```
div :: Integer -> Integer -> Integer
```

The typeclass constraint is superfluous when the types are concrete. On the other hand, you must specify which typeclasses you want type variables to have implemented. The use of polymorphic values without the ability to infer a specific type and no default rule will cause GHC to complain about an ambiguous type.

The following will work because all the types below implement the Num typeclass:

```
Prelude> let x = 5 + 5 :: Int
Prelude> x
10
```

```
Prelude> let x = 5 + 5 :: Integer
Prelude> x
10
```

```
Prelude> let x = 5 + 5 :: Float
Prelude> x
10.0
```

```
Prelude> let x = 5 + 5 :: Double
Prelude> x
10.0
```

Now we can make this type more specific, and the process will be similar. In this case, let's use Integer which implements Num:

```

let x = 10 :: Integer

let y = 5 :: Integer

-- These are the declared types for these
-- functions, because they're from Num.
(+)    :: Num a => a -> a -> a
(*)    :: Num a => a -> a -> a
(-)    :: Num a => a -> a -> a

```

Now any functions from `Num` are going to automatically get specialized to `Integer` when we apply them to the *x* or *y* values:

```

Prelude> :t (x+)
(x+) :: Integer -> Integer

-- For
(+)    :: Num a => a -> a -> a
-- When 'a' is Integer
(+)    :: Integer -> Integer -> Integer
-- Apply the first argument
(x+)   ::          Integer -> Integer
-- Applying the second and last argument
(x+y)  ::          Integer
-- Final result was Integer.

```

We can declare more specific (monomorphic) functions from more general (polymorphic) functions:

```

let add = (+) :: Integer -> Integer -> Integer

```

We cannot go in the other direction, because we lost the generality of `Num` when we specialized to `Integer`:

```

Prelude> :t id
id :: a -> a
Prelude> let numId = id :: Num a => a -> a
Prelude> let intId = numId :: Integer -> Integer
Prelude> let altNumId = intId :: Num a => a -> a

```

Could not deduce (a1 ~ Integer)  
 from the context (Num a)  
   bound by the inferred type of  
     altNumId :: Num a => a -> a

or from (Num a1)  
   bound by an expression type signature:  
     Num a1 => a1 -> a1

‘a1’ is a rigid type variable bound by  
   an expression type signature:  
     Num a1 => a1 -> a1

Expected type: a1 -> a1  
 Actual type: Integer -> Integer  
 In the expression: intId :: Num a => a -> a

In an equation for ‘altNumId’:  
   altNumId = intId :: Num a => a -> a

The “Expected type” and the “Actual type” don’t match, and the actual type is more concrete than the expected type. Types can be made more specific, but not more general or polymorphic.

## 6.7 Ord

Next we’ll take a look at a typeclass called `Ord`. We’ve previously noted that this typeclass covers the types of things that can be put in order. If you use `:info` for `Ord` in your REPL, you will find a very large number of instances for this typeclass. We’re going to pare it down a bit and focus on the essentials, but, as always, we encourage you to explore this further on your own:

```
Prelude> :info Ord
class Eq a => Ord a where
  compare :: a -> a -> Ordering
  (<) :: a -> a -> Bool
  (>=) :: a -> a -> Bool
  (>) :: a -> a -> Bool
```



```
(<=) :: a -> a -> Bool
max  :: a -> a -> a
min  :: a -> a -> a

instance Ord a => Ord (Maybe a)
instance (Ord a, Ord b) => Ord (Either a b)
instance Ord Integer
instance Ord a => Ord [a]
instance Ord Ordering
instance Ord Int
instance Ord Float
instance Ord Double
instance Ord Char
instance Ord Bool
```

Notably, at the top, we have another typeclass constraint. `Ord` is constrained by `Eq` because if you're going to compare items in a list and put them in order, you need a way to determine if they are equal. So, `Ord` implements `Eq` and its methods. The functions that come standard in this class have to do with ordering. Some of them will give you a result of `Bool`, and we've played a bit with those functions. Let's see what a few others do:

```
Prelude> compare 7 8
LT
Prelude> compare 4 (-4)
GT
Prelude> compare 4 4
EQ
Prelude> compare "Julie" "Chris"
GT
Prelude> compare True False
GT
Prelude> compare True True
EQ
```

The `compare` function works for any of the types listed above that implement the `Ord` typeclass, including `Bool`, but unlike the `<`, `>`, `>=`, and `<=` operators, this returns an `Ordering` value instead of a `Bool` value.

You may notice that `True` is greater than `False`. Proximally this is due to how the `Bool` datatype is defined: `False | True`. There may be a more interesting underlying reason if you prefer to ponder the philosophical implications.

The `max` and `min` functions work in a similarly straightforward fashion for any type that implements this typeclass:

```
Prelude> max 7 8
8
Prelude> min 10 (-10)
-10
Prelude> max (3, 4) (2, 3)
(3,4)
Prelude> min [2, 3, 4, 5] [3, 4, 5, 6]
[2,3,4,5]
Prelude> max "Julie" "Chris"
"Julie"
```

By looking at the type signature, we can see that these functions have two parameters. If you want to use these to determine the maximum or minimum of three values, you can nest them:

```
Prelude> max 7 (max 8 9)
9
```

If you try to give it too few arguments, you will get this strange-seeming message:

```
Prelude> max "Julie"

No instance for (Show ([Char] -> [Char]))
--   [1]          [2]  [      3      ]
arising from a use of ‘print’
--                               [4]
In a stmt of an interactive GHCi command: print it
--                               5      ]
```

1. Haskell couldn't find an instance of a typeclass for a value of a given type

2. The typeclass it couldn't find an instance for was `Show`, the typeclass that allows GHCi to print values in your terminal. More on this in the following sections.
3. It couldn't find an instance of `Show` for the type `String -> String`. Nothing with `(->)` should have a `Show` instance as a general rule because `(->)` denotes a function rather than a constant value.
4. We wanted an instance of `Show` because we (indirectly) invoked `print` which has type `print :: Show a => a -> IO ()` — note the constraint for `Show`.
5. The interactive GHCi command “print it” invoked `print` on our behalf.

Any time we ask GHCi to print a return value in our terminal, we are indirectly invoking `print`, which has the type `Show a => a -> IO ()`. The first argument to `print` must have an instance of `Show`. The error message is because `max` applied to a single `String` argument needs another argument before it'll return a `String` (aka `[Char]`) value that is `Show`-able or “printable.” Until we apply it to a second argument, it's still a function, and a function has no instance of `Show`. The request to print a function, rather than a constant value, results in this error message.

### Exercises: Will They Work?

Next, take a look at the following code examples and try to decide if they will work, what result they will return if they do, and why or why not (be sure, as always, to test them in your REPL once you have decided on your answer):

1. `max (length [1, 2, 3]) (length [8, 9, 10, 11, 12])`
2. `compare (3 * 4) (3 * 5)`
3. `compare "Julie" True`
4. `(5 + 3) > (3 + 6)`

## 6.8 Enum

A typeclass known as `Enum` that we have mentioned previously seems similar to `Ord` but is slightly different. This typeclass covers types that are enumerable, therefore have known predecessors and successors. We shall try not to belabor the point, because you are probably developing a good idea of how to query and make use of typeclass information.

```
Prelude> :info Enum
class Enum a where
    succ :: a -> a
    pred :: a -> a
    toEnum :: Int -> a
    fromEnum :: a -> Int
    enumFrom :: a -> [a]
    enumFromThen :: a -> a -> [a]
    enumFromTo :: a -> a -> [a]
    enumFromThenTo :: a -> a -> a -> [a]

instance Enum Ordering
instance Enum Integer
instance Enum Int
instance Enum Char
instance Enum Bool
instance Enum ()
instance Enum Float
instance Enum Double
```

Remember the “instances” are a list of different types that implement the methods of this typeclass: numbers and characters are certainly known to have predictable successors and predecessors, so these are paradigmatic cases of enumerability:

```
Prelude> succ 4
5
Prelude> pred 'd'
'c'
Prelude> succ 4.5
5.5
```

You can also see that some of these functions return a result of a list type. They take a starting value and build a list with the succeeding items of the same type:

```
Prelude> enumFromTo 3 8
[3,4,5,6,7,8]
Prelude> enumFromTo 'a' 'f'
"abcdef"
```

Finally, let's take a short look at `enumFromThenTo`:

```
Prelude> enumFromThenTo 1 10 100
[1,10,19,28,37,46,55,64,73,82,91,100]
```

Take a look at the resulting list and see if you can find the pattern: what does this function do? What happens if we give it the values `0 10 100` instead? How about `'a' 'c' 'z'`?

## 6.9 Show

`Show` is a typeclass that provides for the creating of human-readable string representations of structured data. `GHCi` uses `Show` to create `String` values it can print in the terminal.

`Show` is not a serialization format. Serialization is how data is rendered to a textual or binary format for persistence or communicating with other computers over a network. An example of persistence would be saving data to a file on disk. `Show` is not suitable for any of these purposes; it's expressly for human readability.

The typeclass information looks like this (truncated, because it also has instances for many tuple types which becomes very lengthy):

```

class Show a where
  showsPrec :: Int -> a -> ShowS
  show :: a -> String
  showList :: [a] -> ShowS

instance Show a => Show [a]
instance Show Ordering
instance Show a => Show (Maybe a)
instance Show Integer
instance Show Int
instance Show Char
instance Show Bool
instance Show ()
instance Show Float
instance Show Double

```

Importantly, we see that various number types, `Bool` values, tuples, and characters are all already instances of `Show`. That is, they have a built-in ability to be printed to the screen. There is also a function `show` which takes a polymorphic *a* and returns it as a `String`, allowing it to be printed.

### Printing and side effects

When you ask GHCi to return the result of an expression and print it to the screen, you are indirectly invoking a function called `print` that we encountered briefly in the chapter about printing and again in the section about `Ord` and the error message that results from passing the `max` function too few arguments. As understanding `print` is important to understanding this typeclass, we’re going to digress a bit and talk about it in more detail.

Haskell is a pure functional programming language. The “functional” part of that comes from the fact that programs are written as functions, similar to mathematical equations, in which an operation is applied to some arguments to produce a result. The “pure” part of our description of Haskell means expressions in Haskell can be expressed exclusively in terms of a lambda calculus.

It may not seem obvious that printing results to the screen could be a source of worry. The function is not just applied to the arguments that are in its scope but also asked to affect the world outside its scope in some way, namely by showing you its result on a screen. This is known as a side effect, a potentially observable result apart from the value the expression evaluates to. Haskell manages effects by separating effectful computations from pure computations in ways that preserve the predictability and safety of function evaluation. Importantly, effect-bearing computations themselves become more composable and easier to reason about. The benefits of explicit effects include the fact that it makes it relatively easy to reason about and predict the results of our functions.

What sets Haskell apart from most other functional programming languages is that it introduced and refined a means of writing ordinary programs that talk to the outside world without adding anything to the pure lambda calculus it is founded on. This property — being lambda calculus and nothing more — is what makes Haskell a purely functional programming language.

The `print` function is sometimes invoked indirectly by `GHCi`, but its type explicitly reveals that it is effectful. Up to now, we’ve been covering over how this works, but it’s time to dive a bit deeper.

`print` is defined in the Haskell Prelude standard as a function to output “a value of any printable type to the standard output device. Printable types are those that are instances of class `Show`; `print` converts values to strings for output using the `show` operation and adds a newline.” Let’s next look at the type of `print`:

```
Prelude> :t print
print :: Show a => a -> IO ()
```

As we see, `print` takes an argument `a` that is an instance of the `Show` typeclass and returns an `IO ()` result. This result is an `IO` action that returns a value of the type `()`.

We saw this `IO ()` result previously when we talked about printing strings. We also noted that it is the obligatory type of the `main` function in a source code file. This is because running `main` *only* produces side effects.

Stated as simply as possible, an I/O (input/output, frequently written ‘IO’ without a slash) action is an action that, when performed,

has side effects, including reading from input and printing to the screen and will contain a return value. The `()` denotes an empty tuple, which we refer to as “unit”. Unit is a value, and also a type that has only this one inhabitant, that essentially represents nothing. Printing a string to the terminal doesn’t have a meaningful return value. But an `IO` action, like any expression in Haskell, can’t return *nothing*; it must return something. So we use this empty tuple to represent the return value at the end of our `IO` action. That is, the `print` function will first do the `IO` action of printing the string to the terminal and then complete the `IO` action, marking an end to the execution of the function and a delimitation of the side effects, by returning this empty nothing tuple. It does not print the empty tuple to the screen, but it is implicitly there. The simplest way to think about the difference between a value with a typical type like `String` and the same type but from `IO` such as with `IO String` is that `IO` actions are formulas. When you have a value of type `IO String` it’s more of a *means of producing* a `String`, which may require performing side effects along the way before you get your `String` value.

```
-- this is just a String value
myVal :: String

-- this value is a method or means of obtaining
-- a value of type String which
-- performs side effects aka IO
ioString :: IO String
```

An `IO` action is performed when we run the `main` function of our program, as we have seen. But we also perform an `IO` action when we invoke `print` implicitly or explicitly.

## Working with Show

We haven’t discussed it much yet, but it is possible to define our own datatypes (as well as our own typeclasses). That will be covered in depth in a later chapter, but for now we will look at some trivial examples of doing so in order to illustrate why `Show` is important and how it is implemented.



A minimal implementation of an instance of `Show` only requires that `show` or `showsPrec` be implemented, as in the following example:

```
data Mood = Blah

instance Show Mood where
  show _ = "Blah"

*Main> Blah
Blah
```

Here's what happens in GHCi when you define a datatype and ask GHCi to show it without the instance for the `Show` typeclass:

```
Prelude> data Mood = Blah
Prelude> Blah

No instance for (Show Mood) arising
  from a use of 'print'
In a stmt of an interactive GHCi command: print it
```

Next let's look at how you define a datatype to have an instance of `Show`. We can and should just derive the `Show` instance for `Mood` because it's one of the typeclasses GHC supports deriving instances for by default:

```
Prelude> data Mood = Blah deriving Show
Prelude> Blah
Blah
```

Invoking the `Show` typeclass also invokes its methods, specifically a method of taking your values and turning them into values that can be printed to the screen.

**Typeclass deriving** Typeclass instances we can magically derive are `Eq`, `Ord`, `Enum`, `Bounded`, `Read`, and `Show`, though there are some constraints on deriving some of these. Deriving means you don't have to manually write instances of these typeclasses for each new datatype you create. We'll address this a bit more in the chapter on Algebraic Datatypes.

## 6.10 Read

The `Read` typeclass...well, it's...*there*. You'll notice that, like `Show`, a lot of types have instances of `Read`. This typeclass is essentially the opposite of `Show`. Where `Show` takes things and turns them into human-readable strings, `Read` takes strings and turns them into things. Like `Show`, it's not a serialization format. So, what's the problem? We gave that dire warning against using `Read` earlier in the chapter, but this doesn't seem like a big deal, right?

The problem is in the `String` type. A `String` is a list, which could be empty in some cases, or stretch on to infinity in other cases.

We can begin to understand this by examining the types:

```
Prelude> :t read
read :: Read a => String -> a
```

There's no way `Read a => String -> a` will always work. Let's consider a type like `Integer` which has a `Read` instance. We are in no way guaranteed that the `String` will be a valid representation of an `Integer` value. A `String` value can be *any* text. That's way too big of a type for things we want to parse into numbers! We can prove this for ourselves in the REPL:

```
Prelude> read "1234567" :: Integer
1234567
Prelude> read "BLAH" :: Integer
*** Exception: Prelude.read: no parse
```

That exception is a runtime error and means that `read` is a *partial function*, a function that doesn't return a proper value as a result *for all possible* inputs. We have ways of cleaning this up we'll explain and demonstrate later. We should strive to avoid writing or using such functions in Haskell because Haskell gives us the tools necessary to avoid senseless sources of errors in our code.

## 6.11 Instances are dispatched by type

We've said a few times, without explaining it, that typeclasses are dispatched by type, but it's an important thing to understand. Typeclasses are defined by the set of operations and values all instances

will provide. The typeclass *instances* are unique pairings of the typeclass an instance is being defined for and the type it's for.

We're going to walk through some code to illustrate what this all means. The first thing you will see is that we've written our own typeclass and instances for demonstration purposes. We will talk about how to write your own typeclasses later in the book. Those details aren't important for understanding this code. Just remember:

- a typeclass defines a set of functions and/or values
- types have instances of that typeclass
- the instances specify the ways that type uses the functions of the typeclass

This is vacuous and silly. This is only to make a point. Please do not write typeclasses like this:

```
class Numberish a where
  fromNumber :: Integer -> a
  toNumber   :: a -> Integer

-- pretend newtype is data for now
newtype Age =
  Age Integer
  deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Numberish Age where
  fromNumber n = Age n
  toNumber (Age n) = n

newtype Year =
  Year Integer
  deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Numberish Year where
  fromNumber n = Year n
  toNumber (Year n) = n
```

Then suppose we write a function using this typeclass and the two types and instances:

```

sumNumberish :: Numberish a => a -> a -> a
sumNumberish a a' = fromNumber summed
  where integerOfA      = toNumber a
        integerOfAPrime = toNumber a'
        summed = integerOfA + integerOfAPrime

```

Now let us think about this for a moment. The class definition of `Numberish` doesn't define any *terms* or actual code we can compile and execute, only types. The code actually lives in the instances for `Age` and `Year`. So how does Haskell know where to find code?

```

Prelude> sumNumberish (Age 10) (Age 10)
Age 20

```

In the above, it knew to use the instance of `Numberish` for `Age` because it could see that our arguments to `sumNumberish` were of type `Age`. We can see this with the type inference, too:

```

Prelude> :t sumNumberish
sumNumberish :: Numberish a => a -> a -> a

```

```

Prelude> :t sumNumberish (Age 10)
sumNumberish (Age 10) :: Age -> Age

```

After the first parameter is applied to a value of type `Age`, it knows that all other occurrences of type `Numberish a => a` must actually be `Age`.

To see a case where we're *not* providing enough information to Haskell for it to identify a concrete type with which to get the appropriate instance, we're going to change our typeclass and associated instances:

```

-- This is even worse than the last one.
-- Don't use typeclasses to define default values.
-- Seriously. Haskell Ninjas will find you
-- and replace your toothpaste with muddy chalk.

```

```

class Numberish a where
  fromNumber :: Integer -> a
  toNumber   :: a -> Integer
  defaultNumber :: a

```

```
instance Numberish Age where
```

```
  fromNumber n = Age n
  toNumber (Age n) = n
  defaultNumber = Age 65
```

```
instance Numberish Year where
```

```
  fromNumber n = Year n
  toNumber (Year n) = n
  defaultNumber = Year 1988
```

Then in the REPL, we can see that in some cases, there's no way for Haskell to know what we want!

```
Prelude> defaultNumber
```

```
No instance for (Show a0) arising
  from a use of 'print'
```

```
The type variable 'a0' is ambiguous
```

```
Note: there are several potential instances:
```

```
instance Show a => Show (Maybe a)
instance Show Ordering
instance Show Integer
...plus 24 others
```

This fails because it has *no idea* what type `defaultNumber` is other than that it's provided for by `Numberish`'s instances. But the good news is, even if it's a value and doesn't take any arguments, we have a means of telling Haskell what we want:

```
Prelude> defaultNumber :: Age
```

```
Age 65
```

```
Prelude> defaultNumber :: Year
```

```
Year 1988
```

Just assign the type you expect and it works fine! Here, Haskell is using the type assertion to *dispatch*, or specify, what typeclass instance we want to get our `defaultNumber` from.

### Why not write a typeclass like this?

For reasons we'll explain when we talk about `Monoid`, it's important that your typeclasses have laws and rules about how they work. `Numberish` is a bit arbitrary, and there are better ways to express what it does in Haskell than a typeclass. Functions and values alone suffice here.

## 6.12 Writing typeclass instances

If you've written your own typeclass, as we did with `Numberish` above, you need to write your own instances for different datatypes. You may also sometimes need to write instances of existing typeclasses for datatypes you've written (we'll talk more about this later). We'll focus on the `Eq` typeclass to demonstrate how to do this.

### Eq instances

As we've seen, `Eq` provides instances for determining equality of values and may be the simplest and most common typeclass you'll want to use with your own datatypes. You can investigate a typeclass by referring to the Hackage documentation for that typeclass. Typeclasses like `Eq` come with the core base library that is located at <http://hackage.haskell.org/package/base>. `Eq` specifically is located at <http://hackage.haskell.org/package/base/docs/Data-Eq.html>.

In that documentation you'll want to note a particular bit of wording:

Minimal complete definition: either `==` or `/=`.

This tells you what methods you need to define to have a valid `Eq` instance. In this case, either `(==)` (equal) or `(/=)` (unequal) will suffice, as one can be defined as the negation of the other. Why not only `(==)`? Although it's rare, you may have something clever to do for each case that could make equality checking faster for a particular datatype, so you're allowed to specify both if you want to. We won't do that here because `(/=)` is just the negation of `(==)`, and we won't be working with any clever datatypes.

First, we'll work with a tiny, trivial datatype called...`Trivial`!

```
data Trivial =  
  Trivial
```

With no deriving clause hanging off the butt of this datatype declaration, we'll have no typeclass instances of any kind. If we try to load this up and test equality without adding anything further, GHC will throw a type error:

```
Prelude> Trivial == Trivial

No instance for (Eq Trivial) arising
  from a use of '=='
In the expression: Trivial == Trivial
In an equation for 'it': it = Trivial == Trivial
```

GHC can't find an instance of `Eq` for our datatype `Trivial`. We could've had GHC generate one for us using `deriving Eq` or we could've written one, but we did neither, so none exists and it fails at compile time. In some languages, this sort of mistake doesn't become known until your code is already in the middle of executing.

Unlike other languages, Haskell does not provide universal stringification (`Show` / `print`) or equality (`Eq` (value equality) or pointer equality) as this is not always sound or safe, regardless of what programming language you're using.

So we must write our own! Fortunately, with `Trivial` this is...trivial:

```
-- keep your typeclass instances for a type
-- in the same file as that type
-- we'll explain why later
```

```
data Trivial =
  Trivial'

instance Eq Trivial where
  Trivial' == Trivial' = True
```

And that's it! The single quote at the end of the data constructor is just to remind you the type constructor and data constructor don't have to have the same name. If you load this up, you have only one possible expression you can construct here:

```
Prelude> Trivial' == Trivial'
True
```

Let's drill down a bit into how this instance stuff works:

```
instance Eq Trivial where
  -- [1]      [2] [3]      [4]
    Trivial' == Trivial' = True
  -- [5]      [6] [7]      [8]

instance Eq Trivial where
  (==) Trivial' Trivial' = True
  -- [          9          ]
```

1. The keyword `instance` here begins a declaration of a typeclass instance. Typeclass instances are how you tell Haskell how equality, stringification (`Show`), orderability (`Ord`), enumeration (`Enum`) or other typeclasses should work for a particular datatype. Without this instance, we can't test the values for equality even though the answer will never vary in the case of this particular datatype.
2. The first name to follow the instance is the typeclass the instance is providing. Here that is `Eq`.
3. The type the instance is being provided for. In this case, we're implementing the `Eq` typeclass *for* the `Trivial` datatype.
4. The keyword `where` terminates the initial declaration and beginning of the instance. What follows are the actual methods (functions) being implemented.
5. The data constructor (value) `Trivial'` is the first argument to the `==` function we're providing. Here we're defining `==` using infix notation so the first argument is to the left.
6. The infix function `==`, this is what we're defining in this declaration.
7. The second argument, which is the value `Trivial'`. Since `==` is infix here, the second argument is to the right of `==`.
8. The result of `Trivial' == Trivial'`, that is, `True`.



9. We could've written the definition of (==) using prefix notation instead of infix by wrapping the operator in parentheses. Note this is just being shown as an alternative; you can't have two typeclass instances for the same type. We'll explain more about this later, but typeclass instances are unique to a given type. You can try having both in the same file, but you'll get an error.

Okay, let's stretch our legs a bit and try something a bit less...Trivial!

```
data DayOfWeek =
  Mon | Tue | Weds | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun

-- day of week and numerical day of month
data Date =
  Date DayOfWeek Int

instance Eq DayOfWeek where
  (==) Mon Mon    = True
  (==) Tue Tue    = True
  (==) Weds Weds  = True
  (==) Thu Thu    = True
  (==) Fri Fri    = True
  (==) Sat Sat    = True
  (==) Sun Sun    = True
  (==) _ _        = False

instance Eq Date where
  (==) (Date weekday dayOfMonth)
      (Date weekday' dayOfMonth') =
    weekday == weekday' && dayOfMonth == dayOfMonth'
```

One thing to particularly note here is that in the Eq instance for Date, we didn't recapitulate how equality for DayOfWeek and Int values worked; we simply said that the dates were equal if all of their constituent values were equal.

Does it work?

```
Prelude> Date Thu 10 == Date Thu 10
True
```

```
Prelude> Date Thu 10 == Date Thu 11
False
Prelude> Date Thu 10 == Date Weds 10
False
```

It compiles, and it returns what we want after three cursory checks — ship it!

### Partial functions — not so strange danger

We need to take care to avoid partial functions in general in Haskell, but this must be especially kept in mind when we have a type with multiple “cases” such as `DayOfWeek`. What if we had made a mistake in the `Eq` instance?

```
data DayOfWeek =
    Mon | Tue | Weds | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun

instance Eq DayOfWeek where
    (==) Mon Mon    = True
    (==) Tue Tue    = True
    (==) Weds Weds  = True
    (==) Thu Thu    = True
    (==) Fri Fri    = True
    (==) Sat Sat    = True
    (==) Sun Sun    = True
```

What if the arguments are different? We forgot our unconditional case. This will appear to be fine whenever the arguments are the same, but blow up in our faces when they’re not:

```
Prelude> Mon == Mon
True

Prelude> Mon == Tue
*** Exception: code/derivingInstances.hs:
(19,3)-(25,23):
    Non-exhaustive patterns in function ==
```

Well, that sucks. We definitely didn't start learning Haskell because we wanted stuff to blow up at runtime. So what gives?

The good news is there *is* something you can do to get more help from GHC on this. If we turn all warnings on with the `wall` flag in our REPL or in our build configuration (such as with Cabal — more on that later), then GHC will let us know when we're not handling all cases:

```
Prelude> :set -Wall
Prelude> :l code/derivingInstances.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling DerivingInstances

code/derivingInstances.hs:19:3: Warning:
  Pattern match(es) are non-exhaustive
  In an equation for '==':
    Patterns not matched:
      Mon Tue
      Mon Weds
      Mon Thu
      Mon Fri
      ...
Ok, modules loaded: DerivingInstances.
```

You'll find that if you fix your instance and provide the fallback case that returns `False`, it'll stop squawking about the non-exhaustive patterns.

This doesn't only work with user-defined sum types either. It also works for types like `Int`:

```
-- this'll blow up for any input not ``1``

f :: Int -> Bool
f 1 = True
```

If you compile or load this, you'll get another warning. In this case, because `Int` is a *huge* type with many values, it's using notation that says you're not handling all inputs that aren't the number 1:

```
Pattern match(es) are non-exhaustive
In an equation for 'f':
```

Patterns not matched:

```
GHC.Types.I# #x with #x `notElem` [1#]
```

If you add another case such that you're handling one more input, it will add that to the set of values you are handling:

```
f :: Int -> Bool
f 1 = True
f 2 = True
```

Pattern match(es) are non-exhaustive

In an equation for 'f':

Patterns not matched:

```
GHC.Types.I# #x with #x `notElem` [1#, 2#]
```

```
f :: Int -> Bool
f 1 = True
f 2 = True
f 3 = True
```

Pattern match(es) are non-exhaustive

In an equation for 'f':

Patterns not matched:

```
GHC.Types.I# #x with #x `notElem` [1#, 2#, 3#]
```

So on and so forth. The real answer here is to have an unconditional case that matches everything:

```
-- This will compile without complaint
-- and is not partial.
```

```
f :: Int -> Bool
f 1 = True
f 2 = True
f 3 = True
f _ = False
```

Another solution is to use a datatype that isn't *huge* like `Int` if you only have a few cases you want to consider.

```
-- Seriously. It's huge.
```

```
Prelude> minBound :: Int
-9223372036854775808
Prelude> maxBound :: Int
9223372036854775807
```

If you want your data to describe only a handful of cases, write them down in a sum type like the `DayOfWeek` datatype we showed you earlier. Don't use `Int` as an implicit sum type as C programmers commonly do.

### Sometimes we need to ask for more

When we're writing an instance of a typeclass such as `Eq` for something with polymorphic parameters, such as `Identity` below, we'll sometimes need to require our argument or arguments to provide some typeclass instances for us in order to write an instance for the datatype containing them:

```
data Identity a =
  Identity a

instance Eq (Identity a) where
  (==) (Identity v) (Identity v') = v == v'
```

What we want to do here is rely on whatever `Eq` instances the argument to `Identity` (written as *a* in the datatype declaration and *v* in the instance definition) has already. There is one problem with this as it stands, though:

```
No instance for (Eq a) arising from a use of '=='
Possible fix: add (Eq a) to the
context of the instance declaration
```

```
In the expression: v == v'
In an equation for '==':
  (==) (Identity v) (Identity v') = v == v'
In the instance declaration for 'Eq (Identity a)'
```

The problem here is that  $v$  and  $v'$  are both of type  $a$  but we don't really know anything about  $a$ . In this case, we can't assume it has an `Eq` instance. However, we can use the same typeclass constraint syntax we saw with functions, in our instance declaration:

```
instance Eq a => Eq (Identity a) where
  (==) (Identity v) (Identity v') = v == v'
```

Now it'll work because we know  $a$  has to have an instance of `Eq`. Additionally, Haskell will ensure we don't attempt to check equality with values that don't have an `Eq` instance at compile-time.

```
Prelude> Identity NoEqInst == Identity NoEqInst
```

```
No instance for (Eq NoEqInst)
arising from a use of '=='
```

In the expression:

```
Identity NoEqInst == Identity NoEqInst
```

In an equation for 'it':

```
it = Identity NoEqInst == Identity NoEqInst
```

We could actually ask for more than we need in order to obtain an answer, such as below where we ask for an `Ord` instance for  $a$ , but there's no reason to do so since `Eq` requires less than `Ord` and does enough for what we need here:

```
instance Ord a => Eq (Identity a) where
  (==) (Identity v) (Identity v') =
    compare v v' == EQ
```

That will compile, but it's not clear why you'd do it. Maybe you have your own secret reasons.

### Exercises: Eq Instances

Write the `Eq` instance for the datatype provided.

1. It's not a typo, we're just being cute with the name.

```
data TisAnInteger =  
  TisAn Integer  
  
2. data TwoIntegers =  
  Two Integer Integer  
  
3. data StringOrInt =  
  TisAnInt Int  
  | TisAString String  
  
4. data Pair a =  
  Pair a a  
  
5. data Tuple a b =  
  Tuple a b  
  
6. data Which a =  
  ThisOne a  
  | ThatOne a  
  
7. data EitherOr a b =  
  Hello a  
  | Goodbye b
```

## Ord instances

We'll see more examples of writing instances as we proceed in the book and explain more thoroughly how to write your own datatypes. We did want to point out here that when you derive `Ord` instances for a datatype, they rely on the way the datatype is defined, but if you write your own instance, you can define the behavior you want. We'll use the days of the week again to demonstrate:

```
data DayOfWeek =  
  Mon | Tue | Weds | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun  
deriving (Ord, Show)
```

We only derived `Ord` and `Show` there because you should still have the `Eq` instance we wrote for this datatype in scope. If you don't, you have two options: bring it back into scope by putting it into the file

you’re currently using, or derive an `Eq` instance for the datatype now by adding it inside the parentheses. You can’t have an `Ord` instance unless you also have an `Eq` instance, so the compiler will complain if you don’t do one (not both) of those two things.

Values to the left are “less than” values to the right, as if they were placed on a number line:

```
*Main> Mon > Tue
False
*Main> Sun > Mon
True
*Main> compare Tue Weds
LT
```

But if we wanted to express that Friday is always the best day, we can write our own `Ord` instance to express that:

```
data DayOfWeek =
  Mon | Tue | Weds | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun
  deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Ord DayOfWeek where
  compare Fri Fri = EQ
  compare Fri _   = GT
  compare _ Fri   = LT
  compare _ _     = EQ
```

Now, if we compare Friday to any other day, Friday is always greater. All other days, you notice, are equal in value:

```
*Main> compare Fri Sat
GT
*Main> compare Sat Mon
EQ
*Main> compare Fri Mon
GT
*Main> compare Sat Fri
LT
*Main> Mon > Fri
```



```
False
*Main> Fri > Sat
True
```

But we did derive an `Eq` instance above, so we do get the expected equality behavior:

```
*Main> Sat == Mon
False
*Main> Fri == Fri
True
```

A few things to keep in mind about writing `Ord` instances: First, it is wise to ensure that your `Ord` instances agree with your `Eq` instances, whether the `Eq` instances are derived or manually written. If `x == y`, then `compare x y` should return `EQ`. Also, you want your `Ord` instances to define a sensible total order. You ensure this in part by covering all cases and not writing partial instances, as we noted above with `Eq`. In general, your `Ord` instance should be written such that, when `compare x y` returns `LT`, then `compare y x` returns `GT`.

We'll look into writing our own typeclasses and typeclass instances more, later in the book.

### 6.13 Gimme more operations

When we talked about the different kinds of polymorphism in type signatures — constrained versus parametric — having no constraint on our term-level values means they could be any type, but there isn't much we can do with them. The methods and operations are in the typeclasses, and so we get more utility by specifying typeclass constraints. If your types are more general than your terms are, then you need to constrain your types with the typeclasses that provide the operations you want to use. We looked at some examples of this in the sections above about `Integral` and `Fractional`, but in this section, we'll be more specific about how to modify type signatures to fit the terms.

We'll start by looking at some examples of times when we need to change our types because they're more general than our terms allow:

```
add :: a -> a -> a
add x y = x + y
```

If you load it up, you'll get the following error:

```
No instance for (Num a) arising from a use of '+'
Possible fix:
  add (Num a) to the context of
  the type signature for add :: a -> a -> a
```

Fortunately, this is one of those cases where GHC knows precisely what the problem is and how to remedy it. We just need to add a `Num` constraint to the type `a`. But why? Because our function can't accept a value of strictly *any* type. We need something that has an instance of `Num` because the `(+)` function comes from `Num`:

```
add :: Num a => a -> a -> a
add x y = x + y
```

With the constraint added to the type, it works fine! What if we use a method from another operation?

```
addWeird :: Num a => a -> a -> a
addWeird x y =
  if x > 1
  then x + y
  else x
```

We get another error, but once again GHC helps us out, so long as we resist the pull of tunnel vision<sup>4</sup> and look at what it's telling us:

```
Could not deduce (Ord a) arising from a use of '>'
from the context (Num a)
bound by the type signature for
addWeird :: Num a => a -> a -> a
```

```
Possible fix:
add (Ord a) to the context of
the type signature for
addWeird :: Num a => a -> a -> a
```

---

<sup>4</sup>All programmers experience this. Just slow down and you'll be okay.

The problem is that having a `Num` constraint on our type *a* isn't enough. `Num` doesn't imply `Ord`. Given that, we have to add another constraint which is what GHC told us to do:

```
addWeird :: (Ord a, Num a) => a -> a -> a
addWeird x y =
  if x > 1
  then x + y
  else x
```

Now this should typecheck because our constraints are asking that *a* have instances of `Num` *and* `Ord`.

### Ord implies Eq

The following isn't going to typecheck for reasons we already covered:

```
check' :: a -> a -> Bool
check' a a' = a == a'
```

The error we get mentions that we need `Eq`, which makes sense!

No instance for (Eq a) arising from a use of '=='

Possible fix:

```
add (Eq a) to the context of
the type signature for check' :: a -> a -> Bool
```

In the expression: `a == a'`

In an equation for 'check': `check' a a' = a == a'`

But what if we add `Ord` instead of `Eq` as it asks?

```
check' :: Ord a => a -> a -> Bool
check' a a' = a == a'
```

It should compile just fine. Now, `Ord` isn't what GHC asked for, so why did it work? It worked because anything that provides an instance of `Ord` *must* by definition also already have an instance of `Eq`. How do we know? As we said above, logically it makes sense that you can't order things without the ability to check for equality, but we can also check `:info Ord` in GHCi:

```
Prelude> :info Ord
class Eq a => Ord a where

... buncha noise we don't care about...
```

The class definition of `Ord` says that any  $a$  which wants to define an `Ord` instance must already provide an `Eq` instance. We can say that `Eq` is a *superclass* of `Ord`.

Usually, you want the *minimally sufficient* set of constraints on all your functions — so we would use `Eq` instead of `Ord` if the above example was “real” code — but we did this so you could get an idea of how constraints and superclassing in Haskell work.

### Concrete types imply all the typeclasses they provide

Let’s take the last few examples and modify them to all have a concrete type in the place of  $a$ :

```
add :: Int -> Int -> Int
add x y = x + y

addWeird :: Int -> Int -> Int
addWeird x y =
  if x > 1
  then x + y
  else x

check' :: Int -> Int -> Bool
check' a a' = a == a'
```

These will all typecheck! This is because the `Int` type has the typeclasses `Num`, `Eq`, and `Ord` all implemented. We don’t need to say `Ord Int => Int -> Int -> Int` because it doesn’t add any information. A concrete type either has a typeclass instance or it doesn’t — adding the constraint means nothing. A concrete type always implies the typeclasses that are provided for it.

There are some caveats to keep in mind here when it comes to using concrete types. One of the nice things about parametricity and typeclasses is that you are being explicit about what you mean to

do *with* your data which means you are less likely to make a mistake. `Int` is a big datatype with many inhabitants and many typeclasses and operations defined for it — it could be easy to make a function that does something unintended. Whereas if we were to write a function, even if we had `Int` values in mind for it, which used a polymorphic type constrained by the typeclass instances we wanted, we could ensure we only used the operations we intended. This isn't a panacea, but it can be worth avoiding concrete types for these (and other) reasons sometimes.

## 6.14 Chapter Exercises

### Multiple choice

1. The `Eq` class
  - a) includes all types in Haskell
  - b) is the same as the `Ord` class
  - c) makes equality tests possible
  - d) only includes numeric types
2. The typeclass `Ord`
  - a) allows any two values to be compared
  - b) is a subclass of `Eq`
  - c) is a superclass of `Eq`
  - d) has no instance for `Bool`
3. Suppose the typeclass `Ord` has an operator `>`. What is the type of `>`?
  - a) `Ord a => a -> a -> Bool`
  - b) `Ord a => Int -> Bool`
  - c) `Ord a => a -> Char`
  - d) `Ord a => Char -> [Char]`
4. In `x = divMod 16 12`
  - a) the type of `x` is `Integer`

- b) the value of  $x$  is undecidable
  - c) the type of  $x$  is a tuple
  - d)  $x$  is equal to  $12 / 16$
5. The typeclass `Integral` includes
- a) `Int` and Integer numbers
  - b) integral, real, and fractional numbers
  - c) Schrodinger's cat
  - d) only positive numbers

### Does it typecheck?

For this section of exercises, you'll be practicing looking for type and typeclass errors.

For example, `printIt` will not work because functions like  $x$  have no instance of `Show`, the typeclass that lets you convert things to `Strings` (usually for printing):

```
x      :: Int -> Int
x blah = blah + 20

printIt :: IO ()
printIt = putStrLn (show x)
```

Here's the type error you get if you try to load the code:

```
No instance for (Show (Int -> Int)) arising
  from a use of 'show'
```

In the first argument of 'putStrLn', namely '(show x)'

In the expression: `putStrLn (show x)`

In an equation for 'printIt': `printIt = putStrLn (show x)`

It's saying it can't find an implementation of the typeclass `Show` for the type `Int -> Int`, which makes sense. Nothing with the function type constructor `(->)` has an instance of `Show`<sup>5</sup> by default in Haskell.

<sup>5</sup> For an explanation and justification of why functions in Haskell cannot have a `Show` instance, see the wiki page on this topic. [https://wiki.haskell.org/Show\\_instance\\_for\\_functions](https://wiki.haskell.org/Show_instance_for_functions)

Examine the following code and decide whether it will typecheck. Then load it in GHCi and see if you were correct. If it doesn't typecheck, try to match the type error against your understanding of why it didn't work. If you can, fix the error and re-run the code.

1. Does the following code typecheck? If not, why not?

```
data Person = Person Bool

printPerson :: Person -> IO ()
printPerson person = putStrLn (show person)
```

2. Does the following typecheck? If not, why not?

```
data Mood = Blah
          | Woot deriving Show

settleDown x = if x == Woot
               then Blah
               else x
```

3. If you were able to get settleDown to typecheck:
  - a) What values are acceptable inputs to that function?
  - b) What will happen if you try to run settleDown 9? Why?
  - c) What will happen if you try to run Blah > Woot? Why?
4. Does the following typecheck? If not, why not?

```
type Subject = String
type Verb = String
type Object = String

data Sentence =
  Sentence Subject Verb Object
  deriving (Eq, Show)

s1 = Sentence "dogs" "drool"
s2 = Sentence "Julie" "loves" "dogs"
```

**Given a datatype declaration, what can we do?**

Given the following datatype definitions:

```
data Rocks =
  Rocks String deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
data Yeah =
  Yeah Bool deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
data Papu =
  Papu Rocks Yeah
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

Which of the following will typecheck? For the ones that don't typecheck, why don't they?

1. `phew = Papu "chases" True`
2. `truth = Papu (Rocks "chomskydoz")  
          (Yeah True)`
3. `equalityForall :: Papu -> Papu -> Bool`  
    `equalityForall p p' = p == p'`
4. `comparePapus :: Papu -> Papu -> Bool`  
    `comparePapus p p' = p > p'`

**Match the types**

We're going to give you two types and their implementations. Then we're going to ask you if you can substitute the second type for the first. You can test this by typing the first declaration and its type into a file and editing in the new one, loading to see if it fails. *Don't* just guess, test all your answers!

1. For the following definition.

```
a) i :: Num a => a  
    i = 1
```

- b) Try replacing the type signature with the following:



```
i :: a
```

After you've formulated your own answer, then tested that answer and believe you understand why you were right or wrong, make sure to use GHCi to check what type GHC *infers* for the definitions we provide without a type assigned. For example, for this one, you'd type in:

```
Prelude> let i = 1
Prelude> :t i
-- Result elided intentionally.
```

2. a) `f :: Float`

```
f = 1.0
```

b) `f :: Num a => a`

3. a) `f :: Float`

```
f = 1.0
```

b) `f :: Fractional a => a`

4. Hint for the following: type `:info RealFrac` in your REPL.

a) `f :: Float`

```
f = 1.0
```

b) `f :: RealFrac a => a`

5. a) `freud :: a -> a`

```
freud x = x
```

b) `freud :: Ord a => a -> a`

6. a) `freud' :: a -> a`

```
freud' x = x
```

b) `freud' :: Int -> Int`

7. a) `myX = 1 :: Int`

```
sigmund :: Int -> Int
```

```
sigmund x = myX
```

b) `sigmund :: a -> a`

8. a) `myX = 1 :: Int`  
`sigmund' :: Int -> Int`  
`sigmund' x = myX`  
 b) `sigmund' :: Num a => a -> a`
9. a) You'll need to import `sort` from `Data.List`.  
`jung :: Ord a => [a] -> a`  
`jung xs = head (sort xs)`  
 b) `jung :: [Int] -> Int`
10. a) `young :: [Char] -> Char`  
`young xs = head (sort xs)`  
 b) `young :: Ord a => [a] -> a`
11. a) `mySort :: [Char] -> [Char]`  
`mySort = sort`  
  
`signifier :: [Char] -> Char`  
`signifier xs = head (mySort xs)`  
 b) `signifier :: Ord a => [a] -> a`

### Type-Kwon-Do Two: Electric Typealoo

Round Two! Same rules apply — you're trying to fill in terms (code) which'll fit the type. The idea with these exercises is that you'll derive the implementation from the type information. You'll probably need to use stuff from `Prelude`.

1. `chk :: Eq b => (a -> b) -> a -> b -> Bool`  
`chk = ???`
2. *-- Hint: use some arithmetic operation to*  
*-- combine values of type 'b'. Pick one.*  
`arith :: Num b => (a -> b) -> Integer -> a -> b`  
`arith = ???`

## 6.15 Chapter Definitions

1. *Typeclass inheritance* is when a typeclass has a superclass. This is a way of expressing that a typeclass requires *another* typeclass to be available for a given type before you can write an instance.

```
class Num a => Fractional a where
  (/) :: a -> a -> a
  recip :: a -> a
  fromRational :: Rational -> a
```

Here the typeclass `Fractional` *inherits* from `Num`. We could also say that `Num` is a *superclass* of `Fractional`. The long and short of it is that if you want to write an instance of `Fractional` for some *a*, that type *a*, must already have an instance of `Num` before you may do so.

```
-- Even though in principle
-- this could work, it will fail because
-- Nada doesn't have a Num instance
```

```
newtype Nada = Nada Double deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
instance Fractional Nada where
  (Nada x) / (Nada y) = Nada (x / y)
  recip (Nada n) = Nada (recip n)
  fromRational r = Nada (fromRational r)
```

Then if you try to load it:

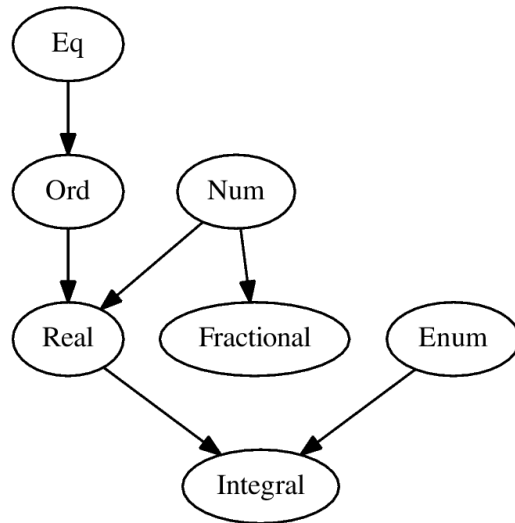
```
No instance for (Num Nada)
  arising from the superclasses
  of an instance declaration
In the instance declaration for
  'Fractional Nada'
```

You need a `Num` instance first. Can't write one that makes sense? Then you're not allowed to have a `Fractional` instance either. That's the rules.

2. *Side effects* are how we refer to *observable* actions programs may take other than compute a value. If a function modifies some state or interacts with the outside world in a manner that can be observed, then we say it has an *effect* on the world.
3. *IO* is the type for values whose evaluation bears the possibility of causing side effects, such as printing text, reading text input from the user, reading or writing files, or connecting to remote computers. This will be explained in *much* more depth in the chapter on IO.
4. An *instance* is the definition of how a typeclass should work for a given type. Instances are unique for a given combination of typeclass and type.
5. In Haskell we have *derived instances* so that obvious or common typeclasses, such as `Eq`, `Enum`, `Ord`, and `Show` can have the instances generated based only on how the datatype is defined. This is so programmers can make use of these conveniences without writing the code themselves, over and over.

## 6.16 Typeclass inheritance, partial

This is not a complete chart of typeclass inheritance. It illustrates the relationship between a few of the typeclasses we’ve talked about in this chapter. You can see, for example, that the subclass `Fractional` inherits from the superclass `Num` but not vice versa. While many types have instances of `Show` and `Read`, they aren’t superclasses, so we’ve left them out of the chart for clarity.



## 6.17 Follow-up resources

1. P. Wadler and S. Blott. How to make ad-hoc polymorphism less ad hoc.  
<http://www.cse.iitk.ac.in/users/karkare/courses/2010/cs653/Papers/ad-hoc-polymorphism.pdf>
2. Cordelia V. Hall, Kevin Hammond, Simon L. Peyton Jones, and Philip L. Wadler. Typeclasses in Haskell.  
<http://ropas.snu.ac.kr/lib/dock/HaHaJowa1996.pdf>

## Chapter 7

# More functional patterns

I would like to be able to  
always...divide the things up  
into as many pieces as I can,  
each of which I understand  
separately. I would like to  
understand the way of adding  
things up, independently of  
what it is I'm adding up.

---

Gerald Sussman

## 7.1 Make it func-y

You might be asking yourself what this chapter is all about: haven't we been talking about functions all along? We have, but as you might guess from the fact that Haskell is a *functional* programming language, there is much more we need to say about them.

A function is an instruction for producing an output from an input, or argument. Functions are *applied* to arguments which binds their parameters to values. The fully applied function with its arguments is then evaluated to produce the output or result. In this chapter we will demonstrate

- Haskell functions are first-class entities that
- can be values in expressions, lists, or tuples;
- can be passed as arguments to a function;
- can be returned from a function as a result;
- make use of syntactic patterns.

## 7.2 Arguments and parameters

As you know from our discussion of currying, functions in Haskell may appear to have multiple parameters but this is only the surface appearance; in fact, all functions take one argument and return one result. We construct functions in Haskell through various syntactic means of denoting that an expression takes arguments. Functions are *defined* by the fact that they accept an argument and return a result.

All Haskell values can be arguments to functions, including functions. Not all programming languages allow this, but as we will see, it is not as surprising as it may seem. A value that can be used as an argument to a function is a *first-class* value. In Haskell, this includes functions, which can be arguments to more functions still.

### Declaring parameters

You declare parameters to functions in Haskell by naming one or more parameter(s) between the name of the function, which is always

at the left margin, and the equals sign, separating the name from both the function name and the equals sign with white space. The name is a variable, and when we apply the function to an argument, the value of the argument is bound, or unified, with the named parameter in our function definition.

First we'll define a value with no parameters:

```
myNum :: Integer
myNum = 1
```

```
myVal = myNum
```

If we query the type of `myVal`:

```
Prelude> :t myVal
myVal :: Integer
```

The value `myVal` has the same type as `myNum` because it is equal to it. We can see from the type that it's just a value without any parameters, so we can't apply it to anything.

Now let's introduce a parameter named *f*:

```
myNum :: Integer
myNum = 1
```

```
myVal f = myNum
```

And let's see how that changed the type:

```
Prelude> :t myVal
myVal :: t -> Integer
```

By writing *f* after `myVal` we declared a parameter, which changes the type from `Integer` to `t -> Integer`. The type *t* is polymorphic because we don't do anything with it — it could be anything. Here we didn't do anything with *f* so the maximally polymorphic type was inferred. If we do something with *f* the type will change:

```
Prelude> let myNum = 1 :: Integer
Prelude> let myVal f = f + myNum
Prelude> :t myVal
myVal :: Integer -> Integer
```



Now it knows  $f$  has to be of type `Integer` because we added it to `myNum`.

We can tell a simple value from a function in part because a simple, literal value is not applied to any arguments, while functions necessarily have parameters that can be applied to arguments.

Although Haskell functions only take one argument per function, we can declare multiple parameters in a term-level function definition:

```
myNum = 1
-- [1]

myVal f = f + myNum
--      [2]

stillAFunction a b c = a ++ b ++ c
--                [ 3  ]
```

1. Declaration of a value of type `Num a => a`. We can tell it's not a function because no parameters are named between the name of the declared value and the `=`, so it accepts no arguments, and the value 1 is not a function.
2. Here  $f$  is a name for a parameter to the function `myVal`. It represents the possibility of being applied to, or bound to, an input value. The function type is `Num a => a -> a`. If you assign the type `Integer` to `myNum`, `myNum` and `myVal` change to the types `Integer` and `Integer -> Integer` respectively.
3. Here  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  represent arguments to the function `stillAFunction`. The underlying logic is of nested functions each applied to one argument, rather than one function taking several arguments, but this is how it appears at term level.

Notice what happens to the types as we add more parameters:

```
Prelude> let myVal f g = myNum
Prelude> :t myVal
myVal :: t -> t1 -> Integer
```

```
Prelude> let myVal f g h = myNum
Prelude> :t myVal
myVal :: t -> t1 -> t2 -> Integer
```

Here the types are `t`, `t1`, and `t2` which could be different types. They are allowed but *not* required to be different types. They're all polymorphic because we gave the type inference nothing to go on with respect to what type they could be. The type variables are different because nothing in our code is preventing them from varying, so they are potentially different types. The inference infers the most polymorphic type that works.

### Binding variables to values

We just looked at how we can declare parameters in function definitions. Now we'll consider how the binding of variables works. We bind a variable to a value when we apply it. When we apply a parameter to an argument, we bind it to a type, whether concrete or constrained-polymorphic. When we apply a function parameter to an argument, we bind the argument to the value. The binding of variables concerns not only the application of function arguments, but also things like `let` expressions and `where` clauses. Consider the following function:

```
addOne :: Integer -> Integer
addOne x = x + 1
```

We don't know the `Integer` result until the `addOne` function is applied to an `Integer` value argument. When the parameter `x` is applied to a value, we say that `x` is now *bound* to the value the function was applied to. The function is applied to its argument, but it can't return a result until we bind the variable parameter to a value:

```
addOne 1 -- x is now bound to 1
addOne 1 = 1 + 1
          =    2

addOne 10 -- x is bound to 10
addOne 10 = 10 + 1
           =    11
```

In addition to binding variables through function application, we can use `let` expressions to declare and bind variables as well:

```
bindExp :: Integer -> String
bindExp x = let y = 5 in
    "the integer was: " ++ show x
    ++ " and y was: " ++ show y
```

In `show y`, `y` is in scope because the `let` expression binds the variable `y` to 5. `y` is only in scope *inside* the `let` expression. Let's kick around some examples to demonstrate something that won't work:

```
bindExp :: Integer -> String
bindExp x = let z = y + x in
    let y = 5 in "the integer was: "
    ++ show x ++ " and y was: "
    ++ show y ++ " and z was: " ++ show z
```

You should see an error, “Not in scope: ‘y’”. We are trying to make `z` equal a value constructed from `x` and `y`. `x` is in scope because the function argument is visible anywhere in the function. However, `y` is bound in the expression that `let z = ...` wraps, so it's not in scope yet — that is, it's not visible to the main function.

In some cases, function arguments are not visible in the function if they have been shadowed. Let's look at a case of *shadowing*:

```
bindExp :: Integer -> String
bindExp x = let x = 10; y = 5 in
    "the integer was: " ++ show x
    ++ " and y was: " ++ show y
```

If you apply this to an argument, you'll notice the result never changes:

```
Prelude> bindExp 9001
"the integer was: 10 and y was: 5"
```

This is because the reference to `x` arising from the argument `x` was shadowed by the `x` from the `let` binding. The definition of `x` that is innermost in the code (where the function name at the left

margin is the *outside*) takes precedence because Haskell is *lexically scoped*. Lexical scoping means that resolving the value for a named entity depends on the location in the code and the lexical context, for example in `let` and `where` clauses. Among other things, this makes it easier to know what values referred to by name are and where they come from. Let's annotate the previous example and we'll see what is meant here:

```
bindExp :: Integer -> String
bindExp x = let x = 10; y = 5 in "x: " ++ show x
--      [1]      [2]                                [3]
--      ++ " y: " ++ show y
```

1. The parameter  $x$  introduced in the definition of `bindExp`. This gets shadowed by the  $x$  in [2].
2. This is a `let`-binding of  $x$  and shadows the definition of  $x$  introduced as an argument at [1].
3. A use of the  $x$  bound by [2]. Given Haskell's static (lexical) scoping it will *always* refer to the  $x$  defined as  $x = 10$  in the `let` binding!

You can also see the effect of shadowing a name in scope in GHCi using the `let` *statements* you've been kicking around all along:

```
Prelude> let x = 5
Prelude> let y = x + 5
Prelude> y
10
Prelude> y * 10
100
Prelude> let z y = y * 10
Prelude> x
5
Prelude> y
10
Prelude> z 9
90
```

```
-- but
Prelude> z y
100
```

Note that while  $y$  is bound in GHCi's scope to  $x + 5$ , the introduction of  $z\ y = y * 10$  creates a new inner scope which shadowed the *name*  $y$  and rebound it. Now, when we enter  $z$ , GHCi will use the value we pass as  $y$  to evaluate the expression, not necessarily the value 10 from the let statement  $y = x + 5$ . If no other value is specified as an argument to  $z$ , as in the last example, the value of  $y$  from the outer scope is passed to  $z$  as an argument. But the lexically innermost binding takes precedence, so if a new value is given as an argument to  $z$ , that value will take precedence over the outer value,  $(x + 5)$ . (Incidentally, the seeming-sequentiality of defining things in GHCi is, under the hood, actually a never-ending series of nested lambda expressions, similar to the way functions can seem to accept multiple arguments but are, at root, a series of nested functions).

### 7.3 Anonymous functions

We have seen how we give functions a name and call them by name. However, it is also possible to use anonymous functions. In programming, anonymous, or “without a name,” refers to the ability to construct objects and use them without naming them.

For example, earlier we looked at this named, i.e., not anonymous, function:

```
triple :: Integer -> Integer
triple x = x * 3
```

And here is the same function but with anonymous function syntax:

```
(\x -> x * 3) :: Integer -> Integer
```

Anonymous functions in Haskell are represented through the use of a special syntax known as lambda syntax represented by the backslash in front of the  $x$ . *Lambda* here refers to a lambda abstraction and therefore to the theoretical underpinnings of Haskell and other functional programming languages: the lambda calculus. We used

this syntax in the previous chapter when we were talking about manual currying, too.

You need the parentheses for the type assertion `:: Integer -> Integer` to apply to the entire anonymous function and not just the `Num a => a value 3`. You can give this function a name, making it not anonymous anymore, in GHCi like this:

```
Prelude> let trip = (\x -> x*3) :: Integer -> Integer
```

Similarly, to apply an anonymous function we'll often need to wrap it in parentheses so that our intent is clear:

```
Prelude> (\x -> x * 3) 1
3
Prelude> \x -> x * 3 1
```

```
Could not deduce (Num (a0 -> a))
  arising from the ambiguity check for 'it'
from the context (Num (a1 -> a), Num a1, Num a)
  bound by the inferred type for 'it':
    (Num (a1 -> a), Num a1, Num a) => a -> a
at <interactive>:9:1-13
The type variable 'a0' is ambiguous
When checking that 'it'
  has the inferred type 'forall a a1.
    (Num (a1 -> a), Num a1, Num a) =>
      a -> a'
Probable cause: the inferred type is ambiguous
```

The type error `Could not deduce (Num (a0 -> a))` is because you can't use `Num a => a` values as if they were functions. To the computer, it looks like you're trying to apply `3 1` as if `3` were a function. Here the `it` referred to is `3 1` which it thinks is `3` applied to `1` as if `3` were a function.

### Exercises: Grab Bag

Note the following exercises are from source code files, not written for use directly in the REPL. Of course, you can change them to test directly in the REPL if you prefer.

1. Which (two or more) of the following are equivalent?

- a) `mTh x y z = x * y * z`
- b) `mTh x y = \z -> x * y * z`
- c) `mTh x = \y -> \z -> x * y * z`
- d) `mTh = \x -> \y -> \z -> x * y * z`

2. The type of `mTh` (above) is `Num a => a -> a -> a -> a`. Which is the type of `mTh 3`?

- a) `Integer -> Integer -> Integer`
- b) `Num a => a -> a -> a -> a`
- c) `Num a => a -> a`
- d) `Num a => a -> a -> a`

3. Next, we'll practice writing anonymous lambda syntax.

For example, one could rewrite:

```
addOne x = x + 1
```

Into:

```
addOne = \x -> x + 1
```

Try to make it so it can still be loaded as a top-level definition by GHCi. This will make it easier to validate your answers.

a) Rewrite the `f` function in the `where` clause.

```
addOneIfOdd n = case odd n of
  True -> f n
  False -> n
  where f n = n + 1
```

b) Rewrite the following to use anonymous lambda syntax:

```
addFive x y = (if x > y then y else x) + 5
```

c) Rewrite the following so that it doesn't use anonymous lambda syntax:

```
mflip f = \x -> \y -> f y x
```

## 7.4 Pattern matching

Pattern matching is an integral and ubiquitous feature of Haskell. Simply put, it is a way of matching values against patterns and, where appropriate, binding variables to successful matches. It is worth noting here that “patterns” can include things as diverse as undefined variables, numeric literals, and list syntax. As we will see, pattern matching matches on any and all data constructors.

Pattern matching allows you to expose and dispatch on data in your function definitions by deconstructing values to expose their inner workings. There is a reason we describe values as “data *constructors*”, although we haven’t had cause to explore that much yet. Pattern matching also allows us to write functions that can decide between two or more possibilities based on which value it matches.

Patterns are matched against values, or data constructors, not types. Matching a pattern may fail, proceeding to the next available pattern to match or succeed. When a match succeeds, the variables exposed in the pattern are bound. Pattern matching proceeds from left to right and outside to inside.

We can pattern match on numbers. In the following example, when the Integer argument to the function equals 2, this returns True, otherwise, False:

```
isItTwo :: Integer -> Bool
isItTwo 2 = True
isItTwo _ = False
```

You can enter the same function directly into GHCi using the `{` and `}` block syntax, just enter `}` and “return” to end the block.

```
Prelude> {:
*Main| let isItTwo :: Integer -> Bool
*Main|     isItTwo 2 = True
*Main|     isItTwo _ = False
*Main| :}
```

Note the use of the underscore `_` after the match against the value 2. This is a means of defining a universal pattern that never fails to match, a sort of “anything else” case.



```
Prelude> isItTwo 2
True
Prelude> isItTwo 3
False
```

## Handling all the cases

The order of pattern matches matters! The following version of the function will always return `False` because it will match the “anything else” case first – and match it to everything – so nothing will get through that to match with the pattern you do want to match:

```
isItTwo :: Integer -> Bool
isItTwo _ = False
isItTwo 2 = True

<interactive>:9:33: Warning:
    Pattern match(es) are overlapped
    In an equation for ‘isItTwo’: isItTwo 2 = ...
Prelude> isItTwo 2
False
Prelude> isItTwo 3
False
```

Try to order your patterns from most specific to least specific, particularly as it concerns the use of `_` to unconditionally match any value. Unless you get fancy, you should be able to trust GHC’s pattern match overlap warning and should triple-check your code when it complains.

What happens if we forget to match a case in our pattern?

```
isItTwo :: Integer -> Bool
isItTwo 2 = True
```

Notice that now our function can only pattern match on the value 2. This is an incomplete pattern match because it can’t match any other data. Incomplete pattern matches applied to data they don’t handle will return *bottom*, a non-value used to denote that the program cannot return a value or result. This will throw an exception, which if unhandled, will make your program fail:

```

Prelude> isItTwo 2
True
Prelude> isItTwo 3
*** Exception: :50:33-48:
    Non-exhaustive patterns
        in function isItTwo

```

We’re going to get well acquainted with the idea of bottom in upcoming chapters. For now, it’s enough to know that this is what you get when you don’t handle all the possible data.

Fortunately, there’s a way to know at compile time when your pattern matches are non-exhaustive and don’t handle every case:

```

Prelude> :set -Wall
Prelude> :{
*Main| let isItTwo :: Integer -> Bool
*Main|     isItTwo 2 = True
*Main| :}

<interactive>:28:5: Warning:
    This binding for ‘isItTwo’ shadows
    the existing binding
        defined at <interactive>:20:5

<interactive>:28:5: Warning:
    Pattern match(es) are non-exhaustive
    In an equation for ‘isItTwo’:

    Patterns not matched: #x with #x `notElem` [2#]

```

By turning on all warnings with `-Wall`, we’re now told ahead of time that we’ve made a mistake. Do *not* ignore the warnings GHC provides for you!

### Pattern matching against data constructors

Pattern matching serves a couple of purposes. It enables us to vary what our functions do given different inputs. It also allows us to unpack and expose the contents of our data. The values `True` and `False` don’t have any other data to expose, but some data constructors

have parameters, and pattern matching can let us expose and make use of the data in their arguments.

The next example uses `newtype` which is a special case of data declarations. `newtype` is different in that it permits only one constructor and only one field. We will talk about `newtype` more later. For now, we want to focus on how pattern matching can be used to expose the contents of data and specify behavior based on that data:

```
-- registeredUser1.hs
module RegisteredUser where

newtype Username = Username String
newtype AccountNumber = AccountNumber Integer

data User = UnregisteredUser
          | RegisteredUser Username AccountNumber
```

Here with the type `User` we can use pattern matching to accomplish two things. First, `User` is a sum with two constructors, `UnregisteredUser` and `RegisteredUser`. We can use pattern matching to dispatch our function differently depending on which value we get. Then with the `RegisteredUser` constructor we see that it is a product of two newtypes, `Username` and `AccountNumber`. We can use pattern matching to break down not only `RegisteredUser`'s contents, but also that of the newtypes if all the constructors are in scope. Let's write a function to pretty-print `User` values:

```

-- registeredUser2.hs
module RegisteredUser where

newtype Username = Username String
newtype AccountNumber = AccountNumber Integer

data User = UnregisteredUser
          | RegisteredUser Username AccountNumber

printUser :: User -> IO ()
printUser UnregisteredUser = putStrLn "UnregisteredUser"
printUser (RegisteredUser (Username name)
                        (AccountNumber acctNum))
          = putStrLn $ name ++ " " ++ show acctNum

```

Note that you can continue the pattern on the next line if it gets too long. Next, let's load this into the REPL and look at the types:

```

Prelude> :l code/registeredUser2.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling RegisteredUser
Ok, modules loaded: RegisteredUser.
Prelude> :t RegisteredUser
RegisteredUser :: Username -> AccountNumber -> User
Prelude> :t Username
Username :: String -> Username
Prelude> :t AccountNumber
AccountNumber :: Integer -> AccountNumber

```

Notice how the type of `RegisteredUser` is a function that constructs a `User` out of two arguments: `Username` and `AccountNumber`. This is what we mean when we refer to a value as a “data constructor.”

Now, let's use our functions. The argument names are perhaps not felicitous, as they are tedious to type in, but they were chosen to ensure clarity. Passing the function an `UnregisteredUser` returns the expected value:

```

Prelude> printUser UnregisteredUser
UnregisteredUser

```

The following, though, asks it to match on data constructor `RegisteredUser` and allows us to construct a `User` out of the `String` “callen” and the `Integer` 10456:

```
Prelude> let myUser = (Username "callen")
Prelude> let myAcct = (AccountNumber 10456)
Prelude> printUser $ RegisteredUser myUser myAcct
callen 10456
```

Through the use of pattern matching, we were able to unpack the `RegisteredUser` value of the `User` type and vary behavior over the different constructors of types.

This idea of unpacking and dispatching on data is important, so let us examine another example. First, we’re going to write a couple of new datatypes. Writing your own datatypes won’t be fully explained until a later chapter, but most of the structure here should be familiar already. We have a sum type called `WherePenguinsLive`:

```
data WherePenguinsLive =
    Galapagos
  | Antarctica
  | Australia
  | SouthAfrica
  | SouthAmerica
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

And a product type called `Penguin`. We haven’t given product types much attention yet, but for now you can think of `Penguin` as a type with only one value, `Peng`, and that value is a sort of box that contains a `WherePenguinsLive` value:

```
data Penguin =
    Peng WherePenguinsLive
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

Given these datatypes, we will write a couple functions for processing the data:

```
-- is it South Africa? If so, return True
isSouthAfrica :: WherePenguinsLive -> Bool
isSouthAfrica SouthAfrica = True
isSouthAfrica Galapagos = False
isSouthAfrica Antarctica = False
isSouthAfrica Australia = False
isSouthAfrica SouthAmerica = False
```

But that is redundant. We can use `_` to indicate an unconditional match on a value we don't care about. The following is better (more concise, easier to read) and does the same thing:

```
isSouthAfrica' :: WherePenguinsLive -> Bool
isSouthAfrica' SouthAfrica = True
isSouthAfrica' _           = False
```

We can also use pattern matching to unpack Penguin values to get at the `WherePenguinsLive` value it contains:

```
gimmeWhereTheyLive :: Penguin -> WherePenguinsLive
gimmeWhereTheyLive (Peng whereitlives) = whereitlives
```

Try using the `gimmeWhereTheyLive` function on some test data. When you enter the name of the penguin (note the lowercase), it will unpack the `Peng` value to just return the `WherePenguinsLive` that's inside:

```
humboldt = Peng SouthAmerica
gentoo = Peng Antarctica
macaroni = Peng Antarctica
little = Peng Australia
galapagos = Peng Galapagos
```

Now a more elaborate example. We'll expose the contents of `Peng` and match on what `WherePenguinLives` value we care about in one pattern match:

```

galapagosPenguin :: Penguin -> Bool
galapagosPenguin (Peng Galapagos) = True
galapagosPenguin _                 = False

antarcticPenguin :: Penguin -> Bool
antarcticPenguin (Peng Antarctica) = True
antarcticPenguin _                 = False

-- in this final function, the || operator
-- is an `or` function, which will return True
-- if either value is True
antarcticOrGalapagos :: Penguin -> Bool
antarcticOrGalapagos p =
    (galapagosPenguin p) || (antarcticPenguin p)

```

Note that we're using pattern matching to accomplish *two* things here. We're using it to unpack the `Penguin` datatype. We're also specifying which `WherePenguinsLive` value we want to match on.

## Pattern matching tuples

You can also use pattern matching rather than functions for operating on the contents of tuples. Remember this example from Basic Datatypes?

```

f :: (a, b) -> (c, d) -> ((b, d), (a, c))
f = undefined

```

When you did that exercise, you may have written it like this:

```

f :: (a, b) -> (c, d) -> ((b, d), (a, c))
f x y = ((snd x, snd y), (fst x, fst y))

```

But we can use pattern-matching on tuples to make a clearer and nicer to read version of it:

```

f :: (a, b) -> (c, d) -> ((b, d), (a, c))
f (a, b) (c, d) = ((b, d), (a, c))

```

One nice thing about this is that the tuple syntax allows the function to look a great deal like its type. Let's look at more examples of pattern matching on tuples. Note that the *second* example below is *not* a pattern match but the others are:

```
-- matchingTuples1.hs
module TupleFunctions where

-- These have to be the same type because
-- (+) is a -> a -> a
addEmUp2 :: Num a => (a, a) -> a
addEmUp2 (x, y) = x + y

-- addEmUp2 could also be written like so
addEmUp2Alt :: Num a => (a, a) -> a
addEmUp2Alt tup = (fst tup) + (snd tup)

fst3 :: (a, b, c) -> a
fst3 (x, _, _) = x

third3 :: (a, b, c) -> c
third3 (_, _, x) = x

Prelude> :l code/matchingTuples1.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling TupleFunctions
Ok, modules loaded: TupleFunctions.
```

Now we're going to use GHCi's `:browse` to see a list of the type signatures and functions we loaded from the module `TupleFunctions`:

```
Prelude> :browse TupleFunctions
addEmUp2 :: Num a => (a, a) -> a
addEmUp2Alt :: Num a => (a, a) -> a
fst3 :: (a, b, c) -> a
third3 :: (a, b, c) -> c

Prelude> addEmUp2 (10, 20)
30
Prelude> addEmUp2Alt (10, 20)
```



```

30
Prelude> fst3 ("blah", 2, [])
"blah"
Prelude> third3 ("blah", 2, [])
[]

```

### Exercises: Variety Pack

1. Given the following declarations

```

k (x, y) = x
k1 = k ((4-1), 10)
k2 = k ("three", (1 + 2))
k3 = k (3, True)

```

- a) What is the type of `k`?
  - b) What is the type of `k2`? Is it the same type as `k1` or `k3`?
  - c) Of `k1`, `k2`, `k3`, which will return the number 3 as the result?
2. Fill in the definition of the following function:

```

-- Remember: Tuples have the same syntax for their
-- type constructors and their data constructors.

f :: (a, b, c) -> (d, e, f) -> ((a, d), (c, f))
f = undefined

```

## 7.5 Case expressions

Case expressions are a way, similar in some respects to `if-then-else`, of making a function return a different result based on different inputs. You can use case expressions with any datatype that has visible data constructors. When we consider the datatype `Bool`:

```

data Bool = False | True
--   [1]   [2]   [3]

```

1. Type constructor, we only use this in type signatures, not in ordinary term-level code like case expressions.

2. Data constructor for the inhabitant of `Bool` named `False` – we can match on this.
3. Data constructor for the inhabitant of `Bool` named `True` – we can match on this as well.

Any time we case match or pattern match on a sum type like `Bool`, we must define how we handle each constructor or provide a default that matches all of them. In fact, we *must* handle both cases or use a function that handles both or we will have written a partial function that can throw an error at runtime. There is *rarely* a good reason to do this: write functions that handle all inputs possible!

Let's start by looking at an `if-then-else` expression that we saw in a previous chapter:

```
if x + 1 == 1 then "AWESOME" else "wut"
```

We can easily rewrite this as a case expression, matching on the constructors of `Bool`:

```
funcZ x =  
  case x + 1 == 1 of  
    True  -> "AWESOME"  
    False -> "wut"
```

Note that while the syntax is considerably different here, the results will be the same. Be sure to load it in the REPL and try it out.

We could also write a simple case expression to tell us whether or not something is a palindrome:

```
pal xs =  
  case xs == reverse xs of  
    True  -> "yes"  
    False -> "no"
```

The above can also be written with a `where` clause in cases where you might need to reuse the `y`:

```
pal' xs =
  case y of
    True  -> "yes"
    False -> "no"
  where y = xs == reverse xs
```

In either case, the function will first check if the input string is equal to the reverse of it. If that returns `True`, then the string is a palindrome, so your function says, “yes.” If not, then it’s not.

Here is one more example, also matching on the data constructors from `Bool`, and you can compare its syntax to the `if-then-else` version we’ve seen before:

```
-- greetIfCool3.hs
module GreetIfCool3 where

greetIfCool :: String -> IO ()
greetIfCool coolness =
  case cool of
    True  -> putStrLn "eyyyyy. What's shakin'?"
    False -> putStrLn "pshhhh."
  where cool = coolness == "downright frosty yo"
```

So far, the case expressions we’ve looked at have been fairly basic and rely on pattern matching with `True` and `False` explicitly. In an upcoming section, we’ll look at a more complex use of a case expression.

### Exercises: Case Practice

We’re going to practice using case expressions by rewriting functions. Some of these functions you’ve already seen in previous chapters (and some you’ll see later using different syntax yet again!), but you’ll be writing new versions now. Please note these are all written as they would be in source code files, and we recommend you write your answers in source files and then load into `GHCi` to check, rather than trying to do them directly into the `REPL`.

First, rewrite `if-then-else` expressions into case expressions.

1. The following should return `x` when `x` is greater than `y`.

```
functionC x y = if (x > y) then x else y
```

2. The following will add 2 to even numbers and otherwise simply return the input value.

```
ifEvenAdd2 n = if even n then (n+2) else n
```

The next exercise doesn't have all the cases covered. See if you can fix it.

1. The following compares a value,  $x$ , to zero and returns an indicator for whether  $x$  is a positive number or negative number. But what if  $x$  is 0? You may need to play with the `compare` function a bit to find what to do.

```
nums x =
  case compare x 0 of
    LT -> -1
    GT -> 1
```

## 7.6 Higher-order functions

Higher-order functions (HOFs) are functions that accept functions as arguments. Functions are just values — why couldn't they be passed around like any other values? This is an important component of functional programming and gives us a way to combine functions efficiently.

First let's examine a simple higher-order function, `flip`:

```
Prelude> :t flip
flip :: (a -> b -> c) -> b -> a -> c
Prelude> let sub = (-)
Prelude> sub 10 1
9
Prelude> let rSub = flip sub
Prelude> rSub 10 1
-9
Prelude> rSub 5 10
5
```

The implementation of `flip` is simple:

```
flip :: (a -> b -> c) -> b -> a -> c
flip f x y = f y x
```

Alternately, it could've been written as:

```
myFlip :: (a -> b -> c) -> b -> a -> c
myFlip f = \ x y -> f y x
```

There's no difference in what `flip` and `myFlip` do: one declares parameters in the function definition, and the other declares them instead in the anonymous function value being returned. But what makes `flip` a higher-order function? Well, it's this:

```
flip :: (a -> b -> c) -> b -> a -> c
      [      1      ]
flip f x y = f y x
      [2]      [3]
```

1. When we want to express a function argument within a function type, we must use parentheses to nest it.
2. The argument  $f$  is the function  $a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c$ .
3. We apply  $f$  to  $x$  and  $y$  but `flip` will flip the order of application and apply  $f$  to  $y$  and then  $x$  instead of the usual order.

To better understand how HOFs work syntactically, it's worth thinking about how parentheses *associate* in type signatures.

Let's look at the type of the following function:

```
returnLast :: a -> b -> c -> d -> d
returnLast _ _ _ d = d
```

If we explicitly parenthesize `returnLast`, it must match the associativity of `->`, which is right-associative. The following parenthesization works fine. Note that this merely makes the default currying explicit:

```
returnLast' :: a -> (b -> (c -> (d -> d)))
returnLast' _ _ _ d = d
```

However, this will not work. This is not how `->` associates:

```
returnBroke :: ((a -> b) -> c) -> d -> d
returnBroke _ _ _ d = d
```

If you attempt to load `returnBroke`, you'll get a type error.

```
Couldn't match expected type 't0 -> t1 -> t2 -> t2'
  with actual type 'd'
```

'd' is a rigid type variable bound by  
the type signature for  
`returnBroke :: ((a -> b) -> c) -> d -> d`

Relevant bindings include  
`returnBroke :: ((a -> b) -> c) -> d -> d`

The equation(s) for 'returnBroke' have four arguments,  
but its type '((a -> b) -> c) -> d -> d'  
has only one

This type error is telling us that the type of `returnBroke` only specifies one argument that has the type `((a -> b) -> c) -> d`, yet our function definition seems to expect *four* arguments. The type signature of `returnBroke` specifies a single *function* as the sole argument to `returnBroke`.<sup>1</sup>

We *can* have a type that is parenthesized in that fashion as long as we want to do something different than what `returnLast` does:

```
returnAfterApply :: (a -> b) -> a -> c -> b
returnAfterApply f a c = f a
```

What we're doing here is parenthesizing to the *left* so that we can refer to a separate function, with its own parameters and result, as an argument to our top level function. Here the `(a -> b)` is the *f* argument we use to produce a value of type *b* from a value of type *a*.

One reason we want HOFs is to manipulate how functions are applied to arguments. To understand another reason, let's revisit the `compare` function from the `Ord` typeclass:

---

<sup>1</sup> Fun fact: `returnBroke` is an impossible function.

```

Prelude> :t compare
compare :: Ord a => a -> a -> Ordering
Prelude> :info Ordering
data Ordering = LT | EQ | GT
Prelude> compare 10 9
GT
Prelude> compare 9 9
EQ
Prelude> compare 9 10
LT

```

Now we'll write a function that makes use of this:

```

data Employee = Coder
               | Manager
               | Veep
               | CEO
               deriving (Eq, Ord, Show)

reportBoss :: Employee -> Employee -> IO ()
reportBoss e e' =
    putStrLn $ show e ++ " is the boss of " ++ show e'

employeeRank :: Employee -> Employee -> IO ()
employeeRank e e' =
    case compare e e' of
        GT -> reportBoss e e'
-- [ 1 ]
        EQ -> putStrLn "Neither employee is the boss"
-- [ 2 ]
        LT -> (flip reportBoss) e e'
-- [ 3 ]

```

The case in the `employeeRank` function is a case expression. This function says:

1. In the case of comparing `e` and `e'` and finding `e` is greater than `e'`, return `reportBoss e e'`

2. In the case of finding them equal, return the string “Neither employee is the boss”
3. In the case of finding `e` less than `e'`, flip the function `reportBoss`. This could also have been written `reportBoss e' e`.

The `compare` function uses the behavior of the `Ord` instance defined for a given type in order to compare them. In this case, our data declaration lists them in order from `Coder` in the lowest rank and `CEO` in the top rank, so `compare` will use that ordering to evaluate the result of the function.

If we load this up and try it out:

```
Prelude> employeeRank Veep CEO
CEO is the boss of Veep
```

That’s probably true in most companies! Being industrious programmers, we naturally want to refactor this a bit to be more flexible – notice how we change the type of `employeeRank`:

```
data Employee = Coder
              | Manager
              | Veep
              | CEO
              deriving (Eq, Ord, Show)

reportBoss :: Employee -> Employee -> IO ()
reportBoss e e' =
  putStrLn $ show e ++ " is the boss of " ++ show e'

employeeRank :: (Employee -> Employee -> Ordering)
              -> Employee
              -> Employee
              -> IO ()
employeeRank f e e' =
  case f e e' of
    GT -> reportBoss e e'
    EQ -> putStrLn "Neither employee is the boss"
    LT -> (flip reportBoss) e e'
```



Now our `employeeRank` function will accept a function argument with the type `Employee -> Employee -> Ordering`, which we named `f`, in the place where we had `compare` before. You'll notice we have the same case expressions here again. We can get the same behavior we had last time by just passing it `compare` as the function argument:

```
Prelude> employeeRank compare Veep CEO
CEO is the boss of Veep
Prelude> employeeRank compare CEO Veep
CEO is the boss of Veep
```

But since we're clever hackers, we can subvert the hierarchy with a comparison function that does something a bit different with the following code:

```

data Employee = Coder
               | Manager
               | Veep
               | CEO
               deriving (Eq, Ord, Show)

reportBoss :: Employee -> Employee -> IO ()
reportBoss e e' =
    putStrLn $ show e ++ " is the boss of " ++ show e'

codersRuleCEOsDrool :: Employee -> Employee -> Ordering
codersRuleCEOsDrool Coder Coder = EQ
codersRuleCEOsDrool Coder _     = GT
codersRuleCEOsDrool _ Coder     = LT
codersRuleCEOsDrool e e'       = compare e e'

employeeRank :: (Employee -> Employee -> Ordering)
              -> Employee
              -> Employee
              -> IO ()
employeeRank f e e' =
    case f e e' of
        GT -> reportBoss e e'
        EQ -> putStrLn "Neither employee is the boss"
        LT -> (flip reportBoss) e e'

```

Here we've created a new function that changes the behavior of the normal `compare` function by pattern matching on our data constructor, `Coder`. In a case where `Coder` is the first value (and the second value is anything – note the underscore used as a catchall), the result will be `GT` or greater than. In a case where `Coder` is the second value passed, this function will return a `LT`, or less than, result. In any case where `Coder` is not one of the values, `compare` will exhibit its normal behavior. The case expression in the `employeeRank` function is otherwise unchanged.

And here's how that works:

```
Prelude> employeeRank compare Coder CEO
```

```

CEO is the boss of Coder
Prelude> employeeRank codersRuleCEOsDrool Coder CEO
Coder is the boss of CEO
Prelude> employeeRank codersRuleCEOsDrool CEO Coder
Coder is the boss of CEO

```

If we use `compare` as our  $f$  argument, then the behavior is unchanged. If, on the other hand, we use our new function, `codersRuleCEOsDrool` as the  $f$  argument, then the behavior changes and we unleash anarchy in the cubicle farm.

We were able to rely on the behavior of `compare` but make changes in the part we wanted to change. This is the value of HOFs. They give us the beginnings of a powerful method for reusing and composing code.

### Exercises: Artful Dodgy

Given the following definitions tell us what value results from further applications. When you've written down at least some of the answers and think you know what's what, type the definitions into a file and load them in GHCi to test your answers.

*-- Types not provided, try filling them in yourself.*

```

dodgy x y = x + y * 10
oneIsOne = dodgy 1
oneIsTwo = (flip dodgy) 2

```

1. For example, given the expression `dodgy 1 0`, what do you think will happen if we evaluate it? If you put the definitions in a file and load them in GHCi, you can do the following to see the result.

```

Prelude> dodgy 1 0
1

```

Now attempt to determine what the following expressions reduce to. Do it in your head, verify in your REPL after you think you have an answer.

2. dodgy 1 1
3. dodgy 2 2
4. dodgy 1 2
5. dodgy 2 1
6. oneIsOne 1
7. oneIsOne 2
8. oneIsTwo 1
9. oneIsTwo 2
10. oneIsOne 3
11. oneIsTwo 3

## 7.7 Guards

We have spent a lot of time playing around with booleans and expressions that evaluate to their truth value including `if-then-else` expressions which rely on boolean evaluation to decide between two outcomes. In this section, we will look at another syntactic pattern called guards that relies on truth values to decide between two or more possible results.

### **if-then-else**

Let's begin with a quick review of what we learned about `if-then-else` expressions in the Basic Datatypes chapter. Note, `if-then-else` is *not* guards! We're just reviewing something similar before moving on to guards themselves. The pattern is this:

```
if <condition>
  then <result if True>
  else <result if False>
```

where the `if` condition is an expression that results in a `Bool` value. We saw how this allows us to write functions like this:

```
Prelude> let x = 0
Prelude> if (x + 1 == 1) then "AWESOME" else "wut"
"AWESOME"
```

The next couple of examples will demonstrate how to write multi-line blocks of code into GHCi – the `{ : }` notation isn't necessary in source files:

```
-- alternately
Prelude> let x = 0
Prelude> :{
Prelude| if (x + 1 == 1)
Prelude|     then "AWESOME"
Prelude|     else "wut"
Prelude| :}
"AWESOME"
```

The indentation isn't required:

```
Prelude> let x = 0
Prelude> :{
Prelude| if (x + 1 == 1)
Prelude| then "AWESOME"
Prelude| else "wut"
Prelude| :}
"AWESOME"
```

In the exercises at the end of that chapter, you were asked to write a function called `myAbs` that returns the absolute value of a real number. You would have implemented that function with an `if-then-else` expression similar to the following:

```
myAbs :: Integer -> Integer
myAbs x = if x < 0 then (-x) else x
```

We're going to look at another way to write this using guards.

## Writing guard blocks

Guard syntax allows us to write compact functions that allow for two or more possible outcomes depending on the truth of the conditions. Let's start by looking at how we would write `myAbs` with a guard block instead of with an `if-then-else`:

```
myAbs :: Integer -> Integer
myAbs x
  | x < 0      = (-x)
  | otherwise = x
```

Notice that each guard has its own equals sign. We didn't put one after the argument in the first line of the function definition because each case needs its own expression to return if its branch succeeds. Now we'll enumerate the components for clarity:

```
myAbs :: Integer -> Integer
myAbs x
-- [1] [2]
  | x < 0      = (-x)
-- [3] [4]    [5] [6]
  | otherwise = x
-- [7] [8]    [9] [10]
```

1. The name of our function, `myAbs`
2. Introducing a parameter for our function and naming it `x`
3. Here's where it gets different. Rather than an `=` immediately after the introduction of any parameter(s), we're starting a new line and using the *pipe* `|` to begin a guard case.
4. This is the expression we're using to test to see if this branch should be evaluated or not. The guard case expression between the `|` and `=` must evaluate to `Bool`.
5. The `=` here denotes that we're declaring what expression to return should our `x < 0` be `True`.
6. Then after the `=` we have the expression `(-x)` which will be returned if `x < 0`.

7. Another new line and a `|` to begin a new guard case.
8. `otherwise` is just another name for `True`, used here as a fallback case in case `x < 0` was `False`.
9. Another `=` to begin declaring the expression to return if we hit the `otherwise` case.
10. We kick `x` back out if it wasn't less than 0.

Let us demonstrate how this evaluates briefly:

```
*Main> myAbs (-10)
10
*Main> myAbs 10
10
```

In the first example, when it is passed a negative number as an argument, it looks at the first guard and sees that `(-10)` is indeed less than 0, evaluates that as `True`, and so returns the result of `(-x)`, in this case, `(-(-10))` or 10. In the second example, it looks at the first guard, sees that 10 does not meet that condition, so it is `False`, and goes to the next guard. `Otherwise` is always `True`, so it returns `x`, in this case, 10. Guards always evaluate sequentially, so your guards should be ordered from the case that is most restrictive to the case that is least restrictive.

Let's look next at a function that will have more than two possible outcomes, in this case the results of a test of sodium (Na) levels in the blood. We want a function that looks at the numbers (the numbers represent mEq/L or milliequivalents per liter) and tells us if the blood sodium levels are normal or not:

```
bloodNa :: Integer -> String
bloodNa x
  | x < 135  = "too low"
  | x > 145  = "too high"
  | otherwise = "just right"
```

We can incorporate different types of expressions into the guard block, as long as each guard can be evaluated to a `Bool` value. For

example, the following takes 3 numbers and tells you if the triangle whose sides they measure is a right triangle or not (using the Pythagorean theorem):

*-- c is the hypotenuse of the triangle. Google it.*

```
isRight :: (Num a, Eq a) => a -> a -> a -> String
isRight a b c
  | a^2 + b^2 == c^2 = "RIGHT ON"
  | otherwise       = "not right"
```

And the following function will take your dog's age and tell you how old your dog is in human years:

```
dogYrs :: (Num a, Ord a) => a -> a
dogYrs x
  | x <= 0    = 0
  | x <= 1    = x * 15
  | x <= 2    = x * 12
  | x <= 4    = x * 8
  | otherwise = x * 6
```

Why the different numbers? Because puppies reach maturity much faster than human babies do, so a year-old puppy isn't actually equivalent to a 6- or 7-year-old child (there is more complexity to this conversion than this function uses, because other factors such as the size of the dog play a role as well. You can certainly experiment with that if you like).

We can also use where expressions with guard blocks. Let's say you gave a test that had 100 questions and you wanted a simple function for translating the number of questions the student got right into a letter grade:



```

avgGrade :: (Fractional a, Ord a) => a -> Char
avgGrade x
  | y >= 0.9  = 'A'
  | y >= 0.8  = 'B'
  | y >= 0.7  = 'C'
  | y >= 0.59 = 'D'
  | y < 0.59  = 'F'
  where y = x / 100

```

No surprises there. Notice the variable  $y$  is introduced, not as an argument to the named function but in the guard block and is defined in the `where` expression. By defining it there, it is in scope for all the guards above it. There were 100 problems on the hypothetical test, so any  $x$  we give it will be divided by 100 to return the letter grade.

Also notice we left out the `otherwise`; we could have used it for the final case but chose instead to use `less than`. That is fine because in our guards we've handled all possible values. It is important to note that GHCi cannot always tell you when you haven't accounted for all possible cases, and it can be very difficult to reason about it, so it is wise to use `otherwise` in your final guard.

### Exercises: Guard Duty

1. It is probably clear to you why you wouldn't put an `otherwise` in your top-most guard, but try it with `avgGrade` anyway and see what happens. It'll be more clear if you rewrite it as an actual `otherwise` match: `| otherwise = 'F'`. What happens now if you pass a 90 as an argument? 75? 60?
2. What happens if you take `avgGrade` as it is written and reorder the guards? Does it still typecheck and work the same? Try moving `| y >= 0.7 = 'C'` and passing it the argument 90, which should be an 'A.' Does it return an 'A'?
3. The following function returns

```

pal xs
  | xs == reverse xs = True
  | otherwise        = False

```

- a) `xs` written backwards when it's `True`
  - b) `True` when `xs` is a palindrome
  - c) `False` when `xs` is a palindrome
  - d) `False` when `xs` is reversed
4. What types of arguments can `pal` take?
  5. What is the type of the function `pal`?
  6. The following function returns

```

numbers x
  | x < 0  = -1
  | x == 0 = 0
  | x > 0  = 1

```

- a) the value of its argument plus or minus 1
  - b) the negation of its argument
  - c) an indication of whether its argument is a positive or negative number or zero
  - d) binary machine language
7. What types of arguments can `numbers` take?
  8. What is the type of the function `numbers`?

## 7.8 Function composition

Function composition is a type of higher-order function that allows us to combine functions such that the result of applying one function gets passed to the next function as an argument. It is a very concise style, in keeping with the terse functional style Haskell is known for. At first, it seems complicated and difficult to unpack, but once you get the hang of it, it's fun! Let's begin by looking at the type signature and what it means:

```

(.) :: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> a -> c
--      [1]           [2]      [3]  [4]

```

1. is a function from  $b$  to  $c$ , passed as an argument (thus the parentheses)
2. is a function from  $a$  to  $b$
3. is a value of type  $a$ , the same as [2] expects as an argument
4. is a value of type  $c$ , the same as [1] returns as a result

Then with the addition of one set of parentheses:

```
(.) :: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> (a -> c)
--      [1]          [2]          [3]
```

In English:

1. given a function  $b$  to  $c$
2. given a function  $a$  to  $b$
3. return a function  $a$  to  $c$

The result of  $(a \rightarrow b)$  is the argument of  $(b \rightarrow c)$  so this is how we get from an  $a$  argument to a  $c$  result. We've stitched the result of one function into being the argument of another.

Next let's start looking at composed functions and how to read and work with them. The basic syntax of function composition looks like this:

```
(f . g) x = f (g x)
```

This composition operator,  $(.)$ , takes two functions here, named  $f$  and  $g$ . The  $f$  function corresponds to the  $(b \rightarrow c)$  in the type signature, while the  $g$  function corresponds to the  $(a \rightarrow b)$ . The  $g$  function is applied to the (polymorphic)  $x$  argument. The result of that application then passes to the  $f$  function as its argument. The  $f$  function is in turn applied to that argument and evaluated to reach the final result.

Let's go step by step through this transformation. We can think of the  $(.)$  or composition operator as being a way of pipelining data through multiple functions. The following composed functions will first add the values in the list together and then negate the result of that:

```
Prelude> negate . sum $ [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
-15
```

```
-- which is evaluated like this
negate . sum $ [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
```

```
-- note: this code works as well
negate (sum [1, 2, 3, 4, 5])
negate (15)
-15
```

Notice that we did this directly in our REPL, because the composition operator is already in scope in Prelude. The sum of the list is 15. That result gets passed to the `negate` function and returns a result of -15. Simple!

You may be wondering why we need the `$` operator. You might remember way back when we talked about the precedence of various operators that we said that operator has a lower precedence than an ordinary function call (white space, usually). Ordinary function application has a precedence of 10 (out of 10). The composition operator has a precedence of 9. If we left white space as our function application, this would be evaluated like this:

```
negate . sum [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
negate . 15
```

In other words, we'd be trying to pass a numeric value where our composition operator needs a function. By using the `$` we signal that application to the arguments should happen *after* the functions are already composed.

We can also parenthesize it instead of using the `$` operator. In that case, it looks like this:

```
Prelude> (negate . sum) [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
-15
```

The choice of whether to use parentheses or the dollar sign isn't important; it is just a question of style and ease of writing and reading.

The next example uses two functions, `take` and `reverse`, and is applied to an argument that is a list of numbers from 1 to 10. What

we expect to happen is that the list will first be reversed (from 10 to 1) and then the first 5 elements of the new list will be returned as the result.

```
Prelude> take 5 . reverse $ [1..10]
[10,9,8,7,6]
```

Given the next bit of code, how could we rewrite it to use function composition instead of parentheses?

```
Prelude> take 5 (enumFrom 3)
[3,4,5,6,7]
```

We know that we will have to eliminate the parentheses, add the composition operator, and add the `$` operator. It will then look like this:

```
Prelude> take 5 . enumFrom $ 3
[3,4,5,6,7]
```

You may also define it this way, which is more similar to how composition is written in source files:

```
Prelude> let f x = take 5 . enumFrom $ x
Prelude> f 3
[3,4,5,6,7]
```

You may be wondering why bother with this if it simply does the same thing as nesting functions in parentheses. One reason is that it is quite easy to compose more than two functions this way.

The `filter odd` function is new for us, but it simply filters the odd numbers (you can change it to `filter even` if you wish) out of the list that `enumFrom` builds for us. Finally, `take` will return as the result only the number of elements we have specified as the argument of `take`. Feel free to experiment with varying any of the arguments.

```
Prelude> take 5 . filter odd . enumFrom $ 3
[3,5,7,9,11]
```

As you compose more functions, you can see that nesting all the parentheses would become tiresome. This operator allows us to do away with that. It also allows us to write in an even more terse style known as “pointfree.”

## 7.9 Pointfree style

Pointfree refers to a style of composing functions without specifying their arguments. The “point” in “pointfree” refers to the arguments, not (as it may seem) to the function composition operator. In some sense, we add “points” (the operator) to be able to drop points (arguments). Quite often, pointfree code is tidier on the page and easier to read as it helps the reader focus on the *functions* rather than the data that is being shuffled around.

We said above that function composition looks like this:

$$(f \cdot g) x = f (g x)$$

As you put more functions together, composition can make them easier to read. For example,  $(f \cdot g \cdot h) x$  can be easier to read than  $f (g (h x))$  and it also brings the focus to the functions rather than the arguments. Pointfree is just an extension of that idea but now we drop the arguments altogether:

$$f \cdot g = \lambda x \rightarrow f (g x)$$

$$f \cdot g \cdot h = \lambda x \rightarrow f (g (h x))$$

To see what this looks like in practice, we’ll start by rewriting in pointfree style some of the functions we used in the section above:

```
Prelude> let f = negate . sum
Prelude> f [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
-15
```

Notice that when we define our function  $f$  we don’t specify that there will be any arguments. Yet when we apply the function to an argument, the same thing happens as before.

How would we rewrite `take 5 . filter odd . enumFrom $ 3` as a point-free function?

```
Prelude> let f = take 5 . filter odd . enumFrom
Prelude> f 3
[3,5,7,9,11]
```

And now because we named the function, it can be reused with different numeric arguments.

Here is another example of a short pointfree function and its result. It involves a new use of `filter` that uses the `Bool` operator `==`. Look at it carefully and, on paper or in your head, walk through the evaluation process involved:

```
Prelude> let f = length . filter (== 'a')
Prelude> f "abracadabra"
5
```

Next, we'll look at a lengthier set of functions, or module, that relies on both composition and pointfree style:

```
-- arith2.hs
module Arith2 where

add :: Int -> Int -> Int
add x y = x + y

addPF :: Int -> Int -> Int
addPF = (+)

addOne :: Int -> Int
addOne = \x -> x + 1

addOnePF :: Int -> Int
addOnePF = (+1)

main :: IO ()
main = do
  print (0 :: Int)
  print (add 1 0)
  print (addOne 0)
  print (addOnePF 0)
  print ((addOne . addOne) 0)
```

```

print ((addOnePF . addOne) 0)
print ((addOne    . addOnePF) 0)
print ((addOnePF . addOnePF) 0)
print (negate (addOne 0))
print ((negate . addOne) 0)
print ((addOne . addOne . addOne
        . negate . addOne) 0)

```

Take your time and work through what each function is doing, whether on paper or in your head. Then load this code as a source file and run it in GHC and see if your results were accurate.

You should now have a good understanding of how you can use `(.)` to *compose* functions. It's important to remember that the functions in composition are applied from right to left, like a Pacman munching from the right side, reducing the expressions as he goes.

## 7.10 Demonstrating composition

You may recall that back in the chapter on Printing Strings, we mentioned that the functions `print` and `putStr` seem similar on the surface but behave differently because they have different underlying types. Let's take a closer look at that now.

First, `putStrLn` and `putStr` have the same type:

```

putStr :: String -> IO ()
putStrLn :: String -> IO ()

```

But the type of `print` is different:

```

print :: Show a => a -> IO ()

```

They all return a result of `IO ()` for reasons we discussed in the previous chapter. But the parameters here are quite different. The first two take Strings as arguments, while `print` has a constrained polymorphic parameter, `Show a => a`. The first two work fine, then, if what we need to display on the screen are already strings, but how do we display numbers (or other non-string values)? First we have to convert those numbers to strings, then we can print the strings.

You may also recall a function from our discussion of the `Show` typeclass called `show`. Here's the type of `show` again:



```
show :: Show a => a -> String
```

Fortunately, it was understood that combining `putStrLn` and `show` would be a common pattern, so the function named `print` is the composition of `show` and `putStrLn`. We do it this way because it's *simpler*. The printing function concerns itself only with printing, while the stringification function concerns itself only with that.

Here are two ways to implement `print` with `putStrLn` and `show`:

```
print :: Show a => a -> IO ()
print a = putStrLn (show a)
```

```
-- using the . operator for composing functions.
```

```
(.) :: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> a -> c
```

```
-- we can write print as:
```

```
print :: Show a => a -> IO ()
print a = (putStrLn . show) a
```

Now let's go step by step through this use of `(.)`, `putStrLn`, and `show`:

```
(.) :: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> a -> c
```

```
putStrLn :: String -> IO ()
--           [1]      [2]
```

```
show :: Show a => a -> String
--           [3]      [4]
```

```
putStrLn . show :: Show a => a -> IO ()
--           [5]      [6]
```

```

(.) :: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> a -> c
--      [1]  [2]    [3]  [4]   [5]  [6]

-- If we replace the variables with the specific
-- types they take on in this application of (.)

(.) :: Show a => (String -> IO ())
      -> (a -> String)
      -> a -> IO ()

(.) :: (b      -> c)
      -- (String -> IO ())

      -> (a -> b)
      -- (a -> String)

      -> a -> c
      -- a -> IO ()

```

1. is the String that `putStrLn` accepts as an argument
2. is the `IO ()` that `putStrLn` returns, that is, performing the side effect of printing and returning unit.
3. is `a` who must implement the `Show` typeclass, this is the `Show a => a` from the `show` function which is a method on the `Show` typeclass.
4. is the String which `show` returns. This is what the `Show a => a` value got stringified into.
5. is the `Show a => a` the final composed function expects.
6. is the `IO ()` the final composed function returns.

We can now make it pointfree. When we are working with functions primarily in terms of *composition* rather than *application*, the pointfree version can often, but not always, be more elegant.

Here's the pointfree version of `print`:

```
-- Previous version of the function
print :: Show a => a -> IO ()
print a = (putStrLn . show) a

print :: Show a => a -> IO ()
print = putStrLn . show
```

The point of `print` is to compose `putStrLn` and `show` so that we don't have to call `show` on its argument ourselves. That is, `print` is principally about the composition of two functions, so it comes out nicely as a pointfree function. Saying that we could apply `putStrLn . show` to an argument in this case is redundant.

## 7.11 Chapter Exercises

### Multiple choice

1. A polymorphic function
  - a) changes things into sheep when invoked
  - b) has multiple arguments
  - c) has a concrete type
  - d) may resolve to values of different types, depending on inputs
2. Two functions named `f` and `g` have types `Char -> String` and `String -> [String]` respectively. The composed function `g . f` has the type
  - a) `Char -> String`
  - b) `Char -> [String]`
  - c) `[[String]]`
  - d) `Char -> String -> [String]`
3. A function `f` has the type `Ord a => a -> a -> Bool` and we apply it to one numeric value. What is the type now?
  - a) `Ord a => a -> Bool`
  - b) `Num -> Num -> Bool`

- c) `Ord a => a -> a -> Integer`
  - d) `(Ord a, Num a) => a -> Bool`
4. A function with the type `(a -> b) -> c`
- a) requires values of three different types
  - b) is a higher-order function
  - c) must take a tuple as its first argument
  - d) has its parameters in alphabetical order
5. Given the following definition of `f`, what is the type of `f True`?

```
f :: a -> a
f x = x
```

- a) `f True :: Bool`
- b) `f True :: String`
- c) `f True :: Bool -> Bool`
- d) `f True :: a`

### Let's write code

1. The following function returns the tens digit of an integral argument.

```
tensDigit :: Integral a => a -> a
tensDigit x = d
  where xLast = x `div` 10
        d     = xLast `mod` 10
```

- a) First, rewrite it using `divMod`.
- b) Does the `divMod` version have the same type as the original version?
- c) Next, let's change it so that we're getting the hundreds digit instead. You could start it like this (though that may not be the only possibility):

```
hunsD x = d2
  where d = undefined
  ...
```

2. Implement the function of the type `a -> a -> Bool -> a` once each using a case expression and once with a guard.

```
foldBool :: a -> a -> Bool -> a
foldBool = error "Error: Need to implement foldBool!"
```

The result is semantically similar to if-then-else expressions but syntactically quite different. Here is the pattern matching version to get you started:

```
foldBool3 :: a -> a -> Bool -> a
foldBool3 x y True  = x
foldBool3 x y False = y
```

3. Fill in the definition. Note that the first argument to our function is *also* a function which can be applied to values. Your second argument is a tuple, which can be used for pattern matching:

```
g :: (a -> b) -> (a, c) -> (b, c)
g = undefined
```

4. For this next exercise, you'll experiment with writing pointfree versions of existing code. This involves some new information, so read the following explanation carefully.

Typeclasses are dispatched by type. `Read` is a typeclass like `Show`, but it is the dual or “opposite” of `Show`. In general, the `Read` typeclass isn't something you should plan to use a lot, but this exercise is structured to teach you something about the interaction between typeclasses and types.

The function `read` in the `Read` typeclass has the type:

```
read :: Read a => String -> a
```

Notice a pattern?

```
read :: Read a => String -> a
show :: Show a => a -> String
```

Write the following code into a source file. Then load it and run it in GHCi to make sure you understand why the evaluation results in the answers you see.

```

-- arith4.hs
module Arith4 where

-- id :: a -> a
-- id x = x

roundTrip :: (Show a, Read a) => a -> a
roundTrip a = read (show a)

main = do
    print (roundTrip 4)
    print (id 4)

```

5. Next, write a pointfree version of `roundTrip`.
6. We will continue to use the code in `module Arith4` for this exercise as well.

When we apply `show` to a value such as `(1 :: Int)`, the `a` that implements `Show` is `Int`, so GHC will use the `Int` instance of the `Show` typeclass to stringify our `Int` of 1.

However, `read` expects a `String` argument in order to return an `a`. The `String` argument that is the first argument to `read` tells the function nothing about what type the de-stringified result should be. In the type signature `roundTrip` currently has, it knows because the type variables are the same, so the type that is the input to `show` has to be the same type as the output of `read`.

Your task now is to change the type of `roundTrip` in `Arith4` to `(Show a, Read b) => a -> b`. How might we tell GHC which instance of `Read` to dispatch against the `String` now? Make the application of your pointfree version of `roundTrip` to the argument 4 on line 10 work. You will only need the *has the type* syntax of `::` and parentheses for scoping.

## 7.12 Chapter Definitions

1. *Binding* or *bound* is a common word used to indicate connection, linkage, or association between two objects. In Haskell we'll use it to talk about what value a variable has, e.g., a parameter variable is *bound* to an argument value, meaning the value is passed into the parameter as input and each occurrence of that named parameter will have the same value. Bindings as a plurality will usually refer to a collection of variables and functions which can be referenced by name.

```
blah :: Int
blah = 10
```

Here the variable `blah` is bound to the value 10.

2. An *anonymous function* is a function which is not bound to an identifier and is instead passed as an argument to another function and/or used to construct another function. See the following examples.

```
\x -> x
-- anonymous version of id
```

```
id x = x
-- not anonymous, it's bound to 'id'
```

3. *Currying* is the process of transforming a function that takes multiple arguments into a series of functions which each take one argument and one result. This is accomplished through the nesting. In Haskell, all functions are curried by default. You don't need to do anything special yourself.

```

-- curry and uncurry already exist in Prelude

curry' :: ((a, b) -> c) -> a -> b -> c
curry' f a b = f (a, b)

uncurry' :: (a -> b -> c) -> ((a, b) -> c)
uncurry' f (a, b) = f a b

-- uncurried function, takes a tuple of its arguments
add :: (Int, Int) -> Int
add (x, y) = x + y

add' :: Int -> Int -> Int
add' = curry' add

```

A function that appears to take two arguments is actually two functions that each take one argument and return one result. What makes this work is that a function can return another function.

```

f a b = a + b

-- is equivalent to

f = \a -> (\b -> a + b)

```

4. *Pattern matching* is a syntactic way of deconstructing product and sum types to get at their inhabitants. With respect to products, pattern matching gives you the means for destructuring and exposing the contents of products, binding one or more values contained therein to names. With sums, pattern matching lets you discriminate which inhabitant of a sum you mean to handle in that match. It's best to explain pattern matching in terms of how datatypes work, so we're going to use terminology that you may not fully understand yet. We'll cover this more deeply soon.



```
-- nullary data constructor, not a sum or product.
-- Just a single value.
data Blah = Blah
```

Pattern matching on `Blah` can only do one thing.

```
blahFunc :: Blah -> Bool
blahFunc Blah = True
```

```
data Identity a =
  Identity a
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

`Identity` is a unary data constructor. Still not a product, only contains one value.

```
-- when you pattern match on Identity
-- you can unpack and expose the 'a'
```

```
unpackIdentity :: Identity a -> a
unpackIdentity (Identity x) = x
```

```
-- But you can choose to ignore
-- the contents of Identity
```

```
ignoreIdentity :: Identity a -> Bool
ignoreIdentity (Identity _) = True
```

```
-- or ignore it completely since matching on
-- a non-sum data constructor changes nothing.
```

```
ignoreIdentity' :: Identity a -> Bool
ignoreIdentity' _ = True
```

```
data Product a b =
  Product a b
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

Now we can choose to use none, one, or both of the values in the product of *a* and *b*:

```
productUnpackOnlyA :: Product a b -> a
productUnpackOnlyA (Product x _) = x
```

```
productUnpackOnlyB :: Product a b -> b
productUnpackOnlyB (Product _ y) = y
```

Or we can bind them both to a different name:

```
productUnpack :: Product a b -> (a, b)
productUnpack (Product x y) = (x, y)
```

What happens if you try to bind the values in the product to the same name?

```
data SumOfThree a b c =
    FirstPossible a
  | SecondPossible b
  | ThirdPossible c
    deriving (Eq, Show)
```

Now we can discriminate by the inhabitants of the sum and choose to do different things based on which constructor in the sum they were.

```
sumToInt :: SumOfThree a b c -> Integer
sumToInt (FirstPossible _) = 0
sumToInt (SecondPossible _) = 1
sumToInt (ThirdPossible _) = 2
```

*-- We can selectively ignore inhabitants of the sum*

```
sumToInt :: SumOfThree a b c -> Integer
sumToInt (FirstPossible _) = 0
sumToInt _ = 1
```

*-- We still need to handle every possible value*

Pattern matching is about your *data*.

5. *Bottom* is a non-value used to denote that the program cannot return a value or result. The most elemental manifestation of this is a program that loops infinitely. Other forms can involve things like writing a function that doesn't handle all of its inputs and fails on a pattern match. The following are examples of bottom:

```
-- If you apply this to any values,  
-- it'll recurse indefinitely.  
f x = f x  
  
-- It'll a'splode if you pass a False value  
dontDoThis :: Bool -> Int  
dontDoThis True = 1  
  
-- morally equivalent to  
  
definitelyDontDoThis :: Bool -> Int  
definitelyDontDoThis True = 1  
definitelyDontDoThis False = error "oops"  
  
-- don't use error. We'll show you a better way soon.
```

Bottom can be useful as a canary for signaling when code paths are being evaluated. We usually do this to determine how lazy a program is or isn't. You'll see a *lot* of this in our chapter on non-strictness later on.

6. *Higher-order functions* are functions which themselves take functions as arguments or return functions as results. Due to currying, technically any function that appears to take more than one argument is higher order in Haskell.

```
-- Technically higher order
-- because of currying
Int -> Int -> Int

-- See? Returns another function
-- after applying the first argument
Int -> (Int -> Int)

-- The rest of the following examples are
-- types of higher order functions

(a -> b) -> a -> b

(a -> b) -> [a] -> [b]

(Int -> Bool) -> [Int] -> [Bool]

-- also higher order, this one
-- takes a function argument which itself
-- is higher order as well.

((a -> b) -> c) -> [a] -> [c]
```

7. *Composition* is the application of a function to the result of having applied another function. The composition operator is a higher-order function as it takes the functions it composes as arguments and then returns a function of the composition:

```
(.) :: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> a -> c
```

```
-- is actually
```

```
(.) :: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> (a -> c)
```

```
-- or
```

```
(.) :: (b -> c) -> ((a -> b) -> (a -> c))
```

```
-- can be implemented as
```

```
comp :: (b -> c) -> ((a -> b) -> (a -> c))
```

```
comp f g x = f (g x)
```

The function `g` is applied to `x`, `f` is applied to the result of `g x`.

8. *Pointfree* is programming tacitly, or without mentioning arguments by name. This tends to look like “plumby” code where you’re routing data around implicitly or leaving off unnecessary arguments thanks to currying. The “point” referred to in the term pointfree is an argument.

```
-- not pointfree
```

```
blah x = x
```

```
addAndDrop x y = x + 1
```

```
reverseMkTuple a b = (b, a)
```

```
reverseTuple (a, b) = (b, a)
```

```
wtf d = zipWith (+) (\ l -> (map d l) >=> \ h -> h)
```

```
-- pointfree versions of the above
```

```
blah = id
```

```
addAndDrop = const . (1 +)
```

```
reverseMkTuple = flip (,)
```

```
reverseTuple = uncurry (flip (,))
```

```
wtf = zipWith (+) . (join .) . map
```

To see more examples like this, check out the Haskell Wiki page on Pointfree at <https://wiki.haskell.org/Pointfree>.

### 7.13 Follow-up resources

1. Paul Hudak; John Peterson; Joseph Fasel. A Gentle Introduction to Haskell, chapter on case expressions and pattern matching.  
<https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/patterns.html>
2. Simon Peyton Jones. The Implementation of Functional Programming Languages, pages 53-103.  
<http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/people/simonpj/papers/slpj-book-1987/index.htm>
3. Christopher Strachey. Fundamental Concepts in Programming Languages, page 11 for explanation of currying.  
<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~crary/819-f09/Strachey67.pdf>
4. J.N. Oliveira. An introduction to pointfree programming.  
[http://www.di.uminho.pt/~jno/ps/iscalc\\_1.ps.gz](http://www.di.uminho.pt/~jno/ps/iscalc_1.ps.gz)
5. Manuel Alcino Pereira da Cunha. Point-free Program Calculation.  
<http://www4.di.uminho.pt/~mac/Publications/phd.pdf>

## Chapter 8

# Recursion

Imagine a portion of the territory of England has been perfectly levelled, and a cartographer traces a map of England. The work is perfect. There is no particular of the territory of England, small as it can be, that has not been recorded in the map. Everything has its own correspondence. The map, then, must contain a map of the map, that must contain a map of the map of the map, and so on to infinity.

---

Jorge Luis Borges, citing  
Josiah Royce

## 8.1 Recursion

Recursion is defining a function in terms of itself via self-referential expressions. It means that the function will continue to call itself and repeat its behavior until some condition is met to return a result. It's an important concept in Haskell and in mathematics because it gives us a means of expressing *indefinite* or incremental computation without forcing us to explicitly repeat ourselves and allowing the data we are processing to decide when we are done computing.

Recursion is a natural property of many logical and mathematical systems, including human language. That there is no limit on the number of expressible, valid sentences in human language is due to recursion. A sentence in English can have another sentence nested within it. Sentences can be roughly described as structures which have a noun phrase, a verb phrase, and optionally another sentence. This possibility for unlimited nested sentences is recursive and enables the limitless expressibility therein. Recursion is a means of expressing code that must take an *indefinite* number of steps to return a result.

But the lambda calculus does not appear on the surface to have any means of recursion, because of the anonymity of expressions. How do you call something without a name? Being able to write recursive functions, though, is essential to Turing completeness. We use a combinator – known as the Y combinator or fixed-point combinator – to write recursive functions in the lambda calculus. Haskell has native recursion ability based on the same principle as the Y combinator.

It is important to have a solid understanding of the behavior of recursive functions. In later chapters, we will see that, in fact, it is not often necessary to write our own recursive functions, as many standard higher-order functions have built-in recursion. But without understanding the systematic behavior of recursion itself, it can be difficult to reason about those HOFs. In this chapter, we will

- explore what recursion is and how recursive functions evaluate;
- go step-by-step through the process of writing recursive functions;
- have fun with *bottom*.



## 8.2 Factorial

One of the classic introductory functions for demonstrating recursion in functional languages is factorial. In arithmetic, you might've seen expressions like  $4!$ . The *bang* you're seeing next to the number 4 is the notation for the factorial function.

Lets evaluate  $4!$ :

```
4! = 4 * 3 * 2 * 1
      12 * 2 * 1
            24 * 1
                  24
4! = 24
```

Now let us do this the silly way in Haskell:

```
fourFactorial :: Integer
fourFactorial = 4 * 3 * 2 * 1
```

This will return the correct result, but it only covers one possible result for factorial. This is less than ideal. We want to express the general idea of the function, not encode specific inputs and outputs manually.

Now we'll look at some broken code to introduce the concept of a base case:

```
-- This won't work. It never stops.
brokenFact1 :: Integer -> Integer
brokenFact1 n = n * brokenFact1 (n - 1)

-- To make my point obvious, let's apply this to 4
-- and see what happens
brokenFact1 4 = 4 * (4 - 1)
                * ((4 - 1) - 1)
                * (((4 - 1) - 1) - 1)
                ... this series never stops
```

The way we can stop a recursive expression is by having a *base case* that stops the self-application to further arguments. Understanding

this is critical for writing functions which are correct and terminate properly:

Here's what this looks like for factorial:

```
module Factorial where

factorial :: Integer -> Integer
factorial 0 = 1
factorial n = n * factorial (n - 1)

brokenFact1 4 = 4 * (4 - 1)
              * ((4 - 1) - 1)
              * (((4 - 1) - 1) - 1)
              * ((((4 - 1) - 1) - 1) - 1)
              ... never stops
```

Because we have the base case `factorial 0 = 1` in the fixed version, here is how our reduction changes:

```

-- Changes to
--      n = n * factorial (n - 1)
factorial 4 = 4 * factorial (4 - 1)

-- evaluate (-) applied to 4 and 1
4 * factorial 3

-- evaluate factorial applied to 3
-- expands to 3 * factorial (3 - 1)
4 * 3 * factorial (3 - 1)

-- beta reduce (-) applied to 3 and 1
4 * 3 * factorial 2

-- evaluate factorial applied to 2
4 * 3 * 2 * factorial (2 - 1)

-- evaluate (-) applied to 2 and 1
4 * 3 * 2 * factorial 1

-- evaluate factorial applied to 1
4 * 3 * 2 * 1 * factorial (1 - 1)

-- evaluate (-) applied to 1 and 1
-- we know factorial 0 = 1
-- so we evaluate that to 1
4 * 3 * 2 * 1 * 1

-- And when we evaluate our multiplications
24

```

Some hand-waving is needed in Haskell due to bottom, but proper code intended for production use shouldn't have intentional bottom values anywhere.

### Another way to look at recursion

In the last chapter, we looked at a higher-order function called composition. Function composition is a way of tying two (or more) functions together such that the result of applying the first function gets passed as an argument to the next function. This is the same thing recursive functions are doing – taking the result of the first application of the function and passing it to the next function – except in the case of recursive functions, the first result gets passed back to the same function rather than a different one, until it reaches the base case and terminates.

Where function composition as we normally think of it is static and definite, recursive compositions are indefinite. The number of times the function may be applied depends on the arguments to the function, and the applications can be infinite if a stopping point is not clearly defined.

Let's recall that function composition has the following type:

```
(.) :: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> a -> c
```

And when we use it like this:

```
take 5 . filter odd . enumFrom $ 3
```

we know that the first result will be a list generated by `enumFrom` which will be passed to `filter odd`, giving us a list of only the odd results, and that list will be passed to `take 5` and our final result will be the first five members of that list. Thus, results get piped through a series of functions.

Recursion is self-referential composition.<sup>1</sup> We apply a function to an argument, then pass that result on as an argument to a second application of the same function and so on.

Now look again at how the compose function `(.)` is written:

```
(.)    :: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> a -> c
(.) f g = \x -> f (g x)
```

Any programming language, such as Haskell, that is built purely on lambda calculus has only one verb: *apply* a function to an argument. Applying a function to an argument and returning a result is

---

<sup>1</sup> Many thanks to George Makrydakakis for discussing this with us.

all we can ever really do, no matter what syntactic conveniences we construct to make it seem that we are doing more than that. While we give function composition a special name and operator to point up the pattern and make it convenient to use, it's only a way of saying:

- given two functions, *f* and *g*, as arguments to *(.)*,
- when we get an argument *x*, apply *g* to *x*,
- then apply *f* to the result of *(g x)*; or,
- to rephrase, in code:

```
(.) f g = \x -> f (g x)
```

With function recursion, you might notice that it is function application in the same way that composition is. The difference is that instead of a fixed number of applications, recursive functions rely on inputs to determine when to stop applying functions to successive results. Without a specified stopping point, the result of *(g x)* will keep being passed back to *g* indefinitely.<sup>2</sup>

Let's look at some code to see the similarity in patterns:

```
inc :: Num a => a -> a
inc = (+1)

three = inc . inc . inc $ 0
-- different syntax, same thing
three' = (inc . inc . inc) 0
```

Our composition of *inc* bakes the number of applications into the source code. We don't presently have a means of changing how many times we want it to apply *inc* without writing a new function.

So, we might want to make a general function that can apply *inc* an indefinite number of times and allow us to specify as an argument how many times it should be applied:

---

<sup>2</sup> Because Haskell is built on pure lambda calculus, recursion is implemented in the language through the Y, or fixed-point combinator. You can read a very good explanation of that at <http://mvanier.livejournal.com/2897.html> if you are interested in knowing how it works.

```
incTimes :: (Eq a, Num a) => a -> a -> a
incTimes 0 n = n
incTimes times n = 1 + (incTimes (times - 1) n)
```

Here, `times` is the number of times the incrementing function (not called `inc` here but written as `1 +` in the function body) should be applied to the argument `n`. If we want to apply it zero times, it will just return our `n` to us. Otherwise, the incrementing function will be applied as many times as we've declared:

```
Prelude> incTimes 10 0
10
Prelude> incTimes 5 0
5
Prelude> incTimes 5 5
10
```

--does this look familiar?

In a function such as this, the looming threat of unending recursion is minimized because the number of times to apply the function is an argument to the function itself, and we've defined a stopping point: when `(times - 1)` is equal to zero, it returns `n` and that's all the applications we get.

We can abstract the recursion out of `incTimes`, too:

```
applyTimes :: (Eq a, Num a) =>
    a -> (b -> b) -> b -> b
applyTimes 0 f b = b
applyTimes n f b = f (applyTimes (n-1) f b)

incTimes' :: (Eq a, Num a) => a -> a -> a
incTimes' times n = applyTimes times (+1) n
```

When we do, we can make the composition more obvious in `applyTimes`:

```
applyTimes :: (Eq a, Num a) =>
    a -> (b -> b) -> b -> b
applyTimes 0 f b = b
applyTimes n f b = f . applyTimes (n-1) f $ b
```

We're recursively composing our function `f` with `applyTimes (n-1) f` however many subtractions it takes to get `n` to 0!

### Intermission: Exercise

Write out the evaluation of the following. It might be a little less noisy if you do so with the form that didn't use `(.)`.

```
applyTimes 5 (+1) 5
```

## 8.3 Bottom

$\perp$  or *bottom* is a term used in Haskell to refer to computations that do not successfully result in a value. The two main varieties of bottom are computations that failed with an error or those that failed to terminate. In logic,  $\perp$  corresponds to “false”. Let us examine a few ways by which we can have bottom in our programs:

```
Prelude> let x = x in x
*** Exception: <<loop>>
Prelude>
```

Here GHCi detected that `let x = x in x` was never going to return and short-circuited the never-ending computation. This is an example of bottom because it was never going to return a result. Note that if you're using a Windows computer, this example may just freeze your GHCi and not throw an exception.

Next let's define a function that will return an exception:

```
f :: Bool -> Int
f True = error "blah"
f False = 0
```

And let's try that out in GHCi:

```
Prelude> f False
0
Prelude> f True
*** Exception: blah
```

In the first case, when we evaluated `f False` and got `0`, that didn't result in a "bottom" value. But, when we evaluated `f True`, we got an exception which is a means of expressing that a computation failed. We got an exception because we specified that this value should return an error. But this, too, is an example of bottom.

Another example of a bottom would be a partial function. Let's consider a rewrite of the previous function:

```
f :: Bool -> Int
f False = 0
```

This has the same type and returns the same output. What we've done is elided the `f True = error "blah"` case from the function definition. This is *not* a solution to the problem with the previous function, but it will give us a different exception. We can observe this for ourselves in GHCi:

```
Prelude> let f :: Bool -> Int; f False = 0
Prelude> f False
0
Prelude> f True
*** Exception: 6:23-33:
    Non-exhaustive patterns in function f
```

The error value is still there, but our language implementation is making it the fallback case because we didn't write a *total* function, that is, a function which handles all of its inputs. Because we failed to define ways to handle all potential inputs, for example through an "otherwise" case, the previous function was really:

```
f :: Bool -> Int
f False = 0
f _ = error $ "*** Exception: "
           ++ "Non-exhaustive"
           ++ "patterns in function f"
```

A partial function is one which does not handle all of its inputs. A total function is one that does. How do we make our `f` into a total function? One way is with the use of the datatype `Maybe`.



```
data Maybe a = Nothing | Just a
```

We see that `Maybe` can take an argument. In the first case, `Nothing`, there is no argument; this is our way to say that there is no result or data from the function without hitting bottom. The second case, `Just a` takes an argument and allows us to return the data we're wanting. `Maybe` makes all uses of `nil` values and most uses of bottom unnecessary. Here's how we'd use it with `f`:

```
f :: Bool -> Maybe Int
f False = Just 0
f _ = Nothing
```

Note that the type and both cases all change. Not only do we replace the error with the `Nothing` value from `Maybe`, but we also have to wrap `0` in the `Just` constructor from `Maybe`. If we don't do so, we'll get a type error when we try to load the code, as you can see:

```
f :: Bool -> Maybe Int
f False = 0
f _ = Nothing
```

```
Prelude> :l code/brokenMaybe1.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling Main
```

```
code/brokenMaybe1.hs:3:11:
  No instance for (Num (Maybe Int)) arising from the literal '0'
  In the expression: 0
  In an equation for 'f': f False = 0
```

This type error is because, as before, `0` has the type `Num a => a`, so it's trying to get an instance of `Num` for `Maybe Int`. We can clarify our intent a bit:

```
f :: Bool -> Maybe Int
f False = 0 :: Int
f _ = Nothing
```

And then get a better type error in the bargain:

```
Prelude> :l code/brokenMaybe2.hs
```

```
[1 of 1] Compiling Main
```

```
code/brokenMaybe2.hs:3:11:
```

```
    Couldn't match expected type 'Maybe Int' with actual type 'Int'
```

```
    In the expression: 0 :: Int
```

```
    In an equation for 'f': f False = 0 :: Int
```

We'll explain `Maybe` in more detail a bit later.

## 8.4 Fibonacci numbers

Another classic demonstration of recursion in functional programming is a function that calculates the *n*th number in a Fibonacci sequence. The Fibonacci sequence, as you may know, is a sequence of numbers in which each number is the sum of the previous two: 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34... Precisely because we have an indefinite computation that relies on adding two of its own members, it's a perfect candidate for a recursive function. We're going to walk through the steps of how we would write such a function for ourselves to get a better understanding of the reasoning process.

### 1. Consider the types

The first thing we'll consider is the possible type signature for our function. The Fibonacci sequence only involves positive whole numbers. The argument to our Fibonacci function is going to be a positive whole number, because we're wanting to return the value that is the *n*th member of the Fibonacci sequence. Our result will also be a positive whole number, since that's what Fibonacci numbers are. We would be looking, then, for values that are of the `Int` or `Integer` types. We could use one of those concrete types or use a typeclass for constrained polymorphism. Specifically, we would want a type signature that takes one integral argument and returns one integral result. So, our type signature will look something like this:

```
fibonacci :: Integer -> Integer
```

```
-- or
```

```
fibonacci :: Integral a => a -> a
```

## 2. Consider the base case

It may sometimes be difficult to determine your base case upfront, but it's worth thinking about. For one thing, you do want to ensure that your function will terminate. For another thing, giving serious consideration to your base case is a valuable part of understanding how your function works. Fibonacci numbers are positive integers, so a reasonable base case is zero. When the recursive process hits zero, it should terminate.

The Fibonacci sequence is actually a bit trickier than some, though, because it really needs two base cases. The sequence has to start off with two numbers, since two numbers are involved in computing the next. The next number after zero is 1, and we add zero to 1 to start the sequence so those will be our base cases:

```
fibonacci :: Integral a => a -> a
fibonacci 0 = 0
fibonacci 1 = 1
```

## 3. Consider the arguments

We've already determined that the argument to our function, the value to which the function is applied, is an integral number and represents the member of the sequence we want to be evaluated. That is, we want to pass a value such as 10 to this function and have it calculate the 10th number in the Fibonacci sequence. We only need to have one variable as an argument to this function then.

But that argument will also be used as arguments within the function due to the recursive process. Every Fibonacci number is the result of adding the preceding two numbers. So, in addition to a variable  $x$ , we will need to use  $(x - 1)$  and  $(x - 2)$  to get both the numbers before our argument.

```
fibonacci :: Integral a => a -> a
fibonacci 0 = 0
fibonacci 1 = 1
fibonacci x = (x - 1) (x - 2)
-- note: this doesn't work quite yet.
```

## 4. Consider the recursion

All right, now we come to the heart of the matter. In what way will this function refer to itself and call itself? Look at what we've worked out so far: what needs to happen next to produce a Fibonacci number? One thing that needs to happen is that  $(x - 1)$  and  $(x - 2)$  need to be added together to produce a result. Try simply adding those two together and running the function that way.

```
fibonacci :: Integral a => a -> a
fibonacci 0 = 0
fibonacci 1 = 1
fibonacci x = (x - 1) + (x - 2)
```

If you pass the value 6 to that function, what will happen?

```
*Main> fibonacci 6
9
```

Why? Because  $((6 - 1) + (6 - 2))$  equals 9. But this isn't how we calculate Fibonacci numbers! The sixth member of the Fibonacci sequence is not  $((6 - 1) + (6 - 2))$ . What we really want is to add the fifth member of the Fibonacci sequence to the fourth member. That result will be the sixth member of the sequence. We do this by making the function refer to itself. In this case, we have to specify that both  $(x - 1)$  *and*  $(x - 2)$  are themselves Fibonacci numbers, so we have to call the function to itself twice.

```
fibonacci :: Integral a => a -> a
fibonacci 0 = 0
fibonacci 1 = 1
fibonacci x = fibonacci (x - 1) + fibonacci (x - 2)
```

Now, if we apply this function to the value 6, we will get a different result:

```
*Main> fibonacci 6
8
```

Why? Because it evaluates this recursively:

**fibonacci** 6 = fibonacci 5 + fibonacci 4

**fibonacci** 5 = fibonacci 4 + fibonacci 3

**fibonacci** 4 = fibonacci 3 + fibonacci 2

**fibonacci** 3 = fibonacci 2 + fibonacci 1

**fibonacci** 2 = fibonacci 1 + fibonacci 0

Zero and 1 have been defined as being equal to zero and 1. So here our recursion stops, and it starts adding the result:

```

fibonacci 0 +          0
fibonacci 1 +          1
fibonacci 2 +   (1 + 0 =) 1
fibonacci 3 +   (1 + 1 =) 2
fibonacci 4 +   (1 + 2 =) 3
fibonacci 5 =   (2 + 3 =) 5
fibonacci 6 =   (3 + 5 =) 8

```

It can be daunting at first to think how you would write a recursive function and what it means for a function to call itself. But as you can see, it's useful when the function will make reference to its own results in a repeated fashion.

## 8.5 Integral division from scratch

Many people learned multiplication by memorizing multiplication tables, usually up to 10x10 or 12x12 (dozen). In fact, one can perform multiplication in terms of addition, repeated over and over. Similarly, one can define integral division in terms of subtraction.

Let's think through our recursive division function one step at a time. First, let's consider the types we would want to use for such a function and see if we can construct a reasonable type signature. When we divide numbers, we have a numerator and a denominator. When we evaluate  $10 / 5$  to get the answer 2, 10 is the numerator, 5

the denominator, and 2 was the quotient. So we have at least three numbers here. So, perhaps a type like `Integer -> Integer -> Integer` would be suitable. You could even add some type synonyms (that won't change your code) to make it more obvious if you wished:

```
dividedBy :: Integer -> Integer -> Integer
dividedBy = div

-- changes to

type Numerator = Integer
type Denominator = Integer
type Quotient = Integer

dividedBy :: Numerator -> Denominator -> Quotient
dividedBy = div
```

For this example, we didn't write out the recursive implementation of `dividedBy` we had in mind. As it turns out, when we write the function, we will want to change the final type signature a bit, for reasons we'll see in a minute. Sometimes the use of type synonyms can improve the clarity and purpose of your type signatures, so this is something you'll see, especially in more complex code. For our relatively simple function, it may not be necessary.

Next, let's think through our base case. The way we divide in terms of subtraction is by stopping when our result of having subtracted repeatedly is lower than the divisor. If it divides evenly, it'll stop at 0:

```
Solve 20 divided by 4
--   [1] [2]
-- [1]: Dividend or numerator
-- [2]: Divisor or denominator
-- Result is quotient

20 divided by 4 == 20 - 4, 16
                    - 4, 12
                    - 4, 8
                    - 4, 4
                    - 4, 0
```

```
-- 0 is less than 4, so we stopped.
-- We subtracted 5 times, so 20 / 4 == 5
```

Otherwise, we'll have a remainder. Let's look at a case where it doesn't divide evenly:

Solve 25 divided by 4

```
25 divided by 4 == 25 - 4, 21
                      - 4, 17
                      - 4, 13
                      - 4, 9
                      - 4, 5
                      - 4, 1
-- we stop at 1, because it's less than 4
```

In the case of 25 divided by 4, we subtracted 4 six times and had 1 as our remainder. We can generalize this process of dividing whole numbers, returning the quotient and remainder, into a recursive function which does the repeated subtraction and counting for us. Since we'd like to return the quotient *and* the remainder, we're going to return the 2-tuple `(,)` as the result of our recursive function.

```
dividedBy :: Integral a => a -> a -> (a, a)
dividedBy num denom = go num denom 0
  where go n    d count
        | n < d = (count, n)
        | otherwise = go (n - d) d (count + 1)
```

First, take a look at the type signature. We've changed it from the one we had originally worked out, both to make it more polymorphic (`Integral a => a` versus `Integer`) and also to return the tuple instead of just an integer.

Here we used a common Haskell idiom called a `go` function. This allows us to define a function via a `where`-clause that can accept more arguments than the top-level function `dividedBy` does. In this case, the top-level function takes two arguments, `num` and `denom`, but we need a third argument in order to keep track of how many times we do the subtraction. That argument is called `count` and is defined

with a starting value of zero and is incremented by 1 every time the otherwise case is invoked.

There are two branches in our `go` function. The first case is the most specific; when the numerator `n` is less than the denominator `d`, the recursion stops and returns a result. It is not significant that we changed the argument names from `num` and `denom` to `n` and `d`. The `go` function has already been applied to those arguments in the definition of `dividedBy` so the `num`, `denom`, and `0` are bound to `n`, `d`, and `count` in the `where` clause.

The result is a tuple of `count` and the last value for `n`. This is our base case that stops the recursion and gives a final result.

Here's an example of how `dividedBy` expands but with the code inlined:

**dividedBy** 10 2

```
-- first we'll do this the previous way,
-- but we'll keep track of how many times we subtracted.
10 divided by 2 == 10 - 2, 8   (subtracted 1 time)
                      - 2, 6   (subtracted 2 times)
                      - 2, 4   (subtracted 3 times)
                      - 2, 2   (subtracted 4 times)
                      - 2, 0   (subtracted 5 times)
```

Since the final number was 0, there's no remainder. 10 divides into 2 five times. So `10 / 2 == 5`.

Now we'll expand the code:



```

dividedBy 10 2 =
go 10 2 0

| 10 < 2 = ...
-- false, skip this branch

| otherwise = go (10 - 2) 2 (0 + 1)
-- otherwise is literally the value True
-- so if first branch fails, this always succeeds

go 8 2 1
-- 8 isn't < 2, so the otherwise branch
go (8 - 2) 2 (1 + 1)
-- n == 6, d == 2, count == 2

go 6 2 2
go (6 - 2) 2 (2 + 1)
-- 6 isn't < 2, so the otherwise branch
-- n == 4, d == 2, count == 3

go 4 2 3
go (4 - 2) 2 (3 + 1)
-- 4 isn't < 2, so the otherwise branch
-- n == 2, d == 2, count == 4

go 2 2 4
go (2 - 2) 2 (4 + 1)
-- 2 isn't < 2, so the otherwise branch
-- n == 0, d == 2, count == 5

go 0 2 5
-- the n < d branch is finally evaluated
-- because 0 < 2 is true
-- n == 0, d == 2, count == 5
| 0 < 2 = (5, 0)

(5, 0)

```

The result of `count` is the quotient, that is, how many times you can subtract 2 from 10. In a case where there was a remainder, that number would be the final value for your numerator and would be returned as the remainder.

## 8.6 Chapter Exercises

### Review of types

1. What is the type of `[[True, False], [True, True], [False, True]]`?
  - a) `Bool`
  - b) mostly `True`
  - c) `[a]`
  - d) `[[Bool]]`
2. Which of the following has the same type as `[[True, False], [True, True], [False, True]]`?
  - a) `[(True, False), (True, True), (False, True)]`
  - b) `[[3 == 3], [6 > 5], [3 < 4]]`
  - c) `[3 == 3, 6 > 5, 3 < 4]`
  - d) `["Bool", "more Bool", "Booly Bool!"]`

3. For the following function

```
func    :: [a] -> [a] -> [a]
func x y = x ++ y
```

which of the following is true?

- a) `x` and `y` must be of the same type
  - b) `x` and `y` must both be lists
  - c) if `x` is a `String` then `y` must be a `String`
  - d) all of the above
4. For the `func` code above, which is a valid application of `func` to both of its arguments?
    - a) `func "Hello World"`

- b) `func "Hello" "World"`
- c) `func [1, 2, 3] "a, b, c"`
- d) `func ["Hello", "World"]`

## Reviewing currying

Given the following definitions, tell us what value results from further applications.

```
cattyConny :: String -> String -> String
cattyConny x y = x ++ " mrow " ++ y
```

*-- fill in the types*

```
flippy = flip cattyConny
```

```
appedCatty = cattyConny "woops"
```

```
frappe = flippy "haha"
```

1. What is the value of `appedCatty "woohoo!"`? Try to determine the answer for yourself, then test in the REPL.
2. `frappe "1"`
3. `frappe (appedCatty "2")`
4. `appedCatty (frappe "blue")`
5. `cattyConny (frappe "pink")`  
`(cattyConny "green" (appedCatty "blue"))`
6. `cattyConny (flippy "Pugs" "are") "awesome"`

## Recursion

1. Write out the steps for reducing `dividedBy 15 2` to its final answer according to the Haskell code.
2. Write a function that recursively sums all numbers from 1 to n, n being the argument. So that if n was 5, you'd add 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 to get 15. The type should be `(Eq a, Num a) => a -> a`.

3. Write a function that multiplies two integral numbers using recursive summation. The type should be `(Integral a) => a -> a -> a`.

### Fixing `dividedBy`

Our `dividedBy` function wasn't quite ideal. For one thing. It was a partial function and doesn't return a result (bottom) when given a divisor that is 0 or less.

Using the pre-existing `div` function we can see how negative numbers should be handled:

```
Prelude> div 10 2
5
Prelude> div 10 (-2)
-5
Prelude> div (-10) (-2)
5
Prelude> div (-10) (2)
-5
```

The next issue is how to handle zero. Zero is undefined for division in math, so really we ought to use a datatype that lets us say there was no sensible result when the user divides by zero. If you need inspiration, consider using the following datatype to handle this.

```
data DividedResult =
    Result Integer
  | DividedByZero
```

### McCarthy 91 function

We're going to describe a function in English, then in math notation, then show you what your function should return for some test inputs. Your task is to write the function in Haskell.

The McCarthy 91 function yields  $x - 10$  when  $x > 100$  and 91 otherwise. The function is recursive.

$$MC(n) = \begin{cases} n - 10 & \text{if } n > 100 \\ MC(MC(n + 11)) & \text{if } n \leq 100 \end{cases}$$

```
mc91 = undefined
```

You haven't seen `map` yet, but all you need to know right now is that it applies a function to each member of a list and returns the resulting list. It'll be explained in more detail in the next chapter.

```
Prelude> map mc91 [95..110]
[91,91,91,91,91,91,91,91,92,93,94,95,96,97,98,99,100]
```

## Numbers into words

```
module WordNumber where

import Data.List (intersperse)

digitToWord :: Int -> String
digitToWord n = undefined

digits :: Int -> [Int]
digits n = undefined

wordNumber :: Int -> String
wordNumber n = undefined
```

Here `undefined` is a placeholder to show you where you need to fill in the functions. The `n` to the right of the function names is the argument which will be an integer.

Fill in the implementations of the functions above so that `wordNumber` returns the English word version of the `Int` value. You will first write a function that turns integers from 1-9 into their corresponding English words, "one," "two," and so on. Then you will write a function that takes the integer, separates the digits, and returns it as a list of integers. Finally you will need to apply the first function to the list produced by the second function and turn it into a single string with interspersed hyphens.

We've laid out multiple functions for you to consider as you tackle the problem. You may not need all of them, depending on how you solve it—these are just suggestions. Play with them and look up their documentation to understand them in deeper detail.

You will probably find this difficult.

```
div           :: Integral a => a -> a -> a
mod          :: Integral a => a -> a -> a
map          :: (a -> b) -> [a] -> [b]
concat       :: [[a]] -> [a]
intersperse  :: a -> [a] -> [a]
(+++)         :: [a] -> [a] -> [a]
(:[])         :: a -> [a]
```

Also consider:

```
Prelude> div 135 10
13
Prelude> mod 135 10
5
Prelude> div 13 10
1
Prelude> mod 13 10
3
```

Here is what your output should look in the REPL when it's working:

```
Prelude> wordNumber 12324546
"one-two-three-two-four-five-four-six"
Prelude>
```

## 8.7 Definitions

1. *Recursion* is a means of computing results that may require an indefinite amount of work to obtain through the use of repeated function application. Most recursive functions that terminate or otherwise do useful work will often have a case that calls itself and a base case that acts as a backstop of sorts for the recursion.

```
-- not recursive
lessOne :: Int -> Int
lessOne n = n - 1

-- recursive
zero :: Int -> Int
zero 0 = 0
zero n = zero (n - 1)
```

## Chapter 9

### Lists

If the doors of perception  
were cleansed, everything  
would appear to man as it is -  
infinite.

---

William Blake



## 9.1 Lists

Lists do double duty in Haskell. The first purpose lists serve is as a way to refer to and process a collection or plurality of values. The second is as an infinite series of values, usually generated by a function, which allows them to act as a stream datatype.

In this chapter, we will:

- explain list’s datatype and how to pattern match on lists;
- practice many standard library functions for operating on lists;
- learn about the underlying representations of lists;
- see what that representation means for their evaluation;
- and do a whole bunch of exercises!

## 9.2 The list datatype

The list datatype in Haskell is defined like this:

```
data [] a = [] | a : [a]
```

Here `[]` is the type constructor for lists as well as the data constructor for the empty list. The `[]` data constructor is a nullary constructor because it takes no arguments. The second data constructor, in contrast, has arguments. `(:)` is an infix operator usually called ‘cons’ (short for *construct*). Here `cons` takes a value of type `a` and a list of type `[a]` and evaluates to `[a]`.

Whereas the list datatype as a whole is a sum type, as we can tell from the `|` in the definition, the second data constructor `(:)` ‘cons’ is a *product* because it takes two arguments. Briefly, a sum type can be read as an “or” as in the `Bool` datatype where you get `False` or `True`. A product is like an “and.” We’re going to talk more about sum and product types in another chapter, but for now it will suffice to recognize that `a : [a]` constructs the value in an additive fashion, by adding the `a` to the front of the list `[a]`. The list datatype is a sum type, though, because it is *either* an empty list *or* a single value with more list — not both.

In English, one can read this as:

```
data [] a = [] | a : [a]
--  [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6]
```

1. The datatype with the type constructor `[]`
2. takes a single type constructor argument ‘`a`’
3. at the term level can be constructed via
4. nullary constructor `[]`
5. *or* it can be constructed by
6. data constructor `(:)` which is a product of a value of the type `a` we mentioned in the type constructor *and* a value of type `[a]`, that is, “more list.”

The `cons` constructor `(:)` is an infix data constructor and goes between the two arguments `a` and `[a]` that it accepts. Since it takes two arguments, it is a product of those two arguments, like the tuple type `(a, b)`. Unlike a tuple, however, this constructor is recursive because it mentions its own type `[a]` as one of the members of the product.

If you’re a programmer, you may be familiar with singly-linked lists. This is a fair description of the list datatype in Haskell, although average case performance in some situations changes due to non-strict evaluation; however, it can contain infinite data which makes it also work as a stream datatype, but one that has the option of ending the stream with the `[]` data constructor.

### 9.3 Pattern matching on lists

We know we can pattern match on data constructors, and the data constructors for lists are no exceptions. Here we match on the first argument to the infix `(:)` constructor, ignoring the rest of the list, and return that value:

```
Prelude> let myHead (x : _) = x
Prelude> :t myHead
myHead :: [t] -> t
Prelude> myHead [1, 2, 3]
```

1

We can do the opposite as well:

```
Prelude> let myTail (_ : xs) = xs
Prelude> :t myTail
myTail :: [t] -> [t]
Prelude> myTail [1, 2, 3]
[2,3]
```

We do need to be careful with functions like these. Both `myHead` and `myTail` have refutable patterns and no fallback – if we try to pass them an empty list as an argument, they can't pattern match:

```
Prelude> myHead []
*** Exception:
    Non-exhaustive patterns in function myHead

Prelude> myTail []
*** Exception:
    Non-exhaustive patterns in function myTail
```

The problem is that the type `[a] -> a` of `myHead` is deceptive because the `[a]` type doesn't guarantee that it'll have an `a` value. It's not guaranteed that the list will have at least one value, so `myTail` can fail as well. One possibility is putting in a base case:

```
myTail          :: [a] -> [a]
myTail []       = []
myTail (_ : xs) = xs
```

In that case, our function now evaluates like this (the prompt isn't `Prelude` because we loaded this from a source file):

```
*Main> myTail [1..5]
[2,3,4,5]
*Main> myTail []
[]
```

**Using Maybe** A better way to handle this situation is with a datatype called `Maybe`. We'll save a full treatment of `Maybe` for a later chapter, but this should give you some idea of how it works. The idea here is that it makes your failure case explicit, and as programs get longer and more complex that can be quite useful.

Let's try an example using `Maybe` with `myTail`. Instead of having a base case that returns an empty list, the function written with `Maybe` would return a result of `Nothing`. As we can see below, the `Maybe` datatype has two potential values, `Nothing` or `Just a`:

```
Prelude> :info Maybe
data Maybe a = Nothing | Just a
```

Rewriting `myTail` to use `Maybe` is fairly straightforward:

```
safeTail      :: [a] -> Maybe [a]
safeTail []    = Nothing
safeTail (x:[]) = Nothing
safeTail (_,xs) = Just xs
```

Notice that our function is still pattern matching on the list. We've made the second base case `safeTail (x:[]) = Nothing` to reflect the fact that if your list has only one value inside it, it doesn't have a tail – it only has a head. If you leave this case out, then this function will return `Just []` for lists that have only a head. Take a few minutes to play around with this and see how it works. Then see if you can rewrite the `myHead` function above using `Maybe`.

Later in the book, we'll also cover a datatype called `NonEmpty` which always has at least one value and avoids the empty list problem.

## 9.4 List's syntactic sugar

Haskell has some syntactic sugar to accommodate the use of lists, so that you can write:

```
Prelude> [1, 2, 3] ++ [4]
[1, 2, 3, 4]
```

Rather than:

```
Prelude> (1 : 2 : 3 : []) ++ 4 : []  
[1,2,3,4]
```

The syntactic sugar is here to allow building lists in terms of the successive applications of ‘cons’ (:) to a value without having to tediously type it all out.

When we talk about lists, we often talk about them in terms of “cons cells” and spines. The syntactic sugar obscures this underlying construction, but looking at the desugared version above may make it more clear. The cons cells are the list datatype’s second data constructor, `a : [a]`, the result of recursively prepending a value to “more list.”

The cons cell is a *conceptual* space that values may inhabit.

The spine is the connective structure that holds the cons cells together and in place. As we will soon see, this structure nests the cons cells rather than ordering them in a right-to-left row. Because different functions may treat the spine and the cons cells differently, it is important to understand this underlying structure.

## 9.5 Using ranges to construct lists

There are several ways we can construct lists. One of the simplest is with ranges. The basic syntax is to make a list that has the element you want to start the list from followed by two dots followed by the value you want as the final element in the list. Ranges come with — surprise, surprise — some associated syntactic sugar. Here are some examples using the syntactic sugar, followed by the desugared equivalents using the `enumFromTo` function:

```
Prelude> [1..10]  
[1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10]  
Prelude> enumFromTo 1 10  
[1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10]  
  
Prelude> [1,2..10]  
[1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10]  
Prelude> enumFromThenTo 1 2 10  
[1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10]
```

```
Prelude> [1,3..10]
[1,3,5,7,9]
Prelude> enumFromThenTo 1 3 10
[1,3,5,7,9]
```

```
Prelude> [2,4..10]
[2,4,6,8,10]
Prelude> enumFromThenTo 2 4 10
[2,4,6,8,10]
```

```
Prelude> ['t'..'z']
"tuvwxzy"
Prelude> enumFromTo 't' 'z'
"tuvwxzy"
```

The types of the functions underlying the range syntax are:

```
enumFrom      :: Enum a => a -> [a]
enumFromThen  :: Enum a => a -> a -> [a]

enumFromTo    :: Enum a => a -> a -> [a]
enumFromThenTo :: Enum a => a -> a -> a -> [a]
```

All of these functions require that the type being “ranged” have an instance of the Enum typeclass. One thing to note is that the first two functions, `enumFrom` and `enumFromThen`, generate lists of unspecified, possibly infinite, length. For it to create an infinitely long list, you must be ranging over a type that has no upper bound in its enumeration. Integer is such a type. You can make Integer values as large as you have memory to describe.

Be aware that `enumFromTo` must have its first argument be “lower” than the second argument.

```
Prelude> enumFromTo 3 1
[]
Prelude> enumFromTo 1 3
[1,2,3]
```

Otherwise you’ll just get an empty list.

**Exercise: EnumFromTo**

Some things you'll want to know about the `Enum` typeclass:

```
Prelude> :info Enum
class Enum a where
  succ :: a -> a
  pred :: a -> a
  toEnum :: Int -> a
  fromEnum :: a -> Int
  enumFrom :: a -> [a]
  enumFromThen :: a -> a -> [a]
  enumFromTo :: a -> a -> [a]
  enumFromThenTo :: a -> a -> a -> [a]
Prelude> succ 0
1
Prelude> succ 1
2
Prelude> succ 'a'
'b'
```

Write your own `enumFromTo` definitions for the types provided. Do not use range syntax to do so. It should return the same results as if you did `[start..stop]`.

```
eftBool :: Bool -> Bool -> [Bool]
eftBool = undefined
```

```
eftOrd :: Ordering -> Ordering -> [Ordering]
eftOrd = undefined
```

```
eftInt :: Int -> Int -> [Int]
eftInt = undefined
```

```
eftChar :: Char -> Char -> [Char]
eftChar = undefined
```

## 9.6 Extracting portions of lists

In this section, we'll take a look at some useful functions for extracting portions of a list and dividing lists into parts. The first three functions have similar type signatures, taking `Int` arguments and applying them to a list argument:

```
take :: Int -> [a] -> [a]
drop :: Int -> [a] -> [a]
splitAt :: Int -> [a] -> ([a], [a])
```

We have seen examples of some of the above functions in previous chapters, but they are common and useful enough they deserve review.

The `take` function takes the specified number of elements out of a list and returns a list containing just those elements. As you can see it takes one argument that is an `Int` and applies that to a list argument. Here's how it works:

```
Prelude> take 7 ['a'..'z']
"abcdefg"
```

```
Prelude> take 3 [1..10]
[1,2,3]
```

```
Prelude> take 3 []
[]
```

Notice that when we pass it an empty list as an argument, it just returns an empty list. These lists use the syntactic sugar for building lists with ranges. We can also use `take` with a list-building function, such as `enumFrom`. Reminder: `enumFrom` can generate an infinite list if the type of list inhabitants is, such as `Integer`, an infinite set. But as long as we're only taking a certain number of elements from that, it won't generate an infinite list:

```
Prelude> take 10 (enumFrom 10)
[10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19]
```



The `drop` function is similar to `take` but drops the specified number of elements off the beginning of the list. Again, we can use it with ranges or list-building functions:

```
Prelude> drop 5 [1..10]
[6,7,8,9,10]
```

```
Prelude> drop 8 ['a'..'z']
"ijklmnopqrstuvwxyz"
```

```
Prelude> drop 4 []
[]
```

```
Prelude> drop 2 (enumFromTo 10 20)
[12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20]
```

The `splitAt` function takes an `Int` argument, applies it to a list, cuts the list into two parts at the element specified by the `Int` and makes a tuple of two lists:

```
Prelude> splitAt 5 [1..10]
([1,2,3,4,5],[6,7,8,9,10])
```

```
Prelude> splitAt 10 ['a'..'z']
("abcdefghij","klmnopqrstuvwxyz")
```

```
Prelude> splitAt 5 []
([],[])
```

```
Prelude> splitAt 3 (enumFromTo 5 15)
([5,6,7],[8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15])
```

The higher-order functions `takeWhile` and `dropWhile` are a bit different, as you can see from the type signatures:

```
takeWhile :: (a -> Bool) -> [a] -> [a]
dropWhile :: (a -> Bool) -> [a] -> [a]
```

So these `take` and `drop` items out of a list that meet some condition, as we can see from the presence of `Bool`. `takeWhile` will take elements

out of a list that meet that condition and then stop when it meets the first element that doesn't satisfy the condition.

```
Prelude> takeWhile (<3) [1..10]
[1,2]
-- Takes the elements that are less than 3

Prelude> takeWhile (<8) (enumFromTo 5 15)
[5,6,7]
-- Takes the elements that are less than 8

Prelude> takeWhile (>6) [1..10]
[]
-- It returns an empty list because it stops
-- taking as soon as the condition isn't met,
-- which in this case is the first element

Prelude> takeWhile (=='a') "abracadabra"
"a"
```

In the final example above, why does it only return a single *a*?

Finally, we'll look at `dropWhile` whose behavior is probably predictable based on the functions and type signatures we've already seen in this section. We will use the same arguments as we used with `takeWhile` so the difference between them is easy to see:

```
Prelude> dropWhile (<3) [1..10]
[3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10]

Prelude> dropWhile (<8) (enumFromTo 5 15)
[8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15]

Prelude> dropWhile (>6) [1..10]
[1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10]

Prelude> dropWhile (=='a') "abracadabra"
"bracadabra"
```

**Exercises: Thy Fearful Symmetry**

1. Using `takeWhile` and `dropWhile`, write a function that takes a string and returns a list of strings, using spaces to separate the elements of the string into words, as in the following sample:

```
*Main> myWords "all i wanna do is have some fun"
["all","i","wanna","do","is","have","some","fun"]
```

2. Next, write a function that takes a string and returns a list of strings, using newline separators to break up the string as in the following (your job is to fill in the undefined function):

```
module PoemLines where

firstSen = "Tyger Tyger, burning bright\n"
secondSen = "In the forests of the night\n"
thirdSen = "What immortal hand or eye\n"
fourthSen = "Could frame thy fearful symmetry?"
sentences = firstSen ++ secondSen
           ++ thirdSen ++ fourthSen

-- putStrLn sentences -- should print
-- Tyger Tyger, burning bright
-- In the forests of the night
-- What immortal hand or eye
-- Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

-- Implement this
myLines :: String -> [String]
myLines = undefined

-- What we want 'myLines sentences' to equal
shouldEqual =
  [ "Tyger Tyger, burning bright"
  , "In the forests of the night"
  , "What immortal hand or eye"
  , "Could frame thy fearful symmetry?"
  ]
```

```

-- The main function here is a small test
-- to ensure you've written your function
-- correctly.
main :: IO ()
main =
    print $ "Are they equal? "
        ++ show (myLines sentences == shouldEqual)

```

3. Now let's look at what those two functions have in common. Try writing a new function that parameterizes the character you're breaking the string argument on and rewrite `myWords` and `myLines` using it.

## 9.7 List comprehensions

List comprehensions are a means of generating a new list from a list or lists. They come directly from the concept of set comprehensions in mathematics, including similar syntax. They must have at least one list, called the generator, that gives the input for the comprehension, that is, provides the set of items from which the new list will be constructed. They may have conditions to determine which elements are drawn from the list and/or functions applied to those elements.

Let's start by looking at a very simple example:

```

[ x^2 | x <- [1..10]]
-- [1] [2] [ 3 ]

```

1. This is the output function that will apply to the members of the list we indicate.
2. The pipe here designates the separation between the output function and the input.
3. This is the input set: a generator list and a variable that represents the elements that will be drawn from that list. This says, "from a list of numbers from 1-10, take (<-) each element as an input to the output function."

In plain English, that list comprehension will produce a new list that includes the square of every number from 1 to 10:

```
Prelude> [x^2 | x <- [1..10]]  
[1,4,9,16,25,36,49,64,81,100]
```

Now we'll look at some ways to vary what elements are drawn from the generator list(s).

### Adding predicates

List comprehensions can optionally take predicates that limit the elements drawn from the generator list. The predicates must evaluate to Bool values, as in other condition-placing function types we've looked at (for example, guards). Then the items drawn from the list and passed to the output function will only be those that met the True case in the predicate.

For example, let's say we wanted a similar list comprehension as we used above, but this time we wanted our new list to contain the squares of only the even numbers while ignoring the odds. In that case, we put a comma after our generator list and add the condition:

```
Prelude> [x^2 | x <- [1..10], rem x 2 == 0]  
[4,16,36,64,100]
```

Here we've specified that the only elements to take from the generator list as  $x$  are those that, when divided by 2, have a remainder of zero — that is, even numbers.

We can also write list comprehensions that have multiple generators. One thing to note is that the rightmost generator will be exhausted first, then the second rightmost, and so on.

For example, let's say you wanted to make a list of  $x$  to the  $y$  power, instead of squaring all of them as we did above. Separate the two inputs with a comma as below:

```
Prelude> [x^y | x <- [1..5], y <- [2, 3]]  
[1,1,4,8,9,27,16,64,25,125]
```

When we examine the resulting list, we see that it is each  $x$  value first to the second power and then to the third power, followed by the next  $x$  value to the second and then to the third and so on, ending with the result of  $5^2$  and  $5^3$ . We are applying the function to each possible pairing of values from the two lists we're binding values out

of. It begins by trying to get a value out of the leftmost generator, from which we're getting  $x$ .

We could put a condition on that, too. Let's say we only want to return the list of values that are less than 200. We add another comma and write our predicate:

```
Prelude> [x^y | x <- [1..10], y <- [2, 3], x^y < 200]
[1,1,4,8,9,27,16,64,25,125,36,49,64,81,100]
```

We can use multiple generators to turn two lists into a list of tuples containing those elements as well. The generator lists don't even have to be of the same length or, due to the nature of the tuple type, even the same type:

```
Prelude> [(x, y) | x <- [1, 2, 3], y <- [6, 7]]
[(1,6),(1,7),(2,6),(2,7),(3,6),(3,7)]
```

```
Prelude> [(x, y) | x <- [1, 2, 3], y <- ['a', 'b']]
[(1,'a'),(1,'b'),(2,'a'),(2,'b'),(3,'a'),(3,'b')]
```

Again the pattern is that it generates every possible tuple for the first  $x$  value, then it moves to the next  $x$  value and so on.

Recall that the first list comprehension we looked at generated a list of all the values of  $x^2$  when  $x$  is a number from 1-10. Let's say you wanted to use that list in another list comprehension. First, you'd want to give that list a name. Let's call it "mySqr":

```
Prelude> let mySqr = [x^2 | x <- [1..5]]
```

Now we can use that list as the generator for another list comprehension. Here, we will limit our input values to those that are less than 4 for the sake of brevity:

```
Prelude> let mySqr = [x^2 | x <- [1..5]]
Prelude> [(x, y) | x <- mySqr, y <- [1..3], x < 4]
[(1,1),(1,2),(1,3)]
```

### Exercises: Comprehend Thy Lists

Take a look at the following functions, figure what you think the output lists will be, and then run them in your REPL to verify (note that you will need the `mySqr` list from above in scope to do this):

```
[x | x <- mySqr, rem x 2 == 0]
```

```
[(x, y) | x <- mySqr, y <- mySqr, x < 50, y > 50]
```

```
take 5 [ (x, y) | x <- mySqr
          , y <- mySqr, x < 50, y > 50 ]
```

### List comprehensions with Strings

It's worth remembering that strings are lists, so list comprehensions can also be used with strings. We're going to introduce a standard function called `elem` that tells you whether an element is in a list or not. It evaluates to a `Bool` value, so it is useful as a predicate in list comprehensions:

```
Prelude> :t elem
elem :: Eq a => a -> [a] -> Bool
Prelude> elem 'a' "abracadabra"
True
Prelude> elem 'a' "Julie"
False
```

In the first case, 'a' is an element of "abracadabra" so that evaluates to `True`, but in the second case, there is no 'a' in "Julie" so we get a `False` result. As you can see from the type signature, `elem` doesn't only work with characters and strings, but that's what we'll use it for here. Let's see if we can write a list comprehension to remove all the lowercase letters from a string. Here our condition is that we only want to take *x* from our generator list when it meets the condition that it is an element of the list of capital letters:

```
Prelude> [x | x <- "Three Letter Acronym", elem x ['A'..'Z']]
"TLA"
```

Let's see if we can now generalize this into an acronym generator that will accept different strings as inputs, instead of forcing us to rewrite the whole list comprehension for every string we might want to feed it. We will do this by naming a function that will take one argument and use that as the generator string for our list comprehension. So the function argument and the generator string will need to be the same thing:

```
Prelude> let f xs = [x | x <- xs, elem x ['A'..'Z']]
```

We name the function *f* just to keep things short and simple, and we use *xs* for our function argument to indicate to ourselves that it's a list, that the *x* is plural. It doesn't have to be; you could use a different variable there and obtain the same result. It is idiomatic to use a "plural" variable for list arguments, but it is not necessary.

All right, so we have our *f* function with which we can generate acronyms from any string:

```
Prelude> f "Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus"
"SCUBA"
Prelude> f "National Aeronautics and Space Administration"
"NASA"
```

Given the above, what do you think this function would do:

```
Prelude> let myString xs = [x | x <- xs, elem x "aeiou"]
```

## Exercises: Square Cube

Given the following:

```
Prelude> let mySqr = [x^2 | x <- [1..5]]
Prelude> let myCube = [y^3 | y <- [1..5]]
```

1. First write an expression that will make tuples of the outputs of `mySqr` and `myCube`.
2. Now alter that expression so that it only uses the *x* and *y* values that are less than 50.
3. Apply another function to that list comprehension to determine how many tuples inhabit your output list.



## 9.8 Spines and non-strict evaluation

As we have seen, lists are a recursive series of cons cells  $a : [a]$  terminated by the empty list  $[]$ , but we want a way to visualize this structure in order to understand the ways lists get processed. When we talk about data structures in Haskell, particularly lists, sequences, and trees, we talk about them having a *spine*. This is the connective structure that ties the collection of values together. In the case of a list, the spine is usually textually represented by the recursive cons  $(:)$  operators. Given the data:  $[1, 2, 3]$ , we get a list that looks like:

```
1 : 2 : 3 : []
or
1 : (2 : (3 : []))

      :
     / \
1    :
     / \
    2   :
     / \
    3   []
```

The problem with the  $1 : (2 : (3 : []))$  representation we used earlier is that it makes it seem like the value 1 exists “before” the cons  $(:)$  cell that contains it, but actually, the cons cells contain the values. Because of this and the way non-strict evaluation works, you can evaluate cons cells independently of what they contain. It is possible to evaluate just the spine of the list without evaluating individual values. It is also possible to evaluate only part of the spine of a list and not the rest of it.

Evaluation of the list in this representation proceeds down the spine. Constructing the list when that is necessary, however, proceeds up the spine. In the example above, then, we start with an infix operator, evaluate the arguments 1 and a new cons cell, and proceed downward to the 3 and empty list. But when we need to build the list, to print it in the REPL for example, it proceeds from the bottom of the list up the spine, first putting the 3 into the empty list, then adding the 2 to the front of that list, then, finally, putting the 1 in the

front of that. Because Haskell’s evaluation is nonstrict, the list isn’t constructed until it’s consumed – indeed, nothing is evaluated until it must be. Until it’s consumed or you force strictness in some way, there are a series of placeholders as a blueprint of the list that can be constructed when it’s needed. We’ll talk more about non-strictness soon.

We’re going to bring  $\perp$  or *bottom* back in the form of `undefined` in order to demonstrate some of the effects of non-strict evaluation. Here we’re going to use `_` to syntactically signify values we are ignoring and not evaluating. The underscores represent the values contained by the cons cells. The spine is the recursive series of cons constructors signified by `(:)` as you can see below:

```

      : <-----|
    / \       |
_   : <----| This is the "spine"
    / \       |
_   : <--|
    / \
_   []

```

You’ll see the term ‘spine’ used in reference to data structures that aren’t just lists. In the case of list, the spine is a linear succession of one cons cell wrapping another cons cell. With data structures like trees, which we will cover later, you’ll see that the spine can be nodes that contain 2 or more nodes.

### Using GHCi’s `:sprint` command

We can use a special command in GHCi called `sprint` to print variables and see what has been evaluated already, with the underscore representing expressions that haven’t been evaluated yet.

*A warning:* We always encourage you to experiment and explore for yourself after seeing the examples in this book, but `:sprint` has some behavioral quirks that can be a bit frustrating.

GHC Haskell has some opportunistic optimizations which introduce strictness to make code faster when it won’t change how your code evaluates. Additionally polymorphism means values like `Num a => a` are really waiting for a sort of “argument” which will make it

concrete (this will be covered in more detail in a later chapter). To avoid this, you have to assign a more concrete type such as `Int` or `Double`, otherwise it stays unevaluated, `_`, in `:sprint`'s output. If you can keep these caveats to `:sprint`'s behavior in mind, it can be useful. Otherwise if you find it confusing, don't sweat it and wait for us to elaborate more deeply in the chapter on non-strictness.

Let's define a list using `enumFromTo`, which is tantamount to using syntax like `['a'..'z']`, then ask for the state of `blah` with respect to whether it has been evaluated:

```
Prelude> let blah = enumFromTo 'a' 'z'
Prelude> :sprint blah
blah = _
```

The `blah = _` indicates that `blah` is totally unevaluated.

Next we'll take one value from `blah` and then evaluate it by forcing `GHCi` to print the expression:

```
Prelude> take 1 blah
"a"
Prelude> :sprint blah
blah = 'a' : _
```

So we've evaluated a cons cell `:` and the first value `'a'`.

Then we take two values and print them — which forces evaluation of the second cons cell and the second value:

```
Prelude> take 2 blah
"ab"
Prelude> :sprint blah
blah = 'a' : 'b' : _
```

Assuming this is a contiguous `GHCi` session, the first cons cell and value were already forced.

We can keep going with this, evaluating the list one value at a time:

```
Prelude> take 3 blah
"abc"
Prelude> :sprint blah
blah = 'a' : 'b' : 'c' : _
```

The `length` function is only strict in the spine, meaning it only forces evaluation of the spine of a list, not the values, something we can see if we try to find the length of a list of undefined values. But when we use `length` on `blah`, `:sprint` will behave as though we had forced evaluation of the values as well:

```
Prelude> length blah
26
Prelude> :sprint blah
blah = "abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxy"
```

That the individual characters were shown as evaluated and not exclusively the spine after getting the length of `blah` is one of the unfortunate aforementioned quirks of how GHCi evaluates code.

### **Spines are evaluated independently of values**

Values in Haskell get reduced to weak head normal form by default. By ‘normal form’ we mean that the expression is fully evaluated. ‘Weak head normal form’ means the expression is only evaluated as far as is necessary to reach a data constructor.

Weak head normal form (WHNF) is a larger set and contains both the possibility that the expression is fully evaluated (normal form) and the possibility that the expression has been evaluated to the point of arriving at a data constructor or lambda awaiting an argument. For an expression in weak head normal form, further evaluation may be possible once another argument is provided. If no further inputs are possible, then it is still in WHNF but also in normal form (NF). We’re going to explain this more fully later in the book in the chapter on non-strictness when we show you how call-by-need works and the implications for Haskell. For now, we’ll just look at a few examples to get a sense for what might be going on.

Below we list some expressions and whether they are in WHNF, NF, both, or neither:

```

(1, 2) -- WHNF & NF

(1, _ + _)
-- WHNF, but not NF. The (+) and its
-- unknown arguments could be evaluated

(1, 1 + 1)
-- WHNF, but not NF.
-- The 1 + 1 could be evaluated.

\x -> x * 10 -- WHNF & NF
-- It's in normal form because while
-- (*) has been applied to two arguments of a sort
-- It cannot be reduced further until the outer \x -> ...
-- has been applied.
-- With nothing further to reduce it is in normal form.

"Papu" ++ "chon" -- Neither WHNF nor NF

```

When we define a list and define all its values, it is in NF and all its values are known. There's really nothing left to evaluate:

```

Prelude> let num :: [Int]; num = [1, 2, 3]
Prelude> :sprint num
num = [1,2,3]

```

We can also construct a list through ranges or functions. In this case, the list is in WHNF but not NF. The compiler only evaluates the head or first node of the graph, but just the cons constructor, not the value or rest of the list it contains. We know there's a value of type *a* in the cons cell we haven't evaluated and a "rest of list" which might either be the empty list [] which ends the list or another cons cell – we don't know which because we haven't evaluated the next [a] value yet. We saw that above in the `sprint` section, and you can see that evaluation of the first values does not force evaluation of the rest of the list:

```

Prelude> let myNum :: [Int]; myNum = [1..10]
Prelude> :sprint myNum

```

```

myNum = _
Prelude> take 2 myNum
[1,2]
Prelude> :sprint myNum
myNum = 1 : 2 : _

```

This is an example of WHNF evaluation. It's weak head normal form because the list has to be constructed by the range and it's only going to evaluate as far as it has to. With `take 2`, we only need to evaluate the first two cons cells and the values they contain, which is why when we used `sprint` we only saw `1 : 2 : _`. Evaluating to normal form would've meant recursing through the entire list, forcing not only the entire spine but also the values each cons cell contained.

In these tree representations, evaluation or consumption of the list goes *down* the spine. The following is a representation of a list that isn't spine strict and is awaiting something to force the evaluation:

```

      :
     /\
    - -

```

By default, it stops here and never evaluates even the first cons cell unless it's forced to, as we saw.

However, functions that are spine strict can force complete evaluation of the spine of the list even if they don't force evaluation of each value. Pattern matching is strict by default, so pattern matching on cons cells can mean forcing spine strictness if your function doesn't stop recursing the list. It can evaluate the spine only or the spine as well as the values that inhabit each cons cell, depending on context.

On the other hand, `length` is strict in the spine but not the values. If we defined a list such as `[1, 2, 3]`, using `length` on it would force evaluation of the entire spine without accompanying strictness in the values:

```

      :
     /\
    -  :
      /\
     -  :

```

```

      / \
     _  []

```

We can see this if we use `length` but make one of the values *bottom* with the undefined value, and see what happens:

```

Prelude> let x = [1, undefined, 3]
Prelude> length x
3

```

The first and third values in the list were numbers, but the second value was undefined and `length` didn't make it crash. Why? Because `length` measures the length of a list, which only requires recursing the spine and counting how many cons cells there are. We could define our own `length` function ourselves like so:

```

-- *Not* identical to the length function in Prelude
length :: [a] -> Integer
length [] = 0
length (_:xs) = 1 + length xs

```

One thing to note is that we use `_` to ignore the values in our arguments or that are part of a pattern match. In this case, we pattern-matched on the `(:)` data constructor, but wanted to ignore the value which is the first argument. However, it's not a mere convention to bind references we don't care about on the left hand side to `_`. You can't bind arguments to the name `"_"`; it's part of the language. This is partly so the compiler knows for a certainty you won't ever evaluate something in that particular case. Currently if you try it, it'll think you're trying to refer to a hole if you use `_` on the right-hand side in the definition.

We're only forcing the `(:)` constructors and the `[]` at the end in order to count the number of values contained by the list:

```

      :      <-|
      / \      |
|-> _  :      <-|
|      / \      | These got evaluated (forced)
|-> _  :      <-|
|      / \      |

```

```
|->      _   [] <-|
|
| These did not
```

However, `length` will throw an error on a bottom value if part of the spine itself is bottom:

```
Prelude> let x = [1] ++ undefined ++ [3]
Prelude> x
[1*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
Prelude> length x
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```

Printing the list fails, although it gets as far as printing the first `[` and the `1` value at the beginning, and attempting to get the length also fails because it can't count undefined spine values.

It's possible to write functions which will force both the spine and the values. `sum` is an example because in order to return a result at all, it must return the sum of all values in the list.

We'll write our own `sum` function for the sake of demonstration:

```
mySum :: Num a => [a] -> a
mySum [] = 0
mySum (x : xs) = x + mySum xs
```

First, the `+` operator is strict in both of its arguments, so that will force evaluation of the values and the `mySum xs`. Therefore `mySum` will keep recursing until it hits the empty list and must stop. Then it will start going back up the spine of the list, summing the inhabitants as it goes. It looks something like this (the zero represents our empty list):

```
Prelude> mySum [1..5]
1 + (2 + (3 + (4 + (5 + 0))))
1 + (2 + (3 + (4 + 5)))
1 + (2 + (3 + 9))
1 + (2 + 12)
1 + 14
15
```



We will be returning to this topic at various points in the book because developing intuition for Haskell's evaluation strategies takes time and practice. If you don't feel like you fully understand it at this point, that's OK. It's a complex topic, and it's better to approach it in stages.

### Exercises: Bottom Madness

#### Will it blow up?

1. Will the following expression return a value or be  $\perp$ ?

```
[x^y | x <- [1..5], y <- [2, undefined]]
```

2. `take 1 $ [x^y | x <- [1..5], y <- [2, undefined]]`

3. Will the following expression return a value?

```
sum [1, undefined, 3]
```

4. `length [1, 2, undefined]`

5. `length $ [1, 2, 3] ++ undefined`

6. `take 1 $ filter even [1, 2, 3, undefined]`

7. `take 1 $ filter even [1, 3, undefined]`

8. `take 1 $ filter odd [1, 3, undefined]`

9. `take 2 $ filter odd [1, 3, undefined]`

10. `take 3 $ filter odd [1, 3, undefined]`

#### Intermission: Is it in normal form?

For each expression below, determine whether it's in:

1. normal form, which implies weak head normal form;
2. weak head normal form only; or,
3. neither.

Remember that an expression cannot be in normal form *or* weak head normal form if the outermost part of the expression isn't a data constructor. It can't be in normal form if any part of the expression is unevaluated.

1. `[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]`
2. `1 : 2 : 3 : 4 : _`
3. `enumFromTo 1 10`
4. `length [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]`
5. `sum (enumFromTo 1 10)`
6. `['a'..'m'] ++ ['n'..'z']`
7. `(_, 'b')`

## 9.9 Transforming lists of values

We have already seen how we can make recursive functions with self-referential expressions. It's a useful tool and a core part of the logic of Haskell. In truth, in part because Haskell uses non-strict evaluation, we tend to use higher-order functions for transforming data rather than manually recursing over and over.

For example, one common thing you would want to do is return a list with a function applied uniformly to all values within the list. To do so, you need a function that is inherently recursive and can apply that function to each member of the list. For this purpose we can use either the `map` or `fmap` functions. `map` can only be used with `[]`. `fmap` is defined in a typeclass named `Functor` and can be applied to data other than lists. We will learn more about `Functor` later; for now, we'll focus just on the list usage. Here are some examples using `map` and `fmap`:

```
Prelude> map (+1) [1, 2, 3, 4]
[2,3,4,5]
Prelude> map (1-) [1, 2, 3, 4]
[0,-1,-2,-3]
```

```

Prelude> fmap (+1) [1, 2, 3, 4]
[2,3,4,5]
Prelude> fmap (2*) [1, 2, 3, 4]
[2,4,6,8]
Prelude> fmap id [1, 2, 3]
[1,2,3]
Prelude> map id [1, 2, 3]
[1,2,3]

```

The types of `map` and `fmap` respectively are:

```

map  ::          (a -> b) -> [a] -> [b]
fmap :: Functor f => (a -> b) -> f a -> f b

```

Let's look at how the types line up with a program, starting with `map`:

```
map :: (a -> b) -> [a] -> [b]
```

```
map (+1)
```

```
-- (a -> b) becomes more specific, is resolved to: Num a => a -> a
```

```
Prelude> :t map (+1)
```

```
map (+1) :: Num b => [b] -> [b]
```

```
-- now we see it will take one list of Num as an argument
```

```
-- and return a list of Num as a result
```

The type of `fmap` will behave similarly:

```
fmap :: Functor f => (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

```
-- notice this has the Functor typeclass constraint
```

```
fmap (+1)
```

```
-- again, (a -> b) is now more specific
```

```
Prelude> :t fmap (+1)
```

```
fmap (+1) :: (Num b, Functor f) => f b -> f b
```

```
-- a bit different from map because the Functor
```

```
-- typeclass includes more than just lists!
```

Here's how `map` is defined in `Base`:

```
map :: (a -> b) -> [a] -> [b]
map _ []      = []
-- [1] [2]    [3]
map f (x:xs) = f x : map f xs
-- [4] [5]    [6] [7] [8]
```

1. `_` is used here to ignore the function argument because we don't need it.
2. We are pattern matching on the `[]` empty list case because `List` is a sum type with two cases and we must handle both every time we pattern match or case on a list value.
3. We return the `[]` empty list value because when there are no values, it's the only correct thing we can do. If you attempt to do anything else, the typechecker will swat you.
4. We bind the function argument to the name *f* as it merits no name more specific than this. *f* and *g* are common names for nonspecific function values in Haskell. This is the function we are mapping over the list value with `map`
5. We do not leave the entire list argument bound as a single name. Since we've already pattern-matched the `[]` empty list case, we know there must be at least one value in the list. Here we pattern match into the `(:)` second data constructor of the list, which is a product. *x* is the single value of the cons product. *xs* is the rest of the list.
6. We apply our function *f* to the single value *x*. This part of the `map` function is what actually applies the function argument to the contents of the list.
7. We `(:)` cons the value returned by the expression `f x` onto the head of the result of `map`'ing the rest of the list. Data is immutable in Haskell. When we `map`, we do not mutate the existing list, but build a new list with the values that result from applying the function.

8. We call `map` itself applied to  $f$  and  $xs$ . This expression is the rest of the list with the function  $f$  applied to each value

How do we write out what `map f` does? Note, this order of evaluation doesn't represent the proper non-strict evaluation order, which will be covered later, but does give an idea of what's going on:

```
map (+1) [1, 2, 3]
-- desugared, (:) is infixr 5, so it's right-associative
map (+1) (1 : (2 : (3 : [])))

-- Not an empty list, so second pattern-match in map fires.
-- Apply (+1) to value, then map
(+1) 1 : map (+1) (2 : (3 : []))

-- Apply (+1) to the next value, cons onto the
-- result of mapping over the rest
(+1) 1 : ((+1) 2 : (map (+1) (3 : [])))

-- Last time we'll trigger the second-case of map
(+1) 1 : ((+1) 2 : ((+1) 3 : (map (+1) [])))

-- Now we trigger the base-case that handles empty list
-- and return the empty list.
(+1) 1 : ((+1) 2 : ((+1) 3 : []))

-- Now we reduce
2 : ((+1) 2 : ((+1) 3 : []))
2 : 3 : (+1) 3 : []
2 : 3 : 4 : [] == [2, 3, 4]
```

Using the syntactic sugar of list, here's an approximation of what `map` is doing for us:

```
map f [1, 2, 3] == [f 1, f 2, f 3]

map (+1) [1, 2, 3]
  [(+1) 1, (+1) 2, (+1) 3]
  [2, 3, 4]
```

Or using the spine syntax we introduced earlier:

```

      :
    / \
1   :
    / \
  2   :
    / \
  3   []

```

```
map (+1) [1, 2, 3]
```

```

      :
    / \
(+1) 1 :
    / \
(+1) 2 :
    / \
(+1) 3 []

```

As we mentioned above, these representations do not account for non-strict evaluation. Crucially, `map` doesn't actually traverse the whole list and apply the function immediately. The function is applied to the values you force out of the list one by one. We can see this by selectively leaving some values undefined:

```
Prelude> map (+1) [1, 2, 3]
[2,3,4]
```

```
-- the whole list was forced because
-- GHCi printed the list that resulted
```

```
Prelude> (+1) undefined
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```

```
Prelude> (1, undefined)
(1,*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
Prelude> fst $ (1, undefined)
1
```

```
Prelude> map (+1) [1, 2, undefined]
[2,3,*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```

```
Prelude> take 2 $ map (+1) [1, 2, undefined]
[2,3]
```

In the final example, the undefined value was never forced and there was no error because we used `take 2` to request only the first two elements. With `map (+1)` we only force as many values as cons cells we forced. We'll only force the values if we evaluate the result value in the list that the `map` function returns.

The significant part here is that strictness doesn't proceed only outside-in. We can have lazily evaluated code (e.g., `map`) wrapped around a strict core (e.g., `+`). In fact, we can choose to apply laziness and strictness in how we evaluate the spine or the leaves independently. A common mantra for performance sensitive code in Haskell is, "lazy in the spine, strict in the leaves." We'll cover this properly later when we talk about non-strictness and data structures. Many Haskell users will never need to worry about this more than a handful of times.

You can use `map` and `fmap` with other functions and list types as well. In this example, we use the `fst` function to return a list of the first element of each tuple in a list of tuples:

```
Prelude> map fst [(2, 3), (4, 5), (6, 7), (8, 9)]
[2,4,6,8]
```

```
Prelude> fmap fst [(2, 3), (4, 5), (6, 7), (8, 9)]
[2,4,6,8]
```

Or in this example we map the `take` function over a list of lists to return a list of lists:

```
Prelude> map (take 3) [[1..5], [1..5], [1..5]]
[[1,2,3],[1,2,3],[1,2,3]]
```

Indeed, you can `map` and `fmap` a variety of functions over list structures. Here, we'll map an `if-then-else` over a list using an anonymous

function. This list will find any value equal to 3, negate it, and then return the list:

```
Prelude> map (\x -> if x == 3 then (-x) else (x)) [1..10]
[1,2,-3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10]
```

At this point, you can try your hand at mapping different functions using this as a model. We recommend getting comfortable with mapping before moving on to the Folds chapter.

### Exercises: More Bottoms

As always, we encourage you to try figuring out the answers before you enter them into your REPL.

1. Will the following expression return a value or be  $\perp$ ?

```
take 1 $ map (+1) [undefined, 2, 3]
```

2. Will the following expression return a value?

```
take 1 $ map (+1) [1, undefined, 3]
```

3. `take 2 $ map (+1) [1, undefined, 3]`

4. What does the following mystery function do? What is its type? Describe it (to yourself or a loved one) in standard English and then test it out in the REPL to make sure you were correct.

```
itIsMystery xs = map (\x -> elem x "aeiou") xs
```

5. What will be the result of the following functions:

a) `map (^2) [1..10]`

b) `map minimum [[1..10], [10..20], [20..30]]`

```
-- n.b. `minimum` is not the same function
-- as the `min` that we used before
```

c) `map sum [[1..5], [1..5], [1..5]]`

6. Back in the Functions chapter, you wrote a function called `foldBool`. That function exists in a module known as `Data.Bool` and is called `bool`. Write a function that does the same (or similar, if you wish) as the `map (if-then-else)` function you saw above



but uses `bool` instead of the `if-then-else` syntax. Your first step should be bringing the `bool` function into scope by typing `import Data.Bool` at your Prelude prompt.

## 9.10 Filtering lists of values

When we talked about function composition in the Functions chapter, we used a function called `filter` that takes a list as input and returns a new list consisting solely of the values in the input list that meet a certain condition, as in this example which finds the even numbers of a list and returns a new list of just those values:

```
Prelude> filter even [1..10]
[2,4,6,8,10]
```

Let's now take a closer look at `filter`. `filter` has the following definition:

```
filter :: (a -> Bool) -> [a] -> [a]
filter _ []    = []
filter pred (x:xs)
  | pred x      = x : filter pred xs
  | otherwise   = filter pred xs
```

Filtering takes a function that returns a `Bool` value, maps that function over a list, and returns a new list of all the values that met the condition. It's important to remind ourselves that this function, as we can see in the definition, builds a new list including values that meet the condition and excluding the ones that do not – it does not mutate the existing list.

We have seen how `filter` works with `odd` and `even` already. We have also seen one example along the lines of this:

```
Prelude> filter (== 'a') "abracadabra"
"aaaaa"
```

As you might suspect from what we've seen of HOFs, though, `filter` can handle many types of arguments. The following example does the same thing as `filter even` but with anonymous function syntax:

```
Prelude> filter (\x -> (rem x 2) == 0) [1..20]
[2,4,6,8,10,12,14,16,18,20]
```

We covered list comprehensions earlier as a way of filtering lists as well. Compare the following:

```
Prelude> filter (\x -> elem x "aeiou") "abracadabra"
"aaaaa"
Prelude> [x | x <- "abracadabra", elem x "aeiou"]
"aaaaa"
```

As they say, there's more than one way to skin a cat.

Again, we recommend at this point you try writing some filter functions of your own to get comfortable with the pattern.

### Exercises: Filtering

1. Given the above, how might we write a filter function that would give us all the multiples of 3 out of a list from 1-30?
2. Recalling what we learned about function composition, how could we compose the above function with the `length` function to tell us *\*how many\** multiples of 3 there are between 1 and 30?
3. Next we're going to work on removing all articles ('the', 'a', and 'an') from sentences. You want to get to something that works like this:

```
Prelude> myFilter "the brown dog was a goof"
["brown", "dog", "was", "goof"]
```

You may recall that earlier in this chapter we asked you to write a function that separates a string into a list of strings by separating them at spaces. That is a standard library function called `words`. You may consider starting this exercise by using `words` (or your version, of course).

## 9.11 Zipping lists

Zipping lists together is a means of combining values from multiple lists into a single list. Related functions like `zipWith` allow you to use combining function to produce a list of results from two lists.

First let's look at `zip`:

```
Prelude> :t zip
zip :: [a] -> [b] -> [(a, b)]
```

```
Prelude> zip [1, 2, 3] [4, 5, 6]
[(1,4),(2,5),(3,6)]
```

One thing to note is that `zip` stops as soon as one of the lists runs out of values:

```
Prelude> zip [1, 2] [4, 5, 6]
[(1,4),(2,5)]
Prelude> zip [1, 2, 3] [4]
[(1,4)]
```

And will return an empty list if either of the lists is empty:

```
Prelude> zip [] [1..1000000000000000000]
[]
```

`zip` proceeds until the shortest list ends.

```
Prelude> zip ['a'] [1..1000000000000000000]
[('a',1)]
Prelude> zip [1..100] ['a'..'c']
[(1,'a'),(2,'b'),(3,'c')]
```

We can use `unzip` to recover the lists as they were before they were zipped:

```
Prelude> zip [1, 2, 3] [4, 5, 6]
[(1,4),(2,5),(3,6)]
Prelude> unzip $ zip [1, 2, 3] [4, 5, 6]
([1,2,3],[4,5,6])
Prelude> fst $ unzip $ zip [1, 2, 3] [4, 5, 6]
```

```
[1,2,3]
Prelude> snd $ unzip $ zip [1, 2, 3] [4, 5, 6]
[4,5,6]
```

Just be aware that information can be lost in this process because `zip` must stop on the shortest list:

```
Prelude> snd $ unzip $ zip [1, 2] [4, 5, 6]
[4,5]
```

We can also use `zipWith` to apply a function to the values of two lists in parallel:

```
zipWith :: (a -> b -> c) -> [a] -> [b] -> [c]
--           [1]           [2]   [3]   [4]
```

1. A function with two arguments. Notice how the type variables of the arguments and result align with the type variables in the lists.
2. The first input list.
3. The second input list.
4. The output list created from applying the function to the values in the input lists.

A brief demonstration of how `zipWith` works:

```
Prelude> zipWith (+) [1, 2, 3] [10, 11, 12]
[11,13,15]
```

```
Prelude> zipWith (*) [1, 2, 3] [10, 11, 12]
[10,22,36]
```

```
Prelude> zipWith (==) ['a'..'f'] ['a'..'m']
[True,True,True,True,True,True]
```

```
Prelude> zipWith max [10, 5, 34, 9] [6, 8, 12, 7]
[10,8,34,9]
```

### Zippping exercises

1. Write your own version of `zip :: [a] -> [b] -> [(a, b)]` and ensure it behaves the same as the original.
2. Do what you did for `zip`, but now for `zipWith :: (a -> b -> c) -> [a] -> [b] -> [c]`
3. Rewrite your `zip` in terms of the `zipWith` you wrote.

## 9.12 Chapter Exercises

The first set of exercises here will mostly be review but will also introduce you to some new things. The second set is more conceptually challenging but does not use any syntax or concepts we haven't already studied. If you get stuck, it may help to flip back to a relevant section and review.

### Data.Char

These first few exercises are straightforward but will introduce you to some new library functions and review some of what we've learned so far. Some of the functions we will use here are not standard in Prelude and so have to be imported from a module called `Data.Char`. You may do so in a source file (recommended) or at the Prelude prompt with the same phrase: `import Data.Char` (write that at the top of your source file). This brings into scope a bunch of new standard functions we can play with that operate on `Char` and `String` types.

1. Query the types of `isUpper` and `toUpper`.
2. Given the following behaviors, which would we use to write a function that filters all the uppercase letters out of a `String`? Write that function such that, given the input "HbEfLrLxO," your function will return "HELLO."

```
Prelude Data.Char> isUpper 'J'
True
Prelude Data.Char> toUpper 'j'
'J'
```

3. Write a function that will capitalize the first letter of a String and return the entire String. For example, if given the argument “julie,” it will return “Julie.”
4. Now make a new version of that function that is recursive such that if you give it the input “woot” it will holler back at you “WOOT.” The type signature won’t change, but you will want to add a base case.
5. To do the final exercise in this section, we’ll need another standard function for lists called `head`. Query the type of `head` and experiment with it to see what it does. Now write a function that will capitalize the first letter of a String and return only that letter as the result.
6. Cool. Good work. Now rewrite it as a composed function. Then, for fun, rewrite it `pointfree`.

## Ciphers

We’ll still be using `Data.Char` for this next exercise. You should save these exercises in a module called `Cipher` because we’ll be coming back to them in later chapters. You’ll be writing a Caesar cipher for now, but we’ll suggest some variations on the basic program in later chapters.

A Caesar cipher is a simple substitution cipher, in which each letter is replaced by the letter that is a fixed number of places down the alphabet from it. You will find variations on this all over the place — you can shift leftward or rightward, for any number of spaces. A rightward shift of 3 means that ‘A’ will become ‘D’ and ‘B’ will become ‘E,’ for example. If you did a leftward shift of 5, then ‘a’ would become ‘v’ and so forth.

Your goal in this exercise is to write a basic Caesar cipher that shifts rightward. You can start by having the number of spaces to shift fixed, but it’s more challenging to write a cipher that allows you to vary the number of shifts so that you can encode your secret messages differently each time.

There are Caesar ciphers written in Haskell all over the internet, but to maximize the likelihood that you can write yours without

peeking at those, we'll provide a couple of tips. When yours is working the way you want it to, we would encourage you to then look around and compare your solution to others out there.

The first lines of your text file should look like this:

```
module Cipher where
```

```
import Data.Char
```

Data.Char includes two functions called `ord` and `chr` that can be used to associate a Char with its Int representation in the Unicode system and vice versa:

```
*Cipher> :t chr
chr :: Int -> Char
*Cipher> :t ord
ord :: Char -> Int
```

Using these functions is optional; there are other ways you can proceed with shifting, but using `chr` and `ord` might simplify the process a bit.

You want your shift to wrap back around to the beginning of the alphabet, so that if you have a rightward shift of 3 from 'z,' you end up back at 'c' and not somewhere in the vast Unicode hinterlands. Depending on how you've set things up, this might be a bit tricky. Consider starting from a base character (e.g., 'a') and using `mod` to ensure you're only shifting over the 26 standard characters of the English alphabet.

You should include an `unCaesar` function that will decipher your text as well. In a later chapter, we will test it.

## Writing your own standard functions

Below are the outlines of some standard functions. The goal here is to write your own versions of these to gain a deeper understanding of recursion over lists and how to make functions flexible enough to accept a variety of inputs. You could figure out how to look up the answers, but you won't do that because you know you'd only be cheating yourself out of the knowledge. Right?

Let's look at an example of what we're after here. The `and`<sup>1</sup> function can take a list of `Bool` values and returns `True` if and only if no values in the list are `False`. Here's how you might write your own version of it:

```
-- direct recursion, not using (amp;amp;)
myAnd :: [Bool] -> Bool
myAnd [] = True
myAnd (x:xs) = if x == False then False else myAnd xs

-- direct recursion, using (amp;amp;)
myAnd :: [Bool] -> Bool
myAnd [] = True
myAnd (x:xs) = x && myAnd xs
```

And now the fun begins:

1. `myOr` returns `True` if any `Bool` in the list is `True`.

```
myOr :: [Bool] -> Bool
myOr = undefined
```

2. `myAny` returns `True` if a `-> Bool` applied to any of the values in the list returns `True`.

```
myAny :: (a -> Bool) -> [a] -> Bool
myAny = undefined
```

Example for validating `myAny`:

```
Prelude> myAny even [1, 3, 5]
False
Prelude> myAny odd [1, 3, 5]
True
```

3. After you write the recursive `myElem`, write another version that uses `any`.

---

<sup>1</sup> Note that if you're using GHC 7.10 or newer, the functions `and`, `any`, and `all` have been abstracted from being usable only with lists to being usable with any datatype that has an instance of the typeclass `Foldable`. It still works with lists just the same as it did before. Proceed assured that we'll cover this later.



```
-- the built-in version of 'elem' in GHC 7.10
-- and newer has a type that uses Foldable
-- instead of the list type specifically. You
-- can ignore that and write the concrete
-- version that works only for list.
```

```
myElem :: Eq a => a -> [a] -> Bool
```

```
Prelude> myElem 1 [1..10]
True
Prelude> myElem 1 [2..10]
False
```

4. Implement myReverse.

```
myReverse :: [a] -> [a]
myReverse = undefined
```

```
Prelude> myReverse "blah"
"halb"
Prelude> myReverse [1..5]
[5,4,3,2,1]
```

5. squish flattens a list of lists into a list

```
squish :: [[a]] -> [a]
squish = undefined
```

6. squishMap maps a function over a list and concatenates the results.

```
squishMap :: (a -> [b]) -> [a] -> [b]
squishMap = undefined
```

```
Prelude> squishMap (\x -> [1, x, 3]) [2]
[1,2,3]
Prelude> squishMap (\x -> "WO "++[x]++" HOO ") "123"
"WO 1 HOO WO 2 HOO WO 3 HOO "
```

7. squishAgain flattens a list of lists into a list. This time re-use the squishMap function.

```
squishAgain :: [[a]] -> [a]
squishAgain = undefined
```

8. `myMaximumBy` takes a comparison function and a list and returns the greatest element of the list based on the last value that the comparison returned GT for.

```
-- If you import maximumBy from Data.List,
-- you'll see the type is
-- Foldable t => (a -> a -> Ordering) -> t a -> a
-- rather than
-- (a -> a -> Ordering) -> [a] -> a
-- if you have GHC 7.10 or newer. Seeing a pattern?
```

```
myMaximumBy :: (a -> a -> Ordering) -> [a] -> a
myMaximumBy = undefined
```

```
Prelude> myMaximumBy (\_ _ -> GT) [1..10]
1
Prelude> myMaximumBy (\_ _ -> LT) [1..10]
10
Prelude> myMaximumBy compare [1..10]
10
```

9. `myMinimumBy` takes a comparison function and a list and returns the least element of the list based on the last value that the comparison returned LT for.

```
-- blah blah GHC 7.10 different type
-- that uses Foldable.
```

```
myMinimumBy :: (a -> a -> Ordering) -> [a] -> a
myMinimumBy = undefined
```

```
Prelude> myMinimumBy (\_ _ -> GT) [1..10]
10
Prelude> myMinimumBy (\_ _ -> LT) [1..10]
1
Prelude> myMinimumBy compare [1..10]
1
```

Using the `myMinimumBy` and `myMaximumBy` functions, write your own versions of `maximum` and `minimum`. If you have GHC 7.10 or newer, you'll see a type constructor that wants a `Foldable` instance instead of a list as has been the case for many functions so far.

```
myMaximum :: (Ord a) => [a] -> a
myMaximum = undefined
```

```
myMinimum :: (Ord a) => [a] -> a
myMinimum = undefined
```

### 9.13 Definitions

1. In type theory a *Product type* is a type made of a set of types compounded over each other. In Haskell we represent products using tuples or data constructors with more than one argument. The “compounding” is from each type argument to the data constructor representing a value that coexists with all the other values simultaneously. Products of types represent a conjunction, “and,” of those types. If you have a product of `Bool` and `Int`, your terms will *each* contain a `Bool` *and* `Int` value.
2. In type theory a *Sum type* of two types is a type whose terms are terms in either type, but not simultaneously. In Haskell sum types are represented using the pipe, `|`, in a datatype definition. Sums of types represent a disjunction, “or,” of those types. If you have a sum of `Bool` and `Int`, your terms will be *either* a `Bool` value *or* an `Int` value.
3. *Cons* is ordinarily used as a verb to signify that a list value has been created by *cons’ing* a value onto the head of another list value. In Haskell, `(:)` is the cons operator for the list type. It is a data constructor defined in the list datatype:

```

1 : [2, 3]
-- [a]    [b]

[1, 2, 3]
-- [c]

( :) :: a -> [a] -> [a]
--      [d]    [e]    [f]
```

- a) The number 1, the value we are consing.
- b) A list of the number 2 followed by the number 3.
- c) The final result of consing 1 onto `[2, 3]`.
- d) The type variable `a` corresponds to 1, the value we consed onto the list value.
- e) The first occurrence of the type `[a]` in the cons operator’s type corresponds to the second and final argument `(:)` accepts, which was `[2, 3]`.

- f) The second and final occurrence of the type `[a]` in the `cons` operator's type corresponds to the final result `[1, 2, 3]`.
4. *Cons cell* is a data constructor and a product of the types `a` and `[a]` as defined in the list datatype. Because it references the list type constructor itself in the second argument, it allows for nesting of multiple `cons` cells, possibly indefinitely with the use of recursive functions, for representing an indefinite number of values in series:

```
data [] a = [] | a : [a]
--
--           ^ cons operator

-- Defining it ourselves

data List a = Nil | Cons a (List a)

-- Creating a list using our list type

Cons 1 (Cons 2 (Cons 3 Nil))
```

Here `(Cons 1 ...)`, `(Cons 2 ...)` and `(Cons 3 Nil)` are all individual `cons` cells in the list `[1, 2, 3]`.

5. The *spine* is a way to refer to the structure that glues a collection of values together. In the list datatype it is formed by the recursive nesting of `cons` cells. The spine is, in essence, the structure of collection that *isn't* the values contained therein. Often spine will be used in reference to lists, but it applies with tree data structures as well:

```
-- Given the list [1, 2, 3]

1 : -----/ The nested cons operators
  (2 : -----/ here represent the spine.
    (3 : --|
      []))

-- Blanking the irrelevant values out

_ : -----/
(_ : -----/
  (_ : ----> Spine
    []))
```

**9.14 Follow-up resources**

1. `Data.List` documentation for the base library.  
<http://hackage.haskell.org/package/base/docs/Data-List.html>
2. Ninety-nine Haskell problems.  
[https://wiki.haskell.org/H-99:\\_Ninety-Nine\\_Haskell\\_Problems](https://wiki.haskell.org/H-99:_Ninety-Nine_Haskell_Problems)

## Chapter 10

# Folding lists

The explicit teaching of thinking is no trivial task, but who said that the teaching of programming is? In our terminology, the more explicitly thinking is taught, the more of a scientist the programmer will become.

---

Edsger Dijkstra



## 10.1 Folds

Folding is a concept that extends in usefulness and importance beyond lists, but lists are often how they are introduced. Folds as a general concept are called catamorphisms. You’re familiar with the root, “morphism” from polymorphism. “Cata-” means “down” or “against”, as in “catacombs.” Catamorphisms are a means of deconstructing data. If the spine of a list is the structure of a list, then a fold is what can reduce that structure.<sup>1</sup>

This chapter is a thorough look at the topic of folding lists in Haskell. We will:

- explain what folds are and how they work;
- go into detail the evaluation processes of folds;
- walk through the process of writing folding functions;
- introduce scans, functions that are related to folds.

## 10.2 Bringing you into the fold

Let’s start with a quick look at `foldr`, short for “fold right.” This is the fold you’ll most often want to use with lists. The following type signature may look a little hairy, but let’s compare it to what we know about mapping. Note that the type of `foldr` may be different if you have GHC 7.10 or newer:

```
-- GHC 7.8 and older
foldr :: (a -> b -> b) -> b -> [a] -> b

-- GHC 7.10 and newer
foldr :: Foldable t => (a -> b -> b) -> b -> t a -> b
```

Then lined up next to each other:

```
foldr :: Foldable t =>
    (a -> b -> b) -> b -> t a -> b
foldr :: (a -> b -> b) -> b -> [] a -> b
```

---

<sup>1</sup> Note that a catamorphism *can* break down the structure but that structure might be rebuilt, so to speak, during evaluation. That is, folds can return lists as results.

For now, all you need to know is that GHC 7.10 abstracted out the list-specific part of folding into a typeclass that lets you reuse the same folding functions for any datatype that can be folded – not just lists. We can even recover the more concrete type because we can always make a type more concrete, but never more generic:

```
Prelude> :t foldr
foldr :: Foldable t => (a -> b -> b) -> b -> t a -> b
Prelude> :{
*Prelude| let listFoldr = foldr :: (a -> b -> b) ->
*Prelude|                                     b -> [a] -> b
*Prelude| :}
Prelude> :t listFoldr
listFoldr :: (a -> b -> b) -> b -> [a] -> b
```

Now let's notice a parallel between `map` and `foldr`:

```
foldr :: (a -> b -> b) -> b -> [a] -> b
```

```
-- Remember how map worked?
```

```
map   :: (a -> b) -> [a] -> [b]
```

```
map (+1) 1  :      2  :      3  : []
```

```
(+1) 1  : (+1) 2  : (+1) 3  : []
```

```
-- Given the list
```

```
foldr (+) 0 (1  :  2  :  3  : [])
```

```
1  +  (2  +  (3  +  0))
```

Where `map` applies a function to each member of a list and returns a list, a fold replaces the cons constructors with the function and reduces the list.

### 10.3 Recursive patterns

Let's revisit `sum`:

```
Prelude> sum [1, 5, 10]
```

```
16
```

As we've seen, it takes a list, adds the elements together, and returns a single result. You might think of it as similar to the `map` functions we've looked at, except that it's mapping `(+)` over the list, replacing the cons operators themselves, and returning a single result, instead of mapping, for example, `(+1)` into each cons cell and returning a whole list of results back to us. This has the effect of both mapping an operator over a list and also reducing the list. In a previous section, we wrote `sum` in terms of recursion:

```
sum :: [Integer] -> Integer
sum []      = 0
sum (x:xs) = x + sum xs
```

And if we bring back our `length` function from earlier:

```
length :: [a] -> Integer
length []      = 0
length (_,xs) = 1 + length xs
```

Do you see some structural similarity? What if you look at `product` and `concat` as well?

```
product :: [Integer] -> Integer
product []      = 1
product (x:xs) = x * product xs

concat :: [[a]] -> [a]
concat []      = []
concat (x:xs) = x ++ concat xs
```

In each case, the base case is the identity for that function. So the identity for `sum`, `length`, `product`, and `concat` respectively are 0, 0, 1, and `[]`. When we do addition, adding zero gives us the same result as our initial value:  $1 + 0 = 1$ . But when we do multiplication, it's multiplying by 1 that gives us the identity:  $2 * 1 = 2$ . With list concatenation, the identity is the empty list, such that  $[1, 2, 3] ++ [] == [1, 2, 3]$

Also, each of them has a main function with a recursive pattern that associates to the right. The head of the list gets evaluated, set aside, and then the function moves to the right, evaluates the next head, and so on.

## 10.4 Fold right

We call `foldr` the “right fold” because the fold is right associative; that is, it associates to the right. This is syntactically reflected in a straightforward definition of `foldr` as well:

```
foldr :: (a -> b -> b) -> b -> [a] -> b
foldr f acc []      = acc
foldr f acc (x:xs) = f x (foldr f acc xs)
```

The similarities between this and the recursive patterns we saw above should be clear. The “rest of the fold,” `(foldr f acc xs)` is an argument to the function `f` we’re folding with. The `acc` is the accumulator, sometimes called “zero,” of our fold. It provides a fallback value for the empty list case and a second argument to begin our fold with. The accumulator is often the identity for whatever function we’re folding with, such as `0` for `(+)` and `1` for `(*)`.

### How `foldr` evaluates

We’re going to rejigger our definition of `foldr` a little bit. It won’t change the semantics, but it’ll make it easier to write out what’s happening:

```
foldr :: (a -> b -> b) -> b -> [a] -> b
foldr f acc xs =
  case xs of
    []      -> acc
    (x:xs) -> f x (foldr f acc xs)
```

Here we see how the right fold associates to the right. This will reduce just like the `sum` example from earlier:

```

-- we're reducing:
foldr (+) 0 [1, 2, 3]

-- First step, what's ``xs'' in our case expression?
foldr (+) 0 [1, 2, 3] =
  case [1, 2, 3] of
    ...

-- What case of the expression matches?
foldr (+) 0 [1, 2, 3] =
  case [1, 2, 3] of
    []      -> 0
    (x:xs) -> f x (foldr f acc xs) --<--- this one

-- What are f, x, xs, and acc in that
-- branch of the case?
foldr (+) 0 [1, 2, 3] =
  case [1, 2, 3] of
    []      -> 0
    (1 : [2, 3]) -> (+) 1 (foldr (+) 0 [2, 3])

```

Critically, we're going to expand `(foldr (+) 0 [2, 3])` only because `(+)` is strict in both of its arguments, so it forces the next iteration. We could have a function which doesn't continually force the rest of the fold. If it were to stop on the first case here, then it would've returned the value 1. One such function is `const` which always returns the first argument. We'll show you how that behaves in a bit. Our next recursion is the `(foldr (+) 0 [2, 3])`:

```

-- there is (+) 1 implicitly wrapped around this
-- continuation of the recursive fold

foldr (+) 0 [2, 3] =
  case [2, 3] of
    []      -> 0 -- this didn't match again
    (2 : [3]) -> (+) 2 (foldr (+) 0 [3])

```

`(+)` is not only strict in both of its arguments, but it's *uncondition-*

*ally* so, so we're going to proceed to the next recursion of `foldr`. Note that the function calls bounce between our folding function `f` and `foldr`. This bouncing back and forth gives more control to the folding function. A hypothetical folding function, such as `const`, which doesn't need the second argument has the opportunity to do less work by not evaluating its second argument which is "more of the fold:"

```
-- there is (+) 1 ((+) 2 ...) implicitly wrapped
-- around this continuation of the recursive fold
```

```
-- Next recursion.
```

```
foldr (+) 0 [3] =
  case [3] of
    []      -> 0 -- this didn't match again
    (3 : []) -> (+) 3 (foldr (+) 0 [])
```

We're going to ask for more `foldr` one last time and then we'll hit our base case:

```
-- there is (+) 1 ((+) 2 ((+) 3 ...))
-- implicitly wrapped around this continuation
-- of the recursive fold

-- Last recursion, this is the end of the spine.
foldr (+) 0 [] =
  case [] of
    []      -> 0    --<-- This one finally matches.
    -- ignore the other case, didn't happen.
```

So one way to think about the way Haskell evaluates is that it's like a text rewriting system. Our expression has thus far rewritten itself from:

```
foldr (+) 0 [1, 2, 3]
```

Into,

```
(+) 1 ((+) 2 ((+) 3 0))
```

If you wanted to clean it up a bit without changing how it evaluates, you could make it the following:

```
1 + (2 + (3 + 0))
```

Just like in arithmetic, we evaluate innermost parentheses first:

```
1 + (2 + (3 + 0))
```

```
1 + (2 + 3)
```

```
1 + 5
```

```
6
```

And now we're done, with the result of 6.

We can also use a trick popularized by some helpful users in the Haskell IRC community to see how the fold associates.<sup>2</sup>

```
Prelude> let xs = map show [1..5]
Prelude> :{
*Prelude| foldr (\x y -> concat [",x","+ ",y,""])
*Prelude|      "0" xs
*Prelude| :}
"(1+(2+(3+(4+(5+0)))))"
```

One initially non-obvious aspect of folding is that it happens in two stages, traversal and folding. Traversal is the stage in which the fold recurses over the spine. Folding refers to the evaluation or reduction of the folding function applied to the values. All folds recurse over the spine in the same direction; the difference between left folds and right folds is in the association, or parenthesization, of the folding function and, thus, which direction the folding or reduction proceeds.

With `foldr`, the rest of our fold is an argument to the function we're folding with:

---

<sup>2</sup> Idea borrowed from Cale Gibbard from the haskell Freenode IRC channel and on the Haskell.org wiki <https://wiki.haskell.org/Fold#Examples>





```

5
Prelude> length ([1, 2, 3, 4] ++ undefined)
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined

```

However, if we drop the part of the spine that includes the bottom before we use `length`, we can get an expression that works:

```

Prelude> length (take 4 ([1, 2, 3, 4] ++ undefined))
4

```

`take` is non-strict like everything else you've seen so far, and in this case, it only returns as much list as you ask for. The difference in what it does, is it *stops* returning elements of the list it was given when it hits the length limit you gave it. Consider this:

```

Prelude> length $ take 2 $ take 4 ([1, 2]++undefined)
2

```

It doesn't *matter* that `take 4` could've hit the bottom! Nothing forced it to because of the `take 2` between it and `length`.

Now that we've seen how the recursive second argument to `foldr`'s folding function works, let's consider the first argument:

```

foldr :: (a -> b -> b) -> b -> [a] -> b
foldr f acc []      = acc
foldr f acc (x:xs) = f x (foldr f acc xs)
--
                                [1]

```

The first argument `[1]` involves a pattern match that is strict by default – the `f` only applies to `x` if there is an `x` value and not just an empty list. This means that `foldr` must force an initial cons cell in order to discriminate between the `[]` and the `(x : xs)` cases, so the first cons cell *cannot* be undefined.

Now we're going to try something unusual to demonstrate that the first bit of the spine must be evaluated by `foldr`. We have a somewhat silly anonymous function that will ignore all its arguments and just return a value of 9001. We're using it with `foldr` because it will never force evaluation of any of its arguments, so we can have a bottom as a value or as part of the spine, and it will not force an evaluation:

```

Prelude> foldr (\_ _ -> 9001) 0 [1..5]
9001
Prelude> foldr (\_ _ -> 9001) 0 [1, 2, 3, undefined]
9001
Prelude> foldr (\_ _ -> 9001) 0 ([1, 2, 3] ++ undefined)
9001

```

Everything is fine unless the first piece of the spine is bottom:

```

Prelude> foldr (\_ _ -> 9001) 0 undefined
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined

Prelude> foldr (\_ _ -> 9001) 0 [1, undefined]
9001
Prelude> foldr (\_ _ -> 9001) 0 [undefined, undefined]
9001

```

The final two examples work because it isn't the first *cons cell* that is bottom – the undefined values are inside the cons cells, not in the spine itself. Put differently, the cons cells *contain* bottom values but are not themselves bottom. We will experiment later with non-strictness and strictness to see how it affects the way our programs evaluate.

Traversing the rest of the spine doesn't occur unless the function asks for the results of having folded the rest of the list. In the following examples, we don't force traversal of the spine because `const` just throws away its second argument, which is the rest of the fold:

```

-- const :: a -> b -> a
-- const x _ = x

Prelude> const 1 2
1
Prelude> const 2 1
2
Prelude> foldr const 0 [1..5]
1
Prelude> foldr const 0 [1, undefined]
1

```

```
Prelude> foldr const 0 ([1, 2] ++ undefined)
1
Prelude> foldr const 0 [undefined, 2]
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```

Now that we've seen how `foldr` evaluates, we're going to look at `foldl` before we move on to learning how to write and use folds.

## 10.5 Fold left

Because of the way lists work, folds must first recurse over the spine of the list from the beginning to the end. Left folds traverse the spine in the same direction as right folds, but their folding process is left associative and proceeds in the opposite direction as that of `foldr`.

Here's a simple definition of `foldl`. Note that to see the same type for `foldl` in your GHCi REPL you will need to import `Data.List` for the same reasons as with `foldr`:

*-- again, different type in GHC 7.10 and newer.*

```
foldl :: (b -> a -> b) -> b -> [a] -> b
foldl f acc []      = acc
foldl f acc (x:xs) = foldl f (f acc x) xs
```

```
foldl :: (b -> a -> b) -> b -> [a] -> b
```

*-- Given the list*

```
foldl (+) 0 (1 : 2 : 3 : [])
```

*-- foldl associates like so*

```
((0 + 1) + 2) + 3
```

We can also use the same trick we used to see the associativity of `foldr` to see the associativity of `foldl`:

```
Prelude> let f = (\x y -> concat [(",x","+","y,")"])
```

```
Prelude> foldl f "0" (map show [1..5])
"((((0+1)+2)+3)+4)+5"
```

We can see from this that `foldl` begins its reduction process by adding the `acc` value to the head of the list, whereas `foldr` had added it to the final element of the list first.

We can also use functions called *scans* to see how folds evaluate. Scans are similar to folds but return a list of all the intermediate stages of the fold. We can compare `scanr` and `scanl` to their accompanying folds to see the difference in evaluation:

```
Prelude> foldr (+) 0 [1..5]
15
Prelude> scanr (+) 0 [1..5]
[15,14,12,9,5,0]
```

```
Prelude> foldl (+) 0 [1..5]
15
Prelude> scanl (+) 0 [1..5]
[0,1,3,6,10,15]
```

The relationship between the scans and folds are as follows:

```
last (scanl f z xs) = foldl f z xs
head (scanr f z xs) = foldr f z xs
```

Each fold will return the same result for this operation, but we can see from the scans that they arrive at that result in a different order, due to the different associativity. We'll talk more about scans later.

## Associativity and folding

Next we'll take a closer look at some of the effects of the associativity of `foldl`. As we've said, both folds traverse the spine in the same direction. What's different is the associativity of the evaluation.

The fundamental way to think about evaluation in Haskell is as substitution. When we use a right fold on a list with the function  $f$  and start value  $z$ , we're, in a sense, replacing the `cons` constructors with our folding function and the empty list constructor with our start value  $z$ :

```
[1..3] == 1 : 2 : 3 : []
```

```
foldr f z [1, 2, 3]
1 `f` (foldr f z [2, 3])
1 `f` (2 `f` (foldr f z [3]))
1 `f` (2 `f` (3 `f` (foldr f z [])))
1 `f` (2 `f` (3 `f` z))
```

Furthermore, lazy evaluation lets our functions, rather than the ambient semantics of the language, dictate what order things get evaluated in. Because of this, the *parentheses are real*. In the above, the `3 `f` z` pairing gets evaluated first because it's in the innermost parentheses. Right folds have to traverse the list outside-in, but the folding itself starts from the end of the list.

It's hard to see this with arithmetic functions that are associative, such as addition, but it's an important point to understand, so we'll run through some different examples. Let's start by using an arithmetic operation that isn't associative:

```
Prelude> foldr (^) 2 [1..3]
1
Prelude> foldl (^) 2 [1..3]
64
```

This time we can see clearly that we got different results, and that difference results from the way the functions associate. Here's a breakdown:

```
-- if you want to follow along,
-- use paper and not the REPL.
foldr (^) 2 [1..3]
(1 ^ (2 ^ (3 ^ 2)))
(1 ^ (2 ^ 9))
1 ^ 512
1
```

Contrast that with this:

```

foldl (^) 2 [1..3]
((2 ^ 1) ^ 2) ^ 3
(2 ^ 2) ^ 3
4 ^ 3
64

```

In this next set of comparisons, we will demonstrate the effect of associativity on argument order by folding the list into a new list, like this:

```

Prelude> foldr (:) [] [1..3]
[1,2,3]
Prelude> foldl (flip (:)) [] [1..3]
[3,2,1]

```

We must use `flip` with `foldl`. Let's examine why.

Just like a right fold, a left fold cannot perform magic and go to the end of the list instantly; it must start from the beginning of the list. However, the parentheses dictate how our code evaluates. The type of the argument to the folding function changes in addition to the associativity:

```

foldr :: (a -> b -> b) -> b -> [a] -> b
--      [1]  [2]  [3]
foldl :: (b -> a -> b) -> b -> [a] -> b
--      [4]  [5]  [6]

```

1. The parameter of type *a* represents one of the list element arguments the folding function of `foldr` is applied to.
2. The parameter of type *b* will either be the start value or the result of the fold accumulated so far, depending on how far you are into the fold.
3. The final result of having combined the list element and the start value or fold so far to compute the fold.
4. The start value or fold accumulated so far is the first argument to `foldl`'s folding function.
5. The list element is the second argument to `foldl`'s folding function.

6. The final result of `foldl`'s fold function is of type *b* just like that of `foldr`.

The type of `(:)` requires that a value be the first argument and a list be the second argument:

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

So the value is prepended, or “consed onto,” the front of that list.

In the following examples, the tilde means “is equivalent or equal to”. If we write a right fold that has the `cons` constructor as our *f* and the empty list as our *z*, we get:

```
-- foldr f z [1, 2, 3]
-- f ~ (:); z ~ []
-- Run it in your REPL. It'll return True.
foldr (:) [] (1 : 2 : 3 : []) == 1 : (2 : (3 : []))
```

The consing process for `foldr` matches the type signature for `(:)`. It also reproduces the same list because we’re replacing the `cons` constructors with `cons` constructors and the null list with null list. However, for it to be identical, it also has to be right associative.

Doing the same with `foldl` does not produce the same result. When using `foldl`, the result we’ve accumulated so far is the first argument instead of the list element. This is opposite of what `(:)` expects if we’re accumulating a list. Trying to fold the identity of the list as above but with `foldl` would give us a type error because the reconstructing process for `foldl` would look like this:

```
foldl f z [1, 2, 3]
-- f ~ (:); z ~ []
-- (((z `f` 1) `f` 2) `f` 3)
((([] : 1) : 2) : 3)
```

That won’t work because the *z* is an empty list and the *f* is `cons`, so we have the order of arguments backwards for `cons`. Enter `flip`, whose job is to take backwards arguments and turn that frown upside down. It will flip each set of arguments around for us, like this:

```

foldl f z [1, 2, 3]
-- f ~ (flip ()); z ~ []
-- ((z `f` 1) `f` 2) `f` 3)
f = flip (:)
((([] `f` 1) `f` 2) `f` 3)
(([1] `f` 2) `f` 3)
([2, 1] `f` 3)
[3, 2, 1]

```

Even when we've satisfied the types by flipping things around, the left-associating nature of `foldl` leads to a different result from that of `foldr`.

For the next set of comparisons, we're going to use a function called `const` that takes two arguments and always returns the first one. When we fold `const` over a list, it will take as its first pair of arguments the `acc` value and a value from the list — which value it takes first depends on which type of fold it is. We'll show you how it evaluates for the first example:

```

Prelude> foldr const 0 [1..5]
(const 1 _)
1

```

Since `const` doesn't evaluate its second argument the rest of the fold is never evaluated. The underscore represents the rest of the unevaluated fold. Now, let's look at the effect of flipping the arguments. The `0` result is because zero is our accumulator value here, so it's the first (or last) value of the list:

```

Prelude> foldr (flip const) 0 [1..5]
0

```

Next let's look at what happens when we use the same functions but this time with `foldl`. Take a few moments to understand the evaluation process that leads to these results:

```

Prelude> foldl (flip const) 0 [1..5]
5
Prelude> foldl const 0 [1..5]
0

```



This is the effect of left associativity. The spine traversal happens in the same order in a left or right fold — it must, because of the way lists are defined. If your folding function isn't commutative, a left fold can lead to a different result than a right fold of the same.

### Exercises: Understanding Folds

1. `foldr (*) 1 [1..5]`

will return the same result as which of the following:

- a) `flip (*) 1 [1..5]`
- b) `foldl (flip (*)) 1 [1..5]`
- c) `foldl (*) 1 [1..5]`

2. Write out the evaluation steps for

`foldl (flip (*)) 1 [1..3]`

3. One difference between `foldr` and `foldl` is:
  - a) `foldr`, but not `foldl`, traverses the spine of a list from right to left
  - b) `foldr`, but not `foldl`, always forces the rest of the fold
  - c) `foldr`, but not `foldl`, associates to the right
  - d) `foldr`, but not `foldl`, is recursive
4. Folds are catamorphisms, which means they are generally used to
  - a) reduce structure
  - b) expand structure
  - c) render you catatonic
  - d) generate infinite data structures
5. The following are simple folds very similar to what you've already seen, but each has at least one error. Please fix them and test in your REPL:
  - a) `foldr (++) ["woot", "WOOT", "woot"]`

- b) `foldr` `max` `[]` `"fear is the little death"`
- c) `foldr` and `True` `[False, True]`
- d) This one is more subtle than the previous. Can it ever return a different answer?  
`foldr` `(||)` `True` `[False, True]`
- e) `foldl` `((++)` `. show)` `""` `[1..5]`
- f) `foldr` `const` `'a'` `[1..5]`
- g) `foldr` `const` `0` `"tacos"`
- h) `foldl` `(flip const)` `0` `"burritos"`
- i) `foldl` `(flip const)` `'z'` `[1..5]`

### Unconditional spine recursion

An important difference between `foldr` and `foldl` is that a left fold has the successive steps of the fold as its first argument. The next recursion of the spine isn't intermediated by the folding function as it is in `foldr`, which also means recursion of the spine is unconditional. Having a function that doesn't force evaluation of either of its arguments won't change anything. Let's review `const`:

```
Prelude> const 1 undefined
1
Prelude> (flip const) 1 undefined
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
Prelude> (flip const) undefined 1
1
```

Now compare:

```
Prelude> foldr const 0 ([1..5] ++ undefined)
1
Prelude> foldr (flip const) 0 ([1..5] ++ undefined)
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined

Prelude> foldl const 0 ([1..5] ++ undefined)
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
Prelude> foldl (flip const) 0 ([1..5] ++ undefined)
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```

However, while `foldl` unconditionally evaluates the spine you can still selectively evaluate the values in the list:

```
Prelude> foldl (\_ _ -> 5) 0 ([1..5] ++ undefined)
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
-- error because bottom is part of the spine
-- and foldl must evaluate the spine

Prelude> foldl (\_ _ -> 5) 0 ([1..5] ++ [undefined])
5
-- this is OK because here bottom is a value
```

This feature means that `foldl` is generally inappropriate with lists that are or could be infinite, but the combination of the forced spine evaluation with non-strictness means that it is also usually inappropriate even for long lists, as the forced evaluation of the spine affects performance negatively. Because `foldl` must evaluate its whole spine before it starts evaluating values in each cell, it accumulates a pile of unevaluated values as it traverses the spine.

In most cases, when you need a left fold, you should use `foldl'`. This function, called “fold-l-prime,” works the same except it is strict. In other words, it forces evaluation of the values inside cons cells as it traverses the spine, rather than accumulating unevaluated expressions for each element of the list. The strict evaluation here means it has less negative effect on performance over long lists.

## 10.6 How to write fold functions

When we write folds, we begin by thinking about what our start value for the fold is. This is usually the identity for the function. So when we sum the elements of a list, the identity of summation is 0. When we multiply the elements of the list, the identity is 1. This start value is also our fallback in case the list is empty.

Next we consider our arguments. A folding function takes two arguments, *a* and *b*, where *a* is going to always be one of the elements in the list and *b* is either my start value or the value accumulated as the list is being processed.

Let's say we want to write a function to take the first three letters of each `String` value in a list of strings and concatenate that result into a final `String`. The type of the right fold for lists is:

```
foldr :: (a -> b -> b) -> b -> [a] -> b
```

First, we'll set up the beginnings of our expression:

```
foldr (\ a b -> undefined) []  
  ["Pizza", "Apple", "Banana"]
```

We used an empty list as the start value, but since we plan to return a `String` as our result, we could be a little more explicit about our intent to build a `String` and make a small syntactic change:

```
foldr (\ a b -> undefined) ""  
  ["Pizza", "Apple", "Banana"]
```

Of course, because a `String` is a list, these are actually the same value:

```
Prelude> "" == []  
True
```

But `""` signals intent with respect to the types involved:

```
Prelude> :t ""  
"" :: [Char]  
Prelude> :t []  
[] :: [t]
```

Moving along, we next want to work on the function. We already know how to take the first three elements from a list and we can reuse this for `String`:

```
foldr (\ a b -> take 3 a) ""  
  ["Pizza", "Apple", "Banana"]
```

Now this will already typecheck and work, but it doesn't match the semantics we asked for:

```
Prelude> let pab = ["Pizza", "Apple", "Banana"]
Prelude> foldr (\ a b -> take 3 a) "" pab
"Piz"
Prelude> foldl (\ b a -> take 3 a) "" pab
"Ban"
```

We're only getting the first three letters of the first or the last string, depending on whether we did a right or left fold. Note the argument naming order due to the difference in the types of `foldr` and `foldl`:

```
foldr :: (a -> b -> b) -> b -> [a] -> b
```

```
foldl :: (b -> a -> b) -> b -> [a] -> b
```

The problem here is that right now we're not actually folding the list. We're just mapping our `take 3` over the list and selecting the first or last result:

```
Prelude> map (take 3) pab
["Piz","App","Ban"]
Prelude> head $ map (take 3) pab
"Piz"
Prelude> last $ map (take 3) pab
"Ban"
```

So let us make this a proper fold and actually accumulate the result by making use of the `b` argument. Remember the `b` is your `acc` value. Technically we could just use `concat` on the result of having mapped `take 3` over the list (or its reverse, if we want to simulate `foldl`):

```
Prelude> concat $ map (take 3) pab
"PizAppBan"
Prelude> concat $ map (take 3) (reverse pab)
"BanAppPiz"
```

But we need an excuse to play with `foldr` and `foldl`, so we'll pretend none of this happened!

```
Prelude> foldr (\ a b -> take 3 a ++ b) "" pab
"PizAppBan"
Prelude> foldl (\ b a -> take 3 a ++ b) "" pab
"BanAppPiz"
```

Here we concatenated the result of having taken three elements from the string value in our input list onto the front of our string we're accumulating. If we want to be explicit, we can assert types for the values:

```
Prelude> :{
*Prelude| let f a b = take 3
*Prelude|           (a :: String) ++
*Prelude|           (b :: String)
*Prelude| :}
Prelude> foldr f "" pab
"PizAppBan"
```

If we assert something that isn't true, the typechecker fwacks us:

```
Prelude> :{
*Prelude| let f a b = take 3 (a :: String)
*Prelude|           ++ (b :: [String])
*Prelude| :}

<interactive>:12:42:
    Couldn't match type 'Char' with '[Char]'
    Expected type: [String]
    Actual type: [Char]
    In the second argument of '(++)',
       namely '(b :: [String])'
    In the expression:
       take 3 (a :: String) ++ (b :: [String])
```

This can be useful for checking that your mental model of the code is accurate.

## Exercises: Database Processing

Write the following functions for processing this data.

```
import Data.Time

data DatabaseItem = DbString String
                  | DbNumber Integer
                  | DbDate   UTCTime
                  deriving (Eq, Ord, Show)

theDatabase :: [DatabaseItem]
theDatabase =
  [ DbDate (UTCTime
            (fromGregorian 1911 5 1)
            (secondsToDiffTime 34123))
    , DbNumber 9001
    , DbString "Hello, world!"
    , DbDate (UTCTime
              (fromGregorian 1921 5 1)
              (secondsToDiffTime 34123))
    ]
```

1. Write a function that filters for `DbDate` values and returns a list of the `UTCTime` values inside them.

```
filterDbDate :: [DatabaseItem] -> [UTCTime]
filterDbDate = undefined
```

2. Write a function that filters for `DbNumber` values and returns a list of the `Integer` values inside them.

```
filterDbNumber :: [DatabaseItem] -> [Integer]
filterDbNumber = undefined
```

3. Write a function that gets the most recent date.

```
mostRecent :: [DatabaseItem] -> UTCTime
mostRecent = undefined
```

4. Write a function that sums all of the `DbNumber` values.

```
sumDb :: [DatabaseItem] -> Integer
sumDb = undefined
```

5. Write a function that gets the average of the `DbNumber` values.

```
-- You'll probably need to use fromIntegral
-- to get from Integer to Double.
```

```
avgDb :: [DatabaseItem] -> Double
avgDb = undefined
```

## 10.7 Folding and evaluation

What differentiates `foldr` and `foldl` is associativity. The right associativity of `foldr` means the folding function evaluates from the innermost cons cell to the outermost (the head). On the other hand, `foldl` recurses unconditionally to the end of the list through self-calls and then the folding function evaluates from the outermost cons cell to the innermost:

```
Prelude> take 3 $ foldr (:) [] ([1, 2, 3] ++ undefined)
[1,2,3]
Prelude> take 3 $ foldl (flip (:)) [] ([1, 2, 3] ++ undefined)
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```

Let's dive into our `const` example a little more carefully:

```
foldr const 0 [1..5]
```

With `foldr`, you'll evaluate `const 1 (...)`, but `const` ignores the rest of the fold that would have occurred from the end of the list up to the number 1, so this returns 1 without having evaluated any more of the values or the spine. One way you could examine this for yourself would be:

```
Prelude> foldr const 0 ([1] ++ undefined)
1

Prelude> head ([1] ++ undefined)
1
Prelude> tail ([1] ++ undefined)
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```

Similarly for `foldl`:



```
foldl (flip const) 0 [1..5]
```

Here `foldl` will recurse to the final cons cell, evaluate `(flip const) (...)` 5, ignore the rest of the fold that would occur from the beginning up to the number 5, and just return 5.

The relationship between `foldr` and `foldl` is such that:

```
foldr f z xs = foldl (flip f) z (reverse xs)
```

But *only* for finite lists! Consider:

```
Prelude> foldr const 0 (repeat 0 ++ [1,2,3])
0
Prelude> foldl (flip const) 0 (reverse (repeat 1 ++ [1,2,3]))
^CInterrupted.
-- ^^ bottom.
```

If we flip our folding function `f` and reverse the list `xs`, `foldr` and `foldl` will return the same result:

```
Prelude> foldr (:) [] [1..5]
[1,2,3,4,5]
Prelude> foldl (flip (:)) [] [1..5]
[5,4,3,2,1]
Prelude> foldl (flip (:)) [] (reverse [1..5])
[1,2,3,4,5]
Prelude> reverse $ foldl (flip (:)) [] [1..5]
[1,2,3,4,5]
```

## 10.8 Summary

Okay, we presented a lot of material in this chapter. You might be feeling a little weary of folds right now. So what's the executive summary?

### **foldr**

1. The rest of the fold (recursive invocation of `foldr`) is an argument to the folding function you passed to `foldr`. It doesn't directly self-call as a tail-call like `foldl`. You could think of it as

alternating between applications of `foldr` and your folding function `f`. The next invocation of `foldr` is conditional on `f` having asked for more of the results of having folded the list. That is:

```
foldr :: (a -> b -> b) -> b -> [a] -> b
--          ^
```

That ‘`b`’ we’re pointing at in `(a -> b -> b)` is *the rest of the fold*. Evaluating that evaluates the next application of `foldr`.

2. Associates to the right.
3. Works with infinite lists. We know this because:

```
Prelude> foldr const 0 [1..]
1
```

4. Is a good default choice whenever you want to transform data structures, be they finite or infinite.

## **foldl**

1. Self-calls (tail-call) through the list, only beginning to produce values after it’s reached the end of the list.
2. Associates to the left.
3. Cannot be used with infinite lists. Try the infinite list example earlier and your REPL will hang.
4. Is nearly useless and should almost always be replaced with `foldl'` for reasons we’ll explain later when we talk about writing efficient Haskell programs.

## **10.9 Scans**

Scans, which we have mentioned above, work similarly to maps and also to folds. Like folds, they accumulate values instead of keeping the list’s individual values separate. Like maps, they return a list of results. In this case, the list of results shows the intermediate stages of evaluation, that is, the values that accumulate as the function is doing its work.

Scans are not used as frequently as folds, and once you understand the basic mechanics of folding, there isn't a whole lot new to understand. Still, it is useful to know about them and get an idea of why you might need them.<sup>3</sup>

First, let's take a look at the types. We'll do a direct comparison of the types of folds and scans so the difference is clear:

```
foldr :: (a -> b -> b) -> b -> [a] -> b
scanr :: (a -> b -> b) -> b -> [a] -> [b]

foldl :: (b -> a -> b) -> b -> [a] -> b
scanl :: (b -> a -> b) -> b -> [a] -> [b]
```

The primary difference is that the final result is a list (folds *can* return a list as a result as well, but they don't always). This means that they are not catamorphisms and, in an important sense, aren't folds at all. But no matter! The type signatures are similar, and the routes of spine traversal and evaluation are similar. This does mean that you can use scans in places that you can't use a fold, precisely because you return a list of results rather than reducing the spine of the list.

The results that scans produce can be represented like this:

```
scanr (+) 0 [1..3]
[1 + (2 + (3 + 0)), 2 + (3 + 0), 3 + 0, 0]
[6, 5, 3, 0]

scanl (+) 0 [1..3]
[0, 0 + 1, 0 + 1 + 2, 0 + 1 + 2 + 3]
[0, 1, 3, 6]
```

---

<sup>3</sup> The truth is scans are not used tremendously often, but there are times when you want to fold a function over a list and return a list of the intermediate values that you can then use as input to some other function. For a particularly elegant use of this, please see Chris Done's blog post about his solution to the waterfall problem at <http://chrisdone.com/posts/twitter-problem-loeb>.

```
scanl (+) 1 [1..3]
```

```
-- unfolding the definition of scanl a bunch
= [1, 1 + 1, (1 + 1) + 2, ((1 + 1) + 2) + 3]
```

```
-- evaluating additions
= [1, 2, 4, 7]
```

Then to make this more explicit and properly equational, we can follow along with how `scanl` expands for this expression just based on the definition. First, we must see how `scanl` is defined. We're going to show you a version of it from a slightly older base library for GHC Haskell. The differences don't change anything important for us here:

```
scanl :: (a -> b -> a) -> a -> [b] -> [a]
scanl f q ls =
  q : (case ls of
        []    -> []
        x:xs  -> scanl f (f q x) xs)
```

In the Recursion chapter, we wrote a recursive function that returned the *n*th Fibonacci number to us. You can use a scan function to return a list of Fibonacci numbers. We're going to do this in a source file because this will, in this state, return an infinite list (feel free to try loading it into your REPL and running it, but be quick with the ctrl-c):

```
fibs = 1 : scanl (+) 1 fibs
```

We start with a value of 1 and cons that onto the front of the list generated by our scan. The list itself has to be recursive because, as we saw previously, the idea of Fibonacci numbers is that each one is the sum of the previous two in the sequence; scanning the results of (+) over a nonrecursive list of numbers whose start value is 1 would just give us this:

```
scanl (+) 1 [1..3]
[1, 1 + 1, (1 + 1) + 2, ((1 + 1) + 2) + 3]
[1,2,4,7]
```

instead of the [1, 1, 2, 3, 5...] that we're looking for.

### Getting the fibonacci number we want

But we don't really want an infinite list of Fibonacci numbers. That isn't very useful. We need a method to either only take some number of elements from that list or to find the *n*th element as we had done before. Fortunately, that's the easy part. We'll use the "bang bang" operator, `!!`, to find the *n*th element. This operator is a way to index into a list, and indexing in Haskell starts from zero. That is, the first value in your list is indexed as zero. But otherwise the operator is straightforward:

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

It needs a list as its first argument, an `Int` as its second argument and it returns one element from the list. Which item it returns is the value that is in the *n*th spot where *n* is our `Int`. We will modify our source file:

```
fib      = 1 : scanl (+) 1 fibs
fibN x = fibs !! x
```

Once we load the file into our REPL, we can use `fibN` to return the *n*th element of our scan:

```
*Main> fibN 0
1
*Main> fibN 2
2
*Main> fibN 6
13
```

Now you can modify your source code to use the `take` or `takeWhile` functions or to filter it in any way you like. One note: filtering without also taking won't work too well, because you're still getting an infinite list. It's a filtered infinite list, sure, but still infinite.

### Scans Exercises

1. Modify your `fibs` function to only return the first 20 Fibonacci numbers.
2. Modify `fibs` to return the Fibonacci numbers that are less than 100.
3. Try to write the `factorial` function from Recursion as a scan. You'll want `scanl` again, and your start value will be 1. Warning: this will also generate an infinite list, so you may want to pass it through a `take` function or similar.

## 10.10 Chapter Exercises

### Warm-up and review

For the following set of exercises, you are not expected to use folds. These are intended to review material from previous chapters. Feel free to use any syntax or structure from previous chapters that seems appropriate.

1. Given the following sets of consonants and vowels:

```
stops = "pbtdkg"  
vowels = "aeiou"
```

- a) Write a function that takes inputs from `stops` and `vowels` and makes 3-tuples of all possible stop-vowel-stop combinations. These will not all correspond to real words in English, although the stop-vowel-stop pattern is common enough that many of them will.
  - b) Modify that function so that it only returns the combinations that begin with a `p`.
  - c) Now set up lists of nouns and verbs (instead of stops and vowels) and modify the function to make tuples representing possible noun-verb-noun sentences.
2. What does the following mystery function do? What is its type? Try to get a good sense of what it does before you test it in the REPL to verify it.

```
seekritFunc x =  
  div (sum (map length (words x)))  
      (length (words x))
```

3. We'd really like the answer to be more precise. Can you rewrite that using fractional division?

### Rewriting functions using folds

In the previous chapter, you wrote these functions using direct recursion over lists. The goal now is to rewrite them using folds. Where possible, to gain a deeper understanding of folding, try rewriting the fold version so that it is point-free.

Point-free versions of these functions written with a fold should look like:

```
myFunc = foldr f z
```

So for example with the `and` function:

*-- Again, this type will be less reusable than  
-- the one in GHC 7.10 and newer. Don't worry.*

*-- direct recursion, not using (&&)*

```
myAnd :: [Bool] -> Bool
myAnd [] = True
myAnd (x:xs) =
    if x == False
    then False
    else myAnd xs
```

*-- direct recursion, using (&&)*

```
myAnd :: [Bool] -> Bool
myAnd [] = True
myAnd (x:xs) = x && myAnd xs
```

*-- fold, not point-free in the folding function*

```
myAnd :: [Bool] -> Bool
myAnd = foldr
    (\a b ->
        if a == False
        then False
        else b) True
```

*-- fold, both myAnd and the folding function are point-free now*

```
myAnd :: [Bool] -> Bool
myAnd = foldr (&&) True
```

The goal here is to converge on the final version where possible. You don't need to write all variations for each example, but the more variations you write, the deeper your understanding of these functions will become.

1. `myOr` returns `True` if any `Bool` in the list is `True`.

```
myOr :: [Bool] -> Bool
myOr = undefined
```



2. `myAny` returns `True` if `a -> Bool` applied to any of the values in the list returns `True`.

```
myAny :: (a -> Bool) -> [a] -> Bool
myAny = undefined
```

Example for validating `myAny`:

```
Prelude> myAny even [1, 3, 5]
False
Prelude> myAny odd [1, 3, 5]
True
```

3. In addition to the recursive and fold based `myElem`, write a version that uses `any`.

```
myElem :: Eq a => a -> [a] -> Bool
```

```
Prelude> myElem 1 [1..10]
True
Prelude> myElem 1 [2..10]
False
```

4. Implement `myReverse`, don't worry about trying to make it lazy.

```
myReverse :: [a] -> [a]
myReverse = undefined
```

```
Prelude> myReverse "blah"
"halb"
Prelude> myReverse [1..5]
[5,4,3,2,1]
```

5. Write `myMap` in terms of `foldr`. It should have the same behavior as the built-in `map`.

```
myMap :: (a -> b) -> [a] -> [b]
myMap = undefined
```

6. Write `myFilter` in terms of `foldr`. It should have the same behavior as the built-in `filter`.

```
myFilter :: (a -> Bool) -> [a] -> [a]
myFilter = undefined
```

7. `squish` flattens a list of lists into a list

```
squish :: [[a]] -> [a]
squish = undefined
```

8. `squishMap` maps a function over a list and concatenates the results.

```
squishMap :: (a -> [b]) -> [a] -> [b]
squishMap = undefined
```

```
Prelude> squishMap (\x -> [1, x, 3]) [2]
[1,2,3]
Prelude> squishMap (\x -> "WO " ++ [x] ++ " OT ") "blah"
"WO b OT WO l OT WO a OT WO h OT "
```

9. `squishAgain` flattens a list of lists into a list. This time re-use the `squishMap` function.

```
squishAgain :: [[a]] -> [a]
squishAgain = undefined
```

10. `myMaximumBy` takes a comparison function and a list and returns the greatest element of the list based on the last value that the comparison returned `GT` for.

```
myMaximumBy :: (a -> a -> Ordering) -> [a] -> a
myMaximumBy = undefined
```

```
Prelude> myMaximumBy (\_ _ -> GT) [1..10]
1
Prelude> myMaximumBy (\_ _ -> LT) [1..10]
10
Prelude> myMaximumBy compare [1..10]
10
```

11. `myMinimumBy` takes a comparison function and a list and returns the least element of the list based on the last value that the comparison returned `LT` for.

```
myMinimumBy :: (a -> a -> Ordering) -> [a] -> a
myMinimumBy = undefined
```

```
Prelude> myMinimumBy (\_ _ -> GT) [1..10]
10
Prelude> myMinimumBy (\_ _ -> LT) [1..10]
1
Prelude> myMinimumBy compare [1..10]
1
```

## 10.11 Definitions

1. A *Fold* is a higher-order function which, given a function to accumulate the results and a recursive data structure, returns the built up value. Usually a “start value” for the accumulation is provided along with a function that can combine the type of values in the data structure with the accumulation. The term fold is typically used with reference to collections of values referenced by a recursive datatype. For a generalization of “breaking down structure”, see *catamorphism*.
2. A *Catamorphism* is a generalization of folds to arbitrary datatypes. Where a fold allows you to break down a list into an arbitrary datatype, a catamorphism is a means of breaking down the structure of any datatype. The `bool :: a -> a -> Bool -> a` function in `Data.Bool` is an example of a simple catamorphism for a simple, non-collection datatype. Similarly, `maybe :: b -> (a -> b) -> Maybe a -> b` is the catamorphism for `Maybe`. See if you can notice a pattern:

```
data Bool = False | True
```

```
bool :: a -> a -> Bool -> a
```

```
data Maybe a = Nothing | Just a
```

```
maybe :: b -> (a -> b) -> Maybe a -> b
```

```
data Either a b = Left a | Right b
```

```
either :: (a -> c) -> (b -> c) -> Either a b -> c
```

3. A *tail call* is the final result of a function. Some examples of tail calls in Haskell functions:

```
f x y z = h (subFunction x y z)
```

```
  where subFunction x y z = g x y z
```

```
-- the ``tail call`` is h (subFunction x y z)
```

```
-- or more precisely, h.
```

4. Tail recursion is a function whose tail calls are recursive invocations of itself. This is distinguished from functions that call other functions in their tail call.

```

f x y z = h (subFunction x y z)
    where subFunction x y z = g x y z
-- Not tail recursive, calls h, not itself.

f x y z = h (f (x - 1) y z)
-- Still not tail recursive. f is invoked again but
-- not in the tail-call of f, it's an argument to
-- the actual tail-call 'h'.

f x y z = f (x - 1) y z
-- This is tail recursive. f is calling itself
-- directly with no intermediaries.

foldr f z []      = z
foldr f z (x:xs) = f x (foldr f z xs)

-- Not tail recursive, we give up control
-- to the combining function ``f`` before continuing
-- through the list. foldr's recursive calls will
-- bounce between foldr and f.

foldl f z []      = z
foldl f z (x:xs) = foldl f (f z x) xs

-- Tail recursive. foldl invokes itself recursively.
-- The combining function is only an argument to
-- the recursive fold.

```

## 10.12 Follow-up resources

1. Haskell Wiki. Fold.  
<https://wiki.haskell.org/Fold>
2. Richard Bird. Sections 4.5 and 4.6 of Introduction to Functional Programming using Haskell (1998).
3. Antoni Diller. Introduction to Haskell  
<http://www.cantab.net/users/antoni.diller/haskell/units/unit06.html>
4. Graham Hutton. A tutorial on the universality and expressiveness of fold.  
<http://www.cs.nott.ac.uk/~gmh/fold.pdf>

## Chapter 11

# Algebraic datatypes

The most depressing thing about life as a programmer, I think, is if you're faced with a chunk of code that either someone else wrote or, worse still, you wrote yourself but no longer dare to modify. That's depressing.

---

Simon Peyton Jones

## 11.1 Algebraic datatypes

We have spent a lot of time talking about datatypes already, so you may think we’ve covered everything that needs to be said about those. This chapter’s purpose is ultimately to explain how to construct your own datatypes in Haskell. Writing your own datatypes can help you leverage some of Haskell’s most powerful features — pattern matching, type checking, and inference — in a way that makes your code more concise and safer. But to understand that, first we need to explain the differences among datatypes more fully and understand what it means when we say datatypes are *algebraic*.

A type can be thought of as an enumeration of constructors that have zero or more arguments.<sup>1</sup> We will return to this description throughout the chapter, each time emphasizing a different portion of it.

Haskell offers sum types, product types, product types with record syntax, type aliases (for example, `String` is a type alias for `[Char]`), and a special datatype called a “newtype” that offers a different set of options and constraints from either type synonyms or data declarations. We will explain each of these in detail in this chapter and show you how to exploit them for maximum utility and type safety.

This chapter will:

- explain the “algebra” of algebraic datatypes;
- analyze the construction of data constructors;
- spell out when and how to write your own datatypes;
- clarify usage of type synonyms and `newtype`;
- introduce *kinds*.

## 11.2 Data declarations review

We often want to create custom datatypes for structuring and describing the data we are processing. Doing so can help you analyze your problem by allowing you to focus first on how you *model* the domain before you begin thinking about how you write *computations*

---

<sup>1</sup>This description, slightly edited for our purposes, was proposed by Orah Kittrell in the `#haskell-beginners` IRC channel.



that solve your problem. It can also make your code easier to read and use because it lays the domain model out clearly.

In order to write your own types, though, you must understand the way datatypes are constructed in more detail than we’ve covered so far. Let’s begin with a review of the important parts of datatypes, using the data constructors for `Bool` and lists:

```
data Bool = False | True
-- [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6]

data [] a = [ ] | a : [a]
-- [7] [8] [9]
```

1. Keyword `data` to signal that what follows is a data declaration, or a declaration of a datatype.
2. Type constructor (with no arguments)
3. Equals sign divides the type constructor from its data constructors.
4. Data constructor. In this case, a data constructor that takes no arguments and so is called a “nullary” constructor. This is one of the possible values of this type that can show up in term-level code.
5. The pipe denotes a sum type which indicates a logical disjunction (colloquially, “or”) in what values can have that type.
6. Constructor for the value `True`, another nullary constructor.
7. Type constructor with an argument. An empty list has to have an argument in order to become a list of *something*. Here the argument is a polymorphic type variable, so the list’s argument can be of different types.
8. Data constructor for the empty list.
9. Data constructor that takes two arguments: an `a` and also a `[a]`.

When we talk about a data declaration, we are talking about the definition of the entire type. If we think of a type as “an enumeration of constructors that have *zero* or more arguments,” then `Bool` is an

enumeration of two possible constructors, each of which takes *zero* arguments, while the type constructor `[]` enumerates two possible constructors and one of them takes *two* arguments. The pipe denotes what we call a *sum type*, a type that has *more than one* constructor inhabiting it.

In addition to sum types, Haskell also has *product types*, and we'll talk more about those in a bit. The data constructors in product types have more than one argument. But first, let's turn our attention to the meaning of the word *constructors*.

### 11.3 Data and type constructors

There are two kinds of constructors in Haskell: type constructors and data constructors. Type constructors are used only at the type level, in type signatures and typeclass declarations and instances. Types are static and resolve at compile time. Data constructors construct the values at term level, values you can interact with at runtime. We call them constructors because they define a means of creating or building a type or a value.

Although the term “constructor” is often used to describe all type constructors and data constructors, we can make a distinction between *constants* and *constructors*. Type and data constructors that take no arguments are constants. They can only store a fixed type and amount of data. So, in the `Bool` datatype, for example, `Bool` is a type constant, a concrete type that isn't waiting for any additional information in the form of an argument in order to be fully realized as a type. It enumerates two values that are also constants, `True` and `False`, because they take no arguments. While we call `True` and `False` “data constructors”, in fact since they take no arguments, their value is already established and not being constructed in any meaningful sense.

However, sometimes we need the flexibility of allowing different types or amounts of data to be stored in our datatypes. For those times, type and data constructors may be parametric. When a constructor takes an argument, then it's like a function in at least one sense – it must be *applied* to become a concrete type or value. The following datatypes are pseudonymous versions of real datatypes in Haskell. We've given them pseudonyms because we want to focus

on the syntax, not the semantics, for now.

```
data Trivial = Trivial'
--      [1]      [2]

data UnaryTypeCon a = UnaryValueCon a
--      [3]      [4]
```

1. Here the type constructor `Trivial` is like a constant value, but at the type level. It takes no arguments and is thus *nullary*. The Haskell Report calls these *type constants* to distinguish them from type constructors that take arguments.
2. The data constructor `Trivial'` is also like a constant value, but it exists in value, term, or runtime space. These are not three different things, but three different words for the same space that types serve to describe.
3. `UnaryTypeCon` is a type constructor of one argument. It's a constructor awaiting a type constant to be applied to, but it has no behavior in the sense that we think of functions as having. Such type-level functions exist but are not covered in this book.<sup>2</sup>
4. `UnaryValueCon` is a data constructor of one argument awaiting a value to be applied to. Again, it doesn't behave like a term-level function in the sense of performing an operation on data. It's more like a box to put values into. Be careful with the box/container analogy as it will betray you later – not all type arguments to constructors have value-level witnesses! Some are *phantom*. We will cover this in a later chapter.

Each of these datatypes only enumerates one data constructor. Whereas `Trivial'` is the only possible concrete value for type `Trivial`, `UnaryValueCon` could show up as different literal values at runtime, depending on what type of `a` it is applied to. Think back to the list datatype: at the type level, you have `a : [a]` where the `a` is a variable. At the term level, in your code, that will be applied to some type

---

<sup>2</sup>If you're interested in learning about this topic, Brent Yorgey's blog posts about type families and functional dependencies are a good place to start. <https://byorgey.wordpress.com/2010/06/29/typed-type-level-programming-in-haskell-part-i-functional-dependencies/>

of values and become, for example, `[Char]` or `[Integer]` (or list of whatever other concrete type — obviously the set of possible lists is large).

## Type constructors and kinds

Let's look again at the list datatype:

```
data [] a = [] | a : [a]
```

This must be applied to a concrete type before you have a list. We can see the parallel with functions when we look at the *kind* signature.

Kinds are the types of types, or types one level up. We represent kinds in Haskell with `*`. We know something is a fully applied, concrete type when it is represented as `*`. When it is `* -> *`, it, like a function, is still waiting to be applied.

We query the kind signature of a type constructor (not a data constructor) in GHCi with a `:kind` or `:k`. Compare the following:

```
Prelude> let f = not True
Prelude> :t f
f :: Bool

Prelude> let f x = x > 3
Prelude> :t f
f :: (Ord a, Num a) => a -> Bool
```

The first `f` takes no arguments and is not awaiting application to anything in order to produce a value, so its type signature is just a concrete type — note the lack of a function arrow. But the second `f` is awaiting application to an `x` so its type signature has a function arrow. Once we apply it to a value, it also has a concrete type:

```
Prelude> let f x = x > 3
Prelude> :t f 5
f 5 :: Bool
```

And we see that kind signatures give us similar information about type constructors:

```

Prelude> :k Bool
Bool :: *
Prelude> :k [Int]
[Int] :: *
Prelude> :k []
[] :: * -> *

```

Both `Bool` and `[Int]` are fully applied, concrete types, so their kind signatures have no function arrows. That is, they are not awaiting application to anything in order to be fully realized. The kind of `[]`, though, is `* -> *` because it still needs to be applied to a concrete type before it is itself a concrete type. This is what the *constructor* of “type constructor” is referring to.

## 11.4 Data constructors and values

We mentioned just a bit ago that the Haskell Report draws a distinction between type *constants* and type *constructors*. We can draw a similar distinction between data constructors and constant values.

```

data PugType = PugData
--    [1]          [2]

data HuskyType a = HuskyData
--          [3]          [4]

data DogueDeBordeaux doge = DogueDeBordeaux doge
--          [5]          [6]

```

1. `PugType` is the type constructor, but it takes no arguments so we can think of it as being a type *constant* because it’s really just a constant type. This is how the Haskell Report refers to such types. This type enumerates one constructor.
2. `PugData` is the only data constructor for the type `PugType`. It also happens to be a *constant value* because it takes no arguments and stands only for itself. For any function that requires a value of type `PugType`, you know that value will be `PugData`.

3. `HuskyType` is the type constructor and it takes a single parametrically polymorphic type variable as an argument. It also enumerates one data constructor.
4. `HuskyData` is the data constructor for `HuskyType`. Note that the type variable argument `a` does *not* occur as an argument to `HuskyData` or anywhere else after the `=`. That means our type argument `a` is *phantom*, or, “has no witness.” We will elaborate on this later. Here `HuskyData` is a constant value just like `PugData`.
5. `DogueDeBordeaux` is a type constructor and has a single type variable argument like `HuskyType`, but called `doge` instead of `a`. Why? Because the names of variables don’t matter. At any rate, this type also enumerates one constructor.
6. `DogueDeBordeaux` is the lone data constructor. The difference here is the `doge` type variable in the type constructor occurs also in the data constructor. Remember that, because they are the same type variable, these must agree with each other: `doge` must equal `doge`. If your type is `DogueDeBordeaux [Person]`, you must necessarily have a list of `Person` values contained in the `DogueDeBordeaux` value. But because `DogueDeBordeaux` must be applied before it’s a concrete value, its literal value at runtime can change:

```
Prelude> :t DogueDeBordeaux
DogueDeBordeaux :: doge -> DogueDeBordeaux doge
```

We can query the type of the value (not the type constructor but the data constructor – we know it can be confusing when the type constructor and the data constructor have the same name, but it’s pretty common to do that in Haskell because the compiler doesn’t confuse type names with value names the way we mortals do). It tells us that once `doge` is bound to a concrete type, then this will be a value of type `DogueDeBordeaux doge`. It isn’t a value yet, but it’s a definition for how to construct a value of that type.

Here’s how to make a value of the type of each:

```

myPug = PugData :: PugType

myHusky :: HuskyType a
myHusky = HuskyData

myOtherHusky :: Num a => HuskyType a
myOtherHusky = HuskyData

myOtherOtherHusky :: HuskyType [[[[[Int]]]]]
myOtherOtherHusky = HuskyData
-- no witness to the contrary          ^

-- This will work because the value 10 agrees
-- with the type variable being bound to Int
myDoge :: DogueDeBordeaux Int
myDoge = DogueDeBordeaux 10

-- This will not work because 10
-- cannot be reconciled with the
-- type variable being bound to String
badDoge :: DogueDeBordeaux String
badDoge = DogueDeBordeaux 10

```

Given this, we can see that constructors are how we create values of types and refer to types in type signatures. There's a parallel here between type constructors and data constructors that should be noted. We can illustrate this with a new canine-oriented datatype:

```

data Doggies a =
  Husky a
  | Mastiff a
  deriving (Eq, Show)

-- type constructor awaiting an argument
Doggies

```

Note that the kind signature for the type constructor looks like a function, and the type signature for either of its data constructors looks similar:

```
Prelude> :k Doggies
Doggies :: * -> *
-- this needs to be applied to become a
-- concrete type
```

```
Prelude> :t Husky
Husky :: a -> Doggies a
-- this needs to be applied to become a
-- concrete value
```

So the behavior of our constructors is such that if they don't take any arguments, they behave like (type or value-level) constants. If they do take arguments, they act like (type or value-level) functions that don't *do* anything, except get applied.

### Exercises: Dog Types

Given the datatypes defined in the above sections,

1. Is `Doggies` a type constructor or a data constructor?
2. What is the kind of `Doggies`?
3. What is the kind of `Doggies String`?
4. What is the type of `Husky 10`?
5. What is the type of `Husky (10 :: Integer)`?
6. What is the type of `Mastiff "Scooby Doo"`?
7. Is `DogueDeBordeaux` a type constructor or a data constructor?
8. What is the type of `DogueDeBordeaux`?
9. What is the type of `DogueDeBordeaux "doggie!"`?

## 11.5 What's a type and what's data?

As we've said, types are static and resolve at compile time. Types are known before runtime, whether through explicit declaration or type inference, and that's what makes them static types. Information



about types does not persist through to runtime. Data are what we're working with at runtime.

Here compile time is literally when your program is getting compiled by GHC or checked before execution in a REPL like GHCi. Runtime is the actual execution of your program. Types circumscribe values and in that way, they describe which values are flowing through what parts of your program.

```
type constructors --    compile-time

-----          phase separation

data constructors --    runtime
```

Both data constructors and type constructors begin with capital letters, but a constructor *before* the = in a datatype definition is a type constructor, while constructors *after* the = are data constructors. Data constructors are usually generated by the declaration. One tricky bit here is that when data constructors take arguments, those arguments refer to *other types*. Because of this, not everything referred to in a datatype declaration is necessarily *generated* by that datatype itself. Let's take a look at a short example with different datatypes to demonstrate what we mean by this.

We start with a datatype `Price` that has one type constructor, one data constructor, and one type argument in the data constructor:

```
data Price =
  --      (a)
  Price Integer deriving (Eq, Show)
-- (b)    [1]

-- type constructor (a)
-- data constructor (b)
-- type argument [1]
```

The value `Price` does not depend solely on this datatype definition. It depends on the type `Integer` as well. If, for some reason, `Integer` wasn't in scope, we'd be unable to generate `Price` values.

Next, we'll define two datatypes, `Manufacturer` and `Airline`, that are each sum types with three data constructors. Each data constructor in these is a possible value of that type, and since none of them take arguments, all are generated by their declarations and are more like constant values than constructors:

```
data Manufacturer =
  --      (c)
      Mini
  --      (d)
  | Mazda
  --      (e)
  | Tata
  --      (f)
      deriving (Eq, Show)

-- one type constructor (c)
-- three data constructors (d), (e), and (f)

data Airline =
  --      (g)
      PapuAir
  --      (h)
  | CatapultsR'Us
  --      (i)
  | TakeYourChancesUnited
  --      (j)
      deriving (Eq, Show)

-- one type constructor (g).
-- three data constructors, (h), (i), and (j)
```

Next we'll look at another sum type, but this one has data constructors that take arguments. For the type `Vehicle`, the data constructors are `Car` and `Plane`, so a `Vehicle` is either a `Car` value or a `Plane` value. They each take types as arguments, just as `Price` itself took the type `Integer` as an argument:

```

data Vehicle = Car Manufacturer Price
--      (k)      (l)      [2]      [3]
--      | Plane Airline
--      (m)      [4]
--      deriving (Eq, Show)

-- type constructor (k)
-- two data constructors (l) and (m).
-- three type arguments [2], [3], and [4]
-- two type arguments to (l) are [2] and [3]
-- type argument to (m) is [4]

```

In the above, the datatypes are generating the constructors marked with a letter. The type arguments marked with a number existed prior to the declarations. Their definitions exist outside of this declaration, and they must be in scope to be used as part of this declaration.

Each of the above datatypes has a *deriving clause*. We have seen this before, as it is almost always true that you will want to derive an instance of `Show` for any datatype you write. The instance allows your data to be printed to the screen as a string. Deriving `Eq` is also common and allows you to derive equality operations automatically for most datatypes where that would make sense. There are other typeclasses that allow derivation in this manner, and it obviates the need for manually writing instances for each datatype and typeclass (reminder: you saw an example of this in the Typeclasses chapter).

As we've seen, data constructors can take arguments. Those arguments will be specific types, but not specific values. In standard Haskell, we cannot quotient out or choose specific inhabitants (values) of types as arguments. You can't say, "Bool without the possibility of `False` as a value." If you accept `Bool` as a valid type for a function or as the component of a datatype, you must accept all of `Bool`.

### Exercises: Vehicles

For these exercises, we'll use the datatypes defined in the above section. It would be good if you'd typed them all into a source file already, but if you hadn't please do so now. You can then define some sample data on your own, or use these to get you started:

```

myCar    = Car Mini (Price 14000)
urCar    = Car Mazda (Price 20000)
clownCar = Car Tata (Price 7000)
doge     = Plane PapuAir

```

1. What is the type of `myCar`?
2. Given the following, define the functions:

```

isCar :: Vehicle -> Bool
isCar = undefined

```

```

isPlane :: Vehicle -> Bool
isPlane = undefined

```

```

areCars :: [Vehicle] -> [Bool]
areCars = undefined

```

3. Now we're going to write a function to tell us the manufacturer of a piece of data:

```

getManu :: Vehicle -> Manufacturer
getManu = undefined

```

4. Given that we're returning the `Manufacturer`, what will happen if you use this on `Plane` data?
5. All right. Let's say you've decided to add the size of the plane as an argument to the `Plane` constructor. Add that to your datatypes in the appropriate places and change your data and functions appropriately.

## 11.6 Data constructor arities

Now that we have a good understanding of the anatomy of datatypes, we want to start demonstrating why we call them “algebraic.” We’ll start by looking at something called *arity*. Arity refers to the number of arguments a function or constructor takes. A function that takes no arguments is called *nullary*, where nullary is a contraction of “null” and “-ary”. Null means zero, the “-ary” suffix means “of or pertaining

to”. “-ary” is a common suffix used when talking about mathematical arity, such as with nullary, unary, binary, and the like.

Data constructors which take no arguments are also called nullary. Nullary data constructors, such as `True` and `False`, are constant values at the term level and, since they have no arguments, they can’t construct or represent any data other than themselves. They are values which stand for themselves and act as a witness of the datatype they were declared in.

We’ve said that “A type can be thought of as an enumeration of constructors that have zero or *more* arguments,” so it stands to reason that not all data constructors are nullary. You have seen examples of data constructors that take one or more arguments, but we haven’t made too much of it yet.

Earlier in this chapter, we saw how data constructors may take arguments and that makes them more like a function in that they must be applied to something before you have a value. Data constructors that take one argument are called *unary*. As we will see later in this chapter, data constructors that take more than one argument are called *products*.

All of the following are valid data declarations:

```
-- nullary
data Example0 =
  Example0 deriving (Eq, Show)

-- unary
data Example1 =
  Example1 Int deriving (Eq, Show)

-- product of Int and String
data Example2 =
  Example2 Int String deriving (Eq, Show)

Prelude> Example0
Example0
Prelude> Example1 10
Example1 10
Prelude> Example1 10 == Example1 42
```

```
False
Prelude> Example2 10 "FlappityBat" == Example2 1 "NC"
False
```

Our `Example2` is an example of a *product*. Another example of a data constructor that takes multiple arguments is the tuple, which can take several arguments – as many as there are inhabitants of each tuple – and for that reason, tuples can be called *anonymous products*. We'll talk more about product types soon.

Unary (one argument) data constructors contain a single value of whatever type their argument was. The following is a data declaration that contains the data constructor `MyVal`. `MyVal` takes one `Int` argument and creates a type named `MyType`:

```
data MyType = MyVal Int deriving (Eq, Show)
-- [1]      [2]  [3] [4]      [5]
```

1. Type constructor.
2. Data constructor. `MyVal` takes one type argument, so it is called a *unary* data constructor.
3. Type argument to the definition of the data constructor from [2].
4. Deriving clause.
5. Typeclass instances being derived. We're getting equality `Eq` and value stringification `Show` for free.

```
Prelude> data MyType = MyVal Int deriving (Eq, Show)
Prelude> :t MyVal
MyVal :: Int -> MyType
Prelude> MyVal 10
MyVal 10
Prelude> MyVal 10 == MyVal 10
True
Prelude> MyVal 10 == MyVal 9
False
```

Because `MyVal` has one `Int` argument, a value of type `MyType` must contain one – only one – `Int` value.

## 11.7 What makes these datatypes algebraic?

Algebraic datatypes in Haskell are algebraic because we can describe the patterns of argument structures using two basic operations: sum and product. The most direct way to explain why they're called sum and product is to demonstrate sum and product in terms of *cardinality*. This can be understood in terms of the cardinality you see with finite sets.<sup>3</sup> This doesn't map perfectly as we can have infinite data structures in Haskell, but it's a good way to begin understanding and appreciating how datatypes work. When it comes to programming languages we are concerned with *computable* functions, not just those which can generate a set.

The cardinality of a datatype is the number of possible values it defines. That number can be as small as 0 or as large as infinite (for example, numeric datatypes, lists). Knowing how many possible values inhabit a type can help you reason about your programs. In the following sections we'll show you how to calculate the cardinality of a given datatype based solely on how it is defined. From there, we can determine how many different *possible* implementations there are of a function for a given type signature.

Before we get into the specifics of how to calculate cardinality in general, we're going to take cursory glances at some datatypes with easy to understand cardinalities: `Bool` and `Int`.

We've looked extensively at the `Bool` type already so you already know it only has two inhabitants that are both nullary data constructors, so `Bool` only has two possible values. The cardinality of `Bool` is, therefore, 2. Even without understanding the rules of cardinality of sum types, we can see why this is true.

Another set of datatypes with cardinality that is reasonably easy to understand are the `Int` types. In part this is because `Int` and related types `Int8`, `Int16`, and `Int32` have clearly delineated upper and lower bounds, defined by the amount of memory they are permitted to use. We'll use `Int8` here, even though it isn't very common in Haskell, just because it has the smallest set of possible inhabitants and thus the

---

<sup>3</sup> Type theory was developed as an alternative mathematical foundation to set theory. We won't write formal proofs based on this, but the way we reason informally about types as programmers derives in part from their origins as sets. Finite sets contain a number of unique objects; that number is called cardinality.

arithmetic is a bit easier to do. Valid `Int8` values are whole numbers from -128 to 127.

`Int8` is not included in the standard Prelude, unlike standard `Int`, so we need to import it to see it in the REPL, but after we do that we can use the `maxBound` and `minBound` functions from the `Bounded` typeclass to view the upper and lower values:

```
Prelude> import Data.Int

Prelude Data.Int> minBound :: Int8
-128
Prelude Data.Int> maxBound :: Int8
127
```

Given that this range includes the value 0, we can easily figure out the cardinality of `Int8` with some quick addition:  $128 + 127 + 1 = 256$ . So the cardinality of `Int8` is 256. Anywhere in your code where you'd have a value of type `Int8`, there are 256 possible runtime values.

### Exercises: Cardinality

While we haven't explicitly described the rules for calculating the cardinality of datatypes yet, you might already have an idea of how to do it for simple datatypes with nullary constructors. Try not to overthink these exercises – you can probably intuitively grasp what the cardinality is based just on what you know.

1. `data PugType = PugData`
2. For this one, recall that `Bool` is also defined with the `|`:

```
data Airline =
    PapuAir
  | CatapultsR'Us
  | TakeYourChancesUnited
```

3. Given what we know about `Int8`, what's the cardinality of `Int16`?
4. Use the REPL and `maxBound` and `minBound` to examine `Int` and `Integer`. What can you say about the cardinality of those types?
5. Extra credit (impress your friends!): What's the connection between the 8 in `Int8` and that type's cardinality of 256?



## Simple datatypes with nullary data constructors

We'll start our exploration of cardinality by looking at datatypes with nullary data constructors:

```
data Example = MakeExample deriving Show
```

Example is our type constructor, and MakeExample is our only data constructor. Since MakeExample takes no type arguments, it is a nullary constructor. We know that nullary data constructors are constants and represent only themselves as values. It is a single value whose only content is its name, not any other data. Nullary constructors represent *one* value when reasoning about the cardinality of the types they inhabit.

All you can say about MakeExample is that the constructor is the value MakeExample and that it inhabits the type Example.

There the only inhabitant is MakeExample. Given that MakeExample is a single nullary value, so the cardinality of the type Example is 1. This is useful because it tells us that any time we see Example in the type signature of a function, we only have to reason about one possible value.

## Exercises: For Example

1. You can query the type of a value in GHCi with the `:type` command, also abbreviated `:t`. Example:

```
Prelude> :t False
False :: Bool
```

What is the type of data constructor MakeExample? What happens when you request the type of Example?

2. What if you try `:info` on Example in GHCi? Can you determine what typeclass instances are defined for the Example type using `:info` in GHCi?
3. Try making a new datatype like Example but with a single type argument added to MakeExample, such as Int. What has changed when you query MakeExample with `:type` in GHCi?

## Unary constructors

In the last section, we asked you to add a single type argument to the `MakeExample` data constructor. In doing so, you changed it from a nullary constructor to a unary one. A unary type constructor takes one argument. That argument will be a type, not a value. Now, instead of your constructor being a constant, or a known value, the value will be constructed at runtime from the type argument, as we demonstrated earlier.

Datatypes that only contain a unary constructor always have the same cardinality as the type they contain. In the following, `Goats` has the same number of inhabitants as `Int`:

```
data Goats = Goats Int deriving (Eq, Show)
```

Anything that is a valid `Int`, must also be a valid argument to the `Goats` constructor. Anything that isn't a valid `Int` also isn't a valid count of `Goats`.

For cardinality this means unary constructors are the identity function.

## newtype

Having given considerable attention to unary data constructors, we will now look at a way to define a type that can only ever have a single unary data constructor. We use the `newtype` keyword to mark these types, as they are different from type declarations marked with the `data` keyword as well as from type synonym definitions marked by the `type` keyword. Like other datatypes that have a single unary constructor, the cardinality of a `newtype` is the same as that of the type it contains.

A `newtype` cannot be a product type, sum type, or contain nullary constructors, but it has a few advantages over a vanilla `data` declaration. One is that it has no runtime overhead, as it reuses the representation of the type it contains. It can do this because it's not allowed to be a record (product type) or tagged union (sum type). The difference between `newtype` and the type it contains is gone by the time the compiler generates the code.

To illustrate, let's say we have a function from `Int -> Bool` for checking whether we have too many goats:

## CHAPTER 11. CONTROL THE TYPES, CONTROL THE UNIVERSE

```
tooManyGoats :: Int -> Bool
tooManyGoats n = n > 42
```

We might run into a problem here if we had different limits for different sorts of livestock. What if we mixed up the `Int` value from `Cows` where we meant `Goats`? Fortunately, there's a way to address this with unary constructors:

```
newtype Goats =
  Goats Int deriving (Eq, Show)
newtype Cows =
  Cows Int deriving (Eq, Show)

-- Now we can rewrite our type to be
-- safer, pattern matching in order
-- to access the Int inside our data
-- constructor Goats.
tooManyGoats :: Goats -> Bool
tooManyGoats (Goats n) = n > 42
```

Now we can't mix up our livestock counts:

```
*Main Data.Char> tooManyGoats (Goats 43)
True
*Main Data.Char> tooManyGoats (Cows 43)
```

```
Couldn't match expected type
  'Goats' with actual type 'Cows'
In the first argument of
  'tooManyGoats', namely '(Cows 43)'
```

In the expression: `tooManyGoats (Cows 43)`

Using `newtype` can deliver other advantages related to typeclass instances. To see these, we need to compare newtypes to type synonyms and regular data declarations. We'll start with a short comparison to type synonyms.

A `newtype` is similar to a type synonym in that the representations of the named type and the type it contains are identical and any

## CHAPTER 11. CONTROL THE TYPES, CONTROL THE UNIVERSE

distinction between them is gone at compile time. So, a `String` really is a `[Char]` and `Goats` above is really an `Int`. On the surface, for the human writers and readers of code, the distinction can be helpful in tracking where data came from and what it's being used for, but the difference is irrelevant to the compiler.

However, one key contrast between a `newtype` and a type alias is that you can define typeclass instances for `newtypes` that differ from the instances for their underlying type. You can't do that for type synonyms. Let's take a look at how that works. We'll first define a typeclass called `TooMany` and an instance for `Int`:

```
class TooMany a where
  tooMany :: a -> Bool
```

```
instance TooMany Int where
  tooMany n = n > 42
```

We can use that instance in the REPL but only if we assign the type `Int` to whatever numeric literal we're passing as an argument, because numeric literals are polymorphic. That looks like this:

```
*Main> tooMany (42 :: Int)
```

Take a moment and play around with this — try leaving off the type declaration and giving it different arguments.

Now, let's say for your goat counting you wanted a special instance of `TooMany` that will have different behavior from the `Int` instance. Under the hood, `Goats` is still `Int` but the `newtype` declaration will allow you to define a custom instance:

```
newtype Goats = Goats Int deriving Show
```

```
instance TooMany Goats where
  tooMany (Goats n) = n > 43
```

Try loading this and passing different arguments to it. Does it behave differently than the `Int` instance above? Do you still need to explicitly assign a type to your numeric literals? What is the type of `tooMany`?

Here we were able to make the `Goats` newtype have an instance of `TooMany` which had different behavior than the type `Int` which it contains. We can't do this if it's just a type synonym. Don't believe us? Try it.

On the other hand, what about the case where we want to reuse the typeclass instances of the type our newtype contains? For common typeclasses built into GHC like `Eq`, `Ord`, `Enum`, and `Show` we get this facility for free, as you've seen with the `deriving` clauses in most datatypes.

For user-defined typeclasses, we can use a language pragma called "GeneralizedNewtypeDeriving". Language pragmas, also called extensions, are special instructions to the compiler. They tell the compiler to process input in ways beyond what the standard provides for. In this case, this pragma will tell the compiler to allow our newtype to rely on a typeclass instance for the type it contains. We can do this because the representations of the newtype and the type it contains are the same. Still, it is outside of the compiler's standard behavior so we must give it the special instruction to allow us to do this.

First, let's take the case of what we must do without generalized newtype deriving:

```
class TooMany a where
    tooMany :: a -> Bool

instance TooMany Int where
    tooMany n = n > 42

newtype Goats = Goats Int deriving (Eq, Show)

-- this will do the same thing as the
-- Int instance, but we still have to
-- define it separately

instance TooMany Goats where
    tooMany (Goats n) = tooMany n
```

You can test this yourself to see that they'll return the same answers.

Now we'll add the pragma at the top of our source file:

```
{-# LANGUAGE GeneralizedNewtypeDeriving #-}
```

```
class TooMany a where
  tooMany :: a -> Bool
```

```
instance TooMany Int where
  tooMany n = n > 42
```

```
newtype Goats =
  Goats Int deriving (Eq, Show, TooMany)
```

Now we don't have to define an instance of `TooMany` for `Goats` that's merely identical to the `Int` instance. We can reuse the instance that we already have.

This is also nice for times when we want every typeclass instance to be the same *except* for the one we want to change.

### Exercises: Logic Goats

1. Reusing the `TooMany` typeclass, write an instance of the typeclass for the type `(Int, String)`. This will require adding a language pragma named `FlexibleInstances`<sup>4</sup> *if* you do not use a newtype — GHC will tell you what to do.
2. Make another `TooMany` instance for `(Int, Int)`. Sum the values together under the assumption this is a count of goats from two fields.
3. Make another `TooMany` instance, this time for `(Num a, TooMany a) => (a, a)`. This can mean whatever you want, such as summing the two numbers together.

## 11.8 Sum types

Now that we've looked at data constructor arities, we're ready to define the algebra of algebraic datatypes. The first that we'll look at is the *sum type*. We've seen sum types previously, such as `Bool`:

```
data Bool = False | True
```

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/haskell-prime/wiki/FlexibleInstances>

## CHAPTER 11. CONTROL THE TYPES, CONTROL THE UNIVERSE

We've mentioned previously that the `|` represents logical disjunction – that is, “or.” This is the *sum* in algebraic datatypes. To know the cardinality of sum types, we *add* the cardinalities of their data constructors. `True` and `False` take no type arguments and thus are nullary constructors, each with a value of 1.

Now we do some arithmetic. As we said earlier, nullary constructors are 1, and sum types are + or addition when we are talking about cardinality:

```
-- How many values inhabit Bool?
data Bool = False | True

-- okay lets drop the type constructor for now
-- ?? stands in for our cardinality
True | False = ??

-- Given that |, the sum
-- type syntax, is + or addition
True + False == ??

-- and that False and True both == 1
1 + 1 == ??

-- We see that the cardinality of Bool is
1 + 1 == 2

-- List of all possible counts for Bool
[True, False] -- length is 2
```

From this, we see that when working with a `Bool` value we must reason about two possible values. Sum types are a way of expressing alternate possibilities within a single datatype.

Signed 8-bit hardware integers in Haskell are defined using the aforementioned `Int8` datatype with a range of values from -128 to 127. It's not defined this way, but you could think of it as a sum type of the numbers in that range, leading to the cardinality of 256 as we saw.

**Exercises: Pity the Bool**

1. Given a datatype

```
data BigSmall =
  Big Bool
  | Small Bool
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

What is the cardinality of this datatype? Hint: We already know `Bool`'s cardinality. Show your work as demonstrated earlier.

2. Given a datatype

```
-- needed to have Int8 in scope
import Data.Int

data NumberOrBool =
  Numba Int8
  | BoolyBool Bool
  deriving (Eq, Show)

-- Example use of Numba, parentheses due to
-- syntactic collision between (-) minus and
-- the negate function
let myNumba = Numba (-128)
```

What is the cardinality of `NumberOrBool`? What happens if you try to create a `Numba` with a numeric literal larger than 127? And with a numeric literal smaller than (-128)?

If you choose (-128) for a value precisely, you'll notice you get a spurious warning:

```
Prelude> let n = Numba (-128)
Literal 128 is out of the Int8 range -128..127
If you are trying to write a large negative
literal, use NegativeLiterals
```

Now, since -128 is a perfectly valid `Int8` value you could choose to ignore this. What happens is that `(-128)` desugars into `(negate`



128). The compiler sees that you expect the type `Int8`, but `Int8`'s `maxBound` is 127. So even though you're negating 128, it hasn't done that step yet and *immediately* whines about 128 being larger than 127. One way to avoid the warning is the following:

```
Prelude> let n = (-128)
Prelude> let x = Numba n
```

Or you can use the `NegativeLiterals` extension as it recommends:

```
Prelude> :set -XNegativeLiterals
Prelude> let n = Numba (-128)
```

Note that the negative literals extension doesn't prevent the warning if you use `negate`.

## 11.9 Product types

What does it mean for a type to be a product? A product type's cardinality is the *product* of the cardinality of its inhabitants. Arithmetically, products are *multiplication*. Where a sum type was expressing *or*, a product type expresses *and*.

For those that have programmed in C-like languages before, a product is like a struct. For those that haven't, a product is a way to carry multiple values around in a single data constructor. Any data constructor with two or more type arguments is a product.

If that seems confusing, think for a moment about tuples. We said previously that tuples are anonymous products. The declaration of the tuple type looks like this:

```
( , ) :: a -> b -> (a, b)
```

This is a product, like a product type: it gives you a way to encapsulate two pieces of data, of possibly (though not necessarily) different types, in a single value.

We'll look next at a somewhat silly sum type:

```
data QuantumBool = QuantumTrue
                  | QuantumFalse
                  | QuantumBoth deriving (Eq, Show)
```

What is the cardinality of this sum type?

For reasons that will become obvious, a cardinality of 2 makes it harder to show the difference between sum and product cardinality, so `QuantumBool` has a cardinality of 3. Now we're going to define a product type that contains two `QuantumBool` values:

```
data TwoQs =
  MkTwoQs QuantumBool QuantumBool
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

The datatype `TwoQs` has one data constructor, `MkTwoQs`, that takes two arguments, making it a product of the two types that inhabit it. Each argument is of type `QuantumBool`, which has a cardinality of 3.

You can write this out to help you visualize it if you like. A `MkTwoQs` value could be:

```
MkTwoQs QuantumTrue QuantumTrue
MkTwoQs QuantumTrue QuantumFalse
MkTwoQs QuantumTrue QuantumBoth
MkTwoQs QuantumFalse QuantumFalse
-- ..... and so on
```

Note that there is no special syntax denoting product types as there was with sums and `|`. `MkTwoQs` is a data constructor taking two type arguments, which both happen to be the same type. It is a product type, the product of two `QuantumBools`. The number of potential values that can manifest in this type is the cardinality of one of its type arguments times the cardinality of the other. So, what is the cardinality of `TwoQs`?

We could have also written the `TwoQs` type using a *type alias* and the tuple data constructor. Type aliases create type constructors, not data constructors:

```
type TwoQs = (QuantumBool, QuantumBool)
```

The cardinality of this will be the same as it was previously.

The reason it's important to understand cardinality is that the cardinality of a datatype roughly equates to how difficult it is to reason about.

## Record syntax

Records in Haskell are product types with additional syntax to provide convenient accessors to fields within the record. Let's begin by defining a simple product type:

```
data Person = MkPerson String Int deriving (Eq, Show)
```

That is the familiar product type structure: the `MkPerson` data constructor takes two type arguments in its definition, a `String` value (a name) and an `Int` value (an age). The cardinality of this is frankly terrifying.

As we've seen in previous examples, we can unpack the contents of this type using functions that return the value we want from our little box of values:

```
-- these are just sample data
jm = MkPerson "julie" 108
ca = MkPerson "chris" 16

namae :: Person -> String
namae (MkPerson s _) = s
```

If you use the `namae` function in your REPL, it will return just the `String` value from your data.

Now let's see how we could define a similar product type but with record syntax:

```
data Person =
  Person { name :: String
          , age :: Int }
          deriving (Eq, Show)
```

You can see the similarity to the `Person` type defined above, but defining it as a record means there are now named record field accessors. They're just functions that go from `ProductType -> member of product`:

```
Prelude> :t name
name :: Person -> String
Prelude> :t age
age :: Person -> Int
```

You can use this directly in GHCi:

```
Prelude> Person "Papu" 5
Person {name = "Papu", age = 5}

Prelude> let papu = Person "Papu" 5
Prelude> age papu
5
Prelude> name papu
"Papu"
```

You can also do it from data that is in a file. Change the `jm` and `ca` data above so that it is now of type `Person`, reload your source file, and try using the record field accessors in GHCi to query the values.

### Exercises: Jammin

Here we've started working on datatypes to keep track of Julie's homemade jam output, with an `Int` value to represent how many jars she's canned:

```
data Fruit =
    Peach
  | Plum
  | Apple
  | Blackberry
  deriving (Eq, Show)

data JamJars =
    Jam Fruit Int
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

## CHAPTER 11. CONTROL THE TYPES, CONTROL THE UNIVERSE

1. Let's make a module for this. Name your module at the top of the file:

```
module Jammin where
```

2. Rewrite JamJars with record syntax.
3. What is the cardinality of JamJars?
4. Add Ord instances to your deriving clauses.
5. You can use the record field accessors in other functions as well. To demonstrate this, work up some sample data that has a count of the types and numbers of jars of jam in the rows in our pantry (you can define more data than this if you like):

```
row1 = undefined  
row2 = undefined  
row3 = undefined  
row4 = undefined  
row5 = undefined  
row6 = undefined  
allJam = [row1, row2, row3, row4, row5, row6]
```

Now over that list of data, we can map the field accessor for the Int value and see a list of the numbers for each row.

6. Write a function that will return the total number of jars of jam.
7. Write a function that will tell you which row has the most jars of jam in it. It should return a result like this, though the fruit and number will vary depending on how you defined your data:

```
*Jammin> mostRow  
Jam {fruit = Apple, jars = 10}
```

8. Under your module name, import the module called Data.List. It includes some standard functions called sortBy and groupBy that will allow us to organize our list of jams. Look at their type signatures because there are some important differences between them.

9. You'll want to sort the list `allJams` by the first field in each record. You may (or may not) want to use the following helper function as part of that:

```
compareKind (Jam k _) (Jam k' _) = compare k k'
```

10. Now take the sorting function and use `groupBy` to group the jams by the type of fruit they are made from. You'll later want the ability to sum the sublists separately, so you're looking for a result that is a list of lists (again, the actual data in your list will depend on how you defined it):

```
*Jammin> groupJam
[ [ Jam {fruit = Peach, jars = 5}
  , Jam {fruit = Peach, jars = 3} ]
, [ Jam {fruit = Plum, jars = 8}
  , Jam {fruit = Plum, jars = 4} ]
, [ Jam {fruit = Apple, jars = 10} ]
, [ Jam {fruit = Blackberry, jars = 7}
  , Jam {fruit = Blackberry, jars = 4} ] ]
```

### 11.10 Normal form

We've looked at the algebra behind Haskell's algebraic datatypes, and explored how this is useful for understanding the cardinality of datatypes. But the algebra doesn't stop there. All the existing algebraic rules for products and sums apply in type systems, and that includes the *distributive* property. Let's take a look at how that works in arithmetic:

```
2 * (3 + 4)
2 * (7)
14
```

We can rewrite this with the multiplication distributed over the addition and obtain the same result:

```
2 * 3 + 2 * 4
(6) + (8)
14
```

This is known as a “sum of products.” In normal arithmetic, the expression is in normal form when it’s been reduced to a final result. However, if you think of the numerals in the above expressions as representations of set cardinality, then the sum of products expression is in normal form, as there is no computation to perform.

The distributive property can be generalized:

$$a * (b + c) \rightarrow (a * b) + (a * c)$$

And this is true of Haskell’s types as well! Product types distribute over sum types. To play with this, we’ll first define some datatypes:

```
data Fiction = Fiction deriving Show
data Nonfiction = Nonfiction deriving Show

data BookType = FictionBook Fiction
               | NonfictionBook Nonfiction
               deriving Show
```

We define two types with only single, nullary inhabitants: Fiction and Nonfiction. The reasons for doing that may not be immediately clear but recall that we said you can’t use a type but only permit one of its inhabitants as a possible value. You can’t ask for a value of type `Bool` while declaring in your types that it must always be `True` – you must permit the possibility of either `Bool` value. So, declaring the Fiction and Nonfiction types will allow us to factor out the book types (below).

Then we have a sum type, `BookType`, with constructors that take the Fiction and Nonfiction *types* as arguments. It’s important to remember that, although the type constructors and data constructors of Fiction and Nonfiction have the same name, they are not the same, and it is the type constructors that are the arguments to `FictionBook` and `NonfictionBook`. If you’d like, take a moment and rename them to demonstrate this to yourself.

So, we have our sum type. Next we’re going to define a type synonym called `AuthorName` and a product type called `Author`. The type synonym doesn’t really do anything except help us keep track of which `String` we’re using in the `Author` type:

## CHAPTER 11. CONTROL THE TYPES, CONTROL THE UNIVERSE

```
type AuthorName = String
```

```
data Author = Author (AuthorName, BookType)
```

This isn't a sum of products, so it isn't normal form. It can, in some sense, be evaluated to tease apart the values that are hiding in the sum type, `BookType`. Again, we can apply the distributive property and rewrite `Author` in normal form:

```
type AuthorName = String
```

```
data Author =  
    Fiction AuthorName  
  | Nonfiction AuthorName  
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

Products distribute over sums. Just as we would do with the expression  $a * (b + c)$ , where the inhabitants of the sum type `BookType` are the `b` and `c`, we broke those values out and made a sum of products. Now it's in normal form because no further evaluation can be done of these constructors until some operation or computation is done using these types.

Another example of normal form can be found in the `Expr` type which is very common to papers about type systems and programming languages:

```
data Expr =  
    Number Int  
  | Add Expr Expr  
  | Minus Expr  
  | Mult Expr Expr  
  | Divide Expr Expr
```

This is in normal form because it's a sum (type) of products:  $(\text{Number Int}) + \text{Add (Expr Expr)} + \dots$

A stricter interpretation of normal form or “sum of products” would require representing products with tuples and sums with `Either`. The previous datatype in that form would look like the following:



```

type Number = Int
type Add = (Expr, Expr)
type Minus = Expr
type Mult = (Expr, Expr)
type Divide = (Expr, Expr)

type Expr =
  Either Number
    (Either Add
      (Either Minus
        (Either Mult Divide)))

```

This representation finds applications in problems where one is writing functions or *folds* over the representations of datatypes, such as with generics and metaprogramming. Some of these methods have their application in Haskell but should be used judiciously and aren't always easy to use for beginners.

The `Either` type will be explained in detail in the next chapter.

### Exercises: How Does Your Garden Grow?

1. Given the type

```

data FlowerType = Gardenia
                | Daisy
                | Rose
                | Lilac
                deriving Show

```

```

type Gardener = String

```

```

data Garden =
  Garden Gardener FlowerType
  deriving Show

```

What is the normal form of `Garden`?

## 11.11 Constructing and deconstructing values

There are essentially two things we can do with a value. We can generate or construct it or we can match on it and consume it. We talked above about why data and type constructors are called *constructors*, and this section will elaborate on that and how to construct values of different types.

Construction and deconstruction of values form a duality. Data is immutable in Haskell, so values carry with them the information about how they were created. We can use that information when we consume or deconstruct the value.

We'll start by defining a collection of datatypes:

```
data GuessWhat =
  Chickenbutt deriving (Eq, Show)

data Id a =
  MkId a deriving (Eq, Show)

data Product a b =
  Product a b deriving (Eq, Show)

data Sum a b =
  First a
  | Second b
  deriving (Eq, Show)

data RecordProduct a b =
  RecordProduct { pfirst  :: a
                  , psecond :: b }
                  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

Now that we have different sorts of datatypes to work with, we'll move on to constructing values of those types.

### Sum and Product

Here Sum and Product are ways to represent arbitrary sums and products in our types. In ordinary Haskell code it's unlikely you'd

## CHAPTER 11. CONTROL THE TYPES, CONTROL THE UNIVERSE

need or want nestable sums and products unless you were doing something fairly advanced, but here we use them as a means of demonstration.

If we have just two values in a product, then the conversion to using `Product` is straightforward (n.b.: The `Sum` and `Product` declarations from above will need to be in scope for all the following examples):

```
-- if the counts could overflow,  
-- then the farm can afford the  
-- programmer time to convert  
-- the system
```

```
newtype NumCow =  
  NumCow Int  
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
newtype NumPig =  
  NumPig Int  
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
data Farmhouse =  
  Farmhouse NumCow NumPig  
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
type Farmhouse' = Product NumCow NumPig
```

`Farmhouse` and `Farmhouse'` are the same.

For an example with three values in the product instead of two, we must begin to take advantage of the fact that `Product` takes two arguments, one of which can also be another `Product` of values. In fact, you can nest them as far as you can stomach or the compiler chokes:

## CHAPTER 11. CONTROL THE TYPES, CONTROL THE UNIVERSE

```
newtype NumSheep =  
    NumSheep Int  
    deriving (Eq, Show)  
  
data BigFarmhouse =  
    BigFarmhouse NumCow NumPig NumSheep  
    deriving (Eq, Show)  
  
type BigFarmhouse' =  
    Product NumCow (Product NumPig NumSheep)
```

We can perform a similar trick with `Sum`:

## CHAPTER 11. CONTROL THE TYPES, CONTROL THE UNIVERSE

```
type Name = String
type Age = Int
type LovesMud = Bool

-- Sheep can produce between 2 and 30
-- pounds (0.9 and 13 kilos) of wool per year!
-- Icelandic sheep don't produce as much
-- wool per year as other breeds but the
-- wool they do produce is a finer wool.
```

```
type PoundsOfWool = Int
```

```
data CowInfo =
  CowInfo Name Age
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
data PigInfo =
  PigInfo Name Age LovesMud
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
data SheepInfo =
  SheepInfo Name Age PoundsOfWool
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
data Animal =
  Cow CowInfo
  | Pig PigInfo
  | Sheep SheepInfo
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
-- Alternately
```

```
type Animal' =
  Sum CowInfo (Sum PigInfo SheepInfo)
```

Again in the REPL, we use `First` and `Second` to pattern match on the data constructors of `Sum`:

## CHAPTER 11. CONTROL THE TYPES, CONTROL THE UNIVERSE

```
-- Getting it right
Prelude> let bess = First (CowInfo "Bess" 4) :: Animal'

Prelude> let elmer' = Second (SheepInfo "Elmer" 5 5)
Prelude> let elmer = Second elmer' :: Animal'

-- Making a mistake
Prelude> let elmo' = Second (SheepInfo "Elmo" 5 5)
Prelude> let elmo = First elmo' :: Animal'
```

```
Couldn't match expected type 'CowInfo'
      with actual type 'Sum a0 SheepInfo'
In the first argument of 'First', namely
  '(Second (SheepInfo "Elmo" 5 5))'
In the expression:
  First (Second (SheepInfo "Elmo" 5 5)) :: Animal'
```

The first data constructor, `First`, has the argument `CowInfo`, but `SheepInfo` is nested within the `Second` constructor (it is the `Second` of the `Second`). We can see how they don't match and the mistaken attempt nests in the wrong direction.

```
Prelude> :t First (Second (SheepInfo "Baaaaa" 5 5))
First (Second (SheepInfo "Baaaaa" 5 5))
  :: Sum (Sum a SheepInfo) b

Prelude> :info Animal'
type Animal' = Sum CowInfo (Sum PigInfo SheepInfo)
  -- Defined at code/animalFarm1.hs:61:1
```

As we said, the actual types `Sum` and `Product` themselves aren't used very often in standard Haskell code, but it can be useful to develop an intuition about this structure to sum and product types.

### Constructing values

Our first datatype, `GuessWhat`, is trivial, equivalent to the `()` unit type:

```
trivialValue :: GuessWhat
trivialValue = Chickenbutt
```

## CHAPTER 11. CONTROL THE TYPES, CONTROL THE UNIVERSE

Types like this are sometimes used to signal discrete concepts that you don't want to flatten into the unit type. We'll elaborate on how this can make code easier to understand or better abstracted later. Nothing special in the syntax here. We just define `trivialValue` to be the nullary data constructor `Chickenbutt` and we have a value of the type `GuessWhat`.

Next we look at a unary type constructor that contains one unary data constructor:

```
data Id a =  
  MkId a deriving (Eq, Show)
```

Because `Id` has an argument, we have to apply it to something before we can construct a value of that type:

```
-- note:  
-- MkId :: a -> Id a
```

```
idInt :: Id Integer  
idInt = MkId 10
```

As we've said throughout the book, one of the functional parts of functional programming is that functions themselves are merely values. So we can also do this:

```
idIdentity :: Id (a -> a)  
idIdentity = MkId $ \x -> x
```

This is a little odd. The type `Id` takes an argument and the data constructor `MkId` takes an argument of the corresponding polymorphic type. So, in order to have a value of type `Id Integer`, we need to apply `a -> Id a` to an `Integer` value. This binds the `a` type variable to `Integer` and applies away the `(->)` in the type constructor, giving us `Id Integer`. We can also construct a `MkId` value that is an identity function by binding the `a` to a polymorphic function in both the type and the term level.

Moving along, we turn our attention to our product type with two arguments. We're going to define some type synonyms first to make this more readable:

## CHAPTER 11. CONTROL THE TYPES, CONTROL THE UNIVERSE

```
type Awesome = Bool
type Name = String

person :: Product Name Awesome
person = Product "Simon" True
```

The type synonyms `Awesome` and `Name` here are just for clarity. They don't obligate us to change our *terms*. We could have used datatypes instead of type synonyms, as we will in the sum type example below, but this is a quick and painless way to construct the value that we need. Notice that we're relying on the `Product` data constructor that we'd defined above. The `Product` data constructor is a function of two arguments, the `Name` *and* `Awesome`. Notice, also, that Simons are invariably awesome.

Now we'll use the `Sum` type defined above:

```
data Sum a b =
  First a
| Second b
  deriving (Eq, Show)

data Twitter =
  Twitter deriving (Eq, Show)

data AskFm =
  AskFm deriving (Eq, Show)

socialNetwork :: Sum Twitter AskFm
socialNetwork = First Twitter
```

Here our type is a sum of `Twitter` *or* `AskFm`. We don't have both values at the same time without the use of a product because sums are a means of expressing disjunction or the ability to have one of several possible values. We have to use one of the data constructors generated by the definition of `Sum` in order to indicate which of the possibilities in the disjunction we mean to express. Consider the case where we mix them up:

```
Prelude> Second Twitter :: Sum Twitter AskFm
```



## CHAPTER 11. CONTROL THE TYPES, CONTROL THE UNIVERSE 19

Couldn't match expected type 'AskFm' with  
actual type 'Twitter'

In the first argument of 'Second', namely 'Twitter'  
In the expression:

```
Second Twitter :: Sum Twitter AskFm
```

```
Prelude> First AskFm :: Sum Twitter AskFm
```

Couldn't match expected type 'Twitter' with  
actual type 'AskFm'

In the first argument of 'First', namely 'AskFm'  
In the expression:

```
First AskFm :: Sum Twitter AskFm
```

The appropriate assignment of types to specific constructors is dependent on the assertions in the type. The type signature `Sum Twitter AskFm` tells you which goes with the data constructor `First` and which goes with the data constructor `Second`. We can assert that ordering directly in a datatype that is written differently like so:

```
data SocialNetwork =  
    Twitter  
    | AskFm  
    deriving (Eq, Show)
```

Now the data constructors for `Twitter` and `AskFm` are direct inhabitants of the sum type `SocialNetwork`, where before they inhabited the `Sum` type. Now let's consider how this might look with type synonyms:

## CHAPTER 11. CONTROL THE TYPES, CONTROL THE UNIVERSE

```
type Twitter = String
type AskFm = String

twitter :: Sum Twitter AskFm
twitter = First "Twitter"

-- It has no way of knowing
-- we made a mistake because
-- both values are just Strings
askfm :: Sum Twitter AskFm
askfm = First "AskFm"
```

There's a problem with the above example. The name of `askfm` implies we meant `Second "AskFm"`, but we messed up. Because we used type synonyms instead of defining datatypes, the type system didn't swat us for it! Try to avoid using type synonyms with unstructured data like text or binary. Type synonyms are best used when you want something lighter weight than newtypes but also want your type signatures to be more explicit.

Finally, we'll consider the product that uses record syntax:

```
>>> :t RecordProduct
RecordProduct :: a -> b -> RecordProduct a b

>>> :t Product
Product :: a -> b -> Product a b
```

The first thing to notice is that you can construct values of products that use record syntax in a manner identical to that of non-record products. Records are just syntax to create field references. They don't do much heavy lifting in Haskell, but they are convenient:

```
myRecord :: RecordProduct Integer Float
myRecord = RecordProduct 42 0.00001
```

We can take advantage of the fields that we defined on our record to construct values in a slightly different style. This can be convenient for making things a little more obvious:

```

myRecord :: RecordProduct Integer Float
myRecord = RecordProduct { pfirst = 42
                           , psecond = 0.00001 }

```

This is a bit more compelling when you have domain-specific names for things:

```

data OperatingSystem =
    GnuPlusLinux
  | OpenBSDPlusNevermindJustBSDStill
  | Mac
  | Windows
  deriving (Eq, Show)

```

```

data ProgrammingLanguage =
    Haskell
  | Agda
  | Idris
  | PureScript
  deriving (Eq, Show)

```

```

data Programmer =
    Programmer { os :: OperatingSystem
                 , lang :: ProgrammingLanguage }
  deriving (Eq, Show)

```

Then we can construct a value from the record product `Programmer`:

```

Prelude> :t Programmer
Programmer :: OperatingSystem
           -> ProgrammingLanguage
           -> Programmer

```

```

nineToFive :: Programmer
nineToFive = Programmer { os = Mac
                          , lang = Haskell }

-- We can reorder stuff when we use record syntax
feelingWizardly :: Programmer
feelingWizardly = Programmer { lang = Agda
                              , os = GnuPlusLinux }

```

### Exercise: Programmers

Write a function that generates all possible values of `Programmer`. Use the provided lists of inhabitants of `OperatingSystem` and `ProgrammingLanguage`.

```

allOperatingSystems :: [OperatingSystem]
allOperatingSystems =
  [ GnuPlusLinux
  , OpenBSDPlusNevermindJustBSDStill
  , Mac
  , Windows
  ]

allLanguages :: [ProgrammingLanguage]
allLanguages = [Haskell, Agda, Idris, PureScript]

allProgrammers :: [Programmer]
allProgrammers = undefined

```

Since `Programmer` is a product of `OperatingSystem` and `ProgrammingLanguage`, you can determine how many inhabitants of `Programmer` you have by calculating:

```

length allOperatingSystems * length allLanguages

```

This is the essence of how product types and the number of inhabitants relate.

If after running `nub` from `Data.List` to remove duplicate values over your `allProgrammers` value, it equals the number returned by multiplying those lengths together, you’ve probably got it figured

out. Try to be clever and make it work without manually typing out the values.

### Accidental bottoms from records

We're going to reuse the previous `Programmer` datatype to see what happens if we construct a value using record syntax but forget a field:

```
Prelude> let partialAf = Programmer {os = GnuPlusLinux}
```

```
Fields of 'Programmer' not initialised: lang
In the expression: Programmer {os = GnuPlusLinux}
In an equation for 'partialAf':
    partialAf = Programmer {os = GnuPlusLinux}
```

```
-- and if we don't heed this warning...
```

```
Prelude> partialAf
Programmer {os = GnuPlusLinux, lang =
*** Exception:
    Missing field in record construction lang
```

Do *not* do this in your code! Either define the whole record at once or not at all. If you think you need this, your code needs to be refactored. Partial application of the data constructor suffices to handle this:

## CHAPTER 11. CONTROL THE TYPES, CONTROL THE UNIVERSE<sup>5</sup>

*-- Works the same as if we'd used record syntax.*

```
data ThereYet =
  There Integer Float String Bool
  deriving (Eq, Show)

-- who needs a "builder pattern"?
nope :: Float -> String -> Bool -> ThereYet
nope = There 10

notYet :: String -> Bool -> ThereYet
notYet = nope 25.5

notQuite :: Bool -> ThereYet
notQuite = notYet "woohoo"

yusssss :: ThereYet
yusssss = notQuite False

-- Not I, said the Haskell user.
```

Notice the way our types progressed.

```
There :: Integer -> Float -> String -> Bool -> ThereYet
nope ::           Float -> String -> Bool -> ThereYet
notYet ::         String -> Bool -> ThereYet
notQuite ::       Bool -> ThereYet
yusssss ::        ThereYet
```

Percolate values through your programs, not bottoms.<sup>5</sup>

### Deconstructing values

When we discussed folds, we mentioned the idea of catamorphism.<sup>6</sup> We explained that catamorphism was about *deconstructing* lists. This idea is generally applicable to any datatype that has values. Now that

---

<sup>5</sup> A favorite snack of the North American Yeti is bottom-propagating Haskellers

we’ve thoroughly explored constructing values, the time has come to destroy what we have built. Wait, no – we mean deconstruct.

We begin, as always, with some datatypes:

```
newtype Name    = Name String deriving Show
newtype Acres   = Acres Int   deriving Show

-- FarmerType is a Sum
data FarmerType = DairyFarmer
                | WheatFarmer
                | SoybeanFarmer deriving Show

-- Farmer is a plain ole product of
-- Name, Acres, and FarmerType
data Farmer =
    Farmer Name Acres FarmerType deriving Show
```

Now we’re going to write a very basic function that breaks down and unpacks the data inside our constructors:

```
isDairyFarmer :: Farmer -> Bool
isDairyFarmer (Farmer _ _ DairyFarmer) = True
isDairyFarmer _ = False
```

DairyFarmer is one value of the FarmerType type that is packed up inside our Farmer product type. But our function can pull that value out, pattern match on it, and tell us just what we’re looking for.

Now an alternate formulation with a product that uses record syntax:

---

<sup>6</sup> Om nom nom nom

```

data FarmerRec =
  FarmerRec { name      :: Name
            , acres      :: Acres
            , farmerType :: FarmerType } deriving Show

isDairyFarmerRec :: FarmerRec -> Bool
isDairyFarmerRec farmer = case farmerType farmer of
  DairyFarmer -> True
  _            -> False

```

This is just another way of unpacking or deconstructing the contents of a product type.

### Dang it, more accidental bottoms from records

*We take bottoms very seriously.* You can easily propagate bottoms through record types, and we implore you not to do so. Please, do not do this:

```

data Automobile = Null
                | Car { make :: String
                    , model :: String
                    , year  :: Integer }
                deriving (Eq, Show)

```

This is a terrible thing to do, for a couple of reasons. One is this `Null` nonsense. Haskell offers you the perfectly lovely datatype `Maybe`, which you should use instead. Secondly, consider the case where one has a `Null` value, but you've used one of the record accessors:

```

Prelude> make Null
*** Exception: No match in record selector make

-- Don't.

```

How do we fix this? Well, first, whenever we have a product that uses record accessors, keep it separate of any sum type that is wrapping it. To do this, split out the product into an independent type with its own type constructor instead of only as an inline data constructor product:



```

-- Split out the record/product

data Car = Car { make :: String
                , model :: String
                , year :: Integer }
                deriving (Eq, Show)

-- The Null is still not great, but
-- we're leaving it in to make a point
data Automobile = Null
               | Automobile Car
               deriving (Eq, Show)

```

Now if we attempt to do something silly, the type system catches us:

```
Prelude> make Null
```

```

Couldn't match expected type 'Car'
  with actual type 'Automobile'
In the first argument of 'make', namely 'Null'
In the expression: make Null

```

In Haskell, we want the typechecker to catch us doing things wrong, so we can fix it *before* problems multiply and things go wrong at runtime. But the typechecker can best help those who help themselves.

## 11.12 Function type is exponential

In the arithmetic of calculating inhabitants of types, function type is the exponent operator. Given a function  $a \rightarrow b$ , we can calculate the inhabitants with the formula  $b^a$ .

So if  $b$  and  $a$  are `Bool`, then  $2^2$  is how you could express the number of inhabitants in a function of `Bool`  $\rightarrow$  `Bool`. Similarly, a function of `Bool` to something of 3 inhabitants would be  $3^2$  and thus have nine possible implementations.

```
a -> b -> c
```

```
(c ^ b) ^ a
```

```
-- given arithmetic laws, can be rewritten as
```

```
c ^ (b * a)
```

Earlier we identified the type `(Bool, Bool)` as having four inhabitants. This can be determined by either writing out all the possible unique inhabitants or, more easily, by doing the arithmetic of  $(1 + 1) * (1 + 1)$ . Next we'll see that the type of functions `(->)` is, in the algebra of types, the exponentiation operator. We'll use a datatype with three cases because `Bool` is kinda unfortunate: two plus two, two times two, and two to the power of two all equal the same thing. Let's review the arithmetic of sum types:

```
data Quantum =
```

```
  Yes
```

```
  | No
```

```
  | Both
```

```
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
-- 3 + 3
```

```
quantSum1 :: Either Quantum Quantum
```

```
quantSum1 = Right Yes
```

```
quantSum2 :: Either Quantum Quantum
```

```
quantSum2 = Right No
```

```
quantSum3 :: Either Quantum Quantum
```

```
quantSum3 = Right Both
```

```
quantSum4 :: Either Quantum Quantum
```

```
quantSum4 = Left Yes
```

```
-- You can fill in the next two.
```

And now the arithmetic of product types:

```

-- 3 * 3
quantProd1 :: (Quantum, Quantum)
quantProd1 = (Yes, Yes)

quantProd2 :: (Quantum, Quantum)
quantProd2 = (Yes, No)

quantProd3 :: (Quantum, Quantum)
quantProd3 = (Yes, Both)

quantProd4 :: (Quantum, Quantum)
quantProd4 = (No, Yes)

quantProd5 :: (Quantum, Quantum)
quantProd5 = (No, No)

quantProd6 :: (Quantum, Quantum)
quantProd6 = (No, Both)

quantProd7 :: (Quantum, Quantum)
quantProd7 = (Both, Yes)
-- You can determine the final two.

```

And now a function type. Each possible unique implementation of the function is an inhabitant:

```
-- 3 ^ 3
```

```
quantFlip1 :: Quantum -> Quantum
quantFlip1 Yes  = Yes
quantFlip1 No   = Yes
quantFlip1 Both = Yes
```

```
quantFlip2 :: Quantum -> Quantum
quantFlip2 Yes  = Yes
quantFlip2 No   = Yes
quantFlip2 Both = No
```

```
quantFlip3 :: Quantum -> Quantum
quantFlip3 Yes  = Yes
quantFlip3 No   = Yes
quantFlip3 Both = Both
```

```
quantFlip4 :: Quantum -> Quantum
quantFlip4 Yes  = Yes
quantFlip4 No   = No
quantFlip4 Both = Yes
```

```
quantFlip5 :: Quantum -> Quantum
quantFlip5 Yes  = Yes
quantFlip5 No   = Both
quantFlip5 Both = Yes
```

```
quantFlip6 :: Quantum -> Quantum
quantFlip6 Yes  = No
quantFlip6 No   = Yes
quantFlip6 Both = Yes
```

```
quantFlip7 :: Quantum -> Quantum
quantFlip7 Yes  = Both
quantFlip7 No   = Yes
quantFlip7 Both = Yes
```

```
quantFlip8 :: Quantum -> Quantum
quantFlip8 Yes  = Both
quantFlip8 No   = Yes
quantFlip8 Both = No
```

```
quantFlip9 :: Quantum -> Quantum
quantFlip9 Yes  = Both
quantFlip9 No   = No
quantFlip9 Both = No
```

```
quantFlip10 :: Quantum -> Quantum
quantFlip10 Yes  = Both
quantFlip10 No   = No
quantFlip10 Both = Both
```

```
-- You can figure out the remaining
-- possibilities yourself.
```

## Exponentiation in what order?

Consider the following function:

```
convert :: Quantum -> Bool
convert = undefined
```

According to the equality of  $a \rightarrow b$  and  $b^a$  there should be  $2^3$  or 8 implementations of this function. Does this hold? Write it out and prove it for yourself.

## Exercises: The Quad

Determine how many unique inhabitants each type has.

Suggestion: just do the arithmetic unless you want to verify. Writing them out gets tedious quickly.

1. `data Quad =`  
`One`  
`| Two`  
`| Three`  
`| Four`  
`deriving (Eq, Show)`  
  
`-- how many different forms can this take?`  
`eQuad :: Either Quad Quad`  
`eQuad = ???`
2. `prodQuad :: (Quad, Quad)`
3. `funcQuad :: Quad -> Quad`
4. `prodTBool :: (Bool, Bool, Bool)`
5. `gTwo :: Bool -> Bool -> Bool`
6. Hint: 5 digit number  
`fTwo :: Bool -> Quad -> Quad`

### 11.13 Higher-kinded datatypes

You may recall we discussed kinds earlier in this chapter. Kinds are the types of type constructors, primarily encoding the number of arguments they take. The default kind in Haskell is `*`. Kind signatures work like type signatures, using the same `::` and `->` syntax, but there are only a few kinds and you'll most often see `*`.

Kinds are not types until they are fully applied. Only types have inhabitants at the term level. The kind `* -> *` is waiting for a single `*` before it is fully applied. The kind `* -> * -> *` must be applied twice before it will be a real type. This is known as a higher-kinded type. Lists, for example, are higher-kinded datatypes in Haskell.

Because types can be generically polymorphic by taking type arguments, they can be applied at the type level.

## CHAPTER 11. CONTROL THE TYPES, CONTROL THE UNIVERSE

```
-- Silly polymorphic product type
-- this is identical to (a, b, c, d)
data Silly a b c d = MkSilly a b c d deriving Show
```

```
-- in GHCi
Prelude> :kind Silly
Silly :: * -> * -> * -> * -> *
```

```
Prelude> :kind Silly Int
Silly Int :: * -> * -> * -> *
```

```
Prelude> :kind Silly Int String
Silly Int String :: * -> * -> *
```

```
Prelude> :kind Silly Int String Bool
Silly Int String Bool :: * -> *
```

```
Prelude> :kind Silly Int String Bool String
Silly Int String Bool String :: *
```

```
-- Identical to (a, b, c, d)
Prelude> :kind (,,,)
(,,,) :: * -> * -> * -> * -> *
```

```
Prelude> :kind (Int, String, Bool, String)
(Int, String, Bool, String) :: *
```

Getting comfortable with higher-kinded types is important as type arguments provide a generic way to express a “hole” to be filled by consumers of your datatype later. Take the following as an example from a library the author maintains called Bloodhound.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> <http://hackage.haskell.org/package/bloodhound> If you are not a programmer and do not know what Elasticsearch and JSON are, try not to worry too much about the specifics. Elasticsearch is a search engine and JSON is a notation for transmitting data, especially between servers and web applications.

```
data EsResultFound a =
  EsResultFound { _version :: DocVersion
                  , _source  :: a
                  } deriving (Eq, Show)
```

We know that this particular kind of response from Elasticsearch will include a `DocVersion` value, so that's been assigned a type. On the other hand, `_source` has type `a` because we have no idea what the structure of the documents they're pulling from Elasticsearch look like. In practice, we do need to be able to do *something* with that value of type `a`. The thing we will want to do with it – the way we will consume or use that data – will usually be a `FromJSON` typeclass instance for deserializing JSON data into a Haskell datatype. But in Haskell, we do not conventionally put constraints on datatypes. That is, we don't want to constrain that polymorphic `a` in the datatype. The `FromJSON` typeclass will likely (assuming that's what is needed in a given context) constrain the variable in the type signature(s) for the function(s) that will process this data.

Accordingly, the `FromJSON` typeclass instance for `EsResultFound` requires a `FromJSON` instance for that `a`:

```
instance (FromJSON a) => FromJSON (EsResultFound a) where
  parseJSON (Object v) = EsResultFound <$>
    v .: "_version" <*>
    v .: "_source"
  parseJSON _          = empty
```

As you can hopefully see from this, by not fully applying the type – by leaving it higher-kinded – space is left for the type of the response to vary, for the “hole” to be filled in by the end user.

## 11.14 Lists are polymorphic

What makes a list polymorphic? In what way can it take many forms? What makes them polymorphic is that lists in Haskell can contain values of any type. You do not have an `a` until the list type's type argument has been fully applied:



```
-- Haskell definition of lists aka []
data [] a = [] | a : [a]
--   [1] [2]      [3] [4] [5] [6]
```

1. Type constructor for Haskell list, special [] syntax
2. Single type argument to [], this is the type of value our list contains
3. Nil / empty list, again special [] syntax. [] marks the end of the list.
4. A single value of type a
5. : is an infix constructor. It is a product of a [4] and [a] [6]
6. The rest of our list.

**Infix type and data constructors** When we give an operator a non-alphanumeric name, it is infix by default. For example, all the non-alphanumeric arithmetic functions are infix operators, while we have some alphanumeric arithmetic functions, such as `div` and `mod` that are prefix by default. So far, we’ve only seen alphanumeric data constructors, except for this `cons` constructor in the list type, but the same rule applies to them.

Any operator that starts with a colon (`:`) must be an infix type or data constructor. All infix data constructors must start with a colon. The type constructor of functions, `(->)`, is the only infix type constructor that doesn’t start with a colon. Another exception is that they cannot be `::` as this syntax is reserved for type assertions.

The list type in Prelude has already taken the lone colon as the data constructor for the `cons` cells, but you can add non-alphanumeric characters to get your own unique infix type or data constructor. Here’s an example of an infix data constructor:

```
data Product a b =
  a &: b
deriving (Eq, Show)
```

Then using it in the REPL:

```
Prelude> 1 :&: 2
1 :&: 2
Prelude> :t 1 :&: 2
1 :&: 2 :: (Num a, Num b) => Product a b
```

A value of type `Product` would be a product of two arguments, one of type *a* and one of type *b*.

Whether or not you choose to use infix data constructors, type constructors, or typeclass names is down to aesthetic preference.

In the following example, we'll define the list type without using an infix constructor:

```
-- Same type, but redefined with slightly different syntax
data List a = Nil | Cons a (List a)
-- [1] [2] [3] [5] [4] [6]
```

1. The `List` type constructor
2. The `a` type parameter to `List`
3. `Nil` / empty list, marks end of list as well.
4. A single value of type `a` in the `Cons` product
5. `Cons` constructor, product of `a` and `List a`
6. The rest of our list

How do we use our `List` type?

```
-- from GHCi
Prelude> let nil = Nil

-- the type parameter isn't applied because
-- Nil by itself doesn't tell the type inference
-- what the List contains.
Prelude> :t nil
nil :: List a

Prelude> let oneItem = (Cons "woohoo!" Nil)
Prelude> :t oneItem
oneItem :: List [Char]
```

And how are our list types kinded?

```
Prelude> :kind List
List :: * -> *
Prelude> :kind []
[] :: * -> *

Prelude> :kind List Int
List Int :: *
Prelude> :kind [Int]
[Int] :: *
```

Much as we can refer to the function `not` before we've applied its argument, we can refer to the type constructs `List` and `[]` before we've applied their argument:

```
Prelude> :t not
not :: Bool -> Bool
Prelude> :t not True
not True :: Bool

Prelude> :k []
[] :: * -> *
Prelude> :k [Int]
[Int] :: *
```

The difference is that the argument of `not` is any value of type `Bool`, and the argument of `[]` is any type of kind `*`. So, they're similar, but type constructors are functions one level up, structuring things that cannot exist at runtime — it's purely static and describes the structure of your types.

### 11.15 Binary Tree

Now turn our attention to a type similar to list. The type constructor for binary trees can take an argument, and it is also recursive like lists:

```
data BinaryTree a =
  Leaf
  | Node (BinaryTree a) a (BinaryTree a)
  deriving (Eq, Ord, Show)
```

This tree has a value of type  $a$  at each node. Each node could be a terminal node, called a `Leaf`, or it could branch and have two subtrees. The subtrees are also of type `BinaryTree a`, so this type is recursive. Each binary tree can store yet another binary tree, which allows for trees of arbitrary depth.

In some cases, binary trees can be more efficient for structuring and accessing data than a list, especially if you know how to order your values in a way that lets you know whether to look “left” or “right” to find what you want. On the other hand, a tree that only branches to the right is indistinguishable from an ordinary list. For now, we won’t concern ourselves too much with this as we’ll talk about the proper application of data structures later. Instead, you’re going to write some functions for processing `BinaryTree` values.

### Inserting into trees

The first thing to be aware of is that we need `Ord` in order to have enough information about our values to know how to arrange them in our tree. Accordingly, if something is lower, we want to insert it somewhere on the left-hand part of our tree. If it’s greater than the current node value, it should go somewhere to the right. Left lesser, right greater is a common convention for arranging binary trees – it could be the opposite and not really change anything, but this matches our usual intuitions of ordering as we do with, say, number lines. The point is you want to be able to know where to look in the tree for values greater or less than the current one you’re looking at.

Our `insert` function will insert a value into a tree or, if no tree exists yet, give us a means of building a tree by inserting values. It’s important to remember that data is immutable in Haskell. We do not actually insert a value into an existing tree; each time we want to insert a value into the data structure, we build a whole new tree:

```

insert' :: Ord a => a -> BinaryTree a -> BinaryTree a
insert' b Leaf = Node Leaf b Leaf
insert' b (Node left a right)
  | b == a = Node left a right
  | b < a  = Node (insert' b left) a right
  | b > a  = Node left a (insert' b right)

```

The base case in our `insert'` function serves a couple purposes. It handles inserting into an empty tree (`Leaf`) and beginning the construction of a new tree and also the case of having reached the bottom of a much larger tree. The simplicity here lets us ignore any inessential differences between those two cases.

```
-- Leaf being our "empty tree" case
```

```

Prelude> let t1 = insert' 0 Leaf
Prelude> t1
Node Leaf 0 Leaf

```

```

Prelude> let t2 = insert' 3 t1
Prelude> t2
Node Leaf 0 (Node Leaf 3 Leaf)

```

```

Prelude> let t3 = insert' 5 t2
Prelude> t3
Node Leaf 0 (Node Leaf 3 (Node Leaf 5 Leaf))

```

We will examine binary trees and their properties later in the book. For now, we want to focus not on the properties of binary trees themselves, but merely on the structure of their type. You might find the following exercises tricky or tedious, but they will deepen your intuition for how recursive types work.

### Write `map` for `BinaryTree`

Given the definition of `BinaryTree` above, write a `map` function for the data structure. We know this seems bewildering, but if you can believe it, you don't really need to know anything about binary trees to write these functions. The structure inherent in the definition of

the type is all you need. Just write the recursive functions and get it done.

No special algorithms are needed, and we don't expect you to keep the tree balanced or ordered. Also, remember that we've never once *mutated* anything. We've only built new values from input data. Given that, when you go to implement `mapTree`, you're not changing an existing tree — you're building a new one based on an existing one (just like when you are mapping functions over lists).

```
-- filling in some details to help you along
-- Note, you do *not* need to use insert' for this.
-- Retain the original structure of the tree.
```

```
mapTree :: (a -> b) -> BinaryTree a -> BinaryTree b
mapTree _ Leaf = Leaf
mapTree f (Node left a right) =
  Node undefined undefined undefined
```

```
testTree' :: BinaryTree Integer
testTree' =
  Node (Node Leaf 3 Leaf) 1 (Node Leaf 4 Leaf)
```

```
mapExpected =
  Node (Node Leaf 4 Leaf) 2 (Node Leaf 5 Leaf)
```

```
-- acceptance test for mapTree
mapOkay =
  if mapTree (+1) testTree' == mapExpected
  then print "yup okay!"
  else error "test failed!"
```

```
-- hints for implementing mapTree below this code block
```

The first pattern match in our `mapTree` function is the base case, where we have a `Leaf` value. We can't apply the `f` there because we don't have an `a`, so we ignored it. Since we have to return a value of type `BinaryTree b` whatever happens, we return a `Leaf` value.

## CHAPTER 11. CONTROL THE TYPES, CONTROL THE UNIVERSE

We return a `Node` in the second pattern match of our `mapTree` function. Note that the `Node` data constructor takes three arguments:

```
Prelude> :t Node
Node :: BinaryTree a -> a -> BinaryTree a -> BinaryTree a
```

So you need to pass it more `BinaryTree`, a single value, and more `BinaryTree`. You have the following terms available to you:

1. `f :: (a -> b)`
2. `left :: BinaryTree a`
3. `a :: a`
4. `right :: BinaryTree a`
5. `mapTree :: (a -> b) -> BinaryTree a -> BinaryTree b`

Now the `Node` return needs to have a value of type `b` and `BinaryTree` values with type `b` inside them. You have two functions at your disposal. One gets you `(a -> b)`, the other maps `BinaryTrees` of type `a` into `BinaryTrees` of type `b`. Get 'em tiger.

A few suggestions that might help you with this exercise.

1. Split out the patterns your function should match on first.
2. Implement the base case first.
3. Try manually writing out the steps of recursion at first, then collapse them into a single step that is recursive.

### Convert binary trees to lists

Write functions to convert `BinaryTree` values to lists. Make certain your implementation passes the tests.

```
preorder :: BinaryTree a -> [a]
preorder = undefined
```

```
inorder :: BinaryTree a -> [a]
inorder = undefined
```

```
postorder :: BinaryTree a -> [a]
postorder = undefined
```

```
testTree :: BinaryTree Integer
testTree = Node (Node Leaf 1 Leaf) 2 (Node Leaf 3 Leaf)
```

```
testPreorder :: IO ()
testPreorder =
  if preorder testTree == [2, 1, 3]
  then putStrLn "Preorder fine!"
  else putStrLn "Bad news bears."
```

```
testInorder :: IO ()
testInorder =
  if inorder testTree == [1, 2, 3]
  then putStrLn "Inorder fine!"
  else putStrLn "Bad news bears."
```

```
testPostorder :: IO ()
testPostorder =
  if postorder testTree == [1, 3, 2]
  then putStrLn "Postorder fine!"
  else putStrLn "postorder failed check"
```

```
main :: IO ()
main = do
  testPreorder
  testInorder
  testPostorder
```



## Write foldr for BinaryTree

Given the definition of `BinaryTree` we have provided, write a catamorphism for the binary trees.

```
-- any traversal order is fine
foldTree :: (a -> b -> b) -> b -> BinaryTree a -> b
```

## 11.16 Chapter Exercises

### Multiple choice

1. Given the following datatype:

```
data Weekday =
  Monday
  | Tuesday
  | Wednesday
  | Thursday
  | Friday
```

we can say:

- a) Weekday is a type with five data constructors
  - b) Weekday is a tree with five branches
  - c) Weekday is a product type
  - d) Weekday takes five arguments
2. and with the same datatype definition in mind, what is the type of the following function, `f`?

```
f Friday = "Miller Time"
```

- a) `f :: [Char]`
  - b) `f :: String -> String`
  - c) `f :: Weekday -> String`
  - d) `f :: Day -> Beer`
3. Types defined with the `data` keyword

- a) must have at least one argument
  - b) must begin with a capital letter
  - c) must be polymorphic
  - d) cannot be imported from modules
4. The function `g xs = xs !! (length xs - 1)`
- a) is recursive and may not terminate
  - b) delivers the head of `xs`
  - c) delivers the final element of `xs`
  - d) has the same type as `xs`

## Ciphers

In the Lists chapter, you wrote a Caesar cipher. Now, we want to expand on that idea by writing a Vigenère cipher. A Vigenère cipher is another substitution cipher, based on a Caesar cipher, but it uses a series of Caesar ciphers for polyalphabetic substitution. The substitution for each letter in the plaintext is determined by a fixed keyword.

So, for example, if you want to encode the message “meet at dawn,” the first step is to pick a keyword that will determine which Caesar cipher to use. We’ll use the keyword “ALLY” here. You repeat the keyword for as many characters as there are in your original message:

```
MEET AT DAWN
ALLY AL LYAL
```

Now the number of rightward shifts to make to encode each character is set by the character of the keyword that lines up with it. The ‘A’ means a shift of 0, so the initial M will remain M. But the ‘L’ for our second character sets a rightward shift of 11, so ‘E’ becomes ‘P’. And so on, so “meet at dawn” encoded with the keyword “ALLY” becomes “MPPR AE OYWY.”

Like the Caesar cipher, you can find all kinds of resources to help you understand the cipher and also many examples written in Haskell. Consider using a combination of `chr`, `ord`, and `mod` again, possibly very similar to what you used for writing the original Caesar cipher.

## As-patterns

“As-patterns” in Haskell are a nifty way to be able to pattern match on part of something and still refer to the entire original value. Some examples:

```
f :: Show a => (a, b) -> IO (a, b)
f t@(a, _) = do
  print a
  return t
```

Here we pattern-matched on a tuple so we could get at the first value for printing, but used the @ symbol to introduce a binding named `t` in order to refer to the whole tuple rather than just a part.

```
Prelude> f (1, 2)
1
(1,2)
```

We can use as-patterns with pattern matching on arbitrary data constructors, which includes lists:

```
doubleUp :: [a] -> [a]
doubleUp [] = []
doubleUp xs@(x:_) = x : xs
```

```
Prelude> doubleUp []
[]
Prelude> doubleUp [1]
[1,1]
Prelude> doubleUp [1, 2]
[1,1,2]
Prelude> doubleUp [1, 2, 3]
[1,1,2,3]
```

Use as-patterns in implementing the following functions:

1. This should return `True` if (and only if) all the values in the first list appear in the second list, though they need not be contiguous.

```
isSubsequenceOf :: (Eq a) => [a] -> [a] -> Bool
```

The following are examples of how this function should work:

```
Prelude> isSubsequenceOf "blah" "blahwoot"
True
Prelude> isSubsequenceOf "blah" "wootblah"
True
Prelude> isSubsequenceOf "blah" "wboloath"
True
Prelude> isSubsequenceOf "blah" "wootbla"
False
```

2. Split a sentence into words, then tuple each word with the capitalized form of each.

```
capitalizeWords :: String -> [(String, String)]
```

```
Prelude> capitalizeWords "hello world"
[("hello", "Hello"), ("world", "World")]
```

## Language exercises

1. Write a function that capitalizes a word.

```
capitalizeWord :: String -> String
capitalizeWord = undefined
```

Example output.

```
Prelude> capitalizeWord "Titter"
"Titter"
Prelude> capitalizeWord "titter"
"Titter"
```

2. Write a function that capitalizes sentences in a paragraph. Recognize when a new sentence has begun by checking for periods. Reuse the `capitalizeWord` function.

```
capitalizeParagraph :: String -> String
capitalizeParagraph = undefined
```

Example result you should get from your function:

```
Prelude> capitalizeParagraph "blah. woot ha."
"Blah. Woot ha."
```

## Phone exercise

This exercise by geophf<sup>8</sup> originally for 1HaskellADay.<sup>9</sup> Thank you for letting us use this exercise!

Remember old-fashioned phone inputs for writing text where you had to press a button multiple times to get different letters to come up? You may still have to do this when you try to search for a movie to watch using your television remote control. You're going to write code to translate sequences of button presses into strings and vice versa.

So! Here is the layout of the phone:

```
-----
|  1      |  2 ABC   |  3 DEF   |
|-----|
|  4 GHI  |  5 JKL   |  6 MNO   |
|-----|
|  7 PQRS |  8 TUV   |  9 WXYZ  |
|-----|
|  * ^    |  0 + _   |  # . ,   |
|-----|
```

Where star (\*) gives you capitalization of the letter you're writing to your friends, and 0 is your space bar. To represent the digit itself, you press that digit once more than the letters it represents. If you press a button one more than is required to type the digit, it wraps around to the first letter. For example,

```
2      -> 'A'
22     -> 'B'
222    -> 'C'
2222   -> '2'
22222  -> 'A'
```

<sup>8</sup><https://twitter.com/geophf>

<sup>9</sup><https://twitter.com/1haskelladay>

So on and so forth. We're going to kick this around.

1. Create a data structure that captures the phone layout above. The data structure should be able to express enough of how the layout works that you can use it to dictate the behavior of the functions in the following exercises.

```
-- fill in the rest.
```

```
data DaPhone = DaPhone
```

2. Convert the following conversations into the keypresses required to express them. We're going to suggest types and functions to fill in order to accomplish the goal, but they're not obligatory. If you want to do it differently...you do you.

```
convo :: [String]
```

```
convo =
```

```
  ["Wanna play 20 questions",
   "Ya",
   "U 1st haha",
   "Lol ok. Have u ever tasted alcohol lol",
   "Lol ya",
   "Wow ur cool haha. Ur turn",
   "Ok. Do u think I am pretty Lol",
   "Lol ya",
   "Haha thanks just making sure rofl ur turn"]
```

```

-- validButtons = "1234567890*#"
type Digit = Char

-- Valid presses: 1 and up
type Presses = Int

reverseTaps :: DaPhone -> Char -> [(Digit, Presses)]
reverseTaps = undefined
-- assuming the default phone definition
-- 'a' -> [('2', 1)]
-- 'A' -> [('*', 1), ('2', 1)]

cellPhonesDead :: DaPhone
               -> String
               -> [(Digit, Presses)]
cellPhonesDead = undefined

```

3. How many times do digits need to be pressed for each message?

```

fingerTaps :: [(Digit, Presses)] -> Presses
fingerTaps = undefined

```

4. What was the most popular letter for each message? What was its cost? You'll want to combine `reverseTaps` and `fingerTaps` to figure out what it cost in taps. `reverseTaps` is a list because you need to press a different button in order to get capitals.

```

mostPopularLetter :: String -> Char
mostPopularLetter = undefined

```

5. What was the most popular letter overall? What was the most popular word?

```

coolestLtr :: [String] -> Char
coolestLtr = undefined

coolestWord :: [String] -> String
coolestWord = undefined

```

## Hutton's Razor

Hutton's Razor<sup>10</sup> is a very simple expression language that expresses integer literals and addition of values in that expression language. The “trick” to it is that it's recursive and the two expressions you're summing together could be literals or themselves further addition operations. This sort of datatype is stereotypical of expression languages used to motivate ideas in research papers and functional pearls. Evaluating or folding a datatype is also in some sense what you're doing most of the time while programming anyway.

1. Your first task is to write the “eval” function which reduces an expression to a final sum.

```
data Expr
  = Lit Integer
  | Add Expr Expr

eval :: Expr -> Integer
eval = error "do it to it"
```

Example of expected output:

```
Prelude> eval (Add (Lit 1) (Lit 9001))
9002
```

2. Write a printer for the expressions.

```
printExpr :: Expr -> String
printExpr = undefined
```

Expected output:

```
Prelude> printExpr (Add (Lit 1) (Lit 9001))
"1 + 9001"
Prelude> let a1 = Add (Lit 9001) (Lit 1)
Prelude> let a2 = Add a1 (Lit 20001)
Prelude> let a3 = Add (Lit 1) a2
Prelude> printExpr a3
"1 + 9001 + 1 + 20001"
```

---

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.cs.nott.ac.uk/~pszgmh/bib.html#semantics>



### 11.17 Definitions

1. A *datatype* is how we declare and create data for our functions to receive as inputs. Datatype declarations begin with the keyword `data`. A datatype is made up of a type constructor and zero or more data constructors which each have zero or more arguments.

## Chapter 12

# Signaling adversity

Thank goodness we don't  
have only serious problems,  
but ridiculous ones as well

---

Edsger W. Dijkstra

## 12.1 Signaling adversity

Sometimes it's not convenient or possible for every value in a datatype to make sense for your programs. When that happens in Haskell, we use explicit datatypes to signal when our functions received a combination of inputs that don't make sense. Later, we'll see how to defend against those adverse inputs at the time we construct our datatypes, but the `Maybe` and `Either` datatypes we will demonstrate here are used in a lot of Haskell programs.

This chapter will include:

- `Nothing`, or `Just Maybe`;
- `Either` left or right, but not both;
- higher-kindedness;
- anamorphisms, but not animorphs.

## 12.2 How I learned to stop worrying and love `Nothing`

Let's consider the definition of `Maybe` again:

```
data Maybe a = Nothing | Just a
```

You don't need to define this yourself, as it's included in the Prelude by default. It's also a very common datatype in Haskell because it lets us return a default `Nothing` value when we don't have any sensible values to return for our intended type *a*.

In the following intentionally simplistic function, we could do several things with the odd numbers — we could return them unmodified, we could modify them in some way different from the evens, we could return a zero, or we could write an explicit signal that nothing happened because the number wasn't even:

```
ifEvenAdd2 :: Integer -> Integer
ifEvenAdd2 n = if even n then n+2 else ???
```

What can we do to make it say, “hey, this number wasn't even so I have nothing for you, my friend?” Well, instead of promising an `Integer` result, we can return `Maybe Integer`:

```
ifEvenAdd2 :: Integer -> Maybe Integer
ifEvenAdd2 n = if even n then n+2 else Nothing
```

This isn't quite complete or correct either. While `Nothing` has the type `Maybe a`, and  $a$  can be assumed to be any type the `Maybe` constructor could contain, `n+2` is still of the type `Integer`. We need to wrap that value in the other constructor `Maybe` offers: `Just`. Here's the error you'd get if you tried to load it:

```
<interactive>:9:75:
    Couldn't match expected type 'Maybe Integer'
                with actual type 'Integer'
    In the first argument of '(+)', namely 'n'
    In the expression: n + 2
```

And here's how we fix it:

```
ifEvenAdd2 :: Integer -> Maybe Integer
ifEvenAdd2 n = if even n then Just (n+2) else Nothing
```

We had to parenthesize `n+2` because function application binds the most tightly in Haskell (has the highest precedence), so the compiler otherwise would've parsed it as `(Just n) + 2`, which is wrong and throws a type error. Now our function is correct and explicit about the possibility of not getting a result!

## Smart constructors for datatypes

Let's consider a `Person` type which keeps track of two things, their name and their age. We'll write this up as a simple product type:

```
type Name = String
type Age  = Integer

data Person = Person Name Age deriving Show
```

There are already a few problems here. One is that we could construct a `Person` with an empty `String` for a name or make a person who is negative years old. This is no problem to fix with `Maybe`, though:

```
type Name = String
type Age = Integer

data Person = Person Name Age deriving Show

mkPerson :: Name -> Age -> Maybe Person
mkPerson name age
  | name /= "" && age >= 0 = Just $ Person name age
  | otherwise = Nothing
```

And if you load this into your REPL:

```
Prelude> mkPerson "John Browning" 160
Just (Person "John Browning" 160)
```

Cool. What happens when we feed it adverse data?

```
Prelude> mkPerson "" 160
Nothing
Prelude> mkPerson "blah" 0
Just (Person "blah" 0)
Prelude> mkPerson "blah" (-9001)
Nothing
```

`mkPerson` is what we call a smart constructor. It allows us to construct values of a type only when they meet certain criteria, so that we know we have a valid value, and return an explicit signal when we do not.

This is much better than our original, but what if we want to know if it was the name, age, or both that was bad? We may want to tell our user something was wrong with their input. Fortunately, we have a datatype for that!

### 12.3 Bleating either

So now we want a way to express why we didn't get a successful result back from our `mkPerson` constructor. To handle that, we've got the `Either` datatype which is defined as follows in the Prelude:

```
data Either a b = Left a | Right b
```

What we want is a way to know *why* our inputs were incorrect *if* they were incorrect. So we'll start by making a simple sum type to enumerate our failure modes.

```
data PersonInvalid = NameEmpty
                  | AgeTooLow
                  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

By now, you know why we derived `Show`, but it's important that we derive `Eq` because otherwise we can't equality check the constructors. Pattern matching is a case expression, where the data constructor is the condition. Case expressions and pattern matching *will work* without an `Eq` instance, but guards using `(==)` will not. As we've shown you previously, you can write your own `Eq` instance for your datatype if you want a specific behavior, but it's usually not necessary to do, so we will usually derive the `Eq` instance. Here's the difference demonstrated in code:

```
module EqCaseGuard where

data PersonInvalid = NameEmpty
                  | AgeTooLow

-- Compiles fine without Eq
toString :: PersonInvalid -> String
toString NameEmpty = "NameEmpty"
toString AgeTooLow = "AgeTooLow"

instance Show PersonInvalid where
    show = toString

-- This does not work without an Eq instance
blah :: PersonInvalid -> String
blah pi
  | pi == NameEmpty = "NameEmpty"
  | pi == AgeTooLow = "AgeTooLow"
  | otherwise = "???"
```

It's worth considering that if you needed to have an `Eq` instance to pattern match, how would you write the `Eq` instances?

Next our constructor type is going to change to:

```
mkPerson :: Name -> Age -> Either PersonInvalid Person
```

This signifies that we're going to get a `Person` value if we succeed but a `PersonInvalid` if it fails. Now we need to change our logic to return `PersonInvalid` values inside a `Left` constructor when the data is invalid, discriminating by each case as we go:

```
type Name = String
```

```
type Age = Integer
```

```
data Person = Person Name Age deriving Show
```

```
data PersonInvalid = NameEmpty  
                    | AgeTooLow  
                    deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
mkPerson :: Name  
          -> Age  
          -> Either PersonInvalid Person  
--          [1]      [2]      [3]  
mkPerson name age  
  | name /= "" && age >= 0 = Right $ Person name age  
--                                     [4]  
  | name == "" = Left NameEmpty  
--                                     [5]  
  | otherwise = Left AgeTooLow
```

1. Our `mkPerson` type takes a `Name` and `Age` returns an `Either` result.
2. The `Left` result of the `Either` is an invalid person, when either the name or age is an invalid input.
3. The `Right` result is a valid person.
4. The first case of our `mkPerson` function, then, matches on the `Right` constructor of the `Either` and returns a `Person` result. We could have written

```
name /= "" && age >= 0 = Right (Person name age)
```

instead of using the dollar sign.

5. The next two cases match on the `Left` constructor and allow us to tailor our invalid results based on the failure reasons. We can pattern match on `Left` because it's one of the constructors of `Either`.

We use `Left` as our invalid or error constructor for a couple of reasons. It is conventional to do so in Haskell, but that convention came about for a reason. The reason has to do with the ordering of type arguments and application of functions. Normally it is your error or invalid result that is going to cause a stop to whatever work is being done by your program. You can't apply functions to the left type argument, and `Functor` will not map over it (you may remember `Functor` from our introduction of `fmap` back in the chapter about lists; don't worry, a full explanation of `Functor` is coming soon). Since you normally want to apply functions and map over the case that *doesn't* stop your program (that is, *not* the error case), it has become convention that the `Left` of `Either` is used for whatever case is going to cause the work to stop.

Let's see what it looks like when we have good data, although Djali isn't really a person.<sup>1</sup>

```
Prelude> :t mkPerson "Djali" 5
mkPerson "Djali" 5 :: Either PersonInvalid Person
Prelude> mkPerson "Djali" 5
Right (Person "Djali" 5)
```

Then we can see what this does for us when dealing with bad data:

```
Prelude> mkPerson "" 10
Left NameEmpty
Prelude> mkPerson "Djali" (-1)
Left AgeTooLow
Prelude> mkPerson "" (-1)
Left NameEmpty
```

---

<sup>1</sup> Don't know what we mean? Check the name Djali on a search engine.



Notice in the last example that when both the name and the age are wrong, we're just going to see the result of the first failure case, not both.

This is imperfect in one respect, as it doesn't let us express a list of errors. We can fix this, too! One thing that will change is that instead of validating all the data for a `Person` at once, we're going to make separate checking functions and then combine the results. We'll see means of abstracting patterns like this out later:

```
type Name = String
type Age = Integer
type ValidatePerson a = Either [PersonInvalid] a
-- this type alias wasn't in our previous version
-- otherwise, these types are the same as above

data Person = Person Name Age deriving Show

data PersonInvalid = NameEmpty
                  | AgeTooLow
                  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

Now we'll write our checking functions. Although more than one thing could hypothetically be wrong with the age value, we'll keep this simple and only check to make sure it's a positive `Integer` value:

```
ageOkay :: Age -> Either [PersonInvalid] Age
ageOkay age = case age >= 0 of
  True  -> Right age
  False -> Left [AgeTooLow]

nameOkay :: Name -> Either [PersonInvalid] Name
nameOkay name = case name /= "" of
  True  -> Right name
  False -> Left [NameEmpty]
```

We can nest the `PersonInvalid` sum type right into the `Left` position of `Either`, just as we saw in the previous chapter (although we weren't using `Either` there, but similar types).

A couple of things to note here:

- The `Name` value will only return this invalid result when it's an empty `String`.
- Since `Name` is only a `String` value, it can be any `String` with characters inside it, so “42” is still going to return as a valid name. Try it.
- If you try to put an `Integer` in for the name, you won't get a `Left` result, you'll get a type error. Try it. Similarly if you try to feed a string value to the `ageOk` function.
- We're going to return a list of `PersonInvalid` results. That will allow us to return *both* `NameEmpty` and `AgeTooLow` in cases where both of those are true.

Now that our functions rely on `Either` to validate that the age and name values are independently valid, we can write a `mkPerson` function that will use our type alias `ValidatePerson`:

```
mkPerson :: Name -> Age -> ValidatePerson Person
--                                     [1]      [2]

mkPerson name age =
  mkPerson' (nameOk name) (ageOk age)
--  [3]      [4]      [5]

mkPerson' :: ValidatePerson Name
           -> ValidatePerson Age
           -> ValidatePerson Person
--                                     [6]

mkPerson' (Right nameOk) (Right ageOk) =
  Right (Person nameOk ageOk)
mkPerson' (Left badName) (Left badAge) =
  Left (badName ++ badAge)
mkPerson' (Left badName) _ = Left badName
mkPerson' _ (Left badAge) = Left badAge
```

1. A type alias for `Either [PersonInvalid] a`.
2. This is the *a* argument to `ValidatePerson` type.

3. Our main function now relies on a similarly-named helper function.
4. First argument to this function is the result of the `nameOk` function.
5. Second argument is the result of the `ageOk` function.
6. The type relies on the synonym for `Either`.

The rest of our helper function `mkPerson'` are just plain old pattern matches.

Now let's see what we get:

```
Prelude> mkPerson "" (-1)
Left [NameEmpty, AgeTooLow]
```

Ahh, that's more like it. Now we can tell the user what was incorrect in one go without them having to round-trip each mistake with our program! What's really going to bake your noodle is that we'll be able to replace `mkPerson` and `mkPerson'` with the following later in this book:

```
mkPerson :: Name
          -> Age
          -> Validation [PersonInvalid] Person
mkPerson name age =
  liftA2 Person (nameOk name) (ageOk age)
```

## 12.4 Kinds, a thousand stars in your types

Kinds are types one level up. They are used to describe the types of type constructors. One noteworthy feature of Haskell is that it has *higher-kinded types*. Here the term 'higher-kinded' derives from higher-order functions, functions that take more functions as arguments. Type constructors (that is, *higher-kinded* types) are types that take more types as arguments. The Haskell Report uses the term *type constant* to refer to types that take no arguments and are already types. In the Report, *type constructor* is used to refer to types which must have arguments applied to become a type.

As we discussed in the last chapter, these are examples of *type constants*:

```
Prelude> :kind Int
Int :: *
Prelude> :k Bool
Bool :: *
Prelude> :k Char
Char :: *
```

The `::` syntax usually means “has type of,” but it is used for kind signatures as well as type signatures.

The following is an example of a type that has a type *constructor* rather than a type *constant*:

```
data Example a = Blah | RoofGoats | Woot a
```

`Example` is a type constructor rather than a constant because it takes a type argument *a* which is used with the `Woot` data constructor. In GHCi we can query kinds with `:k`:

```
Prelude> data Example a = Blah | RoofGoats | Woot a
Prelude> :k Example
Example :: * -> *
```

`Example` has one argument, so it must be applied to one type in order to become a concrete type represented by a single `*`. The two-tuple takes two arguments, so it must be applied to two types to become a concrete type:

```
Prelude> :k (,)
(,) :: * -> * -> *
```

```
Prelude> :k (Int, Int)
(Int, Int) :: *
```

The `Maybe` and `Either` datatypes we’ve just reviewed also have type constructors rather than constants. They have to be applied to an argument before they are concrete types. Just as we saw with the effect of currying in type signatures, applying `Maybe` to an *a* type constructor relieves us of one arrow and makes it a kind star:

```
Prelude> :k Maybe
Maybe :: * -> *
Prelude> :k Maybe Int
Maybe Int :: *
```

On the other hand, `Either` has to be applied to two arguments, an  $a$  and a  $b$ , so the kind of `Either` is star to star to star:

```
Prelude> :k Either
Either :: * -> * -> *
```

And, again, we can query the effects of applying it to arguments:

```
Prelude> :k Either Int
Either Int :: * -> *
Prelude> :k Either Int String
Either Int String :: *
```

As we've said, the kind `*` represents a concrete type. There is nothing left awaiting application.

**Lifted and unlifted types** To be precise, kind `*` is the kind of all standard lifted types, while types that have the kind `#` are unlifted. A lifted type, which includes any datatype you could define yourself, is any that can be inhabited by *bottom*. Lifted types are represented by a pointer and include most of the datatypes we've seen and most that you're likely to encounter and use. Unlifted types are any type which *cannot* be inhabited by bottom. Types of kind `#` are often native machine types and raw pointers. Newtypes are a special case in that they are kind `*`, but are unlifted because their representation is identical to that of the type they contain, so the newtype itself is not creating any new pointer beyond that of the type it contains. That fact means that the newtype itself cannot be inhabited by bottom, only the thing it contains can be, so newtypes are unlifted. The default kind of concrete, fully-applied datatypes in GHC is kind `*`.

Now what happens if we let our type constructor take an argument?

```
Prelude> newtype Identity a = Identity a
Prelude> :k Identity
Identity :: * -> *
```

As we discussed in the previous chapter, the arrow in the kind signature, like the function arrow in type signatures, signals a need for application. In this case, we construct the type by applying it to another type.

Let's consider the case of `Maybe`, which is defined as follows:

```
data Maybe a = Nothing | Just a
```

The type `Maybe` is a type constructor because it takes one argument before it becomes a “real” type:

```
Prelude> :k Maybe
Maybe :: * -> *
```

```
Prelude> :k Maybe Int
Maybe Int :: *
Prelude> :k Maybe Bool
Maybe Bool :: *
```

```
Prelude> :k Int
Int :: *
Prelude> :k Bool
Bool :: *
```

Whereas, the following will not work because the kinds don't match up:

```
Prelude> :k Maybe Maybe
```

```
Expecting one more argument to 'Maybe'
The first argument of 'Maybe' should have kind '*',
  but 'Maybe' has kind '* -> *'
In a type in a GHCi command: Maybe Maybe
```

`Maybe` expects a single type argument of kind `*`, which `Maybe` is not.

If we give `Maybe` a type argument that is kind `*`, it also becomes kind `*` so then it can in fact be an argument to another `Maybe`:

```
Prelude> :k Maybe Char
Maybe Char :: *
```

```
Prelude> :k Maybe (Maybe Char)
Maybe (Maybe Char) :: *
```

Our `Example` datatype from earlier also won't work as an argument for `Maybe` by itself:

```
Prelude> data Example a = Blah | RoofGoats | Woot a
```

```
Prelude> :k Maybe Example
```

Expecting one more argument to 'Example'  
The first argument of 'Maybe' should have kind '\*',  
but 'Example' has kind '\* -> \*'  
In a type in a GHCi command: Maybe Example

However, if we apply the `Example` type constructor, we can make it work and create a value of that type:

```
Prelude> :k Maybe (Example Int)
Maybe (Example Int) :: *
Prelude> :t Just (Woot n)
Just (Woot n) :: Maybe (Example Int)
```

Note that the list type constructor `[]` is also kind `* -> *` and otherwise unexceptional save for some nice looking bracket syntax that lets you type `[a]` and `[Int]` instead of `[] a` and `[] Int`:

```
Prelude> :k []
[] :: * -> *
```

```
Prelude :k [] Int
[] Int :: *
```

```
Prelude> :k [Int]
[Int] :: *
```

So, we can't have just a `Maybe []` for the same reason we couldn't have just a `Maybe Maybe`, but we can have a `Maybe [Bool]`:

```
Prelude> :k Maybe []
```

Expecting one more argument to '[]'

The first argument of 'Maybe' should have kind '\*',

but '[]' has kind '\* -> \*'

In a type in a GHCi command: `Maybe []`

```
Prelude> :k Maybe [Bool]
```

```
Maybe [Bool] :: *
```

If you recall, one of the first times we used `Maybe` in the book was to write a safe version of a tail function back in the chapter on Lists:

```
safeTail      :: [a] -> Maybe [a]
safeTail []    = Nothing
safeTail (x:[]) = Nothing
safeTail (_:xs) = Just xs
```

As soon as we apply this to a value, the polymorphic type variables become constrained or concrete types:

```
*Main> safeTail "julie"
Just "ulie"
*Main> :t safeTail "julie"
safeTail "julie" :: Maybe [Char]
```

```
*Main> safeTail [1..10]
Just [2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10]
*Main> :t safeTail [1..10]
safeTail [1..10] :: (Num a, Enum a) => Maybe [a]
```

```
*Main> :t safeTail [1..10 :: Int]
safeTail [1..10 :: Int] :: Maybe [Int]
```

We can expand on type constructors that take a single argument and see how the kind changes as we go:



```

Prelude> data Trivial = Trivial
Prelude> :k Trivial
Trivial :: *

Prelude> data Unary a = Unary a
Prelude> :k Unary
Unary :: * -> *

Prelude> data TwoArgs a b = TwoArgs a b
Prelude> :k TwoArgs
TwoArgs :: * -> * -> *

Prelude> data ThreeArgs a b c = ThreeArgs a b c
Prelude> :k ThreeArgs
ThreeArgs :: * -> * -> * -> *

```

It may not be clear why this is useful to know right now, other than helping to understand when your type errors are caused by things not being fully applied. The implications of higher-kindedness will be clearer in a later chapter.

### Data constructors are functions

In the previous chapter, we noted the difference between data constants and data constructors and noted that data constructors that haven't been fully applied have a function arrow in them. Once you apply them to their argument, they return a value of the appropriate type. In other words, data constructors really are functions. As it happens, they behave just like Haskell functions in that they are curried as well.

First let's observe that nullary data constructors that are really just values and take no arguments are *not* like functions:

```

Prelude> data Trivial = Trivial deriving Show
Prelude> Trivial 1

Couldn't match expected type 'Integer -> t'
  with actual type 'Trivial'
(... etc ...)

```

However, data constructors that take arguments *do* behave like functions:

```
Prelude> data UnaryC = UnaryC Int deriving Show
Prelude> :t UnaryC
UnaryC :: Int -> UnaryC
Prelude> UnaryC 10
UnaryC 10
Prelude> :t UnaryC 10
UnaryC 10 :: UnaryC
```

And just like functions, their arguments are type-checked against the specification in the type:

```
Prelude> UnaryC "blah"

Couldn't match expected type 'Int'
with actual type '[Char]'
```

If we wanted a unary data constructor which could contain any type, we would parameterize the type like so:

```
Prelude> data Unary a = Unary a deriving Show
Prelude> :t Unary
Unary :: a -> Unary a
Prelude> :t Unary 10
Unary 10 :: Num a => Unary a
Prelude> :t Unary "blah"
Unary "blah" :: Unary [Char]
```

And again, this works just like a function, except the type of the argument can be whatever we want.

Note that if we want to use a derived (GHC generated) Show instance for `Unary`, it has to be able to also show the contents, the type *a* value contained by `Unary`'s data constructor:

```
Prelude> :info Unary
data Unary a = Unary a
instance Show a => Show (Unary a)
```

If we try to use a type for  $a$  that does not have an `Show` instance, it won't cause a problem until we try to show the value:

```
-- no problem with using the id function
Prelude> :t (Unary id)
(Unary id) :: Unary (t -> t)

-- but id doesn't have a Show instance
Prelude> show (Unary id)

<interactive>:53:1:
  No instance for (Show (t0 -> t0))
  ...
```

The only way to avoid this would be to write an instance that did not show that value along with `Unary`, but that would be somewhat unusual.

Another thing to keep in mind is that you can't ordinarily hide polymorphic types from your type constructor, so the following is invalid:

```
Prelude> data Unary = Unary a deriving Show

Not in scope: type variable 'a'
```

In order for the type variable  $a$  to be in scope, we usually need to introduce it with our type constructor. There are ways around this, but they're rarely necessary or a good idea and not relevant to the beginning Haskell.

Here's an example using `fmap` and the `Just` data constructor from `Maybe` to demonstrate how `Just` is also like a function:

```
Prelude> fmap Just [1, 2, 3]
[Just 1,Just 2,Just 3]
```

The significance and utility of this may not be immediately obvious but will be more clear in later chapters.

## 12.5 Chapter Exercises

### Determine the kinds

1. Given

```
id :: a -> a
```

What is the kind of  $a$ ?

2. `r :: a -> f a`

What are the kinds of  $a$  and  $f$ ?

### String processing

Because this is the kind of thing linguists *ahem* enjoy doing in their spare time.

1. Write a recursive function that takes a text/string, breaks it into words and replaces each instance of “the” with “a”. It’s intended only to replace exactly the word “the”.

```
-- example GHCi session above the functions
```

```
-- >>> notThe "the"
```

```
-- Nothing
```

```
-- >>> notThe "blahtheblah"
```

```
-- Just "blahtheblah"
```

```
-- >>> notThe "woot"
```

```
-- Just "woot"
```

```
notThe :: String -> Maybe String
```

```
notThe = undefined
```

```
-- >>> replaceThe "the cow loves us"
```

```
-- "a cow loves us"
```

```
replaceThe :: String -> String
```

```
replaceThe = undefined
```

2. Write a recursive function that takes a text/string, breaks it into words, and counts the number of instances of “the” followed by a vowel-initial word.

```
-- >>> countTheBeforeVowel "the cow"
-- 0
-- >>> countTheBeforeVowel "the evil cow"
-- 1
countTheBeforeVowel :: String -> Integer
countTheBeforeVowel = undefined
```

3. Return the number of letters that are vowels in a word.

Hint: it's helpful to break this into steps. Add any helper functions necessary to achieve your objectives.

- a) Test for vowelhood
- b) Return the vowels of a string
- c) Count the number of elements returned

```
-- >>> countVowels "the cow"
-- 2
-- >>> countVowels "Mikolajczak"
-- 4
countVowels :: String -> Integer
countVowels = undefined
```

### Validate the word

Use the `Maybe` type to write a function that counts the number of vowels in a string and the number of consonants. If the number of vowels exceeds the number of consonants, the function returns `Nothing`. In many human languages, vowels rarely exceed the number of consonants so when they do, it indicates the input isn't a real word (that is, a valid input to your dataset):

```
newtype Word' =
  Word' String
  deriving (Eq, Show)

vowels = "aeiou"

mkWord :: String -> Maybe Word'
mkWord = undefined
```

## It's only Natural

You'll be presented with a datatype to represent the natural numbers. The only values representable with the naturals are whole numbers from zero to infinity. Your task will be to implement functions to convert Naturals to Integers and Integers to Naturals. The conversion from Naturals to Integers won't return Maybe because Integer is a strict superset of Natural. Any Natural can be represented by an Integer, but the same is *not* true of any Integer. Negative numbers are not valid natural numbers.

```
-- As natural as any competitive bodybuilder
```

```
data Nat =
```

```
    Zero
```

```
  | Succ Nat
```

```
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
-- >>> natToInteger Zero
```

```
-- 0
```

```
-- >>> natToInteger (Succ Zero)
```

```
-- 1
```

```
-- >>> natToInteger (Succ (Succ Zero))
```

```
-- 2
```

```
natToInteger :: Nat -> Integer
```

```
natToInteger = undefined
```

```
-- >>> integerToNat 0
```

```
-- Just Zero
```

```
-- >>> integerToNat 1
```

```
-- Just (Succ Zero)
```

```
-- >>> integerToNat 2
```

```
-- Just (Succ (Succ Zero))
```

```
-- >>> integerToNat (-1)
```

```
-- Nothing
```

```
integerToNat :: Integer -> Maybe Nat
```

```
integerToNat = undefined
```

**Small library for Maybe**

Write the following functions. This may take some time.

1. Simple boolean checks for Maybe values.

```
-- >>> isJust (Just 1)
-- True
-- >>> isJust Nothing
-- False
isJust :: Maybe a -> Bool

-- >>> isNothing (Just 1)
-- False
-- >>> isNothing Nothing
-- True
isNothing :: Maybe a -> Bool
```

2. The following is the Maybe catamorphism. You can turn a Maybe value into anything else with this.

```
-- >>> maybe 0 (+1) Nothing
-- 0
-- >>> maybe 0 (+1) (Just 1)
-- 2
maybe :: b -> (a -> b) -> Maybe a -> b
```

3. In case you just want to provide a fallback value.

```
-- >>> fromMaybe 0 Nothing
-- 0
-- >>> fromMaybe 0 (Just 1)
-- 1
fromMaybe :: a -> Maybe a -> a

-- Try writing it in terms of the maybe catamorphism
```

4. Converting between List and Maybe.

```

-- >>> listToMaybe [1, 2, 3]
-- Just 1
-- >>> listToMaybe []
-- Nothing
listToMaybe :: [a] -> Maybe a

-- >>> maybeToList (Just 1)
-- [1]
-- >>> maybeToList Nothing
-- []
maybeToList :: Maybe a -> [a]

```

5. For when we just want to drop the `Nothing` values from our list.

```

-- >>> catMaybes [Just 1, Nothing, Just 2]
-- [1, 2]
-- >>> catMaybes [Nothing, Nothing, Nothing]
-- []
catMaybes :: [Maybe a] -> [a]

```

6. You'll see this called "sequence" later.

```

-- >>> flipMaybe [Just 1, Just 2, Just 3]
-- Just [1, 2, 3]
-- >>> flipMaybe [Just 1, Nothing, Just 3]
-- Nothing
flipMaybe :: [Maybe a] -> Maybe [a]

```

### Small library for Either

Write each of the following functions. If more than one possible unique function exists for the type, use common sense to determine what it should do.

1. Try to eventually arrive at a solution that uses `foldr`, even if earlier versions don't use `foldr`.

```

lefts' :: [Either a b] -> [a]

```

2. Same as the last one. Use `foldr` eventually.



```
rights' :: [Either a b] -> [b]
```

```
3. partitionEithers' :: [Either a b] -> ([a], [b])
```

```
4. eitherMaybe' :: (b -> c) -> Either a b -> Maybe c
```

5. This is a general catamorphism for `Either` values.

```
either' :: (a -> c) -> (b -> c) -> Either a b -> c
```

6. Same as before, but use the `either'` function you just wrote.

```
eitherMaybe'' :: (b -> c) -> Either a b -> Maybe c
```

Most of the functions you just saw are in the Prelude, `Data.Maybe`, or `Data.Either` but you should strive to write them yourself without looking at existing implementations. You will deprive *yourself* if you cheat.

## Unfolds

While the idea of catamorphisms is still relatively fresh in our minds, let's turn our attention to their dual: *anamorphisms*. If folds, or catamorphisms, let us break data structures down then unfolds let us build them up. There are, just as with folds, a few different ways to unfold a data structure. We can use them to create finite and infinite data structures alike.

```
-- iterate is like a very limited
-- unfold that never ends
Prelude> :t iterate
iterate :: (a -> a) -> a -> [a]

-- because it never ends, we must use
-- take to get a finite list
Prelude> take 10 $ iterate (+1) 0
[0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9]

-- unfoldr is the full monty
Prelude> :t unfoldr
unfoldr :: (b -> Maybe (a, b)) -> b -> [a]
```

```
-- Using unfoldr to do the same thing as iterate
Prelude> take 10 $ unfoldr (\b -> Just (b, b+1)) 0
[0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9]
```

### Why bother?

We bother with this for the same reason we abstracted direct recursion into folds, such as with `sum`, `product`, and `concat`.

```
import Data.List
```

```
mehSum :: Num a => [a] -> a
mehSum xs = go 0 xs
  where go :: Num a => a -> [a] -> a
        go n [] = n
        go n (x:xs) = (go (n+x) xs)
```

```
niceSum :: Num a => [a] -> a
niceSum = foldl' (+) 0
```

```
mehProduct :: Num a => [a] -> a
mehProduct xs = go 1 xs
  where go :: Num a => a -> [a] -> a
        go n [] = n
        go n (x:xs) = (go (n*x) xs)
```

```
niceProduct :: Num a => [a] -> a
niceProduct = foldl' (*) 1
```

Remember the redundant structure when we looked at folds?

```
mehConcat :: [[a]] -> [a]
mehConcat xs = go [] xs
  where go :: [a] -> [[a]] -> [a]
        go xs' [] = xs'
        go xs' (x:xs) = (go (xs' ++ x) xs)
```

```
niceConcat :: [[a]] -> [a]
niceConcat = foldr (++) []
```

Your eyes may be spouting gouts of blood, but you may also see that this same principle of abstracting out common patterns and giving them names applies as well to unfolds as it does to folds.

### Write your own `iterate` and `unfoldr`

1. Write the function `myIterate` using direct recursion. Compare the behavior with the built-in `iterate` to gauge correctness. Do not look at the source or any examples of `iterate` so that you are forced to do this yourself.

```
myIterate :: (a -> a) -> a -> [a]
myIterate = undefined
```

2. Write the function `myUnfoldr` using direct recursion. Compare with the built-in `unfoldr` to check your implementation. Again, don't look at implementations of `unfoldr` so that you figure it out yourself.

```
myUnfoldr :: (b -> Maybe (a, b)) -> b -> [a]
myUnfoldr = undefined
```

3. Rewrite `myIterate` into `betterIterate` using `myUnfoldr`. A hint — we used `unfoldr` to produce the same results as `iterate` earlier. Do this with different functions and see if you can abstract the structure out.

```
-- It helps to have the types in front of you
-- myUnfoldr :: (b -> Maybe (a, b)) -> b -> [a]
```

```
betterIterate :: (a -> a) -> a -> [a]
betterIterate f x = myUnfoldr ...?
```

Remember, your `betterIterate` should have the same results as `iterate`.

```
Prelude> take 10 $ iterate (+1) 0
[0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9]
```

```
Prelude> take 10 $ betterIterate (+1) 0
[0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9]
```

## Finally something other than a list!

Given the `BinaryTree` from last chapter, complete the following exercises. Here's that datatype again:

```
data BinaryTree a =
  Leaf
| Node (BinaryTree a) a (BinaryTree a)
deriving (Eq, Ord, Show)
```

1. Write `unfold` for `BinaryTree`.

```
unfold :: (a -> Maybe (a,b,a)) -> a -> BinaryTree b
unfold = undefined
```

2. Make a tree builder.

Using the `unfold` function you've just made for `BinaryTree`, write the following function:

```
treeBuild :: Integer -> BinaryTree Integer
treeBuild n = undefined
```

You should be producing results that look like the following:

```
Prelude> treeBuild 0
Leaf
Prelude> treeBuild 1
Node Leaf 0 Leaf
Prelude> treeBuild 2
Node (Node Leaf 1 Leaf)
  0
  (Node Leaf 1 Leaf)
Prelude> treeBuild 3
Node (Node (Node Leaf 2 Leaf)
  1
  (Node Leaf 2 Leaf))
  0
  (Node (Node Leaf 2 Leaf)
    1
    (Node Leaf 2 Leaf))
```

Or in a slightly different representation:

```

      0
      |
    0 / \
    1 /   \ 1
      |     |
    0 / \
    1 /   \ 1
      |     |
    /\   /\
    2 2 2 2
  
```

Good work.

## 12.6 Definitions

1. A *higher kinded type* type is any type whose kind has a function arrow in it and which can be described as a type constructor rather than a type constant. The following types are of a higher kind than `*`:

```
Maybe  :: * -> *  
[]      :: * -> *  
Either  :: * -> * -> *  
(->)    :: * -> * -> *
```

The following are not:

```
Int     :: *  
Char    :: *  
String  :: *  
[Char]  :: *
```

This is not to be confused with higher kinded *polymorphism*, which we'll discuss later.

## Chapter 13

# Building projects

Wherever there is modularity  
there is the potential for  
misunderstanding: Hiding  
information implies a need to  
check communication

---

Alan Perlis

## 13.1 Modules

Haskell programs are organized into modules. Modules contain the datatypes, type synonyms, typeclasses, typeclass instances, and values you've defined at the top level. They offer a means to import other modules into the scope of your program, and they also contain values that can be exported to other modules. If you've ever used a language with namespaces, it's the same thing.

In this chapter, we will be building a small, interactive hangman-style game. Students of Haskell often ask what kind of project they should work on as a way to learn Haskell, and they want to jump right into the kind of program they're used to building in the languages they already know. What most often happens is the student realizes how much they still don't understand about Haskell, shakes their fist at the sky, and curses Haskell's very name and all the elitist jerks who write Haskell and flees to relative safety. Nobody wants that. Haskell is sufficiently different from other languages that we think it's best to spend time getting pretty comfortable with how Haskell itself works before trying to build substantial projects.

This chapter's primary focus is not so much on code but on how to set up a project in Haskell, use the package manager known as Cabal, build the project with Stack, and work with modules as they are in Haskell. There are a few times we ask you to implement part of the hangman game yourself, but much of the code is already written for you, and we've tried to explain the structure as well as we can at this point in the book. Some of it you won't properly understand until we've covered at least monads and IO. But if you finish the chapter feeling like you now know how to set up a project environment and get things running, then this chapter will have accomplished its goal and we'll all go off and take a much needed mid-book nap.

Just try to relax and have fun with this. You've earned it after those binary tree exercises.

In this chapter, we'll cover:

- writing Haskell programs with modules;
- using the Cabal package manager;
- building our project with Stack;



- conventions around Haskell project organization;
- building a small interactive game.

Note that you'll need to have Stack<sup>1</sup> and Git<sup>2</sup> to follow along with the instructions in this chapter. We'll be using `git` to download an example project.

## 13.2 Making packages with Stack

The Haskell Cabal, or Common Architecture for Building Applications and Libraries, is a package manager. A *package* is a program you're building, including all of its modules and dependencies, whether you've written it or you're building someone else's program. A package has *dependencies* which are the interlinked elements of that program, the other packages and libraries it may depend on and any tests and documentation associated with the project. Cabal exists to help organize all this and make sure all dependencies are properly in scope.

Stack is a cross-platform program for developing Haskell projects. It is aimed at Haskellers both new and experienced, and it helps you manage both projects made up of multiple packages as well as individual packages, whereas Cabal exists primarily to describe a single package with a Cabal file that has with the `.cabal` file extension.

Stack is built on top of Cabal in some important senses, so we will still be working with `.cabal` files. However, Stack simplifies the process somewhat, especially in large projects with multiple dependencies, by allowing you to build those large libraries only once and use them across projects. Stack also relies on an LTS (long term support) snapshot of Haskell packages from Stackage<sup>3</sup> that are guaranteed to work together, unlike packages from Hackage which may have conflicting dependencies.

While the Haskell community does not have a prescribed project layout, we recommend the basic structure embodied in the Stack templates.

---

<sup>1</sup><http://haskellstack.org>

<sup>2</sup><https://git-scm.com/>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.stackage.org/>

### 13.3 Working with a basic project

We’re going to start learning Cabal and Stack by building a sample project called `hello`. To make this less tedious, we’re going to use `git` to checkout the sample project. In an appropriate directory for storing your projects:

```
$ git clone https://github.com/fightingtanukis/hello
```

#### Building the project

Change into the project directory that the `git clone` invocation created.

```
$ cd hello
```

You could edit the `hello.cabal` file. There you can replace “Your Name Here” with...your actual name. We’ll next build our project:

```
$ stack build
```

If it complains about needing GHC to be installed, don’t panic! Part of the benefit of Stack is that it can manage your GHC installs for you. Before re-attempting `stack build`, do the following:

```
$ stack setup
```

The `setup` command for Stack determines what version of GHC you need based on the LTS snapshot specified in the `stack.yaml` file of your project. The `stack.yaml` file is used to determine the versions of your packages and what version of GHC they’ll work best with. If you didn’t need to do this, it’s possible you had a compatible version of GHC already installed or that you’d run `setup` for an LTS snapshot that needed the same version of GHC in the past. To learn more about this, check out the Stackage website.

#### Loading and running code from the REPL

Having done that, next we’ll fire up the REPL.

```
$ stack ghci
[... some other noise...]
Ok, modules loaded: Main.
Prelude> :l Main
[1 of 1] Compiling Main
Ok, modules loaded: Main.
Prelude> main
hello world
```

So in the above, we successfully started a GHCi REPL aware of our project, loaded our `Main` module, and then ran the `main` function. Using Stack's GHCi integration to fire up a REPL doesn't just let us load and run code in our project, but also enables us to make use of our project's dependencies. We'll demonstrate this later.

### **stack exec**

When you ran `build` earlier, you may have seen something like:

```
Linking .stack-work/dist/{...noise...}/hello
```

This noise is Stack compiling an executable binary and linking to it. You can just type the full path that Stack mentioned in order to run the binary, but there's an easier way — `exec`! From our project directory, consider the following:

```
$ hello
zsh: command not found: hello
$ stack exec -- hello
hello world
```

Stack knows what paths any executables might be located in, so using Stack's `exec` command saves you the hassle of typing out a potentially verbose path.

### **Executable stanzas in Cabal files**

Stack created an executable earlier because of the following stanza in the `hello.cabal` file:

```
executable hello
--      [1]
  hs-source-dirs:      src
--      [2]
  main-is:             Main.hs
--      [3]
  default-language:   Haskell2010
--      [4]
  build-depends:      base >= 4.7 && < 5
--      [5]
```

1. This name following the declaration of an *executable* stanza tells Stack or Cabal what to name the binary or executable it creates.
2. Tells this stanza where to look for source code — in this case, the *src* subdirectory.
3. Execution of this binary should begin by looking for a `main` function inside a file named `Main` with the module name `Main`. Note that module names have to match filenames. Your compiler (not just Stack) will reject using a file that isn't a `Main` module as the entry point to executing the program. Also note that it'll look for the `Main.hs` file under all directories you specified in *hs-source-dirs*. Since we specified only one, it'll find this in *src/Main.hs*, which is our only source file right now anyway.
4. Defines the version of the Haskell standard to expect. Not very interesting and doesn't do much, mostly boilerplate, but necessary.
5. This is usually a meatier part of any Cabal stanza, whether it's an executable, library, or test suite. This example (*base*) is really the bare minimum or baseline dependency in almost any Haskell project as you can't really get anything done without the *base* library. We'll show you how to add and install dependencies later.

**A sidebar about executables and libraries** Our project here only has an executable stanza, which is appropriate for making a command-line application which will be run and used. When we're writing

code we want people to be able to reuse in other projects, we need a library stanza in the Cabal file and to choose which modules we want to expose. Executables are applications that the operating system will run directly, while software libraries are code arranged in a manner so that they can be reused by the compiler in the building of other libraries and programs.

### 13.4 Making our project a library

First we're going to add a library stanza to `hello.cabal`:

```
library
  hs-source-dirs:      src
  exposed-modules:      Hello
  build-depends:        base >= 4.7 && < 5
  default-language:     Haskell2010
```

Then we're going to create a file located at `src/Hello.hs`:

```
module Hello where

sayHello :: IO ()
sayHello = do
  putStrLn "hello world"
```

Then we're going to change our `Main` module to use this library function:

```
module Main where

import Hello

main :: IO ()
main = do
  sayHello
```

If we try to build and run this now, it'll work.

```
$ stack build
$ stack exec hello
hello world
```

But what if we had made a separate exe directory?

```
$ mkdir exe
$ mv src/Main.hs exe/Main.hs
```

Then we need to edit the Cabal file to let it know our hello executable uses the exe directory:

```
executable hello
  hs-source-dirs:      exe
  main-is:             Main.hs
  default-language:   Haskell2010
  build-depends:       base >= 4.7 && < 5
```

If you then attempt to build this, it will fail.

```
hello/exe/Main.hs:3:8:
Could not find module 'Hello'
It is a member of the hidden package
  'hello-0.1.0.0@hello_IJlUuynUbgsHAquBKsAsb5'.
Perhaps you need to add 'hello' to the
  build-depends in your .cabal file.
Use -v to see a list of the files searched for.
```

We have two paths for fixing this, one better than the other. One way is to simply add `src` to the source directories the executable is permitted to search. But it turns out that Cabal's suggestion here is precisely right. The better way to fix this is to respect the boundaries of the library and executable and instead to add your own library as a dependency:

```
executable hello
  hs-source-dirs:      exe
  main-is:             Main.hs
  default-language:   Haskell2010
  build-depends:       base >= 4.7 && < 5
                      , hello
```

The build will now succeed. This also makes it easier to know when you need to change what is exposed or exported in your library, because you're using your own interface.

## 13.5 Module exports

By default, when you don't specify any exports in a module, every top-level binding is exported and can be imported by another module. This is the case in our `Hello` module:

```
module Hello where

sayHello :: IO ()
sayHello = do
    putStrLn "hello world"
```

But what happens if we specify an *empty* export list?

```
module Hello
()
where

sayHello :: IO ()
sayHello = do
    putStrLn "hello world"
```

We'll get the following error if we attempt to build it:

```
Not in scope: 'sayHello'
```

To fix that explicitly, we add the top level binding to the export list:

```
module Hello
( sayHello )
where

sayHello :: IO ()
sayHello = do
    putStrLn "hello world"
```

Now the `sayHello` function will be exported. It seems pointless in a module like this, but in bigger projects, it sometimes makes sense to specify your exports in this way.

## Exposing modules

First we'll add a new module with a new IO action for our `main` action to run:

```
-- src/DogsRule.hs
module DogsRule
  ( dogs )
  where

dogs :: IO ()
dogs = do
  putStrLn "Who's a good puppy?!"
  putStrLn "YOU ARE!!!!!"
```

Then we'll change our `Main` module to make use of this:

```
module Main where

import DogsRule
import Hello

main :: IO ()
main = do
  sayHello
  dogs
```

But if we attempt to build this, we'll get the following error:

```
Could not find module 'DogsRule'
```

As we did earlier with our library stanza, we need to also expose the `DogsRule` module:

```
library
  hs-source-dirs:      src
  exposed-modules:      DogsRule
                      , Hello
  build-depends:        base >= 4.7 && < 5
  default-language:     Haskell2010
```

Now it should be able to find our very important dog praising.



## 13.6 More on importing modules

Importing modules brings more functions into scope beyond those available in the standard Prelude. Imported modules are top-level declarations. The entities imported as part of those declarations, like other top-level declarations, have scope throughout the module, although they can be shadowed by local bindings. The effect of multiple import declarations is cumulative, but the ordering of import declarations is irrelevant. An entity is in scope for the entire module if it is imported by any of the import declarations.

In previous chapters, we've brought functions like `bool` and `toUpper` into scope for exercises by importing the modules they are part of, `Data.Bool` and `Data.Char`, respectively.

Let's refresh our memory of how to do this in GHCi. The `:browse` command allows us to see what functions are included in the named module, while importing the module allows us to actually use those functions. You can browse modules that you haven't imported yet, which can be useful if you're not sure which module the function you're looking for is in:

```
Prelude> :browse Data.Bool
bool :: a -> a -> Bool -> a
(&&) :: Bool -> Bool -> Bool
data Bool = False | True
not :: Bool -> Bool
otherwise :: Bool
(||) :: Bool -> Bool -> Bool
```

```
Prelude> import Data.Bool
```

```
Prelude> :t bool
bool :: a -> a -> Bool -> a
```

In the example above, we used an unqualified import of everything in `Data.Bool`. What if we only wanted `bool` from `Data.Bool`?

First, we're going to turn off Prelude so that we don't have any of the default imports. We will use another pragma, or language extension, when we start GHCi to turn Prelude off. You've previously

seen how to use language extensions in source files, but now we'll enter `-XNoImplicitPrelude` right when we enter our REPL:

```
$ stack ghci --ghci-options -XNoImplicitPrelude
Prelude>
```

We can check that `bool` and `not` are not in scope yet:

```
Prelude> :t bool
<interactive>:1:1: Not in scope: 'bool'
Prelude> :t not
<interactive>:1:1: Not in scope: 'not'
```

Next we'll do a selective import from `Data.Bool`, specifying that we only want to import `bool`:

```
Prelude> import Data.Bool (bool)
Prelude> :t bool
bool :: a -> a -> GHC.Types.Bool -> a
Prelude> :t not
<interactive>:1:1: Not in scope: 'not'
```

Now, normally in the standard Prelude, `not` is in scope already but `bool` is not. So you can see that by turning off Prelude, taking its standard functions out of scope, and then importing *only* `bool`, we no longer have the standard `not` function in scope.

You can import one or more functions from a module or library. The syntax is just as we just demonstrated with `GHCi`, but your import declarations have to be at the beginning of a module. Putting `import Data.Char (toUpper)` in the import declarations of a module will ensure that `toUpper`, but not any of the other entities contained in `Data.Char`, is in scope for your project.

For the examples in the next section, you'll want Prelude back on, so please restart `GHCi` before proceeding.

## Qualified imports

What if you wanted to know *where* something you imported came from in the code that uses it? We can use qualified imports to make the names more explicit.

We use the `qualified` keyword in our imports to do this. Sometimes you'll have stuff with the same name imported from two different modules; qualifying your imports is a common way of dealing with this. We'll go through an example of how you might use a qualified import.

```
Prelude> import qualified Data.Bool
Prelude> :t bool
```

```
<interactive>:1:1:
  Not in scope: 'bool'
  Perhaps you meant 'Data.Bool.bool'
```

```
Prelude> :t Data.Bool.bool
Data.Bool.bool :: a -> a -> Data.Bool.Bool -> a
```

```
Prelude> :t Data.Bool.not
Data.Bool.not :: Data.Bool.Bool -> Data.Bool.Bool
```

In the case of `import qualified Data.Bool`, everything from `Data.Bool` is in scope, but only when accessed with the full `Data.Bool` namespace. Now we are marking where the functions that we're using came from, which can be useful.

We can also provide aliases or alternate names for our modules when we qualify them so we don't have to type out the full namespace:

```
Prelude> import qualified Data.Bool as B
Prelude> :t bool
```

```
<interactive>:1:1:
  Not in scope: 'bool'
  Perhaps you meant 'B.bool'
```

```
Prelude> :t B.bool
B.bool :: a -> a -> B.Bool -> a
```

```
Prelude> :t B.not
B.not :: B.Bool -> B.Bool
```

You can do qualified imports in the import declarations at the beginning of your module in the same way.

### Intermission: Check your understanding

Here is the import list from one of the modules in Chris's library called *blacktip*:

```
import qualified Control.Concurrent      as CC
import qualified Control.Concurrent.MVar as MV
import qualified Data.ByteString.Char8   as B
import qualified Data.Locator            as DL
import qualified Data.Time.Clock.POSIX   as PSX
import qualified Filesystem              as FS
import qualified Filesystem.Path.CurrentOS as FPC
import qualified Network.Info            as NI
import qualified Safe
import Control.Exception (mask, try)
import Control.Monad (forever, when)
import Data.Bits
import Data.Bits.Bitwise (fromListBE)
import Data.List.Split (chunksOf)
import Database.Blacktip.Types
import System.IO.Unsafe (unsafePerformIO)
```

For our purposes right now, it does not matter whether you are familiar with the modules referenced in the import list. Look at the declarations and answer the questions below:

1. What functions are being imported from `Control.Monad`?
2. Which imports are both unqualified and imported in their entirety?
3. From the name, what do you suppose `import Database.Blacktip.Types` is importing?
4. Now let's compare a small part of *blacktip*'s code to the above import list:

```

writeTimestamp :: MV.MVar ServerState
               -> FPC.FilePath
               -> IO CC.ThreadId
writeTimestamp s path = do
  CC.forkIO go
  where go = forever $ do
    ss <- MV.readMVar s
    mask $ \_ -> do
      FS.writeFile path (B.pack (show (ssTime ss)))
      -- sleep for 1 second
      CC.threadDelay 1000000

```

- a) The type signature refers to three aliased imports. What modules are named in those aliases?
- b) Which import does FS.writeFile refer to?
- c) Which import did forever come from?

## 13.7 Making our program interactive

Now we're going to make our program ask for your name, then greet you by name. First, we'll rewrite our sayHello function to take an argument:

```

sayHello :: String -> IO ()
sayHello name = putStrLn ("Hi " ++ name ++ "!")

```

Note we parenthesized the appending (++) function of the String argument to putStrLn.

Next we'll change main to get the user's name:

```

-- src/Main.hs

main :: IO ()
main = do
  name <- getLine
  sayHello name
  dogs

```

There are a couple of new things here. We're using something called *do* syntax, which is syntactic sugar. We use *do* inside functions that return `IO` in order to sequence side effects in a convenient syntax. Let's decompose what's going on here:

```
main :: IO ()
main = do
  -- [1]
  name <- getLine
  -- [4] [3] [2]
  sayHello name
  -- [5]
  dogs
```

1. The *do* here begins the block.
2. `getLine` has type `IO String`, because it must perform IO (input/output, side effects) in order to obtain the `String`. `getLine` is what will allow you to enter your name to be used in the `main` function.
3. `<-` in a *do* block is pronounced *bind*. We'll explain what this is and how it works in the chapters on `Monad` and `IO`.
4. The result of binding (`<-`) over the `IO String` is `String`. We bound it to the variable `name`. Remember, `getLine` has type `IO String`, `name` has type `String`.
5. `sayHello` expects an argument `String`, which is the type of `name` but *not* `getLine`.
6. `dogs`<sup>4</sup> expects nothing and is an `IO` action of type `IO ()`, which fits the overall type of `main`.

Now we'll fire off a build:

```
$ stack build
```

And run the program:

```
$ stack exec hello
```

---

<sup>4</sup>Much like actual dogs.

After you hit enter, the program is going to wait for your input. You'll just see the cursor blinking on the line, waiting for you to enter your name. As soon as you do, and hit enter, it should greet you and then rave about the wonderfulness of a dog.

**What if we tried to pass `getLine` to `sayHello`?** If we tried to write `main` without the use of `do` syntax, particularly without using `<-` such as in the following example:

```
main :: IO ()
main = sayHello getLine
```

We'd get the following type error:

```
$ stack build
[2 of 2] Compiling Main

src/Main.hs:8:17:
Couldn't match type 'IO String' with '[Char]'
Expected type: String
   Actual type: IO String
In the first argument of 'sayHello', namely 'getLine'
In the expression: sayHello getLine
```

This is because `getLine` is an `IO` action with type `IO String`, whereas `sayHello` expects a value of type `String`. We have to use `<-` to bind over the `IO` to get the string that we want to pass to `sayHello`. This will be explained in more detail — a bit more detail later in the chapter, and a lot more detail in a later chapter.

### Adding a prompt

Let's make our program a bit easier to use by adding a prompt that tells us our program is expecting input! We just need to change `main`:

```
module Main where

import DogsRule
import Hello
import System.IO

main :: IO ()
main = do
    hSetBuffering stdout NoBuffering
    putStr "Please input your name: "
    name <- getLine
    sayHello name
    dogs
```

We did several things here. One is that we used `putStr` instead of `putStrLn` so that our input could be on the same line as our prompt. We also imported from `System.IO` so that we could use `hSetBuffering`, `stdout`, and `NoBuffering`. That line of code is so that `putStr` isn't buffered (deferred) and prints immediately. Rebuild and rerun your program, and it should now work like this:

```
$ stack exec hello
Please input your name: julie
Hi julie!
Who's a good puppy?!
YOU ARE!!!!
```

You can try removing the `NoBuffering` line (that whole first line) from `main` and rebuilding and running your program to see how it changes. We will be using this as part of our hangman game in a bit, but it isn't necessary at this point to understand how the buffering functions work in any detail.

## 13.8 do syntax and IO

We touched on `do` notation a bit above, but we want to explain a few more things about it. `do` blocks are convenient syntactic sugar that allow for sequencing actions, but because they are only syntactic sugar, they aren't strictly speaking necessary. They can make blocks



of code more readable and also hide the underlying nesting, and that can help you write effectful code before you understand monads and IO. So you'll see it a lot in this chapter (and, indeed, you'll see it quite a bit in idiomatic Haskell code).

The `main` executable in a Haskell program must always have the type `IO ()`. The `do` syntax specifically allows us to sequence *monadic actions*. `Monad` is a typeclass we'll explain in great detail in a later chapter; here, the instance of `Monad` we care about is `IO`. That is why `main` functions are often (not always) `do` blocks.

This syntax also provides a way of naming values returned by monadic IO actions so that they can be used as inputs to actions that happen later in the program. Let's look at a very simple `do` block and try to get a feel for what's happening here:

```
main = do
  -- [1]
    x1  <- getLine
  -- [2] [3] [4]
    x2  <- getLine
  -- [5]
    return (x1 ++ x2)
  -- [6] [7]
```

1. `do` introduces the block of IO actions.
2. `x1` is a variable representing the value obtained from the IO action `getLine`.
3. `<-` binds the variable on the left to the result of the IO action on the right.
4. `getLine` has the type `IO String` and takes user input of a string value. In this case, the string the user inputs will be the value bound to the `x1` name.
5. `x2` is a variable representing the value obtained from our second `getLine`. As above it is bound to that value by the `<-`.
6. `return` will be discussed in more detail shortly, but here it is the concluding action of our `do` block.

7. This is the value `return`, well, `return` — the conjunction of the two strings we obtained from our two `getLine` actions.

While `<-` is used to bind a variable, it is different from other methods we've seen in earlier chapters for naming and binding variables. This arrow is part of the special `do` sugar and specifically binds a name to the  $a$  of an  $m\ a$  value, where  $m$  is some monadic structure, in this case `IO`. The `<-` allows us to extract that  $a$  and name it within the limited scope of the `do` block and use that named value as an input to another expression within that same scope. Each assignment using `<-` creates a new variable rather than mutating an existing variable because data is immutable.

### **return**

This function really doesn't do a lot, but the purpose it serves is important, given the way monads and `IO` work. It does nothing but return a value, but it returns a value inside monadic structure:

```
Prelude> :t return
return :: Monad m => a -> m a
```

For our purposes in this chapter, `return` returns a value in `IO`. Because the obligatory type of `main` is `IO ()`, the final value must also have an `IO ()` type, and `return` gives us a way to add no extra function except putting the final value in `IO`. If the final action of a `do` block is `return ()`, that means there is no real value to return at the end of performing the `IO` actions, but since Haskell programs can't return literally nothing, they return this empty tuple called `unit` simply to have something to return. That empty tuple will not print to the screen in the REPL, but it's there in the underlying representation.

Let's take a look at `return` in action. Let's say you want to get user input of two characters and test them for equality. You can't do this:

```
twoo :: IO Bool
twoo = do c <- getChar
         c' <- getChar
         c == c'
```

Try it and see what your type error looks like. It should tell you that it can't match the expected type `IO Bool` with the actual type of `c == c'`, which is `Bool`. So, our final line needs to return that `Bool` value in `IO`:

```
twoo :: IO Bool
twoo = do c <- getChar
        c' <- getChar
        return (c == c')
```

We put the `Bool` value into `IO` by using `return`. Cool. How about if we have cases where we want to return nothing? We'll reuse the same basic code from above but make an `if-then-else` within our `do` block:

```
main :: IO ()
main = do c <- getChar
        c' <- getChar
        if c == c'
        then putStrLn "True"
        else return ()
```

What happens when the two input characters are equal? What happens when they aren't?

Some people have noted that `do` syntax makes it feel like you're doing imperative programming in Haskell. It's important to note that this effectful imperative style requires having `IO` in our result type. We cannot perform effects without evidence of having done so in the type. `do` is only syntactic sugar, but the monadic syntax we'll cover in a later chapter works in a similar way for monads other than `IO`.

**Do notation considered harmful!** Just kidding. But sometimes enthusiastic programmers overuse `do` blocks. It is not necessary, and considered bad style, to use `do` in single-line expressions. You will eventually learn to use `>>=` in single-line expressions instead of `do` (there's an example of that in this chapter). Similarly, it is unnecessary to use `do` with functions like `putStrLn` and `print` that already have the effects baked in. In the function above, we could have put `do` in front

of both `putStrLn` and `return` and it would have worked the same, but things get messy and the Haskell ninjas will come and be severely disappointed in you.

## 13.9 Hangman game

Now we're ready to build a game. Make a directory for your game, change so you're working within that directory, and fire up the Stack. We'll use Stack's `new` command to create this project:

```
$ stack new hangman simple
```

You need a `words` file for getting words from. Most Unix-based operating systems will have a words list located at `/usr/share/dict/words`. You may have one that is differently located, or you may need to download one. We put it in the working directory at `data/dict.txt`:

```
$ tree .
.
├── LICENSE
├── Setup.hs
├── data
│   └── dict.txt
├── hangman.cabal
├── src
│   └── Main.hs
└── stack.yaml
```

You haven't created that `src` directory yet — you will soon.

The file was newline separated and so looked like:

```
$ head data/dict.txt
A
a
aa
aal
aali
aam
Aani
aardvark
```

aardwolf  
Aaron

Now edit the `.cabal` file as follows:

```
name:             hangman
version:          0.1.0.0
synopsis:         Playing Hangman
homepage:         Chris N Julie
license:          BSD3
license-file:     LICENSE
author:           Chris Allen and Julie Moronuki
maintainer:       haskellbook.com
category:         Game
build-type:       Simple
extra-source-files: data/dict.txt
cabal-version:    >=1.10
executable hangman
  main-is:        Main.hs
  hs-source-dirs: src
  build-depends:  base >=4.7 && <5
                  , random
                  , split
  default-language: Haskell2010
```

The important bit here is that we used two libraries: *random* and *split*. Normally you'd do version ranges for your dependencies like you see with *base*, but we left the versions of *random* and *split* unassigned because they do not change much. The primary and only source file was in `src/Main.hs`.

## 13.10 Step One: Importing modules

```
-- src/Main.hs
```

```
module Main where
```

```
import Control.Monad (forever) -- [1]
import Data.Char (toLower) -- [2]
import Data.Maybe (isJust) -- [3]
import Data.List (intersperse) -- [4]
import System.Exit (exitSuccess) -- [5]
import System.Random (randomRIO) -- [6]
```

Here the imports are enumerated in the source code. For your version of this project, you don't need to add the enumerating comments. All libraries listed below are part of the main *base* library that comes with your GHC install unless otherwise noted.

1. We're using `forever` from `Control.Monad` to make an infinite loop. A couple points to note:
  - a) You don't *have* to use `forever` to do this, but we're going to.
  - b) You are not expected to understand what it does or how it works exactly. Basically it allows us to execute a function over and over again, infinitely, or until we cause the program to exit or fail, instead of just evaluating once and then stopping.
2. We will use `toLower` from `Data.Char` to convert all characters of our string to lowercase:

```
Prelude> import Data.Char (toLower)
Prelude> toLower 'A'
'a'
```

Be aware that if you pass a character that doesn't have a sensible lowercase, `toLower` will kick the same character back out:

```
Prelude> toLower ':'
':'
```

3. We will use `isJust` from `Data.Maybe` to determine if every character in our puzzle has been discovered already or not:

```
Prelude> import Data.Maybe (isJust)
Prelude> isJust Nothing
False
Prelude> isJust (Just 10)
True
```

We will combine this with `all`, a standard function in the Prelude. Here `all` is a function which answers the question, “given a function that will return `True` or `False` for each element, does it return `True` for *all* of them?”

```
Prelude> all even [2, 4, 6]
True
Prelude> all even [2, 4, 7]
False
Prelude> all isJust [Just 'd', Nothing, Just 'g']
False
Prelude> all isJust [Just 'd', Just 'o', Just 'g']
True
```

The function `all` has the type:

```
Foldable t => (a -> Bool) -> t a -> Bool
```

We haven’t explained the `Foldable` typeclass. For your purposes you can assume it’s a set of operations for types that can be folded in a manner conceptually similar to the list type but which don’t *necessarily* contain more than one value (or any values at all) the way a list or similar datatype does. We can make the type more specific by asserting a type signature like so:

```
Prelude> :t all :: (a -> Bool) -> [a] -> Bool
all :: (a -> Bool) -> [a] -> Bool
```

This will work for any type which has a `Foldable` instance:

```

Prelude> :t all :: (a -> Bool) -> Maybe a -> Bool
all :: (a -> Bool) -> Maybe a -> Bool

-- note the type variables used and
-- experiment independently
Prelude> :t all :: (a -> Bool) -> Either b a -> Bool
all :: (a -> Bool) -> Either b a -> Bool

```

But it will not work if the datatype doesn't have an instance of Foldable:

```

Prelude> :t all :: (a -> Bool) -> (b -> a) -> Bool

No instance for (Foldable ((->) b1)) arising
from a use of 'all'

```

In the expression:

```

all :: (a -> Bool) -> (b -> a) -> Bool

```

4. We use `intersperse` from `Data.List` to...intersperse elements in a list. In this case, we're putting spaces between the characters guessed so far by the player. You may remember we used `intersperse` back in the Recursion chapter to put hyphens in our Numbers Into Words exercise:

```

Prelude> import Data.List (intersperse)
Prelude> intersperse ' ' "Blah"
"B l a h"

```

Conveniently, the type of `intersperse` says nothing about characters or strings, so we can use it with lists containing elements of any type:

```

Prelude> :t intersperse
intersperse :: a -> [a] -> [a]

Prelude> intersperse 0 [1, 1, 1]
[1,0,1,0,1]

```



5. We use `exitSuccess` from `System.Exit` to exit successfully — no errors, we’re simply done. We indicate whether it was a success or not so our operating system knows whether an error occurred. Note that if you evaluate `exitSuccess` in the REPL, it’ll just report that an exception occurred. In a normal running program that doesn’t catch the exception, it’ll end your whole program.
6. We use `randomRIO` from `System.Random` to select a word from our dictionary at random. `System.Random` is in the library *random*. Once again, you’ll need to have the library in scope for your REPL to be able to load it. Once it’s in scope, we can use `randomRIO` to get a random number. You can see from the type signature that it takes a tuple as an argument, but it uses the tuple as a range from which to select a random item:

```
Prelude> import System.Random
Prelude System.Random> :t randomRIO
randomRIO :: Random a => (a, a) -> IO a
Prelude System.Random> randomRIO (0, 5)
4
Prelude System.Random> randomRIO (1, 100)
71
Prelude System.Random> randomRIO (1, 100)
12
```

We will later use this random number generation to produce a random index of a word list to provide a means of selecting random words for our puzzle.

### 13.11 Step Two: Generating a word list

For clarity’s sake, we’re using a type synonym to declare what we mean by `[String]` in our types. Later we’ll show you a version that’s even more explicit using `newtype`. We also use `do` syntax to read the contents of our dictionary into a variable named `dict`. We use the `lines` function to split our big blob string we read from the file into a list of string values each representing a single line. Each line is a single word, so our result is the `WordList`:

```
type WordList = [String]
```

```
allWords :: IO WordList
```

```
allWords = do
```

```
    dict <- readFile "data/dict.txt"
```

```
    return (lines dict)
```

Let's take a moment to look at `lines`, which splits strings at the newline marks and returns a list of strings:

```
Prelude> lines "aardvark\naaron"
```

```
["aardvark","aaron"]
```

```
Prelude> length $ lines "aardvark\naaron"
```

```
2
```

```
Prelude> length $ lines "aardvark\naaron\nwoot"
```

```
3
```

```
Prelude> lines "aardvark aaron"
```

```
["aardvark aaron"]
```

```
Prelude> length $ lines "aardvark aaron"
```

```
1
```

Note that this does something similar but different from `words` which splits by spaces (ostensibly between words) *and* newlines:

```
Prelude> words "aardvark aaron"
```

```
["aardvark","aaron"]
```

```
Prelude> words "aardvark\naaron"
```

```
["aardvark","aaron"]
```

The next part of building our word list for our puzzle is to set upper and lower bounds for the size of words we'll use in the puzzles. Feel free to change them if you want:

```
minWordLength :: Int
```

```
minWordLength = 5
```

```
maxWordLength :: Int
```

```
maxWordLength = 9
```

The next thing we're going to do is take the output of `allWords` and filter it to fit the length criteria we defined above. That will give us a shorter list of words to use in the puzzles:

```
gameWords :: IO WordList
gameWords = do
  aw <- allWords
  return (filter gameLength aw)
  where gameLength w =
    let l = length (w :: String)
    in l > minWordLength && l < maxWordLength
```

We next need to write a pair of functions that will pull a random word out of our word list for us, so that the puzzle player doesn't know what the word will be. We're going to use the `randomRIO` function we mentioned above to facilitate that. We'll pass `randomRIO` a tuple of zero (the first indexed position in our word list) and the number that is the length of our word list minus one. Why minus one?

We have to subtract one from the length of the word list in order to index it because `length` starts counting from 1 but an index of the list starts from 0. A list of length 5 does not have a member indexed at position 5 — it has inhabitants at positions 0-4 instead:

```
Prelude> [1..5] !! 4
5
Prelude> [1..5] !! 5
*** Exception: Prelude.(!!): index too large
```

In order to get the last value in the list, then, we must ask for the member in the position of the length of the list minus one:

```
Prelude> let myList = [1..5]
Prelude> length myList
5
Prelude> myList !! length myList
*** Exception: Prelude.!!!: index too large

Prelude> myList !! (length myList - 1)
5
```

The next two functions work together to pull a random word out of the `gameWords` list we had created above. Roughly speaking, `randomWord` generates a random index number based on the length of a word list, `wl`, and then selects the member of that list that is at that indexed position and returns an `IO String`. Given what you know about `randomRIO` and indexing, you should be able to supply the tuple argument to `randomRIO` yourself:

```
randomWord :: WordList -> IO String
randomWord wl = do
  randomIndex <- randomRIO ( , )
  --                ^^^ you need to fill this part in
  return $ wl !! randomIndex
```

The second function, `randomWord'` binds the `gameWords` list to the `randomWord` function so that the random word we're getting is from that list. We're going to delay a full discussion of the `>=>` operator known as “bind” until we get to the Monads chapter. For now, we can say that, as we said about `do` syntax, *bind* allows us to sequentially compose actions such that a value generated by the first becomes an argument to the second:

```
randomWord' :: IO String
randomWord' = gameWords >=> randomWord
```

Now that we have a word list, we turn our attention to the building of an interactive game using it.

### 13.12 Step Three: Making a puzzle

Our next step is to formulate the core game play. We need a way to hide the word from the player (while giving them an indication of how many letters it has) and create a means of asking for letter guesses, determining if the guessed letter is in the word, putting it in the word if it is and putting it into an “already guessed” list if it's not, and determining when the game ends.

We start with a datatype for our puzzle. The puzzle is a *product* of a `String`, a list of `Maybe Char`, and a list of `Char`:

```
data Puzzle = Puzzle String [Maybe Char] [Char]
--                [1]      [2]      [3]
```

1. the word we're trying to guess
2. the characters we've filled in so far
3. the letters we've guessed so far

Next we're going to write an instance of the typeclass `Show` for our datatype `Puzzle`. You may recall that `show` allows us to print human-readable stringy things to the screen, which is obviously something we have to do to interact with our game. But we want it to print our puzzle a certain way, so we define this instance.

Notice how the argument to `show` lines up with our datatype definition above. Now `discovered` refers to our list of `Maybe Char` and `guessed` is what we've named our list of `Char`, but we've done nothing with the `String` itself:

```
instance Show Puzzle where
  show (Puzzle _ discovered guessed) =
    (intersperse ' ' $ fmap renderPuzzleChar discovered)
    ++ " Guessed so far: " ++ guessed
```

This is going to show us two things as part of our puzzle: the list of `Maybe Char` which is the string of characters we have correctly guessed and the rest of the characters of the puzzle word represented by underscores, interspersed with spaces; and a list of `Char` that reminds us of which characters we've already guessed. We'll talk about `renderPuzzleChar` below.

First we're going to write a function that will take our puzzle word and turn it into a list of `Nothing`. This is the first step in hiding the word from the player. We're going to ask you to write this one yourself, using the following information:

- We've given you a type signature. Your first argument is a `String`, which will be the word that is in play. It will return a value of type `Puzzle`. Remember that the `Puzzle` type is a product of three things.

- Your first value in the output will be the same string as the argument to the function.
- The second value will be the result of mapping a function over that `String` argument. Consider using `const` in the mapped function, as it will always return its first argument, no matter what its second argument is.
- For purposes of this function, the final argument of `Puzzle` is an empty list.

Go for it:

```
freshPuzzle :: String -> Puzzle
freshPuzzle = undefined
```

Now we need a function that looks at the `Puzzle String` and determines whether the character you guessed is an element of that string. Here are some hints:

- This is going to need two arguments, and one of those is of type `Puzzle` which is a product of 3 types. But for the purpose of this function, we only care about the first argument to `Puzzle`.
- We can use underscores to signal that there are values we don't care about and tell the function to ignore them. Whether you use underscores to represent the arguments you don't care about or go ahead and put the names of those in won't affect the result of the function. It does, however, keep your code a bit cleaner and easier to read by explicitly signaling which arguments you care about in a given function.
- The standard function `elem` works like this:

```
Prelude> :t elem
elem :: Eq a => a -> [a] -> Bool
Prelude> elem 'a' "julie"
False
Prelude> elem 3 [1..5]
True
```

So, here you go:

```
charInWord :: Puzzle -> Char -> Bool
charInWord = undefined
```

The next function is very similar to the one you just wrote, but this time we don't care if the Char is part of the String argument — this time we want to check and see if it is an element of the guessed list.

You've totally got this:

```
alreadyGuessed :: Puzzle -> Char -> Bool
alreadyGuessed = undefined
```

OK, so far we have ways to choose a word that we're trying to guess and determine if a guessed character is part of that word or not. But we need a way to hide the rest of the word from the player while they're guessing. Computers are a bit dumb, after all, and can't figure out how to keep secrets on their own. Back when we defined our Show instance for this puzzle, we fmapped a function called renderPuzzleChar over our second Puzzle argument. Let's work on that function next.

The goal here is to use Maybe to permit two different outcomes. It will be mapped over a string in the typeclass instance, so this function works on only one character at a time. If that character has not been correctly guessed yet, it's a Nothing value and should appear on the screen as an underscore. If the character has been guessed, we want to display that character so the player can see which positions they've correctly filled:

```
*Main> renderPuzzleChar Nothing
'_'
*Main> renderPuzzleChar (Just 'c')
'c'
*Main> let n = Nothing
*Main> let daturr = [n, Just 'h', n, Just 'e', n]
*Main> fmap renderPuzzleChar daturr
"_h_e_"
```

Your turn. Remember, you don't need to do the mapping part of it here:

```
renderPuzzleChar :: Maybe Char -> Char
renderPuzzleChar = undefined
```

The next bit is a touch tricky. The point is to insert a correctly guessed character into the string. Although none of the components here are new to you, they're put together in a somewhat dense manner, so we're going to unpack it (obviously, when you type this into your own file, you do not need to add the enumerations):

```
fillInCharacter :: Puzzle -> Char -> Puzzle
fillInCharacter (Puzzle word filledInSoFar s) c =
  --           [1]           [2]
  Puzzle word newFilledInSoFar (c : s)
  --           [ 3 ]
  where zipper guessed wordChar guessChar =
    -- [4] [5] [6] [7]
    if wordChar == guessed
    then Just wordChar
    else guessChar
  -- [ 8 ]
  newFilledInSoFar =
    -- [9]
    zipWith (zipper c) word filledInSoFar
  -- [ 10 ]
```

1. The first argument is our `Puzzle` with its three arguments, with `s` representing the list of characters already guessed.
2. The `c` is our `Char` argument and is the character the player guessed on this turn.
3. Our result is the `Puzzle` with the `filledInSoFar` replaced by `newFilledInSoFar` the `c` consed onto the front of the `s` list.
4. `zipper` is a combining function for deciding how to handle the character in the word, what's been guessed already, and the character that was just guessed. If the current character in the word is equal to what the player guessed, then we go ahead and return `Just wordChar` to fill in that spot in the puzzle. Otherwise, we just kick the `guessChar` back out. We kick `guessChar` back out



because it might either be a previously correctly guessed character *or* a `Nothing` that have neither guessed correctly this time nor in the past.

5. `guessed` is the character they guessed.
6. `wordChar` is the characters in the puzzle word — not the ones they've guessed or not guessed but the characters in the word that they're supposed to be guessing.
7. `guessChar` is the list that keeps track of the characters the player has guessed so far.
8. This `if-then-else` expression checks to see if the guessed character is one of the word characters. If it is, it wraps it in a `Just` because our puzzle word is a list of `Maybe` values. Otherwise, it is a guessed character but does not belong in the word.
9. `newFilledInSoFar` is the new state of the puzzle which uses `zipWith` and the `zipper` combining function to fill in characters in the puzzle. The `zipper` function is first applied to the character the player just guessed because that doesn't change. Then it's zipped across two lists. One list is `word` which is the word the user is trying to guess. The second list, `filledInSoFar` is the puzzle state we're starting with of type `[Maybe Char]`. That's telling us which characters in `word` have been guessed.
10. Now we're going to make our `newFilledInSoFar` by using `zipWith`. You may remember this from the `Lists` chapter. It's going to zip the `word` with the `filledInSoFar` values while applying the `zipper` function from just above it to the values as it does.

Next we have this big `do` block with a case expression and each case also has a `do` block inside it. Why not, right?

First, it tells the player what you guessed. The case expression is to give different responses based on whether the guessed character:

- had already been guessed previously;
- is in the word and needs to be filled in;
- or, was not previously guessed but also isn't in the puzzle word.

Despite the initial appearance of complexity, most of this is syntax you've seen before, and you can look through it step-by-step and see what's going on:

```

handleGuess :: Puzzle -> Char -> IO Puzzle
handleGuess puzzle guess = do
  putStrLn $ "Your guess was: " ++ [guess]
  case (charInWord puzzle guess
    , alreadyGuessed puzzle guess) of
    (_, True) -> do
      putStrLn "You already guessed that\
        \ character, pick something else!"
      return puzzle
    (True, _) -> do
      putStrLn "This character was in the word,\
        \ filling in the word accordingly"
      return (fillInCharacter puzzle guess)
    (False, _) -> do
      putStrLn "This character wasn't in\
        \ the word, try again."
      return (fillInCharacter puzzle guess)

```

All right, next we need to devise a way to stop the game after a certain number of guesses. Hangman games normally stop only after a certain number of *incorrect* guesses, but for the sake of simplicity here, we're just stopping after a set number of guesses, whether they're correct or not. Again, the syntax here should be comprehensible to you from what we've done so far:

```

gameOver :: Puzzle -> IO ()
gameOver (Puzzle wordToGuess _ guessed) =
  if (length guessed) > 7 then
    do putStrLn "You lose!"
      putStrLn $ "The word was: " ++ wordToGuess
      exitSuccess
  else return ()

```

Notice the way it's written says you lose and exits the game once you've guessed seven characters, even if the final (seventh) guess is

the final letter to fill into the word. There are, of course, ways to modify that to make it more the way you'd expect a hangman game to go, and we encourage you to play with that.

Next we need to provide a way to exit after winning the game. We showed you how the combination of `isJust` and `all` works earlier in the chapter, and you can see that in action here. Recall that our puzzle word is a list of `Maybe` values, so when each character is represented by a `Just Char` rather than a `Nothing`, you win the game and we exit:

```
gameWin :: Puzzle -> IO ()
gameWin (Puzzle _ filledInSoFar _) =
  if all isJust filledInSoFar then
    do putStrLn "You win!"
       exitSuccess
  else return ()
```

Next is the instruction for running a game. Here we use `forever` so that this will execute this series of actions indefinitely:

```
runGame :: Puzzle -> IO ()
runGame puzzle = forever $ do
  gameOver puzzle
  gameWin puzzle
  putStrLn $ "Current puzzle is: " ++ show puzzle
  putStr "Guess a letter: "
  guess <- getLine
  case guess of
    [c] -> handleGuess puzzle c >=> runGame
    _    -> putStrLn "Your guess must\
                     \ be a single character"
```

And, finally, here is `main` bringing everything together: it gets a word from the word list we generated, generates a fresh puzzle, and then executes the `runGame` actions we just saw above, until such time as you guess all the characters in the word correctly or have made seven guesses, whichever comes first:

```

main :: IO ()
main = do
    word <- randomWord'
    let puzzle = freshPuzzle (fmap toLower word)
    runGame puzzle

```

### 13.13 Adding a newtype

Another way you could modify your code in the above and gain, perhaps, more clarity in places is with the use of newtype:

```

-- replace this synonym with the newtype
-- type WordList = [String]

newtype WordList =
    WordList [String]
    deriving (Eq, Show)

allWords :: IO WordList
allWords = do
    dict <- readFile "data/dict.txt"
    return $ WordList (lines dict)

gameWords :: IO WordList
gameWords = do
    (WordList aw) <- allWords
    return $ WordList (filter gameLength aw)
    where gameLength w =
        let l = length (w :: String)
        in l > minWordLength && l < maxWordLength

randomWord :: WordList -> IO String
randomWord (WordList wl) = do
    randomIndex <- randomRIO (0, (length wl) - 1)
    return $ wl !! randomIndex

```

## 13.14 Chapter exercises

### Hangman game logic

You may have noticed when you were playing with the hangman game, that there are some weird things about its game logic:

- although it can play with words up to 9 characters long, you only get to guess 7 characters;
- it ends the game after 7 guesses, whether they were correct or incorrect;
- if your 7th guess supplies the last letter in the word, it may still tell you you lost;
- it picks some very strange words that you didn't suspect were even in the dictionary.

These make it unlike hangman as you might have played it in the past. Ordinarily, only incorrect guesses count against you, so you can make as many correct guesses as you need to fill in the word. Modifying the game so that it either gives you more guesses before the game ends or only uses shorter words (or both) involves only a couple of uncomplicated steps.

A bit more complicated but worth attempting as an exercise is changing the game so that, as with normal hangman, only incorrect guesses count towards the guess limit.

### Modifying code

1. Ciphers: Open your Ciphers module and modify it so that the Caesar and Vigenère ciphers work with user input.
2. Here is a very simple, short block of code. Notice it has a `forever` that will make it keep running, over and over again. Load it into your REPL and test it out. Then refer back to the chapter and modify it to exit successfully after a `False` result.

```
import Control.Monad

palindrome :: IO ()
palindrome = forever $ do
  line1 <- getLine
  case (line1 == reverse line1) of
    True  -> putStrLn "It's a palindrome!"
    False -> putStrLn "Nope!"
```

3. If you tried using `palindrome` on a sentence such as “Madam I’m Adam,” you may have noticed that palindrome checker doesn’t work on that. Modifying the above so that it works on sentences, too, involves several steps. You may need to refer back to previous examples in the chapter to get ideas for proper ordering and nesting. You may wish to import `Data.Char` to use the function `toLower`. Have fun.

4. `type Name = String`  
`type Age = Integer`

```
data Person = Person Name Age deriving Show
```

```
data PersonInvalid = NameEmpty
                  | AgeTooLow
                  | PersonInvalidUnknown String
                  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
mkPerson :: Name
         -> Age
         -> Either PersonInvalid Person

mkPerson name age
  | name /= "" && age > 0 = Right $ Person name age
  | name == "" = Left NameEmpty
  | not (age > 0) = Left AgeTooLow
  | otherwise = Left $ PersonInvalidUnknown $
    "Name was: " ++ show name ++
    " Age was: " ++ show age
```

Your job is to write the following function *without* modifying the code above.

```
gimmePerson :: IO ()  
gimmePerson = undefined
```

Since `IO ()` is about the least informative type imaginable, we'll tell what it should do.

- a) It should prompt the user for a name and age input.
- b) It should attempt to construct a `Person` value using the name and age the user entered. You'll need the `read` function for `Age` because it's an `Integer` rather than a `String`.
- c) If it constructed a successful person, it should print "Yay! Successfully got a person:" followed by the `Person` value.
- d) If it got an error value, report that an error occurred and print the error.

### 13.15 Follow-up resources

1. Stack  
<https://github.com/commercialhaskell/stack>
2. How I Start: Haskell  
<http://bitemyapp.com/posts/2014-11-18-how-i-start-haskell.html>
3. Cabal FAQ  
<https://www.haskell.org/cabal/FAQ.html>
4. Cabal user's guide  
<https://www.haskell.org/cabal/users-guide/>
5. A Gentle Introduction to Haskell, Modules chapter.  
<https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/modules.html>

## Chapter 14

# Testing

We've tended to forget that  
no computer will ever ask a  
new question.

---

Grace Murray Hopper



## 14.1 Testing

This chapter, like the one before it, is more focused on practical matters rather than writing Haskell code per se. We will be covering two testing libraries for Haskell (there are others) and how and when to use them. You will not be writing much of the code in the chapter on your own; instead, please follow along by entering it into files as directed (you will learn more if you type rather than copy and paste). At the end of the chapter, there are a number of exercises that ask you to write your own tests for practice.

Testing is a core part of the working programmer's toolkit, and Haskell is no exception. Well-specified types can enable programmers to avoid many obvious and tedious tests that might otherwise be necessary to maintain in untyped programming languages, but there's still a lot of value to be obtained in executable specifications. This chapter will introduce you to testing methods for Haskell.

This chapter will cover:

- the whats and whys of testing;
- using the testing libraries Hspec and QuickCheck;
- a bit of fun with Morse code.

## 14.2 A quick tour of testing for the uninitiated

When we write Haskell, we rely on the compiler to judge for us whether our code is well formed. That prevents a great number of errors, but it does not prevent them all. It is still possible to write well-typed code that doesn't perform as expected, and runtime errors can still occur. That's where testing comes in.

In general, tests allow you to state an expectation and then verify that the result of an operation meets that expectation. They allow you to verify that your code will do what you want when executed.

For the sake of simplicity, we'll say there are two broad categories of testing: unit testing and property testing. Unit testing tests the smallest atomic units of software independently of one another. Unit testing allows the programmer to check that each function is performing the task it is meant to do. You assert that when the code runs with a specified input, the result is equal to the result you want.

Spec testing is a somewhat newer version of unit testing. Like unit testing, it tests specific functions independently and asks you to assert that, when given the declared input, the result of the operation will be equal to the desired result. When you run the test, the computer checks that the expected result is equal to the actual result and everyone moves on with their day. Some people prefer spec testing to unit testing because spec testing is more often written in terms of assertions that are in human-readable language. This can be especially valuable if nonprogrammers need to be able to read and interpret the results of the tests — they can read the English-language results of the tests and, in some cases, write tests themselves.

Haskell provides libraries for both unit and spec testing. We'll focus on spec testing with the `Hspec` library in this chapter, but `HUnit` is also available. One limitation to unit and spec testing is that they test atomic units of code independently, so they do not verify that all the pieces work together properly.

Property testing is a different beast. This kind of testing was pioneered in Haskell because the type system and straightforward logic of the language lend themselves to property tests, but it has since been adopted by other languages as well. Property tests test the formal properties of programs without requiring formal proofs by allowing you to express a truth-valued, universally quantified (that is, will apply to all cases) function — usually equality — which will then be checked against randomly generated inputs.

The inputs are generated randomly by the standard functions inside the `QuickCheck` library we use for property testing. This relies on the type system to know what kinds of data to generate. The default setting is for 100 inputs to be generated, giving you 100 results. If it fails any one of these, then you know your program doesn't have the specified property. If it passes, you can't be positive it will never fail because the data are randomly generated — there could be a weird edge case out there that will cause your software to fail. `QuickCheck` is cleverly written to be as thorough as possible and will usually check the most common edge cases (for example, empty lists and the `maxBound` and `minBounds` of the types in question, where appropriate). You can also change the setting so that it runs more tests.

Property testing is fantastic for ensuring that you've met the min-

imum requirements to satisfy laws, such as the laws of monads or basic associativity. It is not appropriate for all programs, though, as it is not useful for times when there are no assertable, truth-valued properties of the software.

### 14.3 Conventional testing

We are going to use the library Hspec<sup>1</sup> to demonstrate a simple test case, but we're not going to explain Hspec *deeply*. The current chapter will equip you with a means of writing tests for your code later, but it's not necessary to understand the details of how the library works to do that. Some of the concepts Hspec leans on, such as functor, applicative, and monad, are covered later as independent concepts.

First, let's come up with a simple test case for addition. Generally we want to make a Cabal project, even for small experiments. Having a permanent project for experiments can eliminate some of this overhead, but we'll assume you haven't done this yet and start a small Cabal project:

```
-- Addition.cabal
name:                addition
version:             0.1.0.0
license-file:        LICENSE
author:              Chicken Little
maintainer:          sky@isfalling.org
category:            Text
build-type:          Simple
cabal-version:       >=1.10

library
  exposed-modules:    Addition
  ghc-options:        -Wall -fwarn-tabs
  build-depends:      base >=4.7 && <5
                      , hspec
  hs-source-dirs:     .
  default-language:   Haskell2010
```

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://hackage.haskell.org/package/hspec>

Note we've specified the `hspec` dependency, but not a version range for it. You'll probably want whatever the newest version of it is but can probably get away with not specifying it for now.

Next we'll make the `Addition` module (exposed-modules) in the same directory as our Cabal file. This is why the `hs-source-dirs` option in the library stanza was set to `.` — this is the convention for referring to the current directory.

For now, we'll write a simple placeholder function, just to make sure everything's working:

```
-- Addition.hs
module Addition where

sayHello :: IO ()
sayHello = putStrLn "hello!"
```

Then you can create an empty `LICENSE` file so the build doesn't complain:

```
$ touch LICENSE
```

Your local project directory should look like this now, before having run any Stack commands:

```
$ tree
.
├─ Addition.hs
├─ addition.cabal
└─ LICENSE
```

The next steps are to initialize the Stack file for describing what snapshot of Stackage we'll use:

```
$ stack init
```

Then we'll want to build our project which'll also install the dependencies we need:

```
$ stack build
```

If that succeeded, let's fire up a `REEEEEEEPL` and see if we can call `sayHello`:

```
$ stack ghci
```

```
[some noise about configuring, loading packages, etc.]
```

```
Ok, modules loaded: Addition.
```

```
Prelude> sayHello
```

```
hello!
```

If you got here, you've got a working test bed for making a simple test case in Hspec!

### Truth according to Hspec

Next we'll add the import of Hspec's primary module:

```
module Addition where
```

```
import Test.Hspec
```

```
sayHello :: IO ()
```

```
sayHello = putStrLn "hello!"
```

Note that *all* of your imports must occur after the module has been declared and before any expressions have been defined in your module. You may have encountered an error or a mistake might've been made. Here are a couple of examples.

```
module Addition where
```

```
sayHello :: IO ()
```

```
sayHello = putStrLn "hello!"
```

```
import Test.Hspec
```

Here we put an import after at least one declaration. The compiler parser doesn't have a means of recognizing this specific mistake, so it can't tell you properly what the error is:

```
Prelude> :r
```

```
[1 of 1] Compiling Addition
```

```
Addition.hs:7:1: parse error on input 'import'
Failed, modules loaded: none.
```

What else may have gone wrong? Well, we might have the package `hspec` installed, but not included in our `build-depends` for our project. Note you'll need to quit and reopen the REPL if you've made any changes to your `.cabal` file to reproduce this error or fixed a mistake:

```
$ stack build
{... noise ...}
```

```
Could not find module 'Test.Hspec'
It is a member of the hidden package
'hspec-2.2.3@hspec_JWyjr3DNMsw1kiPzf88M5w'.
Perhaps you need to add 'hspec' to the
build-depends in your .cabal file.
```

```
Use -v to see a list of the files searched for.
{... other noise ...}
```

```
Process exited with code: ExitFailure 1
```

If you changed anything in order to test these error modes, you'll need to add `Hspec` back to your `build-depends` and reinstall it. If `Hspec` is listed in your dependencies, `stack build` will set you right.

Assuming everything is in order and `Test.Hspec` is being imported, we can do a little exploration. We can use the `:browse` command to get a listing of types from a module and get a thousand-foot-view of what it offers:

```
Prelude> :browse Test.Hspec
context :: String -> SpecWith a -> SpecWith a
example :: Expectation -> Expectation
specify :: Example a => String -> a -> SpecWith (Arg a)
(... list goes on for awhile ...)
Prelude>
```

`:browse` is more useful when you already have some familiarity with the library and how it works. When you're using an unfamiliar

library, documentation is easier to digest. Good documentation explains how important pieces of the library work and gives examples of their use. This is especially valuable when encountering new concepts. As it happens, Hspec has some pretty good documentation at their website.<sup>2</sup>

### Our first Hspec test

Let's add a test assertion to our module now. If you glance at the documentation, you'll see that our example isn't very interesting, but we'll make it somewhat more interesting soon:

```
module Addition where

import Test.Hspec

main :: IO ()
main = hspec $ do
  describe "Addition" $ do
    it "1 + 1 is greater than 1" $ do
      (1 + 1) > 1 `shouldBe` True
```

We've asserted in both English and code that  $(1 + 1)$  should be greater than 1, and that is what Hspec will test for us. You may recognize the `do` notation from the previous chapter. As we said then, this syntax allows us to sequence monadic actions. In the previous chapter, the monad in question was `IO`.

Here, we're nesting multiple `do` blocks. The type of the `do` blocks passed to `hspec`, `describe`, and `it` aren't `IO ()` but something more specific to Hspec. They result in `IO ()` in the end, but there are other monads involved. We haven't covered monads yet, and this works fine without understanding precisely how it works, so let's just roll with it for now.

Note that you'll get warnings about the `Num a => a` literals getting defaulted to `Integer`. You can ignore this or add explicit type signatures, it is up to you. With the above code in place, we can load or reload our module and run `main` to see the test results:

---

<sup>2</sup> <http://hspec.github.io/>

```
Prelude> main
```

```
Addition
```

```
1 + 1 is greater than 1
```

```
Finished in 0.0041 seconds
```

```
1 example, 0 failures
```

OK, so what happened here? Basically, Hspec runs your code and verifies that the arguments you passed to `shouldBe` are equal. Let's look at the types:

```
shouldBe :: (Eq a, Show a) => a -> a -> Expectation
```

```
-- contrast with
```

```
(==) :: Eq a => a -> a -> Bool
```

In a sense, it's an augmented `==` embedded in Hspec's model of the universe. It needs the `Show` instance in order to render a value. That is, the `Show` instance allows Hspec to show you the result of the tests, not just return a `Bool` value.

Let's add another test, one that reads a little differently:

```
main :: IO ()
main = hspec $ do
  describe "Addition" $ do
    it "1 + 1 is greater than 1" $ do
      (1 + 1) > 1 `shouldBe` True
    it "2 + 2 is equal to 4" $ do
      2 + 2 `shouldBe` 4
```

Modify your `describe` block about `Addition` so that it looks like the above and run it in the REPL:

```
Prelude> main
```

```
Addition
```

```
1 + 1 is greater than 1
```

```
2 + 2 is equal to 4
```



Finished in 0.0004 seconds  
 2 examples, 0 failures

For fun, we'll look back to something you wrote early in the book and write a short Hspec test for it. Back in the Recursion chapter, we wrote our own division function that looked like this:

```
dividedBy :: Integral a => a -> a -> (a, a)
dividedBy num denom = go num denom 0
  where go n    d count
        | n < d = (count, n)
        | otherwise = go (n - d) d (count + 1)
```

We want to test that to see that it works as it should. To keep things simple, we added `dividedBy` to our `Addition.hs` file and then rewrote the Hspec tests that were already there. We want to test that the function is both subtracting the correct number of times and keeping an accurate count of that subtraction and also that it's telling us the correct remainder, so we'll give Hspec two things to test for:

```
main :: IO ()
main = hspec $ do
  describe "Addition" $ do
    it "15 divided by 3 is 5" $ do
      dividedBy 15 3 `shouldBe` (5, 0)
    it "22 divided by 5 is 4 remainder 2" $ do
      dividedBy 22 5 `shouldBe` (4, 2)
```

That's it. When we reload `Addition.hs` in our REPL, we can test our division function:

```
*Addition> main
```

```
Addition
  15 divided by 3 is 5
  22 divided by 5 is 4 remainder 2
```

Finished in 0.0012 seconds  
 2 examples, 0 failures

Hurrah! We can do arithmetic!

### Intermission: Short Exercise

In the Chapter Exercises at the end of Recursion, you were given this exercise:

Write a function that multiplies two numbers using recursive summation. The type should be `(Eq a, Num a) => a -> a -> a` although, depending on how you do it, you might also consider adding an `Ord` constraint.

If you still have your answer, great! If not, rewrite it and then write Hspec tests for it.

The above examples demonstrate the basics of writing individual tests to test particular values. If you'd like to see a more developed example, you could refer to Chris's library, *Bloodhound*.<sup>3</sup>

## 14.4 Enter QuickCheck

Hspec does a nice job with spec testing, but we're Haskell users — we're never satisfied!! Hspec can only prove something about particular values. Can we get assurances that are stronger, something closer to proofs? As it happens, we can.

QuickCheck is the first library to offer what is today called “property testing.” Hspec testing is more like what is known as unit testing — the testing of individual units of code — whereas property testing is done with the assertion of laws or properties.

First, we'll need to add QuickCheck to our `build-depends`. Open your `.cabal` file and add it. Be sure to capitalize `QuickCheck` (unlike `hspec`, which begins with a lowercase `h`). It should already be installed, as Hspec has QuickCheck as a dependency, but you may need to reinstall it (`stack build`). Then open a new `stack ghci` session.

Hspec has QuickCheck integration out of the box, so once that is done, add the following to your module:

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://github.com/bitemyapp/bloodhound>

```
-- with your imports
import Test.QuickCheck

-- to the same describe block as the others
it "x + 1 is always greater than x" $ do
  property $ \x -> x + 1 > (x :: Int)
```

If we had not asserted the type of  $x$  in the property test, the compiler would not have known what concrete type to use, and we'd see a message like this:

```
No instance for (Show a0) arising from a use of 'property'
The type variable 'a0' is ambiguous
...
No instance for (Num a0) arising from a use of '+'
The type variable 'a0' is ambiguous
...
No instance for (Ord a0) arising from a use of '>'
The type variable 'a0' is ambiguous
```

Avoid this by asserting a concrete type, for example,  $(x :: \text{Int})$ , in the property.

Assuming all is well, when we run it, we'll see something like the following:

```
Prelude> main

Addition
  1 + 1 is greater than 1
  2 + 2 is equal to 4
  x + 1 is always greater than x

Finished in 0.0067 seconds
3 examples, 0 failures
```

What's being hidden a bit by Hspec is that QuickCheck tests *many* values to see if your assertions hold for all of them. It does this by randomly generating values of the type you said you expected. So, it'll keep feeding our function random `Int` values to see if the

property is ever false. The number of tests QuickCheck runs defaults to 100.

### Arbitrary instances

QuickCheck relies on a typeclass called `Arbitrary` and a newtype called `Gen` for generating its random data.

`arbitrary` is a value of type `Gen`:

```
Prelude> :t arbitrary
arbitrary :: Arbitrary a => Gen a
```

This is merely a way to set a default generator for a type. When you use the `arbitrary` value, you have to specify the type to dispatch the right typeclass instance, as types and typeclasses instances form unique pairings. But this is just a value. How do we see a list of values of the correct type?

We can use `sample` and `sample'` from the `Test.QuickCheck` module in order to see some random data:

```
-- this one just prints each value on a new line
Prelude> :t sample
sample :: Show a => Gen a -> IO ()

-- this one returns a list
Prelude> :t sample'
sample' :: Gen a -> IO [a]
```

The `IO` is necessary because it's using a global resource of random values to generate the data. A common way to generate pseudo-random data is to have a function that, given some input “seed” value, returns a value and another seed value for generating a different value. You can bind the two actions together, as we explained in the last chapter, to pass a new seed value each time and keep generating seemingly random data. In this case, however, we're not doing that. Here we're using `IO` so that our function that generates our data can return a different result each time (not something pure functions are allowed to do) by pulling from a global resource of random values. If this doesn't make a great deal of sense at this point, it will be more

clear once we've covered monads, and even more so once we cover IO.

We use the `Arbitrary` typeclass in order to provide a generator for `sample`. It isn't a terribly principled typeclass, but it is popular and useful for this. We say it is unprincipled because it has no laws and nothing specific it's supposed to do. It's just a convenient way of plucking a canonical generator for `Gen a` out of thin air without having to know where it comes from. If it feels a bit like *\*MAGIC\** at this point, that's fine. It is, a bit, and the inner workings of `Arbitrary` are not worth fussing over right now.

As you'll see later, this isn't necessary if you have a `Gen` value ready to go already. `Gen` is a newtype with a single type argument. It exists for wrapping up a function to generate pseudorandom values. The function takes an argument that is usually provided by some kind of random value generator to give you a pseudorandom value of that type, assuming it's a type that has an instance of the `Arbitrary` typeclass.

And this is what we get when we use the `sample` functions. We use the `arbitrary` value but specify the type, so that it gives us a list of random values of that type:

```
Prelude> sample (arbitrary :: Gen Int)
0
-2
-1
4
-3
4
2
4
-3
2
-4
Prelude> sample (arbitrary :: Gen Double)
0.0
0.13712502861905426
2.9801894108743605
-8.960645064542609
4.494161946149201
```

```

7.903662448338119
-5.221729489254451
31.64874305324701
77.43118278366954
-539.7148886375935
26.87468214215407

```

If you run `sample arbitrary` directly in GHCi without specifying a type, it will default the type to `()` and give you a very nice list of empty tuples. If you try loading an unspecified `sample arbitrary` from a source file, though, you will get an affectionate message from GHC about having an ambiguous type. Try it if you like. GHCi has somewhat different rules for default types than GHC does.

We can specify our own data for generating `Gen` values. In this example, we'll specify a trivial function that always returns a `1` of type `Int`:

```
-- the trivial generator of values
```

```

trivialInt :: Gen Int
trivialInt = return 1

```

You may remember `return` from the previous chapter as well. Here, it provides an expedient way to construct a function. In the last chapter, we noted that it doesn't do a whole lot except return a value inside of a monad. Before we were using it to put a value into `IO` but it's not limited to use with that monad:

```
return :: Monad m => a -> m a
```

```
-- when `m` is Gen:
```

```
return :: a -> Gen a
```

Putting `1` into the `Gen` monad constructs a generator that always returns the same value, `1`.

So, what happens when we sample data from this?

```

Prelude> sample' trivialInt
[1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1]

```

Notice now our value isn't arbitrary for some type, but the `trivialInt` value we defined above. That generator always returns 1, so all `sample'` can return for us is a list of 1.

Let's explore different means of generating values:

```
oneThroughThree :: Gen Int
oneThroughThree = elements [1, 2, 3]
```

Try loading that via your `Addition` module and asking for a sample set of random `oneThroughThree` values:

```
*Addition> sample' oneThroughThree
[2,3,3,2,2,1,2,1,1,3,3]
```

Yep, it gave us random values from only that limited set. At this time, each number in that set has the same chance of showing up in our random data set. We could tinker with those odds by having a list with repeated elements to give those elements a higher probability of showing up in each generation:

```
oneThroughThree :: Gen Int
oneThroughThree = elements [1, 2, 2, 2, 2, 3]
```

Try running `sample'` again with this set and see if you notice the difference. You may not, of course, because due to the nature of probability, there is at least some chance that 2 wouldn't show up any more than it did with the previous sample.

Next we'll use `choose` and `elements` from the `QuickCheck` library as generators of values:

```
-- choose :: System.Random.Random a => (a, a) -> Gen a
-- elements :: [a] -> Gen a
```

```
genBool :: Gen Bool
genBool = choose (False, True)
```

```
genBool' :: Gen Bool
genBool' = elements [False, True]
```

```
genOrdering :: Gen Ordering
genOrdering = elements [LT, EQ, GT]
```

```
genChar :: Gen Char
genChar = elements ['a'..'z']
```

You should enter all these into your `Addition` module, load them into your REPL, and just play with getting lists of sample data for each.

Our next examples are a bit more complex:

```
genTuple :: (Arbitrary a, Arbitrary b) => Gen (a, b)
genTuple = do
  a <- arbitrary
  b <- arbitrary
  return (a, b)
```

```
genThreeple :: (Arbitrary a, Arbitrary b, Arbitrary c) =>
  Gen (a, b, c)
genThreeple = do
  a <- arbitrary
  b <- arbitrary
  c <- arbitrary
  return (a, b, c)
```

Here's how to use generators when they have polymorphic type arguments. Remember that if you leave the types unspecified, the extended defaulting behavior of GHCi will (helpfully?) pick unit for



you. Outside of GHCi, you'll get an error about an ambiguous type — we covered some of this when we explained typeclasses earlier:

```
Prelude> sample genTuple
((),())
((),())
((),())
```

Here it's defaulting the *a* and *b* to (). We can get more interesting output if we tell it what we expect *a* and *b* to be. Note it'll always pick 0 and 0.0 for the first numeric values:

```
Prelude> sample (genTuple :: Gen (Int, Float))
(0,0.0)
(-1,0.2516606)
(3,0.7800742)
(5,-61.62875)
```

We can ask for lists and characters, or anything with an instance of the Arbitrary typeclass:

```
Prelude> sample (genTuple :: Gen ([()], Char))
([], '\STX')
([()], 'X')
([], '?')
([], '\137')
([()], ()), '\DC1')
([()], ()), 'z')
```

You can use `:info Arbitrary` in your GHCi to see what instances are available.

We can also generate arbitrary `Maybe` and `Either` values:

```

genEither :: (Arbitrary a, Arbitrary b) => Gen (Either a b)
genEither = do
  a <- arbitrary
  b <- arbitrary
  elements [Left a, Right b]

-- equal probability
genMaybe :: Arbitrary a => Gen (Maybe a)
genMaybe = do
  a <- arbitrary
  elements [Nothing, Just a]

-- What QuickCheck actually does
-- so you get more Just values
genMaybe' :: Arbitrary a => Gen (Maybe a)
genMaybe' = do
  a <- arbitrary
  frequency [ (1, return Nothing)
             , (3, return (Just a)) ]

-- frequency :: [(Int, Gen a)] -> Gen a

```

For now, you should just play with this in the REPL; it will become useful to know later on.

### Using QuickCheck without Hspec

We can also use QuickCheck without Hspec. In that case, we no longer need to specify  $x$  in our expression, because the type of `prop_additionGreater` provides for it. Thus, we rewrite our previous example as follows:

```

prop_additionGreater :: Int -> Bool
prop_additionGreater x = x + 1 > x

runQc :: IO ()
runQc = quickCheck prop_additionGreater

```

For now, we don't need to worry about how `runQc` does its work. It's a generic function, like `main`, that signals that it's time to do stuff. Specifically, in this case, it's time to perform the QuickCheck tests.

Now, when we run it in the REPL, instead of the `main` function we were calling with `Hspec`, we'll call `runQc`, which will call on `QuickCheck` to test the property we defined. When we run `QuickCheck` directly, it reports how many tests it ran:

```
Prelude> runQc
+++ OK, passed 100 tests.
```

What happens if we assert something untrue?

```
prop_additionGreater x = x + 0 > x

Prelude> :r
[1 of 1] Compiling Addition
Ok, modules loaded: Addition.
Prelude> runQc
*** Failed! Falsifiable (after 1 test):
0
```

Conveniently, `QuickCheck` doesn't just tell us that our test failed, but it tells us the first input it encountered that it failed on. If you try to keep running it, you may notice that the value that it fails on is always 0. A while ago, we said that `QuickCheck` has some built-in cleverness and tries to ensure that common error boundaries will always get tested. The input 0 is a frequent point of failure, so `QuickCheck` tries to ensure that it is always tested (when appropriate, given the types, etc etc).

## 14.5 Morse code

In the interest of playing with testing, we'll work through an example project where we translate text to and from Morse code. We're going to start a new project for this. When you do use `stack new project-name` with to start a new project instead of `stack init` for an existing project, it automatically generates a file called `Setup.hs` that looks like this:

```
import Distribution.Simple
main = defaultMain
```

This isn't terribly important. You rarely need to modify or do anything at all with the `Setup.hs` file, and usually you shouldn't touch it at all. Occasionally, you may need to edit it for certain tasks, so it is good to recognize that it's there.

Next, as always, let's get our `.cabal` file configured properly. Some of this will be automatically generated by your `stack new project-name`, but you'll have to add to what it generates, being careful about things like capitalization and indentation:

```
name:                morse
version:             0.1.0.0
license-file:        LICENSE
author:              Chris Allen
maintainer:          cma@bitemyapp.com
category:            Text
build-type:          Simple
cabal-version:       >=1.10

library
  exposed-modules:    Morse
  ghc-options:        -Wall -fwarn-tabs
  build-depends:      base >=4.7 && <5
                      , containers
                      , QuickCheck
  hs-source-dirs:     src
  default-language:   Haskell2010

executable morse
  main-is:            Main.hs
  ghc-options:        -Wall -fwarn-tabs
  hs-source-dirs:     src
  build-depends:      base >=4.7 && <5
                      , containers
                      , morse
                      , QuickCheck
  default-language:   Haskell2010
```

```
test-suite tests
  ghc-options: -Wall -fno-warn-orphans
  type: exitcode-stdio-1.0
  main-is: tests.hs
  hs-source-dirs: tests
  build-depends:      base
                    , containers
                    , morse
                    , QuickCheck
  default-language:   Haskell2010
```

Now that's set up and ready for us, so the next step is to make our `src` directory and the file called `Morse.hs` as our “exposed module:”

```
-- src/Morse.hs
```

```
module Morse
  ( Morse
  , charToMorse
  , morseToChar
  , stringToMorse
  , letterToMorse
  , morseToLetter
  ) where

import qualified Data.Map as M

type Morse = String
```

Whoa, there — what's all that stuff after the module name? That is a list of everything this module will export. We talked a bit about this in the previous chapter, but didn't make use of it. In the hangman game, we had all our functions in one file, so nothing needed to be exported.

**Nota bene** You don't have to specify exports in this manner. By default, the entire module is exposed and can be imported by any other

module. If you want to export everything in a module, then specifying exports is unnecessary. However, it can help, when managing large projects, to specify what will get used by another module (and, by exclusion, what will not) as a way of documenting your intent. In this case, we have exported here more than we imported into `Main`, as we realized that we only needed the two specified functions for `Main`. We could go back and remove the things we didn't specifically import from the above export list, but we haven't now, to give you an idea of the process we're going through putting our project together.

### Turning words into code

We are also using a qualified import of `Data.Map`. We covered this type of import somewhat in the previous chapter. We qualify the import and name it `M` so that we can use that `M` as a prefix for the functions we're using from that package. That will help us keep track of where the functions came from and also avoid same-name clashes with `Prelude` functions, but without requiring us to tediously type `Data.Map` as a prefix to each function name.

We'll talk more about `Map` as a data structure later in the book. For now, we can understand it as being a balanced binary tree, where each node is a pairing of a key and a value. The key is an index for the value — a marker of how to find the value in the tree. The key must be orderable (that is, must have an `Ord` instance), just as our binary tree functions earlier, such as `insert`, needed an `Ord` instance. `Maps` can be more efficient than lists because you do not have to search linearly through a bunch of data. Because the keys are ordered and the tree is balanced, searching through the binary tree divides the search space in half each time you go “left” or “right.” You compare the key to the index of the current node to determine if you need to go left (less), right (greater), or if you've arrived at the node for your value (equal).

You can see below why we used a `Map` instead of a simple list. We want to make a list of pairs, where each pair includes both the English-language character and its Morse code representation. We define our transliteration table thus:

```
letterToMorse :: (M.Map Char Morse)
```

```
letterToMorse = M.fromList [
```

```
    ('a', ".-")
  , ('b', "-...")
  , ('c', "-.-.")
  , ('d', "-..")
  , ('e', ".")

  , ('f', "..-.")
  , ('g', "--.")
  , ('h', "....")
  , ('i', "..")
  , ('j', ".---")
  , ('k', "-.-")

  , ('l', "-...")
  , ('m', "--")
  , ('n', "-.")
  , ('o', "---")
  , ('p', ".---")
  , ('q', "-.-.-")

  , ('r', "-.-")
  , ('s', "...")
  , ('t', "-")
  , ('u', "..-")
  , ('v', "...-")
  , ('w', ".--")

  , ('x', "-.-.-")
  , ('y', "-.-.-")
  , ('z', "--..")
  , ('1', ".----")
  , ('2', "..----
```

```

    , ('3', "...--")
    , ('4', "....-")
    , ('5', ".....")
    , ('6', "-....")
    , ('7', "--...")
    , ('8', "---..")
    , ('9', "----.")
    , ('0', "-----")
  ]

```

Note that we used `M.fromList` — the *M* prefix tells us this comes from `Data.Map`. We're using a `Map` to associate characters with their Morse code representations. `letterToMorse` is the definition of the `Map` we'll use to look up the morse codes for individual characters.

Next we write a few functions that allow us to convert a Morse character to an English character and vice versa, and also functions to do the same for strings:

```

morseToLetter :: M.Map Morse Char
morseToLetter = M.foldWithKey (flip M.insert) M.empty letterToMorse

charToMorse :: Char -> Maybe Morse
charToMorse c = M.lookup c letterToMorse

stringToMorse :: String -> Maybe [Morse]
stringToMorse s = sequence $ fmap charToMorse s

morseToChar :: Morse -> Maybe Char
morseToChar m = M.lookup m morseToLetter

```

Notice we used `Maybe` in three of those: not every `Char` that could potentially occur in a `String` has a Morse representation.

## The Main event

Next we want to set up a `Main` module that will actually handle our Morse code conversions. Note that it's going to import a bunch of things, some of which we covered in the last chapter and some we have not. Since we will not be going into the specifics of how this



code works, we won't discuss those imports here. It is, however, important to note that one of our imports is our `Morse.hs` module from above:

```
-- src/Main.hs

module Main where

import Control.Monad (forever, when)
import Data.List (intercalate)
import Data.Traversable (traverse)
import Morse (stringToMorse, morseToChar)
import System.Environment (getArgs)
import System.Exit (exitFailure, exitSuccess)
import System.IO (hGetLine, hIsEOF, stdin)
```

As we said, we're not going to explain this part in detail. We encourage you to do your best reading and interpreting it, but it's quite dense, and this chapter isn't about this code — it's about the tests. We're cargo-culting a bit here, which we don't like to do, but we're doing it so that we can focus on the testing. Type this all into your `Main` module — first the function to convert to Morse:

```
convertToMorse :: IO ()
convertToMorse = forever $ do
    weAreDone <- hIsEOF stdin
    when weAreDone exitSuccess

-- otherwise, proceed.
line <- hGetLine stdin
convertLine line
```

```

where
  convertLine line = do
    let morse = stringToMorse line
    case morse of
      (Just str)
        -> putStrLn $ intercalate " " str
      Nothing
        -> do
          putStrLn $ "ERROR: " ++ line
          exitFailure

```

Now add the function to convert from Morse:

```

convertFromMorse :: IO ()
convertFromMorse = forever $ do
  weAreDone <- hIsEOF stdin
  when weAreDone exitSuccess

  -- otherwise, proceed.
  line <- hGetLine stdin
  convertLine line

where
  convertLine line = do
    let decoded :: Maybe String
        decoded = traverse morseToChar (words line)
    case decoded of
      (Just s) -> putStrLn s
      Nothing -> do
        putStrLn $ "ERROR: " ++ line
        exitFailure

```

And now our obligatory `main` function:

```

main :: IO ()
main = do
  mode <- getArgs
  case mode of
    [arg] ->
      case arg of
        "from" -> convertFromMorse
        "to"   -> convertToMorse
        _      -> argError
    _ -> argError

  where argError = do
    putStrLn "Please specify the first argument \
              \as being 'from' or 'to' morse,\
              \ such as: morse to"
    exitFailure

```

### Make sure it's all working

One way we can make sure everything is working for us from the command line is by using `echo`. If this is familiar to you and you feel comfortable with this, go ahead and try this:

```

$ echo "hi" | stack exec morse to
.... ..

$ echo ".... .." | stack exec morse from
hi

```

If you'd like to find out where Stack put the executable, you can use `stack exec which morse` on Mac and Linux. You can also use `stack install` to ask Stack to build (if needed) and copy the binaries from your project into a common directory. On Mac and Linux that will be `.local/bin` in your home directory. The location was chosen partly to respect XDG<sup>4</sup> guidelines.

Otherwise, just load this module into your GHCi REPL and give it a try to ensure everything compiles and seems to be in working

---

<sup>4</sup>[https://wiki.archlinux.org/index.php/Xdg\\_user\\_directories](https://wiki.archlinux.org/index.php/Xdg_user_directories)

order. It'll be helpful to fix any type or syntax errors now, before we start trying to run the tests.

### Time to test!

Now we need to write our test suite. We have those in their own directory and file. We will again call the module `Main` but note the file name (the name per se isn't important, but it must agree with the test file you have named in your cabal configuration for this project):

```
-- tests/tests.hs
```

```
module Main where
```

```
import qualified Data.Map as M
```

```
import Morse
```

```
import Test.QuickCheck
```

We have many fewer imports for this, which should all already be familiar to you.

Now we set up our generators for ensuring that the random values QuickCheck uses to test our program are sensible for our Morse code program:

```
allowedChars :: [Char]
```

```
allowedChars = M.keys letterToMorse
```

```
allowedMorse :: [Morse]
```

```
allowedMorse = M.elems letterToMorse
```

```
charGen :: Gen Char
```

```
charGen = elements allowedChars
```

```
morseGen :: Gen Morse
```

```
morseGen = elements allowedMorse
```

We saw `elements` briefly above. It takes a list of some type — in these cases, our lists of allowed characters and Morse characters — and chooses a `Gen` value from the values in that list. Because `Char`

includes thousands of characters that have no legitimate equivalent in Morse code, we need to write our own custom generators.

Now we write up the property we want to check. We want to check that when we convert something to Morse code and then back again, it comes out as the same string we started out with:

```
prop_thereAndBackAgain :: Property
prop_thereAndBackAgain =
  forAll charGen
    (\c -> ((charToMorse c) >=> morseToChar) == Just c)

main :: IO ()
main = quickCheck prop_thereAndBackAgain
```

This is how your setup should look when you have all this done:

```
$ tree
.
├── LICENSE
├── Setup.hs
├── morse.cabal
├── src
│   ├── Main.hs
│   └── Morse.hs
├── stack.yaml
└── tests
    └── tests.hs
```

## Testing the Morse code

Now that our conversions seem to be working, let's run our tests to make sure. The property we're testing is that we get the same string after we convert it to Morse and back again. Let's load up our tests by opening a REPL from our main project directory:

```
$ stack ghci morse:tests
```

```
{... noise noise noise ...}
```

```
Ok, modules loaded: Main.
```

Prelude>

Sweet. Stack loaded everything for us and even built our dependencies if needs be. Let's see what happens:

```
*Main> main
+++ OK, passed 100 tests.
```

The test generates 100 random Morse code conversions (a bunch of random strings) and makes sure they are always equal once you have converted to and then from Morse code. This gives you a pretty strong assurance that your program is correct and will perform as expected for any input value.

## 14.6 Kicking around QuickCheck

One of the more important parts of *QuickCheck* is learning to write instances of the *Arbitrary* typeclass for your datatypes. It's a somewhat unfortunate but still necessary convenience for your code to integrate cleanly with *QuickCheck* code. It's initially a bit confusing for beginners because it compacts a few different concepts and solutions to problems into a single typeclass.

### Babby's First Arbitrary

First, we'll begin with a maximally simple *Arbitrary* instance for the *Trivial* datatype:

```
module Main where

import Test.QuickCheck

data Trivial =
  Trivial
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
trivialGen :: Gen Trivial
trivialGen =
    return Trivial
```

```
instance Arbitrary Trivial where
    arbitrary = trivialGen
```

The return is necessary to return Trivial in the Gen monad.

```
main :: IO ()
main = do
    sample trivialGen
```

Let's take a sample:

```
Prelude> sample trivialGen
Trivial
Trivial
Trivial
Trivial
Trivial
Trivial
Trivial
Trivial
Trivial
Trivial
Trivial
Trivial
```

Although it's impossible to see the point with Trivial by itself, Gen values are generators of random values that *QuickCheck* uses to get test values from.

## Identity Crisis

This one is a little different. It will produce random values even if the Identity structure itself doesn't and cannot vary.

```

data Identity a =
  Identity a
  deriving (Eq, Show)

identityGen :: Arbitrary a =>
  Gen (Identity a)
identityGen = do
  a <- arbitrary
  return (Identity a)

```

We're using the `Gen` monad to pluck a single value of type *a* out of the air, embed it in `Identity`, then return as part of the `Gen` monad. We know this is weird, but if you do it ten or twenty times you might start to like it.

We'll reuse the original `identityGen` we wrote. We can make it the default generator for the `Identity` type by making it the arbitrary value in the `Arbitrary` instance:

```

instance Arbitrary a =>
  Arbitrary (Identity a) where
  arbitrary = identityGen

identityGenInt :: Gen (Identity Int)
identityGenInt = identityGen

```

We're making a generator suitable for sampling by making the type argument of `Identity` unambiguous for testing with the `sample` function. Your output in the terminal could look something like:

```

Prelude> sample identityGenInt
Identity 0
Identity (-1)
Identity 2
Identity 4
Identity (-3)
Identity 5
Identity 3
Identity (-1)
Identity 12

```



Identity 16

Identity 0

You should be able to change the concrete type of Identity's type argument and generate different types of sample values.

## Arbitrary Products

Arbitrary instances for product types get a teensy bit more interesting, but they're really an extension of what we did for Identity:

```
data Pair a b =
  Pair a b
  deriving (Eq, Show)

pairGen :: (Arbitrary a,
            Arbitrary b) =>
            Gen (Pair a b)
pairGen = do
  a <- arbitrary
  b <- arbitrary
  return (Pair a b)
```

We will reuse our pairGen function as the arbitrary value in the instance:

```
instance (Arbitrary a,
          Arbitrary b) =>
          Arbitrary (Pair a b) where
  arbitrary = pairGen

pairGenIntString :: Gen (Pair Int String)
pairGenIntString = pairGen
```

And now we can generate some sample values:

```
Pair 0 ""
Pair (-2) ""
Pair (-3) "26"
Pair (-5) "B\NUL\143:\254\S0"
```

```

Pair (-6) "\184*\239\DC4"
Pair 5 "\238\213=J\NAK!"
Pair 6 "Pv$y"
Pair (-10) "G|J^"
Pair 16 "R"
Pair (-7) "("
Pair 19 "i\ETX]\182\ENQ"

```

Ah, the beauty of random String values.

### Greater than the sum of its parts

Writing Arbitrary instances for sum types is a bit more interesting still. First, make sure the following is included in your imports:

```
import Test.QuickCheck.Gen (oneof)
```

Sum types represent disjunction, so with a sum type like `Sum`, we need to represent the exclusive possibilities in our `Gen`. One way to do that is to pull out as many arbitrary values as you require for the cases of your sum type. We have two data constructors in this sum type, so we'll want two arbitrary values. Then we'll repack them into `Gen` values, resulting in a value of type `[Gen a]` that can be passed to `oneof`:

```

data Sum a b =
    First a
  | Second b
  deriving (Eq, Show)

-- equal odds for each
sumGenEqual :: (Arbitrary a,
                Arbitrary b) =>
                Gen (Sum a b)
sumGenEqual = do
  a <- arbitrary
  b <- arbitrary
  oneof [return $ First a,
         return $ Second b]

```

The `oneof` function will create a `Gen a` from a list of `Gen a` by giving each value an equal probability. From there, you're delegating to the `Arbitrary` instances of the types *a* and *b*.

```
sumGenCharInt :: Gen (Sum Char Int)
sumGenCharInt = sumGenEqual
```

We specify which `Arbitrary` instances to use for *a* and *b* and do a test run:

```
Prelude> sample sumGenCharInt
First 'P'
First '\227'
First '\238'
First '.'
Second (-3)
First '\132'
Second (-12)
Second (-12)
First '\186'
Second (-11)
First '\v'
```

Where sum types get even more interesting is that you can actually choose a different weighting of probabilities than just an equal distribution. Consider this snippet of the `Maybe Arbitrary` instance from the *QuickCheck* library:

```
instance Arbitrary a =>
  Arbitrary (Maybe a) where
  arbitrary =
    frequency [(1, return Nothing),
              (3, liftM Just arbitrary)]
```

It's making an arbitrary `Just` value three times more likely than a `Nothing` value because the former is more likely to be interesting and useful, but you still want to try shaking things out with a `Nothing` from time to time.

Accordingly, we can assign a 10 times higher probability to our `First` data constructor in a different `Gen` for `Sum`:

```

sumGenFirstPls :: (Arbitrary a,
                  Arbitrary b) =>
                  Gen (Sum a b)

sumGenFirstPls = do
  a <- arbitrary
  b <- arbitrary
  frequency [(10, return $ First a),
            (1, return $ Second b)]

sumGenCharIntFirst :: Gen (Sum Char Int)
sumGenCharIntFirst = sumGenFirstPls

```

With that modified version, you'll find `Second` values are much less common:

```

First '\208'
First '\242'
First '\159'
First 'v'
First '\159'
First '\232'
First '3'
First 'l'
Second (-16)
First 'x'
First 'Y'

```

One of the key insights here is that the `Arbitrary` instance for a datatype doesn't have to be the only way to generate or provide random values of your datatype for *QuickCheck* tests. You can offer alternative `Gens` for your type with interesting or useful behavior as well.

## CoArbitrary

`CoArbitrary` is the evil twin of `Arbitrary`. Rather than talking about random values you can get via `Gen`, it lets you provide functions with a value of type *a* as an argument in order to *vary* a `Gen`:

```

arbitrary :: Arbitrary a =>
    Gen a

coarbitrary :: CoArbitrary a =>
    a -> Gen b -> Gen b
--      [1]   [ 2 ]   [ 3 ]

```

Here [1] is used to return a modification or variant of [2] which is the result [3] at the end.

It turns out, as long as your datatype has a `Generic` instance derived, you can get these instances for free. The following should work just fine:

```
{-# LANGUAGE DeriveGeneric #-}
```

```
module CoArbitrary where
```

```
import GHC.Generics
```

```
import Test.QuickCheck
```

```

data Bool' =
    True'
  | False'
  deriving (Generic)

```

```
instance CoArbitrary Bool'
```

This'll then let you do things like the following:

```
import Test.QuickCheck
```

```
-- plus the above
```

```

trueGen :: Gen Int
trueGen = coarbitrary True' arbitrary

falseGen :: Gen Int
falseGen = coarbitrary False' arbitrary

```

Essentially this lets you randomly generate a function. It might be a little hard to see why you'd care for now, but if you ever find yourself wanting to randomly generate anything with the `(->)` type inside it somewhere, it becomes salient in a hurry.

## 14.7 Chapter Exercises

Now it's time to write some tests of your own. You could write tests for most of the exercises you've done in the book, but whether you'd want to use *Hspec* or *QuickCheck* depends on what you're trying to test. We've tried to simplify things a bit by telling you which to use for these exercises, but, as always, we encourage you to experiment on your own.

### Validating numbers into words

Remember the “numbers into words” exercise in Recursion? You'll be writing tests to validate the functions you wrote.

```

module WordNumberTest where

import Test.Hspec
import WordNumber (digitToWord, digits, wordNumber)

main :: IO ()
main = hspec $ do
  describe "digitToWord does what we want" $ do
    it "returns zero for 0" $ do
      digitToWord 0 `shouldBe` "zero"
    it "returns one for 1" $ do
      print "???"

  describe "digits does what we want" $ do
    it "returns [1] for 1" $ do
      digits 1 `shouldBe` [1]
    it "returns [1, 0, 0] for 100" $ do
      print "???"

  describe "wordNumber does what we want" $ do
    it "returns one-zero-zero for 100" $ do
      wordNumber 100 `shouldBe` "one-zero-zero"
    it "returns nine-zero-zero-one for 9001" $ do
      print "???"

```

Fill in the test cases that print question marks. If you think of additional tests you could perform, add them.

## Using QuickCheck

Test some simple arithmetic properties using QuickCheck.

```

1. -- for a function
   half x = x / 2

   -- this property should hold
   halfIdentity = (*2) . half

```

2. `import Data.List (sort)`

```
-- for any list you apply sort to
-- this property should hold
listOrdered :: (Ord a) => [a] -> Bool
listOrdered xs = snd $ foldr go (Nothing, True) xs
  where go _ status@(_, False) = status
        go y (Nothing, t) = (Just y, t)
        go y (Just x, t) = (Just y, x >= y)
```

## 3. Now we'll test the associative and commutative properties of addition:

```
plusAssociative x y z =
  x + (y + z) == (x + y) + z
plusCommutative x y =
  x + y == y + x
```

## 4. Now do the same for multiplication.

5. We mentioned in one of the first chapters that there are some laws involving the relationship of `quot` and `rem` and `div` and `mod`. Write QuickCheck tests to prove them.

```
-- quot rem
(quot x y)*y + (rem x y) == x

(div x y)*y + (mod x y) == x
```

6. Is  $(\cdot)$  associative? Is it commutative? Use QuickCheck to see if the computer can contradict such an assertion.

## 7. Test that reversing a list twice is the same as the identity of the list:

```
reverse . reverse == id
```

8. Write a property for the definition of `($)`.

```
f $ a = f a

f . g = \x -> f (g x)
```



9. See if these two functions are equal:

```
foldr (:) == (++)
```

```
foldr (++) [] == concat
```

10. Hm. Is that so?

```
f n xs = length (take n xs) == n
```

11. Finally, this is a fun one. You may remember we had you compose `read` and `show` one time to complete a “round trip.” Well, now you can test that it works:

```
f x = (read (show x)) == x
```

## Failure

Find out why this property fails.

```
-- for a function
```

```
square x = x * x
```

```
-- why does this property not hold? Examine the type of sqrt.
```

```
squareIdentity = square . sqrt
```

Hint: Read about floating point arithmetic and precision if you’re unfamiliar with it.

## Idempotence

Idempotence refers to a property of some functions in which the result value does not change beyond the initial application. If you apply the function once, it returns a result, and applying the same function to that value won’t ever change it. You might think of a list that you sort: once you sort it, the sorted list will remain the same after applying the same sorting function to it. It’s already sorted, so new applications of the sort function won’t change it.

Use QuickCheck and the following helper functions to demonstrate idempotence for the following:

```

twice f = f . f
fourTimes = twice . twice

1. f x =
    capitalizeWord x
    == twice capitalizeWord x
    == fourTimes capitalizeWord x

2. f x =
    sort x
    == twice sort x
    == fourTimes sort x

```

### Make a Gen random generator for the datatype

We demonstrated in the chapter how to make `Gen` generators for different datatypes. We are so certain you enjoyed that, we are going to ask you to do it for some new datatypes:

1. Equal probabilities for each.

```

data Fool =
    Fulse
  | Frue
  deriving (Eq, Show)

```

2. 2/3s chance of Fulse, 1/3 chance of Frue.

```

data Fool =
    Fulse
  | Frue
  deriving (Eq, Show)

```

### Hangman testing

Next, you should go back to the Hangman project from the previous chapter and write tests. The kinds of tests you can write at this point will be limited due to the interactive nature of the game. However, you can test the functions. Focus your attention on testing the following:

```

fillInCharacter :: Puzzle -> Char -> Puzzle
fillInCharacter (Puzzle word filledInSoFar s) c =
  Puzzle word newFilledInSoFar (c : s)
  where zipper guessed wordChar guessChar =
    if wordChar == guessed
    then Just wordChar
    else guessChar
    newFilledInSoFar =
      zipWith (zipper c) word filledInSoFar

```

and:

```

handleGuess :: Puzzle -> Char -> IO Puzzle
handleGuess puzzle guess = do
  putStrLn $ "Your guess was: " ++ [guess]
  case (charInWord puzzle guess
    , alreadyGuessed puzzle guess) of
    (_, True) -> do
      putStrLn "You already guessed that\
        \ character, pick something else!"
      return puzzle
    (True, _) -> do
      putStrLn "This character was in the word,\
        \ filling in the word accordingly"
      return (fillInCharacter puzzle guess)
    (False, _) -> do
      putStrLn "This character wasn't in\
        \ the word, try again."
      return (fillInCharacter puzzle guess)

```

Refresh your memory on what those are supposed to do and then test to make sure they do.

## Validating ciphers

As a final exercise, create QuickCheck properties that verify your Caesar and Vigenère ciphers return the same data after encoding and decoding a string.

## 14.8 Definitions

1. *Unit testing* is a method in where you test the smallest parts of an application possible. These units are individually and independently scrutinized for desired behaviors. Unit testing is better automated but it can also be done manually via a human entering inputs and verifying outputs.
2. *Property testing* is a testing method where a subset of a large input space is validated, usually against a property or law some code should abide by. In Haskell, this is usually done with QuickCheck which facilitates the random generation of input and definition of properties to be verified. Common properties that are checked using property testing are things like identity, associativity, isomorphism, and idempotence.
3. When we say an operation or function is idempotent or satisfies *idempotence*, we mean that applying it multiple times doesn't produce a different result from the first time. One example is multiplying by one or zero. You always get the same result as the first time you multiplied by one or zero.

## 14.9 Follow-up resources

1. Pedro Vasconcelos; An introduction to QuickCheck testing;  
<https://www.fpcomplete.com/user/pbv/an-introduction-to-quickcheck-testing>
2. Koen Claessen and John Hughes; (2000)  
QuickCheck: A Lightweight Tool for Random Testing of Haskell Programs
3. Pedro Vasconcelos; Verifying a Simple Compiler Using Property-based Random Testing;  
<http://www.dcc.fc.up.pt/dcc/Pubs/TReports/TR13/dcc-2013-06.pdf>

## Chapter 15

# Monoid, Semigroup

Simplicity does not precede  
complexity, but follows it.

---

Alan Perlis

## 15.1 Monoids and semigroups

One of the finer points of the Haskell community has been its propensity for recognizing abstract patterns in code which have well-defined, lawful representations in mathematics. A word frequently used to describe these abstractions is *algebra*, where we mean one or more *operations* and the *set* they operate over. By set, we mean the type they operate over. Over the next few chapters, we're going to be looking at some of these. Some you may have heard of, such as functor and monad. Some, such as monoid and the humble semigroup, may seem new to you. One of the things that Haskell is really good at are these algebras, and it's important to master them before we can do some of the exciting stuff that's coming.

This chapter will include:

- Algebras!
- Laws!
- Monoids!
- Semigroups!

## 15.2 What we talk about when we talk about algebras

For some of us, talking about “an algebra” may sound somewhat foreign. So let's take a second and talk about what we're talking about when we use this phrase, at least when we're talking about Haskell.

‘Algebra’ generally refers to one of the most important fields of mathematics. In this usage, it means the study of mathematical symbols and the rules governing their manipulation. It is differentiated from arithmetic by its use of abstractions such as variables. By the use of variables, we're saying we don't care much about what value will be put into that slot. We care about the rules of how to manipulate this thing without reference to its particular value.

And so, as we said above, “an algebra” refers to some operations and the set they operate over. Here again, we care less about the particulars of the values or data we're working with and more about the general rules of their use.

In Haskell, these algebras can be implemented with typeclasses; the typeclasses define the set of operations. When we talk about operations over a set, the set is the *type* the operations are for. The instance defines how each operation will perform for a given type or set. One of those algebras we use in Haskell is Monoid. If you're a working programmer, you've probably had monoidal patterns in your code already, perhaps without realizing it.

### 15.3 Monoid

A monoid is a binary associative operation with an identity. This definition alone tells you a lot if you're accustomed to picking apart mathematical definitions. Let us dissect this frog!

A monoid is a binary associative operation with an identity.

[1]            [2]            [3]            [4]            [5]

1. The thing we're talking about — monoids. That'll end up being the name of our typeclass.
2. Binary, i.e., two. So, there will be two of something.
3. Associative — this is a property or law that must be satisfied. You've seen associativity with addition and multiplication. We'll explain it more in a moment.
4. Operation — so called because in mathematics, it's usually used as an infix operator. You can read this interchangeably as “function.” Note that given the mention of “binary” earlier, we know that this is a function of two arguments.
5. Identity is one of those words in mathematics that pops up a lot. In this context, we can take this to mean there'll be some value which, when combined with any other value, will always return that other value. This can be seen most immediately with examples or rules:



```

-- [] = mempty, or the identity
-- mappend is the binary operation
-- to append, or join, two arguments
mappend [1..5] [] = [1..5]
mappend [] [1..5] = [1..5]

-- or, more generally

mappend x mempty = x
mappend mempty x = x

```

So, in plain English, a monoid is a function that takes two arguments and follows two laws: associativity and identity. Associativity means the arguments can be regrouped (or reparenthesized, or reassociated) in different orders and give the same result, as in addition. Identity means there exists some value such that when we pass it as input to our function, the operation is rendered moot and the other value is returned, such as when we add zero or multiply by one. `Monoid` is the typeclass that generalizes these laws across types.

## 15.4 How Monoid is defined in Haskell

Typeclasses give us a way to recognize, organize, and use common functionalities and patterns across types that differ in some ways but also have things in common. So, we recognize that, although there are many types of numbers, all of them can be arguments in addition, and then we make an addition function as part of the `Num` class that all numbers implement.

The `Monoid` typeclass recognizes and orders a different pattern than `Num` but the goal is similar. The pattern of `Monoid` is outlined above: types that have binary functions that let you join things together in accordance with the laws of associativity, along with an identity value that will return the other argument unmodified. This is the pattern of summation, multiplication, and list concatenation, among other things. The typeclass merely abstracts that pattern out and makes it general and available to other datatypes that don't have predefined functions that do this for you (e.g., `(++)`), including your own datatypes when appropriate.

In Haskell, we think of types as *having* an instance of a typeclass. When we represent abstract operations that can be reused across a set of types, we usually represent them as a typeclass.

The typeclass `Monoid` is defined:

```
class Monoid m where
  mempty  :: m
  mappend :: m -> m -> m
  mconcat :: [m] -> m
  mconcat = foldr mappend mempty
```

`mappend` is how *any* two values that inhabit your type can be joined together. `mempty` is the identity value for that `mappend` operation. There are some laws that all `Monoid` instances must abide, and we'll get to those soon. Next, let's look at some examples of monoids in action!

## 15.5 Examples of using Monoid

The nice thing about `Monoid`, really, is that they are quite familiar; they're all over the place. The best way to understand them initially is to look at examples of some common monoidal operations and remember that this typeclass just abstracts the *pattern* out, giving you the ability to use the operations over a larger range of types.

### List

One of the more pervasive types with an instance of `Monoid` is `List`. Check out how monoidal operations work with lists:

```
Prelude> mappend [1, 2, 3] [4, 5, 6]
[1,2,3,4,5,6]
Prelude> mconcat [[1..3], [4..6]]
[1,2,3,4,5,6]
Prelude> mappend "Trout" " goes well with garlic"
"Trout goes well with garlic"
```

This should look familiar, because we've certainly seen this before:

```
Prelude> (++) [1, 2, 3] [4, 5, 6]
[1,2,3,4,5,6]
```

```

Prelude> (++) "Trout" " goes well with garlic"
"Trout goes well with garlic"
Prelude> foldr (++) [] [[1..3], [4..6]]
[1,2,3,4,5,6]
Prelude> foldr mappend mempty [[1..3], [4..6]]
[1,2,3,4,5,6]

```

Our old friend (++)! And if we look at the definition of Monoid for lists, we can see how this all lines up:

```

instance Monoid [a] where
    mempty  = []
    mappend = (++)

```

For other types, the instances would be different, but the ideas behind them remain the same.

## 15.6 Why Integer doesn't have a Monoid

The type Integer does not have a Monoid instance. None of the numeric types do. Yet it's clear that numbers have monoidal operations, so what's up with that, Haskell?

While in mathematics the monoid of numbers is summation, there's not a clear reason why it can't be multiplication. Both operations are monoidal (binary, associative, having an identity value), but each type should only have one unique instance for a given typeclass, not two (one instance for a sum, one for a product).

This won't work:

```

Prelude> mappend 1 1

```

```

<interactive>:7:1:

```

```

    No instance for (Num a0) arising from a use of 'it'

```

```

    ...and a bunch of noise.

```

Because it isn't clear if those should be added or multiplied as a mappend operation. It says there's no Monoid for Num a => a for that reason. You get the idea.

To resolve the conflict, we have the `Sum` and `Product` newtypes to wrap numeric values and signal which `Monoid` instance we want. These newtypes are built into the `Monoid` library. While there are two possible instances of `Monoid` for numeric values, we avoid using scoping tricks and abide by the rule that typeclass instances are *unique* to the types they are for:

```
Prelude> mappend (Sum 1) (Sum 5)
Sum {getSum = 6}
Prelude> mappend (Product 5) (Product 5)
Product {getProduct = 25}
Prelude> mappend (Sum 4.5) (Sum 3.4)
Sum {getSum = 7.9}
```

Note that we could use it with values that aren't integral. We can use these `Monoid` newtypes for all the types that have instances of `Num`.

*Integers form a monoid under summation and multiplication.* We can similarly say that lists form a monoid under concatenation.

It's worth pointing out here that numbers aren't the only sets that have more than one possible monoid. Lists have more than one possible monoid, although for now we're only working with concatenation (we'll look at the other list monoid in another chapter). Several other types do as well. We usually enforce the unique instance rule by using `newtype` to separate the different monoidal behaviors.

### Why newtype?

Use of a `newtype` can be hard to justify or explain to people that don't yet have good intuitions for how Haskell code gets compiled and the representations of data used by your computer in the course of executing your programs. With that in mind, we'll do our best and offer two explanations intended for two different audiences. We will return to the topic of `newtype` in more detail later in the book.

First, there's not much semantic difference (modulo `bottom`, explained later) between the following datatypes:

```
data Server = Server String
```

```
newtype Server' = Server' String
```

The main differences are that using `newtype` *constrains* the datatype to having a single unary data constructor and `newtype` guarantees no additional runtime overhead in “wrapping” the original type. That is, the runtime representation of `newtype` and what it wraps are always identical — no additional “boxing up” of the data as is necessary for typical products and sums.

**For veteran programmers that understand pointers** `newtype` is like a single-member C union that avoids creating an extra pointer, but still gives you a new type constructor and data constructor so you don’t mix up the *many many many* things that share a single representation.

#### In summary, why you might use `newtype`

1. Signal intent: using `newtype` makes it clear that you only intend for it to be a wrapper for the underlying type. The `newtype` cannot eventually grow into a more complicated sum or product type, while a normal datatype can.
2. Improve type safety: avoid mixing up many values of the same representation, such as `Text` or `Integer`.
3. Add different typeclass instances to a type that is otherwise unchanged representationally.

#### More on Sum and Product

There’s more than one valid `Monoid` instance one can write for numbers, so we use `newtype` wrappers to distinguish which we want. If you `import Data.Monoid` you’ll see the `Sum` and `Product` data constructors:

```
Prelude> import Data.Monoid
Prelude> :info Sum
newtype Sum a = Sum {getSum :: a}
...some instances elided...
instance Num a => Monoid (Sum a)

Prelude> :info Product
newtype Product a = Product {getProduct :: a}
```

```
...some instances elided...
instance Num a => Monoid (Product a)
```

The instances say that we can use `Sum` or `Product` values as a `Monoid` as long as they contain numeric values. We can prove this is the case for ourselves. We're going to be using the infix operator for `mappend` in these examples. It has the same type and does the same thing but saves some characters and will make these examples a bit cleaner:

```
Prelude Control.Applicative Data.Monoid> :t (< >)
(< >) :: Monoid m => m -> m -> m
```

```
Prelude> Sum "Frank" < > Sum " " < > Sum "Herbert"
```

```
No instance for (Num [Char]) arising from a use of '< >'
```

The example didn't work because the `a` in `Sum a` was `String` which is not an instance of `Num`.

`Sum` and `Product` do what you'd expect with just a bit of syntactic surprise:

```
Prelude Data.Monoid> mappend (Sum 8) (Sum 9)
Sum {getSum = 17}
```

```
Prelude Data.Monoid> mappend mempty Sum 9
Sum {getSum = 9}
```

But `mappend` only joins two things, so you can't do this:

```
Prelude Data.Monoid> mappend (Sum 8) (Sum 9) (Sum 10)
```

You'll get a big error message including this line:

```
Possible cause: 'Sum' is applied to too many arguments
  In the first argument of 'mappend', namely '(Sum 8)'
```

So, that's easy enough to fix by nesting:

```
Prelude> mappend (Sum 1) (mappend (Sum 2) (Sum 3))
Sum {getSum = 6}
```

Or somewhat less tedious by infixing the `mappend` function:

```
Prelude> (Sum 1) <> (Sum 1) <> (Sum 1)
Sum {getSum = 3}
Prelude> (Sum 1) `mappend` (Sum 1) `mappend` (Sum 1)
Sum {getSum = 3}
```

Or you could also put your Sums in a list and use `mconcat`:

```
Prelude Data.Monoid> mconcat [(Sum 8), (Sum 9), (Sum 10)]
Sum {getSum = 27}
```

Due to the special syntax of `Sum` and `Product`, we also have built-in record field accessors we can use to unwrap the value:

```
Prelude> getSum $ mappend (Sum 1) (Sum 1)
2
Prelude> getProduct $ mappend (Product 5) (Product 5)
25
Prelude> getSum $ mconcat [(Sum 5), (Sum 6), (Sum 7)]
18
```

`Product` is similar to `Sum` but for multiplication.

## 15.7 Why bother?

Because monoids are really common and they're a nice abstraction to work with when you have multiple monoidal things running around in a project. Knowing what a monoid is can help you to recognize when you've encountered the pattern. Further, having principled laws for it means you know you can combine monoidal operations safely. When we say something "is" a `Monoid` or can be described as monoidal, we mean you can define at least one law-abiding `Monoid` instance for it.

A common use of monoids is to structure and describe common modes of processing data. Sometimes this is to describe an API for incrementally processing a large dataset, sometimes to describe guarantees needed to roll up aggregations (think summation) in a parallel, concurrent, or distributed processing framework.

One example of where things like the identity can be useful is if you want to write a generic library for doing work in parallel. You could choose to describe your work as being like a tree, with each

unit of work being a leaf. From there you can partition the tree into as many chunks as are necessary to saturate the number of processor cores or entire computers you want to devote to the work. The problem is, if we have a pair-wise operation and we need to combine an odd number of leaves, how do we even out the count?

One straightforward way could be to simply provide `mempty` (the identity value) to the odd leaves out so we get the same result and pass it up to the next layer of aggregation!

A variant of monoid that provides even stronger guarantees is the Abelian or commutative monoid. Commutativity can be particularly helpful when doing concurrent or distributed processing of data because it means the intermediate results being computed in a different order won't change the eventual answer.

Monoids are even strongly associated with the concept of *folding* or *catamorphism* — something we do *all the time* in Haskell. You'll see this more explicitly in the Foldable chapter, but here's a taste:

```
Prelude> foldr mappend mempty ([2, 4, 6] :: [Product Int])
Product {getProduct = 48}
```

```
Prelude> foldr mappend mempty ([2, 4, 6] :: [Sum Int])
Sum {getSum = 12}
```

```
Prelude> foldr mappend mempty ["blah", "woot"]
"blahwoot"
```

You'll see monoidal structure come up when we explain Applicative and Monad as well.

## 15.8 Laws

We'll get to those laws in a moment. First, heed our little *cri de coeur* about why you should care about mathematical laws:

Laws circumscribe what constitutes a valid instance or concrete instance of the *algebra* or set of operations we're working with. We care about the laws a Monoid must adhere to because mathematicians care about the laws. That matters because mathematicians often want the same things programmers want! A proof that is inelegant, a proof term that doesn't compose well, or that cannot be understood is not



very good or useful to a mathematician. Proofs are programs, and programs are proofs. We care about programs that compose well, that are easy to understand, and which have predictable behavior. To that end, we should steal *prolifically* from mathematics.

Algebras are *defined* by their laws and are useful principally *for* their laws. Laws make up what algebras *are*.

Among (many) other things, laws provide us guarantees that let us build on solid foundations for the predictable composition (or combination) of programs. Without the ability to combine programs, everything must be hand-written from scratch, nothing can be reused. The physical world has enjoyed the useful properties of stone stacked up on top of stone since the Great Pyramid of Giza was built in the pharaoh Sneferu's reign in 2,600 BC. Similarly, if we want to be able to stack up functions scalably, they need to obey laws. Stones don't evaporate into thin air or explode violently. It'd be nice if our programs were similarly trustworthy.

There are more possible laws we can require for an algebra than just associativity or an identity, but these are simple examples we are starting with for now, partly because `Monoid` is a good place to start with algebras-as-typeclasses. We'll see examples of more later.

`Monoid` instances must abide by the following laws:

```
-- left identity
mappend mempty x = x

-- right identity
mappend x mempty = x

-- associativity
mappend x (mappend y z) = mappend (mappend x y) z

mconcat = foldr mappend mempty
```

Here is how the identity law looks in practice:

```
Prelude> import Data.Monoid

-- left identity
Prelude> mappend mempty (Sum 1)
```

```
Sum {getSum = 1}

-- right identity
Prelude> mappend (Sum 1) mempty
Sum {getSum = 1}
```

We can demonstrate associativity more easily if we first introduce the infix operator for `mappend`, `<>`. Note the parenthesization on the two examples:

```
Prelude> :t (<>)
(<>) :: Monoid m => m -> m -> m

-- associativity
Prelude> (Sum 1) <> (Sum 2 <> Sum 3)
Sum {getSum = 6}

Prelude> (Sum 1 <> Sum 2) <> (Sum 3)
Sum {getSum = 6}
```

And `mconcat` should have the same result as `foldr mappend mempty`:

```
Prelude> mconcat [Sum 1, Sum 2, Sum 3]
Sum {getSum = 6}

Prelude> foldr mappend mempty [Sum 1, Sum 2, Sum 3]
Sum {getSum = 6}
```

Now let's see all of that again, but using the Monoid of lists:

```
-- mempty is []
-- mappend is (++)

-- left identity
Prelude> mappend mempty [1, 2, 3]
[1,2,3]

-- right identity
Prelude> mappend [1, 2, 3] mempty
[1,2,3]
```

```
-- associativity
Prelude> [1] <> ([2] <> [3])
[1,2,3]

Prelude> ([1] <> [2]) <> [3]
[1,2,3]

-- mconcat ~ foldr mappend mempty
Prelude> mconcat [[1], [2], [3]]
[1,2,3]

Prelude> foldr mappend mempty [[1], [2], [3]]
[1,2,3]

Prelude> concat [[1], [2], [3]]
[1,2,3]
```

The important part here is that you have these guarantees even when you don't know *what Monoid* you'll be working with.

## 15.9 Different instance, same representation

Monoid is somewhat different from other typeclasses in Haskell, in that many datatypes have more than one valid monoid. We saw that for numbers, both addition and multiplication are sensible monoids with different behaviors. When we have more than one potential implementation for Monoid for a datatype, it's most convenient to use newtypes to tell them apart, as we did with Sum and Product.

Addition is a classic appending operation, as is list concatenation. Referring to multiplication as a mappend operation may also seem intuitive enough, as it still follows the basic pattern of combining two values of one type into one value.

But for other datatypes the meaning of append is less clear. In these cases, the monoidal operation is less about combining the values and more about finding a summary value for the set. We mentioned above that monoids are important to folding and catamorphisms more generally. Mappending is perhaps best thought of not as a way of combining values in the way that addition or list

concatenation does, but as a way to condense any set of values to a summary value. We'll start by looking at the Monoid instances for Bool to see what we mean.

Boolean values have two possible monoids — a monoid of conjunction and one of disjunction. As we do with numbers, we use newtypes to distinguish the two instances. All and Any are the newtypes for Bool's monoids:

```
Prelude> import Data.Monoid

Prelude> All True <> All True
All {getAll = True}
Prelude> All True <> All False
All {getAll = False}

Prelude> Any True <> Any False
Any {getAny = True}
Prelude> Any False <> Any False
Any {getAny = False}
```

All represents boolean conjunction: it returns a True if and only if all values it is “appending” are True. Any is the monoid of boolean disjunction: it returns a True if any value is True. There is some sense in which it might feel strange to think of this as a combining or *mappending* operation, unless we recall that mappending is less about combining and more about condensing or reducing.

The Maybe type actually has more than two possible Monoids. We'll look at each in turn, but the two that have an obvious relationship are First and Last. They are like boolean disjunction, but with explicit preference for the leftmost or rightmost “success” in a series of Maybe values. We have to choose because with Bool, all you know is True or False — it doesn't matter where your True or False values occurred. With Maybe, however, you need to make a decision as to which Just value you'll return if there are multiple successes. First and Last encode these different possibilities.

First returns the “first” or leftmost non-Nothing value:

```
Prelude> First (Just 1) `mappend` First (Just 2)
First {getFirst = Just 1}
```

Last returns the “last” or rightmost non-Nothing value:

```
Prelude> Last (Just 1) `mappend` Last (Just 2)
Last {getLast = Just 2}
```

Both will succeed in returning *something* in spite of Nothing values as long as there’s at least one Just:

```
Prelude> Last Nothing `mappend` Last (Just 2)
Last {getLast = Just 2}
```

```
Prelude> First Nothing `mappend` First (Just 2)
First {getFirst = Just 2}
```

Neither can, for obvious reasons, return anything if all values are Nothing:

```
Prelude> First Nothing `mappend` First Nothing
First {getFirst = Nothing}
```

```
Prelude> Last Nothing `mappend` Last Nothing
Last {getLast = Nothing}
```

To maintain the unique pairing of type and typeclass instance, newtypes are used for all of those, just the same as we saw with Sum and Product.

Let’s look next at the third variety of Maybe monoid.

## 15.10 Reusing algebras by asking for algebras

We alluded to there being more possible Monoids for Maybe than just First and Last. We will now write that other Monoid instance. We will now be concerned not with choosing one value out of a set of values but of combining the *a* values contained within the Maybe *a* type.

First, try to notice a pattern:

```
instance Monoid b => Monoid (a -> b)
```

```
instance (Monoid a, Monoid b) => Monoid (a, b)
```

```
instance (Monoid a, Monoid b, Monoid c) => Monoid (a, b, c)
```

What these Monoids have in common is that they are giving you a new Monoid for a larger type by reusing the Monoid instances of types that represent components of the larger type.

This obligation to ask for a Monoid for an encapsulated type (such as the  $a$  in `Maybe a`) exists even when not all possible values of the larger type contain the value of the type argument. For example, `Nothing` does not contain the  $a$  we're trying to get a Monoid for, but `Just a` does, so not all possible `Maybe` values contain the  $a$  type argument. For a `Maybe` Monoid that will have a `mappend` operation for the  $a$  values, we need a Monoid for whatever type  $a$  is. Monoids like `First` and `Last` wrap the `Maybe a` but do not require a Monoid for the  $a$  value itself because they don't `mappend` the  $a$  values or provide a `mempty` of them.

If you do have a datatype that has a type argument that does not appear anywhere in the terms, the typechecker does not demand that you have a Monoid instance for that argument. For example:

```
data Booly a =
  False'
  | True'
  deriving (Eq, Show)

-- conjunction; just cause.
instance Monoid (Booly a) where
  mappend False' _ = False'
  mappend _ False' = False'
  mappend True' True' = True'
```

We didn't need a Monoid constraint for  $a$  because we're never `mappending`  $a$  values (we can't; none exist) and we're never asking for a `mempty` of type  $a$ . This is the fundamental reason we don't need the constraint, but it can happen that we don't do this even when the type *does* occur in the datatype.

### Exercise: Optional Monoid

Write the `Monoid` instance for our `Maybe` type renamed to `Optional`.

```
data Optional a =
  Nada
  | Only a
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
instance Monoid a => Monoid (Optional a) where
  mempty = undefined
  mappend = undefined
```

Expected output:

```
Prelude> Only (Sum 1) `mappend` Only (Sum 1)
Only (Sum {getSum = 2})
```

```
Prelude> Only (Product 4) `mappend` Only (Product 2)
Only (Product {getProduct = 8})
```

```
Prelude> Only (Sum 1) `mappend` Nada
Only (Sum {getSum = 1})
```

```
Prelude> Only [1] `mappend` Nada
Only [1]
```

```
Prelude> Nada `mappend` Only (Sum 1)
Only (Sum {getSum = 1})
```

## Associativity

This will be mostly review, but we want to be specific about associativity. Associativity simply says that you can associate the arguments of your operation differently and the result will be the same.

Let's review examples of some operations that can be *reassociated*:

```
Prelude> (1 + 9001) + 9001
18003
Prelude> 1 + (9001 + 9001)
18003
Prelude> (7 * 8) * 3
168
```

```
Prelude> 7 * (8 * 3)
168
```

And some that cannot have the parentheses reassociated without changing the result:

```
Prelude> (1 - 10) - 100
-109
Prelude> 1 - (10 - 100)
91
```

This is *not* as strong a property as an operation that commutes or is *commutative*. Commutative means you can reorder the arguments, not just reassociate the parentheses, and still get the same result. Addition and multiplication are commutative, but `(++)` for the list type is not.

Let's demonstrate this by writing a mildly evil version of addition that flips the order of its arguments:

```
Prelude> let evilPlus = flip (+)
Prelude> 76 + 67
143
Prelude> 76 `evilPlus` 67
143
```

We have some evidence, but not *proof*, that `(+)` commutes. However, we can't do the same with `(++)`:

```
Prelude> let evilPlusPlus = flip (++)
Prelude> let oneList = [1..3]
Prelude> let otherList = [4..6]

Prelude> oneList ++ otherList
[1,2,3,4,5,6]

Prelude> oneList `evilPlusPlus` otherList
[4,5,6,1,2,3]
```

In this case, this serves as a proof by counterexample that `(++)` does *not* commute. It doesn't matter if it commutes for all other



inputs; that it doesn't commute for one of them means the *law of commutativity* does not hold.

Commutativity is a strong property and can be useful in circumstances when you might need to be able to reorder evaluation of your data for efficiency purposes without needing to worry about the result changing. Distributed systems use commutative monoids in designing and thinking about constraints, which are monoids that guarantee their operation commutes.

But, for our purposes, Monoid abides by the law of associativity but not the law of commutativity, even though some monoidal operations (addition and multiplication) are commutative.

## Identity

An identity is a value with a special relationship with an operation: it turns the operation into the identity function. There are no identities without operations. The very concept is defined in terms of its relationship with a given operation. If you've done grade school arithmetic, you've already seen some identities:

```
Prelude> 1 + 0
1
Prelude> 521 + 0
521
Prelude> 1 * 1
1
Prelude> 521 * 1
521
```

Zero is the identity value for addition, while 1 is the identity value for multiplication. As we said, it doesn't make sense to talk about zero and one as "identity values" outside the context of those operations. That is, zero is definitely not the identity value for other operations. We can check this property with a simple equality test as well:

```
Prelude> let myList = [1..424242]
Prelude> map (+0) myList == myList
True

Prelude> map (*1) myList == myList
```

True

This is the other law for Monoid: the binary operation must be associative *and* it must have a sensible identity value.

### The problem of orphan instances

We’ve said both in this chapter and in the earlier chapter devoted to Typeclasses that typeclasses have unique pairings of the class and the instance for a particular type.

We do sometimes end up with multiple instances for a single type when orphan instances are written. But writing orphan instances should be avoided *at all costs*. Do not be lazy about this! If you get an orphan instance warning from GHC, *fix it*.

An orphan instance is when an instance is defined for a datatype and typeclass, but not in the same module as either the declaration of the typeclass or the datatype. If you don’t “own” the typeclass or the datatype, newtype it!

If you want an orphan instance so that you can have multiple instances for the same type, you still want to use newtype. We saw this earlier with Sum and Product which let us have notionally two Monoids for numbers without resorting to orphans or messing up typeclass instance uniqueness.

Let’s see an example of an orphan instance and how to fix it. First, make a project directory and change into that directory:

```
$ mkdir orphan-instance && cd orphan-instance
```

Then we’re going to make a couple of files, one module in each:

```
module Listy where

newtype Listy a =
  Listy [a]
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```

module ListyInstances where

import Data.Monoid
import Listy

instance Monoid (Listy a) where
    mempty = Listy []
    mappend (Listy l) (Listy l') = Listy $ mappend l l'

```

So our directory will look like:

```

$ tree
.
├── Listy.hs
└── ListyInstances.hs

```

Then to build `ListyInstances` such that it can see `Listy`, we must use the `-I` flag to “include” the current directory and make modules within it discoverable. The `.` after the `I` is how we say “this directory” in Unix-alikes. If you succeed, you should see something like the following:

```

$ ghc -I. --make ListyInstances.hs
[2 of 2] Compiling ListyInstances

```

Note that the only output will be an object file, the result of compiling a module that can be reused as a library by Haskell code, because we didn’t define a `main` suitable for producing an executable. We’re only using this approach to build this so that we can avoid the hassle of `cabal init`’ing a project. For *anything* more complicated or long-lived than this, use a dependency and build management tool like Cabal.

Now to provide one example of why orphan instances are problematic. If we copy our `Monoid` instance from `ListyInstances` into `Listy`, then rebuild `ListyInstances`, we’ll get the following error.

```

$ ghc -I. --make ListyInstances.hs
[1 of 2] Compiling Listy
[2 of 2] Compiling ListyInstances

```

```
Listy.hs:7:10:
Duplicate instance declarations:
instance Monoid (Listy a) -- Defined at Listy.hs:7:10
instance Monoid (Listy a) -- Defined at ListyInstances.hs:5:10
```

These conflicting instance declarations could happen to anybody who uses the previous version of our code. And that's a problem.

Orphan instances are *still* a problem even if duplicate instances aren't both imported into a module because it means your typeclass methods will start behaving differently depending on what modules are imported, which breaks the fundamental assumptions and niceties of typeclasses.

There are a few solutions for addressing orphan instances:

1. You defined the type but not the typeclass? Put the instance in the same module as the type so that the type cannot be imported without its instances.
2. You defined the typeclass but not the type? Put the instance in the same module as the typeclass definition so that the typeclass cannot be imported without its instances.
3. Neither the type nor the typeclass are yours? Define your own newtype wrapping the original type and now you've got a type that "belongs" to you for which you can rightly define typeclass instances. There are means of making this less annoying which we'll discuss later.

These restrictions must be maintained in order for us to reap the full benefit of typeclasses along with the nice reasoning properties that are associated with them. A type *must* have a unique (singular) implementation of a typeclass in scope, and avoiding orphan instances is how we prevent conflicting instances. Be aware, however, that avoidance of orphan instances is more strictly adhered to among library authors rather than application developers, although it's no less important in applications.

## 15.11 Madness

You may have seen mad libs<sup>1</sup> before. The idea is to take a template of phrases, fill them in with blindly selected categories of words, and see if saying the final version is amusing.

Using an example from the Wikipedia article on Mad Libs:

```
" _____! he said _____ as he jumped into his car
   exclamation           adverb
_____ and drove off with his _____ wife."
noun                    adjective
```

We can make this into a function, like the following:

```
import Data.Monoid

type Verb = String
type Adjective = String
type Adverb = String
type Noun = String
type Exclamation = String

madlibbin' :: Exclamation
           -> Adverb
           -> Noun
           -> Adjective
           -> String
madlibbin' e adv noun adj =
  e <> "! he said " <>
  adv <> " as he jumped into his car " <>
  noun <> " and drove off with this " <>
  adj <> " wife."
```

Now you're going to refactor this code a bit! Rewrite it using `mconcat`.

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mad\\_Libs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mad_Libs)

```

madlibbinBetter' :: Exclamation
                  -> Adverb
                  -> Noun
                  -> Adjective
                  -> String
madlibbinBetter' e adv noun adj = undefined

```

## 15.12 Better living through QuickCheck

Proving laws can be tedious, especially if the code we’re checking is in the middle of changing frequently. Accordingly, having a cheap way to get a sense of whether or not the laws are *likely* to be obeyed by an instance is pretty useful. QuickCheck happens to be an excellent way to accomplish this.

### Validating associativity with QuickCheck

You can check the associativity of some simple arithmetic expressions by asserting equality between two versions with different parenthesization and checking them in the REPL:

```

-- we're saying these are the same because
-- (+) and (*) are associative

```

```
1 + (2 + 3) == (1 + 2) + 3
```

```
4 * (5 * 6) == (4 * 5) * 6
```

This doesn’t tell us that associativity holds for *any* inputs to (+) and (\*), though, and that is what we want to test. Our old friend from the lambda calculus — abstraction! — suffices for this:

```
\ a b c -> a + (b + c) == (a + b) + c
```

```
\ a b c -> a * (b * c) == (a * b) * c
```

But our arguments aren’t the only thing we can abstract. What if we want to talk about the *abstract* property of associativity for some given function  $f$ ?

```
\ f a b c ->
  f a (f b c) == f (f a b) c
-- or infix

\ (<=>) a b c ->
  a <=> (b <=> c) == (a <=> b) <=> c
```

Surprise! You can bind infix names for function arguments.

```
asc :: Eq a => (a -> a -> a) -> a -> a -> a -> Bool
asc (<=>) a b c =
  a <=> (b <=> c) == (a <=> b) <=> c
```

Now how do we turn this function into something we can quickcheck? The quickest and easiest way would probably look something like the following:

```
import Data.Monoid
import Test.QuickCheck

monoidAssoc :: (Eq m, Monoid m) => m -> m -> m -> Bool
monoidAssoc a b c = (a <=> (b <=> c)) == ((a <=> b) <=> c)
```

We have to declare the types for the function in order to run the tests, so that QuickCheck knows what types of data to generate.

We can now use this to check associativity of functions:

```
-- for brevity
Prelude> type S = String
Prelude> type B = Bool

Prelude> quickCheck (monoidAssoc :: S -> S -> S -> B)
+++ OK, passed 100 tests.
```

The quickCheck function uses the Arbitrary typeclass to provide the randomly generated inputs for testing the function. Although it's common to do so, we may not want to rely on an Arbitrary instance existing for the type of our inputs. We may not want to do this for one of a few reasons. It may be that we need a generator for a type that doesn't belong to us, so we'd rather not make an orphan instance.

Or it could be a type that already has an arbitrary instance, but we want to run tests with a different random distribution of values, or to make sure we check certain special edge cases in addition to the random values.

You want to be careful to assert types so that QuickCheck knows which Arbitrary instance to get random values for testing from. You can use `verboseCheck` to see what values were tested. If you try running the check verbosely and without asserting a type for the arguments:

```
Prelude> verboseCheck monoidAssoc
Passed:
()
()
()

(repeated 100 times)
```

This is GHCi's type-defaulting biting you, as we saw back in the Testing chapter. GHCi has slightly more aggressive type-defaulting which can be handy in an interactive session when you just want to fire off some code and have your REPL pick a winner for the typeclasses it doesn't know how to dispatch. Compiled in a source file, GHC would've squawked about an ambiguous type.

### Quickchecking left and right identity

Following on from what we did with associativity, left and right identity turn out to be even simpler to test:

```
monoidLeftIdentity :: (Eq m, Monoid m) => m -> Bool
monoidLeftIdentity a = (empty <> a) == a

monoidRightIdentity :: (Eq m, Monoid m) => m -> Bool
monoidRightIdentity a = (a <> empty) == a
```

Then running these properties against a Monoid:

```
Prelude> quickCheck (monoidLeftIdentity :: String -> Bool)
+++ OK, passed 100 tests.
```



```
Prelude> quickCheck (monoidRightIdentity :: String -> Bool)
+++ OK, passed 100 tests.
```

### Testing QuickCheck's patience

Let us see an example of QuickCheck catching us out for having an invalid Monoid. Here we're going to demonstrate why a Bool Monoid can't have False as the identity, always returning the value False, and still be a valid Monoid:

```
-- associative, left identity, and right identity
-- properties have been elided. Add them to your copy of this.
```

```
import Control.Monad
import Data.Monoid
import Test.QuickCheck
```

```
data Bull =
    Fools
  | Two
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
instance Arbitrary Bull where
    arbitrary =
        frequency [ (1, return Fools)
                  , (1, return Two) ]
```

```
instance Monoid Bull where
    mempty = Fools
    mappend _ _ = Fools
```

```
type BullMappend = Bull -> Bull -> Bull -> Bool
```

```
main :: IO ()
main = do
    quickCheck (monoidAssoc :: BullMappend)
    quickCheck (monoidLeftIdentity :: Bull -> Bool)
    quickCheck (monoidRightIdentity :: Bull -> Bool)
```

If you load this up in GHCi and run `main`, you'll get the following output:

```
Prelude> main
+++ OK, passed 100 tests.
*** Failed! Falsifiable (after 1 test):
Twoo
*** Failed! Falsifiable (after 1 test):
Twoo
```

So this not-actually-a-Monoid for `Bool` turns out to pass associativity, but fail on the right and left identity checks. To see why, let's line up the laws against what our `mempty` and `mappend` are.

```
-- how the instance is defined
mempty = Fools
mappend _ _ = Fools

-- identity laws
mappend mempty x = x
mappend x mempty = x

-- Does it obey the laws?

-- because of how mappend is defined
mappend mempty x = Fools
mappend x mempty = Fools

-- Fools is not x, so it fails the identity laws.
```

It's fine if your identity value is `Fools`, but if your `mappend` always returns the identity, then it's not an identity. It's not even behaving like a zero as you're not even checking if either argument is `Fools` before returning `Fools`. It's an evil blackhole that just spits out one value, which is senseless. For an example of what is meant by zero, consider multiplication which has an identity *and* a zero:

```
-- Thus why the mempty for Sum is 0
0 + x == x
x + 0 == x

-- Thus why the mempty for Product is 1
1 * x == x
x * 1 == x

-- Thus why the mempty for Product is *not* 0
0 * x == 0
x * 0 == 0
```

Using QuickCheck can be a great way to cheaply and easily sanity check the validity of your instances against their laws. You'll see more of this.

### Exercise: Maybe Another Monoid

Write a `Monoid` instance for `Maybe` type which doesn't require a `Monoid` for the contents. Reuse the `Monoid` law QuickCheck properties and use them to validate the instance.

```

newtype First' a =
  First' { getFirst' :: Optional a }
  deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Monoid (First' a) where
  mempty = undefined
  mappend = undefined

firstMappend :: First' a -> First' a -> First' a
firstMappend = mappend

type FirstMappend =
  First' String
  -> First' String
  -> First' String
  -> Bool

main :: IO ()
main = do
  quickCheck (monoidAssoc :: FirstMappend)
  quickCheck (monoidLeftIdentity :: First' String -> Bool)
  quickCheck (monoidRightIdentity :: First' String -> Bool)

```

Our expected output demonstrates a different Monoid for Optional/Maybe which is getting the first success and holding onto it, where any exist. This could be seen, with a bit of hand-waving, as being like a disjunctive or “or”-oriented Monoid instance.

```

Prelude> First' (Only 1) `mappend` First' Nada
First' {getFirst' = Only 1}
Prelude> First' Nada `mappend` First' Nada
First' {getFirst' = Nada}
Prelude> First' Nada `mappend` First' (Only 2)
First' {getFirst' = Only 2}
Prelude> First' (Only 1) `mappend` First' (Only 2)
First' {getFirst' = Only 1}

```

### 15.13 Semigroup

Mathematicians play with algebras like that creepy kid you knew in grade school who would pull legs off of insects. Sometimes, they glue legs onto insects too, but in the case where we're going from Monoid to Semigroup, we're pulling a leg off. In this case, the leg is our identity. To get from a Monoid to a Semigroup, we simply no longer furnish nor require an identity. The core operation remains binary and associative.

With this, our definition of Semigroup is:

```
class Semigroup a where
  (< >) :: a -> a -> a
```

And we're left with one law:

```
(a < > b) < > c = a < > (b < > c)
```

Semigroup still provides a binary associative operation, one that typically joins two things together (as in concatenation or summation), but doesn't have an identity value. In that sense, it's a weaker algebra.

**Not yet part of base** As of the writing of this book, the Semigroup typeclass isn't yet part of base. With the release of GHC 8.0, semigroup should be part of base and a superclass of Monoid. To follow along with the examples, you'll want to install the semigroups<sup>2</sup> library and use it from a cabal repl.

If you do install Semigroups and import the modules, keep in mind that it defines its own more general version of (< >) which only requires a Semigroup constraint rather than a Monoid constraint. If you don't know what to do, close your REPL and reopen it. After doing so, then import only the semigroups module and not Data.Monoid from base. If you must import Data.Monoid, hide the conflicting (< >) in your import declaration.

<sup>2</sup> <http://hackage.haskell.org/package/semigroups>

### NonEmpty, a useful datatype

One really useful datatype that can't have a `Monoid` instance but does have a `Semigroup` instance is the `NonEmpty` list type. It is a list datatype that can never be an empty list:

```
data NonEmpty a = a :| [a]
    deriving (Eq, Ord, Show)
```

*-- some instances from the real library elided*

Here `:|` is an infix data constructor that takes two (type) arguments. It's a product of `a` and `[a]`. It guarantees that we always have *at least* one value of type `a`, which `[a]` does not guarantee as any list might be empty.

Note that although `:|` is not alphanumeric, as most of the other data constructors you're used to seeing are, it is just a name for an infix data constructor. Data constructors with only non-alphanumeric symbols and that begin with a colon are infix by default; those with alphanumeric names are prefix by default:

*-- Prefix, works.*

```
data P =
    Prefix Int String
```

*-- Infix, works.*

```
data Q =
    Int :||: String
```

Since that data constructor is symbolic rather than alphanumeric, it can't be used as a prefix:

```
data R =
    :||: Int String
```

Using it as a prefix will cause a syntax error:

```
parse error on input ':||:'
Failed, modules loaded: none.
```

On the other hand, an alphanumeric data constructor can't be used as an infix:

```
data S =
  Int Prefix String
```

It will cause another error:

```
Not in scope: type constructor or class 'Prefix'
A data constructor of that name is in scope;
did you mean DataKinds?
Failed, modules loaded: none.
```

Let's return to the main point, which is `NonEmpty`. Because `NonEmpty` is a product of two arguments, we could've also written it as:

```
newtype NonEmpty a =
  NonEmpty (a, [a])
  deriving (Eq, Ord, Show)
```

We can't write a `Monoid` for `NonEmpty` because it has no identity value by design! There is no empty list to serve as an identity for any operation over a `NonEmpty` list, yet there is still a binary associative operation: two `NonEmpty` lists can still be concatenated. A type with a canonical binary associative operation but no identity value is a natural fit for `Semigroup`. Here is a brief example of using `NonEmpty` from the `semigroups` library with the `semigroup` “mappend”:

```
-- you need to have `semigroups` installed
Prelude> import Data.List.NonEmpty as N
Prelude N> import Data.Semigroup as S
Prelude N S> 1 :| [2, 3]
1 :| [2,3]
Prelude N S> :t 1 :| [2, 3]
1 :| [2, 3] :: Num a => NonEmpty a
Prelude N S> :t (< >)
(< >) :: Semigroup a => a -> a -> a

Prelude N S> let xs = 1 :| [2, 3]
Prelude N S> let ys = 4 :| [5, 6]
```

```

Prelude N S> xs <> ys
1 :| [2,3,4,5,6]
Prelude N S> N.head xs
1
Prelude N S> N.length (xs <> ys)
6

```

Beyond this, you use `NonEmpty` just like you would a list, but what you’ve gained is being explicit that having zero values is not valid for your use-case. The datatype helps you enforce this constraint by not letting you construct a `NonEmpty` unless you have at least one value.

### Strength can be weakness

When Haskellers talk about the *strength* of an algebra, they usually mean the number of operations it provides which in turn expands what you can do with any given instance of that algebra without needing to know specifically what type you are working with.

The reason we cannot and do not want to simply make all of our algebras as big as possible is that there are datatypes which are very useful representationally, but which do not have the ability to satisfy everything in a larger algebra that could work fine if you removed an operation or law. This becomes a serious problem if `NonEmpty` is the right datatype for something in the domain you’re representing. If you’re an experienced programmer, think carefully. How many times have you meant for a list to never be empty? To guarantee this and make the types more informative, we use types like `NonEmpty`.

The problem is that `NonEmpty` has no identity value for the combining operation (`mappend`) in `Monoid`. So, we keep the associativity but drop the identity value and its laws of left and right identity. This is what introduces the need for and idea of `Semigroup` from a datatype.

The most obvious way to see that `Monoid` is *stronger* than `Semigroup` is to observe that it has a strict superset of the operations and laws that `Semigroup` provides. Anything which is a `Monoid` is by definition *also* a `semigroup`. Soon, `Semigroup` will be added to GHC’s base library and when it is, `Monoid` will then superclass `Semigroup`.



```
class Semigroup a => Monoid a where
  ...
```

Earlier we reasoned about the inverse relationship between operations permitted over a type and the number of types that can satisfy. We can see this relationship between the number of operations and laws an algebra demands and the number of datatypes that can provide a law abiding instance of that algebra.

In the following example, *a* can be anything in the universe, but there are no operations over it — we can only return the same value.

```
id :: a -> a
```

- Number of types: Infinite — universally quantified so it can be any type the expression applying the function wants.
- Number of operations: one, if you can call it an operation. Just referencing the value you were passed.

With `inc a` now has all the operations from `Num`, which lets us do more. But that also means it's now a finite set of types that can satisfy the `Num` constraint rather than being strictly any type in the universe:

```
inc :: Num a => a -> a
```

- Number of types: anything that implements `Num`. Zero to many.
- Number of operations: 7 methods in `Num`

In the next example we know it's an `Integer`, which gives us many more operations than just a `Num` instance:

```
somethingInt :: Int -> Int
```

- Number of types: one — just `Int`.
- Number of operations: considerably more than 7. In addition to `Num`, `Int` has instances of `Bounded`, `Enum`, `Eq`, `Integral`, `Ord`, `Read`, `Real`, and `Show`. On top of that, you can write arbitrary

functions that pattern match on concrete types and return arbitrary values in that same type as the result. Polymorphism isn't only useful for reusing code; it's also useful for *expressing intent through parametricity* so that people reading the code know what we meant to accomplish.

When Monoid is too strong or more than we need, we can use Semigroup. If you're wondering what's weaker than Semigroup, the usual next step is removing the associativity requirement, giving you a magma. It's not likely to come up in day to day Haskell, but you can sound cool at programming conferences for knowing what's weaker than a semigroup so pocket that one for the pub.

## 15.14 Chapter exercises

### Semigroup exercises

Given a datatype, implement the Semigroup instance. Add Semigroup constraints to type variables where needed. Use the Semigroup class from the semigroups library or write your own. When we use `<>`, we mean the infix mappend from the Semigroup typeclass.

**Note** We're not always going to derive every instance you may want or need in the datatypes we provide for exercises. We expect you to know what you need and to take care of it yourself by this point.

1. Validate *all* of your instances with QuickCheck. Since Semigroup's only law is associativity, that's the only property you need to reuse.

```

data Trivial = Trivial deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Semigroup Trivial where
  _ <> _ = undefined

instance Arbitrary Trivial where
  arbitrary = return Trivial

semigroupAssoc :: (Eq m, Semigroup m) => m -> m -> m -> Bool
semigroupAssoc a b c = (a <> (b <> c)) == ((a <> b) <> c)

type TrivialAssoc = Trivial -> Trivial -> Trivial -> Bool

main :: IO ()
main =
  quickCheck (semigroupAssoc :: TrivialAssoc)

```

2. `newtype Identity a = Identity a`
3. `data Two a b = Two a b`
4. `data Three a b c = Three a b c`
5. `data Four a b c d = Four a b c d`
6. `newtype BoolConj = BoolConj Bool`

What it should do:

```

Prelude> (BoolConj True) <> (BoolConj True)
BoolConj True
Prelude> (BoolConj True) <> (BoolConj False)
BoolConj False

```

7. `newtype BoolDisj = BoolDisj Bool`

What it should do:

```
Prelude> (BoolDisj True) <> (BoolDisj True)
BoolDisj True
Prelude> (BoolDisj True) <> (BoolDisj False)
BoolDisj True
```

8. **data Or** a b =

```
    Fst a
  | Snd b
```

The Semigroup for `or` should have the following behavior. We can think of this as having a “sticky” `Snd` value where it’ll hold onto the first `Snd` value when and if one is passed as an argument. This is similar to the `First` Monoid you wrote earlier.

```
Prelude> Fst 1 <> Snd 2
Snd 2
Prelude> Fst 1 <> Fst 2
Fst 2
Prelude> Snd 1 <> Fst 2
Snd 1
Prelude> Snd 1 <> Snd 2
Snd 1
```

9. **newtype Combine** a b =

```
    Combine { unCombine :: (a -> b) }
```

What it should do:

```
Prelude> let f = Combine $ \n -> Sum (n + 1)
Prelude> let g = Combine $ \n -> Sum (n - 1)
Prelude> unCombine (f <> g) $ 0
Sum {getSum = 0}
Prelude> unCombine (f <> g) $ 1
Sum {getSum = 2}
Prelude> unCombine (f <> f) $ 1
Sum {getSum = 4}
Prelude> unCombine (g <> f) $ 1
Sum {getSum = 2}
```

Hint: This function will eventually be applied to a single value of type  $a$ . But you'll have multiple functions that can produce a value of type  $b$ . How do we combine multiple values so we have a single  $b$ ? This one will probably be tricky! Remember that the type of the value inside of `Combine` is that of a *function*. If you can't figure out `CoArbitrary`, don't worry about `QuickChecking` this one.

10. **newtype** `Comp`  $a =$   
     `Comp` { `unComp` ::  $(a \rightarrow a)$  }

Hint: We can do something that seems a little more specific and natural to functions now that the input and output types are the same.

11. *-- Look familiar?*

```
data Validation  $a\ b =$ 
  Failure  $a$  | Success  $b$ 
deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Semigroup  $a \Rightarrow$ 
  Semigroup (Validation  $a\ b$ ) where
    (<>) = undefined
```

12. *-- Validation with a Semigroup*  
     *-- that does something different*

```
newtype AccumulateRight  $a\ b =$ 
  AccumulateRight (Validation  $a\ b$ )
deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Semigroup  $b \Rightarrow$ 
  Semigroup (AccumulateRight  $a\ b$ ) where
    (<>) = undefined
```

```

13. -- Validation with a Semigroup
    -- that does something more

    newtype AccumulateBoth a b =
      AccumulateBoth (Validation a b)
      deriving (Eq, Show)

    instance (Semigroup a, Semigroup b) =>
      Semigroup (AccumulateBoth a b) where
        (<*>) = undefined

```

### Monoid exercises

Given a datatype, implement the Monoid instance. Add Monoid constraints to type variables where needed. For the datatypes you've already implemented Semigroup instances for, you just need to figure out what the identity value is.

1. Again, validate *all* of your instances with QuickCheck. Example scaffold is provided for the Trivial type.

```

data Trivial = Trivial deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Semigroup Trivial where
  (<*>) = undefined

instance Monoid Trivial where
  mempty = undefined
  mappend = (<*>)

type TrivialAssoc = Trivial -> Trivial -> Trivial -> Bool

main :: IO ()
main = do
  quickCheck (semigroupAssoc :: TrivialAssoc)
  quickCheck (monoidLeftIdentity :: Trivial -> Bool)
  quickCheck (monoidRightIdentity :: Trivial -> Bool)

```

2. `newtype Identity a = Identity a deriving Show`

3. **data** `Two` `a b` = `Two` `a b` deriving `Show`

4. **newtype** `BoolConj` =  
`BoolConj` `Bool`

What it should do:

```
Prelude> (BoolConj True) `mappend` mempty
BoolConj True
Prelude> mempty `mappend` (BoolConj False)
BoolConj False
```

5. **newtype** `BoolDisj` =  
`BoolDisj` `Bool`

What it should do:

```
Prelude> (BoolDisj True) `mappend` mempty
BoolDisj True
Prelude> mempty `mappend` (BoolDisj False)
BoolDisj False
```

6. **newtype** `Combine` `a b` =  
`Combine` { `unCombine` :: (`a` -> `b`) }

What it should do:

```
Prelude> let f = Combine $ \n -> Sum (n + 1)
Prelude> unCombine (mappend f mempty) $ 1
Sum {getSum = 2}
```

7. Hint: We can do something that seems a little more specific and natural to functions now that the input and output types are the same.

**newtype** `Comp` `a` =  
`Comp` (`a` -> `a`)

8. This next exercise will involve doing something that will feel a bit unnatural still and you may find it difficult. If you get it and you haven't done much FP or Haskell before, get yourself a nice beverage. We're going to toss you the instance declaration so you don't churn on a missing Monoid constraint you didn't know you needed.

```
newtype Mem s a =
  Mem {
    runMem :: s -> (a,s)
  }

instance Monoid a => Monoid (Mem s a) where
  mempty = undefined
  mappend = undefined
```

Given the following code:

```
f' = Mem $ \s -> ("hi", s + 1)

main = do
  print $ runMem (f' <> mempty) 0
  print $ runMem (mempty <> f') 0
  print $ (runMem mempty 0 :: (String, Int))
  print $ runMem (f' <> mempty) 0 == runMem f' 0
  print $ runMem (mempty <> f') 0 == runMem f' 0
```

A correct Monoid for Mem should, given the above code, get the following output:

```
Prelude> main
("hi",1)
("hi",1)
("",0)
True
True
```

Make certain your instance has output like the above, this is sanity-checking the Monoid identity laws for you! It's not a



proof and it's not even as good as quick-checking, but it'll catch the most common mistakes people make. If you'd like to learn how to generate functions with QuickCheck, not just values, look at `CoArbitrary` in QuickCheck's documentation.

It's not a trick and you don't need a Monoid for  $s$ . Yes, such a Monoid can and does exist. Hint: chain the  $s$  values from one function to the other. You'll want to validate your instance as well, to do that, in particular you'll want to check the identity laws as a common mistake with this exercise is to write an instance that doesn't respect them.

### 15.15 Definitions

1. A *monoid* is a set that is closed under an associative binary operation and has an identity element. Closed is the posh mathematical way of saying it's type is:

```
mappend :: m -> m -> m
```

Such that your arguments and output will always inhabit the same type (set).

2. A *semigroup* is a set that is closed under an associative binary operation — and nothing else.
3. Laws are rules about how an algebra or structure should behave. These are needed in part to make abstraction over the commonalities of different instantiations of the same sort of algebra possible and *practical*. This is critical to having abstractions which aren't unpleasantly surprising.
4. An *algebra* is variously:
  - a) School algebra, such as that taught in primary and secondary school. This usually entails the balancing of polynomial equations and learning how functions and graphs work.
  - b) The study of number systems and operations within them. This will typically entail a particular area such as groups or rings. This is what mathematicians commonly mean by "algebra." This is sometimes disambiguated by being referred to as abstract algebra.
  - c) A third and final way algebra is used is to refer to a vector space over a field with a multiplication.

When Haskellers refer to algebras, they're *usually* talking about a somewhat informal notion of operations over a type and its laws, such as with semigroups, monoids, groups, semirings, and rings.

### 15.16 Follow-up resources

1. Algebraic structure; Simple English Wikipedia;  
[https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algebraic\\_structure](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algebraic_structure)
2. Haskell Monoids and Their Uses  
<http://blog.sigfpe.com/2009/01/haskell-monoids-and-their-uses.html>

## Chapter 16

# Functor

Lifting is the "cheat mode" of  
type tetris.

---

Michael Neale

## 16.1 Functor

In the last chapter on Monoid, we saw what it means to talk about an algebra and turn that into a typeclass. This chapter and the two that follow, on Applicative and Monad, will be on a similar topic. Each of these algebras is more powerful than the last, but the general concept here will remain the same: we abstract out a common pattern, make certain it follows some laws, give it an awesome name, and wonder how we ever lived without it. Monads sort of steal the Haskell spotlight, but you can do more with Functor and Applicative than many people realize. Also, understanding Functor and Applicative is important to a deep understanding of Monad.

This chapter is all about Functor, and Functor is all about a pattern of mapping over structure. We saw `fmap` way back in Lists and noted that it worked just the same as `map`, but we *also* said back then that the difference is that you can use `fmap` with structures that *aren't lists*. Now we will begin to see what that means.

The great logician Rudolf Carnap appears to have been the first person to use the word ‘functor’ in the 1930s. He invented the word to describe certain types of grammatical function words and logical operations over sentences or phrases. Functors are combinators: they take a sentence or phrase as input and produce a sentence or phrase as an output, with some logical operation applied to the whole. For example, negation is a functor in this sense because when negation is applied to a sentence,  $A$ , it produces the negated version,  $\neg A$ , as an output. It lifts the concept of *negation* over the entire sentence or phrase structure without changing the internal structure. (Yes, in English the negation word often appears inside the sentence, not on the outside, but he was a logician and unconcerned with how normal humans produced such pedestrian things as spoken sentences. In logic, the negation operator is typically written as a prefix, as above.)

This chapter will include:

- the return of the higher-kinded types;
- `fmaps` galore, and not just on lists;
- no more digressions about dusty logicians;

- words about typeclasses and constructor classes;
- puns based on George Clinton music, probably.

## 16.2 What’s a functor?

A functor is a way to apply a function over or around some structure that we don’t want to alter. That is, we want to apply the function to the value that is “inside” some structure and leave the structure alone. That’s why it is most common to introduce functor by way of `fmap` over lists, as we did back in the Lists chapter. The function gets applied to each value inside the list, and the list structure remains. A good way to relate “not altering the structure” to lists is that the length of the list after mapping a function over it will always be the same. No elements are removed or added, only transformed. The typeclass `Functor` generalizes this pattern so that we can use that basic idea with many types of structure, not just lists.

`Functor` is implemented in Haskell with a typeclass, just like `Monoid`. Other means of implementing it are possible, but this is the most convenient way to do so. The definition of the `Functor` typeclass in Haskell looks like this:

```
class Functor f where
  fmap :: (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

Now let’s dissect this a bit.

```
class Functor f where
[1]  [2]  [3]  [4]
  fmap :: (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
[5]      [6]      [7]      [8]
```

1. `class` is the keyword to begin the definition of a typeclass
2. `Functor` is the name of the typeclass we are defining.
3. Typeclasses in Haskell usually refer to some sort of *type*. The letters themselves, as with type variables in type signatures, do not mean anything special. `f` is a conventional letter to choose when referring to types that have functorial structure. The `f` must be the same `f` throughout the typeclass definition.

4. The `where` keyword ends the declaration of the typeclass name and associated types. After the `where` the operations provided by the typeclass are listed.
5. We begin the declaration of an operation named `fmap`.
6. The argument `a -> b` is any function in Haskell.
7. The argument `f a` is a Functor `f` that takes a type argument `a`. That is, the `f` is a type that has an instance of the Functor typeclass.
8. The return value is `f b`. It is the *same* `f` from `f a`, while the type argument `b` *possibly but not necessarily* refers to a different type.

Before we delve into the details of how this typeclass works, let's see `fmap` in action so you get a feel for what's going on first.

### 16.3 There's a whole lot of `fmap` going round

We have seen `fmap` before but we haven't used it much except for with lists. With lists, it seems to do the same thing as `map`:

```
Prelude> map (\x -> x > 3) [1..6]
[False,False,False,True,True,True]
Prelude> fmap (\x -> x > 3) [1..6]
[False,False,False,True,True,True]
```

List is, of course, one type that implements the typeclass Functor, but it seems unremarkable when it just does the same thing as `map`. However, lists aren't the only type that implement Functor, and `fmap` can apply a function over or around any of those functorial structures, while `map` cannot:

```
Prelude> map (+1) (Just 1)
```

```
Couldn't match expected type '[b]'
  with actual type 'Maybe a0'
```

```
Relevant bindings include it :: [b] (bound at 16:1)
In the second argument of 'map', namely '(Just 1)'
In the expression: map (+ 1) (Just 1)
```

```
Prelude> fmap (+1) (Just 1)
Just 2
```

Intriguing! What else?

```
--with a tuple!
Prelude> fmap (10/) (4, 5)
(4,2.0)
```

```
--with Either!
Prelude> fmap (++ " , Esq.") (Right "Chris Allen")
Right "Chris Allen, Esq."
```

We can see how the type of `fmap` specializes to different types here:

```
-- Functor f =>
fmap :: (a -> b) ->      f a ->      f b
      :: (a -> b) ->      [ ] a ->      [ ] b
      :: (a -> b) ->      Maybe a ->      Maybe b
      :: (a -> b) ->      Either e a ->      Either e b
      :: (a -> b) ->      (e,) a ->      (e,) b
      :: (a -> b) ->      Identity a ->      Identity b
      :: (a -> b) ->      Constant e a ->      Constant e b
```

You may have noticed in the tuple and Either examples that the first arguments (labeled *e* in the above chart) are ignored by `fmap`. We'll talk about why that is in just a bit. Let's first turn our attention to what makes a functor. Later we'll come back to longer examples and expand on this considerably.

## 16.4 Let's talk about *f*, baby

As we said above, the *f* in the typeclass definition for `Functor` must be the same *f* throughout the entire definition, and it must refer to a type that implements the typeclass. This section details the practical ramifications of those facts.

The first thing we know is that our *f* here must have the kind `*` `-> *`. We talked about higher-kinded types in previous chapters, and



we recall that a type constant or a fully applied type has the kind `*`. A type with kind `* -> *` is awaiting application to a type constant of kind `*`.

We know that the *f* in our Functor definition must be kind `* -> *` for a couple of reasons, which we will first describe and then demonstrate:

1. Each argument (and result) in the type signature for a function must be a fully applied (and inhabitable, *modulo* Void, etc.) type. Each argument must have the kind `*`.
2. The type *f* was applied to a single argument in two different places: *f* *a* and *f* *b*. Since *f* *a* and *f* *b* must each have the kind `*`, *f* by itself must be kind `* -> *`.

It's easier to see what these mean in practice by demonstrating with lots of code, so let's tear the roof off this sucker.

### Shining star come into view

Every argument to the type constructor of `->` must be of kind `*`. We can verify this simply by querying kind of the function type constructor for ourselves:

```
Prelude> :k (->)
(->) :: * -> * -> *
```

Each argument and result of every function must be a type constant, not a type constructor. Given that knowledge, we can know something about Functor from the type of `fmap`:

```
class Functor f where
  fmap :: (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
--has kind:   *      ->  *      ->  *
```

The type signature of `fmap` tells us that the *f* introduced by the class definition for Functor *must* accept a single type argument and thus be of kind `* -> *`. We can determine this even without knowing anything about the typeclass, which we'll demonstrate with some meaningless typeclasses:

```
class Sumthin a where
```

```
  s :: a -> a
```

```
class Else where
```

```
  e :: b -> f (g a b c)
```

```
class Biffy where
```

```
  slayer :: e a b -> (a -> c) -> (b -> d) -> e c d
```

Let's deconstruct the previous couple of examples:

```
class Sumthin a where
```

```
  s :: a -> a
```

```
--      [1]  [1]
```

1. The argument and result type are both  $a$ . There's nothing else, so  $a$  has kind  $*$ .

```
class Else where
```

```
  e :: b -> f (g a b c)
```

```
--      [1]  [2]  [3]
```

1. This  $b$ , like  $a$  in the previous example, stands alone as the first argument to  $(->)$ , so it is kind  $*$ .
2. Here  $f$  is the outermost type constructor for the second argument (the result type) of  $(->)$ . It takes a single argument, the type  $g a b c$  wrapped in parentheses. Thus,  $f$  has kind  $* -> *$ .
3. And  $g$  is applied to three arguments  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$ . That means it is kind  $* -> * -> * -> *$ , where:

```
-- using :: to denote kind signature
```

```
g :: * -> * -> * -> *
```

```
-- a, b, and c are each kind *
```

```
g :: * -> * -> * -> *
```

```
g   a   b   c   (g a b c)
```

```
class Biffy where
  slayer :: e a b -> (a -> c) -> (b -> d) -> e c d
--           [1]       [2]  [3]
```

1. First,  $e$  is an argument to  $(->)$  so the application of its arguments must result in kind  $*$ . Given that, and knowing there are two arguments  $a$  and  $b$ , we can determine  $e$  is kind  $* -> * -> *$ .
2. This  $a$  is an argument to a function that takes no arguments itself, so it's kind  $*$
3. The story for  $c$  is identical here, just in another spot of the same function.

The kind checker is going to fail on the next couple of examples:

```
class Impish v where
  impossibleKind :: v -> v a
```

```
class AlsoImp v where
  nope :: v a -> v
```

Remember that the name of the variable before the `where` in a typeclass definition binds the occurrences of that name throughout the definition. GHC will notice that our  $v$  sometimes has a type argument and sometimes not, and it will call our bluff if we attempt to feed it this nonsense:

```
'v' is applied to too many type arguments
In the type 'v -> v a'
In the class declaration for 'Impish'
```

```
Expecting one more argument to 'v'
Expected a type, but 'v' has kind 'k0 -> *'
In the type 'v a -> v'
In the class declaration for 'AlsoImp'
```

Just as GHC has type inference, it also has kind inference. And just as it does with types, it can not only infer the kinds but also validate that they're consistent and make sense.

**Exercises: Be Kind**

Given a type signature, determine the kinds of each type variable:

1. What's the kind of  $a$ ?

**a** -> a

2. What are the kinds of  $b$  and  $T$ ? (The  $T$  is capitalized on purpose!)

**a** -> b a -> **T** (b a)

3. What's the kind of  $c$ ?

**c** a b -> c b a

**A shining star for you to see**

So, what if our type isn't higher-kinded? Let's try it with a type constant and see what happens:

```
-- functors1.hs
```

```
data FixMePls =
  FixMe
  | Pls
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
instance Functor FixMePls where
  fmap = error "it doesn't matter, it won't compile"
```

Notice there are no type arguments anywhere — everything is just one shining (kind) star! And if we load this file from GHCi, we'll get the following error:

```
Prelude> :l functors1.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling Main                ( functors1.hs, interpreted )
```

```
functors1.hs:8:18:
```

```
The first argument of 'Functor' should have kind '* -> *',
  but 'FixMePls' has kind '*'
```

```
In the instance declaration for 'Functor FixMePls'
```

```
Failed, modules loaded: none.
```

In fact, asking for a Functor for `FixMePls` doesn't really make sense. To see why this doesn't make sense, consider the types involved:

```
-- Functor is:
fmap :: Functor f => (a -> b) -> f a -> f b

-- If we replace f with FixMePls
(a -> b) -> FixMePls a -> FixMePls b

-- But FixMePls doesn't take type arguments,
-- so this is really more like:
(FixMePls -> FixMePls) -> FixMePls -> FixMePls
```

There's no type constructor *f* in there! The maximally polymorphic version of this is:

```
(a -> b) -> a -> b
```

So in fact, not having a type argument means this is just:

```
($) :: (a -> b) -> a -> b
```

Without a type argument, this is mere function application.

## Functor is function application

We just saw how trying to make a Functor instance for a type constant means you just have function application. But, in fact, `fmap` is a specific sort of function application. Let's look at the types:

```
fmap :: Functor f => (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

There is also an infix operator for `fmap`. If you're using an older version of GHC, you may need to import `Data.Functor` in order to use it in the REPL. Of course, it has the same type as the prefix `fmap`:

```
-- <$> is the infix alias for fmap:
(<$>) :: Functor f => (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

Notice something?

```
(<$>) :: Functor f => (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
($) ::      (a -> b) -> a -> b
```

Functor is a typeclass for function application “over”, or “through”, or “past” some structure  $f$  that we want to ignore and leave untouched. We’ll explain “leave untouched” in more detail later when we talk about the Functor laws.

### A shining star for you to see what your $f$ can truly be

Let’s resume our exploration of why we need a higher-kinded  $f$ .

If we add a type argument to the datatype from above, we make `FixMePls` into a type constructor, and this will work:

```
-- functors2.hs
```

```
data FixMePls a =
    FixMe
  | Pls a
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
instance Functor FixMePls where
    fmap = error "it doesn't matter, it won't compile"
```

Now it’ll compile!

```
Prelude> :l code/functors2.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling Main
Ok, modules loaded: Main.
```

But wait, we don’t need the error anymore! Let’s fix that Functor instance:

```
-- functors3.hs
```

```
data FixMePls a =
    FixMe
  | Pls a
  deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Functor FixMePls where
    fmap _ FixMe = FixMe
    fmap f (Pls a) = Pls (f a)
```

Let's see how our instance lines up with the type of `fmap`:

```
fmap :: Functor f => (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
fmap          f      (Pls a) = Pls (f a)
--           (a -> b)   f a     f b
```

While  $f$  is used in the type of `fmap` to represent the Functor, by convention, it is also conventionally used in function definitions to name an argument that is itself a function. Don't let the names fool you into thinking the  $f$  in our `FixMePls` instance is the same  $f$  as in the Functor typeclass definition.

Now our code is happy-making!

```
Prelude> :l code/functors3.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling Main
Ok, modules loaded: Main.
Prelude> fmap (+1) (Pls 1)
Pls 2
```

Notice the function gets applied over and inside of the “structure.” Now we can be stronk<sup>1</sup> Haskell coders and lift big heavy functions over abstract structure!

Okay, let's make another mistake for the sake of explicit-ness. What if we change the type of our Functor instance from `FixMePls` to `FixMePls a`?

---

<sup>1</sup> “Stronk” means *STRONK*.

```
-- functors4.hs

data FixMePls a =
    FixMe
  | Pls a
  deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Functor (FixMePls a) where
    fmap _ FixMe = FixMe
    fmap f (Pls a) = Pls (f a)
```

Notice we didn't change the type; it still only takes one argument. But now that argument is part of the  $f$  structure. If we load this ill-conceived code:

```
Prelude> :l functors4.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling Main

functors4.hs:8:19:
The first argument of 'Functor' should have kind '* -> *',
  but 'FixMePls a' has kind '*'
In the instance declaration for 'Functor (FixMePls a)'
Failed, modules loaded: none.
```

We get the same error as earlier, because applying the type constructor gave us something of kind  $*$  from the original kind of  $* \rightarrow *$ .

## Typeclasses and constructor classes

You may have initially paused on the type constructor  $f$  in the definition of `Functor` having kind  $* \rightarrow *$  — this is quite natural! In fact, earlier versions of Haskell didn't have a facility for expressing typeclasses in terms of higher-kinded types at all. This was developed by Mark P. Jones<sup>2</sup> while he was working on an implementation of Haskell called *Gofer*. This work generalized typeclasses from being



usable only with types of kind `*` (also called type *constants*) to being usable with higher-kinded types, called type *constructors*, as well.

In Haskell, the two use cases have been merged such that we don't call out constructor classes as being separate from typeclasses, but we think it's useful to highlight that something significant has happened here. Now we have a means of talking about the contents of types independently from the type that structures those contents. That's why we can have something like `fmap` that allows us to alter the contents of a value without altering the structure (a list, or a `Just`) around the value.

## 16.5 Functor Laws

Instances of the Functor typeclass should abide by two basic laws. Understanding these laws is critical for understanding Functor and writing typeclass instances that are composable and easy to reason about.

### Identity

The first law is the law of identity:

```
fmap id == id
```

If we `fmap` the identity function, it should have the same result as passing our value to identity. We shouldn't be changing any of the outer structure *f* that we're mapping over by mapping `id`. That's why it's the same as `id`. If we didn't return a new value in the `a -> b` function mapped over the structure, then nothing should've changed:

```
Prelude> fmap id "Hi Julie"
"Hi Julie"
Prelude> id "Hi Julie"
"Hi Julie"
```

Try it out on a few different structures and check for yourself.

---

<sup>2</sup> A system of constructor classes: overloading and implicit higher-order polymorphism  
<http://www.cs.tufts.edu/~nr/cs257/archive/mark-jones/fpca93.pdf>

## Composition

The second law for Functor is the law of composition:

```
fmap (f . g) == fmap f . fmap g
```

This concerns the composability of `fmap`. If we compose two functions,  $f$  and  $g$ , and `fmap` that over some structure, we should get the same result as if we `fmap`ped them and then composed them:

```
Prelude> fmap ((+1) . (*2)) [1..5]
[3,5,7,9,11]
Prelude> fmap (+1) . fmap (*2) $ [1..5]
[3,5,7,9,11]
```

If an implementation of `fmap` doesn't do that, it's a broken functor.

## Structure preservation

Both of these laws touch on the essential rule that functors must be structure preserving.

All we're allowed to know in the type about our instance of Functor implemented by  $f$  is that it implements Functor:

```
fmap :: Functor f => (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

The  $f$  is constrained by the typeclass Functor, but that is all we know about its type from this definition. As we've seen with typeclass-constrained polymorphism, this still allows it to be any type that has an instance of Functor. The core operation that this typeclass provides for these types is `fmap`. Because the  $f$  persists through the type of `fmap`, whatever the type is, we know it must be a type that can take an argument, as in `f a` and `f b` and that it will be the "structure" we're lifting the function over when we apply it to the value inside.

## 16.6 The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

We'll get a better picture of what it means for Functor instances to be law-abiding or law-breaking by walking through some examples. We start by defining a type constructor with one argument:

```
data WhoCares a =
    ItDoesnt
  | Matter a
  | WhatThisIsCalled
deriving (Eq, Show)
```

This datatype only has one data constructor containing a value we could `fmap` over, and that is `Matter`. The others are nullary so there is no value to work with inside the structure; there is only structure.

Here we see a law-abiding instance:

```
instance Functor WhoCares where
    fmap _ ItDoesnt = ItDoesnt
    fmap _ WhatThisIsCalled =
        WhatThisIsCalled
    fmap f (Matter a) = Matter (f a)
```

Our instance must follow the identity law or else it's not a valid functor. That law dictates that `fmap id (Matter _)` must *not* touch `Matter` — that is, it must be identical to `id (Matter _)`. Functor is a way of lifting over structure (mapping) in such a manner that you don't have to care about the structure because you're not *allowed* to touch the structure anyway.

Let us next consider a law-breaking instance:

```
instance Functor WhoCares where
    fmap _ ItDoesnt = WhatThisIsCalled
    fmap f WhatThisIsCalled = ItDoesnt
    fmap f (Matter a) = Matter (f a)
```

Now we contemplate what it means to leave the structure untouched. In this instance, we've made our structure — not the values wrapped or contained within the structure — change by making `ItDoesnt` and `WhatThisIsCalled` do a little dosey-do. It becomes rapidly apparent why this isn't kosher at all.

```
Prelude> fmap id ItDoesnt
WhatThisIsCalled
Prelude> fmap id WhatThisIsCalled
```

```
ItDoesnt
Prelude> fmap id ItDoesnt == id ItDoesnt
False
Prelude> fmap id WhatThisIsCalled == id WhatThisIsCalled
False
```

This certainly does not abide by the identity law. It is not a valid Functor instance.

**The law won** But what if you *do* want a function that can change the value *and* the structure?

We've got wonderful news for you: that exists! It's just a plain old function. Write one. Write many! The point of Functor is to reify and be able to talk about cases where we want to reuse functions in the presence of more structure and be transparently *oblivious* to that additional structure. We already saw that Functor is in some sense just a special sort of function application, but since it is *special*, we want to preserve the things about it that make it different and more powerful than ordinary function application. So, we stick to the laws.

Later in this chapter, we will talk about a sort of opposite, where you can transform the structure but leave the type argument alone. This has a nice special name too, but there isn't a widely agreed upon typeclass.

## Composition should just work

All right, now that we've seen how we can make a Functor instance violate the identity law, let's take a look at how we abide by — and break! — the composition law. You may recall from above that the law looks like this:

```
fmap (f . g) == fmap f . fmap g
```

Technically this follows from `fmap id == id`, but it's worth calling out so that we can talk about composition. This law says composing two functions lifted separately should produce the same result as if we composed the functions ahead of time and then lifted the composed function all together. Maintaining this property is about preserving composability of our code and preventing our software

from doing unpleasantly surprising things. We will now consider another invalid Functor instance to see why this is bad news:

```
data CountingBad a =
  Heisenberg Int a
  deriving (Eq, Show)

-- super NOT okay
instance Functor CountingBad where
  fmap f      (Heisenberg n a) = Heisenberg (n+1) (f a)
--  (a -> b)    f              a    =    f              b
```

Well, what did we do here? `CountingBad` has one type argument, but `Heisenberg` has two arguments. If you look at how that lines up with the type of `fmap`, you get a hint of why this isn't going to work out well. What part of our `fmap` type does the  $n$  representing the `Int` argument to `Heisenberg` belong to?

We can load this horribleness up in the REPL and see that composing two `fmaps` here does not produce the same results, so the composition law doesn't hold:

```
Prelude> let oneWhoKnocks = Heisenberg 0 "Uncle"
Prelude> fmap (++ " Jesse") oneWhoKnocks
Heisenberg 1 "Uncle Jesse"
Prelude> fmap ((++ " Jesse") . (++ " lol")) oneWhoKnocks
Heisenberg 1 "Uncle lol Jesse"
```

So far it seems OK, but what if we compose the two concatenation functions separately?

```
Prelude> fmap (++ " Jesse") . fmap (++ " lol") $ oneWhoKnocks
Heisenberg 2 "Uncle lol Jesse"
```

Or to make it look more like the law:

```
Prelude> let f = (++ " Jesse")
Prelude> let g = (++ " lol")
Prelude> fmap (f . g) oneWhoKnocks
Heisenberg 1 "Uncle lol Jesse"
Prelude> fmap f . fmap g $ oneWhoKnocks
Heisenberg 2 "Uncle lol Jesse"
```

We can clearly see that

```
fmap (f . g) == fmap f . fmap g
```

does not hold. So how do we fix it?

```
data CountingGood a =
  Heisenberg Int a
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
-- Totes cool.
```

```
instance Functor CountingGood where
  fmap f (Heisenberg n a) = Heisenberg (n) (f a)
```

Just stop messing with the Int in Heisenberg. Think of anything that isn't the final type argument of our  $f$  in Functor as being part of the structure that the functions being lifted should be oblivious to.

## 16.7 Commonly used functors

Now that we have a sense of what Functor does for us and how it's meant to work, it's time to start working through some longer examples. This section is nearly all code and examples with minimal prose explanation. Interacting with these examples will help you develop an intuition for what all is going on with a minimum of fuss.

We begin with a simple helper function:

```
Prelude> :t const
const :: a -> b -> a
Prelude> let replaceWithP = const 'p'

Prelude> replaceWithP 10000
'p'
Prelude> replaceWithP "woohoo"
'p'
Prelude> replaceWithP (Just 10)
'p'
```

We'll use it with `fmap` now for various datatypes that have instances:

```

-- data Maybe a = Nothing | Just a

Prelude> fmap replaceWithP (Just 10)
Just 'p'
Prelude> fmap replaceWithP Nothing
Nothing

-- data [] a = [] | a : [a]

Prelude> fmap replaceWithP [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
"ppppp"
Prelude> fmap replaceWithP "Ave"
"ppp"
Prelude> fmap (+1) []
[]
Prelude> fmap replaceWithP []
""

-- data (,) a b = (,) a b

Prelude> fmap replaceWithP (10, 20)
(10,'p')
Prelude> fmap replaceWithP (10, "woo")
(10,'p')

```

Again, we'll talk about why it skips the first value in the tuple in a bit. It has to do with the kindedness of tuples and the kindedness of the  $f$  in Functor.

Now the instance for functions:

```

Prelude> negate 10
-10
Prelude> let tossEmOne = fmap (+1) negate
Prelude> tossEmOne 10
-9
Prelude> tossEmOne (-10)
11

```

The functor of functions won't be discussed in great detail until we get to the chapter on Reader, but it should look sort of familiar:

```
Prelude> let tossEmOne' = (+1) . negate
Prelude> tossEmOne' 10
-9
Prelude> tossEmOne' (-10)
11
```

Now you're starting to get into the groove; let's see what else we can do with our fancy new moves.

### The functors are stacked and that's a fact

We can combine datatypes, as we've seen, usually by nesting them. We'll be using the tilde character as a shorthand for "is roughly equivalent to" throughout these examples:

```
-- lms ~ List (Maybe (String))
Prelude> let lms = [Just "Ave", Nothing, Just "woohoo"]

Prelude> let replaceWithP = const 'p'
Prelude> replaceWithP lms
'p'

Prelude> fmap replaceWithP lms
"ppp"
```

Nothing unexpected there, but we notice that `lms` has more than one functor type. `Maybe` and `List` (which includes `String`) both have `Functor` instances. So, are we obligated to `fmap` only to the outermost datatype? No way, mate:

```
Prelude> (fmap . fmap) replaceWithP lms
[Just 'p',Nothing,Just 'p']

Prelude> (fmap . fmap . fmap) replaceWithP lms
[Just "ppp",Nothing,Just "ppppp"]
```

Let's review what we just saw, but with an X-ray turned on:

```
-- lms ~ List (Maybe String)

Prelude> let lms = [Just "Ave", Nothing, Just "woohoo"]
```



```
Prelude> replaceWithP lms  
'p'
```

```
Prelude> :t replaceWithP lms  
replaceWithP lms :: Char
```

```
-- In:  
replaceWithP lms
```

```
-- replaceWithP's input type is:  
List (Maybe String)
```

```
-- The output type is Char
```

```
-- So applying  
replaceWithP
```

```
-- to  
lms
```

```
-- accomplishes  
List (Maybe String) -> Char
```

The output type of `replaceWithP` is always the same.  
If we do this:

```
Prelude> fmap replaceWithP lms  
"ppp"
```

```
-- fmap is going to leave the list  
-- structure intact around our result:  
Prelude> :t fmap replaceWithP lms  
fmap replaceWithP lms :: [Char]
```

Here's the X-ray view:

```
-- In:  
fmap replaceWithP lms
```

```
-- replaceWithP's input type is:
Maybe String

-- The output type is Char

-- So applying
fmap replaceWithP

-- to
lms

-- accomplishes:
List (Maybe String) -> List Char

-- List Char ~ String
```

### What if we lift twice?

Keep on stacking them up:

```
Prelude> (fmap . fmap) replaceWithP lms
[Just 'p',Nothing,Just 'p']

Prelude> :t (fmap . fmap) replaceWithP lms
(fmap . fmap) replaceWithP lms :: [Maybe Char]
```

And the X-ray view:

```
-- In:
(fmap . fmap) replaceWithP lms

-- replaceWithP's input type is:
-- String aka List Char or [Char]

-- The output type is Char

-- So applying
(fmap . fmap) replaceWithP

-- to
```

```

lms

-- accomplishes
List (Maybe String) -> List (Maybe Char)

```

**Wait, how does that even typecheck?** It may not seem obvious at first how `(fmap . fmap)` could typecheck. We're going to ask you to work through the types. You might prefer to write it out with pen and paper, as Julie does, or type it all out in a text editor, as Chris does. We'll help you out by providing the type signatures. Since the two `fmap` functions being composed could have different types, we'll make the type variables for each function unique. Start by substituting the type of each `fmap` for each of the function types in the `(.)` signature:

```

(.) :: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> a -> c
--      fmap      fmap
fmap :: Functor f => (m -> n) -> f m -> f n
fmap :: Functor g => (x -> y) -> g x -> g y

```

It might also be helpful to query the type of `(fmap . fmap)` to get an idea of what your end type should look like (modulo different type variables).

### Lift me baby one more time

We have another layer we can lift over if we wish:

```

Prelude> (fmap . fmap . fmap) replaceWithP lms
[Just "ppp",Nothing,Just "pppppp"]

Prelude> :t (fmap . fmap . fmap) replaceWithP lms
(fmap . fmap . fmap) replaceWithP lms :: [Maybe [Char]]

```

And the X-ray view:

```

-- In
(fmap . fmap . fmap) replaceWithP lms

-- replaceWithP's input type is:

```

```
-- Char
-- because we lifted over
-- the [] of [Char]

-- The output type is Char

-- So applying
(fmap . fmap . fmap) replaceWithP

-- to
lms

-- accomplishes
List (Maybe String) -> List (Maybe String)
```

So, we see there's a pattern.

### The real type of thing going down

We saw the pattern above, but for clarity we're going to summarize here before we move on:

```
Prelude> fmap replaceWithP lms
"ppp"

Prelude> (fmap . fmap) replaceWithP lms
[Just 'p',Nothing,Just 'p']

Prelude> (fmap . fmap . fmap) replaceWithP lms
[Just "ppp",Nothing,Just "pppppp"]
```

Let's summarize the *types*, too, to validate our understanding:

```
-- replacing the type synonym String
-- with the underlying type [Char] intentionally
```

```
replaceWithP' :: [Maybe [Char]] -> Char
replaceWithP' = replaceWithP
```

```
[Maybe [Char]] -> [Char]
[Maybe [Char]] -> [Maybe Char]
[Maybe [Char]] -> [Maybe [Char]]
```

Pause for a second and make sure you're understanding everything we've done so far. If not, play with it until it starts to feel comfortable.

### Get on up and get down

We'll work through the same idea, but with more funky structure to lift over:

```
-- lmls ~ List (Maybe (List String))

Prelude> let ha = Just ["Ha", "Ha"]
Prelude> let lmls = [ha, Nothing, Just []]

Prelude> (fmap . fmap) replaceWithP lmls
[Just 'p',Nothing,Just 'p']

Prelude> (fmap . fmap . fmap) replaceWithP lmls
[Just "pp",Nothing,Just ""]

Prelude> (fmap . fmap . fmap . fmap) replaceWithP lmls
[Just ["pp","pp"],Nothing,Just []]
```

See if you can trace the changing result types as we did above.

### One more round for the P-Funkshun

For those who like their funk uncut, here's another look at the changing types that result from lifting over multiple layers of functorial

structure, with a slightly higher resolution. We start this time from a source file:

```
module ReplaceExperiment where

replaceWithP :: b -> Char
replaceWithP = const 'p'

lms :: [Maybe [Char]]
lms = [Just "Ave", Nothing, Just "woohoo"]

-- Just making the argument more specific
replaceWithP' :: [Maybe [Char]] -> Char
replaceWithP' = replaceWithP
```

What happens if we lift it?

```
-- Prelude> :t fmap replaceWithP
-- fmap replaceWithP :: Functor f => f a -> f Char

liftedReplace :: Functor f => f a -> f Char
liftedReplace = fmap replaceWithP
```

But we can assert a more specific type for liftedReplace!

```
liftedReplace' :: [Maybe [Char]] -> [Char]
liftedReplace' = liftedReplace
```

The `[]` around `Char` is the  $f$  of  $f$  `Char`, or the structure we lifted over. The  $f$  of  $f$  `a` is the outermost `[]` in `[Maybe [Char]]`. So,  $f$  is instantiated to `[]` when we make the type more specific, whether by applying it to a value of type `[Maybe [Char]]` or by means of explicitly writing `liftedReplace'`.

Stay on the scene like an `fmap` machine

What if we lift it twice?

```

-- Prelude> :t (fmap . fmap) replaceWithP
-- (fmap . fmap) replaceWithP
--   :: (Functor f1, Functor f) => f (f1 a) -> f (f1 Char)
twiceLifted :: (Functor f1, Functor f) =>
              f (f1 a) -> f (f1 Char)
twiceLifted = (fmap . fmap) replaceWithP

-- Making it more specific
twiceLifted' :: [Maybe [Char]] -> [Maybe Char]
twiceLifted' = twiceLifted
-- f ~ []
-- f1 ~ Maybe

```

Thrice?

```

-- Prelude> :t (fmap . fmap . fmap) replaceWithP
-- (fmap . fmap . fmap) replaceWithP
--   :: (Functor f2, Functor f1, Functor f) =>
--       f (f1 (f2 a)) -> f (f1 (f2 Char))
thriceLifted :: (Functor f2, Functor f1, Functor f) =>
               f (f1 (f2 a)) -> f (f1 (f2 Char))
thriceLifted = (fmap . fmap . fmap) replaceWithP

-- More specific or "concrete"
thriceLifted' :: [Maybe [Char]] -> [Maybe [Char]]
thriceLifted' = thriceLifted
-- f ~ []
-- f1 ~ Maybe
-- f2 ~ []

```

Now we can print the results from our expressions and compare them:

```

main :: IO ()
main = do
    putStr "replaceWithP' lms:  "
    print (replaceWithP' lms)

    putStr "liftedReplace lms:  "
    print (liftedReplace lms)

    putStr "liftedReplace' lms:  "
    print (liftedReplace' lms)

    putStr "twiceLifted lms:      "
    print (twiceLifted lms)

    putStr "twiceLifted' lms:      "
    print (twiceLifted' lms)

    putStr "thriceLifted lms:      "
    print (thriceLifted lms)

    putStr "thriceLifted' lms:      "
    print (thriceLifted' lms)

```

Be sure to type all this into a file, load it in GHCi, run `main` to see what output results. Then, modify the types and code-based ideas and guesses of what should and shouldn't work. Forming hypotheses, creating experiments based on them or modifying existing experiments, and validating them is a *critical* part of becoming comfortable with abstractions like Functor!

### Exercises: Heavy Lifting

Add `fmap`, parentheses, and function composition to the expression as needed for the expression to typecheck and produce the expected result. It may not always need to go in the same place, so don't get complacent.

```
1. a = (+1) $ read "[1]" :: [Int]
```



Expected result

```
Prelude> a
[2]
```

2. `b = (++ "lol") (Just ["Hi,", "Hello"])`

```
Prelude> b
Just ["Hi,lol","Helllol"]
```

3. `c = (*2) (\x -> x - 2)`

```
Prelude> c 1
-2
```

4. `d = ((return '1' ++) . show) (\x -> [x, 1..3])`

```
Prelude> d 0
"1[0,1,2,3]"
```

5. `e :: IO Integer`

```
e = let ioi = readIO "1" :: IO Integer
      changed = read ("123"++) show ioi
      in (*3) changed
```

```
Prelude> e
3693
```

## 16.8 Transforming the unapplied type argument

We've seen that  $f$  must be a higher-kinded type and that Functor instances must abide by two laws, and we've played around with some basic `fmap`ping. We know that the goal of `fmap`ping is to leave the outer structure untouched while transforming the type arguments inside.

Way back in the beginning, we noticed that when we `fmap` over a tuple, it only transforms the second argument (the  $b$ ). We saw a similar thing when we `fmap`ped over an `Either` value, and we said

we’d come back to this topic. Then we saw another hint of it above in the Heisenberg example. Now the time has come to talk about what happens to the other type arguments (if any) when we can only transform the innermost.

We’ll start with a couple of canonical types:

```
data Two a b =
  Two a b
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
data Or a b =
  First a
  | Second b
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

You may recognize these as `(,)` and `Either` recapitulated, the generic product and sum types, from which any combination of “and” and “or” may be made. But these are both kind `* -> * -> *`, which isn’t compatible with `Functor`, so how do we write `Functor` instances for them?

These wouldn’t work because `Two` and `Or` have the wrong kind:

```
instance Functor Two where
  fmap = undefined
```

```
instance Functor Or where
  fmap = undefined
```

We know that we can partially apply functions, and we’ve seen previously that we can do this:

```
Prelude> :k Either
Either :: * -> * -> *
Prelude> :k Either Integer
Either Integer :: * -> *
Prelude> :k Either Integer String
Either Integer String :: *
```

That has the effect of applying out some of the arguments, reducing the kindness of the type. Previously, we’ve demonstrated

this by applying the type constructor to concrete types; however, you can just as well apply it to a type variable that represents a type constant to produce the same effect.

So to fix the kind incompatibility for our `Two` and `Or` types, we apply one of the arguments of each type constructor, giving us kind `* -> *`:

```
-- we use 'a' for clarity, so you can see more
-- readily which type was applied out but
-- the letter doesn't matter.
```

```
instance Functor (Two a) where
  fmap = undefined
```

```
instance Functor (Or a) where
  fmap = undefined
```

These will pass the typechecker already, but we still need to write the implementations of `fmap` for both, so let's proceed. First we'll turn our attention to `Two`:

```
instance Functor (Two a) where
  fmap f (Two a b) = Two $ (f a) (f b)
```

This won't fly either, because the `a` is part of the functorial structure, the `f`. We're not supposed to touch anything in the `f` referenced in the type of `fmap`, so we can't apply the function (named `f` in our `fmap` definition) to the `a` because the `a` is now untouchable.

```
fmap :: Functor f => (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

```
-- here, f is (Two a) because
```

```
class Functor f where
  fmap :: (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

```
instance Functor (Two a) where
```

```
-- remember, names don't mean anything beyond
-- their relationships to each other.
:: (a -> b) -> (Two z) a -> (Two z) b
```

So to fix our Functor instance, we have to leave the left value (it's part of the structure of  $f$ ) in `Two` alone, and have our function only apply to the innermost value, in this case named  $b$ :

```
instance Functor (Two a) where
  fmap f (Two a b) = Two a (f b)
```

Then with `Or`, we're dealing with the independent possibility of two different values and types, but the same basic constraint applies:

```
instance Functor (Or a) where
  fmap _ (First a) = First a
  fmap f (Second b) = Second (f b)
```

We've applied out the first argument, so now it's part of the  $f$ . The function we're mapping around that structure can only transform the innermost argument.

## 16.9 QuickChecking Functor instances

We know the Functor laws are the following:

```
fmap id      = id
fmap (p . q) = (fmap p) . (fmap q)
```

We can turn those into the following QuickCheck properties:

```

functorIdentity :: (Functor f, Eq (f a)) =>
    f a
    -> Bool

functorIdentity f =
    fmap id f == f

```

```

functorCompose :: (Eq (f c), Functor f) =>
    (a -> b)
    -> (b -> c)
    -> f a
    -> Bool

functorCompose f g x =
    (fmap g (fmap f x)) == (fmap (g . f) x)

```

As long as we provided concrete instances, we can now run these to test them.

```

Prelude> quickCheck $ \x -> functorIdentity (x :: [Int])
+++ OK, passed 100 tests.

```

```

Prelude> let li x = functorCompose (+1) (*2) (x :: [Int])

```

```

Prelude> quickCheck li
+++ OK, passed 100 tests.

```

Groovy.

## Making QuickCheck generate functions too

QuickCheck happens to offer the ability to generate functions. There's a different but related typeclass called `CoArbitrary`, this covers the function argument type where `Arbitrary` is used for the function result type. If you're curious about this, take a look at the `Function` module in the `QuickCheck` library to see how functions are generated from a datatype that represents patterns in function construction.

```
{-# LANGUAGE ViewPatterns #-}

import Test.QuickCheck
import Test.QuickCheck.Function

functorCompose' :: (Eq (f c), Functor f) =>
    f a
    -> Fun a b
    -> Fun b c
    -> Bool
functorCompose' x (Fun _ f) (Fun _ g) =
    (fmap (g . f) x) == (fmap g . fmap f $ x)
```

There are a couple things going on here. One is that we needed to import a new module from QuickCheck. Another is that we're pattern matching on the `Fun` value that we're asking QuickCheck to generate. The underlying `Fun` type is essentially a product of the weird function type and an ordinary Haskell function generated from the weirdo. The weirdo QuickCheck-specific concrete function is a function represented by a datatype which can be inspected and recursed. We only want the second part, the ordinary Haskell function, so we're pattern-matching that one out.

```
Prelude> type IntToInt = Fun Int Int
Prelude> type IntFC = [Int] -> IntToInt -> IntToInt -> Bool
Prelude> quickCheck (functorCompose' :: IntFC)
+++ OK, passed 100 tests.
```

Note of warning, you can't print those `Fun` values, so `verboseCheck` will curse Socrates and spin in a circle if you try it.

## 16.10 Exercises: Instances of Func

Implement Functor instances for the following datatypes. Use the QuickCheck properties we just showed you to validate them.

1. `newtype Identity a = Identity a`
2. `data Pair a = Pair a a`

3. `data Two a b = Two a b`
4. `data Three a b c = Three a b c`
5. `data Three' a b = Three' a b b`
6. `data Four a b c d = Four a b c d`
7. `data Four' a b = Four' a a a b`
8. Can you implement one for this type? Why? Why not?

```
data Trivial = Trivial
```

Doing these exercises is *critical* to understanding how Functors work, do not skip past them!

## 16.11 Ignoring possibilities

We've already touched on the Maybe and Either functors. Now we'll examine in a bit more detail what those do for us. As the title of this section suggests, the Functor instances for these datatypes are handy for times you intend to ignore the left cases, which are typically your error or failure cases. Because `fmap` doesn't touch those cases, you can map your function right to the values that you intend to work with and ignore those failure cases.

### Maybe

Let's start with some ordinary pattern matching on Maybe:

```
incIfJust :: Num a => Maybe a -> Maybe a
incIfJust (Just n) = Just $ n + 1
incIfJust Nothing = Nothing

showIfJust :: Show a => Maybe a -> Maybe String
showIfJust (Just s) = Just $ show s
showIfJust Nothing = Nothing
```

Well, that's boring, and there's some redundant structure. For one thing, they have the Nothing case in common:

```
someFunc Nothing = Nothing
```

Then they're just applying some function to the value if it's a Just:

```
someFunc (Just x) = Just $ someOtherFunc x
```

What happens if we use fmap?

```
incMaybe :: Num a => Maybe a -> Maybe a
```

```
incMaybe m = fmap (+1) m
```

```
showMaybe :: Show a => Maybe a -> Maybe String
```

```
showMaybe s = fmap show s
```

That appears to have cleaned things up a bit. Does it still work?

```
Prelude> incMaybe (Just 1)
Just 2
Prelude> incMaybe Nothing
Nothing
Prelude> showMaybe (Just 9001)
Just "9001"
Prelude> showMaybe Nothing
Nothing
```

Yeah, fmap has no reason to concern itself with the Nothing — there's no value there for it to operate on, so this all seems to be working properly.

But we can abstract this a bit more. For one thing, we can eta contract these functions. That is, we can rewrite them without naming the arguments:

```
incMaybe'' :: Num a => Maybe a -> Maybe a
```

```
incMaybe'' = fmap (+1)
```

```
showMaybe'' :: Show a => Maybe a -> Maybe String
```

```
showMaybe'' = fmap show
```

And they don't even really have to be specific to Maybe! fmap works for all datatypes with a Functor instance! In fact, we can query the type of the expressions in GHCi and see for ourselves the more generic type:



```
Prelude> :t fmap (+1)
fmap (+1) :: (Functor f, Num b) => f b -> f b
```

```
Prelude> :t fmap show
fmap show :: (Functor f, Show a) => f a -> f String
```

With that, we can rewrite them as much more generic functions:

```
-- ``lifted`` because they've been lifted over
-- some structure f

liftedInc :: (Functor f, Num b) => f b -> f b
liftedInc = fmap (+1)

liftedShow :: (Functor f, Show a) => f a -> f String
liftedShow = fmap show
```

And they have the same behavior as always:

```
Prelude> liftedInc (Just 1)
Just 2
Prelude> liftedInc Nothing
Nothing

Prelude> liftedShow (Just 1)
Just "1"
Prelude> liftedShow Nothing
Nothing
```

Making them more polymorphic in the type of the functorial structure means they're more reusable now:

```
Prelude> liftedInc [1..5]
[2,3,4,5,6]

Prelude> liftedShow [1..5]
["1","2","3","4","5"]
```

**Exercise: Possibly**

Write a Functor instance for a datatype identical to Maybe. We'll use our own datatype because Maybe already has a Functor instance and we cannot make a duplicate one.

```
data Possibly a =
    LolNope
  | Yeppers a
  deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Functor Possibly where
    fmap = undefined
```

If it helps, you're basically writing the following function:

```
applyIfJust :: (a -> b) -> Maybe a -> Maybe b
```

**Either**

The Maybe type solves a lot of problems for Haskellers. But it doesn't solve all of them. As we saw in a previous chapter, sometimes we want to preserve the reason *why* a computation failed rather than only the information that it failed. And for that, we use Either.

By this point, you know that Either has a Functor instance ready-made for use by grateful programmers. So let's put it to use. We'll stick to the same pattern we used for demonstrating Maybe, for the sake of clarity:

```
incIfRight :: Num a => Either e a -> Either e a
incIfRight (Right n) = Right $ n + 1
incIfRight (Left e) = Left e

showIfRight :: Show a => Either e a -> Either e String
showIfRight (Right s) = Right $ show s
showIfRight (Left e) = Left e
```

Once again we can simplify these using fmap so we don't have to address the obvious "leave the error value alone" case:

```
incEither :: Num a => Either e a -> Either e a
incEither m = fmap (+1) m
```

```
showEither :: Show a => Either e a -> Either e String
showEither s = fmap show s
```

And again we can eta contract to drop the obvious argument:

```
incEither' :: Num a => Either e a -> Either e a
incEither' = fmap (+1)
```

```
showEither' :: Show a => Either e a -> Either e String
showEither' = fmap show
```

And once *again* we are confronted with functions that really didn't need to be specific to Either at all:

```
-- f ~ Either e
```

```
liftedInc :: (Functor f, Num b) => f b -> f b
liftedInc = fmap (+1)
```

```
liftedShow :: (Functor f, Show a) => f a -> f String
liftedShow = fmap show
```

Take a few moments to play around with this and note how it works.

### Short Exercise

1. Write a Functor instance for a datatype identical to Either. We'll use our own datatype because Either also already has a Functor instance.

```
data Sum a b =
  First a
  | Second b
  deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Functor (Sum a) where
  fmap = undefined
```

Your hint for this one is that you're writing the following function.

```
applyIfSecond :: (a -> b) -> (Sum e) a -> (Sum e) b
```

2. Why is a Functor instance that applies the function only to `First`, `Either's Left`, impossible? We covered this earlier.

## 16.12 A somewhat surprising functor

There's a datatype named `Const` or `Constant`, you'll see both names depending on which library you use. `Constant` has a valid `Functor`, but the behavior of the `Functor` instance may surprise you a bit. First, let's look at the `const` *function*, and then we'll look at the datatype:

```
Prelude> :t const
const :: a -> b -> a
Prelude> let a = const 1
Prelude> a 1
1
Prelude> a 2
1
Prelude> a 3
1
Prelude> a "blah"
1
Prelude> a id
1
```

With a similar concept in mind, there is the `Constant` datatype. `Constant` looks like this:

```
newtype Constant a b =
  Constant { getConstant :: a }
deriving (Eq, Show)
```

One thing we notice about this type is that the type parameter *b* is a *phantom* type. It has no corresponding witness at the value/term level. This is a concept and tactic we'll explore more later, but for now we can see how it echoes the function `const`:

```
Prelude> Constant 2
Constant {getConstant = 2}
```

Despite *b* being a phantom type, though, `Constant` is kind `* -> *` and that is not a valid `Functor`. So how do we get one? Well, there's only one thing we can do with a type constructor, just as with functions: apply it. So we *do* have a `Functor` for `Constant a`, just not `Constant` alone. It has to be `Constant a` and not `Constant a b` because `Constant a b` would be kind `*`.

Let's look at the implementation of `Functor` for `Constant`:

```
instance Functor (Constant m) where
    fmap _ (Constant v) = Constant v
```

Looks like identity right? Let's use this in the REPL and run it through the `Functor` laws:

```
Prelude> const 2 (getConstant (Constant 3))
2
Prelude> fmap (const 2) (Constant 3)
Constant {getConstant = 3}

Prelude> getConstant $ fmap (const 2) (Constant 3)
3
Prelude> getConstant $ fmap (const "blah") (Constant 3)
3
```

When you `fmap` the `const` function over the `Constant` type, the first argument to `const` is never used because the partially applied `const` is itself never used. The first type argument to `Constant`'s type constructor is in the part of the structure that `Functor` skips over. The second argument to the `Constant` type constructor is the phantom type variable *b* which has no value or term-level witness in the datatype. Since there are no values of the type the `Functor` is supposed to be mapping, we have nothing we're allowed to apply the `fmap`'d function to, so we never use the `const` expressions.

But does this adhere to the `Functor` laws?

```
-- Testing identity
Prelude> getConstant (id (Constant 3))
```

```

3
Prelude> getConstant (fmap id (Constant 3))
3

-- Composition of the const function
Prelude> ((const 3) . (const 5)) 10
3
Prelude> ((const 5) . (const 3)) 10
5

-- Composition
Prelude> let separate = fmap (const 3) . fmap (const 5)
Prelude> let fused = fmap ((const 3) . (const 5))
Prelude> getConstant $ separate $ (Constant "WOOHOO")
"WOOHOO"
Prelude> getConstant $ fused $ (Constant "Dogs rule")
"Dogs rule"

```

(Constant  $a$ ) is  $* \rightarrow *$  which you need for the Functor, but now you're mapping over that  $b$ , and not the  $a$ .

This is a mere cursory check, not a proof that this is a valid Functor. Most assurances of correctness that programmers use exist on a gradient and aren't proper proofs. Despite seeming a bit pointless, Const is a lawful Functor.

## 16.13 More structure, more functors

```

data Wrap f a =
  Wrap (f a)
  deriving (Eq, Show)

```

Notice that our  $a$  here is an argument to the  $f$ . So how are we going to write a functor instance for this?

```

instance Functor (Wrap f) where
  fmap f (Wrap fa) = Wrap (f fa)

instance Functor (Wrap f) where
  fmap f (Wrap fa) = Wrap (fmap f fa)

```

```
instance Functor f => Functor (Wrap f) where
  fmap f (Wrap fa) = Wrap (fmap f fa)
```

And if we load up the final instance which should work, we can use this wrapper type:

```
Prelude> fmap (+1) (Wrap (Just 1))
Wrap (Just 2)
```

```
Prelude> fmap (+1) (Wrap [1, 2, 3])
Wrap [2,3,4]
```

It should work for any Functor. If we pass it something that isn't?

```
Prelude> let n = 1 :: Integer
Prelude> fmap (+1) (Wrap n)
```

```
Couldn't match expected type 'f b' with actual type 'Integer'
Relevant bindings include
    it :: Wrap f b (bound at <interactive>:8:1)
In the first argument of 'Wrap', namely 'n'
In the second argument of 'fmap', namely '(Wrap n)'
```

The number by itself doesn't offer the additional structure needs for Wrap to work as a Functor. It's expecting to be able to fmap over some  $f$  independent of an  $a$  and this just isn't the case with any type constant such as Integer.

## 16.14 IO Functor

We've seen the IO type in the modules and testing chapters already, but we weren't doing much with it save to print text or ask for string input from the user. The IO type will get a full chapter of its own later in the book. It is an abstract datatype; there are no data constructors that you're permitted to pattern match on, so the typeclasses IO provides are the only way you can work with values of type IO a. One of the simplest provided is Functor.

```
-- getLine :: IO String
-- read :: Read a => String -> a
```

```
getInt :: IO Int
getInt = fmap read getLine
```

Int has a Read instance, and fmap lifts read over the IO type. A way you can read getLine here is that it's not a String, but rather a *way to obtain a string*. IO doesn't guarantee that effects will be performed, but it does mean that they *could* be performed. Here the side effect is needing to block and wait for user input via the standard input stream the OS provides:

```
Prelude> getInt
10
10
```

We enter 10 and hit enter. GHCi prints 10 values unless the type is IO (), in which case it hides the Unit value because it's meaningless:

```
Prelude> fmap (const ()) getInt
10
```

The “10” in the GHCi session above is my entering 10 and hitting enter. GHCi isn't printing any result after that because we're replacing the Int value we read from a String. That information is getting dropped on the floor because we applied const () to the contents of the IO Int. If we ignore the presence of IO, it's as if we did this:

```
Prelude> let getInt = 10 :: Int
Prelude> const () getInt
()
```

GHCi as a matter of convenience and design, will not print any value of type IO () on the assumption that the IO action you evaluated was evaluated for effects and because the unit value cannot communicate anything. We can use the return function (seen earlier, explained later) to “put” a unit value in IO and reproduce this behavior of GHCi's.



```
Prelude> return 1 :: IO Int
1
Prelude> ()
()
Prelude> return () :: IO ()
Prelude>
```

What if we want to do something more useful? We can `fmap` any function we want over `IO`:

```
Prelude> fmap (+1) getInt
10
11

Prelude> fmap (++ " and me too!") getLine
hello
"hello and me too!"
```

We can also use `do` syntax to do what we're doing with Functor here:

```
meTooIsM :: IO String
meTooIsM = do
    input <- getLine
    return (input ++ "and me too!")

bumpIt :: IO Int
bumpIt = do
    intVal <- getInt
    return (intVal + 1)
```

But if `fmap f` suffices for what you're doing, that's usually shorter and clearer. It's perfectly all right and quite common to start with a more verbose form of some expression and then clean it up after you've got something that works.

### 16.15 What if we want to do something different?

We talked about Functor as a means of lifting functions over structure so that we may transform only the contents, leaving the structure

alone. What if we wanted to transform only the *structure* and leave the *type argument* to that structure or type constructor alone? With this, we've arrived at *natural transformations*. We can attempt to put together a type to express what we want:

```
nat :: (f -> g) -> f a -> g a
```

This type is impossible because we can't have higher-kinded types as argument types to the function type. What's the problem, though? It looks like the type signature for `fmap`, doesn't it? Yet `f` and `g` in `f -> g` are higher-kinded types. They must be, because they are the same `f` and `g` that, later in the type signature, are taking arguments. But in those places they are applied to their arguments and so have kind `*`.

So we make a modest change to fix it.

```
{-# LANGUAGE RankNTypes #-}
```

```
type Nat f g = forall a. f a -> g a
```

So in a sense, we're doing the opposite of what a Functor does. We're transforming the structure, preserving the values as they were. We won't explain it fully here, but the quantification of `a` in the right-hand side of the declaration allows us to obligate all functions of this type to be oblivious to the contents of the structures `f` and `g` in much the same way that the identity function cannot do anything but return the argument it was given.

Syntactically, it lets us avoid talking about `a` in the type of `Nat` — which is what we want, we shouldn't *have* any specific information about the contents of `f` and `g` because we're supposed to be only performing a structural transformation, not a fold.

If you try to elide the `a` from the type arguments without quantifying it separately, you'll get an error:

```
Prelude> type Nat f g = f a -> g a
```

```
Not in scope: type variable 'a'
```

We can add the quantifier, but if we forget to turn on `Rank2Types` or `RankNTypes`, it won't work:

```
Prelude> type Nat f g = forall a . f a -> g a
```

Illegal symbol '.' in type

Perhaps you intended to use RankNTypes or a similar language extension to enable explicit-forall syntax: forall <tv>. <type>

If we turn on Rank2Types or RankNTypes, it works fine:

```
Prelude> :set -XRank2Types
```

```
Prelude> type Nat f g = forall a . f a -> g a
```

```
Prelude>
```

To see an example of what the quantification prevents, consider the following:

```
type Nat f g = forall a . f a -> g a
```

```
-- This'll work
```

```
maybeToList :: Nat Maybe []
```

```
maybeToList Nothing = []
```

```
maybeToList (Just a) = [a]
```

```
-- This will not work, not allowed.
```

```
degenerateMtl :: Nat Maybe []
```

```
degenerateMtl Nothing = []
```

```
degenerateMtl (Just a) = [a+1]
```

What if we use a version of Nat that mentions *a* in the type?

```

module BadNat where

type Nat f g a = f a -> g a

-- This'll work
maybeToList :: Nat Maybe [] a
maybeToList Nothing = []
maybeToList (Just a) = [a]

-- But this will too if we tell it
-- 'a' is Num a => a

degenerateMtl :: Num a => Nat Maybe [] a
degenerateMtl Nothing = []
degenerateMtl (Just a) = [a+1]

```

That last example should *not* work and this isn't a good way to think about natural transformation. Part of software is being precise and when we talk about natural transformations we're saying as much about what we *don't* want as we are about what we *do* want. In this case, the invariant we want to preserve is that the function cannot do anything mischievous with the values. If you want something clever, just write a plain old fold!

We're going to return to the topic of natural transformations in the next chapter, so cool your jets for now.

## 16.16 Functors are unique to a datatype

In Haskell, Functor instances will be unique for a given datatype. We saw that this isn't true for Monoid; however, we use newtypes to avoid confusing different Monoid instances for a given type. But Functor instances will be unique for a datatype, in part because of parametricity, in part because arguments to type constructors are applied in order of definition. In a hypothetical not-Haskell language, the following might be possible:

```

data Tuple a b =
    Tuple a b
    deriving (Eq, Show)

-- this is impossible in Haskell
instance Functor (Tuple ? b) where
    fmap f (Tuple a b) = Tuple (f a) b

```

There are essentially two ways to address this. One is to flip the arguments to the type constructor; the other is to make a new datatype using a Flip newtype:

```

{-# LANGUAGE FlexibleInstances #-}

module FlipFunctor where

data Tuple a b =
    Tuple a b
    deriving (Eq, Show)

newtype Flip f a b =
    Flip (f b a)
    deriving (Eq, Show)

-- this actually works, goofy as it looks.
instance Functor (Flip Tuple a) where
    fmap f (Flip (Tuple a b)) = Flip $ Tuple (f a) b

Prelude> fmap (+1) (Flip (Tuple 1 "blah"))
Flip (Tuple 2 "blah")

```

However, `Flip Tuple a b` is a distinct type from `Tuple a b` even if it's only there to provide for different Functor instance behavior.

## 16.17 Chapter exercises

Determine if a valid Functor can be written for the datatype provided.

1. `data Bool =`  
`False | True`

2. `data BoolAndSomethingElse a =  
    False' a | True' a`

3. `data BoolAndMaybeSomethingElse a =  
    Falsish | Truish a`

4. Use the kinds to guide you on this one, don't get too hung up on the details.

```
newtype Mu f = InF { outF :: f (Mu f) }
```

5. Again, just follow the kinds and ignore the unfamiliar parts

```
import GHC.Arr
```

```
data D =  
    D (Array Word Word) Int Int
```

Rearrange the arguments to the type constructor of the datatype so the Functor instance works.

1. `data Sum a b =  
    First a  
    | Second b`

```
instance Functor (Sum e) where  
    fmap f (First a) = First (f a)  
    fmap f (Second b) = Second b
```

2. `data Company a b c =  
    DeepBlue a c  
    | Something b`

```
instance Functor (Company e e') where  
    fmap f (Something b) = Something (f b)  
    fmap _ (DeepBlue a c) = DeepBlue a c
```

```

3. data More a b =
    L a b a
  | R b a b
  deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Functor (More x) where
  fmap f (L a b a') = L (f a) b (f a')
  fmap f (R b a b') = R b (f a) b'

```

Keeping in mind that it should result in a Functor that does the following:

```

Prelude> fmap (+1) (L 1 2 3)
L 2 2 4
Prelude> fmap (+1) (R 1 2 3)
R 1 3 3

```

Write Functor instances for the following datatypes.

1. data Quant a b =  
     Finance  
   | Desk a  
   | Bloor b
  2. No, it's not interesting by itself.
- ```

data K a b =
  K a

```

3. *{-# LANGUAGE FlexibleInstances #-}*

```
newtype Flip f a b =
  Flip (f b a)
  deriving (Eq, Show)

newtype K a b =
  K a

-- should remind you of an
-- instance you've written before
instance Functor (Flip K a) where
  fmap = undefined
```

4. **data EvilGoateeConst** a b =  
    **GoatyConst** b

```
-- You thought you'd escaped the goats
-- by now didn't you? Nope.
```

No, it doesn't do anything interesting. No magic here or in the previous exercise. If it works, you succeeded.

5. Do you need something extra to make the instance work?

```
data LiftItOut f a =
  LiftItOut (f a)
```

6. **data Parappa** f g a =  
    **DaWrappa** (f a) (g a)

7. Don't ask for more typeclass instances than you need. You can let GHC tell you what to do.

```
data IgnoreOne f g a b =
  IgnoringSomething (f a) (g b)
```

8. **data Notorious** g o a t =  
    **Notorious** (g o) (g a) (g t)

9. You'll need to use recursion.



```
data List a =  
  Nil  
  | Cons a (List a)
```

10. A tree of goats forms a Goat-Lord, fearsome poly-creature.

```
data GoatLord a =  
  NoGoat  
  | OneGoat a  
  | MoreGoats (GoatLord a) (GoatLord a) (GoatLord a)
```

*-- A VERITABLE HYDRA OF GOATS*

11. You'll use an extra functor for this one, although your solution might do it monomorphically without using `fmap`.<sup>3</sup>

```
data TalkToMe a =  
  Halt  
  | Print String a  
  | Read (String -> a)
```

---

<sup>3</sup> Thanks to Andraz Bajt for inspiring this exercise.

## 16.18 Definitions

1. *Higher-kinded polymorphism* is polymorphism which has a type variable abstracting over types of a higher kind. Functor is an example of higher kinded polymorphism because the kind of the  $f$  parameter to Functor is  $* \rightarrow *$ . Another example of higher kinded polymorphism would be a datatype having a parameter to the type constructor which is of a higher kind, such as the following:

```
data Weird f a = Weird (f a)
```

Where the kinds of the types involved are:

```
a      :: *
f      :: * -> *
Weird  :: (* -> *) -> * -> *
```

Here both `Weird` and  $f$  are higher kinded, with `Weird` being an example of higher kinded polymorphism.

2. *Functor* is a mapping between categories. In Haskell, this manifests as a typeclass which lifts a function between two types over two new types. This conventionally implies some notion of a function which can be applied to a value with more structure than the unlifted function was originally designed for. The additional structure is represented by the use of a higher kinded type  $f$ , introduced by the definition of the Functor typeclass.

```
f      :: a -> b

-- ``more structure''
fmap f :: f a -> f b

-- f is applied to a single argument,
-- and so is kind * -> *
```

One should be careful not to confuse this intuition for it necessarily being exclusively about containers or data structures. There's a Functor of functions and many exotic types will have a lawful Functor instance.

3. Let's talk about *lifting*. Because most of the rest of the book deals with applicatives and monads of various flavors, we're going to be lifting a lot, but what do we mean? In this book, we most commonly use the phrase *lift over* (later, in Monad, *bind over* for reasons that will hopefully become clear in time), but it's important to understand that this is a metaphor, and spatial metaphors can, at times, obscure as much as they clarify. When Carnap first described functors in the context of linguistics, he didn't really talk about it as lifting anything, and mathematicians have followed in his footsteps, focusing on mapping and the production of outputs from certain types of inputs. Very mathematical of them, and yet Haskellers use the lifting metaphor often (as we do, in this book).

There are a couple of ways to think about it. One is that we can lift a function into a context. Another is that we lift a function over some layer of structure to apply it. The effect is the same:

```
Prelude> fmap (+1) $ Just 1
Just 2
Prelude> fmap (+1) [1, 2, 3]
[2,3,4]
```

In both cases, the function we're lifting is the same. In the first case, we lift that function into a Maybe context in order to apply it; in the second case, into a list context. It can be helpful to think of it in terms of lifting the function into the context, because it's the context we've lifted the function into that determines how the function will get applied (to just one value or recursively to many, for example). The context is the datatype, the definition of the datatype, and the Functor instance we have for that datatype. It's also the contexts that determine what happens when we try to apply a function to an *a* that isn't there:

```
Prelude> fmap (+1) []
[]
Prelude> fmap (+1) Nothing
Nothing
```

But we often speak more casually about lifting over, as in `fmap` lifts a function *over* a data constructor. This works, too, if you think of the data constructor as a layer of structure. The function hops over that layer and applies to what's inside, if anything.

You might find one or the other way of talking about lifting more or less helpful, depending on the context. Try to keep in mind that it's a metaphor, not a precise definition, and *follow the types* rather than getting too caught up in the metaphor.

4. *George Clinton* is one of the most important innovators of funk music. Clinton headed up the bands Parliament and Funkadelic, whose collective style of music is known as P-Funk; the two bands have fused into a single apotheosis of booty-shaking rhythm. The Parliament album *Mothership Connection* is one of the most famous and influential albums in rock history. Not a Functor, but you can pretend the album is mapping your consciousness from the real world into the category of funkiness if that helps.

### 16.19 Follow-up resources

1. Haskell Wikibook; The Functor class.  
[https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/The\\_Functor\\_class](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/The_Functor_class)
2. Mark P. Jones; A system of constructor classes: overloading and implicit higher-order polymorphism.
3. Gabriel Gonzalez; The functor design pattern.  
<http://www.haskellforall.com/2012/09/the-functor-design-pattern.html>

## Chapter 17

# Applicative

...the images I most connect to, historically speaking, are in black and white. I see more in black and white – I like the abstraction of it.

---

Mary Ellen Mark

## 17.1 Applicative

In the previous chapters, we've seen two common algebras that are used as typeclasses in Haskell. Monoid gives us a means of mashing two values of the same type together. Functor, on the other hand, is for function application *over* some structure we don't want to have to think about. Monoid's core operation, `mappend` smashes the structures together — when you `mappend` two lists, they become one list, so the structures themselves have been joined. However, the core operation of Functor, `fmap` applies a function to a value that is within some structure while leaving that structure unaltered.

We come now to Applicative. Applicative is a monoidal functor. No, no, stay with us. The Applicative typeclass allows for function application lifted over structure (like Functor). But with Applicative the function we're applying is also embedded in some structure. Because the function *and* the value it's being applied to both have structure, we have to smash those structures together. So, Applicative involves monoids and functors. And that's a pretty powerful thing.

In this chapter, we will:

- define and explore the Applicative typeclass and its core operations;
- demonstrate why applicatives are monoidal functors;
- make the usual chitchat about laws and instances;
- do a lot of lifting;
- give you some Validation.

## 17.2 Defining Applicative

The first thing you're going to notice about this typeclass declaration is that the *f* that represents the structure, similar to Functor, is itself constrained by the Functor typeclass:

```
class Functor f => Applicative f where
  pure :: a -> f a
  (<*>) :: f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

*-- Could call <\*> tie-fighter or "ap" (short for apply)*

So, every type that can have an Applicative instance must also have a Functor instance.

The pure function does a simple and very boring thing: it embeds something into functorial (applicative) structure. You can think of this as being a bare minimum bit of structure or structural *identity*. Identity for *what*, you'll see later when we go over the laws. The more core operation of this typeclass is `<*>`. This is an infix function called 'apply' or sometimes 'ap,' or sometimes 'tie-fighter' when we're feeling particularly zippy.

If we compare the types of `<*>` and `fmap`, we see the similarity:

```
-- fmap
(<$>) :: Functor f =>      (a -> b) -> f a -> f b

(<*>) :: Applicative f => f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

The difference is the *f* representing functorial structure that is on the outside of our function in the second definition. We'll see good examples of what that means in practice in just a moment.

Along with these core functions, the Control.Applicative library provides some other convenient functions: `liftA`, `liftA2`, and `liftA3`:

```
liftA  :: Applicative f =>
      (a -> b)
    -> f a
    -> f b

liftA2 :: Applicative f =>
      (a -> b -> c)
    -> f a
    -> f b
    -> f c

liftA3 :: Applicative f =>
      (a -> b -> c -> d)
    -> f a
    -> f b
    -> f c
    -> f d
```

If you're looking at the type of `liftA` and thinking, but that's just `fmap`, you are correct. It is basically the same as `fmap` only with an `Applicative` typeclass constraint instead of a `Functor` one. Since all `Applicative` instances are also functors, though, this is a distinction without much significance.

Similarly you can see that `liftA2` and `liftA3` are just `fmap` but with functions involving more arguments. It can be a little difficult to wrap one's head around how those will work in practice, so we'll want to look next at some simple examples to start developing a sense of what applicatives can do for us.

### 17.3 Functor vs. Applicative

We've already said that applicatives are monoidal functors, so what we've already learned about `Monoid` and `Functor` is relevant to our understanding of `Applicative`. We've already seen some examples of what this means in practice, but we want to develop a stronger intuition for the relationship.

Let's review the difference between `fmap` and `<*>`:

```
fmap :: (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
(<*>) :: f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

The difference appears to be quite small and innocuous. We now have an *f* in front of our function (`a -> b`). But the increase in power it introduces is profound. For one thing, any `Applicative` also has a `Functor` and not merely by definition — you can define a `Functor` in terms of a provided `Applicative` instance. Proving it is outside the scope of the current book, but this follows from the laws of `Functor` and `Applicative` (we'll get to the applicative laws later in this chapter):

```
fmap f x = pure f <*> x
```

How might we demonstrate this? You'll need to import `Control.Applicative` if you're using GHC 7.8 or older to test this example:

```
Prelude> fmap (+1) [1, 2, 3]
[2,3,4]
```

```
Prelude> pure (+1) <*> [1..3]
```



[2,3,4]

Keeping in mind that `pure` has type `Applicative f => a -> f a`, we can think of it as a means of embedding a value of any type in the structure we're working with:

```
Prelude> pure 1 :: [Int]
[1]
Prelude> pure 1 :: Maybe Int
Just 1
Prelude> pure 1 :: Either a Int
Right 1
Prelude> pure 1 :: ([a], Int)
([],1)
```

The left type is handled differently from the right in the final two examples for the same reason as here:

```
Prelude> fmap (+1) (4, 5)
(4,6)
```

The left type is part of the structure, and the structure is not transformed by the function application.

## 17.4 Applicative functors are monoidal functors

First let us notice something:

```
( $\$$ ) :: (a -> b) -> a -> b
(< $\$$ >) :: (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
(< $\ast$ >) :: f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

We already know `$` to be something of a do-nothing infix function which exists merely to give the right-hand side more precedence and thus avoid parentheses. For our present purposes it acts as a nice proxy for ordinary function application in its type.

When we get to `<$>`, the alias for `fmap`, we notice the first change is that we're now lifting our `(a -> b)` over the `f` wrapped around our value and applying the function to that value.

Then as we arrive at `ap` or `<*>`, the Applicative `apply` method, our function is now also embedded in the functorial structure. Now we get to the *monoidal* in “monoidal functor”:

```
:: f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

```
-- The two arguments to our function are:
```

```
f (a -> b)
```

```
-- and
```

```
f a
```

If we imagine that we can just apply `(a -> b)` to `a` and get `b`, ignoring the functorial structure, we still have a problem as we need to return `f b`. When we were dealing with `fmap`, we had only one bit of structure, so it was left unchanged. Now we have two bits of structure of type `f` that we need to deal with somehow before returning a value of type `f b`. We can’t simply leave them unchanged; we must unite them somehow. Now, they will be definitely the same type, because the `f` must be the same type throughout. In fact, if we just separate the *structure* parts from the *function* parts, maybe we’ll see what we need:

```
:: f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

|                          |                |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <code>f</code>           | <code>f</code> | <code>f</code> |
| <code>(a -&gt; b)</code> | <code>a</code> | <code>b</code> |

Didn’t we have something earlier that can take two values of one type and return one value of the same type? Provided the `f` is a type with a `Monoid` instance, then we have a good way to make them play nice together:

```
mappend :: Monoid a => a -> a -> a
```

So, with Applicative, we have a `Monoid` for our structure and function application for our values!

```

mappend :: f      f      f
$         :: (a -> b)  a      b

(<*>) :: f (a -> b)    -> f a -> f b

-- plus Functor fmap to be able to map
-- over the f to begin with.

```

So in a sense, we’re bolting a Monoid onto a Functor to be able to deal with functions embedded in additional structure. In another sense, we’re enriching function application with the very structure we were previously merely mapping over with Functor. Let’s consider a few familiar examples to examine what this means:

```

-- List
[(*2), (*3)] <*> [4, 5]

=

[2 * 4, 2 * 5, 3 * 4, 3 * 5]

-- reduced

[8,10,12,15]

```

So what was  $(a \rightarrow b)$  enriched with in  $f (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow f a \rightarrow f b$ ? In this case, “list-ness”. Although the actual application of each  $(a \rightarrow b)$  to a value of type  $a$  is quite ordinary, we now have a list of functions rather than a single function as would be the case if it was just the List Functor.

But “list-ness” isn’t the only structure we can enrich our functions with — not even close! Thinking of Functor and Applicative as things you mostly do with lists is an easy mistake to make as you’re learning. But the structure bit can also be Maybe:

```
Just (*2) <*> Just 2
```

```
=
```

```
Just 4
```

```
Just (*2) <*> Nothing
```

```
=
```

```
Nothing
```

```
Nothing <*> Just 2
```

```
=
```

```
Nothing
```

```
Nothing <*> Nothing
```

```
=
```

```
Nothing
```

With Maybe, the ordinary functor is mapping over the possibility of a value's nonexistence. With the Applicative, now the function also might not be provided. We'll see a couple of nice, long examples of how this might happen — how you could end up not even providing a function to apply — in just a bit, not just with Maybe, but with Either and a new type called Validation as well.

### Show me the monoids

Recall that the Functor instance for the two-tuple ignores the first value inside the tuple:

```
Prelude> fmap (+1) ("blah", 0)
("blah",1)
```

But the Applicative for the two-tuple demonstrates the monoid in Applicative nicely for us. In fact, if you call :info on (,) in your REPL you'll notice something:

```
Prelude> :info (,)
data (,) a b = (,) a b -- Defined in 'GHC.Tuple'
...
instance Monoid a => Applicative ((,) a) -- Defined in 'GHC.Base'
```

```
...
instance (Monoid a, Monoid b) => Monoid (a, b)
```

For the Applicative instance of two-tuple, we don't need a Monoid for the *b* because we're using function application to produce the *b*. However, for the first value in the tuple, we still need the Monoid because we have two values and need to somehow turn that into one value of the same type:

```
Prelude> ("Woo", (+1)) <*> (" Hoo!", 0)
("Woo Hoo!", 1)
```

Notice that for the *a* value, we didn't apply any function, but they have combined themselves as if by magic; that's due to the Monoid instance for the *a* values. The function in the *b* position of the left tuple has been applied to the value in the *b* position of the right tuple to produce a result. That function application is why we don't need a Monoid instance on the *b*.

Let's look at more such examples. Pay careful attention to how the *a* values in the tuples are combined:

```
Prelude> import Data.Monoid
Prelude> ((Sum 2), (+1)) <*> ((Sum 0), 0)
(Sum {getSum = 2},1)

Prelude> ((Product 3), (+9)) <*> ((Product 2), 8)
(Product {getProduct = 6},17)

Prelude> ((All True), (+1)) <*> ((All False), 0)
(All {getAll = False},1)
```

It doesn't really matter *what* Monoid, we just need some way of combining or choosing our values.

## Tuple Monoid and Applicative side by side

Squint if you can't see it.

```

instance (Monoid a, Monoid b) => Monoid (a,b) where
    mempty = (mempty, mempty)
    (a, b) `mappend` (a',b') =
        (a `mappend` a', b `mappend` b')

instance Monoid a => Applicative ((,) a) where
    pure x = (mempty, x)
    (u, f) <*> (v, x) =
        (u `mappend` v, f x)

```

## Maybe Monoid and Applicative

While applicatives are really monoidal functors, be careful about taking it too literally. For one thing, `Monoid` and `Applicative` instances aren't required or guaranteed to have the same monoid of structure, and the functorial part may actually change things. Nevertheless, you might be able to see the implicit monoid in how the `Applicative` pattern matches on the `Just` and `Nothing` cases and compare that with this `Monoid`:

```

instance Monoid a => Monoid (Maybe a) where
    mempty = Nothing
    mappend m Nothing = m
    mappend Nothing m = m
    mappend (Just a) (Just a') = Just (mappend a a')

instance Applicative Maybe where
    pure = Just

    Nothing <*> _      = Nothing
    _ <*> Nothing      = Nothing
    Just f <*> Just a = Just (f a)

```

In the next chapter, we're going to see some examples of how different monoid instances can give different results for applicatives. For now, recognize that the monoidal bit may not be what you recognize as the canonical `mappend` of that type, because some types can have multiple monoids.

## 17.5 Applicative in use

By now it should come as no surprise that many of the datatypes we've been working with in the past two chapters also have `Applicative` instances. Since we are already so familiar with `list` and `Maybe`, those examples will be a good place to start. Later in the chapter, we will be introducing some new types, so just hang onto your hats.

### List Applicative

We'll start with the list applicative because it's a clear way to get a sense of the pattern. Let's start by specializing the types:

```
-- f ~ []

(<*>) :: f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
(<*>) :: [ ] (a -> b) -> [ ] a -> [ ] b

-- more syntactically typical
(<*>) :: [(a -> b)] -> [a] -> [b]

pure :: a -> f a
pure :: a -> [ ] a
```

### What's the List applicative do?

Previously with `List` functor, we were mapping a single function over a plurality of values:

```
Prelude> fmap (2^) [1, 2, 3]
[2,4,8]
Prelude> fmap (^2) [1, 2, 3]
[1,4,9]
```

With the `List Applicative`, we are mapping a plurality of functions over a plurality of values:

```
Prelude> [(+1), (*2)] <*> [2, 4]
[3,5,4,8]
```

We can see how this makes sense given that:

```
(<*>) :: Applicative f => f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

```
f ~ []
```

```
listApply :: [(a -> b)] -> [a] -> [b]
```

```
listFmap :: (a -> b) -> [a] -> [b]
```

The  $f$  structure that is wrapped around our function in the `listApply` function is itself a list. Therefore, our  $a \rightarrow b$  from Functor has become a *list* of  $a \rightarrow b$ .

Now what happened with that expression we just tested? Something like this:

```
[(+1), (*2)] <*> [2, 4] == [3,5,4,8]
```

```
    [ 3 , 5 , 4 , 8 ]
--   [1]  [2]  [3]  [4]
```

1. The first item in the list, 3, is the result of (+1) being applied to 2.
2. 5 is the result of applying (+1) to 4.
3. 4 is the result of applying (\*2) to 2.
4. 8 is the result of applying (\*2) to 4.

More visually:

```
[(+1), (*2)] <*> [2, 4]
```

```
[ (+1) 2 , (+1) 4 , (*2) 2 , (*2) 4 ]
```

It maps each function value from the first list over the second list, applies the operations, and returns one list. The fact that it doesn't return two lists or a nested list or some other configuration in which both structures are preserved is the monoidal part; the reason we don't have a list of functions merely concatenated with a list of values is the function application part.

We can see this relationship more readily if we use the tuple constructor with the List Applicative. We'll use the infix operator



for `fmap` to map the tuple constructor over the first list. This embeds an unapplied function (the tuple data constructor in this case) into some structure (a list, in this case), and returns a list of partially applied functions. The (infix) applicative will then apply one list of operations to the second list, monoidally appending the two lists:

```
Prelude> (,) <$> [1, 2] <*> [3, 4]
[(1,3),(1,4),(2,3),(2,4)]
```

You might think of it this way:

```
Prelude> (,) <$> [1, 2] <*> [3, 4]

-- first we fmap the (,) over the first list
[(1, ), (2, )] <*> [3, 4]

-- then we apply the first list
-- to the second
[(1,3),(1,4),(2,3),(2,4)]
```

The `liftA2` function gives us another way to write this, too:

```
Prelude> liftA2 (,) [1, 2] [3, 4]
[(1,3),(1,4),(2,3),(2,4)]
```

Let's look at a few more examples of the same pattern:

```
Prelude> (+) <$> [1, 2] <*> [3, 5]
[4,6,5,7]
Prelude> liftA2 (+) [1, 2] [3, 5]
[4,6,5,7]

Prelude> max <$> [1, 2] <*> [1, 4]
[1,4,2,4]
Prelude> liftA2 max [1, 2] [1, 4]
[1,4,2,4]
```

If you're familiar with Cartesian products<sup>1</sup>, this probably looks a lot like one, but with functions.

---

<sup>1</sup> [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cartesian\\_product](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cartesian_product)

We're going to run through some more examples, to give you a little more context for when these functions can become useful. The following examples will use a function called `lookup` that we'll briefly demonstrate:

```
Prelude> :t lookup
lookup :: Eq a => a -> [(a, b)] -> Maybe b
Prelude> lookup 3 [(3, "hello")]
Just "hello"
Prelude> fmap length $ lookup 3 [(3, "hello")]
Just 5
Prelude> let c (x:xs) = toUpper x:xs
Prelude> fmap c $ lookup 3 [(3, "hello")]
Just "Hello"
```

So, `lookup` searches inside a list of tuples for a value that matches the input and returns the paired value wrapped inside a `Maybe` context.

It's worth pointing out here that if you're working with `Map` data structures instead of lists of tuples, you can import `Data.Map` and use a `Map` version of `lookup` along with `fromList` to accomplish the same thing with that data structure:

```
Prelude> fmap c $ Data.Map.lookup 3 (fromList [(3, "hello")])
Just "Hello"
```

That may seem trivial at the moment, but `Map` is a frequently used data structure, so it's worth mentioning.

Now that we have values wrapped in a `Maybe` context, perhaps we'd like to apply some functions to them. This is where we want applicative operations. Although it's more likely that we'd have functions fetching data from somewhere else rather than having it all listed in our code file, we'll go ahead and define some values in a source file for convenience:

```
import Control.Applicative

f x = lookup x [(3, "hello"), (4, "julie"), (5, "kai")]
g y = lookup y [(7, "sup?"), (8, "chris"), (9, "aloha")]

h z = lookup z [(2, 3), (5, 6), (7, 8)]
m x = lookup x [(4, 10), (8, 13), (1, 9001)]
```

Now we want to look things up and add them together. We'll start with some simple operations over these data:

```
Prelude> f 3
Just "hello"
Prelude> g 8
Just "chris"
Prelude> (++) <$> f 3 <*> g 7
Just "hellosup?"
Prelude> (+) <$> h 5 <*> m 1
Just 9007
Prelude> (+) <$> h 5 <*> m 6
Nothing
```

So we first `fmap` those functions over the value inside the first `Maybe` context, if it's a `Just` value, making it a partially applied function wrapped in a `Maybe` context. Then we use the tie-fighter to apply that to the second value, again wrapped in a `Maybe`. If either value is a `Nothing`, we get `Nothing`.

We can again do the same thing with `liftA2`:

```
Prelude> liftA2 (++) (g 9) (f 4)
Just "alohajulie"
Prelude> liftA2 (^) (h 5) (m 4)
Just 60466176
Prelude> liftA2 (*) (h 5) (m 4)
Just 60
Prelude> liftA2 (*) (h 1) (m 1)
Nothing
```

Your applicative context can also sometimes be IO:

```
(++) <$> getLine <*> getLine
(,) <$> getLine <*> getLine
```

Try it. Now try using `fmap` to get the length of the resulting string of the first example.

### Exercises: Lookups

In the following exercises you will need to use the following terms to make the expressions type-check:

1. `pure`
2. `<$>`  
*-- or `fmap`*
3. `<*>`

Make the following expressions type-check.

1. `added :: Maybe Integer`  
`added = (+3) (lookup 3 $ zip [1, 2, 3] [4, 5, 6])`
2. `y :: Maybe Integer`  
`y = lookup 3 $ zip [1, 2, 3] [4, 5, 6]`  
  
`z :: Maybe Integer`  
`z = lookup 2 $ zip [1, 2, 3] [4, 5, 6]`  
  
`tupled :: Maybe (Integer, Integer)`  
`tupled = (,) y z`

```

3. import Data.List (elemIndex)

x :: Maybe Int
x = elemIndex 3 [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

y :: Maybe Int
y = elemIndex 4 [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

max' :: Int -> Int -> Int
max' = max

maxed :: Maybe Int
maxed = max' x y

4. xs = [1, 2, 3]
   ys = [4, 5, 6]

x :: Maybe Integer
x = lookup 3 $ zip xs ys

y :: Maybe Integer
y = lookup 2 $ zip xs ys

summed :: Maybe Integer
summed = sum $ (,) x y

```

## Identity

The Identity type here is a way to introduce structure without changing the semantics of what you're doing. We'll see it used with these typeclasses that involve function application around and over structure, but this type itself isn't very interesting, as it has no semantic flavor.

## Specializing the types

Here is what the type will look like when our structure is Identity:

```

-- f ~ Identity
-- Applicative f =>
(<*>) ::      f (a -> b) ->      f a ->      f b
(<*>) :: Identity (a -> b) -> Identity a -> Identity b

pure :: a ->      f a
pure :: a -> Identity a

```

Why would we use Identity just to introduce some structure? What is the meaning of all this?

```

Prelude> const <$> [1, 2, 3] <*> [9, 9, 9]
[1,1,1,2,2,2,3,3,3]
Prelude> const <$> Identity [1, 2, 3] <*> Identity [9, 9, 9]
Identity [1,2,3]

```

Having this extra bit of structure around our values lifts the `const` function, from mapping over the lists to mapping over the Identity. We have to go over an  $f$  structure to apply the function to the values inside. If our  $f$  is the list, `const` applies to the values inside the list, as we saw above. If the  $f$  is Identity, then `const` treats the lists inside the Identity structure as single values, not structure containing values.

### Exercise: Identity Instance

Write an Applicative instance for Identity.

```

newtype Identity a = Identity a
    deriving (Eq, Ord, Show)

instance Functor Identity where
    fmap = undefined

instance Applicative Identity where
    pure = undefined
    (<*>) = undefined

```

### Constant

This is not so different from the Identity type, except this not only provides structure it also acts like the `const` function. It sort of throws

away a function application. If this seems confusing, it's because it is. However, it is also something that, like Identity has real-life use cases, and you will see it in other people's code. It can be difficult to get used to using it yourself, but we just keep trying.

This datatype is like the `const` function in that it takes two arguments but one of them just gets discarded. In the case of the datatype, we have to map our function over the argument that gets discarded. So there is no value to map over, and the function application just doesn't happen.

### Specializing the types

All right, so here's what the types will look like:

```
-- f ~ Constant e

(<*>) ::          f (a -> b) ->          f a ->          f b
(<*>) :: Constant e (a -> b) -> Constant e a -> Constant e b

pure :: a ->          f a
pure :: a -> Constant e a
```

And here are some examples of how it works. These are, yes, a bit contrived, but showing you *real code* with this in it would probably make it much harder for you to see what's actually going on:

```
*Main> Constant (Sum 1) <*> Constant (Sum 2)
Constant {getConstant = Sum {getSum = 3}}
Prelude> Constant undefined <*> Constant (Sum 2)
Constant (Sum {getSum = *** Exception: Prelude.undefined}
*Main> pure 1
1
*Main> pure 1 :: Constant String Int
Constant {getConstant = ""}
```

It can't do anything because it can only hold onto the one value. The function doesn't exist, and the *b* is a ghost. So you use this when whatever you want to do involves just throwing away a function application. We know it seems somewhat crazy, but we promise there are really times real coders do this in real code. Pinky swear.

**Exercise: Constant Instance**

Write an Applicative instance for Constant.

```
newtype Constant a b =
  Constant { getConstant :: a }
  deriving (Eq, Ord, Show)

instance Functor (Constant a) where
  fmap = undefined

instance Monoid a => Applicative (Constant a) where
  pure = undefined
  (<*>) = undefined
```

**Maybe Applicative**

With Maybe, we're doing something a bit different from above. We saw previously how to use `fmap` with Maybe, but here our function is also embedded in a Maybe structure. Therefore, when *f* is Maybe, we're saying the function itself might not exist, because we're allowing the possibility of the function to be applied being a Nothing case.

**Specializing the types**

Here's what the type looks like when we're using Maybe as our *f* structure:

```
-- f ~ Maybe
(<*>) :: f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
(<*>) :: Maybe (a -> b) -> Maybe a -> Maybe b

pure :: a -> f a
pure :: a -> Maybe a
```

Are you ready to validate some persons? Yes. Yes, you are.



### Using the Maybe Applicative

Consider the following example where we validate our inputs to create a value of type `Maybe Person`, where the `Maybe` is because our inputs might be invalid:

```
validateLength :: Int -> String -> Maybe String
validateLength maxLen s =
  if (length s) > maxLen
  then Nothing
  else Just s

newtype Name = Name String deriving (Eq, Show)
newtype Address = Address String deriving (Eq, Show)

mkName :: String -> Maybe Name
mkName s = fmap Name $ validateLength 25 s

mkAddress :: String -> Maybe Address
mkAddress a = fmap Address $ validateLength 100 a
```

Now we'll make a smart constructor for a `Person`:

```
data Person =
  Person Name Address
  deriving (Eq, Show)

mkPerson :: String -> String -> Maybe Person
mkPerson n a =
  case mkName n of
    Nothing -> Nothing
    Just n' ->
      case mkAddress a of
        Nothing -> Nothing
        Just a' ->
          Just $ Person n' a'
```

The problem here is while we've successfully leveraged `fmap` from `Functor` in the simpler cases of `mkName` and `mkAddress`, we can't really make that work here with `mkPerson`. Let's investigate why:

```
Prelude> :t fmap Person (mkName "Babe")
fmap Person (mkName "Babe") :: Maybe (Address -> Person)
```

This has worked so far for the first argument to the `Person` constructor that we’re validating, but we’ve hit sort of a roadblock. Can you see the problem?

```
Prelude> let maybeAddy = (mkAddress "old macdonald's")
Prelude> :t fmap (fmap Person (mkName "Babe")) maybeAddy
```

```
Couldn't match expected type 'Address -> b'
  with actual type 'Maybe (Address -> Person)'
```

```
Possible cause: 'fmap' is applied to too many arguments
In the first argument of 'fmap', namely
  '(fmap Person (mkName "Babe"))'
```

```
In the expression:
  fmap (fmap Person (mkName "Babe")) maybeAddy
```

The problem is that our `(a -> b)` is now hiding inside `Maybe`. Let’s look at the type of `fmap` again:

```
fmap :: Functor f => (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

`Maybe` is definitely a `Functor`, but that’s not really going to help us here. We need to be able to map a function embedded in our `f`. `Applicative` gives us what we need here!

```
(<*>) :: Applicative f => f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

Now let’s see if we can wield this new toy:

```
Prelude> (fmap Person (mkName "Babe")) <*> maybeAddy
Just (Person (Name "Babe") (Address "old macdonald's"))
```

Nice, right? A little ugly though. As it happens, `Control.Applicative` gives us an infix alias for `fmap` called `<$>`. You should probably just call it “`fmap`”, but the authors won’t tell anybody if you’re saying “cash-money” in your head.

```
Prelude> Person <$> mkName "Babe" <*> maybeAddy
Just (Person (Name "Babe") (Address "old macdonald's"))
```

Much better! We still use `fmap` (via `<$>`) here for the first lifting over `Maybe`, after that our `(a -> b)` is hiding in the `f` where `f = Maybe`, so we have to start using `Applicative` to keep mapping over that.

We can now use a much shorter and nicer definition of `mkPerson`!

```
mkPerson :: String -> String -> Maybe Person
mkPerson n a =
  Person <$> mkName n <*> mkAddress a
```

As an additional bonus, this is now far less annoying to extend if we added new fields as well.

### Breaking down the example we just saw

We're going to give the `Functor` and `Applicative` instances for `Maybe` the same treatment we gave `fold`. This will be a bit long. It is possible that some of this will seem like too much detail; read it to whatever depth you feel you need to. It will sit here, patiently waiting to see if you ever need to come back and read it more closely.

### Maybe Functor and the Name constructor

```
instance Functor Maybe where
  fmap _ Nothing = Nothing
  fmap f (Just a) = Just (f a)
```

```
instance Applicative Maybe where
  pure = Just

  Nothing <*> _ = Nothing
  _ <*> Nothing = Nothing
  Just f <*> Just a = Just (f a)
```

The `Applicative` instance is not exactly the same as the instance in `base`, but that's for simplification. For your purposes, it produces the same results.

First the function and datatype definitions for our functor write-up for how we're using the `validateLength` function with `Name` and `Address`:

```
validateLength :: Int -> String -> Maybe String
```

```
validateLength maxLen s =
```

```
  if (length s) > maxLen
```

```
  then Nothing
```

```
  else Just s
```

```
newtype Name =
```

```
  Name String deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
newtype Address =
```

```
  Address String deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
mkName :: String -> Maybe Name
```

```
mkName s = fmap Name $ validateLength 25 s
```

```
mkAddress :: String -> Maybe Address
```

```
mkAddress a = fmap Address $ validateLength 100 a
```

Now we're going to start filling in the definitions and expanding them equationally like we did in the chapter on folds.

First we apply `mkName` to the value "babe" so that *s* is bound to that string:

```
mkName s = fmap Name $ validateLength 25 s
```

```
mkName "babe" = fmap Name $ validateLength 25 "babe"
```

Now we need to figure out what `validateLength` is about since that has to be evaluated before we know what `fmap` is mapping over. Here we're applying it to 25 and "babe", evaluating the length of the string "babe", and then determining which branch in the if-then-else wins:

```

validateLength :: Int -> String -> Maybe String
validateLength 25 "babe" =
    if (length "babe") > 25
    then Nothing
    else Just "babe"

    if 4 > 25
    then Nothing
    else Just "babe"

```

-- 4 isn't greater than 25, so:

```

validateLength 25 "babe" = Just "babe"

```

Now we're going to replace `validateLength` applied to 25 and "babe" with what it evaluated to, then figure out what the `fmap Name` over `Just "babe"` business is about:

```

mkName "babe" = fmap Name $ Just "babe"

```

```

fmap Name $ Just "babe"

```

Keeping in mind the type of `fmap` from `Functor`, we see the data constructor `Name` is the function `(a -> b)` we're mapping over some Functorial `f`. In this case, `f` is `Maybe`. The `a` in `fa` is `String`:

```

(a -> b) -> f a -> f b

```

```

:t Name           :: (String -> Name)
:t Just "babe"    :: Maybe String

```

```

      (a -> b)    -> f      a      -> f      b
(String -> Name) -> Maybe String -> Maybe Name

```

Since we know we're dealing with the `Functor` instance for `Maybe`, we can inline *that* function's definition too!

```

fmap _ Nothing      = Nothing
fmap f (Just a)     = Just (f a)

-- We have (Just "babe") so skipping Nothing case
-- fmap _ Nothing     = Nothing

fmap f    (Just a)      = Just (f a)
fmap Name (Just "babe") = Just (Name "babe")

mkName "babe" = fmap Name $ Just "babe"
mkName "babe" = Just (Name "babe")
--           f      b

```

## Maybe Applicative and Person

```

data Person =
    Person Name Address
    deriving (Eq, Show)

```

First we'll be using the Functor to map the Person data constructor over the Maybe Name value. Unlike Name and Address, Person takes two arguments rather than one.

```

Person <$> Just (Name "babe") <*> Just (Address "farm")

```

```

fmap Person (Just (Name "babe"))

```

```

:t Person :: Name -> Address -> Person

```

```

:t Just (Name "babe") :: Maybe Name

```

```

(a -> b) -> f a -> f b
(Name -> Address -> Person)
  a      -> b
-> Maybe Name -> Maybe (Address -> Person)
  f      a      f      b

```

```

fmap _ Nothing      = Nothing
fmap f (Just a)     = Just (f a)

fmap Person (Just (Name "babe"))

f :: Person
a :: Name "babe"

-- We skip this pattern match because we have Just
--   fmap _ Nothing      = Nothing

fmap f      (Just a)      =
  Just (f a)

fmap Person (Just (Name "babe")) =
  Just (Person (Name "babe"))

```

The problem is `Person (Name "babe")` is awaiting another argument, the address, so it's a partially applied function. That's our `(a -> b)` in the type of `Applicative's (<*>)`. The `f` wrapping our `(a -> b)` is the `Maybe` which results from us possibly not having had an `a` to map over to begin with, resulting in a `Nothing` value:

```

-- Person is awaiting another argument
:t Just (Person (Name "babe")) :: Maybe (Address -> Person)

:t Just (Address "farm") :: Maybe Address

-- We want to apply the partially applied (Person "babe")
-- inside the 'Just' to the "farm" inside the Just.

Just (Person (Name "babe")) <*> Just (Address "farm")

```

So, since the function we want to map is inside the same structure as the value we want to apply it to, we need the `Applicative (<*>)`. In the following, we remind you of what the type looks like and how the type specializes to this application:

```
f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

```
Maybe (Address -> Person) -> Maybe Address -> Maybe Person
f ( a -> b ) -> f a -> f b
```

We know we're using the Maybe Applicative, so we can go ahead and inline the definition of the Maybe Applicative. Reminder that this version of the Applicative instance is simplified from the one in GHC so please don't email us to tell us our instance is wrong:

```
instance Applicative Maybe where
    pure = Just

    Nothing <*> _      = Nothing
    _ <*> Nothing      = Nothing
    Just f <*> Just a = Just (f a)
```

We know we can ignore the Nothing cases because our function is Just, our value is Just...and our cause is just! Just...kidding.

If we fill in our partially applied Person constructor for  $f$ , and our Address value for  $a$ , it's not too hard to see how the final result fits.

```
-- Neither function nor value are Nothing,
-- so we skip these two cases
-- Nothing <*> _      = Nothing
-- _ <*> Nothing      = Nothing

Just f <*> Just a = Just (f a)
Just (Person (Name "babe")) <*> Just (Address "farm") =
    Just (Person (Name "babe") (Address "farm"))
```

Before we moooove on

```
data Cow = Cow {
    name    :: String
  , age    :: Int
  , weight :: Int
} deriving (Eq, Show)
```



```

noEmpty :: String -> Maybe String
noEmpty "" = Nothing
noEmpty str = Just str

noNegative :: Int -> Maybe Int
noNegative n | n >= 0 = Just n
              | otherwise = Nothing

-- Validating to get rid of empty strings, negative numbers
cowFromString :: String -> Int -> Int -> Maybe Cow
cowFromString name' age' weight' =
  case noEmpty name' of
    Nothing -> Nothing
    Just nammy ->
      case noNegative age' of
        Nothing -> Nothing
        Just agey ->
          case noNegative weight' of
            Nothing -> Nothing
            Just weighty ->
              Just (Cow nammy agey weighty)

```

cowFromString is...bad. You can probably tell. But by the use of Applicative, it can be improved!

```
-- you'll need to import this if you have GHC <7.10
```

```

import Control.Applicative

cowFromString' :: String -> Int -> Int -> Maybe Cow
cowFromString' name' age' weight' =
  Cow <$> noEmpty name'
    <*> noNegative age'
    <*> noNegative weight'

```

Or if we want other Haskellers to think we're really cool and hip:

```
cowFromString'' :: String -> Int -> Int -> Maybe Cow
cowFromString'' name' age' weight' =
    liftA3 Cow (noEmpty name')
              (noNegative age')
              (noNegative weight')
```

So, we're taking advantage of the Maybe Applicative here. What does that look like? First we'll use the infix syntax for `fmap <$>` and `apply <*>`:

```
Prelude> let cow1 = Cow <$> noEmpty "Bess"
```

```
Prelude> :t cow1
cow1 :: Maybe (Int -> Int -> Cow)
```

```
Prelude> let cow2 = cow1 <*> noNegative 1
```

```
Prelude> :t cow2
cow2 :: Maybe (Int -> Cow)
```

```
Prelude> let cow3 = cow2 <*> noNegative 2
```

```
Prelude> :t cow3
cow3 :: Maybe Cow
```

Then with `liftA3`:

```
Prelude> let cow1 = liftA3 Cow
```

```
Prelude> :t cow1
cow1 :: Applicative f => f String -> f Int -> f Int -> f Cow
```

```
Prelude> let cow2 = cow1 (noEmpty "blah")
```

```
Prelude> :t cow2
cow2 :: Maybe Int -> Maybe Int -> Maybe Cow
```

```
Prelude> let cow3 = cow2 (noNegative 1)
```

```
Prelude> :t cow3
cow3 :: Maybe Int -> Maybe Cow

Prelude> let cow4 = cow3 (noNegative 2)
```

```
Prelude> :t cow4
cow4 :: Maybe Cow
```

So, from a simplified point of view, Applicative is really just a way of saying:

```
-- we fmap'd my function over some functorial ``f''
-- or it already was in ``f'' somehow

-- f ~ Maybe
cow1 :: Maybe (Int -> Int -> Cow)
cow1 = fmap Cow (noEmpty "Bess")

-- and we hit a situation where want to map
--           f (a -> b)
-- not just  (a -> b)
(<*>) :: Applicative f => f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
-- over some  f a
-- to get an  f b

cow2 :: Maybe (Int -> Cow)
cow2 = cow1 <*> noNegative 1
```

As a result, you may be able to imagine yourself saying, “I want to do something kinda like an fmap, but my function is embedded in the functorial structure too, not just the value I want to apply my function to”. This is a basic motivation for Applicative.

With the Applicative instance for Maybe, what we’re doing is enriching functorial application with the additional proviso that, “I may not have a function at all”.

We can see this in the following specialization of the apply function (<\*>):

```
(<*>) :: Applicative f => f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

```
f ~ Maybe
```

```
maybeApply :: Maybe (a -> b) -> Maybe a -> Maybe b
```

```
maybeFmap :: (a -> b) -> Maybe a -> Maybe b
```

```
-- maybeFmap is just fmap's type specialized to Maybe
```

You can test these specializations (more concrete versions) of the types in the REPL:

```
Prelude> :t (<*>)
```

```
(<*>) :: Applicative f => f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

```
Prelude> :t (<*>) :: Maybe (a -> b) -> Maybe a -> Maybe b
```

```
(<*>) :: Maybe (a -> b) -> Maybe a -> Maybe b
```

```
:: Maybe (a -> b) -> Maybe a -> Maybe b
```

```
Prelude> :t fmap
```

```
fmap :: Functor f => (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

```
Prelude> :t fmap :: (a -> b) -> Maybe a -> Maybe b
```

```
fmap :: (a -> b) -> Maybe a -> Maybe b
```

```
:: (a -> b) -> Maybe a -> Maybe b
```

If you make any mistakes, the REPL will let you know:

```
Prelude> :t fmap :: (a -> b) -> Maybe a -> f b
```

```
Couldn't match type 'f1' with 'Maybe'
```

```
'f1' is a rigid type variable bound by
```

```
an expression type signature:
```

```
(a1 -> b1) -> Maybe a1 -> f1 b1
```

```
Expected type: (a1 -> b1) -> Maybe a1 -> f1 b1
```

```
Actual type: (a1 -> b1) -> f1 a1 -> f1 b1
```

```
In the expression: fmap :: (a -> b) -> Maybe a -> f b
```

```
Prelude> :t (<*>) :: Maybe (a -> b) -> Maybe a -> f b
```

```
Couldn't match type 'f1' with 'Maybe'
'f1' is a rigid type variable bound by
  an expression type signature:
    Maybe (a1 -> b1) -> Maybe a1 -> f1 b1
```

```
Expected type: Maybe (a1 -> b1) -> Maybe a1 -> f1 b1
Actual type: f1 (a1 -> b1) -> f1 a1 -> f1 b1
```

```
In the expression:
  (<*>) :: Maybe (a -> b) -> Maybe a -> f b
```

### Exercise: Fixer Upper

Given the function and values provided, use (<\$>) from Functor, (<\*>) and pure from the Applicative typeclass to fill in missing bits of the broken code to make it work.

1. `const <$> Just "Hello" <*> "World"`
2. `(,,,) Just 90 <*> Just 10 Just "Tierness" [1, 2, 3]`

## 17.6 Applicative laws

After examining the law, test each of the expressions in the REPL.

### 1. Identity

Here is the definition of the identity law:

```
pure id <*> v = v
```

To see examples of this law, evaluate these expressions.

```

pure id <*> [1..5]

pure id <*> Just "Hello Applicative"

pure id <*> Nothing

pure id <*> Left "Error'ish"

pure id <*> Right 8001

-- ((->) a) has an instance
pure id <*> (+1) $ 2

```

As you may recall, Functor has a similar identity law, and comparing them directly might help you see what's happening:

```

id [1..5]

fmap id [1..5]

pure id <*> [1..5]

```

The identity law states that all three of those should be equal. You can test them for equality in your REPL or you could write a simple test to get the answer. So, what's pure doing for us? It's embedding our id function into some structure so that we can use apply instead of fmap.

## 2. Composition

Here is the definition of the composition law for applicatives:

```

pure (.) <*> u <*> v <*> w = u <*> (v <*> w)

```

You may find the syntax a bit unusual and difficult to read here. This is similar to the law of composition for Functor. It is the law stating that the result of composing our functions first and then applying them and the result of applying the functions first then composing them should be the same. We're using the composition operator as a prefix instead of the more usual

infix, and using `pure` in order to embed that operator into the appropriate structure so that it can work with `apply`.

```
pure (.) <*> [(+1)] <*> [(*2)] <*> [1, 2, 3]
```

```
[(+1)] <*> [( (*2) )] <*> [1, 2, 3]
```

```
pure (.) <*> Just (+1) <*> Just (*2) <*> Just 1
```

```
Just (+1) <*> (Just (*2) <*> Just 1)
```

This law is meant to ensure that there are no surprises resulting from composing your function applications.

### 3. Homomorphism

A homomorphism is a structure-preserving map between two categories. The effect of applying a function that is embedded in some structure to a value that is embedded in some structure should be the same as applying a function to a value without affecting any outside structure:

```
pure f <*> pure x = pure (f x)
```

That's the statement of the law. Here's how it looks in practice:

```
pure (+1) <*> pure 1
```

```
pure ((+1) 1)
```

Those two lines of code should give you the same result. In fact, the result you see for those should be indistinguishable from the result of:

```
(+1) 1
```

Because the “structure” that `pure` is providing there isn't really meaningful. So you can think of this law as having to do with the monoidal part of the applicative deal: the result should be the result of the function application without doing anything other than combining the structure bits. Just as we saw how `fmap`

is really just a special type of function application that ignores a context or surrounding structure, applicative is also function application that preserves structure. However, with applicative, since the function being applied *also* has structure, the structures have to be monoidal and come together in some fashion.

```
pure (+1) <*> pure 1 :: Maybe Int
```

```
pure ((+1) 1) :: Maybe Int
```

Those two results should again be the same, but this time the structure is being provided by Maybe, so will the result of:

```
(+1) 1
```

be equal this time around?

Here are a couple more examples to try out:

```
pure (+1) <*> pure 1 :: [Int]
```

```
pure (+1) <*> pure 1 :: Either a Int
```

The general idea of the homomorphism law is that applying the function doesn't change the structure around the values.

#### 4. Interchange

We begin again by looking at the definition of the interchange law:

```
u <*> pure y = pure ($ y) <*> u
```

It might help to break that down a bit. To the left of <\*> must always be a function embedded in some structure. In the above definition, *u* represents a function embedded in some structure:

```
Just (+2) <*> pure 2
-- u      <*> pure y
-- equals
Just 4
```



The right side of the definition might be a bit less obvious. By sectioning the `$` function application operator with the `y`, we create an environment in which the `y` is there, awaiting a function to apply to it. Let's try lining up the types again and see if that clears this up:

```
pure ($ y) <*> u
  f (a -> b)      f a

pure ($ 2) <*> Just (+ 2)
-- f (a -> b) -> f a ->

-- the y is the b of the
-- f (a -> b)
-- so it goes something like this:

Just ((+ 2) $ 2)
-- f a -> b ->

-- equals
Just 4
-- f b
```

According to the interchange law, this should be true:

```
(Just (+2) <*> pure 2) == (pure ($ 2) <*> Just (+2))
```

And you can see why that should be true, because despite the weird syntax, the two functions are doing the same job. Here are some more examples for you to try out:

```
[(+1), (*2)] <*> pure 1

pure ($ 1) <*> [(+1), (*2)]

Just (+3) <*> pure 1

pure ($ 1) <*> Just (+3)
```

Every Applicative instance you write should obey those four laws. This keeps your code composable and free of unpleasant surprises.

## 17.7 You knew this was coming

QuickChecking the Applicative laws! You should have got the gist of how to write properties based on laws, so we're going to use a pre-existing library this time. Conal Elliott has a nice library called *checkers* on Hackage and Github which provides some nice pre-existing properties and utilities for QuickCheck.

After installing *checkers*, we can reuse the existing properties for validating Monoids and Functors to revisit what we did previously.

```
module BadMonoid where

import Data.Monoid
import Test.QuickCheck
import Test.QuickCheck.Checkers
import Test.QuickCheck.Classes

data Bull =
    Fools
  | Twoo
  deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Arbitrary Bull where
  arbitrary =
    frequency [ (1, return Fools)
               , (1, return Twoo) ]

instance Monoid Bull where
  mempty = Fools
  mappend _ _ = Fools

instance EqProp Bull where (==) = eq

main :: IO ()
main = quickBatch (monoid Twoo)
```

There are some differences here worth noting. One is that we don't have to define the Monoid laws as QuickCheck properties ourselves, they are already bundled into a `TestBatch` called `monoid`. Another is that we need to define `EqProp` for our custom datatype. This is straightforward because *checkers* exports a function called `eq` which reuses the pre-existing `Eq` instance for the datatype. Finally, we're passing a value of our type to `monoid` so it knows which `Arbitrary` instance to use to get random values — note it doesn't actually *use* this value for anything.

Then we can run `main` to kick it off and see how it goes:

```
Prelude> main

monoid:
  left identity: *** Failed! Falsifiable (after 1 test):
Two
  right identity: *** Failed! Falsifiable (after 2 tests):
Two
  associativity: +++ OK, passed 500 tests.
```

As we expect, it was able to falsify left and right identity for `Bull`. Now let's test a pre-existing Applicative instance, such as `list` and `maybe`. The type for the `TestBatch` which validates Applicative instances is a bit gnarly, so please bear with us:

#### **applicative**

```
:: (Show a, Show (m a), Show (m (a -> b)), Show (m (b -> c)),
   Applicative m, CoArbitrary a, EqProp (m a), EqProp (m b),
   EqProp (m c), Arbitrary a, Arbitrary b, Arbitrary (m a),
   Arbitrary (m (a -> b)), Arbitrary (m (b -> c))) =>
   m (a, b, c) -> TestBatch
```

First, a trick for managing functions like this. We know it's going to want `Arbitrary` instances for the Applicative structure, functions (from *a* to *b*, *b* to *c*) embedded in that structure, and that it wants `EqProp` instances. That's all well and good, but we can ignore that.

```
-- :: (Show a, Show (m a), Show (m (a -> b)), Show (m (b -> c))),
--     Applicative m, CoArbitrary a, EqProp (m a), EqProp (m b),
--     EqProp (m c), Arbitrary a, Arbitrary b, Arbitrary (m a),
--     Arbitrary (m (a -> b)), Arbitrary (m (b -> c))) =>
--     m (a, b, c) -> TestBatch
```

We just care about `m (a, b, c) -> TestBatch`. We could pass an actual value giving us our `Applicative` structure and three values which could be of different type, but don't have to be. We could also pass a bottom with a type assigned to let it know what to randomly generate for validating the `Applicative` instance.

```
Prelude> quickBatch $ applicative [("b", "w", 1)]
```

```
applicative:
identity:    +++ OK, passed 500 tests.
composition: +++ OK, passed 500 tests.
homomorphism: +++ OK, passed 500 tests.
interchange: +++ OK, passed 500 tests.
functor:     +++ OK, passed 500 tests.
```

Note that it defaulted the `1 :: Num a => a` in order to not have an ambiguous type. We would've had to specify that outside of `GHCi`. In the following example we'll use a bottom to fire the typeclass dispatch:

```
Prelude> let trigger = undefined :: [(String, String, Int)]
Prelude> quickBatch (applicative trigger)
```

```
applicative:
identity:    +++ OK, passed 500 tests.
composition: +++ OK, passed 500 tests.
homomorphism: +++ OK, passed 500 tests.
interchange: +++ OK, passed 500 tests.
functor:     +++ OK, passed 500 tests.
```

Again, it's not evaluating the value you pass it. That value is just to let it know what types to use.

## 17.8 ZipList Monoid

The default monoid of lists in the GHC Prelude is concatenation, but there is another way to monoidally combine lists. Whereas the default List mappend ends up doing the following:

```
[1, 2, 3] <> [4, 5, 6]
```

```
-- changes to
```

```
[1, 2, 3] ++ [4, 5, 6]
```

```
[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]
```

The ZipList monoid combines the values of the two lists as parallel sequences using a monoid provided by the values themselves to get the job done:

```
[1, 2, 3] <> [4, 5, 6]
```

```
-- changes to
```

```
[
  1 <> 4
, 2 <> 5
, 3 <> 6
]
```

This should remind you of functions like `zip` and `zipWith`.

To make the above example work, you can assert a type like `Sum Integer` for the `Num` values to get a `Monoid`.

```
Prelude> import Data.Monoid
```

```
Prelude> 1 <> 2
```

```
No instance for (Num a0) arising from a use of ‘it’
```

```
The type variable ‘a0’ is ambiguous
```

```
Note: there are several potential instances:
```

```
... some blather that mentions Num ...
```

```
Prelude> 1 <> (2 :: Sum Integer)
Sum {getSum = 3}
```

Prelude doesn't provide this Monoid for us, so we must define it ourselves.

```
module Apl1 where

import Control.Applicative
import Data.Monoid
import Test.QuickCheck
import Test.QuickCheck.Checkers
import Test.QuickCheck.Classes

-- unfortunate orphan instances. Try to avoid these
-- in code you're going to keep or release.

-- this isn't going to work properly
instance Monoid a => Monoid (ZipList a) where
    empty = ZipList []
    mappend = liftA2 mappend

instance Arbitrary a => Arbitrary (ZipList a) where
    arbitrary = ZipList <$> arbitrary

instance Arbitrary a => Arbitrary (Sum a) where
    arbitrary = Sum <$> arbitrary

instance Eq a => EqProp (ZipList a) where (==) = eq
```

If we fire this up in the REPL, and test for its validity as a Monoid, it'll fail.

```
Prelude> quickBatch $ monoid (ZipList [1 :: Sum Int])

monoid:
  left identity: *** Failed! Falsifiable (after 3 tests):
  ZipList [ Sum {getSum = -1} ]
```

```

right identity: *** Failed! Falsifiable (after 4 tests):
ZipList [ Sum {getSum = -1}
          , Sum {getSum = 3}
          , Sum {getSum = 2} ]
associativity:  +++ OK, passed 500 tests.

```

The problem is that the empty `ZipList` is the *zero* and not the *identity*!

## Zero vs. Identity

```

-- Zero
n * 0 == 0

-- Identity
n * 1 == n

```

So how do we get an identity for `ZipList`?

```

Sum 1 `mappend` ??? -> Sum 1

instance Monoid a => Monoid (ZipList a) where
  mempty = pure mempty
  mappend = liftA2 mappend

```

You’ll find out what the “pure” does here when you write the `Applicative` for `ZipList` yourself.

## List Applicative Exercise

Implement the `List Applicative`. Writing a minimally complete `Applicative` instance calls for writing the definitions of both `pure` and `<*>`. We’re going to provide a hint as well. Use the *checkers* library to validate your `Applicative` instance.

```

data List a =
  Nil
  | Cons a (List a)
  deriving (Eq, Show)

```

Remember what you wrote for the `List Functor`:

```
instance Functor List where
```

```
  fmap = undefined
```

Writing the List Applicative is similar.

```
instance Applicative List where
```

```
  pure = undefined
```

```
  (<*>) = undefined
```

Expected result:

```
Prelude> let functions = Cons (+1) (Cons (*2) Nil)
```

```
Prelude> let values = Cons 1 (Cons 2 Nil)
```

```
Prelude> functions <*> values
```

```
Cons 2 (Cons 3 (Cons 2 (Cons 4 Nil)))
```

In case you get stuck, use the following functions and hints.

```
append :: List a -> List a -> List a
```

```
append Nil ys = ys
```

```
append (Cons x xs) ys = Cons x $ xs `append` ys
```

```
fold :: (a -> b -> b) -> b -> List a -> b
```

```
fold _ b Nil = b
```

```
fold f b (Cons h t) = f h (fold f b t)
```

```
concat' :: List (List a) -> List a
```

```
concat' = fold append Nil
```

```
-- write this one in terms of concat' and fmap
```

```
flatMap :: (a -> List b) -> List a -> List b
```

```
flatMap f as = undefined
```

Use the above and try using flatMap and fmap without explicitly pattern-matching on Cons cells. You'll still need to handle the Nil cases.

flatMap is less strange than it would initially seem. It's basically "fmap, then smush".



```
Prelude> fmap (\x -> [x, 9]) [1, 2, 3]  
[[1,9],[2,9],[3,9]]
```

```
Prelude> flatMap (\x -> [x, 9]) [1, 2, 3]  
[1,9,2,9,3,9]
```

Applicative instances, unlike Functors, are not guaranteed to have a unique implementation for a given datatype.

### ZipList Applicative Exercise

Implement the ZipList Applicative. Use the *checkers* library to validate your Applicative instance. We're going to provide the EqProp instance and explain the weirdness in a moment.

```

data List a =
    Nil
  | Cons a (List a)
  deriving (Eq, Show)

take' :: Int -> List a -> List a
take' = undefined

instance Functor List where
    fmap = undefined

instance Applicative List where
    pure = undefined
    (<*>) = undefined

newtype ZipList' a =
    ZipList' (List a)
  deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Eq a => EqProp (ZipList' a) where
    xs == ys = xs' `eq` ys'
      where xs' = let (ZipList' l) = xs
                    in take' 3000 l
            ys' = let (ZipList' l) = ys
                    in take' 3000 l

instance Functor ZipList' where
    fmap f (ZipList' xs) = ZipList' $ fmap f xs

instance Applicative ZipList' where
    pure = undefined
    (<*>) = undefined

```

A couple hints: think infinitely. Check Prelude for functions that can give you what you need. One starts with the letter z, the other with the letter r. You're looking for inspiration from these functions, not to be able to directly reuse them as you're using a custom List

type and not the provided Prelude list type.

**Explaining and justifying the weird EqProp** The good news is, it's EqProp that has the weird “check only the first 3,000 values” semantics instead of making the Eq instance weird. The bad news is, this is a byproduct of testing for equality between infinite lists...that is, you can't. If you use a typical EqProp instance, the test for homomorphism in your Applicative instance will chase the infinite lists forever. Since QuickCheck is already an exercise in “good enough” validity checking, we could choose to feel justified in this. If you don't believe us try running the following in your REPL:

```
repeat 1 == repeat 1
```

## Either and Validation Applicative

Yep, here we go again with the types:

### Specializing the types

```
-- f ~ Either e
```

```
(<*>) ::      f (a -> b) ->      f a ->      f b
(<*>) :: Either e (a -> b) -> Either e a -> Either e b
```

```
pure :: a ->      f a
```

```
pure :: a -> Either e a
```

### Either versus Validation

Often the interesting part of an Applicative is wherever the “monoidal” in “monoidal functor” is coming from. One byproduct of this is that just as you can have more than one valid Monoid for a given datatype, *unlike Functor*, Applicative can have more than one valid and lawful instance for a given datatype.

The following is a brief demonstration of Either:

```
Prelude> pure 1 :: Either e Int
Right 1
```

```

Prelude> Right (+1) <*> Right 1
Right 2
Prelude> Right (+1) <*> Left ":(("
Left ":(("
Prelude> Left ":((" <*> Right 1
Left ":(("
Prelude> Left ":((" <*> Left "sadface.png"
Left ":(("

```

We've covered the benefits of `Either` already and we've shown you what the `Maybe` Applicative can clean up so we won't belabor those points. There's an alternative to `Either` that differs only in the Applicative instance called `Validation`:

```

data Validation err a =
    Failure err
  | Success a
  deriving (Eq, Show)

```

One thing to realize is that this is *identical* to the `Either` datatype and there is even a pair of total functions which can go between `Validation` and `Either` values interchangeably:

```

-- Remember when we mentioned natural transformations?
-- Both of these functions are natural transformations.

```

```

validToEither :: Validation e a -> Either e a
validToEither (Failure err) = Left err
validToEither (Success a) = Right a

```

```

eitherToValid :: Either e a -> Validation e a
eitherToValid (Left err) = Failure err
eitherToValid (Right a) = Success a

```

```

eitherToValid . validToEither == id
validToEither . eitherToValid == id

```

How does `Validation` differ? Principally in what the Applicative instance does with errors. Rather than just short-circuiting when it

has two error values, it'll use the `Monoid` typeclass to combine them. Often this'll just be a list or set of errors but you can do whatever you want.

```
data Errors =
    DividedByZero
  | StackOverflow
  | MooglesChewedWires
deriving (Eq, Show)

success = Success (+1)
        <*> Success 1

success == Success 2

failure = Success (+1)
        <*> Failure [StackOverflow]

failure == Failure [StackOverflow]

failure' = Failure [StackOverflow]
         <*> Success (+1)

failure' == Failure [StackOverflow]

failures = Failure [MooglesChewedWires]
         <*> Failure [StackOverflow]

failures == Failure [MooglesChewedWires, StackOverflow]
```

With the value `failures`, we see what distinguishes `Either` and `Validation`, we can now preserve *all* failures that occurred, not just the first one.

### Exercise: Variations on Either

Write the `Either` Applicative that short-circuits on any error values. `Sum` and `Validation` are both just alternative names for `Either`, but

you'll be giving them different Applicative instances. See above for an idea of how Validation should behave. Use the *checkers* library.

```
data Sum a b =
    First a
  | Second b
  deriving (Eq, Show)

data Validation e a =
    Error e
  | Success a
  deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Functor (Sum a) where
    fmap = undefined

instance Applicative (Sum a) where
    pure = undefined
    (<*>) = undefined

-- same as Sum/Either
instance Functor (Validation e) where
    fmap = undefined

-- This is different
instance Monoid e =>
    Applicative (Validation e) where
    pure = undefined
    (<*>) = undefined
```

Your hint for this one is that you're writing the following functions:

```

applyIfBothSecond :: (Sum e) (a -> b)
                  -> (Sum e) a
                  -> (Sum e) b

applyMappendError :: Monoid e =>
                  (Validation e) (a -> b)
                  -> (Validation e) a
                  -> (Validation e) b

```

## 17.9 Chapter Exercises

Given a type that has an instance of Applicative, specialize the types of the methods. Test your specialization in the REPL.

1. *-- Type*  
`[]`  
  
*-- Methods*  
`pure :: a -> ? a`  
`(<*>) :: ? (a -> b) -> ? a -> ? b`
2. *-- Type*  
`IO`  
  
*-- Methods*  
`pure :: a -> ? a`  
`(<*>) :: ? (a -> b) -> ? a -> ? b`
3. *-- Type*  
`(,) a`  
  
*-- Methods*  
`pure :: a -> ? a`  
`(<*>) :: ? (a -> b) -> ? a -> ? b`

```

4. -- Type
   (->) e

-- Methods
pure  :: a -> ? a
(<*>) :: ? (a -> b) -> ? a -> ? b

```

Write applicative instances for the following datatypes. Confused? Write out what the type should be. Use the *checkers* library to validate the instances.

1. `newtype Identity a = Identity a deriving Show`
2. `data Pair a = Pair a a deriving Show`
3. This should look familiar.
- `data Two a b = Two a b`
4. `data Three a b c = Three a b c`
5. `data Three' a b = Three' a b b`
6. `data Four a b c d = Four a b c d`
7. `data Four' a b = Four' a a a b`

## Combinations

Remember the vowels and stops exercise in folds? Reimplement the `combos` function using `liftA3` from `Control.Applicative`.

```

import Control.Applicative (liftA3)

stops :: String
stops = "pbtdkg"

vowels :: String
vowels = "aeiou"

combos :: [a] -> [b] -> [c] -> [(a, b, c)]
combos = undefined

```



## 17.10 Definitions

1. Applicative is a typeclass in Haskell which you could think of as the Jonathan Taylor Thomas to Functor and Monad's Taran Noah Smith and Zachery Ty Bryan. Applicative can be thought of characterizing monoidal functors in Haskell. For a Haskell's purposes, it's a way to functorially apply a function which is embedded in structure  $f$  of the same type as the value you're mapping it over.

```
fmap :: (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

```
(<*>) :: f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

## 17.11 Follow-up resources

1. Tony Morris; Nick Partridge; Validation library  
<http://hackage.haskell.org/package/validation>
2. Conor McBride; Ross Paterson; Applicative Programming with Effects  
<http://staff.city.ac.uk/~ross/papers/Applicative.html>
3. Jeremy Gibbons; Bruno C. d. S. Oliveira; Essence of the Iterator Pattern
4. Ross Paterson; Constructing Applicative Functors  
<http://staff.city.ac.uk/~ross/papers/Constructors.html>
5. Sam Lindley; Philip Wadler; Jeremy Yallop; Idioms are oblivious, arrows are meticulous, monads are promiscuous.

**Note:** Idiom means applicative functor and is a useful search term for published work on applicative functors.

## Chapter 18

# Monad

There is nothing so practical  
as a good theory

---

Phil Wadler, quoting Kurt  
Lewin

## 18.1 Monad

Finally we come to one of the most talked about structures in Haskell: the monad. Monads are not, strictly speaking, necessary to Haskell. Although the current standard for Haskell does use monad for constructing and transforming IO actions, older implementations of Haskell did not. Monads are powerful and fun, but they do not define Haskell. Rather, monads are defined in terms of Haskell.

Monads are applicative functors, but they have something special about them that makes them different from and more powerful than either `<*>` or `fmap` alone. In this chapter, we

- define `Monad`, its operations and laws;
- look at several examples of monads in practice;
- write the `Monad` instances for various types;
- address some misinformation about monads.

## 18.2 Sorry — Monad is not a burrito

Well, then what the heck is a monad?<sup>1</sup>

As we said above, a monad is an applicative functor with some unique features that make it a bit more powerful than either alone. A functor maps a function over some structure; an applicative maps a function that is contained in some structure over some other structure and then combines the two layers of structure like `mappend`. So you can think of monads as just another way of applying functions over structure, with a couple of additional features. We'll get to those features in a moment. For now, let's check out the typeclass definition and core operations.

If you are using GHC 7.10 or newer, you'll see an `Applicative` constraint in the definition of `Monad`, as it should be:

---

<sup>1</sup> Section title with all due respect and gratitude to Mark Jason Dominus, whose blog post, "Monads are like burritos" is a classic of its genre. <http://blog.plover.com/prog/burritos.html>

```

class Applicative m => Monad m where
  (>>=) :: m a -> (a -> m b) -> m b
  (>>)  :: m a -> m b -> m b
  return :: a -> m a

```

We’re going to explore this in some detail. Let’s start with the typeclass constraint on `m`.

### Applicative m

Older versions of GHC did not have `Applicative` as a superclass of `Monad`. Given that `Monad` is stronger than `Applicative`, and `Applicative` is stronger than `Functor`, you can derive `Applicative` and `Functor` in terms of `Monad`, just as you can derive `Functor` in terms of `Applicative`. What does this mean? It means you can write `fmap` using monadic operations and it works just fine:

```
fmap f xs = xs >>= return . f
```

Try it for yourself:

```

Prelude> fmap (+1) [1..3]
[2,3,4]

```

```

Prelude> [1..3] >>= return . (+1)
[2,3,4]

```

This happens to be a law, not just a convenience. `Functor`, `Applicative`, and `Monad` instances for a given type should have the same core behavior.

We’ll explore the relationship between these classes more completely in just a bit, but as part of understanding the typeclass definition above, it’s important to understand this chain of dependency:

```
Functor -> Applicative -> Monad
```

Whenever you’ve implemented an instance of `Monad` for a type you *necessarily* have an `Applicative` and a `Functor` as well.

## Core operations

The `Monad` typeclass defines three core operations, although you only need to define `>>=` for a minimally complete `Monad` instance. Let's look at all three:

```
(>>=) :: m a -> (a -> m b) -> m b
(>>)  :: m a -> m b -> m b
return :: a -> m a
```

We can dispense with the last of those, `return`, pretty easily: it's just the same as `pure`. All it does is take a value and return it inside your structure, whether that structure is a list or `Just` or `IO`. We talked about it a bit, and used it, back in the `Modules` chapter, and we covered `pure` in the `Applicative` chapter, so there isn't much else to say about it.

The next operator, `>>` doesn't have an official English-language name, but we like to call it Mr. Pointy. Some people do refer to it as the sequencing operator, which we must admit is more informative than Mr. Pointy. Basically Mr. Pointy sequences two actions while discarding any resulting value of the first action. `Applicative` has a similar operator as well, although we didn't talk about it in that chapter. We will see examples of this operator in the upcoming section on `do` syntax.

Finally, the big `bind`! The `>>=` operator is called `bind` and is — or, at least, contains — the things that are special about `Monad`.

## The novel part of Monad

Conventionally when we use monads, we use the `bind` function, `>>=`. Sometimes we use it directly, sometimes indirectly via `do` syntax. The question we should ask ourselves is, what's unique to `Monad` — at least from the point of view of types?

We already saw that it's not `return`; that's just another name for `pure` from `Applicative`.

We also noted (and will see more clearly soon) that it also isn't `>>` which has a counterpart in `Applicative`.

And it also isn't `>>=`, at least not in its entirety. The type of `>>=` is visibly similar to that of `fmap` and `<*>`, which makes sense since monads are applicative functors. For the sake of making this maximally similar, we're going to change the *m* of `Monad` to *f*:

```

fmap :: Functor f    => (a -> b) -> f a      -> f b
<*>  :: Applicative f => f (a -> b) -> f a      -> f b
>=>   :: Monad f      => f a                -> (a -> f b) -> f b

```

OK, so `bind` is quite similar to `<*>` and `fmap` but with the first two arguments flipped. Still, the idea of mapping a function over a value while bypassing its surrounding structure is not unique to `Monad`.

We can demonstrate this by `fmapping` a function of type `(a -> m b)` to make it more like `>=>`, and it will work just fine. Nothing will stop us. We will continue using the tilde to represent rough equivalence between two things:

```
-- If b == f b
```

```
fmap :: Functor f => (a -> f b) -> f a -> f (f b)
```

Let's demonstrate this idea with `list` as our structure:

```

Prelude> let andOne x = [x, 1]
Prelude> andOne 10
[10,1]

Prelude> :t fmap andOne [4, 5, 6]
fmap andOne [4, 5, 6] :: Num t => [[t]]

Prelude> fmap andOne [4, 5, 6]
[[4,1],[5,1],[6,1]]

```

But, lo! We knew from our types that we'd end up with an `f (f b)` — that is, an extra layer of structure, and now we have a result of nested lists. What if we just wanted `Num a => [a]` instead of nested lists? We want a single layer of *f* structure, but our mapped function has itself *generated more structure*! After mapping a function that generates *additional* monadic structure in its return type, we want a way to discard one layer of that structure.

So how do we accomplish that? Well, we saw how to do what we want with lists very early on in this book:

```

Prelude> concat $ fmap andOne [4, 5, 6]
[4,1,5,1,6,1]

```

The type of `concat`, fully generalized:

```
concat :: Foldable t => t [a] -> [a]
```

```
-- we can assert a less general type for our purposes here
```

```
concat :: [[a]] -> [a]
```

Monad, in a sense, is a generalization of `concat`! The unique part of Monad is the following function:

```
import Control.Monad (join)
```

```
join :: Monad m => m (m a) -> m a
```

```
-- compare
```

```
concat :: [[a]] -> [a]
```

It's also somewhat novel that we can inject more structure via our function application, where applicatives and `fmaps` have to leave the structure untouched. Allowing the function itself to alter the structure is something we've not seen in `Functor` and `Applicative`, and we'll explore the ramifications of that ability more, especially when we start talking about the `Maybe` monad. But we *can* inject more structure with a standard `fmap` if we wish, as we saw above. However, the ability to flatten those two layers of structure into one is what truly makes `Monad` special. And it's by putting that `join` function together with the mapping function that we get `bind`, also known as `>>=`.

So how do we get `bind`?

**The answer is the exercise** Write `bind` in terms of `fmap` and `join`.

Fear is the mind-killer, friend. You can do it.

```
bind :: Monad m => (a -> m b) -> m a -> m b
```

```
bind = undefined
```

## What Monad is not

Since `Monad` is somewhat abstract and can be quite slippery, many people talk about it from one or two perspectives that they feel most comfortable with. Quite often, they address what `Monad` is from the perspective of the `IO Monad`. `IO` does have a `Monad` instance, and it is a very common use of monads. However, understanding monads only through that instance leads to limited intuitions for what monads are and can do, and to a lesser extent, a wrong notion of what `IO` is all about.

`Monad` is not:

1. Impure. Monadic functions are pure functions. `IO` is an abstract datatype that allows for impure, or effectful, actions, and it has a `Monad` instance. But there's nothing impure about monads.
2. An embedded language for imperative programming. Simon Peyton-Jones, one of the lead developers and researchers of Haskell and its implementation in GHC, has famously said, "Haskell is the world's finest imperative programming language," and he was talking about the way monads handle effectful programming. While monads are often used for sequencing actions in a way that looks like imperative programming, there are commutative monads that do not order actions. We'll see one a few chapters down the line when we talk about `Reader`.
3. A value. The typeclass describes a specific relationship between elements in a domain and defines some operations over them. When we refer to something as "a monad," we're using that the same way we talk about "a monoid," or "a functor." None of those are values.
4. About strictness. The monadic operations of `bind` and `return` are nonstrict. Some operations can be made strict within a specific instance. We'll talk more about this later in the book.

Using monads also doesn't require knowing math. Or category theory. It does not require mystical trips to the tops of mountains or starving oneself in a desert somewhere.

The `Monad` typeclass is generalized structure manipulation with some laws to make it sensible. Just like `Functor` and `Applicative`. We



sort of hate to diminish the mystique, but that's really all there is to it.

### Monad also lifts!

The `Monad` class also includes a set of `lift` functions that are the same as the ones we already saw in `Applicative`. They don't really do anything different, but they are still around because some libraries used them before applicatives were discovered, so the `liftM` set of functions still exists to maintain compatibility. So, you may still see them sometimes. We'll take a short tour of them, comparing them directly to their applicative counterparts:

```
liftA :: Applicative f => (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
liftM :: Monad m =>      (a1 -> r) -> m a1 -> m r
```

As you may recall, that is just `fmap` with a different typeclass constraint. If you'd like to see examples of how it works, we encourage you to write `fmap` functions in your REPL and take turns replacing the `fmap` with `liftA` or `liftM`.

But that's not all we have:

```
liftA2 :: Applicative f =>
  (a -> b -> c)
  -> f a
  -> f b
  -> f c

liftM2 :: Monad m =>
  (a1 -> a2 -> r)
  -> m a1
  -> m a2
  -> m r
```

Aside from the numbering these appear the same. Let's try them out:

```
Prelude> liftA2 (,) (Just 3) (Just 5)
Just (3,5)
```

```
Prelude> liftM2 (,) (Just 3) (Just 5)
Just (3,5)
```

You may remember way back in Lists, we talked about a function called `zipWith`. `zipWith` is `liftA2` or `liftM2` specialized to lists:

```
Prelude> :t zipWith
zipWith :: (a -> b -> c) -> [a] -> [b] -> [c]
Prelude> zipWith (+) [3, 4] [5, 6]
[8,10]
Prelude> liftA2 (+) [3, 4] [5, 6]
[8,9,9,10]
```

Well, the types are the same, but the behavior differs. The differing behavior has to do with which list monoid is being used.

All right. Then we have the threes:

```
liftA3 :: Applicative f =>
    (a -> b -> c -> d)
    -> f a -> f b
    -> f c -> f d
liftM3 :: Monad m =>
    (a1 -> a2 -> a3 -> r)
    -> m a1 -> m a2
    -> m a3 -> m r
```

And, coincidentally, there is also a `zipWith3` function. Let's see what happens:

```
Prelude> :t zipWith3
zipWith3 :: (a -> b -> c -> d) ->
    [a] -> [b] -> [c] -> [d]

Prelude> liftM3 (,,) [1, 2] [3] [5, 6]
[(1,3,5),(1,3,6),(2,3,5),(2,3,6)]
Prelude> zipWith3 (,,) [1, 2] [3] [5, 6]
[(1,3,5)]
```

Again, using a different monoid gives us a different set of results.

We wanted to introduce these functions here because they will come up in some later examples in the chapter, but they aren't especially pertinent to `Monad`, and we saw the gist of them in the previous chapter. So, let's turn our attention back to monads, shall we?

### 18.3 Do syntax and monads

We introduced `do` syntax in the `Modules` chapter. We were using it within the context of `IO` as syntactic sugar that allowed us to easily sequence actions by feeding the result of one action as the input value to the next. While `do` syntax works with any monad — not just `IO` — it is most commonly seen when performing `IO` actions. This section is going to talk about why `do` is just sugar and demonstrate what the `join` of `Monad` can do for us. We will be using the `IO Monad` to demonstrate here, but later on we'll see some examples of `do` syntax without `IO`.

To begin, let's look at some correspondences:

```
(*) :: Applicative f => f a -> f b -> f b
```

```
(>>) :: Monad m =>      m a -> m b -> m b
```

For our purposes, `(*)` and `(>>)` are the same thing: sequencing functions, but with two different constraints. They should in all cases do the same thing:

```
Prelude> putStrLn "Hello, " >> putStrLn "World!"
Hello,
World!
Prelude> putStrLn "Hello, " *> putStrLn "World!"
Hello,
World!
```

Not observably different. Good enough for government work!

We can see what `do` syntax looks like after the compiler desugars it for us by manually transforming it ourselves:

```
import Control.Applicative ((*>))
```

```
sequencing :: IO ()
sequencing = do
    putStrLn "blah"
    putStrLn "another thing"
```

```
sequencing' :: IO ()
sequencing' =
    putStrLn "blah" >>
    putStrLn "another thing"
```

```
sequencing'' :: IO ()
sequencing'' =
    putStrLn "blah" *>
    putStrLn "another thing"
```

You should have had the same results for each of the above. We can do the same with the variable binding that `do` syntax includes:

```
binding :: IO ()
binding = do
    name <- getLine
    putStrLn name
```

```
binding' :: IO ()
binding' =
    getLine >>= putStrLn
```

Instead of naming the variable and passing that as an argument to the next function, we just use `>>=` which passes it directly.

### When `fmap` alone isn't enough

Note that if you try to `fmap` `putStrLn` over `getLine`, it won't do anything. Try typing this into your REPL:

```
Prelude> putStrLn <$> getLine
```

You’ve used `getLine`, so when you hit ‘enter’ it should await your input. Type something in, hit ‘enter’ again and see what happens.

Whatever input you gave it didn’t print, although it seems like it should have due to the `putStrLn` being mapped over the `getLine`. We evaluated the `IO` action that requests input, but not the one that prints it. So, what happened?

Well, let’s start with the types. The type of what you just tried to do is this:

```
Prelude> :t putStrLn <$> getLine
putStrLn <$> getLine :: IO (IO ())
```

We’re going to break it down a little bit so that we’ll understand why this didn’t work. First, `getLine` performs `IO` to get a `String`:

```
getLine :: IO String
```

And `putStrLn` takes a `String` argument, performs `IO`, and returns nothing interesting — parents of children with an allowance can sympathize:

```
putStrLn :: String -> IO ()
```

What is the type of `fmap` as it concerns `putStrLn` and `getLine`?

```
-- The type we start with
<$> :: Functor f => (a -> b) -> f a -> f b

-- Our (a -> b) is putStrLn
      (a      -> b   )
putStrLn :: String -> IO ()
```

That `b` gets specialized to the type `IO ()`, which is going to jam another `IO` action *inside* of the `IO` that `getLine` performs. Perhaps this looks familiar from our demonstration of what happens when you use `fmap` to map a function that of `(a -> m b)` instead of just `(a -> b)` — that is what’s happening here. So this is what is happening with our types:

```
f :: Functor f => f String -> f (IO ())
```

```
f x = putStrLn <$> x
```

```
g :: (String -> b) -> IO b
```

```
g x = x <$> getLine
```

```
putStrLn <$> getLine :: IO (IO ())
```

Okay...so, which IO is which, and why does it ask for input but not print what we typed in?

```
-- [1] [2] [3]
```

```
h :: IO (IO ())
```

```
h = putStrLn <$> getLine
```

1. This outermost IO structure represents the effects `getLine` must perform to get you a `String` that the user typed in.
2. This inner IO structure represents the effects that would be performed *if* `putStrLn` was evaluated.
3. The unit here is the unit that `putStrLn` returns.

One of the strengths of Haskell is that we can refer to, compose, and map over effectful computations without performing them or bending over backwards to make that pattern work. For a simpler example of how we can wait to evaluate IO actions (or any computation in general really), consider the following:

```
Prelude> let printOne = putStrLn "1"
Prelude> let printTwo = putStrLn "2"
Prelude> let twoActions = (printOne, printTwo)
Prelude> :t twoActions
twoActions :: (IO (), IO ())
```

With that tuple of two IO actions defined, we can now grab one and evaluate it:

```
Prelude> fst twoActions
1
Prelude> snd twoActions
```

```
2
Prelude> fst twoActions
1
```

Note that we are able to evaluate IO actions multiple times. This will be significant later.

Back to our conundrum of why we can't just `fmap putStrLn` over `getLine`. Perhaps you've already figured out what we need to do. We need to join those two IO layers together. To get what we want, we need the unique thing that Monad offers: `join`. Watch it work:

```
Prelude> import Control.Monad (join)
Prelude> join $ putStrLn <$> getLine
blah
blah
Prelude> :t join $ putStrLn <$> getLine
join $ putStrLn <$> getLine :: IO ()
```

#### MONAD: IT'S GOT WHAT CODERS CRAVE.

What `join` did here is *merge* the effects of `getLine` and `putStrLn` into a single IO action. This merged IO action performs the effects in the "order" determined by the nesting of the IO actions. As it happens, the cleanest way to express "ordering" in a lambda calculus without bolting on something unpleasant is through nesting of expressions or lambdas.

That's right. We still haven't left the lambda calculus behind. Monadic sequencing and `do` syntax seem on the surface to be very far removed from that. But they aren't. As we said, monadic actions are still pure, and the sequencing operations we use here are just ways of nesting lambdas. Now, IO is a bit different, as it does allow for side effects, but since those effects are constrained within the IO type, all the rest of it is still a pure lambda calculus.

Sometimes it is valuable to suspend or otherwise not perform an IO action until some determination is made, so types like `IO (IO ())` aren't necessarily invalid, but you should be aware of what's needed to make this example work.

Let's get back to desugaring `do` syntax with our now-enriched understanding of what monads do for us:

```

bindingAndSequencing :: IO ()
bindingAndSequencing = do
    putStrLn "name pls:"
    name <- getLine
    putStrLn ("y helo thar: " ++ name)

```

```

bindingAndSequencing' :: IO ()
bindingAndSequencing' =
    putStrLn "name pls:" >>
    getLine >>=
    \name -> putStrLn ("y helo thar: " ++ name)

```

As the nesting intensifies, you can see how `do` syntax can make things a bit cleaner and easier to read:

```

twoBinds :: IO ()
twoBinds = do
    putStrLn "name pls:"
    name <- getLine
    putStrLn "age pls:"
    age <- getLine
    putStrLn ("y helo thar: "
        ++ name ++ " who is: "
        ++ age ++ " years old.")

```

```

twoBinds' :: IO ()
twoBinds' =
    putStrLn "name pls:" >>
    getLine >>=
    \name ->
    putStrLn "age pls:" >>
    getLine >>=
    \age ->
    putStrLn ("y helo thar: "
        ++ name ++ " who is: "
        ++ age ++ " years old.")

```



## 18.4 Examples of Monad use

All right, we've seen what is different about Monad and seen a small demonstration of what that does for us. What we need now is to see how monads work in code, with Monads other than IO.

### List

We've been starting off our examples of these typeclasses in use with list examples because they can be quite easy to see and understand. We will keep this section brief, though, as we have more exciting things to show you.

### Specializing the types

This process should be familiar to you by now:

```
(>=) :: Monad m => m a -> (a -> m b) -> m b
(>=) ::           [ ] a -> (a -> [ ] b) -> [ ] b

-- or more syntactically common
(>=) ::           [a] -> (a -> [b]) -> [b]

-- same as pure
return :: Monad m => a -> m a
return ::           a -> [ ] a
return ::           a -> [a]
```

Excellent. It's like `fmap` except the order of arguments is flipped and we can now generate more list (or an empty list) inside of our mapped function. Let's take it for a spin.

### Example of the List Monad in use

Let's start with a function and identify how the parts fit with our monadic types:

```
twiceWhenEven :: [Integer] -> [Integer]
twiceWhenEven xs = do
  x <- xs
  if even x
    then [x*x, x*x]
    else [x*x]
```

The `x <- xs` line binds individual values out of the list input, like a list comprehension, giving us an *a*. The `if-then-else` is our `a -> m b`. It takes the individual *a* values that have been bound out of our `m a` and can generate more values, thereby increasing the size of the list.

The `m a` that is our first input will be the argument we pass to it below:

```
Prelude> twiceWhenEven [1..3]
[1,4,4,9]
```

Now try this:

```
twiceWhenEven :: [Integer] -> [Integer]
twiceWhenEven xs = do
  x <- xs
  if even x
    then [x*x, x*x]
    else []
```

And try giving it the same input as above (for easy comparison). Was the result what you expected? Keep playing around with this, forming hypotheses about what will happen and why and testing them in the REPL to develop an intuition for how monads are working on a simple example. The examples in the next sections are longer and more complex.

## Maybe

Now we come to a more exciting demonstration of what we can do with our newfound power.

## Specializing the types

Tis the season for examining the types:

```
-- m ~ Maybe

(>=>) :: Monad m => m a -> (a -> m b) -> m b
(>=>) ::      Maybe a -> (a -> Maybe b) -> Maybe b

-- same as pure
return :: Monad m => a -> m a
return ::      a -> Maybe a
```

There should have been nothing surprising there, so let's get to the meat of the matter.

## Using the Maybe Monad

This example looks like the one from the Applicative chapter, but it's different. We encourage you to compare the two, although we've been explicit about what exactly is happening here. You developed some intuitions above for `do` syntax and the list monad; here we'll be quite explicit about what's happening, and by the time we get to the `Either` demonstration below, it should be clear. Let's get started:

```
data Cow = Cow {
    name    :: String
  , age    :: Int
  , weight :: Int
} deriving (Eq, Show)

noEmpty :: String -> Maybe String
noEmpty "" = Nothing
noEmpty str = Just str

noNegative :: Int -> Maybe Int
noNegative n | n >= 0 = Just n
             | otherwise = Nothing
```

```

-- if Cow's name is Bess, must be under 500
weightCheck :: Cow -> Maybe Cow
weightCheck c =
  let w = weight c
      n = name c
  in if n == "Bess" && w > 499
    then Nothing
    else Just c

mkSphericalCow :: String -> Int -> Int -> Maybe Cow
mkSphericalCow name' age' weight' =
  case noEmpty name' of
    Nothing -> Nothing
    Just nammy ->
      case noNegative age' of
        Nothing -> Nothing
        Just agey ->
          case noNegative weight' of
            Nothing -> Nothing
            Just weighty ->
              weightCheck (Cow nammy agey weighty)

```

```

Prelude> mkSphericalCow "Bess" 5 499
Just (Cow {name = "Bess", age = 5, weight = 499})
Prelude> mkSphericalCow "Bess" 5 500
Nothing

```

First, we'll clean it up with Monad, then we'll see why we can't do this with Applicative:

```

-- Do syntax isn't just for IO.

mkSphericalCow' :: String -> Int -> Int -> Maybe Cow
mkSphericalCow' name' age' weight' = do
  nammy <- noEmpty name'
  agey <- noNegative age'
  weighty <- noNegative weight'
  weightCheck (Cow nammy agey weighty)

```

And this works as expected.

```
Prelude> mkSphericalCow' "Bess" 5 500
Nothing
Prelude> mkSphericalCow' "Bess" 5 499
Just (Cow {name = "Bess", age = 5, weight = 499})
```

Can we write it with (`>=>`)? Sure!

*-- Stack up dem nested lambdas.*

```
mkSphericalCow' :: String -> Int -> Int -> Maybe Cow
mkSphericalCow' name' age' weight' =
  noEmpty name' >=>
  \ nammy ->
    noNegative age' >=>
    \ agey ->
      noNegative weight' >=>
      \ weighty ->
        weightCheck (Cow nammy agey weighty)
```

So why can't we do this with Applicative? Because our `weightCheck` function depends on the prior existence of a `Cow` value and returns more monadic structure in its return type `Maybe Cow`.

If your `do` syntax looks like this:

```
doSomething = do
  a <- f
  b <- g
  c <- h
  pure (a, b, c)
```

You can rewrite it using Applicative. On the other hand, if you have something like this:

```
doSomething' n = do
  a <- f n
  b <- g a
  c <- h c
  pure (a, b, c)
```

You're going to need Monad because `g` and `h` are producing monadic structure based on values that can only be obtained by depending on values generated from monadic structure. You'll need `join` to crunch the nesting of monadic structure back down. If you don't believe us, try translating `doSomething'` to Applicative: so no resorting to `>=>` or `join`.

Here's some code to kick that around:

```
f :: Integer -> Maybe Integer
f 0 = Nothing
f n = Just n

g :: Integer -> Maybe Integer
g i =
  if even i
  then Just (i + 1)
  else Nothing

h :: Integer -> Maybe String
h i = Just ("10191" ++ show i)

doSomething' n = do
  a <- f n
  b <- g a
  c <- h b
  pure (a, b, c)
```

The long and short of it:

1. With the Maybe Applicative, each Maybe computation fails or succeeds independently of each other. You're just lifting functions that are also Just or Nothing over Maybe values.
2. With the Maybe Monad, computations contributing to the final result can choose to return Nothing based on "previous" computations.

## Exploding a spherical cow

We said we'd be quite explicit about what's happening in the above, so let's do this thing. Let's get in the guts of this code and how binding over `Maybe` values works.

For once, this example instance is what's actually in GHC's base library at time of writing:

```
instance Monad Maybe where
    return x = Just x

    (Just x) >>= k      = k x
    Nothing  >>= _      = Nothing

mkSphericalCow' :: String -> Int -> Int -> Maybe Cow
mkSphericalCow' name' age' weight' =
    noEmpty name' >>=
    \ nammy ->
        noNegative age' >>=
        \ agey ->
            noNegative weight' >>=
            \ weighty ->
                weightCheck (Cow nammy agey weighty)
```

And what happens if we pass it some arguments?

*-- Proceeding outermost to innermost.*

```
mkSphericalCow' "Bess" 5 499 =
  noEmpty "Bess" >=>
  \ nammy ->
    noNegative 5 >=>
    \ agey ->
      noNegative 499 >=>
      \ weighty ->
        weightCheck (Cow nammy agey weighty)

-- "Bess" != "", so skipping this pattern
-- noEmpty "" = Nothing
noEmpty "Bess" = Just "Bess"
```

So we produced the value `Just "Bess"`; however, `nammy` will be just the string and not also the `Maybe` structure because `>=>` passes *a* to the function it binds over the monadic value, not *ma*. Here we'll use the `Maybe Monad` instance to examine why:

```
instance Monad Maybe where
```

```
  return x = Just x
```

```
(Just x) >=> k      = k x
```

```
Nothing  >=> _      = Nothing
```

```
noEmpty "Bess" >=> \ nammy -> (rest of the computation)
```

*-- noEmpty "Bess" evaluated to Just "Bess"*

*-- So the first Just case matches.*

```
(Just "Bess") >=> \ nammy -> ...
```

```
(Just x) >=> k      = k x
```

*-- k is \ nammy et al.*

*-- x is "Bess" by itself.*

So `nammy` is bound to `"Bess"`, and the following is the whole *k*:



```

\ "Bess" ->
  noNegative 5 >=>=
\ agey ->
  noNegative 499 >=>=
\ weighty ->
  weightCheck (Cow nammy agey weighty)

```

Then how does the age check go?

```

mkSphericalCow'' "Bess" 5 499 =
  noEmpty "Bess" >=>=
\ "Bess" ->
  noNegative 5 >=>=
\ agey ->
  noNegative 499 >=>=
\ weighty ->
  weightCheck (Cow "Bess" agey weighty)

```

```

-- 5 >= 0 is true, so we get Just 5
noNegative 5 | 5 >= 0 = Just 5
              | otherwise = Nothing

```

Again, although `noNegative` returns `Just 5`, the `bind` function will pass `5` on:

```

mkSphericalCow'' "Bess" 5 499 =
  noEmpty "Bess" >=>=
\ "Bess" ->
  noNegative 5 >=>=
\ 5 ->
  noNegative 499 >=>=
\ weighty ->
  weightCheck (Cow "Bess" 5 weighty)

```

```

-- 499 >= 0 is true, so we get Just 499
noNegative 499 | 499 >= 0 = Just 499
                | otherwise = Nothing

```

Passing 499 on:

```

mkSphericalCow'' "Bess" 5 499 =
  noEmpty "Bess" >=>=
  \ "Bess" ->
    noNegative 5 >=>=
    \ 5 ->
      noNegative 499 >=>=
      \ 499 ->
        weightCheck (Cow "Bess" 5 499)

weightCheck (Cow "Bess" 5 499) =
  let 499 = weight (Cow "Bess" 5 499)
      "Bess" = name (Cow "Bess" 5 499)

  -- fyi, 499 > 499 is False.
  in if "Bess" == "Bess" && 499 > 499
      then Nothing
      else Just (Cow "Bess" 5 499)

```

So in the end, we return `Just (Cow "Bess" 5 499)`.

### Fail fast, like an overfunded startup

But what if we had failed? We'll dissect the following computation:

```

Prelude> mkSphericalCow'' "" 5 499
Nothing

```

And how do the guts fall when we explode this poor bovine?

```

mkSphericalCow' ' "" 5 499 =
  noEmpty "" >=>
  \ nammy ->
    noNegative 5 >=>
    \ agey ->
      noNegative 499 >=>
      \ weighty ->
        weightCheck (Cow nammy agey weighty)

```

```

-- "" == "", so we get the Nothing case

```

```

noEmpty "" = Nothing

```

```

-- noEmpty str = Just str

```

After we've evaluated `noEmpty ""` and gotten a `Nothing` value, we use `(>=>)`. How does that go?

```

instance Monad Maybe where

```

```

  return x = Just x

```

```

  (Just x) >=> k      = k x

```

```

  Nothing >=> _       = Nothing

```

```

-- noEmpty "" := Nothing

```

```

Nothing >=>

```

```

  \ nammy ->

```

```

-- Just case doesn't match, so skip it.

```

```

-- (Just x) >=> k      = k x

```

```

-- This is what we're doing.

```

```

Nothing >=> _         = Nothing

```

So it turns out that the `bind` function will drop the entire rest of the computation on the floor the moment *any* of the functions participating in the `Maybe Monad` actions produce a `Nothing` value:

```

mkSphericalCow' ' "" 5 499 =

```

```

  Nothing >=> -- NOPE.

```

In fact, you can demonstrate to yourself that that stuff never gets used with `bottom`, but does with a `Just` value:

```
Prelude> Nothing >=> undefined
Nothing
Prelude> Just 1 >=> undefined
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```

But why do we use the `Maybe` Applicative and `Monad`? Because this:

```
mkSphericalCow' :: String -> Int -> Int -> Maybe Cow
mkSphericalCow' name' age' weight' = do
  nammy <- noEmpty name'
  agey <- noNegative age'
  weighty <- noNegative weight'
  weightCheck (Cow nammy agey weighty)
```

is a lot nicer than case matching the `Nothing` case over and over just so we can say `Nothing -> Nothing` a million times. Life is too short for repetition when computers *love* taking care of repetition.

## Either

Whew. Let's all just be thankful that cow was full of `Maybe` values and not tripe. Moving along, we're going to demonstrate use of the `Either` `Monad`, step back a bit, and let your intuitions and what you learned about `Maybe` guide you through.

## Specializing the types

As always, we present the types:

```
-- m ~ Either e
(>=>) :: Monad m => m a -> (a -> m b) -> m b
(>=>) :: Either e a -> (a -> Either e b) -> Either e b

-- same as pure
return :: Monad m => a -> m a
return :: a -> Either e a
```

Why do we keep doing this? To remind you that the types always show you the way, once you've figured them out.

### Using the Either Monad

Use what you know to go carefully through this code and follow the types. First, we define our datatypes:

```
module EitherMonad where

-- years ago
type Founded = Int
-- number of programmers
type Coders = Int

data SoftwareShop =
  Shop {
    founded      :: Founded
    , programmers :: Coders
  } deriving (Eq, Show)

data FoundedError =
  NegativeYears Founded
  | TooManyYears Founded
  | NegativeCoders Coders
  | TooManyCoders Coders
  | TooManyCodersForYears Founded Coders
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

Let's bring some functions now:

```
validateFounded :: Int -> Either FoundedError Founded
validateFounded n
  | n < 0      = Left $ NegativeYears n
  | n > 500    = Left $ TooManyYears n
  | otherwise = Right n
```

```
-- Tho, many programmers *are* negative.
validateCoders :: Int -> Either FoundedError Coders
validateCoders n
  | n < 0      = Left $ NegativeCoders n
  | n > 5000   = Left $ TooManyCoders n
  | otherwise  = Right n

mkSoftware :: Int -> Int -> Either FoundedError SoftwareShop
mkSoftware years coders = do
  founded      <- validateFounded years
  programmers  <- validateCoders coders
  if programmers > div founded 10
    then Left $ TooManyCodersForYears founded programmers
    else Right $ Shop founded programmers
```

Note that `Either` always short-circuits on the *first* thing to have failed. It *must* because in the `Monad`, later values can depend on previous ones:

```
Prelude> mkSoftware 0 0
Right (Shop {founded = 0, programmers = 0})

Prelude> mkSoftware (-1) 0
Left (NegativeYears (-1))

Prelude> mkSoftware (-1) (-1)
Left (NegativeYears (-1))

Prelude> mkSoftware 0 (-1)
Left (NegativeCoders (-1))

Prelude> mkSoftware 500 0
Right (Shop {founded = 500, programmers = 0})

Prelude> mkSoftware 501 0
Left (TooManyYears 501)

Prelude> mkSoftware 501 501
Left (TooManyYears 501)
```

```
Prelude> mkSoftware 100 5001
Left (TooManyCoders 5001)
```

```
Prelude> mkSoftware 0 500
Left (TooManyCodersForYears 0 500)
```

So, there is no Monad for Validation. Applicative and Monad instances must have the same behavior. This is usually expressed in the form:

```
import Control.Monad (ap)
```

```
(<*>) == ap
```

This is a way of saying the Applicative apply for a type must not change behavior if derived from the Monad instance's bind operation.

```
-- Keeping in mind
(<*>) :: Applicative f => f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
ap :: Monad m => m (a -> b) -> m a -> m b
```

Then deriving Applicative (<\*>) from the stronger instance:

```
ap :: (Monad m) => m (a -> b) -> m a -> m b
ap m m' = do
  x <- m
  x' <- m'
  return (x x')
```

The problem is you can't make a Monad for Validation that accumulates the errors like the Applicative does. Instead, any Monad instance for Validation would be identical to the Either's monad instance.

### Short Exercise: Either Monad

Implement the Either Monad.

```

data Sum a b =
    First a
  | Second b
  deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Functor (Sum a) where
    fmap = undefined

instance Applicative (Sum a) where
    pure = undefined
    (<*>) = undefined

instance Monad (Sum a) where
    return = pure
    (>=) = undefined

```

## 18.5 Monad laws

The `Monad` typeclass has laws, just as the other typeclasses do. These laws exist, as with all the other typeclass laws, to ensure that your code does nothing surprising or harmful. If the `Monad` instance you write for your type abides by these laws, then your monads should work as you want them to. To write your own instance, you only have to define a `>=` operation, but you want your binding to be as predictable as possible.

### Identity laws

`Monad` has two identity laws:

```

-- right identity
m >= return    = m

-- left identity
return x >= f  = f x

```

Basically both of these laws are saying that `return` should be neutral and not perform any computation. We'll line them up with the type of `>=` to clarify what's happening:



```
(>=>) :: Monad m => m a -> (a -> m b) -> m b
--           [1]           [2]           [3]
```

First, right identity:

```
return :: a -> m a
```

```
m    >=> return    = m
-- [1]           [2]           [3]
```

The  $m$  does represent an  $m\ a$  and  $m\ b$ , respectively, so the structure is there even if it's not apparent from the way the law is written.

And left identity:

```
-- applying return to x gives us an
-- m a value to start
```

```
return x >=> f    = f x
--   [1]   [2]   [3]
```

Just like pure, return shouldn't change any of the behavior of the rest of the function; it is only there to put things into structure when we need to, and the existence of the structure should not affect the computation.

## Associativity

The law of associativity is not so different from other laws of associativity we have seen. It does look a bit different because of the nature of  $>=>$ :

```
(m >=> f) >=> g = m >=> (\x -> f x >=> g)
```

Regrouping the functions should not have any impact on the final result, same as the associativity of `Monoid`. The syntax there, in which, for the right side of the equals sign, we had to pass in an  $x$  argument might seem confusing at first. So, let's look at it more carefully.

This side looks the way we expect it to:

```
(m >=> f) >=> g
```

But remember that `bind` allows the result value of one function to be passed as input to the next, like function application but with our value at the left and successive functions proceeding to the right. Remember this code?

```
getLine >>= putStrLn
```

The IO for `getLine` is evaluated first, then `putStrLn` is passed the input string that resulted from running `getLine`'s effects. This left-to-right is partly down to the history of IO in Haskell — it's so the "order" of the code reads top to bottom. We'll explain this more later in the book.

When we reassociate them, we need to apply  $f$  so that  $g$  has an input value of type  $m\ a$  to start the whole thing off. So, we pass in the argument  $x$  via an anonymous function:

```
m >>= (\x -> f x >>= g)
```

And bada bing, now nothing can slow this roll.

## We're doing that thing again

Out of mercy, we'll be using *checkers* (not Nixon's dog) again. The argument the monad `TestBatch` wants is identical to the `Applicative`, a tuple of three value types embedded in the structural type.

```
Prelude> quickBatch (monad [(1, 2, 3)])
```

```
monad laws:
```

```
left identity: +++ OK, passed 500 tests.
```

```
right identity: +++ OK, passed 500 tests.
```

```
associativity:  +++ OK, passed 500 tests.
```

Going forward we'll be using this to validate `Monad` instances. Let's write a bad `Monad` to see what it can catch for us.

## Bad Monads and their denizens

We're going to write an invalid `Monad` (and `Functor`). You could pretend it's `Identity` with an integer thrown in which gets incremented on each `fmap` or `bind`.

```

module BadMonad where

import Test.QuickCheck
import Test.QuickCheck.Checkers
import Test.QuickCheck.Classes

data CountMe a =
    CountMe Integer a
    deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Functor CountMe where
    fmap f (CountMe i a) = CountMe (i + 1) (f a)

instance Applicative CountMe where
    pure = CountMe 0
    CountMe n f <*> CountMe n' a = CountMe (n + n') (f a)

instance Monad CountMe where
    return = pure

    CountMe n a >=> f =
        let CountMe _ b = f a
        in CountMe (n + 1) b

instance Arbitrary a => Arbitrary (CountMe a) where
    arbitrary = CountMe <$> arbitrary <*> arbitrary

instance Eq a => EqProp (CountMe a) where (==) = eq

main = do
    let trigger = undefined :: CountMe (Int, String, Int)
    quickBatch $ functor trigger
    quickBatch $ applicative trigger
    quickBatch $ monad trigger

```

When we run the tests, the Functor and Monad will fail top to bottom. The Applicative technically only failed the laws because Functor did; in the Applicative instance we were using a proper monoid-of-structure.

```
Prelude> main
```

```
functor:
  identity: *** Failed! Falsifiable (after 1 test):
CountMe 0 0
  compose: *** Failed! Falsifiable (after 1 test):
<function>
<function>
CountMe 0 0
```

```
applicative:
  identity:    +++ OK, passed 500 tests.
  composition: +++ OK, passed 500 tests.
  homomorphism: +++ OK, passed 500 tests.
  interchange: +++ OK, passed 500 tests.
  functor:    *** Failed! Falsifiable (after 1 test):
<function>
CountMe 0 0
```

```
monad laws:
  left identity: *** Failed! Falsifiable (after 1 test):
<function>
0
  right identity: *** Failed! Falsifiable (after 1 test):
CountMe 0 0
  associativity: *** Failed! Falsifiable (after 1 test):
CountMe 0 0
```

We can actually reapply the weird, broken increment semantics and get a broken Applicative as well.

```
instance Applicative CountMe where
  pure = CountMe 0
  CountMe n f <*> CountMe _ a = CountMe (n + 1) (f a)
```

Now it's *all* broken.

```
applicative:
  identity:
```

```

    *** Failed! Falsifiable (after 1 test):
CountMe 0 0
    composition:
    *** Failed! Falsifiable (after 1 test):
CountMe 0 <function>
CountMe 0 <function>
CountMe 0 0
    homomorphism:
    *** Failed! Falsifiable (after 1 test):
<function>
0
    interchange:
    *** Failed! Falsifiable (after 3 tests):
CountMe (-1) <function>
0

```

Understanding what makes sense structurally for a Functor, Applicative, and Monoid can tell you what is potentially an invalid instance before you've written any code. Incidentally, even if you fix the Functor and Applicative instances, there's no way to fix the Monad.

```

instance Functor CountMe where
    fmap f (CountMe i a) = CountMe i (f a)

```

```

instance Applicative CountMe where
    pure = CountMe 0
    CountMe n f <*> CountMe n' a =
        CountMe (n + n') (f a)

```

```

instance Monad CountMe where
    return = pure

```

```

CountMe _ a >>= f = f a

```

This'll pass as a valid Functor and Applicative, but it's not a valid Monad. The problem is that while pure setting the integer value to zero is fine for the purposes of the Applicative, but it violates the right identity law of Monad.

```
Prelude> CountMe 2 "blah" >=> return
CountMe 0 "blah"
```

So our “pure” is too opinionated. Still a valid Applicative and Functor, but what if pure didn’t agree with the Monoid of the structure? The following will pass the Functor laws but it isn’t a valid Applicative.

```
instance Functor CountMe where
  fmap f (CountMe i a) = CountMe i (f a)
```

```
instance Applicative CountMe where
  pure = CountMe 1
  CountMe n f <*> CountMe n' a =
    CountMe (n + n') (f a)
```

As it happens, if we just change the Monoid-of-structure to match the identity such that we have multiplication and the number one, it’s a valid Applicative again.

```
instance Applicative CountMe where
  pure = CountMe 0
  CountMe n f <*> CountMe n' a =
    CountMe (n + n') (f a)
```

As you gain experience with these structures, you’ll learn to identify what might have a valid Applicative but no valid Monad instance. But how do we fix the Monad instance? By fixing the underlying Monoid!

```
instance Monad CountMe where
  return = pure
```

```
CountMe n a >=> f =
  let CountMe n' b = f a
  in CountMe (n + n') b
```

Once our Monad instance starts summing the counts like the Applicative did, it works fine! It can be easy at times to accidentally write an invalid Monad that typechecks, so it’s important to

use QuickCheck to validate your Monoid, Functor, Applicative, and Monad instances.

## 18.6 Application and composition

What we’ve seen so far has been primarily about function application. We probably weren’t thinking too much about the relationship between function application and composition because with Functor and Applicative it hadn’t mattered much. Both concerned functions that looked like the usual  $(a \rightarrow b)$  arrangement, so composition “just worked” and that this was true was guaranteed by the laws of those typeclasses:

```
fmap id = id

-- guarantees

fmap f . fmap g = fmap (f . g)
```

Which means composition under functors just works:

```
Prelude> fmap ((+1) . (+2)) [1..5]
[4,5,6,7,8]
Prelude> fmap (+1) . fmap (+2) $ [1..5]
[4,5,6,7,8]
```

With Monad the situation seems less neat at first. Let’s attempt to define composition for monadic functions in a simple way:

```
mcomp :: Monad m =>
    (b -> m c)
  -> (a -> m b)
  -> a -> m c
mcomp f g a = f (g a)
```

If we try to load this, we’ll get an error like this:

```
Couldn't match expected type 'b'
  with actual type 'm b'
'b' is a rigid type variable bound
```

```

by the type signature for
mcomp :: Monad m =>
    (b -> m c)
  -> (a -> m b)
  -> a -> m c
at kleisli.hs:21:9
Relevant bindings include
  g :: a -> m b (bound at kleisli.hs:22:8)
  f :: b -> m c (bound at kleisli.hs:22:6)
  mcomp :: (b -> m c)
    -> (a -> m b)
    -> a -> m c
    (bound at kleisli.hs:22:1)
In the first argument of 'f', namely '(g a)'
In the expression: f (g a)
Failed, modules loaded: none.

```

Well, that didn't work. That error message is telling us that  $f$  is expecting a  $b$  for its first argument, but  $g$  is passing an  $m\ b$  to  $f$ . So, how do we apply a function in the presence of some context that we want to ignore? We use `fmap`. That's going to give us an  $m\ (m\ c)$  instead of an  $m\ c$ , so we'll want to join those two monadic structures.

```

mcomp :: Monad m =>
    (b -> m c)
  -> (a -> m b)
  -> a -> m c
mcomp f g a = join (f <$> (g a))

```

But using `join` and `fmap` together means we can go ahead and just use `(>>=)`.

```

mcomp'' :: Monad m =>
    (b -> m c)
  -> (a -> m b)
  -> a -> m c
mcomp'' f g a = g a >>= f

```

You don't need to write anything special to make monadic functions compose (as long as the monadic contexts are the same `Monad`)



because Haskell has it covered: what you want is *Kleisli composition*. Don't sweat the strange name; it's not as weird as it sounds. As we saw above, what we need is function composition written in terms of `>=>` to allow us to deal with the extra structure, and that's what the Kleisli fish gives us.

Let's remind ourselves of the types of ordinary function composition and `>=>`:

```
(.) :: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> a -> c
```

```
(>=>) :: Monad m => m a -> (a -> m b) -> m b
```

To get Kleisli composition off the ground, we have to flip some arguments around to make the types work:

```
import Control.Monad
```

```
-- notice the order is flipped to match >=>
```

```
(>=>) :: Monad m => (a -> m b) -> (b -> m c) -> a -> m c
```

See any similarities to something you know yet?

```
(>=>) :: Monad m => (a -> m b) -> (b -> m c) -> a -> m c
flip (.) :: (a -> b) -> (b -> c) -> a -> c
```

It's function composition with monadic structure hanging off the functions we're composing. Let's see an example!

```
import Control.Monad ((>=>))
```

```
sayHi :: String -> IO String
```

```
sayHi greeting = do
    putStrLn greeting
    getLine
```

```
readM :: Read a => String -> IO a
```

```
readM = return . read
```

```
getAge :: String -> IO Int
```

```
getAge = sayHi >=> readM
```

```
askForAge :: IO Int
```

```
askForAge = getAge "Hello! How old are you? "
```

We used `return` composed with `read` to turn it into something that provides monadic structure after being bound over the output of `sayHi`. We needed the `kleisli` composition operator to stitch `sayHi` and `readM` together:

```
sayHi :: String -> IO String
```

```
readM :: Read a => String -> IO a
```

```
--  [1]  [2]  [3]          [4]          [5] [6]  [7]          [8] [9]
    (a -> m   b)    -> (b    -> m   c) -> a ->    m   c
String -> IO String  String -> IO  a   String IO  a
```

1. The first type is the type of the input to `sayHi`, `String`.
2. The `IO` that `sayHi` performs in order to present a greeting and receive input.
3. The `String` input from the user that `sayHi` returns.
4. The `String` that `readM` expects as an argument and which `sayHi` will produce.
5. The `IO` `readM` returns into. Note that `return/pure` produce `IO` values which perform no effects.

6. The `Int` that `readM` returns.
7. The original, initial `String` input `sayHi` expects so it knows how to greet the user and ask for their age.
8. The final combined `IO` action which performs all effects necessary to produce the final result.
9. The value inside of the final `IO` action; in this case, this is the `Int` value that `readM` returned.

## 18.7 Chapter Exercises

Write `Monad` instances for the following types. Use the `QuickCheck` properties we showed you to validate your instances.

1. Welcome to the `Nope` Monad, where nothing happens and nobody cares.

```
data Nope a =  
  NopeDotJpg  
  
-- We're serious. Write it anyway.
```

2. `data PhhhbbtttEither b a =`  
    `Left a`  
    `| Right b`

3. Write a `Monad` instance for `Identity`.

```

newtype Identity a = Identity a
    deriving (Eq, Ord, Show)

instance Functor Identity where
    fmap = undefined

instance Applicative Identity where
    pure = undefined
    (<*>) = undefined

instance Monad Identity where
    return = pure
    (>=) = undefined

```

4. This one should be easier than the Applicative instance was. Remember to use the Functor that Monad requires, then see where the chips fall.

```

data List a =
    Nil
  | Cons a (List a)

```

Write the following functions using the methods provided by Monad and Functor. Using stuff like identity and composition are fine, but it has to typecheck with types provided.

1. `j :: Monad m => m (m a) -> m a`

Expecting the following behavior:

```

Prelude> j [[1, 2], [], [3]]
[1,2,3]
Prelude> j (Just (Just 1))
Just 1
Prelude> j (Just Nothing)
Nothing
Prelude> j Nothing
Nothing

```

2. `l1 :: Monad m => (a -> b) -> m a -> m b`

3. `l2 :: Monad m => (a -> b -> c) -> m a -> m b -> m c`

4. `a :: Monad m => m a -> m (a -> b) -> m b`

5. You'll need recursion for this one.

`meh :: Monad m => [a] -> (a -> m b) -> m [b]`

6. Hint: reuse “meh”

`flipType :: (Monad m) => [m a] -> m [a]`

## 18.8 Definition

1. A *monad* is a typeclass reifying an abstraction that is commonly used in Haskell. Instead of an ordinary function of type  $a$  to  $b$ , you're functorially applying a function which produces more structure itself and using `join` to reduce the nested structure that results.

```
fmap :: (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

```
(<*>) :: f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

```
(=<<) :: (a -> f b) -> f a -> f b
```

2. A *monadic function* is one which generates more structure after having been lifted over monadic structure. Contrast the function arguments to `fmap` and `(>=)` in:

```
fmap :: (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

```
(>=) :: m a -> (a -> m b) -> m b
```

The significant difference is that the result is  $m\ b$  and requires joining the result after lifting the function over  $m$ . What does this mean? That depends on the Monad instance.

The distinction can be seen with ordinary function composition and kleisli composition as well:

```
(.) :: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> a -> c
```

```
(>=>) :: Monad m => (a -> m b) -> (b -> m c) -> a -> m c
```

3. *bind* is unfortunately a somewhat overloaded term. You first saw it used early in the book with respect to binding variables to values, such as with the following:

```
let x = 2 in x + 2
```

Where  $x$  is a variable bound to 2. However, when we're talking about a Monad instance typically `bind` will refer to having used

`>>=` to lift a monadic function over the structure. The distinction being:

```
-- lifting (a -> b) over f in f a
fmap :: (a -> b) -> f a -> f b

-- binding (a -> m b) over m in m a
(>>=) :: m a -> (a -> m b) -> m b
```

You’ll sometimes see us talk about the use of the bind `do`-notation `<-` or `(>>=)` as “binding over.” When we do, we just mean that we lifted a monadic function and we’ll eventually join or smush the structure back down when we’re done monkeying around in the Monad. *Don’t panic* if we’re a little casual about describing the use of `<-` as having bound over/out some *a* out of `m a`.

## 18.9 Follow-up resources

1. What a Monad is not  
[https://wiki.haskell.org/What\\_a\\_Monad\\_is\\_not](https://wiki.haskell.org/What_a_Monad_is_not)
2. Gabriel Gonzalez; How to desugar Haskell code  
<http://www.haskellforall.com/2014/10/how-to-desugar-haskell-code.html>
3. Stephen Diehl; What I wish I knew when Learning Haskell  
<http://dev.stephendiehl.com/hask/#monads>
4. Stephen Diehl; Monads Made Difficult  
<http://www.stephendiehl.com/posts/monads.html>
5. Brent Yorgey; Typeclassopedia  
<https://wiki.haskell.org/Typeclassopedia>

## Chapter 19

# Applying structure

I often repeat repeat myself, I  
often repeat repeat. I don't  
don't know why know why, I  
simply know that I I I am am  
inclined to say to say a lot a  
lot this way this way- I often  
repeat repeat myself, I often  
repeat repeat.

---

Jack Prelutsky



## 19.1 Applied structure

We thought you'd like to see `Monoid`, `Functor`, `Applicative`, and `Monad` *in the wild* as it were. Since we'd like to finish this book before we have grandchildren, this will *not* be accompanied by the painstaking explanations and exercise regime you've experienced up to this point. Don't understand something? Figure it out! We'll do our best to leave a trail of breadcrumbs for you to follow up on the code we show you. Consider this a breezy survey of "How Haskellers write code when they think no-one is looking" and a pleasant break from your regularly scheduled exercises. The code demonstrated will not always include all necessary context to make it run, so don't expect to be able to load the snippets in GHCi and have them work.

If you don't have a lot of previous programming experience and some of the applications are difficult for you to follow, you might prefer to return to this chapter at a later time, once you start trying to read and use Haskell libraries for practical projects.

## 19.2 Monoid

Monoids are everywhere once you recognize the pattern and start looking for them, but we've tried to choose a few good examples to illustrate typical use-cases.

### Templating content in Scotty

Here the Scotty web framework's Hello World example uses `mconcat` to inject the parameter "word" into the HTML page returned:

```
{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}
import Web.Scotty

import Data.Monoid (mconcat)

main = scotty 3000 $ do
  get "/:word" $ do
    beam <- param "word"
    html
    (mconcat
     [ "<h1>Scotty, "
     , beam
     , " me up!</h1>"])
```

If you're interested in following up on this example, you can find this example and a tutorial on the Scotty Github repository.

### Concatenating connection parameters

The next example is from Aditya Bhargava's "Making A Website With Haskell," a blog post that walks you through several steps for, well, making a simple website in Haskell. It also uses the Scotty web framework.

Here we're using `foldr` and `Monoid` to concatenate connection parameters for connecting to the database:

```
runDb :: SqlPersist (ResourceT IO) a -> IO a
runDb query = do
  params <- dbConnParams
  let connStr = foldr (\(k,v) t ->
    t <> (encodeUtf8 $ k <> "=" <> v <> " ")) "" params
  runResourceT . withPostgresqlConn connStr $ runSqlConn query
```

If you're interested in following up on this, this blog post is one of many that shows you step by step how to use *Scotty*, although many of them breeze through each step without a great deal of explanation. It will be easier to understand *Scotty* in detail once you've worked through monad transformers, but if you'd like to start playing around with some basic projects, you may want to try them out.

## Concatenating key configurations

The next example is going to be a bit meatier than the two previous ones.

XMonad is a windowing system for X11 written in Haskell. The configuration language is Haskell — the binary that runs your WM is compiled from your personal configuration. The following is an example of using `mappend` to combine the default configuration's key mappings and a modification of those keys:

```
import XMonad
import XMonad.Actions.Volume
import Data.Map.Lazy (fromList)
import Data.Monoid (mappend)

main = do
  xmonad defaultConfig { keys =
    \c -> fromList [
      ((0, xK_F6), lowerVolume 4 >> return ()),
      ((0, xK_F7), raiseVolume 4 >> return ()),
      `mappend` keys defaultConfig
    ]
  }
```

The type of `keys` is a function:

```
keys :: !(XConfig Layout -> Map (ButtonMask, KeySym) (X ()))
```

You don't need to get too excited about the exclamation point right now; it's the syntax for a nifty thing called a *strictness annotation*, which makes a field in a product strict. That is, you won't be able to construct the record or product that contains the value without also forcing that field to weak-head normal form. We'll explain this in more detail later in the book.

OK, so the gist of the `main` function above is that it allows your keymapping to be based on the current configuration of your environment. Whenever you type a key, XMonad will pass the current config to your `keys` function in order to determine what (if any) action it should take based on that. We're using the `Monoid` here to add

new keyboard shortcuts for lowering and raising the volume with F6 and F7. The Monoid of the keys functions is combining all of the key maps each function produces when applied to the XConfig to produce a final canonical key map.

Say what?

This is a Monoid instance we hadn't covered in the Monoid chapter, so let's take a look at it now:

```
instance Monoid b => Monoid (a -> b) -- Defined in 'GHC.Base'
```

This, friends, is the Monoid of functions.

But how does it work? First, let's set up some very trivial functions for demonstration:

```
Prelude> import Data.Monoid
Prelude> let f = const (Sum 1)
Prelude> let g = const (Sum 2)
Prelude> f 9001
Sum {getSum = 1}
Prelude> g 9001
Sum {getSum = 2}
```

Query the types of those functions and see how you think they will match up to the Monoid instance above.

We know that whatever arguments we give to *f* and *g*, they will always return their first arguments, which are Sum monoids. So if we mappend *f* and *g*, they're going to ignore whatever argument we tried to apply them to and use the Monoid to combine the results:

```
Prelude> (f <> g) 9001
Sum {getSum = 3}
```

So this monoid instance allows to mappend the results of two function applications:

```
(a -> b) <> (a -> b)
```

Just as long as the *b* has a Monoid instance.

We're going to offer a few more examples that will get you closer to what the particular use of mappend in the Xmonad example is doing. We mentioned Data.Map back in the Testing chapter. It gives us ordered pairs of keys and values:

```

Prelude> import qualified Data.Map as M
Prelude M> :t M.fromList
M.fromList :: Ord k => [(k, a)] -> Map k a

Prelude M> let f = M.fromList [('a', 1)]
Prelude M> let g = M.fromList [('b', 2)]
Prelude M> :t f
f :: Num a => Map Char a
Prelude M> import Data.Monoid
Prelude M Data.Monoid> f <> g
fromList [('a',1),('b',2)]
Prelude M Data.Monoid> :t (f <> g)
(f <> g) :: Num a => Map Char a

Prelude M Data.Monoid> mappend f g
fromList [('a',1),('b',2)]
Prelude M Data.Monoid> f `mappend` g
fromList [('a',1),('b',2)]

-- but note what happens here:
Prelude> M.fromList [('a', 1)] <> M.fromList [('a', 2)]
fromList [('a',1)]

```

So, returning to the Xmonad configuration we started with. The `keys` field is a function which, given an `XConfig`, produces a keymapping. It uses the monoid of functions to combine the pre-existing function that generates the keymap to produce as many maps as you have mappended functions, then combine all the key maps into one.

This part:

```
>> return ()
```

says that the key assignment is performing some effects and only performing some effects. Functions have to reduce to some result, but sometimes their only purpose is to perform some effects and you don't want to do anything with the “result” of evaluating the terms.

As we've said and other people have noted as well, monoids are *everywhere*, not just in Haskell but in all of programming.

### 19.3 Functor

There's a reason we chose that Michael Neale quotation for the Functor chapter epigraph: lifting really is the cheat mode. `fmap` is ubiquitous in Haskell, for all sorts of applications, but we've picked a couple that we found especially demonstrative of why it's so handy.

#### Lifting over IO

Here we're taking a function that doesn't perform IO, `addUTCTime`, partially applying it to the offset we're going to add to the second argument, then mapping it over the IO action that gets us the current time:

```
import Data.Time.Clock

offsetCurrentTime :: NominalDiffTime -> IO UTCTime
offsetCurrentTime offset =
  fmap (addUTCTime (offset * 24 * 3600)) $
    getCurrentTime
```

Context for the above:

1. `NominalDiffTime` is a newtype of `Pico` and has a `Num` instance, that's why the arithmetic works.

```
addUTCTime :: NominalDiffTime -> UTCTime -> UTCTime
```

2. `getCurrentTime` :: `IO UTCTime`

3. `fmap`'s type got specialized.

```
fmap :: (UTCTime -> UTCTime) -> IO UTCTime -> IO UTCTime
```

Here we're lifting some data conversion stuff over the fact that the UUID library has to touch an outside resource (random number generation) to give us a random identifier. The UUID library used is named *uuid* on Hackage. The `Text` package used is named `text`:

```

import           Data.Text (Text)
import qualified Data.Text as T
import qualified Data.UUID as UUID
import qualified Data.UUID.V4 as UUIDv4

textUuid :: IO Text
textUuid =
    fmap (T.pack . UUID.toString) UUIDv4.nextRandom

1. nextRandom :: IO UUID

2. toString :: UUID -> String

3. pack :: String -> Text

4. fmap :: (UUID -> Text) -> IO UUID -> IO Text

```

## Lifting over web app monads

Frequently when you write web applications, you'll have a custom datatype to describe the web application which is also a Monad. It's a Monad because your "app context" will have a type parameter to describe what result was produced in the course of a running web application. Often these types will abstract out the availability of a request or other configuration data with a Reader (explained in a later chapter), as well as the performance of effects via IO. In the following example, we're lifting over `AppHandler` *and* `Maybe`:

```

userAgent :: AppHandler (Maybe UserAgent)
userAgent = (fmap . fmap) userAgent' getRequest

userAgent' :: Request -> Maybe UserAgent
userAgent' req =
    getHeader "User-Agent" req

```

We need the Functor here because while we can just pattern match on the `Maybe` value, an `AppHandler` isn't something we can pattern match on. It's a Snap convention to make a type alias for your web application type. It usually looks like this:

```
type AppHandler = Handler App App
```

The underlying infrastructure for Snap is more complicated than we can cover to any depth here, but suffice to say there are a few things floating around:

1. HTTP request which triggered the processing currently occurring.
2. The current (possibly empty or default) response that will be returned to the client when the handlers and middleware are done.
3. A function for updating the request timeout.
4. A helper function for logging.
5. And a fair bit more than this.

The issue here is that your AppHandler is meant to be slotted into a web application which requires the reading in of configuration, initialization of a web server, and the sending of a request to get everything in motion. This is essentially a bunch of functions waiting for arguments — waiting for something to do. It doesn't make sense to do all that yourself every time you want a value that can only be obtained in the course of the web application doing its thing. Accordingly, our Functor is letting us write functions over structure which handles all this work. It's like we're saying, "here's a function, apply it to a thing that resulted from an HTTP request coming down the pipe, if one comes along".

## 19.4 Applicative

Applicative is somewhat new to Haskell, but it's useful enough, particularly with parsers, that it's easy to find examples. There's a whole chapter on parsers coming up later, but we thought these examples were mostly comprehensible even without that context.



## hgrev

This is an example from Luke Hoersten's *hgrev* project. The example in the README is a bit dense, but uses Monoid and Applicative to combine parsers of command line arguments:

```
jsonSwitch :: Parser (a -> a)
jsonSwitch =
  infoOption $(hgRevStateTH jsonFormat)
  $ long "json"
  <> short 'J'
  <> help "Display JSON version information"

parserInfo :: ParserInfo (a -> a)
parserInfo = info (helper <*> verSwitch <*> jsonSwitch) fullDesc
```

You might be wondering what the `<*` operator is. It's another operator from the Applicative typeclass. It allows you to sequence actions, discarding the result of the second argument. Does this look familiar:

```
Prelude> :t (<*)
(<*) :: Applicative f => f a -> f b -> f a

Prelude> :t const
const :: a -> b -> a
```

Basically the `(<*)` operator (like its sibling, `(>*)`, and the monadic operator, `>>`) is useful when you're emitting effects. In this case, you've done something with effects and want to discard any value that resulted.

## More parsing

Here we're using Applicative to lift the data constructor for the Payload type over the Parser returned by requesting a value by key out of a JSON object, which is basically an association of text keys to further more JSON values which may be strings, numbers, arrays, or more JSON objects:

```

parseJSON :: Value -> Parser a
(.:) :: FromJSON a => Object -> Text -> Parser a

instance FromJSON Payload where
    parseJSON (Object v) = Payload <$> v .: "from"
                                <*> v .: "to"
                                <*> v .: "subject"
                                <*> v .: "body"
                                <*> v .: "offset_seconds"

    parseJSON v              = typeMismatch "Payload" v

```

This is the same as the JSON but for CSV data:

```

parseRecord :: Record -> Parser a

instance FromRecord Release where
    parseRecord v
        | V.length v == 5 = Release <$> v .! 0
                                <*> v .! 1
                                <*> v .! 2
                                <*> v .! 3
                                <*> v .! 4
        | otherwise = mzero

```

This one uses `liftA2` to lift the tuple data constructor over `parseKey` and `parseValue` to give key-value pairings. You can see the `<*>` operator in there again as well, along with the infix operator for `fmap` and `=<<` as well:

```
instance Deserializeable ShowInfoResp where
  parser = e2err =<< convertPairs . HM.fromList <$> parsePairs
  where
    parsePairs :: Parser [(Text, Text)]
    parsePairs = parsePair `sepBy` endOfLine

    parsePair = liftA2 (,) parseKey parseValue
    parseKey   = takeTill (==':') <*> kvSep

    kvSep      = string ":"

    parseValue = takeTill isEndOfLine
```

This one instance is a virtual cornucopia of applications of the previous chapters and we believe it demonstrates how much cleaner and more readable these can make your code.

### And now for something different

This next example is also using an applicative, but this is a bit different than the above examples. We'll spend more time explaining this one, as this pattern for writing utility functions is common:

```
module Web.Shipping.Utls ((<||>)) where

import Control.Applicative (liftA2)

(<||>) :: (a -> Bool) -> (a -> Bool) -> a -> Bool
(<||>) = liftA2 (||)
```

At first glance, this doesn't seem too hard to understand, but some examples will help you develop an understanding of what's going on. We start with the operator for boolean disjunction, (`||`), which is an *or*:

```
Prelude> True || False
True
Prelude> False || False
False
```

```
Prelude> (2 > 3) || (3 == 3)
True
```

And now we want to be able to keep that as an infix operator but lift it over some context, so we use `liftA2`:

```
Prelude> import Control.Applicative
Prelude> let (<||>) = liftA2 (||)
```

And we'll make some trivial functions again for the purposes of demonstration:

```
Prelude> let f 9001 = True; f _ = False
Prelude> let g 42 = True; g _ = False
Prelude> :t f
f :: (Eq a, Num a) => a -> Bool
Prelude> f 42
False
Prelude> f 9001
True
Prelude> g 42
True
Prelude> g 9001
False
```

We can compose the two functions  $f$  and  $g$  to take one input and give one summary result like this:

```
Prelude> (\n -> f n || g n) 0
False
Prelude> (\n -> f n || g n) 9001
True
Prelude> :t (\n -> f n || g n)
(\n -> f n || g n) :: (Eq a, Num a) => a -> Bool
```

But we have to pass in that argument  $n$  in order to do it that way. Our utility function gives us a cleaner way:

```
Prelude> (f <||> g) 0
False
Prelude> (f <||> g) 9001
True
```

It's parallel application of the functions against an argument. That application produces two values, so we monoidally combine the two values so that we have a single value to return. We've set up an environment so that two `(a -> Bool)` functions that don't have an `a` argument yet can return a result based on those two `Bool` values when the combined function is eventually applied against an `a`.

## 19.5 Monad

Because effectful programming is constrained in Haskell through the use of `IO`, and `IO` is an instance of `Monad`, examples of `Monad` in practical Haskell code are everywhere. We tried to find some examples that illustrate different interesting use-cases.

### Opening a network socket

Here we're using `do` syntax for `IO`'s `Monad` in order to bind a socket handle from the `socket` smart constructor, connect it to an address, then return the handle for reading and writing. This example is from `haproxy-haskell` also by Michael Xavier. See the `network` library on Hackage for use and documentation:

```
import Network.Socket

openSocket :: FilePath -> IO Socket
openSocket p = do
    sock <- socket AF_UNIX Stream defaultProtocol
    connect sock sockAddr
    return sock
    where sockAddr = SockAddrUnix . encodeString $ p
```

This isn't too unlike anything you saw in previous chapters, from the hangman game to the `Monad` chapter. The next example is a bit richer.

### Binding over failure in initialization

Michael Xavier's `Seraph` is a process monitor and has a `main` function which is typical of more developed libraries and applications. The

outermost Monad is just `IO`, but the monad transformer variant of `Either`, called `EitherT`, is used to bind over the possibility of failure in constructing an initialization function. This possibility of failure centers on being able to pull up a correct configuration:

```
main :: IO ()
main = do
  initAndFp <- runEitherT $ do
    fp <- tryHead NoConfig ==<< lift getArgs
    initCfg <- load' fp
    return (initCfg, fp)
  either bail (uncurry boot) initAndFp
where
  boot initCfg fp =
    void $ runMVC mempty
      oracleModel (core initCfg fp)
  bail NoConfig =
    errorExit "Please pass a config"
  bail (InvalidConfig e) =
    errorExit ("Invalid config " ++ show e)
  load' fp =
    hoistEither
    . fmapL InvalidConfig ==<< lift (load fp)
```

If you found that very dense and difficult to follow at this point, we'd encourage you to have another look at it after we've covered monad transformers.

## 19.6 An end-to-end example: URL shortener

In this section, we're going to walk through an entire program, beginning to end.<sup>1</sup> There are some pieces we are not going to explain thoroughly; however, this is something you can actually build and work with if you're interested in doing so.

First, the Cabal file for the project:

---

<sup>1</sup> The code in this example can be found here: <https://github.com/bitemyapp/shawty-prime/blob/master/app/Main.hs>

```

name:                shawty
version:             0.1.0.0
synopsis:            Initial project template from stack
description:         Please see README.md
homepage:            http://github.com/bitemyapp/shawty
license:             BSD3
license-file:        LICENSE
author:              Chris Allen
maintainer:          cma@bitemyapp.com
copyright:           2015, Chris Allen
category:            Web
build-type:          Simple
cabal-version:       >=1.10

executable shawty
  hs-source-dirs:    app
  main-is:           Main.hs
  ghc-options:       -threaded -rtsopts -with-rtsopts=-N
  build-depends:     base
                    , bytestring
                    , hedis
                    , mtl
                    , network-uri
                    , random
                    , scotty
                    , semigroups
                    , text
                    , transformers
  default-language:  Haskell2010

```

And the project layout:

```

$ tree
.
├─ LICENSE
├─ Setup.hs
├─ app
│   └─ Main.hs
└─ shawty.cabal

```

└─ stack.yaml

You may choose to use Stack or not. That is how we got the template for the project in place. If you'd like to learn more, check out Stack's Github repo<sup>2</sup> and the Stack video tutorial<sup>3</sup> we worked on together. The code following from this point is in `Main.hs`.

We need to start our program off with a language extension:

```
{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}
```

`OverloadedStrings` is a way to make `String` literals polymorphic, the way numeric literals are polymorphic over the `Num` typeclass. `String` literals are not ordinarily polymorphic; `String` is a concrete type. Using `OverloadedStrings` allows us to use string literals as `Text` and `ByteString` values.

### Brief aside about polymorphic literals

We mentioned that the integral number literals in Haskell are typed `Num a => a` by default. Now that we have another example to work with, it's worth examining how they work under the hood, so to speak. First, let's look at a typeclass from a module in `base`:

```
Prelude> import Data.String
Prelude> :info IsString
class IsString a where
  fromString :: String -> a
  -- Defined in 'Data.String'
instance IsString [Char] -- Defined in 'Data.String'
```

Then we may notice something in `Num` and `Fractional`:

---

<sup>2</sup>Stack Github repo <https://github.com/commercialhaskell/stack>

<sup>3</sup>The video Stack mega-tutorial! The whole video is long, but covers a lot of abnormal use cases. Use the time stamps to jump to what you need to learn. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRonIB8ZStw&feature=youtu.be>



```

class Num a where
  -- irrelevant bits elided
  fromInteger :: Integer -> a

class Num a => Fractional a where
  -- Elision again
  fromRational :: Rational -> a

```

Okay, and what about our literals?

```

Prelude> :set -XOverloadedStrings
Prelude> :t 1
1 :: Num a => a
Prelude> :t 1.0
1.0 :: Fractional a => a
Prelude> :t "blah"
"blah" :: IsString a => a

```

The basic design is that the underlying representation is concrete, but GHC automatically wraps it in `fromString`/`fromInteger`/`fromRational`. So it's as if:

```

{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}

"blah" :: Text == fromString ("blah" :: String)

1 :: Int == fromInteger (1 :: Integer)

2.5 :: Double == fromRational (2.5 :: Rational)

```

Libraries like `text` and `bytestring` provide instances for `IsString` in order to perform the conversion. Assuming you have those libraries installed, you can kick it around a little. Note that, due to the monomorphism restriction, the following will work in the REPL but would not work if we loaded it from a source file (because it would default to a concrete type; we've seen this a couple times earlier in the book):

```

Prelude> :set -XOverloadedStrings

```

```
Prelude> let a = "blah"
Prelude> a
"blah"
Prelude> :t a
a :: Data.String.IsString a => a
```

Then you can make it a `Text` or `ByteString` value:

```
Prelude> import Data.Text (Text)
Prelude> import Data.ByteString (ByteString)
Prelude> let t = "blah" :: Text
Prelude> let bs = "blah" :: ByteString
Prelude> t == bs
```

```
Couldn't match expected type 'Text' with
  actual type 'ByteString'
In the second argument of '(==)', namely 'bs'
In the expression: t == bs
```

`OverloadedStrings` is a convenience that originated in the desire of working Haskell programmers to use string literals for `Text` and `ByteString` values. It's not too big a deal, but it can be nice and saves you manually wrapping each literal in `fromString`.

### Back to the show

Next, the module name must be `Main` as that is required for anything exporting a `main` function to be invoked when the executable runs. We follow the `OverloadedStrings` extension with our imports:

```

module Main where

import Control.Monad (replicateM)
import Control.Monad.IO.Class (liftIO)
import qualified Data.ByteString.Char8 as BC
import Data.Text.Encoding (decodeUtf8, encodeUtf8)
import qualified Data.Text.Lazy as TL
import qualified Database.Redis as R
import Network.URI (URI, parseURI)
import qualified System.Random as SR
import Web.Scotty

```

Where we import something “qualified (...) as (...)” we are doing two things. Qualifying the import means that we can only refer to values in the module with the full module path, and we use “as” to give the module that we want in scope a name. For example, `Data.ByteString.Char8.pack` is a fully qualified reference to `pack`. We qualify the import so that we don’t import declarations that would conflict with bindings that already exist in `Prelude`. By specifying a name using “as,” we can give the value a shorter, more convenient name. Where we import the module name followed by parentheses, such as with `replicateM` or `liftIO`, we are saying we only want to import the functions or values of that name and nothing else. In the case of `import Web.Scotty`, we are importing everything `Web.Scotty` exports. An unqualified and unspecific import should be avoided except in those cases where the provenance of the imported functions will be obvious, or when the import is a toolkit you must use all together, such as *Scotty*.

Next we need to generate our shortened URLs that will refer to the links people post to the service. We will make a `String` of the characters we want to select from:

```

alphaNum :: String
alphaNum = ['A'..'Z'] ++ ['0'..'9']

```

Now we need to pick random elements from `alphaNum`. The general idea here should be familiar from the Hangman game. First, we find the length of the list to determine a range to select from, then get a random number in that range, using `IO` to handle the randomness:

```

randomElement :: String -> IO Char
randomElement xs = do
  let maxIndex :: Int
      maxIndex = length xs - 1
  -- Right of arrow is IO Int, so randomDigit is Int
  randomDigit <- SR.randomRIO (0, maxIndex) :: IO Int
  return (xs !! randomDigit)

```

Next, we apply `randomElement` to `alphaNum` to get a single random letter or number from our alphabet. Then we use `replicateM 7` to repeat this action 7 times, giving a list of 7 random letters or numbers:

```

shortyGen :: IO [Char]
shortyGen = replicateM 7 (randomElement alphaNum)

```

For additional fun, see what `replicateM 2 [1, 3]` does and whether you can figure out why. Compare it to the Prelude function, `replicate`.

You may have noticed a mention of Redis in our imports and wondered what was up. If you're not already familiar with it, Redis is in-memory, key-value data storage. The details of how Redis works are well beyond the scope of this book and they're not very important here. Redis can be convenient for some common use cases like caching, or when you want persistence without a lot of ceremony, as was the case here. You will need to install and have Redis running in order for the project to work; otherwise, the web server will throw an error upon failing to connect to Redis.

This next bit is a function whose arguments are our connection to Redis (`R.Connection`), the key we are setting in Redis, and the value we are setting the key to. We also perform side effects in `IO` to get `Either R.Reply R.Status` as a result. The key in this case is the randomly generated URI we created, and the value is the URL the user wants the shortener to provide at that address:

```

saveURI :: R.Connection
        -> BC.ByteString
        -> BC.ByteString
        -> IO (Either R.Reply R.Status)
saveURI conn shortURI uri =
  R.runRedis conn $ R.set shortURI uri

```

The next function, `getURI`, takes the connection to Redis and the shortened URI key in order to get the URI associated with that short URL and show users where they're headed:

```
getURI :: R.Connection
        -> BC.ByteString
        -> IO (Either R.Reply (Maybe BC.ByteString))
getURI conn shortURI = R.runRedis conn $ R.get shortURI
```

Next some basic templating functions for returning output to the web browser:

```
linkShorty :: String -> String
linkShorty shorty =
  concat [ "<a href=\"\"\"
          , shorty
          , \"\">Copy and paste your short URL</a>\"
          ]
```

The final output to *Scotty* has to be a `Text` value, so we're concatenating lists of `Text` values to produce responses to the browser:

```
-- TL.concat :: [TL.Text] -> TL.Text
shortyCreated :: Show a => a -> String -> TL.Text
shortyCreated resp shawty =
  TL.concat [ TL.pack (show resp)
            , " shorty is: ", TL.pack (linkShorty shawty)
            ]

shortyAintUri :: TL.Text -> TL.Text
shortyAintUri uri =
  TL.concat [ uri
            , " wasn't a url, did you forget http://?"
            ]

shortyFound :: TL.Text -> TL.Text
shortyFound tbs =
  TL.concat [ "<a href=\"\"\" , tbs, \"\">\" , tbs, "</a>\" ]
```

Now we get to the bulk of web-appy bits in the form of our application. We'll enumerate the application in chunks, but they're all in one app function:

```
app :: R.Connection
    -> ScottyM ()
app rConn = do
  -- [1]
  get "/" $ do
  -- [2]
    uri <- param "uri"
  -- [3]
```

1. Redis connection that should've been fired up before the web server started.
2. get is a function that takes a RoutePattern, an action that returns an HTTP response, and adds the route to the Scotty server it's embedded in. As you might suspect, RoutePattern has an IsString instance so that the pattern can be a string literal. The top-level route is expressed as "/", i.e., like going to <https://google.com/> or <https://bitemyapp.com/>. That final / character is what's being expressed.
3. The param function is a means of getting...parameters.

```
param :: Parsable a => Data.Text.Internal.Lazy.Text
    -> ActionM a
```

It's sort of like Read, but it's parsing a value of the type you ask for. The param function can find arguments via URL path captures (see below with :short), HTML form inputs, or query parameters. The first argument to param is the "name" or key for the input. We cannot explain the entirety of HTTP and HTML here, but the following are means of getting a param with the key "name:"

- a) URL path capture

```
get "/user/:name/view" $ do
```

```
-- requesting the URL /user/Blah/view would make name = "Blah"
-- such as: http://localhost:3000/user/Blah/view
```

- b) HTML input form. Here the name attribute for the input field is "name".

```
<form>
  Name:<br>
  <input type="text" name="name">
</form>
```

- c) Query parameters for URIs are pairings of keys and values following a question mark.

```
http://localhost:3000/?name=Blah
```

You can define more than one by using ampersand to separate the key value pairs.

```
http://localhost:3000/?name=Blah&state=Texas
```

Now for the next chunk of the app function:

```
let parsedUri :: Maybe URI
    parsedUri = parseURI (TL.unpack uri)
case parsedUri of
--   [1]
  Just _ -> do
    shawty <- liftIO shortyGen
--   [2]
    let shorty = BC.pack shawty
--   [3]
    uri' = encodeUtf8 (TL.toStrict uri)
--   [4]
    resp <- liftIO (saveURI rConn shorty uri')
--   [5]
    html (shortyCreated resp shawty)
--   [6]
  Nothing -> text (shortyAintUri uri)
--   [7]
```

1. We test that the user gave us a valid URI by using the `network-uri` library's `parseURI` function. We don't really care about the datatype it got wrapped in, so when we check if it's `Just` or `Nothing`, we drop it on the floor.
2. The `Monad` here is `ActionM` (an alias of `ActionT`), which is a datatype representing code that handles web requests and returns responses. You can perform `IO` actions in this `Monad`, but you have to lift the `IO` action over the additional structure. Conventionally, one uses `MonadIO` as a sort of auto-lift for `IO` actions, but you could do it manually. We won't demonstrate this here. We will explain monad transformers in a later chapter so that `ActionT` will be less mysterious.
3. Converting the short code for the URI into a `Char8` bytestring for storage in Redis.
4. Converting the URI the user provided from a lazy `Text` value into a strict `Text` value, then encoding as a UTF-8 (a common unicode format) `ByteString` for storage in Redis.
5. Again using `liftIO` so that we can perform an `IO` action inside a *Scotty* `ActionM`. In this case, we're saving the short code and the URI in Redis so that we can look things up with the short code as a key, then get the URI back as a value if it has been stored in the past.
6. The templated response we return when we successfully saved the short code for the URI. This gives the user a shortened URI to share.
7. Error response in case the user gave us a URI that wasn't valid.

The second handler handles requests to a shortened URI and returns the unshortened URL to follow:



```

get "/:short" $ do
  -- [1]
  short <- param "short"
  -- [2]
  uri <- liftIO (getURI rConn short)
  -- [3]
  case uri of
    Left reply -> text (TL.pack (show reply))
  -- [4]           [5]
    Right mbBS -> case mbBS of
  -- [6]
    Nothing -> text "uri not found"
  -- [7]
    Just bs -> html (shortyFound tbs)
  -- [8]
    where tbs :: TL.Text
          tbs = TL.fromStrict (decodeUtf8 bs)
  -- [9]

```

1. This is the URL path capture we mentioned earlier, such that requesting /blah from the server will cause it to get the key “blah” from Redis and, if there’s a value stored in that key, return that URI in the response. To do that in a web browser or with curl/wget, you’d point your client at `http://localhost:3000/blah` to test it.
2. Same param fetching as before. This time we expect it to be part of the path capture rather than a query argument.
3. Lifting an IO action inside ActionM again, this time to get the short code as the lookup key from Redis.
4. Left here (in the Either we get back from Redis) signifies some kind of failure, usually an error.
5. Text response returning an error in case we got Left so that the user knows what the error was, taking advantage of Redis having Showable errors to render it in the response.
6. Happy path.

7. Just because an error didn't happen doesn't mean the key was in the database.
8. We fetch a key that exists in the database, get the bytestring out of the Just data constructor and render the URI in the success template to show the user the URI we stored.
9. Going in the opposite direction we went in before — decoding the ByteString on the assumption it's encoded as UTF-8, then converting from a strict Text value to a lazy Text value.

Now we come to the `main` event. Our `main` function returns `IO ()` and acts as the entry point for our webserver when we start the executable. We begin by invoking `scotty 3000`, a helper function from the Scotty framework which, given a port to run on and a *Scotty* application, will listen for requests and respond to them:

```
main :: IO ()
main = do
  rConn <- R.connect R.defaultConnectInfo
  scotty 3000 (app rConn)
```

And that is the entirety of this URL shortener. We have a couple of exercises based on this code, and we encourage you to come back to it after we've covered monad transformers as well and see how your comprehension is growing.

## Exercise

In the URL shortener, an important step was omitted. We're not checking if we're overwriting an existing short code, which is entirely possible despite them being randomly generated. We can actually calculate the odds of this by examining the cardinality of the values.

```
-- alphaNum = ['A'..'Z'] ++ ['0'..'9']
-- shortyGen =
-- replicateM 7 (randomElement alphaNum)

length alphaNum ^ 7 == 78364164096
```

So, the problem is, what if we accidentally clobber a previously generated short URI? There are a few ways of solving this. One is to check to see if the short URI already exists in the database before saving it and throwing an error if it does. This is going to be vanishingly unlikely to happen unless you've suddenly become a very popular URI shortening service, but it'd prevent the loss of any data. Your exercise is to devise some means of making this less likely. The easiest way would be to simply make the short codes long enough that you'd need to run a computer until the heat death of the universe to get a collision, but you should try throwing an error in the first handler we showed you first.

## 19.7 That's a wrap!

We hope this chapter gave you some idea of how Haskellers use the typeclasses we've been talking about in real code, to handle various types of problems. In the next two chapters, we'll be looking at `Foldable` and `Traversable`, two typeclasses with some interesting properties that rely on these four algebraic structures (monoid, functor, applicative, and monad), so we encourage you to take some time to explore some of the uses we've demonstrated here. Consider going back to anything you didn't understand very well the first time you went through those chapters.

## 19.8 Follow-up resources

1. The case of the mysterious explosion in space; Bryan O'Sullivan;  
Explains how GHC handles string literals. <http://www.serpentine.com/blog/2012/09/12/the-case-of-the-mysterious-explosion-in-space/>

## Chapter 20

# Foldable

You gotta know when to hold  
'em, know when to fold 'em,  
know when to walk away,  
know when to run.

---

Kenny Rogers

## 20.1 Foldable

This typeclass has been appearing in type signatures at least since Chapter 3, but for your purposes in those early chapters, we said you could think of a Foldable thing as a list. As you saw in the chapter on folds, lists are certainly foldable data structures. But it is also true that lists are not the only foldable data structures, so this chapter will expand on the idea of catamorphisms and generalize it to many datatypes.

A list fold is a way to reduce the values inside a list to one summary value by recursively applying some function. It is sometimes difficult to appreciate that, as filtering and mapping functions may be implemented in terms of a fold and yet return an entirely new list! The new list is the summary value of the old list after being reduced, or transformed, by function application.

The folding function is always dependent on some Monoid instance. The folds we wrote previously mostly relied on implicit monoidal operations. As we'll see in this chapter, generalizing catamorphisms to other datatypes depends on understanding the monoids for those structures and, in some cases, making them explicit.

This chapter will cover:

- the Foldable class and its core operations;
- the monoidal nature of folding;
- standard operations derived from folding.

## 20.2 The Foldable class

The Hackage documentation for the Foldable typeclass describes it as being a, “class of data structures that can be folded to a summary value.” The folding operations that we’ve seen previously fit neatly into that definition, but this typeclass includes many operations. We’re going to go through the full definition a little at a time. The definition in the library begins:

```
class Foldable t where
  {-# MINIMAL foldMap | foldr #-}
```

The `MINIMAL` annotation on the typeclass tells you that a minimally complete definition of the typeclass will define `foldMap` *or* `foldr` for a datatype. As it happens, `foldMap` and `foldr` can each be implemented in terms of the other, and the other operations included in the typeclass can be implemented in terms of either of them. As long as at least one is defined, you have a working instance of `Foldable`. Some methods in the typeclass have default implementations that can be overridden when needed. This is in case there's a more efficient way to do something that's specific to your datatype.

If you query the info about the typeclass in `GHCi`, the first line of the definition includes the kind signature for `t`:

```
class Foldable (t :: * -> *) where
```

That `t` should be a higher-kinded type is not surprising: lists are higher-kinded types. We need `t` to be a type constructor for the same reasons we did with `Functor`, and we will see that the effects are very similar. Types that take more than one type argument, such as tuples and `Either`, will necessarily have their first type argument included as part of their structure.

Please note that you will need to use `GHC 7.10` or later versions for all the examples in this chapter to work. Also, while the Prelude as of `GHCi 7.10` includes many changes related to the `Foldable` typeclass, not all of `Foldable` is in the Prelude. To follow along with the examples in the chapter, you will need to import `Data.Foldable` and `Data.Monoid` (for some of the `Monoid` newtypes).

### 20.3 Revenge of the monoids

One thing we did not talk about when we covered folds previously is the importance of monoids. Folding necessarily implies a binary associative operation that has an identity value. The first two operations defined in `Foldable` make this explicit:

```
class Foldable (t :: * -> *) where
  fold :: Data.Monoid.Monoid m => t m -> m
  foldMap :: Data.Monoid.Monoid m => (a -> m) -> t a -> m
```

While `fold` allows you to combine elements inside a `Foldable` structure using the `Monoid` defined for those elements, `foldMap` first

maps each element of the structure to a Monoid and then combines the results using that instance of Monoid.

These might seem a little weird until you realize that Foldable is requiring that you make the implicit Monoid visible in folding operations. Let's take a look at a very basic foldr operation and see how it compares to fold and foldMap:

```
Prelude> foldr (+) 0 [1..5]
15
```

The binary associative operation for that fold is (+), so we've specified it without thinking of it as a monoid. The fact that the numbers in our list have other possible monoids is not relevant once we've specified which operation to use.

We can already see from the type of fold that it's not going to work the same as foldr, because it doesn't take a function for its first argument. But we also can't just fold up a list of numbers, because the fold function doesn't have a Monoid specified:

```
Prelude> fold (+) [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
-- error message resulting from incorrect
-- number of arguments
```

```
Prelude> fold [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
-- error message resulting from not having
-- an instance of Monoid
```

So, what we need to do to make fold work is specify a Monoid instance:

```
Prelude> fold [Sum 1, Sum 2, Sum 3, Sum 4, Sum 5]
Sum {getSum = 15}
```

```
-- or, less tediously:
```

```
Prelude> fold [1, 2, 3, 4, 5 :: Sum Integer]
Sum {getSum = 15}
```

```
Prelude> fold [1, 2, 3, 4, 5 :: Product Integer]
Product {getProduct = 120}
```



In some cases, the compiler can identify and use the standard Monoid for a type, without us being explicit:

```
Prelude> foldr (++) "" ["hello", " julie"]
"hello julie"
Prelude> fold ["hello", " julie"]
"hello julie"
```

The default Monoid instance for lists gives us what we need without having to specify it.

### And now for something different

Let's turn our attention now to `foldMap`. Unlike `fold`, `foldMap` has a function as its first element. Unlike `foldr`, the first (function) argument of `foldMap` must explicitly map each element of the structure to a Monoid:

```
Prelude> foldMap Sum [1, 2, 3, 4]
Sum {getSum = 10}
Prelude> foldMap Product [1, 2, 3, 4]
Product {getProduct = 24}

Prelude> foldMap All [True, False, True]
All {getAll = False}
Prelude> foldMap Any [(3 == 4), (9 > 5)]
Any {getAny = True}

Prelude> foldMap First [Just 1, Nothing, Just 5]
First {getFirst = Just 1}
Prelude> foldMap Last [Just 1, Nothing, Just 5]
Last {getLast = Just 5}
```

In the above examples, the function being applied is a data constructor. The data constructor identifies the monoid instance — the `mappend` — for those types. It already contains enough information to allow `foldMap` to reduce the collection of values to one summary value.

However, `foldMap` can also have a function to map that is different from the Monoid it's using:

```
Prelude> foldMap (*5) [1, 2, 3 :: Product Integer]
Product {getProduct = 750}
-- 5 * 10 * 15
750
```

```
Prelude> foldMap (*5) [1, 2, 3 :: Sum Integer]
Sum {getSum = 30}
-- 5 + 10 + 15
30
```

It can map the function to each value first and then use the monoid instance to reduce them to one value. Compare this to `foldr` in which the function has the monoid instance baked in:

```
Prelude> foldr (*) 5 [1, 2, 3]
-- (1 * (2 * (3 * 5)))
30
```

In fact, due to the way `foldr` works, declaring a Monoid instance that is different from what is implied in the folding function doesn't change the final result:

```
Prelude> foldr (*) 3 [1, 2, 3 :: Sum Integer]
Sum {getSum = 18}
Prelude> foldr (*) 3 [1, 2, 3 :: Product Integer]
Product {getProduct = 18}
```

However, it is worth pointing out that if what you're trying to fold only contains one value, declaring a Monoid instance won't change the behavior of `foldMap` either:

```
Prelude> foldMap (*5) (Just 100) :: Product Integer
Product {getProduct = 500}

Prelude> foldMap (*5) (Just 5) :: Sum Integer
Sum {getSum = 25}
```

With only one value, it doesn't need the Monoid instance. Specifying the Monoid instance is necessary to satisfy the type checker, but with only one value, there is nothing to mappend. It just applies

the function. It will use the `mempty` value from the declared `Monoid` instance, though, in cases where what you are trying to fold is empty:

```
Prelude> foldMap (*5) Nothing :: Sum Integer
Sum {getSum = 0}
Prelude> foldMap (*5) Nothing :: Product Integer
Product {getProduct = 1}
```

So, what we’ve seen so far is that `Foldable` is a way of generalizing catamorphisms — folding — to different datatypes, and at least in some cases, it forces you to think about the monoid you’re using to combine values.

## 20.4 Demonstrating Foldable instances

As we said above, a minimal `Foldable` instance must have either `foldr` or `foldMap`. Any of the other functions in this typeclass can be derived from one or the other of those. With that said, let’s turn our attention to implementing `Foldable` instances for different types.

### Identity

We’ll kick things off by writing a `Foldable` instance for `Identity`:

```
data Identity a =
  Identity a
```

We’re only obligated to write `foldr` *or* `foldMap`, but we’ll write both plus `foldl` just so you have the gist of it.

```
instance Foldable Identity where
  foldr f z (Identity x) = f x z

  foldl f z (Identity x) = f z x

  foldMap f (Identity x) = f x
```

With `foldr` and `foldl`, we’re doing basically the same thing, but with the arguments swapped. We didn’t need to do anything special

for `foldMap` — no need to make use of the `Monoid` instance for `Identity` since there is only one value, so we just apply the function.

It may seem strange to think of folding one value. When we’ve talked about catamorphisms previously, we’ve focused on how they can reduce a bunch of values down to one summary value. In the case of this `Identity` catamorphism, though, the point is less to reduce the values inside the structure to one value and more to consume, or use, the value:

```
Main> foldr (*) 1 (Identity 5)
5
Main> foldl (*) 5 (Identity 5)
25

Main> foldMap (*5) (Identity 100) :: Product Integer
Product {getProduct = 500}
```

Note that using `foldMap` still relies on the `Monoid` instance for the *a* value, just as it did in the examples earlier.

## Maybe

This one is a little more interesting because, unlike with `Identity`, we have to account for the `Nothing` cases. When the `Maybe` value that we’re folding is `Nothing`, we need to be able to return some “zero” value, while doing nothing with the folding function but also disposing of the `Maybe` structure. For `foldr` and `foldl`, that zero value is the start value provided:

```
Prelude> foldr (+) 1 Nothing
1
```

On the other hand, for `foldMap` we use the `Monoid`’s identity value as our zero:

```
Prelude> foldMap (+1) Nothing :: Sum Integer
Sum {getSum = 0}
```

When the value is a `Just` value, though, we need to apply the folding function to the value and, again, dispose of the structure:

```
Prelude> foldr (+) 1 (Just 3)
4
Prelude> foldMap (+1) $ Just 3 :: Sum Integer
Sum {getSum = 4}
```

So, let's look at the instance. We'll use a fake Maybe type again, to avoid conflict with the Maybe instance that already exists:

```
instance Foldable Optional where
```

```
  foldr _ z Nada = z
  foldr f z (Yep x) = f x z
```

```
  foldl _ z Nada = z
  foldl f z (Yep x) = f z x
```

```
  foldMap _ Nada = mempty
  foldMap f (Yep a) = f a
```

Note that if you don't tell it what Monoid you mean, it'll whinge about the type being ambiguous:

```
Prelude> foldMap (+1) Nada

No instance for (Num a0) arising from a use of 'it'
The type variable 'a0' is ambiguous
(... blah blah who cares ...)
```

So, we need to assert a type that has a Monoid for this to work:

```
Prelude> import Data.Monoid
Prelude> foldMap (+1) Nada :: Sum Int
Sum {getSum = 0}
Prelude> foldMap (+1) Nada :: Product Int
Product {getProduct = 1}
```

```
Prelude> foldMap (+1) (Just 1) :: Sum Int
Sum {getSum = 2}
```

With a Nada value and a declared type of Sum Int (giving us our Monoid), foldMap gave us sum 0 because that was the mempty or

identity for Sum. Similarly with Nada and Product, we got Product 1 because that was the identity for Product.

## 20.5 Some basic derived operations

The Foldable typeclass includes some other operations that we haven't covered in this context yet. Some of these, such as length, were previously defined for use with lists, but their types have been generalized now to make them useful with other types of data structures. Below are descriptions, type signatures, and examples for several of these:

```
-- | List of elements of a structure, from left to right.
toList :: t a -> [a]

Prelude> toList (Just 1)
[1]
Prelude> map toList [Just 1, Just 2, Just 3]
[[1],[2],[3]]
Prelude> concatMap toList [Just 1, Just 2, Just 3]
[1,2,3]
Prelude> concatMap toList [Just 1, Just 2, Nothing]
[1,2]
Prelude> toList (1, 2)
[2]
-- it doesn't put the 1 in the list for the same reason
-- as fmap doesn't apply a function to the 1

-- | Test whether the structure is empty.
--   The default implementation is
--   optimized for structures that are similar
--   to cons-lists, because there
--   is no general way to do better.
null :: t a -> Bool
```

Notice that null returns True on Left and Nothing values, just as it does on empty lists and so forth:

```
Prelude> null (Left 3)
True
```

```

Prelude> null []
True
Prelude> null Nothing
True
Prelude> null (1, 2)
False
Prelude> fmap null [Just 1, Just 2, Nothing]
[False,False,True]

```

The next one, `length`, returns a count of how many  $a$  values inhabit the  $t$   $a$ . In a list, that could be multiple  $a$  values due to the definition of that datatype. It's important to note, though, that for tuples, the first argument (as well as the leftmost, or outermost, type arguments of datatypes such as `Maybe` and `Either`) is part of the  $t$  here, not part of the  $a$ .

```

-- | Returns the size/length of a finite
-- structure as an 'Int'. The default
-- implementation is optimized for structures
-- that are similar to cons-lists, because there
-- is no general way to do better.

```

```

length :: t a -> Int

```

```

Prelude> length (1, 2)
1
Prelude> length [(1, 2), (3, 4), (5, 6)]
3
Prelude> fmap length [(1, 2), (3, 4), (5, 6)]
[1,1,1]

Prelude> fmap length Just [1, 2, 3]
1
-- the a of Just a in this case is a list, and
-- there is only one list

Prelude> fmap length [Just 1, Just 2, Just 3]
[1,1,1]
Prelude> fmap length [Just 1, Just 2, Nothing]
[1,1,0]

```

```
-- | Does the element occur in the structure?
```

```
elem :: Eq a => a -> t a -> Bool
```

We've used Either in the following example set to demonstrate the behavior of Foldable functions with Left values. As we saw with Functor, you can't map over the left data constructor, because the left type argument is part of the structure. In the following example set, that means that `elem` can't see inside the Left constructor to whatever the value is, so the result will be False, even if the value matches:

```
Prelude> elem 2 (Just 3)
False
Prelude> elem True (Left False)
False
Prelude> elem True (Left True)
False
Prelude> elem True (Right False)
False
Prelude> elem True (Right True)
True
Prelude> fmap (elem 3) [Right 1, Right 2, Right 3]
[False,False,True]
```

```
-- | The largest element of a non-empty structure.
```

```
maximum :: forall a . Ord a => t a -> a
```

```
-- | The least element of a non-empty structure.
```

```
minimum :: forall a . Ord a => t a -> a
```

Here, notice that Left and Nothing (and similar) values are *empty* for the purposes of these functions:

```
Prelude> maximum [10, 12, 33, 5]
33
Prelude> fmap maximum [Just 2, Just 10, Just 4]
[2,10,4]
Prelude> fmap maximum (Just [3, 7, 10, 2])
Just 10
```



```
Prelude> minimum "julie"
'e'
Prelude> fmap minimum (Just "julie")
Just 'e'
Prelude> fmap minimum [Just 'j', Just 'u', Just 'l']
"jul"
```

```
Prelude> fmap minimum [Just 4, Just 3, Nothing]
[4,3,*** Exception: minimum: empty structure
Prelude> minimum (Left 3)
*** Exception: minimum: empty structure
```

We've seen `sum` and `product` before, and they do what their names suggest: return the sum and product of the members of a structure:

```
-- | The 'sum' function computes the sum of the
-- numbers of a structure.
sum :: (Foldable t, Num a) => t a -> a

-- | The 'product' function computes the product
-- of the numbers of a structure.
product :: (Foldable t, Num a) => t a -> a
```

And now for some examples:

```
Prelude> sum (7, 5)
5
Prelude> fmap sum [(7, 5), (3, 4)]
[5,4]
Prelude> fmap sum (Just [1, 2, 3, 4, 5])
Just 15
Prelude> product Nothing
1
Prelude> fmap product (Just [])
Just 1
Prelude> fmap product (Right [1, 2, 3])
Right 6
```

**Exercises: Library Functions**

Implement the functions in terms of `foldMap` or `foldr` from `Foldable`, then try them out with multiple types that have `Foldable` instances.

1. This and the next one are nicer with `foldMap`, but `foldr` is fine too.

```
sum :: (Foldable t, Num a) => t a -> a
```

2. **product** :: (Foldable t, Num a) => t a -> a

3. **elem** :: (Foldable t, Eq a) => a -> t a -> Bool

4. **minimum** :: (Foldable t, Ord a) => t a -> Maybe a

5. **maximum** :: (Foldable t, Ord a) => t a -> Maybe a

6. **null** :: (Foldable t) => t a -> Bool

7. **length** :: (Foldable t) => t a -> Int

8. Some say this is all `Foldable` amounts to.

```
toList :: (Foldable t) => t a -> [a]
```

9. Hint: use `foldMap`.

```
-- | Combine the elements of a structure using a monoid.
fold :: (Foldable t, Monoid m) => t m -> m
```

10. Define `foldMap` in terms of `foldr`.

```
foldMap :: (Foldable t, Monoid m) => (a -> m) -> t a -> m
```

**20.6 Chapter Exercises**

Write `Foldable` instances for the following datatypes.

1. **data Constant** a b =

```
    Constant a
```

2. **data Two** a b =

```
    Two a b
```

3. **data** **Three** a b c =  
    **Three** a b c

4. **data** **Three'** a b =  
    **Three'** a b b

5. **data** **Four'** a b =  
    **Four'** a b b b

Thinking cap time. Write a filter function for Foldable types using foldMap.

```
filterF :: (Applicative f, Foldable t, Monoid (f a))  
          => (a -> Bool) -> t a -> f a  
filterF = undefined
```

## 20.7 Follow-up resources

1. Jakub Arnold, Foldable and Traversable  
<http://blog.jakubarnold.cz/2014/07/30/foldable-and-traversable.html>

## Chapter 21

# Traversable

O, Thou hast damnable  
iteration; and art, indeed, able  
to corrupt a saint.

---

Shakespeare

## 21.1 Traversable

Functor gives us a way to transform any values embedded in structure. Applicative, we saw, is a monoidal functor, and gives us a way to transform any values contained within a structure using a function that is also embedded in structure. This means that each application produces the effect of adding structure which is then applicatively combined. Foldable gives us a way to process values embedded in a structure as if they existed in a sequential order, as we've seen ever since we learned about list folding.

Traversable was introduced in the same paper as Applicative and its introduction to Prelude didn't come until the release of GHC 7.10. However, it was available as part of the `base` library for much longer than that. Traversable depends on Applicative, and thus Functor, and is also superclassed by Foldable.

Traversable allows you to transform elements inside the structure like a Functor, producing Applicative effects along the way, and lift those potentially multiple instances of Applicative structure outside of the Traversable structure. It is commonly described as a way to traverse a data structure, mapping a function inside a structure while accumulating the applicative contexts along the way. This is easiest to see, perhaps, through liberal demonstration of examples, so let's get to it.

In this chapter, we will:

- explain the Traversable typeclass and its canonical functions;
- explore examples of Traversable in practical use;
- tidy up some code using this typeclass;
- and, of course, write some Traversable instances.

## 21.2 The Traversable typeclass definition

This is the typeclass definition as it appears in the library on Hackage (`Data.Traversable`):

```

class (Functor t, Foldable t) => Traversable t where
  {-# MINIMAL traverse | sequenceA #-}

  -- | Map each element of a structure to an action,
  -- evaluate these actions from left to right, and
  -- collect the results. For a version that ignores
  -- the results see 'Data.Foldable.traverse_'.

  traverse :: Applicative f =>
    (a -> f b)
    -> t a
    -> f (t b)
  traverse f = sequenceA . fmap f

  -- | Evaluate each action in the structure from
  -- left to right, and collect the results.
  -- For a version that ignores the results see
  -- 'Data.Foldable.sequenceA_'.
  sequenceA :: Applicative f => t (f a) -> f (t a)
  sequenceA = traverse id

```

A minimal instance for this typeclass provides an implementation of either `traverse` or `sequenceA`, because as you can see they can be defined in terms of each other. As with `Foldable`, we can define more than the bare minimum if we can leverage information specific to our datatype to make the behavior more efficient. We're going to focus on these two functions in this chapter, though, as those are the most typically useful.

### 21.3 sequenceA

We will start with some examples of `sequenceA` in action, as it is the simpler of the two. You can see from the type signature above that the effect of `sequenceA` is flipping two contexts or structures. It doesn't by itself allow you to apply any function to the *a* value inside the structure; it only flips the layers of structure around. Compare these:

```
Prelude> sum [1, 2, 3]
```

```
6
```

```
Prelude> fmap sum [Just 1, Just 2, Just 3]
[1,2,3]
Prelude> (fmap . fmap) sum Just [1, 2, 3]
Just 6
Prelude> fmap product [Just 1, Just 2, Nothing]
[1,2,1]
```

To these:

```
Prelude> fmap Just [1, 2, 3]
[Just 1,Just 2,Just 3]
Prelude> sequenceA $ fmap Just [1, 2, 3]
Just [1,2,3]
Prelude> sequenceA [Just 1, Just 2, Just 3]
Just [1,2,3]
Prelude> sequenceA [Just 1, Just 2, Nothing]
Nothing
Prelude> fmap sum $ sequenceA [Just 1, Just 2, Just 3]
Just 6
Prelude> let xs = [Just 3, Just 4, Nothing]
Prelude> fmap product (sequenceA xs)
Nothing
```

In the first example, using `sequenceA` just flips the structures around — instead of a list of `Maybe` values, you get a `Maybe` of a list value. In the next two examples, we can lift a function over the `Maybe` structure and apply it to the list that is inside, if we have a `Just` a value after applying the `sequenceA`.

It's worth mentioning here that the `Data.Maybe` library has a function called `catMaybes` that offers a different way of handling a list of `Maybe` values:

```
Prelude> import Data.Maybe
Prelude> catMaybes [Just 1, Just 2, Just 3]
[1,2,3]
Prelude> catMaybes [Just 1, Just 2, Nothing]
[1,2]
Prelude> let xs = [Just 1, Just 2, Just 3, Nothing]
Prelude> sum $ catMaybes xs
```



```
6
Prelude> fmap sum $ sequenceA xs
Nothing
```

Using `catMaybes` allows you to sum (or otherwise process) the list of `Maybe` values even if there's potentially a `Nothing` value lurking within.

## 21.4 traverse

Let's look next at the type of `traverse`:

```
traverse
  :: (Applicative f, Traversable t) =>
    (a -> f b) -> t a -> f (t b)
```

You might notice a similarity between that and the types of `fmap` and `(=<<)` (flip `bind`):

```
fmap      :: (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
(=<<)      :: (a -> m b) -> m a -> m b
traverse :: (a -> f b) -> t a -> f (t b)
```

We're still mapping a function over some embedded value(s), like `fmap`, but similar to flip `bind`, that function is itself generating more structure. However, unlike flip `bind`, that structure can be of a different type than the structure we lifted over to apply the function. And at the end, it will flip the two structures around, as `sequenceA` did.

In fact, as we saw in the typeclass definition, `traverse` is `fmap` composed with `sequenceA`:

```
traverse f = sequenceA . fmap f
```

Let's look at how that works in practice:

```
Prelude> fmap Just [1, 2, 3]
[Just 1,Just 2,Just 3]
Prelude> sequenceA $ fmap Just [1, 2, 3]
Just [1,2,3]
Prelude> sequenceA . fmap Just $ [1, 2, 3]
```

```
Just [1,2,3]
Prelude> traverse Just [1, 2, 3]
Just [1,2,3]
```

We'll run through some longer examples in a moment, but the general idea is that anytime you're using `sequenceA . fmap f`, you can use `traverse` to achieve the same result in one step.

### **mapM is just traverse**

You may have seen a slightly different way of expressing `traverse` before, in the form of `mapM`.

In versions of GHC prior to 7.10, the type of `mapM` was the following:

```
mapM :: Monad m => (a -> m b) -> [a] -> m [b]
```

```
-- contrast with
```

```
traverse :: Applicative f =>
  (a -> f b) -> t a -> f (t b)
```

We can think of `traverse` in `Traversable` as abstracting the `[]` in `mapM` to being any `Traversable` data structure and generalizing the `Monad` requirement to only need an `Applicative`. This is valuable as it means we can use this pattern more widely and with more code. For example, the list datatype is fine for small pluralities of values but in more performance-sensitive code, you may want to use a `Vector` from the `vector`<sup>1</sup> library. With `traverse`, you won't have to change your code because the primary `Vector` datatype has a `Traversable` instance and so should work fine.

Similarly, the type for `sequence` in GHC versions prior to 7.10 is just a less useful `sequenceA`:

---

<sup>1</sup><http://hackage.haskell.org/package/vector>

```
sequence :: Monad m =>
    [m a]
  -> m [a]

-- contrast with

sequenceA :: (Applicative f, Traversable t) =>
    t (f a)
  -> f (t a)
```

Again we're generalizing the list to any Traversable and weakening the Monad requirement to just Applicative.

## 21.5 So, what's traversable for?

In a literal sense, anytime you need to flip two type constructors around, or map something and then flip them around, that's probably Traversable:

```
traverse :: Applicative f =>
    (a -> f b) -> t a -> f (t b)

sequenceA :: Applicative f => t (f a) -> f (t a)
```

We'll kick around some hypothetical functions and values without bothering to implement them in the REPL to see when we may want traverse or sequenceA:

```
Prelude> let f = undefined :: a -> Maybe b
Prelude> let xs = undefined :: [a]
Prelude> :t map f xs
map f xs :: [Maybe b]
```

But what if we want a value of type Maybe [b]? The following will work, but we can do better:

```
Prelude> :t sequenceA $ map f xs
sequenceA $ map f xs :: Maybe [a]
```

It's usually better to use `traverse` whenever we see a sequence or `sequenceA` combined with a `map` or `fmap`:

```
Prelude> :t traverse f xs
traverse f xs :: Maybe [b]
```

Next we'll start looking at real examples of when you'd want to do this.

## 21.6 Morse code revisited

We're going to call back to what we did in the Testing chapter with the Morse code example to look at a nice example of how to use `traverse`. Let's recall what we had done there:

```
stringToMorse :: String -> Maybe [Morse]
stringToMorse s = sequence $ fmap charToMorse s
```

```
-- what we want to do:
stringToMorse :: String -> Maybe [Morse]
stringToMorse = traverse charToMorse
```

Normally, you might expect that if you mapped an `(a -> f b)` over a `t a`, you'd end up with `t (f b)` but `traverse` flips that around. Remember, we had each character conversion wrapped in a `Maybe` due to the possibility of getting characters in a string that aren't translatable into Morse (or, in the opposite conversion, aren't Morse characters):

```
Prelude> morseToChar "gobbledegook"
Nothing
Prelude> morseToChar "-.-."
Just 'c'
```

We can use `fromMaybe` to remove the `Maybe` layer:

```
Prelude> import Data.Maybe
Prelude Data.Maybe> fromMaybe ' ' (morseToChar "-.-.")
'c'
```

```
Prelude> stringToMorse "chris"
Just ["-.-.", "....", "-.-.", "..", "..."]
```

```
Prelude> import Data.Maybe
Prelude> fromMaybe [] (stringToMorse "chris")
["-.-.", "....", "-.-.", "..", "..."]
```

We'll define a little helper for use in the following examples:

```
Prelude> let morse s = fromMaybe [] (stringToMorse s)
Prelude> :t morse
morse :: String -> [Morse]
```

Now, if we `fmap morseToChar`, we get a list of `Maybe` values:

```
Prelude> fmap morseToChar (morse "chris")
[Just 'c', Just 'h', Just 'r', Just 'i', Just 's']
```

We don't want `catMaybes` here because it drops the `Nothing` values. What we want here is for *any* `Nothing` values to make the final result `Nothing`. The function that gives us what we want for this is `sequence`. We did use `sequence` in the original version of the `stringToMorse` function. `sequence` is useful for flipping your types around as well (note the positions of the *t* and *m*). There is a `sequence` in `Prelude` and another, more generic, version in `Data.Traversable`:

```
Prelude> :t sequence
sequence :: Monad m => [m a] -> m [a]

-- more general, can be used with types
-- other than List
Prelude> import Data.Traversable as T
Prelude T> :t T.sequence
T.sequence :: (Traversable t, Monad m)
            => t (m a) -> m (t a)
```

To use this over a list of `Maybe` (or other monadic) values, we need to compose it with `fmap`:

```
Prelude> :t (sequence .) . fmap
(sequence .) . fmap
  :: (Monad m, Traversable t) =>
    (a1 -> m a) -> t a1 -> m (t a)
```

```
Prelude> sequence $ fmap morseToChar (morse "chris")
Just "chris"
```

```
Prelude> sequence $ fmap morseToChar (morse "julie")
Just "julie"
```

The weird looking composition, which you’ve possibly also seen in the form of `(join .) . fmap` is because `fmap` takes *two* (not *one*) arguments, so the expressions aren’t proper unless we compose twice to await a second argument for `fmap` to get applied to.

```
-- we want this
(sequence .) . fmap = \ f xs -> sequence (fmap f xs)
```

```
-- not this
sequence . fmap = \ f -> sequence (fmap f)
```

This composition of `sequence` and `fmap` is so common that `traverse` is now a standard Prelude function. Compare the above to the following:

```
*Morse T> traverse morseToChar (morse "chris")
Just "chris"
```

```
*Morse T> traverse morseToChar (morse "julie")
Just "julie"
```

So, `traverse` is just `fmap` and the `Traversable` version of `sequence` bolted together into one convenient function. `sequence` is the unique bit, but you need to do the `fmap` first most of the time, so you end up using `traverse`. This is very similar to the way `>>=` is just `join` composed with `fmap` where `join` is the bit that is unique to `Monad`.

## 21.7 Axing tedious code

Try to bear with us for a moment and realize that the following is real but also intentionally fake code. That is, one of the authors helped somebody with refactoring their code, and this simplified version is what your author was given. One of the strengths of Haskell is that we can work in terms of types without worry about code that actually runs sometimes. This code is from Alex Petrov who was kicking something around on Twitter.

```
-- Thanks for the great example Alex :)  
data Query      = Query  
data SomeObj    = SomeObj  
data IoOnlyObj  = IoOnlyObj  
data Err        = Err  
  
-- There's a decoder function that makes  
-- some object from String  
decodeFn :: String -> Either Err SomeObj  
decodeFn = undefined  
  
-- There's a query, that runs against DB and  
-- returns array of strings  
fetchFn :: Query -> IO [String]  
fetchFn = undefined  
  
-- there's some additional "context initializer",  
-- that also has IO side-effects  
makeIoOnlyObj :: [SomeObj]  
               -> IO [(SomeObj, IoOnlyObj)]  
makeIoOnlyObj = undefined
```

```
-- before
pipelineFn :: Query
    -> IO (Either Err [(SomeObj, IoOnlyObj)])
pipelineFn query = do
  a <- fetchFn query
  case sequence (map decodeFn a) of
    (Left err) -> return $ Left $ err
    (Right res) -> do
      a <- makeIoOnlyObj res
      return $ Right a
```

The objective was to clean up this code. A few things made them suspicious:

1. The use of `sequence` and `map`.
2. Manually casing on the result of the `sequence` and the `map`.
3. Binding monadically over the `Either` only to perform another monadic (IO) action inside of that.

Here's what the pipeline function got pared down to:

```
pipelineFn :: Query
    -> IO (Either Err [(SomeObj, IoOnlyObj)])
pipelineFn query = do
  a <- fetchFn query
  traverse makeIoOnlyObj (mapM decodeFn a)
```

Thanks to merijn on the IRC channel for helping with this example. We can make it pointfree if we want to:

```
pipelineFn :: Query
    -> IO (Either Err [(SomeObj, IoOnlyObj)])
pipelineFn =
  (traverse makeIoOnlyObj . mapM decodeFn =<<) . fetchFn
```

And since `mapM` is just `traverse` with a slightly different type:



```

pipelineFn :: Query
            -> IO (Either Err [(SomeObj, IoOnlyObj)])
pipelineFn = (traverse makeIoOnlyObj
                . traverse decodeFn =<< ) . fetchFn

```

This is the terse, clean style many Haskellers prefer. As we said back when we first introduced it, pointfree style can help focus the attention on the functions, rather than the specifics of the data that are being passed around as arguments. Using functions like `traverse` cleans up code by drawing attention to the ways the types are changing and signaling the programmer's intent.

## 21.8 Do all the things

We're going to use an HTTP client library named `wreq`<sup>2</sup> for this demonstration so we can make calls to a handy-dandy website for testing HTTP clients at <http://httpbin.org/>. Feel free to experiment and substitute your own ideas for HTTP services or websites you could poke and prod.

```

module HttpStuff where

import Data.ByteString.Lazy
import Network.Wreq

urls :: [String]
urls = [ "http://httpbin.com/ip"
        , "http://httpbin.org/bytes/5"
        ]

mappingGet :: [IO (Response ByteString)]
mappingGet = map get urls

```

But what if we don't want a list of IO actions we can perform to get a response, but rather one big IO action that produces a list of responses? This is where Traversable can be helpful:

---

<sup>2</sup> <http://hackage.haskell.org/package/wreq>

```
traversedUrls :: IO [Response ByteString]
traversedUrls = traverse get urls
```

We hope that these examples have helped demonstrate that Traversable is a useful typeclass. While Foldable seems trivial, it is a necessary superclass of Traversable, and Traversable, like Functor and Monad, is now widely used in everyday Haskell code, due to its practicality.

### Strength for understanding

Traversable is stronger than Functor and Foldable. Because of this, we can recover the Functor and Foldable instance for a type from the Traversable, just as we can recover the Functor and Applicative from the Monad. Here we can use the Identity type to get something that is essentially just fmap all over again:

```
Prelude> import Data.Functor.Identity
Prelude> traverse (Identity . (+1)) [1, 2]
Identity [2,3]
Prelude> runIdentity $ traverse (Identity . (+1)) [1, 2]
[2,3]
Prelude> let edgelordMap f t = runIdentity $ traverse (Identity . f) t
Prelude> :t edgelordMap
edgelordMap :: Traversable t => (a -> b) -> t a -> t b
Prelude> edgelordMap (+1) [1..5]
[2,3,4,5,6]
```

Using Const or Constant, we can recover a foldMappy looking Foldable as well:

```
Prelude> import Data.Monoid
-- from `transformers`
Prelude> import Data.Functor.Constant

Prelude> let xs = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] :: [Sum Integer]
Prelude> traverse (Constant . (+1)) xs
Constant (Sum {getSum = 20})

Prelude> let foldMap' f t = getConstant $ traverse (Constant . f) t
Prelude> :t foldMap'
```

```
foldMap' :: (Traversable t, Monoid a) => (a1 -> a) -> t a1 -> a
Prelude> :t foldMap
foldMap :: (Foldable t, Monoid m) => (a -> m) -> t a -> m
```

Doing exercises like this can help strengthen your intuitions for the relationships of these typeclasses and their canonical functions. We know it sometimes feels like these things are pure intellectual exercise, but getting comfortable with manipulating functions like these is ultimately the key to getting comfortable with Haskell. This is how you learn to play type Tetris with the pros.

## 21.9 Traversable instances

You knew this was coming.

### Either

The Traversable instance that follows here is identical to the one in the `Data.Traversable` module in base, but we've added a Functor, Foldable, and Applicative so that you might see a progression:

```

data Either a b =
    Left a
  | Right b
  deriving (Eq, Ord, Show)

instance Functor (Either a) where
    fmap _ (Left x) = Left x
    fmap f (Right y) = Right (f y)

instance Applicative (Either e) where
    pure      = Right
    Left e <*> _ = Left e
    Right f <*> r = fmap f r

instance Foldable (Either a) where
    foldMap _ (Left _) = mempty
    foldMap f (Right y) = f y

    foldr _ z (Left _) = z
    foldr f z (Right y) = f y z

instance Traversable (Either a) where
    traverse _ (Left x) = pure (Left x)
    traverse f (Right y) = Right <$> f y

```

Given what you've seen above, this hopefully isn't too surprising. We have function application and type-flipping, in an Either context.

## Tuple

As above, we've provided a progression of instances, but for the two-tuple or anonymous product:

```
instance Functor ((,) a) where
  fmap f (x,y) = (x, f y)
```

```
instance Monoid a => Applicative ((,) a) where
  pure x = (mempty, x)
  (u, f) <*> (v, x) = (u `mappend` v, f x)
```

```
instance Foldable ((,) a) where
  foldMap f (_, y) = f y
  foldr f z (_, y) = f y z
```

```
instance Traversable ((,) a) where
  traverse f (x, y) = (,) x <$> f y
```

Here, we have much the same, but for a tuple context.

## 21.10 Traversable Laws

The traverse function must satisfy the following laws:

### 1. Naturality

```
t . traverse f = traverse (t . f)
```

This law tells us that function composition behaves in unsurprising ways with respect to a traversed function. Since a traversed function  $f$  is generating the structure that appears on the “outside” of the traverse operation, there’s no reason we shouldn’t be able to float the function over the structure into the traversal itself.

### 2. Identity

```
traverse Identity = Identity
```

This law says that traversing the data constructor of the Identity type over a value will produce the same result as just putting the value in Identity. This tells us Identity represents a “structural” identity for traversing data. This is another way of saying that a Traversable instance cannot add or inject any structure or “effects.”

## 3. Composition

```
traverse (Compose . fmap g . f) =
  Compose . fmap (traverse g) . traverse f
```

This law demonstrates how we can collapse sequential traversals into a single traversal, by taking advantage of the `Compose` datatype, which combines structure.

The `sequenceA` function must satisfy the following laws:

## 1. Naturality

```
t . sequenceA = sequenceA . fmap t
```

## 2. Identity

```
sequenceA . fmap Identity = Identity
```

## 3. Composition

```
sequenceA . fmap Compose =
  Compose . fmap sequenceA . sequenceA
```

None of this should've been too surprising given what you've seen with `traverse`.

## 21.11 Quality Control

Great news! You can QuickCheck your Traversable instances as well, since they have laws. Conveniently, the *checkers* library we've been using already has the laws for us. You can add the following to a module and change the types alias to change what instances are being tested:

```
type TI = []

main = do
  let trigger = undefined :: TI (Int, Int, [Int])
  quickBatch (traversable trigger)
```

## 21.12 Chapter Exercises

### Traversable instances

Write a Traversable instance for the datatype provided, filling in any required superclasses. Use QuickCheck to validate your instances.

#### Identity

Write a Traversable instance for Identity.

```
newtype Identity a = Identity a
    deriving (Eq, Ord, Show)
```

```
instance Traversable Identity where
    traverse = undefined
```

#### Constant

```
newtype Constant a b =
    Constant { getConstant :: a }
```

#### Maybe

```
data Optional a =
    Nada
  | Yep a
```

#### List

```
data List a =
    Nil
  | Cons a (List a)
```

#### Three

```
data Three a b c =
    Three a b c
```

Three'

```
data Three' a b =
  Three' a b b
```

S

This'll suck.

```
data S n a = S (n a) a
```

*-- to make it easier, we'll give you the constraints.*

```
instance Traversable n => Traversable (S n) where
  traverse = undefined
```

## Instances for Tree

This might be hard. Write the following instances for Tree.

```
data Tree a =
  Empty
  | Leaf a
  | Node (Tree a) a (Tree a)
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
instance Functor Tree where
  fmap = undefined
```

*-- foldMap is a bit easier and looks more natural,  
 -- but you can do foldr too for extra credit.*

```
instance Foldable Tree where
  foldMap = undefined
```

```
instance Traversable Tree where
  traverse = undefined
```

Hints:

1. For foldMap, think Functor but with some Monoid thrown in.



2. For `traverse`, think `Functor` but with some `Functor`<sup>3</sup> thrown in.

### 21.13 Follow-up resources

1. Jakub Arnold, Foldable and Traversable  
<http://blog.jakubarnold.cz/2014/07/30/foldable-and-traversable.html>
2. The Essence of the Iterator Pattern; Jeremy Gibbons and Bruno Oliveira.
3. Applicative Programming with Effects; Conor McBride and Ross Paterson.

---

<sup>3</sup>Not a typo.

## Chapter 22

### Reader

The tears of the world are a  
constant quantity. For each  
one who begins to weep  
somewhere else another stops.  
The same is true of the laugh.

---

Samuel Beckett

## 22.1 Reader

The last two chapters were focused on some typeclasses that might still seem strange and difficult to you. The next three chapters are going to focus on some patterns that might still seem strange and difficult. Foldable, Traversable, Reader, State, and Parsers are not strictly necessary to understanding and using Haskell. We do have reasons for introducing them now, but those reasons might not seem clear to you for a while. If you don't quite grasp all of it on the first pass, that's completely fine. Read it through, do your best with the exercises, come back when you feel like you're ready.

When writing applications, programmers often need to pass around some information that may be needed intermittently or universally throughout an entire application. We don't want to simply pass this information as arguments because it would be present in the type of almost every function. This can make the code harder to read and harder to maintain. To address this, we use the Reader Monad.

In this chapter, we will:

- examine the Functor, Applicative, and Monad instances for *functions*;
- learn about the Reader newtype;
- see some examples of using Reader.

## 22.2 A new beginning

We're going to set this chapter up a bit differently from previous chapters, because we're hoping that this will help demonstrate that what we're doing here is not *that* different from things you've done before. So, we're going to start with some examples. Start a file like this:

```
import Control.Applicative
```

```
hurr = (*2)
```

```
durr = (+10)
```

```
m :: Integer -> Integer
```

```
m = hurr . durr
```

We know that the  $m$  function will take one argument because of the types of `hurr`, `durr`, and `(.)`. Note that if you do not specify the types and load it from a file, it will be monomorphic by default; if you wish to make  $m$  polymorphic, you may change its signature but you also need to specify a polymorphic type for the two functions it's built from. The rest of the chapter will wait while you verify these things.

When we apply  $m$  to an argument, `durr` will be applied to that argument first, and then the result of that will be passed as input to `hurr`. So far, nothing new.

We can also write that function composition this way:

```
m' :: Integer -> Integer
```

```
m' = fmap hurr durr
```

We aren't accustomed to `fmap`ing a function over another function, and you may be wondering what the functorial context here is. By “functorial context” we mean the structure that the function is being lifted *over* in order to apply to the value inside. For example, a list is a functorial context we can lift functions over. We say that the function gets lifted over the structure of the list and applied to or mapped over the values that are inside the list.

In  $m'$ , the context is a partially-applied function. As in function composition, `fmap` composes the two functions before applying them to the argument. The result of the one can then get passed to the next as input. Using `fmap` here lifts the one partially-applied function over the next, in a sense setting up something like this:

```
fmap hurr durr x == (*2) ((+10) x)
-- when this x comes along, it's the
-- first necessary argument to (+10)
-- then the result for that is the
-- first necessary argument to (*2)
```

This is the Functor of functions. We're going to go into more detail about this soon.

For now, let's turn to another set of examples. Put these in the same file so `hurr` and `durr` are still in scope:

```
m2 :: Integer -> Integer
m2 = (+) <$> hurr <*> durr

m3 :: Integer -> Integer
m3 = liftA2 (+) hurr durr
```

Now we're in an Applicative context. We've added another function to lift over the contexts of our partially-applied functions. This time, we still have partially-applied functions that are awaiting application to an argument, but this will work differently than `fmap` did. This time, the argument will get passed to both `hurr` and `durr` in parallel, and the results will be added together.

`hurr` and `durr` are each waiting for an input. We can apply them both at once like this:

```
Prelude> m2 3
19
```

That does something like this:

```
((+) <$> (*2) <*> (+10)) 3

-- First the fmap
(*2) :: Num a => a -> a
(+)  :: Num a => a -> a -> a
(+) <$> (*2) :: Num a => a -> a -> a
```

Mapping a function awaiting two arguments over a function awaiting one produces a two argument function.

Remember, this is identical to function composition:

```
(+) . (*2) :: Num a => a -> a -> a
```

With the same result:

```
Prelude> ((+) . (*2)) 5 3
13
Prelude> ((+) <$> (*2)) 5 3
13
```

So what's happening?

```
((+) <$> (*2)) 5 3
```

```
-- Keeping in mind that this is (.) under the hood
((+) . (*2)) 5 3
```

```
-- f . g = \ x -> f (g x)
```

```
((+) . (*2)) == \ x -> (+) (2 * x)
```

The tricky part here is that even after we apply  $x$ , we've got  $(+)$  partially applied to the first argument which was doubled by  $(*2)$ . There's a second argument, and that's what'll get added to the first argument that got doubled:

```
-- The first function to get applied is (*2),
-- and the first argument is 5. (*2) takes one
-- argument, so we get:
```

```
((+) . (*2)) 5 3
(\ x -> (+) (2 * x)) 5 3
(\ 5 -> (+) (2 * 5)) 3
((+) 10) 3
```

```
-- Then it adds 10 and 3
13
```

Okay, but what about the second bit?

```
((+) <$> (*2) <*> (+10)) 3
```

```
-- Wait, what? What happened to the
-- first argument?
```

```
((+) <$> (*2) <*> (+10)) :: Num b => b -> b
```

One of the nice things about Haskell is we can assert a more concrete type for functions like (`<*>`) and see if the compiler agrees we're putting forth something hypothetically possible. Let's remind ourselves of the type of (`<*>`):

```
Prelude> :t (<*>)
```

```
(<*>) :: Applicative f => f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

```
-- in this case, we know f is ((->) a)
```

```
-- so we concretize it thusly
```

```
Prelude> :t (<*>) :: (a -> a -> b) -> (a -> a) -> (a -> b)
```

```
(<*>) :: (a -> a -> b) -> (a -> a) -> (a -> b)
```

The compiler agrees that this is a possible type for (`<*>`).

So how does that work? What's happening is we're feeding a single argument to the (`*2`) and (`+10`) and the two results form the two arguments to (`+`):

```
((+) <$> (*2) <*> (+10)) 3
```

```
(3*2) + (3+10)
```

```
6 + 13
```

```
19
```

We'd use this when two functions would share the same input and we want to apply some other function to the result of those to reach a final result. This happens more than you might think, and we saw an example of it back in the Abstract Structure Applied chapter:

```

module Web.Shipping.Utils ((<||>)) where

import Control.Applicative (liftA2)

(<||>) :: (a -> Bool) -> (a -> Bool) -> a -> Bool
(<||>) = liftA2 (||)

```

That is the same idea as `m3` above.

Finally, another example:

```

hurrDurr :: Integer -> Integer
hurrDurr = do
    a <- hurr
    b <- durr
    return (a + b)

```

This will do precisely the same thing as the `Applicative` example, but this time the context is `Monad`. This distinction doesn't much matter with this particular function, but we know it must be because we've used `do` syntax. We assign the variable `a` to the partially-applied function `hurr`, and `b` to `durr`. As soon as we receive an input, it will fill the empty slots in `hurr` and `durr`. The results will be bound to the variables `a` and `b` and passed into `return`.

So, we've seen here that we can have a `Functor`, `Applicative`, and `Monad` for partially-applied functions. In all cases, these are awaiting application to one argument that will allow both functions to be evaluated.

This is the idea of `Reader`. It is a way of stringing functions together when all those functions are awaiting one input from a shared environment. We're going to get into the details of how it works, but the important intuition here is that it's just another way of abstracting out function application and gives us a way to do computation in terms of an argument that hasn't been supplied yet. We use this most often when we have a constant value that we will obtain from somewhere outside our program that will be an argument to a whole bunch of functions. Using `Reader` allows us to avoid passing that argument around explicitly.



### Short Exercise: Warming Up

We'll be doing something here very similar to what you saw above, to give you practice and try to develop a feel or intuition for what is to come. These are similar enough to what you just saw that you can almost copy and paste, so try not to overthink them too much.

First, start a file off like this:

```
import Data.Char

cap :: [Char] -> [Char]
cap xs = map toUpper xs

rev :: [Char] -> [Char]
rev xs = reverse xs
```

Two simple functions with the same type, taking the same type of input. We could compose them, using `(.)` or `fmap`:

```
composed :: [Char] -> [Char]
composed = undefined

fmapped :: [Char] -> [Char]
fmapped = undefined
```

The output of those two should be identical: one string that is made all uppercase and reversed, like this:

```
Prelude> composed "Julie"
"EILUJ"
Prelude> fmapped "Chris"
"SIRHC"
```

Now we want to return the results of `cap` and `rev` both, as a tuple, like this:

```
Prelude> tupled "Julie"
("JULIE","eiluJ")
-- or
Prelude> tupled' "Julie"
("eiluJ","JULIE")
```

We will want to use an applicative here. The type will look like this:

```
tupled :: [Char] -> ([Char], [Char])
```

There is no special reason such a function needs to be monadic, but let's do that, too, to get some practice. Do it one time using `do` syntax; then try writing a new version using `(>=)`. The types will be the same as the type for `tupled`.

### 22.3 This is Reader

As we saw above, functions have `Functor`, `Applicative`, and `Monad` instances. Usually when you see or hear the term `Reader`, it'll be referring to the `Monad` or `Applicative` instances.

We use function composition because it lets us compose two functions without explicitly having to recognize the argument that will eventually arrive; the `Functor` of functions is function composition. With the `Functor` of functions, we are able to map an ordinary function over another to create a new function awaiting a final argument. The `Applicative` and `Monad` instances for the function type give us a way to map a function that is awaiting an *a* over another function that is also awaiting an *a*.

Giving it a name helps us know the what and why of what we're doing: reading an argument from the environment into functions. It'll be especially nice for clarity's sake later when we make the `Reader monad transformer`.

Exciting, right? Let's back up here and go into more detail about how `Reader` works.

### 22.4 Breaking down the Functor of functions

If you bring up `:info Functor` in your REPL, one of the instances you might notice is the one for the partially-applied type constructor of functions `((->) r)`:

```
instance Functor ((->) r)
```

This can be a little confusing, so we're going to unwind it until hopefully it's a bit more comfortable. First, let's see what we can accomplish with this:

```
Prelude> fmap (+1) (*2) 3
7
```

-- Rearranging a little bit syntactically

```
Prelude> fmap (+1) (*2) $ 3
7
```

```
Prelude> (fmap (+1) (*2)) 3
7
```

This should look familiar:

```
Prelude> (+1) . (*2) $ 3
7
```

```
Prelude> (+2) . (*1) $ 2
4
```

```
Prelude> fmap (+2) (*1) $ 2
4
```

```
Prelude> (+2) `fmap` (*1) $ 2
4
```

Fortunately, there's nothing weird going on here. If you check the implementation of the instance in `base`, you'll find the following:

```
instance Functor ((->) r) where
    fmap = (.)
```

Let's unravel the types that seem so unusual here. Remember that `(->)` takes two arguments and therefore has kind `* -> * -> *`. So, we know upfront that we have to apply one of the type arguments before we can have a `Functor`. With the `Either` `Functor`, we know that we will lift over the `Either a` and if our function will be applied, it will be applied to the `b` value. With the function type:

```
data (->) a b
```

the same rule applies: you have to lift over the `(->)` `a` and only transform the `b` value. The `a` is conventionally called `r` for Reader in these instances, but a type variable of any other name smells as sweet. Here, `r` is the first argument of `(a -> b)`:

```
-- Type constructor of functions
(->)
-- Fully applied
a -> b

((->) r)
-- is
r ->

-- so r is the type of the
-- argument to the function
```

From this, we can determine that `r`, the argument type for functions, is part of the structure being *lifted over* when we lift over a function, not the value being transformed or mapped over.

This leaves the result of the function as the value being transformed. This happens to line up neatly with what function composition is about:

```
(.) :: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> a -> c
-- or perhaps
(.) :: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> (a -> c)
```

Now how does this line up with Functor?

```
(.) :: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> (a -> c)
```

```
fmap :: Functor f => (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
```

```
-- we're going to remove the names of the functions
-- and the typeclass constraint as we can take it for
-- granted from here on out.
```

```
:: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> (a -> c)
:: (a -> b) ->      f a  ->      f b
```

```
-- Changing up the letters without changing the meaning
```

```
:: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> (a -> c)
:: (b -> c) ->      f b  ->      f c
```

```
-- f is ((->) a)
```

```
:: (b -> c) ->      (a -> b) ->      (a -> c)
:: (b -> c) -> ((->) a)  b  -> ((->) a)  c
```

```
-- Unroll the prefix notation into infix
```

```
:: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> (a -> c)
:: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> (a -> c)
```

Bada bing. Functorial lifting for functions.

## 22.5 But uh, Reader?

Ah yes, right. Reader is a newtype wrapper for the function type:

```
newtype Reader r a =
  Reader { runReader :: r -> a }
```

The *r* is the type we're “reading” in and *a* is the result type of our function.

The Reader newtype has a handy `runReader` accessor to get the function out of Reader. Let us prove for ourselves that this is the same thing, but with a touch of data constructor jiggery-pokery mixed in. What does the Functor for this look like compared to function composition?

```
instance Functor (Reader r) where
  fmap :: (a -> b) -> Reader r a -> Reader r b
  fmap f (Reader ra) =
    Reader $ \r -> f (ra r)

-- same as (.)
compose :: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> (a -> c)
compose f g = \x -> f (g x)

-- see it?
\r -> f (ra r)
\x -> f (g x)
```

Basically the same thing right?

We can use the fact that we recognize this as function composition to make a slightly different instance for Reader:

```
instance Functor (Reader r) where
  fmap :: (a -> b) -> Reader r a -> Reader r b
  fmap f (Reader ra) =
    Reader $ (f . ra)
```

So what we're doing here is basically:

1. Unpack `r -> a` out of Reader
2. Compose `f` with the function we unpacked out of Reader.
3. Put the new function made from the composition back into Reader.

Without the Reader newtype, we drop steps 1 and 3 and have function composition.

**Exercise: Ask**

Implement the following function. If you get stuck, remember it's less complicated than it looks. Write down what you *know*. What do you know about the type *a*? What does the type simplify to? How many inhabitants does that type have? You've seen the type before.

```
ask :: Reader a a
ask = Reader ???
```

**22.6 Functions have an Applicative too**

We've seen a couple of examples already of the Applicative of functions and how it works. Now we'll get into the details.

The first thing we want to do is notice how the types specialize:

```
-- Applicative f =>

-- f ~ (->) r

pure :: a ->      f a
pure :: a -> (r -> a)

(<*>) :: f (a -> b) ->      f a ->      f b
(<*>) :: (r -> a -> b) -> (r -> a) -> (r -> b)
```

As we saw in the Functor instance, the *r* of Reader is part of the *f* structure. We have two arguments in this function, and both of them are functions waiting for the *r* input. When that comes, both functions will be applied to return a final result of *b*.

**Demonstrating the function applicative**

This example is similar to other demonstrations we've done previously in the book, but this time we'll be aiming to show you what specific use the Applicative of functions typically has. We start with some newtypes for tracking our different String values:

```
newtype HumanName =  
  HumanName String  
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
newtype DogName =  
  DogName String  
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
newtype Address =  
  Address String  
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

We do this so that our types are more self-explanatory, to express intent, and so we don't accidentally mix up our inputs. A type like this:

```
String -> String -> String
```

really sucks when:

1. They aren't strictly *any* string value.
2. They aren't processed in an identical fashion. You don't handle addresses the same as names.

So make the difference explicit.

We'll make two record types:

```
data Person =  
  Person {  
    humanName :: HumanName  
  , dogName :: DogName  
  , address :: Address  
  } deriving (Eq, Show)
```

```
data Dog =  
  Dog {  
    dogsName :: DogName  
  , dogsAddress :: Address  
  } deriving (Eq, Show)
```



The following are merely some sample data to use. You can modify them as you'd like:

```
pers :: Person
pers =
    Person (HumanName "Big Bird")
          (DogName "Barkley")
          (Address "Sesame Street")

chris :: Person
chris = Person (HumanName "Chris Allen")
          (DogName "Papu")
          (Address "Austin")
```

And here is how we'd write it with and without Reader:

```
-- without Reader
getDog :: Person -> Dog
getDog p =
    Dog (dogName p) (address p)

-- with Reader
getDogR :: Person -> Dog
getDogR =
    Dog <$> dogName <*> address
```

The pattern of using Applicative in this manner is common, so there's an alternate way to do this using liftA2:

```
import Control.Applicative (liftA2)

-- with Reader, alternate
getDogR' :: Person -> Dog
getDogR' =
    liftA2 Dog dogName address
```

Here's the type of liftA2.

```
liftA2 :: Applicative f =>
  (a -> b -> c)
  -> f a -> f b -> f c
```

Again, we're waiting for an input from elsewhere. Rather than having to thread the argument through our functions, we elide it and let the types manage it for us.

### Exercise: Reading Comprehension

1. Write `liftA2` yourself. Think about it in terms of abstracting out the difference between `getDogR` and `getDogR'` if that helps.

```
myLiftA2 :: Applicative f =>
  (a -> b -> c)
  -> f a -> f b -> f c
myLiftA2 = undefined
```

2. Write the following function. Again, it is simpler than it looks.

```
asks :: (r -> a) -> Reader r a
asks f = Reader ???
```

3. Implement the `Applicative` for `Reader`.

To write the `Applicative` instance for `Reader`, we'll use a pragma called `InstanceSigs`. It's an extension we need in order to assert a type for the typeclass methods. You ordinarily cannot assert type signatures in instances. The compiler already knows the type of the functions, so it's not usually necessary to assert the types in instances anyway. We did this for the sake of clarity, to make the `Reader` type explicit in our signatures.

```
-- you'll need this pragma
{-# LANGUAGE InstanceSigs #-}

instance Applicative (Reader r) where
  pure :: a -> Reader r a
  pure a = Reader $ ???

  (<*>) :: Reader r (a -> b)
         -> Reader r a
         -> Reader r b
  (Reader rab) <*> (Reader ra) =
    Reader $ \r -> ???
```

Some instructions and hints.

- a) When writing the pure function for Reader, remember that what you're trying to construct is a function that takes a value of type  $r$ , which you know nothing about, and return a value of type  $a$ . Given that you're not really doing anything with  $r$ , there's *really only one thing you can do*.
- b) We got the definition of the apply function started for you, we'll describe what you need to do and you write the code. If you unpack the type of Reader's apply above, you get the following.

```
<*> :: (r -> a -> b)
      -> (r -> a)
      -> (r -> b)

-- contrast this with the type of fmap

fmap :: (a -> b)
      -> (r -> a)
      -> (r -> b)
```

So what's the difference? The difference is that with apply, unlike fmap, also takes an argument of type  $r$ .

Make it so.

4. Rewrite the above example that uses `Dog` and `Person` to use your `Reader` datatype you just implemented the `Applicative` for. You'll need to change the types as well.

```
-- example type
getDogR :: Reader Person Dog
getDogR = undefined
```

## 22.7 The Monad of functions

Functions also have a `Monad` instance. You saw this in the beginning of this chapter, and you perhaps have some intuition now for how this must work. We're going to walk through a simplified demonstration of how it works before we get to the types and instance. Feel free to work through this section as quickly or slowly as you think appropriate to your own grasp of what we've presented so far.

Let's start by supposing that we could write a couple of simple functions like so:

```
foo :: (Functor f, Num a) => f a -> f a
foo r = fmap (+1) r

bar :: Foldable f => t -> f a -> (t, Int)
bar r t = (r, length t)
```

Now, as it happens in our program, we want to make one function that will do both — increment the values inside our structure and also tell us the length of the value. We could write that like this:

```
froot :: Num a => [a] -> ([a], Int)
froot r = (map (+1) r, length r)
```

Or we could write the same function by combining the two functions we already had. As it is written above, `bar` takes two arguments. We could write a version that takes only one argument, so that both parts of the tuple apply to the same argument. That is easy enough to do (notice the change in the type signature as well):

```
barOne :: Foldable t => t a -> (t a, Int)
barOne r = (r, length r)
```

That gave us the reduction to one argument that we wanted but didn't increment the values in the list as our `foo` function does. We can add that this way:

```
barPlus r = (foo r, length r)
```

But we can also do that more compactly by making `(foo r)` the first argument to `bar`:

```
frooty :: Num a => [a] -> ([a], Int)
frooty r = bar (foo r) r
```

Now we have an environment in which two functions are waiting for the same argument to come in. They'll both apply to that argument in order to produce a final result.

Let's make a small change to make it look a little more Reader-y:

```
frooty' :: Num a => [a] -> ([a], Int)
frooty' = \r -> bar (foo r) r
```

Then we abstract this out so that it's not specific to these functions:

```
fooBind m k = \r -> k (m r) r
```

In this very polymorphic version, the type signature will look like this:

```
fooBind :: (t2 -> t1) -> (t1 -> t2 -> t) -> t2 -> t
```

So many  $t$  types! That's because we can't know very much about those types once our function is that abstract. We can make it a little more clear by making some substitutions. We'll use the  $r$  to represent the argument that both of our functions are waiting on — the Reader-y part:

```
fooBind :: (r -> a) -> (a -> r -> b) -> (r -> b)
```

If we could take the  $r$  parts out, we might notice that `fooBind` itself looks like a very abstract and simplified version of something we've seen before (overparenthesizing a bit, for clarity):

```
(>=) :: Monad m => m a -> (a -> (m b)) -> m b
      (r -> a) -> (a -> (r -> b)) -> (r -> b)
```

This is how we get to the Monad of functions. Just as with the Functor and Applicative instances, the `(-> r)` is our structure — the *m* in the type of `(>=)`. In the next section, we'll work forward from the types.

### The Monad instance

As we noted, the *r* argument remains part of our (monadic) structure:

```
(>=) :: Monad m => m a -> (a -> m b) -> m b
(>=) :: (->) r a -> (a -> (->) r b) -> (->) r b

(>=) :: (r -> a) -> (a -> r -> b) -> r -> b

return :: Monad m => a -> m a
return :: a -> (->) r a
return :: a -> r -> a
```

You may notice that `return` looks like a function we've seen *a lot* of in this book.

Let's look at it side by side with the Applicative:

```
(<*>) :: (->) r (a -> b) -> (->) r a -> (->) r b
(>=) :: (->) r a -> (a -> (->) r b) -> (->) r b
```

So you've got this ever-present type *r* following your functions around like a lonely puppy.

### Example uses of the Reader type

Remember the earlier example with `Person` and `Dog`? Here's the same but with the Reader Monad and `do` syntax:

```
-- with Reader Monad
getDogRM :: Person -> Dog
getDogRM = do
  name <- dogName
  addy <- address
  return $ Dog name addy
```

**Exercise: Reader Monad**

1. Implement the Reader Monad.

*-- Don't forget instancesigs.*

```
instance Monad (Reader r) where
  return = pure

  (>=) :: Reader r a
        -> (a -> Reader r b)
        -> Reader r b
  (Reader ra) >= aRb =
    Reader $ \r -> ???
```

Hint: contrast the type with the Applicative instance and perform the most obvious change you can imagine to make it work.

2. Rewrite the monadic `getDogRM` to use your Reader datatype.

**22.8 Reader Monad by itself is kinda boring**

It can't do anything the Applicative cannot.

Remember how we calculated the cardinality of types?

```
{-# LANGUAGE NoImplicitPrelude #-}
```

```
module PrettyReader where
```

```
flip :: (a -> b -> c) -> (b -> a -> c)
flip f a b = f b a
```

```
const :: a -> b -> a
const a b = a
```

```
(.) :: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> (a -> c)
f . g = \a -> f (g a)
```

```

class Functor f where
  fmap :: (a -> b) -> f a -> f b

class Functor f => Applicative f where
  pure :: a -> f a
  (<*>) :: f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b

class Applicative f => Monad f where
  return :: a -> f a

  (>=) :: f a -> (a -> f b) -> f b

instance Functor ((->) r) where
  fmap = (.)

instance Applicative ((->) r) where
  pure = const

  f <*> a = \r -> f r (a r)

instance Monad ((->) r) where
  return = pure
  m >= k = flip k <*> m

```

Speaking generally in terms of the algebras alone, you *cannot* get a Monad instance from the Applicative. You can get an Applicative from the Monad. However, our instances above aren't in terms of an abstract datatype; we *know* it's the type of functions. Because it's not hiding behind a Reader newtype, we can use `flip` and `apply` to make the Monad instance. We need specific type information to augment what the Applicative is capable of before we can get our Monad instance.

The idea to define the Monad instance of functions in terms of the Applicative using `flip` and `apply` is courtesy Joseph Tel Abrahamson.



## 22.9 You can change what comes below, but not above

The “read-only” nature of the type argument  $r$  means that you can swap in a different type or value of  $r$  for functions that you call, but not for functions that call you. The best way to demonstrate this is with the `withReaderT` function which lets us start a new Reader context with a different argument being provided:

```
withReaderT
  :: (r' -> r)
  -- ^ The function to modify the environment.
  -> ReaderT r m a
  -- ^ Computation to run in the modified environment.
  -> ReaderT r' m a
withReaderT f m = ReaderT $ runReaderT m . f
```

In the next chapter, we’ll see the State monad where we can not only read in a value, but provide a new one which will change the value carried by the functions that called us, not only those we called.

## 22.10 You tend to see ReaderT, not Reader

Reader rarely stands alone. Usually it’s one Monad in a *stack* of multiple types providing a Monad instance such as with a web application that uses Reader to give you access to context about the HTTP request. When used in that fashion, it’s a monad *transformer* and we put a letter T after the type to indicate when we’re using it as such, so you’ll usually see ReaderT in production Haskell code rather than Reader.

Further, a Reader of Int isn’t really all that useful or compelling. Usually if you have a Reader, it’s of a record of several (possibly many) values that you’re getting out of the Reader.

## 22.11 Chapter Exercises

### A warm-up stretch

These exercises are designed to be a warm-up and get you using some of the stuff we’ve learned in the last few chapters. While these

exercises comprise code fragments from “real” code, they are simplified in order to be discrete exercises. That will allow us to highlight and practice some of the type manipulation from Traversable and Reader, both of which are tricky.

The first simplified part is that we’re going to set up some toy data; in the real programs these are taken from, the data is coming from somewhere else — a database, for example. We just need some lists of numbers. We’re going to use some functions from Control.Applicative and Data.Maybe, so we’ll import those at the top of our practice file. We’ll call our lists of toy data by common variable names for simplicity.

```
module ReaderPractice where
```

```
import Control.Applicative
```

```
import Data.Maybe
```

```
x = [1, 2, 3]
```

```
y = [4, 5, 6]
```

```
z = [7, 8, 9]
```

The next thing we want to do is write some functions that zip those lists together and uses lookup to find the value associated with a specified key in our zipped lists. For demonstration purposes, it’s nice to have the outputs be predictable, so we recommend writing some that are concrete values, as well as one that can be applied to a variable:

```
lookup :: Eq a => a -> [(a, b)] -> Maybe b
```

```
-- zip x and y using 3 as the lookup key
```

```
xs :: Maybe Integer
```

```
xs = undefined
```

```
-- zip y and z using 6 as the lookup key
```

```
ys :: Maybe Integer
```

```
ys = undefined
```

```
-- it's also nice to have one that
```

```
-- will return Nothing, like this one
```

```
-- zip x and y using 4 as the lookup key
```

```
zs :: Maybe Integer
```

```
zs = lookup 4 $ zip x y
```

```
-- now zip x and z using a variable lookup key
```

```
z' :: Integer -> Maybe Integer
```

```
z' n = undefined
```

Now we want to add the ability to make a `Maybe (,)` of values using `Applicative`. Have `x1` make a tuple of `xs` and `ys`, and `x2` make a tuple of `ys` and `zs`. Also, write `x3` which takes one input and makes a tuple of the results of two applications of `z'` from above.

```
x1 :: Maybe (Integer, Integer)
```

```
x1 = undefined
```

```
x2 :: Maybe (Integer, Integer)
```

```
x2 = undefined
```

```
x3 :: Integer -> (Maybe Integer, Maybe Integer)
```

```
x3 = undefined
```

Your outputs from those should look like this:

```
*ReaderPractice> x1
```

```
Just (6,9)
```

```
*ReaderPractice> x2
Nothing
*ReaderPractice> x3 3
(Just 9,Just 9)
```

Next, we're going to make some helper functions. Let's use `uncurry` to allow us to add the two values that are inside a tuple:

```
uncurry :: (a -> b -> c) -> (a, b) -> c
-- that first argument is a function
-- in this case, we want it to be addition
-- summed is just uncurry with addition as
-- the first argument
```

```
summed :: Num c => (c, c) -> c
summed = undefined
```

And now we'll make a function similar to some we've seen before that lifts a boolean function over two partially-applied functions:

```
bolt :: Integer -> Bool
-- use &&, >3, <8
bolt = undefined
```

Finally, we'll be using `fromMaybe` in the `main` exercise, so let's look at that:

```
fromMaybe :: a -> Maybe a -> a
```

You give it a default value and a `Maybe` value. If the `Maybe` value is a `Just a`, it will return the `a` value. If the `Maybe` value is a `Nothing`, it returns the default value instead:

```
*ReaderPractice> fromMaybe 0 xs
6
*ReaderPractice> fromMaybe 0 zs
0
```

Now we'll cobble together a `main` function, so that in one function call we can execute several things at once.

```

main :: IO ()
main = do
  print $ sequenceA [Just 3, Just 2, Just 1]
  print $ sequenceA [x, y]
  print $ sequenceA [xs, ys]
  print $ summed <$> ((,) <$> xs <*> ys)
  print $ fmap summed ((,) <$> xs <*> zs)
  print $ bolt 7
  print $ fmap bolt z

```

When you run this in GHCi, your results should look like this:

```

*ReaderPractice> main
Just [3,2,1]
[[1,4],[1,5],[1,6],[2,4],[2,5],[2,6],[3,4],[3,5],[3,6]]
Just [6,9]
Just 15
Nothing
True
[True,False,False]

```

Next, we're going to add one that combines `sequenceA` and `Reader` in a somewhat surprising way (add this to your `main` function):

```

print $ sequenceA [(>3), (<8), even] 7

```

The type of `sequenceA` is

```

sequenceA :: (Applicative f, Traversable t) => t (f a) -> f (t a)
-- so in this:
sequenceA [(>3), (<8), even] 7
-- f ~ (->) a and t ~ []

```

We have a `Reader` for the `Applicative` (functions) and a `traversable` for the list. Pretty handy. We're going to call that function `sequA` for the purposes of the following exercises:

```

sequA :: Integral a => a -> [Bool]
sequA m = sequenceA [(>3), (<8), even] m

```

And henceforth let

**summed** <\$> ((,) <\$> xs <\*> ys)

be known as `s'`.

OK, your turn. Within the `main` function above, write the following (you can delete everything after `do now` if you prefer — just remember to use `print` to be able to print the results of what you're adding):

1. fold the boolean conjunction operator over the list of results of `sequA` (applied to some value).
2. apply `sequA` to `s'`; you'll need `fromMaybe`.
3. apply `bolt` to `ys`; you'll need `fromMaybe`.
4. apply `bolt` to `z'`.

## Rewriting Shawty

Remember the URL shortener? Instead of manually passing the database connection `rConn` from the `main` function to the `app` function that generates a `Scotty` app, use `ReaderT` to make the database connection available. We know you haven't seen the transformer variant yet and we'll explain them soon, but you should try to do the transformation mechanically. Research as necessary using a search engine. Use this version of the app: <https://github.com/bitemyapp/shawty-prime/blob/master/app/Main.hs>

## 22.12 Follow-up resources

1. Reader Monad; All About Monads  
[https://wiki.haskell.org/All\\_About\\_Monads](https://wiki.haskell.org/All_About_Monads)
2. Reader Monad; Programming with Monads; Real World Haskell

## Chapter 23

### State

Four centuries ago, Descartes pondered the mind-body problem: how can incorporeal minds interact with physical bodies? Today, computing scientists face their own version of the mind-body problem: how can virtual software interact with the real world?

---

Philip Wadler



## 23.1 State

What if I need state? In Haskell we have many means of representing, accessing, and modifying state. We can think of state as data that exists in addition to the inputs and outputs of our functions, data that can potentially change after each function is evaluated.

In this chapter, we will:

- talk about what *state* means;
- explore some ways of handling state in Haskell;
- generate some more random numbers;
- and examine the `State` newtype and `Monad` instance.

## 23.2 What is state?

The concept of state originates in the circuit and automata theory that much of computer science and programming began with. The simplest form of state could be understood as a light switch. A light switch has two possible states, on or off. That disposition of the light switch, being on or off, could be understood as its “state.” Similarly, transistors in computers have binary states of being on or off. This is a very low-level way of seeing it, but this maps onto the “state” that exists in computer memory.

In most imperative programming languages, this statefulness is pervasive, implicit, and not referenced in the types of your functions. In Haskell, we’re not allowed to secretly change some value, all we can do is accept arguments and return a result. The `State` type in Haskell is a means of expressing “state” which may change in the course of evaluating code without resort to mutation. The monadic interface for `State` is, much as you’ve seen already, more of a convenience than a strict necessity for working with `State`.

We have the option to capture the idea and convenience of a value which potentially changes with each computation without resorting to mutability. `State` captures this idea and cleans up the bookkeeping required. If you need in-place mutation, then the `ST` type is what you want, but we will not be covering it in this book.

In Haskell, if we use the `State` type and its associated `Monad` (for convenience, not strictly necessary), we can have state which:

1. doesn't require IO;
2. is limited only to the data in our State container;
3. maintains referential transparency;
4. is explicit in the types of our functions.

There are other means of sharing data within a program which are designed for different needs than the State datatype itself. State is appropriate when you want to express your program in terms of values that potentially vary with each evaluation step, which can be read and modified, but don't otherwise have specific operational constraints.

### 23.3 Random numbers

As we did in the previous chapter, we'll start with an extended example. This will help you get an idea of the problem we're trying to solve with the State datatype.

We'll be using the `random`<sup>1</sup> library, version 1.1, in this example.

First, let's give an overview of some of the functions we'll be using here. We used the `System.Random` library back in the chapter where we built the hangman game, but we'll be using some different functions for this example. This is in broad strokes; it isn't meant to go into great detail about how these generators work.

`System.Random` is designed to generate pseudorandom values. You can generate those values through providing a seed value or by using the system-initialised generator. We'll be using the following from that library:

1. One of the types we'll be seeing here, `StdGen`, is a datatype that is a product of two `Int32` values. So a value of type `StdGen` always comprises two `Int32` values. They are the seed values used to generate the next random number.
2. `mkStdGen` has the type:

```
mkStdGen :: Int -> StdGen
```

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://hackage.haskell.org/package/random>

We'll ignore the implementation at this point because those details aren't important here. The idea is that it takes an `Int` argument and maps it into a generator to return a value of type `StdGen`, which is a pair of `Int32` values.

3. `next` has the type:

```
next :: g -> (Int, g)
```

where  $g$  is a value of type `StdGen`. The `Int` that is first in the tuple is the pseudorandom number generated from the `StdGen` value; the second value is a new `StdGen` value.

4. `random` has the type:

```
random :: (RandomGen g, Random a) => g -> (a, g)
```

This is similar to `next` but allows us to generate random values that aren't numbers. The range generated will be determined by the type.

Now, let's have a little demonstration of these:

```
Prelude> import System.Random
Prelude> mkStdGen 0
1 1
Prelude> :t mkStdGen 0
mkStdGen 0 :: StdGen
Prelude> let sg = mkStdGen 0
Prelude> :t next sg
next sg :: (Int, StdGen)
Prelude> next sg
(2147482884,40014 40692)
Prelude> next sg
(2147482884,40014 40692)
```

We get the same answer twice because the underlying function that's deciding the values returned is pure; the type doesn't permit the performance of any effects to get spooky action. Define a new version of `sg` that provides a different input value to `mkStdGen` and see what happens.

So, we have a value called `next sg`. Now, if we want to use that to generate the next random number, we need to feed the `StdGen` value from that tuple to `next` again. We can use `snd` to extract that `StdGen` value and pass it as an input to `next`:

```
Prelude> snd (next sg)
240084 40692
Prelude> let newSg = snd (next sg)
Prelude> :t newSg
newSg :: StdGen
Prelude> next newSg
(2092764894,1601120196 1655838864)
```

You'll keep getting the same results of `next` there, but you can extract that `StdGen` value and pass it to `next` *again* to get a new tuple:

```
Prelude> next (snd (next newSg))
(1679949200,1635875901 2103410263)
```

Now we'll look at a few examples using `random`. Because `random` can generate values of different types, we need to specify the type to use:

```
Prelude> :t random newSg
random newSg :: Random a => (a, StdGen)
Prelude> random newSg :: (Int, StdGen)
(138890298504988632,439883729 1872071452)
Prelude> random newSg :: (Double, StdGen)
(0.41992072972993366,439883729 1872071452)
```

Simple enough, but what if we want a number within a range?

```
Prelude> :t randomR
randomR :: (RandomGen g, Random a) => (a, a) -> g -> (a, g)
Prelude> randomR (0, 3) newSg :: (Int, StdGen)
(1,1601120196 1655838864)
Prelude> randomR (0, 3) newSg :: (Double, StdGen)
(1.259762189189801,439883729 1872071452)
```

We have to pass the new state of the random number generator to the `next` function to get a new value:

```
Prelude> let rx :: (Int, StdGen); rx = random (snd sg3)
Prelude> rx
(2387576047905147892,1038587761 535353314)
Prelude> snd rx
1038587761 535353314
```

This chaining of state can get tedious. Addressing this tedium is our aim in this chapter.

## 23.4 The State newtype

State is defined in a newtype, like Reader in the previous chapter, and that type looks like this:

```
newtype State s a =
  State { runState :: s -> (a, s) }
```

It's initially a bit strange looking, but you might notice some similarity to the Reader newtype:

```
newtype Reader r a =
  Reader { runReader :: r -> a }
```

Actually, we've seen several newtypes whose contents are a function, particularly with our Monoid newtypes (Sum, Product, etc.). Newtypes must have the same underlying representation as the type they wrap, as the newtype wrapper disappears at compile time. So the function contained in the newtype must be isomorphic to the type it wraps. That is, there must be a way to go from the newtype to the thing it wraps and back again without losing information. For example, the following demonstrates an isomorphism:

```
type Iso a b = (a -> b, b -> a)

newtype Sum a = Sum { getSum :: a }

sumIsIsomorphicWithItsContents :: Iso a (Sum a)
sumIsIsomorphicWithItsContents =
  (Sum, getSum)
```

Whereas the following do not:

```
-- Not an isomorphism, because it might not work.
(a -> Maybe b, b -> Maybe a)

-- Not an isomorphism for two reasons. You lose information
-- whenever there was more than one element in [a]. Also,
-- [a] -> a is partial because there might not be any
-- elements.
[a] -> a, a -> [a]
```

With that in mind, let us look at the `State` data constructor and `runState` record accessor as our means of putting a value in and taking a value of out the `State` type:

```
State :: (s -> (a, s)) -> State s a

runState :: State s a -> s -> (a, s)
```

`State` is a function that takes input state and returns an output value, *a*, tupled with the new state value. The key is that the previous state value from each application is chained to the next one, and this is not an uncommon pattern. `State` is often used for things like random number generators, solvers, games, and carrying working memory while traversing a data structure. The polymorphism means you don't have to make a new state for each possible instantiation of *s* and *a*.

Let's get back to our random numbers:

Note that `random` should look an awful lot like `State` to you here:

```
random :: (Random a) => StdGen -> (a, StdGen)
State {   runState ::          s -> (a, s)   }
```

If we look at the type of `randomR`, once partially applied, it should also remind you of `State`:

```
randomR :: (...) => (a, a) -> g -> (a, g)
State {   runState ::          s -> (a, s) }
```

## 23.5 Throw down

Now let us use this kit to generate die such as for a game:

```
module RandomExample where
```

```
import System.Random
```

```
-- Six-sided die
```

```
data Die =
    DieOne
  | DieTwo
  | DieThree
  | DieFour
  | DieFive
  | DieSix
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

As you might expect, we'll be using the `random` library, and a simple `Die` datatype to represent a six-sided die.

```
intToDie :: Int -> Die
intToDie n =
  case n of
    1 -> DieOne
    2 -> DieTwo
    3 -> DieThree
    4 -> DieFour
    5 -> DieFive
    6 -> DieSix
    -- Use this tactic _extremely_ sparingly.
    x -> error $ "intToDie got non 1-6 integer: " ++ show x
```

Don't use 'error' outside of experiments like this, or in cases where the branch you're ignoring is provably impossible. We do not use the word *provably* here lightly.<sup>2</sup>

Now we need to roll the dice:

---

<sup>2</sup> Because partial functions are a pain, you should only use an error like this when the branch that would spawn the error can literally never happen. Unexpected software failures are often due to things like this. It is also completely unnecessary in

```

rollDieThreeTimes :: (Die, Die, Die)
rollDieThreeTimes = do
    -- this will produce the same results every
    -- time because it is free of effects.
    -- This is fine for this demonstration.
    let s = mkStdGen 0
        (d1, s1) = randomR (1, 6) s
        (d2, s2) = randomR (1, 6) s1
        (d3, _) = randomR (1, 6) s2
    (intToDie d1, intToDie d2, intToDie d3)

```

This code isn't optimal, but it does work. It will produce the same results every time, because it is free of effects, but you can make it produce a new result on a new dice roll if you modify the start value. Try it a couple of times to see what we mean. It seems unlikely that this will develop into a gambling addiction, but in the event it does, the authors disclaim liability for such.

So, how can we improve our suboptimal code there. With State, of course!

```

module RandomExample2 where

import Control.Applicative (liftA3)
import Control.Monad (replicateM)
import Control.Monad.Trans.State
import System.Random

```

First, we'll add some new imports. You'll need transformers to be installed for the State import to work, but that should have come with your GHC install, so you should be good to go.

Using State will allow us to factor out the generation of a single Die:

```

rollDie :: State StdGen Die
rollDie = state $ do
    (n, s) <- randomR (1, 6)
    return (intToDie n, s)

```

---

Haskell; we have good alternatives, like using Maybe or Either. The only reason we didn't here is to keep it simple and focus attention on the State Monad.



For our purposes, the `state` function is a constructor that takes a State-like function and embeds it in the State monad transformer. Ignore the transformer part for now — we'll get there. The `state` function has the following type:

```
state :: Monad m => (s -> (a, s)) -> StateT s m a
```

Note that we're binding the result of `randomR` out of the State monad the `do` block is in rather than using `let`. This is still more verbose than is necessary. We can lift our `intToDie` function over the State:

```
rollDie' :: State StdGen Die
rollDie' =
  intToDie <$> state (randomR (1, 6))
```

State StdGen had a final type argument of `Int`. We lifted `Int -> Die` over it and transformed that final type argument to `Die`. We'll exercise more brevity upfront in the next function:

```
rollDieThreeTimes' :: State StdGen (Die, Die, Die)
rollDieThreeTimes' =
  liftA3 (,,) rollDie rollDie rollDie
```

Lifting the three-tuple constructor over three State actions that produce `Die` values when given an initial state to work with. How does this look in practice?

```
Prelude> evalState rollDieThreeTimes' (mkStdGen 0)
(DieSix,DieSix,DieFour)
Prelude> evalState rollDieThreeTimes' (mkStdGen 1)
(DieSix,DieFive,DieTwo)
```

Seems to work fine. Again, the same inputs give us the same result. What if we want a list of `Die` instead of a tuple?

```
-- Seems appropriate?
repeat :: a -> [a]

infiniteDie :: State StdGen [Die]
infiniteDie = repeat <$> rollDie
```

Does this `infiniteDie` function do what we want or expect? What is it repeating?

```
Prelude> take 6 $ evalState infiniteDie (mkStdGen 0)
[DieSix,DieSix,DieSix,DieSix,DieSix,DieSix]
```

We already know based on previous inputs that the first 3 values shouldn't be identical for a seed value of 0. So what happened? What happened is we repeated a single *die value* — we didn't repeat the state action that *produces a die*. This is what we need:

```
replicateM :: Monad m => Int -> m a -> m [a]
```

```
nDie :: Int -> State StdGen [Die]
```

```
nDie n = replicateM n rollDie
```

And when we use it?

```
Prelude> evalState (nDie 5) (mkStdGen 0)
[DieSix,DieSix,DieFour,DieOne,DieFive]
Prelude> evalState (nDie 5) (mkStdGen 1)
[DieSix,DieFive,DieTwo,DieSix,DieFive]
```

We get precisely what we wanted.

## Keep on rolling

In the following example, we keep rolling a single die until we reach or exceed a sum of 20.

```
rollsToGetTwenty :: StdGen -> Int
```

```
rollsToGetTwenty g = go 0 0 g
```

```
  where go :: Int -> Int -> StdGen -> Int
```

```
        go sum count gen
```

```
        | sum >= 20 = count
```

```
        | otherwise =
```

```
          let (die, nextGen) = randomR (1, 6) gen
```

```
          in go (sum + die) (count + 1) nextGen
```

Then seeing it in action:

```
Prelude> rollsToGetTwenty (mkStdGen 0)
5
Prelude> rollsToGetTwenty (mkStdGen 0)
5
```

We can also use `randomIO`, which uses IO to get a new value each time without needing to create a unique value for the `StdGen`:

```
Prelude> :t randomIO
randomIO :: Random a => IO a
Prelude> (rollsToGetTwenty . mkStdGen) <$> randomIO
6
Prelude> (rollsToGetTwenty . mkStdGen) <$> randomIO
7
```

Under the hood, it's the same interface and State Monad driven mechanism, but it's mutating a global `StdGen` to walk the generator forward on each use. See the `random` library source code to see how this works.

### Exercises: Roll Your Own

1. Refactor `rollsToGetTwenty` into having the limit be a function argument.

```
rollsToGetN :: Int -> StdGen -> Int
rollsToGetN = undefined
```

2. Change `rollsToGetN` to recording the series of die that occurred in addition to the count.

```
rollsCountLogged :: Int -> StdGen -> (Int, [Die])
rollsCountLogged = undefined
```

## 23.6 Write State for yourself

Use the datatype definition from the beginning of this chapter, with the name changed to avoid conflicts in case you have `State` imported from the libraries `transformers` or `mtl`. We're calling it `Moi`, because we enjoy allusions to famous quotations<sup>3</sup>; feel free to change the

name if you wish to protest absolute monarchy, just change them consistently throughout.

```
newtype Moi s a =
  Moi { runMoi :: s -> (a, s) }
```

## State Functor

Implement the Functor instance for State.

```
instance Functor (Moi s) where
  fmap :: (a -> b) -> Moi s a -> Moi s b
  fmap f (Moi g) = ???
```

```
Prelude> runMoi ((+1) <$> (Moi $ \s -> (0, s))) 0
(1,0)
```

## State Applicative

Write the Applicative instance for State.

```
instance Applicative (Moi s) where
  pure :: a -> Moi s a
  pure a = ???

  (<*>) :: Moi s (a -> b)
         -> Moi s a
         -> Moi s b
  (Moi f) <*> (Moi g) =
    ???
```

## State Monad

Write the Monad instance for State.

---

<sup>3</sup> We are referring to the (possibly apocryphal) quotation attributed to the French King Louis XIV, “L’Etat, c’est moi.” For those of you who do not speak French, it means, “I am the State.” Cheers.

```
instance Monad (Moi s) where
    return = pure

    (>=>) :: Moi s a
          -> (a -> Moi s b)
          -> Moi s b
    (Moi f) >=> g =
        ???
```

## 23.7 Get a coding job with one weird trick

Some companies will use FizzBuzz<sup>4</sup> to screen (not so much *test*) candidates applying to software positions. The problem statement goes:

Write a program that prints the numbers from 1 to 100. But for multiples of three print “Fizz” instead of the number and for the multiples of five print “Buzz”. For numbers which are multiples of both three and five print “FizzBuzz”.

A typical fizzbuzz solution in Haskell looks something like:

```
fizzBuzz :: Integer -> String
fizzBuzz n | n `mod` 15 == 0 = "FizzBuzz"
           | n `mod` 5  == 0 = "Fizz"
           | n `mod` 3  == 0 = "Buzz"
           | otherwise      = show n

main :: IO ()
main =
    mapM_ (putStrLn . fizzBuzz) [1..100]
```

You will craft a fizzbuzz that makes gouts of blood come out of your interviewer’s eye sockets using State. This is a suitable punishment for asking a software candidate to write this in person after presumably getting through a couple phone screens.

<sup>4</sup> <http://c2.com/cgi/wiki/FizzBuzzTest>

```

import Control.Monad
import Control.Monad.Trans.State

fizzBuzz :: Integer -> String
fizzBuzz n | n `mod` 15 == 0 = "FizzBuzz"
           | n `mod` 5  == 0 = "Fizz"
           | n `mod` 3  == 0 = "Buzz"
           | otherwise      = show n

fizzbuzzList :: [Integer] -> [String]
fizzbuzzList list =
    execState (mapM_ addResult list) []

addResult :: Integer -> State [String] ()
addResult n = do
    xs <- get
    let result = fizzBuzz n
    put (result : xs)

main :: IO ()
main =
    mapM_ putStrLn $ reverse $ fizzbuzzList [1..100]

```

The good part here is that we're collecting data initially before dumping the results to standard output via `putStrLn`. The bad is that we're reversing a list. Reversing singly-linked lists is pretty bad, even in Haskell, and won't terminate on an infinite list. One of the issues is that we're accepting an input that defines the numbers we'll use `fizzbuzz` on linearly from beginning to end.

There are a couple ways we could handle this. One is to use a data structure with cheaper appending to the end. Using `(++)` recursively can be very slow, so let's use something that can append in constant time. The counterpart to `[]` which has this property is the difference list<sup>5</sup> which has  $O(1)$  append.

---

<sup>5</sup> <https://github.com/spl/dlist>

```

import Control.Monad
import Control.Monad.State
import qualified Data.DList as DL

fizzBuzz :: Integer -> String
fizzBuzz n | n `mod` 15 == 0 = "FizzBuzz"
           | n `mod` 5  == 0 = "Fizz"
           | n `mod` 3  == 0 = "Buzz"
           | otherwise      = show n

fizzbuzzList :: [Integer] -> [String]
fizzbuzzList list =
  let dlist = execState (mapM_ addResult list) DL.empty
  in DL.apply dlist [] -- convert back to normal list

addResult :: Integer -> State (DL.DList String) ()
addResult n = do
  xs <- get
  let result = fizzBuzz n
  -- snoc appends to the end, unlike
  -- cons which adds to the front
  put (DL.snoc xs result)

main :: IO ()
main =
  mapM_ putStrLn $ fizzbuzzList [1..100]

```

We can clean this up further. If you have GHC 7.10 or newer, `mapM_` will specify a `Foldable` type, not only a list:

```

Prelude> :t mapM_
mapM_ :: (Monad m, Foldable t) => (a -> m b) -> t a -> m ()

```

By letting `DList`'s `Foldable` instance do the conversion to a list for us, we can eliminate some code:

```

fizzbuzzList :: [Integer] -> DL.DList String
fizzbuzzList list =
    execState (mapM_ addResult list) DL.empty

addResult :: Integer -> State (DL.DList String) ()
addResult n = do
    xs <- get
    let result = fizzBuzz n
    put (DL.snoc xs result)

main :: IO ()
main =
    mapM_ putStrLn $ fizzbuzzList [1..100]

```

DLList’s Foldable instance converts to a list before folding because of limitations specific to the datatype. You get cheap appending, but you give up the ability to “see” what you’ve built unless you’re willing to do all the work of building the structure. We’ll discuss this in more detail in a forthcoming chapter.

One thing that may strike you here is that the use of State was totally superfluous. That’s good! It’s not common you really *need* State as such in Haskell. You might use a different form of State called `ST` as a selective optimization, but State itself is a stylistic choice that falls out of what the code is telling you. Don’t feel compelled to use or not use State. Please frighten some interviewers with a spooky fizzbuzz. Make something even weirder than what we’ve shown you here!

### Fizzbuzz Differently

It’s an exercise! Rather than changing the underlying data structure, fix our reversing fizzbuzz by changing the code in the following way:

```

fizzbuzzFromTo :: Integer -> Integer -> [String]
fizzbuzzFromTo = undefined

```

Continue to use consing in the construction of the result list, but have it come out in the right order to begin with by *enumerating the sequence backwards*. This sort of tactic is more commonly how you’ll want to fix your code when you’re quashing unnecessary reversals.



## 23.8 Chapter exercises

Write the following functions

1. Construct a State where the state is also the value you return.

```
get :: State s s
get = ???
```

Expected output

```
Prelude> runState get "curryIsAmaze"
("curryIsAmaze","curryIsAmaze")
```

2. Construct a State where the resulting state is the argument provided and the value is defaulted to unit.

```
put :: s -> State s ()
put s = ???
```

```
Prelude> runState (put "blah") "woot"
((), "blah")
```

3. Run the State with *s* and get the state that results.

```
exec :: State s a -> s -> s
exec (State sa) = ???
```

```
Prelude> exec (put "wilma") "daphne"
"wilma"
Prelude> exec get "scooby papu"
"scooby papu"
```

4. Run the State with *s* and get the value that results.

```
eval :: State s a -> s -> a
eval (State sa) = ???
```

```
Prelude> eval get "bunnacula"
"bunnacula"
Prelude> eval get "stake a bunny"
"stake a bunny"
```

5. Write a function which applies a function to create a new State.

```
modify :: (s -> s) -> State s ()  
modify = undefined
```

Should behave like the following:

```
Prelude> runState (modify (+1)) 0  
((),1)  
Prelude> runState (modify (+1) >> modify (+1)) 0  
((),2)
```

Note you don't need to compose them, you can just throw away the result because it returns unit for *a* anyway.

## 23.9 Follow-up resources

1. State Monad; All About Monads; Haskell Wiki  
[https://wiki.haskell.org/All\\_About\\_Monads](https://wiki.haskell.org/All_About_Monads)
2. State Monad; Haskell Wiki  
[https://wiki.haskell.org/State\\_Monad](https://wiki.haskell.org/State_Monad)
3. Understanding Monads; Haskell Wikibook

## Chapter 24

# Parser combinators

Within a computer, natural  
language is unnatural.

---

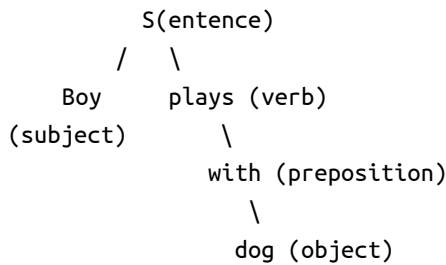
Alan Perlis

## 24.1 Parser combinators

The word ‘parse’ comes from the Latin word for “parts”, and means to analyze a sentence and label the syntactic role, or part of speech, of each component. Language teachers once emphasized this ability because it forced students to think closely about the structure of sentences, the relationships among the parts, and the connection between the structure and the meaning of the whole. Diagramming sentences was also common because it made parsing visual and somewhat concrete. It is now common to represent grammatical structures of natural languages as trees, so that a sentence such as

Boy plays with dog.

might be thought to have an underlying representation such as



We are not here to become linguists, but parsing in computer science is related to the parsing of natural language sentences in some key ways. The core idea of parsing in programming is to accept serialized input in the form of a sequence of characters (textual data) or bytes (raw binary data) and turn that into a value of a structured datatype. Serialized data is data that has been translated into a format, such as JSON or XML<sup>1</sup>, that can be stored or transmitted across a network connection. Parsing breaks up that chunk of data and allows you to find and process the parts you care about.

If we wrote a computer program to parse a sentence into a *very* simplified model of English grammar, it could look something like the tree above. Often when we are parsing things, the structured datatype that results will look something like a tree. In Haskell, we

<sup>1</sup> If you do not know what JSON and XML are yet, try not to get too hung up on that. All that matters at this point is that they are standard data formats. We’ll look at JSON in more detail later in the chapter.

can sometimes end up having a tree just because recursive types are so easy to express in Haskell.

In this chapter, we will

- use a parsing library to cover the basics of parsing;
- demonstrate the awesome power of parser combinators;
- marshall and unmarshall some JSON data;
- talk about tokenization.

## 24.2 A few more words of introduction

In this chapter, we will not look too deeply into the types of the parsing libraries we're using, learn every sort of parser there is, or artisanally handcraft all of our parsing functions ourselves.

These are thoroughly considered decisions. Parsing is a *huge* field of research in its own right with connections that span natural language processing, linguistics, and programming language theory. Just this topic could easily fill a book in itself (in fact, it has). The underlying types and typeclasses of the libraries we'll be using are complicated. To be sure, if you enjoy parsing and expect to do it a lot, those are things you'd want to learn; they are simply out of the scope of this book.

This chapter takes a different approach than previous chapters. The focus is on enabling you to use Haskell's parsing libraries — not to be a master of parsing and writing parsers in general. This is not the bottom-up approach you may be accustomed to; by necessity, we're working outside-in and trying to cover what you're likely to *need*. Depending on your specific interests, you may find this chapter too long or not nearly long enough.

## 24.3 Understanding the parsing process

A *parser* is a function that takes some textual input (it could be a `String` in Haskell, or another datatype such as `ByteString` or `Text`) and returns some *structure* as an output. That structure might be a tree, for example, or an indexed map of locations in the parsed

data. Parsers analyze structure in conformance with rules specified in a grammar, whether it's a grammar of a human language, a programming language, or a format such as JSON.

A *parser combinator* is a higher-order function that takes parsers as input and returns a new parser as output. You may remember our brief discussion of combinators way back in the lambda calculus chapter. Combinators are expressions with no free variables.

The standard for what constitutes a “combinator” with respect to parser combinators is a little looser. Parsers are functions, so parser combinators are higher-order functions that can take parsers as arguments. Usually the argument passing is elided because the interface of parsers will often be like the State monad which permits Reader-style implicit argument passing. Among other things, combinators allow for recursion and for gluing together parsers in a modular fashion to parse data according to complex rules.

For computers, parsing is something like reading when you're really young. Perhaps you were taught to trace the letters with your finger for phonetic pronunciation. Later, you were able to follow word by word, then you just started scanning with your eyes. Eventually, you learned how to read with sub-vocalization.

### Since we didn't use an analogy for Monad

We're going to run through some code now that will demonstrate the idea of parsing. Let's begin by installing the parsing library `trifecta`,<sup>2</sup> then work through a short demonstration of what it does. We'll talk more about the design of `trifecta` in a while. For now, we're just going to use it in a state of somewhat ignorant bliss.

OK, let's put up some code:

```
module LearnParsers where

import Text.Trifecta

stop :: Parser a
stop = unexpected "stop"
```

---

<sup>2</sup>We'll be using this version of `trifecta`  
<http://hackage.haskell.org/package/trifecta-1.5.2>

`unexpected` is a means of throwing errors in parsers like `Trifecta` which are an instance of the `Parsing` typeclass. Here we’re using it to make the parser fail for demonstration purposes.

### What demonstration purposes?

We’re glad you asked! The basic idea behind a parser is that you’re moving a sort of cursor around a linear stream of text. It’s simplest to think of the individual units within the stream as characters or ideographs, though you’ll want to start thinking of your parsing problems in *chunkier* terms as you progress. The idea is that this cursor is a bit like you’re reading the text with your finger:

```
Julie bit Papuchon
^
```

Then let us say we parsed the word “Julie” — we’ve now consumed that input, so the cursor will be at “bit”:

```
Julie bit Papuchon
      ^
```

If we weren’t expecting the word “bit,” our parser could fail here, and we’d get an error at the word “bit” just like that. However, if we did parse the word “bit” successfully and thus consumed that input, it might look something like this:

```
Julie bit Papuchon
      ^
```

The analogy we’re using here isn’t perfect. One of the hardest problems in writing parsers, especially the parser libraries themselves, is making it easy to express things the way the programmer would like, but still have the resulting parser be *fast*.

### Back to the code

With the cursor analogy in mind, let’s return to the module we started.

We’ll first make a little function that only parses one character, and then sequence that with `stop` to make it read that one character and then die:



```
-- read a single character '1'
one = char '1'

-- read a single character '1', then die
one' = one >> stop
-- equivalent to char '1' >> stop
```

For `one'`, we're using the sequencing operator from `Monad` to combine two parsers, `stop` and `char '1'`. Given the type of `>>`:

```
(>>) :: Monad m => m a -> m b -> m b
```

it's safe to assume that whatever `char '1'` returns in the expression

```
char '1' >> stop
```

gets thrown away. Critically, whatever *effect* the `m a` action had upon the enclosing monadic context remains. The result value of the parse function gets thrown away, but the effect of “moving the cursor” remains.

### A bit like...

State. Plus failure. No seriously, take a look at this definition of the `Parser` type:

```
type Parser a = String -> Maybe (a, String)
```

You can read this as:

1. Await a string value
2. Produce a result which may or may not succeed. (A `Nothing` value means the parse failed.)
3. Return a tuple of the value you wanted and whatever's left of the string that you didn't consume to produce the value of type *a*.

Then remind yourself of what `Reader` and `State` look like:

```
newtype Reader r a = Reader { runReader :: r -> a }
```

```
newtype State s a = State { runState :: s -> (a, s) }
```

If you have convinced yourself that `State` is an elaboration of `Reader` and that you can see how the `Parser` type looks sorta like `State`, we can move on.

The idea here with the `Parser` type is that the `State` is handling the fact that you need to await an eventual text input and that having parsed something out of that text input results in a new state of the input stream. It also lets you return a value independent of the state, while `Maybe` handles the possibility of the parser failure.

If we were to look at the underlying pattern of a parsing function such as `char`, you can see the `State-ish` pattern. Please understand that while this should work as a char-parsing function, we are simplifying here and this is not what the source code of any modern parsing library will look like:

```
-- rudimentary char
char :: Char -> Parser Char
char c =
  Parser $ \ s ->
    case s of
      (x:xs) -> if c == x
                  then [(c, xs)]
                  else []
      _ -> []
```

We could encode the possibility of failure in that by adding `Maybe` but at this point, that isn't important because we're using a library that has encoded the possibility of failure for us. It has also optimized the heck out of `char` for us. But we wanted to show you how the underlying function is the `s ->` embedded in the `Parser` data constructor.

Consider also the type of a classic Hutton-Meijer parser:

```
-- from Text.ParserCombinators.HuttonMeijer
-- polyparse-1.11
```

```
type Token = Char
newtype Parser a =
    P ([Token] -> [(a, [Token])])
```

```
-- Same thing, differently formatted:
```

```
type Parser' a = String -> [(a, String)]
```

This changes things from the previous, less common but simpler variant, by allowing you to express a range of possibly valid parses starting from the input provided. This is more powerful than the Maybe variant, but this design isn't used in popular Haskell parser combinator libraries any longer. Although the underlying implementation has changed dramatically with new discoveries and designs, most parsing libraries in Haskell are going to have an interface that behaves a bit like State in that the act of parsing things has an observable effect on one or more bits of state.

If we were talking about State, this means any put to the State value would be observable to the next action in the same Monad (you can verify what follows in your REPL by importing `Control.Monad.Trans.State`). These examples use the transformer variant of State, but if you ignore the T, you should be able to get the basic idea:

```
get :: Monad m => StateT s m s
put :: Monad m => s -> StateT s m ()
runStateT :: StateT s m a -> s -> m (a, s)
```

```
Prelude> runStateT (put 8) 7
((),8)
Prelude> runStateT get 8
(8,8)
Prelude> runStateT (put 1 >> get) 8
(1,1)
Prelude> (runStateT $ put 1 >> get) 0
(1,1)
Prelude> (runStateT $ put 2 >> get) 10021490234890
(2,2)
```

```
Prelude> (runStateT $ put 2 >> return 9001) 0
(9001,2)
```

Now `put` returns a unit value, a throwaway value, so we’re only evaluating it *for effect* anyway. It modifies the state but doesn’t have any value of its own. So when we throw away its “value,” we’re left with its effect on the state, although `get` puts that value into both the *a* and *s* slots in the tuple.

This is an awful lot like what happens when we sequence a parsing function such as `char` with `stop`, as above. There is no real result of `char`, but it does change the “state.” The state here is the location of the cursor in the input stream. In reality, a modern and mature parser design in Haskell will often look about as familiar to you as the alien hellscape underneath the frozen crust of one of the moons of Jupiter. Don’t take the idea of there being an actual cursor too literally, but there may be some utility in imagining it this way.

### Back to our regularly scheduled coding

Onward with the code:

```
-- read two characters, '1', and '2'
oneTwo = char '1' >> char '2'

-- read two characters, '1' and '2', then die
oneTwo' = oneTwo >> stop

testParse :: Parser Char -> IO ()
testParse p =
  print $ parseString p mempty "123"
```

The *p* argument is a parser. Specifically, it’s a character parser. The functions `one` and `oneTwo` have the type `Parser Char`. You can check the types of `one` and `oneTwo` yourself.

We needed to declare the type of `testParse` in order to show what we parsed because of ambiguity.

The key thing to realize here is that we’re using parsers like values and combining them using the same stuff we use with ordinary functions or operators from the `Applicative` and `Monad` typeclasses.

The “structure” that makes up the Applicative or Monad in this case is the Parser itself.

Next we’ll write a function to print a string to standard output (stdout) with a newline prefixed, and then use that function as part of a `main` function that will show us what we’ve got so far:

```
pNL s =
    putStrLn ('\n' : s)

main = do
    pNL "stop:"
    testParse stop
    pNL "one:"
    testParse one
    pNL "one':"
    testParse one'
    pNL "oneTwo:"
    testParse oneTwo
    pNL "oneTwo':"
    testParse oneTwo'
```

Let’s run it and interpret the results. Since it’s text on a computer screen instead of tea leaves, we’ll call it science. If you remain unconvinced, you have our permission to don a white labcoat and print the output using a dot-matrix printer. Some of you kids probably don’t even know what a dot-matrix printer is.<sup>3</sup>

Run the `main` function and see what happens:

```
Prelude> main

stop:
Failure (interactive):1:1: error: unexpected
    stop
123<EOF>
^
```

We failed immediately before consuming any input in the above, so the caret in the error is at the beginning of our string value.

---

<sup>3</sup> shakes fist at sky

Next result:

```
one:
Success '1'
```

We parsed a single character, the digit 1. The result is knowing we succeeded. But what about the rest of the input stream? Well, the thing we used to run the parser dropped the rest of the input on the floor. There are ways to change this behavior which we'll explain in the exercises.

Next up:

```
one':
Failure (interactive):1:2: error: unexpected
    stop
123<EOF>
  ^
```

We parsed a single character successfully, then dropped it because we used >> to sequence it with stop. This means the cursor was one character forward due to the previous parser succeeding. Helpfully, Trifecta tells us where our parser failed.

And for our last result:

```
oneTwo:
Success '2'

oneTwo':
Failure (interactive):1:3: error: unexpected
    stop
123<EOF>
  ^
```

It's the same as before, but we parsed two characters individually. What if we don't want to discard the first character we parsed and instead parse "12?" See the exercises below!

**Exercises: Parsing Practice**

1. There's a combinator that'll let us mark that we expect an input stream to be "finished" at a particular point in our parser. In the `parsers` library this is simply called `eof` (end-of-file) and is in the `Text.Parser.Combinators` module. See if you can make the `one` and `oneTwo` parsers fail because they didn't exhaust the input stream!
2. Use `string` to make a Parser that parses "1", "12", and "123" out of the example input respectively. Try combining it with `stop` too. That is, a single parser should be able to parse all three of those strings.
3. Try writing a Parser that does what `string` does, but using `char`.

**Intermission: parsing free jazz**

Let us play with these parsers! We typically use the `parseString` function to run parsers, but if you figure some other way that works for you, so be it! Here's some parsing free jazz, if you will, meant only to help develop your intuition about what's going on:

```
Prelude> import Text.Trifecta
Prelude> :t char
char :: CharParsing m => Char -> m Char
Prelude> :t parseString
parseString
  :: Parser a
  -> Text.Trifecta.Delta.Delta
  -> String
  -> Result a
Prelude> let gimmeA = char 'a'
Prelude> :t parseString gimmeA mempty
parseString gimmeA mempty :: String -> Result Char

Prelude> parseString gimmeA mempty "a"
Success 'a'
Prelude> parseString gimmeA mempty "b"
Failure (interactive):1:1: error: expected: "a"
b<EOF>
```

```

^

Prelude> parseString (char 'b') mempty "b"
Success 'b'
Prelude> parseString (char 'b' >> char 'c') mempty "b"
Failure (interactive):1:2: error: unexpected
      EOF, expected: "c"
b<EOF>
^

Prelude> parseString (char 'b' >> char 'c') mempty "bc"
Success 'c'
Prelude> parseString (char 'b' >> char 'c') mempty "abc"
Failure (interactive):1:1: error: expected: "b"
abc<EOF>
^

```

Seems like we ought to have a way to say, “parse this string” rather than having to sequence the parsers of individual characters bit by bit, right? Turns out, we do:

```

Prelude> parseString (string "abc") mempty "abc"
Success "abc"
Prelude> parseString (string "abc") mempty "bc"
Failure (interactive):1:1: error: expected: "abc"
bc<EOF>
^

Prelude> parseString (string "abc") mempty "ab"
Failure (interactive):1:1: error: expected: "abc"
ab<EOF>
^

```

Importantly, it’s not a given that a single parser exhausts all of its input — they only consume as much text as they need to produce the value of the type requested.

```

Prelude> parseString (char 'a') mempty "abcdef"
Success 'a'
Prelude> let stop = unexpected "stop pls"
Prelude> parseString (char 'a' >> stop) mempty "abcdef"
Failure (interactive):1:2: error: unexpected

```



```

    stop pls
abcdef<EOF>
^
Prelude> parseString (string "abc") mempty "abcdef"
Success "abc"
Prelude> parseString (string "abc" >> stop) mempty "abcdef"
Failure (interactive):1:4: error: unexpected
    stop pls
abcdef<EOF>
^

```

Note that we can also parse UTF-8 encoded ByteStrings with Trifecta:

```

Prelude> import Text.Trifecta
Prelude> :t parseByteString
parseByteString
  :: Parser a
    -> Text.Trifecta.Delta.Delta
    -> Data.ByteString.Internal.ByteString
    -> Result a
Prelude> parseByteString (char 'a') mempty "a"
Success 'a'

```

This ends the free jazz session. We now return to serious matters.

## 24.4 Parsing fractions

Now that we have some idea of what parsing is, what parser combinators are, and what the monadic underpinnings of parsing look like, let's move on to parsing fractions. The top of this module should look like this:

```

{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}

module Text.Fractions where

import Control.Applicative
import Data.Ratio ((%))
import Text.Trifecta

```

We named the module `Text.Fractions` because we’re parsing *fractions* out of *text input*, and there’s no need to be more clever about it than that. We’re going to be using `String` inputs with `trifecta` at first, but you’ll see why we threw an `OverloadedStrings` pragma in there later.

Now, on to parsing fractions! We’ll start with some test inputs:

```
badFraction = "1/0"
alsoBad    = "10"
shouldWork = "1/2"
shouldAlsoWork = "2/1"
```

Then we’ll write our actual parser:

```
parseFraction :: Parser Rational
parseFraction = do
  numerator <- decimal
  -- [2]           [1]
  char '/'
  -- [3]
  denominator <- decimal
  --           [ 4 ]
  return (numerator % denominator)
  -- [5]           [6]

1. decimal :: Integral a => Parser a
```

This is the type of `decimal` within the context of those functions. If you use `GHCi` to query the type of `decimal`, you will see a more polymorphic type signature.

2. Here `numerator` has the type `Integral a => a`.

3. `char :: Char -> Parser Char`

As with `decimal`, if you query the type of `char` in `GHCi`, you’ll see a more polymorphic type, but this is the type of `char` in context.

4. Same deal as `numerator`, but when we match an integral number we’re binding the result to the name “`denominator`.”

5. The final result has to be a parser, so we embed our integral value in the Parser type by using return.
6. We construct ratios using the % infix operator:

```
(%) :: Integral a => a -> a -> GHC.Real.Ratio a
```

Then the fact that our final result is a Rational makes the Integral `a => a` values into concrete Integer values.

```
type Rational = GHC.Real.Ratio Integer
```

We'll put together a quick shim main function to run the parser against the test inputs and see the results:

```
main :: IO ()
main = do
  print $ parseString parseFraction mempty shouldWork
  print $ parseString parseFraction mempty shouldAlsoWork
  print $ parseString parseFraction mempty alsoBad
  print $ parseString parseFraction mempty badFraction
```

Try not to worry about the `mempty` values; it might give you a clue about what's going on in `trifecta` under the hood, but it's not something we're going to explore in this chapter.

We will briefly note the type of `parseString`, which is how we're running the parser we created:

```
parseString :: Parser a
             -> Text.Trifecta.Delta.Delta
             -> String
             -> Result a
```

The first argument is the parser we're going to run against the input, the second is a Delta, the third is the String we're parsing, and then the final result is either the thing we wanted of type `a` or an error string to let us know something went wrong. You can ignore the Delta thing — just use `mempty` to provide the do-nothing input. We won't be covering deltas in this book so consider it extra credit if you get curious.

Anyway, when we run the code, the results look like this:

```

Prelude> main
Success (1 % 2)
Success (2 % 1)
Failure (interactive):1:3: error: unexpected
      EOF, expected: "/", digit
10<EOF>
  ^
Success *** Exception: Ratio has zero denominator

```

The first two succeeded properly. The third failed because it couldn't parse a fraction out of the text "10". The error is telling us that it ran out of text in the input stream while still waiting for the character '/'. The final error did not result from the process of parsing; we know that because it is a `Success` data constructor. The final error resulted from trying to construct a ratio with a denominator that is zero — which makes no sense. We can reproduce the issue in GHCi:

```

Prelude> 1 % 0
*** Exception: Ratio has zero denominator
-- So the parser result is which is tantamount to
Prelude> Success (1 % 0)
Success *** Exception: Ratio has zero denominator

```

This is sort of a problem because exceptions *end* our programs. Observe:

```

main :: IO ()
main = do
  print $ parseString parseFraction mempty badFraction
  print $ parseString parseFraction mempty shouldWork
  print $ parseString parseFraction mempty shouldAlsoWork
  print $ parseString parseFraction mempty alsoBad

```

We've put the expression that throws an exception in the first line this time, when we run it we get:

```

Prelude> main
Success *** Exception: Ratio has zero denominator

```

So, our program halted on the error. This is not great. The impulse of an experienced programmer is likely to be to want to “handle” the error. You *do not* want to attempt to catch or handle exceptions. Catching exceptions is okay, but this is a particular class of exceptions that means something is quite wrong with your program. You should eliminate the possibility of exceptions occurring in your programs where possible.

We’ll talk more about error handling in a later chapter, but the idea here is that a `Parser` type already explicitly encodes the possibility of failure. It’s better for a value of type `Parser a` to have only one vector for errors and that vector is the parser’s ability to encode failure. There may be an edge case that doesn’t suit this design preference, but it’s a *very* good idea to not have exceptions or bottoms that aren’t explicitly called out as a possibility in the types whenever possible.

If we were feeling keen to be a do-gooder, we could modify our program to handle the 0 denominator case and change it into a parse error:

```
virtuousFraction :: Parser Rational
virtuousFraction = do
  numerator <- decimal
  char '/'
  denominator <- decimal
  case denominator of
    0 -> fail "Denominator cannot be zero"
    _ -> return (numerator % denominator)
```

Here is our first explicit use of `fail`, which by historical accident is part of the `Monad` typeclass. Realistically, not all `Monads` have a proper implementation of `fail`, so it will be moved out into a `MonadFail` class eventually. For now, it suffices to know that it is our means of returning an error for the `Parser` type here.

Now for another run of our test inputs, but with our more cautious parser:

```

testVirtuous :: IO ()
testVirtuous = do
    print $ parseString virtuousFraction mempty badFraction
    print $ parseString virtuousFraction mempty alsoBad
    print $ parseString virtuousFraction mempty shouldWork
    print $ parseString virtuousFraction mempty shouldAlsoWork

```

When we run this, we're going to get a slightly different result at the end:

```

Prelude> testVirtuous
Failure (interactive):1:4: error: Denominator
    cannot be zero, expected: digit
1/0<EOF>
  ^
Failure (interactive):1:3: error: unexpected
    EOF, expected: "/", digit
10<EOF>
  ^
Success (1 % 2)
Success (2 % 1)

```

Now we have no bottom causing the program to halt and we get a Failure value which explains the cause for the failure. Much better!

### Exercise: Unit of Success

This should not be unfamiliar at this point, even if you do not understand all the details:

```

Prelude> parseString integer mempty "123abc"
Success 123
Prelude> parseString (integer >> eof) mempty "123abc"
Failure (interactive):1:4: error: expected: digit,
    end of input
123abc<EOF>
  ^
Prelude> parseString (integer >> eof) mempty "123"
Success ()

```

You may have already deduced why it returns `()` as a `Success` result here; it's consumed all the input but there is no result to return from having done so. The result `Success ()` tells you the parse was successful and consumed the entire input, so there's nothing to return.

What we want you to try now is rewriting the final example so it returns the integer that it parsed instead of `Success ()`. It should return the integer successfully when it receives an input with an integer followed by an EOF and fail in all other cases:

```
Prelude> parseString (yourFuncHere) mempty "123"
Success 123
Prelude> parseString (yourFuncHere) mempty "123abc"
Failure (interactive):1:4: error: expected: digit,
    end of input
123abc<EOF>
    ^
```

## 24.5 Haskell's parsing ecosystem

Haskell has several excellent parsing libraries available. `parsec` and `attoparsec` are perhaps the two most well known parser combinator libraries in Haskell, but there is also `megaparsec` and others. `aeson` and `cassava` are among the libraries designed for parsing specific types of data (JSON data and CSV data, respectively).

For this chapter, we opted to use `trifecta`, as you've seen. One reason for that decision is that `trifecta` has error messages that are very easy to read and interpret, unlike some other libraries. Also, `trifecta` does not seem likely to undergo major changes in its fundamental design. Its design is somewhat unusual and complex, but most of the things that make it unusual will be irrelevant to you in this chapter. If you intend to do a lot of parsing in production, you may need to get comfortable using `attoparsec`, as it is particularly known for very speedy parsing; you will see some `attoparsec` (and `aeson`) later in the chapter.

The design of `trifecta` has evolved such that the API<sup>4</sup> is split

---

<sup>4</sup>API stands for application programming interface. When we write software that relies on libraries or makes requests to a service such as Twitter — basically, software

across two libraries, `parsers`<sup>5</sup> and `trifecta`. The reason for this is that the `trifecta` package itself provides the concrete implementation of the Trifecta parser as well as Trifecta-specific functionality, but the `parsers` API is a collection of typeclasses that abstract over different kinds of things parsers can do. The `Text.Trifecta` module handles exporting what you need to get started from each package, so this information is mostly so you know where to look if you need to start spelunking.

### Typeclasses of Parsers

As we noted above, `trifecta` relies on the `parsers`<sup>6</sup> library for certain typeclasses. These typeclasses abstract over common kinds of things parsers do. We're only going to note a few things here that we'll be seeing in the chapter so that you have a sense of their provenance.

Note that the following is a discussion of code provided for you by the `parsers` library, *you do not need to type this in!*

1. The typeclass `Parsing` has `Alternative` as a superclass. We'll talk more about `Alternative` in a bit. The `Parsing` typeclass provides for functionality needed to describe parsers independent of input type. A minimal complete instance of this typeclass defines the following functions: `try`, `(<?>)`, and `notFollowedBy`. Let's start with `try`:

```
-- Text.Parser.Combinators
class Alternative m => Parsing m where
  try :: m a -> m a
```

This takes a parser that may consume input and, on failure, goes back to where it started and fails if we didn't consume input.

It also gives us the function `notFollowedBy` which does not consume input but allows us to match on keywords by matching

---

that relies on other software — we rely on a set of defined functions. The API is that set of functions that we use to interface with that software without having to write those functions or worry too much about their source code. When you look at a library on Hackage, (unless you click to view the source code), what you're looking at is the API for that library.

<sup>5</sup><http://hackage.haskell.org/package/parsers>

<sup>6</sup> <http://hackage.haskell.org/package/parsers>



on a string of characters that is *not followed* by some thing we do not want to match:

```
notFollowedBy :: Show a => m a -> m ()
-- > noAlpha = notFollowedBy alphaNum
-- > keywordLet = try $ string "let" <* noAlpha
```

2. The Parsing typeclass also includes unexpected which is used to emit an error on an unexpected token, as we saw earlier, and eof. The eof function only succeeds at the end of input:

```
eof :: m ()
-- > eof = notFollowedBy anyChar <?> "end of input"
```

We'll be seeing more of this one in upcoming sections.

3. The library also defines the typeclass CharParsing, which has Parsing as a superclass. This handles parsing individual characters.

```
-- Text.Parser.Char
class Parsing m => CharParsing m where
```

We've already seen char from this class, but it also includes these:

```
-- Parses any single character other than the
-- one provided. Returns the character parsed.
notChar :: Char -> m Char

-- Parser succeeds for any character.
-- Returns the character parsed.
anyChar :: m Char

-- Parses a sequence of characters, returns
-- the string parsed.
string :: String -> m String

-- Parses a sequence of characters represented
-- by a Text value, returns the parsed Text fragment.
text :: Text -> m Text
```

The `Parsers` library has much more than this, but for our immediate purposes these will suffice. The important point is that it defines for us some typeclasses and basic combinators for common parsing tasks. We encourage you to explore the documentation more on your own.

## 24.6 Alternative

Let's say we had a parser for numbers and one for alphanumeric strings:

```
Prelude> import Text.Trifecta
Prelude> parseString (some letter) mempty "blah"
Success "blah"
Prelude> parseString integer mempty "123"
Success 123
```

What if we had a type that could be an integer or a string?

```
module AltParsing where
```

```
import Control.Applicative
```

```
import Text.Trifecta
```

```
type NumberOrString =  
    Either Integer String
```

```
a = "blah"
```

```
b = "123"
```

```
c = "123blah789"
```

```
parseNos :: Parser NumberOrString
```

```
parseNos =  
    (Left <$> integer)  
  <|> (Right <$> some letter)
```

```
main = do
```

```
    print $ parseString (some letter) mempty a  
    print $ parseString integer mempty b  
    print $ parseString parseNos mempty a  
    print $ parseString parseNos mempty b  
    print $ parseString (many parseNos) mempty c  
    print $ parseString (some parseNos) mempty c
```

We can read `<|>` as being an “or”, or disjunction, of our two parsers; `many` is “zero or more” and `some` is “one or more.”

```
Prelude> parseString (some integer) mempty "123"  
Success [123]  
Prelude> parseString (many integer) mempty "123"  
Success [123]  
Prelude> parseString (many integer) mempty ""  
Success []  
Prelude> parseString (some integer) mempty ""  
Failure (interactive):1:1: error: unexpected  
    EOF, expected: integer  
<EOF>
```

^

What we're taking advantage of here with `some`, `many`, and `<|>` is the `Alternative` typeclass:

```
class Applicative f => Alternative f where
  -- | The identity of '<|>'
  empty :: f a
  -- | An associative binary operation
  (<|>) :: f a -> f a -> f a

  -- | One or more.
  some :: f a -> f [a]
  some v = some_v
  where
    many_v = some_v <|> pure []
    some_v = (fmap (:) v) <*> many_v

  -- | Zero or more.
  many :: f a -> f [a]
  many v = many_v
  where
    many_v = some_v <|> pure []
    some_v = (fmap (:) v) <*> many_v
```

If you use the `:info` command in the REPL after importing `Text.Trifecta` or loading the above module, you'll find `some` and `many` are defined in `GHC.Base` because they come from this typeclass rather than being specific to a particular parser or to the `parsers` library. Or really even a particular problem domain.

What if we wanted to require that each value be separated by newline? `QuasiQuotes` lets us have a multiline string without the newline separators and use it as a single argument:

```
{-# LANGUAGE QuasiQuotes #-}
```

```
module AltParsing where
```

```
import Control.Applicative
```

```
import Text.RawString.QQ
```

```
import Text.Trifecta
```

```
type NumberOrString =  
    Either Integer String
```

```
eitherOr :: String
```

```
eitherOr = [r|
```

```
123
```

```
abc
```

```
456
```

```
def
```

```
|]
```

## QuasiQuotes

Above, the `[r|` is beginning a quasiquoted<sup>7</sup> section, using the quasiquoter named `r`. Note we had to enable the `QuasiQuotes` language extension to use this syntax. At time of writing `r` is defined in `raw-strings-qq` version 1.1 as follows:

```
r :: QuasiQuoter
```

```
r = QuasiQuoter {
```

```
    -- Extracted from dead-simple-json.
```

```
    quoteExp = return . LitE . StringL . normaliseNewlines,
```

```
    -- error messages elided
```

```
    quotePat  = \_ -> fail "some error message"
```

```
    quoteType = \_ -> fail "some error message"
```

```
    quoteDec  = \_ -> fail "some error message"
```

---

<sup>7</sup> There's a rather nice wiki page and tutorial example at: <https://wiki.haskell.org/Quasiquotation>

The idea here is that this is a macro that lets us write arbitrary text inside of the block that begins with `[r|` and ends with `|]`. This specific quasiquoter exists to make it much nicer and more natural to write multiline strings without manual escaping. The quasiquoter is generating the following for us:

```
"\n\
\123\n\
\abc\n\
\456\n\
\def\n"
```

Not as nice right? As it happens, if you want to see what a quasiquoter or template haskell<sup>8</sup> is generating at compile-time, you can enable the `-ddump-splices` flag to see what it does. Here's an example using a minimal stub file:

```
{-# LANGUAGE QuasiQuotes #-}

module Quasimodo where

import Text.RawString.QQ

eitherOr :: String
eitherOr = [r|
123
abc
456
def
|]
```

Then in GHCi we use the `:set` command to turn on the splice dumping flag so we can see what the quasiquoter generated:

```
Prelude> :set -ddump-splices
Prelude> :l code/quasi.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling Quasimodo
```

<sup>8</sup> [https://wiki.haskell.org/Template\\_Haskell](https://wiki.haskell.org/Template_Haskell)

code/quasi.hs:(8,12)-(12,2): Splicing expression

```
"\n\
\123\n\
\abc\n\
\456\n"
=====>
"\n\
\123\n\
\abc\n\
\456\n"
```

Right, so back to the parser we were going to write!

### Return to Alternative

All right, we return now to our `AltParsing` module. We're going to use this fantastic function:

```
parseNos :: Parser NumberOrString
parseNos =
    (Left <$> integer)
  <|> (Right <$> some letter)
```

and rewrite our `main` function to apply that to the `eitherOr` value:

```
main = do
  print $ parseString parseNos mempty eitherOr
```

Note that we lifted `Left` and `Right` over their arguments. This is because there is `Parser` structure between the (potential) value obtained by running the parser and what the data constructor expects. A value of type `Parser Char` is a parser that will *possibly* produce a `Char` value if it is given an input that doesn't cause it to fail. The type of `some letter` is the following:

```
Prelude> import Text.Trifecta
Prelude> :t some letter
some letter :: CharParsing f => f [Char]
```

However, for our purposes we can just say that the type is specifically `Trifecta's Parser` type:

```
Prelude> let someLetter = some letter :: Parser [Char]
Prelude> let someLetter = some letter :: Parser String
```

If we try to mash a data constructor expecting a `String` and our parser-of-string together like a kid playing with action figures, we get a type error:

```
Prelude> data MyName = MyName String deriving Show
Prelude> MyName someLetter
```

```
Couldn't match type 'Parser String' with '[Char]'
Expected type: String
   Actual type: Parser String
In the first argument of 'MyName', namely 'someLetter'
In the expression: MyName someLetter
```

*Unless* we lift it over the `Parser` structure, since `Parser` is a `Functor`!

```
Prelude> :info Parser
{... content elided ...}
instance Monad Parser
instance Functor Parser
instance Applicative Parser
instance Monoid a => Monoid (Parser a)

instance Errable Parser
instance DeltaParsing Parser
instance TokenParsing Parser
instance Parsing Parser
instance CharParsing Parser
```

We should just need an `fmap` right?

```
-- same deal
Prelude> :t MyName <$> someLetter
MyName <$> someLetter :: Parser MyName
Prelude> :t MyName `fmap` someLetter
MyName `fmap` someLetter :: Parser MyName
```

Then running either of them:



```
Prelude> parseString someLetter mempty "Chris"
Success "Chris"
Prelude> let mynameParser = MyName <$> someLetter
Prelude> parseString mynameParser mempty "Chris"
Success (MyName "Chris")
```

Brill.

Back to our original code, which will actually spit out an error:

```
Prelude> main
Failure (interactive):1:1: error: expected: integer,
    letter
```

It's easier to see why if we look at the test string:

```
Prelude> eitherOr
"\n123\nabc\n456\ndef\n"
```

One way to fix this is to amend the quasiquoted string:

```
eitherOr :: String
eitherOr = [r|123
abc
456
def
|]
```

What if we actually wanted to permit a newline before attempting to parse strings or integers?

```

eitherOr :: String
eitherOr = [r|
123
abc
456
def
|]

parseNos :: Parser NumberOrString
parseNos =
  skipMany (oneOf "\n")
  >>
    (Left <$> integer)
  <|> (Right <$> some letter)

main = do
  print $ parseString parseNos mempty eitherOr

Prelude> main
Success (Left 123)

```

OK, but we'd like to keep parsing after each line. If we try the obvious thing and use `some` to ask for one-or-more results, we'll get a somewhat mysterious error:

```

Prelude> parseString (some parseNos) mempty eitherOr
Failure (interactive):6:1: error: unexpected
    EOF, expected: integer, letter
<EOF>
^

```

The issue here is that while `skipMany` lets us skip zero or more times, it means we started the next run of the parser before we hit EOF. This means it *expects* us to match an integer or some letters after having seen the newline character after “def”. We can simply amend the input:

```

eitherOr :: String
eitherOr = [r|
123
abc
456
def|]

```

Our previous attempt will now work fine:

```

Prelude> parseString (some parseNos) mempty eitherOr
Success [Left 123,Right "abc",Left 456,Right "def"]

```

If we're dissatisfied with simply changing the rules of the game, there are a couple ways we can make our parser cope with spurious terminal newlines. One is to add another `skipMany` rule after we parse our value:

```

parseNos :: Parser NumberOrString
parseNos = do
    skipMany (oneOf "\n")
    v <- (Left <$> integer) <|> (Right <$> some letter)
    skipMany (oneOf "\n")
    return v

```

Another option is to keep the previous version of the parser which skips a potential leading newline:

```

parseNos :: Parser NumberOrString
parseNos =
    skipMany (oneOf "\n")
    >>
        (Left <$> integer)
    <|> (Right <$> some letter)

```

But then tokenize it with the default token behavior:

```

Prelude> parseString (some (token parseNos)) mempty eitherOr
Success [Left 123,Right "abc",Left 456,Right "def"]

```

We'll explain soon what this token stuff is about, but we want to be a bit careful here as token parsers and character parsers are different sorts of things. What applying `token` to `parseNos` did for us here is make it *optionally* consume trailing whitespace we don't care about, where whitespace includes newline characters.

### Exercise: Try Try

Make a parser, using the existing fraction parser plus a new decimal parser, that can parse either decimals or fractions. You'll want to use `<|>` from `Alternative` to combine the...alternative parsers. If you find this too difficult, write a parser that parses straightforward integers *or* fractions. Make a datatype that contains either an integer or a rational and use that datatype as the result of the parser. Or use `Either`. Run free, grasshopper.

Hint: we've not explained it yet, but you may want to try `try`.

## 24.7 Parsing configuration files

For our next examples, we'll be using the INI<sup>9</sup> configuration file format, partly because it's an informal standard so we can play fast and loose for learning and experimentation purposes. We're also using INI because it's relatively uncomplicated.

Here's a teensy example of an INI config file:

```
; comment
[section]
host=wikipedia.org
alias=cław
```

The above contains a comment, which contributes nothing to the data parsed out of the configuration file but which may provide context to the settings being configured. It's followed by a section header named `"section"` which contains two settings: one named `"host"` with the value `"wikipedia.org"`, another named `"alias"` with the value `"cław"`.

We'll begin this example with our pragmas, module declaration, and imports:

---

<sup>9</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/INI\\_file](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/INI_file)

```
{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}
{-# LANGUAGE QuasiQuotes      #-}

module Data.Ini where

import Control.Applicative
import Data.ByteString (ByteString)
import Data.Char (isAlpha)
import Data.Map (Map)
import qualified Data.Map as M
import Data.Text (Text)
import qualified Data.Text.IO as TIO
import Test.Hspec
import Text.RawString.QQ
-- parsers 0.12.3, trifecta 1.5.2
import Text.Trifecta
```

OverloadedStrings and QuasiQuotes should be familiar by now.

When writing parsers in Haskell, it's often easiest to work in terms of smaller parsers that deal with a sub-problem of the overall parsing problem you're solving, then combining them into the final parser. This isn't a perfect recipe for understanding your parser, but being able to compose them straightforwardly like functions is pretty dang nifty. So, starting with a simple problem, let's create a test input for an INI header, a datatype, and then the parser for it:

```

headerEx :: ByteString
headerEx = "[blah]"

-- "[blah]" -> Section "blah"
newtype Header =
  Header String
  deriving (Eq, Ord, Show)

parseBracketPair :: Parser a -> Parser a
parseBracketPair p = char '[' *> p <*> char ']'
-- these operators mean the brackets will be
-- parsed and then discarded
-- but the p will remain as our result

parseHeader :: Parser Header
parseHeader =
  parseBracketPair (Header <$> some letter)

```

Here we've actually combined two parsers in order to parse a `Header`. We can experiment with each of them in the REPL. First we'll examine the types of the `some letter` parser we passed to `parseBracketPair`:

```

Prelude> :t some letter
some letter :: CharParsing f => f [Char]
Prelude> :t Header <$> some letter
Header <$> some letter :: CharParsing f => f Header
Prelude> let slp = Header <$> some letter :: Parser Header

```

The first type is `some letter` that can understand characters which will produce a `String` value if it succeeds. The second type is the same, but produces a `Header` value instead of a `String`. Parser types in Haskell almost always encode the possibility of failure; we'll cover how later in this chapter. The third type gives us concrete `Parser` type from `Trifecta` where there had been the polymorphic type `f`.

The `letter` function parses a single character, while `some letter` parses one or more characters. We need to wrap the `Header` constructor around that so that our result there — whatever letters might be inside the brackets, the `p` of `parseBracketPair` — will be labeled as the `Header` of the file in the final parse.

Next, `assignmentEx` is just some test input so we can begin kicking around our parser. The type synonyms are just to make the types more readable as well. Nothing too special here:

```
assignmentEx :: ByteString
assignmentEx = "woot=1"

type Name = String
type Value = String
type Assignments = Map Name Value

parseAssignment :: Parser (Name, Value)
parseAssignment = do
    name <- some letter
    _ <- char '='
    val <- some (noneOf "\n")
    skipEOL -- important!
    return (name, val)

-- | Skip end of line and whitespace beyond.
skipEOL :: Parser ()
skipEOL = skipMany (oneOf "\n")
```

Let us explain `parseAssignment` step by step. For parsing the initial key or name of an assignment, we parse one or more letters:

```
name <- some letter
```

Then we parse and throw away the “=” used to separate keys and values:

```
_ <- char '='
```

Then we parse one or more characters as long as they aren’t a newline. This is so letters, numbers, and whitespace are permitted:

```
val <- some (noneOf "\n")
```

We skip “end-of-line” until we stop getting newline characters:

**skipEOL** -- *important!*

This is so we can delineate the end of assignments and parse more than one assignment in a straightforward manner. Consider an alternative variant of this same parser that doesn't have skipEOL:

```
parseAssignment' :: Parser (Name, Value)
parseAssignment' = do
  name <- some letter
  _ <- char '='
  val <- some (noneOf "\n")
  return (name, val)
```

Then trying out this variant of the parser:

```
Prelude> parseString (some parseAssignment') mempty "key=value\nblah=123"
Success [("key","value")]
```

Pity. Can't parse the second assignment. But the first version that includes the skipEOL should work:

```
Prelude> let testS = "key=value\nblah=123"
Prelude> parseString (some parseAssignment) mempty testS
Success [("key","value"),("blah","123")]
Prelude> let daturrrr = "key=value\n\n\nntest=data"
Prelude> parseString (some parseAssignment) mempty daturrrr
Success [("key","value"),("test","data")]
```

We have to skip the one-or-more newline characters separating the first and second assignment in order for the rerun of the assignment parser to begin successfully parsing the letters that make up the key of the second assignment. Happy-making, right?

We finish things off for parseAssignment by tupling name and value together and re-embedding the result in the Parser type:

```
return (name, val)
```

Then for dealing with INI comments, where “dealing with” means skipping them in the parser and discarding the data:



```
commentEx :: ByteString
commentEx = "; last modified 1 April 2001 by John Doe"

commentEx' :: ByteString
commentEx' = "; blah\n; woot\n  \n;hah"

-- | Skip comments starting at the beginning of the line.
skipComments :: Parser ()
skipComments =
  skipMany (do _ <- char ';' <|> char '#'
               skipMany (noneOf "\n")
               skipEOL)
```

We made a couple of comment examples for testing the parser. Note that comments can begin with # or ;.

Next, we need section parsing. We'll make some data for testing that out, just as we did with comments above. This is also where we'll put that QuasiQuotes pragma to use, allowing us to make multiline strings nicer to write:

```
sectionEx :: ByteString
sectionEx =
    "; ignore me\n[states]\nChris=Texas"
```

```
sectionEx' :: ByteString
sectionEx' = [r|
; ignore me
[states]
Chris=Texas
|]
```

```
sectionEx'' :: ByteString
sectionEx'' = [r|
; comment
[section]
host=wikipedia.org
alias=claw

[whatisit]
red=intoothandclaw
|]
```

Then getting on to the section parsing proper:

```

data Section =
    Section Header Assignments
    deriving (Eq, Show)

newtype Config =
    Config (Map Header Assignments)
    deriving (Eq, Show)

skipWhitespace :: Parser ()
skipWhitespace =
    skipMany (char ' ' <|> char '\n')

parseSection :: Parser Section
parseSection = do
    skipWhitespace
    skipComments
    h <- parseHeader
    skipEOL
    assignments <- some parseAssignment
    return $ Section h (M.fromList assignments)

```

Above, we defined datatypes for a section and an entire INI config. You'll notice that `parseSection` skips both whitespace and comments now. And it returns the parsed section with the header (that's the *h*) and a map of assignments:

```

*Data.Ini> parseByteString parseSection mempty sectionEx
Success (Section (Header "states") (fromList [("Chris","Texas"])))

```

So far, so good. Next, let's roll the sections up into a `Map` that keys section data by section name, with the values being further more `Maps` of assignment names mapped to their values. We use `foldr` to aggregate the list of sections into a single `Map` value:

```

rollup :: Section
    -> Map Header Assignments
    -> Map Header Assignments
rollup (Section h a) m =
    M.insert h a m

parseIni :: Parser Config
parseIni = do
    sections <- some parseSection
    let mapOfSections =
        foldr rollup M.empty sections
    return (Config mapOfSections)

```

After you load this code into your REPL, try running:

```
parseByteString parseIni mempty sectionEx
```

and comparing it to the output of:

```
parseByteString parseSection mempty sectionEx
```

that you saw above.

Now we'll put together our `main` function. Here we're interested in whether our parsers do what they should do rather than parsing an actual INI file, so we'll have the `main` function run some `hspec` tests. We'll use a helper function, `maybeSuccess`, as part of the tests:

```

maybeSuccess :: Result a -> Maybe a
maybeSuccess (Success a) = Just a
maybeSuccess _ = Nothing

main :: IO ()
main = hspec $ do

    describe "Assignment Parsing" $
        it "can parse a simple assignment" $ do
            let m = parseByteString parseAssignment
                mempty assignmentEx
                r' = maybeSuccess m
            print m
            r' `shouldBe` Just ("woot", "1")

```

```

describe "Header Parsing" $
  it "can parse a simple header" $ do
    let m = parseByteString parseHeader mempty headerEx
        r' = maybeSuccess m
    print m
    r' `shouldBe` Just (Header "blah")

describe "Comment parsing" $
  it "Can skip a comment before a header" $ do
    let p = skipComments >> parseHeader
        i = "; woot\n[blah]"
        m = parseByteString p mempty i
        r' = maybeSuccess m
    print m
    r' `shouldBe` Just (Header "blah")

describe "Section parsing" $
  it "Can parse a simple section" $ do
    let m = parseByteString parseSection
        mempty sectionEx
        r' = maybeSuccess m
        states = M.fromList [("Chris", "Texas")]
        expected' = Just (Section
                          (Header "states")
                          states)
    print m
    r' `shouldBe` expected'

```

```

describe "INI parsing" $
  it "Can parse multiple sections" $ do
    let m = parseByteString parseIni mempty sectionEx'
        r' = maybeSuccess m
        sectionValues = M.fromList
            [ ("alias", "claw")
            , ("host", "wikipedia.org")]
        whatisitValues = M.fromList
            [("red", "intoohandclaw")]
        expected' = Just (Config
            (M.fromList
            [ (Header "section"
                , sectionValues)
            , (Header "whatisit"
                , whatisitValues)]))

    print m
    r' `shouldBe` expected'

```

We leave it to you to run this and experiment with it.

## 24.8 Character and token parsers

All right, that was a lot of code. Let's all step back and take a deep breath.

You probably have some idea by now of what we mean by tokenizing, but the time has come for more detail. Tokenization is a handy parsing tactic, so it's baked into some of the library functions we've been using. It's worth diving in and exploring what it means.

Traditionally, parsing has been done in two stages, lexing and parsing. Characters from a stream will be fed into the lexer, which will then emit tokens on demand to the parser until it has no more to emit. The parser then structures the stream of tokens into a tree, commonly called an “abstract syntax tree” or AST:

```
-- hand-wavy types, ``Stream'' because
-- production-grade parsers in Haskell
-- won't use [] for performance reasons
lexer :: Stream Char -> Stream Token
parser :: Stream Token -> AST
```

Lexers are simpler, typically performing parses that don't require looking ahead into the input stream by more than one character or token at a time. Lexers are at times called tokenizers. Lexing is sometimes done with *regular expressions*, but a parsing library in Haskell will usually intend that you do your lexing and parsing with the same API. Lexers (or tokenizers) and parsers have a lot in common, being primarily differentiated by their purpose and class of grammar<sup>10</sup>.

### Insert tokens to play

Let's play around with some things to see what tokenizing does for us:

```
Prelude> parseString (some digit) mempty "123 456"
Success "123"
Prelude> parseString (some (some digit)) mempty "123 456"
Success ["123"]

Prelude> parseString (some integer) mempty "123"
Success [123]
Prelude> parseString (some integer) mempty "123456"
Success [123456]
```

The problem here is that if we wanted to recognize 123 and 456 as independent strings, we need some kind of separator. Now we can go ahead and do that manually, but the tokenizers in parsers can do it for you too, also handling a mixture of whitespace and newlines:

```
Prelude> parseString (some integer) mempty "123 456"
Success [123,456]
Prelude> parseString (some integer) mempty "123\n\n 456"
Success [123,456]
```

---

<sup>10</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chomsky\\_hierarchy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chomsky_hierarchy)

Or even space and newlines interleaved:

```
Prelude> parseString (some integer) mempty "123 \n \n 456"
Success [123,456]
```

But simply applying token to digit doesn't do what you think:

```
Prelude> parseString (token (some digit)) mempty "123 \n \n 456"
Success "123"
Prelude> parseString (token (some (token digit))) mempty "123 \n \n 456"
Success "123456"

Prelude> parseString (some decimal) mempty "123 \n \n 456"
Success [123]
Prelude> parseString (some (token decimal)) mempty "123 \n \n 456"
Success [123,456]
```

Compare that to the integer function, which is already a tokenizer:

```
Prelude> parseString (some integer) mempty "1\n2\n 3\n"
Success [1,2,3]
```

We can write a tokenizing parser like `some integer` like this:

```
p' :: Parser [Integer]
p' = some $ do
  i <- token digit
  return (read [i])
```

And we can compare the output of that to the output of applying token to digit:

```
Prelude> parseString p' mempty "1\n2\n3"
Success [1,2,3]
Prelude> parseString (token (some digit)) mempty "1\n2\n3"
Success "1"
Prelude> parseString (some (token (some digit))) mempty "1\n2\n3"
Success ["1","2","3"]
```

You'll want to think carefully about the scope at which you're tokenizing as well:



```

Prelude> let tknWhole = token $ char 'a' >> char 'b'
Prelude> parseString tknWhole mempty "a b"
Failure (interactive):1:2: error: expected: "b"
a b<EOF>
^
Prelude> parseString tknWhole mempty "ab ab"
Success 'b'
Prelude> parseString (some tknWhole) mempty "ab ab"
Success "bb"

```

If we wanted that first example to work, we need to tokenize the parse of the first character, not the whole *a-then-b* parse:

```

Prelude> let tknCharA = (token (char 'a')) >> char 'b'
Prelude> parseString tknCharA mempty "a b"
Success 'b'
Prelude> parseString (some tknCharA) mempty "a ba b"
Success "bb"
Prelude> parseString (some tknCharA) mempty "a b a b"
Success "b"

```

The last example stops at the first *a b* parse because the parser doesn't say anything about a space after *b* and the tokenization behavior only applies to what followed *a*. We can tokenize both character parsers though:

```

Prelude> let tknBoth = token (char 'a') >> token (char 'b')
Prelude> parseString (some tknBoth) mempty "a b a b"
Success "bb"

```

A mild warning: don't get too tokenization happy. Try to make it coarse-grained and selective. Overuse of tokenizing parsers or mixture thereof with character parsers can make your parser slow or hard to understand. Use your judgment. Keep in mind that tokenization isn't exclusively about whitespace, it's about ignoring noise so you can focus on the structures you are parsing.

## 24.9 Polymorphic parsers

If we take the time to assert polymorphic types for our parsers, we can get parsers that can be run using `attoparsec`, `trifecta`, `parsec`, or

anything else that has implemented the necessary typeclasses. Let's give it a whirl, shall we?

```
{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}

module Text.Fractions where

import Control.Applicative
import Data.Attoparsec.Text (parseOnly)
import Data.Ratio ((%))
import Data.String (IsString)
import Text.Trifecta

badFraction :: IsString s => s
badFraction = "1/0"

alsoBad :: IsString s => s
alsoBad = "10"

shouldWork :: IsString s => s
shouldWork = "1/2"

shouldAlsoWork :: IsString s => s
shouldAlsoWork = "2/1"

parseFraction :: (Monad m, TokenParsing m) => m Rational
parseFraction = do
  numerator <- decimal
  _ <- char '/'
  denominator <- decimal
  case denominator of
    0 -> fail "Denominator cannot be zero"
    _ -> return (numerator % denominator)
```

We've left some typeclass-constrained polymorphism in our type signatures for flexibility. We'll write a `main` function that will run both `attoparsec` and `trifecta` versions for us so we can compare the outputs directly:

```

main :: IO ()
main = do
    -- parseOnly is Attoparsec
    print $ parseOnly parseFraction badFraction
    print $ parseOnly parseFraction shouldWork
    print $ parseOnly parseFraction shouldAlsoWork
    print $ parseOnly parseFraction alsoBad

    -- parseString is Trifecta
    print $ parseString parseFraction mempty badFraction
    print $ parseString parseFraction mempty shouldWork
    print $ parseString parseFraction mempty shouldAlsoWork
    print $ parseString parseFraction mempty alsoBad

Prelude> main
Left "Failed reading: Denominator cannot be zero"
Right (1 % 2)
Right (2 % 1)
Left "\"/\"": not enough input"
Failure (interactive):1:4: error: Denominator
    cannot be zero, expected: digit
1/0<EOF>
  ^
Success (1 % 2)
Success (2 % 1)
Failure (interactive):1:3: error: unexpected
    EOF, expected: "/", digit
10<EOF>
  ^

```

See what we meant earlier about the error messages?

### It's not perfect and could bite you

While the polymorphic parser combinators in the `parsers` library enable you to write parsers which can then be run with various parsing libraries, this doesn't free you of understanding the particularities of each if you want your parser to have predictable behavior. One of the

areas particularly subject to this variation in behavior is backtracking, which we'll examine next.

### Failure and backtracking

Returning to our cursor model of parsers, backtracking is returning the cursor to where it was before a failing parser consumed input. Let's examine a few cases where this can cause different behavior between `trifecta`, `attoparsec`, and `parsec`:

```
Prelude> import Control.Applicative
Prelude> import Text.Trifecta
Prelude> import Text.Parsec (parse)
Prelude> let oP = string "ha" <|> string "hi" >> char '1'
Prelude> parse oP mempty "ha1"
Right '1'
Prelude> parse oP mempty "hi1"
Left (line 1, column 1):
unexpected "i"
expecting "ha"
```

Here we used `parsec` and it failed. This is because `parsec`'s `Alternative` instance providing `<|>` doesn't automatically backtrack for you. When it attempted the parse of "ha" before "hi," it had successfully parsed the character 'h', so the cursor was still on 'i'. The next parser didn't have a single correct input, so it attributed the failure of the parse to string "ha".

What happens if we try the same, but with `attoparsec` and `trifecta`?

```
Prelude> :set -XOverloadedStrings
Prelude> import Data.Attoparsec.ByteString (parseOnly)
Prelude> parseOnly oP "hi1"
Right '1'
Prelude> parseString oP mempty "hi1"
Success '1'
```

These succeed because the `Alternative` instances providing `<|>` defined for these libraries automatically backtrack. The result of this is that when the first string rule fails, the cursor is rolled back to where it was when the parse of alternatives started, rather than leaving it

where it was after any partial success. Making parses more atomic and easier to reason about is part of the motivation for tokenized parsing.

So how do we fix this? Add backtracking manually — this is what `try` was for. The following should have the same behavior in all three parsers:

```
Prelude> let s = string
Prelude> let p = try (s "ha") <|> s "hi" >> char '1'
Prelude> parse p mempty ("hi1" :: String)
Right '1'
Prelude> parseString p mempty "hi1"
Success '1'
Prelude> parseOnly p "hi1"
Right '1'
```

One potentially confusing niggly to this is that the smallest unit of stream consumption is by default going to be a character, unless you've tokenized the stream already. As a result, the following will work with `parsec` despite what you may have expected after seeing the above:

```
Prelude> let orP = char 'a' <|> char 'b' >> char '1'
Prelude> parse orP mempty "b1"
Right '1'
```

`trifecta` and `attoparsec` match each other in backtracking behavior so far as we're aware, but there might be exceptions so if you use this trick for reusing parsers, you'll want to be careful. This is fairly convenient as `trifecta` replaces most of the use-cases you'd want `parsec` for, with `attoparsec` serving for performance-sensitive production use-cases. Simon Hengel's `attoparsec-parsec`<sup>11</sup> library is worth looking at if you'd like to understand the differences in more detail.

Keep the scope of your backtracking small and focused. You'll want to eye token parsers carefully as they are a common source of backtracking behavior that may not have occurred to you in the heat of the moment.

---

<sup>11</sup> <http://hackage.haskell.org/package/attoparsec-parsec>

## 24.10 Marshalling from an AST to a datatype

Fair warning: This section relies on a little more background knowledge from you than previous sections have. If you are not a person who already has some programming experience, the following may not seem terribly useful to you, and there may be some difficult to understand terminology and concepts.

The act of parsing, in a sense, is a means of “necking down” the cardinality of our inputs to the set of things our programs have a sensible answer for. It’s extremely unlikely you can do something meaningful and domain-specific when your input type is `String`, `Text`, or `ByteString`. However, if you can parse one of those types into something structured, rejecting bad inputs, then you might be able to write a proper program. One of the mistakes programmers make in writing programs handling text is in allowing their data to *stay* in the textual format, doing mind-bending backflips to cope with the unstructured nature of textual inputs.

In some cases, the act of parsing isn’t enough. You might have a sort of AST or structured representation of what was parsed, but from there, you might expect that AST or representation to take a particular *form*. This means we want to narrow the cardinality and get *even more specific* about how our data looks. Often this second step is called *unmarshalling* our data. Similarly, *marshalling* is the act of preparing data for serialization, whether via memory alone (foreign function interface boundary) or over a network interface.

The whole idea here is that you have two pipelines for your data:

```
Text -> Structure -> Meaning
--  parse -> unmarshall

Meaning -> Structure -> Text
--  marshall -> serialize
```

There isn’t only one way to accomplish this, but we’ll show you a commonly used library and how it has this two-stage pipeline in the API.

## Marshalling and unmarshalling JSON data

`aeson` is presently the most popular JSON<sup>12</sup> library in Haskell. One of the things that'll confuse programmers coming to Haskell from Python, Ruby, Clojure, JavaScript, or similar languages is that there's usually no `unmarshal/marshal` step. Instead, the raw JSON AST will be represented directly as an untyped blob of data. Users of typed languages are more likely to have encountered something like this. We'll be using `aeson 0.10.0.0` for the following examples.

```
{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}
{-# LANGUAGE QuasiQuotes      #-}

module Marshalling where

import Data.Aeson
import Data.ByteString.Lazy (ByteString)
import Text.RawString.QQ

sectionJson :: ByteString
sectionJson = [r|
{ "section": { "host": "wikipedia.org" },
  "whatisit": { "red": "intoohandclaw" }
}
|]
```

Note that we're saying the type of `sectionJson` is a *lazy* `ByteString`. If you get strict and lazy `ByteString` types mixed up you'll get errors like the following:

### Provided a strict `ByteString` when a lazy one was expected

```
<interactive>:10:8:
Couldn't match expected type
    'Data.ByteString.Lazy.Internal.ByteString'
  with actual type 'ByteString'
NB: 'Data.ByteString.Lazy.Internal.ByteString'
    is defined in 'Data.ByteString.Lazy.Internal'
```

<sup>12</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JSON>

`'ByteString'` is defined in `'Data.ByteString.Internal'`

The “actual type” is what we provided; the “expected type” is what the types wanted. Either we used the wrong code (so expected type needs to change), or we provided the wrong values (actual type, our types/values, need to change). You can reproduce this error by making the following mistake in the marshalling module:

```
-- Change the import of the ByteString type constructor from:
import Data.ByteString.Lazy (ByteString)

-- Into:
import Data.ByteString (ByteString)
```

**Provided a lazy ByteString when a strict one was expected**

```
{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}
{-# LANGUAGE QuasiQuotes      #-}

module WantedStrict where

import Data.Aeson
import Data.ByteString.Lazy (ByteString)
import Text.RawString.QQ

sectionJson :: ByteString
sectionJson = [r|
{ "section": { "host": "wikipedia.org" },
  "whatisit": { "red": "intoohandclaw" }
}
|]

main = do
  let blah :: Maybe Value
      blah = decodeStrict sectionJson
  print blah
```

You’ll get the following type error if you load that up:



```
code/wantedStrictGotLazy.hs:19:27:
Couldn't match expected type
  'Data.ByteString.Internal.ByteString'
with actual type 'ByteString'
NB:
'Data.ByteString.Internal.ByteString'
  is defined in 'Data.ByteString.Internal'
'ByteString' is defined in 'Data.ByteString.Lazy.Internal'

In the first argument of 'decodeStrict',
  namely 'sectionJson'
In the expression: decodeStrict sectionJson
```

The more useful information is in the *nota bene*, where the internal modules are mentioned. The key is to remember ‘actual type’ means “your code”, ‘expected type’ means “what they expected,” and that the ByteString module that doesn’t have Lazy in the name is the strict version. We can modify our code a bit to get nicer type errors:

```
-- replace the (ByteString) import with these
import qualified Data.ByteString as BS
import qualified Data.ByteString.Lazy as LBS

-- edit the type sig for this one
sectionJson :: LBS.ByteString
```

Then we’ll get the following type error instead:

```
Couldn't match expected type 'BS.ByteString'
with actual type 'LBS.ByteString'

NB: 'BS.ByteString' is defined in
  'Data.ByteString.Internal'

  'LBS.ByteString' is defined in
  'Data.ByteString.Lazy.Internal'
In the first argument of 'decodeStrict',
  namely 'sectionJson'
In the expression: decodeStrict sectionJson
```

This is helpful because we have both versions available as qualified modules. You may not always be so fortunate and will need to remember which is which.

### Back to the...JSON

Let's get back to handling JSON. The most common functions for using `aeson` are the following:

```
Prelude> import Data.Aeson
Prelude> :t encode
encode :: ToJSON a => a -> LBS.ByteString
Prelude> :t decode
decode :: FromJSON a => LBS.ByteString -> Maybe a
```

These functions are sort of eliding the intermediate step that passes through the `Value` type in `aeson`, which is a datatype JSON AST — “sort of,” because you can decode the raw JSON data into a `Value` anyway:

```
Prelude> decode sectionJson :: Maybe Value
Just (Object (fromList [
  ("whatisit",
    Object (fromList [("red",
      String "intoothandclaw"]))),
  ("section",
    Object (fromList [("host",
      String "wikipedia.org")))]))
```

Not, uh, super pretty. We'll figure out something nicer in a moment. Also do not forget to assert a type, or the type-defaulting in `GHCi` will do silly things:

```
Prelude> decode sectionJson
Nothing
```

Now what if we do want a nicer representation for this JSON noise? Well, let's define our datatypes and see if we can decode the JSON into our type:

```
{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}
{-# LANGUAGE QuasiQuotes      #-}

module Marshalling where

import Control.Applicative
import Data.Aeson
import Data.ByteString.Lazy (ByteString)
import qualified Data.Text as T
import Data.Text (Text)
import Text.RawString.QQ

sectionJson :: ByteString
sectionJson = [r|
{ "section": { "host": "wikipedia.org" },
  "whatisit": { "red": "intoothandclaw" }
}
|]

data TestData =
  TestData {
    section :: Host
    , what :: Color
  } deriving (Eq, Show)

newtype Host =
  Host String
  deriving (Eq, Show)

type Annotation = String

data Color =
  Red Annotation
  | Blue Annotation
  | Yellow Annotation
  deriving (Eq, Show)

main = do
  let d = decode sectionJson :: Maybe TestData
  print d
```

This will in fact net you a type error complaining about there not being an instance of `FromJSON` for `TestData`. Which is true! GHC has no idea how to unmarshall JSON data (in the form of a `Value`) into a `TestData` value. Let's add an instance so it knows how:

```
instance FromJSON TestData where
  parseJSON (Object v) =
    TestData <$> v .: "section"
    <*> v .: "whatisit"
  parseJSON _ =
    fail "Expected an object for TestData"
```

```
instance FromJSON Host where
  parseJSON (Object v) =
    Host <$> v .: "host"
  parseJSON _ =
    fail "Expected an object for Host"
```

```
instance FromJSON Color where
  parseJSON (Object v) =
    (Red <$> v .: "red")
    <|> (Blue <$> v .: "blue")
    <|> (Yellow <$> v .: "yellow")
  parseJSON _ = fail "Expected an object for Color"
```

Also note that you can use quasiquotes to avoid having to escape quotation marks in the REPL as well:

```
Prelude> :set -XOverloadedStrings
Prelude> decode "{\"blue\": \"123\"}" :: Maybe Color
Just (Blue "123")
Prelude> :set -XQuasiQuotes
Prelude> decode [r|{"red": "123"}|] :: Maybe Color
Just (Red "123")
```

To relate what we just did back to the relationship between parsing and marshallng, the idea is that our `FromJSON` instance is accepting the `Value` type and `ToJSON` instances generate the `Value` type, closing the following loop:

```

-- FromJSON
ByteString -> Value -> yourType
-- parse -> unmarshall

-- ToJSON
yourType -> Value -> ByteString
-- marshall -> serialize

```

The definition of Value at time of writing is the following:

```

-- | A JSON value represented as a Haskell value.
data Value = Object !Object
           | Array !Array
           | String !Text
           | Number !Scientific
           | Bool !Bool
           | Null
           deriving (Eq, Read, Show, Typeable, Data)

```

What if we want to unmarshall something that could be a Number or a String?

```

data NumberOrString =
    Numba Integer
  | Stringy Text
  deriving (Eq, Show)

instance FromJSON NumberOrString where
    parseJSON (Number i) = return $ Numba i
    parseJSON (String s) = return $ Stringy s
    parseJSON _ =
        fail "NumberOrString must be number or string"

```

This won't quite work at first. The trouble is that JSON (and JavaScript, as it happens) only has one numeric type and that type is a IEEE-754<sup>13</sup> float. JSON (and JavaScript, terrifyingly) have no integral types or integers, so aeson has to pick *one* representation that

<sup>13</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IEEE\\_floating\\_point](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IEEE_floating_point)

works for all possible JSON numbers. The most precise way to do that is the `Scientific` type which is an arbitrarily precise numerical type (you may remember this from way back in Chapter 4, Basic Datatypes). So we need to convert from a `Scientific` to an `Integer`:

```
import Data.Scientific (floatingOrInteger)

data NumberOrString =
    Numba Integer
  | Stringy Text
  deriving (Eq, Show)

instance FromJSON NumberOrString where
    parseJSON (Number i) =
        case floatingOrInteger i of
            (Left _) -> fail "Must be integral number"
            (Right integer) -> return $ Numba integer
    parseJSON (String s) = return $ Stringy s
    parseJSON _ =
        fail "NumberOrString must be number or string"
```

Now let's give it a whirl:

```
Prelude> decode "123" :: Maybe NumberOrString
Nothing
```

??? WHAT HAPPEN ???

We can use `eitherDecode` to get a *slightly* more helpful type error:

```
Prelude> eitherDecode "123" :: Either String NumberOrString
Left "Failed reading: satisfy"
```

Not super helpful (it's attoparsec under the hood, after all), but it tells us it was parsing rather than marshalling that failed. Turns out, in the JSON standard, you'll find that only JSON arrays and objects are allowed to be at the top level of an input stream. There's a quick-n-dirty fix for this:

```
Prelude> type Result = Either String [NumberOrString]
Prelude> eitherDecode "[123]" :: Result
```

```

Right [Numba 123]
Prelude> eitherDecode "\\123\\" :: Result
Right [Stringy "123"]

```

## 24.11 Chapter Exercises

1. Write a parser for semantic versions as defined by <http://semver.org/>. After making a working parser, write an Ord instance for the SemVer type that obeys the specification outlined on the SemVer website.

```

-- Relevant to precedence/ordering,
-- cannot sort numbers like strings.
data NumberOrString =
    NOSS String
  | NOSI Integer

type Major = Integer
type Minor = Integer
type Patch = Integer
type Release = [NumberOrString]
type Metadata = [NumberOrString]

data SemVer =
    SemVer Major Minor Patch Release Metadata

parseSemVer :: Parser SemVer
parseSemVer = undefined

```

Expected results:

```

Prelude> parseString parseSemVer mempty "2.1.1"
Success (SemVer 2 1 1 [] [])
Prelude> parseString parseSemVer mempty "1.0.0-x.7.z.92"
Success (SemVer 1 0 0 [NOSS "x", NOSI 7, NOSS "z", NOSI 92] [])
Prelude> SemVer 2 1 1 [] [] > SemVer 2 1 0 [] []
True

```

2. Write a parser for positive integer values. Don't reuse the pre-existing digit or integer functions, but you can use them for inspiration if you get stuck.

```
parseDigit :: Parser Char
parseDigit = undefined
```

```
base10Integer :: Parser Integer
base10Integer = undefined
```

Expected results:

```
Prelude> parseString parseDigit mempty "123"
Success '1'
Prelude> parseString parseDigit mempty "abc"
Failure (interactive):1:1: error: expected: parseDigit
abc<EOF>
^
Prelude> parseString base10Integer mempty "123abc"
Success 123
Prelude> parseString base10Integer mempty "abc"
Failure (interactive):1:1: error: expected: integer
abc<EOF>
^
```

Hint: Assume you're parsing base-10 numbers. Use arithmetic as a cheap “accumulator” for your final number as you parse each digit left-to-right.

3. Extend the parser you wrote to handle negative and positive integers. Try writing a new parser in terms of the one you already have to do this.

```
Prelude> parseString base10Integer' mempty "-123abc"
Success (-123)
```

4. Write a parser for US/Canada phone numbers with varying formats.



```

type NumberingPlanArea = Int -- aka area code
type Exchange = Int
type LineNumber = Int

data PhoneNumber =
  PhoneNumber NumberingPlanArea Exchange LineNumber
  deriving (Eq, Show)

parsePhone :: Parser PhoneNumber
parsePhone = undefined

```

With the following behavior:

```

Prelude> parseString parsePhone mempty "123-456-7890"
Success (PhoneNumber 123 456 7890)
Prelude> parseString parsePhone mempty "1234567890"
Success (PhoneNumber 123 456 7890)
Prelude> parseString parsePhone mempty "(123) 456-7890"
Success (PhoneNumber 123 456 7890)
Prelude> parseString parsePhone mempty "1-123-456-7890"
Success (PhoneNumber 123 456 7890)

```

Cf. Wikipedia’s article on “National conventions for writing telephone numbers”. You are encouraged to adapt the exercise to your locality’s conventions if they are not part of the NNAP scheme.

5. Write a parser for a log file format and sum the time spent in each activity. Additionally, provide an alternative aggregation of the data that provides average time spent per activity per day. The format supports the use of comments which your parser will have to ignore. The # characters followed by a date mark the beginning of a particular day.

Log format example:

```
-- wheee a comment
```

```
# 2025-02-05
```

```

08:00 Breakfast
09:00 Sanitizing moisture collector
11:00 Exercising in high-grav gym
12:00 Lunch
13:00 Programming
17:00 Commuting home in rover
17:30 R&R
19:00 Dinner
21:00 Shower
21:15 Read
22:00 Sleep

```

```

# 2025-02-07 -- dates not necessarily sequential
08:00 Breakfast -- should I try skippin bfast?
09:00 Bumped head, passed out
13:36 Wake up, headache
13:37 Go to medbay
13:40 Patch self up
13:45 Commute home for rest
14:15 Read
21:00 Dinner
21:15 Read
22:00 Sleep

```

You are to derive a reasonable datatype for representing this data yourself. For bonus points, make this bi-directional by making a `Show` representation for the datatype which matches the format you are parsing. Then write a generator for this data using QuickCheck's `Gen` and see if you can break your parser with QuickCheck.

6. Write a parser for IPv4 addresses.

```

import Data.Word

data IPAddress =
  IPAddress Word32
  deriving (Eq, Ord, Show)

```

A 32-bit word is a 32-bit unsigned int. Lowest value is 0 rather than being capable of representing negative numbers, but the highest possible value in the same number of bits is twice as high. Note:

```
Prelude> import Data.Int
Prelude> import Data.Word
Prelude> maxBound :: Int32
2147483647
Prelude> maxBound :: Word32
4294967295
Prelude> div 4294967295 2147483647
2
```

Word32 is an appropriate and compact way to represent IPv4 addresses. You are expected to figure out not only how to parse the typical IP address format, but how IP addresses work numerically insofar as is required to write a working parser. This will require using a search engine unless you have an appropriate book on internet networking handy.

Example IPv4 addresses and their decimal representations:

```
172.16.254.1 -> 2886794753
204.120.0.15 -> 3430416399
```

7. Same as before, but IPv6.

```
import Data.Word

data IPAddress6 =
  IPAddress6 Word64 Word64
  deriving (Eq, Ord, Show)
```

Example IPv6 addresses and their decimal representations:

```
0:0:0:0:0:ffff:ac10:fe01 -> 281473568538113
0:0:0:0:0:ffff:cc78:f    -> 281474112159759

FE80:0000:0000:0000:0202:B3FF:FE1E:8329 ->
```

```
338288524927261089654163772891438416681
```

```
2001:DB8::8:800:200C:417A ->
42540766411282592856906245548098208122
```

One of the trickier parts about IPv6 will be full vs. collapsed addresses and the abbreviations. See this Q&A thread<sup>14</sup> about IPv6 abbreviations for more.

Ensure you can parse abbreviated variations of the earlier examples like:

```
FE80::0202:B3FF:FE1E:8329
2001:DB8::8:800:200C:417A
```

8. Remove the derived Show instances from the IPAddress/IPAddress6 types, write your own Show instance for each type that renders in the typical textual format appropriate to each.
9. Write a function that converts between IPAddress and IPAddress6.
10. Write a parser for the DOT language<sup>15</sup> Graphviz uses to express graphs in plain-text.

We suggest you look at the AST datatype in Haphviz<sup>16</sup> for ideas on how to represent the graph in a Haskell datatype. If you're feeling especially robust, you can try using fgl<sup>17</sup>.

---

<sup>14</sup> <http://answers.google.com/answers/threadview/id/770645.html>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.graphviz.org/doc/info/lang.html>

<sup>16</sup> <http://hackage.haskell.org/package/haphviz>

<sup>17</sup> <http://hackage.haskell.org/package/fgl>

## 24.12 Definitions

1. A *parser* parses.  
You read the chapter right?
2. A *parser combinator* combines two or more parsers to produce a new parser. Good examples of this are things like using `<|>` from *Alternative* to produce a new parser from the disjunction of two parser arguments to `<|>`. Or `some`. Or `many`. Or `mappend`. Or `(>>)`.
3. *Marshalling* is transforming a potentially non-linear representation of data in memory into a format that can be stored on disk or transmitted over a network socket. Going in the opposite direction is called unmarshalling. Cf. *serialization* and *deserialization*.
4. A *token(izer)* converts text, usually a stream of characters, into more meaningful or “chunkier” structures such as words, sentences, or symbols. The `lines` and `words` functions you’ve used earlier in this book are like very unsophisticated tokenizers.
5. *Lexer* — see *tokenizer*.

## 24.13 Follow-up resources

1. Parsec try a-or-b considered harmful; Edward Z. Yang
2. Code case study: parsing a binary data format; Real World Haskell
3. The Parsec parsing library; Real World Haskell
4. An introduction to parsing text in Haskell with Parsec; James Wilson;  
<http://unbui.lt/#!/post/haskell-parsec-basics>
5. Parsing CSS with Parsec; Jakub Arnold;  
<http://blog.jakubarnold.cz/2014/08/10/parsing-css-with-parsec.html>
6. Parsec: A practical parser library; Daan Leijen, Erik Meijer;  
<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/summary?doi=10.1.1.24.5200>

7. How to Replace Failure by a List of Successes; Philip Wadler;  
<http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=5288>
8. How to Replace Failure by a Heap of Successes; Edward Kmett
9. Two kinds of backtracking; Samuel Gélinau (gelisam);  
<http://gelisam.blogspot.ca/2015/09/two-kinds-of-backtracking.html>
10. LL and LR in Context: Why Parsing Tools Are Hard; Josh Haberman  
<http://blog.reverberate.org/2013/09/ll-and-lr-in-context-why-parsing-tools.html>
11. Parsing Techniques, a practical guide; second edition; Grune & Jacobs
12. Parsing JSON with Aeson; School of Haskell
13. aeson; 24 days of Hackage; Oliver Charles;  
<https://ocharles.org.uk/blog/posts/2012-12-07-24-days-of-hackage-aeson.html>

## Chapter 25

# Composing types

The last thing one discovers  
in composing a work is what  
to put first.

---

T. S. Eliot

## 25.1 Composing types

This chapter and the next are about monad transformers, both the principles behind them and the practicalities of using them. For many programmers, monad transformers are indistinguishable from *magick*, so we want to approach them from both angles and demonstrate that they are both comprehensible via their types and quite practical in normal programming.

Functors and applicatives are both closed under composition: this means that you can compose two functors (or two applicatives) and return another functor (or applicative, as the case may be). This is not true of monads, however; when you compose two monads, the result is not *necessarily* another Monad. We will see this soon.

However, there are many times in “real code” when composing monads is desirable. Different monads allow us to work with different effects. Composing monads allows you to build up computations with multiple effects. By stacking, for example, a Maybe monad with an IO, you can be performing IO actions while also building up computations that have a possibility of failure, handled by the Maybe monad.

A monad transformer is a variant of an ordinary type that takes an additional type argument which is assumed to have a monad instance. For example, `MaybeT` is the transformer variant of the Maybe type. The transformer variant of a type gives us a Monad instance that binds over both bits of structure. This allows us to compose monads and combine their effects. Getting comfortable with monad transformers is important to becoming proficient in Haskell, so we’re going to take it pretty slowly and go step by step. You won’t necessarily want to start out early on defining a bunch of transformer stacks yourself, but familiarity with them will help a great deal in using other people’s libraries.

In this chapter, we will

- demonstrate why composing two monads does not give you another monad;
- examine the Identity and Compose types;
- manipulate types until we can make monads compose;



- meet some common monad transformers;
- work through an Identity crisis.

## 25.2 Common functions as types

We'll start in a place that may seem a little strange and pointless at first, with newtypes that correspond to some very basic functions. We can construct types that are like those functions because we have types that can take arguments — that is, type constructors. In particular, we'll be using types that correspond to `id` and `(.)`.

You've seen some of the types we're going to use in the following sections before, but we'll be putting them to some novel uses. The idea here is to use these datatypes as helpers in order to demonstrate the problems with composing monads, and we'll see how these type constructors can also serve as monad transformers, because a monad transformer is a type constructor that takes a monad as an argument.

### Identity is boring

You've seen this type in previous chapters, sometimes as a datatype and sometimes as a newtype. We'll construct the type differently this time, as a newtype with a helper function of the sort we saw in `Reader` and `State`:

```
newtype Identity a =  
  Identity { runIdentity :: a }
```

We'll be using the newtype in this chapter because the monad transformer version, `IdentityT`, is usually written as a newtype. The use of the prefixes “run” or “get” indicates that these accessor functions are means of extracting the underlying value from the type. There is no real difference in meaning between “run” and “get.” You'll see these accessor functions often, particularly with utility types like `Identity` or transformer variants reusing an original type.

**A note about newtypes** While monad transformer types could be written using the `data` keyword, they are most commonly written as newtypes, and we'll be sticking with that pattern here. They are only newtyped to avoid unnecessary overhead, as newtypes, as we recall,

have an underlying representation identical to the type they contain. The important thing is that monad transformers are never sum or product types; they are always just a means of wrapping one extra layer of (monadic) structure around a type, so there is never a reason they couldn't be newtypes. Haskellers have a general tendency to avoid adding additional runtime overhead if they can, so if they can newtype it, they most often will.

Another thing we want to notice about Identity is the similarity of the kind of our Identity type to the type of the `id` function, although the fidelity of the comparison isn't perfect given the limitations of type-level computation in Haskell:

```
Prelude> :t id
id :: a -> a
Prelude> :k Identity
Identity :: * -> *
```

The kind signature of the type resembles the type signature of the function, which we hope isn't too much of a surprise. Fine so far — not much new here. Yet.

## Compose

We mentioned above that we can also construct a datatype that corresponds to function *composition*.

Here is the Compose type. It should look to you much like function composition, but in this case, the *f* and *g* represent *type constructors*, not term-level functions:

```
newtype Compose f g a =
  Compose { getCompose :: f (g a) }
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

So, we have a type constructor that takes three type arguments: *f* and *g* must be type constructors themselves, while *a* will be a concrete type (consider the relationship between type constructors and term-level functions on the one hand, and values and type constants on the other). As we did above, let's look at the kind of Compose — note the kinds of the arguments to the type constructor:

```
Compose :: (* -> *) -> (* -> *) -> * -> *
```

Does that remind you of anything?

```
(.) :: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> a -> c
```

So, what does that look like in practice? Something like this:

```
Prelude> Compose [Just 1, Nothing]
Compose {getCompose = [Just 1,Nothing]}
```

```
Prelude> :t Compose [Just (1 :: Int), Nothing]
Compose [Just (1 :: Int), Nothing] :: Compose [] Maybe Int
```

Given the above value, the type variables get bound accordingly:

```
Compose [Just (1 :: Int), Nothing]

Compose { getCompose :: f (g    a) }

           Compose [] Maybe Int

f ~ []
g ~ Maybe
a ~ Int
```

We have one bit of structure wrapped around another, then a value type (the *a*) because the whole thing still has to be kind *\** in the end. We've made the point in previous chapters that type constructors are functions. Type constructors can take other type constructors as arguments, too, just as functions can take other functions as arguments. This is what allows us to compose types.

### 25.3 Two little functors sittin' in a tree, L-I-F-T-I-N-G

Let's start with composing functors, using the types we've seen just above. We know we can lift over Identity; you've seen this Functor before:

```
instance Functor Identity where
    fmap f (Identity a) = Identity (f a)
```

Identity here gives us a sort of vanilla Functor that doesn't really do anything interesting but captures the essence of what Functors are about. The function gets lifted into the context of the Identity type and then mapped over the *a* value.

It turns out we can get a Functor instance for Compose, too, *if* we ask that the *f* and *g* both have Functor instances:

```
instance (Functor f, Functor g) =>
    Functor (Compose f g) where
    fmap f (Compose fga) =
        Compose $ (fmap . fmap) f fga
```

Now the *f* and the *g* both have to be part of the structure that we're lifting over, so they both have to be Functors themselves. We need to be able to jump over both those layers in order to apply to the value that's ultimately inside. We have to fmap twice to get to that value inside because of the layered structures.

To return to the example we used above, we have this type:

```
newtype Compose f g a =
    Compose { getCompose :: f (g a) }
    deriving (Eq, Show)

Compose { getCompose :: f (g a) }
```

```
Compose [] Maybe Int
```

And if we use our Functor instance, we can apply a function to the Int value wrapped up in all that structure:

```
Prelude> Compose [Just 1, Nothing]
Compose {getCompose = [Just 1,Nothing]}
Prelude> fmap (+1) (Compose [Just 1, Nothing])
Compose {getCompose = [Just 2,Nothing]}
```

We can generalize this to different amounts of structure, such as with one less bit of structure. You may remember this from a previous chapter:

```

newtype One f a =
  One (f a)
  deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Functor f =>
  Functor (One f) where
  fmap f (One fa) = One $ fmap f fa

```

Or one more layer of structure than Compose:

```

newtype Three f g h a =
  Three (f (g (h a)))
  deriving (Eq, Show)

instance (Functor f, Functor g, Functor h) =>
  Functor (Three f g h) where
  fmap f (Three fgha) =
    Three $ (fmap . fmap . fmap) f fgha

```

As it happens, just as with the anonymous product `(,)` and the anonymous sum `Either`, the `Compose` type allows us to express arbitrarily nested types:

```

v :: Compose [] Maybe (Compose Maybe [] Integer)
v = Compose [Just (Compose $ Just [1])]

```

The way to think about this is that the composition of two datatypes that have a `Functor` instance gives rise to a new `Functor` instance. You'll sometimes see people refer to this as Functors being “closed under composition” which just means that when you compose two Functors, you get another Functor.

## 25.4 Twinplicative

You probably guessed this was our next step in `Compose-landia`. Applicatives, it turns out, are also closed under composition. We can indeed compose two types that have `Applicative` instances and get a new `Applicative` instance. But you're going to write it.

**GOTCHA! Exercise time**

-- instance types provided as they may help.

```
{-# LANGUAGE InstanceSigs #-}
```

```
instance (Applicative f, Applicative g) =>
  Applicative (Compose f g) where
  pure :: a -> Compose f g a
  pure = undefined

  (<*>) :: Compose f g (a -> b)
        -> Compose f g a
        -> Compose f g b
  (Compose f) <*> (Compose a) = undefined
```

We mentioned in an earlier chapter that Applicative is a weaker algebra than Monad, and that sometimes there are benefits to preferring an Applicative when you don't need the full power of the Monad. This is one of those benefits. To compose Applicatives, you don't need to do the legwork that monads require in order to compose and still have a Monad. Oh, yes, right — we still haven't quite made it to monads composing, but we're about to.

**25.5 Twonad?**

What about Monad? There's no problem composing two arbitrary datatypes that have Monad instances. We saw this already when we used Compose with Maybe and list, which both have Monad instances defined. However, the result of having done so *does not* give you a Monad.

The issue comes down to a lack of information. Both types Compose is working with are polymorphic, so when you try to write bind for the Monad, you're trying to combine two polymorphic binds into a single combined bind. This, it turns out, is not possible:

```
{-# LANGUAGE InstanceSigs #-}

-- impossible.
instance (Monad f, Monad g) => Monad (Compose f g) where
  return = pure

  (>=) :: Compose f g a
        -> (a -> Compose f g b)
        -> Compose f g b
  (>=) = ???
```

These are the types we're trying to combine, because  $f$  and  $g$  are necessarily both monads with their own `Monad` instances:

```
Monad f => f a -> (a -> f b) -> f b
Monad g => g a -> (a -> g b) -> g b
```

From those, we are trying to write this bind:

```
(Monad f, Monad g) => f (g a) -> (a -> f (g b)) -> f (g b)
```

Or formulated differently:

```
(Monad f, Monad g) => f (g (f (g a))) -> f (g a)
```

And this is not possible. There's not a good way to join that final  $f$  and  $g$ . It's a great exercise to try to make it work, because the barriers you'll run into are instructive in their own right. You can also read *Composing monads*<sup>1</sup> by Mark P. Jones and Luc Duponcheel to see why it's not possible.

## No free burrito lunches

Since getting another `Monad` given the composition of two *arbitrary* types that have a `Monad` instance is impossible, what can we do to get a `Monad` instance for combinations of types? The answer is, *monad transformers*. We'll get to that after a little break for some exercises.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://web.cecs.pdx.edu/~mpj/pubs/RR-1004.pdf>

## 25.6 Exercises: Compose Instances

### Compose Foldable

Write the Foldable instance for Compose. The `foldMap = undefined` bit is a hint to make it easier and look more like what you've seen already.

```
instance (Foldable f, Foldable g) =>
    Foldable (Compose f g) where
    foldMap = undefined
```

### Compose Traversable

Write the Traversable instance for Compose.

```
instance (Traversable f, Traversable g) =>
    Traversable (Compose f g) where
    traverse = undefined
```

### And now for something completely different

This has nothing to do with anything else in this chapter.

```
class Bifunctor p where
    {-# MINIMAL bimap | first, second #-}

    bimap :: (a -> b) -> (c -> d) -> p a c -> p b d
    bimap f g = first f . second g

    first :: (a -> b) -> p a c -> p b c
    first f = bimap f id

    second :: (b -> c) -> p a b -> p a c
    second = bimap id
```

It's a functor that can map over two type arguments instead of just one. Write Bifunctor instances for the following types:

1. The less you think, the easier it'll be.



```
data Deux a b = Deux a b

2. data Const a b = Const a

3. data Drei a b c = Drei a b c

4. data SuperDrei a b c = SuperDrei a b

5. data SemiDrei a b c = SemiDrei a

6. data Quadriceps a b c d =
    Quadzzz a b c d

7. data Either a b =
    Left a
  | Right b
```

## 25.7 Monad transformers

We've now seen what the problem with Monad is: you can put two together but you can't get a new Monad instance out of it. When we need to get a new Monad instance, we need a monad transformer. It's not magic; the answer is in the types.

We said above that a monad transformer is a type constructor that takes a Monad as an argument and returns a Monad as a result. We also noted that the fundamental problem with composing two Monads lies in the impossibility of joining two unknown Monads. In order to make that join happen, we need to reduce the polymorphism and get concrete information about one of the Monads that we're working with. The other Monad remains polymorphic as a variable type argument to our type constructor. Transformers help you make a monad out of multiple (2, 3, 4...) types that each have a Monad instance by wrapping around existing monads that provide each bit of wanted functionality.

The types are tricky here, so we're going to be walking through writing monad transformers very slowly. Parts of what follows may seem tedious, so work through it as slowly or quickly as you need to.

## Monadic stacking

Applicative allows us to apply functions of more than one argument in the presence of functorial structure, enabling us to cope with this transition:

```
-- from this:
fmap (+1) (Just 1)

-- to this:
(,,) <$> Just 1 <*> Just "lol" <*> Just [1, 2]
```

Sometimes we want a ( $>=>$ ) which can address more than one Monad at once. You'll often see this in applications that have multiple things going on, such as a web app where combining Reader and IO is common. You want IO so you can perform effectful actions like talking to a database and also Reader for the database connection(s) and/or HTTP request context. Sometimes you may even want multiple Readers (app-specific data vs. what the framework provides by default), although usually there's a way to just add the data you want to a product type of a single Reader.

So the question becomes, how do we get *one big bind* over a type like the following?

```
IO (Reader String [a])
```

```
-- where the Monad instances involved
-- are that of IO, Reader, and []
```

## Doing it badly

We could make one-off types for each combination, but this will get tiresome quickly. For example:

```
newtype MaybeIO a =
  MaybeIO { runMaybeIO :: IO (Maybe a) }

newtype MaybeList a =
  MaybeList { runMaybeList :: [Maybe a] }
```

We don't need to resort to this; we can get a Monad for *two* types, as long as we know what *one* of the types is. Transformers are a means of avoiding making a one-off Monad for every possible combination of types.

## 25.8 IdentityT

Just as Identity helps show off the most basic essence of Functor, Applicative, and Monad, IdentityT is going to help you begin to understand monad transformers. Using this type that doesn't have a lot of interesting stuff going on with it will help keep us focused on the types and the important fundamentals of transformers. What we see here will be applicable to other transformers as well, but types like Maybe and list introduce other possibilities (failure cases, empty lists) that complicate things a bit.

First, let's compare the Identity type you've seen up to this point and our new IdentityT datatype:

```
-- Plain old Identity. 'a' can be something with
-- more structure, but it's not required and
-- Identity won't know anything about it.
newtype Identity a =
  Identity { runIdentity :: a }
  deriving (Eq, Show)

-- The identity monad transformer, serving only to
-- to specify that additional structure should exist.
newtype IdentityT f a =
  IdentityT { runIdentityT :: f a }
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

What changed here is that we added an extra type argument.

Then we want Functor instances for both Identity and IdentityT:

```
instance Functor Identity where
  fmap f (Identity a) = Identity (f a)

instance (Functor m) => Functor (IdentityT m) where
  fmap f (IdentityT fa) = IdentityT (fmap f fa)
```

The `IdentityT` instance here should look similar to the `Functor` instance for the `One` datatype above — the  $fa$  argument is the value inside the `IdentityT` with the `(untouchable)` structure wrapped around it. All we know about that additional layer of structure wrapped around the  $a$  value is that it is a `Functor`.

We also want `Applicative` instances for each:

```
instance Applicative Identity where
  pure = Identity

  (Identity f) <*> (Identity a) = Identity (f a)

instance (Applicative m) => Applicative (IdentityT m) where
  pure x = IdentityT (pure x)

  (IdentityT fab) <*> (IdentityT fa) =
    IdentityT (fab <*> fa)
```

The `Identity` instance should be familiar. In the `IdentityT` instance, the  $fab$  variable represents the  $f (a \rightarrow b)$  that is the first argument of `<*>`. Since this can rely on the `Applicative` instance for  $m$  to handle that bit, this instance defines how to applicatively apply in the presence of that outer `IdentityT` layer.

Finally, we want some `Monad` instances:

```
instance Monad Identity where
  return = pure

  (Identity a) >>= f = f a

instance (Monad m) => Monad (IdentityT m) where
  return = pure
  (IdentityT ma) >>= f =
    IdentityT $ ma >>= runIdentityT . f
```

The `Monad` instance is tricky, so we're going to do a few things to break it down. Keep in mind that `Monad` is where we have to really use concrete type information from `IdentityT` in order to make the types fit.

## The bind breakdown

We'll start with a closer look at the instance as written above:

```
instance (Monad m) => Monad (IdentityT m) where
  return = pure
  (IdentityT ma) >>= f =
--   [ 1 ] [2] [3]
    IdentityT $ ma >>= runIdentityT . f
--   [8] [4] [5] [7] [6]
```

1. First we pattern-match or unpack the `m a` value of `IdentityT m a` via the data constructor. Doing this has the type `IdentityT m a -> m a` and the type of `ma` is `m a`. This nomenclature doesn't mean anything beyond mnemonic signaling, but it is intended to be helpful.
2. The type of the bind we are implementing is the following:

```
(>>=) :: IdentityT m a
      -> (a -> IdentityT m b)
      -> IdentityT m b
```

This is the instance we are defining.

3. This is the function we're binding over `IdentityT m a`. It has the following type:
 

```
(a -> IdentityT m b)
```
4. Here `ma` is the same one we unpacked out of the `IdentityT` data constructor and has the type `m a`. Removed from its `IdentityT` context, this is now the `m a` that this bind takes as its first argument.
5. This is a *different* bind! The first bind is the bind we're trying to implement; this bind is its definition or implementation. We're now using the `Monad` we asked for in the instance declaration with the constraint `Monad m =>`. This will have the type:

```
(>>=) :: m a -> (a -> m b) -> m b
```

This is with respect to the  $m$  in the type `IdentityT m a`, not the class of `Monad` instances in general. In other words, since we have already unpacked the `IdentityT` bit and, in a sense, gotten it out of the way, this `bind` will be the `bind` for the type  $m$  in the type `IdentityT m`. We don't know what `Monad` that is yet, and we don't need to; since it has the `Monad` typeclass constraint on that variable, we know it already has a `Monad` instance defined for it, and this second `bind` will be the `bind` defined for that type. All we're doing here is defining how to use that `bind` in the presence of the additional `IdentityT` structure.

6. This is the same  $f$  which was an argument to the `Monad` instance we are defining, of type:

```
(a -> IdentityT m b)
```

7. We need `runIdentityT` because  $f$  returns `IdentityT m b`, but the `>>=` for the `Monad m =>` has the type `m a -> (a -> m b) -> m b`. It'll end up trying to join `m (IdentityT m b)`, which won't work because `m` and `IdentityT m` are not the same type. We use `runIdentityT` to unpack the value. Doing this has the type `IdentityT m b -> m b` and the composition `runIdentityT . f` in this context has the type `a -> m b`. You can use `undefined` in `GHCi` to demonstrate this for yourself:

```
Prelude> let f :: (a -> IdentityT m b); f = undefined
Prelude> :t f
f :: a -> IdentityT m b
Prelude> :t runIdentityT
runIdentityT :: IdentityT f a -> f a
Prelude> :t (runIdentityT . f)
(runIdentityT . f) :: a1 -> f a
```

OK, the type variables don't have the same name, but you can see how `a1 -> f a` and `a -> m b` are the same type.

8. To satisfy the type of the outer `bind` we are implementing for the `Monad` of `IdentityT m`, which expects a final result of the type `IdentityT m b`, we must take the `m b` which the expression `ma >>= runIdentityT . f` returns and *repack* it in `IdentityT`. Note:

```

Prelude> :t IdentityT
IdentityT :: f a -> IdentityT f a
Prelude> :t runIdentityT
runIdentityT :: IdentityT f a -> f a

```

Now we have a bind we can use with `IdentityT` and some other monad — in this example, a list:

```

Prelude> IdentityT [1, 2, 3] >>= (return . (+1))
IdentityT {runIdentityT = [2,3,4]}

```

### Implementing the bind, step by step

Now we’re going to backtrack and go through implementing that bind step by step. The goal here is to demystify what we’ve done and enable you to write your own instances for whatever monad transformer you might need to implement yourself. We’ll go ahead and start back at the beginning, but with `InstanceSigs` turned on so we can see the type:

```

{-# LANGUAGE InstanceSigs #-}

instance (Monad m) => Monad (IdentityT m) where
  return = pure

  (>>=) :: IdentityT m a
        -> (a -> IdentityT m b)
        -> IdentityT m b
  (IdentityT ma) >>= f =
    undefined

```

Let’s leave the `undefined` as our final return expression, then use `let` bindings and contradiction to see the types of our attempts at making a `Monad` instance. We’re going to use the bottom value (`undefined`) to defer the parts of the proof we’re obligated to produce until we’re ready. First, let’s just get a `let` binding in place and see it load, even if the code doesn’t actually work:

```

(>=>) :: IdentityT m a
      -> (a -> IdentityT m b)
      -> IdentityT m b
(IdentityT ma) >=> f =
  let aimb = ma >=> f
  in undefined

```

We're using *aimb* as a mnemonic for the parts of the whole thing that we're trying to implement.

Here we get an error:

```

Couldn't match type 'm' with 'IdentityT m'

```

That type error isn't the most helpful thing in the world. It's hard to know what's wrong from that. So, we'll poke at this a bit in order to get a more helpful type error.

First, we'll do something we *know* should work. We'll use `fmap` instead. Because that will typecheck (but not give us the same result as `(>=>)`), we need to do something to give the compiler a chance to contradict us and tell us the real type. We force that type error by asserting a fully polymorphic type for *aimb*:

```

(>=>) :: IdentityT m a
      -> (a -> IdentityT m b)
      -> IdentityT m b
(IdentityT ma) >=> f =
  let aimb :: a
      aimb = fmap f ma
  in undefined

```

The type we just asserted for *aimb* is impossible; we've just said it could be every type, and it can't. The only thing that can have that type is bottom, as bottom inhabits all types.

Conveniently, GHC will let us know what *aimb* actually is:

```

Couldn't match expected type 'a1'
with actual type 'm (IdentityT m b)'

```

With the current implementation, *aimb* has the type `m (IdentityT m b)`. Now we can see the real problem: there is an `IdentityT` layer



in between the two bits of  $m$  that we need to join in order to have a monad.

Here's a breakdown:

```
(>=) :: IdentityT m a
      -> (a -> IdentityT m b)
      -> IdentityT m b

-- the pattern match on IdentityT is
-- basically our having lifted over it
-- Problem is, we >='d

(a -> IdentityT m b)

-- over

m a

-- and got

m (IdentityT m b)
```

It doesn't typecheck because `(>=)` merges structure of the same type after lifting (remember: it's `fmap` composed with `join` under the hood). Had our type been `m (m b)` after binding `f` over `ma` it would've worked fine. As it is, we need to find a way to get the two bits of  $m$  together without an intervening `IdentityT` layer.

We're going to continue with having separate `fmap` and `join` instead of using `(>=)` because it makes the step-wise manipulation of structure easier to see. How do we get rid of the `IdentityT` in the middle of the two  $m$  structures? Well, we know  $m$  is a `Monad`, which means it's also a `Functor`. So, we can use `runIdentityT` to get rid of the `IdentityT` structure in the middle of the stack of types:

```

-- Trying to change m (IdentityT m b)
-- into m (m b)

-- Note:
runIdentityT      ::                IdentityT f a  ->    f a
fmap runIdentityT :: Functor f => f (IdentityT f1 a) -> f (f1 a)

(>=>) :: IdentityT m a
      -> (a -> IdentityT m b)
      -> IdentityT m b
(IdentityT ma) >=> f =
  let aimb :: a
      aimb = fmap runIdentityT (fmap f ma)
  in undefined

```

And when we load this code, we get an encouraging type error:

```

Couldn't match expected type 'a1'
  with actual type 'm (m b)'

```

It's telling us we have achieved the type  $m (m b)$ , so now we know how to get where we want. The  $a1$  here is the  $a$  we had assigned to  $aimb$ , but it's telling us that our actual type is not what we asserted but this other type. Thus we have discovered what our actual type is, which gives us a clue about how to fix it.

We'll use `join` from `Control.Monad` to merge the nested  $m$  structure:

```

(>=>) :: IdentityT m a
      -> (a -> IdentityT m b)
      -> IdentityT m b
(IdentityT ma) >=> f =
  let aimb :: a
      aimb = join (fmap runIdentityT (fmap f ma))
  in undefined

```

And when we load it, the compiler tells us we finally have an  $m b$  which we can return:

```

Couldn't match expected type 'a1'
  with actual type 'm b'

```

In fact, before we begin cleaning up our code, we can verify this is the case real quick:

```
(>=) :: IdentityT m a
      -> (a -> IdentityT m b)
      -> IdentityT m b
(IdentityT ma) >= f =
  let aimb = join (fmap runIdentityT (fmap f ma))
  in aimb
```

We removed the type declaration for `aimb` and also changed the `in` undefined. But we know that `aimb` has the actual type `m b`, so this won't work. Why? If we take a look at the type error:

Couldn't match type 'm' with 'IdentityT m'

The `(>=)` we are implementing has a final result of type `IdentityT m b`, so the type of `aimb` doesn't match it yet. We need to wrap `m b` in `IdentityT` to make it typecheck:

```
-- Remember:
IdentityT :: f a -> IdentityT f a

instance (Monad m) => Monad (IdentityT m) where
  return = pure

(>=) :: IdentityT m a
      -> (a -> IdentityT m b)
      -> IdentityT m b
(IdentityT ma) >= f =
  let aimb = join (fmap runIdentityT (fmap f ma))
  in IdentityT aimb
```

This should compile. We rewrap `m b` back in the `IdentityT` type and we should be good to go.

## Refactoring

Now that we have something that works, let's refactor. We'd like to improve our implementation of `(>=)`. Taking things one step at a

time is usually more successful than trying to rewrite all at once, especially once you have a baseline version that you know should work. How should we improve this line?

```
IdentityT $ join (fmap runIdentityT (fmap f ma))
```

Well, one of the Functor laws tells us something about fmapping twice:

```
-- Functor law:
fmap (f . g) == fmap f . fmap g
```

Indeed! So we can change that line to the following and it should be identical:

```
IdentityT $ join (fmap (runIdentityT . f) ma)
```

Now it seems suspicious that we're fmapping and also using join on the result of having fmapped the two functions we composed. Isn't join composed with fmap just (>=>)?

```
x >=> f = join (fmap f x)
```

Accordingly, we can change our Monad instance to the following:

```
instance (Monad m) => Monad (IdentityT m) where
    return = pure

    (>=>) :: IdentityT m a
        -> (a -> IdentityT m b)
        -> IdentityT m b
    (IdentityT ma) >=> f =
        IdentityT $ ma >=> runIdentityT . f
```

And that should work still! We have a type constructor now (IdentityT) that takes a monad as an argument and returns a monad as a result.

This implementation can be written other ways. In the transformers library, for example, it's written like this:

```
m >=> k = IdentityT $ runIdentityT . k <=< runIdentityT m
```

Take a moment and work out for yourself how that is functionally equivalent to our implementation.

## The essential extra of Monad transformers

It may not seem like it, but the `IdentityT` monad transformer actually captures the essence of transformers generally. We only embarked on this quest because we couldn't be guaranteed a `Monad` instance given the composition of two types. Given that, we know having `Functor/Applicative/Monad` at our disposal isn't enough to make that new `Monad` instance. So what was novel in the following code?

```
(>=) :: IdentityT m a
      -> (a -> IdentityT m b)
      -> IdentityT m b
(IdentityT ma) >= f =
  IdentityT $ ma >= runIdentityT . f
```

Well, it wasn't the pattern match on `IdentityT`; we get that from the `Functor` anyway:

```
-- Not this
(IdentityT ma) ...
```

It wasn't the ability to (`>=`) functions over the `ma` value of type `ma`, we get that from the `Monad` constraint on `m` anyway.

```
-- Not this
... ma >= ...
```

We needed to know one of the types concretely so that we could use `runIdentityT` (essentially *f*mapping a *fold* of the `IdentityT` structure) and then repack the value in `IdentityT`:

```
-- We needed to know IdentityT
-- concretely to be able to do this
IdentityT .. runIdentityT ...
```

As you'll recall, until we used `runIdentityT` we couldn't get the types to fit because `IdentityT` was wedged in the middle of two bits of `m`. It turns out to be impossible to fix that using only `Functor`, `Applicative`, and `Monad`. This is an example of why we can't just make a `Monad` instance for the `Compose` type, but we *can* make a transformer type like `IdentityT` where we leverage information specific to the type

and combine it with any other type that has a Monad instance. In general, in order to make the types fit, we'll need some way to fold and reconstruct the type we have concrete information for.

## 25.9 Finding a pattern

Transformers are bearers of single-type concrete information that let you create ever-bigger Monads in a sense. Nesting such as

```
(Monad m) => m (m a)
```

is addressed by `join` already. We use transformers when we want a `>>=` operation over  $f$  and  $g$  of different types (but both have Monad instances). You have to create new types called monad transformers and write Monad instances for those types to have a way of dealing with the extra structure generated.

The general pattern is this: You want to compose two polymorphic types,  $f$  and  $g$ , that each have a Monad instance. But you'll end up with this pattern:

```
f (g (f b))
```

Monad's `bind` can't join those types, not with that intervening  $g$ . So you need to get to this:

```
f (f b)
```

You won't be able to unless you have some way of *folding* the  $g$  in the middle. You can't do that with just Monad. The essence of Monad is `join`, but here you have only one bit of  $g$  structure, not  $g$  ( $g \dots$ ), so that's not enough. The straightforward thing to do is to make  $g$  concrete. With concrete type information for the "inner" bit of structure, we can fold out the  $g$  and get on with it. The good news is that transformers don't require  $f$  be concrete;  $f$  can remain polymorphic so long as it has a Monad instance, so we only write a transformer once for each type.

We can see this pattern with `IdentityT` as well. You may recall this step in our process of writing `IdentityT`'s Monad:

```
(IdentityT ma) >>= f =
  let aimb :: m (IdentityT m b)
      aimb = fmap f ma
```

We have *something* that'll typecheck, but it's not quite in the shape we would like. Of course, the underlying type once we throw away the IdentityT data constructor is  $m (m b)$  which'll suit us just fine, but we have to fold out the IdentityT before we can use the join from  $\text{Monad } m \Rightarrow m$ . That leads us to the next step:

```
let aimb :: m (m b)
    aimb = fmap runIdentityT (fmap f ma)
```

Now we finally have something we can join because we lifted the record accessor for IdentityT over the  $m$ ! Since IdentityT is so simple, the record accessor is sufficient to “fold away” the structure. From there the following transitions become easy:

```
m (m b) -> m b -> IdentityT m b
```

The final type is what our definition of ( $>>=$ ) for IdentityT must result in.

The basic pattern that many monad transformers are enabling us to cope with is the following type transitions, where  $m$  is the polymorphic, “outer” structure and  $T$  is some concrete type the transformer is for. For example, in the above,  $T$  would be IdentityT.

```
m (T m b)
-> m (m b)
-> m b
-> T m b
```

Don't consider this a hard and fast rule for what types you'll encounter in implementing transformers, but rather some intuition for why transformers are necessary to begin with.

## Chapter 26

# Monad transformers

Je ne dis ces choses que dans  
la mesure où je considère que  
cela permet de les  
transformer.

---

Michel Foucault



## 26.1 Monad transformers

The last chapter demonstrated why we need monad transformers and the basic type manipulation that’s going on to make that bit o’ magick happen. Monad transformers are important in a lot of everyday Haskell code, though, so we want to dive deeper and make sure we have a good understanding of how to use them in practice. Even after you know how to write all the transformer instances, managing stacks of transformers in an application can be tricky. The goal of this chapter is to get comfortable with it.

In this chapter, we will

- work through more monad transformer types and instances;
- look at the ordering and wrapping of monad transformer stacks;
- lift, lift, lift, and lift some more.

## 26.2 MaybeT

In the last chapter, we worked through an extended breakdown of the IdentityT transformer. IdentityT is, as you might imagine, not the most useful of the monad transformers, although it is not without practical applications (more on this later). As we’ve seen at various times, though, the Maybe Monad can be extremely useful and so it is that the transformer variant, MaybeT, finds its way into the pantheon of important transformers.

The MaybeT transformer is a bit more complex than IdentityT. If you worked through all the exercises of the previous chapter, then this section will not be too surprising, because this will rely on things you’ve seen with IdentityT and the Compose type already. However, to ensure that transformers are thoroughly demystified for you, it’s worth working through them carefully.

We begin with the newtype for our transformer:

```
newtype MaybeT m a =  
  MaybeT { runMaybeT :: m (Maybe a) }
```

The structure of our MaybeT type and the Compose type are similar so we can reuse the basic patterns of the Compose type for the Functor and Applicative instances:

*-- Remember the Functor for Compose?*

```
instance (Functor f, Functor g) =>
  Functor (Compose f g) where
  fmap f (Compose fga) =
    Compose $ (fmap . fmap) f fga
```

*-- compare to the instance for MaybeT*

```
instance (Functor m) => Functor (MaybeT m) where
  fmap f (MaybeT ma) =
    MaybeT $ (fmap . fmap) f ma
```

We don’t need to do anything different for the Functor instance, because transformers are needed for the Monad, not the Functor.

### Spoiler alert!

If you haven’t yet written the Applicative instance for Compose from the previous chapter, you may want to stop right here. If you were stuck on it and frustrated by it, there is a hint in the answers section of the previous chapter and you may want to look at that now, before reading this section. Or just jump right in — we just wanted to warn you, as this section may ruin that exercise for you if you haven’t done it yet.

We’ll start with what might seem like an obvious way to write the MaybeT Applicative and find out why it doesn’t work. This does not compile:

```
instance (Applicative m) => Applicative (MaybeT m) where
  pure x = MaybeT (pure (pure x))

  (MaybeT fab) <*> (MaybeT mma) =
    MaybeT $ fab <*> mma
```

The *fab* represents the function  $m \text{ (Maybe (a} \rightarrow \text{b))}$  and the *mma* represents the  $m \text{ (Maybe a)}$ .

You’ll get this error if you try it:

```
Couldn't match type 'Maybe (a -> b)'
with 'Maybe a -> Maybe b'
```

Here is the Applicative instance for Compose as a comparison with the MaybeT instance we’re trying to write:

```
instance (Applicative f, Applicative g) =>
  Applicative (Compose f g) where
  pure x = Compose (pure (pure x))
  Compose f <*> Compose x = Compose ((<*>) <$> f <*> x)
```

Let’s break this down a bit in case you felt confused when you wrote this for the last chapter’s exercise. Because you did that exercise...right? We did offer a demonstration in the answers of why you have to use the strange-looking (<\*>) <\$> configuration.

The idea here is that we have to lift an Applicative “apply” over the outer structure *f* to get the *g* (*a* -> *b*) into *g* *a* -> *g* *b* so that the Applicative instance for *f* can be leveraged. We can stretch this idea a bit and use concrete types:

```
innerMost :: [Maybe (Identity (a -> b))]
           -> [Maybe (Identity a -> Identity b)]
innerMost = (fmap . fmap) (<*>)

second' :: [Maybe (Identity a -> Identity b)]
          -> [Maybe (Identity a) -> Maybe (Identity b)]
second' = fmap (<*>)

final' :: [Maybe (Identity a) -> Maybe (Identity b)]
         -> [Maybe (Identity a)] -> [Maybe (Identity b)]
final' = (<*>)
```

The function that could be the actual Applicative instance for such a hypothetical type would look like:

```
lmiApply :: [Maybe (Identity (a -> b))]
           -> [Maybe (Identity a)]
           -> [Maybe (Identity b)]
lmiApply f x =
  final' (second' (innerMost f)) x
```

The Applicative instance for our MaybeT type will employ this same idea, because Applicatives are closed under composition, as we

noted in the last chapter. We only need to do something different from the Compose instances once we get to Monad.

So, we took the long way around to this:

```
instance (Applicative m) => Applicative (MaybeT m) where
  pure x = MaybeT (pure (pure x))

  (MaybeT fab) <*> (MaybeT mma) =
    MaybeT $ (<*>) <$> fab <*> mma
```

### MaybeT Monad instance

At last, on to the Monad instance! Note that we’ve given some of the intermediate types:

```
instance (Monad m) => Monad (MaybeT m) where
    return = pure
```

```

    (>>=) :: MaybeT m a
           -> (a -> MaybeT m b)
           -> MaybeT m b
    (MaybeT ma) >>= f =
--      [2]      [3]
    MaybeT $ do
--      [ 1 ]
        -- ma :: m (Maybe a)
        -- v :: Maybe a
        v <- ma
--      [4]
        case v of
--      [5]
            Nothing -> return Nothing
--      [      6      ]
            -- y :: a
            -- f :: a -> MaybeT m b
            -- f y :: MaybeT m b
            -- runMaybeT (f y) :: m b
            Just y -> runMaybeT (f y)
--      [7]      [8]
```

Explaining it step by step:

1. We have to return a `MaybeT` value at the end, so the `do` block has the `MaybeT` data constructor in front of it. This means the final value of our `do`-block expression must be of type `m b` in order to typecheck because our goal is to go from `MaybeT m a` to `MaybeT m b`.
2. The first argument to bind here is `MaybeT m a`. We unbundled that from `MaybeT` by pattern matching on the `MaybeT` newtype data constructor.
3. The second argument to bind is `(a -> MaybeT m b)`.
4. In the definition of `MaybeT`, notice something:

```

newtype MaybeT m a =
  MaybeT { runMaybeT :: m (Maybe a) }
  --                ^-----^

```

It's a Maybe value wrapped in *some other type* for which all we know is that it has a Monad instance. Accordingly, we begin in our `do`-block by using the left arrow bind syntax. This gives us a reference to the hypothetical Maybe value out of the *m* structure which is unknown.

5. Since using `<-` to bind `Maybe a` out of `m (Maybe a)` left us with a Maybe value, we do a plain old case expression on the Maybe value.
6. If we get `Nothing`, we kick `Nothing` back out, but we have to re-embed it in the *m* structure. We don't know what *m* is, but being a Monad (and thus also an Applicative) means we can use `return` (pure) to perform that embedding.
7. If we get `Just`, we now have a value of type *a* that we can pass to our function *f* of type `a -> MaybeT m b`.
8. We have to fold the `m b` value out of the `MaybeT` since the `MaybeT` constructor is already wrapped around the whole `do`-block, then we're done.

Don't be afraid to get a pen and paper and work all that out until you really understand how things are happening before you move on.

### 26.3 EitherT

Just as Maybe has a transformer variant in the form of `MaybeT`, we can make a transformer variant of `Either`. We'll call it `EitherT`. Your task is to implement the instances for the transformer variant:

```

newtype EitherT e m a =
  EitherT { runEitherT :: m (Either e a) }

```

**Exercises: EitherT**

1. Write the Functor instance for EitherT:

```
instance Functor m => Functor (EitherT e m) where
    fmap = undefined
```

2. Write the Applicative instance for EitherT:

```
instance Applicative m => Applicative (EitherT e m) where
    pure = undefined
```

```
    f <*> a = undefined
```

3. Write the Monad instance for EitherT:

```
instance Monad m => Monad (EitherT e m) where
    return = pure
```

```
    v >=> f = undefined
```

4. Write the swapEitherT helper function for EitherT.

```
-- transformer version of swapEither.
swapEitherT :: (Functor m) => EitherT e m a -> EitherT a m e
swapEitherT = undefined
```

Hint: write swapEither first, then swapEitherT in terms of the former.

5. Write the transformer variant of the either catamorphism.

```
eitherT :: Monad m =>
    (a -> m c)
  -> (b -> m c)
  -> EitherT a m b
  -> m c
eitherT = undefined
```

## 26.4 ReaderT

We mentioned back in the Reader chapter that, actually, you more often see ReaderT than Reader in common Haskell use. ReaderT is one of the most commonly used transformers in conventional Haskell applications. It is just like Reader, except in the transformer variant we’re generating additional structure in the return type of the function:

```
newtype ReaderT r m a =  
  ReaderT { runReaderT :: r -> m a }
```

The value inside the ReaderT is a *function*. Type constructors such as Maybe are also functions in some senses, but we have to handle this case a bit differently. The first argument to the function inside ReaderT is part of the structure we’ll have to bind over.

This time we’re going to give you the instances. If you want to try writing them yourself, *do not read on!*



```

instance (Functor m) => Functor (ReaderT r m) where
  fmap f (ReaderT rma) =
    ReaderT $ (fmap . fmap) f rma

instance (Applicative m) => Applicative (ReaderT r m) where
  pure a = ReaderT (pure (pure a))

  (ReaderT fmab) <*> (ReaderT rma) =
    ReaderT $ (<*>) <$> fmab <*> rma

instance (Monad m) => Monad (ReaderT r m) where
  return = pure

  (>>=) :: ReaderT r m a
        -> (a -> ReaderT r m b)
        -> ReaderT r m b
  (ReaderT rma) >>= f =
    ReaderT $ \r -> do
--           [1]
      a <- rma r
--   [3] [ 2 ]
      runReaderT (f a) r
--   [5]    [ 4 ] [6]

```

1. Again, the type of the value in a ReaderT must be a function, so the act of binding a function over a ReaderT must itself be a function awaiting the argument of type  $r$ , which we've chosen to name  $r$  as a convenience in our terms. Also note that we're repacking our lambda inside the ReaderT data constructor.
2. We pattern-matched the  $r \rightarrow m\ a$  (represented in our terms by  $rma$ ) out of the ReaderT data constructor. Now we're applying it to the  $r$  that we're expecting in the body of the anonymous lambda.
3. The result of applying  $r \rightarrow m\ a$  to a value of type  $r$  is  $m\ a$ . We need a value of type  $a$  in order to apply our  $a \rightarrow \text{ReaderT } r\ m\ b$  function. To be able to write code in terms of that hypothetical

$a$ , we bind ( $\leftarrow$ ) the  $a$  out of the  $m$  structure. We’ve bound that value to the name  $a$  as a mnemonic to remember the type.

4. Applying  $f$ , which has type  $a \rightarrow \text{ReaderT } r \ m \ b$ , to the value  $a$  results in a value of type  $\text{ReaderT } r \ m \ b$ .
5. We unpack the  $r \rightarrow m \ b$  out of the  $\text{ReaderT}$  structure.
6. Finally, we apply the resulting  $r \rightarrow m \ b$  to the  $r$  we had at the beginning of our lambda, that eventual argument that  $\text{Reader}$  abstracts for us. We have to return  $m \ b$  as the final expression in this anonymous lambda or the function is not valid. To be valid, it must be of type  $r \rightarrow m \ b$  which expresses the constraint that if it is applied to an argument of type  $r$ , it must produce a value of type  $m \ b$ .

No exercises this time. You deserve a break.

## 26.5 StateT

Similar to  $\text{Reader}$  and  $\text{ReaderT}$ ,  $\text{StateT}$  is  $\text{State}$  but with additional monadic structure wrapped around the result.  $\text{StateT}$  is somewhat more useful and common than the  $\text{State Monad}$  you saw earlier. Like  $\text{ReaderT}$ , its value is a function:

```
newtype StateT s m a =
  StateT { runStateT :: s -> m (a,s) }
```

### Exercises: StateT

If you’re familiar with the distinction, you’ll be implementing the strict variant of  $\text{StateT}$  here. To make the strict variant, you don’t have to do anything special. Just write the most obvious thing that could work. The lazy (lazier, anyway) variant is the one that involves adding a bit extra. We’ll explain the difference in the chapter on nonstrictness.

1. You’ll have to do the  $\text{Functor}$  and  $\text{Applicative}$  instances first, because there aren’t  $\text{Functor}$  and  $\text{Applicative}$  instances ready to go for the type  $\text{Monad } m \Rightarrow s \rightarrow m (a, s)$ .

```
instance (Functor m) => Functor (StateT s m) where
    fmap f m = undefined
```

2. As with Functor, you can’t cheat and re-use an underlying Applicative instance, so you’ll have to do the work with the `s -> m (a, s)` type yourself.

```
instance (Monad m) => Applicative (StateT s m) where
    pure = undefined
    (<*>) = undefined
```

Also note that the constraint on `m` is *not* Applicative as you expect, but rather Monad. This is because you can’t express the order-dependent computation you’d expect the StateT Applicative to have without having a Monad for `m`. To learn more, see this Stack Overflow question<sup>1</sup> about this issue. Also see this Github issue<sup>2</sup> on the NICTA Course Github repository. **Beware!** The NICTA course issue gives away the answer. In essence, the issue is that without Monad, you’re just feeding the initial state to each computation in StateT rather than threading it through as you go. This is a general pattern contrasting Applicative and Monad and is worth contemplating.

3. The Monad instance should look *fairly* similar to the Monad instance you wrote for ReaderT.

```
instance (Monad m) => Monad (StateT s m) where
    return = pure

    sma >>= f = undefined
```

## ReaderT, WriterT, StateT

We’d like to point something out about these three types:

---

<sup>1</sup>Is it possible to implement `(Applicative m) => Applicative (StateT s m)`? <http://stackoverflow.com/questions/18673525/is-it-possible-to-implement-applicative-m-applicative-statet-s-m>

<sup>2</sup><https://github.com/NICTA/course/issues/134>

```
newtype Reader r a =  
  Reader { runReader :: r -> a }  
  
newtype Writer w a =  
  Writer { runWriter :: (a, w) }  
  
newtype State s a =  
  State { runState :: s -> (a, s) }
```

and their transformer variants:

```
newtype ReaderT r m a = ReaderT { runReaderT :: r -> m a }  
  
newtype WriterT w m a =  
  WriterT { runWriterT :: m (a, w) }  
  
newtype StateT s m a =  
  StateT { runStateT :: s -> m (a, s) }
```

You’re already familiar with Reader and State. We haven’t shown you Writer or WriterT up to this point because, quite frankly, you shouldn’t use it. We’ll explain why not in a section later in this chapter.

For the purposes of the progression we’re trying to demonstrate here, it suffices to know that the Writer Applicative and Monad work by combining the *w* values monoidally. With that in mind, what we can see is that Reader lets us talk about values we need, Writer lets us deal with values we can emit and combine (but not read), and State lets us both read and write values in any manner we desire — including monoidally, like Writer. This is one reason you needn’t bother with Writer since State can replace it anyway. Now you know why you don’t *need* Writer; we’ll talk more about why you don’t *want* Writer later.

In fact, there is a type in the `transformers` library that combines Reader, Writer, and State into one big type:

```
newtype RWST r w s m a =  
  RWST { runRWST :: r -> s -> m (a, s, w) }
```

Because of the `Writer` component, you probably wouldn’t want to use that in most applications either, but it’s good to know it exists.

### Correspondence between `StateT` and `Parser`

You may recall what a simple parser type looks like:

```
type Parser a = String -> Maybe (a, String)
```

You may remember our discussion about the similarities between parsers and `State` in the `Parsers` chapter. Now, we could choose to define a `Parser` type in the following manner:

```
newtype StateT s m a =  
  StateT { runStateT :: s -> m (a,s) }
```

```
type Parser = StateT String Maybe
```

Nobody does this in practice, but it’s useful to consider the similarity to get a feel for what `StateT` is all about.

## 26.6 Types you probably don’t want to use

Not every type will necessarily be performant or make sense. `ListT` and `Writer/WriterT` are examples of this.

### Why not use `Writer` or `WriterT`?

It’s a bit too easy to get into a situation where `Writer` is either too lazy or too strict for the problem you’re solving, and then it’ll use more memory than you’d like. `Writer` can accumulate unevaluated thunks, causing memory leaks. It’s also inappropriate for logging long-running or ongoing programs due to the fact that you can’t retrieve any of the logged values until the computation is complete.<sup>3</sup>

Usually when `Writer` is used in an application, it’s not called `Writer`. Instead a one-off is created for a specific type *w*. Given that, it’s still useful to know when you’re looking at something that’s actually a `Reader`, `Writer`, or `State`, even if the author didn’t use the types by

---

<sup>3</sup> If you’d like to understand this better, Gabriel Gonzalez has a helpful blog post on the subject. <http://www.haskellforall.com/2014/02/streaming-logging.html>

those names from the transformers library. Sometimes this is because they wanted a stricter Writer than the Strict Writer already available.

Determining and measuring when more strictness (more eagerly evaluating your thunks) is needed in your programs is the topic of the upcoming chapter on nonstrictness.

### The ListT you want isn’t made from the List type

The most obvious way to implement ListT is generally not recommended for a variety of reasons, including:

1. Most people’s first attempt won’t pass the associativity law. We’re not going to show you a way to write it that does pass that law because it’s not really worth it for the reasons listed below.
2. It’s not very fast.
3. Streaming libraries like pipes<sup>4</sup> and conduit<sup>5</sup> do it better for most use-cases.

Prior art for “ListT done right” also includes Amb/AmbT<sup>6</sup> by Conal Elliott, although you will probably find it challenging to understand if you aren’t familiar with ContT and the motivation behind Amb.

Lists in Haskell are as much a control structure as a data structure, so streaming libraries such as pipes generally suffice if you need a transformer. This is less of a sticking point in writing applications than you’d think.

## 26.7 Recovering an ordinary type from a transformer

If you have a transformer variant of a type and want to use it as if it was the non-transformer version, you need some *m* structure that doesn’t really do anything. Have we seen anything like that? What about Identity?

---

<sup>4</sup> <http://hackage.haskell.org/package/pipes>

<sup>5</sup> <http://hackage.haskell.org/package/conduit>

<sup>6</sup> <https://wiki.haskell.org/Amb>

```

Prelude> runMaybeT $ (+1) <$> MaybeT (Identity (Just 1))
Identity {runIdentity = Just 2}
Prelude> runMaybeT $ (+1) <$> MaybeT (Identity Nothing)
Identity {runIdentity = Nothing}

```

Given that, we can get `Identity` from `IdentityT` and so on in the following manner:

```

type MyIdentity a = IdentityT Identity a
type Maybe      a = MaybeT Identity a
type Either e a = EitherT e Identity a
type Reader r a = ReaderT e Identity a
type State s a = StateT s Identity a

```

This works fine for recovering the non-transformer variant of each type as the `Identity` type is acting as a bit of do-nothing structural paste for filling in the gap.

**Yeah, but why?** You don’t ordinarily need to do this if you’re working with a transformer that has a corresponding non-transformer type you can use. For example, it’s less common to need (`ExceptT Identity`) because the `Either` type is already there, so you don’t need to retrieve that type from the transformer. However, if you’re writing something with, say, `Scotty`, where a `ReaderT` is part of the environment, you can’t easily retrieve the `Reader` type out of that because `Reader` is not a type that exists on its own and you can’t modify that `ReaderT` without essentially rewriting all of `Scotty`, and, wow, nobody wants that for you. You might then have a situation where what you’re doing only needs a `Reader`, not a `ReaderT`, so you could use (`ReaderT Identity`) to be compatible with `Scotty` without having to rewrite everything but still being able to keep your own code a bit tighter and simpler.

**The transformers library** In general, don’t use hand-rolled versions of these transformer types without good reason. You can find many of them in `base` or the `transformers` library, and that library should have come with your GHC installation.

**A note on ExceptT** Although a library called `either` exists on Hackage and provides the `EitherT` type, most Haskellers are moving to the identical `ExceptT` type in the `transformers` library. Again, this has mostly to do with the fact that `transformers` comes packaged with GHC already, so `ExceptT` is ready-to-hand; the underlying type is the same.

## 26.8 Lexically inner is structurally outer

One of the trickier parts of monad transformers is that the lexical representation of the types will violate your intuitions with respect to the relationship it has with the structure of your values. Let us note something in the definitions of the following types:

```
-- definition in transformers may look
-- slightly different. It's not important.
newtype ExceptT e m a =
    ExceptT { runExceptT :: m (Either e a) }

newtype MaybeT m a =
    MaybeT { runMaybeT :: m (Maybe a) }

newtype ReaderT r m a =
    ReaderT { runReaderT :: r -> m a }
```

A necessary byproduct of how transformers work is that the additional structure *m* is always wrapped *around* our value. One thing to note is that it's only wrapped around things we can *have*, not things we *need*, such as with `ReaderT`. The consequence of this is that a series of monad transformers in a type will begin with the innermost type structurally speaking. Consider the following:



```

module OuterInner where

import Control.Monad.Trans.Except
import Control.Monad.Trans.Maybe
import Control.Monad.Trans.Reader

-- We only need to use return once
-- because it's one big Monad
embedded :: MaybeT (ExceptT String (ReaderT () IO)) Int
embedded = return 1

```

We can sort of peel away the layers one by one:

```

maybeUnwrap :: ExceptT String (ReaderT () IO) (Maybe Int)
maybeUnwrap = runMaybeT embedded

-- Next
eitherUnwrap :: ReaderT () IO (Either String (Maybe Int))
eitherUnwrap = runExceptT maybeUnwrap

-- Lastly
readerUnwrap :: () -> IO (Either String (Maybe Int))
readerUnwrap = runReaderT eitherUnwrap

```

Then if we'd like to evaluate this code, we just feed the unit value to the function:

```

Prelude> readerUnwrap ()
Right (Just 1)

```

Why is this the result? Consider that we used `return` for a Monad comprised of Reader, Either, and Maybe:

```
instance Monad ((->) r) where
    return = const

instance Monad (Either e) where
    return = Right

instance Monad Maybe where
    return = Just
```

We can treat having used `return` for the “one-big-Monad” of `Reader`/`Either`/`Maybe` as composition, consider how we get the same result as `readerUnwrap ()` here:

```
Prelude> (const . Right . Just $ 1) ()
Right (Just 1)
```

A terminological point to keep in mind when reading about monad transformers is that when Haskellers say “base monad” they usually mean what is structurally outermost.

```
type MyType a = IO [Maybe a]
```

In `MyType`, the base monad is `IO`.

### Exercise: Wrap It Up

Turn `readerUnwrap` from the previous example back into `embedded` through the use of the data constructors for each transformer.

```
-- Modify it to make it work.
```

```
embedded :: MaybeT (ExceptT String (ReaderT () IO)) Int
embedded = ??? (const (Right (Just 1)))
```

## 26.9 MonadTrans

We often want to lift functions into a larger context. We’ve been doing this for a while with `Functor`, which lifts a function into a context (or, alternatively, lifts the function over the context) and applies it to the value inside. The facility to do this also undergirds `Applicative`,

Monad, and Traversable. However, `fmap` isn’t always enough, so we have some functions that are essentially `fmap` for different contexts:

```
fmap    :: Functor f =>    (a -> b) -> f a -> f b

liftA   :: Applicative f => (a -> b) -> f a -> f b

liftM   :: Monad m  =>     (a -> r) -> m a -> m r
```

You might notice the latter two examples have `lift` in the function name. While we’ve encouraged you not to get too excited about the meaning of function names, in this case they do give you a clue of what they’re doing. They are lifting, just as `fmap` does, a function into some larger context. The underlying structure of the `bind` function from `Monad` is also a lifting function — `fmap` again! — composed with the crucial `join` function.

In some cases, we want to talk about more or different structure than these types permit. In other cases, we want something that does as much lifting as is necessary to reach some (structurally) outermost position in a stack of monad transformers. Monad transformers can be nested in order to compose various effects into one monster function, but in order to manage those stacks, first, we need to lift more.

### The typeclass that lifts

`MonadTrans` is a typeclass with one core method: `lift`. Speaking generally, it is about lifting actions in some `Monad` over a transformer type which wraps itself in the original `Monad`. Fancy!

```
class MonadTrans t where
    -- | Lift a computation from the argument monad
    --   to the constructed monad.
    lift :: (Monad m) => m a -> t m a
```

Here the `t` is a (constructed) monad transformer type that has an instance of `MonadTrans` defined.

We’re going to work through a relatively uncomplicated example from Scotty now.

## Motivating MonadTrans

You may remember from previous chapters that Scotty is a web framework for Haskell. One thing to know about Scotty, without getting into all the gritty details of how it works, is that the monad transformers the framework relies on are themselves newtypes for monad transformer stacks. Wait, what? Well, look:

```
newtype ScottyT e m a =
  ScottyT { runS :: State (ScottyState e m) a }
  deriving ( Functor, Applicative, Monad )

newtype ActionT e m a =
  ActionT { runAM :: ExceptT (ActionError e)
              (ReaderT ActionEnv
              (StateT ScottyResponse m)) a }
  deriving ( Functor, Applicative )

type ScottyM = ScottyT Text IO
type ActionM = ActionT Text IO
```

We’ll use ActionM and ActionT and ScottyM and ScottyT as if they were the same thing, but you can see that the M variants are type synonyms for the transformers with the inner types already set. This roughly translates to the errors (the left side of the ExceptT) in ScottyM or ActionM being returned as Text, while the right side of the ExceptT, whatever it does, is IO. ExceptT is the transformer version of Either, and a ReaderT and a StateT are stacked up inside that as well. These internal mechanics don’t matter that much to you, as a user of the Scotty API, but it’s useful to see just how much is packed up in there.

Now, back to our example. This is the “hello, world” example using Scotty, but the following will cause a type error:

```
-- scotty.hs

{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}

module Scotty where

import Web.Scotty

import Data.Monoid (mconcat)

main = scotty 3000 $ do
  get "/:word" $ do
    beam <- param "word"
    putStrLn "hello"
    html $ mconcat ["<h1>Scotty, ", beam, " me up!</h1>"]
```

Reminder: in your terminal, you can follow along with this like so:

```
$ stack build scotty
$ stack ghci
Prelude> :l scotty.hs
```

When you try to load it, you should get a type error:

```
Couldn't match expected type
  'Web.Scotty.Internal.Types.ActionT
    Data.Text.Internal.Lazy.Text IO a0'
with actual type 'IO ()'

In a stmt of a 'do' block: putStrLn "hello"
In the second argument of '($)', namely
  'do { beam <- param "word";
    putStrLn "hello";
    html $ mconcat ["<h1>Scotty, ", beam, ....] }'
```

The reason for this type error is that `putStrLn` has the type `IO ()`, but it is inside a `do` block inside our `get`, and the monad that code is in is therefore `ActionM/ActionT`:

```
get :: RoutePattern -> ActionM () -> ScottyM ()
```

Our `ActionT` type eventually reaches `IO`, but there’s additional structure we need to lift over first. To fix this, we’ll start by adding an import:

```
import Control.Monad.Trans.Class
```

And amend that line with `putStrLn` to the following:

```
lift (putStrLn "hello")
```

It should work.

You can assert a type for the `lift` embedded in the Scotty action:

```
(lift :: IO a -> ActionM a) (putStrLn "hello")
```

Let’s see what it does. Load the file again and call the `main` function. You should see this message:

```
Setting phasers to stun... (port 3000) (ctrl-c to quit)
```

In the address bar of your web browser, type `localhost:3000`. You should notice two things: one is that there is nothing in the `beam` slot of the text that prints to your screen, and the other is that it prints “hello” to your terminal where the program is running. Try adding a word to the end of the address:

```
localhost:3000/beam
```

The text on your screen should change, and hello should print in your terminal again. That “/word” parameter is what has been bound via the variable `beam` into that html line at the end of the `do` block, while the “hello” has been lifted over the `ActionM` so that it can print in your terminal. It will print another “hello” to your terminal every time something happens on the web page.

We can concretize our use of `lift` in the following steps. Please follow along by asserting the types for the application of `lift` in the Scotty application above:

```

lift :: (Monad m, MonadTrans t) => m a -> t m a
lift :: (MonadTrans t) => IO a -> t IO a
lift :: IO a -> ActionM a
lift :: IO () -> ActionM ()

```

We go from `(t IO a)` to `(ActionM a)` because the `IO` is inside the `ActionM`.

Let’s examine `ActionM` more carefully:

```

Prelude> import Web.Scotty
Prelude> import Web.Scotty.Trans
Prelude> :info ActionM
type ActionM = ActionT Data.Text.Internal.Lazy.Text IO
-- Defined in ‘Web.Scotty’

```

We can see for ourselves what this `lift` did by looking at the `MonadTrans` instance for `ActionT`, which is what `ActionM` is a type alias of:

```

instance MonadTrans (ActionT e) where
    lift = ActionT . lift . lift . lift

```

Part of the niceness here is that `ActionT` is itself defined in terms of *three more* monad transformers. We can see this in the definition of `ActionT`:

```

newtype ActionT e m a =
ActionT {
    runAM :: ExceptT (ActionError e)
            (ReaderT ActionEnv
              (StateT ScottyResponse m)) a }
    deriving (Functor, Applicative)

```

Let’s first replace the `lift` for `ActionT` with its definition and see if it still works:

```
{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}
```

```
module Scotty where
```

```
import Web.Scotty
```

```
import Web.Scotty.Internal.Types (ActionT(..))
```

```
import Control.Monad.Trans.Class
```

```
import Data.Monoid (mconcat)
```

```
main = scotty 3000 $ do
```

```
  get "/:word" $ do
```

```
    beam <- param "word"
```

```
    (ActionT . lift . lift . lift) (putStrLn "hello")
```

```
    html $ mconcat ["<h1>Scotty, ", beam, " me up!</h1>"]
```

This should still work! Note that we had to ask for the data constructor for `ActionT` from an `Internal` module because the implementation is hidden by default. We’ve got three lifts, one each for `ExceptT`, `ReaderT`, and `StateT`.

Next we’ll do `ExceptT`:

```
instance MonadTrans (ExceptT e) where
```

```
  lift = ExceptT . liftM Right
```

To use that in our code, add the following import:

```
import Control.Monad.Trans.Except
```

And our app changes into the following:

```
main = scotty 3000 $ do
```

```
  get "/:word" $ do
```

```
    beam <- param "word"
```

```
    (ActionT
```

```
      . (ExceptT . fmap Right)
```

```
      . lift
```

```
      . lift) (putStrLn "hello")
```

```
    html $ mconcat ["<h1>Scotty, ", beam, " me up!</h1>"]
```



Then for `ReaderT`, we take a gander at `Control.Monad.Trans.Reader` in the `transformers` library and see the following:

```
instance MonadTrans (ReaderT r) where
  lift = liftReaderT
```

```
liftReaderT :: m a -> ReaderT r m a
liftReaderT m = ReaderT (const m)
```

For (?reasons?), `liftReaderT` isn’t exported by `transformers`, but we can redefine it ourselves. Add the following to the module:

```
import Control.Monad.Trans.Reader

liftReaderT :: m a -> ReaderT r m a
liftReaderT m = ReaderT (const m)
```

Then our app can be defined as follows:

```
main = scotty 3000 $ do
  get "/:word" $ do
    beam <- param "word"
    (ActionT
      . (ExceptT . fmap Right)
      . liftReaderT
      . lift
    ) (putStrLn "hello")
  html $ mconcat ["<h1>Scotty, ", beam, " me up!</h1>"]
```

Or instead of `liftReaderT`, we could’ve done:

```
. (\m -> ReaderT (const m))
```

Or:

```
(ActionT
  . (ExceptT . fmap Right)
  . ReaderT . const
  . lift
) (putStrLn "hello")
```

Now for that last `lift` over `StateT`! Remembering that it was the *lazy* `StateT` that the type of `ActionT` mentioned, we see the following `MonadTrans` instance:

```
instance MonadTrans (StateT s) where
  lift m = StateT $ \ s -> do
    a <- m
    return (a, s)
```

First, let’s get our import in place:

```
import Control.Monad.Trans.State.Lazy hiding (get)
```

We needed to hide `get` because `Scotty` already has a different `get` function defined and we don’t need the one from `StateT`. Then inlining that into our app code:

```
main = scotty 3000 $ do
  get "/:word" $ do
    beam <- param "word"
    (ActionT
      . (ExceptT . fmap Right)
      . ReaderT . const
      . \m -> StateT (\s -> do
        a <- m
        return (a, s))
    ) (putStrLn "hello")
  html $ mconcat ["<h1>Scotty, ", beam, " me up!</h1>"]
```

Note that we needed an outer lambda before the `StateT` in order to get the monadic action we were lifting. At this point, we’re in the outermost position we can be, and since `ActionM` defines `ActionT`’s outermost monadic type as being `IO`, that means our `putStrLn` works fine after all this lifting.

Typically a `MonadTrans` instance lifts over only one layer at a time, but `Scotty` abstracts away the underlying structure so that you don’t have to care. That’s why it goes ahead and does the next three lifts for you. The critical thing to realize here is that lifting means you’re embedding an expression in a larger context by adding structure that doesn’t do anything.

## MonadTrans instances

Now you see why we have MonadTrans and have a picture of what lift, the only method of MonadTrans, does.

Here are some examples of MonadTrans instances:

### 1. IdentityT

```
instance MonadTrans IdentityT where
    lift = IdentityT
```

### 2. MaybeT

```
instance MonadTrans MaybeT where
    lift = MaybeT . liftM Just
```

```
lift :: (Monad m) => m a -> t m a
(MaybeT . liftM Just) :: Monad m => m a -> MaybeT m a
```

```
MaybeT :: m (Maybe a) -> MaybeT m a
(liftM Just) :: Monad m => m a -> m (Maybe a)
```

Roughly speaking, this has taken an `m a` and lifted it into a `MaybeT` context.

The general pattern with MonadTrans instances demonstrated by `MaybeT` is that you’re usually going to lift the injection of the known structure (with `MaybeT`, the known structure is `Maybe`) over some `Monad`. Injection of structure usually means `return`, but since with `MaybeT` we know we want `Maybe` structure, we choose to not be obfuscatory and use `Just`. That transforms an `m a` into `m (T a)` where capital `T` is some concrete type you’re lifting the `m a` into. Then to cap it all off, you use the data constructor for your monad transformer, and the value is now lifted into the larger context. Here’s a summary of the stages the type of the value goes through:

```
v :: Monad m => m a
liftM Just :: Monad m => m a -> m (Maybe a)
liftM Just v :: m (Maybe a)
MaybeT (liftM Just v) :: MaybeT m a
```

See if you can work out the types of this one:

3. ReaderT

```
instance MonadTrans (ReaderT r) where
  lift = ReaderT . const
```

And now, write some instances!

### Exercises: Lift More

Keep in mind what these are doing, follow the types, lift till you drop.

1. You thought you were done with EitherT.

```
instance MonadTrans (EitherT e) where
  lift = undefined
```

2. Or StateT. This one’ll be more obnoxious.

```
instance MonadTrans (StateT s) where
  lift = undefined
```

### Prolific lifting is the failure mode

Apologies to the original authors, but sometimes with the use of concretely and explicitly typed monad transformers you’ll see stuff like this:

```

addSubWidget :: (YesodSubRoute sub master) =>
    sub
    -> GWidget sub master a
    -> GWidget sub' master a
addSubWidget sub w =
  do master <- liftHandler getYesod
  let sr = fromSubRoute sub master
  i <- GWidget $ lift $ lift $ lift $ lift
    $ lift $ lift $ lift $ lift get
  w' <- liftHandler
    $ toMasterHandlerMaybe sr (const sub) Nothing
    $ flip runStateT i $ runWriterT $ runWriterT
    $ runWriterT $ runWriterT $ runWriterT
    $ runWriterT $ runWriterT $ unGWidget w
  let (((((((a,
    body),
    title),
    scripts),
    stylesheets),
    style),
    jscript),
    h),
    i') = w'
  GWidget $ do
    tell body
    lift $ tell title
    lift $ lift $ tell scripts
    lift $ lift $ lift $ tell stylesheets
    lift $ lift $ lift $ lift $ tell style
    lift $ lift $ lift $ lift $ lift $ tell jscript
    lift $ lift $ lift $ lift $ lift $ lift $ tell h
    lift $ lift $ lift $ lift
    $ lift $ lift $ lift $ put i'
  return a

```

Do *not* write code like this. Especially, do not write code like this and then proceed to blog about how terrible monad transformers

are.

### Wrap it, smack it, pre-lift it

OK, so how do we avoid that horror show? Well, there are actually a lot of ways, but one of the most robust and common is newtyping your Monad stack and abstracting away the representation. From there, you provide the functionality leveraging the representation as part of your API. A good example of this comes to us from...Scotty.

Let’s take a gander at the `ActionM` type we mentioned earlier:

```
Prelude> import Web.Scotty
-- again, to make the type read more nicely
-- we import some other modules.
Prelude> import Data.Text.Lazy
Prelude> :info ActionM
type ActionM = Web.Scotty.Internal.Types.ActionT Text IO
-- Defined in ‘Web.Scotty’
```

Hum. Scotty hides the underlying type by default because you ordinarily wouldn’t care or think about it in the course of writing your application. What Scotty does here is good practice. Scotty’s design keeps the underlying implementation hidden by default but lets us import an Internal module to get at the representation in case we need to:

```
Prelude> import Web.Scotty.Internal.Types
-- more modules to clean up the types
Prelude> import Control.Monad.Trans.Reader
Prelude> import Control.Monad.Trans.State.Lazy
Prelude> import Control.Monad.Trans.Except

Prelude> :info ActionT
type role ActionT nominal representational nominal
newtype ActionT e (m :: * -> *) a
  = ActionT
    {runAM :: ExceptT
      (ActionError e)
      (ReaderT ActionEnv
        (StateT ScottyResponse m))
```

```

    a}
instance (Monad m, ScottyError e) => Monad (ActionT e m)
instance Functor m => Functor (ActionT e m)
instance Monad m => Applicative (ActionT e m)

```

What’s nice about this approach is that it subjects the consumers (which could include yourself) of your type to less noise within an application. It also doesn’t require reading papers written by people trying *very* hard to impress a thesis advisor, although poking through prior art for ideas is recommended. It can reduce or eliminate manual lifting within the Monad as well. Note that we only had to use `lift` once to perform an IO action in `ActionM` even though the underlying implementation has more than one transformer flying around.

## 26.10 MonadIO aka zoom-zoom

There’s more than one way to skin a cat and there’s more than one way to lift an action over additional structure. `MonadIO` is a different design than `MonadTrans` because rather than lifting through one “layer” at a time, `MonadIO` is intended to keep lifting your IO action until it is lifted over *all* structure embedded in the outermost IO type. The idea here is that you’d write `liftIO` *once* and it would instantiate to all of the following types just fine:

```

liftIO :: IO a -> ExceptT e IO a
liftIO :: IO a -> ReaderT r IO a
liftIO :: IO a -> StateT s IO a
-- As Sir Mix-A-Lot once said, stack 'em up deep
liftIO :: IO a -> StateT s (ReaderT r IO) a
liftIO :: IO a -> ExceptT e (StateT s (ReaderT r IO)) a

```

You don’t have to lift multiple times if you’re trying to reach a base (outermost) monad that happens to be IO, because you have `liftIO`.

In the transformers library, the `MonadIO` class resides in the module `Control.Monad.IO.Class`:

```

class (Monad m) => MonadIO m where
    -- | Lift a computation from the 'IO' monad.
    liftIO :: IO a -> m a

```

The commentary within the module is reasonably helpful, though it doesn’t highlight what makes `MonadIO` different from `MonadTrans`:

Monads in which IO computations may be embedded. Any monad built by applying a sequence of monad transformers to the IO monad will be an instance of this class.

Instances should satisfy the following laws, which state that `liftIO` is a transformer of monads:

1. `liftIO . return = return`
2. `liftIO (m >=> f) = liftIO m >=> (liftIO . f)`

Let us modify the Scotty example app to print a string:

```
{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}

module Main where

import Web.Scotty

import Control.Monad.IO.Class
import Data.Monoid (mconcat)

main = scotty 3000 $ do
  get "/:word" $ do
    beam <- param "word"
    liftIO (putStrLn "hello")
    html $ mconcat ["<h1>Scotty, ", beam, " me up!</h1>"]
```

If you then run the `main` function in a REPL or build a binary and execute it, you’ll be able to request a response from the server using your web browser (as we showed you earlier) or a command-line application like `curl`. If you used a browser and see “hello” printed more than once, it’s highly likely your browser made the request more than once. You shouldn’t see this behavior if you test it with `curl`.



## Example MonadIO instances

### 1. IdentityT

```
instance (MonadIO m) => MonadIO (IdentityT m) where
    liftIO = IdentityT . liftIO
```

### 2. EitherT

```
instance (MonadIO m) => MonadIO (EitherT e m) where
    liftIO = lift . liftIO
```

## Exercises: Some Instances

### 1. MaybeT

```
instance (MonadIO m) => MonadIO (MaybeT m) where
    liftIO = undefined
```

### 2. ReaderT

```
instance (MonadIO m) => MonadIO (ReaderT r m) where
    liftIO = undefined
```

### 3. StateT

```
instance (MonadIO m) => MonadIO (StateT s m) where
    liftIO = undefined
```

Hint: your instances should be simple.

## 26.11 Monad transformers in use

### MaybeT in use

These are just some example of MaybeT in use; we will not comment upon them and instead let you research them further yourself if you want. Origins of the code are noted in the samples.

```
-- github.com/wavewave/hoodle-core
recentFolderHook :: MainCoroutine (Maybe FilePath)
recentFolderHook = do
  xstate <- get
  (r :: Maybe FilePath) <- runMaybeT $ do
    hset <- hoist (view hookSet xstate)
    rfolder <- hoist (H.recentFolderHook hset)
    liftIO rfolder
  return r

-- github.com/devalot/hs-exceptions src/maybe.hs
addT :: FilePath -> FilePath -> IO (Maybe Integer)
addT f1 f2 = runMaybeT $ do
  s1 <- sizeT f1
  s2 <- sizeT f2
  return (s1 + s2)
```

```
-- wavewave/ghcjs-dom-delegator example/Example.hs
main :: IO ()
main = do
  clickbarref <- asyncCallback1 AlwaysRetain clickbar
  clickbazref <- asyncCallback1 AlwaysRetain clickbaz
  r <- runMaybeT $ do
    doc <- MaybeT currentDocument
    bar <- lift . toJSRef
      =<< MaybeT (documentQuerySelector doc
        (".bar" :: JSString))
    baz <- lift . toJSRef
      =<< MaybeT (documentQuerySelector doc
        (".baz" :: JSString))
    lift $ do
      ref <- newObj
      del <- delegator ref
      addEvent bar "click" clickbarref
      addEvent baz "click" clickbazref

  case r of
    Nothing -> print "something wrong"
    Just _ -> print "welldone"
```

### Temporary extension of structure

Although we commonly think of monad transformers as being used to define one big context for an application, particularly with things like ReaderT, there are other ways. One pattern that is often useful is temporarily extending additional structure to avoid boilerplate. Here's an example using plain old Maybe and Scotty:

```
{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}

module Main where

import Control.Monad.IO.Class
import Data.Maybe (fromMaybe)
import Data.Text.Lazy (Text)
import Web.Scotty

param' :: Parsable a => Text -> ActionM (Maybe a)
param' k = rescue (Just <$> param k)
              (const (return Nothing))

main = scotty 3000 $ do
  get "/:word" $ do
    beam' <- param' "word"
    let beam = fromMaybe "" beam'
    i <- param' "num"
    liftIO $ print (i :: Maybe Integer)
    html $ mconcat ["<h1>Scotty, ", beam, " me up!</h1>"]
```

This works well enough but could get tedious in a hurry if we had a bunch of stuff that returned `ActionM (Maybe ...)` and we wanted to short-circuit the moment any of them failed. So, we do something similar but with `MaybeT` and building up more data in one go:

```
{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}

module Main where

import Control.Monad.IO.Class
import Control.Monad.Trans.Class
import Control.Monad.Trans.Maybe
import Data.Maybe (fromMaybe)
import Data.Text.Lazy (Text)
import Web.Scotty

param' :: Parsable a => Text -> MaybeT ActionM a
param' k = MaybeT $
    rescue (Just <$> param k)
        (const (return Nothing))

type Reco = (Integer, Integer, Integer, Integer)

main = scotty 3000 $ do
    get "/:word" $ do
        beam <- param "word"
        reco <- runMaybeT $ do
            a <- param' "1"
            liftIO $ print a
            b <- param' "2"
            c <- param' "3"
            d <- param' "4"
            (lift . lift) $ print b
            return ((a, b, c, d) :: Reco)
        liftIO $ print reco
    html $ mconcat ["<h1>Scotty, ", beam, " me up!</h1>"]
```

Some important things to note here:

1. We only had to use `liftIO` once, even in the presence of additional structure, whereas with `lift` we had to lift twice to address `MaybeT` and `ActionM`.

2. The “one big bind” of the `MaybeT` means we could take the existence of `a`, `b`, `c`, and `d` for granted in that context, but the `reco` value itself is `Maybe Reco` because any part of the computation could fail in the absence of the needed parameter.
3. It knows what monad we mean for that `do`-block because of the `runMaybeT` in front of the `do`. This serves the dual purpose of unpacking the `MaybeT` into an `ActionM (Maybe Reco)` which we can bind out into `Maybe Reco`.

### **ExceptT aka EitherT in use**

The example with `Maybe` and `Scotty` may not have totally satisfied because the failure mode isn’t really helpful to an end-user — all they know is “Nothing.” Accordingly, `Maybe` is usually something that should get handled early and often in a place local to where it was produced so that you avoid mysterious `Nothing` values floating around and short-circuiting your code. They’re not something you really want to return to end-users either. Fortunately, we have `Either` for more descriptive short-circuiting computations!

### **Scotty, again**

We’ll use `Scotty` again to demonstrate this. Once again, we’ll show you a plain example:

```
{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}

module Main where

import Control.Monad.IO.Class
import Data.Text.Lazy (Text)
import Web.Scotty

param' :: Parsable a => Text -> ActionM (Either String a)
param' k = rescue (Right <$> param k)
              (const
               (return
                (Left $ "The key: "
                      ++ show k
                      ++ " was missing!"))))

main = scotty 3000 $ do
  get "/:word" $ do
    beam <- param "word"
    a <- param' "1"
    let a' = either (const 0) id a
    liftIO $ print (a :: Either String Int)
    liftIO $ print (a' :: Int)
    html $ mconcat ["<h1>Scotty, ", beam, " me up!</h1>"]
```

Note that we had to manually fold the Either if we wanted to address the desired Int value. Try to avoid having default fallback values in real code though. This could get nutty in a hurry if we had many things we were pulling out of the parameters.

Let's do that but with ExceptT from transformers. Remember, ExceptT is just another name for EitherT:

```

{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}

module Main where

import Control.Monad.IO.Class
import Control.Monad.Trans.Class
import Control.Monad.Trans.Except
import Data.Text.Lazy (Text)
import qualified Data.Text.Lazy as TL
import Web.Scotty

param' :: Parsable a => Text -> ExceptT String ActionM a
param' k = ExceptT $
    rescue (Right <$> param k)
    (const
    (return
    (Left $ "The key: "
    ++ show k
    ++ " was missing!"))))

type Reco = (Integer, Integer, Integer, Integer)

tshow = TL.pack . show

main = scotty 3000 $ do
    get "/" $ do
        reco <- runExceptT $ do
            a <- param' "1"
            liftIO $ print a
            b <- param' "2"
            c <- param' "3"
            d <- param' "4"
            (lift . lift) $ print b
            return ((a, b, c, d) :: Reco)
        case reco of
            (Left e) -> text (TL.pack e)
            (Right r) ->
                html $ mconcat ["<h1>Success! Reco was: ", tshow r, "</h1>"]

```



If you pass it a request like:

```
http://localhost:3000/?1=1
```

It’ll ask for the parameter 2 because that was the next param you asked for after 1.

If you pass it a request like:

```
http://localhost:3000/?1=1&2=2&3=3&4=4
```

You should see the response in your browser or terminal of:

```
Success! Reco was: (1,2,3,4)
```

As before, we get to benefit from *one big bind* under the ExceptT.

### Slightly more advanced code

From some code<sup>7</sup> by Sean Chalmers<sup>8</sup>.

Some context for the EitherT application you’ll see:

---

<sup>7</sup><https://github.com/mankyKitty/Meteor/>

<sup>8</sup><http://mankykitty.github.io/>

```

type Et a = EitherT SDLerr IO a

mkWindow :: HasSDLerr m =>
    String
    -> CInt -> CInt
    -> m SDL.Window
mkRenderer :: HasSDLerr m => SDL.Window -> m SDL.Renderer

hasSDLerr :: (MonadIO m, MonadError e m) =>
    (a -> b)
    -> (a -> Bool)
    -> e -> IO a -> m b
hasSDLerr g f e a =
    liftIO a
    >= \r -> bool (return $ g r) (throwError e) $ f r

class (MonadIO m, MonadError SDLerr m) => HasSDLerr m where
    decide :: (a -> Bool) -> SDLerr -> IO a -> m a
    decide' :: (Eq n, Num n) => SDLerr -> IO n -> m ()

instance HasSDLerr (EitherT SDLerr IO) where
    decide = hasSDLerr id
    decide' = hasSDLerr (const ()) (/= 0)

```

Then in use:

```

initialise :: Et (SDL.Window,SDL.Renderer)
initialise = do
    initSDL [SDL.SDL_INIT_VIDEO]
    win <- mkWindow "Meteor!" screenHeight screenWidth
    rdr <- mkRenderer win
    return (win,rdr)

createMeteor :: IO (Either SDL.Err Meteors)
createMeteor = do
    eM <- runEitherT initialise
    return $ mkMeteor <$> eM
  where
    emptyBullets = V.empty

    mkMeteor (w,r) = Meteors w r
                        getInitialPlayer
                        emptyBullets -- no missiles at start
                        getInitialMobs
                        False

```

## 26.12 Monads do not commute

Remember that monads in general do not commute, and you aren't guaranteed something sensible for every possible combination of types. The kit we have for constructing and using monad transformers is useful but is not a license to *not think!*

### Hypothetical Exercise

Consider `ReaderT r Maybe` and `MaybeT (Reader r)` — are these types equivalent? Do they do the same thing? Try writing otherwise similar bits of code with each and see if you can prove they're the same or different.

## 26.13 Transform if you want to

If you find monad transformers difficult or annoying, then don't bother! Most of the time you can get by with `liftIO` and plain `IO`

actions, functions, Maybe values, etc. Do the simplest (for you) thing first when mapping out something new or unfamiliar. It’s better to let more structured formulations of programs fall out naturally from having kicked around something uncomplicated than to blow out your working memory budget in one go. Don’t worry about seeming unsophisticated; in our opinion, being happy and productive is better than being fancy.

Keep it basic in your first attempt. Never make it more elaborate initially than is strictly necessary. You’ll figure out when the transformer variant of a type will save you complexity in the process of writing your programs. We have taken you through these topics because you’ll need at least a passing familiarity not to get stuck in modern Haskell libraries or frameworks, but it’s not a design dictate you must follow.

In a later chapter we’ll be showing you something that you might find more appealing or nicer than concrete monad transformers, but you still shouldn’t consider that an invitation to premature elaboration.

## 26.14 Chapter Exercises

### Write the code

1. `rDec` is a function that should get its argument in the context of `Reader` and return a value decremented by one.

```
rDec :: Num a => Reader a a
rDec = undefined
```

```
Prelude> import Control.Monad.Trans.Reader
Prelude> runReader rDec 1
0
Prelude> fmap (runReader rDec) [1..10]
[0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9]
```

Note that “`Reader`” from `transformers` is actually `ReaderT` of `Identity` and that `runReader` is a convenience function throwing away the meaningless structure for you. Play with `runReaderT` if it tickles your nondescript furry red puppet.

2. Once you have an `rDec` that works, make it and any inner lambdas pointfree if that's not already the case.
3. `rShow` is `show`, but in `Reader`.

```
rShow :: Show a => ReaderT a Identity String
rShow = undefined
```

```
Prelude> runReader rShow 1
"1"
Prelude> fmap (runReader rShow) [1..10]
["1","2","3","4","5","6","7","8","9","10"]
```

4. Once you have an `rShow` that works, make it pointfree.
5. `rPrintAndInc` will first print the input with a greeting, then return the input incremented by one.

```
rPrintAndInc :: (Num a, Show a) => ReaderT a IO a
rPrintAndInc = undefined
```

```
Prelude> runReaderT rPrintAndInc 1
Hi: 1
2
Prelude> traverse (runReaderT rPrintAndInc) [1..10]
Hi: 1
Hi: 2
Hi: 3
Hi: 4
Hi: 5
Hi: 6
Hi: 7
Hi: 8
Hi: 9
Hi: 10
[2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11]
```

6. `sPrintIncAccum` first prints the input with a greeting, then puts the incremented input as the new state, and returns the original input as a `String`.

```
sPrintIncAccum :: (Num a, Show a) => StateT a IO String
sPrintIncAccum = undefined
```

```
Prelude> runStateT sPrintIncAccum 10
Hi: 10
("10",11)
Prelude> mapM (runStateT sPrintIncAccum) [1..5]
Hi: 1
Hi: 2
Hi: 3
Hi: 4
Hi: 5
[("1",2),("2",3),("3",4),("4",5),("5",6)]
```

### Fix the code

The code won't typecheck as written; fix it so that it does. Feel free to add imports if it provides something useful. Functions will be used that we haven't introduced. You're not allowed to change the types asserted. You may have to fix the code in more than one place.

```
import Control.Monad.Trans.Maybe
import Control.Monad

isValid :: String -> Bool
isValid v = '!' `elem` v

maybeExcite :: MaybeT IO String
maybeExcite = do
    v <- getLine
    guard $ isValid v
    return v

doExcite :: IO ()
doExcite = do
    putStrLn "say something excite!"
    excite <- maybeExcite
    case excite of
        Nothing -> putStrLn "MOAR EXCITE"
        Just e -> putStrLn ("Good, was very excite: " ++ e)
```

## Hit counter

We're going to provide an initial scaffold of a Scotty application which counts hits to specific URIs. It also prefixes the keys with a prefix defined on app initialization, retrieved via the command-line arguments.

```

{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}

module Main where

import Control.Monad.Trans.Class
import Control.Monad.Trans.Reader
import Data.IORef
import qualified Data.Map as M
import Data.Maybe (fromMaybe)
import Data.Text.Lazy (Text)
import qualified Data.Text.Lazy as TL
import System.Environment (getArgs)
import Web.Scotty.Trans

data Config =
  Config {
    -- that's one, one click!
    -- two...two clicks!
    -- Three BEAUTIFUL clicks! ah ah ahhhh
    counts :: IORef (M.Map Text Integer)
    , prefix :: Text
  }

-- Stuff inside ScottyT is, except for things that escape
-- via IO, effectively read-only so we can't use StateT.
-- It would overcomplicate things to attempt to do so and
-- you should be using a proper database for production
-- applications.
type Scotty = ScottyT Text (ReaderT Config IO)
type Handler = ActionT Text (ReaderT Config IO)

bumpBoomp :: Text
  -> M.Map Text Integer
  -> (M.Map Text Integer, Integer)
bumpBoomp k m = undefined

```



```

app :: Scotty ()
app =
  get "/:key" $ do
    unprefixd <- param "key"
    let key' = mappend undefined unprefixd
    newInteger <- undefined
    html $ mconcat [ "<h1>Success! Count was: "
                    , TL.pack $ show newInteger
                    , "</h1>"
                    ]

main :: IO ()
main = do
  [prefixArg] <- getArgs
  counter <- newIORef M.empty
  let config = undefined
      runR = undefined
  scottyT 3000 runR app

```

Code is missing and broken. Your task is to make it work, whatever is necessary.

You should be able to run the server from inside of GHCi, passing arguments like so:

```

Prelude> :main lol
Setting phasers to stun... (port 3000) (ctrl-c to quit)

```

You could also build a binary and pass the arguments from your shell, but do what you like. Once it's running, you should be able to bump the counts like so:

```

$ curl localhost:3000/woot
<h1>Success! Count was: 1</h1>
$ curl localhost:3000/woot
<h1>Success! Count was: 2</h1>
$ curl localhost:3000/blah
<h1>Success! Count was: 1</h1>

```

Note that the underlying “key” used in the counter when you GET /woot is “lolwoot” because we passed “lol” to main. For a giggle, try the URI for one of the keys in your browser and mash refresh a bunch.

## Morra

1. Write the game Morra<sup>9</sup> using StateT and IO. The state being accumulated is the score of the player and the computer AI the player is playing against. To start, make the computer choose its play randomly.

On exit, report the scores for the player and the computer, congratulating the winner.

2. Add a human vs. human mode to the game with interstitial screens between input prompts so the players can change out of the hotseat without seeing the other player’s answer.
3. Improve the computer AI slightly by making it remember 3-grams of the player’s behavior, adjusting its answer instead of deciding randomly when the player’s behavior matches a known behavior. For example:

```
-- p is Player
-- c is Computer
-- Player is odds, computer is evens.
P: 1
C: 1
- C wins
P: 2
C: 1
- P wins
P: 2
C: 1
- P wins
```

At this point, the computer should register the pattern (1, 2, 2) player picked 2 after 1 and 2. Next time the player picks 1 followed by 2, the computer should assume the next play will be 2 and pick 2 in order to win.

---

<sup>9</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morra\\_\(game\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morra_(game))

4. The 3-gram thing is pretty simple and dumb. Humans are still bad at being random; they often have sub-patterns in their moves.

## 26.15 Follow-up resources

1. Parallel and Concurrent Programming in Haskell; Simon Marlow; <http://chimera.labs.oreilly.com/books/12300000000929>

## Chapter 27

# Non-strictness

Progress doesn't come from  
early risers — progress is  
made by lazy men looking for  
easier ways to do things.

---

Robert A. Heinlein

## 27.1 Laziness

This chapter concerns the ways in which Haskell programs are evaluated. We’ve addressed this a bit in previous chapters, for example, in the Folds chapter where we went into some detail about how folds evaluate. In this chapter, our goal is to give you enough information about Haskell’s lazy evaluation strategy that you’ll be able to reason confidently about the reduction process of your expressions and introduce stricter evaluation where that is wanted.

Most programming languages have strict evaluation semantics. Haskell technically has “non-strict” — not lazy — evaluation, but the difference between lazy and non-strict is not practically relevant, so you’ll hear Haskell referred to as either a lazy language or a non-strict one.

A very rough outline of Haskell’s evaluation strategy is this: most expressions are only reduced, or evaluated, when necessary. When the evaluation process begins, a *thunk* is created for each expression. We’ll go into more detail about this in the chapter, but a thunk is like a placeholder in the underlying graph of the program. Whatever expression the thunk is holding a place for can be evaluated when necessary, but if it’s never needed, it never gets reduced, and then the garbage collector comes along and sweeps it away. If it is evaluated, because it’s in a graph, it can be often shared between expressions — that is, once  $x = 1 + 1$  has been evaluated, anytime  $x$  is forced it does not have to be re-computed.

This is the laziness of Haskell: don’t do more work than needed. Don’t evaluate until necessary. Don’t re-evaluate if you don’t have to. We’ll go through the details of how this works, exceptions to the general principles, and how to control the evaluation by adding strictness where desired.

Specifically, we will:

- define call-by-name and call-by-need evaluation;
- explain the main effects of nonstrict evaluation;
- live the Thunk Life<sup>1</sup>;

---

<sup>1</sup>We love you, Jesse!

- consider the runtime behavior of non-strict code in terms of sharing;
- develop methods for observing sharing and measuring program efficiency;
- bottom out with the bottoms.

## 27.2 Observational Bottom Theory

In our discussion about non-strictness in Haskell, we're going to be talking about bottom<sup>2</sup> a lot. This is partly because non-strictness is *defined* by the ability to evaluate expressions that have bindings which are bottom in them, as long as the bottom itself is never forced. Bottoms also give us a convenient method of observing evaluation in Haskell. By causing the program to halt immediately with an error, bottom serves as our first means of understanding non-strictness in Haskell. You probably recall we have used this trick before.

### Standards and obligations

Technically Haskell is only obligated to be non-strict, not lazy. A truly lazy language memoizes, or holds in memory, the results of all the functions it does evaluate, and, outside of toy programs, this tends to use unacceptably large amounts of memory. Implementations of Haskell, such as GHC Haskell, are only obligated to be non-strict such that they have the same behavior with respect to bottom; they are not required to take a particular approach to how the program executes or how efficiently it does so.

The essence of non-strictness is that you can have an expression which results in a value, even if bottom or infinite data lurks within. For example, the following would only work in a non-strict language:

```
Prelude> fst (1, undefined)
1
Prelude> snd (undefined, 2)
2
```

---

<sup>2</sup>Observational bottom theory is not a real thing. Do not email us about this.

The idea is that any given implementation of non-strictness is acceptable as long as it respects when it's supposed to return a value successfully or bottom out.

### 27.3 Outside in, inside out

Strict languages evaluate *inside out*; non-strict languages like Haskell evaluate *outside in*. Outside in means that evaluation proceeds from the outermost parts of expressions and works inward based on what values are forced. This means the order of evaluation and what gets evaluated can vary depending on inputs.

The following example is written in a slightly arcane way to make the evaluation order more obvious:

```
possiblyKaboom =
  \f -> f fst snd (0, undefined)

-- booleans in lambda form
true :: a -> a -> a
true = \a -> (\b -> a)

false :: a -> a -> a
false = \a -> (\b -> b)
```

When we apply `possiblyKaboom` to `true`, `true` is the *f*, `fst` is the *a*, and `snd` is the *b*. Semantically, `case` matches, `guards` expressions, and `if-then-else` expressions could all be rewritten in this manner (they are not in fact decomposed this way by the compiler), by nesting lambdas and reducing from the outside in:

```
(\f -> f fst snd (0, undefined)) (\a -> (\b -> a))
(\a -> (\b -> a)) fst snd (0, undefined)
(\b -> fst) snd (0, undefined)
fst (0, undefined)
0
```

The next example is written in more normal Haskell but will return the same result. When we apply the function to `True` here, we `case` on the `True` to return the first value of the tuple:



```
possiblyKaboom b =
  case b of
    True -> fst tup
    False -> snd tup
  where tup = (0, undefined)
```

The bottom is inside a tuple, and the tuple is bound inside of a lambda that cases on a boolean value and returns either the first or second of element of the tuple. Since we start evaluating from the outside, as long as this function is only ever applied to `True`, that bottom will never cause a problem. However, at the risk of stating the obvious, we do not encourage you to write programs with bottoms lying around willy-nilly.

When we say evaluation works outside in, we're talking about evaluating a series of nested expressions, and not only are we starting from the outside and working in, but we're also only evaluating some of the expressions some of the time. In Haskell, we evaluate expressions when we *need* them rather than when they are first referred to or constructed. This is one of the ways in which non-strictness makes Haskell expressive — we can refer to values before we've done the work to create them.

This pattern applies to data structures and lambdas alike. You've already seen the effects of outside-in evaluation in the chapter on folds. Outside-in evaluation is why we can take the length of a list without touching any of the contents. Consider the following:

```
-- using a dated definition for foldr
foldr k z xs = go xs
  where
    go []      = z
    go (y:ys) = y `k` go ys

c = foldr const 'z' ['a'..'e']
```

Expanding the `foldr` in `c`:

```

c = const 'z' "abcde" = go "abcde"
  where
    go []      = 'z'
    go ('a':"bcde") = 'a' `const` go "bcde"

```

```

-- So the first step of evaluating
-- of the fold here is:

```

```

const 'a' (go "bcde")

const x      y      = x
const 'a' (go "bcde") = 'a'

```

The second argument and step of the fold is never evaluated:

```

const 'a' _ = 'a'

```

It doesn't even matter if the next value is bottom:

```

Prelude> foldr const 'z' ['a', undefined]
'a'

```

This is outside-in showing itself. The `const` function was in the outermost position so it was evaluated first.

## 27.4 What does the other way look like?

In strict languages, you *cannot* ordinarily bind a computation to a name without having already done all the work to construct it.

We'll use this example program to compare inside-out and outside-in (strict and non-strict) evaluation strategies:

```
module OutsideIn where

hypo :: IO ()
hypo = do
  let x :: Int
      x = undefined
  s <- getLine
  case s of
    "hi" -> print x
    _    -> putStrLn "hello"
```

For a strict language, this is a problem. A strict language cannot evaluate `hypo` successfully unless the  $x$  isn't bottom. This is because strict languages will force the bottom before binding  $x$ . A strict language is evaluating each binding as it comes into scope, not when a binding is used.

In non-strict Haskell, you can probably guess how this'll go:

```
Prelude> hypo
s
hello
Prelude> hypo
hi
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```

The idea is that evaluation is driven by demand, *not* by construction. We don't get the exception unless we're forcing evaluation of  $x$  — outside in.

### Can we make Haskell strict?

Let's see if we can replicate the results of a strict language, though, which will give us a good picture of how Haskell is different. We can add strictness here in the following manner:

```

hypo' :: IO ()
hypo' = do
  let x :: Integer
      x = undefined
  s <- getLine
  case x `seq` s of
    "hi" -> print x
    _    -> putStrLn "hello"

```

Running it will give this result:

```

Prelude> hypo'
asd
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined

```

Why? Because this little `seq` function magically forces evaluation of the first argument if and when the second argument has to be evaluated. Adding `seq` means that anytime `s` is evaluated, `x` must also be evaluated. We'll get into more detail in a moment.

One thing to note before we investigate `seq` is that we managed to run `getLine` *before* the bottom got evaluated, so this still isn't quite what a strict language would've done. Case expressions are in general going to force evaluation. This makes sense if you realize it has to evaluate the expression to discriminate on the cases. A small example to demonstrate:

```

let b = ???
case b of
  True -> ...
  False

```

Here `b` could be pretty much anything. It must evaluate `b` to find out if the expression results in `True` or `False`.

### seq and ye shall find

Before we move any further with making Haskell stricter, let's talk about `seq` a little bit. One thing is that the type is, uh, a bit weird:

```

seq :: a -> b -> b

```

Clearly there's more going on here than `flip const`. It might help to know that in some very old versions of Haskell, it used to have the type:

```
seq :: Eval a => a -> b -> b
```

`Eval` is short for “evaluation to weak head normal form,” and it provided a method for forcing evaluation. Instances were provided for all the types in `base`. It was elided in part so you could use `seq` in your code without churning your polymorphic type variables and forcing a bunch of changes. With respect to bottom, `seq` is defined as behaving in the following manner:

```
seq bottom b           = bottom
seq literallyAnythingNotBottom b = b
```

Now why does `seq` look like `const`'s gawky cousin? Because evaluation in Haskell is *demand driven*, we can't guarantee that something will *ever* be evaluated **period**. Instead we have to create links between nodes in the graph of expressions where forcing one expression will force yet another expression. Let's look at another example:

```
Prelude> let wc x z = let y = undefined `seq` 'y' in x
Prelude> foldr wc 'z' ['a'..'e']
'a'
Prelude> foldr (flip wc) 'z' ['a'..'e']
'z'
```

We never evaluated `y`, so we never forced the bottom. However, we can lash yet another data dependency from `y` to `x`:

```
Prelude> let bot = undefined
Prelude> let wc x = let y = bot `seq` 'y' in y `seq` x
Prelude> foldr wc 'z' ['a'..'e']
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
Prelude> foldr (flip wc) 'z' ['a'..'e']
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```

Previously the evaluation dependency was between the bottom value and `y`:

```
undefined `seq` y

-- forcing y necessarily forces undefined

y -> undefined
```

Changing the expression as we did caused the following to happen:

```
undefined `seq` y `seq` x

-- forcing x necessarily forces y
-- forcing y necessarily forces undefined

x -> y -> undefined
```

We think of this as a “chain reaction.”

All we can do is chuck a life-raft from one value to another as a means of saying, “if you want to get him, you gotta get through me!” We can even set our life-raft buddies adrift! Check it out:

```
notGonnaHappenBru :: Int
notGonnaHappenBru =
  let x = undefined
      y = 2
      z = (x `seq` y `seq` 10, 11)
  in snd z
```

The above will *not* bottom out! Our life-raft buddies are bobbing in the ocean blue, with no tugboat evaluator to pull them in.

### seq and weak head normal form

What `seq` does is evaluate your expression *up to weak head normal form*. We’ve discussed it before, but if you’d like a deeper investigation and contrast of weak head normal form and normal form, we strongly recommend Simon Marlow’s “Parallel and Concurrent Programming in Haskell”<sup>3</sup>. WHNF evaluation means it stops at the first data constructor or lambda. Let’s test that hypothesis!

<sup>3</sup><http://chimera.labs.oreilly.com/books/12300000000929>

```
Prelude> let dc = (,) undefined undefined
Prelude> let noDc = undefined
Prelude> let lam = \_ -> undefined
Prelude> dc `seq` 1
1
Prelude> noDc `seq` 1
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
Prelude> lam `seq` 1
1
```

Right-o. No surprises, right? Right? Okay.

Since `dc` has a data constructor, `seq` doesn't need to care about the values inside that constructor; weak head normal form evaluation only requires it to evaluate the constructor. On the other hand, `noDc` has no data constructor or lambda outside the value, so there's no head for the evaluation to stop at. Finally, `lam` has a lambda outside the expression which has the same effect on evaluation as a data constructor does.

### Case matching also chains evaluation

This forcing behavior happens already without `seq`! For example, when you case or pattern match on something, you're forcing the value you pattern matched on because it doesn't know which data constructor is relevant until it is evaluated to the depth required to yield the depth of data constructors you pattern matched. Let's look at an example:

```
data Test =
  A Test2
| B Test2
deriving (Show)

data Test2 =
  C Int
| D Int
deriving (Show)
```

```
forceNothing :: Test -> Int
forceNothing _ = 0
```

```
forceTest :: Test -> Int
forceTest (A _) = 1
forceTest (B _) = 2
```

```
forceTest2 :: Test -> Int
forceTest2 (A (C i)) = i
forceTest2 (B (C i)) = i
forceTest2 (A (D i)) = i
forceTest2 (B (D i)) = i
```

We'll test `forceNothing` first:

```
Prelude> forceNothing undefined
0
Prelude> forceNothing (A undefined)
0
```

It'll never bottom out because it never forces anything. It's just a constant value that drops its argument on the floor. What about `forceTest`?

```
Prelude> forceTest (A undefined)
1
Prelude> forceTest (B undefined)
2
Prelude> forceTest undefined
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```

We only get a bottom when the outermost `Test` value is bottom because that's the only value whose data constructors we're casing on. And then with `forceTest2`:

```
Prelude> forceTest2 (A (C 0))
0
Prelude> forceTest2 (A (C undefined))
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```



```
Prelude> forceTest2 (A undefined)
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```

```
Prelude> forceTest2 undefined
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```

There we go: *outside* -> *in*.

## Core Dump

Not the usual core dump you might be thinking of. In this case, we're talking about the underlying language that GHC Haskell gets simplified to after the compiler has desugared our code.

Our first means of determining strictness was by injecting bottoms into our expressions and observing the evaluation. Injecting bottoms everywhere allows us to see clearly what's being evaluated strictly and what's not. Our second means of determining strictness in Haskell is examining GHC Core<sup>4</sup>.

Here's the example we'll be working with:

```
module CoreDump where

discriminatory :: Bool -> Int
discriminatory b =
  case b of
    False -> 0
    True  -> 1
```

Load this up in GHCi in the following manner:

```
Prelude> :set -ddump-simpl
Prelude> :l code/coreDump.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling CoreDump
```

```
===== Tidy Core =====
... some noise...
```

You should then get the following GHC Core output:

---

<sup>4</sup><https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary/Compiler/CoreSynType>

```

discriminatory :: Bool -> Int
[GblId, Arity=1, Caf=NoCafRefs, Str=DmdType]
discriminatory =
  \ (b_aZJ :: Bool) ->
    case b_aZJ of _ [Occ=Dead] {
      False -> GHC.Types.I# 0;
      True -> GHC.Types.I# 1
    }

```

GHC Core is ugly. We're not going to disassemble about this. However, there are some means of cleaning it up. One is to use the `-dsuppress-all` flag:

```

Prelude> :set -dsuppress-all
Prelude> :r

```

Note that you may need to poke the file to force it to reload. This then outputs:

```

discriminatory
discriminatory =
  \ b_aZY ->
    case b_aZY of _ {
      False -> I# 0;
      True -> I# 1
    }

```

A titch more readable. The idea here is that the simpler Core language gives us a clearer idea of *when precisely* something will be evaluated. For the sake of simplicity, we'll revisit a previous example:

```

forceNothing _ = 0

```

In Core, it looks like this:

```

forceNothing = \ _ -> I# 0#

```

We're looking for case expressions in GHC Core to find out where the strictness is in our code, because case expressions must be evaluated. There aren't any cases here, so it forces strictly<sup>5</sup> nothing! The `I#`

---

<sup>5</sup>HAAAAAAAAAAAAA

0# is the underlying representation of an Int literal which is exposed in GHC Core. On with the show!

Let's see what the Core for `forceTest` looks like:

```
forceTest =
  \ ds_d2oX ->
    case ds_d2oX of _ {
      A ds1_d2pI -> I# 1#;
      B ds1_d2pJ -> I# 2#
    }
```

From the GHC Core for this we can see that we force one value, the outermost data constructors of the `Test` type. The contents of those data constructors are given a name but never used and so are never evaluated.

```
forceTest2 =
  \ ds_d2n2 ->
    case ds_d2n2 of _ {
      A ds1_d2oV ->
        case ds1_d2oV of _ {
          C i_a1lo -> i_a1lo;
          D i_a1lq -> i_a1lq
        };
      B ds1_d2oW ->
        case ds1_d2oW of _ {
          C i_a1lp -> i_a1lp;
          D i_a1lr -> i_a1lr
        }
    }
```

With `forceTest2` the outsideness and insideness shows more clearly. In the outer part of the function, we do the same as `forceTest`, but the difference is that we end up also forcing the contents of the outer `Test` data constructors. The function has four possible results that aren't bottom and if it isn't passed bottom it'll always force twice. Once for `Test` and once for `Test2`. It returns but does not itself force or evaluate the contents of the `Test2` data constructor.

In Core, a case expression *always* evaluates what it cases on — even if no pattern matching is performed, whereas in Haskell proper values are forced when matching on data constructors. We recommend reading the GHC documentation on the Core language in the footnote above if you’d like to leverage Core to understand your Haskell code’s performance or behavior more deeply. Now let us use this to analyze something:

```
discriminatory :: Bool -> Int
discriminatory b =
  let x = undefined
  in case b of
    False -> 0
    True  -> 1
```

What does the Core for this look like?

```
discriminatory
discriminatory =
  \ b_a10c ->
    case b_a10c of _ {
      False -> I# 0;
      True  -> I# 1
    }
```

GHC is too clever for our shenanigans! It knows we’ll *never* evaluate  $x$ , so it drops it. What if we *force* it to evaluate  $x$  before we evaluate  $b$ ?

```
discriminatory :: Bool -> Int
discriminatory b =
  let x = undefined
  in case x `seq` b of
    False -> 0
    True  -> 1
```

Then the Core:

```

discriminatory =
  \ b_a10D ->
    let {
      x_a10E
      x_a10E = undefined } in
    case
      case x_a10E of _ {
        __DEFAULT -> b_a10D
      } of _ {
        False -> I# 0;
        True -> I# 1
      }

```

What's happened here is that there are now *two* case expressions, one nested in another. The nesting is to make the evaluation of  $x$  obligatory before evaluating  $b$ . This is how `seq` changes your code.

**A Core difference** In Haskell, case matching is strict — or, at least, the pattern matching of it is — up to WHNF. In Core, cases are always strict<sup>6</sup> to WHNF. This doesn't seem to be a distinction that matters, but there are times when the distinction becomes relevant. In Haskell, this will not bottom out:

```
case undefined of { _ -> False }
```

When that gets transliterated into Core, it recognizes that we didn't actually use the case match for anything and drops the case expression entirely, simplifying it to just the data constructor `False`.

However, this Core expression is syntactically similar to the Haskell above, but it will bottom out:

```
case undefined of { DEFAULT -> False }
```

Case in Core is strict even if there's one case and it doesn't match on anything. Core and Haskell are not the same language, but anytime you need to know if two expressions in Haskell are the same, one way to know for sure is by examining the Core.

<sup>6</sup><https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary/Compiler/CoreSynType#Caseexpressions>

### A little bit stricter now

Okay, we had a nice little digression there into wonderland! Let's get back to the point which is...we still haven't quite managed to accomplish what a strict language would have done with our `hypo` function, because we did partially evaluate the expression. We evaluated the `s` which forced the `x` which is what finally gave us the exception. A strict language would not even have evaluated `s`, because evaluating `s` would depend on the `x` inside already being evaluated.

What if we want our Haskell program to do as a strict language would've done?

```
hypo'' :: IO ()
hypo'' = do
  let x :: Integer
      x = undefined
  s <- x `seq` getLine
  case s of
    "hi" -> print x
    _    -> putStrLn "hello"
```

Notice we moved the `seq` to the “earliest” possible point in our IO action. This one'll just pop without so much as a by-your-leave:

```
Prelude> hypo''
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```

The reason is that we're forcing evaluation of the bottom *before* we evaluate `getLine`, which would have performed the effect of awaiting user input. While this reproduces the observable results of what a strict language might have done, it isn't truly the same thing because we're not firing off the error upon the construction of the bottom. It's not possible for an expression to be evaluated until the path evaluation takes through your program reaches that expression. In Haskell, the tree doesn't fall in the woods until you walk through the forest and get to the tree. For that matter, the tree didn't exist until you walked up to it.

### Exercises: Evaluate

Expand the expression in as much detail as possible. Then, work outside-in to see what the expression evaluates to.

1. `const 1` undefined
2. `const` undefined `1`
3. `flip` `const` undefined `1`
4. `flip` `const 1` undefined
5. `const` undefined undefined
6. `foldr` `const 'z' ['a'..'e']`
7. `foldr` (`flip const`) `'z' ['a'..'e']`

## 27.5 Call by name, call by need

Another way we can talk about different evaluation strategies is by distinguishing them on the basis of call by name, call by need, and call by value.

1. Call by value: Argument expressions have been evaluated before entering a function. The expressions that bindings reference are evaluated before creating the binding. This is conventionally called *strict*. This is inside-out evaluation.
2. Call by name: Expressions can be arguments to a function without having been evaluated, or in some cases, never being evaluated. You can create bindings to expressions without evaluating them first. Non-strictness includes this evaluation strategy. This is outside-in.
3. Call by need: This is the same as call by name, but expressions are only evaluated once. This only happens some of the time in GHC Haskell, usually when an expression isn't a lambda that takes arguments and also has a name. Results are typically shared within that name only in GHC Haskell (that is, other implementations of Haskell may choose to do things differently). This is also non-strict and outside-in.

## 27.6 Non-strict evaluation changes what we can do

We'll cover normal order evaluation (the non-strict strategy Haskell prescribes for its implementations) in more detail later. Now, we'll look at examples of what non-strictness enables. The following will work in languages with a strict or a non-strict evaluation strategy:

```
Prelude> let myList = [1, 2, 3]
Prelude> tail myList
[2,3]
```

That works in either strict or non-strict languages because there is nothing there that *can't* be evaluated. However, if we keep in mind that undefined as an instance of *bottom* will throw an error when forced:

```
Prelude> undefined
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```

We'll see a difference between strict and non-strict. This will only work in languages that are non-strict:

```
Prelude> let myList = [undefined, 2, 3]
Prelude> tail myList
[2,3]
```

A strict language would have crashed on construction of `myList` due to the presence of `bottom`. This is because strict languages eagerly evaluate all expressions as soon as they are constructed. The moment `[undefined, 2, 3]` was declared, `undefined` would've been evaluated as an argument to `(:)` and raised the exception. In Haskell, however, non-strict evaluation means that `bottom` value won't be evaluated unless it is needed for some reason.

Take a look at the next example and, before going on, see if you can figure out whether it will throw an exception and why:

```
Prelude> head $ sort [1, 2, 3, undefined]
```

When we call `head` on a list that has been passed to `sort`, we only need the lowest value in the list and that's all the work we will do. The problem is that in order for `sort` to know what the lowest value is, it must evaluate `undefined` which then throws the error.



## 27.7 Thunk Life

A *thunk* is used to reference suspended computations that might be performed or computed at a later point in your program. You can get into considerably more detail<sup>7</sup> on this topic, but essentially thunks are computations not yet evaluated up to weak head normal form. If you read the GHC notes on this you'll see references to *head normal form* — it's the same thing as weak head normal form.

### Not all values get thunked

We're going to be using the GHCi command `sprint` in this section as one means of showing when something is thunked. You may remember this from the Lists chapter, but let's refresh our memories a bit.

The `sprint` command allows us to show what has been evaluated already by printing in the REPL. An underscore is used to represent values that haven't been evaluated yet. We noted before that this command can have some quirky behavior, although this chapter will explain some of the things that cause those seemingly unpredictable behaviors.

Let's start with a simple example:

```
Prelude> let myList = [1, 2, 3] :: [Integer]
Prelude> :sprint myList
myList = [1,2,3]
```

Wait a second — what happened here? Why is the list shown fully evaluated when it's not been needed by anything? This is an opportunistic strictness. GHC will not thunk (and thus delay) values which are merely data constructors. Data constructors are known to be constant, which justifies the safety of the optimization. The data constructors here are `cons (:)`, the Integers, and the empty list — all of them are constants.

**But aren't data constructors functions?** Data constructors are like functions when they're unapplied, and constants once they are fully applied. Since all the data constructors in the above example are

---

<sup>7</sup><https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary/Rts/Storage/HeapObjects>

fully applied already, evaluating to weak head normal form means evaluating everything because there's nothing left to apply.

Now back to the thunkery.

A graph of the values of `myList` looks like:

```
myList
  |
  :
 / \
1   :
   / \
  2   :
   / \
  3  []
```

Here there aren't any unevaluated thunks; it's just the final values that have been remembered. However, if we make it more polymorphic:

```
Prelude> let myList2 = [1, 2, 3]
Prelude> :t myList2
myList2 :: Num t => [t]
Prelude> :sprint myList2
myList2 = _
```

we'll see an unevaluated thunk represented by the underscore at the very top level of the expression. Since the type is not concrete, there's an implicit function `Num a -> a` underneath, awaiting application to something that will force it to evaluate to a concrete type. There's nothing here triggering that evaluation, so the whole list remains an unevaluated thunk. We'll get into more detail about how typeclass constraints evaluate soon.

GHC will also stop opportunistically evaluating as soon as it hits a computation:

```
Prelude> let myList = [1, 2, id 1] :: [Integer]
Prelude> :sprint myList
myList = [1,2,_]
```

It's a trivial computation, but GHCi conveniently leaves it be. Here's the thunk graph for the above:

```

myList
  |
  :
  / \
1   :
    / \
  2   :
    / \
   - []

```

Now let us consider another case that might be slightly confusing initially for some:

```

Prelude> let myList = [1, 2, id 1] :: [Integer]
Prelude> let myList' = myList ++ undefined
Prelude> :sprint myList'
myList' = _

```

Whoa whoa whoa. What's going on here? The whole thing is thunked because it's not in weak head normal form. Why isn't it in weak head normal form already? Because the outermost term isn't a data constructor like `(:)`. The outermost term is the *function* `(++)`:

```

myList' = (++) _ _

```

The function is outermost, despite the fact that it is superficially an infix operator, because the function is the lambda. The arguments are passed into the function body to be evaluated.

## 27.8 Sharing is caring

Sharing here roughly means what we've implied above: that when a computation is named, the results of evaluating that computation can be shared between all references to that name without re-evaluating it. We care about sharing because memory is finite, even today in the land of chickens in every pot and smartphones in every pocket. The idea here is that non-strictness is a fine thing, but call-by-name semantics aren't always enough to make it sufficiently efficient. What is sufficiently efficient? That depends on context and whether it's your dissertation or not.

One of the points of confusion for people when trying to figure out how GHC Haskell really runs code is that it blips sharing on and off (that is, it oscillates between call-by-need and call-by-name) based on necessity and what it thinks will produce faster code. Part of the reason it can do this at all without breaking your code is because the compiler knows when your code does or does not have effects.

### Using trace to observe sharing

The base library has a module named `Debug.Trace` that has functions useful for observing sharing. We'll mostly use `trace` here, but feel free to poke around for whatever else might catch your fancy. `Debug.Trace` is means of cheating the type system and putting a `putStrLn` without having `IO` in the type. This is *definitely* something you want to restrict to experimentation and education, do not use it as a logging mechanism in production code — it won't do what you think. However, it does give us a convenient means of observing when things evaluate.

Let us demonstrate how we can use this to see when things get evaluated:

```
Prelude> import Debug.Trace
Prelude> let a = trace "a" 1
Prelude> let b = trace "b" 2
Prelude> a + b
b
a
3
```

This isn't an example of sharing, but it demonstrates how `trace` can be used to observe evaluation. We can see that `b` got printed first because that was the first argument that the addition function evaluated, but you cannot and should not rely on the evaluation order of the arguments to addition. Here we're talking about the order in which the arguments to a single application of addition are forced, not associativity. You can count on addition being left associative, but within each pairing, which in the pair of arguments gets forced is not guaranteed.

Let's look at a longer example and see how it shows us where the evaluations occur:

```

import Debug.Trace (trace)

inc = (+1)

twice = inc . inc

howManyTimes =
  inc (trace "I got eval'd" (1 + 1))
    + twice (trace "I got eval'd" (1 + 1))

howManyTimes' =
  let onePlusOne = trace "I got eval'd" (1 + 1)
  in inc onePlusOne + twice onePlusOne

Prelude> howManyTimes
I got eval'd
I got eval'd
7

Prelude> howManyTimes'
I got eval'd
7

```

Cool, with that in mind, let's talk about ways to promote and prevent sharing.

### What promotes sharing

Kindness. Also, names. Names turn out to be a pretty good way to make GHC share something, *if* it could've otherwise been shared. First, let's consider the example of something that won't get shared:

```

Prelude> import Debug.Trace
Prelude> let x = trace "x" (1 :: Int)
Prelude> let y = trace "y" (1 :: Int)
Prelude> x + y
x
y
2

```

This seems intuitive and reasonable, but the values of  $x$  and  $y$  cannot be shared because they have different names. So, even though they have the same value, they have to be evaluated separately.

GHC does use this intuition that you'll expect results to be shared when they have the same name to make performance more predictable. If we add two values that have the same name, it will get evaluated once and only once:

```
Prelude> import Debug.Trace
Prelude> let a = trace "a" (1 :: Int)
Prelude> a + a
a
2
Prelude> a + a
2
```

Indirection won't change this either:

```
Prelude> let x = trace "x" (1 :: Int)
Prelude> (id x) + (id x)
x
2
Prelude> (id x) + (id x)
2
```

GHC knows what's up, despite the addition of identity functions. Notice the second time we ran it, it didn't evaluate  $x$  at all. The value of  $x$  is now held there in memory so whenever your program calls  $x$ , it already knows the value.

In general, GHC relies on an intuition around names and sharing to make performance more predictable. However, this won't always behave in ways you expect. Consider the case of a list with a single character...and a String with a single character. They're actually the same thing, but the way they get constructed is not. This produces differences in the opportunistic strictness GHC will engage in.

```
Prelude> let a = Just ['a']
Prelude> :sprint a
a = Just "a"
```

```
Prelude> let a = Just "a"
Prelude> :sprint a
a = Just _
```

So uh, what gives? Well, the deal is that the strictness analysis driven optimization GHC performs here is limited to data constructors only, no computation! But where's the function you ask? Well if we turn on our night vision goggles...

```
Prelude> let a = Just ['a']

returnIO
  (: ((Just (: (C# 'a') ([])))
    `cast` ...) ([]))
```

```
Prelude> let a = Just "a"

returnIO
  (: ((Just (unpackCString# "a"#))
    `cast` ...) ([]))
```

The issue is that a call to a primitive function in `GHC.Base` interposes `Just` and a `CString` literal. The reason string literals aren't actually lists of characters at time of construction is mostly to present optimization opportunities, such as when we convert string literals into `ByteStrings` or `Text` values. More on that in the next chapter!

### What subverts or prevents sharing

Sometimes we don't want sharing. Sometimes we want to know why sharing didn't happen when we did want it. Understanding what kinds of things prevent sharing is therefore useful.

Inlining expressions where they get used prevents sharing because it creates independent thunks that will get computed separately. In this example, instead of declaring the value of  $f$  to equal 1, we make it a function:

```
Prelude> let f :: a -> Int; f _ = trace "f" 1
Prelude> f 'a'
f
```

```
1
Prelude> f 'a'
f
1
```

In the next examples you can directly compare the difference between assigning a name to the value of  $(2 + 2)$  versus inlining it directly. When it's named, it gets shared and not re-evaluated:

```
Prelude> let a :: Int; a = trace "a" 2 + 2
Prelude> let b = (a + a)
Prelude> b
a
8
Prelude> b
8
```

Here we saw *a* once which makes sense as we expect the result to get shared.

```
Prelude> :{
Prelude| let c :: Int;
Prelude|     c = (trace "a" 2 + 2) + (trace "a" 2 + 2)
Prelude| :}
Prelude> c
a
a
8
Prelude> c
8
```

Here an expression equivalent to *a* didn't get shared because the two occurrences of the expression weren't bound to the same name. This is a trivial example of inlining. This illustrates the difference in how things evaluate when an expression is bound to a name versus when it gets repeated via inlining in an expression.

Being a function with explicit, named arguments also prevents sharing. Haskell is not fully lazy; it is merely non-strict, so it is not required to remember the result of every function application for



a given set of arguments, nor would it be desirable given memory constraints. A demonstration:

```
Prelude> let f :: a -> Int; f = trace "f" const 1
Prelude> f 'a'
f
1
Prelude> f 'a'
1
Prelude> f 'b'
1
```

The explicit, named arguments part here is critical! Eta contraction (i.e., writing pointfree code, thus dropping the named arguments) will change the sharing properties of your code. This will be explained in more detail in the next chapter.

Typeclass constraints also prevent sharing. If we forget to add a concrete type to an earlier example, we evaluate *a* twice:

```
Prelude> let blah = Just 1
Prelude> fmap ((+1) :: Int -> Int) blah
Just 2
Prelude> :sprint blah
blah = _
Prelude> :t blah
blah :: Num a => Maybe a

Prelude> let bl = Just 1
Prelude> :t bl
bl :: Num a => Maybe a
Prelude> :sprint bl
bl = _
Prelude> fmap (+1) bl
Just 2

Prelude> let fm = fmap (+1) bl
Prelude> :t fm
fm :: Num b => Maybe b
Prelude> :sprint fm
fm = _
```

```
Prelude> fm
Just 2
Prelude> :sprint fm
fm = _

Prelude> let fm' = fmap ((+1) :: Int -> Int) bla
Prelude> fm'
Just eval'd 1
2
Prelude> :sprint fm'
fm' = Just 2
```

Again, that's because typeclass constraints are a function in Core. They are awaiting application to something that will make them become concrete types. We're going to go into a bit more detail on this in the next section.

Implicit parameters are implemented similarly to typeclass constraints and have the same effect on sharing. Sharing doesn't work in the presence of constraints (typeclasses or implicit parameters) because typeclass constraints and implicit parameters decay into function arguments when the compiler simplifies the code:

```
Prelude> :set -XImplicitParams
Prelude> import Debug.Trace
Prelude> :{
Prelude Debug.Trace| let add :: (?x :: Int) => Int
Prelude Debug.Trace|     add = trace "add" 1 + ?x
Prelude Debug.Trace| :}
Prelude> let ?x = 1 in add
add
2
Prelude> let ?x = 1 in add
add
2
```

We won't talk about implicit parameters too much more as we don't think they're a good idea for general use. In most cases where you believe you want implicit parameters, more likely you want Reader, ReaderT, or a plain old function argument.

### Why polymorphic values never seem to get forced

As we've said, GHC engages in opportunistic strictness when it can do so safely without making an otherwise valid expression result in bottom. This is one of the things that confounds the use of `sprint` to observe evaluation in GHCi — GHC will often be opportunistically strict with data constructors if it knows the contents definitely can't be a bottom, such as when they're a literal value. It gets more complicated when we consider that, under the hood, typeclass constraints are simplified into additional arguments.

Reusing a similar example from earlier we will first observe this in action, then we'll talk about why it happens:

```
Prelude> let blah = Just (trace "eval'd 1" 1)
Prelude> :sprint blah
blah = _
Prelude> :t blah
blah :: Num a => Maybe a
Prelude> fmap (+1) blah
Just eval'd 1
2
Prelude> fmap (+1) blah
Just eval'd 1
2
Prelude> :sprint blah
blah = _
```

So we have at least some evidence that we're re-evaluating. Does it change when it's concrete?

```
Prelude> let blah = Just (trace "eval'd 1" (1 :: Int))
Prelude> :sprint blah
blah = Just _
```

The `Int` value being obscured by `trace` prevented opportunistic evaluation there. However, eliding the `Num a => a` in favor of a concrete type does bring sharing back:

```
Prelude> fmap (+1) blah
Just eval'd 1
```

```
2
Prelude> fmap (+1) blah
Just 2
```

Now our trace gets emitted only once. The idea here is that after the typeclass constraints get simplified to the underlying GHC Core language, they're really function arguments.

It doesn't matter if you use a function that accepts a concrete type and forces the `Num a => a`, it'll re-do the work on each evaluation because of the typeclass constraint. For example:

```
Prelude> fmap ((+1) :: Int -> Int) blah
Just 2
Prelude> :sprint blah
blah = _
Prelude> :t blah
blah :: Num a => Maybe a

Prelude> let bl = Just 1
Prelude> :t bl
bl :: Num a => Maybe a
Prelude> :sprint bl
bl = _
Prelude> fmap (+1) bl
Just 2
Prelude> let fm = fmap (+1) bl
Prelude> :t fm
fm :: Num b => Maybe b
Prelude> :sprint fm
fm = _
Prelude> fm
Just 2
Prelude> :sprint fm
fm = _

Prelude> let fm' = fmap ((+1) :: Int -> Int) blah
Prelude> fm'
Just eval'd 1
2
```

```
Prelude> :sprint fm'
fm' = Just 2
```

So, what's the deal here with the typeclass constraints? It's as if `Num a => a` were really `Num a -> a`. In Core, they are. The only way to apply that function argument is to reach an expression that provides a concrete type satisfying the constraint. Here's a demonstration of the difference in behavior using values:

```
Prelude> let poly = 1
Prelude> let conc = poly :: Int
Prelude> :sprint poly
poly = _
Prelude> :sprint conc
conc = _
Prelude> poly
1
Prelude> conc
1
Prelude> :sprint poly
poly = _
Prelude> :sprint conc
conc = 1
```

`Num a => a` is a function awaiting an argument, while `Int` is not. Behold the Core:

```
module Blah where
```

```
a :: Num a => a
a = 1
```

```
concrete :: Int
concrete = 1
```

```
Prelude> :l code/blah.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling Blah
```

```
===== Tidy Core =====
```

```
Result size of Tidy Core =
  {terms: 9, types: 9, coercions: 0}
```

```
concrete
concrete = I# 1
```

```
a
a =
  \ @ a1_aRN $dNum_aRP ->
    fromInteger $dNum_aRP (__integer 1)
```

Do you see how *a* has a lambda? In order to know what instance of the typeclass to deploy at any given time, the type has to be concrete. As we've seen, types can become concrete through assignment or type defaulting. Whichever way it becomes concrete, the result is the same: once the concrete type is known, the typeclass constraint function gets applied to the typeclass instance for that type. If you don't declare the concrete type, it will have to re-evaluate this function every time, because it can't know that the type didn't change somewhere along the way. So, because it remains a function and un-applied functions are not shareable values, polymorphic expressions can't be shared.

Mostly the behavior doesn't change when it involves values defined in terms of functions, but if you forget the type-concretion it'll stay `_` and you'll be confused and upset. Observe:

```
Prelude> let blah :: Int -> Int; blah x = x + 1
Prelude> let woot = blah 1
Prelude> :sprint blah
blah = _
Prelude> :sprint woot
woot = _
Prelude> woot
2
Prelude> :sprint woot
woot = 2
```

Values of a concrete, constant type can be shared, once evaluated. Polymorphic values may be evaluated once but still not shared

because, underneath, they continue to be functions awaiting application.

### Preventing sharing on purpose

When do we *want* to prevent sharing? When we don't want a large datum hanging out in memory that was calculated to provide a much smaller answer. First an example that demonstrates sharing:

```
Prelude> import Debug.Trace
Prelude> let f x = x + x
Prelude> f (trace "hi" 2)
hi
4
```

We see “hi” once because  $x$  got evaluated once. In the next example,  $x$  gets evaluated twice:

```
Prelude> let f x = (x ()) + (x ())
Prelude> f (\_ -> trace "hi" 2)
hi
hi
4
```

Using `unit ()` as arguments to  $x$  turned  $x$  into a very trivial, weird-looking function, which is why the value of  $x$  can no longer be shared. It doesn't matter much since that “function”  $x$  doesn't really *do* anything.

OK, that was weird; maybe it'll be easier to see if we use some more traditional-seeming argument to  $x$ :

```
Prelude> let f x = (x 2) + (x 10)
Prelude> f (\x -> trace "hi" (x + 1))
hi
hi
14
```

Using a lambda that mentions the argument in some fashion disables sharing:

```
Prelude> let g = \_ -> trace "hi" 2
Prelude> f g
hi
hi
4
```

However, this worked in part because the function passed to *f* had the argument as part of the declaration, even though it used underscore to ignore it. Notice what happens if we make it *pointfree*:

```
Prelude> let g = const (trace "hi" 2)
Prelude> f g
hi
4
```

We're going to get into a little more detail about this distinction in the next chapter, but the idea here is that functions aren't shared when there are named arguments but are when the arguments are elided, as in *pointfree*. So, one way to prevent sharing is adding named arguments.

### Forcing sharing

You can force sharing by giving your expression a name. The most common way of doing this is with *let*.

```
-- calculates 1 + 1 twice
(1 + 1) * (1 + 1)

-- shares 1 + 1 result under 'x'
let x = 1 + 1
in x * x
```

With that in mind, if you take a look at the *forever* function in *Control.Monad*, you might see something a little mysterious looking:

```
forever      :: (Monad m) => m a -> m b
forever a    = let a' = a >> a' in a'
```



Why the `let` expression? Well, we want sharing here so that running a monadic action indefinitely doesn't leak memory. The sharing here causes GHC to overwrite the thunk as it runs each step in the evaluation, which is quite handy. Otherwise, it would keep constructing new thunks indefinitely and that would be very unfortunate.

## 27.9 Refutable and irrefutable patterns

When we're talking about pattern matching, it's important to be aware that there are refutable and irrefutable patterns. An irrefutable pattern is one which will never fail to match. A refutable pattern is one which has potential failures. Often, the problem is one of specificity.

```
refutable :: Bool -> Bool
refutable True = False
refutable False = True
```

```
irrefutable :: Bool -> Bool
irrefutable x = not x
```

```
oneOfEach :: Bool -> Bool
oneOfEach True = False
oneOfEach _ = True
```

Remember, the *pattern* is refutable or not, not the function itself. The function `refutable` is refutable because each case is refutable; each case could be given an input that fails to match. In contrast, `irrefutable` has an irrefutable pattern; that is, its pattern doesn't rely on matching with a specific value.

In the case of `oneOfEach`, the first pattern is refutable because its pattern matches on the `True` data constructor. `irrefutable` and the second match of `oneOfEach` are irrefutable because they don't need to "look inside" the data they are applied to.

That said, the second pattern match of `oneOfEach` being irrefutable isn't terribly semantically meaningful as Haskell will have to inspect the data to see if it matches the first case anyway.

The `irrefutable` function works for *any* inhabitant (all two of them) of `Bool` because it doesn't specify which `Bool` value in the pattern

to match. You could think of an *irrefutable* pattern as one which will never fail to match. If an irrefutable pattern for a particular value comes before a refutable pattern, the refutable pattern will never get invoked.

This little function appeared in an earlier chapter, but we'll bring it back for a quick and easy demonstration:

```
isItTwo :: Integer -> Bool
isItTwo 2 = True
isItTwo _ = False
```

In the case of Bool, the order of matching True and False specifically doesn't matter, but in cases like `isItTwo` where one case is specific and the other is a catchall otherwise case, the ordering will certainly matter. You can reorder the expressions of `isItTwo` to see what happens, although it's probably clear.

## Lazy patterns

Lazy patterns are also *irrefutable*.

```
strictPattern :: (a, b) -> String
strictPattern (a,b) = const "Cousin It" a

lazyPattern :: (a, b) -> String
lazyPattern ~(a,b) = const "Cousin It" a
```

The tilde is how one makes a pattern match lazy. A caveat is that since it makes the pattern irrefutable, you can't use it to discriminate cases of a sum — it's useful for unpacking products that might not get used.

```
Prelude> strictPattern undefined
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```

```
Prelude> lazyPattern undefined
"Cousin It"
```

And as we see here, in the lazy pattern version since `const` didn't actually need `a` from the tuple, we never forced the bottom. The

default behavior is to just go ahead and force it before evaluating the function body, mostly for more predictable memory usage and performance.

## 27.10 Bang-patterns

Sometimes we want to evaluate an argument to a function whether we use it or not. We can do this with `seq` as in the following example:

```
{-# LANGUAGE BangPatterns #-}
```

```
module ManualBang where
```

```
doesn'tEval :: Bool -> Int
```

```
doesn'tEval b = 1
```

```
manualSeq :: Bool -> Int
```

```
manualSeq b = b `seq` 1
```

Or we can also do it with a bang-pattern on *b* — note the exclamation point:

```
bang :: Bool -> Int
```

```
bang !b = 1
```

Let's look at the Core for those three:

```

doesn'tEval
doesn'tEval =
  \ _ -> I# 1#

manualSeq
manualSeq =
  \ b_a1ia ->
    case b_a1ia of _
      { __DEFAULT -> I# 1# }

banging
banging =
  \ b_a1ib ->
    case b_a1ib of _
      { __DEFAULT -> I# 1# }

```

If you try passing bottom to each function you'll find that `manualSeq` and `banging` are forcing their argument despite not using it for anything. Remember that forcing something is expressed in core as a case expression and that case evaluates up to weak head normal form in Core.

### Bang patterns in data

When we evaluate the outer data constructor of a data type, at times we'd also like to evaluate the contents to weak head normal form just like with functions.

A simple way to see the difference between strict and non-strict constructor arguments is how they behave when they are undefined. Let's look at an example (note the exclamation mark):

```

data Foo = Foo Int !Int

first (Foo x _) = x
second (Foo _ y) = y

```

Since the non-strict argument isn't evaluated by `second`, passing in undefined doesn't cause a problem:

```
> second (Foo undefined 1)
1
```

But the strict argument can't be undefined, even if we don't use the value:

```
> first (Foo 1 undefined)
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```

You could do this manually with `seq`, but it's a little tedious. Here's another example with two equivalent datatypes, one of them with strictness annotations on the contents and one without:

```
{-# LANGUAGE BangPatterns #-}

module ManualBang where

data DoesntForce =
    TisLazy Int String

gibString :: DoesntForce -> String
gibString (TisLazy _ s) = s

-- note the exclamation marks again
data BangBang =
    SheShotMeDown !Int !String

gimmeString :: BangBang -> String
gimmeString (SheShotMeDown _ s) = s
```

Then testing those in GHCi:

```
Prelude> let x = TisLazy undefined "blah"
Prelude> gibString x
"blah"
Prelude> let x = SheShotMeDown undefined "blah"
Prelude> gimmeString x
"*** Exception: Prelude.undefined"
```

The idea here is that in some cases, it's cheaper to just compute something than to construct a thunk and then evaluate it later. This case is particularly common in numerics code where you have a lot of `Int` and `Double` values running around which are individually cheap to conjure. If the values are both cheap to compute and small, then you may as well make them strict unless you're trying to dance around bottoms. Types with underlying primitive representations `Int` and `Double` most assuredly qualify as small.

A good rule to follow is lazy in the spine, strict in the leaves! Sometimes a "leak" isn't really a leak but temporarily excessive memory that subsides because you made 1,000,000 tiny values into less-tiny thunks when you could've just computed them as your algorithm progressed.

## 27.11 Strict and StrictData

If you're using GHC 8.0 or newer, you can avail yourself of the `Strict` and `StrictData` pragmas. The key thing to realize is `Strict/StrictData` are just letting you avoid putting in pervasive uses of `seq` and `bang` patterns yourself. They don't add anything to the semantics of the language. Accordingly, it won't suddenly make lazy data structures defined elsewhere behave differently, although it does make functions defined in that module processing lazy data structures behave differently.

Let's play with that (if you already have GHC 8.0 or newer; if not, this code won't work):

```
{-# LANGUAGE Strict #-}
```

```
module StrictTest where
```

```
blah x = 1
```

```
main = print (blah undefined)
```

The above will bottom out because `blah` is defined under the module with the `Strict` pragma and will get translated into the following:

```
blah x = x `seq` 1
```

```
-- or with bang patterns
```

```
blah !x = 1
```

So, the `Strict` and `StrictData` pragmas are a means of avoiding noise when everything or almost everything in a module is supposed to be strict. You can use the tilde for irrefutable patterns to recover laziness on a case by case basis:

```
{-# LANGUAGE Strict #-}
```

```
module LazyInHostileTerritory where
```

```
willForce x = 1
```

```
willNotForce ~x = 1
```

Admittedly these are glorified renames of `const`, but it doesn't matter for the purposes of demonstrating what happens. Here's what we'll see in GHCi when we pass them bottom:

```
Prelude> willForce undefined
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
Prelude> willNotForce undefined
1
```

So even when you're using the `Strict` pragma, you can selectively recover laziness when desired.

## 27.12 Adding strictness

Now we shall examine how applying strictness to a datatype and operations we're already familiar with can change how they behave in the presence of bottom through the list type. This is intended to be mostly demonstrative rather than a practical example.

```

module StrictTest1 where

data List a =
    Nil
  | Cons a (List a) deriving Show

sTake :: Int -> List a -> List a
sTake n _
  | n <= 0 = Nil
sTake n Nil = Nil
sTake n (Cons x xs) = (Cons x (sTake (n-1) xs))

twoEls    = Cons 1 (Cons undefined Nil)
oneEl     = sTake 1 twoEls

```

The name of the module here is a bit of a misnomer. `List` here is lazy, just like the built-in `[a]` in the Haskell prelude. Our take derivative named `sTake` is lazy too.

Now let's load up this code in our REPL and test it out:

```

Prelude> twoEls
Cons 1 (Cons *** Exception: Prelude.undefined

Prelude> oneEl
Cons 1 Nil

```

Now let's begin experimenting with what changes in our code's behavior as we add strictness to different parts of our program.

First we're going to add `BangPatterns` so that we have a syntactically convenient way to denote when and where we want strictness:



```

{-# LANGUAGE BangPatterns #-}

module StrictTest2 where

data List a =
    Nil
  | Cons !a (List a) deriving Show

sTake :: Int -> List a -> List a
sTake n _
  | n <= 0 = Nil
sTake n Nil = Nil
sTake n (Cons x xs) = (Cons x (sTake (n-1) xs))

twoEls = Cons 1 (Cons undefined Nil)
oneEl  = sTake 1 twoEls

```

Noting the placement of the exclamation marks denoting strictness, let's run it in GHCi and see if it does what we want:

```

Prelude> twoEls
Cons 1 *** Exception: Prelude.undefined
Prelude> oneEl
Cons 1 Nil

```

```

{-# LANGUAGE BangPatterns #-}

module StrictTest3 where

data List a =
    Nil
  | Cons !a (List a) deriving Show

sTake :: Int -> List a -> List a
sTake n _
  | n <= 0 = Nil
sTake n Nil = Nil
sTake n (Cons x !xs) = (Cons x (sTake (n-1) xs))

twoEls = Cons 1 (Cons undefined Nil)
oneEl  = sTake 1 twoEls

threeElements = Cons 2 twoEls
oneElT       = sTake 1 threeElements

```

We added strictness to the *xs* so that `sTake` is going to force more of the list. Let's see what happens:

```

Prelude> twoEls
Cons 1 *** Exception: Prelude.undefined

Prelude> oneEl
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined

Prelude> threeElements
Cons 2 (Cons 1 *** Exception: Prelude.undefined

Prelude> oneElT
Cons 2 Nil

```

Let's add more strictness:

```
{-# LANGUAGE BangPatterns #-}
```

```
module StrictTest4 where
```

```
data List a =
```

```
    Nil
```

```
  | Cons !a !(List a) deriving Show
```

```
sTake :: Int -> List a -> List a
```

```
sTake n _
```

```
  | n <= 0 = Nil
```

```
sTake n Nil = Nil
```

```
sTake n (Cons x xs) = (Cons x (sTake (n-1) xs))
```

```
twoEls = Cons 1 (Cons undefined Nil)
```

```
oneEl  = sTake 1 twoEls
```

And run it again:

```
Prelude> twoEls
```

```
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```

```
Prelude> oneEl
```

```
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```

So, what's the upshot of our experiments with adding strictness here?

N	Cons	sTake
1	Cons a (List a)	Cons x xs
2	Cons !a (List a)	Cons x xs
3	Cons !a (List a)	Cons x !xs
4	Cons !a !(List a)	Cons x xs

Then the results themselves:

N	twoEls	oneEl
1	Cons 1 (Cons ***	Cons 1 Nil
2	Cons 1 ***	Cons 1 Nil
3	Cons 1 ***	***
4	***	***

You can see clearly what adding strictness in different places does to our evaluation in terms of bottom.

## 27.13 Chapter Exercises

### Strict List

Try putzing around with the following list type and compare what it does with the bang-patterned list variants we experimented with earlier:

```
{-# LANGUAGE Strict #-}

module StrictList where

data List a =
  Nil |
  Cons a (List a)
  deriving (Show)

take' n _      | n <= 0 = Nil
take' _ Nil    = Nil
take' n (Cons x xs) = (Cons x (take' (n-1) xs))

map' _ Nil    = Nil
map' f (Cons x xs) = (Cons (f x) (map' f xs))

repeat' x = xs where xs = (Cons x xs)

main = do
  print $ take' 10 $ map' (+1) (repeat' 1)
```

### What will :sprint output?

We show you a definition or multiple definitions, you determine what :sprint will output when passed the bindings listed in your head before testing it.

1. `let x = 1`

2. `let x = ['1']`
3. `let x = [1]`
4. `let x = 1 :: Int`
5. `let f = \x -> x`  
`let x = f 1`
6. `let f :: Int -> Int; f = \x -> x`  
`let x = f 1`

Will printing this expression result in bottom?

1. `snd (undefined, 1)`
2. `let x = undefined`  
`let y = x `seq` 1 in snd (x, y)`
3. `length $ [1..5] ++ undefined`
4. `length $ [1..5] ++ [undefined]`
5. `const 1 undefined`
6. `const 1 (undefined `seq` 1)`
7. `const undefined 1`

Make the expression bottom

Using only bang patterns or seq, make the code bottom out when executed.

1. `x = undefined`  
`y = "blah"`  
`main = do`  
`print (snd (x, y))`

### 27.14 Follow-up resources

1. The Incomplete Guide to Lazy Evaluation (in Haskell); Heinrich Apfelmus  
<https://hackhands.com/guide-lazy-evaluation-haskell/>
2. Chapter 2. Basic Parallelism: The Eval Monad; Parallel and Concurrent Programming in Haskell; Simon Marlow;  
<http://chimera.labs.oreilly.com/books/1230000000929/ch02.html>
3. Lazy evaluation illustrated for Haskell divers; Takenobu T.;  
[https://takenobu-hs.github.io/downloads/haskell\\_lazy\\_evaluation.pdf](https://takenobu-hs.github.io/downloads/haskell_lazy_evaluation.pdf)
4. Sequence point;  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sequence\\_point](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sequence_point)
5. A Natural Semantics for Lazy Evaluation; John Launchbury
6. An Operational Semantics for Parallel Call-by-Need; Clem Baker-Finch, David King, Jon Hall and Phil Trinder

## Chapter 28

# Basic libraries

Bad programmers worry about the code. Good programmers worry about data structures and their relationships.

---

Linus Torvalds

## 28.1 Basic libraries and data structures

Data structures are kind of important. Insofar as computers are fast, they aren't getting much faster — at least, the CPU isn't. This is usually a lead-in for a parallelism/concurrency sales pitch. But this isn't that book.

The data structures you choose to represent your problem affect the speed and memory involved in processing your data, perhaps to a larger extent than is immediately obvious. At the level of your program, making the right decision about how to represent your data is the first important step to writing efficient programs. In fact, your choice of data structure can affect whether it's worthwhile or even makes sense to attempt to parallelize something.

This chapter is here to help you make the decision of the optimal data structures for your programs. We can't prescribe one or the other of similar data structures because how effective they are will depend a lot on what you're trying to do. So, our first step will be to give you tools to measure for yourself how different structures will perform in your context. We'll also cover some of the mistakes that can cause your memory usage and time to evaluate to explode.

This chapter will

- demonstrate how to measure the usage of time and space in your programs;
- offer guidelines on when weak head normal form or normal form are appropriate when benchmarking code;
- define constant applicative forms and explain argument saturation;
- demonstrate and critically evaluate when to use different data structures in different circumstances;
- sacrifice some jargon for the jargon gods.

We're going to kick this chapter off with some benchmarking.

## 28.2 Benchmarking with Criterion

It's a common enough thing to want to know how fast our code is. If you can't benchmark properly, then you can't know if you used six



microseconds or only five, and can only ask yourself, “Well, do I feel lucky?”

Well, do ya, punk?

If you’d rather not trust your performance to guesswork, the best way to measure performance is to sample many times in order to establish a confidence interval. Fortunately, that work has already been done for us in the wonderful library *criterion*<sup>1</sup> by Bryan O’Sullivan.

This is not the first library of his we’ve mentioned in this book. Mr. O’Sullivan is also the author of *text*<sup>2</sup> (of the Text type), *aeson*<sup>3</sup>, *attoparsec*<sup>4</sup>, and *wreq*<sup>5</sup>.

As it happens, *criterion* comes with a pretty nice tutorial<sup>6</sup>, but we’ll still work through an example so you can follow along with this chapter. In our toy program here, we’re looking to write a total version of (!!) which returns Maybe to make the bottoms unnecessary. When you compile code for benchmarking, make sure you’re using -O or -O2 in the build flags to GHC. Those can be specified by running GHC manually:

```
-- with stack
$ stack ghc -- -O2 bench.hs
```

```
-- without stack
$ ghc -O2 bench.hs
```

Or via the Cabal setting ghc-options<sup>7</sup>.

Let’s get our module set up:

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://hackage.haskell.org/package/criterion>

<sup>2</sup> <http://hackage.haskell.org/package/text>

<sup>3</sup> <http://hackage.haskell.org/package/aeson>

<sup>4</sup> <http://hackage.haskell.org/package/attoparsec>

<sup>5</sup> <http://hackage.haskell.org/package/wreq>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.serpentine.com/criterion/tutorial.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.haskell.org/cabal/users-guide/>

```

module Main where

import Criterion.Main

infixl 9 !!
_      !! n | n < 0 = Nothing
[]      !! _      = Nothing
(x:_ ) !! 0       = Just x
(_:xs) !! n       = xs !! (n-1)

myList :: [Int]
myList = [1..9999]

main :: IO ()
main = defaultMain
  [ bench "index list 9999"
    $ whnf (myList !!) 9998
  , bench "index list maybe index 9999"
    $ whnf (myList !!?) 9998
  ]

```

Our version of `(!!)` shouldn't have anything too surprising going on. We have declared that it's a left-associating infix operator (`infixl`) with a precedence of 9. We haven't had much reason to talk about the associativity or fixity of operators much since Chapter 2. This is the same associativity and precedence as the normal `(!!)` operator in *base*.

`Criterion.Main` is the convenience module to import from *criterion* if you're just running benchmarks in a `Main` module. Usually you'll have a benchmark stanza in your Cabal file that behaves like an executable. It's also possible to do it as a one-off using Stack:

```

$ stack build criterion
$ stack ghc -- -O2 benchIndex.hs
$ ./benchIndex

```

Our `main` function uses a function from *criterion* called `whnf`. The functions `whnf` and `nf` (also in *criterion*), as you might guess, refer

to *weak head normal form* and `normal form`, respectively. Weak head normal form, as we said before, evaluates to the first data constructor. That means that if your outermost data constructor is a `Maybe`, it's only going to evaluate enough to find out if it's a `Nothing` or a `Just` — if there is a `Just a`, it won't count the cost of evaluating the `a` value.

Using `nf` would mean you wanted to include the cost of fully evaluating the `a` as well as the first data constructor. The key when determining whether you want `whnf` or `nf` is to think about what you're trying to benchmark and if reaching the first data constructor will actually do all the work you're trying to measure or not. We'll talk more about what the difference is here and how to decide which you need in just a bit.

In our case, what we want is to compare two things: the weak head normal form evaluation of the original indexing operator and that of our safe version, applied to the same long list. We only need weak head normal form because `(!!)` and `(!?)` don't return a data constructor until they've done the work already, as we can see by taking a look at the first three cases:

```
_      !! n | n < 0 = Nothing
[]      !! _      = Nothing
(x:_ ) !! 0      = Just x
```

These first three cases aren't reached until you've gone through the list as far as you're going to go. The recursive case below doesn't return a data constructor. Instead, it invokes itself repeatedly until one of the above cases is reached. Evaluating to WHNF cannot and does not pause in a self-invoked recursive case like this:

```
(_:xs) !! n      = xs !! (n-1)
-- Self function call, not yet in weak head.
```

When evaluated to weak head normal form the above will continue until it reaches the index, you reach the element, or you hit the end of the list. Let us consider an example:

```

[1, 2, 3] ?! 2
-- matches final case

(_: [2, 3]) !? 2
  = [2, 3] !? (2-1)
-- not a data constructor, keep going

[2, 3] ?! 1
-- matches final case

(_: [3]) !? 1
  = [3] !? (1-1)
-- not a data constructor, keep going

[3] !? 0
-- matches Just case

(x:[]) !? 0 = Just x
-- We stop at Just

```

In the above, we happen to know  $x$  is 3, but it'll get thunked if it wasn't opportunistically evaluated on construction of the list.

Next, let's look at the types of the following functions:

```

defaultMain :: [Benchmark] -> IO ()

whnf :: (a -> b) -> a -> Benchmarkable
nf :: Control.DeepSeq.NFData b =>
    (a -> b) -> a -> Benchmarkable

```

The reason it wants a function it can apply an argument to is so that the result isn't shared, which we discussed in the previous chapter. We want it to re-perform the work for each sampling in the benchmark results, so this design prevents that sharing. Keep in mind that if you want to use your own datatype with *nf*, which has an *NFData* constraint you will need to provide your own instance. You can find examples in the *deepseq* library on Hackage.

Our goal with this example is to equalize the performance difference between `(!?)` and `(!!)`. In this case, we've derived the implementation of `(!?)` from the Report version of `(!!)`. Here's how it looks in *base*:

```
-- Go to the Data.List docs in `base`,
-- click the source link for (!!)

#ifdef USE_REPORT_PRELUDE
xs !! n | n < 0 = error "Prelude.!!!: negative index"
[] !! _       = error "Prelude.!!!: index too large"
(x:_) !! 0    = x
(_:xs) !! n   = xs !! (n-1)
#else
```

However, after you run the benchmarks, you'll find our version based on the above isn't quite as fast<sup>8</sup>. Fair enough! It turns out that most of the time when there's a Report version as well as a non-Report version of a function in *base*, it's because they found a way to optimize it and make it faster. If we just look down from the `#else`, we can find the version that replaced it:

```
-- negIndex and tooLarge are a bottom
-- and a const bottom respectively.

{-# INLINABLE (!!) #-}
xs !! n
  | n < 0      = negIndex
  | otherwise =
    foldr (\x r k -> case k of
                        0 -> x
                        _ -> r (k-1)) tooLarge xs n
```

The non-Report version is written in terms of `foldr`, which often benefits from the various rewrite rules and optimizations attached

---

<sup>8</sup>Note that if you get weird benchmark results, you'll want to resort to the old programmer's trick of wiping your build. With Stack you'd run `stack clean`, with Cabal it'd be `cabal clean`. Inexplicable things happen sometimes. You shouldn't need to do this regularly, though.

to `foldr` — rules we will not be explaining here at all, sorry. This version also has a pragma letting GHC know it's okay to inline the code of the function where it's used when the cost estimator thinks it's worthwhile to do so. So, let's change our version of this operator to match this version to make use of those same optimizations:

```
infixl 9 !?
{-# INLINABLE (!?) #-}
xs !? n
  | n < 0      = Nothing
  | otherwise =
    foldr (\x r k -> case k of
      0 -> Just x
      _ -> r (k-1)) (const Nothing) xs n
```

If you run this you'll find that...things have not improved. So, what can we do to improve the performance of our operator?

Well, unless you added one already, you'll notice the type signature is missing. If you add a declaration that the number argument is an `Int`, it should now perform the same as the original:

```
infixl 9 !?
{-# INLINABLE (!?) #-}
(!?) :: [a] -> Int -> Maybe a
xs !? n
  | n < 0      = Nothing
  | otherwise =
    foldr (\x r k -> case k of
      0 -> Just x
      _ -> r (k-1)) (const Nothing) xs n
```

Change the function in your module to reflect this and run the benchmark again to check.

The issue was that the version with an inferred type was defaulting the `Num a => a` to `Integer` which compiles to a less efficient version of this code than does one that specifies the type `Int`. The `Int` version will turn into a more primitive, faster loop. You can verify this for yourself by specifying the type `Integer` and re-running the code or comparing the GHC Core output for each version.

### More on `whnf` and `nf`

Let's return now to the question of when we should use `whnf` or `nf`. You want to use `whnf` when the first data constructor is a meaningful indicator of whether the work you're interested in has been done. Consider the simplistic example of a program that is meant to locate some data in a database, say, a person's name and whether there are any known addresses for that person. If it finds any data, it might print that information into a file.

The part you're probably trying to judge the performance of is the lookup function that finds the data and assesses whether it exists, not how fast your computer can print the list of addresses into a file. In that case, what you care about is at the level of weak head normal form, and `whnf` will tell you more precisely how long it is taking to find the data and decide whether you have a `Nothing` or a `Just a`.

On the other hand, if you are interested in measuring the time it takes to print your results, in addition to looking up the data, then you may want to evaluate to normal form. There are times when measuring that makes sense. We'll see some examples shortly.

For now, let us consider each indexing operator, the `(!!)` that exists in *base* and the one we've written that uses `Maybe` instead of `bottoms`.

In the former case, the final result has the type *a*. The function doesn't stop recursing until it either returns `bottom` or the value at that index. In either case, it's done all the work you'd care to measure — traversing the list. Evaluation to WHNF means stopping at your *a* value.

In the latter case with `Maybe`, evaluation to WHNF means stopping at either `Just` or `Nothing`. It won't evaluate the contents of the `Just` data constructor under `whnf`, but it will under `nf`. Either is sufficient for the purposes of the benchmark as, again, we're measuring how quickly this code reaches the value at an index in the list.

Let us consider an example with a few jots and changes:

```

module Main where

import Criterion.Main
import Debug.Trace

myList :: [Int]
myList = trace "myList was evaluated"
          ([1..9999] ++ [undefined])

-- your version of (!?) here

main :: IO ()
main = defaultMain
      [ bench "index list 9999"
        $ whnf (myList !!) 9998
      , bench "index list maybe index 9999"
        $ nf (myList !?) 9999
      ]

```

Notice what we did here. We added an undefined in what will be the index position 9999. With the (!!) operator, we are accessing the index just before that bottom value because there is no outer data constructor (such as Nothing or Just) where we could stop the evaluation. Both whnf and nf will necessarily force that bottom value.

We also modified the whnf to nf for the benchmark of (!?). Now it will evaluate the undefined it found at that index under the bottom in the first run of the benchmark and fail:

```

benchmarking index list maybe index 9999
criterion1: Prelude.undefined

```

A function value that returned bottom instead of a data constructor would've also acted as a stopping point for WHNF. Consider the following:

```

Prelude> (Just undefined) `seq` 1
1
Prelude> (\_ -> undefined) `seq` 1
1

```



```
Prelude> ((\_ -> Just undefined) 0) `seq` 1
1
Prelude> ((\_ -> undefined) 0) `seq` 1
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```

Much of the time, `whnf` is going to cover the thing you're trying to benchmark.

### Making the case for `nf`

Let us now look at an example of when `whnf` isn't sufficient for benchmarking, something that uses guarded recursion, unlike `(!!)`:

```
module Main where

import Criterion.Main

myList :: [Int]
myList = [1..9999]

main :: IO ()
main = defaultMain
  [ bench "map list 9999" $ whnf (map (+1)) myList
  ]
```

The above is an example of *guarded recursion* because a data constructor is interposed between each recursion step. The data constructor is the `cons` cell when we're talking about `map`. Guarded recursion lets us consume the recursion steps up to weak head normal form incrementally on demand.

Importantly, `foldr` can be used to implement guarded and unguarded recursion, depending *entirely* on what the folding function does rather than any special provision made by `foldr` itself. So what happens when we benchmark this?

```
Linking bin/bench ...
time                8.844 ns   (8.670 ns .. 9.033 ns)
                   0.998 R²   (0.997 R² .. 1.000 R²)
mean                8.647 ns   (8.567 ns .. 8.751 ns)
```

```
std dev          293.3 ps  (214.7 ps .. 412.9 ps)
variance introduced by outliers: 57% (severely inflated)
```

Well, that's suspect. Does it really take 8.8 nanoseconds to traverse a 10,000 element linked list in Haskell? We just saw an example of how long it should take, roughly. This is an example of our benchmark being too lazy. The issue is that `map` uses guarded recursion and the cons cells of the list are interposed between each recursion of `map`. You may recall this from the lists and folds chapters. So, it ends up evaluating only this far:

```
(_ : _)
```

Ah, that first data constructor. It has neither done the work of incrementing the value nor has it traversed the rest of the list. It's just sitting there at the first cons cell. Using bottoms, you can progressively prove to yourself what `whnf` is evaluating by replacing things and re-running the benchmark:

```
-- is it applying (+1)?
myList = (undefined : [2..9999])

-- Is it going any further in the list?
myList :: [Int]
myList = (undefined : undefined)

-- This should s'plode because it'll be looking
-- for that first data constructor or (->) to stop at
myList :: [Int]
myList = undefined
```

No matter, we can fix this!

```
-- change this bit
whnf (map (+1)) myList

-- into:
nf (map (+1)) myList
```

Then we get:

time	122.5 $\mu$ s	(121.7 $\mu$ s .. 123.9 $\mu$ s)
	0.999 $R^2$	(0.998 $R^2$ .. 1.000 $R^2$ )
mean	123.0 $\mu$ s	(122.0 $\mu$ s .. 125.6 $\mu$ s)
std dev	5.404 $\mu$ s	(2.806 $\mu$ s .. 9.323 $\mu$ s)

That is considerably more realistic considering we’ve evaluated the construction of a whole new list. This is slower than the indexing operation because we’re not just kicking a new value out, we’re also constructing a new list.

In general when deciding between `whnf` and `nf`, ask yourself, “when I have reached the first data constructor, have I done most or all of the work that matters?” Be careful not to use `nf` too much. If you have a function that returns a nontrivial data structure or collection for which it’s already done all the work to produce, `nf` will make your code look excessively slow and lead you on a wild goose chase.

### 28.3 Profiling your programs

We’re going to do our best to convey what you should know about profiling programs with GHC and what we think is conceptually less well covered, but we aren’t going to presume to replace the GHC User Guide. We strongly recommend you read the guide<sup>9</sup> for more information.

#### Profiling time usage

Sometimes rather than seeing how *fast* our programs are, we want to know why they’re slow or fast and where they’re spending their time. To that end, we use profiling. First, let’s put together a simple example for motivating this:

<sup>9</sup>[https://downloads.haskell.org/~ghc/latest/docs/html/users\\_guide/profiling.html](https://downloads.haskell.org/~ghc/latest/docs/html/users_guide/profiling.html)

```
-- profilingTime.hs
module Main where

f :: IO ()
f = do
  print ([1..] !! 999999)
  putStrLn "f"

g :: IO ()
g = do
  print ([1..] !! 9999999)
  putStrLn "g"

main :: IO ()
main = do
  f
  g
```

Given that we traverse 10 times as much list in the case of *g*, we believe we should see something like 10 times as much CPU time spent in *g*. We can do the following to determine if that's the case:

```
$ stack ghc -- -prof -fprof-auto -rtsopts -O2 profile.hs
./profile +RTS -P
cat profile.prof
```

Breaking down what each flag does:

1. `-prof` enables profiling. Profiling isn't enabled by default because it can lead to slower programs but this generally isn't an issue when you're investigating the performance of your programs. Used alone, `-prof` will require you to annotate "cost centres" manually, places for GHC to mark for keeping track of how much time is spent evaluating something.
2. `-fprof-auto` assigns all bindings not marked inline a cost center named after the binding. This is fine for little stuff or otherwise not terribly performance-sensitive stuff, but if you're dealing with a large program or one sensitive to perturbations from

profiling, it may be better to not use this and instead assign your “SCCs” manually. SCC is what the GHC documentation calls a cost center.

3. `-rtsops` enables you to pass GHC RTS options to the generated binary. This is optional so you can get a smaller binary if desired. We need this to tell our program to dump the profile to the `.prof` file named after our program.
4. `-o2` enables the highest level of program optimizations. This is wise if you care about performance but `-o` by itself also enables optimizations, albeit somewhat less aggressive ones. Either option can make sense when benchmarking; it’s a case by case thing, but most Haskell programmers feel pretty free to default to `-o2`.

After examining the `.prof` file which contains the profiler output, this is roughly what we’ll see:

```
Sun Feb 14 21:34 2016
Time and Allocation Profiling Report (Final)

profile +RTS -P -RTS

total time =          0.22 secs
(217 ticks @ 1000 us, 1 processor)
total alloc = 792,056,016 bytes
(excludes profiling overheads)

COST CENTRE MODULE %time %alloc ticks bytes
g           Main    91.2  90.9 198   720004344
f           Main     8.8   9.1  19    72012568

...later noise snipped,
we care about the above...
```

And indeed, 91.2% time spent in `g`, 8.8% time spent in `f` would seem to validate our hypothesis here.

Time isn't the only thing we can profile. We'd also like to know about the space (or memory) different parts of our program are responsible for using.

### Profiling heap usage

We have measured time; now we shall measure space. Well, memory anyway; we're not astrophysicists.<sup>10</sup> We're going to keep this quick and boring so that we might be able to get to the good stuff:

```
module Main where

import Control.Monad

blah :: [Integer]
blah = [1..1000]

main :: IO ()
main =
    replicateM_ 10000 (print blah)

ghc -prof -fprof-auto -rtsopts -O2 loci.hs
./loci +RTS -hc -p
hp2ps loci.hp
```

If you open the `loci.ps` postscript file with your PDF reader of choice, you'll see how much memory the program used over the time the program ran. Note that you'll need the program to run a minimum amount of time for the profiler to get any samples of the heap size.

## 28.4 Constant applicative forms

When we're talking about memory usage and sharing in Haskell, we have to also talk about CAFs: constant applicative forms. CAFs are expressions that have no free variables and are held in memory to be shared with all other expressions in a module. They can be literal

---

<sup>10</sup>Maybe you are, but we're not. If you're an astrophysicist, please email us as we think we messed something up and can't collapse the wormhole.

values or partially-applied functions, as long as the arguments to the function aren't named arguments.

We're going to construct a very large CAF here. Notice we are mapping over an infinite list and want to know how much memory this uses. You might consider betting on "a lot":

```
module Main where

incdInts :: [Integer]
incdInts = map (+1) [1..]

main :: IO ()
main = do
    print (incdInts !! 1000)
    print (incdInts !! 9001)
    print (incdInts !! 90010)
    print (incdInts !! 9001000)
    print (incdInts !! 9501000)
    print (incdInts !! 9901000)
```

Now we can profile that:

```
Thu Jan 21 23:25 2016
Time and Allocation Profiling Report (Final)
```

```
cafSaturation +RTS -p -RTS
total time =      0.28 secs
(283 ticks @ 1000 us, 1 processor)
total alloc = 1,440,216,712 bytes
(excludes profiling overheads)
```

COST CENTRE	MODULE	%time	%alloc
incdInts	Main	90.1	100.0
main	Main	9.9	0.0

-- some irrelevant bits elided

COST CENTRE	MODULE	no. entries	%time	%alloc
MAIN	MAIN	45 0	0.0	0.0
CAF	Main	89 0	0.0	0.0

<code>incdInts</code>	<code>Main</code>	<code>91</code>	<code>1</code>	<code>90.1</code>	<code>100.0</code>
<code>main</code>	<code>Main</code>	<code>90</code>	<code>1</code>	<code>9.9</code>	<code>0.0</code>

Note how `incdInts` is its own constant applicative form (CAF) here apart from `main`. And notice the size of that memory allocation. It's because that mapping over an infinite list is a top-level value that can be shared throughout a module, so it must be evaluated and the results held in memory in order to be shared.

CAFs include

- values;
- partially applied functions with named arguments;
- fully applied functions such as `incdInts` above, although that would be rare in real code.

CAFs can make some programs faster since you don't have to keep re-evaluating shared values; however, CAFs can become memory-intensive quite quickly. The important takeaway is that, if you find your program using much more memory than you expected, find the golden CAF and kill it.

Fortunately, CAFs mostly occur in toy code. Real world code is usually pulling the data from somewhere, which avoids the problem of holding large amounts of data in memory.

Let's look at a way to avoid creating a CAF by introducing a dummy anonymous argument into our `incdInts` example:



```
module Main where
```

```
-- Avoid creating CAF
incdInts :: a -> [Integer]
incdInts _ = map (+1) [1..]
```

```
main :: IO ()
main = do
    print (incdInts 0 !! 1000)
    print (incdInts 0 !! 9001)
    print (incdInts 0 !! 90010)
    print (incdInts 0 !! 9001000)
    print (incdInts 0 !! 9501000)
    print (incdInts 0 !! 9901000)
```

Thu Jan 21 23:54 2016

Time and Allocation Profiling Report (Final)

cafSaturation +RTS -p -RTS

total time = 0.93 secs  
 (931 ticks @ 1000 us, 1 processor)  
 total alloc = 4,560,544,472 bytes  
 (excludes profiling overheads)

COST	CENTRE	MODULE	%time	%alloc
------	--------	--------	-------	--------

incdInts	Main		92.6	100.0
main	Main		7.4	0.0

-- bits elided

COST	CENTRE	MODULE	no.	entries	%time	%alloc
------	--------	--------	-----	---------	-------	--------

MAIN	MAIN	45	0		0.0	0.0
CAF	Main	89	0		0.0	0.0
main	Main	90	1		7.4	0.0
incdInts	Main	91	6		92.6	100.0

Pointfree top-level declarations will be CAFs, but pointful ones

will not. We'd discussed this to some degree in the previous chapter as well. The reason the difference matters is often not because of the total allocation reported by the profile which is often misleading anyway. Rather it's important because lists are as much control structures as data structures and it's *very* cheap in GHC to construct a list which is thrown away immediately. Doing so might increase how much memory you allocate *in total*, but unlike a CAF, it won't stay in your heap which may lead to lower peak memory usage and the runtime spending less time collecting garbage.

Here's another, somewhat more realistic, way to go about avoiding creating a CAF:

```
module Main where
```

```
-- not a CAF
```

```
incdInts :: [Integer] -> [Integer]
```

```
incdInts x = map (+1) x
```

```
main :: IO ()
```

```
main = do
```

```
  print (incdInts [1..] !! 1000)
```

If you examine the profile:

```
CAF
```

```
main
```

```
  incdInts
```

Indeed, this is not a stand-alone CAF. But what if we eta-reduce it (that is, remove its named arguments) so that it is pointfree?

```
module Main where
```

```
-- Gonna be a CAF this time.
```

```
incdInts :: [Integer] -> [Integer]
```

```
incdInts = map (+1)
```

```
main :: IO ()
```

```
main = do
```

```
  print (incdInts [1..] !! 1000)
```

This time when you look at the profile, it'll be its own CAF:

```
CAF
  incdInts
  main
    incdInts
```

GREAT SCOTT

It doesn't really change the performance for something so trivial, but you get the idea. The big difference between the two is in the heap profiles. Check them and you will likely see what we mean.

## 28.5 Map

We're going to start our exploration of data structures with Map, but it's worth pointing out here that most of the structures we'll look at are, in some sense, replacements for the lists we have depended on throughout the book. Lists and strings are useful for a lot of things, but they're not always the most performant or even the most useful way to structure your data. What is the most performant or useful for any given program can vary, so we can't give a blanket recommendation that you should always use any one of the structures we're going to talk about. You have to judge that based on what problems you're trying to solve and use benchmarking and profiling tools to help you fine tune the performance.

Most of the data structures we'll be looking at are in the *containers*<sup>11</sup> library. If you build it, Map will come. And also Sequence and Set and some other goodies. You'll notice a lot of the data structures have a similar API, but each are designed for different sets of circumstances.

We've used the Map type before to represent associations of unique pairings of keys to values. You may remember it from the Testing chapter in particular, where we used it to look up Morse code translations of alphabetic characters. Those were fun times, so carefree and innocent.

The structure of the Map type looks like this:

---

<sup>11</sup><http://hackage.haskell.org/package/containers>

```
data Map k a
  = Bin {-# UNPACK #-} !Size !k a !(Map k a) !(Map k a)
  | Tip
```

```
type Size = Int
```

You may recognize the exclamation marks denoting strictness from the sections on bang patterns in the previous chapter. `Tip` is a data constructor for capping off the branch of a tree.

If you'd like to find out about the unpacking of strict fields, which is what the `UNPACK` pragma<sup>12</sup> is for, see the GHC documentation<sup>12</sup> for more information.

### What's something that's faster with `Map`?

Well, lookups by key in particular are what it's used for. Consider the following comparison of an association list and `Data.Map`:

```
module Main where

import Criterion.Main
import qualified Data.Map as M

genList :: Int -> [(String, Int)]
genList n = go n []
  where go 0 xs = ("0", 0) : xs
        go n' xs = go (n' - 1) ((show n', n') : xs)

pairList :: [(String, Int)]
pairList = genList 9001
```

---

<sup>12</sup>[https://downloads.haskell.org/~ghc/latest/docs/html/users\\_guide/pragmas.html#unpack-pragma](https://downloads.haskell.org/~ghc/latest/docs/html/users_guide/pragmas.html#unpack-pragma)

```
testMap :: M.Map String Int
testMap = M.fromList pairList

main :: IO ()
main = defaultMain
  [ bench "lookup one thing, list" $
    whnf (lookup "doesntExist") pairList
  , bench "lookup one thing, map" $
    whnf (M.lookup "doesntExist") testMap
  ]
```

Association lists such as `pairList` are fine if you need something cheap and cheerful for a very small series of pairs, but you're better off using `Map` by default when you have keys and values. You get a handy set of baked-in functions for looking things up and an efficient means of doing so. Insert operations also benefit from being able to find the existing key-value pair in `Map` more quickly than in association lists.

### What's slower with Map?

Using an `Int` as your key type is usually a sign you'd be better off with a `HashMap`, `IntMap`, or `Vector`, depending on the semantics of your problem. If you need good memory density and locality — which will make aggregating and reading values of a large `Vector` faster, then `Map` *might* be inappropriate and you'll want `Vector` instead.

## 28.6 Set

This is also in *containers*. It's like a `Map`, but without the 'value' part of the 'key, value' pair. You may be asking yourself, why do I just want keys?

When we use `Map`, it has an `Ord` constraint on the functions to ensure the keys are in order. That is one of the things that makes lookups in `Map` particularly efficient. Knowing that the keys will be ordered divides the problem-space up by halves: if we're looking for the key 5 in a set of keys from 1-10, we don't have to search in the first half of the set because those numbers are less than 5. `Set`, like `Map`, is structured associatively, not linearly.

Functions with `Set` have the same `Ord` constraint, but now we don't have key-value pairs — we just have keys. Another way to think of it is the keys are now the values. That means that `Set` represents a unique, ordered set of values.

Here is the datatype for `Set`:

```
data Set a
  = Bin {-# UNPACK #-} !Size !a !(Set a) !(Set a)
  | Tip
```

```
type Size = Int
```

It's effectively equivalent to a `Map` type with unit values.

```

module Main where

import Criterion.Main
import qualified Data.Map as M
import qualified Data.Set as S

bumpIt (i, v) = (i + 1, v + 1)

m :: M.Map Int Int
m = M.fromList $ take 10000 stream
  where stream = iterate bumpIt (0, 0)

s :: S.Set Int
s = S.fromList $ take 10000 stream
  where stream = iterate (+1) 0

membersMap :: Int -> Bool
membersMap i = M.member i m

membersSet :: Int -> Bool
membersSet i = S.member i s

main :: IO ()
main = defaultMain
  [ bench "member check map" $
    whnf membersMap 9999
  , bench "member check set" $
    whnf membersSet 9999
  ]

```

If you benchmark the above, you should get very similar results for both, with Map perhaps being just a smidgen slower than Set. They're similar because they're nearly identical data structures in the *containers* library.

There's not much more to say. It has the same pros and cons<sup>13</sup> as Map, with the same performance of the core operations, save that

---

<sup>13</sup>HA HA GET IT?!

you're more limited.

### Exercise: Benchmark Practice

Make a benchmark to prove for yourself if Map and Set have similar performance or not.

## 28.7 Sequence

Sequence is a nifty datatype built atop finger trees; we aren't going to address finger trees in this book, unfortunately, but we encourage you to check them out.<sup>14</sup> Sequence appends cheaply on the front and the back, which avoids a common problem with lists where you can only cons to the front cheaply.

Here is the datatype for Sequence:

```
newtype Seq a = Seq (FingerTree (Elem a))

-- Elem is so elements and nodes can be
-- distinguished in the types of the
-- implementation. Don't sweat it.
newtype Elem a = Elem { getElem :: a }

data FingerTree a
  = Empty
  | Single a
  | Deep {-# UNPACK #-} !Int !(Digit a)
    (FingerTree (Node a)) !(Digit a)
```

### What's faster with Sequence?

Updates (cons and append) to both ends of the data structure and concatenation are what Sequence is particularly known for. You won't want to resort to using Sequence by default though, as the list type is often competitive. Sequence will have more efficient access to the tail than a list will. Here's an example where Sequence does better because the list is a bit big:

<sup>14</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finger\\_tree](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finger_tree)



```
module Main where

import Criterion.Main
import qualified Data.Sequence as S

lists :: [[Int]]
lists = replicate 10 [1..100000]

seqs :: [S.Seq Int]
seqs = replicate 10 (S.fromList [1..100000])

main :: IO ()
main = defaultMain
  [ bench "concatenate lists" $
    nf mconcat lists
  , bench "concatenate sequences" $
    nf mconcat seqs
  ]
```

Note that in the above, a substantial amount of the time in the benchmark is spent traversing the data structure because we're evaluating to normal form to ensure all the work is done. Incidentally, this accentuates the difference between List and Sequence because it's faster to index or traverse a sequence than a list. Consider the following:

```

module Main where

import Criterion.Main
import qualified Data.Sequence as S

lists :: [Int]
lists = [1..100000]

seqs :: S.Seq Int
seqs = S.fromList [1..100000]

main :: IO ()
main = defaultMain
    [ bench "indexing list" $
      whnf (\xs -> xs !! 9001) lists
    , bench "indexing sequence" $
      whnf (flip S.index 9001) seqs
    ]

```

The difference between list and sequence in the above when we ran the benchmark was two *orders of magnitude*.

### What's slower with Sequence?

Sequence is a persistent data structure like Map, so the memory density isn't as good as it is with Vector (we're getting there). Indexing by Int will be faster with Vector as well. List will be faster with consing and concatenation in some cases, if the lists are small. When you know you need cheap appending to the end of a long list, it's worth giving Sequence a try, but it's better to base the final decision on benchmarking data if performance matters.

## 28.8 Vector

The next data structure we're going to look at is not in *containers*. It's in its own library called, unsurprisingly, *vector*<sup>15</sup>. You'll notice it says vectors are “efficient arrays.” We're not going to look at arrays, or

<sup>15</sup><https://hackage.haskell.org/package/vector>

Haskell’s `Array` type, specifically here, though you may already be familiar with the idea.

One rarely uses arrays, or more specifically, `Array`<sup>16</sup> in Haskell. `Vector` is almost always what you want instead of an array. The default `Vector` type is implemented as a slice wrapper of `Array`; we can see this in the definition of the datatype:

```
-- | Boxed vectors, supporting efficient slicing.
data Vector a = Vector {-# UNPACK #-} !Int
                    {-# UNPACK #-} !Int
                    {-# UNPACK #-} !(Array a)
    deriving ( Typeable )
```

There are many variants of `Vector`, although we won’t discuss them all here. These include boxed, unboxed, immutable, mutable, and storable vectors, but the plain version above is the usual one you’d use. We’ll talk about mutable vectors in their own section. “Boxed” means the vector can reference any datatype you want; “unboxed” represents raw values without pointer indirection.<sup>17</sup> The latter can save a lot of memory but is limited to types like `Bool`, `Char`, `Double`, `Float`, `Int`, `Word`, tuples of unboxable values, and the various sizes of `Int` and `Word`. Since a newtype is unlifted and doesn’t introduce any pointer indirection, you can unbox any newtype that contains an unboxable type.

### When does one want a `Vector` in Haskell?

You want a `Vector` when

- you need memory efficiency close to the theoretical maximum for the data you are working with;
- your data access is almost exclusively in terms of indexing via an `Int` value;
- you want uniform access times for accessing each element in the data structure; and/or,

<sup>16</sup><http://hackage.haskell.org/package/array>

<sup>17</sup> This book isn’t really the right place to talk about what pointers are in detail. Briefly, they are references to things in memory, rather than the things themselves.

- you will construct a `Vector` once and read it many times (alternatively, you plan to use a mutable vector for ongoing, efficient updates).

### What's this about slicing?

Remember this line from the definition of `Vector`?

```
-- | Boxed vectors, supporting efficient slicing.
```

“Slicing” refers to slicing off a portion, or creating a sub-array. The `Vector` type is designed for making slicing much cheaper than it otherwise would be. Consider the following:

```
module Main where

import Criterion.Main
import qualified Data.Vector as V

slice :: Int -> Int -> [a] -> [a]
slice from to xs =
    take (to - from + 1) (drop from xs)

l :: [Int]
l = [1..1000]

v :: V.Vector Int
v = V.fromList [1..1000]

main :: IO ()
main = defaultMain
    [ bench "slicing list" $
      whnf (head . slice 100 900) l
    , bench "slicing vector" $
      whnf (V.head . V.slice 100 900) v
    ]
```

If you run this benchmark, `Vector` should be 20-30 times faster than `list`. Why? Because when we constructed that new `Vector` with `v.slice`, all it had to do was the following:

```
-- from Data.Vector

instance G.Vector Vector a where
  -- other methods elided
  {-# INLINE basicUnsafeSlice #-}
  basicUnsafeSlice j n (Vector i _ arr) =
    Vector (i+j) n arr
```

What makes Vector nicer than lists and Array in this respect is that when you construct a slice or “view” of another Vector, it doesn’t have to construct as much new data. It returns a new wrapper around the original underlying array with a new index and offset with a reference to the same original Array. Doing the same with an ordinary Array or a list would’ve required copying more data. Speed comes from being sneaky and skipping work.

## Updating vectors

Persistent vectors are not great at handling updates on an ongoing basis, but there are some situations in which they can surprise you. One such case is fusion<sup>18</sup>. Fusion, or loop fusion, means that as an optimization the compiler can fuse several loops into one megaloop and do it in one pass:

---

<sup>18</sup>Stream Fusion; Duncan Coutts; <http://code.haskell.org/~dons/papers/icfp088-coutts.pdf>

```

module Main where

import Criterion.Main
import qualified Data.Vector as V

testV' :: Int -> V.Vector Int
testV' n =
    V.map (+n) $ V.map (+n) $
        V.map (+n) $ V.map (+n)
            (V.fromList [1..10000])

testV :: Int -> V.Vector Int
testV n =
    V.map ( (+n) . (+n)
          . (+n) . (+n) ) (V.fromList [1..10000])

main :: IO ()
main = defaultMain
    [ bench "vector map prefused" $
        whnf testV 9998
    , bench "vector map will be fused" $
        whnf testV' 9998
    ]

```

The *vector* library has loop fusion built in, so in a lot of cases, such as with mapping, you won't construct 4 vectors just because you mapped four times. Through the use of GHC RULES<sup>19</sup> the code in *testV'* will change into what you see in *testV*. It's worth noting that part of the reason this optimization is sound is because we know what code performs effects and what does not because we have types.

However, loop fusion isn't a panacea and there will be situations where you really just want to change one element at a time, selectively. Let's consider more efficient ways of updating vectors. We're going to use the (*//*) operator from the *vector* library here. It's a batch update operator that allows you to modify several elements of the vector at one time:

<sup>19</sup>[https://wiki.haskell.org/GHC/Using\\_rules](https://wiki.haskell.org/GHC/Using_rules)

```

module Main where

import Criterion.Main
import Data.Vector (())
import qualified Data.Vector as V

vec :: V.Vector Int
vec = V.fromList [1..10000]

slow :: Int -> V.Vector Int
slow n = go n vec
  where go 0 v = v
        go n v = go (n-1) (v // [(n, 0)])

batchList :: Int -> V.Vector Int
batchList n = vec // updates
  where updates = fmap (\n -> (n, 0)) [0..n]

main :: IO ()
main = defaultMain
  [ bench "slow" $ whnf slow 9998
  , bench "batch list" $ whnf batchList 9998
  ]

```

The issue with the first example is that we're using a batch API... but not in batch. It's much cheaper (500–1000x in our tests) to construct the list of updates all at once and then feed them to the `(//)` function. We can make it even faster still by using the update function that uses a vector of updates:

```

batchVector :: Int -> V.Vector Int
batchVector n = V.unsafeUpdate vec updates
  where updates = fmap (\n -> (n, 0)) (V.fromList [0..n])

```

Benchmarking this version should get you code that is about 1.4x faster. But we're greedy. So we want more.

## Mutable Vectors

“Moria! Moria! Wonder of the Northern world. Too deep we delved there, and woke the nameless fear.” — Glóin, The Fellowship of the Ring

What if we want something even faster? Although many people don’t realize this about Haskell, we can obtain the benefits of in-place updates if we so desire. What sets Haskell apart is that we cannot do so in a way that compromises referential transparency or the nice equational properties our expressions have. First we’ll demonstrate how to do this, then we’ll talk about how this is designed to behave predictably.

Here comes an example:

```
module Main where

import Control.Monad.Primitive
import Control.Monad.ST
import Criterion.Main
import qualified Data.Vector as V
import qualified Data.Vector.Mutable as MV
import qualified Data.Vector.Generic.Mutable as GM

mutableUpdateIO :: Int -> IO (MV.MVector RealWorld Int)
mutableUpdateIO n = do
    mvec <- GM.new (n+1)
    go n mvec
    where go 0 v = return v
          go n v = (MV.write v n 0) >> go (n-1) v

mutableUpdateST :: Int -> V.Vector Int
mutableUpdateST n = runST $ do
    mvec <- GM.new (n+1)
    go n mvec
    where go 0 v = V.freeze v
          go n v = (MV.write v n 0) >> go (n-1) v
```



```

main :: IO ()
main = defaultMain
  [ bench "mutable IO vector"
    $ whnfIO (mutableUpdateIO 9998)
  , bench "mutable ST vector"
    $ whnf mutableUpdateST 9998
  ]

```

We're going to talk about `runST` shortly. For the moment, let's concentrate on the fact that the mutable IO version is approximately 7,000x faster than the original unbatched loop in our tests. The ST version is about 1.5x slower than the IO version, but still very fast. The added time in the ST version is from freezing the mutable vector into an ordinary vector. We won't explain ST fully here, but, as we'll see, it can be handy when you want to temporarily make something mutable and ensure no mutable references are exposed outside of the ST monad.

Here were the timings we got with the various vector operations on our computer:

Variant	Microseconds
slow	133,600
batchList	244
batchVector	176
mutableUpdateST	32
mutableUpdateIO	19

Notably, most of the performance improvement was from not doing something silly. Don't resort to the use of mutation via IO or ST except where you *know* it's necessary. It's worth noting that given our test involved updating almost 10,000 indices in the vector, we spent an average of 1.9 *nanoseconds* per update when we used mutability and 17.6 ns when we did it in batch with a persistent vector.

### A sidebar on the ST Monad

ST can be thought of as a mutable variant of the strict State monad. From another angle, it could be thought of as IO restricted exclusively to mutation which is guaranteed safe.

Safe how? ST is relying on the principle behind that old philosophical saw about the tree that falls in the forest with no one to see it fall. The idea behind this “morally effect-free” understanding of mutable state was introduced in the paper *Lazy Functional State Threads*.<sup>20</sup> It unfreezes your data, mutates it, then refreezes it so that it can’t mutate anymore. Thus it manages to mutate and still maintain referential transparency.

For ST to work properly, the code that mutates the data must not get reordered by the optimizer or otherwise monkeyed with, much like the code in IO. So there must be something underlying the type which prevents GHC ruining our day. Let us examine the ST type:

```
Prelude> import Control.Monad.ST
Prelude> :info ST
type role ST nominal representational
newtype ST s a = GHC.ST.ST (GHC.ST.STRep s a)
...
Prelude> import GHC.ST
Prelude> :info STRep
type STRep s a =
    GHC.Prim.State# s -> (# GHC.Prim.State# s, a #)
```

There’s a bit of ugliness in here that shouldn’t be too surprising after you’ve seen GHC Core in the previous chapter. What’s important is that *s* is getting its type from the thing you’re mutating, but it has no value-level witness. The State monad here is therefore erasable; it can encapsulate this mutation process and then melt away.

It’s important to understand that *s* isn’t the state you’re mutating. The mutation is a side effect of having entered the *closures* that perform the effect. This strict, unlifted state transformer monad happens to structure your code in a way that preserves the intended order of the computations and their associated effects.

By closures here, we mean lambda expressions. Of course we do, because this whole book is one giant lambda expression under the hood. Entering each lambda performs its effects. The effects of a series of lambdas are not batched, because the ordering is important

---

<sup>20</sup>*Lazy Functional State Threads*; John Launchbury and Simon Peyton Jones

when we're performing effects, as each new expression might depend on the effects of the previous one. The effects are performed and then, if the value that should result from the computation is also going to be used, the value is evaluated.

So what is the *s* type for? Well, while it's all well and good to ask politely that programmers freeze a mutable reference into a persistent, immutable data structure as the final result...you can't count on that. ST enforces it at compile-time by making it so that *s* will never unify with anything outside of the ST Monad. The trick for this is called existential quantification<sup>21</sup>, but having said this won't necessarily mean anything to you right now. But it does prevent you accidentally leaking mutable references to code outside ST, which could then lead to code that does unpredictable things depending on the state of the bits in memory.

Avoid dipping in and out of ST over and over. The thaws and freezes will cost you in situations where it might have been better to just use IO. Batching your mutation is best for performance and code comprehensibility.

### Exercises: Vector

Setup a benchmark harness with Criterion to profile how much memory boxed and unboxed vectors containing the same data uses. You can combine this with a benchmark to give it something to do for a few seconds. We're not giving you a lot because you're going to have to learn to read documentation and source code anyway.

## 28.9 String types

The title is a slight bit of a misnomer as we'll actually talk about two string (or text) types and one type for representing sequences of bytes. Here's a quick run-down on String, Text, and ByteString:

### String

You know what String is. It's a type alias for a list of Char, yet underneath it's not quite as simple as an actual list of Char.

---

<sup>21</sup>Existentially quantified types; Haskell Wikibook  
[https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially\\_quantified\\_types](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types)

One of the benefits of using strings is the simplicity, and they're easy enough to explain. For most demonstration and toy program purposes, they're just fine.

However, like lists themselves, they can be infinite. The memory usage for even very large strings can get out of control rapidly. Furthermore, they have very inefficient character-by-character indexing into the `String`. The time taken to do a lookup increases proportionately with the length of the list.

## Text

This one comes in the `text`<sup>22</sup> library on Hackage. This is best when you have plain text, but need to store the data more efficiently — particularly as it concerns memory usage.

We've used this one a bit in previous chapters, when we were playing with `OverloadedStrings`. The benefits here are that you get:

- compact representation in memory; and
- efficient indexing into the string.

However, `Text` is encoded as UTF-16, and that isn't what most people expect given UTF-8's popularity. In `Text`'s defense, UTF-16 is often faster due to cache friendliness via chunkier and more predictable memory accesses.

## Don't trust your gut, measure

We mentioned `Text` has a more compact memory representation, but what do you think the memory profile for the following program will look up? High first, then low, or low first, then high?

---

<sup>22</sup><http://hackage.haskell.org/package/text>

```
module Main where

import Control.Monad
import qualified Data.Text as T
import qualified Data.Text.IO as TIO
import qualified System.IO as SIO

-- replace "/usr/share/dict/words" as appropriate
dictWords :: IO String
dictWords = SIO.readFile "/usr/share/dict/words"

dictWordsT :: IO T.Text
dictWordsT = TIO.readFile "/usr/share/dict/words"

main :: IO ()
main = do
    replicateM_ 10 (dictWords >>= print)
    replicateM_ 10 (dictWordsT >>= TIO.putStrLn)
```

The issue is that `Text` went ahead and loaded the entire file into memory each of the ten times you forced the IO action. The `readFile` operation for `String`, however, was lazy and only read as much of the file into memory as needed to print the data to `stdout`. The proper way to handle incrementally processing data is with streaming<sup>23</sup>, but this is not something we'll cover in detail in this book. However, there is a *lazy*<sup>24</sup> way we could change this:

---

<sup>23</sup><https://wiki.haskell.org/Pipes>

<sup>24</sup>Hue hue hue.

```

-- Add the following to the module you
-- already made for profiling String and Text.
import qualified Data.Text.Lazy as TL
import qualified Data.Text.Lazy.IO as TLIO

dictWordsTL :: IO TL.Text
dictWordsTL = TLIO.readFile "/usr/share/dict/words"

main :: IO ()
main = do
    replicateM_ 10 (dictWords >=> print)
    replicateM_ 10 (dictWordsT >=> TIO.putStrLn)
    replicateM_ 10 (dictWordsTL >=> TLIO.putStrLn)

```

Now you should see memory usage plummet again after a middle plateau because you're reading in as much text as necessary to print, able to deallocate as you go. This is some, but not all, of the benefits of streaming but we do strongly recommend using streaming rather than relying on a lazy IO API.

## ByteString

This is not actually a string. Or text. Not necessarily anyway. ByteStrings are sequence of bytes represented (indirectly) as a vector of Word8 values. Text on a computer is made up of bytes, but it has to have a particular encoding in order for it to be text. Encodings of text can be ASCII, UTF-8, UTF-16, or UTF-32, usually UTF-8 or UTF-16. The Text type encodes the data as UTF-16, partly for performance. It's often faster to read larger chunks of data at a time from memory, so the 16-bits-per-rune encoding of UTF-16 performs a bit better in most cases.

The main benefit of ByteString is that it's easy to use via the OverloadedStrings pragma but is bytes instead of text. This addresses a larger problem space than mere text.

The flip side of that, of course, is that it encompasses byte data that isn't comprehensible text. That's a drawback if you didn't mean to permit non-text byte sequences in your data.

### ByteString examples

Here's an example highlighting that ByteStrings are not always text:

```
{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}
```

```
module BS where
```

```
import qualified Data.Text.IO as TIO
import qualified Data.Text.Encoding as TE
import qualified Data.ByteString.Lazy as BL
-- https://hackage.haskell.org/package/zlib
import qualified Codec.Compression.GZip as GZip
```

We're going to use the gzip compression format to compress some data. This is so we have an example of data that includes bytes that aren't a valid text encoding.

```
input :: BL.ByteString
input = "123"
```

```
compressed :: BL.ByteString
compressed = GZip.compress input
```

The GZip module expects a lazy bytestring, probably so that it's streaming friendly.

```
main :: IO ()
main = do
    TIO.putStrLn $ TE.decodeUtf8 (s input)
    TIO.putStrLn $ TE.decodeUtf8 (s compressed)
    where s = BL.toStrict
```

The encoding module in the text library expects strict bytestrings, so we have to make them strict before attempting a decoding. The second text decode will fail because there'll be a byte that isn't recognizable as an encoding of text information.

### ByteString traps

You might think to yourself at some point, “I’d like to convert a String to a ByteString!” This is a perfectly reasonable thing to want to do, but many Haskellers will mistakenly use the Char8 module in the ByteString library when that is not really what they want. The Char8 module is really a convenience for data that mingles bytes and ASCII data<sup>25</sup> there. It doesn’t work for Unicode and shouldn’t be used anywhere there’s even a *hint* of possibility that there could be Unicode data. For example:

```
module Char8ProllyNotWhatYouWant where

import qualified Data.Text as T
import qualified Data.Text.Encoding as TE
import qualified Data.ByteString as B
import qualified Data.ByteString.Char8 as B8
-- utf8-string
import qualified Data.ByteString.UTF8 as UTF8

-- Manual unicode encoding of Japanese text
-- GHC Haskell allows UTF8 in source files
s :: String
s = "\12371\12435\12395\12385\12399\12289\
\20803\27671\12391\12377\12363\65311"

utf8ThenPrint :: B.ByteString -> IO ()
utf8ThenPrint =
    putStrLn . T.unpack . TE.decodeUtf8

throwsException :: IO ()
throwsException =
    utf8ThenPrint (B8.pack s)

bytesByWayOfText :: B.ByteString
bytesByWayOfText = TE.encodeUtf8 (T.pack s)
```

<sup>25</sup>Since ASCII is 7 bits and Char8 is 8 bits you could use the eighth bit to represent Latin-1 characters. However, since you will usually intend to convert the Char8 data to encodings like UTF-8 and UTF-16 which use the eighth bit differently that would be unwise.



```
-- letting utf8-string do it for us
libraryDoesTheWork :: B.ByteString
libraryDoesTheWork = UTF8.fromString s

thisWorks :: IO ()
thisWorks = utf8ThenPrint bytesByWayOfText

alsoWorks :: IO ()
alsoWorks = utf8ThenPrint libraryDoesTheWork
```

Then we go to run the code that attempts to get a ByteString via the Char8 module which contains Unicode:

```
Prelude> throwsException
*** Exception: Cannot decode byte '\x93':
    Data.Text.Internal.Encoding.decodeUtf8:
        Invalid UTF-8 stream
```

You can use ord from Data.Char to get the Int value of the byte of a character:

```
Prelude> import Data.Char (ord)
Prelude> :t ord
ord :: Char -> Int
Prelude> ord 'A'
65
Prelude> ord '\12435'
12435
```

The second example seems obvious, but when the data is represented natively on your computer this is more useful. Use non-English websites to get sample data to test.

We can now use the ordering of characters to find the first character that breaks Char8:

```
Prelude> let charSequence = map (:[]) ['A'..'']
Prelude> mapM_ (utf8ThenPrint . B8.pack) charSequence
... bunch of output ...
```

Then to narrow this down, we know we need to find what came after the tilde and the \DEL character:

```
... some trial and error ...
Prelude> mapM_ putStrLn (take 3 $ drop 60 charSequence)
}
~
```

Hrm, okay, but where is this in the ASCII table? We can use the opposite of the `ord` function from `Data.Char`, `chr` to determine this:

```
Prelude> import Data.Char (chr)
Prelude> :t chr
chr :: Int -> Char
Prelude> map chr [0..128]
... prints the first 129 characters ...
```

What it printed corresponds to the ASCII table<sup>26</sup>, which is how UTF8 represents the same characters. Now we can use this function to narrow down precisely what our code fails at:

```
-- works fine
Prelude> utf8ThenPrint (B8.pack [chr 127])

-- fails
Prelude> utf8ThenPrint (B8.pack [chr 128])
*** Exception: Cannot decode byte '\x80':
    Data.Text.Internal.Encoding.decodeUtf8:
        Invalid UTF-8 stream
```

So *don't do this*. This problem isn't exclusive to Haskell — all programming languages must acknowledge the existence of different encodings for text.

**Char8 is bad mmmmmkay** The `Char8` module is *not* for Unicode or for text more generally! The `pack` function it contains is for ASCII data only! This fools programmers because the UTF-8 encoding of the English alphabet with some Latin extension characters intentionally overlaps exactly with the same bytes ASCII uses to encode those characters. So the following will work but is wrong in principle:

<sup>26</sup><https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ASCII>

```
Prelude> utf8ThenPrint (B8.pack "blah")
blah
```

Getting a UTF-8 bytestring via the `text` or `utf8-string` libraries works fine, as you'll see if you take a look at the result of `thisWorks` and `alsoWorks`.

### When would I use `ByteString` instead of `Text` for textual data?

This does happen sometimes, usually because you want to keep data that arrived in a UTF-8 encoding in UTF-8. Often this happens because you read UTF-8 data from a file or network socket and you don't want the overhead of bouncing it into and back out of `Text`. If you do this, you might want to use newtypes to avoid accidentally mixing this data with non-UTF-8 bytestrings.

## 28.10 Chapter Exercises

### Difference List

Lists are really nice, but they don't append or concatenate cheaply. We covered `Sequence` as one potential solution to this, but there's actually a simpler data structure that solves slow appending specifically, the *difference list*!

Rather than justify and explain difference lists, part of the exercise is figuring out what it does and why. Attempt the exercise before resorting to the tutorial in the follow-up reading. First, the `DList` type is built on top of ordinary lists, but it's a function:

```
newtype DList a = DL { unDL :: [a] -> [a] }
```

The API that follows is based on code by Don Stewart and Sean Leather. Here's what you need to write:

1. `empty :: DList a`  
`empty = undefined`  
`{-# INLINE empty #-}`

```

2. singleton :: a -> DList a
   singleton = undefined
   {-# INLINE singleton #-}

3. toList :: DList a -> [a]
   toList = undefined
   {-# INLINE toList #-}

4. -- Prepend a single element to a dlist.
   infixr `cons`
   cons      :: a -> DList a -> DList a
   cons x xs  = DL ((x:) . unDL xs)
   {-# INLINE cons #-}

5. -- Append a single element to a dlist.
   infixl `snoc`
   snoc :: DList a -> a -> DList a
   snoc = undefined
   {-# INLINE snoc #-}

6. -- Append dlists.
   append :: DList a -> DList a -> DList a
   append = undefined
   {-# INLINE append #-}

```

What's so nifty about DLists is that `cons`, `snoc`, and `append` all take the same amount of time no matter how long the dlist is. That is to say, they take a *constant* amount of time rather than growing with the size of the data structure.

Your goal is to get the following benchmark harness running with the performance expected:

```

schlemiel :: Int -> [Int]
schlemiel i = go i []
  where go 0 xs = xs
        go n xs = go (n-1) ([n] ++ xs)

constructDlist :: Int -> [Int]
constructDlist i = toList $ go i empty
  where go 0 xs = xs
        go n xs = go (n-1) (singleton n `append` xs)

main :: IO ()
main = defaultMain
  [ bench "concat list" $ whnf schlemiel 123456
  , bench "concat dlist" $ whnf constructDlist 123456
  ]

```

If you run the above, the DList variant should be about twice as fast.

## A simple queue

We're going to write another data structure in terms of list, but this time it'll be a queue. The main feature of queues is that we can add elements to the front cheaply and take items off the back of the queue cheaply.

*-- From Okasaki's Purely Functional Data Structures*

```

data Queue a =
  Queue { enqueue :: [a]
        , dequeue :: [a]
        } deriving (Eq, Show)

-- adds an item
push :: a -> Queue a -> Queue a
push = undefined

pop :: Queue a -> Maybe (a, Queue a)
pop = undefined

```

We're going to give you less code this time, but your task is to implement the above and write a benchmark comparing it against performing alternating pushes and pops from a queue based on a single list. Alternating so that you can't take advantage of reversing the list after a long series of pushes in order to perform a long series of pops efficiently.

Don't forget to handle the case where the dequeue is empty and you need to shift items from the enqueue to the dequeue. You need to do so without violating "first come, first served".

Lastly, benchmark it against Sequence. Come up with a variety of tests. Add additional operations for your Queue type if you want.

## 28.11 Follow-up resources

1. Criterion tutorial; Bryan O’Sullivan  
<http://www.serpentine.com/criterion/tutorial.html>
2. Demystifying DList; Tom Ellis  
<http://h2.jaguarpcw.co.uk/posts/demystifying-dlist/>
3. Memory Management; GHC; Haskell Wiki  
[https://wiki.haskell.org/GHC/Memory\\_Management](https://wiki.haskell.org/GHC/Memory_Management)
4. Performance; Haskell Wiki  
<https://wiki.haskell.org/Performance>
5. Pragmas, specifically UNPACK; GHC Documentation
6. High Performance Haskell; Johan Tibell  
<http://johantibell.com/files/slides.pdf>
7. Haskell Performance Patterns; Johan Tibell
8. Faster persistent data structures through hashing; Johan Tibell
9. Lazy Functional State Threads; John Launchbury and Simon Peyton Jones
10. Haskell as fast as C; Don Stewart
11. Haskell as fast as C: A case study; Jan Stolarek
12. Haskell FFT 11: Optimisation Part 1; Ian Ross
13. Understanding the RealWorld; Edsko de Vries
14. Stream Fusion; Duncan Coutts  
<http://code.haskell.org/~dons/papers/icfp088-coutts.pdf>
15. Purely functional data structures; Chris Okasaki

## Chapter 29

# IO

In those days, many  
successful projects started out  
as graffitis on a beer mat in a  
very, very smoky pub.

---

Peter J. Landin



## 29.1 IO

You should be proud of yourself for making it this far into the book. You're juggling monads. You've defeated an army of monad transformers. You're comfortable with using algebraic structures in type-class form. You've got a reasonable if casual grasp of graph reduction, non-strictness, and sharing. With those things in hand, let's talk about IO.

We've used the IO type at various times throughout the book, with only cursory explanation. You no doubt know that we use this type in Haskell as a means of keeping our chocolate separate from our peanut butter — that is, our pure functions from our effectful ones. Perhaps you're wondering how it all works, what's underneath that opaque type. To many people, IO seems mysterious.

Most explanations of the IO type in Haskell don't help much, either. They seem designed to confuse the reader rather than convey anything useful. Don't look now, but somebody is writing an explanation of IO right now that uses van Laarhoven Free Monads and costate comonad coalgebras to explain something that's much simpler than either of those topics.

We're not going to do that here. We will instead try to demystify IO a bit. The important thing about IO is that it's a special kind of datatype that inherently disallows certain types of sharing, thus preventing the effects of those functions from percolating throughout your program. You got a taste of this with our short introduction to the ST type in the previous chapter.

In this chapter, we will

- explain how IO works operationally;
- explore what it should mean to you when you read a type that has IO in it;
- provide a bit more detail about the IO Functor, Applicative, and Monad.

## 29.2 Where IO explanations go astray

A lot of explanations of IO are misleading or muddled. We've already alluded to the overwrought and complex explanations of IO. Others

call it “the IO Monad” and seem to equate IO with Monad. While IO is a type that has a Monad instance, it is not only a Monad and monads are not only IO. Still other presentations imply that once you enter IO, you destroy purity and referential transparency. And some references don’t bother to say much about IO because the fact that it remains opaque won’t stop you from doing most of what you want to use it for anyway.

We want to offer some guidance in critically evaluating explanations of IO. Let us consider one of the most popular explanations of IO, the one that attempts to explain IO in terms of State.

### Burn the State to the ground!

The temptation to use State to get someone comfortable with the idea of IO is strong. Give the following passage early in the documentation to `GHC.IO` a gander:

The IO Monad is just an instance of the ST monad, where the state is the real world.

The motivation for these explanations is easy to understand when you look at the underlying types:

```
-- from ghc-prim
import GHC.Prim
import GHC.Types

newtype State s a
  = State {runState :: s -> (a, s)}

-- :info IO
newtype IO a =
  IO (State# RealWorld
      -> (# State# RealWorld, a #))
```

Yep, it sure looks like State! However, this is less meaningful or helpful than you’d think at first.

The issue with this explanation is that you don’t usefully see or interact with the underlying `State#` in IO. It’s not State in the sense

that one uses `State`, `StateT`, or even `ST`, although the behavior of the `s` here is certainly very like that of `ST`.

The `State` here is a signalling mechanism for telling GHC what order your IO actions are in and what a unique IO action is. If we look through the `GHC.Prim` documentation, we see:

`State#` is the primitive, unlifted type of states. It has one type parameter, thus `State# RealWorld`, or `State# s`, where `s` is a type variable. The only purpose of the type parameter is to keep different state threads separate. It is represented by nothing at all.

`RealWorld` is deeply magical. It is primitive, but it is not unlifted (hence `ptrArg`). We never manipulate values of type `RealWorld`; it's only used in the type system, to parameterise `State#`.

When they say that `RealWorld` is “represented by nothing at all,” they mean it literally uses zero bits of memory. The state tokens underlying the IO type are erased during compile time and so add no overhead to your runtime. So the problem with explaining IO in terms of `State` is not precisely that it's wrong; it's that it's not a `State` you can meaningfully interact with or control in the way you'd expect from the other `State` types.

### 29.3 The reason we need this type

So, let's try to move from there to an understanding of IO that is meaningful to us in our day-to-day Haskell-ing. IO primarily exists to give us a way to order operations and to disable some of the sharing that we talked so much about in the chapter on non-strictness.

GHC is ordinarily free to do a lot of reordering of operations, delaying of evaluation, sharing of named values, duplicating code via inlining, and other optimizations in order to increase performance. The main thing the IO type does is turn off most of those abilities.

#### What?

No, really. That's a lot of it.

## Order and chaos

As we’ve seen in the previous chapters, GHC can normally reorder operations. This is disabled in IO (as in ST). IO actions are instead enclosed within nested lambdas — nesting is the only way to ensure that actions are sequenced within a pure lambda calculus.

Nesting lambdas is how we guarantee that this

```
main = do
  putStr  "1"
  putStr  "2"
  putStrLn "3"
```

will output “123” and we want that guarantee. The underlying representation of IO allows the actions to be nested, and therefore sequenced.

When we enter a lambda expression, any effects that need to be performed will be performed first, before any computations are evaluated. Then if there is a computation to evaluate, that may be evaluated next, before we enter the next lambda to perform the next effect and so on. We’ve seen how this plays out in previous chapters; think of the parsers that perform the effect of moving a “cursor” through the text without reducing to any value; also recall what we saw with ST and mutable vectors.

In fact, the reason we have Monad is because it was a means of abstracting away the nested lambda noise that underlies IO.

## 29.4 Sharing

In addition to enforcing ordering, IO turns off a lot of the sharing we talked about in the non-strictness chapter. As we’ll soon see, it doesn’t disable all forms of sharing — it couldn’t, because all Haskell programs have a `main` action with an obligatory IO type. But we’ll get to that in a moment.

For now, let’s turn our attention to what sharing is disabled and why. Usually in Haskell, we’re pretty confident that if a function is going to be evaluated at all, it will result in a value of a certain type, bearing in mind that this could be a `Nothing` value or an empty list. When we declare the type, we say, “if this is evaluated at all, we will have a value of this type as a result.”

But with the IO type, you're not guaranteed anything. Values of type IO *a* are not an *a*; they're a description of how you might get an *a*. A function of type IO String is not a computation that, if evaluated, will result in a String; it's a description of how you might get that String from the "real world," possibly performing effects along the way. Describing IO actions does not perform them, just as having a recipe for a cake does not give you a cake.<sup>1</sup>

In this environment, where you do not have a value but only a means of getting a value, it wouldn't make sense to say that value could be shared.

### The time has come

So, one of the key features of IO is that it turns off sharing. Let's use an example to think of why we want this. We have this library function that gets the current UTC time from the system clock:

```
-- from Data.Time.Clock
getCurrentTime :: IO UTCTime
```

Without IO preventing sharing, how would this work? When you fetched the time once, it would share that result, and the time would be whatever time it was the *first time* you forced it. Unfortunately, this is not a means of stopping time; we would continue to age, but your program wouldn't work at all the way you'd intended.

But if that's so, and it's clearly a value with a name that *could* be shared, why isn't it?

```
getCurrentTime :: IO UTCTime
--                ^-- that right there
```

Remember: what we have here is a description of how we can get the current time when we need it. We do not have the current time yet, so it isn't a value that can be shared, and we don't want it to be shared anyway, because we want it to get a new time each time we run it.

And the way we run it is by defining `main` in that module for the runtime system to find and execute. Everything inside `main` is within

<sup>1</sup> See Brent Yorgey's explanation of IO for the cis194 class at UPenn <http://www.cis.upenn.edu/~cis194/spring13/lectures/08-IO.html>

IO so that everything is nested and sequenced and happens in the order you're expecting.

### Another example

Let's look at another example of IO turning off sharing. You remember the `whnf` and `nf` functions from *criterion* that we used in the last chapter. You may recall that we want to turn off sharing for those so that they get evaluated over and over again; if the result was shared, our benchmarking would only tell us how long it takes to evaluate it once instead of giving us an average of evaluating it many times. The way we disabled sharing for those function is by applying them to arguments.

But the IO variants of those functions do not require this function application in order to disable sharing, because the IO parameter itself disables sharing. Contrast the following types:

```
whnf :: (a -> b) -> a -> Benchmarkable
nf   :: NFData b => (a -> b) -> a -> Benchmarkable

whnfIO :: IO a -> Benchmarkable
nfIO   :: NFData a => IO a -> Benchmarkable
```

The IO variants don't need a function argument to apply because sharing is already prevented by being an IO action — it can be executed over and over without resorting to adding an argument.

As we said earlier, IO doesn't turn off all sharing everywhere; it couldn't, or else sharing would be meaningless because `main` is always in IO. But it's important to understand when sharing will be disabled and why, because if you've got this notion of sharing running around in the back of your head you'll have the wrong intuitions for how Haskell code works. Which then leads to...

### The code! It doesn't work!

We're going to use an example here that takes advantage of the `MVar` type. This is based on a real code event that was how Chris finally learned what IO really means and the example he first used to explain it to Julie.

The MVar type is a means of synchronizing shared data in Haskell. To give a very cursory overview, the MVar can hold one value at a time. You put a value into it; it holds onto it until you take that value out. Then and only then can you put another cat in the box.<sup>2</sup> We cannot really hope to best Simon Marlow's work<sup>3</sup> on this front, so if you want more information about it, we strongly recommend you peruse Marlow's book.

OK, so we'll set up some toy code here with the idea that we want to put a value into an MVar and then take it back out:

```
module WhatHappens where

import Control.Concurrent

myData :: IO (MVar Int)
myData = newEmptyMVar

main :: IO ()
main = do
    mv <- myData
    putMVar mv 0
    mv' <- myData
    zero <- takeMVar mv'
    print zero
```

This will spew an error about being stuck or in a deadlock. The problem here is that the type `IO MVar a` of `newEmptyMVar` is a recipe for producing as many empty MVars as you need or want; it is not a reference to a single, shared MVar. In other words, the two references to `myData` here are not referring to the same MVar.

Taking from an empty MVar blocks until something is put into the MVar. Consider the following ordering:

```
take
put
```

---

<sup>2</sup> What you need is a cat gif. <https://twitter.com/argumatronic/status/631158432859488258>

<sup>3</sup> Parallel & Concurrent Programming in Haskell <http://chimera.labs.oreilly.com/books/12300000000929>

```
take
put
```

That will terminate successfully. An attempt to take a value from the MVar blocked, then a value was put in it, then another blocked take occurred, then there was another put to satisfy the second take. This is fine.

The following is an example of something that will deadlock:

```
put
take
take
```

Whatever part of your program performed the second take will now be blocked until a second put occurs. If your program is designed such that *no* put ever occurs again, it's deadlocked. A deadlock error looks like the following:

```
Prelude> main
*** Exception:
    thread blocked indefinitely in an MVar operation
```

When you see a type like:

### IO String

You don't have a String; you have a means of (possibly) obtaining a String, if you (maybe) perform some effects along the way. Similarly, what happened earlier is that we had *two* MVars with two different lifetimes and that looked something like this:

```
mv      mv'
put     take (the final one)
```

The point here is that this type

### IO (MVar a)

tells you that you have a recipe for producing as many empty MVars as you want, not a reference to a single shared MVar.

You can share the MVar, but it has to be done explicitly rather than implicitly. Failing to explicitly share the MVar reference after



binding it once will simply spew out new, empty MVars. Again, we recommend Simon Marlow's book when you're ready to explore MVars in more detail.

## 29.5 IO doesn't disable sharing for everything

As we mentioned earlier, IO doesn't disable sharing for everything, and it wouldn't really make sense if it did. It only disables sharing for the terminal value it reduces to. Values that are not dependent on IO for their evaluation can still be shared, even within a larger IO action such as `main`.

In the following example, we'll use `Debug.Trace` again to show us when things are being shared. For `blah`, the trace is outside the IO action, so we'll use `outer trace`:

```
import Debug.Trace

blah :: IO String
blah = return "blah"

blah' = trace "outer trace" blah
```

And for `woot`, we'll use `inner trace` inside the IO action:

```
woot :: IO String
woot = return (trace "inner trace" "woot")
```

Then we throw both of them into a larger IO action, `main`:

```
main :: IO ()
main = do
  b <- blah'
  putStrLn b
  putStrLn b
  w <- woot
  putStrLn w
  putStrLn w
```

```
Prelude> main
```

```
outer trace
blah
blah
inner trace
woot
woot
```

We only saw inner and outer emitted once because IO is not intended to disable sharing for values not in IO that happen to be used in the course of running of an IO action.

## 29.6 Purity is losing meaning

It's common at this time to use the words “purely functional” or to talk about *purity* when one means *without effects*. This is inaccurate and not very useful as a definition, but we're going to provide some context here and an alternative understanding.

### Semantically, pedantically accurate

Purity and “pure functional” have undergone a few changes in connotation and denotation since the 1950s. What was originally meant when describing a pure functional programming language is that the semantics of the language would only be lambda calculus. For quite a long time, impure functional languages were more typical. They admitted the augmentation of lambda calculus, usually so that the means to describe imperative, effectful programs was embedded within the semantics. The strength of Haskell is that by sticking to lambda calculus, we not only have a much simpler core language for describing our language, but we retain referential transparency in the language. We use nested lambdas (hidden behind a Monad abstraction) to order and encapsulate effects while maintaining referential transparency.

### Referential transparency

*Referential transparency* is something you are probably familiar with, even if you've never called it that before. Put casually, it means that any function, when given the same inputs, returns the same result.

More precisely, an expression is referentially transparent when it can be replaced with its value without changing the behavior of a program.

One source of the confusion between purity as referential transparency and purity as pure lambda calculus could be that in a pure lambda calculus, referential transparency is assured. Thus, a pure lambda calculus is necessarily pure in the other sense as well.

The mistake people make with IO is that they conflate the effects with the semantics of the program. A function that returns IO a is still referentially transparent, because given the same arguments, it'll generate the same IO action every time! To make this point:

```
module IORefTrans where

import Control.Monad (replicateM)
import System.Random (randomRIO)

gimmeShelter :: Bool -> IO [Int]
gimmeShelter True = replicateM 10 (randomRIO (0, 10))
gimmeShelter False = pure [0]
```

The trick here is to realize that while *executing* IO [Int] can and does produce different literal values when the argument is True, it's still producing the same *result* (i.e., a list of random numbers) for the same input. Referential transparency is preserved because we're still returning the same *IO action*, or “recipe,” for the same argument, the same *means* of obtaining a list of Int. Every True input to this function will return a list of random Ints:

```
Prelude> gimmeShelter True
[1,8,7,9,10,4,2,9,3,6]
Prelude> gimmeShelter True
[10,0,7,1,10,2,4,0,9,3]
Prelude> gimmeShelter False
[0]
```

The sense we're trying to convey here is that as far as Haskell is concerned, it's a language for evaluating expressions and constructing IO actions that get executed by `main` at some point later.

## 29.7 IO's Functor, Applicative, and Monad

Another mistake people make is in implying that IO is a Monad, rather than accounting for the fact that, like all Monads, IO is a datatype that has a Monad instance — as well as Functor and Applicative instances:

`fmap`: construct an action which performs the same effects but transforms the *a* into a *b*:

```
fmap :: (a -> b) -> IO a -> IO b
```

`(<*>)`: construct an action that performs the effects of both the function and value arguments, applying the function to the value:

```
(<*>) :: IO (a -> b) -> IO a -> IO b
```

`join`: merge the effects of a nested IO action:

```
join :: IO (IO a) -> IO a
```

### The IO Functor

What does `fmap` mean with respect to IO? As always, we want an example:

```
fmap (+1) (randomIO :: IO Int)
```

If we're going to get that `Int` value, we will have to perform some effects. What `fmap` does here is lift our incrementing function over the effects that we might perform to obtain the `Int` value. It doesn't affect the effects, because the effects here are part of that IO structure. Using `fmap` here returns a recipe for obtaining an `Int` that also increments the result of the original action that was lifted over.

The key here is that we didn't perform any effects. We produced a new IO action in terms of the old one by transforming the final result of the IO action.

### Applicative and IO

IO also has an Applicative instance, as we mentioned in the Applicative chapter. You might remember an example like this:

```
Prelude> (++) <$> getLine <*> getLine
hello
julie
"hellojulie"
```

There we `fmap`d the concatenation operator over two (potential) IO Strings to produce the final result. Let's look at another, more interesting example:

```
(+) <$> (randomIO :: IO Int) <*> (randomIO :: IO Int)
```

After the initial `fmap`, we have a means of obtaining a function which is monoidally lifted over a means of obtaining an `Int`. What this means is that you'll get a single new means of obtaining the result of having applied the function which performs the effects of both.

## Monad and IO

For IO, `pure` or `return` can be read as an effect-free embedding of a value in a recipe-creating environment, let us consider the following examples.

First, `GHCi` does basically two things: it can print values not in IO, such as these:

```
Prelude> "I'll pile on the candy"
"I'll pile on the candy"
Prelude> 1
1
```

It can also run IO actions and print their results, if any. When you have values of type `IO (IO a)`, what you have is a recipe for making a recipe that produces an `a`. Consider why the following example using `print` does not print anything:

```
Prelude> let embedInIO = return :: a -> IO a
Prelude> embedInIO 1
1
Prelude> embedInIO (print "I'll put in some ingredients")
```

In order to merge those effects and get a single `IO a` which will print a result in `GHCi`, we need `join`:

```

Prelude> join $ embedInIO (print "It's a piece of cake")
"It's a piece of cake"
Prelude> embedInIO (embedInIO 1)
Prelude> join $ embedInIO (embedInIO 1)
1

```

What sets the IO monad apart from the Applicative is that the effects performed by the outer IO action can influence *what* recipe you get in the inner part. The nesting also lets us express order dependence, a useful trick for lambda calculi noted by Peter J. Landin<sup>4</sup>.

An example for effect:

```

module NestedIO where

import Data.Time.Calendar
import Data.Time.Clock
import System.Random

huehue :: IO (Either (IO Int) (IO ()))
huehue = do
  t <- getCurrentTime
  let (_, _, dayOfMonth) =
    toGregorian (utctDay t)
  case even dayOfMonth of
    True ->
      return $ Left randomIO
    False ->
      return $ Right (putStrLn "no soup for you")

```

The IO action we return here is contingent on having performed effects and observed whether the day of the month was an even number<sup>5</sup> or an odd one. Note this is inexpressible with Applicative. If you'd like a way to run it and see what happens, try the following:

```

Prelude> blah <- huehue
Prelude> either (>= print) id blah
-7077132465932290066

```

---

<sup>4</sup>A correspondence between ALGOL 60 and Church's Lambda-notations; P.J. Landin

<sup>5</sup>Why? Monad chapter's long passed, we need *something* to be spooky.

It was the 28th of January when we wrote this. Your mileage may vary.

### Monadic associativity

Haskellers will often get confused when they are told Monad's `bind` is associative because they'll think of IO as a counter-example. The mistake being made here is mistaking the construction of IO actions for the *execution* of IO actions. As far as Haskell is concerned, we only construct IO actions to be executed when we call `main`. Semantically, IO actions aren't something we *do*, but something we talk about. Binding over an IO action doesn't execute it, it produces a new IO action in terms of the old one.

You can reconcile yourself with this framing by remembering how IO actions are like recipes, an analogy created by Brent Yorgey that we're fond of.

## 29.8 Well, then, how do we MVar?

Earlier in the chapter, we showed you an example of when IO prevents sharing, using the MVar type. Our previous code would block because the following:

```
myData :: IO (MVar Int)
myData = newEmptyMVar
```

is an IO action that produces an empty MVar; it isn't a stable reference to a single given MVar. We have a couple ways of fixing this. One is by passing the single stable reference as an argument. The following will terminate successfully:

```

module WhatHappens where

import Control.Concurrent

main :: IO ()
main = do
    mv <- newEmptyMVar
    putMVar mv (0 :: Int)
    zero <- takeMVar mv
    print zero

```

There is a somewhat more evil and unnecessary way of doing it. We'll use this opportunity to examine an *unsafe* means of enabling sharing for an IO action: `unsafePerformIO`! Consider that the following will also terminate:

```

module WhatHappens where

import Control.Concurrent
import System.IO.Unsafe

myData :: MVar Int
myData = unsafePerformIO newEmptyMVar

main :: IO ()
main = do
    putMVar myData 0
    zero <- takeMVar myData
    print zero

```

The type of `unsafePerformIO` is `IO a -> a`, which is seemingly impossible and not a good idea in general. In real code, you should pass references to `MVar`s as an argument or via `Reader/ReaderT`, but the combination of `MVar` and `unsafePerformIO` gives us an opportunity to see in very stark terms what it means to use `unsafePerformIO` in our code. The new empty `MVar` can now be shared implicitly, as often as you want, instead of creating a new one each time.

Do *not* use `unsafePerformIO` when unnecessary or where it could break referential transparency in your code! If you aren't sure —



don't use it! There are other unsafe IO functions, too, but there is rarely a need for any of them, and in general you should prefer explicit rather than implicit.

## 29.9 Chapter Exercises

### File I/O with Vigenère

Reusing the Vigenère cipher you wrote back in algebraic datatypes and wrote tests for in testing, make an executable that takes a key and a mode argument. If the mode is `-d` the executable decrypts the input from stdin and writes the decrypted text to standard out. If the mode is `-e` the executable blocks on input from standard input and writes the encrypted output to stdout.

Consider this an opportunity to learn more about how file handles and the following members of the base library work:

```
System.Environment.getArgs :: IO [String]
System.IO.hPutStr :: Handle -> String -> IO ()
System.IO.hGetChar :: Handle -> IO Char
System.IO.stdout :: Handle
System.IO.stdin :: Handle
```

Whatever OS you're on, you'll need to learn how to feed files as input to your utility and how to redirect standard out to a file. Part of the exercise is figuring this out for yourself.

### Add timeouts to your utility

Use `hWaitForInput` to make your utility timeout if no input is provided within a span of time of your choosing. You can make it an optional command-line argument. Exit with a non-zero error code and an error message printed to standard error (`stderr`) instead of stdout.

```
System.IO.hWaitForInput :: Handle -> Int -> IO Bool
System.IO.stderr :: Handle
```

**Config directories**

Reusing the INI parser from the Parsing chapter, parse a directory of ini config files into a Map whose key is the filename and whose value is the result of parsing the INI file. *Only* parse files in the directory that have the file extension `.ini`.

## 29.10 Follow-up resources

1. Referential Transparency; Haskell Wiki  
[https://wiki.haskell.org/Referential\\_transparency](https://wiki.haskell.org/Referential_transparency)
2. IO Inside; Haskell Wiki  
[https://wiki.haskell.org/IO\\_inside](https://wiki.haskell.org/IO_inside)
3. Unraveling the mystery of the IO Monad; Edward Z. Yang
4. Primitive Haskell; Michael Snoyman  
<https://github.com/commercialhaskell/haskelldocumentation/blob/master/content/primitive-haskell.md>
5. Evaluation order and state tokens; Michael Snoyman  
[https://wiki.haskell.org/Evaluation\\_order\\_and\\_state\\_tokens](https://wiki.haskell.org/Evaluation_order_and_state_tokens)
6. Haskell GHC Illustrated; Takenobu Tani
7. Tackling the Awkward Squad; Simon PEYTON JONES  
<http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/people/simonpj/papers/marktoberdorf/mark.pdf>
8. Note [IO hack in the demand analyser]; GHC source code
9. Monadic I/O in Haskell 1.3; Andrew D. Gordon and Kevin Hammond
10. Notions of computation and monads; Eugenio Moggi  
<http://www.disi.unige.it/person/MoggiE/ftp/ic91.pdf>
11. The Next 700 Programming Languages; P. J. Landin
12. Haskell Report 1.2  
<http://haskell.cs.yale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/haskell-report-1.2.pdf>

## Chapter 30

# When things go wrong

It is easier to write an  
incorrect program than  
understand a correct one

---

Alan Perlis

## 30.1 Exceptions

Let's face it: in the execution of a program, a lot of things can happen, not all of them expected or desired. In those unhappy times when things have not gone as we wanted them to, we will throw or raise an exception. The term *exception* refers to the condition that has interrupted the expected execution of the program. Encountering an exception causes an error, or exception, message to appear, informing you that due to some condition you weren't prepared for, the execution of the program has halted in an unfortunate way.

In previous chapters, we've covered ways of using `Maybe`, `Either`, and `Validation` types to handle certain error conditions explicitly. Raising exceptional conditions via such datatypes isn't always ideal, however. In some cases, exceptions can be faster by eliding repeated checks for an adverse condition. Exceptions are not explicitly part of the interfaces you're using, and that has immediate consequences when trying to reason about the ways in which your program could fail.

Letting exceptions arise as they will — and the program halt willy-nilly — is suboptimal. Exception handling is a way of dealing with errors and giving the program some alternate means of execution or termination should one arise. This chapter is going to cover both exceptions and what they look like as well as various means of handling them.

In this chapter, we will:

- examine the `Exception` typeclass and methods;
- dip our toes into existential quantification;
- discuss ways of handling exceptions.

## 30.2 The `Exception` class and methods

Exceptions are plain old types and values like you've seen throughout the book. The types that encode exceptions must have an instance of the `Exception` typeclass. The origins of exceptions as they exist in Haskell today are in Simon Marlow's work on an extensible hierarchy of exceptions<sup>1</sup> which are discriminated at runtime. Using this

---

<sup>1</sup><http://community.haskell.org/~simonmar/papers/ext-exceptions.pdf>

extensible hierarchy allows you to both catch exceptions that may have various types and also add new exception types as the need arises.

The Exception typeclass definition looks like this:

```
class (Typeable e, Show e) =>
    Exception e where
    toException :: e -> SomeException
    fromException :: SomeException -> Maybe e
    displayException :: e -> String
    -- Defined in 'GHC.Exception'
```

We'll take a look at those methods in a moment. The Show constraint is there so that we can print the exception to the screen in a readable form for whatever type *e* ends up being. Typeable is a typeclass that defines methods of identifying types at runtime. We will talk about this more and explain why these constraints are necessary to our Exception class soon.

The list of types that have an Exception instance is long:

```
-- some instances elided
instance Exception IOException
instance Exception Deadlock
instance Exception BlockedIndefinitelyOnSTM
instance Exception BlockedIndefinitelyOnMVar
instance Exception AsyncException
instance Exception AssertionFailed
instance Exception AllocationLimitExceeded
instance Exception SomeException
instance Exception ErrorCall
instance Exception ArithException
```

We won't talk in detail about each of these, but you may be able to figure out what, for example, BlockedIndefinitelyOnMVar is used for. We'll note that it's simply a datatype with one inhabitant:

```
data BlockedIndefinitelyOnMVar =
    BlockedIndefinitelyOnMVar
    -- Defined in 'GHC.IO.Exception'
```

If we look at `ArithException`, we'll find that it's a sum type with several values:

```
data ArithException
  = Overflow
  | Underflow
  | LossOfPrecision
  | DivideByZero
  | Denormal
  | RatioZeroDenominator
```

```
instance Exception ArithException
```

If you import the `Control.Exception` module, you can poke at `ArithException`'s data constructors and see that they're plain old values, nothing unusual at all.

### But there is something different going on here

We're going to start unpacking all this to see how the parts work together. First, let's take a look at the methods of the `Exception` typeclass:

```
toException    :: e -> SomeException
fromException  :: SomeException -> Maybe e
```

We don't have much occasion to use the `toException` and `fromException` functions themselves. Instead, we use other functions that call them for us. As it turns out, the `toException` method is quite similar to the data constructor for `SomeException`. You may have noticed that `SomeException` is also a type that is listed as having an instance of the `Exception` typeclass, and now here it is in the `Exception` methods. It seems a bit circular, but it turns out that `SomeException` is ultimately the key to the way we handle exceptions.

### A brief introduction to existential quantification

`SomeException` acts as a sort of parent type for all the other exception types, so that we can handle many exception types at once, without having to match all of them. Let's examine how:

```
data SomeException where
  SomeException :: Exception e => e -> SomeException
```

This may not seem odd at first glance. That is due, in part, to the fact that the weirdness is hiding in a construction called a GADT, for generalized algebraic datatype. For the most part, GADTs are out of the scope of this book, being well into intermediate Haskell territory that is fun to explore but not strictly necessary to programming in Haskell. What the GADT syntax is hiding there is something called *existential quantification*.

We could rewrite the `SomeException` type like this without a change in meaning:

```
data SomeException =
  forall e . Exception e => SomeException e
```

Ordinarily, the `forall` quantifies variables universally, as you might guess from the word *all*. However, the `SomeException` type constructor doesn't take an argument; the type variable *e* is a parameter of the *data constructor*. It takes an *e* and results in a `SomeException`. Moving the quantifier to the data constructor limits the scope of its application, and changes the meaning from “for all *e*” to “there exists some *e*.” That is existential quantification. It means that any type that implements the `Exception` class can be that *e* and be subsumed under the `SomeException` type.

We aren't going to examine existential quantification deeply here; this is a mere taste. Usually when type constructors are parameterized, they are universally quantified. Arguments have to be supplied to satisfy them. Your `Maybe` a type is, as we've noted before, a sort of function waiting for an argument to be supplied to be a fully realized type.

But when we existentially quantify a type, as with `SomeException`, we can't do much with that polymorphic type variable in its data constructor. We can't concretize it. Other than adding constraints, we can't know anything about it. It *must* remain polymorphic, and we can cram any value of any type that implements its constraint into that role. It's like a polymorphic parasite just hanging out on your type.



So, any exception type — any type with an instance of the `Exception` typeclass — can be that  $e$  and be handled as a `SomeException`. We need `Typeable` and `Show` in order to determine what type of exception we’re dealing with, as we will soon see.

### So, wait, what?

For an example of what existential quantification lets us do, we’re going to show you an example that doesn’t rely on the magic of the runtime exception machinery. Here we’ll be returning errors in Either of totally different types without having to unify them under a single sum type:

```
{-# LANGUAGE ExistentialQuantification #-}
{-# LANGUAGE GADTs #-}

module WhySomeException where

import Control.Exception (ArithException(..)
                          , AsyncException(..))
import Data.Typeable

data MyException =
  forall e .
  (Show e, Typeable e) => MyException e

instance Show MyException where
  showsPrec p (MyException e) =
    showsPrec p e

multiError :: Int
            -> Either MyException Int
multiError n =
  case n of
    0 ->
      Left (MyException DivideByZero)
    1 ->
      Left (MyException StackOverflow)
    _ -> Right n
```

What's special about the above is that we have a `Left` case in our `Either` that includes error values of two totally different types without enumerating them in a sum type. `MyException` doesn't appear to have a polymorphic argument in the type constructor, but it does in the data constructor. We are able to apply the `MyException` data constructor to values of different types because of the existentially quantified type for  $e$ .

```
data SomeError =
    Arith ArithException
  | Async AsyncException
  | SomethingElse
  deriving (Show)

discriminateError :: MyException
                  -> SomeError
discriminateError (MyException e) =
  case cast e of
    (Just arith) -> Arith arith
    Nothing ->
      case cast e of
        (Just async) -> Async async
        Nothing -> SomethingElse

runDisc n =
  either discriminateError
    (const SomethingElse) (multiError n)
```

Then trying this out:

```
Prelude> runDisc 0
Arith divide by zero
Prelude> runDisc 1
Async stack overflow
Prelude> runDisc 2
SomethingElse
```

This is the essence of why we need existential quantification for exceptions — so that we can throw various exception types without

being forced to centralize and unify them under a sum type. Don't abuse this facility.

Prior to this design, there were a few ways you could do exception handling. Some of the more apparent methods would've been one big sum type or strings. The problem is that neither of the them are meaningfully extensible to structured, proper data types. We want, in a sense, a hierarchy of values where catching a "parent" means catching any of the possible "children." The combination of `SomeException` and the `Typeable` typeclass gives you a means of throwing different exceptions of different types and then catching some or all of them in a handler without wrapping them in a sum type.

## Typeable

The `Typeable` typeclass lives in the `Data.Typeable` library. `Typeable` exists to permit types to be known at runtime, allowing for a sort of dynamic typechecking. It allows you to learn the type of a value at runtime and also to compare the types of two values and check that they are the same. `Typeable` is particularly useful when you have code that needs to allow various types to be passed to it but needs to enforce or trigger on specific types.

This is ordinarily unwise as a general pattern, but it makes sense when you're talking about exceptions. When we're concerned with exception handling, we want to be able to check whether values of possibly varying types match the `Exception` type we're trying to handle, and we need to do that at runtime, when the exception occurs. Thus we need this runtime witness to the types of the exceptions.

`Typeable` has one method:

```
cast :: (Typeable a, Typeable b) => a -> Maybe b
```

It turns out we don't usually call this function directly either, but it gets called for us by the `fromException` function, and `fromException` is called by the `catch` function.

At runtime, when an exception is thrown, it starts rolling back through the stack, looking for a catch. When it finds a catch, it checks to see what type of exception this catch catches. It calls `fromException` and `cast` to check if the type of the exception that got thrown matches the type of an exception we're handling with the catch. A catch that

handles a `SomeException` will match any type of exception, due to the flexibility of that type.

If they don't match, we get a `Nothing` value; the exception will keep rolling up through the stack, looking for a catch that can handle the exception that was thrown. If it doesn't find one, your program just dies an unseemly death.

If they do match, the `Just a` allows us to catch the exception.

### 30.3 This machine kills programs

Exceptions can be thrown in pure code:

```
Prelude> 2 `div` 0
*** Exception: divide by zero
```

However, `main` is always an `IO` action, so most of the time when you need to worry about exceptions, you'll be in `IO`. Even when they happen in pure code, exceptions may only be caught, or handled, in `IO`.

`IO` contains the implicit contract, "You cannot expect this computation to succeed unconditionally." It turns out the outside world is a harsh mistress — just about any `IO` action can fail, even `putStrLn`.

First, let's demonstrate that any `IO` action can fail. We will assume that you do not currently have a file called `aaa` in your working directory. So, when you run this code, it will create the file, write to it, print "wrote to file" in your terminal and terminate successfully:

```
-- writePls.hs
module Main where

main = do
  writeFile "aaa" "hi"
  putStrLn "wrote to file"
```

You can fire up your REPL and load that, or you can compile the binary like this (this is review, so if you already have all this down, then go ahead and do it):

```
stack ghc -- <filename> -o <output file name>
```

And run it like this:

```
$ ./<output file name>
```

So, if you called the output file `wp`, for example, your terminal session might look like this:

```
$ stack ghc -- writepls.hs -o wp
[stack compilation messages]
$ ./wp
wrote to file
$ cat aaa
hi
```

Cool, that all worked. That worked in part because `writeFile` will go ahead and create a file and give it write permissions if the file you're trying to write to does not exist. But what if you're trying to write to a file that does already exist and does not have write permissions?

Make a read-only file named `zzz` that we can experiment with. To make a file that cannot be written to on Linux or Mac, the following suffices:

```
$ touch zzz
$ chmod 400 zzz
```

Suppose that file cohabits a directory where we're trying to execute this program:

```
-- writePls.hs
module Main where

main = do
  writeFile "zzz" "hi"
  putStrLn "wrote to file"
```

It's the same program we had for the `aaa` file, just with the file name changed. You can fire up your REPL and load that, or you can compile the binary as we did above.

Then, if you run this program with such a file, you'll get the following result:

```
$ ./wp
wp: zzz: openFile: permission denied (Permission denied)
```

There's a hole in our bucket, dear Liza: an exception.

### Catch me if you can

Let's fix that, dear Henry. We'll start with some rudimentary exception handling:

```
module Main where

import Control.Exception
import Data.Typeable

handler :: SomeException -> IO ()
handler (SomeException e) = do
    print (typeOf e)
    putStrLn ("We errored! It was: " ++ show e)

main =
    writeFile "zzz" "hi"
    `catch` handler
```

We're still going to terminate without writing to the file, for the same reasons as above. The program will run and terminate successfully, but it'll mention the error and say that it failed with an `IOException`. We'll get a bit more information about why the program failed and be able to log that information with our exception handler if we wish. Sometimes, that's exactly what you want: for your program to log the exception and then die. Soon, we'll look at some other options for handling exceptions in a way that lets your program proceed with an alternate execution.

For now, let's turn our attention to `catch`:

```
catch :: Exception e => IO a -> (e -> IO a) -> IO a
```

You may recall we mentioned `catch` earlier because it calls `fromException` and `cast` for us. It runs only if the exception matching the type you specified gets thrown, and it gives you an opportunity to recover

from the error and still satisfy the original type that your IO action purported to be. If no exception gets thrown, then nothing happens with that *e* and the IO *a* at the front is the same as the IO *a* at the end.

Let's expand our rudimentary error handling in a way that allows the program an alternate execution method instead of allowing it to die. This time, the `main` action still wants to write to that read-only file, but this time our handler gives it an alternate file that does not exist to write to (if you do have a file called `bbb` in your present working directory, you can change the name of the `writeFile` argument to some other name, anything as long as it doesn't exist in your directory yet):

```
-- writePls.hs
module Main where

import Control.Exception
import Data.Typeable

handler :: SomeException -> IO ()
handler (SomeException e) = do
    putStrLn ("Running main caused an error! It was: "
              ++ show e)
    writeFile "bbb" "hi"

main =
    writeFile "zzz" "hi"
    `catch` handler
```

When writing to `zzz` fails, it should print the error message to the terminal. If you check your directory, you should see your alternate file, named in the handler function, and if you look inside that, it should say "hi" to you.

Let's look at another, slightly more complex, use of `catch`. This is taken from a program that deletes things from a Twitter account and relies on the library `twitter-conduit`.<sup>2</sup> This portion of the program can fail when it doesn't have access to the appropriate credentials for

---

<sup>2</sup><https://www.stackage.org/package/twitter-conduit>

talking to a Twitter account. So, we built an exception handler that tells it what to do when that exception arises:

```
withCredentials action = do
  twinfo <- loadCredentials `catch` handleMissing
  case twinfo of
    Nothing    -> getTWInfo >=> saveCredentials
    Just twinfo -> action twinfo
  where handleMissing :: IOException
        -> IO (Maybe TWInfo)
        handleMissing _ = return Nothing
```

We turn an `IOException` into an `IO (Maybe a)` so we can case on the `Maybe` to tell it what to do in the `Nothing` case. In this case, if we throw an `IOException` and return a `Nothing` value, our program will execute this:

```
getTWInfo >=> saveCredentials
```

By saving the credentials (the code that actually does the saving is not shown here), we hopefully won't encounter this exception the next time we try to run it. In which case, we perform the action that is named in the `Just twinfo` line (said action is also not shown here, sorry!).

### 30.4 Want either? Try!

Sometimes we'd like to lift exceptions out into explicit `Either` values. This is quite doable, but you can't erase the fact that you performed I/O in the process. It's also no guarantee you'll catch all exceptions. Here's the function we need to turn implicit exceptions into an explicit `Either`:

```
-- Control.Exception
try :: Exception e => IO a -> IO (Either e a)
```

Then to use it, we could write something like the following code (please note, this will not compile to a binary the way earlier examples did because it is not a `Main` executable; just use `GHCi`):



```

module TryExcept where

import Control.Exception

willIFail :: Integer
          -> IO (Either ArithException ())
willIFail denom =
    try $ print $ div 5 denom

```

Here we print the result because you can only handle exceptions in `IO`, evidenced by the types of `try` and `catch`. If you feed this some inputs, you'll see something like the following:

```

Prelude> willIFail 1
5
Right ()
Prelude> willIFail 0
Left divide by zero

```

One thing to keep in mind is that exceptions in Haskell are like exceptions in most other programming languages — they are *imprecise*. An exception not caught by a particular bit of code will get rolled up by the exception until it's either caught or kills your program.

If you wanted to get rid of the `Right ()` that it's printing in the successful cases, here's one way to get rid of it:

```

onlyReportError :: Show e
                => IO (Either e a)
                -> IO ()
onlyReportError action = do
    result <- action
    case result of
        Left e -> print e
        Right _ -> return ()

willFail :: Integer -> IO ()
willFail denom =
    onlyReportError $ willIFail denom

```

Or you could use `catch`:

```
willIFail' :: Integer -> IO ()
willIFail' denom =
    print (div 5 denom) `catch` handler
    where handler :: ArithException
          -> IO ()
          handler e = print e
```

Let's expand on this. We want to take the above examples and turn them into an executable binary, which is a problem, because in an executable, `main` can't take arguments. So, we'll have to do some serious modification in order to be able to pass arguments to `main` when we call it. We're going to import `System.Environment` so that we can make use of a function called `getArgs` that allows us to pass arguments in at the point where we call `main`:

```
module Main where

import Control.Exception
import System.Environment (getArgs)

willIFail :: Integer
          -> IO (Either ArithException ())
willIFail denom =
    try $ print $ div 5 denom

onlyReportError :: Show e
                => IO (Either e a)
                -> IO ()
onlyReportError action = do
    result <- action
    case result of
        Left e -> print e
        Right _ -> return ()
```

```

testDiv :: String -> IO ()
testDiv d =
    onlyReportError $ willIFail (read d)

main :: IO ()
main = do
    args <- getArgs
    mapM_ testDiv args

```

The use of `mapM_` here might not be obvious, so let's unpack that a bit. It is essentially a less general `traverse` function that throws away its end result and only produces the effects. In this case, those effects are going to be the results of mapping our `testDiv` function over a list of arguments — returning either the result of a successful division or the type of an exception.

We'll compile this one to an executable binary again, as we did earlier in the chapter. To pass in the arguments, it will look like this:

```

$ stack ghc -- writepls.hs -o wp
[stack noise]
$ ./wp 4 5 0 9
1
1
divide by zero
0

```

In case you wanted to try this in the REPL, reproducing what you did above, use the `:main GHCi` command and pass the same arguments.

```

Prelude> :main 4 5 0 9
1
1
divide by zero
0

```

Notice that, now that the exception is handled, we can still get that last result — we have survived an `ArithException`!

## 30.5 The unbearable imprecision of trying

Let's do another little experiment:

```
import Control.Exception

canICatch :: Exception e
          => e
          -> IO (Either ArithException ())
canICatch e =
  try $ throwIO e
```

The new thing here is `throwIO`, a function that allows you to throw an exception. Right now we want to demonstrate that this handler doesn't catch all types of exceptions, so we're using `throwIO` to cause exceptions of various types to be thrown.

The `Left` here can only handle or catch an `ArithException`, not any other kind. So when we throw a different type of exception, we get the following:

```
Prelude> canICatch DivideByZero
Left divide by zero
Prelude> canICatch StackOverflow
*** Exception: stack overflow
Prelude> :t DivideByZero
DivideByZero :: ArithException
Prelude> :t StackOverflow
StackOverflow :: AsyncException
```

The latter case blew past our `try` because we were trying to catch an `ArithException`, not an `AsyncException`.

We've mentioned several times that `SomeException` will match on all types that implement the `Exception` typeclass, so try rewriting the above such that the `StackOverflow` or any other exception can also be caught.

We'll continue the experiment by making a program that runs until an unhandled exception stops the party:

```

module StoppingTheParty where

import Control.Concurrent (threadDelay)
import Control.Exception
import Control.Monad (forever)
import System.Random (randomRIO)

randomException :: IO ()
randomException = do
  i <- randomRIO (1, 10 :: Int)
  if i `elem` [1..9]
    then throwIO DivideByZero
    else throwIO StackOverflow

main :: IO ()
main = forever $ do
  let tryS :: IO () -> IO (Either ArithException ())
      tryS = try
  _ <- tryS randomException
  putStrLn "Live to loop another day!"
  -- microseconds
  threadDelay (1 * 1000000)

```

We've talked about `forever` before; it causes the program execution to loop indefinitely. We have added the `threadDelay` to slow the looping down so that what's happening is more noticeable. Note that the thread is delayed by a number of microseconds.

The `tryS` allows it to survive the `ArithExceptions`. We throw away those exceptions and keep looping, but we can only throw away the exception that we matched on (`ArithException`). At some point, when our random number is 10, we will throw an `AsyncException` instead of an `ArithException`, and our program will die a rapid death. Try modifying this one so that both exceptions are handled and the loop never terminates.

### 30.6 Why throwIO?

It may have seemed odd to you (or not!) to encounter `throwIO` above. Why do we want to stop a program by purposely throwing an excep-

tion? In the real world, we often do want to do that — to stop the program when some condition occurs, but it may be difficult to see that from what we’ve shown you so far.

There’s a function called `throw` that allows exceptions, such as the arithmetic exceptions, but you rarely use it. It’s just what allows the `div` function to throw a `DivideByZero` exception when that happens, but outside of such library functions, you don’t need it.

The difference between `throw` and `throwIO` can be seen in the type:

```
throwIO :: Exception e => e -> IO a
```

Partiality in the form of throwing an exception can be thought of as an effect. The conventional way to throw an exception is to use `throwIO`, which has `IO` in its result. This is the same thing as `throw`, but `throwIO` embeds the exception in `IO`. You always handle exceptions in `IO`<sup>3</sup> Handling exceptions must be done in `IO` even if they were thrown without an `IO` type. You almost never want `throw` as it throws exceptions without any warning in the type, even `IO`.

We’ll look at an example of an unconditionally thrown exception in `IO` so you can see how it affects the control flow of your program:

```
import Control.Exception
```

```
main :: IO ()
```

```
main = do
```

```
    throwIO DivideByZero
```

```
    putStrLn "lol"
```

```
Prelude> main
```

```
*** Exception: divide by zero
```

Like `throw`, `throwIO` is often called for us, behind the scenes, by library functions. Often, in interacting with the real world, we need to tell our program that in certain conditions, we want it to stop or to give us an error message and let us know things went wrong. We’ll take a look at a couple of examples from real code, a library called *http-client*<sup>4</sup> by Michael Snoyman, that uses `throwIO` to throw some

<sup>3</sup>Why? Because catching and handling exceptions means you could produce different results from the same inputs. That breaks referential transparency.

<sup>4</sup><https://www.stackage.org/package/http-client>

exceptions when http things haven't gone the way we wanted them to:

```
connectionReadLine :: Connection -> IO ByteString
connectionReadLine conn = do
  bs <- connectionRead conn
  when (S.null bs) $ throwIO IncompleteHeaders
  connectionReadLineWith conn bs
```

In the above, `throwIO` will throw an `IncompleteHeaders` exception when the `ByteString` header is empty. In the next example, it's used to throw a `ResponseTimeout` exception when, well, the response times out:

```
parseStatusHeaders :: Connection
                  -> Maybe Int
                  -> Maybe (IO ())
                  -> IO StatusHeaders
parseStatusHeaders conn timeout' cont
  | Just k <- cont = getStatusExpectContinue k
  | otherwise     = getStatus
where
  withTimeout = case timeout' of
    Nothing -> id
    Just t ->
      timeout t >=>
        maybe (throwIO ResponseTimeout) return
```

You can use *http-client* without worrying about how he makes the exceptions happen. But let's next take a look at making our own exception types for those times when you do need to worry about it.

## 30.7 Making our own exception types

Sometimes...oftentimes we'll want our own exception types, like *http-client* has. They enable us to be more precise about what's going on in our program. Let's work through a small example to emit one of a couple different possible errors in an otherwise simple function to see how we could do this:

```
module OurExceptions where

import Control.Exception

data NotDivThree =
  NotDivThree
  deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Exception NotDivThree

data NotEven =
  NotEven
  deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Exception NotEven
```

Note here that `Exception` instances are derivable — you don't need to write an instance. Continuing on:

```
evenAndThreeDiv :: Int -> IO Int
evenAndThreeDiv i
  | rem i 3 /= 0 = throwIO NotDivThree
  | odd i = throwIO NotEven
  | otherwise = return i
```

Then we'll see the error and success conditions:

```
*OurExceptions> evenAndThreeDiv 0
0
*OurExceptions> evenAndThreeDiv 1
*** Exception: NotDivThree
*OurExceptions> evenAndThreeDiv 2
*** Exception: NotDivThree
*OurExceptions> evenAndThreeDiv 3
*** Exception: NotEven
*OurExceptions> evenAndThreeDiv 6
6
*OurExceptions> evenAndThreeDiv 9
*** Exception: NotEven
```



```
*OurExceptions> evenAndThreeDiv 12
12
```

There is an issue with this setup, although it's common. What if we want to know what input or inputs caused the error? We need to add context!

## Adding context

Convenient subsection titling! Anyhow, let's modify that:

```
module OurExceptions where

import Control.Exception

data NotDivThree =
  NotDivThree Int
  deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Exception NotDivThree

data NotEven =
  NotEven Int
  deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Exception NotEven

evenAndThreeDiv :: Int -> IO Int
evenAndThreeDiv i
  | rem i 3 /= 0 = throwIO (NotDivThree i)
  | odd i       = throwIO (NotEven i)
  | otherwise   = return i
```

Now when we get errors, we can know what input caused the error:

```
*OurExceptions> evenAndThreeDiv 12
12
*OurExceptions> evenAndThreeDiv 9
*** Exception: NotEven 9
```

```
*OurExceptions> evenAndThreeDiv 8
*** Exception: NotDivThree 8
*OurExceptions> evenAndThreeDiv 3
*** Exception: NotEven 3
*OurExceptions> evenAndThreeDiv 2
```

### Catch one, catch all

Now, you can probably figure out how to catch these two different errors:

```
catchNotDivThree :: IO Int
    -> (NotDivThree -> IO Int)
    -> IO Int
catchNotDivThree = catch

catchNotEven :: IO Int
    -> (NotDivThree -> IO Int)
    -> IO Int
catchNotEven = catch
```

Or perhaps with try:

```
Prelude> type EA e = IO (Either e Int)
Prelude> try (evenAndThreeDiv 2) :: EA NotEven
*** Exception: NotDivThree 2
Prelude> try (evenAndThreeDiv 2) :: EA NotDivThree
Left (NotDivThree 2)
```

The type synonym isn't semantically important, but it shrinks the noise a bit. Now, you *could* handle both errors with the catches function:

```

catches :: IO a -> [Handler a] -> IO a

catchNotEven :: IO Int
              -> IO Int
catchNotEven ioInt =
  catches ioInt
  [ Handler \(NotEven _) -> return maxBound
  , Handler \(NotDivThree _) -> return minBound
  ]

```

The `maxBound/minBound` thing is not good code for real use, just a convenience. Incidentally, the same trick the `SomeException` type uses to hide type arguments is used by the `Handler` type to wrap the values in the list of exception handlers: existential quantification.

```

data Handler a where
  Handler :: Exception e => (e -> IO a) -> Handler a
           -- Defined in 'Control.Exception'

```

We can make a list of handlers that handle exceptions of *varying types* because the exception types are existentially quantified under `Handler`'s datatype.

But what if this isn't convenient enough? What if we really have a family of semantically related or otherwise similar exceptions we want to catch as a group? For this we revive our old friend, `Mx`. `Sum Type`!

```
module OurExceptions where

import Control.Exception

data EATD =
    NotEven Int
  | NotDivThree Int
  deriving (Eq, Show)

instance Exception EATD

evenAndThreeDiv :: Int -> IO Int
evenAndThreeDiv i
  | rem i 3 /= 0 = throwIO (NotDivThree i)
  | even i = throwIO (NotEven i)
  | otherwise = return i
```

Now when we want to catch either error, we only need one handler and then we can case on the exception type just like good old fashioned datatypes:

```
Prelude> type EA e = IO (Either e Int)
Prelude> try (evenAndThreeDiv 0) :: EA EATD
Left (NotEven 0)
Prelude> try (evenAndThreeDiv 1) :: EA EATD
Left (NotDivThree 1)
```

Nifty, eh? The notion here is to exercise the same taste and judgment in designing your error types as you would in your happy-path types. Preserve context and try to make it so somebody could understand the problem you're solving from the types. If necessary. On a desert island. With a lot of rum.

And sea turtles.

### 30.8 Surprising interaction with bottom

One thing to watch out for is situations where you catch an exception for a value that might be bottom. Due to non-strictness, the bottom

could've been forced before or after your exception handler, so you might be surprised if you expected either:

- that your exception handler was meant to catch the bottom, or
- that no bottoms would cause your program to fail after having caught, say, a `SomeException`.

The proper coping mechanism for this is a glass of scotch and to realize the following things:

- The exception handling mechanism is not for, nor should be used for, catching bottoms.
- Having caught an exception, even `SomeException`, without rethrowing an exception doesn't mean your program won't fail.

To demonstrate the point, we'll show you a case where we caught an exception from a bottom and a case where a bottom leap-frogged our handler:

```
import Control.Exception

nowHammies :: IO (Either SomeException ())
nowHammies =
  try undefined

megaButtums :: IO (Either SomeException ())
megaButtums =
  try $ return undefined
```

Do you think these should have the same result? We've got bad news:

```
Prelude> nowHammies
Left Prelude.undefined
Prelude> megaButtums
Right *** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```

The issue is that non-strictness means burying the bottom in a return causes the bottom to not get forced until you're already *past*

the try, resulting in an uncaught error inside the Right constructor. The take-away here shouldn't be, "zomg, laziness is terrifying," but rather, "write total programs that don't use bottom." It's not just unforced bottoms that can cause programs that shouldn't have any uncaught exceptions to fail either, there's also...

## 30.9 Asynchronous Exceptions

Asynchronous exceptions are the predators hunting your happy little programs. You probably don't have much experience with anything like this unless you've written Erlang before. Even then, Erlang's asynchronous exceptions are handled by a separate process. Most languages don't have anything like this if only because they don't have a hope of making it safe within their implementation runtimes.

```
module Main where

-- we haven't explained this. tough cookies.
import Control.Concurrent (forkIO, threadDelay)
import Control.Exception
import System.IO

openAndWrite :: IO ()
openAndWrite = do
  h <- openFile "test.dat" WriteMode
  threadDelay 15
  hPutStr h (replicate 100000000 '0' ++ "abc")
  hClose h

data PleaseDie =
  PleaseDie
  deriving Show

instance Exception PleaseDie
```

```
main :: IO ()
main = do
    threadId <- forkIO openAndWrite
    threadDelay 1
    throwTo threadId PleaseDie
```

If you run this program, the intended result is that you'll have a file named `test.dat` with only zeroes that didn't reach the "abc" at the end. Since we can't predict the future, if you have a disk with preternaturally fast I/O, increase the arguments to `replicate` to reproduce the intended issue. If ain't broken, break it.

What happened was that we threw an asynchronous exception from the main thread to our child thread, short-circuiting what we were doing in the middle of doing it. If you did this in a loop, you'd leak file handles too. Done continually over a period of time, leaking file handles can cause your process to get killed or your computer to become unstable.

We can think of asynchronous exceptions as exceptions raised from a different thread than the one that'll receive the error. They're immensely useful and give us a means of talking about error conditions that are quite real and possible in languages that don't have formal asynchronous exceptions. Your process can get axe-murdered by the operating system out of nowhere in any language. We just happen to have the ability to do the same within the programming language at the thread level as well. The issue is that we want to temporarily ignore exceptions until we've finished what we're doing. This is so the state of the file is correct but also so that we don't leak resources like file handles or perhaps database connections or something similar. Never fear, we can fix this!

```
module Main where

-- we haven't explained this. tough cookies.
import Control.Concurrent (forkIO, threadDelay)
import Control.Exception
import System.IO

openAndWrite :: IO ()
openAndWrite = do
  h <- openFile "test.dat" AppendMode
  threadDelay 15
  hPutStr h (replicate 10000000 '0' ++ "abc")
  hClose h

data PleaseDie =
  PleaseDie
  deriving Show

instance Exception PleaseDie

main :: IO ()
main = do
  threadId <- forkIO (mask_ openAndWrite)
  threadDelay 1
  throwTo threadId PleaseDie
```

Here we used `mask_` from `Control.Exception` in order to mask or delay exceptions thrown to our child thread until the IO action `openAndWrite` was complete. Incidentally, since the end of the `mask` is the last thing our child thread does, the exception our main thread tried to throw to the child blows up in its face, Wile E. Coyote style, and is now thrown within the main thread.

## Don't panic!

Async exceptions are actually quite helpful and manifest in less obvious ways in other language runtimes and ecosystems. Don't try to



catch everything; just let it die, and make sure you have a process supervisor and good logs. No execution is better than bad execution.

### 30.10 Follow-up Reading

1. A Beginner's Guide to Exceptions in Haskell; Erin Swenson-Healey  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWS0Whf6-wc>
2. Chapter 8. Overlapping Input/Output; Parallel and Concurrent Programming in Haskell; Simon Marlow;  
<http://chimera.labs.oreilly.com/books/1230000000929/ch08.html>
3. Chapter 9. Cancellation and Timeouts; Parallel and Concurrent Programming in Haskell; Simon Marlow;  
<http://chimera.labs.oreilly.com/books/1230000000929/ch09.html>
4. An Extensible Dynamically-Typed Hierarchy of Exceptions; Simon Marlow  
<http://community.haskell.org/~simonmar/papers/ext-exceptions.pdf>

## **Chapter 31**

### **Final project**

## 31.1 Final project

For our final project, we're doing something a little weird, but small and that can be modernized a bit from the original design. Surely no one who knows us from Twitter or IRC will be surprised that we've chosen something eccentric for this, but we felt it was important to show you an end-to-end project that brings in so much real world it'll make your head spin.

In this chapter,

- FINGER DAEMONS.

## 31.2 fingerd

Dating back to 1971, the *finger*<sup>1</sup> service was a means of figuring out how to contact colleagues or other people on the same computer network, often on the same mainframe in a time when computing was usually time-shared on the same physical machine. By the time the 1990s and public internet access rolled in, *finger* was sometimes used to share not an office number and email address, but also to deliver *.plan* or *.project* files as sort of pre-Twitter/Tumblr microblog.

We use this as an example in part because it's not a typical web app, only requires working with text, exposes you to TCP sockets, and because the text-based protocol is spare and easy to debug once you know how. This chapter is going to be somewhat more Unix/Linux-oriented than previous ones, for a few reasons. Windows users will find that not all of the examples can be followed along literally, but the final version of the *finger* daemon should work.

### Caveat for the Windows users

You will not be able to follow all of the instructions here verbatim. You can still build and hack on the project, but if you aren't willing to install a *finger* client for testing your *finger* daemon via Cygwin then you'll need to write your own client.

---

<sup>1</sup>[http://www.rajivshah.com/Case\\_Studies/Finger/Finger.htm](http://www.rajivshah.com/Case_Studies/Finger/Finger.htm)

### 31.3 Exploring finger

If you had `fingerd` running on your local machine under the user-name `callen`, the result of having done so might look something like:<sup>2</sup>

```
$ finger callen@localhost
Login: callen                Name: callen
Directory: /home/callen      Shell: /bin/zsh
```

On Mac OS X, this will actually work without having fired up or installed a finger service just by not specifying a hostname to query:

```
$ finger callen
Login: callen                Name: Christopher Allen
Directory: /Users/callen     Shell: /bin/bash
```

Spooky! Don't ask. The finger protocol operates over Transmission Control Protocol (TCP)<sup>3</sup> sockets, something it has in common with the protocol used by web browsers. However, while they both use TCP, a finger daemon is not a web server. It's something much simpler, really! Rather than having an entire application protocol layered atop TCP like the web (HTTP) does, it's really a single message text protocol. Rather than go into a long explanation of the internet, UDP, and TCP, let's say TCP is a protocol for sending messages back and forth between a client and a server. Those messages can be raw bytes or text.

To start, we need to know what a finger client sends and expects to receive. Fortunately, the reception side is simple. A finger client, with the exception of some control codes, prints to the terminal whatever it receives. So we just need to make sure our finger server understands what the client is sending! To that end, we'll start our project with a little TCP echo server that also prints the literal text the client sent so that we can understand the cases we're dealing with.

---

<sup>2</sup>You can still use `finger` to check on the status of the bathrooms in the Random Hall dormitory at MIT by typing `finger @bathroom.mit.edu` in your terminal. Try it.

<sup>3</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transmission\\_Control\\_Protocol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transmission_Control_Protocol)

## Project overview

To kick this off, we'll use Stack with the `stack new` command like so:

```
$ stack new fingerd simple
```

This gets us a simple project with a single executable stanza in the Cabal file. The final version will have the following layout:

```
$ tree .
.
├── LICENSE
├── Setup.hs
├── fingerd.cabal
├── src
│   ├── Debug.hs
│   └── Main.hs
└── stack.yaml
```

## fingerd.cabal

Our Cabal file will mention an executable we're not going to give you yet, so you can leave the placeholder Stack generated there for now.

```
name:                fingerd
version:              0.1.0.0
synopsis:              Simple project template from stack
description:           Please see README.md
homepage:              https://github.com/you/fingerd
license:              BSD3
license-file:          LICENSE
author:                Chris Allen
maintainer:            cma@bitemyapp.com
copyright:             2016, Chris Allen
category:              Web
build-type:            Simple
cabal-version:         >=1.10

executable debug
  ghc-options:          -Wall
```

```

hs-source-dirs:      src
main-is:             Debug.hs
default-language:    Haskell2010
build-depends:       base >= 4.7 && < 5
                    , network

executable fingerd
ghc-options:         -Wall
hs-source-dirs:      src
main-is:             Main.hs
default-language:    Haskell2010
build-depends:       base >= 4.7 && < 5
                    , bytestring
                    , network
                    , raw-strings-qq
                    , sqlite-simple
                    , text

```

Now that we have taken care of that, let's write some code.

### src/Debug.hs

This is our first actual source file. We're going to use this program to show us what the client sends and send it back. In this respect, it's almost identical to the echo server demonstrated in the documentation of the *network*<sup>4</sup> library we're relying on. The difference is that it also prints a literal representation of the text that was sent.

Our debug program is a TCP server, similar to a web server which provides a web page, but lower level and limited to sending raw text back and forth. What is different is that a web server communicates with browsers over a TCP socket using a structured protocol rich with metadata, routes, and a standard describing that protocol. What we're doing is older and more primitive.

---

<sup>4</sup><https://www.stackage.org/package/network> The example we're referring to is in the `Network.Socket.ByteString` module. Click on it and look for the example.

```
module Main where

import Control.Monad (forever)
import Network.Socket hiding (recv)
import Network.Socket.ByteString (recv, sendAll)

logAndEcho :: Socket -> IO ()
logAndEcho sock = forever $ do
    (soc, _) <- accept sock
    printAndKickback soc
    sClose soc
    where printAndKickback conn = do
            msg <- recv conn 1024
            print msg
            sendAll conn msg
```

This sets up our server. Its argument is a socket (`sock`) that listens for new client connections; due to our use of `forever`, that socket remains open indefinitely. The `accept` action will block until a client connects to the server. The socket `soc` is the result of accept-ing a connection for communicating with the client.

All we do with the client is receive up to 1024 bytes of text from the client connection, print the text literally, and then echo what they sent us back to the client that made the connection. Note that `recv` is permitted to return fewer than the maximum bytes specified if that's all the client sent. Then the connection to the client is closed — we apply `sClose` to `soc` but not to `sock`, so `sock`, the server socket, remains open. Because this action loops forever, the next thing we do is await another client connection.



```

main :: IO ()
main = withSocketsDo $ do
    addrinfos <- getAddrInfo
        (Just (defaultHints
            {addrFlags = [AI_PASSIVE]}))
        Nothing (Just "79")
    let serveraddr = head addrinfos
    sock <- socket (addrFamily serveraddr)
        Stream defaultProtocol
    bindSocket sock (addrAddress serveraddr)
    listen sock 1
    logAndEcho sock
    sClose sock

```

At the beginning of `main`, `withSocketsDo` is not going to do anything at all unless you're on Windows. If you *are* on Windows, it's obligatory to use the sockets API in the *network* library. The address information stuff is mostly noise and can be ignored as a means for describing what kind of TCP server we're firing up and what port it's listening on.

The important part is the `(Just "79")` part — that's the port we're listening for connections on. Also note that you'll need administrative privileges on most operating systems to listen on that port.

One of the irritations of TCP socket libraries like *network* is that they call everything a socket. Server listening for connections? That's a socket. Client connection that you were listening for? That's a socket. Everything's a socket, and nothing's a wrench.

Anyhoodle, the next bit constructs a sort of socket descriptor with `socket`. Then we bind the socket to the address (port) we wanted. Lastly, we let the operating system know we're prepared to listen for connections from clients with `listen`. From there, we fire off our actual server logic which runs indefinitely. If and when `logAndEcho` finishes, we'll close the socket server and then our story is over. Next we'll fire up the debug server, note that it'll want administrative privileges for using port 79:

```

$ sudo `stack exec which debug`
{... build noise and a password prompt ...}

```

That will get our echo server set up, and we can now test it using `telnet` to connect. `Telnet` is often used to debug TCP services that use text to communicate. Note that you'll need to use `sudo` or otherwise make use of administrator powers to start the program because it wants to use a network port that only administrators or root accounts have access to in most operating systems. Usually this is the first 1024 ports. Once you have the debug server running in one terminal, you'll connect to it from a new terminal like so:

```
$ telnet localhost 79
Trying 127.0.0.1...
Connected to localhost.
Escape character is '^['.
```

From there, `telnet` is waiting for you to type something and then hit enter:

```
blah
blah
Connection closed by foreign host.
```

In the above, we typed “blah,” hit enter, got “blah” echoed back to us, then the server closed the connection. Remember that `fclose` is applied to `sock` in our `logAndEcho` function, ensuring that the temporary `telnet` connection is closed. However, the server is still open, and you can make further requests by reopening the `telnet` connection.

Let us take a look at the server to see what it printed:

```
"blah\r\n"
```

We used `print` rather than `putStrLn` in `logAndEcho` on purpose, so we could get a literal representation of the data that was sent. In this case, the string “blah” and the special characters `\r` and `\n` were sent. On Unix-based operating systems such as Linux, `\n` is the default line-ending character. Microsoft Windows uses `\r` followed by `\n` for the same.

Having done that, let us now do the same with an actual finger client:

```
$ finger callen@localhost
[localhost]
Trying 127.0.0.1...
callen
$ finger @localhost
[localhost]
Trying 127.0.0.1...
```

Particularly if you're on a Mac, you may get some noise here like this:

```
Trying ::1...
finger: connect: Connection refused
Trying 127.0.0.1...
```

It should connect after that. It attempts to use IPv6 first to reach your finger daemon; when it can't, it should use IPv4. You can probably ignore this.

Then the output server-side for this would be:

```
"callen\r\n"
"\r\n"
```

The first command asked the finger daemon running at localhost for information on the user *callen*; the second asked for a listing of users. With the printed output the server gave us, we now know what queries from an actual finger client will look like to our TCP server. With that done, we'll now write up the final TCP server itself.

## 31.4 Slightly modernized fingerd

Historically, the data that *finger* returns about users was part of the operating system. That information is still typically stored in the OS, but for security reasons, it's no longer routinely shared through finger requests. We're going to update the source of data for *finger* by using an embedded SQL<sup>5</sup> database called SQLite. A database is a convenient yet robust way of sorting and reading data, and SQLite

---

<sup>5</sup>Pronounced "squirrel."

is a lightweight database. The data will be stored in a file within the main project directory, so there won't be a lot of mystery or magic involved in interacting with it.

First we'll show you the TCP server's framing of the logic, then we'll show you how the database interaction works. From here, all the code goes into your `Main.hs` file.

```
{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}
{-# LANGUAGE QuasiQuotes      #-}
{-# LANGUAGE RecordWildCards #-}
```

`OverloadedStrings` you already know. `QuasiQuotes` is for the literals, which you've seen before. `RecordWildCards` is the new one and isn't too difficult to figure out. It spares us manually yanking the contents of a record into scope; instead, the record accessors become bindings to the contents such that,

```
{-# LANGUAGE RecordWildCards #-}
```

```
module RWCDemo where
```

```
data Blah =
  Blah { myThing :: Int }
```

```
new Blah{..} = print myThing
```

`new` will print the `myThing` inside of the `Blah` argument it is applied to without needing to apply `myThing` to a `Blah` value or to destructure the contents of `Blah` in the pattern match. It's purely a convenience.

```
module Main where
```

```
import Control.Exception
import Control.Monad (forever)
import Data.List (intersperse)
import Data.Text (Text)
import qualified Data.Text as T
import Data.Text.Encoding (decodeUtf8, encodeUtf8)
```

We'll need the ability to decode a `Text` value from a UTF-8 `ByteString` and then re-encode a `Text` value as a UTF-8 `ByteString`.

```
import Data.Typeable
import Database.SQLite.Simple hiding (close)
import qualified Database.SQLite.Simple as SQLite
import Database.SQLite.Simple.Types
import Network.Socket hiding (close, recv)
import Data.ByteString (ByteString)
import qualified Data.ByteString as BS
import Network.Socket.ByteString (recv, sendAll)
import Text.RawString.QQ
```

**Creating the database** We're using the *sqlite-simple* library to make a self-contained database stored in a file in the same directory as our project. This will act as the repository of users our finger daemon can report on.

```
data User =
  User {
    userId    :: Integer
  , username :: Text
  , shell    :: Text
  , homeDirectory :: Text
  , realName  :: Text
  , phone    :: Text
  } deriving (Eq, Show)
```

Now we dig into where the data comes from. `User` is the datatype describing our user records. It's not super structured or interesting, but gets things rolling. The only bit potentially out of the ordinary here is that we have a `userId` field of type `Integer` in order to provide the database what's called a *primary key*<sup>6</sup>. This is to provide a means of uniquely identifying data in the database independent of the text fields in our record type, among other things.

---

<sup>6</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unique\\_key](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unique_key)

```

instance FromRow User where
    fromRow = User <$> field
                    <*> field
                    <*> field
                    <*> field
                    <*> field
                    <*> field

instance ToRow User where
    toRow (User id_ username shell homeDir
            realName phone) =
        toRow (id_, username, shell, homeDir,
                realName, phone)

```

Boilerplate for marshalling and unmarshalling data to and from the SQLite database. This should remind you of FromJSON and ToJSON.

```

createUsers :: Query
createUsers = [r|
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS users
(id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY AUTOINCREMENT,
username TEXT UNIQUE,
shell TEXT, homeDirectory TEXT,
realName TEXT, phone TEXT)
|]

```

The Query type is just a newtype wrapper for a Text value. Conveniently, Query has an IsString instance, so string literals can be Query values. This isn't *really* a query, though; it's actually a SQL statement defining the database table that will contain our user data. The primary key stuff is noise saying that the row is named "id" and that we want that field to auto-increment without needing to do it ourselves. That is, if the last row we inserted into the database had id "1", then the new one will be auto-assigned the primary key "2". The rest of it is straightforward, describing field names and their representation ("TEXT"), but you'll note we require usernames to be unique so that there cannot be two User values with the same username.

```
insertUser :: Query
insertUser =
    "INSERT INTO users VALUES (?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?)"
```

```
allUsers :: Query
allUsers =
    "SELECT * from users"
```

```
getUserQuery :: Query
getUserQuery =
    "SELECT * from users where username = ?"
```

This is utility stuff for inserting a new user, getting all users from the user table, and getting all the fields for a single user with a particular username. The question marks are how the *sqlite-simple* library parameterizes database queries.

```
data DuplicateData =
    DuplicateData
    deriving (Eq, Show, Typeable)
```

```
instance Exception DuplicateData
```

The type above is a one-off exception we throw whenever we get something other than zero or one users for a particular username. That should be impossible, but you never know.

```
type UserRow =
    (Null, Text, Text, Text, Text, Text)
```

UserRow is a type synonym for the tuples we insert to create a new user.

```
getUser :: Connection -> Text -> IO (Maybe User)
getUser conn username = do
    results <- query conn getUserQuery (Only username)
    case results of
        [] -> return $ Nothing
        [user] -> return $ Just user
        _ -> throwIO DuplicateData
```

The only data constructor is how we pass a single argument instead of a 2-or-greater tuple to our query parameters when using the *sqlite-simple* library. This is needed because *base* has no one-tuple type and `getUserQuery` takes a single parameter. We check for none, one, or many results converting it into a `Nothing`, `Just`, or `IO` exception.

```
createDatabase :: IO ()
createDatabase = do
  conn <- open "finger.db"
  execute_ conn createUsers
  execute conn insertUser meRow
  rows <- query_ conn allUsers
  mapM_ print (rows :: [User])
  SQLite.close conn
  where meRow :: UserRow
        meRow = (Null, "callen", "/bin/zsh",
                  "/home/callen", "Chris Allen",
                  "555-123-4567")
```

Finally, we have a utility function for creating the database with a single example row of data. Running this a second time will error without changing the database. If you need or want to reset the database, you can delete the `finger.db` file.

**Before you continue** The code that follows will assume and require a `sqlite` database by the name of `finger.db` with the schema outlined in `createUsers` exists in the same directory as where you run your `fingerd` service. To run `createDatabase`, you could do the following:

```
$ stack ghci --main-is fingerd:exe:fingerd
{... noise noise ...}
Prelude> createDatabase
User {userId = 1, ... noise ... }
```

With that in place, you can continue implementing your `fingerd` daemon.



## Let your fingers do the walking

We're still in our `Main` module here. You should have created the database already, but now we'll write the functions that will allow the server to listen and respond to client queries.

```
returnUsers :: Connection -> Socket -> IO ()
returnUsers dbConn soc = do
  rows <- query_ dbConn allUsers
  let usernames = map username rows
      newlineSeparated =
        T.concat $ intersperse "\n" usernames
  sendAll soc (encodeUtf8 newlineSeparated)
```

`returnUsers` uses a database `Connection` and a `Socket` for talking to the user. The database connection is used to get a list of all the users in the database which is then changed into a newline separated `Text` value. Then that is encoded into a UTF-8 `ByteString` which is sent through the socket to the client.

```
formatUser :: User -> ByteString
formatUser (User _ username shell
             homeDir realName _) = BS.concat
  ["Login: ", e username, "\t\t\t\t",
   "Name: ", e realName, "\n",
   "Directory: ", e homeDir, "\t\t\t\t",
   "Shell: ", e shell, "\n"]
where e = encodeUtf8
```

This function is used to format `User` records as a UTF-8 `ByteString` value. The format is intended to mimic popular `fingerd` implementations but we're not going for precision here.

```

returnUser :: Connection -> Socket -> Text -> IO ()
returnUser dbConn soc username = do
  maybeUser <- getUser dbConn (T.strip username)
  case maybeUser of
    Nothing -> do
      putStrLn
        ("Couldn't find matching user for username: "
         ++ (show username))
      return ()
    Just user -> sendAll soc (formatUser user)

```

This is the single user query case, where we use `formatUser` to provide detailed information to the client on a single user. We have to handle the case where no user by the username provided was found. As it stands, the `Nothing` case here will print the report that no user was found by that username in the server terminal but will not send that information — or any information — to the client side. You may want to change that, as it might be useful to tell the end user why no information was returned.

If a user is found, we send the formatted `ByteString` of the `User` record to the client. The stripping of the username text prior to querying is because the literal data sent for a username query is `"yourname\r\n"` and in order for that to match `"yourname,"` we need to strip the control characters from the text, which `strip` from `Data.Text` does for us.

```

handleQuery :: Connection -> Socket -> IO ()
handleQuery dbConn soc = do
  msg <- recv soc 1024
  case msg of
    "\r\n" -> returnUsers dbConn soc
    name -> returnUser dbConn soc (decodeUtf8 name)

```

`handleQuery` receives up to 1024 bytes of data. Based on that data the client sends to the server, the case discriminates between when it should send a list of all users or only a single user. Fortunately, the protocol is relatively uncomplicated, so we don't even have to do any parsing as would ordinarily be required for communicating with a more elaborate protocol.

```

handleQueries :: Connection -> Socket -> IO ()
handleQueries dbConn sock = forever $ do
    (soc, _) <- accept sock
    putStrLn "Got connection, handling query"
    handleQuery dbConn soc
    sClose soc

```

It's similar to the echo server, save for the additional argument of the database connection and the logging of when connections were accepted.

```

main :: IO ()
main = withSocketsDo $ do
    addrinfos <-
        getAddrInfo
        (Just (defaultHints {addrFlags = [AI_PASSIVE]}))
        Nothing (Just "79")
    let serveraddr = head addrinfos
    sock <- socket (addrFamily serveraddr)
        Stream defaultProtocol
    bindSocket sock (addrAddress serveraddr)
    listen sock 1
    -- only one connection open at a time
    conn <- open "finger.db"
    handleQueries conn sock
    SQLite.close conn
    sClose sock

```

The only new bit above is the opening of a connection to a SQLite database located in the same directory as your project. The connection to the database is passed to the query-handling code, which runs indefinitely like the echo-and-log server. If it somehow stops without throwing an exception, we close the server socket, just to be good little programmers.

Now we're done, assuming you've created a SQLite database using `createDatabase` which is valid and accessible to your program, the following should work. You'll want to do this in one terminal:

```
$ stack build
```

```
$ sudo `stack exec which fingerd`
```

Then in another, different, shell session the following should work:

```
$ finger callen@localhost
Login: callen          Name: Chris Allen
Directory: /home/callen Shell: /bin/zsh
```

And that's it. In the exercises, we've given some ways to extend this, and we hope you've enjoyed this little foray into TCP sockets and basic networking. Security concerns aside, the finger protocol has been used over the years for some pretty cool things. Perhaps most famously, John Carmack used `.plan` files as a kind of microblog to deliver updates on the development process of Quake.<sup>7</sup>

### 31.5 Chapter Exercises

1. Try using the `sqlite3` command line interface to add a new user or modify an existing user in `finger.db`.
2. Write an executable separate of `fingerd` and `debug` which allows you to add new users to the database.
3. Add the ability to modify an existing user in the database.
4. Bound on a different port, try creating a “control socket” that permits inserting new data into the database while the server is running. This will probably require, at minimum, learning how to use `forkIO` and the basics of concurrency in Haskell among other things. Design the format for representing the user rows passed over the TCP socket yourself. For bonus points, write your own client executable that takes the arguments from the command line as well.
5. Celebrate completing this massive book.

---

<sup>7</sup><http://atrophied.co.uk/read/john-carmacks-plan-archive>

# Index

()  
    unit, 208  
(++), 105  
::, 107  
:info, 189  
\$, 91  
  
abs, 268, 270  
abstraction, 37, 53  
abstraction  
    lambda, 37  
algebra, 423, 599  
alpha equivalence, 38, 42  
anonymous, 106  
anonymous function, 37  
anonymous product, 422  
application, 34, 37, 46, 53  
arbitrary precision, 126  
argument, 34, 37, 39  
argument  
    multiple, 42  
arithmetic, 76  
arity, 135, 421  
associativity, 67, 68  
  
base case, 297  
beta reduction, 39, 41, 43  
binding, 106, 110  
Bool, 130, 132, 268  
bool, 353  
  
boolean, 100  
Boolean  
    logic, 131  
  
CAF, 1127  
cardinality, 423  
Carnap  
    Rudolf, 645  
case, 116  
case expression, 257  
Char, 100, 101, 108  
character, 101  
character  
    alphabetical, 101  
    unicode, 101  
characters, 100  
Church, Alonzo, 34  
classification, 119  
clause, 110  
column, 111  
combinator, 46, 47  
commutative, 616  
compare, 202  
Compose type, 986  
composition, 274  
concat, 105  
concatenation, 104, 108  
conjunction, 145  
cons, 321

- cons cell, 325
- constant applicative form, 1127
- constructor, 119, 130, 321
- Curry, Haskell, 42
- currying, 42
- data, 119
- data constructor, 119, 130, 257, 421
- data declaration, 119
- data structure, 100
- Data.Bool, 353
- datatype, 116, 119, 130, 132, 257
- datatype
  - algebraic, 145
- declaration, 59, 62, 72, 105, 110, 130
- denotation
  - denotes, 58
- deriving clause, 419
- disjunction, 130, 145
- display, 101
- division, 76
- division
  - (/), 125
- do, 71
- Double, 125
- drop, 328
- dropWhile, 328
- Enum, 194, 204, 326
- Eq, 127
- evaluate, 34
- evaluation, 45, 59, 337
- evaluation
  - inside out, 1065
  - outside in, 1065
- exponentiation, 68
- expression, 34, 37, 59, 63, 71, 84, 110, 132, 145
- Extensions
  - NoImplicitPrelude, 132
- file, 62, 70, 102, 104
- Float, 125
- fmap, 346
- fractional, 123, 125
- fromIntegral, 169
- function, 34, 35, 37, 59, 62, 239, 421
- function , first-class239
  - anonymous, 37
  - application, 39, 59, 63
  - arguments, 62
  - call, 63
  - mathematical, 63
  - operator, 66
  - prefix, 65
  - structure, 37, 38
- functions
  - first-class, 34
- Functor, 346, 645
- fusion, 1141
- GHCi, 57, 59, 62, 93, 205
- GHCi
  - :info, 67, 91, 132
  - :module, 64
  - :type, 101
- global, 105
- guard, 270
- guarded recursion, 1121
- higher-kinded type, 491
- higher-order function, 160
- higher-order functions, 346
- identity, 165

- identity function, 39, 40, 46
- if-then-else, 268, 353
- if-then-else
  - expression, 132
- import, 106, 132
- in, 85
- indentation, 70, 71
- infix, 66, 76, 91, 107, 127
- infix
  - infixl, 67
  - infixr, 68
  - parenthesization for
    - prefix use, 81
- inhabit, 117
- inhabitant, 130
- input, 34
- inside out, 1065
- Int, 123
- Integer, 116, 123
- Integral, 194
- integral, 76, 123
- invocation, 103
- IO, 103, 208
- kind, 491
- lambda, 34, 53
- lambda calculus, 34, 53
- lambda term, 37
- law, 83
- law abiding, 659
- law breaking, 659
- length, 138
- let, 62, 71, 85, 106
- let
  - expression, 85
- line, 111
- linear, 104
- Lisp, 56
- list, 100, 104, 107, 108, 119, 321
- literal, 108
- local, 105, 110
- main, 103
- main :: IO (), 103
- map, 346
- math, 145
- max, 202
- Maybe, 116, 324
- min, 202
- module, 70, 105, 132
- Monoid, 599
- negation, 82
- negation
  - literal, 124
- nesting, 42, 60
- newline, 103
- non-strict, 84, 337
- NonEmpty, 324
- nonstrict evaluation, 346
- normal form, 45, 46, 60, 340
- normal order, 51–53
- nullary, 421
- nullary data constructor, 410
- nullary type, 491
- Num, 108, 122
- number, 59, 63, 100, 108, 119
- number
  - literal, 108
  - whole, 126
- numeric literal, 248
- numerical literal, 168
- operator, 76, 108
- operator
  - function, 66
- Ord, 127, 200

- orphan instance, 618
- outside in, 1065
- overflow, 124
- overloaded strings, 816
- parameter, 37
- parametricity, 167
- parentheses, 67, 68, 82, 91, 93
- partial application, 156
- pattern match, 248, 322
- pipe, 270
- polymorphic literals, 816
- polymorphism, 108, 168
- precedence, 67
- prefix, 65, 109
- Prelude, 130, 132
- print, 59, 86, 101, 109
- printing, 205
- product, 321, 422, 423
- product type, 410
- profiling
  - heap, 1126
  - time, 1123
- programming language, 59
- prompt, 59
- property testing, 562
- pure functional programming, 1170
- purity, 34, 1170
- putStr, 102
- putStrLn, 102, 109
- QuickCheck, 562
- range, 325
- Rational, 125
- recursion, 346
- redex, 63, 64
- redex
  - reducible expressions, 60
- reduce, 34
- reduction, 59, 84, 92, 145
- referential transparency, 35
- refutable pattern, 323
- remainder, 76
- REPL, 56, 59, 67, 90
- REPL
  - Read-eval-print loop, 56
- scan, 380
- Schönfinkel, Moses, 42
- Scientific, 125
- scope, 86, 105, 110, 111, 132
- sectioning, 82
- session, 86
- set, 145
- set
  - theory, 145
- Show, 205
- source code, 62
- source code
  - file, 58
- spine, 325, 337
- splitAt, 328
- String, 100, 108, 109, 115, 116, 119
- string, 104
- strings, 100, 101
- style, 70
- sugar, 145
- sum type, 130, 410, 418, 423
- sum type
  - , 130
  - pipe, 130
- superclass, 228
- syntactic sugar, 324
- syntax, 70



- take, 328
- takeWhile, 328
- term, 84, 130
- term-level, 135
- terminate, 59
- text, 100, 101
- thunk, 1081
- top-level, 105, 110
- tuple, 135, 159, 422
- tuple
  - arity, 136
  - constructor, 136
  - syntax, 136
- type, 76, 100, 101, 107, 119
- type
  - error, 108, 110
- type alias, 137
- type check, 147
- type constant, 491
- type constructor, 107, 130, 491
- type inference, 106
- type signature, 101, 130
- type variable, 107, 168
- typeclass, 76, 122
- typeclass
  - constraint, 168
- typeclass inheritance, 194
- uncurry, 159
- unit, 208
- value, 34, 59, 62, 100, 119, 132
- variable, 34, 37, 38, 64
- variable
  - bound, 37, 39, 41
  - free, 41, 42, 46
- variables
  - bound, 41
  - free, 41
- visibility, 110, 111
- weak head normal form, 340
- where, 85, 106, 110
- whitespace, 70