

A crash course in Haskell

quake / doom EPC

Functions and Programming



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Sometimes, the elegant implementation is just a function. Not a method. Not a class. Not a framework. Just a function.

10:41 AM - 31 Mar 2011

Carmack on Functions

What is Haskell?

A typed, lazy, purely functional programming language

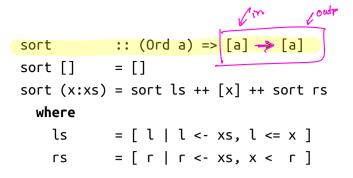
Haskell =
$$\lambda$$
 - calculus ++

- better syntax
- types
- built-in features
 - booleans, numbers, characters
 - records (tuples)
 - \circ lists
 - \circ recursion
 - ° ...

Why Haskell?

Haskell programs tend to be simple and correct

QuickSort in Haskell



Goals for this week

1. Understand the code above

2. Understand what **typed**, **Jazy**, and **purely functional** means (and why it's cool)

Haskell vs λ -calculus: similarities

(1) Programs



A program is an **expression** (not a sequence of statements)

It evaluates to a value (it does not perform actions)

• λ:

(\x -> x) apple -- =~> apple

• Haskell:

(\x -> x) "apple" -- =~> "apple"

(2) Functions

Functions are *first-class values*:

- can be passed as arguments to other functions
- can be *returned as results* from other functions
- can be *partially applied* (arguments passed one at a time)

 $(x \rightarrow (y \rightarrow x (x y))) (z \rightarrow z + 1) 0 -- = -> ???$

But: unlike λ -calculus, not everything is a function!

(3) Top-level bindings

Like in Elsa, we can name terms to use them later

Elsa:

```
let T = \x y -> x
let F = \x y -> y
let PAIR = \x y -> \b -> ITE b x y
let FST = \p -> p T
let SND = \p -> p F
eval fst:
FST (PAIR apple orange)
=~> apple
```

Haskell:

```
haskellIsAwesome = True
pair = \x y -> \b -> if b then x else y
fst = \p -> p haskellIsAwesome
snd = \p -> p False
-- In GHCi:
> fst (pair "apple" "orange") -- "apple"
```

The names are called **top-level variables**

Their definitions are called top-level bindings

Better Syntax: Equations and Patterns

You can define function bindings using **equations**:

pair x y b	= if b then x else y	 same	as:	pair = \x y b ->
fst p	= p True	 same	as:	fst = \p ->
snd p	= p False	 same	as:	snd = \p ->

A *single* function binding can have *multiple* equations with different **patterns** of parameters:

pair x y True = x -- If 3rd arg matches True, -- use this equation; pair x y False = y -- Otherwise, if 3rd arg matches False, -- use this equation.

At run time, the first equation whose pattern matches the actual arguments is chosen

For now, a pattern is:

- a variable (matches any value)
- or a value (matches only that value)

Same as:

Same as:

pair x y True = x pair x y _ = y

QUIZ

Which of the following definitions of pair is incorrect?

A. pair x y = \b -> if b then x else y
B. pair x = \y b -> if b then x else y
C.
pair x _ True = x
pair _ y _ = y
D.
pair x y b = x
pair x y False = y
E. all of the above

Equations with guards

An equation can have multiple guards (Boolean expressions):

cmpSquare x y | x > y*y = "bigger :)"
| x == y*y = "same :|"
| x < y*y = "smaller :("</pre>

Same as:

Recusion

Recursion is built-in, so you can write:

sum n = if n == 0
 then 0
 else n + sum (n - 1)

or you can write:

sum 0 = 0sum n = n + sum (n - 1)

The scope of variables

Top-level variable have **global** scope, so you can write:

message = if haskellIsAwesome -- this var defined below
 then "I love CSE 130"
 else "I'm dropping CSE 130"

haskellIsAwesome = True

Or you can write:

-- What does f compute? f 0 = True is_even f n = g (n - 1) -- mutual recursion! g 0 = False is_odd g n = f (n - 1) -- mutual recursion! Type Err) True) Infinite loop!

Is this allowed?

haskellIsAwesome = True

haskellIsAwesome = False -- changed my mind

Local variables

You can introduce a *new* (local) scope using a **let** -expression:

```
sum 0 = 0
sum n = let n' = n - 1
in n + sum n' -- the scope of n' is the term after in
```

Syntactic sugar for nested **let** -expressions:

If you need a variable whose scope is an equation, use the **where** clause instead:

Types

What would Elsa say?

let WEIRDO = ONE ZERO

What would *Python* say?

def weirdo():
 return 0(1)

```
What would Java say?
```

```
void weirdo() {
    int zero;
    zero(1);
}
```

In *Haskell* every expression either **has a type** or is **ill-typed** and rejected statically (at compile-time, before execution starts)

- like in Java
- unlike λ -calculus or Python

weirdo = 1 0 -- rejected by GHC