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Functional Programming

Week 7 – Higher-Order Functions

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Last Lecture

- type class definitions

```
class (...) => TCName a where
  fName :: ty     -- type ty + description of fName
  ...
  lhs = rhs       -- optional default implementation
  ...
```

- type class instantiations

```
instance (...) => TCName (TConstr a1 .. aN) where
  ... -- implementation of functions
```

- examples
  - classes: `Eq a`, `Num a`, `Integral a`, `RealFrac a`, ...
  - instances: `Integral Int`, `Eq a => Eq (Maybe a)`, `(Ord a, Ord b) => Ord (a,b)`, ...
- documentation:
  http://hackage.haskell.org/package/base-4.18.0.0/docs/Prelude.html
- switch between operators and function names: `(+)` and `` `div` ``

Higher-Order Functions

Functions and Values

- functions take values as input and produce output values
  - values so far: numbers, characters, pairs, lists, user defined datatypes, ...
  - examples
    - `lookup :: Eq a => a -> [(a,b)] -> Maybe b`
    - `elem :: Eq a => a -> [a] -> Bool`
- important extension: functions are values
- result: higher-order functions
  - functions can take other functions as input, e.g.,
    ```
    nTimes :: (a -> a) -> Int -> a -> a
    -- nTimes f n x = f(...(f x))
    ```
  - the result of a function can be a function, e.g.,
    ```
    compose :: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> (a -> c)
    -- compose f g is the function that takes an x and results in f(g(x))
    ```
- observations
  - higher-order functions are quite natural to define, e.g., `compose f g x = f (g x)`
  - higher-order functions are useful to avoid code duplication

Partial Application

- question: how to construct values that are functions?
- possible answer: partial application
- note: type constructor for functions (`->`) associates to the right, cf. lecture 4, slide 10

  `a -> b -> c -> d` is identical to `a -> (b -> (c -> d))`
- note: function application associates to the left

  `f expr1 expr2 expr3` is identical to `((f expr1) expr2) expr3`
- example with parentheses added

```
average :: Double -> (Double -> Double)
(average x) y = (x + y) / 2
```

- partial application: `average` is applied on less than two arguments
- example expressions
  - `average :: Double -> (Double -> Double)` no arguments applied
  - `average 3 :: Double -> Double` 1 argument applied
  - `(average 3) 5 :: Double` first 1 argument applied, then another one
  - `average 3 5 :: Double` same as above

Sections, `flip`

- sections are a special form of partial applications in combination with operators &
- `(expr &)` is the same as `(&) expr`
- `(& expr)` is a function that takes an `x` and returns `x & expr`
- `(& expr)` is the same as `flip (&) expr`
  - `flip` is a predefined function that swaps the arguments of a binary function

```
flip :: (a -> b -> c) -> (b -> a -> c)
-- same as (a -> b -> c) -> b -> a -> c
flip f y x = f x y
```

- exception: `(- expr)` is not `flip (-) expr` but just the negated value of `expr`
- examples
  - `(> 3)` test whether a number is larger than 3
  - `(3 >)` test whether 3 is larger than a number
  - `(3 -)` subtract something from 3
  - `(- 3)` the number -3

Example: nTimes

```
nTimes :: (a -> a) -> Int -> a -> a
nTimes f n x
  | n == 0 = x
  | otherwise = f (nTimes f (n - 1) x)
```

- observations
  - nTimes uses standard recursion on numbers
  - in the last line f is used twice
    - once as parameter of nTimes, where in nTimes f no argument is applied to f
    - once as the function which is applied to an argument: `otherwise = f (...)`
- application: implement other functions in more concise way

```
tower :: Integer -> Int -> Integer -- tower x n = x ^ (x ^ ... (x ^ 1))
tower x n = nTimes (x ^) n 1       -- n exponentiations with basis x

replicate :: Int -> a -> [a]       -- replicate n x = [x, ..., x]
replicate n x = nTimes (x :) n []  -- n insertions of x
```

Partial Application and Evaluation

- if defining equation of `f` is of shape `f pat1 ... patN` with `N` arguments, then evaluation of `f expr1 ... exprM` can only happen, if `M` ≥ `N`
- example `nTimes` and `tower`

```
nTimes f n x
  | n == 0 = x
  | otherwise = f (nTimes f (n - 1) x)
tower x n = nTimes (x ^) n 1

  tower 4 2
= nTimes (4 ^) 2 1           -- (4 ^) cannot be evaluated!
= 4 ^ (nTimes (4 ^) 1 1)     -- evaluate second argument of ^
= 4 ^ (4 ^ (nTimes (4 ^) 0 1))  -- again, argument evaluation
= 4 ^ (4 ^ 1)
= 4 ^ 4
= 256
```

Partial Application and Evaluation, Continued

- if defining equation of `f` is of shape `f pat1 ... patN` with `N` arguments, then evaluation of `f expr1 ... exprM` can only happen, if $M \geq N$
- example with $M > N$

```
selectFunction :: Bool -> (Int -> Int) -- same as Bool -> Int -> Int
selectFunction True  = (* 3)
selectFunction False = abs

  selectFunction False (-2)  -- M > N
= abs (-2)
= 2
```

- restriction: all defining equations of a function must have same number of arguments
- consequence: the following code is not allowed, although it would make sense

```
selectFunction' :: Bool -> Int -> Int
selectFunction' True = (* 3)
selectFunction' False x = 2 - x
```

Currying

- most of the time we defined functions in curried form (Haskell B. Curry, M. Schönfinkel)

```
f :: ty1 -> ... -> tyN -> ty
```

- alternative is tupled form

```
f :: (ty1, ..., tyN) -> ty
```

- observations
  - partial application is only possible with curried form
  - tupled form has advantage when passing logically connected values around

    ```
    type Date = (Int, Int, Int)
    differenceDate :: Date -> Date -> Int  -- number of days between two dates
    -- but not: Int -> Int -> Int -> Int -> Int -> Int -> Int
    ```

  - argument order is relevant in curried form: partial application only possible from left to right
    - divide 1000 by something: `div 1000`
    - division by 1000: `let f x = div x 1000 in f`
    - alternative using `flip`: `flip div 1000`
  - rule of thumb: put arguments that are unlikely to change to the left

Anonymous Functions: λ abstractions

- example: apply n-times the function that given an x computes $3 \cdot (x + 1)$
- one possibility: local definition of a function

```
example :: Num a => Int -> a -> a
example = let f x = 3 * (x + 1) in nTimes f
-- this is equivalent to
example n y = let f x = 3 * (x + 1) in nTimes f n y
```

- annoying: creation of function names, here `f`
- alternative: creation of anonymous function via λ abstraction
  - syntax: `\ pat1 ... patN -> expr` λ is written as \ in Haskell
  - equivalent to: `let f pat1 ... patN = expr in f` for some fresh name `f`

```
example = nTimes (\ x -> 3 * (x + 1))
```

- difference between lambda abstractions and local function definitions
  - recursion not expressible via lambda abstractions
  - lambda abstractions do not require new function names

Example Higher-Order Functions and Applications

Generalize Common Programming Patterns

- consider the following tasks
  - multiply all list elements by 2
  - convert all characters in a string to upper case
  - compute a list of email addresses from a list of students
- possible implementation

```
multTwo [] = []
multTwo (x : xs) = 2 * x : multTwo xs

toUpperList [] = []
toUpperList (c : cs) = toUpper c : toUpperList cs

eMails [] = []
eMails (s : ss) = getEmail s : eMails ss
```

- observation: all of these functions are similar
- abstract version: apply some function on each list element
- aim: program the abstract version only once (will be a higher-order function), and then just instantiate this function for each task

The `map` Function

- `map` applies a function on each list element

```
map :: (a -> b) -> [a] -> [b]
map f [] = []
map f (x : xs) = f x : map f xs
```

- solve tasks from previous slide easily

```
multTwo = map (2 *)
toUpperList = map toUpper
eMails = map getEmail
```

- example evaluation

```
  toUpperList "Hi"
= map toUpper "Hi"
= toUpper 'H' : map toUpper "i"
= 'H' : toUpper 'i' : map toUpper ""
= 'H' : 'I' : ""
= "HI"
```

The `filter` Function

- `filter` selects all elements of a list that satisfy some condition

```
filter :: (a -> Bool) -> [a] -> [a]
filter f [] = []
filter f (x : xs)
  | f x =    x : filter f xs
  | otherwise = filter f xs
```

- example applications

```
-- test whether some element is included in a list
elem :: Eq a => a -> [a] -> Bool
elem x xs = filter (== x) xs /= []

-- the well known lookup function
lookup :: Eq a => a -> [(a,b)] -> Maybe b
lookup x xs = case filter (\ (k,_) -> x == k) xs of
  [] -> Nothing
  ((_,v) : _) -> Just v
```

Application: Quicksort

- quicksort is an efficient sorting algorithm
- main idea: partition a non-empty list into small and large elements and sort recursively
- straight-forward implementation

```
qsort :: Ord a => [a] -> [a]
qsort [] = []
qsort (x : xs) =    -- x is pivot element
  qsort (filter (<= x) xs) ++ [x] ++ qsort (filter (> x) xs)
```

- implementation might be tuned in several ways
  - use `partition :: (a -> Bool) -> [a] -> ([a], [a])` once instead of `filter` twice
  - parametrize order
    - `qsortBy :: (a -> a -> Bool) -> [a] -> [a]`
    - `qsort = qsortBy (<=)`
  - take random pivot element, cf. lecture Algorithms and Data Structures

The Function Composition Operator (.)

- function composition is a higher-order function (in Haskell: (.))
  ```
  (.) :: (b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> (a -> c)
  (f . g) = \ x -> f (g x)
  ```
- it takes two functions as input and returns a function
- in Haskell, function composition is often used to chain several function applications without explicit arguments
- example: given a number, first add 5, then compute the absolute value, then multiply it by 7, and finally convert it into a string and determine its length
- without composition: many parenthesis, not very readable
  ```
  \ x -> length (show ((abs (x + 5)) * 7))
  ```
- written conveniently with function composition
  ```
  length . show . (* 7) . abs . (+ 5)
  ```

Collection View

- often lists are used to encode collections of elements
- then one can process the whole collection via `map`, `filter`, `sum`, ...
  without looking at the position of the list elements
- list index function `(!!)` is rarely used in these applications
- in particular: do not write the following kind of loop

  ```
  for (int i = 0; i < length; i++) {
     xs[i] = someFun(xs[i]);
  }
  ```

  as functional program

  ```
  map (\ i -> someFun (xs !! i)) [0 .. length xs - 1]
  ```

  but instead just write

  ```
  map someFun xs
  ```

- the bad program needs $\sim \frac{1}{2}n^2$ evaluation steps for a list of length n: lists $\neq$ arrays!

Application: Names of Good Students

- given a list of students, compute a sorted list of all names of students whose average grade is 2 or better
- implementation

```
data Student = ...
avgGrade :: Student -> Double
...
getName :: Student -> String
...

goodStudents :: [Student] -> [String]
goodStudents = qsort . map getName . filter (\ s -> avgGrade s <= 2)
```

Summary

- higher-order functions
  - functions may have functions as input
  - functions may have functions as output
- partial application
  - n-ary function is value
  - applying n-ary function on 1 argument results in $n-1$-ary function
  - sections are special syntax for partially applied operators
- λ-abstraction is anonymous function
- process lists that encode a collection via `map`, `filter`, ...