Haskell Intro

Principles of Programming Languages

Colorado School of Mines

https://lambda.mines.edu
With your learning group, share answers from the learning group activity. If you did Question 6, collaborate with the other person who did Question 6 to give a collective tutorial on GHCi to your group (should be easy).

Blake will go around and check participation. If you have questions on the LGA (and your group members cannot answer), ask Blake. If he cannot answer, feel free to Email me or the list.
Background on Functional Languages
Functional vs. Imperative Languages

- **Imperative Language**: Typical programming language you are already used to (like C or C++). Sequence of instructions is executed to change the state of the program.

- **Pure Functional Language**: Functions main unit of programming. Functions are referentially transparent; that is, every time you call a function with the same arguments, you are guaranteed the same result (no dependence on state).

  - **Immutable structures** are typically used in functional languages to make this possible (e.g., once you create a list you cannot change it).

  - Easy to prove functions correct (contrast to imperative languages)

  - Haskell is a purely functional language.
Lazy Evaluation

In Haskell, expressions are evaluated **lazily**: parts of expressions are not evaluated until they need to be.

### Example

Suppose you wanted to **determine the length** of this list:

\[ [12 + 3, 4 / 2, 2 - 15, 5] \]

You could determine this two ways:

1. You could evaluate the whole list first, and get this result:
   
   \[ [15, 2, -13, 5] \]

   Then, you can see the list has a length 4. This is **eager evaluation**.

2. Or, you could see the list has four elements, without preforming any of the computations. This is called **lazy evaluation**.
Under lazy evaluation, we can have:

- Expressions evaluated without wasting time on parts that are not needed to evaluate.
- **Lists of infinite length**! Think about a list that defines all of the Fibonacci numbers.
- **Immutable structures** which act efficiently. Suppose you had a function `doubleAll` which took a list and returned a *new copy* with each of the elements multiplied by 2.
  - **Eager**: `doubleAll(doubleAll(doubleAll(lst)))` would create 3 new lists
  - **Lazy**: same computation can act on a new list only at the very end

_Haskell says... meh, I’ll do it later!_
Is it possible for a lazy evaluation to differ from an equivalent eager evaluation?
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Yes, in error handling:

- Under eager evaluation, determining the length of \([3, 1/0]\) would result in an error, whereas in lazy evaluation, the length would be 2.
Starting with Haskell
To load up GHCi, type `ghci` at your terminal. You will need Haskell installed on your computer, or use the ALAMODE Linux Lab (BB 136) machines. You should be left at a Prelude> prompt if you did that correctly:

```
GHCi, version 8.2.2: http://www.haskell.org/ghc/
:? for help
Prelude>
```

This is a REPL (Read-Evaluate-Print-Loop). GHCi reads what you type, the result is evaluated, GHCi prints the result, looping until exit.
Infix and Prefix Operators

Haskell comes with two kinds of operators: *infix* and *prefix*.

- **Infix operators** are placed *in-between* the operands:
  
  GHCi> 4 + 4  
  8

- **Prefix operators** are placed *before* the operands:
  
  GHCi> mod 10 3  
  1
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**Postfix Operators**

As you may have guessed, postfix operators are operators placed **after** the operands, but Haskell does not have any of these.
You can use prefix operators as infix by surrounding them in backticks:

GHCi> 10 `mod` 3
1

Likewise, you can use infix operators as prefix by surrounding them in parenthesis:

GHCi> (+) 4 4
8
Parenthesis Denote Order of Operation

GHCi> (2 * 50) + 1
101
GHCi> 2 * (50 + 1)
102
GHCi> 3 + 4 * 7
31
GHCi> (3 + 4) * 7
49
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GHCi> (3 + 4) * 7
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Careful! You need to surround negative numbers in parenthesis when combined with other expressions (− is a prefix operator)

GHCi> 5 * (-3)
-15
Haskell comes with a standard set of boolean operators:

- `&&`: and (infix)
- `||`: or (infix)
- `not`: not (prefix)
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And some infix equality tests:

- `==`: equal
- `=/=`: not equal
- `>`: greater than
- `>=`: greater or equal
- `...`: same for less
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```
GHCi> True && False
False
GHCi> not False
True
GHCi> "hello" /= "goodbye"
True
```
Calling Functions

To call a function, write the function name, with arguments following, separated by spaces.

```
GHCi> max 9 7
9
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   GHCi> max 9 7
   9

Calling functions takes **highest precedence**:

   GHCi> max 9 7 + 3
   10

Perhaps this is what you wanted:

   GHCi> (max 9 7) + 3
   12
Open a file clocktools.hs and write this function in it:

\[
\text{subtract45 } m = \text{mod } (m - 45) 60
\]

This defines a function named subtract45 that takes a number of minutes \( m \), and computes what subtracting 45 minutes from this number would lead to, without going below 0 or above 59.
Open a file `clocktools.hs` and write this function in it:

```haskell
subtract45 m = mod (m - 45) 60
```

This defines a function named `subtract45` that takes a number of minutes `m`, and computes what subtracting 45 minutes from this number would lead to, without going below 0 or above 59.

Load the file in GHCi using `:l`:

```haskell
GHCi> :l clocktools
GHCi> subtract45 15
30
```
Multiple Arguments

Let’s solve the general case of subtracting n minutes! Add to clocktools.hs:

```haskell
subtractMinutes n m = mod (m - n) 60
```
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subtractMinutes n m = mod (m - n) 60
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GHCi> :r
GHCi> subtractMinutes 10 5
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Let's solve the general case of subtracting n minutes! Add to clocktools.hs:

\[
\text{subtractMinutes } n \ m = \text{mod } (m - n) \ 60
\]

GHCi> :r
GHCi> subtractMinutes 10 5
55

GHCi> (subtractMinutes 10) 5
55

*Whoa, what happened there?*
Haskell takes advantage of **currying** to support functions with multiple arguments. That is, functions take a single argument and return a function ready to take the next argument.

We call the function ready to take the next argument a **partially applied function**.

What can we do with this?
Haskell takes advantage of **currying** to support functions with multiple arguments. That is, functions take a single argument and return a function ready to take the next argument.

We call the function ready to take the next argument a **partially applied function**.

What can we do with this?

\[
\text{subtract45} = \text{subtractMinutes} \ 45
\]

Whoa. Is that concise, expressive, or both?
End of Lecture: Roadmap
Blake lecturing again on Tuesday.

Divide up the learning group assignment amongst your group before you leave class.

Any questions? If they cannot be answered here, feel free to send to mailing list.