



CS 11 Haskell track: lecture 3

- This week:
 - Defining infix operators
 - Fixity declarations and precedence
 - Field labels
 - Type classes!
 - More on I/O



Defining infix operators

- Infix operators are really just functions
 - Can be defined like other functions e.g.

$(++) :: [a] \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow [a]$

$[] ++ ys = ys$

$(x:xs) ++ ys = x : (xs ++ ys)$

$(.) :: (b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow (a \rightarrow c)$

$f . g = \lambda x \rightarrow f (g x)$

- (These are both in the Prelude)



Fixity (precedence) declarations

- Ten operator precedence levels exist in Haskell
 - can't add any more
 - can assign new operators to any precedence

```
infixr 5 ++
```

```
infixr 9 .
```

- **infixr**: right-associative
- **infixl**: left-associative
- **infix**: non-associative



Field labels (1)

- Might want to define a record-like data structures

```
data Point = Pt Float Float
```

```
pointx :: Point -> Float
```

```
pointx (Pt x _) = x
```

```
pointy :: Point -> Float
```

```
pointy (Pt _ y) = y
```



Field labels (2)

- Short form:

```
data Point = Pt { pointx :: Float,  
                 pointy :: Float }
```

- or:

```
data Point = Pt { pointx, pointy :: Float }  
:t pointx  
pointx :: Point -> Float  
:t pointy  
pointy :: Point -> Float
```



Field labels (3)

- Can use field labels to construct new values:

```
Pt {pointx = 1, pointy = 2}
```

- Equivalent to:

```
Pt 1 2
```

- Can pattern match on labels:

```
absPoint :: Point -> Float
```

```
absPoint (Pt {pointx = x, pointy = y})  
  = sqrt (x*x + y*y)
```



Type classes (1)

- Some operations can be defined for many different data types
 - `==` `/=` defined for many types
 - `<` `<=` `>` `>=` defined for many types
 - `+` `-` `*` defined for numeric types
- Causes problems for most languages
 - does `+` mean "add integers" or "add floats"?
- Most languages resolve using variable type decls
- Some define separate operators (`+` vs `+.`)



Type classes (2)

- Problems:

- May want to overload operators for new data types
- Want to resolve all types at compile time
- Don't want to break type inference

- Solution:

- Declare certain groups of operations as a "type class"



Type classes (3)

```
class Eq a where
```

```
  (==) , (/=) :: a -> a -> Bool
```

```
  x /= y = not (x == y)
```

- This declares **Eq** as a type class with two operations **==** and **/=** of type **a -> a -> Bool**
- Provides default definition for **/=** in terms of **==**
- Defined in Prelude



Defining class instances (1)

- Make pre-existing classes instances of type class:

```
instance Eq Integer where
```

```
  x == y = x `integerEq` y
```

```
instance Eq Float where
```

```
  x == y = x `floatEq` y
```

- (assumes `integerEq` and `floatEq` functions exist)



Defining class instances (2)

- Do same for user-defined classes:

```
data Tree a = Leaf a
            | Branch (Tree a) (Tree a)

instance (Eq a) => Eq (Tree a) where
    Leaf x == Leaf y = x == y
    (Branch l1 r1) == (Branch l2 r2) =
        (l1==l2) && (r1==r2)
    _ == _ = False
```

- Note context: `(Eq a) => ...`



Other useful classes

- Comparable types:

`Ord` → `<` `<=` `>` `>=`

- Printable types:

`Show` → `show` where

`show :: a -> String`

- Numeric types:

`Num` → `+` `-` `*` `negate` `abs` etc.



Using type classes

```
quicksort :: (Ord a) => [a] -> [a]
```

```
quicksort [] = []
```

```
quicksort (x:xs) =
```

```
    quicksort lt ++ [x] ++ quicksort ge
```

```
    where
```

```
        lt = [y | y <- xs, y < x]
```

```
        ge = [y | y <- xs, y >= x]
```

- Any type not defining `<` or `>=` can't be **quicksorted** using this definition



Deriving type classes (1)

- Sometimes instance definition is obvious:

```
data Color = Red | Green | Blue
instance Show (Color) where
    show Red     = "Red"
    show Green  = "Green"
    show Blue   = "Blue"
```



Deriving type classes (2)

- Shorter:

```
data Color = Red | Green | Blue
    deriving Show
```

- Now `instance` definition not needed
- Often used for classes whose definition is trivial
- e.g. `Eq`, `Show`

```
data Color = Red | Green | Blue
    deriving (Eq, Show)
```

- Only a few classes can be derived



Input / Output (I/O)

- Input/output is modeled in Haskell as "actions" or "computations"
- Represented by types of form: `IO a`
- A type `IO a` is a type which does some input and/or output and "returns" a value of type `a`
- Entire program is a value of type `IO ()`
 - where `()` is the unit (no value) type
 - This is the type of the `main` function



Simple I/O actions

- Take a string, print it, return nothing:
`putStr :: String -> IO ()`
- Take a string, print it + newline, return nothing:
`putStrLn :: String -> IO ()`
- Get a string ending in a newline and return it
`getLine :: IO String`



Combining I/O actions (1)

- I/O would be unusable if couldn't combine I/O actions to make more complex actions
- Two basic functions:
`return :: a -> IO a`
`(>>=) :: IO a -> (a -> IO b) -> IO b`
- `(>>=)` is called "bind"
 - (real types are more general than this)
- These are also the characteristic functions of the **Monad** type class



Combining I/O actions (2)

- `return x` converts a value into an action that returns that value
- `(>>=)` combines
 - an action returning type `a`
 - a function that takes a value of type `a` and returns an action returning type `b`
- ... to get an action returning type `b`



Combining I/O actions (3)

$(\gg=) :: IO\ a \rightarrow (a \rightarrow IO\ b) \rightarrow IO\ b$

- Consider:

$f1 \gg= \lambda x \rightarrow f2\ x$ -- or: $f1 \gg= f2$

- $f1$ has type $IO\ a$

- a value from $IO\ a$ is "unpacked" into x

- x is passed to function of type $(a \rightarrow IO\ b)$

- result: value of type $IO\ b$

- This is the only way to use the IO value!



Example (in ghci)

```
Prelude> return "hello!"
```

[nothing happens]

```
Prelude> return "hello!" >>= putStrLn  
hello!
```

- Alternate notation:

```
Prelude> do s <- return "hello!";  
           putStrLn s
```

- Called "do notation"



do notation (1)

- May want to use several I/O actions in a function

```
getTwoLines :: IO String
```

```
getTwoLines = getLine >>= \a ->  
              getLine >>= \b ->  
              return (a ++ b)
```

- Yuck!
- So common that special syntactic sugar exists to make it easier to use
- Works for any monad (including `IO` monad)



do notation (2)

- Short form:

```
getTwoLines :: IO String
getTwoLines = do a <- getLine
                 b <- getLine
                 return (a ++ b)
```

- Looks like imperative code
- Acts like imperative code
- but is purely functional!



Other IO operators (1)

- $(>>=)$ operator sequences actions, passing result of one action to another action
- Sometimes need to sequence actions but don't care about the result
- $(>>)$ operator used in that case
- Definition:
 $(>>) :: IO\ a \rightarrow IO\ b \rightarrow IO\ b$
 $a \gg b = a \gg>= _ \rightarrow b$
 - (type is actually more general than this)



Other IO operators (2)

- `fail` function used when something goes wrong

`fail :: String -> IO a`

- `fail` can produce a result of any `IO` type
- Weak form of error handling
- Allows you to break out of a computation that cannot succeed
- `String` is the error message you give



More functions (1)

- Take a sequence of IO actions, do them one after the other, return list of all results

`sequence :: [IO a] -> IO [a]`

- Take a sequence of IO actions, do them one after the other, return nothing

`sequence_ :: [IO a] -> IO ()`

- Map a function generating IO actions over a list

`mapM :: (a -> IO b) -> [a] -> IO [b]`

`mapM_ :: (a -> IO b) -> [a] -> IO ()`



More functions (2)

```
Prelude> mapM return [1, 2, 3]
```

```
Prelude> mapM return [1, 2, 3] >>= print  
[1,2,3]
```

```
Prelude> mapM_ return [1, 2, 3] >>= print  
( )
```

```
Prelude> mapM_ putStrLn ["foo", "bar", "baz"]  
foo  
bar  
baz
```



Reference

- A good (more advanced) tutorial on Haskell I/O:

http://haskell.org/haskellwiki/IO_inside

- Explains in more detail how I/O actually is implemented and how it works



Next week

- Monads
 - see how this stuff really works
 - generalize to many other situations