

# Background – Constructors (1A)

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# Based on

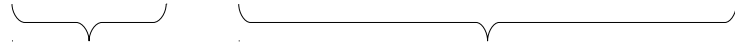
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Haskell in 5 steps

[https://wiki.haskell.org/Haskell\\_in\\_5\\_steps](https://wiki.haskell.org/Haskell_in_5_steps)

# Data Constructor

**data** **Color** = **Red** | **Green** | **Blue**



Type Constructor	Data Constructors values
---------------------	--------------------------------

- Red** is a *constructor* that contains a *value* of the type **Color**.
- Green** is a *constructor* that contains a *value* of the type **Color**.
- Blue** is a *constructor* that contains a *value* of the type **Color**.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/18204308/haskell-type-vs-data-constructor>

# Variable binding examples

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

```
pr :: Color -> String
```

```
pr x
```

```
  | x == Red   = "Red"
```

```
  | x == Green = "Green"
```

```
  | x == Blue  = "Blue"
```

```
  | otherwise = "Not a Color"
```

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

```
Prelude> let x = Red
```

```
x ← Red
```

```
Prelude> let y = Green
```

```
x ← Green
```

```
Prelude> let z = Blue
```

```
x ← Blue
```

```
*Main> pr Red
```

```
x ← Red
```

```
"Red"
```

```
*Main> pr Green
```

```
x ← Green
```

```
"Green"
```

```
*Main> pr Blue
```

```
x ← Blue
```

```
"Blue"
```

```
Prelude> show(x)
```

```
"Red"
```

```
Prelude> show (y)
```

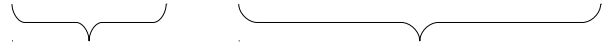
```
"Green"
```

```
Prelude> show(z)
```

```
"Blue"
```

# Data Constructor with Parameters

```
data Color = RGB Int Int Int
```



Type Constructor type	Data Constructors (a function returning a value)
-----------------------------	--

**RGB** is not a value but a *function* taking three Int's and *returning a value*

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/18204308/haskell-type-vs-data-constructor>

# Data Constructor with Parameters – type declaration

```
data Color = RGB Int Int Int
```

```
RGB :: Int -> Int -> Int -> Color
```

 a function type declaration

**RGB** is a **data constructor** that is a *function* taking three **Int** values as its arguments, and then uses them to construct a new value.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/18204308/haskell-type-vs-data-constructor>

# Type Constructors and Data Constructors

## A type constructor

- a "function" that takes 0 or more types
- returns a new type.

## Type constructors with parameters

allows slight variations in types

## A data constructor

- a "function" that takes 0 or more values
- returns a new value.

## Data constructors with parameters

allows slight variations in values

type **SBTree** = **BTree String**

type **BBTree** = **BTree Bool**

**BTree String** returns a new type

**BTree Bool** returns a new type

**RGB 12 92 27** → #0c5c1b

**RGB 255 0 0**

**RGB 0 255 0**

**RGB 0 0 255**

returns a value of **Color** type

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/18204308/haskell-type-vs-data-constructor>



# Type Constructor

Consider a binary tree to store **Strings**

```
data SBTTree = Leaf String | Branch String SBTTree SBTTree
```

**Type  
Constructor**  
type

**Data  
Constructors**  
(functions returning a value)

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/18204308/haskell-type-vs-data-constructor>

# Data Constructors – type declarations

Consider a binary tree to store `Strings`

```
data SBTTree = Leaf String | Branch String SBTTree SBTTree
```

SBTree  
Type  
Constructor

Leaf  
Data  
Constructor

Branch  
Data  
Constructor

**Leaf**     :: String -> SBTTree

**Branch**   :: String -> SBTTree -> SBTTree -> SBTTree

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/18204308/haskell-type-vs-data-constructor>

# Similar Type Constructors

Consider a binary tree to store Strings

```
data SBTree = Leaf String | Branch String SBTree SBTree
```

Consider a binary tree to store Bool

```
data BBTree = Leaf Bool | Branch Bool BBTree BBTree
```

Consider a binary tree to store a parameter type a

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

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/18204308/haskell-type-vs-data-constructor>

# Type Constructor with a Parameter

```
data SBTTree = Leaf String | Branch String SBTTree SBTree
data BBTTree = Leaf Bool | Branch Bool BBTTree BBTTree
```

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

a type variable **a**

as a parameter to the type constructor.

**BTree** has become a function.

It takes a type as its argument

and it returns a new type.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/18204308/haskell-type-vs-data-constructor>

# () : the unit type

() is both a **type** and a **value**.

() is a special **type**, pronounced “**unit**”,  
has one **value** (), sometimes pronounced “**void**”

the **unit type** has only one **value** which is called **unit**.

```
data () = ()      data Type :: Expression
() :: ()         Value :: Type
```

the **unit type** ()  
the **void value** ()

Immutable Variable :: Type

It is the same as the **void type void** in Java or C/C++.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/20380465/what-do-parentheses-used-on-their-own-mean>

# Unit Type

a **unit type** is a type that allows only one value (and thus can hold no information).

It is the same as the **void type** `void` in Java or C/C++.

```
:t  
Expression :: Type
```

```
data Unit = Unit
```

```
Prelude> :t Unit
```

```
Unit :: Unit
```

```
data () = ()
```

```
Prelude> :t ()
```

```
() :: ()
```

```
Prelude> :t ()
```

```
() :: ()
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/20380465/what-do-parentheses-used-on-their-own-mean>

# Never ending expressions

**expressions** : the entities on which calculations are performed **1+2**

**values** : the entities that result from a calculation – i.e., the answers **3**

an **expression** has only a never-ending sequence of calculations

```
x = x + 1
```

```
x
⇒ x + 1
⇒ (x + 1) + 1
⇒ ((x + 1) + 1) + 1
⇒ (((x + 1) + 1) + 1) + 1
...
```

this expression is said to not terminate, or diverge.

the symbol  $\perp$ , pronounced **bottom**,  
is used to denote the **value** of the **expression**.

each **type** has its own version of  $\perp$ .

[https://www.reddit.com/r/haskell/comments/5h4o3u/a\\_beginnerfriendly\\_explanation\\_of\\_bottom\\_taken/](https://www.reddit.com/r/haskell/comments/5h4o3u/a_beginnerfriendly_explanation_of_bottom_taken/)

# Bottom definition

The term **bottom** refers to a computation  
that never completes successfully.  
that fails due to some kind of error  
that just goes into an infinite loop  
(without returning any data).

The mathematical symbol for **bottom** is ' $\perp$ '  
In plain ASCII, '\_|\_'

**bottom** is

- a member value of any type Int, Float ... ,
- a member value of even the trivial type ( )
- a member value of the equivalent simple type:

```
data Unary = Unary
```

<https://wiki.haskell.org/Bottom>



# Bottom Expressions

**bottom** can be expressed in Haskell thus:

```
bottom = bottom                                -- bottom yielding expression (infinite)
```

```
bottom = error "Non-terminating computation!" -- function
```

the **type** of **bottom** is arbitrary,  
and defaults to the most general type:

```
f n | n < 3 = -1
```

```
f n | n < 5 = 1
```

```
f n      = 2
```

```
bottom :: a
```

```
undefined = error "Prelude.undefined"          -- the Prelude function
```

```
undefined | False = undefined                 -- the Gofer function
```

<https://wiki.haskell.org/Bottom>

# The Value Undefined

**undefined** is an **example** of a **bottom value** (denoted  $\perp$ ) that represents any undefined, stuck or partial state in the program.

Many different forms of **bottom** exist:

non-terminating loops, exceptions, pattern match failures

basically any state in the program that is undefined in some sense.

The value **undefined** :: **a** is a canonical example of a value that puts the program in an undefined state.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/3962939/whats-the-difference-between-undefined-in-haskell-and-null-in-java>

# Undefined examples

**undefined** itself isn't particularly special -- its not wired in --  
and you can implement Haskell's **undefined**

using any **bottom**-yielding expression.

E.g. this is a valid implementation of undefined:

```
undefined = undefined
```

exiting immediately (the old Gofer compiler used this definition):

```
undefined | False = undefined
```

The primary property of **bottom** is  
that if an expression evaluates to **bottom**,  
your entire program will evaluate to **bottom**:  
the program is in an undefined state.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/3962939/whats-the-difference-between-undefined-in-haskell-and-null-in-java>

# Undefined usages

As bottom is an inhabitant of every type  
bottoms can be used  
wherever a value of every type would be.

useful in a number of circumstances:

-- for leaving a part in your program to come back to later:

```
foo = undefined
```

-- when dispatching to a type class instance:

```
print (sizeOf (undefined :: Int))
```

-- when using laziness:

```
print (head (1 : undefined))
```

```
:set +m --multiline  
let foo=undefined  
foo  
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```


```
import Foreign.Storable  
print(sizeOf(undefined::Int))  
8  
let i = 10  
let i = 10 :: Int  
print(sizeOf(i))  
8
```

```
print (head (1 : undefined))  
1  
print (head (1 : [1, 2, 3]))  
1  
print (head (undefined : [1, 2, 3]))  
*** Exception: Prelude.undefined
```

<https://wiki.haskell.org/Bottom>

# A new datatype declaration

```
data TypeC Tpar ... Tpar = ValC type ... type | ... |  
                    ValC type ... type
```



A new **datatype** declaration

The keyword **data** introduces a new **datatype** declaration,

- the **new type** `TypeC Tpar ... Tpar`
- its **values** `ValC type ... type | ... | ValC type ... type`

**datatype**  
**data type**  
**data type = data**

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/16892570/what-is-in-haskell-exactly>

# Type Language and Expression Language

```
data TypeC Tvar ... Tvar = ValC_1 type ... type | ... |  
                          ValC_n type ... type
```

A new **datatype**  
declaration

**TypeC** (Type **C**onstructor)

is added to *the type language*

**ValC** (Value **C**onstructor)

is added to *the expression language*  
and *its pattern sub-language*  
*must not appear in types*

*expression language*

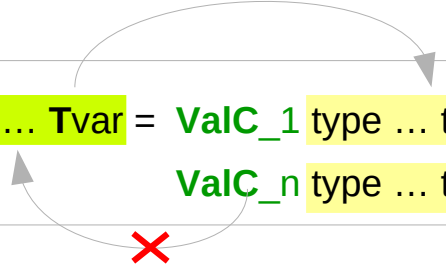
**Value** *equivalent*

**Variable** *(immutable)*

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/16892570/what-is-in-haskell-exactly>

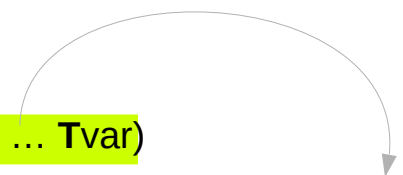
# Expression Language : always at the RHS

```
data TypeC Tvar ... Tvar = ValC_1 type ... type | ... |  
                          ValC_n type ... type
```



The diagram shows a red 'X' below the code. Two curved arrows originate from the 'Tvar ... Tvar' part of the code. One arrow points to the 'type ... type' part of the constructor definition, and the other points back to the 'Tvar ... Tvar' part, indicating a self-referencing relationship that is disallowed.

argument types in (Tconst Tvar ... Tvar)  
can be used as argument types in Vconst type ... type



The diagram shows a curved arrow pointing from the 'Tvar ... Tvar' part of the 'Tconst' constructor to the 'type ... type' part of the 'Vconst' constructor, indicating that argument types in 'Tconst' can be used as argument types in 'Vconst'.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/16892570/what-is-in-haskell-exactly>

# Datatype Declaration Examples

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

Tree (Type Constructor)

Leaf or Node (Value Constructor)

```
data Type = Value
```

```
data () = ()
```

() (Type Constructor)

() (Value Constructor)

the type (), often pronounced "Unit"

the value (), sometimes pronounced "void"

the type () containing only one value ()

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/16892570/what-is-in-haskell-exactly>



# Type Synonyms

A **type synonym** is a new name for an **existing type**.

Values of different synonyms of the same type are entirely compatible.

```
type MyChar = Char
```

The same as **typedef** in C

[https://wiki.haskell.org/Type\\_synonym](https://wiki.haskell.org/Type_synonym)

# Type Synonym Examples

```
type String = [Char]           no data constructor
```

```
phoneBook :: [(String,String)]
```

```
type PhoneBook = [(String,String)]   no data constructor
```

```
phoneBook :: PhoneBook
```

```
type PhoneNumber = String           no data constructor
```

```
type Name = String
```

```
type PhoneBook = [(Name,PhoneNumber)]
```

```
phoneBook :: PhoneBook
```

```
phoneBook =
```

```
  [("betty","555-2938")  
  ,("bonnie","452-2928")  
  ,("patsy","493-2928")  
  ,("lucille","205-2928")  
  ,("wendy","939-8282")  
  ,("penny","853-2492")  
  ]
```

<http://learnyouahaskell.com/making-our-own-types-and-typeclasses>

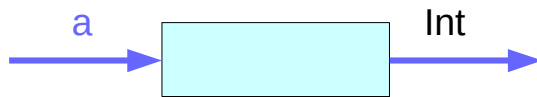
# Type Synonyms for Functions

```
type Bag a = a -> Int
```

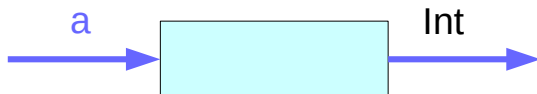
no data constructor

```
data Gems = Sapphire | Emerald | Diamond deriving (Show)
```

`a -> Int`



`Bag a`



```
type Bag a = a -> Int
```

```
type Bag Int = Int -> Int
```

```
type Bag Char = Char -> Int
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/14166641/haskell-type-synonyms-for-functions>

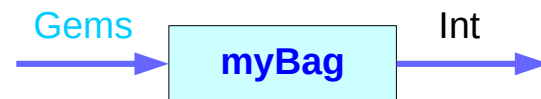
# Type Synonyms for Functions

```
type Bag a = a -> Int
```

no data constructor

```
data Gems = Sapphire | Emerald | Diamond deriving (Show)
```

```
myBag :: Bag Gems
```



```
emptyBag :: Bag Gems
```



<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/14166641/haskell-type-synonyms-for-functions>

# Type Synonyms for Functions

```
type Bag a = a -> Int
```

no data constructor

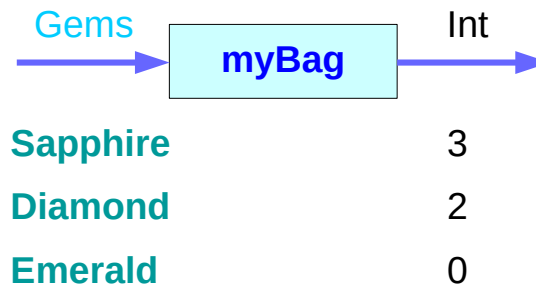
```
data Gems = Sapphire | Emerald | Diamond deriving (Show)
```

```
myBag :: Bag Gems
```

```
myBag Sapphire = 3
```

```
myBag Diamond = 2
```

```
myBag Emerald = 0
```

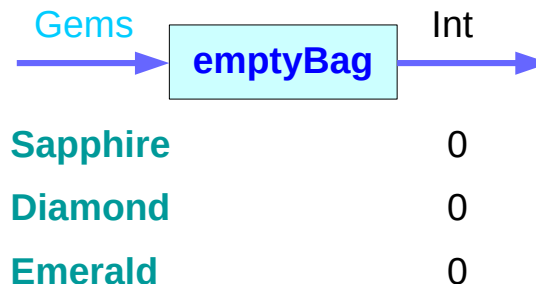


```
emptyBag :: Bag Gems
```

```
emptyBag Sapphire = 0
```

```
emptyBag Diamond = 0
```

```
emptyBag Emerald = 0
```



<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/14166641/haskell-type-synonyms-for-functions>

# Pattern matching function

```
data Person = Person String String Int Float String String deriving (Show)
```

Type     Data

Const    Const

```
let guy = Person "Buddy" "Finklestein" 43 184.2 "526-2928" "Chocolate"
```

firstName :: Person -> String

firstName (Person firstname \_ \_ \_ \_ \_) = firstname     -- return firstname

```
Person "Buddy" "Finklestein" 43 184.2 "526-2928" "Chocolate"
```

firstname = Buddy

<http://learnyouahaskell.com/making-our-own-types-and-typeclasses>

# Toward the Record Syntax

```
data Person = Person String String Int Float String String deriving (Show)
```

```
let guy = Person "Buddy" "Finklestein" 43 184.2 "526-2928" "Chocolate"
```

## pattern matching functions

```
firstName :: Person -> String
```

```
firstName (Person firstname _ _ _ _) = firstname
```

```
firstName guy ▶ "Buddy"
```

```
lastName :: Person -> String
```

```
lastName (Person _ lastname _ _ _) = lastname
```

```
lastName guy ▶ "John"
```

```
age :: Person -> Int
```

```
age (Person _ _ age _ _) = age
```

```
age guy ▶ 43
```

```
height :: Person -> Float
```

```
height (Person _ _ _ height _) = height
```

```
height guy ▶ 184.2
```

```
phoneNumber :: Person -> String
```

```
phoneNumber (Person _ _ _ _ number _) = number
```

```
phoneNumber guy ▶ "526-2928"
```

```
flavor :: Person -> String
```

```
flavor (Person _ _ _ _ _ flavor) = flavor
```

```
flavor guy ▶ "Chocolate"
```

<http://learnyouahaskell.com/making-our-own-types-and-typeclasses>

# The Record Syntax

```
data Person = Person { fName      :: String
                      , lName      :: String
                      , age         :: Int
                      , ht          :: Float
                      , ph          :: String
                      , flavor      :: String
                      } deriving (Show)
```

```
let guy = Person{ fName="Buddy",
                 lName="John",
                 age=43,
                 ht=184.2,
                 ph="526-2928",
                 flavor="Orange" }
```

<http://learnyouahaskell.com/making-our-own-types-and-typeclasses>



# The Record Syntax Example

```
data Car = Car String String Int deriving (Show)
```

non-record

```
Car "Ford" "Mustang" 1967
```

```
data Car = Car { company :: String, model :: String, year :: Int } deriving (Show)
```

record

```
Car { company = "Ford", model = "Mustang", year = 1967 }
```

```
★ Car "Ford" "Mustang" 1967 -- no commas
```

<http://learnyouahaskell.com/making-our-own-types-and-typeclasses>

# Accessor Functions

```
data Person = Person { fName      :: String
                      , lName      :: String
                      , age        :: Int
                      , ht         :: Float
                      , ph         :: String
                      , flavor     :: String
                      } deriving (Show)
```

```
let guy = Person { fName="Buddy", lName="John", age=43, ht=184.2, ph="526-2928", flavor="Orange" }
    accessor functions
```

```
fName      :: Person -> String
lName      :: Person -> String
age        :: Person -> Int
ht         :: Person -> Float
ph         :: Person -> String
flavor     :: Person -> String
```

```
fName      guy      ▶ "Buddy"
lName      guy      ▶ "John"
age        guy      ▶ 43
ht         guy      ▶ 184.2
ph         guy      ▶ "526-2928"
flavor     guy      ▶ "Orange"
```

<http://learnyouahaskell.com/making-our-own-types-and-typeclasses>

# Update Functions

```
data Configuration = Configuration
    { username      :: String
    , localhost    :: String
    , currentDir   :: String
    , homeDir      :: String
    , timeConnected :: Integer
    }
```

```
username :: Configuration -> String
```

-- accessor function (automatic)

```
localhost :: Configuration -> String
```

-- etc.

```
changeDir :: Configuration -> String -> Configuration
```

-- update function

```
changeDir cfg newDir =
```

```
    if directoryExists newDir          -- make sure the directory exists
```

```
    then cfg { currentDir = newDir }
```

```
    else error "Directory does not exist"
```

[https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/More\\_on\\_datatypes](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/More_on_datatypes)

# Typeclass and Instance Example

```
class Eq a where
```

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

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

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

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

- a type declaration

- a type declaration

- a function definition

- a function definition

```
data TrafficLight = Red | Yellow | Green
```

```
instance Eq TrafficLight where
```

```
Red == Red = True
```

```
Green == Green = True
```

```
Yellow == Yellow = True
```

```
_ == _ = False
```

```
ghci> Red == Red
```

```
True
```

```
ghci> Red == Yellow
```

```
False
```

```
ghci> Red `elem` [Red, Yellow, Green]
```

```
True
```

<http://learnyouahaskell.com/making-our-own-types-and-typeclasses#the-functor-typeclass>

# Instance of a typeclass (1)

```
data State a = State { runState :: Int -> (a, Int) }
```

```
instance Show (State a) where                                not working!
```

```
instance (Show a) => Show (State a) where
```

```
  show (State f) = show [show i ++ " => " ++ show (f i) | i <- [0..3]]
```

```
getState = State (\c -> (c, c))
```

```
putState count = State (\_ -> ((), count))
```

(State a) is an instance of Show  
a should be an instance of Show

```
State { runState = (\c -> (c, c)) }
```

```
State { runState = (\_ -> ((), c)) }
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/7966956/instance-show-state-where-doesnt-compile>

# Instance of a typeclass (2)

```
getState = State (\c -> (c, c))
```

```
show (State (\c -> (c, c)))
```

```
(\c -> (c, c))
```

```
show (State f )
```

```
f
```

```
instance (Show a) => Show (State a) where
```

```
show (State f) = show [show i ++ " => " ++ show (f i) | i <- [0..3]]
```

```
show [0 => show (f 0), 1 => show (f 1), 2 => show (f 2), 3 => show (f 3)]
```

```
(\c -> (c, c)) 0
```

```
(\c -> (c, c)) 1
```

```
(\c -> (c, c)) 2
```

```
(\c -> (c, c)) 3
```

```
(0,0)
```

```
(1, 1)
```

```
(2, 2)
```

```
(3, 3)
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/7966956/instance-show-state-where-doesnt-compile>

# Instance of a typeclass (3)

```
data State a = State { runState :: Int -> (a, Int) }
```

```
instance (Show a) => Show (State a) where
```

```
  show (State f) = show [show i ++ " => " ++ show (f i) | i <- [0..3]]
```

```
getState = State (\c -> (c, c))
```

```
putState count = State (\_ -> ((), count))
```

```
f ➡ (\c -> (c, c))
```

```
*Main> getState
```

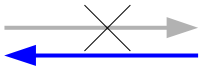
```
["0 => (0,0)", "1 => (1,1)", "2 => (2,2)", "3 => (3,3)"]
```

```
*Main> putState 1
```

```
["0 => ((),1)", "1 => ((),1)", "2 => ((),1)", "3 => ((),1)"]
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/7966956/instance-show-state-where-doesnt-compile>

# newtype and data

**data**  **newtype**

**data** can only be replaced with **newtype** 

if the type has exactly one value constructor

which can have exactly only one field

It ensures that the trivial **wrapping** and **unwrapping**  
of **the single field** is eliminated by the **compiler**.

(using newtype is faster)

[https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Understanding\\_monads/State](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Understanding_monads/State)



# data, type, and newtype

```
data    State s a = State { runState :: s -> (s, a) }
type    State s a = State { runState :: s -> (s, a) }      (X)
newtype State s a = State { runState :: s -> (s, a) }
```

```
instance :    data(O),    type(X),    newtype(O)
overhead :    data(O),    type(X),    newtype(X)
```

a new type, data constructor  
an alias, no data constructor  
a new type, data constructor

```
data    State s a = State { runState :: s -> (s, a) }
type    MMM s a = State s a      -- existing type
                                     -- exactly same as typedef in C
```

[https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Understanding\\_monads/State](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Understanding_monads/State)

# Single value constructor with a single field

simple wrapper types such as **State Monad**  
are usually defined with **newtype**.

**type** : type synonyms

```
newtype State s a = State { runState :: s -> (s, a) }
```

A single value **constructor** : State { runState :: s -> (s, a) }

A single **field** : { runState :: s -> (s, a) }

[https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Understanding\\_monads/State](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Understanding_monads/State)

# Single value constructor with a single field

one constructor with one field means that  
**the new type** and **the type of the field**  
are in direct correspondence (**isomorphic**)

`state` :: (s -> (a, s)) -> `State s a`

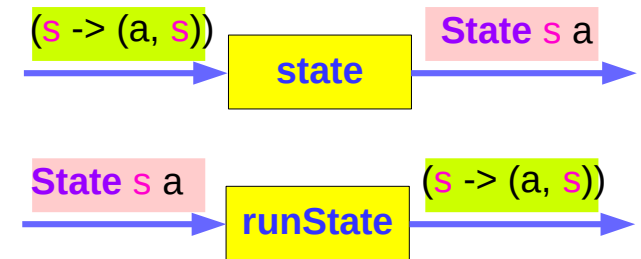
`runState` :: `State s a` -> (s -> (a, s))

after the type is checked at compile time,  
at run time the two types can be treated identically

`(s -> (a, s))`      the type of the field

`State s a`      the new type

`State { runState :: s -> (s, a) }`      one constructor with one field



<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/2649305/why-is-there-data-and-newtype-in-haskell>

# Creating a new type class

to declare different new type class instances for a particular type, or want to make a type abstract,

- wrap it in a **newtype**
- then the type checker treats it as a distinct new type
- but identical at runtime without incurring additional overheads.

Isomorphic relation means that after the type is checked at compile time, at run time the two types can be treated essentially the same, without the overhead or indirection normally associated with a data constructor.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/2649305/why-is-there-data-and-newtype-in-haskell>

# data, newtype, type

	<b>data</b>	<b>newtype</b>	<b>type</b>
value constructors : number	many	only one	none
value constructors : evaluation	lazy	strict	N/A
value constructors : fields	many	only one	none
Compilation Time	affected	affected	affected
Run Time Overhead	runtime overhead	none	none
Created Type	a distinct new type	a distinct new type	a new name
Type Class Instances	type class instances	type class instances	no instance
Pattern Matching Evaluation	at least WHNF	no evaluation	same as the original
Usage	a new data type	higher level concept	higher level concept

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/2649305/why-is-there-data-and-newtype-in-haskell>

# data

**data** - creates new algebraic type with value constructors

- can have several value constructors
- value constructors are lazy
- values can have several fields
- affects both compilation and runtime, have runtime overhead
- created type is a distinct new type
- can have its own type class instances
- when pattern matching against value constructors,  
    WILL be evaluated at least to weak head normal form (WHNF) \*
- used to create new data type  
    (example: `Address { zip :: String, street :: String }`)

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/2649305/why-is-there-data-and-newtype-in-haskell>

# newtype

**newtype** - creates new “decorating” type with value constructor

- can have only one value constructor
- value constructor is strict
- value can have only one field
- affects only compilation, no runtime overhead
- created type is a distinct new type
- can have its own type class instances
- when pattern matching against value constructor,  
    CAN not be evaluated at all \*
- used to create higher level concept  
    based on existing type with distinct set of  
    supported operations or that is not
- interchangeable with original type  
    (example: Meter, Cm, Feet is Double)

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/2649305/why-is-there-data-and-newtype-in-haskell>

# type

**type** - creates an alternative name (synonym)  
for a type (like typedef in C)

- no value constructors
- no fields
- affects only compilation, no runtime overhead
- no new type is created (only a new name for existing type)
- can NOT have its own type class instances
- when pattern matching against data constructor,  
behaves the same as original type
- used to create higher level concept
  - based on existing type with the same set of  
supported operations (example: String is [Char])

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/2649305/why-is-there-data-and-newtype-in-haskell>



# newtype examples

```
newtype Fd = Fd CInt
```

```
-- data Fd = Fd CInt would also be valid
```

```
-- newtypes can have deriving clauses just like normal types
```

```
newtype Identity a = Identity a
```

```
  deriving (Eq, Ord, Read, Show)
```

```
-- record syntax is still allowed, but only for one field
```

```
newtype State s a = State { runState :: s -> (s, a) }
```

```
-- this is not allowed:
```

```
-- newtype Pair a b = Pair { pairFst :: a, pairSnd :: b }
```

```
-- but this is allowed (no restriction in data):
```

```
data Pair a b = Pair { pairFst :: a, pairSnd :: b }      -- two fields
```

```
-- and so is this:
```

```
newtype NPair a b = NPair (a, b)                       -- one value constructor
```

<https://wiki.haskell.org/Newtype>

# newtype examples

Suppose you need to have a **type** which is very much like **Int**,  
**but** with different ordering :  
first by **even** numbers then by **odd** numbers

cannot **define** a **new instance** of **Ord** for **Int**  
because then Haskell *will not know which one to use*.

**defining** a **type** which is **isomorphic** to **Int**:  
One way to do this would be to define a new **datatype**:

```
data MyInt = MyInt Int
```

[https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Yet\\_Another\\_Haskell\\_Tutorial/Type\\_advanced](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Yet_Another_Haskell_Tutorial/Type_advanced)

# Defining isomorphic types

Suppose you need to have a **type** which is very much like **Int**,  
**but** with different ordering :  
first by **even** numbers then by **odd** numbers

cannot **define** a **new instance** of **Ord** for **Int**  
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**defining** a **type** which is **isomorphic** to **Int**:  
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data MyInt = MyInt Int
```

[https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Yet\\_Another\\_Haskell\\_Tutorial/Type\\_advanced](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Yet_Another_Haskell_Tutorial/Type_advanced)

# Defining isomorphic types – bottom

```
data MyInt = MyInt Int
```

this type is not truly isomorphic to Int

it has one more value.

the type **Int** – all values of integers + one more value:  $\perp$

which is used to represent **erroneous** or **undefined computations**.

**MyInt** has not only values **MyInt 0**, **MyInt 1** and so on,

but also **MyInt  $\perp$**

since datatypes can themselves be undefined,

it has an additional value:  $\perp$

which differs from **MyInt  $\perp$**

this makes the types non-isomorphic.

[https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Yet\\_Another\\_Haskell\\_Tutorial/Type\\_advanced](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Yet_Another_Haskell_Tutorial/Type_advanced)

# Defining isomorphic types – efficiency

```
data MyInt = MyInt Int
```

**efficiency issues** with this representation:  
instead of simply **storing** an **integer**,  
we have to **store** a **pointer** to an **integer**  
and have to **follow** that **pointer**  
whenever we need the **value** of a **MyInt**.

[https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Yet\\_Another\\_Haskell\\_Tutorial/Type\\_advanced](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Yet_Another_Haskell_Tutorial/Type_advanced)

# Defining isomorphic types – newtype

```
data MyInt = MyInt Int
```

To get around these problems of **datatype**  
(not isomorphic and efficiency)

Haskell has a **newtype** construction.

it has a **constructor** like a **datatype**,  
but it can have **only one constructor** and  
this constructor can have **only one argument**.

```
newtype MyInt = MyInt Int
```

[https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Yet\\_Another\\_Haskell\\_Tutorial/Type\\_advanced](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Yet_Another_Haskell_Tutorial/Type_advanced)

# Defining isomorphic types – one constructor one argument

But we cannot define any of:

```
newtype Bad1 = Bad1a Int | Bad1b Double
```

```
newtype Bad2 = Bad2 Int Double
```

(2 constructors)

(2 arguments)

the fact that we cannot define **Bad2** as above is not a big issue:

we simply use **type** instead:

```
type Good2 = Good2 Int Double
```

Or declare a **newtype alias** to the existing **tuple type**:

```
newtype Good2 = Good2 (Int,Double)
```

[https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Yet\\_Another\\_Haskell\\_Tutorial/Type\\_advanced](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Yet_Another_Haskell_Tutorial/Type_advanced)

# Defining isomorphic types – MyInt example

**instance** Ord MyInt where

**compare** (MyInt i) (MyInt j)

| odd i && odd j = compare i j

| even i && even j = compare i j

| even i = LT

| otherwise = GT

Like **datatype**, we can still derive **classes** over **newtypes**

like **Show** and **Eq**

implicitly assuming we have derived **Eq** over **MyInt**

in recent versions of GHC, on **newtypes**, you are allowed

to derive any **class** of which the **base type** (**Int**) is an **instance**.

For example, we could derive **Num** on **MyInt**

to provide arithmetic functions over it.

Pattern matching over newtypes is exactly as in datatypes. We can write constructor and destructor functions for MyInt as follows:  
[http://www.haskell.org/wiki.net/Andreas\\_Kaskell\\_Tutorial/Type\\_advanced](http://www.haskell.org/wiki.net/Andreas_Kaskell_Tutorial/Type_advanced)

**Background (IA)**  
**Constructors**  
unMyInt (MyInt i) = i



# Defining isomorphic types – Pattern Matching

**Pattern matching** over **newtypes**

is exactly as in **datatypes**.

We can write **constructor** and **destructor functions** for **MyInt** as follows:

```
mkMyInt i = MyInt i
```

```
unMyInt (MyInt i) = i
```

[https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Yet\\_Another\\_Haskell\\_Tutorial/Type\\_advanced](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Yet_Another_Haskell_Tutorial/Type_advanced)

## References

- [1] <ftp://ftp.geoinfo.tuwien.ac.at/navratil/HaskellTutorial.pdf>
- [2] <https://www.umiacs.umd.edu/~hal/docs/daume02yaht.pdf>