

Monad P3 : Non-terminating Expressions (1E)

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Haskell Expressions

Expressions and values

Because Haskell is a **purely functional language**, all **computations** are done via the **evaluation** of **expressions** (**syntactic terms**) to yield **values**

Every **value** has an associated **type**.
(Intuitively, we can think of **types** as **sets of values**.)

Examples of **expressions** include **atomic values**
such as the **integer 5**, the **character 'a'**,
and the **function $\lambda x \rightarrow x+1$** ,
as well as **structured values**
such as the **list $[1,2,3]$** and the **pair $('b',4)$** .

Expressions



Value

Type



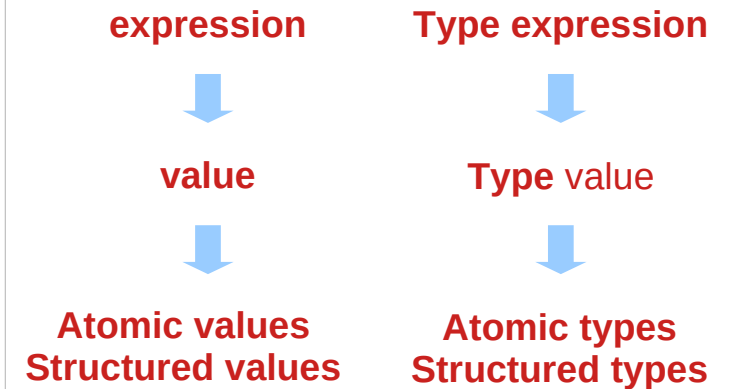
Atomic values
Structured values

<https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/goodies.html>

Type expressions and types

Just as **expressions** denote **values**,
type expressions are **syntactic terms**
that denote **type values** (or just **types**).

Examples of **type expressions** include the **atomic types**
Integer (infinite-precision integers),
Char (characters),
Integer->Integer (functions mapping Integer to Integer),
as well as the **structured types**
[Integer] (homogeneous lists of integers) and
(Char,Integer) (character, integer pairs).



<https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/goodies.html>

First class values

All Haskell values are "**first-class**"

- they may be passed as arguments to functions,
- returned as results,
- placed in data structures, etc.

Haskell types, on the other hand, are not first-class.

<https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/goodies.html>

Typing

Types in a sense describe values, and the association of a **value** with its **type** is called a **typing**.

Using the examples of values and types above, we write **typing** as follows: (the "::" can be read "has type.")

```
5 :: Integer
'a' :: Char
inc :: Integer -> Integer
[1,2,3] :: [Integer]
('b',4) :: (Char,Integer)
```

<https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/goodies.html>

Function definition and declaration

Functions in Haskell are normally defined by a **series of equations**.
For example, the **function `inc`** can be defined by the single equation:

```
inc n    = n+1
```

An **equation** is an example of a **declaration**.

Another kind of **declaration** is a **type signature declaration**,
with which we can declare an **explicit typing** for `inc`:

```
inc      :: Integer -> Integer
```

<https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/goodies.html>

Expression evaluation =>

when we wish to indicate that an **expression e1 evaluates**, or "**reduces**," to *another expression* or **value e2**, we will write:

e1 => e2

For example, note that:

inc (inc 3) => 5

<https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/goodies.html>

Statements vs Expressions

Many programming languages differentiate **statements** from **expressions**.

Statement: What code does

Expression: What code is

can think the term "**statement**" very broadly to refer to anything that is not an **expression** or **type declaration**.

<https://www.haskellforall.com/2013/07/statements-vs-expressions.html>

Imperative vs functional languages

statements vs. **expressions** closely parallels

imperative languages vs. **functional languages**:

Imperative: A language that *emphasizes* **statements**

Functional: A language that *emphasizes* **expressions**

C lies at one end of the spectrum (imperative),
relying heavily on **statements** to accomplish everything.

Haskell lies at the exact opposite extreme (functional),
using **expressions** heavily:

<https://www.haskellforall.com/2013/07/statements-vs-expressions.html>

Statement examples in the imperative language C

```
#include <stdio.h>

int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    int elems[5] = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5};    // statement

    int total = 0;
    int i;

    for (i = 0; i < 5; i++) {          // statement
        total += elems[i];            // statement
    }
    printf("%d\n", total);             // statement

    return 0;
}
```

<https://www.haskellforall.com/2013/07/statements-vs-expressions.html>

Expression examples in the functional language Haskell (1)

everything in Haskell is an **expression**,
and even **statements** are **expressions**.

```
main = print (sum [1..5])      -- Expression
```

<https://www.haskellforall.com/2013/07/statements-vs-expressions.html>

Expression examples in the functional language Haskell (2)

For example, the following code might appear to be a traditional imperative-style sequence of statements:

```
main = do
  putStrLn "Enter a number:"      -- Statement?
  str <- getLine                  -- Statement?
  putStrLn ("You entered: " ++ str) -- Statement?
```

<https://www.haskellforall.com/2013/07/statements-vs-expressions.html>

Expression examples in the functional language Haskell (3)

but **do** notation is merely **syntactic sugar**
for nested applications of (**>>=**), which is itself nothing more than
an infix higher-order function:

```
main =  
  putStrLn "Enter a number:" >>= (\_ ->      -- Expression  
    getLine >>= (\str ->                    -- Sub-expression  
      putStrLn ("You entered: " ++ str) )) -- Sub-expression
```

<https://www.haskellforall.com/2013/07/statements-vs-expressions.html>

Statement-as-expression

In Haskell, "**statements**" are actually **nested expressions**, and **sequencing statements** just builds larger and larger **expressions**.

This **statement-as-expression** paradigm promotes consistency and prevents arbitrary language limitations, such as Python's restriction of lambdas to single statements.

In Haskell, you cannot limit the number of statements a **term** uses any more than you can limit the number of **sub-expressions**.

<https://www.haskellforall.com/2013/07/statements-vs-expressions.html>

Monads

do notation works for more than just **IO**.

Any **type** that implements the **Monad class** can be "sequenced" in **statement form**, as long as it supports the following two operations:

class Monad m where

(>>=) :: m a -> (a -> m b) -> m b

return :: a -> m a

<https://www.haskellforall.com/2013/07/statements-vs-expressions.html>

Statement-like syntax using monads

This provides a uniform interface for translating imperative **statement-like** syntax into **expressions** under the hood.

For example, the **Maybe** type implements the Monad class:

```
data Maybe a = Nothing | Just a
```

```
instance Monad Maybe where
```

```
  m >>= f = case m of
```

```
    Nothing -> Nothing
```

```
    Just a   -> f a
```

```
  return = Just
```

<https://www.haskellforall.com/2013/07/statements-vs-expressions.html>

do notation using monads

This lets you assemble **Maybe-based** computations using **do** notation

example :: Maybe Int

example = **do**

x <- **Just 1**

y <- **Nothing**

return (x + y)

example =

Just 1 >>= (\x ->

Nothing >>= (\y ->

return (x + y)))

The above code desugars to nested calls to (>>=):

<https://www.haskellforall.com/2013/07/statements-vs-expressions.html>

Substitute >>= and return

The compiler then **substitutes** in our definition of (**>>=**) and **return**

```
example = case (Just 1) of
  Nothing -> Nothing
  Just x  -> case Nothing of
    Nothing -> Nothing
    Just y  -> Just (x + y)
```

```
example =
  Just 1 >>= (\x ->
  Nothing >>= (\y ->
  return (x + y) ))
```

```
instance Monad Maybe where
  m >>= f = case m of
    Nothing -> Nothing
    Just a  -> f a
  return = Just
```

<https://www.haskellforall.com/2013/07/statements-vs-expressions.html>

Evaluate the outer and inner **case** expression

We can then hand-evaluate this expression to prove that it short-circuits when it encounters `Nothing`:

-- Evaluate the outer `case`

example = case `Nothing` of

`Nothing` -> `Nothing`

`Just y` -> `Just (1 + y)`

-- Evaluate the remaining `case`

example = `Nothing`

example = case (`Just 1`) of

`Nothing` -> `Nothing`

`Just x` -> case `Nothing` of

`Nothing` -> `Nothing`

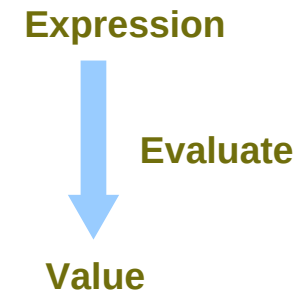
`Just y` -> `Just (x + y)`

<https://www.haskellforall.com/2013/07/statements-vs-expressions.html>

Everything is an expression to be evaluated

Notice that we can evaluate these **Maybe** "statements" without invoking any sort of **abstract machine**.

When everything is an **expression**, **everything** is simple to **evaluate** and does not require understanding or *invoking an execution model*.



FSM not needed for sequencing

<https://www.haskellforall.com/2013/07/statements-vs-expressions.html>

Semantics

In fact, the distinction between **statements** and **expressions** also closely parallels another important divide: the difference between **operational semantics** and **denotational semantics**.

Operational semantics:

Translates code to **abstract machine statements**

Denotational semantics:

Translates code to **mathematical expressions**

<https://www.haskellforall.com/2013/07/statements-vs-expressions.html>

Expressions and their meaning

Haskell teaches you
to **think denotationally** in terms of **expressions** and their **meanings**
instead of **statements** and an **abstract machine**.

This is why Haskell makes you a better programmer:
you *separate* your mental model
from the underlying execution model, ... **abstract machine**
so you can more easily identify *common patterns*
between diverse **programming languages** and **problem domains**.

<https://www.haskellforall.com/2013/07/statements-vs-expressions.html>

Haskell expression

the distinction between **statements** and **expressions**
in **imperative languages**

x = 2 + 2;

the **x = ...;** part being a **statement**

the **2 + 2** part being an **expression**.

The **body** of a **Haskell function** is

always one single expression

although you can split that one expression apart for convenience

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/63144227/what-is-an-expression-in-haskell>

Haskell expression

So if you want to "do more than one thing", which is an **imperative** notion of a **function** being able to change **global state**, you solve this with **monads**, like so:

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/63144227/what-is-an-expression-in-haskell>

Web service examples

Scotty is a **web framework** written in Haskell, which is similar to **Ruby's Sinatra**.

You can install it using the following commands:

```
$ sudo apt-get install cabal-install
```

```
$ cabal update
```

```
$ cabal install scotty
```

You can compile and start the server from the terminal

```
$ runghc hello-world.hs
```

```
Setting phasers to stun... (port 3000) (ctrl-c to quit)
```

<http://shakthimaan.com/posts/2016/01/27/haskell-web-programming/news.html>

hello-world.hs

```
$ runghc hello-world.hs
```

The service will run on [port 3000](#), and you can [open localhost:3000](#) in a browser to see the `Hello, World!` text.

You can also use **Curl** to make a [query](#) to the server.

```
$ sudo apt-get install curl
```

```
$ curl localhost:3000
```

```
Hello, World!
```

```
-- hello-world.hs  
{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}
```

```
import Web.Scotty
```

```
main :: IO ()
```

```
main = scotty 3000 $ do
```

```
  get "/" $ do
```

```
    html "Hello, World!"
```

<http://shakthimaan.com/posts/2016/01/27/haskell-web-programming/news.html>

Web service requests and responses

```
{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}
import Web.Scotty
import Network.HTTP.Types

main = scotty 3000 $ do
  get "/" $ do
    text "This was a GET request!"
  delete "/" $ do
    html "This was a DELETE request!"
  post "/" $ do
    text "This was a POST request!"
  put "/" $ do
    text "This was a PUT request!"
  -- handle GET request on "/" URL
  --   send 'text/plain' response
  -- handle DELETE request on "/" URL
  --   send 'text/html' response
  -- handle POST request on "/" URL
  --   send 'text/plain' response
  -- handle PUT request on "/" URL
  --   send 'text/plain' response
```

<https://dev.to/parambirs/how-to-write-a-haskell-web-servicefrom-scratch---part-3-5en6>

Overloaded Strings

```
{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}
```

is called a **language pragma** and extends the language with nice features.

In this case, **OverloadedStrings** allows us to write a string and it gets automatically converted to the **string type** we need (**String**, **ByteString**, or **Text**).

```
{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}
```

<https://www.stackbuilders.com/blog/getting-started-with-haskell-projects-using-scotty/>

Entry function **scotty**

scotty is the entry function that **Scotty** defines for running an application.

The first **parameter** is the **port** that we want it to run in, and the rest is the **application**, which looks like a **list** of **routes** and **handlers**.

For now, we only have one **route** (the root) and a **handler**, which is a **GET** and returns an **HTML string** with a **title**.

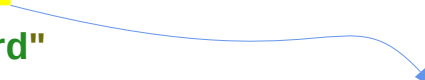
```
scotty 3000 $  
get "/" $  
  html "<h1>Shortener</h1>"
```

<https://www.stackbuilders.com/blog/getting-started-with-haskell-projects-using-scotty/>

Named and unnamed parameters

-- named parameters:

```
get "/askfor/:word" $ do
  w <- param "word"
  html $ mconcat ["<h1>You asked for ", w, ", you got it!</h1>" ]
```



-- unnamed parameters from a query string or a form:

```
post "/submit" $ do      -- e.g. http://server.com/submit?name=somename
  name <- param "name"
  text name
```



<https://dev.to/parambirs/how-to-write-a-haskell-web-servicefrom-scratch---part-3-5en6>

Haskell expression in scotty examples (1)

```
{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}  
module Main (main) where  
import Web.Scotty  
  
main :: IO ()  
main = scotty 3000 $  
  get "/:who" $ do  
    who <- param "who"  
    text ("Beam " <> who <> " up, Scotty!")
```

```
Ghci> [1,2,3] <> [4,5,6]      -- concatenation  
[1,2,3,4,5,6]
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/63144227/what-is-an-expression-in-haskell>

Haskell expression in scotty examples (2)

Here, **main's body** (a **monadic action**, not a function) is a single expression, **scotty 3000** (...).

While the **linebreak1** after **scotty 3000 \$** doesn't carry meaning and only makes the code look nicer,

the **linebreak2** in the **do** block actually reduces multiple actions into one expression via **syntactic sugar**.

```
main :: IO ()
main = scotty 3000 $      -- linebreak1
      get "/:who" $ do   -- linebreak2
        who <- param "who"
        Text ("..." <> who <> " ...")
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/63144227/what-is-an-expression-in-haskell>

Haskell expression in scotty examples (3)

So while it may seem that this **event handler** does two things things:

- (1) **param** "who"
- (2) **text** (...)

it is still one expression equivalent to this:

```
{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}
module Main (main) where
import Web.Scotty

main :: IO ()
main = scotty 3000 $
  get "/:who" $ do
    who <- param "who"
    text ("Beam " <> who <> " up, Scotty!")
```

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/63144227/what-is-an-expression-in-haskell>

Haskell expression in scotty examples (4)

```
main =  
  scotty 3000  
    (get "/:who"  
      (param "who" >>=  
        (\who -> text ("Beam " <> who <> " up, Scotty!")))))
```

with `>>=` being the invisible operator between the `do-block` lines.

When expressions begin to grow, this becomes very inconvenient,
so you split parts of them into `sub-expressions`
and give those `names`, e.g. like:

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/63144227/what-is-an-expression-in-haskell>

Haskell expression in scotty examples (5)

```
main = scotty 3000 handler
  where
    handler = do
      get "/:who" getWho
      post "/" postWho

    getWho = do
      ...
    postWho = do
      ...
```

But it is essentially equivalent to one big expression.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/63144227/what-is-an-expression-in-haskell>

Haskell expression in scotty examples (6)

There are many things in the language beyond function bodies that are not expressions; in the example above, the following are not expressions:

- `{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}` (a language pragma)
- `module Main (main) where` (a module, export list)
- `import Web.Scotty` (an import declaration)
- `main :: IO ()` (a type signature)
- `main =` (a top declaration, or a value binding)

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/63144227/what-is-an-expression-in-haskell>

Haskell expression in scotty examples (7)

`import Web.Scotty` could be called a kind of **statement**, since *grammatically* it's in **imperative form**, but if we're going to be imprecise, it would be ok to call them all **declarations**.

More interestingly, in Haskell you have both an **expression language** at the **value level** and one at the **type level**.

So `IO ()` isn't a **value expression**, but it's a **type expression**. If you had the ability to mix those two expression languages up, you'd have **dependent types**.

- `{-# LANGUAGE OverloadedStrings #-}`
(a language pragma)
- `module Main (main) where`
(a module, export list)
- `import Web.Scotty`
(an import declaration)
- `main :: IO ()`
(a type signature)
- `main =`
(a top declaration, or a value binding)

<https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/goodies.html>

Non-terminating Expressions

Denotational semantics

Semantics is about defining the "meaning" of a program.

denotational semantics In Haskell

– the **value** is a **mathematical object** of some sort

the **expression 10** (but also the **expression 9 + 1**)

have **denotations** of the **number 10**

(rather than the Haskell **value 10**).

We usually write that $\llbracket 9 + 1 \rrbracket = 10$ meaning that the **denotation** of the Haskell **expression 9 + 1** is the **number 10**.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/14698414/haskell-pattern-match-diverge-and-%e2%8a%a5/14698510#14698510>

Semantic map and Strachey brackets

Haskell **expressions** denote **mathematical values**.

Strachey brackets $[\cdot]$

to denote the "**semantic mapping**"

from **Haskell** to **Math**.

we want our **semantic brackets** to be compatible
with **semantic operations**.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/14698414/haskell-pattern-match-diverge-and-%e2%8a%a5/14698510#14698510>

Semantic map example

$$\llbracket x + y \rrbracket = \llbracket x \rrbracket + \llbracket y \rrbracket$$

on the left side + is the Haskell function

(+) :: Num a => a -> a -> a

and on the right side it's the **binary operation**
in a **commutative group**.

we can use the properties from the **semantic map**
to know how our Haskell functions should work.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/14698414/haskell-pattern-match-diverge-and-%e2%8a%a5/14698510#14698510>

Commutative property example

the commutative property "in Math"

```
[[x]] + [[y]] == [[y]] + [[x]]  
= [[x + y]] == [[y + x]]  
= [[x + y == y + x]]
```

where the third step also indicates that the Haskell

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

ought to have the properties of a

mathematical equivalence relationship.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/14698414/haskell-pattern-match-diverge-and-%e2%8a%a5/14698510#14698510>

Irrecoverable / recoverable errors

expressions that result in some kind of a **run-time error**, such as **dividing by zero**, have the **value** `_|_` (read "**bottom**").

Such an **error** is not recoverable: *irrecoverable errors*
programs will not continue past these errors.

errors encountered by the **I/O system**, *recoverable errors*
such as an **end-of-file error**, are recoverable
and are handled in a different manner.

Such an **I/O error** is really not an **error** at all
but rather an **exception**.

<https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/functions.html>

Value in the semantic sense

The **value** is \perp , usually pronounced "**bottom**".

It is a **value** in the *semantic sense*

-- it is not a normal Haskell value per se.

It represents **computations**

that do not produce a normal Haskell **value**:

exceptions and **infinite loops**, for example.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/14698414/haskell-pattern-match-diverge-and-%e2%8a%a5/14698510#14698510>

Denotational semantics and \perp

denotational semantics, where \perp lives, is

a mapping **Haskell values**

to some **other space of values**.

in order to give meaning to programs

in a more formal manner

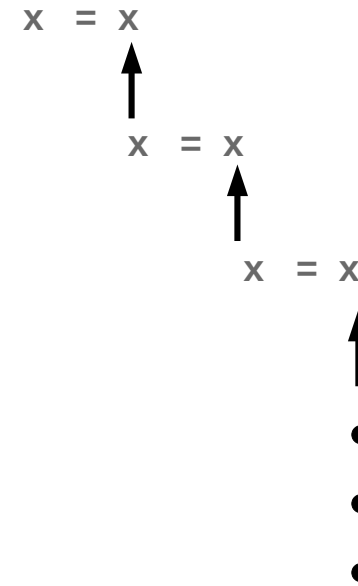
than just talking about what programs should do

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/14698414/haskell-pattern-match-diverge-and-%e2%8a%a5/14698510#14698510>

let x = x in x

Consider an expression like **let x = x in x**

- there is no Haskell value for this expression.
- If you tried to evaluate it, it would simply never finish.
- not obvious what **mathematical object** this corresponds to.



<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/14698414/haskell-pattern-match-diverge-and-%e2%8a%a5/14698510#14698510>

\perp for computations that does not return

in order to reason about programs that have the following characteristics, we need to give some **denotation** for it.

- with no Haskell **value**
- never finishing upon evaluation
- not obvious **mathematical object**

So, essentially, we just *make up a value* \perp (**bottom**) for all these computations

So \perp is just a way to define what a computation that doesn't return "means".

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/14698414/haskell-pattern-match-diverge-and-%e2%8a%a5/14698510#14698510>

⊥ for throwing exceptions

We also define other computations like `undefined` and `error "some message"` as \perp because they also do not have obvious normal values.

So throwing an exception corresponds to \perp .
This is exactly what happens with a failed pattern match.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/14698414/haskell-pattern-match-diverge-and-%e2%8a%a5/14698510#14698510>

Lifted type

every Haskell **type** is "lifted" -- it *contains* \perp .

That is, **Bool** corresponds to $\{\perp, \text{True}, \text{False}\}$ rather than just $\{\text{True}, \text{False}\}$.

This represents the fact that Haskell programs are not guaranteed to **terminate** and can have **exceptions**.

This is also true when you define *your own type* -- the type contains every value you defined for it as well as \perp .

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/14698414/haskell-pattern-match-diverge-and-%e2%8a%a5/14698510#14698510>

Bottom value in normal code

interestingly, since Haskell is **non-strict**,
`⊥` can exist in normal code.

So you could have a value like `Just ⊥`,
and everything will work fine, unless you **evaluate** it,

A good example of this is `const`:

```
const 1 ⊥ -- 1
```

this works for failed pattern matches as well:

```
const 1 (let Just x = Nothing in x) -- 1
```

constant function

```
const :: a -> b -> a
```

Input: `const 12 3`

Output: `12`

Input: `const 12 (3/0)`

Output: `12`

```
aaa x y = let    r = 3 * x
              s = 6 * y
            in r + s
```

Input: `aaa 2 4`

Output: `30`

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/14698414/haskell-pattern-match-diverge-and-%e2%8a%a5/14698510#14698510>

Pattern match in **let** expression (1)

```
let
  Just x = (binom (n-1) (k-1))
  Just y = (binom (n-1) k)
in
  Just (x + y)
```

It is fine from the **type-checking** point of view

extracting the underlying values from the **Just wrapper**
(these are **x** and **y**), adding them up and rewrapping them.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/68240639/why-cant-you-use-just-syntax-without-let-in-block-in-haskell>

Pattern match in **let** expression (2)

pattern matches in the **let... in** expression

assume that the results of **binom (n-1) (k-1)**

the results of the form **Just x**

but they could also be **Nothing** -

in which case your program will crash at runtime!

The "assignment" **Just x = ...**

matches ... against Just x,

binding x to the wrapped value *if the match succeeds.*

It doesn't apply **Just** to anything.

let

Just x = (binom (n-1) (k-1))

Just y = (binom (n-1) k)

in

Just (x + y)

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/68240639/why-cant-you-use-just-syntax-without-let-in-block-in-haskell>

Non-strict semantics (1)

An **expression language** is said to have **non-strict semantics** if **expressions** can have a **value** even if some of their **subexpressions** do not

Haskell is one of the few modern languages to have **non-strict semantics** by default:

nearly every other language has **strict semantics**, if any **subexpression** fails to have a **value**, **the whole expression** fails with it.

https://wiki.haskell.org/Non-strict_semantics

Non-strict semantics (2)

non-strict semantics is one of the most important features in Haskell:

it is what allows programs

to work with conceptually **infinite data structures**,

and it is why people say that

Haskell lets you write *your own* **control structures**.

It's also one of the motivations

behind Haskell being a **pure language**

(though there are several other good ones).

https://wiki.haskell.org/Non-strict_semantics

Pure functions (1)

A **function** is called **pure**

if it corresponds to a function in the **mathematical sense**:

it associates each possible **input** value with an **output** value,
and does nothing else. In particular, it has no side effects

that is to say, invoking it produces no observable effect
other than the result it returns;

it cannot also e.g. write to disk, or print to a screen.

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

Pure functions (2)

A pure function is trivially referentially transparent

it does not depend on anything other than its parameters,
so when invoked

in a different **context** or

at a different **time**

with the same **arguments**,

it will produce the same **result**.

A programming language may be called purely functional

if **evaluation** of **expressions** is **pure**.

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

Non-strict vs. strict evaluation (1)

Non-strictness means that
reduction (the mathematical term for **evaluation**)
proceeds **from the outside in**,

(a+(b*c)) : first +, then (b*c)

Strict languages work the other way around,
from the inside out

(a+(b*c)) : first (b*c), then +

Non-strictness

from the outside in,

(((◀))) •

Strict

from the inside out

(((•))) ▶

https://wiki.haskell.org/Lazy_vs._non-strict

Non-strict vs. strict evaluation (2)

With **non-strictness**

the outer reduction may eliminate some of the **sub-expressions**
and does not evaluate them
so "**bottom**" can be eliminated and don't get be evaluated

With **strictness**

if any sub-expression evaluates to **bottom**
then the **bottom** will propagate outwards.

Non-strictness

from the outside in,

((())) •

Strict

from the inside out

(((•))) 

https://wiki.haskell.org/Lazy_vs._non-strict

Lazy evaluation (1)

Technically, **lazy evaluation** means **call-by-name** plus **Sharing**.
A kind of opposite is **eager evaluation**.

Lazy evaluation is part of **operational semantics**, i.e.
how a Haskell program is evaluated.

The counterpart in **denotational semantics**, i.e.
what a Haskell program computes, is called **Non-strict semantics**.
This semantics allows one to bypass undefined values
(e.g. results of infinite loops) and in this way it also allows
one to process formally infinite data.

https://wiki.haskell.org/Lazy_evaluation

Lazy evaluation (2)

Lazy evaluation is a method to evaluate a Haskell program.

It means that expressions are not evaluated when they are bound to variables, but their evaluation is deferred until their results are needed by other computations.

In consequence, arguments are not evaluated before they are passed to a function, but only when their values are actually used.

https://wiki.haskell.org/Lazy_evaluation

Lazy evaluation (3)

While lazy evaluation has many advantages, its main drawback is that memory usage becomes hard to predict.

The thing is that while two expressions, like `2+2 :: Int` and `4 :: Int`, may denote the same value 4, they may have very different sizes and hence use different amounts of memory.

https://wiki.haskell.org/Lazy_evaluation

Lazy evaluation (4)

An extreme example would be the infinite list `1 : 1 : 1 ...`
and the expression `let x = 1:x in x`.

The latter is represented as a cyclic graph,
and takes only finite memory, but its denotation is the former infinite list.

https://wiki.haskell.org/Lazy_evaluation

Evaluation models of a function

Call-by-value:

arguments are evaluated before a function is entered

Call-by-name:

arguments are passed unevaluated

Call-by-need:

arguments are passed unevaluated
but an expression is only evaluated once
and shared upon subsequent references

http://dev.stephendiehl.com/fun/005_evaluation.html

Reductions in the expression $f\ x$

Given an expression $f\ x$

Call-by-value: Evaluate x to v
Evaluate f to $\lambda y.e$
Evaluate $[y/v]e$

Call-by-name: Evaluate f to $\lambda y.e$
Evaluate $[y/x]e$

Call-by-need: Allocate a thunk v for x
Evaluate f to $\lambda y.e$
Evaluate $[y/v]e$

http://dev.stephendiehl.com/fun/005_evaluation.html

Lambda calculus (1)

The central concept in the **lambda calculus** is an **expression** which we can think of as a program that when evaluated returns a result consisting of *another* **lambda calculus expression**.

Here is the grammar for lambda expressions:

$$\text{expr} \rightarrow \lambda \text{ variable} . \text{expr} \mid \text{expr expr} \mid \text{variable} \mid (\text{expr}) \mid \text{constant}$$

<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~aho/cs4115/Lectures/15-04-13.html>

Lambda calculus (2)

Here is the grammar for lambda expressions:

$$\text{expr} \rightarrow \lambda \text{ variable} . \text{expr} \mid \text{expr expr} \mid \text{variable} \mid (\text{expr}) \mid \text{constant}$$

A **variable** is an identifier.

A **constant** is a built-in function such as addition or multiplication,
or a constant such as an integer or boolean.

all programming language constructs can be represented
as **functions** with the pure lambda calculus
so these **constants** are unnecessary.

However, we will use some constants for notational simplicity.

<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~aho/cs4115/Lectures/15-04-13.html>

Lambda calculus (3) – function abstraction

A **function abstraction**, often called a **lambda abstraction**, is a **lambda expression** that defines a **function**.

A **function abstraction** consists of *four parts*:
a **lambda** followed by a **variable**, a **period**,
and then an **expression** as in **$\lambda x.expr$** .

<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~aho/cs4115/Lectures/15-04-13.html>

Lambda calculus (4) – function abstraction

For example, the function abstraction $\lambda x. + x 1$ defines a **function of x** that *adds x* to **1**.

Parentheses can be added to lambda expressions for clarity.

Thus, we could have written this function abstraction as $\lambda x.(+ x 1)$ or even as $(\lambda x. (+ x 1))$.

In C this function definition might be written as

```
int addOne (int x) {  
    return (x + 1); }
```

<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~aho/cs4115/Lectures/15-04-13.html>

Lambda calculus (4) – function abstraction

the **function abstraction** $\lambda x. + x 1$

C function definition

```
int addOne (int x) {  
    return (x + 1); }
```

Note that unlike C the **lambda abstraction**

does not give a **name** to the function.

The **lambda expression** itself is the **function**.

We say that $\lambda x.expr$ binds the **variable** x in $expr$

and that $expr$ is the **scope** of the **variable**.

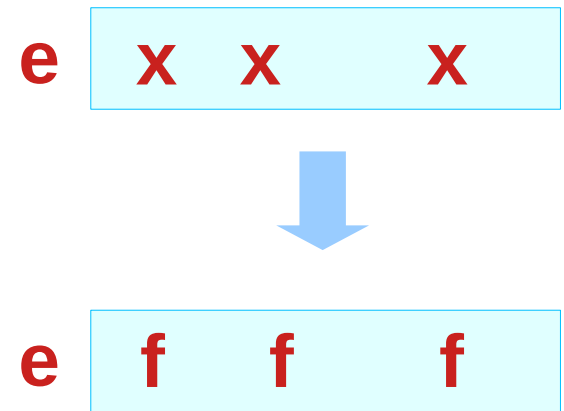
<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~aho/cs4115/Lectures/15-04-13.html>

Lambda calculus (5) – beta reduction

A **function application** $\lambda x.e f$ is evaluated by substituting the argument **f** for all free occurrences of the formal parameter **x** in the body **e** of the **function definition**.

We will use the notation $[f/x]e$ to indicate that **f** is to be substituted for all free occurrences of **x** in the expression **e**.

$[f/x]e$



<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~aho/cs4115/Lectures/15-04-13.html>

Lambda calculus (5) – beta reduction

Examples:

$$(\lambda x.x)y \rightarrow [y/x]x = y.$$

$$(\lambda x.xzx)y \rightarrow [y/x]xzx = yzy.$$

$$(\lambda x.z)y \rightarrow [y/x]z = z$$

since the formal parameter x does not appear in the body z .

This substitution in a function application is called a beta reduction and we use a right arrow to indicate it.

<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~aho/cs4115/Lectures/15-04-13.html>

Lambda calculus (5) – beta reduction

If $\text{expr1} \rightarrow \text{expr2}$, we say expr1 reduces to expr2 in one step.

In general, $(\lambda x.e)f \rightarrow [f/x]e$ means that applying the function $(\lambda x.e)$ to the argument expression f reduces to the expression $[f/x]e$ where the argument expression f is substituted for the function's formal parameter x in the function body e .

<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~aho/cs4115/Lectures/15-04-13.html>

Lambda calculus (5) – beta reduction

A lambda calculus expression (aka a "program") is "run" by computing a final result by repeatedly applying beta reductions. We use \rightarrow^* to denote the reflexive and transitive closure of \rightarrow ; that is, zero or more applications of beta reductions.

Examples:

$(\lambda x.x)y \rightarrow y$ (illustrating that $\lambda x.x$ is the identity function).

$(\lambda x.xx)(\lambda y.y) \rightarrow (\lambda y.y)(\lambda y.y) \rightarrow (\lambda y.y)$; thus, we can write $(\lambda x.xx)(\lambda y.y) \rightarrow^* (\lambda y.y)$. Note that here we have applied a function to a function as an argument and the result is a function.

<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~aho/cs4115/Lectures/15-04-13.html>

Call by value (2)

Call by value is an extremely common evaluation model. Many programming languages both imperative and functional use this evaluation strategy. The essence of call-by-value is that there are two categories of expressions: terms and values. Values are lambda expressions and other terms which are in normal form and cannot be reduced further. All arguments to a function will be reduced to normal form before they are bound inside the lambda and reduction only proceeds once the arguments are reduced.

http://dev.stephendiehl.com/fun/005_evaluation.html

Call by value (2)

For a simple arithmetic expression, the reduction proceeds as follows. Notice how the subexpression $(2 + 2)$ is evaluated to normal form before being bound.

```
(\x. \y. y x) (2 + 2) (\x. x + 1)
=> (\x. \y. y x) 4 (\x. x + 1)
=> (\y. y 4) (\x. x + 1)
=> (\x. x + 1) 4
=> 4 + 1
=> 5
```

http://dev.stephendiehl.com/fun/005_evaluation.html

Operational semantics (1)

It is one of the key properties of **purely functional languages** like Haskell that a **direct mathematical interpretation** like "1+9 denotes 10" carries over to **functions**, too:

in essence, the **denotation** of a program of type **Integer -> Integer** is a **mathematical function** $\mathbf{Z} \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}$ between integers.

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Denotational_semantics

Operational semantics (2)

While we will see that this expression needs **refinement** generally, to include non-termination,

the situation for **imperative languages** is clearly worse: a **procedure** with that type denotes something that changes the **state** of a machine in possibly unintended ways.

Imperative languages are tightly tied to **operational semantics** which describes their way of execution on a machine.

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Denotational_semantics

Operational semantics (3)

It is possible to define a **denotational semantics** for **imperative programs** and to use it to reason about such programs, but the semantics often has **operational nature** and sometimes must be extended in comparison to the **denotational semantics** for **functional languages**.]

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Denotational_semantics

Operational semantics (4)

In contrast, the meaning of **purely functional languages** is by **default** completely independent from their way of execution.

The Haskell98 standard even goes as far as to specify only Haskell's **non-strict denotational semantics**, leaving open how to implement them.

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Denotational_semantics

Operational semantics (5)

The real quantity we're interested in formally describing is **expressions** in programming languages.

A programming language **semantics** is described by the **operational semantics** of the language.

The **operational semantics** can be thought of as a description of an **abstract machine** which operates over the **abstract terms** of the programming language in the same way that a virtual machine might operate over instructions.

http://dev.stephendiehl.com/fun/004_type_systems.html

Operational semantics (6)

Denotational semantics for a language provides a **function** that translates from **program syntax** into **mathematical objects** like sets, functions, lists or even some other programming language

– a denotational semantics acts like a **compiler**

Operational semantics works by rewriting or executing programs **step-by-step**

– it uses only one program syntax to explain how a program runs

<https://www.cs.princeton.edu/~dpw/cos441-11/notes/slides13-lambda-calc.pdf>

Operational semantics (7)

As languages become more complicated, it is often easier to define **operational semantics** than **denotational semantics**

- it requires less math to do so
- but you might not be able to prove particularly strong theorems using the semantics

<https://www.cs.princeton.edu/~dpw/cos441-11/notes/slides13-lambda-calc.pdf>

Operational semantics (8)

The **operational library** makes it easy to implement monads with tricky **control flow**.

This is very useful for:

writing **web applications** in a **sequential** style,
programming **games** with a **uniform interface**
for human and AI players and easy replay,
implementing fast **parser monads**,
designing **monadic DSLs**, etc.

Embedded Domain Specific Language means
that you embed a **Domain specific language** in a language like Haskell.

<https://apfelmus.nfshost.com/articles/operational-monad.html>

Operational semantics (9)

For instance, to write a [web application](#) where the user is guided through a [sequence of tasks](#) ("wizard"). To [structure](#) your application, you can use a [custom monad](#) that supports an instruction `askUserInput :: CustomMonad UserInput`.

This command sends a web form to the user and returns a result when he submits the form.

However, you don't want your server to block while waiting for the user, so you have to suspend the computation and resume it at some later point.

tricky to implement

This library makes it easy.

<https://apfelmus.nfshost.com/articles/operational-monad.html>

Operational semantics (10)

The idea is to identify a set of primitive instructions and to specify their **operational semantics**.

Then, the library makes sure that the monad laws hold automatically.

In the web application example,

the primitive instruction would be **AskUserInput**.

Any monad can be implemented in this way.

Ditto for monad transformers.

<https://apfelmus.nfshost.com/articles/operational-monad.html>

Sharing (1)

Sharing means that **temporary data** is physically stored,
if it is used multiple times.

```
let x = sin 2  
in x*x
```

x is used twice as factor in the product $x*x$.

Due to **referential transparency**, it does not play a role,
whether **sin 2** is computed twice or
whether it is computed once and the result is stored and reused.

https://wiki.haskell.org/Lazy_evaluation

Sharing (2)

However, when you write **let** expression,
the **Haskell compiler** will certainly decide to store the result.

This can be **the wrong way**,
if a computation is cheap but its result is huge.

```
[0..1000000] ++ [0..1000000]
```

where it is much cheaper to compute the list of numbers
than to store it with full length.

https://wiki.haskell.org/Lazy_evaluation

Sharing (3)

Because the **sharing** property **cannot** be observed in Haskell, it is **hard** to transfer the sharing property to foreign programs when you use Haskell as an **Embedded** domain specific language.

You must design a **monad** or use **unsafePerformIO** hacks, which should be avoided.

https://wiki.haskell.org/Lazy_evaluation

Lazy vs. non-strict (1)

only evaluating an expression when its results are needed
(note the shift from "reduction" to "evaluation").

when the evaluation engine sees an **expression**
it builds a **thunk** data structure containing
whatever **values** are needed to evaluate the **expression**,
plus a **pointer** to the **expression** itself.

when the result is actually needed
the evaluation engine calls the **expression** and
then replaces the **thunk** with the result for future reference.

https://wiki.haskell.org/Lazy_vs._non-strict

Lazy vs. non-strict (2)

Obviously there is a strong correspondence between a **thunk** and a partly-evaluated expression.

in most cases the terms "**lazy**" and "**non-strict**" seem to be synonyms.

but not quite, for instance
imagine an evaluation engine
on highly parallel hardware
that fires off sub-expression evaluation *eagerly*,
but then throws away results that are not needed.

With **non-strictness**

if you start from the outside and work in, then some of the **sub-expressions** are eliminated by the outer reductions, so they don't get evaluated and you don't get "**bottom**".

Non-strictness

from the outside in,

(((←))) •

https://wiki.haskell.org/Lazy_vs._non-strict

Lazy vs. non-strict (3)

In practice Haskell is not a purely **lazy** language:
for instance **pattern matching** is *usually* **strict**

So trying a **pattern match** forces **evaluation** to happen
at least far enough to accept or reject *the match*.

You can prepend a **~** in order
to make **pattern matches** **lazy**

https://wiki.haskell.org/Lazy_vs._non-strict

Lazy vs. non-strict (4)

The **strictness analyzer** also looks for cases where **sub-expressions** are always required by the **outer expression**, and converts those into **eager evaluation**.

It can do this because **the semantics** (in terms of "**bottom**") don't change.

Programmers can also use the **seq** primitive to force an **expression** to evaluate regardless of whether the result will ever be used. **!** is defined in terms of **seq**.

Non-strictness

from the outside in,

(((←))) •

Strict

from the inside out

(((•))) →

With **non-strictness**

reduction from the outside in then some **sub-expressions** are eliminated by the outer reductions, so they don't get evaluated and you don't get "bottom".

https://wiki.haskell.org/Lazy_vs._non-strict

Terminating expression

Intuitively,

a specific function evaluation is **terminating**,

where the **value** of every **argument** is supplied

if the Haskell **evaluation strategy** needs

finite number of steps to compute the result completely.

http://termination-portal.org/wiki/Functional_Programming

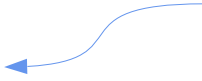
Non-terminating expression

the **function zeros** is considered **non-terminating**.

zeros :: [Integer]

zeros = 0: **zeros**

RHS is to be evaluated
recursively, infinitely



the **evaluation** does not **stop**

when reaching a **term** headed by a **constructor**:

it will continue evaluating the **arguments** of this **constructor**.

zeros = 0: **zeros**

0: **zeros**

0: **zeros**

0: **zeros**

http://termination-portal.org/wiki/Functional_Programming

repeat

```
repeat :: a -> [a]
```

it creates an *infinite* list where all items are the first argument

```
take 4 (repeat 3)
```

```
[3,3,3,3]
```

```
take 6 (repeat 'A')
```

```
"AAAAAA"
```

```
take 6 (repeat "A")
```

```
["A","A","A","A","A","A"]
```

http://zvon.org/other/haskell/Outputprelude/repeat_f.html

foldr (1)

foldr will execute the callback **function** once for each element in the structure.

The result will be passed to the next invocation of the callback.

For the initial call to callback,
previousValue will be initialValue,
currentValue will be the last element of the structure.

<https://wiki.haskell.org/Data.Foldable.foldr>

foldr (2)

```
foldr (+) 4 [0, 1, 2, 3]
```

-- alternatively written without syntactic sugar for lists:

```
foldr (+) 4 (0 : (1 : (2 : (3 : []))))
```

would be equivalent to:

```
0 + (1 + (2 + (3 + 4)))
```

PreviousValue = initialValue = 4

CurrentValue = last value = 3

0 + (1 + (2 + (3 + 4)))

↑ ↑
curr prev

0 + (1 + (2 + 7))

↑ ↑
curr prev

0 + (1 + 9)

↑ ↑
curr prev

0 + 10

↑ ↑
curr prev

<https://wiki.haskell.org/Data.Foldable.foldr>

foldr (3)

```
foldr :: (a -> b -> b) -> b -> [a] -> b
```

it takes the second argument **b**
and the last item of the list **a** in **[a]**
and applies the function, **(a -> b -> b)**
then it takes the penultimate item from the end
and the result, and so on.

last but one in a series of things; second last.

http://zvon.org/other/haskell/Outputprelude/foldr_f.html

foldr (4)

```
foldr :: (a -> b -> b) -> b -> [a] -> b
```

Input: foldr (+) 5 [1,2,3,4] 1 + (2 + (3 + (4 + 5)))

Output: 15

Input: foldr (/) 2 [8,12,24,4] 8 / (12 / (24 / (4 / 2)))

Output: 8.0

1 + (2 + (3 + (4 + 5)))

1 + (2 + (3 + 9))

1 + (2 + 12)

1 + 14

15

8 / (12 / (24 / (4 / 2)))

8 / (12 / (24 / 2))

8 / (12 / 12)

8 / 1

8

http://zvon.org/other/haskell/Outputprelude/foldr_f.html

Non-terminating expression (1)

```
foldr (||) True $ repeat False      -- never terminates
```

```
False || (False || (False || ... ))
```

```
|| True
```

```
foldr (||) False $ repeat True      -- terminates with True
```

```
True || (True || (True || ... ))
```

```
|| False
```

Infinitely check if there is any True,
But never reach the end

There is at least one True,
Therefore return with true

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/7960543/why-does-this-haskell-code-not-terminate>

Non-terminating expression (2)

```
foldr (||) True $ repeat False      -- never terminates
```

```
foldr (||) False $ repeat True     -- terminates with True
```

The first expands to **False || (False || (False || ...))**,
while the second expands to **True || (True || (True || ...))**.

The second argument to **foldr** is a **red herring** -
it occurs in the innermost application of **||**, not the **outermost**,
so it can never actually be reached.

The 2nd argument **True** is occurs
In the innermost application of **||**
The 2nd argument **False** is occurs
In the innermost application of **||**

A red herring is something that misleads or
distracts from a relevant or important
question.

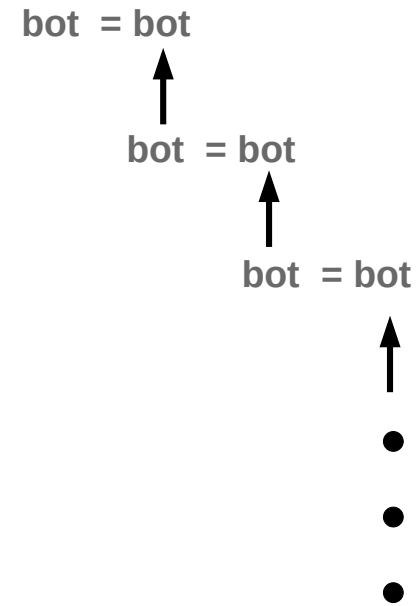
<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/7960543/why-does-this-haskell-code-not-terminate>

Non-terminating expression (2)

`bot` = `bot`

`bot` is a **non-terminating** expression.

Abstractly, we denote the **value** of a **non-terminating expression** as `_|_` (read "**bottom**").



<https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/functions.html>

Termination Checkers

Does function f terminate?

A) {Yes, Don't know}

Typically look for decreasing size

- Primitive recursive
- Walther recursion
- Size change termination

https://ndmitchell.com/downloads/slides-catch-16_mar_2006.pdf

Termination Checkers

```
fib :: Integer -> Integer
fib(1) = 1
fib(2) = 1
fib(n) = fib(n-1) + fib(n-2)
fib(0) =  $\perp$ NT
```

https://ndmitchell.com/downloads/slides-catch-16_mar_2006.pdf

Values

- A function only stops terminating when its given a value
- Perhaps the question is wrong:

Q) Given a function f and a value x ,
Does $f(x)$ terminate?

Q) Given a function f , for what values of x does
 $f(x)$ terminate?

https://ndmitchell.com/downloads/slides-catch-16_mar_2006.pdf

Non-terminate

fib n | n <= 0 =

error “bad programmer!”

- A function should never non-terminate
- It should give an helpful error message
- There may be a few exceptions
 - But probably things that can't be proved
 - i.e. A Turing machine simulator

https://ndmitchell.com/downloads/slides-catch-16_mar_2006.pdf

Laziness

Haskell is:

- **A functional programming language**
 - **Lazy – not strict**
 - **Only evaluates what is required**
- **Lazy allows:**
 - **Infinite data structures**

https://ndmitchell.com/downloads/slides-catch-16_mar_2006.pdf

Productivity

$[1..] = [1,2,3,4,5,6, \dots]$

- **Not terminating**
- **But is productive**
 - **Always another element**
 - **Time to generate “next result” is always finite**

https://ndmitchell.com/downloads/slides-catch-16_mar_2006.pdf

Evaluation

The blame game

- **last [1..]** is \perp NT
- **last** is a useful function
- **[1..]** is a useful value

- **Who is at fault?**
 - The caller of last

https://ndmitchell.com/downloads/slides-catch-16_mar_2006.pdf

A lazy termination checker

- All data/functions must be productive
- Can easily encode termination

```
isTerm :: [a] -> Bool
```

```
isTerm [] = True
```

```
isTerm (x:xs) = isTerm xs
```

https://ndmitchell.com/downloads/slides-catch-16_mar_2006.pdf

References

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