Lab 8: Introduction to Scala

12:00 PM, Mar 14, 2018

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Objectives

By the end of this lab, you will know:

- anonymous functions in Scala
- Scala traits
- mutable and immutable data types in Scala

By the end of this lab, you will be able to:

- curry functions in Scala
- use and combine traits effectively in Scala
- use vals and vars, as well as mutable and immutable data structures

1 Getting Started

First, copy over our source files:

```
cp /course/cs0180/src/lab08/src/* ~/course/cs0180/workspace/scalaproject/src/lab08/src
```

2 Currying Foods (pun intended)

Aang, Katara and Sokka are frustrated, because their regular favorite meals just don’t taste the same anymore! They refuse to eat any food item that has an inadequate tastiness ranking. They realize they need
an automated way of sorting through foods based on their tastiness ranking, so they can still eat a good hearty meal before fighting the Fire Lord Ozai. A Scala program should do it!

We represent a food using the following class:

```scala
class Foods(val name: String, val tastiness: Int)
```

We have written a function called goodFood, which takes a list of Foods and outputs a list of all the Foods that have more than 20 tastiness.

**Task:** Look at our implementation of this function. What would we need to do to our code if our heroes became very hungry and had lower standards for the tastiness of the food? Discuss this with your partner and write it down on a piece of paper.

The three realize that as they grow older, their food needs may change over time, but they don’t want to have to rewrite the code each time that happens. In comes currying! In Scala, a function can be defined with multiple parameter lists:

```scala
def addN(n: Int)(x: Int) = x + n
val add2 = addN(2)
println(add2(3)) // prints 5
```

If you call the curried function with only the first parameter list, it will return another function that takes in the second parameter list.

**Task:** Create a new file with a class in it called Currying. It should not take in any arguments in the constructor.

**Task:** Write a curried function minTastiness, which takes in a number n and a list of Food, and returns a list of all its elements with at least n tastiness.

**Task:** Now, curry minTastiness into a new function, tastinessOver20, which takes a list of Food and returns a list of all its elements with at least 20 tastiness.

**Task:** Write a curried function sumTastiness, which takes a number n and a list of Food. If the total tastiness in the list is at least n, it should return the original list. Otherwise, return a new (empty) Food list.

**Task:** Curry sumTastiness into a new function, sumTastinessOver50, which takes a list of Food and returns the list if the sum total tastiness is at least 50, and an empty list otherwise.

**Hint:** Your curried functions (minTastiness and sumTastiness) should look very similar to the function you looked at earlier that used hard-coded values.

**Hint:** To put our above example in the language of this exercise, add is a curried function that takes two numbers and outputs their sum. add is then curried into add2, which takes a number and adds 2 to it.

**Note:** As always, be sure to test all the functions you have written. See Lecture 19 for details on how to use the tester in Scala if you are unsure how to do so. Do note that in order to call a curried function, you will need to call it with the same parentheses as how you declared it!

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### 3 Vals vs Vars

There are two keywords for declaring variables in Scala: val and var. Val is used for immutable data—the kind we studied in CS 17 and CS 19.

[http://docs.scala-lang.org/tutorials/tour/currying.html](http://docs.scala-lang.org/tutorials/tour/currying.html)
The latter is used for mutable data—the kind we have focused on in CS 18. That sounds simple enough: use `val` when declaring a variable whose value will never be reassigned, and use `var` otherwise.

Scala also has immutable and mutable collections. You can tell which type of collection you are using by checking if it is in the `scala.collection.mutable` or `scala.collection.immutable` package. You should always double-check to see which version you have imported!

Mutable collections can be changed (i.e. updated, added to, removed from) in place, meaning that you modify the original copy.Immutable collections cannot be modified in place, meaning that if you wish to change an immutable collection, you need to create a new instance.

For example, each time you add an element to an immutable hashmap, the add method returns a new instance of a hashmap, containing all the elements of the old hashmap plus the new element. As you can guess, immutable data structures can become inconvenient if you often modify their data. In your upcoming Search project, you will want to be sure that you use mutable hashmaps so that you can modify your data.

With both mutable and immutable collections, and `vals` and `vars` in Scala, declaring collections can be confusing. For example, should you declare a mutable hashmap as a `val` or `var`? What are differences between a `val` mutable hashmap and a `var` immutable hashmap? What is and is not acceptable? The answer is found in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Immutable Collection</th>
<th>Mutable Collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Var</strong></td>
<td>Sure! If you want to be able to update your immutable collection, use a <code>var</code>. This means you can reassign the <code>var</code> to be the newly created collection.</td>
<td>Don’t do this— you can already modify the contents of a mutable collection, so you never need to reassign the <code>var</code>. You should instead modify the original collection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Val</strong></td>
<td>Sure! However, <code>val</code> immutable collections cannot be modified after they are created.</td>
<td>Yes! You should always declare mutable collections to be <code>val</code>, because they can be modified in place.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you can see, you should always declare mutable collections to be `val`. But wait! How can a collection both be mutable and not able to be reassigned?

It turns out that when a `val` refers to a collection, it refers to a location in memory representing that collection. Because it is a `val`, not a `var`, the `val` can never be changed to refer to a different location in memory. However, the contents of that memory—the actual elements in the collection—are mutable, so the collection can still change!

For example, if you declare a mutable hashmap, say `val map1`, then `map1` refers to the hashmap, not the data contained within the hashmap. Because `map1` is a `val`, you cannot assign `map1` to refer to any other hashmap. However, because the hashmap itself is a mutable data type, you can change the contents of `map1` regardless. Because you can easily update `val` mutable collections, you should not ever use `var` mutable collections.

### 4 Zuko’s Birthday Surprise

Uncle Iroh is planning a birthday party for Prince Zuko (because Zuko’s own father won’t throw him one, sadly) and wants to make a class containing a list of all his friends to invite, but he isn’t quite sure whether he should use a `val` or a `var` in the class, and also whether the data structure containing the names should be mutable or immutable. Help him work out the pros and cons of the different implementations!

**Task:** Go ahead and open our source file, `Names.scala`. You will be working with this file for this section.
Take 1: Val Array

Uncle Iroh decides to first try putting names in an array:

```
Array("Azula", "Kiyi")
```

Recall that arrays are mutable. Uncle Iroh wants to make a `Names` class whose constructor takes in a private `val` array of people to invite. Here is the class declaration:

```
class Names(nameList: Array[String])
```

**Task:** Fill in the class `Names`, which contains the method `alias(name: String)`. This method should change all instances of name in the array to “Team Zuko”.

**Hint:** Even though your array is stored as a `val`, that only means the array itself (i.e. its size and type) cannot change, but the contents of the array can– arrays are mutable data structures!

**Note:** We did not use the keywords `private` or `val` in this class declaration, because that is the default for Scala!

Take 2: Var Immutable List

After looking at his friend list, Zuko figures that he might want to add friends to his list in the future, as he makes amends with the Avatar. You realize that an immutable `List` might be better suited for this task than an array!

**Task:** Fill in the class `Names2` which takes in a `List` of names as a `var` and includes an `alias` method that works with the list of names.

**Note:** Since Zuko does not want anyone else to see his list of friends, the `List` of friends is declared as a `private var` in the constructor:

```
class Names2(private var nameList: List[String])
```

**Note:** We had to use the `private` keyword in this class declaration, because if a class parameter in Scala is a `var`, the default for it is to be public.

**Hint:** Try using `map` (the higher order procedure)!

Take 3: Val Immutable List

Zuko realizes he doesn't want just anybody modifying the list of names. Make one more class, `Names3` which takes in just a `List` of names as a `val`.

**Task:** Since the `nameList` is now completely immutable, you cannot modify its contents, nor can you reassign it to a modified list. Zuko needs you to write `alias` to return a new instance of `Names3` with the correct internal list. Now his data is completely secure!

**Task:** Why do we now need to return a new instance of `Names3`, instead of having `alias` return `void` as it did in the other two implementations? Write this down on a piece of paper.

**Note:** Be sure to test all the functions you have written. See Lecture 19 for details on how to use the tester in Scala if you are unsure how to do so.

**Warning:** Although you could technically write Scala programs with only `vars` and no `vals`, you should avoid this. Not only will you be penalized in CS 18 if you use `var` when you could use `val` instead, but `val` increases the clarity of your code, because you don't need to worry about all those variables values changing when you don't want them to.

You've reached a checkpoint! Please call over a lab TA to review your work.
5 Lunch Time!

In this problem, you will use stackable modifications to make sandwiches. That is, you will write multiple traits, and then you will mix them in to make a variety of sandwiches.

**Task:** In a new Scala file, define a class `Lunch` with a single field `ingredients`, represented as a list of Strings.

**Task:** Within the `Lunch` class, define the `makeSandwich` method, which just returns `ingredients`.

Now, you can make some delicious, albeit simple, sandwiches for lunch, like this:

```scala
scala> val dessert = new Lunch(List("Marshmallows", "Nutella", "Apples"))
scala> dessert.makeSandwich
List("Marshmallows", "Nutella", "Apples")
```

Next, you will define a few traits that you will mix in to your `Lunch` class to augment the functionality of `makeSandwich`.

**Task:** Write the following traits, each of which extends `Lunch` and overrides the `makeSandwich` method as described:

- **PeanutButter**: returns all the ingredients, with "Peanut Butter" prepended.
- **Bread**: returns the ingredients with "Bread" added to both ends.
- **HoldTheAnchovies**: returns the ingredients, without any "Anchovies".
- **DoubleIngredients**: doubles every ingredient, such that each appears twice in a row.

**Hint:** As always, you should strive to produce elegant and concise programs. To that end, consider using higher-order functions to implement some of these traits, if appropriate.

By mixing in these traits, you can make still more delicious sandwiches, like this one:

```scala
scala> val lunch = new Lunch(List("Jelly")) with PeanutButter with Bread
scala> lunch.makeSandwich
List("Bread", "Peanut Butter", "Jelly", "Bread")
```

Although we use traits to model interfaces in Scala, traits are richer than Java interfaces. In Java, a class can implement multiple interfaces, and no conflict arises if two of those interfaces declare identical methods with identical signatures because interfaces do not (generally) include implementations.

In Scala, however, traits do (generally) include implementations. Scala resolves any conflicting method definitions by “linearizing” them: i.e., mixing in traits from left to right. Moreover, each time a trait is mixed in, it overrides any existing methods with conflicting type signatures.

**Hint:** All your traits should override `makeSandwich`. To mix in more than one of them, your `makeSandwich` methods should call `super.makeSandwich`. Then these calls to `super` will be mixed in from right to left, making your sandwiches extra delicious!

**Task:** Now it’s your turn to make some sandwiches! Here’s how. First, create a `Lunch` object with the argument `List("Anchovies", "Cream Cheese", "Pickles")`. Then, mix in various sequences of the traits you just defined to create the following delicious sandwiches:

- `List("Bread", "Anchovies", "Cream Cheese", "Pickles", "Bread")`
• List("Bread", "Bread", "Cream Cheese", "Cream Cheese", "Pickles", "Pickles", "Bread", "Bread")
• List("Peanut Butter", "Cream Cheese", "Pickles")

Note: Put these sandwiches in a companion object to your Lunch class. Name the sandwiches monday, tuesday, ...friday, respectively, so that a call to monday.makeSandwich returns List("Bread", "Anchovies", "Cream Cheese", "Cream Cheese", "Pickles", "Bread"), and so on.

Note: We are expecting you to test all of the days-of-the-week sandwiches specified in this document. But you should include further tests as well at minimum!

Once a lab TA signs off on your work, you’ve finished the lab! Congratulations! Before you leave, make sure both partners have access to the code you’ve just written.

Please let us know if you find any mistakes, inconsistencies, or confusing language in this or any other CS18 document by filling out the anonymous feedback form: [http://cs.brown.edu/courses/cs018/feedback]