CS 457/557: Functional Languages

From Trees to Type Classes

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Trees:

- There are many kinds of tree data structure.
- For example:

```
data BinTree a    = Leaf a
                  | BinTree a :^: BinTree a
                    deriving Show
```

- The "deriving Show" part makes it possible for us to print out tree values …

- Definition:

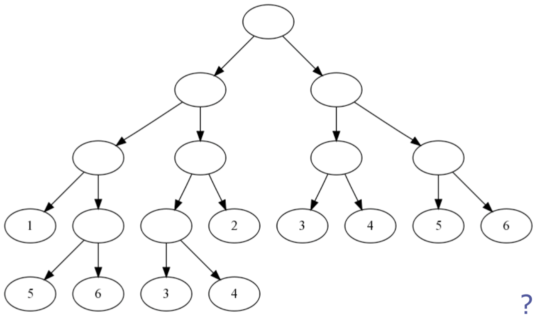
```
example :: BinTree Int
example  = l :^: r
 where l = p :^: q
       r = s :^: t
       p = Leaf 1 :^: t
       q = s :^: Leaf 2
       s = Leaf 3 :^: Leaf 4
       t = Leaf 5 :^: Leaf 6
```

- At the prompt:

```
Main> example
((Leaf 1 :^: (Leaf 5 :^: Leaf 6)) :^: ((Leaf
3 :^: Leaf 4) :^: Leaf 2)):^: ((Leaf 3 :^:
Leaf 4) :^: (Leaf 5 :^: Leaf 6))
Main>
```

Wouldn't it be nice …

If we could view these trees in a graphical form



?

Mapping on Trees:

- We can define a mapping operation on trees:

```
mapTree :: (a -> b) -> BinTree a -> BinTree b
mapTree f (Leaf x)  = Leaf (f x)
mapTree f (l :^: r) = mapTree f l :^: mapTree f r
```

- This is an analog of the map function on lists; it applies the function f to each leaf value stored in the tree.

- Example: convert every leaf value into a string:

```
Main> mapTree show example
((Leaf "1" :^: (Leaf "5" :^: Leaf
"6")) :^: ((Leaf "3" :^: Leaf "4”) :^:
Leaf "2")) :^: ((Leaf "3" :^: Leaf
"4") :^: (Leaf "5" :^: Leaf "6"))
Main>
```

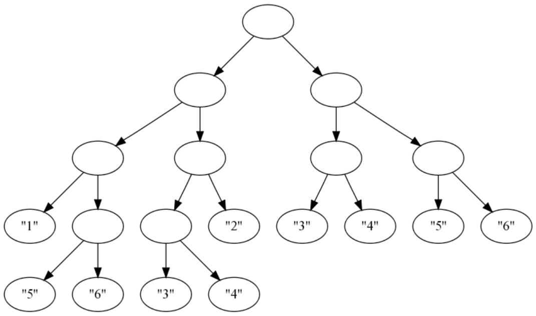
- Example: add one to every leaf value:

```
Main> mapTree (1+) example
((Leaf 2 :^: (Leaf 6 :^: Leaf 7)) :^: ((Leaf
4 :^: Leaf 5) :^: Leaf 3)):^: ((Leaf 4 :^:
Leaf 5) :^: (Leaf 6 :^: Leaf 7))
Main>
```

- Still not very pretty …

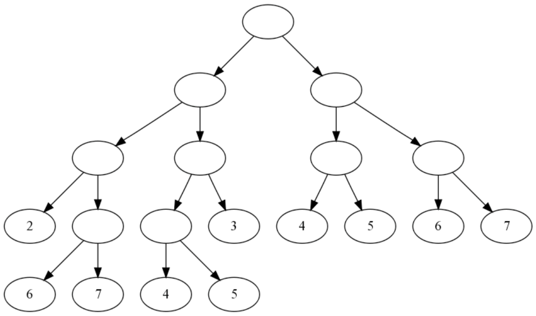
Visualizing the Results:

If we could view these trees in a graphical form …



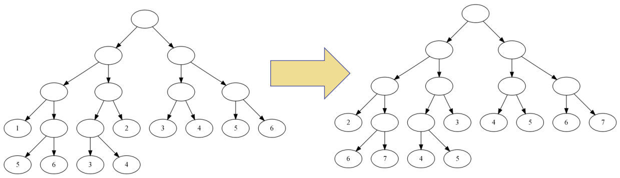
Visualizing the Results:

If we could view these trees in a graphical form …



Visualizing the Results:

… we could see that mapTree preserves shape



Gives insight to the laws:

mapTree id = id

mapTree (f . g) = mapTree f . mapTree g

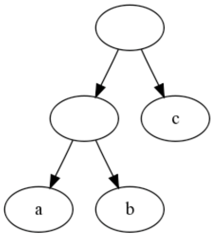
Graphviz & Dot:

- Graphviz is a set of tools for visualizing graph and tree structures
- Dot is the language that Graphviz uses for describing the tree/graph structures to be visualized.
- Usage: dot -Tpng file.dot > file.png

Example:

- To describe (Leaf "a" :^: Leaf "b" :^: Leaf "c"):

```
digraph tree {
  "1" [label=""];
  "1" -> "2";
  "2" [label=""];
  "2" -> "3";
  "3" [label="a"];
  "2" -> "4";
  "4" [label="b"];
  "1" -> "5";
  "5" [label="c"];
}
```



General Form:

A dot file contains a description of the form digraph name { stmts } where each stmt is either

- node_id [label="text"];
  constructs a node with the specified id and label.
- node_id -> node_id;
  constructs an edge between the specified pair of nodes.

[Actually, there are many more options than this!]

From BinTree to dot:

How can we convert a BinTree value into a dot file?

For simplicity, assume a BinTree String input.

Labels:
- Label leaf nodes with the corresponding strings
- Label internal nodes with the empty string

Node ids:
- What should we use for node ids?

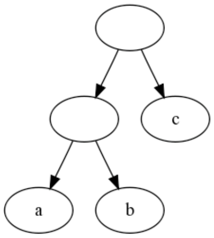
Paths:

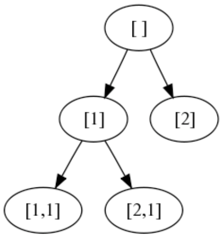
Every node can be identified by a unique path:
- The root node of a tree has path []
- The nth child of a node with path p has path (n:p)

```
type Path     = [Int]
type NodeId  = String

showPath      :: Path -> NodeId
showPath p     = "\"" ++ show p ++ "\""
```

Add “quotes” to avoid confusing Graphviz tools

Example:

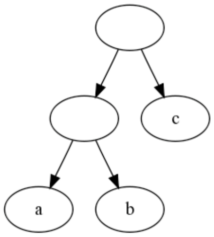




Actual dot code:

- To describe (Leaf "a" :^: Leaf "b" :^: Leaf "c"):

```
digraph tree {
"[]" [label=""];
"[]" -> "[1]";
"[1]" [label=""];
"[1]" -> "[1,1]";
"[1,1]" [label="a"];
"[1]" -> "[2,1]";
"[2,1]" [label="b"];
"[]" -> "[2]";
"[2]" [label="c"];
}
```



Capturing “Tree”-ness:

```
subtrees            :: BinTree a -> [BinTree a]
subtrees (Leaf x)    = []
subtrees (l :^: r)   = [l, r]


nodeLabel           :: BinTree String -> String
nodeLabel (Leaf x)   = x
nodeLabel (l :^: r)  = ""
```

Trees -> dot Statements:

```
nodeTree    :: Path -> BinTree String -> [String]
nodeTree p t
 = [ showPath p ++ " [label=\"" ++ nodeLabel t ++ "\"]" ]
   ++ concat (zipWith (edgeTree p) [1..] (subtrees t))


edgeTree    :: Path -> Int -> BinTree String -> [String]
edgeTree p n c
 = [ showPath p ++ " -> " ++ showPath p' ]
   ++ nodeTree p' c
   where p' = n : p
```

A Top-level Converter:

```
toDot  :: BinTree String -> IO ()
toDot t = writeFile "tree.dot"
           ("digraph tree {\n"
            ++ semi (nodeTree [] t)
            ++ "}\n")
 where semi = foldr (\l ls -> l ++ ";\n" ++ ls) "”
```

Now we can generate dot code for our example tree:

```
Main> toDot (mapTree show example)

Main> !dot -Tpng tree.dot > ex.png

Main>
```

What About Other Tree Types?

```
data LabTree l a = Tip a
                 | LFork l (LabTree l a) (LabTree l a)

data STree a     = Empty
                 | Split a (STree a) (STree a)

data RoseTree a  = Node a [RoseTree a]

data Expr        = Var String
                 | IntLit Int
                 | Plus Expr Expr
                 | Mult Expr Expr
```

Can I also visualize these using Graphviz?

Higher-Order Functions:

Essential tree structure is captured using the subtrees and nodeLabel functions.

What if we abstract these out as parameters?

```
nodeTree'  :: (t -> String) ->
               (t -> [t]) ->
                Path -> t -> [String]

edgeTree'  :: (t -> String) ->
               (t -> [t]) ->
                Path -> Int -> t -> [String]
```

Adding the Parameters:

```
nodeTree' lab sub p t
 = [ showPath p ++ " [label=\"" ++ lab t ++ "\"]" ]
 ++ concat (zipWith (edgeTree' lab sub p) [1..] (sub t))

edgeTree' lab sub p n c
 = [ showPath p ++ " -> " ++ showPath p' ]
 ++ nodeTree' lab sub p' c
   where p' = n : p

toDot' :: (t -> String) -> (t -> [t]) -> t -> IO ()
toDot' lab sub t
 = writeFile "tree.dot”
   ("digraph tree {\n” ++ semi (nodeTree' lab sub [] t) ++ "}\n")
 where semi = foldr (\l ls -> l ++ ";\n" ++ ls) ""
```

Alternative (Local Definitions):

```
toDot'' :: (t -> String) -> (t -> [t]) -> t -> IO ()
toDot'' lab sub t
 = writeFile "tree.dot"
     ("digraph tree {\n" ++ semi (nodeTree' [] t) ++ "}\n")
 where

  semi = foldr (\l ls -> l ++ ";\n" ++ ls) "”

  nodeTree' p t
    = [ showPath p ++ " [label=\"" ++ lab t ++ "\"]" ]
    ++ concat (zipWith (edgeTree' p) [1..] (sub t))

  edgeTree' p n c
    = [ showPath p ++ " -> " ++ showPath p' ] ++ nodeTree' p' c
      where p' = n : p
```

Specializing to Tree Types:

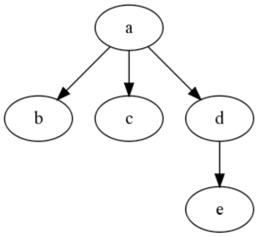
```
toDotBinTree = toDot' lab sub
 where lab (Leaf x)  = x
       lab (l :^: r) = ""
       sub (Leaf x)  = []
       sub (l :^: r) = [l, r]

toDotLabTree = toDot' lab sub
 where lab (Tip a)       = a
       lab (LFork s l r) = s
       sub (Tip a)       = []
       sub (LFork s l r) = [l, r]

toDotRoseTree = toDot' lab sub
 where lab (Node x cs) = x
       sub (Node x cs) = cs
```

… continued:

```
toDotSTree = toDot' lab sub
 where lab Empty = ""
       lab (Split s l r) = s
       sub Empty = []
       sub (Split s l r) = [l, r]

toDotExpr = toDot' lab sub
 where lab (Var s)    = s
       lab (IntLit n) = show n
       lab (Plus l r) = "+"
       lab (Mult l r) = "*"
       sub (Var s)    = []
       sub (IntLit n) = []
       sub (Plus l r) = [l, r]
       sub (Mult l r) = [l, r]
```

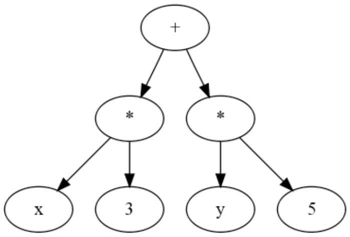
Example:

```
toDotRoseTree
        (Node "a" [Node "b" [],
                   Node "c" [],
                   Node "d" [Node "e" []]])
```



Example:

```
toDotExpr (Plus (Mult (Var "x") (IntLit 3))
                (Mult (Var "y") (IntLit 5)))
```



Good and Bad:

Good:

- It works!
- It is general (applies to multiple tree types)
- It provides some reuse
- It reveals important role for subtrees/labelNode

Bad:

- It's ugly and verbose
- For any given tree type, there's really only one sensible way to define the subtrees function …

Type Classes:

What distinguishes "tree types" from other types?

a value of a tree type can have zero or more subtrees

And, for any given tree type, there's really only one sensible way to do this.

```
class Tree t where
    subtrees :: t -> [t]
```

For Instance(s):

```
instance Tree (BinTree a) where
  subtrees (Leaf x)    = []
  subtrees (l :^: r)   = [l, r]

instance Tree (LabTree l a) where
  subtrees (Tip a)        = []
  subtrees (LFork s l r) = [l, r]

instance Tree (STree a) where
  subtrees Empty = []
  subtrees (Split s l r) = [l, r]
```

… continued:

```
instance Tree (RoseTree a) where
  subtrees (Node x cs) = cs

instance Tree Expr where
  subtrees (Var s)    = []
  subtrees (IntLit n) = []
  subtrees (Plus l r) = [l, r]
  subtrees (Mult l r) = [l, r]
```

So What?

Generic Operations on Trees:

```
depth   :: Tree t => t -> Int
depth    = (1+) . foldl max 0 . map depth . subtrees

size    :: Tree t => t -> Int
size     = (1+) . sum . map size . subtrees

paths                 :: Tree t => t -> [[t]]
paths t | null br      = [ [t] ]
        | otherwise    = [ t:p | b <- br, p <- paths b ]
          where br = subtrees t

dfs     :: Tree t => t -> [t]
dfs t    = t : concat (map dfs (subtrees t))
```

`Tree t =>` means "any type `t`, so long as it is a `Tree` type …" (i.e., so long as it has a `subtrees` function)

Implicit Parameterization:

- An operation with a type Tree t => … is implicitly parameterized by the definition of a subtrees function of type t -> [t]
- (The implementation doesn't have to work this way …)
- Because there is at most one such function for any given type t, there is no need for us to write the subtrees parameter explicitly
- That's good because it can mean less clutter, more clarity

Labeled Trees:

- To be able to convert trees into dot format, we need the nodes to be labeled with strings.
- Not all trees are labeled in this way, so we create a subclass

```
class Tree t => LabeledTree t where
  label :: t -> String
```

- (Is this an appropriate use of overloading?)

LabeledTree Instances:

```
instance LabeledTree (BinTree String) where
  label (Leaf x)    = x
  label (l :^: r)   = ""

instance LabeledTree (LabTree String String) where
  label (Tip a)       = a
  label (LFork s l r) = s

instance LabeledTree (STree String) where
  label Empty         = ""
  label (Split s l r) = s
```

Needs hugs -98, for example

… continued:

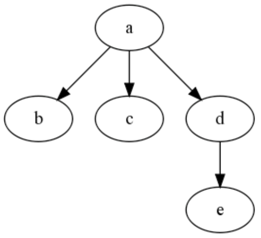
```
instance LabeledTree (RoseTree String) where
  label (Node x cs) = x

instance LabeledTree Expr where
  label (Var s)    = s
  label (IntLit n) = show n
  label (Plus l r) = "+"
  label (Mult l r) = "*"
```

Generic Tree -> dot:

```
toDot :: LabeledTree t => t -> IO ()
toDot t = writeFile "tree.dot"
           ("digraph tree {\n"
            ++ semi (nodeTree [] t) ++ "}\n")
 where semi = foldr (\l ls -> l ++ ";\n" ++ ls) ""

nodeTree    :: LabeledTree t => Path -> t -> [String]
nodeTree p t
  = [ showPath p ++ " [label=\"" ++ label t ++ "\"]" ]
  ++ concat (zipWith (edgeTree p) [1..] (subtrees t))

edgeTree      :: LabeledTree t => Path -> Int -> t -> [String]
edgeTree p n c = [ showPath p ++ " -> " ++ showPath p' ]
               ++ nodeTree p' c
                 where p' = n : p
```

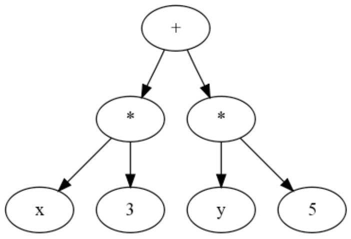
Example:

```
toDot (Node "a" [Node "b" [],
                 Node "c" [],
                 Node "d" [Node "e" []]])
```



Example:

```
toDot (Plus (Mult (Var "x") (IntLit 3))
            (Mult (Var "y") (IntLit 5)))
```



Example:

```
Main> toDot example
ERROR - Unresolved overloading
*** Type       : LabeledTree (BinTree Int) => IO ()
*** Expression : toDot example

Main>
```

We need trees labeled with strings ...

Example:

```
Main> toDot example
ERROR - Unresolved overloading
*** Type       : LabeledTree (BinTree Int) => IO ()
*** Expression : toDot example

Main> toDot (mapTree show example)

Main>
```

```
mapTree             :: (a -> b) -> BinTree a -> BinTree b
mapTree f (Leaf x)  = Leaf (f x)
mapTree f (l :^: r) = mapTree f l :^: mapTree f r
```

The Functor Class:

```
class Functor f where
  fmap :: (a -> b) -> f a -> f b

instance Functor [] where ...
instance Functor Maybe where ...

-- fmap id == id
-- fmap (f . g) == fmap f . fmap g
```

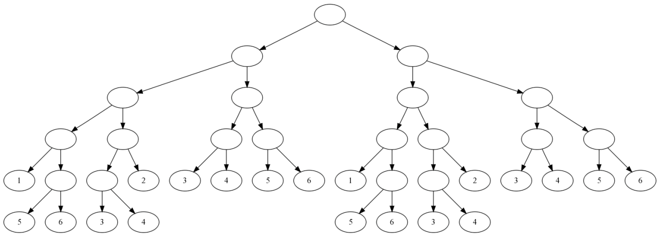
Tree Instances:

```
instance Functor BinTree where
  fmap f (Leaf x)    = Leaf (f x)
  fmap f (l :^: r)   = fmap f l :^: fmap f r

instance Functor (LabTree l) where
  fmap f (Tip a)        = Tip (f a)
  fmap f (LFork s l r) = LFork s (fmap f l) (fmap f r)

instance Functor STree where
  fmap f Empty          = Empty
  fmap f (Split s l r) = Split (f s) (fmap f l) (fmap f r)

instance Functor RoseTree where
  fmap f (Node x cs) = Node (f x) (map (fmap f) cs)
```

Why no instance for Expr?

Example:

```
Main> toDot (fmap show (example :^: example))

Main> depth (example :^: example)
6
Main>
```



Type Classes:

- We've been exploring one of the most novel features that was introduced in the design of Haskell
- Similar ideas are now filtering in to other popular languages (e.g., "concepts" in C++)
- We'll spend the rest of our time in this lecture looking at the original motivation for type classes

---

Between One and All:

- Haskell allows us to define (monomorphic) functions that have just one possible instantiation:

  not :: Bool -> Bool

- And (polymorphic) functions that work for all instantiations:

  id :: a -> a

- But not all functions fit comfortably into these two categories …

Addition:

- What type should we use for the addition operator (+)?
- Picking a monomorphic type like

  Int -> Int -> Int

  is too limiting, because this can't be applied to other numeric types
- Picking a polymorphic type like

  a -> a -> a

  is too general, because addition only works for "numeric types" …

Equality:

- What type should we use for the equality operator (==)?
- Picking a monomorphic type like

  Int -> Int -> Bool

  is too limiting, because this can't be applied to other numeric types
- Picking a polymorphic type like

  a -> a -> Bool

  is too general, because there is no computable equality on function types …

Numeric Literals:

- What type should we use for the type of the numeric literal 0?
- Picking a monomorphic type like Int is too limiting, because then it can't be used for other numeric types
  - And functions like sum = foldl (+) 0 inherit the same restriction and can only be used on limited types
- Picking a polymorphic type like a is too general, because there is no meaningful interpretation for zero at all types …

Workarounds (1):

- We could use different names for the different versions of an operator at different types:
  - (+) :: Int -> Int -> Int
  - (+') :: Float -> Float -> Float
  - (+'') :: Integer -> Integer -> Integer
  - …
- Apart from the fact that this is really ugly, it prevents us from defining general functions that use addition (again, sum = foldl (+) 0)

Workarounds (2):

- We could just define the "unsupported" cases with dummy values.
  - 0 :: Int produces an integer zero
  - 0 :: Float produces a floating point zero
  - 0 :: Int -> Bool produces some undefined value (e.g., sends the program into an infinite loop)
- Attitude: "More fool you, programmer, for using zero with an inappropriate type!"

Workarounds (3):

- We could inspect the values of arguments that are passed in to each function to determine which interpretation is required.
- Works for (+) and (==) (although still requires that we assign a polymorphic type, so those problems remain)
- But it won't work for 0. There are no arguments here from which to infer the type of zero that is required; that information can only be determined *from the context in which it is used*.

Workarounds (4):

- Miranda and Orwell (two predecessors of Haskell) included a type called "Num" that included both floating point numbers and integers in the same type

  data Num = In Integer | Fl Float
- Now (+) can be treated as a function of type Num -> Num -> Num and applied to either integers or floats, or even mixed argument types.
- But we've lost a lot: types don't tell us as much, and basic arithmetic operations are more expensive to implement …

Between a rock …

- In these examples, monomorphic types are too restrictive, but polymorphic types are too general.
- In designing the language, the Haskell Committee had planned to take a fairly conservative approach, consolidating the good ideas from other languages that were in use at the time.
- But the existing languages used a range of awkward and ad-hoc techniques and nobody had a good, general solution to this problem …

"How to make ad-hoc polymorphism less ad-hoc"

- In 1989, Philip Wadler and Stephen Blott proposed an elegant, general solution to these problems
- Their approach was to introduce a way of talking about sets of types ("Type Classes") and their elements ("Instances")
- The Haskell committee decided to incorporate this innocent and attractive idea into the first version of Haskell …

Type Classes:

- A type class is a set of types
- Haskell provides several built-in type classes, including:
  - **Eq**: types whose elements can be compared for equality
  - **Num**: numeric types
  - **Show**: types whose values can be printed as strings
  - **Integral**: types corresponding to integer values,
  - **Enum**: types whose values can be enumerated (and hence used in [m..n] notation)

A (Not-Well Kept) Secret:

- Users can define their own type classes
- This can sometimes be very useful
- It can also be abused
- For now, we'll just focus on understanding and using the built-in type classes …

Instances:

- The elements of a type class are known as the instances of the class
- If C is a class and t is a type, then we write C t to indicate that t is an element/instance of C
- (Maybe we should have used t∈C, but the ∈ symbol wasn't available in the character sets or on the keyboards of last century's computers … :-)

Instance Declarations:

- The instances of a class are specified by a collection of instance declarations:

  instance Eq Int
  instance Eq Integer
  instance Eq Float
  instance Eq Double
  instance Eq Bool
  instance Eq a => Eq [a]
  instance Eq a => Eq (Maybe a)
  instance (Eq a, Eq b) => Eq (a,b)
  …

… continued:

- In set notation, this is equivalent to saying that:

  Eq = { Int, Integer, Float, Double, Bool }
  ∪ { [t] | t ∈ Eq }
  ∪ { Maybe t | t ∈ Eq }
  ∪ { (t_1, t_2) | $t_1 \in$ Eq, $t_2 \in$ Eq }

- Eq is an infinite set of types, but it doesn't include all types (e.g., types like Int -> Int and [[Int] -> Bool] are not included)

Derived Instances (1):

- The prelude provides a number of types with instance declarations that include those types in the appropriate classes
- Classes can also be extended with definitions for new types by using a deriving clause:

  data T = … **deriving** Show
  data S = … **deriving** (Show, Ord, Eq)
- The compiler will check that the types are appropriate to be included in the specified classes.

Operations:

- The prelude also provides a range of functions, with restricted polymorphic types:

  (==) :: Eq a => a -> a -> Bool
  (+) :: Num a => a -> a -> a
  min :: Ord a => a -> a -> a
  show :: Show a => a -> String
  fromInteger :: Num a => Integer -> a
- A type of the form C a => T(a) represents all types of the form T(t) for any type t that is an instance of the class C

Terminology:

- An expression of the form C t is often referred to as a constraint, a class constraint, or a predicate
- A type of the form C t => … is often referred to as a restricted type or as a qualified type
- A collection of predicates (C t, D t',…) is often referred to as a context. The parentheses can be dropped if there is only one element.

Type Inference:

- Type Inference works just as before, except that now we also track constraints.
- Example: null xs = (xs == [])
  - Assume xs :: a
  - Pick (==) :: b -> b -> Bool with the constraint Eq b
  - Pick instance [] :: [c]
  - From (xs == []), we infer a = b = [c], with result type of Bool
  - Thus: null :: Eq [c] => [c] -> Bool
    null :: Eq c => [c] -> Bool

… continued:

- **Note**: In this case, it would probably be better to use the following definition:

  null :: [a] -> Bool
  null [] = True
  null (x:xs) = False
- The type [a] -> Bool is more general than Eq a => [a] -> Bool, because the latter only works with "equality types"

Examples:

- We can treat the integer literal 0 as sugar for (fromInteger 0), and hence use this as a value of any numeric type
  - Strictly speaking, its type is Num a => a, which means any type, so long as it's numeric …
- We can use (==) on integers, booleans, floats, or lists of any of these types … but not on function types
- We can use (+) on integers or on floating point numbers, but not on Booleans

Inheriting Predicates:

- Predicates in the type of a function f can "infect" the type of a function that calls f
- The functions:

```
member xs x = any (x==) xs
subset xs ys  = all (member ys) xs
```

have types:

```
member   :: Eq a => [a] -> a -> Bool
subset   :: Eq a => [a] -> [a] -> Bool
```

… continued:

- For example, now we can define:

```
data Day = Sun|Mon|Tue|Wed|Thu|Fri|Sat
              deriving (Eq, Show)
```

- And then apply member and subset to this new type:

```
Main> member [Mon,Tue,Wed,Thu,Fri] Wed
True
Main> subset [Mon,Sun] [Mon,Tue,Wed,Thu,Fri]
False
Main>
```

Eliminating Predicates:

- Predicates can be eliminated when they are known to hold
- Given the standard prelude function:

```
sum :: Num a => [a] -> a
```

and a definition

```
gauss = sum [1..10::Integer]
```

we could infer a type

```
gauss :: Num Integer => Integer
```

But then simplify this to

```
gauss :: Integer
```

Detecting Errors:

Errors can be raised when predicates are known not to hold:

```
Prelude> 'a' + 1
ERROR - Cannot infer instance
*** Instance   : Num Char
*** Expression : 'a' + 1

Prelude> (\x -> x)
ERROR - Cannot find "show" function for:
*** Expression : \x -> x
*** Of type    : a -> a

Prelude>
```

Derived Instances (2):

- What if you define a new type and you can't use a derived instance?
  - Example: **data** Set a = Set [a] **deriving** Num
  - What does it mean to do arithmetic on sets?
  - How could the compiler figure this out from the definition above?
- What if you define a new type and the derived equality is not what you want?
  - Example: **data** Set a = Set [a]
  - We'd like to think of Set [1,2] and Set [2,1] and Set [1,1,1,2,2,1,2] as equivalent sets

Example: Derived Equality

- The derived equality for Set gives us:

```
Set xs == Set ys  =   xs == ys
```

- And the equality on lists gives us:

```
[]      == []      = True
(x:xs)  == (y:ys) = (x==y) && (xs==ys)
_       == _       = False
```

- A derived equality function tests for structural equality … what we need for Set is not a structural equality

Class Declarations:

- Before we can define an instance, we need to look at the class declaration:

```
class Eq a where
  (==), (/=) :: a -> a -> Bool

  -- Minimal complete definition: (==) or (/=)
  x == y      = not (x/=y)
  x /= y      = not (x==y)
```

members

defaults

- To define an instance of equality, we will need to provide an implementation for at least one of the operators (==) or (/=)

Member Functions:

- In a class declaration

```
class C a where
  f, g, h :: T(a)
```

- member functions receive types of the form

```
  f, g, h :: C a => T(a)
```

- From a user's perspective, just like any other type qualified by a predicate
- From an implementer's perspective, these are the operations that we have to code to define an instance

---

Instance Declarations:

- We can define a non-structural equality on the Set datatype using the following:

```
instance Eq a => Eq (Set a) where
  Set xs == Set ys
    =  (xs `subset` ys) && (ys `subset` xs)
```

- This works as we'd like …

```
Main> Set [1,1,1,2,2,1,2] == Set [1,2]
True
Main> Set [1,2] == Set [3,4]
False
Main> Set [2,1] == Set [1,1,1,2,2,1,2]
True
Main>
```

Overloading:

- Type classes support the definition of overloaded functions
- "Overloading", because a single identifier can be overloaded with multiple interpretations
- But just because you can … it doesn't mean you should!
- Use judiciously, where appropriate, where there is a coherent, unifying view of each overloaded function should do

---

Defining New Classes:

- Can I define new type classes in my program or library?
  - Yes!
- Should I define new type classes in my program or library?
  - Yes, if it makes sense to do so!
  - What common properties would the instances to share, and how should this be reflected in the choice of the operators?
  - Does it make sense for the meaning of a symbol to be uniquely determined by the types of the values that are involved?

Beware of Ambiguity!

- What if there isn't enough information to resolve overloading?
  - Early versions of Hugs would report an error if you tried to evaluate show []
  - The system infers a type Show a => String, and doesn't know what type to pick for the "ambiguous" variable a
  - (It could make a difference: show ([]::[Int]) = "[]", but show ([]::[Char]) = "\"\"")
  - Recent versions use defaulting to pick a default choice … but the results there are also less than ideal …

Summary:

- Type classes provide a way to describe sets of types and related families of operations that are defined on their instances
- A range of useful type classes are built-in to the prelude
- Classes can be extended by deriving new instances or defining your own
- New classes can also be defined
- Once you’ve experienced programming with type classes, it’s hard to go without …