

A brief introduction to Functional Programming in Scala

Amanj Sherwany

20 Aug 2013

1 Let's do Scala

Translate this into Scala:

```
// in Java
class Person {
    private String name;
    private int age;

    public Person(String name, int age) {
        this.name = name;
        this.age = age;
    }

    public void setName(String name) {
        this.name = name;
    }

    public String getName() { return name; }

    public void setAge() {
        this.age = age;
    }

    public int getAge() {
        return age;
    }
}
```

```
// in Scala

class Person(name: String, age: Int) // age and name are vals not vars
```

Now what if we want to set some conditions on age? Like not allowing negative numbers.

```
class Person(name: String, age: Int) {
    require(age > 0) // no semicolon
```

```
}
```

What if we want a special message on failure?

```
class Person(name: String, age: Int) {  
    require(age > 0, "Negative age is impossible") // no semicolon  
}
```

2 Programming Paradigms:

- Imperative Programming
 - Procedural Programming
 - Object-Oriented Programming
- Logic Programming
- Functional Programming

3 Imperative Programming has:

- Modifying mutable variables (mutable vs immutable)
- Using assignments
- Control structures (If-else, loops, breaks, continue, return ...etc)

4 Functional Programming:

- Programming without mutable variables, assignments, loops, etc
- Functions as building blocks (first class functions)
 - Can be defined anywhere
 - Can be passed like any other values
 - Functions can be composed using a set of operators

Examples of Functional languages: Haskell, SML, Scala, Lisp...

4.1 Why Functional Programming?

Functional Programming is becoming increasingly popular because it offers an attractive method for exploiting parallelism for multicore and cloud computing. And testing becomes easier. Why?

- 4.2 Var vs val (mutable vs immutable)**
- 4.3 Binary and unary Operations (Logic and Arithmetic)**
- 4.4 Data types (Int, Double, Float, Boolean,)**
- 4.5 Lists but not arrays**
- 4.6 Tuples**

```

val list1 = List(1, 2, 3, 4)
val list2 = List('a', 'b', 'c', 'd')

val zipped = list1 zip list2
val (fst, snd) = zipped unzip

```

4.7 Functions and Nested functions

4.8 No loop, but recursion:

```

def factorial(num: Int) = {
    if(num == 0 || num == 1) 1
    else num * factorial(num-1) // No return keyword is required
}

def sum(list: List[Int]): Int = {
    def sumAux(list2: List[Int], currentSum: Int) = {
        if(list2 == Nil) currentSum
        else (sumAux(list2.tail, list2.head + currentSum)
    }
    sumAux(list, 0)
}

```

If needed writing functions: sqrt, even and odd

4.9 Case classes and pattern matching

Now re-write the above two examples in terms of pattern matching

If time allowed talk about a simple BinOp language:

```

tpe := n      # n is any number
bop := +

```

```

class Expr

case class Num(n: Int) extends Expr

case class Add(fst: Expr, snd: Expr) extends Expr

```

```

def eval(expr: Expr): Num = {
  expr match {
    case n: Num => n
    case Add(f, s) =>
      val fst = eval(f)
      val snd = eval(s)
      Num(fst.n + snd.n)
  }
}

```

Now lets do the same thing in Java

```

public interface Expr {}

public class Num implements Expr {
  public int n;
}

public class Add implements Expr {
  public Expr fst;
  public Expr snd;
}

public class Eval {
  public static Num eval(Expr expr) {
    if(expr instanceof Num) return (Num) expr;
    else if(expr instanceof Add) {
      Add add = (Add) expr;
      Num e1 = eval(add.fst)
      Num e2 = eval(add.snd)
      return new Num(e1.n + e2.n);
    }
  }
}

```

4.10 Function values

```

def plus(a: Int)(b: Int): Int = a + b

val plus1 = plus(1) _

```

4.11 Currying

There is actually no function which takes multiple parameters, but there are functions that return functions.

So, *plus* is a function that takes one Int and returns a function that takes an Int and returns an Int, written like:

```
plus = Int => Int => Int
```

4.12 Anonymous functions (lambdas)

```
(x: Int, y: Int) => x + y
```

We can store lambdas inside variables/values

```
val plus = (x: Int, y: Int) => x + y
```

What is the type of the above lambda function?

```
(Int, Int) => Int
```

4.13 Higher-order functions

Lets write a function that takes a function and applies it:

```
def apply(number: Int, f: Int => Int): Int = {
    f(number)
}

apply(3, (x: Int) => x + 3))

// or

apply(3, _ + 3)
```

Fold, Map, Foreach and Filter (and a lot of examples) sum, length, add every element by 2

```
def sum(list: List[Int]): Int = list.foldLeft(0)((x: Int, y: Int) => x + y)

// or

def sum(list: List[Int]): Int = list.foldLeft(0)(_ + _)

def length(list: List[Int]): Int = list.foldLeft(0)((x, y) => x + 1)

def addBy2(list: List[Int]): List[Int] = list.map((x: Int) => x + 2)

// or

def addBy2(list: List[Int]): List[Int] = list.map(_ + 2)

// How to print every list element:

def printAll(list: List[Int]): Unit = list.foreach((x: Int) =>
    println(x))
```

```
// or

def printAll(list: List[Int]): Unit = list.foreach(println(_))

// only the odd items

def oddOnly(list: List[Int]): List[Int] = list.filter((x: Int) => x % 2
  != 0)

// or

def oddOnly(list: List[Int]): List[Int] = list.filter(_ % 2 != 0)
```