

Haskell: Data continued

CS 331 Programming Languages

Lecture Slides

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Glenn G. Chappell

Department of Computer Science

University of Alaska Fairbanks

`ggchappell@alaska.edu`

© 2017–2026 Glenn G. Chappell

Unit Overview

The Haskell Programming Language

Topics

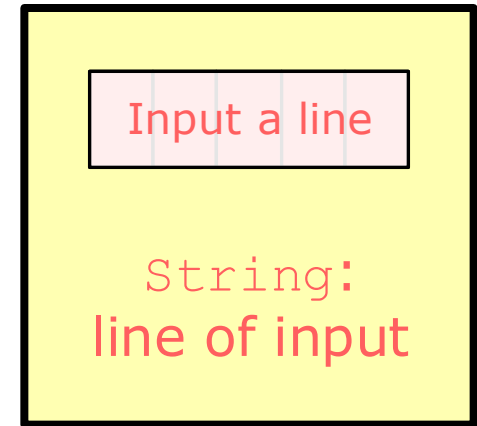
- ✓ ■ PL feature: type system
- ✓ ■ PL category: functional PLs
- ✓ ■ Introduction to Haskell
- ✓ ■ Haskell: functions
- ✓ ■ Haskell: lists
- ✓ ■ Haskell: flow of control
- ✓ ■ Haskell: I/O I
- ✓ ■ Haskell: I/O II
- (part) ■ Haskell: data

Review

An **I/O action** is a value that holds a description of a sequence of zero or more side effects, plus a wrapped (potential) value.

```
> :t putStrLn
String -> IO ()
> :t getLine
IO String
```

I/O Action
returned by `getLine`



I/O is performed by returning an I/O action from a program.

```
> main = putStrLn "Hello, world!"
> main
Hello, world!
```

*For code from these topics,
see `io1.hs`, `io2.hs`.*

Review

Haskell: I/O I/II [2/3]

We can combine I/O actions using the `>>` and `>>=` operators.

```
> putStr "Type: " >> getLine >>=
  (\ line -> (putStr "You typed: " >> putStrLn line))
```

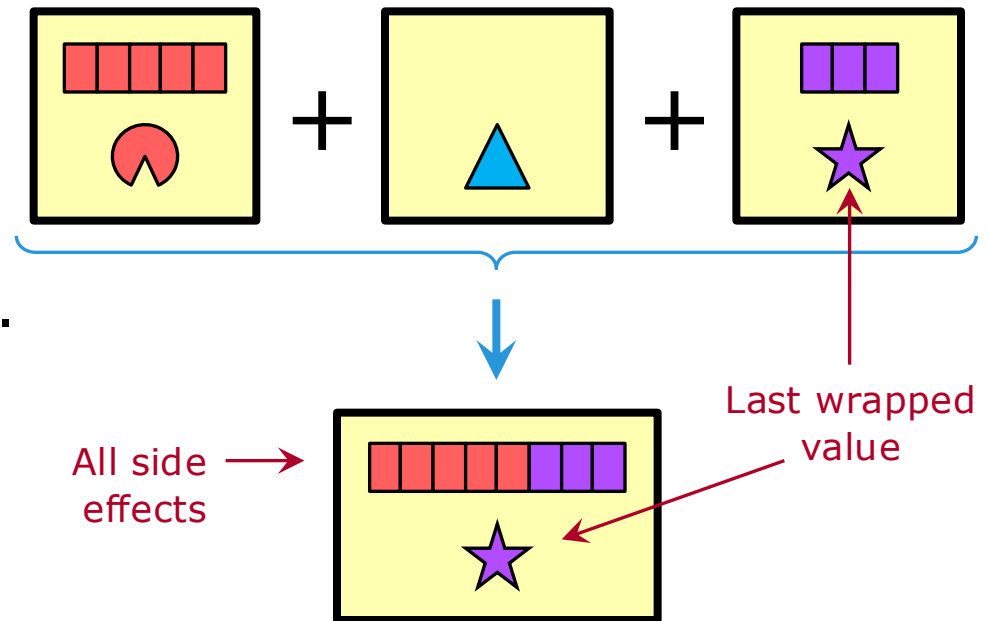
Type: Yo!

You typed: Yo!

Do-expression: syntactic sugar around the operators.

```
do
```

```
  putStr "Type: "
  line <- getLine
  putStr "You typed: "
  putStrLn line
```



Inside an I/O do-expression:

- “`NAME <- EXPR`” binds an identifier to an I/O-wrapped value—useful when doing input.
- “`let NAME = EXPR`” binds an identifier to a non-wrapped value.
- “`return EXPR`” creates a do-nothing (no side effects) I/O action wrapping a given value.

`return` does not return! However, we only use it as the last thing in a do-expression (otherwise it is pointless). So it *feels* like it returns.

DONE

- Write a program of the kind that might be assigned early in Computer Science I.

See `io2.hs` or `squarenums.hs`.

Haskell **data declaration**:

```
data Product = Pr String String
  -- product name, manufacturer name
```

`Product` is a new type. `Pr` is a **constructor** for `Product`. Literals of type `Product` are marked by the fact that they begin with “`Pr`”.

Pattern matching works with constructors. We can use this to retrieve names from a `Product` object.

```
-- pName - Get product name from a Product
pName :: Product -> String
pName (Pr pn _) = pn
```

*For code from this topic,
see `data.hs`.*

Overload `==` for `Product`; make `Product` an **instance** of class `Eq`:

```
instance Eq Product where
    Pr pn1 mn1 == Pr pn2 mn2 =
        (pn1 == pn2) && (mn1 == mn2)
```

Now we can use operator `==` *and* operator `/=` with `Product`.

Similarly overload function `show`, using typeclass `Show`:

```
instance Show Product where
    show (Pr pn mn) = pn ++ " [made by " ++ mn ++ "]"
```

Haskell: Data

continued

Haskell: Data Options & Parameterization [1/6]

A Haskell data declaration allows for multiple options on the right-hand side. These are separated by vertical bars (“|”).

For example, if Haskell did not have `Bool`, then we could write it ourselves.

```
data Bool = False | True
```

The above illustrates why `False` and `True` are capitalized in Haskell: like `Pr` on the previous slides, they are *constructors*.

Haskell: Data Options & Parameterization [2/6]

Haskell data declarations can also be **parameterized**. A parameterized type is similar to a C++ class template.

We have seen one Haskell example: `IO`. Much like `std::vector` in C++, this takes an argument indicating the type of the value it wraps. Haskell calls `IO` a **type constructor**.

```
// C++
vector          // Incomplete; not a type
vector<int>     // A type: vector of int

-- Haskell
IO              -- Incomplete; not a type
IO String      -- A type: an IO action that wraps a String
```

Haskell: Data Options & Parameterization [3/6]

Another standard type constructor is `Maybe`. This allows us to make a value of an existing type that can also have a null value.

`Maybe` would be declared as follows.

```
data Maybe t = Just t | Nothing
```

One way to use `Maybe` is to make `Nothing` indicate an error, while `Just` indicates a valid result.

```
lookInd2 :: Integer -> [t] -> Maybe t
lookInd2 0 (x:_) = Just x
lookInd2 n (_:xs) = lookInd2 (n-1) xs
lookInd2 _ [] = Nothing
```

Haskell: Data Options & Parameterization [4/6]

Yet another standard type constructor: `Either`. This allows us to make a value that holds one of two specified types.

`Either` would be declared as follows.

```
data Either a b = Left a | Right b
```

The following function uses pattern matching to determine which type is held.

```
checkEither :: Either a b -> String  
checkEither (Left _) = "First type"  
checkEither (Right _) = "Second type"
```

Haskell: Data Options & Parameterization [5/6]

Let's make a Binary Tree type, with a data item in each node. Such a Binary Tree either has no nodes (it is **empty**) or it has a **root** node, which contains a data item and has **left** and **right subtrees**, each of which is a Binary Tree.

I will call the type `BT`. It will have two constructors.

- `BTEmpty` gives an empty Binary Tree.
- `BTNode`, followed by an item of the value type, the left subtree, and the right subtree, constructs a nonempty tree.

```
data BT vt = BTEmpty | BTNode vt (BT vt) (BT vt)
```



The **value type**

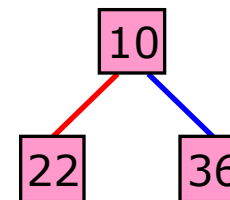
For example, here is a `BT` with one node, containing 42:

```
BTNode 42 BTEmpty BTEmpty
```

Haskell: Data Options & Parameterization [6/6]

Let's construct the Binary Tree pictured. The left subtree has a root containing 22 and no other nodes. The right subtree is similar.

```
leftT = BTreeNode 22 BEmpty BEmpty  
rightT = BTreeNode 36 BEmpty BEmpty
```



Construct our tree from a new root and the above two.

```
theTree = BTreeNode 10 leftT rightT
```

We could write out the whole tree—but there is no need to do this.

```
BTreeNode 10 (BTreeNode 22 BEmpty BEmpty)  
             (BTreeNode 36 BEmpty BEmpty)
```

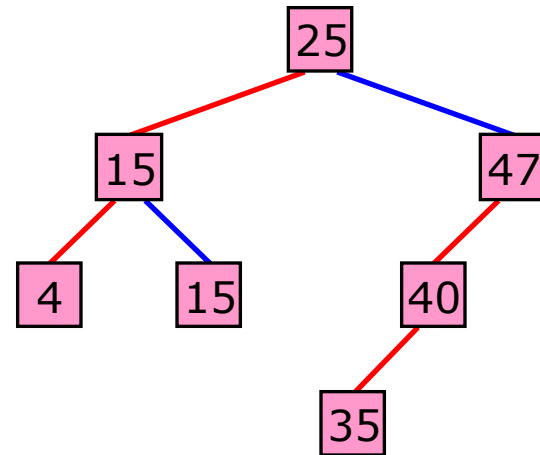
With the tools we have covered, we can write the *Treesort* algorithm in Haskell.

Treesort is a comparison sort. It operates as follows. Given a list:

- Create an empty Binary Search Tree.
- Insert each list item into tree.
- Do an inorder traversal of the tree to generate the final sorted list.

Recall. A **Binary Search Tree** is a Binary Tree in which each node contains a single key, and these have an order relationship:

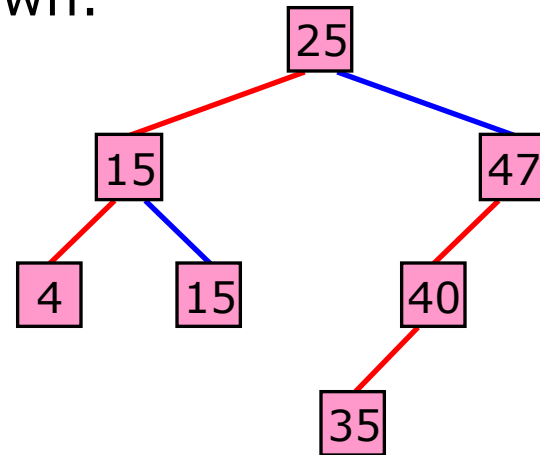
- Every key in a node's right subtree is \geq the node's key.
- Every key in a node's left subtree is \leq the node's key.



Recall. The **inorder traversal** of a Binary Tree visits a node's left subtree, then the node itself, then the right subtree. The subtrees are visited using recursive inorder traversals.

Inorder traversal of the Binary Tree shown:

- 4 15 15 25 35 40 47

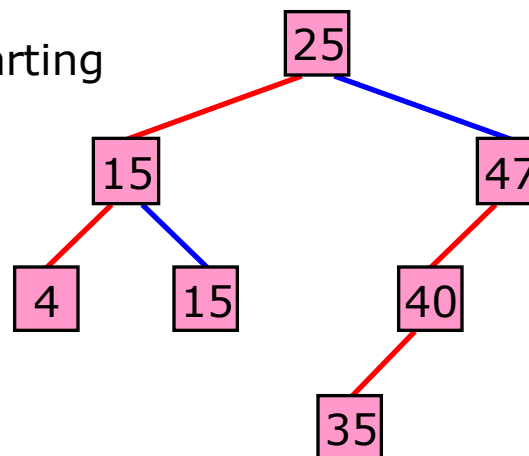


An inorder traversal of a Binary Search Tree visits the keys in sorted order.

Example. Treesort this list.

25	47	15	40	4	15	35
----	----	----	----	---	----	----

- Create an empty Binary Search Tree. Go through the list, inserting each item into the tree.
 - Insert into a Binary Search Tree by starting at the root and comparing the item to be inserted with the item in the node, passing to the left or right subtree, as appropriate, and continuing. When the bottom is reached, insert in this spot.



- Do an inorder traversal of the tree, appending each item to a list.

In PLs like Swift or C++, we usually prefer to copy the data back to the original storage. But we cannot do that in Haskell.

4	15	15	25	35	40	47
---	----	----	----	----	----	----

Treesort is not an efficient sorting algorithm. And a naïve Haskell implementation is likely to be even slower than it could be.

However, I think Treesort makes for a good example.

- It is not difficult to understand.
- Implementation requires nontrivial data structures.
- It is easy to tell whether an implementation works.

Let's write Treesort in Haskell, using `BT` for the Binary Search Tree.

Haskell: Data Treesort [6/6]

Plan

- Function `bstInsert`. Takes a `BT` holding a Binary Search Tree and an item to insert. Returns the resulting Binary Search Tree.
Operation: recursively navigates down through subtrees.
- Function `inorderTraverse`. Takes a `BT`. Returns a list of the items in the tree in the order given by an inorder traversal.
Operation: makes recursive calls on the two subtrees and concatenates the results along with the root item.
- Function `treesort`. Takes a list and returns a sorted list.
Operation: creates an empty `BT`, calls `bstInsert` with each item in the given list, then calls `inorderTraverse` and returns its result.

TO DO

- Implement Treesort as above.

Done. See `data.hs`.