

Elements of Programming Languages

Tutorial 5: Modules and Objects

Week 7 (November 2–6, 2015)

Exercises marked \star are more advanced. Please try all unstarred exercises before the tutorial meeting.

1. Subtyping and Contravariance

Consider the following Scala declarations:

```
abstract class Shape
class Rectangle(...) extends Shape
class Circle(...) extends Shape
```

Thus, `Rectangle <: Shape` and `Circle <: Shape`.

- Suppose we have a function `f: (Shape => Int) => Int`. What could `f` potentially do with its argument? Does the type system allow us to pass a function of type `Rectangle => Int` to `f`?
- Suppose we have a function `g: (Circle => Int) => Int`. What could `g` potentially do with its argument? Does the type system allow us to pass a function of type `Shape => Int` to `g`?

2. Modules and Interfaces in Scala

Consider the following Scala object definition.

```
object A {
  type T = Int
  val c: T = 1
  val d: T = 2
  def f(x: T, y: T): T = x + y
}
object B {
  type T = String
  val c: T = "abcd"
  val d: T = "1234"
  def f(x: T, y: T) = x + y
}
```

- Write expressions showing how to access each of the elements of `A` and `B`.
- Suppose we execute the import statements

```
import A._
import B._
```

after finishing the declaration of `A`. What does unqualified identifier `d` refer to after that? What if we import in the opposite order?

- (c) (★) Construct a Scala trait `ABlike` defining bindings for all of the components of `A` and `B`, and so that we can assert that both `A` and `B` extend `ABlike`.
- (d) (★) Define a function `g` taking an argument `x: ABlike` that applies `f` to `c` and `d`. Apply it to both instances of `ABlike` above. What is its return type?
- (e) (★) Create an anonymous instance of `ABlike` with `T = Boolean` and call the function `g` on it.

3. Type parameters

Some types, such as lists, are naturally thought of as *parameterized*. For example, in Scala, the type `List[A]` takes a parameter `A`, the type of elements of the lists.

Consider the following Scala code:

```
abstract class List[A]
case class Nil[A]() extends List[A]
case class Cons[A](head: A, tail: List[A]) extends List[A]
```

This defines a recursive data structure, consisting of lists. (Notice however that `Nil` is a case class and so it carries a type annotation and empty parameter list.)

- (a) Using the same approach as above, define a type `Tree[A]` for binary trees whose leaves are labeled by values of type `A`. There should be two constructors for such trees: `Leaf(a)` constructing a leaf with data `a`, and `Node(t1, t2)` taking two trees and constructing a tree.
- (b) Define a recursive function `sum` that adds up all of the integers in an `Tree[Int]`.
- (c) Define a recursive function `map: Tree[A] => (A => B) => Tree[B]` that applies a given function `f: A => B` to all of the `A` values on the leaves of a `Tree[A]`.
- (d) (★) Define a function `flatten: Tree[Tree[A]] => Tree[A]`.
- (e) (★) Define a function `flatMap: (Tree[A]) => (A => Tree[B]) => Tree[B]`

4. (★) Ad hoc polymorphism

Traits can also accommodate overloading and reuse of the same name for operations on different types. An operation such as `size` can be defined as part of a trait as follows:

```
trait HasSize { def size(): Int }
```

- (a) Modify the definition of `List[A]` above so that it extends `HasSize`, and define an appropriate `size` method for it.
- (b) Modify the definition of `Tree[A]` so that it extends `HasSize` and define its `size` operation.
- (c) Write a function `sameSize` that takes two values of type `HasSize` and checks whether they have the same size.
- (d) Call this function on a `List[Int]` and a `Tree[String]` to verify that the correct implementations of `size` are called for different types.