

计算概论A—实验班

函数式程序设计

Functional Programming

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# 第9章： An Example: The Countdown Problem

# What Is Countdown?

- ❖ A popular quiz programme on British television that has been running since 1982.
- ❖ Based upon an original French version called "Des Chiffres et Des Lettres".
- ❖ Includes a numbers game that we shall refer to as the **countdown** problem.

# Countdown: An example

✦ Using the numbers

1

3

7

10

25

50

and the arithmetic operators

+

-

\*

÷

construct an expression whose value is

765

# Countdown: Two Rules

1. All the numbers, including intermediate results, must be positive naturals (1,2,3,...).
2. Each of the source numbers can be used at most once when constructing the expression.

# Countdown: The example

♣ For the example above, one possible solution is

$$(25 - 10) * (50 + 1) = 765$$

\* There are 780 solutions for this example.

\* Changing the target number to 831 gives an example that has no solutions.

# Evaluating Expressions

✿ A type for Operators:

```
data Op = Add | Sub | Mul | Div deriving (Show)
```

✿ Apply an operator:

```
apply :: Op -> Int -> Int -> Int
```

```
apply Add x y = x + y
```

```
apply Sub x y = x - y
```

```
apply Mul x y = x * y
```

```
apply Div x y = x `div` y
```

- ✿ Decide if the result of applying an operator to two positive natural numbers is another such:

```
valid :: Op -> Int -> Int -> Bool
valid Add _ _ = True
valid Sub x y = x > y
valid Mul _ _ = True
valid Div x y = x `mod` y == 0
```

- ✿ A type for Expressions:

```
data Expr = Val Int | App Op Expr Expr
          deriving (Show)
```



- ✿ Return the overall value of an expression, provided that it is a positive natural number:

```
eval :: Expr -> [Int]
eval (Val n)      = [n | n > 0]
eval (App o l r) = [apply o x y | x <- eval l
                                , y <- eval r
                                , valid o x y]
```

- **Either:** succeeds and returns a singleton list
- **Or:** fails and returns the empty list

# Some combinatorial functions

- ✿ Returns all subsequences of a list.

```
subs :: [a] -> [[a]]
subs [] = [[]]
subs (x:xs) = let yss = subs xs
               in yss ++ map (x:) yss
```

```
> subs [1,2,3]
[[], [3], [2], [2,3], [1], [1,3], [1,2], [1,2,3]]
```

# Some combinatorial functions

- ✿ Returns all possible ways of inserting a new element into a list.

```
interleave :: a -> [a] -> [[a]]
interleave x [] = [[x]]
interleave x (y:ys) = (x:y:ys) : map (y:) (interleave x ys)
```

```
> interleave 1 [2,3,4]
[[1,2,3,4], [2,1,3,4], [2,3,1,4], [2,3,4,1]]
```

# Some combinatorial functions

✿ Returns all permutations of a list.

```
perms :: [a] -> [[a]]  
perms [] = []  
perms (x:xs) = concat $ map (interleave x) (perms xs)
```

```
> perms [1,2,3]  
[[1,2,3], [2,1,3], [2,3,1], [1,3,2], [3,1,2], [3,2,1]]
```

# Some combinatorial functions

- ✿ Return a list of all possible ways of choosing zero or more elements from a list in any order.

```
choices :: [a] -> [[a]]  
choices = concat . map perms . subs
```

```
> choices [1,2,3]  
[[], [3], [2], [2,3], [3,2], [1], [1,3], [3,1], [1,2], [2,1],  
[1,2,3], [2,1,3], [2,3,1], [1,3,2], [3,1,2], [3,2,1]]
```

# Formalising The Problem

- ✿ Return a list of all the values in an expression.

```
values :: Expr -> [Int]
values (Val n) = [n]
values (App _ l r) = values l ++ values r
```

- ✿ Decide if an expression is a solution for a given list of source numbers and a target number.

```
solution :: Expr -> [Int] -> Int -> Bool
solution e ns n = (values e) `elem` (choices ns)
                  && eval e == [n]
```

# Brute Force Solution

- ✿ Return a list of all possible ways of splitting a list into two non-empty parts.

```
split :: [a] -> [( [a], [a] )]  
split [] = []  
split [_] = []  
split (x:xs) = ([x], xs) : [ (x:ls, rs) | (ls, rs) <- split xs ]
```

```
> split [1,2,3,4]  
[( [1], [2,3,4] ), ( [1,2], [3,4] ), ( [1,2,3], [4] )]
```

# Brute Force Solution

- ✿ Return a list of all possible expressions whose values are precisely a given list of numbers.

```
exprs :: [Int] -> [Expr]
exprs [] = []
exprs [n] = [Val n]
exprs ns = [e | (ls,rs) <- split ns
                , l <- exprs ls
                , r <- exprs rs
                , e <- combine l r]
```

```
combine :: Expr -> Expr -> [Expr]
combine l r = [App o l r | o <- [Add,Sub,Mul,Div]]
```



# Brute Force Solution

- ✿ Return a list of all possible expressions that solve an instance of the countdown problem.

```
solutions :: [Int] -> Int -> [Expr]
solutions ns n = [e | ns' <- choices ns
                    , e <- exprs ns'
                    , eval e == [n]]
```

# How Fast Is It?

Hardware: 2.8GHz Core 2 Duo, 4GB RAM

Compiler: GHC version 7.10.2

Example: solutions [1,3,7,10,25,50] 765

One solution: 0.108 seconds

All solutions: 12.224 seconds

如果在ghci中运行，时间估计会增加一个数量级

# Can We Do Better?

- ❖ Many of the expressions that are considered will typically be **invalid** - fail to evaluate.
- ❖ For our example, only around **5 million** of the **33 million** possible expressions are valid.
- ❖ **Combining generation with evaluation** would allow **earlier rejection** of invalid expressions.

# Fusing generation and evaluation

- ✿ A type for Valid expressions and their values:

```
type Result = (Expr, Int)
```

- ✿ A function **without** fusion

```
results :: [Int] -> [Result]
results ns = [(e,n) | e <- exprs ns
                   , n <- eval e]
```

# Fusing generation and evaluation

❖ A function **without** fusion

```
results :: [Int] -> [Result]
results ns = [(e,n) | e <- exprs ns
                  , n <- eval e]
```

❖ A function **with** fusion

```
results :: [Int] -> [Result]
results [] = []
results [n] = [(Val n, n) | n > 0]
results ns = [res | (ls,rs) <- split ns
                  , lx <- results ls
                  , ry <- results rs
                  , res <- combine' lx ry]

combine' :: Result -> Result -> [Result]
combine' (l,x) (r,y) = [(App o l r, apply o x y)
                       | o <- [Add,Sub,Mul,Div]
                       , valid o x y]
```

# A better solution

```
solutions' :: [Int] -> Int -> [Expr]
solutions' ns n = [e | ns' <- choices ns
                    , (e,m) <- results ns'
                    , m == n]
```

# How Fast **Now**?

Hardware: 2.8GHz Core 2 Duo, 4GB RAM

Compiler: GHC version 7.10.2

Example: solutions [1,3,7,10,25,50] 765

One solution:	0.108 s	0.014 s	
All solutions:	12.224 s	1.312 s	
	Brute Force	Fusion	

# Can We Do Better Further?

- ❖ Many expressions will be essentially the same using simple arithmetic properties, such as:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \boxed{x * y} & = & \boxed{y * x} \\ \boxed{x * 1} & = & \boxed{x} \end{array}$$

- ❖ Exploiting such properties would considerably reduce the search and solution spaces.



# A better **valid** function

- ❖ In Haskell, a new name for an existing type can be defined using a type declaration.

```
valid :: Op -> Int -> Int -> Bool
```

```
valid Add x y = x <= y
```

```
valid Sub x y = x > y
```

```
valid Mul x y = x <= y && x /= 1 && y /= 1
```

```
valid Div x y = x `mod` y == 0 && y /= 1
```

# How Fast **Now**?

Hardware: 2.8GHz Core 2 Duo, 4GB RAM

Compiler: GHC version 7.10.2

Example: solutions [1,3,7,10,25,50] 765

One solution:	0.108 s	0.014 s	0.007 s
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All solutions:	12.224 s	1.312 s	0.119 s
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	Brute Force	Fusion	better valid
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# 作业

# 作业

9-1

Modify the final program to:

1. allow the use of **exponentiation** in expressions;
2. produce the **nearest solutions** if no exact solution is possible;
3. **order the solutions** using a suitable measure of simplicity.

# 第9章： An Example: The Countdown Problem

**就到这里吧**