

Data Structures I

Advanced Functional Programming

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Overview

Introduction (Lists)

Arrays

Unboxed types

Queues and dequeues

Summary and next lecture



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Question

What is the most frequently used data structure in Haskell?

Clearly, lists ...



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Haskell stacks are persistent

A data structure is called **persistent** if after an operation both the original and the resulting version of the data structure are available.

If not persistent, a data structure is called **ephemeral**.

- ▶ Functional data structures are naturally persistent.
- ▶ Imperative data structures are usually ephemeral.
- ▶ Persistent data structures are often, but not always, less efficient than ephemeral data structures.



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Other operations on lists

<i>snoc</i>	$:: [a] \rightarrow a \rightarrow [a]$	$-- O(n)$
<i>snoc</i>	$= \lambda xs x \rightarrow xs \# [x]$	
$(\#)$	$:: [a] \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow [a]$	$-- O(n)$
<i>reverse</i>	$:: [a] \rightarrow [a]$	$-- O(n), \text{ naively: } O(n^2)$
<i>union</i>	$:: \text{Eq } a \Rightarrow [a] \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow [a]$	$-- O(mn)$
<i>elem</i>	$:: \text{Eq } a \Rightarrow a \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow \text{Bool}$	$-- O(n)$

Although not efficient for these purposes, Haskell lists are frequently used as

- ▶ arrays
- ▶ queues, dequeues, catenable queues
- ▶ sets
- ▶ lookup tables, association lists, finite maps
- ▶ ...

Why?



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Lists are everywhere, because ...

- ▶ There is a convenient built-in notation for lists.
- ▶ There are even list comprehensions in Haskell.
- ▶ Lots of library functions on lists.
- ▶ Pattern matching!
- ▶ Haskell strings are lists.
- ▶ Other data structures not widely known.
- ▶ Arrays are often worse.
- ▶ Not enough standard libraries for data structures.

We are going to change **this** ...

Unfortunately, the remaining reasons are valid.



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About arrays

Imperative arrays feature

- ▶ constant-time lookup
- ▶ constant-time update

Update is usually at least as important as lookup.

Functional arrays do

- ▶ lookup in $O(1)$; yay!
- ▶ update in $O(n)$! Why? Persistence!

Array update is even worse than list update.

- ▶ To update the n th element of a list, $n - 1$ elements are copied.
- ▶ To update any element of an array, the **whole** array is copied.



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Space efficiency vs. space leaks

Arrays can be stored in a compact way.
Lists require lots of pointers.

If arrays are updated frequently and used persistently,
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Mutable arrays

- ▶ Are like imperative arrays.
- ▶ Defined in `Data.Array.MArray` and `Data.Array.IO`.
- ▶ All operations in a state monad (possibly IO monad).
- ▶ Often awkward to use in a functional setting.



Boxed vs. unboxed types

Haskell data structures are **boxed**.

- ▶ Each value is behind an additional indirection.
- ▶ This allows polymorphic datastructures (because the size of a pointer is always the same).
- ▶ This allows laziness, because the pointer can be to a computation as well as to evaluated data.

GHC offers **unboxed** datatypes, too. Naturally, they

- ▶ are slightly more efficient (in both space and time),
- ▶ are strict,
- ▶ cannot be used in polymorphic data structures.



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Unboxed types

- ▶ Defined in `GHC.Base`.
- ▶ For example, `Int#`, `Char#`, `Double#`.
- ▶ Have kind `#`, not `*`.
- ▶ Use specialized operations such as

| `(+#) :: Int# → Int# → Int#`

- ▶ Cannot be used in polymorphic functions or datatypes.
- ▶ Are used by GHC internally to define the usual datatypes:

| `data Int = I# Int#`



Packed strings

- ▶ Defined in `Data.PackedString`.
- ▶ Implemented as immutable, unboxed arrays.
- ▶ Can be more space-efficient than standard strings.
- ▶ Manipulating packed strings can be expensive.



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Queues

- ▶ Stacks are LIFO (last-in-first-out).
- ▶ Queues are FIFO (first-in-first-out).
- ▶ A list is not very suitable to represent a queue, because efficient access to both ends is desired.

The standard trick is:

```
| data Queue a = Q [a] [a]
```

The first list is the **front**, the second the **back** of the queue, in reversed order.



Queue operations

This is what we want for a queue:

```
empty    :: Queue a                -- produce an empty queue
snoc     :: a → Queue a → Queue a -- insert at the back
head     :: Queue a → a           -- get first element
tail     :: Queue a → Queue a     -- remove first element
```

```
toList   :: Queue a → [a]         -- queue to list
fromList :: [a] → Queue a         -- list to queue
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Implementing queue operations

$empty :: Queue\ a$
 $empty = Q\ []\ []$

$snoc :: a \rightarrow Queue\ a \rightarrow Queue\ a$
 $snoc\ x\ (Q\ fs\ bs) = Q\ fs\ (x : bs)$



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Invocations of *reverse*

$head :: Queue\ a \rightarrow a$

$head\ (Q\ (f : fs)\ bs) = f$

$head\ (Q\ []\ bs) = head\ (reverse\ bs)$

$tail :: Queue\ a \rightarrow Queue\ a$

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Persistence spoils the fun here; without persistence, all operations would be in $O(1)$ amortized time.



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Amortized analysis

Amortized complexity can be better than **worst-case complexity** if the worst-case cannot occur that often in practice.

In an amortized analysis, we look at the cost of multiple operations rather than single operations.



Idea

- ▶ Distribute the work that *reverse* causes over multiple operations in such a way that the amortized cost of each operation is constant.
- ▶ Use laziness (and memoization) to ensure that expensive operations are not performed too early or too often.



Memoization

A suspended expression in a lazy language is evaluated only once. The suspension is then updated with the result. Whenever the same expression is needed again, the result can be used immediately. This is called **memoization**.



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Efficient queues

Recall the queue representation:

| **data** Queue $a = Q [a] [a]$

As we will see, the work of reversing the list can be distributed well by choosing the following invariant for $Q fs bs$:

| $length fs \geq length bs$

In particular, $length fs == 0$ if and only if the queue is empty.

We need the lengths of both lists available in constant time.



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Efficient queues

Recall the queue representation:

| **data** Queue $a = Q \text{ !Int } [a] \text{ !Int } [a]$

As we will see, the work of reversing the list can be distributed well by choosing the following invariant for $Q \text{ !Int } [a] \text{ !Int } [a]$ *lf fs lb bs*:

| *lf* \geq *lb*

In particular, *length fs* == 0 if and only if the queue is empty.

We need the lengths of both lists available in constant time.



empty and *head* are simple due to the invariant

```
empty :: Queue a  
empty = Q 0 [] 0 []
```

```
head :: Queue a      → a  
head (Q _ (f:fs) bs) = f  
head (Q _ []      _) = error "empty queue"
```



empty and *head* are simple due to the invariant

empty :: Queue *a*
empty = Q 0 [] 0 []

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head (Q _ (f:fs) bs) = f
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What about *tail* and *snoc*?

```
tail :: Queue a          → a
tail (Q lf (f : fs) lb b) = makeQ (lf - 1) fs lb b
tail (Q - [] - -) = error "empty queue"
```

```
snoc :: a → Queue a     → Queue a
snoc x (Q lf fs lb bs) = makeQ lf fs (lb + 1) (x : bs)
```

In both cases, we have to make a new queue using a call `makeQ lf f lb f'`, where we may need to re-establish the invariant.



What about *tail* and *snoc*?

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{tail} :: \text{Queue } a \quad \rightarrow a \\ \text{tail} \quad (\text{Q } lf \ (f : fs) \ lb \ b) = \text{makeQ } (lf - 1) \ fs \ lb \ b \\ \text{tail} \quad (\text{Q } - \ [] \quad - \ -) = \text{error "empty queue"} \end{array}$$
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In both cases, we have to make a new queue using a call $\text{makeQ } lf \ f \ lb \ f'$, where we may need to re-establish the invariant.



How to make a queue

```
makeQ :: Int → [a] → Int → [a]  
      → Queue a
```

```
makeQ lf fs lb bs
```

```
  | lf ≥ lb = Q lf fs lb bs
```

```
  | otherwise = Q (lf + lb) (fs ++ reverse bs) 0 []
```



Why is this implementation “better”?

(drawing and lots of handwaving)

Read Okasaki's book for a proof.



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Queues in GHC

- ▶ Available in `Data.Queue` (ghc-6.4).
- ▶ Based on a slight variation of the implementation described here, allowing operations in constant worst-case time (“real-time queues”).
- ▶ Representation of queues is then

```
| data Queue a = Q [a] [a] [a]
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where the third list is used to maintain the unevaluated part of the front queue.

- ▶ Described in the paper *Simple and efficient functional queues and dequeues*, JFP 5(4), pages 583–592, October 1995, by Chris Okasaki.
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Dequeues

A **deque** is a double-ended queue.

Operations like queue operations:

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snoc     :: a → Deque a → Deque a -- insert at the back
head     :: Deque a → a       -- get first element
tail     :: Deque a → Deque a  -- remove first element
toList   :: Deque a → [a]     -- queue to list
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```

Additionally (also in constant time):

```
cons     :: a → Deque a → Deque a -- insert at the front
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Efficient deques

The previous implementation can easily be extended to work for deques:

| **data** Deque $a = D ! \text{Int } [a] ! \text{Int } [a]$

Of course, we have to make the representation more symmetric. The invariant for $D \text{ lf fs lb bs}$ becomes:

| $\text{lf} \leq c * \text{lb} + 1 \wedge \text{lr} \leq c * \text{lf} + 1$

(for some constant $c > 1$).



Implementation of deques

- ▶ The implementation of *makeQ* must be adapted to maintain this invariant.
- ▶ The other operations are straight-forward, we only have to pay attention to the one-element queue.
- ▶ How much time does it cost to reverse a deque?
- ▶ Unfortunately, there currently is no standard Haskell library for deques.



Catenable queues or dequeues

- ▶ Queues or dequeues that support efficient concatenation are called **catenable**.
- ▶ It is possible to support concatenation in $O(\log n)$ and even in $O(1)$ amortized time, but this requires a completely different implementation of queues/deques.
- ▶ Again, there currently are no standard Haskell libraries for catenable queues and dequeues.



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Summary

- ▶ Lists are everywhere in Haskell, for a lot of good reasons.
- ▶ Functional data structures are persistent.
- ▶ Persistence and efficiency and evaluation order all interact.
- ▶ Array updates are inherently inefficient in a functional language.
- ▶ Queues and deques support many operations efficiently that normal lists do not.
- ▶ In a persistent setting, queue and deque operations can be implemented with the same complexity bounds as in an ephemeral setting.
- ▶ GHC has a standard library that supports many (but not all desirable) datastructures, for instance lists, queues, arrays in all flavors, but also unboxed types and packed strings.



Next lecture

- ▶ Pattern matching, abstract datatypes, views.
- ▶ Trees, finite maps and sets.
- ▶ ...

