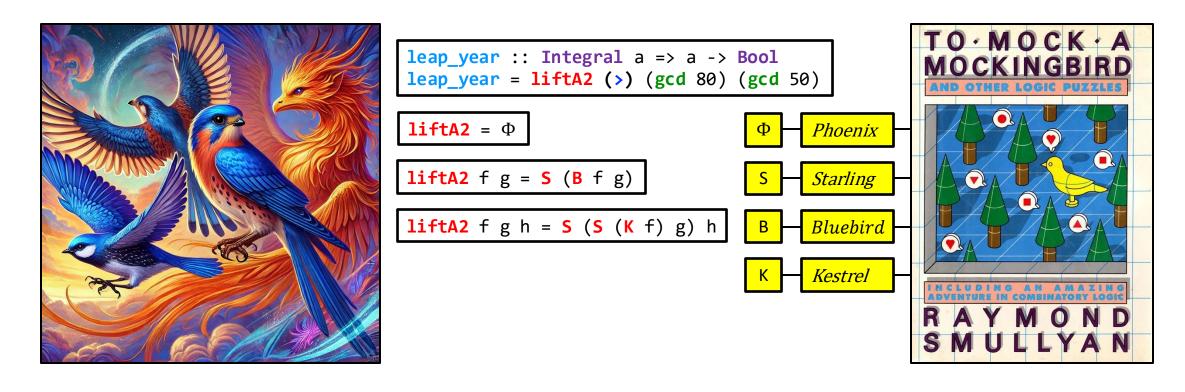
Function Applicative for Great Good of Leap Year Function

Polyglot FP for Fun and Profit – Haskell and Scala 🛛 🔭 📕



This deck is about the **leap_year** function shown in the tweet below. It is being defined in a **Haskell REPL**.

Given an integer representing a year, the function returns a boolean indicating if that year is a leap year.



https://x.com/lceland_jack/status/1802659835642528217



The leap_year function uses built-in functions (>) and gcd

-- Greater Than function
> :type (>)
(>) :: Ord a => a -> a -> Bool

> **(>)** 2 3 False

> **(>)** 3 2 True

-- Greatest Common Divisor function > :type gcd gcd :: Integral a => a -> a -> a



leap_year = liftA2 (>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50)

leap_year also uses **liftA2**, which is a function provided by **Applicative**.

> import Control. Applicative

```
> :type liftA2
liftA2 :: Applicative f => (a -> b -> c) -> f a -> f b -> f c
```

Let's define **leap_year** and take it for a quick spin.



> leap_year = liftA2 (>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50)

> :type leap_year
leap_year :: Integral a => a -> Bool

> leap_year 2024
True

> leap_year 2025
False

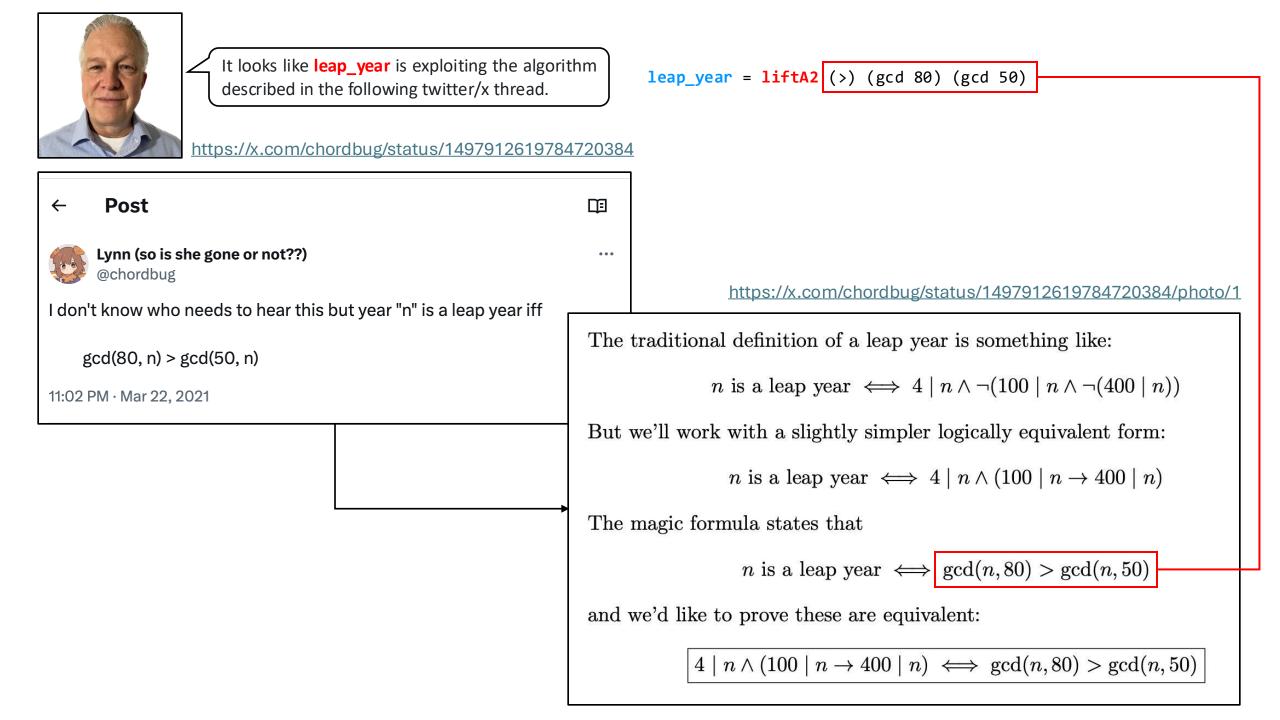
> fmap leap_year [1600, 1700, 1800, 1900, 2000, 2100, 2200, 2300, 2400] [True,False,False,False,True,False,False,False,True] leap_year = liftA2 (>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50)

The following slide uses logic operators \neg , \land , \lor , \rightarrow and \Leftrightarrow .

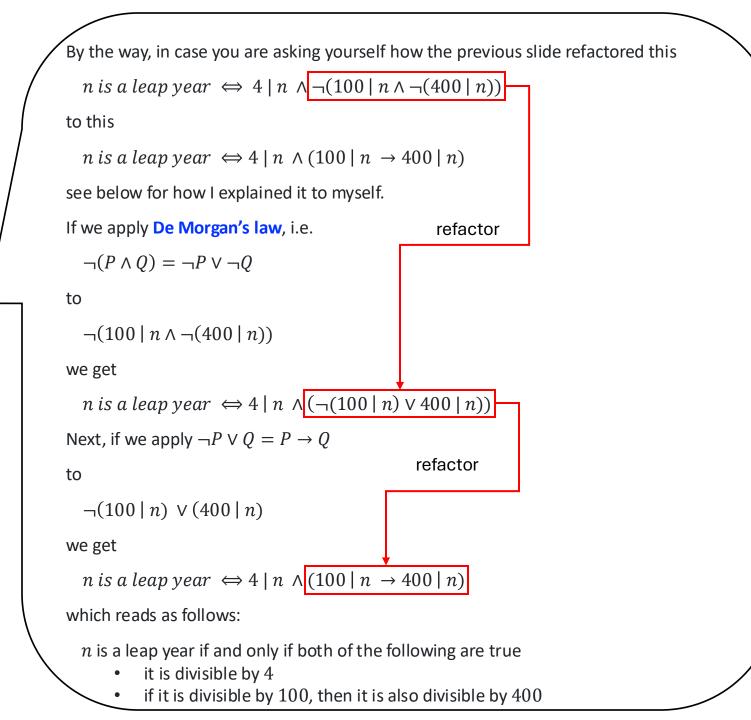
Here is a reminder of their definition.



Operator	Definition
$\neg P$	not P
$P \lor Q$	P or Q
$P \wedge Q$	P and Q
$P \rightarrow Q$	if P then Q
$P \Leftrightarrow Q$	P if and only if Q







Why is it that, given function definition

leap_year = liftA2 (>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50)

and given some input year

e.g. **2024**

evaluating leap_year year, amounts to evaluating

(gcd 80 year) > (gcd 50 year)

e.g.

?

(gcd 80 2024) > (gcd 50 2024)





Here is the definition of **Applicative** function **liftA2**

liftA2 :: (a -> b -> c) -> f a -> f b -> f c

Source

Lift a binary function to actions.

Some functors support an implementation of liftA2 that is more efficient than the default one. In particular, if fmap is an expensive operation, it is likely better to use liftA2 than to fmap over the structure and then use <*>.

This became a typeclass method in 4.10.0.0. Prior to that, it was a function defined in terms of <*> and fmap.

https://hackage.haskell.org/package/base-4.20.0.1/docs/Prelude.html#liftA2

```
But given that the signature of liftA2 is
  liftA2 :: (a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow f a \rightarrow f b \rightarrow f c
how does
  liftA2 (>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50) 2024
                                                               leap_year = liftA2 (>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50)
map to
  (gcd 80 2024) > (gcd 50 2024)
?
The first step that we are going to take to answer this question, is to consider the actual parameters of liftA2 in
  liftA2 (>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50) 2024
The first one, i.e. (>), is a function with type Int -> Int -> Bool.
The second one, i.e. (gcd 80) is the result of applying a function of type Int -> Int -> Int to 80, which results in a
function Int -> Int.
The third one, i.e. (gcd 50) is the result of applying a function of type Int -> Int -> Int to 50, which also results in a
function Int -> Int.
```

Given that the type of leap_year is Int -> Bool, it follows that in

```
liftA2 (>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50) 2024
```

the signature of **liftA2** is

liftA2 :: (Int -> Int -> Bool) -> (Int -> Int) -> (Int -> Int) -> (Int -> Bool)



But what abstraction does **f** need to be in order for

to become

```
liftA2 :: (Int -> Int -> Boolean) -> (Int -> Int) -> (Int -> Int) -> (Int -> Boolean)
```

```
?
```

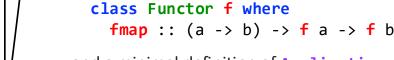


```
Let us define f to be a function of type r \rightarrow ?, where r is some specific type, and ? is some yet to be specified type.
Now let's update the signature of liftA2 to reflect the above definition of f:
  liftA2 :: (a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow (r \rightarrow ?1) \rightarrow (r \rightarrow ?2) \rightarrow (r \rightarrow ?3)
In the case at hand, i.e.
                                                                   leap_year = liftA2 (>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50)
   liftA2 (>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50) 2024
we already know that
1. (a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c) is (Int \rightarrow Int \rightarrow Bool), i.e. the type of (>),
2. (r \rightarrow ?3) is (Int \rightarrow Boolean), i.e. the type of leap year
3. (r \rightarrow ?1) and (r \rightarrow ?2) are (Int \rightarrow Int), i.e. the type of both (gcd 80) and (gcd 50)
so we see that with r = Int, ?1 = Int, ?2 = Int and ?3 = Bool, the signature of liftA2 is indeed the sought one:
```

liftA2 :: (Int -> Int -> Bool) -> (Int -> Int) -> (Int -> Int) -> (Int -> Bool)

```
So, to arrive at the liftA2 signature that is applicable in
liftA2 (>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50) 2024
i.e.
liftA2 :: (Int -> Int -> Bool) -> (Int -> Int) -> (Int -> Int) -> (Int -> Bool)
```

we first take the minimal definition of Functor



and a minimal definition of Applicative, but with liftA2 added to it

```
class Functor f => Applicative f where
    pure :: a -> f a
    (<*>) :: f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
    liftA2 :: (a -> b -> c) -> f a -> f b -> f c
```

We then take the **Function Functor** and **Function Applicative**, i.e. the **Functor** and **Applicative** instances for ((->) r), in which **f** is defined to be a function from some specific type **r** to some yet unspecified type. Here are the function signatures of the resulting instances:

```
fmap :: (a -> b) -> (r -> a) -> (r -> b)
pure :: a -> (r -> a)
(<*>) :: (r -> a -> b) -> (r -> a) -> (r -> b)
liftA2 :: (a -> b -> c) -> (r -> a) -> (r -> b) -> (r -> c)

If we define r = Int, a = Int, b = Int and c = Bool, then liftA2 takes on the desired signature:
    liftA2 :: (Int -> Int -> Bool) -> (Int -> Int) -> (Int -> Int) -> (Int -> Bool)
```

Now let's get back to the question that we are looking to answer.

Why is it that given function definition

```
leap_year = liftA2 (>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50)
```

and given some input **year**, evaluating **leap_year year**, amounts to evaluating

```
(gcd 80 year) > (gcd 50 year)
```

```
?
```

?

Or in other words, since leap_year is defined in terms of liftA2, why is it that

```
liftA2 (>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50) year
```

evaluates to

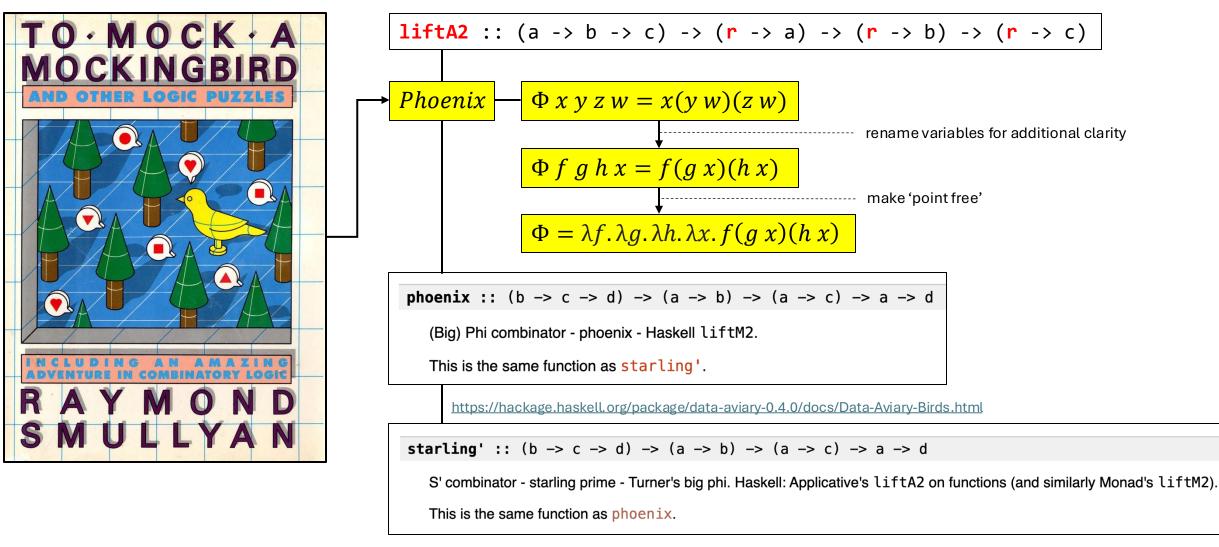
```
(gcd 80 year) > (gcd 50 year)
```





It turns out that the **liftA2** function of the **Function Applicative** is a **combinatory logic** function (a **combinator**) called the **phoenix**.

To answer the question restated in the previous slide, instead of looking at the code for **liftA2**, in the next slide we are going to exploit the fact that **liftA2** = **phoenix**.



$\Phi = \lambda f. \lambda g. \lambda h. \lambda x. f(g x)(h x)$

Equation	Action
$leap_year = liftA2 (>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50)$	$liftA2 = \Phi$
$leap_year = \Phi (>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50)$	$\Phi = \lambda f. \lambda g. \lambda h. \lambda x. f(g x)(h x)$
$leap_year = (\lambda f.\lambda g.\lambda h.\lambda x. f(g x)(h x))(>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50)$	f = (>)
$leap_year = (\lambda g. \lambda h. \lambda x. (>)(g x)(h x)) (gcd 80) (gcd 50)$	$g = gcd \ 80$
$leap_year = (\lambda h. \lambda x. (>)(gcd \ 80 \ x)(h \ x)) (gcd \ 50)$	h = gcd 50
$leap_year = \lambda x. (>)(gcd \ 80 \ x)(gcd \ 50 \ x)$	(>) x y = x > y
$leap_year = \lambda x. (gcd 80 x) > (gcd 50 x)$	apply leap_year to 2024
$leap_year \ 2024 = (\lambda x. (gcd \ 80 \ x)) > (gcd \ 50 \ x)) 2024$	x = 2024
$leap_year 2024 = (gcd \ 80 \ 2024) > (gcd \ 50 \ 2024)$	Q.E.D.



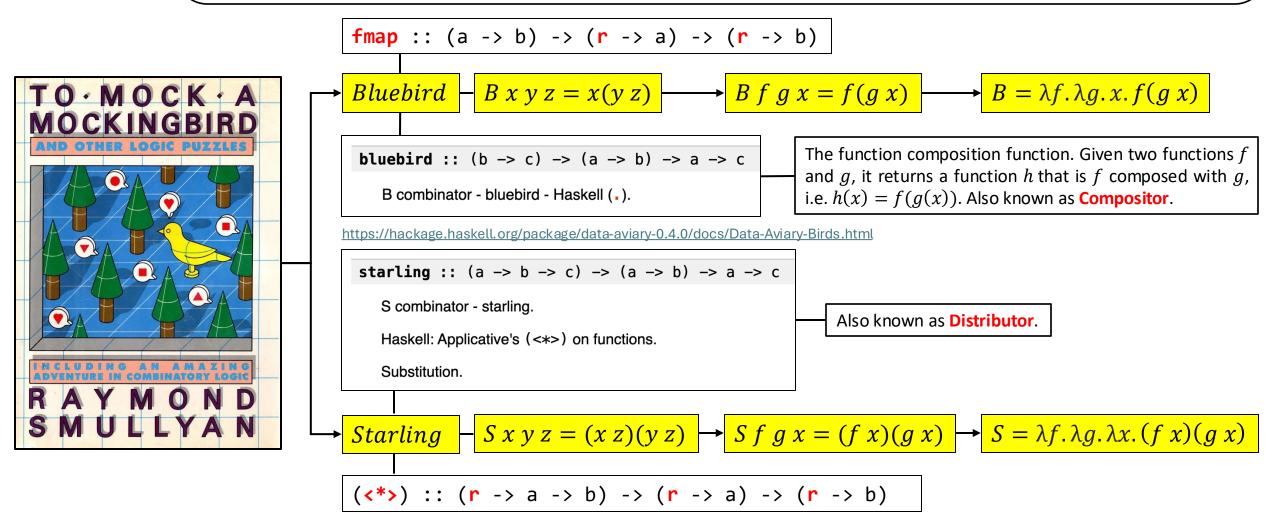
Thanks to the phoenix, we have not needed to look at the implementation of liftA2 in order to understand how it works. Still, what does the implementation look like? It uses <*> and fmap:

liftA2 f x = (<*>)(fmap f x)

liftA2 f g = S(B f g)

It turns out that in the **Function Functor**, **fmap** is the **Bluebird combinator**, and in the **Function Applicative**, <*> is the **Starling combinator**. So again, instead of

looking at the code for fmap and <*>, in the next slide we are going to exploit the fact that fmap = bluebird and <*> = starling.





 $S = \lambda f \cdot \lambda g \cdot \lambda x \cdot (f x)(g x)$ | liftA2 f g = S(B f g)

Equation	Action
$leap_year = liftA2 (>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50)$	liftA2 f g = S(B f g)
$leap_year = S(B(>)(gcd \ 80))(gcd \ 50)$	$S = \lambda f. \lambda g. \lambda x. (f x)(g x)$
$leap_year = (\lambda f. \lambda g. \lambda x. (f x)(g x))(B (>) (gcd 80)) (gcd 50)$	$f = B (>) (gcd \ 80)$
$leap_year = (\lambda g. \lambda x. (B (>) (gcd 80) x)(g x)) (gcd 50)$	g = gcd 50
$leap_year = (\lambda x. (B (>) (gcd 80) x)(gcd 50 x))$	$B = \lambda f. \lambda g. \lambda x. f(g x) = \lambda f. \lambda g. \lambda y. f(g y)$
$leap_year = (\lambda x. ((\lambda f. \lambda g. \lambda y. f(g y)) (>) (gcd 80) x)(gcd 50 x))$	f = (>)
$leap_year = (\lambda x. ((\lambda g. \lambda y. (>)(g y)) (gcd 80) x)(gcd 50 x))$	$g = gcd \ 80$
$leap_year = (\lambda x. ((\lambda y. (>)(gcd 80 y)) x)(gcd 50 x))$	y = x
$leap_year = (\lambda x. (>)(gcd \ 80 \ x)(gcd \ 50 \ x))$	(>) x y = x > y
$leap_year = (\lambda x. (gcd 80 x) > (gcd 50 x))$	apply leap_year to 2024
$leap_year 2024 = (\lambda x. (gcd 80 x) > (gcd 50 x)) 2024$	x = 2024
$leap_year \ 2024 = (gcd \ 80 \ 2024) > (gcd \ 50 \ 2024)$	Q.E.D.



In previous slides, we saw this definition of liftA2

Here is the same definition, but using the **infix operator** equivalent of function **fmap**, and the **infix operator** equivalent of function (<*>).

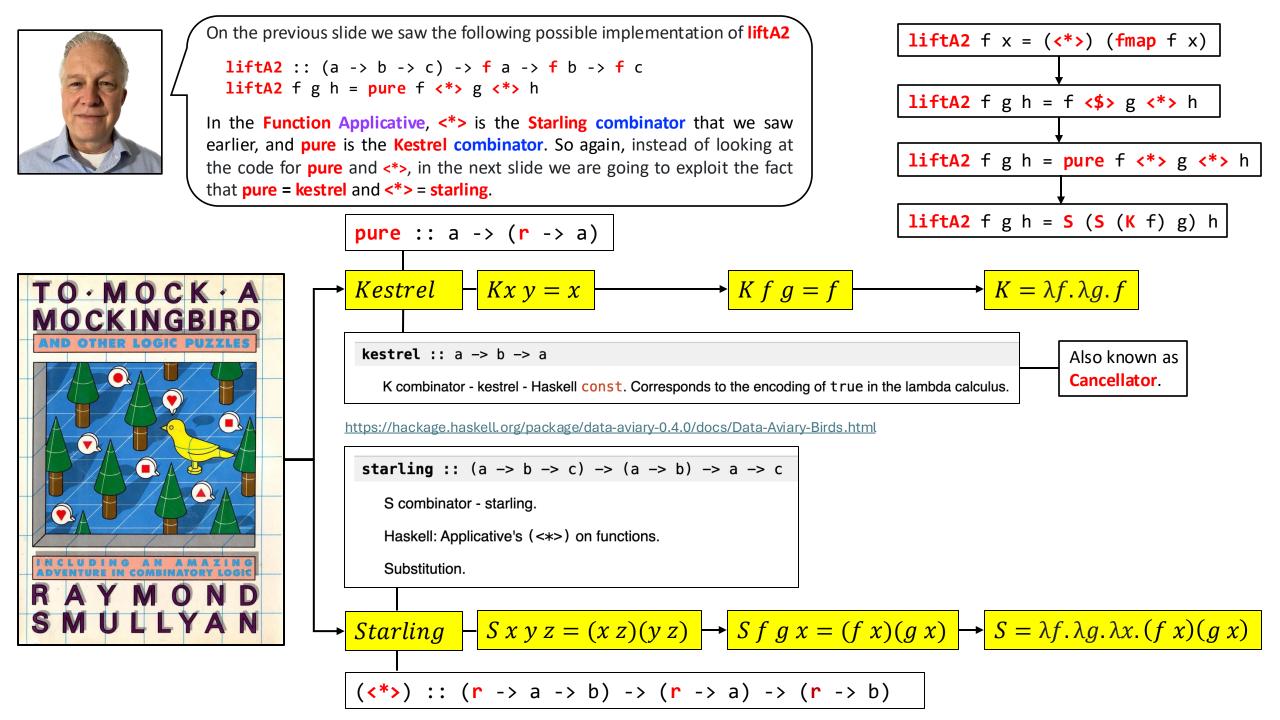
(<\$>) :: Functor f => (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
(<\$>) = fmap

The above is a more convenient version of the following:

liftA2 f g h = pure f <*> g <*> h

Applicative functors	Synops			
class Functor f => Applicative (f :: Type -> Type) where	# Source			
A functor with application, providing operations to				
 embed pure expressions (pure), and 				
 sequence computations and combine their results (<*> and liftA2). 				
A minimal complete definition must include implementations of pure and of either <>> or liftA2. If it defines both, then they must behave the same as their default definitions:				
(<*>) = liftA2 id				
liftA2 f x y = f <\$> x <*> y				

https://hackage.haskell.org/package/base-4.20.0.1/docs/Control-Applicative.html



 $K = \lambda f. \lambda g. f$

 $S = \lambda f. \lambda g. \lambda x. (f x)(g x)$

liftA2 f g h = S(K f) g h

Equation

 $leap_year = liftA2 (>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50)$ $leap_year = S\left(S\left(K\left(>\right)\right)(gcd\ 80)\right)(gcd\ 50)$ $leap_year = (\lambda f. \lambda g. \lambda x. (f x)(g x)) (S(K(>))(gcd 80)) (gcd 50)$ $leap_year = (\lambda g. \lambda x. (S(K(>))(gcd 80) x)(g x)) (gcd 50)$ $leap_year = \lambda x. (S(K(>))(gcd 80) x)(gcd 50 x)$ $leap_year = \lambda x. ((\lambda f. \lambda g. \lambda y. (f y)(g y))(K(>))(gcd 80) x)(gcd 50 x)$ $leap_year = \lambda x. ((\lambda g. \lambda y. (K (>) y)(g y)) (gcd 80) x)(gcd 50 x)$ $leap_year = \lambda x. ((\lambda y. (K (>) y)(gcd 80 y)) x)(gcd 50 x)$ $leap_year = \lambda x. (K (>) x)(gcd \ 80 x)(gcd \ 50 x)$ $leap_year = \lambda x. ((\lambda g. (>)) x)(gcd 80 x)(gcd 50 x)$ $leap_year = \lambda x. ((\lambda g. (>)) x)(gcd 80 x)(gcd 50 x)$ $leap_year = \lambda x. (>)(gcd \ 80 \ x)(gcd \ 50 \ x)$ $leap_year = \lambda x. (gcd \ 80 \ x) > (gcd \ 50 \ x)$ $leap_year \ 2024 = (\lambda x. (gcd \ 80 \ x) (> gcd \ 50 \ x)) \ 2024$ _leap_year_2024_= (gcd_80_2024) > (gcd_50_2024)

Action liftA2 f g h = S(S(K f) g) h $S = \lambda f \cdot \lambda g \cdot \lambda x \cdot (f x)(g x)$ $f = \left(S\left(K\left(>\right)\right)\left(gcd\ 80\right)\right)$ g = gcd 50 $S = \lambda f \cdot \lambda g \cdot \lambda x \cdot (f x)(g x) = \lambda f \cdot \lambda g \cdot \lambda y \cdot (f y)(g y)$ f = (K(>)) $g = gcd \ 80$ v = x $K = \lambda f \cdot \lambda g \cdot f$ f = (>)g = x(>) x y = x > y*apply leap_year to* 2024 x = 2024O.E.D



We had a go at understanding the following functions of the **Function Applicative**, without the need to look at their code: **fmap**, **pure**, <*> and **liftA2**.

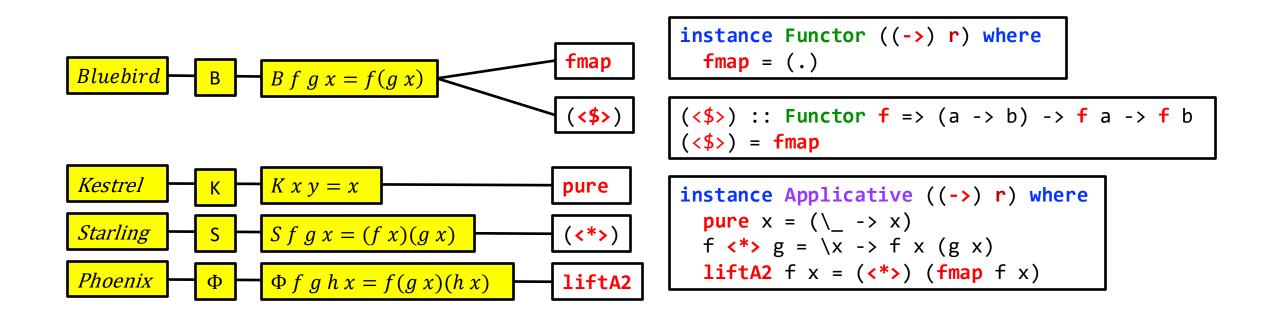
We did this by looking at their equivalent **combinators**: **Bluebird**, **Kestrel**, **Starling** and **Phoenix**.

While we have now seen the code for liftA2, we have not yet seen that for fmap, pure and <*>.

Now the we are familiar with the **combinators**, the code for **fmap**, **pure** and **<*>** does not present any surprises, and can be seen on the following slide, which acts as a recap of the correspondence between the functions and the **combinators**.

class Functor f where
fmap :: (a -> b) -> f a -> f b

class Functor f => Applicative f where
 pure :: a -> f a
 (<*>) :: f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b
 liftA2 :: (a -> b -> c) -> f a -> f b -> f c

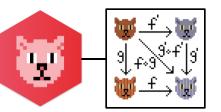




The next slide shows the Scala code for the definition of leap_year in
terms of the following alternative equivalent implementations of liftA2:
liftA2 f x = (<*>) (fmap f x)
liftA2 f g h = f <\$> g <*> h
liftA2 f g h = pure f <*> g <*> h

import scala.math.BigInt.int2bigInt

import cats.*
import cats.implicits.*



val gcd: Int => Int => Int = x => y => x.gcd(y).intValue

```
val `(>)`: Int => Int => Boolean =
    x => y => x > y
```

extension [A,B](f: A => B)
 def `<\$>`[F[_]: Functor](fa: F[A]): F[B] = fa.map(f)

def liftA2_v1[A,B,C,F[_]: Applicative](f: A => B => C)(fa: F[A], fb: F[B]): F[C] =
fa.map(f) <*> fb

def liftA2_v2[A,B,C,F[_]: Applicative](f: A => B => C)(fa: F[A], fb: F[B]): F[C] =
 f `<\$>` fa <*> fb

def liftA2_v3[A,B,C,F[_]: Applicative](f: A => B => C)(fa: F[A], fb: F[B]): F[C] =
 f.pure <*> fa <*> fb

val leapYear1: Int => Boolean =
 liftA2_v1(`(>)`)(gcd(80), gcd(50))

val leapYear2: Int => Boolean =
 liftA2_v2(`(>)`)(gcd(80), gcd(50))

val leapYear3: Int => Boolean =
 liftA2_v3(`(>)`)(gcd(80), gcd(50))

```
for
    leapYear <- List(leapYear1, leapYear2, leapYear3)
    _ = assert(List.range(2000,2025).filter(leapYear) == List(2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, 2020, 2024))
    _ = assert(List(1600, 1700, 1800, 1900, 2000).filter(leapYear) == List(1600, 2000))
    yield ()
```



That's all. I hope you found it useful.

If you would like a more comprehensive introduction to the **Function Applicative**, consider checking out the following deck.

