Function Applicative for Great Good of Leap Year Function

Polyglot FP for Fun and Profit – Haskell and Scala XF

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/Iceland_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

> **gcd** 10 15 5 > **gcd** 10 16 2 > **gcd** 10 17 1 > **gcd** 10 18 2 > gcd 10 19 1 > gcd 10 20 10

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 , \wedge , \vee , \rightarrow and \Leftrightarrow .

Here is a reminder of their definition.

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 :: $(a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow f a \rightarrow f b \rightarrow f c$

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 $\ll\gg$ and fmap.

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

```
But given that the signature of liftA2 is
   1iftA2 :: (a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow f a \rightarrow f b \rightarrow f chow does
   liftA2 (>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50) 2024
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
                                                                    leap year = liftA2 (\rightarrow) (gcd 80) (gcd 50)
```

```
 liftA2 (>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50) 2024
```
The first one, i.e. $(>)$, is a function with type Int \rightarrow Int \rightarrow 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 $Int \rightarrow Int \rightarrow Int$ 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

$$
liftA2 :: (a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow f a \rightarrow f b \rightarrow f c
$$

to become

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

```
?
```


Let us define **f** to be a function of type **r -> ?**, 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 -> b -> c) -> (r -> ?1) -> (r -> ?2) -> (r -> ?3)
```

```
In the case at hand, i.e.
```
 liftA2 (>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50) **2024**

leap year = liftA2 **(>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50)**

we already know that

1. (a -> b -> c) is (Int -> Int -> Bool), i.e. the type of $($ >), 2. (**r** -> **?3**) **is** (Int -> Boolean), i.e. the type of **leap_year** 3. (**r** -> **?1**) and (**r** -> **?2**) are (Int -> 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 \rightarrow b) \rightarrow (r \rightarrow a) \rightarrow (r \rightarrow b) pure :: a -> (r -> a)
    (\langle * \rangle) :: (\mathbf{r} \to \mathbf{a} \to \mathbf{b}) \to (\mathbf{r} \to \mathbf{a}) \to (\mathbf{r} \to \mathbf{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**.

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

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 $g = S(B f g)$

\n
$$
\text{liftA2} : \text{(a -> b -> c) -> f a -> f b -> f c}
$$
\n

\n\n $\text{liftA2} \, f \, x = \text{((>>)(fmap f x))}$ \n

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**.

 $B = \lambda f \cdot \lambda g \cdot x \cdot f(g \cdot x)$ $S = \lambda f \cdot \lambda g \cdot \lambda x \cdot (f \cdot x) (g \cdot x)$ **liftal** f g = **S**(**B** f g)

In previous slides, we saw this definition of **liftA2**

$$
liftA2 :: (a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow f a \rightarrow f b \rightarrow f c
$$

$$
liftA2 f x = (\langle * \rangle) (fmap f x)
$$

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

$$
liftA2 f g h = f \langle \$ \rangle g \langle * \rangle h
$$

(<\$>) :: **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

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

 $S = \lambda f \cdot \lambda g \cdot \lambda x \cdot (f \cdot x)(g \cdot x)$ | **liftA2** f g h = **S** (**S** (**K** f) g) h

Equation Action

 $leap_year = liftA2 (>) (gcd 80) (gcd 50)$ $liftA2 f g h = S (S (K f) g) h$ $leap_year = S(S(K(\gt))(gcd 80))(gcd 50)$
 $S = \lambda f. \lambda g. \lambda x. (f x)(g x)$ $leap_year = (\lambda f. \lambda g. \lambda x. (f x)(g x)) (S (K (\geq))(gcd 80))(gcd 50)$ $f = (S (K (\geq))(gcd 80))$ $leap_year = (\lambda g.\lambda x. (S(K(>))(gcd 80) x)(g x)) (gcd 50)$ $g = gcd 50$ $leap_year = \lambda x. (S(K(>))(gcd 80) x)(gcd 50 x)$
 $S = \lambda f. \lambda g. \lambda x. (f x)(g x) = \lambda f. \lambda g. \lambda y. (f y)(g y)$ $leap_year = \lambda x. ((\lambda f. \lambda g. \lambda y. (f y)(g y)) (K(\gt)) (gcd 80) x) (gcd 50 x)$ $f = (K(\gt))$ $leap_year = \lambda x. ((\lambda g. \lambda y. (K > y)(g y)) (gcd 80) x) (gcd 50 x)$ $g = gcd 80$ $leap_year = \lambda x. ((\lambda y. (K(>) y)(gcd 80 y)) x)(gcd 50 x)$ $y = x$ $leap_year = \lambda x. (K(\gt)x)(gcd 80 x)(gcd 50 x)$ $K = \lambda f. \lambda g. f$ $leap_year = \lambda x. ((\lambda g. (\ge)) x)(gcd 80 x)(gcd 50 x)$ $f = (\ge)$ $leap_year = \lambda x. ((\lambda g. (\ge)) x) (gcd 80 x) (gcd 50 x)$ $g = x$ _ = λ. (>) 80 50 > = > $leap_year = \lambda x. (gcd 80 x) > (gcd 50 x)$ $leap_year$ 2024 = $(\lambda x. (gcd 80 x)(> gcd 50 x))$ 2024 $x = 2024$ $\text{Leap_year}.2024 = \text{(gcd.80.2024)} > \text{(gcd.50.2024)}$

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** $f(x) = (x^*) (fmap f(x))$ **liftA2** f g h = f \langle \$> g \langle *> h **liftA2** f g h = $pure$ f $\langle * \rangle$ g $\langle * \rangle$ h

import scala.math.BigInt.int2bigInt

import cats.* **import** cats.implicits.*

val gcd: **Int** => **Int** => **Int** = $x \Rightarrow y \Rightarrow x.gcd(y).intValue$

```
val `(>)`: Int => Int => Boolean =
  x \Rightarrow y \Rightarrow x \Rightarrow y
```
extension $[A, B]$ (f: $A \Rightarrow B$) **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.

<https://fpilluminated.com/>