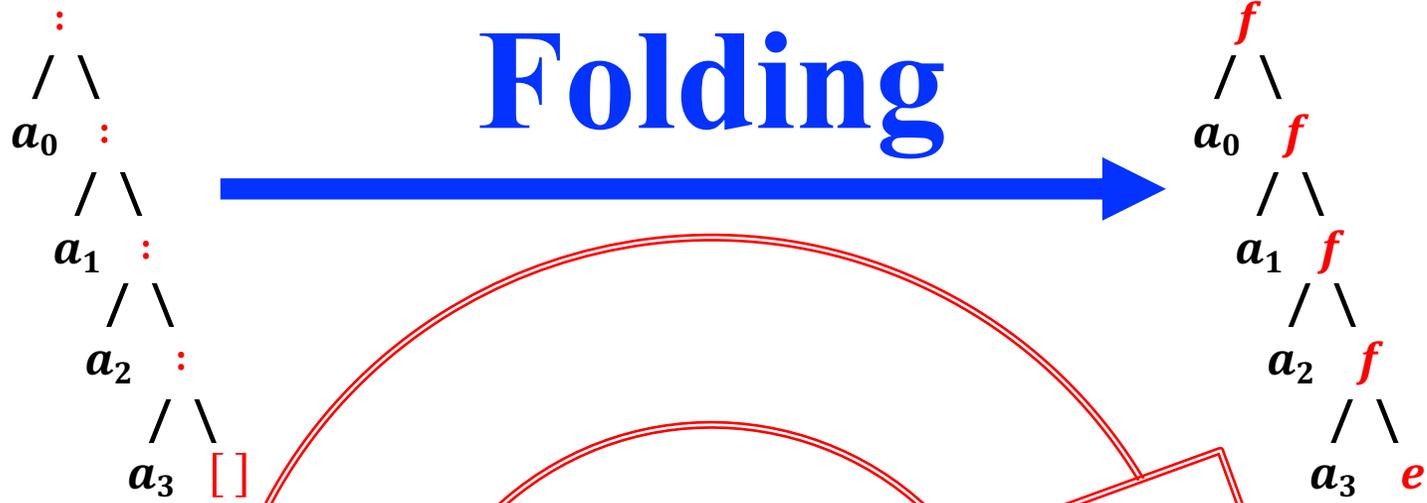


Folding



The Three **Duality Theorems** of **Fold** (for all finite lists †)

① $foldr (\oplus) e xs = foldl (\oplus) e xs$

where \oplus and e are such that for all $x, y,$ and z we have

$$(x \oplus y) \oplus z = x \oplus (y \oplus z)$$

$$e \oplus x = x \text{ and } x \oplus e = x$$

In other words, \oplus is **associative** with **unit** e . ❌

†

② $foldr (\oplus) e xs = foldl (\otimes) e xs$

where $\oplus, \otimes,$ and e are such that for all $x, y,$ and z we have

$$x \oplus (y \otimes z) = (x \oplus y) \otimes z$$

$$x \oplus e = e \otimes x$$

In other words, \oplus and \otimes **associate** with each other, and e on the right of \oplus is equivalent to e on the left of \otimes .

‡

③ $foldr f e xs = foldl (flip f) e (reverse xs)$

where $flip f x y = f y x$

$foldr :: (\alpha \rightarrow \beta \rightarrow \beta) \rightarrow \beta \rightarrow [\alpha] \rightarrow \beta$
 $foldr f e [] = e$
 $foldr f e (x:xs) = f x (foldr f e xs)$

$foldl :: (\beta \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \beta) \rightarrow \beta \rightarrow [\alpha] \rightarrow \beta$
 $foldl f e [] = e$
 $foldl f e (x:xs) = foldl f (f e x) xs$

† Theorem ① is a special case of ② with $(\oplus) = (\otimes)$ ‡ Theorem ② is a generalisation of ① ❌ For example, $+$ and \times are **associative** operators with respective **units** 0 and 1 .
 † Except lists sufficiently large to cause a **right fold** to encounter a **stack overflow**

① $foldr (\oplus) e xs = foldl (\oplus) e xs$

where \oplus and e are such that for all x, y , and z we have

$$(x \oplus y) \oplus z = x \oplus (y \oplus z)$$

$$e \oplus x = x \text{ and } x \oplus e = x$$

In other words, \oplus is **associative** with **unit** e .

associative operator	unit
+	0
*	1
&&	True
	False
++	[]

```

:{
foldRight :: (α -> β -> β) -> β -> [α] -> β
foldRight f e [] = e
foldRight f e (x:xs) = f x (foldRight f e xs)

```

```

foldLeft :: (β -> α -> β) -> β -> [α] -> β
foldLeft f e [] = e
foldLeft f e (x:xs) = foldLeft f (f e x) xs
:}

```

```

> sumLeft = foldLeft (+) 0
> sumRight = foldRight (+) 0

> subLeft = foldLeft (-) 0
> subRight = foldRight (-) 0

> prdLeft = foldLeft (*) 1
> prdRight = foldRight (*) 1

> andLeft = foldLeft (&&) True
> andRight = foldRight (&&) True

> orLeft = foldLeft (||) False
> orRight = foldRight (||) False

> concatLeft = foldLeft (++) []
> concatRight = foldRight (++) []

```

```

> integers = [1,2,3,4]
> flags = [True, False, True]
> lists = [[1], [2,3,4],[5,6]]

```

```

> subLeft(integers)
-10

> subRight(integers)
-2

```

subtraction is not **associative**, and **0** is not its **unit**, so the following are not equivalent:

```

foldLeft (-) 0
foldRight (-) 0

```

```

> assert (sumLeft(integers) == sumRight(integers)) "OK"
"OK"

> assert (subLeft(integers) /= subRight(integers)) "OK"
"OK"

> assert (prdLeft(integers) == prdRight(integers)) "OK"
"OK"

> assert (andLeft(flags) == andRight(flags)) "OK"
"OK"

> assert (orLeft(flags) == orRight(flags)) "OK"
"OK"

> assert (concatLeft(lists) == concatRight(lists)) "OK"
"OK"

```

Same as previous slide but using built-in `foldl` and `foldr`

```
> sumLeft  = foldl (+) 0
> sumRight = foldr (+) 0

> subLeft  = foldl (-) 0
> subRight = foldr (-) 0

> prdLeft  = foldl (*) 1
> prdRight = foldr (*) 1

> andLeft  = foldl (&&) True
> andRight = foldr (&&) True

> orLeft   = foldl (||) False
> orRight  = foldr (||) False

> concatLeft  = foldl (++) []
> concatRight = foldr (++) []
```

```
> integers = [1,2,3,4]
> flags    = [True, False, True]
> lists    = [[1], [2,3,4],[5,6]]

> subLeft(integers)
-10
> subRight(integers)
-2

> assert (sumLeft(integers) == sumRight(integers)) "OK"
"OK"

> assert (subLeft(integers) /= subRight(integers)) "OK"
"OK"

> assert (prdLeft(integers) == prdRight(integers)) "OK"
"OK"

> assert (andLeft(flags) == andRight(flags)) "OK"
"OK"

> assert (orLeft(flags) == orRight(flags)) "OK"
"OK"

> assert (concatLeft(lists) == concatRight(lists)) "OK"
"OK"
```

subtraction is not **associative**, and **0** is not its **unit**, so the following are not equivalent:

```
foldl (-) 0
foldr (-) 0
```

```
def foldr[A, B](f: A => B => B)(e: B)(s: List[A]): B = s match
  case Nil => e
  case x :: xs => f(x)(foldr(f)(e)(xs))
```

```
def foldl[A, B](f: B => A => B)(e: B)(s: List[A]): B = s match
  case Nil => e
  case x :: xs => foldl(f)(f(e)(x))(xs)
```

```
val `(+)`: Int => Int => Int = m => n => m + n
val `(-)`: Int => Int => Int = m => n => m - n
val `(*)`: Int => Int => Int = m => n => m * n
val `(&&)`: Boolean => Boolean => Boolean = m => n => m && n
val `(||)`: Boolean => Boolean => Boolean = m => n => m || n
def `(++)`[A](m: Seq[A]): Seq[A] => Seq[A] = n => m ++ n
```

```
val sumLeft = foldl(`(+)`)(0)
val sumRight = foldr(`(+)`)(0)
```

```
val subLeft = foldl(`(-)`)(0)
val subRight = foldr(`(-)`)(0)
```

```
val prodLeft = foldl(`(*)`)(1)
val prodRight = foldr(`(*)`)(1)
```

```
val andLeft = foldl(`(&&)`)(true)
val andRight = foldr(`(&&)`)(true)
```

```
val orLeft = foldl(`(||)`)(true)
val orRight = foldr(`(||)`)(true)
```

```
val concatLeft = foldl(`(++)`)(Nil)
val concatRight = foldr(`(++)`)(Nil)
```

associative operator	unit
+	0
*	1
&&	True
	False
++	[]

① $foldr(\oplus) e xs = foldl(\oplus) e xs$

where \oplus and e are such that for all x, y , and z we have

$$(x \oplus y) \oplus z = x \oplus (y \oplus z)$$

$$e \oplus x = x \text{ and } x \oplus e = x$$

In other words, \oplus is **associative** with **unit** e .

```
val integers = List(1, 2, 3, 4)
val flags = List(true, false, true)
val lists = List(List(1), List(2, 3, 4), List(5, 6))
```

```
scala> subLeft(integers)
val res0: Int = -10
```

subtraction is not **associative**, and **0** is not its **unit**, so the following are not equivalent:

```
scala> subRight(integers)
val res1: Int = -2
```

```
foldl(`(-)`)(0)
foldr(`(-)`)(0)
```

```
scala> assert( sumLeft(integers) == sumRight(integers) )
| assert( subLeft(integers) != subRight(integers) )
| assert( prodLeft(integers) == prodRight(integers) )
| assert( andLeft(flags) == andRight(flags) )
| assert( orLeft(flags) == orRight(flags) )
| assert( concatLeft(lists) == concatRight(lists) )
scala>
```

Same as previous slide but using built-in `foldLeft` and `foldRight`

```
val sumLeft: List[Int] => Int = _.foldLeft(0)(_+_)  
val sumRight: List[Int] => Int = _.foldRight(0)(_+_)  
  
val subLeft: List[Int] => Int = _.foldLeft(0)(-_-)  
val subRight: List[Int] => Int = _.foldRight(0)(-_-)  
  
val prodLeft: List[Int] => Int = _.foldLeft(1)(*_)  
val prodRight: List[Int] => Int = _.foldRight(1)(*_)  
  
val andLeft: List[Boolean] => Boolean = _.foldLeft(true)(&&_)  
val andRight: List[Boolean] => Boolean = _.foldRight(true)(&&_)  
  
val orLeft: List[Boolean] => Boolean = _.foldLeft(false)(||_)  
val orRight: List[Boolean] => Boolean = _.foldRight(false)(||_)  
  
def concatLeft[A]: List[List[A]] => List[A] =  
  _.foldLeft(List.empty[A])(_++_)  
def concatRight[A]: List[List[A]] => List[A] =  
  _.foldRight(List.empty[A])(_++_)
```

```
val integers = List(1, 2, 3, 4)  
val flags = List(true, false, true)  
val lists = List(List(1), List(2, 3, 4), List(5, 6))
```

```
scala> subLeft(integers)  
val res0: Int = -10
```

```
scala> subRight(integers)  
val res1: Int = -2
```

```
scala> assert( sumLeft(integers) == sumRight(integers) )  
| assert( subLeft(integers) != subRight(integers) )  
| assert( prodLeft(integers) == prodRight(integers) )  
| assert( andLeft(flags) == andRight(flags) )  
| assert( orLeft(flags) == orRight(flags) )  
| assert( concatLeft(lists) == concatRight(lists) )  
scala>
```

subtraction is not **associative**, and **0** is not its **unit**, so the following are not equivalent:

```
_.foldLeft(0)(-_-)  
_.foldRight(0)(-_-)
```

2 `foldr (⊕) e xs = foldl (⊗) e xs`

where \oplus , \otimes , and e are such that for all x , y , and z we have

$$x \oplus (y \otimes z) = (x \oplus y) \otimes z$$

$$x \oplus e = e \otimes x$$

In other words, \oplus and \otimes **associate** with each other, and e on the right of \oplus is equivalent to e on the left of \otimes .

```
:{
foldRight :: (α -> β -> β) -> β -> [α] -> β
foldRight f e [] = e
foldRight f e (x:xs) = f x (foldRight f e xs)

foldLeft :: (β -> α -> β) -> β -> [α] -> β
foldLeft f e [] = e
foldLeft f e (x:xs) = foldLeft f (f e x) xs
:}
```

```
list = [1,2,3]
```

Same as on the left but using built-in `foldl` and `foldr`

```
> lengthRight = foldRight onepus 0 where onepus x n = 1 + n
> lengthLeft = foldLeft plusone 0 where plusone n x = n + 1

> assert (lengthRight(list) == lengthLeft(list)) "OK"
"OK"
```

```
> lengthRight = foldr onepus 0 where onepus x n = 1 + n
> lengthLeft = foldl plusone 0 where plusone n x = n + 1

> assert (lengthRight(list) == lengthLeft(list)) "OK"
"OK"
```

```
> reverseRight = foldRight snoc [] where snoc x xs = xs ++ [x]
> reverseLeft = foldLeft cons [] where cons xs x = x : xs

> assert (reverseRight(list) == reverseLeft(list)) "OK"
"OK"
```

```
> reverseRight = foldr snoc [] where snoc x xs = xs ++ [x]
> reverseLeft = foldl cons [] where cons xs x = x : xs

> assert (reverseRight(list) == reverseLeft(list)) "OK"
"OK"
```

2 `foldr` (\oplus) e xs = `foldl` (\otimes) e xs

where \oplus , \otimes , and e are such that for all x , y , and z we have

$$x \oplus (y \otimes z) = (x \oplus y) \otimes z$$
$$x \oplus e = e \otimes x$$

In other words, \oplus and \otimes **associate** with each other, and e on the right of \oplus is equivalent to e on the left of \otimes .

```
def foldr[A, B](f: A => B => B)(e: B)(s: List[A]): B = s match
  case Nil => e
  case x :: xs => f(x)(foldr(f)(e)(xs))

def foldl[A, B](f: B => A => B)(e: B)(s: List[A]): B = s match
  case Nil => e
  case x :: xs => foldl(f)(f(e)(x))(xs)
```

```
val list: List[Int] = List(1, 2, 3)
```

Same as on the left but using built-in `foldLeft` and `foldRight`

```
def oneplus[A]: A => Int => Int = x => n => 1 + n
def plusOne[A]: Int => A => Int = n => x => n + 1

val lengthRight = foldr(oneplus)(0)
val lengthLeft  = foldl(plusOne)(0)

scala> assert( lengthRight(list) == lengthLeft(list) )
```

```
def oneplus[A]: (A, Int) => Int = (x, n) => 1 + n
def plusOne[A]: (Int, A) => Int = (n, x) => n + 1

def lengthRight[A]: List[A] => Int = _.foldRight(0)(oneplus)
def lengthLeft[A]: List[A] => Int = _.foldLeft(0)(plusOne)

scala> assert( lengthRight(list) == lengthLeft(list) )
```

```
def snoc[A]: A => List[A] => List[A] = x => xs => xs ++ List(x)
def cons[A]: List[A] => A => List[A] = xs => x => x::xs

val reverseRight = foldr(snoc[Int])(Nil)
val reverseLeft  = foldl(cons[Int])(Nil)

scala> assert( reverseRight(list) == reverseLeft(list) )
```

```
def snoc[A]:(A, List[A]) => List[A] = (x, xs) => xs ++ List(x)
def cons[A]:(List[A], A) => List[A] = (xs, x) => x::xs

def reverseRight[A]: List[A]=>List[A] = _.foldRight(Nil)(snoc)
def reverseLeft[A] : List[A]=>List[A] = _.foldLeft(Nil)(cons)

scala> assert( reverseRight(list) == reverseLeft(list) )
```

③ `foldr f e xs = foldl (flip f) e (reverse xs)`

(Also holds true when *foldr* and *foldl* are swapped)

```
{
foldRight :: (α -> β -> β) -> β -> [α] -> β
foldRight f e [] = e
foldRight f e (x:xs) = f x (foldRight f e xs)

foldLeft :: (β -> α -> β) -> β -> [α] -> β
foldLeft f e [] = e
foldLeft f e (x:xs) = foldLeft f (f e x) xs
}
```

```
> sumRight = foldRight (+) 0
> sumLeft = foldLeft (flip (+)) 0 . reverse

> assert (sumRight(list) == sumLeft(list)) "OK"
"OK"
```

```
> oneplus x n = 1 + n
> lengthRight = foldRight oneplus 0
> lengthLeft = foldLeft (flip oneplus) 0 . reverse

> assert (lengthRight(list) == lengthLeft(list)) "OK"
"OK"
```

```
> n ⊕ d = 10 * n + d †
> decimalLeft = foldLeft (⊕) 0
> decimalRight = foldRight (flip (⊕)) 0 . reverse

> assert (decimalLeft(list) == decimalRight(list))
"OK"
```

Same as on the left but using built-in *foldl* and *foldr*

```
> sumRight = foldr (+) 0
> sumLeft = foldl (flip (+)) 0 . reverse

> assert (sumRight(list) == sumLeft(list)) "OK"
"OK"
```

```
> oneplus x n = 1 + n
> lengthRight = foldr oneplus 0
> lengthLeft = foldl (flip oneplus) 0 . reverse

> assert (lengthRight(list) == lengthLeft(list)) "OK"
"OK"
```

```
> n ⊕ d = 10 * n + d †
> decimalLeft = foldl (⊕) 0
> decimalRight = foldr (flip (⊕)) 0 . reverse

> assert (decimalLeft(list) == decimalRight(list)) "OK"
"OK"
```



  @philip_schwarz

At the bottom of the previous slide and the next one, instead of exploiting this equation

$$\mathit{foldr} \ f \ e \ xs = \mathit{foldl} \ (\mathit{flip} \ f) \ e \ (\mathit{reverse} \ xs)$$

we are exploiting the following derived equation in which foldr is renamed to foldl and vice versa:

$$\mathit{foldl} \ f \ e \ xs = \mathit{foldr} \ (\mathit{flip} \ f) \ e \ (\mathit{reverse} \ xs)$$

The equation can be derived as shown below.

Define $g = \mathit{flip} \ f$ and $ys = \mathit{reverse} \ xs$, from which it follows that $f = \mathit{flip} \ g$ and $xs = \mathit{reverse} \ ys$.

In the original equation, replace f with $(\mathit{flip} \ g)$ and replace xs with $(\mathit{reverse} \ ys)$

$$\mathit{foldr} \ (\mathit{flip} \ g) \ e \ (\mathit{reverse} \ ys) = \mathit{foldl} \ (\mathit{flip} \ (\mathit{flip} \ g)) \ e \ (\mathit{reverse} \ (\mathit{reverse} \ ys))$$

Simplify by replacing $\mathit{flip} \ (\mathit{flip} \ g)$ with g and $(\mathit{reverse} \ (\mathit{reverse} \ ys))$ with ys

$$\mathit{foldr} \ (\mathit{flip} \ g) \ e \ (\mathit{reverse} \ ys) = \mathit{foldl} \ g \ e \ ys$$

Swap the right hand side with left hand side

$$\mathit{foldl} \ g \ e \ ys = \mathit{foldr} \ (\mathit{flip} \ g) \ e \ (\mathit{reverse} \ ys)$$

Rename g to f and rename ys to xs

$$\mathit{foldl} \ f \ e \ xs = \mathit{foldr} \ (\mathit{flip} \ f) \ e \ (\mathit{reverse} \ xs)$$

3 `foldr f e xs = foldl (flip f) e (reverse xs)`

```
def foldr[A, B](f: A => B => B)(e: B)(s: List[A]): B = s match
  case Nil => e
  case x :: xs => f(x)(foldr(f)(e)(xs))

def foldl[A, B](f: B => A => B)(e: B)(s: List[A]): B = s match
  case Nil => e
  case x :: xs => foldl(f)(f(e)(x))(xs)
```

```
def flip[A, B, C]: (A => B => C) => (B => A => C) =
  f => b => a => f(a)(b)

val list: List[Int] = List(1, 2, 3)
```

```
def plus: Int => Int => Int = m => n => m + n

val sumRight = foldr(plus)(0)
val sumLeft  = (xs: List[Int]) => foldl(flip(plus))(0)(xs.reverse)

assert( sumRight(list) == sumLeft(list) )
```

```
def oneplus[A]: A => Int => Int = x => n => 1 + n

val lengthRight = foldr(oneplus)(0)
def lengthLeft[A] = (xs: List[A]) => foldl(flip(oneplus))(0)(xs.reverse)

assert( lengthRight(list) == lengthLeft(list) )
```

```
def `(⊕)` : Int => Int => Int = n => d => 10 * n + d †

val decimalLeft = foldl(`(⊕)`)(0)
val decimalRight = (xs: List[Int]) => foldr(flip(`(⊕)`))(0)(xs.reverse)

assert( decimalLeft(list) == decimalRight(list) )
```

† see previous slide

Same as previous slide but using built-in `foldLeft` and `foldRight`

```
def flip[A, B, C]: ((A,B) => C) => ((B,A) => C) = f => (b,a) => f(a,b)

val list: List[Int] = List(1, 2, 3)
```

```
def plus: (Int,Int) => Int = (m,n) => m + n

val sumRight: List[Int] => Int = _.foldRight(0)(plus)
val sumLeft: List[Int] => Int = _.reverse.foldLeft(0)(flip(plus))

assert( sumRight(list) == sumLeft(list) )
```

```
def oneplus[A]: (A,Int) => Int = (x,n) => 1 + n

def lengthRight[A]: List[A] => Int = _.foldRight(0)(oneplus)
def lengthLeft[A]: List[A] => Int = _.reverse.foldLeft(0)(flip(oneplus))

assert( lengthRight(list) == lengthLeft(list) )
```

```
val `(⊕)` : ((Int,Int) => Int) = (n,d) => 10 * n + d

val decimalLeft: List[Int] => Int = _.foldLeft(0)`(⊕)`
val decimalRight: List[Int] => Int = _.reverse.foldRight(0)(flip`(`⊕)`))

assert( decimalLeft(list) == decimalRight(list) )
```



In previous slides we saw a **decimal function** that is implemented with a **right fold**.

It is derived, using the **third duality theorem**, from a **decimal function** implemented with a **left fold**.

```
> n ⊕ d = 10 * n + d
> decimalLeft = foldl (⊕) 0
> decimalRight = foldr (flip (⊕)) 0 . reverse
```



```
val `(⊕)` : ((Int,Int) => Int) = (n,d) => 10 * n + d
val decimalLeft: List[Int] => Int = _.foldLeft(0)(`(⊕)` )
val decimalRight: List[Int] => Int = _.reverse.foldRight(0)(flip(`(⊕)`))
```



Note how much simpler it is than the **decimal function** that we came up with in **Cheat Sheet #4**.

```
decimal :: [Int] -> Int
decimal ds = fst (foldr f (0,0) ds)

f :: Int -> (Int,Int) -> (Int,Int)
f d (ds, e) = (d * (10 ^ e) + ds, e + 1)
```



```
def decimal(ds: List[Int]): Int =
  ds.foldRight((0,0))(f).head

def f(d: Int, acc: (Int,Int)): (Int,Int) = acc match
  case (ds, e) => (d * Math.pow(10, e).toInt + ds, e + 1)
```



That function was produced by the right hand side of the **universal property of fold**, after plugging into the left hand side a function that we contrived purely to match that left hand side.



The universal property of **fold**

$$g [] = v$$

$$g (x : xs) = f x (g xs)$$

⇔

$$g = \text{fold } f \ v$$

$$g :: [\alpha] \rightarrow \beta$$

$$v :: \beta$$

$$f :: \alpha \rightarrow \beta \rightarrow \beta$$



Cheat Sheet #6 claimed (see bottom of next slide) that when using **Scala**'s built in **foldRight** function, the reason why doing a **right fold** over a large collection *did not* result in a **stack overflow error**, is that **foldRight** is defined in terms of **foldLeft**.

```
foldr :: ( $\alpha \rightarrow \beta \rightarrow \beta$ )  $\rightarrow \beta \rightarrow [\alpha] \rightarrow \beta$   
foldr f b [] = b  
foldr f b (x:xs) = f x (foldr f b xs)
```

```
scala> def foldr[A,B](f: A=>B=>B)(e:B)(s:List[A]):B =  
| s match { case Nil => e  
|           case x::xs => f(x)(foldr(f)(e)(xs)) }  
  
scala> def `(+)`: Long => Long => Long =  
| m => n => m + n  
  
scala> foldr `(+)` (0) (List(1,2,3,4))  
val res1: Long = 10  
  
scala> foldr `(+)` (0) (List.range(1,10_001))  
val res2: Long = 50005000  
  
scala> foldr `(+)` (0) (List.range(1,100_001))  
java.lang.StackOverflowError  
  
scala> // same again but using built-in function  
  
scala> List.range(1,10_001).foldRight(0)(_+_)  
val res3: Int = 50005000  
  
scala> List.range(1,100_001).foldRight(0L)(_+_)  
val res4: Long = 500000500000
```

```
foldl :: ( $\beta \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \beta$ )  $\rightarrow \beta \rightarrow [\alpha] \rightarrow \beta$   
foldl f b [] = b  
foldl f b (x:xs) = foldl f (f b x) xs
```

```
scala> import scala.annotation.tailrec  
  
scala> @tailrec  
| def foldl[A,B](f: B=>A=>B)(e:B)(s:List[A]):B =  
| s match { case Nil => e  
|           case x::xs => foldl(f)(f(e)(x))(xs) }  
  
scala> def `(+)`: Long => Long => Long =  
| m => n => m + n  
  
scala> foldl `(+)` (0) (List.range(1,10_001))  
val res1: Long = 50005000  
  
scala> foldl `(+)` (0) (List.range(1,100_001))  
val res2: Long = 5000050000  
  
scala> // same again but using built-in function  
  
scala> List.range(1,10_001).foldLeft(0)(_+_)  
val res3: Int = 50005000  
  
scala> List.range(1,100_001).foldLeft(0L)(_+_)  
val res4: Long = 5000050000
```

The reason a **stack overflow** is not happening here is because built-in **foldRight** is defined in terms of **foldLeft**! (see cheat-sheet #7)



The remaining slides provide a justification for that claim, and are taken from the following deck, which is what this cheat sheet is based on.

Folding Unfolded

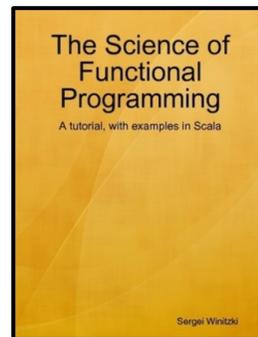
Polyglot FP for Fun and Profit
Haskell and Scala

See **aggregation functions** defined **inductively** and implemented using **recursion**

Learn how in many cases, **tail-recursion** and the **accumulator trick** can be used to avoid **stackoverflow errors**

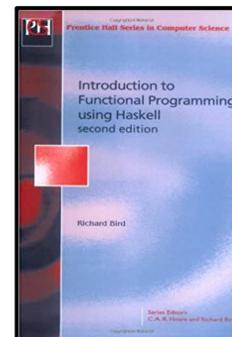
Watch as **general aggregation** is implemented and see **duality theorems** capturing the relationship between **left folds** and **right folds**

Part 2 - through the work of



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The reason why doing a **right fold** over a large collection *did not* result in a **stack overflow error**, is that the **foldRight** function is implemented by code that **reverses** the **sequence**, **flips** the function that it is passed, and then calls **foldLeft**!



While this is not so obvious when we look at the code for **foldRight** in **List**, because it effectively inlines the call to **foldLeft**...

```
final override def foldRight[B](z: B)(op: (A, B) => B): B = {
  var acc = z
  var these: List[A] = reverse
  while (!these.isEmpty) {
    acc = op(these.head, acc)
    these = these.tail
  }
  acc
}
```

```
override def foldLeft[B](z: B)(op: (B, A) => B): B = {
  var acc = z
  var these: LinearSeq[A] = coll
  while (!these.isEmpty) {
    acc = op(acc, these.head)
    these = these.tail
  }
  acc
}
```



...it is plain to see in the **foldRight** function for **Seq**

```
def foldRight[B](z: B)(op: (A, B) => B): B =
  reversed.foldLeft(z)((b, a) => op(a, b))
```



This is the **third duality theorem** in action

Third duality theorem. For all finite lists *xs*,

$$foldr\ f\ e\ xs = foldl\ (flip\ f)\ e\ (reverse\ xs)$$

where $flip\ f\ x\ y = f\ y\ x$



At the bottom of this slide is where **Functional Programming in Scala** shows that **foldRight** can be defined in terms of **foldLeft**.

```
def foldRight[A,B](as: List[A], z: B)(f: (A, B) => B): B =
  as match {
    case Nil => z
    case Cons(x, xs) => f(x, foldRight(xs, z)(f))
  }
```

Our implementation of **foldRight** is not **tail-recursive** and will result in a **StackOverflowError** for large lists (we say it's **not stack-safe**). Convince yourself that this is the case, and then write another general list-recursion function, **foldLeft**, that is **tail-recursive**

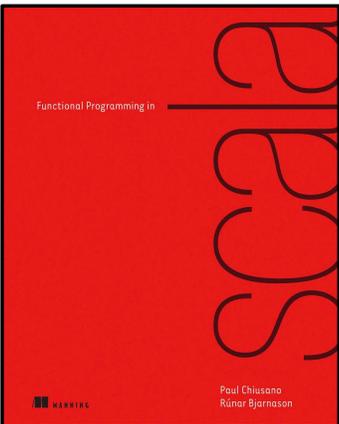
```
sealed trait List[+A]
case object Nil extends List[Nothing]
case class Cons[+A](head: A, tail: List[A]) extends List[A]
```

```
foldRight(Cons(1, Cons(2, Cons(3, Nil))), 0)((x,y) => x + y)
1 + foldRight(Cons(2, Cons(3, Nil)), 0)((x,y) => x + y)
1 + (2 + foldRight(Cons(3, Nil), 0)((x,y) => x + y))
1 + (2 + (3 + (foldRight(Nil, 0)((x,y) => x + y))))
1 + (2 + (3 + (0)))
6
```

```
@annotation.tailrec
def foldLeft[A,B](l: List[A], z: B)(f: (B, A) => B): B = l match{
  case Nil => z
  case Cons(h,t) => foldLeft(t, f(z,h))(f) }
```

Implementing **foldRight** via **foldLeft** is useful because it lets us implement **foldRight tail-recursively**, which means it works even for large lists without overflowing the stack.

```
def foldRightViaFoldLeft[A,B](l: List[A], z: B)(f: (A,B) => B): B =
  foldLeft(reverse(l), z)((b,a) => f(a,b))
```



(by Paul Chiusano and Runar Bjarnason)
[@pchiusano](#) [@runarorama](#)



The **third duality theorem** in action.



It looks like it was none other than **Paul Chiusano** (co-author of FP in Scala), back in 2010, who suggested that **List**'s `foldRight(z)(f)` be implemented as `reverse.foldLeft(z)(flip(f))`!

The screenshot shows a GitHub issue page for the repository 'scala/bug'. The issue title is 'foldRight broken for large lists #3295'. The issue status is 'Closed', and it was opened by 'scabug' on 14 Apr 2010, with 18 comments. A comment from 'scabug' dated 14 Apr 2010 asks: 'Is there a good reason not to implement `l.foldRight(z)(f)` as `l.reverse.foldLeft(z)(flip(f))`, or some variation? This would avoid the stack overflow that results when using `foldRight` with large sequences. As it is implemented, the function is not very useful except for toy examples.'



It also looks like the change was made in 2013 (see next slide) and that it was in 2018 that `foldRight` was reimplemented as a while loop (see slide after that).



SI-2818 Makes List#foldRight work for large lists #2026

Merged gkossakowski merged 1 commit into scala:2.10.x from JamesIry:2.10.x_SI-2818 on 1 Feb 2013

Conversation 40 Commits 1 Checks 0 Files changed 3

Changes from all commits File filter... Jump to... ⚙

3 src/library/scala/collection/immutable/List.scala

@@ -275,26 +275,29 @@

```
275
276     loop(this)
277 }
278
279 override def span(p: A => Boolean): (List[A], List[A]) = {
280     val b = new ListBuffer[A]
281     var these = this
282     while (!these.isEmpty && p(these.head)) {
283         b += these.head
284         these = these.tail
285     }
286     (b.toList, these)
287 }
288
289 override def reverse: List[A] = {
290     var result: List[A] = Nil
291     var these = this
292     while (!these.isEmpty) {
293         result = these.head :: result
294         these = these.tail
295     }
296     result
297 }
```

```
275
276     loop(this)
277 }
278
279 override def span(p: A => Boolean): (List[A], List[A]) = {
280     val b = new ListBuffer[A]
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293         result = these.head :: result
294         these = these.tail
295     }
296     result
297 }
```

```
298 +
299 + override def foldRight[B](z: B)(op: (A, B) => B): B =
300 +     reverse.foldLeft(z)((right, left) => op(left, right))
```

298

301

← → ↻ github.com/scala/scala/commit/878e7d3e0d14633d19bac47dc9b532a54eab6379#diff-65c966843f6b3b817df43968f326d160L486-L487

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× Migrate collection-strawman into standard library

This commit is the result of a scripted migration from the collection-strawman repository into the main Scala repository. The parent commit is [5b97300](#) in the master branch of <https://github.com/scala/collection-strawman.git>.

The merge commit performs the following changes:

- Move the main strawman sources into the scala.collection namespace under src/library/scala/collection. The necessary migration steps have been performed and the sources should be fully functional.
- Move the tests to test/collection-strawman. They still need to be integrated into the standard test suite in a manual step.
- Delete all other parts (benchmarks, scalafix rules, documentation, collections-contrib project) of collection-strawman. They will be moved to other repositories.

 szeiger committed on 22 Mar 2018 2 parents 9291e12 + 5b97300 commit 878e7d3e0d14633d19bac47dc9b532a54eab6379

± Showing 371 changed files with 28,309 additions and 26,016 deletions. Unified Split

```

486 - override def foldRight[B](z: B)(op: (A, B) => B): B =
487 -   reverse.foldLeft(z)((right, left) => op(left, right))
488 -
489 - override def stringPrefix = "List"
490 -
491 - override def toStream : Stream[A] =
492 -   if (isEmpty) Stream.Empty
493 -   else new Stream.Cons(head, tail.toStream)
325 + final override def foldRight[B](z: B)(op: (A, B) => B): B = {
326 +   var acc = z
327 +   var these: List[A] = reverse
328 +   while (!these.isEmpty) {
329 +     acc = op(these.head, acc)
330 +     these = these.tail
331 +   }
332 +   acc
333 + }

```