CSC 447 - Concepts of Programming Languages

Methods and Functions: Currying

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Learning Objectives

❓ How are methods in object-oriented programming and functions in functional programming related?

- Identify and describe the difference between methods and functions in Scala
- Identify and describe the difference between tupled and curried definitions
- Identify and use partial function application

Functional Programming

- We say that functions are *first-class* if they can be
  - declared within any scope,
  - passed as arguments to other functions, and
  - returned as results of functions.
- Functions `foreach`, `map`, `filter` are *higher-order functions*
  - they take a function as argument
  - Also common: return a function as the result

Paired Methods

```
1 def add(x:Int, y:Int) = x+y
2 add(11, 21)
```

```
1 add: (x: Int, y: Int)Int
2 res: Int = 32
```

- This is the usual style of methods that take multiple arguments
- It is a *method* that
  - Takes a pair of `Int`s
  - Returns an `Int`

Curried Methods

```
1 def add(x:Int)(y:Int) = x+y
2 add(11)(21)
```

```
1 add: (x: Int)(y: Int)Int
2 res: Int = 32
```

- This is a curried definition
- It is a *method* that
  - Takes an Int
  - Returns a method of type `(y:Int)Int`
  - So together the type of the method is `add2: (x:Int)(y:Int)Int`

Functions

- Scala has first-class support for both functions and methods

Method

```
1 def add(x:Int, y:Int) = x+y
2 add(1,2)
```

- Part of a class structure
- Can be overridden
- Has access to fields

Function

```
1 val add = (x:Int, y:Int) => x+y
2 add(1,2)
```

- Can be passed as arguments, returned, assigned to variables

Functions

```
1 val add = (x:Int, y:Int) => x+y
2 add(11, 21)
```

```
1 add: (Int, Int) => Int = $$Lambda$4576/0x00000008018d1840@6ae4d2ad
2 res: Int = 32
```

- This is a *function* that
  - Takes a pair of `Int`s
  - Returns an `Int`

Function Notation

- Using lambda notation

```
1 val add = (x:Int, y:Int) => x+y
2 add(11,21)
```

- Use underscore when parameters used exactly once

```
1 val add = (_:Int) + (_:Int)
2 add(11,21)
```

- Types may be inferred in some contexts

```
1 var add : (Int,Int)=>Int = _ + _
2 add(11,21)
```

Curried Functions

```
1 val add = (x:Int) => (y:Int) => x+y
2 add(11)(21)
```

```
1 add: Int => (Int => Int) = $$Lambda$...
2 res: Int = 32
```

- This is a curried definition
- It is a *function* that
  - Takes an `Int`
  - Returns a function of type `Int=>Int`

Curried Methods

```
1 def add(x:Int) = (y:Int) => x+y
2 add(11)(21)
```

```
1 add: (x: Int)Int => Int
2 res: Int = 32
```

- You can mix the notations
- This is a method that
  - Takes an `Int`
  - Returns a function of type `Int=>Int`

Functions vs. Methods

```
1 def add1(x:Int, y:Int) = x+y
2 def add2(x:Int)(y:Int) = x+y
3 val add1f = add1 _
4 val add2f = add2 _
```

```
1 add1: (x: Int, y: Int)Int
2 add2: (x: Int)(y: Int)Int
3 add1f: (Int, Int) => Int = $$Lambda$...
4 add2f: Int => (Int => Int) = $$Lambda$...
```

- Another use of wildcard operator `_`
  - *don't care* pattern
  - anonymous function expression

Partial Application

```
1 val add4 = (x:Int) => (y:Int) => x+y
2 def add5(x:Int) = (y:Int) => x+y
3
4 val add4p = add4(11)
5 val add5p = add5(11)
6
7 val r4 = add4p(21)
8 val r5 = add5p(21)
```

```
1 add4: Int => (Int => Int) = $$Lambda$
2 add5: (x: Int)Int => Int
3
4 add4p: Int => Int = $$Lambda$
5 add5p: Int => Int = $$Lambda$
6
7 r4: Int = 32
8 r5: Int = 32
```

Functions and Methods

```
1 def a (x:Int) = x + 1
2
3 val b = (x:Int) => x + 1
4
5 val c = new Function[Int,Int] {
6   def apply(x:Int) = x + 1
7 }
8
9 val d : PartialFunction[Matchable, Int]  = {
10   case i: Int => i + 1
11 }
12
13 for f <- List(a,b,c,d) yield f(4)
```

```
1 fs: List[Int => Int] = List($$Lambda$, $$Lambda$, <function1>, <function1>)
2 res1: List[Int] = List(5, 5, 5, 5)
```

- What's going on here?
- Functions vs Methods

Functions and Methods

- `def` defines a *method* with explicit parameter types
- `=>` defines a *function* with inferable parameter types
- Functions are objects with method `apply`
  - Function `e:X=>Y` gets compiled to an object

```
1 object e:
2   def apply(x:X) : Y = ...
```

  - Function application `e(args)` is method invocation `e.apply(args)`

Summary

- Tupled definitions: functions with multiple arguments
- Curried definitions: a family of single-argument functions
- In Scala, functions are objects with an `apply` method
- Partial application creates new functions

Partial Application

```
1 def add1(x:Int, y:Int) = x+y
2 def add2(x:Int)(y:Int) = x+y
3 val add3 = (x:Int, y:Int) => x+y
4 val add4 = (x:Int) => (y:Int) => x+y
5 def add5(x:Int) = (y:Int) => x+y
6
7 val add1p = add1(11, _)  /* x=>add1(11, x) */
8 val add2p = add2(11)(_)  /* x=>add2(11)(x) */
9 val add3p = add3(11, _)  /* x=>add3(11, x) */
10 val add4p = add4(11)
11 val add5p = add5(11)
12 for f <- List(add1p, add2p, add3p, add4p, add5p)
13   yield f(21)
```

```
1 fs: List[Int => Int] = List($$Lambda$,$$Lambda$,$$Lambda$,$$Lambda$,$$Lambda$)
2 res1: List[Int] = List(32, 32, 32, 32, 32)
```