The Expression Problem

learn about the **expression problem** by looking at both the **strengths/weaknesses** of basic **OOP/FP** and the role of **different types** of **polymorphism**

Part 1

through the work of





We begin by looking at how **Robert Martin** explains what he calls the **Data/Object anti-symmetry**.

9 @philip_schwarz

Data/Object Anti-Symmetry

...the difference between objects and data structures.

Objects hide their data behind abstractions and expose functions that operate on that data.

Data structures expose their data and have no meaningful functions.

Go back and read that again. <u>Notice the complementary nature of the two definitions</u>. <u>They are virtual opposites</u>. <u>This</u> difference may seem trivial, but it has far-reaching implications</u>.

Consider, for example, the procedural shape example in Listing 6-5. The Geometry class operates on the three shape classes. The shape classes are simple data structures without any behavior. All the behavior is in the Geometry class.

```
public class Geometry {
    public final double PI = 3.141592653589793;
    public double area(Object shape) throws NoSuchShapeException {
        if (shape instanceof Square) {
            Square s = (Square)shape;
            return s.side * s.side;
        }
        else if (shape instanceof Rectangle) {
            Rectangle r = (Rectangle)shape;
            return r.height * r.width;
        }
        else if (shape instanceof Circle) {
            Circle c = (Circle)shape;
            return PI * c.radius * c.radius;
        }
        throw new NoSuchShapeException();
        }
    }
}
```



public class Rectangle {
 public Point topLeft;
 public double height;
 public double width;
}

public class Circle {
 public Point center;
 public double radius;





Robert Martin



```
public class Geometry {
```

```
public final double PI = 3.141592653589793;
public double area(Object shape) throws NoSuchShapeException {
    if (shape instanceof Square) {
        Square s = (Square)shape;
        return s.side * s.side;
    }
    else if (shape instanceof Rectangle) {
        Rectangle r = (Rectangle)shape;
        return r.height * r.width;
    }
    else if (shape instanceof Circle) {
        Circle c = (Circle)shape;
        return PI * c.radius * c.radius;
    }
    throw new NoSuchShapeException();
}
```



Object-oriented programmers might wrinkle their noses at this and complain that it is procedural—and they'd be right. But the sneer may not be warranted.

Consider what would happen if a perimeter() function were added to Geometry.

The shape classes would be unaffected! Any other classes that depended upon the shapes would also be unaffected!

On the other hand, if I add a new shape, I must change all the functions in Geometry to deal with it.

Again, read that over. Notice that the two conditions are diametrically opposed.





Robert Martin



```
Here is one way
to exercise that
code.
```



By the way, for our current purposes, we can just use the java.awt **Point**.

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
 var geometry = new Geometry();
 var origin = new Point(0,0);
 var square = new Square();
  square.topLeft = origin;
  square.side = 5;
 var rectangle = new Rectangle();
  rectangle.topLeft = origin;
  rectangle.width = 2;
  rectangle.height = 3;
 var circle = new Circle();
 circle.center = origin;
  circle.radius = 1;
 try {
    if (geometry.area(square) != 25)
      throw new AssertionError("square assertion failed");
    if (geometry.area(rectangle) != 6)
      throw new AssertionError("rectangle assertion failed");
    if (geometry.area(circle) != geometry.PI)
      throw new AssertionError("circle assertion failed");
  } catch (NoSuchShapeException e) {
    e.printStackTrace();
```



```
Let's modernise the procedural program by using a sealed interface and records.
  public Point topLeft;
  public double side;
                                               As we'll see later, when we look at excerpts from Haskell Design Patterns, this
                                               approach in which the area function is dispatched over the alternations
public class Rectangle {
                                               (alternatives?) of the Shape type, is called alternation-based ad-hoc polymorphism.
  public Point topLeft;
  public double height;
  public double width:
                                              sealed interface Shape { }
                                              record Square(Point topLeft, double side) implements Shape { }
                                              record Rectangle (Point topLeft, double height, double width) implements Shape { }
public class Circle {
                                              record Circle (Point center, double radius) implements Shape { }
  public Point center;
  public double radius;
public class Geometry {
                                                                                       public class Geometry {
 public final double PI = 3.141592653589793;
                                                                                         public final double PI = 3.141592653589793;
  public double area(Object shape) throws NoSuchShapeException {
                                                                                         public double area(Shape shape) {
    if (shape instanceof Square) {
      Square s = (Square)shape;
      return s.side * s.side;
    else if (shape instanceof Rectangle) {
      Rectangle r = (Rectangle)shape;
      return r.height * r.width;
    else if (shape instanceof Circle) {
      Circle c = (Circle)shape;
      return PI * c.radius * c.radius;
   throw new NoSuchShapeException();
```

return switch(shape) {

};

case Square s -> s.side() * s.side();

case Rectangle r -> r.height() * r.width(); case Circle c -> PI * c.radius() * c.radius();

public class Square {

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
 var geometry = new Geometry();
 var origin = new Point(0,0);
  var square = new Square();
  square.topLeft = origin;
  square.side = 5;
  var rectangle = new Rectangle();
  rectangle.topLeft = origin;
  rectangle.width = 2;
  rectangle.height = 3;
 var circle = new Circle();
  circle.center = origin;
  circle.radius = 1;
 try {
    if (geometry.area(square) != 25)
     throw new AssertionError("square assertion failed");
    if (geometry.area(rectangle) != 6)
     throw new AssertionError("rectangle assertion failed");
    if (geometry.area(circle) != geometry.PI)
     throw new AssertionError("circle assertion failed");
 } catch (NoSuchShapeException e) {
    e.printStackTrace();
  }
```

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
 var geometry = new Geometry();
 var origin = new Point(0,0);
 var square = new Square(origin,5);
 var rectangle = new Rectangle(origin,2,3);
 var circle = new Circle(origin,1);
 if (geometry.area(square) != 25)
   throw new AssertionError("square assertion failed");
 if (geometry.area(rectangle) != 6)
   throw new AssertionError("rectangle assertion failed");
 if (geometry.area(circle) != geometry.PI)
   throw new AssertionError("circle assertion failed");
```

```
Java Java
```



As Robert Martin said earlier, object-oriented programmers might wrinkle their noses at the original procedural program.

Now that we have switched from using **instanceof** to using **pattern-matching**, **object-oriented programmers might wrinkle their noses at the use of pattern matching**.

Because we now have a **Shape interface** implemented by **Circle**, **Rectangle** and **Square**, an **OO** programmer could object that by **pattern-matching** on the **subtype** of **Shape**, we are violating the **Liskof Substitution Principle** (see the next three slides for a refresher on this principle).

```
public class Geometry {
    public final double PI = 3.141592653589793;
    public double area(Shape shape) {
        return switch(shape) {
            case Square s -> s.side() * s.side();
            case Rectangle r -> r.height() * r.width();
            case Circle c -> PI * c.radius() * c.radius();
        };
    }
}
```





Let **q(x)** be a **property provable** about **objects x** of type **T**.

Then **q(y)** should be **provable** for **objects y** of type **S** where **S** is a **subtype** of **T**.



S O LISKOV I D

Barbara Liskov

The Liskov Substitution Principle (LSP) - 1988



[in a **Type hierarchy**] the **supertype**'s behavior must be supported by the **subtypes**: **subtype objects can be substituted for supertype objects without affecting the behavior of the using code**.



[the LSP] allows using code to be written in terms of the supertype specification, yet work correctly when using objects of the subtype.



Music





For example, code can be written in terms of the **Reader** type, yet work correctly when using a **BufferedReader**.







The LSP principle's notion of being able to substitute a subtype shape object for a supertype shape object, safe in the knowledge that the behaviour of subtype shape objects does not affect the behaviour of clients of the supertype shape object, is not relevant here because we are not using OO programming: the subtype shape objects have *no* behaviour, they are just anaemic data structures – we are using functional programming-style pattern-matching.

sealed interface Shape { }
record Square(Point topLeft, double side) implements Shape { }
record Rectangle (Point topLeft, double height, double width) implements Shape { }
record Circle (Point center, double radius) implements Shape { }

```
public double area(Shape shape) {
  return switch(shape) {
    case Square s -> s.side() * s.side();
    case Rectangle r -> r.height() * r.width();
    case Circle c -> PI * c.radius() * c.radius();
  };
}
```



Now consider the object-oriented solution in Listing 6-6.

Here the area() method is polymorphic. No Geometry class is necessary.

So if I add a new shape, none of the existing *functions* are affected, but if I add a new function all of the *shapes* must be changed!¹

<pre>public class Square implem private Point topLeft; private double side;</pre>	<pre>nents Shape { public class Rectangle impl</pre>	.ements Shape {
<pre>public double area() { return side*side; } }</pre>	<pre>private Point topLeft; private double height; private double width; public double area() { return height * width; } }</pre>	<pre>public class Circle implements Shape { private Point center; private double radius; public static final double PI = 3.141592653589793; public double area() { return PI * radius * radius; } }</pre>

Robert Martin

1. There are ways around this that are well known to experienced object-oriented designers: VISITOR, or dual-dispatch, for example. But these techniques carry costs of their own and generally return the structure to that of a procedural program.







Again, we see the complementary nature of these two definitions; they are virtual opposites! This exposes the <u>fundamental dichotomy</u> <u>between objects and data structures</u>:

Procedural code (code using data structures) makes it <u>easy to add new functions</u> without changing the existing data structures. OO code, on the other hand, makes it <u>easy to add new classes</u> without changing existing functions.

The complement is also true:

Procedural code makes it <u>hard to add new data structures</u> because all the functions must change. OO code makes it <u>hard to add</u> <u>new functions</u> because all the classes must change.

So, <u>the things that are hard for OO are easy for procedures</u>, and <u>the things that are hard for procedures are easy for OO!</u> In any complex system there are going to be times when we want to add new data types rather than new functions. For these cases objects and OO are most appropriate.

On the other hand, there will also be times when we'll want to add new functions as opposed to data types. In that case procedural code and data structures will be more appropriate.

Mature programmers know that the idea that everything is an object is a myth. Sometimes you really do want simple data structures with procedures operating on them.



Robert C. Mart



```
Here is that code again, with
some missing bits added, and a
                                                                                         public class Rectangle implements Shape {
                                                         public interface Shape {
Main class, to exercise the code.
                                                           public double area();
                                                                                           private Point topLeft;
                                                                                           private double height;
We said earlier that in the
                                                                                           private double width;
procedural code we are using
                                       public class Square implements Shape {
alternation-based ad-hoc
                                                                                           public Rectangle(Point topLeft, double height, double width){
                                         private Point topLeft;
                                                                                             this.topLeft = topLeft;
polymorphism.
                                         private double side;
                                                                                             this.height = height;
                                                                                             this.width = width;
                                         public Square(Point topLeft, double side){
In this OO code instead, we are
                                           this.topLeft = topLeft;
using subtype polymorphism, in
                                           this.side = side;
                                                                                           public double area() {
which subtypes of Shape
                                                                                             return height * width;
(implementations of the Shape
                                         public double area() {
interface) override (implement)
                                           return side*side:
methods defined in the
supertype.
                                                                                         public class Main {
                                                                                           public static void main(String[] args) {
                              public class Circle implements Shape {
                                                                                             var origin = new Point(0,0);
                                private Point center;
                                                                                             var square = new Square(origin, 5);
                                private double radius;
                                                                                             var rectangle = new Rectangle(origin, 2, 3);
                                public Circle(Point center, double radius){
                                                                                             var circle = new Circle(origin, 1);
                                  this.center = center;
                                                                                             if (square.area() != 25)
                                  this.radius = radius;
                                                                                               throw new AssertionError("square assertion failed");
                                                                                             if (rectangle.area() != 6)
                                public static final double PI = 3.141592653589793;
                                                                                               throw new AssertionError("rectangle assertion failed");
                                                                                             if (circle.area() != Circle.PI)
                                                                                               throw new AssertionError("circle assertion failed");
                                public double area() {
                                  return PI * radius * radius;
```



Now let's look at how the **Open Closed Principle** relates to what we have seen so far.

The Open-Closed Principle (OCP)

Modules should be both **open** and **closed**

A module is

- Open if it is still available for extension
- **Closed** if it is **available** for **use** by other modules

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1988



2002



Bertrand Meyer @Bertrand Meyer

Robert Martin @unclebobmartin Software entities (classes, modules, functions, etc.) should be **open** for **extension** but **closed** for **modification**.







Modules that conform to **OCP** have two primary attributes:

- They are **open** for **extension**. This means that the **behavior** of the module ٠ can be **extended**. As the requirements of the application change, we can extend the module with new behaviors that satisfy those changes. In other words, we are able to change what the module does.
- They are **closed** for **modification**. Extending the behavior of a module does not result in changes to the source, or binary, code of the module. The binary executable version of the module...remains untouched.

Is code using the type of polymorphism shown below, OPEN and CLOSED with respect		Addition of new		
to the typ	e of addition shown on the right?	Function	Туре	
	Subtype	ОСРХ	ОСР√	
Polymorphism	Alternation-based ad-hoc	OCP√	ОСРХ	



Closely related to the data/object anti-symmetry described by Robert Martin in Clean Code, is something that Dean Wampler writes in Programming Scala, on the subjects of pattern-matching and subtype polymorphism.



A Sample Application

Let's finish this chapter by exploring several more seductive features of Scala using a sample application. We'll use a simplified hierarchy of geometric shapes, which we will send to another object for drawing on a display. Imagine a scenario where a game engine generates scenes. As the shapes in the scene are completed, they are sent to a display subsystem for drawing.

To begin, we define a Shape class hierarchy:



You could say that draw defines a *protocol* that all shapes have to support, but users can customize. It's up to each shape to serialize its state to a string representation through its toString method. The f method is called by draw, which constructs the final string using an *interpolated string*.

Even though this will be a **single-threaded** application, let's anticipate what we might do in a **concurrent** implementation by defining a set of possible **Messages** that can be exchanged between modules:



Dean Wampler

sealed trait Message
case class Draw(shape: Shape) extends Message
case class Response(message: String) extends Message
case object Exit extends Message

The sealed keyword means that we can only define subtypes of Message in the same file. This prevents bugs where users define their own Message subtypes that would break the code we're about to see in the next file! These are all the allowed messages, known in advance.

Recall that <u>Shape was not declared sealed earlier because we intend for people to create their own</u> <u>subtypes of it</u>. <u>There could be an infinite number of Shape subtypes</u>, <u>in principle</u>. <u>So, use sealed</u> <u>hierarchies when all the possible variants are fixed</u>.



If the case clauses don't cover all possible values that can be passed to the match expression, a MatchError is thrown at runtime.

Fortunately, the compiler can detect and warn you that the case clauses are not exhaustive, meaning they don't handle all possible inputs. Note that our sealed hierarchy of messages is crucial here.

If a user could create a new subtype of Message, our match expression would no longer cover all possibilities. Hence, a bug would be introduced in this code!

```
object ProcessMessages:
    def apply(message: Message): Message =
        message match
        case Exit =>
            println(s"ProcessMessage: exiting...")
            Exit
        case Draw(shape) =>
            shape.draw(str => println(s"ProcessMessage: $str"))
            Response(s"ProcessMessage: $shape drawn")
        case Response(unexpected) =>
            val response = Response(s"ERROR: Unexpected Response: $unexpected")
            println(s"ProcessMessage: $response")
            response
```



Hence, we have combined polymorphic dispatch from OOP with pattern matching, a workhorse of FP. This is one way that Scala elegantly integrates these two programming paradigms!

Dean Wampler Foreword by Seth Tisue



Closely related to the data/object anti-symmetry described by **Robert Martin** and to **Dean Wampler**'s writings on **pattern-matching** and **subtype polymorphism**, is **Li Haoy**'s great explanation, in Hands-On Scala Programming, of the different use cases for normal traits versus sealed traits.

3.4.1 Traits

traits are similar to interfaces in traditional object-oriented languages: a set of methods that multiple classes can inherit. Instances of these classes can then be used interchangeably.

```
trait Point:
    def hypotenuse: Double
class Point2D(x: Double, y: Double) extends Point:
    def hypotenuse = math.sqrt(x * x + y * y)
class Point3D(x: Double, y: Double, z: Double) extends Point:
    def hypotenuse = math.sqrt(x * x + y * y + z * z)
@main def main: Unit =
    val points: Array[Point] = Array(new Point2D(1, 2), new Point3D(4, 5, 6))
    for (p <- points) println(p.hypotenuse)</pre>
```

Above, we have defined a **Point trait** with a single method **def hypotenuse: Double**. The **subclasses Point2D** and **Point3D** both have different sets of parameters, but they both implement **def hypothenuse**.

Thus we can put both Point2Ds and Point3Ds into our points: Array[Point] and treat them all uniformly as objects with a def hypotenuse method, regardless of what their actual class is.







5.1.2 Sealed Traits

traits can also be defined sealed, and only extended by a fixed set of case classes. In the following example, we define a sealed trait Point extended by two case classes, Point2D and Point3D:

```
sealed trait Point
case class Point2D(x: Double, y: Double) extends Point
case class Point3D(x: Double, y: Double, z: Double) extends Point
```

```
def hypotenuse(p: Point) = p match
  case Point2D(x, y) => math.sqrt(x * x + y * y)
  case Point3D(x, y, z) => math.sqrt(x * x + y * y + z * z)
```

```
@main def main: Unit =
   val points: Array[Point] = Array(Point2D(1, 2), Point3D(4, 5, 6))
   for (p <- points) println(hypotenuse(p))</pre>
```

The core difference between normal traits and sealed traits can be summarized as follows:

- Normal traits are open, so any number of classes can inherit from the trait as long as they provide all the required methods, and instances of those classes can be used interchangeably via the trait's required methods.
- <u>sealed traits are closed</u>: <u>they only allow a fixed set of classes to inherit from them</u>, <u>and all inheriting classes must be defined</u> <u>together with the trait itself</u> in the same file or REPL command ...

Because there are only a fixed number of classes inheriting from sealed trait Point, we can use pattern matching in the def hypotenuse function above to define how each kind of Point should be handled.







5.1.3 Use Cases for Normal v.s. Sealed Traits

Both normal traits and sealed traits are common in Scala applications: normal traits for interfaces which may have any number of subclasses, and sealed traits where the number of subclasses is fixed. <u>Normal traits and sealed traits make different things easy</u>:

- <u>A normal trait hierarchy makes it easy to add additional sub-classes</u>: just define your class and implement the necessary methods. However, it makes it difficult to add new methods: a new method needs to be added to all existing subclasses, of which there may be many.
- <u>A sealed trait hierarchy is the opposite: it is easy to add new methods</u>, since a new method can simply pattern match on each sub-class and decide what it wants to do for each. However, adding new sub-classes is difficult, as you need to go to all existing pattern matches and add the case to handle your new sub-class.

In general, sealed traits are good for modelling hierarchies where you expect the number of sub-classes to change very little or not-at-all. A good example of something that can be modeled using sealed trait is JSON:

sealed trait Json case class Null() extends Json case class Bool(value: Boolean) extends Json case class Str(value: String) extends Json case class Num(value: Double) extends Json case class Arr(value: Seq[Json]) extends Json case class Dict(value: Map[String, Json]) extends Json

- A JSON value can only be JSON null, boolean, number, string, array, or dictionary.
- JSON has not changed in 20 years, so it is unlikely that anyone will need to extend our JSON trait with additional subclasses.
- <u>While the set of sub-classes is fixed</u>, the range of operations we may want to do on a JSON blob is unbounded: parse it, serialize it, pretty-print it, minify it, sanitize it, etc.

Thus it makes sense to model a JSON data structure as a closed sealed trait hierarchy rather than a normal open trait hierarchy.











Let's translate our two Java programs into Scala, starting with the OO program.



)

```
public class Rectangle implements Shape {
    private Point topLeft;
    private double height;
    private double width;

    public Rectangle(Point topLeft, double height, double width){
      this.topLeft = topLeft;
      this.height = height;
      this.width = width;
    }

    public double area() {
      return height * width;
    }
}
```

public class Main {

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
```

```
var origin = new Point(0,0);
var square = new Square(origin, 5);
var rectangle = new Rectangle(origin, 2, 3);
var circle = new Circle(origin, 1);
```

```
if (square.area() != 25)
```

```
throw new AssertionError("square assertion failed");
if (masterials area() = f)
```

```
if (rectangle.area() != 6)
```

```
throw new AssertionError("rectangle assertion failed");
```

```
if (circle.area() != Circle.PI)
there are accepting function []
```

```
throw new AssertionError("circle assertion failed");
```

class Rectangle(topLeft: Point, height: Double, width: Double) extends Shape: def area: Double = height * width

@main def main: Unit =

```
val origin = Point(0,0)
val square = Square(origin, 5)
val rectangle = Rectangle(origin, 2, 3)
val circle = Circle(origin, 1)
```

```
assert(square.area == 25, "square assertion failed")
assert(rectangle.area == 6, "rectangle assertion failed")
assert(circle.area == Circle.PI, "circle assertion failed")
```

}





sealed interface Shape { }
record Square(Point topLeft, double side) implements Shape { }
record Rectangle (Point topLeft, double height, double width) implements Shape { }
record Circle (Point center, double radius) implements Shape { }

```
public class Geometry {
  public final double PI = 3.141592653589793;
  public double area(Shape shape) {
    return switch(shape) {
    case Square s -> s.side() * s.side();
    case Rectangle r -> r.height() * r.width();
    case Circle c -> PI * c.radius() * c.radius();
    };
  }
}
```

```
public class Main {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
```

```
var origin = new Point(0,0);
var geometry = new Geometry();
var rectangle = new Rectangle(origin,2,3);
var circle = new Circle(origin,1);
var square = new Square(origin,5);
```

```
if (geometry.area(square) != 25)
   throw new AssertionError("square assertion failed");
```

```
if (geometry.area(rectangle) != 6)
    throw new AssertionError("rectangle assertion failed");
```

```
if (geometry.area(circle) != geometry.PI)
    throw new AssertionError("circle assertion failed");
```

enum Shape:

case Square(topLeft: Point, side: Double)
case Rectangle(topLeft: Point, width: Double, height: Double)
case Circle(center: Point, radius: Double)

def area(shape: Shape): Double = shape match
 case Square(_,side) => side * side
 case Rectangle(_,width,height) => width * height
 case Circle(_,radius) => math.Pi * radius * radius

```
@main def main: Unit =
```

```
val origin = Point(0,0)
val square = Square(origin, 5)
val rectangle = Rectangle(origin, 2, 3)
val circle = Circle(origin, 1)
assert(area(square) == 25, "square assertion failed")
```

```
assert(area(square) == 25, square assertion failed)
assert(area(rectangle) == 6, "rectangle assertion failed")
assert(area(circle) == math.Pi, "circle assertion failed")
```

Notice how, in translating the **procedural program**, rather than defining the **sealed trait hierarchy literally**



2 @philip_schwarz

sealed trait Shape
case class Square(topLeft: Point, side: Double) extends Shape
case class Rectangle(topLeft: Point, width: Double, height: Double) extends Shape
case class Circle(center: Point, radius: Double) extends Shape

we have defined it using an equivalent but more succinct enum

enum Shape: case Square(topLeft: Point, side: Double) case Rectangle(topLeft: Point, width: Double, height: Double) case Circle(center: Point, radius: Double)



Next, let's look at **ad-hoc polymorphism** in **Haskell**, both **alternation-based**, and **class-based**.

Ad-hoc polymorphism

"Wadler conceived of **type classes** in a conversation with Joe Fasel. Fasel had in mind a different idea, but it was he who had the key insight that **overloading should be reflected in the type of the function**. Wadler misunderstood what Fasel had in mind, and **type classes** were born!"

-- History of Haskell, Hudak et al.

The canonical example of **ad hoc polymorphism** (also known as **overloading**) is that of the **polymorphic** + operator, defined for all types that implement the **Num typeclass**:

```
class Num a where
  (+) :: a -> a -> a
instance Int Num where
```

```
(+) :: Int \rightarrow Int \rightarrow Int
x + y = intPlus x y
```

```
instance Float Num where
  (+) :: Float → Float → Float
  x + y = floatPlus x y
```

In fact, the introduction of type classes into Haskell was driven by the need to solve the problem of overloading numerical operators and equality.





Ryan Lemmer

When we call (+) on two numbers, the compiler will **dispatch evaluation** to the **concrete implementation**, based on the **types** of numbers being added:

let x_int = 1 + 1 -- dispatch to 'intPlus'
let x_float = 1.0 + 2.5 -- dispatch to 'floatPlus'
let x = 1 + 3.14 -- dispatch to 'floatPlus'

In the last line, we are adding what looks like an **int** to a **float**. In many languages, we'd have to resort to explicit **coercion** (of int to float, say) to resolve this type of "mismatch". In **Haskell**, this is resolved by treating the value of 1 as a **type-class polymorphic value**:

ghci> :type 1
1 :: Num a => a
ghci>

1 is a **generic value**; whether 1 is to be considered an **int** or a **float** value (or a **fractional**, say) depends on the **context** in which it will appear.





Ryan Lemmer

Alternation-based ad-hoc polymorphism

There are two kinds of **ad-hoc polymorphism**. We've seen the first type already in this chapter:

```
data Maybe' a = Nothing' | Just' a
```

```
fMaybe f (Just' x) = Just' (f x)
fMaybe f Nothing' = Nothing'
```

The fMaybe function is polymorphically defined over the alternations of Maybe. In order to directly contrast the two kinds of polymorphism, let's carry this idea over into another example:

```
data Shape = Circle Float | Rect Float Float
```

area :: Shape -> Float
area (Circle r) = pi * r^2
area (Rect length width) = length * width

The area function is **dispatched** over the **alternations** of the **Shape type**.





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1

Let's translate those two **Haskell** examples of alternation-based ad-hoc polymorphism into Scala.

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<pre>enum Maybe[+A]: case Nothing case Just(a: A)</pre>
<pre>def fMaybe[A,B](f: A=>B, ma: Maybe[A]): Maybe[B] = ma match case Just(a) => Just(f(a)) case Nothing => Nothing</pre>
<pre>enum Shape: case Circle(radius: Float) case Rect(length: Float, width: Float)</pre>
<pre>def area(shape: Shape): Double = shape match case Circle(radius) => math.Pi * radius * radius</pre>



Class-based ad-hoc polymorphism

We could also have achieved a **polymorphic area** function over **shapes** in this way:

```
data Circle = Circle Float
data Rect = Rect Float Float
```

```
class Shape a where
area :: a -> Float
```

```
instance Shape Circle where
  area (Circle r) = pi * r^2
```

```
instance Shape Rect where
area (Rect length' width') = length' * width'
```

Instead of unifying shapes with an algebraic "sum of types", we created two distinct shape types and unified them with the Shape type-class. This time the area function exhibits class-based ad-hoc polymorphism.





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By the way, if you could do with an introduction to Algebraic Data Types, then you might want to take a look at the following:



• See how easy it is to use Scala 3 extension methods, e.g. to add convenience methods and infix operators.



Alternation-based versus class-based

It is tempting to ask "which approach is best?" Instead, let's explore the important ways in which they differ:

		Alternation-based	Class-based
Different coupling be and type	etween function	The function type refers to the algebraic type Shape and then defines special cases for each alternative.	The function type is only aware of the type it is acting on, not the Shape "super type".
Distribution of funct	ion definition	The overloaded functions are defined together in one place for all alternations.	Overloaded functions all appear in their respective class implementations. This means a function can be overloaded in very diverse parts of the codebase if need be.
Adding new types		Adding a new alternative to the algebraic type requires changing all existing functions acting directly on the algebraic "super type"	We can add a new type that implements the type class <u>without</u> <u>changing any code in place (only</u> <u>adding)</u> . This is very important since it enables us to extend third-party code.
Adding new function	ns	A perimeter function acting on Shape won't be explicitly related to area in any way.	A perimeter function could be explicitly related to area by adding it to the Shape class. This is a powerful way of grouping functions together.
Type expressivity		This approach is useful for expressing simple type hierarchies.	We can have multiple, orthogonal hierarchies, each implementing the type class (For example, we can express multiple-inheritance type relations). This allows for modeling much richer data types.





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Let's translate that **Haskell** example of <u>class-based ad-hoc polymorphism</u> into **Scala**, which also has the concept of a **typeclass**.

data Circle = Circle Float

data Rect = Rect Float Float

class Shape a where
 area :: a -> Float

instance Shape Circle where area (Circle r) = pi * r^2

instance Shape Rect where area (Rect length' width') = length' * width'

case class Circle(radius: Float)

case class Rect(length: Float, width: Float)

trait Shape[A]:
 extension (shape: A)
 def area: Double

given Shape[Circle] with
 extension (c: Circle)
 def area: Double = math.Pi * c.radius * c.radius

given Shape[Rect] with
 extension (r: Rect)
 def area: Double = r.length * r.width

main = runTestTT

(TestList [TestCase (assertEqual "test1" pi (area (Circle 1))), TestCase (assertEqual "test2" 6 (area (Rect 2 3)))]) @main def main: Unit =
 assert(Circle(1).area == math.Pi)
 assert(Rect(2,3).area == 6)





Based purely on the example that we have just seen, it would seem reasonable to add <u>class-based ad-hoc</u> <u>polymorphism</u> to our table in the way shown below.

		Addition of new	
		Function	Туре
	Subtype	ОСРХ	ОСР√
Polymorphism	Alternation-based ad-hoc	ОСР√	ОСРХ
	Class-based ad-hoc	ОСРХ	ОСР√



But in actual fact, it turns out that **typeclasses** are more powerful than that. They allow us to solve what is called the **Expression Problem**, i.e. they allow us to write code that is **open and closed** with respect to **both** the **addition** of **new types** and the **addition** of **new functions**.

		Addition of new]
		Function	Туре	1
	Subtype	ОСРХ	ОСР√	
Polymorphism	Alternation-based ad-hoc	ОСР√	ОСРХ	
	Class-based ad-hoc	c OCP√	P√	<



Here is the definition of the **Expression Problem**.



Computer Scientist Philip Wadler

Cc: Philip Wadler <wadler@research.bell-labs.com> Subject: The Expression Problem Date: Thu, 12 Nov 1998 14:27:55 -0500 From: Philip Wadler <wadler@research.bell-labs.com>

> The **Expression Problem** Philip Wadler, 12 November 1998

The Expression Problem is a new name for an old problem. The goal is to define a datatype by cases, where one can <u>add new cases</u> to the <u>datatype</u> and <u>new functions</u> over the <u>datatype</u>, without recompiling <u>existing code</u>, and while retaining static type safety (e.g., no casts). For the concrete example, we take expressions as the data type, begin with one case (constants) and one function (evaluators), then add one more construct (plus) and one more function (conversion to a string).

Whether a language can solve the Expression Problem is a salient indicator of its capacity for expression. One can think of cases as rows and functions as columns in a table. In a functional language, the rows are fixed (cases in a datatype declaration) but it is easy to add new columns (functions). In an object-oriented language, the columns are fixed (methods in a class declaration) but it is easy to add new rows (subclasses). We want to make it easy to add either rows or columns.



In **Part 2** we are going to see how **typeclasses** can be used to solve the **expression problem**.

See you there.

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