Bartosz Milewski introduces the need for Kleisli composition, in his lecture on Monads

A monad is a really simple concept.

Why do we have functions? Can't we just write one big program, with loops, if statements, expressions, assignments? Why do we need functions? We really need functions so that we can structure our programs. We need functions so that we can decompose the program into smaller pieces and recompose it. This is what we have been talking about in category theory from the very beginning: it is composition.

And the power of functions really is in the dot. That's where the power sits. Dot is the composition operator in Haskell. It combines two functions so the output of one function becomes the input of the other. So that explains what functions are really, functions are about composition.

And so is the monad. People start by giving examples of monads, there is the state monad, there is the exception monad, these are so completely different, what do exceptions have to do with state? What do they have to do with input/output? Well, it's just as with functions: functions can be used to implement so many different things, **but really functons are about composition**.

And so is the monad. The monad is all about composing stuff. It replaces this dot with the Kleisli arrow...<u>The fish operator</u>. Dot is used for composing simple functions in which the output of one function matches the input of another function, and that's the most trivial way of composing stuff.

The fish operator is used to compose these functions whose output type is embellished. So if the output of a function would be B but now we are embellishing it with some stuff, e.g. embellishing it with logging, by adding a string to it, the logging kleisli arrow, but then in order to compose these things we have to unpack the return type before we can send it on to the next function. So actually not much is happening inside the dot, a function is called and the result is passed to another function, but much more is happening inside the fish, because there is the unpacking and the passing of the value to the next function, and also maybe some decision is taken, like in the case of exceptions. Once we have this additional step of combining functions, we can make decisions, like maybe we don't want to call the next function at all, maybe we want to bypass it. So a lot of stuff may happen inside the fish.

And just like we have the identity function here, that's an identity with respect to the dot, here we have this kleisli arrow that represents identity, that returns this embellished result, but of the same type, and we call it return in Haskell. And it is called return because at some point you want to be able to program like an imperative programmer. So it's not that imperative programming is bad, imperative programming could be good, as long as it is well controlled, and the monad lets you do programming that is kind of imperative style. You don't have to do this, but sometimes it is easier to understand your code when you write it in imperative style, even though it is immediately translated into this style of composing functions. So this is just for our convenience, we want to be able to write something that looks more imperative, but behind the scene it is still function composition upon function composition





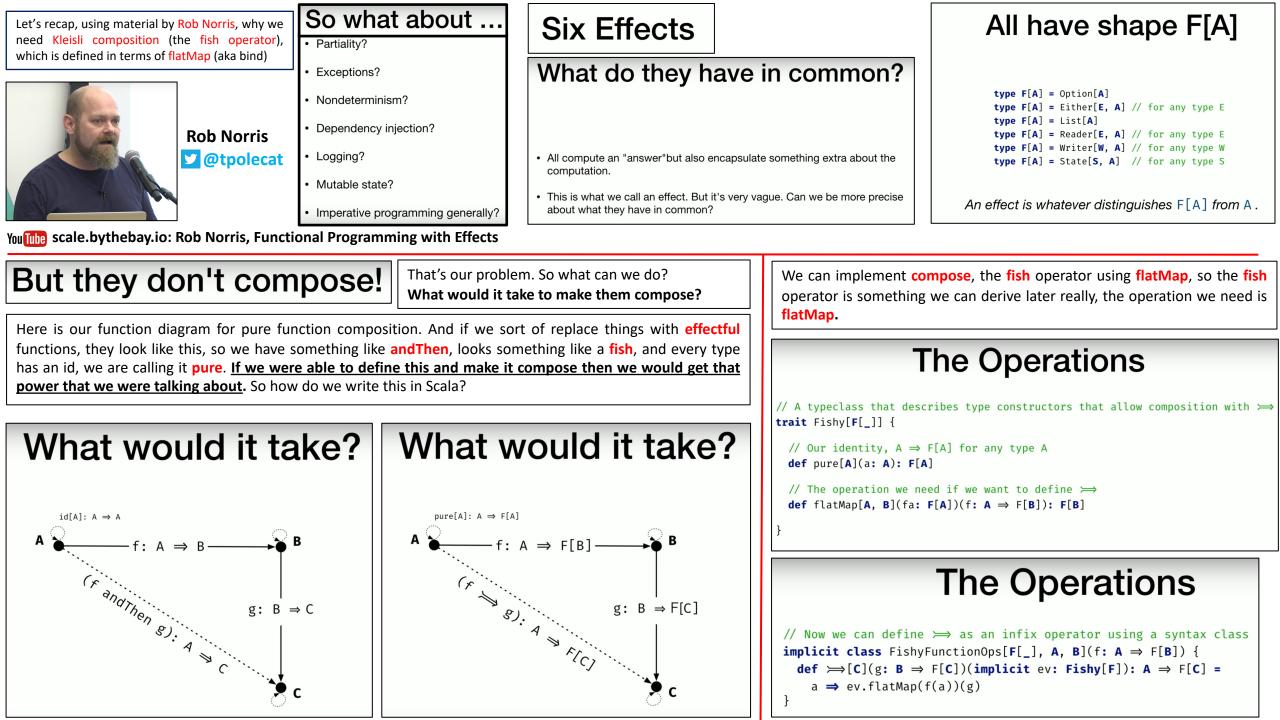












Let's recap, using material by Rúnar Bjarnason, why we need Kleisli composition (the fish operator), which is defined in terms of flatMap (aka bind)	<pre>trait Functor[F[_]] { def map[A,B](f: A => B): F[A] => F[B] } map(f compose g) = map(f) compose map(g) map(identity) = identity</pre>	And there are lots of different kinds of Functors like this, but I want to also point out that with functions, I am really talking about pure functions.	 Kleisli Category Objects: Scala types An arrow from A to B is a function of type A => Option[B] 	And in fact, once we have this, we have a category. And this thing is called a Kleisli category, named
 f: A => B If f has a side effect, composition is impossible. 	Because <u>composition breaks down if we have side</u> what we want to do is we want to track the effects Rather than having side effects, like returning something, we are going to track them in the return	in the return type of the function. nulls or throwing exceptions, or	 Composition: Kleisli composition f >=> g >=> h = (x => h(x) flatMap g flatMap f) identity(x) = Some(x) 	after a mathematician called Heinrich Kleisli.
<pre>f: A => Option[B]</pre>	So here the effect is that the function f might	Scala eXchange 2017 Keynote: Composing Programs	So in general we have a Kleisli category when the Functor M is a Monad.	
Effect: the function f might not return any B f: A => Option [B]	not return a B, it might return just a None. But we run into a problem when we have functions		Kleisli Category Objects: types A, B, F[T] etc.	
<pre>g: B => Option[C] Problem: f andThen g</pre>	of this form, that we can no longer use regular function composition. Like we can't say f andThen g, if we have both f and g that return Option, because the types are no longer compatible.	Rúnar Bjarnason	 An arrow from A to B is a funct A => M[B] for some functor Composition: Kleisli composition (flatMap) 	M
	skills matter https://skillsmatter.com/skillscasts/10746-keynote-composing-programs		Identity: unit: A => M[A]	
<pre>f: A => Option[B] g: B => Option[C] Solution: f andThen (_ flatMap g)</pre>	But we can solve that just by writing a little more code. So we can say f andThen this function that flatMaps g over the result of f. So we can actually write a composition on these types of functions, that is not ordinary function composition, it is composition on function and some additional structure.			
<pre>f: A => Option[B] g: B => Option[C] f >=> g : A => Option[C]</pre>	But we can actually write that as an operator, and in both Scalaz and Cats it is represented as this sort of fish operator >=>. trait Monad[M[_]] { def flatMap[A,B](h: A => M[B]): M[A] => M[B] def unit[A]: A => M[A] } So if we have f that goes from A to Option[B] and g that goes from B to Option[C] we have a composite function f fish g, that goes from A to Option[C]. flatMap(f >=> g) = flatMap(f) compose flatMap(g flatMap(unit) = identity			

Bartosz Milewski defines Kleisli composition in terms of bind, in his lecture on Monads

8 $(> = >) :: (a \rightarrow mb) \rightarrow (b \rightarrow mc) \rightarrow (a \rightarrow mc)$ $f >=> g = \lambda a \rightarrow let mb = f a$ in mb >>= g $(>>=):: m b \rightarrow (b \rightarrow mc) \rightarrow m c$

If you ask someone to do **monadic** programming using just the **fish operator** (Kleisli composition), that's equivalent to using **point-free style**, and that is hard, and not very readable. So the definition of **monad** using the **fish operator** is not the main definition used in programming languages. And I'll show you how to get from one definition to another very easily, and I will call this next segment **Fish Anatomy**.

The fish operator >=> can be defined in terms of the bind operator >>=

So we have simplified the problem. We still have to implement **bind**

The interface of >=> is very symmetric, has meaning, looks very much like function composition. >>= not so much.

So a lot of people will start by saying a **monad** is something that has this **bind operator**, and then you ask yourself whoever came up with this weird signature of >>= ? And it is not really weird, it comes from this [process we went through].





Defining a Monad in terms of Kleisli composition and Kleisli identity function

```
Kleisli composition + unit
trait Monad[F[_]] {
  def compose[A,B,C](f: A => F[B], g: B => F[C]): A => F[C]
  def unit[A](a: => A): F[A]
}
```

Kleisli composition + return

class Monad m where
 (>=>) :: (a -> m b) -> (b -> m c) -> (a -> m c)
 return :: a -> m a

Defining Kleisli composition in terms of flatMap (bind)

```
def compose[A,B,C](f: A => F[B], g: B => F[C]): A => F[C]
a => flatMap(f(a))(g)
```

Defining a Monad in terms of flatmap (bind) and unit (return)

flatMap + unit

```
trait Monad[F[_]] {
    def flatMap[A,B](ma: F[A])(f: A => F[B]): F[B]
    def unit[A](a: => A): F[A]
```

```
// can then implement Kleisli composition using flatMap
def compose[A,B,C](f: A => F[B], g: B => F[C]): A => F[C] =
    a => flatMap(f(a))(g)
```

(>=>)::(a ->mb)->(b->mb)->(a->mc)
(>=>) = \a -> (f a) >>= g

bind + return (Kleisli composition can then be implemented with bind)
<pre>class Monad m where (>>=) :: m a -> (a -> m b) -> m b</pre>
return :: a -> m a
<pre> can then implement Kleisli composition using bind (>=>) :: (a -> m b) -> (b -> m c) -> (a -> m c) (>=>) = \a -> (f a) >>= g</pre>

Bartosz Milewski introduces a third definition of Monad in terms of join and return, based on Functor

So this (join and return) is an alternative definition of a monad. But in this case I have to specifically say that m is a Functor, which is actually a nice thing, that I have to explicitly specify it.

But remember, in this case (join and return) you really have to assume that it is a functor. In this way, join is the most basic thing. Using just join and return is really more atomic than using either bind or the Kleisli arrow, because they additionally subsume functoriality, whereas here, functoriality is separate, separately it is a functor and separately we define join, and separately we define return.

So this definition (join and return) or the definition with the Kleisli arrow, they are not used in Haskell, although they could have been. But Haskell people decided to use this (>>= and return) as their basic definition and then for every monad they separately define join and the Kleisli arrow. So if you have a monad you can use join and the Kleisli arrow because they are defined in the library for you. So it's always enough to define just bind, and then fish and join will be automatically defined for you, you don't have to do it.



In 'FP in Scala' we also see a third minimal sets of primitive Monad combinators

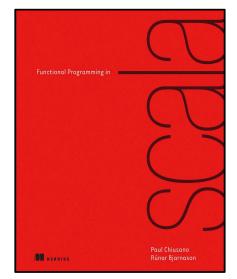
We've seen three minimal sets of primitive Monad combinators, and instances of Monad will have to provide implementations of one of these sets:

- unit and flatMap
- unit and compose
- unit, map, and join

And we know that there are two monad laws to be satisfied, associativity and identity, that can be formulated in various ways. So we can state plainly what a monad is :

A monad is an implementation of one of the minimal sets of monadic combinators, satisfying the laws of associativity and identity.

That's a perfectly respectable, precise, and terse definition. And if we're being precise, this is the only correct definition.





flatmap + unit

trait Monad[F[_]] {
 def flatMap[A,B](ma: F[A])(f: A => F[B]): F[B]
 def unit[A](a: => A): F[A]
}

Kleisli composition + unit

```
trait Monad[F[_]] {
    def compose[A,B,C](f: A => F[B], g: B => F[C]): A => F[C]
    def unit[A](a: => A): F[A]
```

Defining a Monad in terms of map (fmap), join and unit (return)

```
map + join + unit
trait Functor[F[_]] {
    def map[A,B](m: F[A])(f: A => B): F[B]
}
trait Monad[F[_]] extends Functor[F] {
    def join[A](mma: F[F[A]]): F[A]
    def unit[A](a: => A): F[A]
}
```

X Haskell

bind + return

```
class Monad m where
  (>>=) :: m a -> (a -> m b) -> m b
  return :: a -> m a
```

Kleisli composition + return

class Monad m where
 (>=>) :: (a -> m b) -> (b -> m c) -> (a -> m c)
 return :: a -> m a

fmap + join + return
<pre>class Functor f where fmap :: (a -> b) -> f a -> f b</pre>
<pre>class Functor m => Monad m where join :: m(m a) -> ma return :: a -> m a</pre>

flatmap + unit

trait Monad[F[_]] {

```
def flatMap[A,B](ma: F[A])(f: A => F[B]): F[B]
def unit[A](a: => A): F[A]
```

defining join, map and compose in terms of flatMap and unit

```
def join[A](mma: F[F[A]]): F[A] = flatMap(mma)(ma => ma)
def map[A,B](m: F[A])(f: A => B): F[B] = flatMap(m)(a => unit(f(a)))
def compose[A,B,C](f: A => F[B], g: B => F[C]): A => F[C] = a => flatMap(f(a))(g)
```

Kleisli composition + unit

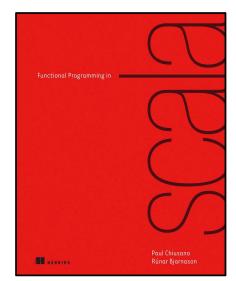
```
trait Monad[F[_]] {
  def compose[A,B,C](f: A => F[B], g: B => F[C]): A => F[C]
  def unit[A](a: => A): F[A]
  def flatMap[A,B](ma: F[A])(f: A => F[B]): F[B] = compose((_:Unit) => ma, f)(())
  def map[A,B](m: F[A])(f: A => B): F[B] = flatMap(m)(a => unit(f(a)))
}
```

map + join + unit

```
trait Functor[F[_]] {
    def map[A,B](m: F[A])(f: A => B): F[B]
}
trait Monad[F[_]] extends Functor[F] {
    def join[A](mma: F[F[A]]): F[A]
    def unit[A](a: => A): F[A]

def flatMap[A,B](ma: F[A])(f: A => F[B]): F[B] = join(map(ma)(f))
    def compose[A,B,C](f: A => F[B], g: B => F[C]): A => F[C] = a => flatMap(f(a))(g)
```

Using primitive monad combinators to define the other key combinators



In Category Theory a Monad is a functor equipped with a pair of natural transformations satisfying the laws of associativity and identity

Monads in Category Theory

In Category Theory, a Monad is a functor equipped with a pair of natural transformations satisfying the laws of associativity and identity.

What does this mean? If we restrict ourselves to the category of Scala types (with Scala types as the objects and functions as the arrows), we can state this in Scala terms.

A Functor is just a type constructor for which map can be implemented:

```
trait Functor[F[_]] {
   def map[A,B](fa: F[A])(f: A => B): F[B]
```

A natural transformation from a functor F to a functor G is just a polymorphic function:

```
trait Transform[F[_], G[_]] {
  def apply[A](fa: F[A]): G[A]
```

The natural transformations that form a monad for F are unit and join:

```
type Id[A] = A
def unit[F](implicit F: Monad[F]) = new Transform[Id, F] {
```

```
def apply(a: A): F[A] = F.unit(a)
```

```
def join[F](implicit F: Monad[F]) = new Transform[({type f[x] = F[F[x]]})#f, F] {
    def apply(ffa: F[F[A]]): F[A] = F.join(ffa)
```

A companion booklet to Functional Programming in Scala

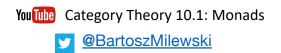
Chapter notes, errata, hints, and answers to exercises

compiled by Rúnar Óli Bjarnason



Bartosz Milewski defines a monad as a functor and two natural transformations, plus associativity and identity laws

 $m \rightarrow 1$ $\eta :: 1d \rightarrow T$ $pin \rightarrow \mu$ $\mu :: T^2 \rightarrow T$ rcturn -> 1 $Id \rightarrow T$ m(ma)→ma ToT→



All three definitions [of Monad] are used in category theory, but really, everybody uses the one with join, except that they don't call it join and they don't call it return. And they don't call the functor **M**, they call it **T**. So the translation is **m** goes to **T**, join goes to **µ** and return goes to **q**. They use Greek letters here and it makes sesne because they use Greek letters for natural transformations and you will see that these (join and return) are natural transformations. So now I'll switch notation to **T**, **µ** and **q**.

We already talked about **return** at some point, when I talked about natural transformations, I said that return really is a **polymorphic function** that goes from **a** to **ma**, in the old notation, but really, since it is a polymorphic function, it is really a natural transformation **a** --> **ma** where **a** is the identity functor acting on **a** (Id_a). So it is really a natural transformation between two functors, and Id_a is a component of the natural transformation from the **identity functor** to **m**, and since we don't want to use **m** here, I am going to use **T**.

So we'll say that η (unit/return) is a natural transformation from the identity functor to T. And it means the same thing, except that in Haskell we use it in components, every natural transformation has components, so for a particular a, Id_a acting on a gives you a, T acting on a gives you ma.

Now what is μ ?, μ (join) is also a natural transformation. Remember, join was going from m(m a) to ma. What is m(m a)? It means we take this functor, we act on a, and then we apply it to the result. So this is double application of the functor. It is just composition of the functor with itself. So this in mathematical notation would be $T \circ T \to T$. Double application ot T, in components, it will give you m(m a), double application of a functor in components is m(m a). Single application of the functor is m a. It is a natural transformation.

So in category theory we have to say it is a natural transformation. In Haskell we didn't say it is natural transformation, we didn't mention the naturality condition for return. Why? Because of polymorphism, because of 'theorems for free', it is automatically a natural transformation, the naturality condition is automatic. But in category theory we have to say it is a natural transformation. So T • T is usually written simply as T². T² is just compositon of T with itself. That's shorthand notation.

So, a monad is a functor T and two natural transformations. Plus some laws, otherwise if we try to make a Kleisli category on top of this we wouldn't get associativity and identity laws.

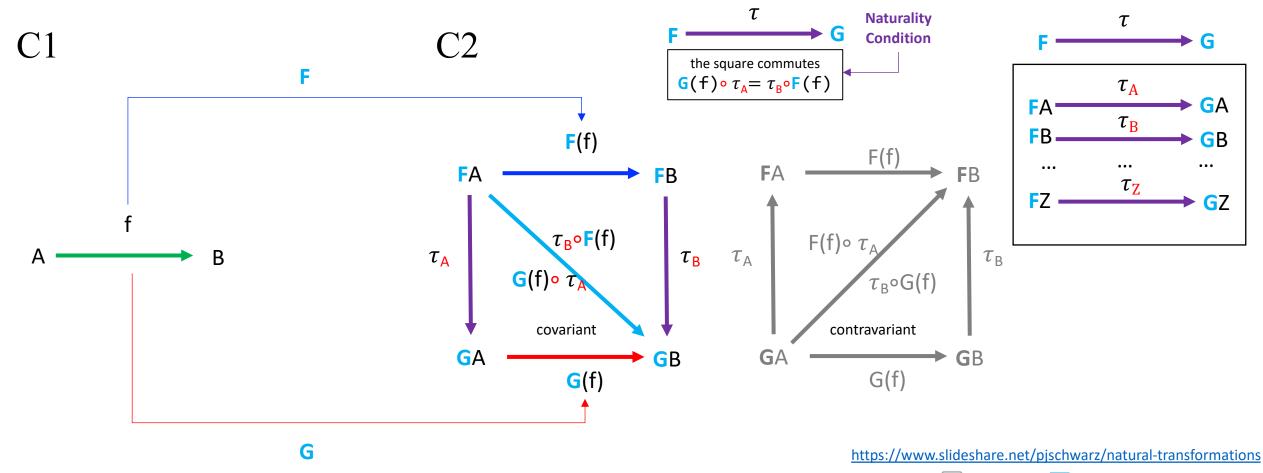
Natural Transformation

C1 and C2 are categories and • denotes their composition operations.

F and G are functors from C1 to C2 which map each C1 object to a C2 object and map each C1 arrow to a C2 arrow

A natural transformation τ from F to G (either both covariant of both contravariant) is

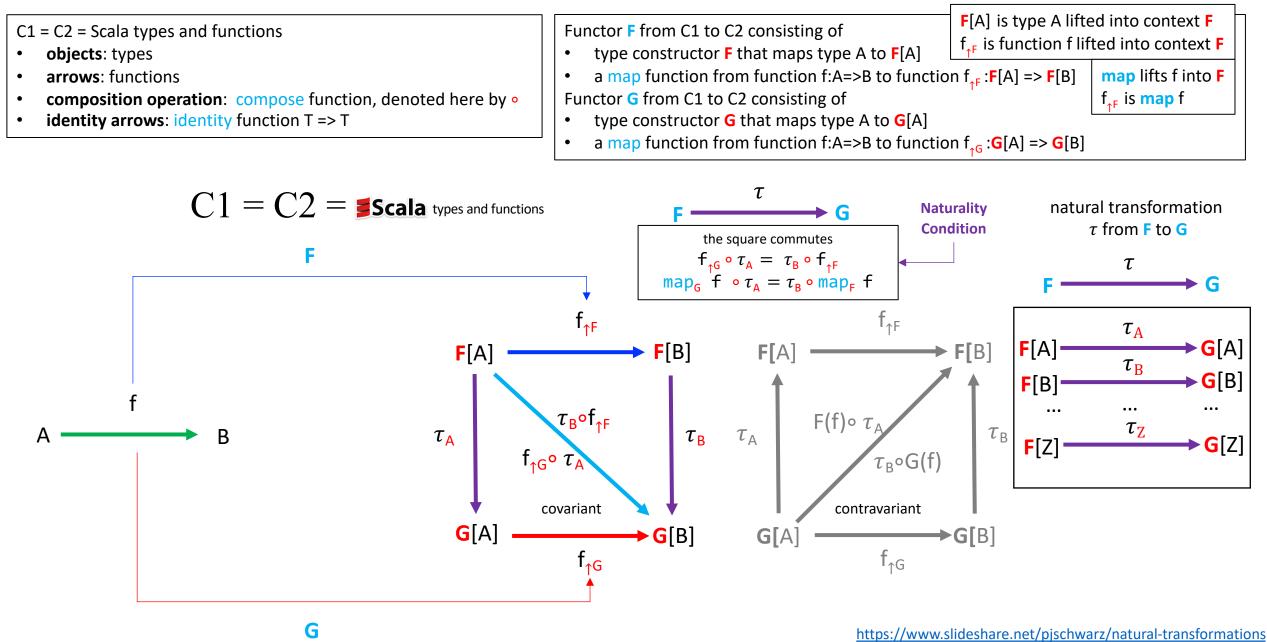
a family of arrows τ_X : FX \rightarrow GX of C2 indexed by the object X of C1 such that for each arrow f: A \rightarrow B of C1, the appropriate square in C2 commutes (depending on the variance)



natural transformation

 τ from F to G

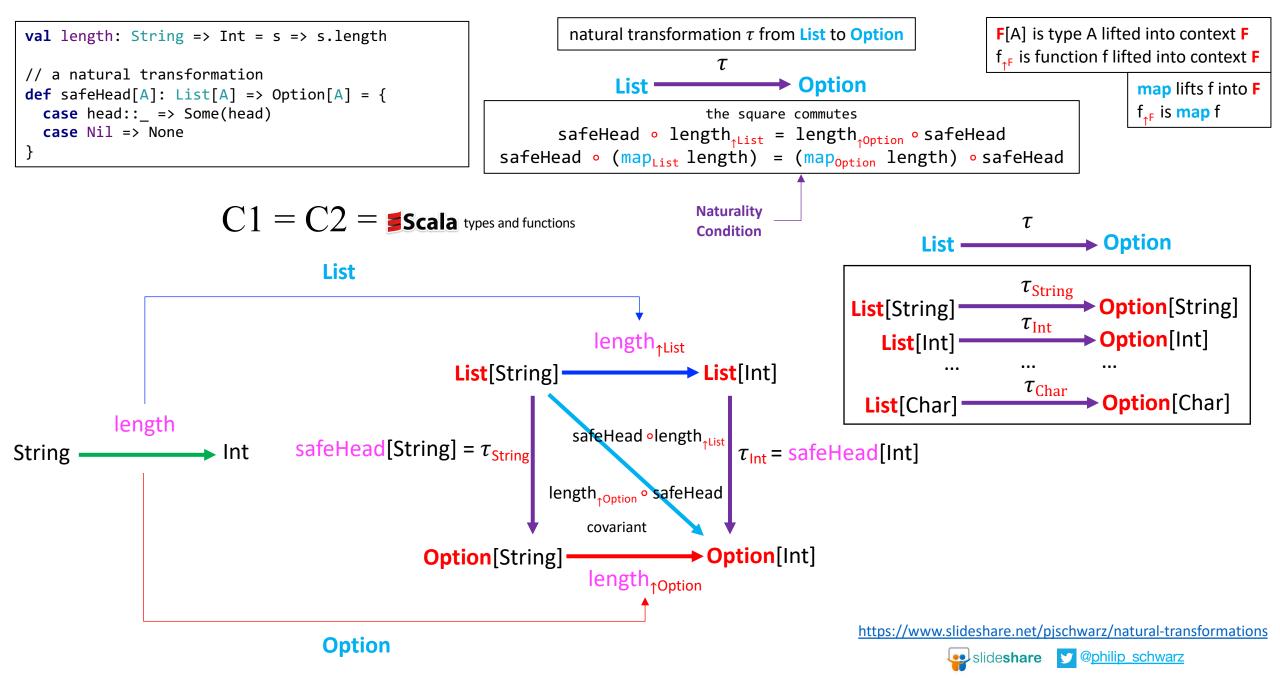
Generic Scala Example: Natural Transformation between two Functors from the category of 'Scala types and functions' to itself

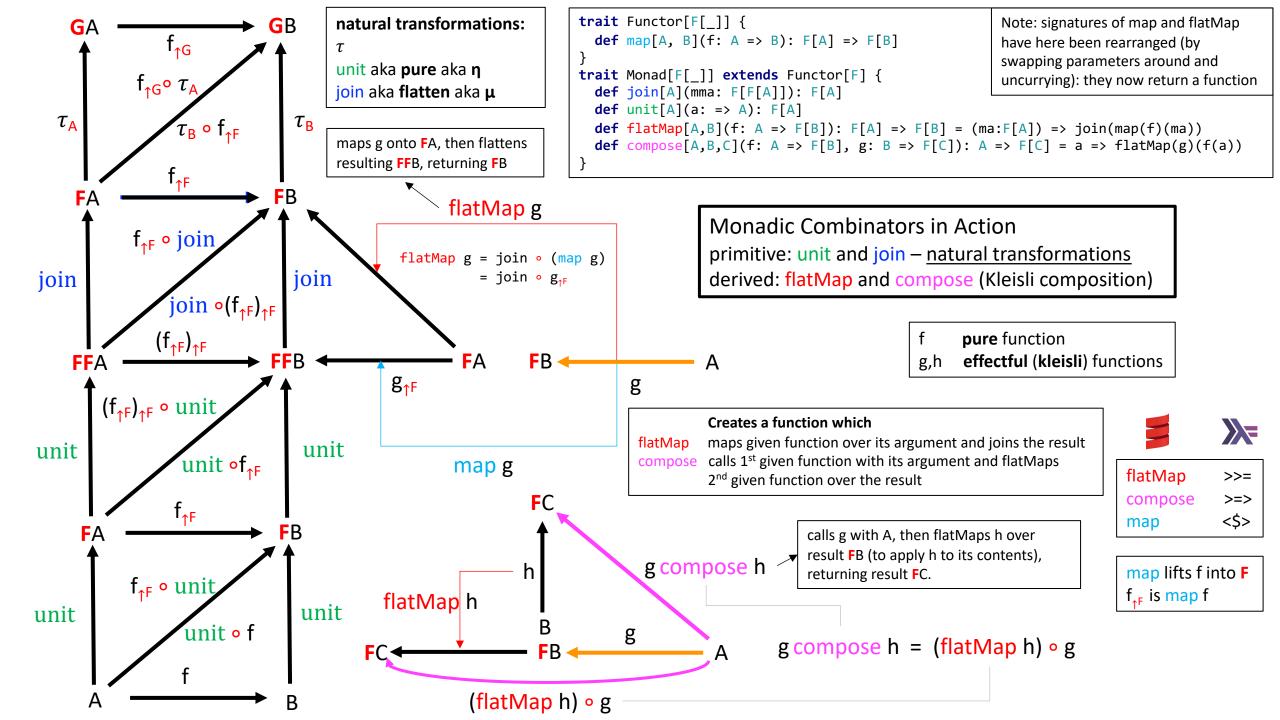


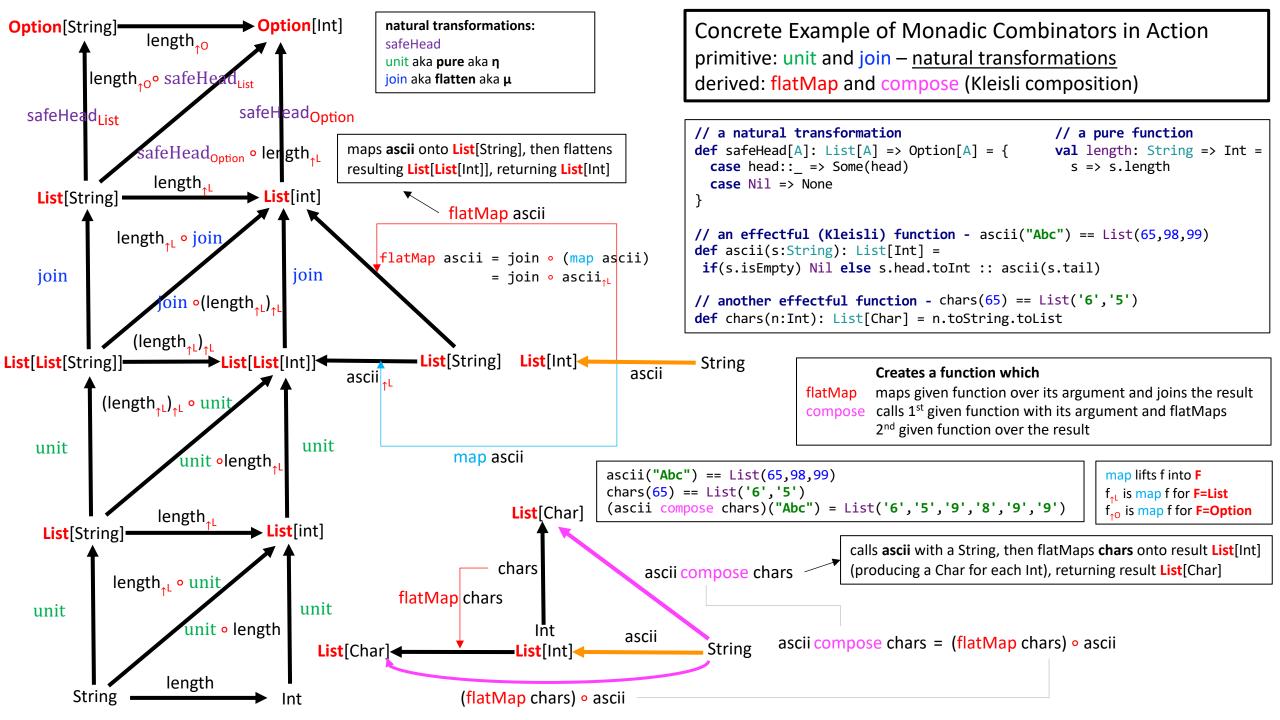
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Solution (2017) **Ophilip** Schwarz

Concrete Scala Example: safeHead - natural transformation τ from List functor to Option functor







```
trait Functor[F[ ]] {
                                                                def safeHead[A]: List[A] => Option[A] = {
 def map[A, B](f: A \Rightarrow B): F[A] \Rightarrow F[B]
                                                                  case head:: => Some(head)
                                                                  case Nil => None
trait Monad[F[ ]] extends Functor[F] {
 def join[A](mma: F[F[A]]): F[A]
                                                                def ascii(s:String):List[Int] =
 def unit[A](a: => A): F[A]
                                                                  if(s.isEmpty) Nil else s.head.toInt :: ascii(s.tail)
 def flatMap[A,B](f: A => F[B]): F[A] => F[B] =
                                                                def chars(n:Int):List[Char] =
    (ma:F[A]) => join(map(f)(ma))
                                                                  n.toString.toList
 def compose[A,B,C](f: A => F[B], g: B => F[C]): A => F[C] =
    a => flatMap(g)(f(a))
                                                                assert(ascii("Abc") == List(65,98,99))
                                                                assert(chars(65) == List('6','5'))
val listM = new Monad[List] {
                                                                val optionM = new Monad[Option] {
 def map[A, B](f: A => B): List[A] => List[B] = {
                                                                  def map[A,B](f: A => B): Option[A] => Option[B] = {
    case head :: tail => f(head) :: map(f)(tail)
                                                                    case Some(a) => Some(f(a))
   case Nil => Nil
                                                                    case None => None
  }
 def unit[A](a: => A): List[A] = List(a)
                                                                  def unit[A](a: => A): Option[A] = Some(a)
 def join[A](mma: List[List[A]]): List[A] =
                                                                  def join[A](mma: Option[Option[A]]): Option[A] =
   mma match {
                                                                    mma match {
      case head::tail => head ::: join(tail)
                                                                      case Some(a) => a
      case Nil => Nil
                                                                       case None => None
val length: String => Int = s => s.length
val lengthLiftedOnce: List[String] => List[Int] = (listM map length)
```

```
val lengthLiftedTwice: List[List[String]] => List[List[Int]] = listM map lengthLiftedOnce
```

```
assert(length("abcd") == 4)
assert(lengthLiftedOnce(List("abcd","efg","hi")) == List(4,3,2))
```

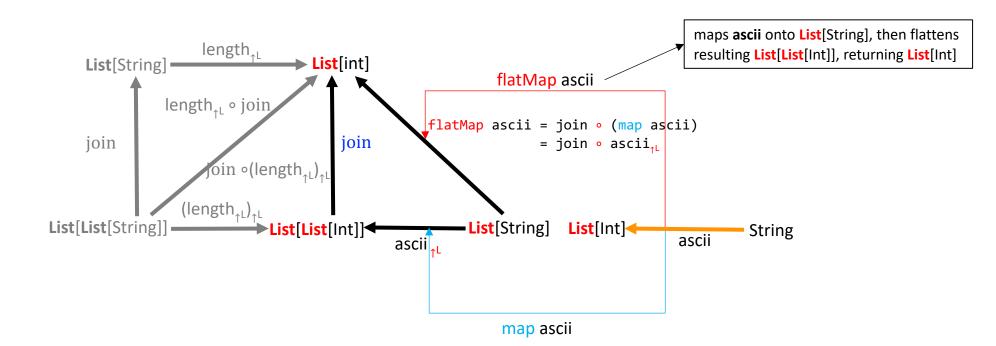
```
assert(lengthLiftedTwice(List(List("abcd","efg","hi"),List("jkl","mo","p"))) == List(List(4,3,2),List(3,2,1)))
```



```
def ascii(s:String):List[Int] = if(s.isEmpty) Nil else s.head.toInt :: ascii(s.tail)
assert(ascii("Abc") == List(65,98,99))
```

```
val mappedAscii: List[String] => List[List[Int]] = listM map ascii
val flatMappedAscii: List[String] => List[Int] = listM flatMap ascii
val compositionOfMappedAsciiAndJoin = (listM.join[Int](_)) compose mappedAscii
```

```
assert( compositionOfMappedAsciiAndJoin(List("abcd","efg","hi")) == flatMappedAscii(List("abcd","efg","hi")) )
assert( compositionOfMappedAsciiAndJoin(List("abcd","efg","hi")) == List(97, 98, 99, 100,101,102,103,104,105))
assert( flatMappedAscii(List("abcd","efg","hi")) == List(97, 98, 99, 100,101,102,103,104,105))
```



```
def ascii(s:String):List[Int] = if(s.isEmpty) Nil else s.head.toInt :: ascii(s.tail)
def chars(n:Int):List[Char] = n.toString.toList
assert(chars(65) == List('6','5'))
assert(ascii("Abc") == List(65,98,99))
def flatMappedChars = listM flatMap chars
def kleisliCompositionOfAsciiAndChars = listM.compose(ascii, chars)
assert( kleisliCompositionOfAsciiAndChars("Abc") == (flatMappedChars compose ascii)("Abc"))
assert( kleisliCompositionOfAsciiAndChars("Abc") == List('6','5','9','8','9','9'))
assert( (flatMappedChars compose ascii)("Abc") == List('6','5','9','8','9','9'))
```

