

Lecture 6 – For Comprehensions

SWS121: Secure Programming

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2024 Spring

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- **Flexibility** – They allow functional programs to be much **more adaptable** than equivalent programs written without monads.

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Monads are useful tools for structuring functional programs:

- **Modularity** – They allow computations to be **composed** from simpler computations and separate the combination strategy from the actual computations being performed.
- **Flexibility** – They allow functional programs to be much **more adaptable** than equivalent programs written without monads.
- **Isolation** – They can be used to create **imperative-style** computational structures which remain **safely isolated** from the main body of the functional program.

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- A **type converter** that embeds a value into the monad, and we can implement it as a **constructor** or a **factory method** (apply) in Scala.

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List(1, 2, 3) // Create a `List` monad with values 1, 2, and 3
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List(1, 2, 3) // Create a `List` monad with values 1, 2, and 3
```

- A **combinator** (`flatMap` method in Scala) that applies a **monadic function** to the value inside the monad and returns a new monad.

```
List(1, 2, 3).flatMap(x => List(x, -x)) // List(1,-1,2,-2,3,-3)
```

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- A `map` method that applies a **function** to the value inside the monad and returns a new monad.

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We can implement `map` using **type converter** and **combinator**:

```
trait List[A]:  
  ...  
  def map[B](f: A => B): List[B] = flatMap(x => List(f(x)))
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trait List[A]:  
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```

- A `withFilter` method that applies a **predicate** to the value inside the monad and returns a new monad.

```
List(1, 2, 3).withFilter(_ % 2 == 1).map(x => x) // List(1, 3)
```

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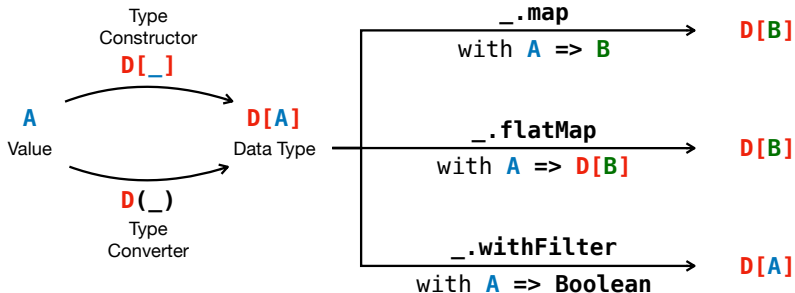
```
List(1, 2, 3).withFilter(_ % 2 == 1).map(x => x) // List(1, 3)
```

Or, we can simply use `filter` method:

```
List(1, 2, 3).filter(_ % 2 == 1) // List(1, 3)
```

```
// type constructor
trait D[A]:
  def map[B](f: A => B): D[B] = ???           // `map`
  def flatMap[B](f: A => D[B]): D[B] = ???   // `flatMap` (combinator)
  def withFilter(p: A => Boolean): D[A] = ??? // `withFilter`

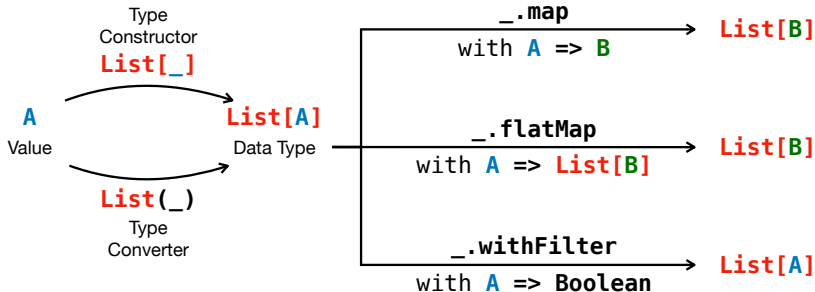
object D:
  def apply[A](value: A): D[A] = ???         // type converter
```



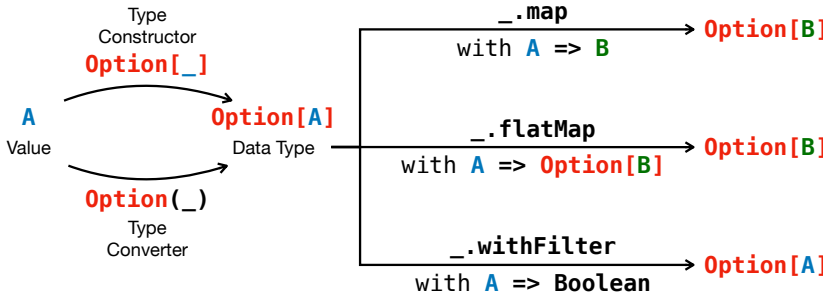
```

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

list.map("a" * _)                          // List("a", "aa")
list.flatMap(x => List(x%2 == 0, x<2))    // List(false, true, true, false)
list.withFilter(_ % 2 == 1)               // List(1, 3)
// In fact, we need _.map(x => x) to get List(1, 3)
// Or, use `filter` instead
list.filter(_ % 2 == 1)                   // List(1, 3)
    
```



```
val some: Option[Int] = Some(3)    // Some(3)
val none: Option[Int] = None      // None
some.map("a" * _)                 // Some("aaa")
none.map("a" * _)                 // None
some.flatMap(x => Some(x < 2))    // Some(false)
none.flatMap(x => Some(x < 2))    // None
some.filter(_ % 2 == 1)          // Some(1)
none.filter(_ % 2 == 1)          // None
```

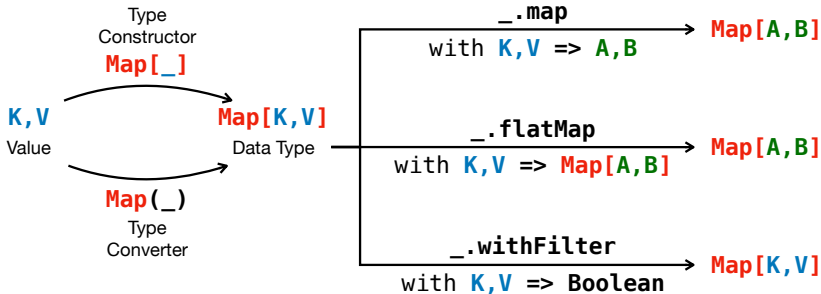


```
val map: Map[Int, String] = Map(1 -> "abc", 2 -> "d")

map.map { case (k, v) => (k, v.length) }
// Map(1 -> 3, 2 -> 1)

map.flatMap { case (k, v) => Map(k -> v, -k -> v.reverse) }
// Map(1 -> "abc", -1 -> "cba", 2 -> "d", -2 -> "d")

map.filter { case (k, v) => k % 2 == 1 }
// Map(1 -> "abc")
```



There are **three laws** that a monad must obey:

- **Left Identity**

$$\text{apply}(x).\text{flatMap}(f) == f(x)$$

- **Right Identity:**

$$m.\text{flatMap}(\text{apply}) == m$$

- **Associativity:**

$$\begin{aligned} m.\text{flatMap}(f).\text{flatMap}(g) \\ == \\ m.\text{flatMap}(x \Rightarrow f(x).\text{flatMap}(g)) \end{aligned}$$

Scala supports **for-comprehensions** as a syntactic sugar to work with operations on **monads** in a more **imperative** way.

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A **for-comprehension**¹ is a syntactic sugar:

```
val list = List(1, 2, 3)
for {
  x <- list if x % 2 == 1
  y <- List(x, -x)
} yield x * y
```

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A **for-comprehension**¹ is a syntactic sugar:

```
val list = List(1, 2, 3)
for {
  x <- list if x % 2 == 1
  y <- List(x, -x)
} yield x * y
```

is equivalent to:

```
list
  .withFilter(x => x % 2 == 1)
  .flatMap(x =>
    List(x, -x)
      .map(y => x * y)
  )
```

¹<https://docs.scala-lang.org/tour/for-comprehensions.html>

The **for-comprehension** syntax also supports **pattern matching**:

```
enum Shape:  
  case Circle(radius: Int)  
  case Rectangle(width: Int, height: Int)  
import Shape.*  
val shapes = List(Rectangle(2, 3), Circle(4), Rectangle(5, 6))
```

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for { // a list of areas of only rectangles in the list  
  case Rectangle(width, height) <- shapes  
} yield width * height // List(6, 30)
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```

```
for { // a list of areas of only rectangles in the list
  case Rectangle(width, height) <- shapes
} yield width * height // List(6, 30)
```

is equivalent to:

```
shapes.withFilter {
  case Rectangle(_, _) => true
  case _ => false
}.map {
  case Rectangle(width, height) => width * height
}
```

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Since they share the same **Iterable** trait, we can mix them in a single **for-comprehension** and freely convert between them.

```
val list: List[(Int, String)] = for {
  x <- List(1, 2, 3)
  if x % 2 == 1
  y <- Set(x - 1, x, x + 1)
  z <- if (y % 2 == 0) Some(y) else None
} yield (x, "a" * z)
// List((1, ""), (1, "aa"), (3, "aa"), (3, "aaaa"))

// Converting a list of tuples to a map
val map: Map[Int, String] = list.toMap
// Map(1 -> "aa", 3 -> "aaaa")
```

Most data structures in Scala are **monads**:

- All collections (subtypes of Iterable trait) in Scala
 - Seq – A sequence of elements (e.g., List, Vector, Range, Queue, etc.)
 - Set – A set of unique elements (e.g., HashSet, TreeSet, etc.)
 - Map – A map of key-value pairs (e.g., HashMap, TreeMap, etc.)
- **Functional error handling**
 - Option – Some for success, None for failure
 - Try – Success for success, Failure for failure
 - Either – Left for failure, Right for success
- **Concurrency**
 - Future – A value that will be available at some point

In addition, **Scalaz**² and **Cats**³ libraries provide more functional programming abstractions.

²<https://scalaz.github.io/>

³<https://typelevel.org/cats/>


```
def makeInt(s: String): Option[Int] =  
  try Some(Integer.parseInt(s)) catch case _: Exception => None
```

Let's define a function `addStrings` that takes three strings and returns the sum of the corresponding integers using `makeInt`.

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Let's define a function `addStrings` that takes three strings and returns the sum of the corresponding integers using `makeInt`.

Without **for-comprehension**, the implementation becomes too verbose:

```
def addStrings(s1: String, s2: String, s3: String): Option[Int] =  
  makeInt(s1) match  
    case Some(a) =>  
      makeInt(s2) match  
        case Some(b) =>  
          makeInt(s3) match  
            case Some(c) => Some(a + b + c)  
            case None => None  
        case None => None  
    case None => None
```

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def makeInt(s: String): Option[Int] =  
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```

Let's define a function `addStrings` that takes three strings and returns the sum of the corresponding integers using `makeInt`.

With **for-comprehension**, the implementation becomes more concise:

```
def addStrings(s1: String, s2: String, s3: String): Option[Int] = for {  
  a <- makeInt(s1)  
  b <- makeInt(s2)  
  c <- makeInt(s3)  
} yield a + b + c
```

```
addStrings("1", "2", "3") // Some(6)  
addStrings("x", "2", "3") // None
```

```
case class Book(title: String, authors: List[String], year: Int)
```

Consider a simple database of books, represented as a list of Book objects:

```
val books: List[Book] = List(  
  Book(  
    "Theory of Programming Languages",  
    List("John C. Reynolds"),  
    1998),  
  Book(  
    "Types and Programming Languages",  
    List("Benjamin C. Pierce"),  
    2002),  
  Book(  
    "Automata Theory, Languages, and Computation",  
    List("John E. Hopcroft", "Rajeev Motwani", "Jeffrey D. Ullman"),  
    2006),  
  Book(  
    "Compilers: Principles, Techniques, and Tools",  
    List("Alfred V. Aho", "Monica S. Lam", "Ravi Sethi", "Jeffrey D. Ullman"),  
    2006),  
)
```

```
case class Book(title: String, authors: List[String], year: Int)
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Find the titles of books whose authors has last name “Ullman”:

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Find the titles of books whose authors has last name “Ullman”:

```
for {  
  book <- books  
  author <- book.authors  
  if author.endsWith("Ullman")  
} yield book.title
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case class Book(title: String, authors: List[String], year: Int)
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Find the titles of books whose authors has last name “Ullman”:

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for {  
  book <- books  
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Find all pairs of books written by at least one common author:

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  if author.endsWith("Ullman")  
} yield book.title
```

Find all pairs of books written by at least one common author:

```
for {  
  book1 <- books  
  book2 <- books  
  if book1 != book2  
  author1 <- book1.authors  
  author2 <- book2.authors  
  if author1 == author2  
} yield (book1, book2)
```



```
val map: Map[Int, List[Int]] = Map(  
  1 -> List(3, 2, 10),  
  2 -> List(4, 5),  
  3 -> List(6, 7, 8, 2),  
  5 -> List(9, 10),  
)  
val keys: Set[Int] = Set(1, 3)
```

Find set of even values in the value lists for given keys in the map:

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val map: Map[Int, List[Int]] = Map(
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)
val keys: Set[Int] = Set(1, 3)
```

Find set of even values in the value lists for given keys in the map:

```
val list = for {
  (key, values) <- map
  if keys.contains(key)
  value <- values
  if value % 2 == 0
} yield value
// List(2, 10, 6, 8, 2)
val set = list.toSet
// Set(2, 6, 8, 10)
```

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Can we define a **tree monad**?

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Let's define a **tree monad** with 1) an integer and 2) sub-trees as children.

```
case class Tree(value: Int, children: List[Tree]):  
  def map(f: Int => Int): Tree = Tree(f(value), children.map(_.map(f)))  
  def flatMap(f: Int => Tree): Tree =  
    val Tree(v, cs) = f(value)  
    Tree(v, cs ++ children.map(_.flatMap(f)))  
  
object Tree:  
  def apply(value: Int): Tree = Tree(value, Nil)
```

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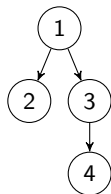
```
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  def flatMap(f: Int => Tree): Tree =  
    val Tree(v, cs) = f(value)  
    Tree(v, cs ++ children.map(_.flatMap(f)))  
  
object Tree:  
  def apply(value: Int): Tree = Tree(value, Nil)
```

We can verify that the **tree monad** obeys the three **monad laws**:

```
1) Tree(x).flatMap(f) == f(x)           // Left Identity  
2) m.flatMap(Tree.apply) == m           // Right Identity  
3) m.flatMap(f).flatMap(g)  
   == m.flatMap(x => f(x).flatMap(g))   // Associativity
```

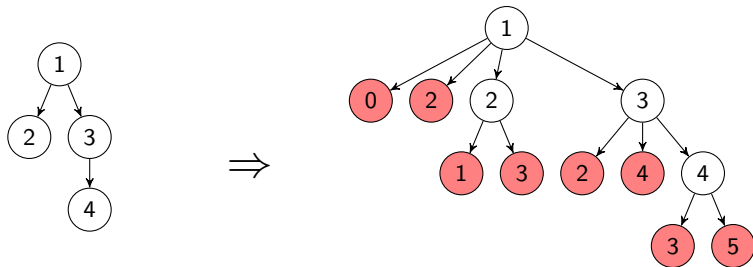
Let's utilize the **tree monad** to modify the values in a tree:

```
val tree = Tree(1, List(Tree(2), Tree(3, List(Tree(4)))))
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```
for {  
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  y <- Tree(x, List(Tree(x - 1), Tree(x + 1)))  
} yield y
```


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However, we often require **stateful computations**.

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Then, we can mimic them by returning **updated states** along with **results**:

```
case class Stack(values: List[Int]):  
  def push(value: Int): Stack = Stack(value :: values)  
  def pop: (Stack, Option[Int]) = values match  
    case Nil => (this, None)  
    case x :: xs => (Stack(xs), Some(x))
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```

```
val s0 = Stack(Nil)           // s0 = Stack(List())  
val s1 = s0.push(3)          // s1 = Stack(List(3))  
val s2 = s1.push(7)          // s2 = Stack(List(7, 3))  
val (s3, v1) = s2.pop         // s3 = Stack(List(3)),   v1 = Some(7)  
val (s4, v2) = s3.pop         // s4 = Stack(List()),   v2 = Some(3)  
val (s5, v3) = s4.pop         // s5 = Stack(List()),   v3 = None  
val s6 = s5.push(5)          // s6 = Stack(List(5))  
List(v1, v2, v3).flatten.sum // 10
```

A **state monad** encapsulates a **stateful computation**, a **function** that

- **takes** the **current state** and
- **returns** 1) the **updated state** along with 2) the **computation result**.

```
case class State[S, A](compute: S => (S, A)):  
  def map[B](f: A => B): State[S, B] = flatMap(x => State(f(x)))  
  def flatMap[B](f: A => State[S, B]): State[S, B] = State(s => {  
    val (s1, a) = compute(s)  
    f(a).compute(s1)  
  })  
  // No `withFilter` method for `State`  
object State:  
  def apply[S, A](a: A): State[S, A] = State(s => (s, a))
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    f(a).compute(s1)  
  })  
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We can verify that the **state monad** obeys the three **monad laws**:

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1) State(x).flatMap(f) == f(x)           // Left Identity  
2) m.flatMap(State.apply) == m           // Right Identity  
3) m.flatMap(f).flatMap(g)  
   == m.flatMap(x => f(x).flatMap(g))    // Associativity
```

Now, add helper methods to the **stack** using the **state monad**:

```
object Stack:  
  def push(v: Int): State[Stack, Unit] = State(s => (s.push(v), ()))  
  def pop: State[Stack, Option[Int]] = State(_.pop)
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Then, we can rewrite the previous example using the **state monad**:

```
import Stack.*, State.*  
val state = for {  
  _ <- push(3)  
  _ <- push(7)  
  v1 <- pop  
  v2 <- pop  
  v3 <- pop  
  _ <- push(5)  
} yield List(v1, v2, v3).flatten.sum  
state.compute(Stack(Nil)) // (Stack(List()), 10)
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We can **reuse** the computation with **different initial states**:

```
state.compute(Stack(List(1, 2))) // (Stack(List(5, 2)), 11)
```

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- Lazy Evaluation

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