Formal Methods & Functional Programming

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February 27, 2026

“*A funny quote by a professor*”
- Prof. Dr. Professor Name, YEAR

FS2026, ETHZ
Summary of the Script and Lectures

Contents

1 Haskell

Haskell is a functional programming language. As such, its functions can be thought of as being similar to mathematical functions and as such are side-effect-free.

Haskell's type system is very robust and an interesting topic to learn about. The basic data types you already know from other programming languages are also present here. This includes all primitives like integers, floating point numbers, chars and booleans.

Strings are handled similarly to how `C` does it, in that strings are char arrays.

Arrays however are dynamic length in Haskell as opposed to many other statically typed programming languages.

Since Haskell is an imperative language (i.e. you describe *what* you want achieve) as opposed to a declarative language (i.e. you describe *how* you achieve what you want to achieve), there are no loops in Haskell, as loops don't appear in mathematical formulas and functions either. What we can do however is recursion and this is the main way of doing iterative work in Haskell.

Additionally, Haskell features *lazy evaluation* (i.e. statements are evaluated only as needed) as opposed to *eager evaluation* (i.e. statemetns are evaluated immediately).

In this course the `Glasgow Haskell Compiler`, short `ghc` is used. Installation is really easy (as long as you're on Linux)

1.1 The bad news: The syntax

In short: It's quite bad, but you will get used to it and some of the (arguably) poor looking syntax choices will start to make more sense.

You should use 2 space indents (yuck) and indents matter, just like in Python.

We can use binary functions in infix or prefix notation, i.e. `x ‘mod‘ z` and `mod x z` are equivalent.

For integers the following functions are available: Normal arithmetic operations `+, -, *, /, mod, abs`, as well as `^` which is used for exponentiation.

To use prefix notation on non-alphanumeric function names, wrap them in parenthesis like this: `(+) x z`. Using `+ x z` does not work.

We can use the normal comparison operators that return a boolean on evaluation. ***Booleans*** are `True` and `False`