All I needed for FP I learned in High School Algebra



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• Sum up all the rocks for the year

Average # of rocks per day

Biggest week

Smallest month

For the video and transcript of this presentation, click here:

https://lispcast.com/all-i-needed-for-fp-i-learned-in-high-s chool-algebra/

What makes numbers, an abstract idea, so useful for modeling real piles of rocks?

Correspondence of Properties

Information System

Distributed and Concurrent

Parallelization/ Distributed work

In distributed/parallel work, work comes back out of order

Order doesn't matter





b ╉ а





b a ╋

a + b = b + a

(f a b)

(f a b) (f b a) (= (f a b) (f b a))

(f a)

(g (f a))

(g (f a)) (g a)

(g (f a)) (f (g a))

(= (g (f a)) (f (g a)))

Parallelization/ Distributed work

Need to break up task to give to workers

Need to combine groups of answers

Needs to be cheap to break up and recombine groups

Grouping doesn't matter



a

5





3

1

С

╋

b

╋



(a + b)



С

╉

3



a + b + c









3

С

╉

╋

b



а

╋

5

(b + c)

4



a + b + c

(a + b) + c = a + (b + c)

a b c a b c

(fab) cable cable

(f a b) c a (f b c)

(f (f a b) c) (f a (f b c))

(f (f a b) c) (f a (f b c))

(= (f (f a b) c) (f a (f b c)))

Types

(= (f (f a b) c)
 (f a (f b c)))

return value of f and its two arguments need to be the same type

Whole Values

Combining two piles makes a new pile

Concatenating two lists makes a new list

Self-contained

(defn average [a b] (/ (+ a b) 2))

Order doesn't matter

Does grouping matter?

(= (average (average a b) c) (average a (average b c)) a = 10, b = 4, c = 6(average 10 4) => 7(average 7 6) => 6.5(average 4 6) => 5

(average 10 5) => 7.5

```
function average(numbers) {
  var sum = 0;
  var count = 0;
 for(i = 0; i < numbers.length; i++) {
   sum += numbers[i];
   count += 1;
  }
 if(count === 0) {
    return null;
  }
  return sum / count;
}
```

```
function average(numbers) {
  var sum = 0;
  var count = 0;
  for(i = 0; i < numbers.length; i++) {</pre>
    sum += numbers[i];
    count += 1;
  }
  if(count === 0) {
    return null;
  }
  return sum / count;
}
```

(defn combine [[sum1 count1] [sum2 count2]]
 [(+ sum1 sum2) (+ count1 count2)])

(defn ->average [number]
 [number 1])

(defn average [numbers]
 (reduce combine (map ->average numbers)))

Where do you start a computation?

a + 0 = a

(f a i)

(= (f a i) a)

(defn combine [[sum1 count1] [sum2 count2]]
 [(+ sum1 sum2) (+ count1 count2)])

(defn ->average [number]
 [number 1])

(defn average [numbers]
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  return sum / count;
}
```

(defn combine [[sum1 count1] [sum2 count2]]
 [(+ sum1 sum2) (+ count1 count2)])

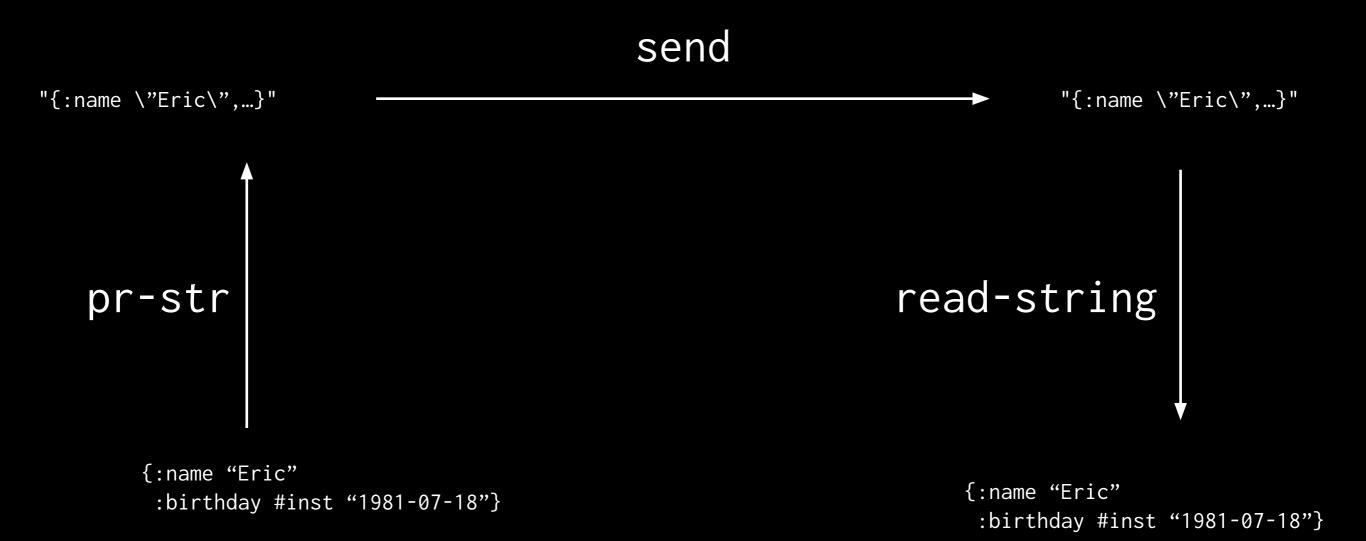
(defn ->average [number]
 [number 1])

(defn average [numbers]
 (reduce combine [0 0] (map ->average numbers)))



Going back and forth matters

Great for moving into a new space, doing a calculation, then moving back



(f a)

(g (f a))

(= (g (f a)) a)

(defn combine [[sum1 count1] [sum2 count2]]
 [(+ sum1 sum2) (+ count1 count2)])

(defn ->average [number]
 [number 1])

(defn average [numbers] (reduce combine [0 0] (map ->average numbers))) (defn combine [[sum1 count1] [sum2 count2]]
 [(+ sum1 sum2) (+ count1 count2)])

(defn ->average [number]
 [number 1])

(defn average-> [[sum count]]
 (/ sum count))

(defn average [numbers] (->> numbers (map ->average) (reduce combine [0 0]) average->))



Distributed

Messages arrive one or more times

Distributed

Independent workers have to coordinate to avoid duplicate work

Duplicates don't matter



(= (-> m
 (assoc :a "hello")
 (assoc :a "hello"))
 (-> m
 (assoc :a "hello"))

(= (f a) (f a))

(= (f (f a)) (f a))

(def button-state (atom {}))

```
(defn press! [button-id]
  (swap! button-state assoc button-id true))
```

```
(press! :3rd-floor-north-up)
(press! :3rd-floor-north-up)
(press! :3rd-floor-north-up)
```

Nothing else matters

Know when to end

Circuit-breaking

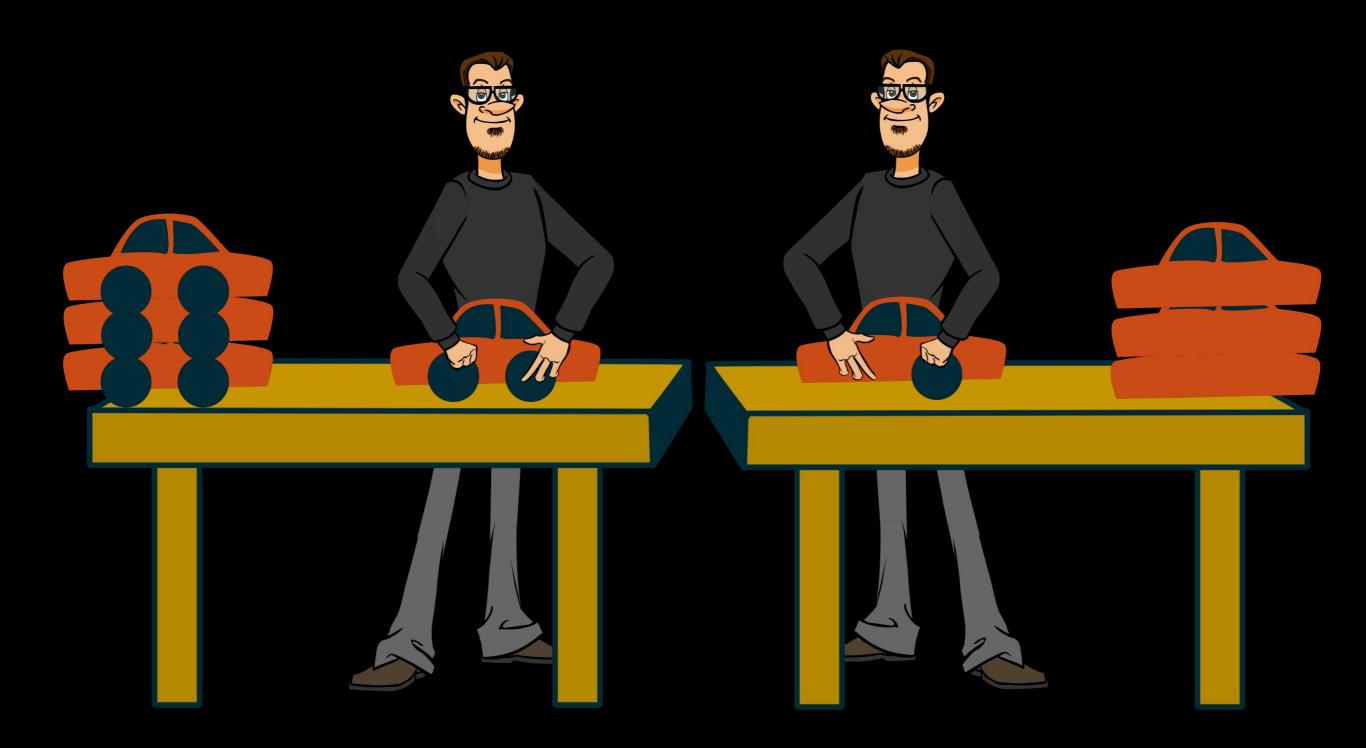
a * b * c * 0 * d * e * f

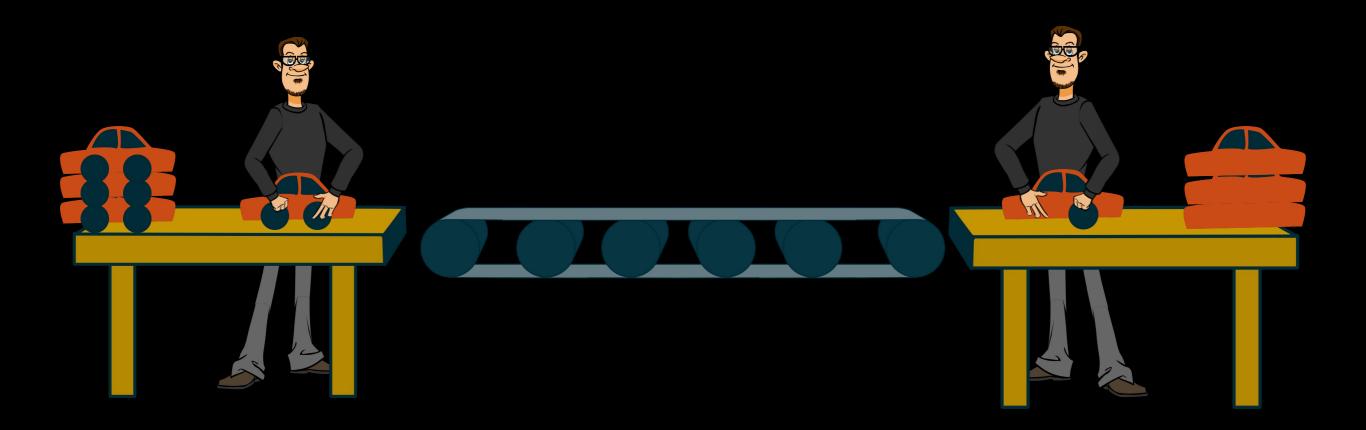
a * 0 = 0

(f a z)

(= (f a z) z)







Splitting up work and recombining it matters

Great for arranging and rearranging work in a pipeline

Composing transducers

(= (->> cars)(map add-back-wheel) (map add-front-wheel)) (->> cars(map (comp add-front-wheel add-back-wheel))))

(= (map identity a) a)

(= (map identity a) a) (map g a)

(= (map identity a) a) (map f (map g a))

(= (map identity a) a) (map f (map g a)) (comp f g)

(= (map identity a) a)

(map f (map g a))
(map (comp f g) a)

(= (map identity a) a) (= (map f (map g a)) (map (comp f g) a))

Conclusions

Commutative	Order doesn't matter	(= (f a b) (f b a))
Associative	Grouping doesn't matter	(= (f (f a b) c) (f a (f b c)))
Identity value	Where to start	(= (f a i) a)
Zero value	When to stop	(= (f a z) z)
Idempotence	Duplicates don't matter	(= (f (f a)) (f a))
Reversibility	Going back and forth	(= (g (f a)) a)
Structure Preservation	Rearranging work	<pre>(= (m identity a) a) (= (m (comp f g) a) (m f (m g a)))</pre>

These properties are what allow us to do our work

(= (f a b) (f b a))) Algebraic properties make great test.check properties



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