# Evaluating Functions 

## and Conditionals

25 January 2024


## Assignment 1

Out today, at 5 p.m.
Due on Wednesday by 11:59 p.m.

I will make every effort to give each of you the attention and feedback you need to be successful in this course - but there's only one of me! Therefore, I rely on the coaches to help me help answer your questions.

In addition to working during our labs each week, each coach will be available to help you in the Agile Lab (sc 006) at scheduled times.

Important: The coaches are prohibited from giving you the solutions to labs and
assignments, but they are able to guide you as you work to solve your programming tasks.
When this works well, they will help you answer your own questions!


Where are we?

## We've been using Pyret to write expressions using

```
data, including
    numbers like 0, -10, and 0.4;
    strings like "", "hi", and "111"; and
    images like , a.k.a., circle(2, "solid", "red"),
    which we modify or combine using operators like + and * and
    functions like string-append and above.
```

$$
f(42)
$$

```
What
function
to call
```



"Call fon 42 ."


Distinguishing types of data helps to catch mistakes.

If you try to give
a string to / or
a number to overlay,
we want Pyret to catch the problem right away, giving a helpful error message.

## Fail-fast system

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> This article includes a list of general references, but it lacks sufficient corresponding inline citations. Please help to improve this article by introducing more precise citations. (June 2016) (Learn how and when to remove this template message)

In systems design, a fail-fast system is one which immediately reports at its interface any condition that is likely to indicate a failure. Fail fast systems are usually designed to stop normal operation rather than attempt to continue a possibly flawed process. Such designs often check the system's state at several points in an operation, so any failures can be detected early. The responsibility of a fail-fast module is detecting errors, then letting the next-highest level of the system handle them.

## Hardware and software [ edit]

## Fail-fast systems or modules are desirable in several circumstances:

- Fail-fast architectures are based on an error handling policy where any detected error or non-contemplated state makes the system fail (fast). In some sense the error handling policy is the opposite of that used in a fault-tolerant system. In a fault-tolerant system an error handling policy is established to have redundant components and move computation requests to alive components when some component fails. Paradoxically fail-fast systems make fault-tolerant systems more resilient. We can have 10 redundant servers for a given database, but if the shared configuration for the 10 servers is updated with wrong authentication data for clients, all of them will 'redundantly fail". In that sense, a fail-fast system will get sure that all the 10 redundant servers fail as soon as possible to make the DevOps react fast.
- Fail-fast components are often used in situations where failure in one component might not be visible until it leads to failure in another component as a consequence of lazy initialization. e.g. "The system that is "doomed" to fail because a file-system path is wrongly setup, does it not fail at startup because the file-system path is not checked at startup. Only when a client-request arrives the system fails, at random, later on
- Finding the cause of a failure is easier in a fail-fast system, because the system reports the failure with as much information as possible as close to the time of failure as possible. In a fault-tolerant system, the failure might go undetected, whereas in a system that is neither fault-tolerant nor fail-fast the failure might be temporarily hidden until it causes some seemingly unrelated problem later
- A fail-fast system that is designed to halt as well as report the error on failure is less likely to erroneously perform an irreversible or costly operation.
Developers also refer to code as fail-fast if it tries to fail as soon as possible at variable or object initialization. In object-oriented

We've seen that we can create more complicated programs by composing function calls, e.g.,

$$
1+(2 / 3)
$$

or

```
string-append("hello ",
    string-append("Pyret ", "world!"))
```

And we can give a name to the result of an expression, e.g.,

$$
\text { total }=2+3
$$

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$$
\text { total }=2+3
$$

Directory

Name
Value

And we can give a name to the result of an expression, e.g.,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\text { total } & =2+3 \\
\rightarrow \text { total } & =5
\end{aligned}
$$

Directory
Name
Value
total

And we can give a name to the result of an expression, e.g.,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\text { total } & =2+3 \\
\rightarrow \text { total } & =5
\end{aligned}
$$

Directory

| Name | Value |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| total | 5 |  |

And we can give a name to the result of an expression, e.g.,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\text { total } & =2+3 \\
\rightarrow \text { total } & =5
\end{aligned}
$$

Directory

| Name | Value |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| total | 5 |  |

new-total $=$ total +1

And we can give a name to the result of an expression, e.g.,

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \quad \text { total }=2+3 \\
& \rightarrow \text { total }=5 \\
& \quad \text { new-total }=\text { total }+1
\end{aligned}
$$

Directory

| Name | Value |
| :--- | :--- |
| total |  |
| new-total |  |

And we can give a name to the result of an expression, e.g.,

Directory

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { total }=2+3 \\
\rightarrow \text { total }=5
\end{array} \quad \begin{gathered}
\text { Name } \\
\hline \text { notal } \\
\text { new-total }=\text { total }+1
\end{gathered}
$$

And we can give a name to the result of an expression, e.g.,

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \quad \text { total }=2+3 \\
& \rightarrow \text { total }=5
\end{aligned} \quad \begin{aligned}
& \text { new-total }=\text { total }+1 \\
& \rightarrow \text { new-total }=5+1
\end{aligned}
$$

Directory

| Name | Value |
| :--- | :--- |
| total | 5 |
| new-total |  |

And we can give a name to the result of an expression, e.g.,

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \quad \text { total }=2+3 \\
& \rightarrow \text { total }=5
\end{aligned} \quad \begin{aligned}
& \text { new-total }=\text { total }+1 \\
& \rightarrow \text { new-total }=5+1 \\
& \rightarrow \text { new-total }=6
\end{aligned}
$$

Directory

| Name | Value |
| :--- | :--- |
| total | 5 |
| new-total |  |

And we can give a name to the result of an expression, e.g.,

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \quad \text { total }=2+3 \\
& \rightarrow \text { total }=5
\end{aligned} \quad \begin{aligned}
& \text { new-total }=\text { total }+1 \\
& \rightarrow \text { new-total }=5+1 \\
& \rightarrow \text { new-total }=6
\end{aligned}
$$

Directory

| Name | Value |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| total | 5 |  |
| new-total 6 |  |  |

## Defining and evaluating functions

Remember functions from middle-school math:

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { Given } f(x)=\cos (x)+2 & \begin{array}{l}
\text { The parameter } x \text { stands } \\
\text { for varying values }
\end{array} \\
f(0)=1+2=z
\end{array}
$$

Pyret functions work much the same way:
fun $f(x):$ num- $\cos (x)+2$ end
f(0)
$\rightarrow$ num- $\cos (x)+2$
$\rightarrow$ num- $\cos (0)+2$
$\rightarrow 1+2$
$\rightarrow 3$

|  | Name |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Value |  |
| $x$ | 0 |  |

Note that the parameter names are only defined inside the function body:

```
)> fun f(x): num-cos(x) + 2 end
),) f(0)
3
),) x
Error!
```

Once the function is finished, the names are removed from the directory.

We say a parameter name has only local scope, while names defined outside a function have global scope.

Example

Mary Berry needs to know how many cakes to bake for her cake shop.

To avoid running out or having too many, she wants to bake two cakes more than the number she sold the previous day.
E.g., if Mary sells eight cakes on Monday, she makes ten cakes on Tuesday.

Let's write some code to help Mary.

fun cakes-to-make(num-sold): num-sold +2
end

end
fun cakes-to-make(num-sold): num-sold +2
end

end
fun cakes-to-make(num-sold): num-sold +2
end

fun cakes-to-make(num-sold): num-sold +2
end
fun cakes-to-make(num-sold): num-sold + 2

How to transform the data
fun cakes-to-make(num-sold): num-sold +2
end
fun cakes-to-make(num-sold): num-sold + 2

fun cakes-to-make(num-sold): num-sold +2
end

## Functions are abstractions over specific computations

\# Draw a traffic light
above( circle(40, "solid", "red"),
above(circle(40, "solid", "yellow"), circle(40, "solid", "green"))
\# Draw a traffic light
above( circle(40, "solid", "red"),
above(circle(40, "solid", "yellow"),
circle(40, "solid", "green"))
\# Draw a traffic light above( circle(40, "solid", "red"), above(circle(40, "solid", "yellow"), circle(40, "solid", "green"))

```
Unchanging
```

Varying
\# Draw a traffic light
above(circle(40, "solid", "red"),
above(circle(40, "solid", "yellow"), circle(40, "solid", "green")))

```
# Draw a traffic light
above(circle(40, "solid", "red"),
    above(circle(40, "solid", "yellow"),
        circle(40, "solid", "green")))
# Can be changed to
fun bulb(color):
    circle(40, "solid", color)
end
above(bulb("red"),
    above(bulb("yellow"),
        bulb("green")))
```

```
fun bulb(color):
    circle(40, "solid", color)
end
above(bulb("red"),
    above(bulb("yellow"),
        bulb("green")))
```

fun bulb(color):
circle(40, "solid", color)
end
fun traffic-light(): above(bulb("red"), above(bulb("yellow"), bulb("green")))
end

Remember: Each function has one job!

Example

For Mary's cake shop, we want to determine the price of each cake based on the cost of the ingredients and the time to prepare it.

As the price, she uses twice the cost of the ingredients plus $1 / 4$ of the preparation time in minutes.

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Chocolate cake Ingredients: \$10 Prep. time: 20 min .

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As the price, she uses twice the cost of the ingredients plus $1 / 4$ of the preparation time in minutes.

Chocolate cake Ingredients: \$10 Prep. time: 20 min.

$$
\text { choc-cake-price }=(2 * 10)+(1 / 4 * 20)
$$

## For Mary's cake shop, we want to determine the price of each cake based on the cost of the ingredients and the time to prepare it.

As the price, she uses twice the cost of the ingredients plus $1 / 4$ of the preparation time in minutes.

Chocolate cake Ingredients: \$10 Prep. time: 20 min .

Cheesecake
Ingredients: \$15
Prep. time: 36 min.

## For Mary's cake shop, we want to determine the price of each cake based on the cost of the ingredients and the time to prepare it.

As the price, she uses twice the cost of the ingredients plus $1 / 4$ of the preparation time in minutes.

Chocolate cake Ingredients: \$10 Prep. time: 20 min .

$$
\text { choc-cake-price }=(2 * 10)+(1 / 4 * 20)
$$

```
We use functions to avoid repetitive code when we need to perform the same operations on different values.
```

We use functions to
avoid repetitive code
when we need to
perform the same
operations on different
values.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { choc-cake-price }=(2 * 10+(1 / 4 * 20 \\
& \text { cheesecake-price }=(2 * 15+(1 / 4 * 36
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
(2 \text { * ingredients-cost) + (1/4 * prep-time) }
$$

We use functions to
avoid repetitive code
when we need to
perform the same
operations on different
values.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { choc-cake-price }=(2 * 10+(1 / 4 * 20 \\
& \text { cheesecake-price }=(2 * 15+(1 / 4 * 36
\end{aligned}
$$

fun cake-price(ingredients-cost, prep-time): (2 * ingredients-cost) + (1/4 * prep-time)


The parameters are the values passed into the function
that it needs to know for each operation.
fun cake-price(ingredients-cost, prep-time): (2 * ingredients-cost) + (1/4 * prep-time) end
Expression repeated each time the function is called

```
fun cake-price(ingredients-cost, prep-time):
    (2 * ingredients-cost) + (1/4 * prep-time)
```

end
\# Price of chocolate cake cake-price(10, 20)
\# Price of cheesecake cake-price(15, 36)

To calculate the price of chocolate cake or cheesecake, you just call your function and pass in the relevant values!

## Improving our function definitions

```
fun cake-price(ingredients-cost :: Number,
    prep-time :: Number):
    (2 * ingredients-cost) + (1/4 * prep-time)
```

We specify the type of each parameter so that Pyret will check that we pass in the right kind of values, just like for built-in operations like + and above.

```
fun cake-price(ingredients-cost :: Number,
    prep-time :: Number) -> Number:
    (2 * ingredients-cost) + (1/4 * prep-time)
```

And we can specify the type of value the function returns.


Programming as jgordon@vassar.edu.

```
fun cake-price(ingredients-cost :: Number,
    prep-time :: Number) -> Number:
    doc: "Calculate price of cake based on
ingredient cost and preparation time"
    (2 * ingredients-cost) + (1/4 * prep-time)
end
```

Additionally, a docstring explains what the function does.
fun cake-price(ingredients-cost : : Number, prep-time : : Number) -> Number:
doc: "Calculate price of cake based on ingredient cost and preparation time" (2 * ingredients-cost) + (1/4 * prep-time) where:
\# Price of chocolate cake cake-price $(10,20)$ is (2 * 10) $+(1 / 4$ * 20)
\# Price of cheesecake
cake-price $(15,36)$ is $(2 * 15)+(1 / 4 * 36)$
end




fun rectangle-area(r): image-height(r) * image-width(r) end
fun rectangle-area(r : : Image) -> Number:
doc: "Return the rectangular area of the image"
image-height(r) * image-width(r)
where:
rectangle-area(rectangle(0, 0, "solid", "black")) is 0
rectangle-area(rectangle(2, 3, "outline", "blue")) is 6
end
fun rectangle-area(r : : Image) -> Number:
doc: "Return the rectangular area of the image" image-height(r) * image-width(r)

## where:

tiny = rectangle(0, 0, "solid", "black")
rectangle-area(tiny) is 0
blue = rectangle(2, 3, "outline", "blue") rectangle-area(blue) is 6

## Booleans and if expressions

true
false

We can compare values using these operators

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
< & \text { less than } \\
<= & \text { less than or equal to } \\
> & \text { greater than } \\
>= & \text { greater than or equal to } \\
== & \text { equal to } \\
<> & \text { not equal to }
\end{array}
$$

which produce true or false as a result.

Be careful:

$$
x=2
$$

is assigning the name $\mathbf{x}$ to have the value $\mathbf{2}$ in the directory.

$$
x=2
$$

is asking the question "is $x$ equal to 2 ?"

Boolean expressions can also be combined using the operators
and
true if both inputs are true;
false otherwise
or
false if both inputs are false;
true otherwise
) $)$ ) true and false
false
, ) true or false
true
) $(1<2)$ and $(2>3)$
false
’) $(1<=0)$ or $(1==1)$
true

To change an expression that evaluates to true to be false - or vice versa - use the not function:
, ${ }^{\prime}$ ) not(true)
false
) , $) \operatorname{not}(1==0)$

```
i1 = rectangle(10, 20, "solid", "red")
i2 = rectangle(20, 10, "solid", "blue")
```

image-width(i1) < image-width(i2)
rect $=$ rectangle(10, 20, "solid", "red")
if image-width(rect) < image-height(rect):
"portrait"
else:
"landscape"
end
if ... else ... end is a conditional expression.
Conditionals allow us to branch - maybe we evaluate this expression, or maybe this other expression instead!

To form an if expression:


## How an if expression is evaluated

```
if 1< 2:
    "All is right in the world"
else:
    "Watch out for flying pigs"
end
```

1 If the question expression is not a value, evaluate it, and replace with the resulting value.

## How an if expression is evaluated

```
if true:
    "All is right in the world"
else:
    "Watch out for flying pigs"
end
```

1 If the question expression is not a value, evaluate it, and replace with the resulting value.

## How an if expression is evaluated

```
if true:
    "All is right in the world"
else:
    "Watch out for flying pigs"
end
```

2 If the question is true, replace the entire if expression with the true ("then") answer expression.

## How an if expression is evaluated

## "All is right in the world"

2 If the question is true, replace the entire if expression with the true ("then") answer expression.

## How an if expression is evaluated

```
if false:
    "All is right in the world"
else:
    "Watch out for flying pigs"
end
```

3 If the question is false, replace the entire if expression with the false ("else") answer expression.

## How an if expression is evaluated

```
"Watch out for flying pigs"
```

3 If the question is false, replace the entire if expression with the false ("else") answer expression.

## How an if expression is evaluated

```
if 42:
    "All is right in the world"
else:
    "Watch out for flying pigs"
end
```

4 Otherwise, the question must be a value other than true or false, so produce an error.

## How an if expression is evaluated

```
Evaluating a expression in <builtin definitions://> errored.
It was expected to produce a "Boolean", but it produced a non"Boolean" value:
42
(Show program evaluation trace...)
```

4 Otherwise, the question must be a value other than true or false, so produce an error.

```
rect = rectangle(10, 20, "solid", "red")
```

if image-width(rect) < image-height(rect):
"portrait"
What's wrong with this code?
else:
"landscape"
end

```
rect = rectangle(10, 20, "solid", "red")
if image-width(rect) < image-height(rect):
    "portrait"
else if image-width(rect) == image-height(rect):
    "square"
else:
    "landscape"
end
```

```
rect = rectangle(10, 20, "solid", "red")
fun image-type(img :: Image) -> String:
    doc: "Classify an image as portrait, square, or landscape"
    if image-width(img) < image-height(img):
        "portrait"
    else if image-width(img) == image-height(img):
        "square"
    else:
        "landscape"
    end
where:
    image-type(rect) is "portrait"
end
```

```
rect = rectangle(10, 20, "solid", "red")
fun image-type(img :: Image) -> String:
    doc: "Classify an image as portrait, square, or landscape"
    if image-width(img) < image-height(img):
        "portrait"
    else if image-width(img) == image-height(img):
        "square"
    else:
        "landscape"
    end
where:
    image-type(rect) is "portrait"
    image-type(rectangle(10, 10, "solid", "blue")) is "square"
    image-type(rectangle(20, 10, "solid", "blue")) is "landscape"
end
```


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