

Functions as Objects

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In fact function values *are* treated as objects in Scala.

The function type $A \Rightarrow B$ is just an abbreviation for the class `scala.Function1[A, B]`, which is defined as follows.

```
package scala
trait Function1[A, B] {
  def apply(x: A): B
}
```

So functions are objects with `apply` methods.

There are also traits `Function2`, `Function3`, ... for functions which take more parameters (currently up to 22).

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is expanded to:

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    def apply(x: Int) = x * x  
  }  
  new AnonFun  
}
```

or, shorter, using *anonymous class syntax*:

```
new Function1[Int, Int] {  
  def apply(x: Int) = x * x  
}
```

Expansion of Function Calls

A function call, such as $f(a, b)$, where f is a value of some class type, is expanded to

```
f.apply(a, b)
```

So the OO-translation of

```
val f = (x: Int) => x * x  
f(7)
```

would be

```
val f = new Function1[Int, Int] {  
  def apply(x: Int) = x * x  
}  
f.apply(7)
```

Functions and Methods

Note that a method such as

```
def f(x: Int): Boolean = ...
```

is not itself a function value.

But if `f` is used in a place where a Function type is expected, it is converted automatically to the function value

```
(x: Int) => f(x)
```

or, expanded:

```
new Function1[Int, Boolean] {  
  def apply(x: Int) = f(x)  
}
```


Exercise

In package week4, define an

```
object List {  
  ...  
}
```

with 3 functions in it so that users can create lists of lengths 0-2 using syntax

```
List()      // the empty list  
List(1)     // the list with single element 1  
List(2, 3)  // the list with elements 2 and 3.
```