

Functional Programming & Kotlin

Pick the Best - Skip the Rest



by Urs Peter

LinkedIn: bit.ly/urs-peter-linked-in

Email: upeter@xebia.com

Blog: xebia.com/blog/



About Me:

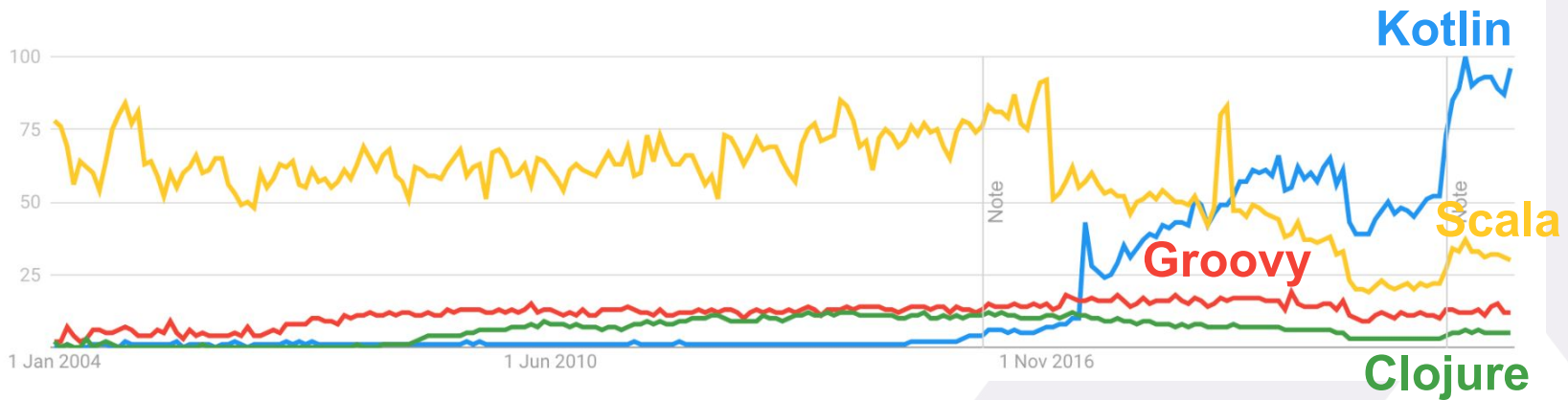


Why this talk?



Why?

Interest over time



https://trends.google.com/trends/explore?date=all&q=%2Fm%2F0_lcrx4.%2Fm%2F02js86.%2Fm%2F091hdj.%2Fm%2F03yb8hb

Nice to meet:

Y  U

Let's start a 'transforming' journey

Starting point:
**The swamps of
Imperative Programming**



Programming Styles

Imperative programming

Imperative programming relies on *declaring variables that are mutated along the way*.

```
fun findBestDev(lang: String): Developer? {  
    var devs: List<Developer>  
    try {  
        devs = get<Developer>()  
    } catch (ex: Exception) {  
        return null  
    }  
    var result = mutableListOf<Developer>()  
    for (dev in devs) {  
        if (dev.languages.contains(language))  
            result.add(dev)  
    }  
    if (result.isEmpty()) {  
        return null  
    }  
    result.sortBy { it.experience }  
    return result[0]  
}
```

var's

loops

mutable objects

mutable collections

multiple return

Programming Styles

Imperative programming

Imperative programming relies on *declaring variables that are mutated along the way*.

```
fun findBestDev(lang: String): Developer? {
    var devs:List<Developer>
    try {
        devs = get<Developer>()
    } catch (ex:Exception) {
        return null
    }
    var result = mutableListOf<Developer>()
    for(dev in devs) {
        if(dev.languages.contains(language))
            result.add(dev)
    }
    if(result.isEmpty()) {
        return null
    }
    result.sortBy { it.experience }
    return result[0]
}
```

Expression oriented programming

Expression oriented programming relies on thinking in *functions* where every *input* results in an *output*:

```
fun findBestDev(lang: String): Developer? =
    try {
        get<Developer>()
        .filter { it.languages.contains(lang) }
        .maxByOrNull { it.experience }
    } catch (ex:Exception) {
        null
    }
}
```

immutable features like
data classes and val's

immutable collections

expression constructs

higher-order functions

Programming Styles

Imperative programming

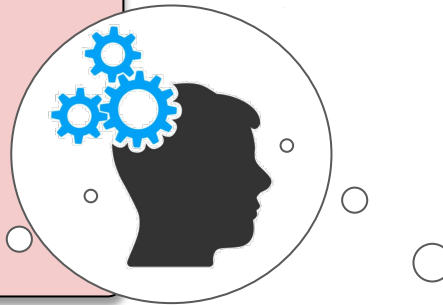
Imperative programming relies on *declaring variables* that are *mutated* along the way.

```
fun findBestDev(lang: String): Developer? {
    var devs: List<Developer>
    try {
        devs = client.getAll<Developer>()
    } catch (ex: Exception) {
        return null
    }
    var result = mutableListOf<Developer>()
    for (dev in devs) {
        if (dev.languages.contains(language))
            result.add(dev)
    }
    if (result.isEmpty()) {
        return null
    }
    result.sortBy { it.experience }
    return result[0]
}
```

Expression oriented programming

Expression oriented programming relies on thinking in *functions* where every *input* results in an *output*:

```
fun findBestDev(lang: String): Developer? =
    try {
        client.getAll<Developer>()
            .filter { it.languages.contains(lang) }
            .maxByOrNull { it.experience }
    } catch (ex: Exception) {
        null
    }
}
```



Thinking in terms of:

Mutating data, side-effects

Thinking in terms of:

Transforming data, Input/Output

Programming Styles

Imperative programming

Imperative programming relies on *declaring variables* that are *mutated* along the way.

```
fun findBestDev(lang: String): Developer? {
    var devs: List<Developer>
    try {
        devs = client.getAll<Developer>()
    } catch (ex: Exception) {
        return null
    }
    var result = mutableListOf<Developer>()
    for (dev in devs) {
        if (dev.languages.contains(language))
            result.add(dev)
    }
    if (result.isEmpty()) {
        return null
    }
    result.sortBy { it.experience }
    return result[0]
}
```

Expression oriented programming

Expression oriented programming relies on thinking in *functions* where every *input* results in an *output*:

```
fun findBestDev(lang: String): Developer? =
    try {
        client.getAll<Developer>()
            .filter { it.languages.contains(lang) }
            .maxByOrNull { it.experience }
    } catch (ex: Exception) {
        null
    }
}
```



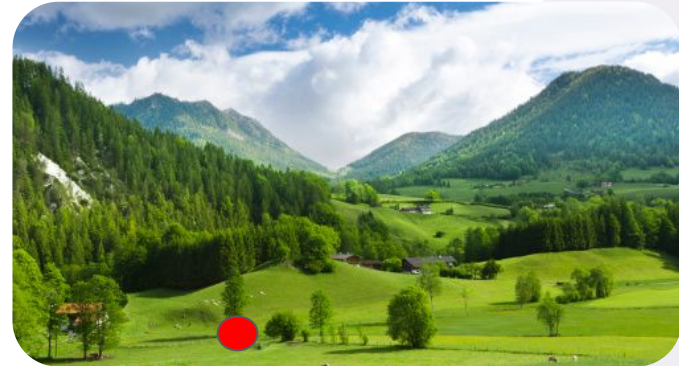
Results in conciser, expressive,
deterministic, better testable and
clearly scoped code that is easier to
reason about compared to the
imperative style.

Welcome to:

The swamps of
imperative programming



The fruitful valley of
**Expression Oriented
Programming**



But how to deal with mutable API's?

```
fun devsToFile(fileName:String):Stats {  
    val client = RestClient()  
    client.username = "xyz"  
    client.secret = System.getenv("pwd")  
    client.url = "https://..."  
    client.initAccessToken()  
    try{  
        val file = File(fileName)  
        file.createNewFile()  
        file.setWritable(true)  
        val devs = client.getAll<Developer>()  
        require(devs.isNotEmpty()){  
            val msg = "No devs found"  
            LOG.error(msg)  
            msg  
        }  
        devs.forEach { file.appendText(it.toCSV()) }  
        return Stats(devs.size, file.length())  
    }  
    finally {  
        client.close()  
    }  
}
```

Something with
a RestClient

Something with
a File

Something with
Developers

Again something
with File and
Developers

Again something
with RestClient

*Looks a bit
messy to me, but I
can't help it because
RestClient and File
are mutable by
nature...*



With clearly scoped code!

```
fun devsToFile(fileName:String):Result {
    val client = RestClient()
    client.username = "reader"
    client.secret = System.getenv("pwd")
    client.url = "https://..."
    client.initAccessToken()
    try{
        val file = File(fileName)
        file.createNewFile()
        file.setWritable(true)
        val devs = client.getAll<Developer>()
        require(devs.isNotEmpty()){
            val msg = "No devs found"
            LOG.error(msg)
            msg
        }
        devs.forEach{file.appendText(it.toCSV())}
        return Result(devs.size, file.length())
    }
    finally {
        client.close()
    }
}
```

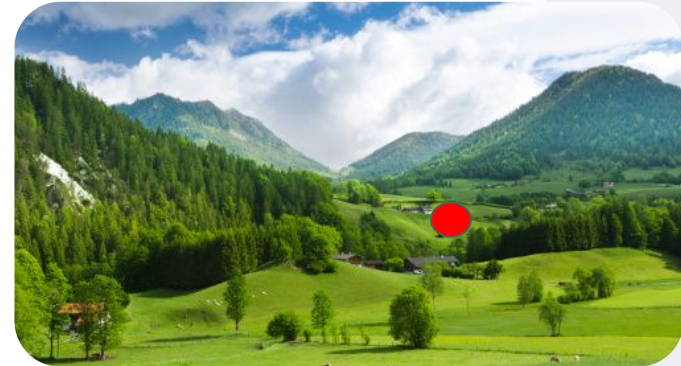
```
fun devsToFile(fileName: String): Result =
    RestClient().apply {
        username = "reader"
        secret = System.getenv("pwd")
        url = "https://..."
        initAccessToken()
    }.use { client ->
        client.getAll<Developer>().let { devs ->
            require(devs.isNotEmpty()) {
                "No devs found".also { LOG.error(it) }
            }
            File(fileName).run {
                createNewFile()
                setWritable(true)
                devs.forEach{appendText(it.toCSV())}
                Result(devs.size, length())
            }
        }
    }
}
```

Welcome to:

The swamps of
imperative programming



The fruitful valley of
**Expression Oriented
Programming** with clearly
scoped code



How to re-use Control Structures?

```
fun devsToCsvFile(fileName: String): Stats =
    RestClient().apply {
        username = "reader"
        secret = System.getenv("pwd")
        url = "https://..."
        initAccessToken()
    }.use { client ->
        client.getAll<Developer>().let { devs ->
            require(devs.isNotEmpty()) {
                "No devs found".also { LOG.error(it) }
            }

            File(fileName).run {
                createNewFile()
                setWritable(true)
                devs.forEach { appendText(it.toCSV()) }
                Stats(devs.size, length())
            }
        }
    }
}
```

```
fun devsToTsvFile(fileName: String): Stats =
    RestClient().apply {
        username = "reader"
        secret = System.getenv("pwd")
        url = "https://..."
        initAccessToken()
    }.use { client ->
        client.getAll<Developer>().let { devs ->
            require(devs.isNotEmpty()) {
                "No devs found".also { LOG.error(it) }
            }

            File(fileName).run {
                createNewFile()
                setWritable(true)
                devs.forEach { appendText(it.toTSV()) }
                Stats(devs.size, length())
            }
        }
    }
}
```



*So much duplication
only because I want a
different format?*

How to re-use Control Structures?

```
fun devsToCsvFile(fileName: String): Stats =
    RestClient().apply {
        username = "reader"
        secret = System.getenv("pwd")
        url = "https://..."
        initAccessToken()
    }.use { client ->

        client.getAll<Developer>().let { devs ->
            require(devs.isNotEmpty()) {
                "No devs found".also { LOG.error(it) }
            }

            File(fileName).run {
                createNewFile()
                setWritable(true)
                devs.forEach { appendText(it.toCSV()) }
                Stats(devs.size, length())
            }
        }
    }
```

generic
control
structure

```
fun devsToTsvFile(fileName: String): Stats =
    RestClient().apply {
        username = "reader"
        secret = System.getenv("pwd")
        url = "https://..."
        initAccessToken()
    }.use { client ->

        client.getAll<Developer>().let { devs ->
            require(devs.isNotEmpty()) {
                "No devs found".also { LOG.error(it) }
            }

            File(fileName).run {
                createNewFile()
                setWritable(true)
                devs.forEach { appendText(it.toTSV()) }
                Stats(devs.size, length())
            }
        }
    }
```

varying
part

...with Higher-Order Functions

Turn the **varying part** into a function

```
fun devsToFile(fileName: String, toLine:(Developer) -> String): Stats =
    RestClient().apply {
        username = "reader"
        secret = System.getenv("pwd")
        url = "https://..."
        initAccessToken()
    }.use { client ->
        client.getAll<Developer>().let { devs ->
            require(devs.isNotEmpty()) {
                "No devs found".also { LOG.error(it) }
            }
            File(fileName).run {
                createNewFile()
                setWritable(true)
                devs.forEach { appendText(toLine(it)) }
                Stats(devs.size, length())
            }
        }
    }
}
```

Let the **generic control structure** use it at the designated point

```
devsToFile("devs.csv"){it.toCSV()}
```

```
devsToFile("devs.tsv"){it.toTSV()}
```

```
devsToFile("devs.???"){it.to???()}
```


Higher-Order Functions also shine in tests

```
@Test
fun `should fetch all developers`() {
    val saved = saveAll((1..10).map { DevSample.create(it) })
    try {
        val fetchedDevs = client.getAll<Developer>()
        fetchedDevs.size shouldBe devs.size
    } finally {
        deleteAll(saved)
    }
}

@Test
fun `should fetch developers by id`() {
    val saved = saveAll((1..1).map { DevSample.create(it) })
    try {
        val fetchedDev = client.get<Developer>(id = 1)
        devs shouldContain fetchedDev
    } finally {
        deleteAll(saved)
    }
}
```

Higher-Order Functions also shine in tests

```
@Test
fun `should fetch all developers`() {
    val saved = saveAll((1..10).map { DevSample.create(it) })
    try {
        val fetchedDevs = client.getAll<Developer>()
        fetchedDevs.size shouldBe devs.size
    } finally {
        deleteAll(saved)
    }
}

@Test
fun `should fetch developers by id`() {
    val saved = saveAll((1..1).map { DevSample.create(it) })
    try {
        val fetchedDev = client.get<Developer>(id = 1)
        devs shouldContain fetchedDev
    } finally {
        deleteAll(saved)
    }
}
```

Higher-Order Functions also shine in tests

```
fun <T> Repository<Developer>.doWith(count: Int, doTest: (List<Developer>) -> Unit) {  
    val saved = saveAll((1..count).map { DevSample.create(it) })  
    try {  
        doTest(saved)  
    } finally {  
        deleteAll(saved)  
    }  
}
```

```
@Test  
fun `should fetch all developers`() = devRepository.doWith(10) { devs ->  
    val fetchedDevs = client.getAll<Developer>()  
    fetchedDevs.size shouldBe devs.size  
    ...  
}  
  
@Test  
fun `should fetch one developers`() = devRepository.doWith(1) { devs ->  
    val fetchedDev = client.get<Developer>(id = 1)  
    devs shouldContain fetchedDev  
    ...  
}
```

Welcome to:

The abundant heights of
Higher-Order Functions



The swamps of imperative
programming



The fruitful valley of
Expression Oriented
Programming



Composable Constructs

The Higher-Order Functions we created previously lack an abstraction so they can be *combined* with other *similar building blocks* to create *new valuable results*.

In other words: they *are not composable*

```
fun findBestDev(lang: String): Developer? =  
    getAll<Developer>()  
        .filter{ it.languages.contains(lang) }  
        .maxBy{ it.experience }  
}
```

Apparently, the Collection *abstraction* allows us to manipulate / transform its data in very flexible and powerful ways

So, the 'characteristics' of the Collection *Container* in combination with *Higher-Order-Functions* apparently makes this possible.

-> **What are the fundamental aspects of these characteristics?**

-> **Can we leverage them beyond Collections?**

Welcome to Category Theory

Welcome to the **danger zone**



Monad Semigroups Functor
Endofunctors
Applicatives
Monoids

A Monad is just a monoid in the category of endofunctors

The academic world managed to describe a powerful programming paradigm in such a difficult and inaccessible way that it either - most of the time:



Mon a(d) mour

scares developers off



In both cases we fail to unlock promising opportunities.

So, highest time for a demystification so that we all can profit from this powerful paradigm - *where best applicable*.

We all know Monads - and use them daily!

Monads are all about **Containers**:



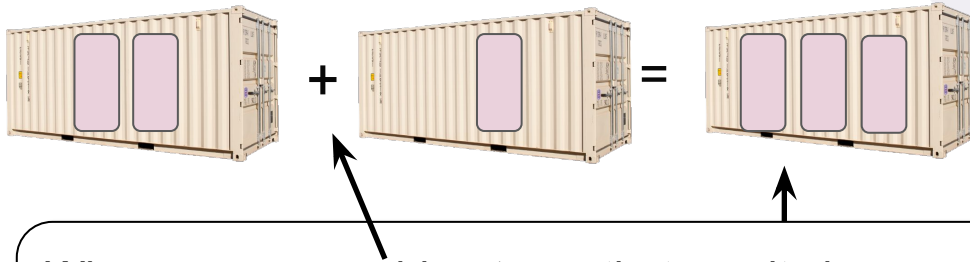
Let's look at the 'Container' we all know: **Collections!**

From a *Container Perspective*: what kind of operations makes a Collection useful?

We all know Monads - and use them daily!

1. We can *combine* two Collections, resulting in a new Collection:

```
listOf(1, 2) + listOf(3) == listOf(1, 2, 3)
```



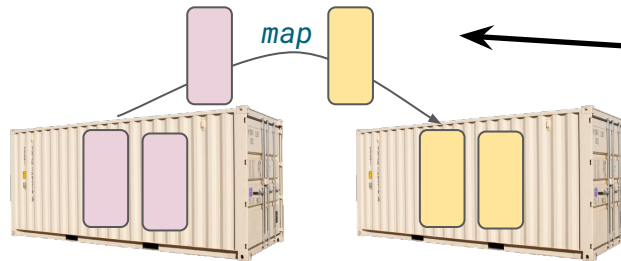
When we can combine *types* that results in a *new type* containing the elements of the initial ones, we are talking about a: **Monoid**

```
interface Monoid<T> {  
    fun empty(): Monoid<T>  
    fun combine(other: Monoid<T>): Monoid<T>  
}
```

We all know Monads - and use them daily!

2. We can *transform* the elements of the Collection

```
listOf(1, 2).map{it.toString()} == listOf("1", "2")
```



When a type offers a method to map over, it's called a **Functor**

```
interface Functor<A> {  
    fun <B> map(transform:(A) -> B):Functor<B>  
}
```

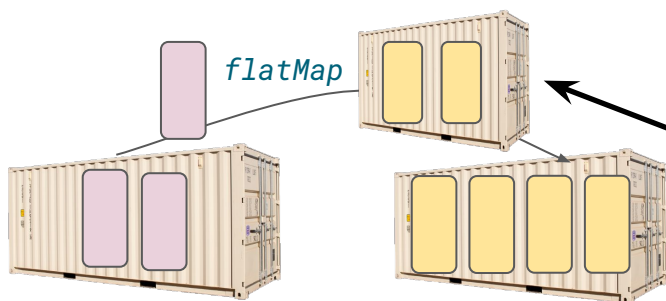
We all know Monads - and use them daily!

3. If our elements are Collections too, we can *transform them without additional nesting*

```
data class Developer(val name: String, val languages: List<Language>)
```

```
//map results in nesting  
listOf(dev1, dev2).map{it.languages} == listOf(listOf("Kotlin", "Scala"), listOf("Python"))
```

```
//flatMap maps AND flattens  
listOf(dev1, dev2).flatMap{it.languages} == listOf("Kotlin", "Scala", "Python")
```



If - besides combining (*Monoid*), mapping (*Functor*) - I can convert the elements of a *Container* that are *Containers too and have no additional nesting*, it's a **Monad**

```
class Monad<T> {  
    val value:T  
    fun empty(): Monad<T> = ...  
    operator fun plus(other: Monad<T>): Monad<T> = ...  
    fun <O> map(transform: (T) -> O): Monad<O> = ...  
    fun <O> flatMap(transform:(O) -> Monad<T>):Monad<O> = ...  
}
```

Monad
(Composable)

Monoid (Combinable)

Functor (Mappable)

Not only Collections are Monads - there are many more you know

```
class Monad<T>(val value:T) {  
    fun empty(): Monad<T> = ...  
    fun <O> map(m:(T)->O): Monad<O> = ...  
    fun <O> flatMap(fm:(O)->Monad<T>):Monad<O> = ...  
}
```

```
class Optional<T>(...)
```

```
Optional.empty()
```

```
Optional.of(dev1).map{it.name}  
    == Optional("Jack")
```

```
Optional.of(dev1).flatMap{  
    it.languages.firstOrNull()?.let{  
        Optional.of(it)} ?: Optional.empty()  
    } == Optional.of("Kotlin")
```



Not only Collections are Monads - there are many more you know

Swap Mono out for every other reactive abstraction like: `CompletableFuture` (standard library), `Observable` (RxJava), `Uni` (Quarkus)

```
class Monad<T>(val value:T) {  
    fun empty(): Monad<T> = ...  
    fun <O> map(m:(T)->O): Monad<O> = ...  
    fun <O> flatMap(fm:(O)->Monad<T>):Monad<O> = ...  
}
```

```
class Mono<T>(...)  
Mono.empty()  
getDeveloperByName(dev1.name).map{it.name}  
    == Mono.just("Jack")  
getDeveloperByName(dev1.name).flatMap{  
    selectBest(it.languages)  
}    == Mono.just("Kotlin")
```



```
fun getDeveloperByName(name:String):Mono<String> =  
    //some remote API/DB call  
fun selectBest(languages:List<String>):Mono<String> =  
    //some remote API call
```

So, what are these Monads/Containers good for?

What do all these abstractions and confusing terminology bring us?

- The confusing terminology not much - unless you are a scientist ;-)
- The abstraction, however, does have value. What we get is a special '**ability**':



So, now let's go composing 😊😊😊

How about composable error handling?

```
fun mostPopularLanguageOf(name:String):Language {
    val dev = try {
        client.getDevByName(name)
    } catch (ex: IOException) {
        throw ApplicationException("Oeps", ex)
    }
    return try {
        client.getMostPopular(dev.languages)
    } catch (ex: Exception) {
        Language("Kotlin")
    }
}
```

*Mmh, how could I
make this try - catch
more 'composable'?*



Welcome to functional Error Handling

You want composability? You need a Monad!

Which is already part of the standard library:



```
class Result<T>(...){
    fun getOrNull(): T?
    fun exceptionOrNull(): Throwable?
    fun map(convert: (value: T) -> R): Result<R>
    fun flatMap(convert: (value: T) -> Result<R>): Result<R>
}
```

```
fun mostPopularLanguageOf(name: String): Language {
    val dev = try {
        client.getDevByName(name)
    } catch (ex: IOException) {
        throw ApplicationException("Oeps", ex)
    }
    return try {
        client.getMostPopular(dev.languages)
    } catch (ex: Exception) {
        Language("Kotlin")
    }
}
```

```
fun mostPopularLanguageOf(name: String): Language {
    runCatching { client.getDevByName(name) }
        .onFailure { throw ApplicationException("Oeps", it) }
        .map { client.selectBest(it.languages) }
        .getOrElse { Language("Kotlin") }
}
```

Looks good, BUT: how do I know that I have to catch an Exception in the first place? It's not in the method signature...



Give me my Unchecked Exceptions back!

Convert every return type T into a Result<T> to make it very *explicit* that this method can also return an Exception

```
fun getDevByName(name:String):Developer  
fun selectBest(langs:List<String>):Language
```

```
fun getDevByName(name:String):Result<Developer>  
fun selectBest(langs:List<Language>):Result<Language>
```

```
fun bestLanguageOf(name:String):Result<Language> =  
    client.getDevByName(name)  
        .recoverCatching{throw ApplicationException("Oeps", it) }  
        .flatMap{dev-> client.selectBest(dev.languages)  
                .mapCatching { Language("Kotlin") }  
        }
```



A larger example

```
fun getDevByName(name:String):Developer
fun selectBest(langs:List<Language>):Language
fun getStatsFor(lang:Language):LanguageStats
```

```
fun getDevByName(name:String):Result<Developer>
fun selectBest(langs:List<Language>):Result<Language>
fun getStatsFor(lang:Language):Result<LanguageStats>
```

```
fun statsOfBestLanguageOf(name:String):Result<LanguageStats> =
    client.getDevByName(name).flatMap { dev ->
        client.selectBest(dev.languages).flatMap { language ->
            client.getStatsFor(language)
        }
    }
```

Though these Monads compose nicely, I don't know if I - or my colleagues - like all this flatMap-ing.

Is there no better way?



Welcome to Arrow



[Home](#)

[Learn](#) ▾

[API Docs](#) [↗](#)

[Ecosystem](#) ▾

[Community](#) ▾

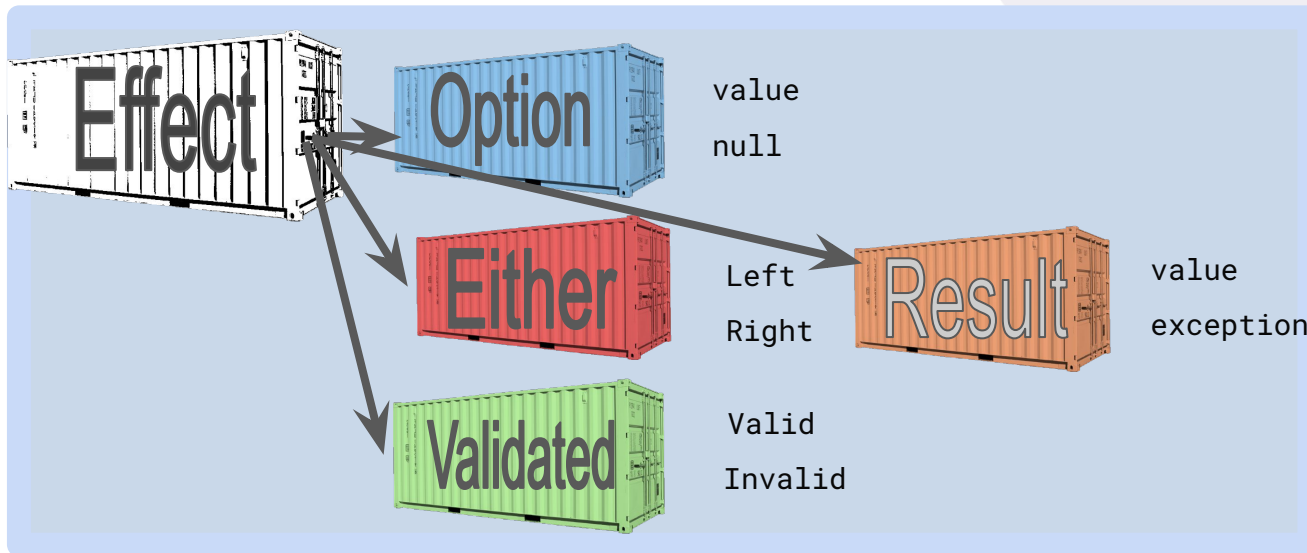
Arrow brings idiomatic functional programming to Kotlin

[What is Arrow](#)

[Get Started](#)



Some Fancy Arrow Monads



ARROW

Arrow has a nice solution to avoid flatMap

Which are: **Monad Comprehensions**

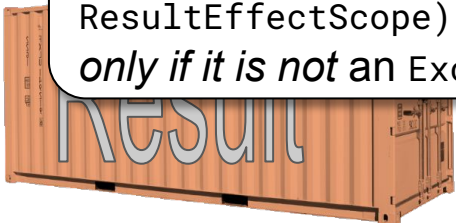
conceptually ported from functional languages like Scala and Haskell

```
fun statsOfBestLanguageOf(name:String):Result<LanguageStats>=  
  client.getDevByName(dev1.name).flatMap { dev ->  
    client.selectBest(dev.languages).flatMap { language ->  
      client.getStatsFor(language)  
    }  
  }
```

```
suspend fun statsOfBestLanguageOf(name:String):Result<LanguageStats>=  
  result { this:ResultEffectScope  
    val dev = client.getDevByName(name).bind()  
    val language = client.selectBest(dev.languages).bind()  
    val stats = client.getStatsFor(language).bind()  
    stats  
  }
```

With the Monad Comprehension `result {...}`, `bind()` becomes available on a `Result<T>` (via `ResultEffectScope`) which returns its value *only if it is not* an Exception

Even though I find this `bind()` a bit weird, I like it much better than these nested `flatMap`'s



Arrow has a nice solution to avoid flatMap

Which are: **Monad Comprehensions**

conceptually ported from functional languages like Scala and Haskell

```
fun statsOfBestLanguageOf(name:String):Result<LanguageStats>=  
  client.getDevByName(dev1.name).flatMap { dev ->  
    client.selectBest(dev.languages).flatMap { language ->  
      client.getStatsFor(language)  
    }  
  }
```

```
context(EffectScope<Throwable>)  
suspend fun statsOfBestLanguageOf(name:String):LanguageStats {  
  val dev = client.getDevByName(name).bind()  
  val language = client.selectBest(dev.languages).bind()  
  val stats = client.getStatsFor(language).bind()  
  return stats  
}
```



Let's Compose the Composables!

So far we only had to deal with *a single* Monad/Container.
But: the real world demands more:

```
fun getDevByName(name:String):Result<Developer>  
fun selectBest(langs:List<Language>):Result<Language>  
fun getStatsFor(lang:Language):Result<LanguageStats>
```

```
fun getDevByName(name:String):Mono<Result<Option<Developer>>>  
fun selectBest(langs:List<Language>):Mono<Result<Option<Language>>>  
fun getStatsFor(lang:Language):Mono<Result<Option<LanguageStats>>>
```

I want to be reactive...

...have explicit signatures...

...and optional values



Let's Compose the Composables???

```
fun statsOfBestLanguageOf(name:String):Mono<Result<Option<LanguageStats>>> =
    client.getDevByName(name).flatMap { devResOpt ->
        devResOpt.map {
            it.map { dev ->
                client.getMostPopular(dev.languages).flatMap { langResOpt ->
                    langResOpt.map {
                        it.map { language ->
                            client.getStatsForLanguage(language)
                        }.getOrElse { Mono.just(Result.success(None)) }
                    }.getOrElse { Mono.just(langResOpt.map{None}) }
                }
            }.getOrElse { Mono.just(Result.success(None)) }
        }.getOrElse { Mono.just(devResOpt.map { None }) }
    }
```

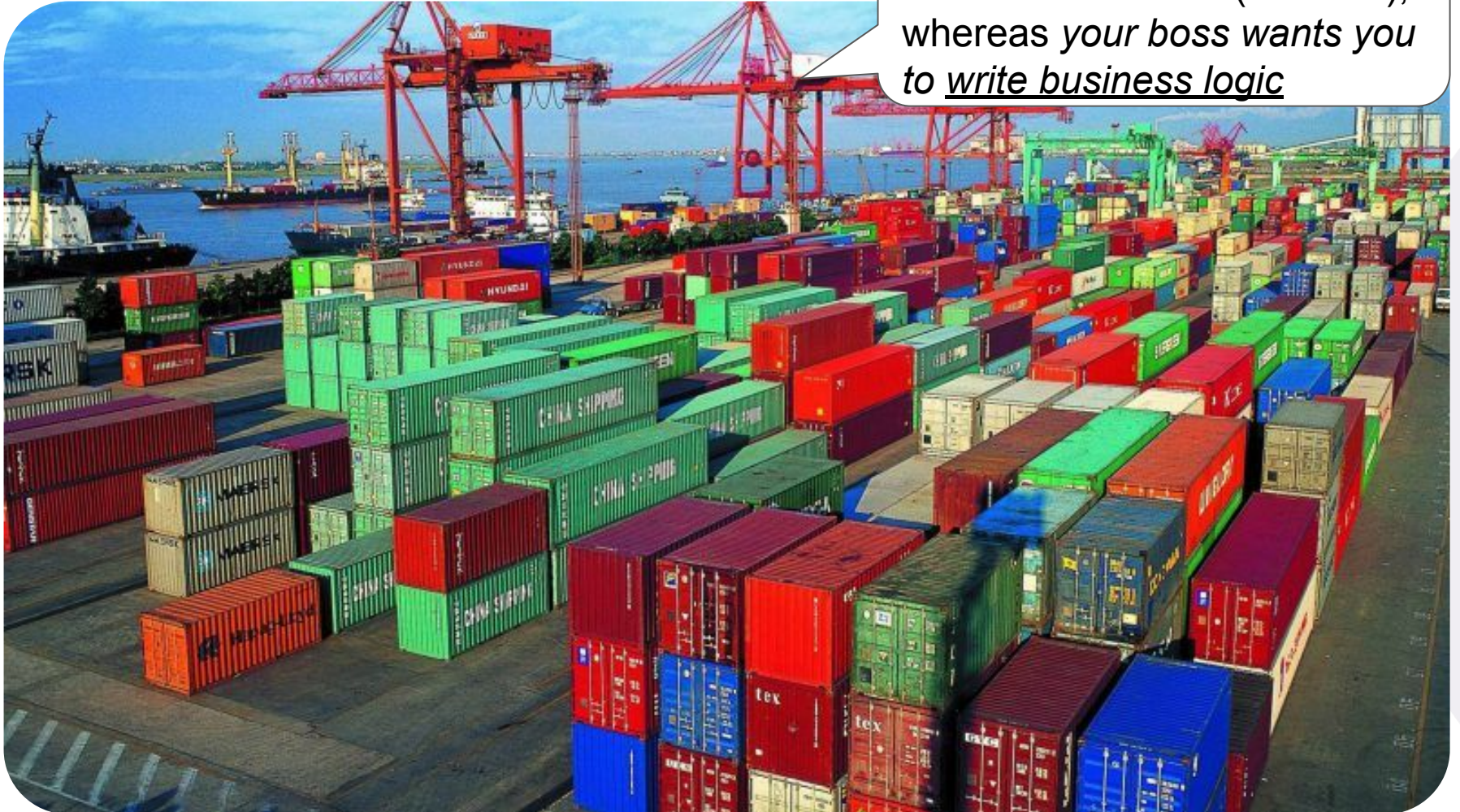
OMG - and we
haven't implemented
any serious business
logic yet...



Congratulations

You just managed to convert your code-base into a: **Container terminal**

Here you are, merely *shifting around Containers (Monads)*, whereas your boss wants you to *write business logic*



Let's Compose the Composables???

```
fun statsOfBestLanguageOf(name:String):Mono<Result<Option<LanguageStats>>> =
    client.getDevByName(name).flatMap { devResOpt ->
        devResOpt.map {
            it.map { dev ->
                client.selectBest(dev.languages).flatMap { langResOpt ->
                    langResOpt.map {
                        it.map { language ->
                            client.getStatsForLanguage(language)
                        }.getOrElse { Mono.just(Result.success(None)) }
                    }.getOrElse { Mono.just(langResOpt.map{None}) }
                }
            }.getOrElse { Mono.just(Result.success(None)) }
        }.getOrElse { Mono.just(devResOpt.map { None }) }
    }
```

But wait, don't we have these *Monad Comprehensions* to make this code more readable?



Nope, sorry...

Monad Comprehensions - in Kotlin - only work for a *single* Monad



Nope, sorry...

Monad Comprehensions - in Kotlin - only work for a *single* Monad

Monad Transformers to the rescue?



- They only work for two levels of Monads
- They cannot be used in *Monad Comprehensions* since Kotlin misses languages features for them to work (*Higher Kinded Types*)

```
fun <A, B> Mono<Result<A>>.mapT(f:(A) -> B):Mono<Result<B>> = ...  
fun <A, B> Mono<Result<A>>.flatMapT(f:(A) -> Mono<Result<A>>):Mono<Result<B>> = ...  
fun <A, B> Mono<Result<A>>.flatMapTOuter(f:(A) -> Mono<A>):Mono<Result<B>> = ...  
fun <A, B> Mono<Result<A>>.flatMapTInner(f:(A) -> Result<A>):Mono<Result<B>> = ...
```



This is indeed
no fun



So, are these Monads no good at all?

As long as you can keep your signature to a *single* Monad you're fine:

```
fun getDevByName(name:String): Mono<Result<Option<Developer>>>
```

```
suspend fun getDevByName(name:String): Result<Option<Developer>>
```

```
suspend fun getDevByName(name:String): Result<Developer?>
```

But I *need three*, so
how can I reduce it to
a *single* one?



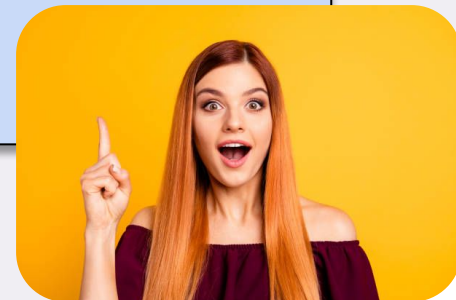
So, are these Monads no good at all?

As long as you can keep your signature to a *single* Monad you are fine

```
fun statsOfBestLanguageOf(name:String):Mono<Result<Option<LanguageStats>>> =
    client.getDevByName(name).flatMap { devResOpt ->
        devResOpt.map {
            it.map { dev ->
                client.selectBest(dev.languages).flatMap { langResOpt ->
                    langResOpt.map {
                        it.map { language ->
                            client.getStatsFor(language)
                                }.getOrElse { Mono.just(Result.success(None)) }
                        }.getOrElse { Mono.just(langResOpt.map{None}) }
                    }
                }.getOrElse { Mono.just(Result.success(None)) }
            }.getOrElse { Mono.just(devResOpt.map { None }) }
        }
    }
```

Except for the `bind()` that's just 'normal' Kotlin code

```
suspend fun statsOfBestLanguageOf(name:String):Result<LanguageStats?> = result {
    client.getDevByName(name).bind()?.let { dev ->
        client.selectBest(dev.languages).bind()?.let { lang ->
            client.getStatsFor(lang).bind() }
        }
    }
```



Welcome to:

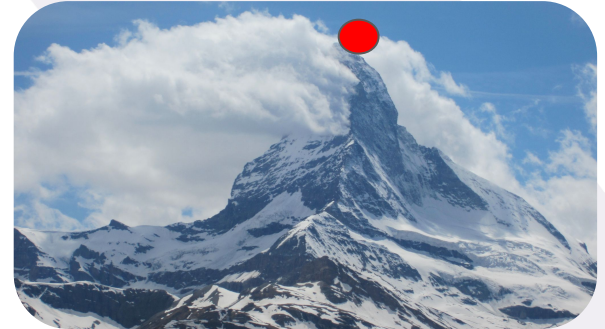
The abundant heights of
Higher-Order Functions



The swamps of imperative
programming



The lonely peak of
Monadic Mist



The fruitful valley of
Expression Oriented
Programming



Which amount of Monads is ok? ...and which too much?

...which brings us to a wider question:

what is 'good' code?

Generally spoken 'good' code:

...reflects the domain of the 'bounded context' / the business

Code of a Petstore



Code of an Investment Bank



...has a minimum of non-domain abstractions.

These abstractions should serve a specific, useful purpose.

...should be understandable by a domain expert.

Code that looks like a container terminal does not meet this definition



Unless your company *IS* the container terminal 😊

Why use Monads through your call chain...

Exception
Handler

```
class GlobalExceptionHandler {  
    suspend fun handleUncaught(ex:Throwable) = ...  
}
```

Finally produces
ErrorResponse

API

```
class DevController(val devService: DevService) {  
    @GetMapping("/api/devs")  
    @ResponseBody  
    suspend fun getBestLanguageOf(@RequestParam("name") name: String):Language =  
        devService.getBestLanguageOf(name)  
            .mapError { throw ApplicationException(ErrorType.Server, it) }  
            .getOrThrow()  
}
```

Service

```
class DevService(val devDao:DevDao, val langApi:LangApi) {  
    suspend fun getBestLanguageOf(name:String):Result<Language> = result {  
        devDao.getDevByName(name).bind()?.let {  
            langApi.selectBest(it.languages).bind()  
        } ?: Language("Kotlin")  
    }  
}
```

Mmh, actually I don't do
anything with Result<T>,
so why is it there?

DAO

```
class DevDao {  
    suspend fun getDevByName(name:String):Result<Developer?> = ...  
}  
class LangApi {  
    suspend fun selectBest(lang:List<Language>):Result<Language?> = ...  
}
```



... if in 95% of all cases you don't use them anyway

Exception
Handler

```
class GlobalExceptionHandler {  
    suspend fun handleUncaught(ex:Throwable) = ...  
}
```

API

```
class DevController(val devService: DevService) {  
    @GetMapping("/api/devs")  
    @ResponseBody  
    suspend fun getBestLanguageOf(@RequestParam("name") name: String):Language =  
        devService.getBestLanguageOf(name)  
}
```

Service

```
class DevService(val devDao:DevDao, val langApi:LangApi) {  
    suspend fun getBestLanguageOf(name:String):Language =  
        devDao.getDevByName(name)?.let {  
            langApi.selectBest(it.languages)  
        } ?: Language("Kotlin")  
}
```

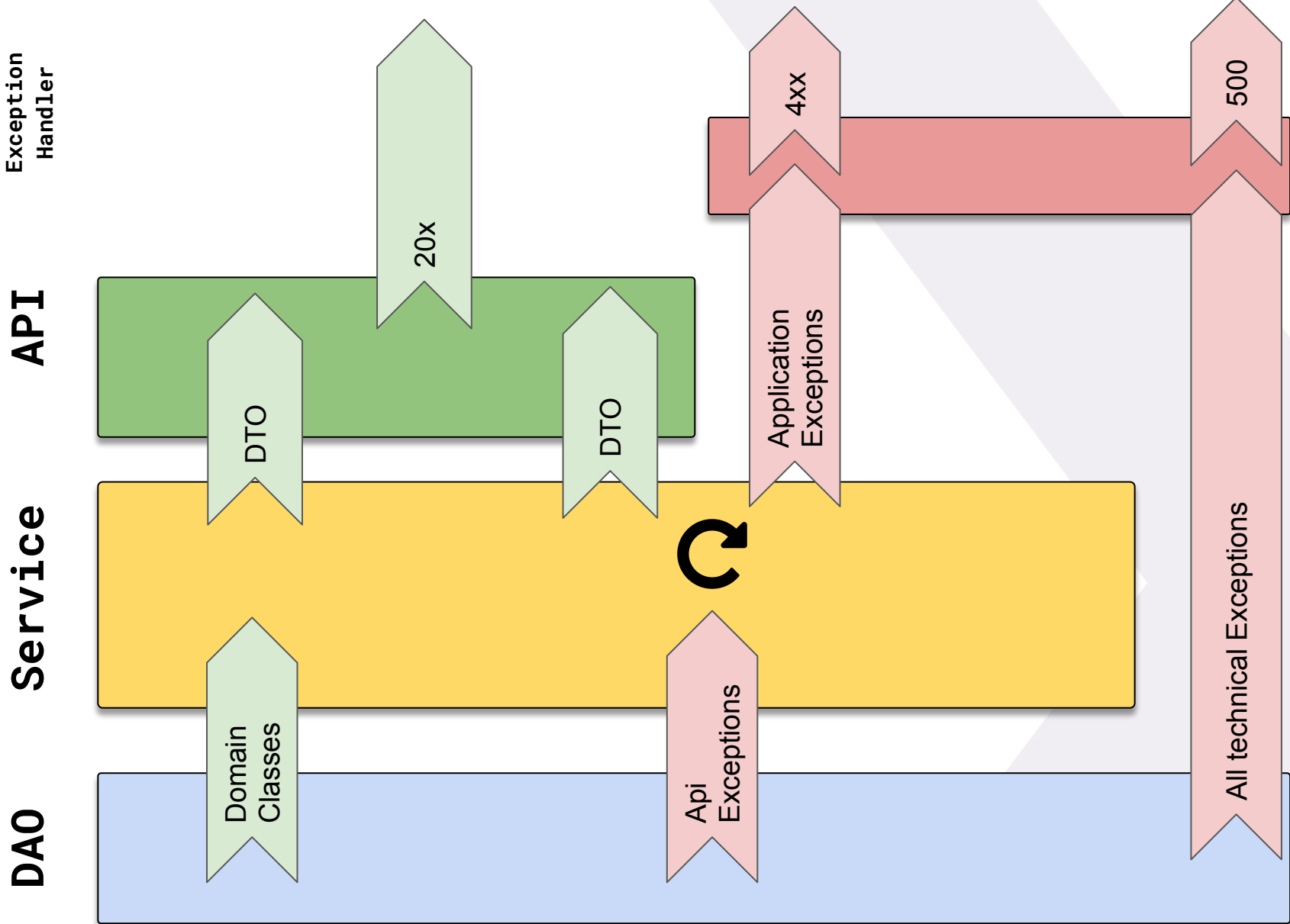
Only domain logic, no
'additional' abstractions.
Looks good to me!

DAO

```
class DevDao {  
    suspend fun getDevByName(name:String):Developer? = ...  
}  
class LangApi {  
    suspend fun selectBest(lang:List<Language>):Language? = ...  
}
```



But how about the other 5%?



Use Monads *selectively* where needed and useful

Exception
Handler

```
class GlobalExceptionHandler {  
    suspend fun handleUncaught(ex:Throwable) = ...  
}
```

API

```
class DevController(val devService: DevService) {  
    @GetMapping("/api/devs")  
    @ResponseBody  
    suspend fun getBestLanguageOf(@RequestParam("name") name: String):Language =  
        devService.getBestLanguageOf(name)  
}
```

Service

```
class DevService(val devDao:DevDao, val langApi:LangApi) {  
    suspend fun getBestLanguageOf(name:String):Language =  
        devDao.getDevByName(name).let { dev ->  
            langApi.selectBest(dev?.languages.orEmpty()).handleErrorWith {  
                when(it.code) {  
                    ERROR_LANG_NOT_FOUND -> Language("Kotlin").right()  
                    ERROR_TOKEN_EXPIRED -> ...  
                    else -> it.left()  
                }  
            }  
        }.map { it ?: Language("Kotlin") }  
    }.getOrHandle { throw ApplicationException(it.code.toString()) }
```

```
when(it.code) {  
    ERROR_LANG_NOT_FOUND -> Language("Kotlin").right()  
    ERROR_TOKEN_EXPIRED -> ...  
    else -> it.left()  
}
```

Which is win win:
1. explicit contract
2. easy access to error
reply

To trigger error replies,
I still can rely on my
ExceptionHandler

For DB stuff, I only
need entities

For external API's
Either<A, B> makes
the contract explicit

DAO

```
class DevDao {  
    suspend fun getDevByName(name:String):Developer? = ...  
}  
class LangApi {  
    suspend fun selectBest(lang:List<Language>):Either<ApiError, Language?> = ...  
}
```

With this approach in mind: Cherry Pick the best!

#1

```
fun createKotlinDeveloper(name:String?, age:Int?, languages: List<Language>): KotlinDeveloper? {  
    val kotlin = languages.firstOrNull{it.name == "Kotlin"}  
    return if(name != null && age != null && kotlin != null)  
        KotlinDeveloper(  
            name = name,  
            age = age,  
            otherLanguages = languages - kotlin  
        )  
    } else null  
}
```

How can I prevent these tedious null checks?

```
fun createKotlinDeveloper(name:String?, age:Int?, languages: List<Language>): KotlinDeveloper? =  
    nullable.eager {  
        val kotlin = languages.firstOrNull{it.name == "Kotlin"}.bind()  
        KotlinDeveloper(  
            name = name.bind(),  
            age = age.bind(),  
            otherLanguages = languages - kotlin  
        )  
    }
```

...with Arrow's nullable{ } comprehension!

With this approach in mind: Cherry Pick the best!

#2

```
val dev = Developer(  
    name = "John",  
    age = 32,  
    primaryLanguage = Language("Kotlin", LanguageStats(popularity = 9))  
)
```

```
val devChanged = dev.copy(  
    primaryLanguage = dev.primaryLanguage.copy(  
        stats = dev.primaryLanguage.stats.copy(popularity = 10)  
    )  
)
```

Changing data in immutable nested data-structures is quite tedious with `copy()`...

But not with Arrow's `optics{ }`!

```
val devChanged = Developer.Companion.primaryLanguage.stats.modify(dev){it.copy(popularity = 10)}
```

Note: this requires Arrow annotations and a KSP compiler plugin to be configured in you build.

```
@optics  
data class Developer(val name:String, val age:Int, val primaryLanguage:Language){companion object{}}  
  
@optics  
data class Language(val name:String, val stats: LanguageStats){companion object {}}  
  
@optics  
data class LanguageStats(val popularity:Int){companion object {}}
```


Welcome to:



The prosperous alpine meadows of
Functional Common Sense



The lonely peak of
Monadic Mist

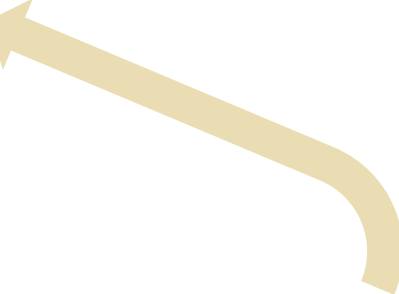
The abundant heights of
Higher-Order Functions



The swamps of imperative
programming



The fruitful valley of
Expression Oriented
Programming



Thank  you



Urs Peter

LinkedIn: bit.ly/urs-peter-linked-in

Email: upeter@xebia.com

Blog: xebia.com/blog/