

*An Introduction to Functional Programming Systems Using Haskell*, by A. J. T. Davie, Cambridge University Press, 1992, ISBN 0-521-25830-8, 290 pages.

This book is an introduction to functional programming systems using the language Haskell. After reviewing this text, I believe it is intended for advanced undergraduate students or experienced practitioners and not to be an introductory text to either the Haskell language or to computer programming in general.

Major topics covered include: intro to functional programming, functional techniques, types, lambda calculus, a sample implementation, lazy evaluation, correctness and parallel evaluation.

I found the chapters on lambda calculus and combinators to be extremely difficult reading and seemingly out of place in this text. The most striking characteristic of this text is its lack of user-friendliness. It has no color, few figures or complete examples. Considering that the Haskell language has two

implementations available on the Internet, a truly introductory book on the language would help form a good platform for functional programming.

In summary, I found parts of this text to be informative, but not an acceptable way to learn a new language or functional programming.

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