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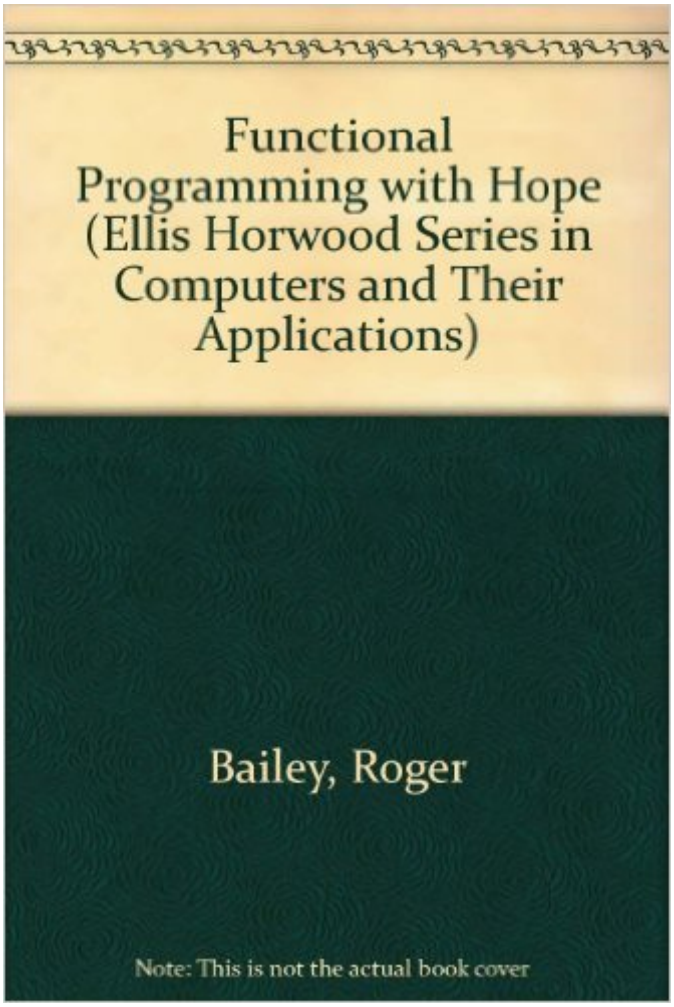
Functional Programming With Hope (Ellis Horwood Series In Computers And Their Applications)



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Customer Reviews

A 301 page work on the functional programming language Hope, originally developed at Edinburgh. References on hope are actually quite rare. Roger wrote a tutorial in Byte magazine in 1985, the language was introduced in a paper "Hope: An Experimental Applicative Language", 1980, by R. M. Burstall , D. B. MacQueen , D. T. Sannella.There is also a chapter on Hope in "Principles of functional programming", Prentice Hall, 1984 Glaser, H., Hankin, C. L. and Till, D.Hope is mainly of historical interest, and this book in isolation would be a mere curiosity without a way to run the programs in the book, or to write new code. There is a hope interpreter in source code form, kindly made available by Ross Paterson at city university in London at the following location: [...] the interpreter is easily built on a Linux system or with Cygwin on Windows, all of which makes this book an exciting find.Equipped with the ability to run hope program’s this work becomes very useful. The book is aimed at undergraduate students, or at industry practitioners, and is definitely practical in nature. I found chapter 7 on lambdas to be very useful. An added boon is the fact that the exercises have solutions in appendix a, and there is a language grammar in BNF format in the appendices.Whilst languages such as Haskell and f# have largely superseded the need for things such as hope, I found this to be a useful book, and the fact that it is a simple language, there is an interpreter available in source form, might mean this is an interesting work for researchers in the area, and for anyone looking for a readable introduction to the language, and to functional programming concepts in general.

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