CSE 341, Winter 2010, Assignment 1
Haskell Warmup
Due: Monday Jan 11, 10:00pm

12 points total (2 points each question)

You can use up to 2 late days for this assignment. (The reason for this is so that we can post sample solutions within a reasonable time — if we wait for 6 days that's getting long.)

For each top-level Haskell function you define, include a type declaration. For example, your `sphere_area` function for Question 1 should start with:

```
sphere_area :: Double->Double
```

1. Write a function `sphere_area` that takes a Double representing the radius of a sphere and returns the surface area of that sphere. Remember to include the type declaration. (`Double` is a built-in Haskell type representing a double-precision floating point number.) If you write this function without a type declaration and let Haskell infer the type, it will actually come up with a more general type – but we're going to ease into Haskell's type system and just declare the function to take a Double and return a Double. Hint: use the builtin Haskell constant `pi`.

2. Write a *recursive* function `squares` that takes a list of integers, and returns a list of the squares of those integers. For example, `squares [1,2,10]` should evaluate to `[1,4,100]`, while `squares []` should evaluate to `[]`. Also try your function on an infinite list, for example `squares [1..]` or `squares [1,3..]`.

3. Write another version of the `squares` function, called `map_squares`, that uses the built-in `map` function in Haskell. `map_squares` should not be recursive. Don't define a named helper function to compute the squares — use an anonymous function.

4. Write a `ascending` function to test whether a list of integers is in strict ascending order. For example, `ascending [1,2,3]` should return True, while `ascending [2,3,1]` and `ascending [2,2]` should both return False. You should handle the empty list, and a list of one number. (What should these return? Justify your decision in a comment in the code.)

5. Write a function `parallel_resistors` that calculates the total resistance of a number of resistors connected in parallel. The formula for computing this is

$$\frac{1}{\frac{1}{r_1} + \ldots + \frac{1}{r_n}}$$

   where $r_1, \ldots r_n$ are the resistances of each resistor. For example, `parallel_resistors [10.0, 10.0]`, representing two 10.0 Ohm resistors in parallel, should return 5.0. Hint: if you make good use of functions in the Haskell prelude (e.g. `map` and `recip`) this is a one-line definition.

   Don't worry about the edge cases of zero Ohm resistors, or no resistors (i.e. an empty list as an argument to `parallel_resistors`). However, after you've written your function, try it on these cases and see what happens. Explain why you get the results that you do in a comment.

6. A palindrome is a sentence or phrase that is the same forwards and backwards, ignoring spaces, punctuation and other special characters, and upper vs. lower case. Some palindromes are "Madam, I'm Adam", "Yreka Bakery", and "Doc, note, I dissent, a fast never prevents a fatness. I diet on cod." We'll also consider digits (but not special characters like /) as part of the sentence or phrase — so that 01/02/2010 also counts as a palindrome. Write a Haskell function `palindrome` that takes a string as

an argument and that returns True if the string is a palindrome and otherwise False. Hint: make use of the Haskell library for this problem; you shouldn't need to write a recursive function at all for your solution. In particular, consider using functions such as `map`, `filter`, `reverse`, and assorted functions in the `Char` module. If you use `Char`, include an `import Char` statement in your program.

Use the HUnit unit testing package to write test cases for each function. Include a test for an ordinary case, and also tests for edge cases. Also include a `run` function that runs all of your tests. (See the `UnitTestExample.hs` file linked from the Haskel page in the 341 website.)

For example, for the palindrome problem, include tests for a string that is a palindrome, a string that isn't a palindrome, the empty string, and a date palindrome:

```
p1 = TestCase (assertBool "banana palindrome" (palindrome "Yo! Banana Boy!"))
p2 = TestCase (assertBool "carrot palindrome" (not (palindrome "Yo! Carrot Girl!")))
p3 = TestCase (assertBool "empty palindrome" (palindrome ""))
p4 = TestCase (assertBool "date palindrome" (palindrome "01/02/2010"))
```

To test the `squares` function evaluated on an infinite list, use the `take` function from the Haskell Prelude to get the first several values and check them. (Otherwise `assertEqual` isn't going to be happy if you just give it infinite lists.) For example:

```
s1 = TestCase (assertEqual "infinite squares" [1,9,25,49] (take 4 (squares [1,3 ..])))
```

For the tests involving floating-point numbers, as usual you should test for equality within an epsilon, rather than exact equality (which would often fail due to roundoff errors). If you would like, you can copy the following definition of a convenience function into your own program:

```
{- test whether a number is within epsilon of to another (for unit tests on
   Doubles, to accomodate floating point roundoff errors).  Note that this doesn't
   work for testing numbers that should be exactly 0 -- for that you should specify
   your own test with an appropriate epsilon -}
is_close x y = abs (x-y) < abs x * epsilon
    where epsilon = 1.0e-6
```

As is often the case, there will probably be significantly more code for the tests than for the actual functions!

Your program should be tastefully commented (i.e. put in a comment before each function definition saying what it does). Style counts! In particular, think about where you can use pattern matching and higher order functions to good effect to simplify your program; and avoid unnecessary repeated computations.