

ON THE EXPRESSIVENESS OF EFFECT HANDLERS AND MONADIC REFLECTION

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A LITTLE SURVEY

- ▶ Who has ever tried to prove a functional program correct?
- ▶ Who has ever tried for a program involving reference cells or exceptions?
- ▶ Who has succeeded?
- ▶ Who thought it was fun?

HOW TO INCORPORATE EFFECTS?

Effects are ...

- ▶ global store (i.e. references),
- ▶ exceptions,
- ▶ I/O,
- ▶ random,
- ▶ nondeterminism,
- ▶ or concurrency

AN EXAMPLE

```
exception Error
val r = ref 0
fun error () = raise Error

fun test () = (r := 5; error() handle Error => !r)
```

`test ()` evaluates to?

Why not to 0?

WOULD BE COOL:

User definable effects on top of a functional language

There is more than one solution available!

GOAL

Compare two existing approaches in their expressiveness

A bit like “Compare expressiveness of recursion and for-loops”

APPROACH

- ▶ take a base language (functional, typed, no recursion)
- ▶ add each concept to the language
- ▶ define denotational semantics to each resulting calculus
- ▶ prove denotational semantics to be adequate
- ▶ use this to compare expressiveness

TAKE A BASE LANGUAGE

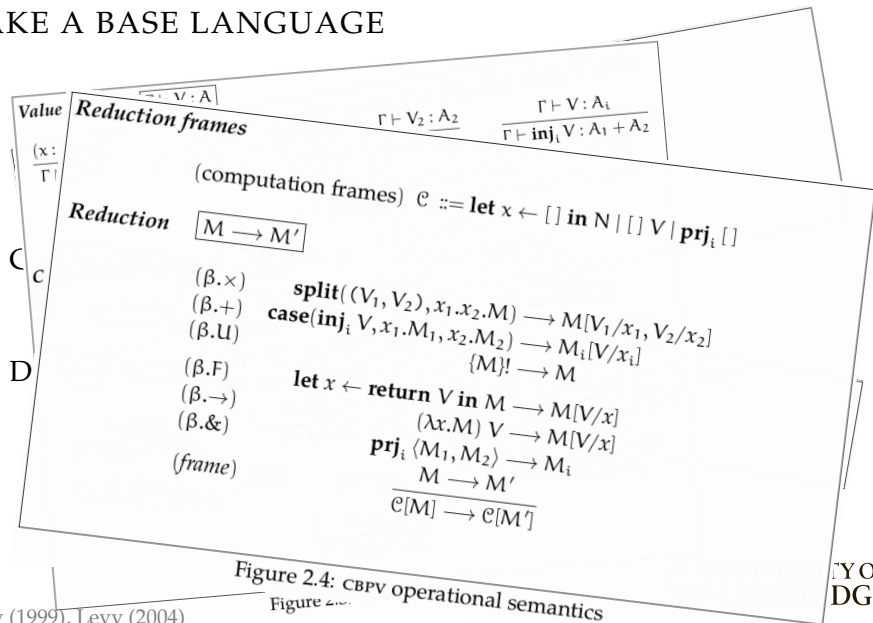


Figure 2.4: CBPV operational semantics

ADD EACH CONCEPT

- ▶ Effects and handler calculus λ_{eff}
- ▶ Monadic reflection calculus λ_{mon}

Figure 3.2: λ_{eff} -calculus operational semantics

Figure 3.2: λ_{eff} -calculus operational semanticsFigure 3.5: λ_{eff} -calculus type systemFigure 3.4: λ_{eff} -calculus kinding rules

MONADIC R

Effect hierarchy kinding

 $\Theta \vdash_k \cdot : \text{Eff}$

Value kinding

 $\Theta \mid \Sigma \vdash_k$ $\Theta \mid \Sigma \vdash_k 1 : \text{Val}$ $\Theta \mid \Sigma \vdash_k A_1 : \text{Val}$ $\Theta \mid \Sigma \vdash_k A_1 +$

Effect kinding

 $\Sigma \vdash$

Computation kinding

 $\Theta \mid \Sigma \vdash_k F^A$ $\Theta \mid \Sigma \vdash_k T : \text{Con}$

Context kinding

Reduction

 $\vdash_\Sigma M \rightarrow M'$

$$\begin{aligned} (\beta.\times) \quad & \vdash_\Sigma \text{split}((V_1, V_2), x_1, x_2, M) \rightarrow M[V_1/x_1, V_2/x_2] \\ (\beta.+) \quad & \vdash_\Sigma \text{case}(\text{inj}_i V, x_1, M_1, x_2, M_2) \rightarrow M_i[V/x_i] \\ (\beta.U) \quad & \vdash_\Sigma [M]! \rightarrow M \\ (\beta.F) \quad & \vdash_\Sigma \text{let } x \leftarrow \text{return } V \text{ in } M \rightarrow M[V/x] \\ (\beta.\rightarrow) \quad & \vdash_\Sigma (\lambda x. M) V \rightarrow M[V/x] \\ (\beta.\&) \quad & \vdash_\Sigma \text{prj}_i \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle \rightarrow M_i \\ (\text{frame}) \quad & \vdash_\Sigma M \rightarrow M' \\ & \vdash_\Sigma \mathcal{C}[M] \rightarrow \mathcal{C}[M'] \end{aligned}$$

(reify)

$$\frac{(\varepsilon = (N_u, N_b)) \in \Sigma}{\vdash_\Sigma [\text{return } V]^* \rightarrow N_u V}$$

(reflect)

$$\frac{(\varepsilon \sim (\alpha.C, N_u, N_b)) \in \Sigma \quad \varepsilon \notin \text{effects}(\mathcal{H})}{\vdash_\Sigma [\mathcal{H}(\tilde{\mu}^e(N))]^* \rightarrow N_b(N) \{(\lambda x. \mathcal{H}(\text{return } x))^e\}}$$

(leteff)

$$\frac{\mathcal{H} = \text{leteffect } \varepsilon > e \text{ be } (\alpha.C, N_u, N_b) \text{ in } \{ \}_{\Sigma, \varepsilon \sim (\alpha.C, N_u, N_b), e < \varepsilon} M \rightarrow M'}{\vdash_\Sigma \mathcal{H}[M] \rightarrow \mathcal{H}[M']}$$

(leteff-return)

$$\vdash_\Sigma \text{leteffect } \varepsilon > e \text{ be } (\alpha.C, N_u, N_b) \text{ in return } V \rightarrow \text{return } V$$

(leteff-lambda)

$$\frac{\mathcal{H} = \text{leteffect } \varepsilon > e \text{ be } (\alpha.C, N_u, N_b) \text{ in } \{ \}}{\vdash_\Sigma \mathcal{H}(\lambda x. N) \rightarrow \lambda x. \mathcal{H}[N]}$$

(leteff-pair)

$$\frac{\mathcal{H} = \text{leteffect } \varepsilon > e \text{ be } (\alpha.C, N_u, N_b) \text{ in } \{ \}}{\vdash_\Sigma \mathcal{H}(\langle N_1, N_2 \rangle) \rightarrow \langle \mathcal{H}[N_1], \mathcal{H}[N_2] \rangle}$$

(leteff-unit)

$$\vdash_\Sigma \text{leteffect } \varepsilon > e \text{ be } (\alpha.C, N_u, N_b) \text{ in } () \rightarrow ()$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \text{effects}([]) &= \emptyset \\ \text{effects}(\text{leteffect } \varepsilon > e \text{ be } (\alpha.C, N_u, N_b) \text{ in } \mathcal{H}) &= \text{effects}(\mathcal{H}) \\ \text{effects}([\mathcal{H}]^*) &= \{\varepsilon\} \cup \text{effects}(\mathcal{H}) \\ \text{effects}(\mathcal{C}[\mathcal{H}]) &= \text{effects}(\mathcal{H}) \quad (\text{for } \mathcal{C} \neq [\mathcal{H}]^*) \end{aligned}$$
Figure 45: λ_{mon} -calculus operational semanticsText, and $\Theta \mid \Sigma \vdash_k A : \text{Val}$

$$\frac{\Theta \mid \Gamma \vdash_\Sigma V_2 : A_2}{i, V_2 : A_1 \times A_2}$$

$$\frac{v_e M : C}{M : U_e C}$$
 $\vdash_k e : \text{Eff}, \Theta \mid \Sigma \vdash_k \Gamma :$ $\Theta \mid \Gamma \vdash_\Sigma V : 0$

$$\frac{\Theta \mid \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma \vee e} \text{case}_e(V) : C}{x_2 : A_2 \vdash_{\Sigma \vee e} M_2 : C}$$

A

V : FA

x : A $\vdash_{\Sigma \vee e}$ M : C $v_e \vee e \lambda x. M : A \rightarrow C$ $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma \vee e} \langle \rangle : T$ $A : C_1 \& C_2$ $\text{prj}_i M : C_1$

$$\frac{(\varepsilon \sim \alpha.C, e < \varepsilon) \in \Sigma}{\tilde{\mu}^e(N) : \text{FA}}$$
 $() \rightarrow C[\alpha_2/\alpha]$ $t : D$ UNIVERSITY OF
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Value terms

$$[x](\gamma) := \pi_x(\gamma)$$

$$[()](\gamma) := \star$$

$$[\text{inj}_i V](\gamma) := \langle i, [V](\gamma) \rangle$$

$$[(V_1, V_2)](\gamma) := \langle [V_1](\gamma), [V_2](\gamma) \rangle$$

$$[\{M\}](\gamma) := [M](\gamma)$$

Computation terms

$$[\text{split}(V, x_1.x_2.M)](\gamma) := [M](\gamma[x_1 \mapsto a_1, x_2 \mapsto a_2]), \text{ where } [V](\gamma) = \langle \emptyset, i \rangle, a_2$$

$$[\text{case}_n(V)] \text{ is the empty map as } [V] \cdot [\Gamma] \rightarrow \emptyset \text{ necessarily}$$

- value type $\vdash_k A : \text{Val}$ a set $[A]$;
- effect $\vdash_k E : \text{Eff}$ a (parameter)
- computation term $\vdash_k M : A$ as $[M](\gamma) \gg f$

The semantics assigns to each $\theta \in [\Theta]$ and well kinded

- value type $\Theta \mid \Sigma \vdash_k A : \text{Val}$ a set $[A](\theta)$;

where $F_{[\epsilon]}$ is the free algebra for the monad τ -

$$[FA](\theta) = T_\epsilon([A](\theta)) = [C[A/\alpha]](\theta)$$

this means at level ϵ that

$$|\text{Comp}_\epsilon(\theta)| = |[C[A/\alpha]](\theta)|$$

 $\{\text{op} : \wedge$

$$[\Theta \mid \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma, \epsilon} [N]^\epsilon : C[A/\alpha]]$$

$$[[N]^\epsilon](\theta)(\gamma) := [N](\theta)(\gamma)$$

$$[N](\theta)(\gamma) := \begin{cases} [N](\theta)(\gamma) & \text{if } N_u \text{ and } N_b \text{ form a monad} \\ \text{undefined} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Contexts $[\Gamma] := \prod_{x \in \text{Dom}(\Gamma)} \mathbb{U}$

Figure 2.5: CBPV denotational semantics for terms



ADEQUACY AND SOUNDNESS

Theorem 2.18 (adequacy). *Denotational equivalence implies contextual equivalence. Explicitly: Given a monad satisfying the mono requirement, then for all $\Gamma \vdash P, Q : X$, if $\llbracket P \rrbracket = \llbracket Q \rrbracket$ then $P \simeq Q$.*

Corollary 2.19 (soundness). *All well-typed closed ground returners reduce to a normal form. Explicitly: for all $\vdash M : FG$ there exists some $\vdash V : G$ such that:*

$$M \longrightarrow^* \mathbf{return} V$$

TYPED MACRO EXPRESSABILITY

One concept can express another if there is a *local* translation function $_$ that:

- ▶ is homomorphic on the base calculus
- ▶ replaces new syntactic constructs without rearranging the whole program
- ▶ translates terms $\emptyset \vdash M : X$ to terms $\emptyset \vdash \underline{M} : \underline{X}$

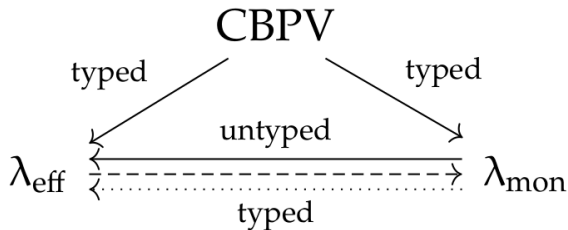
FOCUS IN THIS THESIS

Produce negative results: Prove that *no* translation exists with the help of denotational semantics

λ_{mon} CAN NOT TYPED MACRO EXPRESS λ_{eff}

- ▶ There are only finitely many terms for every type in λ_{mon}
- ▶ Some types in λ_{eff} have countably many observationally distinguishable terms
- ▶ Given a translation $\lambda_{\text{eff}} \rightarrow \lambda_{\text{mon}}$, take the type $\underline{F1}$
- ▶ $\underline{F1}$ has k terms
- ▶ $\underline{F1}$ has more than k observationally distinguishable terms
- ▶ Derive a contradiction

THE BIG PICTURE



CONTRIBUTION

- ▶ Adequacy proof for the set theoretic model for calculus of effect handlers λ_{eff}
- ▶ Adequate denotational semantics for calculus of monadic reflection λ_{mon}
- ▶ Definition of (typed) macro expressability
- ▶ Proof that λ_{mon} is macro expressible in λ_{eff}
- ▶ Proof that λ_{eff} is not macro typed expressible in λ_{mon}

FUTURE WORK

- ▶ Show that λ_{mon} is not typed macro expressible in λ_{eff} ;
- ▶ extend the type system of λ_{eff} to typed macro express λ_{mon} ;
- ▶ do similar comparison for calculus of delimited control.

RELATED WORK / BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- ▶ Andrzej Filinski. Monads in action. SIGPLAN Not., 45(1):483–494, January 2010.
- ▶ Matthias Felleisen. On the expressive power of programming languages. In Science of Computer Programming, pages 134–151. Springer-Verlag, 1990.

Value relations $\boxed{R_A \subseteq \llbracket A \rrbracket \times \lambda_{\text{eff}} A}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 R_i &:= \{ \langle \star, V \rangle \mid V \simeq () \} \\
 R_{A_1 \times A_2} &:= \left\{ \langle \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle, V \rangle \mid \exists V_1, V_2 \forall i. V_i : A_i. \langle a_i, V_i \rangle \in R_{A_i}, V \simeq (V_1, V_2) \right\} \quad R_o := \emptyset \\
 R_{A_1 \rightarrow A_2} &= \bigcup_{i \in \{1, 2\}} \left\{ \langle \iota_i a, V \rangle \mid \exists V' : A_i. \langle a, V' \rangle \in R_{A_i}, V \simeq \text{inj}_i V' \right\} \\
 R_{\text{UFC}} &:= \{ \langle a, V \rangle \mid \exists M : C. \langle a, M \rangle \in R_{E, C}, V \simeq \{M\} \}
 \end{aligned}$$

Computation relations $\boxed{R_{E, C} \subseteq \llbracket C \rrbracket \times \lambda_{\text{eff}} E, C}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 R_{E, FA} &:= R'_{E, FA} \cup \{ \langle \text{return } a, M \rangle \mid \exists V : A. \langle a, V \rangle \in R_A, M \simeq \text{return } V \} \\
 R_{E, A \rightarrow C} &:= R'_{E, A \rightarrow C} \cup \{ \langle \langle f, M \rangle, V \rangle \mid \forall \langle a, V' \rangle \in R_{E, A}, \langle f(a), M V' \rangle \in R_{E, C} \} \\
 R_{E, T} &:= R'_{E, T} \cup \{ \langle \star, M \rangle \mid M \simeq () \} \\
 R_{E, C_1 \& C_2} &:= R'_{E, C_1 \& C_2} \cup \{ \langle \langle \langle c_1, c_2 \rangle, M \rangle \mid \exists M_1 : C_1, M_2 : C_2. M \simeq (M_1, M_2), \forall i. \langle c_i, M_i \rangle \in R_{E, C_i} \}
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 R'_{E, C} &:= \{ \\
 &\quad \langle \text{op}_a(\lambda b. c), N \rangle \mid \exists VM. \\
 &\quad \langle a, V \rangle \in R_{E, A} \quad (\text{op} : A \rightarrow B) \in E \\
 &\quad \langle \lambda b. c, \lambda x. M \rangle \in R_{E, B \rightarrow C} \\
 &\quad N \simeq \text{op } V \ (\lambda x. M) \\
 &\}
 \end{aligned}$$

Handler relations $\boxed{R_{A^E \Rightarrow E', C} \subseteq \llbracket A^E \Rightarrow E' C \rrbracket \times \text{handlers}(A^E \Rightarrow E' C)}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 R_{A^E \Rightarrow E', C} &:= \{ \\
 &\quad \langle \langle D_\gamma, f_\gamma \rangle, H \rangle \mid \\
 &\quad (\text{op}_i : A \rightarrow B) \in E, \quad D_\gamma = \langle \llbracket C \rrbracket, [-] \rangle (\gamma), \\
 &\quad \forall i. \exists MNi. \langle f_\gamma, \lambda x. M \rangle \in R_{E', A \rightarrow C} \wedge, \\
 &\quad \forall \langle a, V \rangle \in R_{E, A}, \langle k, \lambda x. M' \rangle \in RB \rightarrow C. \\
 &\quad \left\langle \llbracket \text{op}_i \rrbracket (\gamma) (\lambda x. kx \ggg f) a, Ni[V/p, (\lambda x. \text{handle } M' \text{ with } H)/k] \right\rangle \\
 &\}
 \end{aligned}$$

Figure 3.8: λ_{eff} -calculus logical relations

Value relations

$$\mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, A}(\rho) \subseteq \llbracket A \rrbracket(\Theta) \times \lambda_{\text{mon}}^{\Sigma}(\Lambda)$$

$$\mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, I}(\rho) := \{ \langle \star, V \rangle \mid V \simeq () \}$$

$$\mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, A_1 \times A_2}(\rho) := \left\{ \langle \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle, V \rangle \mid \exists V_1, V_2 \forall i. V_i : A_i. \langle a_i, V_i \rangle \in \mathbf{R}_{\Sigma, A_i}(\rho), V \simeq (V_1, V_2) \right\}$$

$$\mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, ()}(\rho) := \emptyset$$

$$\mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, A_1 + A_2}(\rho) = \bigcup_{i=1,2} \left\{ \langle \iota_i a, V \rangle \mid \exists V' : A_i. \langle a, V' \rangle \in \mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, A_i}(\rho), V \simeq \text{inj}_i V' \right\}$$

$$\mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, \text{U}_e C}(\rho) := \{ \langle a, V \rangle \mid \exists M : C. \langle a, M \rangle \in \mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, e, C}(\rho), V \simeq \{M\} \} \quad \mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, \alpha}(\rho) := \rho(\alpha)$$

Computation relations

$$\mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, e, C}^v(\rho) \subseteq \llbracket C \rrbracket(\Theta) \times \lambda_{\text{mon}}^{\Sigma, e}(C)$$

$$\mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, \perp, \text{FA}}^v(\rho) := \{ \langle a, \text{return } V \rangle \mid \exists \langle a', V \rangle \in \mathbf{R}_{\Sigma, A}(\rho), a = \text{return } a' \}$$

$$\mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, e, \text{FA}}^v(\rho) := \{ \langle a, \text{return } V \rangle \mid \exists \langle a', V \rangle \in \mathbf{R}_{\Sigma, A}(\rho), a = \text{return } a' \} \cup$$

$$\left\{ \langle a, \widehat{\mu}^e(N) \rangle \mid (\varepsilon \sim \alpha. C) \in \Sigma, \langle a, N \rangle \in \mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, e, C[A/\alpha]}(\rho) \right\}$$

$$\mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, e, A \rightarrow C}^v(\rho) := \{ \langle f, \lambda x. M \rangle \mid \forall \langle a, V \rangle \in \mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, e, A}(\rho), \langle f(a), (\lambda x. M) V \rangle \in \mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, e, C}(\rho) \}$$

$$\mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, e, \top}^v(\rho) := \{ \langle \star, () \rangle \} \quad \mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, e, C_1 \& C_2}^v(\rho) := \left\{ \langle \langle c_1, c_2 \rangle, (M_1, M_2) \rangle \mid \langle c_i, M_i \rangle \in \mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, e, C_i}(\rho) \right\}$$

$\top$ - and $\top\top$ -liftings

$$(\mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, e, C}^v(\rho))^{\top} \subseteq (\llbracket C \rrbracket(\Theta) \rightarrow \llbracket \text{FG} \rrbracket(\Theta)) \times \lambda_{\text{mon}}^{\Sigma, e}(\text{FG}[C]) \quad \text{and}$$

$$(\mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, e, C}^v(\rho))^{\top\top} \subseteq \llbracket C \rrbracket(\Theta) \times \lambda_{\text{mon}}^{\Theta, \Sigma, e}(C)$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, e, C}^v(\rho))^{\top} &:= \{ \langle f, \mathcal{X} \rangle \mid \emptyset[\Theta] \mid \emptyset[\emptyset] \vdash_{\Sigma[\Sigma], \perp[e]} \mathcal{X}[] : \text{FG}[C]. \forall \langle a, M \rangle \in \mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, e, C}^v(\rho). \\ &\quad \exists V. \mathcal{X}[M] \simeq \text{return } V \wedge \langle fa, \text{return } V \rangle \in \mathbf{R}_{\Sigma, \perp, \text{FG}}^v(\rho) \} \end{aligned}$$

$$(\mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, e, C}^v(\rho))^{\top\top} := \{ \langle c, M \rangle \mid \forall \langle f, \mathcal{X} \rangle \in (\mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, e, C}^v(\rho))^{\top}, \exists V. \mathcal{X}[M] \simeq \text{return } V \wedge \langle fc, \text{return } V \rangle \in \mathbf{R}_{\Sigma, \perp, \text{FG}}^v(\rho) \}$$

$$\mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, e, C}(\rho) := (\mathbf{R}_{\Theta, \Sigma, e, C}^v(\rho))^{\top\top}$$

Figure 4.8: λ_{mon} -calculus logical relations