

When Programs Have to Watch Paint Dry



Danel Ahman

Faculty of Mathematics and Physics (FMF)
University of Ljubljana

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Safe usage of resources in programming

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- Let us consider **controlling a robot arm** on a production line:

...

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let (body', left-door', right-door') =
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```
  paint (body, left-door, right-door) in
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  assemble (body', left-door', right-door');
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where the **resources** are the various **car parts** (body, doors, ...)

- Much of **existing work** has focused on **how** such res. are used
 - linear types** can be used to **avoid discarding and duplication**
 - session types** can be used to **enforce order of operations**
 - runners of alg. effs.** can be used to **ensure proper finalisation**
 - ...

Safe usage of temporal resources in prog.

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- In this paper**, we instead focus on when resources are used!

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let (body', left-door', right-door') =  
    paint (body, left-door, right-door) in  
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← τ_{dry} time needs to pass

...

- Correctness** relies on the **parts given enough time to dry**:
 - a **scheduler** could **dynamically block execution**, or
 - a **compiler** could **insert enough time delay** between op. calls, or
 - the **robot arm** could meanwhile **do other useful work**
- But **how to reason** about the result being **temporally correct**?

What's in the paper

- **Temporal resources** via **time-graded modal types**
- A **core calculus** $\lambda_{[\tau]}$ for safe programming with temp. resources
 - Fitch-style **time-graded modal types** (for temporal resources)
 - **temporally aware graded algebraic effects** (for time passage)
 - **temporally aware effect handlers** (for redefining operations)
 - with an **FGCBV-style equational presentation**
- A natural **denotational semantics** justifying the proposed design
 - **adjoint strong monoidal functors** (for modalities)
 - **$[-]$ -strong time-graded monad** (for effectful computations)
 - a **presheaf example** (for concreteness and intuition)

Temporal resources via **time-graded modal types**

A naive solution attempt

- What if we stay in a simply typed effectful language and simply make **paint** return the desired drying time?

```
let ( $\tau_{dry}$ , body', left-door', right-door') =  
    paint (body, left-door, right-door) in
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    delay  $\tau_{dry}$ ;
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    assemble (body', left-door', right-door')
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```
  delay  $\tau_{\text{dry}}$ ;
```

← τ_{dry} time now passes

```
  assemble (body', left-door', right-door')
```

- So, are we done?
- **No!**
 - all the burden for correctness is on the programmer's shoulders
 - typechecker saying yes does not guarantee that `delay` happens, or that it happens where/when it is supposed to happen

Our solution: **temporal resource types** and $\lambda_{[\tau]}$

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- We use a **time-graded modal type** to capture temporal resources

$$X, Y, Z ::= \dots \mid [\tau] X \quad (\tau \in \mathbb{N})$$

- **Intuition 1:** $[\tau] X$ denotes that an X -typed resource **becomes usable in at most τ time units** (and remains so afterwards)
- **Intuition 2:** **at least τ time units need to pass** before a program is allowed to access the underlying X -typed resource

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- **Intuition 2:** **at least τ time units need to pass** before a program is allowed to access the underlying X -typed resource
- This allows us to work with **resource values** such as

$$\text{body}' : [\tau_{\text{dry-body}}] \text{Body} \quad \text{left-door}' : [\tau_{\text{dry-door}}] \text{Door} \quad \dots$$

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- Introduction form** is given by **boxing up a temp. resource**

$$\frac{\Gamma, \langle \tau \rangle \vdash V : X}{\Gamma \vdash \text{box}_\tau V : [\tau] X}$$

- Elimination rule** is given by **unboxing a temporal resource**

$$\frac{\tau \leq \text{time } \Gamma \quad |\Gamma|_\tau \vdash V : [\tau] X \quad \Gamma, x:X \vdash N : Y ! \tau'}{\Gamma \vdash \text{unbox}_\tau V \text{ as } x \text{ in } N : Y ! \tau'}$$

where $|\Gamma|_\tau$ takes Γ to a τ **time units earlier state**¹, e.g., as in

$$|\Gamma, x:X, \langle 4 \rangle, y:Y, \langle 1 \rangle, z:Z|_3 \equiv \Gamma, x:X, \langle 2 \rangle$$

¹We have $|\cdot|_\tau \dashv \langle \tau \rangle$ for Γ s with $\tau \leq \text{time } \Gamma$, i.e., $\langle \tau \rangle$ is **param. r. adj.** (Gratzer et al. '22)

Equational theory and admissible typ. rules

- The **computational behaviour** of **box** & **unbox** is unsurprising

$$\Gamma \vdash \text{unbox}_\tau (\text{box}_\tau V) \text{ as } x \text{ in } N \equiv N[V/x] : Y ! \tau' \quad (\beta)$$

$$\Gamma \vdash \text{unbox}_\tau V \text{ as } x \text{ in } N[(\text{box}_\tau x)/y] \equiv N[V/y] : Y ! \tau' \quad (\eta)$$

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with the rest of the eq. theory also fairly standard for FGCBV

- The type system admits **standard structural rules** (wk, ...)
- It also admits **temporal rules** for **context modalities**

$$\frac{\Gamma, \langle 0 \rangle \vdash J}{\Gamma \vdash J} \quad \frac{\Gamma, \langle \tau_1 + \tau_2 \rangle \vdash J}{\Gamma, \langle \tau_1 \rangle, \langle \tau_2 \rangle \vdash J} \quad \frac{\Gamma, \langle \tau \rangle \vdash J \quad \tau \leq \tau'}{\Gamma, \langle \tau' \rangle \vdash J} \quad \frac{\Gamma, \langle \tau \rangle, x : X \vdash J}{\Gamma, x : X, \langle \tau \rangle \vdash J}$$

⋈

i.e., $\langle - \rangle$ is contravariant **strong monoidal functor** (with co-str.)

Temporally aware graded algebraic effects

- Given by **temporal operation signatures**, such as

$$\text{paint} : \overrightarrow{\text{Part}} \rightsquigarrow \overrightarrow{[\tau_{\text{dry}}] \text{Part}} ! \tau_{\text{paint}}$$

giving rise to **operation calls** with **temporal awareness**, e.g.,

$$\Gamma \vdash V : \text{Body} \times \text{Door} \times \text{Door}$$

$$\Gamma, \langle \tau_{\text{paint}} \rangle, y : [\tau_{\text{dry}}] \text{Body} \times [\tau_{\text{dry}}] \text{Door} \times [\tau_{\text{dry}}] \text{Door} \vdash M : X ! \tau$$

$$\Gamma \vdash \text{paint } V (y . M) : X ! \tau_{\text{paint}} + \tau$$

where M can assume that τ_{paint} **additional time has passed**

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- This **temporal awareness** also happens in **seq. composition**

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : X ! \tau \quad \Gamma, \langle \tau \rangle, x : X \vdash N : Y ! \tau'}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let } x = M \text{ in } N : Y ! \tau + \tau'}$$

Temporally aware effect handlers

- Allow us to **redefine the operations**
 - e.g., to split complex assembly tasks into smaller ones
- **Effect handlers** and **effect handling**²

$$\Gamma \vdash M : X ! \tau$$

$$\Gamma, \langle \tau \rangle, y : X \vdash N : Y ! \tau'$$

$$\frac{\left(\forall \tau'' . \Gamma, x : A_{\text{op}}, k : [\tau_{\text{op}}](B_{\text{op}} \rightarrow Y ! \tau'') \vdash M_{\text{op}} : Y ! \tau_{\text{op}} + \tau'' \right)_{\text{op} \in \mathcal{O}}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{handle } M \text{ with } (x.k.M_{\text{op}})_{\text{op} \in \mathcal{O}} \text{ to } y \text{ in } N : Y ! \tau + \tau'}$$

have to adhere to the **temporal discipline**

- **op. cases** M_{op} **require** τ_{op} -**time** to pass before resuming cont. k
- **continuation** N can still **safely assume** τ -**time** has passed

²We assume being given a set \mathcal{O} of typed operation symbols $\text{op} : A_{\text{op}} \rightarrow B_{\text{op}}$.

Back to **controlling the robot arm**

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- Using the above, we can now **rewrite our example in** $\lambda_{[\tau]}$ as

let (body', left-door', right-door') = ← resource-typed variables
paint (body, left-door, right-door) **in**

delay τ_{dry} ; ← forces τ_{dry} time to pass

unbox body' **as** body'' **in** ← context: Γ , body': $[\tau_{\text{dry}}]$ Body, ..., $\langle \tau_{\text{dry}} \rangle$
unbox left-door' **as** left-door'' **in**
unbox right-door' **as** right-door'' **in**

assemble (body'', left-door'', right-door'') ← non-resource-typed variables

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let (body', left-door', right-door') = ← resource-typed variables  
  paint (body, left-door, right-door) in  
  
delay  $\tau_{\text{dry}}$ ; ← forces  $\tau_{\text{dry}}$  time to pass  
  
unbox body' as body'' in ← context:  $\Gamma$ , body': $[\tau_{\text{dry}}]$  Body, ...,  $\langle \tau_{\text{dry}} \rangle$   
unbox left-door' as left-door'' in  
unbox right-door' as right-door'' in  
  
assemble (body'', left-door'', right-door'') ← non-resource-typed variables
```

- This is **remarkably similar to the naive attempt** from earlier!
 - The only difference is **some additional calls** to **unbox**
 - But we have gained **strong static temporal guarantees!**

Back to **controlling the robot arm**

- **Alternatively**, instead of blocking execution with `delay`, we could have equally well **called other useful alg. operations**

```
let (body', left-door', right-door') =           ← resource-typed variables  
  paint (body, left-door, right-door) in
```

! `op1 v1; . . . opn vn;` ← as long as they collectively take $\geq \tau_{dry}$ time

```
unbox body' as body'' in ← context:  $\Gamma$ ,  $body': [\tau_{dry}] \text{Body}$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $\langle \tau_{dry} \rangle$   
unbox left-door' as left-door'' in  
unbox right-door' as right-door'' in
```

```
assemble (body'', left-door'', right-door'') ← non-resource-typed variables
```

A glimpse into the denotational semantics

Denotational semantics: **category** \mathbb{C}

- Want \mathbb{C} to have **binary products** $(\mathbb{1}, A \times B)$
- Want \mathbb{C} to have **exponentials** $A \Rightarrow B$
 - for most of the development, Kleisli exps. $A \Rightarrow T \tau B$ suffice
- **Example: presheaf category** $\text{Set}^{(\mathbb{N}, \leq)}$ (of time-varying sets)
 - gives Kripke's **possible worlds style semantics**
 - but with **all types being monotone** (resources do not expire)

given $A \in \text{Set}^{(\mathbb{N}, \leq)}$, then

$$t_1 \leq t_2 \quad \text{implies} \quad A(t_1 \leq t_2) : A(t_1) \longrightarrow A(t_2)$$

Denotational semantics: modal types $[\tau] X$

- Want there to be **strong monoidal functor**

$$[-] : (\mathbb{N}, \leq) \longrightarrow [\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{C}]$$

with the **strong monoidality** witnessed by the natural isos.³

$$\varepsilon_A : [0] A \xrightarrow{\cong} A \quad \delta_{A, \tau_1, \tau_2} : [\tau_1 + \tau_2] A \xrightarrow{\cong} [\tau_1] ([\tau_2] A)$$

- In the **presheaf example**, we define $[-]$ as

$$([\tau] A)(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} A(t + \tau)$$

³In Fitch-style, the S4 modality \square is interpreted by an **idempotent comonad**

Denotational semantics: **context modality**

- Want there to be (contravariant) **strong monoidal functor**

$$\langle - \rangle : (\mathbb{N}, \leq)^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow [\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{C}]$$

with the **strong monoidality** witnessed by the natural isos.⁴

$$\eta_A : A \xrightarrow{\cong} \langle 0 \rangle A \quad \mu_{A, \tau_1, \tau_2} : \langle \tau_1 \rangle (\langle \tau_2 \rangle A) \xrightarrow{\cong} \langle \tau_1 + \tau_2 \rangle A$$

- In the **presheaf example**, we define $\langle - \rangle$ as

$$(\langle \tau \rangle A)(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\tau \leq t) \times A(t \dot{-} \tau)$$

⁴In Fitch-style, the ctx. modality for S4 is interpreted by an **idempotent monad**

Denotational semantics: **mod. interaction**

- Also want there to be a **family of adjunctions**⁵

$$\langle \tau \rangle \dashv [\tau]$$

witnessed by natural transformations

$$\eta_{A,\tau}^{-1} : A \longrightarrow [\tau] (\langle \tau \rangle A) \qquad \varepsilon_{A,\tau}^{-1} : \langle \tau \rangle ([\tau] A) \longrightarrow A$$

- required to interact well with the two **strong mon. structures**
- they allow values/resources to be **pushed forward in time**

⁵In Fitch-style modal λ -calculi, one also requires an **adjunction between mods.**

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- required to interact well with the two **strong mon. structures**
- they allow values/resources to be **pushed forward in time**
- In the **presheaf example**,
 - $\eta_{A,\tau}^{-1}$ and $\varepsilon_{A,\tau}^{-1}$ are given by **id. on A -values**, plus by \leq -reasoning
 - $\varepsilon_{A,\tau}^{-1}$ is definable because of the **$(\tau \leq t)$ condition** in $(\langle \tau \rangle A)(t)$

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Denotational semantics: **comp. effects**

- Want there to be a **graded monad** (disc.-graded as no sub-eff.)

$$T : \mathbb{N} \longrightarrow [\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{C}]$$

with **unit** and **multiplication** (satisfying standard g. m. laws)

$$\eta_A^T : A \longrightarrow T 0 A \quad \mu_{A, \tau_1, \tau_2}^T : T \tau_1 (T \tau_2 A) \longrightarrow T (\tau_1 + \tau_2) A$$

and with a **$[-]$ -strength**⁶ (satisfying variants of std. str. laws)

$$\text{str}_{A, B, \tau}^T : [\tau] A \times T \tau B \longrightarrow T \tau (A \times B)$$

⁶Terminology follows the parlance of Bierman and de Paiva (\diamond was \square -strong)

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- $\text{str}_{A, B, \tau}^T$ is the same as **$[-]$ -variant of enrichment of T** , i.e.,

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- We also require T to have **alg. ops.** and support **eff. handling**

⁶Terminology follows the parlance of Bierman and de Paiva (\diamond was \square -strong)

Denotational semantics: **comp. effects**

- In the **presheaf example**, the **graded monad**⁷ is given by cases

$$\frac{a \in A(t)}{\text{ret } a \in (T 0 A)(t)}$$

$$\frac{a \in \llbracket A_{\text{op}} \rrbracket(t) \quad k \in (\llbracket \tau_{\text{op}} \rrbracket (\llbracket B_{\text{op}} \rrbracket \Rightarrow T \tau A))(t)}{\text{op } a k \in (T (\tau_{\text{op}} + \tau) A)(t)}$$

$$\frac{k \in \llbracket \tau \rrbracket (T \tau' A)(t)}{\text{delay } \tau k \in (T (\tau + \tau') A)(t)}$$

with the graded-monadic structure given by unsurprising recursion

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with the graded-monadic structure given by unsurprising recursion

- Direct def. in the **Agda** formalisation uses **induction-recursion**
 - IR needed so that k is natural for continuations in effect handling

⁷This T is for the setting where there are **no delay-equations** in the calculus

Let's wrap it up

Conclusion

- **Temporal resources** can be naturally captured using
 - **modal temporal resource type** $[\tau] X$
 - with a **time-graded Fitch-style presentation**
 - using a **temporal context modality** $\Gamma, \langle \tau \rangle$
 - a time-graded instance of **param. r. adjs.** (Gratzer et al. '22)
 - with a **temporally aware type-and-effect system**
 - with a **natural category-th. semantics** (based on $\langle \tau \rangle \dashv [\tau]$)
- The paper is also accompanied by an **Agda formalisation** 
<https://github.com/danelahman/temporal-resources>

Some ongoing/future work directions

- **Operational semantics**
 - modelling **delay** and **alg. effs.** as actually progressing time
- **Sub-effecting**
 - as sub-effecting $M =$ all-possible-ways-to-insert-delays-into- M ?
- **(Primitive) recursion**
 - grade of $\text{rec } V M_z \ x.k.M_s$ computed by iteration/recursion
 - M_z and M_s being temporally aware depending on iteration count
- **Generalising gradings**
 - other $(\mathbb{N}, 0, +, -, \leq)$ -like structures, e.g., (sets of) traces or states
 - different structures, e.g., as $\Gamma, \langle \tau(\text{trace}) \rangle, x:X \vdash N : Y ! \text{trace}'$
- **Expiring resources**
 - where resources are usable only for an interval, e.g., as $[\tau, \tau'] X$