Comodels as a gateway for interacting with the external world

Danel Ahman

(joint work with Andrej Bauer)

Shonan, 28 March 2019

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Computational effects in FP

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- Using **monads** (as in HASKELL)

```
type St a = String → (a,String)

f :: St a → St (a,a)
f c = c >>= (\x → c >>= (\y → return (x,y)))
```

- Using **alg. effects** and **handlers** (as in EFF, FRANK, KOKA)

```
effect Get : int
effect Put : int → unit
                                          (*: int → a*int!{} *)
let g (c:unit → a!{Get,Put}) =
  with st_h handle (perform (Put 42); c ())
```

Computational effects in FP

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```

- Both are good for **faking comp. effects** in a pure language!

  But what about effects that need access to the **external world**?

External world in FP

- Declare a **signature of monads or algebraic effects**, e.g.,

```
(* System.IO *)

type IO a
openFile :: FilePath → IOMode → IO Handle
```

```
(* pervasives.eff *)

effect RandomInt   : int → int
effect RandomFloat : float → float
```

- And then **treat them specially** in the compiler, e.g.,

```
(* src/runtime/eval.ml *)

let rec top_handle op =
  match op with
  | ...
```

External world in FP

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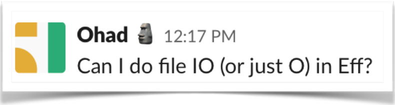

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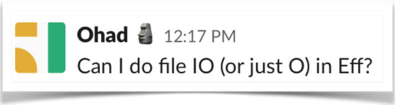

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not currently

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So here's the hack I added. We should do something a bit more principled

In `pervasives.eff`:

```
effect Write : (string*string) -> unit
```

in `eval.ml`, under `let rec top_handle op =` add the case:

```
    | "Write" ->
      (match v with
       | V.Tuple vs ->
          let (file_name :: str :: _)  = List.map V.to_str vs in
          let file_handle = open_out_gen
                              [Open_wronly
                              ;Open_append
                              ;Open_creat
                              ;Open_text
                              ] 0o666 file_name in
          Printf.fprintf file_handle "%s" str;
          close_out file_handle;
          top_handle (k V.unit_value)
      )
```

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This talk — a principled (co)algebraic approach!

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- ```
  let f (s:string) =
    let fh = fopen "foo.txt" in
    fwrite fh (s^s);
    fclose fh;
    return fh

  let g s =
    let fh = f s in fread fh
  ```
  ```

Another issue — linearity or lack thereof

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- Even worse when we wrap `f` in a **handler**?

  ```
  let h = handler
            | effect (FWrite fh s k) → return ()

  let g' s =
    with h handle f ()
  ```
  ```

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- Even worse when we wrap `f` in a **handler**?

  ```
  let h = handler
          | effect (FWrite fh s k) → return ()

  let g' s =
    with h handle f ()            (* dangling fh ! *)
  ```
  ```

So, how could we solve these issues?

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- We could try using **existing PL techniques**, e.g.,
  - **Modules** and **abstraction**, e.g., `System.IO`

    ```
    type IO a

    hClose :: Handle → IO ()
    ```

  - **Linear** (and **non-linear**) **types** and **effects**

    ```
    linear type fhandle

    effect FClose : (linear fhandle) → unit

    linear effect FClose : fhandle → unit
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  - Handlers with `finally` **clauses**

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  - Handlers with **`finally`** **clauses**
- **Problem:** They don't really capture the **essence of the problem**

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- A common explanation is to think of functions

$$\mathsf{a} \rightarrow \mathsf{IO\ b}$$

as

$$\mathsf{a} \rightarrow (\mathsf{RealWorld} \rightarrow (\mathsf{b}, \mathsf{RealWorld}))$$

which is the same as

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- With the `System.IO` **module abstraction** ensuring that
  - We **cannot get our hands on** RealWorld (no `get` and `put`)
  - We have the impression of RealWorld **used linearly**
  - We **don't ask more** from RealWorld than it can provide

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But wait a minute! RealWorld looks a lot like a **comodel**!

$$\mathsf{hGetLine} : (\mathsf{Handle}, \mathsf{RealWorld}) \to (\mathsf{String}, \mathsf{RealWorld})$$

$$\mathsf{hClose} : (\mathsf{Handle}, \mathsf{RealWorld}) \to ((), \mathsf{RealWorld})$$

Important: co-operations (hClose) make a **promise to return**!

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  - Operational semantics using a tensor of a model and a comodel (Plotkin & Power, Abou-Saleh & Pattinson)
  - Stateful runners of effectful programs (Uustalu)
  - Linear state-passing translation (Møgelberg and Staton)
  - Top-level behaviour of alg. effects in EFF v2 (Bauer & Pretnar)

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- ```
  let f (s:string) =
    using IO cohandle
      let fh = fopen "foo.txt" in
      fwrite fh (s^s);
      fclose fh                              (* in IO *)
  ```

  Now **external world** explicit, but **dangling** `fh` etc **still possible**
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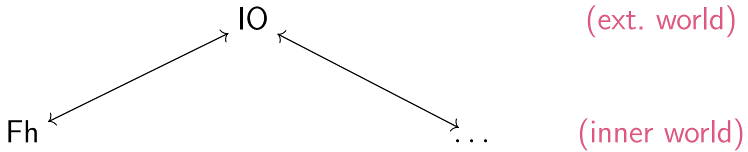
- **Solution: Modular treatment** of **external worlds**

Modular treatment of external worlds

- For example



- Fh — "**world** which consists of **exactly one** `fh`"
- IO $\longrightarrow$ Fh — "call `fopen` with `foo.txt`, store returned `fh`"
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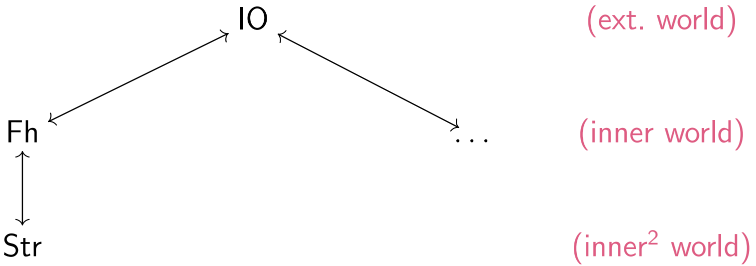

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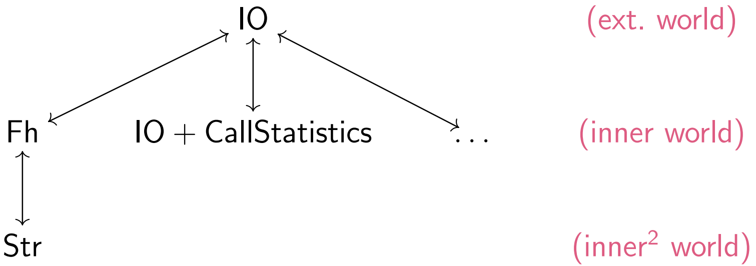

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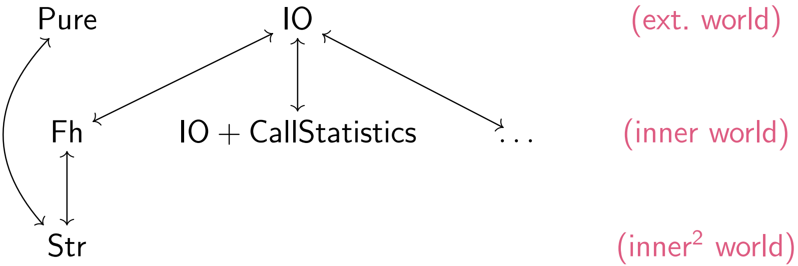

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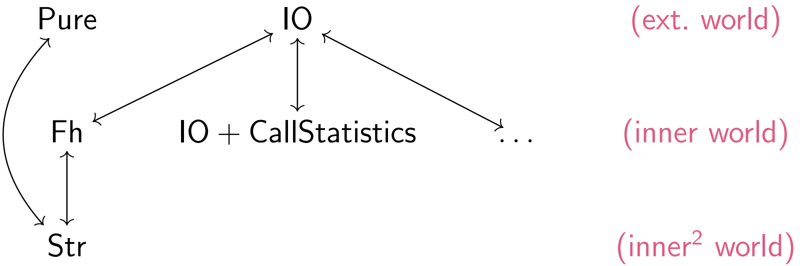

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- **Observation:** IO $\longleftrightarrow$ Fh and other $\longleftrightarrow$ look a lot like **lenses**

Comodels as a gateway to the external world

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```
let f (s:string) =
  using
    Fh @ (fopen_of_io "foo.txt")
  cohandle
    fwrite_of_fh (s^s)
  finally
    x @ fh → fclose_of_io fh
```

Comodels as a gateway to the external world

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  using
    Fh @ (fopen_of_io "foo.txt")                (* in IO *)
  cohandle
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  finally
    x @ fh → fclose_of_io fh                    (* in IO *)
```

Comodels as a gateway to the external world

```
let f (s:string) =                          (* in IO *)
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    Fh @ (fopen_of_io "foo.txt")            (* in IO *)
  cohandle
    fwrite_of_fh (s^s)                      (* in Fh *)
  finally
    x @ fh → fclose_of_io fh                (* in IO *)
```

where

```
Fh =                                        (* W = fhandle *)
  { co_fread  _ @ fh → ... ,
    co_fwrite s @ fh → fwrite_of_io s fh;
                       return ((),fh)      }

    (* co_fread : (unit * W) → (string * W) *)
   (* co_fwrite : (string * W) → (unit * W) *)
```

Modular treatment of worlds (IO $\longleftrightarrow$ Fh $\longleftrightarrow$ Str)

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```
let f (s:string) =                                      (* in IO *)
  using Fh @ (fopen_of_io "foo.txt")
  cohandle

    using Str @ (fread_of_fh ())                        (* in Fh *)
    cohandle
      write_of_str (s^s)                                (* in Str *)
    finally
      _ @ s → fwrite_of_fh s

  finally
    _ @ fh → fclose_of_io fh
```

where

```
Str = { co_write s @ s' →                               (* W = string *)
                return ((),s'^s) }
```

Tracking the external world usage (IO $\longleftrightarrow$ Stats)

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```
let f (s:string) =                              (* in IO *)
  using
    Stats @ (let fh = fopen_of_io "foo.txt" in
             return (fh,0))
  cohandle
    fwrite_of_stats (s^s)
  finally
    _ @ (fh,c) →
           let fh' = fopen_of_io "stats.txt" in
           fwrite_of_io fh' c; fclose_of_io fh';
           fclose_of_io fh
```

where

```
Stats =                              (* W = fhandle * nat*)
  { co_fwrite s @ (fh,c) → ... ,
    co_reset  _ @ (fh,c) → return ((),(fh,0)) }
```

Tracking the external world usage (IO ⟷ Stats)

```
let f (s:string) =                              (* in IO *)
  using
    Stats @ (let fh = fopen_of_io "foo.txt" in
                return (fh,0))
  cohandle
    fwrite_of_stats (s^s)
  finally
    _ @ (fh,c) →
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where

```
Stats =                              (* W = fhandle * nat*)
  { co_fwrite s @ (fh,c) → ... ,
    co_reset  _ @ (fh,c) → return ((),(fh,0)) }
```

- Can also track **results of nondet./prob. choices**, etc

The external world can also be pure (Pure $\longleftrightarrow$ Str)

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```
let f (s:string) =                        (* in Pure *)
  using
    Str @ (return "default value")
  cohandle
    ...
    let s = read_of_str () in
    if (s == "foo")
    then (...; write_of_str "bar"; ...)
    else (...)
    ...
  finally
    x @ s → return x
```

where

```
Str =                                     (* W = string *)
  { co_read  _ @ s → return (s,s) ,
    co_write s @ _ → return ((),s) }
```

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- Core calculus for cohandlers (wo/ handlers $\Rightarrow$ wait a few slides)

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$$A, B, W \ ::= \ \mathsf{b} \mid 1 \mid A \times B \mid 0 \mid A + B \mid A \xrightarrow{\omega} B$$

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- **Signatures** of (**external**) **worlds**

$$\omega \ ::= \ \{ \ \mathsf{op}_1 : A_1 \leadsto B_1 \ , \ \ldots \ , \ \mathsf{op}_n : A_n \leadsto B_n \ \}$$

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- **Computation terms** (value terms are unsurprising)

$$\begin{array}{lcll} c & ::= & \mathbf{return}\ v \mid \mathbf{let}\ x = c_1\ \mathbf{in}\ c_2 \mid v_1 v_2 & \\ & \mid & \widehat{\mathsf{op}}\ v & \text{(comodel op.)} \\ & \mid & \mathbf{using}\ C \ @\ c_i\ \mathbf{cohandle}\ c\ \mathbf{finally}\ x \ @\ w \to c_f & \text{(cohandling)} \end{array}$$

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\mid\;& \widehat{\mathsf{op}}\ v && \text{(comodel op.)} \\
\mid\;& \textbf{using } C \mathbin{@} c_i \textbf{ cohandle } c \textbf{ finally } x \mathbin{@} w \to c_f && \text{(cohandling)}
\end{aligned}
$$

- **Comodels** (**cohandlers**)

$$C \;::=\; \{\, \overline{\mathsf{op}}_1\ x \mathbin{@} w \to c_1 \,,\; \ldots \,,\; \overline{\mathsf{op}}_n\ x \mathbin{@} w \to c_n \,\}$$

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- **Typing judgements**

$$\Gamma \vdash v : A \qquad\qquad \Gamma \vDash^{\omega} c : A$$

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$$\Gamma \vdash v : A \qquad\qquad \Gamma \vDash^{\omega} c : A$$

- The two central **typing rules** are

$$\frac{\Gamma \vDash^{\omega} \mathsf{D} \text{ comodel of } \omega' \text{ with carrier } W_{\mathsf{D}} \qquad \Gamma \vDash^{\omega} c_i : W_{\mathsf{D}} \qquad \Gamma \vDash^{\omega'} c : A \qquad \Gamma, x : A, w : W_{\mathsf{D}} \vDash^{\omega} c_f : B}{\Gamma \vDash^{\omega} \textbf{using } \mathsf{D} \ @ \ c_i \textbf{ cohandle } c \textbf{ finally } x \ @ \ w \to c_f : B}$$

and

$$\frac{\mathsf{op} : A_{\mathsf{op}} \rightsquigarrow B_{\mathsf{op}} \in \omega \qquad \Gamma \vdash v : A_{\mathsf{op}}}{\Gamma \vDash^{\omega} \widehat{\mathsf{op}}\ v : B_{\mathsf{op}}}$$

Denotational semantics

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- **Term interpretation** looks very similar to **alg. effects**:

$$[\![\Gamma \vdash v : A]\!] : [\![\Gamma]\!] \longrightarrow [\![A]\!] \qquad [\![\Gamma \overset{\omega}{\vDash} c : A]\!] : [\![\Gamma]\!] \longrightarrow T_{\omega}\,[\![A]\!]$$

  - **un-cohandled operations wait for a suitable external world**!

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  - **un-cohandled operations wait for a suitable external world**!

- The interesting part is the **interpretation of cohandling**

$$\frac{\Gamma \overset{\omega}{\vDash} \mathsf{D} \text{ comodel of } \omega' \text{ with carrier } W_{\mathsf{D}} \qquad \Gamma \overset{\omega}{\vDash} c_i : W_{\mathsf{D}} \qquad \Gamma \overset{\omega'}{\vDash} c : A \qquad \Gamma, x : A, w : W_{\mathsf{D}} \overset{\omega}{\vDash} c_f : B}{\Gamma \overset{\omega}{\vDash} \textbf{using } \mathsf{D} \ @\ c_i \textbf{ cohandle } c \textbf{ finally } x \ @\ w \to c_f : B}$$

which is based on M&S's **linear state-passing translation**, i.e.,

$$\frac{[\![\mathsf{D}]\!] \in \mathrm{Comod}_{\omega'}(\mathrm{Kleisli}(T_{\omega}))}{\mathrm{cohandle\_with}_{[\![\mathsf{D}]\!]} : T_{\omega'}\, [\![A]\!] \longrightarrow \Big([\![W_{\mathsf{D}}]\!] \to T_{\omega}\, ([\![A]\!] \times [\![W_{\mathsf{D}}]\!])\Big)}$$

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- The **interpretation of operations** uses the **co-operations** of Cs

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- Where do **multi-handlers** fit? Co-operating handlers-cohandlers?

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```
using                                    (* IO ⟷ Fh *)
  Fh @ c_i
cohandle
  fwrite_of_d s;  (* co_fwrite_of_io throws e *)
  fread ()
finally
  | x @ w → c_f
  | throw e → c_do_some_cleanup
  | op x k → ...
```

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Some ongoing work

- Interaction with **algebraic effects** and (**multi-**)**handlers**
- Clarify the connection with (**effectful**) **lenses**
- **Combinatorics** of comodels and their lens-like relationships