

Semantic Design

The following is what I call a 'semantic design' for Nu's scripting system (as well as an unrelated replacement for micro-services called MetaFunctions). The concept of a semantic design is inspired by Conal Elliot's denotational design - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmKYiUOEo2A>.

To specify semantic designs generally, I've created a meta-language called SEDELA (for Semantic Design Language). First, we present the definition of SEDELA, then the semantic design for Nu's scripting system as well MetaFunctions in terms of SEDELA. Although I may aim to write a parser and type-checker for SEDELA, there will never be a compiler or interpreter. Thus, SEDELA will have no syntax for **if** expressions or the like. The only Meanings (SEDELA's nomenclature for functions) defined in the Prelude will be combinators such as `id`, `const`, `flip`, and etc. SEDELA's primitive types are all defined in terms of Axioms (types without formal definitions) with no available operations.

Sedela Language Definition

Axiom :=	Axiom[!] "Informal definition."	where ! denotes intended effectfulness
Meaning Type :=	A -> ... -> Z	where A ... Z are Type Expressions
Meaning Defn :=	f (a : A) ... (z : Z) : R = Expression Axiom	where f is the Meaning Identifier and a ... z are Parameter Identifiers and A ... Z, R are Type Expressions
Expression :=	Example: f a (g b)	where f and g are a Meaning Identifiers and a and b are Paremeter Identifiers
Product :=	MyProduct<...> = A (A : A, ..., Z : Z) Axiom	where MyProduct<...> is the Product Identifier and A ... Z are Field Identifiers and A ... Z are Type Expressions
Sum :=	MySum<...> = A of (A Axiom) ... Z of (Z Axiom)	where MySum<...> is the Sum Identifier and A ... Z are Case Identifiers and A ... Z are Type Expressions
Type Identifier :=	Product Identifier Sum Identifier	
Type Expression :=	Meaning Type Type Identifier	
Type Parameters :=	Type Identifier < A, ..., Z; A<A, ..., Z>; ...; Z<...>>	where A ... Z are Type Expressions and A ... Z are Category Identifiers used for constraining A ... Z
Category :=	category MyCat<...> = f : A ... g : Z	where MyCat<...> is the Category Identifier and f ... g are Equivilence Identifiers and A ... Z are Types Expressions
Witness :=	witness A = f (a : A) ... (z : Z) : R = Expression Axiom ... g (a : A) ... (z : Z) : R = Expression Axiom	where A is a Category Identifier and f ... g are Equivilence Identifiers and a ... z are Parameter Identifiers and A ... Z, R are Type Expressions
Categorization :=	Rule: iff type A has a witness for category A, A is allowable for type parameter constrained to A	

Line Comment :=	Example: // comment text
<code>fun a b ... z -> expr :=</code>	<code>\a (\b (... \z.expr))</code>
<code>a -> b :=</code>	<code>_ = (_ : a) : b</code>
<code>() :=</code>	Explanation: The unit type / value.
<code>f . g :=</code>	Explanation: Function composition.

Sedela Language Prelude

```
Bool = Axiom "A binary type."
Whole = Axiom "A whole number type."
Real = Axiom "A real number type."
String = Axiom "A textual type."
DateTime = Axiom "A date time type."
Maybe<a> = | Some of a | None
Either<a, b> = | Left of a | Right of b

category Semigroup<a> =
  | append : a -> a -> a

category Monoid<m; Semigroup<m>> =
  | empty : m

category Monad<m> =
  | bind<a, b> : m<a> -> (a -> m<b>) -> m<b>
  | return<a> : a

category MonadPlus<m; Monoid<m>; Monad<m>>

category Functor<f> =
  | map<a, b> : (a -> b) -> f<a> -> f<b>

category Comonad<c; Functor<c>> =
  | extract<a> : c<a> -> a
  | duplicate<a, b> : c<a> -> c<c<a>>
  | extend<a, b> : (c<a> -> b) -> c<a> -> c<b>

id a = a

const a _ = a

flip f a b = f b a
```

Nu Semantic Design

Property = Axiom "A property of a simulant."

Relation = Axiom "Indexes a simulant or event relative to the local simulant."

Address = Axiom "Indexes a global simulant or event."

get<a> : Property -> Relation -> a = Axiom "Retrieve a property of a simulant indexed by Relation."

set<a> : Property -> Relation -> a -> a = Axiom! "Update a property of a simulant indexed by Relation, then returns its value."

Stream<a> = Axiom "A stream of simulant property or event values."

getAsStream<a> : Property -> Relation -> Stream<a> = Axiom "Construct a stream of values from a simulant property."

setToStream<a> property relation stream = foldStream (fun _ -> set<a> property relation) stream

eventStream<a> : Address -> Stream<a> = Axiom "Construct a stream of values from event data."

foldStream<a, b> : (b -> a -> b) -> Stream<a> -> b = Axiom "Fold over a stream."

productStream<a, b> : Stream<a> -> Stream -> Stream<(a, b)> = Axiom "Combines two streams into a single product stream"

sumStream<a, b> : Stream<a> -> Stream -> Stream<Either<a, b>> = Axiom "Combines two streams into a single sum stream."

mapStream<a, b> mapper stream = foldStream (fun _ -> mapper a) stream

witness Comonad =

| map = mapStream

| extract = fun f a -> f a

| duplicate = fun f -> f f

| extend = fun f -> map f . duplicate

Semantic Design for MetaFunctions (a replacement for micro-services - unrelated to Nu)

Any = Axiom "The base type of all types."

List<a> = Axiom "The functional list type such as the one defined by F#."

Map<a, b> = Axiom "The functional map type such as the one defined by F#."

Vsync<a> = Axiom "The potentially asynchronous monad such as the one defined by Prime."

Symbol = Axiom "Symbolic type such as the one defined by Prime."

IPAddress = String // a network address

Port = Whole // a network port

Endpoint = (IPAddress, Port)

Intent = String // the intended meaning of a MetaFunction (indexes functionality from a provider)

Container = Intent -> Symbol -> Vsync<Symbol>

Provider = Endpoint | Container

MetaFunction = Provider -> Intent -> Symbol -> Vsync<Symbol>

makeContainer (asynchronounous : Bool) (repositoryUrl : String) (credentials : (String, String)) (envDeps : Map<String, Any>) :
Container = Axiom "Make a container configured with its Vsync as asynctronous or not, built from source pulled from the givern
GIT url, and provided the given environmental dependencies."

attachDebugger (container : Container) = Axiom! "Attach debugger to code called inside the given container."

call (mfn : MetaFunction) provider intent args : Vsync<Symbol> = mfn provider intent args