

Simply RaTT

A Fitch-Style Modal Calculus for Reactive Programming
Without Space Leaks.

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Reactive Programming

Reactive Programs

- A **reactive program** has continual interaction with environment.
- Includes control software, servers, GUI etc.
- Traditionally imperative with shared state and call-backs.
- Hence, error-prone and difficult to reason about.
- Many safety-critical systems are reactive (*e.g. Ethereum*).

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Why *Functional* Reactive Programs?

- We want to **reason about** reactive programs.
- We want **high abstraction** with **efficient implementations**.
- We want **modular programs**.
- We want **safety guarantees**.

Functional Reactive Programming

- FRP¹ uses datatypes that represents values “*over time*”.
- Values that vary over time are called **signals**.
- Programs are signal transducers:

$$prog : \text{Signal } A \rightarrow \text{Signal } B$$

One implementation is **signals as streams**:

$$\text{Stream } A \cong A \times \text{Stream } A$$

Known problems include *causality*, *productivity* and *space-leaks*.

¹Elliott and Hudak, 1997.

Causality and Productivity

Causality

A program is **causal** (*implementable*) if the n th output depends only on the first n inputs.

$\text{noncausal} : \text{Stream } A \rightarrow \text{Stream } A$

$\text{noncausal } as = \text{head}(\text{tail } as) :: \text{noncausal } as$

Productivity

A program is **productive** (*useful*) if something is output at every n .

$\text{nonproductive} : \text{Stream } A$

$\text{nonproductive} = \text{tail nonproductive}$

Leaking Space

Space Leaks

A program has a [space leak](#) if the execution of the program uses more memory than expected and the memory is released later than expected.

bs	F	F	F	T	F	T	...
ns	n_1	n_2	n_3	n_4	n_5	n_6	...
f ns bs	0	0	0	n_1	0	n_1	...

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f ns bs	0	0	0	n_1	0	n_1	...

$$leakyF : \text{Stream Bool} \rightarrow \text{Stream Nat} \rightarrow \text{Stream Nat}$$
$$\text{leakyF } bs \ ns = \text{let } g \ s = \text{if } (\text{head } s) \text{ then } (\text{head } ns) :: g \ (\text{tail } s) \\ \text{else } 0 \quad \quad \quad :: g \ (\text{tail } s) \\ \text{in } g \ bs$$

Plugging a Leak

The problem is a stream is not **stable** over time and can lead to leaks.

```
safeF : Stream Bool → Stream Nat → Stream Nat
safeF bs ns = let n = head ns in
               let g s = if (head s) then n :: g (tail s)
                           else 0 :: g (tail s)
               in g bs
```

To avoid leaks, we should only push **stable values** into the future but they can't be differentiated in the naive approach.

Possible Solution: Restricted API

- Restrict direct access to signals.
- Restrict FRP to predefined combinators.
- E.g. arrowized FRP²

Drawbacks

- Loose simplicity and flexibility of original formulation.
- We want to **make signals first class again!**

²Nilsson et. al. 2002.

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Solution with first class signals: Modal FRP

²Nilsson et. al. 2002.

Modal FRP³ = FRP + modal types

- Add modality \bigcirc pronounced “*Later*” or “*Delay*”.
- $\bigcirc A$ denotes “*A one time step from now*”.
- We now work with **guarded streams**:

$$\text{Stream } A \cong A \times \bigcirc(\text{Stream } A)$$

³Jeffrey 2012, 2014; Jeltsch 2013; Krishnaswami 2013.

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Ensures Causality

$\text{noncausal} : \text{Stream } A \rightarrow \text{Stream } A$

$\text{noncausal } as = \text{head } \underbrace{(\text{tail } as)}_{\text{type error}} :: \text{noncausal } as$

- Similarly for productivity

³Jeffrey 2012, 2014; Jeltsch 2013; Krishnaswami 2013.

Simply RaTT: The language

Simply RaTT: An overview

Goal:

- Full dependent type theory for reactive programming (RaTT).

Simply RaTT:

- A **simply typed** calculus for modal FRP.
- **Fitch-style** approach:
 - Removes need for let-bindings.
 - Allows simple and concise programs.

Contributions:

- Heap-based operational semantics for streams and transducers.
- Disallow (implicit) **space leaks** *by construction*.⁴
- Type system that ensures **safety**, **causality** and **productivity**.

⁴Following Krishnaswami.

Examples with Simplified Syntax

$const : A \text{ stable} \Rightarrow A \rightarrow \text{Stream } A$

$const\ a\ \sharp = a :: \text{delay } (const\ a)$

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$zip\ \#(a :: as)\ (b :: bs) = (a, b) :: \text{delay } (zip\ (\text{adv } as)\ (\text{adv } bs))$

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$switch : \text{Stream } A \rightarrow \text{Ev } (\text{Stream } A) \rightarrow \text{Stream } A$

$switch\ \#(x :: xs)\ (\text{wait } es) = x :: switch\ xs\ es$

$switch\ \#xs\ (\text{val } ys) = ys$

Type System

Let considered harmful

Traditional: Dual contexts

$$\frac{\overbrace{\Theta}^{\text{now}} \mid \overbrace{\emptyset}^{\text{later}} \vdash t : A}{\underbrace{\Gamma}_{\text{now}} \mid \underbrace{\Theta}_{\text{later}} \vdash \text{delay}(t) : \bigcirc A}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \mid \Theta \vdash t : \bigcirc A \quad \Gamma \mid \Theta, x : A \vdash t' : C}{\Gamma \mid \Theta \vdash \text{let } x = t \text{ in } t' : C}$$

$$\overline{\Gamma, x : A, \Gamma' \mid \Theta \vdash x : A}$$

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$$\frac{\Gamma \mid \Theta \vdash t : \bigcirc A \quad \Gamma \mid \Theta, x : A \vdash t' : C}{\Gamma \mid \Theta \vdash \text{let } x = t \text{ in } t' : C}$$

$$\frac{}{\Gamma, x : A, \Gamma' \mid \Theta \vdash x : A}$$

Modern: Fitch-style

$$\frac{\Gamma, \checkmark \vdash t : A}{\Gamma \vdash \text{delay}(t) : \bigcirc A}$$

$$\frac{\overbrace{\Gamma}^{\text{now}} \vdash t : \bigcirc A}{\underbrace{\Gamma}_{\text{earlier}}, \checkmark, \underbrace{\Gamma'}_{\text{now}} \vdash \text{adv}(t) : A}$$

$$\frac{\checkmark\text{-free}(\Gamma')}{\Gamma, x : A, \Gamma' \vdash x : A}$$

To know what values are safe to transport into the future we have two notions:

Stable types

- Types that are **inherently** stable.
- These are `Nat`, `1` and products and sums of these.

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Box Modality

- Given a type A , we can restrict it to **its stable terms**.
- Represented by **box modality**, $\Box A$.
- $\Box A$ is a *stable type*.

$$\frac{\Gamma, \# \vdash t : A}{\Gamma \vdash \text{box}(t) : \Box A}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : \Box A}{\Gamma, \#, \Gamma' \vdash \text{unbox}(t) : A}$$

To ensure *causality* and *productivity* of recursive definition we use modified **Nakano Style fixed point**.

$$\frac{\Gamma, \#, x : \bigcirc A \vdash t : A}{\Gamma \vdash \text{fix } x.t : \Box A}$$

Crucially, fixed points are stable to allow the recursive call *in the future*.

In general we **don't** have $A \rightarrow \bigcirc A$, but we **do** have $\Box A \rightarrow \bigcirc \Box A$.

Examples

$$(\circledast) : \bigcirc (A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow \bigcirc A \rightarrow \bigcirc B$$
$$f \circledast a = \text{delay } ((\text{adv } f) (\text{adv } a))$$
$$(\boxtimes) : \square (A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow \square A \rightarrow \square B$$
$$f \boxtimes a = \text{box } ((\text{unbox } f) (\text{unbox } a))$$

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$$\text{map} : \square (A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow \square (\text{Stream } A \rightarrow \text{Stream } B)$$
$$\text{map} = \lambda f . \text{fix } \text{map}' . \lambda a . (\text{unbox } f) (\text{head } a) :: \text{map}' \circledast \text{tail } a$$

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$$\text{mapSugar} : \square (A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow \square (\text{Stream } A \rightarrow \text{Stream } B)$$
$$\text{mapSugar } f \sharp (a :: as) = (\text{unbox } f) a :: \text{map}' \circledast as$$

Eliminating Space Leaks

Big Step Operational Semantics

We define a **heap based** big step operational semantics:

$$\langle t; \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \langle v; \sigma' \rangle$$

The store σ is used for

- Allocation of **delayed computation**.
- **Recursive** calls.
- **Input data** for transducers.

Small Step Stream Semantics

We define a small step semantics for streams:

$$\frac{\langle t : \text{Str } A; \# \eta \checkmark \rangle \Downarrow \langle v :: l; \# \eta_N \checkmark \eta_L \rangle}{\langle t; \# \eta \rangle \xRightarrow{v} \langle \text{adv}(l); \# \eta_L \rangle}$$

- After evaluation we delete the **entire “now” heap** η_N .
- Similar semantics for stream transducers.
- For transducers, *the input stream is allocated on the heap*.
- **Theorem:** Evaluation of streams and transducers is safe.

Example Reduction

Given the stream of natural numbers, we have the general big step reduction:

$$\langle nats_n; \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \langle n :: l_n; \sigma, l_n \mapsto nats_{n+1} \rangle$$

where $nats_n$ is the n th unfolding of nat .

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This give the reduction:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle nats_0; \# \rangle &\xRightarrow{0} \langle \text{adv}(l_0); \#l_0 \mapsto nats_1 \rangle \\ &\xRightarrow{1} \langle \text{adv}(l_1); \#l_1 \mapsto nats_2 \rangle \\ &\xRightarrow{2} \langle \text{adv}(l_2); \#l_2 \mapsto nats_3 \rangle \\ &\vdots \\ &\xRightarrow{n} \langle \text{adv}(l_n); \#l_n \mapsto nats_{n+1} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Summary and Future Work

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- Fitch-style approach to Modal FRP.
- Heap-based operational semantics that rules out space leaks.
- Type system that ensures safety, causality and productivity.
- Rule out (some) time leaks.
- Formalized meta-theory in Coq.

Summary and Future Work

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- Fitch-style approach to Modal FRP.
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- Rule out (some) time leaks.
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Future Work

- Many ticks and many heaps.
- Denotational semantics.
- Logic on top of language.
- Extension to dependent types (RaTT).

Thank you

Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

Time Leaks

- Computation on tail of stream **will never evaluate fully**.

leakyNats : Str Nat

leakyNats = fix ns. 0 :: $\underbrace{\text{delay unbox}(\text{map } +1) \text{ ns}}_{\bigcirc \text{Str Nat}}$

- We (roughly) have the unfolding:

$$\begin{aligned} & 0 :: (\text{map } +1) \text{ ns} \\ \rightsquigarrow & 0 :: (\text{map } +1) (0 :: (\text{map } +1) \text{ ns}) \\ \rightsquigarrow & 0 :: 1 :: (\text{map } +1) (\text{map } +1) (0 :: (\text{map } +1) \text{ ns}) \\ \rightsquigarrow & 0 :: \dots :: n - 1 :: (\text{map } +1)^n (0 :: (\text{map } +1) \text{ ns}) \end{aligned}$$

- To compute n we need to recompute $(n - 1)$ elements!

Time Leaks II

- **Solution:** Disallow fixed points under delay.

$$\frac{\Gamma, \sharp, x : \bigcirc A \vdash t : A}{\Gamma \vdash \text{fix } x. t : \Box A}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : \Box A \quad \checkmark\text{-free}(\Gamma')}{\Gamma, \sharp, \Gamma' \vdash \text{unbox } t : A}$$

leakyNats : Str Nat

leakyNats = fix ns. 0 :: delay $\overbrace{\text{unbox}(\text{map } +1)}^{\text{type error}} ns$

- Solution is *unique to Fitch-style approach*.
- We can write nats with **explicit buffering**:

nats : $\Box(\text{Str Nat})$

nats = from $\Box 0$

from : $\Box(\text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{Str Nat})$

from $n = n :: f \odot (n + 1)$

Stream Transducer:

- For $t : \text{Str } A \rightarrow \text{Str } B$:

$$\frac{\langle t; \# \eta, l^* \mapsto v :: l^* \checkmark l^* \mapsto \langle \rangle \rangle \Downarrow \langle v' :: l; \# \eta_N \checkmark \eta_L, l^* \mapsto \langle \rangle \rangle}{\langle t; \eta \rangle \xRightarrow{v/v'} \langle \text{adv } l; \eta_L \rangle}$$

- Head of input stream is stored on heap and deleted after each iteration

Typing Rules:

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A, \Gamma' \vdash \text{token-free}(\Gamma')}{\Gamma, x : A, \Gamma' \vdash x : A}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash}{\Gamma \vdash \langle \rangle : 1}$$

$$\frac{n \in \mathbb{N}}{\Gamma \vdash \bar{n} : \text{Nat}}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash s : \text{Nat} \quad \Gamma \vdash t : \text{Nat}}{\Gamma \vdash s + t : \text{Nat}}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash t : B \quad \text{tick-free}(\Gamma)}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x. t : A \rightarrow B}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : A \rightarrow B \quad \Gamma \vdash t' : A}{\Gamma \vdash t t' : B}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : A \quad \Gamma \vdash t' : B}{\Gamma \vdash \langle t, t' \rangle : A \times B}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : A_1 \times A_2 \quad i \in \{1, 2\}}{\Gamma \vdash \pi_i t : A_i}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : A_i \quad i \in \{1, 2\}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{in}_i t : A_1 + A_2}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A_i \vdash t_i : B \quad \Gamma \vdash t : A_1 + A_2 \quad i \in \{1, 2\}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{case } t \text{ of } \text{in}_1 x. t_1; \text{in}_2 x. t_2 : B}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \checkmark \vdash t : A}{\Gamma \vdash \text{delay } t : \bigcirc A}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : \bigcirc A \quad \Gamma, \checkmark, \Gamma' \vdash}{\Gamma, \checkmark, \Gamma' \vdash \text{adv } t : A}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : \Box A \quad \text{token-free}(\Gamma')}{\Gamma, \sharp, \Gamma' \vdash \text{unbox } t : A}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \sharp \vdash t : A}{\Gamma \vdash \text{box } t : \Box A}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : A \quad \Gamma, \checkmark, \Gamma' \vdash \quad A \text{ stable}}{\Gamma, \checkmark, \Gamma' \vdash \text{progress } t : A}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : A \quad \Gamma, \sharp, \Gamma' \vdash \quad A \text{ stable}}{\Gamma, \sharp, \Gamma' \vdash \text{promote } t : A}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : A[\bigcirc(\mu\alpha.A)/\alpha]}{\Gamma \vdash \text{into } t : \mu\alpha.A}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : \mu\alpha.A}{\Gamma \vdash \text{out } t : A[\bigcirc(\mu\alpha.A)/\alpha]}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \sharp, x : \bigcirc A \vdash t : A}{\Gamma \vdash \text{fix } x. t : \Box A}$$

Operational Semantics (selected rules):

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{}{\langle v; \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \langle v; \sigma \rangle} \quad \frac{\langle t; \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \langle \lambda x.s; \sigma' \rangle \quad \langle t'; \sigma' \rangle \Downarrow \langle v; \sigma'' \rangle \quad \langle s[v/x]; \sigma'' \rangle \Downarrow \langle v'; \sigma''' \rangle}{\langle t t'; \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \langle v'; \sigma''' \rangle} \\
 \\
 \frac{\sigma \neq \perp \quad l = \text{alloc}(\sigma)}{\langle \text{delay } t; \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \langle l; \sigma, l \mapsto t \rangle} \quad \frac{\langle t; \# \eta_N \rangle \Downarrow \langle l; \# \eta'_N \rangle \quad \langle \eta'_N(l); \# \eta_N \checkmark \eta_L \rangle \Downarrow \langle v; \sigma' \rangle}{\langle \text{adv } t; \# \eta_N \checkmark \eta_L \rangle \Downarrow \langle v; \sigma' \rangle} \\
 \\
 \frac{\langle t; \perp \rangle \Downarrow \langle v; \perp \rangle \quad \sigma \neq \perp}{\langle \text{promote } t; \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \langle v; \sigma \rangle} \quad \frac{\langle t; \# \eta_N \rangle \Downarrow \langle v; \# \eta'_N \rangle}{\langle \text{progress } t; \# \eta_N \checkmark \eta_L \rangle \Downarrow \langle v; \# \eta'_N \checkmark \eta_L \rangle} \\
 \\
 \frac{\langle t; \perp \rangle \Downarrow \langle \text{box } t'; \perp \rangle \quad \langle t'; \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \langle v; \sigma' \rangle \quad \sigma \neq \perp}{\langle \text{unbox } t; \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \langle v; \sigma' \rangle} \quad \frac{\langle t; \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \langle v; \sigma' \rangle}{\langle \text{into } t; \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \langle \text{into } v; \sigma' \rangle} \\
 \\
 \frac{\langle t; \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \langle \text{into } v; \sigma' \rangle}{\langle \text{out } t; \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \langle v; \sigma' \rangle} \\
 \\
 \frac{\langle t; \perp \rangle \Downarrow \langle \text{fix } x.t'; \perp \rangle \quad \langle t' [l/x]; \sigma, l \mapsto \text{unbox}(\text{fix } x.t') \rangle \Downarrow \langle v; \sigma' \rangle \quad \sigma \neq \perp \quad l = \text{alloc}(\sigma)}{\langle \text{unbox } t; \sigma \rangle \Downarrow \langle v; \sigma' \rangle}
 \end{array}$$

from : $\Box(\text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{Str Nat})$

from = $\text{fix } f. \lambda(n : \text{Nat}). n :: \text{delay}((\text{adv } f) (\text{progress } n))$

nats : $\Box(\text{Str Nat})$

nats = $\text{box}(\text{unbox}(\textit{from}) \text{promote}(0))$

LeakyNats

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \langle \text{unbox leakyNats}; \emptyset \rangle \\
 \xRightarrow{\bar{0}} & \left\langle \text{adv } l'_1; l_1 \mapsto \text{unbox leakyNats}, l'_1 \mapsto \text{unbox map } (\text{box } \lambda x.x + \bar{1}) (\text{adv } l_1) \right\rangle \\
 \xRightarrow{\bar{1}} & \left\langle \text{adv } l_2^3; \begin{array}{l} l_2^0 \mapsto \text{unbox leakyNats}, l_2^1 \mapsto \text{unbox map } (\text{box } \lambda x.x + \bar{1}) (\text{adv } l_2^0), \\ l_2^2 \mapsto \text{unbox step}, l_2^3 \mapsto \text{adv } l_2^2 (\text{adv } (\text{tail } (\bar{0} :: l_2^1))) \end{array} \right\rangle \\
 \xRightarrow{\bar{2}} & \left\langle \text{adv } l_3^5; \begin{array}{l} l_3^0 \mapsto \text{unbox leakyNats}, l_3^1 \mapsto \text{unbox map } (\text{box } \lambda x.x + \bar{1}) (\text{adv } l_3^0), \\ l_3^2 \mapsto \text{unbox step}, l_3^3 \mapsto \text{adv } l_3^2 (\text{adv } (\text{tail } (\bar{0} :: l_3^1))) \\ l_3^4 \mapsto \text{unbox step}, l_3^5 \mapsto \text{adv } l_3^4 (\text{adv } (\text{tail } (\bar{1} :: l_3^3))) \end{array} \right\rangle \\
 & \vdots
 \end{aligned}$$

where $\text{step} = \text{fix } f. \lambda s. \text{unbox } (\text{box } \lambda n.n + \bar{1}) (\text{head } s) :: (f \circ \text{tail } s).$