Getting a Quick Fix on Comonads

A quest to extract computation and not duplicate work

Kenneth Foner

Brandeis University / Galois, Inc.

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Dan Piponi, November 2006 (blog.sigfpe.com):

"From Löb's Theorem to Spreadsheet Evaluation"

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loeb :: Functor f \Rightarrow f (f a \rightarrow a) \rightarrow f a loeb fs = xs where xs = fmap (\$ xs) fs
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Example:

```
> loeb [length, (!! 0), x \rightarrow x !! 0 + x !! 1]
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Example:

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> loeb [length, (!! 0), x \rightarrow x !! 0 + x !! 1 [3,3,6]
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Example:

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Example:

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____
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Dan Piponi, December 2006 (blog.sigfpe.com):

"Evaluating Cellular Automata is Comonadic"

I want to work on 'universes' that extend to infinity in both directions. And I want this universe to be constructed lazily on demand.

We can think of a universe with the cursor pointing at a particular element as being an element with a neighbourhood on each side.

An unexpected journey

```
loeb :: Functor f \Rightarrow f (f a \rightarrow a) \rightarrow f a loeb fs = xs where xs = fmap (\$ xs) fs
```

- ▶ loeb: each element refers to absolute positions in a structure
- ▶ comonads: computations in context of *relative position* in a structure

These are almost the same thing!

(Co)monads: a brief summary

Monads:

Most Haskellers define monads via return and (>>=). Today, we'll use return and join. Note: x >>= f == join (fmap f x).

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Comonads:

(from Edward Kmett's Control.Comonad)

```
data Stream a = Cons a (Stream a) -- no nil!
(from Wouter Swierstra's Data.Stream)
```

```
data Stream a = Cons a (Stream a) -- no nil!
(from Wouter Swierstra's Data.Stream)
head :: Stream a -> a
head (Cons x _) = x
tail :: Stream a -> Stream a
tail (Cons _ xs) = xs
iterate :: (a -> a) -> a -> Stream a
iterate f x = Cons x (iterate f (f x))
```

```
data Tape a = (Stream a) a (Stream a)
```

```
instance Comonad Tape where
  extract (Tape _ c _) = c
  duplicate = iterate moveL moveR
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  extract (Tape _ c _) = c
  duplicate = iterate moveL moveR
```

Duplicate is "diagonalization." Movement and duplication commute:

```
moveL . duplicate == duplicate . moveL
moveR . duplicate == duplicate . moveR
```

Back to Piponi's loeb

(Piponi, 2006)

Löb's theorem: $\Box(\Box P \to P) \to \Box P$ I'm going to take that as my theorem from which I'll derive a type. But what should \Box become in Haskell?

We'll defer that decision until later and assume as little as possible. Let's represent \Box by a type that is a Functor.

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Back to Piponi's loeb

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(Piponi, 2006)
loeb :: Functor f \Rightarrow f (f a \rightarrow a) \rightarrow f a
But □ could also have more structure...
```

```
loeb :: Functor f \Rightarrow f (f a \rightarrow a) \rightarrow f a loeb fs = xs where xs = fmap (\$ xs) fs
```

```
loeb :: Functor f \Rightarrow f (f a \rightarrow a) \rightarrow f a
loeb fs = xs where xs = fmap (\$ xs) fs
fix :: (a \rightarrow a) \rightarrow a
fix f = let x = f x in x
```

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loeb fs = xs where xs = fmap (\$ xs) fs
fix :: (a \rightarrow a) \rightarrow a
fix f = let x = f x in x
```

We can redefine Piponi's loeb in terms of fix:

```
loeb :: Functor f \Rightarrow f (f a \rightarrow a) \rightarrow f a loeb fs = fix $ \xs \rightarrow fmap ($ xs) fs
```

I'll use this one from now on.

```
loeb :: Functor f \Rightarrow f (f a \rightarrow a) \rightarrow f a loeb fs = fix $ \xs \rightarrow fmap ($xs) fs
```

We want to find:

```
???? :: Comonad w \Rightarrow w (w a \rightarrow a) \rightarrow w a
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loeb :: Functor f => f (f a -> a) -> f a
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wfix :: Comonad w => w (w a -> a) -> a
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We want to find:

???? :: Comonad w => w (w a -> a) -> w a

cfix :: Comonad w => (w a -> a) -> w a

cfix f = fix (fmap f . duplicate)

wfix :: Comonad w => w (w a -> a) -> a

wfix w = extract w (fmap wfix (duplicate w))
```

Is this our fix?

```
possibility :: Comonad w => w (w a -> a) -> w a possibility = fmap wfix . duplicate
```

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```

It type-checks, so it has to be right! Right?

Let's try to count to 10000!

(This syntax gets more elegant later.)

\$ time ./possibility

```
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```

```
[0,1,2,3,4 ... some time later ... 9998, 9999, 10000]
39.49 real 38.87 user 0.38 sys
```

Sharing is caring (as well as polynomial complexity)

```
wfix :: Comonad w => w (w a -> a) -> a
wfix w = extract w (fmap wfix (duplicate w))
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That really succs.

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The root of the problem: wfix can't be expressed in terms of fix.

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The root of the problem: wfix can't be expressed in terms of fix.
notWhatI'mTalkingAbout :: Comonad w => w (w a -> a) -> a
notWhatI'mTalkingAbout =
  fix $ \wfix ->
  \w -> extract w (fmap wfix (duplicate w))
```

Holding on to the future

```
wfix :: Comonad w => w (w a -> a) -> a
wfix w = extract w (fmap wfix (duplicate w))
```

More specifically: wfix is inexpressible in terms of fix on its argument.

Why does this mean it's inefficient?

Holding on to the future

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Why does this mean it's inefficient?

No single reference to the eventual future of the computation.

Holding on to the future

Epiphany: Any efficient "evaluation" function looks like:

```
evaluate :: Comonad w => w (w a -> a) -> w a evaluate fs = fix $ _
```

```
evaluate :: Comonad w => w (w a -> a) -> w a evaluate fs = fix \$ _
```

```
evaluate :: Comonad w => w (w a -> a) -> w a
evaluate fs = fix $ _

Found hole with type: w a -> w a
(Error messages have been cleaned for your viewing enjoyment.)
```

```
evaluate :: Comonad w \Rightarrow w (w a \rightarrow a) \rightarrow w a evaluate fs = fix s = 0. duplicate
```

```
evaluate :: Comonad w => w (w a -> a) -> w a evaluate fs = fix  _ . duplicate Found hole with type: w (w a) -> w a
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```

```
evaluate :: Comonad w \Rightarrow w (w a \rightarrow a) \rightarrow w a
evaluate fs = fix $ (fs <@>) . duplicate

(<@>) :: ComonadApply w \Rightarrow w (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow w a \rightarrow w b
```

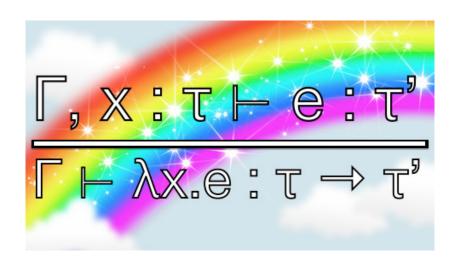
```
evaluate :: Comonad w => w (w a -> a) -> w a
evaluate fs = fix $ (fs <@>) . duplicate

(<@>) :: ComonadApply w => w (a -> b) -> w a -> w b

Could not deduce (ComonadApply w)
   arising from a use of '<@>'
   Possible fix:
      add (ComonadApply w) to the context
      of the type signature for evaluate.
```

```
evaluate :: ComonadApply w => w (w a -> a) -> w a
evaluate fs = fix $ (fs <@>) . duplicate

(<@>) :: ComonadApply w => w (a -> b) -> w a -> w b
```



\$ time ./evaluate

```
$ time ./evaluate
```

```
[0,1,2,3,4 ... a blur on the screen ... 9999, 10000]
0.01 real 0.00 user 0.00 sys
```

\$ time ./evaluate

Still very slightly slower than take 10000 [1..], almost certainly because GHC fuses away the intermediate list.

Aside: list fusion in evaluate: reducible to halting problem?

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instance ComonadApply Tape where
  (Tape ls c rs) <@> (Tape ls' c' rs') =
        Tape (ls <@> ls') (c c') (rs <@> rs')
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instance ComonadApply Stream where (<0>) = (<*>)
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"But that relies on the ComonadApply instance for Streams!"
instance ComonadApply Stream where (<0>) = (<*>)
instance Applicative Stream where
 pure = repeat
  (<*>) = zipWith ($)
```

It is a strong lax symmetric semi-monoidal comonad on the category Hask of Haskell types. That it to say that w is a strong lax symmetric semi-monoidal functor on Hask, where both extract and duplicate are symmetric monoidal natural transformations.

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ComonadApply is to Comonad like Applicative is to Monad.

-Edward Kmett

The laws of ComonadApply:

```
(.) <$> u <@> v <@> w == u <@> (v <@> w)  
extract  (p <@> q) == extract p (extract q)  
duplicate (p <@> q) == (<@>) <$> duplicate p <@> duplicate q
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These laws mean (<0>) must be "zippy."

Uustalu and Vene's The Essence of Dataflow Programming calls it:

```
czip :: (ComonadZip d) => d a -> d b -> d (a,b)
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Enlightening exercise: for an arbitrary Functor f, show how czip and (<0>) can be defined in terms of each other and fmap.

Zippy comonads → zippy computation

The "zippiness" required by the laws of ComonadApply is also the source of evaluate's computational "zippiness."

Can going fast be total(ly safe)?

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Short answer: no.

Long answer: not in ways we would care about.

Nesting Tapes inside one another leads us into to higher-dimensional (discrete) spaces to explore.

```
Tape a \cong Integer \rightarrow a 
Tape (Tape a) \cong (Integer,Integer) \rightarrow a 
Tape (Tape (Tape a)) \cong (Integer,Integer,Integer) \rightarrow a 
Etcetera, ad infinitum!
```

We could define a newtype for each added dimension, but this carries an overhead of between $O(n^2)$ and $O(n^3)$ boilerplate per dimension.

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```
newtype Tape2 a = Tape (Tape a)
newtype Tape3 a = Tape (Tape (Tape a))
. . .
instance Functor Tape2 where ...
instance Comonad Tape2 where ...
instance ComonadApply Tape2 where ...
instance Functor Tape3 where ...
instance Comonad Tape3 where ...
instance ComonadApply Tape3 where ...
. . .
```

That also really succs.

```
Composition of functors (from Data.Functor.Compose):

newtype Compose f g a = Compose { getCompose :: f (g a) }

(Functor f, Functor g) => Functor (Compose f g)

(Applicative f, Applicative g) => Applicative (Compose f g)
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(Functor f, Functor g) => Functor (Compose f g)

(Applicative f, Applicative g) => Applicative (Compose f g)

instance (Comonad f, Comonad g) => Comonad (Compose f g) where extract = extract . extract . getCompose duplicate = ...
```

(N.B. In this section, I've specialized many type signatures.) What can you do with (Compose f g a)?

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Equivalent: what can you do with

(Comonad f, Comonad g) => f (g a)?
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Duplicate outer layer:
duplicate :: f (g a) -> f (f (g a))
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What can you do with (Compose f g a)?
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Duplicate outer layer:
duplicate :: f(g a) \rightarrow f(f(g a))
Duplicate inner layer:
fmap duplicate :: f(g a) \rightarrow f(g(g a))
Duplicate both:
duplicate . fmap duplicate :: f (g a) -> f (f (g (g a)))
```

Whatever ??? is, it likely has a more generic type.

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```
??? :: f (g x) -> g (f x)
fmap ??? :: f (f (g (g a))) -> f (g (f (g a)))

Compose . fmap Compose -- wrap again
. fmap ??? -- swap middle two layers
. duplicate -- duplicate outside
. fmap duplicate -- duplicate inside
. getCompose -- unwrap
:: Compose f g a -> Compose f g (Compose f g a)
```

Two candidates (thanks Hoogle!):

```
sequenceA -- from Data.Traversable
:: (Traversable t, Applicative f) => t (f a) -> f (t a)
distribute -- from Data.Distributive
:: (Distributive g, Functor f) => f (g a) -> g (f a)
```

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sequenceA -- from Data.Traversable
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Initially promising—I know and love Traversable.

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Requires two constraints:

- ▶ Applicative f: outer layer has to have (<*>) and pure—pure is a hard pill to swallow.
- ► Traversable t—that's a deal-breaker!

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- ▶ Traversable t—that's a deal-breaker!

Jaskelioff & Rypacek, MSFP 2012, "An Investigation of the Laws of Traversals": "We are not aware of any functor that is traversable and is not a finitary container."

▶ Infinite streams are definitely not Traversable.

```
distribute    -- from Data.Distributive
    :: (Distributive g, Functor f) => f (g a) -> g (f a)
```

But what does Distributive mean?

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But what does Distributive mean?

What can you do underneath a Functor?

```
distribute  -- from Data.Distributive
    :: (Distributive g, Functor f) => f (g a) -> g (f a)
But what does Distributive mean?
What can you do underneath a Functor?
"Touch, don't look."
```

```
distribute -- from Data.Distributive
    :: (Distributive g, Functor f) => f (g a) -> g (f a)
```

Strategy/intuition for distribute:

- ► Start with f (g a)
- Create a g with f (g a) in each 'hole': g (f (g a))
- For each f (g a) on the inside of g:
 - navigate to a particular focus (using fmap)
 - ▶ fmap extract to eliminate the inner g
- ► Result: g (f a)

Mystery solved

Mystery solved

Efficient evaluation:

```
evaluate :: ComonadApply w => w (w a -> a) -> w a
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Elegant composition:

```
(Comonad f, Comonad g, Distributive g) => Comonad (Compose f g)
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Elegant composition:

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(Comonad f, Comonad g, Distributive g) \Rightarrow Comonad (Compose f g)
```

I could make a library out of this!

{-# LANGUAGE OverlappingInstances #-}



```
type family ComposeCount f where
  ComposeCount (Compose f g a) = Succ (ComposeCount (f (g a)))
  ComposeCount x = Zero

class CountCompose f where
  countCompose :: f -> ComposeCount f
```

```
{-# LANGUAGE FeelBadAboutYourself #-}

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{-# LANGUAGE OverlappingInstances #-}
type family ComposeCount f where
  ComposeCount (Compose f g a) = Succ (ComposeCount (f (g a)))
  ComposeCount x
                               = 7.ero
class CountCompose f where
  countCompose :: f -> ComposeCount f
instance (CountCompose (f (g a)))
  => CountCompose (Compose f g a) where
  countCompose (Compose x) = Succ (countCompose x)
```

Baby, there's a shark in the water

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type family ComposeCount f where
  ComposeCount (Compose f g a) = Succ (ComposeCount (f (g a)))
  ComposeCount x
                               = 7.ero
class CountCompose f where
  countCompose :: f -> ComposeCount f
instance (CountCompose (f (g a)))
  => CountCompose (Compose f g a) where
  countCompose (Compose x) = Succ (countCompose x)
instance (ComposeCount f ~ Zero) => CountCompose f where
  countCompose _ = Zero
```

GADTs to the rescue!

Previously:

```
newtype Compose f g a = \{ getCompose :: f (g a) \}
```

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```
Previously:
newtype Compose f g a = { getCompose :: f (g a) }
What if we put depth of nesting in the types?
data Flat x
data Nest o i
data Nested fs a where
   Flat :: f a -> Nested (Flat f) a
   Nest :: Nested fs (f a) -> Nested (Nest fs f) a
```

GADTs to the rescue!

```
Previously:
newtype Compose f g a = { getCompose :: f (g a) }
What if we put depth of nesting in the types?
data Flat x
data Nest o i
data Nested fs a where
   Flat :: f a -> Nested (Flat f) a
   Nest :: Nested fs (f a) -> Nested (Nest fs f) a
            Just [1] :: Maybe [Int]
      Flat (Just [1]) :: Nested (Flat Maybe) [Int]
Nest (Flat (Just [1])) :: Nested (Nest (Flat Maybe) []) Int
```

Nest it / fmap it / quick rewrap it

Two cases for each instance (base case/recursive case):

```
instance (Functor f) => Functor (Nested (Flat f)) where
  fmap f (Flat x) = Flat $ fmap f x

instance (Functor f, Functor (Nested fs))
  => Functor (Nested (Nest fs f)) where
  fmap f (Nest x) = Nest $ fmap (fmap f) x
```

The rest of the instances for look similar.

Nest it / fmap it / quick rewrap it

- ▶ Match on types, not constraints
- ▶ Base case is Flat, not every type, so no "universal instance"
- See ya later, OverlappingInstances!

What's in a reference?

```
What's in a reference?
{-# LANGUAGE DataKinds #-}
data RefType = Relative | Absolute
data Ref (t :: RefType) where
   Rel :: Int -> Ref Relative
   Abs :: Int -> Ref Absolute
```

```
type family Combine a b where
  Combine Relative Absolute = Absolute
  Combine Absolute Relative = Absolute
  Combine Relative Relative = Relative
```

```
type family Combine a b where
   Combine Relative Absolute = Absolute
   Combine Absolute Relative = Absolute
   Combine Relative Relative = Relative

class CombineRefs a b where ...
instance CombineRefs Absolute Relative where ...
instance CombineRefs Relative Absolute where ...
instance CombineRefs Relative Relative where ...
```

```
type family Combine a b where
   Combine Relative Absolute = Absolute
   Combine Absolute Relative = Absolute
   Combine Relative Relative = Relative
class CombineRefs a b where ...
instance CombineRefs Absolute Relative where ...
instance CombineRefs Relative Absolute where ...
instance CombineRefs Relative Relative where ...
... combine :: Ref a -> Ref b -> Ref (Combine a b)
... combine (Abs a) (Rel b) = Abs (a + b)
... combine (Rel a) (Abs b) = Abs (a + b)
\dots combine (Rel a) (Rel b) = Rel (a + b)
```

```
type family Combine a b where
   Combine Relative Absolute = Absolute
   Combine Absolute Relative = Absolute
   Combine Relative Relative = Relative
class CombineRefs a b where ...
instance CombineRefs Absolute Relative where ...
instance CombineRefs Relative Absolute where ...
instance CombineRefs Relative Relative where ...
... combine :: Ref a -> Ref b -> Ref (Combine a b)
... combine (Abs a) (Rel b) = Abs (a + b)
... combine (Rel a) (Abs b) = Abs (a + b)
... combine (Rel a) (Rel b) = Rel (a + b)
```

► Split presentation style due to Conor McBride, JFP 2001: Faking It: Simulating Dependent Types in Haskell

```
data x :-: y
data Nil

data ConicList f ts where
   (:-:) :: f x -> ConicList f xs -> ConicList f (x :-: xs)
   ConicNil :: ConicList f Nil

type RefList = ConicList Ref
```

It's called a conic list because category theory: (forall a. f a \rightarrow x) is known as a *co-cone* from f to x, and this is sort of like that.

```
type family a & b where
  (a :-: as) & (b :-: bs) = Combine a b :-: (as & bs)
  Nil
         & bs
                    = bs
         & Nil = as
  ลร
class CombineRefLists as bs where ...
instance (CombineRefs a b, CombineRefLists as bs)
     => CombineRefLists (a :-: as) (b :-: bs) where ...
instance CombineRefLists Nil (b :-: bs) where ...
instance CombineRefLists (a :-: as) Nil where ...
instance CombineRefLists Nil
                             Nil where ...
... (&) :: RefList as -> RefList bs -> RefList (as & bs)
... (a :-: as) & (b :-: bs) = combine a b :-: (as & bs)
... ConicNil & bs = bs
... as & ConicNil = as
... ConicNil & ConicNil = ConicNil
```

With suitable definition of names...

```
a :: RefList (Relative :-: Relative :-: Nil)
a = belowBy 3 & rightBy 14
```

With suitable definition of names. . .

```
a :: RefList (Relative :-: Relative :-: Nil)
a = belowBy 3 & rightBy 14

b :: RefList (Relative :-: Absolute :-: Nil)
b = columnAt 9000 & aboveBy 1
```

With suitable definition of names. . .

```
a :: RefList (Relative :-: Relative :-: Nil)
a = belowBy 3 & rightBy 14
b :: RefList (Relative :-: Absolute :-: Nil)
b = columnAt 9000 & aboveBy 1
c = columnAt 5 & columnAt 10
```

Take it / view it / go - insert it

```
class Take r t where
   type ListFrom t a
   take :: RefList r -> t a -> ListFrom t a

class View r t where
   type StreamFrom t a
   view :: RefList r -> t a -> StreamFrom t a

class Go r t where
   go :: RefList r -> t a -> t a
```

Take it / view it / go - insert it

```
class Take r t where
   type ListFrom t a
   take :: RefList r -> t a -> ListFrom t a

class View r t where
   type StreamFrom t a
   view :: RefList r -> t a -> StreamFrom t a

class Go r t where
   go :: RefList r -> t a -> t a
```

...and insert — I have discovered a truly marvelous type signature for this, which this margin is too narrow to contain.

What have we learned?

- Efficient comonadic fixed-point requires zipping
- Distributive comonads compose
- Dimension polymorphism needs type-indexed composition
- Heterogeneous lists unify absolute and relative references

What have we learned?

- ▶ Efficient comonadic fixed-point requires zipping
- Distributive comonads compose
- Dimension polymorphism needs type-indexed composition
- Heterogeneous lists unify absolute and relative references
- ► (Co)monads are (co)ol!

```
fibonacci :: Sheet1 Integer
fibonacci = evaluate . sheet 1 $
  repeat $ cell (leftBy 2) + cell left
(I told you the syntax would get nicer!)
```

```
fibonacci :: Sheet1 Integer
fibonacci = evaluate . sheet 1 $
  repeat $ cell (leftBy 2) + cell left

(I told you the syntax would get nicer!)

> slice (leftBy 2) (rightBy 17) fibonacci
[1,1,2,3,5,8,13,21,34,55,89,144,233,377,610,987,1597,2584]
```

```
pascal :: Sheet2 Integer
pascal = evaluate . sheet 0 $
  repeat 1 <:> repeat (1 <:> pascalRow)
  where pascalRow = repeat $ cell above + cell left
```

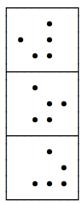
```
pascal :: Sheet2 Integer
pascal = evaluate . sheet 0 $
  repeat 1 <:> repeat (1 <:> pascalRow)
  where pascalRow = repeat $ cell above + cell left
> take (belowBy 9 & rightBy 9) pascal
```

```
pascal :: Sheet2 Integer
pascal = evaluate . sheet 0 $
  repeat 1 <:> repeat (1 <:> pascalRow)
  where pascalRow = repeat $ cell above + cell left
> take (belowBy 9 & rightBy 9) pascal
[[1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1],
[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10],
[1, 3, 6, 10, 15, 21, 28, 36, 45, 55],
[1, 4, 10, 20, 35, 56, 84, 120, 165, 220],
[1, 5, 15, 35, 70, 126, 210, 330, 495, 715],
[1, 6, 21, 56, 126, 252, 462, 792, 1287, 2002],
[1, 7, 28, 84, 210, 462, 924, 1716, 3003, 5005],
[1, 8, 36, 120, 330, 792, 1716, 3432, 6435, 11440],
[1, 9, 45, 165, 495, 1287, 3003, 6435, 12870, 24310],
 [1, 10, 55, 220, 715, 2002, 5005, 11440, 24310, 48620]]
```

```
data Cell = X | O deriving (Eq)
life :: ([Int],[Int]) -> [[Cell]] -> Sheet3 Cell
life ruleset seed =
   evaluate $ insert [map (map const) seed] blank where
     blank = sheet (const X) (repeat . tapeOf . tapeOf $ rule)
     rule place =
       case (neighbors place 'elem') 'onBoth' ruleset of
            (True,_) -> 0
            (_,True) -> cell inward place
                    -> X
     neighbors = length . filter (0 ==) . cells bordering
     bordering = map (inward &) (diag ++ vert ++ horz)
     diag = (&) <$> horizontals <*> verticals
                  [above, below]
     vert =
     horz = map d2 [right, left]
conway :: [[Cell]] -> Sheet3 Cell
conway = life ([3], [2,3])
                                       4D > 4B > 4B > B 990
```

> printLife glider

> printLife glider



cabal install ComonadSheet

github.com/kwf/ComonadSheet
Suggestions, bug reports, pull requests welcome!