

Containers in Higher Kinds

jww Zhili Tian and Håkon Gylterud

Thorsten Altenkirch

Functional Programming Laboratory
School of Computer Science
University of Nottingham

April 16, 2025

Old paper

TLCA01

A. "Representations of first order function types as terminal coalgebras."
Typed Lambda Calculi and Applications: 5th International Conference,
TLCA 2001

Example : Streams

Stream $A \cong \mathbb{N} \rightarrow A$

Given $\mathbb{N} \cong 1 + \mathbb{N}$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{N} \rightarrow A &\cong (1 + \mathbb{N}) \rightarrow A \\ &\cong A \times (\mathbb{N} \rightarrow A)\end{aligned}$$

Hence:

$$\mathbb{N} \rightarrow A \cong \nu X : \text{Set}. A \times X$$

What about trees?

```
data BT : Type where  
  leaf : BT  
  node : BT → BT → BT
```

Given $BT \cong 1 + BT \times BT$

$$\begin{aligned} BT \rightarrow A &\cong (1 + BT \times BT) \rightarrow A \\ &\cong A \times (BT \times BT \rightarrow A) \\ &\cong A \times (BT \rightarrow (BT \rightarrow A)) \end{aligned}$$

Hence:

$$BT \rightarrow A \cong (\nu F : \text{Set} \rightarrow \text{Set} . \lambda X . X \times F(F X)) A$$

```

record Bush (A : Type) : Type where
  coinductive
  field
    head : A
    tail : Bush (Bush A)
  app : Bush A → BT → A
  app bsh leaf = head bsh
  app bsh (node l r) = app (app (tail bsh) l) r
  lam : (BT → A) → Bush A
  head (lam f) = f leaf
  tail (lam f) =  $\phi (\lambda l \rightarrow \phi (\lambda r \rightarrow f (\text{node } l \ r)))$ 

```

Another old paper

TCS05

Abbott, Michael, A., and Neil Ghani.

"Containers: Constructing strictly positive types."

Theoretical Computer Science 342.1 (2005):

record Cont : Set₁ **where**

constructor _ \triangleleft _

field

S : Set

P : S \rightarrow Set

$\llbracket _ \rrbracket$: Cont \rightarrow Set \rightarrow Set

$\llbracket S \triangleleft P \rrbracket X = \Sigma[s \in S] (P\ s \rightarrow X)$

Results on containers

- Initial and terminal algebras

$$\mu \llbracket S \triangleleft P \rrbracket \cong W S P$$

$$\nu \llbracket S \triangleleft P \rrbracket \cong M S P$$

- Container morphisms

$$\int_{X:\mathbf{Set}} \llbracket S \triangleleft P \rrbracket X \rightarrow \llbracket T \triangleleft Q \rrbracket X \cong \\ \Sigma [f \in S \rightarrow T] (Q (f s) \rightarrow P s)$$

- Cont is cartesian closed.
CIE 2010 (w Paul Levy and Sm Staton)
- Cont gives rise to a Category with families (CwF)
TYPES 2021 abstract (w Ambrus Kaposi)

How to express the results from the TLCA01 paper in the language of TCS05?

What are containers in higher kinds?

$$\begin{aligned} H &: (\text{Set} \rightarrow \text{Set}) \rightarrow \text{Set} \rightarrow \text{Set} \\ H F X &= X \times F (F X) \end{aligned}$$

2nd order containers

record $\text{Cont}_2 : \text{Set}_1$ **where**

constructor $_ \triangleleft _, _, _$

inductive

pattern

field

$S : \text{Set}$

$P_0 : S \rightarrow \text{Set}$

$R_0 : (s : S) \rightarrow P_0 s \rightarrow \text{Cont}_2$

$P_1 : S \rightarrow \text{Set}$

$\llbracket _ \rrbracket : \text{Cont}_2 \rightarrow (\text{Set} \rightarrow \text{Set}) \rightarrow \text{Set} \rightarrow \text{Set}$

$\llbracket S \triangleleft P_0, R_0, P_1 \rrbracket F X =$

$\Sigma [s \in S] ((p : P_0 s) \rightarrow F (\llbracket R_0 s p \rrbracket F X))$
 $\times (P_1 s \rightarrow X)$

$H : \text{Cont}_2$

$-- H \ F \ X = X \times F \ (F \ X)$

$H = \top \triangleleft (\lambda _ \rightarrow \top) ,$

$(\lambda _ _ \rightarrow _ _ -- H' \ F \ X = F \ X$

$\top \triangleleft (\lambda _ \rightarrow \top) ,$

$(\lambda _ _ \rightarrow _ _ -- H'' \ F \ X = X$

$\top \triangleleft (\lambda _ \rightarrow \perp) , (\lambda _ ()) , \lambda _ \rightarrow \top) ,$

$\lambda _ \rightarrow \top) ,$

$\lambda _ \rightarrow \top$

Higher containers

```
data Ty : Set where  
  ○ : Ty  
  _ ⇒ _ : Ty → Ty → Ty  
data Con : Set where  
  ● : Con  
  _ ▷ _ : Con → Ty → Con  
data Var : Con → Ty → Set where  
  vz : Var (Γ ▷ A) A  
  vs : Var Γ A → Var (Γ ▷ B) A
```

```

data Nf : Con → Ty → Set
record Ne (Γ : Con) (B : Ty) : Set
data Sp : Con → Ty → Ty → Set
data Nf where
  lam : Nf (Γ ▷ A) B → Nf Γ (A ⇒ B)
  ne : Ne Γ ○ → Nf Γ ○
record Ne Γ B where
  inductive
  field
    S : Set
    P : S → Var Γ A → Set
    R : (s : S) (x : Var Γ A) (p : P s x) → Sp Γ A B
data Sp where
  ε : Sp Γ A A
  _,_ : Nf Γ A → Sp Γ B C → Sp Γ (A ⇒ B) C

```


Semantics

$$\llbracket _ \rrbracket_T : \text{Ty} \rightarrow \text{Set}$$

$$\llbracket \circ \rrbracket_T = \text{Set}$$

$$\llbracket A \Rightarrow B \rrbracket_T = \llbracket A \rrbracket_T \rightarrow \llbracket B \rrbracket_T$$

$$\llbracket _ \rrbracket_C : \text{Con} \rightarrow \text{Set}$$

$$\llbracket \bullet \rrbracket_C = \top$$

$$\llbracket \Gamma \triangleright A \rrbracket_C = \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket_C \times \llbracket A \rrbracket_T$$

$$\llbracket _ \rrbracket_v : \text{Var } \Gamma \ A \rightarrow \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket_C \rightarrow \llbracket A \rrbracket_T$$

$$\llbracket \text{vz} \rrbracket_v (\gamma, a) = a$$

$$\llbracket \text{vs } x \rrbracket_v (\gamma, a) = \llbracket x \rrbracket_v \gamma$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\llbracket _ \rrbracket_{\text{nf}} &: \text{Nf } \Gamma \ A \rightarrow \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket_C \rightarrow \llbracket A \rrbracket_T \\
\llbracket _ \rrbracket_{\text{ne}} &: \text{Ne } \Gamma \circ \rightarrow \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket_C \rightarrow \text{Set} \\
\llbracket _ \rrbracket_{\text{sp}} &: \text{Sp } \Gamma \ A \ B \rightarrow \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket_C \rightarrow \llbracket A \rrbracket_T \rightarrow \llbracket B \rrbracket_T \\
\llbracket \text{lam } x \rrbracket_{\text{nf}} \ \gamma \ a &= \llbracket x \rrbracket_{\text{nf}} (\gamma, a) \\
\llbracket \text{ne } x \rrbracket_{\text{nf}} \ \gamma &= \llbracket x \rrbracket_{\text{ne}} \ \gamma \\
\llbracket _ \rrbracket_{\text{ne}} \ \{\Gamma\} \ \mathbf{record} \ \{S = S; P = P; R = R\} \ \gamma &= \\
&\quad \Sigma[s \in S] (\{A : \text{Ty}\} (x : \text{Var } \Gamma \ A) \\
&\quad \quad (p : P \ s \ x) \rightarrow \llbracket R \ s \ x \ p \rrbracket_{\text{sp}} \ \gamma (\llbracket x \rrbracket_v \ \gamma)) \\
\llbracket \epsilon \rrbracket_{\text{sp}} \ \gamma \ a &= a \\
\llbracket n, ns \rrbracket_{\text{sp}} \ \gamma \ f &= \llbracket ns \rrbracket_{\text{sp}} \ \gamma (f (\llbracket n \rrbracket_{\text{nf}} \ \gamma))
\end{aligned}$$

Results?

- Interpretation of simply typed λ -calculus
Using ideas from hereditary substitutions
Still need to check equations.
- Functoriality
Need to interpret using hereditary higher functors
In progress
- Morphisms ?
Seems to work for Cont_2 , generalize?
- Initial algebras, terminal coalgebras

$$\mu : \text{HCont} (A \Rightarrow A) \Rightarrow A$$

$$\nu : \text{HCont} (A \Rightarrow A) \Rightarrow A$$

Some issues (restrict universe?)

- Translation from TLCA01
sketch on paper
proof?

Hereditary functors

record Cat (Obj : Set) : Set

record Func (C : Cat X) (D : Cat Y) (F : X → Y) : Set

$\llbracket _ \rrbracket_F : (A : \text{Ty}) \rightarrow \llbracket A \rrbracket_T \rightarrow \text{Set}$

$\llbracket _ \rrbracket_C : (A : \text{Ty}) \rightarrow \text{Cat } (\Sigma \llbracket A \rrbracket_T \llbracket A \rrbracket_F)$

$\llbracket \text{set} \rrbracket_F X = \top$

$\llbracket A \Rightarrow B \rrbracket_F H =$

$\Sigma [HH \in ((F : \llbracket A \rrbracket_T) \rightarrow \llbracket A \rrbracket_F F \rightarrow \llbracket B \rrbracket_F (H F))]$
 $\text{Func } \llbracket A \rrbracket_C \llbracket B \rrbracket_C (\lambda (F, FF) \rightarrow H F, HH F FF)$

Example for μ

$H\ F\ X = 1 + X \times F\ (F\ X)$

construct $\mu\ H$

data S : Set

P : $S \rightarrow$ Set

data S where

s_{\perp} : S

node : $(s : S) \rightarrow (P\ s \rightarrow S) \rightarrow S$

$P\ s_{\perp} = \perp$

$P\ (\text{node}\ s\ f) = \text{Maybe}\ (\Sigma[p \in P\ s] (P\ (f\ p)))$

Example for ν

$H F X = X \times F (F X)$

construct νH (we know it is $1 \triangleleft BT$)

```
record S : Set
```

```
data P : S → Set
```

```
record S where
```

```
  coinductive
```

```
  field
```

```
    s : S
```

```
    f : P s → S
```

```
data P where
```

```
  hd : (sf : S) → P sf
```

```
  tl : (sf : S) (p : P (S.s sf)) (q : P (S.f sf p)) → P sf
```

Problem : not strictly positive!