Abstraction patterns

Haskell and Cryptocurrencies

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Goals

- Introduce `Monad` and `Applicative`.

Maybe

The `Maybe` type

```haskell
data Maybe a = Nothing
             | Just a
```

The `Maybe` datatype is often used to encode failure or an exceptional value:

```haskell
lookup :: (Eq a) => a -> [(a, b)] -> Maybe b
find   :: (a -> Bool) -> [a] -> Maybe a
```

Encoding exceptions using `Maybe`

Assume that we have a data structure with the following operations:

```
up, down, right :: Loc -> Maybe Loc
update          :: (Int -> Int) -> Loc -> Loc
```

Given a location `l1`, we want to move up, right, down, and update the resulting position with using `update (+ 1)` ...

Each of the steps can fail.

Encoding exceptions using `Maybe` (contd.)

```haskell
case up l1 of
  Nothing  -> Nothing
  Just l2  -> case right l2 of
    Nothing  -> Nothing
    Just l3  -> case down l3 of
      Nothing  -> Nothing
      Just l4  -> Just (update (+ 1) l4)
```

Encoding exceptions using `Maybe` (contd.)

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```

In essence, we need

- a way to *sequence* function calls and use their results if successful
- a way to *modify* or *produce* successful results.

Encoding exceptions using `Maybe` (contd.)

```haskell
case up l1 of
  Nothing  -> Nothing
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    Just l3  -> case down l3 of
      Nothing  -> Nothing
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```

Sequencing:

```haskell
(>>=) :: Maybe a -> (a -> Maybe b) -> Maybe b
f >>= g = case f of
            Nothing -> Nothing
            Just x  -> g x
```

Encoding exceptions using `Maybe` (contd.)

```
up l1  >>=

 \ l2     -> case right l2 of
   Nothing  -> Nothing
   Just l3  -> case down l3 of
     Nothing  -> Nothing
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Encoding exceptions using `Maybe` (contd.)

```haskell
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Sequencing:

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(>>=) :: Maybe a -> (a -> Maybe b) -> Maybe b
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Sequencing and embedding

```
up l1 >>=
  \ l2 -> right l2 >>=
    \ l3 -> down l3 >>=
      \ l4 -> Just (update (+ 1) l4)
```

Sequencing and embedding

```
up l1 >>=
  \ l2 -> right l2 >>=
    \ l3 -> down l3 >>=
      \ l4 -> return (update (+ 1) l4)
```

```
(>>=) :: Maybe a -> (a -> Maybe b) -> Maybe b
f >>= g    = case f of
                 Nothing -> Nothing
                 Just x   -> g x

return :: a -> Maybe a
return x = Just x
```

Sequencing and embedding

```
up l1 >>=
  \ l2 -> right l2 >>=
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```
(>>=) :: Maybe a -> (a -> Maybe b) -> Maybe b
f >>= g    = case f of
               Nothing -> Nothing
               Just x   -> g x

return :: a -> Maybe a
return x = Just x
```

```
(up l1) >>= right >>= down >>= return . update (+ 1)
```

Observation

Code looks a bit like imperative code. Compare:

```
up l1       >>= \ l2 ->
right l2 >>= \ l3 ->
down l3   >>= \ l4 ->
return (update (+ 1) l4)
```

```
l2 := up l1;
l3 := right l2;
l4 := down l3;
return update (+ 1) l4
```

- In the imperative language, the occurrence of possible exceptions is a side effect.
- Haskell is more explicit because we use the `Maybe` type and the appropriate sequencing operation.

A variation: `Either`

Compare the datatypes

```
data Either a b = Left a | Right b
data Maybe a    = Nothing | Just a
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The datatype `Maybe` can encode exceptional function results (i.e., failure), but no information can be associated with `Nothing`. We cannot distinguish different kinds of errors.

A variation: `Either`

Compare the datatypes

```
data Either a b = Left a | Right b
data Maybe a    = Nothing | Just a
```

The datatype `Maybe` can encode exceptional function results (i.e., failure), but no information can be associated with `Nothing`. We cannot distinguish different kinds of errors.

Using `Either`, we can use `Left` to encode errors, and `Right` to encode successful results.

Sequencing and returning for `Either`

We can define variants of the operations for `Maybe`:

```
(>>=) :: Either e a -> (a -> Either e b)
            -> Either e b
f >>= g = case f of
            Left  e -> Left e
            Right x -> g x

return :: a -> Either e a
return x = Right x
```

Simulating exceptions

We can abstract completely from the definition of the underlying `Either` type if we define functions to throw and catch errors.

```
throwError :: e -> Either e a
throwError e = Left e
```

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```
throwError :: e -> Either e a
throwError e = Left e

catchError :: Either e a         ->    -- computation
              (e -> Either e a) ->    -- handler
              Either e a
catchError f handler = case f of
                         Left  e -> handler e
                         Right x -> Right x
```

State

Maintaining state explicitly

- We pass state to a function as an argument.
- The function modifies the state and produces it as a result.
- If the function does anything except modifying the state, we must return a tuple (or a special-purpose datatype with multiple fields).

This motivates the following type definition:

```haskell
type State s a = s -> (a, s)
```

Using state

There are many situations where maintaining state is useful:

- using a random number generator

```haskell
type Random a = State StdGen a
```

- using a counter to generate unique labels

```haskell
type Counter a = State Int a
```

- maintaining the complete current configuration of an application (an interpreter, a game, ...) using a user-defined datatype

```haskell
data ProgramState = ...
type Program a = State ProgramState a
```

Example: labelling the leaves of a tree

```haskell
data Tree a = Leaf a | Node (Tree a) (Tree a)
```

```haskell
labelTree :: Tree a -> State Int (Tree (a, Int))
labelTree (Leaf x)   c  = (Leaf (x, c), c + 1)
labelTree (Node l r) c1 =
  let (ll, c2) = labelTree l c1
      (lr, c3) = labelTree r c2
  in (Node ll lr, c3)
```

Encoding state passing

```
\ s1 -> let (lvl , s2) = generateLevel      s1
            (lvl', s3) = generateStairs lvl s2
            (ms  , s4) = placeMonsters lvl' s3
        in (combine lvl' ms, s4)
```

Encoding state passing

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Again, we need

- a way to *sequence* function calls and use their results
- a way to *modify* or *produce* successful results.

Bind and return for state

```haskell
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        in (combine lvl' ms, s4)
```

```haskell
(>>=) :: State s a -> (a -> State s b) -> State s b
f >>= g   = \ s -> let (x, s') = f s in g x s'

return :: a -> State s a
return x = \ s -> (x, s)
```

Bind and return for state

```
                        generateLevel        >>=  \ lvl ->
\ s2 -> let (lvl', s3) = generateStairs lvl s2
            (ms   , s4) = placeMonsters lvl' s3
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Bind and return for state

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                      generateLevel          >>=  \ lvl ->
                      generateStairs lvl     >>=  \ lvl' ->
\ s3 -> let (ms   , s4) = placeMonsters lvl' s3
        in (combine lvl' ms, s4)
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(>>=) :: State s a -> (a -> State s b) -> State s b
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Bind and return for state

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Bind and return for state

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                        generateLevel         >>=  \ lvl ->
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(>>=) :: State s a -> (a -> State s b) -> State s b
f >>= g   = \ s -> let (x, s') = f s in g x s'

return :: a -> State s a
return x = \ s -> (x, s)
```

Observation

Again, the code looks a bit like imperative code. Compare:

```
generateLevel       >>= \ lvl ->
generateStairs lvl >>= \ lvl' ->
placeMonsters lvl' >>= \ ms ->
return (combine lvl' ms)
```

```
lvl  := generateLevel;
lvl' := generateStairs lvl;
ms   := placeMonsters lvl';
return combine lvl' ms
```

- In the imperative language, the occurrence of memory updates (random numbers) is a side effect.
- Haskell is more explicit because we use the `State` type and the appropriate sequencing operation.

“Primitive” operations for state handling

We can completely hide the implementation of `State` if we provide the following two operations as an interface:

```
get :: State s s
get = \ s -> (s, s)

put :: s -> State s ()
put s = \ _ -> ((), s)
```

```
inc :: State Int ()
inc = get >>= \ s -> put (s + 1)
```

Labelling a tree, revisited

```haskell
data Tree a = Leaf a | Node (Tree a) (Tree a)
```

```haskell
labelTree :: Tree a -> State Int (Tree (a, Int))
labelTree (Leaf x)   c  = (Leaf (x, c), c + 1)

labelTree (Node l r) c1 =
  let (ll, c2) = labelTree l c1
      (lr, c3) = labelTree r c2
  in (Node ll lr, c3)
```

The old version, with tedious explicit threading of the state.

Labelling a tree, revisited

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data Tree a = Leaf a | Node (Tree a) (Tree a)
```

```haskell
labelTree :: Tree a -> State Int (Tree (a, Int))
labelTree (Leaf x)   = get >>= \ c ->
                       inc >> return (Leaf (x, c))
labelTree (Node l r) =
  labelTree l >>= \ ll   ->
  labelTree r >>= \ lr   ->
  return (Node ll lr)
```

```haskell
(>>) :: State s a -> State s b -> State s b
x >> y = x >>= \ _ -> y
```

(The same definition as for IO …)

List

Encoding multiple results and nondeterminism

Get the length of all words in a list of multi-line texts:

```
map length
  (concat (map words
    (concat (map lines txts))
  ))
```

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  ))
```

Embedding and sequencing for computations with many results *nondeterministic computations*:

- Embedding: a computation with exactly one result.
- Sequencing: performing the second computation on all possible results of the first one.

Defining bind and return for lists

```
(>>=) :: [a] -> (a -> [b]) -> [b]
xs >>= f = concat (map f xs)

return :: a -> [a]
return x = [x]
```

We have to use `concat` in `(>>=)` to flatten the list of lists.

Using bind and return for lists

```
map length
  (concat (map words
    (concat (map lines txts))))
```

```
txts    >>= \ t ->
lines t >>= \ l ->
words l >>= \ w ->
return (length w)
```

Using bind and return for lists

```
map length
  (concat (map words
    (concat (map lines txts))))
```

```
txts    >>= \ t ->          t := txts
lines t >>= \ l ->          l := lines t
words l >>= \ w ->          w := words w
return (length w)           return length w
```

Using bind and return for lists

```
map length
  (concat (map words
    (concat (map lines txts))))
```

```
txts    >>= \ t ->          t := txts
lines t >>= \ l ->          l := lines t
words l >>= \ w ->          w := words w
return (length w)           return length w
```

- Again, we have a similarity to imperative code.
- Imperative language: implicit nondeterminism.
- Haskell: explicit by using the list datatype and `(>>=)`.

Intermediate Summary

At least four types with `(>>=)` and `return`:

- `Maybe`: `(>>=)` sequences operations that may fail and shortcuts evaluation once failure occurs; `return` embeds a function that never fails;
- `State`: `(>>=)` sequences operations that may modify some state and threads the state through the operations; `return` embeds a function that never modifies the state;
- `[]`: `(>>=)` sequences operations that may have multiple results and executes subsequent operations for each of the previous results; `return` embeds a function that only ever has one result.
- `IO`: `(>>=)` sequences the side effects to the outside world, and `return` embeds a function without any side effects.

Monads

Monad class

```haskell
class Applicative m => Monad m where
  return :: a -> m a
  (>>=)   :: m a -> (a -> m b) -> m b
```

- The name “monad” is borrowed from category theory.
- A monad is an algebraic structure similar to a *monoid*.
- Monads have been popularized in functional programming via the work of Moggi and Wadler.

Instances

```haskell
instance Monad Maybe where
  …
instance Monad (Either e) where
  …
instance Monad [] where
  …
newtype State s a = State {runState :: s -> (a, s)}
instance Monad (State s) where
  …
```

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instance Monad (State s) where
  …
```

The `newtype` for `State` is required because Haskell does not allow us to directly make a type `s -> (a, s)` an instance of `Monad`. (Question: why not?)

There are more monads

The types we have seen: `Maybe`, `Either`, `[]`, `State`, `IO` are among the most frequently used monads – but there are many more you will encounter sooner or later.

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In fact, we have already seen one more! Which one?

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The types we have seen: `Maybe`, `Either`, `[]`, `State`, `IO` are among the most frequently used monads – but there are many more you will encounter sooner or later.

In fact, we have already seen one more! Which one?

The generators `Gen` from QuickCheck form a monad. You can see it as an abstract state monad, allowing access to the state of a random number generator.

Monad laws

`return` is the unit of `(>>=)`

```
return a >>= f = f a
m >>= return   = m
```

Associativity of `(>>=)`

```
(m >>= f) >>= g = m >>= (\ x -> f x >>= g)
```

Monad laws for `Maybe`

```
  return a >>= f
= { Definition of (>>=) }
  case return a of
    Nothing -> Nothing
    Just x  -> f x
= { Definition of return }
  case Just a of
    Nothing -> Nothing
    Just x  -> f x
= { case }
  f a
```

Monad laws for `Maybe` (contd.)

```
  m >>= return
=   { Definition of (>>=) }
  case m of
    Nothing -> Nothing
    Just x   -> return x
=   { Definition of return }
  case m of
    Nothing -> Nothing
    Just x   -> Just x
=   { case }
  m
```

Monad laws for `Maybe` (contd.)

Lemma

```
forall ((f :: a -> Maybe b)) .
Nothing >>= f = Nothing
```

Proof

```
   Nothing >>= f
=    { Definition of (>>=) }
   case Nothing of
     Nothing -> Nothing
     Just x   -> f x
=    { case }
   Nothing
```

Monad laws for `Maybe` (contd.)

```
(m >>= f) >>= g = m >>= (\ x -> f x >>= g)
```

Induction on `m`. Case `m` is `Nothing`:

```
   (Nothing >>= f) >>= g
=    { Lemma }
   Nothing >>= g
=    { Lemma }
   Nothing
=    { Lemma }
   Nothing >>= (\ x -> f x >>= g)
```

Monad laws for `Maybe` (contd.)

Case `m` is `Just y`:

```
  (Just y >>= f) >>= g
=   { Definition of (>>=) }
  (case Just y of
     Nothing -> Nothing
     Just x   -> f x) >>= g
=   { case }
  f y >>= g
=   { beta-expansion }
  (\ x -> f x >>= g) y
=   { case }
  case Just y of
    Nothing -> Nothing
    Just x   -> (\ x -> f x >>= g) x
=   { definition of (>>=) }
  Just y >>= (\ x -> f x >>= g)
```

Additional monad operations

Class `Monad` contains an additional method, with a default:

```
class Applicative m => Monad m where
  …
  (>>) :: m a -> m b -> m b
  m >> n = m >>= \ _ -> n
```

do notation

The `do` notation we have introduced when discussing `IO` is available for all monads:

```
generateLevel       >>= \ lvl ->
generateStairs lvl >>= \ lvl' ->
placeMonsters lvl' >>= \ ms ->
return (combine lvl' ms)
```

```
do
  lvl  <- generateLevel
  lvl' <- generateStairs lvl
  ms   <- placeMonsters lvl'
  return (combine lvl' ms)
```

do notation – contd.

```haskell
up l1    >>= \ l2 ->
right l2 >>= \ l3 ->
down l3  >>= \ l4 ->
return (update (+ 1) l4)
```

```haskell
do
  l2 <- up l1
  l3 <- right l2
  l4 <- down l3
  return (update (+ 1) l4)
```

Tree labelling, revisited once more

Using `Control.Monad.State` and `do` notation:

```
data Tree a = Leaf a | Node (Tree a) (Tree a)

labelTree :: Tree a -> State Int (Tree (a, Int))
labelTree (Leaf x)   = do
  c <- get
  put (c + 1)  -- or modify (+ 1)
  return (Leaf (x, c))
labelTree (Node l r) = do
  ll <- labelTree l
  lr <- labelTree r
  return (Node ll lr)
```

How to get at the final tree?

Running a stateful computation

```
evalState :: State s a -> s -> a
```

Running a stateful computation

```haskell
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```

```haskell
labelTreeFrom0 :: Tree a -> Tree (a, Int)
labelTreeFrom0 t = evalState (labelTree t) 0
```

Running a stateful computation

```haskell
evalState :: State s a -> s -> a
```

```haskell
labelTreeFrom0 :: Tree a -> Tree (a, Int)
labelTreeFrom0 t = evalState (labelTree t) 0
```

There's also

```haskell
runState :: State s a -> s -> (a, s)
```

(which is just unpacking `State`'s `newtype` wrapper).

List comprehensions

```
map length
  (concat (map words (concat (map lines txts))))
```

```
do
  t <- txts
  l <- lines t
  w <- words l
  return (length w)
```

Also *list comprehensions*:

```
[length w | t <- txts, l <- lines t, w <- words l]
```

More on `do` notation (and list comprehensions)

- Use it, the special syntax is usually more concise.
- Never forget that it is just syntactic sugar. Use `(>>=)` and `(>>)` directly when it is more convenient.

And some things I've already said about `IO`:

- Remember that `return` is just a normal function:
  - Not every `do`-block ends with a `return`.
  - `return` can be used in the middle of a `do`-block, and it doesn't "jump" anywhere.

More on `do` notation (and list comprehensions)

- Use it, the special syntax is usually more concise.
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And some things I've already said about `IO`:

- Remember that `return` is just a normal function:
  - Not every `do`-block ends with a `return`.
  - `return` can be used in the middle of a `do`-block, and it doesn't "jump" anywhere.
- Not every monad computation has to be in a `do`-block. In particular `do e` is the same as `e`.
- On the other hand, you may have to "repeat" the `do` in some places, for instance in the branches of an `if`.

IO vs. other monads

The `IO` monad is special

- `IO` is a primitive type, and `(>>=)` and `return` for `IO` are primitive functions,
- there is no (politically correct) function `runIO :: IO a -> a`, whereas for most other monads there is a corresponding function, or at least some way to get an `a` out of the monad;
- values of `IO a` denote side-effecting programs that can be executed by the run-time system.

Effectful programming

- `IO` being special has little to do with it being a monad;
- you can use `IO` and functions on `IO` very much ignoring the presence of the `Monad` class;
- `IO` is about allowing real side effects to occur; the other types we have seen are entirely pure as far as Haskell is concerned, even though they capture a form of effects.

IO, internally

If you ask GHCi about `IO` by saying `:i IO`, you get

```
newtype IO a
  = GHC.Types.IO (GHC.Prim.State# GHC.Prim.RealWorld
      -> (# GHC.Prim.State# GHC.Prim.RealWorld, a #))
      -- Defined in ‘GHC.Types’
```

So internally, GHC models `IO` as a kind of state monad having the “real world” as state!

Monadic operations

The advantages of an abstract interface

Several advantages to identifying the “monad” interface:

- Have to learn fewer names. Same `return` and `(>>=)` (and `do` notation) in many different situations.
- Useful derived functions that only use `return` and `(>>=)`. All these library functions become automatically available for every monad.

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- Have to learn fewer names. Same `return` and `(>>=)` (and `do` notation) in many different situations.
- Useful derived functions that only use `return` and `(>>=)`. All these library functions become automatically available for every monad.
- There are many more monads than the ones we’ve discussed so far. Monads can be combined to form new monads.
- Application-specific code often uses just the monadic interface plus a few extra functions. As such, it is easy to switch the underlying monad of a large part of a program in order to accommodate a new aspect (error handling, logging, backtracking, …).

Useful monad operations

```
liftM       :: (a -> b) -> IO a -> IO b
mapM        :: (a -> IO b) -> [a] -> IO [b]
mapM_       :: (a -> IO b) -> [a] -> IO ()
forM        :: [a] -> (a -> IO b) -> IO [b]
forM_       :: [a] -> (a -> IO b) -> IO ()
sequence    :: [IO a] -> IO [a]
sequence_   :: [IO a] -> IO ()
forever     :: IO a -> IO b
filterM     :: (a -> IO Bool) -> [a] -> IO [a]
replicateM  :: Int -> IO a -> IO [a]
replicateM_ :: Int -> IO a -> IO ()
when        :: Bool -> IO () -> IO ()
unless      :: Bool -> IO () -> IO ()
```

Useful monad operations

```
liftM       :: Monad m => (a -> b) -> m a -> m b
mapM        :: Monad m => (a -> m b) -> [a] -> m [b]
mapM_       :: Monad m => (a -> m b) -> [a] -> m ()
forM        :: Monad m => [a] -> (a -> m b) -> m [b]
forM_       :: Monad m => [a] -> (a -> m b) -> m ()
sequence    :: Monad m => [m a] -> m [a]
sequence_   :: Monad m => [m a] -> m ()
forever     :: Monad m => a -> m b
filterM     :: Monad m => (a -> m Bool) -> [a] -> m [a]
replicateM  :: Monad m => Int -> m a -> m [a]
replicateM_ :: Monad m => Int -> m a -> m ()
when        :: Monad m => Bool -> m () -> m ()
unless      :: Monad m => Bool -> m () -> m ()
```

Example: labelling a rose tree

```
data Rose a = Fork a [Rose a]
```

Each node has a (possibly empty) list of subtrees.

Example: labelling a rose tree

```haskell
data Rose a = Fork a [Rose a]
```

Each node has a (possibly empty) list of subtrees.

```haskell
labelRose :: Rose a -> State Int (Rose (a, Int))
labelRose (Fork x cs) = do
  c <- get
  put (c + 1)
  lcs <- mapM labelRose cs
  return (Fork (x, c) lcs)
```

Questions

What do you think these will evaluate to:

```
replicateM 2 [1 .. 3]
mapM return [1 .. 3]
sequence [[1, 2], [3, 4], [5, 6]]
mapM
  (flip lookup [(1, 'x'), (2, 'y'), (3, 'z')]) [1 .. 3]
mapM
  (flip lookup [(1, 'x'), (2, 'y'), (3, 'z')]) [1, 4, 3]
evalState (replicateM_ 5 (modify (+ 2)) >> get) 0
```

A common pattern

Let's once again look at tree labelling:

```
labelTree :: Tree a -> State Int (Tree (a, Int))
labelTree (Leaf x)   = do
  c <- get
  put (c + 1)  -- or modify (+ 1)
  return (Leaf (x, c))
labelTree (Node l r) = do
  ll <- labelTree l
  lr <- labelTree r
  return (Node ll lr)
```

We are returning an application of (constructor) function `Node` to the results of monadic computations.

A common pattern (contd.)

```
do
  r₁ <- comp₁
  r₂ <- comp₂
   …
  rₙ <- compₙ
  return (f r₁ r₂ … rₙ)
```

A common pattern (contd.)

```
do
  r₁ <- comp₁
  r₂ <- comp₂
   …
  rₙ <- compₙ
  return (f r₁ r₂ … rₙ)
```

This isn't type correct:

```
f comp₁ comp₂ … compₙ
```

A common pattern (contd.)

```
do
  r1 <- comp1
  r2 <- comp2
   ...
  rn <- compn
  return (f r1 r2 ... rn)
```

This isn't type correct:

```
f comp1 comp2 ... compn
```

But we can get close:

```
f <$> comp1 <*> comp2... <*> compn
```

Monadic application

We need a function that's like function application, but works on monadic values:

```
ap :: Monad m => m (a -> b) -> m a -> m b
ap mf mx = do
  f <- mf
  x <- mx
  return (f x)
```

Monadic application

We need a function that's like function application, but works on monadic values:

```haskell
ap :: Monad m => m (a -> b) -> m a -> m b
ap mf mx = do
  f <- mf
  x <- mx
  return (f x)
```

Types supporting `return` and `ap` have their own name:

```haskell
class Functor f => Applicative f where
  pure  :: a -> f a                    -- like return
  (<*>) :: f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b    -- like ap

infixl 4 <*>
```

Functor and Applicative in terms of Monad

```
instance Monad T where …
```

Requires superclass instances for `Functor` and `Applicative`:

```
instance Functor T where
  fmap = liftM
```

```
instance Applicative T where
  pure = return
  (<*>) = ap
```

Example

```haskell
labelTree :: Tree a -> State Int (Tree (a, Int))
labelTree (Leaf x)   = do
  c <- get
  put (c + 1)  -- or modify (+ 1)
  return (Leaf (x, c))
labelTree (Node l r) =
  Node <$> labelTree l <*> labelTree r
```

Exercise: Convince yourself that this is type correct.

Lessons

- The abstraction of monads is useful for a multitude of different types.
- Monads can be seen as tagging computations with effects.
- While `IO` is impure and cannot be defined in Haskell, the other effects we have seen can be modelled in a pure way:
    - exceptions via `Maybe` or `Either`;
    - state via `State`;
    - nondeterminism via `[]`.
- The monad interface offers a large number of useful abstractions that can all be applied to these different scenarios.
- All monads are also applicative functors and in particular functors. The `(<$>)` and `(<*>)` operations are also useful for structuring effectful code in Haskell.