Abstraction patterns

Haskell and Cryptocurrencies

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Goals

 \cdot Introduce ${\color{red}{\mathsf{Monad}}}$ and ${\color{red}{\mathsf{Applicative}}}$.

Maybe

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

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

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 11, we want to move up, right, down, and update the resulting position with using update (+ 1) ... Each of the steps can fail.

```
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)
```

```
case up l1 of
Nothing -> Nothing
Just 12 -> case right 12 of
Nothing -> Nothing
Just 13 -> case down 13 of
Nothing -> Nothing
Just 14 -> Just (update (+ 1) 14)
```

```
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)
```

In essence, we need

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

```
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)
```

```
up l1 >>=

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

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

```
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 -> Just (update (+ 1) l4)
```

Sequencing and embedding

```
up l1 >>=
 \ l2 -> right l2 >>=
   \ 13 -> down 13 >>=
     \ l4 -> return (update (+ 1) l4)
(>>=) :: Maybe a -> (a -> Maybe b) -> Maybe b
f \gg g = case f of
             Nothing -> Nothing
             Just x \rightarrow g x
return :: a -> Maybe a
return x = Just x
```

Sequencing and embedding

```
up l1 >>=
 \ l2 -> right l2 >>=
   \ 13 -> down 13 >>=
     \ l4 -> return (update (+ 1) l4)
(>>=) :: Maybe a -> (a -> Maybe b) -> Maybe b
f \gg g = case f of
             Nothing -> Nothing
             Just x \rightarrow g x
return :: a -> Maybe a
return x = Just x
```

```
(up l1) \gg right \gg down \gg return . update (+ 1)
```

Observation

Code looks a bit like imperative code. Compare:

- 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:

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
```

Simulating exceptions

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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:

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

Using state

There are many situations where maintaining state is useful:

using a random number generator

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

· using a counter to generate unique labels

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

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

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

Example: labelling the leaves of a tree

Encoding state passing

Encoding state passing

Encoding state passing

Again, we need

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

```
(>>=) :: 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)
```

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

```
(>=) :: 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

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

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

(>>) :: State s a -> State s b -> State s b

 $X \gg V = X \gg - V$

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.

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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))))
```

Using bind and return for lists

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

- · 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

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

```
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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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.

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 \rightarrow f x
= { Definition of return }
  case Just a of
    Nothing -> Nothing
    Just x \rightarrow 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.)

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

Proof

```
Nothing >>= f

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

= { case }
    Nothing
```

```
(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.)

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

Additional monad operations

Class **Monad** contains two additional methods, but with default methods:

```
class Monad m where
...
(>>) :: m a -> m b -> m b
m >> n = m >>= \ _ -> n
fail :: String -> m a
fail s = error s
```

While the presence of (>>) can be justified for efficiency reasons, the presence of fail is often considered to be a design mistake.

do notation

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

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

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

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</pre>
 lr <- labelTree r</pre>
 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

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

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

Running a stateful computation

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

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

There's also

```
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</pre>
```

return (length w)

Also list comprehensions:

l <- lines t
w <- words l</pre>

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

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)

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 (>>) 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.
- 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

- 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

- 10 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;
- 10 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

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.

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.
- 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) -> I0 a -> I0 b
            :: (a -> I0 b) -> [a] -> I0 [b]
mapM
            :: (a -> I0 b) -> [a] -> I0 ()
mapM
forM :: [a] \rightarrow (a \rightarrow 10 b) \rightarrow 10 [b]
forM :: [a] -> (a -> I0 b) -> I0 ()
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
             :: Monad m => (a -> m b) -> [a] -> m [b]
mapM
             :: Monad m => (a -> m b) -> [a] -> m ()
mapM
forM
             :: Monad m => [a] -> (a -> m b) -> m [b]
             :: Monad m => [a] -> (a -> m b) -> m ()
forM
sequence :: Monad m => [m a] -> m [a]
sequence :: Monad m \Rightarrow [m a] \rightarrow 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

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

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

```
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)</pre>
```

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.)

```
\begin{array}{l} \text{do} \\ r_1 <- \text{comp}_1 \\ r_2 <- \text{comp}_2 \\ \dots \\ r_n <- \text{comp}_n \\ \text{return (f } r_1 \ r_2 \ \dots \ r_n) \end{array}
```

A common pattern (contd.)

```
\begin{array}{l} \text{do} \\ r_1 <- \text{comp}_1 \\ r_2 <- \text{comp}_2 \\ \dots \\ r_n <- \text{comp}_n \\ \text{return (f } r_1 \ r_2 \ \dots \ r_n) \end{array}
```

This isn't type correct:

```
f\ comp_1\ comp_2\ ...\ comp_n
```

A common pattern (contd.)

```
\begin{array}{l} \text{do} \\ r_1 <- \text{comp}_1 \\ r_2 <- \text{comp}_2 \\ \dots \\ r_n <- \text{comp}_n \\ \text{return (f } r_1 \ r_2 \ \dots \ r_n) \end{array}
```

This isn't type correct:

```
f comp_1 comp_2 ... comp_n
```

But we can get close:

```
f <$> comp<sub>1</sub> <*> comp<sub>2</sub>... <*> comp<sub>n</sub>
```

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)</pre>
```

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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)</pre>
```

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

Functor and Applicative in terms of Monad

```
instance Monad T where DOTS
```

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

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

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

```
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.