Chapter 25

Reasoning About Effects: Seeing the Wood Through the Trees (Extended Version)

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Abstract: Pure functional languages support programming with impure effects by exploiting mathematical notions such as monads, applicative functors, and arrows. However, in contrast to the wealth of research on the use of these notions to write effectful programs, there has been comparatively little progress on reasoning about the resulting programs. In this article we focus on this problem, using a simple but instructive example concerned with relabelling binary trees.

25.1 INTRODUCTION

Mathematical notions such as monads [7], applicative functors [5] and arrows [3] are now well established as mechanisms for pure programming with impure effects such as exceptions, non-determinism, state, and input/output [11]. In particular, these notions provide uniform interfaces for programming with effects, allowing programmers to focus on the essential high-level concepts, rather than the low-level implementation details.

Because these notions simplify the process of *writing* programs that utilise effects, we might similarly expect that they also simplify the process of *reasoning* about the resulting programs. Unfortunately, however, it still remains standard

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practice to just expand out the basic effectful operations when trying to reason about such programs, which seems rather unsatisfactory.

In this article we focus on the problem of reasoning about effectful programs, with the specific aim of avoiding such an expansion. In particular, we consider a simple but instructive example concerned with relabelling binary trees. Our thesis is that the simplicity of this example enables us to reveal a number of issues regarding reasoning about effects that may otherwise have been obscured by the complexity of larger examples. The article makes the following contributions:

- We prove the correctness of a tree relabelling function. Somewhat surprisingly, even an elementary proof of this result does not seem to have appeared in the functional programming literature before;
- We identify a number of basic properties of state in the context of applicative functors, which allow us to prove the correctness of the relabelling function using simple, point-free equational reasoning;
- We discuss a number of issues that arise from the development of this proof, in particular the role that types play, and the idea of factorising a computation into 'essential' and 'plumbing' parts, which in this example leads naturally to the idea of generalising from finite to infinite structures;
- We propose the tree relabelling problem as a useful case study for other approaches to reasoning about effectful programs.

The article is aimed at a reader who is familiar with the basics of reasoning about functional programs, but no specialist knowledge about effectful programming and reasoning is assumed.

25.2 RELABELLING A TREE

In this section we introduce the example that will form the central focus of this article. Let us begin by defining a type *Tree a* of binary trees whose leaves contain values of some parameter type *a*, together with a function that returns a list of the leaf values or *labels* that occur in such a tree:

```
data Tree a=Leaf a \mid Node (Tree \ a) (Tree \ a)labels::Tree a \rightarrow [a]labels (Leaf x)=[x]labels (Node l \ r)=labels l + labels \ r
```

Now consider the problem of defining a function that replaces each leaf value in such a tree with a unique or *fresh* integer. This can be achieved in many different ways, but perhaps the simplest is to thread a fresh integer through a traversal of

the tree, which can be implemented as follows:

```
 \begin{array}{lll} label & :: & Tree \ a \rightarrow Int \rightarrow (Tree \ Int, Int) \\ label \ (Leaf \ x) \ n & = & (Leaf \ n, n+1) \\ label \ (Node \ l \ r) \ n & = & (Node \ l' \ r', n'') \\ & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & & \\ & &
```

What does it mean for the relabelling function to be correct? Firstly, it must preserve the shape of the original tree. And secondly, each label in the resulting tree must be unique. For our purposes, we only consider the second property, which can be formalised and proved correct as follows.

Theorem 25.1 (correctness of relabel). For all finite trees t:

```
nodups (labels (relabel t))
```

where

```
nodups :: Eq \ a \Rightarrow [a] \rightarrow Bool

nodups [] = True

nodups (x:xs) = \neg (elem \ x \ xs) \land nodups \ xs
```

Proof: by equational reasoning, using two lemmas.

```
 \begin{aligned} & \textbf{let} \ (t',n) = label \ t \ 0 \ \textbf{in} \\ & nodups \ (labels \ (relabel \ t)) \\ & = \quad \left\{ \ \text{applying } relabel \ \right\} \\ & nodups \ (labels \ t') \\ & = \quad \left\{ \ \text{behaviour of } labels \ (lemma \ 25.2) \ \right\} \\ & nodups \ [0 \dots n-1] \\ & = \quad \left\{ \ \text{intervals have no duplicates (lemma \ 25.4)} \ \right\} \\ & True \end{aligned}
```

Lemma 25.2 (behaviour of labels). For all finite trees t and integers n:

label
$$t n = (t', n') \Rightarrow n < n' \land labels t' = [n ... n' - 1]$$

That is, *label* returns a new label n' that is strictly greater than the initial label n, and a new tree whose labels are precisely the non-empty interval [n .. n' - 1].

Proof: by structural induction on *t*, using one lemma.

Base case:

$$= \begin{cases} label (Leaf x) n \\ \{ applying label \} \\ (Leaf n, n+1) \end{cases}$$

Hence, we must show that n < n+1 and *labels* (*Leaf* n) = [n ... n+1-1]. The first is trivially true, and the second is verified by the following simple calculation:

$$[n..n+1-1]$$
=\[\{ \text{ arithmetic } \} \]
\[[n..n] \]
=\[\{ \text{ applying } ... \} \]
\[[n] \]
=\[\{ \text{ unapplying } \text{ labels } \} \]

Inductive case:

let
$$(l', n') = label \ l \ n \ and \ (r', n'') = label \ r \ n'$$
 in

 $\{applying \ label \}$
 $\{Node \ l' \ r', n''\}$

Hence, we must show that n < n'' and labels ($Node \ l' \ r'$) = [n ... n'' - 1], using the induction hypotheses for l, given by n < n' and $labels \ l' = [n ... n' - 1]$, together with the induction hypothesis for r, given by n' < n'' and $labels \ r' = [n' ... n'' - 1]$. The first property is trivially true by combining n < n' and n' < n'' using transitivity of <. The second property is verified by the following calculation:

```
labels (Node l' r')
= { applying labels }
labels l' ++ labels r'
= { induction hypotheses }
[n..n'-1] ++ [n'..n''-1]
= { appending intervals (lemma 25.3) }
[n..n''-1]
```

Note that the need for lemma 25.3 could be avoided by eliminating the use of the append operator ++ in the definition for labels by using standard techniques (for example, see [4, section 13.6]), but we do not consider this here.

Lemma 25.3 (appending intervals). For all integers $a < b \le c$:

$$[a..b-1]++[b..c] = [a..c]$$

Proof: by mathematical induction on the value of (b-1)-a, which is always a natural number by the assumption that a < b.

Base case: (b-1) - a = 0 (i.e. a = b - 1)

$$[a..b-1] ++ [b..c]$$

$$= \{a=b-1\}$$

$$[b-1..b-1] ++ [b..c]$$

$$= \{applying..\}$$

$$[b-1] ++ [b..c]$$

$$= \{applying++\}$$

$$b-1: [b..c]$$

$$= \{unapplying..\}$$

$$[b-1..c]$$

$$= \{a=b-1\}$$

$$[a..c]$$
Inductive case: $(b-1)-a>0$ (i.e. $a< b-1$)
$$= \{a.b-1\} ++ [b..c]$$

$$= \{a< b-1, applying..\}$$

$$(a: [a+1..b-1]) ++ [b..c]$$

$$= \{applying++\}$$

$$a: ([a+1..b-1] ++ [b..c])$$

$$= \{induction hypothesis\}$$

$$a: [a+1..c]$$

$$= \{unapplying..\}$$

$$[a..c]$$

Lemma 25.4 (intervals have no duplicates). *For all integers* $a \le b$:

nodups[a..b]

Proof: by mathematical induction on the value of b-a, which is always a natural number by the assumption that $a \le b$, and using one lemma.

```
Base case: b-a=0 (i.e. a=b)

nodups [a..b]
= \{a=b\}
nodups [a..a]
= \{applying..\}
nodups [a]
= \{applying nodups\}
True
Inductive case: b-a>0 (i.e. a< b)
nodups [a..b]
= \{a< b, applying..\}
nodups (a:[a+1..b])
```

```
= \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{applying } nodups \right\} \\ \neg \left( elem \ a \ [a+1..b] \right) \land nodups \ [a+1..b] \\ = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{induction hypothesis} \right\} \\ \neg \left( elem \ a \ [a+1..b] \right) \\ = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} a < b, \text{ property of intervals (lemma 25.5)} \right\} \\ True \end{array} \right.
```

Lemma 25.5 (property of intervals). For all integers $a < b \le c$:

$$\neg$$
 (elem a [b..c])

Proof: by mathematical induction on the value of c-b, which is always a natural number by the assumption that $b \le c$.

```
Base case: c - b = 0 (i.e. b = c)
     \neg (elem a [b..c])
      \{b=c\}
    \neg (elem \ a \ [b ...b])
       { applying .. }
     \neg (elem a [b])
       { applying elem }
     \neg (a == b)
      \{a < b\}
     True
Inductive case: c - b > 0 (i.e. b < c)
     \neg (elem a [b ... c])
     \{b < c, \text{ applying } ..\}
     \neg (elem\ a\ (b:[b+1..c]))
      { applying elem }
    \neg (a == b \mid elem \ a \ [b+1..c])
       { induction hypothesis }
    \neg (a == b)
    \{a < b'\}
```

The proofs of the above lemmas are straightforward, but require considerable care, and proceed using the elementary technique of expanding out definitions. The remainder of the article shows how the relabelling function, together with its proof of correctness, can be reworked in a higher-level manner.

25.3 RELABELLING USING MONADS

Our relabelling function is currently defined by explicitly threading a fresh label through the computation. We now consider how it may be defined in a more

structured manner using monads [11]. Recall that in Haskell, the notion of a monad is captured by the following class declaration:

class Monad m where

```
return :: a \rightarrow m \ a
(>>=) :: m \ a \rightarrow (a \rightarrow m \ b) \rightarrow m \ b
```

That is, a parameterised type m is a member of the class Monad of monadic types if it is equipped with return and (\gg) functions of the specified types. A typical monadic expression built using these two functions has the following structure:

$$m1 \gg \lambda v1 \rightarrow$$
 $m2 \gg \lambda v2 \rightarrow$

$$\vdots$$
 $mn \gg \lambda vn \rightarrow$
 $return (f v1 v2 \cdots vn)$

That is, apply m1 and call its result value v1; then apply m2 and call its result value v2; ...; then apply mn and call its result value vn; and finally, combine all the results by applying the function f. Haskell provides a special syntax for such monadic expressions, allowing them to be expressed in the following form:

$$do v1 \leftarrow m1$$

$$v2 \leftarrow m2$$
⋮
$$vn \leftarrow mn$$

$$return (f v1 v2 \cdots vn)$$

For the purposes of defining our relabelling function, we will utilise the state monad, which is based upon the notion of a *state transformer* (abbreviated by ST), which in turn is a function that takes a state as its argument, and returns a pair comprising a result value and a new state:

type
$$ST s a = s \rightarrow (a, s)$$

For any type s of states, it is straightforward to make ST s into a monadic type:

```
instance Monad (ST s) where

return :: a \rightarrow ST s a

return v = \lambda s \rightarrow (v, s)

(>>=) :: ST s a \rightarrow (a \rightarrow ST s b) \rightarrow ST s b

st >>= f = \lambda s \rightarrow \mathbf{let}(v, s') = st s \mathbf{in}(f v) s'
```

That is, *return* converts a value into a state transformer that simply returns that value without modifying the state. In turn, >= provides a means of sequencing

state transformers: $st \gg f$ applies the state transformer st to an initial state s, then applies the function f to the resulting value v to give a second state transformer (f v), which is then applied to the modified state s' to give the final result.

Aside: the above declaration for *ST s* as a monadic type is not actually valid Haskell, as types defined using the **type** mechanism are not permitted to be made into instances of classes. The solution is to redefine *ST* using the **data** or **newtype** mechanisms, but this requires the introduction of a dummy constructor. For simplicity, however, we do not do this here. *End of aside*.

Now let us return to the problem of relabelling trees, which was based upon the idea of taking the next fresh integer as an additional argument, and returning the next fresh integer as an additional result. In other words, tree relabelling can be expressed using the notion of a state transformer, in which the state is simply the next fresh integer, and the result value is the relabelled tree.

In order to generate a fresh integer, we define a special state transformer that returns the current state as its result, and the next integer as the new state:

```
fresh :: ST Int Int
fresh = \lambda n \rightarrow (n, n+1)
```

Using this, together with the **do** notation that is supported as a result of *ST* being monadic, it is now straightforward to redefine the tree relabelling function

```
label :: Trea\ a \rightarrow Int \rightarrow (Tree\ Int, a)
```

in monadic style as a function that takes a tree and returns a state transformer that produces the same tree with each leaf labelled by a fresh integer:

```
\begin{array}{lll} \textit{label} & :: & \textit{Tree } a \rightarrow \textit{ST Int (Tree Int)} \\ \textit{label (Leaf } x) & = & \textbf{do } n \leftarrow \textit{fresh} \\ & \textit{return (Leaf } n) \\ \textit{label (Node } l \, r) & = & \textbf{do } l' \leftarrow \textit{label } l \\ & r' \leftarrow \textit{label } r \\ & \textit{return (Node } l' \, r') \end{array}
```

Note that when expressed in this manner, the programmer no longer has to worry about the tedious and error-prone task of plumbing of fresh labels, as this is taken care of automatically by the underlying monadic primitives.

25.4 RELABELLING USING APPLICATIVE FUNCTORS

While the definition of the *label* function is much improved using monads, there is still room for further simplification. In particular, the use of the **do** notation requires that the result of each monadic expression is given a name, even if this name is only used once, as in the definition of *label*. We now show how the need for such names can be avoided by redefining label using applicative functors [5],

which in Haskell are captured by the following class declaration:

class Applicative f where

pure ::
$$a \rightarrow f a$$

(*) :: $f(a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow f a \rightarrow f b$

The idea is that the function *pure* converts a value into a computation that return this value without performing any effects (and hence plays the same role as *return* for monads), while \circledast provides a lifted form of function application in which the function itself, together with its argument and result, are produced by computations that may have effects. As with normal function application, \circledast is assumed to associate to the left; for example, $f \circledast x \circledast y$ means $(f \circledast x) \circledast y$.

Applicative functors are more general than monads, in the sense that every monad is applicative, with the \circledast operator defined by $mf \circledast mx = \mathbf{do} \{ f \leftarrow mf; x \leftarrow mx; return (f x) \}$. As suggested by the name, every applicative functor is also a functor, with $map :: (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow f \ a \rightarrow f \ b$ defined by $map \ f \ x = pure \ f \circledast x$.

A typical applicative expression has the following structure:

pure
$$f \circledast m1 \circledast m2 \circledast \cdots mn$$

That is, a pure function f is applied to the results of a sequence of effectful arguments m1, m2, ..., mn. In fact, using laws that every applicative functor must satisfy [5], any expression built using *pure* and \circledast can be transformed into this canonical form, which is abbreviated using the following special syntax:

$$[f m1 m2 \cdots mn]$$

Note that unlike with the **do** notation, there is no longer any need to name the results of the argument computations, as this is taken care of automatically by the underlying applicative functor primitives. This special syntax is not currently supported by Haskell, but we will use it in this article.

Even though state transformers are monadic and are hence applicative as described above, it is useful to consider an explicit declaration of this fact:

instance Applicative (ST s) where

$$\begin{array}{lll} pure & :: & a \rightarrow ST \ s \ a \\ pure \ v & = & \lambda s \rightarrow (v,s) \\ (\circledast) & :: & ST \ s \ (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow ST \ s \ a \rightarrow ST \ s \ b \\ mf \ \circledast \ mx & = & \lambda s \rightarrow \mathbf{let} \ (f,s') = mf \ s \\ & (x,s'') = mx \ s' \\ & \mathbf{in} \ (f \ x,s'') \end{array}$$

That is, *pure* v simply returns the value v without modifying the state, while $mf \circledast mx$ begins by applying mf to the initial state s to produce a function f and a new state s', then applies mx to this state to produce a value x and a new state s'', and concludes by returning f x as the final result and s'' as the final state.

Using the fact that *ST* is applicative, it is now straightforward to redefine the *label* function in applicative style, as follows:

```
 \begin{array}{lll} \textit{label} & :: & \textit{Tree } a \rightarrow \textit{ST Int (Tree Int)} \\ \textit{label (Leaf } x) & = & \llbracket \textit{Leaf fresh } \rrbracket \\ \textit{label (Node } l \, r) & = & \llbracket \textit{Node (label } l) \, (\textit{label } r) \, \rrbracket \\ \end{array}
```

This definition captures in a clear and concise way our intuition about relabelling, namely that a *Leaf* is relabelled by replacing its argument value by a fresh label, and that a *Node* is relabelled by recursively relabelling its two subtrees. All the plumbing of fresh labels and argument values is handled automatically.

Just as the *label* function is now expressed in a high-level manner, so we would like to prove the correctness of this function in a similarly high-level manner. Our approach to this is based upon two ideas, namely to work at the point-free (or function) level as far as possible, and to generalise from finite to infinite lists of labels. In the next section we define a number of functions on pairs and infinite lists that will be used to formulate and prove our main correctness theorem.

25.5 INTERLUDE ON PAIRS AND LISTS

Because state transformers return pairs, when working at the point-free level it is natural to utilise a number of standard functions on pairs:

```
(\times) \qquad \qquad :: \qquad (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow (c \rightarrow d) \rightarrow (a,c) \rightarrow (a,d)
f \times g \qquad \qquad = \qquad \lambda(x,y) \rightarrow (f \ x,g \ y)
\langle -, -\rangle \qquad \qquad :: \qquad (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow (a \rightarrow c) \rightarrow a \rightarrow (b,c)
\langle f,g\rangle \qquad \qquad = \qquad \lambda x \rightarrow (f \ x,g \ x)
assoc \qquad \qquad :: \qquad (a,(b,c)) \rightarrow ((a,b),c)
assoc \ (x,(y,z)) \qquad = \qquad ((x,y),z)
unassoc \qquad \qquad :: \qquad ((a,b),c) \rightarrow (a,(b,c))
unassoc \ ((x,y),z) \qquad = \qquad (x,(y,z))
```

These functions satisfy a number of familiar equational properties arising from the categorical nature of pairs, which will be used freely throughout the rest of this article. For example, for all functions of the appropriate types, the product (\times) and split $\langle -, - \rangle$ operators satisfy the following fusion properties:

$$\begin{array}{lcl} (f \times g) \circ (h \times i) & = & (f \circ h) \times (g \circ i) \\ (f \times g) \circ \langle h, i \rangle & = & \langle f \circ h, g \circ i \rangle \\ \langle f, g \rangle \circ h & = & \langle f \circ h, g \circ h \rangle \end{array}$$

We will also use uncurried versions of the list operators cons (:) and append (++), and a special variant of function composition (\circ) that allows a curried func-

tion with two arguments to be composed with a function with a single argument:

```
\begin{array}{lll} cons & :: & (a,[a]) \rightarrow [a] \\ cons & = & uncurry \, (:) \\ append & :: & ([a],[a]) \rightarrow [a] \\ append & = & uncurry \, (++) \\ (\bullet) & :: & (c \rightarrow d) \rightarrow (a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow a \rightarrow b \rightarrow d \\ f \bullet g & = & curry \, (f \circ uncurry \, g) \end{array}
```

Now let us consider infinite lists (or streams) of labels, such as those produced by the function *from*, which generates an infinitely ascending list of numbers:

$$\begin{array}{lll} \textit{from} & :: & \textit{Int} \rightarrow [\textit{Int}] \\ \textit{from} \; n & = & n : \textit{from} \; (n+1) \end{array}$$

For example, $from 0 = 0:1:2:3:\cdots$. In this setting, our current definition for the function nodups that decides if a list has no duplicate elements is no longer appropriate, as applying this function to an infinite list results in non-termination. Our solution is to utilise the following new definition:

$$nodups xs \Leftrightarrow rmdups xs = xs$$

where

$$\begin{array}{lll} \textit{rmdups} & :: & \textit{Eq } a \Rightarrow [a] \rightarrow [a] \\ \textit{rmdups} \, [] & = & [] \\ \textit{rmdups} \, (x \colon xs) & = & x \colon \textit{rmdups} \, (\textit{filter} \, (\neq x) \, xs) \end{array}$$

That is, a list contains no duplicates if removing duplicates does not change the list. Note that the use of mathematical equality (=) rather than Haskell equality (==) in the new definition for *nodups*, which is required to avoid the issue of non-termination, means that *nodups* is now a meta-level definition rather than a Haskell definition. Moreover, we will in fact use a lifted version of *nodups* that applies to functions that generate lists, rather than lists themselves:

$$nodups f \Leftrightarrow rmdups \circ f = f$$

That is, a function produces no duplicates if removing duplicates after applying the function does not change the resulting list.

25.6 PROOF OF CORRECTNESS

Using the new operators from the previous section, we can now state the correctness of our *label* function in a point-free manner.

Theorem 25.6 (correctness of label). For all finite trees t:

$$nodups (append \circ (labels \times from) \circ label t)$$

That is, if we label a tree and then append the list of labels in the resulting tree with the infinite list of unused labels (produced by applying *from* to the first unused label) then each label in the resulting list is unique. This result is stronger than we actually need, by considering both the labels in the tree and the unused labels, but strengthening the result in this manner leads to a simple and natural proof.

Proof: by direct application of two lemmas.

```
nodups (append \circ (labels \times from) \circ label t)
\Leftrightarrow \qquad \{ \text{ behaviour of } label \text{ (lemma 25.7) } \}
nodups from
\Leftrightarrow \qquad \{ \text{ from } \text{produces no duplicates (lemma 25.10) } \}
True
```

Lemma 25.7 (behaviour of label). For all finite trees t:

```
append \circ (labels \times from) \circ label t = from
```

That is, if we label a tree and then append its list of labels with the list of unused labels, the result is the original list of fresh labels. This lemma is a natural generalisation of lemma 25.2 in our original proof, which stated that if *label t* n = (t', n'), then we have n < n' and *labels t'* = [n ... n' - 1]. In order to formulate this result in a point-free manner, our first step is to consider the expression $(labels \times id) \circ label t$, which returns a pair comprising the labels of the tree, say [n ... n' - 1], and the next fresh label, n'. But how can we specify that the output pair has this form? The approach taken above in lemma 25.7 is to append the list [n ... n' - 1] to the infinite list from n', and assert that the resulting list is given by *from* n.

Proof: by equational reasoning, using two lemmas.

```
append \circ (labels \times from) \circ label t
= \{ products \} 
append \circ (labels \times id) \circ (id \times from) \circ label t
= \{ factorising \ label \ (lemma \ 25.8) \} 
append \circ (labels \times id) \circ label' \ t \circ from
= \{ behaviour \ of \ label' \ (lemma \ 25.9) \} 
from
```

Note that the two lemmas used in this proof can be fused together to give a direct proof without the use of separate lemmas, but we find the separation of the proof into two parts in this manner to be more instructive. By analogy with program fission [2], the dual to program fusion, factorising a proof into component parts in this manner might be termed proof fission.

Lemma 25.8 (factorising *label***).** *For all finite trees t:*

```
(id \times from) \circ label t = (label' t) \circ from
```

_

```
where \begin{array}{cccc} label' & :: & \textit{Tree } a \rightarrow \textit{ST} \ [b] \ (\textit{Tree } b) \\ label' \ (\textit{Leaf } x) & = & \llbracket \textit{Leaf } \textit{fetch} \ \rrbracket \\ label' \ (\textit{Node } l \ r) & = & \llbracket \textit{Node } (label' \ l) \ (label' \ r) \ \rrbracket \\ \textit{fetch} & :: & \textit{ST} \ [a] \ a \\ \textit{fetch} & = & \lambda xs \rightarrow (\textit{head } xs, \textit{tail } xs) \end{array}
```

The new function *label'* is defined in precisely the same manner as *label*, except that it utilises an infinite list of fresh labels as the internal state, rather than a single fresh label as previously, and consumes labels from this list one at a time using a new state transformer *fetch*. The lemma itself states that labelling a tree and then extending the next fresh label to an infinite list (by applying *from*) gives the same result as producing an infinite list of fresh labels and then applying *label'*.

Lemma 25.8 shows how *label* can be factorised into two parts, namely the generation of an infinite supply of fresh labels using *from* (the essential part of the computation, which is monomorphic), and the threading of this list through the tree using *label'* (the plumbing part, which is polymorphic.) Factorising *label* in this manner is both an interesting concept in its own right, and leads to a simple and natural proof of the behaviour of *label* (lemma 25.7).

Proof: by structural induction on *t*, using a number of lemmas about state transformers and basic functions, which are contained in the appendix.

```
Case: t = Leaf x
      (id \times from) \circ label (Leaf x)
            { applying label }
      (id \times from) \circ \llbracket Leaf fresh \rrbracket
            { output state fusion (lemma 25.18) }
      \llbracket Leaf ((id \times from) \circ fresh) \rrbracket
            { relationship between fresh and fetch (lemma 25.21) }
      [\![ Leaf (fetch \circ from) ]\!]
            { input state fusion (lemma 25.14) }
      \llbracket Leaf fetch \rrbracket \circ from \rrbracket
             { unapplying label' }
      label' (Leaf x) \circ from
Case: t = Node l r
      (id \times from) \circ label (Node l r)
             { applying label }
      (id \times from) \circ \llbracket Node (label l) (label r) \rrbracket
             { output state fusion (lemma 25.19) }
      \llbracket Node (label \ l) ((id \times from) \circ label \ r) \rrbracket
             { induction hypothesis for r }
      \llbracket Node (label \ l) ((label' \ r) \circ from) \rrbracket
```

```
= \begin{cases} \text{ state shifting (lemma 25.20)} \\ & [ Node ((id \times from) \circ label l) (label' r) ] ] \end{cases}
= \begin{cases} \text{ induction hypothesis for } l \end{cases}
[ Node (label' r \circ from) (label' r) ] 
= \begin{cases} \text{ input state fusion (lemma 25.15)} \end{cases}
[ Node (label' r) (label' r) ] \circ from
= \begin{cases} \text{ unapplying } label' \end{cases}
label' (Node l r) \circ from
```

There are two important points to note about this proof. First of all, it proceeds by simple equational reasoning, without the need to expand out the underlying definitions. And secondly, a number of intermediate steps appear to be type incorrect with respect to the $[\![\,]\!]$ notation, by using arguments that are not state transformers. For example, in the base case the expression $(id \times from) \circ fresh$ has type $Int \rightarrow (Int, [Int])$, which is not a state transformer because the state changes from Int to [Int]. However, when we come to prove the state transformer lemmas themselves, we will find that such type incorrect reasoning is perfectly sound.

Lemma 25.9 (behaviour of label'). For all finite trees t:

```
append \circ (labels \ x \ id) \circ label' \ t = id
```

That is, if we apply *label'* to a tree and then append its labels to the unused labels, the result is the original list of fresh labels.

Proof: by structural induction on t, using a number of lemmas (see appendix).

```
Case: t = Leaf x
append \circ (labels \times id) \circ label' (Leaf x)
= \{ applying \, label' \} \}
append \circ (labels \times id) \circ [\![ Leaf \, fetch \, ]\!]
= \{ bracket \, notation \, (lemma \, 25.12) \} \}
append \circ [\![ labels \, [\![ Leaf \, fetch \, ]\!] ]\!]
= \{ nested \, state \, fusion \, (lemma \, 25.16) \} \}
append \circ [\![ (labels \circ Leaf) \, fetch \, ]\!]
= \{ behaviour \, of \, labels \, on \, leaves \, (lemma \, 25.22) \} \}
append \circ [\![ [-] \, fetch \, ]\!]
= \{ property \, of \, append \, (lemma \, 25.24) \} \}
cons \circ fetch
= \{ applying \, fetch \} \}
cons \circ (head, tail)
= \{ property \, of \, cons \} \}
id
```

Case: t = Node l r

```
append \circ (labels \times id) \circ label' \ (Node \ l \ r)
= \left\{ \begin{array}{l} applying \ label' \ \right\} \\ append \circ (labels \times id) \circ \llbracket \ Node \ (label' \ l) \ (label' \ r) \ \rrbracket \\ = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} bracket \ notation \ (lemma \ 25.13) \ \right\} \\ append \circ \llbracket \ labels \llbracket \ Node \ (label' \ l) \ (label' \ r) \ \rrbracket \ \rrbracket \\ = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} nested \ state \ fusion \ (lemma \ 25.17) \ \right\} \\ append \circ \llbracket \ (labels \bullet \ Node) \ (label' \ l) \ (label' \ r) \ \rrbracket \\ = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} behaviour \ of \ labels \ on \ nodes \ (lemma \ 25.23) \ \right\} \\ append \circ \llbracket \ (curry \ (append \circ (labels \times labels))) \ (label' \ l) \ (label' \ r) \ \rrbracket \\ = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} property \ of \ append \circ (labels \times labels)) \ olabels' \ l \\ = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} induction \ hypothesis \ for \ r \ \right\} \\ append \circ (labels \times id) \circ labels' \ l \\ = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} induction \ hypothesis \ for \ l \ \right\} \\ id \end{array} \right.
```

Lemma 25.10 (from produces no duplicates).

nodups from

This lemma is a natural generalisation of lemma 25.4 from our original proof, which stated that if $a \le b$ then nodups[a..b], with the finite interval [a..b] generalised to an infinite list produced by the function from.

Proof: by definition, *nodups from* is equivalent to $rmdups \circ from = from$, which can then be verified by guarded coinduction, a special case of coinduction for infinite lists that avoids the explicit construction of bisimulations [10]:

```
rmdups (from n)
= \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{applying } from \\ rmdups (n:from (n+1)) \end{array} \right.
= \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{applying } rmdups \\ n:rmdups (filter (\neq n) (from (n+1))) \end{array} \right.
= \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{property of } from \text{ (lemma } 25.11) \\ n:rmdups (from (n+1)) \end{array} \right.
= \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{coinduction, context is guarded} \\ n:from (n+1) \end{array} \right.
= \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{unapplying } from \\ from n \end{array} \right.
```

The hint "context is guarded" above refers to the fact that the expression (n:) forms a so-called guarded context, by virtue of being a cons, which allows the result being proved to be utilised as a coinductive hypothesis in this context.

Lemma 25.11 (property of *from***).** *For all integers n, and* k > 0*:*

```
filter (\neq n) (from (n+k)) = from (n+k)
```

_

Proof: by guarded coinduction.

```
 \begin{array}{ll} & \textit{filter} \ (\neq n) \ (\textit{from} \ (n+k)) \\ & = \quad \left\{ \ \text{applying} \ \textit{from} \ \right\} \\ & \textit{filter} \ (\neq n) \ (n+k:\textit{from} \ (n+k+1)) \\ & = \quad \left\{ \ \text{applying} \ \textit{filter}, \ k>0 \ \right\} \\ & n+k:\textit{filter} \ (\neq n) \ (\textit{from} \ (n+k+1)) \\ & = \quad \left\{ \ \text{coinduction, context is guarded} \ \right\} \\ & n+k:\textit{from} \ (n+k+1) \\ & = \quad \left\{ \ \text{unapplying} \ \textit{from} \ \right\} \\ & \textit{from} \ (n+k) \end{array}
```

25.7 CONCLUSION AND FURTHER WORK

In this article we showed how a simple tree relabelling function can be proved correct using point-free equational reasoning, by identifying and exploiting basic properties of state in the context of applicative functors. Our proof relied on three ideas: factorising an effectful computation into essential and plumbing parts, generalising from finite to infinite lists of fresh labels, and relaxing the typing constraints on the applicative functor notation to accommodate internal changes in the type of the state. The first of these ideas appears to be novel, while the latter two are instances of the familiar mathematical practice of moving to a more general framework for the purposes of proofs, such as moving from two to three dimensional space in geometry, or from real to complex numbers in analysis.

There are a number of possible directions for further work. First of all, our current definition of the relabelling function uses explicit recursion, and it would be interesting to see if there is any benefit to be gained from using a more structured approach to recursion, such as that provided by applicative traversals [5] or monadic folds [6]. Secondly, we would like to propose the relabelling problems as a simple but instructive case study for other approaches to reasoning about effects, such as rigid induction [1] and Hoare type theory [8]. Indeed, since producing the preliminary version of this article, our pointwise proof has already been reworked using Hoare type theory [9]. Thirdly, it would be interesting to consider mechanical support for our proofs, and to this end we have implemented our pointwise proof in the Agda system, and are experimenting with the use of parameterised monads to implement the point free proof. And finally, it is important to consider how our approach can be adapted both to other effects, and to more substantial programming examples. In this direction, we have proved in a similar manner an analogous factorisation result for a relabelling function in which each leaf is labelled by its lexicographic path from the root of the tree, which suggests that our approach may indeed be more widely applicable.

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APPENDIX: OTHER PROPERTIES

This appendix presents the properties of state transformers and basic functions that were used to prove our main correctness result. As illustrated in the accompanying pictures, most of the state transformer properties amount to simple geometric rearrangements of the component functions.

The first two lemmas show how the applicative functor notation can be expanded out in a point-free manner for one or two stateful arguments.

Lemma 25.12 (bracket notation). For all $f :: a \rightarrow b$ and $x :: ST \ s \ a$:

$$\llbracket f \, x \, \rrbracket = (f \times id) \circ x$$

Proof: by straightforward expansion of the definitions.

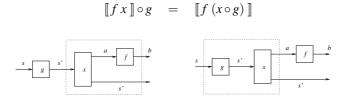
Lemma 25.13 (bracket notation). *For all* $f :: a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c$, x :: ST s a, and y :: ST s b:

$$[f \times y] = ((uncurry f) \times id) \circ assoc \circ (id \times y) \circ x$$

Proof: by straightforward expansion of the definitions.

The next two lemmas show how a function that modifies the input state, including potentially its type, can be fused with the bracket notation.

Lemma 25.14 (input state fusion). *For all* $f :: a \rightarrow b$, x :: ST s' a, and $g :: s \rightarrow s'$:

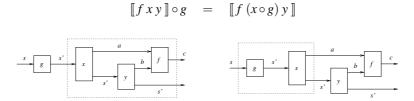


Note that in the right-side of this equation, the expression $x \circ g$ has type $s \to (a, s')$, which is not a state transformer because the type of the state changes from s to s', and hence the use of the applicative functor notation is not type correct. However, when the notation is expanded out in the above picture, we see that the resulting expression is indeed type correct, which formally justifies our abuse of the bracket notation. A similar comment holds for a number of other lemmas in this section.

Proof:

Lemma 25.15 (input state fusion).

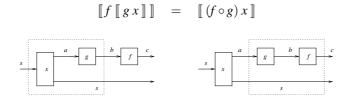
For all $f :: a \to b \to c$, x :: ST s' a, y :: ST s' b, and $g :: s \to s'$:



Proof:

The next two lemmas show how two nested stateful computations can be fused together into a single stateful computation.

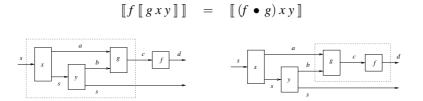
Lemma 25.16 (nested state fusion). *For all* $f :: b \rightarrow c$, $g :: a \rightarrow b$, and $x :: ST \ s \ a$:



Proof:

Lemma 25.17 (nested state fusion).

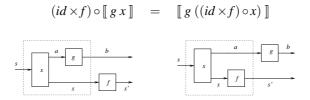
For all $f :: c \to d$, $g :: a \to b \to c$, x :: ST s a, and y :: ST s b:



Proof:

The next two lemmas show how a function that modifies the output state, including potentially its type, can be fused with the bracket notation.

Lemma 25.18 (output state fusion). For all $f :: s \rightarrow s'$, $g :: a \rightarrow b$, and $x :: ST \ s \ a$:



Proof:

$$(id \times f) \circ \llbracket g x \rrbracket$$

$$= \{ bracket notation (lemma 25.12) \}$$

$$(id \times f) \circ (g \times id) \circ x$$

$$= \{ products \}$$

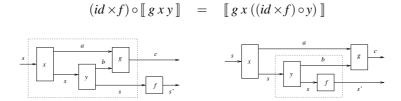
$$(g \times id) \circ (id \times f) \circ x$$

$$= \{ lemma 25.12 again \}$$

$$\llbracket g ((id \times f) \circ x) \rrbracket$$

Lemma 25.19 (output state fusion).

For all $f :: s \to s'$, $g :: a \to b \to c$, x :: ST s a and y :: ST s b:



Proof:

$$(id \times f) \circ \llbracket g \times y \rrbracket$$

$$= \{ bracket notation (lemma 25.13) \}$$

$$(id \times f) \circ ((uncurry g) \times id) \circ assoc \circ (id \times y) \circ x$$

$$= \{ products \}$$

$$(uncurry g \times id) \circ (id \times f) \circ assoc \circ (id \times y) \circ x$$

$$= \{ naturality of assoc \}$$

$$(uncurry g \times id) \circ assoc \circ id \times (id \times f) \circ (id \times y) \circ x$$

$$= \{ products \}$$

$$(uncurry g \times id) \circ assoc \circ id \times (id \times f \circ y) \circ x$$

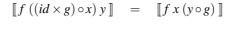
$$= \{ lemma 25.13 again \}$$

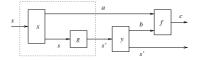
$$\llbracket g \times ((id \times f) \circ y) \rrbracket$$

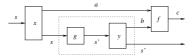
The next lemma shows how a function that modifies the intermediate state in a two argument computation can be shifted between the two arguments.

Lemma 25.20 (state shifting).

For all $f :: a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c$, x :: ST s a, y :: ST s' b and $g :: s \rightarrow s'$:





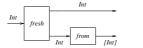


Proof:

The remaining lemmas concern the behaviour of the functions *fresh*, *fetch*, *labels* and *append* that are used in the formulation of our correctness result.

Lemma 25.21 (relationship between fresh and fetch).

 $(id \times from) \circ fresh = fetch \circ from$





Proof:

$$(id \times from) \circ fresh$$

$$= \begin{cases} \text{applying } fresh \\ (id \times from) \circ \langle id, (+1) \rangle \end{cases}$$

$$= \begin{cases} \text{products } \\ \langle id, from \circ (+1) \rangle \end{cases}$$

$$= \begin{cases} \text{unapplying } from \\ \langle head \circ from, tail \circ from \rangle \end{cases}$$

$$= \begin{cases} \text{products } \\ \langle head, tail \rangle \circ from \end{cases}$$

$$= \begin{cases} \text{unapplying } fetch \end{cases}$$

$$fetch \circ from$$

Lemma 25.22 (behaviour of labels on leaves).

$$labels \circ Leaf = [-]$$

Proof: immediate from the definition of *labels*.

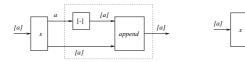
Lemma 25.23 (behaviour of labels on nodes).

$$labels \bullet Node = curry (append \circ (labels \times labels))$$

Proof:

Lemma 25.24 (property of *append*). *For all* x :: ST[a] a :: ST[a]

$$append \circ [\![[-] x]\!] = cons \circ x$$



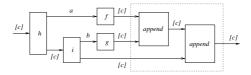
Proof:

$$append \circ [[-]f]]$$
= { bracket notation (lemma 25.12) }
$$append \circ ([-] \times id) \circ f$$
= { property of append }
$$cons \circ f$$

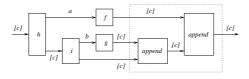
Lemma 25.25 (property of append).

For all
$$f :: a \rightarrow [c]$$
, $g :: b \rightarrow [c]$, $h :: ST [c] a$, and $i :: ST [c] b$:

 $append \circ \llbracket (curry (append \circ (f \times g))) \ h \ i \rrbracket$



 $append \circ (f \times (append \circ (g \times id) \circ i)) \circ h$



Proof:

```
append \circ \llbracket (curry (append \circ (f \times g))) h i \rrbracket
= \{ bracket notation (lemma 25.13), currying \} 
append \circ ((append \circ (f \times g)) \times id) \circ assoc \circ (id \times i) \circ h 
= \{ products \} 
append \circ (append \times id) \circ ((f \times g) \times id) \circ assoc \circ (id \times i) \circ h 
= \{ associativity of append \} 
append \circ (id \times append) \circ unassoc \circ ((f \times g) \times id) \circ assoc \circ (id \times i) \circ h 
= \{ naturality of assoc \} 
append \circ (id \times append) \circ unassoc \circ assoc \circ (f \times (g \times id)) \circ (id \times i) \circ h 
= \{ unassoc \circ assoc = id \} 
append \circ (id \times append) \circ (f \times (g \times id)) \circ (id \times i) \circ h 
= \{ products \} 
append \circ (f \times (append \circ (g \times id) \circ i)) \circ h
```

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