# Haskell as an Architecture Description Language

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#### **Abstract**

We define a domain specific embedded language in Haskell for describing layered software architectures which maintain bidirectional dependencies. By using a typed programming language to describe the architecture, the type correctness of its components is guaranteed by the type checker of the language. Because, contrary to the situation with typical Architecture Description Languages, the description is part of the implementation of the system, the implementation is guaranteed to comply with the architecture, and the architecture is guaranteed to comply with the implementation.

Categories and Subject Descriptors D.2.11 [Software Engineering]: Software Architectures—Languages (e.g., description, interconnection, definition)

General Terms Domain-specific languages, Architecture

Keywords keyword1, keyword2 \*

#### 1. Introduction

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In this paper we develop a set of Haskell combinators for describing architectures of layered systems. Although designed with a layered editor in mind, we claim this approach to be applicable to many kinds of layered architectures. The combinators have been successfully used in the implementation of the generic editor Proxima (Schrage 2004), as well as for a system providing webinterfaces to databases. \*.

Describing an architecture in an real programming language not only makes it possible to describe the interfaces of the components of the system, and how they are to be composed, but also enables us to smoothly extend this high-level description into a real implementation, without having to maintain several views on our system, with all its problems of diverging versions. Because the architecture description in Haskell is a program in itself, the system can be instantiated by providing implementations for each of the compo-

In their survey of architecture description languages (ADLs) (Medvidovic and Taylor 2000), Medvidovic and Taylor identify three essential components of an architecture description: a description of the (interface of the) components, a description of the connectors, and a description of the architectural configuration. They claim that the focus on conceptual architecture and explicit treatment of connectors as first-class entities differentiate ADL's from, amongst

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others, programming languages. However, Haskell offers possibilies for describing the main components of an architecture, while incorporating these components as part of the program itself. Furthermore, by using abstraction, the description of the architecture can be focused on the conceptual architecture, while the details are left to the actual components.

As argued by Hudak (Hudak 1998), higher-order typed func- maybe mentional languages offer excellent possibilities for embedding domain-kind of generic specific languages. \* Embedding a domain-specific language facil- with the type itates reuse of syntax, semantics, implementation code, software classification code, software tools, as well as look-and-feel. In this paper we develop a DSEL in TODO: Haskell for describing layered editor architectures. We use records Hughes? that contain functions to describe the components of the architecture. The connectors are combinators, and the configurations are programs (functions) that consist of combinators and components.

In this paper we give four implementation models for layered architectures. First, in Section 2, we introduce a simplified layered editor architecture and, in section 3, explore how its main components can be modeled in Haskell. Then we proceed to connect the components. In Section 4 the connection is straightforward, with little abstraction. This is used in Section 5 as a basis to develop a more abstract combinator implementation that uses nested pairs. In Section 6, we present another set of combinators, which employ a form of state hiding to improve on the previous set. Section 7 develops a small generic library for building the architecture-specific combinators of Section 6.

# 2. A simple editor

We introduce a simple layered architecture for a presentationoriented editor, which is used in the next sections to explain the architecture description methods. Although the architecture is simple, it contains the essential features of the Proxima architecture.

Figure 1 depicts the editing process for our simple editor. The editor keeps track of a document (doc), which is mapped onto a presentation (pres). The presentation process is split into n steps:  $\mathtt{present}_1 \dots \mathtt{present}_n$ , each step takes care of a specific subtask, such as computing a set of layout alternatives, computing minimal and maximal sizes, negotiation between objects to be displayed about the available screen space, keeping track of white space which was explicitly entered by the user but which does not play a role at the document level and keeping track of explicit representation choices -toggling visibility, alignment, unfolding statusmade by the user in the course of the editing process. At the bottom of the figure, the presentation is shown to a user, who provides an edit gesture (gest) in response. The edit gesture is mapped onto a document update (upd) by  $\mathtt{interpret}_n \dots \mathtt{interpret}_1$ , which is then applied to the document. In the next cycle, the updated document is presented again. Note that some of the editing gestures effectively turn out to be identity operations at the top level, since some of them will be handled at an intermediate level, and will result in an update of the state maintained at that level.

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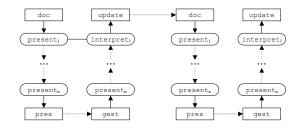


Figure 1. Two cycles in the editing process.

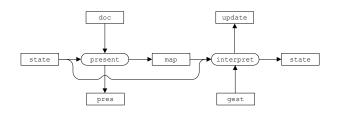


Figure 2. A single layer.

A layer consists of a pair of present<sub>i</sub> and interpret<sub>i</sub> functions, which we refer to as *layer functions*. Besides the vertical data flow for presentation and interpretation, we thus may also have horizontal data flow that stays within the layer. Horizontal data flow is used to maintain state in a layer; this state component is passed along between all computations taking place in a layer.

Figure 2 shows the data flow for a single layer with two examples of horizontal data flow. The result map of the function present is passed on to interpret and represents information about where things are mapped on the screen. Furthermore, a state parameter is passed to present as well as interpret, and may be updated by interpret. Note that the state parameter of present is the result of interpret in the previous edit step. Because of the sequential nature of the edit steps, we only consider horizontal data flow that goes from left to right.

# 3. A layer in Haskell

In the coming sections, we explore the possibilities of describing the layered architecture from the previous section in Haskell. There are two aspects to modeling a layered architecture in Haskell: the building blocks, which are the layer functions, and the connections between the building blocks. Before discussing how to model the connections between the layers, we focus of the functions within a layer.

A layer function takes horizontal as well as vertical arguments and returns both horizontal and vertical results. To make the difference between horizontal and vertical data explicit, we introduce a type synonym for layer functions.

```
type LayerFn horArgs vertArg horRess vertRes =
    horArgs -> vertArg -> (vertRes, horRess)
```

Each layer is represented by a record containing all the layer functions: in our case present and interpret. The types of the layer functions follow directly from Figure 2. If we put these functions directly in a record, we get:

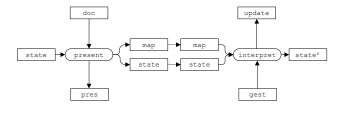


Figure 3. Data flow in a normalized layer.

state upd

However, this is not entirely what we want. To simplify the horizontal connection between layer functions, we prefer a normalized data type in which the horizontal result type (horRes) of a layer function matches the horizontal argument type (horArg) of the next layer function. For our example, this implies that the horizontal result of present has the same type as the horizontal argument of interpret and vice versa (since the result of interpret is the argument of present in the next edit cycle). Figure 3 shows the data flow for the layer functions in the normalized type Simple. Because the conversion to a normalized type is straightforward, we do not show it here. The definition of the normalized Simple is:

# 4. Method 1: Explicitly connecting the components

Now that the layers have been modeled, we need to realize the vertical data flow by connecting the layer functions. The document must be fed into the layers at the top, yielding the presentation at the bottom, and similarly, the edit gesture must be fed into the bottom layer, yielding the document update. The most straightforward way of tying everything together is to explicitly write down the selection and application of each of the functions in each of the layers. This will be the first approach, followed by gradually more abstract approaches in sections 5 to 7.

We give an example edit loop that explicitly connects three layers: layer1, layer2, and layer3 of type Simple. The data flow between the layer functions is shown in Figure 4. Note that we might look at the code below as a textual representation of this picture, and that vice versa we might compute such a picture out of the code. At the bottom of the figure, the presentation is shown to the user, and an edit gesture is obtained, which we represent in the code with two functions showRendering:: Rendering -> IO () and getGesture:: IO Gesture. At the top of the figure, the document is updated, which we model with a function updateDocument:: Update -> Document -> IO Document. The Haskell code for the edit loop is: \*

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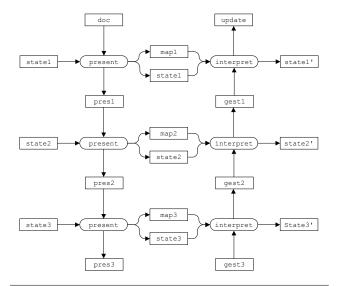


Figure 4. Data flow in and between layers.

present layer3 state3 pres2

```
; showRendering pres3
; gest3 <- getGesture

; let (gest2,state3'') =
        interpret layer3 (map3, state3') gest3
; let (gest1,state2'') =
        interpret layer2 (map2, state2') gest2
; let (update,state1'') =
        interpret layer1 (map1, state1') gest1
; let doc' = updateDocument update doc
; loop (state1'', state2'', state3'') doc'
}</pre>
```

The following function main calls editLoop with the correct parameters.

```
main layer1 layer2 layer3 =
  do { states <- initStates
    ; doc <- initDoc
    ; editLoop (layer1, layer2, layer3) states doc
  }</pre>
```

The functions initStates and initDoc provide the initial values for states and doc, and are left unspecified. The layers of the editor are arguments of the main function. An editor can now be instantiated by applying the function main to three Simple values each implementing a different layer. The type system verifies that the implemented layer functions have the correct type signatures.

A disadvantage of the implementation of the edit loop sketched in this section is that the patterns of the data flow are not very transparent. The fact that the state parameters are horizontal parameters and that the presentation is a vertical parameter is not immediately clear from the program code. Moreover, explicitly encoding the standard patterns for upward and downward vertical parameters, increases the chance of errors. Finally, the number of layers is hard coded in the implementation. If the system is extended with an extra layer, variables have to be renamed. If each type appearing in the layers is distinct, the type checker catches mistakes. However, type checking will not detect two equally typed variables accidentally being swapped, the goal of the coming sections is to gradually abstrcat from the current, very explicit description of the problem.

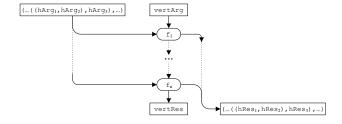


Figure 5. Horizontal nested pairs for a downward step.

# 5. Method 2: Nested pairs

In this section we abstract from the horizontal and vertical dataflow patterns in the edit loop of the previous section, by using combinators for combining layers. In the main loop, we call the layer functions of the combined layer, rather than explicitly calling each layer function in the main loop. The combinators also make the data flow more explicit. The direction of the vertical parameter is made apparent by the choice of combinator, rather than explicitly threading it through the function applications.

Similar to function composition  $(f \cdot g)$ , we develop a combine combinator that takes two layers and returns a combined layer. The layer functions of the combined layer are compositions of the layer functions in the layers that are combined.

In the method described in this section, each of the functions in the combined layer not only takes a vertical argument and returns a vertical result, but it also takes a collection of horizontal arguments (one for each layer) and returns a collection of horizontal results (one from each layer). The combine combinator takes care of distributing the horizontal arguments to the corresponding layers, and also collects the horizontal results. The combined layer provides layer functions of type LayerFn horArgC vertArg horResC vertRes. The parameters horArgC and horResC stand for the types of the collections of horizontal parameters and results. Figure 5 sketches the data flow in the combined layer. Only one layer function with a downward vertical parameter is shown.

Because the types of the horizontal parameters are typically not of the same type, we cannot use a list to represent the collections. Moreover, we wish to be able to determine at compile time whether the collection contains the required number of elements. A tuple or castesian product is more suitable for the task but has the disadvantage that its components cannot be accessed in a compositional way. Hence, we use a nested cartesian product to represent the horizontal parameters and results.

We only use left-associatively nested products in this section:  $(\dots((e_1,e_2),e_3),\dots), e_n)$ , Ithough this will not be enforced by the combinators; as long as the structure of the argument and result products is the same, which is guaranteed by the way the combine combinator is used, the precise structure does not matter.

We first define two combinators for composing layer functions: a downward combinator composeDown (for present) and a upward combinator composeUp (for interpret). A downward vertical parameter passes through the higher layer first, whereas an upward vertical parameter passes through the lower layer first. Figure 6 shows the data flow for the two combinators.

The combinator composeDown composes two layers higher and lower by feeding the intermediate vertical result of h into 1. At the same time, the horizontal parameters for higher and lower are taken from the horizontal parameter to the combined layer (which is a tuple), and the horizontal result for the combined layer is formed by tupling the horizontal results of higher and lower.

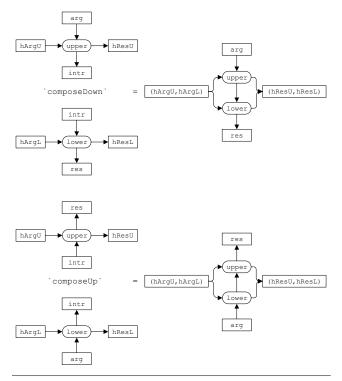


Figure 6. composeDown and composeUp

The definition of composeUp is analogous to composeDown. Its type is:

### **Combining layers**

Using composeUp and composeDown, we can define a combinator to combine Simple layers.

First, we need to define a new data type for combined layers. Although the composition of two layer functions is a layer function itself, we cannot use type Simple to represent a combined layer, because the types for the horizontal parameters do not match. For Simple, the horizontal parameter of present has type state, and its result has type (map, state). In contrast, the horizontal parameter of present in the composed layer is a nested pair of states and its result is a nested pair of map and state tuples.

We introduce a type LayerC as a more general version of Simple. Because we cannot easily denote a nested pair structure in a Haskell type declaration, we leave the structure of the horizontal parameters unspecified. The parameter states represents the nested pair of state values, and the parameter mapsStates represents the nested pair of map and state tuples.

The trivial function lift takes a layer of type Simple and returns a LayerC layer.

```
lift :: Simple a b c d e f -> LayerC a (b,a) c d e f
lift simple =
   LayerC { presentC = present simple
    , interpretC = interpret simple
    }
```

The combine combinator is defined by using the appropriate compose combinator on each of the layer functions.

#### Simple editor

The main editor loop from the previous section now reads:

The main function is almost the same as in the previous section, except that instead of a 3-tuple of layers, the combined layers are passed to editLoop.

#### Conclusions

The nested pairs solution is more compositional than the approach of the previous section and most of the data flow is hidden from the main loop. However, the horizontal parameters are passed all the way through the composite layer, and are visible in the main loop, which is not where they conceptually belong. Moreover, the type of the composite layer is parameterized with all the types appearing in the layers, leading to large type signatures.

#### 6. Method 3: Hidden parameters

In the previous section, the horizontal results that are computed on evaluation of a combined layer function are returned explicitly and passed as arguments to the next layer function. In this section we take an alternative approach, which we explain with an example. Recall that with the nested pairs method, each combined layer function returns a collection of horizontal results together with its vertical result:

let (pres, mapsStates) = presentC layers states doc
...
let (update, states') = interpretC layers mapsStates
gest

In contrast, the hidden-parameter method does not return a collection of horizontal results, but a function that has already been partially applied to the horizontal results.

```
let (pres, interpretStep) = presentStep doc
...
let (update, presentStep') = interpretStep gest
```

The code that is shown is not entirely accurate, as it turns out that some pattern matching is required, but it gives the general idea. Together with the presentation, presentStep returns a function interpretStep for computing the document update. The layer functions in interpretStep have already been partially applied to the horizontal results from the presentation step. Thus, the horizontal parameters are now entirely hidden from the main loop, the main editor loop becomes more transparent and the type of a combined layer is simpler since the types for the horizontal parameters are internalized.

#### Type definitions

The type of the layer is described by the following type: (Doc -> (Pres, Gest -> (Upd, Doc -> (Pres, Gest -> (Upd, ...)))). Unfortunately, we cannot use a type declaration: type Layer = (Doc -> (Pres, Gest -> (Upd, Layer))), because Haskell does not allow recursive type synonyms. Hence, we need to use a newtype declaration, with the disadvantage that values of the type have to be wrapped with constructor functions.

We now define two combinators for constructing and combining Layer values: lift converts a Simple layer to a hidden-parameter layer of type Layer, and combine combines two layers of type Layer. Both combinators in this section are specific to the Simple type. In the next section, we define a library to construct lift and combine for arbitrary layers.

#### Definition of lift

The combinator lift takes a Simple layer and returns a Layer:

Besides layer, lift gets a second parameter, state, which is the initial value of the horizontal parameter. The data flow pattern of the horizontal parameters is encoded entirely in the definition of lift. Moreover, the state type is not visible in the result of lift. Thus, once the horizontal state is passed to the lifted layer, it is no longer visible outside this layer; the lift combinator takes care of passing around the horizontal parameters to and from the layer functions, and also to the next edit cycle. \*

is misschien niet helemaal

#### Definition of combine

To combine layers, we define a combinator combine, which gets two layers as arguments: a higher layer and a lower layer. The type of combine is:

The reason for the order of the type variables is that for each pair of variables, the first type is an argument type and the second type a result type. Hence, the first step in the combined layer is a function high -> low, which is the composition of a function high -> med in the higher layer and a function med -> low in the lower. On the other hand, the second step goes upward. Thus, the function elow -> ehigh in the combined layer is the reverse composition of functions elow -> emed and emed -> ehigh in the higher and lower layers

The implementation of combine is just plumbing to get the parameters at the right places. The direction of the vertical parameters is encoded in the definition of combine.

#### Simple editor

The edit loop of the simple editor no longer contains references to the horizontal parameters. Furthermore, the combined layer is called presentStep instead of layers to reflect that it represents the presentation step of the computation.

```
editLoop (Layer presentStep) doc =
do { let (pres , interpretStep) = presentStep doc
  ; showRendering pres
  ; gesture <- getGesture
  ; let (update, presentStep') = interpretStep gesture
  ; let doc' = updateDocument update doc
  ; editLoop presentStep' doc'
}</pre>
```

In the main function, the combined layer is created by lifting the layers together with their initial states and using combine to put them together.

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```
lift layer3 state3
editLoop layers doc
```

#### Conclusions

The hidden-parameter model hides the data flow of the horizontal parameters from the main loop of the system. Furthermore, the types of the horizontal parameters, as well as the intermediate vertical parameters, are hidden from the type of the composed layer. Thus, both horizontal and vertical data flow are made more transparent.

# **Developing a library for architecture** descriptions

In this section, we develop a small library for constructing lift and combine combinators for layered architectures having an arbitrary number of layer functions. We refer to these combinators as meta combinators because they are used to construct combinators.

The lift and combine combinators from the previous section are just one case of a layered architecture: a layer with two layer functions and hence two steps. Even though the combinators are straightforward, some code is duplicated, and small errors are easily made.\* Therefore, instead of a general instruction on how to write lift and combine by hand, it is desirable to have a small library of meta combinators for constucting these combinators. Another advantage of a meta-combinator library is that instead of explicitly encoding the direction for each of the steps in the combine function, we can use a meta combinator whose name reflects the direction (similar to the composeUp/Down functions from the nested pairs method in Section 5).

Looking at the definitions of lift and combine in the previous section, we see that they both consist of two parts: one for each step in the layer. Both functions define a local function for each of the layer functions in the layer. In both lift and combine for the Simple layer type, these local functions are called presStep and intrStep.

The method we use for the derivation of the meta combinators is to start with the combinators from the previous section and gradually factorize out all step-specific aspects. We end with a combinator that is constructed by using straightforward applications of simple building blocks (or meta combinators).

# 7.1 Type definitions

\* The Layer type poses a problem if we want to construct a library voor de eerste zin stond weer for building lift and combine functions, since somehow its concentration with the combinators of solution is to create a type class for the constructor and deconstructor functions, but this requires a user to provide an instance of this class, as well as complicate the types and introduce problems\* with the monomorphism restriction. Therefore, we introduce a compositional representation of the layer types that only makes use of types defined in the library.

If we inspect the Layer type from the Section 6, we see it is made up of two steps of the form vArg -> (vRes, ...). We can capture such a step with the following type:

```
newtype Step a b ns = Step (a -> (b, ns))
```

In order to compose steps, we define an infix, right-associative, type constructor (:.:). The reason for right associativity will become apparent in Section 7.2.

```
newtype (:.:) f g ns = Comp (f (g ns))
```

We also define a NilStep that is the base case for a composition:

```
newtype NilStep t = NilStep t
```

Now, for example, we can encode the type Doc -> (Pres, Gest -> (Upd, next)) as (Step Doc Pres :.: Step Gest Upd : .: NilStep) next. To encode the feedback loop, we introduce a fixed-point type Fix:

```
newtype Fix f = Fix (f (Fix f))
```

With these types, we can give a compositional point-free definition for Layer:

```
type Layer doc pers gest upd =
 Fix (Step doc pres :.: Step Up gest upd :.: NilStep)
```

Because Step, NilStep, and : .: appear partially parameterized in the layer type, and Fix is recursive, all three types need to be newtypes. Hence, instead of one Layer constructor, lift and combine will be littered with constructors. This is not a problem, however, since the combinators we will derive in the next subsections take care of adding and removing these constructors.

The reason why we have an explicit NilStep with yet another constructor is that it causes the number of occurrences (:.:) to be the same as the number of steps, which will facilitate the removal of Comp constructors. Furthermore, as we will see in Section 7.5, the NilStep will also provide a base for recursive instances, preventing overlapping instances.

#### 7.2 Derivation for lift

First we develop a meta combinator for the lift function. We start with the code for lift for a layer with two steps from Section 6. If we rename several variables and adapt the code for the new constructor-rich representation of the Layer type, we get:

```
lift simple state = step1 state
 where step1 hArg = Fix . Comp . Step $
         \vArg -> let (pres, hRes) =
                      present simple hArg vArg
                  in (pres, step2 hRes)
       step2 hArg = Comp . Step $
         \vArg -> let (upd, hRes) =
                        interpret simple hArg vArg
                  in (upd, lNilStep hRes)
       lNilStep hRes = NilStep $ step1 hRes
```

The definitions of the local functions step1 and step2 contain mutually-recursive references. We eliminate the mutual recursion in the definitions by supplying the next step as a parameter to each function. The lNilStep no longer needs to be a local function.

```
lift :: Simple state map doc pres gest upd ->
        state -> Layer doc pres gest upd
lift simple state =
 step1 (step2 (lNilStep (lift simple))) state
 where step1 next hArg = Fix . Comp . Step $
         \vArg -> let (pres, hRes) =
                        present simple hArg vArg
                  in (pres, next hRes)
       step2 next hArg = Comp . Step $
         \vArg -> let (upd, hRes) =
                        interpret simple hArg vArg
                  in (upd, next hRes)
```

lNilStep next hRes = NilStep \$ next hRes

Now, we can capture the Comp and Step constructors and the lambda expression with the function liftStep. Here, it becomes apparent why composition is right associative, since each step has

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both aComp constructor and a Step constructor. If composition were left-associative, the Comp constructors would end up between the Fix and Step constructors, and it would be harder to capture the pattern.

If we drop the state parameter on the first two lines and rewrite the function application as a composition, we get:

```
lift layer = (step1 . step2 . lNilStep) (lift layer)
```

After which we can capture the recursion pattern with the fix combinator:

```
fix a = let fixa = a fixa
    in fixa

Thus, we get:
lift simple = fix (step1 . step2 . lNilStep)
where step1 next hArg = Fix $
    liftStep (present simple) next hArg
    step2 next hArg =
        liftStep (interpret simple) next hArg
```

Regardless the number of steps, there will only be one Fix constructor (in contrast to the number of Comp and Step constructors, which are equal to the number of steps). Hence, we can define a function lfix to add this constructor. The function lfix also composes the lNilStep to the steps.

Now we got rid of the all the constructors in the local step definitions, we can drop the next and args parameters and give a point-free definition:

#### liftStep works for layers with arbitrary numbers of steps

For an n-step layer, the definition of lift (using the method from Section 6) has n local step functions, each one containing a reference to the next. For such a layer, we can perform exactly the same steps as for the 2-step lift. The resulting lift contains a composition of n liftStep applications. If we denote the step type constructors by  $Step_i$  and the layer functions by  $layerFn_i$ , we have:

```
 \begin{array}{lll} \mbox{lift layer = lfix \$ liftStep (layerFn_1 layer)} & ... & \\ & . & . & \\ & . & \mbox{liftStep (layerFn}_n layer) \\ \end{array}
```

#### 7.3 Derivation for combine

The derivation of the meta combinators for combine is largely similar to the derivation for lift. We again start with the original definition of combine for a two-step layer, and adapt to the new Layer type and rename several variables:

The explicit mutual recursion in the local functions is removed by passing the next step as a parameter, and rewriting the whole function as a fixed point. The cNilStep becomes a top-level function.

Without the explicit recursive calls, we can capture the vertical data flow patterns with two functions combineStepDown and combineStepUp:

```
combineStepDown :: (f x -> g y -> h ns) ->
                     (Step a b :.: f) x ->
                     (Step b c :.: g) y ->
                     (Step a c :.: h) ns
combineStepDown next (Comp (Step upper))
                       (Comp (Step lower)) = Comp . Step $
  \h -> let (m ,upperf) = upper h
(1, lowerf) = lower m
        in (1, next upperf lowerf)
combineStepUp :: (f x -> g y -> h ns) ->
                   (Step b c :.: f) x ->
                   (Step a b : .: g) y ->
                   (Step a c :.: h) ns
combineStepUp next (Comp (Step upper))
                     (Comp (Step lower)) = Comp . Step $
  \lambda -> let (m, lowerf) = lower 1
(h, upperf) = upper m
         in (h, next upperf lowerf)
```

If we use these two functions, and drop the parameters to step2, we get:

```
combine upr lwr = fix (step1 . step2 . cNilStep) upr lwr
where step1 next (Fix upr) (Fix lwr) =
        Fix $ combineStepDown next upr lwr
        step2 = combineStepUp
```

The second step is now simply a combineStepUp, but the first step still contains a Fix constructor. In order to get rid of it, we first rewrite combine to make the pattern more apparent:

Now we can define a function cfix that pattern matches on the arguments and adds a Fix to the result. Similar to lfix, it also adds the cNilStep.

```
cfix f = fix f'
where f' n (Fix u) (Fix l) = Fix $ (f . cNilStep) n u l
    which leaves us with:
combine upr lwr = cfix (step1 . step2) upr lwr
where step1 next upr lwr =
        combineStepDown next upr lwr
    step2 = combineStepUp
```

Now, we can drop the parameters and replace to step1 and step2 by combineStepDown and combineStepDown. Thus, the final version of combine reads

Similar to liftStep, combineStepDown and combineStepUp do not depend on the number of steps. Hence, they can be used to construct combine for layers with an arbitrary number of layer functions.

# Simple editor

The main function for the simple editor is the same as in Section 6. Only the editLoop function has a couple of changes to account for the new constructors. To make the code more symmetrical, we define deconstructor functions unStep :: (Step a r ::: g) t -> a -> (r, (g t)) and unNil (which is the selector function of NilStep, when declared as a record.)

# 7.4 Adding a monad

The final modification we make to the library is to add a monad, in order to allow layer functions to perform IO operations. The type LayerFn is extended with an extra variable m for the monad.

```
type LayerFn m horArgs vertArg horRess vertRes =
    horArgs -> vertArg -> m (vertRes, horRess)
```

Consequentially, the Step type is also modified to account for the monadic result:

```
newtype Step a b m ns = Step (a -> m (b, ns))
```

At composition, the monad is passed to both arguments:

```
newtype (:.:) f g m ns = Comp (f m (g m ns))
```

The NilStep does not actually use the monad argument, so here it is a phantom type (Leijen and Meijer 1999).

```
newtype NilStep m t = NilStep t
```

For the fixed point, we introduce a type synonym FixM, which passes the monad to its type-function argument, and applies Fix to the result.

```
type FixM m f = Fix (f m)
```

The monadic version of the other code is largely similar to the non-monadic version. Basically, each let expression of the form

```
let \mathbf{x}_1 = exp_1; \ldots; \mathbf{x}_n = exp_n in (hRes, vRes) is replaced by a monadic statement do \{ \mathbf{x}_1 \leftarrow exp_1; \ldots; \mathbf{x}_n \leftarrow exp_n; return \ (hRes, vRes) \}
```

Furthermore, the type signatures for the pairs of horizontal and vertical results (*hRes*, *vRes*) become m (*hRes*, *vRes*). Because of the similarity between the two libraries, we only show the monadic liftStep:

The functions lfix, lcomp, cfix, and ccomp are independent of the monad and are the same for both versions of the library. \*

TODO: explain this more?

#### 7.5 Type-class magic

The definitions of lift and combine are almost uniquely determined by the layer type. This leads to the question whether we can use type classes to construct generic versions of these functions. Indeed, this turns out to be possible if we extend the Step type with a phantom-type variable to encode the direction of the step.

```
newtype Step dir a b ns = Step (a -> (b, ns))
```

For encoding the direction, we introduce two constructorless types:

```
data Up
data Down
```

#### Definition of genericLift

A generic version of lift would take a variable number of layer functions, and return a layer type. The number of layer functions is determined by the number of steps in the result type (which is determined by the context in which it is used.)

The structure of a generic version of lift in a pseudo-Haskell language would read:

In this code, we can identify a composition function that takes a varying number of functions (liftStep lf1 to liftStep lfn)

and return a composition. If we assume a function compose, that takes a representation of the number of steps (denoted by <n>) followed by n functions, we can rewrite genericLift to:

```
genericLift = \lf1 .. lfn ->
  lfix (compose <n> (liftStep lf1) .. (liftStep lfn))
```

Now, we can identify another pattern \a1 an -> f (g (h a1) .. (h an)). Because of the parentheses around g and its parameters, we cannot simply compose f and g. We assume a function app, which takes the representation of the steps <n>, and the two functions f and g. For h, app uses liftStep, which is not a parameter. If we take f to be lfix, and g to be compose <n>, we have a new version of genericLift:

```
genericLift = app <n> lfix (compose <n>)
```

The final non-Haskell part in the definition is the <n> expression. The number of steps is represented by the argument of the Fix type in the result of genericLift. Hence, we assume a function resType, which for functions of type a1 .. an -> Fix (s1 :.: ..: sn) returns steps t (note that steps has kind \* -> \*). With this last function, the definition of genericLift is no longer pseudo code, but actual Haskell:

Which leaves us the task of defining the type classes we need for compose, app, and resType.

For the variable-argument composition compose, we declare a class Comp with a single method comp, which takes a composition type, and a neutral element, and returns a composition function that takes as many arguments as the composition type has steps. The function compose is simply comp with id for the neutral element.

```
class Comp (cmp :: * -> *) r c | cmp -> r c where
   comp :: cmp t -> r -> c

instance Comp (NilStep) (b->res) (b->res) where
   comp cmp r = r

instance Comp g (a->res) cmp =>
        Comp (f ::: g) (y->res) ((a->y) -> cmp) where
   comp cmp r = \ab -> comp (rightType cmp) (r.ab)

rightType :: (f ::: g) t -> g t
rightType = undefined

compose c = comp c id
```

The application function is a bit more complex. The class App has a method app, which takes a composition type, and two functions f and fx. The result is a function that has the same number of arguments as the composition type has steps, and which applies fx to each argument, and applies these arguments to the function f.

The code for liftStep is the same as in the previous section. Its type is slightly different due to the direction type variable, but since this is a phantom type, it does not show up in the values.

The last problem we need to tackle is how to obtain the composition type over which compose and app recurse. For this we declare a class ResType with a method resType, which yields the result type of its function argument. Since the result of genericLift is always of type Fix ct, we can define a base instance for Fix ct, in which restype returns ct t, and a recursive instance for a -> f, in which restype returns the result type of f. Since no values are actually computed here, we can give the method a default implementation of undefined.

```
class ResType f res | f -> res where
  resType :: f -> res
  resType = undefined

instance ResType (Fix ct) (ct t)

instance ResType f r => ResType (a -> f) r
```

#### Definition of genericCombine

The situation for genericCombine is somewhat simpeler than for genericLift, since the function does not have a varying number of arguments. However, unlike genericLift, the step functions in genericCombine (i.e. combineStepUp and combineStepDown) are based on the direction of the step. If we look at genericCombine, the general structure would be:

We assume a function that creates a composition of n combine steps, where the choice for an upward or a downward step is based on the direction of the respective Step type in the composition type.

```
genericCombine = cfix (combineC (resType genericCombine))
```

The type class looks a bit unfriendly due to the presence of the Step type, which is necessary because of the dependence on the direction.

There is also an instance for Step Up but it is very similar to the instance for Step Down. The only difference is that Down is replaced by up, and that the parameter order for the upper and lower arguments a m and m r is replaced by m r and a m. Hence we do not show it here.

#### Simple editor

With the two generic functions defined above, it is no longer necessary to manually define a combine function. For lift, it still makes sense to define a function that takes a layer as an argument and selects the functions from this layer to pass on to genericLift.

The required definitions for the simple editor are:

The code for editLoop is the same as in Section 7.

The monadic version of the generic combinators is a straightforward extension, but has even more daunting types, so we will not present it here.

Although type errors become somewhat more complicated because of the overloaded types, the type class solution turns out to be quite useful. The monadic version has been successfully used to describe (and implement) the Proxima generic editor.

#### 7.6 Final Library and conclusions

Figure 7 contains the final monadic library. In order to describe and implement an architecture, we need to provide a Layer type, and definitions of lift and combine. We give a general description of these definitions.

# General use \*

TODO: mag naar voren

worden

The general case that we consider is a layer with n layer functions. The record type TheLayer  $\mathbf{m}$   $\mathbf{h}_1$  ...  $\mathbf{h}_m$   $\mathbf{a}_1$   $\mathbf{r}_1$   $\mathbf{a}_2$   $\mathbf{r}_2$  ...  $\mathbf{a}_n$   $\mathbf{r}_n$  contains the layer functions. The variable  $\mathbf{m}$  is the monad, variables  $\mathbf{h}_i$  are the types that appear in the horizontal parameters of the layer, and the  $\mathbf{a}_i$  and  $\mathbf{r}_i$  are the types of the vertical arguments and results.

Because the types of the horizontal parameters are not necessarily single  $\mathbf{h}_i$  variables, but tuples of these variables, we denote the horizontal parameters by  $horArgs_i$  and  $horRess_i$ . As an example, consider the type Simple. Its horizontal type variables are map and state, but the types of the horizontal parameters are state and (map, state).

In general, the definition of TheLayer has this form:

```
fix :: (a->a) \rightarrow a
fix a = let fixa = a fixa
        in fixa
type LayerFn m horArgs vertArg horRess vertRes =
       horArgs -> vertArg -> m (vertRes, horRess)
newtype FixM m f = Fix (f m)
infixr :.:
newtype (:.:) f g m ns = Comp (f m (g m ns))
newtype NilStep m t = NilStep t
newtype Step a b m ns = Step (a -> m (b, ns))
unStep (Comp (Step step)) = step
unNil (NilStep step) = step
lfix f = fix f' where f' n = Fix . (f . lNilStep) n
lNilStep next hRes = NilStep $ next hRes
liftStep f next horArgs = Comp . Step $
  \vArg -> do { (vertRes, horRes) <- f horArgs vArg
              ; return (vertRes, next horRes)
cfix f = fix f'
 where f' n (Fix u) (Fix 1) = Fix $ (f . cNilStep) n u 1
cNilStep next (NilStep u) (NilStep 1) =
  NilStep $ next u l
combineStepDown next (Comp (Step upper))
                      (Comp (Step lower)) = Comp . Step $
  h \rightarrow do \{ (m , upperf) \leftarrow upper h
           ; (1, lowerf) <- lower m
           ; return (1, next upperf lowerf)
combineStepUp next (Comp (Step upper))
                    (Comp (Step lower)) = Comp . Step $
  \1 -> do { (m, lowerf) <- lower 1
           ; (h, upperf) <- upper m
           ; return (h, next upperf lowerf)
```

Figure 7. Final meta-combinator library

We assume the layer is normalized, which means that  $horArgs_1 = horRess_n$  and  $horArgs_{i+1} = horRess_i$ . If the layer is not normalized, a simple wrapper function can be defined to convert the layer to a normalized layer (see Section 3). if map is removed from horizontal args, this reference will be incorrect

#### Type definitions

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For a layer record as defined above,\* the type definition for the  $\frac{1}{2}$  topo: Layer type used by the combinators is:

```
type Layer m a_1 r_1 a_2 r_2 ... a_n r_n =

FixM m (Step a_1 r_1 :.: a_2 r_2 :.: ... :.: Step a_n r_n)
```

#### Definition of lift and combine

The definitions of lift and combine are straightforward. For lift, we need to apply liftStep to each of the layer functions, compose the steps with lcomp, and apply lfix to the composition.

```
lift :: Monad m =>
         The Layer m h_1 \ldots h_m a_1 r_1 \ldots a_n r_n \rightarrow
         Layer m a_1 r_1 \ldots a_n r_n
lift theLayer =
  lfix $ liftStep (LayerFn1 theLayer)
        . liftStep (LayerFn2 theLayer)
        . liftStep (LayerFn_n theLayer)
```

The combine combinator consists of n combine StepUp/Down meta combinators, composed with ccomp, after which cfix is applied. The direction of the vertical data flow determines the choice between combineStepUp and combineStepDown for each step. The exact type of combine depends on the direction of the meta combinators and is explained below.

```
combine :: Monad m =>
           Layer m ... -> Layer m ... -> Layer m ...
combine =
 cfix $ combineStepUp/Down
       . combineStepUp/Down
```

The type of combine depends on the direction of the vertical data flow in the layer. Consider the i-th pair of type variables in Layer  $a_1 r_1 \ldots a_n r_n$ . Variable  $a_i$  represents the vertical argument of layer function i, and  $r_i$  the vertical result. If step i is an upward step, the variables at this position in the Layer types are related as follows in the type signature for combine:

```
combine :: Monad m =>
           Layer ... md h ... -> Layer ... 1 md ... ->
           Layer ... 1 h ...
```

On the other hand, for a downward layer function, we have:

```
combine :: Monad m =>
           Layer ... h md ... -> Layer ... md l ... ->
           Layer ... h l ...
```

#### 7.7 Conclusions

The meta combinator library has the advantages of the hiddenparameter solution from Section 6, but at the same time, it is much easier to describe a specific architecture. The use of meta combinators makes the data flow clearer and reduces the chance of errors in the specification. For a specific architecture, we only need to define a Layer type, and give simple definitions of lift and combine.

The fact that we still need to write some code by hand leads to the question whether it is possible to define a type class that allows us to lift and combine as its member functions. With such a type class, and a layer type that contains an encoding of the direction of the vertical data flow, we would no longer need to explicitly define the combinators.

For lift, this type class can be defined, although it does require the explicit base case TNil for type composition (see Section ??). For combine, the situation is a lot more complicated due to the different data-flow directions in each of the steps. If we encode the data flow in the Step type (i.e. by using types StepUp and StepDown), it may be possible to define a type class for combine. Whether this is the case remains further research. \* However, it is

questionable whether this is actually worth the effort. The code for the meta combinators would turn much more complex, whereas the gains of a single lift and combine function are not that much, given the fact that they only need to be defined once and will typically remain constant.

#### Related work

Why this is nicer than an architecture description language. \*

The requirements for a DSEL for describing architectures are (kind of an unslightly different from the requirements for more familiar applica- derstatement) tions of DSELs, such as parsers, pretty printers, etc. The latter are used to write programs that contain many applications of the combinators and that are usually subject to frequent change and frequent use. An architecture description, on the other hand, will typically be a smallel and rather static entity, because changes to the architecture involve changes to many components of the system. The first association many have with the term "Architecture Description Language" is a graphical design environment, in which one can sketch the architecture. Futere work thus incorporates the use of Proxima for bulding such editing environments: the use sees and manipuates a graphical representation, whereas the model is actually a Haskell program. In this research we will build upon work doen already in another context: the manipulation of Bayesean networks (?).

#### Conclusions

The combinators presented in this paper make it possible to specify layered editor architectures in a concise and transparent way, making the data flow within the layer. With a small number of definitions, a layered architecture can be described, clearly showing the data flow between the layers. The combinators have been heap profiled to ensure that no memory leaks are present, and have been used to implement the Proxima prototype as well as a database web-interface system.

Because the architecture description language is embedded in the implementation language, the architecture of a system forms part of the implementation of the system. We do not need to translate the architecture to an implementation, and hence, the implementation is guaranteed to comply with the architecture and vice

According to Medvidovic and Taylor (Medvidovic and Taylor 2000), an architecture description language should describe the components of an architecture, the connectors, and the configuration. For the architecture combinators defined in this paper, we can identify these aspects as follows: the layer functions are the components; lift and combine are the connectors; and the applications of lift and combine determine the configuration.

The combinator language in this paper is tailored to a specific kind of architectures: those of layered editors. Although we use the term editor in a broad sense, also including spreadsheets, email agents, etc., further research should explore the possibilities of using Haskell to describe other kinds of architectures. For us the expriment to model the structure of the system using Haskell has been a successful experience, and we hope that this paper will inspire others to pursue the approach for a different classes of architectures.

Another area of research concerns how dynamic aspects of the architecture, such as invariants and constraints on the data, can be described and, if possible, verified.

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