

A Coalgebraic Approach to Stateful Objects in Game Semantics

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Semantics of Stateful Programs

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In a stateful language, we have to take the program *state* into consideration. We represent a stateful function as a function:

$$\llbracket f \rrbracket : W \times \llbracket S \rrbracket \rightarrow W \times \llbracket T \rrbracket$$

where W denotes the program state.

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Given games A, B , we can form the *compound games* $A \times B$, $A \otimes B$, $A \multimap B$, $A \odot B, \dots$ in which the games A and B are played in parallel.

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...but now we are stuck. We introduce the *exponential*

$!A \approx A \otimes (A \otimes (A \otimes \dots$ Now we represent the type of functions from A to B using the game

$$!A \multimap B$$

A storage cell

Consider the following (Java) class:

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public class StorageCell implements AbstractCell {  
    private int state;  
    public int read() { return state; }  
    public void write(int x) { state = x; }  
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The *implementation* now corresponds to a *strategy* for that game:

7 ✓ ? 7 ? 7 8 ✓ 9 ✓ ? 9...

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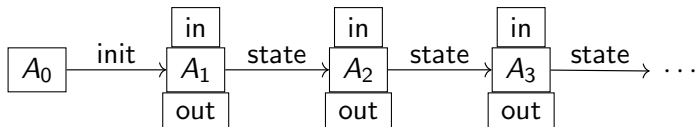
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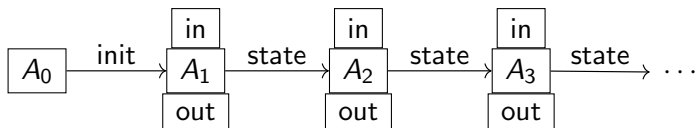
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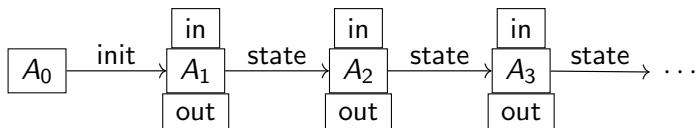


We may construct a state transformer (strategy)

$!X \multimap (\text{Read}[X] \times \text{Write}[X]) \oslash !X$ corresponding to a single invocation of the Java class on the previous slide.

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$!X \multimap (\text{Read}[X] \times \text{Write}[X]) \otimes !X$ corresponding to a single invocation of the Java class on the previous slide.

Using some category-theoretic magic ($!A$ is the *final coalgebra* for the endofunctor $A \otimes _$), we can automatically construct our strategy for $!X \multimap !(\text{Read}[X] \times \text{Write}[X])$ from this state transformer.