

# Monad Transformers in Haskell

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sample code at:

<https://github.com/azadbolour/transformersworkshop>

# ***Thank You!***

***Eitan Chatav - for pairing on monad transformers***

***James Earl Douglas - for reviewing the slides***

***Mio Alter - for co-organizing a precursor study session on monad transformers***

# ***Intended Audience***

***fluent in basic Haskell, including monads***

***unfamiliar with monad transformers  
except in passing***

# *Goals*

*demystify the concept and its implementation*

*demonstrate its patterns of usage*

***monad transformers allow  
the effects of different monads  
to be combined***

# Why Study Monad Transformers

- **current Haskell standard for combining effects is monad transformers**
- **real-world computations often involve multiple effects, e.g., IO + failure**
- **effective Haskell requires familiarity with patterns of working with multiple effects through monad transformers**
- **to make your monads composable, provide standard transformers for them**

*monads are cool ... [but] ...*

*[they] require monad transformers  
for composition*

*I tried to wrap my head around it  
but then it exploded [!]*

*[Martin Odersky - Scala Days - 2015]*

[\[http://www.slideshare.net/Odersky/scala-days-san-francisco-45917092\]](http://www.slideshare.net/Odersky/scala-days-san-francisco-45917092)

# Example of Working with Monad Transformer: Persistent

**dbAction ::**

**ReaderT SqlBackend (NoLoggingT (ResourceT IO)) ()**

**dbAction = do**

**runMigration migrateAll**

**productId <- insert \$ Product "MacBook Pro" \$ 2000.00**

**product <- get productId**

**liftIO \$ print product**

**main :: IO ()**

**main = runSqlite ":memory:" \$ dbAction**



# Composition

|                 |   |                          |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------|
| $(.)$           | $(b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow$           | $(a \rightarrow c)$      |
| $(>=>)$         | $(a \rightarrow m\ b) \rightarrow (b \rightarrow m\ c) \rightarrow$     | $(a \rightarrow m\ c)$   |
| <b>hcompose</b> | $(a \rightarrow m_1\ b) \rightarrow (b \rightarrow m_2\ c) \rightarrow$ | $(a \rightarrow ???\ c)$ |

|                 |   |                         |
|-----------------|---|-------------------------|
| <b>hcompose</b> | $(a \rightarrow m_1 b) \rightarrow (b \rightarrow m_2 c) \rightarrow$ | $(a \rightarrow ??? c)$ |
|-----------------|---|-------------------------|

| primitive monad [m2]  | the ??? = transformer      | transformed Identity (m1 = Identity) | derived monad |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Maybe a               | MaybeT m <sub>1</sub> a    |                                      |               |
| Either e a            | ExceptT e m <sub>1</sub> a | ExceptT e Identity                   | Except e      |
| ((->) r)              | ReaderT r m <sub>1</sub> a | ReaderT r Identity                   | Reader r      |
| ((,) w)               | WriterT w m <sub>1</sub> a | WriterT w Identity                   | Writer w      |
| <u>s -&gt; (a, s)</u> | StateT s m <sub>1</sub> a  | StateT s Identity                    | State s       |

# Overview

1. **>> Motivation**
2. **Implementation**
3. **Usage**

# The Monad Type Class

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

```
class Functor struct => Applicative struct where  
  pure :: a -> struct a  
  (<*>) :: struct (a -> b) -> struct a -> struct b
```

```
class Functor struct where  
  fmap :: (a -> b) -> struct a -> struct b
```

# Shorthand Notational Conventions

- *struct a* or *struct<sub>a</sub>* — generic type
- *struct a* or *struct<sub>a</sub>* — generic data constructor
- *struct Int* or *struct<sub>Int</sub>* — concrete type
- *struct1.struct2<sub>a</sub>* — *struct1 (struct2 a)*
- *ab* — *a -> b*
- *abc* — *a -> b -> c*
- *struct<sub>ab</sub>* — *struct (a -> b)*

# Terminology

- effectless function:  $f :: a \rightarrow b$ 
  - $f\ x = 2 * x$
- effectful function aka monad factory:  $f :: a \rightarrow \text{monad } b$ 
  - $f\ x = \text{return } (2 * x)$
- substrate [of monad]: monadic type parameter of monad
  - $\text{monad} :: [\text{Int}] \text{ - - } \text{substrate} = \text{Int}$
  - $\text{monad} :: \text{State } s\ a \text{ - - } \text{substrate} = a$

$\text{return} :: \text{substrate} \rightarrow \text{monad}_{\text{substrate}}$

$(>>=) :: \text{monad}_a \rightarrow \text{MonadFactory monad } a\ b \rightarrow \text{monad}_b$

# Propagation of Effects

**Kleisli Composition of effectful functions: ( $\Rightarrow$ )**

$(\Rightarrow) :: (a \rightarrow \text{monad } b) \rightarrow (b \rightarrow \text{monad } c) \rightarrow (a \rightarrow \text{monad } c)$

$(f \Rightarrow g) a = f a \gg= g$

multiple effectful functions may be composed in a chain

the effect is accumulated within the chain

# Bind as Flattening fmap

$(\>\>=) :: \text{monad } a \rightarrow (a \rightarrow \text{monad } b) \rightarrow \text{monad } b$

$\text{join} :: (\text{Monad monad}) \Rightarrow \text{monad (monad } a) \rightarrow \text{monad } a$

bind and join can be defined in terms of each other

$\text{join nested} = \text{nested } \>\>= \text{id} \quad [\text{Control.Monad}]$

$\text{monad}_a \>\>= \text{monadFactory}_{ab} =$   
 $\text{join } \$ \text{monadFactory}_{ab} \<\$ \> \text{monad}_a$



# Flattening

*the inner and outer monads have the same monadic type  
so flattening makes sense*

*factory :: Int -> Maybe Int*  
*factory x = Just (2 \* x)*

*join \$ fmap factory (Just 10)*  
*= join \$ Just (Just 20)*  
*= Just 20*

# Kleisli Composition via *fmap* and *join*

$f :: a \rightarrow \text{monad } b$   
 $g :: b \rightarrow \text{monad } c$

$(f \gg g) a =$

$\text{let } \text{monad}_b = f a$

$\text{monad}_{\text{monad}(c)} = g \text{ <\$> } \text{monad}_b$

$\text{in join monad}_{\text{monad}(c)}$

- - Step 1. apply  $f$ .

- - Step 2. map  $g$ .

- - Step 3. flatten.

# Heterogeneous Composition

```
f :: a -> SomeMonad Int
g :: Int -> Maybe Int
g x = Just (2 * x)
(f >=> g) a = join $ g <$> f a
```

fmap of composition still works - flattening does not!

| f a                  | g <\$> f a                            | nested value      |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| [1, 2]               | Just . (2*) <\$> [1, 2]               | [Just 2, Just 4]  |
| Right 5              | Just . (2*) <\$> Right 5              | Right (Just 10)   |
| monad <sub>Int</sub> | Just . (2*) <\$> monad <sub>Int</sub> | monad (Maybe Int) |

# from Homogeneous Bind to Heterogeneous Bind

## Homogeneous

*nester* :: *m a* -> (*a* -> *m b*) -> *m (m b)*

*nester m<sub>a</sub> factory<sub>ab</sub>* = *factory<sub>ab</sub> <\$> m<sub>a</sub>*

*(>>=) m<sub>a</sub> factory<sub>ab</sub>* = *join \$ nester m<sub>a</sub> factory<sub>ab</sub>*

## Heterogeneous

*nester* :: (*Monad m*, *Monad blendingMonad*) =>

*m a* -> (*a* -> *blendingMonad b*) -> *m (blendingMonad b)*

*nester m<sub>a</sub> factory<sub>ab</sub>* = *factory<sub>ab</sub> <\$> m<sub>a</sub>*

*hBind m<sub>a</sub> factory<sub>ab</sub>* = *hJoin \$ nester m<sub>a</sub> factory<sub>ab</sub>*

# hBind for Maybe

*maybeFactory<sub>ab</sub> :: a -> Maybe b*

*maybeHBind baseMonad<sub>a</sub> maybeFactory<sub>ab</sub> =  
maybeHJoin \$ maybeFactory<sub>ab</sub> <\$> baseMonad<sub>a</sub>*

*let*

*maybeHJoin :: baseMonad a  
-> (a -> Maybe b)  
-> MaybeBlender baseMonad b*

# Blender Abstraction

*class* (Monad blendingMonad) =>

MonadBlender blender blendingMonad where

hJoin :: (Monad m, Monad blendingMonad) =>

m (blendingMonad b) -> blender m b

*instance* MonadBlender MaybeBlender Maybe where

hJoin :: (Monad baseMonad) =>

baseMonad (Maybe a) -> MaybeBlender baseMonad a

# Propagating Nested Effects

*data MaybeBlender baseMonad a = ???*

*instance Monad baseMonad =>  
instance Monad (MaybeBlender baseMonad)*

# About hJoin

- *starts off with a nesting of the two monads, e.g., 'baseMonad (Maybe a)'*
- *converts the nested monads to an appropriate data structure that:*
  - *retains the effects of both monads*
  - *is itself a monad: can propagate the combined effects*
  - *can just box the nested monad in a data structure*
  - *or do some proper processing of the nested monad - poor man's flattening*



# Heterogeneous Composition with Blenders

**hBind** :: (Monad m, MonadBlender blender blendingMonad) =>  
m a -> (a -> blendingMonad b) -> blender m b

**hBind** m<sub>a</sub> blendingFactory = hJoin \$ blendingFactory <\$> m<sub>a</sub>

**hCompose** :: (Monad m, MonadBlender blender blendingMonad) =>  
(a -> m b) -> (b -> blendingMonad c) -> (a -> blender m c)

**hCompose** f blendingFactory = \a -> hBind (f a) blendingFactory

**hCompose** f blendingFactory = \a -> hJoin \$ blendingFactory <\$> (f a)

# from Blenders to Transformers

- *blenders and transformers are different abstractions*
- *but they use common data structures*
- *the common data structures are named: **MonadT**, e.g., **MaybeT***
- *each primitive monad, **Mnd a**, e.g.,*  
***Maybe a**, reader  $a: r \rightarrow a$ , writer  $a: (a, w)$ , etc.*  
*has a related data structure: **MndT baseMonad a**, e.g.,*  
***MaybeT baseMonad a***
- ***MndT** blends the effect of **Mnd** and **baseMonad***

# from Blenders to Transformers

- *blenders and transformers differ as abstractions (classes)*
- *the key concepts of the blender abstraction are **hJoin** (and its derivatives, **hBind**, **hCompose**)*  
***hJoin** :: **baseMonad** (**Maybe a**) -> **MaybeT** **baseMonad** a*
- *the key concept of the transformer abstraction is **lift***
- ***lift** adds the effect of a blending monad to a base monad*  
***lift** :: **baseMonad** a -> **MaybeT** **baseMonad** a*

# The Monad Transformer Abstraction

```
class MonadTrans blendingTransformer where  
  lift :: Monad baseMonad =>  
    baseMonad a -> blendingTransformer baseMonad a
```

*[Control.Monad.Trans.Class]*

*a monad transformer as a polymorphic type has 2 type parameters*

- *a **baseMonad** - the monad being transformed*
- *a **substrate** - the type of slots in the base monad  
and in the transformer itself as a monad*

# About the MonadTrans Abstraction

## lift vs return

- **return** adds an effect to a substrate value
- **lift** adds another effect to a base monad value

## *MonadT* needs these instances

- *instance MonadTrans MonadT*
- *instance Monad baseMonad*  
  *=> instance Monad (MonadT baseMonad)*

# lift via hBind

*lift* :: (Monad m, MonadBlender blender blendingMonad) =>  
m a -> blender m a

*lift* m<sub>a</sub> = hBind m<sub>a</sub> return<sub>blendingMonad</sub>

*lift* m<sub>a</sub> = hJoin \$ return<sub>blendingMonad</sub> <\$> m<sub>a</sub>

# Food for Thought an Unrealized Dream

*hCompose* as defined here

- *does not smoothly subsume homogeneous Kleisli composition*
- *does not produce a category - with identity and associativity properties*

unclear how to model such a uniform categorical model in Haskell  
even if we started from scratch with freedom

- *to choose our own data structures other than transformers*
- *to use the power of GHC extensions*

# MonadTrans Laws

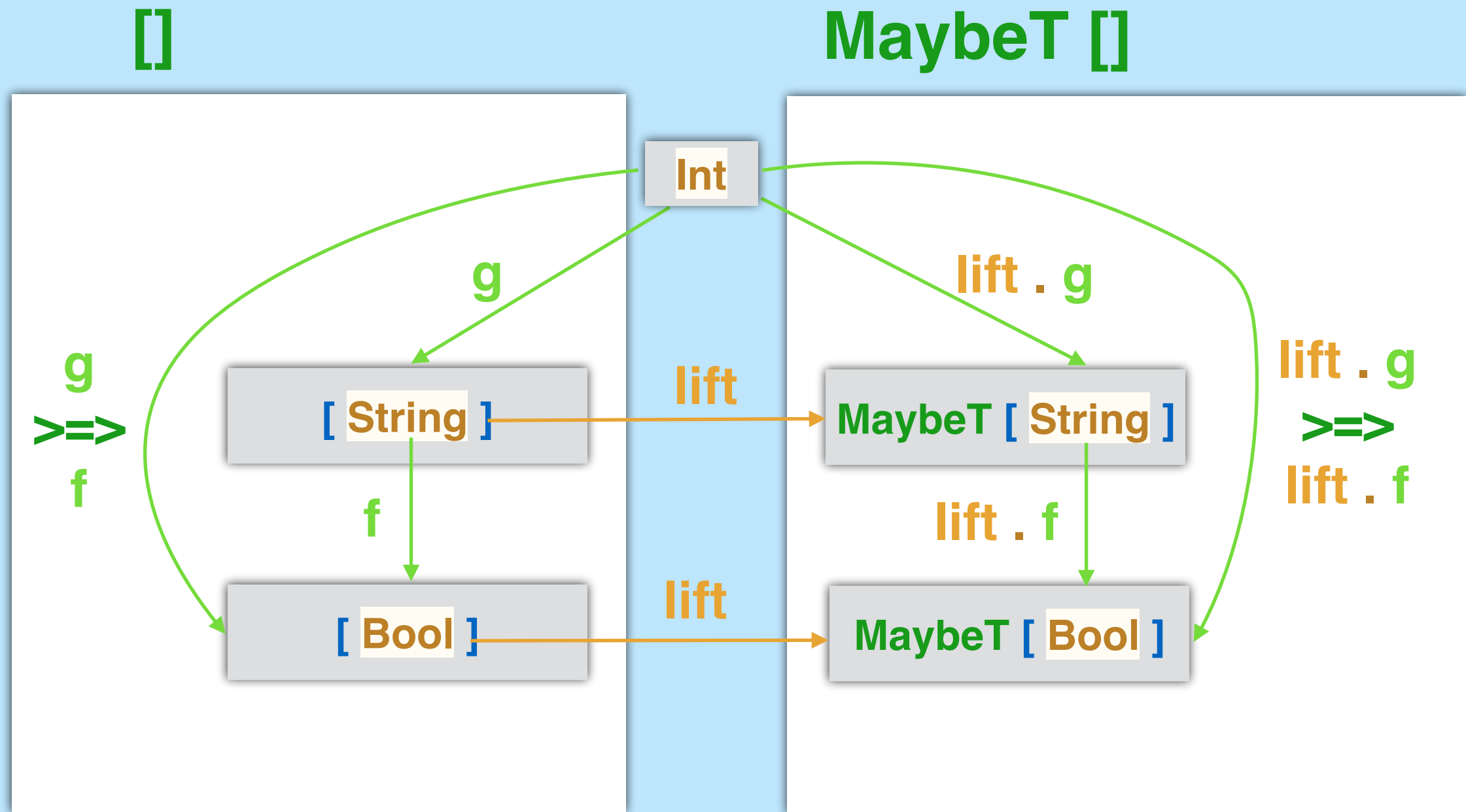
## return law

$\text{lift} \cdot \text{return}_{\text{baseMonad}} = \text{return}_{\text{MonadT}}$   
 $\text{lift} \cdot \text{Kleislift}_{\text{baseMonad}} = \text{Kleislift}_{\text{MonadT}}$

**composition law:** for functions:  $f :: b \rightarrow \text{baseMonad } c$ ,  $g :: a \rightarrow \text{baseMonad } b$   
and monads:  $m :: \text{baseMonad } b$

|  |   |                       |
|--|---|-----------------------|
| $\text{lift } (m \gg= f)$                | $= \text{lift } m \gg= (\text{lift} \cdot f)$                       | bind version          |
| $\text{lift } (g \ a \ \gg= f)$          | $= (\text{lift} \cdot g) \ a \ \gg= (\text{lift} \cdot f)$          | let $m = g \ a$       |
| $\text{lift } ((g \ \Rightarrow f) \ a)$ | $= ((\text{lift} \cdot g) \ \Rightarrow (\text{lift} \cdot f)) \ a$ | definition of Kleisli |
| $\text{lift} \cdot (g \ \Rightarrow f)$  | $= (\text{lift} \cdot g) \ \Rightarrow (\text{lift} \cdot f)$       | Kleisli version       |





## MonadTrans Composition Law (Kleisli version)

$$\text{lift} . (g \gg f) = (\text{lift} . g) \gg (\text{lift} . f)$$

# MonadTrans Laws =>

## Monad Laws for lifted Functions

**liftFunction** :: (a -> baseMonad b) -> a -> **MaybeT** baseMonad b  
**liftFunction** f = **lift** . f

| baseMonad instance                             | MaybeT baseMonad instance                                  |
|--|--|
| <b>lift</b> . (return ==> f) = <b>lift</b> . f | return ==> <b>lift</b> . f = <b>lift</b> . f               |
| <b>lift</b> . (f ==> return) = <b>lift</b> . f | <b>lift</b> . f ==> return = <b>lift</b> . f               |
| <b>lift</b> . ((h ==> g) ==> f)                | ( <b>lift</b> . h ==> <b>lift</b> . g) ==> <b>lift</b> . f |
| <b>lift</b> . (h ==> (g ==> f))                | <b>lift</b> . h ==> ( <b>lift</b> . g ==> <b>lift</b> . f) |

# MaybeT Transformer

***hJoin** :: baseMonad (Maybe a) -> MaybeT baseMonad a*

- *join* would have flattened the nested structure
- *hJoin* cannot flatten
- *hJoin* can only package up the nested monads

# MaybeT - the Monad Transformer for Maybe

```
newtype MaybeT baseMonad a = MaybeT {  
    runMaybeT :: baseMonad (Maybe a)  
}
```

*[Control.Monad.Trans.Maybe]*

**hJoin = MaybeT**

**note:** the runner is a getter for the core

```
runMaybeT :: MaybeT baseMonad a -> baseMonad (Maybe a)
```

# Using MaybeT

*MaybeT baseMonad* - must be an *instance* of both

- *Monad*
- *MonadTrans*

*assume it is [stay tuned for the evidence]*

```
findPersonByName :: String -> MaybeT IO Person - - given
```

```
findPersonAddress :: String -> MaybeT IO Address
```

```
findPersonAndPrintAddress name = do  
  person <- findPersonByName name  
  return $ address person
```

# Exercise

Working with combined effects.

In this exercise we use `Maybe` and `Either` to represent different exceptional conditions:

- *`Maybe` is used to represent the existence or non-existence of an entity*
- *`Either String` is used to represent a validation error*

The combined effect is represented by *`MaybeT Either`*.

Given two entity sets, *`customers`*, and *`products`*, create a function that takes a customer name and a product name and computes the discounted price of the product for the customer, by working in the *`MaybeT Either`* monad.

See the skeletal program: *`CalcDiscount.hs`*.

# Where are We

## 1. Motivation

## 2. >> Implementation

- >> *MaybeT as MonadTrans*
- *MaybeT as Monad [and Applicative and Functor]*
- special notes

## 3. Usage

# Shorthand Notation

`MaybeT.monada :: MaybeT monad a`

`MaybeT.[Int] :: MaybeT [] Int`

`fmapMaybeT.m :: (a -> b) -> MaybeT m a -> MaybeT m b`

`monad.Maybea :: monad (Maybe a)`

`[Int].Maybe :: [Maybe Int]`

`fmapmonad.Maybe :: (a -> b) -> monad.Maybea -> monad.Maybeb`

`fmap[Int].Maybe :: (Int -> Bool) -> [Maybe Int] -> [Maybe Bool]`



# MaybeT as a MonadTrans

**instance MonadTrans MaybeT where**

**lift<sub>MaybeT</sub> = MaybeT . liftM<sub>baseMonad</sub> Just** - - *Control.Monad.Trans.Maybe*

**[liftM same as fmap - liftM :: (Monad m) => (a -> b) -> m a -> m b]**

**[lift<sub>MaybeT</sub> :: (Monad m) => m a -> MaybeT m a]**

**example**

**lift<sub>MaybeT</sub> [1, 2] = MaybeT \$ Just <\$> [1, 2]  
= MaybeT [Just 1, Just 2]**

# MaybeT as a Monad

since Monad is a subclass of Functor and Applicative

**MaybeT** must be an instance of

- **Functor** - evidence derivation follows
- **Applicative** - see Appendix B for summary
- **Monad** - evidence derivation follows

# MaybeT as a Functor

*instance (Functor functor) => Functor (MaybeT functor) where*

*fmap :: (a -> b) -> MaybeT functor a -> MaybeT functor b = ???*

*MaybeT functor x :: MaybeT { runMaybeT :: functor.Maybe x }*

core



*fmap f<sub>ab</sub> maybeT*

1. unbox the core: *runMaybeT maybeT*
2. map  $f_{ab}$  onto the core: *fmap<sub>functor.Maybe</sub> f<sub>ab</sub> (runMaybeT maybeT)*
3. box the mapped value:

*MaybeT (fmap<sub>functor.Maybe</sub> f<sub>ab</sub> (runMaybeT maybeT))*

# fmap for MaybeT

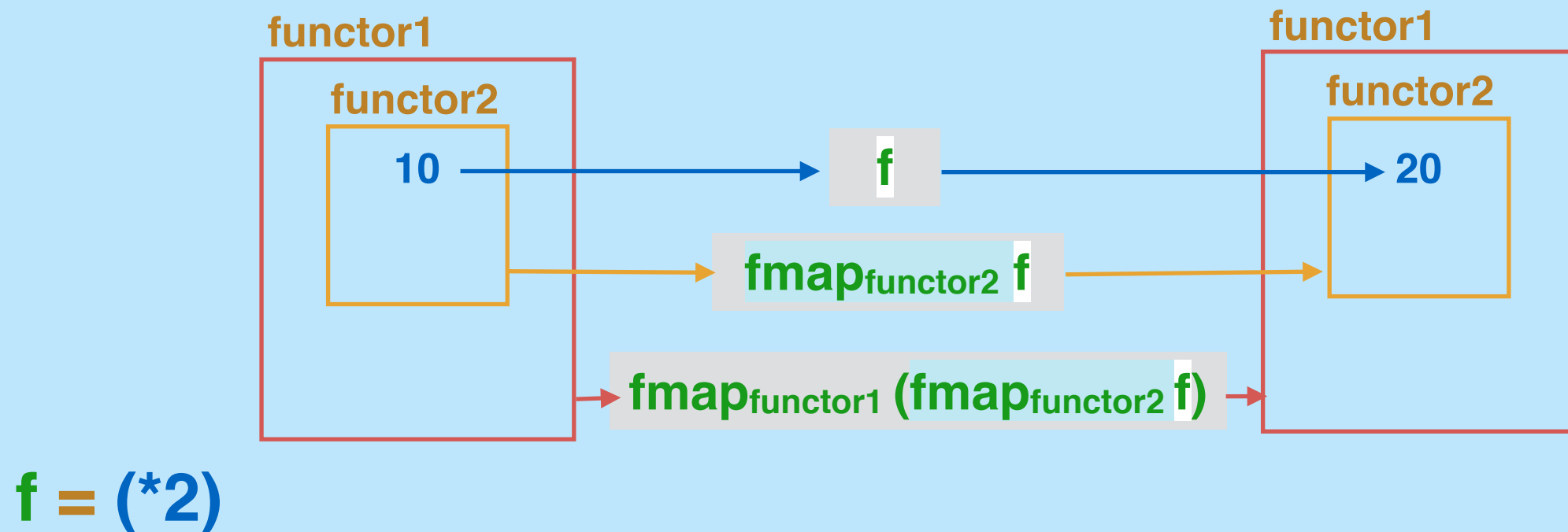
*[library function in Control.Monad.Trans.Maybe]*

**mapMaybeT** **f** = **MaybeT . f . runMaybeT** - -

**fmap**<sub>MaybeT.functor</sub> **f**<sub>ab</sub> **maybeT** =  
**MaybeT** (**fmap**<sub>functor.Maybe</sub> **f**<sub>ab</sub> (**runMaybeT** **maybeT**))

**fmap**<sub>MaybeT.functor</sub>  
= **mapMaybeT** **fmap**<sub>functor.Maybe</sub>  
= **mapMaybeT** (**fmap**<sub>functor</sub> . **fmap**<sub>Maybe</sub>) - - *stay tuned*

# fmap for Nested Functors



# MaybeT as a Monad

```
instance Monad m => Monad (MaybeT m) where  
  return = ???  
  maybeT >>= maybeTFactory = ???
```

```
returnMaybeT :: a -> MaybeT { m (Maybe a) }
```

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

```
  MaybeT { m (Maybe a) } -> (a -> MaybeT { m (Maybe b) } )  
  -> MaybeT { m (Maybe b) }
```

# MaybeT as a Monad: return

`returnMaybeT.monad :: a -> MaybeT { monad (Maybe a) }`

`returnMaybeT.monad = liftMaybeT . returnmonad`

*[by the return law of MonadTrans]*

`returnMaybeT.[] 1`  
    `= liftMaybeT ( return[] 1 )`  
    `= liftMaybeT [1]`  
    `= MaybeT [Just 1]`

# Bind for MaybeT

**(>>=)**MaybeT ::

MaybeT { monad (Maybe a) }

-> (a -> MaybeT { monad (Maybe b) } )

-> MaybeT { monad (Maybe b) }

**maybeT >>= factory**MaybeT.monad = **MaybeT \$**

**do**monad

**maybe <- runMaybeT maybeT**

**case maybe of**

**Nothing -> return Nothing**

**Just value -> runMaybeT (factoryMaybeT.monad value)**



# Checking the Monad, Applicative, and Functor Laws for MaybeT

**Must be done, of course.**

**Omitted in the interest of time.**

# Where are We

## 1. Motivation

## 2. >> Implementation

- *MaybeT as MonadTrans*
- *MaybeT as Monad [and Applicative and Functor]*
- >> special notes

## 3. Usage

# Nesting of Functions

- structure of the core of transformers so far:
  - *baseMonad (BlendingMonad)*
- some primitive monads are functions
  - $((\rightarrow) r), s \rightarrow (a, s)$
- the nesting formula creates nested functions - inconvenient
  - multiple functions one in each slot of base monad
- more convenient to have a composition model with
  - a single function
  - a single base monad

# Special Transformer Types for Monads that are Functions

```
newtype ReaderT env monad a  
  = ReaderT { runReaderT :: env -> monad a }
```

in the heterogeneous composition model:

```
hJoin :: monad ( env -> a ) ->  
  ReaderT { runReaderT :: env -> monad a }
```

in this case *hJoin* performs its version of *flattening*

*see Appendix A for details*

*see ReaderBlender.hs in workshop project for worked out example*

# Monads Defined by Using Monad Transformers

in *transformers* package: *Control.Monad.Trans*  
some monads are defined as: *MndT Identity*

*Identity* has no effect - so

*MndT Identity* is isomorphic to *Mnd*

example

```
newtype ExceptT err monad a = ExceptT (monad (Either err a))
```

```
type Except err = ExceptT err Identity
```

*allows consistent and convenient use of functions for the derived monad  
based on the corresponding transformer functions*

# Monad Transformer Packages

*transformers* package

includes

*Control.Monad.Trans.Class* (*MonadTrans*, ...)

*Control.Monad.Trans.Identity* (*IdentityT*, ...)

*Control.Monad.Trans.Maybe* (*MaybeT*, ...)

*Control.Monad.Trans.Except* (*ExceptT*, ...)

*etc.*

| primitive monad [m2]  | the ??? = transformer      | transformed Identity (m1 = Identity) | derived monad |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Maybe a               | MaybeT m <sub>1</sub> a    |                                      |               |
| Either e a            | ExceptT e m <sub>1</sub> a | ExceptT e Identity                   | Except e      |
| ((->) r)              | ReaderT r m <sub>1</sub> a | ReaderT r Identity                   | Reader r      |
| ((,) w)               | WriterT w m <sub>1</sub> a | WriterT w Identity                   | Writer w      |
| <u>s -&gt; (a, s)</u> | StateT s m <sub>1</sub> a  | StateT s Identity                    | State s       |

# Monad Transformer Packages

*mtl package - Monad Transformer Library*

*Control.Monad.Writer, etc.*

**adds** *elevator type classes and instances*

*e.g., MonadWriter, MonadReader, etc.*

to allow monads produced in lower level transformers

to be automatically lifted (*elevated*) to the top of the stack

*stay tuned*



# Specific Functionality of Common Monads

**specific transformers have specific behavior**  
*over and above monadic behavior*

**various convenience functions**

**getters and setters of related values**

- **ReaderT** - environment value
- **WriterT** - log value
- **StateT** - state value

# Primitive Constructors

turn a primitive monad to a corresponding transformer

- *reader* :: (Monad monad) => (r -> a) -> ReaderT r monad a  
*reader* *f<sub>ra</sub>* = ReaderT (return<sub>monad</sub> . *f<sub>ra</sub>*)
- *state* :: (Monad monad) => (s -> (a, s)) -> StateT s monad a  
*state* *f<sub>sas</sub>* = StateT (return<sub>monad</sub> . *f<sub>sas</sub>*)
- *writer* :: (Monad monad) => (a, log) -> WriterT log monad a  
*writer* = WriterT . return<sub>monad</sub>

# Sampling of Specific Functions

- ***ReaderT r m a***
  - ***ask :: Monad monad => ReaderT r m r***
  - ***local :: (r -> r) -> ReaderT r m a -> ReaderT r m a***
- ***WriterT w m a***
  - ***tell :: Monad m => w -> WriterT w m ()***
  - ***listen :: Monad m => WriterT w m a -> WriterT w m (a, w)***
- ***StateT s m a***
  - ***get :: Monad m => StateT s m s***
  - ***put :: Monad m => s -> StateT s m ()***

# Exercise

Getting familiar with the transformer library.

1. *Check and justify the implementations of **bind**, **return**, and **lift** for **ReaderT** and **WriterT**.*
2. *Compare **Reader** and **Writer** with their counterparts in **GHC Base**.*
3. *Write a simple **do** block that shows the effects of **tell** and **listen**.*
4. *Write a simple **do** block that shows the effects of **put** and **get**.*
5. *Check and justify the implementations of **ask**, and **put**.*

*The sources for the transformer library are under:  
<https://hackage.haskell.org/package/transformers-0.5.2.0/docs/>*

# Where are We

**1. Motivation**

**2. Implementation**

**3. >> Usage**

- **Transformer stacks**
- **Intro to Step-by-Step Tutorial**
- **Patterns/idioms**

# Stacking of Monad Transformers

a monad that was lifted by one transformer `Monad1T` may be lifted again by another transformer `Monad2T`, etc.

repeated lifting gives rise to a *monad transformer stack*

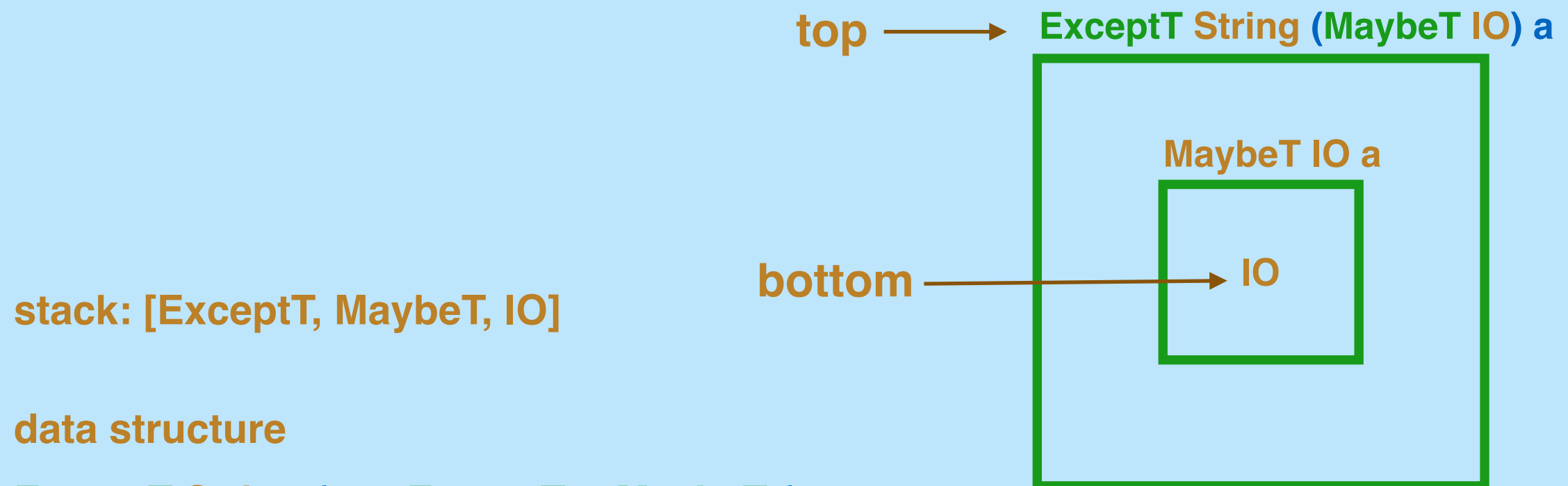
## Terminology

The base monad is *lifted into* the monad transformer.

The monad transformer is the *top of the stack*.

*Top refers to the transformer data structure.*

# Stacking of Monad Transformers



```
ExceptT String { runExceptT :: MaybeT {  
    runMaybeT :: IO ( Maybe ( Either String a ) ) }
```

*nesting order is reversed in the core*

# Nesting Reversal

```
Monad1T baseMonad1 a =  
  Monad1T { runMonad1T :: baseMonad1 (Monad1 a) }
```

```
Monad2T baseMonad2 a =  
  Monad2T { runMonad2T :: baseMonad2 (Monad2 a) }
```

```
let baseMonad1 a = Monad2T baseMonad2 a  
in Monad1T { runMonad1T :: baseMonad1 (Monad1 a) }
```

```
Monad1T { runMonad1T :: (Monad2T baseMonad2) (Monad1 a) }
```

```
Monad1T {  
  runMonad1T :: Monad2T {  
    runMonad2T :: baseMonad2 (Monad2 (Monad1 a)) } } }
```



# The Running Example

extended sample nicely developed in the paper

*Monad Transformers Step by Step*

<http://catamorph.de/documents/Transformers.pdf>

*defines an expression evaluator*

*successively adds new effects to the evaluator  
by extending the monad transformer stack  
to propagate useful effects  
as an expression is evaluated*

# Expression Evaluator Model

```
type VarName = String
```

```
data Exp = Lit Integer  
         | Var VarName  
         | Plus Exp Exp  
         | Lambda VarName Exp  
         | Apply Exp Exp
```

```
type Env = Map.Map VarName Value
```

```
data Value = IntVal Integer | FunVal Env VarName Exp
```

```
eval :: Env -> Exp -> Value
```

```
[see EvaluatorTypes.hs in the workshop exercises]
```

# Steps in Building the Evaluator

## Transformer Stack

**eval :: Env -> Exp -> Value**

**progression effects added to the transformer stack**

- no effect
- generic effect: convert to evaluate inside a monad
- capture and propagate errors - add *ExceptT*
- abstract out the evaluation environment - add *ReaderT*
- others - add *WriterT*, *StateT*

# Effectless Expression Evaluation

`eval :: Env -> Exp -> Value`

`eval env (Lit i) = IntVal i`

`eval env (Var var) =  
 fromJust $ Map.lookup var env`

`eval env (Plus expr1 expr2) =  
 let IntVal val1 = eval env expr1  
 IntVal val2 = eval env expr2  
 in IntVal (val1 + val2 )`

*[see BasicEvaluator.hs in workshop exercises]*

# Idioms/Patterns

- **monadic renderer**  
refactor an effectless computation into *generic monadic form*
- **concrete framer**  
turn a generic monadic value to a specific monadic value by framing it in a concrete context - applying a concrete function to it
- **core runner/accessor**  
reach inside a transformer stack to access the core:  
the combined effectful value
- **elevator**  
automatically lift [elevate] effectful functions from a stack's lower level transformers to the top of the stack
- **flipped reader**  
readably provide an environment to an inlined reader block

# Concrete Framer Idiom

**class** ExampleClass **where** ...

**genericFactory** :: (ExampleClass example) => args -> example

**instance** ExampleClass Example1 **where** ...

**instance** ExampleClass Example2 **where** ...

the application of *genericFactory* can be specialized to an instance by  
*composition with a framing function, e.g.,*

**framer** :: Example1 -> Result

(framer . genericFactory) :: args -> Result

the composition forces *genericFactory* to be run with  
*Example1's* dictionary

# Framing the Generic Monad

**eval** :: (Monad monad) => Env -> Exp -> monad Value

**let** expr = Lit 12 `Plus` Var "x"  
env = singleton "x" (IntVal 2)

**eval** env expr :: monad Value

**runIdentity** :: Identity a -> a

**runIdentity** \$ eval env expr

# Exercise: Framing

create framing functions

`runInList :: [a] -> [a]`

`runInMaybe :: Maybe a -> Maybe a`

use them to frame an expression value produced by the basic evaluator in a list and in a Maybe



# Core Accessor Idiom

## Framing in Identity

```
newtype ExceptT err monad a =  
  ExceptT { runExceptT :: monad (Either err a) }
```

```
type TransformerStack monad val = ExceptT String monad val  
type StackCore val = Either String val
```

```
eval :: (Monad monad) => Env -> Exp -> TransformerStack monad Value
```

```
runTransformerStack :: TransformerStack Identity val -> StackCore val  
runTransformerStack = runIdentity . runExceptT
```

```
runTransformerStack $ eval env (Var "x")
```

# Effectful Evaluation with a Nested Transformer Stack

```
newtype Monad1T monad a = { runMonad1T :: monad (Monad1 a) }  
newtype Monad2T monad a = { runMonad2T :: monad (Monad2 a) }
```

```
type TransformerStack monad val = Monad1T (Monad2T monad val)  
    = Monad1T { runMonad1T :: (Monad2T monad) (Monad1 val) }  
    = Monad1T { runMonad1T :: Monad2T {  
        runMonad2T :: monad (Monad2 (Monad1 val)) } }
```

```
eval :: (Monad monad) => Env -> Exp -> TransformerStack monad Value
```

# Nested Core Accessor

```
type TransformerStack monad val = Monad1T (Monad2T monad) val  
  = Monad1T { runMonad1T :: Monad2T {  
    runMonad2T :: monad (Monad2 (Monad1 val)) } }
```

```
runTransformerStack :: TransformerStack monad val ->  
  Monad2 (Monad1 val)
```

```
runTransformerStack = runIdentity . runMonad2 . runMonad1
```

# Nested Core Accessor: Example

```
type TransformerStack monad val
```

```
  = WriterT [String] (ExceptT String monad val)
```

```
  = WriterT { runWriterT :: ExceptT {  
                runExceptT :: monad (Either String (val, [String])) } }
```

```
eval :: (Monad monad) => Env -> Exp -> TransformerStack monad Value
```

```
runTransformerStack :: TransformerStack Identity val -> Either String (val, [String])
```

```
runTransformerStack = runIdentity . runExceptT . runWriterT
```

# Elevator Pattern: the Problem

*type StackT monad val = Monad1T monad val*

typical function in a *Monad1T do* block

*f :: (Monad monad) => arg<sub>1</sub> -> ... -> StackT monad val*

*type StackT' monad val = Monad2T (Monad1T monad) val*

to upgrade to *StackT'* all our f's have to change

*f' :: (Monad monad) => arg<sub>1</sub> -> ... -> StackT' monad val*

*f' = lift . f*

*code overly dependent on the particular stack*

# Elevator: Example Problem

using only the *transformer* package

```
newtype WriterT log m a = WriterT { runWriterT :: m (a, log) }
```

```
tell :: (Monad m) => log -> WriterT log m () - - append log
```

```
type StackT' m val = MaybeT (WriterT [String] m) val
```

```
eval :: (Monad m) => Env -> Exp -> StackT' m Value
```

```
eval env (Var var) =
```

```
  lift $ tell [var]
```

```
  return $ fromJust $ Map.lookup var env
```

```
type StackT' m val =  
    ReaderT String MaybeT (WriterT [String] m) val  
  
eval :: (Monad m) => Env -> Exp -> StackT' m Value  
eval env (Var var) =  
    lift $ lift $ tell [var]  
    return $ fromJust $ Map.lookup var env
```

*Can access to lower-level functions be made generic?*

# Elevator: in mtl Library

*mtl*

```
class MonadWriter log monad where  
  tell :: log -> monad ()
```

```
instance MonadWriter w m => MonadWriter w (MaybeT m) where  
  tell = lift . tell
```

*basis of recursion is the actual implementation of tell for WriterT*

*transformers WriterT*

```
tell :: (Monad m) => log -> WriterT log m ()  
tell w = WriterT $ return ((), w)
```



# Elevator: in mtl Library

## example usage

```
eval :: (Monad monad) =>  
  Env -> Exp -> MaybeT (WriterT [String]) monad val
```

```
eval env (Var var) = do  
  tell [var]  
  ....
```

# Elevator: in mtl

*if every transformer above **WriterT** on the stack is a **MonadWriter**  
then **tell** is elevated to the top of the stack*

*the monads in mtl are all friends  
each is an instance of the others' elevator classes*

# Working with IO In Monad Transformers

there is no IO transformer

IO is always at the bottom of a transformer stack

- `MaybeT (ExceptT String IO) a`
- `ReaderT r (MaybeT IO) a`
- `Monad1T (Monad2T ... (MonadnT IO) ...)`

# Lifting an IO Action into a Transformer Stack

- **MaybeT (ExceptT String IO) a**
- **ReaderT r (MaybeT IO) a**
- **Monad1T (Monad2T ... (MonadnT IO) ...)**

to lift an IO action into a transformer stack  
requires composition of lifts for all the transformers on the stack

- **lift<sub>MaybeT</sub> . lift<sub>ExceptT</sub> ioAction**
- **lift<sub>ReaderT</sub> . lift<sub>MayT</sub> ioAction**
- **lift<sub>Monad1T</sub> . lift<sub>Monad2T</sub> . . . lift<sub>MonadnT</sub> ioAction**

convenient to have an abstraction for multi-level IO lifts - *liftIO*

*special elevator for IO*

# Special Elevator for IO

```
class Monad m => MonadIO m where liftIO :: IO a -> m a
instance MonadIO IO where liftIO = id - - basis
```

recursive instance definitions - generic form

```
instance (MonadIO stackTail) => MonadIO (HeadMonadT stackTail)
  where liftIOHeadMonadT = liftHeadMonadT . liftIOstackTail
```

example

```
instance (MonadIO stackTail) => MonadIO (MaybeT stackTail)
  where liftIOMaybeT = liftMaybeT . liftIOstackTail
```

# Flipped Reader Pattern

```
type Env = String
type StackT a = ReaderT Env (MaybeT IO) a
runFlipped :: Env -> StackT a -> IO (Maybe a)
runFlipped env stack = runMaybeT $ (runReaderT stack) env

action1 :: String -> StackT String
action2 :: String -> StackT String

main :: IO ()
main = do
  env <- getLine
  result <- runFlipped env $ do
    s1 <- action1 "1"
    s2 <- action2 "2"
    return (s1 ++ s2)
  print result
```

# References

- **Monad Transformers Step by Step - Martin Grabmüller**  
<http://catamorph.de/documents/Transformers.pdf>
- **Functional Programming with Overloading and Higher-Order Polymorphism - Mark P. Jones**  
<http://web.cecs.pdx.edu/~mpj/pubs/springschool95.pdf>
- **Building Monad Transformers - Part 1 - Jakub Arnold**  
<http://blog.jakubarnold.cz/2014/07/22/building-monad-transformers-part-1.html>
- **Gentle Introduction to Monad Transformers - Lim H.**  
<https://github.com/kqr/gists/blob/master/articles/gentle-introduction-monad-transformers.md>

# Appendix A

## **Derivation of ReaderT in the Heterogeneous Composition Model**



# Structure of ReaderT

## Review of $((->) r)$

$((->) r)$  - monads are functions from a given domain -  $r$

fmap for reader

$\text{monad}_x :: r \rightarrow x$

$f_{xy} :: x \rightarrow y$

$\text{monad}_y :: r \rightarrow y = \text{fmap } f_{xy} \text{ monad}_x = f_{xy} \cdot \text{monad}_x$

bind for reader

$(>>=) :: \text{monad } x \rightarrow (x \rightarrow \text{monad } y) \rightarrow \text{monad } y$

$(>>=)_{\text{reader}} :: (r \rightarrow x) \rightarrow (x \rightarrow r \rightarrow y) \rightarrow (r \rightarrow y)$

$(rx >>= xry) r_1 = xry (rx r_1) r_1$

join for reader

$\text{join} :: \text{monad } (\text{monad } x) \rightarrow \text{monad } x$

$\text{join}_{\text{reader}} :: (r \rightarrow (r \rightarrow x)) \rightarrow (r \rightarrow x)$

$\text{join } rrx r_1 = rrx r_1 r_1$

# Review of the $((\rightarrow) r)$ Monad

**bind monad factory** = **join** \$ **fmap** factory monad

for the monad  $((\rightarrow) r)$  - **fmap** = **(.)**

**factory**<sub>xry</sub> . **monad**<sub>rx</sub> =  $\backslash r_1 \rightarrow \text{factory}_{xry} (\text{monad}_{rx} \ r_1) :: r \rightarrow r \rightarrow y$

reader's join flattens  $(r_1 \rightarrow (r_2 \rightarrow y))$  to  $(r_1 \rightarrow y)$  by applying the nested function to the outer  $r_1$

for each  $(r_1, ry)$  pair of the nested function structure

**join**  $(r_1, ry) = (r_1, ry \ r_1)$

# Bind via Join for $((\rightarrow) r)$

## example

$ax = \text{double}$ ,  $xay = (+)$

$ax \gg= xay$

$= \text{join } \$ (+) \langle \$ \rangle \text{double} = \text{join } \$ (+) \langle \$ \rangle \{ (1 \rightarrow 2), (2 \rightarrow 4), \dots \}$

$= \text{join } \$ \{ (1 \rightarrow (2 +)), (2 \rightarrow (4 +)) \dots \}$

$= \{ (1, 3), (2, 6), (3, 9), \dots \}$

# Structure of ReaderT: Recap

***hBind** baseMonad<sub>a</sub> blendingMonadFactory<sub>ab</sub> =*  
***hJoin** \$ blendingMonadFactory<sub>ab</sub> <\$> baseMonad<sub>a</sub>*

# Blending with Functions as Monads

*functionFactory* ::  $x \rightarrow (a \rightarrow y)$

*nester*  $\text{baseMonad}_x \text{functionFactory}_{xy} =$   
 $\text{functionFactory}_{xy} \langle \$ \rangle \text{baseMonad}_x$

*hBind*  $\text{baseMonad}_x \text{functionFactory}_{xy} =$   
*hJoin* \$ *nester*  $\text{monad}_x \text{maybeFactory}_{xy}$

example -  $\text{baseMonad} = []$

*nester*  $[1, 2, 3] (+) = [(1 +) (2 +), (3 +)]$

# Blending with Functions as Monads

*nester* [1, 2, 3] (+) = [(1 +) (2 +), (3 +)]

goal - the final result of blending needs to capture both the ideas of list and reader a = a function from type a

## issue

nesting captures the idea of a list  
but not of a single function from type a  
each slot has its own function

## *hJoin*

should restore "reader-ness"  
convert [(1 +) (2 +), (3 +)] so it represents a single function  
while retaining list-ness

# Blending with Functions as Monads

*nester* [1, 2, 3] (+) = [(1 +) (2 +), (3 +)]

*hJoin*

restores *simple reader-ness*

converts [(1 +) (2 +), (3 +)] so it represents a single function  
while retaining list-ness

*flatten* :: [Int -> Int] -> (Int -> [Int])

*flatten* :: monad (r -> a) -> r -> monad a

*flatten monadOfFunction* = \r -> monadOfFunctions <\*> (return r)

*hJoin monadOfFunctions* = *ReaderT* { *flatten monadOfFunction* }

*newtype ReaderT* env monad a

= *ReaderT* { *runReaderT* :: env -> monad a }

# Appendix B

**$\langle * \rangle$  for MaybeT**



# MaybeT as Applicative

**instance** (Applicative appl) =>

Applicative (MaybeT appl) **where**

**pure**<sub>MaybeT</sub> a = MaybeT \$ **pure**<sub>appl</sub> \$ **Just** a

**maybeT**<sub>ab</sub> <\*><sub>MaybeT</sub> **maybeT**<sub>a</sub> =

**let** **core**<sub>ab</sub> = **runMaybeT** **maybeT**<sub>ab</sub>

**core**<sub>a</sub> = **runMaybeT** **maybeT**<sub>a</sub>

**in** MaybeT \$ **liftA2**<sub>appl</sub> (<\*><sub>Maybe</sub>) **core**<sub>ab</sub> **core**<sub>a</sub>

[**liftA2** "applies" a 2-arg function to two applicative args]

*[derivation of <\*> skipped for brevity]*

# check: $\langle^* \rangle$ for [Maybe a]

$\langle^* \rangle_{[]}.\text{Maybe} = \text{liftA2}_{[]} \langle^* \rangle_{\text{Maybe}}$

$\text{liftA2 } f \ a \ b = \text{fmap } f \ a \ \langle^* \rangle \ b$

$(\text{return } f) \ \langle^* \rangle = (f \ \langle \$ \rangle)$  hence  $(\text{Just } f) \ \langle^* \rangle = (f \ \langle \$ \rangle)$

$[\text{Just } f1, \text{Just } f2] \ \langle^* \rangle_{[]}.\text{Maybe} \ \text{maybes} = \text{liftA2 } \langle^* \rangle \ [\text{Just } f1, \text{Just } f2] \ \text{maybes}$

$= \text{fmap } \langle^* \rangle \ [\text{Just } f1, \text{Just } f2] \ \langle^* \rangle \ \text{maybes}$

$= [(\text{Just } f1) \ \langle^* \rangle, (\text{Just } f2) \ \langle^* \rangle] \ \langle^* \rangle \ \text{maybes}$

$= [(f1 \ \langle \$ \rangle), (f2 \ \langle \$ \rangle)] \ \langle^* \rangle \ \text{maybes}$

$[\text{Just } (* 2), \text{Just } (+ 100)] \ \langle^* \rangle_{[]}.\text{Maybe} \ [\text{Nothing}, \text{Just } 1]$

$= [\text{Nothing}, \text{Just } 2, \text{Nothing}, \text{Just } 101]$