

# COMP4075/G54RFP: Lecture 11 & 12

## *The Threepenny GUI Toolkit*

Henrik Nilsson

University of Nottingham, UK

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# What is Threepenny (1)

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- A program written with Threepenny is a small web server that:
  - displays the UI as a web page
  - allows the HTML *Document Object Model* (DOM) to be manipulated
  - handles JavaScript events in Haskell
- Works by sending JavaScript code to the client.

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- Frequent communication between browser and server: Threepenny is best used running on localhost or over the local network.



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- Written by Heinrich Apfelmus.

# Rich API

- Full set of widgets (buttons, menus, etc.)
- Drag and Drop
- HTML elements
- Support for CSS
- Canvas for general drawing
- Functional Reactive Programming (FRP)

# Conceptual Model

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- Set up event handlers to act on events from the elements.
- Knowing a bit of HTML helps.

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- Wrapper around IO; keeps track of e.g. window context.
- Instance of MonadIO, meaning that any IO operation can be lifted into UI:

$$\textit{liftIO} :: IO\ a \rightarrow UI\ a$$



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- It has an attribute *title* that may be written:

*title* :: WriteAttr Window String

- Retrieving the current window context:

*askWindow* :: UI Window

- Window passed to GUI code when server started:

*startGUI* :: Config → ( Window → UI () )  
→ IO ()

# Elements

DOM made up of elements:

$$mkElement :: String \rightarrow UI\ Element$$

An element **created** when action run.  
Argument is an HTML element name:  
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Standard elements predefined:

$$div \quad :: UI\ Element$$
$$h1 \quad :: UI\ Element$$
$$br \quad :: UI\ Element$$
$$button :: UI\ Element$$

# Attributes (1)

Elements and other entities like windows have attributes that can be read and written:

*type Attr x a = ReadWriteAttr x a a*

*type WriteAttr x i = ReadWriteAttr x i ()*

*type ReadAttr x o = ReadWriteAttr x () o*

*set :: ReadWriteAttr x i o → i → UI x → UI x*

*get :: ReadWriteAttr x i o → x → UI o*

*ReadWriteAttr*, *WriteAttr* etc. are records of functions for attribute reading and/or writing.

*set* and *get* work for any type of entity.

# Attributes (2)

Sample attributes:

*title :: WriteAttr Window String*

*color :: WriteAttr Element String*

*children :: WriteAttr Element [Element]*

*value :: Attr Element String*

*(#+) :: UI Element → [UI Element] → UI Element*

*(#.) :: UI Element → String → UI Element*

**(#+)** appends children to a DOM element.

**(#.)** sets the CSS class.



# Attributes (3)

Example usage ((#) is reverse function application):

```
mkElement "div"  
  # set style    [("color", "#CCAABB")]  
  # set draggable True  
  # set children otherElements
```

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# Events (1)

- The type  $\text{Event } a$  represents streams of time-stamped events carrying values of type  $a$ .
- Semantically:  $\text{Event } a \approx [(Time, a)]$
- $\text{Event}$  is an instance of  $\text{Functor}$ .
- $\text{Event}$  is **not** an instance of  $\text{Applicative}$ . The type for  $\langle * \rangle$  would be

$$\text{Event } (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow \text{Event } a \rightarrow \text{Event } b$$

However, this makes no sense as event streams in general are not synchronised.

# Events (2)

Most events originate from UI elements; e.g.:

- $valueChange :: Element \rightarrow Event\ String$
- $click :: Element \rightarrow Event\ ()$
- $mousemove :: Element \rightarrow Event\ (Int, Int)$   
(coordinates relative to the element)
- $hover :: Element \rightarrow Event\ ()$
- $focus :: Element \rightarrow Event\ ()$
- $keypress :: Element \rightarrow Event\ Char$

# Events (3)

One or more handlers can be registered for events:

$$\text{register} :: \text{Event } a \rightarrow \text{Handler } a \rightarrow \text{IO } (\text{IO } ())$$

The resulting action is intended for deregistering a handler; future functionality.

# Events (4)

Usually, registration is done using convenience functions designed for use directly with elements and in the *UI* monad:

$$\begin{aligned} on &:: (element \rightarrow Event\ a) \\ &\rightarrow element \rightarrow (a \rightarrow UI\ void) \rightarrow UI\ () \end{aligned}$$

For example:

do

...

*on click element* \$  $\lambda\_ \rightarrow \dots$

...



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- The type *Behavior a* represents continuously time-varying values of type *a*.
- Semantically:  $\text{Behavior } a \approx \text{Time} \rightarrow a$
- *Behavior* is an instance of *Functor* **and** *Applicative*.
- Recall that events are not an applicative. However, the following provides similar functionality:

$$\begin{aligned} (\langle @ \rangle) &:: \text{Behavior } (a \rightarrow b) \\ &\rightarrow \text{Event } a \rightarrow \text{Event } b \end{aligned}$$

## Behaviors (2)

- Attributes can be set to time-varying values:

$$\begin{aligned} \textit{sink} &:: \textit{ReadWriteAttr } x \ i \ o \\ &\rightarrow \textit{Behavior } i \rightarrow \textit{UI } x \rightarrow \textit{UI } x \end{aligned}$$

## Behaviors (2)

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$$\begin{aligned} \textit{sink} &:: \textit{ReadWriteAttr } x \ i \ o \\ &\rightarrow \textit{Behavior } i \rightarrow \textit{UI } x \rightarrow \textit{UI } x \end{aligned}$$

- There is also:

$$\begin{aligned} \textit{onChanges} &:: \textit{Behavior } a \\ &\rightarrow (a \rightarrow \textit{UI } \textit{void}) \rightarrow \textit{UI } () \end{aligned}$$

But conceptually questionable as a behavior in general is **always** changing.

# FRP (1)

Threepenny offers support for Functional Reactive Programming (FRP): transforming and composing behaviours and events as “whole values”.

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For example:

- $filterJust :: Event\ (Maybe\ a) \rightarrow Event\ a$
- $unionWith :: (a \rightarrow a \rightarrow a) \rightarrow Event\ a \rightarrow Event\ a \rightarrow Event\ a$
- $unions :: [Event\ a] \rightarrow Event\ [a]$
- $split :: Event\ (Either\ a\ b) \rightarrow (Event\ a, Event\ b)$



# FRP (2)

- $accumE :: MonadIO\ m$   
 $\Rightarrow a \rightarrow Event\ (a \rightarrow a) \rightarrow m\ (Event\ a)$
- $accumB :: MonadIO\ m$   
 $\Rightarrow a \rightarrow Event\ (a \rightarrow a) \rightarrow m\ (Behavior\ a)$
- $stepper :: MonadIO\ m$   
 $\Rightarrow a \rightarrow Event\ a \rightarrow m\ (Behavior\ a)$
- $(\langle @ \rangle) :: Behavior\ (a \rightarrow b)$   
 $\rightarrow Event\ a \rightarrow Event\ b$

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Note: Stateful events and behaviors are returned as monadic computations.

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First import the module. Large API, so partly qualified import recommended:

```
module Main where
```

```
import qualified Graphics.UI.Threepenny as UI
```

```
import           Graphics.UI.Threepenny.Core
```

# Hello World (2)

The *startGUI* function starts a server:

$$startGUI :: Config \rightarrow (Window \rightarrow UI ()) \rightarrow IO ()$$

- *Config*-records carry configuration parameters.
- *Window* represents a browser window.
- The function  $Window \rightarrow UI ()$  is called whenever a browser connects to the server and builds the initial HTML page.

# Hello World (3)

Start a server listening on port 8023;  
static content served from `../wwwroot`:

```
main :: IO ()  
main = do  
    startGUI  
    defaultConfig  
        { jsPort    = Just 8023,  
          jsStatic = Just "../wwwroot" }  
    setup
```



# Hello World (4)

Start by setting the window title:

$setup :: Window \rightarrow UI ()$

$setup\ window = do$

$\quad return\ window \# set\ UI.title\ "Hello\ World!"$

Reversed function application:  $(\#) :: a \rightarrow (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow b$   
 $set$  has type:

$set :: ReadWriteAttr\ x\ i\ o \rightarrow i \rightarrow UI\ x \rightarrow UI\ x$

The window reference is a pure value, passed in, hence the need to lift it into a  $UI$  computation using  $return$ .

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Then create a button element:

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button :: UI Element
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A new button is **created** whenever that action is run.

DOM elements can be accessed much like in JavaScript: searched, updated, moved, inspected.

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To display the button, it must be attached to the DOM:

*getBody window #+ [element button]*

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The combinator (*#+*) appends DOM elements as children to a given element:

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# Hello World (6)

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*getBody window #+ [element button]*

The combinator (*#+*) appends DOM elements as children to a given element:

$$\begin{aligned} (\#+) &:: UI\ Element \rightarrow [UI\ Element] \\ &\rightarrow UI\ Element \end{aligned}$$

*getBody* gets the body DOM element:

*getBody :: Window → UI Element*

Here, *element* is just *return*.

# Hello World (7)

Finally, register an event handler for the click event to change the text of the button:

```
on UI.click button $ const $ do  
  element button  
    # set UI.text "I have been clicked!"
```

Types:

```
on :: (element → Event a) → element  
      → (a → UI void) → UI ()  
UI.click :: Element → Event ()
```



# Buttons (1)

$mkButton :: String \rightarrow UI \ (Element, Element)$

$mkButton \ title = \mathbf{do}$

$\quad button \leftarrow UI.button \ \# \cdot "button" \ \# + [string \ title]$

$\quad view \leftarrow UI.p \ \# + [element \ button]$

$\quad return \ (button, view)$

$mkButtons :: UI \ [Element]$

$mkButtons = \mathbf{do}$

$\quad list \leftarrow UI.ul \ \# \cdot "buttons-list"$

$\quad \dots$

## Buttons (2)

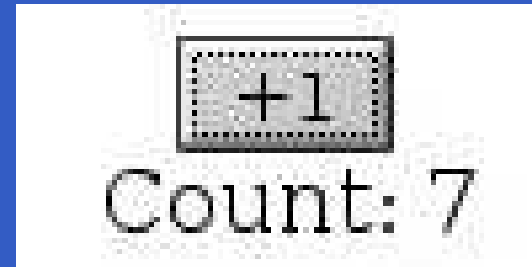
```
(button1, view1) ← mkButton button1Title
on UI.hover button1 $ \_ → do
  element button1 # set text (button1Title ++ " [hover] ")
on UI.leave button1 $ \_ → do
  element button1 # set text button1Title
on UI.click button1 $ \_ → do
  element button1 # set text (button1Title ++ " [pressed] ")
  liftIO $ threadDelay $ 1000 * 1000 * 1
  element list
    #+ [ UI.li # set html "<b>Delayed</b> result!" ]
```

# Buttons (3)

```
(button2, view2) ← mkButton button2Title
on UI.hover button2 $ \_ → do
  element button2 # set text (button2Title ++ " [hover] ")
on UI.leave button2 $ \_ → do
  element button2 # set text button2Title
on UI.click button2 $ \_ → do
  element button2 # set text (button2Title ++ " [pressed] ")
  element list
    #+ [ UI.li # set html "Zap! Quick result!" ]
return [list, view1, view2]
```

# Counter Example 1 (1)

Simple counter, basic imperative style.



Idea:

- Keep the count in an imperative variable
- The click event handler increments the counter and updates the display accordingly.

# Counter Example 1 (2)

```
setup :: Window → UI ()
setup window = do
  return window
  # set UI.title "Counter Example 1"
let initCount = 0
counter ← liftIO $ newIORef initCount
button  ← UI.button # set UI.text "+1"
label   ← UI.label # set UI.text
                                ("Count: " ++
                                 show initCount)
```

# Counter Example 1 (3)

```
getBody window #+ [ UI.center  
                    #+ [element button,  
                        UI.br,  
                        element label]]  
on UI.click button $ const $ do  
  count ← liftIO $ do  
    modifyIORef counter (+1)  
    readIORef counter  
  element label # set UI.text ("Count: " ++  
                                show count)
```

# Counter Example 2 (1)

Counter with reset, “object-oriented” style.



Idea:

- Make a counter object with encapsulated state and two operations: reset and increment.
- Make a display object with a method for displaying a value.

## Counter Example 2 (2)

Make a counter object:

$mkCounter :: Int \rightarrow UI\ (UI\ Int, UI\ Int)$

$mkCounter\ initCount = \mathbf{do}$

$\quad counter \leftarrow liftIO\ \$\ newIORef\ initCount$

$\quad \mathbf{let}\ reset = liftIO\ \$\ writeIORef\ counter\ initCount$

$\quad \gg return\ initCount$

$\quad incr = liftIO\ \$\ modifyIORef\ counter\ (+1)$

$\quad \gg readIORef\ counter$

$\quad return\ (reset, incr)$



## Counter Example 2 (3)

Make a display object:

```
mkDisplay :: Int → UI (Element, Int → UI ())  
mkDisplay initCount = do  
  let showCount count =  
    "Count: " ++ show count  
  display ← UI.label # set UI.text  
    (showCount initCount)  
  let dispCount count =  
    () <$element display  
    # set UI.text (showCount count)  
  return (display, dispCount)
```

## Counter Example 2 (4)

```
setup :: Window → UI ()  
setup window = do  
  return window  
  # set UI.title "Counter Example 2"  
let initCount = 0  
  (reset, incr) ← mkCounter initCount  
  (display, dispCount) ← mkDisplay initCount  
  buttonRst ← UI.button # set UI.text "RST"  
  buttonInc ← UI.button # set UI.text "+1"
```

## Counter Example 2 (5)

*getBody window*

*#+ [ UI.center #+ [ element buttonRst,  
element buttonInc,  
UI.br,  
element display]]*

*on UI.click buttonRst \$ const \$ reset >>= dispCount*

*on UI.click buttonInc \$ const \$ incr >>= dispCount*

# Counter Example 3 (1)

Counter with reset, FRP style.



Idea:

- Accumulate the button clicks into a **time-varying** count; i.e., a *Behavior Int*.
- Make the text attribute of the display a time-varying text directly derived from the count; i.e., a *Behavior String*.

## Counter Example 3 (2)

```
setup :: Window → UI ()
setup window = do
  return window
  # set UI.title "Counter Example 3"
let initCount = 0
buttonRst ← UI.button # set UI.text "RST"
buttonInc ← UI.button # set UI.text "+1"
let reset  = (const 0) <$UI.click buttonRst
let incr   = (+1)      <$UI.click buttonInc
```

**Note:** *Event* and *Behavior* are instances of *Functor*.

## Counter Example 3 (3)

```
count  ← accumB 0 $ unionWith const reset incr
display ← UI.label
        # sink UI.text
        (fmap showCount count)
```

Type signatures:

```
accumB :: MonadIO m =>
    a → Event (a → a) → m (Behavior a)
unionWith :: (a → a → a)
    → Event a → Event a → Event a
sink :: ReadWriteAttr x i o
    → Behavior i → UI x → UI x
```

# Counter Example 3 (4)

*getBody window*

*#+ [ UI.center #+ [ element buttonRst,  
element buttonInc,  
UI.br,  
element display]]*

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- No callbacks.



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- No callbacks.
- Thus no “callback soup” or “callback hell”!

# Counter Example 3 (4)

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- Fairly declarative description of system:  
***Whole-value Programming.***

# Counter Example 3 (4)

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UI.br,  
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- No callbacks.
- Thus no “callback soup” or “callback hell”!
- Fairly declarative description of system:  
***Whole-value Programming.***
- This style of programming has had significant impact on programming practice well beyond FP.

# Currency Converter (1)

```
return window # set title "Currency Converter"

dollar ← UI.input
euro ← UI.input

getBody window #+ [
  column [
    grid [[string "Dollar:", element dollar]
          , [string "Euro:", element euro]]
    , string "Amounts update while typing."
  ]
]
```

# Currency Converter (2)

*euroIn*  $\leftarrow$  *stepper* "0" \$ *UI.valueChange* *euro*

*dollarIn*  $\leftarrow$  *stepper* "0" \$ *UI.valueChange* *dollar*

**let**

*rate* = 0.7 :: *Double*

*withString* *f* =

*maybe* "-" (*printf* "%.2f")  $\circ$  *fmap* *f*  $\circ$  *readMay*

*dollarOut* = *withString* (/rate) < \$ > *euroIn*

*euroOut* = *withString* (\*rate) < \$ > *dollarIn*

*element* *euro* # *sink* *value* *euroOut*

*element* *dollar* # *sink* *value* *dollarOut*

# Reading

- Overview, including references to tutorials and examples:

`http://wiki.haskell.org/Threepenny-gui`

- API reference:

`http://hackage.haskell.org/package/threepenny-gui`