

Comodels as a gateway for interacting with the **external world**

Danel Ahman

(joint work with Andrej Bauer)

Ljubljana, 21 March 2019

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Computational effects in FP

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- Using **monads** (e.g., as in HASKELL)

```
type St a = String → (a, String)
```

```
f :: St a → St (a, a)
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```
f c = c >>= (\x → c >>= (\y → return (x, y)))
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- Using **algebraic effects** and **handlers** (e.g., as in EFF)

```
effect Get : int
```

```
effect Put : int → unit
```

```
(*: int → a*int!{} *)
```

```
let g (c: unit → a!{Get, Put}) =
```

```
  with st_h handle (perform (Put 42); c ())
```

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```

```
  with st_h handle (perform (Put 42); c ())
```

- Works well for effects that can be **represented** as pure data!

But what about effects that need access to the **external world**?

External world in FP

- Declare a **signature** of monads/effects

```
type IO a
```

```
openFile  :: FilePath → IOMode → IO Handle
```

```
hGetLine  :: Handle → IO String
```

```
hClose    :: Handle → IO ()
```

External world in FP

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```
effect Read    : string
```

```
effect Raise   : string → empty
```

```
effect RandomInt    : int → int
```

```
effect RandomFloat  : float → float
```


External world in FP

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effect Read    : string
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effect RandomInt    : int → int
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effect RandomFloat  : float → float
```

- And then treat it **specially** in the compiler, e.g.,

```
let rec top_handle op =
```

```
    match op with
```

```
    | ...
```

External world in FP

External world in FP



Ohad 🗿 12:17 PM

Can I do file IO (or just O) in Eff?

External world in FP



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Žiga Lukšič 12:18 PM

not currently

External world in FP



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Ohad 8:35 PM

So here's the hack I added. We should do something a bit more principled

In `pervasives.eff`:

```
effect Write : (string*string) -> unit
```

in `eval.ml`, under `let rec top_handle op =` add the case:

```
  | "Write" ->
    (match v with
    | V.Tuple vs ->
      let (file_name :: str :: _) = List.map V.to_str vs in
      let file_handle = open_out_gen
        [Open_wronly
         ;Open_append
         ;Open_creat
         ;Open_text
         ] 0o666 file_name in
      Printf.fprintf file_handle "%s" str;
      close_out file_handle;
      top_handle (k V.unit_value)
    )
```

External world in FP



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```

This talk — a more principled (co)algebraic approach!

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- ```
let f (s:string) =
 let fh = fopen "foo.txt" in
 fwrite fh (s^s);
 fclose fh;

 fread fh
```



## Another issue — **linearity** or lack thereof

- ```
let f (s:string) =  
  let fh = fopen "foo.txt" in  
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  fclose fh;  
  
fread fh          (* file handle not open !!! *)
```

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- We could resolve this by typing file handles **linearly**
 - But we want other vars. (e.g., strings) to be used **non-linearly**
- But what if we wrap `f ()` in a **handler**?

```
let h = handler  
  | effect (FWrite fh s k) → return s  
  
let g () =  
  with h handle f ()
```

Another issue — **linearity** or lack thereof

- ```
let f (s:string) =
 let fh = fopen "foo.txt" in
 fwrite fh (s^s);
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- We could resolve this by typing file handles **linearly**
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- But what if we wrap `f ()` in a **handler**?

```
let h = handler
 | effect (FWrite fh s k) → return s

let g () =
 with h handle f () (* dangling fh !!! *)
```

**So, how could we solve these issues?**

# So, how could we solve these issues?

- Using **existing programming mechanisms**, e.g.,
  - Modules and abstraction

```
module System.IO where

type IO a

hClose :: Handle → IO ()
```

- Linear (and non-linear) types

```
linear type fhandle

effect FClose : (linear fhandle) → unit

linear effect FClose : fhandle → unit
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- Using **existing programming mechanisms**, e.g.,

- Modules and abstraction

```
module System.IO where

type IO a

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- Linear (and non-linear) types

```
linear type fhandle

effect FClose : (linear fhandle) → unit

linear effect FClose : fhandle → unit
```

- **Problem:** They don't really explain the **essence of the solution**

So, what is that **essence** then?



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- Let's look at `HASKELL`'s **IO monad** again
- A common explanation is to think of functions

$$a \rightarrow \text{IO } b$$

as

$$a \rightarrow (\text{RealWorld} \rightarrow (b, \text{RealWorld}))$$

which is the same as

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- With the `System.IO` module ensuring that
  - We cannot get our hands on **RealWorld** — it's just an idea
  - The **real world** is used linearly
  - We don't ask more from the **real world** than it can provide

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- A common explanation is to think of functions

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which is the same as

But wait a minute, **RealWorld** looks a lot like a **comodel**!

`hGetLine` : `(Handle, RealWorld) → (String, RealWorld)`

`hClose` : `(Handle, RealWorld) → ((), RealWorld)`

So, **IO** is more about in which **external world** our program is in!

**Comodels** as a gateway to the **external world**

## Comodels as a gateway to the external world

- ```
let f (s:string) =  
    using IO run  
        let fh = fopen "foo.txt" in  
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        fclose fh
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Comodels as a gateway to the external world

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 (*\* @ IO : unit \**)
- Now **external world** explicit, but **dangling** `fh` etc **still possible**



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        fclose fh
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 (* @ IO : unit *)
- Now **external world** explicit, but **dangling** `fh` etc **still possible**
- ```
let f (s:string) =
 using IO run
 let fh = fopen "foo.txt" in
 fwrite fh (s^s) (* @ IO : unit *)
 ending_with (fclose fh)
```

## Comodels as a gateway to the external world

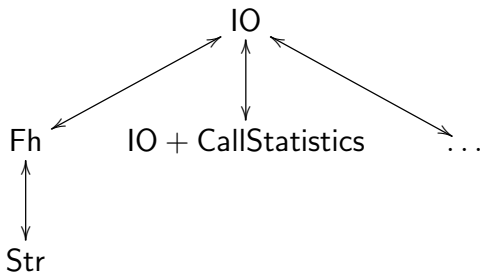
- ```
let f (s:string) =  
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    let fh = fopen "foo.txt" in  
    fwrite fh (s^s);  
    fclose fh                                     (* @ IO : unit *)
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- Now **external world** explicit, but **dangling** `fh` etc **still possible**
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- ```
let f (s:string) =  
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    fwrite fh (s^s);  
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- Better, but **have to explicitly open** and **thread through** `fh`
- **Solution:** Modular treatment of **external worlds**

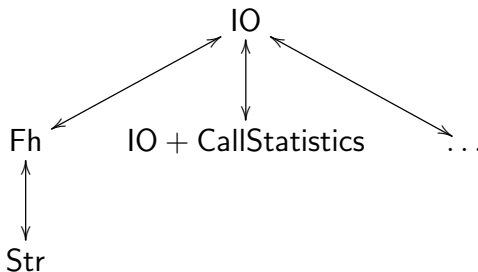
## Comodels as a gateway to the external world

- Examples of **modularity** we might want from comodels



# Comodels as a gateway to the external world

- Examples of **modularity** we might want from comodels



- Fh** — “world which consists of exactly one **fh**”
- IO**  $\longrightarrow$  **Fh** — “call **fopen** with **foo.txt**, store returned **fh**”
- Fh**  $\longrightarrow$  **IO** — “call **fclose** with stored **fh**”
- Observation:** **IO**  $\longleftrightarrow$  **Fh** and others look a lot like **lenses**

**Comodels** as a gateway to the **external world**

## Comodels as a gateway to the external world

- Our **general framework** on the file operations example

```
let f (s:string) = (* @ IO : unit *)
 using Fh
 starting_with (fopen_of_io "foo.txt")
 run
 fwrite_of_fh (s^s) (* @ Fh : unit *)
 ending_with (fun _ fh → fclose_of_io fh)
```

## Comodels as a gateway to the external world

- Our **general framework** on the file operations example

```
let f (s:string) = (* @ IO : unit *)
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 starting_with (fopen_of_io "foo.txt")
 run
 fwrite_of_fh (s^s) (* @ Fh : unit *)
 ending_with (fun _ fh → fclose_of_io fh)
```

where

```
Fh =
 ⟨ W = fhandle ,
 co_fread ((), fh) = ... ,
 co_fwrite (s, fh) = fwrite_of_io s fh ;
 return ((), fh) ⟩
```

```
(* co_fread : (unit * W) → (string * W) @ IO *)
(* co_fwrite : (string * W) → (unit * W) @ IO *)
```



**Comodels** as a gateway to the **external world**

## Comodels as a gateway to the external world

- The **modularity aspect** of our general framework

```
let f (s:string) = (* @ IO : unit *)
 using Fh
 starting_with (fopen_of_io "foo.txt")
 run

 using Str
 starting_with (fread_of_fh ())
 run
 fwrite_of_str (s^s) (* @ Str : unit *)
 ending_with (fun _ s → fwrite_of_fh s)

 ending_with (fun _ fh → fclose_of_io fh)
```

where

```
Str = ⟨ W = string , ... ⟩
```

**Comodels** as a gateway to the **external world**

## Comodels as a gateway to the external world

- Comodels can also **extend** the (intermediate) external world(s)

```
let f (s:string) = (* @ IO : unit *)
 using Stats
 starting_with (fopen_of_io "foo.txt")
 run
 fwrite_of_stats (s^s) (* @ Stats : unit *)
 ending_with
 (fun _ (fh,c) →
 let fh' = fopen_of_io "stats.txt" in
 fwrite_of_io fh' c;
 fclose_of_io fh'; fclose_of_io fh)
```

where

```
Stats = ⟨ W = fhandle*nat , ... ⟩
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 fwrite_of_io fh' c;
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```

where

```
Stats = ⟨ W = fhandle*nat , ... ⟩
```

- Can also keep track of **nondet./prob. choice results**, and alike

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- **Typing judgement** for computations  $\Gamma \vdash c @ \vec{C} : A$

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- **Typing judgement** for computations  $\Gamma \vdash c @ \vec{C} : A$
- The two central **typing rules** are (U is the universe, aka IO)

$\Gamma \vdash D \text{ comodel } @ \vec{C} \quad D \neq U$

$\Gamma \vdash c_s @ \vec{C} : D.W \quad \Gamma \vdash c @ \vec{C}, D : A \quad \Gamma, x:A, w:D.W \vdash c_e @ \vec{C} : A$

---

$\Gamma \vdash$  **using** D

**starting\_with**  $c_s$

**run** c

**ending\_with**  $(x.w.c_e) @ \vec{C} : A$

and

$\Gamma \vdash D \text{ comodel } @ \vec{C} \quad \text{op} : A \rightsquigarrow B \in D.\Sigma \quad \Gamma \vdash v : A$

---

$\Gamma \vdash \text{op } v @ \vec{C}, D : B$



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- Regarding the **denotational semantics**, the idea is to interpret

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as

$$\llbracket \Gamma \vdash c @ \vec{C} : A \rrbracket : \llbracket \vec{C} \rrbracket \longrightarrow \llbracket A \rrbracket \times \llbracket \vec{C} \rrbracket$$

which in its essence is very similar to Møgelberg and Staton's comodels-based **linear state-passing transformation**

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which in its essence is very similar to Møgelberg and Staton's comodels-based **linear state-passing transformation**

- Regarding **operational semantics**, the idea is to consider confs.

$$( \overrightarrow{(C, w)} , c )$$

either in a big- or small-step style

- where  $\overrightarrow{(C, w)}$  is a stack of worlds

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- For example, consider the big-step evaluation of **using** C ...

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$$( (\overrightarrow{(C, w_0)}), (C', w'_0) ) , c_s ) \Downarrow ( (\overrightarrow{(C, w_1)}), (C', w'_1) ) , \text{return } w''_0 )$$

$$( (\overrightarrow{(C, w_1)}), (C', w'_1), (D, w''_0) ) , c ) \Downarrow ( (\overrightarrow{(C, w_2)}), (C', w'_2), (D, w''_1) ) , \text{return } v )$$

$$( (\overrightarrow{(C, w_2)}), (C', w'_2) ) , c_e[v/x, w''_1/w] ) \Downarrow ( (\overrightarrow{(C, w_3)}), (C', w'_3) ) , \text{return } v' )$$

$$( (\overrightarrow{(C, w_0)}), (C', w'_0) ) , \text{using } D \text{ s\_w } c_s \text{ run } c \text{ e\_w } (x.w.c_e) )$$

$\Downarrow$

$$( (\overrightarrow{(C, w_3)}), (C', w'_3) ) , \text{return } v' )$$

# So what's happening **more formally?**

- For example, consider the big-step evaluation of **using** C ...

$$\begin{aligned}
 & ( (\overrightarrow{(C, w_0)}), (C', w'_0) ) , c_s ) \Downarrow ( (\overrightarrow{(C, w_1)}), (C', w'_1) ) , \text{return } w''_0 ) \\
 & ( (\overrightarrow{(C, w_1)}), (C', w'_1), (D, w''_0) ) , c ) \Downarrow ( (\overrightarrow{(C, w_2)}), (C', w'_2), (D, w''_1) ) , \text{return } v ) \\
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 & \quad \Downarrow \\
 & ( (\overrightarrow{(C, w_3)}), (C', w'_3) ) , \text{return } v' )
 \end{aligned}$$

- The interpretation of **operations** uses the co-operations of C
  - Their interpretation naturally traverses the stack of worlds

But what about **algebraic effects** and **handlers**?



## But what about **algebraic effects** and **handlers**?

- An interesting question for **future work**, but feels natural that in

```
using C
starting_with c_s
run c
ending_with (fun x w → c_e)
```

- one can use **algebraic operations** (in the sense of  $\text{EFF}$ ) in `c`
- but they must not be allowed to escape `run` (for linearity)
- to escape, have to use the **co-operations** of the **external world**
- it might make sense to allow alg. ops. to escape `C`, `c_s`, `c_e`
- the continuations of **handlers** in `c` are delimited by `run`

# Conclusions

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- **Comodels** as a gateway for interacting with the **external world**
- We made them into a **modular programming abstraction**
- **Linearity** by leaving **outer worlds** implicit (via alg. ops.)
- `System.IO` , KOKA's `initially` & `finally` , PYTHON's `with` , ...

# Conclusions

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- `System.IO` , KOKA's **initially** & **finally** , PYTHON's **with** , ...

## Ongoing and future work

- Work out all the **formal details** of what I have shown you today
- **Algebraic effects** and **handlers**
- More **examples** and **use cases** (Matija, the Eff Architecture?)
- Clarify the connection with **(effectful) lenses**
- **Combinatorics** of comodels and their lens-like relationships