

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)
```

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

```
  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
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External world in FP

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openFile  :: FilePath → IOMode → IO Handle
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effect Read    : string
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effect Raise   : string → empty
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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 principled (co)algebraic approach!

Another issue — *linearity* or lack thereof

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

let g s =
 let fh = f s in fread fh
```



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

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- We could resolve this by typing file handles **linearly**
  - But we want other values (e.g., strings) to be used **non-linearly**!

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- We could resolve this by typing file handles **linearly**
 - But we want other values (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 s = with h handle f s
```

Another issue — **linearity** or lack thereof

- ```
let f (s:string) =
 let fh = fopen "foo.txt" in
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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 s = with h handle f s (* 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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```
module System.IO where

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hClose :: Handle → IO ()
```

- 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 abstraction** ensuring that
  - We can't get our hands on **RealWorld** — it's an idea of the world
  - The **real world** is affected linearly
  - We don't ask more from the **real world** than it can provide

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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
```

Comodels as a gateway to the external world

- ```
let f (s:string) =
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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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- ```
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

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

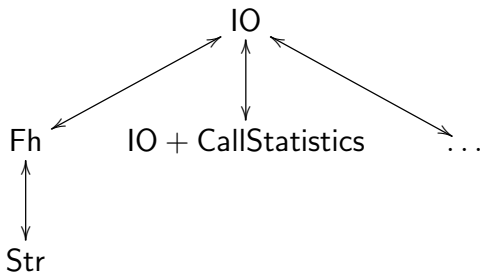
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    using IO run  
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        fwrite fh (s^s)                               (* @ IO : unit *)  
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```
- Better, but **have to explicitly open** and **thread through** `fh`
- **Solution:** Modular treatment of **external worlds**

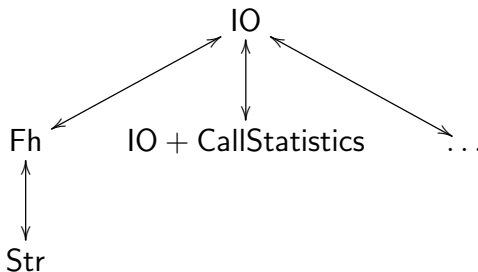
Comodels as a gateway to the external world

- 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 other \longleftrightarrow 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

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```
let f (s:string) = (* @ IO : unit *)
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    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**

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- 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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```

where

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

- We can also track of **nondet./prob. choice results**, and alike
- Could we also use comodels for **dynamic (NI) monitoring**?

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

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- 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 $(x.w.c_e) @ \vec{C} : A$

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

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

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

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

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 & \Downarrow \\
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 \end{aligned}$$

- The interpretation of **operations** uses the co-operations, naturally traversing the stack of (intermediate) external worlds

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

```
using C
starting_with c_s
run c
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- One can use **algebraic operations** (in the sense of EFF) in `c`, but they must not be allowed to escape `run` (for linearity)

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- The continuations of **handlers** in `c` are delimited by `run`
Again, so as to ensure linearity and reaching `ending_with`
- How do **multi-handlers** fit in the picture? Tensors of some sort?

Conclusions

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

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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 **(multi-)handlers**
- More **examples** and **use cases** (Matija, the Eff Architecture?)
- Clarify the connection with **(effectful) lenses**
- **Combinatorics** of comodels and their lens-like relationships