

# Handling Fibred Computational Effects

Effect Handlers in a Dependently Typed Setting

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HOPE 2017

September 3, 2017

# Outline

- Setting the scene
  - Algebraic effects and their handlers
  - A core dependently typed effectful calculus (FoSSaCS'16)
- Why handlers + dependent types?
  - Programming with handlers + expressiveness of dep. types
  - Useful for defining predicates/types depending on computations
- Extending the FoSSaCS'16 calculus with handlers
  - Take 1: The common term-level def. of handlers (unsound)
  - Take 2: A type-level treatment of handlers

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# Algebraic effects and their handlers

- Moggi taught us to model comp. effects using **monads**  $(T, \eta, (-)^\dagger)$

$$\eta_A : A \rightarrow TA \quad (f : A \rightarrow TB)^\dagger_{A,B} : TA \rightarrow TB$$

- Plotkin and Power showed that most of these monads arise from
  - **operations** – representing sources of effects

$$\text{raise} : \text{Exc} \longrightarrow 0 \quad \text{read} : \text{Loc} \longrightarrow \text{Val} \quad \text{write} : \text{Loc} \times \text{Val} \longrightarrow 1$$

- **equations** – describing the computational behaviour

$$\ell : \text{Loc} \mid w : 1 \vdash \text{read}_\ell(x.\text{write}_{\langle \ell, x \rangle}(w(*))) = w(*)$$

- The algebraic approach significantly simplifies
  - **choosing** a monad/adjunction to model a given language
  - modelling **combinations** of two or more comp. effects
  - **generic** programming with effects (via handlers)

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- Plotkin and Pretnar's **handlers** of algebraic effects
  - generalise exception handlers
  - given by redefining the given operations (they denote **algebras**)
  - example uses – rollbacks, stream redirection, concurrency, ...
- Usually included in languages using the **handling** construct

$M$  handled with  $\{\text{op}_x(x') \mapsto N_{\text{op}}\}_{\text{op} \in S_{\text{eff}}}$  to  $y:A$  in  $\underline{C}$   $N_{\text{ret}}$

denoting the **homomorphism**  $FA \longrightarrow \{\text{op}_x(x') \mapsto N_{\text{op}}\}_{\text{op} \in S_{\text{eff}}}$

$(\text{op}_V(y.M))$  handled with  $\{\dots\}_{\text{op} \in S_{\text{eff}}}$  to  $y:A$  in  $\underline{C}$   $N_{\text{ret}}$   
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$N_{\text{op}}[V/x][\lambda y:O.\text{thunk}(M \text{ handled with } \dots)/x']$

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$(\text{return } V)$  handled with  $\{\dots\}_{\text{op} \in S_{\text{eff}}}$  to  $y:A$  in  $\underline{C}$   $N_{\text{ret}} = N_{\text{ret}}[V/y]$

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# A core dependently typed effectful calculus

- (Model-theoretically) natural extension of type theory
  - clear distinction between **values** and **computations** (CBPV, EEC)
- Value types  $(\Gamma \vdash A)$  and computation types  $(\Gamma \vdash \underline{C})$

$$A, B ::= \dots \mid \underline{U}\underline{C} \qquad \underline{C}, \underline{D} ::= FA \mid \Pi x:A. \underline{C} \mid \Sigma x:A. \underline{C}$$

- Value terms  $(\Gamma \vdash V : A)$

$$V, W ::= x \mid \dots \mid \text{thunk } M$$

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$$M, N ::= \text{return } V \mid M \text{ to } x:A \text{ in}_{\underline{C}} N \mid \lambda x:A. M \mid M V \\ \mid \langle V, M \rangle \mid M \text{ to } (x:A, z:\underline{C}) \text{ in}_{\underline{D}} K \mid \text{force}_{\underline{C}} V$$

- Homomorphism terms  $(\Gamma \mid z:\underline{C} \vdash K : \underline{D})$

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$$A, B ::= \dots \mid \underline{UC} \qquad \underline{C}, \underline{D} ::= FA \mid \Pi x:A. \underline{C} \mid \Sigma x:A. \underline{C}$$

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# Defining predicates on effectful comps.

- For time being, assume that we have **handlers** in the calculus
  - In particular, assume that we can also **handle into values**

$M$  handled with  $\{\text{op}_x(x') \mapsto V_{\text{op}}\}_{\text{op} \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{eff}}}$  to  $y:A \text{ in}_B V_{\text{ret}}$

- Also assume that we have a Tarski-style **value universe**  $\mathcal{U}$
- Then we can define **predicates**  $P : \text{UFA} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  (a value term) by
  - equipping  $\mathcal{U}$  with an **algebra** structure
  - **handling** the given computation using that algebra
  - intuitively,  $P$  (**think**  $M$ ) computes a **proof obligation** for  $M$
- Examples
  - **lifting predicates** from return values to (I/O)-computations
  - Dijkstra's **weakest precondition semantics** of state
  - specifying **allowed patterns** of (I/O)-computations

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# Lifting predicates to effectful comps.

- Given a predicate  $P : A \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  on **return values**,

we define a predicate  $\hat{P} : UFA \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  on **(I/O)-comps.** as

$\lambda y : UFA. (\text{force } y) \text{ handled with } \{\dots\}_{\text{op} \in S_{\text{IO}}} \text{ to } y' : A \text{ in } \mathcal{U} \text{ } P y'$

using the handler given by

$$V_{\text{read}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda y : (\Sigma x : 1. \text{Chr} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}). \text{v-pi-code}(\text{chr-code}, y'. (\text{snd } y) y')$$

$$V_{\text{write}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda y : (\Sigma x : \text{Chr}. 1 \rightarrow \mathcal{U}). (\text{snd } y) \star$$

- $\hat{P}$  is similar to the **necessity modality** from Evaluation Logic

$$\Gamma \vdash \text{El}(\hat{P}(\text{think}(\text{read}^{FA}(x.\text{return } W)))) = \Pi x : \text{Chr}. P W$$

- To get **possibility mod.**, replace **v-pi-code** with **v-sigma-code**

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# Dijkstra's weakest precondition semantics

- Given a postcondition on **return values** and **final states**

$$Q : A \rightarrow \text{St} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$$

we define a precondition for **stateful comps.** on **initial states**

$$\text{wp}_Q : \text{UFA} \rightarrow \text{St} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$$

by

- i) handling the given comp. into a state-passing function using

$$V_{\text{get}}, V_{\text{put}} \text{ on } \text{St} \rightarrow (\mathcal{U} \times \text{St}) \quad \text{and} \quad V_{\text{ret}} = V_Q$$

- ii) feeding in the initial state, and iii) projecting out the proposition

- Then  $\text{wp}_Q$  satisfies the expected properties, e.g.,

$$\Gamma \vdash \text{wp}_Q (\text{think}(\text{return } V)) = \lambda x_S : \text{St}. Q \ V \ x_S : \text{St} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$$

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# Dijkstra's weakest precondition semantics

- Given a postcondition on **return values** and **final states**

$$Q : A \rightarrow \text{St} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$$

we define a precondition for **stateful comps.** on **initial states**

$$\text{wp}_Q : \text{UFA} \rightarrow \text{St} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$$

by

- i) handling the given comp. into a state-passing function using

$$V_{\text{get}}, V_{\text{put}} \text{ on } \text{St} \rightarrow (\mathcal{U} \times \text{St}) \quad \text{and} \quad V_{\text{ret}} = V_Q$$

- ii) feeding in the initial state, and iii) projecting out the proposition

- Then  $\text{wp}_Q$  satisfies the expected properties, e.g.,

$$\Gamma \vdash \text{wp}_Q (\text{thunk}(\text{return } V)) = \lambda x_S : \text{St}. Q \ V \ x_S : \text{St} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$$

$$\Gamma \vdash \text{wp}_Q (\text{thunk}(\text{put}_{V_S}^{FA}(M))) = \lambda x_S : \text{St}. \text{wp}_Q (\text{thunk } M) \ V_S : \text{St} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$$

# Specifying allowed patterns of I/O-effects

- We assume an **inductive type** Protocol, given by

$$e : \text{Protocol} \quad r : (\text{Chr} \rightarrow \text{Protocol}) \rightarrow \text{Protocol}$$

$$w : (\text{Chr} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}) \times \text{Protocol} \rightarrow \text{Protocol}$$

- Given a **protocol**  $Pr : \text{Protocol}$ , we define

$$\hat{Pr} : \text{UFA} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$$

by handling a given comp. using

$$V_{\text{read}}, V_{\text{write}} \quad \text{on} \quad \text{Protocol} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$$

where

$$V_{\text{read}} \langle V, V_{rk} \rangle (r \ Pr') \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{v-pi-code}(\text{chr-code}, y. (V_{rk} \ y) (Pr' \ y))$$

$$V_{\text{write}} \langle V, V_{wk} \rangle (w \langle P, Pr' \rangle) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{v-sigma-code}(P \ V, y. V_{wk} \star Pr')$$

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# Outline

- Setting the scene
  - Algebraic effects and their handlers
  - A core dependently typed effectful calculus (FoSSaCS'16)
- Why handlers + dependent types?
  - Programming with handlers + expressiveness of dep. types
  - Useful for defining predicates/types depending on computations
- Extending the FoSSaCS'16 calculus with handlers
  - Take 1: The common term-level def. of handlers (unsound)
  - Take 2: A type-level treatment of handlers

# Fibred algebraic effects

- To include fib. alg. effects  $(\mathcal{S}_{\text{eff}}, \mathcal{E}_{\text{eff}})$  in our calculus, we
  - extend its computation terms with **algebraic operations**

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash V : I \quad \Gamma \vdash \underline{C} \quad \Gamma, y : O[V/x] \vdash M : \underline{C}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{op}_V^{\underline{C}}(y.M) : \underline{C}}$$

for every operation symbol  $\text{op} : (x : I) \longrightarrow O$  in  $\mathcal{S}_{\text{eff}}$

- include **equations**  $\Gamma \mid \Delta \vdash T_1 = T_2$  in  $\mathcal{E}_{\text{eff}}$
- include a general **algebraicity equation**

$$\frac{\Gamma \mid z : \underline{C} \vdash K : \underline{D} \quad \Gamma \vdash V : I \quad \Gamma, y : O[V/x] \vdash M : \underline{C}}{\Gamma \vdash K[\text{op}_V^{\underline{C}}(y.M)/z] = \text{op}_V^{\underline{D}}(y.K[M/z]) : \underline{D}}$$

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# Handlers for fibred algebraic effects

- **Take 1:** Let's use their conventional term-level definition

- include the handling construct for **computation terms**

$M$  handled with  $\{\text{op}_x(x') \mapsto N_{\text{op}}\}_{\text{op} \in S_{\text{eff}}}$  to  $y:A \text{ in}_{\underline{C}} N_{\text{ret}}$

- as handling denotes a homomorphism, also for **hom. terms**

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- but then we can prove the **unsound equation**

$$\Gamma \vdash \text{write}_a^{F1}(\text{return} \star) = \text{write}_z^{F1}(\text{return} \star) : F1$$

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- Possible ways to solve this unsoundness problem
  - **Option 1:** Change the FoSSaCS'16 calculus
    - change the equational theory of homomorphism terms
    - hom. terms wouldn't denote homomorphisms any more
    - investigated for exceptions in CBPV with stacks in [Levy'06]
  - **Option 2:** Keep the FoSSaCS'16 calculus unchanged
    - extend it so that handling for comp. terms is derivable
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- **Take 2:** A type-based treatment of handlers
  - we introduce the **user-defined algebra type** (comp. type)

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# Handlers for fibred algebraic effects ctd.

- **Take 2:** A type-based treatment of handlers
  - extend the equational theory of **value types** with

$$\Gamma \vdash U \langle A, \{V_{\text{op}}\}_{\text{op} \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{eff}}} \rangle = A$$

(what about the corresponding  $\eta$ -equation for comp. types?)

- extend the equational theory of **comp.** and **hom. terms** with

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# Handlers for fibred algebraic effects ctd.

- **Take 2:** A type-based treatment of handlers

- we can then routinely derive the **handling construct**

$M$  handled with  $\{\text{op}_x(x') \mapsto N_{\text{op}}\}_{\text{op} \in S_{\text{eff}}}$  to  $y:A$  in  $\underline{C}$   $N_{\text{ret}}$

using **sequential composition**, **thunking**, and **forcing**:

$$\text{force}_{\underline{C}} \left( \text{thunk} \left( \underbrace{M \text{ to } y:A \text{ in } (\text{force}_{\langle \underline{C}, \{V_{\text{op}}\}_{\text{op} \in S_{\text{eff}}} \rangle} (\text{thunk } N_{\text{ret}}))}_{\text{has type } \langle \underline{C}, \{V_{\text{op}}\}_{\text{op} \in S_{\text{eff}}} \rangle} \right) \right)$$

where the value terms  $V_{\text{op}}$  are derived from the comp. terms  $N_{\text{op}}$

- satisfies the standard  $\beta$ -equations for handling
- **handling into values** can be derived analogously

# Handlers for fibred algebraic effects ctd.

- **Take 2:** A type-based treatment of handlers
  - we can then routinely derive the **handling construct**

$M$  handled with  $\{\text{op}_x(x') \mapsto N_{\text{op}}\}_{\text{op} \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{eff}}}$  to  $y:A$  in  $\underline{C}$   $N_{\text{ret}}$

using **sequential composition**, thunking, and forcing:

$$\text{force}_{\underline{C}} \left( \text{thunk} \left( \underbrace{M \text{ to } y:A \text{ in } (\text{force}_{\langle \underline{C}, \{V_{\text{op}}\}_{\text{op} \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{eff}}} \rangle} (\text{thunk } N_{\text{ret}}))}_{\text{has type } \langle \underline{C}, \{V_{\text{op}}\}_{\text{op} \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{eff}}} \rangle} \right) \right)$$

where the value terms  $V_{\text{op}}$  are derived from the comp. terms  $N_{\text{op}}$

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# Conclusion

- In this talk, we saw that
  - handlers are useful for defining preds./types on computations
    - more generally, homomorphic type dep. on comps. is natural
    - this naturality was also observed in [Pédrot, Tabareau'17]
  - unsoundness problems can arise when accommodating handlers
    - handlers defined at term-level, while denoting algebras
  - handlers admit a principled type-based treatment
    - conventional term-level def. is derivable using seq. comp.
- Future work includes
  - general account of defining predicates on alg. effects
  - operational semantics (complex values + eq. for ops.)
  - presentations of the calculus without hom. terms (eq. proof obl.)



Thank you!

Questions?