

# Update monads

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# Update monads

- Introduced by Danel Ahman and Tarmo Uustalu in 2014 (“Update monads: cointerpreting directed containers.”)
- Generalises reader, writer and state monad
- Separate state into updates and their interpretation

# Reader versus writer versus state

- Reader monad
  - computations that depend on reading from somewhere
  - example: reading configuration
  - *Reader*  $r \ a = r \rightarrow a$
- Writer monad
  - computations that write to somewhere
  - example: writing to logs
  - *Writer*  $m \ a = (a, m)$
- State monad
  - computations that read from somewhere but also write to it
  - example: mutable variables
  - *State*  $s \ a = s \rightarrow (a, s)$

Update monads combine reader and writer monads via  
monoid actions

# Monoids and monoid actions

Monoid action interprets monoid elements as transformations:

class *Action* *p s* where  
*act* :: *p* → *s* → *s*

satisfying:

- *act empty* = *id*
- *act* (*x* ◊ *y*) = *act y* ∘ *act x*

Examples:

- *applyStyle* :: *Style* → *Diagram* → *Diagram* (from *diagrams* package)
- *interp* :: [*Instr*] → *Env* → *Env* (interpreting instructions)

# Update monad – definition

We define:

newtype  $Update\ p\ s\ a = Update\ \{runUpdate :: s \rightarrow (p, a)\}$

Note that:

$$\begin{aligned} Update\ p\ s\ a &\cong Reader\ s\ (Writer\ p\ a) \\ &\cong Reader\ s\ (p, a) \\ &\cong s \rightarrow (p, a) \end{aligned}$$

## Update monad – functor instance

newtype *Update* *p s a* = *Update* { *runUpdate* :: *s* → (*p*, *a*) }

instance *Functor* (*Update p s*) where

*fmap* *f* (*Update g*) = *Update* \$  $\lambda s \rightarrow \underline{\text{let}} (p, a) = g\ s$   
 $\underline{\text{in}} (p, f\ a)$

# Update monad – applicative instance

newtype *Update* *p s a* = *Update* { *runUpdate* :: *s* → (*p*, *a*) }

instance (*Monoid* *p*, *Action* *p s*) ⇒ *Applicative* (*Update* *p s*) where  
  *pure* *a* = *Update* \$ λ*s* → (*mempty*, *a*)  
  (*Update* *f*) <\*> (*Update* *g*) = *Update* \$ λ*s* →  
    let (*p*, *h*) = *f* *s*  
      (*p'*, *a*) = *g* (*act* *p s*)  
    in (*p* ◇ *p'*, *h a*)



## Update monad – monad instance

newtype *Update* *p s a* = *Update* { *runUpdate* :: *s* → (*p*, *a*) }

instance (*Monoid* *p*, *Action* *p s*) ⇒ *Monad* (*Update* *p s*) where  
  (*Update* *f*) >>= *g* = *Update* \$ λ*s* →  
    let (*p*, *a*) = *f* *s*  
        *h'* = *g* *a*  
        (*p'*, *b*) = *runUpdate* *h'* (*act* *p s*)  
    in (*p* ◇ *p'*, *b*)

## Reader as update monad

Choose  $r$  as the state and  $()$  as the monoid:

```
type UpdateReader r a = Update () r a
```

```
updateAsk :: UpdateReader r r
```

```
updateAsk = Update $ \r → ((), r)
```

Example program:

```
testReader :: String
```

```
testReader = snd $ runUpdate prog "hello"
```

```
  where prog = updateAsk
```

Output:

```
testReader
```

```
>> "hello"
```

# Writer as update monad

Choose  $()$  as the state and  $m$  as the monoid:

type *UpdateWriter*  $m$   $a = \text{Update } m () a$

with trivial action:

instance *Monoid*  $m \Rightarrow \text{Action } m ()$  where  
  *act*  $_ _ = ()$

*updateTell*  $:: m \rightarrow \text{UpdateWriter } m ()$   
*updateTell*  $m = \text{Update } \$ \lambda _ \rightarrow (m, ())$

## Writer as update monad – example

Example program:

```
testWriter :: [Int]
testWriter = fst $ runUpdate prog ()
  where
    prog = do
      updateTell [1]
      updateTell [2,3]
      updateTell [4]
```

Output:

```
testWriter
  >> [1,2,3,4]
```

# State as update monad

Choose  $s$  as the state and  $Last\ s$  as the monoid:

```
newtype Last s = Last { getLast :: Maybe a }
```

```
instance Monoid (Last s) where
```

```
    mempty = Last Nothing
```

```
    x <math>\diamond</math> (Last Nothing) = x
```

```
    _ <math>\diamond</math> y = y
```

```
instance Action (Last s) s where
```

```
    act (Last Nothing) s' = s'
```

```
    act (Last (Just s)) _ = s
```

```
type UpdateState s a = Update (Last s) s a
```

(Note:  $UpdateState\ s\ a$  is not isomorphic to  $State\ s\ a$ .)

## State as update monad – *get* and *set*

Choose  $s$  as the state and  $Last\ s$  as the monoid:

type  $UpdateState\ s\ a = Update\ (Last\ s)\ s\ a$

*get* and *set*:

$updateGet :: UpdateState\ s\ s$

$updateGet = Update\ \$\ \lambda s \rightarrow (mempty, s)$

$updateSet :: s \rightarrow UpdateState\ s\ ()$

$updateSet\ s = Update\ \$\ \lambda\_ \rightarrow (Last\ (Just\ s), ())$

# State as update monad – example program

Example program:

```
testState :: (Last Int, Int)
testState = runUpdate prog 1
  where prog = do
    x ← updateGet
    updateSet 2
    updateSet 3
    pure x
```

Output:

```
testState
>> (Last {getLast = Just 3}, 1)
```

# State-logging monad

Choose  $s$  as the state and  $[s]$  as the monoid:

type *StateLogging*  $s\ a = \text{Update } [s]\ s\ a$

with action:

instance *Action*  $[s]\ s$  where  
    *act*  $ss\ s = \text{last } (s : ss)$



## State-logging monad – *get* and *set*

Choose  $s$  as the state and  $[s]$  as the monoid:

type *StateLogging*  $s\ a = \text{Update } [s]\ s\ a$

get and set:

*logGet* :: *LogState*  $s\ s$

*logGet* = *Update* \$  $\lambda s \rightarrow (\text{mempty}, s)$

*logSet* ::  $s \rightarrow \text{LogState } s\ ()$

*logSet*  $s = \text{Update } \$ \lambda\_ \rightarrow ([s], ())$

# State-logging monad – example

Example program:

```
testLogState :: ([Int], Int)
testLogState = runUpdate prog 1
  where
    prog = do
      x ← logGet
      logSet 2
      logSet 3
      pure x
```

Output:

```
testLogState
  >> ([2, 3], 1)
```

# Stack monad

Choose the state to be a stack and the monoid to be stack operations:

```
data StackOp s = Push s | Pop
applyOp :: [s] → StackOp s → [s]
applyOp tack      (Push s) = s : tack
applyOp (s : tack) Pop      = tack
applyOp []         Pop      = error "Whoops!"
instance Action [StackOp s] [s] where
    act stackOps stack = foldl applyOp stack stackOps
type StackMonad s a = Update [StackOp s] [s] a
```

## Stack monad – push and pop

Choose the state to be a stack and the monoid to be stack operations:

data *StackOp* *s* = *Push* *s* | *Pop*

type *StackMonad* *s* *a* = *Update* [*StackOp* *s*] [*s*] *a*

Push and pop:

*stackPush* :: *s* → *StackMonad* *s* ()

*stackPush* *s* = *Update* \$ λ\_ → ([*Push* *s*], ())

*stackPop* :: *StackMonad* *s* *s*

*stackPop* = *Update* \$ λ*s* → ([*Pop*], *head* *s*)

## Stack monad – example program

Example:

```
testStack :: ([StackOp Int], Int)
testStack = runUpdate prog []
  where prog = do
    stackPush 1
    stackPush 2
    x ← stackPop
    stackPush (x * x)
    stackPop
```

Output:

```
testStack
  >> ([Push 1, Push 2, Pop, Push 4, Pop], 4)
```

# Update monad examples

Monad	State	Monoid	Monoid action
Reader	$r$	$()$	$\lambda\_ s \rightarrow s$
Writer	$()$	$m$	$\lambda\_ \_ \rightarrow ()$
"State"	$s$	$Last\ s$	$\lambda (Last\ x)\ s = fromMaybe\ s\ x$
State-logging	$s$	$[s]$	$\lambda ss\ s \rightarrow last\ (s : ss)$
Stack	$[s]$	$[StackOp\ s]$	$\lambda ops\ s \rightarrow foldl\ applyOp\ s\ ops$

# Story so far

Update monads are like state monads, but separate state into:

- a monoid of updates
- a monoid action which interprets these updates

How do we combine *Reader* and *Writer* to get *State*?



# Combining functors to get a monad

$$\begin{aligned} \text{State } s \ a &\cong \text{Reader } s \ (\text{Writer } s \ a) \\ &\cong \text{Reader } s \ (a, s) \\ &\cong s \rightarrow (a, s) \end{aligned}$$

Where does the monad structure on *State* *s* come from?

# Combining functors to get a monad

There is a special relationship between the *Reader s* and *Writer s* functors:

- $to :: (Writer\ s\ a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow (a \rightarrow Reader\ s\ a)$
- $from :: (a \rightarrow Reader\ s\ a) \rightarrow (Writer\ s\ a \rightarrow b)$
- $to \circ from = id$
- $from \circ to = id$

# Combining functors to get a monad

There is a special relationship between the *Reader s* and *Writer s* functors:

- $to :: ((a, s) \rightarrow b) \rightarrow (a \rightarrow s \rightarrow a)$
- $from :: (a \rightarrow s \rightarrow b) \rightarrow ((a, s) \rightarrow b)$
- $to \circ from = id$
- $from \circ to = id$

# Combining functors to get a monad

There is a special relationship between the *Reader s* and *Writer s* functors:

- $\text{curry} :: ((a, s) \rightarrow b) \rightarrow (a \rightarrow s \rightarrow b)$
- $\text{uncurry} :: (a \rightarrow s \rightarrow b) \rightarrow ((a, s) \rightarrow b)$
- $\text{curry} \circ \text{uncurry} = \text{id}$
- $\text{uncurry} \circ \text{curry} = \text{id}$

# Combining functors to get a monad – adjunctions

Two functors  $f, g :: * \rightarrow *$  have an adjunction if we have:

- $to :: (f\ a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow (a \rightarrow g\ b)$
- $from :: (a \rightarrow g\ b) \rightarrow (f\ a \rightarrow b)$
- $to \circ from = id$
- $from \circ to = id$

If we have an adjunction, we can write instance  $Monad\ (Compose\ g\ f)$

Recall: newtype  $Compose\ g\ f = Compose\ (g\ (f\ a))$

In our case on  $State\ s \cong Compose\ (Reader\ s)\ (Writer\ s)$

How do we combine *Reader* and *Writer* to get *Update*?

## Combining monads to get a monad

Can we write the following instance?

instance (*Monad m*, *Monad n*)  $\Rightarrow$  *Monad (Compose m n)* where

## Combining monads to get a monad – *pure*

Goal: define  $pure_{mon} :: a \rightarrow m (n a)$



## Combining monads to get a monad – *pure*

Goal: define  $pure_{m \circ n} :: a \rightarrow m (n a)$

$$pure_{m \circ n} = pure_m \circ pure_n$$

## Combining monads to get a monad – *join*

Goal: define  $join_{m \circ n} :: m (n (m (n a))) \rightarrow m (n a)$

Have:

- $join_m : m (m a) \rightarrow m a$
- $join_n : n (n a) \rightarrow n a$

## Combining monads to get a monad – *join*

Goal: define  $join_{m \circ n} :: m (n (m (n a))) \rightarrow m (n a)$

Have:

- $join_m : m (m a) \rightarrow m a$
- $join_n : n (n a) \rightarrow n a$

We are stuck... If only we could swap  $m$  and  $n$ ...

## Combining monads to get a monad – distributive laws

```
class DistributiveLaw m n where  
  distribute :: n (m a) → m (n a)
```

## Combining monads to get a monad – distributive laws

class *DistributiveLaw* *m n* where  
    *distribute* :: *n* (*m a*) → *m* (*n a*)

(... such that *distribute* respects monad laws of *m* and *n* ...)

# Combining monads to get a monad – distributive laws

class *DistributiveLaw* *m n* where  
    *distribute* :: *n* (*m a*) → *m* (*n a*)

(... such that *distribute* respects monad laws of *m* and *n* ...)

- $fmap\ distribute :: m\ (n\ (m\ (n\ a))) \rightarrow m\ (m\ (n\ (n\ a)))$
- $join_m :: m\ (m\ (n\ (n\ a))) \rightarrow m\ (n\ (n\ a))$
- $fmap\ join_n :: m\ (n\ (n\ a)) \rightarrow m\ (n\ a)$

We can define  $join_{m \circ n}$  as:

- $fmap\ join_n \circ join_m \circ fmap\ distribute :: m\ (n\ (m\ (n\ a))) \rightarrow m\ (n\ a)$

## Combining monads to get a monad – *Distributive* vs *Traversable*

Compare:

class (*Monad* *m*, *Monad* *n*)  $\Rightarrow$  *Distributive* *m* *n* where  
*distribute* :: *n* (*m* *a*)  $\rightarrow$  *m* (*n* *a*)

with

class (*Functor* *t*, *Foldable* *t*)  $\Rightarrow$  *Traversable* *t* where  
*sequenceA* :: *Applicative* *f*  $\Rightarrow$  *t* (*f* *a*)  $\rightarrow$  *f* (*t* *a*)

## Distributive laws for *Reader* and *Writer* monads

What do distributive laws for *Reader*  $s$  and *Writer*  $p$  monads look like?

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Writer } p (\text{Reader } s \ a) \rightarrow \text{Reader } s (\text{Writer } p \ a) \\ \cong & (p, s \rightarrow a) \rightarrow s \rightarrow (p, a) \end{aligned}$$



# Distributive laws for *Reader* and *Writer* monads

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$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Writer } p (\text{Reader } s a) \rightarrow \text{Reader } s (\text{Writer } p a) \\ \cong & (p, s \rightarrow a) \rightarrow s \rightarrow (p, a) \end{aligned}$$

Use monoid action:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{distribute} &:: (\text{Monoid } p, \text{Action } p s) \Rightarrow (p, s \rightarrow a) \rightarrow s \rightarrow (p, a) \\ \text{distribute } (p, f) s &= (p, f (\text{act } p s)) \end{aligned}$$

# Distributive laws for *Reader* and *Writer* monads

Distributive laws for *Reader*  $s$  and *Writer*  $p$  monads

$\Leftrightarrow$

Monoid actions  $p \rightarrow s \rightarrow s$

$\Leftrightarrow$

Update monads  $Update\ p\ s$

# Distributive laws

Why are distributive laws called distributive?

A ring consists of:

- a commutative group  $(+, 0)$  (addition)
- a monoid  $(\cdot, 1)$  (multiplication)
- distributivity:
  - $a \cdot (b + c) = (a \cdot b) + (a \cdot c)$
  - $(a + b) \cdot c = (a \cdot c) + (b \cdot c)$

The free ring monad arises from a distributive law between the free commutative group monad and free monoid monad

# Dependently-typed update monad

(in dependent pseudo-Haskell)

Given:

$$S :: *$$
$$P :: S \rightarrow * \quad \text{-- a type family over } S$$
$$e :: (s :: S) \rightarrow P\ s \quad \text{-- units}$$
$$act :: (s :: S) \rightarrow P\ s \rightarrow S$$
$$(\diamond) :: \{s :: S\} \rightarrow (p :: P\ s) \rightarrow P\ (act\ s\ p) \rightarrow P\ s$$

We define:

$$\text{newtype } Update\ a = Update\ \{runUpdate :: (s :: S) \rightarrow (P\ s, a)\}$$

Allows us to have different available updates depending on the state

# Summary

- Update monads split state into:
  - a monoid of updates
  - a monoid action that interprets these updates
- Adjunctions tell us how to combine functors to get a monad
- Distributive laws tell us how to combine monads to get a monad
- State monad: via an adjunction between *Writer s* and *Reader s*
- Update monads: via distributive laws between *Reader s* and *Writer p*

Further reading:

- Danel Ahman and Tarmo Uustalu, “Update monads: cointerpreting directed containers.”, TYPES 2014