Π-Ware: An Embedded Hardware Description Language using Dependent Types

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Background Hardware Design

DTP

Research Question

Method

DTP / Agda

lig picture

Π-Ware

emantics

Conclusions



Table of Contents

Background

Hardware Design Functional Hardware DTP

Research Question

Question Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture Agda

Π-Ware

Syntax Semantics **Proofs**

Conclusions

Limitations Future work



Hardware design is hard(er)

- ▶ Strict(er) correctness requirements
 - You can't simply update a full-custom chip after production
 - Intel FDTV
 - Expensive verification / validation (up to 50% of development costs)
- ▶ Low-level details (more) important
 - Layout / area
 - Power consumption / fault tolerance

Background

Hardware Design Functional Hardware

Functional Hardware DTP

Research Question

{uestion Acthod

OTP / Agda

Big picture Aøda

Π-Ware

emantics

roofs

Conclusions

Limitations



Hardware design is growing

- ▶ Moore's law will still apply for some time
 - We can keep packing more transistors into same silicon area
- ▶ **But** optimizations in CPUs display diminishing returns
 - Thus, more algorithms directly in hardware

Background

Hardware Design Functional Hardware

Research

Question

Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture

Π-Ware

I I-VVare

emantics

Conclusions



Hardware Description Languages

- ▶ All started in the 1980s
- ▶ De facto industry standards: VHDL and Verilog
- ▶ Were intended for *simulation*, not modelling or synthesis
 - Unsynthesizable constructs
 - Widely variable tool support

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Hardware Design

DTP

Research

Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture

Π-Ware

yntax emantics

roofs

Conclusions



Functional Programming

- ▶ Easier to *reason* about program properties
- ▶ Inherently *parallel* and *stateless* semantics
 - · In contrast to imperative programming

Background

Functional Hardware

Research

Question

Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture

Π-Ware

Syntax

roofs

Conclusions

Future work

Universiteit Utrecht



Functional Hardware Description

- A functional program describes a circuit
- Several functional Hardware Description Languages (HDLs) during the 1980s
 - For example, μ FP [Sheeran, 1984]
- ▶ Later, embedded hardware Domain-Specific Languages (DSLs)
 - For example, Lava (Haskell) [Bjesse et al., 1998]

Hardware Design

Functional Hardware

Research

Question

TD / Aad

Big picture

Agda

I I-Ware

Semantic:

Proofs

Conclusions Limitations



Embedded DSLs for Hardware

- ▶ Lava
- Limitations
 - Low level types
 - Not guaranteeing size match

Hardware Design

Functional Hardware

Research

Question

Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture

Π_Ware

I I-vvare

emantics

10015

Limitations



Dependently-Typed Programming (DTP) är en programmationstechnik...

Background

Functional Hardy

Research

Question

Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture

Agda

Π-Ware

yntax emantics

Proofs

Conclusions

Limitations



Research Question

"What are the improvements that DTP can bring to hardware design?"

Question



Methodology

- Develop a hardware DSL, embedded in a dependently-typed language (Agda)
 - Called **Π-Ware**
 - allowing simulation, synthesis and verification

Background

Functional Hardwa

Research

Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture

∏_Ware

I I-VVare

Semantics

onclusion

Limitations



- Types can depend on values
 - Example: data Vec (α : Set) : N → Set where...
 - Compare with Haskell (GADT style):
 data List :: * -> * where...
- Types of arguments can depend on values of previous arguments
 - Ensure a "safe" domain
 - take : $(m : \mathbb{N}) \to \text{Vec } \alpha \ (m+n) \to \text{Vec } \alpha \ m$

Hardware Design
Functional Hardware

Research Question

Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture

Agda

Π-Ware

emantics

Conclusions



- ▶ Type checking requires *evaluation* of functions
 - We want Vec Bool (2 + 2) to unify with Vec Bool 4
- ▶ Consequence: all functions must be total
- ► Termination checker ensures (heuristics)
 - Structurally-decreasing recursion
 - This passes the check:

```
\begin{array}{ll} \mathrm{add} \,:\, \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N} \\ \mathrm{add} \,\, \mathrm{zero} & y = y \\ \mathrm{add} \,\, (\mathrm{suc} \,\, x') & y = \mathrm{suc} \,\, (\mathrm{add} \,\, x' \,\, y) \end{array}
```

· This does not:

```
silly : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}

silly zero = zero

silly (suc n') = silly | n' /2|
```

Hardware Design

Functional Hardwa

Research Question

Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture

Agda

I I-Ware

Semantics

Conclusions



Dependent pattern matching can rule out impossible cases

Big picture



▶ Dependent pattern matching can *rule out* impossible cases

```
    Classic example: safe head function
```

 $\mathsf{head}\,:\,\mathsf{Vec}\,\,\alpha\,\,(\mathsf{suc}\,\,n)\,\to\,\alpha$

 $\mathsf{head}\ (x :: xs) = x$

Hardware Design Functional Hardware

Research

Question

Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture

Agda

□ \//\are

Π-Ware

emantics

Proofs

Conclusions





- ▶ Dependent pattern matching can *rule out* impossible cases
 - Classic example: safe head function head : Vec α (suc n) $\rightarrow \alpha$

head (x :: xs) = x

• The **only** constructor returning $Vec \alpha$ (suc n) is $_::_$

Hardware Design
Functional Hardware
DTP

Research Question

Method

DTD / And

Big picture

Ngda

Π-Ware

Syntax Semantics

Conclusions

Limitations Future work



Depedent types as logic

- Programming language / Theorem prover
 - Types as propositions, terms as proofs [Wadler, 2014]
- ► Example:
 - Given the relation (drawn triangle):

```
data \_ \le \_ : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N} \to \text{Set where}

z \le n : \forall \{n\} \to \text{zero} \le n

s \le s : \forall \{m \ n\} \to m \le n \to \text{suc } m \le \text{suc } n
```

Proposition:

```
twoLEQFour : 2 \le 4
```

• Proof:

```
twoLEQFour = s \le s (s \le s z \le n)

s \le s (s \le s (z \le n : 0 \le 4) : 1 \le 4) : 2 \le 4
```

Hardware Design
Functional Hardware

Research Question

Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture

Agda

I I-VVare

emantics

Conclusions





Agda syntax for Haskell programmers

- ► Liberal identifier lexing (Unicode everywhere)
 - $a\equiv b+c$ is a valid identifer, $a\equiv b+c$ an expression
 - · Actually used in Agda's standard library
 - And in Π-Ware: C, [c], ↓, ↑
- ▶ Mixfix notation
 - _[_]≔_ is the vector update function: v [# 3] ≔ true.
 - _[_]:=_ v (# 3) true ⇔ v [# 3] := true
- ▶ Almost nothing built-in
 - $_+_$: $\mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}$ defined in Data.Nat
 - if then else : Bool ightarrow lpha
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Hardware Design
Functional Hardware

Research Question

Question

TD / A ...

Big picture

Agda

Π-Ware

emantics

Conclusion

Limitations
Future work



Agda syntax for Haskell programmers

- Implicit arguments
 - Don't have to be passed if Agda can guess it
 - Syntax: ε : $\{\alpha : \mathsf{Set}\} \to \mathsf{Vec} \ \alpha \ \mathsf{zero}$
- ▶ "For all" syntax: $\forall n \iff (n : _)$
 - Where _ means: guess this type (based on other args)
 - Example:
 - $\forall n \rightarrow \text{zero} \leq n$
 - data $_\leq_$: $\mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N} \to \mathsf{Set}$
- ▶ It's common to combine both:
 - $\forall \{\alpha \ n\} \rightarrow \mathsf{Vec} \ \alpha \ (\mathsf{suc} \ n) \rightarrow \alpha \Longleftrightarrow \{\alpha : _\} \{n : _\} \rightarrow \mathsf{Vec} \ \alpha \ n \rightarrow \alpha$

Hardware Design
Functional Hardware

Research Question

Method

DTP / Agda

Agda

7-Ware

Semantics

Conclusions



Low-level circuits

- Structural representation
- Untyped but sized

```
data \mathbb{C}': \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N} \to \mathsf{Set}
data \mathbb{C}' where
     Nil : \mathbb{C}' zero zero
```

Gate : $(g\# : Gates\#) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}'$ ([in] g#) ([out] g#)

 $\rightarrow (f : \operatorname{Fin} o \rightarrow \operatorname{Fin} i) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}' i o$ Plug : $\forall \{i \ o\}$

$$\mathsf{DelayLoop} \,:\, (c \,:\, \mathbb{C}' \,\, (i+l) \,\, (o+l)) \,\, \{\mathsf{comb}' \,\, c\} \,\, \rightarrow \,\, \mathbb{C}' \,\, i \,\, o$$

Syntax



Atoms

- ▶ How to carry values of an Agda type in *one* wire
- ▶ Defined by the Atomic type class in PiWare.Atom

```
record Atomic : Set<sub>1</sub> where field

Atom : Set
```

|Atom|-1 : \mathbb{N}

 $n \rightarrow atom$: Fin (suc |Atom|-1) $\rightarrow Atom$ $atom \rightarrow n$: $Atom \rightarrow Fin$ (suc |Atom|-1)

inv-left : $\forall i \rightarrow atom \rightarrow n \ (n \rightarrow atom \ i) \equiv i$ inv-right : $\forall a \rightarrow n \rightarrow atom \ (atom \rightarrow n \ a) \equiv a$

```
|Atom| = suc |Atom|-1
Atom# = Fin |Atom|
```

Hardware Design
Functional Hardware

Research

Question

Method

DTP / Agda

Agda

∏-Ware Syntax

emantics

Conclusion

Limitations



Atomic instances

- ▶ Examples of types that can be Atomic
 - Bool, std_logic, other multi-valued logics
 - · Predefined in the library: PiWare.Atom.Bool
- First, define how many atoms we are interested in

$$|B|-1 = 1$$

 $|B| = suc |B|-1$

Friendlier names for the indices (elements of Fin 2)

```
pattern False# = Fz
pattern True# = Fs Fz
```

Hardware Design

DTP

Research Question

Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture Aøda

Π-Ware

Syntax

Proofs

Conclusions Limitations



Atomic instance (Bool)

▶ Bijection between $\{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid n < 2\}$ (Fin 2) and Bool

```
n \rightarrow B = \lambda { False# \rightarrow false; True# \rightarrow true }
B \rightarrow n = \lambda { false \rightarrow False#; true \rightarrow True# }
```

▶ Proof that $n \rightarrow B$ and $B \rightarrow n$ are inverses

```
inv-left-B = \lambda { False# \rightarrow refl; True# \rightarrow refl; }
inv-right-B = \lambda { false \rightarrow refl; true \rightarrow refl }
```

With all pieces at hand, we construct the instance

```
Atomic-B = record { Atom
                                      = B
                        |Atom|-1| = |B|-1
                        ; n \rightarrow atom = n \rightarrow B
                        ; atom\rightarrown = B\rightarrown
                        : inv-left = inv-left-B
                        ; inv-right = inv-right-B }
```

Syntax



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Gates

- ▶ Circuits parameterized by collection of *fundamental gates*
- Examples:
 - {NOT, AND, OR} (BoolTrio)
 - {NAND}
 - · Arithmetic, Crypto, etc.
- ► The definition of what means to be such a collection is in PiWare.Gates.Gates

Hardware Design
Functional Hardware
DTP

Research

Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture

1 14/----

I I-Ware Syntax

emantics

Proofs

Conclusions
Limitations



The Gates type class

```
W: \mathbb{N} \to Set
W = Vec Atom
 record Gates: Set where
   field
        |Gates| : N
        |\mathsf{in}| |\mathsf{out}| : \mathsf{Fin} |\mathsf{Gates}| \to \mathbb{N}
                      : (g : Fin | Gates|)
        spec
                          \rightarrow (W (|in| g) \rightarrow W (|out| g))
    Gates# = Fin |Gates|
```

Hardware Design
Functional Hardware

511

Research Question

Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture

Π_W/are

Syntax

Semantics Proofs

Conclusions



Gates instances

- ► Example: PiWare.Gates.BoolTrio
- ► First, how many gates are there in the library |BoolTrio| = 5
- ▶ Then the friendlier names for the indices

```
pattern FalseConst# = Fz

pattern TrueConst# = Fs Fz

pattern Not# = Fs (Fs Fz)

pattern And# = Fs (Fs (Fs Fz))

pattern Or# = Fs (Fs (Fs (Fs Fz)))
```

Hardware Design

DTP

Research

Method

TD / A...

Big picture

Agda

II-Ware Syntax

Semantics

Proofs

Conclusions

Limitations



Gates instance (BoolTrio)

▶ Defining the *interfaces* of the gates

```
|in| FalseConst# = 0
|in| TrueConst# = 0
|in| Not# = 1
|in| And# = 2
|in| Or# = 2
```

|out| = 1

▶ And the specification function for each gate

```
\begin{array}{lll} \operatorname{spec-false} & \_ & = [ \ \operatorname{false} \ ] \\ \operatorname{spec-true} & \_ & = [ \ \operatorname{true} \ ] \\ \operatorname{spec-not} & (x :: \varepsilon) & = [ \ \operatorname{not} x \ ] \\ \operatorname{spec-and} & (x :: y :: \varepsilon) & = [ \ x \wedge y \ ] \\ \operatorname{spec-or} & (x :: y :: \varepsilon) & = [ \ x \vee y \ ] \end{array}
```

Background
Hardware Design
Functional Hardware

Research

Method

DTP / Agda

Agda

Π-Ware

Syntax Semantics

Conclusions

Future work



Gates instance (BoolTrio)

Mapping each gate index to its respective specification

```
specs-BoolTrio FalseConst# = spec-false

specs-BoolTrio TrueConst# = spec-true

specs-BoolTrio Not# = spec-not

specs-BoolTrio And# = spec-and

specs-BoolTrio Or# = spec-or
```

▶ With all pieces at hand, we construct the instance

Background
Hardware Design
Functional Hardware

Research Question

Method

DTP / Agda

Agda

I I-VVare

Syntax Semantics

Conclusions
Limitations



High-level circuits

- ▶ User is not supposed to describe circuits at low level (\mathbb{C}')
- ► The high level circuit type (ℂ) alloes for typed circuit interfaces
 - The input and output indices are Agda types

```
data \mathbb{C} (\alpha \beta : Set) {i j : \mathbb{N}} : Set where

Mk\mathbb{C} : {\{s\alpha : \psi \forall \forall \alpha \{i\}\}\}} {\{s\beta : \psi \forall \forall \beta \{j\}\}\}}

\rightarrow \mathbb{C}' i j \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \alpha \beta \{i\} \{j\}
```

- ► MkC takes:
 - Low level description (ℂ¹)
 - Information on how to synthesize elements of lpha and eta
 - Passed as instance arguments

Background
Hardware Design
Functional Hardware

esearch Juestion

Aethod

DTP / Agda

Agda Agda

Π-Ware

Syntax Semantics

onclusion

Limitations



Synthesizable

- ▶ \#W↑ type class (pronounced Synthesizable)
 - Describes how to *synthesize* a given Agda type (α)
 - Two fields: from element of α to a word and back

```
record \Downarrow W \Uparrow (\alpha : Set) \{i : \mathbb{N}\} : Set where constructor <math>\Downarrow W \Uparrow [\_, \_] field \Downarrow : \alpha \to W i \Uparrow : W i \to \alpha
```

Background

Functional Hard

Research

Question

Method

Big nicture

Agda

 $\Pi\text{-Ware}$

Syntax

roofs

Conclusions
Limitations



₩ W M instances

- ▶ Any finite type can have such an instance
- ▶ Predefined in the library: Bool; x ; ⊎ ; Vec
- Example: instance for products (x)

```
\Downarrow \forall \forall \uparrow - \times : \{ s\alpha : \Downarrow \forall \uparrow \alpha \{i\} \} \{ s\beta : \Downarrow \forall \uparrow \beta \{j\} \} \}
                    \rightarrow \downarrow \downarrow \bigvee \uparrow (\alpha \times \beta)
where down: (\alpha \times \beta) \rightarrow W(i + j)
                 down (a, b) = (\Downarrow a) ++ (\Downarrow b)
                 up: W (i + j) \rightarrow (\alpha \times \beta)
```

up w with splitAt i w up $.(\downarrow a ++ \downarrow b) \mid \downarrow a, \downarrow b, \text{ refl} = \uparrow \downarrow a, \uparrow \downarrow b$



Syntax

Synthesizable

▶ Both fields \$\\$\\$ and \$\\$\\$ should be inverses of each other

Background

Functional Hardw

Research

Question

Method

memou

DTP / Agda

Big picture

l_Ware

I I-VVare

Syntax

mantics

Proofs

Conclusions

Future work

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Circuit semantics

- ▶ Synthesis semantics: produce a netlist
 - Tool integration / implement in FPGA or ASIC.
- Simulation semantics: execute a circuit.
 - · Given circuit model and inputs, calculate outputs
- ▶ Other semantics possible:
 - · Timing analysis, power estimation, etc.
 - This possibility guided Π-Ware's development

Hardware Design
Functional Hardware

Research

Question

Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture

7-Ware

Syntax

Semantics

onclusions

Limitations



Synthesis semantics

▶ Netlist: digraph with *gates* as nodes and *buses* as edges

Nil : € 0 0

 $\frac{f : Fin \ o \rightarrow Fin \ i}{Plug \ f : \mathbb{C} \ i \ o}$

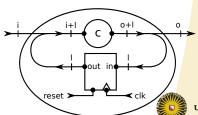
g#: Gate#

Gate $g# : \mathbb{C}$ (ins g#) (outs g#)

 $c : \mathbb{C} (i+l) (o+l)$ DelayLoop : $\mathbb{C} i o$ Nil



ins g# Gate g# outs g#



Background
Hardware Design
Functional Hardware

Research Question

Question Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture Agda

Π-Ware

Semantics

Proofs

Limitations Future work

Universiteit Utrecht

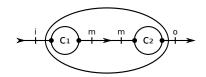
Synthesis semantics

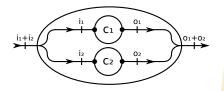
c₁ : ℂ i m c₂: ℂ m o C1 "> C2 : € i O

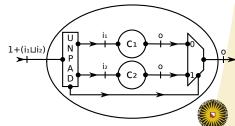
C1: € İ1 O1 C2: C i2 O2 $C_1 \mid C_2 : \mathbb{C} (i_1+i_2) (0_1+0_2)$

C1: C i1 0 C2: C i2 0

 $C_1 \mid +' C_2 : \mathbb{C} (1+(i_1 \sqcup i_2)) O$







Semantics

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Synthesis semantics

Missing "pieces":

- ▶ Adapt Atomic
 - New field: a VHDLTypeDecl
 - Such as: type ident is (elem1, elem2);
 - Enumerations, integers (ranges), records.
 - New field: atomVHDL : Atom# → VHDLExpr
- ▶ Adapt Gates
 - · For each gate, a corresponding VHDLEntity
 - netlist : $(g\#: Gates\#) \rightarrow VHDLEntity (|in| g\#) (|out| g\#)$
 - The VHDL entity has the interface of corresponding gate

Hardware Design
Functional Hardware

Research

Method

DTP / And

Big picture

7-Ware

Semantics

roofs

Conclusions Limitations



Simulation semantics

- ▶ Two levels of abstraction
 - High-level simulation ([_]) for high-level circuits (ℂ)
 - Low-level simulation ($[\![_]\!]'$) for low-level circuits (\mathbb{C}')
- Two kinds of simulation
 - Combinational simulation ([_]) for stateless circuits
 - Sequential simulation ([_]*) for stateful circuits
- High level defined in terms of low level

Hardware Design

Functional Hardv DTP

Research Question

Question

DTP / Agda

Big picture Agda

Π-Ware

Semantics

roofs

Conclusions

Limitations



Combinational simulation (excerpt)

```
[\![ ]\!]': \forall \{i \ o\} \rightarrow (c: \mathbb{C}' \ i \ o) \{p: \mathsf{comb}' \ c\} \rightarrow (\mathsf{W} \ i \rightarrow \mathsf{W} \ o)
   [Ni] ]' = const \varepsilon
   [ Gate g# ] ' = spec g#
      [\![ Plug p ]\!]' = plugOutputs p
      [\![ DelayLoop \ c \ ]\!]' \{()\} \ v
[ c_1 \rangle \rangle c_2 \rangle \langle c_2 \rangle \langle c_1 \rangle \langle c_2 \rangle \langle c_
[ ] _{-}| +'_{-} \{i_{1}\} c_{1} c_{2} ]' \{p_{1}, p_{2}\} =
                                                 [ [ c_1 ]' \{ p_1 \}, [ c_2 ]' \{ p_2 \} ]' \circ \text{untag } \{ i_1 \}
```

Remarks:

- ullet Proof required that c is combinational
- Gate case uses specification function
- DelayLoop case can be discharged

Semantics





Sequential simulation

- ▶ Inputs and outputs become Streams
 - \mathbb{C}' i $o \Longrightarrow \mathsf{Stream} (\mathsf{W} \ i) \to \mathsf{Stream} (\mathsf{W} \ o)$
 - Stream: infinite list
- ▶ We can't write a recursive evaluation function over Streams
 - Sum case needs Stream $(\alpha \uplus \beta) \to \text{Stream } \alpha \times \text{Stream } \beta$
 - What if there are no lefts (or rights)?
- ▶ A stream function is not an accurate model for hardware
 - A function of type (Stream $\alpha \to \text{Stream } \beta$) can "look ahead"
 - For example, tail $(x_0 :: x_1 :: x_2 :: xs) = x_1 :: x_2 :: xs$

Background Hardware Design Functional Hardware

Research

Question

DTP / Agda

Big picture

Π-Ware

Semantics

Proofs

Limitations



Causal stream functions

Solution: sequential simulation using causal stream function

Some definitions:

► Causal context: past + present values

$$\Gamma c : (\alpha : Set) \rightarrow Set$$

 $\Gamma c \alpha = \alpha \times List \alpha$

► Causal stream function: produces **one** (current) output

$$_\Rightarrow c_ : (\alpha \ \beta : Set) \to Set$$

 $\alpha \Rightarrow c \ \beta = \Gamma c \ \alpha \to \beta$

Hardware Design
Functional Hardware

Research Duestion

Method

DTP / Agda

Agda

∏-Ware

Semantics

roofs

Limitations



Causal sequential simulation

Core sequential simulation function:

- ▶ Nil, Gate and Plug cases use combinational simulation
- DelayLoop calls a recursive helper (delay)
- ► Example structural case: _\"/_ (sequence)
 - Context of $[c_1]$ c is context of the whole compound
 - Context of $[\![c_2]\!]$ c is past and present *outputs* of c1

Background
Hardware Design
Functional Hardware

lesearch

Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture Agda

∏-Ware

Semantics

Proofs

Conclusions



Sequential simulation

- ▶ We can then "run" the step-by-step function to produce a whole Stream
 - Idea from "The Essence of Dataflow Programming" [Uustalu and Vene, 2005]

$$\begin{split} \operatorname{runc}' &: (\alpha \Rightarrow \operatorname{c} \beta) \to (\operatorname{\Gammac} \alpha \times \operatorname{Stream} \alpha) \to \operatorname{Stream} \beta \\ \operatorname{runc}' &f ((x^0 \,,\, x^-) \,,\, (x^1 \, \colon \colon x^+)) = \\ &f (x^0 \,,\, x^-) \, \colon \colon \sharp \operatorname{runc}' \, f \, ((x^1 \,,\, x^0 \, \colon \colon x^-) \,,\, \flat \,\, x^+) \end{split}$$

runc :
$$(\alpha \Rightarrow c \beta) \rightarrow (\text{Stream } \alpha \rightarrow \text{Stream } \beta)$$

runc $f(x^0 :: x^+) = \text{runc'} f((x^0, []), \flat x^+)$

▶ Obtaining the stream-based simulation function:

$$[] *' : \forall \{i \ o\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}' \ i \ o \rightarrow (Stream \ (W \ i) \rightarrow Stream \ (W \ o))$$

 $[\![_]\!]*' = \mathsf{runc} \circ [\![_]\!]\mathsf{c}$

Background Hardware Design Functional Hardware

esearch

Question

ivietnou , .

Big picture

Agda

I-VVare

Semantics

roofs

Conclusions

uture work

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Properties of circuits

- ▶ Tests and proofs about circuits depend on the *semantics*
 - We focused on the functional simulation semantics
 - Other possibilities (gate count, critical path, etc.)
- ▶ Very simple sample circuit to illustrate: XOR

Hardware Design
Functional Hardware

Research Question

Question

DTD / A...I.

Big picture

Agda

Π-Ware

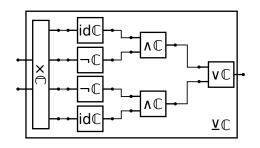
ntax emantics

Proofs

Conclusions



Sample circuit: XOR



$$\begin{array}{ll} \underline{\vee}\mathbb{C} : \mathbb{C} \; (\mathsf{B} \times \mathsf{B}) \; \mathsf{B} \\ \underline{\vee}\mathbb{C} = \; \mathsf{pFork} \times \\ & \; \; \rangle \; (\neg\mathbb{C} \; || \; \mathsf{id}\mathbb{C} \; \rangle \rangle \wedge \mathbb{C}) \; || \; (\mathsf{id}\mathbb{C} \; || \; \neg\mathbb{C} \; \rangle \rangle \wedge \mathbb{C}) \\ & \; \; \rangle \; \vee \mathbb{C} \end{array}$$

Background

Hardware Design Functional Hardware DTP

Research Question

Method

D.T.D. / A

Big picture

Agda

II-Ware

yntax emantics

Proofs

Conclusions



Specification of XOR

- ▶ To define correctness we need a specification function
 - Listing all possibilities (truth table)
 - Based on pre-exisiting functions (standard library)
- ▶ Truth table

```
\begin{array}{l} \underline{\vee}\mathbb{C}\text{--spec-table} : (B \times B) \to B \\ \underline{\vee}\mathbb{C}\text{--spec-table} \ \ (\text{false} \ \ , \ \text{false}) = \text{false} \\ \underline{\vee}\mathbb{C}\text{--spec-table} \ \ (\text{false} \ \ , \ \text{true} \ ) = \text{true} \\ \underline{\vee}\mathbb{C}\text{--spec-table} \ \ (\text{true} \ \ , \ \text{false}) = \text{true} \\ \underline{\vee}\mathbb{C}\text{--spec-table} \ \ (\text{true} \ \ , \ \text{true} \ ) = \text{false} \end{array}
```

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Functional Hardware

Research

Mothod

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Π-Ware

emantics

Proofs

Conclusions
Limitations

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Proof of XOR (truth table)

- ▶ Proof by case analysis
 - Could be automated (reflection)

```
\begin{array}{lll} \underline{\vee}\mathbb{C}-\mathsf{proof-table} : & \underline{\|} \underline{\vee}\mathbb{C} & \underline{\|} & (a\ ,\ b) & \underline{=} \underline{\vee}\mathbb{C}-\mathsf{spec-table} & (a\ ,\ b) \\ \underline{\vee}\mathbb{C}-\mathsf{proof-table} & \mathsf{false} & \mathsf{false} & = \mathsf{refl} \\ \underline{\vee}\mathbb{C}-\mathsf{proof-table} & \mathsf{false} & \mathsf{true} & = \mathsf{refl} \\ \underline{\vee}\mathbb{C}-\mathsf{proof-table} & \mathsf{true} & \mathsf{false} & = \mathsf{refl} \\ \underline{\vee}\mathbb{C}-\mathsf{proof-table} & \mathsf{true} & \mathsf{true} & = \mathsf{refl} \\ \underline{\vee}\mathbb{C}-\mathsf{proof-table} & \mathsf{true} & \mathsf{true} & = \mathsf{refl} \\ \end{array}
```

Background
Hardware Design
Functional Hardware

Research Question

Question

Method

DTP / Agda

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Π-Ware

emantics

Proofs

Conclusions Limitations



Specification of XOR

▶ Based (_xor_) from Data.Bool

Background

Functional Hardwa

Research

Question

Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture

Agda

Π-Ware

ntax mantics

Proofs

Conclusions



Proof of XOR (pre-existing)

- ▶ Need a lemma to complete the proof
 - Circuit is defined using {NOT, AND, OR}
 - _xor_ is defined directly by pattern matching

Background

Functional Hardw

Research

Questic

Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture

Π-Ware

yntax ..

Proofs

Conclusions



Problems

▶ Definition of [_] blocks reduction

Background

Hardware Design
Functional Hardware

Research

Question

Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture

Π-Ware

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emantics

Proofs

Conclusions



Summary

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Background

Hardware Design Functional Hardware

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Research Question

Mathod

Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture Agda

Π-Ware

I-VVare

Semantics

Conclusions

Limitations



Current limitations

- ▶ Problem with proofs (definition of [_])
- ▶ Proofs on (infinite) Streams
- ▶ Bla

Background

Functional Hardy

Research

Question

Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture

Agda

 $\Pi ext{-}Ware$

Syntax

roofs

Conclusions

Limitations



Future work

▶ Proof by reflection for finite cases

Background

Hardware Design
Functional Hardware

Research

Question

Method

DTP / Agda

Big picture

Π-Ware

Syntax

Proofs

Conclusions



Thank you!

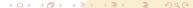
Questions?

Mede mogelijk gemaakt door:

Utrechts Universiteitsfonds







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Future work

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Background

Hardware Design Functional Hardware

Research

Question

DTP / Agd

Big picture

Π-Ware

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Proofs

Conclusions



