# A gentle introduction to the HoCL language

v 0.2 - Jul 2019 J. Sérot (jocelyn.serot@uca.fr)

github.com/jserot/hocl









## Introduction

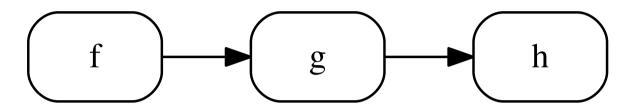
#### **Motivations**

- HoCL = Higher-order Coordination Language (temporary name...)
- Main goal: a language for describing dataflow process networks
- Should support a large class of dataflow variants (SDF, PSDF, DDF, ...)
- Should be AFAP independant of the target implementation platform (software, hardware, mixed, ...)
  - targeting is done by dedicated backends
- Relying on concepts drawn from functional programming languages (Haskell, Caml, ...) to allow the description of DFPNs in a concise and abstract manner
  - polymorphic type system
  - automatic type inference and checking
  - functions for top-down descriptions
  - higher-order functions for encapsulation graph patterns

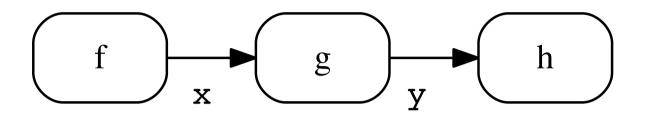
#### This document

- Informal presentation of the main language features
  - by means of small examples
- Introduce the three existing backends
  - DOT
  - PREESM
  - SystemC

Dataflow graphs are functional programs

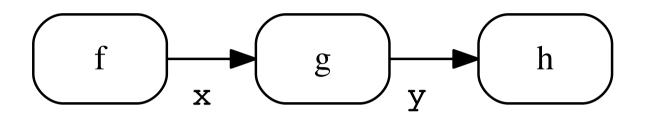


Dataflow graphs are functional programs



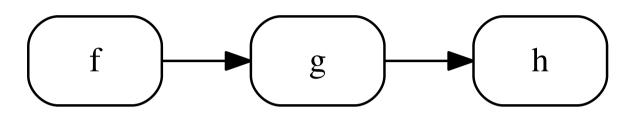
```
let x = f ();
let y = g x;
let _ = h y;
```

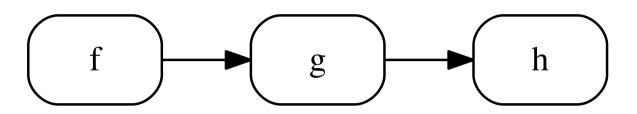
Dataflow graphs are functional programs

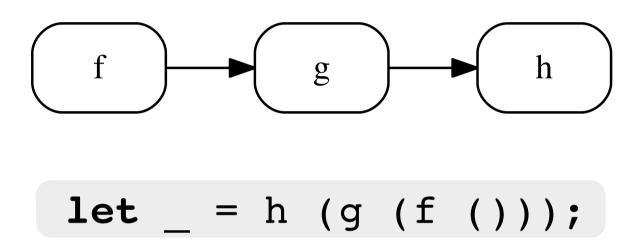


```
let x = f ();
let y = g x;
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```

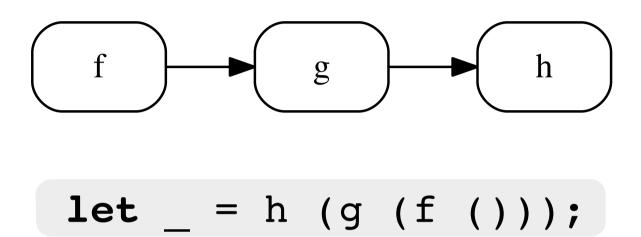
- Actors are interpreted as functions
- Function applications build nodes
  - application is here denoted without parens :  $f \times really means f(x)$
  - () means unit (void)
  - \_ means dont care
- Wiring is (here) explicited by names





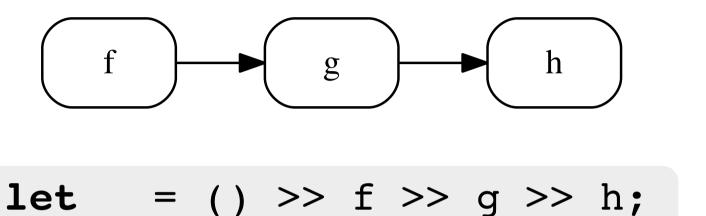


- Names are not necessary
- The graph structure is here explicited by means of function composition



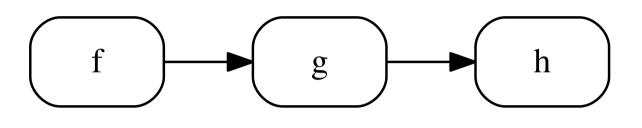
- Names are not necessary
- The graph structure is here explicited by means of function composition
- @ parenthesis tend to accumulate
- (3) functions appear in reversed order wrt. the graph

A more friendly syntax



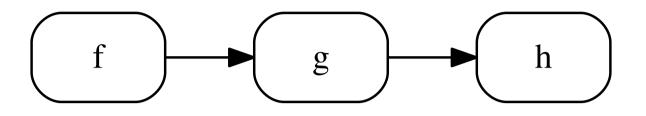
• ... thanks to the reverse application operator >>: x >> f = f x

... even more friendy



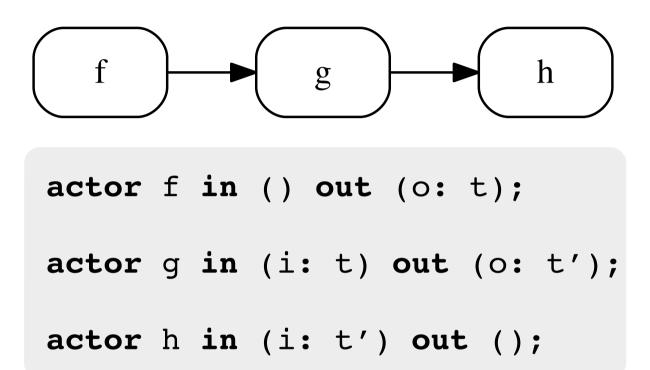
• ... thanks the reverse unit application operator |>: f|>g = () >> f >> g = g (f ())

And what about actors?



```
actor f in () out (o: t);
actor g in (i: t) out (o: t');
actor h in (i: t') out ();
```

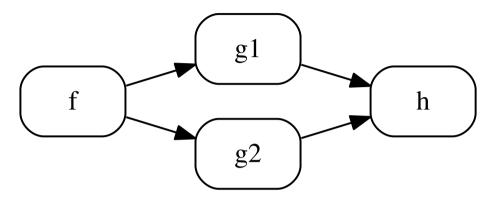
And what about actors?



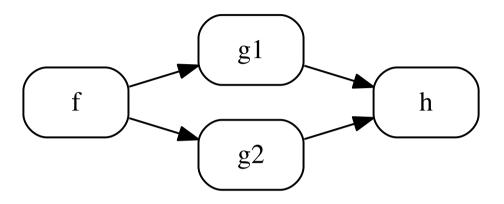
- This gives the following types to the *functions* representing the actors :
- ... where t1 → t2
   is the type of a function taking an argument with type t1 and returning a result with type t2

```
f: unit \rightarrow t
g: t \rightarrow t'
h: t' \rightarrow unit
```

Example 2
Introducing tuples

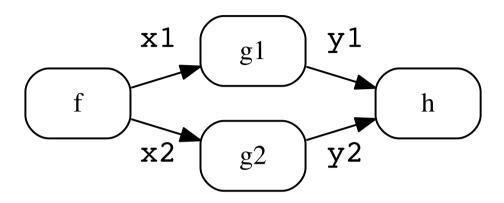


Introducing tuples



- Actor f now has two outputs
- Actor h now has two inputs

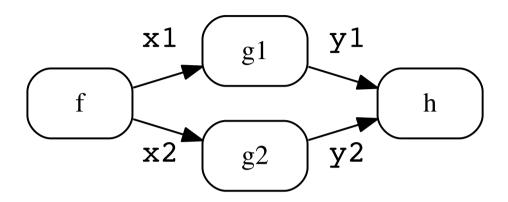
#### Introducing tuples



- Actor f now has two outputs
- Actor h now has two inputs

```
let (x1,x2) = f ();
let y1 = g1 x1;
let y2 = g2 x2;
let _ = h (y1,y2);
```

#### Introducing tuples



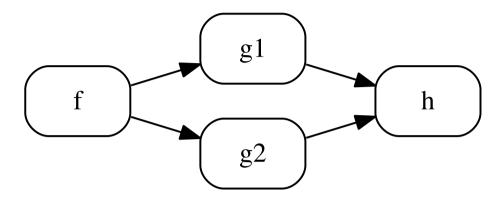
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```
let (x1,x2) = f ();
let y1 = g1 x1;
let y2 = g2 x2;
let _ = h (y1,y2);
```

- Sets of arguments (resp. results) are represented by tuples
- Naming the components of a tuples allows wires to be distinguished
- The f, g1, g2 and h functions resp. have type (e.g.):

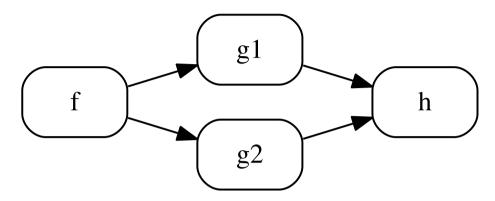
```
f : unit \rightarrow t1 * t2
g1 : t1 \rightarrow t1'
g2 : t2 \rightarrow t2'
h : t1' * t2' \rightarrow unit
```

A slightly less verbose reformulation



```
let (x1,x2) = f ();
let _ = h (g1 x1, g2 x2);
```

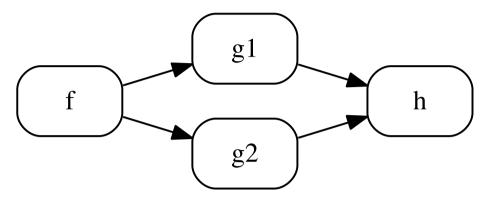
A slightly less verbose reformulation



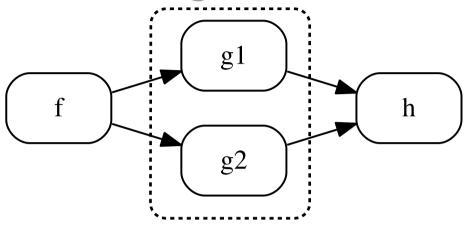
```
let (x1,x2) = f ();
let _ = h (g1 x1, g2 x2);
```

 The >> and |> operators dont help a lot here because we need to distinguish between the two results (resp. arguments) produced by f (resp. given to h)

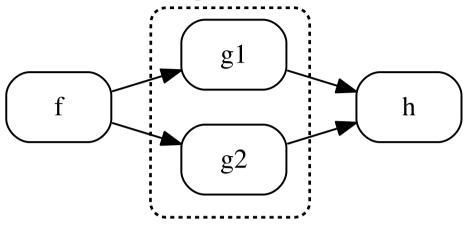
Example 3
Wiring functions



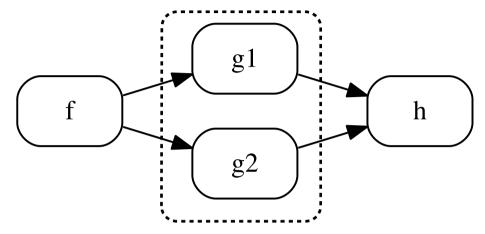
#### Wiring functions



#### Wiring functions

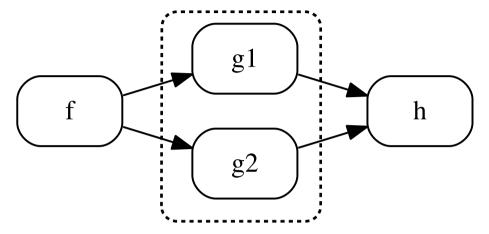


- The first lines defines m as a function
  - taking a pair of arguments and returning a pair of results
- The m function is a wiring function
- Its type is : m : t1 \* t2 → t1' \* t2'

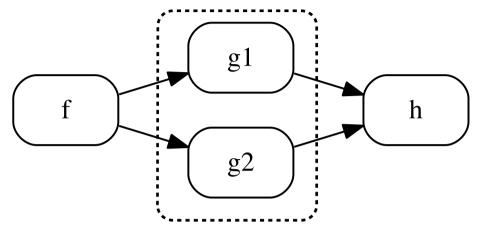


```
let m u d (x,y) = u x, d y;
let _ = f |> m g1 g2 >> h;
```

Pushing abstraction a little bit further: HOWF

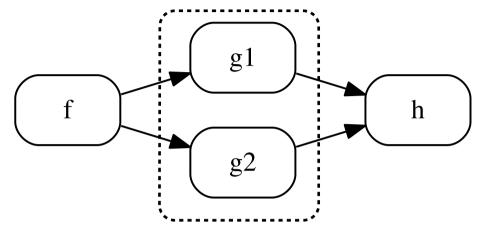


• The m function now takes three arguments :



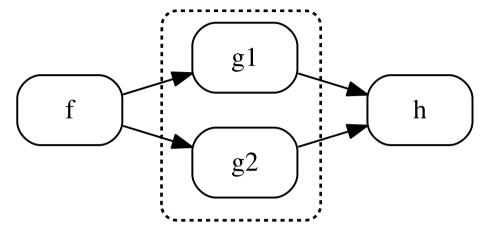
```
let m u d (x,y) = u x, d y;
let _ = f |> m g1 g2 >> h;
```

- The m function now takes three arguments :
  - two functions: u and d



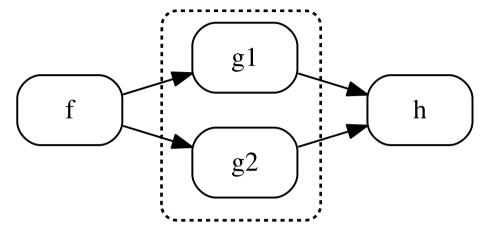
```
let m u d (x,y) = u x, d y;
let _ = f |> m g1 g2 >> h;
```

- The m function now takes three arguments :
  - two functions: u and d
  - a pair of values (x,y)



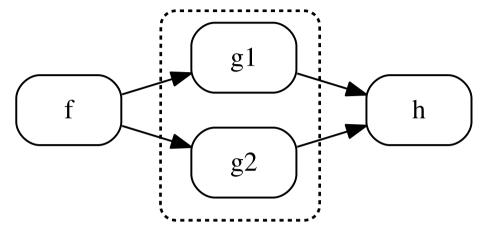
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- The m function now takes three arguments :
  - two functions: u and d
  - a pair of values (x,y)
- The main graph is obtained by applying m to g1 and g2

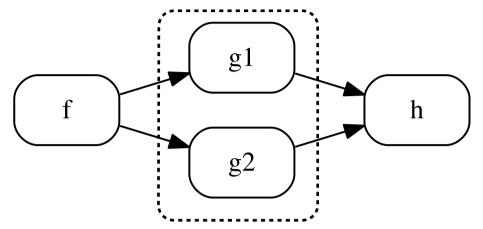


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- The m function now takes three arguments :
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  - again, application is denoted without parens (curried form)

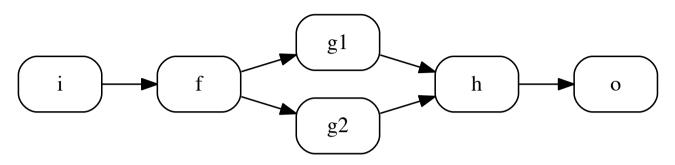


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- m is a higher-order wiring function (HOWF)



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  - two functions: u and d
  - a pair of values (x,y)
- The main graph is obtained by applying m to g1 and g2
  - again, application is denoted without parens (curried form)
- m is a higher-order wiring function (HOWF)
  - HOWFs promote abstraction, i.e. the ability to encapsulate graph patterns

#### HOWFs at work



```
let diamond l u d r v =
  let (x,y) = l v in
  r (u x, d y);

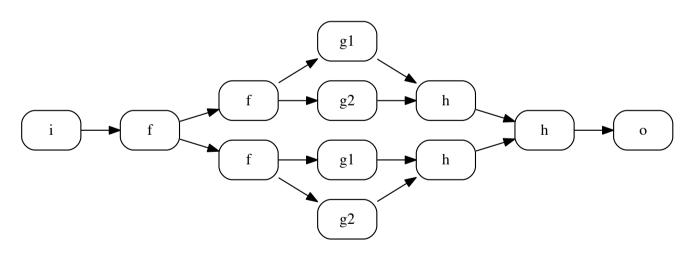
let _ = i |> diamond f g1 g2 h >> o;
```

- A slight variation on the previous example
- The diamond higher-order wiring function uses a local let-definition

#### HOWFs at work

```
let diamond l u d r v =
  let (x,y) = l v in
  r (u x, d y);

let inner = diamond f g1 g2 h;
let _ = i |> diamond f inner inner h >> o;
```

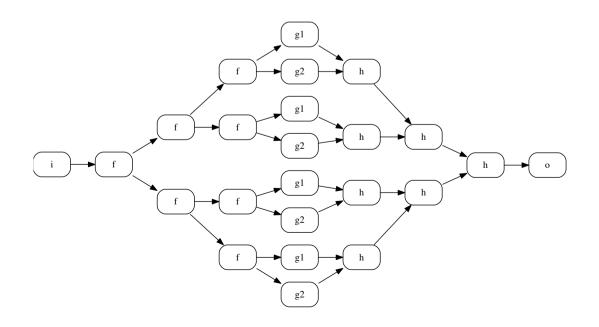


 The diamond higher-order wiring function is here instanciated at two levels

#### **HOWFs** at work

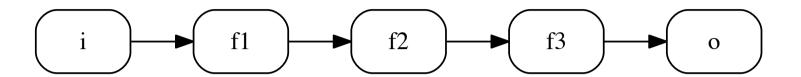
```
let diamond l u d r v =
  let (x,y) = l v in
  r (u x, d y);

let deeper = diamond f g1 g2 h;
let inner = diamond f deeper deeper h;
let _ = i |> diamond f inner inner h >> o;
```

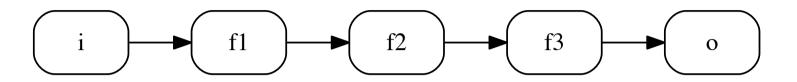


- The diamond higher-order wiring function is here instanciated at three levels
- Describing textually such a graph would be very tedious

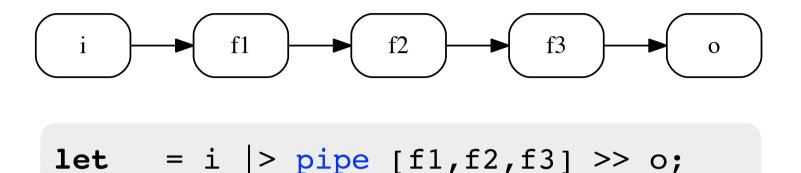
Pipe



Pipe



Pipe



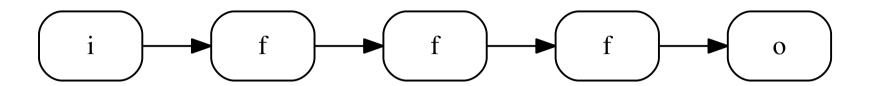
• The pipe higher-order wiring function is defined in the standard library as:

```
let rec pipe fs x = match fs with
   [] -> x
   | f::fs' -> pipe fs' (f x);
```

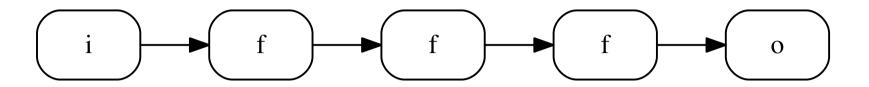
In other words:

```
pipe [f_1, f_2, ... f_n] x = f_n (... f_2 (f_1 x)) ...)
```

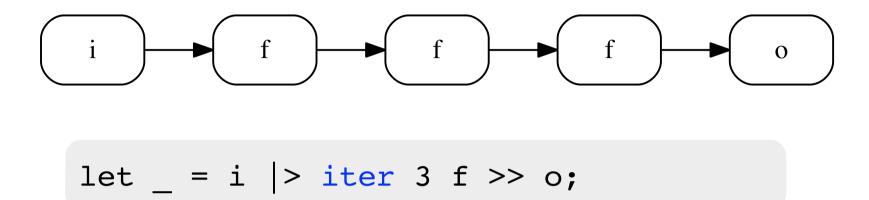
Iterate



Iterate



Iterate

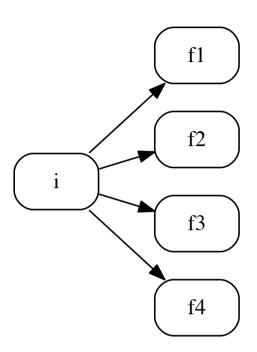


• The iter higher-order wiring function is defined in the standard library as:

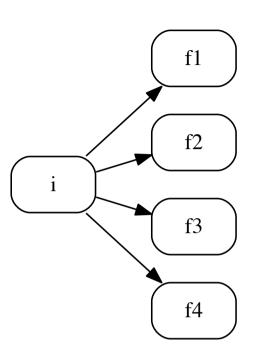
repl n x = 
$$[x, ..., x]$$

n times

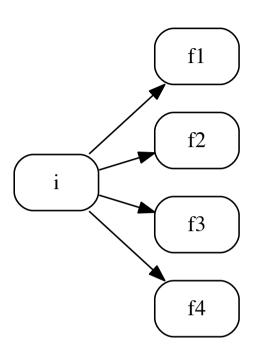
## Classic patterns Mapf



Mapf







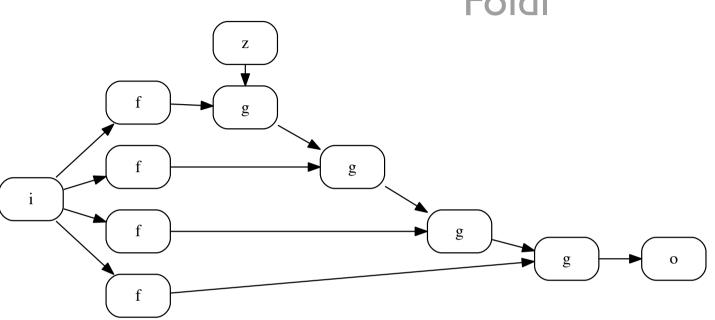
 The mapf higher-order wiring function is defined in the standard library as:

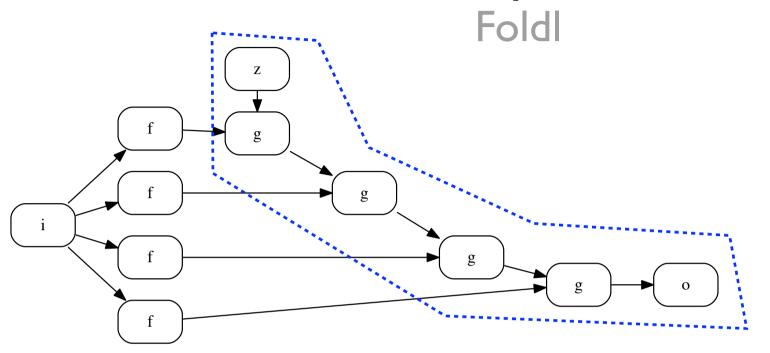
```
let rec mapf fs x = match fs with
    [] -> []
    | f::fs' -> f x :: mapf fs' x;
```

In other words:

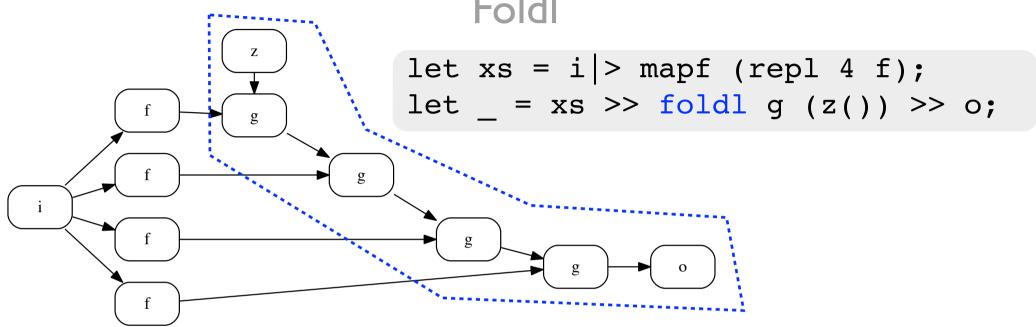
```
mapf [f_1, f_2, ..., f_n] x = [f_1 x, ..., f_n x]
```

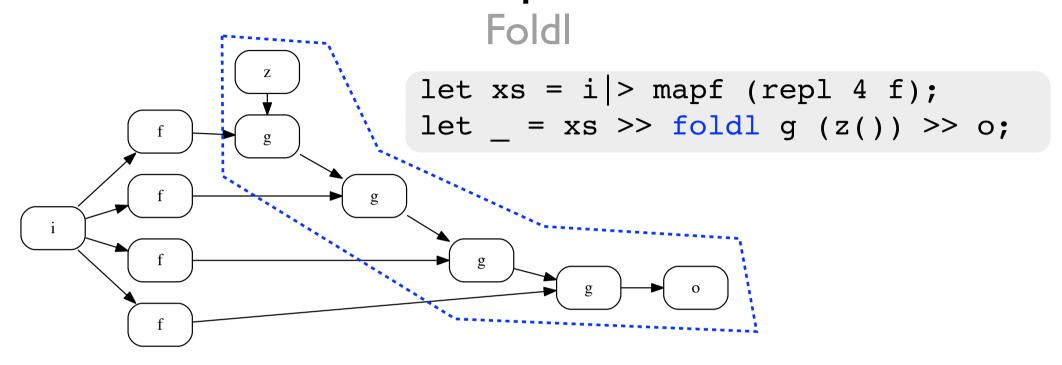
Foldl











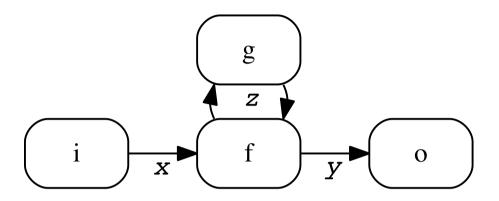
• The fold1 higher-order wiring function is used to describe dyadic reduction patterns. It is defined in the standard library as:

```
let rec foldl f z xs =
  match xs with
  [] -> z
| x::xs' -> foldl f (f (z,x)) xs';
```

```
In other words: foldl f z [x_1, ..., x_n]
= f (... (f (z,x_1), x_2), ..., x_n)
```

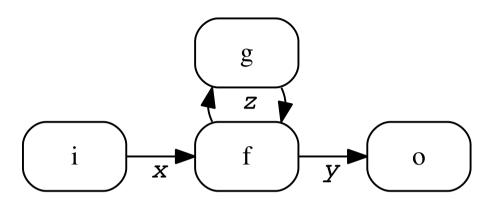
## What about cycles?

Recursive wiring



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Recursive wiring

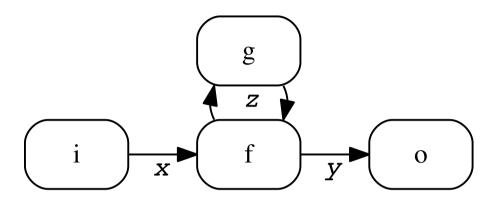


```
let main x =
  let rec (y,z) = f (x,g z) in
  y;

let _ = i |> main >> o;
```

## What about cycles?

#### Recursive wiring

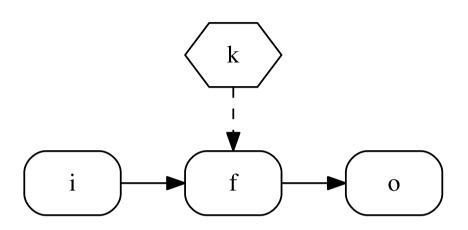


```
let main x =
  let rec (y,z) = f (x,g z) in
  y;

let _ = i |> main >> o;
```

- The recursive definition in main creates a loop in the graph since z is used both as an input and an output of the f function
- Because this definition is local, the recursion does not escape the scope of main here

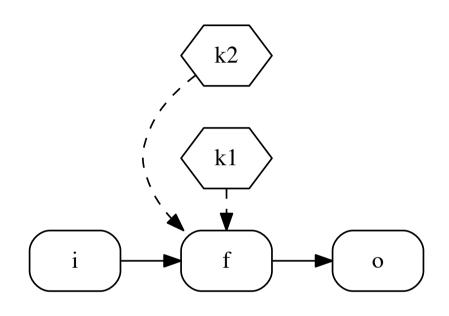
#### **Parameters**



- Parameters are used to configure actor nodes
- They are viewed as an (extra) argument to the function representating the actor
  - e.g., function f has type: nat → t → t
  - the partial application (f k) gives the configured actor
- They must be given an initial value (2 here)
- Types of parameters are (now) limited to nat (natural numbers) and bool

#### **Parameters**

#### Multiple parameters



- When an actor takes several parameters, they are wrapped within a tuple
- The type of the actor is then :  $(t_1 * ... t_n) \rightarrow t \rightarrow t'$  where
  - $t_1$ , ...,  $t_n$  are the types of the parameters
  - t (resp. t') is the type of the input (resp. output) data flow

#### **Parameters**

#### Dependent parameters

- Data dependencies between parameter values create a tree in graph
- This tree is "orthogonal" to the data flow
- Parameter dependencies are (now) resolved statically

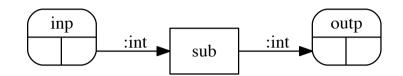
Simple case

#### Simple case

```
actor inp in () out(o: int);
actor outp in (e: int) out();
graph sub in (i: int) out(o: int);

#pragma code("sub", "sub.hcl");

let _ = inp |> sub >> outp;
```



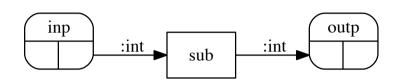
top.hcl

#### Simple case

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actor inp in () out(o: int);
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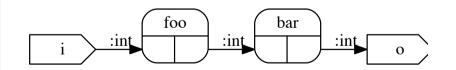
let _ = inp |> sub >> outp;
```



top.hcl

```
actor foo in (i: int) out(o: int);
actor bar in (e: int) out(s: int);
source i: int;
sink o: int;

let _ = i |> foo >> bar >> o;
```



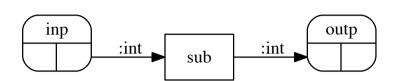
sub.hcl

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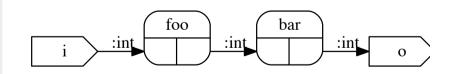
let _ = inp |> sub >> outp;
```



top.hcl

```
actor foo in (i: int) out(o: int);
actor bar in (e: int) out(s: int);
source i: int;
sink o: int;

let _ = i |> foo >> bar >> o;
```



sub.hcl

• Each subgraph is described in a distinct source file

Parameter passing

#### Parameter passing

```
parameter kt: nat = 2;

actor inp in () out(o: int);
actor outp in (e: int) out();
graph sub in (i: int) out(o: int);

#pragma code("sub", "sub.hcl");

let _ = inp |> sub kt >> outp;

top.hcl
```

#### Parameter passing

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parameter kt: nat = 2;

actor inp in () out(o: int);
actor outp in (e: int) out();
graph sub in (i: int) out(o: int);

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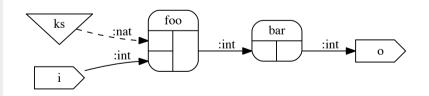
let _ = inp |> sub kt >> outp;
```

```
inp :int outp :mat sub :int outp
```

top.hcl

```
actor foo in (i: int) out(o: int);
actor bar in (e: int) out(s: int);
parameter ks: nat;
source i: int;
sink o: int;

let _ = i |> foo ks >> bar >> o;
```



sub.hcl

#### Parameter passing

```
parameter kt: nat = 2;
                                          inp
actor inp in () out(o: int);
                                               :int
                                                             outp
actor outp in (e: int) out();
                                                   sub
                                               :nat
graph sub in (i: int) out(o: int);
                                          kt
                                          (2)
#pragma code("sub", "sub.hcl");
                                       top.hcl
let = inp |> sub kt >> outp;
actor foo in (i: int) out(o: int);
actor bar in (e: int) out(s: int);
parameter ks: nat;
                                             _ _:nat _
source i: int;
sink o: int;
                                      sub.hcl
let = i |> foo ks >> bar >> o;
```

• In top.hcl, kt is a locally static parameter; in sub.hcl ks is a hierarchical param.

Parameter passing

Parameter passing

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top.hcl
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```

```
actor foo in (i: int) out(o: int);
actor bar in (e: int) out(s: int);
parameter ks: nat;
source i(k: nat): int;
sink o(k: nat): int;

let _ = i ks|> foo ks >> bar >> o ks; sub.hcl
```

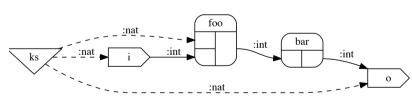
#### Parameter passing

```
parameter kt: nat = 2;
actor inp in () out(o: int);
actor outp in (e: int) out();
graph sub in (i: int) out(o: int);
#pragma code("sub", "sub.hcl");
let = inp |> sub kt >> outp;
```

```
inp
           :int
                                          outp
                     sub
           :nat 🖢
kt
(2)
```

top.hcl

```
actor foo in (i: int) out(o: int);
actor bar in (e: int) out(s: int);
parameter ks: nat;
source i(k: nat): int;
sink o(k: nat): int;
let = i ks | > foo ks >> bar >> o ks; sub.hcl
```



## Using the compiler

#### I. Generating and visualizing .dot graphs

```
type t;
actor i
in ()
 out (o: t);
actor f
 in (i: t)
 out (o1: t, o2: t);
actor q
  in (i: t)
 out (o: t);
actor h
  in (i1: t, i2: t)
 out (o: t);
actor o
  in (i: t)
 out ();
let m(x,y) = h(gx, gy);
let _ = i |> f >> m >> o;
```

#### I. Generating and visualizing .dot graphs

```
type t;
actor i
 in ()
  out (o: t);
actor f
 in (i: t)
 out (o1: t, o2: t);
actor q
  in (i: t)
 out (o: t);
actor h
  in (i1: t, i2: t)
 out (o: t);
actor o
  in (i: t)
 out ();
let m(x,y) = h(gx, gy);
let = i |> f >> m >> o;
```



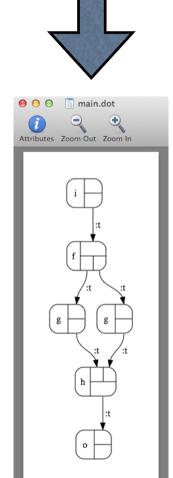
bash> hoclc -dot main.hcl
# Wrote file ./main.dot
bash> graphviz main.dot

#### I. Generating and visualizing .dot graphs

```
type t;
actor i
  in ()
  out (o: t);
actor f
  in (i: t)
  out (o1: t, o2: t);
actor q
  in (i: t)
 out (o: t);
actor h
  in (i1: t, i2: t)
  out (o: t);
actor o
  in (i: t)
 out ();
let m(x,y) = h(gx, gy);
let _ = i |> f >> m >> o;
```



bash> hoclc -dot main.hcl
# Wrote file ./main.dot
bash> graphviz main.dot



```
type t;
parameter k: nat = 100;
parameter p: nat = 2;
#pragma code("inp",
  "./include/input.h",
   "input", "inputInit")
#pragma code("outp",
  "./include/output.h",
  "output", "outputInit")
#pragma code("foo",
  "./include/foo.h",
  "foo")
actor inp
 in () out(o: t "1");
actor foo
  param (k: nat, p: nat)
  in (i: t "p*2")
  out (o: t "p");
actor outp
  param (p: nat)
  in (i: t "p") out ();
let =
  inp |> foo (k,p) >> outp p;
```

#### main.hcl

#### 2. Interfacing to PREESM

```
#include "preesm.h"
void foo(nat k, IN int *i, OUT int *o);

#include "preesm.h"
void inputInit(void);
void input(OUT int *o);

#include "preesm.h"
void output(IN int *i);
void outputInit(void);
output.h
```

```
type t;
parameter k: nat = 100;
parameter p: nat = 2;
#pragma code("inp",
  "./include/input.h",
   "input", "inputInit")
#pragma code("outp",
  "./include/output.h",
  "output", "outputInit")
#pragma code("foo",
  "./include/foo.h",
  "foo")
actor inp
 in () out(o: t "1");
actor foo
  param (k: nat, p: nat)
  in (i: t "p*2")
  out (o: t "p");
actor outp
  param (p: nat)
  in (i: t "p") out ();
let =
  inp |> foo (k,p) >> outp p;
```

#### 2. Interfacing to PREESM

```
#include "preesm.h"
void foo(nat k, IN int *i, OUT int *o);

#include "preesm.h"
void inputInit(void);
void input(OUT int *o);

#include "preesm.h"
void output(IN int *i);
void outputInit(void);
output.h
```



bash> hoclc -preesm main.hcl
# Wrote file ./main.pi

```
type t;
parameter k: nat = 100;
parameter p: nat = 2;
#pragma code("inp",
  "./include/input.h",
   "input", "inputInit")
#pragma code("outp",
  "./include/output.h",
  "output", "outputInit")
#pragma code("foo",
  "./include/foo.h",
  "foo")
actor inp
 in () out(o: t "1");
actor foo
  param (k: nat, p: nat)
  in (i: t "p*2")
  out (o: t "p");
actor outp
  param (p: nat)
  in (i: t "p") out ();
let =
  inp |> foo (k,p)>> outp p;
```

#### 2. Interfacing to PREESM

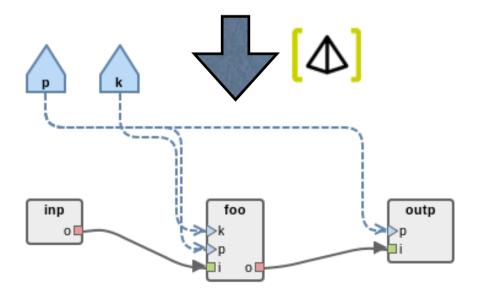
```
#include "preesm.h"
void foo(nat k, IN int *i, OUT int *o);

#include "preesm.h"
void inputInit(void);
void input(OUT int *o);

#include "preesm.h"
void output(IN int *i);
void outputInit(void);
output.h
```



bash> hoclc -preesm main.hcl
# Wrote file ./main.pi

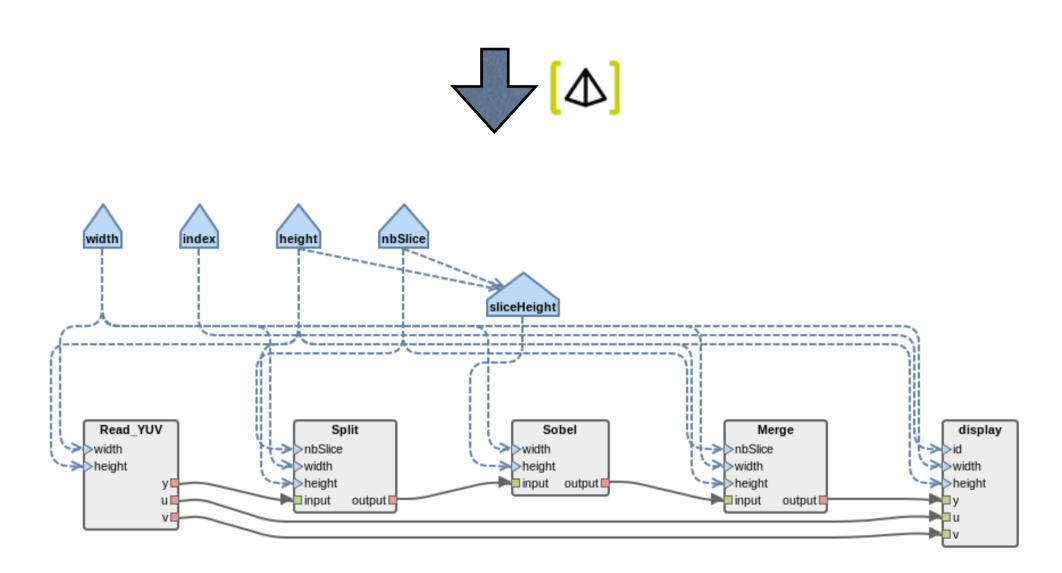


#### 2. Interfacing to PREESM - A classical example

```
type uchar;
parameter width: nat = 352;
parameter height: nat = 288;
parameter index: nat = 0;
parameter nbSlice: nat = 8;
parameter sliceHeight: nat
  = (height/nbSlice)+2;
#pragma code("Read YUV",
  "include/yuvRead.h",
  "readYUV",
  "initReadYUV")
#pragma code("Merge",
  "include/splitMerge.h",
  "merge")
#pragma code("Sobel",
  "include/sobel.h",
  "sobel")
#pragma code("Split",
  "include/splitMerge.h",
  "split")
#pragma code("display",
  "include/yuvDisplay.h",
  "yuvDisplay",
  "yuvDisplayInit")
```

```
actor Read YUV
  param (width: nat, height: nat)
  in ()
 out (y: uchar "height*width",
      u: uchar "height/2*width/2",
      v: uchar "height/2*width/2")
actor Sobel
  param (width: nat, height: nat)
  in (input: uchar "height*width")
  out (output: uchar "height*width")
let (yi,u,v) = Read YUV(width, height) ();
let yo = yi
       >> Split (nbSlice, width, height)
       >> Sobel (width, sliceHeight)
       >> Merge (nbSlice, width, height);
let = display
          (index, width, height)
          (yo,u,v);
```

#### 2. Interfacing to PREESM - A classical example

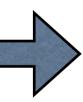


https://github.com/jserot/hocl/tree/master/examples/working/preesm/sobel

```
type int;
#pragma code("inp",
 "../code/include/input.h",
 "input", "inputInit")
#pragma code("outp",
  "../code/include/output.h",
  "output", "outputInit")
#pragma code("foo",
  "../code/include/foo.h",
  "foo")
actor inp
 in () out(o: int);
actor foo
  in (i: int) out (o: int);
actor outp
  in (i: int) out ();
let = inp |> foo >> outp;
```

```
#include "input.h"
                                       inbut.c
static int cnt = 0;
void inputInit(void) { cnt=0; }
void input(OUT int *o) { *o = cnt++; }
                                        foo.c
#include "foo.h"
void foo(IN int *i, OUT int *o)
 \{ *o = *i * 2; \}
#include "output.h"
                                     output.c
void outputInit(void) { }
void output(IN int *i) {
  printf("output: got %d\n", *i);}
```

```
type int;
#pragma code("inp",
 "../code/include/input.h",
 "input", "inputInit")
#pragma code("outp",
  "../code/include/output.h",
  "output", "outputInit")
#pragma code("foo",
  "../code/include/foo.h",
  "foo")
actor inp
 in () out(o: int);
actor foo
  in (i: int) out (o: int);
actor outp
  in (i: int) out ();
let = inp |> foo >> outp;
```



```
bash> hoclc -systemc main.hcl
# Wrote file systemc/main_top.cpp
# Wrote file systemc/inp_act.h
# Wrote file systemc/inp_act.cpp
# Wrote file systemc/foo_act.h
# Wrote file systemc/foo_act.cpp
# Wrote file systemc/outp_act.h
# Wrote file systemc/outp_act.h
```

```
type int;
#pragma code("inp",
 "../code/include/input.h",
 "input", "inputInit")
#pragma code("outp",
  "../code/include/output.h",
  "output", "outputInit")
#pragma code("foo",
  "../code/include/foo.h",
  "foo")
actor inp
 in () out(o: int);
actor foo
  in (i: int) out (o: int);
actor outp
  in (i: int) out ();
let = inp |> foo >> outp;
```

```
#include "input.h"
    static int cnt = 0;
void inputInit(void) { cnt=0; }
void input(OUT int *o) { *o = cnt++; }

#include "foo.h"
    void foo(IN int *i, OUT int *o)
    { *o = *i * 2; }

#include "output.h"
    output.c
void outputInit(void) { }
void output(IN int *i) {
    printf("output: got %d\n", *i);}
```



```
bash> hoclc -systemc main.hcl
# Wrote file systemc/main_top.cpp
# Wrote file systemc/inp_act.h
# Wrote file systemc/inp_act.cpp
# Wrote file systemc/foo_act.h
# Wrote file systemc/foo_act.cpp
# Wrote file systemc/outp_act.h
# Wrote file systemc/outp_act.cpp
```

bash> cd ./systemc; make

```
type int;
#pragma code("inp",
 "../code/include/input.h",
 "input", "inputInit")
#pragma code("outp",
  "../code/include/output.h",
  "output", "outputInit")
#pragma code("foo",
  "../code/include/foo.h",
  "foo")
actor inp
 in () out(o: int);
actor foo
  in (i: int) out (o: int);
actor outp
  in (i: int) out ();
let = inp |> foo >> outp;
```

main.hcl

```
#include "input.h"
static int cnt = 0;
void inputInit(void) { cnt=0; }
void input(OUT int *o) { *o = cnt++; }

#include "foo.h"
void foo(IN int *i, OUT int *o)
{ *o = *i * 2; }

#include "output.h"
void outputInit(void) { }
void output(IN int *i) {
   printf("output: got %d\n", *i);}
```



```
bash> hoclc -systemc main.hcl
# Wrote file systemc/main_top.cpp
# Wrote file systemc/inp_act.h
# Wrote file systemc/inp_act.cpp
# Wrote file systemc/foo_act.h
# Wrote file systemc/foo_act.cpp
# Wrote file systemc/outp_act.h
# Wrote file systemc/outp_act.h
```

bash> cd ./systemc; make

```
bash> ./main_sc
# output: got 0
# output: got 2
# output: got 4
# ...
```