

Distributive Laws of Monadic Containers

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Containers compose

Containers (aka polynomial functors) represent strictly positive types as shapes $S : \text{Set}$ and positions $P : S \rightarrow \text{Set}$, written $S \triangleleft P$.

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Containers (aka polynomial functors) represent strictly positive types as shapes $S : \text{Set}$ and positions $P : S \rightarrow \text{Set}$, written $S \triangleleft P$.

The category Cont of containers carries a composition monoidal structure :

$$(S \triangleleft P) \circ (T \triangleleft Q) = \left(\sum_{s:S} (f: P_s \rightarrow T) \right) \triangleleft \left(\sum_{p:P_s} Q(f p) \right).$$

Functorial interpretation of containers

Containers have a fully-faithful interpretation into Set-endofunctors:

$$\llbracket \text{I-} \rrbracket : \text{Cont} \rightarrow [\text{Set}, \text{Set}]$$

$$\llbracket S \triangleleft P \rrbracket := X \mapsto \sum_{s:S} (P_s \rightarrow X)$$

Functorial interpretation of containers

Containers have a fully-faithful interpretation into Set-endofunctors:

$$\mathbb{I}_{-}]: \text{Cont} \rightarrow [\text{Set}, \text{Set}]$$

Containers whose functor interpretation carries a

- monad structure are called **monadic**.
- comonad structure are called **directed**.

Monadic containers

► **Definition 8** (🔗). Let $S \triangleleft P$ be a container. A monadic container on $S \triangleleft P$ is a tuple $(S \triangleleft P, \iota, \sigma, \text{pr})$ where

$$\iota : S$$

$$\sigma : \prod_{s:S} (P s \rightarrow S) \rightarrow S$$

$$\text{pr} : \prod_{\{s:S\}} \prod_{\{f:P s \rightarrow S\}} P(\sigma s f) \rightarrow \sum_{p:P s} P(f p)$$

+ 8 equations

[Mustalu, 2017]



Presented
as lax
 Σ -universes

[Altenkirch &
Pinyo, 2017]

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Monadic containers form a category \mathbf{MCont} .

Monadic containers (cont'd)

Monadic containers form a category \mathbf{MCont} .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{MCont} \cong & & \\ \text{Monoid}(\text{Cont}, \text{Id}^c, \circ^c) & \xrightarrow{u} & \text{Cont} \\ \mathbb{I}\text{-}\mathbb{I}^{mc} \downarrow & & \downarrow \mathbb{I}\text{-}\mathbb{I} \\ \text{Monoid}([\text{Set}, \text{Set}], \text{Id}, \circ) & \xrightarrow{u} & [\text{Set}, \text{Set}] \\ \cong \text{Monad}(\text{Set}) & & \end{array}$$

Monadic containers don't compose

Counterexample : writer monadic container on
(Bool, false, xor) and terminal
monadic container.

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Monads do not compose either.

Beck's approach : distributive laws
as a sufficient condition .

Distributive laws

Jon Beck

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1. Distributive laws, composite and lifted triples

A *distributive law of \mathbf{S} over \mathbf{T}* is a natural transformation $\ell: TS \longrightarrow ST$ such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} T & & S \\ \eta^S \swarrow & \searrow \eta^T S & \eta^T S \swarrow & \searrow S \eta^T \\ TS & \xrightarrow{\ell} & ST & TS & \xrightarrow{\ell} & ST \\ TSS & \xrightarrow{\ell S} & STS & \xrightarrow{S\ell} & SST & \\ T\mu^S \downarrow & & & & \downarrow \mu^S T & \\ TS & \xrightarrow{\ell} & ST & & & \\ TT S & \xrightarrow{T\ell} & TST & \xrightarrow{\ell T} & STT & \\ \mu^T S \downarrow & & & & \downarrow S \mu^T & \\ TS & \xrightarrow{\ell} & ST & & & \end{array}$$

commute.

[Beck, 1969]

However, when \mathcal{T} is not free it can be rather difficult to prove the defining axioms of a distributive law. In this paper we describe how to obtain a distributive law for a monad with

[Bonsangue et. al, 2015]

Distributive laws (cont'd)

Theory and Applications of Categories, Vol. 18, No. 7, 2007, pp. 172–208.

MONAD COMPOSITIONS I: GENERAL CONSTRUCTIONS AND RECURSIVE DISTRIBUTIVE LAWS

ERNIE MANES AND PHILIP MULRY

Math. Struct. in Comp. Science (2008), vol. 18, pp. 613–643. © 2008 Cambridge University Press
doi:10.1017/S0960129508006695 First published online 26 February 2008 Printed in the United Kingdom

Monad compositions II: Kleisli strength

ERNIE MANES[†] and PHILIP MULRY[‡]

Logical Methods in Computer Science
Vol. 11(3:2)2015, pp. 1–23
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PRESENTING DISTRIBUTIVE LAWS

MARCELLO M. BONSANGUE^a, HELLE H. HANSEN^b, ALEXANDER KURZ^c,
AND JURRIAAN ROT^d

Layer by Layer – Combining Monads

Fredrik Dahlqvist, Louis Parlant, and Alexandra Silva^{*}
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Positive results

Distributing probability over nondeterminism

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¹Department of Computing, Imperial College London.
²Computer Laboratory, Cambridge University.

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Electronic Notes in Theoretical Computer Science 341 (2018) 261–276

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Theoretical Computer
Science
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Iterated Covariant Powerset is not a Monad[†]

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NO-GO THEOREMS FOR DISTRIBUTIVE LAWS

MAAIKE ZWART AND DAN MARSDEN

Negative results

Distributive laws & containers

Container Combinatorics: Monads and Lax Monoidal Functors

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Monadic containers

This work:
Monadic distributive
laws & mixed
distributive laws.

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WHEN IS A CONTAINER A COMONAD?*

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Estonia
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Directed containers

Progress in Informatics, No. 10, pp.3–18, (2013)

Special issue: Advanced Programming Techniques for Construction of Robust, General and Evolutionary Programs

Research Paper

Distributive laws of directed containers

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Directed distributive laws

Our contribution

- Characterisation of
 - monadic ,
 - monadic - directed, &
 - directed - monadic
- Positive, negative, & uniqueness results.
- Formalisation in Cubical Agda.

Our contribution in more detail

► **Definition 16** (⊗). Let $(S \triangleleft P, \iota^S, \sigma^S, \text{pr}^S)$ and $(T \triangleleft Q, \iota^T, \sigma^T, \text{pr}^T)$ be monadic containers. A monadic container distributive law of $S \triangleleft P$ over $T \triangleleft Q$ is given by the data

$$\begin{aligned} u_1 &: \prod_{s:S} (P s \rightarrow T) \rightarrow T \\ u_2 &: \prod_{s:S} \prod_{f:P s \rightarrow T} Q(u_1 s f) \rightarrow S \\ v_1 &: \prod_{\{s:S\}} \prod_{\{f:P s \rightarrow T\}} \prod_{q:Q(u_1 s f)} P(u_2 s f q) \rightarrow P s \\ v_2 &: \prod_{\{s:S\}} \prod_{\{f:P s \rightarrow T\}} \prod_{q:Q(u_1 s f)} \prod_{p:P(u_2 s f q)} Q(f(v_1 qp)) \end{aligned}$$

+18 equations

► **Definition 27** (⊗). Let $(T \triangleleft Q, \iota, \sigma, \text{pr})$ be a monadic container and $(S \triangleleft P, o, \oplus, \downarrow)$ be a directed container. We define a monadic-directed container distributive law of $T \triangleleft Q$ over $S \triangleleft P$ as the data

$$\begin{aligned} u_1 &: \prod_{s:S} (P s \rightarrow T) \rightarrow T \\ u_2 &: \prod_{s:S} \prod_{f:P s \rightarrow T} Q(u_1 s f) \rightarrow S \\ v_1 &: \prod_{\{s:S\}} \prod_{\{f:P s \rightarrow T\}} \prod_{q:Q(u_1 s f)} P(u_2 s f q) \rightarrow P s \\ v_2 &: \prod_{\{s:S\}} \prod_{\{f:P s \rightarrow T\}} \prod_{q:Q(u_1 s f)} \prod_{p:P(u_2 s f q)} Q(f(v_1 qp)) \end{aligned}$$

+13 equations

& directed-monadic case.

Formalisation in Cubical Agda

```

ReaderDistr : ∀ {ls lp} (A : Set lp) (S : Set ls) (P : S → Set lp)
  → (MC : MndContainer ls lp (S ▷ P))
  → MndDistributiveLaw ls lp S P (T {ls}) (const A) MC (ReaderM A)
u1 (ReaderDistr A S P MC) s _ = tt
u2 (ReaderDistr A S P MC) s _ a = s
v1 (ReaderDistr A S P MC) a p = p
v2 (ReaderDistr A S P MC) a p = a
unit-lB-shape2 (ReaderDistr A S P MC) s = refl
unit-lB-shape1 (ReaderDistr A S P MC) s = refl
unit-lB-pos1 (ReaderDistr A S P MC) s = refl
unit-lB-pos2 (ReaderDistr A S P MC) s i a p = a
unit-lA-shape2 (ReaderDistr A S P MC) tt = refl
unit-lA-shape1 (ReaderDistr A S P MC) tt = refl
unit-lA-pos1 (ReaderDistr A S P MC) tt = refl
unit-lA-pos2 (ReaderDistr A S P MC) tt = refl
mul-A-shape1 (ReaderDistr A S P MC) s f g = refl
mul-A-shape2 (ReaderDistr A S P MC) s f g = refl
mul-A-pos1 (ReaderDistr A S P MC) s f g = refl
mul-A-pos21 (ReaderDistr A S P MC) s f g = refl
mul-A-pos22 (ReaderDistr A S P MC) s f g = refl
mul-B-shape1 (ReaderDistr A S P MC) s f g = refl
mul-B-shape2 (ReaderDistr A S P MC) s f g = refl
mul-B-pos1 (ReaderDistr A S P MC) s f g = refl
mul-B-pos21 (ReaderDistr A S P MC) s f g = refl
mul-B-pos22 (ReaderDistr A S P MC) s f g = refl

```

```

MaybeDistr : ∀ {ls lp} (S : Set ls) (P : S → Set lp) (MC : MndContainer ls lp (S ▷ P)) →
  MndDistributiveLaw ls lp 2 JustOrNothing S P MaybeM MC
u1 (MaybeDistr S P MC) true f = f tt
u1 (MaybeDistr S P MC) false f = MC .l
u2 (MaybeDistr S P MC) true f _ = true
u2 (MaybeDistr S P MC) false f _ = false
v1 (MaybeDistr S P MC) {true} _ x = tt
v2 (MaybeDistr S P MC) {true} {f} p x = p
unit-lB-shape1 (MaybeDistr S P MC) true = refl
unit-lB-shape1 (MaybeDistr S P MC) false = refl
unit-lB-shape2 (MaybeDistr S P MC) true = refl
unit-lB-shape2 (MaybeDistr S P MC) false = refl
unit-lB-pos1 (MaybeDistr S P MC) true i q tt = tt
unit-lB-pos2 (MaybeDistr S P MC) true i q tt = q
unit-lA-shape1 (MaybeDistr S P MC) _ = refl
unit-lA-shape2 (MaybeDistr S P MC) _ = refl
unit-lA-pos1 (MaybeDistr S P MC) s i q tt = tt
unit-lA-pos2 (MaybeDistr S P MC) s i q tt = q
mul-A-shape1 (MaybeDistr S P MC) true f g = refl
mul-A-shape1 (MaybeDistr S P MC) false f g = refl
mul-A-shape2 (MaybeDistr S P MC) true f g = refl
mul-A-shape2 (MaybeDistr S P MC) false f g = refl
mul-A-pos1 (MaybeDistr S P MC) true f g = refl
mul-A-pos2 (MaybeDistr {ls} {lp} S P MC) false f g i q ()
mul-A-pos21 (MaybeDistr S P MC) true f g = refl
mul-A-pos22 (MaybeDistr {ls} {lp} S P MC) false f g i q ()
mul-B-shape1 (MaybeDistr S P MC) true f g = refl
mul-B-shape1 (MaybeDistr S P MC) false f g i = unit-r (isMndContainer MC) (MC .l) (~ i)
mul-B-shape2 (MaybeDistr S P MC) true f g = refl
mul-B-shape2 (MaybeDistr S P MC) false f g i = λ _ → false
mul-B-pos1 (MaybeDistr S P MC) true f g i q tt = tt
mul-B-pos1 (MaybeDistr S P MC) false f g i q () 
mul-B-pos21 (MaybeDistr S P MC) true f g i q tt = (MC .pr1) (f tt) (g tt) q
mul-B-pos21 (MaybeDistr S P MC) false f g i q () 
mul-B-pos22 (MaybeDistr S P MC) true f g i q tt = (MC .pr2) (f tt) (g tt) q
mul-B-pos22 (MaybeDistr S P MC) false f g i q ()

```

Example 1

The reader monad is a monadic container:

$$\text{Reader}_A X := A \rightarrow X$$

$$\cong \sum_{\mathbb{1}} (A \rightarrow X) = \llbracket 1 \leftarrow \text{const } A \rrbracket X .$$

Example 1

The reader monad is a monadic container:

$$\text{Reader}_A X := A \rightarrow X$$

$$\cong \sum_{\mathbb{1}} (A \rightarrow X) = \llbracket 1 \triangleleft \text{const } A \rrbracket X.$$

There is a unique monadic container
distributive law of the reader monadic
container $1 \triangleleft A$ over any $S \triangleleft P$.

Example 2

The maybe monad is a monadic container:

$$\text{Maybe } X := 1 + X$$

$$\cong [[\text{Bool} \triangleleft \lambda \{ \begin{cases} \text{true} \rightarrow 1 \\ \text{false} \rightarrow 0 \end{cases} \}] X]$$

Example 2

The maybe monad is a monadic container:

$$\text{Maybe } X := 1 + X$$

$$\cong [[\text{Bool} \triangleleft \lambda \{ \begin{cases} \text{true} \rightarrow 1 \\ \text{false} \rightarrow \emptyset \end{cases} \}] X]$$

There is a unique monadic container
distributive law of any $S \triangleleft P$ over the
maybe monadic container.

Takeaway from examples

If you want to compose a monad M with the reader or maybe monad,

Takeaway from examples

If you want to compose a monad M with the reader or maybe monad, you should first check if the endofunctor of M can be expressed as a container, in which case we showed there will be a unique distributive law!

In summary

- The category of containers has a monoidal structure given by composition of objects.
- We characterise conditions under which monadic containers compose.
- We formalise our results in Cubical Agda, providing an interface for distributive laws.

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arxiv.org/abs.2503.17191



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- We characterise conditions under which monadic containers compose.
- We formalise our results in Cubical Agda, providing an interface for distributive laws.

THANK YOU!

References

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