

# { Refinement Types | Algebraic Effects }

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HOPE Workshop, 28 September 2013

**informatics**

**lfcs**

Laboratory for Foundations  
of Computer Science



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- Refinement types & effects
- What do we feel is missing from refinement type systems?
  - A uniform treatment of various computational effects
  - General logical specifications for arbitrary effects
- Our way of bridging this gap
  - Algebraic effects and their logics
  - General effectful ref. types through algebraic effectful reasoning
  - Hopefully leads us to a general theory of effectful refinement types
- Some examples
  - State and pre-/post-conditions
  - Communication and sessions
  - Combination of the two

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# Effects in refinement type systems



- Most current refinement type systems target specific effects:
  - F7 extended with a refined state monad [Borgström et. al. '09](#)
    - by adding a new computation type  $\{(s_0)\varphi_0\}x : \sigma\{(s_1)\varphi_1\}$
  - Monadic  $F^*$  with a Dijkstra monad [Swamy et. al. '13](#)
    - by adding a comp. type  $M \sigma wp$
  - Session types with linear refinement types [Baltazar et. al. '12](#)
    - by adding ref. ty.  $\{x : T \mid \varphi\}$  to session types (with  $\varphi$  in MLL)
- Some systems are more abstract in effects they consider:
  - Effective theory of type refinements [Mandelbaum et. al. '03](#)
    - term refinements  $\varphi$ :  $\text{bool}$ ,  $\text{its}(t)$ ,  $\varphi_1 \rightarrow \varphi_2$ ,  $(\varphi_1, \psi_1) \rightarrow (\varphi_2, \psi_2)$
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- Consider a (fragment of a) simple communication language:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : A}{\Gamma \vdash \text{return } t : FA} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash t : FA \quad \Gamma, x : A \vdash u : FB}{\Gamma \vdash t \text{ to } x. u : FB}$$
$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \text{nat} \vdash t : FA}{\Gamma \vdash \text{receive}(x.t) : FA} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash t : \text{nat} \quad \Gamma \vdash u : FA}{\Gamma \vdash \text{send}_t(u) : FA}$$

- Session refinements (inspired by session types)
  - $S(A) ::= \text{end}(A) \mid ?(x : \text{nat}).S(A) \mid !(x : \text{nat} \mid \varphi).S(A)$
- Example programs with their refinements:
  - $\Gamma \vdash \text{receive}(x.\text{receive}(y.t)) : ?(x : \text{nat}).?(y : \text{nat}).S(1)$
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- Pre- & post-condition specifications:

$$\forall \vec{x}. \{(x_0). \varphi_P\} x. A \{(x_1). \varphi_Q\}$$

- Example program with its refinement:

$$\Gamma \vdash \text{lookup}(x.\text{update}_{x+1}(\text{return } \star)) : \{(x_0). \text{odd}(x_0)\} x : 1 \{(x_1). \text{even}(x_1)\}$$

- Consider a (fragment of a) simple state language:

$$\Gamma, x : \text{nat} \vdash t : \forall \vec{x}, x_0. \{(x_1). \varphi_Q\} y : A \{(x_2). \varphi_R\}$$

$$\Gamma \vdash \forall \vec{x}. \{(x_0). \top\} x : \text{nat} \{(x_1). x_1 = x_0 \wedge x_1 = y\} \sqsubseteq \forall \vec{x}. \{(x_0). \varphi_P\} x : \text{nat} \{(x_1). \varphi_Q\}$$

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- Also want a combination of these languages and specifications
- For example, combining state and communication:

$$\forall \vec{x}. \{(x_0). \varphi_P\} (S(A) \succ x : A) \{(x_1). \varphi_Q\}$$

- Example program with a composite refinement:

$\langle \rangle \vdash \text{receive}(x.\text{lookup}(y.\text{if } y > x \text{ then update}_{y-x}(\text{return } \star) \text{ else return } \star)) :$

$$\{(x_0). \top\} (? (x : \text{nat}). \text{end}(1) \succ y : 1) \{(x_1). (x > x_0) \implies x_1 = x_0 - x\}$$

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- Non-standard combinations of specs.?



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# Our proposed approach



A computational language with algebraic effects

+

- ref. types for general effectful specs.
- using algebraic effectful reasoning

$\subseteq$

$\cup$

$\cup$

State language

Communication language

Language X

- The style of ref. types we work with (**no effects** for time being):
  - $\lambda$ -calculus with types  $A ::= \alpha \mid 1 \mid A_1 \times A_2 \mid A_1 \rightarrow A_2$
  - Refinement types  $\sigma ::= \alpha \mid 1 \mid \Sigma_{x:\sigma_1}\sigma_2 \mid \Pi_{x:\sigma_1}\sigma_2 \mid \{x:\sigma \mid \varphi\}$
  - Well-formed refinement types  $\Gamma \vdash \sigma : \text{Ref}(A)$ , e.g.:

$$\frac{\vdash \Gamma \text{ wf}}{\Gamma \vdash \alpha : \text{Ref}(\alpha)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash \sigma_1 : \text{Ref}(A_1) \quad \Gamma, x : \sigma_1 \vdash \sigma_2 : \text{Ref}(A_2)}{\Gamma \vdash \Pi_{x:\sigma_1}\sigma_2 : \text{Ref}(A_1 \rightarrow A_2)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \sigma : \text{Ref}(A) \quad \Gamma, x : A \vdash \varphi : \text{prop}}{\Gamma \vdash \{x : \sigma \mid \varphi\} : \text{Ref}(A)}$$

- Well-typed refined terms  $\Gamma \vdash t : \sigma$ , e.g.:

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- Let's look at effects algebraically (for example: state)
- Types (sets) of values (countable) and locations (fin.):  $\text{Val}, \text{Loc}$
- Operation symbols:
  - $\text{lookup} : \text{Loc} \rightarrow \text{Val}$
  - $\text{update} : \text{Loc}, \text{Val} \rightarrow 1$
- Enforce equations on derived terms:
  - $\text{update}_{l,v}(\text{lookup}_l(x.t)) = \text{update}_{l,v}(t[v/x])$
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Plotkin & Power '02

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  - $\text{update} : \text{Loc}, \text{Val} \rightarrow 1$
- Enforce equations on derived terms:
  - $\text{update}_{l,v}(\text{lookup}_l(x.t)) = \text{update}_{l,v}(t[v/x])$
  - $\text{update}_{l,v}(\text{update}_{l,v'}(t)) = \text{update}_{l,v'}(t)$
  - $t = \text{lookup}_l(x.\text{update}_{l,x}(t))$
  - $\text{update}_{l,v}(\text{update}_{l',v'}(t)) = \text{update}_{l',v'}(\text{update}_{l,v}(t)) \quad (l \neq l')$
  - ...
- Your usual monad through free algebra construction:
  - $T = UF = (\text{Val}^{\text{Loc}} \times -)^{\text{Val}^{\text{Loc}}}$

# The programming language



- We use a variant of the Effect Calculus (closely related to Call-by-Push-Value)

Egger et. al. '09, '12

Levy '01, '04

- Value and computation types:
  - $A ::= \alpha \mid 1 \mid A_1 \times A_2 \mid A_1 \rightarrow A_2 \mid FA$
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- Terms  $t$ :

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- Well-typed terms  $\Gamma \vdash t : A$ , e.g.:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : A}{\Gamma \vdash \text{return } t : FA} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 : FA_1 \quad \Gamma, x : A_1 \vdash t_2 : \underline{A}_2}{\Gamma \vdash t_1 \text{ to } x.t_2 : \underline{A}_2}$$

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- This algebraic treatment of effects induces an effectful multi-sorted logic on EC:
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  - Predicates:  $\pi ::= X \mid (\vec{x}).\varphi \mid \mu X. \pi \mid \nu X. \pi$
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# Refinement types for effectful computations



- The story is similar to the  $\lambda$ -calc. ref. types  $\Gamma \vdash \sigma : \text{Ref}(A)$
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# Examples: communication



- Recall the small state language:
  - induced by the 1-location state theory
  - $\text{receive} : 1 \rightarrow \text{nat}$  ,  $\text{send} : \text{nat} \rightarrow 1$
- Recall the a grammar of session refinements:
  - $S(A) ::= \text{end}(A) \mid !(x : \text{nat} \mid \varphi).S(A) \mid$   
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 $\varphi[x'/x] \wedge (S(A)[x'/x])(x'')$
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  - $S(A); S(B) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \dots$

# Examples: communication



- Recall the small state language:
  - induced by the 1-location state theory
  - $\text{receive} : 1 \rightarrow \text{nat}$  ,  $\text{send} : \text{nat} \rightarrow 1$
- Recall the a grammar of session refinements:
  - $S(A) ::= \text{end}(A) \mid !(x : \text{nat} \mid \varphi).S(A) \mid$   
 $?(y : \text{nat}).S(A) \mid S_1(B); S_2(A)$
- They are defined as operations on predicates, e.g.:
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# Examples: state

- Recall the small state language:
  - induced by the 1-location state theory
  - $\text{lookup} : 1 \rightarrow \text{nat}$  ,  $\text{update} : \text{nat} \rightarrow 1$
- Formulas  $\varphi_P$  and  $\varphi_Q$  on states (on natural numbers)
- The pre- & post-condition spec.:

$$\forall \vec{x}. \{(x_0). \varphi_P\} y : A \{(x_1). \varphi_Q\} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (x : FA). (\forall \vec{x}'. \forall x_s. \pi_P[\vec{x}' / \vec{x}, x_s / x_0] \implies \pi_{aux}(\vec{x}', x_s, x_s, x))$$

where (for total correctness)

$$\pi_{aux} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mu X. ((\vec{x}, x_0, x_1, x). (\exists y. x = \text{return } y \wedge \varphi_Q) \vee (\exists x'. x = \text{lookup}(x.x'(x)) \wedge X(\vec{x}, x_0, x_1, x'(x_1))) \vee (\exists x', x''. x = \text{update}_{x'}(x'') \wedge X(\vec{x}, x_0, x', x''))))$$

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# Examples: state $\otimes$ communication



- Recall the combined spec. on state & communication:

$$\forall \vec{x}. \{(x_0). \varphi_P\} (S(A) \succ x : A) \{(x_1). \varphi_Q\}$$

- How well can we represent it in our ref. ty. system?
- Combining underlying state & comm. calculi is easy:
  - induced by the tensor of effect theories
  - semantics induced similarly (i.e.,  $T_{\otimes} = (T_{IO}(\text{Val}^{\text{Loc}} \times -))^{\text{Val}^{\text{Loc}}}$ )
- Combining refinement specs.:
  - not so straightforward, no obvious good combinators
  - similarity between ref. specs. and monads
  - ...  $\vee \left( \exists x'. x = \text{receive}(x.x'(x)) \wedge \right.$   
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# To sum it up



A computational language with algebraic effects

+

- ref. types for general effectful specs.
- using algebraic effectful reasoning

$\subseteq$

$\cup$

$\supseteq$

State language

Communication language

Language X

- For the future:
  - allow ref. types in logic?
  - combinations of specs. more painlessly
  - other algebraic machinery (locality, handlers)
  - extension of simple ty. sys. with dependent refs. fibrationally