What I'm doing and why

Peter Hancock

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proofs programs propositions specifications

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What does it mean to run a program? (I was trained in philosophy).

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- I've been a programmer, in control systems, machine architecture, transaction processing, file systems.
- If programs are proofs, and I write a program that controls a machine, what theorem is it I have proved?

- ▶ What does it mean to *run* a program? (I was trained in philosophy).
- ► 'Running' ≠ evaluating. (Fetch/Execute.)

Interaction structures

Handshaken (command response) interfaces.

 $\begin{array}{lll} \text{States} & S: \text{Set} \\ \text{Commands} & C(s): \text{Set} \ (s \in S) \\ \text{Responses} & R(s,c): \text{Set} \ (s \in S, c \in C(s)) \\ \text{next state} & n(s,c,r) \in S \ (s \in S, c \in C(s), r \in R(s,c)) \end{array}$

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Gives a predicate transformer

$$P \subseteq S \mapsto \{ s \in S \mid (\sum c \in C(s)) (\prod r \in R(s,c)) P(n(s,c,r)) \}$$

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That's reassuring! (Dijkstra, Hoare, refinement calculus, ...)

- These are essentially indexed containers.
- Another thing they are is coverings in topology.

Some work with Pierre Hyvernat on 'pre-topology' and linear logic (*re* simulations); also computational meaning of locale conditions.

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$$\begin{array}{ll} A^{\omega} \rightarrow_{c} B & T_{A}(B) \triangleq (\mu X) B + X^{A} \\ A^{\omega} \rightarrow_{c} B^{\omega} & P_{A}(B) \triangleq (\nu X) T_{A}(B \times X) \\ (\cdot) : \dots & \otimes : P_{B}C \times P_{A}B \rightarrow P_{A}C \end{array}$$

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Some overlap with what other people are doing, who express some interest. But there's more!

Final coalgebras, by their very nature often (but not always...) have a nice stream-like topology. In particular this goes for containers:

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To me, this is a case study for the kind of coinduction one needs in dependent type theory. (Which is a topic that needs exploration.)

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But I might work on some more intricate, meta-mathematical things. It is important (for programming) to get the theory, in place, and maybe experiment in a non-standard direction But still, what is it to 'run' a program??