MGS 2006: AFP Lectures 1 & 2 Introduction to Monads

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Monads (1)

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 - make lazy evaluation viable
 - enhances modularity and reuse.

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"Shall I be pure or impure?" (Wadler, 1992)

- Absence of effects
 - makes programs easier to understand and reason about
 - make lazy evaluation viable
 - enhances modularity and reuse.
- Effects (state, exceptions, ...) can
 - yield concise programs
 - facilitate modifications
 - improve the efficiency.

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Monads (3)

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- Monads promotes disciplined, modular use of effects since the type of a program reflects which effects that occurs.
- Monads allows us great flexibility in tailoring the effect structure to our precise needs.

First Two Lectures

- Effectful computations: motivating examples
- Monads
- The Haskell do-notation
- Some standard monads
- A concurrency monad

Example: A Simple Evaluator

data Exp = Lit Integer

```
Add Exp Exp
           Sub Exp Exp
          Mul Exp Exp
         Div Exp Exp
eval :: Exp -> Integer
eval (Lit n) = n
eval (Add e1 e2) = eval e1 + eval e2
eval (Sub e1 e2) = eval e1 - eval e2
eval (Mul e1 e2) = eval e1 * eval e2
eval (Div e1 e2) = eval e1 'div' eval e2
```

Making the evaluator safe (1)

```
safeEval :: Exp -> Maybe Integer
safeEval (Lit n) = Just n
safeEval (Add e1 e2) =
    case safeEval e1 of
        Nothing -> Nothing
        Just n1 ->
            case safeEval e2 of
                 Nothing -> Nothing
                 Just n2 \rightarrow Just (n1 + n2)
```

Making the evaluator safe (2)

```
safeEval (Sub e1 e2) =
   case safeEval e1 of
    Nothing -> Nothing
   Just n1 ->
        case safeEval e2 of
        Nothing -> Nothing
        Just n2 -> Just (n1 - n2)
```

Making the evaluator safe (3)

```
safeEval (Mul e1 e2) =
   case safeEval e1 of
     Nothing -> Nothing
     Just n1 ->
        case safeEval e2 of
        Nothing -> Nothing
        Just n2 -> Just (n1 * n2)
```

Making the evaluator safe (4)

```
safeEval (Div e1 e2) =
    case safeEval e1 of
        Nothing -> Nothing
        Just n1 ->
            case safeEval e2 of
                Nothing -> Nothing
                Just n2 ->
                    if n2 == 0
                     then Nothing
                    else Just (n1 'div' n2)
```

Clearly a lot of code duplication!

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Sequencing of evaluations.

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We note:

- Sequencing of evaluations.
- If one evaluation fail, fail overall.
- Otherwise, make result available to following evaluations.

Sequencing evaluations (1)

Sequencing evaluations (2)

```
safeEval :: Exp -> Maybe Integer
safeEval (Lit n) = Just n
safeEval (Add e1 e2) =
    safeEval e1 'evalSeq' (\n1 ->
    safeEval e2 'evalSeq' (\n2 ->
    Just(n1 + n2))
safeEval (Sub e1 e2) =
    safeEval el 'evalSeq' (\n1 ->
    safeEval e2 'evalSeq' (\n2 ->
    Just (n1 - n2)))
```

Sequencing evaluations (3)

```
safeEval (Mul e1 e2) =
    safeEval e1 'evalSeq' (\n1 ->
    safeEval e2 'evalSeq' (\n2 ->
    Just (n1 - n2)))
safeEval (Div e1 e2) =
    safeEval e1 'evalSeq' (\n1 ->
    safeEval e2 'evalSeq' (\n2 ->
    if n2 == 0
    then Nothing
    else Just (n1 'div' n2)))
```

Aside: Scope rules of λ -abstractions

The scope rules of λ -abstractions are such that parentheses can be omitted:

```
safeEval :: Exp -> Maybe Integer
...
safeEval (Add e1 e2) =
    safeEval e1 'evalSeq' \n1 ->
    safeEval e2 'evalSeq' \n2 ->
    Just (n1 + n2)
...
```

Exercise 1: Inline evalSeq (1)

```
safeEval (Add e1 e2) =
  safeEval e1 'evalSeq' \n1 ->
  safeEval e2 'evalSeq' \n2 ->
  Just (n1 + n2)
```

Exercise 1: Inline evalseq (1)

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safeEval (Add e1 e2) =
  safeEval e1 'evalSeq' \n1 ->
  safeEval e2 'evalSeq' \n2 ->
  Just (n1 + n2)
safeEval (Add e1 e2) =
  case (safeEval e1) of
    Nothing -> Nothing
    Just a \rightarrow (\n1 \rightarrow safeEval e2 ...) a
```

Exercise 1: Inline evalSeq (2)

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safeEval (Add e1 e2) =
  case (safeEval e1) of
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  Just n1 -> safeEval e2 'evalSeq' (\n2 -> ...)
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Exercise 1: Inline evalSeq (2)

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safeEval (Add e1 e2) =
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safeEval (Add e1 e2) =
  case (safeEval e1) of
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    Just n1 -> case safeEval e2 of
                 Nothing -> Nothing
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Exercise 1: Inline evalSeq (3)

 Consider a value of type Maybe a as denoting a computation of a value of type a that may fail.

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- Consider a value of type Maybe a as denoting a computation of a value of type a that may fail.
- When sequencing possibly failing computations, a natural choice is to fail overall once a subcomputation fails.
- I.e. *failure is an effect*, implicitly affecting subsequent computations.
- Let's generalize and adopt names reflecting our intentions.

Successful computation of a value:

```
mbReturn :: a -> Maybe a
mbReturn = Just
```

Sequencing of possibly failing computations:

```
mbSeq :: Maybe a -> (a -> Maybe b) -> Maybe b
mbSeq ma f =
    case ma of
    Nothing -> Nothing
    Just a -> f a
```

Maybe viewed as a computation (3)

Failing computation:

```
mbFail :: Maybe a
```

mbFail = Nothing

The safe evaluator revisited

```
safeEval :: Exp -> Maybe Integer
safeEval (Lit n) = mbReturn n
safeEval (Add e1 e2) =
    safeEval e1 'mbSeq' \n1 ->
    safeEval e2 'mbSeq' \n2 ->
    mbReturn (n1 + n2)
safeEval (Div e1 e2) =
    safeEval e1 'mbSeq' \n1 ->
    safeEval e2 'mbSeq' \n2 ->
    if n2 == 0 then mbFail
    else mbReturn (n1 'div' n2)))
```

Example: Numbering trees

```
data Tree a = Leaf a | Tree a : ^: Tree a
numberTree :: Tree a -> Tree Int
numberTree t = fst (ntAux t 0)
    where
        ntAux (Leaf _) n = (Leaf n, n+1)
        ntAux (t1 :^: t2) n =
            let (t1', n') = ntAux t1 n
            in let (t2', n'') = ntAux t2 n'
               in (t1':^: t2', n'')
```

Repetitive pattern: threading a counter through a sequence of tree numbering computations.

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- It is very easy to pass on the wrong version of the counter!

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Can we do better?

Stateful Computations (1)

 A stateful computation consumes a state and returns a result along with a possibly updated state.

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- The following type synonym captures this idea:

```
type S a = Int -> (a, Int)
(Only Int state for the sake of simplicity.)
```

Stateful Computations (1)

- A stateful computation consumes a state and returns a result along with a possibly updated state.
- The following type synonym captures this idea:

```
type S a = Int -> (a, Int)
(Only Int state for the sake of simplicity.)
```

A value (function) of type S a can now be viewed as denoting a stateful computation computing a value of type a.

Stateful Computations (2)

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- When sequencing stateful computations, the resulting state should be passed on to the next computation.
- I.e. state updating is an effect, implicitly affecting subsequent computations.

 (As we would expect.)

Stateful Computations (3)

Computation of a value without changing the state:

```
sReturn :: a \rightarrow S a
sReturn a = \n \rightarrow (a, n)
```

Sequencing of stateful computations:

```
sSeq :: S a -> (a -> S b) -> S b
sSeq sa f = \n ->
   let (a, n') = sa n
   in f a n'
```

Stateful Computations (4)

Reading and incrementing the state:

```
sInc :: S Int

sInc = n \rightarrow (n, n + 1)
```

Numbering trees revisited

```
data Tree a = Leaf a | Tree a :^: Tree a
numberTree :: Tree a -> Tree Int
numberTree t = fst (ntAux t 0)
    where
        ntAux (Leaf ) =
            sInc 'sSeq' \n -> sReturn (Leaf n)
        ntAux (t1 :^: t2) =
            ntAux t1 'sSeq' \t1' ->
            ntAux t2 'sSeq' \t2' ->
            sReturn (t1':^: t2')
```

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- In particular, there is no longer any risk of "passing on" the wrong version of the state!

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- Both examples could be neatly structured by introducing identically structured abstractions that encapsulated the effects:

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- Both examples could be neatly structured by introducing identically structured abstractions that encapsulated the effects:
 - A type denoting computations
 - A combinator for computing a value without any effect
 - A combinator for sequencing computations
- In fact, both examples are instances of the general notion of a MONAD.

Monads in Functional Programming

A monad is represented by:

A type constructor

```
M :: * -> *
```

- **T** represents computations of a value of type **T**.
- A polymorphic function

```
return :: a -> M a
```

for lifting a value to a computation.

A polymorphic function

```
(>>=) :: M a -> (a -> M b) -> M b
```

for sequencing computations.

Exercise 2: join and fmap

Equivalently, the notion of a monad can be captured through the following functions:

```
return :: a -> M a
join :: (M (M a)) -> M a
fmap :: (a -> b) -> (M a -> M b)
```

join "flattens" a computation, fmap "lifts" a function to map computations to computations.

Define join and fmap in terms of >>= (and return), and >>= in terms of join and fmap.

Exercise 2: Solution

```
join :: M (M a) -> M a
join mm = mm >>= id

fmap :: (a -> b) -> M a -> M b
fmap f m = m >>= \x -> return (f x)

(>>=) :: M a -> (a -> M b) -> M b
m >>= f = join (fmap f m)
```

Monad laws

Additionally, some simple laws must be satisfied:

return
$$x>>=f=fx$$

$$m>>= \text{return}=m$$

$$(m>>=f)>>=g=m>>=(\lambda x \rightarrow fx>>=g)$$

l.e., return is the right and left identity for >>=,
and >>= is associative.

Exercise 3: The Identity Monad

The *Identity Monad* can be understood as representing *effect-free* computations:

```
type I a = a
```

- Provide suitable definitions of return and
 >>=.
- 2. Verify that the monad laws hold for your definitions.

Exercise 3: Solution

```
return :: a -> I a

return = id

(>>=) :: I a -> (a -> I b) -> I b

m >>= f = f m

-- or: (>>=) = flip ($)
```

Simple calculations verify the laws, e.g.:

Monads in Category Theory (1)

The notion of a monad originated in Category Theory. There are several equivalent definitions (Benton, Hughes, Moggi 2000):

Kleisli triple/triple in extension form: Most closely related to the >>= version:

A *Klesili triple* over a category \mathcal{C} is a triple $(T, \eta, \underline{\hspace{0.1cm}}^*)$, where $T: |\mathcal{C}| \to |\mathcal{C}|$, $\eta_A: A \to TA$ for $A \in |\mathcal{C}|$, $f^*: TA \to TB$ for $f: A \to TB$.

(Additionally, some laws must be satisfied.)

Monads in Category Theory (2)

Monad/triple in monoid form: More akin to the join/fmap version:

A *monad* over a category \mathcal{C} is a triple (T, η, μ) , where $T: \mathcal{C} \to \mathcal{C}$ is a functor, $\eta: \mathrm{id}_{\mathcal{C}} \dot{\to} T$ and $\mu: T^2 \dot{\to} T$ are natural transformations.

(Additionally, some commuting diagrams must be satisfied.)

Monads in Haskell (1)

In Haskell, the notion of a monad is captured by a *Type Class*:

```
class Monad m where
    return :: a -> m a
    (>>=) :: m a -> (a -> m b) -> m b
```

This allows the names of the common functions to be overloaded, and the sharing of derived definitions.

Monads in Haskell (2)

The Haskell monad class have two further methods with default instances:

```
(>>) :: m a -> m b -> m b
m >> k = m >>= \_ -> k

fail :: String -> m a
fail s = error s
```

The Maybe monad in Haskell

Exercise 4: A state monad in Haskell

Haskell 98 does not permit type synonyms to be instances of classes. Hence we have to define a new type:

```
newtype S a = S (Int -> (a, Int))
unS :: S a -> (Int -> (a, Int))
unS (S f) = f
```

Provide a Monad instance for S.

Exercise 4: Solution

```
instance Monad S where
  return a = S (\s -> (a, s))

m >>= f = S $ \s ->
  let (a, s') = unS m s
  in unS (f a) s'
```

Monad-specific operations (1)

To be useful, monads need to be equipped with additional operations specific to the effects in question. For example:

```
fail :: String -> Maybe a
fail s = Nothing

catch :: Maybe a -> Maybe a -> Maybe a
m1 'catch' m2 =
    case m1 of
    Just _ -> m1
    Nothing -> m2
```

Monad-specific operations (2)

Typical operations on a state monad:

```
set :: Int -> S ()
set a = S (\_ -> ((), a))

get :: S Int
get = S (\s -> (s, s))
```

Moreover, there is often a need to "run" a computation. E.g.:

```
runS :: S a -> a
runS m = fst (unS m 0)
```

The do-notation (1)

Haskell provides convenient syntax for programming with monads:

is syntactic sugar for

$$exp_1 >>= \a -> \\ exp_2 >>= \b -> \\ return $exp_3$$$

The do-notation (2)

Computations can be done solely for effect, ignoring the computed value:

```
do exp_1 exp_2 return exp_3
```

is syntactic sugar for

$$exp_1 >>= \setminus_ ->$$
 $exp_2 >>= \setminus_ ->$
return exp_3

The do-notation (3)

A let-construct is also provided:

is equivalent to

Numbering trees in do-notation

```
numberTree :: Tree a -> Tree Int
numberTree t = runS (ntAux t)
    where
        ntAux (Leaf _) = do
            n <- get
            set (n + 1)
            return (Leaf n)
        ntAux (t1 :^: t2) = do
            t1' <- ntAux t1
            t2' <- ntAux t2
            return (t1':^: t2')
```

Monadic utility functions

Some monad utilities, some from the Prelude, some from the module Monad:

Exercise 5: Monadic utilities

Define

```
when :: Monad m => Bool -> m () -> m ()
sequence :: Monad m => [m a] -> m [a]
mapM :: Monad m => (a -> m b) -> [a] -> m [b]
```

in terms of the basic monad functions.

Exercise 5: Solution (1)

Exercise 5: Solution (2)

The Haskell IO monad

In Haskell, IO is handled through the IO monad. IO is abstract! Conceptually:

```
newtype IO a = IO (World -> (a, World))
```

Some operations:

```
putChar :: Char -> IO ()
putStr :: String -> IO ()
putStrLn :: String -> IO ()
getChar :: IO Char
getLine :: IO String
getContents :: String
```

The ST Monad: "real" state

The ST monad (common Haskell extension) provides real, imperative state behind the scenes to allow efficient implementation of imperative algorithms:

```
data ST s a -- abstract
instance Monad (ST s)

newSTRef :: s ST a (STRef s a)
readSTRef :: STRef s a -> ST s a
writeSTRef :: STRef s a -> a -> ST s ()
```

Nondeterminism: The list monad

```
instance Monad [] where
  return a = [a]
  m >>= f = concat (map f m)
  fail s = []
```

Example:

```
do
    x <- [1, 2]
    y <- ['a', 'b']
    return (x,y)</pre>
```

Result: [(1,'a'),(1,'b'),(2,'a'),(2,'b')]

Environments: The reader monad

```
instance Monad ((->) e) where
    return a = const a
    m >>= f = \e -> f (m e) e

getEnv :: ((->) e) e
getEnv = id
```

Cf. the combinators S, K, and I!

```
I :: a -> a
K :: a -> b -> a
S :: (a -> b -> c) -> (a -> b) -> a -> c
(>>=) :: (a -> b) -> (b -> a -> c) -> c
```

The continuation monad (1)

In Continuation-Passing style (CPS), a continuation representing the "rest of the computation" is passed to each computation.

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- A continuation is a function that when applied to the result of the current subcomputation, returns the final result of the overall computation.

The continuation monad (1)

- In Continuation-Passing style (CPS), a continuation representing the "rest of the computation" is passed to each computation.
- A continuation is a function that when applied to the result of the current subcomputation, returns the final result of the overall computation.
- Making continuations explicitly available makes it possible to implement control-flow effects, like jumps.

The continuation monad (2)

```
data CPS r a = CPS ((a -> r) -> r)
unCPS :: CPS r a -> ((a -> r) -> r)
unCPS (CPS f) = f
instance Monad (CPS r) where
    return a = CPS (\k -> k a)
    m >>= f = CPS $ \k ->
        unCPS m (\a -> unCPS (f a) k)
```

The continuation monad (3)

```
callCC :: ((a -> CPS r b) -> CPS r a) -> CPS r a
callCC f = CPS $ \k ->
    unCPS (f (\a -> CPS (\_ -> k a))) k

runCPS :: CPS a a -> a
runCPS m = unCPS m id
```

Exercise 6: Control transfer

Compute f 10 6, f 10 10, and f 10 9.

A Concurrency Monad (1)

A Thread represents a process: a stream of primitive *atomic* operations:

```
data Thread = Print Char Thread
| Fork Thread Thread
| End
```

A Concurrency Monad (1)

A Thread represents a process: a stream of primitive *atomic* operations:

```
data Thread = Print Char Thread
| Fork Thread Thread
| End
```

Note that a Thread represents the *entire rest* of a computation.

A Concurrency Monad (2)

Introduce a monad representing "interleavable computations". At this stage, this amounts to little more than a convenient way to construct threads by sequential composition.

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Introduce a monad representing "interleavable computations". At this stage, this amounts to little more than a convenient way to construct threads by sequential composition.

How can Threads be composed sequentially? The only way is to parameterize thread prefixes on the rest of the Thread. This leads directly to *continuations*.

A Concurrency Monad (3)

```
newtype CM a = CM ((a \rightarrow Thread) \rightarrow Thread)
fromCM :: CM a -> ((a -> Thread) -> Thread)
fromCM (CM x) = x
thread :: CM a -> Thread
thread m = fromCM m (const End)
instance Monad CM where
    return x = CM (\langle k - \rangle k x)
    m >>= f = CM $ \k ->
          fromCM m (\x -> fromCM (f x) k)
```

A Concurrency Monad (4)

Atomic operations:

```
cPrint :: Char -> CM ()
cPrint c = CM (\k -> Print c (k ()))

cFork :: CM a -> CM ()
cFork m = CM (\k -> Fork (thread m) (k ()))

cEnd :: CM a
cEnd = CM (\_ -> End)
```

A Concurrency Monad (5)

Running a computation:

```
type Output = [Char]
type ThreadQueue = [Thread]
type State = (Output, ThreadQueue)
runCM :: CM a -> Output
runCM m = runHlp ("", []) (thread m)
    where
        runHlp s t =
            case dispatch s t of
                Left (s', t) -> runHlp s' t
                Right o -> o
```

A Concurrency Monad (6)

Dispatch on the operation of the currently running Thread. Then call the scheduler.

A Concurrency Monad (7)

Selects next Thread to run, if any.

Example: Concurrent processes

```
main = print (runCM p3)
```

Result: aAbc1Bd2e3f4g5h6i7j890 (As it stands, the output is only made available after *all* threads have terminated.)

Alternative version

Incremental output:

```
runCM :: CM a -> Output
runCM m = dispatch [] (thread m)
dispatch :: ThreadQueue -> Thread -> Output
dispatch rq (Print c t) = c : schedule (rq ++ [t
dispatch rq (Fork t1 t2) = schedule (rq ++ [t1, t]
dispatch rq End
                    = schedule rq
schedule :: ThreadQueue -> Output
schedule [] = []
schedule (t:ts) = dispatch ts t
```

Example: Concurrent processes 2

```
main = print (runCM p3)
```

Result: aAbc1Bd*** Exception: Prelude.undefined

Reading

- Nomaware. *All About Monads.*http://www.nomaware.com/monads
- Nick Benton, John Hughes, Eugenio Moggi. Monads and Effects. In *International Summer School on Applied Semantics 2000*, Caminha, Portugal, 2000.
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- Philip Wadler. The Essence of Functional Programming. *Proceedings of the 19th ACM Symposium on Principles of Programming Languages (POPL'92)*, 1992.