MGS 2007: ADV Lecture 3

Arrows and Functional Reactive Programming

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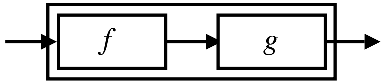
Arrows (1)

System descriptions in the form of block diagrams are very common. Blocks have inputs and outputs and can be combined into larger blocks. For example, serial composition:

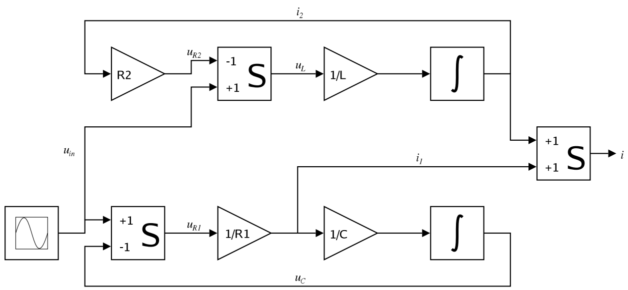


A *combinator* can be defined that captures this idea:

```
(>>>) :: B a b -> B b c -> B a c
```


Arrows (2)

But systems can be complex:



How many and what combinators do we need to be able to describe arbitrary systems?

Arrows (3)

John Hughes' ***arrow*** framework:

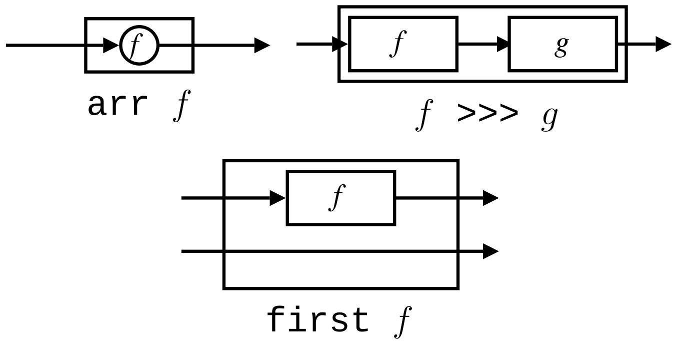
- Abstract data type interface for function-like types (or "blocks", if you prefer).
- Particularly suitable for types representing process-like computations.
- Related to ***monads***, since arrows are computations, but more general.
- Provides a minimal set of "wiring" combinators.

What is an arrow? (1)

- A ***type constructor*** a of arity two.
- Three operators:
  - ***lifting***:
    `arr :: (b->c) -> a b c`
  - ***composition***:
    `(>>>) :: a b c -> a c d -> a b d`
  - ***widening***:
    `first :: a b c -> a (b,d) (c,d)`
- A set of ***algebraic laws*** that must hold.

What is an arrow? (2)

These diagrams convey the general idea:



The `Arrow` class

In Haskell, a ***type class*** is used to capture these ideas (except for the laws):

```
class Arrow a where
    arr   :: (b -> c) -> a b c
    (>>>) :: a b c -> a c d -> a b d
    first :: a b c -> a (b,d) (c,d)
```


Functions are arrows (1)

Functions are a simple example of arrows, with `(->)` as the arrow type constructor.

Exercise 1: Suggest suitable definitions of

- `arr`
- `(>>>)`
- `first`

for this case!

(We have not looked at what the laws are yet, but they are “natural”.)

Functions are arrows (2)

Solution:

- `arr = id`
  To see this, recall

  ```
  id :: t -> t
  arr :: (b->c) -> a b c
  ```

  Instantiate with

  ```
  a = (->)
  t = b->c = (->) b c
  ```


Functions are arrows (3)

- `f >>> g = \a -> g (f a)`   ***or***
- `f >>> g = g . f`   ***or even***
- `(>>>) = flip (.)`
- `first f = \(b,d) -> (f b,d)`

Functions are arrows (4)

`Arrow` instance declaration for functions:

```
instance Arrow (->) where
    arr     = id
    (>>>)   = flip (.)
    first f = \(b,d) -> (f b,d)
```

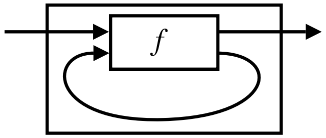

Some arrow laws

```
(f >>> g) >>> h = f >>> (g >>> h)
  arr (f >>> g) = arr f >>> arr g
   arr id >>> f = f
              f = f >>> arr id
  first (arr f) = arr (first f)
first (f >>> g) = first f >>> first g
```

Exercise 2: Draw diagrams illustrating the first and last law!

The `loop` combinator (1)

Another important operator is `loop`: a fixed-point operator used to express recursive arrows or ***feedback***:



`loop` f

The `loop` combinator (2)

Not all arrow instances support `loop`. It is thus a method of a separate class:

```
class Arrow a => ArrowLoop a where
    loop :: a (b, d) (c, d) -> a b c
```

Remarkably, the four combinators `arr`, `>>>`, `first`, and `loop` are sufficient to express any conceivable wiring!

Some more arrow combinators (1)

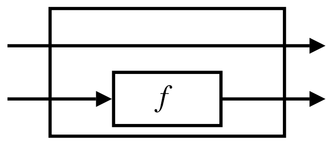
```
second :: Arrow a =>
    a b c -> a (d,b) (d,c)

(***) :: Arrow a =>
    a b c -> a d e -> a (b,d) (c,e)

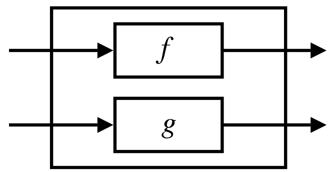
(&&&) :: Arrow a =>
    a b c -> a b d -> a b (c,d)
```


Some more arrow combinators (2)

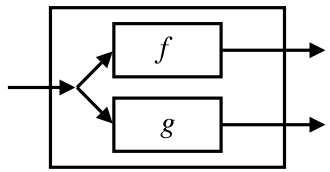
As diagrams:



`second` f



f `***` g



f `&&&` g

Some more arrow combinators (3)

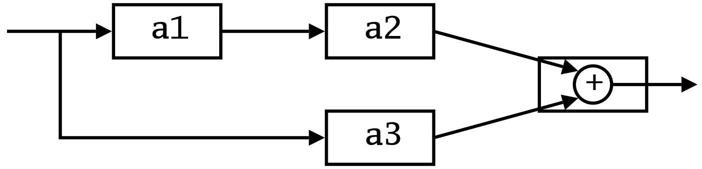
```
second :: Arrow a => a b c -> a (d,b) (d,c)
second f = arr swap >>> first f >>> arr swap
swap (x,y) = (y,x)

(***) :: Arrow a =>
    a b c -> a d e -> a (b,d) (c,e)
f *** g = first f >>> second g

(&&&) :: Arrow a => a b c -> a b d -> a b (c,d)
f &&& g = arr (\x->(x,x)) >>> (f *** g)
```


Exercise 3

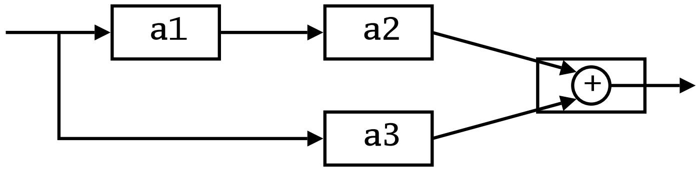
Describe the following circuit using arrow combinators:




```
a1, a2, a3 :: A Double Double
```


Exercise 3: One solution

Exercise 3: Describe the following circuit using arrow combinators:

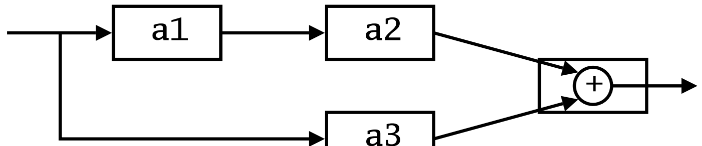



```
a1, a2, a3 :: A Double Double

circuit_v1 :: A Double Double
circuit_v1 = (a1 &&& arr id)
             >>> (a2 *** a3)
             >>> arr (uncurry (+))
```


Exercise 3: Another solution

Exercise 3: Describe the following circuit:




```
a1, a2, a3 :: A Double Double

circuit_v2 :: A Double Double
circuit_v2 = arr (\x -> (x,x))
             >>> first a1
             >>> (a2 *** a3)
             >>> arr (uncurry (+))
```

Note on the definition of (***) (1)

Are the following two definitions of (***) equivalent?

- `f *** g = first f >>> second g`
- `f *** g = second g >>> first f`

No, in general

first f >>> second g $\neq$ second g >>> first f

since the ***order*** of the two possibly effectful computations f and g are different.

Note on the definition of (***) (2)

Similarly

$(f$ *** $g)$ >>> $(h$ *** $k)$ $\neq$ $(f$ >>> $h)$ *** $(g$ >>> $k)$

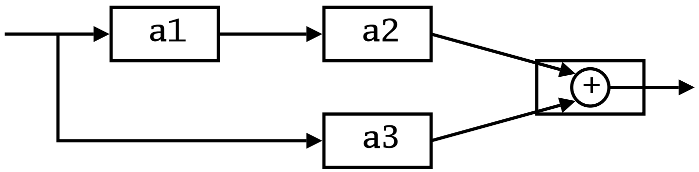
since the order of f and g differs.

However, the following ***is*** true (an additional law):

first f >>> second (arr g)
$=$ second (arr g) >>> first f

However, for certain ***arrow instances*** equalites like the ones above do hold.

Yet an attempt at exercise 3




```
circuit_v3 :: A Double Double
circuit_v3 = (a1 &&& a3)
             >>> first a2
             >>> arr (uncurry (+))
```

Exercise 4: Are `circuit_v1`, `circuit_v2`, and `circuit_v3` all equivalent?

The arrow do notation (1)

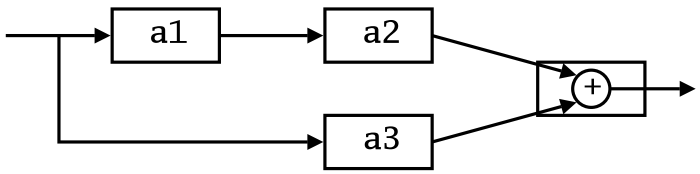
Ross Paterson's do-notation for arrows supports ***pointed*** arrow programming. Only ***syntactic sugar***.

proc pat -> do [rec]
  pat_1 <- $sfexp_1$ -< exp_1
  pat_2 <- $sfexp_2$ -< exp_2
  ...
  pat_n <- $sfexp_n$ -< exp_n
  returnA -< exp

Also: let pat = exp $\equiv$ pat <- arr id -< exp

The arrow do notation (2)

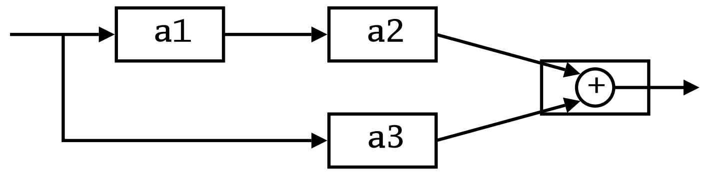
Let us redo exercise 3 using this notation:




```
circuit_v4 :: A Double Double
circuit_v4 = proc x -> do
    y1 <- a1 -< x
    y2 <- a2 -< y1
    y3 <- a3 -< x
    returnA -< y2 + y3
```


The arrow do notation (3)

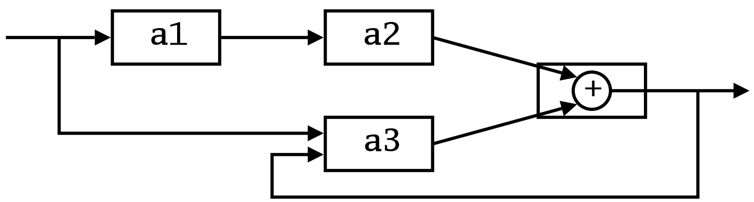
We can also mix and match:




```
circuit_v5 :: A Double Double
circuit_v5 = proc x -> do
    y2 <- a2 <<< a1 -< x
    y3 <- a3        -< x
    returnA -< y2 + y3
```


The arrow do notation (4)

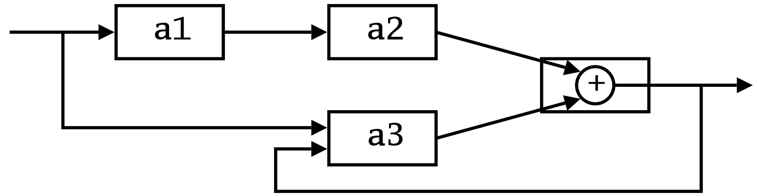
Recursive networks: do-notation:




```
a1, a2 :: A Double Double
a3 :: A (Double,Double) Double
```

Exercise 5: Describe this using only the arrow combinators.

The arrow do notation (5)




```
circuit = proc x -> do
    rec
        y1 <- a1 -< x
        y2 <- a2 -< y1
        y3 <- a3 -< (x, y)
        let y = y2 + y3
    returnA -< y
```

Arrows and Monads (1)

Arrows generalize monads: for every monad type there is an arrow, the ***Kleisli category*** for the monad:

```
newtype Kleisli m a b = K (a -> m b)

instance Monad m => Arrow (Kleisli m) where
    arr f       = K (\b -> return (f b))
    K f >>> K g = K (\b -> f b >>= g)
```


Arrows and Monads (2)

But not every arrow is a monad. However, arrows that support an additional `apply` operation ***are*** effectively monads:

```
apply :: Arrow a => a (a b c, b) c
```

Exercise 6: Verify that

```
newtype M b = M (A () b)
```

is a monad if A is an arrow supporting `apply`; i.e., define `return` and `bind` in terms of the arrow operations (and verify that the monad laws hold).

An application: FRP

Functional Reactive Programming (FRP):

- Paradigm for ***reactive programming*** in a functional setting:
  - Input arrives ***incrementally*** while system is running.
  - Output is generated in response to input in an interleaved and ***timely*** fashion.
- Originated from Functional Reactive Animation (Fran) (Elliott & Hudak).
- Has evolved in a number of directions and into different concrete implementations.

Yampa

Yampa:

- The most recent Yale FRP implementation.
- ***Embedding*** in Haskell (a Haskell library).
- ***Arrows*** used as the basic structuring framework.
- ***Continuous time***.
- Discrete-time signals modelled by continuous-time signals and an option type.
- Advanced ***switching constructs*** allows for highly dynamic system structure.

Related languages

FRP related to:

- Synchronous languages, like Esterel, Lucid Synchrone.
- Modeling languages, like Simulink.

Distinguishing features of FRP:

- First class reactive components.
- Allows highly dynamic system structure.
- Supports hybrid (mixed continuous and discrete) systems.

FRP applications

Some domains where FRP has been used:

- Graphical Animation (Fran: Elliott, Hudak)
- Robotics (Frob: Peterson, Hager, Hudak, Elliott, Pembeci, Nilsson)
- Vision (FVision: Peterson, Hudak, Reid, Hager)
- GUIs (Fruit: Courtney)
- Hybrid modeling (Nilsson, Hudak, Peterson)

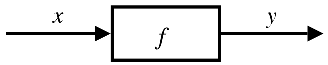
Yampa?

Yampa is a river with long calmly flowing sections and abrupt whitewater transitions in between.

A good metaphor for hybrid systems!

Signal functions

Key concept: ***functions on signals***.



Intuition:

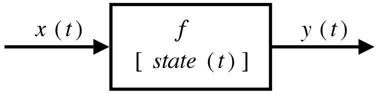
Signal $\alpha \approx$ Time$\to\alpha$
x :: Signal T1
y :: Signal T2
SF α β $\approx$ Signal α $\to$Signal β
f :: SF T1 T2

Additionally: ***causality*** requirement.

Signal functions and state

Alternative view:

Signal functions can encapsulate ***state***.



$state(t)$ summarizes input history $x(t')$, $t' \in [0, t]$.

Functions on signals are either:

- ***Stateful***: $y(t)$ depends on $x(t)$ and $state(t)$
- ***Stateless***: $y(t)$ depends only on $x(t)$

Yampa and Arrows

SF is an arrow. Signal function instances of core combinators:

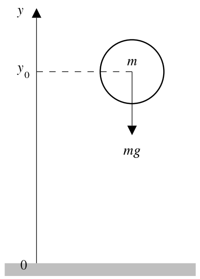
- `arr :: (a -> b) -> SF a b`
- `>>> :: SF a b -> SF b c -> SF a c`
- `first :: SF a b -> SF (a,c) (b,c)`
- `loop :: SF (a,c) (b,c) -> SF a b`

But `apply` has no useful meaning. Hence SF is ***not*** a monad.

Some further basic signal functions

- ```
  identity :: SF a a
  identity = arr id
  ```
- ```
  constant :: b -> SF a b
  constant b = arr (const b)
  ```
- ```
  integral :: VectorSpace a s=>SF a a
  ```
- ```
  time :: SF a Time
  time = constant 1.0 >>> integral
  ```
- ```
  (^<<) :: (b->c) -> SF a b -> SF a c
  f (^<<) sf = sf >>> arr f
  ```


Example: A bouncing ball



$$y = y_0 + \int v \, \mathrm{d}t$$

$$v = v_0 + \int -9.81$$

On impact:

$$v = -v(t-)$$

(fully elastic collision)
  ```

Part of a model of the bouncing ball

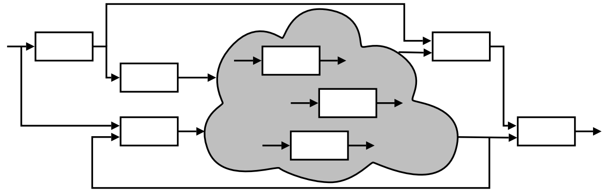
Free-falling ball:

```
type Pos = Double
type Vel = Double

fallingBall ::
    Pos -> Vel -> SF () (Pos, Vel)
fallingBall y0 v0 = proc () -> do
    v <- (v0 +) ˆ<< integral -< -9.81
    y <- (y0 +) ˆ<< integral -< v
    returnA -< (y, v)
```

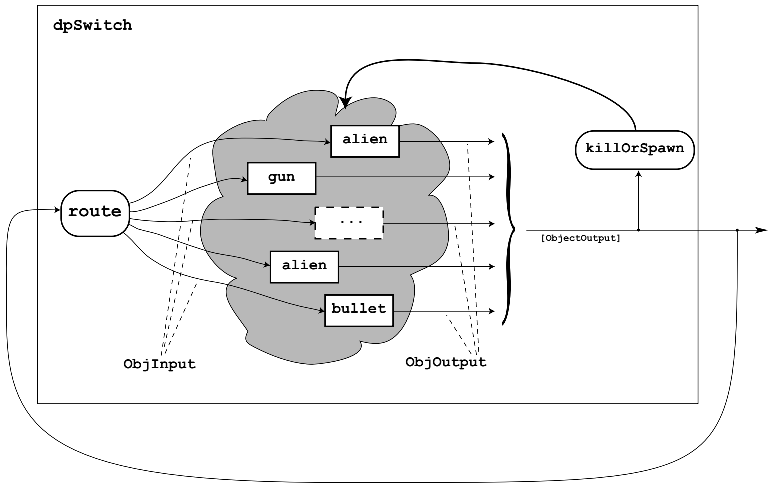

Dynamic system structure

Switching allows the structure of the system to evolve over time:



Example: Space Invaders

Overall game structure



Reading

- John Hughes. Generalising monads to arrows. *Science of Computer Programming*, 37:67–111, May 2000
- John Hughes. Programming with arrows. In *Advanced Functional Programming*, 2004. To be published by Springer Verlag.
- Henrik Nilsson, Antony Courtney, and John Peterson. Functional reactive programming, continued. In *Proceedings of the 2002 Haskell Workshop*, pp. 51–64, October 2002.

Reading (2)

- Paul Hudak, Antony Courtney, Henrik Nilsson, and John Peterson. Arrows, robots, and functional reactive programming. In *Advanced Functional Programming*, 2002. LNCS 2638, pp. 159–187.
- Antony Courtney, Henrik Nilsson, and John Peterson. The Yampa Arcade. In *Proceedings of the 2003 ACM SIGPLAN Haskell Workshop (Haskell'03)*, Uppsala, Sweden, 2003, pp 7–18.