# Declarative Game Programming PPDP 2014 Distilled Tutorial

Henrik Nilsson and Ivan Perez

School of Computer Science University of Nottingham, UK

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- Many historical and pragmatical reasons
- More principled objection:

With state and effects being pervasive in video games, is declarative programming a good fit?

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(We focus on the core game logic in the following: there will often be code around the "edges" (e.g., rendering, interfacing to input devices) that may not be very declarative, at least not in the sense above.)

You too can program games declaratively ....

You too can program games declaratively ... today!



#### This Tutorial

We will implement a Breakout-like game using:

- Functional Reactive Programming (FRP): a paradigm for describing time-varying entities
- Simple DirectMedia Layer (SDL) for rendering etc.

Focus on FRP as that is what we need for the game logic. We will use Yampa:

http://hackage.haskell.org/package/Yampa-0.9.6

What is Functional Reactive Programming (FRP)?

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- Has evolved in a number of directions and into different concrete implementations.
- Often realised as an Embedded
   Domain-Specific Language (EDSL).

#### **FRP Applications**

Some domains where FRP or FRP-inspired approaches have been used:

- Graphical Animation
- Robotics
- Vision
- Sound synthesis
- GUIS
- Virtual Reality Environments
- Games

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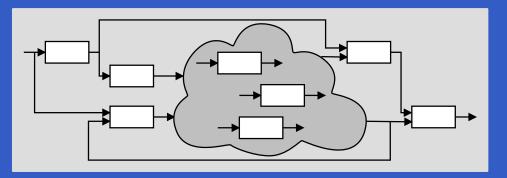
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- First class temporal abstractions
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Good fit for typical video games (but not everything labelled "FRP" supports them all).

FRP implemenattion embedded in Haskell

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- Key concepts:
  - Signals: time-varying values
  - Signal Functions: functions on signals
  - Switching between signal functions

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- Key concepts:
  - Signals: time-varying values
  - Signal Functions: functions on signals
  - Switching between signal functions
- Programming model:



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



A good metaphor for hybrid systems!





Intuition:



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 $Time \approx \mathbb{R}$ 



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 $Time \approx \mathbb{R}$  $Signal\ a \approx Time \rightarrow a$ 

x :: Signal T1

y :: Signal T2

## **Signal Functions**



#### Intuition:

```
Time \approx \mathbb{R}
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x :: Signal\ T1
y :: Signal\ T2
SF\ a\ b \approx Signal\ a \rightarrow Signal\ b
f :: SF\ T1\ T2
```

## **Signal Functions**



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```
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x :: Signal\ T1
y :: Signal\ T2
SF\ a\ b \approx Signal\ a \rightarrow Signal\ b
f :: SF\ T1\ T2
```

Additionally, *causality* required: output at time t must be determined by input on interval [0, t].

# Signal Functions and State

Alternative view:

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Signal functions can encapsulate *state*.

$$\begin{array}{c|c} x(t) & f & y(t) \\ \hline [state(t)] & \end{array}$$

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

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

From this perspective, signal functions are:

- stateful if y(t) depends on x(t) and state(t)
- stateless if y(t) depends only on x(t)

 $identity :: SF \ a \ a$ 

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 $constant :: b \rightarrow SF \ a \ b$ 

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 $constant :: b \rightarrow SF \ a \ b$ 

 $iPre :: a \rightarrow SF \ a \ a$ 

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 $\overline{constant :: b \rightarrow SF} \ a \ b$ 

 $iPre :: a \rightarrow SF \ a \ a$ 

 $integral :: VectorSpace \ a \ s \Rightarrow SF \ a \ a$ 

$$y(t) = \int_{0}^{t} x(\tau) \, \mathrm{d}\tau$$

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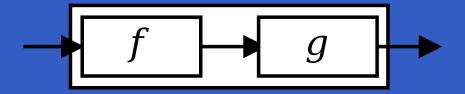
$$y(t) = \int_{0}^{t} x(\tau) \, \mathrm{d}\tau$$

Which are stateless and which are stateful?

In Yampa, systems are described by combining signal functions (forming new signal functions).

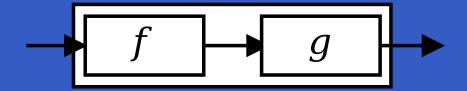
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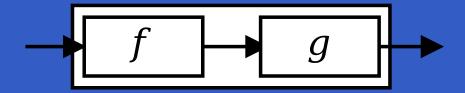


A combinator that captures this idea:

$$(\gg):: SF \ a \ b \rightarrow SF \ b \ c \rightarrow SF \ a \ c$$

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$$(\gg):: SF \ a \ b \rightarrow SF \ b \ c \rightarrow SF \ a \ c$$

Signal functions are the primary notion; signals a secondary one, only existing indirectly.

#### Time

Quick exercise: Define time!

 $time :: SF \ a \ Time$ 

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 $time = constant \ 1.0 \gg integral$ 

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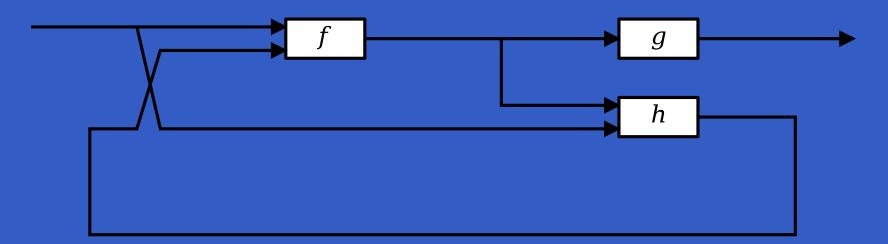
 $time :: SF \ a \ Time$ 

 $time = constant \ 1.0 \gg integral$ 

Note: there is **no** built-in notion of global time in Yampa: time is always **local**, measured from when a signal function started.

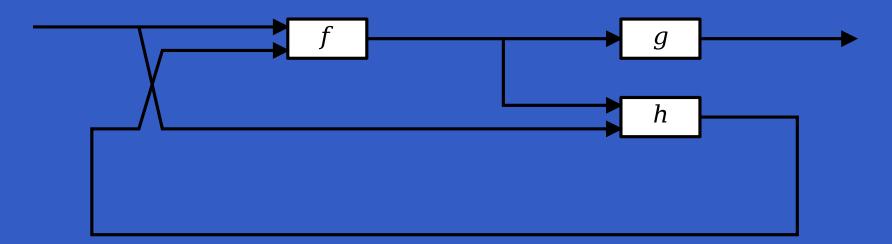
# **Systems**

What about larger networks? How many combinators are needed?



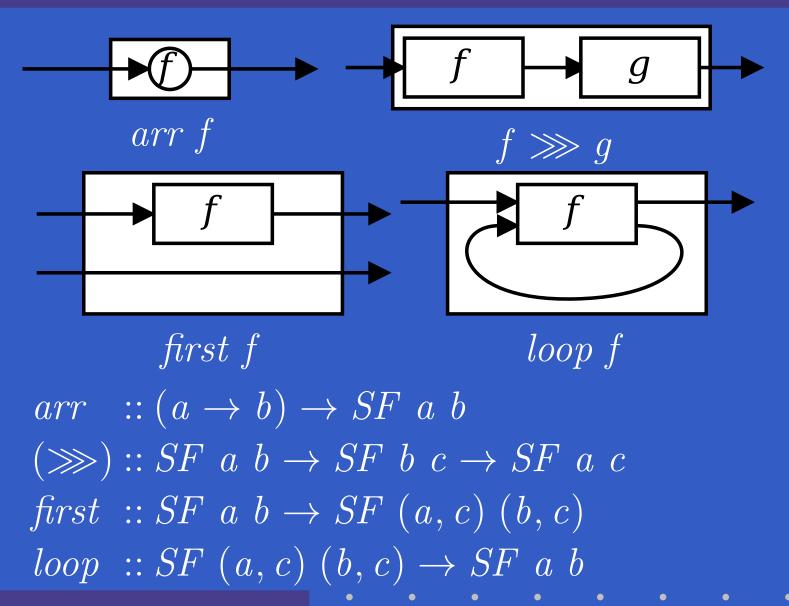
# **Systems**

What about larger networks?
How many combinators are needed?



John Hughes's *Arrow* framework provides a good answer!

#### The Arrow framework (1)



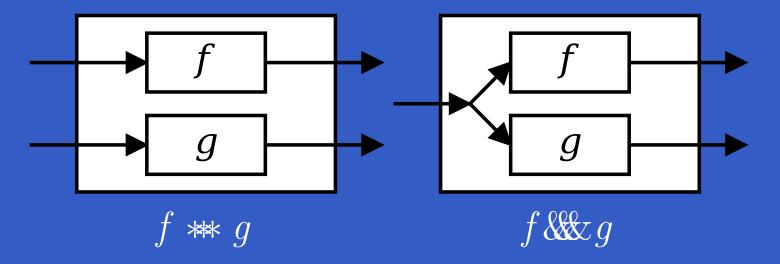
#### The Arrow framework (2)

#### Examples:

```
identity :: SF a a identity = arr id constant :: b \rightarrow SF a b constant b = arr (const b)
^{\sim} \ll :: (b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow SF \ a \ b \rightarrow SF \ a \ c
f^{\sim} \ll sf = sf \gg arr f
```

#### The Arrow framework (2)

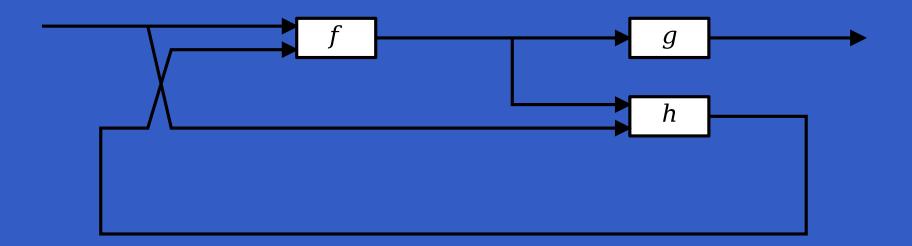
#### Some derived combinators:



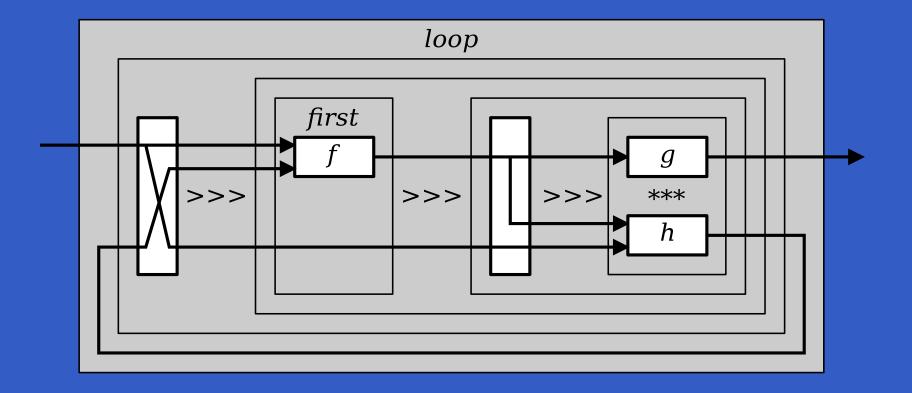
$$(***) :: SF \ a \ b \rightarrow SF \ c \ d \rightarrow SF \ (a,c) \ (b,d)$$

$$(\&\&\&) :: SF \ a \ b \to SF \ a \ c \to SF \ a \ (b,c)$$

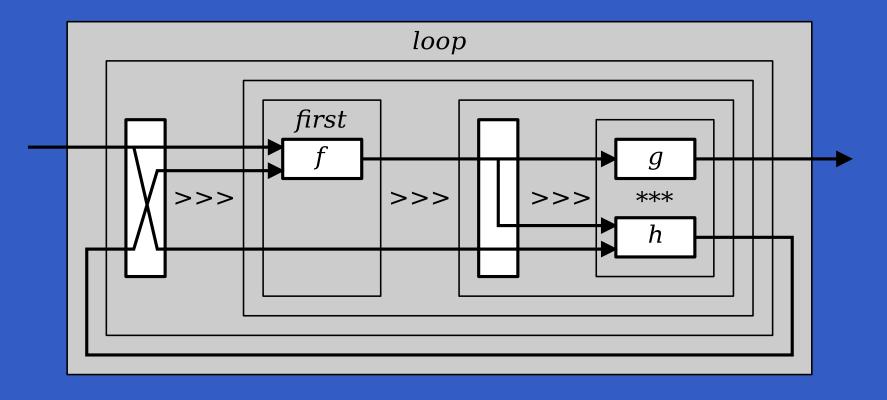
# Constructing a network



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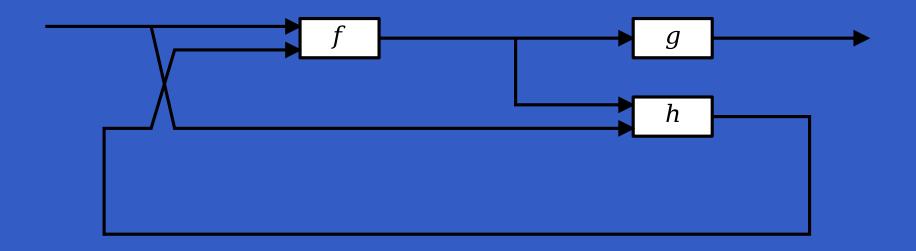


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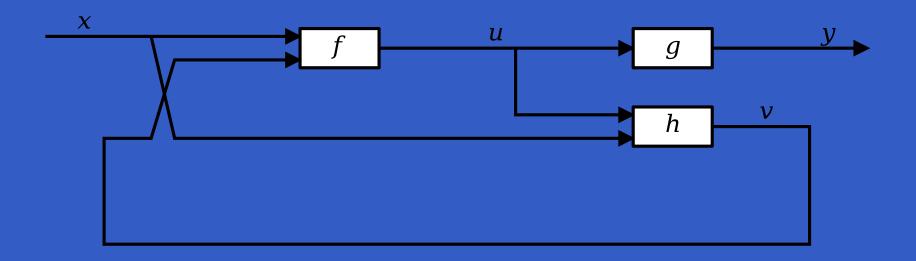


loop 
$$(arr (\lambda(x, y) \to ((x, y), x))$$
  
 $\gg (first f)$   
 $\gg (arr (\lambda(x, y) \to (x, (x, y))) \gg (g * h))))$ 

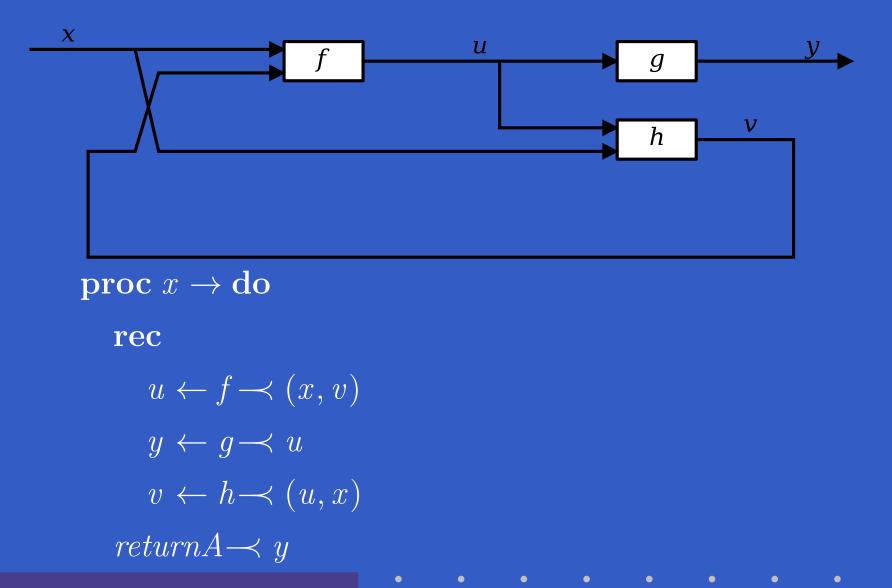
#### **Arrow notation**



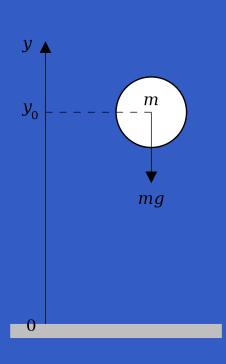
#### **Arrow notation**



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# A Bouncing Ball



$$y = y_0 + \int v \, dt$$

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

On impact:

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

(fully elastic collision)

# Modelling the Bouncing Ball: Part 1

#### Free-falling ball:

```
type Pos = Double

type Vel = Double

fallingBall :: Pos \rightarrow Vel \rightarrow SF \ () \ (Pos, Vel)

fallingBall \ y0 \ v0 = \mathbf{proc} \ () \rightarrow \mathbf{do}

v \leftarrow (v0+)^{\sim} \leqslant integral \prec -9.81

y \leftarrow (y0+)^{\sim} \leqslant integral \prec v

returnA \prec (y, v)
```

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Yampa models discrete-time signals by lifting the *co-domain* of signals using an option-type:

 $\mathbf{data} \; Event \; a = NoEvent \mid Event \; a$ 

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 $\mathbf{data} \; Event \; a = NoEvent \mid Event \; a$ 

 $Discrete-time\ signal = Signal\ (Event\ \alpha).$ 

#### Some Event Functions and Sources

```
tag :: Event \ a \rightarrow b \rightarrow Event \ b
never :: SF \ a \ (Event \ b)
now :: b \rightarrow SF \ a \ (Event \ b)
after:: Time \rightarrow b \rightarrow SF \ a \ (Event \ b)
repeatedly :: Time \rightarrow b \rightarrow SF \ a \ (Event \ b)
edge :: SF \ Bool \ (Event \ ())
notYet :: SF (Event a) (Event a)
once :: SF (Event \ a) (Event \ a)
```

# **Modelling the Bouncing Ball: Part 2**

Detecting when the ball goes through the floor:

```
fallingBall' :: \\ Pos \rightarrow Vel \rightarrow SF \ () \ ((Pos, Vel), Event \ (Pos, Vel)) \\ fallingBall' \ y0 \ v0 = \mathbf{proc} \ () \rightarrow \mathbf{do} \\ yv@(y,\_) \leftarrow fallingBall \ y0 \ v0 \longrightarrow () \\ hit \qquad \leftarrow edge \qquad \qquad \longrightarrow y \leqslant 0 \\ returnA \longrightarrow (yv, hit \ 'tag' \ yv)
```

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  - This creates a "running" signal function instance.
  - The new signal function instance often replaces the previously running instance.

Switchers thus allow systems with *varying* structure to be described.

#### The Basic Switch

#### Idea:

- Allows one signal function to be replaced by another.
- Switching takes place on the first occurrence of the switching event source.

#### switch::

$$SF \ a \ (b, Event \ c)$$
 $\rightarrow \ (c \rightarrow SF \ a \ b)$ 
 $\rightarrow SF \ a \ b$ 

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#### switch::

Initial SF with event source

$$SF \ a \ (b, Event \ c)$$

$$\rightarrow (c \rightarrow SF \ a \ b)$$

$$\rightarrow SF \ a \ b$$

#### The Basic Switch

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- Allows one signal function to be replaced by another.
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#### switch::

Function yielding SF to switch into

$$SF \ a \ (b, Event \ c)$$

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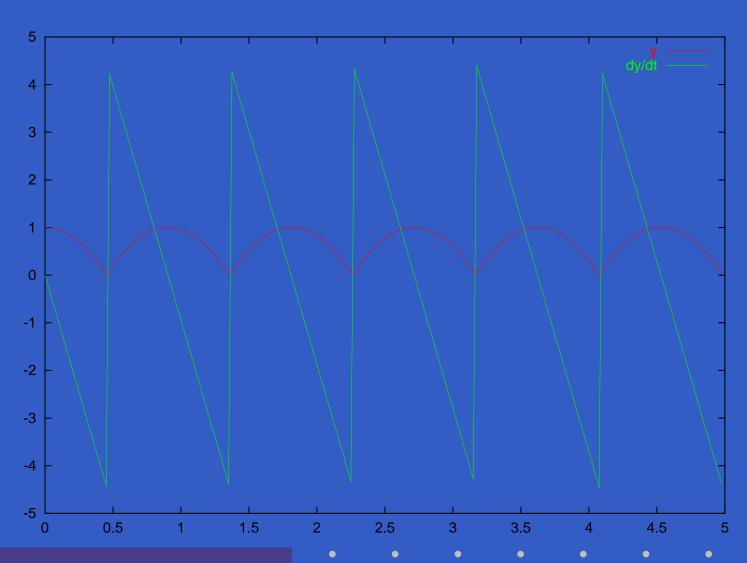
$$\rightarrow SF \ a \ b$$

# Modelling the Bouncing Ball: Part 3

#### Making the ball bounce:

```
bouncingBall :: Pos \rightarrow SF () (Pos, Vel)
bouncingBall y0 = bbAux \ y0 \ 0.0
where
bbAux \ y0 \ v0 =
switch \ (fallingBall' \ y0 \ v0) \ \$ \lambda(y, v) \rightarrow
bbAux \ y \ (-v)
```

# Simulation of the Bouncing Ball



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Yampa does provide a derived version of integral capturing the basic idea:

```
impulseIntegral ::
VectorSpace \ a \ k \Rightarrow
SF \ (a, Event \ a) \ a
```

#### The Decoupled Switch

```
dSwitch :: \\ SF \ a \ (b, Event \ c) \\ \rightarrow (c \rightarrow SF \ a \ b) \\ \rightarrow SF \ a \ b
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# $dSwitch :: \\ SF \ a \ (b, Event \ c) \\ \rightarrow (c \rightarrow SF \ a \ b) \\ \rightarrow SF \ a \ b$

Output at the point of switch is taken from the old subordinate signal function, **not** the new residual signal function.

#### The Decoupled Switch

```
dSwitch :: \\ SF \ a \ (b, Event \ c) \\ \rightarrow (c \rightarrow SF \ a \ b) \\ \rightarrow SF \ a \ b
```

- Output at the point of switch is taken from the old subordinate signal function, **not** the new residual signal function.
- Output at the current point in time thus independent of whether or not the switching event occurs at that point. Hence decoupled. Useful e.g. in some feedback scenarios.

```
rSwitch, drSwitch :: SF \ a \ b \rightarrow SF \ (a, Event \ (SF \ a \ b)) \ b
```

```
rSwitch, drSwitch ::
SF \ a \ b \rightarrow SF \ (a, Event \ (SF \ a \ b)) \ b
kSwitch, dkSwitch ::
SF \ a \ b \rightarrow SF \ (a, b) \ (Event \ c)
\rightarrow (SF \ a \ b \rightarrow c \rightarrow SF \ a \ b) \rightarrow SF \ a \ b
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pSwitch, dpSwitch, rpSwitch, drpSwitch :: ...
```

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SF \ a \ b \rightarrow SF \ (a, Event \ (SF \ a \ b)) \ b
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\rightarrow (SF \ a \ b \rightarrow c \rightarrow SF \ a \ b) \rightarrow SF \ a \ b
pSwitch, dpSwitch, rpSwitch, drpSwitch :: ...
```

However, they can all be defined in terms of switch or dSwitch and a notion of ageing signal functions:

$$age :: SF \ a \ b \rightarrow SF \ a \ (b, SF \ a \ b)$$

## Game Objects (1)

#### Observable aspects of game entities:

```
data \ Object = Object 
  objectName :: ObjectName,
  objectKind :: ObjectKind,
  objectPos :: Pos2D,
  objectVel :: Vel2D,
  objectAcc :: Acc2D,
  objectDead :: Bool,
  objectHit :: Bool,
```

# Game Objects (2)

# Game Objects (3)

```
type ObjectSF = SF \ ObjectInput \ ObjectOutput
data \ ObjectInput = ObjectInput  {
  userInput :: Controller,
  collisions :: [Collision],
  knownObjects :: [Object]
\mathbf{data}\ ObjectOutput = ObjectOutput\ \{
  outputObject :: Object,
  harakiri :: Event ()
```

Note that  $\lceil Object \rceil$  appears in the input type.

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- This allows each game object to observe all live game objects.
- Similarly, [Collision] allows interactions between game objects to be observed.
- Typically achieved through delayed feedback to ensure the feedback is well-defined:

$$loopPre :: c \rightarrow SF \ (a, c) \ (b, c) \rightarrow SF \ a \ b$$
 $loopPre \ c\_init \ sf =$ 
 $loop \ (second \ (iPre \ c\_init) \ggg sf)$ 

#### Paddle, Take 1

```
objPaddle :: ObjectSF
objPaddle = \mathbf{proc} \ (ObjectInput \ ci \ cs \ os) \rightarrow \mathbf{do}
  let name = "paddle"
  let isHit = inCollision name cs
  \mathbf{let} \ p = refPosPaddle \ ci
  v \leftarrow derivative \rightarrow p
  returnA \rightarrow livingObject \$ Object \{
                                     objectName = name,
                                     objectPos = p,
                                     objectVel = v,
```

#### Paddle, Take 2

```
objPaddle :: ObjectSF
objPaddle = \mathbf{proc} \ (ObjectInput \ ci \ cs \ os) \rightarrow \mathbf{do}
  let name = "paddle"
  let isHit = inCollision name cs
  rec
     let v = limitNorm (20.0 * (refPosPaddle ci
                                          (\hat{p})
                             maxVNorm
     p \leftarrow (initPosPaddle + ) \ll integral \prec v
  returnA \rightarrow livingObject \$ Object \{ \dots \}
```

#### Ball, Take 1

```
objBall :: ObjectSF
objBall =
   switch\ followPaddleDetectLaunch\ \$\ \lambda p \rightarrow
   objBall
followPaddleDetectLaunch = \mathbf{proc} \ oi \rightarrow \mathbf{do}
   o \leftarrow followPaddle \prec oi
   click \leftarrow edge
                           \prec controllerClick
                                      (userInput oi)
   returnA \rightarrow (o, click 'tag' (objectPos))
                                      (outputObject o)))
```

#### Ball, Take 2

```
objBall :: ObjectSF
objBall =
   switch\ followPaddleDetectLaunch\ \$\ \lambda p \rightarrow
   switch (free Ball \ p \ init Ball Vel \& never) \$ \underline{\lambda} \rightarrow 0
   objBall
freeBall p\theta v\theta = \mathbf{proc} (ObjectInput \ ci \ cs \ os) \to \mathbf{do}
   p \leftarrow (p\theta + ) \sim integral \rightarrow v\theta'
   returnA \rightarrow livingObject \$ \{ \dots \}
   where
       v0' = limitNorm \ v0 \ maxVNorm
```

#### Ball, Take 3

```
objBall :: ObjectSF
objBall =
   switch\ follow Paddle Detect Launch \$ \lambda p \rightarrow
   switch \ (bounceAroundDetectMiss \ p) \ \$ \lambda_{-} \rightarrow
   objBall
bounceAroundDetectMiss p = \mathbf{proc} \ oi \rightarrow \mathbf{do}
          \leftarrow bouncingBall\ p\ initBallVel \prec oi
   miss \leftarrow collisionWithBottom \longrightarrow collisions oi
   returnA \longrightarrow (o, miss)
```

#### Making the Ball Bounce

```
bouncingBall \ po \ vo =
   switch \ (moveFreelyDetBounce \ p\theta \ v\theta) \$ \lambda (p', v') \rightarrow
   bouncingBall p' v'
moveFreelyDetBounce\ p0\ v0 =
   \mathbf{proc}\ oi@(ObjectInput\_cs\_) \to \mathbf{do}
      o \leftarrow freeBall \ po \ vo \rightarrow oi
      ev \leftarrow edgeJust \ll initially Nothing
              \prec changed Velocity "ball" cs
   returnA \rightarrow (o, fmap \ (\lambda v \rightarrow gobjectPos \ (\dots o), v))
                               (ev)
```

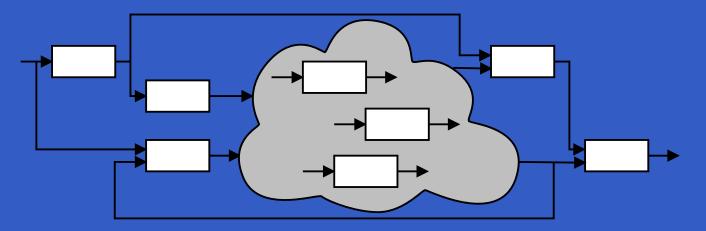
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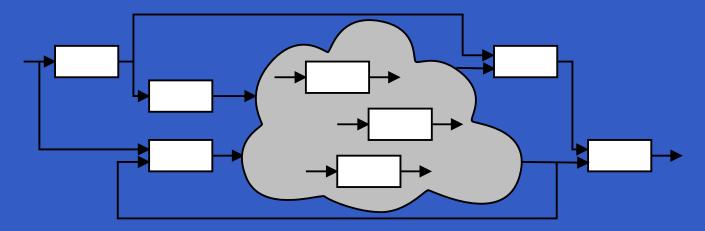


We want blocks to disappear!

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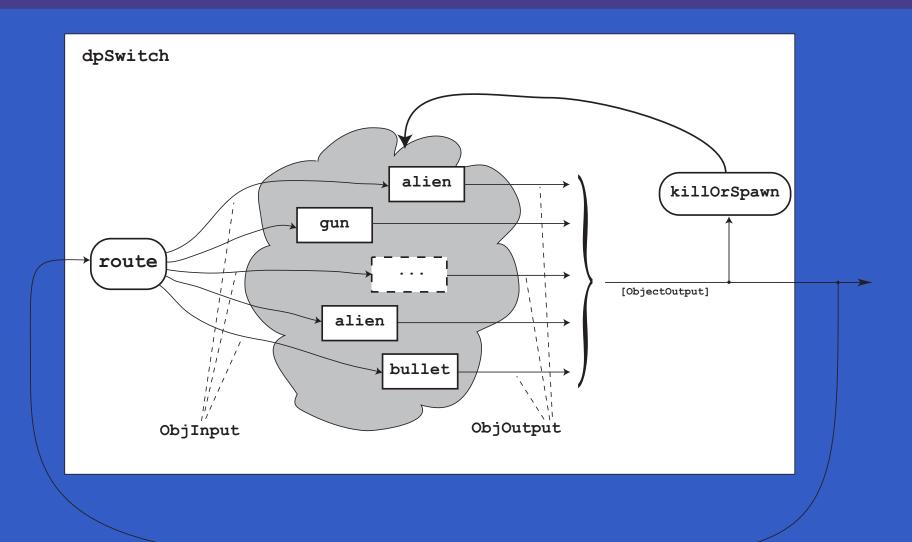
What about more general structural changes?



We want blocks to disappear!

What about state?

# Typical Overall Game Structure



#### Idea:

Switch over collections of signal functions.

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- On event, "freeze" running signal functions into collection of signal function *continuations*, preserving encapsulated *state*.

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- On event, "freeze" running signal functions into collection of signal function *continuations*, preserving encapsulated *state*.
- Modify collection as needed and switch back in.

- How input routed to each signal function.
- When collection changes shape.
- How collection changes shape.

```
dpSwitch :: Functor col =>
    (forall sf . (a -> col sf -> col (b,sf)))
    -> col (SF b c)
    -> SF (a, col c) (Event d)
    -> (col (SF b c) -> d -> SF a (col c))
    -> SF a (col c)
```

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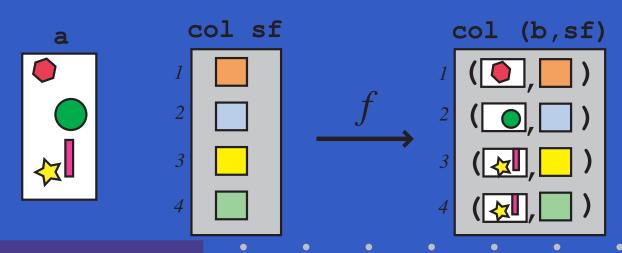
# Routing

#### Idea:

The routing function decides which parts of the input to pass to each running signal function instance.

# Routing

- The routing function decides which parts of the input to pass to each running signal function instance.
- It achieves this by pairing a projection of the input with each running instance:



# The Routing Function Type

Universal quantification over the collection members:

```
Functor col \Rightarrow
(forall \ sf \circ (a \rightarrow col \ sf \rightarrow col \ (b, sf)))
```

### Collection members thus *opaque*:

- Ensures only signal function instances from argument can be returned.
- Unfortunately, does not prevent duplication or discarding of signal function instances.

### **Blocks**

```
objBlockAt(x,y)(w,h) =
   \mathbf{proc} \ (ObjectInput \ ci \ cs \ os) \to \mathbf{do}
      let name = "blockat" + show(x, y)
         isHit = inCollision name cs
      hit \leftarrow edge
                                          \rightarrow isHit
      lives \leftarrow accumHoldBy (+) 3 \rightarrow (hit `tag` (-1))
     let is Dead = lives \leq 0
      dead \leftarrow edge \rightarrow isDead
      returnA \rightarrow ObjectOutput
         (Object \{ \dots \})
         dead
```

### The Game Core

```
processMovement::
  [ObjectSF] \rightarrow SF\ ObjectInput\ (IL\ ObjectOutput)
processMovement\ objs =
  dpSwitchB \overline{objs}
                (noEvent \longrightarrow arr suicidalSect)
                (\lambda sfs' f \rightarrow processMovement' (f sfs'))
[loopPre]([],[],0)$
  adaptInput
   >>> processMovement objs
   \gg (arr\ elemsIL\&\&detectCollisions)
```

## **Recovering Blocks**

```
objBlockAt(x,y)(w,h) =
  \mathbf{proc} \ (ObjectInput \ ci \ cs \ os) \to \mathbf{do}
     let name = "blockat" + show(x, y)
         isHit = inCollision name cs
     hit \leftarrow edge
                            \prec isHit
     recover \leftarrow delayEvent 5.0 \rightarrow hit
     \overline{lives} \leftarrow \overline{accumHoldBy} (+) 3
                   \rightarrow (hit 'tag' (-1)
                         'lMerge' recover 'taq' 1)
```