

Haskell Session Types with (Almost) No Class

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Haskell Symposium
25 September 2008

Problem: Ordering a Pizza

Client: Hi. What pizza toppings do you have?

Server: We have asparagus, broccoli, cauliflower, . . .

Client: I'd like a medium pizza with olives and mushrooms.

Server: That will be C\$12.87. What's your address?

Client: I'm at the Delta Victoria, 45 Songhees Road, Ascot room.

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data PizzaMsg = Toppings [Topping] | Size Size | ...
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order :: Chan PizzaMsg → IO ()
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order ch = do
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  Toppings ts ← readChan ch
```

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  (size, ts') ← getOrderFromUser ts
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  writeChan ch (Size size)
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We want to say *ch* is a channel on which we can

- 1 receive a list of toppings,
- 2 send a size . . .

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We want to say *ch* is a channel on which we can

- 1 receive a list of toppings,
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- 3 send a list of toppings,
- 4 receive a price . . .

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- 1 receive a list of toppings,
- 2 send a size,
- 3 send a list of toppings,
- 4 receive a price,
- 5 send an address ...

$ch :: \text{Chan} ([\text{Topping}] ? \text{Size} ! [\text{Topping}] ! \text{Price} ? \text{Address} ! \dots)$

Solution: Session Types

We want to say ch is a channel on which we can

- 1 receive a list of toppings,
- 2 send a size,
- 3 send a list of toppings,
- 4 receive a price,
- 5 send an address, and finally
- 6 hang up the phone.

$ch :: \text{Chan } ([\text{Topping}] ? \text{Size} ! [\text{Topping}] ! \text{Price} ? \text{Address} ! \epsilon)$

- 1 Introduction
 - A Pizza Order Protocol
 - Background
- 2 The Details
 - Tour of Session Types
 - Implementation: A Single Implicit Channel
 - Live Demonstration
 - Correctness
- 3 Conclusion
 - Bonus Features
 - Similar Implementations
 - Future Work

A Brief History of Session Types

- Proposed as a type system for the π calculus (Gay & Hole 1999)
- A variety of calculi: π -like, λ -like, object-like

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$\frac{\Gamma; v \mapsto \text{Chan } \alpha \quad c \text{ fresh}}{\Gamma; \Sigma, \alpha: ?S'.S; \text{receive } v \mapsto \Sigma; \text{Chan } c; c: S'; \alpha: S}$	(C-RECEIVES)	$\frac{\Gamma; v \mapsto [S] \quad c \text{ fresh}}{\Gamma; \Sigma; \text{request } v \mapsto \Sigma; \text{Chan } c; c: \bar{S}}$	(C-REQUEST)
$\frac{\Gamma; v \mapsto D \quad \Gamma; v' \mapsto \text{Chan } \alpha}{\Gamma; \Sigma, \alpha: !D.S; \text{send } v \text{ on } v' \mapsto \Sigma; \text{Unit}; \alpha: S}$	(C-SENDD)	$\frac{\Gamma; v \mapsto T}{\Gamma; \Sigma; v \mapsto \Sigma; T; \emptyset}$	(C-VAL)
$\frac{\Gamma; v \mapsto \text{Chan } \beta \quad \Gamma; v' \mapsto \text{Chan } \alpha}{\Gamma; \Sigma, \alpha: !S'.S, \beta: S'; \text{send } v \text{ on } v' \mapsto \Sigma; \text{Unit}; \alpha: S}$	(C-SENDS)	$\frac{\Gamma; v \mapsto (\Sigma; T \rightarrow U; \Sigma') \quad \Gamma; v' \mapsto T}{\Gamma; \Sigma, \Sigma'; vv' \mapsto \Sigma''; U; \Sigma'}$	(C-APP)
$\frac{\Gamma; v \mapsto \text{Chan } \alpha \quad j \in I}{\Gamma; \Sigma, \alpha: \oplus \langle l_i : S_i \rangle_{i \in I}; \text{select } l_j \text{ on } v \mapsto \Sigma; \text{Unit}; \alpha: S_j}$	(C-SELECT)	$\frac{\Gamma; \Sigma; \text{new } S \mapsto \Sigma; [S]; \emptyset}{\Gamma; \Sigma; \text{let } x = e \text{ in } t \mapsto \Sigma_1 \cap \Sigma_2; T_2; (\Sigma'_1 \cap \Sigma_2), \Sigma'_2}$	(C-NEW)
$\frac{\Gamma; v \mapsto \text{Chan } \alpha \quad \forall j \in I. (\Gamma; \Sigma, \alpha: S_j; e_j \mapsto \Sigma_1; T; \Sigma_2)}{\Gamma; \Sigma, \alpha: \& \langle l_i : S_i \rangle_{i \in I}; \text{case } v \text{ of } \{l_i \Rightarrow e_i\}_{i \in I} \mapsto \Sigma_1; T; \Sigma_2}$	(C-CASE)	$\frac{\Gamma; \Sigma; t_1 \mapsto \Sigma_1; T_1; \emptyset \quad \Gamma; \Sigma_1; t_2 \mapsto \Sigma_2; T_2; \emptyset}{\Gamma; \Sigma; (\text{fork } t_1; t_2) \mapsto \Sigma_2; T_2; \emptyset}$	(C-LET)
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- How about linear types?

$\text{send} :: \forall \alpha, \beta. \text{Chan } (\alpha ! \beta) \multimap \alpha \multimap \text{Chan } \beta$

This suggested a natural implementation in Haskell.

Our Contributions

Our Haskell session types library:

- works with existing concurrency mechanisms;
- handles multiple communication channels; and
- infers session types automatically.

Syntax and Semantics of Session Types

$$s ::= \begin{array}{l} a!s \\ | a?s \\ | \epsilon \end{array}$$

send an a , then do s
receive an a , then do s
the empty/finished session

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	$s_1 \oplus s_2$	internal choice between s_1 and s_2
	$s_1 \& s_2$	external choice between s_1 and s_2

Syntax and Semantics of Session Types

- data** $a !: s$ — send an a , then do s
- data** $a ? : s$ — receive an a , then do s
- data** Eps — the empty/finished session
- data** $s_1 \oplus : s_2$ — internal choice between s_1 and s_2
- data** $s_1 \& : s_2$ — external choice between s_1 and s_2

Duality

Suppose one process has a channel with session type

$$(\text{Int} \text{!} : \text{Int} \text{?} : \text{Eps}) : \oplus : (\text{Int} \text{!} : \text{String} \text{!} : \text{Int} \text{?} : \text{Eps}).$$

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Duality Inference Rules

Judgment Dual s_1 s_2

Dual Eps Eps

$$\frac{\text{Dual } s \ s'}{\text{Dual } (a \text{!}: s) \ (a \text{:?}: s')}$$

$$\frac{\text{Dual } s \ s'}{\text{Dual } (a \text{:?}: s) \ (a \text{!}: s')}$$

$$\frac{\text{Dual } s \ s' \quad \text{Dual } r \ r'}{\text{Dual } (s \text{:}\oplus\text{:} r) \ (s' \text{:}\&\text{:} r')}$$

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Duality Inference Rules

class Dual $s_1 s_2 \mid s_1 \rightsquigarrow s_2, s_2 \rightsquigarrow s_1$

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instance $\overline{\text{Dual Eps Eps}}$

instance $\overline{\text{Dual } s \ s'}$ **instance** $\overline{(\text{Dual } s \ s', \ \text{Dual } r \ r')}$
 $\Rightarrow \overline{\text{Dual } (a \ !: \ s) \ (a \ ?: \ s')}$ $\Rightarrow \overline{\text{Dual } (s \ :\oplus: \ r) \ (s' \ :\&: \ r')}$

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Assume Channels

Assume we have **untyped** synchronous channels:

type UChan

unsafeWriteUChan :: UChan \rightarrow *a* \rightarrow IO ()

unsafeReadUChan :: UChan \rightarrow IO *a*

UChan operations may go wrong (*a la unsafeCoerce#*).

Implementation Problem: Linearity

We've encoded session types, but what about the operations?

$$\mathit{send} :: \text{Chan } (a \text{ !} : s) \multimap a \multimap \text{IO}(\text{Chan } s)$$

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I claimed a “natural” implementation.

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but we Haskellers do know how to thread state: a monad.

For session types we must thread not run-time state but compile-time state, so we'll use an *indexed monad*.

An Indexed Monad Class

class `IxMonad m` **where**

`(>>>=)` $:: m\ i\ j\ a \rightarrow (a \rightarrow m\ j\ k\ b) \rightarrow m\ i\ k\ b$

`ixret` $:: a \rightarrow m\ i\ i\ a$

We expand “**ixdo** notation” to `ixret` and `(>>>=)`
by means of a small preprocessor.

Session Computations

For simplicity,

- **one** implicit channel, with
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newtype `Session s s' a = S { unS :: UChan → IO a }`

`send` $:: a \rightarrow \text{Session } (a \text{!} : s) s ()$
(think: $a \rightarrow \text{Chan } (a \text{!} : s) \multimap (\text{Chan } s' \otimes !())$)

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instance `IxMonad Session where ...`

The Other Operations

\rightarrow *send* :: $a \rightarrow \text{Session } (a \text{!} : s) s ()$

recv :: $\text{Session } (a \text{:?} : s) s a$

close :: $\text{Session Eps } () ()$

sel1 :: $\text{Session } (s \text{:}\oplus\text{:} r) s ()$

sel2 :: $\text{Session } (s \text{:}\oplus\text{:} r) r ()$

offer :: $\text{Session } s \ u \ a \rightarrow \text{Session } r \ u \ a \rightarrow \text{Session } (s \text{:}\&\text{:} r) \ u \ a$

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The Other Operations

```
send    :: a → Session (a !: s) s ()  
→ send a = S (λch → unsafeWriteUChan ch a)  
recv    :: Session (a ? : s) s a  
recv    = S unsafeReadUChan  
close   :: Session Eps () ()  
close   = S (λ_ → return ())  
sel1    :: Session (s :⊕: r) s ()  
sel1    = S (λch → unsafeWriteUChan ch True)  
sel2    :: Session (s :⊕: r) r ()  
sel2    = S (λch → unsafeWriteUChan ch False)  
offer   :: Session s u a → Session r u a → Session (s :&: r) u a  
offer s r = S (λch → do b ← unsafeReadUChan ch  
                 if b then unS s ch else unS r ch)
```

The Other Operations

send :: $a \rightarrow \text{Session } (a \text{!} : s) s ()$

send a = $S (\lambda ch \rightarrow \text{unsafeWriteUChan } ch \ a)$

recv :: $\text{Session } (a \text{:?} : s) s a$

→ *recv* = $S \ \text{unsafeReadUChan}$

close :: $\text{Session } \text{Eps } () ()$

close = $S (\lambda _ \rightarrow \text{return } ())$

sel1 :: $\text{Session } (s \text{:}\oplus\text{:} r) s ()$

sel1 :: $S (\lambda ch \rightarrow \text{unsafeWriteUChan } ch \ \text{True})$

sel2 :: $\text{Session } (s \text{:}\oplus\text{:} r) r ()$

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Putting Things Together

Finally, we need a way to run Session computations.

→ **newtype** `Rendezvous s`

`newRendezvous` :: IO (Rendezvous s)

`accept` :: Rendezvous s → Session s () a → IO a

`request` :: Dual s s' ⇒
Rendezvous s → Session s' () a → IO a

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connect server client

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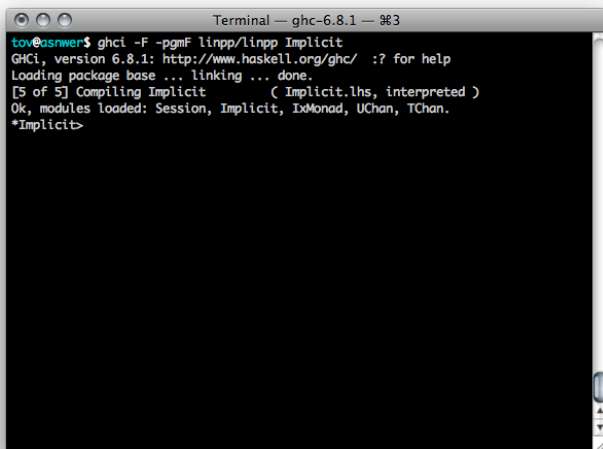
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connect :: Dual *s s'* ⇒
Session *s* () () → Session *s'* () *a* → IO *a*

→ *connect server client*

= **do** *rv* ← *newRendezvous*
forkIO (*accept rv server*)
request rv client

Live Demonstration



```
Terminal — ghc-6.8.1 — 3
tov@asrner$ ghci -F -pgmF linpp/linpp Implicit
GHCi, version 6.8.1: http://www.haskell.org/ghc/ :? for help
Loading package base ... linking ... done.
[5 of 5] Compiling Implicit      ( Implicit.lhs, interpreted )
Ok, modules loaded: Session, Implicit, DMonad, UChan, TChan.
*Implicit>
```

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Our library uses unsafe channel operations. Why should we believe it implements session types correctly?

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We define two calculi:

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Theorem (Library Soundness)

If $\vdash_\ell p : \pi$ in $\lambda_\ell^{F||F}$, then in $\lambda^{F||F}$ either

- $\mathcal{L}[p]$ diverges or
- $\mathcal{L}[p] \Longrightarrow^* w$ where $\vdash w : \mathcal{L}[\pi]$.

Recursion

Extend the syntax of session types:

$s ::=$	$\mu v. s$	recursive session type
	v	variable instance

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data $\text{Rec } s$ — recursive session type

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And add Dual instances:

$$\frac{}{\text{Dual } (\text{Var } n) (\text{Var } n)}$$
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Each session type must be closed in an environment e , in which we maintain a stack of the bodies of each enclosing Rec :

$\text{send} :: a \rightarrow \text{Session } (e, a \text{!} : s) (e, s) ()$

Multiple Channels

To keep track of multiple, independent channels:

- Replace Session's single session type with a stack of session types.
- Operations act on the top of the stack.
 $send :: \text{Session } (a :: s, x) (s, x) ()$
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Name-based access would be nice. We can do it with type classes, but it doesn't play well with inference or . . .

Other Languages (Have No Class)

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We have working prototypes in SML, OCaml, Java 1.5, Scala, and C#.

Other Haskell Implementations

- Neubauer and Thiemann. An implementation of session types (PADL'04)
 - Single processes speaking wire protocols
- Sackman and Eisenbach. Session types in Haskell: Updating message passing for the 21st century (2008)
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type inference	N/A	no	yes

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recursion	named	named	numbered
multiple channels	no	named	numbered
type inference	N/A	no	yes
soundness theorem	sort of	partial	yes

A Problem, an Opportunity

How should exceptions work?

- We can throw (if channels are affine)
- But we can't catch within a session
- Would it be profitable to combine with STM?

Thank You

Contact us:

- tov@ccs.neu.edu
- <http://www.ccs.neu.edu/~tov/session-types/>