

Dependencies — by case or by function?

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Generic equality in Dependency-style

Generic functions are defined by “pattern matching” on a type argument:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{equal } \langle \text{Int} \rangle &= (==) \\ \text{equal } \langle \text{Unit} \rangle \quad \text{Unit} \quad \text{Unit} &= \text{True} \\ \text{equal } \langle \text{Sum } \alpha \ \beta \rangle \ (\text{Inl } x) \ (\text{Inl } y) &= \text{equal } \langle \alpha \rangle \ x \ y \\ \text{equal } \langle \text{Sum } \alpha \ \beta \rangle \ (\text{Inr } x) \ (\text{Inr } y) &= \text{equal } \langle \beta \rangle \ x \ y \\ \text{equal } \langle \text{Sum } \alpha \ \beta \rangle \ - \quad - &= \text{False} \\ \text{equal } \langle \text{Prod } \alpha \ \beta \rangle \ (x_1 \times x_2) \ (y_1 \times y_2) &= \text{equal } \langle \alpha \rangle \ x_1 \ y_1 \\ &\quad \wedge \text{equal } \langle \beta \rangle \ x_2 \ y_2 . \end{aligned}$$


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equal <Int>                                = (==)
equal <Unit>   Unit      Unit      = True
equal <Sum α β> (Inl x)   (Inl y)   = equal <α> x y
equal <Sum α β> (Inr x)   (Inr y)   = equal <β> x y
equal <Sum α β> _         _         = False
equal <Prod α β> (x1 × x2) (y1 × y2) = equal <α> x1 y1
                                           ∧ equal <β> x2 y2 .
```

The types `Unit`, `Sum` and `Prod` are used to represent the structure of Haskell datatypes.

```
data Unit      = Unit
data Sum a b   = Inl a | Inr b
data Prod a b  = a × b
```



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Haskell datatypes are mapped to these datatypes:

```
data List a      = Nil | Cons a (List a)
type STR(List) a = Sum Unit (Prod a (List a)) .
```



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With above definition,

$$\text{equal } \langle [\text{Bool}] \rangle \ [\text{True}, \text{False}] \ [\text{True}, \text{False}]$$

compiles and evaluates to *True*.



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The type of the function is:

$$\text{equal } \langle a \rangle :: a \rightarrow a \rightarrow \text{Bool}$$

The function *equal* depends on itself, which is reflected in its type signature.



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Dependencies correspond to dictionary arguments

The case for `Unit`,

| `equal <Unit> Unit Unit = True ,`

is translated to

| `cp(equal, Unit) Unit Unit = True .`



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The case for Prod,

$$\text{equal } \langle \text{Prod } \alpha \ \beta \rangle (x_1 \times x_2) (y_1 \times y_2) = \text{equal } \langle \alpha \rangle x_1 y_1 \\ \wedge \text{equal } \langle \beta \rangle x_2 y_2$$

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For each variable in the type pattern, there is a parameter explaining how to compute the dependency *equal*.



Dependencies in the types

Dependency constraints in the types make sure that no unresolved dependencies occur in a program.

For instance, the expression

$$\lambda(x_1 \times x_2) (y_1 \times y_2) \rightarrow \text{equal } \langle \alpha \rangle x_1 x_2 \wedge \text{equal } \langle \beta \rangle y_1 y_2$$

(the definition of *equal* $\langle \text{Prod} \rangle$) has type

$$\begin{aligned} & \forall a b. (\text{equal } \langle \alpha \rangle :: a \rightarrow a \rightarrow \text{Bool}, \text{equal } \langle \beta \rangle :: b \rightarrow b \rightarrow \text{Bool}) \\ & \Rightarrow \text{Prod } a b \rightarrow \text{Prod } a b \rightarrow \text{Bool} \end{aligned}$$



Dependency type signatures

$equal \langle a \rangle :: (equal \langle a \rangle) \Rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow Bool$

There is an algorithm that computes from the type signature of a generic function the types that specific instances (may) have:

$equal \langle Int \rangle :: Int \rightarrow Int \rightarrow Bool$

$equal \langle [a] \rangle :: \forall a. (equal \langle a \rangle :: a \rightarrow a \rightarrow Bool)$
 $\Rightarrow [a] \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow Bool$

$equal \langle Sum \alpha \beta \rangle :: \forall a b. (equal \langle \alpha \rangle :: a \rightarrow a \rightarrow Bool,$
 $equal \langle \beta \rangle :: b \rightarrow b \rightarrow Bool)$
 $\Rightarrow Sum a b \rightarrow Sum a b \rightarrow Bool$

$equal \langle Fix \varphi \rangle :: \forall f. (equal \langle \varphi \rangle :: \forall a. (equal \langle \alpha \rangle :: a \rightarrow a \rightarrow Bool)$
 $\Rightarrow f a \rightarrow f a \rightarrow Bool)$
 $\Rightarrow Fix f \rightarrow Fix f \rightarrow Bool$



Dependencies and translation

Dependencies dictate how calls to generic functions are translated:

$equal \langle \text{Sum Int Char} \rangle$
 $\rightsquigarrow cp(equal, \text{Sum}) \ cp(equal, \text{Int}) \ cp(equal, \text{Char})$

- ▶ Applications of generic functions can always be simplified to applications of components.
- ▶ Components are always parametrized over a function and a single type (constructor).
- ▶ Specialization of generic functions is compositional.



Dependencies and translation – contd.

The types of the components are ordered, flattened versions of the dependency types:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{equal } \langle \text{Sum } \alpha \ \beta \rangle &:: \forall a \ b. (\text{equal } \langle \alpha \rangle :: a \rightarrow a \rightarrow \text{Bool}, \\ &\quad \text{equal } \langle \beta \rangle :: b \rightarrow b \rightarrow \text{Bool}) \\ &\Rightarrow \text{Sum } a \ b \rightarrow \text{Sum } a \ b \rightarrow \text{Bool} \end{aligned}$$



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Multiple dependencies

Of course, a function can not only depend on itself.

$$\text{equal } \langle \alpha \rightarrow \beta \rangle fx fy = \text{equal } \langle [\beta] \rangle (\text{map } fx (\text{enum } \langle \alpha \rangle)) \\ (\text{map } fy (\text{enum } \langle \alpha \rangle))$$



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For above case to be valid, the type of the generic function has to be adapted:

$$| \text{equal } \langle a \rangle :: (\text{equal } \langle a \rangle, \text{enum } \langle a \rangle) \Rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow \text{Bool} .$$



Dependencies scope over functions

- ▶ A dependency may be needed by only a single case, but it affects the type of the entire function.
- ▶ In the example of *equal* the function case dictates that *enum* must be a dependency of *equal*.
- ▶ However, we can write down the type of an application of a generic function using only the (single) type signature as information.



Dependencies affect translation – contd.

With type

$$| \text{equal } \langle a \rangle :: (\text{equal } \langle a \rangle \quad) \Rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow \text{Bool} ,$$

the case

$$| \text{equal } \langle \text{Prod } \alpha \beta \rangle (x_1 \times x_2) (y_1 \times y_2) = \text{equal } \langle \alpha \rangle x_1 y_1 \\ \wedge \text{equal } \langle \beta \rangle x_2 y_2$$

is translated to

$$| \text{cp}(\text{equal}, \text{Prod}) \text{cp}(\text{equal}, \alpha) \\ \text{cp}(\text{equal}, \beta) \\ (x_1 \times x_2) (y_1 \times y_2) = \text{cp}(\text{equal}, \alpha) x_1 y_1 \\ \wedge \text{cp}(\text{equal}, \beta) x_2 y_2$$



Dependencies affect translation – contd.

At the call sites:

equal ⟨Sum Int Char⟩
 \rightsquigarrow cp(*equal*, Sum) cp(*equal*, Int)
 cp(*equal*, Char)



Disadvantages of function-scope dependencies

Even though dependencies allow generic functions that interact, they have a number of limitations.

- ▶ Open generic functions are unsatisfactory. Generic functions can be open, but new cases cannot introduce new dependencies, because the translation of existing cases changes.



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- ▶ The dependency relation is very inaccurate. Often, unneeded dependencies are passed around.



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Even though dependencies allow generic functions that interact, they have a number of limitations.

- ▶ Open generic functions are unsatisfactory. Generic functions can be open, but new cases cannot introduce new dependencies, because the translation of existing cases changes.
- ▶ The dependency relation is very inaccurate. Often, unneeded dependencies are passed around.
- ▶ With other desirable generalizations – such as multiple type arguments for generic functions – function-scope dependencies become infeasible.



Local redefinition

If we have a case-insensitive comparison of strings

```
| caseInsensitive x y = toUpper x == toUpper y ,
```

the fragment

```
| let equal < $\alpha$ > = caseInsensitive  
| in equal <[ $\alpha$ ]> "Lambda" "LAMBDA"
```

evaluates to *True*.



Local redefinition

If we have a case-insensitive comparison of strings

| *caseInsensitive* $x\ y = \text{toUpper } x == \text{toUpper } y$,

the fragment

| **let** *equal* $\langle \alpha \rangle = \text{caseInsensitive}$
| *enum* $\langle \alpha \rangle = ?$
| **in** *equal* $\langle [\alpha] \rangle$ "Lambda" "LAMBDA"

evaluates to *True*.



Local redefinition

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| *enum* $\langle \alpha \rangle = \text{equal } \langle \text{Char} \rangle$
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evaluates to *True*.



Would dependencies by case be a solution?

$equal \langle a \rangle \quad :: a \rightarrow a \rightarrow Bool$

$equal \langle Prod \alpha \beta \rangle = \{-as\ before \ -\}$

$equal \langle \alpha \rightarrow \beta \rangle = \{-as\ before \ -\}$



Would dependencies by case be a solution?

$equal \langle a \rangle \quad :: a \rightarrow a \rightarrow \text{Bool}$

$(equal \langle \alpha \rangle, equal \langle \beta \rangle) \Rightarrow equal \langle \text{Prod } \alpha \beta \rangle$

$equal \langle \text{Prod } \alpha \beta \rangle = \{-as\ before\ -\}$

$(equal \langle \alpha \rangle, enum \langle \alpha \rangle, equal \langle \beta \rangle) \Rightarrow equal \langle \alpha \rightarrow \beta \rangle$

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Would dependencies by case be a solution?

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$(equal \langle \alpha \rangle, enum \langle \alpha \rangle, equal \langle \beta \rangle) \Rightarrow equal \langle \alpha \rightarrow \beta \rangle$

$equal \langle \alpha \rightarrow \beta \rangle = \{-as\ before -\}$

- ▶ More like type classes.



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| $equal \langle \text{Fix } \varphi \rangle = \dots foo \langle \varphi \text{ Int} \rangle \dots$

is translated to

| $cp(equal, \text{Fix}) \ cp(foo, \varphi) = \dots cp(foo, \varphi) \ cp(???, \text{Int}) \dots$



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Abstracting from $cp(foo, \varphi \text{ Int})$ rather than $cp(foo, \varphi)$ breaks the compositionality of generic function components.



