

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:

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



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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:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{data} \text{ List } a &= \text{Nil} \mid \text{Cons } a \text{ (List } a \text{)} \\ \mathbf{type} \text{ STR(List) } a &= \text{Sum Unit (Prod } a \text{ (List } a \text{))} . \end{aligned}$$



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With above definition,

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

compiles and evaluates to *True*.



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<i>equal</i> ⟨Int⟩			= (==)
<i>equal</i> ⟨Unit⟩	Unit	Unit	= True
<i>equal</i> ⟨Sum α β ⟩	(Inl x)	(Inl y)	= <i>equal</i> ⟨ α ⟩ x y
<i>equal</i> ⟨Sum α β ⟩	(Inr x)	(Inr y)	= <i>equal</i> ⟨ β ⟩ x y
<i>equal</i> ⟨Sum α β ⟩	_	_	= False
<i>equal</i> ⟨Prod α β ⟩	$(x_1 \times x_2)$	$(y_1 \times y_2)$	= <i>equal</i> ⟨ α ⟩ x_1 y_1 \wedge <i>equal</i> ⟨ β ⟩ x_2 y_2 .

The type of the function is:

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

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



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<i>equal</i> ⟨Sum α β ⟩	(<i>Inl</i> x)	=	<i>equal</i> ⟨ α ⟩ $x y$
<i>equal</i> ⟨Sum α β ⟩	(<i>Inr</i> x)	=	<i>equal</i> ⟨ β ⟩ $x y$
<i>equal</i> ⟨Sum α β ⟩	_	=	<code>False</code>
<i>equal</i> ⟨Prod α β ⟩	($x_1 \times x_2$)	=	<i>equal</i> ⟨ α ⟩ $x_1 y_1$
	($y_1 \times y_2$)		\wedge <i>equal</i> ⟨ β ⟩ $x_2 y_2$.

The type of the function is:

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

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



Dependencies correspond to dictionary arguments

The case for Unit,

| *equal* ⟨Unit⟩ *Unit* *Unit* = *True* ,

is translated to

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



Dependencies correspond to dictionary arguments

The case for Prod,

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

is translated to

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



Dependencies correspond to dictionary arguments

The case for Prod,

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

is translated to

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

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 $\text{equal } \langle \text{Prod} \rangle$) 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

$\boxed{\mathit{equal} \langle a \rangle :: (\mathit{equal} \langle a \rangle) \Rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow \text{Bool}}$

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

$\mathit{equal} \langle \text{Int} \rangle :: \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Bool}$

$\mathit{equal} \langle [\alpha] \rangle :: \forall a. (\mathit{equal} \langle a \rangle :: a \rightarrow a \rightarrow \text{Bool})$
 $\Rightarrow [a] \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow \text{Bool}$

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

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



Dependencies and translation

Dependencies dictate how calls to generic functions are translated:

$\text{equal} \langle \text{Sum} \text{ Int} \text{ Char} \rangle$

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

- ▶ 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:

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


Dependencies and translation – contd.

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

```
equal <Sum α β> :: ∀a b.(equal <α> :: a → a → Bool,  
                           equal <β> :: b → b → Bool)  
                           ⇒ Sum a b → Sum a b → Bool  
cp(equal,Sum)  :: ∀a b.(a → a → Bool) → (b → b → Bool)  
                           → Sum a b → Sum a b → Bool
```



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


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


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

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

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



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

With dependencies on both *equal* and *enum*, the case

$$\text{equal } \langle \alpha \rightarrow \beta \rangle \text{ } fx fy = \text{equal } \langle [\beta] \rangle \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{map } fx \text{ (enum } \langle \alpha \rangle \text{)} \\ \text{map } fy \text{ (enum } \langle \alpha \rangle \text{)} \end{array} \right)$$

is translated to

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{cp}(\text{equal}, \rightarrow) \text{ cp}(\text{equal}, \alpha) \text{ cp}(\text{enum}, \alpha) \\ & \quad \text{cp}(\text{equal}, \beta) \text{ cp}(\text{enum}, \beta) \\ & \quad fx fy = \text{cp}(\text{equal}, []) \text{ cp}(\text{equal}, \beta) \text{ cp}(\text{enum}, \beta) \\ & \quad \quad \quad \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{map } fx \text{ cp}(\text{enum}, \alpha) \\ \text{map } fy \text{ cp}(\text{enum}, \alpha) \end{array} \right) \end{aligned}$$


Dependencies affect translation – contd.

With type

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

the case

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

is translated to

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{cp}(equal, \text{Prod}) \quad \text{cp}(equal, \alpha) \\
 \quad \quad \quad \text{cp}(equal, \beta) \\
 (x_1 \times x_2) \ (y_1 \times y_2) = \quad \text{cp}(equal, \alpha) \ x_1 \ y_1 \\
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is translated to

$$\begin{aligned} & cp(equal, \text{Prod}) \ cp(equal, \alpha) \ cp(enum, \alpha) \\ & \quad cp(equal, \beta) \ cp(enum, \beta) \\ & (x_1 \times x_2) (y_1 \times y_2) = cp(equal, \alpha) x_1 y_1 \\ & \quad \quad \quad \wedge cp(equal, \beta) x_2 y_2 \end{aligned}$$



Dependencies affect translation – contd.

At the call sites:

equal ⟨Sum Int Char⟩

~~> cp(*equal*, Sum) cp(*equal*, Int)
 cp(*equal*, Char)



Dependencies affect translation – contd.

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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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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.
- ▶ 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 <α> = caseInsensitive
```

```
| in equal <[α]> "Lambda" "LAMBDA"
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evaluates to *True*.



Local redefinition

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| *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

If we have a case-insensitive comparison of strings

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| caseInsensitive x y = toUpper x == toUpper y ,
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the fragment

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| let equal <α> = caseInsensitive
|   enum <α> = equal <Char>
| in equal <[α]> "Lambda" "LAMBDA"
```

evaluates to *True*.



Would dependencies by case be a solution?

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

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

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



Would dependencies by case be a solution?

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

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

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- ▶ More like type classes.
- ▶ Less complicated types: no *enum* dependency if not actually needed, no *enum* dependency for β in the function case.
- ▶ Easier to use with other extensions such as multiple type arguments.



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... we can no longer determine the type of an application of a generic function using only the type signature of the function.



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

is translated to

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



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... we can no longer determine the type of an application of a generic function using only the type signature of the function.

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



Conclusions

- ▶ Dependencies allow to write generic functions that use other generic functions.
- ▶ Dependencies that scope over the whole function have a number of disadvantages.
- ▶ Dependencies that scope over only one case seem to be the desired solution for many of the problems, but they introduce new limitations.
- ▶ It is desirable to solve this problem, because more liberal dependencies also seem helpful or even necessary to add other features such as multiple type arguments or complex type patterns.

