

Dependency-style Generic Haskell

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Overview

- Classic Generic Haskell
 - Generic programming in Classic Generic Haskell
 - The problem with Classic Generic Haskell
- Solution: Dependency-style Generic Haskell
- Typing Dependency-style generic functions
- Examples
 - Classic generic functions
 - Generic traversal
- Comparison with type classes
- Conclusions

Classic Generic Haskell

- Generic Haskell = Haskell + generic functions (+ generic datatypes)
- generic = indexed by a type argument
- a generic function usually is defined inductively over the structure of datatypes
- thus, generic functions work for all types in a generic way
- Generic Haskell is implemented as a preprocessor that translates generic functions into Haskell
- translation proceeds by specialisation
- the theory is based on Ralf Hinze's several papers about generic programming in Haskell
- typical generic functions are: mapping, ordering, (de)coding, (un)parsing, generic traversals, operations on type-indexed datatypes

Programming in Classic Generic Haskell

A generic comparison function looks as follows:

```
data Ordering = LT | EQ | GT
type Comp⟨★⟩ t = t → t → Ordering
type Comp⟨κ → κ'⟩ t = ∀a. Comp⟨κ⟩ a → Comp⟨κ'⟩ (t a)
comp⟨t :: κ⟩ :: Comp⟨κ⟩ t
comp⟨Unit⟩ Unit Unit = EQ
comp⟨Sum⟩ compa compb (Inl a1) (Inl a2) = compa a1 a2
comp⟨Sum⟩ compa compb (Inl _) (Inr _) = LT
comp⟨Sum⟩ compa compb (Inr _) (Inl _) = GT
comp⟨Sum⟩ compa compb (Inr b1) (Inr b2) = compb b1 b2
comp⟨Prod⟩ compa compb (a1, b1) (a2, b2) =
  case compa a1 a2 of
    EQ → compb b1 b2
    r → r
comp⟨Int⟩ i1 i2 = compare i1 i2
```

A closer look

A **kind-indexed type** (kind argument in $\langle\langle \cdot \rangle\rangle$):

type $Comp\langle\langle \star \rangle\rangle \quad t \quad = t \rightarrow t \rightarrow Ordering$

The type of the function on normal (i.e. kind \star) type arguments.

type $Comp\langle\langle \kappa \rightarrow \kappa' \rangle\rangle \quad t \quad = \forall a. Comp\langle\langle \kappa \rangle\rangle \quad a \rightarrow Comp\langle\langle \kappa' \rangle\rangle \quad (t \ a)$

The type of the function on type constructors.

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The type of the function on type constructors.

A **type signature**:

$comp\langle t :: \kappa \rangle :: Comp\langle\langle \kappa \rangle\rangle t$

The type is assigned to the function.

A closer look — contd.

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comp⟨Unit⟩      Unit  Unit  = EQ
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The one-element type *Unit* is defined as follows:

```
data Unit = Unit
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A closer look — contd.

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```

```
comp⟨Sum⟩ compa compb (Inl a1) (Inl a2) = compa a1 a2
```

```
comp⟨Sum⟩ compa compb (Inl _) (Inr _) = LT
```

```
comp⟨Sum⟩ compa compb (Inr _) (Inl _) = GT
```

```
comp⟨Sum⟩ compa compb (Inr b1) (Inr b2) = compb b1 b2
```

The type constructor *Sum* represents choice:

```
data Sum a b = Inl a | Inr b
```

- *Sum* is a type constructor of kind $\star \rightarrow \star \rightarrow \star$
- the cases for *Sum* get two comparison functions as arguments
- the definition of *comp* is written as a **catamorphism**

A closer look — contd.

$comp\langle Prod \rangle\ comp_a\ comp_b\ (a_1, b_1)\ (a_2, b_2) =$

case $comp_a\ a_1\ a_2$ **of**

$EQ \rightarrow comp_b\ b_1\ b_2$

$r \rightarrow r$

The type $Prod\ a\ b$ contains pairs of a 's and b 's:

data $Prod\ a\ b = (a, b)$

A closer look — contd.

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Haskell datatypes can be represented by isomorphic datatypes that are built from *Unit*, *Sum*, *Prod*, plus type application, abstraction and recursion, and a few primitive types, such as *Int*:

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comp⟨Int⟩           i1   i2   = compare i1 i2
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Here, *compare* denotes the standard comparison function defined in the prelude.

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Here, *compare* denotes the standard comparison function defined in the prelude.

In this style of generic definition, the type patterns are always simple types or type constructors.

The virtue of having kind-indexed types

The generic function can be used on types of different kinds:

```
data Tree a = Node (Tree a) (Tree a) | Leaf a
```

```
t1 = Node (Leaf 3) (Leaf 7)
```

```
t2 = Node (Leaf 3) (Leaf 5)
```

```
comp⟨Tree Int⟩ :: Tree Int → Tree Int → Ordering
```

```
comp⟨Tree⟩      :: ∀a.(a → a → Ordering) → (Tree a → Tree a → Ordering)
```

```
comp⟨Tree Int⟩          t1 t2 ∼~ GT
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comp⟨Tree⟩ (λx y → EQ) t1 t2 ∼~ EQ
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Type application, abstraction, and recursion are interpreted as application, abstraction and recursion on the value level. For instance:

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Generic functions defined in this setting can be applied to type constructors of all kinds, to mutually recursive and nested datatypes!

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Suppose we want to define a modified comparison function *lcomp* that implements efficient comparison of lists:

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All cases would be as for *comp*. In addition, there is one special case for the list type constructor `[]`:

```
lcomp⟨[]⟩ lcompa as1 as2 =  
  case compare (length as1) (length as2) of  
    EQ → compa as1 as2  
    r  → r
```

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If a generic function depends on other generic functions except itself, then it is difficult to express that in Classic Generic Haskell.

A workaround

One can tuple the function *lcomp* with *comp*:

```
type TComp⟨★⟩      t = (t → t → Ordering, t → t → Ordering)
type TComp⟨κ → κ'⟩ t = ∀a. TComp⟨κ⟩ a → TComp⟨κ'⟩ (t a)
tcomp⟨t :: κ⟩ :: TComp⟨κ⟩ t
...
tcomp⟨[]⟩ (lcompa, compa) =
  (λas1 as2 → case compare (length as1) (length as2) of
    EQ → compa as1 as2
    r   → r
  , comp⟨List⟩
  )
```

Disadvantages of this approach:

- different aspects (different functions) become intertwined
- the definition is hard to read and complicated
- it does not scale well if more than two functions or mutually recursive functions are involved

Goal of Dependency-style Generic Haskell

We would like to write *lcomp* like this:

```
lcomp⟨Unit⟩      Unit    Unit    = EQ
lcomp⟨Sum δa δb⟩ (Inl a1) (Inl a2) = lcomp⟨δa⟩ a1 a2
lcomp⟨Sum δa δb⟩ (Inl _) (Inr _) = LT
lcomp⟨Sum δa δb⟩ (Inr _) (Inl _) = GT
lcomp⟨Sum δa δb⟩ (Inr b1) (Inr b2) = lcomp⟨δb⟩ b1 b2
lcomp⟨Prod δa δb⟩ (a1, b1) (a2, b2) = case lcomp⟨δa⟩ a1 a2 of
                                     EQ → lcomp⟨δb⟩ b1 b2
                                     r  → r

lcomp⟨Int⟩      i1      i2      = compare i1 i2
lcomp⟨[δa]⟩     as1     as2     = case compare (length as1) (length as2) of
                                     EQ → comp⟨δa⟩ as1 as2
                                     r  → r
```

(Type variables with δ are **scoped** over one case of the generic definition – we call them **dependency variables**.)

Goal of Dependency-style Generic Haskell

We would like to write *lcomp* like this:

$$\begin{array}{l} \mathit{lcomp}\langle\delta a\rangle \text{ extends } \mathit{comp}\langle\delta a\rangle \\ \mathit{lcomp}\langle[\delta a]\rangle \quad as_1 \quad as_2 \quad = \text{case compare (length } as_1) \text{ (length } as_2) \text{ of} \\ \quad EQ \rightarrow \mathit{comp}\langle\delta a\rangle as_1 as_2 \\ \quad r \quad \rightarrow r \end{array}$$

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Goal of Dependency-style Generic Haskell

We would like to write *lcomp* like this:

lcomp $\langle\delta a\rangle$ **extends** *comp* $\langle\delta a\rangle$
lcomp $\langle[\delta a]\rangle$ as_1 as_2 = **case** *compare* (*length* as_1) (*length* as_2) **of**
EQ \rightarrow *comp* $\langle\delta a\rangle$ as_1 as_2
 $r \rightarrow r$

(Type variables with δ are **scoped** over one case of the generic definition – we call them **dependency variables**.)

**Have the better syntax using recursion explicitly,
but keep all advantages of Classic Generic Haskell.**

Dependency-style Generic Haskell

- The type patterns in the cases are now type constructors applied to dependency variables (*Sum* δa δb instead of *Sum*).
- Explicit dictionaries are replaced by implicit dictionaries.
- The implicit dictionaries can not only hold the function that is defined, but other functions.
- These dependencies of one generic function on other generic functions are recorded in the types.

Explicit recursion, implicit dictionaries

$comp\langle Unit \rangle$		$Unit$	$Unit$	$= EQ$
$comp\langle Sum \rangle$	$comp_a$	$comp_b$	$(Inl\ a_1)$	$(Inl\ a_2) = comp_a\ a_1\ a_2$
$comp\langle Sum \rangle$	$comp_a$	$comp_b$	$(Inl\ _)$	$(Inr\ _) = LT$
$comp\langle Sum \rangle$	$comp_a$	$comp_b$	$(Inr\ _)$	$(Inl\ _) = GT$
$comp\langle Sum \rangle$	$comp_a$	$comp_b$	$(Inr\ b_1)$	$(Inr\ b_2) = comp_b\ b_1\ b_2$
$comp\langle Prod \rangle$	$comp_a$	$comp_b$	(a_1, b_1)	$(a_2, b_2) =$
	case	$comp_a\ a_1\ a_2$	of	
		$EQ \rightarrow$	$comp_b\ b_1\ b_2$	
		$r \rightarrow$	r	
$comp\langle Int \rangle$		i_1	i_2	$= compare\ i_1\ i_2$

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comp⟨Sum⟩           comp⟨δa⟩ comp⟨δb⟩ (Inr b1) (Inr b2) = comp⟨δb⟩ b1 b2
comp⟨Prod⟩          comp⟨δa⟩ comp⟨δb⟩ (a1, b1) (a2, b2) =
  case comp⟨δa⟩ a1 a2 of
    EQ → comp⟨δb⟩ b1 b2
    r  → r
comp⟨Int⟩           i1     i2     = compare i1 i2
```

We rename the dictionary arguments.

Explicit recursion, implicit dictionaries

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comp⟨Unit⟩                               Unit    Unit    = EQ
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  case comp⟨δa⟩ a1 a2 of
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    r   → r
comp⟨Int⟩                               i1     i2     = compare i1 i2
```

We add variables to the type arguments.

Explicit recursion, implicit dictionaries

```
comp⟨Unit⟩                               Unit   Unit   = EQ
comp⟨Sum δa δb⟩ {- (...) implicit -} (Inl a1) (Inl a2) = comp⟨δa⟩ a1 a2
comp⟨Sum δa δb⟩ {- (...) implicit -} (Inl _) (Inr _) = LT
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    EQ → comp⟨δb⟩ b1 b2
    r  → r
comp⟨Int⟩                                i1    i2    = compare i1 i2
```

We forget the dictionary arguments.

- This definition is in the desired format, but can be interpreted in the same way as the Classic definition.
- Type arguments are type constructors, fully applied to dependency variables.

What about the types?

The dependencies are recorded in the types.

$$\text{comp}\langle \text{Sum } \delta a \ \delta b \rangle (\text{Inl } a_1) (\text{Inl } a_2) = \text{comp}\langle \delta a \rangle a_1 a_2$$

$$\text{comp}\langle \text{Sum } \delta a \ \delta b \rangle (\text{Inl } _) (\text{Inr } _) = \text{LT}$$

$$\text{comp}\langle \text{Sum } \delta a \ \delta b \rangle (\text{Inr } _) (\text{Inl } _) = \text{GT}$$

$$\text{comp}\langle \text{Sum } \delta a \ \delta b \rangle (\text{Inr } b_1) (\text{Inr } b_2) = \text{comp}\langle \delta b \rangle b_1 b_2$$

For instance, the right hand sides of the sum case have this type:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall a b. (\text{comp}\langle \delta a \rangle :: a \rightarrow a \rightarrow \text{Ordering}, \text{comp}\langle \delta b \rangle :: b \rightarrow b \rightarrow \text{Ordering}) \\ \Rightarrow \text{Sum } a b \rightarrow \text{Sum } a b \rightarrow \text{Ordering} \end{aligned}$$

Actually, these four types are instances of the type given above:

$$\forall a b. (\text{comp}\langle \delta a \rangle :: a \rightarrow a \rightarrow \text{Ordering}) \Rightarrow \text{Sum } a b \rightarrow \text{Sum } a b \rightarrow \text{Ordering}$$

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What about the types? – contd.

Dependencies are introduced whenever a type argument with one or more dependency variables is used. For instance, $comp\langle\delta a\rangle$:

$comp\langle\delta a\rangle ::$

$a \rightarrow a \rightarrow Ordering$

What about the types? – contd.

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$$comp\langle\delta a\rangle :: (comp\langle\delta a\rangle :: a \rightarrow a \rightarrow Ordering) \Rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow Ordering$$

It turns out that this type contains sufficient type information for the generic function:

$$(comp\langle\delta a\rangle :: a \rightarrow a \rightarrow Ordering) \Rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow Ordering$$

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$$\langle\delta a\rangle a \mapsto (comp\langle\delta a\rangle :: a \rightarrow a \rightarrow Ordering) \Rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow Ordering$$

What about the types? – contd.

Dependencies are introduced whenever a type argument with one or more dependency variables is used. For instance, $comp\langle\delta a\rangle$:

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It turns out that this type contains sufficient type information for the generic function:

$$comp\langle t\rangle :: (\mathbf{generalize} \langle\delta a\rangle a \mapsto (comp\langle\delta a\rangle :: a \rightarrow a \rightarrow Ordering) \Rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow Ordering) t$$

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From this type signature, the following types can be computed automatically:

$$\begin{array}{llll} comp\langle[Int]\rangle & :: & [Int] & \rightarrow [Int] \rightarrow Ordering \\ comp\langle[\delta a]\rangle & :: (comp\langle\delta a\rangle :: a \rightarrow a \rightarrow Ordering) \\ & & \Rightarrow [a] & \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow Ordering \\ comp\langle Sum \delta a \delta b \rangle & :: (comp\langle\delta a\rangle :: a \rightarrow a \rightarrow Ordering \\ & & , comp\langle\delta b\rangle :: b \rightarrow b \rightarrow Ordering) \\ & & \Rightarrow Sum a b \rightarrow Sum a b \rightarrow Ordering \end{array}$$

Using dependency-style functions

- The call $comp\langle Int \rangle$ refers to the case for Int in the definition.
- In Classic Generic Haskell, $comp\langle Tree \rangle$ expects an extra argument. The call $comp\langle Tree Int \rangle$ is the same as $comp\langle Tree \rangle (comp\langle Int \rangle)$.

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- Now, $comp\langle Tree\ \delta a \rangle$ has a **dependency** on $comp\langle \delta a \rangle :: a \rightarrow a \rightarrow Ordering$. This dependency can be satisfied in a special let-binding:

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   $comp\langle Tree \delta a \rangle (Node (Leaf 3) (Leaf 7)) (Node (Leaf 3) (Leaf 5))$   
   $\rightsquigarrow EQ$ 
```

- The call $comp\langle Tree Int \rangle$ now is the same as

```
deplet  $comp\langle \delta a \rangle = comp\langle Int \rangle$  in  $comp\langle Tree \delta a \rangle$ 
```


Multiple dependencies

The function *lcomp* (with the special case for lists) depends on both *lcomp* and *comp*:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{lcomp}\langle \text{Prod } \delta a \ \delta b \rangle (a_1, b_1) (a_2, b_2) = & \text{case } \text{lcomp}\langle \delta a \rangle a_1 a_2 \text{ of} \\ & \text{EQ} \rightarrow \text{lcomp}\langle \delta b \rangle b_1 b_2 \\ & r \rightarrow r \end{aligned}$$
$$\begin{aligned} \dots \\ \text{lcomp}\langle [\delta a] \rangle \quad as_1 \quad as_2 \quad = & \text{case } \text{compare } (\text{length } as_1) (\text{length } as_2) \text{ of} \\ & \text{EQ} \rightarrow \text{comp}\langle \delta a \rangle as_1 as_2 \\ & r \rightarrow r \end{aligned}$$

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$$lcomp\langle Prod\ \delta a\ \delta b\rangle\ (a_1, b_1)\ (a_2, b_2) = \mathbf{case}\ lcomp\langle \delta a\rangle\ a_1\ a_2\ \mathbf{of}$$
$$EQ \rightarrow lcomp\langle \delta b\rangle\ b_1\ b_2$$
$$r \rightarrow r$$

...

$$lcomp\langle [\delta a]\rangle\ as_1\ as_2 = \mathbf{case}\ compare\ (length\ as_1)\ (length\ as_2)\ \mathbf{of}$$
$$EQ \rightarrow comp\langle \delta a\rangle\ as_1\ as_2$$
$$r \rightarrow r$$
$$lcomp\langle t\rangle :: (\mathbf{generalize}\ \langle \delta a\rangle\ a \mapsto$$
$$(comp\langle \delta a\rangle :: a \rightarrow a \rightarrow Ordering$$
$$, lcomp\langle \delta a\rangle :: a \rightarrow a \rightarrow Ordering) \Rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow Ordering)\ t$$

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$$lcomp\langle Tree\ Int\rangle \equiv$$
$$\mathbf{deplet}\ comp\langle \delta a\rangle = comp\langle Int\rangle$$
$$lcomp\langle \delta a\rangle = lcomp\langle Int\rangle$$
$$\mathbf{in}\ lcomp\langle Tree\ \delta a\rangle$$

Traversal example

```
data Compiler    = C Name [Package Maintainer]  
data Package a   = P Name a [Feature] [Package a]  
data Maintainer = M Name Affiliation  
                    | Unmaintained  
data Feature    = F String  
type Name       = String  
type Affiliation = String
```

Possible tasks:

- Check if something is maintained.
- Assign a new maintainer to a structure.
- Assign all unmaintained packages that implement generic programming to me.

Check if something is maintained

```
data Compiler = C Name [Package Maintainer]
data Package a = P Name a [Feature] [Package a]
data Maintainer = M Name Affiliation
                    | Unmaintained
data Feature = F String
type Name = String
type Affiliation = String
```

```
unmaintained⟨ $\delta a$ ⟩ extends crush⟨ $\delta a$ ⟩ False (∨)
unmaintained⟨Package  $\delta a$ ⟩ (P _ a _ _) = unmaintained⟨ $\delta a$ ⟩ a
unmaintained⟨Maintainer⟩ m = case m of Unmaintained → True
                               _ → False
```

Check if something is maintained

```
data Compiler = C Name [Package Maintainer]
data Package a = P Name a [Feature] [Package a]
data Maintainer = M Name Affiliation
                | Unmaintained
data Feature = F String
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                               _ → False
```

```
unmaintained⟨t⟩ :: (generalize ⟨ $\delta a$ ⟩ a ↦
  (unmaintained⟨ $\delta a$ ⟩ :: a → Bool
    ) ⇒ a → Bool
  ) t
crush⟨t⟩ :: ∀b. (generalize ⟨ $\delta a$ ⟩ a ↦
  (crush⟨ $\delta a$ ⟩ :: b → (b → b → b) → a → b) ⇒ b → (b → b → b) → a → b) t
```

Assign a new maintainer to a structure

```
data Compiler    = C Name [Package Maintainer]
data Package a  = P Name a [Feature] [Package a]
data Maintainer = M Name Affiliation
                    | Unmaintained
data Feature    = F String
type Name       = String
type Affiliation = String
```

```
assign⟨ $\delta a$ ⟩ m extends id⟨ $\delta a$ ⟩
assign⟨Package  $\delta a$ ⟩ (P name a fts pkgs) = P name (assign⟨ $\delta a$ ⟩ a) fts pkgs
assign⟨Maintainer⟩ – = m
```

Assign a new maintainer to a structure

```
data Compiler    = C Name [Package Maintainer]
data Package a  = P Name a [Feature] [Package a]
data Maintainer = M Name Affiliation
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```

```
assign⟨t⟩ :: (generalize ⟨ $\delta a$ ⟩ a  $\mapsto$  (assign⟨ $\delta a$ ⟩ :: a  $\rightarrow$  a)  $\Rightarrow$  a  $\rightarrow$  a) t
id⟨t⟩     :: (generalize ⟨ $\delta a$ ⟩ a  $\mapsto$  (id⟨ $\delta a$ ⟩ :: a  $\rightarrow$  a)  $\Rightarrow$  a  $\rightarrow$  a) t
```


Reassign suitable packages to me

```
gpreassign⟨ $\delta a$ ⟩ extends id⟨ $\delta a$ ⟩  
gpreassign⟨Package  $\delta a$ ⟩ p@(P name a fts pkgs)  
| "generic programming" ∈ fts ∧ unmaintained⟨Package  $\delta a$ ⟩  
  = assign⟨Package  $\delta a$ ⟩ (M "Andres" "UU") p'  
| otherwise = p'  
where p' = P name a fts (gpreassign⟨[Package  $\delta a$ ]⟩ pkgs)
```

Reassign suitable packages to me

```
gpreassign⟨ $\delta a$ ⟩ extends id⟨ $\delta a$ ⟩  
gpreassign⟨Package  $\delta a$ ⟩ p@(P name a fts pkgs)  
  | "generic programming" ∈ fts ∧ unmaintained⟨Package  $\delta a$ ⟩  
    = assign⟨Package  $\delta a$ ⟩ (M "Andres" "UU") p'  
  | otherwise = p'  
where p' = P name a fts (gpreassign⟨[Package  $\delta a$ ]⟩ pkgs)
```

This time, there are three dependencies:

```
gpreassign⟨t⟩ :: (generalize ⟨ $\delta a$ ⟩ a ↦  
  (unmaintained⟨ $\delta a$ ⟩ :: a → Bool  
  , assign⟨ $\delta a$ ⟩ :: a → a  
  , gpreassign⟨ $\delta a$ ⟩ :: a → a) ⇒ a → a) t
```

Summary of Dependency style

- In the definitions of generic functions, the type patterns now are type constructors applied to dependency variables.
- Calls to generic functions with type arguments containing dependency variables now give rise to dependency constraints.
- Dependency constraints can be satisfied by means of a **deplet** construct.

Comparison with type classes

- One function per class.
- Based on dependency variables.
- Dependency constraints can be locally instantiated.
- Type of the constraint varies with the kind of the variable; constraints can be nested:

```
data Fix f = In f (Fix f)
```

```
comp⟨Fix δf⟩ ::
```

```
Fix f → Fix f → Ordering
```

Comparison with type classes

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```
data Fix f = In f (Fix f)
```

```
comp⟨Fix δf⟩ ::
```

```
  (comp⟨δf⟩) ::
```

```
    f a → f a → Ordering)
```

```
⇒ Fix f → Fix f → Ordering
```

Comparison with type classes

- One function per class.
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comp⟨Fix δf⟩ ::
  (comp⟨δf⟩) ::
    (comp⟨⟩ :: a → a → Ordering)
    ⇒ f a → f a → Ordering
    ⇒ Fix f → Fix f → Ordering
```

Comparison with type classes

- One function per class.
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```
data Fix f = In f (Fix f)
comp⟨Fix δf⟩ ::
  (comp⟨δf δa⟩ ::
    (comp⟨δa⟩ :: a → a → Ordering)
    ⇒ f a → f a → Ordering)
  ⇒ Fix f → Fix f → Ordering
```

Conclusions

- Using Dependency-style Generic Haskell shifts programming complexity from the programmer to the compiler; the programmer can write functions in the more natural, “explicit” style, with named type arguments.
- Using multiple, possibly mutually recursive generic functions becomes possible.
- Nothing of the power of Classic Generic Haskell is lost.
- With Dependency-style syntax, it is easier to support even more classes of generic functions:

- functions with higher base kind or nested type patterns

$poly\langle \wedge \delta a. \delta a \rangle = \dots$

$generic\langle [[\delta a]] \rangle = \dots$

- functions that involve type-indexed datatypes
- More future work: inferring the dependency constraints in the declaration of a generic function automatically.