Under consideration for publication in J. Functional Programming

# Causal Commutative Arrows

Hai Liu\*, Eric Cheng† and Paul Hudak Department of Computer Science Yale University New Haven, CT 06520, U.S.A.

(e-mail: hai.liu@aya.yale.edu,eric.cheng@aya.yale.edu,paul.hudak@yale.edu)

#### Abstract

Arrows are a popular form of abstract computation. Being more general than monads, they are more broadly applicable, and in particular are a good abstraction for signal processing and dataflow computations. Most notably, arrows form the basis for a domain specific language called *Yampa*, which has been used in a variety of concrete applications, including animation, robotics, sound synthesis, control systems, and graphical user interfaces.

Our primary interest is in better understanding the class of abstract computations captured by Yampa. Unfortunately, arrows are not concrete enough to do this with precision. To remedy this situation we introduce the concept of *commutative arrows* that capture a non-interference property of concurrent computations. We also add an *init* operator that captures the causal nature of arrow effects, and identify its associated law.

To study this class of computations in more detail, we define an extension to arrows called *causal commutative arrows* (CCA), and study its properties. Our key contribution is the identification of a normal form for CCA called *causal commutative normal form* (CCNF). By defining a normalization procedure we have developed an optimization strategy that yields dramatic improvements in performance over conventional implementations of arrows. We have implemented this technique in Haskell, and conducted benchmarks that validate the effectiveness of our approach. When compiled with the Glasgow Haskell Compiler (GHC), the overall methodology can result in significant speed-ups.

### **1** Introduction

Consider the following recursive mathematical definition of the exponential function:

$$e(t) = 1 + \int_0^t e(t)dt$$

In Yampa (Hudak *et al.*, 2003), a domain-specific language embedded in Haskell (Peyton Jones *et al.*, 2003), we can write this using arrow syntax (Paterson, 2001) as follows:

 $exp = \mathbf{proc} () \rightarrow \mathbf{do}$  $\mathbf{rec \ let} \ e = 1 + i$  $i \leftarrow integral \longrightarrow e$  $returnA \longrightarrow e$ 

<sup>\*</sup> Presently at Intel Labs, Intel Corporation.

<sup>†</sup> Presently at Google Inc.

### Hai Liu, Eric Cheng and Paul Hudak

Even for those not familiar with arrow syntax or Haskell, the close correspondence between the mathematics and the Yampa program should be clear. As in most high-level language designs, this is the primary motivation for developing a language such as Yampa: reducing the gap between program and specification.

Yampa has been used in a variety of applications, including robotics (Hudak *et al.*, 2003; Peterson *et al.*, 1999a; Peterson *et al.*, 1999b), sound synthesis (Giorgidze & Nilsson, 2008; Cheng & Hudak, 2009), animation (Hudak *et al.*, 2003), video games (Courtney *et al.*, 2003; Cheong, 2005), bio-chemical processes (Hudak *et al.*, 2008), control systems (Oertel, 2006), and graphical user interfaces (Courtney & Elliott, 2001; Courtney, 2004). There are several reasons that we prefer a language design based on arrows over, for example, an approach such as that used in Fran (Elliott & Hudak, 1997). First, arrows are more *direct* – they convey information about input as well as output, whereas Fran's inputs are implicit and global. Second, the use of arrows eliminates a subtle but devastating form of *space leak*, as described in (Liu & Hudak, 2007). Third, arrows introduce a meta-level of computation that aids in reasoning about program correctness, transformation, and optimization.

But in fact, conventional arrows are not strong enough to capture the family of computations that we are interested in – more laws are needed to constrain the computation space. Unfortunately, more constrained forms of computation – such as monads (Moggi, 1991) and applicative functors (McBride & Paterson, 2008) – are not general enough. In addition, there are not enough operators. In particular, we find the need for an abstract *initialization* operator and its associated laws.

In this paper we give a precise abstract characterization of a class of arrow computations that we call *causal commutative arrows*, or just CCA for short. More precisely, the contributions in this paper can be summarized as follows:

- 1. We define a notion of *commutative arrow* by extending the conventional set of arrow laws to include a commutativity law.
- 2. We define an *ArrowInit* type class with an *init* operator that captures the essence of causal computation and satisfies a *product law*.
- 3. We define a restricted language called *CCA*, in which the above ideas are manifest. For such arrows we establish:
  - (a) a normal form, and
  - (b) a normalization procedure.

We achieve this result using only CCA laws, without referring to any concrete semantics or implementation.

- We define an *optimization technique* for causal commutative arrows that yields substantial improvements in performance over previous attempts to optimize arrow combinators and arrow syntax.
- 5. Finally, we show how to implement our ideas in GHC to yield speed-ups, in certain cases by over two orders of magnitude.

We begin the presentation with a brief overview of arrows in Section 2. The knowledgeable reader may prefer to skip directly to Section 3, where we give the definition and laws for CCA. In Section 4 we show that any CCA program can be transformed into a uniform representation that we call *Causal Commutative Normal Form* (CCNF). We prove that the

normalization procedure is sound, based on equational reasoning using only the CCA laws. In Section 5 we discuss further optimizations, and in Section 6 their implementations in GHC. We present some benchmarks showing the effectiveness of our approach in Section 7. We discuss in Section 8 possible extensions, and in Section 9 related work.

### 2 An Introduction to Arrows

*Arrows* (Hughes, 2000) are a generalization of monads that relax the stringent linearity imposed by monads, while retaining a disciplined style of composition. Arrows have enjoyed a wide range of applications, often as a domain-specific embedded language (DSEL (Hudak, 1996; Hudak, 1998)), including the many Yampa applications cited earlier, as well as parsers and printers (Jansson & Jeuring, 1999), parallel computing (Huang *et al.*, 2007), and so on. Arrows also have a theoretical foundation in category theory, where they are strongly related to (but not precisely the same as) *Freyd categories* (Atkey, 2008; Power & Thielecke, 1999).

### 2.1 Conventional Arrows

Like monads, arrows capture a certain class of abstract computations, and offer a way to structure programs. In Haskell this is achieved through the *Arrow* type class:

class Arrow a where

arr ::  $(b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow a b c$ (>>>) ::  $a b c \rightarrow a c d \rightarrow a b d$ first ::  $a b c \rightarrow a (b,d) (c,d)$ 

The combinator *arr* lifts a function from *b* to *c* to a "pure" arrow computation from *b* to *c*, namely *a b c* where *a* is the arrow type. The output of a pure arrow entirely depends on the input (it is analogous to *return* in the *Monad* class).  $\gg$  composes two arrow computations by connecting the output of the first to the input of the second (and is analogous to bind  $\gg$  in the *Monad* class). But in addition to composing arrows linearly, it is desirable to compose them in parallel – i.e. to allow "branching" and "merging" of inputs and outputs. There are several ways to do this, but by simply defining the *first* combinator in the *Arrow* class, all other combinators can be defined. *first* converts an arrow computation taking one input and one result, into an arrow computation taking two inputs and two results. The original arrow is applied to the first part of the input, and the result becomes the first part of the output. The second part of the output.

Other combinators can be defined using these three primitives. For example, the dual of *first* can be defined as:

second :::  $(Arrow a) \Rightarrow a \ b \ c \rightarrow a \ (d,b) \ (d,c)$ second  $f = arr \ swap \implies first \ f \implies arr \ swap$ where  $swap \ (a,b) = (b,a)$ 

Parallel composition can be defined as a sequence of first and second:

 $( \star \star \star ) :: (Arrow a) \Rightarrow a \ b \ c \to a \ b' \ c' \to a \ (b,b') \ (c,c')$  $f \star \star \star g = first f \gg second \ g$ 

Hai Liu, Eric Cheng and Paul Hudak

left identity arr id  $\gg f = f$ right identity  $f \gg arr id = f$ associativity  $(f \gg g) \gg h = f \gg (g \gg h)$ composition  $arr(g.f) = arrf \gg arrg$ extension first  $(arr f) = arr (f \times id)$ functor *first*  $(f \gg g) = first f \gg first g$ exchange *first*  $f \gg arr(id \times g) = arr(id \times g) \gg first f$ unit *first*  $f \gg arr fst = arr fst \gg f$ association *first* (*first* f)  $\gg$  *arr assoc* = *arr assoc*  $\gg$  *first* fwhere *assoc* ((a,b),c) = (a,(b,c))

Fig. 1. Conventional arrow laws

left tightening	$loop (first h \gg f) = h \gg loop f$
right tightening	$loop (f \gg first h) = loop f \gg h$
sliding	$loop (f \ggg arr (id \times k)) = loop (arr (id \times k) \ggg f)$
vanishing	$loop (loop f) = loop (arr assoc^{-1} \gg f \gg arr assoc)$
superposing	second $(loop f) = loop (arr assoc \gg second f \gg arr assoc^{-1})$
extension	loop(arr f) = arr(trace f)
	where trace $f b = $ let $(c,d) = f(b,d)$ in $c$

Fig. 2. Arrow loop laws

A mere implementation of the arrow combinators, of course, does not make it an arrow – it must additionally satisfy a set of *arrow laws*, which are shown in Figure 1.

#### 2.2 Looping Arrows

To model recursion, we can introduce a *loop* combinator (Paterson, 2001). The exponential example given in the introduction requires recursion, as do many applications in signal processing, for example. In Haskell this combinator is captured in the *ArrowLoop* class:

class Arrow  $a \Rightarrow$  ArrowLoop a where loop ::  $a (b,d) (c,d) \rightarrow a b c$ 

A valid instance of this class should satisfy the additional laws shown in Figure 2. This class and its associated laws are related to the trace operator in (Street *et al.*, 1996; Hasegawa, 1997), which was generalized to arrows in (Paterson, 2001).

We find that arrows are best viewed pictorially, especially for applications such as signal processing, where domain experts commonly draw signal flow diagrams. Figure 3 shows some of the basic combinators in this manner, including *loop*.

### 2.3 Arrow Syntax

Recall the Yampa definition of the exponential function given earlier:

 $exp = \mathbf{proc} () \rightarrow \mathbf{do}$  $\mathbf{rec \, let} \ e = 1 + i$  $i \leftarrow integral \longrightarrow e$  $returnA \longrightarrow e$ 

 $arr ::: Arrow a \Rightarrow (b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow a b c$ (>>>):: Arrow a \Rightarrow a \Rightarrow a c d \rightarrow a b d first ::: Arrow a \Rightarrow a b c \rightarrow a (b,d) (c,d) (\*\*\*):: Arrow a \Rightarrow a b c \rightarrow a b' c' \rightarrow a (b,b') (c,c') loop ::: Arrow a \Rightarrow a (b,d) (c,d) \rightarrow a b c



Fig. 3. Commonly Used Arrow Combinators

**commutativity** first  $f \gg$  second g = second  $g \gg$  first f**product** init i \*\*\* init j = init (i,j)

Fig. 4. Causal Commutative Arrow Laws

This program is written using *arrow syntax*, introduced by (Paterson, 2001) and adopted by GHC (the predominant Haskell implementation) because it ameliorates the cumbersome nature of writing in the point-free style demanded by arrow combinators. The above program is equivalent to the following sugar-free program:

 $exp = fixA (integral \gg arr (+1))$ where fixA f = loop (second f \sim arr (dup . snd)) dup x = (x,x)

Although more cumbersome, we will use this program style in the remainder of the paper, in order to avoid having to explain the meaning of arrow syntax in more detail.

#### **3** Causal Commutative Arrows

In this section we introduce two key extensions to conventional arrows, and demonstrate their use by implementing a stream transformer in Haskell.

First, as mentioned in the introduction, the set of arrow and arrow loop laws is not strong enough to capture stream computations. In particular, the *commutativity law* shown in Figure 4 establishes a non-interference property for concurrent computations – effects are still allowed, but this law guarantees that concurrent effects cannot interfere with each other. We say that an arrow is *commutative* if it satisfies the conventional laws as well as this critical additional law. Yampa is in fact based on commutative arrows.

Second, we note that Yampa has a primitive operator called *iPre* that is used to inject a delay into a computation; indeed it is the primary effect imposed by the Yampa arrow (Hudak *et al.*, 2003). Similar operators, often called *delay*, also appear in dataflow pro-

### Hai Liu, Eric Cheng and Paul Hudak

**newtype** SF  $a b = SF \{ unSF :: a \rightarrow (b, SF a b) \}$ instance Arrow SF where where *h x* = (f x, SF h)arrf = SFhwhere hf(x,z) = let(y,f') = unSFf xfirst f = SF(hf)in ((y,z), SF(hf')) $f \gg g = SF(hfg)$  where hfgx= let (y, f') = unSF f x(z,g') = unSF g yin (z, SF(hf'g'))instance ArrowLoop SF where loop f = SF(hf) where hf x= let ((y,z),f') = unSFf(x,z)in (y, SF(hf'))instance ArrowInit SF where *init* i = SF(h i)=(i,SF(hx))where *h* i x  $run_{sf}$  ::  $SF a b \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow [b]$ where gf(x:xs) = let(y,f') = unSFfx $run_{sf}f = gf$ in y:gf'xs

Fig. 5. Causal Stream Transformer

gramming (Wadge & Ashcroft, 1985), stream processing (Stephens, 1997; Thies *et al.*, 2002), and synchronous languages (Caspi *et al.*, 1987; Colaço *et al.*, 2004). In all cases, the operator introduces stateful computation into an otherwise stateless setting.

In an effort to make this operation more abstract, we rename it *init* and capture it in the following type class:

**class** *ArrowLoop*  $a \Rightarrow$  *ArrowInit* a **where** *init* ::  $b \rightarrow a b b$ 

Intuitively, the argument to *init* is the initial output; subsequent output is a copy of the input to the arrow. It captures the essence of causal computations, namely that the current output depends only on the current as well as previous inputs. Besides causality, we make no other assumptions about the nature of these values: they may or may not vary with time, and the increment of change may be finite or infinitesimally small.

More importantly, a valid instance of the *ArrowInit* class must satisfy the *product* law shown in Figure 4. This law states that two *inits* paired together are equivalent to one *init* of a pair. Here we use the  $\star\star\star$  operator instead of its expanded definition *first...*  $\gg$  *second...* to imply that the product law assumes commutativity.

We will see in a later section that *init* and the product law are critical to our normalization and optimization strategies. But *init* is also important in allowing us to define operators that were previously taken as domain-specific primitives. In particular, consider the *integral* operator used in the exponentiation examples. With *init*, we can define *integral* using the Euler integration method and a fixed global step *dt* as follows:

*integral* :: ArrowInit  $a \Rightarrow a$  Double Double *integral* = loop (arr acc  $\gg$  init  $0 \gg arr dup$ ) where acc (x,i) = i + dt \* xdup x = (x,x)

To complete the picture, we give an instance (i.e. an implementation) of CCA that captures a causal *stream transformer*, as shown in Figure 5, where:

- *SF a b* is an arrow representing functions (transformers) from streams of type *a* to streams of type *b*. It is essentially a recursively defined data type consisting of a function with its continuation, a concept closely related to a form of finite state automaton called a *Mealy Machine* (G. H. Mealy, 1955). *Yampa* employs a similar implementation, and the same data type was called *Auto* in (Paterson, 2001).
- *SF* is declared an instance of type classes *Arrow*, *ArrowLoop* and *ArrowInit*. For example, *exp* can be instantiated as type *exp* :: *SF* () *Double*. These instances obey all of the arrow laws, including the two additional laws that we introduced.
- $run_{sf}$ :: *SF*  $a \ b \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow [b]$  converts an *SF* arrow into a stream transformer that maps an input stream of type [a] to an output stream of type [b].

As a demonstration, we can sample the exponential function at a fixed time interval by running the *exp* arrow over an uniform input stream *inp*:

$$dt = 0.01 \qquad :: Double$$
  

$$inp = (): inp \qquad :: [()]$$
  
\* Main > run<sub>sf</sub> exp inp  
[1.0, 1.01, 1.0201, 1.030301, 1.04060401, 1.0510100501, ...

We must stress that the *SF* type is but one instance of a causal commutative arrow, and alternative implementations such as the synchronous circuit type *SeqMap* in (Paterson, 2001) and the stream function type (incidentally also called) *SF* in (Hughes, 2004) also qualify as valid instances. The abstract properties such as normal forms that we develop in the next section are applicable to any of these instances, and thus are more broadly applicable than optimization techniques based on a specific semantic model, such as the one considered in (Caspi & Pouzet, 1998).

### **4** Normalization of CCA

In most implementations, arrow programs carry a run-time overhead, primarily due to the use of a data structure for arrow instances, as well as the extra tupling forced onto function's arguments and return values. There have been several attempts (Hughes, 2004; Nilsson, 2005) to optimize arrow-based programs using arrow laws, but the result has not been entirely satisfactory. Although conventional arrow and arrow loop laws offer ways to combine pure arrows and collapse nested loops, they are not specific enough to target *effectful* arrows, such as the *init* combinator. Certain effectful arrows are dynamically optimized in (Nilsson, 2005), but they are based on somewhat ad-hoc laws, and there are no normal forms.

Our new strategy is based on the following rather striking observation: *any CCA program can be transformed into a single loop containing one pure arrow and one initial state value*. More precisely, any CCA program can be normalized into either the form arr f or:

### $loop (arr f \gg second (init i))$

where f is a pure function and i is an initial state. Note that all the *essential* arrow combinators, *arr*,  $\gg$ , *second*, *loop* and *init*, are used *exactly once*, and therefore all of the overheads (tupling, etc.) associated with multiple occurrences and compositions of the

### Hai Liu, Eric Cheng and Paul Hudak



arrow combinators are completely eliminated. Not surprisingly, the resulting improvement in performance is rather dramatic, as we will see later.

First we define a combinator called *loopD* that can be viewed as syntactic sugar for the above form:

```
loopD :: ArrowInit a \Rightarrow d \rightarrow ((b,d) \rightarrow (c,d)) \rightarrow a b c
loopD if = loop (f \gg second (init i))
```

A pictorial view of *loopD* is given in Figure 6. The second argument to *loopD* is a pure function mapping a tuple of (b,d) to (c,d), where the value of type d is initialized before looping back, and is often regarded as an internal state.

As a concrete example, Figure 7(a) is a diagram of the original *exp* example given earlier. In Figure 7(b) we have inlined the definition of *integral* and applied the optimization strategy. The result is a single loop, where all pure functions can be combined together to minimize arrow implementation overheads.

To be more precise as to what kind of arrows are subject to normalization, we want to restrict our discussion in this section on well-formed and closed CCA terms.

# Definition 4.1 (CCA)

A *causal commutative arrow* (CCA) is a valid instance of the *ArrowInit* class, whose terms are definable from only the following combinators: *arr*, *first*,  $\gg$ , *loop* and *init*. All CCAs must satisfy the two CCA laws given in Figure 4 in addition to the arrow and arrow loop laws.

Definition 4.1 effectively means:

- 1. We are only concerned with CCAs written in closed terms, without referencing arrow definitions from the environment (syntactic sugar is still allowed).
- Such arrows must not be recursively defined otherwise normalization would fail to terminate.
- 3. There is no lambda abstraction or application at the arrow level so that we can avoid talking about beta reduction or variable substitution of arrow terms. Note, however, that we do allow all forms of functions, including recursive ones, to be lifted by *arr*.

Definition 4.1 may seem too restrictive as it precludes any form of modularity for CCA since all terms are closed. We believe this is only a necessary step to avoid complications in formalizing CCA properties, and can certainly be relaxed in real-world implementations.

composition  $arr f \gg arr g \mapsto arr (g \cdot f)$  $arr f \gg loopD i g \mapsto loopD i (g . (f \times id))$ left tightening  $loopD \ if \gg arr \ g \mapsto loopD \ i \ ((g \times id) \ .f)$ right tightening  $loopD \ if \implies loopD \ j \ g \mapsto loopD \ (i,j) \ (assoc' \ (juggle' \ (g \times id) \ . \ (f \times id)))$ sequencing *first*  $(arr f) \mapsto arr (f \times id)$ extension superposing first  $(loopD \ if) \mapsto loopD \ i \ (juggle' \ (f \times id))$ loop-extension  $loop(arr f) \mapsto arr(trace f)$ vanishing  $loop (loopD if) \mapsto loopD i (trace (juggle' f))$ 

$f \times g(x, y) = (f x, g y)$	swap(x,y) = (y,x)
assoc $((x,y),z) = (x,(y,z))$	trace $f x = $ let $(y, z) = f(x, z)$ in $y$
$assoc^{-1}(x, (y, z)) = ((x, y), z)$	juggle((x,y),z) = ((x,z),y)
$assoc' f = assoc \cdot f \cdot assoc^{-1}$	juggle' f = juggle . f . juggle

Fig. 8. Single Step Reduction for CCA

$$(\text{NORM1}) \xrightarrow[\text{arr } f \Downarrow arr f] \qquad (\text{NORM2}) \xrightarrow[\text{loopD } i f \Downarrow loopD i f] \\ (\text{INIT}) \xrightarrow[\text{init } i \Downarrow loopD i swap] \qquad (\text{SEQ}) \xrightarrow[e_1 \Downarrow e_1' e_2 \Downarrow e_2' e_1' \ggg e_2' \mapsto e] \\ (\text{FIRST}) \xrightarrow[f \Downarrow f' \text{ first } f' \mapsto e] \\ (\text{FIRST}) \xrightarrow[f \text{ first } f \Downarrow e] \qquad (\text{LOOP}) \xrightarrow[f \Downarrow f' \text{ loop } f' \mapsto e] \\ \text{Fig. 9. Normalization of CCA}$$

Our intuition behind the normalization process is to extend arrow loop laws to *loopD*, so that we only get the *loopD* form as a result. Formally we define a single step reduction  $\mapsto$  for CCA as a set of rules in Figure 8, and a normalization procedure in Figure 9. The normalization relation  $\Downarrow$  can be seen as a big step reduction following an innermost strategy, and is indeed a function.

Note that some of the reduction rules resemble the arrow laws of the same name. However, there are some subtle but important differences: First, unlike the laws, reduction is directed. Second, the rules are extended to handle *loopD* instead of *loop*.

To see how this works, it is helpful to visualize a few examples of the reduction rules in Figure 8, as shown in Figure 10. We omit the simpler rules that follow directly from the laws, and only show those that involve *loopD*. The diagrams in Figure 10 can be explained as follows:

- (a) **left tightening**. Figure 10(a) shows that we can move a pure arrow from a left composition inside a *loopD* arrow. This follows directly from the left tightening law of *loop*.
- (b) **right tightening**. Figure 10(b) shows that we can move a pure arrow from a right composition inside a *loopD* arrow so that it fuses with the pure function inside the *loopD*. This follows directly from the left tightening law of *loop* and the commutativity law of CCA.

### Hai Liu, Eric Cheng and Paul Hudak



- (c) sequencing. Figure 10(c) shows that we can combine two *loopD* arrows into one. In doing so, we have to re-route part of the computation, and make use of product law to fuse two *init* arrows into one. Notice that there is also a re-ordering of a pure arrow and an *init* arrow, which is due to the commutativity law of CCA.
- (d) superposing. Figure 10(d) shows a variant of the superposing law for *loopD* using *first* instead of *second*. Instead of an outer parallel composition, the second line simply passes through the *loopD* unchanged with some re-routing.
- (f) **vanishing**. Figure 10(e) shows an extension of the vanishing law for loops to handle *loopD*. Since the outer loop only acts on the pure function, it can be moved inside and composed with the *trace* function due to the loop extension law.

### Lemma 4.1 (Soundness)

The reduction rules given in Figure 8 are both type and semantics preserving, i.e., if  $e \mapsto e'$  then e = e' is syntactically derivable from the set of CCA laws.

*Proof:* By equational reasoning using arrow laws. The **composition**, **extension** and **loop-extension** reduction rules are directly based on the arrow laws with the same name; **left** and **right tightening**, **superposing** and **vanishing** reduction rules follow the definition of *loopD*, the commutativity law and the arrow loop laws with the same name. The proof of the **sequencing** rule is more involved, and is given in Appendix B.

### Lemma 4.2 (Termination)

The normalization procedure for CCA given in Figure 9 terminates for all CCAs.

*Proof:* By structural induction over all possible definitions of a CCA program. The rules NORM1, NORM2, and INIT are the base case, and SEQ, FIRST, and LOOP cover the inductive case, where the sub arrows (such as  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  in  $e_1 \gg e_2$ , and f in *first* f and *loop* f) are normalized inductively. It also explains why there are exactly 8 reduction rules

for  $\mapsto$ , because the premises of SEQ, FIRST and LOOP require 4, 2 and 2 reduction rules respectively.

### Theorem 4.1 (CCNF)

For any CCA term  $e :: ArrowInit a \Rightarrow a b c$  satisfying Definition 4.1, there exists a normal form  $e_{norm}$ , called the Causal Commutative Normal Form, which is either of the form arr f, or loopD if for some i and f, such that  $e_{norm}$  :: ArrowInit  $a \Rightarrow a b c$ , and  $e \Downarrow e_{norm}$ . In unsugared form, the second form is equivalent to  $loop (arr f \gg second (init i))$ .

#### Proof

Follows from Lemmas 4.1 and 4.2. It is easy to see that when the normalization algorithm (Figure 9) terminates, the result is a CCNF.  $\Box$ 

Since we have presented a normal form and proved the soundness of its reduction rules, a natural question to ask is whether the result leads to completeness. Unfortunately this is not the case. For example, the following two arrows f and g are already in CCNF, and they are both equivalent to *init*  $0 \gg init$  1 with respect to the CCA laws:

 $f = loopD(0,1) (\lambda(x,(y,z)) \rightarrow (z,(y,x)))$  $g = loopD(1,0) (\lambda(x,(y,z)) \rightarrow (y,(z,x)))$ 

With some tricks of tuple re-shuffling, we can easily convert f to g or vice versa in a sound way respecting the CCA laws, but still, they are both normal forms, and yet different.

Moreover, due to the introduction of general recursion at value level through the loop combinator, it's hard to reason about equivalence relationship when there is non-termination. For example, the following two arrows should both reduce to non-terminating traces that are bottom, but this equivalence is not derivable from the laws.

 $p = loop (arr (\lambda(\_,x) \to (x,x+1)))$  $q = loop (arr (\lambda(\_,x) \to (x,x+2)))$ 

After all, the lack of completeness does not necessarily undermine the importance or the usefulness of our technique, as will be shown in the next section.

### **5** Optimization

In this section we describe a simple sequence of optimizations that ultimately leads to a single imperative loop that can be implemented extremely efficiently.

**SF Arrow** One observation is that instead of defining *loopD* as syntactic sugar, we can implement it directly for a given arrow instance. For instance, using the *SF* data type shown in Figure 5, *loopD* can be defined as:

$$loopD \ if = SF \ (g \ i)$$
 where  $g \ i \ x = let \ (y, i') = f \ (x, i)$  in  $(y, SF \ (g \ i'))$ 

As a more concrete example, a special case of  $run_{sf}$  (defined in Section 3) often used in practice is computing the  $n^{th}$  element of the output stream when the input is a constant unit stream. This gives the following function that avoids constructing the output stream using the list data structure:

Hai Liu, Eric Cheng and Paul Hudak

 $nth_{sf}$ ::  $Int \to SF() b \to b$  $nth_{sf} n (SFf) = x `seq` if n \equiv 0 then x else <math>nth_{sf} (n-1)f'$  where (x,f') = f()

Notice the use of *seq* in order to force strict evaluation in each iteration because we want the computation of each iteration to finish before next iteration, instead of being postponed until the very end due to laziness.

**CCNF Tuple** Given the fact that a CCNF is no more than a tuple of a state and a pure function, we can drop the *SF* data structure altogether by simply using the tuple instead of an arrow written in *loopD* form. Correspondingly we can define the stream transformer  $run_{ccnf}$  and the  $n^{th}$  element evaluator  $nth_{ccnf}$  for CCNF tuples:

$$\begin{aligned} run_{ccnf} &:: (d, ((b,d) \to (c,d))) \to [b] \to [c] \\ run_{ccnf} (i,f) &= g \, i \text{ where } g \, i \, (x:xs) = \text{let } (y,i') = f \, (x,i) \text{ in } y:g \, i' \, xs \\ nth_{ccnf} &:: Int \to (d, ((),d) \to (c,d)) \to c \\ nth_{ccnf} \, n \, (i,f) &= aux \, n \, i \text{ where } aux \, n \, i = x \, `seq` \text{ if } n \equiv 0 \text{ then } x \text{ else } aux \, (n-1) \, i' \\ & \text{where } (x,i') = f \, ((),i) \end{aligned}$$

Instead of taking an arrow, the above two functions just take a CCNF tuple and use the pure function to update the state in a loop computation. In doing so, we have successfully transformed away all arrow instances, including the data structure used to implement them!

**Inlining** As we have mentioned in Section 4, the normalization of CCA only acts on fully inlined arrow terms. For example, in order to normalize the *exp* arrow, we need to inline *integral*. After the inlining, we then normalize it to the CCNF below:

```
\begin{split} exp &= loopD \ exp_i \ exp_f \\ exp_i &= 0 \\ exp_f &= trace \ (juggle \ . \ ((dup \ . \ snd) \times id) \ . \ (swap \times id) \ . \ juggle \ . \ ((((+1) \times id) \ . \ trace \ (juggle \ . \ (dup \times id) \ . \ swap \ . \ ((\lambda(x,i) \rightarrow i + dt * x) \times id) \ . \ juggle)) \times id) \ . \ juggle \ . \ (swap \times id) \ . \ juggle) \end{split}
```

The CCNF tuple for the *exp* arrow is just  $(exp_i, exp_f)$ . Notice the sequence of function compositions in  $exp_f$  is the result of our CCA normalization procedure.

To take the inlining one step further, we can simplify the pure function from a CCNF tuple, such as  $exp_f$  given above. The default optimization and inlining techniques supported by GHC can already do this without any user intervention. We demonstrate this step with the above CCNF for *exp*, though the technique is equally applicable to any CCNF.

For example, to compute the  $n^{th}$  element of the exponential sequence, we can just apply  $run_{ccnf}$  to the CCNF tuple  $(exp_i, exp_f)$  like this:

 $nth_{exp}$  :: Int  $\rightarrow$  Double  $nth_{exp}$   $n = nth_{ccnf}$  n  $(exp_i, exp_f)$ 

When given proper optimization flags, GHC is able to agressively optimize the above code and fully inline all functions in the definition of  $exp_f$  and  $nth_{exp}$ . The following is the equivalent intermediate representation extracted from GHC after optimization:

 $nth_{exp} n = \operatorname{case} n \operatorname{of} \{I \# m \to go \ 0.0 \ m\}$ 

 $go :: Double# \to Int# \to Double$   $go i n = \mathbf{case} n \mathbf{of}$   $\_DEFAULT \to go (i + (dt * (i + 1.0))) (n - 1)$   $0 \qquad \longrightarrow D# (i + 1.0)$ 

As we can see, GHC has successfully inlined not only the function  $nth_{cenf}$  but also  $exp_i$ and  $exp_f$ , and transformed everything into a tight loop using only strict and unboxed types (those marked by #). This kind of aggressive optimization essentially results in compiling a CCA program directly to a tight loop that is free of any memory allocation of intermediate data structures.

### 6 Implementation

### 6.1 Template Haskell Based Implementation

We implement CCA normalizations in Haskell with help from Template Haskell (Sheard & Peyton Jones, 2002), an extension to Haskell that allows type-safe compile-time metaprogramming. Our compilation process consists of three steps:

- 1. The source arrow program is translated to an abstract syntax tree (AST).
- 2. The AST is then normalized to CCNF.
- 3. The result is spliced back into the original program before the Haskell compiler finishes the rest of compilation.

The first step requires inlining of all arrow terms in preparation for the second step that does the actual normalization. So merely grabbing the AST of a single CCA definition is not enough since it may contain references to other definitions. Our solution here is to allow a generic *ArrowInit* instance to be instantiated as an AST directly from within Haskell, so that when we evaluate such a term, we get a full AST. This is performed by the Haskell compiler at the meta level and can help achieving similar effects of inlining or substitutions. The following code snippet demonstrates this approach:

data AExp = Arr ExpQ | First AExp | AExp :≫ AExp | Loop AExp | Init ExpQ | LoopD ExpQ ExpQ

**newtype** ASyn b c = AExp AExp

The *AExp* data type represents an AST for CCA, and *ASyn b c* employs phantom types so that we can declare *ASyn* to be an instance of the *Arrow, ArrowLoop* and *ArrowInit* type classes. The *ExpQ* type used here is the internal syntactic representation of a Haskell expression provided by Template Haskell.

For example, the Arrow instance of Asyn can be declared as follows:

```
instance Arrow ASyn where
  arr f = error "use arr' instead"
```

13

### Hai Liu, Eric Cheng and Paul Hudak

 $AExp f \gg AExp g = AExp (f : \gg g)$ first (AExp f) = AExp (First f)

As we can see here, the usual arrow combinators are just syntactic operations over the *AExp* data type. The problem, however, is in defining the *arr* combinator. For instance, consider the following program:

 $f :: Arrow a \Rightarrow a b c$   $g :: Arrow a \Rightarrow a b' c'$   $h :: Arrow a \Rightarrow a (b,b') (c,c')$  $h = first f \gg arr swap \gg first g \gg arr swap$ 

We can obtain the AST for *h* by instantiating the generic arrow type *a* to *Asyn*. This step is automatic because any function over type *ASyn u v* can be applied to any generic arrow of type *Arrow a*  $\Rightarrow$  *a u v*. Simply evaluating *h*::*ASyn* (*b*,*b'*) (*c*,*c'*) in a Haskell interpreter such as GHCi shall return its AST as something like below:

 $AExp(((First f' : \gg Arr swap) : \gg First g') : \gg Arr swap)$ 

where f' and g' stand for the AST for f and g respectively. The instantiation of f and g is automatic because the concrete arrow types for f and g are inferred to be ASyn too. Another way to look at this is that AExp f' :: ASyn b c and AExp g' :: ASyn b' c' are instances of the generic arrow f and g.

The real issue here, however, is that we cannot automatically reify a Haskell function such as *swap* to the meta level, so the above AST for h has a type error, because *Arr swap* will not type check.

Template Haskell can reify certain expressions to the meta level, and this step is called *quotation*. But it cannot do so for all values, and requires explicit quotation using a special syntax [|...] for certain things, such as references to global definitions.

To work around this problem, we ask the programmer to always state the quotation explicitly, and disallow direct usage of *arr* as indicated in the arrow instance delcaration for *ASyn*. Instead of *arr*, we provide an *arr'* function that additionally takes a quoted expression, for example:

 $arr' [|\lambda x \to (x,x)|] (\lambda x \to (x,x))$ 

The above would give us the needed AST for the pure function  $\lambda x \rightarrow (x, x)$  in addition to the function itself, where the [|...|] operation is a special Template Haskell syntax for quoting ("quotable") Haskell expression into an *ExpQ* representation. We provide *arr'* (as well as *init'*, since *init* faces a similar problem) in the *ArrowInit* class defined below:

```
class (Arrow a, ArrowLoop a) \Rightarrow ArrowInit a where
init :: b \rightarrow a b b
arr' :: ExpQ \rightarrow (b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow a b c
init' :: ExpQ \rightarrow b \rightarrow a b b
loopD :: e \rightarrow ((b, e) \rightarrow (c, e)) \rightarrow a b c
```

Since asking the programmer to write in *arr'* gets tedious over time, we provide a modified arrow syntax translator that directly outputs combinator programs written in *arr'* and *init'* instead of *arr* and *init*.

The actual normalization of an *AExp* can be straightforwardly implemented as a traversal using the algorithms given in Figures 8 and 9. We omit the details here by just saying the CCNF of an *AExp* is eventually represented by either the *Arr* or the *LoopD* constructors.

We provide the normalization function as a Template Haskell splice operation:

```
norm:: ArrowInit a \Rightarrow a \ b \ c \rightarrow ExpQ
```

So if we evaluate (norm e) for any generic arrow  $e :: ArrowInit a \Rightarrow a b c$ , what happens in the background is that it will first instantiate e to an ASyn arrow which is internally represented by the AExp data type, then normalized to a LoopD (or Arr) form, and finally spliced back as an Haskell expression loopD if (or arr f) for some i and f. The (...)operation is a special Template Haskell syntax for splicing. Since GHC has native support for Template Haskell, the entire process happens without any user intervention during either the compilation of a Haskell source program using GHC, or an interpretive session using the interactive Haskell evaluator *GHCi*.

#### 6.2 Technical Limitaions

The use of Template Haskell allows a very simple implementation of the meta operations required for CCA normalization, and its integration with GHC gives a seamless user experience. The most significant advantage, however, is that all normalizations are done at compile-time, so that GHC may further optimize the result through strictness analysis, unboxing, inlining, and various other techniques.

An immediate restriction of this approach is that a full AST has to be made available at compile-time, which is only applicable to a subset of all *ArrowInit* instances. Alternative implementations may lift this restriction by allowing normalization at runtime or even utilizing a JIT compiler, and we leave this to the future work.

Besides the compile-time restriction, one caveat to this approach has to do with a limitation of Template Haskell. For example, suppose we define a constant arrow like this:

*constant* :: *ArrowInit*  $a \Rightarrow c \rightarrow a b c$ *constant*  $x = \mathbf{proc} \_ \rightarrow returnA \_ x$ 

When we try to instantiate the above arrow type *a* to *ASyn*, the compiler will complain that the type for *constant* is wrong, and insist that type *c* must be a member of the *Lift* class, which is how Template Haskell reifies a Haskell value to the meta level. To see exactly where is the problem, we translate the above from arrow syntax to combinators using arr':

constant 
$$x = arr' [|\lambda_- \to x|] (\lambda_- \to x)$$

The quotation of the lambda expression  $\setminus_- \to x$  above has a reference to *x*, a parameter of the function *constant*, and Template Haskell cannot quote it unless it knows how to reify the value of *x* to the meta level. and hence requires that the type for *x* is an instance of the *Lift* class.

On the other hand, our goal in the first step of inlining CCA definitions is not to lift arbitrary Haskell values, but to generate top-level code that could somehow still relate the occurrence of variable x in a quotation to the actual parameter of *constant* symbolically, so that we know how to handle substitution without evaluating the actual value of x. In

### Hai Liu, Eric Cheng and Paul Hudak

Table 1. Performance Ratio (greater is	better	)
--	--------	---

Name	GHC	arrowp	CCNF <sub>sf</sub>	CCNF <sub>tuple</sub>
exp	1.0	3.58	30.84	672.79
sine	1.0	2.81	18.89	442.48
oscSine	1.0	2.91	14.28	29.53
50's sci-fi	1.0	3.15	18.72	21.37
robotSim	1.0	2.84	24.67	34.93

order to do so in Template Haskell would require quoting the entire definition of *constant* and restricting variable x to be of the ExpQ type, the type for quoted expressions. This will prevent us from re-using the same unmodified code without CCA normalization, and hence compromise one of our initial goals of making the implementation non-intrusive.

A more effective solution is to perform inlinings and substitutions at the meta level, e.g., using a heavily customized arrow syntax preprocessor, which will no longer rely on the evaluation of Haskell terms, and hence bypass the whole reification issue. Unfortunately this is beyond what Template Haskell does, and we leave it to future work.

### 7 Benchmarks

We ran a set of benchmarks to measure the performance of several programs written in arrow syntax, but compiled and optimized in different ways. For each program, we:

- 1. Compiled with GHC, which has a built-in translator for arrow syntax, and ran  $nth_{sf}$  on the resulting arrow. (*GHC*)
- 2. Translated using Paterson's *arrowp* pre-processor to arrow combinators, compiled with GHC, and ran  $nth_{sf}$  on the resulting arrow. (*arrowp*)
- 3. Normalized to CCNF, compiled with GHC and ran  $nth_{sf}$  on the normalized arrow.  $(CCNF_{sf})$
- 4. Normalized to CCNF, compiled with GHC and ran *nth<sub>ccnf</sub>* on the CCNF tuple. (*CCNF<sub>tuple</sub>*)

The five benchmarks we used are: the exponential function given earlier, a sine wave with fixed frequency using Goertzel's method (Goertzel, 1958), a sine wave with variable frequency, "50's sci-fi" sound synthesis program taken from (Giorgidze & Nilsson, 2008), and a robot simulator taken from (Hudak *et al.*, 2003). The programs were compiled and run on an Intel Atom N270 1.6GHz machine with GHC version 6.10.4, using compilation options -02 -fvia-C -fno-method-sharing -fexcess-precision. We measured the CPU time used to run a program through 10<sup>6</sup> samples. The results are shown in Table 1, where the numbers represent normalized speedup ratios, and we include the source program for all benchmarks in Appendix A.

The results show dramatic performance improvements using normalized arrows. We note that:

1. Based on the same arrow implementation, the performance gain of CCNF over the first two approaches is entirely due to program transformations at the source

**class** Arrow  $a \Rightarrow$  ArrowChoice a where left ::  $a \ b \ c \rightarrow a \ (Either \ b \ d) \ (Either \ c \ d)$ 

extension	$left(arrf) = arr(f \oplus id)$
functor	$left (f \ggg g) = left f \ggg left g$
exchange	$left f \gg arr (id \oplus g) = arr (id \oplus g) \gg left f$
unit	$arr left \gg left f = f \gg arr left$
association	$left (left f) \gg arr assocsum = arr assocsum \gg left f$

$f \oplus g$ (Left x) = Left (f x)	assocsum (Left (Left $x$ )) = Left $x$
$f \oplus g (Right y) = Right (g y)$	assocsum (Left (Right x)) = Right (Left x)
	assocsum (Right x) = Right (Right x)

Fig. 11. ArrowChoice class and its laws

level. This means that the runtime overhead of arrows is significant, and cannot be neglected for real applications.

- With help from GHC's optimization technique, the CCNF tuple produces high-performance code that is completely free of dynamic memory allocation and intermediate data structures, and can be orders of magnitude faster than its arrow-based predecessors.
- 3. GHC's arrow syntax translator does not do as well as Paterson's original translator for the sample programs we chose, though both are significantly outperformed by our normalization techniques.

### 8 Expressiveness and Extensions

The CCA language remains highly abstract due to the use of the arrow laws. Even though in FRP or dataflow programming, we tend to think very operationally of *init* as a unit delay, there is no reason to confine CCA only to this application domain. For instance, CCA also forms the basis of a DSL for Ordinary Differential Equations (ODEs), and arrows are indeed a better choice in implementation DSL level let-expressions in comparison to tagged AST, or Higher-Order Abstract Syntax (HOAS), because they help maintain the sharing of computation and avoid space leaks (Liu & Hudak, 2010).

Many dataflow and stream programming languages provide conditionals, such as **if-then-else**, as part of the language (Wadge & Ashcroft, 1985; Caspi *et al.*, 1987). Conditionals at the arrow level are captured by the *ArrowChoice* class together with a set of the *ArrowChoice* laws shown in Figure 11. We can easily extend the reduction rules in Figure 8 to handle *ArrowChoice* as follows:

extension	left (arr j	$(f) \mapsto arr (f \oplus id)$		
superposition	left (loopD i j	$f) \mapsto loopD \ i \ (tag$	$g^{-1}$ . $(f \oplus id)$ . to	ıg)
tag (Left $x, y$ ) = L	eft $(x, y)$	$tag^{-1}$ (Left	(x, y)) = (Left	<i>x</i> . v
tag(Right x, y) = R	Right $(x, y)$	$tag^{-1}$ (Right	t(x,y) = (Righ)	t x. v

The soundness of the above extension to the reduction rules can be easily proved with respect to the arrow choice laws shown in Figure 11, and we omit the details here.

### Hai Liu, Eric Cheng and Paul Hudak

We also need a new inference rule for the normalization procedure shown in Figure 9, which is given below:

(LEFT) 
$$\frac{f \Downarrow f' \quad left \ f' \mapsto p}{left \ f \Downarrow p}$$

Similarly, termination can be proved for the above extension. It can also be easily shown that the above extensions requires no modification to CCNF, and Theorem 4.1 still holds. In other words, CCA extended with *ArrowChoice* can still be normalized to the same normal form as in the original CCA.

On the other hand, there are also things not representable in CCA. For example, the switch combinator introduced in Yampa is able to dynamically replace a running arrow with a new one depending on an input event, and hence to switch the system behavior completely. With CCA, there is no way to change the compositional structure of the arrow program itself at run time.

It should also be noted that the local state introduced by *init* is one of the minimal side effects one can introduce to arrow programs. The commutativity law for CCA ensures that the effect of one arrow cannot interfere with another when composed together, and it is no longer satisfiable when such ordering becomes important, e.g., when arrows are used to model parsers and printers (Jansson & Jeuring, 1999).

### 9 Related Work

#### 9.1 Alternative Formalisms

Apart from arrows, other formalisms such as monads, comonads and applicative functors have been used to model computations over data streams (Bjesse *et al.*, 1998; Uustalu & Vene, 2005; McBride & Paterson, 2008). Central to many of these approaches are the representation of streams and computations about them. However, notably missing are the connections between stream computation and the related laws. For example, Uustalu and Vene (2005) concluded that comonad is a suitable model for dataflow computation, but it lacks the discussion on comonadic laws.

In contrast, it is the very idea of making sense out of arrow and arrow loop laws that motivated our work. We argue that arrows are a suitable abstract model for stream computation not only because we can implement stream functions as arrows, but also because abstract properties like the arrow laws help to bring more insights to our target application domain.

Besides having to satisfy respective laws for these formalisms, each abstraction has to introduce domain specific operators, otherwise it would be too general to be useful. With respect to causal streams, many have introduced *init* (also known as *delay*) as a primitive to enable stateful computation, but few seem to have made the connection of its properties to program optimizations.

Lindley *et al.* (2010) give a more explicit explanation of the arrow laws by constructing an arrow calculus and turning the nine arrow laws into five laws for the calculus, and discover a redundancy in the original nine arrow laws. Unfortunately, arrow loop is not included in their formulation.

The *loop* combinator and its arrow loop laws play a key role in CCA normalization because multiple loops can be fused together, and nested loops can be collapsed into just one. This is actually very close to yet another instantiation of the Folk Theorem (Harel, 1980) that all computer programs can be simulated by a single while-loop, if not for the fact that arrows and arrow loop only model a specific subset of but not all computations. We are interested in both the generality and the discipline brought forward by the laws.

On the topic of program optimization under an FRP or arrow setting, Burchett *et al.* (2007) introduce a concept called "lowering" that helps fuse pure functions in FrTime, a strict FRP language embedded in Scheme, but unfortunately it does not handle stateful computation such as the single unit delay; Nilsson (2005) makes use of several arrow laws and generalized algebraic types to optimize Yampa implementation, and in particular some stateful computations and event processing; Sculthorpe and Nilsson (2008) consider change propagation as a means to optimize Yampa programs with a dynamic structure.

### 9.2 Co-algebraic Streams and Synchronous Languages

The co-algebraic property of streams is well known, and most relevant to our work is Caspi and Pouzet's representation of stream and stream functions in a functional language setting (Caspi & Pouzet, 1998), which also uses a primitive similar to the trace operator (and hence the arrow loop combinator) to model recursion. Their compilation technique, however, lacks a systematic approach to optimize nested recursions. We consider our technique more effective and more abstract.

Most synchronous languages, including the one introduced by Caspi and Pouzet (1998), are able to compile stream programs into a form called *single loop code* by performing a causality analysis to break the feedback loop of recursively defined values. Many efforts have been made to generate efficient single loop code (Halbwachs *et al.*, 1991; Amagbegnon *et al.*, 1995), usually by a compilation from a high level dataflow source language to a target language that is usually imperative and low level, but few express the transformation at the source level to reach a normal form with strong characterization. Our discovery of CCNF is original, and the optimization by normalization approach is targeting a lazy functional language, namely Haskell, and making use of an advanced Haskell compiler to further optimize and produce low level code.

Traditional compilation techniques for synchronous dataflow also had a modularity problem: they either require inlining of all definitions in order to properly analyze feedback loops and thus lose modularity, or impose too strong a causality constraint that every feedback loop must cross an explicit delay even for sub modules. Recently a range of solutions aim to address this problem (Pouzet & Raymond, 2009; Lublinerman *et al.*, 2009; Lublinerman & Tripakis, 2008) using techniques centered around the decomposition mechanism first proposed by Raymond (1988). However, such a problem simply ceases to exist when we adopt a lazy functional language as an intermediate or even the target language, for instance, as in our staged compilation for CCA. This is because the ability to represent immediate loopbacks, or recursions at value level, is a coherent feature of lazy languages. Also as a side note, CCA by itself does not preclude modular compilation, even though its current implementation through Template Haskell requires full inlining of arrow terms and hence is not modular.

### Hai Liu, Eric Cheng and Paul Hudak

Also relevant is the work by Rutten (2006) on high-order functional stream derivatives. We believe that arrows are a more general abstraction than functional stream derivatives, because the latter still exposes the structure of a stream. Moreover, arrows give rise to a high-level language with richer algebraic properties than the 2-adic calculus considered by Rutten (2006).

#### 9.3 Stream Fusion

Stream fusion (Coutts *et al.*, 2007) can help fuse zips, left folds, and nested lists into efficient loops. But on its own, it does not optimize recursively and lazily defined streams effectively.

Consider a stream generating the Fibonacci sequence. It is one of the simplest classic examples that characterizes stateful stream computation. One way of writing it in Haskell is to exploit laziness and zip the stream with itself:

fibs :: [Int]fibs = 0:1: zipWith (+) fibs (tail fibs)

While the code is concise and elegant, such programming style relies too much on the definition of an inductively defined structure. The explicit sharing of the stream *fibs* in the definition is a blessing and a curse. On one hand, it runs in linear time and constant space. On the other hand, the presence of the stream structure gets in the way of optimization. None of the current fusion or deforestation techniques are able to effectively eliminate cons cell allocations in this example. Real-world stream programs are usually much more complex and involve more feedback, and the time spent in allocating intermediate structure and by the garbage collector could degrade performance significantly.

We can certainly write a stream in stepper style that generates the Fibonacci sequence:

```
data Stream a = forall s. Stream (s \rightarrow Step \ a \ s) s

data Step a \ s = Yield \ a \ s

fib_stream :: Stream Int

fib_stream = Stream next (0,1) where next (a,b) = Yield \ r \ (b,r) where r = a + b

f1 :: Int

f1 = nth 5 fib_stream -- 13
```

Stream fusion will fuse *nth* and *fib\_stream* to produce an efficient loop. For a comparison, with our technique the arrow version of the Fibonacci sequence shown below compiles to the same efficient loop as fI above, and yet retains the benefit of being abstract and concise.

 $fibA = \mathbf{proc} \_ \rightarrow \mathbf{do}$  $\mathbf{rec \ let} \ r = d2 + d1$  $d1 \leftarrow init \ 0 \longrightarrow d2$  $d2 \leftarrow init \ 1 \longrightarrow r$  $returnA \longrightarrow r$ 

We must stress that writing stepper functions is not always as easy as in trivial examples like *fib* and *exp*. Most non-trivial stream programs that we are concerned with contain many recursive parts, and expressing them in terms of combinators in a non-recursive way can get

unwieldy. Moreover, this kind of coding style exposes a lot of operational details which are arguably unnecessary for representing the underlying algorithm. In contrast, arrow syntax relieves the burden of coding in combinator form and allows recursion via the **rec** keyword. It also completely hides the actual implementation of the underlying stream structure and is therefore more abstract.

### **10** Conclusion

Our key contribution is the discovery of a normal form for core Yampa, or CCA, programs: any CCA program can be transformed into a single loop with just one pure (and strongly normalizing) function and a set of initial states. This discovery has practical implications in implementing not just Yampa, but a broader class of synchronous dataflow languages and stream computations. Any CCA program can be reliably and predictably optimized into an efficient machine-friendly loop. The process can be fully automated, allowing programmers to program at an abstract level while getting performance competitive to programs written in low-level imperative languages.

Acknowledgements We thank anonymous reviewers for pointers to relevant work. This research was supported in part by NSF grants CCF-0811665 and CNS-0720682, and by a grant from Microsoft Research.

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### **A Benchmark Programs**

sr = 44100 ::: Intdt = 1 / (from Integral sr) $exp::ArrowInit a \Rightarrow a$  () Double  $exp = \mathbf{proc}() \rightarrow \mathbf{do}$ rec let e = 1 + i $i \leftarrow integral \rightarrow e$ *returnA* $\rightarrow e$ integral :: ArrowInit  $a \Rightarrow a$  Double Double *integral* = **proc**  $x \rightarrow do$ rec let i' = i + x \* dt $i \leftarrow init \ 0 \rightarrow i'$ *returnA* $\rightarrow i$ *sine* :: *ArrowInit*  $a \Rightarrow Double \rightarrow a$  () *Double* sine freq = proc  $\_ \rightarrow$  do **rec**  $x \leftarrow init i \rightarrow r$  $y \leftarrow init \ 0 \rightarrow x$ let r = c \* x - y*returnA* $\rightarrow$ *r* where omh = 2 \* pi / (fromIntegral sr) \* freqi = sin omhc = 2 \* cos omh $oscSine :: ArrowInit a \Rightarrow Double \rightarrow a Double Double$ *oscSine f0* = **proc**  $cv \rightarrow do$ let f = f0 \* (2 \* \* cv) $phi \leftarrow integral \longrightarrow 2 * pi * f$ *returnA* $\rightarrow$ *sin phi testOsc* :: ArrowInit  $a \Rightarrow$  (Double  $\rightarrow$  a Double Double)  $\rightarrow$  a () Double

```
testOsc f = constant 1 \gg f 440
sciFi::ArrowInit a \Rightarrow a () Double
sciFi = \mathbf{proc}() \rightarrow \mathbf{do}
   und \leftarrow oscSine 3.0\rightarrow 0
   swp \leftarrow integral \longrightarrow -0.25
   audio \leftarrow oscSine 440\rightarrow und * 0.2 + swp + 1
   returnA → audio
robot :: ArrowInit a \Rightarrow a (Double, Double) Double
robot = proc inp \rightarrow do
       let vr = snd inp
          vl = fst inp
          vz = vr + vl
       t \leftarrow integral \rightarrow vr - vl
       let t' = t / 10
       x \leftarrow integral \rightarrow vz * cos t'
      y \leftarrow integral \rightarrow vz * sin t'
       returnA—\langle x/2+y/2
testRobot :: ArrowInit a \Rightarrow a (Double, Double) Double \rightarrow a () Double
testRobot bot = proc () \rightarrow do
       u \leftarrow sine 2 \rightarrow ()
       robot \rightarrow (u, 1 – u)
```

#### **B** Proof for the sequencing rule of loopD

The sequencing rule from Figure 8 is directly derivable from the following equation:

 $loopD \ if \gg loopD \ j \ g = loopD \ (i,j) \ (assoc' \ (juggle' \ (g \times id) \ . \ (f \times id)))$ 

In order to show the above is true, we first prove three lemmas.

### Lemma B.1

Given a function definition *revjuggle* (a, (b, c)) = (b, (a, c)), we show that for all *f*:

 $second (second f) = arr revjuggle \gg second (second f) \gg arr revjuggle$ 

# Proof

We start from the left-hand side by equational reasoning.

# lhs

- = second (second f) definition of second
  = arr swap ≫ first (arr swap ≫ first f ≫ arr swap) ≫ arr swap functor of first, extension of first
  = arr swap ≫ arr (swap × id) ≫ first (first f) ≫ arr (swap × id) ≫ arr swap identity of arr, id = assoc<sup>-1</sup>. assoc, and composition of arr
- $= \operatorname{arr swap} \gg \operatorname{arr (swap \times id)} \gg \operatorname{first (first f)} \gg \operatorname{arr assoc} \gg \operatorname{arr assoc}^{-1} \\ \gg \operatorname{arr (swap \times id)} \gg \operatorname{arr swap}$

### Hai Liu, Eric Cheng and Paul Hudak

### association of first

- $= \operatorname{arr swap} \gg \operatorname{arr (swap \times id)} \gg \operatorname{arr assoc} \gg \operatorname{first} f \gg \operatorname{arr assoc}^{-1} \\ \gg \operatorname{arr (swap \times id)} \gg \operatorname{arr swap} \\ \operatorname{composition of arr} \end{cases}$
- $= arr (assoc . (swap \times id) . swap) \implies first f \implies arr (swap . swap \times id . assoc^{-1})$ unfold function definition and beta reduce
- $= arr \left(\lambda(a, (b, c)) \to (c, (a, b))\right) \Longrightarrow first f \Longrightarrow arr \left(\lambda(c, (a, b)) \to (a, (b, c))\right)$

### Then from the right-hand side:

# rhs

- $= arr revjuggle \gg second (second f) \gg arr revjuggle definition of second$
- = arr revjuggle >>> arr swap >>> first (arr swap >>> first f >>> arr swap) >>>> arr swap >>> arr revjuggle
  - functor of *first*, extension of *first*
- $= arr \ revjuggle \gg arr \ swap \gg arr \ (swap \times id) \gg first \ (first f)$  $\implies arr \ (swap \times id) \gg arr \ swap \gg arr \ revjuggle$
- identity of  $arr, id = assoc^{-1}$ . assoc, and composition of arr
- $= arr revjuggle \implies arr swap \implies arr (swap \times id) \implies first (first f)$  $\implies arr assoc \implies arr assoc^{-1} \implies arr (swap \times id) \implies arr swap \implies arr revjuggle$ association of first
- $= arr \ revjuggle \implies arr \ swap \implies arr \ (swap \times id) \implies arr \ assoc \implies first f$  $\implies arr \ assoc^{-1} \implies arr \ (swap \times id) \implies arr \ swap \implies arr \ revjuggle$ composition of arr
- $= arr (assoc . swap \times id . swap . revjuggle) \implies first f$  $\implies arr (revjuggle . swap . swap \times id . assoc^{-1})$ unfold function definition and beta reduce

 $= arr \left(\lambda(a, (b, c)) \to (c, (a, b))\right) \Longrightarrow first f \Longrightarrow arr \left(\lambda(c, (a, b)) \to (a, (b, c))\right)$ 

Therefore, lhs = rhs.

# 

# Lemma B.2

We show that for all *f* and *g*:

 $second (first f) \gg arr (assoc . swap) = arr (assoc . swap) \gg first f$ 

# Proof

We start from the left-hand side by equational reasoning:

# lhs

- $= second (first f) \gg arr (assoc . swap)$ definition of second  $= arr swap \gg first (first f) \gg arr swap \gg arr (assoc . swap)$ identity of arr, id = assoc<sup>-1</sup> . assoc, and composition of arr
- $= \operatorname{arr \, swap} \gg \operatorname{first} (\operatorname{first} f) \gg \operatorname{arr \, assoc} \gg \operatorname{arr \, assoc}^{-1} \gg \operatorname{arr \, swap} \\ \gg \operatorname{arr} (\operatorname{assoc} \cdot \operatorname{swap})$

association of first

$= arr swap \gg arr assoc \gg first f \gg arr assoc^{-1} \gg arr swap$	
$\gg$ arr (assoc . swap)	
composition of arr	
$= arr (assoc . swap) \gg first f \gg arr (assoc . swap . swap . assoc^{-}$	$^{1})$
identity of $arr, id = assoc \cdot swap \cdot swap \cdot assoc^{-1}$	
$= arr (assoc . swap) \gg first f$	

# Lemma B.3

We show that for all f:

*first*  $f = arr revjuggle \gg second (first f) \gg arr revjuggle$ 

# Proof

We start from the right-hand side by equational reasoning:

### rhs

$=$ arr revjuggle $\gg$ second (first $f$ ) $\gg$ arr revjuggle
definition of second
$=$ arr revjuggle $\gg$ arr swap $\gg$ first (first f) $\gg$ arr swap $\gg$ arr revjuggle
identity of $arr, id = assoc^{-1}$ . $assoc$ , and composition of $arr$
= arr revjuggle $\gg$ arr swap $\gg$ first (first f) $\gg$ arr assoc $\gg$ arr assoc <sup>-1</sup>
≫ arr swap ≫ arr revjuggle
association of first
$= arr revjuggle \gg arr swap \gg arr assoc \gg first f \gg arr assoc^{-1}$
≫ arr swap ≫ arr revjuggle
identity of $arr, id = id \times swap$ . $id \times swap$ , and composition of $arr$
$= arr revjuggle \gg arr swap \gg arr assoc \gg arr (id \times swap) \gg arr (id \times swap)$
$\gg$ first $f \gg arr assoc^{-1}$
exchange of <i>first</i>
$= arr revjuggle \gg arr swap \gg arr assoc \gg arr (id \times swap) \gg first f$
$\gg$ arr $(id \times swap) \gg$ arr $assoc^{-1}$
composition of arr
$= arr (id \times swap . assoc . swap . revjuggle) \implies first f$
$>\!\!>$ arr (revjuggle . swap . assoc $^{-1}$ . id $ imes$ swap)
identity of $arr, id = id \times swap$ . assoc. swap. revjuggl
and $id = revjuggle$ . $swap$ . $assoc^{-1}$ . $id  imes swap$
= first f

We then show that

 $loopD \ if \implies loopD \ j \ g = loopD \ (i,j) \ (assoc' \ (juggle' \ (g \times id) \ . \ (f \times id)))$ 

holds by equational reasoning, starting from the left-hand side:

$$\begin{split} & loopD \ if \ggg loopD \ j \ g \\ & definition \ of \ loopD \\ & = loop \ (arr \ f \ggg second \ (init \ i)) \ggg loop \ (arr \ g \ggg second \ (init \ j)) \\ & left \ tightening \ of \ loop \end{split}$$

### Hai Liu, Eric Cheng and Paul Hudak

28  $= loop (first (loop (arr f \gg second (init i))) \gg (arr g \gg second (init j)))$ definition of second  $= loop (arr swap \gg second (loop (arr f \gg second (init i))) \gg arr swap$  $\gg$  (arr g  $\gg$  second (init j))) superposing of loop  $= loop (arr swap \gg loop (arr assoc \gg second (arr f \gg second (init i)))$  $\implies arr assoc^{-1}) \implies arr swap \implies (arr g \implies second (init j)))$ left tightening of loop  $= loop (loop (first (arr swap)) \implies arr assoc \implies second (arr f \implies second (init i))$  $\implies$  arr assoc<sup>-1</sup>)  $\implies$  arr swap  $\implies$  (arr g  $\implies$  second (init j))) extension of first  $= loop (loop (arr (swap \times id)) \implies arr assoc \implies second (arr f \implies second (init i))$  $\implies$  arr assoc<sup>-1</sup>)  $\implies$  arr swap  $\implies$  (arr g  $\implies$  second (init j))) associativity of ≫  $= loop (loop (arr (swap \times id))) arr assoc \gg second (arr f \gg second (init i))$  $\implies$  arr assoc<sup>-1</sup>)  $\implies$  (arr swap  $\implies$  arr g  $\implies$  second (init j))) right tightening of loop  $= loop (loop (arr (swap \times id))) arr assoc \gg second (arr f \gg second (init i))$  $\implies$  arr assoc<sup>-1</sup>  $\implies$  first (arr swap  $\implies$  arr g  $\implies$  second (init j)))) vanishing of loop  $= loop (arr assoc^{-1} \gg arr (swap \times id) \gg arr assoc \gg second (arr f)$  $\implies$  second (init i))  $\implies$  arr assoc<sup>-1</sup>  $\implies$  first (arr swap  $\implies$  arr g  $\implies$  second (init j))  $\gg arr assoc)$ identity of  $arr, id = id \times swap$ .  $id \times swap$ , composition of arr $= loop (arr (id \times swap) \implies arr (id \times swap) \implies arr assoc^{-1} \implies arr (swap \times id)$  $\implies$  arr assoc  $\implies$  second (arr  $f \implies$  second (init i))  $\implies$  arr assoc<sup>-1</sup>  $\implies$  first (arr swap  $\implies$  arr g  $\implies$  second (init j))  $\implies$  arr assoc) sliding of *loop*  $= loop (arr (id \times swap) \implies arr assoc^{-1} \implies arr (swap \times id) \implies arr assoc^{-1} \implies arr (swap \times id) \implies arr assoc^{-1} \implies arr assoc^$  $\implies$  second  $(arr f \implies$  second  $(init i)) \implies$  arr  $assoc^{-1} \implies$  first (arr swap) $\implies$  arr  $g \implies$  second (init j))  $\implies$  arr assoc  $\implies$  arr ( $id \times swap$ )) composition of arr, swap . assoc<sup>-1</sup> = assoc . (swap  $\times$  id) . assoc<sup>-1</sup> . (id  $\times$  swap)  $= loop (arr (swap . assoc^{-1}) \gg second (arr f \gg second (init i)) \gg arr assoc^{-1}$  $\implies$  first (arr swap  $\implies$  arr g  $\implies$  second (init j))  $\implies$  arr assoc  $\implies$  arr (id  $\times$  swap)) definition of second  $= loop (arr (swap . assoc^{-1}) \gg second (arr f \gg arr swap \gg first (init i))$  $\implies$  arr swap)  $\implies$  arr assoc<sup>-1</sup>  $\implies$  first (arr swap  $\implies$  arr g  $\implies$  second (init j))  $\gg$  arr assoc  $\gg$  arr  $(id \times swap)$ ) definition of first  $= loop (arr (swap . assoc^{-1}) \gg second (arr f \gg arr swap \gg first (init i))$  $\implies$  arr swap)  $\implies$  arr assoc<sup>-1</sup>  $\implies$  arr swap  $\implies$  second (arr swap  $\implies$  arr g  $\implies$  second (init j))  $\implies$  arr swap  $\implies$  arr assoc  $\implies$  arr (id  $\times$  swap)) functor and extension of second  $= loop (arr (swap . assoc^{-1}) \gg second (arr (swap . f)) \gg second (first (init i))$ 

 $\implies$  arr  $(id \times swap) \implies$  arr  $assoc^{-1} \implies$  arr  $swap \implies$  arr  $(id \times swap)$  $\gg$  second (arr g)  $\gg$  second (second (init j))  $\gg$  arr swap  $\gg$  arr assoc  $\gg arr(id \times swap))$ Lemma B.1  $= loop (arr (swap . assoc^{-1}) \gg second (arr (swap . f)) \gg second (first (init i))$  $\implies$  arr (id  $\times$  swap)  $\implies$  arr assoc<sup>-1</sup>  $\implies$  arr swap  $\implies$  arr (id  $\times$  swap)  $\implies$  second (arr g)  $\implies$  arr revjuggle  $\implies$  second (second (init j))  $\implies$  arr revjuggle  $\implies$  arr swap  $\implies$  arr assoc  $\implies$  arr  $(id \times swap))$ composition of  $arr, id = (id \times swap)$ . assoc . swap . reviuggle, identity of arr  $= loop (arr (swap . assoc^{-1}) \gg second (arr (swap . f)) \gg second (first (init i))$  $\implies$  arr (*id* × *swap*)  $\implies$  arr *assoc*<sup>-1</sup>  $\implies$  arr *swap*  $\implies$  arr (*id* × *swap*)  $\gg$  second (arr g)  $\gg$  arr revjuggle  $\gg$  second (second (init j))) composition of arr, assoc . swap =  $(id \times swap)$  . swap . assoc<sup>-1</sup> .  $(id \times swap)$  $= loop (arr (swap . assoc^{-1}) \gg second (arr (swap . f)) \gg second (first (init i))$  $\gg$  arr (assoc . swap)  $\gg$  second (arr g)  $\gg$  arr revjuggle  $\gg$  second (second (init j))) Lemma B.2  $= loop (arr (swap . assoc^{-1}) \gg second (arr (swap . f)) \gg arr (assoc . swap)$  $\implies$  first (init i)  $\implies$  second (arr g)  $\implies$  arr revjuggle  $\implies$  second (second (init j))) commutativity  $= loop (arr (swap . assoc^{-1}) \gg second (arr (swap . f)) \gg arr (assoc . swap)$  $\implies$  second (arr g)  $\implies$  first (init i)  $\implies$  arr revjuggle  $\implies$  second (second (init j))) Lemma B.3  $= loop (arr (swap . assoc^{-1}) \gg second (arr (swap . f)) \gg arr (assoc . swap)$ >>>> second (arr g) >>>> arr revjuggle >>>> second (first (init i)) >>>> arr revjuggle  $\implies$  arr revjuggle  $\implies$  second (second (init j))) composition of arr, id = rev juggle. rev juggle, identity of arr  $= loop (arr (swap . assoc^{-1}) \gg second (arr (swap . f)) \gg arr (assoc . swap)$  $\gg$  second (arr g)  $\gg$  arr revjuggle  $\gg$  second (first (init i))  $\gg$  second (second (init j))) extension of second, composition of arr  $= loop (arr (reviuggle . (id \times g) . assoc . swap . id \times (swap . f) . swap . assoc^{-1})$  $\implies$  second (first (init i))  $\implies$  second (second (init j)))  $assoc' (juggle' (g \times id) . (f \times id)) = revjuggle . (id \times g) .$ assoc . swap .  $id \times (swap \cdot f) \cdot swap \cdot assoc^{-1}$  $= loop (arr (assoc' (juggle' (g \times id) . (f \times id))) \implies second (first (init i))$  $\gg$  second (second (init j))) functor of second  $= loop (arr (assoc' (juggle' (g \times id) . (f \times id))) \implies second (first (init i))$  $\gg$  second (init j))) product of init  $= loop (arr (assoc' (juggle' (g \times id) . (f \times id))) \implies second (init (i,j)))$ 

29

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