Part 6: Monads

Introduction to Haskell

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Let us look at a number of datatypes and typical programming problems involving these types ...





The Maybe datatype is often used to encode failure or an exceptional value:

lookup :: (Eq a) => a -> [(a, b)] -> Maybe b
find :: (a -> Bool) -> [a] -> Maybe a



Assume that we have a data structure with the following operations:

up, down, right :: Loc -> Maybe Loc update :: (Int -> Int) -> Loc -> Loc

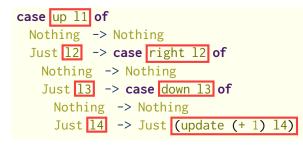
Given a location 11, we want to move up, right, down, and update the resulting position with using update (+ 1) ...

Each of the steps can fail.



```
case up l1 of
Nothing -> Nothing
Just l2 -> case right l2 of
Nothing -> Nothing
Just l3 -> case down l3 of
Nothing -> Nothing
Just l4 -> Just (update (+ 1) l4)
```







```
case up l1 of
Nothing -> Nothing
Just l2 -> case right l2 of
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Just l4 -> Just (update (+ 1) l4)
```

In essence, we need

- a way to sequence function calls and use their results if successful
- a way to modify or produce successful results.



```
case up 11 of
Nothing -> Nothing
Just 12 -> case right 12 of
Nothing -> Nothing
Just 13 -> case down 13 of
Nothing -> Nothing
Just 14 -> Just (update (+ 1) 14)
Sequencing:
```



```
up 11 >>=
```

```
\ l2 -> case right l2 of
Nothing -> Nothing
Just l3 -> case down l3 of
Nothing -> Nothing
Just l4 -> Just (update (+ 1) l4)
```

Sequencing:



```
up 11 >>=
 \ 12 -> right 12 >>=
   \ 13 -> case down 13 of
     Nothing -> Nothing
     Just 14 -> Just (update (+ 1) 14)
Sequencing:
(>>=) :: Maybe a -> (a -> Maybe b) -> Maybe b
f >>= g = case f of
           Nothing -> Nothing
           Just x -> g x
```



```
up 11 >>=
 \ 12 -> right 12 >>=
   \ 13 -> down 13 >>=
    \ 14 -> Just (update (+ 1) 14)
Sequencing:
(>>=) :: Maybe a -> (a -> Maybe b) -> Maybe b
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          Nothing -> Nothing
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```



Sequencing and embedding

up l1 >>= \ l2 -> right l2 >>= \ l3 -> down l3 >>= \ l4 -> Just (update (+ 1) l4)



Sequencing and embedding

```
up l1 >>=

\ l2 -> right l2 >>=

\ l3 -> down l3 >>=

\ l4 -> return (update (+ 1) l4)
```



Sequencing and embedding

up l1 >>= \ l2 -> right l2 >>= \ l3 -> down l3 >>= \ l4 -> return (update (+ 1) l4)

(up 11) >>= right >>= down >>= return . update (+ 1)



Code looks a bit like imperative code. Compare:

 up 11
 >>= \ 12 ->
 12 := up 11;

 right 12 >>= \ 13 ->
 13 := right 12;

 down 13
 >>= \ 14 ->
 14 := down 13;

 return (update (+ 1) 14)
 return update (+ 1) 14

- In the imperative language, the occurrence of possible exceptions is a side effect.
- Haskell is more explicit because we use the Maybe type and the appropriate sequencing operation.



Compare the datatypes

data Either a b = Left a | Right b
data Maybe a = Nothing | Just a



Compare the datatypes

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data Either a b = Left a | Right b
data Maybe a = Nothing | Just a
```

The datatype Maybe can encode exceptional function results (i.e., failure), but no information can be associated with Nothing . We cannot distinguish different kinds of errors.



Compare the datatypes

```
data Either a b = Left a | Right b
data Maybe a = Nothing | Just a
```

The datatype Maybe can encode exceptional function results (i.e., failure), but no information can be associated with Nothing . We cannot distinguish different kinds of errors.

Using Either , we can use Left to encode errors, and Right to encode successful results.



We can define variants of the operations for Maybe :



We can abstract completely from the definition of the underlying Either type if we define functions to throw and catch errors.

```
throwError :: e -> Either e a
throwError e = Left e
```



We can abstract completely from the definition of the underlying Either type if we define functions to throw and catch errors.

```
throwError :: e -> Either e a
throwError e = Left e
catchError :: Either e a -> -- computation
  (e -> Either e a) -> -- handler
  Either e a
catchError f handler = case f of
        Left e -> handler e
        Right x -> Right x
```



State

- We pass state to a function as an argument.
- The function modifies the state and produces it as a result.
- If the function does anything except modifying the state, we must return a tuple (or a special-purpose datatype with multiple fields).

This motivates the following type definition:

type State s a = s -> (a, s)



There are many situations where maintaining state is useful:

using a random number generator

type Random a = State StdGen a

using a counter to generate unique labels

type Counter a = State Int a

 maintaining the complete current configuration of an application (an interpreter, a game, ...) using a user-defined datatype

```
data ProgramState = ...
type Program a = State ProgramState a
```

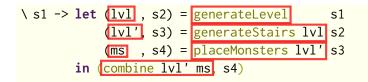


data Tree a = Leaf a | Node (Tree a) (Tree a)



```
\ s1 -> let (lvl , s2) = generateLevel s1
        (lvl', s3) = generateStairs lvl s2
        (ms , s4) = placeMonsters lvl' s3
        in (combine lvl' ms, s4)
```







- a way to sequence function calls and use their results
- a way to **modify** or **produce** successful results.



```
(>>=) :: State s a -> (a -> State s b) -> State s b
f >>= g = \ s -> let (x, s') = f s in g x s'
return :: a -> State s a
return x = \ s -> (x, s)
```



 $generateLevel >>= \ |v| \rightarrow \\ \ s2 \rightarrow let (|v|', s3) = generateStairs |v| s2 \\ (ms , s4) = placeMonsters |v|' s3 \\ in (combine |v|' ms, s4) \\ (>>=) :: State s a \rightarrow (a \rightarrow State s b) \rightarrow State s b \\ f >>= g = \ s \rightarrow let (x, s') = f s in g x s' \\ return :: a \rightarrow State s a \\ return x = \ s \rightarrow (x, s) \\ \end{cases}$



generateLevel >>= \ lvl -> generateStairs lvl >>= \ lvl' -> \ s3 -> let (ms , s4) = placeMonsters lvl' s3 in (combine lvl' ms, s4) (>>=) :: State s a -> (a -> State s b) -> State s b f >>= g = \ s -> let (x, s') = f s in g x s' return :: a -> State s a return x = \ s -> (x, s)





 $generateLevel >>= \langle lvl ->$ $generateStairs lvl >>= \langle lvl' ->$ $placeMonsters lvl' >>= \langle ms ->$ return (combine lvl' ms) (>>=) :: State s a -> (a -> State s b) -> State s b $f >>= g = \langle s -> let (x, s') = f s in g x s'$ return :: a -> State s a $return x = \langle s -> (x, s)$



Again, the code looks a bit like imperative code. Compare:

generateLevel>>= \ lvl ->lvl := generateLevel;generateStairs lvl >>= \ lvl' ->lvl := generateStairs lvl;placeMonsters lvl' >>= \ ms ->ms := placeMonsters lvl';return (combine lvl' ms)return combine lvl' ms

- In the imperative language, the occurrence of memory updates (random numbers) is a side effect.
- Haskell is more explicit because we use the State type and the appropriate sequencing operation.



We can completely hide the implementation of **State** if we provide the following two operations as an interface:

```
get :: State s s
get = \ s -> (s, s)
put :: s -> State s ()
put s = \ _ -> ((), s)
inc :: State Int ()
inc = get >>= \ s -> put (s + 1)
```



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

labelTree :: Tree a -> State Int (Tree (a, Int))
labelTree (Leaf x) c = (Leaf (x, c), c + 1)

The old version, with tedious explicit threading of the state.



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

New version, with implicit state passing, yet explicit sequencing.

(>>) :: State s a -> State s b -> State s b x >> y = x >>= \ _ -> y

(The same definition as for IO ...)



List

Get the length of all words in a list of multi-line texts:

```
map length
 (concat (map words
    (concat (map lines txts))
 ))
```



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```

Embedding and sequencing for computations with many results **nondeterministic computations**:

- Embedding: a computation with exactly one result.
- Sequencing: performing the second computation on all possible results of the first one.



```
(>>=) :: [a] -> (a -> [b]) -> [b]
xs >>= f = concat (map f xs)
return :: a -> [a]
return x = [x]
```

We have to use concat in (>>=) to flatten the list of lists.



Using bind and return for lists

map length
 (concat (map words
 (concat (map lines txts))))

txts >>= \ t -> lines t >>= \ l -> words l >>= \ w -> return (length w)



Using bind and return for lists

map length
 (concat (map words
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txts >>= \ t -> lines t >>= \ l -> words l >>= \ w -> return (length w) t := txts
l := lines t
w := words w
return length w



```
map length
  (concat (map words
      (concat (map lines txts))))
```

txts >>= \ t -> lines t >>= \ l -> words l >>= \ w -> return (length w) t := txts
l := lines t
w := words w
return length w

- Again, we have a similarity to imperative code.
- Imperative language: implicit nondeterminism.
- Haskell: explicit by using the list datatype and (>>=).



Intermediate Summary

At least four types with (>>=) and return :

- Maybe : (>>=) sequences operations that may fail and shortcuts evaluation once failure occurs; return embeds a function that never fails;
- State : (>>=) sequences operations that may modify some state and threads the state through the operations; return embeds a function that never modifies the state;
- []: (>>=) sequences operations that may have multiple results and executes subsequent operations for each of the previous results; return embeds a function that only ever has one result.
- I0 : (>>=) sequences the side effects to the outside world, and return embeds a function without any side effects.

There is a common interface here!



Monads

class Applicative m => Monad m where return :: a -> m a (>>=) :: m a -> (a -> m b) -> m b

- ► The name "monad" is borrowed from category theory.
- A monad is an algebraic structure similar to a monoid.
- Monads have been popularized in functional programming via the work of Moggi and Wadler.



Instances

```
instance Monad Maybe where
...
instance Monad (Either e) where
...
instance Monad [] where
...
newtype State s a = State {runState :: s -> (a, s)}
instance Monad (State s) where
...
```



Instances

```
instance Monad Maybe where
  . . .
instance Monad (Either e) where
  . . .
instance Monad [] where
  . . .
newtype State s a = State {runState :: s -> (a, s)}
instance Monad (State s) where
  . . .
```

The **newtype** for State is required because Haskell does not allow us to directly make a type s -> (a, s) an instance of Monad . (Question: why not?)



The types we have seen: Maybe , Either , [], State , IO are among the most frequently used monads – but there are many more you will encounter sooner or later.



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In fact, we have already seen one more! Which one?

The generators Gen from QuickCheck form a monad. You can see it as an abstract state monad, allowing access to the state of a random number generator.



return is the unit of (>>=)

return a >>= f = f a
m >>= return = m

Associativity of (>>=)

 $(m \implies f) \implies g = m \implies (\ x \rightarrow f x \implies g)$



Monad laws for Maybe

return a >>= f = { Definition of (>>=) } case return a of Nothing -> Nothing Just x -> f x = { Definition of return } case Just a of Nothing -> Nothing Just x \rightarrow f x $= \{ case \}$ fa



Monad laws for Maybe (contd.)

```
m >>= return
= { Definition of (>>=) }
  case m of
    Nothing -> Nothing
    Just x -> return x
= { Definition of return }
  case m of
    Nothing -> Nothing
    Just x -> Just x
= \{ case \}
  m
```



Monad laws for Maybe (contd.)

Lemma

```
forall (f :: a -> Maybe b) . Nothing >>= f = Nothing
```

Proof

```
Nothing >>= f
```

- = { Definition of (>>=) }
 case Nothing of
 Nothing -> Nothing
 Just x -> f x
- = { case }
 Nothing



$$(m >>= f) >>= g = m >>= (\ x \rightarrow f x >>= g)$$

Induction on **m** . Case **m** is Nothing :

(Nothing >>= f) >>= g

- = { Lemma }
 - Nothing >>= g
- = { Lemma }
 Nothing
- = {Lemma }
 Nothing >>= (\ x -> f x >>= g)



Monad laws for Maybe (contd.)

(Just v >>= f) >>= g= { Definition of (>>=) } (case Just v of Nothing -> Nothing Just x \rightarrow f x) >>= g $= \{ case \}$ f y >>= g = { beta-expansion } $(\setminus x \rightarrow f x \gg g) y$ $= \{ case \}$ case Just v of Nothing -> Nothing Just x \rightarrow (\ x \rightarrow f x \rightarrow g) x = { definition of (>>=) } Just $y \gg (\langle x - f x \rangle) = g$



Class Monad contains two additional methods, but with default methods:

class Monad m where

...
(>>) :: m a -> m b -> m b
m >> n = m >>= \ _ -> n
fail :: String -> m a
fail s = error s

While the presence of (>>) can be justified for efficiency reasons, the presence of fail is often considered to be a design mistake.



The **do** notation we have introduced when discussing IO is available for all monads:

generateLevel >>= \ lvl ->
generateStairs lvl >>= \ lvl' ->
placeMonsters lvl' >>= \ ms ->
return (combine lvl' ms)

do

lvl <- generateLevel lvl' <- generateStairs lvl ms <- placeMonsters lvl' return (combine lvl' ms)



```
up l1 >>= \ l2 ->
right l2 >>= \ l3 ->
down l3 >>= \ l4 ->
return (update (+ 1) l4)
```

do
 12 <- up 11
 13 <- right 12
 14 <- down 13
 return (update (+ 1) 14)</pre>



```
Using Control.Monad.State and do notation:
data Tree a = Leaf a | Node (Tree a) (Tree a)
labelTree :: Tree a -> State Int (Tree (a, Int))
labelTree (Leaf x) = do
 c <- get
 put (c + 1) -- or modify (+ 1)
 return (Leaf (x, c))
labelTree (Node 1 r) = do
 11 <- labelTree 1
 lr < - labelTree r
 return (Node 11 lr)
```

How to get at the final tree?



evalState :: State s a -> s -> a



evalState :: State s a -> s -> a

labelTreeFrom0 :: Tree a -> Tree (a, Int)
labelTreeFrom0 t = evalState (labelTree t) 0



```
evalState :: State s a -> s -> a
labelTreeFrom0 :: Tree a -> Tree (a, Int)
labelTreeFrom0 t = evalState (labelTree t) 0
There's also
runState :: State s a -> s -> (a, s)
```

(which is just unpacking State 's **newtype** wrapper).



```
map length
  (concat (map words (concat (map lines txts))))
```

do
 t <- txts
 l <- lines t
 w <- words l
 return (length w)</pre>

Also list comprehensions:

[length w | t <- txts, l <- lines t, w <- words l]</pre>



More on **do** notation (and list comprehensions)

- Use it, the special syntax is usually more concise.
- Never forget that it is just syntactic sugar. Use (>>=) and (>>) directly when it is more convenient.

And some things I've already said about **IO** :

- Remember that return is just a normal function:
 - Not every do -block ends with a return .
 - return can be used in the middle of a do -block, and it doesn't "jump" anywhere.



More on **do** notation (and list comprehensions)

- Use it, the special syntax is usually more concise.
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And some things I've already said about **IO** :

- Remember that return is just a normal function:
 - Not every do -block ends with a return .
 - return can be used in the middle of a do -block, and it doesn't "jump" anywhere.
- Not every monad computation has to be in a do -block. In particular do e is the same as e.
- On the other hand, you may have to "repeat" the do in some places, for instance in the branches of an if.



IO vs. other monads

- I0 is a primitive type, and (>>=) and return for I0 are primitive functions,
- there is no (politically correct) function runI0 :: I0 a -> a , whereas for most other monads there is a corresponding function, or at least some way to get an a out of the monad;
- values of IO a denote side-effecting programs that can be executed by the run-time system.



- IO being special has little to do with it being a monad;
- you can use IO an functions on IO very much ignoring the presence of the Monad class;
- IO is about allowing real side effects to occur; the other types we have seen are entirely pure as far as Haskell is concerned, even though they capture a form of effects.



If you ask GHCi about 10 by saying **:i** 10 , you get

newtype IO a

= GHC.Types.I0 (GHC.Prim.State# GHC.Prim.RealWorld -> (# GHC.Prim.State# GHC.Prim.RealWorld, a #)) -- Defined in 'GHC.Types '

So internally, GHC models 10 as a kind of state monad having the "real world" as state!



Monadic operations

The advantages of an abstract interface

Several advantages to identifying the "monad" interface:

- Have to learn fewer names. Same return and (>>=) (and do notation) in many different situations.
- Useful derived functions that only use <u>return</u> and (>>=). All these library functions become automatically available for every monad.



The advantages of an abstract interface

Several advantages to identifying the "monad" interface:

- Have to learn fewer names. Same return and (>>=) (and do notation) in many different situations.
- Useful derived functions that only use <u>return</u> and (>>=). All these library functions become automatically available for every monad.
- There are many more monads than the ones we've discussed so far. Monads can be combined to form new monads.
- Application-specific code often uses just the monadic interface plus a few extra functions. As such, it is easy to switch the underlying monad of a large part of a program in order to accommodate a new aspect (error handling, logging, backtracking, ...).



Useful monad operations

liftM	::	(a -> b) -> IO a -> IO b
mapM	::	(a -> IO b) -> [a] -> IO [b]
mapM_	::	(a -> IO b) -> [a] -> IO ()
forM	::	[a] -> (a -> IO b) -> IO [b]
forM_	::	[a] -> (a -> IO b) -> IO ()
sequence	::	[IO a] -> IO [a]
sequence_	::	[IO a] -> IO ()
forever	::	IO a -> IO b
filterM	::	(a -> IO Bool) -> [a] -> IO [a]
replicateM	::	Int -> IO a -> IO [a]
<pre>replicateM_</pre>	::	Int -> IO a -> IO ()
when	::	Bool -> IO () -> IO ()
unless	::	Bool -> IO () -> IO ()



liftM	:: Monad m => (a -> b) -> m a -> m b
mapM	:: Monad m => (a -> m b) -> [a] -> m [b]
mapM_	:: Monad m => (a -> m b) -> [a] -> m ()
forM	:: Monad m => [a] -> (a -> m b) -> m [b]
forM_	:: Monad m => [a] -> (a -> m b) -> m ()
sequence	:: Monad m => [m a] -> m [a]
sequence_	:: Monad m => [m a] -> m ()
forever	:: Monad m => a -> m b
filterM	:: Monad m => (a -> m Bool) -> [a] -> m [a]
replicateM	:: Monad m => Int -> m a -> m [a]
replicateM_	:: Monad m => Int -> m a -> m ()
when	:: Monad m => Bool -> m () -> m ()
unless	:: Monad m => Bool -> m () -> m ()



data Rose a = Fork a [Rose a]

Each node has a (possibly empty) list of subtrees.



```
data Rose a = Fork a [Rose a]
```

Each node has a (possibly empty) list of subtrees.

```
labelRose :: Rose a -> State Int (Rose (a, Int))
labelRose (Fork x cs) = do
  c <- get
  put (c + 1)
  lcs <- mapM labelRose cs
  return (Fork (x, c) lcs)</pre>
```



What do you think these will evaluate to:

```
replicateM 2 [1..3]
mapM return [1..3]
sequence [[1, 2], [3, 4], [5, 6]]
mapM (flip lookup [(1, 'x'), (2, 'y'), (3, 'z')]) [1..3]
mapM (flip lookup [(1, 'x'), (2, 'y'), (3, 'z')]) [1, 4, 3]
evalState (replicateM_ 5 (modify (+ 2)) >> get) 0
```



liftM :: (Monad m) => (a -> b) -> m a -> m b
fmap :: (Functor f) => (a -> b) -> f a -> f b

- Nearly same type as fmap , but a different class constraint.
- But every monad can be made an instance of Functor, by defining fmap to be liftM.
- In practice, nearly all Haskell monads provide a Functor instance. So you usually have <u>liftM</u>, <u>fmap</u> and (<\$>) available, all doing the same.



```
Let's once again look at tree labelling:
labelTree :: Tree a -> State Int (Tree (a, Int))
labelTree (Leaf x) = do
 c <- get
 put (c + 1) -- or modify (+ 1)
 return (Leaf (x, c))
labelTree (Node 1 r) = do
 ll <- labelTree l
 lr <- labelTree r
 return (Node ll lr)
```

We are returning an application of (constructor) function Node to the results of monadic computations.



A common pattern (contd.)

do

```
r_{1} <- \operatorname{comp}_{1}
r_{2} <- \operatorname{comp}_{2}
\dots
r_{n} <- \operatorname{comp}_{n}
return (f r_{1} r_{2}...r_{n})
```



do

```
r_1 <- comp_1

r_2 <- comp_2

...

r_n <- comp_n

return (f r_1 r_2...r_n)
```

This isn't type correct:

 $f comp_1 comp_2...comp_n$



do

```
r_{1} <- \operatorname{comp}_{1}
r_{2} <- \operatorname{comp}_{2}
\dots
r_{n} <- \operatorname{comp}_{n}
return (f r_{1} r_{2}...r_{n})
```

This isn't type correct:

```
f comp_1 comp_2...comp_n
```

But we can get close:

 $f < comp_1 < comp_2 \dots < comp_n$



We need a function that's like function application, but works on monadic values:

```
ap :: Monad m => m (a -> b) -> m a -> m b
ap mf mx = do
f <- mf
x <- mx
return (f x)</pre>
```



We need a function that's like function application, but works on monadic values:

```
ap :: Monad m => m (a -> b) -> m a -> m b
ap mf mx = do
f <- mf
x <- mx
return (f x)</pre>
```

Types supporting return and ap have their own name:

class Functor f => Applicative f where
pure :: a -> f a -- like return
(<*>) :: f (a -> b) -> f a -> f b -- like ap



instance Monad T where ...

Requires superclass instances for Functor and Applicative :

```
instance Functor T where
fmap = liftM
```

instance Applicative T where
pure = return
(<*>) = ap



```
labelTree :: Tree a -> State Int (Tree (a, Int))
labelTree (Leaf x) = do
  c <- get
  put (c + 1) -- or modify (+ 1)
  return (Leaf (x, c))
labelTree (Node l r) =
  Node <$> labelTree l <*> labelTree r
```

Exercise: Convince yourself that this is type correct.



Lessons

- The abstraction of monads is useful for a multitude of different types.
- Monads can be seen as tagging computations with effects.
- While IO is impure and cannot be defined in Haskell, the other effects we have seen can be modelled in a pure way:
 - exceptions via Maybe or Either;
 - state via State ;
 - nondeterminism via [].
- The monad interface offers a large number of useful abstractions that can all be applied to these different scenarios.
- All monads are also applicative functors and in particular functors. The (<\$>) and (<*>) operations are also useful for structuring effectful code in Haskell.

