

APLicative Programming with Naperian Functors

Jeremy Gibbons WG2.11#16, August 2016

1. Arrays in APL and J

Scalar operation

$$square 3 = 9$$

is lifted implicitly to vectors:

and to matrices:

and to cuboids, etc:

Binary operators

Similarly, binary operators act not only on scalars:

$$\boxed{1} + \boxed{4} = \boxed{5}$$

but also on vectors:

and on matrices:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 8 \\ 10 & 12 \end{bmatrix}$$

and so on.

Reductions and scans

Similarly for operations that are not simply pointwise.

The *sum* and prefix *sums* functions on vectors:

$$sum \quad \boxed{1 \ 2 \ 3} = \boxed{6}$$

lift to act on the rows of a matrix:

$$sum \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 15 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$sums \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 & 6 \\ 4 & 9 & 15 \end{vmatrix}$$

Reranking

J provides a reranking operator "1 allowing action instead on the columns of a matrix:

$$sum "_{1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix} = sum (transpose \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix}) = sum \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 2 & 5 \\ 3 & 6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 7 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$sums "_{1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix} = transpose (sums (transpose \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix}))$$

$$= transpose (sums \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 2 & 5 \\ 3 & 6 \end{bmatrix}) = transpose \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 5 \\ 2 & 7 \\ 3 & 9 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 5 & 7 & 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

Alignment

The arguments of a binary operator need not have the same rank: lower-ranked argument is implicitly lifted to align with higher-ranked.

For example, one can add a scalar and a vector:

or a vector and a matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix}
1 & 2 & 3 \\
7 & 8 & 9
\end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix}
4 & 5 & 6 \\
7 & 8 & 9
\end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix}
1 & 2 & 3 \\
1 & 2 & 3
\end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix}
4 & 5 & 6 \\
7 & 8 & 9
\end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix}
5 & 7 & 9 \\
8 & 10 & 12
\end{bmatrix}$$

The *shapes* at common ranks must match.

2. Typing rank polymorphism

In APL and J, shape checking is *dynamic*.

Recent work by Slepak *et al.* on *Remora*, a language with a *static type system* for shape checking.

An Array-Oriented Language with Static Rank Polymorphism

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Abstract. The array-computational model pioneered by Iverson's languages APL and J offers a simple and expressive solution to the "von Neumann bottleneck." It includes a form of rank, or dimensional, polymorphism, which renders much of a program's control structure implicit by lifting base operators to higher-dimensional array structures. We present the first formal semantics for this model, along with the first static type system that captures the full power of the core language.

The formal dynamic semantics of our core language, Remora, illuminates several of the murkier corners of the model. This allows us to resolve some of the model's ad hoc elements in more general, regular ways. Among these, we can generalise the model from SIMD to MIMD computations, by extending the semantics to permit functions to be lifted to higher-dimensional arrays in the same way as their arguments.

Our static semantics, a dependent type system of carefully restricted power, is capable of describing array computations whose dimensions cannot be determined statically. The type-checking problem is decidable and the type system is accompanied by the usual soundness theorems. Our type system's principal contribution is that it serves to extract the implicit control structure that provides so much of the language's expressive power, making this structure explicitly apparent at compile time.

1 The Promise of Rank Polymorphism

Behind every interesting programming language is an interesting model of computation. For example, the lambda calculus, the relational calculus, and finite-state automata are the computational models that, respectively, make Scheme, SQL and regular expressions interesting programming languages. Iverson's language APL [7], and its successor J [10], are interesting for this very reason. That is, they provide a notational interface to an interesting model of computation: loop-free, recursion-free array processing, a model that is becoming increasingly relevant as we move into an era of parallel computation.

APL and J's array-computation model is important for several reasons. First, the model provides a solution to Backus's "von Neumann bottleneck" [1]. Instead of using iteration or recursion, all operations are automatically aggregate operations. This lifting is the fundamental control flow mechanism. The iteration space associated with array processing is reified as the shape of the arrays being

Z. Shao (Ed.): ESOP 2014, LNCS 8410, pp. 27-46, 2014. © Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2014

```
e ::= \alpha \mid x \mid (e e' \dots) \mid (\mathsf{T}\lambda [x \dots] e) \mid (\mathsf{T-APP} \ e \ \tau \dots)
                                                                                                                                                (exressions)
            \mid (\mathtt{I}\lambda \, \lceil (x\,\gamma)\,\ldots \rceil\, e) \mid (\mathtt{I-APP}\,\, e\,\,\iota\,\ldots) \mid (\mathtt{PACK}\,\,\iota\,\ldots\,\, e)^{	au} \mid (\mathtt{UNPACK}\,\, (\langle x\,\ldots \, |y\rangle = e)\,\,e')
  \alpha ::= [l \dots]^{\tau} \mid [l \ l' \dots]^{\iota}
                                                                                                                                                       (arrays)
   l ::= b \mid f \mid e \mid (\mathsf{T}\lambda \lceil x \ldots \rceil l) \mid (\mathsf{T-APP} \ l \ \tau \ldots) \mid (\mathsf{I}\lambda \lceil (x \ \gamma) \ldots \rceil l)
                                                                                                                                     (array elements)
          | (I-APP l \iota ...)
  f ::= \pi \mid (\lambda \mid (x \mid \tau) \dots \mid e)
                                                                                                                                                  (functions)
\tau, \sigma ::= B \mid x \mid \mathbf{A}_{\iota}\tau \mid (\tau \ldots \to \sigma) \mid (\forall [x \ldots]\tau) \mid (\Pi [(x \gamma) \ldots]\tau)
                                                                                                                                                         (types)
             | (\Sigma [(x \gamma) \dots] \tau)
 \iota, \kappa ::= n \mid x \mid (S \iota \ldots) \mid (+ \iota \kappa)
                                                                                                                                                      (indices)
  \gamma ::= Nat | Shape
                                                                                                                                               (index sorts)
                                                                                                                                                   (numbers)
   z \in \mathbb{Z}
n, m \in \mathbb{N}
  v ::= [b \dots]^{\tau} \mid [f \dots]^{\tau} \mid b \mid f \mid (\mathsf{T}\lambda [x \dots] l) \mid (\mathsf{I}\lambda [(x \gamma) \dots] l)
                                                                                                                                             (value forms)
             | (PACK \iota ... v) | [(PACK \iota ... v) ...]^{\mathbf{A}_{(\mathbf{S} \ m \ n \ ...)} \tau}
  E ::= \square \mid (v \dots E e \dots) \mid [v \dots E l \dots]^{\tau} \mid (T-APP E \tau \dots) \qquad (evaluation \ contexts)
             | (I-APP E \iota ...) | (PACK \iota ... E)^{\tau} | (UNPACK (\langle x ... | y \rangle = E) e)
  \Gamma ::= \cdot \mid \Gamma, (x:\tau)
                                                                                                                                  (type environments)
  \Delta ::= \cdot \mid \Delta, x
                                                                                                                                  (kind environments)
  \Theta ::= \cdot \mid \Theta, (x :: \gamma)
                                                                                                                                  (sort environments)
```

Fig. 6. Syntax for Remora

Fig. 7. Type judgment for Remora

$$\frac{\Delta; \Theta \vdash \tau}{\Delta; \Theta \vdash B} \quad (\text{K-Base}) \quad \frac{x \in \Delta}{\Delta; \Theta \vdash x} \quad (\text{K-Var}) \quad \frac{\Delta; \Theta \vdash \tau}{\Delta; \Theta \vdash \lambda; \text{Shape}} \quad (\text{K-Array})$$

$$\frac{\Delta; \Theta \vdash \tau_j \text{ for each } j \quad \Delta; \Theta \vdash \sigma}{\Delta; \Theta \vdash (\tau \dots \to \sigma)} \quad (\text{K-Fun}) \quad \frac{\Delta; \Theta, (x :: \gamma) \dots \vdash \tau}{\Delta; \Theta \vdash (II \ [(x \ \gamma) \dots] \ \tau)} \quad (\text{K-DProd})$$

$$\frac{\Delta; \Theta, (x :: \gamma) \dots \vdash \tau}{\Delta; \Theta \vdash (II \ [(x \ \gamma) \dots] \ \tau)} \quad (\text{K-DSum}) \quad \frac{\Delta, x \dots; \Theta \vdash \tau}{\Delta; \Theta \vdash (V \ [x \dots] \ \tau)} \quad (\text{K-Univ})$$

$$\frac{\theta \vdash \iota :: \gamma}{\Theta \vdash n :: \text{Nat}} \quad (\text{S-Nat}) \quad \frac{(x :: \gamma) \in \Theta}{\Theta \vdash x :: \gamma} \quad (\text{S-Var}) \quad \frac{\Theta \vdash \iota_j :: \text{Nat for each } j}{\Theta \vdash (S \ \iota \dots) :: \text{Shape}} \quad (\text{S-Shape})$$

$$\frac{\theta \vdash \iota :: \text{Nat} \quad \Theta \vdash \kappa :: \text{Nat}}{\Theta \vdash (\iota \vdash \iota, \kappa) :: \text{Nat}} \quad (\text{S-Plus})$$

Fig. 8. Kind and index sort judgments for Remora

$$\left(\left[f \dots \right]^{\mathbf{A}_{\left(\mathbf{S} \ n_{f} \dots \right)} \left(\mathbf{A}_{\left(\mathbf{S} \ n_{a} \dots \right)} \tau \dots \to \tau' \right)} v^{\mathbf{A}_{\left(\mathbf{S} \ n_{f} \dots \ n_{a} \dots \right)} \tau} \dots \right)^{\mathbf{A}_{\left(\mathbf{S} \ n_{f} \dots \ n_{c} \dots \right)} \tau'} \\
\mapsto_{map} \left[\left(\left[f \right]^{\mathbf{A}_{\left(\mathbf{S} \right)} \left(\mathbf{A}_{\left(\mathbf{S} \ n_{a} \dots \right)} \tau \dots \to \tau' \right)} \alpha^{\mathbf{A}_{\left(\mathbf{S} \ n_{a} \dots \right)} \tau} \dots \right]^{\mathbf{A}_{\left(\mathbf{S} \ n_{f} \dots \right)} \tau'} \right] \\
\text{where } \rho = length \left(n_{f} \dots \right) > 0 \\
\left((\alpha \dots) \dots) = \left(\left(Cells_{\rho} \left[v \right] \right) \dots \right)^{\top}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix}
[f \dots]^{\mathbb{A}_{(\mathbb{S} \ m \dots)}} (\mathbb{A}_{(\mathbb{S} \ n \dots)}^{\tau \dots \to \tau'}) & v^{\mathbb{A}_{(\mathbb{S} \ m' \dots)}^{\tau}} \dots \end{pmatrix}^{\sigma} \\
\mapsto_{lift} & \left(Dup_{(\mathbb{A}_{(\mathbb{S} \ n \dots)}^{\tau} \dots \to \tau'), \iota} \left[\!\![f \dots]\!\!]\right] & Dup_{\mathbb{A}_{(\mathbb{S} \ m' \dots)}^{\tau}, \iota} \left[\!\![v]\!\!] \dots \right)^{\sigma} \\
\text{where } (m \dots), (m' \dots) \dots \text{ not all equal} \\
\iota = Max \left[\!\![(m \dots), (m' \dots) \dots]\!\!]\right]$$

$$\left(\operatorname{T-APP} \left(\operatorname{T} \lambda \left[x \, \dots \right] \, e^{\tau} \right)^{(\forall \left[x \, \dots \, \right] \tau)} \, \sigma \, \dots \right)^{\tau \left[\left(x \, \leftarrow_{t} \, \sigma \right) \, \dots \, \right]} \\ \mapsto_{T\beta} \ e^{\tau} \left[\left(x \, \leftarrow_{t} \, \sigma \right) \, \dots \, \right]$$

Applying an index abstraction:

$$\left(\text{I-APP} \left(\text{I}\lambda \left[(x \ \gamma) \ \dots \right] e^{\tau} \right)^{(II[(x \ \gamma) \ \dots] \tau)} \iota \ \dots \right)^{\tau \left[(x \leftarrow_i \iota) \ \dots \right]} \ \mapsto_{I\beta} \ e^{\tau} \left[(x \leftarrow_i \iota) \ \dots \right]$$

Projecting from a dependent sum:

$$\left(\texttt{UNPACK} \left(\langle x \, \ldots \, | y \rangle = (\texttt{PACK} \ \iota \, \ldots \ v^\tau)^{\tau'} \right) \ e^\sigma \right)^\sigma \ \mapsto_{proj} \ e^\sigma \left[(x \ \leftarrow_i \ \iota) \, \ldots \, (y \ \leftarrow_e \ v) \right]$$

Fig. 9. Small-step operational semantics for Remora

3. Vectors

Automatic promotion of datatype

```
data Nat :: * where Z :: Nat \rightarrow Nat
```

to kind *Nat* and type-level naturals 'Z, 'S 'Z,

Then we can define

```
data Vector :: Nat \rightarrow * \rightarrow * where

VNil :: Vector 'Z a

VCons :: a \rightarrow Vector \ n \ a \rightarrow Vector \ ('S \ n) \ a
```

It is now straightforward to define

```
vmap :: (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow Vector \ n \ a \rightarrow Vector \ n \ b

vzipWith :: (a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow Vector \ n \ a \rightarrow Vector \ n \ b \rightarrow Vector \ n \ c
```

Hasochism

That's not quite enough for *vreplicate*, crucial for alignment.

```
class Natural (n:: Nat)
where vreplicate:: a \rightarrow Vector \ n \ a
instance Natural 'Z
where vreplicate a = VNil
instance Natural n \Rightarrow Natural \ ('S \ n)
where vreplicate a = VCons \ a \ (vreplicate \ a)
```

4. Applicative functors

Vectors are an *applicative functor*:

```
class Functor f \Rightarrow Applicative f where

pure :: a \rightarrow f a -- think "replicate"

(**) :: f(a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow f a \rightarrow f b -- think "zip with apply"
```

Not just vectors as dimensions; also eg pairs:

```
data Pair \ a = P \ a \ a

instance Functor \ Pair \ where

fmap \ f \ (P \ x \ y) = P \ (f \ x) \ (f \ y)

instance Applicative \ Pair \ where

pure \ x = P \ x \ x

P \ f \ g \circledast P \ x \ y = P \ (f \ x) \ (g \ y)
```

... or block-structured matrices

```
data Block :: * where

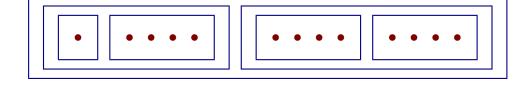
Single :: Block
Join :: Block 	o Block 	o Block

data BlockVec :: Block 	o * * * where

One :: a 	o BlockVec Single a
Plus :: BlockVec m a 	o BlockVec n a 	o BlockVec (Join m n) a

instance Functor (BlockVec p) where ...

instance Applicative (BlockVec p) where ...
```



Dimensions can have structure!

5. Naperian functors

The *Applicative* interface is not enough to define *transpose*, needed for reranking. Instead:

```
class Applicative f \Rightarrow Naperian f where

type Log f

lookup :: f a \rightarrow (Log f \rightarrow a) -- each other's...

tabulate :: (Log f \rightarrow a) \rightarrow f a -- ... inverses

positions :: f (Log f)

tabulate h = fmap h positions

positions = tabulate id
```

Then

```
transpose :: (Naperian f, Naperian g) \Rightarrow f (g a) \rightarrow g (f a) transpose = tabulate \circ fmap tabulate \circ flip \circ fmap lookup \circ lookup
```

6. Folding and traversing

To define things like *sum*, we need

```
class Foldable t where foldMap :: Monoid <math>m \Rightarrow (a \rightarrow m) \rightarrow (t \ a \rightarrow m)
```

And to define things like *sums*, we need

```
class (Functor t, Foldable t) \Rightarrow Traversable t where traverse :: Applicative f \Rightarrow (a \rightarrow f b) \rightarrow t \ a \rightarrow f \ (t \ b)
```

So we represent acceptable array dimensions as:

```
class (Naperian f, Traversable f) \Rightarrow Dimension f
```

7. Multidimensionality

Hypercuboids are scalars, vectors, matrices...a *nested* datatype:

```
data Hyper :: * \rightarrow * where
          Scalar ::
                                                                   Hyper a
                                     a \rightarrow
          Prism:: Natural n \Rightarrow Hyper (Vector n \ a) \rightarrow Hyper \ a
or
       data Hyper :: Nat \rightarrow * \rightarrow * where
          Scalar ::
                                                                      Hvver 'Z a
          Prism:: Natural n \Rightarrow Hyper\ r\ (Vector\ n\ a) \rightarrow Hyper\ ('S\ r)\ a
or (innermost extent first)
       data Hyper :: [Nat] \rightarrow * \rightarrow * where
          Scalar ::
                                                                       Hyper '[] a
          Prism:: Natural n \Rightarrow Hyper ns (Vector n a) \rightarrow Hyper (n': ns) a
```

But what about non-vector dimensions?

Beyond vectors

Type index is a *type-level list of dimensions*:

```
class Shapely fs where ...
instance Shapely '[] where ...
instance (Dimension f, Shapely fs) \Rightarrow
Shapely (f': fs) where ...
```

Then (innermost first again)

```
data Hyper :: [* \rightarrow *] \rightarrow * \rightarrow * where

Scalar :: a \rightarrow Hyper'[] a

Prism :: (Dimension f, Shapely fs) \Rightarrow Hyper fs (f a) \rightarrow Hyper (f ': fs) a
```

Beyond vectors

Type index is a *type-level list of dimensions*:

```
class Shapely fs where rank :: Rank fs instance Shapely '[] where rank = RZ instance (Dimension f, Shapely fs) \Rightarrow Shapely (f': fs) where rank = RS rank
```

Then (innermost first again)

```
data Hyper :: [* \rightarrow *] \rightarrow * \rightarrow * where

Scalar :: a \rightarrow Hyper'[] a

Prism :: (Dimension f, Shapely fs) \Rightarrow Hyper fs (f a) \rightarrow Hyper (f': fs) a
```

where a *Rank* denotes the rank of a shape:

```
data Rank :: [* \rightarrow *] \rightarrow * where

RZ :: Rank'[]

RS :: (Dimension f, Shapely fs) \Rightarrow Rank fs \rightarrow Rank (f': fs)
```

Hypercuboid operations

Replication and zipping (and hence applicative):

```
hreplicate :: Rank fs \rightarrow a \rightarrow Hyper \ fs \ a

hreplicate RZ \ a = Scalar \ a

hreplicate (RS \ r) \ a = Prism \ (hreplicate \ r \ (pure \ a))

hzipWith :: (a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow Hyper \ fs \ a \rightarrow Hyper \ fs \ b \rightarrow Hyper \ fs \ c

hzipWith f \ (Scalar \ a) \ (Scalar \ b) = Scalar \ (f \ a \ b)

hzipWith f \ (Prism \ x) \ (Prism \ y) = Prism \ (hzipWith \ (azipWith \ f) \ x \ y)
```

Reduction:

```
reduce:: Monoid m \Rightarrow (a \rightarrow m) \rightarrow Hyper(f': fs) a \rightarrow Hyper fs m
reduce f(Prism x) = fmap(foldMap f) x
```

and transposition:

```
transposeHyper :: Hyper (f': (g': fs)) \ a \rightarrow Hyper (g': (f': fs)) \ a
transposeHyper (Prism (Prism x)) = Prism (Prism (fmap transpose x))
```

7. Alignment

Unary operators via *fmap*, homogeneous binary via *hzipWith*.

Heterogeneous binary operators (eg vector with matrix) entail *alignment*:

```
class (Shapely fs, Shapely gs) \Rightarrow Alignable fs gs where align:: Hyper fs a \rightarrow Hyper gs a \rightarrow
```

Shape *fs* alignable with *gs* if it is a *prefix*:

```
instance Alignable '[]'[] where
    align = id

instance (Dimension f, Alignable fs gs) ⇒ Alignable (f': fs) (f': gs) where
    align (Prism x) = Prism (align x)

instance (Dimension f, Shapely fs) ⇒ Alignable '[] (f': fs) where
    align (Scalar a) = hreplicate rank a
```

Lifting

Two arguments can be aligned with their common maximum shape:

```
type family Max (fs :: [* \rightarrow *]) (gs :: [* \rightarrow *]) :: [* \rightarrow *]

type instance Max'[] '[] ='[]

type instance Max'[] (f': gs) = (f': gs)

type instance Max (f': fs)'[] = (f': fs)

type instance Max (f': fs) (f': gs) = (f': Max fs gs)
```

Then

```
binary :: (Shapely fs, Shapely gs, Max fs gs ~ hs,

Alignable fs hs, Alignable gs hs) \Rightarrow

(a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow (Hyper fs a \rightarrow Hyper gs b \rightarrow Hyper hs c)

binary f x y = hzipWith f (align x) (align y)
```

then

8. Symbolic replication and transposition

```
data HyperR :: [* \rightarrow *] \rightarrow * \rightarrow * where
  ScalarR :: a \rightarrow
                                             HvverR'||a
  PrismR :: (Dimension f, Shapely fs) \Rightarrow
               HyperR fs(f a) \rightarrow HyperR(f': fs) a
  ReplR :: (Dimension f, Shapely fs) \Rightarrow
               HyperR fs a \rightarrow HyperR (f': fs) a
   TransR:: (Dimension f, Dimension g, Shapely fs) \Rightarrow
               HyperR (f': a': fs) a \rightarrow HyperR (a': f': fs) a
rzipWith :: Shapely fs \Rightarrow
             (a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow HyperR \ fs \ a \rightarrow HyperR \ fs \ b \rightarrow HyperR \ fs \ c
rzipWith\ f\ (PrismR\ x)\ (ReplR\ y) = PrismR\ (rzipWith\ (azipWith_1\ f)\ x\ y)
  where azipWith_1 f xs y = fmap ('f'y) xs
```

9. Flat representation

```
data Flat fs a where

Flat :: Shapely fs \Rightarrow Array Int a \rightarrow Flat fs a

flatten :: Shapely fs \Rightarrow Hyper fs a \rightarrow Flat fs a

flatten xs = Flat (listArray (0, sizeHyper xs - 1) (elements xs))

where
```

```
sizeHyper:: Shapely fs \Rightarrow Hyper fs a \rightarrow Int elements:: Shapely fs \Rightarrow Hyper fs a \rightarrow [a]
```

10. Summary

- typing of APL and J array operations
- explicating the implicit alignment and lifting
- symbolic (constant-time) replication and transposition
- type-safe flat representations
- no need for hand-rolled type system
- not too much pain

O, my offence is rank, it smells to heaven; It hath the primal eldest curse upon 't, A brother's murder. William Shakespeare (1564–1616), "Hamlet", Act III Scene 3