### SPLS, 7 Jun 2023, University of the West of Scotland

### ASYNCHRONOUS Operations

Danel AhmanMatija PretnarUniversity of Ljubljana, Slovenia

THE DEA



 $M_1 \rightsquigarrow M_2 \rightsquigarrow M_3$ 

 $M_1 \rightsquigarrow M_2 \rightsquigarrow M_3 \rightsquigarrow M_4$ 

 $M_1 \rightsquigarrow M_2 \rightsquigarrow M_3 \rightsquigarrow M_4 \rightsquigarrow M_5$ 







 $\uparrow_{op}$   $\downarrow_{res}$  $M_1 \rightsquigarrow M_2 \qquad M_3 \rightsquigarrow M_4$ 

 $\uparrow_{op}$   $\downarrow_{res}$  $M_1 \rightsquigarrow M_2 \qquad M_3 \rightsquigarrow M_4 \rightsquigarrow M_5$ 

 $M_1 \rightsquigarrow M_s$ 





↑<sub>req</sub>  $M_1 \rightsquigarrow M_s \rightsquigarrow M_2 \rightsquigarrow M_3$ 

1 req  $M_1 \rightsquigarrow M_s \rightsquigarrow M_2 \rightsquigarrow M_3 \rightsquigarrow M_4$ 

1 req  $M_1 \rightsquigarrow M_s \rightsquigarrow M_2 \rightsquigarrow M_3 \rightsquigarrow M_4$ 

↑<sub>req</sub> ↓resp  $M_1 \rightsquigarrow M_s \rightsquigarrow M_2 \rightsquigarrow M_3 \rightsquigarrow M_4$ 

↑<sub>req</sub> ↓resp  $M_1 \rightsquigarrow M_s \rightsquigarrow M_2 \rightsquigarrow M_3 \rightsquigarrow M_4$  $M_{\mathcal{D}}$ 

 $M_1 \rightsquigarrow M_w$ 



↓req  $M_1 \rightsquigarrow M_w \rightsquigarrow M_p$ 

↓req  $M_1 \rightsquigarrow M_w \rightsquigarrow M_p \rightsquigarrow M_s$ 



↑ resp ↓req  $M_1 \rightsquigarrow M_w \rightsquigarrow M_p \rightsquigarrow M_s \rightsquigarrow M_w$ 











↓stop ↓go  $M_1 \xrightarrow{} M_2 \xrightarrow{} M_w \xrightarrow{} M_2 \xrightarrow{} M_2 \xrightarrow{} M_3$
# $M_1$

# $\stackrel{\uparrow}{}_{tick}_{M_1}$



 $\uparrow_{tick}$   $\uparrow_{tock}$  $M_1 \rightsquigarrow M_2$ 

 $\uparrow_{tick}$   $\uparrow_{tock}$  $M_1 \rightsquigarrow M_2 \rightsquigarrow M_1$ 

 $\uparrow_{tick} \uparrow_{tock} \uparrow_{tick}$  $M_1 \rightsquigarrow M_2 \rightsquigarrow M_1$ 

 $\uparrow_{tick} \uparrow_{tock} \uparrow_{tick}$  $M_1 \rightsquigarrow M_2 \rightsquigarrow M_1 \rightsquigarrow M_2$ 

 $\begin{array}{cccc} \uparrow_{\mathrm{tick}} & \uparrow_{\mathrm{tock}} & \uparrow_{\mathrm{tick}} & \uparrow_{\mathrm{tock}} \\ M_1 \nrightarrow M_2 \nrightarrow M_1 \nrightarrow M_2 \end{array}$ 

 $\begin{array}{cccc} \uparrow_{\mathrm{tick}} & \uparrow_{\mathrm{tock}} & \uparrow_{\mathrm{tick}} & \uparrow_{\mathrm{tock}} \\ M_1 \rightsquigarrow M_2 \rightsquigarrow M_1 \rightsquigarrow M_2 \rightsquigarrow M_1 \\ \end{array}$ 

THE DEA

# CORE CALCULUS $fun(x:X) \mapsto M \quad VW$ return V let x = M in N

#### $(fun (x:X) \mapsto M) V \rightsquigarrow M[V/x]$ let $x = (return V) in N \rightsquigarrow N[V/x]$

 $M \rightsquigarrow N$  $\mathscr{E}[M] \rightsquigarrow \mathscr{E}[N]$ 

$$\mathscr{E} ::= [] \quad | \text{ let } x = \mathscr{E} \text{ in } N | \cdot$$

## demo

# CORE CALCULUS $fun(x:X) \mapsto M \quad VW$ return V let x = M in N

OUTGOING SIGNALS  $\uparrow op(V, M)$ 

let 
$$x = (\uparrow op(V, M))$$
 in  $N$   
 $\rightsquigarrow \uparrow op(V, \text{let } x = M \text{ in } N)$ 

$$\mathscr{E} ::= \cdots \qquad \uparrow \operatorname{op}(V, \mathscr{E})$$

let 
$$x = (\uparrow \operatorname{op} (V, M))$$
 in  $N$   
 $\rightsquigarrow \uparrow \operatorname{op} (V, \text{let } x = M \text{ in } N)$ 

$$\mathscr{C} ::= \cdots | \uparrow \operatorname{op}(V, \mathscr{C})$$
  
no bound  
variable

## demo

OUTGOING SIGNALS  $\uparrow op(V, M)$ 

# INCOMING **NTERRUPTS** $\downarrow op(V, M)$

 $\downarrow \operatorname{op}(V, \operatorname{return} W) \rightsquigarrow \operatorname{return} W$ 

#### $\downarrow \operatorname{op}(V, \uparrow \operatorname{op}'(W, M)) \rightsquigarrow \uparrow \operatorname{op}'(W, \downarrow \operatorname{op}(V, M))$

 $\mathscr{E} ::= \cdots \qquad \downarrow \operatorname{op}(V, \mathscr{E})$ 

## demo

# INCOMING **NTERRUPTS** $\downarrow op(V, M)$

# INTERRUPT HANDLERS promise (op $x \mapsto M$ ) as p in N

let  $x = (\text{promise (op } y \mapsto M_1) \text{ as } p \text{ in } M_2) \text{ in } N$  $\rightsquigarrow$  promise (op  $y \mapsto M_1$ ) as p in (let  $x = M_2 \text{ in } N$ )

promise (op  $x \mapsto M$ ) as p in  $\uparrow$  op'(V, N) $\rightsquigarrow \uparrow$  op' $(V, \text{promise} (\text{op } x \mapsto M) \text{ as } p \text{ in } N)$ 

$$\mathscr{C} ::= \cdots$$
 promise (op  $x \mapsto M$ ) as p in  $\mathscr{C}$ 

let  $x = (\text{promise (op } y \mapsto M_1) \text{ as } p \text{ in } M_2) \text{ in } N$  $\rightsquigarrow$  promise (op  $y \mapsto M_1$ ) as p in (let  $x = M_2 \text{ in } N$ )

promise (op  $x \mapsto M$ ) as p in  $\uparrow$  op'(V, N) $\rightsquigarrow \uparrow$  op' $(V, \text{promise} (\text{op } x \mapsto M) \text{ as } p \text{ in } N)$ 

$$\mathscr{C} ::= \cdots | \text{ promise } (\text{op } x \mapsto M) \text{ as } p \text{ in } \mathscr{C} \\ \text{bound} \\ \text{variable} \end{cases}$$

let  $x = (\text{promise } (\text{op } y \mapsto M_1) \text{ as } p \text{ in } M_2) \text{ in } N$   $\rightarrow$  promise  $(\text{op } y \mapsto M_1) \text{ as } p \text{ in } (\text{let } x = M_2 \text{ in } N)$ algebraicity

promise (op  $x \mapsto M$ ) as p in  $\uparrow$  op'(V, N) $\rightsquigarrow \uparrow$  op' $(V, \text{promise} (\text{op } x \mapsto M) \text{ as } p \text{ in } N)$ 

$$\mathscr{C} ::= \cdots | \text{ promise } (\text{op } x \mapsto M) \text{ as } p \text{ in } \mathscr{C} \\ \text{bound} \\ \text{variable} \end{cases}$$

let  $x = (\text{promise (op } y \mapsto M_1) \text{ as } p \text{ in } M_2) \text{ in } N$   $\rightarrow$  promise (op  $y \mapsto M_1$ ) as p in (let  $x = M_2 \text{ in } N$ ) algebraicity

promise (op  $x \mapsto M$ ) as p in  $\uparrow$  op'(V, N)  $\Rightarrow \uparrow$  op' $(V, \text{ promise (op } x \mapsto M) \text{ as } p \text{ in } N)$ commutativity

 $\mathscr{C} ::= \cdots$  promise (op  $x \mapsto M$ ) as p in  $\mathscr{C}$ bound variable ↓ op (V, promise (op  $x \mapsto M$ ) as p in N) → let p = M[V/x] in ↓ op (V, N)

 $\downarrow \operatorname{op}'(V, \operatorname{promise} (\operatorname{op} x \mapsto M) \text{ as } p \text{ in } N)$  $\twoheadrightarrow \operatorname{promise} (\operatorname{op} x \mapsto M) \text{ as } p \text{ in } \downarrow \operatorname{op}'(V, N)$  ↓ op (V, promise (op  $x \mapsto M$ ) as p in N) → let p = M[V/x] in ↓ op (V, N) "handling" ↓ op'(V, promise (op  $x \mapsto M$ ) as p in N) → promise (op  $x \mapsto M$ ) as p in ↓ op'(V, N)

# INTERRUPT HANDLERS promise (op $x \mapsto M$ ) as p in N

# AWATING PROMISES $\langle V \rangle$ await V until $\langle x \rangle$ in M

#### await $\langle V \rangle$ until $\langle x \rangle$ in $M \rightsquigarrow M[V/x]$

let  $x = (await V until \langle y \rangle in M) in N$  $\rightarrow$  await V until  $\langle y \rangle$  in (let x = M in N)

 $\downarrow \operatorname{op}(V, \operatorname{await} W \operatorname{until} \langle x \rangle \operatorname{in} M)$  $\twoheadrightarrow \operatorname{await} W \operatorname{until} \langle x \rangle \operatorname{in} \downarrow \operatorname{op}(V, M)$ 

#### await $\langle V \rangle$ until $\langle x \rangle$ in $M \rightsquigarrow M[V/x]$

let  $x = (await V until \langle y \rangle in M) in N$  $\rightarrow$  await V until  $\langle y \rangle$  in (let x = M in N) algebraicity  $\downarrow \text{op}(V, \text{await } W \text{ until } \langle x \rangle \text{ in } M)$  $\rightarrow$  await W until  $\langle x \rangle$  in  $\downarrow \text{op}(V, M)$ `"handling"

## demo

# AWATING PROMISES $\langle V \rangle$ await V until $\langle x \rangle$ in M


## $\Gamma \vdash V : X$ $\Gamma \vdash M : X ! \mathscr{C}$

#### $\Gamma, x : X, \Gamma' \vdash x : X$

#### $\Gamma \vdash ():1$

### $\Gamma, x : X \vdash M : Y ! \mathscr{C}$ $\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{fun} \ (x : X) \mapsto M : X \to Y ! \mathscr{C}$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash V : X \rightarrow Y! \mathscr{C} \qquad \Gamma \vdash W : X}{\Gamma \vdash V W : Y! \mathscr{C}}$$
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash V : X}{\Gamma \vdash \text{return } V : X! \mathscr{C}}$$
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : X! \mathscr{C} \qquad \Gamma, x : X \vdash N : Y! \mathscr{C}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let } x = M \text{ in } N : Y! \mathscr{C}}$$

$$\Gamma \vdash V : X$$
$$\Gamma \vdash \langle V \rangle : \langle X \rangle$$

 $\Gamma \vdash V : \langle X \rangle \qquad \Gamma, x : X \vdash M : Y ! \mathscr{C}$  $\Gamma \vdash \text{await } V \text{ until } \langle x \rangle \text{ in } M : Y ! \mathscr{C}$ 

### $\mathscr{C} = (O, l)$

 $o = \{\mathsf{op}_1, \dots, \mathsf{op}_m\}$  $\iota = \{\mathsf{op}'_1 \mapsto \mathscr{C}_1, \dots, \mathsf{op}'_n \mapsto \mathscr{C}_n\}$ 

### $\iota_{p_1} = \{ ping \mapsto (\{ pong \}, \emptyset) \}$ $\iota_p = \{ ping \mapsto (\{ pong \}, \iota_p) \}$

### $\iota_m = \left\{ \operatorname{stop} \mapsto \left( \emptyset, \{ \operatorname{go} \mapsto (\emptyset, \iota_m) \} \right) \right\}$

#### $op ∈ o Γ ⊢ V : A_{op} Γ ⊢ M : X!(o, ι)$ Γ ⊢ ↑ op (V, M) : X!(o, ι)

 $\iota(\mathsf{op}) = \mathscr{C}$  $\Gamma, x : A_{\mathsf{op}} \vdash M : \langle X \rangle ! \mathscr{C}$  $\Gamma, p : \langle X \rangle \vdash N : Y! (o, \iota)$  $\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{promise} \ (\mathsf{op} \ x \mapsto M) \ \mathsf{as} \ p \ \mathsf{in} \ N : Y! (o, \iota)$ 

#### $\Gamma \vdash V : A_{op} \qquad \Gamma \vdash M : X ! \mathscr{C}$ $\Gamma \vdash \downarrow op (V, M) : X ! (op \downarrow \mathscr{C})$

$$\mathsf{op} \downarrow (o, \iota) = \begin{cases} (o \cup o', \iota |_{\mathsf{op}' \neq \mathsf{op}} \cup \iota') & \iota(\mathsf{op}) = (o', \iota') \\ (o, \iota) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

## $\vdash M : X! \mathscr{C}$ $\implies M \rightsquigarrow M' \quad \lor \quad M \text{ is final}$

# $\Gamma \vdash M : X ! \mathscr{C} \land M \rightsquigarrow M'$ $\implies \Gamma \vdash M' : X ! \mathscr{C}$ preservation







## $\Gamma \vdash V : X$ $\Gamma \vdash M : X!(o, \iota)$

### PROCESSES

## $\begin{array}{c|c} \operatorname{run} M & P \parallel Q \\ \uparrow \operatorname{op}(V, P) & \downarrow \operatorname{op}(V, P) \end{array}$



#### $\operatorname{run} (\uparrow \operatorname{op} (V, M)) \rightsquigarrow \uparrow \operatorname{op} (V, \operatorname{run} M)$ $\uparrow \operatorname{op} (V, P) \parallel Q \rightsquigarrow \uparrow \operatorname{op} (V, P \parallel \downarrow \operatorname{op} (V, Q))$ $P \parallel \uparrow \operatorname{op} (V, Q) \rightsquigarrow \uparrow \operatorname{op} (V, \downarrow \operatorname{op} (V, P) \parallel Q)$

 $\downarrow \operatorname{op}(V, \operatorname{run} M) \rightsquigarrow \operatorname{run}( \downarrow \operatorname{op}(V, M))$  $\downarrow \operatorname{op}(V, P \parallel Q) \rightsquigarrow \downarrow \operatorname{op}(V, P) \parallel \downarrow \operatorname{op}(V, Q)$  $\downarrow \operatorname{op}(V, \uparrow \operatorname{op}'(W, P)) \rightsquigarrow \uparrow \operatorname{op}'(W, \downarrow \operatorname{op}(V, P))$ 

### demo

# $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{demo}\\ M_i \nleftrightarrow M'_i\\ \hline M_1 \parallel \cdots \parallel M_i \parallel \cdots \parallel M_n \nleftrightarrow M_1 \parallel \cdots \parallel M'_i \parallel \cdots \parallel M_n \end{array}$

### demo $M_i \rightsquigarrow M'_i$ $M_1 \parallel \cdots \parallel M_i \parallel \cdots \parallel M_n \rightsquigarrow M_1 \parallel \cdots \parallel M'_i \parallel \cdots \parallel M_n$ $M_1 \parallel \cdots \parallel \uparrow \operatorname{op}(V, M_i) \parallel \cdots \parallel M_n$ $\rightarrow \downarrow \operatorname{op}(V, M_1) \parallel \cdots M'_i \cdots \parallel \downarrow \operatorname{op}(V, M_n)$

 $\Gamma \vdash M : X!(o, \iota)$  $\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{run} M : X!!(o, \iota)$ 

 $\Gamma \vdash P : C \qquad \Gamma \vdash Q : D$  $\Gamma \vdash P \parallel Q : C \parallel D$ 

op ∈ signals(C)  $\Gamma \vdash V : A_{op}$   $\Gamma \vdash P : C$  $\Gamma \vdash \uparrow op(V, P) : C$   $\Gamma \vdash V : A_{op} \qquad \Gamma \vdash P : C$  $\Gamma \vdash \downarrow op(V, P) : op \downarrow C$ 

 $op \downarrow (X!!(o, \iota)) = X!!(op \downarrow (o, \iota))$  $op \downarrow (C \parallel D) = (op \downarrow C) \parallel (op \downarrow D)$ 

## $\vdash P : C$ $\implies P \rightsquigarrow P' \quad \lor P \text{ is final}$

# $\Gamma \vdash P : C \land P \rightsquigarrow P'$ $\implies \Gamma \vdash P' : C$ **preservation**





 $\uparrow \operatorname{op}(V, P) \parallel Q \rightsquigarrow \uparrow \operatorname{op}(V, P \parallel \downarrow \operatorname{op}(V, Q))$ 

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{additional effects of} \\ \text{triggered handlers} \end{array}$   $\uparrow \operatorname{op}(V,P) \parallel Q \rightsquigarrow \uparrow \operatorname{op}(V,P \parallel \downarrow \operatorname{op}(V,Q))$ 

#### $X!!(o,\iota) \thicksim X!!(o,\iota)$

#### $X!!\mathsf{ops} \downarrow (o, \iota) \thicksim X!!\mathsf{ops} \downarrow (\mathsf{op} \downarrow (o, \iota))$

$$C \leadsto C' \qquad D \leadsto D'$$

$$C \parallel D \leadsto C' \parallel D'$$

## $\vdash P : C$ $\implies P \rightsquigarrow P' \quad \lor \quad P \text{ is final}$

#### 





### PROCESSES

## $\begin{array}{c|c} \operatorname{run} M & P \parallel Q \\ \uparrow \operatorname{op}(V, P) & \downarrow \operatorname{op}(V, P) \end{array}$

### EXTENSIONS

$$\mathscr{C} \sqsubseteq \iota(\mathsf{op}) \qquad \Gamma, p : \langle X \rangle \vdash N : Y!(o, \iota)$$
  
$$\Gamma, x : A_{\mathsf{op}}, r : 1 \to \langle X \rangle ! \big( \emptyset, \{\mathsf{op} \mapsto \mathscr{C}\} \big) \vdash M : \langle X \rangle ! \mathscr{C}$$

 $\Gamma \vdash \text{promise} (\text{op } x r \mapsto M) \text{ as } p \text{ in } N : Y!(o, \iota)$ 

 $\downarrow \operatorname{op}(V, \operatorname{promise}(\operatorname{op} xr \mapsto M) \text{ as } p \text{ in } N)$  $\twoheadrightarrow \operatorname{let} p = M[V/x, R/r] \text{ in } \downarrow \operatorname{op}(V, N)$ 

where  $R = fun () \mapsto promise (op x r \mapsto M)$  as p in return p

promise (op  $x \mapsto M$ ) as p in  $\uparrow$  op'(V, N) $\rightsquigarrow \uparrow$  op' $(V, \text{promise} (\text{op } x \mapsto M) \text{ as } p \text{ in } N)$ 

### promise (op $x \mapsto M$ ) as p in $\uparrow$ op'(V, N) $\rightsquigarrow \uparrow$ op' $(V, \text{promise} (\text{op } x \mapsto M) \text{ as } p \text{ in } N)$
## promise (op $x \mapsto M$ ) as p in $\uparrow$ op'(V, N) $\rightarrow \uparrow$ op' $(V, \text{promise} (\text{op } x \mapsto M) \text{ as } p \text{ in } N)$



$$A, B ::= b | 1 | 0 | A \times B | A + B$$
$$X, Y ::= A | X \times Y | X + Y |$$
$$X \to Y!(o, \iota) | \langle X \rangle$$

op ∈ o Γ ⊢ V : 
$$A_{op}$$
 Γ ⊢ M : X!(o, ι)  
Γ ⊢ ↑ op (V, M) : X!(o, ι)

$$A, B ::= b | 1 | 0 | A \times B | A + B | [X]$$
$$X, Y ::= A | X \times Y | X + Y |$$
$$X \to Y!(o, \iota) | \langle X \rangle | [X]$$

op ∈ o Γ ⊢ V : 
$$A_{op}$$
 Γ ⊢ M : X!(o, ι)  
Γ ⊢ ↑ op (V, M) : X!(o, ι)

## X is mobileor $\blacksquare \notin \Gamma'$ $\Gamma, \blacksquare \vdash V : X$ $\Gamma, x : X, \Gamma' \vdash x : X$ $\Gamma \vdash [V] : [X]$

### $\Gamma \vdash V : [X] \qquad \Gamma, x : X \vdash M : Y ! \mathscr{C}$ $\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{unbox} \ V \text{ as } [x] \text{ in } M : Y ! \mathscr{C}$

### unbox [V] as [x] in $M \rightsquigarrow M[V/x]$

### $\operatorname{run}\left(\operatorname{spawn}\left(M,N\right)\right) \rightsquigarrow \operatorname{run}M \parallel \operatorname{run}N$

# $\Gamma, \blacksquare \vdash M : X ! \mathscr{C} \qquad \Gamma \vdash N : Y ! \mathscr{C}'$ $\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{spawn}(M, N) : Y ! \mathscr{C}'$

let  $x = (\text{spawn} (M_1, M_2)) \text{ in } N$  $\Rightarrow \text{spawn} (M_1, \text{let } x = M_2 \text{ in } N)$ 

promise (op  $x r \mapsto M$ ) as p in spawn  $(N_1, N_2)$  $\Rightarrow$  spawn  $(N_1, (\text{promise (op } x r \mapsto M) \text{ as } p \text{ in } N_2))$ 

> $\downarrow \operatorname{op} (V, \operatorname{spawn} (M, N))$  $\rightsquigarrow \operatorname{spawn} (M, \downarrow \operatorname{op} (V, N))$

let  $x = (\text{spawn} (M_1, M_2)) \text{ in } N$   $\rightarrow \text{spawn} (M_1, \text{let } x = M_2 \text{ in } N)$ algebraicity

promise (op  $x r \mapsto M$ ) as p in spawn  $(N_1, N_2)$   $\Rightarrow$  spawn  $(N_1, (\text{promise (op } x r \mapsto M) \text{ as } p \text{ in } N_2))$ commutativity

 $\downarrow \text{op}(V, \text{spawn}(M, N))$   $\twoheadrightarrow \text{spawn}(M, \downarrow \text{op}(V, N))$  ``handling''

### demo

### EXTENSIONS

### NTERESTED?



### Asynchronous Effects

### DANEL AHMAN and MATIJA PRETNAR, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

We explore asynchronous programming with algebraic effects. We complement their conventional synchronous treatment by showing how to naturally also accommodate asynchrony within them, namely, by decoupling the execution of operation calls into signalling that an operation's implementation needs to be executed, and interrupting a running computation with the operation's result, to which the computation can react by installing interrupt handlers. We formalise these ideas in a small core calculus, called  $\lambda_{x}$ . We demonstrate the flexibility of  $\lambda_{x}$  using examples ranging from a multi-party web application, to preemptive multi-threading, to remote function calls, to a parallel variant of runners of algebraic effects. In addition, the paper is accompanied by a formalisation of  $\lambda_{x}$ 's type safety proofs in AGDA, and a prototype implementation of  $\lambda_{x}$  in OCAML.

### $\label{eq:CCS Concepts: CCS Concepts: CCS$

Additional Key Words and Phrases: algebraic effects, asynchrony, concurrency, interrupt handling, signals.

### **ACM Reference Format:**

Danel Ahman and Matija Pretnar. 2021. Asynchronous Effects. Proc. ACM Program. Lang. 5, POPL, Article 24 (January 2021), 28 pages. https://doi.org/10.1145/3434305

### **1** INTRODUCTION

Effectful programming abstractions are at the heart of many modern general-purpose programming languages. They can increase expressiveness by giving access to first-class continuations, but often simply help users to write cleaner code, e.g., by avoiding having to manage a program's memory explicitly in state-passing style, or getting lost in callback hell while programming asynchronously.

An increasing number of language designers and programmers are starting to embrace *algebraic effects*, where one uses algebraic operations [Plotkin and Power 2002] and effect handlers [Plotkin and Pretnar 2013] to uniformly and user-definably express a wide range of effectful behaviour, ranging from basic examples such as state, rollbacks, exceptions, and nondeterminism [Bauer and Pretnar 2015], to advanced applications in concurrency [Dolan et al. 2018] and statistical probabilistic programming [Bingham et al. 2019], and even quantum computation [Staton 2015].

While covering many examples, the conventional treatment of algebraic effects is *synchronous* by nature. In it effects are invoked by placing operation calls in one's code, which then propagate outwards until they trigger the actual effect, finally yielding a result to the rest of the computation that has been *waiting* the whole time. While blocking the computation is indeed sometimes needed, e.g., in the presence of general effect handlers that can execute their continuation any number of times, it forces all uses of algebraic effects to be synchronous, even when this is not necessary, e.g., when the effect involves executing a remote query to which a response is not needed (immediately).

Motivated by the recent interest in the combination of asynchrony and algebraic effects [Dolan et al. 2018; Leijen 2017], we explore what it takes (in terms of language design, safe programming abstractions, and a self-contained core calculus) to accompany the synchronous treatment of

Authors' address: Danel Ahman, danel.ahman@fmf.uni-lj.si; Matija Pretnar, matija.pretnar@fmf.uni-lj.si, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Jadranska 21, Ljubljana, SI-1000, Slovenia.



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. © 2021 Copyright held by the owner/author(s). 2475-1421/2021/1-ART24 https://doi.org/10.1145/3434305

Proc. ACM Program. Lang., Vol. 5, No. POPL, Article 24. Publication date: January 2021.

### HIGHER-ORDER ASYNCHRONOUS EFFECTS\*

### DANEL AHMAN $\odot^{\,a}$ AND MATIJA PRETNAR $\odot^{\,a,b}$

<sup>a</sup> University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Jadranska 21, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

e-mail address: danel.ahman@fmf.uni-lj.si, matija.pretnar@fmf.uni-lj.si

<sup>b</sup> Institute of Mathematics, Physics and Mechanics, Jadranska 21, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

ABSTRACT. We explore asynchronous programming with algebraic effects. We complement their conventional synchronous treatment by showing how to naturally also accommodate asynchrony within them, namely, by decoupling the execution of operation calls into signalling that an operation's implementation needs to be executed, and interrupting a running computation with the operation's result, to which the computation can react by installing interrupt handlers. We formalise these ideas in a small core calculus, called  $\lambda_{x}$ . We demonstrate the flexibility of  $\lambda_{x}$  using examples ranging from a multi-party web application, to preemptive multi-threading, to remote function calls, to a parallel variant of runners of algebraic effects. In addition, the paper is accompanied by a formalisation of  $\lambda_{x}$ 's type safety proofs in AGDA, and a prototype implementation of  $\lambda_{x}$  in OCAML.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Effectful programming abstractions are at the heart of many modern general-purpose programming languages. They can increase expressiveness by giving access to first-class continuations, but often simply help users to write cleaner code, e.g., by avoiding having to manage a program's memory explicitly in state-passing style, or getting lost in callback hell while programming asynchronously.

An increasing number of language designers and programmers are starting to embrace *algebraic effects*, where one uses algebraic operations [PP02] and effect handlers [PP13] to uniformly and user-definably express a wide range of effectful behaviour, ranging from basic examples such as state, rollbacks, exceptions, and nondeterminism [BP15], to advanced applications in concurrency [DEH<sup>+</sup>18] and statistical probabilistic programming [BCJ<sup>+</sup>19], and even quantum computation [Sta15].

While covering many examples, the conventional treatment of algebraic effects is *synchronous* by nature. In it effects are invoked by placing operation calls in one's code, which

Preprint submitted to Logical Methods in Computer Science

D. Ahman and M. Pretnar
 Creative Commons

Before sumbitting

list

Create

LMCS Gi

tags for A

and Agda

go through LMCS che

Key words and phrases: algebraic effects, asynchrony, concurrency, interrupt handling, signals. \* This paper is an extended version of our previous work [AP21], which simplifies the meta-theory, removes the reliance on general recursion for reinstallable interrupt handlers, extends the calculus with higher-order interrupt payloads and dynamic process creation, and strengthens the examples of application.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 834146 . This material is based upon work supported by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research under awards number FA9550-17-1-0326 and FA9550-21-1-0024.

| Product ~ Solutions ~ Open S               | Source V Pricing  | Search                              | Sign in Sign up                                     |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| anelahman / aeff-agda (Public)             |   | Q Notifications 양 Fork 0 ☆ Star 6 ▼ |   |
| <> Code ③ Issues 第 Pull requests ④ Actions | B 🗄 Projects 🔃 Security 🗠 Insights                                |                                     |   |
| <b>} ੰ master ⊸ ੇ 1</b> branch S 1 tag     | Go to fil   | e Code -                            | About   |
| • danelahman license                       | 71ebed9 on Oct 7, 2021 🖸  | 162 commits                         | Agda formalisation of the AEff language             |
| 🗋 AEff.agda                                | merging value, computation, and process type modules              | 3 years ago                         | <b></b> 述 MIT license                               |
| AwaitingComputations.agda                  | removing unused lemmas and better naming conventions              | 3 years ago                         | <ul> <li>☆ 6 stars</li> <li>③ 3 watching</li> </ul> |
| EffectAnnotations.agda                     | Proof-irrelevance of subtyping relations                          | 3 years ago                         | 약 0 forks   |
| 🗋 Finality.agda                            | Finality of result forms  | 3 years ago                         | Report repository                                   |
| LICENSE.md                                 | license   | 2 years ago                         |   |
| Preservation.agda                          | Syncing a lemma annotation with the paper. Removing a spurious mu | 3 years ago                         | Releases 1  |
| ProcessFinality.agda                       | Tweaking the notation   | 3 years ago                         | S POPL 2021 Latest                                  |
| ProcessPreservation.agda                   | Tweaking the notation   | 3 years ago                         |   |
| ProcessProgress.agda                       | Finality of process result forms                                  | 3 years ago                         | Packages  |
| Progress.agda                              | Syncing names with the paper                                      | 3 years ago                         | No packages published                               |
| 🗋 README.md                                | Update README.md  | 2 years ago                         |   |
| 🗋 Renamings.agda                           | actions of renamings and substitutions for processes              | 3 years ago                         | Languages   |
| 🗋 Substitutions.agda                       | actions of renamings and substitutions for processes              | 3 years ago                         |   |
| 🗋 Types.agda                               | Tweaking the notation   | 3 years ago                         | • Agda 100.0%                                       |
|  |   |                                     |   |

README.md

### Agda formalisation of the AEff language

Note: For the Agda formalisation of a newer version of AEff (extended with reinstallable interrupt handlers, higherorder payloads for signals and interrupts, and dynamic process creation), see here.

- The formalisation has been tested with Agda version 2.6.1 and standard library version 1.3.
- The unicode symbols used in the source code have tested to display correctly with the DejaVu Sans Mono

| Product × Solutions × Open S<br>elahman / higher-order-aeff-agda | ource ~ Pricing   | Search       | ✓     ✓     Sign in     Sign up       ▲     Notifications   |
|--|---|--------------|---|
| e 🕑 Issues ্য় Pull requests 🕑 Actions                           | () Security 🗠 Insights  |              |   |
| 양 main ▾ 양 1 branch ⓒ 0 tags                                     | Go to t   | file Code -  | About   |
| • danelahman license   | b41df71 on Oct 7, 2021  | 🕑 36 commits | No description, website, or topics provided.  |
| 🗋 AEff.agda  | removing let-rec from the core calculus                           | 2 years ago  | <ul> <li>□ Readme</li> <li>▲ MIT license</li> <li>☆ 1 star</li> <li>③ 3 watching</li> <li>※ 0 forks</li> <li>Report repository</li> </ul> |
| EffectAnnotations.agda   | Removing a redundant mutual block                                 | 2 years ago  |   |
| 🗋 Finality.agda  | removing the separate judgement of awaiting computations (not nee | 2 years ago  |   |
| LICENSE.md   | license   | 2 years ago  |   |
| Preservation.agda  | removing let-rec from the core calculus                           | 2 years ago  |   |
| ProcessFinality.agda   | for symmetry, allow type-level spawning both in left and right    | 2 years ago  | Releases<br>No releases published   |
| ProcessPreservation.agda   | for symmetry, allow type-level spawning both in left and right    | 2 years ago  |   |
| ProcessProgress.agda   | removing the separate judgement of awaiting computations (not nee | 2 years ago  |   |
| Progress.agda  | removing the separate judgement of awaiting computations (not nee | 2 years ago  | Packages<br>No packages published   |
| README.md  | Update README.md  | 2 years ago  |   |
| Renamings.agda   | removing let-rec from the core calculus                           | 2 years ago  |   |
| Substitutions.agda   | removing let-rec from the core calculus                           | 2 years ago  | Contributors 2  |
| 🗋 Types.agda   | wip: reinstallable interrupt handlers (up to coercion rules)      | 2 years ago  |   |
| i≡ README.md   |   |              | matijapretnar Matija Pretnar  |
| Agda formalisatio  | n of the AEff language for higher-o                               | order        | Languages   |

• Agda 100.0%

- The core language formalised here differs from the original language as follows:
  - interrupt handlers are now able to reinstall themselves (without resorting to general let-rec);
  - payloads of signals/interrupts have been generalised to allow higher-order values (by the means of modal types);





Other 0.8%

Install dependencies by

opam install menhir ocaml-vdom ocamlformat

### FUTURE WORK

### EFFICIENT Interpreter

# EFFECT-AWARE OPTIMISATIONS

### **DENOTATIONAL** SEMANTICS

### SCOPED? Handlers

QUESTIONS?