Soundly Handling Linearity

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2 HUAWEI

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Linear Types vs Effect Handlers

linear types

Picture by Xueying Qin

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Rust, Haskell

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Idris2, Granule

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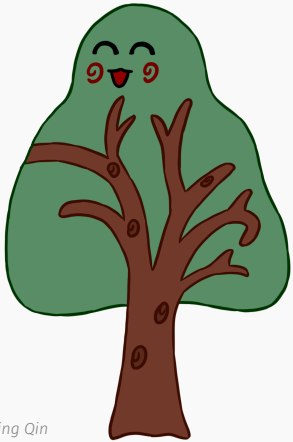
effect handlers



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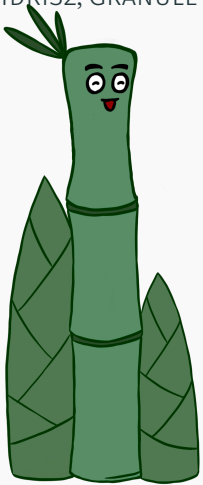
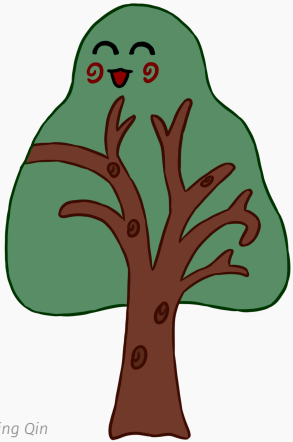


effect handlers

OCaml, WebAssembly



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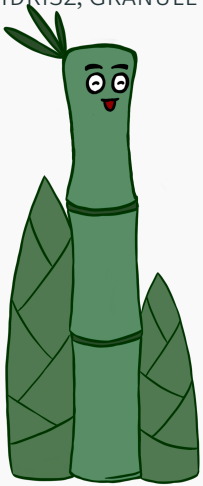

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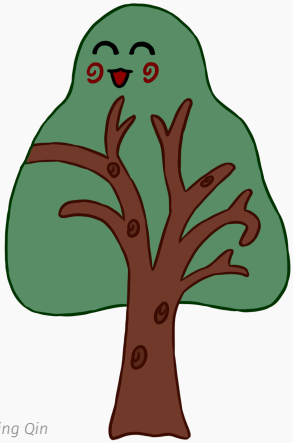

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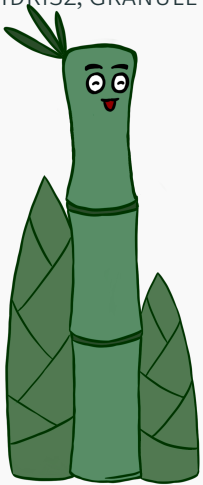

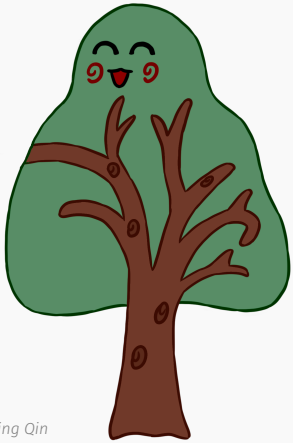

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links> { var c = fork(receiver); sender(c) };
42
```

`!Int.End` is dual to `?Int.End`

Well-Typed Programs in LINKS Cannot Go Wrong ?

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links> { var c = fork(receiver); sender(c); sender(c); };
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Effect Handlers in Links

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                  var c' = send(x, c);
                  close(c') }
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Core idea: track ***control-flow linearity*** in addition to ***value linearity***.

Value Linearity

Value linearity restricts the ***use*** of values.

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Value Linearity in $\mathsf{F}^{\circ}_{\mathsf{eff}}$ (F-eff-pop)

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$\mathsf{F}^{\circ}_{\mathsf{eff}}$ tracks value linearity with kinds.

$$\mathtt{Int} : \mathsf{Type}^{\bullet} \qquad \mathtt{!Int.End} : \mathsf{Type}^{\circ}$$
$$(\mathtt{!Int.End}, \mathtt{Int}) : \mathsf{Type}^{\circ} \qquad A \to^{\circ} C : \mathsf{Type}^{\circ}$$

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Functions are annotated with value linearity.

$$\mathit{sender} = \underset{\text{unlimited fun}}{\lambda^{\bullet}} \; \underset{\text{linear var}}{c^{\mathtt{!Int.End}}} \; . \; \underset{\text{linear fun}}{\lambda^{\circ}} \; \underset{\text{unlimited var}}{i^{\mathtt{Int}}} . \mathbf{let}\ c' \leftarrow \mathsf{send}\,(i, c)\ \mathbf{in}\ \mathtt{close}\, c'$$

Multi-Shot Handlers Break Value Linearity

$ndsender_{\chi} : !\mathtt{Int}.\mathtt{End} \multimap^{\bullet} () \,!\, \{\mathtt{Choose} : () \twoheadrightarrow \mathtt{Bool}\}$

$ndsender_{\chi} = \lambda^{\bullet} c.$

$$\begin{array}{l} \textbf{let } b \leftarrow \textbf{do } \mathtt{Choose}\ () \textbf{ in} \\ \textbf{let } s \leftarrow \textbf{if } b \textbf{ then } 42 \textbf{ else } 84 \textbf{ in} \\ \textbf{let } c' \leftarrow \mathsf{send}\,(s, c) \textbf{ in } \mathtt{close}\, c' \end{array}$$

linear variable c is captured in the continuation of `Choose`

Multi-Shot Handlers Break Value Linearity

$ndsender_{\checkmark}$: !Int.End $\multimap^{\bullet}$ () ! {Choose : () $\twoheadrightarrow$ Bool}

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let $b \leftarrow$ **do** Choose () **in**
let $s \leftarrow$ **if** b **then** 42 **else** 84 **in**
let $c' \leftarrow$ send (s, c) **in** close c'

linear variable c is captured in the continuation of Choose

$\lambda^{\bullet} c.$**handle** $(ndsender_{\checkmark}\ c)$ **with** {Choose _ $r \mapsto$ `r true ; r false`}

well-typed but duplicates the channel endpoint c

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control-flow-linear operation

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$$\lambda^{\bullet} c.\mathbf{handle}\ (\mathit{ndsender}_{\checkmark}\ c)\ \mathbf{with}\ \{\mathtt{Choose}\ \_\ r \mapsto r\ \mathtt{true}\,; r\ \mathtt{false}\}$$

ill-typed since r is now a linear function because `Choose` is control-flow linear

Subkinding of Linearity

The control-flow linearity of operations are lifted to the kind of effect rows.

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It is always safe to use control-flow-linear operations in an unlimited context.

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Control-flow linearity is ***dual*** to value linearity!

Value linearity is about values, and control-flow linearity is about contexts.

Tracking Control-Flow Linearity in Links

```
sig receiver    : (?Int.End) { | _ }~> ()
fun receiver(c) { var (i, c') = receive(c); close(c'); printInt(i) }

sig ndsender    : (!Int.End) {Choose: () => Bool | _ }~> ()
fun ndsender(c) { close(send(if (do Choose) 42 else 84, c)) }

links> handle ({ var c = fork(receiver); ndsender(c) })
       { case <Choose => r> -> r(true); r(false) };
```

42***: Internal Error in `evalir.ml` : NotFound `chan_3` while interpreting.

Tracking Control-Flow Linearity in LINKS

```
sig receiver    : (?Int.End) { | _::Lin }~> ()
fun receiver(c) { xlin; var (i, c') = receive(c); close(c'); printInt(i) }

sig ndsender    : (!Int.End) {Choose: () =@ Bool | _::Lin }~> ()
fun ndsender(c) { xlin; close(send(if (lindo Choose) 42 else 84, c)) }

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Type Error: Variable `r` has linear type but is used 2 times.

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fun receiver(c) { xlin; var (i, c') = receive(c); close(c'); printInt(i) }

sig ndsender    : (!Int.End) {Choose: () =@ Bool | _::Lin }~> ()
fun ndsender(c) { xlin; close(send(if (lindo Choose) 42 else 84, c)) }

links> handle ({ xlin; var c = fork(receiver); ndsender(c) })
       { case <Choose =@ r> -> xlin; r(true); r(false) };
```

Type Error: Variable `r` has linear type but is used 2 times.

Now close the issue! `github.com/links-lang/links/issues/544`

Beyond $\mathsf{F}^{\circ}_{\mathsf{eff}}$ and Links

Linear types in $\mathsf{F}^{\circ}_{\mathsf{eff}}$ (and Links) can be annoying due to lack of principal types.

$$\mathit{verboseId} = \lambda x.\, \mathbf{do}\ \texttt{Print}\ \texttt{"42"}\,;\, x$$

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$\mathsf{Q}^{\circ}_{\mathsf{eff}}$ restores principal types by *qualified types*.

$$\forall \alpha\, \mu\, \phi\, \phi'.\ \alpha \preceq \phi \Rightarrow \alpha \to^{\phi'} \alpha\,!\,\{\mathtt{Print} : \phi; \mu\}$$

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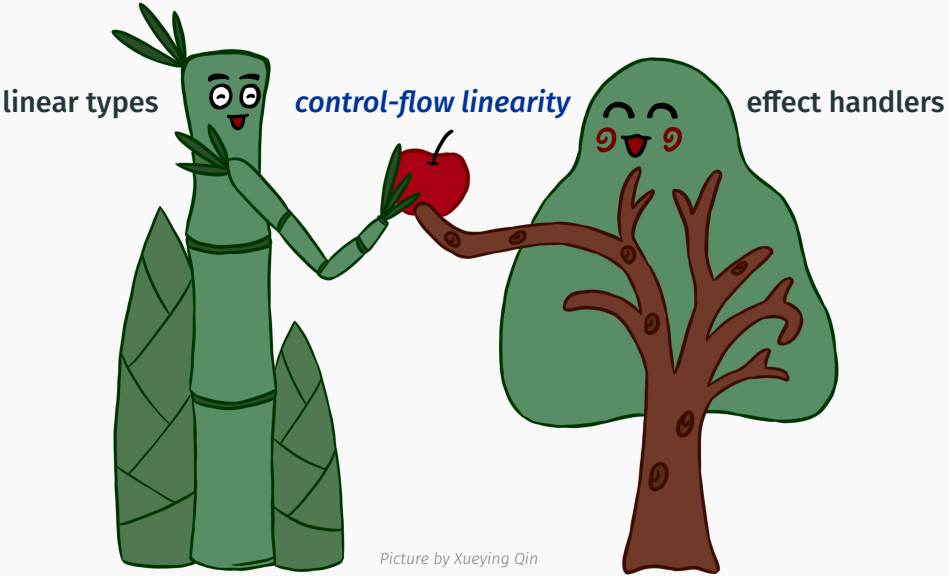
$\mathsf{Q}^{\circ}_{\mathsf{eff}}$ also supports effect subtyping, making CFL more precise.

More in the Paper

$\mathrm{F}^{\circ}_{\mathrm{eff}}$ *system-F* style
subkinding-based linear types [Mazurak et al. 2010]
row-based effect types [Hillerström and Lindley 2016]
implementation in Links
metatheory (type soundness and runtime linearity safety)

$\mathrm{Q}^{\circ}_{\mathrm{eff}}$ *ML* style
***qualified* linear types** based on Quill [Morris 2016]
***qualified* effect types** based on Rose [Morris and McKinna 2019]
type inference with principal types
deterministic constraint solving
metatheory (soundness and completeness of type inference)

Takeaway: consider tracking *control-flow linearity*
when having both linear types and effect handlers in your languages!



Picture by Xueying Qin