

# What is the Category for Haskell?

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## We roughly believe . . .

- ▷ not just **Set**
  - ▷ maybe **CPO**, due to lazyness, and mixed variance  
( $D \cong D \Rightarrow D$ )
  - ▷ Folklore: initial algebra = final coalgebra  
e.g. List datatype in Haskell is given by an initial algebra but contains all infinite lists
  - ▷ But: there are subtle **categorical** differences in several variations of cpos
- ▶ Clarify these!

## We clarify . . .

- ▷ why coincidence?
  - which is a suitable category of cpos?
- ▷ why infinite data?
- ▷ how can we give a datatype functor?
  - a non-strict continuous function given by a strict function
- ▷ what is Haskell's algebraic datatype?

## Categories of CPOs

### Def.

A **cpo** is a poset such that every  $\omega$ -chain has a lub.

**NOTE:** it may not have  $\perp$ .

Consider slightly different categories: **Cpo**, **Cppo**, **Cppo $\perp$**

All have cpos as objects.

Category	Cpo	Cppo	Cppo <sub>⊥</sub>
bottom?	no	⊥	⊥
functions	cont.	cont.	strict
$D \times E$	+	+	+
$[D \rightarrow E]$	+	+	✓
$D + E$	+	no	
Initial object	∅	no	{⊥}
Terminal object	{*}	{⊥}	{⊥}
$D \otimes E$		✓	✓
$[D \rightarrow_{\perp} E]$		✓	+
$D \oplus E$		✓	+
closed structure	ccc	ccc	monoidal closed
(co)completeness	✓	no	✓
i.alg.=final coalg.			✓

## General Construction of Initial Algebras

### Thm. (Basic Lemma [Smyth-Plotkin])

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a category with initial object  $0$ , and  $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  a functor. If  $F$  preserves the colimit of the  $\omega$ -chain  $D$

$$0 \xrightarrow{!} F(0) \xrightarrow{F!} F^2(0) \xrightarrow{F^2!} \dots$$

then, the **initial  $F$ -algebra** exists and is given by the mediating arrow from the colimit of the  $\omega$ -chain  $F(0) \rightarrow F^2(0) \rightarrow \dots$

$$\text{colim } FD \cong F(\text{colim } D) \rightarrow \text{colim } D$$

► Why cocompleteness? At least, if  $\mathcal{C}$  is  $\dots$

cocomplete (existence of any colimit)

$\Rightarrow 0 \rightarrow F(0) \rightarrow F^2(0) \rightarrow \dots$  has a colimit

## Why Cocompleteness?

**Cor.**

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a cocomplete category. If  $F$  is  $\omega$ -cocontinuous functor, the initial  $F$ -algebra exists.

Note: If  $\mathcal{C}$  is a cpo, this is Knaster-Tarski fixpoint theorem.

## Construction of Colimits

### Thm. [Mac Lane V.2.2]

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a category with coproducts and coequalizers, and  $D : \mathbb{I} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  a diagram in  $\mathcal{C}$ .

Then,  $\text{colim } D$  exists and is given by the coequalizer

$$\coprod_{(f:j \rightarrow k) \in \text{arr } \mathbb{I}} D(j) \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{[\phi_f]} \\ \xrightarrow{[\iota_f]} \end{array} \coprod_{i \in \mathbb{I}} D(i) \longrightarrow \text{colim } D$$

where

$$\phi_f : D(j) \xrightarrow{D(f)} D(k) \xrightarrow{\iota} \coprod_i D(i)$$

$$\iota_f : D(j) \xrightarrow{\iota} \coprod_i D(i)$$



## Example: List Types in $\mathbf{Cppo}_\perp$

### Remark

Non-strict functions can be represented by strict functions in  $\mathbf{Cppo}_\perp$

$$[X \rightarrow Y] \cong (X)_\perp \rightarrow_\perp Y$$

Type constructors are  $\times \otimes \oplus (-)_\perp$

In  $\mathbf{Set}$ , the list functor is

$$FX = 1 + \mathbb{N} \times X$$

In  $\mathbf{Cppo}_\perp$ , assume  $\mathbf{1}, \mathbb{N}$  to be flat cpos.

$F X$	cons :	how strict	i. alg.
$\mathbf{1} \oplus \mathbb{N} \times X$	$\mathbb{N} \times L \rightarrow_\perp L$	$\text{cons}(\perp, \perp) = \perp$ but $\text{cons}(a, \perp) = a:\perp$	fin.& inf.
$\mathbf{1} \oplus \mathbb{N} \otimes X$	$\mathbb{N} \otimes L \rightarrow_\perp L$	$\text{cons}(\perp, l) = \text{cons}(a, \perp) = \perp$	$\mathbb{N}^*$
$\mathbf{1} \oplus \mathbb{N} \otimes X_\perp$	$\mathbb{N} \otimes L_\perp \rightarrow_\perp L$	$\text{cons}(\perp, l) = \perp$ but $\text{cons}(a, \perp) = a:\perp$	fin.& inf.
$\mathbf{1} \oplus \mathbb{N}_\perp \otimes X_\perp$	$\mathbb{N}_\perp \otimes L_\perp \rightarrow_\perp L$	$\text{cons}(\perp, \perp) = \perp:\perp \neq \perp$	fin.& inf.

## Remark

- (1)  $(\perp, \perp)$  is the least element of  $\mathbb{N} \times L$
- (2) cons is a bistrict function
- (3) cons is a left strict function
- (4)  $\mathbb{N}_\perp \otimes X_\perp \cong (\mathbb{N} \times X)_\perp$ , cons is **continuous**.  
“continuous algebra”. Haskell’s datatype

## Others

- ▶ Initial algebra construction via repeated application of  $F$
- ▶ Note: in  $\mathbf{Cppo}_\perp$ , infinite coproduct should contain lub of  $\omega$ -chain while finite coproduct is just a crushed disjoint sum



# Datatypes and Cocomplete Categories

- ▷ **Set** for polynomial types
- ▷ **Cppo**<sub>⊥</sub> for initial/final (co)algebra coincidence & mixed variant types (“fold” given by Johan Glimming [CALCO’07] for  $\mathcal{C}$  that is algebraically compact, has products, coproducts, smc, generator)
- ▷ **Cpo** for polynomial with monad types  $\mathbf{T}$  (“fold” given by Filinski & Stovring [ICFP’07])
- ▷  $[\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{C}]$  for nested datatypes, where  $\mathcal{C}$  is  $\omega$ -cocomplete (“generalised fold” given by Johann & Ghani [TLCA’07])
- ▷ **Set**<sup>S</sup> for simple GADT (e.g. phantom type of Expr)

**Conclusion:** **Cppo**<sub>⊥</sub> for core Haskell

## Further Complication: Incorporating Function Types

To treat mixed-variant functor, e.g.,

$$F X = (X \rightarrow_{\perp} X)_{\perp}$$

local continuity is easier to chk than cocontinuity of datatype functor.

This means that we need to use order-enriched category **Cppo**<sub>⊥</sub>.

**Thm.** Every locally continuous functor

$$F : \mathbf{Cppo}_{\perp}^{op} \times \mathbf{Cppo}_{\perp} \rightarrow \mathbf{Cppo}_{\perp}^{op} \times \mathbf{Cppo}_{\perp}$$

has an initial algebra, which is also a final coalgebra.

## References

- (1) Smyth, Plotkin, *The category-theoretic solution of recursive domain equations*, SIAM J. Comput. Vol.11, No.4, 1982.
  - ▷ Basic lemma (dual is for final coalgebra)
  - ▷ Embedding-projection pair construction for mixed variance in enriched setting  $\Rightarrow$  limit=colimit
- (2) Lehmann, Smyth, *Algebraic Specification of Data Types: A Syntetic Approach*, Mathematical Systems Theory 14, 97-139, 1981.
  - ▷ More detailed account for initial algebras for datatypes, such as lists, trees, stack, queues
- (3) Abramsky, Jung, *Domain Theory*, Handbook of LiCS, Vol.3, 1994.
  - ▷ Survey and modern account
- (4) Fiore, PhD thesis, 1996.

- (5) Simpson, Plotkin, Complete Axioms for Categorical Fixed-point Operators, LICS'00.