Monad P3 : Existential Types (1D)

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Please send corrections (or suggestions) to youngwlim@hotmail.com.

This document was produced by using LibreOffice.

Based on

Haskell in 5 steps

https://wiki.haskell.org/Haskell_in_5_steps

Three different usages for **forall**

Basically, there are 3 different common uses for the forall keyword

(or at least so it seems), and each has its own Haskell extension:

ScopedTypeVariables

    specify types for code inside **where** clauses

RankNTypes/Rank2Types,

    The type is labeled "Rank-N" where N is the number of **forall**s

    which are <u>nested</u> and <u>cannot</u> be <u>merged</u> with a previous one.

ExistentialQuantification

Existential Quantification

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Hiding a type variable (1)

Normally when creating a new type

using **type**, **newtype**, **data**, etc.,

every **type variable** that appears on the <u>right-hand side</u>

<u>must</u> also <u>appear</u> on the <u>left-hand side</u>.

newtype ST s a = ST (State# s -> (# State# s, a #))

Existential types are a way of <u>escaping</u>

Existential types can be used for several different purposes.

But what they do is to **<u>hide</u>** a **type variable** on the <u>right-hand side</u>.

Hiding a type variable (2)

Normally, any type variable appearing <u>on the right</u> must

also appear <u>on the left</u>:

data Worker x y = Worker {buffer :: b, input :: x, output :: y}

     This is an **error**, since the **type b** of the **buffer**

     is <u>not</u> <u>specified</u> on the <u>right</u>

     (**b** is a **type variable** rather than a **type**)

     but also is <u>not</u> <u>specified</u> on the <u>left</u>

     (there's no **b** in the left part).

In Haskell98, you would have to write

data Worker b x y = Worker {buffer :: b, input :: x, output :: y}

https://wiki.haskell.org/Existential_type

Hiding a type variable (3)

However, suppose that a **Worker** can use any type **b**

<u>so long as</u> it belongs to some <u>particular</u> **class**.

Then every **function** that uses a **Worker** will have a type like

foo :: **(Buffer b) =>** **Worker b Int Int**

In particular, failing to write an **explicit type signature**   **(Buffer b)**

will invoke the dreaded monomorphism restriction.

Using **existential types**, we can avoid this:

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Hiding a type variable (4)

Using existential type :

data Worker x y = forall b. **Buffer b =>** **Worker {buffer :: b, input :: x, output :: y}**

foo :: Worker Int Int

The **type** of the **buffer** (**Buffer**) now does <u>not</u> <u>appear</u>

in the **Worker** type at all.   **Worker x y**

Explicit type signature :

data Worker b x y = Worker {buffer :: b, input :: x, output :: y}

foo :: (Buffer b) => Worker b Int Int

https://wiki.haskell.org/Existential_type

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Hiding a type variable (5)

- it is now <u>impossible</u> for a function
  to demand a **Worker** having a <u>specific</u> <u>type</u> of **buffer**.

- the **type** of **foo** can now be <u>derived</u> <u>automatically</u>
  <u>without</u> needing an <u>explicit</u> **type signature**.
  (<u>No</u> **monomorphism** restriction.)

- since code now has <u>no</u> <u>idea</u>
  what **type** the buffer function <u>returns</u>,
  you are more <u>limited</u> in what you can do to it.

data Worker **x y** = **forall b**. **Buffer b** => Worker {buffer :: **b**, input :: **x**, output :: **y**}

foo :: Worker Int Int

https://wiki.haskell.org/Existential_type

Hiding a type variable (6)

In general, when you use a **hidden type** in this way,

you will usually want that **type** to belong to a **specific class**,

or you will want to **pass some functions** along

that can work on that type.

Otherwise you'll have some value belonging

to a **random unknown type**,

and you won't be able to do anything to it!

https://wiki.haskell.org/Existential_type

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Less specific types (1)

Note: You can use **existential types**

to **convert** a **<u>more specific</u> type**

into a **<u>less specific</u> one**.

constrained type variables

There is no way to perform the reverse conversion!

Less specific types (2)

This illustrates **creating a heterogeneous list**,

all of whose members implement "**Show**",

and progressing through that list to show these items:

data Obj = forall a. (Show a) => Obj a

     xs :: [Obj]
     xs = [Obj 1, Obj "foo", Obj 'c']

     doShow :: [Obj] -> String
     doShow [] = ""
     doShow ((Obj x):xs) = show x ++ doShow xs

With output: **doShow xs ==> "1\"foo\"'c'"**

Existentials in terms of **forall** (1)

It is also possible to express existentials with RankNTypes

as **type expressions** directly (without a **data** declaration)

forall r. (forall a. Show a => a -> r) -> r

(the leading forall r. is optional

unless the expression is part of another expression).

the equivalent type **Obj** :

data Obj = forall a. (Show a) => Obj a

https://wiki.haskell.org/Existential_type

Existentials in terms of **forall** (2)

The conversions are:

fromObj :: Obj -> forall r. (forall a. Show a => a -> r) -> r

fromObj (Obj x) k = k x

toObj :: (forall r. (forall a. Show a => a -> r) -> r) -> Obj

toObj f = f Obj

https://wiki.haskell.org/Existential_type

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Existentials

Existential types, or '**existentials**' for short, provide a way of 'squashing' <u>a group of types</u> into one, <u>single type</u>.

Existentials are part of GHC's type system **extensions**.
They aren't part of Haskell98, and as such you'll have

to either compile any code that contains them
with an extra command-line parameter of

      -XExistentialQuantification,

or put at the top of your sources that use existentials.

      {-# LANGUAGE ExistentialQuantification #-}

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

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forall type variables

Example: A polymorphic function

map :: (a -> b) -> [a] -> [b]

Example: Explicitly quantifying the type variables

map :: forall a b. (a -> b) -> [a] -> [b]

instantiating the general type of map to a more specific type

a = Int and **b = String**

(Int -> String) -> [Int] -> [String]

Example: Two equivalent type statements

id :: a -> a

id :: forall a . a -> a

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Heterogeneous Lists

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Type hider

Suppose we have a group of values.

    they may not be all the <u>same</u> **type**,

    but they are all members of some **class**

    thus, they have a certain **property**

It might be useful to throw all these values into a list.

    normally this is <u>impossible</u> because lists elements

    <u>must</u> be of the same type

    (homogeneous with respect to types).

existential types allow us to <u>loosen</u> this requirement

    by defining a **type hider** or **type box**:

```haskell
data ShowBox = forall s. Show s => SB s
heteroList :: [ShowBox]
heteroList = [SB (), SB 5, SB True]
```

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

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Heterogeneous list example (1)

data ShowBox = forall s. Show s => SB s   **-- type hider**

heteroList :: [ShowBox]

heteroList = [SB (), SB 5, SB True]

[SB (), SB 5, SB True] calls the **constructor**

       on three values of <u>different types</u>,

       to place them all into <u>a single list</u>

       virtually the same type for each one.

Use the **forall** in the constructor

       SB :: forall s. Show s => s -> ShowBox.

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

Heterogeneous list example (2)

data ShowBox = forall s. Show s => SB s

heteroList :: [ShowBox]

heteroList = [SB (), SB 5, SB True]

When passing **heteroList** type parameters to a function

      we cannot take out the **values** inside the **SB**

      because their type might **Bool**. **Int**, **Char**, …

But each of the elements can be

      converted to a **string** via **show**.

In fact, that's the only thing we know about them.

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

Heterogeneous list example (3)

```
instance Show ShowBox where
  show (SB s) = show s


f :: [ShowBox] -> IO ()
f xs = mapM_ print xs


main = f heteroList
```

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

Heterogeneous list example (4)

Example: Using our heterogeneous list

 instance Show ShowBox where

show (SB s) = show s   -- (*) see the comment in the text below

f :: [ShowBox] -> IO ()

f xs = mapM_ print xs

main = f heteroList

Example: Types of the functions involved

print :: Show s => s -> IO ()   -- print x = putStrLn (show x)

mapM_ :: (a -> m b) -> [a] -> m ()

mapM_ print :: Show s => [s] -> IO ()

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

mapM, mapM_, and map (1)

The core idea is that **mapM** maps

an "action" (ie function of type **a -> m b**) over a list and

gives you all the results as **m [b]**

mapM_ does the same thing,

but never collects the results, returning a **m ()**.

If you care about the results

     of your **a -> m b** function, use **mapM**.

If you only care about the effect,

     but not the resulting value,

     use **mapM_**, because it can be more efficient

mapM, **mapM_**, and **map** (2)

Always use **mapM_** with functions of the type **a -> m ()**,

      like **print** or **putStrLn**.

      these functions return **()** to signify that only the effect matters.

If you used **mapM**, you'd get a list of **()** (ie **[(), (), ()]**),

      which would be completely useless

      but waste some memory.

If you use **mapM_**, you would just get a **()**,

      but it would still print everything.

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/27609062/what-is-the-difference-between-mapm-and-mapm-in-haskell/27609146

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mapM, mapM_, and map (3)

Normal **map** is something different:

   it takes a normal function **(a -> b)**

   instead of one using a monad **(a -> m b)**.

This means that it <u>cannot</u> have any sort of effect

   besides returning the changed list.

You would use it if you want to transform a list

   using a normal function.

map_ <u>doesn't</u> <u>exist</u> because, since you <u>don't</u> have <u>any effects</u>,

you always care about the results of using **map**.

forall

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A set of possible values

One way to think about **forall** is

to consider **types** as <u>a set of possible **values**</u>.

Bool is the set **{True, False, ⊥}**

(remember that **bottom**, ⊥, is <u>a member of every type</u>!),

Integer is the set of integers (and bottom),

String is the set of all possible strings (and bottom), and so on.

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

Intersection of the specified types

forall serves as a way to assert a **commonality** or **intersection**

of the <u>specified types</u> (i.e. sets of values).

forall a. a is the **intersection** of <u>all **types**</u>.

    this **subset** turns out to be the set **{⊥}**,

    since it is an implicit value in <u>every **type**</u>.

    that is, [the **type** whose only available **value** is **bottom**]

    However, since every Haskell **type** includes bottom, **{⊥}**,

    this quantification in fact stipulates <u>all Haskell **types**</u>.

    But the <u>only permissible operations</u> on it are

    those available to [a **type** whose only available value is **bottom**]

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A list of bottoms type (1)

1. The list **[forall a. a]**

2. The list **[forall a. Show a => a]**

3. The list **[forall a. Num a => a]**

4. The list **forall a. [a]**

a list of bottoms.   **[⊥] , [⊥,⊥], …**

A list of bottoms type (2)

The list, **[forall a. a]**, is the **type of a list**

whose **elements** all have the type **forall a. a**, i.e.

a list of bottoms.   **[⊥] , [⊥,⊥], …**

The list, **[forall a. Show a => a]**, is the **type of a list**

whose **elements** all have the type **forall a. Show a => a**.

the **Show** class constraint requires the possible types

also to be **a member of the class**, **Show**.

However, ⊥ is still the only value common to all these types, **{⊥}**,

so this too is **a list of bottoms**.   **[forall a. a]**

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

A list of bottoms type (3)

The list, **[forall a. Num a => a]**, requires each element

     to be <u>a member of the class</u>, **Num**.

     Consequently, the possible values include **numeric literals**,

     which have the specific type, **forall a. Num a => a**,

     as well as **bottom**.

forall a. [a] is the type of **the list**

     whose elements all have the same type **a**.

     since we <u>cannot</u> presume any <u>particular</u> <u>type</u> at all,

     this too is <u>**a list of bottoms**</u>.

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Intersections over types

most **intersections** **over types** just lead to **bottoms** ⊥⊥⊥⊥

    types generally <u>don't</u> have **any values in common**

    <u>presumptions</u> <u>cannot</u> be made about a **union of their values**.

a **heterogeneous list** using a **type hider**

    type hider' <u>functions</u> as a **wrapper type**

    which guarantees certain <u>facilities</u>

    by implying a **predicate** or **constraint** on the permissible **types**.

the <u>purpose</u> of **forall** is to impose **type constraint**

    on the <u>permissible</u> types within a **type declaration**

    <u>guaranteeing</u> certain <u>facilities</u> with such types.

---

data ShowBox = forall s. Show s => SB s

heteroList :: [ShowBox]

heteroList = [SB (), SB 5, SB True]

---

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

An existential datatype

  data **T** = **forall a. MkT** a

This defines a polymorphic constructor,

or a family of constructors for **T**

MkT :: forall a. (a -> T)

Pattern matching on our existential constructor

  foo (MkT x) = ... -- what is the type of x?

Constructing the hetereogeneous list

  heteroList = [MkT 5, MkT (), MkT True, MkT map]

data ShowBox = forall s. Show s => SB s

heteroList :: [ShowBox]

heteroList = [SB (), SB 5, SB True]

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

Summary of heterogeneous list examples (2)

A new existential data type, with a class constraint

data T' = forall a. Show a => MkT' a

data T = forall a. MkT a

Using our new heterogenous setup

heteroList' = [MkT' 5, MkT' (), MkT' True, MkT' "Sartre"]

main = mapM_ (\(MkT' x) -> print x) heteroList'

{- prints:

5

()

True

"Sartre"

-}

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

runST

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State and ST monads

the **ST** monad is essentially

a more powerful version of the **State** monad:

It was originally written to provide Haskell with **IO**.

IO is basically just a **State** monad

with an environment of all the information about the real world.

In fact, inside GHC at least, **ST** is used,

and the environment is a **type** called **RealWorld**.

To get out of the **State** / **ST** monad,

use **runState** / **runST**

runST – rank-2 polymorphism

runST :: forall a. (forall s. ST s a) -> a

This is actually an example of **rank-2 polymorphism**

   a **forall** appearing <u>within</u> the left-hand side of (->)

   <u>cannot</u> be moved up, and therefore forms another level or **rank**

   therefore, there are **2 levels** of universal quantification.

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

runST – initial state

runST :: forall a. (forall s. ST s a) -> a

there is **no parameter** for the **initial state** … **s**

Indeed, **ST** uses a different notion of _state_ to **State**;

    State allows you to **get** and **put** the _current state_,

    ST provides an **interface** to **references**

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

runST – reference interfaces

To <u>create</u> **references** of the type **STRef**

newSTRef :: a -> ST s (STRef s a)

To provide an **initial value**

readSTRef :: STRef s a -> ST s a

To <u>manipulate</u> them.

writeSTRef :: STRef s a -> a -> ST s ()

runST :: forall a. (forall s. ST s a) -> a

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

runST – a mapping

the **internal environment** of a **ST** computation

is <u>not</u> <u>one specific</u> **value**,

but a **mapping** from **references** to **values**.   **… (STRef s a)**

newSTRef :: a -> ST s (STRef s a)

No need to provide an **initial state** to **runST**,

as the **initial state** is just the **empty mapping**   **… ()**

containing **no references**.

runST :: forall a. (forall s. ST s a) -> a

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

runST – no specific references

It is <u>not</u> <u>allowed</u>

      to create a **reference** in one **ST** computation,

      then to use the created **reference** in another **ST** computation.

      for reasons of thread-safety

because <u>no</u> **ST** computation should be allowed

      to assume that the initial internal environment

      contains <u>any</u> <u>specific</u> references.

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

runST

runST :: forall a. (forall s. ST s a) -> a

newSTRef :: a -> ST s (STRef s a)

readSTRef :: STRef s a -> ST s a

Example: Bad ST code

 let v = runST (newSTRef True)   … one ST computation

 in runST (readSTRef v)   … another ST computation

Example: Briefer bad ST code

... runST (newSTRef True) ...

newSTRef True :: ST s (STRef s a)

runST (newSTRef True) :: STRef s a

v :: STRef s a

readSTRef v :: ST s a

runST (readSTRef v) :: a

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

runST

Example: Bad ST code

 let v = runST (newSTRef True)

 in runST (readSTRef v)

runST :: forall a. (forall s. ST s a) -> a

    the **rank-2 polymorphism** in **runST**'s type

    to <u>constrain</u> the scope of the **type variable s**

    to be <u>within the first parameter</u> (the left hand side of ->)

    if the **type variable s** appears in the <u>first parameter</u>

    it <u>cannot</u> also appear in the <u>second</u>.

    (the right hand side of ->)

runST

Example: Briefer bad ST code

... runST (newSTRef True) ...

Example: The compiler's typechecking stage

newSTRef True :: forall s. ST s (STRef s Bool)

runST :: forall a. (forall s. ST s a) -> a

runST (newSTRef True) ::

      (forall s. ST s (STRef s Bool)) -> STRef s Bool

runST :: forall a. (forall s. ST s a) -> a

newSTRef :: a -> ST s (STRef s a)

readSTRef :: STRef s a -> ST s a

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

forall

The importance of the forall in the first bracket is

that we can change the name of the s.

runST (newSTRef True) ::

　　　　(forall s. ST s (STRef s Bool)) -> STRef s Bool

Example: A type mismatch!

　　　　(forall s'. ST s' (STRef s' Bool)) -> STRef s Bool

This is similar to $\forall x . x > 5$ is precisely the same as $\forall y . y > 5$

giving the variable a different label.

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Example: A type mismatch!

(forall s'. ST s' (STRef s' Bool)) -> STRef s Bool

Notice that as the **forall** does <u>not</u> scope over

the return type of **runST**,   **STRef s Bool**

we don't rename the **s** there as well.

But suddenly, we've got a **type mismatch**!

The result type of the ST computation in the **first parameter**

must match the **result type** of **runST**, but now it doesn't!

forall

(forall s'. ST s' (STRef s' Bool)) -> STRef s Bool

The key feature of the **existential** is that

  it allows the compiler to generalise

  the **type** of the **state** in the **first parameter**,

  and so the **result type** <u>cannot</u> <u>depend</u> on it.

This neatly <u>sidesteps</u> our **dependence problem**s,

  '**compartmentalises**' each call to **runST**

  into its own little heap,

  with **references** not being able

  to be <u>shared</u> between different **calls**.

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Quantified types

as products and sums

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Quantified Types as Products and Sums

A **universally** **quantified type** may be interpreted

as an **infinite** **product** of **types**.

a **polymorphic function** can be understood

as a **product**, or a **tuple**, of **individual functions**,

one per every possible **type a**.

To construct a **value** of such **type**, we have

to provide all the **components** of the **tuple** at once.

-- one formula generating an infinity of functions

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

Quantified Types as Products and Sums

Example: Identity function

 id :: forall a. a -> a

 id a = a

a **polymorphic function** can be understood

      as a **product**, or a **tuple**, of **individual functions**,

      one per every possible **type a**.

      Int -> Int, Double -> Double, ...

      Char -> Char, [Char] -> [Char], …

      …

      …

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

Quantified Types as Products and Sums

To <u>construct</u> a **value** of such **type**, we have

to <u>provide</u> <u>all</u> the **components** of the **tuple** <u>at once</u>.

in case of **numeric types**, <u>one</u> **numeric constant**

may be used to <u>initialize</u> **many types** <u>at once</u>.

Example: Polymorphic value

 x :: forall a. Num a => a

 x = 0

x may be conceptualized as a **tuple** consisting

of an **Int value**, a **Double value**, etc.

Quantified Types as Products and Sums

Similarly, an **existentially** **quantified type** may be interpreted

as an **infinite sum**.

Example: Existential type

 data ShowBox = forall s. Show s => SB s

may be conceptualized as a **sum**:

Quantified Types as Products and Sums

Example: Existential type

 data ShowBox = forall s. Show s => SB s

Example: Sum type

 data ShowBox = SBUnit | SBInt Int | SBBool Bool | SBIntList [Int] | ...

to construct a **value** of this **type**,

we only have to <u>pick</u> one of the constructors.

A **polymorphic constructor** **SB**

combines all those constructors <u>into one</u>.

Quantification as a primitive

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Pair type example (1)

Universal quantification is useful

for defining data types that aren't already defined.

Suppose there was no such thing as pairs built into haskell.

Quantification could be used to define them.

{-# LANGUAGE ExistentialQuantification, RankNTypes #-}

newtype Pair a b = Pair (forall c. (a -> b -> c) -> c)

makePair :: a -> b -> Pair a b

makePair a b = Pair $ \f -> f a b

Pair $ \f -> f a b :: Pair a b

a

b   f   c

c

a
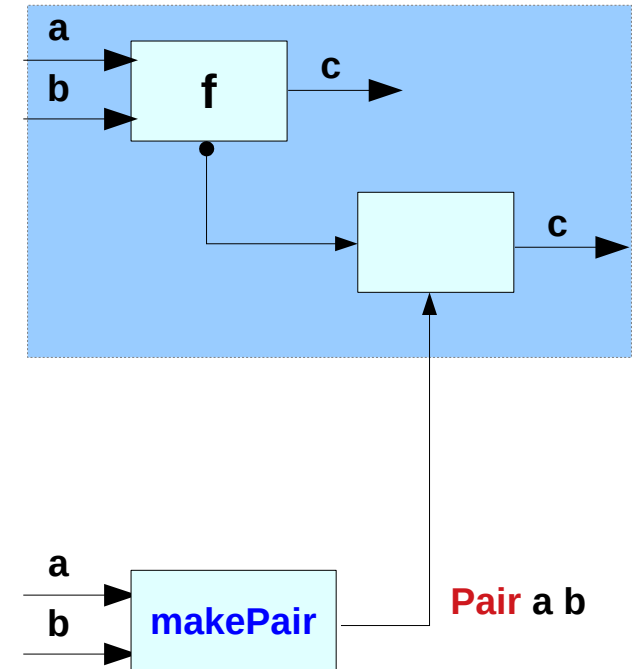
b   makePair   Pair a b

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

Pair type example (2)

In GHCI

λ> :set -XExistentialQuantification

λ> :set -XrankNTypes

λ> newtype Pair a b = Pair {runPair :: forall c. (a -> b -> c) -> c}

λ> makePair a b = Pair $ \f -> f a b

λ> pair = makePair "a" 'b'

> **Pair $ \f -> f "a" 'b'**
>
> **\f : function itself   f :: a -> b -> c**
>
> **f "a" 'b' : function application result**

```
        a  ┌──────────┐
    ──────▶│ makePair  │──── Pair a b ────▶
        b  │          │
    ──────▶└──────────┘
```
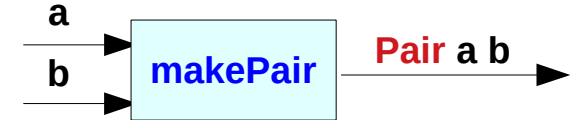
Pair type example (3)

λ> newtype **Pair** a b = **Pair** {**runPair** :: **forall c**. (a -> b -> c) -> c}

                  Pair {**runPair**}

                  Pair {**forall c**. (a -> b -> c) -> c}

pair :: **Pair** [Char] Char

pair = **makePair** "a" 'b'

     Pair $ \f -> f "a" 'b'
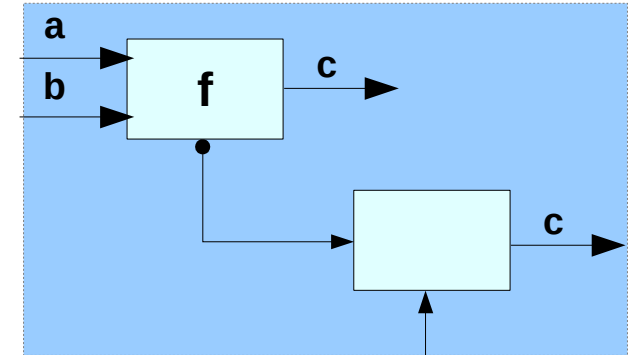
pair (\x y -> x) = **Pair** $ \f -> f "a" 'b' (\x y -> x)

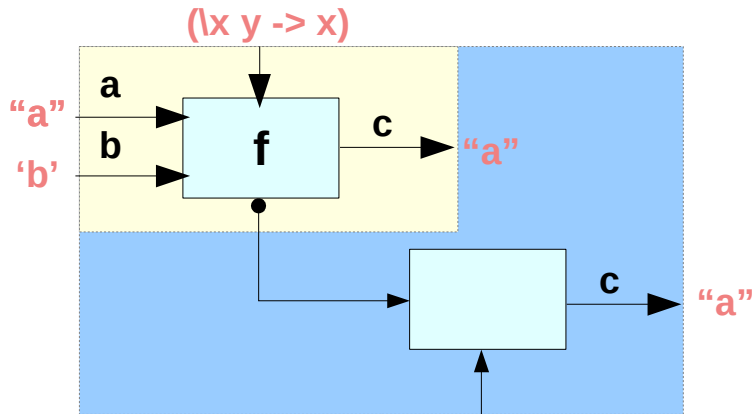**runPair** pair (\x y -> x)

Pair $ \f -> f a b :: **Pair** a b

pair (\x y -> x)

makePair "a" 'b' (\x y -> x)

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types
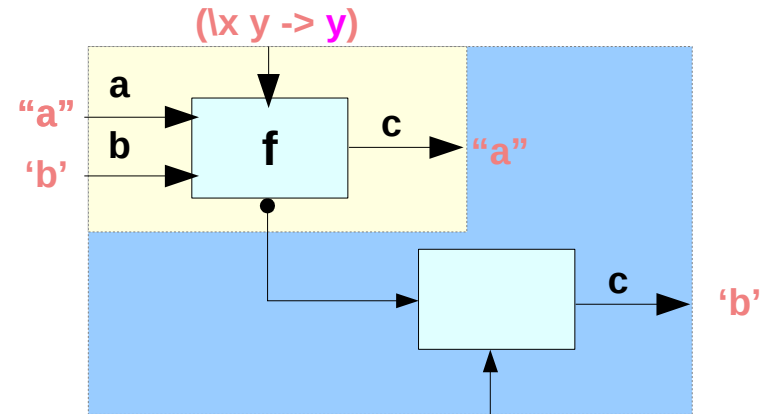
Pair type example (4)

runPair pair (\x y -> x)

runPair makePair "a" 'b' (\x y -> x)
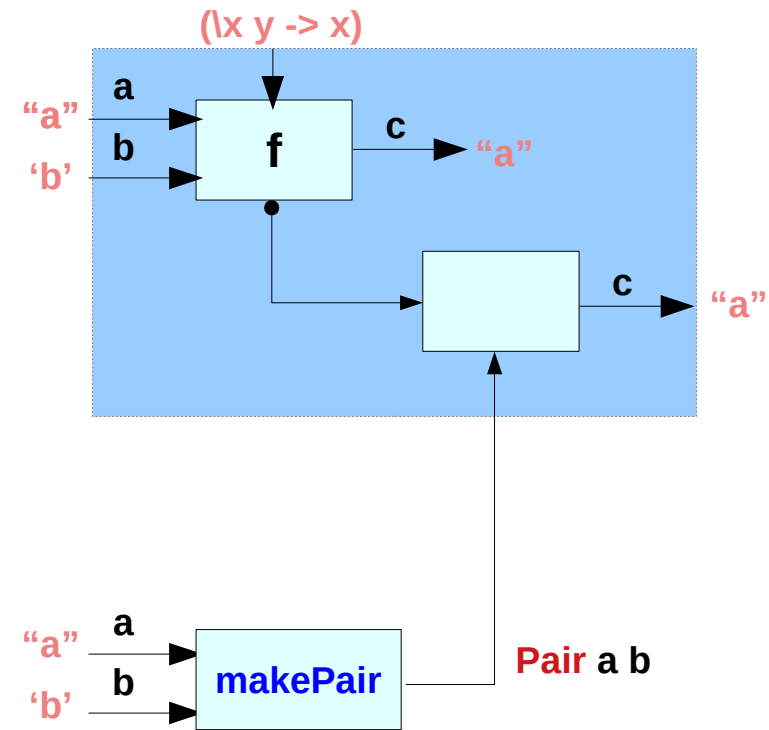
runPair Pair $ \f -> f "a" 'b' (\x y -> x)

"a"

Pair $ \f -> f a b :: **Pair** a b

(\x y -> x)

"a" a

'b' b → f → c "a"

  c "a"

"a" a

'b' b → **makePair** **Pair** a b

pair (\x y -> x)

makePair "a" 'b' (\x y -> x)

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

Existential Types (1D)

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Pair type example (5)

Pair $ \f -> f a b :: Pair a b

(\x y -> x)

a
"a" → f
b
'b' →

c
→ "a"

c
→ "a"

a
"a" → makePair
b
'b' →

Pair a b

pair (\x y -> x)

makePair "a" 'b' (\x y -> x)

Pair $ \f -> f a b :: Pair a b

(\x y -> y)

a
"a" → f
b
'b' →

c
→ "a"

c
→ 'b'

a
"a" → makePair
b
'b' →

Pair a b

pair (\x y -> y)

makePair "a" 'b' (\x y -> y)

Pair type example (6)

λ> newtype **Pair** a b = **Pair** {**runPair** :: **forall c**. (a -> b -> c) -> c}

λ> **makePair** a b = **Pair** $ \f -> f a b

λ> **pair** = **makePair** "a" 'b'

λ> :t pair

 pair :: **Pair** [Char] Char

λ> **runPair** **pair** (\x y -> x)   **pair**

 "a"

λ> **runPair** **pair** (\x y -> y)

 'b'

pair

makePair "a" 'b'

Pair $ \f -> f "a" 'b'

pair (\x y -> x)

Pair $ \f -> f "a" 'b'

         f = (\x y -> x)

         f "a" 'b' = "a"

Pair $ (\x y -> x) -> "a"

runPair :: **forall c**. (a -> b -> c) -> c

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Existentially_quantified_types

forall – quantifier (1)

quantifier in predicate calculus

type quantifier polymorphic types

to encode a type in **type isomorphism**

Isomorphism

   from . to = id

the class of **isomorphic types**, i.e. those which

can be **cast** to each other without loss of information.

type isomorphism is an **equivalence relation**

(**reflexive**, **symmetric**, **transitive**),

but due to the limitations of the type system,

only **reflexivity** is implemented for all types

Isomorphism

   from . to = id

foo :: **(forall a**. **a -> a)** **-> (Char, Bool)**

bar :: **forall a**. **((a -> a) -> (Char, Bool))**

To call **bar**, any **type a** can be chosen,

and it is possible to pass a **function** from **type a** to **type a**.

　　the **function (+1)** or the **function reverse**.

the **forall** is considered to be as saying

"I get to pick the type now". (**instantiating**.)

foo :: (forall a. a -> a) -> (Char, Bool)

bar :: forall a. ((a -> a) -> (Char, Bool))

The restrictions on calling **foo** are much more <u>stringent</u>:

the argument to **foo** <u>must</u> be a **polymorphic function**.

With <u>that</u> **type**, the only functions that can be passed to **foo**

are **id** or a **function** that always **diverges** or **errors**, like **undefined**.

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/3071136/what-does-the-forall-keyword-in-haskell-ghc-do

foo :: (forall a. a -> a) -> (Char, Bool)

bar :: forall a. ((a -> a) -> (Char, Bool))

The reason is that with **foo**, the **forall** is to the **left of the arrow**,

so as the **caller** of **foo** I don't get to pick what **a** is

—rather it's the **implementation** of **foo** that gets to pick what **a** is.

Because **forall** is to the **left of the arrow**,

rather than **above** the **arrow** as in **bar**,

the **instantiation** takes place in the **body** of the **function**

rather than at the **call** site.

Jargon "**above**", "**below**", "**to the left of**".

  nothing to do with the *textual ways* types are written

  everything to do with **abstract-syntax trees**.

In the **abstract syntax**,

- a **forall** takes the **name** of a **type variable**,

  and then there is a **full type** "**below**" the **forall**.

- an **arrow** takes **two types** (**argument** and **result type**)

  and <u>forms</u> a **new type** (the **function type**).

- the **argument type** is "**to the left of**" the **arrow**;

- it is the **arrow**'s **left child** in the **abstract-syntax tree**.

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/3071136/what-does-the-forall-keyword-in-haskell-ghc-do

forall a . [a] -> [a],

      the **forall** is **above the arrow**;

      what's to **the left of the arrow** is **[a]**.

forall n f e x . (forall e x . n e x -> f -> Fact x f)

          -> Block n e x -> f -> Fact x f

(forall e x . n e x -> f -> Fact x f)

the type in parentheses would be called

"a **forall** to the **left of an arrow**".

foo :: a -> a

given this type signature, there is <u>only</u> <u>one</u> function

that can satisfy this type and

      the identity function **id**.

foo 5 = 6

foo True = False

they both satisfy the above type signature,

then why do Haskell folks claim

that it is **id** <u>alone</u> which satisfies the type signature?

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/3071136/what-does-the-forall-keyword-in-haskell-ghc-do

That is because there is an implicit forall hidden in the type signature.

id :: forall a. a -> a

Constraints liberate, liberties constrain

A constraint at the **type level**,

> becomes a liberty at the **term level**

A liberty at the **type level**,

> becomes a constraint at the **term level**

A **constraint** at the **type** level..

So putting a constraint on our type signature

foo :: (Num a) => a -> a

becomes a **liberty** at the term level gives us

the liberty or flexibility to write all of these

foo 5 = 6

foo 4 = 2

foo 7 = 9

…

Same can be observed by constraining a with any other **typeclass** etc

A constraint at the **type level**,

becomes a liberty at the **term level**

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/3071136/what-does-the-forall-keyword-in-haskell-ghc-do

foo :: (Num a) => a -> a   translates to

∃a , st a -> a, ∀a ∈ Num

existential quantification

which translates to there exists some instances of **a**

for which a function of **a -> a**

and those instances all belong to the set of **Numbers**.

adding a **constraint** (**a** should belong to the set of **Nnumbers**),

liberates the **term** level to have multiple possible implementations.

A constraint at the **type level**,

becomes a liberty at the **term level**

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/3071136/what-does-the-forall-keyword-in-haskell-ghc-do

foo :: a -> a (5)

the explanation of **forall**:

So now let us **liberate** the the **function** at the **type** level:

foo :: forall a. a -> a   translates to:

∀a , a -> a

the **implementation** of this type signature

should be such that it is **a -> a** for all circumstances.

A liberty at the **type level**, becomes

a constraint at the **term level**

Young Won Lim
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So now this starts **constraining** us at the **term** level.

We can <u>no</u> longer write

foo 5 = 7

    because this **implementation** would <u>not</u> satisfy

    when a **Bool** type value is passed to **foo**

this is because

    under all circumstances   **∀a , a -> a**

    it should return something of the similar type.

    a can be a **Char** or a **[Char]** or a custom datatype.

A liberty at the **type level**, becomes

a constraint at the **term level**

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/3071136/what-does-the-forall-keyword-in-haskell-ghc-do

∀a , a -> a   the **liberty** at the **type** level

foo 5 = 7   a constraint at the **term** level

                      (impossible implementation)

this **liberty** at the **type** level is what is known

        as **Universal Quantification**

the only **function** which can satisfy **foo :: forall a. a -> a**

foo a = a   the **identity** function

A liberty at the **type level**, becomes

a constraint at the **term level**

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foo :: a -> a (8)

Runar Bjarnason titled "Constraints Liberate, Liberties Constrain".

      CONSTRAINTS LIBERATE,

      LIBERTIES CONSTRAIN

Its very important to digest and believe this statement

RunST (1)

runST :: forall a. (forall s. ST s a) -> a

runST has to be able to produce a **value** of **type a**,

no matter what **type** we give as **a**.

runST uses an **argument** of **type (forall s. ST s a)**

which certainly must somehow produce the **a**.

runST must be able to produce a **value** of **type a**

no matter what **type** the **implementation** of **runST**

decides to give as **s**.

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/3071136/what-does-the-forall-keyword-in-haskell-ghc-do

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runST :: forall a. (forall s. ST s a) -> a

the benefit is that this puts a constraint on the caller of **runST**

in that the **type a** <u>cannot</u> involve the **type s** at all.

you can't pass it a value of type **ST s [s]**, for example.

the <u>implementation</u> of **runST** is <u>free</u>

to perform **mutation** with the value of **type s**.

The **type** <u>guarantees</u> that this **mutation** is

<u>local</u> to the <u>implementation</u> of **runST**.

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/3071136/what-does-the-forall-keyword-in-haskell-ghc-do

RunST : rank-2 polymorphic type

runST :: forall a. (forall s. ST s a) -> a

The **type** of **runST** is an example of

a **rank-2** **polymorphic type**

because the **type** of its **argument**

<u>contains</u> a **forall** quantifier.

Existential Quantifiation

```
-- test.hs

{-# LANGUAGE ExistentialQuantification #-}

data EQList = forall a. EQList [a]

eqListLen :: EQList -> Int

eqListLen (EQList x) = length x


ghci> :l test.hs

ghci> eqListLen $ EQList ["Hello", "World"]

2
```

Existential Quantifiation

ghci> **:set -XRankNTypes**

ghci> **length (["Hello", "World"] :: forall a. [a])**

   Couldnt match expected type 'a' against inferred type '[Char]'

   ...

With Rank-N-Types, forall a meant that your expression

must fit all possible as. For example:

ghci> **length ([] :: forall a. [a])**

0

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/3071136/what-does-the-forall-keyword-in-haskell-ghc-do

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2/10/21

References

[1] ftp://ftp.geoinfo.tuwien.ac.at/navratil/HaskellTutorial.pdf

[2] https://www.umiacs.umd.edu/~hal/docs/daume02yaht.pdf