Monad P3 : Existential Types (1C)

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This document was produced by using LibreOffice.

Based on

Haskell in 5 steps

https://wiki.haskell.org/Haskell_in_5_steps

Overloading

The **literals** 1, 2, etc. are often used to represent
both fixed and arbitrary precision integers.
Numeric operators such as + are often defined to work
on many different kinds of numbers.
the **equality operator** (== in Haskell) usually works on
numbers and many other (but not all) types.

the **overloaded behaviors** are
different for each type
in fact sometimes **undefined**, or **error**

type classes provide a structured way to control
ad hoc polymorphism, or **overloading**.

In the **parametric polymorphism**
the type truly does **not matter**

(Eq a) =>
Type class
Ad hoc polymorphism

https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/classes.html

Quantification

parametric polymorphism is useful in

defining families of types

by universally quantifying over all types.

Sometimes, however, it is necessary

to quantify over some smaller set of types,

eg. those types whose elements can be compared for equality.

ad hoc polymorphism

elem :: a -> [a] -> Bool

elem :: (Eq a) => a -> [a] -> Bool

https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/classes.html

Type class and parametric polymorphism

type classes can be seen as providing a structured way
to quantify over a constrained set of types

the **parametric polymorphism** can be viewed
as a kind of **overloading** too!

parametric polymorphism
an **overloading** occurs implicitly over all types

elem :: a -> [a] -> Bool

ad hoc polymorphism
a **type class** for a constrained set of types

elem :: (Eq a) => a -> [a] -> Bool

https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/classes.html

Parametric polymorphism (1) definition

Parametric polymorphism refers to
when the **type** of a **value** contains
one or more (**unconstrained**) **type variables**,
so that the **value** may adopt any type
that results from substituting those variables with **concrete types**.

elem :: a -> [a] -> Bool

https://wiki.haskell.org/Polymorphism

Parametric polymorphism (2) unconstrained type variable

In Haskell, this means any type in which a **type variable**,
denoted by a name in a type
beginning with a **lowercase letter**,
appears **without constraints**
(i.e. does not appear to the left of a **=>**).

In **Java** and some similar languages,
generics (roughly speaking) fill this role.

elem :: a -> [a] -> Bool

https://wiki.haskell.org/Polymorphism

Parametric polymorphism (3) examples

For example, the function **id :: a -> a** contains
an **unconstrained type variable a** in its type,
and so can be used in a context requiring

Char -> Char or
Integer -> Integer or
(Bool -> Maybe Bool) -> (Bool -> Maybe Bool) or

any of a literally infinite list of other possibilities.

Likewise, the empty **list [] :: [a]** belongs to every list type,

and the polymorphic function **map :: (a -> b) -> [a] -> [b]**
may operate on any function type.

https://wiki.haskell.org/Polymorphism

Parametric polymorphism (4) multiple appearance

Note, however, that if a single **type variable** appears multiple times,
it must take the same type everywhere it appears,
so e.g. the result type of **id** must be the same as the argument type,
and the input and output types of the function
given to **map** must match up with the list types.

id :: a -> a

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

https://wiki.haskell.org/Polymorphism

Parametric polymorphism (5) parametricity

Since a parametrically polymorphic value does not "know"
anything about the **unconstrained type variables**,
it must behave the same regardless of its type.

This is a somewhat limiting
but extremely useful property
known as **parametricity**

id :: a -> a

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

https://wiki.haskell.org/Polymorphism

Ad hoc polymorphism (1)

Ad-hoc polymorphism refers to
when a **value** is able to adopt any one of several **types**
because it, or a value it uses, has been given
a separate definition for each of those **types**.

the **+ operator** essentially does something entirely different
when applied to floating-point values
as compared to when applied to integers

elem :: (Eq a) => a -> [a] -> Bool

https://wiki.haskell.org/Polymorphism

Ad hoc polymorphism (2)

in languages like C, **polymorphism** is restricted to
only *built-in* **functions** and **types**.

Other languages like C++ allow programmers
to provide their own **overloading**,
supplying **multiple definitions** of a **single function**,
to be disambiguated by the **types** of the **arguments**

In Haskell, this is achieved via the system of
type classes and **class instances**.

https://wiki.haskell.org/Polymorphism

Ad hoc polymorphism (3)

Despite the similarity of the name,
Haskell's **type classes** are quite different from
the **classes** of most object-oriented languages.

They have more in common with **interfaces**,
in that they specify a series of **methods** or **values**
by their **type signature**,
to be implemented by an **instance declaration**.

```
class Eq a where
  (==)        :: a -> a -> Bool

instance Eq Integer where
  x == y      =  x `integerEq` y

instance Eq Float where
  x == y      =  x `floatEq` y
```

https://wiki.haskell.org/Polymorphism

Ad hoc polymorphism (4)

So, for example, if **my type** can be compared for **equality**
(most types can, but some, particularly function types, cannot)
then I can give **an instance declaration** of the **Eq class**

All I have to do is specify
the behaviour of the **== operator** on **my type**,
and I gain the ability to use all sorts of functions
defined using **== operator**, e.g.
checking if a value of **my type** is present in a list,
or looking up a corresponding value in a list of pairs.

```
class Eq a where
  (==)          :: a -> a -> Bool

instance Eq Integer where
  x == y      =  x `integerEq` y

instance Eq Float where
  x == y      =  x `floatEq` y
```

https://wiki.haskell.org/Polymorphism

Ad hoc polymorphism (5)

Unlike the **overloading** in some languages,

overloading in Haskell is not limited to **functions**

– **minBound** is an example of an **overloaded value**,

as a **Char**, it will have value **'\NUL**'

as an **Int** it might be **-2147483648**

https://wiki.haskell.org/Polymorphism

Ad hoc polymorphism (6)

Haskell even allows **class instances** to be defined for **types**
which are themselves **polymorphic** (either **ad-hoc** or **parametrically**).

So for example, an **instance** can be defined of **Eq**
that says "if **a** has an **equality operation**, then **[a]** has one".

Then, of course, **[[a]]** will automatically also have an instance,
and so **complex compound types** can have **instances** built for them
out of the instances of their components.

https://wiki.haskell.org/Polymorphism

Ad hoc polymorphism (7)

```
data List a = Nil | Cons a (List a)

instance Eq a => Eq (List a) where
  (Cons a b) == (Cons c d)      =     (a == c) && (b == d)
  Nil == Nil                    =     True
  _ == _                        =     False
```

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/30520219/how-to-define-eq-instance-of-list-without-gadts-or-datatype-contexts

Ad hoc polymorphism (8)

You can recognise the presence of **ad-hoc polymorphism**
by looking for **constrained type variables**:
that is, variables that appear to the left of **=>**,
like in **elem :: (Eq a) => a -> [a] -> Bool**.

Note that **lookup :: (Eq a) => a -> [(a,b)] -> Maybe b**
exhibits both **parametric** (in **b**) and **ad-hoc** (in **a**) **polymorphism**.

https://wiki.haskell.org/Polymorphism

Parametric and ad hoc polymorphism

Parametric polymorphism	ad hoc polymorphism
Type variables (a, b, etc)	Type calsses (Eq, Num, etc)
Universal	Existential?
Compile time	Runtime (also)
C++ templates Java generics	Classical (ordinary OO)

http://sm-haskell-users-group.github.io/pdfs/Ben%20Deane%20-%20Parametric%20Polymorphism.pdf

Polymorphic data types and functions

```
data Maybe a = Nothing | Just a
data List a = Nil | Cons a (List a)
data Either a b = Left a | Right b



reverse :: [a] -> [a]
fst :: (a,b) -> a
id :: a -> a
```

http://sm-haskell-users-group.github.io/pdfs/Ben%20Deane%20-%20Parametric%20Polymorphism.pdf

Polymorphic Types

types that are universally quantified in some way over all types.

polymorphic type expressions essentially describe families of types.

For example, **(forall a) [a]** is the family of types
consisting of, for every **type a**, the **type of lists of a**.

- lists of integers (e.g. **[1,2,3]**),
- lists of characters (**['a','b','c']**),
- even lists of lists of integers, etc.,

(Note, however, that [2,'b'] is not a valid example,
since there is *no single type* that contains both 2 and 'b'.)

https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/goodies.html

Type variables – universally quantified

Identifiers such as **a** above are called **type variables**,
and are uncapitalized to distinguish them
from specific types such as **Int**.

since Haskell has only universally quantified **types**,
there is no need to explicitly write out the symbol
for **universal quantification**,
and thus we simply write **[a]** in the example above.

In other words, all **type variables** are implicitly universally quantified

https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/goodies.html

List

Lists are a commonly used data structure in functional languages,
and are a good tool for explaining the principles of polymorphism.

The list **[1,2,3]** in Haskell is actually shorthand for

the list **1:(2:(3:[]))**,

where **[]** is the **empty list** and

: is the **infix operator**

that adds its first argument to the front

of its second argument (a list).

Since **:** is right associative, we can also write this list as

1:2:3:[].

https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/goodies.html

Polymorphic function example

```
length          :: [a] -> Integer
length []       =  0
length (x:xs)   =  1 + length xs

    length [1,2,3]          =>   3
    length ['a','b','c']    =>   3
    length [[1],[2],[3]]    =>   3
```

an example of a polymorphic function.

It can be applied to a list containing elements of any type,

for example **[Integer]**, **[Char]**, or **[[Integer]]**.

https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/goodies.html

Patterns in functions

```
length          :: [a] -> Integer
length []       =  0
length (x:xs)   =  1 + length xs
```

The left-hand sides of the equations contain

patterns such as **[]** and **x:xs**.

In a **function application** these **patterns** are

matched against **actual parameters** in a fairly intuitive way

https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/goodies.html

Matching patterns

```
length          :: [a] -> Integer
length []       =  0
length (x:xs)   =  1 + length xs
```

[] only matches the empty list,

x:xs will successfully match any list with at least one element,

binding **x** to the first element and **xs** to the rest of the list

If the match succeeds,

the right-hand side is evaluated

and returned as the result of the application.

If it fails, the next equation is tried,

and if all equations fail, an error results.

https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/goodies.html

Not all possible cases – runtime errors

Function **head** returns the first element of a list,
function **tail** returns all but the first.

```
head          :: [a] -> a
head (x:xs)  =  x

tail          :: [a] -> [a]
tail (x:xs)    =  xs
```

Unlike length, these functions are not defined
for all possible values of their argument.
A **runtime error** occurs when these functions
are applied to an empty list.

https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/goodies.html

General types

With polymorphic types, we find that
some types are in a sense strictly more general than others
in the sense that the set of values they define is larger.

the type **[a]** is more general than **[Char]**.

type **[Char]** can be derived from **[a]**
by a suitable substitution for **a**.

https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/goodies.html

Principal type

With regard to this **generalization ordering**,
Haskell's type system possesses two important properties:

1. every **well-typed expression** is guaranteed
   to have a **unique principal type** (explained below),

2. the **principal type** can be inferred automatically.

In comparison to a monomorphically typed language such as C,
the reader will find that polymorphism improves expressiveness,
and **type inference** lessens the burden of types on the programmer.

https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/goodies.html

Unique principal types

An **expression's** or **function's** **principal type** is

the **least general type** that, intuitively,

"contains all instances of the expression".

For example, the principal type of **head** is **[a]->a**;

[b]->a, **a->a**, or even **a** are correct types, but too general,

whereas something like **[Integer]->Integer** is too specific.

The existence of **unique** **principal types** is

the hallmark feature of the **Hindley-Milner type system**,

which forms the basis of the type systems of Haskell

https://www.haskell.org/tutorial/goodies.html

Explicitly Quantifying Type Variables

to explicitly bring fresh **type variables** into **scope**.

Explicitly quantifying the **type variables**

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

for any combination of types **a** and **b**

choose **a** = **Int** and **b** = **String**

then it's valid to say that map has the type

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

Here we are **instantiating** the general type of **map**

to a more specific type.

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

Implicit **forall**

any introduction of a **lowercase type parameter**

implicitly begins with a **forall** keyword,

Example: Two equivalent type statements

id :: a -> a

id :: forall a . a -> a

We can apply additional **constraints**

on the quantified **type variables**

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

Hiding a type variable on the RHS

Normally when creating a new type
using **type**, **newtype**, **data**, etc.,
every **type variable** that appears on the right-hand side
must also appear on the left-hand side.

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

Existential types are a way of escaping

Existential types can be used for several different purposes.
But what they do is to **hide** a **type variable** on the right-hand side.

https://wiki.haskell.org/Existential_type

Type Variable Example – (1) error

Normally, any type variable appearing on the right must
also appear on the left:

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

This is an **error**, since the **type b** of the **buffer**
Is not specified on the right (**b** is a **type variable** rather than a **type**)
but also is not specified on the left (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

Type Variable Example – (2) explicit type signature

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

so long as it belongs to some particular **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:

https://wiki.haskell.org/Existential_type

Type Variable Example – (3) existential type

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 not appear

in the **Worker** type at all.

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

Type Variable Example – (4) characteristics

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

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

- since code now has no idea
  what **type** the buffer function returns,
  you are more limited 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

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

Conversion to less a specific type

Note: You can use **existential types**

to **convert** a **more specific type**

into a **less specific one**.

constrained type variables

There is no way to perform the reverse conversion!

https://wiki.haskell.org/Existential_type

A heterogeneous list example

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'"**

https://wiki.haskell.org/Existential_type

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

Existentials

Existential types, or 'existentials' for short,
are a way of 'squashing' a group of types into one, single type.

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 **{-# LANGUAGE ExistentialQuantification #-}**
at the top of your sources that use existentials.

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

forall

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

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

forall

Suppose we have a group of values.
We don't know if they are all the same type,
but we do know they are all members of some class
(and, by extension, that all the values have a certain property).

It might be useful to throw all these values into a list.
We can't do this normally because lists elements
must be of the same type (homogeneous with respect to types).

However, **existential types** allow us
to loosen this requirement by defining a **type hider** or **type box**:

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

Heterogeneous list example

Example: Constructing a heterogeneous list

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

heteroList :: [ShowBox]

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

calling the constructor on three values of different types,

[SB (), SB 5, SB True], to place them all into a single list

so we must somehow have 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

forall

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

heteroList :: [ShowBox]

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

If we were now writing a function
to which we intend to pass **heteroList**,
we couldn't apply a function such as not to the values inside the **SB**
because their type might not be Bool.

But we do know something about each of the elements:
they can be converted to a string via show.
In fact, that's pretty much the only thing we know about them.

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

forall

```
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
```

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

forall

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

forall

One way to think about forall is

to consider **types** as a set of possible **values**.

Bool is the set **{True, False, ⊥}**

(remember that bottom, ⊥, is a member of every type!),

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

forall a. a

forall serves as a way to assert a **commonality** or **intersection**
of the specified types (i.e. sets of values).

forall a. a is the **intersection** of all **types**.

This **subset** turns out to be the set **{⊥}**,
since it is an implicit value in every **type**.
that is, [the **type** whose only available **value** is **bottom**]

However, since every Haskell **type** includes bottom, **{⊥}**,
this quantification in fact stipulates all Haskell **types**.
But the only permissible operations on it are
those available to [a **type** whose only available value is **bottom**]

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

forall a. a

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
> to also 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**.

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

forall a. a

The list, **[**forall a. Num a => a**]**, requires each element
to be a member of the class, **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 cannot presume any particular type at all,
this too is **a list of bottoms**.

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

forall

We see that most **intersections over types** just lead to **bottoms**
because **types** generally don't have **any values in common** and
so presumptions cannot be made about a **union of their values**.

a heterogeneous list using a '**type hider**'.
This **'type hider' functions** as a **wrapper type**
which guarantees certain facilities
by implying a **predicate** or **constraint** on the permissible types.

the purpose of **forall** is to impose type constraint
on the permissible types within a **type declaration**
and thereby guaranteeing certain facilities with such types.

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

forall

Example: An existential datatype

data T = forall a. MkT a

Example: This defines a polymorphic constructor,
or a family of constructors for T

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

Example: Pattern matching on our existential constructor

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

Example: Constructing the hetereogeneous list

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

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

forall

Example: A new existential data type, with a class constraint

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

Example: 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

forall

Example: The runST function

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

Example: Bad ST code

```
let v = runST (newSTRef True)
in runST (readSTRef v)
```

Example: Briefer bad ST code

... runST (newSTRef True) ...

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

forall

Example: The compiler's typechecking stage

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

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

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

Example: A type mismatch!

together, **(forall s'. ST s' (STRef s' Bool)) -> STRef s Bool**

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

forall

Example: Identity function

id :: forall a. a -> a

id a = a

Example: Polymorphic value

x :: forall a. Num a => a

x = 0

Example: Existential type

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

Example: Sum type

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

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

forall

```
{-# 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
```

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

forall

```
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'

λ> :t pair
pair :: Pair [Char] Char

λ> runPair pair (\x y -> x)
"a"

λ> runPair pair (\x y -> y)
'b'
```

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

forall - quantifier

Quantifier in predicate calculus

Type quantifier polymorphic types

To encode a type in type isomorphism

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

forall - quantifier

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

If I call **bar**, I can simply pick any type a that I like,
and I can pass it a function from type **a** to type **a**.
For example, I can pass the function (+1) or the function reverse.
You can think of the forall as saying "I get to pick the type now".
(The technical word for picking the type is **instantiating**.)

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

forall - quantifier

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

The restrictions on calling **foo** are much more stringent:
the argument to **foo** must be a **polymorphic function**.
With that type, the only functions I can pass to foo are **id** or
a function that always diverges or errors, like **undefined**.
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.

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

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 nested and cannot be merged with a previous one.

ExistentialQuantification

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

Scoped Type Variables

helps one specify types for code inside **where** clauses.

It makes the **b** in **val :: b** the same one as
the **b** in **foob :: forall a b. (b -> b) -> b -> (a -> b) -> Maybe a -> b**.

A confusing point:
when you omit the **forall** from a type it is actually still implicitly there.
(normally these languages omit the **forall** from polymorphic types).

This claim is correct, but it refers to the other uses of **forall**,
and not to the ScopedTypeVariables use.

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

Rank-N-Types (1)

Normal Haskell '98 types are considered **Rank-1 types**.

A Haskell '98 type signature such as

a -> b -> a

implies that the type variables are **universally quantified** like so:

forall a b. a -> b -> a

forall can be **floated** out of the **right-hand side** of **->**

forall a. a -> (forall b. b -> a)

is also a **Rank-1 type** because it is equivalent to the previous signature.

https://wiki.haskell.org/Rank-N_types

Rank-N-Types (2)

However, a **forall** appearing within the **left-hand side** of (->)
cannot be moved up, and therefore forms another level or rank.

The type is labeled "**Rank-N**" where N is the number of **forall**s
which are nested and cannot be merged with a previous one.
(forall a. a -> a) -> (forall b. b -> b)

is a **Rank-2** type because the latter forall can be moved to the start
but the former one cannot.
Therefore, there are two levels of universal quantification.

https://wiki.haskell.org/Rank-N_types

Rank-N-Types (3)

Rank-N type reconstruction is undecidable in general,
and some explicit type annotations are required in their presence.

Rank-2 or **Rank-N types** may be specifically enabled
by the language extensions
{-# LANGUAGE Rank2Types #-} or
{-# LANGUAGE RankNTypes #-}.

https://wiki.haskell.org/Rank-N_types

Rank-N-Types (4)

In order to unpack an existential type,
you need a polymorphic function that works on any type
that could be stored in the existential.

This leads to a natural relation
between higher-rank types and existentials;
and an encoding of existentials
in terms of higher rank types
in continuation-passing style.

https://wiki.haskell.org/Rank-N_types

Rank-N-Types

Let's start with that

mayb :: b -> (a -> b) -> Maybe a -> b

is equivalent to

mayb :: forall a b. b -> (a -> b) -> Maybe a -> b

except for when ScopedTypeVariables is enabled.

This means that it works for every **a** and **b**.

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

Rank-N-Types

ghci> **let putInList x = [x]**

ghci> **liftTup putInList (5, "Blah")**

([5], ["Blah"])

the type of this liftTup?

liftTup :: (forall x. x -> f x) -> (a, b) -> (f a, f b)

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

Rank-N-Types

Code 1:

```
ghci> let liftTup liftFunc (a, b) = (liftFunc a, liftFunc b)
ghci> liftTup (\x -> [x]) (5, "Hello")
    No instance for (Num [Char])
    ...

ghci> :t liftTup
liftTup :: (t -> t1) -> (t, t) -> (t1, t1)
```

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

Rank-N-Types

Code 2:

-- test.hs

liftTup :: (x -> f x) -> (a, b) -> (f a, f b)

liftTup liftFunc (t, v) = (liftFunc t, liftFunc v)

ghci> :l test.hs

Couldnt match expected type 'x' against inferred type 'b'

...

Hmm. so here GHC doesn't let us apply **liftFunc** on **v**

because **v :: b** and **liftFunc** wants an **x**.

We really want our function to get a function that accepts any possible x!

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

Rank-N-Types

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Rank-N-Types

Code 3:

{-# LANGUAGE RankNTypes #-}

liftTup :: (forall x. x -> f x) -> (a, b) -> (f a, f b)

liftTup liftFunc (t, v) = (liftFunc t, liftFunc v)

So it's not liftTup that works for all x, it's the function that it gets that does.

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

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

RunST (2)

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** cannot involve the **type s** at all.

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

What that means in practice is that the implementation of **runST**
is free to perform **mutation** with the value of **type s**.

The type guarantees that this **mutation** is
local to the implementation of **runST**.

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

RunST (3)

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** contains a **forall** quantifier.

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

The type of **foo** above is also of **rank 2**.
An ordinary polymorphic type, like that of **bar**, is **rank-1**,
but it becomes **rank-2** if the **types** of **arguments** are
required to be polymorphic, with their own **forall** quantifier.

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

RunST (4)

And if a function takes **rank-2 arguments**

then its type is **rank-3**, and so on.

In general, a **type** that takes **polymorphic arguments** of **rank n**

has **rank n + 1**.

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

RunST (4)

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The restrictions on calling foo are much more stringent: the argument to foo must be a polymorphic function. With that type, the only functions I can pass to foo are id or a function that always diverges or errors, like undefined. 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.

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

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
```

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

RunST (4)

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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

References

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