# Static Analysis and Code Optimizations in Glasgow Haskell Compiler

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# The Goal

# Discuss what happens when we run

ghc -O MyProgram.hs

# The Plan

- Recall how laziness is implemented in GHC and what drawbacks it might cause;
- Introduce the worker/wrapper transformation an optimization technique implemented in GHC;
- Realize why we need static analysis to do the transformations;
- Take a brief look at the GHC compilation pipeline and the Core language;
- Meet two types of static analysis: forward and backwards;
- Recall some basics of denotational semantics and take a look at the mathematical basics of some analyses in GHC;
- Introduce and motivate the CPR analysis.

# Why Laziness Might be Harmful

and

How the Harm Can Be Reduced

```
module Main where
import System.Environment
import Text.Printf
main = do
    [n] <- map read `fmap` getArgs</pre>
    printf "%f\n" (mysum n)
mysum :: Double -> Double
mysum n = myfoldl (+) 0 [1...n]
myfoldl :: (a -> b -> a) -> a -> [b] -> a
myfoldl f z0 xs0 = 1go z0 xs0
             where
                lgo z [] = z
                lgo z (x:xs) = lgo (f z x) xs
```

#### Compile and run

> ghc --make -RTS -rtsopts Sum.hs > time ./Sum 1e6 +RTS -K100M 500000500000.0 real 0m0.583s user 0m0.509s sys 0m0.068s

#### Compile optimized and run

> ghc	make -ffor	ce-recomp	-RTS	-rtsopts	-0	Sum.hs		
> time	./Sum le6							
5000050000.0								
real	0m0.153s							
user	0m0.101s							
sys	0m0.011s							

## **Collecting Runtime Statistics**

#### Profiling results for the non-optimized program

```
> ghc --make -RTS -rtsopts -fforce-recomp Sum.hs
> ./Sum 1e6 +RTS -sstderr -K100M
```

225,137,464 195,297,088	bytes allocated in the heap bytes copied during GC			
107	MB total memory in use			
INIT time	0.00s ( $0.00s$ elapsed)			
MUT time	0.21s ( 0.24s elapsed)			
GC time	0.36s ( 0.43s elapsed)			
EXIT time	0.00s ( 0.00s elapsed)			
Total time	0.58s ( 0.67s elapsed)			
%GC time	63.2% (64.0% elapsed)			

## **Collecting Runtime Statistics**

#### Profiling results for the optimized program

```
> ghc --make -RTS -rtsopts -fforce-recomp -O Sum.hs
> ./Sum 1e6 +RTS -sstderr -K100M
```

92,082,480 bytes allocated in the heap									
30,160 bytes copied during GC									
1 MB total memory in use									
INIT	time	0.00s ( 0.00s elapsed)	)						
MUT	time	0.07s ( 0.08s elapsed)	)						
GC	time	0.00s ( 0.00s elapsed)	)						
EXIT	time	0.00s ( 0.00s elapsed)	)						
Total	time	0.07s ( 0.08s elapsed)	)						
%GC	time	1.1% (1.4% elapsed)							

# **Time Profiling**

Profiling results for the non-optimized program

> ghc --make -RTS -rtsopts -prof -fforce-recomp Sum.hs
> ./Sum 1e6 +RTS -p -K100M

total time = 0.24 secs total alloc = 124,080,472 bytes COST CENTRE MODULE %time %alloc mysum Main 52.7 74.1 myfoldl.lgo Main 43.6 25.8 myfoldl Main 3.7 0.0

# **Time Profiling**

#### Profiling results for the optimized program

> ghc --make -RTS -rtsopts -prof -fforce-recomp -O Sum.hs
> ./Sum le6 +RTS -p -K100M

total time = 0.14 secs total alloc = 92,080,364 bytes COST CENTRE MODULE %time %alloc mysum Main 92.1 99.9 myfoldl.lgo Main 7.9 0.0

# Memory Profiling

#### Profiling results for the non-optimized program

- > ghc --make -RTS -rtsopts -prof -fforce-recomp Sum.hs
- > ./Sum 1e6 +RTS -hy -p -K100M
- > hp2ps -e8in -c Sum.hp



# Memory Profiling

#### Profiling results for the optimized program

- > ghc --make -RTS -rtsopts -prof -fforce-recomp -0 Sum.hs
- > ./Sum 1e6 +RTS -hy -p -K100M
- > hp2ps -e8in -c Sum.hp



## The Problem

Too Many Allocation of Double objects

#### The cause:

Too many thunks allocated for lazily computed values

In our example the computation of Double values is delayed by the calls to 1go.

### Intermezzo

Call-by-Value

Arguments of a function call are fully evaluated before the invocation. Call-by-Need

Arguments of a function call are not evaluated before the invocation. Instead, a pointer (thunk) to the code is created, and, once evaluated, the value is memoized.

<u>Thunk</u> (Urban Dictionary):

To sneak up on someone and bean him with a heavy blow to the back of the head.

"Jim got thunked going home last night. Serves him right for walking in a dark alley with all his paycheck in his pocket."

### How to thunk a thunk

- Apply its delayed value as a function;
- Examine its value in a **case**-expression.

case p of
 (a, b) -> f a b

p will be evaluated to the weak-head normal form, sufficient to examine whether it is a pair.

However, its components will remain unevaluated (i.e., thunks).

#### **Remark:**

Only evaluation of boxed values can be delayed via thunks.

### Our Example from CBN's Perspective



Now GC can do the job...

# Getting Rid of Redundant Thunks

<u>Obvious Solution:</u> Replace CBN by CBV, so no need in thunk.

<u>Obvious Problem:</u> The semantics of a "lazy" program can change unpredictably.

```
f x e = if x > 0
    then x + 1
    else e
f 5 (error "Urk")
```

# Getting Rid of Redundant Thunks

#### Let's reformulate:

Replace CBN by CBV only for strict functions, i.e., those that always evaluate their argument to the WHNF.

```
f x e = if x > 0
    then x + 1
    else e
f 5 (error "Urk")
```

- f is strict in x
- f is non-strict (lazy) in e

# A Convenient Definition of Strictness

### **Definition:**

A function f of one argument is strict iff

```
f undefined = undefined
```

Strictness is formulated similarly for functions of multiple arguments.

```
f x e = if x > 0
    then x + 1
    else e
f 5 (error "Urk")
```

# Enforcing CBV for Function Calls

#### Worker/Wrapper Transformation

Splitting a function into two parts

f :: (Int, Int) -> Int
f p = e

 $\downarrow$ 

f :: (Int, Int) -> Int
f p = case p of (a, b) -> \$wf a b
\$wf :: Int -> Int -> Int
\$wf a b = let p = (a, b) in e

- The worker does all the job, but takes unboxed;
- The wrapper serves as an impedance matcher and inlined at every call site.

### Some Redundant Job Done?

```
f :: (Int, Int) -> Int
f p = case p of (a, b) -> $wf a b
$wf :: Int -> Int -> Int
$wf a b = let p = (a, b) in e
```

- f takes the pair apart and passes components to \$wf;
- \$wf construct the pair again.

### Strictness to the Rescue

A strict function *always* examines its parameter.

So, we just rely on a smart rewriter of case-expressions.

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#### Step I:Inline myfold1

#### Step 2: Analyze Strictness and Absence

```
mysum :: Double -> Double
mysum n = lgo 0 n
where
lgo :: Double -> [Double] -> Double
lgo z [] = z
lgo z (x:xs) = lgo (z + x) xs
```

Result: 1go is strict in its both arguments

```
Step 3: Worker/Wrapper Split
```

```
mysum :: Double -> Double
mysum n = lgo 0 n
where
lgo :: Double -> [Double] -> Double
lgo z [] = z
lgo z (x:xs) = lgo (z + x) xs
```

```
Step 3: Worker/Wrapper Split
```

```
mysum :: Double -> Double
mysum n = lgo 0 n
where
lgo :: Double -> [Double] -> Double
lgo z xs = case z of D# d -> $wlgo d xs
$wlgo :: Double# -> [Double] -> Double
$wlgo d [] = D# d
$wlgo d (x:xs) = lgo ((D# d) + x) xs
```

\$wlgo takes unboxed doubles as an argument.

#### Step 4: Inline 1go in the Worker

```
mysum :: Double -> Double
mysum n = lgo 0 n
where
lgo :: Double -> [Double] -> Double
lgo z xs = case z of D# d -> $wlgo d xs
$wlgo :: Double# -> [Double] -> Double
$wlgo d [] = D# d
$wlgo d (x:xs) = lgo ((D# d) + x) xs
```

#### Step 4: Inline 1go in the Worker

- 1go is invoked just once;
- No intermediate thunks for d is constructed.

# A Brief Look at GHC's Guts

# **GHC** Compilation Pipeline





## GHC Core

- A tiny language, to which Haskell sources are de-sugared;
- Based on explicitly typed System F with type equality coercions;
- Used as a base platform for analyses and optimizations;
- All names are fully-qualified;
- **if-then-else** is compiled to **case**-expressions;
- Variables have additional metadata;
- Type class constraints are compiled into record parameters.

# Core Syntax

```
data Expr b
  = Var Id
   Lit Literal
   App (Expr b) (Expr b)
   Lam b (Expr b)
  Let (Bind b) (Expr b)
   Case (Expr b) b Type [Alt b]
  Cast (Expr b) Coercion
   Tick (Tickish Id) (Expr b)
   Туре Туре
   Coercion Coercion
data Bind b = NonRec b (Expr b)
            Rec [(b, (Expr b))]
type Alt b = (AltCon, [b], Expr b)
data AltCon
  = DataAlt DataCon
   LitAlt Literal
   DEFAULT
```

# Core Output (Demo)

### A factorial function

#### • mysum

### How to Get Core

#### Desugared Core

> ghc -ddump-ds Sum.hs

#### Core with Strictness Annotations

> ghc -ddump-stranal Sum.hs

#### Core after Worker/Wrapper Split

> ghc -ddump-worker-wrapper Sum.hs

More at <a href="http://www.haskell.org/ghc/docs/2.10/users\_guide/user\_41.html">http://www.haskell.org/ghc/docs/2.10/users\_guide/user\_41.html</a>
# Strictness and Absence Analyses in a Nutshell

# Two Types of Modular Program Analyses

- Forward analysis
  - "Run" the program with *abstract* input and infer the *abstract* result;
  - Examples: sign analysis, interval analysis, type checking/ inference.
- Backwards analysis
  - From the expected *abstract* result of the program infer the abstract values of its inputs.

Strictness from the definition as a forward analysis

 $f \perp = \perp$ 

A function with multiple parameters

$$f x y z = \dots$$

 $(f \perp \top \top), (f \top \perp \top), (f \top \top \perp)$ 

What if there are nested, recursive definitions?

Strictness as a backwards analysis (Informally)

$$f x y z = \dots$$

If the result of f applied to some arguments is going to be evaluated to WHNF, what can we say about its parameters?

Backwards analysis provides this contextual information.

## Defining the Contexts (formally)

### **Denotational Semantics**

- Answers the question *what* a program is;
- Introduced by Dana Scott and Christopher Strachey to reason about imperative programs as state transformers;
- The effect of program execution is modeled by relating a program to a mathematical function;
- Main purpose: constructing different domains for program interpretation and analysis;
- Secondary purpose: introducing *ordering* on program objects.

#### Definition

Domain - a set of *meanings* for different programs

What is the meaning of undefined or a non-terminating program?

⊥ -"bottom"

 $\llbracket undefined \rrbracket = \bot$  $\llbracket f x = f x \rrbracket = \bot$ 

 $\perp$  is the least defined element in our domain

Once evaluated, it terminates the program

Adding bottom to a set of values is called *lifting* 

Example:  $\mathbb{Z}_{\perp}$ 



Denotational semantics of a literal is itself



Should be interpreted as

 $\ldots \perp \sqsubseteq -2, \perp \sqsubseteq -1, \perp \sqsubseteq 0, \perp \sqsubseteq 1, \ldots$ 

### Elements of Domain Theory

Partial order

$$x \sqsubseteq y$$
 -  $x$  is "less defined than"  $y$ 

- reflexive:  $\forall x \quad x \sqsubseteq x$
- transitive: if  $x \sqsubseteq y$  and  $y \sqsubseteq z$  then  $x \sqsubseteq z$
- antisymmetric: if  $x \sqsubseteq y$  and  $y \sqsubseteq x$  then x = y

Least upper bound  $z = x \sqcup y$ 

$$\begin{array}{l} x \sqsubseteq z \\ y \sqsubseteq z \\ x \sqsubseteq z' \text{ and } y \sqsubseteq z' \implies z \sqsubseteq z' \end{array}$$

Algebraic Data Types

**data** Maybe a = Nothing | Just a



Monotone functions

f is monotone iff  $x \sqsubseteq y \iff f \ x \sqsubseteq f \ y$ 

Denotational semantics of <u>first-order</u> Core functions - monotone functions on the lifted domain of values.

Complete domain for denotational semantics of Core is defined recursively.

Monotone functions as domain elements

$$f x = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x = 0 \\ \bot & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} g x = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x = 0 \\ 2 & \text{if } x = 1 \\ \bot & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Functions are compared point-wise:  $f \sqsubseteq g$ 

Recursive definitions are computed as successive chains of increasingly more defined functions.

### Projections: Defining Usage Contexts

#### **Definition:**

A monotone function p is a projection if for every object d

$$p \ d \sqsubseteq d$$
 Shrinking  
 $p(p \ d) = p \ d$  Idempotent

In point-free style

$$p \sqsubseteq ID$$
$$p \circ p = p$$

#### Intuition behind Projections

- Projections *remove* information from objects;
- Projections is a way to describe which parts of an object are essential for the computation;
- Projection will be used as a synonym to context.

#### Examples

$$\begin{split} &ID = \lambda x.x \\ &BOT = \lambda x. \bot \\ &F_1 = \lambda(x,y).(\bot,y) \\ &F_2 = \lambda g.\lambda p.g(F_1 \ p) \ \text{- a projection if } g \text{ is monotone} \end{split}$$

#### More Facts about Projections

#### **Theorem:**

If P is a set of projections then  $\sqcup P$  exists and is a projection.

#### Lemma:

Let  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  be projections. Then  $p_1 \sqsubseteq p_2 \implies p_1 \circ p_2 = p_1$ .

### **Higher-Order Projections**

Let p, q be projections, then

$$(q \to p)f = \begin{cases} p \circ f \circ q & \text{if } f \text{ is a function} \\ \bot & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

 $(p,q)f = \begin{cases} (p \ d_1, q \ d_2) & \text{if } f \text{ is a pair and } f = (d_1, d_2) \\ \bot & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ 

These are projections, too.

#### Modeling Usage with Projections

$$f = \lambda x \dots$$

What does it mean "f is not using its argument"?



### Modeling Usage with Projections



q is a safe projection in the context of p

### Safety Condition for Projections

p f = p (q f)

- p defines a *context*, *i.e.*, how we are going to use a value;
- q defines, how much information we can remove from the object, so it won't change from p's perspective.

The goal of a *backwards* absence/strictness analysis to find a safe projection for a given value and a context

- The context: how the result of the function is going to be used;
- The output: how arguments can be safely changed.

# Safe Usage Projections: Example

$$p f = p (q f)$$





### What about Strictness?

Usage context is modeled by the identity projection.

Unfortunately, it is to weak for the strictness property.

The problem:

- *ID* treats  $\perp$  as any other value;
- It is not helpful to establish a context for detecting  $f \perp = \perp$ .

A solution:

- Introduce a specific element in the domain for "true divergence";
- Devise a specific projection that maps  $\perp$  to the true divergence.

#### Extending the Domain for True Divergence

1 - lightning bolt



#### **Modeling Strictness with Projections**

$$S \nleq = \measuredangle$$
  
 $S \perp = \measuredangle$   
 $S x = x$ , otherwise

Checking if the function f uses its argument strictly

$$S \circ f = S \circ f \circ S$$

Indeed,

$$(S \circ f) \perp = (S \circ f \circ S) \perp$$

$$\implies S (f \perp) = S (f (S \perp))$$

$$\implies S (f \perp) = S (f \notin)$$

$$\implies S (f \perp) = S \notin$$

$$\implies S (f \perp) = \notin$$

$$\implies f \perp = \perp$$

#### Conservative Nature of the Analysis

- From the backwards perspective each function is a "projection transformer": it transforms a result context to a safe projection (not always the best one);
- The set of all safe projections of a function is incomputable, as it requires examining all contexts;
- Instead, the optimal "threshold" result projection is chosen.



## How to screw the Strictness Analysis

```
fact :: Int -> Int
fact n = if n == 0
    then n
    else n * (fact $ n - 1)
```

Let's take a look on the strictness signatures (demo)

#### Conclusion

Polymorphism and type classes introduce implicit calls to non-strict functions and constructors, which make it harder to infer strictness.

## Forward Analysis Example

# Constructed Product Result Analysis

Defines if a function can profitably return multiple results *in registers*.

### Example and Motivation

dm :: Int -> Int -> (Int, Int)
dm x y = (x `div` y, x `mod` y)

We would like to express that dm can return its result pair *unboxed*.

Unboxed tuples are built-in types in GHC.

The calling convention for a function that returns an unboxed tuple arranges to return the components *on registers*.

### Worker/Wrapper Split to the Rescue

- The worker does actually all the job;
- The wrapper serves as an impedance matcher;

## The Essence of the Transformation

If the result of the worker is scrutinized immediately...

case dm x y of
 (p, q) -> e

Inline the worker

The tuple is returned unboxed

case \$wdm x y of
 (# p, q #) -> e

The result pair construction has been moved from the body of dm to its call site.

## General CPR Worker/Wrapper Split

An arbitrary function returning a product

```
f :: Int -> (Int, Int)
f x = e
```

#### The wrapper

f :: Int -> (Int, Int)
f x = case \$wf x of
 (# r1, r2 #) -> (r1, r2)

#### The worker

## When is the W/W Split Beneficial?

- The worker takes the pair apart;
- The wrapper reconstructs it again.

#### The insight

Things are getting worse unless the **case** expression in \$wf is *certain* to cancel with the construction of the pair in e.

## When is the W/W Split Beneficial?

We should only perform the CPR W/W transformation if the result of the function is allocated by the function itself.

#### **Definition:**

A function has the CPR (constructed product result) property, if it allocates its result product itself.

The goal of the CPR analysis is to infer this property.

## **CPR Analysis Informally**

- The analysis is modular: it's based on the function definition only, but not its uses;
- Implemented in the form of an augmented type system, which tracks explicit product constructions;
- Forwards analysis: assumes all arguments are non-explicitly constructed products.

### Examples



CPR property in Core metadata: **demo** 

## A program that benefits from CPR

- Taken from the nofib benchmark suite
- A result from tak is consumed by itself, so both parts of the worker collapse
- Memory consumption gain: 99.5%

### nofib: Strictness + Absence + CPR

Program	Size	Allocs	Runtime
ansi	-1.3%	-12.1%	0.00
banner	-1.48	-18.7%	0.00
boyer2	-1.38	-31.8%	0.00
clausify	-1.3%	-35.0%	0.03
comp_lab_zift	-1.3%	+0.2%	+0.0%
compress2	-1.4%	-32.7%	+1.4%
cse	-1.4%	-15.8%	0.00
mandel2	-1.4%	-28.0%	0.00
puzzle	-1.3%	+16.5%	0.16
rfib	-1.4%	-99.7%	0.02
x2n1	-1.2%	-81.2%	0.01
and 90 more			
 Min	-1.5%	-95.0%	-16.2%
Max	-0.78	+16.5%	+3.2%
Geometric Mean	-1.3%	-16.9%	-3.3%
## Conclusion

- Lazy programs allocate <u>a lot</u> of thunks; it might cause performance problems due to a big chunk of GC work;
- Allocating thunks can be avoided by changing call/return contract of a function;
- Worker/Wrapper transformation is a cheap way to enforce argument unboxing/evaluation;
- We need Strictness and Absence analysis so the W/W split would not change a program semantics;
- We need CPR analysis so CPR W/W split would be beneficial;
- There are two types of analyses: forward and backwards; Strictness and Absence are backwards ones, CPR is a forward analysis;
- Projections are a convenient way to model contexts in a backwards analysis.



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