

# What makes guarded types tick?

Syntax and Semantics for Type Theory  
with Guarded Recursion and Ticks

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# Overview

1. Intro: Guarded Recursion
2. Guarded Recursion + Dependent Types
3. Coinductive Types via Clocks

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Clocked Type Theory (CloTT)

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3. Coinductive Types via Clocks

4. Reduction Semantics

5. Denotational Semantics

# Guarded Recursion

# Guarded recursion on one slide

- ▶ type modality  $\triangleright$  (pronounced “later”)
  - ▶ e.g.  $t : \triangleright A$
  - ▶  $t$  promises to evaluate to a value of type  $A$  in **next time step**

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 $\text{fix} : (A \rightarrow A) \rightarrow A$

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- ▶ instead of general fixed-point operator
$$\text{fix} : (A \rightarrow A) \rightarrow A$$
- ▶ we have the **guarded** fixed-point operator

$$\text{fix} : (\triangleright A \rightarrow A) \rightarrow A$$



## What is guarded recursion?

- ▶ abstract form of **step-indexing** via ▷
- ▶ allows to add **general recursive types** without breaking consistency

## What is it good for?

- ▶ For reasoning: construct models of programming languages and type systems.
- ▶ For programming: ensures productivity of coinductive definitions – in a **modular** way.

# 'Later' as applicative functor

- ▶  $\triangleright$  is an applicative functor <sup>1</sup>

$$\text{next} : A \rightarrow \triangleright A$$

$$\textcircled{*} : \triangleright(A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow \triangleright A \rightarrow \triangleright B$$

- ▶ guarded fixed-point operator  
 $\text{fix} : (\triangleright A \rightarrow A) \rightarrow A$  satisfies

$$\text{fix } f = f(\text{next}(\text{fix } f))$$

---

<sup>1</sup>Atkey & McBride. Productive Coprogramming with Guarded Recursion, ICFP 2013

# Example

Guarded recursive type of streams

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$$\text{Str} \cong \text{Nat} \times \triangleright \text{Str}$$

Let's write a function that increments each element of a stream:

$$\text{incr} : \text{Str} \rightarrow \text{Str}$$

$$\text{incr} \triangleq \text{fix } \lambda g : \triangleright (\text{Str} \rightarrow \text{Str}).$$

$$\lambda x : \text{Str}. \langle \text{suc } (\pi_1 x), g \circledast (\pi_2 x) \rangle$$

# Guarded Recursion + Dependent Types

# Combining $\triangleright$ and dependent types

## Simple types

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$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash s: \triangleright(\Pi x: A. B) \quad \Gamma \vdash t: \triangleright A}{\Gamma \vdash s \circledast t: ???}$$

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We need: eliminate  $\triangleright$  in a controlled way

# Delayed Substitutions

[Bizjak et al. FoSSaCS 2016]

Instead of 
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In general

$$\triangleright [x_1 \leftarrow t_1, \dots, x_n \leftarrow t_n]. A$$
$$\text{next } [x_1 \leftarrow t_1, \dots, x_n \leftarrow t_n]. t$$

# Equalities

$$\triangleright^{\kappa} \xi [x \leftarrow \text{next} \xi . u] . A = \triangleright^{\kappa} \xi . A [u/x]$$

$$\triangleright^{\kappa} \xi [x \leftarrow u] . A = \triangleright^{\kappa} \xi . A \quad \text{if } x \notin \text{fv}(A)$$

$$\triangleright^{\kappa} \xi [x \leftarrow u, y \leftarrow v] \xi' . A = \triangleright^{\kappa} \xi [y \leftarrow v, x \leftarrow u] \xi' . A \quad \text{if } \dots$$

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Not clear how to devise a confluent & normalising reduction semantics that verify these equalities.

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Dependent version of  $\otimes$  can be defined with type:

$$\triangleright(\prod x : A.B) \rightarrow \prod(y : \triangleright A).\triangleright(\alpha : \text{tick}).B[y[\alpha]/x]$$



# Examples

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$\lambda(x : A).\lambda(\alpha : \text{tick}).x : A \rightarrow \triangleright A$

$= \triangleright (\alpha : \text{tick}).A$ , for fresh  $\alpha$ .

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## Applicative action

Given  $s : \triangleright (\alpha : \text{tick}).(\Pi x : A.B)$ ,

and  $t : \triangleright (\alpha : \text{tick}).A$

define  $s \circledast t = \lambda(\alpha : \text{tick}).(s [\alpha])(t [\alpha])$

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## Non-example

$\lambda(\alpha : \text{tick}).t [\alpha] [\alpha]$  is not well typed!

# Extended Example

- ▶ Given  $x : \mathbb{N} \vdash P(x)$  type, i.e. a predicate on  $\mathbb{N}$ .
- ▶ Lift  $P$  to  $xs : \text{Str} \vdash \hat{P}(xs)$  type, i.e. a predicate on streams:

$$\hat{P} \langle x, xs \rangle \cong P(x) \times \triangleright (\alpha : \text{tick}). \hat{P}(xs[\alpha])$$

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- ▶ A proof  $p : \Pi(x : \text{Nat}). P(x)$  can be lifted to a proof of  $\Pi(y : \text{Str}). \hat{P}(y)$  using fix:

$$f : \triangleright (\Pi(y : \text{Str}). \hat{P}(y)) \rightarrow \Pi(y : \text{Str}). \hat{P}(y)$$
$$f \ q \ (\langle x, xs \rangle) \triangleq \langle p(x), \lambda(\alpha : \text{tick}). (q[\alpha])(xs[\alpha]) \rangle$$

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$$\text{fix}(f) : \Pi(y : \text{Str}). \hat{P}(y)$$



# Equational Theory of Ticks

$$(\lambda(\alpha : \text{tick}).t) [\alpha'] = t [\alpha'/\alpha]$$

$$\lambda(\alpha : \text{tick}).t [\alpha] = t \quad \text{if } \alpha \notin \text{fv}(t)$$

# Coinductive Types via Clock Quantification

# Recall: Guarded Recursive Types

Guarded streams:

$$\text{Str} \cong \text{Nat} \times \triangleright \text{Str}$$

functions of type  $\text{Str} \rightarrow \text{Str}$  are **causal**.

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functions of type  $\text{Str} \rightarrow \text{Str}$  are **causal**.

## Example

We can write a function that increments each element:

$$\text{incr} : \text{Str} \rightarrow \text{Str}$$

$$\text{incr} \triangleq \text{fix } \lambda g. \lambda x : \text{Str}. \langle \text{suc } (\pi_1 x), g \circledast (\pi_2 x) \rangle$$

but not a function that skips every other element

$$\text{skipEven} : \text{Str} \rightarrow \text{Str}$$

# Coinductive types via clock quantification

- ▶  $\triangleright$  annotated with clock variables  $\kappa$ :  $\triangleright^{\kappa} A$
- ▶ quantification over clocks:  $\forall \kappa. A$
- ▶ eliminate  $\triangleright^{\kappa}$  via **force** :  $(\forall \kappa. \triangleright^{\kappa} A) \rightarrow \forall \kappa. A$

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$$\text{Str}^{\kappa} \cong \text{Nat} \times \triangleright^{\kappa} \text{Str}^{\kappa}$$

$$\text{Str}_{\text{C}} := \forall \kappa. \text{Str}^{\kappa}$$

Functions of type  $\text{Str}_{\text{C}} \rightarrow \text{Str}_{\text{C}}$  are productive.

e.g.  $\text{skipEven} : \text{Str}_{\text{C}} \rightarrow \text{Str}_{\text{C}}$

# Typing Rules for Clock Quantification

Typing judgement extended with a clock context  $\Delta$ .

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$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} t : \forall \kappa. A \quad \kappa' \in \Delta}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} t[\kappa'] : A[\kappa'/\kappa]}$$

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Each tick  $\alpha$  now belongs to a certain clock  $\kappa$ ,  
written  $\alpha : \kappa$  (instead of just  $\alpha : \text{tick}$ ).

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- ▶  $\diamond$  can only be used in a context without free occurrences of  $\kappa$ .
- ▶  $\text{force}$  is definable in terms of  $\diamond$ :

$$\text{force } x \stackrel{\Delta}{=} \Lambda \kappa. (x [\kappa]) [\diamond]$$

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- ▶  $\diamond$  can only be used in a context without free occurrences of  $\kappa$ .
- ▶ force is definable in terms of  $\diamond$ :

$$\text{force} : \forall \kappa. \triangleright (\alpha : \kappa). A \rightarrow \forall \kappa. A [\diamond/\alpha]$$

$$\text{force } x \stackrel{\Delta}{=} \Lambda \kappa. (x [\kappa]) [\diamond]$$

# Reduction Semantics

# Guarded fixed points

$$\text{fix}^{\kappa} : (\triangleright^{\kappa} A \rightarrow A) \rightarrow A$$

$$\text{fix}^{\kappa} f = f(\text{next}^{\kappa}(\text{fix}^{\kappa} f))$$

We need to restrict fixed point unfolding to obtain **strong normalisation** (while retaining **canonicity**).

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## Delayed fixed point

▶  $\text{dfix}^{\kappa} : (\triangleright^{\kappa} A \rightarrow A) \rightarrow \triangleright^{\kappa} A$

- ▶ only unfolds if applied to **tick constant**  $\diamond$

$$(\text{dfix}^{\kappa} f) [\alpha] \not\rightarrow f(\text{dfix}^{\kappa} f) \quad \text{if } \alpha \text{ is tick variable}$$

$$(\text{dfix}^{\kappa} f) [\diamond] \rightarrow f(\text{dfix}^{\kappa} f)$$

▶  $\text{fix}^{\kappa} f \stackrel{\Delta}{=} f(\text{dfix}^{\kappa} f)$

# Reduction Semantics

$$(\lambda(x : A).t)s \rightarrow t [s/x]$$

$$(\lambda(\alpha : \kappa).t) [\beta] \rightarrow t [\beta/\alpha]$$

$$\lambda(\alpha : \kappa).(t [\alpha]) \rightarrow t \quad \text{if } \alpha \notin \text{fv}(t)$$

$$(\Lambda\kappa.t)[\kappa'] \rightarrow t [\kappa'/\kappa]$$

$$(\Lambda\kappa.t[\kappa]) \rightarrow t \quad \text{if } \kappa \notin \text{fv}(t)$$

$$(\text{dfix}^{\kappa} t) [\diamond] \rightarrow t (\text{dfix}^{\kappa} t)$$

# Syntactic Properties of CloTT

## Theorem (Decidable equality)

- ▶ *Reduction relation  $\rightarrow$  is **confluent**.*
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*If  $\vdash_{\Delta} t : \text{Nat}$ , then  $t \rightarrow^* \text{succ}^n 0$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .*

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## Theorem (Canonicity)

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## Corollary (Productivity)

*Given  $\vdash_{\Delta} t : \text{Str}_{\mathbb{C}}$ , any element of the stream  $t$  can be computed with a finite number of reduction steps.*

*(via a term  $\text{nth} : \text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{Str}_{\mathbb{C}} \rightarrow \text{Nat}$ )*

# Denotational Semantics

# The topos of trees ( $\mathbf{Set}^{\omega^{\text{op}}}$ )

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 X & : & X(0) & \xleftarrow{r_0} & X(1) & \xleftarrow{r_1} & X(2) \xleftarrow{\quad} \dots \\
 \text{next} \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \blacktriangleright X & : & 1 & \xleftarrow{\quad} & X(0) & \xleftarrow{r_0} & X(1) \xleftarrow{r_1} \dots
 \end{array}$$

- ▶ Example:  $\mathbf{Str} \cong \mathbf{Nat} \times \blacktriangleright \mathbf{Str}$

$$\mathbb{N} \times 1 \xleftarrow{\pi} \mathbb{N}^2 \times 1 \xleftarrow{\pi} \mathbb{N}^3 \times 1 \xleftarrow{\pi} \dots$$

- ▶ No object of ticks!

# A left adjoint to $\blacktriangleleft$

- ▶ Define  $\blacktriangleleft X(n) = X(n + 1)$
- ▶ Maps

$$\begin{array}{c} X : X(0) \longleftarrow X(1) \longleftarrow X(2) \longleftarrow \dots \\ \downarrow \\ \blacktriangleleft Y : 1 \longleftarrow Y(0) \longleftarrow Y(1) \longleftarrow \dots \end{array}$$

- ▶ Correspond to maps

$$\begin{array}{c} \blacktriangleleft X : X(1) \longleftarrow X(2) \longleftarrow X(3) \longleftarrow \dots \\ \downarrow \\ Y : Y(0) \longleftarrow Y(1) \longleftarrow Y(2) \longleftarrow \dots \end{array}$$

# Interpreting ticks

- ▶ Define  $\llbracket \Gamma, \alpha : \text{tick} \rrbracket = \blacktriangleleft \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket$
- ▶ Interpret rule

$$\frac{\Gamma, \alpha : \text{tick} \vdash_{\Delta} A \text{ type}}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} \triangleright (\alpha : \text{tick}).A \text{ type}}$$

- ▶ as pullback

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \llbracket \Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} \triangleright (\alpha : \text{tick}).A \text{ type} \rrbracket & \longrightarrow & \blacktriangleright \llbracket \Gamma, \alpha : \text{tick} \vdash_{\Delta} A \text{ type} \rrbracket \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket & \xrightarrow{\eta} & \blacktriangleright \llbracket \Gamma, \alpha : \text{tick} \rrbracket \end{array}$$

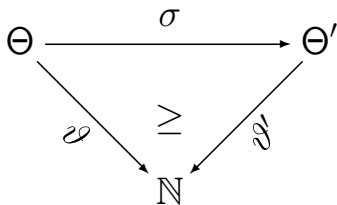
- ▶ Where  $\eta$  is the unit of the adjunction

# Clocks model $\mathbf{Set}^{\mathbb{T}}$

- ▶  $\mathbb{T}$  objects:  $(\Theta, \vartheta)$

$$\Theta \subset_{\text{fin}} CV \quad \vartheta : \Theta \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

- ▶ Morphisms



- ▶ Modelling clock contexts

$$[\Delta](\Theta, \vartheta) = \Theta^{\Delta}$$

- ▶  $\text{GR}[\Delta] = \mathbf{Set}^{f[\Delta]}$

# Modelling ticks

- ▶ Judgements in clock context  $\Delta$  modelled in  $\text{GR}[\Delta]$
- ▶ Adjunction for each  $\kappa \in \Delta$

$$\text{GR}[\Delta] \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\kappa} \\ \xrightarrow{\perp} \\ \xleftarrow{\kappa} \end{array} \text{GR}[\Delta]$$

- ▶ Right adjoint:

$$(\blacktriangleright X)(\Theta; \vartheta; f) = \begin{cases} X(\Theta; \vartheta[f(\kappa) \mapsto n]; f) & \vartheta(f(\kappa)) = n + 1 \\ 1 & \vartheta(f(\kappa)) = 0 \end{cases}$$

- ▶ where  $\vartheta : \Theta \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ ,  $f : \Delta \rightarrow \Theta$



# The left adjoint

- ▶ First attempt not a presheaf

$$(\overset{\kappa}{\blacktriangleleft} X)(\Theta; \vartheta; f) = X(\Theta; \vartheta[f(\kappa) \mapsto \vartheta(f(\kappa)) + 1]; f)$$

- ▶ Definition must take into account all pasts

$$\overset{\kappa}{\blacktriangleleft} X(\Theta; \vartheta; f) = \coprod_{\kappa \in Y \subset f^{-1}(f(\kappa))} X((\Theta; \vartheta; f)[Y, \kappa+])$$

where

$$(\Theta; \vartheta; f)[Y, \kappa+] = (\Theta, \#_{\Theta}; \vartheta[\#_{\Theta} \mapsto \vartheta(f(\kappa)) + 1]; f[Y \mapsto \#_{\Theta}])$$

# Summary

## Clocked Type Theory (CloTT)

dependent type theory featuring

- ▶ coinductive types via clock quantification
- ▶ guarded recursive reasoning via ticks

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dependent type theory featuring

- ▶ coinductive types via clock quantification
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## Semantics

We have

- ▶ a denotational semantics
- ▶ a reduction semantics with
  - ▶ confluence
  - ▶ strong normalisation
  - ▶ canonicity

# What makes guarded types tick?

Syntax and Semantics for Type Theory  
with Guarded Recursion and Ticks

Patrick Bahr    Bassel Manna  
Rasmus Møgelberg

IT University of Copenhagen

# Bonus Slides

# Typing Rules

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta, \kappa} t : A \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Delta}}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} \Lambda \kappa. t : \forall \kappa. A}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} t : \forall \kappa. A \quad \kappa' \in \Delta}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} t[\kappa'] : A[\kappa'/\kappa]}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \alpha : \kappa \vdash_{\Delta} t : A \quad \kappa \in \Delta}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} \lambda(\alpha : \kappa). t : \triangleright(\alpha : \kappa). A}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} t : \triangleright(\alpha : \kappa). A \quad \Gamma, \alpha' : \kappa, \Gamma' \vdash_{\Delta}}{\Gamma, \alpha' : \kappa, \Gamma' \vdash_{\Delta} t[\alpha'] : A[\alpha'/\alpha]}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta, \kappa} t : \triangleright(\alpha : \kappa). A \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} \quad \kappa' \in \Delta}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} (t[\kappa'/\kappa])[\diamond] : A[\kappa'/\kappa][\diamond/\alpha]}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} t : \triangleright^{\kappa} A \rightarrow A}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} \text{dfix}^{\kappa} t : \triangleright^{\kappa} A}$$

# Typing Rules (cont.)

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash_{\Delta} t : B}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} \lambda(x : A).t : \Pi(x : A). B}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} t : \Pi(x : A). B \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} u : A}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} t u : B [u/x]}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} F (\text{dfix}^{\kappa} F) u : \mathcal{U} \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} t : \text{El}((\text{dfix}^{\kappa} F) [\alpha] u)}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} \text{unfold}_{\alpha} t : \text{El}(F (\text{dfix}^{\kappa} F) u)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} ((\text{dfix}^{\kappa} F) [\alpha]) u : \mathcal{U} \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} t : \text{El}(F (\text{dfix}^{\kappa} F) u)}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Delta} \text{fold}_{\alpha} t : \text{El}((\text{dfix}^{\kappa} F) [\alpha] u)}$$

# Reduction Semantics

$$(\lambda x : A. t) s \rightarrow t [s/x]$$

$$(\lambda(\alpha' : \kappa). t) [\alpha] \rightarrow t [\alpha/\alpha']$$

$$(\Lambda \kappa. t[\kappa]) \rightarrow t$$

$$\text{fold}_\diamond t \rightarrow t$$

$$\text{if true } t_1 \ t_2 \rightarrow t_1$$

$$\text{rec} (\text{suc } t_1) \ t_2 \ t_3 \rightarrow t_3 \ t_1 \ (\text{rec } t_1 \ t_2 \ t_3)$$

$$(\text{dfix}^\kappa t) [\diamond] \rightarrow t (\text{dfix}^\kappa t)$$

$$(\Lambda \kappa. t)[\kappa'] \rightarrow t [\kappa'/\kappa]$$

$$\lambda(\alpha : \kappa). (t [\alpha]) \rightarrow t$$

$$\pi_i \langle t_1, t_2 \rangle \rightarrow t_i$$

$$\text{unfold}_\diamond t \rightarrow t$$

$$\text{if false } t_1 \ t_2 \rightarrow t_2$$

$$\text{rec } 0 \ t \ s \rightarrow t$$

$$\frac{t \rightarrow u}{C[t] \rightarrow C[u]}$$