

# The Generalized Intensional Transformation for Implementing Lazy Functional Languages

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# Dataflow Programming Languages

## Dataflow Programming:

- A program is a directed graph of **data** flowing through a network of **processing units**
- Quite popular in the 1980s due to its implicitly parallel nature

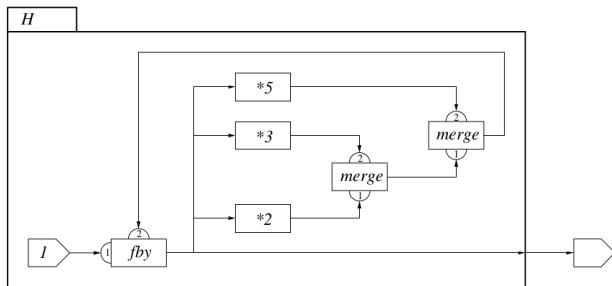


Figure from Joey Paquet's PhD thesis, "Intensional Scientific Programming" (1999)

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- **Examples:** Val, Id, Lucid, GLU, etc.

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## Dataflow Machines:

- **Specialized** parallel architectures for executing dataflow programs, e.g. the MIT Tagged-Token Machine
- Execution is determined by the **availability** of input arguments to operations

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## The Next Day:

- **Map-Reduce**: similarities to Dataflow languages
- A new generation of similar languages/programming models: Dryad, Clustera, Hyrax, etc.

# The Intensional Transformation

Alternative technique for implementing **functional languages** by transformation to dataflow programs

- [Yaghi, 1984] The intensional implementation technique for functional languages.
- [Arvind & Nikhil, 1990] The “coloring” technique for implementing functions on the MIT Dataflow Machine.
- [Rondogiannis & Wadge, 1997, 1999] A formalization of the intensional transformation and its extension for a class of higher-order programs.

Some programming constructs (e.g. full higher-order functions, user-defined data types) are still not satisfactorily handled.



# The Original Transformation Algorithm

The input is a first-order functional program. The output is a program with parameterless definitions (intensional program).

## Example

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result = f 3 + f 5
f x    = g (x*x)
g y    = y+2
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<code>f x = g (x*x)</code>	<code>f = call<sub>0</sub>(g)</code>
<code>g y = y+2</code>	<code>g = y+2</code>

Step 2: for all functions  $f$ , for all formal parameters  $x$

- Find actual parameters corresponding to  $x$  in all calls of  $f$
- Introduce a new definition for  $x$  with an **actuals** clause, listing the actual parameters in the order of the calls

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f x	=	g (x*x)		f	=	call <sub>0</sub> (g)
g y	=	y+2		g	=	y+2
				x	=	actuals(3, 5)
				y	=	actuals(x*x)

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Evaluation of expressions:  $EVAL(e, w)$

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- The **initial** context is the empty list

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## Context switching: call and actuals

$$\begin{aligned} EVAL(\text{call}_i(e), w) &= EVAL(e, i : w) \\ EVAL(\text{actuals}(e_0, \dots, e_{n-1}), i : w) &= EVAL(e_i, w) \end{aligned}$$

## Example

Evaluation of the target program:

*EVAL*(result, [ ])

```
result = call0(f)+call1(f)
f       = call0(g)
g       = y+2
x       = actuals(3, 5)
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Evaluation of the target program:

$$\begin{aligned} & EVAL(\text{result}, [ ]) \\ = & EVAL(\text{call}_0(f) + \text{call}_1(f), [ ]) \end{aligned}$$

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Evaluation of the target program:

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= 3 * 3 + 2 + 5 * 5 + 2
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= EVAL(3, [ ]) * EVAL(3, [ ]) + 2 + EVAL(5, [ ]) * EVAL(5, [ ]) + 2
= 3 * 3 + 2 + 5 * 5 + 2
= 38
```

```
result = call0(f)+call1(f)
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```

## Evaluation order: from call-by-name to call-by-need

- Use a **warehouse** to store already computed values
- The warehouse contains triples  $(x, w, v)$
- **Hash-consing** for efficient context comparison

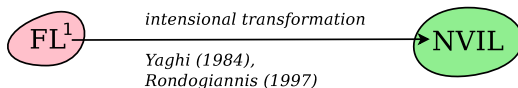
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## A more efficient memoization: LARs

- **Lazy Activation Record**: corresponds to a context and memoizes a function's actual parameters
- [Charalambidis, Grivas, Papaspyrou & Rondogiannis, 2008]  
A **stack-based** implementation for a language with a restricted class of higher-order functions

# The New Intensional Transformation

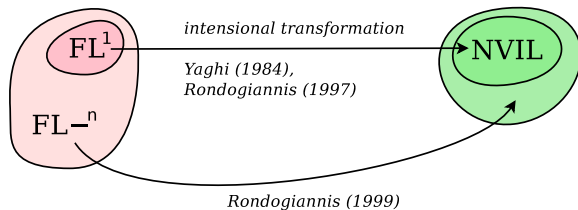


## Original intensional transformation

- $FL^1$ : first-order functional language
- NVIL: zero-order intensional language

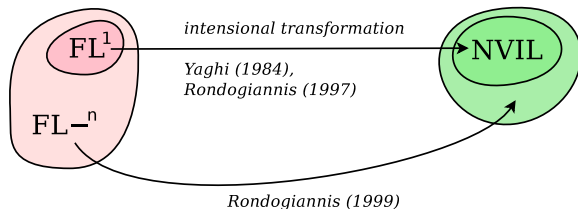


# The New Intensional Transformation



Higher-order intensional transformation

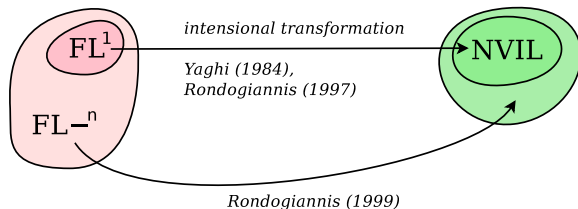
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## Higher-order intensional transformation

- Missing: partial application (closures + currying)

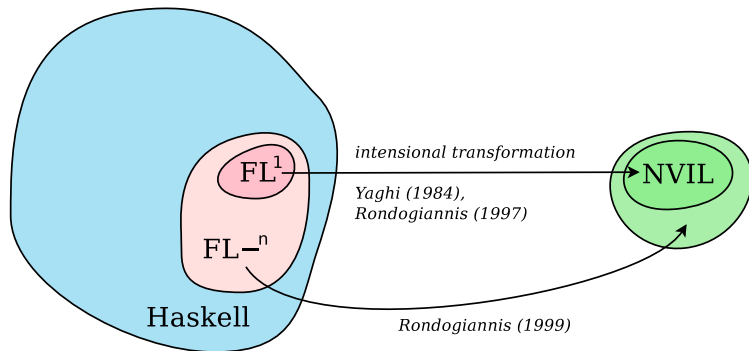
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## Higher-order intensional transformation

- Missing: partial application (closures + currying)
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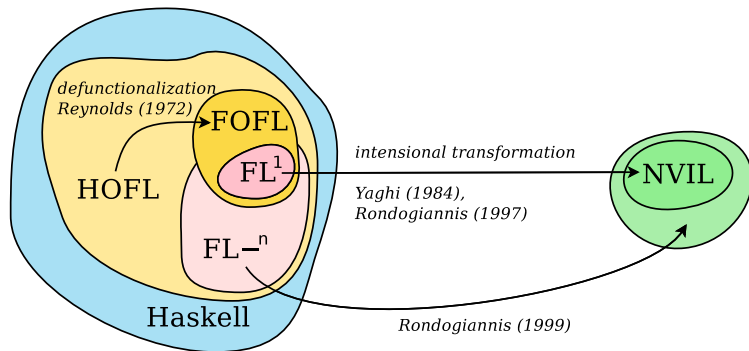
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## Higher-order intensional transformation

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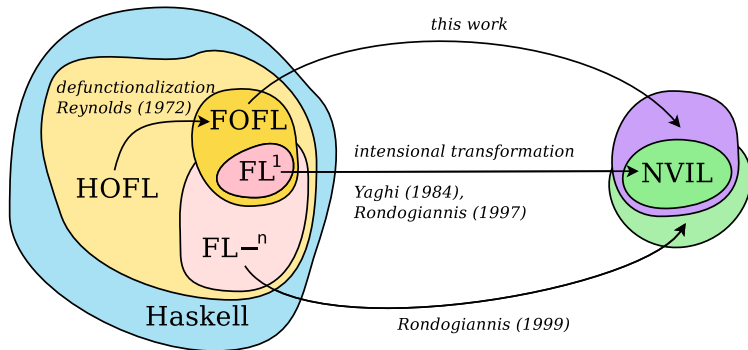
# The New Intensional Transformation



## Defunctionalization to the rescue

- FOFL: first-order functional language, with **data types**
- HOFL: higher-order functional language, with **data types** and with **partial application**

# The New Intensional Transformation



## This work: the missing link

- Similar to the original intensional transformation
- With **data types** in the source and target languages

# Syntax of FOFL

$p ::= d_0 \dots d_n$

**program**

$d ::= f(v_0, \dots, v_{n-1}) = e$

**definition**

$e ::=$

**expression**

$c(e_0, \dots, e_{n-1})$

constants and operators

|  $f(e_0, \dots, e_{n-1})$

variables and functions

|  $\kappa(e_0, \dots, e_{n-1})$

constructors

| **case**  $e$  of  $\{ b_0 ; \dots ; b_n \}$

inspection of data types

|  $\#^m(v)$

case pattern variables

$b ::= \kappa(v_0, \dots, v_{n-1}) \rightarrow e$

**case clause**

- $f$  and  $v$  range over variables,  $c$  ranges over constants,  $\kappa$  ranges over constructors, and  $n, m \geq 0$
- distinct names for formal parameters
- constructor functions and naming of patterns

## Example: Sum of a list's first two elements

Haskell:

```
f l = case l of
  Nil → 0
  Cons x xs → case xs of
    Nil → x
    Cons y ys → x+y
```



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FOFL:

```
f(l) = case l of {
  Nil → 0;
  Cons(h, t) → case #0(t) of {
    Nil → #1(h);
    Cons(h, t) → +(#1(h), #0(h))
  }
}
```

# Syntax of NVIL

$p ::= d_0 \dots d_n$

$d ::= f = e$

$e ::=$

$c(e_0, \dots, e_{n-1})$

|  $f$

|  $\kappa$

|  $\text{case } e \text{ of } \{ b_0 ; \dots ; b_n \}$

|  $\#^m(e)$

|  $\text{call}_l(e)$

|  $\text{actuals}(\langle e_l \rangle_{l \in I})$

$b ::= \kappa \rightarrow e$

**program**

**definition**

**expression**

constants and operators

variables

constructors

inspection of data types

case pattern expressions

context switching

context switching

**case clause**

- Technicality: **labels** in contexts, instead of natural numbers

## A richer structure for contexts

$w ::= \bullet \mid \langle \ell, w, \mu \rangle$

$\mu ::= \bullet \mid w : \mu$  (similar to lists with backpointers)

## A richer structure for contexts

$$w ::= \bullet \mid \langle \ell, w, \mu \rangle$$
$$\mu ::= \bullet \mid w : \mu \quad (\text{similar to lists with backpointers})$$

## Evaluation function: returns ground value or $\langle \kappa, w \rangle$

$$EVAL_p(c(e_0, \dots, e_{n-1}), w) = c(EVAL_p(e_0, w), \dots, EVAL_p(e_{n-1}, w))$$
$$EVAL_p(f, w) = EVAL_p(\text{body}(f, p), w)$$
$$EVAL_p(\kappa, w) = \langle \kappa, w \rangle$$
$$EVAL_p(\text{case } e \text{ of } \{\kappa_0 \rightarrow e_0; \dots; \kappa_n \rightarrow e_n\}, \langle \ell, w, \mu \rangle) =$$
$$EVAL_p(e_i, \langle \ell, w, w' : \mu \rangle) \quad \text{if } EVAL_p(e, \langle \ell, w, \mu \rangle) = \langle \kappa_i, w' \rangle$$
$$EVAL_p(\#^m(e), \langle \ell, w, \mu \rangle) = EVAL_p(e, \mu_m)$$
$$EVAL_p(\text{call}_\ell(e), w) = EVAL_p(e, \langle \ell, w, \bullet \rangle)$$
$$EVAL_p(\text{actuals}(\langle e_\ell \rangle_{\ell \in I}), \langle \ell, w, \mu \rangle) = EVAL_p(e_\ell, w)$$

## Haskell

```
data List = Nil | Cons Int List
reverse xs = aux xs Nil
aux xs ys = case xs of
    Nil -> ys
    Cons h t -> aux t (Cons h ys)
```

## FOFL

## Haskell

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## FOFL

$$\begin{aligned} \textit{nil} &= \textit{Nil} \\ \textit{cons}(h, t) &= \textit{Cons}(h, t) \end{aligned}$$

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## FOFL

$$\begin{aligned} nil &= Nil \\ cons(h, t) &= Cons(h, t) \\ reverse(zs) &= aux(zs, nil) \end{aligned}$$

## Haskell

```

data List = Nil | Cons Int List
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             Nil -> ys
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```

## FOFL

```

nil           = Nil
cons(h, t)   = Cons(h, t)
reverse(zs) = aux(zs, nil)
aux(xs, ys) = case xs of {
                  Nil → ys;
                  Cons(h, t) → aux(#0(t), cons(#0(h), ys))
                }

```



## FOFL

 $nil = Nil$  $cons(h, t) = Cons(h, t)$  $reverse(zs) = aux(zs, nil)$  $aux(xs, ys) = \text{case } xs \text{ of}$   
 $Nil \rightarrow ys;$   
 $Cons(h, t) \rightarrow aux(\#^0(t), cons(\#^0(h), ys))$ 

## NVIL

## FOFL

$$\begin{aligned}
 nil &= Nil \\
 cons(h, t) &= Cons(h, t) \\
 reverse(zs) &= aux(zs, nil) \\
 aux(xs, ys) &= \text{case } xs \text{ of} \\
 &\quad Nil \rightarrow ys; \\
 &\quad Cons(h, t) \rightarrow aux(\#^0(t), cons(\#^0(h), ys))
 \end{aligned}$$

## NVIL

$nil = Nil$	$reverse = \text{call}_0(aux)$
$cons = Cons$	$aux = \text{case } xs \text{ of}$
	$Nil \rightarrow ys;$
	$Cons \rightarrow \text{call}_1(aux)$

## FOFL

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathit{nil} &= \mathit{Nil} \\
 \mathit{cons}(h, t) &= \mathit{Cons}(h, t) \\
 \mathit{reverse}(zs) &= \mathit{aux}(zs, \mathit{nil}) \\
 \mathit{aux}(xs, ys) &= \text{case } xs \text{ of} \\
 &\quad \mathit{Nil} \rightarrow ys; \\
 &\quad \mathit{Cons}(h, t) \rightarrow \mathit{aux}(\#^0(t), \mathit{cons}(\#^0(h), ys))
 \end{aligned}$$

## NVIL

$\mathit{nil} = \mathit{Nil}$	$\mathit{reverse} = \text{call}_0(\mathit{aux})$
$\mathit{cons} = \mathit{Cons}$	$\mathit{aux} = \text{case } xs \text{ of}$
	$\mathit{Nil} \rightarrow ys;$
	$\mathit{Cons} \rightarrow \text{call}_1(\mathit{aux})$
$xs = \text{actuals}(zs, \#^0(t))$	$ys = \text{actuals}(\mathit{nil}, \text{call}_0(\mathit{cons}))$

## FOFL

$$\begin{aligned}
 nil &= Nil \\
 cons(h, t) &= Cons(h, t) \\
 reverse(zs) &= aux(zs, nil) \\
 aux(xs, ys) &= \text{case } xs \text{ of} \\
 &\quad Nil \rightarrow ys; \\
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 \end{aligned}$$

## NVIL

$nil = Nil$	$reverse = \text{call}_0(aux)$
$cons = Cons$	$aux = \text{case } xs \text{ of}$
$h = \text{actuals}(\#^0(h))$	$Nil \rightarrow ys;$
$t = \text{actuals}(ys)$	$Cons \rightarrow \text{call}_1(aux)$
	$xs = \text{actuals}(zs, \#^0(t))$
	$ys = \text{actuals}(nil, \text{call}_0(cons))$

<http://www.softlab.ntua.gr/~gfour/dftoic/>

## Key ideas:

- An efficient implementation of  $EVAL_p(f, w)$  for each function  $f$ , written in C
- **Lazy activation records** for call-by-need semantics
- LARs store both **function arguments** and **data objects**

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## Main difference from traditional implementation:

- No **closures**: they are encoded in **contexts**

## Optimization:

- **Stack-** and **heap-**allocated LARs
- Aiming to turn our implementation to a **back-end** for GHC

# Benchmarks

Program	GIC	GIC-llvm	GHC7	GHC6	NHC	UHC	JHC
ack	2.47	1.25	0.62	0.48	6.18	40.03	0.05
church	3.55	2.09	0.61	0.55	11.58	68.37	0.17
collatz	0.69	0.41	1.07	2.66	84.28	46.90	0.16
digits_of_e1	2.30	2.09	0.77	1.74	60.71	75.29	<sup>-1</sup>
fast-reverse	3.03	1.95	1.74	1.82	1.35	9.41	<sup>-2</sup>
fib	1.35	1.12	0.50	0.51	10.43	55.55	0.17
naive-reverse	3.02	2.87	0.49	0.42	0.79	3.56	0.75
ntak	8.62	5.87	2.91	3.65	154.74	91.95	7.18
primes	2.55	1.58	2.19	2.30	172.45	173.81	0.73
queens-num	0.33	0.23	0.31	0.33	21.16	12.43	0.14
queens	3.92	3.24	0.44	0.48	27.17	123.98	0.82
quick-sort	3.18	2.77	1.92	1.90	1.51	5.42	8.58
tree-sort	2.19	1.97	0.39	0.33	0.91	6.58	0.72
GMR <sup>3</sup>	1.38	1.00	0.51	0.57	7.28	18.49	0.33

<sup>1</sup> jhc compilation error, <sup>2</sup> jhc runtime error.

<sup>3</sup> Geometric mean of the ratios, compared to GIC-llvm.



## What?

- An alternative way to implement higher-order lazy functional languages

## How?

- Defunctionalization
- First-order **intensional transformation** with source and target languages extended with user-defined **data types**

# Conclusion

## What?

- An alternative way to implement higher-order lazy functional languages

## How?

- Defunctionalization
- First-order **intensional transformation** with source and target languages extended with user-defined **data types**

## What next?

- Support full Haskell: **polymorphism**
- Support for **separate** compilation
- Optimizations, better **garbage collection** for LARs
- Possibilities for **parallelization**

# Example: Defunctionalization

## Higher-order

```
result = inc (add 1) 2 + inc sq 3
inc f x = f (x+1)
add a b = a+b
sq z    = z*z
```

## First-order, defunctionalized

```
result = inc (Fadd 1) 2 + inc Fsq 3
inc f x = apply f (x+1)
add a b = a+b
sq z    = z*z
data Func = Fadd Int | Fsq
apply cl d = case cl of
              Fadd c -> add c d
              Fsq   -> sq d
```