

# Reasoning about Effect Interaction by Fusion

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Effect handlers can be composed by applying them sequentially, each handling some operations and leaving other operations uninterpreted in the syntax tree. However, the semantics of composed handlers can be subtle—it is well known that different orders of composing handlers can lead to drastically different semantics. Determining the desired order of composition is a difficult task.

To alleviate this problem, this paper presents a systematic way of deriving sufficient conditions on handlers for their composite to correctly handle combinations, such as the sum and the tensor, of the effect theories separately handled. These conditions are solely characterised by the clauses for relevant operations of the handlers, and are derived by fusing two handlers into one by a form of fold/build fusion and continuation-passing style transformation.

As case studies, the technique is applied to commutative and distributive interaction of handlers to obtain a series of results about the interaction of common handlers: (a) equations respected by each handler are preserved after handler composition; (b) handling mutable state *before* any handler gives rise to a semantics in which state operations are commutative with any operations from the latter handler; (c) handling the writer effect and mutable state in either order gives rise to a correct handler of the commutative combination of these two theories.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Algebraic effects [Plotkin and Power 2002] and their handlers [Plotkin and Pretnar 2009, 2013] are inherently a modular approach to modelling computational effects: algebraic theories of effects *specify* effects and handlers *implement* them. Furthermore, both algebraic theories and handlers are composable in their own right. Algebraic theories can be combined in various ways of specifying the interaction of operations of the sub-theories [Hyland et al. 2006], such as requiring operations from one sub-theory to be commutative with any operation from other theories, giving rise to the combined theory called the *tensor* of the sub-theories. The modularity of effect theories enables programmers to reason about programs involving complex computational effects in a modular way [Gibbons and Hinze 2011]. On the implementation side, effect handlers are composable by running them sequentially, each handling a set of operations in the computation and forwarding other operations.

However, the link between the composability on the specification side (effect theories) and the composability on the implementation side (handlers) has remained elusive. Suppose that two effect theories are combined into a bigger theory by specifying a particular way for their operations to interact. Following the modular methodology of algebraic effects, we would like to handle the combined theory by composing handlers of the sub-theories. However, it is *not* the case that the sequential composition of any handlers of the sub-theories automatically respects the specified interaction. Instead, additional work must be done to prove that the composite handler indeed validates the combined theory. Our goal is to minimise this additional work.

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51  $h_{ST} = \text{handler } \{$ 
52    $\text{val } x \mapsto \text{val } (\text{fun } s \mapsto \text{val } (x, s)),$ 
53    $\text{get } () \ k \mapsto \text{val } (\text{fun } s \mapsto k \ s \ s),$ 
54    $\text{put } s' \ k \mapsto \text{val } (\text{fun } s \mapsto k \ () \ s')$ 
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57  $h_{ND} = \text{handler } \{$ 
58    $\text{val } x \mapsto \text{val } [x],$ 
59    $\text{coin } () \ k \mapsto \{ \text{let } x = k \ \text{True in}$ 
60      $\text{let } y = k \ \text{False in}$ 
61      $\text{val } (x \ \dagger \ y) \}$ 
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Fig. 1. Handlers of mutable state and nondeterminism in the language EFF [Bauer and Pretnar 2015].

To illustrate this problem, we use a running example of the theories of mutable state and nondeterminism. The theory *State* of mutable state consists of *operations*, such as *get* and *put* for reading and writing the state, and *equations* that give the properties these two operations obey (listed in full in Example 2.4), such as that the result of a read immediately following a write must be the value just written. The theory *NDet* of nondeterministic choice has one operation *coin* that returns a Boolean value and certain equations specifying *coin* (Example 2.5).

These two theories can be separately handled by two handlers  $h_{ST}$  and  $h_{ND}$  respectively (Figure 1 shows an implementation of them in EFF [Bauer and Pretnar 2015]). The semantics of any handler  $h$  is a function *handle*  $h$  that applies the handler on computations, i.e. terms built from effectful operations and pure values, producing terms with unhandled operations. Handlers of *State* and *NDet* can be sequentially composed to handle both stateful and nondeterministic operations in a computation  $M$ , in the order that either mutable state gets handled first

$$\text{handle } h_{ND} (\text{handle } h_{ST} M) \quad (\text{HStNd})$$

or nondeterminism gets handled first

$$\text{handle } h_{ST} (\text{handle } h_{ND} M) \quad (\text{HNdSt})$$

On the specification side, the theories *State* and *NDet* can be composed into one single theory too. One desirable combination is the *commutative tensor*, or simply *tensor*, of the theories *State* and *NDet*—the theory with all the operations and equations from *State* and *NDet* and additionally equations stating that any operation from *State* is commutative with any operation from *NDet*:

$$\text{do } \{ b \leftarrow \text{coin } (); \text{put } s; k \ b \} = \text{do } \{ \text{put } s; b \leftarrow \text{coin } (); k \ b \} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{do } \{ b \leftarrow \text{coin } (); s \leftarrow \text{get } (); k \ b \ s \} = \text{do } \{ s \leftarrow \text{get } (); b \leftarrow \text{coin } (); k \ b \ s \} \quad (2)$$

Although both handlers and theories are composable, the problem is that the composabilities of handlers and theories are *not* automatically connected. Supposing that the tensor is the desired semantics of combining state and nondeterminism in an application, the programmer needs to pick one from **HStNd** and **HNdSt** and prove that it indeed validates all the equations of the tensor. Furthermore, to make the equations useful in reasoning or optimisation, one usually wants to prove that they are *term congruences* under the composite handler—the equation can be applied to transform terms in *any context* under the handler [Kiselyov et al. 2021].

The conventional way to show a composite handler respecting some combination of effect theories is equational reasoning with the *induction principle on computations* [Plotkin and Pretnar 2008]. For example, if one wants to show that the composite handler **HStNd** validates equation (1) of the tensor, one needs to do an induction on the computation  $k \ b$ , which is a free variable in the equation. The base case for  $k \ b$  is a pure computation returning some value, and the inductive case is  $k \ b = \text{do } \{ a \leftarrow \text{op } p; k' \ a \}$ , where some operation *op* is invoked and then it acts as some computation  $k'$ . In either case, the proof obligation is to show that applying the handler **HStNd** to the both sides of (1) gives rise to equivalent computations, which can be established by careful

99 calculation. Additionally, if one wants to show that the equation is a term congruence, an additional  
 100 induction on the context where the equation is used is required. In practice, proving a composite  
 101 handler respecting some combination of theories in this way can be laborious for several reasons:

- 102 • Equations proved to be respected by sub-handlers needs to be re-established for composite  
 103 handlers because in general, the composite handler does not necessarily respect the equations  
 104 respected by the sub-handlers (shown later in [Example 3.4](#)).
- 105 • One needs to explicitly prove that equations respected by a composite handler are term congru-  
 106 ences under the handler since it is not true in general [[Kiselyov et al. 2021](#)].
- 107 • Some ways of combining effect theories create a large number of equations of the same form.  
 108 For example, the tensor generates quadratically many commutativity equations in the number of  
 109 operations of the sub-theories, but the common structure in these commutativity equations are  
 110 not exploited.

## 112 1.1 Overview

113 The aim of this paper is to develop techniques for proving the correctness of composite handlers  
 114 with respect to combinations of effect theories in a more manageable way. For a class of handlers  
 115 that are *modular*, as characterised by [Schrijvers et al. \[2019\]](#), given any combination of effect  
 116 theories, we present a systematic way to devise conditions on handlers so that their composite  
 117 correctly handles this combination of sub-theories.

118 To provide a taste of the results developed in the paper, consider the running example in [Figure 1](#).  
 119 We can show that both handlers are modular and [Theorem 5.5](#) states that any equations respected  
 120 by modular handlers separately are still respected by their composite. Thus, without any further  
 121 work, we immediately know that [HStNd](#) and [HNdSt](#) respect the equations from *State* and *NDet*  
 122 because these equations are respected by  $h_{ST}$  and  $h_{ND}$  separately. Furthermore, if one aims to prove  
 123 that the composite handler [HStNd](#) validates the tensor of state and nondeterminism, [Theorem 6.1](#)  
 124 implies that [HStNd](#) respects the commutativity equations (1, 2) if each clause  $c_1$  of  $h_{ST}$  (in a sense  
 125 made clear in [Section 5.3](#)) and each clause  $c_2$  of  $h_{ND}$  satisfy the following equation

$$\begin{aligned}
 & c_1 p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow \lambda s q \rightarrow c_2 p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow k a_1 a_2 s q)) \\
 & = \lambda s q \rightarrow c_2 p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow c_1 p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow k a_1 a_2) s q)
 \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

130 for any  $p_1, p_2, k$  (made clear in [Section 6](#)). The two clauses of  $h_{ST}$  are the following functions  $c_{put}$   
 131 and  $c_{get}$  and the only clause of  $h_{ND}$  is  $c_{coin}$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 & c_{put} p_1 k = \lambda s \rightarrow k () p_1 \quad c_{get} () k = \lambda s \rightarrow k s s \\
 & c_{coin} () k = \mathbf{do} \{ x \leftarrow k \text{ True}; y \leftarrow k \text{ False}; \text{return } (x + y) \}
 \end{aligned}$$

135 Then it is straightforward calculation to check that condition (3) is satisfied for each  $c_1 \in \{c_{put}, c_{get}\}$   
 136 and  $c_2 = c_{coin}$ . For example, if  $c_1 = c_{put}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}
 & c_1 p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow \lambda s q \rightarrow c_2 p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow k a_1 a_2 s q)) \quad \{ \text{definition of } c_{put} \} \\
 & = \lambda s \rightarrow (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow \lambda s q \rightarrow c_2 p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow k a_1 a_2 s q)) () p_1 \\
 & = \lambda s q \rightarrow c_2 p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow k () a_2 p_1 q) \quad \{ \text{definition of } c_{put} \} \\
 & = \lambda s q \rightarrow c_2 p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow c_1 p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow k a_1 a_2) s q)
 \end{aligned}$$

143 Finally, every equation respected by the composite of two modular handlers is automatically a  
 144 term congruence under the handler ([Remark 5.2](#)), eliminating the need of a separate proof. This  
 145 example will be studied in detail in [Section 6.1](#), and the point is that this is much less of a burden  
 146 than checking all the conditions separately.

The key technique allowing us to derive such conditions is *handler fusion* [Wu and Schrijvers 2015]: given any two modular handlers  $h_1$  and  $h_2$ , we show that there exists a modular handler  $h_2 \diamond h_1$  such that

$$\text{handle } h_2 \cdot \text{handle } h_1 = \text{handle } (h_2 \diamond h_1)$$

Consequently, the composite handler  $\text{handle } h_2 \cdot \text{handle } h_1$  respects an effect theory if and only if  $\text{handle } (h_2 \diamond h_1)$  does, and the latter is easier to work with since it is a single *catamorphism* on computation trees. By the universal property of catamorphisms,  $\text{handle } (h_2 \diamond h_1)$  respects an effect theory if  $h_2 \diamond h_1$  respects it, from which we calculate various conditions for  $\text{handle } h_2 \cdot \text{handle } h_1$  to respect various combinations of effect theories.

## 1.2 Contributions

After fixing notation for preliminary concepts (Section 2), we introduce and motivate modular handlers (Section 3), and then this paper makes the following contributions:

- a characterisation of correct syntax tree transformations and correct modular handlers with a soundness theorem relating them (Section 4);
- a fusion combinator ( $\diamond$ ) of modular handlers (Section 5) that enables us to reason about the interaction of two handlers when composing them (Corollary 5.4). Particularly, we show that equations separately respected by modular handlers are preserved after composition (Theorem 5.5);
- conditions on handlers for their composite to correctly handle the tensor of the theories (Section 6). As applications, we show that (i) handling mutable state *before* any handler gives rise to a semantics in which stateful operations are commutative with any operation from the latter handler (Theorem 6.5), and that (ii) handling the writer effect and mutable state in either order gives rise to a correct handler of the commutative interaction of the two theories (Theorem 6.6);
- conditions on handlers for their composite to correctly handle the *distributive tensor* of the theories (Section 7), and an application to the handlers of nondeterministic and probabilistic choice (Section 7.1), which exhibits a limitation of the fusion approach.

Finally, we discuss related work (Section 8) and conclude (Section 9).

## 2 PRELIMINARIES

Throughout this paper, we use Haskell as a vehicle to present all the constructions and results to make them more accessible to functional programmers. We restrict ourselves to a subset of Haskell that is *total*: all recursion is structural; recursive datatypes are inductive; and polymorphism is predicative, etc. Readers familiar with category theory can understand our notation as a meta-language denoting constructions around the category of sets: types denote sets; inductive datatypes denote initial algebras; and polymorphic functions denote ends, etc. In this way, the results developed in this paper apply to any language implementing effect handlers that has a denotational semantics based on the constructions studied in this paper (As an illustration, Appendix F shows such a call-by-value calculus with handlers and a translation to our Haskell constructions). We hope that our notation can be a good compromise between concreteness and generality.

**Functors.** In Haskell, a functor  $f :: * \rightarrow *$  is a type constructor instantiating the *Functor* type class (Figure 2). It is also expected to satisfy the functor laws:

$$\text{fmap } id = id \quad \text{fmap } g \cdot \text{fmap } h = \text{fmap } (g \cdot h)$$

For any functor  $f$ , we call a function of type  $f \ c \rightarrow c$  an *f-algebra* and the type  $c$  the *carrier* of this *f-algebra*. For example, given types  $P$  and  $A$ , then  $\text{data } \Sigma \ x = O \ P \ (A \rightarrow x)$  with the following

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**class Functor f where**  
 $fmap :: (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow f\ a \rightarrow f\ b$

**class Monad m where**  
 $return :: a \rightarrow m\ a$   
 $(\gg) :: m\ a \rightarrow (a \rightarrow m\ b) \rightarrow m\ b$

Fig. 2. Type classes for functors and monads in Haskell.

$fmap$  is a functor:

**instance Functor  $\Sigma$  where**  $fmap\ f\ (O\ p\ k) = O\ p\ (f \cdot k)$  (4)

Given any two functors  $f$  and  $g$ , their coproduct  $f + g$  is given by the following datatype, and it can also be equipped with a functor instance.

**data**  $(f + g)\ a = Inl\ (f\ a) \mid Inr\ (g\ a)$  (5)

$fmap\ h\ (Inl\ x) = Inl\ (fmap\ h\ x)$        $fmap\ h\ (Inr\ y) = Inr\ (fmap\ h\ x)$

**Monads.** A functor  $m$  is a monad if it instantiates the *Monad* type class (Figure 2) and adheres to the monad laws:

$join \cdot return = id$        $join \cdot fmap\ return = id$        $join \cdot join = join \cdot fmap\ join$  (6)

where  $join :: m\ (m\ a) \rightarrow m\ a$  is defined by  $join\ m = m \gg id$ . Pioneered by Moggi [1991], monads are used to model computational effects. Intuitively,  $return$  turns a pure value into a trivial computation causing no effects, and  $m \gg f$  executes computation  $m$  first, letting its result be  $x$ , then executes  $f\ x$ . Thus Haskell supports the do-notation  $do\ x \leftarrow m; b$ , which is a syntactic sugar for  $m \gg (\lambda x \rightarrow b)$ .

**Free Monads.** For any functor  $f$ , the inductive datatype *Free f* is called the free monad:

**data**  $Free\ f\ v = Var\ v \mid Op\ (f\ (Free\ f\ v))$  (7)

Intuitively, an element of *Free f v* is a tree with leaf nodes constructed by *Var* and internal nodes constructed by *Op*, where the functor  $f$  determines the branching structure of internal nodes. Given an  $f$ -algebra  $alg :: f\ c \rightarrow c$  and function  $gen :: v \rightarrow c$ , there is function *fold* (also known as *catamorphism*) that recursively reduces *Free f v* to the carrier  $c$  of  $alg$ :

$fold :: Functor\ f \Rightarrow (v \rightarrow c) \rightarrow (f\ c \rightarrow c) \rightarrow Free\ f\ v \rightarrow c$   
 $fold\ gen\ alg\ (Var\ x) = gen\ x$  (8)  
 $fold\ gen\ alg\ (Op\ op) = alg\ (fmap\ (fold\ gen\ alg)\ op)$

The monad instance of *Free f* is implemented with *fold*:

$return :: v \rightarrow Free\ f\ v$        $(\gg) :: Free\ f\ v \rightarrow (v \rightarrow Free\ f\ u) \rightarrow Free\ f\ u$  (9)  
 $return = Var$        $m \gg f = fold\ f\ Op\ m$

Intuitively,  $return\ x$  is a variable  $x$ , and  $m \gg f$  performs substitution of variables in  $m$  using  $f$ .

## 2.1 Algebraic Theories

Plotkin and Power [2002] propose to represent a computational effect by an *algebraic theory*, which is a set of primitive effectful operations and a set of equations on those operations characterising the behaviour of the operations. In this section, we provide an account of algebraic theories as the basis for our development, and introduce our notation.

**Signature Functors.** A signature is a finite set of operation symbols  $\{O_i\}$ , each paired with a *parameter* type  $P_i$  and an *arity* type  $A_i$  (or *result type* by some authors). A signature with  $n$  operations can be described by a *signature functor*  $\Sigma$  of the following form:

$$\text{data } \Sigma x = O_1 P_1 (A_1 \rightarrow x) \mid O_2 P_2 (A_2 \rightarrow x) \mid \dots \mid O_n P_n (A_n \rightarrow x)$$

(with the evident *Functor* instance similar to (4)). In this paper, we use notation  $O :: P \rightsquigarrow_{\Sigma} A$  to mean that  $O$  is an operation in  $\Sigma$  with parameter type  $P$  and arity type  $A$ , i.e. there is a constructor  $O :: P \rightarrow (A \rightarrow x) \rightarrow \Sigma x$  for the signature functor  $\Sigma$ . We sometimes omit the subscript  $\Sigma$  in  $\rightsquigarrow_{\Sigma}$  if it is clear from context. An intuitive interpretation of a  $P \rightsquigarrow A$  operation is an effectful computation taking a  $P$ -value and returning an  $A$ -value, or equivalently, an operation parameterised by a  $P$ -value and combining  $|A|$ -many possible ways of continuing the computation into one computation [Bauer 2018; Plotkin and Power 2004].

*Example 2.1* (Nondeterministic Choice). The signature  $NDet$  of nondeterministic choice has one operation  $Coin :: () \rightsquigarrow Bool$  with  $Bool$  as its arity type. For aesthetic reasons, we prefer the infix  $(\sqcap) :: x \rightarrow x \rightarrow NDet x$  instead of  $Coin$ , where

$$x \sqcap y = Coin () (\lambda b \rightarrow \text{if } b \text{ then } x \text{ else } y)$$

The operation  $Coin$  is intended to return a  $Bool$  value nondeterministically, or equivalently,  $p \sqcap q$  behaves like  $p$  or  $q$  nondeterministically.

*Example 2.2* (Mutable State). The signature  $State_s$  of mutable state of type  $s$  has two operations:  $Get :: () \rightsquigarrow s$  and  $Put :: s \rightsquigarrow ()$ . The operation  $Get$  is intended to read and return the state, and  $Put$  is intended to overwrite the state with its parameter of type  $s$  (and return nothing).

*Example 2.3* (Empty Theory). An algebraic theory useful for our later development is the trivial theory  $Empty$  with no operations and equations. Thus its signature functor  $Empty$  has no constructors.

**Equations.** An equation for a signature  $\Sigma$  is a pair of terms built from operations in  $\Sigma$  and some free variables. For example, the following is an equation for signature  $State_s$ :

$$Put\ u\ (\lambda() \rightarrow Put\ u'\ (\lambda() \rightarrow k)) = Put\ u'\ (\lambda() \rightarrow k) \quad (10)$$

where  $u$ ,  $u'$  and  $k$  are free variables. Note that we have two kinds of free variables:  $k$  stands for a *computation*, whereas  $u$  and  $u'$  stands for *values* of type  $s$ . One way to formalise equations is to use the free monad (7): an equation is formalised as a pair of elements of  $\Gamma \rightarrow Free\ \Sigma\ v$  for some types  $\Gamma$  and  $v$ , where  $\Gamma$  is the type representing all free *value variables* and  $v$  is the type *indexing* all free *computation variables*:

$$\text{data } Equation\ \Sigma\ \Gamma\ v = (\doteq) (\Gamma \rightarrow Free\ \Sigma\ v) (\Gamma \rightarrow Free\ \Sigma\ v) \quad (11)$$

where binary operator  $\doteq$  is the constructor. Free value variables and computations variables are treated differently to leave the type of computations abstract in equations. For the example (10) above,  $\Gamma$  is  $(s, s)$  since there are two free value variables of type  $s$  in the equation, and  $v$  is the unit type  $()$  indicating that there is one free computation variable in the equation:

$$\begin{aligned} putPutEq &:: Equation\ State_s\ (s, s)\ () \\ putPutEq &= (lhs \doteq rhs) \text{ where} \\ lhs, rhs &:: (s, s) \rightarrow Free\ State_s\ () \\ lhs\ (u, u') &= Op\ (Put\ u\ (\lambda() \rightarrow Op\ (Put\ u'\ (\lambda() \rightarrow Var\ ()))) \\ rhs\ (u, u') &= Op\ (Put\ u'\ (\lambda() \rightarrow Var\ ())) \end{aligned}$$

In the main text of this paper, we will stick to the informal form of equations as in [Equation 10](#) for brevity, and the formal form will only be used in proofs. It is straightforward to convert between the two forms, i.e. elements of  $Equation \Sigma \Gamma \nu$ , by collecting free variables of computations into a type  $\nu$  and free variables of values into a type  $\Gamma$  and inserting  $Var$  and  $Op$  appropriately.

*Example 2.4.* Continuing [Example 2.2](#), the theory of mutable state traditionally comes with four equations [[Plotkin and Power 2002](#)]. Letting  $put\ s\ c = Put\ s\ (\lambda() \rightarrow c)$  and  $get\ k = Get\ ()\ k$ , the four equations of mutable state are

$$\begin{aligned} put\ s\ (get\ k) &= put\ s\ (k\ s) & put\ s\ (put\ s'\ k) &= put\ s'\ k \\ get\ (\lambda s \rightarrow get\ (\lambda s' \rightarrow k\ s\ s')) &= get\ (\lambda s \rightarrow k\ s\ s) & get\ (\lambda s \rightarrow put\ s\ k) &= k \end{aligned}$$

where  $k$ ,  $s$  and  $s'$  are all free variables. The type of  $k$  may be different for each equation.

*Example 2.5.* Continuing [Example 2.1](#), the theory  $NDet$  of nondeterminism has as equations idempotence, symmetry and associativity of the operation  $\sqcap$ , which are the axioms of semi-lattices:

$$x \sqcap x = x \qquad x \sqcap y = y \sqcap x \qquad x \sqcap (y \sqcap z) = (x \sqcap y) \sqcap z$$

where  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$  are all free variables of computations.

**Definition 2.1** (Equation Respecting). Given  $(lhs \doteq rhs) :: Equation \Sigma \Gamma \nu$  and  $alg :: \Sigma\ c \rightarrow c$ , a  $\Sigma$ -algebra with carrier  $c$ , we say that  $alg$  respects this equation if for any  $t :: \Gamma$  and  $k :: \nu \rightarrow c$ ,

$$fold\ k\ alg\ (lhs\ t) = fold\ k\ alg\ (rhs\ t)$$

In other words, substituting  $alg$  for operations in the equation and any values for the free variables in the equation gives equal results.

*Example 2.6.* Consider the  $State_s$ -algebra  $alg_{ST} :: State_s\ (s \rightarrow a) \rightarrow s \rightarrow a$

$$alg_{ST}\ (Put\ s'\ k) = \lambda s \rightarrow k\ ()\ s' \qquad alg_{ST}\ (Get\ s\ k) = \lambda s \rightarrow k\ s\ s$$

It can be checked to respect all the equations in [Example 2.4](#). For example, the first equation  $put\ s\ (get\ k) = put\ s\ (k\ s)$  is respected because for any  $k :: s \rightarrow s \rightarrow a$  and  $t :: s$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} fold\ k\ alg\ (lhs\ t) &= fold\ k\ alg_{ST}\ (Op\ (Put\ t\ (\lambda() \rightarrow Op\ (Get\ ()\ (\lambda s \rightarrow Var\ s)))))) \\ &= \lambda s \rightarrow k\ t\ t \\ &= fold\ k\ alg_{ST}\ (Op\ (Put\ t\ (\lambda() \rightarrow Var\ t))) = fold\ k\ alg\ (rhs\ t) \end{aligned}$$

*Example 2.7.* Given any semi-lattice  $(L, \cup)$ , the equations in [Example 2.5](#) are respected by the  $NDet$ -algebra  $alg\ (Coin\ ()\ k) = k\ True \cup k\ False$ .

**Definition 2.2** (Algebraic Theories). An algebraic theory  $T$  is a signature functor  $\Sigma$  equipped with a set of equations of type  $Equation \Sigma \Gamma \nu$  for some types  $\Gamma$  and  $\nu$  (different equations may have different  $\Gamma$  and  $\nu$ 's). We use the notation  $T :: Theory \Sigma$  to mean a theory  $T$  of signature  $\Sigma$ .

Algebraic theories are also known as *equational theories*, and are equivalent to *Lawvere theories* [[Hyland et al. 2006](#)] that present theories as categories. When the associated equations are clear, we sometimes abuse the name of a signature functor to mean a theory of this signature. For example, when we say the theory  $State_s$  in the rest of the paper, we mean the theory of signature  $States$  and the four equations in [Example 2.4](#).

## 2.2 Combinations of Theories

Hyland et al. [2006] show how algebraic theories can be combined by various ways to specify the operations and equations of the combined theory based on the sub-theories. In this section, we reformulate the *sum*, *tensor* and *distributive tensor* [Plotkin and Power 2004] in our simplified setting for convenience.

For all the ways of combining effect theories in this paper, the operations of the combined theory are the disjoint union of the operations of the sub-theories, i.e. the signature functor of the combined theory is the coproduct of the signature functors of the sub-theories (5). Equations of the combined theory have greater freedom of choice. A straightforward combination of two theories is just taking the union of the equations of the sub-theories and no more.

**Definition 2.3** (Sum of Theories [Hyland et al. 2006]). The *sum* of  $T_1 :: \text{Theory } \Sigma_1$  and  $T_2 :: \text{Theory } \Sigma_2$ , denoted  $T_1 + T_2$ , is the theory of signature  $\Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2$  with exactly the equations of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  (regarded as equations on signature  $\Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2$ ).

One can also include equations in the combined theory to specify interactions between operations from the sub-theories, such as commutativity between operations from sub-theories.

**Definition 2.4** (Tensor of Theories [Hyland et al. 2006]). The *commutative combination* or *tensor* of  $T_1 :: \text{Theory } \Sigma_1$  and  $T_2 :: \text{Theory } \Sigma_2$ , denoted  $T_1 \otimes T_2$ , is the theory of signature  $\Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2$  with all equations of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ , and for each  $O_1 :: P_1 \rightsquigarrow_{\Sigma_1} A_1$  and  $O_2 :: P_2 \rightsquigarrow_{\Sigma_2} A_2$ , a commutativity law:

$$\overline{O_1} p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow \overline{O_2} p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow k a_1 a_2)) = \overline{O_2} p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow \overline{O_1} p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow k a_1 a_2))$$

where  $\overline{O_1} p k = \text{Inl } (O_1 p k)$  and  $\overline{O_2} p k = \text{Inr } (O_2 p k)$  lift  $O_1$  and  $O_2$  as operations in signature  $\Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2$ , and  $p_1 :: P_1$ ,  $p_2 :: P_2$  and  $k$  are free variables.

*Example 2.8.* When a program involves two mutable states that are independent of each other, we can model the situation by the tensor  $\text{State}_{s_1} \otimes \text{State}_{s_2}$  of two mutable states, since the order of two consecutive operations on independent mutable states can be swapped without changing the semantics, as long as the parameter of the second operation does not depend on the result of the first operation.

Another combination that we are going to discuss in Section 7 is adding distributivity laws in the combination. Distributivity is commonly stated for binary operations, such as for  $+$  and  $\times$ ,

$$x_1 \times (y_1 + y_2) = (x_1 \times y_1 + x_1 \times y_2) \quad (y_1 + y_2) \times x_2 = (y_1 \times x_2 + y_2 \times x_2)$$

It can be generalised to operations of finite arity: let  $O_1$  be an  $n$ -ary operation and  $O_2$  be an  $m$ -ary operation for natural numbers  $n$  and  $m$ , the distributive laws of  $O_1$  over  $O_2$  are those equations that for each  $0 \leq k \leq n - 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} O_1 x_1 \cdots x_k (O_2 y_1 \dots y_m) x_{k+2} \cdots x_n &= \\ & O_2 (O_1 x_1 \cdots x_k y_1 x_{k+2} \cdots x_n) \\ & (O_1 x_1 \cdots x_k y_2 x_{k+2} \cdots x_n) \\ & \vdots \\ & (O_1 x_1 \cdots x_k y_m x_{k+2} \cdots x_n) \end{aligned}$$

By passing all operands by a function as in we do in signature functors, the distributive laws generalise to operations  $O_1 :: P_1 \rightsquigarrow A_1$  and  $O_2 :: P_2 \rightsquigarrow A_2$  with possibly infinite arity:

$$\begin{aligned} O_1 p_1 (\lambda i \rightarrow \text{if } i \equiv a \text{ then} \\ O_2 p_2 (\lambda j \rightarrow y j) \text{ else } x i) &= O_2 p_2 (\lambda j \rightarrow O_1 p_1 (\lambda i \rightarrow \\ \text{if } i \equiv a \text{ then } y j \text{ else } x i)) \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$



where  $x$  and  $y$  are free variables of computations and  $p_1 :: P_1$ ,  $p_2 :: P_2$  and  $a :: A_1$  are free variables of values.

**Definition 2.5** (Distributive Tensor [Plotkin and Power 2004]). The *distributive combination* or *distributive tensor* of  $T_1 :: \text{Theory } \Sigma_1$  and  $T_2 :: \text{Theory } \Sigma_2$ , denoted  $T_1 \triangleright T_2$ , is the theory of signature  $\Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2$  with all equations of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  and additionally for each  $O_1 :: P_1 \rightsquigarrow_{\Sigma_1} A_1$  and  $O_2 :: P_2 \rightsquigarrow_{\Sigma_2} A_2$ , the distributive law (12) of  $O_1$  over  $O_2$  (lifted to be operations in  $\Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2$  as in Definition 2.4).

*Example 2.9* (Combined Choice). Some nondeterministic systems involve probabilistic behaviour too. The theory *Prob* of probabilistic choice has a binary operation  $P\text{Choose} :: \text{Float} \rightsquigarrow \text{Bool}$  with a *Float* parameter in the range  $[0, 1]$ . Operation  $P\text{Choose } p \ k$  is preferably written in infix notation  $x \triangleleft p \triangleright y = P\text{Choose } p \ (\lambda b \rightarrow \text{if } b \text{ then } x \text{ else } y)$  following Hoare [Hoare 1985]. Letting  $\bar{p}$  denote  $1 - p$ , theory *Prob* has the following equations:

$$x \triangleleft 1 \triangleright y = x \qquad x \triangleleft p \triangleright x = x \qquad x \triangleleft p \triangleright y = y \triangleleft \bar{p} \triangleright x$$

$$x \triangleleft p \triangleright (y \triangleleft q \triangleright z) = (x \triangleleft r \triangleright y) \triangleleft s \triangleright z \quad (p = rs, \bar{s} = \bar{p}\bar{q})$$

For a system involving nondeterministic choice and probabilistic choice, one desirable interaction of the two effects is the distributive tensor of *Prob* over *NDet* [Mislove et al. 2004], i.e. operations and equations from both theories with additional equations:

$$x \triangleleft p \triangleright (y \sqcap z) = (x \triangleleft p \triangleright y) \sqcap (x \triangleleft p \triangleright z) \qquad (x \sqcap y) \triangleleft p \triangleright z = (x \triangleleft p \triangleright z) \sqcap (y \triangleleft p \triangleright z)$$

### 3 SYNTAX AND SEMANTICS OF COMPUTATIONS

Now that we have formalised theories of effects, we continue to set the stage by showing how one can formalise the syntax and semantics of computations involving an effect. Given an effect theory, the syntax of computations involving the effect is modelled by terms built from operations of the theory (Section 3.1), and semantics is provided by *handlers* that interpret operations in syntax trees by *fold* (Section 3.2). However, we show that the traditional formulation of handlers lacks *modularity* when the effect theory is composed from sub-effects. Particularly, equations respected by one handler may be invalidated by other handlers when composing handlers together. The problem motivates *modular handlers* [Schrijvers et al. 2019], which ensure handlers to work independently of each other by parametricity (Section 3.3) and play a crucial role in later sections.

#### 3.1 Terms of Computations

Given a signature  $\Sigma$ , computations that involve operations in  $\Sigma$  and produce values of type  $a$  are modelled by the free monad  $\text{Free } \Sigma \ a$  in (7). An element of  $\text{Free } \Sigma \ a$  is either  $\text{Var } x$ , which represents a pure computation returning  $x$ , or  $\text{Op } (O \ p \ k)$  for some  $O :: P \rightsquigarrow_{\Sigma} A$ ,  $p :: P$  and  $k :: A \rightarrow \text{Free } \Sigma \ a$ , which represents a computation making an operation call  $O$  with parameter  $p$  and continuing as  $k \ x$  when the result of the operation is  $x :: A$ .

Recall that  $\text{Free } \Sigma$  is a monad (9), and its  $\gg$  precisely means sequential composition of operations when understanding  $\text{Free } \Sigma$  as computations. For any operation  $O :: P \rightsquigarrow_{\Sigma} A$ , we have a function  $O_g :: P \rightarrow \text{Free } \Sigma \ A$ , called a *generic operation* [Plotkin and Power 2003], such that  $O_g \ p = \text{Op } (O \ p \ \text{Var})$ . Generic operations and the monadic instance of  $\text{Free } \Sigma$  usually allow one to build computation terms more easily than directly using the underlying constructors.

*Example 3.1.* Computation  $\text{incr} :: \text{Free } \text{State}_{\text{Int}} \ \text{Int}$  gets the state, increments it and returns the original value.

$$\text{incr} = \text{Op } (\text{Get } () \ (\lambda i \rightarrow \text{Op } (\text{Put } (i+1) \ (\lambda () \rightarrow \text{Var } i))))$$

Using generic operations,  $\text{incr}$  can be conveniently written as  $\text{do } i \leftarrow \text{Get}_g \ (); \text{Put}_g \ (i+1); \text{return } i$ .

The equations of an effect theory indicate that some terms of computations should be deemed as equivalent, which is captured by the following relation on computations.

**Definition 3.1** (Equivalent Computations). Given a theory  $T :: \text{Theory } \Sigma$  and a type  $a$ , we define a binary relation  $\sim_T$  on elements of  $\text{Free } \Sigma a$  inductively by the following rules:

$$\frac{c :: \text{Free } \Sigma a}{c \sim_T c} \text{REFL} \quad \frac{c \sim_T d}{d \sim_T c} \text{SYM} \quad \frac{c \sim_T d \quad d \sim_T e}{c \sim_T e} \text{TRANS}$$

$$\frac{O_i :: P \rightsquigarrow A \in \Sigma \quad k, k' :: A \rightarrow \text{Free } \Sigma a \quad \forall x :: A. k x \sim_T k' x}{Op (O_i p k) \sim_T Op (O_i p k')} \text{CONG}$$

$$\frac{((lhs \doteq rhs) :: \text{Equation } \Sigma \Gamma V) \in T \quad g :: \Gamma \quad k :: V \rightarrow \text{Free } \Sigma a}{fold k Op (lhs g) \sim_T fold k Op (rhs g)} \text{EQ}$$

Relation  $x \sim_T y$  captures the idea of two computations being equivalent under theory  $T$ . The first three rules make it an equivalence relation; rule CONG makes it compatible with the structure of free monad, i.e. a *term congruence*—whenever  $k$  and  $k'$  are equivalent subterms, enclosing them in the context  $Op (O_i p \_)$  is still equivalent; the rule EQ asserts that instantiating equations  $lhs = rhs$  from the theory  $T$  with any value  $g$  and subterms  $k$  gives rise to equivalent computations.

*Example 3.2.* Consider the theory  $\text{State}_s$  from [Example 2.4](#) and computation

$$\text{incr}' = \text{do } i \leftarrow \text{Get}_g (); \text{Put}_g (i + 1); \text{Put}_g (i + 1); \text{return } i$$

With the theory  $\text{State}_{int}$  from [Example 2.4](#), it is derivable that

$$\text{do } \{ \text{Put}_g (i + 1); \text{Put}_g (i + 1); \text{return } i \} \sim_{\text{State}_{int}} \text{do } \{ \text{Put}_g (i + 1); \text{return } i \}$$

using the EQ rule and the second equation in [Example 2.4](#). Then using the CONG rule, it is derivable that  $\text{incr}' \sim_{\text{State}_{int}} \text{incr}$  for the  $\text{incr}$  from [Example 3.1](#).

The relation  $\sim_T$  plays an important role in the separation of specification and implementation of algebraic effects. The ‘user’ of effects uses relation  $\sim_T$  to reason about and optimise programs without knowing how effect operations are implemented, and the ‘implementer’ of effects is responsible for the correctness of the implementation with respect to the relation  $\sim_T$ .

### 3.2 Traditional Handlers and Non-Modularity

Assuming an effect signature  $\Sigma$ , the simplest form of a handler is a pair of two functions  $gen :: a \rightarrow \text{Free } \Sigma b$  and  $alg :: \Sigma (\text{Free } \Sigma b) \rightarrow \text{Free } \Sigma b$  for some types  $a$  and  $b$ . We call  $(gen, alg)$  a *handler from  $a$  to  $b$* . It induces a function  $\text{handle}_T (gen, alg) :: \text{Free } \Sigma a \rightarrow \text{Free } \Sigma b$  that applies the handler to a computation  $\text{Free } \Sigma a$  by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{handle}_T (gen, alg) (\text{Var } x) &= gen x \\ \text{handle}_T (gen, alg) (Op (O p k)) &= alg (O p (\text{handle}_T (gen, alg) \cdot k)) \end{aligned}$$

for any operation  $O$  in  $\Sigma$ . The  $gen$  function is the ‘return clause’ of the handler transforming a pure  $a$ -value  $\text{Var } x$  to a computation of a  $b$ -value. The  $alg$  function is the ‘operation clauses’ transforming an operation call  $O p k$  with its continuations  $k$  for any possible result of this operation to a computation of a  $b$ -value.

*Example 3.3.* Assuming  $\Sigma = \text{State}_s + \text{NDet}$  and a datatype  $\text{Set } a$  whose elements are subsets of the set denoted by  $a$ , then  $(gen_{ND}, alg_{ND})$  below is a handler from  $a$  to  $\text{Set } a$ :

$$gen_{ND} x = \text{return } \{ x \}$$

491  $alg_{ND} (Inl\ op) = Op (Inl\ op)$   
 492  $alg_{ND} (Inr (Coin\ ()\ k)) = \mathbf{do} \{x \leftarrow k\ True; y \leftarrow k\ False; \mathbf{return} (x \cup y)\}$

493 Note how  $alg$  forwards any operation not in  $Coin$  using  $Op$ .  
 494

495 **Non-Modularity.** This formulation of handlers is suitable for giving denotational semantics  
 496 to calculi of effect handlers that assume a global signature of effects and do not come with a  
 497 type-and-effect system, such as the original one in [Plotkin and Pretnar 2009]. However, this  
 498 simple formulation suffers from the problem that a handler of a signature can potentially alter  
 499 operations not intended to be handled by it arbitrarily, breaking the modular principle followed by  
 500 the approach of algebraic effects and causing difficulties in reasoning. We demonstrate the problem  
 501 by the following example.

502 *Example 3.4.* Assuming  $\Sigma = State_s + NDet$ , consider the following handler  $(gen_{ND'}, alg_{ND'})$   
 503

504  $gen_{ND'}\ x = \mathbf{return} \{x\}$   
 505  $alg_{ND'} (Inl\ op) = Op (Inl\ op)$   
 506  $alg_{ND'} (Inr (Coin\ ()\ k)) = \mathbf{do} \{x \leftarrow \mathbf{fold}\ Var\ alg' (k\ True); y \leftarrow k\ False; \mathbf{return} (x \cup y)\}$   
 507  $\mathbf{where}\ alg'\ x = \mathbf{case}\ x\ \mathbf{of} \{ (Inl (Put\ s\ k)) \rightarrow k\ (); \_ \rightarrow Op\ x \}$   
 508

509 which handles  $NDet$  but additionally erases every call to  $Put$  in the first branch of nondeterministic  
 510 choice using a  $fold$ . Compared to  $(gen_{ND}, alg_{ND})$  from Example 3.3,  $(gen_{ND'}, alg_{ND'})$  is less  
 511 modular because it not only handles  $NDet$  but also alters operations not in  $NDet$ . Consequently,  
 512  $(gen_{ND'}, alg_{ND'})$  interacts less nicely with other handlers. To see this, consider the following handler  
 513  $(gen_{ST}, alg_{ST})$  from  $a$  to  $s \rightarrow Free (State_s + NDet)$   $a$ :

514  $gen_{ST}\ x = \mathbf{return} (\lambda s \rightarrow \mathbf{return}\ x)$   
 515  $alg_{ST} (Inl (Get\ ()\ k)) = \mathbf{return} (\lambda s \rightarrow \mathbf{do}\ f \leftarrow k\ s; f\ s)$   
 516  $alg_{ST} (Inl (Put\ s'\ k)) = \mathbf{return} (\lambda s \rightarrow \mathbf{do}\ f \leftarrow k\ (); f\ s')$   
 517  $alg_{ST}\ op = Op\ op$   
 518

519 which respects all the equations of  $State_s$  in Example 2.4. However, the composite handler

520  $handle_T (gen_{ST}, alg_{ST}) \cdot handle_T (gen_{ND'}, alg_{ND'})$   
 521

522 no longer respects the first equation  $put\ s (get\ k) = put\ s (k\ s)$  because the left-hand side is  
 523 transformed to  $Var (\lambda s_0 \rightarrow k\ s_0)$ , while the right-hand side is transformed to  $Var (\lambda s_0 \rightarrow k\ s)$ ,  
 524 which are not equal in general.

525 In general, even when  $(gen_1, alg_1)$  and  $(gen_2, alg_2)$  respect effect theories  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  respectively,  
 526 it is *not* guaranteed that their composite handler respects all the equations in  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ , which  
 527 hinders modular reasoning about effect handlers.  
 528

### 529 3.3 Modular Carriers and Handlers

530 The problem in the last subsection can be rectified by restricting handlers to *modular handlers*  
 531 introduced by Schrijvers et al. [2019]. The key idea is to require handlers to be explicit about what  
 532 operations got handled and be *polymorphic* (or *natural* in categorical terminology) in unhandled  
 533 operations so that a handler cannot alter unhandled operations arbitrarily, precluding handlers  
 534 such as  $(gen_{ND'}, alg_{ND'})$ .

535 One seemingly reasonable way to achieve this is to require the  $alg$  function of a handler of  
 536 signature  $sig$  to type  $b$  to have type

537  $alg :: \forall sig'. sig (Free\ sig'\ b) \rightarrow Free\ sig'\ b$   
 538

539

540 so that  $alg$  is polymorphic in the signature  $sig'$  of unhandled operations. Although this restriction  
 541 precludes  $(gen_{ND}', alg_{ND}')$ , this type of  $alg$  still exposes the fact that the result is a free monad  
 542  $Free\ sig'\ b$ , and therefore  $alg$  can still alter the tree structure of  $Free\ sig'$ , such as duplicating and  
 543 removing nodes in a  $Free\ sig'\ b$  while being polymorphic in  $sig'$ . One way to fix this is to require  
 544 the  $alg$  function to have type

$$545 \quad alg :: \forall m. Monad\ m \Rightarrow sig\ (m\ b) \rightarrow m\ b \quad (13)$$

546 so that  $alg$  is polymorphic in a monad  $m$  representing the remaining computational effects in the  
 547 computation. This idea is further generalised by Schrijvers et al. [2019] to *modular carriers*, which  
 548 is a type  $c\ m$  parameterised by a monad  $m$  that represents the remaining computational effects in  
 549 the computation, and moreover,  $c\ m$  should provide a way to *forward* operations in  $m$ .

550 **Definition 3.2** (Modular Carriers [Schrijvers et al. 2019]). Type constructor  $c :: (* \rightarrow *) \rightarrow *$  is a  
 551 *modular carrier* if it instantiates the following type class

$$552 \quad \text{class } MCarrier\ c \text{ where } fwd :: Monad\ m \Rightarrow m\ (c\ m) \rightarrow c\ m$$

553 subject to the laws of Eilenberg-Moore algebras [Mac Lane 1998], i.e. for any monad  $m$ ,

$$554 \quad fwd \cdot return_m = id \quad fwd \cdot fmap\ fwd = fwd \cdot join_m \quad (14)$$

555 The first equation is on type  $c\ m \rightarrow c\ m$ , and it states that forwarding a trivial computation  
 556 created by  $return$  does nothing. The second one is on type  $m\ (m\ (c\ m)) \rightarrow c\ m$ , and it states  
 557 that forwarding two layers of computational effects one-by-one is equivalent to forwarding the  
 558 sequential composition of them.

559 *Example 3.5.* A straightforward but useful modular carrier is

$$560 \quad \text{newtype } FreeEM\ a\ m = FreeEM\ \{ unFreeEM :: m\ a \}$$

561 in the record syntax of Haskell, which defines a constructor and destructor of the following types:

$$562 \quad FreeEM :: m\ a \rightarrow FreeEM\ a\ m \quad unFreeEM :: FreeEM\ a\ m \rightarrow m\ a$$

563 It is a modular carrier with the following  $fwd$ :

$$564 \quad \text{instance } MCarrier\ (FreeEM\ a) \text{ where } fwd = FreeEM \cdot join \cdot fmap\ unFreeEM$$

565 The laws of monads in (6) imply that the laws in (14) are satisfied. The name  $FreeEM$  comes from  
 566 the fact that  $FreeEM\ a\ m \cong m\ a$  with  $join$  is the *free Eilenberg-Moore algebra* for  $a$ . The scheme in  
 567 (13) is then equivalent to

$$568 \quad alg :: \forall m. Monad\ m \Rightarrow sig\ (FreeEM\ b\ m) \rightarrow FreeEM\ b\ m$$

569 *Example 3.6.* Another modular carrier is a family of computations indexed by some type  $s$ :

$$570 \quad \text{newtype } StateC\ s\ a\ m = StateC\ \{ unStateC :: s \rightarrow m\ a \}$$

$$571 \quad \text{instance } MCarrier\ (StateC\ s\ a) \text{ where } fwd\ mc = StateC\ (\lambda s \rightarrow (\text{do } \{ f \leftarrow mc; unStateC\ f\ s \}))$$

572 This carrier is useful for interpreting handlers with parameters [Brady 2013; Kammar et al. 2013;  
 573 Kiselyov et al. 2013]. We will use this carrier for the handler of mutable state later.

574 The  $fwd$  function of a modular carrier is polymorphic in any monad  $m$ . In particular, when  $m$  is  
 575  $Free\ sig'$ , the following function is able to forward one operation call:

$$576 \quad \begin{aligned} 577 \quad forward &:: (MCarrier\ c, Functor\ sig') \Rightarrow sig'\ (c\ (Free\ sig')) \rightarrow c\ (Free\ sig') \\ 578 \quad forward\ op &= fwd\ (Op\ (fmap\ return\ op)) \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

579

589 **Definition 3.3** (Modular Handlers [Schrijvers et al. 2019]). Given a signature  $sig$ , a *modular handler*  
 590  $h$  for  $sig$  from type  $a$  to  $b$  carried by modular carrier  $c$  consists of three functions ( $gen, alg, run$ )  
 591 packed into the following record:

```
592   data MHandler sig c a b = MHandler { gen :: ∀ m. Monad m ⇒ a → c m
593                                     , alg :: ∀ m. Monad m ⇒ sig (c m) → c m
594                                     , run :: ∀ m. Monad m ⇒ c m → m b }
```

596 which induces a function ( $handle\ h$ ) ::  $\forall sig'. Free (sig + sig') a \rightarrow Free\ sig' b$  such that

$$597 \quad handle\ h = run \cdot fold\ gen\ alg'$$

598 where  $alg' (Inl\ op') = alg\ op'$  and  $alg' (Inr\ op') = forward\ op'$ .

600 The  $gen$  and  $alg$  functions of a modular handler play similar roles as in traditional handlers. The  
 601  $run$  function additionally allows a modular handler to do some post-processing after the fold, such  
 602 as providing a initial state to a parameterised handler.

603 *Example 3.7.* The handler of  $NDet$  in [Example 3.3](#) can be turned into a modular handler with modular  
 604 carrier  $FreeEM$  from [Example 3.5](#):

```
605   ndetH :: MHandler NDet (FreeEM (Set a)) a (Set a)
606   ndetH = MHandler { gen = genND, alg = algND, run = unFreeEM } where
607   genND a = FreeEM (return { a })
608   algND (Coin () k) = FreeEM (do x ← unFreeEM (k True); y ← unFreeEM (k False);
609                               return (x ∪ y))
```

612 Compared to its non-modular counterpart in [Example 3.3](#),  $alg_{ND}$  does not deal with forwarding  
 613 unhandled operations, since they are forwarded by  $handle$ .

614 *Example 3.8.* The handler of  $State_s$  in [Example 3.4](#) can be translated into a modular handler with  
 615 modular carrier  $m$  ( $s \rightarrow m\ a$ ), but the outer layer of  $m$  is unnecessary, and we can define the  
 616 following modular handler of  $State_s$  with carrier  $StateC\ s\ a\ m \cong s \rightarrow m\ a$ :

```
617   stH :: s → MHandler States (StateC s a) a a
618   stH s = MHandler { gen = genST, alg = algST, run = (λc → unStateC c s) } where
619   genST a = StateC (λs → return a)
620   algST (Put s' k) = StateC (λs → unStateC (k ()) s')
621   algST (Get () k) = StateC (λs → unStateC (k s) s)
```

623 The handler takes an additional parameter of  $s$  that is used as the initial state by the  $run$  function.

## 625 4 CORRECTNESS OF TRANSFORMATIONS AND HANDLERS

626 A notable missing part in the formulation of modular handlers in the previous section (and [Schri-  
 627 jvers et al. 2019]) is how modular handlers interact with the equations of effect theories. In this  
 628 section, we recover the missing link between modular handlers and equations by defining notions  
 629 of *correctness* of syntax-tree transformations and handlers with respect to effect theories.

631 **Definition 4.1** (Correct Open Transformations). Given a theory  $T$  of signature  $\Sigma$  and a function  
 632  $f$  of type  $\forall sig'. Free (\Sigma + sig') a \rightarrow Free\ sig' b$  for some types  $a$  and  $b$ , we say that  $f$  is a *correct*  
 633 *open transformation* for  $T$  if for any signature  $sig', T' :: Theory\ sig'$  and any two computations  
 634  $t_1, t_2 :: Free (\Sigma + sig') a$ ,

$$635 \quad t_1 \sim_{T+T'} t_2 \implies f\ t_1 \sim_{T'} f\ t_2$$

636 where  $T + T'$  is the sum of  $T$  and  $T'$  ([Definition 2.3](#)).

Under a correct open transformation for  $T$ , the programmer can freely use the equations from  $T$  to rewrite the operations from  $T$  in syntax trees in the presence of operations from other theories. A weaker notion of correctness is desired when a function on syntax trees is expected only to be used in the absence of any other effects.

**Definition 4.2** (Correct Closed Transformations). Assuming  $T$  and  $f$  as in [Definition 4.1](#), we call  $f$  a *correct closed transformation* for  $T$  if for any two computations  $t_1, t_2 :: \text{Free } (\Sigma + \text{Empty}) A$ ,

$$t_1 \sim_{T+\text{Empty}} t_2 \implies \text{extract } (f t_1) =_B \text{extract } (f t_2)$$

where  $\text{extract} :: \text{Free Empty } a \rightarrow a$  is defined by  $\text{extract } (\text{Var } a) = a$ .

**Remark 4.1.** The definition of open correctness implies closed correctness by instantiating  $T'$  with the empty theory  $\text{Empty}$ .

The correctness of function *handle*  $h$  for some modular handler  $h$  is implied by the correctness of handler  $h$  defined as follows.

**Definition 4.3** (Correct Open and Closed Handlers). Letting  $T$  be a theory of signature  $\Sigma$  and  $h :: \text{MHandler } \Sigma c a b$  be a modular handler, (a) we call  $h$  a *correct open handler* of  $T$  if  $\text{alg } h :: \text{Monad } m \Rightarrow \Sigma (c m) \rightarrow c m$  respects (in the sense of [Definition 2.1](#)) all equations of  $T$  for any monad  $m$ , and (b) we call  $h$  a *correct closed handler* of  $T$  if  $\text{alg } h$  respects equations of  $T$  when  $m$  is  $\text{Free Empty}$ .

**Theorem 4.1** (Soundness of Correct Handlers). *Letting  $T$  be a theory of signature  $\Sigma$  and  $h$  be a modular handler of  $\Sigma$ , if  $h$  is a correct open (or closed) handler of  $T$ , then  $\text{handle } h$  is a correct open (or closed) transformation of  $T$ .*

**PROOF SKETCH.** We generalise *handle* to work with a polymorphic *term monad* [Wu and Schrijvers 2015] of the remaining effects, which allows us to use parametricity [Voigtländer 2009] to relate the free monad  $\text{Free sig}'$  and the monad mapping  $X$  to the free model of  $T'$  generated by  $X$ , i.e.  $\text{Free sig}' X$  modulo relation  $\sim_{T'}$ . A detailed proof can be found in [Appendix C](#).  $\square$

*Example 4.1.* It can be checked that handler  $\text{stH}$  from [Example 3.8](#) is a correct open handler of the theory  $\text{State}_s$  ([Example 2.4](#)). Consequently,  $\text{handle stH}$  is a correct open transformation for  $\text{State}_s$ .

*Example 4.2.* It can be checked that  $\text{ndetH}$  from [Example 3.7](#) is a correct open handler of the associativity of nondeterministic choice but not the symmetric law or idempotence law from [Example 2.5](#). This is rather expected because  $\text{alg}_{\text{ND}}$  in [Example 3.7](#) executes both branches of nondeterministic choice *sequentially*. In the open setting, each branch may invoke arbitrary computational effects, so the symmetric law and idempotence cannot hold because they imply that the two branches can be swapped or absorbed into one if they invoke the same operations. However, it is a correct *closed* handler for all of the laws of  $\text{NDet}$  since in the closed setting both branches must be pure.

## 5 FUSING MODULAR HANDLERS

Throughout the section we assume two modular handlers  $h_1 :: \text{MHandler } \Sigma_1 c x y$  and  $h_2 :: \text{MHandler } \Sigma_2 d y z$  for some modular carriers  $c$  and  $d$  and types  $x, y, z$ . Their composition

$$\text{handle } h_2 \cdot \text{handle } h_1 :: \forall \text{sig}' . \text{Free } (\Sigma_1 + (\Sigma_2 + \text{sig}')) x \rightarrow \text{Free sig}' z$$

can interpret operations from  $\Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2$  in syntax trees, but which theories does this transformation respect? This is the question that we answer in the rest of the paper.

The function  $\text{handle } h_2 \cdot \text{handle } h_1$  can be more easily understood if we can find some handler  $h_3 :: \text{MHandler } (\Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2) x z$  satisfying  $\text{handle } h_2 \cdot \text{handle } h_1 = \text{handle } h_3 \cdot \text{assoc}$  where  $\text{assoc}$  and its

inverse *assoc*<sup>o</sup> is the evident isomorphism between  $Free (\Sigma_1 + (\Sigma_2 + \Sigma_3))$  and  $Free ((\Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2) + \Sigma_3)$  for any  $\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2$  and  $\Sigma_3$ . In this section, we show how this can be accomplished by *fold/build fusion* [Gill et al. 1993; Hinze et al. 2011] and continuation-passing style (CPS) transformation.

## 5.1 Carrier Fusion by CPS Transformation

The idea of fold/build fusion is that when we see an operation  $O_2$  in the computation when running  $h_1$ , the modularity of  $h_1$  guarantees that this operation will be handled later by  $h_2$ . Thus instead of leaving  $O_2$  in the computation, we would like to handle it directly using  $alg\ h_2$  in the fold of  $h_1$ , thus *fusing* the handling of  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  into *one* traversal over the computation tree. However, this idea does not directly work because the modular carrier for  $h_2$  is only computed from the final result of  $h_1$ , and is not available in the stage of running  $h_1$ . Fortunately, this can be solved with CPS transformation as shown by Wu and Schrijvers [2015].

Given any type  $r$ , the *continuation monad with result type  $r$*  is

$$\text{newtype } Cont_r\ a = Cont\ \{runCont :: (a \rightarrow r) \rightarrow r\} \quad (16)$$

Intuitively, a computation of some  $a$  value in the continuation monad  $Cont_r\ a \cong (a \rightarrow r) \rightarrow r$  does not directly return the value but feeds it to a given function  $a \rightarrow r$  and *continues* the computation thereafter. The monad instance of  $Cont_r$  is witnessed by:

$$\begin{aligned} return :: a \rightarrow Cont_r\ a & \quad (\gg) :: Cont_r\ a \rightarrow (a \rightarrow Cont_r\ b) \rightarrow Cont_r\ b \\ return\ x = Cont\ (\lambda k \rightarrow k\ x) & \quad m \gg f = Cont\ (\lambda k \rightarrow runCont\ m\ (\lambda x \rightarrow runCont\ (f\ x)\ k)) \end{aligned}$$

The pure computation  $return\ x$  simply supplies  $x$  to the continuation. Monadic bind  $m \gg f$  runs  $m$  with a continuation that feeds the result  $x$  of  $m$  to  $f$  and runs  $f$  with the given continuation  $k$ , so bind is sequential composition. The continuation monad makes the final result type  $r$  explicit, and one can operate on the final result when it is not actually computed yet, which is demonstrated in the following minimal example.

*Example 5.1.* The following function  $incrCont :: Cont_{Int}\ a \rightarrow Cont_{Int}\ a$  takes a computation in the continuation monad  $Cont_{Int}$  and increments the integer that will be eventually computed.

$$incrCont\ m = Cont\ (\lambda k \rightarrow (runCont\ m\ k) + 1)$$

By definition, it satisfies that for any  $k$ ,  $runCont\ (incrCont\ m)\ k = (runCont\ m\ k) + 1$ .

Back to the problem of fusing handlers, when running the first handler  $h_1$ , we can take the final result type  $r$  to be the carrier  $d\ m$  of the second handler  $h_2$ , since  $d\ m$  is what will be eventually computed from the result of handling  $h_1$ . Furthermore, when we see an operation handled by  $h_2$ , now we can let  $h_2$  act on the result type  $d\ m$  of the continuation monad in the same way as in [Example 5.1](#). This is made precise by the following lemma.

**Lemma 5.1.** *Given any  $\Sigma_2$ -algebra, i.e. a function  $alg :: \Sigma_2\ r \rightarrow r$ , there is a  $\Sigma_2$ -algebra with carrier  $(Cont_r\ a)$  for any type  $a$  by*

$$\begin{aligned} liftAlgCont :: Functor\ \Sigma_2 \Rightarrow (\Sigma_2\ r \rightarrow r) \rightarrow \Sigma_2\ (Cont_r\ a) \rightarrow Cont_r\ a \\ liftAlgCont\ alg\ s = Cont\ (\lambda k \rightarrow alg\ (fmap\ (\lambda m \rightarrow runCont\ m\ k)\ s)) \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

*In particular, if  $r = d\ m$ , since  $alg\ h_2 :: \Sigma_2\ (d\ m) \rightarrow d\ m$ , then*

$$liftAlgCont\ (alg\ h_2) :: \Sigma_2\ (Cont_{d\ m}\ a) \rightarrow Cont_{d\ m}\ a$$

*provides a way to handle operations from  $\Sigma_2$  using  $Cont_{d\ m}\ a$ .*

**Theorem 5.2** (Modular Carrier Fusion). *For any modular carriers  $c$  and  $d$ , the data type  $c\ (Cont_{d\ m}\ a)$  for any  $m$  is also a modular carrier.*

PROOF. First we note that there is a natural transformation from  $m$  to  $Cont_d m$ :

$$\begin{aligned} cps_{SEM} &:: (MCarrier\ d, Monad\ m) \Rightarrow m\ a \rightarrow Cont_d\ m\ a \\ cps_{SEM}\ m &= Cont\ (\lambda k \rightarrow fwd_d\ (fmap\ k\ m)) \end{aligned}$$

In fact  $cps_{SEM}$  is a monad morphism because it preserves *return* and *join* following the laws of  $fwd$  (14). Then we can define the following *MCarrier* instance:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{newtype } Fused\ c\ d\ m &= Fused\ \{unFused :: c\ (Cont_d\ m)\} \\ \text{instance } (MCarrier\ c, MCarrier\ d) &\Rightarrow MCarrier\ (Fused\ c\ d)\ \text{where} \\ fwd &= Fused\ \cdot fwd_c\ \cdot fmap\ unFused\ \cdot cps_{SEM} \end{aligned}$$

The required laws of  $fwd$  follow from the corresponding laws of  $c$  and  $d$  (Appendix E.1).  $\square$

## 5.2 Fused Modular Handlers

We intend to use  $Fused\ c\ d$  as the modular carrier of the fused handler of  $h_1$  and  $h_2$ , so it should carry both a  $\Sigma_1$ - and a  $\Sigma_2$ -algebra. Since  $Fused\ c\ d \cong c\ (Cont_d\ m)$  and  $Cont_d\ m$  is a monad,  $alg\ h_1$  can be used as the  $\Sigma_1$ -algebra for  $Fused\ c\ d$ . Also, the  $\Sigma_2$ -algebra  $alg\ h_2 :: \Sigma_2\ (d\ m) \rightarrow d\ m$  can be lifted to  $Fused\ c\ d$  in the following way:

$$\begin{aligned} liftAlgF &:: (\Sigma_2\ (d\ m) \rightarrow d\ m) \rightarrow \Sigma_2\ (Fused\ c\ d\ m) \rightarrow Fused\ c\ d\ m \\ liftAlgF\ alg &= Fused\ \cdot fwd_c\ \cdot liftAlgCont\ alg\ \cdot fmap\ (return\ \cdot unFused) \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 5.3** (Handler Fusion). *For any modular handlers  $h_1$  and  $h_2$ , it is the case that  $handle\ h_2 \cdot handle\ h_1 = handle\ (h_2 \diamond h_1) \cdot assoc$  where  $assoc$  is the isomorphism between  $Free\ (\Sigma_1 + (\Sigma_2 + sig'))$  and  $Free\ ((\Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2) + sig')$  and  $h_2 \diamond h_1$  is defined as follows:*

$$\begin{aligned} (\diamond) &:: (MCarrier\ c, MCarrier\ d, Functor\ \Sigma_1, Functor\ \Sigma_2) \\ &\Rightarrow MHandler\ \Sigma_2\ d\ y\ z \rightarrow MHandler\ \Sigma_1\ c\ x\ y \rightarrow MHandler\ (\Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2)\ (Fused\ c\ d)\ x\ z \\ h_2 \diamond h_1 &= MHandler\ \{gen = Fused\ \cdot gen\ h_1, alg = alg_F, run = run_F\}\ \text{where} \\ alg_F\ (Inl\ op) &= Fused\ (alg\ h_1\ (fmap\ unFused\ op)) \\ alg_F\ (Inr\ op) &= liftAlgF\ (alg\ h_2)\ op \\ run_F\ x &= run\ h_2\ (runCont\ (run\ h_1\ (unFused\ x))\ (gen\ h_2)) \end{aligned}$$

PROOF SKETCH. We use the technique by Wu and Schrijvers [2015] to fuse  $handle\ h_2 \cdot handle\ h_1$  into one function and show that the result is equivalent to  $handle\ (h_2 \diamond h_1)$ . A detailed proof can be found in Appendix B.  $\square$

It is revealing to compare  $liftAlgF$  with the *forward* function (15) of modular handlers. Ignoring the isomorphisms  $Fused$  and  $unFused$ , we can see that the *Op* in (15) that forwards an operation call is replaced by  $liftAlgCont\ alg$ , which is exactly the idea of fold/build fusion.

**Corollary 5.4.** *Let  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  be modular handlers of signatures  $\Sigma_1$  and  $\Sigma_2$  respectively and  $T$  be any theory of signature  $\Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2$ . The function  $handle\ h_2 \cdot handle\ h_1 \cdot assoc^\circ$  is a correct open (or closed) transformation for  $T$  if  $h_2 \diamond h_1$  is a correct open (or closed) handler of  $T$ .*

PROOF. By Theorem 5.3,  $handle\ h_2 \cdot handle\ h_1 \cdot assoc^\circ = handle\ (h_2 \diamond h_1)$ . Then by Theorem 4.1,  $handle\ (h_2 \diamond h_1)$  is correct for  $T$  if  $h_2 \diamond h_1$  is correct for  $T$ .  $\square$

Corollary 5.4 is our main tool to reason about composed transformation  $handle\ h_2 \cdot handle\ h_1$  because the correctness of  $h_2 \diamond h_1$  is spelled by  $alg\ (h_2 \diamond h_1)$  (Definition 4.3), which is much simpler for calculation than  $handle\ h_2 \cdot handle\ h_1$ , a composite of two *fold*'s. As the first application, we show that  $handle\ h_2 \cdot handle\ h_1$  respects equations that are respected by  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  separately.



**Theorem 5.5** (Preservation of Equations). *Suppose  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  are modular handlers of signatures  $\Sigma_1$  and  $\Sigma_2$  respectively. If  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  are correct open (resp. closed) handlers of  $T_1 :: \text{Theory } \Sigma_1$  and  $T_2 :: \text{Theory } \Sigma_2$  correspondingly, then  $h_2 \diamond h_1$  is a correct open (resp. closed) handler of  $T_1 + T_2$ .*

PROOF SKETCH. By [Definition 2.3](#), an equation in  $T_1 + T_2$  is either an equation from  $T_1$  or an equation from  $T_2$ . In either case, it can be showed that  $\text{alg } (h_2 \diamond h_1)$  respects the equation. [Appendix D](#) contains a detailed proof.  $\square$

**Remark 5.1.** This theorem justifies the modularity of modular handlers in [[Schrijvers et al. 2019](#)] to a greater extent: when two modular handlers are composed together, operations from both theories are handled and equations from both theories are preserved, which is a property not true for non-modular handlers ([Example 3.4](#)).

**Remark 5.2.** If  $h_2 \diamond h_1$  is correct (open or closed) for some theory  $T$ , then equations in  $T$  are automatically term congruences under  $\text{handle } (h_2 \diamond h_1)$  (and thus  $\text{handle } h_2 \cdot \text{handle } h_1$ ), since relation  $\sim_T$  ([Definition 3.1](#)) contains the congruence rule CONG and [Theorem 4.1](#) shows that  $\text{handle } (h_2 \diamond h_1)$  respects relation  $\sim_T$ .

### 5.3 Clauses of Fused Handlers

Before we use  $\diamond$  to reason about more interactions of handlers, we calculate some bookkeeping lemmas that characterize the handling action of  $h_2 \diamond h_1$  on operations from the first and the second theories respectively.

**Definition 5.1** (Clauses). Let  $h$  be any modular handler with modular carrier  $C$ . For any operation  $O :: P \rightsquigarrow A$  in  $\Sigma$ , we call the following function the *clause* for  $O$  of  $h$ :

$$\begin{aligned} c &:: \text{Monad } m \Rightarrow P \rightarrow (A \rightarrow C \ m) \rightarrow C \ m \\ c \ p \ k &= \text{alg } h \ (O \ p \ k) \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 5.6.** *Let  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  be two modular handlers with modular carriers  $C$  and  $D$  respectively, and  $c_1$  be the clause of  $h_1$  for  $O_1 :: P_1 \rightsquigarrow A_1$  and  $c_2$  be the clause of  $h_2$  for  $O_2 :: P_2 \rightsquigarrow A_2$ . Then the clause for  $O_1$  of  $h_2 \diamond h_1$  is*

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{c}_1 &:: \text{Monad } m \Rightarrow P_1 \rightarrow (A_1 \rightarrow \text{Fused } C \ D \ m) \rightarrow \text{Fused } C \ D \ m \\ \overline{c}_1 \ p_1 \ k &= \text{Fused } (c_1 \ p_1 \ (\text{unFused } \cdot k)) \end{aligned}$$

and the clause for  $O_2$  of  $h_2 \diamond h_1$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{c}_2 &:: \text{Monad } m \Rightarrow P_2 \rightarrow (A_2 \rightarrow \text{Fused } C \ D \ m) \rightarrow \text{Fused } C \ D \ m \\ \overline{c}_2 \ p_2 \ k &= \text{Fused } (\text{fwd } (\text{Cont } (\lambda t \rightarrow c_2 \ p_2 \ (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow t \ (\text{unFused } (k \ a_2)))))) \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

where binder  $t$  has type  $C \ (\text{Cont}_D \ m) \rightarrow D \ m$  and  $\text{fwd}$  is the following instance:

$$\text{fwd} :: \text{Cont}_D \ m \ (C \ (\text{Cont}_D \ m)) \rightarrow C \ (\text{Cont}_D \ m)$$

This lemma can be calculated from the definition of  $\text{alg } (h_2 \diamond h_1)$  ([Appendix E.2](#)). It is useful to simplify  $\overline{c}_2$  from [Lemma 5.6](#) further for specific modular carriers:

**Lemma 5.7.** *Assume the data in [Lemma 5.6](#). When the modular carrier of  $h_1$  is  $\text{FreeEM } Y$  for some type  $Y$ , (18) is equal to*

$$\overline{c}_2 \ p_2 \ k = \text{Fused } (\text{FreeEM } (\text{Cont } (\lambda q \rightarrow c_2 \ p_2 \ (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow k' \ a_2 \ q)))) \quad (19)$$

where  $k' = \text{runCont} \cdot \text{unFreeEM} \cdot \text{unFused} \cdot k$ . And when the modular carrier of  $h_1$  is  $\text{StateC } S \ Y$  for some types  $S$  and  $Y$ , (18) is equal to

$$\overline{c}_2 \ p_2 \ k = \text{Fused } (\text{StateC } (\lambda s \rightarrow \text{Cont } (\lambda q \rightarrow c_2 \ p_2 \ (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow k' \ a_2 \ s \ q))))$$

where  $k' a_2 s = \text{runCont} (\text{unStateC} (\text{unFused} (k a_2)) s)$ .

The proof for this lemma is straightforward calculation based on the definitions of  $\text{fwd}$  for  $\text{FreeEM}$  and  $\text{StateC}$  (see Appendix E.2 for details).

Let  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  be correct (open or closed) handlers of theory  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  respectively. With Corollary 5.4 and Lemma 5.7, we can synthesise a sufficient condition for  $\text{handle } h_1 \cdot \text{handle } h_2$  to be correct for any combination of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ : given any equation  $L = R$  involving operations from  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ , we substitute  $\bar{c}_1$  for each operation  $O_1$  in  $L = R$  that comes from  $T_1$  and substitute  $\bar{c}_2$  for each operation  $O_2$  that comes from  $T_2$ . Then we get an equation holds if and only if  $h_2 \diamond h_1$  is correct for this equation by Definition 4.3, and this condition is solely characterised by the clauses of  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  for relevant operations appearing in this equation, rather than involving the whole handler. In the following sections, we apply this method to the commutative and distributive combinations of theories and study the correctness of the composite of some common handlers.

## 6 REASONING ABOUT COMMUTATIVE INTERACTION

In this section we apply the techniques developed in Section 5 to the tensor (Definition 2.4) of effect theories. We obtain a condition (20) on the clause of  $h_1$  for  $O_1$  and the clause of  $h_2$  for  $O_2$  such that operations  $O_1$  and  $O_2$  are commutative under the composite handler  $\text{handle } h_2 \cdot \text{handle } h_1$ . Then we use this result to study the interactions between some common handlers, specifically the handlers of mutable state, nondeterminism and the writer effect.

**Theorem 6.1.** *Given  $T_1 :: \text{Theory } \Sigma_1$  and  $T_2 :: \text{Theory } \Sigma_2$  and  $h_1 :: \text{MHandler } \Sigma_1 C X W$  and  $h_2 :: \text{MHandler } \Sigma_2 D W Z$ , if  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  are correct open (or closed) handlers of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  respectively, a sufficient condition for  $h_2 \diamond h_1$  to be a correct open (or closed) handler of the tensor  $T_1 \otimes T_2$  is: for any  $O_1 :: P_1 \rightsquigarrow_{\Sigma_1} A_1$  and  $O_2 :: P_2 \rightsquigarrow_{\Sigma_2} A_2$ , letting  $c_1$  be the clause for  $O_1$  of  $h_1$  and  $c_2$  be the clause for  $O_2$  of  $h_2$  as in Definition 5.1, it holds that*

$$\begin{aligned} & c_1 p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow \text{fwd} (\text{Cont} (\lambda t \rightarrow c_2 p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow t (k a_1 a_2))))) \\ &= \text{fwd} (\text{Cont} (\lambda t \rightarrow c_2 p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow t (c_1 p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow k a_1 a_2))))) \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

for any  $p_1 :: P_1$ ,  $p_2 :: P_2$  and  $k :: A_1 \rightarrow A_2 \rightarrow C (\text{Cont}_D m)$  for any monad  $m$  (or  $m = \text{Free Empty}$  for closed correctness). In (20), binder  $t$  has type  $C (\text{Cont}_D m) \rightarrow D m$  and  $\text{fwd}$  is the instance  $\text{fwd} :: \text{Cont}_D m (C (\text{Cont}_D m)) \rightarrow C (\text{Cont}_D m)$ .

PROOF. It directly follows from Definition 2.4 of the tensor and the characterisation of clauses for  $O_1$  and  $O_2$  of  $h_2 \diamond h_1$  (Lemma 5.6): substituting  $\bar{c}_1$  and  $\bar{c}_2$  in Lemma 5.6 for  $\bar{O}_1$  and  $\bar{O}_2$  in Definition 2.4 results in (20).  $\square$

Since  $\text{FreeEM}$  and  $\text{StateC}$  cover almost all examples of modular handlers in practice, we specialise the theorem above to these two cases and obtain conditions easier to use.

**Corollary 6.2.** *When the modular carrier  $C$  of  $h_1$  is  $\text{FreeEM } Y m$  for some type  $Y$ , we can simplify (20) with Lemma 5.7. Define  $c'_1$  and  $k'$  as follows to unwrap the constructors:*

$$\begin{aligned} c'_1 &:: P_1 \rightarrow (A_1 \rightarrow (Y \rightarrow D m) \rightarrow D m) \rightarrow (Y \rightarrow D m) \rightarrow D m \\ c'_1 p a &= \text{runCont} (\text{unFreeEM} (c_1 p (\text{FreeEM} \cdot \text{Cont} \cdot a))) \\ k' &:: A_1 \rightarrow A_2 \rightarrow (Y \rightarrow D m) \rightarrow D m \\ k' a_1 a_2 &= \text{runCont} (\text{unFreeEM} (k a_1 a_2)) \end{aligned}$$

Then (20) is equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} & c'_1 p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow (\lambda q \rightarrow c_2 p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow k' a_1 a_2 q))) \\ &= \lambda q \rightarrow c_2 p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow c'_1 p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow k' a_1 a_2 q)) \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

where binder  $q$  has type  $Y \rightarrow D m$ .

**Corollary 6.3.** *When the modular carrier of  $h_1$  is  $\text{StateC } S Y m$ , (20) can be simplified with the corresponding result of Lemma 5.7 too. Define  $c'_1$  and  $k'$  as follows to unwrap the constructors:*

$$\begin{aligned} c'_1 &:: P_1 \rightarrow (A_1 \rightarrow S \rightarrow (Y \rightarrow D m) \rightarrow D m) \rightarrow (S \rightarrow (Y \rightarrow D m) \rightarrow D m) \\ c'_1 p k &= \text{runCont} \cdot \text{unStateC} (c_1 p (\lambda a \rightarrow \text{StateC} (\text{Cont} \cdot k a))) \\ k' &:: A_1 \rightarrow A_2 \rightarrow S \rightarrow (Y \rightarrow D m) \rightarrow Y \\ k' a_1 a_2 s &= \text{runCont} (\text{unStateC} (k a_1 a_2) s) \end{aligned}$$

Then (20) can be simplified to

$$\begin{aligned} &c'_1 p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow \lambda s q \rightarrow c_2 p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow k' a_1 a_2 s q)) \\ &= \lambda s q \rightarrow c_2 p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow c'_1 p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow k' a_1 a_2) s q) \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

where binder  $q :: Y \rightarrow D m$ .

## 6.1 Combining Nondeterminism and State

**Theorem 6.4.** *Handler  $\text{ndetH} \diamond \text{stH } s$  is a correct closed handler of the tensor of  $\text{NDet}$  and  $\text{State}_s$ .*

PROOF. For each pair of  $op_1 \in \{\text{Get}, \text{Put}\}$  and  $op_2 \in \{\text{Coin}\}$  we verify that (22) holds. For  $op_1 = \text{Get}$  and  $op_2 = \text{Coin}$ , we have

$$c'_1 () k = \lambda s \rightarrow k s s \quad (23)$$

Then we can establish (22) by plugging in  $c'_1$  and simplifying both sides:<sup>1</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} &c'_1 p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow \lambda s q \rightarrow c_2 p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow k' a_1 a_2 s q)) \quad \{\downarrow \text{definition (23) of } c'_1\} \\ &= \lambda s q \rightarrow c_2 p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow k' s a_2 s q) \quad \{\uparrow \text{definition (23) of } c'_1\} \\ &= \lambda s q \rightarrow c_2 p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow c'_1 p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow k' a_1 a_2) s q) \end{aligned}$$

For  $op_1 = \text{Put}$ ,  $op_2 = \text{Coin}$  and any  $p_1 :: s$ , we have

$$c'_1 p k = \lambda s \rightarrow k () p \quad (24)$$

Accordingly, we calculate:

$$\begin{aligned} &c'_1 p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow \lambda s q \rightarrow c_2 p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow k' a_1 a_2 s q)) \quad \{\downarrow \text{definition (24) of } c'_1\} \\ &= \lambda s q \rightarrow c_2 p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow k' () a_2 p_1 q) \quad \{\uparrow \text{definition (24) of } c'_1\} \\ &= \lambda s q \rightarrow c_2 p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow c'_1 p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow k' a_1 a_2) s q) \end{aligned}$$

Since handlers  $\text{ndetH}$  and  $\text{stH}$  are correct closed handlers for  $\text{NDet}$  and  $\text{State}_s$ , we can conclude that  $\text{ndetH} \diamond \text{stH } s$  is a correct closed handler of the tensor of nondeterminism and mutable state.  $\square$

Note that in the proof we did not rely on any property of  $c_2$  or  $\text{ndetH}$ . In fact, we can strengthen the above proof to arbitrary handler  $h$  in place of  $\text{ndetH}$ .

**Theorem 6.5.** *Given a correct open (or closed) handler  $h$  of effect theory  $T$ , handler  $h \diamond \text{stH } s$  is a correct open (or closed) handler of the tensor of  $T$  and the theory of mutable state.*

**Remark 6.1.** Pauwels et al. [2019] axiomatise the local state semantics of the combination of state and nondeterminism by the sum of  $\text{State}_s$  and  $\text{NDet}$  with additionally two right-zero and right-distributive laws. Both of the additional laws can be derived from the equations of  $\text{State}_s \otimes \text{NDet}$  and algebraicity (Appendix E.3). Thus  $\text{ndetH} \diamond \text{stH } s$  is a correct (closed) handler of the local state semantics in [Pauwels et al. 2019].

<sup>1</sup>The arrows in the proof hints indicate the natural direction to read the calculation step.

By contrast, handling nondeterminism before state with  $stH \ s \diamond \ ndetH$  will not validate the conditions of the corresponding [Corollary 6.2](#). For example, if  $op_1 = Coin$  and  $op_2 = Put$ , then

$$c'_1 () \ k = \lambda q \rightarrow k \ True (\lambda x \rightarrow k \ False (\lambda y \rightarrow q (x \cup y))) \quad (25)$$

$$c_2 \ p_2 \ k = StateC (\lambda s \rightarrow unStateC (k ()) \ p_2) \quad (26)$$

The left-hand side of (21) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} & c'_1 \ p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow \lambda q \rightarrow c_2 \ p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow k' \ a_1 \ a_2 \ q)) && \{\downarrow \text{definition (26) of } c_2\} \\ & = c'_1 \ p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow \lambda q \rightarrow StateC (\lambda s \rightarrow unStateC (k' \ a_1 () \ q) \ p_2)) && \{\downarrow \text{definition (25) of } c'_1\} \\ & = \lambda q \rightarrow StateC (\lambda s \rightarrow unStateC (k' \ True () (\lambda x \rightarrow \\ & \quad \boxed{StateC (\lambda s \rightarrow unStateC (k' \ False () (\lambda y \rightarrow q (x \cup y))) \ p_2})) \ p_2)) \end{aligned}$$

and the right-hand side becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} & \lambda q \rightarrow c_2 \ p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow c'_1 \ p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow k' \ a_1 \ a_2 \ q)) && \{\downarrow \text{definition (26) of } c_2\} \\ & = \lambda q \rightarrow StateC (\lambda s \rightarrow unStateC (c'_1 \ p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow k' \ a_1 () \ q) \ p_2)) && \{\downarrow \text{definition (25) of } c'_1\} \\ & = \lambda q \rightarrow StateC (\lambda s \rightarrow unStateC (k' \ True () (\lambda x \rightarrow \\ & \quad \boxed{k' \ False () (\lambda y \rightarrow q (x \cup y))})) \ p_2)) \end{aligned}$$

The boxed parts are the difference between both sides, making (21) not hold in general. The difference also matches our intuition: if nondeterminism is handled first, computation  $\{b \leftarrow coin; put \ p_2; k \ b\}$  corresponding to the left-hand side is transformed to  $\{put \ p_2; k \ True; put \ p_2; k \ False\}$  by  $ndetH$ , while computation  $\{put \ p_2; b \leftarrow coin; k \ b\}$  corresponding to the right-hand side is transformed to  $\{put \ p_2; k \ True; k \ False\}$ . This explains why the boxed part of the left-hand side is  $StateC (\lambda s \rightarrow RB \ p_2)$  where  $RB$  is the boxed part in the right-hand side.

**Remark 6.2.** [Pauwels et al. \[2019\]](#) axiomatise the *global state semantics* of the combination of state and nondeterminism by the sum of *State<sub>s</sub>* and *NDet* in addition with the following *put-or law*:

$$(Put \ s (\lambda () \rightarrow m)) \sqcap n = Put \ s (\lambda () \rightarrow m \sqcap n)$$

It is not difficult to show that  $stH \ s \diamond \ ndetH$  is a correct open handler for this law using [Lemma 5.7](#) ([Appendix E.4](#)), and thus it is a correct closed handler of the global state semantics.

## 6.2 Combining State and Writer

For another example, we prove that handling the writer effect and mutable state in either order is a correct handler of their tensor. The writer effect *Writer*  $w$  is parameterised by a monoid  $w$  with unit *empty* and operation  $\diamond$ , and it has one operation  $Tell :: w \rightsquigarrow ()$  with an *accumulation law*:

$$Tell \ w_1 (Tell \ w_2 \ k) = Tell \ (w_1 \diamond \ w_2) \ k$$

Writer effect can be handled by the following handler:

$$\begin{aligned} wtH &:: Monoid \ w \Rightarrow MHandler (Writer \ w) (FreeEM (a, w)) \ a \ (a, w) \\ wtH &= MHandler \ gen \ alg \ unFreeEM \ \text{where} \\ gen \ a &= FreeEM (return (a, empty)) \\ alg (Tell \ w \ k) &= FreeEM (\text{do } (a, u) \leftarrow unFreeEM (k ()); return (a, w \diamond u)) \end{aligned}$$

It is straightforward calculation to verify that  $wtH$  is a correct open handler of the accumulation law (see [Appendix E.5](#) for details).

**Theorem 6.6.** *Both  $stH \ s \diamond \ wtH$  and  $wtH \diamond \ stH$  are correct open handlers of the tensor of mutable state and writer.*

PROOF SKETCH. Following [Theorem 6.5](#),  $wtH \diamond stH$  is a correct open handler of the tensor, and [Corollary 6.2](#) can be used to show that  $stH \diamond wtH$  is correct. A detailed calculation can be found in [Appendix E.5](#).  $\square$

## 7 REASONING ABOUT DISTRIBUTIVE INTERACTION

We apply the technique so far to distributive tensor of effects ([Definition 2.5](#)) in this section. We present a condition similar to [Theorem 6.1](#) on two modular handlers for their composite to be correct with respect to the distributive tensor of the sub-theories, and a specialised version similar to [Corollary 6.2](#) when the modular carrier is *FreeEM*. Then we use the results to reason about the correctness of composing the handlers of nondeterministic and probabilistic choice with respect to the theory of combined choice discussed in [Example 2.9](#).

**Theorem 7.1.** *Given  $T_1 :: \text{Theory } \Sigma_1$  and  $T_2 :: \text{Theory } \Sigma_2$  and modular handlers  $h_1 :: \text{MHandler } \Sigma_1 \ C \ X \ W$  and  $h_2 :: \text{MHandler } \Sigma_2 \ D \ W \ Z$ , if  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  are correct open (or closed) handlers of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  respectively, a sufficient condition for  $h_2 \diamond h_1$  to be a correct open (or closed) handler of the distributive tensor  $T_1 \triangleright T_2$  of  $T_1$  over  $T_2$  is: for any  $O_1 :: P_1 \rightsquigarrow_{\Sigma_1} A_1$  and  $O_2 :: P_2 \rightsquigarrow_{\Sigma_2} A_2$  of  $\Sigma_2$ , letting  $c_1$  be the clause for  $O_1$  of  $h_1$  and  $c_2$  be the clause for  $O_2$  of  $h_2$  as in [Definition 5.1](#), it holds that*

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 \ p_1 \ (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow \text{if } a_1 \equiv u \\ \text{then } fwd \ (Cont \ (\lambda t \rightarrow \\ c_2 \ p_2 \ (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow t \ (y \ a_2)))) \\ \text{else } x \ a_1) \end{aligned} = \begin{aligned} fwd \ (Cont \ (\lambda t \rightarrow c_2 \ p_2 \ (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow \\ t \ (c_1 \ p_1 \ (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow \\ \text{if } a_1 \equiv u \ \text{then } y \ a_2 \\ \text{else } x \ a_1)))) \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

for any  $u :: A_1$ ,  $p_1 :: P_1$ ,  $p_2 :: P_2$ , any monad  $m$  (or  $m = \text{Free Empty}$  for closed correctness) and

$$x :: A_1 \rightarrow C \ (Cont_D \ m) \quad y :: A_2 \rightarrow C \ (Cont_D \ m)$$

PROOF. By [Definition 2.5](#), [Lemma 5.6](#) and [Definition 4.3](#), substituting  $\bar{c}_1$  and  $\bar{c}_2$  in [Lemma 5.6](#) for  $O_1$  and  $O_2$  in [Equation 12](#) results in (27).  $\square$

**Corollary 7.2.** *If the modular carrier of  $h_1$  is *FreeEM*  $Y$  for some type  $Y$ , by [Lemma 5.7](#) the condition above can be simplified to*

$$\begin{aligned} c'_1 \ p_1 \ (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow \\ \text{if } a_1 \equiv u \ \text{then} \\ \lambda q \rightarrow c_2 \ p_2 \ (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow y' \ a_2 \ q) \\ \text{else } x' \ a_1) \end{aligned} = \begin{aligned} \lambda q \rightarrow c_2 \ p_2 \ (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow \\ c'_1 \ p_1 \ (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow \\ \text{if } a_1 \equiv u \ \text{then } y' \ a_2 \ \text{else } x' \ a_1) \\ q) \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

where  $c'_1$ ,  $x'$  and  $y'$  are the corresponding unprimed function with various data constructors unwrapped:

$$x' :: A_1 \rightarrow (Y \rightarrow D \ m) \rightarrow D \ m \quad y' :: A_2 \rightarrow (Y \rightarrow D \ m) \rightarrow D \ m$$

$$c'_1 :: P_1 \rightarrow (A_1 \rightarrow (Y \rightarrow D \ m) \rightarrow D \ m) \rightarrow ((Y \rightarrow D \ m) \rightarrow D \ m)$$

We can also specialise a version if the modular carrier of  $h_1$  is *StateC*, but we leave it out for the sake of space.

### 7.1 Handling Combined Choice

[Cheung \[2017\]](#) shows that models of combined choice  $Prob \triangleright NDet$  in [Example 2.9](#) are exactly algebras of the geometrically convex monad (roughly speaking, the monad mapping  $a$  to the set of convex sets of distributions over  $a$ -elements), but it is not obvious if composing the standard handlers of the two theories gives rise to such a model, i.e. handling the distributive tensor correctly. In this subsection, we explore this question using [Theorem 7.1](#).

A computation using probabilistic choice can be handled to a probability distribution of outcomes which we represent as functions `type Distr a = a → Float` which range in interval  $[0, 1]$  and sums to 1 for all elements of  $a$ . Two distributions can be convexly combined by  $+_f :: \text{Distr } a \rightarrow \text{Distr } a \rightarrow \text{Distr } a$  for any  $f \in [0, 1]$ :

$$p +_f q = \lambda x \rightarrow f * p \ x + (1 - f) * q \ x$$

Theory *Prob* (Example 2.9) can be closed-correctly handled by running both branches in sequence and convexly combine the results:

```

probH :: Eq a => MHandler Prob (FreeEM (Distr a)) a (Distr a)
probH = MHandler gen alg unFreeEM where
  gen a = FreeEM (return (\x → if x ≡ a then 1 else 0))
  alg (PChoose p k) = FreeEM (
    do x ← unFreeEM (k True); y ← unFreeEM (k False); return (x +p y))

```

In this section, we focus on the correctness of the composite handler  $\text{ndetH} \diamond \text{probH}$  with respect to  $\text{Prob} \triangleright \text{NDet}$ . Since *probH* has modular carrier  $\text{FreeEM} (\text{Distr } a)$ , we can try Corollary 7.2. The corresponding clauses for  $\triangleleft p \triangleright$  and  $\sqcap$  are

$$\begin{aligned}
c'_1 \ p \ k &= \lambda q \rightarrow k \ \text{True} (\lambda x \rightarrow k \ \text{False} (\lambda y \rightarrow q \ (x +_p \ y))) \\
c_2 \ () \ k &= \text{FreeEM} (\text{do } \{ l_1 \leftarrow \text{unFreeEM} (k \ \text{True}); l_2 \leftarrow \text{unFreeEM} (k \ \text{False}) \ \text{return} (l_1 \cup l_2) \})
\end{aligned}$$

The left-hand side of (28) is

$$\begin{aligned}
& c'_1 \ p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow \text{if } a_1 \equiv u \ \text{then } \lambda q \rightarrow c_2 \ p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow y' \ a_2 \ q) \ \text{else } x' \ a_1) \ \{\downarrow \text{definition of } c_2 \ p_2 \} \\
&= c'_1 \ p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow \text{if } a_1 \equiv u \ \text{then } \lambda q \rightarrow \text{FreeEM} (\text{do } \{ l_1 \leftarrow \text{unFreeEM} (y' \ \text{True} \ q); \\
&\quad l_2 \leftarrow \text{unFreeEM} (y' \ \text{False} \ q); \ \text{return} (l_1 \cup l_2) \}) \ \text{else } x' \ a_1)
\end{aligned}$$

Let us consider the case  $u = \text{False}$  first, which corresponds to the left distributivity  $x \triangleleft p \triangleright (y \sqcap z)$ . Setting  $u = \text{False}$  and expanding  $c'_1 \ p_1$ , the last equation becomes

$$\lambda q \rightarrow x' \ \text{True} (\lambda x \rightarrow \text{FreeEM} (\text{do } \{ l_1 \leftarrow \text{unFreeEM} (y' \ \text{True} (\lambda y \rightarrow q \ (x +_{p_1} \ y))); \\
\quad l_2 \leftarrow \text{unFreeEM} (y' \ \text{False} (\lambda y \rightarrow q \ (x +_{p_1} \ y))); \ \text{return} (l_1 \cup l_2) \})) \quad (29)$$

Now from the right-hand side of Equation 28, we calculate:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \lambda q \rightarrow c_2 \ p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow c'_1 \ p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow \text{if } a_1 \equiv u \ \text{then } y' \ a_2 \ \text{else } x' \ a_1) \ q) \\
&\quad \{\downarrow \text{definition } c'_1 \ p_1 \} \\
&= \lambda q \rightarrow c_2 \ p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow x' \ \text{True} (\lambda x \rightarrow y' \ a_2 (\lambda y \rightarrow q \ (x +_p \ y)))) \\
&\quad \{\downarrow \text{definition of } c_2 \ p_2 \} \quad (30) \\
&= \lambda q \rightarrow \text{FreeEM} (\text{do } l_1 \leftarrow \text{unFreeEM} (x' \ \text{True} (\lambda x \rightarrow y' \ \text{True} (\lambda y \rightarrow q \ (x +_{p_1} \ y)))) \\
&\quad \quad l_2 \leftarrow \text{unFreeEM} (x' \ \text{True} (\lambda x \rightarrow y' \ \text{False} (\lambda y \rightarrow q \ (x +_{p_1} \ y)))) \\
&\quad \quad \text{return} (l_1 \cup l_2))
\end{aligned}$$

It is not difficult to see (29)  $\neq$  (30) for arbitrary monad  $m$  in general, which matches our intuition: under  $\text{ndetH} \diamond \text{probH}$ , computation  $x \triangleleft p \triangleright (y \sqcap z)$  executes  $x$  once but  $(x \triangleleft p \triangleright y) \sqcap (x \triangleleft p \triangleright z)$  executes  $x$  twice. Thus  $\text{ndetH} \diamond \text{probH}$  is not a correct open handler of  $\text{Prob} \triangleright \text{NDet}$ , but is it a correct closed handler of  $\text{Prob} \triangleright \text{NDet}$ ? When  $m$  is the identity monad *Free Empty*, the `do`-notations in (29) and

(30) degenerates to **let**-bindings, and (29) = (30) is equivalent to

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \lambda q \rightarrow \\
 x' \text{ True } (\lambda x \rightarrow \\
 \text{let } l_1 = y' \text{ True } (\lambda y \rightarrow q (x +_{p_1} y)) \\
 \quad l_2 = y' \text{ False } (\lambda y \rightarrow q (x +_{p_1} y)) \\
 \text{in } l_1 \cup l_2)
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{l}
 \lambda q \rightarrow \text{let } l_1 = x' \text{ True } (\lambda x \rightarrow \\
 \quad y' \text{ True } (\lambda y \rightarrow q (x +_{p_1} y))) \\
 \quad l_2 = x' \text{ True } (\lambda x \rightarrow \\
 \quad y' \text{ False } (\lambda y \rightarrow q (x +_{p_1} y))) \\
 \text{in } l_1 \cup l_2
 \end{array}
 \quad (31)$$

where  $x', y' :: \text{Bool} \rightarrow (\text{Distr } A \rightarrow \text{Set } (\text{Distr } A)) \rightarrow \text{Set } (\text{Distr } A)$ . However, (31) still does not hold in general. Thus our attempt with [Corollary 7.2](#) seems inconclusive. However, with a closer look we notice that the functions  $x'$  and  $y'$  bear some properties not manifested in their types: they correspond to handled subterms of the computation, and therefore they must be built from  $\text{gen } (\text{ndetH} \diamond \text{probH})$  and  $\text{alg } (\text{ndetH} \diamond \text{probH})$ . Indeed, if  $f :: (\text{Distr } A \rightarrow \text{Set } (\text{Distr } A)) \rightarrow \text{Set } (\text{Distr } A)$  is built from  $\text{gen } (\text{ndetH} \diamond \text{probH})$  and  $\text{alg } (\text{ndetH} \diamond \text{probH})$ , then it satisfies

$$f (\lambda x \rightarrow g \ x \cup h \ x) = f \ g \cup f \ h \quad (32)$$

and (32) for  $f = x' \text{ True}$  implies (31).

## 7.2 Generalising the Continuation Monad

Note that  $\text{Set } (\text{Distr } A)$  with join operation  $\cup$  is a semi-lattice, and for any set  $X$ , functions  $X \rightarrow \text{Set } (\text{Distr } A)$  can be equipped with a semi-lattice structure with the join operation defined pointwise: for any  $g, h :: X \rightarrow \text{Set } (\text{Distr } A)$ ,

$$g \cup h = \lambda x \rightarrow g \ b \cup h \ x$$

Then (32) states that  $f$  is a join-preserving mapping, i.e. an arrow in the category  $SL$  of semi-lattice. It is a standard result that there is an adjunctive bijection for any semi-lattices  $A, B$ , and set  $X$

$$SL^{op}(B^X, A) \cong \text{Set}(X, SL(A, B))$$

where  $SL^{op}(B^X, A)$  is the set of join-preserving functions from semi-lattice  $A$  to  $B^X$  and  $SL(A, B)$  is the set of join-preserving functions from  $A$  to  $B$ , and  $\text{Set}(X, Y)$  is the set of functions from  $X$  to  $Y$  for any  $X$  and  $Y$ . Consequently, this adjunction gives rise to a monad on  $\text{Set}$  mapping  $X$  to the set  $SL(B^X, B)$  for any semi-lattice  $B$ . Then replacing  $\text{Cont}$  in the construction of  $\text{Fused}$  in [Theorem 5.2](#) with this monad allows us to prove (31) and thus  $\text{ndetH} \diamond \text{probH}$  is a correct closed handler of the theory  $\text{Prob} \triangleright \text{NDet}$  of combined choice.

More generally, for any category  $C$  with powers [[Mac Lane 1998](#), p.70], there is an adjunction

$$C^{op}(B^X, A) \cong \text{Set}(X, C(A, B))$$

and monad  $X \mapsto C(B^X, B)$  for any object  $B$  in  $C$  [[Hinze 2012](#), p.344]. When  $C$  is  $\text{Set}$ , it is exactly the continuation monad. Some other instances are studied in the context of categorical semantics of predicate transformers [[Hino et al. 2016](#); [Jacobs 2017](#)]. Similar to the situation of combined choice where we need  $C = SL$ , in some applications we may need to choose appropriate  $C$  to reflect the *invariants* in the handled computations that are preserved by the clauses of the handler to prove the correctness of composite handlers. We leave a systematic study of this extension as future work.

## 8 RELATED WORK

**Combinations of Effects.** [Hyland et al. \[2006\]](#) study the sum and tensor of computational effects and show that the sum with the theory of exceptions and interactive IO, and the tensor with mutable state lead to the corresponding monad transformers, and later [Cheung \[2017\]](#) follows this line of research and studies the distributive tensor of effect theories, in particular, the connection

1128 with the distributive laws of monads and the example of combining nondeterminism and proba-  
1129 bilistic choice. Their work gives a unified account of modularity for computational effects and our  
1130 work aims to connect this modularity with the modularity of handlers.

1131  
1132 **Effect Handlers.** In the original work on effect handlers [Plotkin and Pretnar 2009, 2013], a  
1133 global effect theory is assumed throughout the language. To avoid the interdependence of typing  
1134 handlers and proving them correct, [Plotkin and Pretnar 2009] provides two calculi (one for defining  
1135 handlers and one for using them) and, accordingly, two equational logics extending the logic in  
1136 [Plotkin and Pretnar 2008] (one for proving handlers correct and the other for reasoning about  
1137 computations using handlers). The later work [Plotkin and Pretnar 2013] adopts a simpler approach  
1138 by leaving semantics of incorrect (though well-typed) handlers undefined. In comparison, in this  
1139 paper handlers interpret signatures instead of theories, so correctness respecting theories becomes  
1140 an extrinsic property of handlers.

1141 Because many practically useful handlers do not respect the standard theories of their effects and  
1142 fundamentally the correctness of handlers is undecidable [Plotkin and Pretnar 2013], most later  
1143 work (with the exceptions [Ahman 2017; Kiselyov et al. 2021; Lukšič and Pretnar 2020]) on effect  
1144 handlers only considers effect theories with no equations, resulting in fewer reasoning principles  
1145 for algebraic effects and consequently weaker guarantee of correctness.

1146 Ahman [2017] presents a dependently typed language in which handlers (and proofs showing  
1147 their satisfaction of the equations of the theory) are represented as user-defined *algebra types*  
1148 and applying handlers is done using sequential composition. With the power of dependent types,  
1149 [Ahman 2017] uses handlers to define predicates on effectful computations.

1150 Lukšič and Pretnar [2020] presents a type system in which computation types are tagged with a  
1151 set of equations expected to hold. In fact, we have informally followed their ideas in our treatment  
1152 of effects and handlers: computations are interpreted by free monads ignoring the equations, and  
1153 equations are separately interpreted as a relation, and their judgement of handlers respecting  
1154 theories corresponds to our Definition 4.3 of correct handlers. Another difference is that [Lukšič  
1155 and Pretnar 2020] only considers closed handlers, whereas we consider both open and closed ones.

1156 Kiselyov et al. [2021] advocate a different philosophy about the relationship between equations  
1157 and handlers—they advocate that equations should *be distilled from* handlers rather than *specify*  
1158 *handlers a priori*. They also study the equations respected by the handlers of state, nondeterminism  
1159 and their composites. However, from either viewpoint, the eventual proof obligation is the same—an  
1160 equation is respected by a handler. Thus the results developed in this paper for proving a composite  
1161 handler respecting some equation are applicable in their setting too. They also emphasise that  
1162 equational laws should be term congruences under a handler, which is reflected by the CONG rule  
1163 in our definition of equivalent computations  $\sim_T$  (Definition 3.1). Our restriction of modularity is  
1164 reminiscent of the restriction in [Kiselyov et al. 2021] that operations must be uniquely handled by  
1165 the concerned handler in their formulation of *equivalence modulo handlers*.

1166 Zhang and Myers [2019] present an operational semantics for effect polymorphism based on  
1167 *tunneling* in which the parametricity theorem holds for effect polymorphic functions. In this  
1168 paper, effect polymorphism is achieved by being polymorphic in the signature functor, utilising  
1169 the polymorphic mechanisms of Haskell. Since our results crucially rely on the parametricity of  
1170 polymorphic abstractions, we expect our results only to hold for languages with proper effect  
1171 parametricity such as the one in [Brachhäuser et al. 2020; Zhang and Myers 2019].

1172 Schrijvers et al. [2019] introduce *modular handlers* that play an essential role in this paper.  
1173 They also compare modular handlers to monad transformers, showing that the expressibility of  
1174 modular handlers and monad transformers implementing only algebraic operations are equivalent  
1175 in Haskell. However, the equal expressibility crucially depends on the features present in the  
1176



1177 language, as demonstrated by Forster et al. [2017] that there is no type-preserving translation  
1178 from effect handlers to layered monads [Filinski 1999] in a call-by-push-value calculus without  
1179 polymorphism and inductive types. In [Schrijvers et al. 2019], equations of algebraic theories are  
1180 not considered, which we recover in this paper. We also formalise notions of the correctness of  
1181 modular handlers and study the correctness of composite modular handlers using handler fusion.

1182 Xie et al. [2020] introduce the *scoped-resumption* restriction on handlers to simplify reasoning  
1183 and aid optimisation, while we impose the *modular* restriction for a similar purpose. Indeed, their  
1184 non-scoped example in [Xie et al. 2020, Section 2.2] can be rejected by the modular restriction too.  
1185 However, they check scoped resumptions dynamically, whereas modular handlers are statically  
1186 typed. It is interesting future work to establish the relationship between these two restrictions.

1187 The techniques developed in this paper only apply to modular handlers. However, not all handlers  
1188 in the various languages discussed above are modular. A rough criterion is that a handler is modular  
1189 as long as it does not use its resumption in any way other than invoking it. In particular, it cannot  
1190 apply the handling construct on its resumption. For languages implementing effect polymorphism  
1191 such as Koka [Leijen 2017], this condition is a consequence of a handler being polymorphic in  
1192 unhandled operations. For languages without effect polymorphism such as [Bauer and Pretnar 2014;  
1193 Plotkin and Pretnar 2009], this is not automatically guaranteed. Appendix F shows a fine-grained  
1194 call-by-value calculus of handlers in which all handlers must be modular. Although most handlers  
1195 appearing in the literature are modular, there is an example of non-modular handlers of mutable  
1196 state by handling the get operation in the clause of put operation in [Biernacki et al. 2017, page 4].  
1197 We leave extending our work to non-modular handlers as future work.

1198  
1199  
1200 **CPS Transformations.** There is a lot of work on using CPS transformations to optimise effectful  
1201 programs. Here we discuss some typical ones in the context of algebraic effects and handlers and  
1202 compare them with the transformation that we use for fusing handlers.

1203 Voigtländer [2008] shows that CPS transformation of free monads with the codensity monad  
1204 [Hinze 2012] gives an asymptotic improvement on the time complexity of monadic binding op-  
1205 erations. Kammar et al. [2013] use CPS transformations based on the codensity and continuation  
1206 monads in their implementations of effect handlers, in which the continuation monad is iterated  
1207 to allow the operations in a computation to be handled by different *open handlers*, a concept that  
1208 we borrow and use in this paper. Schuster et al. [2020] translate effectful programs written in  
1209 capability-passing style into iterated continuation passing style. They also statically specialise the  
1210 abstract capabilities in a CPS translated program to corresponding concrete handlers by translating  
1211 to a two-stage simply typed lambda calculus, and thus eliminate all handling constructs in the  
1212 translation result.

1213 Compared to these works that apply CPS transformations to computations for performance  
1214 improvement, this paper uses CPS transformation on handlers instead of computations, and the  
1215 purpose is mostly for reasoning about handlers. Despite different motivations, the techniques of  
1216 CPS transformation are similar, and we believe that it is possible to devise a handling-eliminating  
1217 translation similar to the one given in [Schuster et al. 2020] if we iteratively fuse all handlers using  
1218 our fusion combinator and inline the resulting all-in-one handler into a computation.

1219 Our handler fusion is directly inspired by the work by Wu and Schrijvers [2015] with the minor  
1220 difference that we use the continuation monad instead of the codensity monad for CPS transfor-  
1221 mation, and they rely on the compiler to perform static fusion, whereas our fusion combinator  
1222 explicitly gives the result of fusion when the handlers are defined in the form of modular handlers.  
1223 Similar fusion technique is also used in [Seynaeve et al. 2020] to eliminate intermediate lists when  
1224 implementing nondeterminism with mutable state.

1225

## 9 CONCLUSION

This paper has studied a way to reason about the semantics of sequentially composed handlers by fusing them into one, which allows us to derive relatively simple conditions for the semantics of the composite handler to agree with any combination of the effect theories separately handled. With this connection between modular specifications (effect theories) of effects and modular implementations (handlers) of effects, programmers are furnished with a principled way to determine the right order of composing handlers for their need by equational reasoning, as demonstrated in several case studies. The following directions can be explored in the future:

- We wish to find a concise categorical formulation of modular carriers and handlers, so that the techniques in this paper can be generalised to categories other than the category of sets.
- Our equational proofs in this paper are done in a paper-and-pencil way. It will be useful to find a way to formalise them with reasonable effort and even automate them.
- As demonstrated in Section 7.2, the continuation monad used for fusion needs to be generalised in some cases. We wish to find more examples of this and make a systematic study.
- The fusion combinator of modular handlers can possibly be used to implement a compiler of effect handlers that fuses all handlers statically known and inline them into computations.

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## A EQUATIONS IN CHURCH ENCODINGS

In the appendices, we switch to work with equations based on *Church encodings*, which are equivalent to the definition of equations [Section 2.1](#) but simply the proofs.

**Definition A.1** (Equations in Church encodings). Given a signature  $\Sigma$ , types  $\Gamma$  and  $\nu$ , an *equation in Church encodings* for  $\Sigma$  with free value variables  $\Gamma$  and free computation variables  $\nu$  is a pair of templates:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{data } \text{Equation}_C \Sigma \Gamma \nu &= \text{EqnC } (\text{Template } \Sigma \Gamma \nu) (\text{Template } \Sigma \Gamma \nu) \\ \text{type } \text{Template } \Sigma \Gamma \nu &= \forall c. (\Sigma c \rightarrow c) \rightarrow \Gamma \rightarrow (\nu \rightarrow c) \rightarrow c \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, we say that an algebra  $\text{alg} :: \Sigma c \rightarrow c$  respects an equation  $(\text{EqnC } \text{lhs } \text{rhs}) :: \text{Equation}_C \Sigma \Gamma \nu$  if for any  $t :: \Gamma$  and  $k :: \nu \rightarrow c$ ,

$$\text{lhs } \text{alg } t \ k = \text{rhs } \text{alg } t \ k$$

**Lemma A.1.** *There is an isomorphism between equations based on free monads (11) and equations based on Church encodings.*

$$\phi :: \text{Functor } \Sigma \Rightarrow \text{Equation } \Sigma \Gamma \nu \rightarrow \text{Equation}_C \Sigma \Gamma \nu$$

Moreover, an algebra  $\text{alg}$  respects an equation in Church encodings if and only if it respects the isomorphic equation in free monads ([Definition 2.1](#)).

PROOF. The isomorphism can be defined as follows:

$$\phi (l \doteq r) = \text{EqnC } (\lambda \text{alg } t \ k \rightarrow \text{fold } k \ \text{alg } (l \ t)) (\lambda \text{alg } t \ k \rightarrow \text{fold } k \ \text{alg } (r \ t))$$

and its inverse is

$$\begin{aligned} \phi^\circ :: \text{Functor } \Sigma \Rightarrow \text{Equation}_C \Sigma \Gamma \nu \rightarrow \text{Equation } \Sigma \Gamma \nu \\ \phi^\circ (\text{EqnC } l \ r) &= (\lambda t \rightarrow l \ \text{Op } t \ \text{Var}) \doteq (\lambda t \rightarrow r \ \text{Op } t \ \text{Var}) \end{aligned}$$

We refer the reader to [[Hinze 2005](#)] for the proof that  $\phi$  and  $\phi^\circ$  form a pair of isomorphism. An algebra respects an equation in Church encodings iff it respects the isomorphic equation in free monads following the definitions of equation respecting and  $\phi$ .  $\square$

## B PROOF OF HANDLER FUSION

In this section we prove [Theorem 5.3](#). The technique is essentially the same as the one in [[Wu and Schrijvers 2015](#)], although the setting in their paper is slightly different from the setting of modular handlers used in this paper.

**Definition B.1.** For convenience in our calculation, we divide *handle* in [Definition 3.3](#) into the following smaller functions:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{split} :: (\Sigma_1 c \rightarrow c) \rightarrow (\Sigma_2 c \rightarrow c) & & \text{openAlg} :: (\text{Functor } \text{sig}', \text{MCarrier } c) \\ & \rightarrow (\Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2) c \rightarrow c & \Rightarrow \text{MHandler } \Sigma \ c \ a \ b \\ \text{split } \text{alg}_1 \ \text{alg}_2 (\text{Inl } x) &= \text{alg}_1 \ x & \rightarrow (\Sigma + \text{sig}') (c (\text{Free } \text{sig}')) \rightarrow c (\text{Free } \text{sig}') \\ \text{split } \text{alg}_1 \ \text{alg}_2 (\text{Inr } x) &= \text{alg}_2 \ x & \text{openAlg } h = \text{split } (\text{alg } h) \ \text{forward} \end{aligned}$$

It is clear that

$$\text{handle } h = \text{run } h \cdot \text{fold } (\text{gen } h) (\text{openAlg } h) \tag{33}$$

## 1422 B.1 Fold/Build fusion for free

1423 The underlying technique for our proof is *fold/build fusion for free* introduced by [Hinze et al. 2011].  
 1424 In this subsection, we state it in our context of free monads (Theorem B.1) and establish relevant  
 1425 prerequisites (mainly Lemma B.5) to apply the free theorem.  
 1426

1427 **Definition B.2.** We say that a monad  $M$  is a term monad of signature  $\Sigma$  if there is a parametric  
 1428 family of  $\Sigma$ -algebras  $con :: \forall a. \Sigma (M a) \rightarrow M a$ :

1429 **class** (*Monad*  $m$ , *Functor*  $\Sigma$ )  $\Rightarrow$  *TermMonad*  $m$   $\Sigma$  **where**  
 1430  $con :: \Sigma (m a) \rightarrow m a$

1431 with the *algebraicity* law:

$$1432 \quad con \circ p \approx k = con (fmap (\approx k) \circ p)$$

1433  
 1434 **Definition B.3.** Given two term monads  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  of the same signature  $\Sigma$ , a term monad  
 1435 morphism from  $M_1$  to  $M_2$  is a monad morphism  $f :: \forall a. M_1 a \rightarrow M_2 a$  from  $M_1$  to  $M_2$  that is  
 1436 simultaneously a  $\Sigma$ -algebra homomorphism from  $con_{M_1}$  to  $con_{M_2}$  for any  $a$ .  
 1437

1438 The parametricity of polymorphic functions entails the following property.

1439 **Theorem B.1** (Fusion for Free). *For any function  $g :: \text{TermMonad } m \Sigma \Rightarrow X \rightarrow m Y$ , term monads*  
 1440  *$M_1$  and  $M_2$  of  $\Sigma$ , and term monad morphism  $f :: M_1 a \rightarrow M_2 a$  from  $M_1$  to  $M_2$ , the following diagram*  
 1441 *commutes:*

$$1442 \quad \begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{g_{M_1}} & M_1 Y \\ & \searrow^{g_{M_2}} & \downarrow f_Y \\ & & M_2 Y \end{array} \quad (34)$$

1443 where subscripts are type applications of polymorphic functions.

1444 **Lemma B.2.** *Monad Free  $\Sigma$  is a term monad of  $\Sigma$  for any functor  $\Sigma$ :*

1445 **instance** *Functor*  $\Sigma \Rightarrow$  *TermMonad* (*Free*  $\Sigma$ )  $\Sigma$  **where**  $con = Op$

1446 **PROOF.** As shown in Section 2, *Free*  $\Sigma$  is a monad and its  $\approx$  implementation directly entails  
 1447 algebraicity.  $\square$

1448 **Remark B.1.** In fact, *Free*  $\Sigma$  is the *initial* term monad of  $\Sigma$ : for any term monad  $m$  of  $\Sigma$ , there is  
 1449 exactly one term monad morphism from *Free*  $\Sigma$  to  $m$ .  
 1450

1451 **Lemma B.3.** *For any type  $c$  carrying a  $\Sigma$ -algebra  $alg :: \Sigma c \rightarrow c$ , monad  $Cont_c$  is a term monad of  $\Sigma$*   
 1452 *with  $con = liftAlgCont \ alg$  where  $liftAlgCont$  (17) is defined in Section 5.*

1453 **PROOF.**  $Cont_c$  is clearly a monad. What remains is to show that  $con$  satisfies algebraicity:

$$1454 \quad \begin{aligned} & con \circ p \approx k \\ 1455 &= \{ \downarrow \text{Expanding } con \} \\ 1456 & \quad liftAlgCont \ alg \circ p \approx k \\ 1457 &= \{ \downarrow \text{Expanding } liftAlgCont \ (17) \} \\ 1458 & \quad Cont (\lambda q \rightarrow alg (fmap (\lambda m \rightarrow runCont \ m \ q) \circ p)) \approx k \\ 1459 &= \{ \downarrow \text{Expanding } \approx \text{ and letting } m = Cont (\lambda q \rightarrow alg (fmap (\lambda n \rightarrow runCont \ n \ q) \circ p)) \} \\ 1460 & \quad Cont (\lambda t \rightarrow runCont \ m (\lambda x \rightarrow runCont (k \ x) \ t)) \\ 1461 &= \{ \downarrow \text{Expanding } runCont \ m \} \\ 1462 & \quad Cont (\lambda t \rightarrow (\lambda q \rightarrow alg (fmap (\lambda n \rightarrow runCont \ n \ q) \circ p)) (\lambda x \rightarrow runCont (k \ x) \ t)) \end{aligned}$$

1471 =  $\{\downarrow \beta\text{-reducing}\}$   
 1472  $Cont (\lambda t \rightarrow alg (fmap (\lambda n \rightarrow runCont n (\lambda x \rightarrow runCont (k x) t)) op))$   
 1473 =  $\{\uparrow \text{Definition of } n \succcurlyeq k\}$   
 1474  $Cont (\lambda t \rightarrow alg (fmap (\lambda n \rightarrow runCont (n \succcurlyeq k) t) op))$   
 1475 =  $\{\uparrow \text{Functorial law: } fmap \text{ preserves function composition}\}$   
 1476  $Cont (\lambda t \rightarrow alg (fmap (\lambda n \rightarrow runCont n t) (fmap (\succcurlyeq k) op)))$   
 1477 =  $\{\uparrow \text{Expanding } liftAlgCont (17)\}$   
 1478  $liftAlgCont alg (fmap (\succcurlyeq k) op)$   
 1479 =  $\{\uparrow \text{Expanding } con\}$   
 1480  $con (fmap (\succcurlyeq k) op)$   
 1481

□

1482  
 1483  
 1484 **Lemma B.4.** Given a modular handler  $h_2 :: MHandler \Sigma_2 D Y Z$ , then for any signature  $sig'$ ,  
 1485  $Cont_D (Free sig')$  is a term monad of  $\Sigma_2 + sig'$  with

$$con_{CPS} = liftAlgCont (openAlg h_2)$$

1486  
 1487  
 1488 **PROOF.** Because  $openAlg h_2$  have type  $(\Sigma_2 + sig') (D (Free sig')) \rightarrow D (Free sig')$ , by **Lemma B.3**,  
 1489  $Cont_D (Free sig')$  is a term monad of  $\Sigma_2 + sig'$ . □

1490  
 1491 **Lemma B.5.** Given the data as in the last lemma,  $fold return_{Cont} con_{CPS}$  is a term monad morphism  
 1492 from  $Free (\Sigma_2 + sig')$  to  $Cont_D (Free sig')$ .

1493 **PROOF.** By the definition of  $fold$ , it is clearly a  $(\Sigma_2 + sig')$ -homomorphism. With some calculation,  
 1494 it can be shown that it is also a monad morphism. □

## 1495 B.2 Handle with Term Monads

1496  
 1497 To apply **Theorem B.1** to fuse  $handle h_2 \cdot handle h_1$ , we need (i)  $handle h_1$  to operate on a parametric  
 1498 term monad of  $\Sigma_2 + Sig'$  instead of just  $Free (\Sigma_2 + Sig')$ , and (ii) the fold in  $handle h_2$  to be a term  
 1499 monad morphism.

1500 For the first requirement, we define the following generalised version of  $handle$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 1501 \quad ghandle &:: (MCarrier c, Functor \Sigma, Functor sig', TermMonad m sig') \\
 1502 \quad &\Rightarrow MHandler \Sigma c a b \rightarrow Free (\Sigma + sig') a \rightarrow m b \\
 1503 \quad ghandle h &= run h \cdot fold (gen h) (gopenAlg h) \\
 1504 \quad gopenAlg &:: (Functor sig', MCarrier c, TermMonad m sig') \\
 1505 \quad &\Rightarrow MHandler \Sigma c a b \rightarrow (\Sigma + sig') (c m) \rightarrow c m \\
 1506 \quad gopenAlg h &= split (alg h) (fwd \cdot con \cdot fmap return) \\
 1507 \quad &
 \end{aligned}$$

1508 It is clear that

$$1509 \quad (ghandle h_1)_{Free sig'} = handle h_1 \quad (35)$$

1510 Then for the second requirement, we have the following lemma.

1511 **Lemma B.6.** Given  $h_2 :: MHandler \Sigma_2 D Y Z$ , define

$$1512 \quad fold (gen h_2) (openAlg h_2) = (\lambda x \rightarrow runCont x (gen h_2)) \cdot fold return_{Cont} con_{CPS}$$

1513  
 1514  
 1515  
 1516 **PROOF.** It is an ordinary fold fusion [**Bird and de Moor 1997; Hinze 2013**], and it can be ver-  
 1517 ified that  $(\lambda x \rightarrow runCont x (gen h_2))$  is an algebra homomorphism from  $(return, con_{CPS})$  to  
 1518  $(gen h_2, openAlg h_2)$ . □

1519

Now we can use [Theorem B.1](#) to fuse the folds of the two handlers:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \text{handle } h_2 \cdot \text{handle } h_1 \\
&= \{\downarrow \text{Equation 33}\} \\
& \text{run } h_2 \cdot \text{fold } (\text{gen } h_2) (\text{openAlg } h_2) \cdot \text{handle } h_1 \\
&= \{\downarrow \text{Equation 35}\} \\
& \text{run } h_2 \cdot \text{fold } (\text{gen } h_2) (\text{openAlg } h_2) \cdot (\text{ghandle } h_1)_{\text{Free } (\Sigma_2 + \text{sig}')} \\
&= \{\downarrow \text{Lemma B.6}\} \\
& \text{run } h_2 \cdot (\lambda x \rightarrow \text{runCont } x (\text{gen } h_2)) \cdot \text{fold return}_{\text{Cont}} \text{conc}_{\text{CPS}} \cdot (\text{ghandle } h_1)_{\text{Free } (\Sigma_2 + \text{sig}')} \\
&= \{\downarrow \text{Theorem B.1 and Lemma B.5}\} \\
& \text{run } h_2 \cdot (\lambda x \rightarrow \text{runCont } x (\text{gen } h_2)) \cdot (\text{ghandle } h_1)_{\text{Cont}_D (\text{Free sig}')}
\end{aligned}$$

Note that in the last line we only have one fold on the syntax tree now.

Now we calculate from the side of  $\text{handle } (h_2 \diamond h_1)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
& \text{handle } (h_2 \diamond h_1) \\
&= \text{run } (h_2 \diamond h_1) \cdot \text{fold } (\text{gen } (h_2 \diamond h_1)) (\text{openAlg } (h_2 \diamond h_1)) \\
&= \text{run } h_2 \cdot (\lambda x \rightarrow \text{runCont } x (\text{gen } h_2)) \cdot \text{run } h_1 \cdot \text{fold } (\text{gen } (h_2 \diamond h_1)) (\text{openAlg } (h_2 \diamond h_1)) \\
&= \text{run } h_2 \cdot (\lambda x \rightarrow \text{runCont } x (\text{gen } h_2)) \cdot \text{run } h_1 \cdot \text{fold } (\text{gen } h_1) (\text{openAlg } (h_2 \diamond h_1))
\end{aligned}$$

(we omit constructors and destructors *Fused* and *unFused* for clarity). To complete the proof of  $\text{handle } h_2 \cdot \text{handle } h_1 = \text{handle } (h_2 \diamond h_1) \cdot \text{assoc}^\circ$ , it is sufficient to show

$$(\text{ghandle } h_1)_{\text{Cont}_D (\text{Free sig}')} = \text{run } h_1 \cdot \text{fold } (\text{gen } h_1) (\text{openAlg } (h_2 \diamond h_1)) \cdot \text{assoc}^\circ \quad (36)$$

By definition of *ghandle*,

$$(\text{ghandle } h_1)_{\text{Cont}_D (\text{Free sig}')} = \text{run } h \cdot \text{fold } (\text{gen } h) (\text{openAlg } h_1)_{\text{Cont}_D (\text{Free sig}'')}$$

Thus it is sufficient to show

$$\text{fold } (\text{gen } h) (\text{openAlg } h_1)_{\text{Cont}_D (\text{Free sig}'')} = \text{fold } (\text{gen } h_1) (\text{openAlg } (h_2 \diamond h_1)) \cdot \text{assoc}^\circ \quad (37)$$

**Lemma B.7.** Let  $\phi :: (\Sigma_1 + (\Sigma_2 + \text{sig}')) \ a \rightarrow ((\Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2) + \text{sig}')$  be the evident isomorphism between these two signatures. We have

$$(\text{openAlg } h_1)_{\text{Cont}_D (\text{Free sig}'')} = (\text{openAlg } (h_2 \diamond h_1)) \cdot \phi \quad (38)$$

PROOF. By case analysis on input  $x$ ,

Case B.7.1. If  $x = \text{Inl } c$ ,

$$(\text{openAlg } h_1)_{\text{Cont}_D (\text{Free sig}'')} (\text{Inl } c) = \text{alg } h_1 \ c = \text{openAlg } (h_2 \diamond h_1) (\phi (\text{Inl } c))$$

Case B.7.2. If  $x = \text{Inr } (\text{Inl } c)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
& (\text{openAlg } h_1)_{\text{Cont}_D (\text{Free sig}'')} (\text{Inr } (\text{Inl } c)) \\
&= \{\downarrow \text{definition of openAlg}\} \\
& (\text{fwd} \cdot \text{conc}_{\text{CPS}} \cdot \text{fmap return}) (\text{Inl } c) \\
&= \{\downarrow \text{definition of conc}_{\text{CPS}}\} \\
& (\text{fwd} \cdot \text{liftAlgCont } (\text{openAlg } h_2) \cdot \text{fmap return}) (\text{Inl } c) \\
&= \{\downarrow \text{fmap on Inl}\} \\
& (\text{fwd} \cdot \text{liftAlgCont } (\text{openAlg } h_2)) (\text{Inl } (\text{fmap return } c)) \\
&= \{\downarrow \text{definition of liftAlgCont}\}
\end{aligned}$$



1569  $fwd (cont (\lambda k \rightarrow openAlg h_2 (fmap (\lambda m \rightarrow runCont m k) (Inl (fmap return c))))))$   
 1570  $= \{ \Downarrow fmap \text{ on } Inl \}$   
 1571  $fwd (cont (\lambda k \rightarrow openAlg h_2 (Inl (fmap ((\lambda m \rightarrow runCont m k) \cdot return) c))))$   
 1572  $= \{ \Downarrow \text{definition } openAlg h_2 \text{ on } Inl \}$   
 1573  $fwd (cont (\lambda k \rightarrow alg h_2 (fmap ((\lambda m \rightarrow runCont m k) \cdot return) c)))$   
 1574  $= \{ \Downarrow \text{cancelling } return \text{ and } runCont \}$   
 1575  $fwd (cont (\lambda k \rightarrow alg h_2 (fmap ((\lambda m \rightarrow runCont m k) \cdot return) c)))$   
 1576  $= \{ \Uparrow \text{definition of } liftAlgCont \}$   
 1577  $(fwd \cdot liftAlgCont (alg h_2) \cdot fmap return) c$   
 1578  $= \{ \Uparrow \text{definition of } \diamond \}$   
 1579  $alg (h_2 \diamond h_1) (Inr c)$   
 1580  $= \{ \Uparrow \text{definition of } openAlg \}$   
 1581  $openAlg (h_2 \diamond h_1) (Inl (Inr c))$   
 1582  $= \{ \Uparrow \text{definition of } \phi \}$   
 1583  $openAlg (h_2 \diamond h_1) (\phi (Inr (Inl c)))$   
 1584  
 1585  
 1586  
 1587

1588 Case B.7.3. If  $x = Inr (Inr c)$ ,

1589  $(gopenAlg h_1)_{Cont_D (Free sig')} (Inr (Inr c))$   
 1590  $= \{ \Downarrow \text{definition of } gopenAlg \}$   
 1591  $(fwd \cdot con_{CPS} \cdot fmap return) (Inr c)$   
 1592  $= \{ \Downarrow \text{definition of } con_{CPS} \}$   
 1593  $(fwd \cdot (liftAlgCont (openAlg h_2)) \cdot fmap return) (Inr c)$   
 1594  $= \{ \Downarrow \text{definition of } liftAlgCont \}$   
 1595  $(fwd \cdot (liftAlgCont (fwd_D \cdot Op \cdot fmap Var)) \cdot fmap return) c$   
 1596  $= \{ \Downarrow \text{definition of } liftAlgCont \text{ and simplification} \}$   
 1597  $fwd (cont (\lambda k \rightarrow (fwd_D \cdot Op) (fmap (\lambda x \rightarrow Var (k x)) c)))$   
 1598  $= \{ \Uparrow (fmap k \cdot Var) = (\lambda x \rightarrow Var (k x)) \}$   
 1599  $fwd_C (cont (\lambda k \rightarrow fwd_D (Op (fmap (fmap k \cdot Var) c))))$   
 1600  $= \{ \Uparrow fmap \text{ preserves function composition} \}$   
 1601  $fwd_C (cont (\lambda k \rightarrow fwd_D (Op (fmap (fmap k) (fmap Var c))))))$   
 1602  $= \{ \Uparrow fmap \text{ on } Op \}$   
 1603  $fwd_C (cont (\lambda k \rightarrow fwd_D (fmap k (Op (fmap Var c))))))$   
 1604  $= \{ \Uparrow \text{definition of } cps_{EM} \}$   
 1605  $(fwd_C \cdot cps_{EM} \cdot Op \cdot fmap Var) c$   
 1606  $= \{ \Uparrow \text{definition of } fwd \text{ for } Fused \}$   
 1607  $(fwd_{Fused} \cdot Op \cdot fmap Var) c$   
 1608  $= \{ \Uparrow \text{definition of } h_2 \diamond h_1 \}$   
 1609  $openAlg (h_2 \diamond h_1) (Inr c)$   
 1610  $= \{ \Uparrow \text{definition of } \phi \}$   
 1611  $openAlg (h_2 \diamond h_1) (\phi (Inr (Inr c)))$   
 1612  
 1613  
 1614  
 1615  
 1616  
 1617

□

Now Equation 37 follows from this lemma by *base functor fusion* [Hinze 2013]. This complete our proof of Theorem 5.3.

## C CORRECT HANDLERS INDUCE CORRECT TRANSFORMATIONS

This section proves Theorem 4.1. For brevity, we will only prove for open correctness of Theorem 4.1 since the case for closed correctness can be proved by replacing all occurrences of ‘for any  $T' :: \text{Theory sig}$ ’ in the proof with  $T'$  being the empty theory. We will use functions defined in Definition B.1, the function *ghandle*, and the concept of term monads (Definition B.2) from the previous section, but the other results from the last section are not used.

Given a theory  $T :: \text{Theory } \Sigma$ , a model of  $T$  is a set  $C$  with an algebra  $\Sigma C \rightarrow C$  that respects the equations of  $T$ . It is standard [Bauer 2018; Plotkin and Power 2002] that given any set  $X$ , the quotient set  $(\text{Free } \Sigma X) / \sim_T$  is the *free model* of  $T$  generated by  $X$ , and that the mapping from  $X$  to  $(\text{Free } \Sigma X) / \sim_T$  is a monad, which we denote by monad  $FM \Sigma$  with

$$\begin{aligned} \text{return } x &= [ \text{Var } x ] \\ [ \text{return } x ] \succcurlyeq k &= k \ x \\ [ \text{Op } op ] \succcurlyeq k &= [ \text{Op } (fmap (\succcurlyeq k) op) ] \end{aligned}$$

where  $[-]$  means the equivalence class that an element belongs to, instead of a list. Because  $\sim_T$  is defined to be a congruence relation on  $\text{Free } \Sigma$  (see Definition 3.1), the above definition of  $\succcurlyeq$  is well defined.  $FM$  is clearly a term monad (Definition B.2) of  $\Sigma$  with  $con \ x = [ \text{Op } x ]$ . The universal property of  $FM$  says that given any model  $(C :: *, alg :: \Sigma C \rightarrow C)$  and a function  $gen :: X \rightarrow C$ , there is a unique  $T$ -model homomorphism  $\overline{fold} \ gen \ alg$  from  $FM \ X$  to  $C$  such that

$$\overline{fold} \ gen \ alg [ \text{Var } x ] = gen \ x$$

Additionally, for any  $m :: \text{Free } \Sigma X$ ,

$$\overline{fold} \ gen \ alg [ m ] = fold \ gen \ alg \ m \quad (39)$$

**Lemma C.1.** *Given a term monad  $M$  of  $\Sigma$ , a modular carrier  $C$ , define*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{forward} &:: (\text{TermMonad } M \ \Sigma, M\text{Carrier } C) \Rightarrow \Sigma (C \ M) \rightarrow C \ M \\ \text{forward} &= fwd \cdot con \cdot fmap \ \text{return} \end{aligned}$$

then  $fwd :: M (C \ M) \rightarrow C \ M$  is a  $\Sigma$ -algebra homomorphism from  $con :: \Sigma (M (C \ M)) \rightarrow M (C \ M)$  to  $forward :: \Sigma (C \ M) \rightarrow C \ M$ :

$$fwd \cdot con = forward \cdot fmap \ fwd$$

PROOF. First we define  $con' :: \forall a. \Sigma a \rightarrow M a$  by  $con' = con \cdot fmap \ \text{return}$ . Conversely,

$$\begin{aligned} &con \\ &= \{ \uparrow \text{join} \cdot \text{return} = id \} \\ &con \cdot fmap \ \text{join} \cdot fmap \ \text{return} \\ &= \{ \uparrow \text{algebraicity of } con \} \\ &join \cdot con \cdot fmap \ \text{return} \\ &= join \cdot con' \end{aligned}$$

Then we calculate

$$forward \cdot fmap \ fwd$$

$$\begin{aligned}
1667 & = \text{fwd} \cdot \text{con} \cdot \text{fmap return} \cdot \text{fmap fwd} \\
1668 & = \text{fwd} \cdot \text{con}' \cdot \text{fmap fwd} \\
1669 & = \{ \Downarrow \text{ naturality of } \text{con}' \} \\
1670 & \quad \text{fwd} \cdot \text{fmap fwd} \cdot \text{con}' \\
1671 & = \{ \Downarrow \text{ Eilenberg-Moore property of } \text{fwd} \text{ (Equation 14)} \} \\
1672 & \quad \text{fwd} \cdot \text{join} \cdot \text{con}' \\
1673 & = \text{fwd} \cdot \text{con} \\
1674 & \\
1675 & 
\end{aligned}$$

□

1678 **Lemma C.2.** *Given a modular carrier  $C$ , a term monad  $M$  of  $\Sigma$ , if  $\text{con}_{M,a}$  respects an equation  $\text{lhs} = \text{rhs}$*   
1679 *for any  $a$  in the sense of Definition A.1, then the forward function defined in the last lemma respects*  
1680  *$\text{lhs} = \text{rhs}$  too.*

1681 **PROOF.** For any function  $f$  of type

$$1682 \quad \forall c. (\Sigma c \rightarrow c) \rightarrow G \rightarrow (V \rightarrow c) \rightarrow c$$

1683 for some  $G$  and  $V$ , if we view  $c$  and the first argument  $\Sigma c \rightarrow c$  as a  $\Sigma$ -algebra, by parametricity  
1684 [Voigtländer 2009; Reynolds 1983; Wadler 1989] and Lemma C.1, given any  $g :: G$  and  $k :: V \rightarrow$   
1685  $M (C M)$ , we have

$$1686 \quad \text{fwd} (f \text{ con } g k) = f \text{ forward } g (fwd \cdot k) \quad (40)$$

1687 Assuming  $\text{lhs}$  and  $\text{rhs}$  has type *Template*  $G V$ , to prove  $\text{lhs forward } g k' = \text{rhs forward } g k'$  for any  
1688  $g :: G$  and  $k' :: V \rightarrow C M$ , we define  $k = \text{return} \cdot k'$ . By the Eilenberg-Moore property of  $\text{fwd}$ , we  
1689 have  $k' = \text{fwd} \cdot k$  and we calculate

$$\begin{aligned}
1690 & \quad \text{lhs forward } g k' \\
1691 & = \text{lhs forward } g (fwd \cdot k) \\
1692 & = \{ \text{Equation 40 for } f := \text{lhs} \} \\
1693 & \quad \text{fwd} (\text{lhs con } g k) \\
1694 & = \{ \text{assumption that } \text{con} \text{ respects } \text{lhs} = \text{rhs} \} \\
1695 & \quad \text{fwd} (\text{rhs con } g k) \\
1696 & = \{ \text{reverse of the previous steps} \} \\
1697 & \quad \text{rhs forward } g k'
\end{aligned}$$

1702 Then we conclude *forward* respects the equation  $\text{lhs} = \text{rhs}$ . □

1703  
1704 **Lemma C.3.** *Given  $h :: M\text{Handler } \Sigma C A B$ , if  $h$  is a correct open handler of theory  $T :: \text{Theory } \Sigma$ ,*  
1705 *then for any  $\text{sig}'$  and  $T' :: \text{Theory } \text{sig}'$ ,  $C (FM \text{sig}')$  with*

$$1706 \quad \text{gopenAlg } h :: (\Sigma + \text{sig}') (C (FM \text{sig}')) \rightarrow C (FM \text{sig}')$$

1707 defined as in Section B.2 is a model of  $T + T'$ .  
1708

1709 **PROOF.** Because  $h$  is a correct open handler of  $T$ ,  $C (FM \text{sig}')$  is a model of  $T$  with algebra  $\text{alg } h$ .  
1710 The monad  $FM \text{sig}'$  is a term monad of  $\text{sig}'$ , so Lemma C.2 implies that  $C (FM \text{sig}')$  with algebra  
1711  $\text{fwd} \cdot \text{con} \cdot \text{fmap return}$  is model of  $T'$ . By definition, equations of  $T + T'$  are either an equation  
1712 from  $T$  or  $T'$ , and  $\text{gopenAlg } h$  is exactly *split* ( $\text{alg } h$ ) ( $\text{fwd} \cdot \text{con} \cdot \text{fmap return}$ ). Thus  $C (FM \text{sig}')$  is  
1713 a model of  $T + T'$ . □  
1714  
1715

**Lemma C.4.** Given a handler  $h :: MHandler \Sigma C A B$ , two theories  $T :: Theory \Sigma$  and  $T' :: Theory sig'$ , if  $c_1, c_2 :: Free (\Sigma + sig')$   $A$  for some type  $A$  such that  $c_1 \sim_{T+T'} c_2$ , then

$$fold (gen h)_{FM sig'} (gopenAlg h)_{FM sig'} c_1 = fold (gen h)_{FM sig'} (gopenAlg h)_{FM sig'} c_2$$

PROOF. By Lemma C.3,  $C (FM sig')$  is a  $(T + T')$ -model with algebra  $(gopenAlg h)_{FM sig'}$ . Thus by Equation 39, for any  $c :: Free (\Sigma + sig')$   $A$

$$fold (gen h)_{FM sig'} (gopenAlg h)_{FM sig'} c = \overline{fold} (gen h)_{FM sig'} (gopenAlg h)_{FM sig'} [c]$$

Now that  $c_1 \sim_{T+T'} c_2$ ,  $[c_1] = [c_2]$ . Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} & fold (gen h)_{FM sig'} (gopenAlg h)_{FM sig'} c_1 \\ &= \overline{fold} (gen h)_{FM sig'} (gopenAlg h)_{FM sig'} [c_1] \\ &= fold (gen h)_{FM sig'} (gopenAlg h)_{FM sig'} c_2 \end{aligned}$$

□

Now we are ready to prove Theorem 4.1 using parametricity [Voigtländer 2009; Reynolds 1983; Wadler 1989]. Let  $h :: MHandler \Sigma C A B$  be a correct open handler of  $T :: Theory \Sigma$ ,  $T' :: Theory sig'$  be any theory,  $c_1, c_2 :: Free (\Sigma + sig')$   $A$  be any two computations such that  $c_1 \sim_{T+T'} c_2$ . Because  $ghandle$  is polymorphic in its *TermMonad* argument  $m$ , and  $[-] :: \forall a. Free sig' a \rightarrow FM sig' a$  is evidently a *TermMonad* morphism, thus by parametricity, for any  $c$ ,

$$[(ghandle h_1)_{Free sig'} c] = (ghandle h_1)_{FM sig'} c \quad (41)$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} & [handle c_1] \\ &= [(ghandle h_1)_{Free sig'} c_1] \\ &= (ghandle h_1)_{FM sig'} c_1 \\ &= ((run h)_{FM sig'} \cdot fold (gen h)_{FM sig'} (gopenAlg h)_{FM sig'}) c_1 \\ &= \{ \text{Lemma C.4} \} \\ &= ((run h)_{FM sig'} \cdot fold (gen h)_{FM sig'} (gopenAlg h)_{FM sig'}) c_2 \\ &= \{ \text{reverse of the above steps} \} \\ & [handle c_2] \end{aligned}$$

Then by definition  $[handle c_1] = [handle c_2]$  iff.  $handle c_1 \sim_{T'} handle c_2$ , which is what we want to show.

## D PROOFS OF PRESERVATION OF EQUATIONS

This section contains detailed calculations to prove Theorem 5.5.

**Lemma D.1.** For any functor  $\Sigma$ , types  $\Gamma, V$ , function  $f :: \forall c. (\Sigma c \rightarrow c) \rightarrow \Gamma \rightarrow (V \rightarrow c) \rightarrow c$ , function  $alg :: \Sigma R \rightarrow R$  for some type  $R$ , it holds that

$$f (liftAlgCont alg) g k = Cont (\lambda q \rightarrow f alg g ((\lambda m \rightarrow runCont m q) \cdot k))$$

for any  $g$  and  $k$ .

PROOF. It is sufficient to show that for any type  $a$  and any  $q :: a \rightarrow R$ ,

$$runCont (f (liftAlgCont alg) g k) q = f alg g ((\lambda m \rightarrow runCont m q) \cdot k)$$

1765 This is a consequence of the parametricity of  $f$  because  $\lambda m \rightarrow \text{runCont } m \ q$  is a  $\Sigma$ -algebra  
 1766 homomorphism from

$$1767 \quad \text{liftAlgCont } \text{alg} :: \Sigma (\text{Cont}_R \ a) \rightarrow \text{Cont}_R \ a$$

$$1768 \quad \text{liftAlgCont } \text{alg} \ s = \text{cont } (\lambda k \rightarrow \text{alg } (\text{fmap } (\lambda m \rightarrow \text{runCont } m \ k) \ s))$$

1769 to  $\text{alg} :: \Sigma R \rightarrow R$ . □

1771 **Theorem D.2** (Preservation of Equations). *Suppose  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  are modular handlers of signatures*  
 1772  $\Sigma_1$  *and*  $\Sigma_2$  *respectively. If*  $h_1$  *and*  $h_2$  *are correct open (resp. closed) handlers of*  $T_1 :: \text{Theory } \Sigma_1$  *and*  
 1773  $T_2 :: \text{Theory } \Sigma_2$  *correspondingly, then*  $h_2 \diamond h_1$  *is a correct open (resp. closed) handler of*  $T_1 + T_2$ .

1774 **PROOF.** By [Definition 2.3](#), each equation  $\text{EqnC } \text{lhs } \text{rhs}$  of  $T_1 + T_2$  is either an equation from  $T_1$  or  
 1775 an equation from  $T_2$  lifted to signature  $\Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2$ . If it is from  $\text{EqnC } \text{lhs}' \ \text{rhs}' :: \text{Equation}_C \ \Sigma_1 \ \Gamma \ V$  from  
 1776  $T_1$ , then

$$1778 \quad \text{lhs}, \text{rhs} :: \forall c. ((\Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2) \ c \rightarrow c) \rightarrow \Gamma \rightarrow (V \rightarrow c) \rightarrow c$$

$$1779 \quad \text{lhs } \text{alg} = \text{lhs}' (\text{alg} \cdot \text{Inl})$$

$$1780 \quad \text{rhs } \text{alg} = \text{rhs}' (\text{alg} \cdot \text{Inl})$$

1781 Then

$$1782 \quad \text{lhs } (\text{alg } (h_2 \diamond h_1)) = \text{rhs } (\text{alg } (h_2 \diamond h_1))$$

$$1783 \quad \Leftrightarrow \text{lhs}' (\text{alg } (h_2 \diamond h_1) \cdot \text{Inl}) = \text{rhs}' (\text{alg } (h_2 \diamond h_1) \cdot \text{Inl})$$

$$1784 \quad \Leftrightarrow \{ \text{definition of } \text{alg } (h_2 \diamond h_1) \}$$

$$1785 \quad \text{lhs}' (\text{alg } h_1) = \text{lhs}' (\text{alg } h_1)$$

1786 The last line holds because  $h_1$  is a correct handler of  $\text{lhs}' = \text{rhs}'$  by assumption.

1787 If  $\text{EqnC } \text{lhs } \text{rhs}$  is from  $T_2$ , then

$$1788 \quad \text{lhs}, \text{rhs} :: \forall c. ((\Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2) \ c \rightarrow c) \rightarrow \Gamma \rightarrow (V \rightarrow c) \rightarrow c$$

$$1789 \quad \text{lhs } \text{alg} = \text{lhs}' (\text{alg} \cdot \text{Inr})$$

$$1790 \quad \text{rhs } \text{alg} = \text{rhs}' (\text{alg} \cdot \text{Inr})$$

1791 By definition,

$$1792 \quad \text{alg } (h_2 \diamond h_1) (\text{Inr } \text{op}) = (\text{Fused} \cdot \text{fwd} \cdot \text{liftAlgCont } (\text{alg } h_2) \cdot \text{fmap } (\text{return} \cdot \text{unFused})) \ \text{op}$$

1793 By [Lemma C.2](#), to show that  $\text{alg } (h_2 \diamond h_1)$  respects  $\text{lhs} = \text{rhs}$ , it is sufficient to show that

$$1794 \quad \text{liftAlgCont } (\text{alg } h_2) :: \text{Monad } m \Rightarrow \Sigma_2 (\text{Cont}_D \ m \ a) \rightarrow \text{Cont}_D \ m \ a$$

1795 respects  $\text{lhs}' = \text{rhs}'$  for any  $m$  and  $a$ . Then for any  $g$  and  $k$ ,

$$1800 \quad \text{lhs}' (\text{liftAlgCont } (\text{alg } h_2)) \ g \ k$$

$$1801 \quad = \{ \downarrow \text{Lemma D.1} \}$$

$$1802 \quad \text{Cont}_{\lambda q \rightarrow \text{lhs}' (\text{alg } h_2) \ g} ((\lambda m \rightarrow \text{runCont } m \ q) \cdot k)$$

$$1803 \quad = \{ \downarrow \text{assumption that } \text{alg } h_2 \text{ respects } \text{lhs}' = \text{rhs}' \}$$

$$1804 \quad \text{Cont}_{\lambda q \rightarrow \text{rhs}' (\text{alg } h_2) \ g} ((\lambda m \rightarrow \text{runCont } m \ q) \cdot k)$$

$$1805 \quad = \text{lhs}' (\text{liftAlgCont } (\text{alg } h_2)) \ g \ k$$

$$1806 \quad \{ \downarrow \text{Lemma D.1} \}$$

1807 □

## 1809 E MISCELLANEOUS CALCULATIONS

1810 This section contains the calculations omitted in the main text. Most of them are straightforward  
 1811 equational proofs.

1812

## 1814 E.1 Eilenberg-Moore Laws for the Fused Modular Carrier

1815 In [Theorem 5.2](#) we define the fused modular carrier to be

$$1816 \quad \text{newtype } Fused\ c\ d\ m = Fused\ \{unFused :: c\ (Cont_d\ m)\}$$

1817 with the following  $fwd$  function:

1819 **instance**  $(MCarrier\ c, MCarrier\ d) \Rightarrow MCarrier\ (Fused\ c\ d)$  **where**

$$1820 \quad fwd = Fused \cdot fwd_c \cdot fmap\ unFused \cdot cps_{EM}$$

$$1821 \quad cps_{EM} :: (MCarrier\ d, Monad\ m) \Rightarrow m\ a \rightarrow Cont_d\ m\ a$$

$$1822 \quad cps_{EM}\ m = Cont\ (\lambda k \rightarrow fwd\ (fmap\ k\ m))$$

1823 Here we prove that this  $fwd$  instance indeed satisfies the Eilenberg-Moore laws (14). For the first  
1824 equation  $fwd \cdot return = id$  in (14):

$$\begin{aligned}
 1825 \quad & fwd\ (return\ x) \\
 1826 \quad &= (Fused \cdot fwd_c \cdot fmap\ unFused)\ (cps_{EM}\ (return\ x)) \\
 1827 \quad &= (Fused \cdot fwd_c \cdot fmap\ unFused)\ (Cont\ (\lambda k \rightarrow fwd_d\ (fmap\ k\ (return\ x)))) \\
 1828 \quad &= (Fused \cdot fwd_c \cdot fmap\ unFused)\ (Cont\ (\lambda k \rightarrow fwd_d\ (return\ (k\ x)))) \\
 1829 \quad &\quad \{\downarrow\ fwd_d \cdot return = id\} \\
 1830 \quad &= (Fused \cdot fwd_c \cdot fmap\ unFused)\ (Cont\ (\lambda k \rightarrow k\ x)) \\
 1831 \quad &= (Fused \cdot fwd_c)\ (Cont\ (\lambda k \rightarrow k\ (unFused\ x))) \\
 1832 \quad &= (Fused \cdot fwd_c)\ (return_{Cont}\ (unFused\ x)) \\
 1833 \quad &\quad \{\downarrow\ fwd_c \cdot return = id\} \\
 1834 \quad &= Fused\ (unFused\ x) \\
 1835 \quad &= x
 \end{aligned}$$

1836 For the second equation  $fwd \cdot fmap\ fwd = fwd \cdot join$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 1837 \quad & fwd \cdot fmap\ fwd \\
 1838 \quad &= Fused \cdot fwd_c \cdot fmap\ unFused \cdot cps_{EM} \cdot fmap\ (Fused \cdot fwd_c \cdot fmap\ unFused \cdot cps_{EM}) \\
 1839 \quad &= \{\downarrow\ \text{Naturality}\} \\
 1840 \quad & Fused \cdot fwd_c \cdot fmap\ unFused \cdot fmap\ (Fused \cdot fwd_c \cdot fmap\ unFused) \cdot cps_{EM} \cdot fmap\ cps_{EM} \\
 1841 \quad &= \{\downarrow\ unFused \cdot Fused = id\} \\
 1842 \quad & Fused \cdot fwd_c \cdot fmap\ (fwd_c \cdot fmap\ unFused) \cdot cps_{EM} \cdot fmap\ cps_{EM} \\
 1843 \quad &= \{\uparrow\ fwd_c \cdot join = fwd_c \cdot fmap\ fwd_c\} \\
 1844 \quad & Fused \cdot fwd_c \cdot join \cdot fmap\ unFused \cdot cps_{EM} \cdot fmap\ cps_{EM} \\
 1845 \quad &= \{\uparrow\ \text{Naturality}\} \\
 1846 \quad & Fused \cdot fwd_c \cdot fmap\ unFused \cdot join \cdot cps_{EM} \cdot fmap\ cps_{EM} \\
 1847 \quad &= \{\uparrow\ cps_{EM}\ \text{is a monad morphism preserving join}\} \\
 1848 \quad & Fused \cdot fwd_c \cdot fmap\ unFused \cdot cps_{EM} \cdot join \\
 1849 \quad &= fwd \cdot join
 \end{aligned}$$

## 1850 E.2 Calculations for Clauses of Fused Handler

1851 This subsection provides the detailed calculations for [Lemma 5.6](#) and [Lemma 5.7](#).

1852 **Proof of Lemma 5.6.** The clause for  $O_1$  of  $h_2 \diamond h_1$  is easy to calculate:

$$\begin{aligned}
 1853 \quad & \overline{c_1}\ p\ k \\
 1854 \quad &= alg\ (h_2 \diamond h_1)\ (Inl\ (O_1\ p\ k))
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
1863 & \quad \{\downarrow \text{Definition of } h_2 \diamond h_1 \text{ (Theorem 5.3)}\} \\
1864 & = \text{Fused} (\text{alg } h_1 (\text{fmap } \text{unFused} (O_1 p k))) \\
1865 & \quad \{\downarrow \text{fmap on signature functors}\} \\
1866 & = \text{Fused} (\text{alg } h_1 (O_1 p (\text{unFused} \cdot k))) \\
1867 & \quad \{\uparrow \text{Definition of } c_1 \text{ in Lemma 5.6}\} \\
1868 & = \text{Fused} (c_1 p (\text{unFused} \cdot k)) \\
1869 &
\end{aligned}$$

1870 The clause for  $O_2$  needs some calculation to expand  $\text{liftAlgCont}$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
1871 & \quad \overline{c_2} p k \\
1872 & = \text{alg} (h_2 \diamond h_1) (\text{Inr} (O_2 p k)) \\
1873 & = \{\downarrow \text{Definition of } h_2 \diamond h_1 \text{ (Theorem 5.3)}\} \\
1874 & \quad \text{liftAlgF} (\text{alg } h_2) (O_2 p k) \\
1875 & = \{\downarrow \text{Definition of liftAlgF (5.2)}\} \\
1876 & \quad (\text{Fused} \cdot \text{fwd} \cdot \text{liftAlgCont} (\text{alg } h_2) \cdot \text{fmap} (\text{return} \cdot \text{unFused})) (O_2 p k) \\
1877 & = (\text{Fused} \cdot \text{fwd} \cdot \text{liftAlgCont} (\text{alg } h_2)) (O_2 p (\text{return} \cdot \text{unFused} \cdot k)) \\
1878 & = \{\downarrow \text{Definition of liftAlgCont (17)}\} \\
1879 & \quad \text{Fused} (\text{fwd} (\text{Cont} (\lambda t \rightarrow \text{alg } h_2 (\text{fmap} (\lambda m \rightarrow \text{runCont } m t) (O_2 p (\text{return} \cdot \text{unFused} \cdot k)))))) \\
1880 & = \{\downarrow \text{fmap on signature functors}\} \\
1881 & \quad \text{Fused} (\text{fwd} (\text{Cont} (\lambda t \rightarrow \text{alg } h_2 (O_2 p ((\lambda m \rightarrow \text{runCont } m t) \cdot \text{return} \cdot \text{unFused} \cdot k)))))) \\
1882 & = \{\downarrow \text{Expanding function composition}\} \\
1883 & \quad \text{Fused} (\text{fwd} (\text{Cont} (\lambda t \rightarrow \text{alg } h_2 (O_2 p (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow \text{runCont} (\text{return} (\text{unFused} (k a_2))) t)))))) \\
1884 & = \{\downarrow \text{Expanding return and runCont (16)}\} \\
1885 & \quad \text{Fused} (\text{fwd} (\text{Cont} (\lambda t \rightarrow c_2 p (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow t (\text{unFused} (k a_2)))))) \\
1886 & \\
1887 &
\end{aligned}$$

1888 **Proof of Lemma 5.7.** When the modular carrier  $c$  of the first handler is  $\text{FreeEM } Y$  for some  
1889 type  $Y$ , we can simplify  $\overline{c_2}$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
1891 & \quad \overline{c_2} p k \\
1892 & = \text{Fused} (\text{fwd} (\text{Cont} (\lambda t \rightarrow c_2 p (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow t (\text{unFused} (k a_2)))))) \\
1893 & = \{\downarrow \text{Definition of fwd for FreeEM (Example 3.5)}\} \\
1894 & \quad \text{Fused} (\text{FreeEM} \cdot \text{join} \cdot \text{fmap } \text{unFreeEM} (\text{Cont} (\lambda t \rightarrow c_2 p (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow t (\text{unFused} (k a_2)))))) \\
1895 & = \{\downarrow \text{fmap of Cont.}\} \\
1896 & \quad \text{Fused} (\text{FreeEM} (\text{join} (\text{Cont} (\lambda t \rightarrow c_2 p (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow t (\text{unFreeEM} (\text{unFused} (k a_2)))))))) \\
1897 & = \{\downarrow \text{join of Cont.}\} \\
1898 & \quad \text{Fused} (\text{FreeEM} (\text{Cont} (\lambda q \rightarrow \text{runCont} (\text{Cont} (\lambda t \rightarrow c_2 p (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow \\
1899 & \quad t (\text{unFreeEM} (\text{unFused} (k a_2)))))) (\lambda x \rightarrow \text{runCont } x q)))) \\
1900 & = \{\downarrow \text{Eliminating runCont}\} \\
1901 & \quad \text{Fused} (\text{FreeEM} (\text{Cont} (\lambda q \rightarrow c_2 p (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow (\lambda x \rightarrow \text{runCont } x q) \\
1902 & \quad (\text{unFreeEM} (\text{unFused} (k a_2))))))) \\
1903 & = \text{Fused} (\text{FreeEM} (\text{Cont} (\lambda q \rightarrow c_2 p (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow \text{runCont} (\text{unFreeEM} (\text{unFused} (k a_2))) q)))) \\
1904 & = \{\downarrow \text{Letting } k' = \text{runCont} \cdot \text{unFreeEM} \cdot \text{unFused} \cdot k\} \\
1905 & \quad \text{Fused} (\text{FreeEM} (\text{Cont} (\lambda q \rightarrow c_2 p (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow k' a_2 q)))) \\
1906 & \\
1907 &
\end{aligned}$$

1908 Similarly, when the modular carrier is  $\text{StateC } S Y$  for some  $S$  and  $Y$ , we can simplify  $\overline{c_2}$  by

$$\begin{aligned}
1909 & \quad \overline{c_2} p k \\
1910 & = \text{Fused} (\text{fwd} (\text{Cont} (\lambda t \rightarrow c_2 p (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow t (\text{unFused} (k a_2)))))) \\
1911 &
\end{aligned}$$

1912 = {↓ Definition of  $fwd$  for  $StateC$  (Example 3.6) }  
 1913 **let**  $mc = Cont (\lambda t \rightarrow c_2 p (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow t (unFused (k a_2))))$   
 1914 **in**  $Fused (StateC (\lambda s \rightarrow (do \{f \leftarrow mc; unStateC f s\})))$   
 1915 = {↓ Expanding  $\succcurlyeq$  for  $Cont$  }  
 1916  $Fused (StateC (\lambda s \rightarrow Cont (\lambda q \rightarrow runCont (Cont (\lambda t \rightarrow c_2 p (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow$   
 1917  $t (unFused (k a_2)))))(\lambda f \rightarrow runCont (unStateC f s) q)))$   
 1918 = {↓ Applying functions }  
 1919  $Fused (StateC (\lambda s \rightarrow Cont (\lambda q \rightarrow c_2 p (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow$   
 1920  $runCont (unStateC (unFused (k a_2)) s) q)))$   
 1921 = {↓ Letting  $k' a_2 s = runCont (unStateC (unFused (k a_2)) s)$  }  
 1922  $Fused (StateC (\lambda s \rightarrow Cont (\lambda q \rightarrow c_2 p (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow k' a_2 s q)))$   
 1923  
 1924

### 1925 E.3 Local State Semantics from the Tensor

1926 The following is the proof for our claim in Remark 6.1 that the laws of the local state semantics from  
 1927 [Pauwels et al. 2019] can be derived from the laws of the tensor of mutable state and nondeterminism.  
 1928 The laws in [Pauwels et al. 2019] are  
 1929

$$1930 m \succcurlyeq (\_ \rightarrow fail) = fail \quad (42)$$

$$1931 m \succcurlyeq (\lambda x \rightarrow f_1 x \sqcap f_2 x) = (m \succcurlyeq f_1) \sqcap (m \succcurlyeq f_2) \quad (43)$$

1932 where  $m$  ranges over computations in the combined theory. The first equation includes a nullary  
 1933 operation  $fail$  that fails a branch of nondeterminism subject to the equations  
 1934

$$1935 fail \sqcap m = fail \quad m \sqcap fail = fail \quad (44)$$

1936 which we did not include in the theory of nondeterminism in this paper. But this is easily fixable:  
 1937  $ndetH$  can be extended to handle  $fail$  by returning an empty set, and it can be verified to respect  
 1938 the laws of  $fail$ . In the following, we show that for any  $m :: Free (State_s + NDet) a$ , (42) and (43)  
 1939 hold when applying  $handle h$  to both sides of the equations, for any handler  $h$  that is correct for  
 1940 the tensor  $State_s \otimes NDet$  and any  $m :: Free (State_s + NDet) a$ .  
 1941

1942 For (42), we prove by induction on  $m$ : if  $m$  is  $Var x$  for some  $x$ ,  $Var x \succcurlyeq \_ \rightarrow fail = fail$  holds  
 1943 directly. If  $m$  is  $O p k$  for some  $O$ ,  $p$  and  $k$ , and if  $O$  is an operation from  $State_s$ ,  
 1944

$$\begin{aligned}
 & handle h (O p k \succcurlyeq \_ \rightarrow fail) \\
 &= handle h (do \{O p k; fail\}) \\
 &= \{ \downarrow \text{Handler } h \text{ respects the tensor of } NDet \text{ and } State_s \} \\
 & handle h (do \{x \leftarrow fail; O p k; return x\}) \\
 &= \{ \downarrow fail \text{ is a nullary operation} \} \\
 & handle h fail
 \end{aligned}$$

1952 If  $O$  is an operation from  $NDet$ , the calculation above still holds because  $fail$  is commutative with  
 1953 any operations of  $NDet$  following the laws (44).  
 1954

1955 For (43), we also prove by induction on  $m$ : if  $m$  is  $Var x$  for some  $x$ ,  
 1956

$$\begin{aligned}
 & m \succcurlyeq (\lambda x \rightarrow f_1 x \sqcap f_2 x) \\
 &= Var x \succcurlyeq (\lambda x \rightarrow f_1 x \sqcap f_2 x) \\
 &= f_1 x \sqcap f_2 x \\
 &= (m \succcurlyeq f_1) \sqcap (m \succcurlyeq f_2)
 \end{aligned}$$



1961 if  $m$  is some  $O p k$  and if  $O$  is from  $State_s$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{handle } h (m \succcurlyeq (\lambda x \rightarrow f_1 x \sqcap f_2 x)) \\
 &= \text{handle } h (O p k \succcurlyeq (\lambda x \rightarrow f_1 x \sqcap f_2 x)) \\
 &= \text{handle } h (O p (\lambda a \rightarrow f_1 (k a) \sqcap f_2 (k a))) \\
 &= \{\downarrow \text{ The commutativity of state operation } O \text{ and } \sqcap \} \\
 & \quad \text{handle } h (O p (f_1 \cdot k) \sqcap O p (f_2 \cdot k)) \\
 &= \text{handle } h ((m \succcurlyeq f_1) \sqcap (m \succcurlyeq f_2))
 \end{aligned}$$

1969 Additionally, the calculation above still holds when  $O$  is some operation from  $NDet$  because  $\sqcap$  is  
 1970 commutative with any operation of  $NDet$  following the laws of  $NDet$ .

#### 1972 E.4 Correctness for the Global State Semantics

1973 The following is a proof for the claim in Remark 6.2 that the composite handler  $st s \diamond ndetH$  is a  
 1974 correct closed handler of the global state semantics from [Pauwels et al. 2019]. In the *put-or* law,

$$1975 \quad (Put s (\lambda() \rightarrow m)) \sqcap n = Put s (\lambda() \rightarrow m \sqcap n) \quad (45)$$

1977 Operation *Put* is from the second handler  $st s$ , and the modular carrier of first handler  $ndetH$  is  
 1978 *FreeEM*. Thus by Lemma 5.7, the clause for *Put* of  $st s \diamond ndetH$  is

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \overline{c_{put}} p_2 k \\
 &= Fused (FreeEM (Cont (\lambda q \rightarrow c_{put} p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow k' a_2 q)))) \\
 & \quad \{\downarrow c_{put} \text{ is the clause for } Put \text{ of } stH \} \\
 &= Fused (FreeEM (Cont (\lambda q \rightarrow StateC (\lambda s \rightarrow unStateC (k' () q) p_2)
 \end{aligned}$$

1984 where  $k' = runCont \cdot unFreeEM \cdot unFused \cdot k$ . And the clause for  $(\sqcap)$ , i.e. *Coin* is

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \overline{c_{coin}} () k = Fused (FreeEM (\mathbf{do} \ l_1 \leftarrow unFreeEM (unFused (k \ True)) \\
 & \quad \ l_2 \leftarrow unFreeEM (unFused (k \ False)) \\
 & \quad \ \text{return } (l_1 \cup l_2)))
 \end{aligned}$$

1989 For any  $m, n$ , plugging in  $\overline{c_{put}}$  and  $\overline{c_{coin}}$  in (45) gives

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (Put s (\lambda() \rightarrow n)) \sqcap m \\
 &= \overline{c_{coin}} () (\lambda b \rightarrow \mathbf{if} \ b \ \mathbf{then} \ \overline{c_{put}} \ s (\lambda() \rightarrow m) \ \mathbf{else} \ n) \\
 &= Fused (FreeEM (\mathbf{do} \ l_1 \leftarrow unFusedEM (unFused (\overline{c_{put}} \ s (\lambda() \rightarrow m))) \\
 & \quad \ l_2 \leftarrow unFreeEM (unFused \ n) \\
 & \quad \ \text{return } (l_1 \cup l_2))) \\
 & \quad \{\downarrow \text{ Letting } m' = unFreeEM (unFused \ m) \text{ and } n' = unFreeEM (unFused \ n) \} \\
 &= Fused (FreeEM (\mathbf{do} \ l_1 \leftarrow Cont (\lambda q \rightarrow StateC (\_ \rightarrow unStateC (runCont \ m' \ q) \ s)) \\
 & \quad \ l_2 \leftarrow n' \\
 & \quad \ \text{return } (l_1 \cup l_2))) \\
 &= \{\downarrow \text{ Expanding } \mathbf{do}\text{-notation for } Cont \} \\
 & \quad Fused (FreeEM (Cont (\lambda t \rightarrow StateC (\_ \rightarrow unStateC (m' (\lambda l_1 \rightarrow n' (\lambda l_2 \rightarrow t (l_1 \cup l_2)))) \ s)))) \\
 & \quad \{\uparrow \text{ Expanding } \mathbf{do}\text{-notation for } Cont \} \\
 &= Fused (FreeEM (Cont (\lambda t \rightarrow StateC (\_ \rightarrow unStateC ( \\
 & \quad \ runCont (unFreeEM (unFused (\mathbf{do} \ \{l_1 \leftarrow m'; l_2 \leftarrow n'; \text{return } (l_1 \cup l_2)\})) \ t) \ s)))) \\
 &= \{\uparrow \text{ Expanding } \overline{c_{coin}} \} \\
 & \quad Fused (FreeEM (Cont (\lambda t \rightarrow StateC (\_ \rightarrow unStateC (
 \end{aligned}$$

2010  $runCont (unFreeEM (unFused (\overline{c_{coin}} () (\lambda b \rightarrow \text{if } b \text{ then } m \text{ else } n)))) t) s))))$   
 2011  $= \{\uparrow \text{Expanding } \overline{c_{put}}\}$   
 2012  $\overline{c_{put}} s (\lambda () \rightarrow \overline{c_{coin}} () (\lambda b \rightarrow \text{if } b \text{ then } m \text{ else } n))$   
 2013  $= Put s (\lambda () \rightarrow m \sqcap n)$   
 2014  
 2015 This establishes (45).  
 2016

## 2017 E.5 Correctness of the Writer Handler

2018 **Lemma E.1.** *Handler  $wtH$  in Section 6.2 is a correct open handler of the theory of writer effect with*  
 2019 *equation  $wtAdd$ .*

2020 **PROOF.** The accumulation law (see Section 6.2) can be formalised by

$$\begin{aligned}
 2021 \quad & wtAdd :: Monoid\ w \Rightarrow Equation_C (Writer\ w) (w, w) () \\
 2022 \quad & wtAdd = Eqn_C\ lhs\ rhs\ \text{where} \\
 2023 \quad & lhs\ alg\ (w_1, w_2)\ k = alg\ (Tell\ w_1\ (\lambda () \rightarrow alg\ (Tell\ w_2\ k))) \\
 2024 \quad & rhs\ alg\ (w_1, w_2)\ k = alg\ (Tell\ (w_1 \diamond w_2)\ k)
 \end{aligned}$$

2025 Let  $lhs$  and  $rhs$  be the two sides of the equation,  $w_1, w_2 :: w$  and  $k :: () \rightarrow FreeEM (a, w) m$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}
 2026 \quad & lhs\ (alg\ wtH)\ (w_1, w_2)\ k \\
 2027 \quad & = \{\downarrow \text{definition of } lhs\} \\
 2028 \quad & alg\ wtH\ (Tell\ w_1\ (alg\ wtH\ (Tell\ w_2\ (k\ ()))))) \\
 2029 \quad & = \{\downarrow \text{definition of } alg\ wtH\ \text{on } Tell\} \\
 2030 \quad & alg\ wtH\ (Tell\ w_1\ (FreeEM\ (\text{do}\ \{(a, w) \leftarrow unFreeEM\ (k\ ()) \\
 2031 \quad & \quad \quad \quad \text{return}\ (a, w_2 \diamond w)\}))) \\
 2032 \quad & = \{\downarrow \text{definition of } alg\ wtH\ \text{on } Tell\} \\
 2033 \quad & FreeEM\ (\text{do}\ \{(b, u) \leftarrow (\text{do}\ \{(a, w) \leftarrow unFreeEM\ (k\ ()) \\
 2034 \quad & \quad \quad \quad \text{return}\ (a, w_2 \diamond w)\}) \\
 2035 \quad & \quad \quad \quad \text{return}\ (b, w_1 \diamond u)\}) \\
 2036 \quad & = \{\downarrow \text{monadic properties}\} \\
 2037 \quad & FreeEM\ (\text{do}\ \{(a, w) \leftarrow unFreeEM\ (k\ ()) \\
 2038 \quad & \quad \quad \quad \text{return}\ (a, w_1 \diamond (w_2 \diamond w))\}) \\
 2039 \quad & = \{\downarrow \text{monoid law: } w_1 \diamond (w_2 \diamond w) = (w_1 \diamond w_2) \diamond w\} \\
 2040 \quad & alg\ wtH\ (Tell\ (w_1 \diamond w_2)\ (k\ ())) \\
 2041 \quad & = \{\uparrow \text{definition of } rhs\} \\
 2042 \quad & rhs\ (alg\ wtH)\ (w_1, w_2)\ k
 \end{aligned}$$

□

2043 **Theorem E.2 (Theorem 6.6).** *Both  $stH\ s \diamond wtH$  and  $wtH \diamond stH$  are correct open handlers of the tensor*  
 2044 *of mutable state and writer.*

2045 **PROOF.** Following Theorem 6.5,  $wtH \diamond stH\ s$  is a correct open handler of the tensor. To show that  
 2046  $stH\ s \diamond wtH$  is correct, we apply Corollary 6.2. For  $op_1 = Tell$  and  $op_2 = Put$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 2047 \quad & c'_1\ p\ k = runCont (unFreeEM (c_1\ p (FreeEM \cdot Cont \cdot k))) \{\downarrow \text{definition of } c_1\} \\
 2048 \quad & = runCont (\text{do}\ \{(a, u) \leftarrow Cont\ (k\ ()); \text{return}\ (a, p \diamond u)\}) \\
 2049 \quad & \{\downarrow \text{definition of } \gg \text{ for the continuation monad}\} \\
 2050 \quad & = \lambda q \rightarrow k\ () (\lambda (a, u) \rightarrow q\ (a, p \diamond u))
 \end{aligned}$$

$$c_2 p k = \text{StateC } (\lambda s \rightarrow \text{unStateC } (k \ () \ ) p)$$

and we establish (21) by the following calculation:

$$\begin{aligned} & c'_1 p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow (\lambda q \rightarrow c_2 p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow k' a_1 a_2 q))) && \{\downarrow \text{expanding } c_2\} \\ & = c'_1 p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow (\lambda q \rightarrow \text{StateC } (\lambda s \rightarrow \text{unStateC } (k' a_1 \ () \ ) q) p_2)) && \{\downarrow \text{expanding } c_1\} \\ & = \lambda q \rightarrow \text{StateC } (\lambda s \rightarrow \text{unStateC } (k' \ () \ ) (\lambda (a, u) \rightarrow q (a, p_1 \diamond u))) p_2 && \{\uparrow \text{expanding } c_1\} \\ & = \lambda q \rightarrow \text{StateC } (\lambda s \rightarrow \text{unStateC } (c'_1 p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow k' a_1 \ () \ ) q) p_2) && \{\uparrow \text{expanding } c_2\} \\ & = \lambda q \rightarrow c_2 p_2 (\lambda a_2 \rightarrow c'_1 p_1 (\lambda a_1 \rightarrow k' a_1 a_2 q)) \end{aligned}$$

For  $op_1 = \text{Tell}$  and  $op_2 = \text{Get}$ , we can similarly show that both sides of Equation 21 are equal to

$$\lambda q \rightarrow \text{StateC } (\lambda s \rightarrow k' \ () \ ) s (\lambda (a, u) \rightarrow q (a, p_1 \diamond u)) s$$

By Corollary 6.2 we conclude that  $stH \ s \diamond \ wtH$  correctly handles the tensor.  $\square$

## F A SIMPLE LANGUAGE FOR MODULAR HANDLERS

This section shows a fine-grained call-by-value [Levy 2003] language  $\lambda_M$  with effect handlers, its type system, and a denotational semantics based on the constructions discussed in this paper. The language is similar to the language core Eff in [Bauer and Pretnar 2015] except that the type system of  $\lambda_M$  requires handlers to work polymorphically in unhandled operations, so handlers in  $\lambda_M$  are always modular handlers.

### F.1 Abstract Syntax

Let  $m, n, p, k, x,$  and  $y$  range over a set of variables, and  $op$  range over a set of operation symbols. The types of  $\lambda_M$  are split into *computation types* and *value types*, and a subset of value types are *ground types*, which does not contain functions and handlers.

Ground types	$G, P ::= \prod_{i \in I} G_i \mid \prod_{i \in I} G_i$
Value types	$A, B ::= G \mid A \rightarrow \underline{C} \mid A \Rightarrow_{\Sigma} B \mid \prod_{i \in I} A_i \mid \prod_{i \in I} A_i$
Computation types	$\underline{C}, \underline{D} ::= M A$
Effects	$M ::= F_{\Sigma} \mid m$
Signatures	$\Sigma ::= \{\text{op}_i : P \rightarrow G\}_{i \in I}$

where the index set  $I$  is always finite. Note that when  $I$  is the empty set, the product type  $\prod\{\}$  can be used as the unit type and the coproduct type  $\prod\{\}$  can be used as the empty type. Therefore we do not need these base types in the language.

The terms of  $\lambda_M$  are split into two syntactic categories: pure *values* and potentially effectful *computations*:

Values	$v ::= x \mid \text{inj}_{i \in I} v \mid \langle v_i \rangle_{i \in I} \mid \lambda x : A. c$ $\mid \text{Hdl}_{\Sigma} \{\text{val } x \mapsto c \mid (\text{op } p \ k \mapsto c)_{\text{op} \in \Sigma}\}$
Computations	$c ::= \text{val } v \mid \text{op } v (y. c) \mid \text{with } v \text{ handle } c \mid v v$ $\mid \text{let } x = c \text{ in } c \mid \text{match } e \text{ as } \{\langle x_i \rangle_{i \in I} \mapsto c\}$ $\mid \text{match } e \text{ as } \{\text{inj}_i x_i \mapsto c_i\}_{i \in I}$

### F.2 Type System

Let  $\Gamma$  range over finite maps from variables to *value types* and  $\Delta$  be finite set of variables. We say a type is *well-formed* under  $\Delta$  if all effect variables  $m$  in the type are contained in  $\Delta$ , and

well-formedness is signified by judgements

$$\Delta \vdash A \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta \vdash \underline{C}$$

for both value types and computation types. We also have two typing judgements:

$$\Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash v : A \quad \Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash c : \underline{C}$$

where  $A, \underline{C}$  and  $\Gamma(x)$  for each  $x \in \text{dom}(\Gamma)$  are well-formed under  $\Delta$ . The typing rules for values types are the following:

$$\frac{(x : A) \in \Gamma}{\Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash x : A} \quad \frac{\Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash x : A_j}{\Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash \text{inj}_j v : \prod_{i \in I} A_i} \quad \frac{\Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash x_i : A_i \text{ for each } i \in I}{\Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash \langle x_i \rangle_{i \in I} : \prod_{i \in I} A_i}$$

$$\frac{\Delta \mid \Gamma, x : A \vdash c : \underline{C} \quad x \notin \text{dom}(\Gamma)}{\Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash \lambda x : A. c : A \rightarrow \underline{C}}$$

$$\frac{\Delta, m \mid \Gamma, x : A \vdash c_0 : m B \quad \left( \Delta, m \mid \Gamma, p_i : P_i, k_i : (A_i \rightarrow m B) \vdash c_i : m B \right)_{(op_i : P_i \rightarrow A_i) \in \Sigma}}{\Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash \text{Hdl}_{\Sigma} \{ \text{val } x \mapsto c_0 \mid (op_i \ p_i \ k_i \mapsto c_i)_{op_i \in \Sigma} \} : A \Rightarrow_{\Sigma} B} \text{T-HDL}$$

and the typing rules for computations are

$$\frac{\Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash v : A}{\Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash \text{val } v : M A} \text{T-RET} \quad \frac{(op : P \rightarrow A) \in \Sigma \quad \Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash v : P \quad \Delta \mid \Gamma, y : A \vdash c : F_{\Sigma} B}{\Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash op \ v \ (y. c) : F_{\Sigma} B} \text{T-OP}$$

$$\frac{\Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash v : A \Rightarrow_{\Sigma} B \quad \Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash c : F_{\Sigma'} A}{\Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash \text{with } v \ \text{handle } c : F_{\Sigma \wedge \Sigma'} B} \text{T-WITH} \quad \frac{\Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash v_1 : A \rightarrow \underline{C} \quad \Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash v_2 : A}{\Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash v_1 \ v_2 : \underline{C}} \text{T-APP}$$

$$\frac{x \notin \text{dom}(\Gamma) \quad \Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash c_1 : M A \quad \Delta \mid \Gamma, x : A \vdash c_2 : M B}{\Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash \text{let } x = c_1 \ \text{in } c_2 : M B} \text{T-BIND}$$

$$\frac{\Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash v : \prod_{i \in I} A_i \quad \{x_i\}_{i \in I} \cap \text{dom}(\Gamma) = \emptyset \quad \Delta \mid \Gamma, (x_i : A_i)_{i \in I} \vdash c : \underline{C}}{\Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash \text{match } v \ \text{as } \{ \langle x_i \rangle_{i \in I} \mapsto c \} : \underline{C}}$$

$$\frac{\Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash v : \prod_{i \in I} A_i \quad \{x_i\}_{i \in I} \cap \text{dom}(\Gamma) = \emptyset \quad (\Delta \mid \Gamma, x_i : A_i \vdash c_i : \underline{C})_{i \in I}}{\Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash \text{match } v \ \text{as } \{ \text{inj}_i \ x_i \mapsto c_i \}_{i \in I} : \underline{C}}$$

### F.3 Denotational Semantics

In the following we show a denotational semantics of  $\lambda_M$  by translating typing derivations to Haskell functions. As we mentioned in Section 2, we meant to use Haskell as a total language denoting constructions around the category of sets. Thus the translation can be understood as a set-theoretic semantics of  $\lambda_M$ .

**Denotation of Types.** Assuming there is an injective map  $\rho$  from variables in  $\lambda_M$  to Haskell type variables of kind  $*$   $\rightarrow$   $*$ . For any well-formed type  $A$  or  $\underline{C}$  under  $\Delta$ , its semantics is a Haskell type  $\llbracket A \rrbracket_{\rho}$  or  $\llbracket \underline{C} \rrbracket_{\rho}$ , in which variables in  $\{ \rho(m) \mid m \in \Delta \}$  may occur freely. (Categorically, the meaning of a type is a profunctor  $(Mnd^{\Delta})^{op} \times Mnd^{\Delta} \rightarrow \text{Set}$  where  $Mnd^{\Delta}$  is the  $|\Delta|$ -fold product category of the category of set monads).

Unsurprisingly, the product type  $\Pi$  denotes tuples in Haskell:  $\llbracket \Pi_{i \in I} A_i \rrbracket_\rho = (\llbracket A_i \rrbracket_\rho)_{i \in I}$ . Coproduct types  $\amalg$  denotes finite coproducts of Haskell types too, but Haskell does not have a syntax for nameless finite coproducts, so we translate  $\llbracket \amalg_{i \in I} A_i \rrbracket_\rho$  into a datatype declaration:

$$\mathbf{data} \ T = (\text{In} j_i \llbracket A_i \rrbracket_\rho)_{i \in I}$$

where  $T$  is a fresh name in the translation. Function types  $A \rightarrow \underline{C}$  denotes functions  $\llbracket A \rrbracket_\rho \rightarrow \llbracket \underline{C} \rrbracket_\rho$ . Signatures  $\Sigma$  denote signature functors as in [Section 2.1](#):

$$\mathbf{data} \ S \ x = \left( \text{Op}_i \llbracket P_i \rrbracket_\rho (\llbracket A_i \rrbracket_\rho \rightarrow x) \right)_{(\text{op}_i : P_i \rightarrow A_i) \in \Sigma}$$

where  $S$  and  $\text{Op}_i$  are fresh names for the translation. Handler types  $A \Rightarrow_\Sigma B$  denotes the datatype

$$M\text{Handler} \llbracket \Sigma \rrbracket_\rho (\text{FreeEM} \llbracket B \rrbracket_\rho) \llbracket A \rrbracket_\rho \llbracket B \rrbracket_\rho$$

of modular handlers described in [Section 3.3](#). For computations,  $\llbracket F_\Sigma A \rrbracket_\rho$  is precisely  $\text{Free} \llbracket \Sigma \rrbracket_\rho \llbracket A \rrbracket_\rho$ , and  $\llbracket m A \rrbracket_\rho$  is  $\rho(m) \llbracket A \rrbracket_\rho$ .

**Denotation of Terms.** Given a context  $\Gamma$  mapping to well-formed types under  $\Delta$ , its meaning  $\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket_\rho$  is the product type of the meaning of the types that  $\Gamma$  mapped to. Then the meaning of a typing derivation  $\Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash v : A$  or  $\Delta \mid \Gamma \vdash c : \underline{C}$  is some Haskell function of type

$$\forall (\rho(m))_{m \in \Delta}. (\text{Monad } \rho(m))_{m \in \Delta} \Rightarrow \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket_\rho \rightarrow \llbracket A \rrbracket_\rho$$

or

$$\forall (\rho(m))_{m \in \Delta}. (\text{Monad } \rho(m))_{m \in \Delta} \Rightarrow \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket_\rho \rightarrow \llbracket \underline{C} \rrbracket_\rho$$

For most cases in the type system, their meanings are standard (see for example [\[Levy 2003\]](#) and [\[Bauer and Pretnar 2015\]](#)), thus we only describe the non-standard cases here:

- For rule T-HDL, the meaning of a handler value  $\llbracket \text{Hdl}_\Sigma \{ \text{val } x \mapsto c_0 \mid (\text{op}_i p_i k_i \mapsto c_i)_{\text{op}_i \in \Sigma} \} \rrbracket_\rho$  is a function  $f$  of type

$$\begin{aligned} & \forall (\rho(m))_{m \in \Delta}. (\text{Monad } \rho(m))_{m \in \Delta} \\ & \Rightarrow \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket_\rho \rightarrow M\text{Handler} \llbracket \Sigma \rrbracket_\rho (\text{FreeEM} \llbracket B \rrbracket_\rho) \llbracket A \rrbracket_\rho \llbracket B \rrbracket_\rho \end{aligned}$$

defined by

$$\begin{aligned} f \ g &= M\text{Handler} \{ \text{gen} = (\lambda a \rightarrow \llbracket c_0 \rrbracket_\rho (g, a)) \\ & \quad , \text{alg} = (\lambda x \rightarrow \text{case } x \text{ of } \{ (\text{Op}_i p k) \rightarrow \llbracket c_i \rrbracket_\rho (g, p, k) \\ & \quad \quad \quad ; \dots \} \\ & \quad , \text{run} = \text{unFusedEM} \} \end{aligned}$$

- For rule T-RET,  $\llbracket M A \rrbracket_\rho$  is either  $\text{Free} \llbracket \Sigma \rrbracket_\rho \llbracket A \rrbracket_\rho$  or  $\rho(m) \llbracket A \rrbracket_\rho$ , and  $\rho(m)$  is given a monad constraint when defining the meaning of  $\text{val } v$ . Thus we can interpret  $\text{val } v$  by the *return* of  $\llbracket M \rrbracket_\rho$ :

$$\llbracket \text{val } v \rrbracket_\rho g = \text{return} (\llbracket v \rrbracket_\rho g)$$

- For rule T-BIND, it is interpreted by  $\bowtie$  of  $\llbracket M \rrbracket_\rho$ :

$$\llbracket \text{let } x = c_1 \text{ in } c_2 \rrbracket_\rho g = (\llbracket c_1 \rrbracket_\rho g) \bowtie (\text{curry} (\llbracket c_2 \rrbracket_\rho g))$$

- For rule T-OP, it is interpreted by the  $\text{Op}$  constructor of the free monad  $\text{Free}$ :

$$\llbracket \text{op } v (y. c) \rrbracket_\rho g = \text{Op} (\llbracket v \rrbracket_\rho g) (\lambda y \rightarrow \llbracket c \rrbracket_\rho (g, y))$$

- For rule T-WITH, it is interpreted by the *handle* function in [Section 3](#):

$$\llbracket \text{with } v \text{ handle } c \rrbracket_\rho g = \text{handle} (\llbracket v \rrbracket_\rho g) (\llbracket c \rrbracket_\rho g)$$

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