Reflex Outside the Browser

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Queensland Functional Programming Lab CSIRO's Data61

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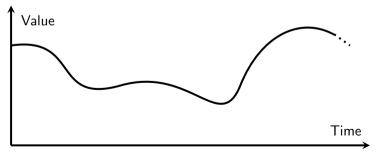


Thought Experiment: Implement a Card Game

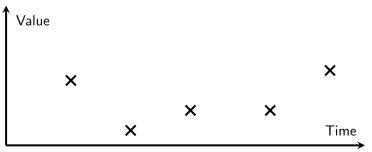


- Functional Reactive Programming (FRP) is a solid theory for talking about time-varying values and instantaneous phenomena
- Reflex is an implementation of this theory*
- Primitives:
 - Behavior a: a time-varying a
 - Event a: instantaneous occurrences of a
 - Dynamic a: like Behavior a, but also signals its updates

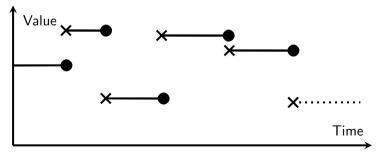
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 - but it is Filterable (from witherable)
 - and Semialign (from these/semialign)

```
class Functor f => Filterable f where
mapMaybe :: (a -> Maybe b) -> f a -> f b
catMaybes :: f (Maybe a) -> f a
filter :: (a -> Bool) -> f a -> f a
```

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```
data These a b = This a | That b | These a b
```

```
class Functor f => Semialign f where
align :: f a -> f b -> f (These a b)
```

Laws!

```
For Filterable:
mapMaybe (Just . f) = fmap f
mapMaybe f . mapMaybe g = mapMaybe (f <=< g)</pre>
```

```
For Semialign:
```

```
-- (N.B.: join f = f x x):
join align = fmap (join These)
align (f <$> x) (g <$> y) = bimap f g <$> align x y
alignWith f a b = f <$> align a b align x (align y z)
= fmap assoc (align (align x y) z)
```

```
For Foldable Semialigns:
```

toList x

- = toListOf (folded . here) (align x y)
- = mapMaybe justHere (toList (align x y))

Challenges of Reflex

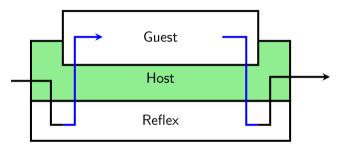
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- Spectacular type signatures
- Pigeonholed as frontend tech (GHCjs)
- Reflex-platform (nix)

Challenges of Reflex

- Feels like a big jump:
 - Spectacular type signatures
 - Pigeonholed as frontend tech (GHCjs)
 - Reflex-platform (nix)
- For today:
 - Simplified type signatures:
 - Reflex: Event t a
 - These slides: Event a
 - Native binaries
 - Recent versions of Reflex are on Hackage

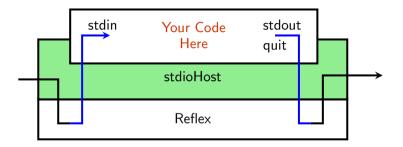
Hosts and Guests



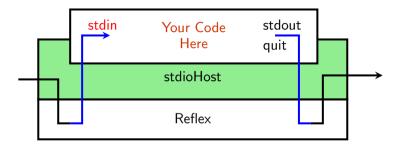
Guests ask for features, classy MTL-style:

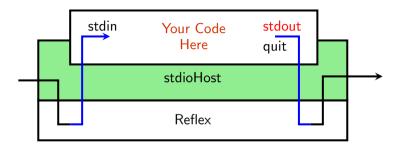
(PostBuild m, TriggerEvent m) => ... -> m ()

- This lets us switch out the FRP runtime
- Extend the runtime with PostBuildT, TriggerEventT, PerformEventT, ...

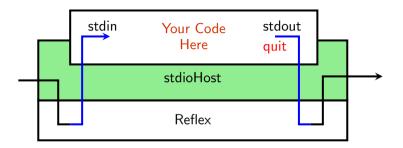


```
stdioHost
:: (Event String -> m (Event String, Event ()))
-> IO ()
```

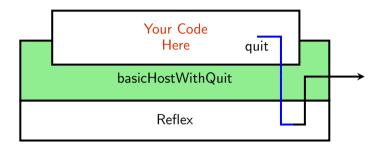




```
stdioHost
:: (Event String -> m (Event String, Event ()))
-- stdout
-> IO ()
```



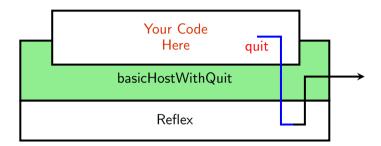
Basic Host



basicHostWithQuit :: m (Event ()) -> IO ()

- Provided by reflex-basic-host
- Run until the returned event fires
- You connect your guest to the outside world

Basic Host



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- Run until the returned event fires
- You connect your guest to the outside world

class PostBuild (Reflex.PostBuild.Class)

```
class PostBuild m where
  getPostBuild :: m (Event ())
```

Morally: "Here's an event that fires when the network is built"

class TriggerEvent (Reflex.TriggerEvent.Class)

```
class TriggerEvent m where
  -- And a couple of others
  newTriggerEvent :: m (Event a, a -> IO ())
```

- ▶ Morally: "m can create new events"
- Usually pass the trigger to another thread

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```
class PerformEvent m where
type Performable m :: Type -> Type
-- And a couple of others
performEvent
    :: Event (Performable m a)
    -> m (Event a)
    -- ~~~~~~~~~ Results of actions
```

Morally: "Perform each action as it happens, and fire off the results"

Performable m is often MonadIO

```
performEvent_
  :: PerformEvent m
  => Event (Performable m ())
  -> m ()
stdout :: PerformEvent m => Event String -> m ()
stdout eStrings = performEvent_
  (liftIO . putStrLn <$> eStrings)
```

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-- Event String
```

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- ...kick off a thread, which...
- ▶ ...loops forever, feeding lines into the trigger

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```
performEventAsync
```

- :: (TriggerEvent m, PerformEvent m)
- => Event ((a -> IO ()) -> Performable m ())

```
-> m (Event a)
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  :: (TriggerEvent m, PerformEvent m)
  => Event ((a \rightarrow IO ()) \rightarrow Performable m ())
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stdin :: (...) => m (Event String)
stdin = do
  ePostBuild <- getPostBuild
  let loop fire = void $ liftIO $ forkIO
        (forever $ getLine >>= fire)
  performEventAsync (loop <$ ePostBuild)</pre>
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                                             Perform on PostBuild
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                                Perform the loop function
```

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                                             Fork worker thread
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stdin = do
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  let loop fire = void $ liftIO $ forkIO
        (forever $ getLine >>= fire)
                                 ~~~~ Trigger: String -> IO ()
  performEventAsync (loop <$ ePostBuild)</pre>
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- Callback-oriented libraries work well with TriggerEvent
- fsnotify watches a directory for file changes and calls your callback when that happens
- We want an Event (FSNotify.Event)

watchDir

- :: WatchManager
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newEventWithLazyTriggerWithOnComplete

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        manager
        dir
        (  ->  True )
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                                                Action
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                      ~~~~ Reflex trigger:
      _ _
                           FSNotify.Event -> IO () -> IO ()
      _ _
```

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        (\fsEvent -> fire fsEvent (pure ()))
           On complete: do nothing ~~~~~~
      _ _
```

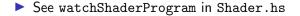
Recompiling OpenGL Shaders: Shader Wiring Diagram

FSNotify.Event



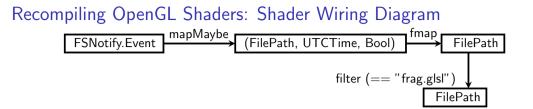
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Program

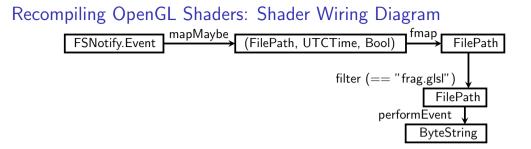




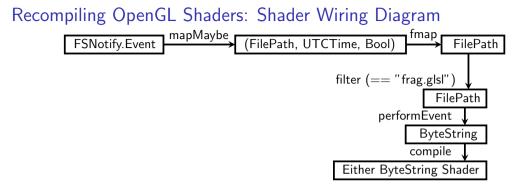




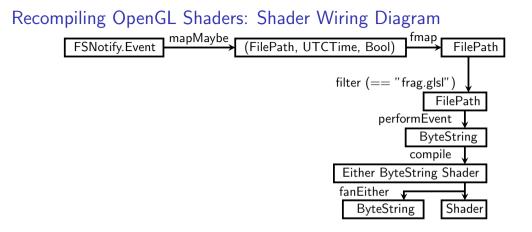




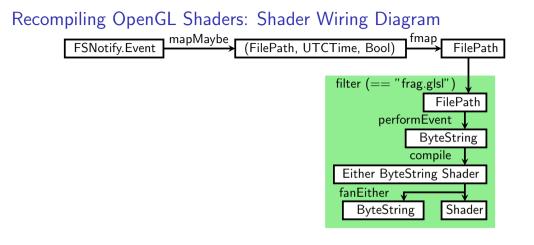




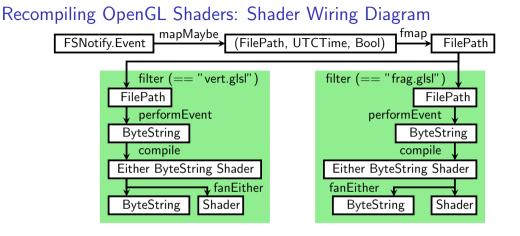




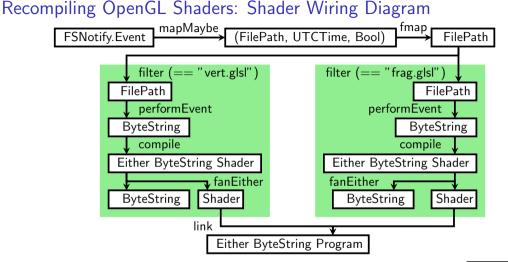




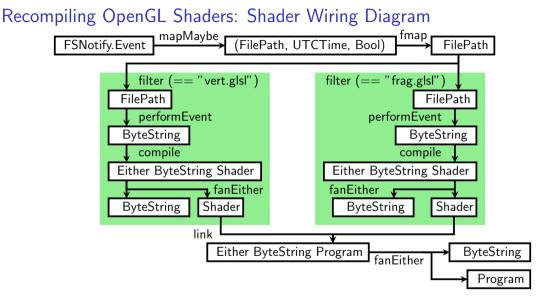


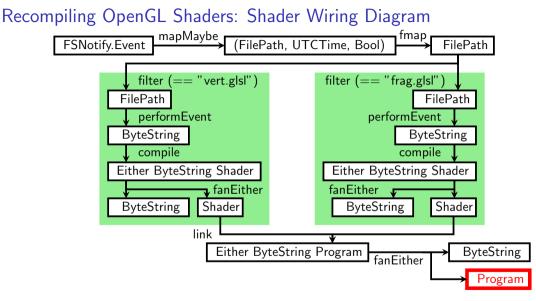


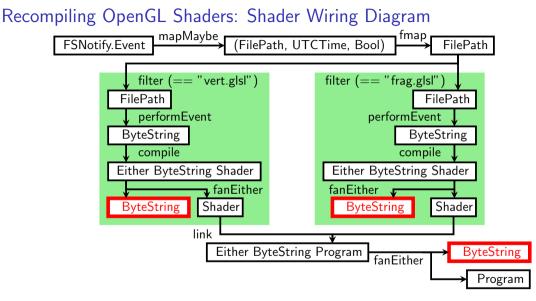




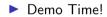












Takeaways

- Learn by doing
- ► FRP first, web stuff later
- Start with reflex-basic-host
- Wiring diagrams!

Links

Demo code:

https://github.com/qfpl/reflex-gl-demo

reflex:

https://hackage.haskell.org/package/reflex

reflex-basic-host:

https://github.com/qfpl/reflex-basic-host

► glow:

https://github.com/ekmett/codex/tree/master/glow