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Arity-Generic Datatype-Generic Programming

Stephanie Weirich  
*University of Pennsylvania, sweirich@cis.upenn.edu*

Chris Casinghino  
*University of Pennsylvania*

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Disciplines
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Stephanie Weirich  Chris Casinghino
University of Pennsylvania
{ sweirich,ccasin}@cis.upenn.edu

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Some programs are doubly-generic. For example, map is datatype-
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1. Introduction
This is a story about doubly-generic programming. Datatype-
generic programming defines operations that may be instantiated at
many different types, so these operations need not be redefined for
each one. For example, Generic Haskell [5, 11] includes a generic
map operation gmap that has instances for types such as lists, op-
tional values, and products (even though these types have different
kinds).

\[
gmap \langle [] \rangle :: (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow [b]
gmap \langle \text{Maybe} \rangle :: (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow \text{Maybe} a \rightarrow \text{Maybe} b
\]
\[
gmap \langle (\cdot,\cdot) \rangle :: (a1 \rightarrow b1) \rightarrow (a2 \rightarrow b2)
\]

Because all the instances of gmap are generated from the same
definition, reasoning about that generic function tells us about map
at each type.

However, there is another way to generalize map. Consider the
following sequence of functions from the Haskell Prelude [20], all
of which operate on lists.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{repeat} & :: a \rightarrow [a] \\
\text{map} & :: (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow [b] \\
\text{zipWith} & :: (a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c) \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow [b] \rightarrow [c] \\
\text{zipWith3} & :: (a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c \rightarrow d) \rightarrow [a] \rightarrow [b] \rightarrow [c] \rightarrow [d]
\end{align*}
\]

The repeat function creates an infinite list from its argument. The
zipWith function is a generalization of zip—it combines the two
lists together with its argument instead of with the tupling function.
Likewise, zipWith3 combines three lists.

As Fridlender and Indrika [7] have pointed out, all of these
functions are instances of the same generic operation, they just
have different arities. They demonstrate how to encode the arity
as a Church numeral in Haskell and uniformly produce all of these
list operations from the same definition.

Arity-genericity is not unique to the list instance of map. It is not
difficult to imagine arity-generic versions of map for other types.
Fridlender and Indrika’s technique immediately applies to all types
that are applicative functors [16]. However, one may also define
arity-generic versions of map at other types.

Other functions besides map have both datatype-generic and
arity-generic versions. For example, equality can be applied to
any number of arguments, all of the same type. Map has a dual
operation called unzipWith that is similarly doubly-generic. Other
examples include folds, enumerations, monadic maps, etc.

In this paper, we present the first doubly-generic definitions. For
each of these examples, we can give a single definition that can be
instantiated at any type or at any arity. Our methodology shows
how these two forms of genericity can be combined in the same
framework and demonstrates the synergy between them.

In fact, arity-genericity is not independent of datatype-genericity.
Generic Haskell has its own notion of arity, and each datatype-
generic function must be defined at a particular arity. Importantly,
that arity corresponds to the arities in map above. For example, the
Generic Haskell version of repeat has arity one, its map has arity
two, and zipWith arity three.

Unfortunately, Generic Haskell does not permit generalizing over
arities, so a single definition cannot produce repeat, map
and zipWith. Likewise, Generic-Haskell-style libraries encoded
in Haskell, such as RepLib [29] or Extensible and Modular Generics
for the Masses (EMGM) [6] specialize their infrastructure to spe-
cific arities, so they too cannot write arity-generic code.

However, Altenkirch and McBride [1] and Verbruggen et al.
[26] have shown how to encode Generic-Haskell-style generic
programming in dependently-typed programming languages. Al-
though they do not consider arity-genericity in their work, be-

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cause of the power of dependent-types, their encodings are flexible enough to express arity-generic operations.

In this paper, we develop an analogous generic programming framework in the dependently-typed language Agda 2 [19] and demonstrate how it may be used to define doubly-generic operations. We choose Agda because it is particularly tailored to dependently-typed programming, but we could have also used a number of different languages, such as Coq [25], Epigram [15], Ωmega [23], or Haskell with recent extensions [3, 21].

Our contributions are as follows:

1. We develop an arity-generic version of map that reveals commonality between gmap, gzipWith and gzipWith3. This correspondence has not previously been expressed, but we find that it leads to insight into the nature of these operations. Since the definitions are all instances of the same dependently-typed function, we have shown formally that they are related.

2. This example is developed on top of a reusable framework for generic programming in Agda. Although our framework has the same structure as previous work, our treatment of datatype isomorphisms is novel and requires less boilerplate.

3. We use our framework to develop other doubly-generic operations, such as equality and unzipWith. All of these examples shed light on arity support in a generic programming framework. In particular, there are not many operations that require arity of two or more: this work suggests what such operations must look like.

4. Finally, because we develop a reusable framework, this work demonstrates how a tool like Generic Haskell could be extended to arity-genericity.

We explain doubly-generic map and our generic programming infrastructure in stages. In Section 2 we start with an Agda definition of arity-generic map. Next, in Section 3, we describe a general framework for generic programming that works for all types of (any kind) formed from unit, pairs, sums and natural numbers. We use this framework to define doubly-generic map. In Section 4 we show how datatype isomorphisms may be incorporated, so that we can specialize doubly-generic operations to inductive datatypes. We discuss other doubly-generic examples in Section 5. Finally, Sections 6 and 7 discuss related work and conclude.

All code described in this paper is available from http://www.cis.upenn.edu/~ccasin/papers/aritygen.tar.gz.

2. Arity-General Map

We begin this section by introducing Agda and using it to define applicative functors. We show how to use applicative functors to define arity-generic map for vectors, following Fridlender and Indrika. Finally, we demonstrate why this approach does not scale to define arity-generic map for vectors, following Fridlender and Indrika. Finally, we demonstrate why this approach does not scale to

2.1 Programming with Dependent Types in Agda

Agda is a dependently typed programming language where terms may appear in types. For example, the Agda standard library defines a type of polymorphic length-indexed vectors:

\[
\text{data } \text{Vec } (A : \text{Set}) : \mathbb{N} \to \text{Set} \text{ where}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{[]} & : \text{Vec } A \text{ zero} \\
\_\_ & : V \{n\} (x : A) (xs : \text{Vec } A n) \to \text{Vec } A (\text{succ } n)
\end{align*}
\]

This datatype Vec is parameterized by an argument A of type Set, the analogue of Haskell’s kind *, and indexed by an argument of type \(\mathbb{N}\), the type of natural numbers. The parameter A specifies the type of the objects stored in the vector and the index specifies its length. For example, the type Vec Bool 2 is a list of boolean values of length two. Note that indices can vary in the types of the constructors; for example, empty vectors \([]\) use index 0.

The underscores in \(\_\_\_\) create an infix operator. Arguments to Agda functions may be made implicit by placing them in curly braces, so Agda will attempt to infer the length index by unification when applying \(\_\_\_\_\). For example, Agda can automatically determine that the term true : false : [] has type Vec Bool 2.

Vectors are applicative functors, familiar to Haskell programmers from the Applicative type class. Applicative functors have two operations. The first is repeat (called pure in Haskell). Given an initial value, it constructs a vector with n copies of that value.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{repeat} : \{n : \mathbb{N}\} & \to \{A : \text{Set}\} \to A \to \text{Vec } A n \\
\text{repeat} \{\text{zero}\} x & = [] \\
\text{repeat} \{\text{succ } n\} x & = x : \text{repeat} \{n\} x
\end{align*}
\]

Observe that, using curly braces, implicit arguments can be explicitly provided in a function call or matched against in a definition.

The second, \(\_\_\_\_\)_, is an infix zipping application, pronounced “zap” and defined by:

\[
\begin{align*}
\_\_\_\_ & : \{A B : \text{Set}\} \{n : \mathbb{N}\} \\
& \to \text{Vec } (A \to B) n \to \text{Vec } A n \to \text{Vec } B n \\
\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_ = [] \\
(a : A) \_\_\_\_ (b : B s) & = (a :: A) \_\_\_\_ (b :: B s)
\end{align*}
\]

The \(\_\_\_\_\_\) operator associates to the left. In its definition, we do not need to consider the case where one vector is empty while the other is not because the type specifies that both arguments have the same length.

These two operations are the key to arity-generic map. The following sequence shows that the different arities of map follow a specific pattern.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{map0} & : \{m : \mathbb{N}\} \{A : \text{Set}\} \to A \to \text{Vec } A m \\
\text{map0} & = \text{repeat} \\
\text{map1} & : \{m : \mathbb{N}\} \{A B : \text{Set}\} \\
& \to (A \to B) \to \text{Vec } A m \to \text{Vec } B m \\
\text{map1} & f x = \text{repeat } f \circ x \\
\text{map2} & : \{m : \mathbb{N}\} \{A B C : \text{Set}\} \\
& \to (A \to B \to C) \\
& \to \text{Vec } A m \to \text{Vec } B m \to \text{Vec } C m \\
\text{map2} & f x1 x2 = \text{repeat } f \circ x1 \circ x2
\end{align*}
\]

Indeed, all of these maps are defined by a simple application of repeat and n copies of \(\_\_\_\_\). Agda can express the arity-generic operation that unifies all of these maps via dependent types, as we present in the next subsection.

2.2 Arity-General Vector Map

The difficulty in the definition of arity-generic map is that all of the instances have different types. Given some arity n, we must generate the corresponding type in this sequence. Fridlender and Indrika, not working in a dependently typed language, do so by encoding n as a Church numeral that generates the appropriate type for map.

We prefer to use natural numbers to express the arity of the mapping operation. Therefore, we must program with Agda types. For example, we can construct a vector of Agda types, Bool : \(\mathbb{N} : : []\), which has type Vec Set 2, and use standard vector operations (such as \(\_\_\_\_\)) with this value.

\(^2\)This type requires \(\text{Set}\) to have type Set, enabled by Agda’s -type-in-type flag. The standard type system of Agda has an infinite hierarchy of \(\text{Sets}\), and users must resolve their code to be at the appropriate
The first step is to define \( \text{arrTy} \), which folds the arrow type constructor \( \to \) over a non-empty vector of types. Given such a vector, this operation constructs the type of the function that will be mapped over the \( n \) data structures.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{arrTy} & : \{ n : \mathbb{N} \} \rightarrow \text{Vec Set} (\text{suc} \ n) \rightarrow \text{Set} \\
\text{arrTy} \{ 0 \} & \quad (A :: []) = A \\
\text{arrTy} \{ \text{suc} \ n \} (A :: As) = A \rightarrow \text{arrTy} As
\end{align*}
\]

The function \( \text{arrTyVec} \) constructs the result type of arity-generic map for vectors. We define this operation by mapping the \( \text{Vec} \) constructor onto the vector of types, then placing arrows between them. Notice that there are two integer indices here: \( n \) determines the number of types we are dealing with (the arity), while \( m \) is the length of the vectors we map over. Recall that the curly braces in the types of \( \text{arrTyVec} \) and \( \text{arrTy} \) mark \( m \) and \( n \) as implicit arguments, so we need not always match against them in definitions nor provide them explicitly as arguments.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{arrTyVec} & : \{ m n : \mathbb{N} \} \rightarrow \text{Vec Set} (\text{suc} \ n) \rightarrow \text{Set} \\
\text{arrTyVec} \{ m \} A : \text{As} = & \\
\text{arrTy} (\text{repeat} (\lambda A \rightarrow \text{Vec} A \text{m} @ As)
\end{align*}
\]

For example, we can define the sequence of types from Section 2.1.2 using these functions applied to lists of type variables.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{map}0 & : \{ m : \mathbb{N} \} \rightarrow \text{A : Set} \\
& \rightarrow \text{arrTy} (A :: []) \\
& \rightarrow \text{arrTyVec} \{ m \} (A :: []) \\
\text{map}1 & : \{ m : \mathbb{N} \} \rightarrow \{ A B : \text{Set} \} \\
& \rightarrow \text{arrTy} (A :: B :: []) \\
& \rightarrow \text{arrTyVec} \{ m \} (A :: B :: []) \\
\text{map}2 & : \{ m : \mathbb{N} \} \rightarrow \{ A B C : \text{Set} \} \\
& \rightarrow \text{arrTy} (A :: B :: C :: []) \\
& \rightarrow \text{arrTyVec} \{ m \} (A :: B :: C :: [])
\end{align*}
\]

Now, to define arity-generic map, we start by defining a function \( nvec-map \). The type of this function mirrors the examples above, except that it takes in the type arguments \( (A, B, \text{etc}) \) as a vector \((\text{As})\). After we define \( nvec-map \) we will currying it to get the desired operation.

\[
\begin{align*}
nvec-map & : \{ m : \mathbb{N} \} \rightarrow (n : \mathbb{N}) \\
& \rightarrow (\text{As} : \text{Vec Set} (\text{suc} \ n)) \\
& \rightarrow \text{arrTy} \text{As} \rightarrow \text{arrTyVec} \{ m \} \text{As}
\end{align*}
\]

Intuitively, the definition of \( nvec-map \) is a simple application of \( \text{repeat} \) and \( \text{n copy} \) of \( \_ \otimes \_ \).

\[
\begin{align*}
nvec-map \text{f v1 v2 ... vn} = & \\
\text{repeat f} @ \text{v1} @ \text{v2} @ \ldots @ \text{vn}
\end{align*}
\]

We define this function by recursion on \( n \), in accumulator style. After duplicating \( f \) we have a vector of functions to zip, so we define a helper function, \( g \), for that more general case.

\[
\begin{align*}
nvec-map \text{n As f} &= g \{ n \} \text{As} (\text{repeat f}) \text{where} \\
g & : \{ m n : \mathbb{N} \} \\
& \rightarrow (\text{As} : \text{Vec Set} (\text{suc} \ n)) \\
& \rightarrow \text{Vec} (\text{arrTy} \text{As}) \text{m} \rightarrow \text{arrTyVec} \{ m \} \text{As} \\
g \{ 0 \} (A :: []) & = a \\
g \{ \text{suc} \ n \} (A1 :: As) f = & \\
(\lambda a \rightarrow g \text{As} (f \otimes a))
\end{align*}
\]

Finally, we define two operations for currying. The first, \( \forall \Rightarrow \), creates a curried version of a type which depends on a vector. The second, \( \lambda \Rightarrow \), curries a corresponding function term.

\[
\begin{align*}
\forall \Rightarrow & : \{ n : \mathbb{N} \} \{ A : \text{Set} \} \rightarrow (\text{Vec} A n \rightarrow \text{Set}) \rightarrow \text{Set} \\
\forall \Rightarrow \{ \text{zero} \} & \quad \text{B} = \text{B} [] \\
\forall \Rightarrow \{ \text{suc} \ n \} \{ A \} \text{B} = & \\
\{ a : A \} \rightarrow \forall \Rightarrow \{ n \} (\lambda a \rightarrow \text{B} (a :: as)) \\
\lambda \Rightarrow & : \{ n : \mathbb{N} \} \{ A : \text{Set} \} \{ B : \text{Vec} A n \rightarrow \text{Set} \} \\
& \rightarrow (\text{X : Vec} A n) \rightarrow \text{B} \text{X} \rightarrow (\forall \Rightarrow \text{B}) \\
\lambda \Rightarrow \{ \text{zero} \} & \quad f = f [] \\
\lambda \Rightarrow \{ \text{suc} \ n \} \{ A \} f = & \\
\lambda \{ a : A \} \rightarrow \lambda \Rightarrow \{ n \} (\lambda as \rightarrow f (a :: as))
\end{align*}
\]

With these operations, we can finish the definition of arity-generic map. Again, the (implicit) argument \( m \) is the length of the vector, and the (explicit) argument \( n \) is the specific arity of map that is desired.

\[
\begin{align*}
nmap & : \{ n : \mathbb{N} \} \rightarrow \{ m : \mathbb{N} \} \\
& \rightarrow (\forall \Rightarrow \{ \lambda : \text{As} : \text{Vec Set} (\text{suc} \ n) \} \rightarrow (\text{arrTy} \text{As} \rightarrow \text{arrTyVec} \{ m \} \text{As})) \\
nmap \{ m \} n = & \rightarrow (\text{vec-map} \{ m \} \text{n})
\end{align*}
\]

We can use this arity-generic map just by providing the arity as an additional argument. For example, the term \( nmap 1 \) has type

\[
\begin{align*}
\{ m : \mathbb{N} \} & \rightarrow \{ A B : \text{Set} \} \rightarrow (A \rightarrow B) \\
& \rightarrow (\text{Vec} A \text{m}) \rightarrow (\text{Vec} B \text{m})
\end{align*}
\]

and the expression

\[
\begin{align*}
nmap 1 \{ \lambda x \rightarrow x + 1 \} \{ 1 :: 2 :: 3 :: [] \}
\end{align*}
\]

evaluates to \( 2 :: 3 :: 4 :: [] \). Likewise, the term \( nmap 2 \) has type

\[
\begin{align*}
\{ m : \mathbb{N} \} & \rightarrow \{ A B C : \text{Set} \} \rightarrow (A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C) \\
& \rightarrow (\text{Vec} A \text{m}) \rightarrow (\text{Vec} B \text{m}) \rightarrow (\text{Vec} C \text{m})
\end{align*}
\]

and the expression

\[
\begin{align*}
nmap 2 \{ \_ \} \{ 1 :: 2 :: 3 :: [] \} \{ 4 :: 5 :: 6 :: [] \}
\end{align*}
\]

returns \( 1 : 4 :: 2 : 5 :: 3 : 6 :: [] \).

2.3 Towards Type Generality

We have shown how to define arity-generic map for vectors, but what about for other types of data, such as products of vectors or vectors of products? This should be possible, as map is a type-generic operation, one that is defined by type structure.

Type-generic programming in Agda is done via a technique called \textit{universes} [13, 18]. The idea is to define an inductive datatype \( \text{Tyc} \), called a universe, which represents types, along with an interpretation function \( \ldots \) that maps elements of this universe to actual Agda types. A generic program is then an operation which manipulates this data structure.

However, there is one difficulty—what kind of types should we represent? The answer to that question determines the type of the interpretation function. For example, if the datatype \( \text{Tyc} \) represents types of kind \( \text{Set} \) then the interpretation function should have type \( \text{Tyc} \rightarrow \text{Set} \). If the universe represents type constructors, that is, functions from types to types, then the interpretation function should have type \( \text{Tyc} \rightarrow (\text{Set} \rightarrow \text{Set}) \).

Consider the following universe of codes for type constructors.

\[
\begin{align*}
data \text{Tyc} & : \text{Set} \text{where} \\
\text{Nat} & : \text{Tyc} \\
\text{Unit} & : \text{Tyc} \\
\text{Prod} & : \text{Tyc} \rightarrow \text{Tyc} \rightarrow \text{Tyc} \\
\text{Arr} & : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Tyc} \rightarrow \text{Tyc} \\
\text{Var} & : \text{Tyc}
\end{align*}
\]
Each of these codes can be decoded as an Agda type constructor of kind \( \text{Set} \rightarrow \text{Set} \). For example, \( \top \) is the unit type in Agda and \( \times \) constructs the (non-dependent) type of products.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Nat} & \quad a = \mathbb{N} \\
\text{Unit} & \quad a = \top \\
\text{Prod} t1 t2 & \quad a = [t1 \times a \times t2 \times a] \\
\text{Arr} n t1 & \quad a = \text{Vec}([t1 \times a]n) \\
\text{Var} & \quad a = a
\end{align*}
\]

With these two definitions, we can implement type-generic versions of the \text{repeat} and \text{gmap} functions.\(^3\) They are implemented by recursion on the structure of the \text{Tyc}, but we elide the definitions for brevity.

\[
\begin{align*}
grepeat & : (t : \text{Tyc}) \rightarrow (a : \text{Set}) \rightarrow a \rightarrow [t] a \\
gzap & : (t : \text{Tyc}) \rightarrow (a b : \text{Set}) \rightarrow [t] (a \rightarrow b) \rightarrow [t] a \rightarrow [t] b
\end{align*}
\]

With these type-generic functions, we can generalize the definition for vectors to produce \text{gmap}, which works for all type constructors in the universe. This definition is a straightforward extension of \text{mmap} for vectors (replacing \text{repeat} and \text{gmap} and \text{gzap}), so we elide its definition and only show its type.

\[
gmap : (t : \text{Tyc}) \rightarrow (n : \mathbb{N}) \\
\rightarrow \forall b \Rightarrow (\lambda (As : \text{Vec}\text{Set}(\text{suc }n)) \\
\rightarrow \text{arrT} As \rightarrow \text{arrTy} (\text{repeat} [t] @ As))
\]

3. Arity-Generic Type-Generic Map

Next, we show how to generalize arity-generic map to arbitrary type constructors by implementing a framework for Generic

Haskell style kind-indexed types. We develop our framework in stages, first including only primitive type constructors in the universe, then in Section 4, extending it to include user-defined datatypes.

3.1 Universe Definition

To write more generic programs, we need a more expressive universe. The universe that we care about is based on the type language of F-omega [8]. It is the simply-typed lambda calculus augmented with a number of constants that form types. Therefore, to represent this language, we need datatypes for kinds, constants, and for the lambda calculus itself.

Kinds include the base kind \( * \) and function kinds. The function kind \( \rightarrow \) associates to the right.

\[
data \text{Kind} : \text{Set} \text{where} \\
* & : \text{Kind} \\
_ & \Rightarrow _ & : \text{Kind} \rightarrow \text{Kind} \rightarrow \text{Kind}
\]

A simple recursive function takes a member of this datatype into an Agda kind.

\[
data \text{Const} : \text{Kind} \rightarrow \text{Set} \\
\text{Nat} & : \text{Const } * \\
\text{Unit} & : \text{Const } * \\
\text{Sum} & : \text{Const } (\ast \Rightarrow \ast \Rightarrow \ast) \\
\text{Prod} & : \text{Const } (\ast \Rightarrow \ast \Rightarrow \ast)
\]

Constants are indexed by their kinds. For now, we will concentrate on types formed from natural numbers, unit, binary sums, and binary products. Note that these definitions include a code for sum types. Although doubly-generic map is partial for sums, many doubly-generic operations are not. On the other hand, most generic functions are partial for function types, so we do not include a code for them. Furthermore, because vectors are representable in terms of the other constructors, we do not include a code for them in this universe. This keeps the definitions of arity-generic functions simple. In Section 4, we discuss how our generic programming framework can interface directly with Agda datatypes like Vec.

\[
data \text{TyVar} : \text{Ctx} \rightarrow \text{Kind} \rightarrow \text{Set} \text{where} \\
\text{VZ} & : \forall (G k) \rightarrow \text{TyVar}(k :: G) k \\
\text{VS} & : \forall (G k' k) \rightarrow \text{TyVar}(G k) \rightarrow \text{TyVar}(k' :: G) k
\]

\[
data \text{Typ} : \text{Ctx} \rightarrow \text{Kind} \rightarrow \text{Set} \text{where} \\
\text{Var} & : \forall (G k) \rightarrow \text{TyVar}\text{G} k \rightarrow \text{Typ } G k
\]

\(\text{Typ} \) is the universes augmented with a number of constants that form types. Therefore, to represent this language, we need datatypes for kinds, constants, and for the lambda calculus itself.

Kinds include the base kind \( * \) and function kinds. The function kind \( \rightarrow \). We return to this issue in Section 3.3.
Lam : ∀ {G k1 k2} → Typ (k1 :: G) k2  
→ Typ G (k1 ⇒ k2) 
App : ∀ {G k1 k2} → Typ G (k1 ⇒ k2) → Typ G k1  
→ Typ G k2 
Con : ∀ {G k} → Const k → Typ G k 

We use the notation Ty for closed types—those that can be checked in the empty typing context.

Ty : Kind → Set 
Ty [] = Typ []

Now that we can represent type constructors, we need a mechanism to decode them as Agda types. To do so, we must have an environment to decode the variables. We index the datatype for the environment with the typing context to make sure that each variable is mapped to an Agda type of the right kind. Note that this definition overloads the [] and __ constructors, but Agda can infer which we mean.

data Env : List Kind → Set where [] : Env []  
_∷_ : ∀ {k G} → [k] → Env G → Env (k :: G) sLookup : ∀ {k G} → TyVar G k → Env G → [k] sLookup VZ (; v : G) . v sLookup (VS x) (; v : G) . sLookup x G

Finally, with the help of the environment, we can decode a Ty as an Agda type of the appropriate kind. We use the [ ] notation for decoding closed types in the empty environment.

interp : ∀ {k G} → Typ G k → Env G → [k] interp (Var x) e = sLookup x e interp (Lam t) e = λ y . interp t (y :: e) interp (App t1 t2) e = (interp t1 e) (interp t2 e) interp (Con c) e = interp-c c [ ] : ∀ {k} → Ty k → [k] [ t ] = interp t []

For example, the following type constructor Option (isomorphic to the standard Maybe datatype)

Option : Set → Set 
Option = λ A → T ⊔ A

is represented with the following code:

option : Ty (⋆ ⇒ ⋆) option = Lam (App (App (Con Sum) (Con Unit)) (Var VZ))

The Agda type checker can see that [ option ] normalizes to Option, so it considers these two expressions equal.

3.2 Framework for Doubly-General-Programming

Next, we give the signature of a framework for defining arity-generic type-generic programs. For space reasons, we do not give the implementation of this framework here. The interested reader may consult Altenkirch and McBride [1], Verbruggen et al. [26], or our source code for more details.

As with Generic Haskell, the behavior of a generic program defined using this framework is fixed for applications, lambdas and variables. Therefore, to define an arity-generic type-generic operation, we need only supply the behavior of the generic program for the type constants.

Datatype-generic operations have different types when instantiated at different kinds, so they are described by kind-indexed types [11]. For example, consider the type of the standard map function for the Option type constructor, of kind ⋆ ⇒ ⋆:

option-map1 : ∀ {A B} → (A → B) 
→ (Option A → Option B) And map for the type constructor _×_ of kind ⋆ ⇒ ⋆ ⇒ ⋆

pair-map1 : ∀ {A1 A2 B1 B2}  
→ (A1 → B1) → (A2 → B2) 
→ (A1 × A2) → (B1 × B2)

Though different, the types of option-map1 and pair-map1 are instances of the same kind-indexed type. In Generic Haskell, kind-indexed types are defined by recursion on the kind of the type arguments. For example, here is the Generic Haskell definition of map’s type [12]:

type Map (⋆) t1 t2 = t1 → t2 type Map (k1 ⇒ k2) t1 t2 = ∀ a1 a2, Map (k1) a1 a2 → Map (k2) (t1 a1) (t2 a2)

Readers new to Generic Haskell-style generic programming may find it instructive to verify that Map (⋆ ⇒ ⋆) Option Option and Map (⋆ ⇒ ⋆ ⇒ ⋆) _×_ _×_ simplify to the types given above for option-map and pair-map (modulo notational differences).

For arity-genericity, we must generalize kind-indexed types in another way. We want not only pair-map1, but also pair-map at other arities to be instances as well:

pair-map0 : ∀ {A B : Set} → A → B → A × B
pair-map2 : ∀ {A1 A2 B1 B2 C1 C2}  
→ (A1 → B1 → C1) → (A2 → B2 → C2)  
→ A1 × A2 → B1 × B2 → C1 × C2

We compute the type of a generic function instance from four pieces of information: the arity of the operation (given with an implicit argument n), a function b to construct the type in the base case, the kind k itself and a vector of n Agda types, each of kind k. Reminiscent of Generic Haskell, our kind-indexed type is written b (k) v:

_b(_.): (n : Nat)  
→ (b : Vec Set (suc n) → Set)  
→ (k : Kind)  
→ Vec [k] (suc n)  
→ Set
b (k1 ⇒ k2) V s = b V s b (k1 ⇒ k2) V = ∀ λ As . Vec [k1] _ → b (k1) As → b (k2) (Vs ⊎ As)

The primary difference between our definition and the Generic Haskell definition of kind-indexed type is that because the arity is a parameter, we deal with the type arguments as a vector rather than as individuals. For higher kinds the polymorphic type produced takes n arguments of kind [k1] (the vector As) and a kind-indexed type for those arguments and produces a result where each higher kinded type in the vector Vs has been applied to each argument in vector As.

We use the ∀ ⇒ function (from Section 2) to curry the type so that the user may provide n individual [k1]'s rather than a vector. The _ in Vec [k1] _ instructs Agda to infer the length of the vector (convenient since we did not give a name to the arity).

We do not allow these vectors to be empty because few generic functions make sense at arity zero. If we had allowed empty vectors we would have to add a degenerate zero case for the majority of generic functions. It would be straightforward, but tedious, to remove this restriction. As a result, the number provided here as an arity (n) is one less than the corresponding Generic Haskell arity. We refer to this reduced number as the arity for convenience.
We define generic functions with ngen, whose type is shown below. This operation produces a value of a kind-indexed type given ce, a mapping from constants to appropriate definitions.

\[ \text{ngen} : \{n : \text{N}\} \{b : \text{Vec Set } (\text{suc } n) \rightarrow \text{Set} \} \{k : \text{Kind}\} \]
\[ \rightarrow (t : \text{Ty } k) \]
\[ \rightarrow (ce : \text{TyConstEnv } n \ b) \]
\[ \rightarrow b (k) \ (\text{repeat } [t]) \]

The type of ce is a function which maps each constant to a value of the kind-indexed type associated with that constant.

\[ \text{TyConstEnv} : \{n : \text{N}\} \rightarrow (b : \text{Vec Set } n \rightarrow \text{Set}) \rightarrow \text{Set} \]
\[ \text{TyConstEnv } b = \]
\[ \{k : \text{Kind}\} \{c : \text{Const } k\} \rightarrow b (k) \ (\text{repeat } [\text{Con } c]) \]

We can already use this framework for non-arity-generic programming. For example, suppose we wished to define the standard argument.

To use this framework for non-arity-generic programming. For example, suppose we wished to define the standard argument.

\[ \text{Map} : \text{Vec Set } 2 \rightarrow \text{Set} \]
\[ \text{Map } (A : B :: []) = A \rightarrow B \]

Next, we define the type-constant environment for this particular b. The mapping function for natural numbers and unit is an identity function. For products and sums, the mapping function takes those arguments apart, maps the subcomponents and then puts them back together.

\[ \text{gmap-const} : \text{TyConstEnv } \text{GMap} \]
\[ \text{gmap-const } \text{Nat} = \lambda x \rightarrow x \]
\[ \text{gmap-const } \text{Unit} = \lambda x \rightarrow x \]
\[ \text{gmap-const } \text{Prod} = \lambda f \ g \ x \rightarrow (f \ (\text{proj}_1 x), g \ (\text{proj}_2 x)) \]
\[ \text{gmap-const } \text{Sum} = \text{g} \]

where

\[ g : \{A1 B1 A2 B2 : \text{Set}\} \]
\[ \rightarrow (A1 \rightarrow B1) \rightarrow (A2 \rightarrow B2) \]
\[ A1 \uplus A2 \rightarrow B1 \uplus B2 \]
\[ g \text{fa fb } (\text{inj}_1 \text{xa}) = \text{inj}_1 (\text{fa xa}) \]
\[ g \text{fa fb } (\text{inj}_2 \text{xb}) = \text{inj}_2 (\text{fb xb}) \]

Generic map then calls ngen with this argument.

\[ \text{gmap} : \{k : \text{Kind}\} \rightarrow (t : \text{Ty } k) \]
\[ \rightarrow \text{Map } (k) \ (\{t \} :: [t] :: []) \]
\[ \text{gmap } t = \text{ngen } t \text{ gmap-const} \]

Providing the type code instantiates generic map at particular types. For example, using the code for the Option type of the previous section, we can define:

\[ \text{option-map1} : \{A B : \text{Set}\} \rightarrow (A \rightarrow B) \]
\[ \rightarrow \text{Option } A \rightarrow \text{Option } B \]
\[ \text{option-map1 } g = \text{gmap option} \]

### 3.3 Doubly-generic Map

To use ngen to implement a doubly-generic function, we must also supply b and ce to ngen, but this time both of those arguments must generalize over the arity. For doubly-generic map, we call these pieces NGMap and ngmap-const. NGMap is simply the arrTy function from Section 2.2, which takes the arity as an implicit argument.

\[ \text{NGMap} : \{n : \text{N}\} \rightarrow \text{Vec Set } (\text{suc } n) \rightarrow \text{Set} \]
\[ \text{NGMap } = \text{arrTy} \]

We are simplifying the example somewhat because generic zips (which are generic maps at arities greater than one) are partial functions—they may fail if instantiated at a sum type and passed mismatched injections. To account for this possibility in Generic Haskell, the library function zipWith returns a Maybe. However, we would like to keep our presentation as simple as possible, so we use an error term to indicate failure. A version of doubly-generic map that returns a Maybe is included with our sources. Because Agda lacks Haskell’s error function, we use a postulate:

\[ \text{postulate } \text{error} : (A : \text{Set}) \rightarrow A \]

Next, we define the behavior of arity-generic type-generic map at the constant types. We do this by writing a term that dispatches to cases for the various constants (defined below). Each case takes the arity as an argument.

\[ \text{ngmap-const} : \{n : \text{N}\} \rightarrow \text{TyConstEnv } \text{NGmap} \]
\[ \text{ngmap-const } \{n\} \text{ Nat } = \text{defNat } n \]
\[ \text{ngmap-const } \{n\} \text{ Unit } = \text{defUnit } n \]
\[ \text{ngmap-const } \{n\} \text{ Prod } = \text{defPair } n \]
\[ \text{ngmap-const } \{n\} \text{ Sum } = \text{defSum } n \]

Recalling the definition of NGMap, for the first two cases, we must return arity-n functions with the types N → N → ... → N and T → T → ... → T. For N, when n is zero, we pick a default element to return arbitrarily. When n is one, we return the argument. For larger arities, we check that the inputs are identical. We choose to reject unequal nats to mirror the behavior of map at sum types.

\[ \text{defNat } (n : \text{N}) = \text{NGMap } (\ast \Rightarrow \ast \Rightarrow \ast) \ (\text{repeat } (\text{suc } n) \ N) \]
\[ \text{defNat zero } = \text{zero } \text{ -- arbitrary N} \]
\[ \text{defNat } (\text{succ } n) = \lambda x \rightarrow x \ -- \text{return what was given} \]
\[ \text{defNat } (\text{suc } n) = \lambda x \rightarrow \lambda y \rightarrow \text{if eqNat } x y \text{ then defNat } (\text{suc } n) y \]
\[ \text{else error} \]
\[ \text{defUnit } (n : \text{N}) = \text{NGMap } (\ast \Rightarrow \ast \Rightarrow \ast) \ (\text{repeat } (\text{suc } n) \ T) \]
\[ \text{defUnit zero } = \text{tt} \]
\[ \text{defUnit } (\text{suc } n) = \lambda x \rightarrow (\text{defUnit } n) \]

The Prod and Sum cases remain. Because these constants have higher kinds, the return type of ngmap-const changes. Consider Prod first. The desired type of defPair n is:

\[ \text{NGMap } (\ast \Rightarrow \ast \Rightarrow \ast) \ (\text{repeat } (\text{suc } n) \ N) \ N \]
\[ \forall \Rightarrow \lambda (\text{As } : \text{Vec Set } n) \rightarrow \text{arrTy } \text{As} \rightarrow \text{arrTy } \text{Bs} \rightarrow \text{arrTy } ((\text{repeat } \times) \ast \text{As } \circ \text{Bs}) \]

If we imagine writing out As as A1 :: A2 :: ... :: An :: [] and Bs as B1 :: B2 :: ... :: Bn :: [] the type simplifies to:

\[ \text{NGMap } (\ast \Rightarrow \ast \Rightarrow \ast) \ (\text{repeat } (\text{suc } n) \ N) \ N \]
\[ \rightarrow (A1 \rightarrow A2 \rightarrow ... \rightarrow An) \rightarrow (B1 \rightarrow B2 \rightarrow ... \rightarrow Bn) \rightarrow (A1 \times B1) \rightarrow (A2 \times B2) \rightarrow ... \rightarrow (An \times Bn) \]

However, it is easier to define the case where the A1 ... An arguments are uncurried, and then curry the resulting function.

\[ \text{defPairAux} : (n : \text{N}) \rightarrow (\text{As } : \text{Vec Set } (\text{suc } n)) \rightarrow \text{arrTy } \text{As} \rightarrow \text{arrTy } \text{Bs} \rightarrow \text{arrTy } ((\text{repeat } \times) \ast \text{As } \circ \text{Bs}) \]
\[ \text{defPairAux zero } (\text{As } :: []) \rightarrow (\text{As } : \text{Vec Set } n) \rightarrow \text{arrTy } \text{Bs} \rightarrow \text{arrTy } ((\text{repeat } \times) \ast \text{As } \circ \text{Bs}) \]
\[ \text{defPairAux } (\text{As } :: [a]) \rightarrow (\text{As } : \text{Vec Set } n) \rightarrow \text{arrTy } \text{Bs} \rightarrow \text{arrTy } ((\text{repeat } \times) \ast \text{As } \circ \text{Bs}) \]

In the zero case of defPairAux, a and b are arguments of type A and B respectively—the function must merely pair them up. In the successor case, a and b are functions with types A1 → arrTy As
and $B_1 \to arrTy \ B_2$. We want to produce a result of type $A_1 \times B_1 \to arrTy$ (repeat $\times_\circ$ As $\odot$ Bs). Therefore, this case takes an argument $p$ and makes a recursive call, passing in applied to the first component of $p$ and $b$ applied to the second component of $p$. We use a kind-directed currying function $k$-curry, whose definition has been elided, to obtain the final version.

```
  defSumLeft : (n : N)
  → NGmap (⋆ ⇒ ⋆ ⇒ ⋆) (repeat {suc n} _×_)
  defSum n = k-curry (⋆ ⇒ ⋆ ⇒ ⋆) (defPairAux n)
```

Sum also has kind $⋆ ⇒ ⋆ ⇒ ⋆$, so the type of its $ngmap$-const case is similar. However, for sums, we must check that the terms provided have the same structure (are either all $\text{inj}_1$ or all $\text{inj}_2$). Otherwise, we signal an error. Again, we first define defSumAux and then curry the result.

Below, defSumAux checks if the first argument is an $\text{inj}_1$ or an $\text{inj}_2$, then calls defSumLeft or defSumRight which require that all subsequent arguments match. In the degenerate case, where there are no arguments, we arbitrarily choose the right injection. Because defSumRight is analogous to defSumLeft, we elide its definition below.

```
  defSumLeft : (n : N)
  → (As : Vec Set (suc n)) \to arrTy As
  → (Bs : Vec Set (suc n)) \to arrTy (repeat _\odot_ As _\odot_ Bs)
  defSumLeft zero (A :: []) a (B :: []) = \text{inj}_1 a
  defSumLeft (suc n) (A :: As) a (B :: Bs) = \text{f}
  where
  f : A1 \uplus B1 \to arrTy (repeat _\odot_ As _\odot_ Bs)
  f (\text{inj}_1 a1) = defSumLeft n As (a a1) Bs
  f (\text{inj}_2 b1) = defSumLeft n As (a (error A1)) Bs

  defSumAux : (n : N)
  → (As : Vec Set (suc n)) \to arrTy As
  → (Bs : Vec Set (suc n)) \to arrTy (repeat _\odot_ As _\odot_ Bs)
  defSumAux zero (A :: []) a (B :: []) b = \text{f}
  defSumAux (suc n) (A :: As) a (B :: Bs) b = \text{f}
  where
  f : A1 \uplus B1 \to arrTy (repeat _\odot_ As _\odot_ Bs)
  f (\text{inj}_1 a1) = defSumLeft n As (a a1) Bs
  f (\text{inj}_2 b1) = defSumRight n Bs (b b1)
```

Finally, we also curry defSumAux to get the desired branch.

```
  defSum : (n : N)
  → NGmap (⋆ ⇒ ⋆ ⇒ ⋆) (repeat {suc n} _\odot_)
  defSum n = k-curry (⋆ ⇒ ⋆ ⇒ ⋆) (defSumAux n)
```

We can then define ngmap by instantiating ngen.

```
  ngmap : (n : N) \to (k : Kind) \to (e : Ty k)
  \to NGmap (k) (repeat {suc n} [ e ])
  ngmap n e = ngen e ngmap-const
```

If we had included vectors in our universe, we could simply use nmap from Section 2.2 for that case.

Just as datatype-generic functions are instantiated at a type, doubly generic functions are instantiated at an arity and a type. For example, given the definitions Option and option from the last section, we can define various maps for this type constructor:

```
option-map1 : {A B : Set} \to (A \to Option A \to Option B)
option-map1 = ngmap 1 option
```
data Orange : Set where
toOrange : N → Orange

We can form the code for this datatype as below.

fromOrange : Orange → N
fromOrange (toOrange x) = x

orange : {G : Ctx} → Typ G *

orange = Data (mkDT
  (Con Nat) -- t
  (λ e → Orange) -- s
  (λ e → toOrange) -- t
  (λ e → fromOrange)) -- from

Even though the kind of a datatype isomorphism must be *, we
can still create isomorphisms for datatypes with higher kinds, such
as Maybe and Vec. This works by creating an isomorphism with a
"hole" (exploiting the fact that the environment need not be empty),
then wrapping it in a lambda.

Instead of defining the structure of the Maybe type as a code
with higher kind (i.e., something of type Ty (*,*), such as
option as option from Section 3.1), we instead define its structure as
a function from codes to codes.

maybeDef : {G : Ctx} → Typ G * → Typ G *
maybeDef t = (App (App (App (Con Sum) (Con Unit)) t)

The conversions to and from the Maybe type are also parameter-
tized by the code of the argument to Maybe.

toMaybe : {G : Ctx} \{ e : Env G \}
→ (t : Typ G *)
→ (interp (maybeDef t) e) → Maybe (interp t e)
toMaybe t (inj1 _) = nothing
toMaybe t (inj2 x) = just x

fromMaybe : {G : Ctx} \{ e : Env G \} → (t : Typ G *)
→ Maybe (interp t e)
→ (interp (maybeDef t) e)

Finally, we form the code of the dataype itself by wrapping
the Data constructor in a Lam and using variable zero for the
parameter. The environments supplied to s, to and from allow us
to specify the type this variable corresponds to.

maybe : {G : Ctx} → Typ G (* ⇒ *)
maybe {G} = Lam (Data
  (mkDT (maybeDef (Var VZ)))
  (λ e → Maybe (interp (Var VZ) e))
  (λ e → toMaybe \{ e :: G \} \{ e \} (Var VZ))
  (λ e → fromMaybe \{ e :: G \} \{ e \} (Var VZ))))

We can use this same idea to encode vectors. Because we know
the length of a given vector is isoemorphic to an n-tuple—a se-
quence of products terminated by unit. The code for the vector type
then abstracts both the code for the type of the elements of the
vector and a natural number for its length.

vecDef : {G : Ctx} → Typ G * → (n : N) → Typ G *
vecDef _ 0 = Con Unit
vecDef t (suc n) =
  (App (App (App (Con Prod) t) (vecDef t n))

fromVec : {n : N} \{ G : Ctx \}
\{ t : Typ G * \} \{ e : Env G \}
→ Vec (interp t e) n → (interp (vecDef t n) e)
fromVec \{ \} \{ \} = tt
fromVec \{ suc n \} \{ x :: xs \} = (x, fromVec xs)

4.2 Adding Data Support to ngen

Although Data provides a mechanism for coding datatypes, we
cannot use it to define generic functions until we extend ngen to
handle Data. However, there is a complication—it is not clear how
to do so. Without getting too much into the technicalities, the issue
is that in this definition we need to produce a result of type3

\( b (\text{repeat}(DT\cdot s \text{ dt}) \circ \text{ envs}) \)

but we only have a value of type

\( b (\text{repeat}(DT\cdot t \text{ dt}) \circ \text{ envs}) \)

We would like to coercion the latter to the former using to and
from, but we know nothing about b. Therefore, we require an addi-
tional argument to ngen, to be supplied when the generic operation
is defined (i.e., when b is supplied).

ngen : {n : N} \{ b : \text{ Vec Set} (\text{ suc n}) \rightarrow \text{ Set} \} \{ k : \text{ Kind} \}
→ (t : Ty k)
→ Ty\text{ConstEnv} n b
→ DataGen b
→ b (\text{ k}) (\text{repeat}[t])

This argument, of type DataGen, shown below, is exactly the
coercion function necessary.

DataGen : {n : N} \rightarrow (b : \text{ Vec Set} (\text{ suc n}) \rightarrow \text{ Set} \) \rightarrow \text{ Set}
DataGen {n} b =
  \{ G : Ctx \}
  \rightarrow (\text{dt} : \text{ DT G})
  \rightarrow (\text{ envs} : \text{ Vec} (\text{ Env G}) (\text{ suc n}) )
  \rightarrow b (\text{ repeat} (\text{interp}(\text{DT}\cdot \text{t dt})) \circ \text{ envs})
  \rightarrow b (\text{ repeat} (\text{DT-s dt}) \circ \text{ envs})

As an example of an instance of DataGen, recall the definition
of nmap and its base type NGmap from Section 3.3.

arrTy : {n : N} → Vec Set (suc n) → Set
arrTy \{ \} \{ A :: [] \} = A
arrTy \{ suc n \} \{ A1 :: As \} = A1 → arrTy As
NGmap : {n : N} → Vec Set (suc n) → Set
NGmap = arrTy

The definition of the DataGen coercion for the case where b
is NGmap, called nmap-data below, proceeds by induction on

\footnote{Here \( b : \text{ Vec Set} (\text{ suc n}) \rightarrow \text{ Set} \) describes the type of the generic
operation and \( \text{ envs} : \text{ Vec} (\text{ Env G}) (\text{ suc n}) \) is a vector of environments for
the free variables.}
the arity. In the base case of n=0, nngmap-data must coerce a result from the representation type to the Agda type using the to component.

For higher n, nngmap-data is provided with a vector of environments e1 :: es and a function of type:

\[
\text{interp (DT-t dt) e1} \rightarrow \text{arrTy (repeat (interp (DT-t dt)) \odot es)}
\]

Its result type is:

\[
(DT-s dt) e1 \rightarrow \text{arrTy (repeat (DT-s dt) \odot es)}
\]

This case takes in a (DT-s dt) e1, uses the from function to convert it to an \(\text{arrTy (repeat (interp (DT-t dt)) \odot es)}\), and coerces the provided result of the provided function by calling nngmap-data recursively.

\[
\text{nngmap-data} : \{ n : \mathbb{N} \} \rightarrow \text{DataGen (NGmap \{ n \})}
\]

\[
\text{nngmap-data} \{ 0 \} \ dt (e :: []) \ bt = \text{DT-to dt bt}
\]

\[
\text{nngmap-data} \{ suc n \} \ dt (e1 :: es) \ bt =
\]

\[
\lambda x \rightarrow \text{nngmap-data} \{ n \} \ dt \ es (bt (\text{DT-from dt x}))
\]

4.3 Using ngen at Datatypes

With the nngmap-data function from the previous section, we may instantiate the updated ngen for NGmap.

\[
\text{ngen} : \{ n : \mathbb{N} \} \rightarrow \{ k : \text{Kind} \} \rightarrow \{ e : \text{Typ} \} \ k \rightarrow \text{NGmap \{ n \} \ k} \ (\text{repeat (interp e \[])})
\]

\[
\text{ngen n e} =\ ngen e \ \text{ngen-const ngen-data}
\]

This new ngen adds support for datatypes. For example, we may use it with the maybe and vec representations of Section 4.1. Note that vec-map0 is precisely the repeat function we have used throughout this paper.

\[
\text{maybe-map1} : \{ A B : \text{Set} \} \rightarrow (A \rightarrow B)
\]

\[
\rightarrow \text{Maybe A} \rightarrow \text{Maybe B}
\]

\[
\text{maybe-map1} = \text{ngen 1 maybe}
\]

\[
\text{vec-map0} : \{ A : \text{Set} \} \{ n : \mathbb{N} \} \rightarrow A \rightarrow \text{Vec A n}
\]

\[
\text{vec-map0} = \text{ngen 0 vec}
\]

\[
\text{vec-map1} : \{ A B : \text{Set} \} \{ n : \mathbb{N} \} \rightarrow (A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow \text{Vec A n} \rightarrow \text{Vec B n}
\]

\[
\text{vec-map1} = \text{ngen 1 vec}
\]

Observe that instantiating ngen at a datatype is no different than any other type we have seen. The codes for Maybe and Vec work for any generic operation. Although the definition of ngen needed the DataGen argument, this argument must be implemented once per generic operation, just like TyConstEnv. In contrast, previous work [26] could not define a general code for datatypes like Maybe and Vec, and required significant boilerplate at every instantiation of a generic function with a specific datatype.

5. Other Doubly-General Operations

Mapping is not the only arity-generic function. In this section, we examine two others.

5.1 Equality

We saw in Section 3.3 that doubly-generic map must check that its arguments have the same structure. We can define doubly-generic equality in a similar manner. This function takes n arguments, returning true if they are all equal, and false otherwise. Unlike map, equality is not partial for sums as it returns false in the case that the injections do not match.

In the specific case of vectors, arity-generic equality looks a lot like arity-generic map. Each instance of this function follows the same pattern. Given an n-ary equality function for the type argument, we can define n-ary equality for vectors as:

\[
\text{nvec-eq} : \{ m : \mathbb{N} \} \{ A : \text{Set} \}
\]

\[
\rightarrow (A \rightarrow ... \rightarrow A \rightarrow \text{Bool})
\]

\[
\rightarrow \text{Vec A m} \rightarrow ... \rightarrow \text{Vec A m} \rightarrow \text{Bool}
\]

\[
\text{nvec-eq} \ v1 \ ... \ vn = \text{all (repeat f \odot v1 \odot ... \odot vn)}
\]

However, again this definition does not help us make equality type-generic as well as arity-generic. For type-genericity, the type of the equality function depends on the kind of the type constructor.

For example, the definition of arity-two equality for natural numbers returns true only if all three match:

\[
\text{nat-eq2} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Bool}
\]

Likewise, the arity-two equality for pairs requires equalities for all of the components of the pair. Furthermore, the type arguments need not be the same. We can pass any sort of comparison functions in to examine the values carried by the three products.

\[
\text{pair-eq2} : \{ A1 A2 B1 B2 C1 C2 : \text{Set} \}
\]

\[
\rightarrow (A1 \rightarrow B1 \rightarrow C1 \rightarrow \text{Bool})
\]

\[
\rightarrow (A2 \rightarrow B2 \rightarrow C2 \rightarrow \text{Bool})
\]

\[
\rightarrow (A1 \times A2) \rightarrow (B1 \times B2) \rightarrow (C1 \times C2) \rightarrow \text{Bool}
\]

The definition of ngeq, which can define all of these operations, is similar to that of ngen, so we will only highlight the differences.\(^6\) One occurs in the definition of the arity-indexed type, NGeq. This function returns a boolean value rather than one of the provided types, which means that ngeq makes sense even for \( n = 0 \). In that case its type is simply Bool.

\[
\text{NGeq} : \{ n : \mathbb{N} \} \rightarrow (v : \text{Vec Set n}) \rightarrow \text{Set}
\]

\[
\text{NGeq zero} \{ [] \} = \text{Bool}
\]

\[
\text{NGeq suc n} \{ A1 : \text{As} \} = A1 \rightarrow \text{NGeq As}
\]

Next we must define a TyConstEnv for NGeq. For simplicity, we only show the cases for Unit and Nat. The cases for Prod and Sum are straightforward variations of ngen. As there is only a single member of the \( \top \) type, the case for unit is just a function that takes n arguments and returns true.

\[
\text{defUnit} : (n : \mathbb{N}) \rightarrow \text{NGeq (repeat } \top \text{)}
\]

\[
\text{defUnit zero} = \lambda x \rightarrow \text{true}
\]

\[
\text{defUnit suc n} = \lambda x \rightarrow \text{defUnit n}
\]

For natural numbers, ngeq should compare each number and return true only when they all match (or when \( n \) is less than 2). We implement this by checking each argument for equality with the next. If a mismatch is found, ngeq uses constFalse, which consumes a given number of arguments and returns false.

\[
\text{constFalse} : \{ n : \mathbb{N} \} \rightarrow (v : \text{Vec Set n}) \rightarrow \text{NGeq v}
\]

\[
\text{constFalse zero} = \lambda a \rightarrow \text{cancel False As}
\]

\[
\text{defNat} : (n : \mathbb{N}) \rightarrow \text{NGeq (repeat } n \text{)}
\]

\[
\text{defNat zero} = \text{true}
\]

\[
\text{defNat suc zero} = \lambda x \rightarrow \text{true}
\]

\[
\text{defNat suc suc n} =
\]

\[
\lambda x \rightarrow \lambda y \rightarrow \text{if eqNat x y then defNat suc n y}
\]

\[
\text{else constFalse (repeat } n \text{)}
\]

Finally, because we wish to use ngeq at various Agda datatypes, we must define an instance of DataGen from Section 4. As before, we go by recursion on the arity. Since NGeq is an n-ary function of representable types, we simply take in each argument, use the provided DT isomorphism to coerce it to the appropriate type, and recurse:

\[
\text{ngeq-data} : \{ n : \mathbb{N} \} \rightarrow \text{DataGen (NGeq \{ suc n \})}
\]

\[
\text{ngeq-data} \{ 0 \} (\text{dt (e :: [])) bt =}
\]

\(^6\) The complete definition may be found in ngeq.agda with our sources.
5.2 Splitting

The Haskell Prelude and standard library include the functions

\[
\text{unzip} :: [(a, b)] \rightarrow [(a), (b)]
\]

\[
\text{unzip3} :: [(a, b, c)] \rightarrow [(a), (b), (c)]
\]

\[
\text{unzip4} :: [(a, b, c, d)] \rightarrow [(a), (b), (c), (d)]
\]

\[
\text{unzip5} :: [(a, b, c, d, e)] \rightarrow [(a), (b), (c), (d), (e)]
\]

\[
\text{unzip6} :: [(a, b, c, d, e, f)] \rightarrow [(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f)]
\]

suggesting that there should be an arity-generic version of unzip that unifies all of these definitions.

Furthermore, it makes sense that we should be able to unzip data structures other than lists, such as Maybes or Trees.

\[
\text{unzipMaybe} :: \text{Maybe} (a, b) \rightarrow (\text{Maybe} a, \text{Maybe} b)
\]

\[
\text{unzipTree} :: \text{Tree} (a, b) \rightarrow (\text{Tree} a, \text{Tree} b)
\]

Indeed, unzip is also datatype-generic, and Generic Haskell includes the function gunzipWith that can generate arity-one unzips for any type constructor.

Here, we describe the definition of ngsplit, which generates unzips for arbitrary data structures at arbitrary arities. In some sense, ngsplit is the dual to ngmap. Instead of taking in n arguments (with the same structure) and combining them together to a single result, split takes a single argument and distributes it to n results, all with the same structure.

For example, here is an instance of ngsplit, specialized to the Option type and arity 2. Note that this function is more general than unzipMaybe above, the Maybes need not contain pairs so long as we have some way to split the data.

\[
\text{unzipWithMaybe} :: (A B C : \text{Set}) \rightarrow (A \rightarrow B \times C)
\]

\[
\rightarrow (\text{Maybe} A \rightarrow \text{Maybe} B \times \text{Maybe} C)
\]

\[
\text{unzipWithMaybe} = \text{ngsplit} 2 \text{maybe}
\]

The definition of unzipWith gives us unzip when applied to the identity function.

\[
\text{unzipMaybe2} :: (A B : \text{Set}) \rightarrow \text{Maybe} (A \times B)
\]

\[
\rightarrow (\text{Maybe} A \times \text{Maybe} B)
\]

\[
\text{unzipMaybe2} = \text{unzipWith2} (\lambda x \rightarrow x)
\]

The function NGsplit gives the type of ngsplit at base kinds. The first type in the vector passed to NGsplit is the type to split. The subsequent types are those the first type will be split into. If there is only one type, the function returns unit. The helper function prodTy folds the \_ \_ \_ constructor across a vector of types.

\[
\text{prodTy} : \{ n : \text{N} \} \rightarrow (\text{As} : \text{Vec Set n}) \rightarrow \text{Set}
\]

\[
\text{prodTy} \{ 0 \} = \text{T}
\]

\[
\text{prodTy} \{ 1 \} = (\text{A} :: []) = \text{A}
\]

\[
\text{prodTy} \{ \text{succ} (\text{succ} _- ) \} (\text{A} :: \text{As}) = (\text{A} \times \text{prodTy} \text{As})
\]

\[
\text{NGsplit} : \{ n : \text{N} \} \rightarrow (v : \text{Vec Set} (\text{succ} n)) \rightarrow \text{Set}
\]

\[
\text{NGsplit} (\text{A1} :: \text{As}) = \text{A1} \rightarrow \text{prodTy} \text{As}
\]

The cases for Nat and Unit are straightforward, so we do not show them. They simply make \_ copies of the argument.

To split a product \((x, y)\), we first split \(x\) and \(y\), then combine together the results. For this combination, prodn takes arguments of types \((A1 \times A2 \times \ldots \times An)\) and \((B1 \times B2 \times \ldots \times Bn)\) and forms a result of type \((A1 \times B1) \times (A2 \times B2) \times \ldots \times (An \times Bn)\).

\[
\text{prodn} : \{ n : \text{N} \} \rightarrow (\text{As} : \text{Vec Set n}) \rightarrow \text{prodTy} \text{As} \rightarrow (\text{Bs} : \text{Vec Set n}) \rightarrow \text{prodTy} \text{Bs}
\]

\[
\rightarrow \text{prodTy} (\text{repeat } \times_- \oplus \text{As} \oplus \text{Bs})
\]

\[
\text{prodn} \{ 0 \} = \text{T}
\]

\[
\text{prodn} \{ 1 \} = (\text{A} :: []) (\text{B} :: []) \text{a b} = (a, b)
\]

\[
\text{prodn} \{ \text{succ} (\text{succ} n) \} (\text{A} :: \text{As}) (\text{B} :: \text{Bs}) (a, as) (b, bs) =
\]

\[
((a, b), \text{prodn} \{ \text{succ} n \} \_ \_ \_ \text{as bs})
\]

\[
\text{defPair} : \{ n : \text{N} \} \rightarrow (\text{As} : \text{Vec Set} (\text{succ} n)) \rightarrow (\text{NGsplit} \text{As})
\]

\[
\rightarrow (\text{Bs} : \text{Vec Set} (\text{succ} n)) \rightarrow (\text{NGsplit} \text{Bs})
\]

\[
\rightarrow \text{NGsplit} (\text{repeat } \times_- \oplus \text{As} \oplus \text{Bs})
\]

\[
\text{defPair} n (\text{A} :: \text{As}) (\text{B} :: \text{Bs}) b =
\]

\[
\lambda p \rightarrow \text{prodn} \{ n \} \_ \_ \_ (a (\text{proj1}, p)) (b (\text{proj2} ))
\]

The case for sums scrutinizes the argument to see if it is a left or right injection, and uses the appropriate provided function to split the inner expression. Then we use either injLeft or injRight (elided), which simply map inj1 or inj2 onto the members of the resulting tuple.

\[
\text{defSum} : \{ n : \text{N} \} \rightarrow (\text{As} : \text{Vec Set} (\text{succ} n)) \rightarrow (\text{NGsplit} \text{As})
\]

\[
\rightarrow (\text{Bs} : \text{Vec Set} (\text{succ} n)) \rightarrow (\text{NGsplit} \text{Bs})
\]

\[
\rightarrow \text{NGsplit} (\text{repeat } \times_- \oplus \text{As} \oplus \text{Bs})
\]

\[
\text{defSum} 0 (\text{A} :: []) \text{af} (\text{B} :: []) \text{bf} = \lambda \rightarrow \text{tt}
\]

\[
\text{defSum} \{ \text{succ} n \} (\text{A} :: \text{As}) (\text{B} :: \text{Bs}) \text{bf} = f
\]

\[
\text{where} f : \text{A} \uplus \text{B} \rightarrow \text{prodTy} (\text{repeat } \times_- \oplus \text{As} \oplus \text{Bs})
\]

\[
\text{defSum} 0 (\text{af} \text{x1}) = \text{injLeft} \{ n \} (\text{af} \text{x1})
\]

\[
\text{defSum} \{ \text{succ} n \} (\text{af} \text{x1}) = \text{injRight} \{ n \} (\text{bf} \text{f1})
\]

The definition of split-const (elided) dispatches to the branches above in the standard way, delegating to a trivial case when \(n = 0\). Finally, we must define an instance of DataGen so that we may use ngsplit at representable Agda datatypes. Since NGsplit is defined in terms of prodTy, we must also convert instances of that type. These (elided) functions are similar to previous examples, except that we are converting a pair instead of an arrow. With split-const and split-data, we can define ngsplit as usual.

Splitting is a good example of datatype-generic programming’s potential to save time and eliminate errors. Defining a separate instance of split for vectors is not simple. For example, we would need a function to transpose vectors of products, transforming \(\text{Vec} m (A1 \times A2 \times \ldots \times An)\) into \((\text{Vec A1} m \times \text{Vec A2} m \times \ldots \times \text{Vec An} m)\). This code is slightly trickier and potentially error-prone, but with generic programming we get the vector split for free. Moreover, we may reason once about the correctness of the general definition of split rather than reasoning individually about each of its arity and type instances.

5.3 More Operations

Mapping, equality and splitting provide three worked out examples of doubly generic functions. We know of a few others, such as a monadic map, a map that returns a Maybe instead of an error when the Sum injections do not match, a comparison function, and an equality function that returns a proof that the arguments are all equal. Furthermore, there are arity-generic versions of standard Generic Haskell functions like crushes or enumerations. For example, an arity-generic gsam adds together all of the numbers found in \(n\) data structures. Such examples seem less generally useful than arity-generic map or unzip, but are not difficult to define.
Compared to the space of datatype-generic functions, the space of doubly generic operations is limited. This is unsurprising, as there already were not many examples of Generic Haskell functions with arities greater than one. However, this work has given us new insight into what other doubly-generic functions might look like. Furthermore, though the collection of doubly-generic functions is small, this is no reason not to study it. Indeed, it includes some of the most fundamental operations of functional programming, and it makes sense that we should learn as much as we can about these operations.

6. Related Work

Only a few sources discuss arity-generic programming. Fridlender and Indrika [7] show how to encode n-ary list map in Haskell, using a Church encoding of numerals to reflect the necessary type dependencies. They remark that a generic programming language could provide a version of zipWith that works for arbitrary datatypes, but that no existing language provides such functionality. They also mention a few other arity-generic programs: taut which determines whether a boolean expression of n variables is a tautology, and variations on liftM, curry and uncurry from the Haskell Prelude. It is not clear whether any of these functions could be made datatype-generic. McBride [14] shows an alternate encoding of arity-generic list map in Haskell using type classes to achieve better safety properties. He examines several other families of operations, like crush and sum, but does not address type genericity. Many Scheme functions, such as map, are arity-generic (or variable-arity, in Scheme parlance). Strickland et al. [24] extend Typed Scheme with support for variable-arity polymorphism by adding new forms for variable-arity functions to the type language. They are able to check many examples, but do not consider datatype-genericity.

Sheard [22] translates Fridlender and Indrika’s example to the Omega programming language, using that language’s native indexed datatypes instead of the Church encoding. He also demonstrates one other arity-generic program, n-ary addition. Although the same work also includes an implementation of datatype-generic programming in Omega, the two ideas are not combined.

Several researchers have used dependent types (or their encodings) to implement Generic-Haskell-style datatype-genericity. In previous work, we encoded representations of types using Church encodings [28] and GADTs [29] and showed how to implement a number of datatype-generic operations such as map. Hinze [10], inspired by this approach, gave a similar encoding based on type classes. In those encodings, doubly-generic programming is not possible because datatype-generic programs of different arities require different representations or type classes.

The most closely related encoding of Generic Haskell to this one is by Verbruggen et al. [26]. They use the Coq programming language to define a framework for generic programming, but do not consider arity-genericity. Altenkirch and McBride [1] show a similar development in Oleg. This work extends those developments by considering examples not possible in Generic Haskell and showing a technique for writing generic programs which work on source-language datatypes.

The idea of generic programming in dependent type theory via universes has seen much attention since it was originally proposed [13, 18]. While demonstrating a new form of doubly genericity, this paper covers only one part of what is possible in a dependently typed language. In particular, our codes do not extend to all inductive families and so we cannot represent all types that are available (see Benke et al. [2] and Morris et al. [17] for more expressive universes). A dependently-typed language also permits the definition of generic proofs about generic programs. Chlipala [4] uses this technique in the Coq proof assistant to generically define and prove substitution properties of programming languages. Verbruggen et al. [27] use Coq’s dependent types to develop a framework for proving properties about generic programs.

7. Discussion

Generic programming in a dependently-typed language As we mentioned in the introduction, there are several dependently-typed languages that we could have used for this development. We selected Agda because the focus of its design has been this sort of programming. Like Coq, Agda is a full-spectrum dependently typed language. That has allowed us the flexibility to use universes to directly implement generic programming. We had the full power of the computational language available to express the relationships between values and types. A phase-sensitive language, such as Omega or Haskell, would have required singletons to reflect computation to the type level, and would have permitted type-level computation only in a restricted language.

Compared to Coq, Agda has more vigorous type inference, especially combined with pattern matching. Although Coq can also infer implicit arguments, if we had written the functions in Coq we would have had to add many more type annotations. Additionally, developing in Agda allowed us to deal with non-termination more conveniently—while Coq must be able to see that a definition terminates before moving on, Agda shows the user where it can not prove termination and allows other work to continue.

On the other hand, using Coq would have lead to two advantages. Coq’s tactic language can be used to automate some of the reasoning. Tactics would have been particularly useful in proving some of the equalities needed to typecheck the (elided) implementation of ngen. However, we did not see any need for tactics in any of the uses of ngen to define doubly-generic operations. More importantly, as discussed below, differences in the way Coq and Agda handle type levels forced us to use Agda’s --type-in-type flag to clarify the presentation.

Type levels in Agda Although we have hidden it, Agda actually has an infinite hierarchy of type levels. Set, also known as Set0, is the lowest level in the type hierarchy. Terms like Set0 and Set0 → Set0 have type Set1, which itself has type Set2, etc.

To simplify our exposition, we collapsed all of these levels to the type Set, with the help of the --type-in-type flag. This flag makes Agda’s logic inconsistent, so to demonstrate that we are not using it in an unsound way, we have also implemented a version of the code that may be compiled without the flag. That version can be found in the notypein subdirectory of our source tarball.

Three differences between Coq and Agda make this explicit version more complicated than the one presented here. First, Agda currently lacks universe polymorphism [9], a feature which allows definitions to work on multiple type levels. As a result, many of the data structures in this paper must actually be duplicated at the level of Set1, creating significant clutter. Second, since Set is not impredicative in Agda, many definitions that could live at the level of Set in Coq must be at the level of Set1 instead. Finally, because Set0 is not a subtype of Set1 in Agda, we found it necessary to explicitly lift types from Set0 to Set1.

Future work and Conclusions Because we are working in the flexible context of a dependently-typed programming language, our work here will allow us to adapt and extend orthogonal results in generic programming to this framework. For example, we would like to use Agda as a proof assistant to reason about the properties of the generic programs that we write. We would also like to extend our universe so that it may encode more of Agda’s type system, such as arbitrary indexed datatypes. Finally, we would like to gain more experience with doubly-generic programming by creating and analyzing additional examples.
In this paper, we have combined arity-generic and datatype-generic programming into a single framework. Crucially, this combination takes advantage of the natural role that arities play in the definition of kind-indexed types. This framework has provided us with new understanding of the definition and scope of doubly-generic programs.

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References


