

Typed Lazy Contracts

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An assertion in C:

```
#include <assert.h>

list *get_tail (list *ptr)
{
    assert(ptr!=NULL);
    ...
}
```

- specify & dynamically check properties
- more expressive than static types, less effort than verification
- testing with real values

Contracts

Systematic use of assertions as contract between a server and a client, separating their responsibilities.

A contract in Eiffel:

```
connect_to_server (server: SOCKET)
  require
    server /= Void and then server.address /= Void
  do
    ...
  ensure
    connected: server.is_connected
  end
```

- If pre-condition fails, then method caller is blamed.
- If post-condition fails, then method itself is blamed.

[Bertrand Meyer: *Object-Oriented Software Construction*, Prentice Hall, 1988]

Contracts in Functional Programming Languages

Define new contracts:

```
nat :: Contract Int
nat = prop (>= 0)
```

Define function variants with contracts:

```
cInc = assert (nat >-> nat) (+1)
cDec = assert (nat >-> nat) (subtract 1)
```

In functional languages contract assertion is a partial identity.

```
cInc 42    ~> 43
cInc (-2)  ~> exception, blame caller
cDec 2     ~> 1
cDec 0     ~> exception, blame function
```

where

```
assert :: Contract a -> a -> a
(>->) :: Contract a -> Contract b -> Contract (a->b)
```

Higher-Order Contracts

Define

```
cMap = assert ((nat >-> nat) >-> list nat >-> list nat) map
```

where

```
map :: (Int -> Int) -> [Int] -> [Int]
```

and use it:

```
... cMap (subtract 1) [2,1,0] ...
```

- When passing functional argument (`subtract 1`) to `cMap`, impossible to check whether it meets the contract.
- When finding that (`subtract 1`) violates the contract, have to blame call of `cMap`, not definition of `cMap`.

[Findler & Felleisen: *Contracts for higher-order functions*, ICFP '02]

- I The challenge of designing contracts for lazy languages.
- II Design semantics, derive an implementation.
[Chitil: *A Semantics for Lazy Assertions*, PEPM '11]
- III Consider practical problems for a useful contract library.
[Chitil: *Practical Typed Lazy Contracts*, ICFP 2012]

Part I

The Challenge of Designing Contracts for Lazy Languages

Lazy Evaluation

Define the infinite list of Fibonacci numbers:

```
fibs :: [Integer]
fibs = 0 : 1 : zipWith (+) fibs (tail fibs)
```

Evaluate:

```
fibs
~> 0 : 1 : zipWith (+) • (tail • )
~> 0 : 1 : zipWith (+) • •
~> 0 : 1 : 1 : zipWith (+) • •
~> 0 : 1 : 1 : 2 : zipWith (+) • •
⋮
~> 0 : 1 : 1 : 2 : 3 : 5 : 8 : 13 : 21 : ...
```


Lazy Contracts have to preserve the meaning ...

... of recursively defined data structures:

```
nats :: Contract [Integer]
```

```
nats = list (prop (>= 0))
```

```
fibs :: [Integer]
```

```
fibs = assert nats (0 : 1 : zipWith (+) fibs (tail fibs))
```

A Problem

According to

[Deggen, Thiemann, Wehr: *The Interaction of Contracts and Laziness*, PEPM '12]

- meaning preservation and
- completeness

are **contradictory**:

```
x :: (Int, Int)
```

```
x = assert (pair nat nat) (loop, 42)
```

```
loop = loop
```

```
main = print (snd x)
```

A Problem

According to

[Deggen, Thiemann, Wehr: *The Interaction of Contracts and Laziness*, PEPM '12]

- meaning preservation and
- completeness

are **contradictory**:

```
x :: (Int, Int)
```

```
x = assert (pair nat nat) (loop, 42)
```

```
loop = loop
```

```
main = print (snd x)
```

My aim: Meaning preservation but weaker completeness.

High Expressiveness Violates Semantics

Old approach

[Chitil & Huch: *Monadic, prompt lazy assertions in Haskell*, APLAS 2007]

is meaning preserving, **but**

```
let x = assert equal (True,False)
in (fst x, snd x)     $\rightsquigarrow$  exception
```

and

```
(fst (assert equal (True,False)),
  snd (assert equal (True,False)))  $\rightsquigarrow$  (True, False)
```

High Expressiveness Violates Semantics

Old approach

[Chitil & Huch: *Monadic, prompt lazy assertions in Haskell*, APLAS 2007]

is meaning preserving, **but**

```
let x = assert equal (True,False)
in (fst x, snd x)  ~> (True, error "...") or
                    (error "...", False)
```

and

```
(fst (assert equal (True,False)),
  snd (assert equal (True,False))) ~> (True,
                                         False)
```

So meaning preservation alone is insufficient.

Part II

Design Semantics, Derive an Implementation

Initial Design of Semantics

All domains D are directed complete partial order with \perp_D which represents undefinedness and exception for contract failure.

To preserve meaning of recursive definitions of data structures

```
fibs :: [Integer]
fibs = assert nats (0 : 1 : zipWith (+) fibs (tail fibs))
```

any approximation of an acceptable data structure has to be accepted!

```
assert nats (0:1:⊥)      ⇓ 0:1:⊥
assert nats (0:1:1:⊥)   ⇓ 0:1:1:⊥
assert nats (0:1:1:2:⊥) ⇓ 0:1:1:2:⊥
```

Axioms of Contracts

Let D be a first-order domain, a directed complete partial order with \perp .
Write $\langle c \rangle : D \rightarrow D$ for semantics of `assert c`.

Definition

Acceptance set $\llbracket c \rrbracket := \{v \in D \mid \langle c \rangle v = v\} \subseteq D$.

Definition

c is **lazy contract**, if

- 1 $\langle c \rangle : D \rightarrow D$ is a continuous function,
- 2 c is **trustworthy**, that is, $\langle c \rangle v \in \llbracket c \rrbracket$ for any value v ,
(equivalent: $\langle c \rangle$ is idempotent)
- 3 $\langle c \rangle$ is a **partial identity**, that is, $\langle c \rangle v \sqsubseteq v$ for any value v , and
- 4 $\llbracket c \rrbracket$ is a lower set.

Definition

A function $p : D \rightarrow D$ on a domain D is a **projection** if it is

- continuous,
- idempotent, and
- a partial identity.

Lemma

c is lazy contract $\Leftrightarrow \langle c \rangle$ is projection and its image is a lower set

cf. [Findler & Blume: *Contracts as pairs of projections*, FLOPS 2006]

Definition

$$\begin{aligned}\downarrow\{v\} &:= \{v' \mid v' \sqsubseteq v\} \\ A_v &:= \downarrow\{v\} \cap A\end{aligned}$$

Theorem

$\llbracket c \rrbracket_v$ is an ideal (lower & directed)

$$\langle c \rangle v = \bigsqcup \llbracket c \rrbracket_v$$

Definition

A set $A \subseteq D$ is a **lazy domain** if

- A is lower,
- A contains the least upper bound of any directed subset, and
- $A_v = \downarrow\{v\} \cap A$ is directed for all values $v \in D$.

Lemma

If c is a lazy assertion, then $\llbracket c \rrbracket$ is a lazy domain.

Theorem

If A is a lazy domain, then c with

$$\langle c \rangle v := \bigsqcup \llbracket c \rrbracket_v$$

is a lazy assertion with $\llbracket c \rrbracket = A$.

Definition

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \text{false} \rrbracket &:= \{\perp\} \\ \llbracket \text{true} \rrbracket &:= D \end{aligned}$$

Derived contract applications

$$\langle \text{false} \rangle v = \sqcup \llbracket \text{false} \rrbracket_v = \sqcup \downarrow\{v\} \cap \{\perp\} = \sqcup \{\perp\} = \perp$$

$$\langle \text{true} \rangle v = \sqcup \llbracket \text{true} \rrbracket_v = \sqcup \downarrow\{v\} \cap D = \sqcup \downarrow\{v\} = v$$

Definition

$$\llbracket c \& d \rrbracket := \llbracket c \rrbracket \cap \llbracket d \rrbracket$$

Lemma Conjunction is commutative and associative and has `true` as neutral element.

Lemma (Conjunction equals two contracts)

$$\langle c \& d \rangle v = \langle c \rangle (\langle d \rangle v)$$

Contract Combinators: Disjunction

Not $\llbracket c \mid d \rrbracket := \llbracket c \rrbracket \cup \llbracket d \rrbracket$

because $\llbracket c \mid d \rrbracket_v = (\downarrow\{v\} \cap \llbracket c \rrbracket) \cup (\downarrow\{v\} \cap \llbracket d \rrbracket)$ not directed.

Definition

$$\llbracket c \mid d \rrbracket := \bigcap \{Y \mid \llbracket c \rrbracket \cup \llbracket d \rrbracket \subseteq Y, Y \text{ lazy domain}\}$$

Attention!

$$D = \{\perp, (\perp, \perp), (\text{True}, \perp), (\text{False}, \perp), \dots, (\text{False}, \text{False})\}$$

$$\llbracket \text{fstTrue} \rrbracket = D \setminus \{(\text{False}, \perp), (\text{False}, \text{True}), (\text{False}, \text{False})\}$$

$$\llbracket \text{fstTrue} \mid \text{sndTrue} \rrbracket = D$$

$$\llbracket (\text{fstTrue} \ \& \ \text{sndTrue}) \mid (\text{fstFalse} \ \& \ \text{sndFalse}) \rrbracket = D$$

Lemma Disjunction is commutative and associative and has `false` as neutral element.

Bounded Distributive Lattice of Contracts

Lemma (Absorption laws)

$$c \& (c |> d) = c$$

$$c |> (c \& d) = c$$

Lemma (Distributive laws)

$$c |> (d \& e) = (c |> d) \& (c |> e)$$

$$c \& (d |> e) = (c \& d) |> (c \& e)$$

Theorem Lazy contracts form a bounded distributive lattice with meet $\&$, join $|>$, least element **false** and greatest element **true**. The ordering is the subset-relationship on acceptance sets.

Corollary (Idempotency laws)

$$c \& c = c$$

$$c |> c = c$$

No Negation

Let $\llbracket c \rrbracket := \{\perp, (\perp, \perp)\}$

$c \& \neg c = \text{false}$ implies $\llbracket c \rrbracket \cap \llbracket \neg c \rrbracket = \{\perp\}$.

$\llbracket \neg c \rrbracket$ must be a lower set.

So $\llbracket \neg c \rrbracket = \{\perp\}$.

But then $\llbracket c \mid \neg c \rrbracket = \llbracket c \rrbracket$.

Contradiction to $c \mid \neg c = \text{true}$.

Deriving an Implementation: Primitive Data Types

Flat domain, i.e., $v \sqsubset w$ implies $v = \perp$.

Definition (Acceptance set of Boolean property contract)

$$\llbracket \text{prop } \phi \rrbracket := \{\perp\} \cup \{v \mid \phi v = \text{True}\}$$

Derive application of contract:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \text{prop } \phi \rangle v &= \bigsqcup \downarrow\{v\} \cap \llbracket \phi \rrbracket \\ &= \bigsqcup \{\perp, v\} \cap (\{\perp\} \cup \{w \mid \phi w = \text{True}\}) \\ &= \bigsqcup \{\perp\} \cup (\text{if } \phi v \text{ then } \{v\} \text{ else } \{\}) \\ &= \text{if } \phi v \text{ then } v \text{ else } \perp \end{aligned}$$

Note: $\{\perp\} \cup \{v \mid \phi v \neq \text{False}\}$ as acceptance set is un-implementable.

Primitive Data Types: Conjunction & Disjunction

Expected definitions:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{prop } \phi \ \& \ \text{prop } \psi &:= \text{prop } (\lambda x. \phi x \wedge \psi x) \\ \text{prop } \phi \ \mid > \ \text{prop } \psi &:= \text{prop } (\lambda x. \phi x \vee \psi x)\end{aligned}$$

Verify they work:

$$\llbracket \text{prop } \phi \ \& \ \text{prop } \psi \rrbracket = \llbracket \text{prop } \phi \rrbracket \cap \llbracket \text{prop } \psi \rrbracket = \{\perp\} \cup \{v \mid \phi v \wedge \psi v\}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\llbracket \text{prop } \phi \ \mid > \ \text{prop } \psi \rrbracket &= \bigcap \{X \mid \llbracket \text{prop } \phi \rrbracket \cup \llbracket \text{prop } \psi \rrbracket \subseteq X, X \text{ lazy domain}\} \\ &= \bigcap \{X \mid \llbracket \text{prop } \phi \rrbracket \cup \llbracket \text{prop } \psi \rrbracket \subseteq X\} \\ &= \llbracket \text{prop } \phi \rrbracket \cup \llbracket \text{prop } \psi \rrbracket = \{\perp\} \cup \{v \mid \phi v \vee \psi v\}\end{aligned}$$

Negation is possible:

$$\neg(\text{prop } \phi) := \text{prop } (\lambda x. \neg(\phi x))$$

Pattern Contracts for Algebraic Data Types

Example:

```
list :: Contract a -> Contract [a]
list c = pNil |> pCons c (list c)
```

Example:

```
data Formula = Imp Formula Formula | And Formula Formula |
              Or Formula Formula | Not Formula | Atom Char

clausalNF :: Formula -> [[Formula]]

cClausalNF = assert (conjNF & right >-> list (list lit)) clausalNF

lit :: Contract Formula
lit = pAtom true |> pNot (pAtom true)

...
```

Deriving an Implementation: Algebraic Data Types

Definition (Acceptance set for pattern contract)

$$\llbracket \text{pC } c_1 \dots c_n \rrbracket := \{\perp\} \cup \{C \ v_1 \dots v_n \mid v_1 \in \llbracket c_1 \rrbracket \dots v_n \in \llbracket c_n \rrbracket\}$$

Lemma (Conjunction of constructor assertions)

$$\begin{aligned} (\text{pC } c_1 \dots c_n) \ \& \ (\text{pC } d_1 \dots d_n) &= \text{pC } (c_1 \& d_1) \dots (c_n \& d_n) \\ (\text{pC } c_1 \dots c_n) \ \& \ (\text{pC}' \ d_1 \dots d_n) &= \text{false} \qquad \text{if } C \neq C' \end{aligned}$$

Lemma (Disjunction of constructor assertions)

$$(\text{pC } c_1 \dots c_n) \ |> \ (\text{pC } d_1 \dots d_n) = \text{pC } (c_1 |> d_1) \dots (c_n |> d_n)$$

Also if $C \neq C'$, then

$$\llbracket (\text{pC } c_1 \dots c_n) \ |> \ (\text{pC}' \ d_1 \dots d_n) \rrbracket = \llbracket \text{pC } c_1 \dots c_n \rrbracket \cup \llbracket \text{pC}' \ d_1 \dots d_n \rrbracket$$

Contract Representation and Application

Representation of constructor contract

$$p_{C_1} \bar{c}_1 \mid > p_{C_2} \bar{c}_2 \mid > \dots \mid > p_{C_m} \bar{c}_m$$

where $\{C_1, \dots, C_m\}$ is subset of all data constructors of the type.

Application of a constructor contract

$$\langle p_{C_1} \bar{c}_1 \mid > \dots \mid > p_{C_m} \bar{c}_m \rangle (C \bar{v}) = \begin{cases} C (\langle \bar{c}_j \rangle \bar{v}) & \text{if } C = C_j \\ \perp & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
$$\langle p_{C_1} \bar{c}_1 \mid > \dots \mid > p_{C_m} \bar{c}_m \rangle \perp = \perp$$

Algebraic Data Types

Conjunction

$$\begin{aligned} & (pC_{i_1} \bar{c}_{i_1} \mid > \dots \mid > pC_{i_m} \bar{c}_{i_m}) \& (pC_{j_1} \bar{d}_{j_1} \mid > \dots \mid > pC_{j_l} \bar{d}_{j_l}) \\ = & pC_{k_1} (\bar{c}_{k_1} \& \bar{d}_{k_1}) \mid > \dots \mid > pC_{k_o} (\bar{c}_{k_o} \& \bar{d}_{k_o}) \end{aligned}$$

where $\{k_1, \dots, k_o\} = \{i_1, \dots, i_m\} \cap \{j_1, \dots, j_l\}$

Disjunction

$$\begin{aligned} & (pC_{i_1} \bar{c}_{i_1} \mid > \dots \mid > pC_{i_m} \bar{c}_{i_m}) \mid > (pC_{j_1} \bar{d}_{j_1} \mid > \dots \mid > pC_{j_l} \bar{d}_{j_l}) \\ = & pC_{k_1} \bar{z}_{k_1} \mid > \dots \mid > pC_{k_o} \bar{z}_{k_o} \end{aligned}$$

where $\{k_1, \dots, k_o\} = \{i_1, \dots, i_m\} \cup \{j_1, \dots, j_l\}$

$$z_{k_s} = \begin{cases} \bar{c}_{k_s} \mid > \bar{d}_{k_s} & \text{if } k_s \in \{i_1, \dots, i_m\} \cap \{j_1, \dots, j_l\} \\ \bar{c}_{k_s} & \text{if } k_s \in \{i_1, \dots, i_m\} \setminus \{j_1, \dots, j_l\} \\ \bar{d}_{k_s} & \text{if } k_s \in \{j_1, \dots, j_l\} \setminus \{i_1, \dots, i_m\} \end{cases}$$

What about Function Types?

Function contract $c \multimap d$

Just use definition from eager functional languages!

$$\langle c \multimap d \rangle \delta = \langle d \rangle \circ \delta \circ \langle c \rangle$$

No new primitive contract.

Hence meaning preserving and semantically just a normal function.

Note

$$\llbracket c \multimap d \rrbracket = \{ \delta \mid \langle d \rangle \circ \delta \circ \langle c \rangle = \delta \}$$

is not a lower set, but $\langle c \multimap d \rangle$ is a projection.

Part III

Consider Practical Problems for a Useful Contract Library

From Theory to Practice

Have

- pure Haskell: language semantics unchanged; portable library
- lazy contracts: preserve program meaning

eager: `assert (list nat) [4,-4] = error "..."`

lazy: `assert (list nat) [4,-4] = [4, error "..."]`

- a nice algebra of contracts

Still Want

- simple parametrically polymorphic types
`(&), (|>) :: Contract a -> Contract a -> Contract a`
- simple data-type dependent code
 - easy to write by hand
 - can be derived automatically
- when violated, a contract provides information beyond blaming

The Contract API

```
type Contract a
```

```
assert :: Contract a -> (a -> a)
```

```
prop :: Flat a => (a -> Bool) -> Contract a
```

```
true  :: Contract a
```

```
false :: Contract a
```

```
(&)    :: Contract a -> Contract a -> Contract a
```

```
(>->) :: Contract a -> Contract b -> Contract (a -> b)
```

```
pNil  :: Contract [a]
```

```
pCons :: Contract a -> Contract [a] -> Contract [a]
```

Cf. [Hinze, Jeuring & Löh: Typed contracts for functional programming, FLOPS 2006]

A Simple Implementation ...

```
type Contract a = a -> a

assert c = c

prop p x = if p x then x else error "..."/>

```

```
true  = id
false = const (error "...")

c1 & c2      = c2 . c1
pre >-> post = \f -> post . f . pre

pNil []      = []
pNil (_:_)   = error "..."/>

```

```
pCons c cs []      = error "..."/>
pCons c cs (x:xs) = c x : cs xs
```

Cf. [Findler & Felleisen: Contracts for higher-order functions, ICFP 2002]

...with a Problem

A list is not finite:

```
infinite :: Contract [a]
infinite = pCons true infinite
```

We need disjunction of contracts for lazy algebraic data types

```
(|>) :: Contract a -> Contract a -> Contract a
```

for example for

```
nats :: Contract [Int]
nats = pNil |> pCons nat nats
```

Solution

```
type Contract a = a -> Maybe a
```

```
assert c x = case c x of  
    Just y  -> y  
    Nothing -> error "..."
```

```
(c1 |> c2) x = case c1 x of  
    Nothing -> c2 x  
    Just y   -> Just y
```

```
true x  = Just x  
false x = Nothing
```

```
...
```

An Algebra of Contracts

Same laws as non-strict `&&` and `||` (**not** commutative):

$$c_1 \& (c_2 \& c_3) = (c_1 \& c_2) \& c_3$$

$$\text{true} \& c = c$$

$$c \& \text{true} = c$$

$$\text{false} \& c = \text{false}$$

...

For function contracts:

$$\text{true} \>\rightarrow \text{true} = \text{true}$$

$$c_1 \>\rightarrow \text{false} = c_2 \>\rightarrow \text{false}$$

$$(c_1 \>\rightarrow c_2) \& (c_3 \>\rightarrow c_4) = (c_3 \& c_1) \>\rightarrow (c_2 \& c_4)$$

$$(c_1 \>\rightarrow c_2) \mid\> (c_3 \>\rightarrow c_4) = c_1 \>\rightarrow c_2$$

Contracts are Projections

Lemma (Partial identity)

```
assert c  $\sqsubseteq$  id
```

Claim (Idempotency)

```
assert c . assert c = assert c
```

Contracts for our Earlier Example

```
cClausalNF = assert (conjNF & right >-> list (list lit)) clausalNF
```

Contracts:

```
conjNF, disj, lit, atom, right :: Contract Formula
```

```
conjNF = pAnd conjNF conjNF |> disj
```

```
disj    = pOr disj disj |> lit
```

```
lit     = pNot atom |> atom
```

```
atom    = pAtom true
```

```
right = pImp (right & pNotImp) right |>
```

```
  pAnd (right & pNotAnd) right |>
```

```
  pOr (right & pNotOr) right |>
```

```
  pNot right |> pAtom true
```

No general negation, but negated pattern contracts `pNotImp`, ...

Blaming

Implement like eager contracts: blame server or client.

```
cConst = assert (true >-> false >-> true) const
```

true: never blames anybody

false: always blames the *client*

Different from [Findler & Blume: *Contracts as pairs of projections*, FLOPS 2006]

Another example expressing non-strictness of a function:

```
cLength = assert (list false >-> nat) length
```

Add Witness Tracing

On violation report a *path* of data constructors:

```
*Main> cClausalNF form
[[Atom 'a'],[Atom 'b',Not
*** Exception: Contract at ContractTest.hs:101:3
violated by
((And _ (Or _ (Not {Not _})))->_)
The client is to blame.
```

- Starting point for debugging.
- Blaming can be wrong: The contract may be wrong.

Derive data-type-dependent code

Derive a contract pattern on demand

```
conjNF = $(p 'And) conjNF conjNF |> disj
disj   = $(p 'Or) disj disj |> lit
lit    = $(p 'Not) atom |> atom
atom   = $(p 'Atom) true
```

or declare

```
$(deriveContracts ''Formula)
```

Use [Template Haskell](#); other generic Haskell systems

- introduce a class context (`Data a`)
- cannot handle functions, e.g. inside data structures

Lazy Contracts

- Need lazy pattern combinators (`pCons`) and disjunction (`|>`).
- Pattern assertions similar to algebraic data types; subtypes!
- Laziness restricts expressibility!

Semantics

- Few axioms: continuous, trustworthy, partial identity, lower set.
- Acceptance sets `[[c]]` are lazy domains, subdomains.
- Algebra of contracts: bounded distributive lattice.

Practice

- `type Contract a = a -> Maybe a`
- Portable library: hackage.haskell.org/package/Contract

Future

- Dependent function contracts?
- Contracts to express non-strictness properties?