Lazy Modules

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Constrained lazy initialization for modules

Plan of my talk

- Lazy initialization in practice
- Constrained laziness

Or, hybrid strategies between call-by-value and call-by-need

- Models for several strategies with varying laziness
 - Compilation scheme from the source syntax to the target languages
 - Target languages, variations of Ariola and Felleisen's cyclic call-by-need calculi with state in the style of Hieb and Felleisen.

Lazy initialization

Traditionally ML modules are initialized in call-by-value.

- Predictable initialization order is good for having arbitrary side-effects.
- Theoretically all modules, including libraries, are initialized at startup time.

Practice has shown lazy initialization may be interesting.

- Dynamically linked shared libraries, plugins
- Lazy file initialization in F#
- Lazy class initialization in Java and F#
- Alice ML
- OSGi, NetBeans (through bundles)
- Eclipse



Why not lazy initialization for recursive modules?

But how much laziness we want?

All these available implementations combine call-by-value and laziness in the presence of side-effects.

Controlled uses of lazy initialization for recursion

Syme proposed *initialization graphs*, by introducing lazy initialization in a controlled way, to allow for more recursive initialization patterns in a ML-like language.

let
$$rec \ x_0 = a_0 \dots x_n = a_n \text{ in } a$$

 \Rightarrow
let $(x_0,...,x_n) =$
let $rec \ x_0 = \text{ lazy } a'_0 \dots x_n = \text{ lazy } a'_n$
in $(force \ x_0; ...; force \ x_n)$
in a

Support for relaxed recursive initialization patterns is important for interfacing with external OO libraries, e.g., GUI APIs.

Picklers API

```
type Channel (* e.g. file stream *)
type \alpha Mrshl
val marshal: \alpha Mrshl \rightarrow \alpha * Channel \rightarrow unit
val unmarshal: \alpha Mrshl \rightarrow Channel \rightarrow \alpha
val optionMarsh: \alpha Mrshl \rightarrow(option \alpha) Mrshl
val pairMrshl: \alpha Mrshl * \beta Mrshl \rightarrow (\alpha * \beta) Mrshl
val listMrshl: \alpha Mrshl \rightarrow (\alpha list) Mrshl
val innerMrshl: (\alpha \to \beta) * (\beta \to \alpha) \to \alpha Mrshl \to \beta Mrshl
val intMrshl: int Mrshl
val stringMrshl: string Mrshl
val delayMrshl: (unit \rightarrow \alpha Mrshl) \rightarrow \alpha Mrshl
// let delayMrshl p =
// { marshal = (\lambda x \rightarrow (p())).marshal x);
     unmarshal = (\lambda y \rightarrow (p()).unmarshal y)}
```

Pickler for binary trees

```
type t = option (t * int * t)
let mrshl =
  optionMrshl (pairMrshl mrshl (pairMrshl intMrshl mrshl))
Cannot evaluate in call-by-value.
```

Pickler for binary trees with initialization graphs

```
type t = option (t * int * t)
 let mrshl =
   optionMrshl (pairMrshl mrshl0 (pairMrshl intMrshl mrshl0))
 and mrshl0 = delayMrshl(\lambda().mrshl)
        implemented as
        let (mrshl, mrshl0) =
          let rec mrshl =
           lazy (optionMrshl (pairMrshl mrshl0 (pairMrshl intMrshl mrshl0)))
          and mrshl0 = lazy (delayMrshl(\lambda().mrshl))
        in (force mrshl, force mrsh0)
where the library provides
 val delayMrshl: (unit \rightarrow \alpha Mrshl) \rightarrow \alpha Mrshl
 let delayMrshl p =
 { marshal = (\lambda x \rightarrow (p())).marshal x);
   unmarshal = (\lambda y \rightarrow (p ()).unmarshal y)}
```

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MakeSet functor with picklers

```
module Set =
functor (Ord: sig
 type t val compare: t \rightarrow t \rightarrow bool \ val \ mrshl : t \ Mrshl \ end) \rightarrow
struct
 type elt = Ord.t
 type t = option (t * elt * t)
 let mrshl =
   optionMrshl (pairMrshl mrshl0 (pairMrshl Ord.mrshl mrshl0))
 and mrshl0 = delayMrshl (\lambda().mrshl)
end
```

Picklers for Folder and Folders

```
module Folder =
struct
 type file = int * string
 let fileMrshl = pairMrshl (intMrshl, stringMrshl)
 let filesMrshl = listMrshl filMrshl
 type t = { files: file list; subfldrs: Folders.t }
 let mkFldr x y = { files = x; subfldrs = y }
 let destFldr f = (f.files, f.subfldrs)
 let fldrInnerMrshl(f, g) =
  innerMrshl (mkFldr, destFldr) (pairMrshl(f,g))
 let mrshl =
  fldrInnerMrshl(filesMrshl, delayMrshl(\lambda(). Folders.mrshl))
 let initFldr = unmarshal mrshl "/home/template/initfldr.txt"
end
and Folders = Set(Folder)
```

Expressivity, predictability, simplicity, stability

Can we find a happy compromise between call-by-value and call-by-need?

- interesting recursive initialization patterns, i.e., expressivity
- predictable initialization order
 - when side effects are produced
 - in which order side effects are produced
- simple implementation
- stability of success of the initialization (ongoing work towards formal results)

Model

Model for investigating the design space.

- target languages, variations of the cyclic call-by-need calculus equipped with array primitives
- compilation scheme from the source syntax into target languages

Five strategies with different degrees of laziness are examined, inspired by strategies of existing languages (Moscow ML, F#, Java).

Inclusion between strategies in a pure setting.

Call-by-need strategy à la F#

- Evaluation of a module is delayed until the module is accessed for the first time. In particular, a functor argument is evaluated lazily when the argument is used.
- 2. All the members of a structure, excluding those of substructures, are evaluated at once from-top-to-bottom order on the first access to the structure
- 3. A member of a structure is only accessible after all the core field of the structure have been evaluated.

Examples

Call-by-need strategy à la F#

```
 \{ F = \Lambda X. \{ c = print "bye"; \}; \\ M = F(\{ c = print "hello"; \}); \\ c = M.c; \}  prints "bye".  \{ F = \Lambda X. \{ c_1 = X.c; c_2 = print "bye"; \}; \\ M = F(\{ c = print "hello"; \}); \\ c = M.c_2; \}  prints "hello bye".
```

Target language λ_{need} for call-by-need modules

```
::= x | \lambda x.a | a_1 a_2 | (a,...) | a.n
Expr.
                        а
                                           let rec d in a |\{r, \ldots\}| a!n |\langle x \rangle
References
                                    ::= X \mid \lambda . X
Dereferences
                                    ::= x \mid \langle x \rangle! n
                        \pm x
                                    ::= \lambda x.a \mid (v,...) \mid \langle x \rangle \mid \{r,...\}
Values
                                    := x = a \text{ and } \dots
Definitions
                        d
Configurations
                                    ::= d ⊢ a
                                    ::= [] a | (..., v, [], a, ...) | [].n | []!n
Lift contexts
Nested lift cnxt.
                        Ν
                                    ::= [] | L[N]
                                    := d \vdash N
Lazy evalu. cnxt
                        K
                                           x' = N and d^*[x, x'] and d \vdash N'[\sharp x]
Dependencies
                        d[x, x']
                                   ::= x = N[\sharp x']
                                           d[x, x''] and x'' = N[\sharp x']
```

Reduction rules for λ_{need}

```
(\lambda x.a) a'
                                                               let rec x = a' in a
\beta_{\mathsf{need}}:
                          (\ldots, v_n, \ldots).n
prj :
                                                      \longrightarrow
                                                               V_n
                        L[let rec d in a]
lift :
                                                     \longrightarrow need
                                                               let rec d in L[a]
                                                              K[a'] if a \underset{\text{need}}{\longrightarrow} a'
cxt:
                                         K[a]
                                                     ⊢—→
need
                                                              K[v] if x = v \in K
deref:
                                         K[x]
                                                     ⊢—→
need
                                   K[\langle x \rangle!n]
                                                    \longrightarrow K[(r,...).n]
arr need:
                                                               if x = \{r, \ldots\} \in K
                    d \vdash \text{let rec } d' \text{ in } a \longmapsto d \text{ and } d' \vdash a
alloc:
alloc-env: x' = (\text{let rec } d \text{ in } a) \text{ and } d^*[x, x'] \text{ and } d' \vdash N[\sharp x]
                     \displaystyle \longmapsto_{\mathrm{need}} d \text{ and } x' = a \text{ and } d^*[x,x'] \text{ and } d' \vdash N[\sharp x]
                     x = a \in d \vdash N \text{ if } x = a \in d
acc:
acc-env: x = a \in x' = N and d^*[x, x'] and d \vdash N'[\sharp x]
                                        if x = a \in d
```

Example of λ_{need} reductions

```
\vdash \text{ let rec } x = (\lambda y.y) \ (\lambda y.y) \text{ in } x
\mapsto x = (\lambda y.y) \ (\lambda y.y) \vdash x \qquad \text{by alloc}
\mapsto x = (\text{let rec } y = \lambda y.y \text{ in } y) \vdash x \qquad \text{by } \beta_{need}
\mapsto y = \lambda y.y \text{ and } x = y \vdash x \qquad \text{by alloc-env}
\mapsto y = \lambda y.y \text{ and } x = \lambda y'.y' \vdash x \qquad \text{by deref}
\mapsto y = \lambda y.y \text{ and } x = \lambda y'.y' \vdash \lambda y''.y'' \qquad \text{by deref}
```

Example of λ_{need} reductions

```
\vdash let rec x = (\lambda y. \lambda y'. y) x in x (\lambda x'. x')
         x = (\lambda y. \lambda y'. y) x \vdash x (\lambda x'. x')
                                                                                                   by alloc
need
         x = (\text{let rec } y = x \text{ in } \lambda y'.y) \vdash x (\lambda x'.x')
                                                                                                   by \beta_{need}
need
          y = x and x = \lambda y'.y \vdash x (\lambda x'.x')
                                                                                                   by alloc-env
need
         y = x and x = \lambda y'.y \vdash (\lambda y_1.y) (\lambda x'.x')
                                                                                                   by deref
need
         y = x and x = \lambda y'.y \vdash \text{let rec } y_1 = \lambda x'.x' \text{ in } y
                                                                                                   by \beta_{need}
need
          y = x and x = \lambda y'.y and y_1 = \lambda x'.x' \vdash y
                                                                                                   by alloc
need
         y = \lambda y_2.y and x = \lambda y'.y and y_1 = \lambda x'.x' \vdash y
                                                                                                   by deref
\longmapsto
         y = \lambda y_2.y and x = \lambda y'.y and y_1 = \lambda x'.x' \vdash \lambda y_3.y
                                                                                                   by deref
\longrightarrow
```

need

Target language λ_{need} for call-by-need modules (cont.)

```
::= x | \lambda x.a | a_1 a_2 | (a,...) | a.n
Expr.
                        а
                                           let rec d in a | \{r, \ldots\} | a!n | \langle x \rangle
                                    := x \mid \lambda . x
References
Dereferences
                                    ::= x \mid \langle x \rangle! n
                        \sharp X
                                    ::= \lambda x.a \mid (v, \ldots) \mid \langle x \rangle \mid \{r, \ldots\}
Values
Definitions
                        d
                                    := x = a and ...
Lift contexts
                                    ::= [] a | (..., v, [], a, ...) | [].n | []!n
Nested lift cnxt.
                         Ν
                                    ::= [] | L[N]
                                    ::= d ⊢ N
Lazv evalu. cnxt
                        Κ
                                       x' = N and d^*[x, x'] and d \vdash N'[\sharp x]
                        d[x, x'] ::= x = N[\sharp x']
Dependencies
                                      d[x, x''] and x'' = N[\sharp x']
```

Reduction rules for λ_{need}

```
(\lambda x.a) a'
                                                                  let rec x = a' in a
\beta_{\mathsf{need}}:
                           (\ldots, v_n, \ldots).n
prj :
                                                        \longrightarrow
                                                                  V_n
                         L[let rec d in a]
lift :
                                                        \longrightarrow need
                                                                  let rec d in L[a]
                                                                 K[a'] if a \underset{\text{need}}{\longrightarrow} a'
cxt:
                                           K[a]
                                                       \stackrel{\textstyle\longmapsto}{\mathsf{need}}
                                                                 K[v] if x = v \in K
deref:
                                           K[x]
                                                       ⊢—→
need
                                                       \underset{\text{need}}{\longmapsto} K[(r,\ldots).n]
                                     K[\langle x \rangle ! n]
arr<sub>need</sub>:
                                                                  if x = \{r, \ldots\} \in K
                     d \vdash \text{let rec } d' \text{ in } a \longmapsto d \text{ and } d' \vdash a
alloc:
alloc-env: x' = (\text{let rec } d \text{ in } a) \text{ and } d^*[x, x'] \text{ and } d' \vdash N[\sharp x]
                      \underset{\text{need}}{\longmapsto} d and x' = a and d^*[x, x'] and d' \vdash N[\sharp x]
                      x = a \in d \vdash N \text{ if } x = a \in d
acc:
acc-env: x = a \in x' = N and d^*[x, x'] and d \vdash N'[\sharp x]
                                          if x = a \in d
```

Reduction rules for λ_{need}

```
(\lambda x.a) a'
                                                               let rec x = a' in a
 \beta_{\mathsf{need}}:
                      (\ldots, v_n, \ldots).n
 prj :
                                                     \longrightarrow
                                                                V_n
 lift
                    L[let rec d in a]
                                                               let rec d in L[a]
                                                      \longrightarrow
                                                     need
                                                    \underset{\mathsf{need}}{\longmapsto} \quad \textit{K}[\textit{a}'] \ \textit{if} \ \textit{a} \underset{\mathsf{need}}{\rightarrow} \textit{a}'
 cxt:
                                        K[a]
                                        K[x] \xrightarrow{\text{need}} K[v] \text{ if } x = v \in K
 deref :
                                K[\langle x \rangle!n]
                                                    \underset{\text{need}}{\longmapsto} K[(r,\ldots).n]
 arr<sub>need</sub>
                                                               if x = \{r, \ldots\} \in K
let get (a: ('a Lazy.t) array) n =
   for i = 0 to Array.length a - 1 do Lazy.force a.(i) done;
   Lazy.force a.(n)
```

λ_{need} with state

```
::= x | \lambda x.a | a_1 a_2 | (a,...) | a.n
Expr.
                        а
                                           let rec d in a \mid \{r, \ldots\} \mid a!n \mid \langle x \rangle
                                           set! x a
References
                                    ::= x \mid \lambda . x
Dereferences
                                    ::= x \mid \langle x \rangle! n
                                    ::= \lambda x.a \mid (v,...) \mid \langle x \rangle \mid \{r,...\}
Values
Definitions
                        d
                                    := x = a and ...
Lift contexts
                                    ::= [] a | (..., v, [], a, ...) | [].n | []!n
                                           set! x []
Nested lift cnxt.
                        Ν
                                    ::= [] | L[N]
Lazy evalu. cnxt
                                    ::= d ⊢ N
                        K
                                       x' = N and d^*[x, x'] and d \vdash N'[\sharp x]
Dependencies
                        d[x, x'] ::= x = N[\sharp x']
                                           d[x, x''] and x'' = N[\sharp x']
```

Reduction rules for set! in λ_{need}

$$set: \qquad x = a \text{ and } d \vdash N[\text{set! } x \ v] \underset{\mathsf{need}}{\longmapsto} x = v \text{ and } d \vdash N[v]$$

$$set\text{-}\mathit{env}: \quad x'' = a \text{ and } x' = N[\text{set! } x'' \ v] \text{ and } d^*[x, x'] \text{ and } d \vdash N'[\sharp x]$$

$$\underset{\mathsf{need}}{\longmapsto} x'' = v \text{ and } x' = N[v] \text{ and } d^*[x, x'] \text{ and } d \vdash N'[\sharp x]$$

Syntax for *Osan*

```
Module expressionsE::=\{(X) f\} \mid p \mid \Lambda X.E \mid E_1(E_2)Definitionsf::=\epsilon \mid M = E; f \mid c = e; fModule pathsp::=X \mid M \mid p.nCore expressionse::=c \mid p.n \mid \dots
```

Example

Syntax for Osan

Translation from *Osan* to λ_{need}

```
str:
              Tr_N(\{(X) f\})_o
             let rec x = \langle x' \rangle and x' = TrFld_N(f : \epsilon)_{\rho[X \mapsto x]} in \langle x' \rangle
mfld:
              TrFld_N(M = E; f : r, ...)_a =
             let rec x = Tr_N(E)_\rho in TrFld_N(f : r, ..., \lambda_x)_{\rho[M \mapsto x]}
cfld:
              TrFld_N(c = e; f : r, ...)_o =
              let rec x = TrC_N(e)_{\rho} in TrFld_N(f : r, ..., x)_{\rho[c \mapsto x]}
strbody:
             TrFld_N(\epsilon: r, \ldots)_o
                                          = \{r, \ldots\}
vpath: TrC_N(p.n)_o
                                                = Tr_N(p)_o!n
mpath: Tr_N(p.n)_a
                                                = (Tr_N(p)_o!n) I
        Tr_N(X)_a
                                                = \rho(X)
mvar:
                                                = \lambda x. Tr_N(E)_{\rho[X\mapsto x]}
funct : Tr_N(\Lambda X.E)_o
app: Tr_N(E_1(E_2))_o
                                                = Tr_N(E_1)_o Tr_N(E_2)_o
mname: Tr_N(M)_o
                                                = \rho(M)
          Tr_N(c)_o
                                                = \rho(c)
cname:
```

Example of compilation

```
\{M = \{c_1 = print "good"; c_2 = print "bye"; \};
               c_1 = print "hello":
               c_2 = M.c_1; }
let rec x = \langle x' \rangle
and x' =
 let rec m =
   let rec x_1 = \langle x_1' \rangle
   and x_1' =
    let rec c'_1 = print "good" in let rec c'_2 = print "bye" in \{c'_1, c'_2\} in
   \langle x_1' \rangle in
 let rec c_1 = print "hello" in
 let rec c_2 = m!1 in
 \{\lambda . m, c_1, c_2\} in
x!3
```

Assessment

Call-by-need

- \triangle interesting recursive initialization patterns, i.e., expressivity
- √ predictable initialization order
- √ simple implementation
- √ stability of success of the initialization (in a pure setting)

Assessment cont.

Call-by-need

One may take fixpoints of functors.

$$\{ F = \Lambda Y. \{ g = \text{fun if } i = 0 \text{ then true else } i = 1 \text{ then false else } Y.g (i - 1); \};$$

$$M = \{ (X) \ M' = F(X.M'); \}; \}$$

- Self variables are strict.

$$\{ F = \Lambda Y. \{ g = \text{fun if } i = 0 \text{ then true else } i = 1 \text{ then false else } Y.g (i - 1);$$
 $c = g \ 2 \ \};$
 $M = \{(X) \ M' = F(X.M'); \ \};$
 $c = M.M'.c; \ \}$

Lazy-field strategy à la Java

Variations

We may allow a member of a structure to be accessed when it has been evaluated, but before evaluation of all the members of the structure is completed.

Target language λ_{lazy} for lazy-filed modules

```
:= x | \lambda x.a | a_1 a_2 | (a,...) | a.n
Expr.
                         а
                                           let rec d in a
                                          \{r,\ldots\} \mid \{r,\ldots\} \mid a!n \mid \langle x \rangle
References
                                     := x \mid \lambda . x
Dereferences
                         \sharp x
                                     ::= x \mid \langle x \rangle! n
                                    ::= \lambda x.a \mid (v,...) \mid \langle x \rangle \mid \{r,...\}
Values
                                           \{r,\ldots\}
Definitions
                         d
                                     := x = a and ...
Lift contexts
                                    ::= [] a | (..., v, [], a, ...) | [].n | []!n
Nested lift cnxt.
                         Ν
                                    ::= [] | L[N]
Lazy evalu. cnxt
                                    ::= d ⊢ N
                         K
                                        x' = N and d^*[x, x'] and d \vdash N'[\sharp x]
Dependencies
                        d[x, x'] ::= x = N[\sharp x']
                                           d[x, x''] and x'' = N[\sharp x']
```

Reduction rules for λ_{lazy}

$$\begin{array}{ll} \textit{init}: & x = a \text{ and } d \vdash N[\langle x \rangle ! n] \underset{\text{lazy}}{\longmapsto} x = a' \text{ and } d \vdash N[(r,\ldots).n] \\ & \text{where } a = \{\!\!\{r,\ldots\}\!\!\} \text{ and } a' = \{r,\ldots\} \\ \textit{init-env}: & x'' = a \text{ and } x' = N[\langle x'' \rangle ! n] \text{ and } d^*[x,x'] \text{ and } d \vdash N'[\sharp x] \\ & \overset{\text{lazy}}{\longmapsto} x'' = a' \text{ and } x' = N[(r,\ldots).n] \text{ and } d[x,x'] \text{ and } d \vdash N'[\sharp x] \\ & \text{where } a = \{\!\!\{r,\ldots\}\!\!\} \text{ and } a' = \{r,\ldots\} \\ \textit{arr}_{lazy}: & K[\langle x \rangle ! n] \overset{\text{lazy}}{\longmapsto} K[(r_1,\ldots,r_n).n] \\ & \text{if } x = \{r_1,\ldots,r_n,r_{n+1}\ldots\} \in K \\ \end{array}$$

Assessment

Lazy-field

- ✓ interesting recursive initialization patterns, i.e., expressivity
- √ predictable initialization order
- √ simple implementation
 - stability of success of the initialization

Assessment cont.

Lazy-field

$$\{(X)\}$$

 $M = \{ c_1 = 1; c_2 = X.N.c_2 \};$
 $N = \{ c_1 = M.c_1; c_2 = 2; \}; \}$

If M is forced first then the evaluation is successful, but if N is forced first then the evaluation fails due to unsound initialization.

Modest-field strategy

Variations

We may initialize members as much as necessary, or initialize members from the top to the member accessed.

$$arr_{modest}: K[\langle x \rangle!n] \xrightarrow[modest]{} K[(r_1,\ldots,r_n).n]$$

 $if x = \{r_1,\ldots,r_n,r_{n+1},\ldots\} \in K$

Assessment

Modest-field

- ✓ interesting recursive initialization patterns, i.e., expressivity
 - predictable initialization order
- √ simple implementation
- √ stability of success of the initialization in a pure setting

Assessment cont.

Modest-field

```
{ M = \{(X) \ c_1 = print \ 1; \ M_1 = \{ \ c_1 = print \ 2; \ c_2 = X.M_2.c; \ c_3 = print \ 3; \ \}; \ c_2 = print \ 4; \ M_2 = \{ \ c = print \ 5; \ \}; \ c_3 = print \ 6; \ \}; \ c = M.M_1.c_3; \ \}
```

"1 4 6 2 5 3" is printed in the call-by-need and lazy-field strategies.

"1 2 4 5 3" is printed in the modest-field strategy.

Some technical results

Proposition

Call-by-value \subseteq Call-by-need \subseteq Lazy-field \subseteq Modest-field \subseteq Fully-lazy

Proof.

By going through natural semantics.

Ongoing work

- Introduction of bundles.
 - Initialize bundles with the call-by-need strategy, but modules with the modest-field strategy.
- A framework to talk about stability of success of the initialization.