#### Thunks and Debits in Iris with Time Credits

F. Pottier A. Guéneau J.-H. Jourdan G. Mével

Inria / Laboratoire Méthodes Formelles

March 16, 2023





# Time Credits and Time Receipts in Iris

Glen Mével<sup>1</sup>, Jacques-Henri Jourdan<sup>2</sup>, and François Pottier<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Inria <sup>2</sup> CNRS, LRI, Univ. Paris Sud, Université Paris Saclay

Abstract. We present a machine-checked extension of the program logic Iris with time credits and time receipts, two dual means of reasoning about time. Whereas time credits are used to establish an upper bound on a program's execution time, time receipts can be used to establish a lower bound. More strikingly, time receipts can be used to prove that certain undesirable events—such as integer overflows—cannot occur until a very long time has elapsed. We present several machine-checked applications of time credits and time receipts, including an application where both

concepts are exploited.

"Alice: How long is forever? White Rabbit: Sometimes, just one second." - Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland





# The Code that We Specify and Verify

The code discussed in this talk is organized in several layers:

- thunks, also known as suspensions;
- purely functional data structures, such as
  - streams, also known as lazy lists;
  - the banker's queue, which use streams.

A very small amount of code with subtle time complexity properties.

## Thunks: OCaml Code

Thunks fit in 5 lines of code.

```
type 'a state = UNEVALUATED of (unit -> 'a) | EVALUATED of 'a
1
2
   type 'a thunk = 'a state ref
3
   let create f = ref (UNEVALUATED f)
   let force t
4
               =
5
     match !t with
     | UNEVALUATED f -> let v = f() in t := EVALUATED v; v
6
7
         EVALUATED v -> v
```

A thunk is a mutable data structure that offers a memoization service. It is viewed as a persistent data structure by the user. No lock. Only two colors. Reentrancy is a programming error.

#### Streams: OCaml Code

A stream's elements are computed on demand and memoized.

1 type 'a stream = 'a cell thunk
2 and 'a cell = Nil | Cons of 'a \* 'a stream

Streams are a persistent data structure.

### Streams: OCaml Code

Reversing a list and converting it to a stream:

```
1 let rec revl_append (l : 'a list) (c : 'a cell) : 'a cell =
2 match l with
3 | [] -> c
4 | x :: l -> revl_append l (Cons (x, create @@ fun () -> c))
5
6 let revl (l : 'a list) : 'a stream =
7 create @@ fun () -> revl_append l Nil
```

#### Concatenating two streams:

```
1 let rec append (s1 : 'a stream) (s2 : 'a stream) : 'a stream =
2 create @@ fun () -> match force s1 with
3 | Nil          -> force s2
4 | Cons (x, s1) -> Cons (x, append s1 s2)
```

## The Banker's Queue: OCaml Code

The banker's queue fits in 10 lines of code.

```
1
    type 'a queue =
 2
      { lenf: int; f: 'a stream; lenr: int; r: 'a list }
 3
    let empty () =
 4
      \{ \text{lenf} = 0; f = \text{nil}(); \text{lenr} = 0; r = [] \}
 5
    let check ({ lenf = lenf ; f = f; lenr = lenr; r = r } as q) =
6
      if lenf >= lenr then q
7
      else { lenf = lenf + lenr; f = append f (revl r); lenr = 0; r = [] }
8
    let snoc q x =
9
      check { q with lenr = q.lenr + 1; r = x :: q.r }
10
    let extract q =
11
     let x, f = uncons q.f in
12
      x, check { q with f = f; lenf = q.lenf - 1 }
```

#### It is a persistent data structure.

Every operation has (amortized) constant time complexity.

# The Banker's Queue: Informal Analysis

#### The Banker's Queue: Debit Invariant

There is a front stream fs and a rear list rs. One maintains  $|fs| \ge |rs|$ . Every thunk in fs carries a certain debt or debit. The first |fs| - |rs| thunks have debt K; the rest have debt 0.



Elements are inserted in the rear, extracted from the front.

If |fs| > |rs|, then extraction does not require rebalancing. Extraction requires paying K before the first thunk can be forced. Including this payment, its time complexity is O(1).

#### The Banker's Queue: Insertion

If |fs| > |rs|, then insertion does not require rebalancing. Insertion actually consumes O(1) time,

and requires paying K to maintain the invariant.



A deep payment,

possibly involving a thunk that does not even exist yet in memory!

#### The Banker's Queue: Insertion

If |fs| > |rs|, then insertion does not require rebalancing. Insertion actually consumes O(1) time,

and requires paying K to maintain the invariant.



possibly involving a thunk that does not even exist yet in memory!

## The Banker's Queue: Rebalancing

Rebalancing involves *revl*, *append*, and a redistribution of debits.



The queue is unbalanced.  $|fs| = n \land |rs| = n + 1$ 

Reverse and append the rear list to the front stream.

Redistribute debits by adding R to the first n debits.

Moving debits towards the left is safe: it requires earlier payments.

## The Banker's Queue: Formal Analysis

# The Banker's Queue: Public Interface (1)

The banker's queue admits a simple specification in Iris<sup>\$</sup>.

BANKER-PERSISTENT
persistent(BQueue p q xs)

BANKER-EMPTY {\$13} *empty* () returns  $(\exists q) q \{BQueue p q []\}$ 

Queues are persistent. Creation costs O(1).

#### The Banker's Queue: Public Interface (2)

Insertion and extraction cost O(1).

BANKER-SNOC  $\{\$136 * BQueue p q xs\}$ snoc q x returns ( $\exists q'$ ) q' {BQueue p q' (xs ++ [x])} BANKER-EXTRACT  $\{\$165 * BQueue p q (x :: xs) * \ell_p^{\infty}\}$ extract q returns ( $\exists q'$ ) (x, q') {BQueue p q' xs \* \ell\_p^{\infty}\}

Extraction requires a token  $\mathscr{I}_p^{\infty}$  where *p* is a "non-atomic pool". Extraction forces a thunk, and thunks are not thread-safe.

#### The Banker's Queue: Internal Definition

The proof states the **debit** invariant

and relies on high-level reasoning rules for streams.

١

## Streams: A Key Reasoning Rule

The predicate *Stream* is indexed with a sequence of debits *ds*.

The following ghost update allows:

- paying *m* credits (in depth); and
- moving debits towards the left.

STREAM-FORWARD-DEBT  $\lceil (m) \ ds_1 \leq ds_2 \ (n) \rceil \rightarrow *$ Stream p h s  $ds_1 \ xs \ * \ m \Rightarrow_{\mathcal{E}}$ Stream p h s  $ds_2 \ xs$  The **debit subsumption** judgement (whose definition is not shown)

 $(m) ds_1 \leq ds_2 (n)$ 

implies

$$orall i. \sum (\textit{take i } ds_1) \leq m + \sum (\textit{take i } ds_2)$$

By paying *m* now,

one reduces the apparent cost of forcing the stream down to depth *i* by at most *m*,

and this holds for every depth *i*.

When m is zero, this judgement moves debits towards the left.



# How can one construct these high-level reasoning rules, in Iris<sup>\$</sup>, by starting from first principles?

Let us now descend to the level of thunks.

Let us give formal statements of Okasaki's reasoning rules and see how to construct a predicate *Thunk* that satisfies these rules.

#### Thunks: a Desired API

#### Thunks: Abstract Predicate



More parameters are needed:  $p, \mathcal{E}, R$ , but are not discussed in this talk. Side conditions on namespaces and masks are omitted in the following slides.

#### Thunks: Creation

#### Creation costs O(1).



*isAction f n R*  $\phi$  denotes the one-shot triple

**1** {
$$R * \$n$$
}  $f()$  returns  $(\exists v) v \{R * \Box \phi v\}$ 

So, if the suspended computation costs n then the thunk has debit n.

#### Thunks: Debt Management

One can over-approximate an apparent debt.

THUNK-INCREASE-DEBT  $\lceil n_1 \leq n_2 \rceil \twoheadrightarrow Thunk \ p \ \mathcal{F} \ t \ n_1 \ R \ \phi \twoheadrightarrow Thunk \ p \ \mathcal{F} \ t \ n_2 \ R \ \phi$ 

THUNK-PAY Thunk  $p \mathcal{F} t n R \phi * \$k \Rightarrow_{\mathcal{E}}$ Thunk  $p \mathcal{F} t (n-k) R \phi$ 

One can pay to reduce an apparent debt.

#### Thunks: Forcing

#### Provided the debt is zero, forcing costs O(1).

THUNK-FORCE  

$$\{Thunk \ p \ \mathcal{F} \ t \ 0 \ R \ \phi \ * \ \$11 \ * \ \mathscr{E}_{p}^{\mathcal{F}} \ * \ R\}$$
force t  
returns  $(\exists v) \ v \ \{ThunkVal \ t \ v \ * \ \Box \ \phi \ v \ * \ \mathscr{E}_{p}^{\mathcal{F}} \ * \ R\}$   
A token  $\mathscr{E}_{p}^{\mathcal{F}}$  is required.

A forced-thunk witness is produced.

Forcing a thunk again costs O(1) even if its debt *n* is nonzero.

THUNK-FORCE-FORCED  
{ Thunk 
$$p \mathcal{F} t n R \phi * ThunkVal t v * $11 * \ell_p^{\mathcal{F}}$$
}  
force t  
returns  $v \{\ell_p^{\mathcal{F}}\}$ 

The result v is the value predicted by the *ThunkVal* assertion.

The postcondition  $\Box \phi v$  is not obtained in this case.

#### Thunks: Consequence Rule

When  $n_2$  is zero, this rule weakens a thunk's postcondition.

When  $n_2 \neq 0$ , it allows deep payment and strengthens the postcond.

THUNK-CONSEQUENCE Thunk  $p \mathcal{F}_1 t n_1 R \phi \rightarrow is$   $isUpdate n_2 R \phi \psi \Rightarrow_{\mathcal{E}}$ Thunk  $p \mathcal{F} t (n_1 + n_2) R \psi$ 

*isUpdate*  $n_2 R \phi \psi$  denotes the ghost update

$$\forall v. (R * \$n_2 * \Box \phi v) \Rightarrow_{\top} (R * \Box \psi v)$$

A key rule, missing in our previous work (2019) and difficult to justify.

## Construction of Thunks

We construct the predicate *Thunk* in three stages.

- **1** basic thunks satisfy all rules except THUNK-CONSEQUENCE;
- **2** proxy thunks support one application of THUNK-CONSEQUENCE;
- **3** iterating this construction yields thunks that support arbitrarily many applications of this rule.

Piggy banks, a ghost data structure, are used at levels 1 and 2.

# Piggy Banks

## Piggy Banks: Principles

- A piggy bank has two states: pending and forced, described by two Iris assertions P nc and Q.
- A piggy bank carries an apparent debt n.
- Piggy banks involve no code.
- Their reasoning rules reflect Okasaki's discipline:
  - A target amount *nc* is fixed upon creation.
  - One can pay and reduce the apparent debt in several increments.
  - When the debt is 0, breaking the bank yields \$nc
     which can be used to pay for the transition of P nc to Q.
  - A piggy bank is persistent.

# Piggy Banks: Selected Reasoning Rules

PIGGYBANK-CREATE  $P \ nc \Rightarrow_{\mathcal{E}} PiggyBank \ nc$  PIGGYBANK-INCREASE-DEBT  $\lceil n_1 \leq n_2 \rceil \twoheadrightarrow PiggyBank n_1 \twoheadrightarrow PiggyBank n_2$ 

PIGGYBANK-PAY PiggyBank n \*  $k \Rightarrow_{\mathcal{E}}$ PiggyBank (n-k)PIGGYBANK-BREAK PiggyBank 0 \*  $\ell_p^{\mathcal{F}} \Rightarrow_{\mathcal{E}}$ PiggyBank 0 \*  $\ell_p^{\mathcal{F}} \Rightarrow_{\mathcal{E}}$  $\exists nc. \left( ((\triangleright P \ nc \ * \ nc) \lor \triangleright Q) \ * (\triangleright Q \Rightarrow_{\mathcal{E}} \ell_p^{\mathcal{F}}) \right)$ 

Breaking the bank is a non-atomic process with two distinct steps: opening and closing the bank. A unique token forbids reentrancy.

Paying does not require a token, so is permitted at all times.

### Piggy Banks: Internal Definition

Internally, a non-atomic invariant and an atomic invariant are used:

 $PiggyBank P Q A p N n \triangleq$  $\exists \varphi, \pi, \mathbf{nc}.$ non-atomic  $\exists forced.$ N p  $\varphi \mapsto \bullet \textit{forced} *$ \* if  $\neg$  *forced* then *P nc* else *Q* atomic A \*  $\exists forced, ac.$  $\varphi \mapsto \circ \textit{forced} * \pi \mapsto \bullet \textit{ac} *$ if  $\neg$  forced then ac = ac $\pi \mapsto \circ (nc - n)$ 

They agree on the Boolean flag *forced* thanks to a shared ghost cell  $\varphi$ .

# Stage 1: Basic Thunks

A basic thunk involves a physical reference *t* and a piggy bank whose parameters describe the pending and forced states of the thunk.

BasicThunk  $p \mathcal{F} t \cap R \phi \triangleq \exists \delta, N. \uparrow N \subseteq \mathcal{F} \ast t \rightsquigarrow \delta \ast PiggyBank$ fending:  $(\lambda nc. \exists f. [\delta \mapsto ?] \ast t \mapsto UNEVALUATED f \ast isAction f nc R \phi)$ forced:  $(\exists v. [\delta \mapsto v] \ast t \mapsto EVALUATED v \ast \Box \phi v)$ ThunkPayment  $p N \cap$ 

 $ThunkVal \ t \ v \triangleq$  $\exists \delta. \ t \rightsquigarrow \delta \ * \ \left[ \delta \mapsto v \right]$ 

Basic thunks satisfy the desired rules except THUNK-CONSEQUENCE.

# Why Consequence is Tricky

#### A reminder:

THUNK-CONSEQUENCE Thunk  $p \mathcal{F}_1 t n_1 R \phi \twoheadrightarrow$ isUpdate  $n_2 R \phi \psi \Longrightarrow_{\mathcal{E}}$ Thunk  $p \mathcal{F} t (n_1 + n_2) R \psi$ 

Supporting this rule seems tricky, because

- it appears to set a new postcondition and a new target amount,
- yet these are fixed at construction time by the invariants of piggy banks and basic thunks;
- furthermore, the old and new views of the thunk must coexist.

# Stage 2: Proxy Thunks

#### An Intuition

Applying THUNK-CONSEQUENCE to a thunk t is almost like constructing a new thunk t' via the expression *create* ( $\lambda$ (). *force* t).

If we actually created a new thunk, we could set a new target amount and a new postcondition.

We need THUNK-CONSEQUENCE to be a ghost update (this is absolutely necessary to allow deep payment) and to not actually create a new thunk...

but it can create a new piggy bank.

Based on this idea, we create a variant of the consequence rule that transforms a basic thunk into a proxy thunk:

PROXY-CREATE  $\mathcal{F}_{1} \uplus \uparrow N \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ BasicThunk p  $\mathcal{F}_{1}$  t  $n_{1} R \phi \twoheadrightarrow$ isUpdate  $n_{2} R \phi \psi \Longrightarrow_{\mathcal{E}}$ ProxyThunk p  $\mathcal{F}$  t  $(n_{1} + n_{2}) R \psi$ 

#### Proxy Thunks: Internal Definition

A proxy thunk is just a basic thunk together with a new piggy bank.

ProxyThunk  $p \mathcal{F} t \mathbf{n} R \phi \triangleq$   $\exists n_1, n_2, \phi, \mathcal{F}_1, N. \quad \lceil \mathcal{F}_1 \uplus \uparrow N \subseteq \mathcal{F} \rceil *$ Thunk  $p \mathcal{F}_1 t n_1 R \phi *$ PiggyBank  $(\lambda nc. \lceil nc = n_1 + n_2 \rceil * \text{ isUpdate } n_2 R \phi \psi)$   $(\exists v. ThunkVal t v * \Box \psi v)$ ThunkPayment p N n

#### Thunks: a Common API

Proxy thunks enjoy the same reasoning rules as basic thunks. The "common thunk API",

• all rules except THUNK-CREATE and THUNK-CONSEQUENCE,

is the same for basic thunks and proxy thunks.

# Stage 3: Thunks

#### Iterating the Construction

We have built proxy thunks on top basic thunks.

The construction works on top of an arbitrary flavor of thunks provided they satisfy the common API, and produces a new flavor that again satisfy the common API.

Iterating the construction allows building

- basic thunks,
- proxy thunks that wrap basic thunks,
- proxy thunks that wrap proxy thunks that wrap basic thunks, etc.

The fixed point satisfies the common API plus THUNK-CREATE and THUNK-CONSEQUENCE, that is, the full desired API.

#### Thunks: Internal Definition

Here is a possible definition of the greatest fixed point:

Thunk  $p \mathcal{F} t \mathbf{n} R \phi \triangleq$ 

 $\exists Thunk. N, d, \mathcal{F}'.$ 

Thunk is persistent \* Thunk satisfies the common thunk API \*  $\lceil \forall d'. d < d' \Rightarrow \mathcal{F}' \# \uparrow (N \cdot d') \rceil *$   $\lceil \mathcal{F}' \subseteq \uparrow N \subseteq \mathcal{F} \rceil *$ Thunk  $p \mathcal{F}' t n R \phi$ 

An inductive definition is also possible.

# Conclusion



A new result in a beautiful line of work:

- Okasaki (1999)
- Danielsson (2008)
- Mével et al. (2019)

In the paper:

- forbidding reentrancy by indexing thunks with heights;
- specs for operations on streams; machine-checked proofs; etc.

Future work:

• engineering work required to make Iris<sup>\$</sup> more user-friendly.

# Backup Slides

# Piggy Banks

The cell is owned by exactly two participants.

One token suffices to know the content of the cell.

The two participants always agree on the content:

 $\left[ \varphi \mapsto \bullet \textit{ forced}_1 \right] * \left[ \varphi \mapsto \circ \textit{ forced}_2 \right] \vdash \lceil \textit{ forced}_1 = \textit{ forced}_2 \rceil$ 

The two participants must cooperate to update the cell:

$$\left[\varphi \mapsto \bullet \textit{ forced}\right] * \left[\varphi \mapsto \circ \textit{ forced}\right] \Rightarrow \left[\varphi \mapsto \bullet \textit{ forced'}\right] * \left[\varphi \mapsto \circ \textit{ forced'}\right]$$

## Piggy Banks: the Ghost Cell $\pi$

There is one authoritative view and many fragmentary views of the cell. A fragment  $\begin{bmatrix} \pi \mapsto \circ k \end{bmatrix}$  is a witness that the true value is at least k:  $\begin{bmatrix} \pi \mapsto \bullet ac \end{bmatrix} * \begin{bmatrix} \pi \mapsto \circ k \end{bmatrix} \vdash \lceil k \leq ac \rceil$ 

This is sound because updates must be monotonic:

$$\pi \mapsto \bullet ac \Rightarrow \pi \mapsto \bullet (ac + k)$$

An accurate witness can be created at any time:

$$\pi \mapsto \bullet ac \vdash \pi \mapsto \circ ac$$

# Thunks

#### Thunks: Forced-Thunk Witnesses

#### THUNKVAL-CONFRONT ThunkVal t $v_1 *$ ThunkVal t $v_2 - |v_1| = |v_2|$

# Height-Indexed Thunks

A thunk can force thunks of lesser height only.

HTHUNK-CREATEHTHUNK-INC-HEIGHT-DEBT $\{\$3 * isAction f n (\pounds_p^h) \phi\}$  $\ulcorner h_1 \leq h_2 \urcorner \twoheadrightarrow \ulcorner n_1 \leq n_2 \urcorner \twoheadrightarrow$ create f $HThunk p h_1 t n_1 \phi \twoheadrightarrow$ returns ( $\exists t$ ) t {HThunk p h t n  $\phi$ }HThunk p h\_2 t n\_2  $\phi$ HTHUNK-FORCE{HThunk p h t 0  $\phi * \$11 * \pounds_p^{h'} * \ulcorner h < h' \urcorner$ }force treturns ( $\exists v$ ) v { $\Box \phi v * ThunkVal t v * \pounds_p^{h'}$ }

This height-based discipline is simpler than the mask-based discipline shown earlier.

# Streams

#### Streams: the Predicate Stream

Here is the general form of the predicate *Stream*:

Stream p h s ds xs

#### Streams: Definition

The definition is straightforward:

#### Streams: Creation

Constructing a stream costs O(1).

STREAM-CREATE  $\{\$5 * isCellAction p h d e ds xs\}$   $create (\lambda().e)$ returns ( $\exists s$ )  $s \{Stream p h s (d :: ds) xs\}$ 

isCellAction p h d e ds xs denotes the one-shot triple

 $\mathbf{1} \{ \mathbf{I}_{p}^{h} * \mathbf{S}_{q} \} e \text{ returns } (\exists c) c \{ StreamCell \ p \ h \ c \ ds \ xs \ * \ \mathbf{I}_{p}^{h} \}$ 

#### Streams: Forcing

Provided the head debit is zero, forcing a stream costs O(1).

STREAM-FORCE  

$$\begin{cases}
Stream p h s (0 :: ds) xs * \\
\$11 * \ell_p^{h'} * \ulcornerh < h' \urcorner
\end{cases} \\
force s$$
returns ( $\exists c$ )  $c$ 

$$\begin{cases}
StreamCell p h c ds xs * \\
ThunkVal s c * \ell_p^{h'}
\end{cases}$$

*revl* constructs one expensive thunk followed with *n* cheap thunks.

```
STREAM-REVL
                       {List | xs * \$13 * \lceil n = |xs| \rceil}
                                       revl l
             returns (\exists s) s \{ Stream p h s (19n :: 0^n) (rev xs) \}
     STREAM-APPEND
         {Stream p h s_1 ds_1 xs_1 * Stream p h s_2 ds_2 xs_2 * \$8}
                                   append s_1 s_2
     returns (\exists s) \ s \ \{ Stream \ p \ (h+1) \ s \ (ds_1 \bowtie ds_2) \ (xs_1 + + xs_2) \}
append joins ds_1 and ds_2 using the debit join operator \bowtie.
```

**Debit join**  $\bowtie$  can be defined as follows:

where  $A \triangleq 30$  and  $B \triangleq 11$ .



#### Streams: Debit Subsumption: Reasoning Rules

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{SUB-VARIANCE} \\ (m) \ ds_1 \leq ds_2 \ (n) \\ \hline m \leq m' \qquad n' \leq n \\ \hline (m') \ ds_1 \leq ds_2 \ (n') \end{array}$$

$$egin{aligned} & ext{SUB-TRANS} \ & (m_1) \ ds_1 \leq ds_2 \ (n_1) \ & (m_2) \ ds_2 \leq ds_3 \ (n_2) \ \hline & (m_1+m_2) \ ds_1 \leq ds_3 \ (n_1+n_2) \end{aligned}$$

 $\begin{array}{l} {\rm SUB-APPEND} \\ (m) \; ds_1 \leq ds_2 \; (n) \\ (n) \; ds_1' \leq ds_2' \; (k) \\ \hline (m) \; ds_1 \; + + \; ds_1' \leq ds_2 \; + + \; ds_2' \; (k) \end{array}$ 

 $\begin{array}{l} \text{SUB-ADD-SLACK} \\ (m) \ ds_1 \leq ds_2 \ (n) \\ \hline (m+k) \ ds_1 \leq ds_2 \ (n+k) \end{array}$ 

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{SUB-REPEAT} \\ \frac{d_1 \leq d_2}{(0) \ d_1^n \leq d_2^n \ (n \times (d_2 - d_1))} \end{array}$$

SUB-REFL (m)  $ds \leq ds$  (m)

# The Banker's Queue

#### The Banker's Queue: Specification of check

BANKER-CHECK {\$48 \* BQueueRaw p q fs rs \*  $\lceil |rs| \le |fs| + 1^{\rceil}$ check q returns ( $\exists q'$ ) q' {BQueue p q' (fs ++ rev rs)}