Definition 0.1. A comonad on a category C is a triple (W, ϵ, δ)

- $W: \mathcal{C} \to \mathcal{C}$ (an endo-functor)
- $\epsilon: W \Rightarrow \mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{C}}$ (the *extract* natural transformation)
- $\delta: W \Rightarrow W^2$ (the *duplicate* natural transformation)

such that

1. the diagram



commutes, that is

$$(\delta \star \mathbf{1}_W) \circ \delta = (\mathbf{1}_W \star \delta) \circ \delta$$

2. the diagram



commutes.

a comonad is just a comonoid in the category of endo-functors $% \left({{{\left({{{\left({{{\left({{{c}}} \right)}} \right)}_{i}}} \right)}_{i}}} \right)$

Example 0.1. In Haskell a comonad is defined as

November 16, 2023

Page 1 of 3

class (Functor w) => Comonad where duplicate :: w a -> w (w a) -- co-join extract :: w a -> a -- co-return

we can define the extend and bird operators as

-- extend (co-bind)
extend :: (w a -> b) -> w a -> w b
extend f = (fmap f) . duplicate
-- bird (co-fish)

(=>=) :: (w a -> b) -> (w b -> c) -> (w a -> c) f =>= g = g . (extend f)

and =>= is a co-Kleisli arrow.

Example 0.2. In Haskell the Stream functor is a comonad

data Stream a = Cons a (Stream a)
extract :: w a -> a
extract (Cons a _) = a
duplicate :: w a -> w (w a)
duplicate Cons a as = Cons (Stream a as) (duplicate as)

Example 0.3. Take the moving average over a stream

avgN is local, it only looks to n neighbors. If we partially apply avgN it becomes a co-Kleisli arrow then we can use extend extend (avgN n) as which replaces <u>every</u> element of the stream with its moving average.

November 16, 2023

Page 2 of 3

See [1] Ch.23 and also

- Category Theory II 7.1: Comonads YouTube
- Category Theory II 7.2: Comonads Categorically and Examples YouTube

[1] B. Milewski, *Category Theory for Programmers* (2019).