Esterel in Racket

integrating Esterel into a conventional language, causality errors and all

Robby Findler (Northwestern), with Manuel Serrano (Inria), Gérard Berry (Collège de France), and Matthew Flatt (Utah)

(if (present? S)
(void)
(emit S))

(if (present? S)
 (emit S)
 (void))

(if (present? S)
 (emit S)
 (emit S))

(if (present? S)
 (void)
 (emit S))

(if (present? S)
(emit S)
(void))

(if (present? S)
 (emit S)
 (emit S))

(if (present? S)
 (void)
 (emit S))

(if (present? S)
 (emit S)
 (void))

(if (present? S)
 (emit S)
 (emit S))

(void) (emit S))

(if (present? S) (if (present? S) (emit S) (void))

> (if (present? S) (emit S) (emit S))

Three problems with causality errors (Boussinot & de Simone, 1995)

- Having to define & implement an analysis to detect errors
- Debugging causality errors is difficult
- Causality errors threaten modularity

Three problems with causality errors (Boussinot & de Simone, 1995)

- Having to define & implement an analysis to detect errors
- Debugging causality errors is difficult
- Causality errors threaten modularity

Analysis is **not** just a technical problem

Languages do not exist in a vacuum Community & ecosystems matter Analysis is **not** just a technical problem

Languages do not exist in a vacuum Community & ecosystems matter

ReactiveML

- ML community
- Alternative semantics

HipHop.js

• JavaScript community

• Staging

Challenge

Can we keep Esterel's original semantics, but fully integrate it into a "normal" PL?

