

Programming Language Concepts: Lecture 16

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λ -calculus: syntax

- ▶ Assume a set Var of variables
- ▶ Set Λ of lambda expressions is given by

$$\Lambda = x \mid \lambda x.M \mid MM'$$

where $x \in Var$, $M, M' \in \Lambda$.

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$$(\lambda x.M)M' \rightarrow_{\beta} M\{x \leftarrow M'\}$$

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$$(\lambda x.M)M' \rightarrow_{\beta} M\{x \leftarrow M'\}$$

- ▶ $M\{x \leftarrow M'\}$: substitute free occurrences of x in M by M'
- ▶ When we apply β to MM' , assume that we always rename the bound variables in M to avoid “capturing” free variables from M' .

Encoding arithmetic

Church numerals

$$\begin{aligned}\langle 0 \rangle &= \lambda f x. x \\ \langle n + 1 \rangle &= \lambda f x. f(\langle n \rangle f x)\end{aligned}$$

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- ▶ Let $g^k y$ denote $g(g(\dots(gy)))$ with k applications of g to y
- ▶ Show by induction that

$$\langle n \rangle = \lambda f x. f(\langle n-1 \rangle f x) \rightarrow_{\beta} \dots \rightarrow_{\beta} \lambda f x. (f^n x)$$

Encoding arithmetic functions ...

Successor

- ▶ $\text{succ}(n) = n + 1$
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Other functions:

multiplication : $\lambda p q f x. q(pf)x$
exponentiation : $\lambda p q. (pq)$

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 - ▶ Note! currying ...
- ▶ We must first decide on a syntax for computable functions

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Recursive functions [Gödel]

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Initial functions

- ▶ Zero: $Z(n) = 0$.
- ▶ Successor: $S(n) = n+1$.
- ▶ Projection: $\Pi_i^k(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k) = n_i$

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Composition Given $f : \mathbb{N}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ and
 $g_1, g_2, \dots, g_k : \mathbb{N}^h \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$,

$$f \circ (g_1, g_2, \dots, g_k)(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_h) = \\ f(g_1(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_h), g_2(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_h), \dots, g_k(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_h))$$

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For instance, $f(n) = n + 2$ is $S \circ S$

Recursive functions ...

Primitive recursion Given $g : \mathbb{N}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ and
 $h : \mathbb{N}^{k+2} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$

define $f : \mathbb{N}^{k+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ by primitive recursion as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} f(0, n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k) &= g(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k) \\ f(n+1, n_1, \dots, n_k) &= h(n, f(n, n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k), n_1, \dots, n_k) \end{aligned}$$

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Examples

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$$\begin{aligned}plus(0, n) &= g(n) &= \Pi_1^1(n) \\& &= n\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}plus(m+1, n) &= h(m, plus(m, n), n) \\&= S \circ \Pi_2^3(m, plus(m, n), n) = S(plus(m, n))\end{aligned}$$

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 $h = plus \circ (\Pi_3^3, \Pi_2^3)$

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Examples

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Note Primitive recursive functions are total!

Recursive functions ...

Minimalization

Given $g : \mathbb{N}^{k+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, define $f : \mathbb{N}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ by minimalization from g

$$f(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k) = \mu n. (g(n, n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k) = 0)$$

where $\mu n. P(n)$ returns the least natural number n such that $P(n)$ holds

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Define $\log_2 n$ as $\mu n. (n - 2^k)$

► First k for which $n - 2^k = 0$ is $\log_2 n$

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Not defined for all n !

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Composition is easy

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Encoding recursive functions ...

Primitive recursion

- ▶ Assume $f(n+1)$ is defined in terms of g and $h(n, f(n))$
- ▶ Convert recursion into iteration

Define $t(n) = (n, f(n))$

- ▶ Functions fst and snd extract first and second component of a pair

$$\begin{aligned}t(0) &= (0, f(0)) &= (0, g) \\t(n+1) &= (n+1, f(n+1)) &= (n+1, h(n, f(n))) \\&= (succ(fst(t(n))), \\&\quad h(fst(t(n)), snd(t(n))))\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Clearly, $f(n) = snd(t(n))$

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Primitive Recursion

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$$step(n, f(n)) = (n+1, f(n+1))$$

- ▶ So, $t(n) = step^n(0, f(0)) = step^n(0, g) \dots$

- ▶ ...and $f(n) = snd(t(n)) = snd(step^n(0, g))$

In the next class, we will provide a λ -calculus translation for $step$

- ▶ Will require constructions for building pairs and decomposing them using fst and snd

Recursive functions ...

Minimalization

- ▶ To evaluate

$$f(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k) = \mu n. (g(n, n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k) = 0)$$

we go back to the idea of computing a while loop

```
n := 0;
while (g(n,n1,n2,...,nk) != 0) {n := n+1};
return n;
```

- ▶ Implement the while loop using recursion

```
f(n1,n2,...,nk) =  check(0,n1,n2...nk)
where
  check(n,n1,n2...nk){
    if (iszero(g(n,n1,n2,...,nk)) {return n;}
    else {check(n+1,n1,n2,...,nk);}
  }
```

- ▶ Need a mechanism to encode booleans, if-then-else in λ -calculus