CS 4110

Programming Languages & Logics

Lecture 16
Programming in the λ-calculus

Review: Church Booleans

We can encode TRUE, FALSE, and IF, as:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{TRUE} &\triangleq \lambda x.\, \lambda y.\, x \\ \text{FALSE} &\triangleq \lambda x.\, \lambda y.\, y \\ \text{IF} &\triangleq \lambda b.\, \lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, b\; t\; f \end{aligned}$$

This way, IF behaves how it ought to:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{IF TRUE}\; v_t\; v_f &\rightarrow^* v_t \\ \text{IF FALSE}\; v_t\; v_f &\rightarrow^* v_f \end{aligned}$$

Review: Church Numerals

Church numerals encode a number n as a function that takes f and x, and applies f to x n times.

$$
\begin{aligned}
\overline{0} &\triangleq \lambda f.\, \lambda x.\, x \\
\overline{1} &\triangleq \lambda f.\, \lambda x.\, f\, x \\
\overline{2} &\triangleq \lambda f.\, \lambda x.\, f\, (f\, x)
\end{aligned}
$$

We can define other functions on integers:

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\mathrm{SUCC} \triangleq \lambda n.\, \lambda f.\, \lambda x.\, f\, (n\, f\, x)
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\mathrm{SUCC} &\triangleq \lambda n.\, \lambda f.\, \lambda x.\, f\,(n\, f\, x) \\
\mathrm{PLUS} &\triangleq \lambda n_1.\, \lambda n_2.\, n_1\, \mathrm{SUCC}\, n_2
\end{aligned}$$

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\text{SUCC} &\triangleq \lambda n.\, \lambda f.\, \lambda x.\, f\,(n\, f\, x) \\
\text{PLUS} &\triangleq \lambda n_1.\, \lambda n_2.\, n_1\ \text{SUCC}\ n_2 \\
\text{TIMES} &\triangleq \lambda n_1.\, \lambda n_2.\, n_1\ (\text{PLUS}\ \mathrm{n}_2)\ \overline{0} \\
\text{ISZERO} &\triangleq \lambda n.\, n\ (\lambda z.\, \text{FALSE})\ \text{TRUE}
\end{aligned}
$$

Recursive Functions

How would we write recursive functions like factorial?

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We'd like to write it like this...

$$\text{FACT} \triangleq \lambda n.\, \text{IF}\, (\text{ISZERO}\, n)\, 1\, (\text{TIMES}\, n\, (\text{FACT}\, (\text{PRED}\, n)))$$

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We'd like to write it like this...

$$\mathsf{FACT} \triangleq \lambda n.\, \mathsf{IF}\ (\mathsf{ISZERO}\ n)\ 1\ (\mathsf{TIMES}\ n\ (\mathsf{FACT}\ (\mathsf{PRED}\ n)))$$

In slightly more readable notation this is...

$$\mathsf{FACT} \triangleq \lambda n.\, \mathbf{if}\ n = 0\ \mathbf{then}\ 1\ \mathbf{else}\ n \times \mathsf{FACT}\ (n - 1)$$

...but this is an equation, not a definition!

Recursion removal trick

We can perform a “trick” to define a function FACT that satisfies the recursive equation on the previous slide.

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Define a new function FACT′ that takes a function *f* as an argument. Then, for "recursive" calls, it uses *f f*:

$$\mathsf{FACT}' \triangleq \lambda f.\, \lambda n.\, \textbf{if } n = 0 \textbf{ then } 1 \textbf{ else } n \times ((f\, f)\,(n-1))$$

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Then define FACT as FACT′ applied to itself:

$$\text{FACT} \triangleq \text{FACT}'\ \text{FACT}'$$

Example

Let’s try evaluating FACT on 3...

FACT 3

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$\text{FACT } 3 = (\text{FACT}' \text{ FACT}')\ 3$

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&\to \textbf{if}\ 3 = 0\ \textbf{then}\ 1\ \textbf{else}\ 3 \times ((\mathrm{FACT}'\ \mathrm{FACT}')\ (3-1))
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&\rightarrow 3 \times ((\mathsf{FACT}'\;\mathsf{FACT}')\;(3-1)) \\
&= 3 \times (\mathsf{FACT}\;(3-1))
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&\to \ldots \\
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&\to^{*} 6
\end{aligned}
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Fixed point combinators

Our “trick” requires following human-readable instructions. Write a different function f' that takes itself as an argument and uses self-application for recursive calls, and then define f as $f' \ f'$.

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Consider factorial again. It is a fixed point of the following:

$$G \triangleq \lambda f.\, \lambda n.\, \textbf{if}\ n = 0\ \textbf{then}\ 1\ \textbf{else}\ n \times (f\,(n-1))$$

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Recall that if g if a fixed point of G, then $G\,g = g$. To see that any fixed point g is a real factorial function, try evaluating it:

$$g\,5 = (G\,g)\,5$$

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Fixed point combinators

How can we generate the fixed point of G?

In denotational semantics, finding fixed points took a lot of math. In the λ-calculus, we just need a suitable combinator...

Y Combinator

The (infamous) Y combinator is defined as

$$\mathsf{Y} \triangleq \lambda f.\,(\lambda x.\,f\,(x\,x))\,(\lambda x.\,f\,(x\,x))$$

We say that Y is a *fixed point combinator* because Y f is a fixed point of f (for any lambda term f).

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What happens when we evaluate Y G under CBV?

Z Combinator

To avoid this issue, we'll use a slight variant of the Y combinator, called Z, which is easier to use under CBV.

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Example

Let's see Z in action, on our function G.

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\to & (\lambda x.\, G\, (\lambda y.\, x\, x\, y))\, (\lambda x.\, G\, (\lambda y.\, x\, x\, y)) \\
\to & G\, (\lambda y.\, (\lambda x.\, G\, (\lambda y.\, x\, x\, y))\, (\lambda x.\, G\, (\lambda y.\, x\, x\, y))\, y)
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\rightarrow & (\lambda x.\, G\, (\lambda y.\, x\, x\, y))\, (\lambda x.\, G\, (\lambda y.\, x\, x\, y)) \\
\rightarrow & G\, (\lambda y.\, (\lambda x.\, G\, (\lambda y.\, x\, x\, y))\, (\lambda x.\, G\, (\lambda y.\, x\, x\, y))\, y) \\
= & (\lambda f.\, \lambda n.\, \textbf{if}\ n = 0\ \textbf{then}\ 1\ \textbf{else}\ n \times (f\, (n-1))) \\
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\to & \lambda n.\, \textbf{if}\ n = 0\ \textbf{then}\ 1 \\
 & \quad \textbf{else}\ n \times ((\lambda y.\, (\lambda x.\, G\, (\lambda y.\, x\, x\, y))\, (\lambda x.\, G\, (\lambda y.\, x\, x\, y))\, y)\, (n-1))
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= & (\lambda f.\, (\lambda x.\, f\, (\lambda y.\, x\, x\, y))\, (\lambda x.\, f\, (\lambda y.\, x\, x\, y)))\; G \\
\to & (\lambda x.\, G\, (\lambda y.\, x\, x\, y))\, (\lambda x.\, G\, (\lambda y.\, x\, x\, y)) \\
\to & G\, (\lambda y.\, (\lambda x.\, G\, (\lambda y.\, x\, x\, y))\, (\lambda x.\, G\, (\lambda y.\, x\, x\, y))\, y) \\
= & (\lambda f.\, \lambda n.\, \textbf{if}\ n = 0\ \textbf{then}\ 1\ \textbf{else}\ n \times (f\, (n-1))) \\
& \qquad (\lambda y.\, (\lambda x.\, G\, (\lambda y.\, x\, x\, y))\, (\lambda x.\, G\, (\lambda y.\, x\, x\, y))\, y) \\
\to & \lambda n.\, \textbf{if}\ n = 0\ \textbf{then}\ 1 \\
& \quad \textbf{else}\ n \times ((\lambda y.\, (\lambda x.\, G\, (\lambda y.\, x\, x\, y))\, (\lambda x.\, G\, (\lambda y.\, x\, x\, y))\, y)\, (n-1)) \\
=_\beta & \lambda n.\, \textbf{if}\ n = 0\ \textbf{then}\ 1\ \textbf{else}\ n \times (\lambda y.\, (\mathrm{Z}\, G)\, y)\, (n-1)
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= & (\lambda f.\,(\lambda x.\,f\,(\lambda y.\,x\,x\,y))\,(\lambda x.\,f\,(\lambda y.\,x\,x\,y)))\,G \\
\rightarrow & (\lambda x.\,G\,(\lambda y.\,x\,x\,y))\,(\lambda x.\,G\,(\lambda y.\,x\,x\,y)) \\
\rightarrow & G\,(\lambda y.\,(\lambda x.\,G\,(\lambda y.\,x\,x\,y))\,(\lambda x.\,G\,(\lambda y.\,x\,x\,y))\,y) \\
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= & \lambda n.\, \mathbf{if}\ n = 0\ \mathbf{then}\ 1\ \mathbf{else}\ n \times (\mathsf{FACT}\, (n-1))
\end{array}
$$

Other fixed point combinators

There are many (indeed infinitely many) fixed-point combinators. Here's a cute one:

$$\mathsf{Y}_k \triangleq (\mathsf{L\,L\,L\,L\,L\,L\,L\,L\,L\,L\,L\,L\,L\,L\,L\,L\,L\,L\,L\,L\,L\,L\,L\,L\,L\,L})$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}\mathsf{L} \triangleq\ & \lambda abcdefghijklmnopqstuvwxyzr.\\ & (r\,(t\,h\,i\,s\,i\,s\,a\,f\,i\,x\,e\,d\,p\,o\,i\,n\,t\,c\,o\,m\,b\,i\,n\,a\,t\,o\,r))\end{aligned}$$

Turing's Fixed Point Combinator

To gain some more intuition for fixed point combinators, let's derive a combinator Θ originally discovered by Turing.

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We know that $\Theta\, f$ is a fixed point of f, so we have

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We can write the following recursive equation:

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We know that $\Theta\, f$ is a fixed point of f, so we have

$$\Theta\, f = f\,(\Theta\, f).$$

We can write the following recursive equation:

$$\Theta = \lambda f.\, f\,(\Theta\, f)$$

Now use the recursion removal trick:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \Theta' & \triangleq & \lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\; t\; f) \\ \Theta & \triangleq & \Theta'\, \Theta' \end{array}$$

θ Example

$\text{FACT} = \Theta\, G$

θ Example

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathsf{FACT} &= \Theta\, G \\
&= ((\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f))\,(\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f)))\, G
\end{aligned}
$$

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$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathsf{FACT} &= \Theta\, G \\
&= ((\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f))\,(\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f)))\,G \\
&\to (\lambda f.\, f\,((\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f))\,(\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f))\,f))\,G
\end{aligned}
$$

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\begin{aligned}
\mathsf{FACT} &= \Theta\, G \\
&= ((\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f))\,(\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f)))\, G \\
&\to (\lambda f.\, f\,((\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f))\,(\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f))\, f))\, G \\
&\to G\,((\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f))\,(\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f))\, G)
\end{aligned}
$$

θ Example

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathsf{FACT} &= \Theta\, G \\
&= ((\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f))\,(\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f)))\, G \\
&\rightarrow (\lambda f.\, f\,((\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f))\,(\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f))\, f))\, G \\
&\rightarrow G\,((\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f))\,(\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f))\, G) \\
&= G\,(\Theta\, G)
\end{aligned}
$$

θ Example

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{FACT} &= \Theta\, G \\
&= ((\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f))\,(\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f)))\, G \\
&\rightarrow (\lambda f.\, f\,((\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f))\,(\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f))\, f))\, G \\
&\rightarrow G\,((\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f))\,(\lambda t.\, \lambda f.\, f\,(t\,t\,f))\, G) \\
&= G\,(\Theta\, G) \\
&= (\lambda f.\, \lambda n.\, \textbf{if } n = 0 \textbf{ then } 1 \textbf{ else } n \times (f\,(n-1)))\,(\Theta\, G) \\
&\rightarrow \lambda n.\, \textbf{if } n = 0 \textbf{ then } 1 \textbf{ else } n \times ((\Theta\, G)\,(n-1)) \\
&= \lambda n.\, \textbf{if } n = 0 \textbf{ then } 1 \textbf{ else } n \times (\mathrm{FACT}\,(n-1))
\end{aligned}
$$

Review: Call-by-Value

Here are the syntax and CBV semantics of λ-calculus:

$$
\begin{aligned}
e &::= x \mid \lambda x.\, e \mid e_1\, e_2 \\
v &::= \lambda x.\, e
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\frac{e_1 \rightarrow e_1'}{e_1\, e_2 \rightarrow e_1'\, e_2} \qquad \frac{e \rightarrow e'}{v\, e \rightarrow v\, e'}
$$

$$
\frac{}{(\lambda x.\, e)\, v \rightarrow e\{v/x\}}\ \beta
$$

There are two kinds of rules: *congruence rules* that specify evaluation order and *computation rules* that specify the "interesting" reductions.

Evaluation Contexts

Evaluation contexts let us separate out these two kinds of rules.

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An evaluation context E is an expression with a "hole" in it: a single occurrence of the special symbol $[\cdot]$ in place of a subexpression.

$$E ::= [\cdot] \mid E\ e \mid v\ E$$

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An evaluation context E is an expression with a "hole" in it: a single occurrence of the special symbol $[\cdot]$ in place of a subexpression.

$$E ::= [\cdot] \mid E\ e \mid v\ E$$

We write $E[e]$ to mean the evaluation context E where the hole has been replaced with the expression e.

Examples

$$E_1 = [\cdot]\,(\lambda x.\, x)$$
$$E_1[\lambda y.\, y\, y] = (\lambda y.\, y\, y)\; \lambda x.\, x$$

Examples

$$E_1 = [\cdot]\,(\lambda x.\,x)$$

$$E_1[\lambda y.\,y\,y] = (\lambda y.\,y\,y)\;\lambda x.\,x$$

$$E_2 = (\lambda z.\,z\,z)\,[\cdot]$$

$$E_2[\lambda x.\,\lambda y.\,x] = (\lambda z.\,z\,z)\,(\lambda x.\,\lambda y.\,x)$$

Examples

$$
\begin{aligned}
E_1 &= [\cdot]\,(\lambda x.\, x) \\
E_1[\lambda y.\, y\, y] &= (\lambda y.\, y\, y)\ \lambda x.\, x
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
E_2 &= (\lambda z.\, z\, z)\,[\cdot] \\
E_2[\lambda x.\, \lambda y.\, x] &= (\lambda z.\, z\, z)\,(\lambda x.\, \lambda y.\, x)
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
E_3 &= ([\cdot]\ \lambda x.\, x\, x)\,((\lambda y.\, y)\,(\lambda y.\, y)) \\
E_3[\lambda f.\, \lambda g.\, f\, g] &= ((\lambda f.\, \lambda g.\, f\, g)\ \lambda x.\, x\, x)\,((\lambda y.\, y)\,(\lambda y.\, y))
\end{aligned}
$$

CBV With Evaluation Contexts

With evaluation contexts, we can define the evaluation semantics for the CBV λ-calculus with just two rules: one for evaluation contexts, and one for β-reduction.

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With this syntax:

$$E ::= [\cdot] \mid E\, e \mid v\, E$$

The small-step rules are:

$$\frac{e \to e'}{E[e] \to E[e']}$$

$$\frac{}{(\lambda x.\, e)\, v \to e\{v/x\}}\ \beta$$

CBN With Evaluation Contexts

We can also define the semantics of CBN λ-calculus with evaluation contexts.

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For call-by-name, the syntax for evaluation contexts is different:

$$E ::= [\cdot] \mid E\ e$$

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For call-by-name, the syntax for evaluation contexts is different:

$$E ::= [\cdot] \mid E\ e$$

But the small-step rules are the same:

$$\frac{e \rightarrow e'}{E[e] \rightarrow E[e']}$$

$$\frac{}{(\lambda x.\, e)\ e' \rightarrow e\{e'/x\}}\ \beta$$