

Lecture 8

Topics

1. Comments on proof style for homework.
2. There is a “one point basis” several different ones.

$$\mathbf{X} \equiv \overline{\lambda(x.x(x\mathbf{S}(\mathbf{K}^3\mathbf{I})\mathbf{K}))}$$

Also note, $\mathbf{Y} \equiv \mathbf{WS}(\mathbf{BWB})$, add to the dictionary.

3. How do we define the *partial recursive functions*, and what do we usually mean by them?
4. Development of the *primitive recursive functions*. The primitive recursion formalism is a very simple *subrecursive programming language* just as Coq is.

Comments on PS1:

The condition is “x is **not free** in b” in problem 2.

Partial Recursive Functions

Defining the partial recursive functions, \mathbb{PR} , is to first define the *primitive recursive functions* and then add the “least number operator”. Kleene proceeds this way. The pattern of primitive recursion is typically used to define addition, multiplication, and exponentiation recursively.

$$a_0(x, y) = x + 1 \quad S(x) = x + 1 \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Note} \\ a_0(x, y) = S(x) \end{array}$$

$$a_1(x, y) = \text{add}(x, y)$$

$$\text{add}(0, y) = y$$

$$\text{add}(S(x), y) = S(\text{add}(x, y))$$

Note

$$S(\text{add}(x, y)) = a_0(a_1(x, y), y)$$

$$a_2(x, y) = \text{mult}(x, y)$$

$$\text{mult}(0, y) = 0$$

$$\text{mult}(S(x), y) = \text{add}(\text{mult}(x, y), y)$$

Note

$$\text{add}(\text{mult}(x, y), y) = a_1(a_2(x, y), y)$$

Etc. See notes on Examples of Primitive Recursion.

Why are these special?

Interesting facts about combinators (from Mark Bickford)

- The programming language Miranda (mentioned in our textbook because Simon Thompson was part of the Miranda project) was compiled to combinators.
- Burroughs computer corporation (for which Dykstra consulted) was building a combinator based computer. Its instruction set was like this:
 $\mathbf{S}fgx$ x goes to both $(fx)(fg)$
 $\mathbf{C}fgx$ x goes to one (g) $f(gx)$
 $\mathbf{B}fgx$ x goes to the other (f) $(fx)g$
 $\mathbf{P}fgx$ x goes to neither $\mathbf{P}g$
- Mayer Goldberg uses large bases, up to 12, and thinks of the combinators as points in high dimensional space with *computation as paths* in those “spaces”.

Kleene distinguishes two instances of the basic primitive recursive scheme 5a and 5b. The first four cases of his definition are:

- (1) $S(x) = x + 1$ successor
- (2) $Const(x_1, \dots, x_n) = c$ constant
- (3) $Proj_i(x_1, \dots, x_n) = x_i$ projection
- (4) $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = h(g_1(x_1, \dots, x_n), \dots, g_m(x_1, \dots, x_n))$ composition

(5_a) $f(0) = c$
 $f(x + 1) = ind(x, f(x))$

(5_b) $f(0, y_1, \dots, y_n) = g(y_1, \dots, y_n)$ primitive recursion
 $f(x + 1, y_1, \dots, y_n) = h(x, f(x, y_1, \dots, y_n), y_1, \dots, y_n)$

A function is *primitive recursive* iff it can be defined by a sequence of applications of these five operations. What is a good name for (5_a)?

Note, there is a natural way of extending the sequence

$a_0(x, y), \quad a_1(x, y), \quad a_2(x, y)$
Successor addition multiplication
What is next? How to define it?

How can we define these functions with just **S** and **K**?!

Defining primitive recursion with combinators.

We clearly need a way to accomplish the following tasks.

1. Define the natural numbers $0, S(0), S(S(0)), \dots$

$$0, \quad 1, \quad 2, \dots$$

2. Define a conditional, if $b(x)$ then $t(x)$ else $f(x)$.

3. Define recursion.

One of these, the central operator, we have already defined. What is that?

Let \bar{n} be the combinator for the number n , define it as follows

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{0} &\equiv \mathbf{KI} \\ \overline{S(n)} &\equiv \mathbf{SB}\bar{n}\end{aligned}$$

Then we get the sequence of “numbers”.

$$0, \quad 1, \quad 2, \quad 3, \quad 4, \dots$$

$$\mathbf{KI}, \quad \mathbf{I}, \quad \mathbf{SBI}, \quad \mathbf{SB(SBI)}, \dots$$

What is the conditional? It is called \mathbf{D} for decide.

$$\mathbf{D} \equiv [x, y, z].z(\mathbf{K}y)x$$

This has the key property

$$\mathbf{D}XY\bar{0} = X$$

$$\mathbf{D}XY\overline{S(n)} = Y \quad \text{Can also write } \mathbf{D}XY\overline{n+1} = Y$$

Now we have all we need. See if you can define addition using the idea from primitive recursion.

For the philosophically inclined, how would *you* define the number 0, the number 1, etc. What is the “real meaning”? Is there such a thing? What is it in set theory? What is the computational meaning of 0? Of recursion?