

CS 4110

Programming Languages & Logics

Lecture 19 More λ -calculus



Review: λ -calculus

Syntax

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

Semantics (call by value)

$$\frac{e_1 \rightarrow e'_1}{e_1 e_2 \rightarrow e'_1 e_2} \qquad \frac{e \rightarrow e'}{v e \rightarrow v e'}$$

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

Example: Twice

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Now the functions above can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}\text{quadruple} &= \text{twice double} \\ \text{hexadecatuple} &= \text{twice quadruple} \\ \text{256uple} &= \text{twice hexadecatuple}\end{aligned}$$

Evaluation

The essence of λ -calculus evaluation is the β -reduction rule, which says how to apply a function to an argument.

$$\overline{(\lambda x. e) v \rightarrow e\{v/x\}} \quad \beta\text{-REDUCTION}$$

But there are many different evaluation strategies, each corresponding to particular ways of using β -reduction:

- Call-by-value
- Call-by-name
- “Full” β -reduction
- ...

Call by value

$$\frac{e_1 \rightarrow e'_1}{e_1 e_2 \rightarrow e'_1 e_2} \qquad \frac{e_2 \rightarrow e'_2}{v_1 e_2 \rightarrow v_1 e'_2}$$

$$\frac{}{(\lambda x. e_1) v_2 \rightarrow e_1 \{v_2/x\}} \beta$$

Key characteristics:

- Arguments evaluated fully before they are supplied to functions
- Evaluation goes from left to right (in this presentation)
- We don't evaluate “under a λ ”

Call by name

$$\frac{e_1 \rightarrow e'_1}{e_1 e_2 \rightarrow e'_1 e_2}$$

$$\frac{}{(\lambda x. e_1) e_2 \rightarrow e_1 \{e_2/x\}} \beta$$

Key characteristics:

- Arguments supplied immediately to functions
- Evaluation still goes from left to right (in this presentation)
- We still don't evaluate "under a λ "

Full β reduction

$$\frac{e_1 \rightarrow e'_1}{e_1 e_2 \rightarrow e'_1 e_2} \qquad \frac{e_2 \rightarrow e'_2}{e_1 e_2 \rightarrow e_1 e'_2}$$

$$\frac{e \rightarrow e'}{\lambda x. e \rightarrow \lambda x. e'}$$

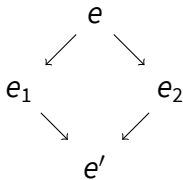
$$\overline{(\lambda x. e_1) e_2 \rightarrow e_1 \{e_2/x\}}^{\beta}$$

Key characteristics:

- Use the β rule anywhere...
- ...including “under a λ ”...
- nondeterministically

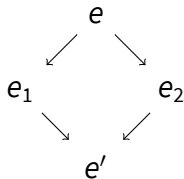
Confluence

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Theorem (Confluence)

If $e \rightarrow^ e_1$ and $e \rightarrow^* e_2$ then $e_1 \rightarrow^* e'$ and $e_2 \rightarrow^* e'$ for some e' .*

Substitution

The main workhorse in the β rule is **substitution**, which replaces free occurrences of a variable x with a term e .

However, defining substitution $e_1\{e_2/x\}$ correctly is tricky...

“Substitution”

As a first attempt, consider:

$$y\{e/x\} = \begin{cases} e & \text{if } y = x \\ y & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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Real Substitution

The correct definition is *capture-avoiding substitution*:

$$\begin{aligned}y\{e/x\} &= \begin{cases} e & \text{if } y = x \\ y & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\(e_1 e_2)\{e/x\} &= (e_1\{e/x\}) (e_2\{e/x\}) \\(\lambda y.e_1)\{e/x\} &= \lambda y.(e_1\{e/x\}) \quad \text{where } y \neq x \text{ and } y \notin fv(e)\end{aligned}$$

where $fv(e)$ is the *free variables* of a term e .

Encodings

The pure λ -calculus contains only functions as values. It is not exactly easy to write large or interesting programs in the pure λ -calculus.

We can however *encode* objects, such as booleans, and integers.

Booleans

We need to define functions TRUE, FALSE, AND, NOT, IF, and other operators that behave as follows:

AND TRUE FALSE = FALSE

NOT FALSE = TRUE

IF TRUE e_1 e_2 = e_1

IF FALSE e_1 e_2 = e_2

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Let's start by defining TRUE and FALSE:

TRUE $\triangleq \lambda x. \lambda y. x$

FALSE $\triangleq \lambda x. \lambda y. y$

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$\lambda b. \lambda t. \lambda f. \text{if } b \text{ is our term TRUE then } t, \text{ otherwise } f$

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We can also write the standard Boolean operators.

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$\text{NOT} \triangleq \lambda b. b \ \text{FALSE} \ \text{TRUE}$

$\text{AND} \triangleq \lambda b_1. \lambda b_2. b_1 \ b_2 \ \text{FALSE}$

$\text{OR} \triangleq \lambda b_1. \lambda b_2. b_1 \ \text{TRUE} \ b_2$

Church Numerals

Let's encode the natural numbers!

We'll write $\bar{n}$ for the encoding of the number n . The central function we'll need is a *successor* operation:

$$\text{SUCC } \bar{n} = \overline{n + 1}$$

Church Numerals

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

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

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We can write a successor function that “inserts” another application of f :

$$\text{SUCC} \triangleq \lambda n. \lambda f. \lambda x. f(n f x)$$

Addition

Given the definition of SUCC, we can define addition. Intuitively, the natural number $n_1 + n_2$ is the result of applying the successor function n_1 times to n_2 .

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$$\text{PLUS} \triangleq \lambda n_1. \lambda n_2. n_1 \text{ SUCC } n_2$$

Church Numerals

We can define more functions on integers:

$$\text{SUCC} \triangleq \lambda n. \lambda f. \lambda x. f (n f x)$$

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