



Universiteit Utrecht

[Faculty of Science
Information and Computing Sciences]

Applied Functional Programming

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B1. Haskell and the λ -Calculus



An Example

Program definition:

```
main    = print (gcd 15 12)
print x = putStrLn (show x)
gcd x y = gcd' (abs x) (abs y)
gcd' x 0 = x
gcd' x y = gcd' y (rem x y)
...
```

Evaluation (naive):

```
main → print (gcd 15 12)
      → putStrLn (show (gcd 15 12))
      → putStrLn (show (gcd' (abs 15) (abs 12)))
      → ...
      → 3
```



Term Rewriting

Definition: A **term rewriting system** (TRS) consists of a

- ▶ signature Σ : function symbols $\{F, G, \dots\}$ of fixed arity
- ▶ set of variables $V = \{a, b, c, \dots\}$
- ▶ set of **terms** $Ter(\Sigma)$ over Σ and V .
Example: $F(a, G(G(b, c), d), H)$
- ▶ set **rewriting rules** of the form $l \rightarrow r$ with $l, r \in Ter(\Sigma)$
constraint: variables in r must also occur in l



Example as a TRS

Rewrite rules:

```
Main      → Print (Gcd (15, 12))
Print (x)  → PutStrLn (Show (x))
Gcd (x,y)  → Gcd' (Abs (x), Abs (y))
Gcd' (x,y) → ...
Abs (x)    → ...
```

A **reduction** (also: **rewriting sequence**) to a normal form:

```
Main → Print (Gcd (15, 12))
      → PutStrLn (Show (Gcd (15, 12)))
      → PutStrLn (Show (Gcd' (Abs (15), Abs (12))))
      → ...
      → 3
```



Some Terminology and Notation in Rewriting

- ▶ **reducible expression** (redex): a term that matches the left-hand side of a rewriting rule
- ▶ reduction/rewriting step: application of a rule to a redex.
Main \rightarrow Print (gcd (15, 12))
Print (gcd (15, 12)) \leftarrow Main
Main \rightarrow^* PutStrLn (Show (Gcd' (Abs (15), Abs (12))))
- ▶ normal form: term that does not contain a redex
- ▶ strong normalisation: every reduction sequence is finite
- ▶ unique normalisation: strong normalisation to a unique normal form

Literature: *Term Rewriting Systems* by Terese



Higher-Order Functions

Program definition in Haskell:

```
main    = print (flip map [1..] inc)
print x = putStrLn (show x)
flip f x y = f y x
inc x     = x + 1
map       = ...
```

As a rewriting system (attempt):

```
Main          → Print (Flip (Map, [1..], Inc))
Print (x)      → PutStrLn (Show (x))
Flip (f, x, y) → f (y, x)
Inc (x)        → x + 1
Map (f, xs)    → ...
```

Problem: higher-order functions require partial application



The λ -Calculus

- ▶ introduced by Church in 1932
- ▶ rewriting system and simplistic programming language
- ▶ supports higher-order functions naturally
- ▶ Turing complete



λ -Calculus: A Higher-Order Function

In Haskell: $\text{flip } f \ x \ y = f \ y \ x$

Desired behaviour: $\text{flip } a \ b \ c \rightarrow^* a \ c \ b$

In λ -calculus:

$(\lambda f \ x \ y. f \ y \ x) \ a \ b \ c$
 $\rightarrow (\lambda x \ y. a \ y \ x) \ b \ c$
 $\rightarrow (\lambda y. a \ y \ b) \ c$
 $\rightarrow a \ c \ b$

Properties:

- ▶ arguments are consumed one by one
- ▶ functions are gradually destroyed when applied
- ▶ function definitions do not live in a separate space



λ -Calculus: Grammar

λ -terms are of the form:

	$e ::= x$	(variables)
	$e e$	(application)
	$\lambda x. e$	(abstraction)

Examples:

	$\lambda x. x x$
	$\lambda x. (\lambda y. x z) (\lambda x. x a)$

- ▶ application associates to the left: $a b c = (a b) c$
- ▶ Observation: only unary functions and unary application



λ -Calculus: flip

flip $f\ x\ y = f\ y\ x$

$(\lambda f\ x\ y. f\ y\ x)\ a\ b\ c$
 $\rightarrow (\lambda x\ y. a\ y\ x)\ b\ c$
 $\rightarrow (\lambda y. a\ y\ b)\ c$
 $\rightarrow a\ c\ b$

Representation with unary functions:

$(\lambda f. \lambda x. \lambda y. f\ y\ x)\ a\ b\ c$
 $\rightarrow (\lambda x. \lambda y. a\ y\ x)\ b\ c$
 $\rightarrow (\lambda y. a\ y\ b)\ c$
 $\rightarrow a\ c\ b$



λ -Calculus: β -Reduction

A term of the form $\lambda x. e$ is called an **abstraction** or **lambda binding**; e is called the abstraction's **body**.

The central rewrite rule of the λ -calculus is β -reduction:

$$| \quad (\lambda x. e) a \rightarrow_{\beta} e [x \mapsto a]$$

$[x \mapsto a]$:= substitution of all *free* occurrences of variable x by a

$$\begin{aligned} & (\lambda f. \lambda x. \lambda y. f y x) a b c \\ \rightarrow_{\beta} & (\lambda x. \lambda y. a y x) b c \\ \rightarrow_{\beta} & (\lambda y. a y b) c \\ \rightarrow_{\beta} & a c b \end{aligned}$$



Bound and free variables

- ▶ An abstraction $\lambda x. e$ **binds** variable x in its body e .
- ▶ An occurrence of a variable that is not bound is called **free**.

Examples:

- ▶ x occurs free in $\lambda y. y (\lambda z. x)$
- ▶ $(\lambda x. x z) y x$ has one bound and one free occurrence of x , therefore $(\lambda x. (\lambda x. x z) y x) a \rightarrow_{\beta} ((\lambda x. x z) y a)$

A term without free variables is called a **closed** term.



λ -Calculus: Name Capturing and α -conversion

$$\begin{aligned} & \lambda y. (\lambda x. \lambda y. x y) y \\ \rightarrow_{\beta} & \lambda y. ((\lambda y. x y) [x \mapsto y]) \\ =? & \lambda y. \lambda y. y y \end{aligned}$$

Problem: y is **captured** by the innermost lambda binding!
 $[x \mapsto y]$ must be a **capture-avoiding** substitution which renames the abstraction variable:

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow_{\beta} & \lambda y. ((\lambda y. x y) [x \mapsto y]) \\ \rightarrow_{\alpha} & \lambda y. ((\lambda z. x z) [x \mapsto y]) \\ = & \lambda y. \lambda z. y z \end{aligned}$$

α -conversion: $\lambda x. e \rightarrow_{\alpha} \lambda y. e [x \mapsto y]$



λ -Calculus: Convertibility

When are two λ -terms equivalent?

Every rewrite rule r induces a relation on terms \rightarrow_r . The equivalence/convertibility relation (symmetric, reflexive, transitive closure) induced by \rightarrow_r :

$$=_r := \leftrightarrow_r^* \equiv (\leftarrow_r \cup \rightarrow_r)^* \equiv (\leftarrow_r \cup = \cup \rightarrow_r)^+$$

- ▶ $\lambda x. \lambda y. y x =_\alpha \lambda y. \lambda z. z y$
 - ▶ $\lambda x. \lambda y. y x \rightarrow_\alpha \lambda y. \lambda z. z y$
- ▶ $(\lambda y. a y) b =_\beta (\lambda x. x b) a$
 - ▶ $(\lambda y. a y) b \rightarrow_\beta a b \leftarrow_\beta (\lambda x. x b) a$
- ▶ $(\lambda y. \lambda s. a s y) b =_{\alpha\beta} \lambda t. (\lambda x. t x b) a$
 - ▶ $(\lambda y. \lambda s. a s y) b \rightarrow_\beta (\lambda s. a s b) =_\alpha$
 $(\lambda x. a x b) \leftarrow_\beta \lambda t. (\lambda x. t x b) a$



λ -Calculus: Convertibility and η -Conversion

$$\left| \lambda x. (\text{putStrLn} \circ \text{show}) x \neq_{\alpha\beta} \text{putStrLn} \circ \text{show} \right.$$

even though if applied to the same argument they are β -equivalent.

η -conversion: $\lambda x. e x \rightarrow_{\eta} e$ (x does not occur free in e)

$$\left| \begin{array}{l} (\lambda x. e x) z \rightarrow_{\beta} e z \\ (\lambda x. e x) z \rightarrow_{\eta} e z \end{array} \right.$$

$$\left| \lambda x. (\text{putStrLn} \circ \text{show}) x =_{\alpha\beta\eta} \text{putStrLn} \circ \text{show} \right.$$

$\alpha\beta\eta$ -equivalence is one possible criterion for function equivalence. Point-free style programming is essentially the application of η -conversion.



Example

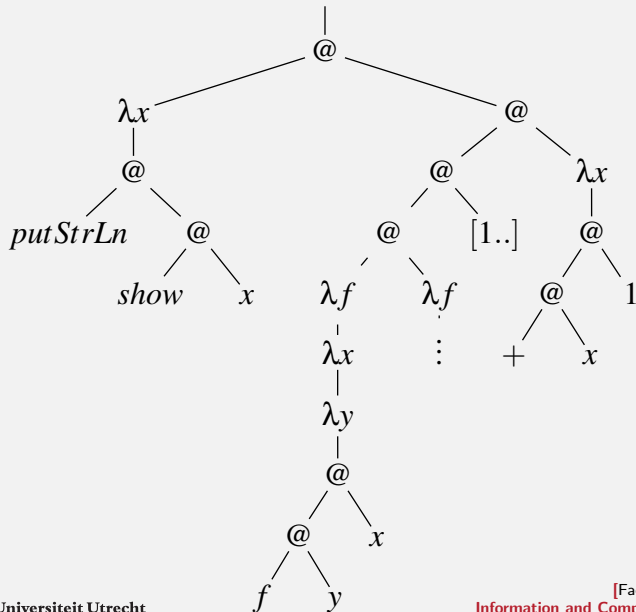
```
main    = print (flip map [1..] inc)
print x = putStrLn (show x)
flip f x y = f y x
inc x    = x + 1
map f    = ...
```

```
main = print (flip map [1..] inc)
print = λx. putStrLn (show x)
flip  = λf. λx. λy. f y x
inc   = λx. x + 1
map   = λf. ...
```

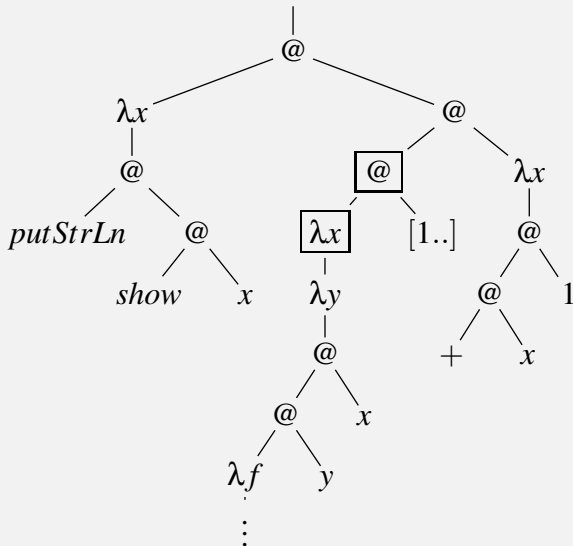
```
(λx. putStrLn (show x)) ((λf. λy. λx. f y x)
  (λf. λx. ...) [1..] (λx. x + 1))
```



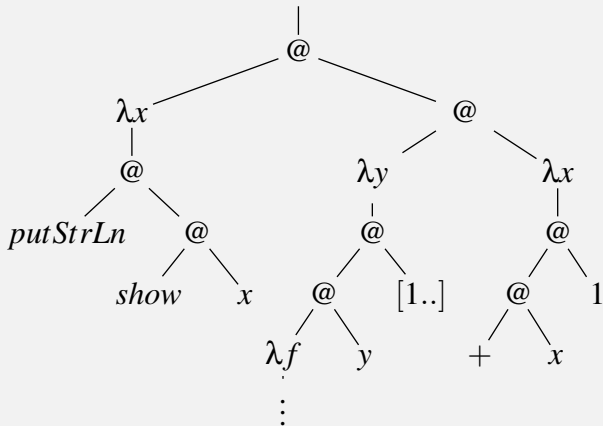
Example as a Syntax-Tree



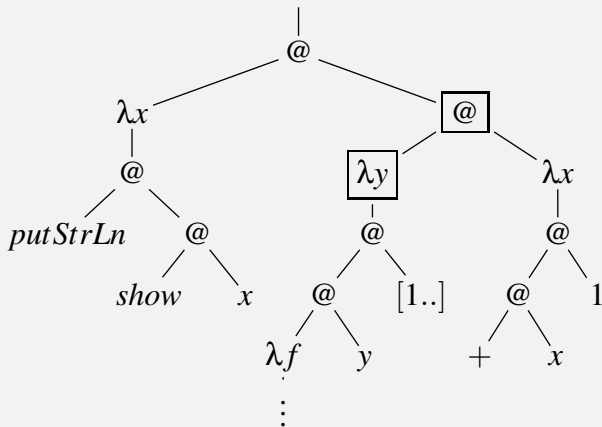
Example as a Syntax-Tree



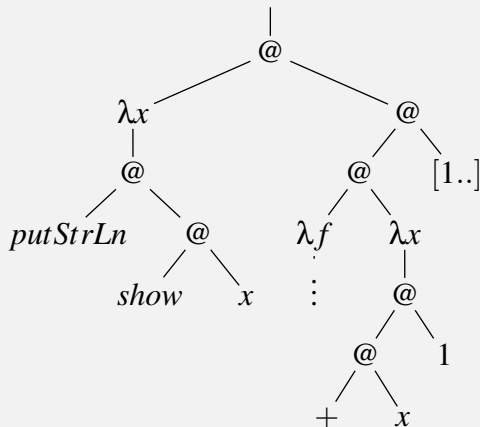
Example as a Syntax-Tree



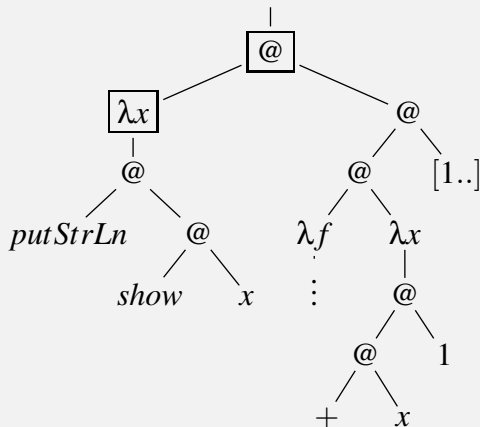
Example as a Syntax-Tree



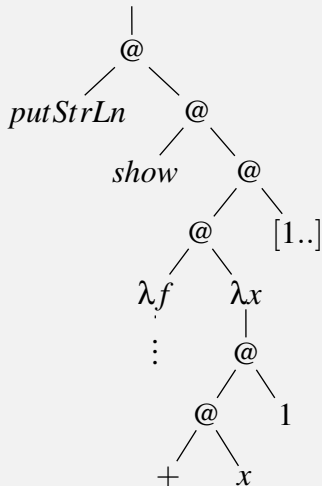
Example as a Syntax-Tree



Example as a Syntax-Tree

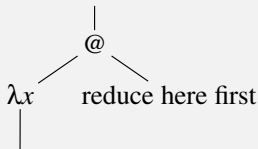


Example as a Syntax-Tree



Reduction Strategies

- ▶ Strict languages use call-by-value reduction: arguments have to be fully evaluated before a function is applied

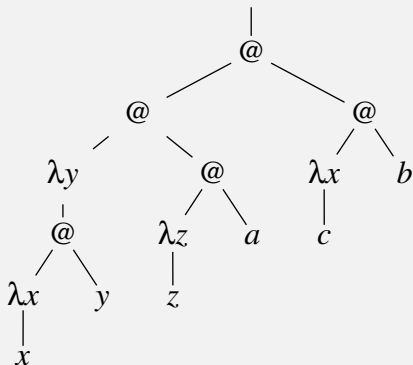


- ▶ Non-strict (lazy) evaluation: no reductions take place within the argument of a redex, for instance
- ▶ Haskell uses call-by-name reduction: always contract
 - ▶ the 'leftmost outermost' redex
 - ▶ on the spine (never in arguments)
 - ▶ not under lambda

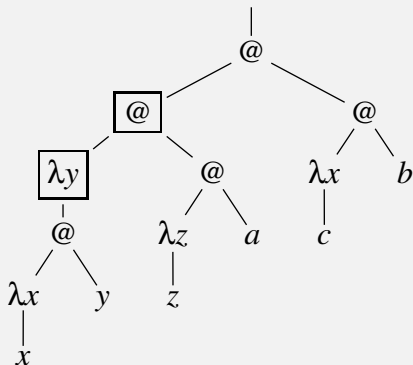
leading to **weak head normal form** (WHNF).



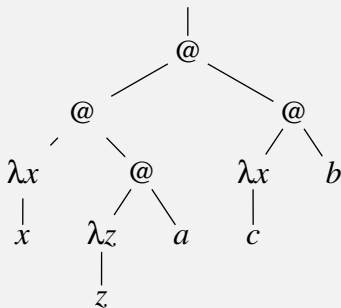
Example: Lazy Evaluation



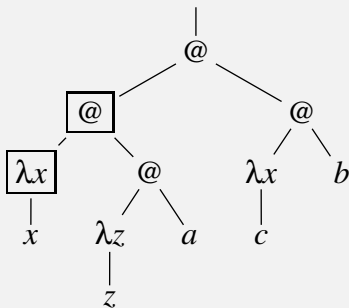
Example: Lazy Evaluation



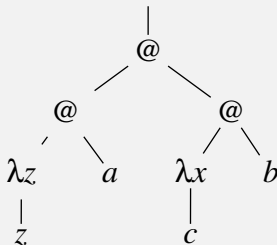
Example: Lazy Evaluation



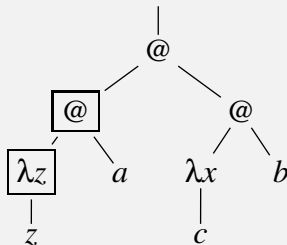
Example: Lazy Evaluation



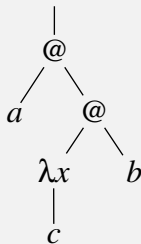
Example: Lazy Evaluation



Example: Lazy Evaluation



Example: Lazy Evaluation



Term is a WHNF but not a normal form.



Simply-Typed λ -calculus

$e ::= x$	variables
$e e$	application
$\lambda x : t. e$	lambda abstraction
$t ::= \tau$	type variable
$t \rightarrow t$	function type

Function types nest to the right:

$$\tau \rightarrow \sigma \rightarrow \rho = \tau \rightarrow (\sigma \rightarrow \rho)$$

Closed terms are typed as follows (next lecture):

- ▶ Every abstraction $\lambda x : \tau. e$ assigns a type τ to its variable x . All free occurrences of x in e have type τ . If the type of e is σ then $\lambda x : \tau. e$ is of type $\tau \rightarrow \sigma$.
- ▶ In an application $f x$ the function f must have a function type $(\tau \rightarrow \sigma)$ and the argument x must have the input type of the function (τ). The type of $f x$ then is σ .



Recursion and Turing Completeness

The simply-typed λ -calculus is strongly normalising
 \implies A program in simply-typed λ -calculus always terminates.
 \implies The simply-typed λ -calculus is not Turing complete.

A **fixed-point combinator** is a combinator fix with the property that for any f :

$$\text{fix } f = f (\text{fix } f)$$

and thus:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{fix } f &= f (\text{fix } f) \\ &= f (f (f (f \dots))) \end{aligned}$$

We say $\text{fix } f$ is a fixed point of f .



Recursion and Turing Completeness

There are many fixed-point combinators in the λ -calculus. One of the smallest and most famous ones is called Y:

$$\begin{aligned} Y &\equiv \lambda f. (\lambda x. f (x x)) (\lambda x. f (x x)) \\ Y f &\rightarrow_{\beta} (\lambda x. f (x x)) (\lambda x. f (x x)) \\ &\rightarrow_{\beta} f ((\lambda x. f (x x)) (\lambda x. f (x x))) \\ &\leftarrow_{\beta/\eta} f ((\lambda f. (\lambda x. f (x x)) (\lambda x. f (x x))) f) \equiv f (Y f) \end{aligned}$$

Fixed-point combinators can be used to express recursion:

$$\text{fac} = Y (\lambda \text{fac}. \lambda n. \text{if } n == 0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } n * \text{fac } (n - 1))$$

However: fixed-point combinators are not typeable in the simply-typed λ -calculus! Recursion in Haskell:

$$\text{let fac} = \lambda n. \text{if } n == 0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } n * \text{fac } (n - 1) \text{ in fac}$$



Haskell vs. the simply-typed λ -Calculus

syntactic sugar	desugars to
operators	functions
function parameters	lambda abstractions
pattern matching	case discrimination
guards	case discrimination
if-then-else	case discrimination on Booleans
list comprehensions	map, concat, filter
do notation	(\gg) and lambda abstractions
where	let
top-level-bindings	let
class polymorphism	higher-order functions



Haskell is ..

- ▶ λ -calculus
- ▶ extended with syntactic sugar
- ▶ a very powerful type system
- ▶ a type inferencer
- ▶ mechanisms to “fill in holes in your program” based on inferred type information



Definitions

The **let** and **where** constructs can be described by lambda expressions

$$\text{let } v = e1 \text{ in } e2 \rightsquigarrow (\lambda x \circ e2) e1$$



Definitions

The **let** and **where** constructs can be described by lambda expressions

$$\text{let } v = e1 \text{ in } e2 \rightsquigarrow (\lambda x \circ e2) e1$$

If $e1$ refers to v then first use Y to remove recursion.



Scott-Encoding of Data Types and Case Discrimination

Haskell: **data** $D = C_1 x_1 \dots x_{A_1} \mid \dots \mid C_n x_1 \dots x_{A_n}$

Scott-Encoding: $C_i = \lambda x_1 \dots \lambda x_{A_i} . \lambda c_1 \dots \lambda c_n . c_i x_1 \dots x_{A_i}$

| **data** $[a] = [] \mid a : [a]$

| $\text{map } f \ [\quad] = []$
| $\text{map } f \ (x : xs) = f \ x : \text{map } f \ xs$



Scott-Encoding of Data Types and Case Discrimination

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Scott-Encoding: $C_i = \lambda x_1 \dots \lambda x_{A_i} . \lambda c_1 \dots \lambda c_n . c_i x_1 \dots x_{A_i}$

data $[a] = [] \mid a : [a]$

$\text{map } f \text{ list} = \text{case list of}$

$[\] \rightarrow [\]$

$(x : xs) \rightarrow f x : \text{map } f \text{ xs}$



Scott-Encoding of Data Types and Case Discrimination

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Scott-Encoding: $C_i = \lambda x_1 \dots \lambda x_{A_i} . \lambda c_1 \dots \lambda c_n . c_i x_1 \dots x_{A_i}$

data List a = Nil | Cons a (List a)

map f list = **case** list **of**

Nil → Nil

Cons x xs → Cons (f x) (map f xs)



Scott-Encoding of Data Types and Case Discrimination

Haskell: **data** $D = C_1 x_1 \dots x_{A_1} \mid \dots \mid C_n x_1 \dots x_{A_n}$

Scott-Encoding: $C_i = \lambda x_1 \dots \lambda x_{A_i} . \lambda c_1 \dots \lambda c_n . c_i x_1 \dots x_{A_i}$

Nil = $\lambda \text{nil} . \lambda \text{cons} . \text{nil}$

Cons = $\lambda x . \lambda \text{xs} . \lambda \text{nil} . \lambda \text{cons} . \text{cons } x \text{ xs}$

map = $\lambda f . \lambda \text{list} . \text{list}$

Nil

($\lambda x . \lambda \text{xs} . \text{Cons } (f \ x) \ (\text{map } f \ \text{xs})$)



Recap

We have seen how most Haskell constructs can be desugared to the lambda calculus:

- ▶ constructors of datatypes using the Church encoding,
- ▶ non-recursive **let** using lambda abstractions,
- ▶ general recursion using a fixed-point combinator,
- ▶ pattern matching using possibly nested applications of case functions.



Further examples

pair = $\lambda x y f \rightarrow f x y$
first = $\lambda p \rightarrow p (\lambda x y \rightarrow x)$
second = $\lambda p \rightarrow p (\lambda x y \rightarrow y)$

true = $\lambda t f \rightarrow t$
false = $\lambda t f \rightarrow f$
if c t e = c t e



Recap – contd.

Many other Haskell constructs can be expressed in terms of the ones we have already seen – for instance:

- ▶ **where**-clauses can be transformed into **let**
- ▶ **if-then-else** can be expressed as a function
- ▶ list comprehensions can be transformed into applications of map, concat and **if-then-else**
- ▶ monadic **do** notation can be transformed into applications of a limited number of functions



Even Simpler

A straightforward implementation of the lambda calculus may give rise to arbitrary large reduction steps.



Even Simpler

A straightforward implementation of the lambda calculus may give rise to arbitrary large reduction steps. We can represent all lambda expressions using only three combinators:

$$S f g x = f x (g x)$$

$$K y x = y$$

$$I x = x$$

Translation follows the structure of lambda expressions.

$$\lambda x. x \rightsquigarrow I$$

$$\lambda x. y \rightsquigarrow K y$$

$$\lambda x. \lambda y. e \rightsquigarrow \lambda x. e' \text{ where } \lambda y. e \rightsquigarrow e'$$

$$\lambda x. e1 e2 \rightsquigarrow \lambda x. (\lambda x. e1) x ((\lambda x. e2) x)$$

$$\rightsquigarrow S (\lambda x. e1) (\lambda x. e2)$$



Graph-reduction

Note that in the application of S the argument x is doubled. By using a graph representation of our expression we only need to duplicate the pointers to the expression x .

When we overwrite an expression by its result computations are shared, and each argument is evaluated at most once!



Optimisations

The combinator S sends the argument x into both subexpressions which have K c and l 's at the leave. In case we have larger subtrees in which no x 's are needed, we can use:

$B f g x = f (g x)$ -- function composition

$C f g x = f x g$ -- happens to be the same as flip

which are used in the transformations:

$S (K f) (K g) x \rightsquigarrow (K f x) (K g x) \rightsquigarrow K (f g) x$

$S (K f) g \rightsquigarrow B f g$

$S f (K g) \rightsquigarrow C f g$



Specialised version to avoid expression blowup

Expressions soon become very complicated, exponential blow-up in size: Better to use:

$$\begin{array}{l} S' \ c \ f \ g \ x = c \ (f \ x) \ (g \ x) \\ B' \ c \ f \ g \ x = c \ f \ \ \ \ (g \ x) \\ C' \ c \ f \ g \ x = c \ (f \ x) \ g \end{array}$$

This leads for each application node to a string of S' , B' and C' 's ending in a S , B or C . Each next element tells in which directions the next argument should flow.



Even Simpler 2

The combinator I is superfluous:

$$| \quad S K K x \rightsquigarrow (K x) (K x) \rightsquigarrow x$$

and hence

$$| \quad I = S K K$$



Even Simpler 2

In 1989 Jeroen Fokker (UU) invented:

$$X = \lambda f. f S f3$$

$$f3 = \lambda p _ _ . p _ _ \text{ first of three}$$

with which

$$K y x \rightsquigarrow X X \quad y x$$

$$\rightsquigarrow X S f3 \quad y x$$

$$\rightsquigarrow S S f3 \quad f3 y x$$

$$\rightsquigarrow S f3 (f3 f3) \quad y \quad x$$

$$\rightsquigarrow f3 y (f3 f3 y) x$$

$$\rightsquigarrow y$$



Even Simpler 2

In 1989 Jeroen Fokker (UU) invented:

$$X = \lambda f. f S f3$$

$f3 = \lambda p \dots p$ -- first of three

with which

$$K y x \rightsquigarrow X X \quad y x$$

$$\rightsquigarrow X S f3 \quad y x$$

$$\rightsquigarrow S S f3 \quad f3 y x$$

$$\rightsquigarrow S f3 (f3 f3) \quad y \quad x$$

$$\rightsquigarrow f3 y (f3 f3 y) x$$

$$\rightsquigarrow y$$

And:

$$S = X (X X) = X K = K S f3 = S$$



Conclusion

If we denote X by $()$ all functions can be expressed using parentheses only.

