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# Applied Functional Programming

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# B1. Haskell and the $\lambda$ -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  $\Sigma$ : function symbols  $\{F, G, \dots\}$  of fixed arity
- ▶ set of variables  $V = \{a, b, c, \dots\}$
- ▶ set of **terms**  $Ter(\Sigma)$  over  $\Sigma$  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 $\lambda$ -Calculus

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



# $\lambda$ -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  $\lambda$ -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



# $\lambda$ -Calculus: Grammar

$\lambda$ -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



# $\lambda$ -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:

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



# $\lambda$ -Calculus: $\beta$ -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  $\lambda$ -calculus is  $\beta$ -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.



# $\lambda$ -Calculus: Name Capturing and $\alpha$ -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:

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

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



# $\lambda$ -Calculus: Convertibility

When are two  $\lambda$ -terms equivalent?

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

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

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





# $\lambda$ -Calculus: Convertibility and $\eta$ -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  $\beta$ -equivalent.

$\eta$ -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  $\eta$ -conversion.



## Example

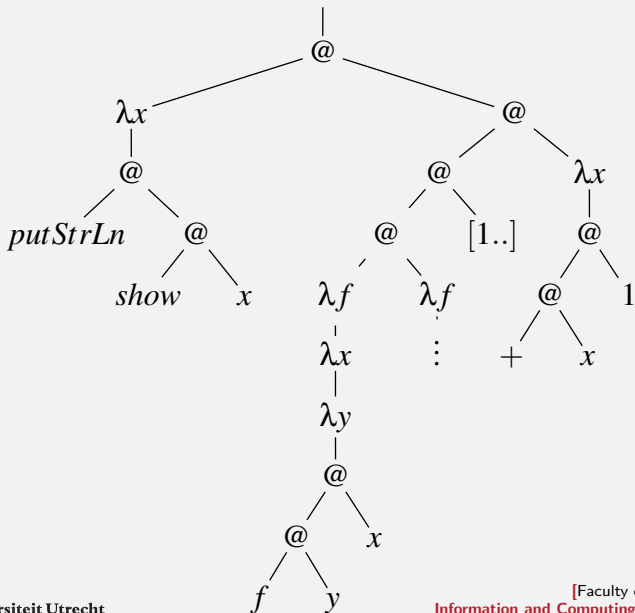
```
main    = print (flip map [1..] inc)
print x = putStrLn (show x)
flip f x y = f y x
inc x     = x + 1
map f     = ...
```

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

```
( $\lambda x.$  putStrLn (show x)) (( $\lambda f. \lambda y. \lambda x. f y x$ )
  ( $\lambda f. \lambda x. \dots$ ) [1..] ( $\lambda x. x + 1$ ))
```

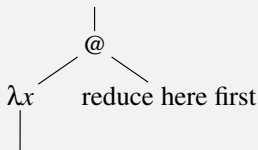


# Example as a Syntax-Tree



# Reduction Strategies

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

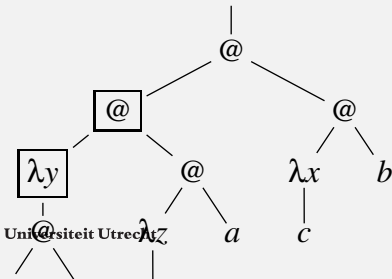
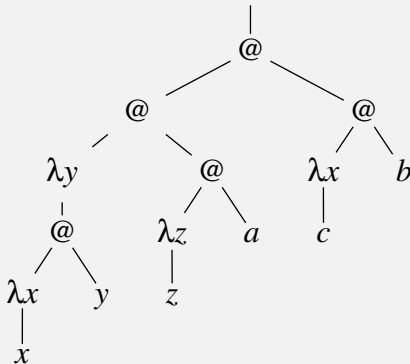


- ▶ Non-strict (lazy) evaluation: no reductions take place within the argument of a redex, for instance
- ▶ Haskell uses call-by-name reduction: always contract
  - ▶ the 'leftmost outermost' redex
  - ▶ on the spine (never in arguments)
  - ▶ not under lambda

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



# Example: Lazy Evaluation



# Simply-Typed $\lambda$ -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  $\tau$  to its variable  $x$ . All free occurrences of  $x$  in  $e$  have type  $\tau$ . If the type of  $e$  is  $\sigma$  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 ( $\tau$ ). The type of  $f x$  then is  $\sigma$ .



# Recursion and Turing Completeness

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

A **fixed-point combinator** is a combinator  $\text{fix}$  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  $\lambda$ -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  $\lambda$ -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 $\lambda$ -Calculus

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



# Haskell is ..

- ▶  $\lambda$ -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

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

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

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** 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. 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.

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

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

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

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

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



# 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:

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

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:

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

$f3 = \lambda p \dots p$  -- 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.

