

## Functional Programming

WS 2007/08

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16 November 2007

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## Overview

### Week 5 - $\lambda$ -Calculus

Summary of Week 4  
 $\lambda$ -Calculus - Introduction  
 $\lambda$ -Calculus - Formalities  
 $\lambda$ -Calculus - Data Types

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## Binary Trees

- ▶ at most 2 children per node
- ▶ used for searching
- ▶ Huffman coding

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# Huffman Coding

## Idea

- ▶ use shortest codewords for most frequent symbols

## Usage

- ▶ compression

# Raison D'être

## Goal

- ▶ find a framework in which **every** algorithm can be defined
- ▶ universal language

## Result

- ▶ Turing machines
- ▶  $\lambda$ -Calculus
- ▶ ...

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# Syntax

## $\lambda$ -Terms

$$t ::= \underbrace{x}_{\text{Variable}} \mid \underbrace{(\lambda x.t)}_{\text{Abstraction}} \mid \underbrace{(t t)}_{\text{Application}}$$

$\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{V})$  set of **all**  $\lambda$ -terms over set of variables  $\mathcal{V}$

Conventions (omit outermost parentheses)(combine nested lambdas)(application is left-associative)

$\lambda x.x$

$\lambda xy.x$

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

## Intuition

### Example ( $\lambda$ -terms)

- ▶  $\lambda x.\text{add } x \bar{1}$
- ▶  $(\lambda x.\text{add } x \bar{1}) \bar{2}$
- ▶ if true  $\bar{1} \bar{0}$
- ▶ pair  $\bar{2} \bar{4}$
- ▶ fst (pair  $\bar{2} \bar{4}$ )

### Remark

' $\bar{0}$ ', ' $\bar{1}$ ', ' $\bar{2}$ ', ' $\bar{3}$ ', ' $\bar{4}$ ', 'add', 'fst', 'if', 'pair', and 'true' are just abbreviations for more complex  $\lambda$ -terms

### Example (OCaml equivalent)

- ▶  $(\text{fun } x \rightarrow x + 1)$
- ▶  $(\text{fun } x \rightarrow x + 1) 2 \rightarrow^+ 3$
- ▶ **if true then 1 else 0  $\rightarrow 1$**
- ▶  $(2, 4)$
- ▶  $\text{fst} (2, 4) \rightarrow 2$

## Computations

### Idea

- ▶ rules to manipulate  $\lambda$ -terms
- ▶ a single rule is enough

### The $\beta$ -rule

$$(\lambda x.s) t \rightarrow_{\beta} \underbrace{s}_{\text{substitute } x \text{ by } t \text{ in } s} \{x \mapsto t\}$$

- ▶ application of a function to some input

## Examples

$$\begin{aligned} (\lambda x.x) (\lambda x.x) &\rightarrow_{\beta} \lambda x.x \\ (\lambda xy.y) (\lambda x.x) &\rightarrow_{\beta} \lambda y.y \\ (\lambda xyz.x z (y z)) (\lambda x.x) &\rightarrow_{\beta} \lambda yz.(\lambda x.x) z (y z) \\ (\lambda x.x x) (\lambda x.x x) &\rightarrow_{\beta} (\lambda x.x x) (\lambda x.x x) \\ \lambda x.x &\rightarrow_{\beta} \text{no } \beta\text{-step possible} \end{aligned}$$

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## Subterms

### Definition

$\mathcal{S}\text{ub}(t)$  is set of subterms of  $t$

$$\mathcal{S}\text{ub}(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \{t\} & t = x \\ \{t\} \cup \mathcal{S}\text{ub}(u) & t = \lambda x. u \\ \{t\} \cup \mathcal{S}\text{ub}(u) \cup \mathcal{S}\text{ub}(v) & t = u \ v \end{cases}$$

### Example

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{S}\text{ub}(\lambda xy.x) &= \{\lambda xy.x\} \cup \mathcal{S}\text{ub}(\lambda y.x) \\ &= \{\lambda xy.x, \lambda y.x\} \cup \mathcal{S}\text{ub}(x) \\ &= \{\lambda xy.x, \lambda y.x, x\} \end{aligned}$$

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## Free and Bound Variables

### Definition

variables

$$\mathcal{V}\text{ar}(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \{t\} & t = x \\ \{x\} \cup \mathcal{V}\text{ar}(u) & t = \lambda x. u \\ \mathcal{V}\text{ar}(u) \cup \mathcal{V}\text{ar}(v) & t = u \ v \end{cases}$$

free variables

$$\mathcal{F}\mathcal{V}\text{ar}(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \{t\} & t = x \\ \mathcal{F}\mathcal{V}\text{ar}(u) \setminus \{x\} & t = \lambda x. u \\ \mathcal{F}\mathcal{V}\text{ar}(u) \cup \mathcal{F}\mathcal{V}\text{ar}(v) & t = u \ v \end{cases}$$

bound variables

$$\mathcal{B}\mathcal{V}\text{ar}(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \emptyset & t = x \\ \{x\} \cup \mathcal{B}\mathcal{V}\text{ar}(u) & t = \lambda x. u \\ \mathcal{B}\mathcal{V}\text{ar}(u) \cup \mathcal{B}\mathcal{V}\text{ar}(v) & t = u \ v \end{cases}$$

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## Examples

$t$	$\mathcal{V}\text{ar}(t)$	$\mathcal{F}\mathcal{V}\text{ar}(t)$	$\mathcal{B}\mathcal{V}\text{ar}(t)$
$\lambda x.x$	$\{x\}$	$\emptyset$	$\{x\}$
$x \ y$	$\{x, y\}$	$\{x, y\}$	$\emptyset$
$(\lambda x.x) \ x$	$\{x\}$	$\{x\}$	$\{x\}$
$\lambda x.x \ y \ z$	$\{x, y, z\}$	$\{y, z\}$	$\{x\}$

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## Substitutions

### Definition

function from variables to terms

$$\sigma: \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{V})$$

such that only for finitely many  $x \in \mathcal{V}$ ,  $\sigma(x) \neq x$

### Notation

set of bindings for all  $x \in \mathcal{V}$  with  $\sigma(x) \neq x$

$$\sigma = \{x_1 \mapsto t_1, \dots, x_n \mapsto t_n\}$$

## Example

$$\sigma = \{x \mapsto z, y \mapsto \lambda x.x\} \text{ hence } \sigma(x) = z \text{ and } \sigma(y) = \lambda x.x$$

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## Substitutions (cont'd)

### Definition (Domain)

**domain** of  $\sigma$  (i.e., altered variables)

$$\mathcal{D}\text{om}(\sigma) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{x \in \mathcal{V} \mid \sigma(x) \neq x\}$$

### Definition (Restriction)

**restriction** of  $\sigma$  to set of variables  $X$

$$\sigma|_X \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{x \mapsto t \in \sigma \mid x \in X\}$$

### Example

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{D}\text{om}(\{x \mapsto z, y \mapsto \lambda x.x\}) &= \{x, y\} \\ \{x \mapsto z, y \mapsto \lambda x.x\}|_{\{x\}} &= \{x \mapsto z\}\end{aligned}$$

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## Substitutions (cont'd)

### Definition (Application)

**apply** substitution  $\sigma$  to term  $t$

$$t\sigma \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} \sigma(t) & t = x \\ \lambda x.(u\sigma|_{\mathcal{F}\mathcal{V}\text{ar}(t)}) & t = \lambda x.u \\ (u\sigma)(v\sigma) & t = u v \end{cases}$$

### Example

$$\sigma = \{x \mapsto \lambda x.x, z \mapsto \lambda x.x\}$$

$$x\sigma = \lambda x.x$$

$$y\sigma = y$$

$$(\lambda x.x)\sigma = \lambda x.x$$

$$(\lambda x.x z)\sigma = \lambda x.x (\lambda x.x z)$$

$$(z z)\sigma = (\lambda x.x z) (\lambda x.x z)$$

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## $\beta$ -Reduction

### Definition (Context)

**context**  $C \in \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{V})$

$$C ::= \square \mid \lambda x.C \mid C\ t \mid t\ C$$

with  $x \in \mathcal{V}$  and  $t \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{V})$

- $C[s]$  denotes replacing  $\square$  by term  $s$  in context  $C$

### Example

$$C_1 = \square$$

$$C_2 = x \ \square$$

$$C_3 = \lambda x.\square\ x$$

$$C_1[\lambda x.x] = \lambda x.x$$

$$C_2[\lambda x.x] = x\ (\lambda x.x)$$

$$C_3[\lambda x.x] = \lambda x.(\lambda x.x)\ x$$

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## $\beta$ -Reduction (cont'd)

### Definition ( $\beta$ -step)

if exist context  $C$  and terms  $s, u$ , and  $v$  such that

$$s = C[(\lambda x.u)\ v]$$

then

$$s \rightarrow_{\beta} C[u\{x \mapsto v\}]$$

is a  **$\beta$ -step** with **redex**  $(\lambda x.u)\ v$  and **contractum**  $u\{x \mapsto v\}$

- $s \rightarrow_{\beta}^+ t$  denotes sequence  $s = t_1 \rightarrow_{\beta} t_2 \rightarrow_{\beta} \dots \rightarrow_{\beta} t_n = t$  with  $n > 0$
- $s \rightarrow_{\beta}^* t$  is sequence with  $n \geq 0$  ( $s$   **$\beta$ -reduces** to  $t$ )

### Example

$$\Omega = (\lambda x.x\ x) (\lambda x.x\ x)$$

$$K_* = \lambda xy.y$$

$$K_* \Omega \rightarrow_{\beta} K_* \Omega \rightarrow_{\beta} \dots$$

$$K_* \Omega \rightarrow_{\beta} \lambda y.y$$

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## Problem

### Example

- ▶ consider  $\lambda xy.x$
- ▶ behavior: "take 2 arguments, ignore second, return first"
- ▶  $(\lambda xy.x) y z \rightarrow_{\beta} (\lambda y.y) z \rightarrow_{\beta} z$
- ▶ clearly not intended (Problem: variable capture)

### Idea

- ▶ always rename bound variables before applying substitution
- ▶  $(\lambda xy.x) y z \rightarrow_{\alpha} (\lambda x'y'.x') y z \rightarrow_{\beta} (\lambda y'.y) z \rightarrow_{\beta} y$

## Solution

### The $\alpha$ -rule

$$C[\lambda x.t] \rightarrow_{\alpha} C[\lambda x'.t\{x \mapsto x'\}] \quad \text{if } x' \notin \text{Var}(t)$$

- ▶ always possible in both directions, i.e.,  $s \rightarrow_{\alpha} t \iff t \rightarrow_{\alpha} s$
- ▶ hence  $\alpha$ -conversion ( $\leftrightarrow_{\alpha}$ )

### Avoid variable capture

- ▶ always  $\alpha$ -convert before applying  $\beta$

## What Are the Results of Computations?

### Idea

- ▶ only terms in  $\lambda$ -calculus
- ▶ express functions and values through  $\lambda$ -terms

### Definition (Normal form)

$t \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{V})$  is in normal form if no  $\beta$ -step is applicable

### Example

$$\begin{array}{ll} \lambda x.x & \text{NF} \\ (\lambda x.x) y & \text{not in NF} \end{array}$$

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## Booleans and Conditionals

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- ▶ **true**
- ▶ **false**
- ▶ **if**  $b$  **then**  $t$  **else**  $e$

### Example

$$\begin{aligned} \text{if true } x \ y &\rightarrow_{\beta} \text{true } x \ y \rightarrow_{\beta} x \\ \text{if false } x \ y &\rightarrow_{\beta} \text{false } x \ y \rightarrow_{\beta} y \end{aligned}$$

 $\lambda$ -Calculus

- ▶  $\text{true} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda xy.x$
- ▶  $\text{false} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda xy.y$
- ▶  $\text{if } \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda xyz.x \ y \ z$

## Natural Numbers

### Definition

$$\begin{aligned} s^0 \ t &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} t \\ s^{n+1} \ t &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} s(s^n t) \end{aligned}$$

OCaml

- ▶ **0**
- ▶ **1**
- ▶ **n**
- ▶ **( + )**
- ▶ **( \* )**
- ▶ **( \*\* )**

 $\lambda$ -Calculus

- ▶  $\bar{0} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda fx.x$
- ▶  $\bar{1} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda fx.f \ x$
- ▶  $\bar{n} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda fx.f^n \ x$
- ▶  $\text{add} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda mnfx.m \ f \ (n \ f \ x)$
- ▶  $\text{mul} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda mnf.m \ (n \ f)$
- ▶  $\text{exp} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda mn.n \ m$

## Pairs

OCaml

- ▶ **fun**  $x \ y \rightarrow (x, y)$
- ▶ **fst**
- ▶ **snd**

 $\lambda$ -Calculus

- ▶  $\text{pair} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda xyf.f \ x \ y$
- ▶  $\text{fst} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda p.p \ \text{true}$
- ▶  $\text{snd} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda p.p \ \text{false}$

OCaml

- ▶ **::**
- ▶ **hd**
- ▶ **tl**
- ▶ **[]**
- ▶ **fun**  $x \rightarrow x = []$

 $\lambda$ -Calculus

- ▶  $\text{cons} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda xy.\text{pair} \ \text{false} \ (\text{pair} \ x \ y)$
- ▶  $\text{hd} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda z.\text{fst} \ (\text{snd} \ z)$
- ▶  $\text{tl} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda z.\text{snd} \ (\text{snd} \ z)$
- ▶  $\text{nil} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda x.x$
- ▶  $\text{null} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{fst}$

## Recursion

## OCaml

```
let rec length x = if x = [] then 0 else 1 + length (tl x);;
```

 $\lambda$ -Calculus

$$\text{length} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} Y (\lambda f x. \text{if } (\text{null } x) \text{ then } 0 \text{ else } 1 + f (\text{tl } x))$$

Definition ( $Y$ -combinator)

$$Y \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda f. (\lambda x. f (x x)) (\lambda x. f (x x))$$

$Y$  has **fixed point property**, i.e., for all  $t \in T(\mathcal{V})$

$$Y t \rightarrow_{\beta}^* t (Y t)$$