

Functional Programming

Exercises Week 8

(for December 4, 2015)

1. Consider the following data type, representing first-order terms:

```
type term = Var of string | Fun of string * term list
```

The term $f(x, y)$, for example, corresponds to `Fun ("f", [Var "x", Var "y"])`. Implement a function `vars : term -> string list` that computes the list of all variables occurring in a given term.

2. Substitutions are functions from variables to terms (type `string -> term` in OCaml). Define the empty substitution `id : string -> term` (i.e., a substitution that does not change anything when applied to a term) and a function `mk_subst : string -> term -> (string -> term)` where `mk_subst x t` creates the singleton substitution that maps x to t and leaves all other variables unchanged (for brevity, this is written $\{x/t\}$).
3. Implement a function `subst : (string -> term) -> term -> term` that applies a substitution to a term. Example: `subst {x/t} f(x, y) = f(t, y)`.
4. Use structural induction on `terms` to show that whenever two substitutions σ and τ coincide on all variables occurring in a term t , then applying σ to t and τ to t both result in the same term, i.e., $(\forall x \in \text{vars } t. \sigma x = \tau x) \implies \text{subst } \sigma t = \text{subst } \tau t$.
5. Use structural induction on `lists` to show that whenever $fx = x$ for all $x \in xs$, then `map f xs = xs`, i.e., $(\forall x \in xs. f x = x) \implies \text{map } f xs = xs$.
6. (★) Use the result of Exercise 5 to prove (by structural induction on `terms`) that substituting for a variable that does not occur in a term, does not change the term, i.e., $x \notin \text{vars } t \implies \text{subst } \{x/s\} t = t$.
7. (★) Use the result of Exercise 6 to prove (by structural induction on `terms`) that the order of applying singleton substitutions is irrelevant whenever they “do not interfere.” More formally:

$$x \neq y \wedge x \notin \text{vars } s \wedge y \notin \text{vars } u \implies \\ \text{subst } \{y/s\} (\text{subst } \{x/u\} t) = \text{subst } \{x/u\} (\text{subst } \{y/x\} t)$$