Lambda Cases (lcases)

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1 Introduction

Haskell is a delightful language. Yet, for some reason, it doesn't seem to have it's rightful place in terms of popularity in industry. Why is it so? Is it inherently hard to learn and therefore only the brave enough students and corporations dare to use it, or could it be that the syntax is perplexing to the amateur eye? It is my belief that with some syntax changes that give a greater familiarity to the new user, there would be no language more compelling than (the new) Haskell. In an attempt to achieve that familiarity, I present some new syntax, of which some is closer to the imperative/OOP style (to attract more already experienced programmers from these languages), some is closer to mathematics (in which most programmers should be experienced) and some is closer to natural language (in which we are all already experienced).

2 Language Description

An leases program consists of a set of value, type and predicate definitions along with type theorems. The "main" value determines the program's behaviour. Constants and functions are all considered values and they have no real distinction other than the fact that functions have a function type and constants don't. Functions (just like "values") can be passed to other functions as arguments or can be returned as a result of other functions.

Program example: extended euclidean alogirthm

```
// type definitions
tuple_type Coeffs
value (previous, current) : Int x Int
tuple_type GcdAndCoeffs
value (gcd, a, b) : Int x Int x Int
// algorithm
extended_euclidean: (Int, Int) => GcdAndCoeffs
  = (init_a_coeffs, init_b_coeffs) -> ee_recursion
init_a_coeffs, init_b_coeffs: all Coeffs
  = (1, 0), (0, 1)
ee_recursion: (Coeffs, Coeffs, Int, Int) => GcdAndCoeffs
  = (a_coeffs, b_coeffs, x, cases) =>
    0 => (x, a_coeffs.previous, b_coeffs.previous)
    y =>
      ee_recursion(next <- a_coeffs, next <- b_coeffs, y, x -> mod <- y)
      where
      next: Coeffs => Coeffs
        = fields => (current, previous - x / y * current)
// reading, printing and main
read_two_ints : (Int x Int)WithIO
  = print <- "Please give me 2 ints";
    get_line :> split_words o> apply(from_string)to_all o> ints =>
```

```
ints -> length -> cases =>
    2 => ints -> with_io
    ... => io_error <- "You didn't give me 2 ints"

print_gcd_and_coeffs : GcdAndCoeffs => (EmptyValue)WithIO
    = fields => print("Gcd: " + gcd + "\nCoefficients: a = " + a + ", b = " + b)

main : (EmptyValue)WithIO
    = read_two_ints :> ints =>
    extended_euclidean(ints.1st, ints.2nd) -> print_gcd_and_coeffs
```

2.1 Basic Expressions

2.1.1 Literals and Identifiers

Literals

• Examples

```
1 2 17 42 -100

1.61 2.71 3.14 -1234.567

'a' 'b' 'c' 'x' 'y' 'z' '.' ',' '\n'

"Hello World!" "What's up, doc?" "Alrighty then!"
```

• Description

We have literals for the four basic types: Int, Real, Char, String. These are the usual integers, real numbes, characters and strings. The exact specification of literals is the same as in the Haskell report.

• Grammar

```
\langle literal \rangle ::= \langle literal \rangle
```

TODO add the grammar from the haskell report

Identifiers

• Examples

```
x y z
a1 a2 a3
funny_identifier
unnecessarily_long_identifier
apply()to_all
```

• Description

An identifier is a string used as the name of a value. It is first used in the definition of the value (see "value definition" section 2.4) and later used in the definition of other values that use that defined value. An identifier starts with a lower case letter and is followed by lower case letters or underscores. It also possible to have a pairs of parentheses in the middle of an identifier (see "parenthesis function application" section 2.3.1). Finally, an identifier can be ended with a digit.

• Grammar

```
(identifier) ::= [a-z]([a-z]) (()'[a-z]) * [[0-9]]
```

2.1.2 Tuples and Lists

Tuples

• Examples

```
(1, "What's up, doc?")
(2, "Alrighty then!", 3.14)
(x, y, z, w)
(1, my_function, (x, y, z) => (x ^ 2 + y ^ 2 + z ^ 2) ^ (1/2))
```

• Description

Tuples are used to group many values (of possibly different types) into one. The type of the tuple can be either the product of the types of the subvalues or a defined tuple_type which is equivalent to the afformentioned product type i.e. the product type is in the definition of the tuple_type (see "tuple_type" section 2.5.2). For example, the type of the second example above could be:

```
Int x String x Real
or:
MyType
assuming "MyType" has been defined in a similar way to the following:
tuple_type MyType
value (my_int, my_string, my_real) : Int x String x Real
• Grammar
```

Lists

• Examples

```
[1, 2, 17, 42, -100]
[1.61, 2.71, 3.14, -1234.567]
["Hello World!", "What's up, doc?", "Alrighty then!"]
[x, y, z, w]
```

 $\langle tuple \rangle ::= (\langle value-expression \rangle (\langle value-expression \rangle) + (\langle value$

ullet Description

Lists are used to group many values of the same type into one. The type of the list is ListOf(A)s where A is the type of every value inside. Therefore, the types of the first three examples are:

```
ListOf(Int)s
ListOf(Real)s
ListOf(String)s
```

And the last list is only legal if x, y, z and w all have the same type. Assuming they do and it's the type T, the type of the list is:

ListOf(T)s

• Grammar

```
\langle list \rangle ::= `[' [\langle value\text{-}expression \rangle ( `, \_' \langle value\text{-}expression \rangle )^*] `]'
```

2.2 Operators

2.2.1 Function Application Operators

The function application operators "->" and "<-" are a different way to apply functions to arguments than the usual parenthesis function application. Each one applies the function from the corresponding direction. The operators are meant to look like arrows that point from the argument to the function. These operators are very useful for chaining many function applications without the clutter of having to open and close parentheses for each one of the functions.

For example, assuming we have the following functions with the behaviour suggested by their names and types:

= sum_ints <- filter(is_odd) <- apply(string_length)to_all <- strings

These operators can also be used together to put a function between two arguments if that function is commonly used that way in math (or if it looks better for a certain function). For example the "mod" function can be used like so:

```
x -> mod <- y
Instead of:
mod(x, y)</pre>
```

Operator	Type
->	(A, A => B) => B
<-	(A => B, A) => B

2.2.2 Function Composition Operators

The function composition operators "o>" and "<o" are used to compose funtions, each one in the corresponding direction. The use of the letter 'o' is meant to be similar to the mathematical function composition symbol 'o' and the symbols '>', '<' are used so that the operator points from the function which is applied first to the function which is applied second. A neat example using function composition is the following. Assuming we have the following functions with the behaviour suggested by their names and types:

```
split_words : String => ListOf(String)s
apply()to_all : (A => B, ListOf(A)s) => ListOf(B)s
reverse_word: String => String
merge_words : ListOf(String)s => String
```

We can reverse the all the words in a string like so:

```
reverse_words : String => String
= split_words o> apply(reverse_word)to_all o> merge_words
```

Ofcourse this can be done equivalently using the other operator:

```
reverse_words : String => String
= merge_words <0 apply(reverse_word)to_all <0 split_words</pre>
```

2.2.3 Arithmetic Operators

The usual arithmetic operators work as they are expected, similarly to mathematics and other programming languages. However, they are generalized. The examples below show their generality:

```
>> 1 + 1
2
>> 1 + 3.14
4.14
>> 'a' + 'b'
"ab"
>> 'w' + "ord"
"word"
>> "Hello " + "World!"
"Hello World!"
>> 5 * 'a'
"aaaaa"
>> 5 * "hi"
"hihihihihi"
>> "1,2,3" - ','
"123"
```

The generality can also be seen from their types in the table below:

Operator	Туре
^	(A) ToThe (B) Gives $(C) \longrightarrow (A, B) \Longrightarrow C$
*	$(A)And(B)MultiplyTo(C) \longrightarrow (A, B) \Longrightarrow C$
/	(A) Divides (B) To $(C) \longrightarrow (B, A) \Longrightarrow C$
+	$(A)And(B)AddTo(C) \longrightarrow (A, B) \Longrightarrow C$
-	(A)SubtractsFrom(B)To(C) \longrightarrow (B, A) \Longrightarrow C

Let's analyze further the example of addition. The type can be read as such: the '+' operator has the type $(A, B) \Rightarrow C$, provided that the type proposition (A)And(B)AddTo(C) holds. This proposition being true, means that addition has been defined for these three types (see section "type logic" 2.6 for more on type propositions). For example, by the examples above we can see that the following propositions are true (in the order of the examples):

```
(Int)And(Int)AddTo(Int)
(Int)And(Real)AddTo(Real)
(Char)And(Char)AddTo(String)
(Char)And(String)AddTo(String)
(Int)And(Char)MultiplyTo(String)
(Int)And(String)MultiplyTo(String)
(Char)SubtractsFrom(String)To(String)
```

This allows us to use the familiar arithmetic operators in types that are not necessarily numbers but it is somewhat intuitively obvious what the should do in those other types. Furthermore, their behaviour can be defined by the user for new user defined types!

2.2.4 Comparison and Boolean Operators

2.2.5 Monadic Operators

2.2.6 Complete Table, Precedence, Associativity and Grammar

Operator	Туре	Description
->	(A, A => B) => B	Right function application
<-	(A => B, A) => B	Left function application
0>	(A => B, B => C) => (A => C)	Right function composition
<0	(B => C, A => B) => (A => C)	Left function composition
^	(A) ToThe (B) Gives $(C) \longrightarrow (A, B) \Longrightarrow C$	General exponentiation
*	(A)And(B)MultiplyTo(C) \longrightarrow (A, B) \Longrightarrow C	General multiplication
/	(A)Divides(B)To(C) \longrightarrow (B, A) \Longrightarrow C	General division
+	$(A)And(B)AddTo(C) \longrightarrow (A, B) \Longrightarrow C$	General addition
-	(A)SubtractsFrom(B)To(C)> (B, A) => C	General subtraction
= /=	(A)HasEquality $>$ (A, A) $=>$ Bool	Equality operators
> < >= <=	(A)HasOrder $>$ (A, A) $=>$ Bool	Order operators
&	(Bool, Bool) => Bool	Boolean operators
:>	(E)IsAnEnvironment> (E(A), A => E(B)) => E(B)	Monad bind
;	(E)IsAnEnvironment> (E(A), E(B)) => E(B)	Monad then

Operator	Precedence	Associativity
->	10	Left
<-	9	Right
o> <o< td=""><td>8</td><td>Left</td></o<>	8	Left
^	7	Right
* /	6	Left
+ -	5	Left
= /= > < >= <=	4	None
&	3	Left
l	2	Left
:> ;	1	Left

Grammar

2.3 Functions

2.3.1 Parenthesis Function Application

Examples

```
f(x)
f(x, y, z)
(x)to_string
apply(f)to_all
apply(f)to_all(1)
```

Description

Function application in leases can be done in many different ways in an attempt to maximize readability. In this section, we discuss the ways function application can be done with parenthesis. In the first two examples, we have the usual mathematical function application which is also used in most programming languages and should be familiar to the reader. That is, function application is done with the arguments of the function in parenthesis seperated by commas and **appended** to the function identifier.

We extend this idea by allowing the arguments to be **prepended** to the function identifier (third example). Finally, it is also possible to to have the arguments **inside** the function identifier provided the function has been **defined** with parentheses inside the identifier. For example, below is the definition of "apply()to all":

```
apply()to_all: (A => B, ListOf(A)s) => ListOf(B)s
= (f, cases) =>
    empty => empty
    non_empty:1 => non_empty:(f <- l.head, apply(f)to_all <- l.tail)</pre>
```

The actual definition doesn't matter at this point, what matters is that the identifier is "apply()to_all" with the parentheses **included**. This is very useful for defining functions where the argument in the middle makes the function application look and sound more like natural language.

In is possible that many paratheses pairs are present in a single function application (last example). The arguments are always inserted to the function from **left to right**. Therefore, when multiple parentheses pairs are present the arguments of the leftmost parentheses are inserted first then the next ones to the right and so on.

Grammar

```
⟨parenthesis-function-application⟩ ::=
  ⟨arguments⟩ (⟨identifier-with-arguments⟩ | ⟨identifier⟩)
  | (⟨identifier-with-arguments⟩ | ⟨identifier⟩ ) ⟨arguments⟩
  | ⟨identifier-with-arguments⟩
⟨arguments⟩ ::= '('⟨value-expression⟩ (', ', ', '⟨value-expression⟩ )* ')'
```

```
\langle identifier\text{-}with\text{-}arguments \rangle ::=  [a-z] \langle id\text{-}char\text{-}or\text{-}paren\text{-}id\text{-}char \rangle^* ( \langle arguments \rangle [a-z_] \langle id\text{-}char\text{-}or\text{-}paren\text{-}id\text{-}char \rangle^*)+ [ [0-9] ] \langle id\text{-}char\text{-}or\text{-}paren\text{-}id\text{-}char \rangle ::= [a-z_] | `()`[a-z_]
```

2.3.2 Function Expressions

Examples

```
a \Rightarrow 17 * a + 42
(x, y, z) \Rightarrow (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{(1/2)}
```

Description

Function expressions are used to define functions or pass anonymous functions as arguments to other functions. They are comprised by their parameters and their body. The parameters are either only one in which case a single identifier is used, or they are many in which case many identifiers are used in parentheses, seperated by a comma. The parameters and the body are seperated by an arrow. The body is an operator expression.

Grammar

```
\langle function\text{-}expression \rangle ::= \langle parameters \rangle ` \Box = > \Box ` \langle operator\text{-}expression \rangle
\langle parameters \rangle ::= \langle identifier \rangle \mid ` (` \langle identifier \rangle (` `, \Box ` \langle identifier \rangle ) + `)`
```

2.3.3 Special Function Parameters

```
x => body
(x, y, z) => body
cases => body
(x, cases, z) => body
```

2.3.4 Expressions

Examples

42

х

funny_identifier

```
[1, 2, 3]
```

"Hello world!"

$$x \rightarrow mod \leftarrow y$$

1.61 * 2.71 + 3.14

$$a \Rightarrow 17 * a + 42$$

$$(x, y, z) \Rightarrow (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^(1/2)$$

```
n \rightarrow +1 \rightarrow ^2 \rightarrow *3 \rightarrow print

f(x, y, z) + g(1, 2, 3)
```

Description

The base of expressions, are literals and identifiers, those can be combined either with operators, or by normal function application with mathematical notation. Finally, on top of that there can be added one of more abstractions (parameters) in the beginning of the expressions with an arrow.

Grammar

2.4 Value Definitions

Examples

Description

To define a new value you give it a name, a type and an expression. It is possible to group value definitions by seperating the names, the types and the expressions with commas. It is also possible to use the keyword "all" to give the same type to all the values.

Grammar

```
 \langle value\text{-}definitions \rangle ::= \langle identifiers \rangle \text{`}_{\square}\text{:}_{\square}\text{'} (\langle types \rangle \mid \text{`all'} \langle type \rangle) \text{`}_{\square}\text{='} \langle value\text{-}expressions \rangle   \langle identifiers \rangle ::= \langle identifier \rangle \text{ (`,}_{\square}\text{'} \langle identifier \rangle \text{)*}   \langle types \rangle ::= \langle type \rangle \text{ (`,}_{\square}\text{'} \langle type \rangle \text{)*}   \langle value\text{-}expressions \rangle ::= \langle value\text{-}expression \rangle \text{ (`,}_{\square}\text{'} \langle value\text{-}expression \rangle \text{)*}
```

2.5 Types

2.5.1 Type expressions

Examples

Int

String => String

Int x Int

Int x Int => Real

A => A

$$(A \Rightarrow B, B \Rightarrow C) \Rightarrow (A \Rightarrow C)$$

$$((A, A) \Rightarrow A, A, ListOf(A)s) \Rightarrow A$$

$$((B, A) \Rightarrow B, B, ListOf(A)s) \Rightarrow B$$

(T)HasStringRepresention --> T => String

Description

Examples	Description
Int	
Char	Base types
String	
A => A	Polymorphic types. A, B, C are type variables
(A => B, B => C) => (A => C)	

Differences from Haskell

lcases	haskell	difference description
A => A	a => a	Type variables for polymorphic types are

Grammar

$$\langle type-application\rangle \mid \langle product-type\rangle \mid \langle function-type\rangle$$

$$\langle type-application\rangle ::= [\langle types-in-paren\rangle] \langle type-identifier\rangle (\langle types-in-paren\rangle) ([A-Za-z])^*\rangle^* [\langle types-in-paren\rangle]$$

$$\langle types-in-paren\rangle ::= '('\langle type\rangle) (', '\langle type\rangle)^* ')'$$

$$\langle type-identifier\rangle ::= [A-Z] ([A-Za-z])^*$$

$$\langle product-type\rangle ::= \langle product-subtype\rangle (' \Box x \Box '\langle product-subtype\rangle) +$$

$$\langle product-subtype\rangle ::= '('(\langle function-type\rangle) |\langle product-type\rangle) ')' |\langle type-application\rangle$$

```
\langle function\text{-}type \rangle ::= \langle input\text{-}types\text{-}expression \rangle ` = > ' \langle one\text{-}type \rangle
\langle input-types-expression \rangle ::= \langle one-type \rangle \mid \langle two-or-more-types-in-paren \rangle
\langle one\text{-type} \rangle ::= \langle type\text{-application} \rangle \mid \langle product\text{-type} \rangle \mid \text{`('} \langle function\text{-type} \rangle ')'
\langle two\text{-}or\text{-}more\text{-}types\text{-}in\text{-}paren \rangle ::= '(' \langle type \rangle (', ' \langle type \rangle) + ')'
2.5.2 Tuple Types
Definition Examples
tuple_type Name
value (first_name, last_name) : String x String
tuple_type ClientInfo
value (name, age, nationality) : Name x Int x String
tuple_type Date
value (day, month, year) : Int x Int x Int
tuple_type (A)And(B)
value (a_value, b_value) : A x B
tuple_type (ExprT)WithPosition
value (expr, line, column) : ExprT x Int x Int
Usage Examples
giorgos_info : ClientInfo
  = (("Giorgos", "Papadopoulos"), 42, "Greek")
john_info : ClientInfo
  = (("John", "Doe"), 42, "American")
name_to_string : Name => String
  = fields => "First Name: " + first_name + "\nLast Name: " + last_name
print_name_and_nationality : ClientInfo => (EmptyValue)WithIO
  = fields => print(name -> name_to_string + "\nNationality: " + nationality)
print_error_in_expr : (SomeDefinedExprT)WithPosition => (EmptyValue)WithIO
  = ewp =>
     print(
       "Error in the expression:" + es +
        "\nAt the position: (" + ls + ", " + cs + ")"
     where
     es, ls, cs : all String
       = ewp.expr->to_string, ewp.line->to_string, ewp.column->to_string
```

Description

Tuple types group many values into a single value. They are specified by their name, the names of their subvalues and the types of their subvalues. They generate projection functions for all of their subvalues by using a '.' before the name of the subvalue. For example the ClientInfo type above generates the following functions:

```
.name : ClientInfo => String
.age : ClientInfo => Int
.nationality : ClientInfo => String
```

These functions shall be named "postfix functions" as the can just be appended to their argument.

Definition Grammar

2.5.3 Or Types

Examples

```
or_type Bool
values true | false
or_type Possibly(A)
values the_value:A | no_value
or_type ListOf(A)s
values non_empty:HeadAndTailOf(A)s | empty
tuple_type HeadAndTailOf(A)s
value (head : A, tail : ListOf(A)s)
is_empty : ListOf(A)s => Bool
  = cases =>
    empty => true
    non_empty:anything => false
get_head : ListOf(A)s => Possibly(A)
  = cases =>
    empty => no_value
   non_empty:list => the_value:list.head
```

Description

Values of an or_type are one of many cases that possibly have other values inside. The cases which have other values inside are followed by a semicolon and the type of the internal value. The same syntax can be used for matching that particular case in a fucntion using the "cases" syntax, with the difference that after the colon, we write the name given to the value inside. Or_types and basic types are the only types on which the "cases" syntax can be used. The cases of an or_type which have a value inside create functions. For example, the case "non_empty" of a list creates the function "non_empty:" for which we can say:

```
non_empty: : HeadAndTailOf(A)s => ListOf(A)s
Similarly:
the_value: : A => Possibly(A)
```

These functions shall be named "prefix functions" as they are prepended to their argument. For example:

These functions can be used like any other function as arguments to other functions. For example:

Definition Grammar

```
\langle or\text{-}type\text{-}definition \rangle ::= \langle or\text{-}type\text{-}i' \rangle \langle type\text{-}application \rangle \land \text{nvalues}_i' \langle identifier \rangle [ `:' \langle type \rangle ] ( `\_i |_i' \langle identifier \rangle [ `:' \langle type \rangle ])^*
```

- 2.6 Type Logic
- 2.6.1 Type Predicate
- 2.6.2 Type Proposition
- 2.6.3 Type Theorem
- 2.7 Grammar
- 2.7.1 Tokens

Keywords

cases use_fields tuple_type or_type

Value names

Type names

2.7.2 Core Grammar

Program

```
 \langle program \rangle \qquad ::= (\langle value\text{-}definitions \rangle \mid \langle type\text{-}def \rangle) + \\ \langle value\text{-}definitions \rangle \qquad ::= \langle identifiers \rangle \; `_{\square} :_{\square} ' \; (\langle types \rangle \mid \text{`all'} \; \langle type \rangle) \; `_{\square} = ' \; \langle value\text{-}expressions \rangle \\ \langle identifiers \rangle \qquad ::= \langle identifier \rangle \; (\; `,_{\square} ' \; \langle identifier \rangle \; )^* \\ \langle types \rangle \qquad ::= \langle type \rangle \; (\; `,_{\square} ' \; \langle type \rangle \; )^* \\ \langle value\text{-}expressions \rangle \qquad ::= \langle value\text{-}expression \rangle \; (\; `,_{\square} ' \; \langle value\text{-}expression \rangle \; )^*
```

Types

Value Expressions

3 Notable differences from Haskell

4 Parser implimentation

The parser was implemented using the parsec library.

- 4.1 AST Types
- 4.2 Parsers
- 5 Translation to Haskell
- 6 Running examples
- 7 Conclusion
- 8 To be removed or incorporated

Addition/Subtraction:

```
+ : (A)HasAddition => (A, A) => A
- : (A)HasSubtraction => (A, A) => A
```

Equality and ordering:

```
= : (A)HasEquality => (A, A) => Bool
<= : (A)HasOrder => (A, A) => Bool
>= : (A)HasOrder => (A, A) => Bool

(fmap)<inside> — (W)IsAWrapper --> (A => B, W(A)) => W(B) — Apply inside operator
(<*>)<wrapped inside> — (W)IsAWrapper --> (W(A => B), W(A)) => W(B) — Order operators
```

better as postfix functions

Examples in Haskell

```
data ClientInfo =
  ClientInfoC String Int String
data WithPosition a =
  WithPositionC a Int Int
data Pair a b =
  PairC a b
Examples in Haskell
{-# language LambdaCase #-}
data Bool =
  Ctrue | Cfalse
data Possibly a =
  Cwrapper a | Cnothing
data ListOf_s a =
  Cnon_empty (NonEmptyValueListOf_s a) | Cempty
data NonEmptyValueListOf_s a =
  CNonEmptyValueListOf_s a (ListOf_s a)
is_empty :: ListOf_s a => Bool
is_empty = \case
  Cempty => Ctrue
  Cnon_empty (CNonEmptyValueListOf_s head tail) => Cfalse
get_head :: ListOf_s a => Possibly a
get_head = \case
  Cempty => Cnothing
  Cnon_empty (CNonEmptyValueListOf_s head tail) => Cwrapper head
Examples in Haskell
foo :: Int
foo = 42
val1 :: Int
val1 = 42
val2 :: Bool
val2 = true
val3 :: Char
val3 = 'a'
int1 :: Int
int1 = 1
int2 :: Int
int2 = 2
int3 :: Int
```

$$int3 = 3$$

Or Types the following have automatically generated functions:

is_case:



Hi

- \bullet Examples
- $\bullet \ \ Description$

hi

• Grammar

$$(identifier)$$
 ::= [a-z]([a-z_] | '()'[a-z_])* [[0-9]]