

PLD Assignment 2

Ask

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1 Garbage collection

2 Parameter passing mechanisms

2.1 a)

Since we're only asked about what happens in this general case, my answer to this question is a more general answer. I'm not doing the actual calculations of `transpose(q,q)`. In this case, the function is given the same parameter of the matrix `q`, hence `transpose(q,q)`. This means, that the parameters are stored in two different local variables in the callee (`transpose`). If these local variables have different values when the call returns, there can be an ambiguity in which value is copied back to the variable. However in this case, I know that it is copied (written) back from left to right. So the `"a"` parameter will be copied back first. Overwriting the original value of the variable.

2.2 b)

Call-by-Reference can introduce "aliasing". Meaning that if a function is given the same variable to/as two different reference parameters. Those two parameters (variables in the callee) can refer to the same location. Meaning that updating one of the variable also updates the other one.

Aliasing hinders optimisation.

2.3 c)

If a compiler fetches the content of a reference parameter into a register, and then write to another reference parameter. The programmer should make sure that the compiler re-fetch the first parameter, because the write might have affected this. This would occur if the parameters are aliases of the same location.

essentially when using pass-by-reference parameters, if a function causes changes to the variables in the caller these changes would be reflected in the callee, since original values would have been overwritten.

3 Scope rules

Yes it is possible to describe it this way. I've modified the program slightly to display the result of

```
A2 > A2_3 > scopes.fs > ...
1  let rec bizarre b q =
2      let mango z = b
3      in
4          if b then ( bizarre false mango )
5              else ( mango 17 , q 17 );;
6
7  let dummy = function x -> false
8  let bongo = bizarre true dummy;;
9
10 printfn "%A value for bongo" (bongo)
11 |
```

Figur 1: Modified F# code from assignment text

The result I get in my terminal when running and printing the value of "bongo" is bongo is = (false, true).

in the body of bongo we have the recursive function bizarre, which get instansiated with the parameters "true" and "false" since the function dummy will always set the other parameter to false.

going through the function "bizarre" we can see that the value of b is passed down until we enter the if statement, where bizarre will be called recursively and the values for b and q will be updated with the new value for "b" and the old value for mango which is "true".

4 Program transformations

I'll be using the algorithm from wikipedia page on the topic λ -lifting. I personally just find it easier to follow since the steps are more clearly discribed compared to how it was described in our slides.

The algorithm is as following on the wikipedia page:

1. Rename the functions so that each function has a unique name.
2. Replace each free variable with an additional argument to the enclosing function, and pass that argument to every use of the function.
3. Replace every local function definition that has no free variables with an identical global function.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until all free variables and local functions are eliminated.

ORIGINAL CODE SNIPPET:

```
let rec bizarre b q =  
  let mango z = b  
  in  
    if b then ( bizarre false mango )  
      else ( mango 17 , q 17 );;  
  
let dummy = function x -> false  
let bongo = bizarre true dummy;;
```

STEP 1, it is possible to skip step one of the algorithm, since all functions are "unique" in the sense that there's no duplicates of function names that are considered another function than the original.

STEP 2)

5 Control structures

In our book, Prolang there's a specific line that I've been thinking about and trying to find more information about. It says *The ALGOL 60 report does not forbid the loop body to modify i* ¹ If it is possible for the body of a loop to modify the counter, it could be possible to end up with an infinite loop. By either resetting the value of the counter inside the body of the loop, in which case the loop would never terminate since a desired condition might never be reached.

¹p. 138, Prolang