

Callability Control

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The Problem

Consider an imperative language, such as C#, which:

- ▶ is statically-typed
- ▶ has named/identifiable functions (e.g. static/instance methods or constructors)
- ▶ has dynamic dispatch (e.g. interfaces, delegates, and virtual methods)
- ▶ supports dynamic code loading and execution

Note: for brevity I will omit accessibility modifiers and allow free standing static functions

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3. How about this?

```
static void M3(String url) {  
    var code = Assembly.LoadFrom(url); // Load code(possibly  
    code.GetMethod("M").Invoke(null, null); } // call M()
```

Callability

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Restatement of the Problem:

1. What is the callability of **Abs**?
2. What is the callability of **x.Run**?
3. What is the callability of **M**?

The Basics

The `calls[f_1, \dots, f_n]` annotation

Example

```
static void Main(String[] argv) calls[WriteLine] {  
    WriteLine("Hello World"); }
```

The Can-Call Relation: $f \rightsquigarrow g$

A function f can call a function g iff:

$$f \rightsquigarrow g$$

1. g is in the `calls[...]` annotation of f : $g \in \text{Calls}(f) \Rightarrow f \rightsquigarrow g$

Example

```
static void Write(String s) calls[WriteChar] {  
    foreach (Char c in s) WriteChar(c); }
```

2. f can call every function in the `calls[...]` annotation of g :
 $\forall h \in \text{Calls}(f) f \rightsquigarrow h \Rightarrow f \rightsquigarrow g$

Example

```
static void WriteLine(String s) calls[WriteChar] {  
    Write(s + "\n"); }
```

Note that these rules apply transitively.

Example