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Pairs in Lambda Calculus

Pairs are a collection of two values considered together.

To construct a useful definition of pairs, we require a method to pull out components of a pair to use them separately.

A good candidate for a choosing function would be somewhat similar to the [Church Booleans](#) as *TRUE* takes in two inputs and returns the first one and *FALSE* takes in two inputs and returns the second one.

This idea is actually enough to provide a working description of pairs as

$$PAIR := \lambda ab. (\lambda v. vab)$$

Where v is supposed to be a [Church Boolean](#).

The pair function takes in two arguments and returns a function which in a sense stores the two inputs, it waits for a selector function when it will later return one of the values

So while using the booleans as selector functions, we can use the following aliases

$$FIRST := TRUE, \quad SECOND := FALSE$$

infix notation

we can write $PAIR(a, b)$ as (a, b)

and we can write the first and second function in the following way

$$(a, b).1 = a$$

$$(a, b).2 = b$$

References

Church Numerals