

1 What is curry-howard correspondence?

In programming language theory and proof theory, the Curry-Howard correspondence (also known as the Curry-Howard isomorphism or equivalence, or the proofs-as-programs and propositions- or formulae-as-types interpretation) is the direct relationship between computer programs and mathematical proofs.

1.1 type constructions in FP

But before getting into that let's see type constructions in functional programming *Here I'll use SML as an example*

- Tuple type `(int,string)`
Creating: `val x : int*string = (4 , 'Hello')`
Using: `val y : int = #1 x`
- Function type `int -> string`
Creating: `fun f (x:int) :string = 'the value of x is' ^ toString(x)`
Using: `val y: string = f 45`
- Disjunction type `datatype X = Left of int | Right of string`
Creating: `val x:X = Left 4`
Creating: `val y:X = Right 'Hello'`
Using: `fun f (x:X) :bool = case x of
 Left y = (y > 0)
 Right _ = false`
the above given is a function that takes an argument of type X and returns a value of type bool
- Unit type `type t = unit`
Creating: `val x:unit = ()`

1.2 From types to propositions

But how does the types defined just translate themselves into propositions? consider the sml code `val x:t =` now what does this mean? If this code manages to compile without error then there the type t exists in the system. Let's denote this proposition by $CH(t)$ which means that code has a value of type t or the type t exists in the system.

But that was just for a type t what about all the other things that we have discussed above?

Type	Proposition	Short Notation
t	CH(t)	t
(a,b)	CH(a) and CH(b)	$A \wedge B$; $A \times B$
left a right b	CH(a) or CH(b)	$A \vee B$; $A + B$
$a \rightarrow b$	CH(a) implies CH(b)	$A \implies B$
unit	true	1

- type parameter 'a' can be considered as $\forall a$
- consider the function `fun f (x: 'a) : 'a * 'a = (x,x)` this is logically equivalent to $\forall a \quad a \implies a \wedge a$