

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN APPLICATIVE AND CONCATENATIVE TACIT PROGRAMMING

Hashimoto, Daniel Kiyoshi

November 2025 – TalTech, Tallinn, Estonia

About me

I am finishing my Master's Degree

- Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Bachelor's in Computer Science
- I study Programming Languages

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I'm looking for a PhD program

- concatenative languages are similar to string diagrams
- string diagrams for first-order logic

Where I keep my publications and programming projects

- github.com/Kiyoshi364/static-memory

My Research Interests

Interesting research topics (probably non-exhaustive):

- alternative programming paradigms and alternative computing models
- theorem proving and proof assistants
- static analysis, type systems, logic systems
- creating and using models

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I like research that *roughly* follows these steps:

1. point at two things;
2. provide a definition of “equality”;
3. claim: “those two things are equal”

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I like research that *roughly* follows these steps:

1. point at two things;
2. provide a definition of “equality”;
3. claim: “those two things are equal”

(Often, the research starts in a 1-3-2 order)

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Programming without named variables

Succinct programs with emphasis on data flow

We highlight two styles

1.

2.

Tacit (Point-free) Programming

Programming without named variables

Succinct programs with emphasis on data flow

We highlight two styles

1. Applicative Style (higher-order functions)

$$h := \lambda x . f (g x) \qquad h := f \circ g \quad (3)$$

- 2.

Tacit (Point-free) Programming

3/24

Programming without named variables

Succinct programs with emphasis on data flow

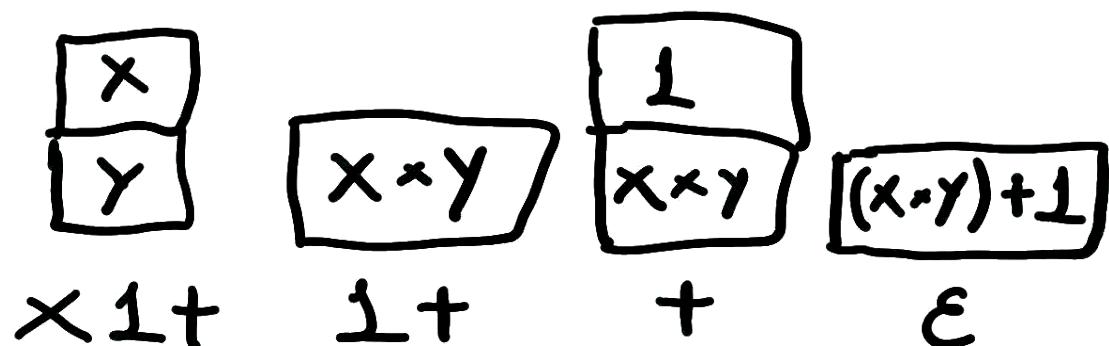
We highlight two styles

1. Applicative Style (higher-order functions)

$$h := \lambda x . f(g x) \quad h := f \circ g \quad (5)$$

2. Compositive Style (stack-based programming)

$$h := \lambda x y . (x \times y) + 1 \quad h := \times 1 + \quad (6)$$



Programming without named variables

Succinct programs with emphasis on data flow

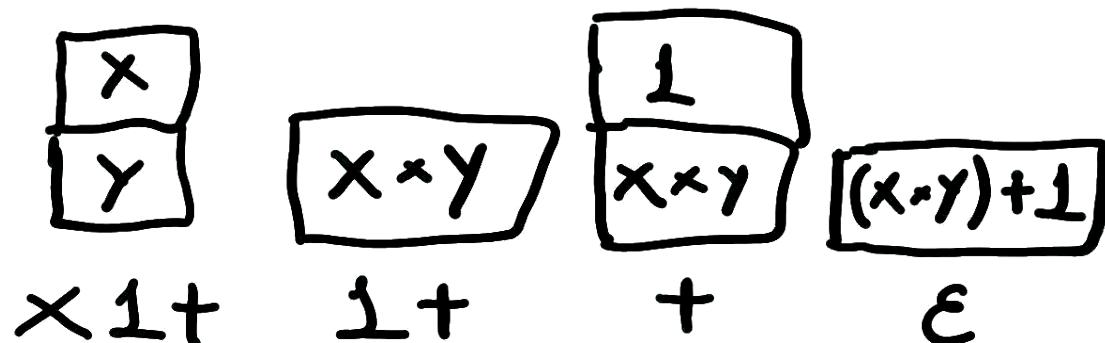
We highlight two styles

1. Applicative Style (higher-order functions)

$$h := \lambda x . f(g x) \quad h := f \circ g \quad (7)$$

2. Compositive Style (stack-based programming)

$$h := \lambda x y . (x \times y) + 1 \quad h := \times 1 + \quad (8)$$



In both cases, there were no x nor y

Example for BCK and swap zap

$$B C K q x y \quad \triangleright \quad y x \mid \text{swap zap} \quad (9)$$

Intuition for “Equality”

Example for BCK and swap zap

$$\begin{array}{lll} B C K q x y & \triangleright & y x \mid \text{swap zap} \\ C (K q) x y & \triangleright & y x \mid \text{swap zap} \end{array} \quad (10)$$

Example for BCK and swap zap

$$\begin{array}{lll} BC K q x y & \triangleright & y x \mid \text{swap zap} \\ C(K q) x y & \triangleright & y x \mid \text{swap zap} \\ K q y x & \triangleright & x y \mid \text{zap} \end{array} \quad (11)$$

Intuition for “Equality”

Example for BCK and swap zap

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 BC K q x y & \triangleright & y x \mid \text{swap zap} \\
 C(K q) x y & \triangleright & y x \mid \text{swap zap} \\
 K q y x & \triangleright & x y \mid \text{zap} \\
 q x & \triangleright & x \mid \varepsilon
 \end{array} \tag{12}$$

The programs start related

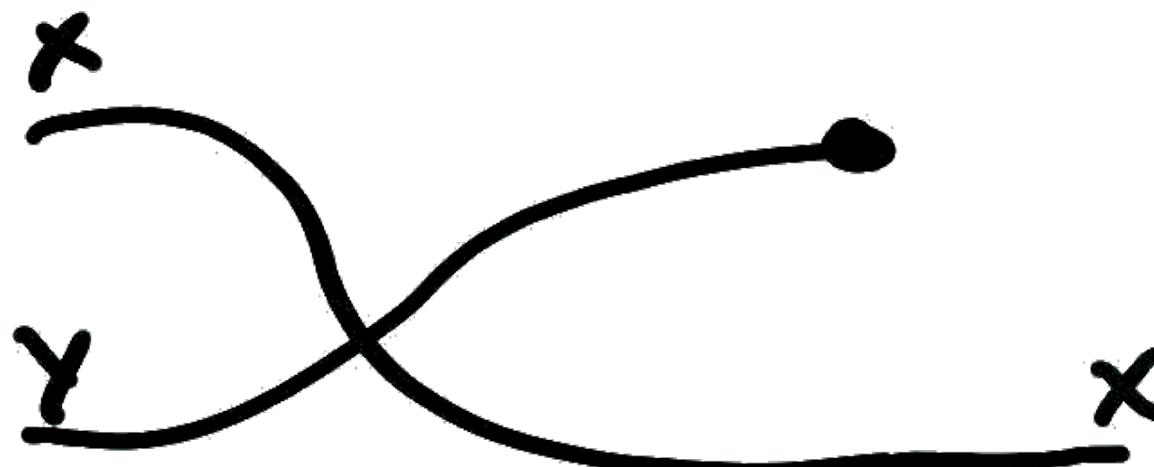
If I step on one size, the other side is also related after some steps
 (This is called (Bi)Simulation, I'll introduce it latter)

Example for BCK and swap zap

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \begin{array}{l} B C K q x y \\ C (K q) x y \\ K q y x \\ q x \end{array} & \begin{array}{l} \triangleright y x | \text{swap zap} \\ \triangleright y x | \text{swap zap} \\ \triangleright x y | \text{zap} \\ \triangleright x | \varepsilon \end{array} \\
 \end{array} \tag{13}$$

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If I step on one size, the other side is also related after some steps
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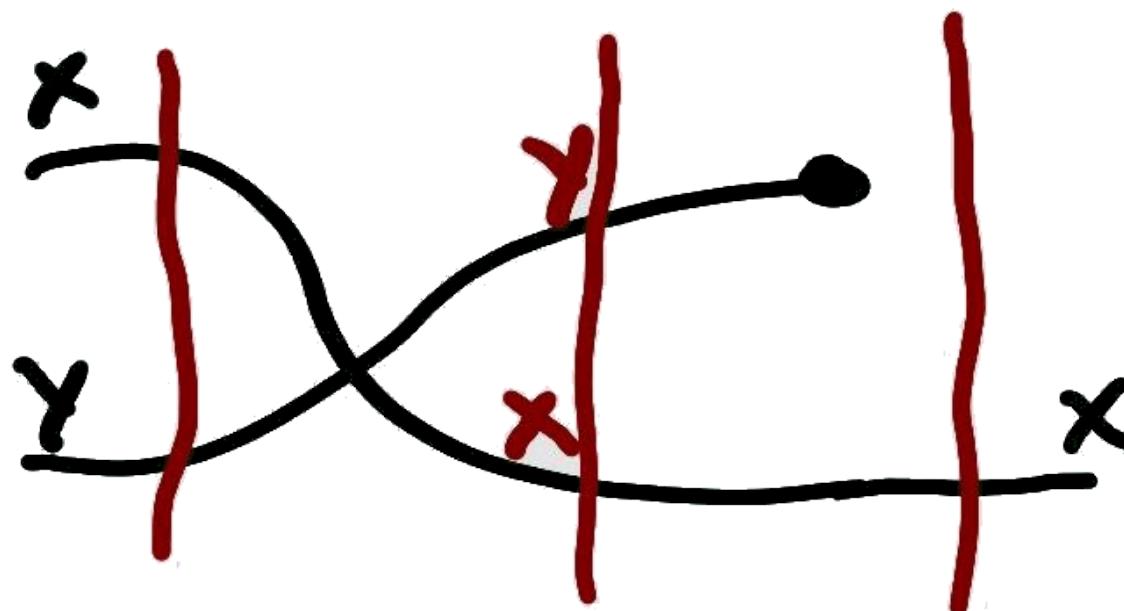


Example for BCK and swap zap

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 B C K q x y & \Rightarrow & y x \mid \text{swap zap} \\
 C (K q) x y & \Rightarrow & y x \mid \text{swap zap} \\
 K q y x & \Rightarrow & x y \mid \text{zap} \\
 q x & \Rightarrow & x \mid \varepsilon
 \end{array} \tag{14}$$

The programs start related

If I step on one size, the other side is also related after some steps
 (This is called (Bi)Simulation, I'll introduce it latter)



A model for higher-order stack languages Thun (1994), Kerby (2002), Kleffner (2017)

Cat = list(Instr + Value)

Concatenative Calculus

A model for higher-order stack languages Thun (1994), Kerby (2002), Kleffner (2017)
 Cat = list(Instr + Value)

Each instruction solves a problem

Effect	Instructions	
Permute	$y\ x\ \text{swap} \mapsto x\ y$	
Discard	$x\ \text{zap} \mapsto \varepsilon$	
Duplicate	$x\ \text{dup} \mapsto x\ x$	
Dequote	$[\rho]\ \text{call} \mapsto \rho$	
Quotation Creation	$x\ \text{unit} \mapsto [x]$	
Quotation Composition	$[\pi]\ [\rho]\ \text{cat} \mapsto [\pi\ \rho]$	
Stash	$x\ [\rho]\ \text{dip} \mapsto \rho\ x$	

Recursive/Structural rule

$$\frac{\sigma, \pi : \text{Cat} \quad \rho_0 \mapsto \rho}{\sigma\ \rho_0\ \pi \mapsto \sigma\ \rho\ \pi} \tag{18}$$

Quotations and Higher-Order Instructions

A quotation is an anonymous function (lambda)

We can put quotations on the stack

Higher-order instructions use and/or create quotations

`call` executes a quotation

$$x \text{ [dup] call} \mapsto x \text{ dup} \mapsto x x \quad (19)$$

A quotation is an anonymous function (lambda)

We can put quotations on the stack

Higher-order instructions use and/or create quotations

`call` executes a quotation

$$x \text{ [dup] call} \mapsto x \text{ dup} \mapsto x x \quad (22)$$

`unit` creates a quotation

$$x \text{ unit} \mapsto [x] \quad (23)$$

A quotation is an anonymous function (lambda)

We can put quotations on the stack

Higher-order instructions use and/or create quotations

`call` executes a quotation

$$x \text{ [dup] call} \mapsto x \text{ dup} \mapsto x x \quad (25)$$

`unit` creates a quotation

$$x \text{ unit} \mapsto [x] \quad (26)$$

`cat` concatenates/composes quotations

$$[\text{zap}] [\rho] \text{ cat} \mapsto [\text{ zap } \rho] \quad (27)$$

> Syntactical concatenation is semantical composition!

Stack Rotations vs The **dip** Instruction

The standard way is to use rotations for stack shuffling

$$z \ y \ x \text{ dig3 swap} \mapsto y \ x \ z \text{ swap} \mapsto y \ z \ x \quad (28)$$

Stack Rotations vs The **dip** Instruction

The standard way is to use rotations for stack shuffling

$$z \ y \ x \text{ dig3 swap} \mapsto y \ x \ z \text{ swap} \mapsto y \ z \ x \quad (30)$$

Instead, we use **dip**

dip runs a program one level deeper

$$z \ y \ x \text{ [swap] dip} \mapsto z \ y \text{ swap } x \mapsto y \ z \ x \quad (31)$$

Stack Rotations vs The **dip** Instruction vs Identities on Top

7/24

The standard way is to use rotations for stack shuffling

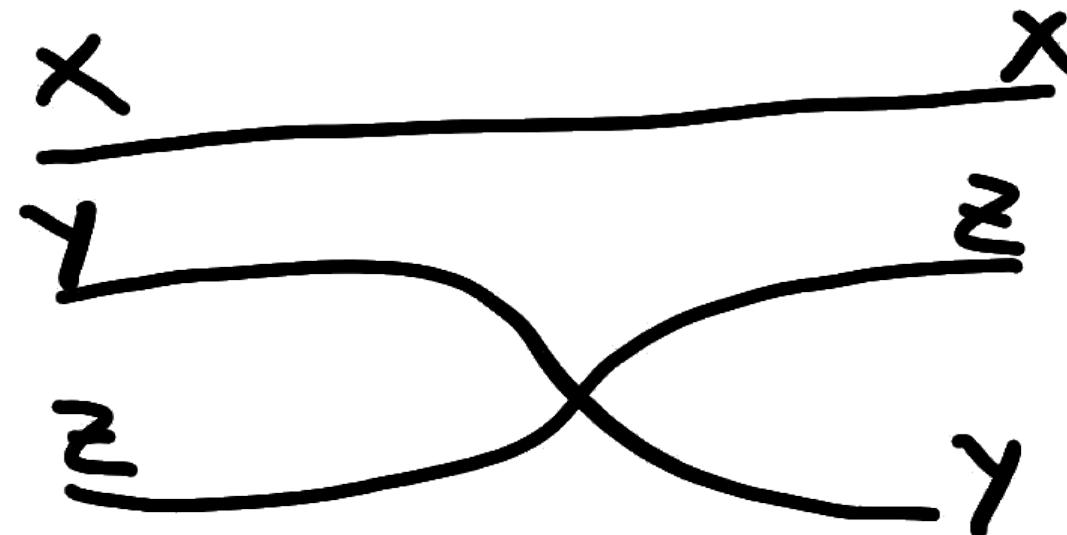
$$z \ y \ x \text{ dig3 swap} \mapsto y \ x \ z \text{ swap} \mapsto y \ z \ x \quad (32)$$

Instead, we use **dip**

dip runs a program one level deeper

$$z \ y \ x \text{ [swap] dip} \mapsto z \ y \text{ swap } x \mapsto y \ z \ x \quad (33)$$

In the diagrams, **dip** is equivalent to putting an identity on top of the program



A model for a stack languages which cannot put functions on the stack

$$y \ x \ \text{swap} \mapsto x \ y$$

$$x \ \text{zap} \mapsto \varepsilon$$

$$x \ \text{dup} \mapsto x \ x$$

$$\pi \rho$$

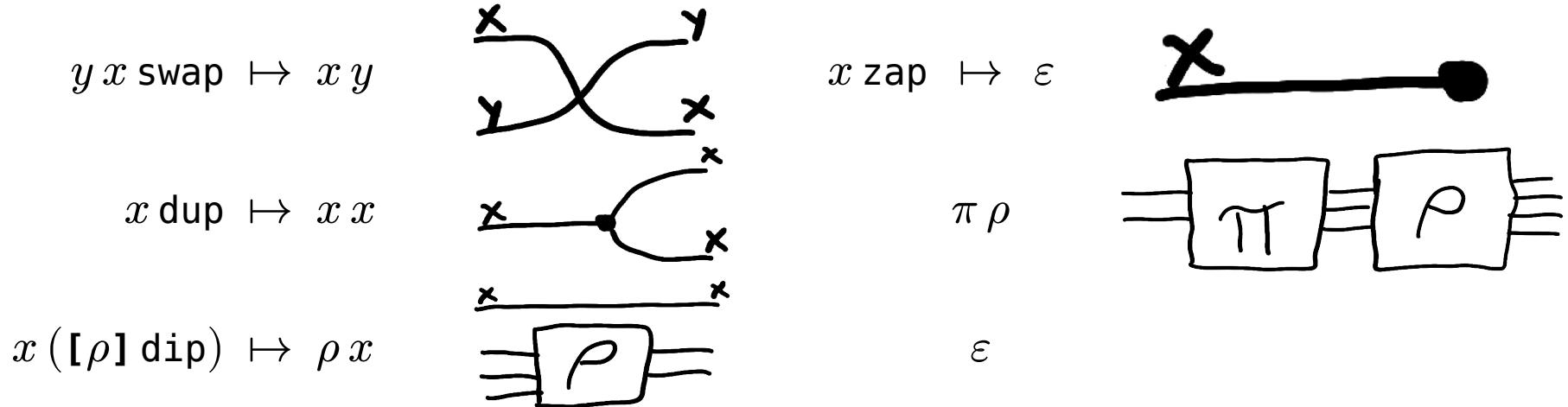
$$x \ ([\rho] \ \text{dip}) \mapsto \rho \ x$$

$$\varepsilon$$

First-Order Concatenative Calculus and String Diagrams

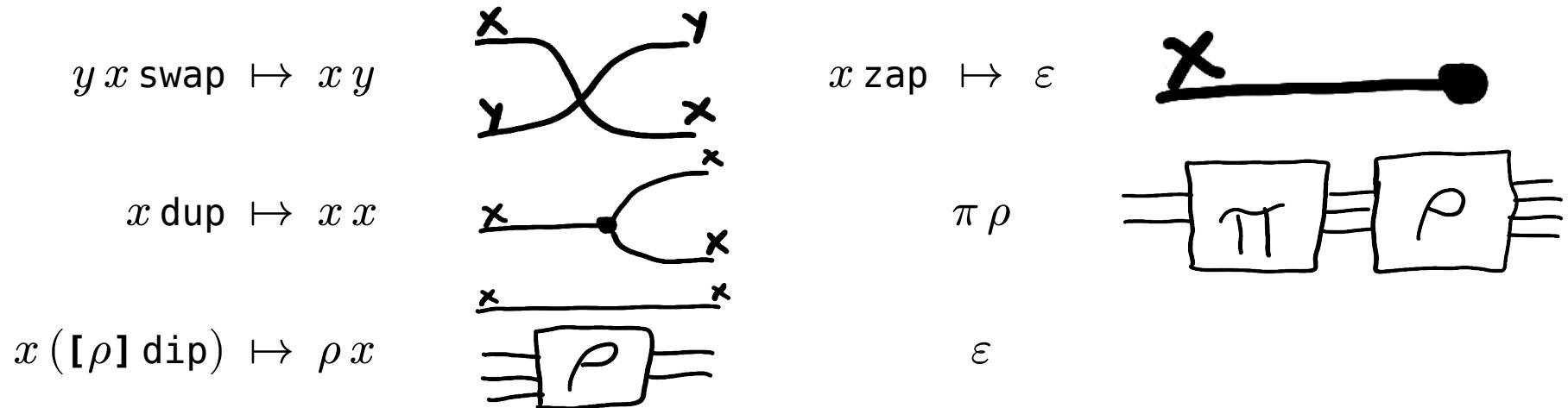
8/24

A model for a stack languages which cannot put functions on the stack



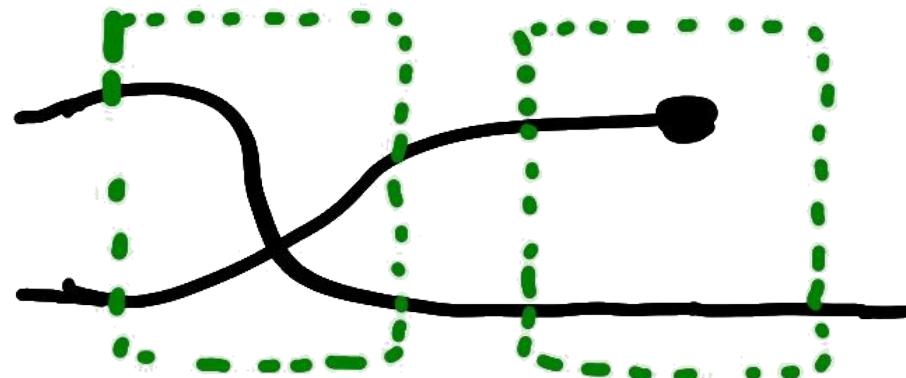
Given a first-order program, I can draw a string diagram
(related to Cartesian Monoidal Categories?)

A model for a stack languages which cannot put functions on the stack



Given a first-order program, I can draw a string diagram
(related to Cartesian Monoidal Categories?)

If the arities don't match, one can put extra identities on the bottom



How to Draw (Higher-Order) Concatenative Calculus?

9/24

vvv This slide is from before I arrived here vvv

I don't know how to draw an arbitrary Concatenative Program

A quotation (which is in a wire) should become a diagram

For instance:

swap call (34)

Any ideas? (Perhaps, after more higher-order examples)

^^^ This slide is from before I arrived here ^^^

(related to Cartesian Closed Monoidal Category?)

Combinatory Logic

Model for applicative functional languages
“lambda calculus without variables”

Each combinator does an effect

Effect	Combinators	
Permute	C $q x y \rightarrow q y x$	
Discard	K $q x \rightarrow q$	(35)
Duplicate	W $q x \rightarrow q x x$	
Identity	I $q \rightarrow q$	
Composition*	B $q x y \rightarrow q (x y)$	

Created by Schönfinkel (1924), expanded and popularized by Curry (1930)

Model for applicative functional languages
“lambda calculus without variables”

Each combinator does an effect

Effect	Combinators	
Permute	 $q x y \rightarrow q y x$	
Discard	 $q x \rightarrow q$	(36)
Duplicate	 $q x \rightarrow q x x$	
Identity	 $q \rightarrow q$	
Composition*	 $q x y \rightarrow q (x y)$	

Created by Schönfinkel (1924), expanded and popularized by Curry (1930)

Smullyan (1985) provided bird names for combinators



Model for applicative functional languages
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Effect	Combinators	
Permute	C $q x y \rightarrow q y x$	
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Created by Schönfinkel (1924), expanded and popularized by Curry (1930)

Smullyan (1985) provided bird names for combinators

Regular Combinators keep the first argument q in place, without extra copies

q is a **continuation** (what is the program doing next)

It can reorganize the other arguments in any way

All basic combinators are regular

$$\begin{array}{ll} C \ q \ x \ y \rightarrow q \ y \ x & K \ q \ x \rightarrow q \\ W \ q \ x \rightarrow q \ x \ x & I \ q \rightarrow q \\ B \ q \ x \ y \rightarrow q \ (x \ y) & \end{array} \quad (38)$$

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All basic combinators are regular

$$\begin{array}{ll} C \ q \ x \ y \rightarrow q \ y \ x & K \ q \ x \rightarrow q \\ W \ q \ x \rightarrow q \ x \ x & I \ q \rightarrow q \\ B \ q \ x \ y \rightarrow q \ (x \ y) & \end{array} \quad (41)$$

BCK is regular

$$B \ C \ K \ q \ x \ y \rightarrow C \ (K \ q) \ x \ y \rightarrow K \ q \ y \ x \rightarrow q \ x \quad (42)$$

Both, CI and WC , are irregular

$$\begin{array}{l} C \ I \ q \ x \rightarrow I \ x \ q \rightarrow x \ q \\ W \ C \ q \ x \rightarrow C \ q \ q \ x \rightarrow q \ x \ q \end{array} \quad (43)$$

Regular Combinators by Construction

12/24

We can construct regular combinators with these rules:

$$\begin{array}{ll} C q x y & \rightarrow q y x \\ K q x & \rightarrow q \\ W q x & \rightarrow q x x \\ I q & \rightarrow q \end{array} \tag{44}$$

$$B q x y \rightarrow q(x y)$$

$$(B \alpha) q x \rightarrow \alpha(q x)$$

$$(B \alpha \beta) q \rightarrow \alpha(\beta q)$$

$$(C \alpha x) q \rightarrow \alpha q x$$

B also stashes arguments and sequences regular combinators!

C also introduces new values!

Regular Combinators by Construction

13/24

We can construct regular combinators with these rules:

$C q x y \rightarrow q y x$	$y x \text{ swap} \mapsto x y$	
$K q x \rightarrow q$	$x \text{ zap} \mapsto \varepsilon$	
$W q x \rightarrow q x x$	$x \text{ dup} \mapsto x x$	
$I q \rightarrow q$	ε	
$B q x y \rightarrow q (x y)$	$x (\text{ [} \rho \text{] dip}) \mapsto \rho x$	X
$(B \alpha) q x \rightarrow \alpha (q x)$		
$(B \alpha \beta) q \rightarrow \alpha (\beta q)$	$\rho \pi$	
$(C \alpha x) q \rightarrow \alpha q x$	$x \rho$	

Besides B with 0 arguments,
regular combinators map to first-order concatenative

Shuffle Combinators ▷ First-Order Concatenative

Shuffle combinators keep q in place, without extra copies
and can only shuffle the other arguments (cannot add parenthesis)

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 C q x y \rightarrow q y x & y x \text{ swap} \mapsto x y \\
 K q x \rightarrow q & x \text{ zap} \mapsto \varepsilon \\
 W q x \rightarrow q x x & x \text{ dup} \mapsto x x \\
 I q \rightarrow q & \varepsilon
 \end{array}
 \tag{46}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 (B \alpha) q x \rightarrow \alpha (q x) & x ([\rho] \text{ dip}) \mapsto \rho x \\
 (B \alpha \beta) q \rightarrow \alpha (\beta q) & \rho \pi \\
 (C \alpha x) q \rightarrow \alpha q x & x \rho
 \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{ll}
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 K q x \rightarrow q & x \text{ zap} \mapsto \varepsilon \\
 W q x \rightarrow q x x & x \text{ dup} \mapsto x x \\
 I q \rightarrow q & \varepsilon
 \end{array}
 \tag{47}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 (B \alpha) q x \rightarrow \alpha (q x) & x ([\rho] \text{ dip}) \mapsto \rho x \\
 (B \alpha \beta) q \rightarrow \alpha (\beta q) & \rho \pi \\
 (C \alpha x) q \rightarrow \alpha q x & x \rho
 \end{array}$$

This title is imprecise! We need 2 relations:

1. (\blacktriangleright) : ShuffleComb \times FOCat
2. (\blacktriangleright) : ShuffleComb $\& q$ \times FOCat

1. (►) : ShuffleComb × FOCat

$$\begin{array}{c}
 C \blacktriangleright \text{swap} \qquad K \blacktriangleright \text{zap} \qquad W \blacktriangleright \text{dup} \qquad I \blacktriangleright \varepsilon \\
 \text{R-EMPTY} \\
 \frac{\alpha \blacktriangleright \rho}{B\alpha \blacktriangleright [\rho] \text{ dip}} \qquad \frac{\text{R-CONCAT}}{\alpha \blacktriangleright \rho \quad \beta \blacktriangleright \pi} \qquad \frac{\text{R-PUSH}}{\alpha \blacktriangleright \rho \quad x_0 \sim x_1} \\
 (48)
 \end{array}$$

2. (▷) : ShuffleComb& q × FOCat

1. (►) : ShuffleComb × FOCat

$$\begin{array}{c}
 C \blacktriangleright \text{swap} \qquad K \blacktriangleright \text{zap} \qquad W \blacktriangleright \text{dup} \qquad I \blacktriangleright \varepsilon \\
 \frac{\alpha \blacktriangleright \rho}{B\alpha \blacktriangleright [\rho] \text{ dip}} \qquad \frac{\text{R-CONCAT} \quad \alpha \blacktriangleright \rho \quad \beta \blacktriangleright \pi}{B\alpha\beta \blacktriangleright \rho\pi} \qquad \frac{\text{R-PUSH} \quad \alpha \blacktriangleright \rho \quad x_0 \sim x_1}{C\alpha x_0 \blacktriangleright x_1\rho}
 \end{array} \tag{50}$$

2. (▷) : ShuffleComb& q × FOCat

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{\alpha \blacktriangleright \rho}{\alpha q \triangleright \rho} \\
 \frac{\text{S-EMPTY} \quad q \triangleright \varepsilon}{\hat{\alpha} \triangleright \rho} \qquad \frac{\text{S-CONCAT} \quad \hat{\alpha} \triangleright \rho \quad \hat{\beta} \triangleright \pi}{\hat{\alpha}\{\hat{\beta}/q\} \triangleright \rho\pi} \qquad \frac{\text{S-PUSH} \quad \hat{\alpha} \triangleright \rho \quad x_0 \sim x_1}{\hat{\alpha} x_0 \triangleright x_1\rho}
 \end{array} \tag{51}$$

- $\hat{\alpha}$ means a combinator with q inside
- $\hat{\alpha}\{\hat{\beta}/q\}$ substitutes $\hat{\beta}$ for q in $\hat{\alpha}$

Simulation Definition

A relation $(\gg) : \text{ShuffleComb}\&q \times \text{FOCat}$ is a simulation for relations $(\rightarrow) : \text{ShuffleComb}\&q \times \text{ShuffleComb}\&q$ and $(\mapsto) : \text{FOCat} \times \text{FOCat}$ iff

$$\forall (\hat{\alpha} : \text{ShuffleComb}\&q)(\rho, \pi : \text{FOCat}), \\ (\hat{\alpha} \gg \rho) \wedge (\rho \mapsto^* \pi) \Rightarrow \exists (\hat{\beta} : \text{ShuffleComb}\&q), (\hat{\alpha} \rightarrow^* \hat{\beta}) \wedge (\hat{\beta} \gg \pi) \quad (52)$$

A relation $(\gg) : \text{ShuffleComb}\&q \times \text{FOCat}$ is a simulation for relations $(\rightarrow) : \text{ShuffleComb}\&q \times \text{ShuffleComb}\&q$ and $(\mapsto) : \text{FOCat} \times \text{FOCat}$ iff

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or, with relational composition

$$(\gg) ; (\mapsto^*) \subseteq (\rightarrow^*) ; (\gg) \quad (56)$$

or, with a diagram (unboxed are assumptions, boxed are results)

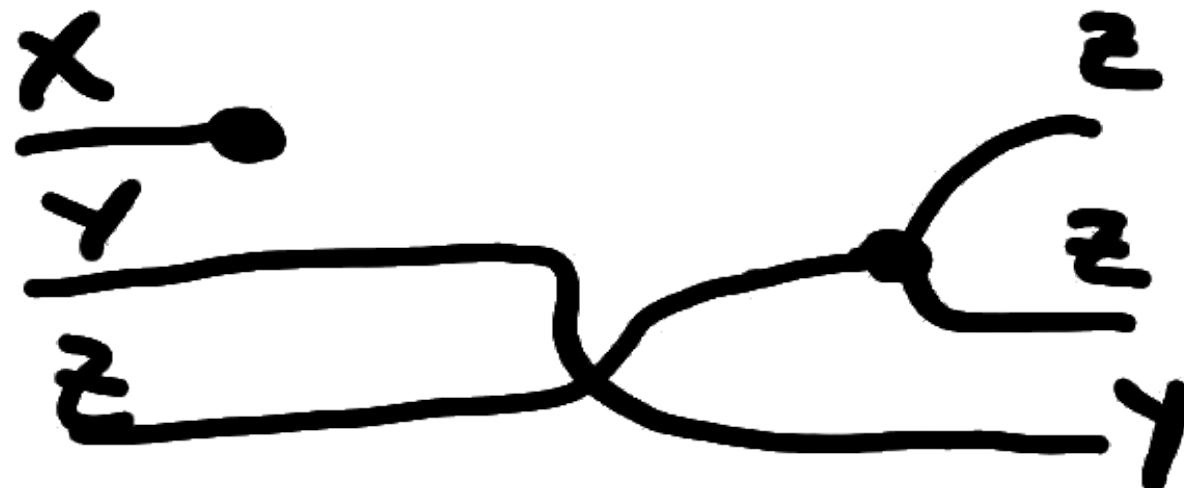
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \hat{\alpha} & \gg & \rho \\ \boxed{\downarrow_*} & & \boxed{\downarrow_*} \\ \hat{\beta} & \gg & \pi \end{array} \quad (57)$$

We may need some “bureaucratic steps” on the combinatory side

$$\begin{array}{lll} B(B K C) W q x y z & \triangleright & z y x \text{ zap swap dup} \\ B K C(W q) x y z & & \\ K(C(W q)) x y z & & \\ C(W q) y z & \triangleright & z y \text{ swap dup} \\ W q z y & \triangleright & y z \text{ dup} \\ q z z y & \triangleright & y z z \end{array} \tag{58}$$

We may need some “bureaucratic steps” on the combinatory side

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 B(B K C) W q x y z & \Rightarrow z y x \text{ zap swap dup} \\
 B K C (W q) x y z & \\
 K (C (W q)) x y z & \\
 C (W q) y z & \Rightarrow z y \text{ swap dup} \\
 W q z y & \Rightarrow y z \text{ dup} \\
 q z z y & \Rightarrow y z z
 \end{array} \tag{59}$$



Simulation Definition (Again)

A relation $(\gg) : \text{ShuffleComb}\&q \times \text{FOCat}$ is a simulation for relations $(\rightarrow) : \text{ShuffleComb}\&q \times \text{ShuffleComb}\&q$ and $(\mapsto) : \text{FOCat} \times \text{FOCat}$ iff

$$\forall (\hat{\alpha} : \text{ShuffleComb}\&q)(\rho, \pi : \text{FOCat}), \\ (\hat{\alpha} \gg \rho) \wedge (\rho \mapsto^* \pi) \Rightarrow \exists (\hat{\beta} : \text{ShuffleComb}\&q), (\hat{\alpha} \rightarrow^* \hat{\beta}) \wedge (\hat{\beta} \gg \pi) \quad (60)$$

or, with relational composition

$$(\gg) ; (\mapsto^*) \subseteq (\rightarrow^*) ; (\gg) \quad (61)$$

or, with a diagram (unboxed are assumptions, boxed are results)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \hat{\alpha} & \gg & \rho \\ \boxed{\downarrow_*} & & \boxed{\downarrow_*} \\ \hat{\beta} & \ll \boxed{\gg} & \pi \end{array} \quad (62)$$

“Co”simulation (Simulation of the Converse) Definition

20/24

A relation $(\triangleright) : \text{ShuffleComb}\&q \times \text{FOCat}$ is a simulation for relations $(\rightarrow) : \text{ShuffleComb}\&q \times \text{ShuffleComb}\&q$ and $(\mapsto) : \text{FOCat} \times \text{FOCat}$ iff

$$\begin{aligned} & \forall (\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\beta} : \text{ShuffleComb}\&q)(\rho : \text{FOCat}), \\ & (\hat{\alpha} \triangleright \rho) \wedge (\hat{\alpha} \rightarrow^* \hat{\beta}) \Rightarrow \exists (\pi : \text{ShuffleComb}\&q), (\rho \mapsto^* \pi) \wedge (\hat{\beta} \triangleright \pi) \end{aligned} \tag{63}$$

or, with relational composition

$$(\triangleleft) ; (\rightarrow^*) \subseteq (\mapsto^*) ; (\triangleleft) \tag{64}$$

or, with a diagram (unboxed are assumptions, boxed are results)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \hat{\alpha} & \triangleright & \rho \\ \downarrow_* & & \boxed{\downarrow_*} \\ \hat{\beta} & \blacksquare \triangleright & \boxed{\pi} \end{array} \tag{65}$$

A relation (\gg) : $\text{ShuffleComb}\&q \times \text{FOCat}$ is a bisimulation for relations
 $(\rightarrow) : \text{ShuffleComb}\&q \times \text{ShuffleComb}\&q$ and $(\mapsto) : \text{FOCat} \times \text{FOCat}$
iff
 (\gg) is both a simulation and a cosimulation

I strongly believe that (\gg) is a bisimulation:

A relation (\gg) : $\text{ShuffleComb}\&q \times \text{FOCat}$ is a bisimulation for relations (\rightarrow) : $\text{ShuffleComb}\&q \times \text{ShuffleComb}\&q$ and (\mapsto) : $\text{FOCat} \times \text{FOCat}$ iff
 (\gg) is both a simulation and a cosimulation

I strongly believe that (\gg) is a bisimulation:

- (\gg) is a simulation
 - proved in Rocq—a proof assistant, previously called Coq
- (\gg) is a cosimulation
 - strong believes that it is true (no proof yet)

We can extend (\blacktriangleright) and (\triangleright) to accomodate Higher-Order Concatenative Programs

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 C I q \alpha \xrightarrow{*} \alpha q & [\rho] \text{call} \mapsto \rho \\
 C B q \alpha x \xrightarrow{*} \alpha(q x) & x [\rho] \text{dip} \mapsto \rho x \\
 C B(C I) q x \xrightarrow{*} q(C I x) & x \text{unit} \mapsto [x] \\
 C(B B B)(C B) q \alpha \beta \xrightarrow{*} q(C B \alpha \beta) & [\pi] [\rho] \text{cat} \mapsto [\pi \rho]
 \end{array} \tag{66}$$

The encoding for quotations that push values and compose quotations:

$$(C I x) q \longrightarrow I q x \longrightarrow q x \tag{67}$$

$$(C B \alpha \beta) q \longrightarrow B \beta \alpha q \longrightarrow \beta(\alpha q) \tag{68}$$

Regular and Shuffle Combinators must keep q at the start, without copies

Higher-order Regular and Shuffle Combinators give some flexibility to that

We consider arguments of a Higher-order Combinator, also a Higher-order Combinator

Thus, q must be “eventually” at the start

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha(q\,x)\,y\,z &\longrightarrow^* q\,x\,z \\ \alpha_0(\alpha_1(\dots(\alpha_n\,q\,x_0)\dots)\,x_1)\,x_2\,x_3\dots &\longrightarrow^* \alpha_1(\dots(\alpha_n\,q\,x_0)\dots)\,x_1\,x_3 \end{aligned} \tag{69}$$

