

Lambda Calculus

Now you can bring a computer to your tests!

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What is lambda calculus?

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- Created by Alonzo Church



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- A way of representing **pure** mathematical functions



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- A way of representing **pure** mathematical functions
- Can represent any computer program



What is lambda calculus?

Introduction

- Created by Alonzo Church
- A way of representing **pure** mathematical functions
- Can represent any computer program
- Equivalent to Turing machines



$x + 1$

Introduction

In math class, we would define a function that accepts an argument x and outputs $x + 1$ as so:

$$f(x)$$



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If we wanted to find $4 + 1$, we could do this:

$$f(4) = 4 + 1 = 5$$



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In lambda calculus, we do this:

$$(\lambda x.x + 1)4 = 4 + 1 = 5$$



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In lambda calculus, we do this:

$$(\lambda x.x + 1)4 = 4 + 1 = 5$$

You can think of λ as f , and $.$ as $=$.

