

Revelations about the Y-combinator

Examples:

Map $\text{map } _ [] = []$ (Haskell)
 $\text{map } f (x:xs) = f x : \text{map } f xs$

Turn into one-liner: (Scheme)

$\text{map } f \ l = \text{if } (\text{null } l) \ l \ (\text{cons } (f (\text{head } l)) (\text{map } f (\text{tail } l)))$

" $\text{map} \equiv \lambda f. \lambda l. \text{ifthen } (\text{null } l) \ l \ (\text{cons } (f (\text{head } l)) (\text{map } f (\text{tail } l)))$ " (Lambda calculus)

$F \equiv \lambda g. \lambda f. \lambda l. \text{ifthen } (\text{null } l) \ l \ (\text{cons } (f (\text{head } l)) (g \ f (\text{tail } l)))$

$\text{map} \triangleq YF$

$Y \equiv \lambda f. ((\lambda x. f(x x)) (\lambda x. f(x x)))$

$YF \rightarrow F(YF)$ "YF is the fixed point of F"

$\text{map } f' \ l' \equiv YF \ f' \ l'$

$\rightarrow F(YF) \ f' \ l' \equiv F(\text{map}) \ f' \ l'$

$\rightarrow \lambda f. \lambda l. \text{ifthen } (\text{null } l) \ l \ (\text{cons } (f (\text{head } l)) (\text{map } f (\text{tail } l))) \ f' \ l'$

$\rightarrow \text{ifthen } (\text{null } l') \ l' \ (\text{cons } (f' (\text{head } l')) (\text{map } f' (\text{tail } l')))$

Foldr $\text{foldr } _ a \ [] = a$

$\text{foldr } f \ a \ (x:xs) = \text{foldr } f \ (f a x) \ xs$

one-liner:

$\text{foldr } f \ a \ l = \text{ifthen } (\text{null } l) \ a \ (\text{foldr } f \ (f a (\text{head } l)) (\text{tail } l))$

" $\text{foldr} \equiv \lambda f. \lambda a. \lambda l. \text{ifthen } (\text{null } l) \ a \ (\text{foldr } f \ (f a (\text{head } l)) (\text{tail } l))$ "

$F \equiv \lambda g. \lambda f. \lambda a. \lambda l. \text{ifthen } (\text{null } l) \ a \ (g \ f (f a (\text{head } l)) (\text{tail } l))$

$\text{foldr} \triangleq YF$

Infinite Lists

" $\text{buildList} \equiv \lambda h. \lambda f. \text{cons } h \ (\text{buildList } (f h) \ f)$ "

$F \equiv \lambda b. \lambda h. \lambda f. \text{cons } h \ (b \ (f h) \ f)$

$\text{buildList} \triangleq YF$

$[0, 1, 2, \dots] \equiv \text{buildList } 0 \ \text{succ}$

$\text{odds} \equiv \text{buildList } 1 \ (+2)$

$\text{evens} \equiv \text{buildList } 0 \ (+2)$

$\text{pow2} \equiv \text{buildList } 1 \ (*2)$

$\text{primes} \equiv \text{buildList } 2 \ \text{nextPrime}$

$\text{nextPrime } n =$
if all (not (divides (n+1))) [2, ..., n]
then n+1
else nextPrime (n+1)