



Math for the people, by the people.

explicit form for currying

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Owner	rspuzio (6075)
Last modified by	rspuzio (6075)
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Author	rspuzio (6075)
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In lambda calculus, we may express Currying functions and their inverses explicitly using lambda expressions. Suppose that f is a function of two arguments. Then, if c_2 is the currying function which maps of two arguments to higher order functions, we have, by definition,

$$f(x, y) = ((c_2(f))(x))(y).$$

We then have

$$c_2(f) = \lambda_v(\lambda_u f(u, v)),$$

hence

$$c_2 = \lambda_w(\lambda_v(\lambda_u w(u, v))).$$

Likewise, from the original equation, we see that

$$c_2^{-1} = \lambda_w(\lambda_{ab}(w(x))(y)).$$

We can write similar expressions for any number of arguments:

$$\begin{aligned} c_3 &= \lambda_w(\lambda_c(\lambda_b(\lambda_a w(a, b, c)))) \\ c_4 &= \lambda_w(\lambda_d(\lambda_c(\lambda_b(\lambda_a w(a, b, c, d)))) \\ c_5 &= \lambda_w(\lambda_e(\lambda_d(\lambda_c(\lambda_b(\lambda_a w(a, b, c, d, e))))), \end{aligned}$$

etc.

Their inverses look as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} c_3^{-1} &= \lambda_w(\lambda_{abc}(((w(a))(b))(c))) \\ c_4^{-1} &= \lambda_w(\lambda_{abcd}((((w(a))(b))(c))(d))) \\ c_5^{-1} &= \lambda_w(\lambda_{abcde}((((((w(a))(b))(c))(d))(e)))) \end{aligned}$$