System F Language Specification

Syntax

Expressions

e	:=	lit	literals
		eid	expression identifier
		(e)	parenthesized
		$e[\tau]$	type application
		e_1 e_2	application
		$e_1 op e_2$	binary operation
		$\lambda pat. e$	lambda abstraction
		$\Lambda \ tid. \ e$	type abstraction
		(e_1,\ldots,e_n)	n -tuples, $n \geq 2$
		let pat = e_1 in e_2	let binding
		$\mathtt{if}\ e_1\ \mathtt{then}\ e_2\ \mathtt{else}\ e_3$	if expression
\overline{lit}	:=	null	unit literal: Unit
		true false	boolean literals: Bool
		~2 ~1 0 1 2	64-bit signed ints: Int
\overline{pat}	:=	_: τ	discarded variable
		eid: au	type-annotated variable
		(pat_1, \ldots, pat_n)	n -tuple destructor, $n \geq 2$

Types

au	:=	tid	type identifier
		(au)	parenthesized
		$\tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2$	arrow types
		$\forall tid. \tau$	universal types
		(τ_1,\ldots,τ_n)	tuple types, $n \geq 2$
		Int Bool Unit	built-in types

Declarations

δ	:= let pat = e	declaration
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Semantics:

Call-by-value big step semantics. When a bound variable is bound again, the new binding takes over. There is no one-type tuples Lexical scope.