Typed Lambda Calculus

"There may, indeed, be other applications of the system other than its use as a logic", Alonzo Church, 1932

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What is the Lambda Calculus?

- Model of computation based on functions
 - ▶ gives rise to functional programming
- ▶ Introduced by Alonzo Church in 1934
- Turing complete
- Considered a faithful model of general purpose PLs
 - ► THE NEXT 700 PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES, Peter Landin, 1966
 - ▶ Motto: Use LC as a testbed to embed (DSLs) new PL features

Why the Lambda Calculus?

- ► In an industrial-strength language is it difficult to determine with precision/rigor
 - basic properties on semantics and types
 - effect of adding new program constructions
 - relation with other languages/paradigms
- ▶ Convenient to restrict the language to a subset that is
 - representative of the paradigm/problem area
 - concise
 - reduced number of primitives
 - rigorous in its formulation

Introduction

Type Systems

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Type Expressions of $\lambda_V^{\mathbb{B}, \to}$

The type expressions (or simply types) of $\lambda_V^{\mathbb{B}, \to}$ are:

$$\sigma, \tau ::= \mathbb{B} \mid \sigma \to \tau$$

Informally:

- ▶ B is type of booleans
- $\sigma \rightarrow \tau$ is type of functions from σ to τ

Terms of $\lambda_V^{\mathbb{B}, o}$

Let \mathcal{X} be a denumerable set of variables and $x \in \mathcal{X}$. The set of terms of $\lambda_{\mathcal{Y}}^{\mathbb{B}, \to}$ are:

Examples

- $\triangleright \lambda x : \mathbb{B}.x$
- $\lambda x : \mathbb{B}.$ if x then false else true
- \blacktriangleright $\lambda f : \sigma \to \tau . \lambda x : \sigma . f x$
- $\blacktriangleright (\lambda f : \mathbb{B} \to \mathbb{B}.f \ true)(\lambda y : \mathbb{B}.y)$
- ▶ x y

Free Variables

A variable can occur free or bound in a term.

- $\blacktriangleright \ \lambda x: \mathbb{B}. if \underbrace{x}_{bound}$ then true else false
- \blacktriangleright $\lambda x: \mathbb{B}.\lambda y: \mathbb{B}.if$ true then \underbrace{x}_{bound} else \underbrace{y}_{bound}
- $\blacktriangleright \lambda x : \mathbb{B}.if \underbrace{x}_{bound}$ then true else \underbrace{y}_{free}
- $(\lambda x : \mathbb{B}.if \underbrace{x}_{bound} then true else false) \underbrace{x}_{free}$

Free Variables

$$FV(x) \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \{x\}$$

$$FV(true) = FV(false) \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \emptyset$$

$$FV(if M \text{ then } P \text{ else } Q) \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} FV(M) \cup FV(P) \cup FV(Q)$$

$$FV(MN) \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} FV(M) \cup FV(N)$$

$$FV(\lambda x : \sigma.M) \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} FV(M) \setminus \{x\}$$

$$BV(x) \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \emptyset$$

$$BV(true) = FV(false) \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} \emptyset$$

$$BV(if M \text{ then } P \text{ else } Q) \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} BV(M) \cup BV(P) \cup BV(Q)$$

$$BV(MN) \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} BV(M) \cup BV(N)$$

$$BV(\lambda x : \sigma.M) \stackrel{\mathrm{def}}{=} BV(M) \cup (\{x\} \cap FV(M))$$

Renaming

$$M_y^{\times}$$

Replace every free occurrence of x with y

Examples

- $(x y)_z^x = z y$
- $(\lambda y.x)_z^x = \lambda y.z$
- $(\lambda y.x)_{y}^{x} = \lambda y.y \text{ Wrong??}$
 - Renaming can capture variables
 - ▶ *y* is typically required not to be bound in *M*

α -Equivalence

$$\frac{y \notin FV(M) \text{ and } y \text{ not a binding variable in } M}{\lambda x. M =_{\alpha} \lambda y. M_y^{\times}}$$

$$\frac{M =_{\alpha} M'}{\lambda x. M =_{\alpha} \lambda x. M'} \qquad \frac{M =_{\alpha} M' \quad P =_{\alpha} P'}{M P =_{\alpha} M' P'}$$

$$M =_{\alpha} M' \quad P =_{\alpha} P' \quad Q =_{\alpha} Q'$$

$$\text{if } M \text{ then } P \text{ else } Q =_{\alpha} \text{ if } M' \text{ then } P' \text{ else } Q'$$

- Uses renaming as a tool
- When we write rules like this we mean the smallest congruence generated by them

α -Equivalence

Examples:

- $\lambda x.x =_{\alpha} \lambda y.y$
- $\lambda x.y =_{\alpha} \lambda z.y$
- $\lambda x.y \neq_{\alpha} \lambda x.z$
- $\blacktriangleright \lambda x.\lambda x.x \neq_{\alpha} \lambda y.\lambda x.y$

Terms that differ only in the names of bound variables are considered identical

Substitution

 $M\{x := N\}$ "Substitute all free occurrences of x in M with N"

- 1. Note: condition $x \neq y$, $y \notin FV(N)$ can always be met by renaming
- 2. Technically, subst. is defined on α -equivalence classes of terms

Variable Capture

▶ Condition $x \neq y$, $y \notin FV(N)$ is important in this clause:

$$(\lambda y : \sigma.M)\{x := N\} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda y : \sigma.M\{x := N\} \ x \neq y, \ y \notin FV(N)$$

It avoids examples such as this:

$$(\lambda z : \sigma.x)\{x := z\} = \lambda z : \sigma.z$$

Here z has been captured by a binder

Type System

- ► Formal deductive system that uses axioms and inference schemes to characterize a subset of the terms
- ► First we need to introduce typing contexts
 - ▶ What is the type of *true*?
 - ▶ What is the type of if x then true else false?

Type System

A typing context is a set of pairs $x_i : \sigma_i$, written $\{x_1 : \sigma_1, \ldots, x_n : \sigma_n\}$ where the $\{x_i\}_{i \in 1...n}$ are distinct. We use letters Γ, Δ, \ldots for typing contexts.

A typing judgement is an expression of the form $\Gamma \rhd M : \sigma$, read:

"term M has type σ under typing context Γ "

Type System

- ► The meaning of $\Gamma \triangleright M$: σ is established through typing axioms and inference schemes/rules.
- ▶ If $\Gamma \triangleright M : \sigma$ can be derived using the typing axioms and inference schemes then we say that it is derivable.
- ▶ We say that M is typable if the typing judgement $\Gamma \rhd M$: σ can be derived, for some Γ and σ .
- \blacktriangleright We next present the typing axioms and inference schemes for $\lambda_V^{\mathbb{B},\to}$

Axioms and Inference Schemes

$$\frac{x:\sigma\in\Gamma}{\Gamma\triangleright x:\sigma} \text{ (T-VAR)}$$

$$\frac{}{\Gamma\triangleright true:\mathbb{B}} \text{ (T-TRUE)} \qquad \frac{}{\Gamma\triangleright false:\mathbb{B}} \text{ (T-FALSE)}$$

$$\frac{}{\Gamma\triangleright M:\mathbb{B}} \qquad \Gamma\triangleright P:\sigma \qquad \Gamma\triangleright Q:\sigma}{} \text{ (T-IF)}$$

$$\frac{}{\Gamma\triangleright if \quad M \quad then \quad P \quad else \quad Q:\sigma} \text{ (T-IF)}$$

$$\frac{}{\Gamma\triangleright \lambda x:\sigma\triangleright M:\sigma\to\tau} \text{ (T-Abs)} \qquad \frac{}{} \stackrel{}{\Gamma\triangleright M:\sigma\to\tau} \text{ (T-APP)}$$

Examples of Typing Derivations

On the board

- 1. $\triangleright \lambda x : \mathbb{B}.\lambda f : \mathbb{B} \to \mathbb{B}.f x : \mathbb{B} \to (\mathbb{B} \to \mathbb{B}) \to \mathbb{B}$
- 2. $x : \mathbb{B}, y : \mathbb{B} \triangleright if \times then y else y : \mathbb{B}$
- 3. \triangleright $\lambda f : \rho \to \tau.\lambda g : \sigma \to \rho.\lambda x : \sigma.f(g x) : (\rho \to \tau) \to (\sigma \to \rho) \to \sigma \to \tau$
- 4. There are no Γ and σ s.t. $\Gamma \triangleright true\ false$: σ
- 5. Are there Γ and σ s.t. $\Gamma \triangleright xx : \sigma$?

Basic Metatheory

Uniqueness of Types

If $\Gamma \rhd M : \sigma$ and $\Gamma \rhd M : \tau$ are derivable, then $\sigma = \tau$

Weakening+Strengthening

If $\Gamma \rhd M : \sigma$ is derivable and $\Gamma \cap \Gamma'$ contains all the free variables of M, then $\Gamma' \rhd M : \sigma$

Substitution

If $\Gamma, x : \sigma \rhd M : \tau$ and $\Gamma \rhd N : \sigma$ are derivable, then

 $\Gamma \rhd M\{x := N\} : \tau \text{ is derivable }$

Typability Questions

Typability

$$\Gamma \rhd M : ?$$

Type-Checking

$$\frac{?}{\Gamma \rhd M : \sigma}$$

Inhabitation

$$\Gamma \rhd ? : \sigma$$

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Booleans and Functions Safety Big-Step Operational Sema

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Semantics

- ► Having defined the syntax of $\lambda_V^{\mathbb{B},\to}$, we are interested in addressing how terms are evaluated or executed
- There are various ways of defining the semantics of a PL rigorously:
 - Operational
 - Denotational
 - Axiomatic
- ightharpoonup We will define the operational semantics of $\lambda_V^{\mathbb{B}, o}$

What is "Operational Semantics"

- It consists in:
 - interpreting the terms as states of an abstract machine; and
 - defining a transition function that indicates, given a state, what the next state is
- ▶ Meaning of a term *M*: the final state reached by the abstract machine when it starts operating from state *M*
- Types of operational semantics:
 - Small-step: the transition function describes one step of computation
 - 2. Big-step (or Natural Semantics): the transition function, in one step, evaluates the term to its result (if it exists)

Operational Semantics

Formulated through reduction judgements

$$M \rightarrow N$$

"term M reduces, in one step, to term N"

- Meaning of such judgements will be established through:
 - ► Reduction Axioms
 - ► Reduction Rules

Small-Step Operational Semantics for $\lambda_V^{\mathbb{B}, o}$

- Operational semantics shall presented in two steps
 - ▶ Define the set of values: expected results of a computation
 - Define the axioms and rules

Operational Semantics - Functions

Values

$$V ::= true \mid false \mid \lambda x : \sigma.M$$

By declaring those expressions as values we are saying:z every closed, well-typed term of type

- ▶ B evaluates, in zero or more steps, to *true*, *false*
- ▶ $\sigma \rightarrow \tau$, evaluates, in zero or more steps, to $\lambda x : \sigma.M$, for some variable x and term M

Operational Semantics - Boolean Expressions

$$\frac{1}{\text{if true then } M_2 \text{ else } M_3 \to M_2} \text{(E-IFTrue)}$$

$$\frac{1}{\text{if false then } M_2 \text{ else } M_3 \to M_3} \text{(E-IFFALSE)}$$

$$\frac{1}{\text{if } M_1 \text{ then } M_2 \text{ else } M_3 \to \text{if } M_1' \text{ then } M_2 \text{ else } M_3} \text{(E-IF)}$$

Operational Semantics - Functions

$$\frac{M_1 \to M_1'}{M_1 M_2 \to M_1' M_2} (\text{E-App1})$$

$$\frac{M_2 \to M_2'}{(\lambda x : \sigma. M_1) M_2 \to (\lambda x : \sigma. M_1) M_2'} (\text{E-App2})$$

$$\frac{(\text{E-AppAbs})}{(\lambda x : \sigma. M) V \to M\{x := V\}}$$

Examples

- \blacktriangleright if (if false then false else true) then false else true \rightarrow if true then false else true
- \blacktriangleright $(\lambda y : \mathbb{B}.y)$ true \rightarrow true
- $(\lambda x : \mathbb{B} \to \mathbb{B}.x \ true) (\lambda y : \mathbb{B}.y) \to (\lambda y : \mathbb{B}.y) \ true$
- ▶ $(\lambda z : \mathbb{B}.z)((\lambda y : \mathbb{B}.y) true) \rightarrow (\lambda z : \mathbb{B}.z) true$
- ▶ There is no M s.t. $true \rightarrow M$ (same with false).
- ▶ There is no M' s.t. $x \to M'$
 - x is in normal form but is not a value

Examples

if true then (if false then false else true) else true

→ if true then true else true

- This is quite expected:
 - 1. First evaluate guard
 - Then evaluate then or else expression, according to value of guard
- ► Same thing with reduction under a lambda

Properties

Lemma (Determinism of reduction in one step)

If $M \to M'$ and $M \to M''$, then M' = M''

Properties

A normal form is a term that cannot be further evaluated (i.e. M is s.t. there is no N, $M \rightarrow N$)

Lemma

Every value is in normal form

- The inverse does not hold
 - ▶ if x then true else false
 - ▶ X
 - true false

Multi-Step Evaluation

The multi-step evaluation judgment \twoheadrightarrow is the reflexive, transitive closure of \rightarrow :

- 1. Si $M \rightarrow M'$, then $M \rightarrow M'$
- 2. $M \rightarrow M$ for all M
- 3. Si $M \rightarrow M'$ and $M' \rightarrow M''$, then $M \rightarrow M''$

Example

if true then (if false then false else true) else true

Multi-Step Evaluation

Lemma (Uniqueness of Normal Forms)

If $M \rightarrow P$ and $M \rightarrow Q$ with P, Q normal forms, then P = Q

Lemma (Termination)

For all M there exists a normal form N such that $M \rightarrow N$

Error State

- State (=term) that is not a value but in which reduction is stuck
- Represents a state in which the run-time system would generate an exception

Examples

- ▶ if x then M else N
 - ► Obs: is not closed
- ► true M
 - ► Obs: is not typable

Safety of a Typing System

Guarantee the absence of error states

▶ If a closed term is typed (and terminates!), then it evaluates to a value

Recommend reading

► TYPE SYSTEMS, Luca Cardelli, The Computer Science and Engineering Handbook, CRC Press, 2004.

Correctness

Correction = Progress + Preservation

Progress

If M is closed and typable, then

- 1. *M* is a value; or
- 2. there exists M' s.t. $M \rightarrow M'$

Evaluation cannot get stuck on closed, typable terms that are not values

Preservation

If $\Gamma \rhd M : \sigma$ and $M \to N$, then $\Gamma \rhd N : \sigma$

Evaluation preserves types

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Big-Step Operational Semantics (for λ_V^{\rightarrow})

$$\frac{W \Downarrow V}{V \Downarrow V} \text{(EB-VAL)}$$

$$\frac{M \Downarrow \text{true } P \Downarrow V}{\text{if } M \text{ then } P \text{ else } Q \Downarrow V} \text{(EB-IFT)}$$

$$\frac{M \Downarrow \text{false } Q \Downarrow V}{\text{if } M \text{ then } P \text{ else } Q \Downarrow V} \text{(EB-IFF)}$$

$$\frac{M \Downarrow \lambda x : \sigma.P \quad N \Downarrow W \quad P\{x := W\} \Downarrow V}{M N \Downarrow V} \text{(EB-APP)}$$

Equivalence

$$M \rightarrow V \text{ iff } M \Downarrow V$$

- ▶ (⇒) Consider first proving: $M \to N$ and $N \Downarrow V$ implies $M \Downarrow V$
- ▶ (\Leftarrow) Induction on the derivation of $M \Downarrow V$

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The Unit Type Local Declarations Records

$$\sigma ::= \mathbb{B} \mid \mathbb{N} \mid \sigma \to \rho$$

$$M ::= \ldots \mid 0 \mid succ(M) \mid pred(M) \mid iszero(M)$$

Informally:

- succ(M): evaluate M until it yields a numeral and then increment it
- ▶ pred(M): evaluate M until it yields a numeral and then decrement it
- ▶ iszero(M): evaluate M until it yields a numeral and then return true/false depending on whether it is zero or not

Typing

$$\frac{\Gamma \rhd M : \mathbb{N}}{\Gamma \rhd succ(M) : \mathbb{N}} \text{(T-Succ)} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \rhd M : \mathbb{N}}{\Gamma \rhd pred(M) : \mathbb{N}} \text{(T-Pred)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \rhd M : \mathbb{N}}{\Gamma \rhd iszero(M) : \mathbb{B}} \text{(T-IsZero)}$$

Values and One-Step Evaluation (1/2)

Values

$$V ::= \ldots |\underline{n}|$$
 where \underline{n} abbreviates $succ^{n}(0)$.

Evaluation (1/2)

$$egin{aligned} rac{M_1
ightarrow M_1'}{succ(M_1)
ightarrow succ(M_1')} & ext{(E-Succ)} \ \hline rac{M_1
ightarrow M_1'}{pred(0)
ightarrow 0} & rac{M_1
ightarrow M_1'}{pred(M_1)
ightarrow pred(M_1')} & ext{(E-PredSucc)} \end{aligned}$$

Values and One-Step Evaluation (2/2)

Evaluation (2/2)

$$\sigma$$
 ::= $\mathbb{B} | \mathbb{N} | \mathbb{U} | \sigma \to \rho$

$$M ::= \dots | unit$$

Informally:

 $ightharpoonup \mathbb{U}$ is a unitary type: its only possible value is *unit*.

Typing

- ▶ No rules for evaluation
- ▶ We extend the set of values *V* with *unit*

$$V ::= \ldots | unit$$

Use

- ► Languages with side-effects (next class)
- Sequencing

$$M_1$$
; $M_2 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\lambda x : \mathbb{U}.M_2) M_1 \quad x \notin FV(M_2)$

▶ Evaluation of M_1 ; M_2 consists in first evaluating M_1 , then M_2

$$M ::= \ldots \mid let \ x : \sigma = M \ in \ N$$

Informally:

- ▶ let $x : \sigma = M$ in N: evaluate M to a value V, bind x to V in N and evaluate the resulting term
- Helps readability
- No new types required

Example

- ▶ let $x : \mathbb{N} = \underline{2}$ in succ(x)
- ▶ pred (let $x : \mathbb{N} = \underline{2}$ in x)
- let $x : \mathbb{N} = \underline{2}$ in let $x : \mathbb{N} = \underline{3}$ in x

Typing

$$\frac{\Gamma \rhd M : \sigma_1 \quad \Gamma, x : \sigma_1 \rhd N : \sigma_2}{\Gamma \rhd let \ x : \sigma_1 = M \ in \ N : \sigma_2}$$
(T-LET)

Operational Semantics

$$\frac{\textit{M}_1 \rightarrow \textit{M}_1'}{\textit{let } x : \sigma = \textit{M}_1 \textit{ in } \textit{M}_2 \rightarrow \textit{let } x : \sigma = \textit{M}_1' \textit{ in } \textit{M}_2} \text{(E-Let)}$$

$$\frac{\textit{let } x : \sigma = \textit{V} \textit{ in } \textit{M} \rightarrow \textit{M}\{x := \textit{V}\}}{\textit{let } x : \sigma = \textit{V} \textit{ in } \textit{M} \rightarrow \textit{M}\{x := \textit{V}\}}$$

Let \mathcal{L} be a set of labels

$$\sigma ::= \ldots \mid \{l_i : \sigma_i \stackrel{i \in 1...n}{} \}$$

- $\{name : String, age : \mathbb{N}\}$
- $\blacktriangleright \{person : \{name : String, age : \mathbb{N}\}, cwid : \mathbb{N}\}$

 $\{name : String, age : \mathbb{N}\} \neq \{age : \mathbb{N}, name : String\}$

$$M ::= \ldots |\{I_i = M_i | i \in 1...n\}| M.I$$

Informally:

- ▶ The record $\{I_i = M_i^{i \in 1..n}\}$ evaluates to $\{I_i = V_i^{i \in 1..n}\}$ where V_i is the value of M_i , $i \in 1..n$
- ▶ M.I: evaluates M until it yields $\{I_i = V_i^{i \in 1..n}\}$, then it projects the corresponding field

Examples

- ▶ $\lambda x : \mathbb{N}.\lambda y : \mathbb{B}.\{age = x, gender = y\}$
- $ightharpoonup \lambda p: \{age: \mathbb{N}, gender: \mathbb{B}\}.p.age$
- $(\lambda p : \{age : \mathbb{N}, gender : \mathbb{B}\}.p.age) \{age = 20, gender = false\}$

Typing

$$\frac{\Gamma \rhd M_i : \sigma_i \quad \text{for each } i \in 1..n}{\Gamma \rhd \{l_i = M_i \stackrel{i \in 1..n}{}\} : \{l_i : \sigma_i \stackrel{i \in 1..n}{}\}} \text{ (T-Rcd)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \rhd M : \{l_i : \sigma_i \stackrel{i \in 1..n}{}\} \quad j \in 1..n}{\Gamma \rhd M.l_j : \sigma_j} \text{ (T-Proj)}$$

Operational Semantics

Values

$$V ::= \ldots |\{I_i = V_i|_{i \in 1..n}\}$$

Operational Semantics

$$\frac{j \in 1..n}{\{l_i = V_i^{i \in 1..n}\}.l_j \to V_j} \text{(E-ProjRcd)}$$

$$\frac{M \to M'}{M.l \to M'.l} \text{(E-Proj)}$$

$$\frac{M_j \to M'_j}{\{l_i = V_i^{i \in 1..j-1}, l_j = M_j, l_i = M_i^{i \in j+1..n}\}} \text{(E-Rcd)}$$

$$\to \{l_i = V_i^{i \in 1..j-1}, l_j = M'_j, l_i = M_i^{i \in j+1..n}\}$$