

Programming Paradigms 2025

Session 13 : Lazy evaluation

Preparing for the session

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Where nothing else is mentioned, chapters and page numbers refer to *Programming in Haskell*.

The video podcast

You can watch the podcast on YouTube via the course page on Moodle.

Tuesday 2 December 2025 – Lazy evaluation

Please read

- Chapter 15 of *Programming in Haskell*.

Learning goals for the session

- To be able to precisely explain the two main evaluation strategies: Call-by-value and call-by-name and the notion of a redex
- To be able to precisely explain the notion of lazy evaluation
- To understand how lazy evaluation allows Haskell to express infinite structures and finite computations on such structures
- To understand how strict application can be used in Haskell.

How you should prepare before we meet on Tuesday

Before we meet, watch the podcast and read the text. You can do this in any order you like. Also see if you can solve the following two small discussion problems. We will talk about them in class.

1. Give two different definitions (one using recursion, one not using recursion) of a function `nsonly` that takes as input a number n and gives us the infinite list consisting of $0n, 1n, 2n, 3n, \dots$
2. Here is a definition of an expression.

```
plip = fst (17, f 484000)
          where f x = f x + 1
```

What is the value of `plip`? Explain!