# **Calculus of Recursive Constructions**

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#### **Abstract**

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### 1. Calculus of Constructions

Our language is based on the *Calculus of Constructions*, a special case of the *Pure Type System*. We give the definition as follows:

- (i) A Calculus of Constructions ( $\lambda C$ ) is a triple tuple ( $\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{R}$ ) where
  - (a)  $S = \{\star, \Box\}$  is a set of *sorts*;
  - (b)  $A = \{(\star, \Box)\} \subseteq S \times S$  is a set of *axioms*;
  - (c)  $\mathcal{R} = \{(\star, \star), (\star, \square), (\square, \star), (\square, \square)\} \subseteq \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{S}$  is a set of rules
- (ii) Raw expressions A and raw environments  $\Gamma$  are defined in Figure 1.

**Figure 1.** Syntax of  $\lambda C$ 

We use s, t to range over *sorts*, x, y, z to range over *variables*, and A, B, C, a, b, c to range over *expressions*.

(iii)  $\Pi$  and  $\lambda$  are used to bind variables. Let  $\mathrm{FV}(A)$  denote free variable set of A. Let A[x:=B] denote the substitution of x in A with B. We use  $A\to B$  as a syntactic sugar for  $(\Pi_-:A,B)$ .

(iv) The  $\beta$ -reduction  $(\rightarrow_{\beta})$  is the smallest binary relation on raw expressions satisfying

$$(\lambda x : A. M)N \rightarrow_{\beta} M[x := N]$$

which can be used to define the notation  $\twoheadrightarrow_{\beta}$  and  $\equiv_{\beta}$  by convention. Reduction rules are given in Figure 2. Highlighted premises and rules are only for *call-by-value* evaluation.

$$\begin{array}{ll} \textbf{Values: } v ::= & \lambda x : A. \ B \mid \Pi x : A. \ B \\ \hline N \in \textit{Value} \\ \hline (\text{R-Beta}) & \hline (\lambda x : A. \ M) N \longrightarrow M[x := N] \\ \hline (\text{R-AppL}) & \frac{M \longrightarrow M'}{MN \longrightarrow M'N} \\ \hline (\text{R-AppR}) & \frac{v \in \textit{Value} \quad M \longrightarrow M'}{vM \longrightarrow vM'} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

**Figure 2.** Reduction rules for  $\lambda C$ 

(v) Type assignment rules for (S, A, R) are given in Figure 3.

$$(Ax) \qquad \overline{\varnothing \vdash \star : \square}$$

$$(Var) \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A : s}{\Gamma, x : A \vdash x : A} \qquad x \not\in \text{dom}(\Gamma)$$

$$(Weak) \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash b : B}{\Gamma, x : A \vdash b : B} \qquad x \not\in \text{dom}(\Gamma)$$

$$(App) \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash f : (\Pi x : A . B) \qquad \Gamma \vdash a : A}{\Gamma \vdash f a : B[x := a]}$$

$$(Lam) \qquad \frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash b : B}{\Gamma \vdash (\Lambda x : A . b) : (\Pi x : A . B) : t} \qquad t \in \{\star, \square\}$$

$$(Pi) \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A : s}{\Gamma \vdash (\Pi x : A . B) : t} \qquad (s, t) \in \mathcal{R}$$

$$(Conv) \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash a : A}{\Gamma \vdash a : B} \qquad \Gamma \vdash B : s \qquad A =_{\beta} B$$

**Figure 3.** Typing rules for  $\lambda C$ 

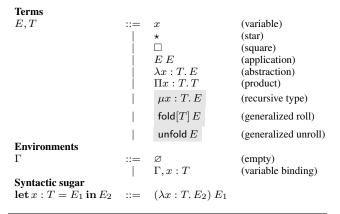
# 2. Extend with recursive types

# 2.1 Core language

We extend Calculus of Constructions ( $\lambda C$ ) with recursive types, namely  $\lambda C_{\mu}$ . Differences with  $\lambda C$  are highlighted. Figure 4 shows the extended syntax.

Since recursive types are introduced and due to the practical concern, we use the *call-by-name* reduction strategy, i.e. iteratively reducing the *left-most outer-most* redex. Figure 5 shows the dynamic semantics with no call-by-value specific premises or rules.

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**Figure 4.** Syntax of  $\lambda C_{\mu}$ 

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \textbf{values:} & v & ::= & \lambda x: T. \ E & (abstraction) \\ & & \Pi x: T_1. T_2 & (product) \\ & & & fold[T] \ E & (roll) \\ \\ \hline (R-AppLam) & & & & & \\ \hline (R-AppL) & & & & & \\ \hline & & & E_1 \longrightarrow E_1[x:=E_2] \\ \hline (R-Unfold) & & & & & \\ \hline (R-Unfold-Fold) & & & & & \\ \hline (R-Unfold-Fold) & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & \\ \hline (R-Mu) & & & & & \\ \hline \hline & & & \mu x: T. \longrightarrow T[x:=\mu x:T.] \\ \hline \end{array}$$

**Figure 5.** Reduction rules for  $\lambda C$ 

The extended typing rules are shown in Figure 6. Compared with  $\lambda C$ , the original Conv rule is replaced by the new Beta rule where the latter only performs one step of reduction defined in Figure 5.

## 2.2 Soundness of core language

We show the soundness of the core language by subject reduction and progress theorems.

**Theorem 2.1** (Subject Reduction) If  $\Gamma \vdash A : B$  and  $A \longrightarrow A'$  then  $\Gamma \vdash A' : B$ .

*Proof.* See Appendix A. □

#### **Theorem 2.2** (Progress)

If  $\cdot \vdash A : B$  then either A is a value v or there exists A' such that  $A \longrightarrow A'$ .

*Proof.* See Appendix A. □

#### 2.3 Examples of typable terms

• Polymorphic identity function: if  $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau$ , we have unfold  $((\lambda \alpha : \star . \lambda x : ((\lambda y : \star . y) \ \alpha). x) \ \tau \ (\text{fold}[(\lambda y : \star . y) \ \tau] \ e))$   $\longrightarrow$  unfold  $(\text{fold}[(\lambda y : \star . y) \ \tau] \ e) \longrightarrow e$ .

**Figure 6.** Typing rules for  $\lambda C_{\mu}$ 

• A polymorphic fixed-point constructor fix :  $(\Pi \alpha : \star .(\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \alpha)$  can be defined as follows:

$$\begin{split} \operatorname{fix} = & \lambda \alpha : \star.\lambda f : \alpha \to \alpha. \\ & (\lambda x : (\mu \sigma : \star.\sigma \to \alpha).f((\operatorname{unfold} x)x)) \\ & (\operatorname{fold}[\mu \sigma : \star.\sigma \to \alpha] \left(\lambda x : (\mu \sigma : \star.\sigma \to \alpha).f((\operatorname{unfold} x)x))\right) \end{split}$$

Note that this is the so called call-by-name fixed point combinator. It is useless in a call-by-value setting, since the expression fix  $\alpha$  g diverges for any g.

• Using fix, we can build recursive functions. For example, given a "hungry" type  $H=\mu\sigma:\star.\alpha\to\sigma$ , the "hungry" function h where

$$h = \lambda \alpha : \star . \mathsf{fix} (\alpha \to H) (\lambda f : \alpha \to H . \lambda x : \alpha . \mathsf{fold}[H] f)$$

can take arbitrary number of arguments.

# 3. Formal Elaboration of Datatypes and Case Analysis

# 3.1 Extended Language

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We extend  $\lambda C_{\mu}$  with simple datatypes (polymorphic and recursive<sup>1</sup>) and case analysis [6], namely  $\lambda C_{\mu c}$ . Differences with  $\lambda C_{\mu}$  are highlighted in Figure 7.

An algebraic data type D is introduced as a top-level **data** declaration with its data constructors. The type of a data constructor K has the form:

$$K: \Pi \overline{x:\kappa}^n.\Pi \overline{y:\iota}.\overline{\tau} \to D \overline{x}^n$$

The first n quantified type variables  $\overline{x}$  appear in the same order in the return type  $D\overline{x}$ , and  $\overline{y}$  stands for existentially quantified type variables. There is a case expression to take apart values built with data constructors. The patterns of a case expression are flat (no nested patterns), and bind existential type variables.

The extended typing rules are shown in Figure 8. To save space, we only show the new typing rules.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm l}$  Polymorphic recursion is not supported yet, since we have difficulty generalizing  $\mu$  to have higher kind.

**Figure 7.** Syntax of  $\lambda C_{\mu c}$  (e for terms;  $\tau, \sigma$  for types;  $\kappa, \iota$  for kinds)

$$\begin{array}{c} \Gamma \vdash pgm : \tau \\ \\ (\operatorname{Pgm}) \\ \hline \Gamma_0 \vdash decl : \Gamma_d \\ \hline \Gamma_0 \vdash \overline{decl} ; e : \tau \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash decl : \Gamma' \\ \\ (\operatorname{Data}) \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash e : \tau \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash (\operatorname{data} D : \kappa \operatorname{where} \overline{K} : \overline{\tau}) : (D : \kappa, \overline{K} : \overline{\tau}) \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash e : \tau \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash \operatorname{case} e_1 \operatorname{of} \overline{p \Rightarrow e_2} : \tau \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash_p p \Rightarrow e : D \rightarrow \tau \\ \\ (\operatorname{Alt}) \\ \hline \end{array}$$

**Figure 8.** Typing rules for  $\lambda C_{\mu}c$ 

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### 3.2 Translation Overview

We use a type-directed translation [3]. The typing relations have the form:

$$\Gamma \vdash e : \tau \leadsto E$$

It states that  $\lambda C_{\mu}$  expression E is the translation of  $\lambda C_{\mu c}$  expression e of type  $\tau$ . Figure 9 shows the translation rules, which are the typing rules of the previous section extended with the resulting expression E. In the translation, We require that applications of type functions D to be saturated.

### 3.3 Examples of Simple Datatypes

• Encoding of natural numbers

data Nat :  $\star$  where zero : Nat suc : Nat  $\rightarrow$  Nat

Nat, zero and suc are encoded as follows:

$$\begin{split} &\mathbf{let}\;\mathsf{Nat}: \star = \mu X: \star.\; \Pi b: \star.\; b \to (X \to b) \to b \;\mathbf{in} \\ &\mathbf{let}\;\mathsf{zero}:\;\mathsf{Nat} = \mathsf{fold}[\mathsf{Nat}] \left(\lambda(b:\star)(z:b)(f:\mathsf{Nat} \to b).\; z\right) \mathbf{in} \\ &\mathbf{let}\;\mathsf{suc}:\;\mathsf{Nat} \to \mathsf{Nat} = \lambda(n:\mathsf{Nat}).\; \mathsf{fold}[\mathsf{Nat}] \left(\lambda(b:\star)(z:b) \right. \\ &\left. (f:\mathsf{Nat} \to b).\; f\; n\right) \mathbf{in} \end{split}$$

• Encoding of polymorphic lists

data List : 
$$\star \to \star$$
 where  
nil :  $\Pi a : \star$ . List  $a$   
cons :  $\Pi a : \star . a \to \mathsf{List} \, a \to \mathsf{List} \, a$ 

List, nil and cons are encoded as follows:

$$\begin{split} & \text{let List}: \star \to \star = \lambda a: \star. \ \mu X: \star. \ \Pi b: \star. \ b \to (a \to X \to b) \to b \text{ in} \\ & \text{let nil}: \Pi a: \star. \ \text{List} \ a = \lambda a: \star. \\ & \text{fold}[\mathsf{List} \ a] \ (\lambda(b:\star)(z:b)(f:a \to \mathsf{List} \ a \to b). \ z) \text{ in} \\ & \text{let cons}: \Pi a: \star. \ a \to \mathsf{List} \ a \to \mathsf{List} \ a = \lambda(a:\star)(x:a)(xs:\mathsf{List} \ a). \\ & \text{fold}[\mathsf{List} \ a] \ (\lambda(b:\star)(z:b)(f:a \to \mathsf{List} \ a \to b). \ fx \ xs) \text{ in} \end{split}$$

**Figure 9.** Type-directed translation from  $\lambda C_{\mu}c$  to  $\lambda C_{\mu}$ 

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Using fix, we can define a recursive function length as follows:

$$\begin{split} \mathsf{length} : \Pi a : \star. \, \mathsf{List} \, a &\to \mathsf{Nat} \\ \mathsf{length} &= \lambda a : \star. \, \mathsf{fix} \, (\mathsf{List} \, a &\to \mathsf{Nat}) \\ &\quad (\lambda (f : \mathsf{List} \, a &\to \mathsf{Nat}) (l : \mathsf{List} \, a). \\ &\quad (\mathsf{unfold} \, l) \, \mathsf{Nat} \, \mathsf{zero} \, (\lambda (x : a) (xs : \mathsf{List} \, a). \, \mathsf{suc} \, (f \, xs))) \, \mathbf{in} \end{split}$$

• Encoding of a datatype with existential types

data 
$$D: \star \to \star$$
 where  $K: \Pi a: \star. \Pi b: \star. a \to b \to (b \to \mathsf{Nat}) \to D a$ 

### **Acknowledgments**

Acknowledgments, if needed.

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# A. Appendix

#### Lemma A.1 (Substitutions)

Assume we have

$$\Gamma, x : A \vdash B : C \tag{1}$$

$$\Gamma \vdash D : A,$$
 (2)

then

$$\Gamma[x := D] \vdash B[x := D] : C[x := D].$$

*Proof.* This is trivial by induction on the typing derivation of (1) by typing rules in Fig.6. We only discuss two cases for example. Let  $E^*$  denote E[x := D]. Consider following cases

• The last applied rule to obtain (1) is *Var*. There are 2 sub-cases: 1. It is derived by

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A : s}{\Gamma, x : A \vdash x : A},$$

then we have  $(B:C) \equiv (x:A)$ . And  $\Gamma \vdash (x:A)^* \equiv$ (D:A) which holds by (2).

2. It is derived by

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash E : s}{\Gamma, x : A, y : E \vdash y : E}$$

 $\overline{\Gamma,x:A,y:E\vdash y:E} \text{ ,}$  then we need to show  $\Gamma^*,y:E^*\vdash y:E^*.$  And it directly follows the induction hypothesis, i.e.  $\Gamma^* \vdash E^* : s$ .

• The last applied rule to obtain (1) is App, i.e.

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash B_1 : (\Pi y : C_1. C_2) \qquad \Gamma, x : A \vdash B_2 : C_1}{\Gamma, x : A \vdash (B_1 B_2) : C_2[y := B_2]}.$$

By the induction hypothesis, we can obtain  $\Gamma^* \vdash B_1^*: (\Pi y: C_1^*.C_2^*)$  and  $\Gamma^* \vdash B_2^*: C_1^*$ . Thus,  $\Gamma^* \vdash (B_1^*B_2^*): (C_2^*[y:=B_2^*])$ , i.e.  $\Gamma^* \vdash (B_1B_2)^*: (C_2[y:=B_2])^*$ .

**Theorem A.2** (Subject Reduction)

If  $\Gamma \vdash A : B$  and  $A \longrightarrow A'$  then  $\Gamma \vdash A' : B'$  for some B' such that either  $B \equiv B'$  or  $B \longrightarrow B'$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{D}$  be the derivation of  $\Gamma \vdash A : B$ . The proof is by induction on dynamic semantics shown in Fig.5.

case *R-AppLam*:  $\overline{(\lambda x:A.M)N\longrightarrow M[x:=N]}$  Derivation  $\mathcal D$  has the following form

$$\frac{\Gamma, x: A \vdash M: A'}{\Gamma \vdash (\lambda x: A.M): (\Pi x: A.A')} Lam \qquad \Gamma \vdash N: A}{\Gamma \vdash (\lambda x: A.M)N: A'} App$$

Thus, by Lemma A.1 we can obtain  $\Gamma \vdash M[x := N] : A'$ .

case *R-AppL*: 
$$\xrightarrow{M} \xrightarrow{M'}$$
. Derivation  $\mathcal{D}$  has the following form

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : (\Pi x : A.A') \qquad \Gamma \vdash N : A}{\Gamma \vdash MN : A'} App$$

By the induction hypothesis we have  $\Gamma \vdash M' : (\Pi x : A.A')$ . Hence.

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M' : (\Pi x : A.A') \qquad \Gamma \vdash N : A}{\Gamma \vdash M'N : A'} App$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \mu x.A}{\Gamma \vdash (\mathsf{unfold}\ M) : A[x := \mu x.A]} \ \mathit{Unfold}$$

By the induction hypothesis we have  $\Gamma \vdash M' : \mu x.A$ . Hence,

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M' : \mu x.A}{\Gamma \vdash (\mathsf{unfold}\ M') : A[x := \mu x.A]}\ \mathit{Unfold}$$

case *R-Unfold-Fold*:  $unfold (fold[\mu x : A.] M) \longrightarrow M$ Derivation  $\mathcal{D}$  has the following form

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : (A[x := \mu x.A])}{\Gamma \vdash (\mathsf{fold}[\mu x : A.\,]\,M) : \mu x.A} \ \textit{Fold}}{\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{unfold}\left(\mathsf{fold}[\mu x : A.\,]\,M\right) : (A[x := \mu x.A])} \ \textit{Unfold}$$

case R-Mu:  $\mu x: M. \longrightarrow M[x:=\mu x: M.]$ Derivation  $\mathcal{D}$  has the following form

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : s \vdash M : s}{\Gamma \vdash (\mu x : M.) : s} Mu$$

Hence, by Lemma A.1 we have  $\frac{\Gamma,x:s\vdash M:s\qquad \Gamma\vdash \mu x:M.:s}{\Gamma\vdash (M[x:=\mu x:M.]):s}$ 

**Theorem A.3** (Progress)

If  $\cdot \vdash A : B$  then either A is a value v or there exists A' such that  $A \longrightarrow A'$ .

Proof. We can give the proof by induction on the derivation of  $\cdot \vdash A : B$  by typing rules in Fig.6:

 $\mathbf{case} \ \mathbf{\textit{Var}} : \frac{\cdot \vdash A : s}{\cdot, x : A \vdash x : A} \ .$ 

This case cannot be reached. Proof is by contradiction. If we have  $\cdot \vdash x : A$  then x is assigned with type A from a context "·" without A, which is not possible.

case 
$$App$$
: 
$$\frac{\cdot \vdash M : (\Pi x : A.B) \quad \cdot \vdash N : A}{\cdot \vdash MN : B}$$

e App:  $\frac{}{\cdot \vdash MN : B}$ By induction hypothesis on  $\cdot \vdash M : (\Pi x : A.B)$ , there are two possible cases.

- 1. M = v is a value. Hence  $v = \lambda x : A.M'$  where  $\cdot \vdash M'$ : B. Then  $MN = vN = (\lambda x : A.M')N = M'[x := N].$ By the substitution lemma,  $\cdot \vdash (M'[x := N]) : \tilde{B}$  which is  $\text{just} \cdot \vdash MN : B$ .
- 2.  $M \longrightarrow M'$ . The result is obvious by the operational semantic  $M \longrightarrow M' \over MN \longrightarrow M'N$  R-AppL.

case Lam: 
$$\frac{MN \longrightarrow M}{\cdot \vdash (\lambda x : A.M) : (\Pi x : A.B)} \cdot$$
The result is trivial if let  $v = \lambda x : A.M$ .
$$\frac{\cdot \vdash A : s \qquad \cdot , x : A \vdash B : t}{\cdot \vdash (\Pi x : A.B) : t}$$
The result is trivial if let  $v = \Pi x : A.B$ 

The result is trivial if let  $v = \Pi x : A.B.$ 

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case  $\textit{Mu}: \overline{\ \ \cdot \vdash (\mu x : A.) : s} \ \cdot$  The result is trivial since we always have such reduction  $\mu x:$  $A. \longrightarrow A[x := \mu x : A.].$ 

 $\textbf{case Fold:} \ \ \overline{\ \ \, \cdot \vdash (\mathsf{fold}[\mu x.A]\,M) : \mu x.A} \ \ \, \cdot \\$ The result is trivial if let  $v = \text{fold}[\mu x. A] M$ .

possible cases.

- 1. a = v is a value. Hence  $a = \text{fold}[\mu x : A] b$  where  $\cdot \vdash b : (A[x := \mu x : A.])$ . Then by the R-Unfold-Fold rule, unfold  $a = \text{unfold} (\text{fold}[\mu x : A] b) = b$ . Thus  $\cdot \vdash (\mathsf{unfold}\, a) : A[x := \mu x : \mathring{A}.].$
- 2.  $a \longrightarrow a'$ . The result is obvious by the reduction rule  $\frac{M \longrightarrow M'}{\text{unfold } M \longrightarrow \text{unfold } M'} R\text{-}Unfold \ .$   $\text{case } \textit{Beta:} \ \overline{\phantom{A} \vdash (\text{beta } a) : B} \ .$ The result is rivial since we always have such reduction

 $\mathsf{beta}\, a \longrightarrow a.$