Lambda Calculi With Explicit Substitutions slides: https://github.com/donovancrichton/Talks

Lambda Calculi With Explicit Substitutions

slides: https://github.com/donovancrichton/Talks

Donovan Crichton

February 2025

1/28

The goal of this talk

- How to read (theory) syntax.
- STLC Simply Typed Lambda Calculus.
- Substituions in anger De-Bruijn Indicies.
- Explicit Substitutions.
- Explicit Substitutions in modern type theory.

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■ STLC - Simply Typed Lambda Calculus. ■ Substituions in anger - De-Bruijn Indicies

The goal of this talk

- How to read (theory) syntax.
- Explicit Substitutions
- Explicit Substitutions in modern type theory

☐ The goal of this talk

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Reading Syntax: Grammar

Natural Numbers (Peano)

$$\mathbb{N} ::= Z \mid S \mathbb{N}$$

Untyped Lambda Caluclus

$$V ::= x, y, z, \dots$$
 $M, N ::= V$ Variable.

 $\mid M N$ Application.

 $\mid \lambda V. M$ Abstraction.

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Reading Syntax: Grammar

Natural Numbers (Peano) $\mathbb{N} ::= Z \mid S \mathbb{N}$

Reading Syntax: Grammar

Natural Numbers (Peano)

 $\mathbb{N} ::= Z \mid S \mathbb{N}$

Our <symbol> name...

Natural Numbers (Peano)

 $\mathbb{N} := Z \mid S \mathbb{N}$

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Reading Syntax: Grammar



...is defined in the following ways:

Natural Numbers (Peano)

 $\mathbb{N} := Z \mid S \mathbb{N}$

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Reading Syntax: Grammar



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Reading Syntax: Grammar

The letter Z by itself. N ::= Z | S N

Reading Syntax: Grammar

The letter Z by itself.

Natural Numbers (Peano)

 $\mathbb{N} ::= \boxed{Z} \mid S \mathbb{N}$

...or...

Natural Numbers (Peano)

$$\mathbb{N} ::= Z | S \mathbb{N}$$

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Reading Syntax: Grammar



The letter S followed by a space, followed by any \mathbb{N} .

Natural Numbers (Peano)

$$\mathbb{N} ::= Z | S \mathbb{N}$$

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—Reading Syntax: Grammar



Our set of expressions/terms called V...

Untyped Lambda Caluclus

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https://github.com/donovancrichton/Talks Reading Syntax: Grammar

is given, or defined by:

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Reading Syntax: Grammar



Reading Syntax: Grammar

'x', 'y', 'z', or any other lower case letter (lower case words also implied)

Untyped Lambda Caluclus

$$V ::= [x, y, z, ...]$$
 $M, N ::= V$ Variable.

 $\mid M N$ Application.

 $\mid \lambda V. M$ Abstraction.

Our lambda terms, denoted by N or M (other capital letters implied).

Untyped Lambda Caluclus

$$V ::= x, y, z, ...$$
 $M, N ::= V$ Variable.

 $|M, N| := V$ Application.

 $|\lambda V.M|$ Abstraction.

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Reading Syntax: Grammar



are given by:

Untyped Lambda Caluclus $V ::= x, y, z, \dots$ $M, N ::= V \qquad \qquad \text{Variable.}$ $\mid M N \qquad \qquad \text{Application.}$ $\mid \lambda V. M \qquad \qquad \text{Abstraction.}$

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Reading Syntax: Grammar



A *V*...

Untyped Lambda Caluclus

 $V ::= x, y, z, \dots$

$$M, N ::= \boxed{V}$$
 Variable. | $M N$ Application. | $\lambda V.M$ Abstraction.

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Reading Syntax: Grammar



...or,

Untyped Lambda Caluclus V ::= x, y, z, ... $M, N ::= V \qquad \qquad \text{Variable.}$ Application. $| \lambda V.M \qquad \qquad \text{Abstraction.}$

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Reading Syntax: Grammar



A lambda term (M), followed by a space, followed by another lambda term (N).

Untyped Lambda Caluclus $V ::= x, y, z, \dots$ $M, N ::= V \qquad \qquad \text{Variable.}$ $| M N \qquad \qquad \text{Application.}$ $| \lambda V.M \qquad \qquad \text{Abstraction.}$

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Reading Syntax: Grammar



Or,

Untyped Lambda Caluclus

$$V ::= x, y, z, ...$$
 $M, N ::= V$ Variable.

 $\mid M N$ Application.

 $\mid \mid \lambda V.M$ Abstraction.

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Reading Syntax: Grammar



The λ symbol, followed by a V element, followed by a ".", followed by a lambda term (M)

Untyped Lambda Caluclus $V := x, y, z, \dots$ $M, N := V \qquad \qquad \text{Variable.}$ $\mid M N \qquad \qquad \text{Application.}$ $\mid \overline{\lambda V. M} \qquad \qquad \text{Abstraction.}$

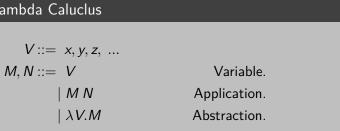
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Reading Syntax: Grammar



Why does Grammar look like this?

Untyped Lambda Caluclus

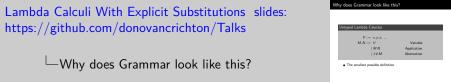




Why does Grammar look like this?

Untyped Lambda Caluclus $V := x, y, z, \dots$ $M, N := V \qquad \qquad \text{Variable.}$ $\mid M N \qquad \qquad \text{Application.}$ $\mid \lambda V. M \qquad \qquad \text{Abstraction.}$

■ The smallest possible definition.



Why does Grammar look like this?

Why does Grammar look like this?

$$V ::= x, y, z, \dots$$
 $M, N ::= V$ Variable.

| $M N$ Application.

| $\lambda V.M$ Abstraction.

- The smallest possible definition.
- Can be used to generate arbitrary elements.

What about in programming?

Natural Numbers (Peano)

```
data Nat = Z | S Nat
zero :: Nat
zero = Z
one :: Nat
one = S Z
two :: Nat
two = S (S Z)
three :: Nat
three = S two
```

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What about in programming?

Action and Community (Action)

Acts Res = 2 | 3 dec

Acts Res = 2 | 3 dec

Acts Res = 2 | 3 dec

Acts Res = 3 | 3 dec

Acts Res = 3 dec

A

What about in programming?

What about in programming?

Untyped Lambda Caluclus (Idris)

```
V : Type
    V = String
    data \Lambda = Var V
             \Lambda \Lambda qq\Lambda
             Abs V A
    id : \Lambda
   id = Abs "x" (Var "x")
10
    const : \Lambda
    const = Abs "a" (Abs "b" (Var "a"))
```

```
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What about in programming?

Wat about in programming?

Wat about in programming?
```

Church Encoding - Naturals and Booleans

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False = $\lambda a. \lambda b. b$

Church Encoding - Naturals and Booleans

Church Booleans

True = $\lambda a. \lambda b. a$

False = $\lambda a. \lambda b. b$

Church Encoding - Naturals and Booleans

Church Booleans

True = $\lambda a. \lambda b. a$

 $\mathsf{False} = \lambda a. \lambda b. b$

Church Naturals

$$0 = \lambda f. \lambda x. x$$

$$1 = \lambda f. \lambda x. f x$$

$$2 = \lambda f. \lambda x. f(f x)$$

:

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Church Booleans
Trus = Na Na h
False = Na Na h
Church Naturals
0 = MNa r
1 = MNa r
2 = MNa r
2 = MNa r
3 =

Church Encoding - Naturals and Booleans

Church Encoding - Naturals and Booleans

Church Encoding - Functions and Predicates

Functions and Predicates

Succ
$$(n, f, x) = \lambda n.\lambda f.\lambda x.\lambda f(n f x)$$

Add $(m, n, f, x) = \lambda m.\lambda n.\lambda f.\lambda x.m f(n f x)$
IsZero $(n) = \lambda n.n (\lambda x.False)$ True

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Succ(n, f, x) = $\lambda n \lambda L \lambda c \lambda M$ (n f x)
Add (m, n, f, x) = $\lambda m \lambda m \lambda L \lambda c m f$ (n f x)
isZero(n) = $\lambda n n$ (λc Faise) True

Church Encoding - Functions and Predicates

Church Encoding - Functions and Predicates

Church Encoding - Functions and Predicates

Functions and Predicates

Succ
$$(n, f, x) = \lambda n.\lambda f.\lambda x.\lambda f(n f x)$$

Add $(m, n, f, x) = \lambda m.\lambda n.\lambda f.\lambda x.m f(n f x)$
IsZero $(n) = \lambda n.n (\lambda x.\lambda a.\lambda b.b) \lambda a.\lambda b.a$

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└─Church Encoding - Functions and Predicates

Functions and Productes $Succ(n,\ell,s) = \lambda nALhx M(n/s)$ $Add(m,n,\ell,s) = \lambda mAnALhx m(\ell n/s)$ $Little(n) = \lambda n(n,h,h,h) \lambda \lambda h h s$

Church Encoding - Functions and Predicates

 $\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \; \mathsf{Type} \qquad \Gamma, x : A \vdash B \; \mathsf{Type}}{\Gamma \vdash A \to B \; \mathsf{Type}} \big(\mathit{Ty-Arrow} \big)$ $\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \to B \text{ Type} \qquad \Gamma, x : A \vdash M : B}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda(x : A) M : A \to B} (Func)$

Typing Rules $\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \text{ Type} \qquad \Gamma, x : A \vdash B \text{ Type}}{\Gamma \vdash A \to B \text{ Type}} (Ty\text{-}Arrow)$ $\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \to B \text{ Type} \qquad \Gamma, x : A \vdash M : B}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda(x : A).M : A \to B} (Func)$ $\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \to B \text{ Type} \qquad \Gamma \vdash f : A \to B \qquad \Gamma \vdash x : A}{\Gamma \vdash f x : B} (App)$

Reading Syntax: Typing Rules

The Program Context

$$\Gamma, \Delta ::= \diamond \mid \Gamma, x : A$$

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☐ The Program Context



The current scope of our program.

Our context called Γ or Δ , etc...

The Program Context

$$\boxed{\Gamma, \Delta} ::= \diamond \mid \Gamma, x : A$$

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☐ The Program Context



Is defined by:

The Program Context

$$\Gamma, \Delta \square \Rightarrow | \Gamma, x : A$$



The Program Context

$$\Gamma, \Delta ::= \Diamond \mid \Gamma, x : A$$

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└─The Program Context



Empty (like the empty list) represented by \diamond .

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The Program Context

 $\Gamma, \Delta ::= \circ \prod \Gamma, x : A$

The Program Context

Or,

The Program Context

$$\Gamma, \Delta ::= \diamond \boxed{\mid} \Gamma, x : A$$

The Program Context

$$\Gamma, \Delta ::= \diamond \mid \boxed{\Gamma, x : A}$$

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└─The Program Context



Our program scope, extended with a variable 'x' of type 'A'.

Example Contexts

What is the context of this program?

```
1  -- assuming empty context here.
2  -- assuming A → B : Type here.
3  data Bool = True | False
4  
5  not : Bool -> Bool
6  not True = False
7  not False = True
```

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Example Contexts

What is the context of this program?

```
-- assuming empty context here.
-- assuming A \rightarrow B: Type here.
data Bool = True | False
not : Bool -> Bool
not True = False
not False = True
```

Answer.

Γ=???

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Example Contexts



What is the context of this program?

```
1  -- assuming empty context here.
2  -- assuming A → B : Type here.
3  data Bool = True | False
4  
5  not : Bool -> Bool
6  not True = False
7  not False = True
```

Answer.

Γ = ⋄, ...

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Example Contexts

Frample Contexts

When a the content of the program

The c

What is the context of this program?

```
-- assuming empty context here.
-- assuming A \rightarrow B: Type here.
data Bool = True | False
not : Bool -> Bool
not True = False
not False = True
```

Answer.

 $\Gamma = \diamond, A \rightarrow B : Type, ...$

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Example Contexts



What is the context of this program?

```
1  -- assuming empty context here.
2  -- assuming A → B : Type here.
3  data Bool = True | False
4  
5  not : Bool -> Bool
6  not True = False
7  not False = True
```

Answer.

```
\Gamma = \diamond, \mathsf{A} \to \mathsf{B} : \mathsf{Type}, \mathsf{Bool} : \mathsf{Type}, \mathsf{True} : \mathsf{Bool}, \mathsf{False} : \mathsf{Bool}, ...
```

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Example Contexts

Example Contexts

What is the context of this program?

-- caractery graps product force,

-- caractery graps g

What is the context of this program?

```
-- assuming empty context here.
-- assuming A → B : Type here.
data Bool = True | False

not : Bool -> Bool
not True = False
not False = True
```

Answer.

```
\Gamma = \diamond, \mathsf{A} \to \mathsf{B} : \mathsf{Type}, \mathsf{Bool} : \mathsf{Type}, \mathsf{True} : \mathsf{Bool}, \mathsf{False} : \mathsf{Bool}, \mathsf{not} : \mathsf{Bool} \to \mathsf{Bool}
```

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If the derivations (true statements) hold above the line (premise), then the derivations hold below the line (conclusion).

The Type Form	ation Rule	
	(Ty-Arrow	

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☐ The Function Type Formation Rule



...from an arbitrary context, Γ

```
The Type Formation Rule

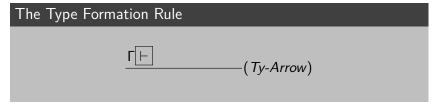
(Ty-Arrow)
```

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☐ The Function Type Formation Rule



...we may derive (produce, obtain...)



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we may derive (produce, obtain)
The Type Formation Rule

[Ty-Arraw]

The Function Type Formation Rule

The Function Type Formation Rule

...an arbitrary type, called A

```
The Type Formation Rule \frac{\Gamma \vdash \boxed{A \, \mathsf{Type}}}{} (\textit{Ty-Arrow})
```

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☐ The Function Type Formation Rule



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____The Function Type Formation Rule

```
The Function Type Formation Rule

AND
The Type Formation Rule

F.- A. Type

(Ty. Arrow)
```

```
AND
```

...From the same arbitrary context $\Gamma,$ extended with a variable 'x' of type $\ensuremath{\mathcal{A}}$

The Type Formation Rule $\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \text{ Type} \qquad \boxed{\Gamma, x : A}}{(\textit{Ty-Arrow})}$

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The Function Type Formation Rule



...we may derive

```
The Type Formation Rule \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \text{ Type} \qquad \Gamma, x : A \vdash}{(\textit{Ty-Arrow})}
```

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some arbitrary type B.

The Type Formation Rule $\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \text{ Type}}{\Gamma, x : A \vdash B \text{ Type}} (Ty\text{-}Arrow)$

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The Function Type Formation Rule



Then, from that arbitrary Γ (program scope)

The Type Formation Rule
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \text{ Type} \qquad \Gamma, x : A \vdash B \text{ Type}}{\Gamma} (\textit{Ty-Arrow})$$

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The Function Type Formation Rule



...we may derive

```
The Type Formation Rule \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \text{ Type} \qquad \Gamma, x : A \vdash B \text{ Type}}{\Gamma \vdash} (\textit{Ty-Arrow})
```

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The Function Type Formation Rule

...an arrow type between them

The Type Formation Rule

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \text{ Type} \qquad \Gamma, x : A \vdash B \text{ Type}}{\Gamma \vdash A \rightarrow B} (Ty\text{-}Arrow)$$

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The Function Type Formation Rule



...that is also a type.

The Type Formation Rule
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \text{ Type} \qquad \Gamma, x : A \vdash B \text{ Type}}{\Gamma \vdash A \to B \text{ Type}} (\textit{Ty-Arrow})$$

The Function Type Formation Rule Lambda Calculi With Explicit Substitutions slides: https://github.com/donovancrichton/Talks .. that is also a type. The Type Formation Rule The Function Type Formation Rule



If the premises hold above, so the conclusion holds below.

The Function Terr	m Former	
	(Func)	

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The Function Term Formation Rule

If the promise hold above, so the conclusion holds below.

The Function Term Former.

(Func)

☐ The Function Term Formation Rule

From our program scope Γ we can obtain an arbitrary function type $A \rightarrow B$.

The Function Term Former

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The Function Term Formation Rule

The Function Term Former
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \to B \text{ Type}}{}(Func)$$

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__The Function Term Formation Rule



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The Function Term Formation Rule



The Function Term Formation Rule

```
The Function Term Former \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \to B \text{ Type} \qquad \boxed{\Gamma, x : A \vdash M : B}}{(Func)}
```

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___The Function Term Formation Rule

```
The Function Term Formation Rule \frac{\Gamma + A - B \text{ Type}}{\Gamma + A - B \text{ Type}} = \frac{\Gamma + A - B \text{ Type}}{\Gamma + A - M + B} (\text{Func})
```

The Function Term Former

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \to B \text{ Type} \qquad \Gamma, x : A \vdash M : B}{\left[\Gamma \vdash \lambda(x : A).M : A \to B\right]} (Func)$$

The Function Term Elimination Rule

The Function Term Elimination Rule

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The Function Term Elimination Ru

☐ The Function Term Elimination Rule

STLC: The Simply Typed Lambda Calculus

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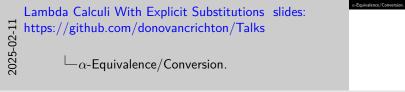
STLC: The Simply Typed Lambda Calculus

STLC: The Simply Typed Lambda Calculus

STLC 2



α -Equivalence/Conversion.



Substitution and Computation

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Substitution and Computation

Substitution and Computation

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Alpha Equivalence, Free Variables, Beta Reduction

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Alpha Equivalence, Free Variables, Beta Reduction

Alpha Equivalence, Free Variables, Beta Reduction

De-Bruijn Indices



De-Bruijn Indices

Lift-and-shift



Lift-and-shift

A lot of work at the meta-level

Explicit Substitutions (Paper)

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Explicit Substitutions (Paper)









Martin Abadi Luca Cardelli Curien

Pierre-Louis Jean-Jacques

Levy

Extending the STLC with Explicit Substitutions

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-Extending the STLC with Explicit Substitutions

Extending the STLC with Explicit Substitutions

Syntax cont.

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Syntax cont.

tax cont.

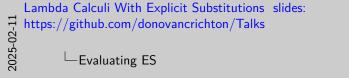
ES rules.

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ES rules.

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Evaluating ES



Evaluating ES

Evaluating ES 2



Evaluating ES 2

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