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# 1 The language

This paper is about automatic differentiation of functions, so we must be precise about the language in which those functions are written.

The syntax of our language is given in Figure 1. Note that

- Variables are divided into *functions*, *f* , *g*, *h*; and *local variables*, *x*, *y*, *z*, which are either function arguments or let-bound.
- The language has a first order sub-language. Functions are defined at top level; functions always appear in a call, never (say) as an argument to a function; in a call f(e), the function f is always a top-level-defined function, never a local variable.
- Functions have exactly one argument. If you want more than one, pass a pair.
- Pairs are built-in, with selectors  $\pi_{1,2}$ ,  $\pi_{2,2}$ . In the real implementation, pairs are generalised to n-tuples, and we often do so informally here.
- Conditionals are a language construct.
- Let-bindings are non-recursive. For now, at least, top-level functions are also non-recursive.
- Lambda expressions and applications are present, so the language is higher order. AD will only accept a subset of the language, in which lambdas appear only as an argument to *build*. But the *output* of AD may include lambdas and application, as we shall see.

# 1.1 Built in functions

The language has built-in functions shown in Figure 2.

We allow ourselves to write functions infix where it is convenient. Thus  $e_1 + e_2$  means the call  $+(e_1, e_2)$ , which applies the function + to the pair  $(e_1, e_2)$ . (So, like all other

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#### Atoms

#### **Terms**

$$pgm ::= def_1 \dots def_n$$
 $def ::= f(x) = e$ 
 $e ::= k$  Constant
 $| x$  Local variable
 $| f(e)$  Function call
 $| (e_1, e_2)$  Pair
 $| \lambda x. e$  Lambda
 $| e_1 e_2$  Application
 $| let x = e_1 in e_2$ 
 $| if b then e_1 else e_2$ 

#### **Types**

$\tau$	::=	N	Natural numbers
		$\mathbb{R}$	Real numbers
		$(\tau_1,\tau_2)$	Pairs
		Vec τ	Vectors
		$ au_1  ightharpoonup  au_2$	Functions
	1	$\tau_1 \multimap \tau_2$	Linear maps

Figure 1. Syntax of the language

functions, (+) has one argument.) Similarly the linear map  $m_1 \times m_2$  is short for  $\times (e_1, e_2)$ .

We allow ourselves to write vector indexing ixR(i, a) using square brackets, thus a[i].

# Built-in functions(+) :: $(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}) \to \mathbb{R}$ (\*) :: $(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}) \to \mathbb{R}$ $\pi_{1,2}$ :: $(t_1, t_2) \to t_1$ Selection $\pi_{2,2}$ :: $(t_1, t_2) \to t_2$ ...ditto..build :: $(n :: \mathbb{N}, \mathbb{N} \to t) \to Vec t$ Vector buildixR :: $(\mathbb{N}, Vec t) \to t$ Indexing (NB arg ordsum :: $Vec t \to t$ Sum a vectorsz :: $Vec t \to \mathbb{N}$ Size of a vector

#### **Derivatives of built-in functions**

$$\partial + :: (\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}) \to ((\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}) \multimap \mathbb{R})$$

$$\partial + (x, y) = 1 \bowtie 1$$

$$\partial * :: (\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}) \to ((\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}) \multimap \mathbb{R})$$

$$\partial * (x, y) = S(y) \bowtie S(x)$$

$$\partial \pi_{1,2} :: (t, t) \to ((t, t) \multimap t)$$

$$\partial \pi_{1,2}(x) = 1 \bowtie 0$$

$$\partial ixR :: (\mathbb{N}, Vec t) \to ((\mathbb{N}, Vec t) \multimap t)$$

$$\partial ixR(i, v) = 0 \bowtie \mathcal{H}(build(sz(v), \lambda j. \text{ if } i = j \text{ then 1 else 0}))$$

$$\partial sum :: Vec \mathbb{R} \to (Vec \mathbb{R} \multimap \mathbb{R})$$

$$\partial sum(v) = lmhcatvbuild(sz(v), \lambda i.1)$$
...

Figure 2. Built-in functions

Multiplication and addition are overloaded to work on any suitable type. On vectors they work element-wise; if you want dot-product you have to program it.

#### 1.2 Vectors

The language supports one-dimensional vectors, of type  $Vec\ T$ , whose elements have type T (Figure 1). A matrix can be represented as a vector of vectors.

Vectors are supported by the following built-in functions (Figure 2):

- *build* ::  $(\mathbb{N}, \mathbb{N} \to t) \to Vec\ t$  for vector construction.
- $ixR :: (\mathbb{N}, Vec\ t) \to t$  for indexing. Informally we allow ourselves to write v[i] instead of ixR(i, v).

sum :: Vec R → R to add up the elements of a vector.
 We specifically do not have a general, higher order, fold operator; we say why in Section 4.1.

- $sz :: Vec \ t \to \mathbb{N}$  takes the size of a vector.
- Arithmetic functions (\*), (+) etc are overloaded to work over vectors, always elementwise.

# 2 Linear maps and differentiation

Indexing (NB arg order) If  $f: S \to T$ , then its derivative  $\partial f$  has type

$$\partial f:S\to (S\multimap T)$$

where  $S \multimap T$  is the type of *linear maps* from S to T. That is, at some point p : S,  $\partial f(p)$  is a linear map that is a good approximation of f at p.

By "a good approximation of f at p" we mean this:

$$\forall p : S. \ f(p + \delta_p) \approx f(p) + \partial f(p) \odot \delta_p$$

Here the operation ( $\odot$ ) is linear-map application: it takes a linear map  $S \multimap T$  and applies it to an argument of type S, giving a result of type T (Figure 3).

The linear maps from S to T are a subset of the functions from S to T. We characterise linear maps more precisely in Section 2.1, but a good intuition can be had for functions  $g: \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}$ . This function defines a curvy surface z = g(x, y). Then a linear map of type  $\mathbb{R}^s \to \mathbb{R}$  is a plane, and  $\partial g(p_x, p_y)$  is the plane that best approximates g near  $(p_x, p_y)$ , that is a tangent plane passing through  $z = g(p_x, p_y)$ 

# 2.1 Linear maps

A *linear map*,  $m: S \multimap T$ , is a function from S to T, satisfying these two properties:

(LM1) 
$$\forall x, y : S \quad m \odot (x + y) = m \odot x + m \odot y$$
  
(LM2)  $\forall k : \mathbb{R}, x : S \quad k * (m \odot x) = m \odot (k * x)$ 

Here  $(\odot)$ :  $(s \multimap t) \to (s \to t)$  is an operator that applies a linear map  $(s \multimap t)$  to an argument of type s. The type  $s \multimap t$  is a type in the language (Figure 1).

Linear maps can be *built and consumed* using the operators in (see Figure 3). Indeed, you should think of linear maps as an *abstract type*; that is, you can *only* build or consume linear maps with the operators in Figure 3. We might *represent* a linear map in a variety of ways, one of which is as a matrix (Section 2.5).

# 2.1.1 Semantics of linear maps

The *semantics* of a linear map is completely specified by saying what ordinary function it corresponds to; or, equivalently, by how it behaves when applied to an argument by  $(\odot)$ . The semantics of each form of linear map are given in Figure 4

	On sustan True	Matrix intermedation					
	Operator Type	Matrix interpretation					
		where $s = \mathbb{R}^m$ , and $t = \mathbb{R}^n$					
Apply	$(\odot): (s \multimap t) \to \delta s \to \delta t$	Matrix/vector multiplication					
Reverse apply	$(\odot_R): \delta t \to (s \multimap t) \to \delta s$	Vector/matrix multiplication					
Compose	$(\circ): (s \multimap t, r \multimap s) \to (r \multimap t)$	Matrix/matrix multiplication					
Sum	$(\oplus) \;:\; (s \multimap t,\; s \multimap t) \to (s \multimap t)$	Matrix addition					
Zero	$0: s \multimap t$	Zero matrix					
Unit	$1: s \multimap s$	Identity matrix (square)					
Scale	$\mathcal{S}(\cdot) : \mathbb{R} \to (s \multimap s)$						
VCat	$(\times)$ : $(s \multimap t_1, s \multimap t_2) \to (s \multimap (t_1, t_2))$	Vertical juxtaposition					
VCatV	$\mathcal{V}(\cdot) : Vec(s \multimap t) \to (s \multimap Vec t)$	vector version					
HCat	$(\bowtie) : (t_1 \multimap s, t_2 \multimap s) \to ((t_1, t_2) \multimap s)$	Horizontal juxtaposition					
HCatV	$\mathcal{H}(\cdot) : Vec(t \multimap s) \to (Vect \multimap s)$	vector version					
Transpose	$\cdot^{\top} : (s \multimap t) \to (t \multimap s)$	Matrix transpose					
NB: We expect to have only $\mathcal{L}/\mathcal{L}'$ but not both							
Lambda	$\mathcal{L} \ : \ (\mathbb{N} \to (s \multimap t)) \to (s \multimap (\mathbb{N} \to t))$						
TLambda	$\mathcal{L}'$ : $(\mathbb{N} \to (t \multimap s)) \to ((\mathbb{N} \to t) \multimap s)$	Transpose of $\mathcal L$					

Figure 3. Operations over linear maps

#### 2.1.2 Properties of linear maps

Linear maps satisfy *properties* given in Figure 4. Note that ( $\circ$ ) and  $\oplus$  behave like multiplication and addition respectively.

These properties can readily be proved from the semantics. To prove two linear maps are equal, we must simply prove that they give the same result when applied to any argument. So, to prove that  $\mathbf{0} \circ m = m$ , we choose an arbitrary x and reason thus:

$$(\mathbf{0} \circ m) \odot x$$
  
=  $\mathbf{0} \odot (m \odot x)$  {semantics of  $(\circ)$ }  
=  $\mathbf{0} \odot x$  {semantics of  $\mathbf{0}$ }  
=  $\mathbf{0} \odot x$  {semantics of  $\mathbf{0}$  backwards}

Note that the property

$$(m_1 \bowtie m_2) \circ (n_1 \times n_2) = (m_1 \circ n_1) \oplus (m_2 \circ n_2)$$

is the only reason we need the linear map  $(\oplus)$ .

**Theorem:**  $\forall (m: S \multimap T). m \odot 0 = 0$ . That is, all linear maps pass through the origin. **Proof:** property (LM2) with k = 0. Note that the function  $\lambda x.x + 4$  is not a linear map; its graph is a staight line, but it does not go through the origin.

#### 2.2 Vector spaces

Given a linear map  $m: S \multimap T$ , we expect both S and T to be a *vector space with dot product* (aka inner product space<sup>1</sup>). A vector space with dot product V has:

- Vector addition  $(+_V): V \to V \to V$ .
- Zero vector  $0_V : V$ .
- Scalar multiplication  $(*_V) : \mathbb{R} \to V \to V$
- Dot-product  $(\bullet_V): V \to V \to \mathbb{R}$ .

We omit the *V* subscripts when it is clear which (\*), (+),  $(\bullet)$  or 0 is intended.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vector\_space

# Semantics of linear maps

$$(m_{1} \circ m_{2}) \odot x = m_{1} \odot (m_{2} \odot x)$$

$$(m_{1} \times m_{2}) \odot x = (m_{1} \odot x, m_{2} \odot x)$$

$$(m_{1} \bowtie m_{2}) \odot (x_{1}, x_{2}) = (m_{1} \odot x_{1}) + (m_{2} \odot x_{2})$$

$$(m_{1} \oplus m_{2}) \odot x = (m_{1} \odot x) + (m_{2} \odot x)$$

$$\mathbf{0} \odot x = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\mathbf{1} \odot x = x$$

$$S(k) \odot x = k * x$$

$$V(m) \odot x = build(sz(m), \lambda i.m[i] \odot x)$$

$$\mathcal{H}(m) \odot x = \Sigma_{i} (m[i] \odot x[i])$$

$$\mathcal{L}(f) \odot x = \lambda i. (f i) \odot x$$

$$\mathcal{L}'(f) \odot g = \Sigma_{i} (f i) \odot g(i)$$

#### Properties of linear maps

$$0 \circ m = 0$$
 $m \circ 0 = 0$ 
 $1 \circ m = m$ 
 $m \circ 1 = m$ 
 $m \oplus 0 = m$ 
 $0 \oplus m = m$ 
 $m \circ (n_1 \bowtie n_2) = (m \circ n_1) \bowtie (m \circ n_2)$ 
 $(m_1 \times m_2) \circ n = (m_1 \circ n) \times (m_2 \circ n)$ 
 $(m_1 \bowtie m_2) \circ (n_1 \times n_2) = (m_1 \circ n_1) \oplus (m_2 \circ n_2)$ 
 $S(k_1) \circ S(k_2) = S(k_1 * k_2)$ 
 $S(k_1) \oplus S(k_2) = S(k_1 + k_2)$ 

Figure 4. Linear maps: semantics and properties

These operations must obey the laws of vector spaces

$$v_{1} + (v_{2} + v_{3}) = (v_{1} + v_{2}) + v_{3}$$

$$v_{1} + v_{2} = v_{2} + v_{1}$$

$$v + 0 = 0$$

$$0 * v = 0$$

$$1 * v = v$$

$$r_{1} * (r_{2} * v) = (r_{1} * r_{2}) * v$$

$$r * (v_{1} + v_{2}) = (r * v_{1}) + (r * v_{2})$$

$$(r_{1} + r_{2}) * v = (r_{1} * v) + (r_{2} * v)$$

#### 2.2.1 Building vector spaces

What types are vector spaces? Look the syntax of types in Figure 1.

- ullet The real numbers  $\mathbb R$  is a vector space, using the stan $dard + and * for reals; and \bullet_{\mathbb{R}} = *.$
- If V is a vector space then Vec V is a vector space, with -  $v_1 + v_2$  is vector addittion
  - -r\*v multiplies each element of the vector v by the
  - $v_1 \bullet v_2$  is a the usual vector dot-product. We often write  $Vec \mathbb{R}$  as  $\mathbb{R}^N$ .
- If  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  are vector spaces, then the product space  $(V_1, V_2)$  is a vector space

$$-(v_1, v_2) + (w_1, w_2) = (v_1 + w_1, v_2 + w_2).$$

$$-r*(v_1, v_2) = (r*v_1, r*v_2)$$

$$-(v_1, v_2) \bullet (w_1, w_2) = (v_1 \bullet w_1) + (v_2 \bullet w_2).$$

In all cases the necessary properties of the operations (associativity, distribution etc) are easy to prove.

# 2.3 Transposition

For any linear map  $m: S \longrightarrow T$  we can produce its transpose  $m^{\top}: T \longrightarrow S$ . Despite its suggestive type, the transpose is not the inverse of *m*! (In the world of matrices, the transpose of a matrix is not the same as its inverse.)

**Definition 2.1.** Given a linear map  $m : S \longrightarrow T$ , its *transpose*  $m^{\top}: T \multimap S$  is defined by the following property:

$$(TP) \quad \forall s: S, \ t: T. \ (m^\top \odot t) \bullet s = t \bullet (m \odot s)$$

This property uniquely defines the transpose, as the following theorem shows:

**Theorem 2.2.** If  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  are linear maps satisfying

$$\forall s \ t. \ (m_1 \odot s) \bullet t = (m_2 \odot s) \bullet t$$

then  $m_1 = m_2$ 

*Proof.* It is a property of dot-product that if  $v_1 \bullet x = v_2 \bullet x$ for every x, then  $v_1 = v_2$ . (Just use a succession of one-hot vectors for x, to pick out successive components of  $v_1$  and  $v_2$ .) So (for every t):

$$\forall s \ t. \ (m_1 \odot s) \bullet t = (m_2 \odot s) \bullet t$$
  
 $\Rightarrow \forall s. \ m_1 \odot s = m_2 \odot s$ 

and that is the definition of extensional equality. So  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  are the same linear maps.

Figure 5 has a collection of laws about transposition. These identies are readily proved using the above definition. For example, to prove that  $(m_1 \circ m_2)^{\top} = m_2^{\top} \circ m_1^{\top}$  we may

# Laws for transposition of linear maps $(m_{1} \circ m_{2})^{\top} = m_{2}^{\top} \circ m_{1}^{\top} \qquad \text{Note reversed order!}$ $(m_{1} \times m_{2})^{\top} = m_{1}^{\top} \bowtie m_{2}^{\top}$ $(m_{1} \bowtie m_{2})^{\top} = m_{1}^{\top} \times m_{2}^{\top}$ $(m_{1} \oplus m_{2})^{\top} = m_{1}^{\top} \oplus m_{2}^{\top}$ $\mathbf{0}^{\top} = \mathbf{0}$ $\mathbf{1}^{\top} = \mathbf{1}$ $S(k)^{\top} = S(k)$ $(m^{\top})^{\top} = m$ $V(v)^{\top} = \mathcal{H}(map(\cdot)^{\top}v)$ $\mathcal{H}(v)^{\top} = V(map(\cdot)^{\top}v)$ $\mathcal{L}(\lambda i.m)^{\top} = \mathcal{L}'(\lambda i.m^{\top})$ $\mathcal{L}'(\lambda i.m)^{\top} = \mathcal{L}(\lambda i.m^{\top})$

#### Laws for reverse-application

$$r \odot_R m = m^{\top} \odot r$$
 By definition  
 $r \odot_R (m_1 \circ m_2) = (r \odot_R m_1) \odot_R m_2$   
 $(r_1, r_2) \odot_R (m_1 \times m_2) = (r_1 \odot_R m_1) + (r_2 \odot_R m_2)$   
 $r \odot_R (m_1 \bowtie m_2) = (r \odot_R m_1, r \odot_R m_2)$   
 $r \odot_R (m_1 \oplus m_2) = (r \odot_R m_1) + (r \odot_R m_2)$   
 $r \odot_R \mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0}$   
 $r \odot_R \mathbf{1} = r$   
 $r \odot_R \mathbf{S}(k) = k * r$   
 $r \odot_R m^{\top} = m \odot r$   
 $r \odot_R \mathbf{W}(v) = \Sigma_i (r[i] \odot_R v[i])$   
 $r \odot_R \mathbf{H}(v) = build(sz(v), \lambda i.r \odot_R m[i])$ 

Figure 5. Laws for transposition

reason as follows:

$$((m_2^{\top} \circ m_1^{\top}) \odot t) \bullet s$$

$$= (m_2^{\top} \odot (m_1^{\top} \odot t)) \bullet s \quad \text{Semantics of } (\circ)$$

$$= (m_1^{\top} \odot t) \bullet (m_2 \odot s) \quad \text{Use (TP)}$$

$$= t \bullet (m_1 \odot (m_2 \odot s)) \quad \text{Use (TP) again}$$

$$= t \bullet ((m_1 \circ m_1) \odot s) \quad \text{Semantics of } (\circ)$$

And now the property follows by Theorem 2.2.

#### 2.4 Reverse linear-map application

Rather than transpose the linear map (which is a rather boring operation), just replacing one operator with another, it's easier to define a reverse-application operator for linear maps:

$$(\odot_R): \delta t \to (s \multimap t) \to \delta s$$

It is defined by the following property:

$$(RP) \quad \forall s : \delta S, \ t : \delta T. \ (t \odot_R m) \bullet s = t \bullet (m \odot s)$$

# 2.5 Matrix interpretation of linear maps

A linear map  $m: \mathbb{R}^M \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$  is isomorphic to a matrix  $\mathbb{R}^{N \times M}$  with N rows and M columns.

Many of the operators over linear maps then have simple matrix interpetations; for example, composition of linear maps ( $\circ$ ) is matrix multiplication, pairing ( $\times$ ) is vetical juxtaposition, and so on. These matrix interpretations are all given in the final column of Figure 3.

You might like to check that matrix transposition satisfies property (TP).

When it comes to implementation, we do not want to *represent* a linear map by a matrix, becuase a linear map  $\mathbb{R}^M \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$  is an  $N \times M$  matrix, which is enormous if  $N = M = 10^6$ , say. The function might be very simple (perhaps even the identity function) and taking  $10^{12}$  numbers to represent it is plain silly. So our goal will be to *avoid realising linear maps as matrices*.

#### 2.6 Optimisation

In optimisation we are usually given a function  $f: \mathbb{R}^N \to \mathbb{R}$ , where N can be large, and asked to find values of the input that maximises the output. One way to do this is by *gradient descent*: start with a point p, make a small change to  $p+\delta_p$ , and so on. From p we want to move in the direction of maximum slope. (How *far* to move in that direction is another matter — indeed no one knows — but we will concentrate on the *direction* in which to move.)

Suppose  $\delta(i,N)$  is the one-hot N-vector with 1 in the i'th position and zeros elsewhere. Then  $\delta_p[i] = \partial f(p) \odot \delta(i,N)$  describes how fast the output of f changes for a change in the i'th input. The direction of maximum slope is just the vector

$$\delta_p = (\delta_p[1] \ \delta_p[2] \ \dots \ \delta_p[N])$$

How can we compute this vector? We can simply evaluate  $\partial f(p) \odot \delta(i, N)$  for each i. But that amounts to running f N times, which is bad if N is large (say  $10^6$ ).

Suppose that we somehow had access to  $\partial_R f$ . Then we can use property (TP), setting  $\delta_f = 1$  to get

$$\forall \delta_p. \ \partial f(p) \odot \delta_p = (\partial_R f(p) \odot 1) \bullet \delta_p$$

Then

$$\begin{split} \delta_p[i] &= \partial f(p) \odot \delta(i,N) \\ &= (\partial_R f(p) \odot 1) \bullet \delta(i,N) \\ &= (\partial_R f(p) \odot 1)[i] \end{split}$$

That is  $\delta_p[i]$  is the i'th component of  $\partial_R f(p) \odot 1$ , so  $\delta_p = \partial_R f(p) \odot 1$ .

That is,  $\partial_R f(p) \odot 1$  is the N-vector of maximum slope, the direction in which to move if we want to do gradient descent starting at p. And *that* is why the transpose is important.

# 2.7 Lambdas and linear maps

Notice the similarity between the type of  $(\times)$  and the type of  $\mathcal{L}$ ; the latter is really just an infinite version of the latter. Their semantics in Figure 4 are equally closely related.

The transpositions of these two linear maps,  $(\bowtie)$  and  $\mathcal{L}'$ , are similarly related. *But*, there is a problem with the semantics of  $\mathcal{L}'$ :

$$\mathcal{L}'(f) \odot g = \Sigma_i(f \ i) \odot g(i)$$

This is an *infinite sum*, so there is something fishy about this as a semantics.

#### 2.8 Questions about linear maps

- Do we need 1? After all S(1) does the same job. But asking if k = 1 is dodgy when k is a float.
- Do these laws fully define linear maps?

Notes

• In practice we allow n-ary versions of  $m \bowtie n$  and  $m \times n$ .

# 3 AD as a source-to-source transformation

To perform source-to-source AD of a function f, we follow the plan outlined in Figure 6. Specifically, starting with a function definition f(x) = e:

- Construct the full Jacobian  $\partial f$ , and transposed full Jacobian  $\partial_R f$ , using the tranformations in Figure  $6^2$ .
- Optimise these two definitions, using the laws of linear maps in Figure 4.
- Construct the forward derivative *fwd*\$*f* and reverse derivative *rev*\$*f*, as shown in Figure 6<sup>3</sup>.
- Optimise these two definitions, to eliminate all linear maps. Specifically:
  - Rather than calling  $\partial f$  (in, say, fwd\$f), instead inline it
  - Similarly, for each local let-binding for a linear map, of form let  $\partial x = e$  in b, inline  $\partial x$  at each of its occurrences in b. This may duplicate e; but  $\partial x$  is a

**Original function** 
$$f: S \to T$$

$$f(x) = e$$

**Full Jacobian**  $\partial f: S \to (S \multimap T)$ 

$$\partial f(x) = \text{let } \partial x = 1 \text{ in } \nabla_S[[e]]$$

**Forward derivative**  $fwd\$f:(S,S) \rightarrow T$ 

$$fwd\$f(x, dx) = \partial f(x) \odot dx$$

**Reverse derivative**  $rev\$f:(S,T)\to S$ 

$$rev\$f(x, dr) = dr \odot_R \partial f(x)$$

# Differentiation of an expression

If 
$$e: T$$
 then  $\nabla_S[\![e]\!]: S \multimap T$ 

$$\nabla_S[\![k]\!] = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\nabla_S[\![x]\!] = \partial x$$

$$\nabla_S[\![f(e)]\!] = \partial f(e) \circ \nabla_S[\![e]\!]$$

$$\nabla_S[\![(e_1, e_2)]\!] = \nabla_S[\![e_1]\!] \times \nabla_S[\![e_2]\!]$$

$$\nabla_S[\![let \ x = e_1 \ in \ e_2]\!] = let \ x = e_1 \ in$$

$$let \ \partial x = \nabla_S[\![e_1]\!] \ in$$

$$\nabla_S[\![e_1]\!] = \mathcal{V}(build(e_n, \lambda i. \nabla_S[\![e]\!])$$

$$\nabla_S[\![build(e_n, \lambda i. e)]\!] = \mathcal{V}(build(e_n, \lambda i. \nabla_S[\![e]\!])$$

$$\nabla_S[\![\lambda i. e]\!] = \mathcal{L}(\lambda i. \nabla_S[\![e]\!])$$

Figure 6. Automatic differentiation

function that may be applied (via  $\odot$ ) to many different arguments, and we want to specialise it for each such call. (I think.)

- Optimise using the rules of  $(\odot)$  in Figure 4.
- Use standard Common Subexpression Elimination (CSE) to recover any lost sharing.

#### Note that

- The transformation is fully compositional; each function can be AD'd independently. For example, if a user-defined function f calls another user-defined function g, we construct  $\partial g$  as described; and then construct  $\partial f$ . The latter simply calls  $\partial g$ .
- The AD transformation is *partial*; that is, it does not work for every program. In particular, it fails when applied to a lambda, or an application; and, as we will see in Section 4, it requires that *build* appears applied to a lambda.

 $<sup>\</sup>overline{\ }^2$  We consider  $\partial f$  and  $\partial_R f$  to be the names of two new functions. These names are derived from, but distinct from f, rather like f' or  $f_1$  in mathematics.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Again fwd\$f and rev\$f are new names, derived from f

• We give the full Jacobian for some built-in functions in Figure 6, including for conditionals ( $\partial if$ ).

#### 3.1 Forward and reverse AD

Consider

$$f(x) = p(q(r(x)))$$

Just running the algorithm above on f gives

$$f(x) = p(q(r(x)))$$

$$\partial f(x) = \partial p \circ (\partial q \circ \partial r)$$

$$fwd\$f(x,dx) = (\partial p \circ (\partial q \circ \partial r)) \odot dx$$

$$= \partial p \odot ((\partial q \circ \partial r) \odot dx)$$

$$= \partial p \odot (\partial q \odot (\partial r \odot dx))$$

$$\partial_R f(x) = (\partial_R r \circ \partial_R q) \circ \partial_R p$$

$$rev\$f(x,dr) = ((\partial_R r \circ \partial_R q) \circ \partial_R p) \odot dr$$

$$= (\partial_R r \circ \partial_R q) \odot (\partial_R p \odot dr)$$

$$= \partial_R r \odot (\partial_R q \odot (\partial_R p \odot dr))$$

In "The essence of automatic differentiation" Conal says (Section 12)

The AD algorithm derived in Section 4 and generalized in Figure 6 can be thought of as a family of algorithms. For fully right-associated compositions, it becomes forward mode AD; for fully left-associated compositions, reverse-mode AD; and for all other associations, various mixed modes.

But the forward/reverse difference shows up quite differently here: it has nothing to do with *right-vs-left association*, and everything to do with *transposition*.

This is mysterious. Conal is not usually wrong. I would like to understand this better.

# 4 AD for vectors

Like other built-in functions, each built-in function for vectors has has its full Jacobian versions, defined in Figure 2. You may enjoy checking that  $\partial sum$  and  $\partial ixR$  are correct!

For *build* there are two possible paths, and it's not yet clear which is best

**Direct path.** Figure 6 includes a rule for  $\nabla_S[[build(e_n, \lambda i.e)]]$ . But *build* is an exception! It is handled specially by the AD transformation in Figure 6; there is no  $\partial build$ . Moreover the AD transformation only works if the second argument of the build is a lambda, thus  $build(e_n, \lambda i.e)$ . I tried dealing with build and lambdas separately, but failed (see Section ??).

I did think about having a specialised linear map for indexing, rather than using  $\mathcal{H}()$ , but then I needed its transposition, so just using  $\mathcal{H}()$  seemed more economical. On the

other hand, with the fucntions as I have them, I need the grotesquely delicate optimisation rule

$$sum(build(n, \lambda i. \text{ if } i == e_i \text{ then } e \text{ else } 0))$$

$$= \text{ let } i = e_i \text{ in } b$$

$$\text{if } i \notin e_i$$

I hate this!

#### 4.1 General folds

We have  $sum :: Vec \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ . What is  $\partial sum$ ? One way to define its semantics is by applying it:

$$\partial sum \quad :: \quad Vec \ \mathbb{R} \to (Vec \ \mathbb{R} \multimap \mathbb{R})$$
 
$$\partial sum(v) \odot dv = sum(dv)$$

That is OK. But what about product, which multiplies all the elements of a vector together? If the vector had three elements we might have

$$\partial product([x_1, x_2, x_3]) \odot [dx_1, dx_2, dx_3]$$
  
=  $(dx_1 * x_2 * x_3) + (dx_2 * x_1 * x_3) + (dx_3 * x_1 * x_2)$ 

This looks very unattractive as the number of elements grows. Do we need to use product?

This gives the clue that taking the derivative of *fold* is not going to be easy, maybe infeasible! Much depends on the particular lambda it appears. So I have left out product, and made no attempt to do general folds.

# 5 Avoiding duplication

#### 5.1 ANF and CSE

We may want to ANF-ise before AD to avoid gratuitous duplication. E.g.

$$\nabla_{S}[sqrt(x + (y * z))]$$

$$= \partial sqrt(x + (y * z)) \circ \nabla_{S}[x + (y * z)]$$

$$= \partial sqrt(x + (y * z)) \circ \partial + (x, y * z)$$

$$\circ (\nabla_{S}[x] \times \nabla_{S}[y * z])$$

$$= \partial sqrt(x + (y * z)) \circ \partial + (x, y * z)$$

$$\circ (\partial x \times (\partial * (y, z) \circ (\partial y \times \partial z)))$$

Note the duplication of y \* z in the result. Of course, CSE may recover it.

# 5.2 Tupling: basic version

A better (and well-established) path is to modify  $\partial f: S \to (S \multimap T)$  so that it returns a pair:

$$\overline{\partial f}: \forall a.(a \multimap S, S) \to (a \multimap T, T)$$

That is  $\overline{\partial f}$  returns the "normal result" T as well as a linear map.

 $f: S \to T$ **Original function** f(x) = e $\overline{\partial f}: S \to (T, S \multimap T)$ **Full Jacobian**  $\overline{\partial f}(x) = \text{let } \overline{\partial x} = (x, 1) \text{ in } \overline{\nabla}_{S} \llbracket e \rrbracket$ **Forward derivative**  $fwd\$f:(S,\delta S)\to (T,\delta T)$  $fwd\$f(x, dx) = \overline{\partial f}(x) \overline{\odot} dx$ **Reverse derivative**  $rev\$f:(S,\delta T)\to (T,\delta S)$  $rev\$f(x, dfr) = dr \overline{\odot}_R \overline{\partial f}(x)$ 

# Differentiation of an expression

If 
$$e: T$$
 then  $\overline{\nabla}_S[\![e]\!]: (S \longrightarrow T, T)$ 

$$\overline{\nabla}_S[\![k]\!] = (k, 0)$$

$$\overline{\nabla}_S[\![x]\!] = \overline{\partial x}$$

$$\overline{\nabla}_S[\![e_1, e_2]\!] = \overline{\nabla}_S[\![e_1]\!] \times \overline{\nabla}_S[\![e_2]\!]$$

$$\overline{\nabla}_S[\![f(e)]\!] = \text{let } a = \overline{\nabla}_S[\![e]\!] \text{ in }$$

$$\text{let } r = \overline{\partial f}(\pi_1(a)) \text{ in }$$

$$(\pi_1(r), \pi_2(r) \circ \pi_2(a))$$

$$\overline{\nabla}_S[\![\text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2]\!] = \text{let } \overline{\partial x} = \nabla_S[\![e_1]\!] \text{ in } \overline{\nabla}_S[\![e_2]\!]$$

$$\overline{\nabla}_S[\![\text{build}(e_n, \lambda i.e)]\!] = \text{let } p = \Phi(build(e_n, \lambda i.\overline{\nabla}_S[\![e]\!])) \text{ in }$$

$$(\pi_1(p), \mathcal{V}(\pi_2(p)))$$

#### Modified linear-map operations

$$(\overline{\odot}) : (r, s \multimap t) \to \delta s \to \delta t$$

$$(v, m) \overline{\odot} ds = m \odot ds$$

$$(\overline{\odot}_R) : \delta t \to (r, s \multimap t) \to \delta s$$

$$dr \overline{\odot}_R vm = dr \overline{\odot} vm$$

$$(\overline{\times}) : ((t_1, s \multimap t_1), (t_2, s \multimap t_2)) \to ((t_1, t_2), s \multimap (t_1, t_2))$$

$$(t_1, m_1) \overline{\times} (t_2, m_2) = ((t_1, t_2), m_1 \times m_2)$$

$$(\overline{\bowtie}) : ((t_1, t_1 \multimap s), (t_2, t_2 \multimap s)) \to ((t_1, t_2), (t_1, t_2) \multimap s)$$

$$(t_1, m_1) \overline{\bowtie} (t_2, m_2) = ((t_1, t_2), m_1 \bowtie m_2)$$

$$\Phi : Vec (a, b) \to (Vec a, Vec b)$$

$$\overline{\cdot}^{\top} : (r, s \multimap t) \to (r, t \multimap s)$$
Functions

# **Derivatives of built-in functions**

$$\overline{\partial +} :: (\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}) \to ((\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}) \multimap \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$$

$$\overline{\partial +}(x, y) = (\mathbf{1} \bowtie \mathbf{1}, x + y)$$

$$\overline{\partial *} :: (\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}) \to ((\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}) \multimap \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$$

$$\overline{\partial *}(x, y) = (S(y) \bowtie S(x), x * y)$$

Figure 7. Automatic differentiation: tupling

#### 5.3 Polymorphic tupling: forward mode

Everything works much more compositionally if  $\overline{\partial f}$  also takes a linear map as its input. The new transform is shown in Figure 8. Note that there is no longer any code duplications. even without ANF or CSE.

In exchange, though, all the types are a bit more complicated. So we regard Figure 6 as canonical, to be used when working thiungs out, and Figure 8 as a (crucial) implementation strategy.

The crucial property are these:

$$(CP)$$
  $\overline{\partial f}(e) \overline{\odot} dx = fwd \$ f(e \overline{\odot} dx)$ 

Crucial because suppose we have

$$f(x) = g(h(x))$$

Then, we can transform as follows, using (CP) twice, on lines marked (†):

$$\overline{\partial f}(\overline{x}) = \overline{\partial g}(\overline{\partial h}(\overline{x}))$$

$$fwd\$f(x,dx) = \overline{\partial g}(\overline{\partial h}(x,1)) \overline{\odot} dx$$

$$= fwd\$g(\overline{\partial h}(x,1) \overline{\odot} dx) \qquad (\dagger)$$

$$= fwd\$g(fwd\$h((x,1) \overline{\odot} dx)) \qquad (\dagger)$$

$$= fwd\$g(fwd\$h(x,1) \overline{\odot} dx))$$

$$= fwd\$g(fwd\$h(x,1) \overline{\odot} dx))$$

$$= fwd\$g(fwd\$h(x,1) \overline{\odot} dx))$$

Why is (CP) true? It follows from a more general property of  $\overline{\partial f}$ :

$$\forall f: S \to T, \ x: S, \ m_1: A \multimap S, \ m_2: B \multimap A, \ db: \delta B.$$

$$\overline{\partial f}(x, m_1) \ \overline{\odot} \ (m_2 \odot db) = \overline{\partial f}(x, m_1 \circ m_2) \ \overline{\odot} \ db$$

$$\forall f: S \to T, \ x: S, \ m_1: S \multimap A, \ m_2: A \multimap B, \ dr: \delta T.$$

$$m_2 \odot (\overline{\partial_R f}(x, m_1) \ \overline{\odot} \ dr) = \overline{\partial_R f}(x, m_2 \circ m_1) \ \overline{\odot} \ dr$$

Now we can prove our claim as follows

$$fwd\$f(e \overline{\odot} dx)$$

$$= \{by \text{ defn of } (\overline{\odot})\}$$

$$fwd\$f(\pi_1(e), \pi_2(e) \odot dx)$$

$$= \{by \text{ defn of } fwd\$f\}$$

$$\overline{\partial f}(\pi_1(e), \mathbf{1}) \overline{\odot} (\pi_2(e) \odot dx)$$

$$= \{by \text{ crucial property}\}$$

$$\overline{\partial f}(\pi_1(e), \pi_2(e)) \overline{\odot} dx$$

$$= \overline{\partial f}(e) \overline{\odot} dx$$

#### 5.4 Polymorphic tupling: reverse mode

It turns out that things work quite differently for reverse mode. For a start the equivalent of (CP) for reverse-mode would look like this:

$$\overline{\partial_R f}(e) \ \overline{\odot} \ dr = rev \$ f(e \ \overline{\odot} \ dr)$$

But this is not even well-typed!

How did we use (CP)? Suppose f is defined in terms of qand *h*:

$$f(x) = g(h(x))$$

Then we want fwd\$f to be defined in terms of fwd\$g and fwd\$h. That is, we want a compositional method, where we can create the code for fwd\$f without looking at the code for g or h, simpply by calling g and h's derived functions. And that's just what we achieved:

$$fwd\$f(x, dx) = fwd\$g(fwd\$h(x, dx))$$

But for reverse mode, this plan is much less straightforward. Look at the types:

$$\begin{array}{cccc} f & : & R \rightarrow T \\ & g & : & S \rightarrow T \\ & h & : & R \rightarrow S \\ \\ rev\$f & : & (R, \delta T) \rightarrow (T, \delta R) \\ \\ rev\$g & : & (S, \delta T) \rightarrow (T, \delta S) \\ \\ rev\$h & : & (R, \delta S) \rightarrow (S, \delta R) \end{array}$$

How can we define rev\$f by calling rev\$g and rev\$h? It would have to look something like this

$$rev\$f(r,dt) = letrec (t,ds) = rev\$g(s,dt)$$
 
$$(s,dr) = rev\$h(r,ds)$$
 in  $(t,dr)$ 

We can't call *rev\$q* before *rev\$h*, nor the other way around. That's why there is a letrec! Even leaving aside how we generate this code, We'd need lazy evaluation to execute it.

The obvious alternative is to change fwd\$f's interface. Currently we have

$$rev\$f:(R,\delta T)\to (T,\delta R)$$

Instead, we can take that R value, but return a function  $\delta T \rightarrow$  $\delta R$ , thus:

$$rev\$f: R \to (T, \delta T \to \delta R)$$

But that commits to returning a function, with its fixed, builtin representation. Instead, let's return linear map:

$$rev\$f: R \to (T, \delta T \multimap \delta R)$$

Now we can re-interpret the retuned linear map as some kind of record (trace) of all the things that f did. And if we insist on our compositional account we really must manifest that data structure, and later apply it to a value of type  $\delta T$ 

Original function	$f: S \to T$
	f(x) = e
Full Jacobian	$\overline{\partial f}: \forall a. (S, a \multimap S) \to (T, a \multimap T)$
	$\overline{\partial f}(\overline{x}) = \overline{\nabla}_a \llbracket e \rrbracket$
Transposed Jacobian	$\overline{\partial_R f}: \forall a. (S,S \multimap a) \to (T,T \multimap a)$
	$\overline{\partial_R f}(\overline{x}) = (\overline{\partial f}(\overline{x}))^{\overline{\top}}$
Forward derivative	$fwd\$f:(S,\delta S)\to (T,\delta T)$
	$fwd\$f(x,dx) = \overline{\partial f}(x,1) \ \overline{\odot} \ dx$
Reverse derivative	$\mathit{rev}\$f:(S,\delta T)\to (T,\delta S)$
	$rev\$f(x,dr) = \overline{\partial_R f}(x,1) \ \overline{\odot} \ dr$

Differentiation of an expression

$$\begin{split} &\text{If } e: T \text{ then } \overline{\nabla}_a \llbracket e \rrbracket : (T, a \multimap T) \\ &\overline{\nabla}_a \llbracket k \rrbracket \ = \ (k, \mathbf{0}) \\ &\overline{\nabla}_a \llbracket x \rrbracket \ = \ \overline{x} \\ &\overline{\nabla}_a \llbracket f(e) \rrbracket \ = \ \overline{\partial f} (\ \overline{\nabla}_a \llbracket e \rrbracket \ ) \\ &\overline{\nabla}_a \llbracket (e_1, e_2) \rrbracket \ = \ \overline{\nabla}_a \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket \ \overline{\times} \ \overline{\nabla}_a \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket \\ &\overline{\nabla}_a \llbracket \text{ let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 \rrbracket \ = \ \text{ let } \ \overline{x} = \overline{\nabla}_a \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket \text{ in } \overline{\nabla}_a \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket \end{split}$$

Modified linear-map operations

$$(\ \overline{\odot}\ ) : (r, s \multimap t) \to \delta s \to (r, \delta t)$$

$$(v, m) \ \overline{\odot} \ ds = (v, m \odot ds)$$

$$(\ \overline{\times}\ ) : ((t_1, s \multimap t_1), (t_2, s \multimap t_2)) \to ((t_1, t_2), s \multimap (t_1, t_2))$$

$$(t_1, m_1) \ \overline{\times} \ (t_2, m_2) = ((t_1, t_2), m_1 \times m_2)$$

$$(\ \overline{\bowtie}\ ) : ((t_1, t_1 \multimap s), (t_2, t_2 \multimap s)) \to ((t_1, t_2), (t_1, t_2) \multimap s)$$

$$(t_1, m_1) \ \overline{\bowtie} \ (t_2, m_2) = (t_1 + t_2, m_1 \bowtie m_2)$$

$$. \ \overline{} : (t, s \multimap t) \to (t, t \multimap s)$$

Derivatives of built-in functions

$$\overline{\partial +} \quad :: \quad \forall a.((\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}), a \multimap (\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})) \to (\mathbb{R}, a \multimap \mathbb{R})$$

$$\overline{\partial +}((x, y), m) = (x + y, (1 \bowtie 1) \circ m)$$

$$\overline{\partial *} \quad :: \quad \forall a.((\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}), a \multimap (\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})) \to (\mathbb{R}, a \multimap \mathbb{R})$$

$$\overline{\partial *}((x, y), m) = (x * y, (S(y) \bowtie S(x)) \circ m)$$

Figure 8. Automatic differentiation: polymorphic tuples

```
Atoms
f, g, h ::= Function
        ::= Literal constants
Terms
  pgm ::= def_1 \dots def_n
   def ::= f:S \Rightarrow T = c
     c ::= I
                                     Identity
                \mathcal{K}(k)
                                     Constant
                \mathcal{P}[i_1,\ldots,i_m/n] Pruning(0 \le m \le n)
                \mathcal{F}(f)
                                     Function constant
                c_1; c_2
                                     Composition
                (c_1,\ldots,c_n)
                                     Tuple
                I\mathcal{F}(c_1,c_2,c_3)
                                      Conditional
                \mathcal{L}(x,c_r,c_b)
                                      Let
                \mathcal{B}(c_s, i, c_e)
                                      Build
```

**Figure 9.** Syntax of *CL* 

to get a value of type  $\delta R$ . We could represent those linear maps as:

- A matrix
- A function closure that, when called, applies the linear map to an argument
- A syntax tree whose nodes are the constructors of the linear map type. When applying the linear map, we interpret taht syntax tree.

Finally, notice that this final version of fwd\$f is exactly  $\overline{\partial_R f}$ , just specialised with an input linear map of 1. So we may as well just use  $\overline{\partial_R f}$ , which already compositionally calls  $\overline{\partial_R g}$  and  $\overline{\partial_R h}$ .

TL;DR: for reverse mode, we must simply compile  $\partial_R f$ . Notice that we can get quite a bit of optimisation by inlining  $\overline{\partial_R g}$  into  $\overline{\partial_R f}$ , and so on. The more inlining the better. If we inline everything we'll elminate all intermediate linear maps.

# 6 Compiling through categories

# 6.1 Splitting for reverse mode

Suppose f is defined in terms of q and h:

$$f(x) = g(h(x))$$

```
Semantics (aka conversion from CL): e \diamond c = e
                                   t \diamond \mathcal{T} = t
        t \diamond \mathcal{P}[i_1, \ldots, i_m/n] = (\pi_{i_1,n}(t), \ldots, \pi_{i_m,n}(t))
                            t \diamond \mathcal{K}(k) = k
                           t \diamond \mathcal{F}(f) = f(t)
                        t \diamond (c_1; c_2) = (t \diamond c_1) \diamond c_2
                 t \diamond (c_1, \ldots, c_n) = (t \diamond c_1, \ldots, t \diamond c_n)
            t \diamond I\mathcal{F}(c_1, c_2, c_3) = \text{if } (t \diamond c_1) (t \diamond c_2) (t \diamond c_3)
                 t \diamond \mathcal{L}(x, c_r, c_h) = \text{let } x = t \diamond c_r \text{ in } (t > x) \diamond c_h
                  t \diamond \mathcal{B}(c_s, i, c_e) = \text{build } (t \diamond c_x) (\lambda i.(t > i) \diamond c_e)
Conversion to CL
    \Gamma ::= (x_1:\tau_1,\ldots,x_n:\tau_n)
    \phi((x_1:\tau_1,\ldots,x_n:\tau_n),\,x_i) = i
              T(x_1:\tau_1,\ldots,x_n:\tau_n) = (\tau_1,\ldots,\tau_n)
    C[f(x_1:\tau_1,\ldots,x_n:\tau_n)=e]
         = \mathcal{F}(f) = C \llbracket e \rrbracket (x_1 : \tau_1, \dots, x_n : \tau_n)
                          If \Gamma \vdash e : \tau then C \llbracket e \rrbracket \Gamma : T(\Gamma) \Rightarrow \tau
                                     C[\![k]\!]\Gamma = \mathcal{K}(k)
                                     C[x]\Gamma = \mathcal{F}(\pi(\Gamma, x))
                               C[\![f(e)]\!]\Gamma = C[\![e]\!]\Gamma; \mathcal{F}(f)
                   C if e_1 e_2 e_3 \Gamma
                                = I \mathcal{F}(C \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket \Gamma, C \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket \Gamma, C \llbracket e_3 \rrbracket \Gamma)
                 C[[(e_1,\ldots,e_n)]]\Gamma = (C[[e_1]]\Gamma,\ldots,C[[e_n]]\Gamma)
    C[\![\Gamma]] let x:\tau = e_r in e_b[\![\Gamma]] \Gamma = \mathcal{L}(x, C[\![\Gamma]]) \Gamma, C[\![\Gamma]] e_b[\![\Gamma]] \Gamma, x:\tau)
         C[\![ \text{build } e_s \ (\lambda i.e_e) \ ]\!] \Gamma = \mathcal{B}(C[\![ e_s \ ]\!] \Gamma, i, C[\![ e_e \ ]\!] (\Gamma, i))
 Pruning
    C[\![e]\!]\Gamma = \mathcal{P}[\phi(\Gamma, \upsilon_1), \ldots, \phi(\Gamma, \upsilon_m)/sz(\Gamma)](C[\![e]\!]\Gamma')
         where \{v_1, \ldots, v_m\} = fv(e)
                                             \Gamma' = (\upsilon_1 : \Gamma(\upsilon_1), \ldots, \upsilon_n : \Gamma(\upsilon_n))
```

**Figure 10.** Semantics of *CL* 

Here are the types:

$$f : R \to T$$

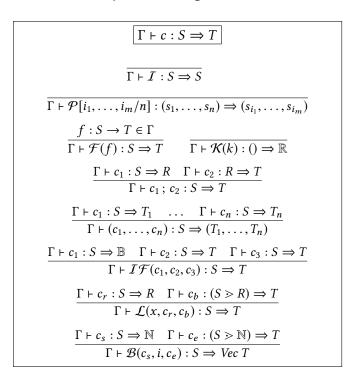
$$g : S \to T$$

$$h : R \to S$$

$$rev\$f : (R, \delta T) \to (T, \delta R)$$

$$rev\$g : (S, \delta T) \to (T, \delta S)$$

$$rev\$h : (R, \delta S) \to (S, \delta R)$$



**Figure 11.** Type system for *CL* 

How can we define rev\$f by calling rev\$g and rev\$h? It would have to look something like this

$$rev\$f(r,dt)$$
 = letrec  $(t,ds) = rev\$g(s,dt)$  
$$(s,dr) = rev\$h(r,ds)$$
 in  $(t,dr)$ 

We can't call *rev\$g* before *rev\$h*, nor the other way around. That's why there is a letrec! Even leaving aside how we generate this code, We'd need lazy evaluation to execute it.

The key idea for splitting is this. Given  $f: S \to T$ , produce two functions

$$revf \$ f : S \to (T, X)$$
  
 $revr \$ f : (X, \delta T) \to \delta S$ 

where the type X depends on the details of f's definition. The idea is that X records all the stuff that f computed when running forward that is necessary for it to run backward.

Now we can write rev\$f(s, dt) = letrec (t, xf) = r

$$rev\$f(s,dt) = letrec (t,xf) = revf\$f(s)$$

$$ds = revf\$f(xf,dt)$$

$$in (t,ds)$$

$$revf\$f(r) = letrec (s,xh) = revf\$h(r)$$

$$(t,xg) = revf\$g(r)$$

$$in (t,(xh,xg))$$

revr\$f((xh, xg), dt) = revr\$h(dh, revr\$g(dg, gt))

# 7 Implementation

The implementation differs from this document as follows:

- Rather than pairs, the implementation supports *n*-ary tuples. Similary the linear maps (×) and ⋈ are *n*-ary.
- $\bullet$  Functions definitions can take n arguments, thus

$$f(x,y,z) = e$$

This is treated as equivalent to

$$f(t) = let x = \pi_{1,3}(t)$$
  
 $y = \pi_{2,3}(t)$   
 $z = \pi_{3,3}(t)$   
in e

#### 8 Fold

# 9 Looping in split mode

# 10 Procedure language

The typing judgement for a procedure p is of the form  $\Gamma \vdash p \dashv \Delta$ .

Here the "context"  $\Gamma$  contains the types of the free variables, those which the procedure uses on the right hand side of an = sign but that were not bound on the left hand side earlier in the procedure. The "co-context"  $\Delta$  contains the types of the "cofree" variables, i.e. those which are bound on the left hand side of an = sign but that are not used on the right hand side later in the procedure.

The requirement that there are no compound expressions in the procedure language leads to very verbose code, analogous to ANF. The reverse mode AD pass relies critically on this property, so although we could relax the condition and permit nested subexpressions we would have to apply an explicit ANF pass before applying the reverse mode transform. We will live with the verbosity for now.

#### 11 BOG-style AD for ksc

See Figures 24 and 25 for BOG-style AD for ksc. This Figure assumes that the input language is a *single-use dialect* of ksc, in which every binder is used exactly once. (Or at most once, I'm not quite sure yet.)

```
Typing rules for fold
1321
1322
1323
                                                                                           t : (a,b)
1324
                                                                                               : a
1325
1326
                                                                                        acc
                                                                                              : a
1327
                                                                                              : Vec b
1328
1329
                                                                       fold (\lambda t.e) acc v
1330
         Typing rules for lmFold
1331
1332
                                                                                         t : (a,b)
1333
1334
                                                                                         e
                                                                                             : a
1335
                                                                                             : (s,(a,b)) \multimap a
1336
1337
                                                                                       acc
                                                                                             : a
1338
                                                                                         v : \operatorname{Vec} b
1339
1340
                                                        lmFold (\lambda t.e) (\lambda t.e') acc v : (s, (a, Vec b)) \rightarrow a
1341
         Typing rules for FFold and RFold
1342
1343
                                                                                                 t : (a,b)
1344
                                                                                              t_{dr} : ((a,b),\delta a)
1345
1346
                                                                                                    : ((a,b),(\delta a,\delta b))
1347
1348
                                                                                                    : a
                                                                                                 e
1349
                                                                                                    : (\delta s, (\delta a, \delta b))
                                                                                              e_{dr}
1350
1351
                                                                                              e_{dt}
                                                                                                     : δa
1352
                                                                                                    :
                                                                                              acc
                                                                                                         a
1353
1354
                                                                                                    : Vec b
1355
                                                                                                    : δa
1356
                                                                                             d_{acc} : \delta a
1357
1358
                                                                                               d_v: Vec \delta b
1359
                                                   FFold (\lambda t.e) acc v (\lambda t_{dt}.e_{dt}) d_{acc} d_v : \delta a
1360
1361
                                                         RFold (\lambda t.e) (\lambda t_{dr}.e_{dr}) acc v dr : (\delta s, (\delta a, \text{Vec } \delta b))
1362
1363
1364
```

Figure 12. Rules for fold

```
Differentiation of fold
                                                                                    If e: T then \nabla_s \llbracket e \rrbracket : s \multimap T
                                                     \nabla_s \llbracket \text{fold } (\lambda t.e) \ acc \ v \rrbracket = \text{ImFold } (\lambda t.e) \ (\lambda t.e') \ acc \ v \circ p
                                                                           where p : s \multimap (s, (a, \text{Vec } b))
                                                                                       p = \mathbf{1}_{s} \times (\nabla_{s} \llbracket acc \rrbracket \times \nabla_{s} \llbracket v \rrbracket)
                                                                                      e' = \text{let } \nabla x = \nabla x \circ (\mathbf{1}_s \bowtie \mathbf{0}_s^{(a,b)})
                                                                                                     ... for each x ocurring free in \lambda t.e
                                                                                                    let \nabla t = \mathbf{0}^s_{(a,b)} \bowtie \mathbf{1}_{(a,b)}
                                                                                                    in \nabla_{(s,(a,b))}[e]
Applying an lmFold
                                          lmFold (\lambda t.e) (\lambda t.e') acc v \odot dx = \text{FFold } (\lambda t.e) acc v (\lambda t_{dt}.e_{dt}) d_{acc} d_v
                                                                                  where e_{dt} = \text{let } t = \pi_1(t_{dt})
                                                                                                              let dt = \pi_2(t_{dt})
                                                                                                              in e' \odot (ds, dt)
                                                                                               ds = \pi_1(dx)
                                                                                            d_{acc} = \pi_1(\pi_2(dx))
                                                                                              d_{v} = \pi_2(\pi_2(dx))
                                        dx \odot_R \operatorname{ImFold}(\lambda t.e)(\lambda t.e') acc v = \operatorname{RFold}(\lambda t.e)(\lambda t_{dr}.e_{dr}) acc v dx
                                                                                  where e_{dr} = \text{let } t = \pi_1(t_{dr})
                                                                                                              let dr = \pi_2(t_{dr})
                                                                                                              in dr \odot_R e'
```

#### Figure 13. Rules for fold

```
def RFold (S, (dA, Vec n dB)) ((f : F) (f_- : F_-) (acc : A) (v : Vec n B) (dr : dA))
1541
        = let (ds, dv, da) = RFold_recursive(f, f_, 0, v, acc, dr)
1542
          in (s, (da, dv))
1543
1544
      def RFold_recursive (S, Vec n dB, dA) ((f : F) (f : F_) (i : Integer) (v : Vec n B)
1545
                                                   (acc : A) (dr : dA))
1546
        = if i == n
1547
          then (0, 0, dr)
1548
          else let (r_ds, r_dv, r_dacc) = RFold_recursive(f, f_, i + 1, v, f(acc, v[i]), dr)
1549
                     (f_ds, (f_dacc, f_db)) = f_((acc, v[i]), r_dacc)
1550
1551
                in (r_ds + f_ds, r_dv + deltaVec(i, f_db), f_dacc)
1552
                                            Figure 15. Reverse mode derivative for fold
1553
1554
      nTimes
1555
1556
                                                           n : Integer
1557
1558
                                                      sInitial : s
1559
                                                           f: s \rightarrow s (known function)
1560
1561
                                          nTimes n sInitial f: s
1562
      revf$nTimes
1563
1564
                                                              n : Integer
1565
1566
                                                        sInitial : s
1567
                                                              f: s \rightarrow s (known function)
1568
1569
                                       revfnTimes\ n\ sInitial\ f\ :\ (s, Vec\ BOG[f])
1570
      revr$nTimes
1571
1572
                                                                 dds' : \delta s
1573
1574
                                                                bog': Vec\ BOG[f]
1575
                                             revr$nTimes (bog', dds') : ((), \delta s, ())
1576
```

**Figure 16.** Typing rules for nTimes

```
Semantics of nTimes
1651
                                                                                                                                          1706
1652
                                                                                                                                          1707
                                    nTimes 0 sInitial f = sInitial
1653
                                                                                                                                          1708
1654
                                                                                                                                          1709
                                    nTimes n sInitial f = nTimes (n-1) f(sInitial) f if n > 0
1655
                                                                                                                                          1710
                                    nTimes n sInitial f = undefined
                                                                                               if n < 0
                                                                                                                                          1711
1656
1657
                                                                                                                                          1712
      revf$nTimes
1658
                                                                                                                                          1713
1659
                                                                                                                                          1714
      revf$nTimes n s f =
1660
                                                                                                                                          1715
        let (\_, bog', s') = nTimes n (0, uninitialized Vector n, s) (\((i, bog, s) ->
1661
                                                                                                                                          1716
                                       let (s', bogf) = revf$f s
                                                                                                                                          1717
1662
                                            bog'
                                                         = setAt i bog bogf
1663
                                                                                                                                          1718
                                            i'
                                                         = i + 1
1664
                                                                                                                                          1719
                                       in (i', bog', s'))
1665
                                                                                                                                          1720
        in (bog', s')
1666
                                                                                                                                          1721
1667
                                                                                                                                          1722
      revr$nTimes
1668
                                                                                                                                          1723
1669
                                                                                                                                          1724
      revr$nTimes (bog', dds') =
1670
                                                                                                                                          1725
        let (_, _, dds) = nTimes (size bog') (size bog', bog', dds') n (\(i', bog', dds') ->
1671
                                                                                                                                          1726
                                               = i' - 1
                                    let i
1672
                                                                                                                                          1727
                                         bogf = index i bog'
                                                                                                                                          1728
1673
                                         bog = bog'
1674
                                                                                                                                          1729
                                         dds = revr$f(bogf, dds')
1675
                                                                                                                                          1730
                                    in (i, bog, dds)
1676
                                                                                                                                          1731
        in ((), dds, ())
1677
                                                                                                                                          1732
1678
                                                                                                                                          1733
                                                     Figure 17. Behaviour of nTimes
1679
                                                                                                                                          1734
1680
                                                                                                                                          1735
1681
                                                                                                                                          1736
1682
                                                                                                                                          1737
1683
                                                                                                                                          1738
1684
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1685
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1686
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1687
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1688
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                                                                                                                                          1745
1690
1691
                                                                                                                                          1746
1692
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1693
                                                                                                                                          1748
1694
                                                                                                                                          1749
1695
                                                                                                                                          1750
1696
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1697
                                                                                                                                          1752
1698
                                                                                                                                          1753
1699
                                                                                                                                          1754
1700
                                                                                                                                          1755
```

```
1761
        ccl
1762
1763
                                                                 n : Integer
1764
                                                         sInitial : s
1765
1766
                                                                f: (Integer, s) \rightarrow s \text{ (known function)}
1767
                                                ccl \ n \ sInitial \ f : s
1768
1769
        revf$ccl
1770
1771
                                                                    n : Integer
1772
                                                            sInitial : s
1773
1774
                                                                   f: (Integer, s) \rightarrow s \text{ (known function)}
1775
                                             revf$ccl n sInitial f: (s,(n,s))
1776
1777
        revr$ccl
1778
1779
                                                                                  n : Integer
1780
                                                                                     : s
                                                                                  S
1781
                                                                              dds' : \delta s
1782
1783
                                                           revr\$ccl ((n, s), dds') : ((), \delta s, ())
1784
1785
```

Figure 18. Typing rules for ccl

```
Semantics of ccl
```

```
 \begin{array}{lll} \operatorname{ccl} \ 0 \ sInitial \ f &=& sInitial \\ \\ \operatorname{ccl} \ n \ sInitial \ f &=& \operatorname{ccl} \ (n-1) \ f(n-1,sInitial) \ f & \text{if} \ n>0 \\ \\ \operatorname{ccl} \ n \ sInitial \ f &=& \text{undefined} & \text{if} \ n<0 \\ \end{array}
```

revf\$ccl

```
revr$ccl ((n, s), dds') =
```

This form of reverse pass is only correct if revr\$f is commutative in the sense that

 $\forall bog1, bog2, dds' revr \$ f(bog1, revr \$ f(bog2, dds')) = revr \$ f(bog2, revr \$ f(bog1, dds'))$ 

Figure 19. Behaviour of ccl

```
1871
                              Atoms
1872
                                  f, g, h
1873
                                           ::=
                                                 Function
1874
                                                 Variable
                                   x, y, z
                                           ::=
1875
1876
                                                 Literal constant
1877
1878
                              Terms
1880
                              statement ::= x = Call f y
                                                                                                  Function call
1881
                                                 x = Const k
1882
                                                                                                   Constant
                                                 Elim y
                                                                                                  Elimination
1884
1885
                                                 x = Dup y
                                                                                                  Duplication
1886
                                                 x = (y, z)
                                                                                                  Tuple constructor
1887
1888
                                                 (x, y) = z
                                                                                                   Tuple pattern match
1889
                                                 x = Inl y
                                                                                                   Sum constructor
1890
1891
                                                 x = Inr y
                                                                                                   Sum constructor
1892
                                                 Case x (Inl x procedure)(Inr y procedure)
                                                                                                  Sum pattern match
1893
1894
1895
                              procedure ::=
                                                 statement
1896
1897
                                                 procedure; procedure
1899
1900
                              Types
1901
                                                 \mathbb{R}
                                                                                                  Real numbers
                                        τ
                                           ::=
1902
1903
                                                 (\tau_1, \tau_2)
                                                                                                  Pairs
1904
                                                                                                  Sums
                                                 \tau_1 \oplus \tau_2
1905
1906
```

**Figure 20.** Syntax of the procedure language

```
1981
                                                                                                                   \Gamma \vdash p \dashv \Delta
1982
1983
                                                                                                     \frac{f:S\to T}{a:S\vdash b=Call\ f\ a\dashv b:T}
1984
1985
1986
                                                                                                \overline{a:S \vdash t = Dup \ s \dashv t:(S,S)}
1987
                                                                                                                         k:T
1988
                                                                                                          + a = Const \ k + a : T
1990
                                                                                                               \overline{a: T \vdash Elim \ a \dashv}
1992
                                                                                         \overline{a_1:T_1,a_2:T_2\vdash b=(a_1,a_2)\dashv b:(T_1,T_2)}
1994
                                                                                         \overline{b:(T_1,T_2)\vdash(a_1,a_2)=b\dashv a_1:T_1,a_2:T_2}
1995
1996
                                                                                                  \overline{b:T_1 \vdash a = Inl\ b \dashv a:T_1 \oplus T_2}
1997
1998
                                                                                                  \overline{b:T_2 \vdash a = Inr\ b \dashv a:T_1 \oplus T_2}
1999
                                                                                                 \Gamma_1 \vdash p1 \dashv \Xi, \Delta_1 \quad \Gamma_2, \Xi \vdash p2 \dashv \Delta_2
2000
                                                                                                          \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2 \vdash p_1; p_2 \dashv \Delta_1, \Delta_2
2001
2002
```

Figure 21. Type system for procedure language

```
"(x, y) = (r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta)"
2091
2092
2093
                                                                                                                        (r_1, r_2) = Dup r
2094
           y' = 5 + 6
                                                                                                                       (\theta_1, \theta_2) = Dup \theta
2095
2096
                                                                                                                                  = Call \cos \theta_1
                                                Const 5
                                      x_1
2097
                                                 Const 6
                                                                                                                                   = Call \sin \theta_2
2098
                                                 (x_1, x_2)
                                                                                                                            rct
                                                                                                                                         (r_1, ct)
2100
                                                 Call add t
                                                                                                                                        (r_2, st)
                                                                                                                            rst
2101
2102
                                                                                                                                        Call mul rct
                                                 \exists y: \mathbb{R}
                                                                                                                               \boldsymbol{x}
2103
                                                                                                                                        Call mul rst
2104
2105
                                                                                                               r: \mathbb{R}, \; \theta: \mathbb{R} \vdash
                                                                                                                                         \exists \ x : \mathbb{R}, \ y : \mathbb{R}
2106
                                                    "r = x^2 + \sin xy + 1"
2107
2108
2109
                                                                                           Dup x
                                                                         (x_1, x_2)
2110
                                                                         (x_3, x_4)
                                                                                      =
                                                                                           Dup x_1
2111
2112
                                                                                         (x_2, x_3)
                                                                               xx
2113
                                                                                           Call mul xx
                                                                              xsq
2114
2115
                                                                               ху
                                                                                           (x_4, y)
2116
                                                                                     = Call mul xy
                                                                          xmuly
2117
2118
                                                                                           Call sin xmuly
                                                                           sinxy
2119
                                                                                      =
                                                                                           Const 1
2120
2121
                                                                          sinxy1
                                                                                           Call add sinxy o
                                                                                           Call add xsq sinxy1
2123
2124
                                                                 x: \mathbb{R}, \ y: \mathbb{R} \vdash
                                                                                           \exists \; r: \mathbb{R}
2125
2126
                                                                      Figure 22. Example procedures
2127
2128
2129
2130
2131
2132
2133
2134
2135
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2137
2138
2139
2140
2141
```

	Γ	$\Gamma \vdash p \dashv \Delta$		Δ	$\Gamma \vdash F[[p]] \dashv \Delta, \Upsilon_p$			$\Upsilon_p$	$\bar{\Delta}, \Upsilon_p \vdash R[\![p]\!] \dashv \bar{\Gamma}$		
	а	b	=	Call f a	b	bt	=	Call rf\$f a	$t_{b;a}$	<i>bt'</i> =	$(\bar{b}, t_{b;a})$
						$(b,t_{b;a})$	=	bt		$\bar{a} =$	Call rr\$f bt'
	S	t	=	Dup s	t	t	=	Dup s	Ø	$\bar{s} =$	Call add $\bar{t}$
	Ø	а	=	Const k	а	a	=	Const k	Ø		Elim ā
	а			Elim a				Elim a	Ø	$\bar{a} =$	Const 0
	$a_1, a_2$	b	=	$(a_1,a_2)$	b	b	=	$(a_1,a_2)$	Ø	$(\bar{a}_1,\bar{a}_2) =$	$\bar{b}$
	b	$(a_1, a_2)$	=	b	$a_1, a_2$	$(a_1, a_2)$	=	b	Ø	$\bar{b} =$	$(\bar{a}_1, \bar{a}_2)$
	b	а	=	Inl b	а	а	=	Inl b	Ø	Case $\bar{a}$ $(Inl \ \bar{b})$ $(Inr \ \bar{z} \ (Elim \ \bar{z}; \bar{b} = Const \ 0))$ Case $\bar{a}$	
	b	а	=	Inr b	а	а	=	Inr b	Ø		
										$(Inl \ \bar{z} \ (Elim \ \bar{z}; \bar{b} = Const \ 0))$	
										$(Inr \ \bar{b})$	
	$\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2$		p1; p	02	$\Delta_1,\Delta_2$	F[[p1]]; F[[p2]]			$\Upsilon_{p1}, \Upsilon_{p2}$	R[[p2]]; R[[p1]]	
$t_{b;a}$ is a fresh variable name, $\bar{}$ bars all the variables in collection of variables it applies to											

Figure 23. Procedure language reverse mode translation rules

This figure assumes the single-use dialect of ksc, in which

```
2311
2312
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2324
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2338
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2340
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2343
2344
2345
2346
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2351
2352
2353
2354
2355
2356
2358
2359
```

```
every binder is used at most once.
              Original function f: S \rightarrow T
                                                         f(x) = e
                                                         f_{fbog}: S \to (T, \mathcal{B}[e])
              Forward BOG
                                                         f_{fbog}(s) = \nabla_f \llbracket e \rrbracket
If e : T then \nabla_f \llbracket e \rrbracket : (T, \mathcal{B}[e])
                                     \nabla_f \llbracket k \rrbracket = (k, ())
                                     \nabla_f \llbracket x \rrbracket = (x, ())
                                \nabla_f \llbracket f(e) \rrbracket = \text{let } (a, b_1) = \nabla_f \llbracket e \rrbracket \text{ in }
                                                             let (r, b_2) = f_{fbog}(a) in
                                                             (r,(b_1,b_2))
                           \nabla_f [\![ (e_1, e_2) ]\!] = \text{let } (a_1, b_1) = \nabla_f [\![ e_1 ]\!] \text{ in }
                                                             let (a_2, b_2) = \nabla_f [\![e_2]\!] in
                                                             ((a_1, a_2), (b_1, b_2))
             \nabla_f \llbracket \text{ let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 \rrbracket = \text{ let } (x, b_1) = \nabla_f \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket \text{ in }
                                                             let (r, b_2) = \nabla_f [e_2] in
                                                             (r,(b_1,b_2))
     \nabla_f \llbracket \det (x, y) = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 \rrbracket = \det (xy, b_1) = \nabla_f \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket \text{ in }
                                                              let (x, y) = xy in
                                                              let (r, b_2) = \nabla_f \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket in
                                                             (r,(b_1,b_2))
```

Figure 24. BOG-style AD for ksc: forward

This figure assumes the single-use dialect of ksc, in which every binder is used at most once. Original function  $f: S \to T$ 

Original function  $f: S \to T$  f(x) = eReverse BOG  $f_{rbog}: (\delta T, \mathcal{B}[e]) \to \delta S$  $f_{rbog}(\partial t, b) = \text{let } \nabla_r[\![e]\!] \partial t \ b \text{ in } \partial x$ 

If  $\Gamma \vdash e : T$  and  $\partial t : \delta T$  and  $b : \mathcal{B}[e]$ , then  $\nabla_r[e] \partial t b$  is a set of bindings that, for every free variable x : S of e, binds  $\partial x : \delta S$ 

$$\nabla_{r} \llbracket k \rrbracket \, \partial t \, b \quad = \quad \{\}$$

$$\nabla_{r} \llbracket x \rrbracket \, \partial t \, b \quad = \quad \{\partial x = \partial t\}$$

$$\nabla_{r} \llbracket f(e) \rrbracket \, \partial t \, b \quad = \quad \{ \quad (b_{1}, b_{2}) = b \\ \quad ; \quad \partial a = f_{rbog}(\partial t, b_{2}) \quad \} \\ \quad + \quad \nabla_{r} \llbracket e_{1} \, \partial a \, b_{1} \quad \}$$

$$\nabla_{r} \llbracket (e_{1}, e_{2}) \rrbracket \, \partial t \, b \quad = \quad \{ \quad (\partial t_{1}, \partial t_{2}) = \partial t \\ \quad ; \quad (\partial b_{1}, \partial b_{2}) = b \quad \} \\ \quad + \quad \nabla_{r} \llbracket e_{1} \rrbracket \, \partial t_{1} \, b_{1} \\ \quad + \quad \nabla_{r} \llbracket e_{2} \rrbracket \, \partial t_{2} \, b_{2} \quad \}$$

$$\nabla_{r} \llbracket \text{let } x = e_{1} \text{ in } e_{2} \rrbracket \, \partial t \, b \quad = \quad \{ \quad (b_{1}, b_{2}) = b \quad \} \\ \quad + \quad \nabla_{r} \llbracket e_{1} \rrbracket \, \partial x \, b_{1} \quad \}$$

$$\nabla_{r} \llbracket \text{let } (x, y) = e_{1} \text{ in } e_{2} \rrbracket \, \partial t \, b \quad = \quad \{ \quad (b_{1}, b_{2}) = b \quad \} \\ \quad + \quad \nabla_{r} \llbracket e_{1} \rrbracket \, \partial x \, b_{1} \quad \}$$

$$\forall r \llbracket \text{let } (x, y) = e_{1} \text{ in } e_{2} \rrbracket \, \partial t \, b \quad = \quad \{ \quad (b_{1}, b_{2}) = b \quad \} \\ \quad + \quad \nabla_{r} \llbracket e_{2} \rrbracket \, \partial t \, b_{2} \quad \{ \quad \partial x \, y = (\partial x, \partial y) \quad \} \\ \quad + \quad \nabla_{r} \llbracket e_{1} \rrbracket \, \partial x \, y \, b_{1} \quad \}$$

Figure 25. BOG-style AD for ksc: reverse