A functional tour of automatic differentiation

with Racket

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Kraków



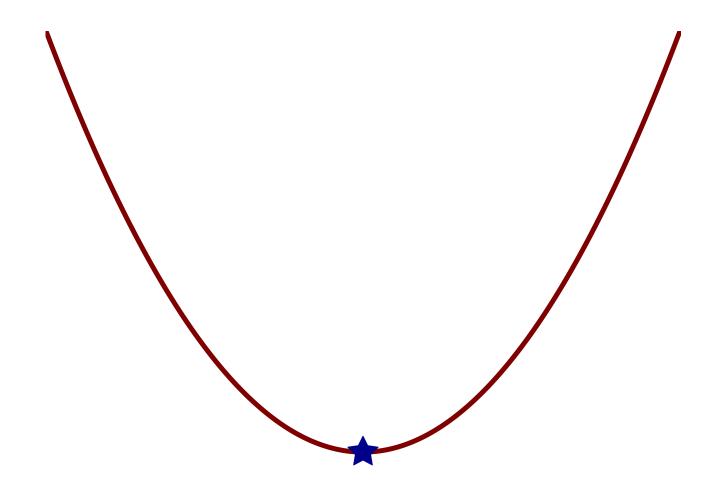
lambda D A λ S

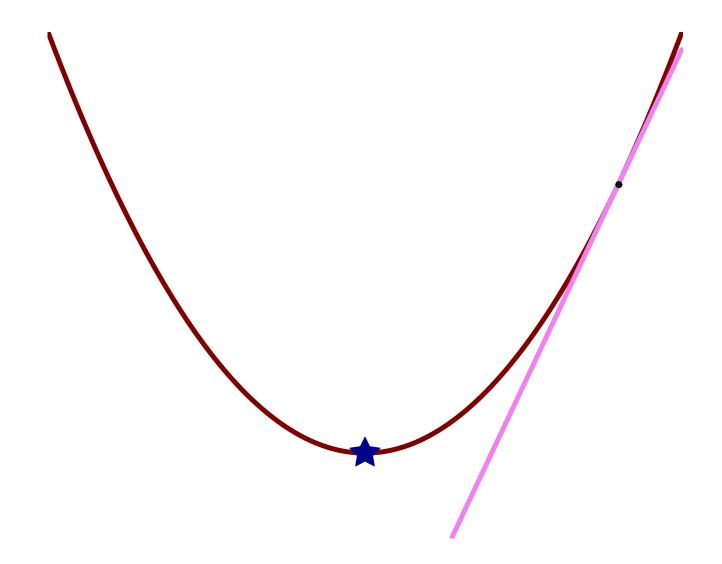
Oliver Strickson Research Software Engineer Research Engineering Group

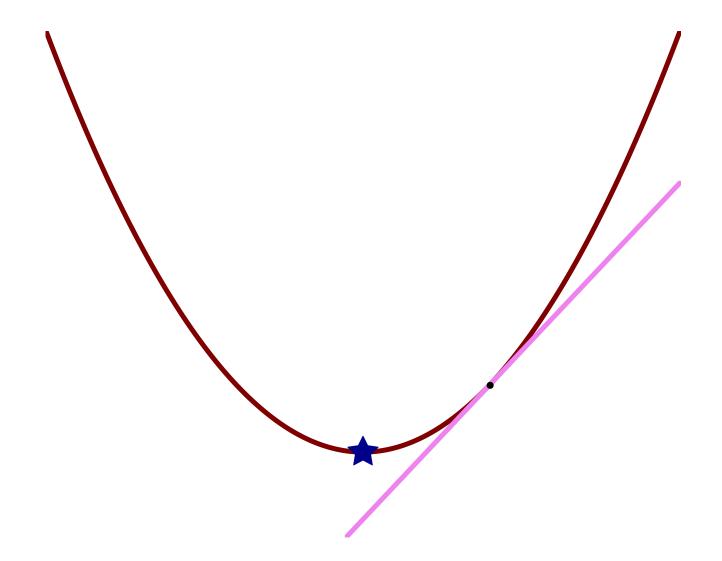
The Alan Turing Institute

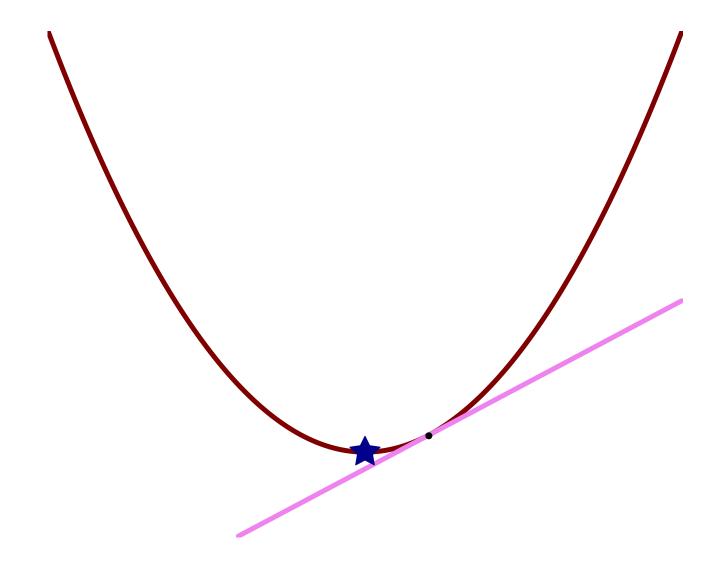


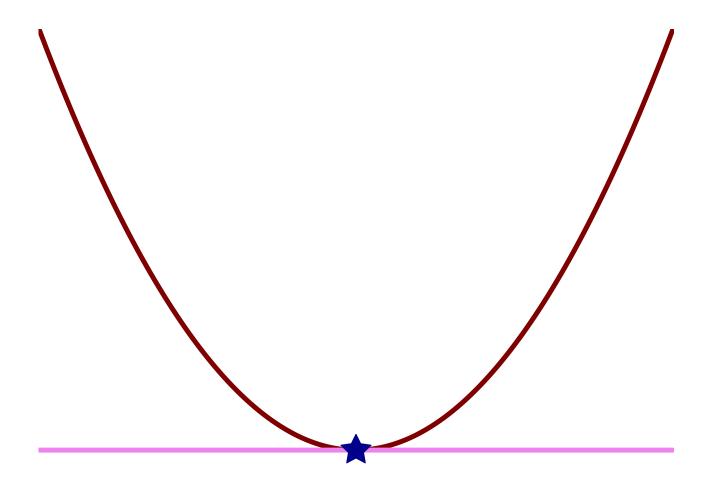
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minimize f

minimize f Df

$$f(x) = x^2$$

$$f(x) = x^2$$
$$Df(x) = ??$$

$$f(x) = x^2$$
$$Df(x) = 2x$$

$$f(x) =$$

$$f(x) =$$





$$Df(x) \approx \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

Symbolic?

Automatic

Overview

- Some syntax
- Differentiation
- Automatic differentiation algorithm(s)
- Implementation

$$(cons 'a 'b) => (a . b)$$

```
(cons 'a 'b) => (a . b)

(cons 'a (cons 'b 'c)) => (a b . c)

(cons 'a (cons 'b null)) => (a b)
```

```
(cons 'a 'b) => (a . b)
(cons 'a (cons 'b 'c)) => (a b . c)
(cons 'a (cons 'b null)) => (a b)
  (list 'a 'b) => (a b)
```

```
(cons 'a 'b) => (a . b)

(car '(a . b)) => a

(cdr '(a . b)) => b
```

```
(cdr '(a b c)) => a
(cdr '(a b c)) => (b c)
```

```
(define (multiply x y) (* x y))
```

```
(define ((multiply x) y) (* x y))
```

```
(define (sum . xs) (apply + xs))
```

The best linear approximation to a function about a point (if it exists)

The best linear approximation to a function about a point (if it exists)

Function f or **f**

Derivative Df or (D f)

function f(x)

find a with

$$f(x) - f(x_0) \approx \alpha (x - x_0)$$

function f(x)

find a with

$$f(x) - f(x_0) \approx a(x - x_0)$$

 $f(x) - f(x_0) = a(x - x_0) + O((x - x_0)^2)$

function f(x)

find a with

$$f(x) - f(x_0) \approx a (x - x_0)$$

$$f(x) - f(x_0) = a (x - x_0) + O((x - x_0)^2)$$

$$f(x) - f(x_0) = Df(x_0) (x - x_0) + O((x - x_0)^2)$$

function f(x, y)

find a, b with

$$f(x, y) - f(x_0, y_0) \approx a(x - x_0) + b(y - y_0)$$

function f(x, y)

find a, b with

$$f(x,y) - f(x_0, y_0) \approx a(x - x_0) + b(y - y_0)$$

$$f(x,y) - f(x_0, y_0) \approx D_0 f(x_0, y_0)(x - x_0) + D_1 f(x_0, y_0)(y - y_0)$$

function f(x, y)

find a, b with

$$f(x,y) - f(x_0, y_0) \approx a(x - x_0) + b(y - y_0)$$

$$f(x,y) - f(x_0, y_0) \approx D_0 f(x_0, y_0) (x - x_0) + D_1 f(x_0, y_0) (y - y_0)$$

Partial derivative $D_i f$ or (partial i f)

Differentiation

function f(x, y)

find a, b with

$$f(x,y) - f(x_0, y_0) \approx a(x - x_0) + b(y - y_0)$$

$$f(x,y) - f(x_0, y_0) \approx D_0 f(x_0, y_0) (x - x_0) + D_1 f(x_0, y_0) (y - y_0)$$

Partial derivative $D_i f$ or (partial i f)

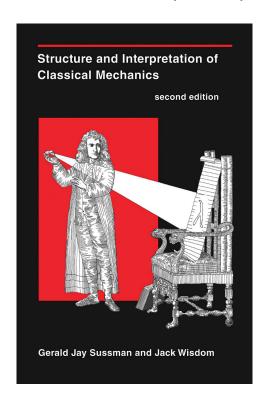
$$Df(x,y) = (D_0f(x,y), D_1f(x,y))$$

BOOK

Structure and Interpretation of Classical Mechanics (2nd ed.)

https://mitpress.mit.edu/sites/default/files/
/titles/content/sicm_edition_2/book.html

Gerald Jay Sussman & Jack Wisdom (2015)



Composition

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

$$Df(x) = Dg(f(x)) \cdot Df(x)$$

Composition

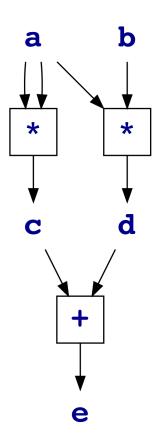
$$f(x, y) = g(u(x, y), v(x, y))$$

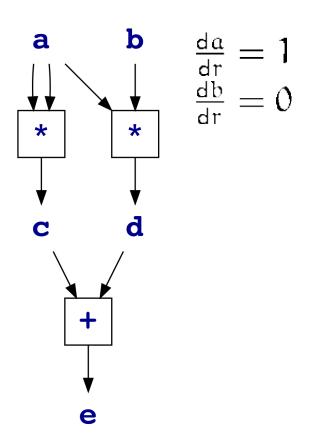
$$Df(x,y) = D_0g(u(x,y), v(x,y)) \cdot Du(x,y)$$
$$+ D_1g(u(x,y), v(x,y)) \cdot Dv(x,y)$$

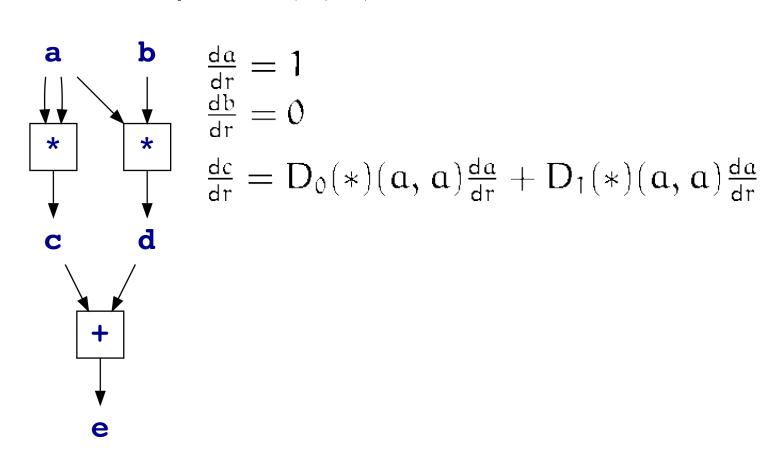
Arithmetic expressions

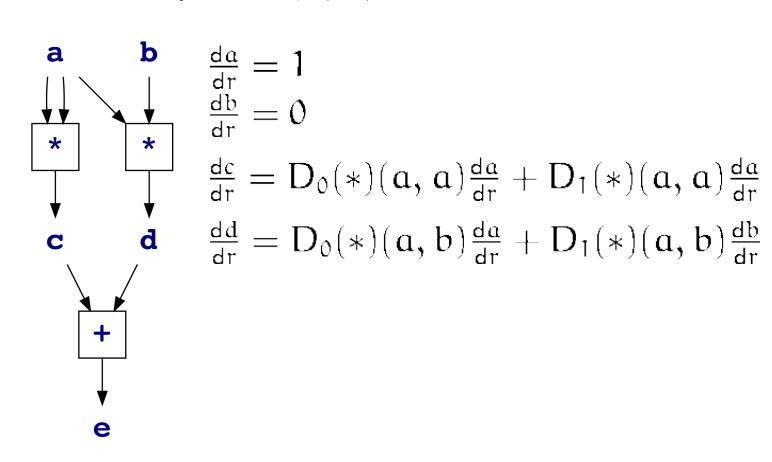
```
(+ (* a a) (* a b))
```

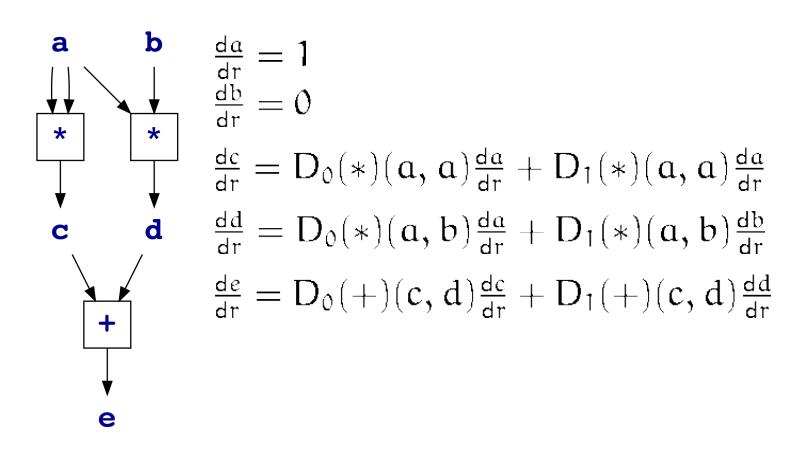
Arithmetic expressions

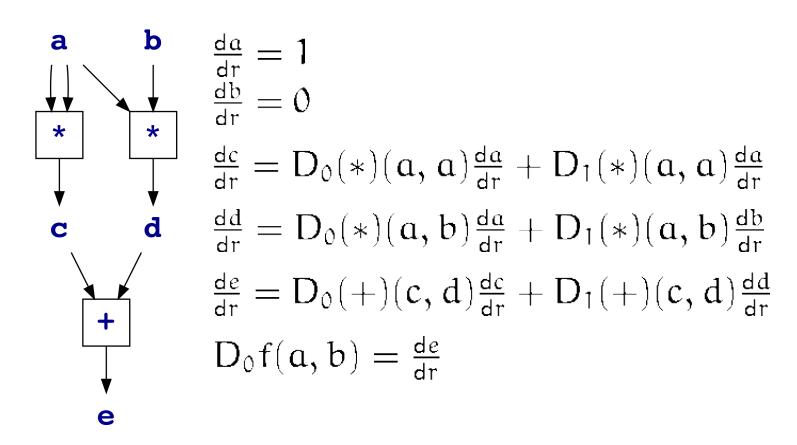


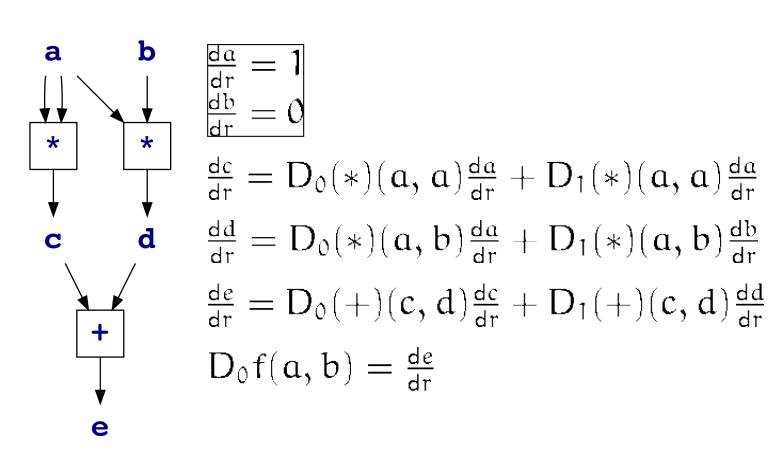


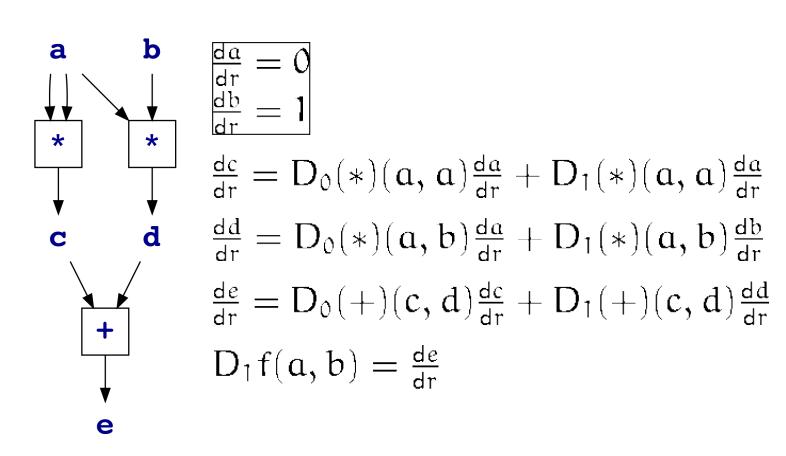


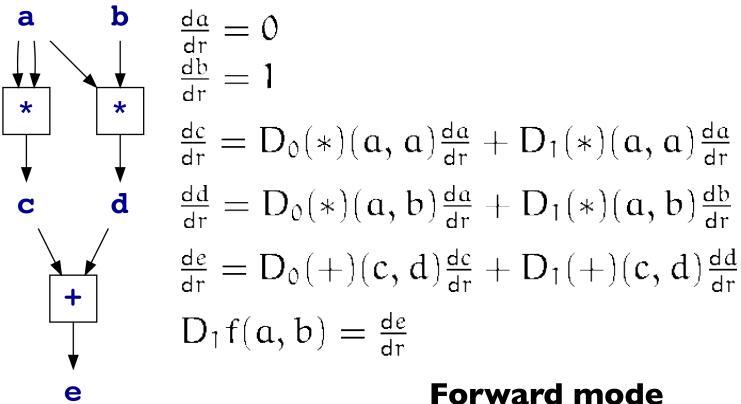






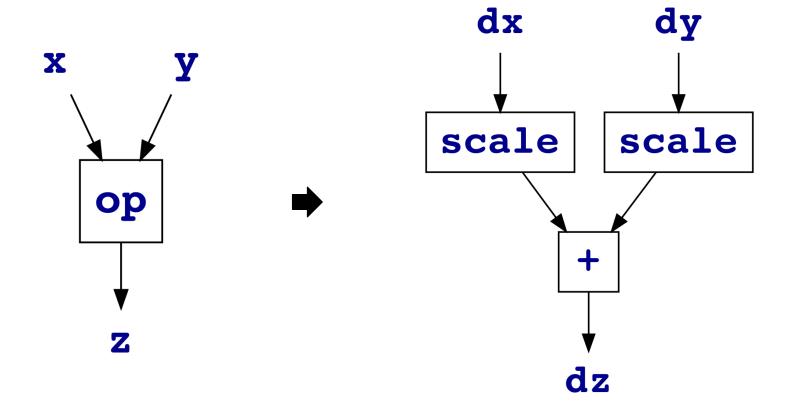


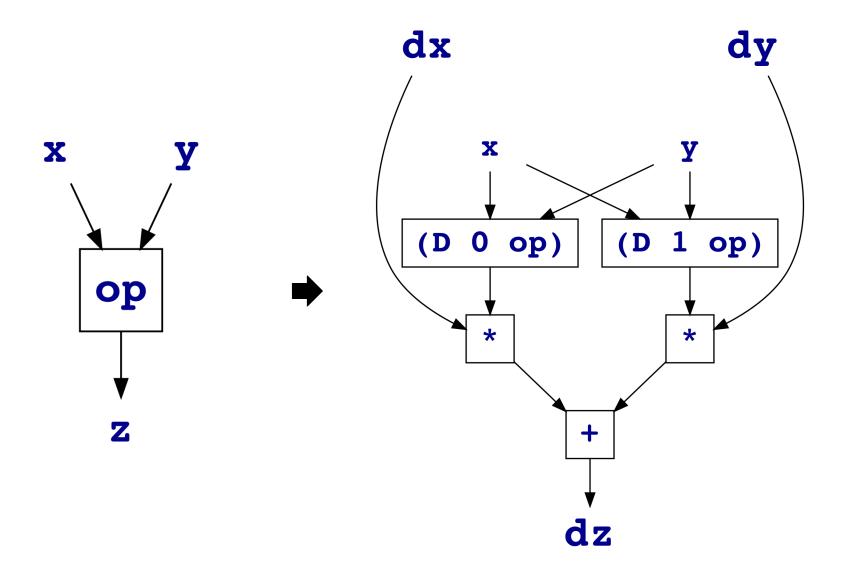


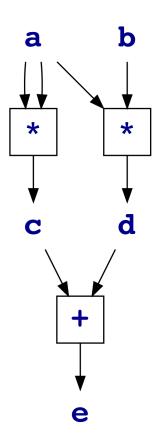


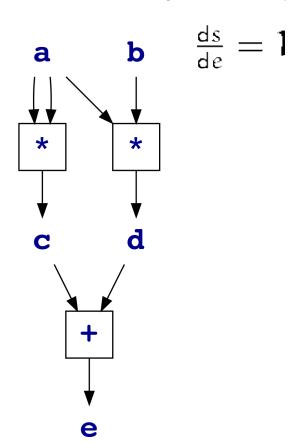
Will write dx instead of $\frac{dx}{dr}$

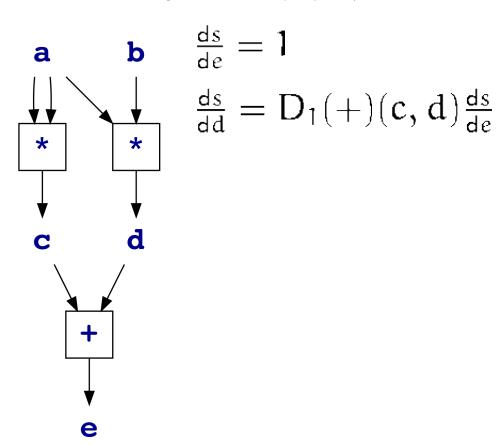
Known as perturbation variables

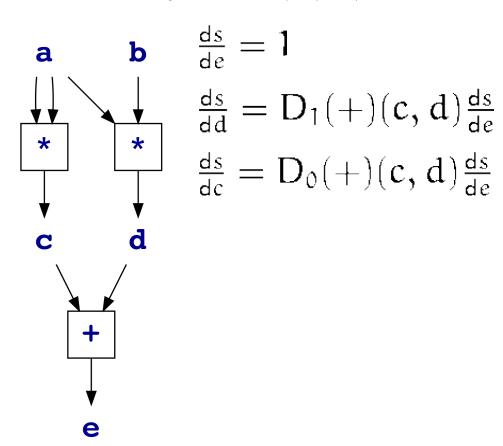


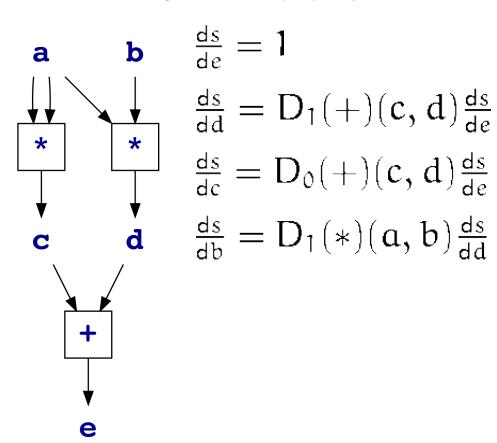


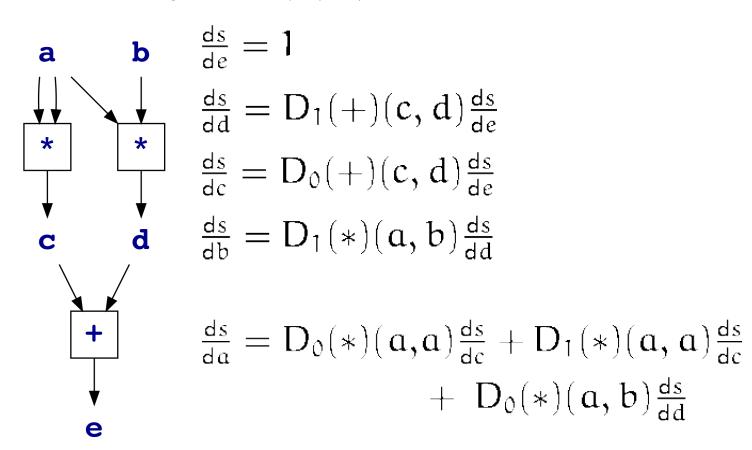


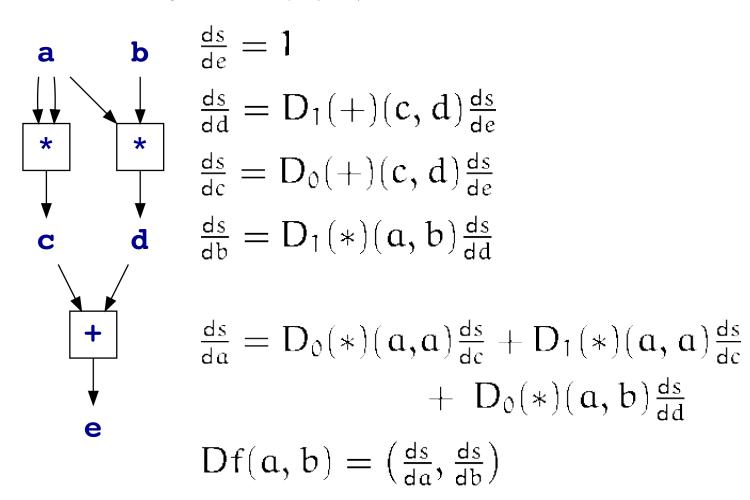




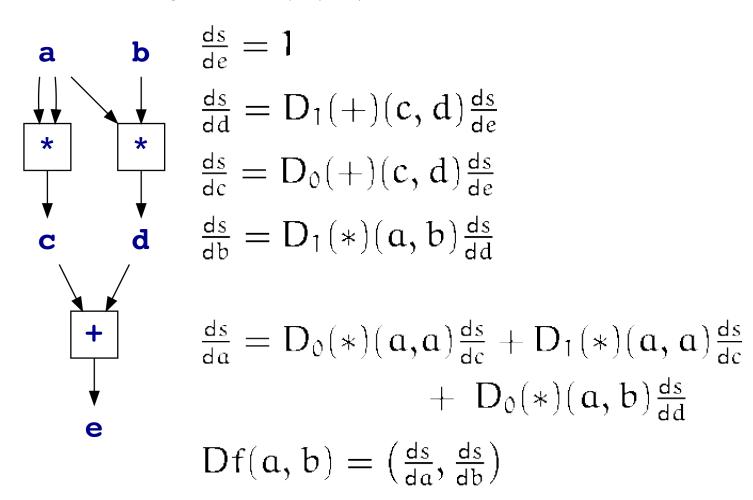








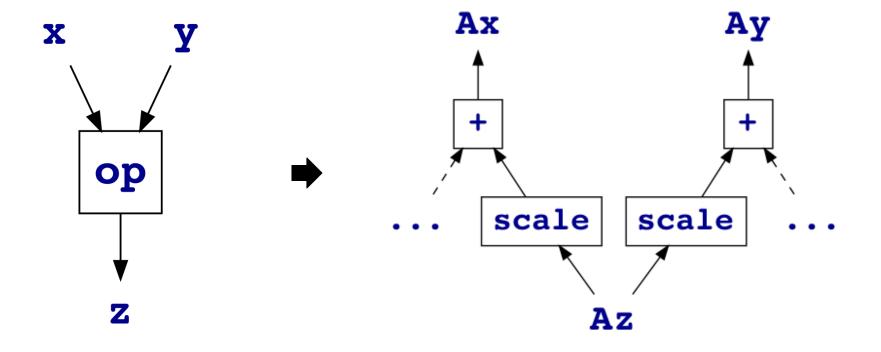
Compute Df(a, b)

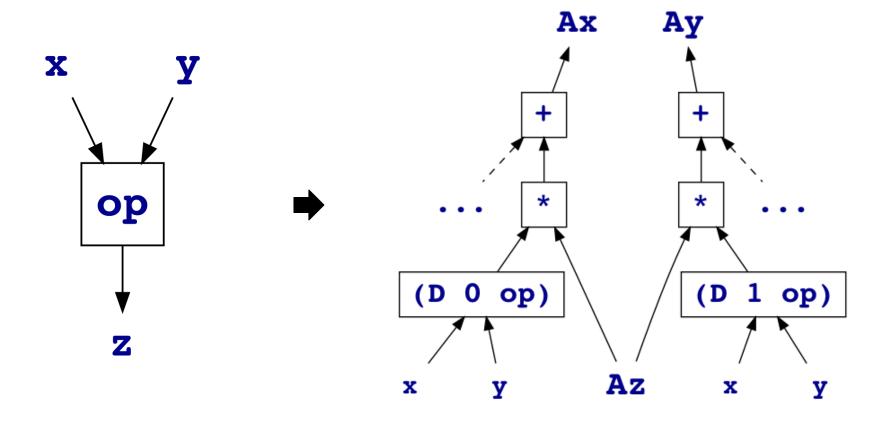


Reverse mode

Will write **Ax** instead of $\frac{ds}{dx}$

Known as sensitivity variables or adjoints





We can now differentiate any expression involving primitive operations

Idea: the return value of a function was determined from a particular (dynamic) call graph.

Differentiate that

Options:

- runtime trace
- static code transformation
- local transformations: dual numbers or continutations

Options:

- · runtime trace
- static code transformation
- local transformations: dual numbers or continutations

Tracing program execution

We want a *flat* trace, which:

contains only primitive operations

```
(sum-squares x y)
=> (sum-squares 3 4)
=> 25
```

(sum-squares x y) => (sum-squares

```
X
=> 3, as t1 | (constant 3)
Y
=> 4, as t2 | (constant 4)
(sum-squares x y)
           | (constant 3)
        t2 | (constant 4)
        t3 | (app * t1 t1) |
        t4 | (app * t2 t2) |
                               16
        t5 | (app + t3 t4)
                               25
=> 25, as
```

Let's make a little language that does this...

assignments

```
(struct assignment (id expr val))
```

assignments

```
(struct assignment (id expr val)
#:guard (struct-guard/c symbol? expr? any/c))
```

assignments

```
(struct assignment (id expr val)
  #:guard (struct-guard/c symbol? expr? any/c))
  (define (expr? e)
        (match e
            [(list 'constant _) #t]
            [(list 'app (? symbol? _) ...1) #t]
            [_ #f]))
```

```
(struct trace (assignments))
```

```
(struct trace (assignments))
  (trace-add tr assgn)
  (trace-append trs ...)
  (trace-get tr id)
```

```
(struct trace (assignments))
          (trace-add tr assgn)
          (trace-append trs ...)
          (trace-get tr id)
top of a trace is the most recent assignment
                  (top tr)
               (top-val tr)
               (top-id tr)
               (top-expr tr)
```

```
(define (+& a b)
  (trace-add
    (trace-append a b)
    (make-assignment
    #:expr (list 'app '+ (top-id a) (top-id b))
    #:val (+ (top-val a) (top-val b)))))
```

```
(define (*& a b)
  (trace-add
    (trace-append a b)
    (make-assignment
    #:expr (list 'app '* (top-id a) (top-id b))
    #:val (* (top-val a) (top-val b)))))
```

```
(define (exp& x)
  (trace-add
    x
    (make-assignment
    #:expr (list 'app 'exp (top-id x))
    #:val (exp (top-val x)))))
```

```
(define-traced-primitive (+& a b) '+
  (+ a b))
(define-traced-primitive (*& a b) '*
  (* a b))
•
(define-traced-primitive (<& a b) '<
 (< a b))
.
(define-traced-primitive (cons& a b) 'cons
 (cons a b))
. . . .
```

#lang rackpropagator/trace
; ...

(+ 1 2)

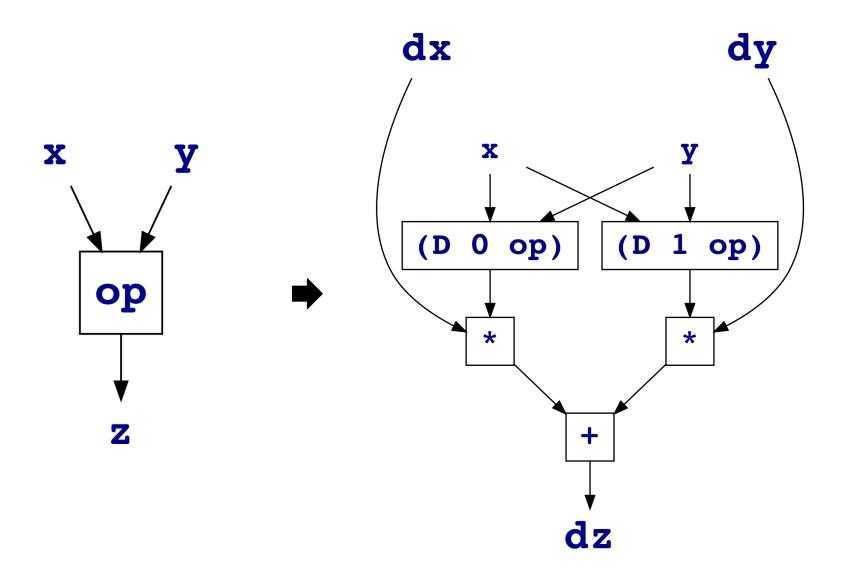
```
(+ 1 2)
; trace-items: contract violation
; expected: trace?
; given: 1
```

Interposition points

```
(+ 1 2)
=> (#%app + (#%datum . 1) (#%datum . 2))
```

```
(datum& . 1)
=> (make-trace (make-assignment #:val 1))
  (provide (rename-out [datum& #%datum]))
```

Recap: Forward-mode AD



```
(define ((partial/f i f) . xs)
 [indep-ids (map top-id xs)]
      [result (apply f xs)])
   (define-values (Dresult )
     (for/fold ([tr result]
               [deriv-dict (hash)])
              ([z (reverse (trace-items result))])
      (let ([dz (d-prim-op z x indep-ids
                         tr deriv-dict)])
        {values
         (trace-append dz tr)
         (hash-set deriv-dict
                  (id z) (top-id dz))}))))
```

```
(define ((partial/f i f) . xs)
 [indep-ids (map top-id xs)]
      [result (apply f xs)])
   (define-values (Dresult )
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      (let ([dz (d-prim-op z x indep-ids
                         tr deriv-dict)])
        {values
         (trace-append dz tr)
         (hash-set deriv-dict
                   (id z) (top-id dz))}))))
```

```
(define ((partial/f i f) . xs)
 (let ([x          (top-id (list-ref xs i))]
       [indep-ids (map top-id xs)]
       [result (apply f xs)])
   (define-values (Dresult )
     (for/fold ([tr result]
                 [deriv-dict (hash)])
                ([z (reverse (trace-items result))])
      (let ([dz (d-prim-op z x indep-ids
                            tr deriv-dict)])
         {values
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              ([z (reverse (trace-items result))])
     (let ([dz (d-prim-op z x indep-ids
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        {values
         (trace-append dz tr)
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```

```
(define ((partial/f i f) . xs)
 [indep-ids (map top-id xs)]
      [result (apply f xs)])
   (define-values (Dresult )
    (for/fold ([tr result]
               [deriv-dict (hash)])
              ([z (reverse (trace-items result))])
     (let ([dz (d-prim-op z x indep-ids
                         tr deriv-dict)])
        {values
         (trace-append dz tr)
         (hash-set deriv-dict
                  (id z) (top-id dz))})))))
```

```
(define ((partial/f i f) . xs)
 [indep-ids (map top-id xs)]
      [result (apply f xs)])
   (define-values (Dresult )
    (for/fold ([tr result]
               [deriv-dict (hash)])
              ([z (reverse (trace-items result))])
     (let ([dz (d-prim-op z x indep-ids
                         tr deriv-dict)])
        {values
         (trace-append dz tr)
         (hash-set deriv-dict
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(define ((partial/f i f) . xs)
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      [result (apply f xs)])
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               [deriv-dict (hash)])
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                         tr deriv-dict)])
        {values
         (trace-append dz tr)
         (hash-set deriv-dict
                  (id z) (top-id dz))})))))
```

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(define ((partial/f i f) . xs)
 [indep-ids (map top-id xs)]
      [result (apply f xs)])
   (define-values (Dresult )
    (for/fold ([tr result]
               [deriv-dict (hash)])
              ([z (reverse (trace-items result))])
     (let ([dz (d-prim-op z x indep-ids
                         tr deriv-dict)])
        {values
         (trace-append dz tr)
         (hash-set deriv-dict
                  (id z) (top-id dz))}))))
```

```
(define ((partial/f i f) . xs)
 [indep-ids (map top-id xs)]
      [result (apply f xs)])
   (define-values (Dresult )
     (for/fold ([tr result]
               [deriv-dict (hash)])
              ([z (reverse (trace-items result))])
     (let ([dz (d-prim-op z x indep-ids
                         tr deriv-dict) ])
        {values
         (trace-append dz tr)
         (hash-set deriv-dict
                   (id z) (top-id dz))})))))
```

```
; d-prim-op: assignment? symbol? (Listof symbol?)
   trace? (HashTable symbol? symbol?) -> trace?
(define (d-prim-op z x-symb indep-ids
                   tr deriv-dict)
 ; d : symbol? -> trace?
  (define (d s)
    (trace-get tr (hash-ref deriv-dict s)))
  (cond
   ;
```

```
(cond
  [(eq? (id z) x-symb) (datum& . 1.0)]
  [(memq (id z) indep-ids) (datum& . 0.0)]
  [else
      (match (expr z)
      ; ...
      )])
```

```
(match (expr z)
  [(list 'constant null) (datum& . null)]
  [(list 'constant c) (datum& . 0.0)]
  ; ...
)
```

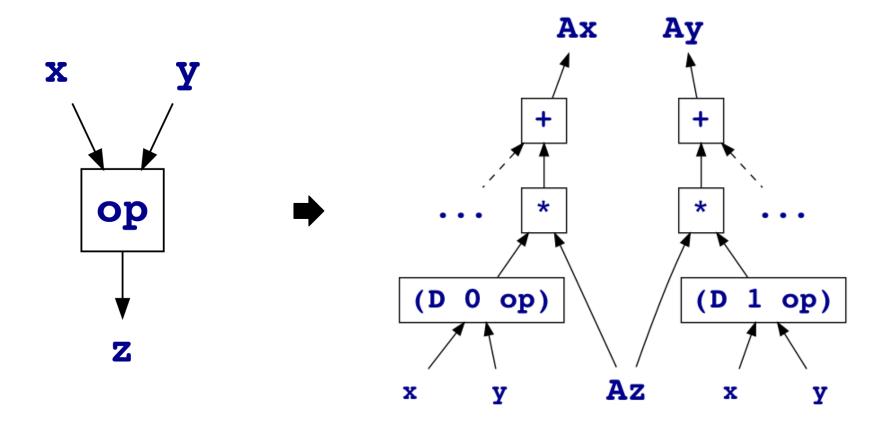
```
((D cons) (f x) (g y))
= (cons ((D f) x) ((D g) y))
```

```
((D car) (cons (f x) (g y)))
= ((D f) x)
```

```
((D cdr) (cons (f x) (g y)))
= ((D g) y)
```

```
; ...
(match (expr z)
; ...
[(list 'app 'cons x y) (cons& (d x) (d y))]
[(list 'app 'car ls) (car& (d ls))]
[(list 'app 'cdr ls) (cdr& (d ls))]
; ...
)
```

Recap: Reverse-mode AD



```
(define (A/r result-tr indep-ids s)
  (define seed-id (top-id result-tr))
  (define seed-tr (trace-append s result-tr))
  (define-values (tr adjoints)
    (for/fold ([tr seed-tr]
               [adjoint-terms
                (hash seed-id
                      (list (top-id seed-tr)))]
               [adjoints (hash)])
              ([w (trace-items result-tr)])
```

```
(define (A/r result-tr indep-ids s)
  (define seed-id (top-id result-tr))
  (define seed-tr (trace-append s result-tr))
  (define-values (tr adjoints)
    (for/fold ([tr seed-tr]
               [adjoint-terms
                (hash seed-id
                      (list (top-id seed-tr)))]
               [adjoints (hash)])
              ([w (trace-items result-tr)])
    , . . .
 , . . .
```

```
(define (A/r result-tr indep-ids s)
  (define seed-id (top-id result-tr))
  (define seed-tr (trace-append s result-tr))
  (define-values (tr adjoints)
    (for/fold ([tr seed-tr]
               [adjoint-terms
                (hash seed-id
                       (list (top-id seed-tr)))]
               [adjoints (hash)])
              ([w (trace-items result-tr)])
    , . . .
```

```
(for/fold (...)
          ([w (trace-items result-tr)])
  (define Aw-terms
    (map (curry trace-get tr)
         (hash-ref adjoint-terms (id w))))
  (define Aw
    (trace-append
     (foldl cons-add (car Aw-terms) (cdr Aw-terms))
     tr))
  (define-values (tr* adjoint-terms*)
    (A-prim-op w Aw adjoint-terms))
 {values tr*
          adjoint-terms*
          (hash-set adjoints (id w) (top-id Aw))})
```

```
(for/fold (...)
          ([w (trace-items result-tr)])
  (define Aw-terms
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         (hash-ref adjoint-terms (id w))))
  (define Aw
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     tr))
  (define-values (tr* adjoint-terms*)
    (A-prim-op w Aw adjoint-terms))
 {values tr*
          adjoint-terms*
          (hash-set adjoints (id w) (top-id Aw))})
```

```
(cons-add '(1 2 (3) . 4)
'(0 1 (2) . 3))
=> '(1 3 (5) . 7)

(cons-zero '(1 () (2) . 4))
=> '(0 () (0) . 0)
```

```
(for/fold (...)
          ([w (trace-items result-tr)])
  (define Aw-terms
    (map (curry trace-get tr)
         (hash-ref adjoint-terms (id w))))
  (define Aw
    (trace-append
     (foldl cons-add (car Aw-terms) (cdr Aw-terms))
    tr))
  (define-values (tr* adjoint-terms*)
    (A-prim-op w Aw adjoint-terms))
 {values tr*
          adjoint-terms*
          (hash-set adjoints (id w) (top-id Aw))})
```

```
(for/fold (...)
          ([w (trace-items result-tr)])
  (define Aw-terms
    (map (curry trace-get tr)
         (hash-ref adjoint-terms (id w))))
  (define Aw
    (trace-append
     (foldl cons-add (car Aw-terms) (cdr Aw-terms))
    tr))
  (define-values (tr* adjoint-terms*)
    (A-prim-op w Aw adjoint-terms))
 {values tr*
          adjoint-terms*
          (hash-set adjoints (id w) (top-id Aw))})
```

```
(let* ([tr* (trace-add
             tr
             (make-assignment #:val 0.0))]
       [zero-id (top-id tr*)])
  (trace-prune
   (apply
   list&
    (for/list ([x indep-ids])
      (trace-get
       tr*
       (hash-ref adjoints x zero-id))))))
```

$$\mathbf{w} \leftarrow (\mathbf{car} \ \mathbf{xs})$$
 \Rightarrow
 $(\mathbf{car} \ \mathbf{Axs}) \leftarrow \mathbf{Aw}$

```
W ← (car xs)

=>
Axs ← (cons Aw (cons-zero (cdr xs)))
```

```
w ← (cdr xs)

=>
Axs ← (cons (cons-zero (car xs)) Aw)
```

```
(define (A-prim-op w Aw adjoint-terms)
  (match (expr w)
    [(list 'app 'cons x y)
     (let ([Ax (car& Aw)]
            [Ay (cdr& Aw)])
       {values (trace-append Ay Ax Aw)
                (upd-adj adjoint-terms
                         x Ax
                         y Ay) } ) ]
    . . . .
```

```
(define (A-prim-op w Aw adjoint-terms)
  (match (expr w)
   .
   [(list 'app 'car xs)
    (let ([xs& (trace-get Aw xs)]
           [tr (cons& Aw (cons-zero (cdr& xs&)))])
      {values (trace-append tr Aw)
               (upd-adj adjoint-terms xs tr)})]
```

http://github.com/ots22/rackpropagator

```
From automatic differentiation to message passing https://youtu.be/NkJNcEed2NU
```

Tom Minka

PAPER

The simple essence of automatic differentiation https://arxiv.org/abs/1804.00746 Conal Elliot (2018)

TALK

The simple essence of automatic differentiation

https://youtu.be/Shl3MtWGu18

Conal Elliot

```
PAPER
Reverse-Mode AD in a Functional Framework: Lambda the
Ultimate Backpropagator
https://www.bcl.hamilton.ie/
     /~barak/papers/toplas-reverse.pdf
doi:10.1145/1330017.1330018
Pearlmutter & Siskind (2008)
PAPER
Demystifying Differentiable Programming: Shift/Reset the
Penultimate Backpropagator
https://arxiv.org/abs/1803.10228
Fei Wang et al. (2018)
```

```
WEBSITE
```

autodiff.org: Community Portal for Automatic Differentiation

http://www.autodiff.org/

BOOK

Beautiful Racket: an introduction to language-oriented

programming using Racket, v1.6

https://beautifulracket.com/

Matthew Butterick

```
Structure and Interpretation of Classical Mechanics (2nd ed.)

https://mitpress.mit.edu/sites/default/files/
/titles/content/sicm_edition_2/book.html

Gerald Jay Sussman & Jack Wisdom (2015)
```

Program transformation

Can apply the previous work to straight-line code, at compile time

define instead of assignment

Program transformation

```
#lang rackpropagator/ (define (Df x y)
  straightline
                          (define a (+ x y))
(define (f x y)
                          (define t2 1.0)
  (define a (+ x y))
                          (define t3 1.0)
  (define b (+ a a))
                          (define t4 (* t2 t3))
  (define c (* a y))
                          (define t7 (* t4 y))
  (define d 1.0)
                          (define t8 (* t4 a))
  (+ c d)
                          (define t9 1.0)
                          (define t10 (* t7 t9))
                          (define t11 1.0)
                          (define t12 (* t7 t11))
                          (define t17 (+ t8 t12))
                          (define t19 '())
                          (define t20 (cons t17 t19))
                          (cons t10 t20))
```

Program transformation

Program transformation

sum-of-squares:

Given a and b

sum-of-squares:

Given a and b

```
c \leftarrow (* a a)

d \leftarrow (* b b)

e \leftarrow (+ c d)
```

The "forward-mode" transformation:

```
dc \leftarrow (+ (* a da) (* da a))

dd \leftarrow (+ (* b db) (* db b))

de \leftarrow (+ dc dd)
```

sum-of-squares:

Can interleve the operations computing x and dx

```
c \leftarrow (* a a)

dc \leftarrow (+ (* a da) (* da a))

d \leftarrow (* b b)

dd \leftarrow (+ (* b db) (* db b))

e \leftarrow (+ c d)

de \leftarrow (+ dc dd)
```

- dx depends on dy if and only if x depends on y
- dx depends on y only if x depends on y

Idea: treat the pair of x and dx as a single entity. Define combined operations.

```
(struct dual-number (p d))
```

- only need to define the primitive numerical functions
- Can be implemented with operator overloading
- A **local** program transformation

```
(define ((D n f) . args)
  (let ([args* (for/list [(i (in-naturals))
                           (a args)]
                  (if (= i n)
                      (dual-number a 1)
                      (dual-number a 0)))])
    (get-dual-part (apply f args*)))
  Helper function:
  (get-dual-part
   (list (dual-number 0.0 1.0)
         2.0
          (cons (dual-number 3.0 0.0)
                (dual-number 4.0 5.0))))
  => (1.0 \ 0.0 \ (0.0 \ .5.0))
```