# **Simply Typed Lambda Calculus**

From Untyped to Simply Typed Lambda Calculus

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November 25, 2018

Dream IT
https://dreamit.de

**Untyped Lambda Calculus** 

We can boil down computation to a tiny calculus

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#### All we need is:

- Function Definition / Abstraction ( $\lambda x.e$ )
- Function Application (e e)
- Parameters / Variables (x)

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- Booleans
- Numerals
- Data Structures
- Control Flow
- ...

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- Function Definition / Abstraction ( $\lambda x.e$ )
- Function Application (e e)
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#### Then we get:

- **Booleans**
- Numerals
- Data Structures
- Control Flow

### **Turing Completeness**

 If it can be computed, it can be computed in Lambda Calculus!

$$(\lambda p. \quad \lambda q.p$$
 ) a b

- $\lambda p.\lambda q.p$  Is a function that returns a function  $(\lambda q.p)$ 
  - a, b Some variables (defined somewhere else)
    - p Is a variable that is bound to the parameter with the same name

$$(\lambda p. \quad \lambda q.p \quad ) \quad a \quad b \quad \text{Substitute } p \mapsto a$$

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## **Build an Interpreter**

#### Let's build an interpreter

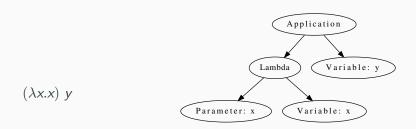
- Deepen our intiution
- Later move on to the Simply Typed Lambda Calculus
  - Why do we need types?
  - How does a type checker work?
  - How does it restrict the programs we might write?
- We'll do Math Driven Development
  - Look at the concepts in math first, then translate them to Haskell

#### **Structure**

$$e ::=$$
 Expressions:  $x$  Variable  $\lambda x.e$  Abstraction  $e \ e$  Application

 $\lambda x.e$  Function Definition e e Function Application (Function Call)

# **Abstract Syntax Tree**



# Meaning

• Identity function  $(\lambda x.x)$  is applied to a variable (y)

# Interpreter - Syntax

```
module UntypedSyntax where
type Name = String
                                           Expressions:
data Expr
                             -- e ::=
                                            Variable
  = Var Name
                                     X
                                      \lambda x.e
                                              Abstraction
  Lambda Name
           Expr
  App Expr
                                              Application
                                      e e
        Expr
  deriving (Eq, Show)
```

# **Interpreter - Syntax - Examples**

# Interpreter - Syntax - Examples

```
module UntypedSyntaxExamples where

import UntypedSyntax

-- id = \( \lambda \times x \)

id :: Expr

id = Lambda "x" $ Var "x"
```

```
-- true \equiv \lambda p.\lambda q.p

true :: Expr

true = Lambda "p" (Lambda "q" (Var "p"))

-- false \equiv \lambda p.\lambda q.q

false :: Expr

false = Lambda "p" (Lambda "q" (Var "q"))
```

#### **Interpreter - Syntax - Examples**

```
-- and \equiv \lambda p.\lambda q.p \ q \ p and :: Expr and = Lambda "p" $ Lambda "q" $ App (App (Var "p") (Var "q")) (Var "p")
```

# Natural Deduction

#### **Notation**

$$\overline{Axiom}$$
 (A1)

$$\frac{Antecedent}{Conclusion} \tag{A2}$$

### Meaning

**Axiom** Rule without Precondition

Antecedent Precondition - if it's fulfilled this rule applies

Conclusion What follows from this rule

A1, A2 Names for the rules

#### **Proof: 2 is a Natural Number**

$$\frac{}{0: \mathtt{Nat}}$$
 (A1)

$$\frac{n: Nat}{succ(n): Nat}$$
 (A2)

- **A1** 0 is a natural number (by definition)
- **A2** The successor of a natural number is a natural number

#### **Proof: 2 is a Natural Number**

$$\frac{n : \text{Nat}}{\text{succ}(n) : \text{Nat}} \qquad \text{(A1)}$$

$$\frac{n : \text{Nat}}{\text{succ}(n) : \text{Nat}} \qquad \text{(A2)}$$

$$\frac{0 : Nat}{\text{succ}(0) : Nat} \qquad \text{(A2)}$$

$$\frac{succ(succ(0)) : Nat}{\text{succ}(succ(0)) : Nat} \qquad \text{(A2)}$$

- A1 0 is a natural number (by definition)
- **A2** The successor of a natural number is a natural number
- $\rightarrow$  Thus the successor of the successor of 0 (2) must be a natural number

# **Evaluation Rules**

# **Evaluation Rules - Call by Value - E-App1**

$$\frac{e_1\rightarrow e_1'}{e_1e_2\rightarrow e_1'e_2}$$

E-App1

# Meaning

• Under the condition that  $e_1$  can be reduced further, do it.

$$rac{e_1
ightarrow e_1'}{e_1e_2
ightarrow e_1'e_2}$$

$$\overbrace{((\lambda x.x)\ (\lambda y.y))}^{e_1}\ e_2$$

$$\frac{e_1 \rightarrow e_1'}{e_1 e_2 \rightarrow e_1' e_2}$$

$$\overbrace{\left(\left(\lambda x.x\right)\,\left(\lambda y.y\right)\right)}^{e_{1}}\ e_{2}$$

$$\frac{e_1 \rightarrow e_1'}{e_1 e_2 \rightarrow e_1' e_2}$$

$$\overbrace{((\lambda x.x)\ (\lambda y.y))}^{e_1}\ e_2$$
  $\rightarrow (\lambda y.y)\ z$ 

# **Evaluation Rules - Call by Value - E-App2**

$$\frac{e_2 \rightarrow e_2'}{v_1 e_2 \rightarrow v_1 e_2'}$$
 E-App2

- Under the condition that  $e_2$  can be reduced further and  $v_1$  is a value, do it.
- "Bare" Untyped Lambda Calculus:
  - Only Lambdas (functions) are values.
  - But you can add Ints, Booleans, etc. ("Enriched Untyped Lambda Calculus")

$$rac{e_2 
ightarrow e_2'}{v_1 e_2 
ightarrow v_1 e_2'}$$
 E-App2

$$\overbrace{(\lambda x.x)}^{v_1} \overbrace{((\lambda y.y) \ 42)}^{e_2}$$

$$rac{e_2
ightarrow e_2'}{v_1e_2
ightarrow v_1e_2'}$$
 E-App2

$$\overbrace{(\lambda x.x)}^{v_1} \overbrace{((\lambda y.y) \ 42)}^{e_2}$$

$$rac{e_2
ightarrow e_2'}{v_1e_2
ightarrow v_1e_2'}$$
 E-App2

$$\overbrace{(\lambda x.x)}^{v_1} \overbrace{((\lambda y.y) \ 42)}^{e_2}$$

$$\rightarrow (\lambda x.x) \ 42$$

$$rac{e_2
ightarrow e_2'}{v_1e_2
ightarrow v_1e_2'}$$
 E-App2

#### **Example**

$$(\lambda x.x) \xrightarrow{(\lambda y.y)} (100) (100) (100)$$

$$(\lambda x.x) 42$$

#### Note

 We evaluate the parameter before applying the function: Eager Evaluation!

# **Evaluation Rules - Call by Value - E-AppLam**

$$(\lambda x.e)v \rightarrow [x/v]e$$

E-AppLam

- If a lambda (function) is applied to a value, substitute that value for it's parameter.
- "substitute": replace it for every occurence in the lambda's body

$$(\lambda x.e)v \rightarrow [x/v]e$$

E-AppLam

$$\overbrace{(\lambda x.\lambda y.x)}^{\lambda x.e} \stackrel{v}{\frown}_{Z}$$

## **Evaluation Rules - E-AppLam -Example**

$$(\lambda x.e)v \rightarrow [x/v]e$$

E-AppLam

$$\overbrace{\left(\frac{\lambda x.\lambda y.x}{\lambda x.\lambda y.x}\right)}^{\lambda x.e} \overbrace{z}^{v}$$

## **Evaluation Rules - E-AppLam -Example**

$$(\lambda x.e)v \rightarrow [x/v]e$$

E-AppLam

$$\begin{array}{c}
\lambda x.e \\
\hline
(\lambda x.\lambda y.x)
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
\lambda y.z \\
\end{array}$$

## **Interpreter - Evaluation**

```
module UntypedEval where
import UntypedSyntax

eval :: Expr -> Expr
-- No rule for variables
eval variable@(Var _) = variable
-- No rule for lambdas
eval lambda@(Lambda _ _) = lambda
```

## **Interpreter - Evaluation**

```
eval (App e1 e2)
-- \frac{e_1 \rightarrow e_1'}{e_1 e_2 \rightarrow e_1' e_2} (E - App1)
 =
   let e1' = eval e1
--\frac{e_2 \to e_2'}{v_1 e_2 \to v_1 e_2'} \quad (E - App2)
    in let e2' = eval e2
          in case e1'
                        of
-- (\lambda x.e)v \rightarrow [x/v]e \quad (E - AppLam)
                  (Lambda x e1'_body) -> eval $ substitute x e2' e1'_body
                  e1' -> App e1' e2'
```

## **Interpreter - Substitution**

```
substitute :: Name -> Expr -> Expr -> Expr
-- If the Name matches: Substitute this Var by it's substitution
-- Otherwise: Leave it as is
substitute name substitution var@(Var varName)
  | name == varName = substitution
  otherwise = var
-- Recursively substitute in both parts of Applications
substitute name substitution (App term1 term2) =
 App (substitute name substitution term1) (substitute name substitution term2)
```

## Interpreter - Substitution

```
-- Only substitute in Lambda's body, if the parameter doesn't
-- redefine the Name in it's scope
-- substitute name substitution lambda@(Lambda varName term) =
   if name == varName
        then lambda
        else Lambda varName (substitute name substitution term)
```

```
module UntypedEvalExamplesSpec where
import NaiveUntypedEval
import Prelude hiding (and)
import Test.Hspec
import UntypedSyntax
import UntypedSyntaxExamples
main :: IO ()
main = hspec spec
spec :: Spec
spec =
  describe "eval" $
    it "should evaluate these terms" $ do
-- a \rightarrow a
      eval (Var "a") `shouldBe` Var "a"
```

```
--- true \equiv \lambda p.\lambda q.p
--- true \ ab \rightarrow a
--- eval \ (App \ (App \ true \ (Var \ "a")) \ (Var \ "b")) \ `shouldBe` \ Var \ "a"
```

```
-- true \equiv \lambda p.\lambda q.p
-- true \ ab \rightarrow a
-- eval (App (App true (Var "a")) (Var "b")) `shouldBe` Var "a"
```

```
-- false \equiv \lambda p. \lambda q. q
-- and \equiv \lambda p. \lambda q. p \ q \ p
-- and true \ false \rightarrow false
-- and t
```

# Simply Typed Lambda Calculus

#### **Structure**

$$e ::=$$
 Expressions:  $x$  Variable  $\lambda x : \tau.e$  Abstraction  $e \ e$  Application

- au Type of the parameter x
  - Bool, Int, ...

## What's a Type?

A Type is a set of values that an expression may return:

**Bool** True, False

Int 
$$[-2^{29}..2^{29}-1]$$
 (in Haskell, 'Data.Int')

Simple types don't have parameters, no polymorphism:

Bool, Int have no parameters  $\rightarrow$  simple types

Maybe a takes a type parameter  $(a) \rightarrow$  not a simple type

a -> a is polymorphic  $\rightarrow$  not a simple type

# Type Safety = Progress + Preservation

Progress: If an expression is well typed then either it is a value, or it can be further evaluated by an available evaluation rule.

A well typed (typeable) program never gets "stuck".

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Progress: If an expression is well typed then either it is a value, or it can be further evaluated by an available evaluation rule.

A well typed (typeable) program never gets "stuck".

Preservation: If an expression e has type  $\tau$ , and is evaluated to e', then e' has type  $\tau$ .

•  $e \equiv (\lambda x : Int.x)1$  and  $e' \equiv 1$  have both the same type: Int

# Not all meaningful Programs can be type checked

```
id :: a -> a
id a = a
```

- It strongly depends on the type system if this is allowed or not.
- In Simply Typed Lambda Calculus it's not!
  - No polymorphic types ...

#### **Evaluation**

# Evalution rules stay the same!

Type checking is done upfront

# Typing Rules - Variables

$$\frac{\mathbf{x} : \tau \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{x} : \tau}$$

T-Var

## Meaning

 $\Gamma$  The Typing Environment, a list of (Variable:Type) pairs (associations)

■ Think of a map:  $Variable \mapsto Type$ 

**Condition** If  $(x, \tau)$  is in the Typing Environment

**Conclusion** x has type  $\tau$ 

# Typing Rules - Variables - Example

$$\frac{\mathbf{x} : \tau \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{x} : \tau} \qquad \qquad \mathsf{T-Var}$$

#### **Example**

$$\underbrace{\lambda x: Int}_{\Gamma' = \Gamma, x: Int} \cdot \underbrace{\lambda y: Bool}_{\Gamma'' = \Gamma', y: Bool} \cdot \underbrace{x}_{\Gamma'' \vdash x: Int}$$

 $\lambda x: \mathit{Int} \ \mathsf{Add} \ x: \mathit{Int} \ \mathsf{to} \ \mathsf{the} \ \mathsf{Typing} \ \mathsf{Environment} \ (\Gamma)$   $x \ \mathsf{We} \ \mathsf{know} \ \mathsf{from} \ \mathsf{the} \ \mathsf{Typing} \ \mathsf{Environment} \ (\Gamma'') \ \mathsf{that} \ x$  has type  $\mathit{Int}$ 

# **Typing Rules - Constants**

 $\Gamma \vdash n : \mathsf{Int}$ 

T-Int

 $\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{True} : \mathsf{Bool}$ 

T-True

 $\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{False} : \mathsf{Bool}$ 

T-False

## Meaning

#### Why do we need $\Gamma$ here?

- We handle Type Constructors like variables
- Think:  $\Gamma \equiv \emptyset$ , True: Bool, False: Bool, 0: Int, 1: Int, ...

# **Typing Rules - Constants - Example**

 $\Gamma \vdash n : \mathsf{Int}$  T-Int

 $\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{True} : \mathsf{Bool}$  T-True

## **Example**

 $\Gamma \equiv \emptyset$ , True : Bool, False : Bool, 0 : Int, 1 : Int, ...

True

1

# **Typing Rules - Constants - Example**

 $\Gamma \vdash n : \mathsf{Int}$  T-Int  $\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{True} : \mathsf{Bool}$  T-True

## **Example**

 $\Gamma \equiv \emptyset, \mathit{True} : \mathit{Bool}, \mathit{False} : \mathit{Bool}, 0 : \mathit{Int}, 1 : \mathit{Int}, \dots$ 

True

1

# **Typing Rules - Constants - Example**

$$\Gamma \vdash n : \mathsf{Int}$$
 T-Int 
$$\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{True} : \mathsf{Bool}$$
 T-True

## **Example**

```
\Gamma \equiv \emptyset, True : Bool, False : Bool, 0 : Int, 1 : Int, ...
```

True

1

# Typing Rules - Lambdas

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash e : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x : \tau_1 . e : \tau_1 \to \tau_2}$$

T-Lam

## Meaning

**Condition** With  $x : \tau_1$  in the Typing Environment, e has type  $\tau_2$ 

**Conclusion**  $\lambda x : \tau_1.e$  has type  $\tau_1 \to \tau_2$ 

Because e has type  $\tau_2$  if x has type  $\tau_1$ 

# **Typing Rules - Lambdas - Example**

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash e : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x : \tau_1 . e : \tau_1 \to \tau_2}$$

T-Lam

#### **Example**

$$\lambda x : \overbrace{lnt}^{\tau_1} \cdot \overbrace{x}^{e}$$

:?

# Typing Rules - Lambdas - Example

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash e : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x : \tau_1 . e : \tau_1 \to \tau_2}$$

T-Lam

#### **Example**

$$\lambda x: \int_{\mathbf{nt}}^{\tau_1} \underbrace{e}_{\mathbf{x}}$$

:?

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \overbrace{\mathit{Int}}^{\tau_1} \vdash e : \overbrace{\mathit{Int}}^{\tau_2}}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x : \underbrace{\mathit{Int}}_{\tau_1} .e : \underbrace{\mathit{Int}}_{\tau_1 \to \tau_2} \to \underbrace{\mathit{Int}}}$$

# Typing Rules - Lambdas - Example

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash e : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x : \tau_1 . e : \tau_1 \to \tau_2}$$

T-Lam

$$\lambda x : \overbrace{lnt}^{\tau_1} \cdot \overbrace{x}^{e}$$

$$: \overbrace{\mathit{Int} \to \mathit{Int}}^{\tau_1 \to \tau_2}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \overbrace{\mathit{Int}}^{\tau_1} \vdash e : \overbrace{\mathit{Int}}^{\tau_2}}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x : \underbrace{\mathit{Int}}_{\tau_1} .e : \underbrace{\mathit{Int}}_{\tau_1 \to \tau_2}}$$

# **Typing Rules - Applications**

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \to \tau_2 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_1}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 e_2 : \tau_2} \qquad \text{T-App}$$

## Meaning

**Condition** If  $e_1$  is a function of type  $\tau_1 \to \tau_2$  and  $e_2$  has type  $\tau_2$ **Conclusion** Then the type of  $e_1e_2$  (function application) is  $\tau_2$ 

# **Typing Rules - Applications**

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## Meaning

**Condition** If  $e_1$  is a function of type  $\tau_1 \to \tau_2$  and  $e_2$  has type  $\tau_2$ **Conclusion** Then the type of  $e_1e_2$  (function application) is  $\tau_2$ 

```
id' :: Int -> Int
id' i = i

1 :: Int
(id' 1) :: Int
```

# **Typing Rules - Applications - Example**

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \to \tau_2 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_1}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 e_2 : \tau_2}$$
 T-App

$$(\lambda x : Int. True) \stackrel{e_1}{42}$$
:?

# **Typing Rules - Applications - Example**

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \to \tau_2 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_1}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 e_2 : \tau_2}$$
 T-App

$$(\lambda x : Int. True) \stackrel{e_1}{\underbrace{}} 42 \qquad :?$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \overbrace{(\lambda x : \mathit{Int}.\mathit{True})}^{e_1} : \overbrace{\mathit{Int} \rightarrow \mathit{Bool}}^{\tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2} \quad \Gamma \vdash \underbrace{42}^{e_2} : \overbrace{\mathit{Int}}^{\tau_1}}{\Gamma \vdash \underbrace{(\lambda x : \mathit{Int}.\mathit{True})}_{e_1} \underbrace{42}^{e_2} : \underbrace{\mathit{Bool}}_{\tau_2}}$$

# **Typing Rules - Applications - Example**

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \to \tau_2 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_1}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 e_2 : \tau_2}$$
 T-App

$$(\lambda x : Int.True) \stackrel{e_1}{42} = \vdots \quad \stackrel{\tau_2}{Bool}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \overbrace{(\lambda x : \mathit{Int.True})}^{e_1} : \overbrace{\mathit{Int} \rightarrow \mathit{Bool}}^{\tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2} \quad \Gamma \vdash \underbrace{42}^{e_2} : \overbrace{\mathit{Int}}^{\tau_1}}{\Gamma \vdash \underbrace{(\lambda x : \mathit{Int.True})}_{e_1} \underbrace{42}^{e_2} : \underbrace{\mathit{Bool}}_{\tau_2}}$$

## **Type Checker - Expressions**

```
module TypedSyntax where
import qualified Data. Map. Strict as Map
type Name = String
type Error = String
                                                    Expressions:
data Expr
                             -- e ::=
                             -- [-2^{29}..2^{29}-1] Integer Literal
 = IntValue Int
                            -- True | False
                                                          Boolean Literal
  | BoolValue Bool
  | Var Name
                                                          Variable
                             -- X
  App Expr
                             -- e e
                                                           Application
       Expr
  Lambda Name
                             -- \lambda x: \tau . e
                                                          Abstraction
           Type
           Expr
 deriving (Eq, Show)
```

## **Type Checker - Types**

# **Type Checker - Literals**

```
module TypedCheck where
import Data. Either. Extra
import qualified Data. Map. Strict as Map
import TypedSyntax
check :: Environment -> Expr -> Either Error Type
--\Gamma \vdash n: Int (T-Int)
check _ (IntValue _) = Right TInt
-- Γ \vdash True : Bool (T-True)
check _ (BoolValue True) = Right TBool
-- Γ \vdash False : Bool (T-False)
check _ (BoolValue False) = Right TBool
```

## **Type Checker - Lambda Abstraction**

```
-- \frac{\Gamma, x:\tau_1 \vdash e:\tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x:\tau_1 \cdot e:\tau_1 \to \tau_2} \qquad (T-Lam)
-- check env (Lambda x t1 e) = do
t2 <- check (Map.insert x t1 env) e
return $ TArr t1 t2
```

## **Type Checker - Application**

```
-- \frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \to \tau_2 \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_1}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : e_2 : \tau_2} \quad (T-App)
check env (App e1 e2) = do
  te1 <- check env e1
  case tel of
     (TArr t1 t2) -> do
       te2 <- check env e2
       if t1 == te2
         then Right t2
          else Left $ "Expected " ++ (show t1) ++ " but got : " ++ (show te2)
     _ -> Left $ "Expected TArr but got : " ++ (show te1)
```

## Type Checker - Variables

```
-- \frac{x:\tau \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash x:\tau} (T-Var)
-- check env (Var x) = find env x

find :: Environment -> Name -> Either Name Type
find env name = maybeToEither "Var not found!" (Map.lookup name env)
```

```
module TypedCheckExamplesSpec where
import Test.Hspec
import TypedCheck
import TypedSyntax
import qualified Data.Map.Strict as Map
main :: IO ()
main = hspec spec
```

```
--
-- Does not type check: (λx: Bool.x) 42
--
check Map.empty (App (Lambda "x" TBool (Var "x")) (IntValue 5))
`shouldBe` Left "Expected TBool but got : TInt"
```

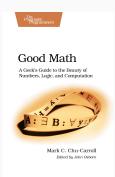
```
-- Does not type check: 42 False
-- check Map.empty (App (IntValue 42) (BoolValue False)) `shouldBe`
Left "Expected TArr but got : TInt"
```

# End

#### **Thanks**

- Hope you enjoyed this talk and learned something new.
- Hope it wasn't too much math and dusty formulas ... :)

#### **Good Math**



A Geek's Guide to the Beauty of Numbers, Logic, and Computation

Easy to understand

# Types and Programming Languages



- Types systems explained by building interpreters / checkers and proving properties
- Very "mathematical", but very complete and self-contained

## Write you a Haskell



Building a modern functional compiler from first principles.

- Starts with the Lambda Calculus and goes all the way down to a full Haskell compiler
- Available for free Not finished, yet