Lazy evaluation illustrated

for Haskellers

exploring some mental models and implementations

Takenobu T.

Lazy,... ²²¹

..., It's fun!

NOTE

- Meaning of terms are different by communities.
- There are a lot of good documents. Please see also references.
- This is written for GHC's Haskell.

Contents

- 1. Introduction
 - Basic mental models
 - Lazy evaluation
 - Expression and value
 - Evaluation strategies
- 2. Expressions
 - Expressions in Haskell
 - Classification of expressions
- 3. Internal representation of expressions
 - Constructor
 - Thunk
 - Uniform representation
 - let, case expression
 - WHNF

- 4. Evaluation
 - Evaluation in Haskell (GHC)
 - Examples of evaluation steps
 - Control the evaluation in Haskell
 - Strict analysis
- 5. Semantics
 - Bottom
 - Non-strict Semantics
- 6. Implementation
 - Graph reduction
 - STG-machine
- 7. Appendix
 - References

1. Introduction

1. Introduction

Basic mental models

How to evaluate program in your brain?

program code

```
code
code
code
:
```

プログラムは、どの順で評価される?

どういうステップ、どういう順で evaluation (execution, reduction) される?

What are these mental models?

What "mental model" do you have?

One of the mental models for C program

文の並び

```
main (...) {
   code..
   code..
   code..
   code..
}
```

入れ子の構造

引数の並び

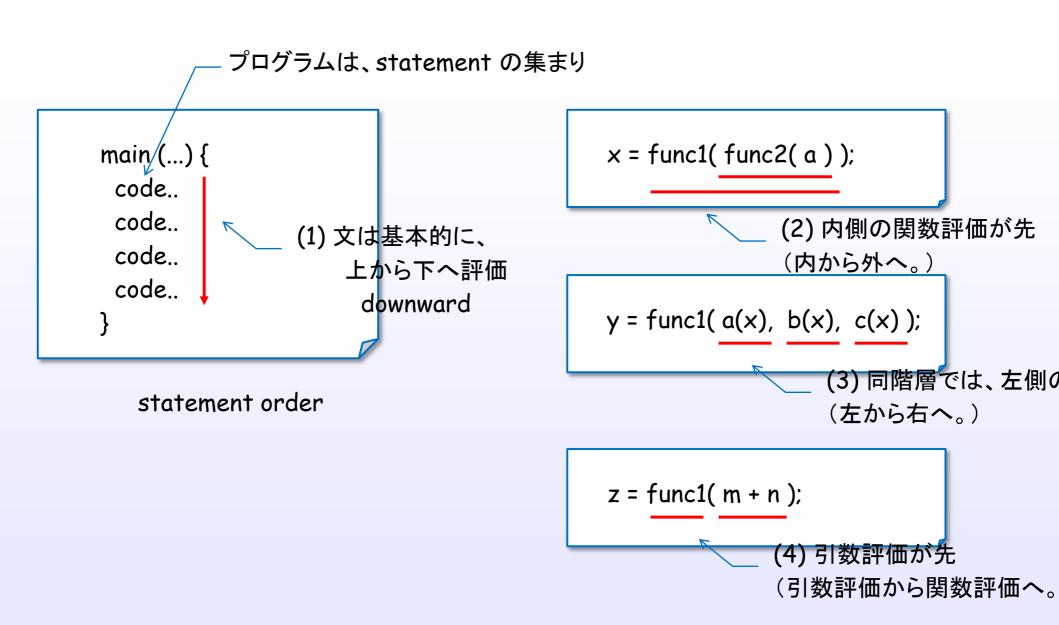
y = func1(
$$\underline{a(x)}$$
, $\underline{b(x)}$, $\underline{c(x)}$);

関数と引数

$$z = \frac{\text{func1}(m+n)}{2}$$

どのように評価される? あなたの頭の中の、評価メンタルモデルは?

One of the mental models for C program



Each programmers have some mental models in their brain.

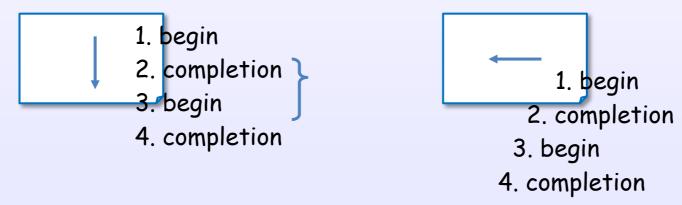
One of the mental models for C program

Maybe, You have some implicit mental model in your brain for C program.

- (1) program is collection of statements
- (2) an order between evaluations of elements



(3) an order between completion and begin of evaluations



This is an example of an implicit sequential order model for programming languages.

One of the mental models for Haskell program

```
main = \exp_{11} (\exp_{12} \exp_{13} \exp_{14})

\exp_{13} = \exp_{131} \exp_{132}

\exp_{14} = \exp_{141} \exp_{142} \exp_{143}

:
```

どのように評価される? あなたの頭の中の、評価メンタルモデルは?

One of the mental models for Haskell program

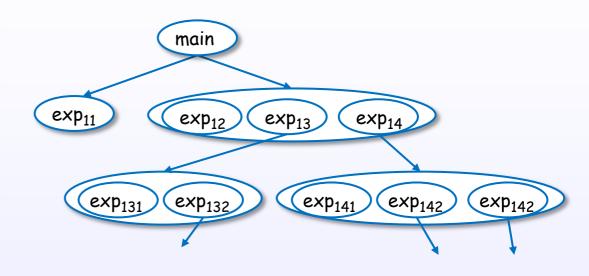
プログラムは、式の集まり

```
main = \exp_{11} (\exp_{12} \exp_{13} \exp_{14})

\exp_{13} = \exp_{131} \exp_{132}

\exp_{14} = \exp_{141} \exp_{142} \exp_{143}

:
```

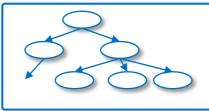


main = $\exp_{11} (\exp_{12} (\exp_{131} \exp_{132}) (\exp_{141} \exp_{142} \exp_{143}))$

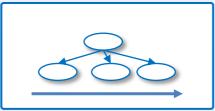
- (1) プログラム全体を1つの式と見立てて
- (2) 部分式をある順で評価(簡約)していく
- (3) 評価は置換により行う

One of the mental models for Haskell program

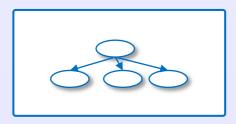
- (1) program is collection of expression's declaration
- (2) プログラム全体が階層をもった1つの式



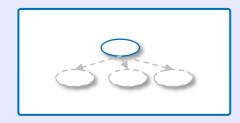
(3) 部分式を、ある順序で評価していく



(4) 評価は置換により行われる



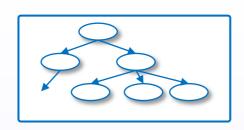




1. Introduction

Lazy evaluation

では、具体的にはどうやって評価される?



Haskellit purely functional language

order free (so, potentially hi-level optimization and parallelism

GHC chosen lazy evaluation to implement non-strict semantics.

[slpj-book-1987], p.33

GHC chosen lazy evaluation

必要な時に、必要な箇所のみを評価する

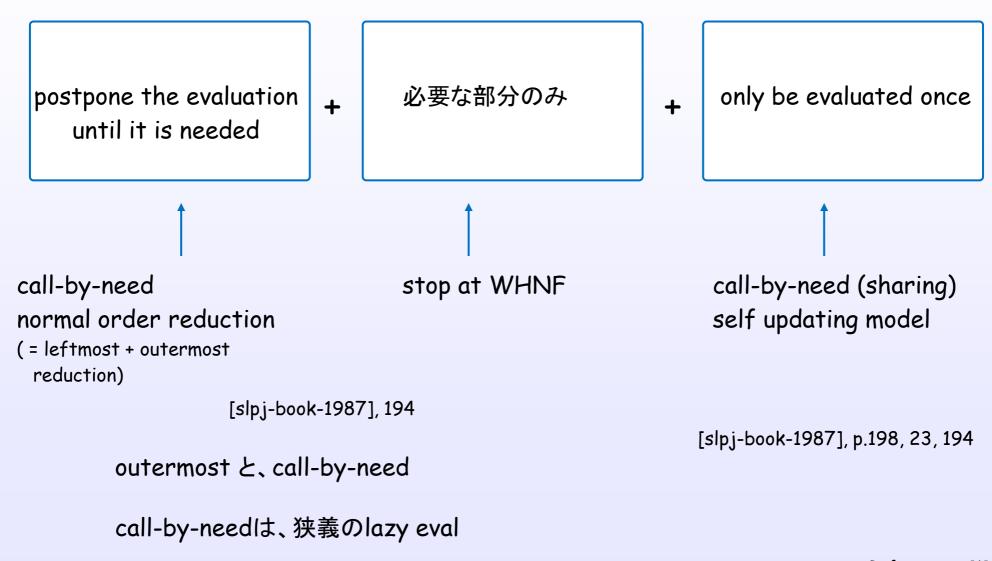
(STG p.11)

- ・引数評価を先送る(case式が来るまで評価しない) call-by-need
- ・部分式を完全評価しない (caseのパターンマッチで参照するところのみを評価する)WHNF

これは、計算量を最小化する戦略(メモリ量でなく)

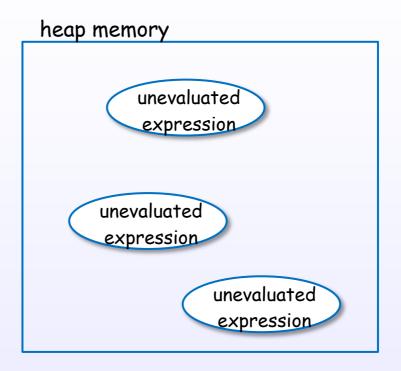
Haskell(GHC) 's lazy evaluation

ingredient of Haskell's "lazy evaluation"



では、必要な時までどこに置いておく?

postpone ----

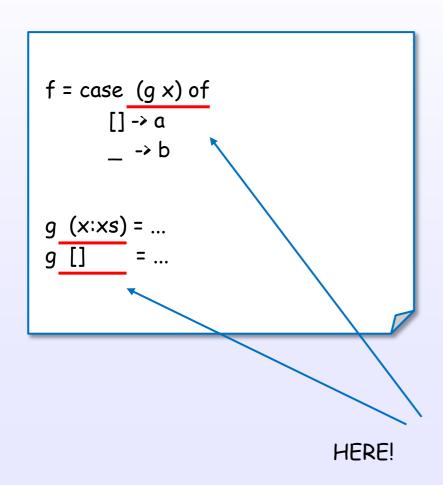


stackでなく、heap。 なので、sequential アクセスでなくて良い。

heapに置いておく

では、必要になるのは、いつ?

case式か、関数定義のパターンマッチで、取りだされるときが、必要なとき



pattern match via case expression and function definition will {cause, trigger} the evaluation

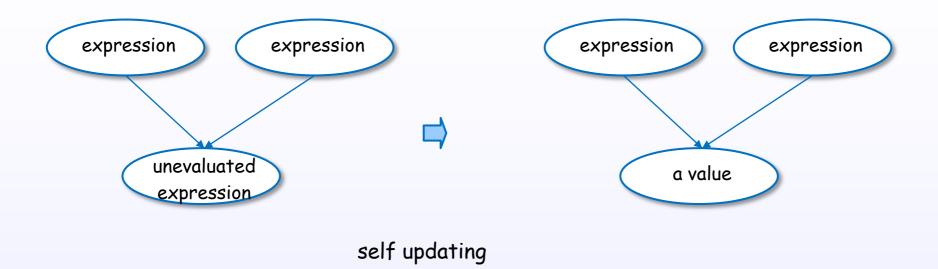
では、必要な部分とはどこ?

パターンマッチで明示された部分

there are components which you need.

HERE!

どうやって、一度だけ評価する?



shared term

repeat call

Why lazy evaluation?

(1) normal order reduction guarantees to find a normal form (if one exists)
[slpj-book-1987], p.25

pursue normal order reduction, but stop at WHNF. This is an essential ingredient of lazy evaluation

- (2) lazy evaluation implements non-strict semantics infinite data structure and stream [slpj-book-1987], p.194
- (3) 不要な評価を避ける

Lazy evaluationの注意点 1

実行タイミングがずれる

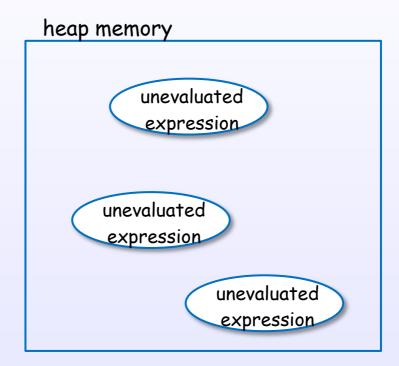
code と 実行が同期していない

Lazy evaluationの注意点 2

ヒープの使用

ヒープにたまっていく

[slpj-book-1987], p.194



call-by-needは、スタックベースでは実装が難しい。

コントロールが必要

1. Introduction

Expression and value

What is an expression?



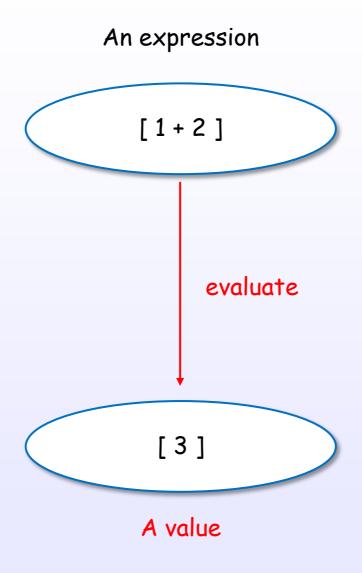


An expression denotes a value

An expression

[HR2010] [Bird, Chapter 2]

An expression evaluates to a value



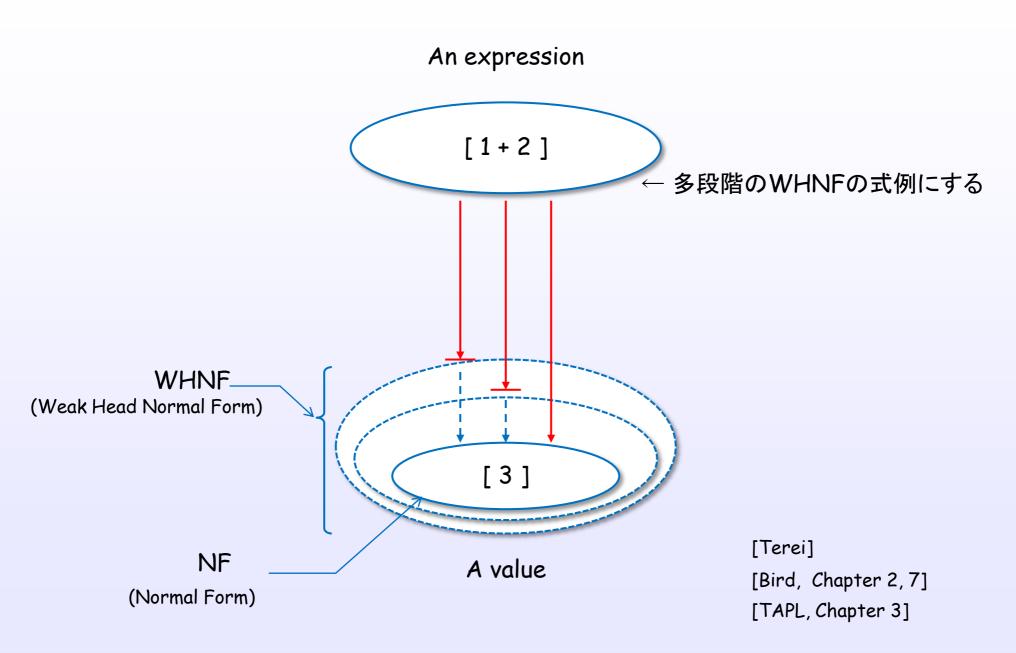
[HR2010] [Bird, Chapter 2]

There are many evaluation approaches



References: [1]

There are some evaluation levels



1. Introduction

Evaluation strategies

There are many evaluation approaches



References: [1]

Evaluation layers

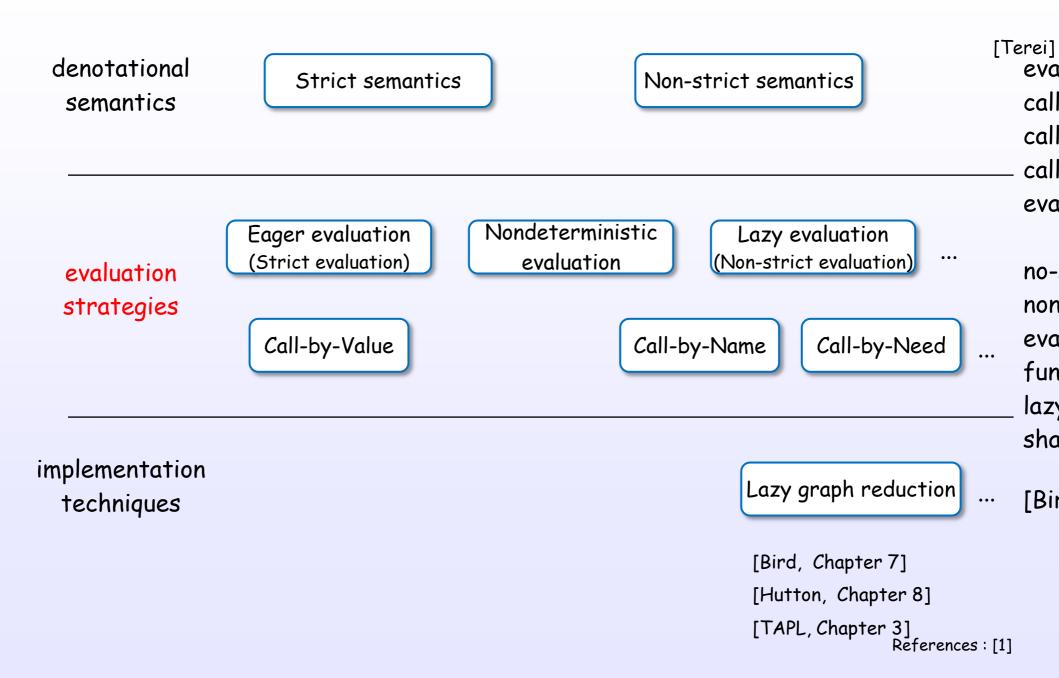
denotational semantics

evaluation strategies

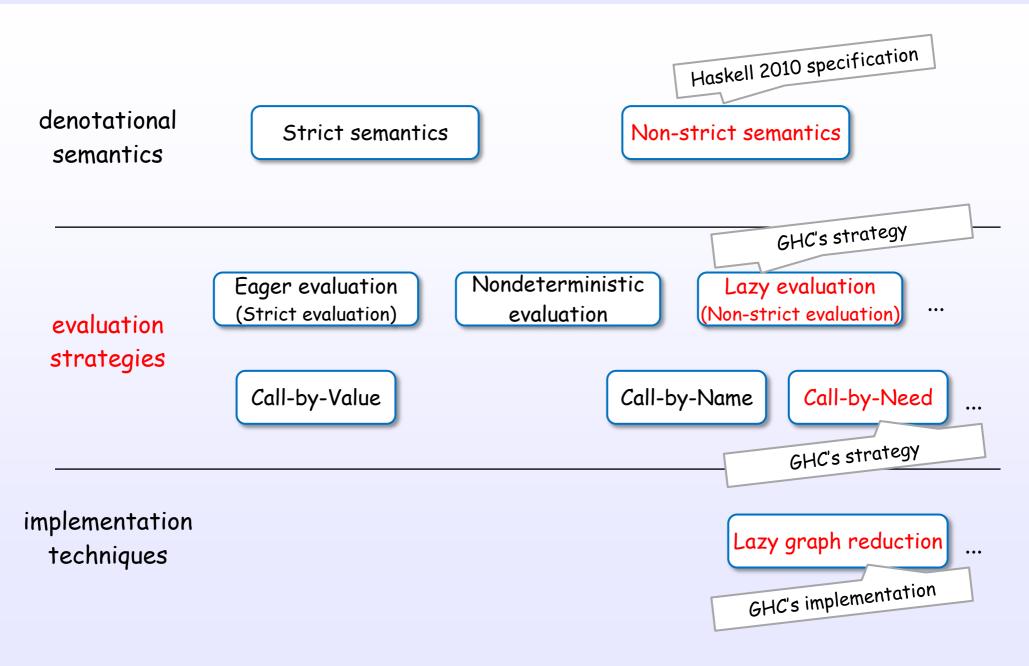
implementation techniques

```
[Bird, Chapter 7]
[Hutton, Chapter 8]
[TAPL, Chapter 3]
References: [1]
```

Evaluation layers



Evaluation layers for GHC's Haskell



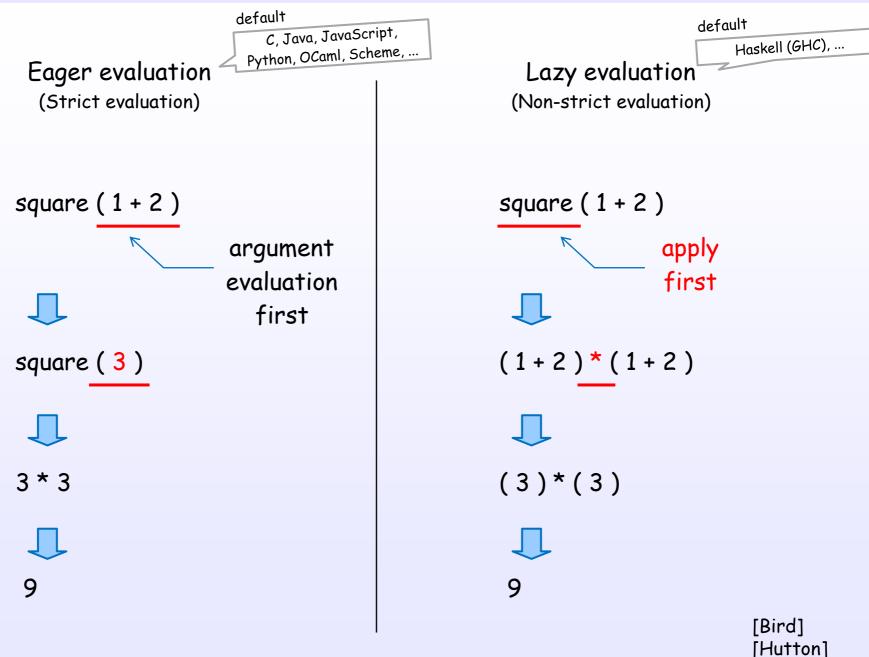
Evaluation strategies and order

$$a(bc) + d(e(fg))$$

order

[Bird] [Hutton]

Simple example of both evaluations



Simple example of both evaluations

Eager evaluation (Strict evaluation)

square (1+2)



square (3)



argument evaluated

3 * 3



9

Lazy evaluation (Non-strict evaluation)

square (1 + 2)



(1+2)*(1+2)



(3)*(3)



9

argument evaluation delayed!

[Bird] [Hutton]

References: [1]

2. Expressions

2. Expressions

Expressions in Haskell

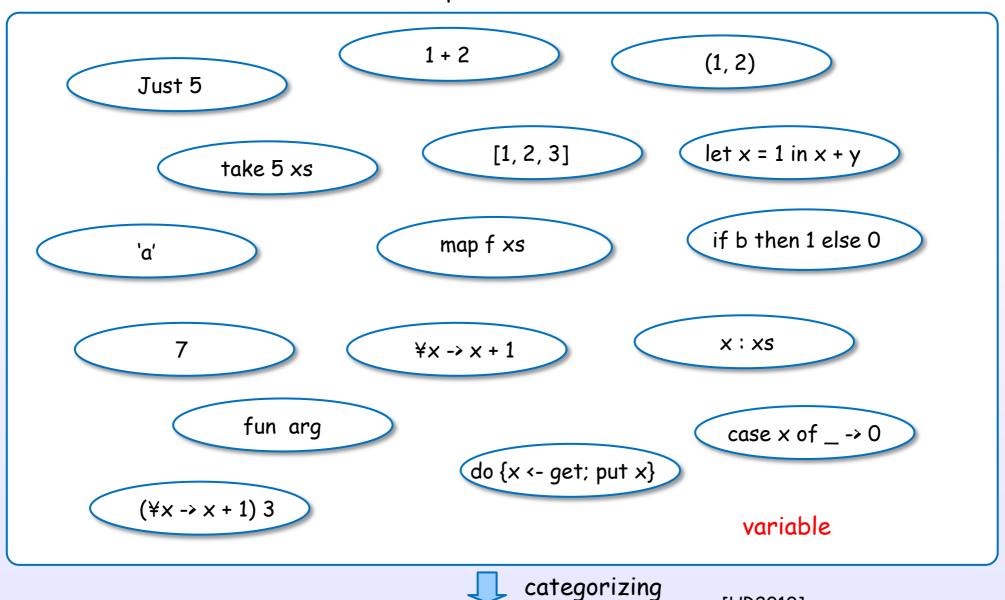
An expression denotes a value

An expression

[HR2010] [Bird, Chapter 2]

There are many expressions in Haskell

Expressions



[HR2010]

[Bird, Chapter 2] References: [1]

Expression categories in Haskell WHNF(a value).

lambda abstraction

¥x -> x + 1

let expression

let x = 1 in x + y

WHNF(a value)、 unevaluated expression との関連づけを PAPもWHNFなので注意

variable

conditional

if b then 1 else 0

case expression

case x of $_ \rightarrow 0$

do expression

 $do \{x \leftarrow get; put x\}$

general constructor, literal and some forms

7

[1, 2, 3]

(1, 2)

'a'

x : xs

Just 5

function application

take 5 xs

1 + 2

map f xs

fun arg

[HR2010] [Bird, Chapter 2

Specification is defined in Haskell 2010 Language Report

Haskell 2010 Language Report, Chapter 3 Expressions [1]

```
\rightarrow infixexp :: [context =>] type
                                                                         (expression type signature)
exp
                   infixexp
infixexp
             \rightarrow lexp qop infixexp
                                                                         (infix operator application)

    infixexp

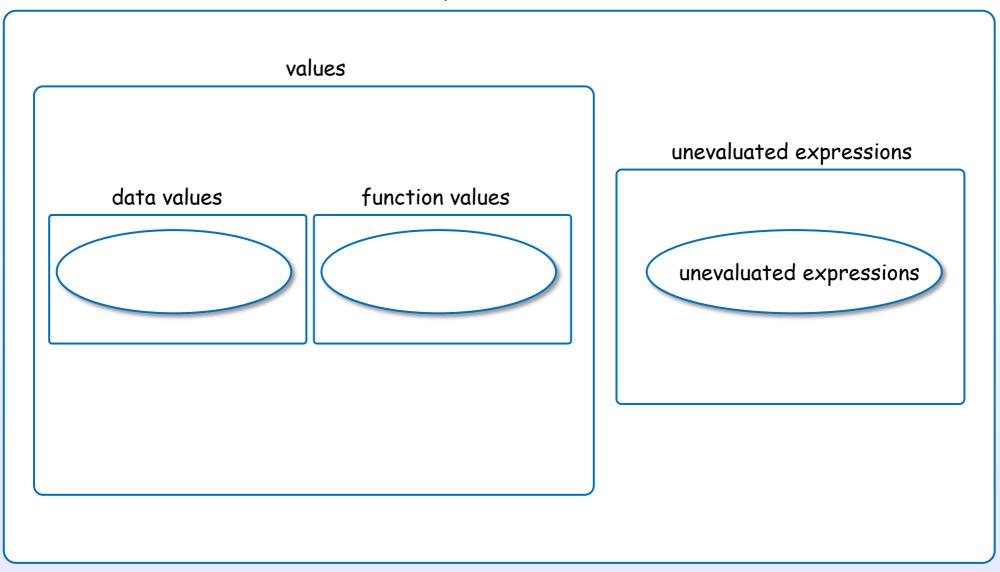
                                                                         (prefix negation)
                   lexp
             (lambda abstraction, n > 1)
lexp
                  let decls in exp
                                                                         (let expression)
                  if exp[;] then exp[;] else exp
                                                                          (conditional)
                   case exp of { alts }
                                                                          (case expression)
                   do { stmts }
                                                                         (do expression)
                   fexp
                                                                         (function application)
fexp
                   [fexp] aexp
                                                                         (variable)
                   qvar
aexp
                                                                         (general constructor)
                   qcon
                   literal
                                                                         (parenthesized expression)
                   (exp)
                   (exp_1, \ldots, exp_k)
                                                                         (tuple, k \geq 2)
                   [exp_1, \ldots, exp_k]
                                                                         (list, k > 1)
                   [exp_1 [, exp_2] .. [exp_3]]
                                                                         (arithmetic sequence)
                   [exp \mid qual_1, \ldots, qual_n]
                                                                         (list comprehension, n \ge 1)
                   ( infixexp qop )
                                                                         (left section)
                   ( qop_{\langle - \rangle} infixexp )
                                                                         (right section)
                   qcon \{ fbind_1, \dots, fbind_n \}
                                                                         (labeled construction, n > 0)
                   aexp_{(acon)} \{ fbind_1, \dots, fbind_n \}
                                                                         (labeled update, n \geq 1)
```

2. Expressions

Classification of expressions

A value or an unevaluated expression

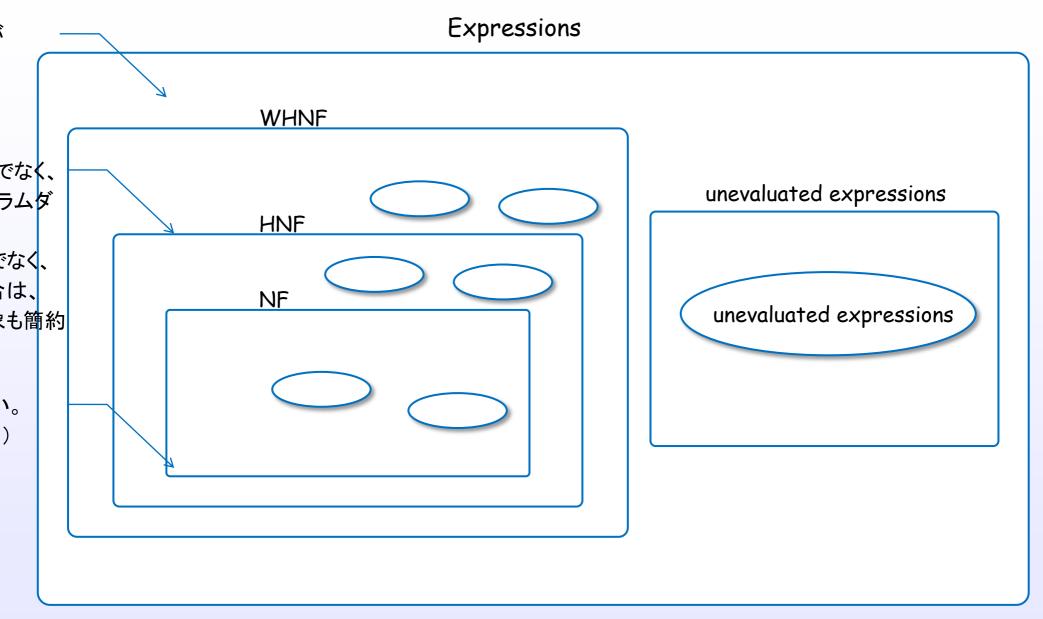
Expressions



値か否か。値は2種。

[STG]

evaluation level



値には、評価レベルがある。

[STG]

実例との対応付け

3. Internal representation of expressions

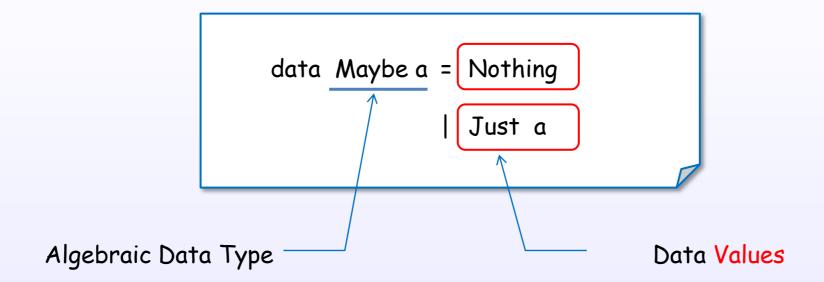
3. Internal representation of expressions

Constructor

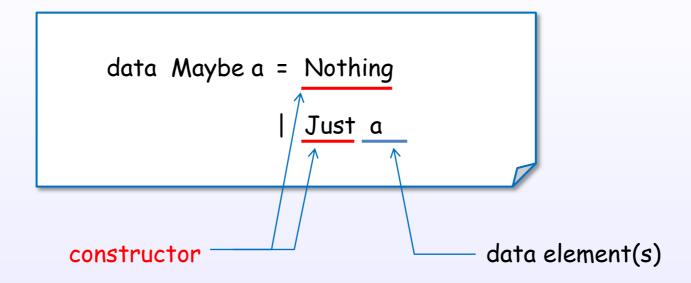
Constructor

Constructor is one of the key elements to understand WHNF and lazy evaluation in Haskell.

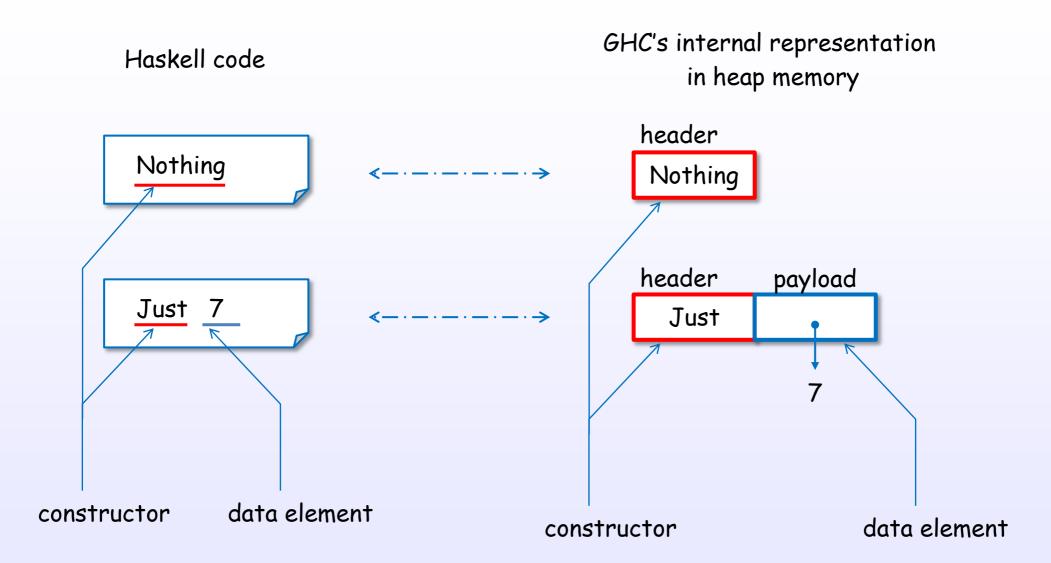
data文で宣言する代数的データ型とその値



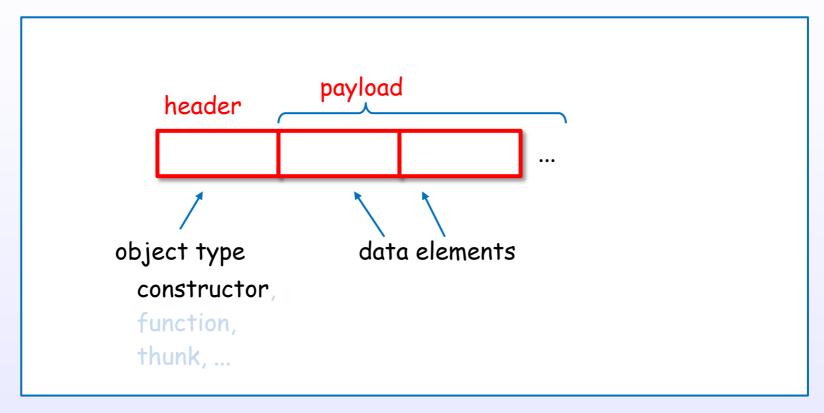
Constructorはdata文で宣言する代数的データ値



↑ data values Constructorの内部表現

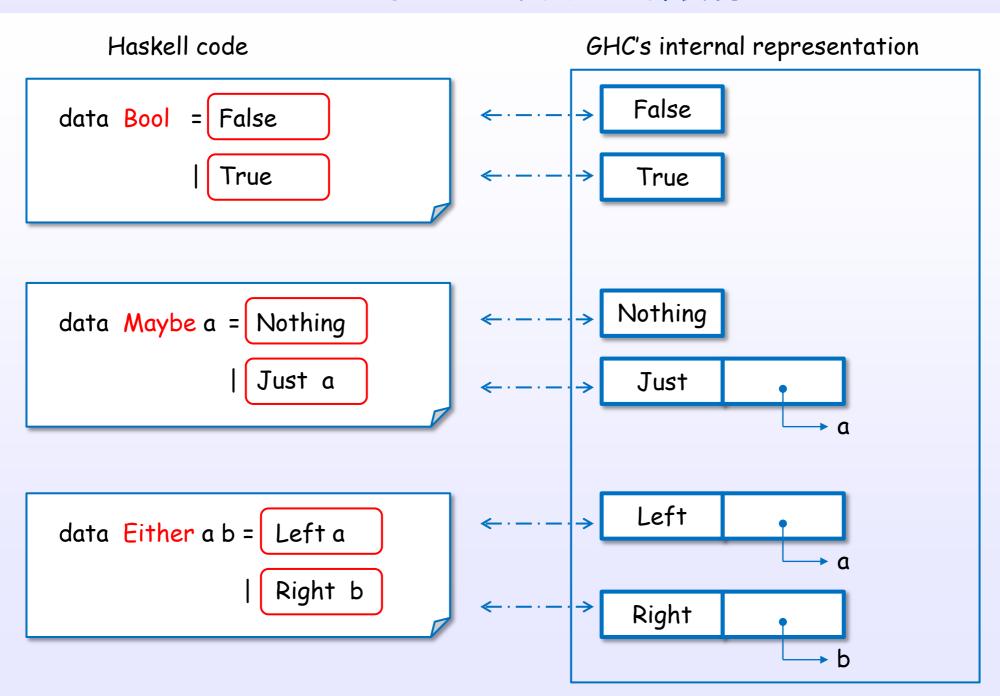


Constructorは統一内部表現で表現される

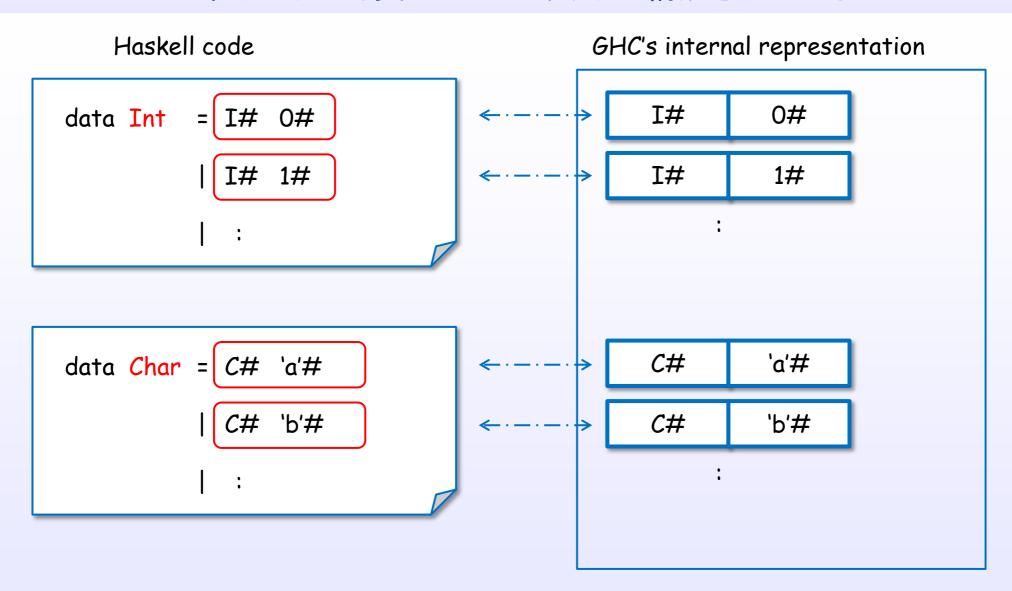


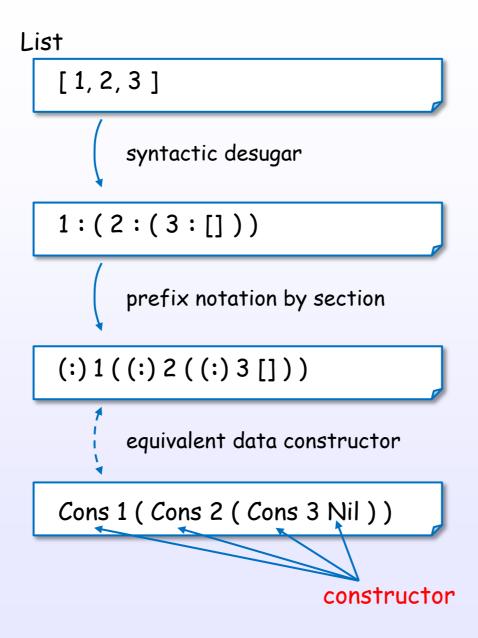
in heap memory, stack, registers or static memory

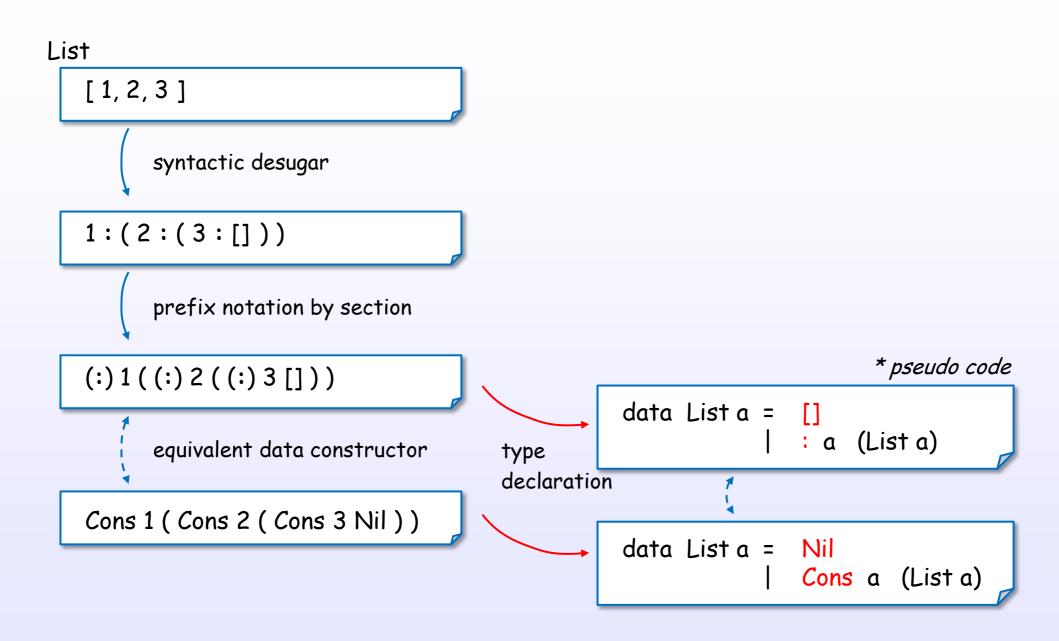
いろいろなコンストラクタと内部表現

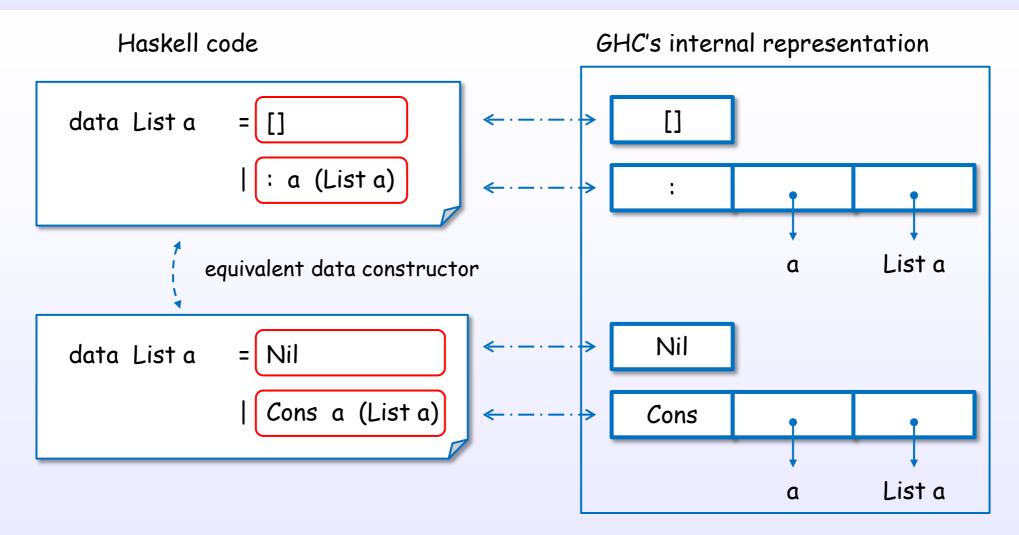


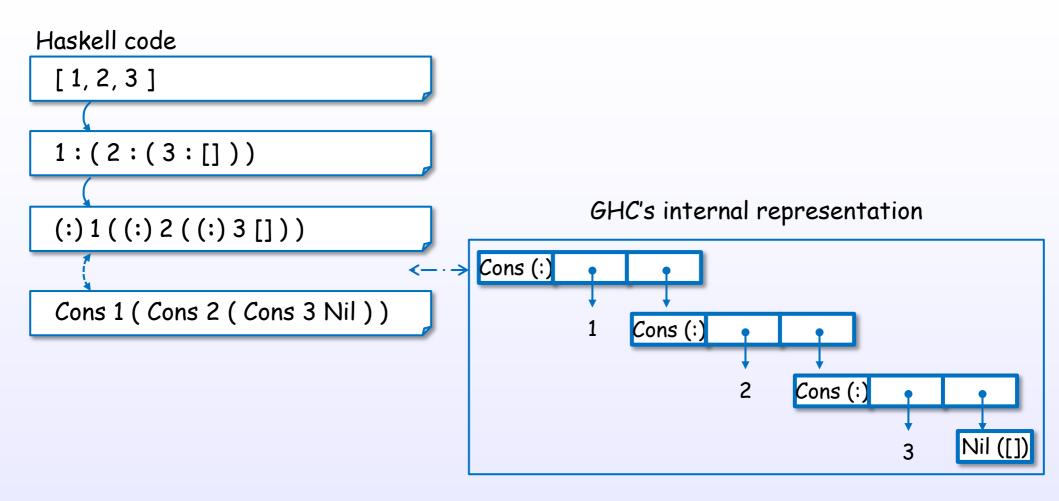
基本データ型も実はコンストラクタで構成されている



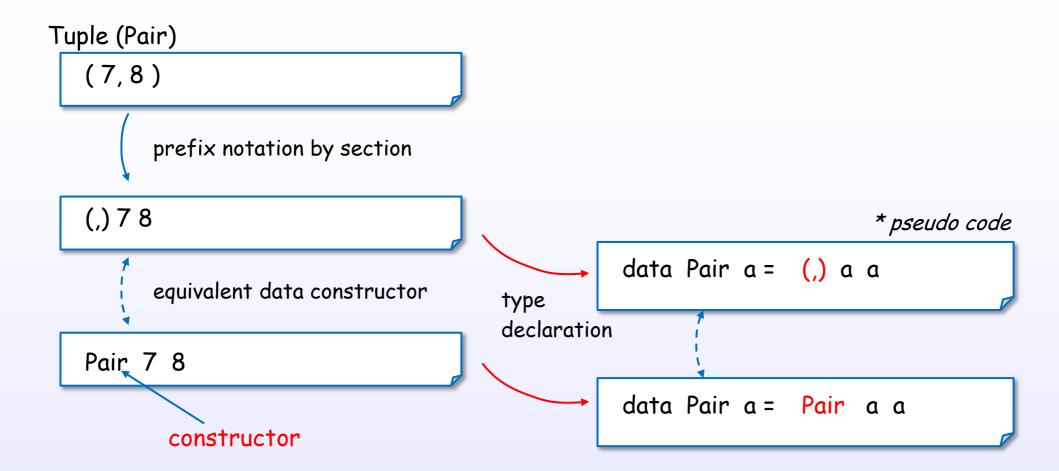




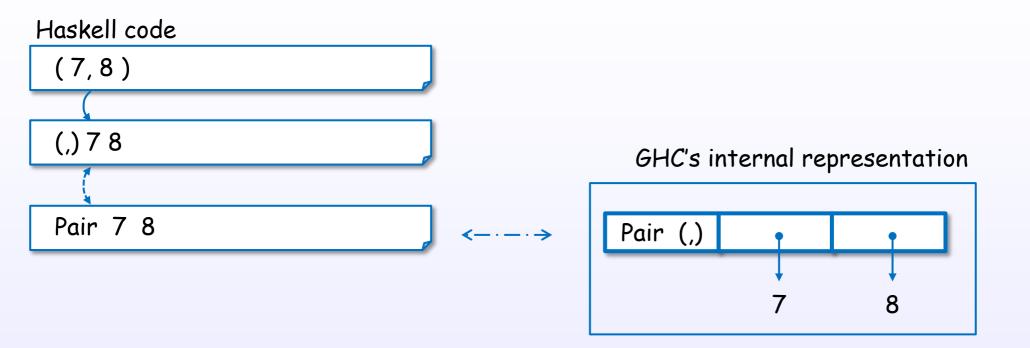




タプルも実はコンストラクタで構成されている



タプルも実はコンストラクタで構成されている



3. Internal representation of expressions

Thunk

Thunk

Haskell code

GHC's internal representation

thunk
(unevaluated expression/
suspended computation)

A thunk is an unevaluated expression in heap memory.

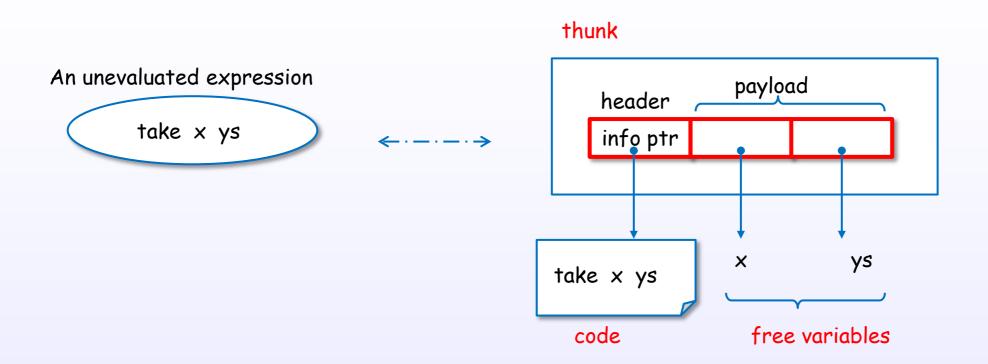
A thunk is built to postpone the evaluation.

[parconc, Ch.2]

Thunkの内部表現

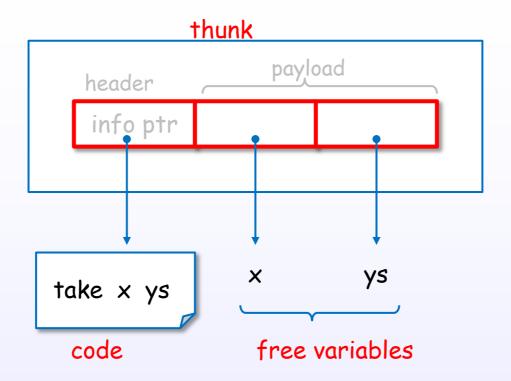
Haskell code

GHC's internal representation



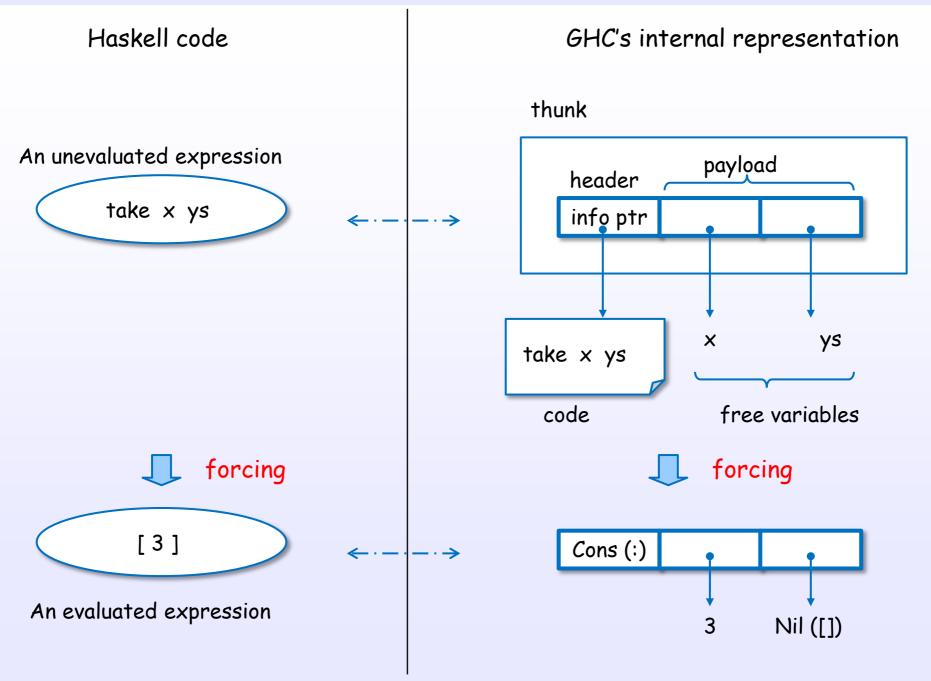
A thunk is represented with header(code) + payload(free variables).

Thunkは、codeとfree variablesをパッケージ化したもの



A thunk is a package of code + free variables.

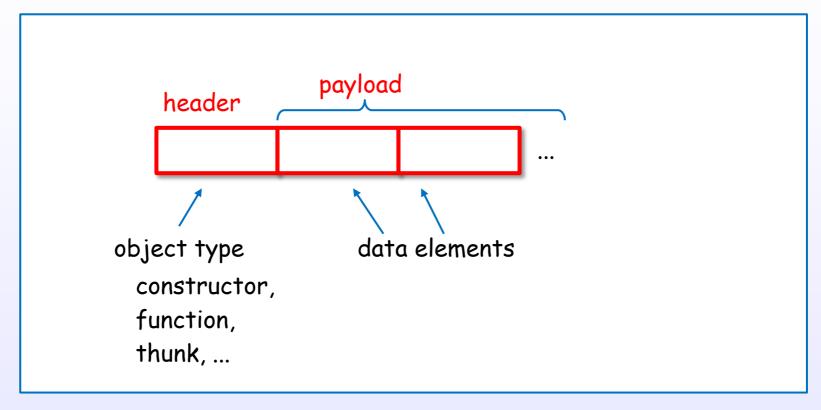
Thunkは、forcing要求により評価される



3. Internal representation of expressions

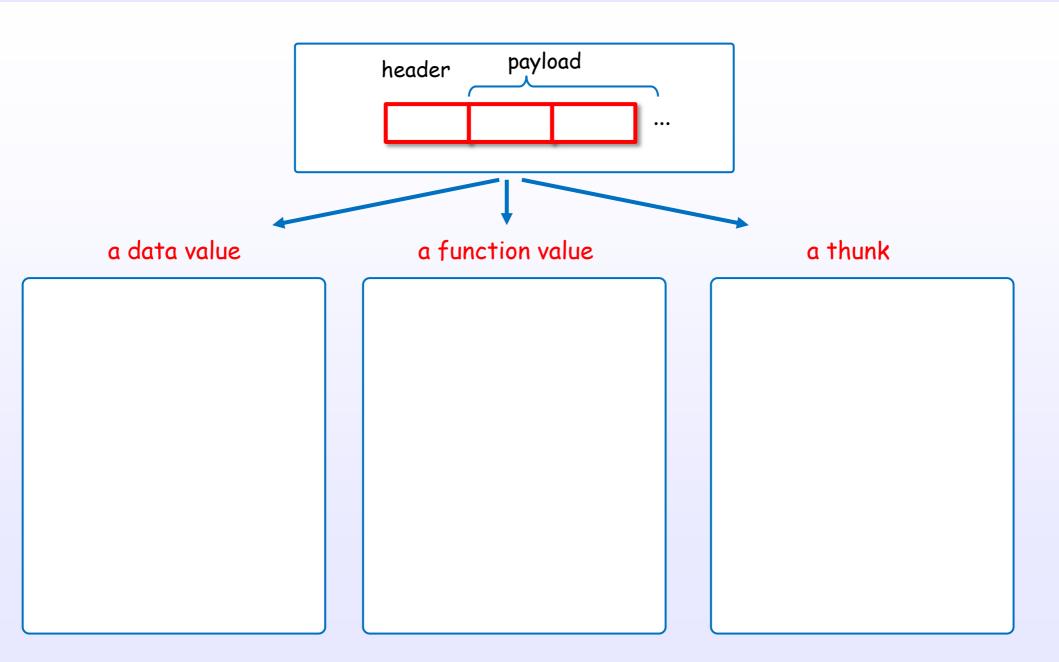
Uniform representation

統一内部表現で表現される

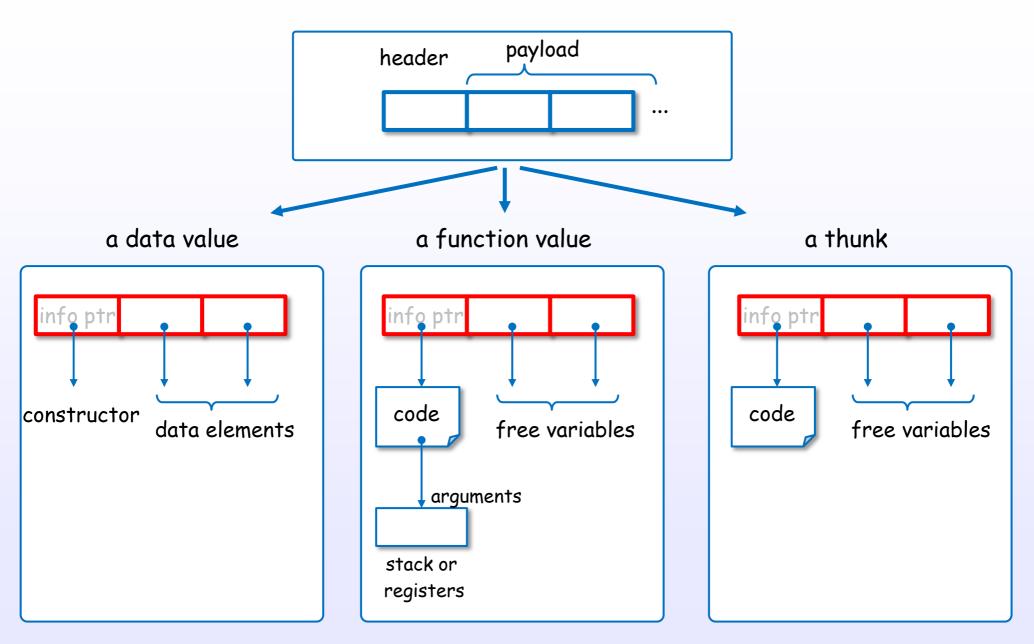


in heap memory, stack, registers or static memory

統一内部表現



統一内部表現



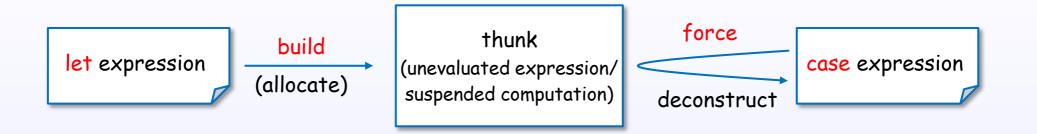
いずれも、広義の、"closure" (= code + environment(free variables))

References: [1]

3. Internal representation of expressions

let, case expression

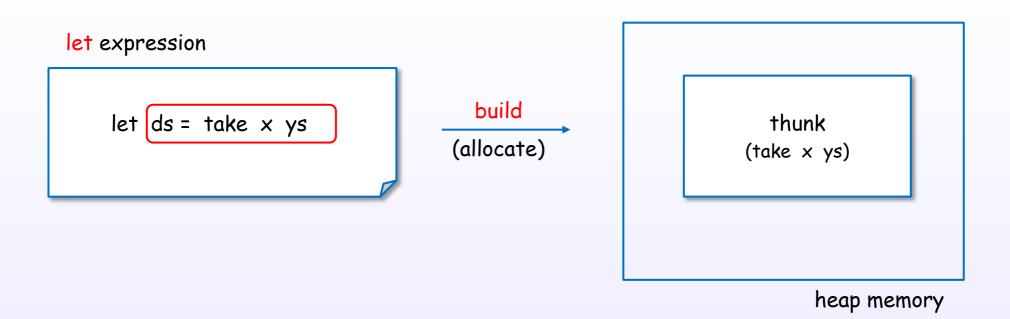
let/case expressions and thunk



A let expression may build a thunk.

A case expression forces and deconstructs the thunk.

A let expression builds a thunk



いろいろな表現

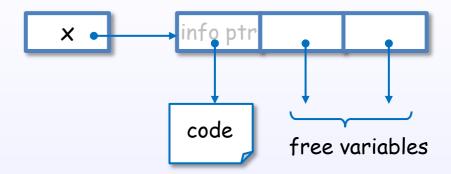
Haskell code

let x = exp_n

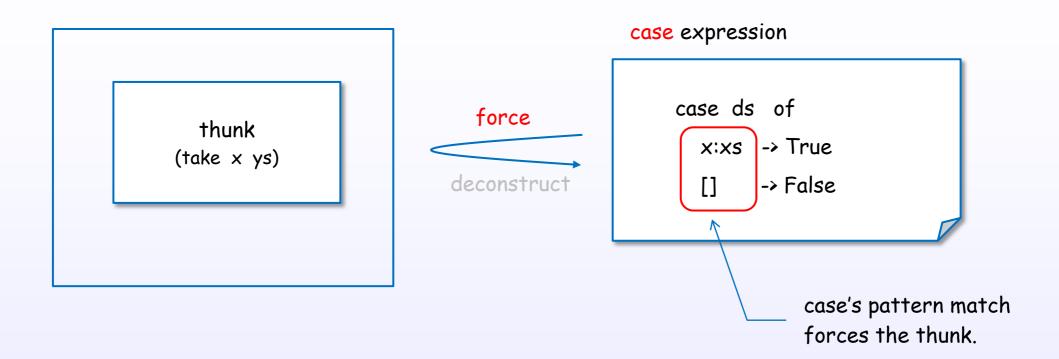
Expression



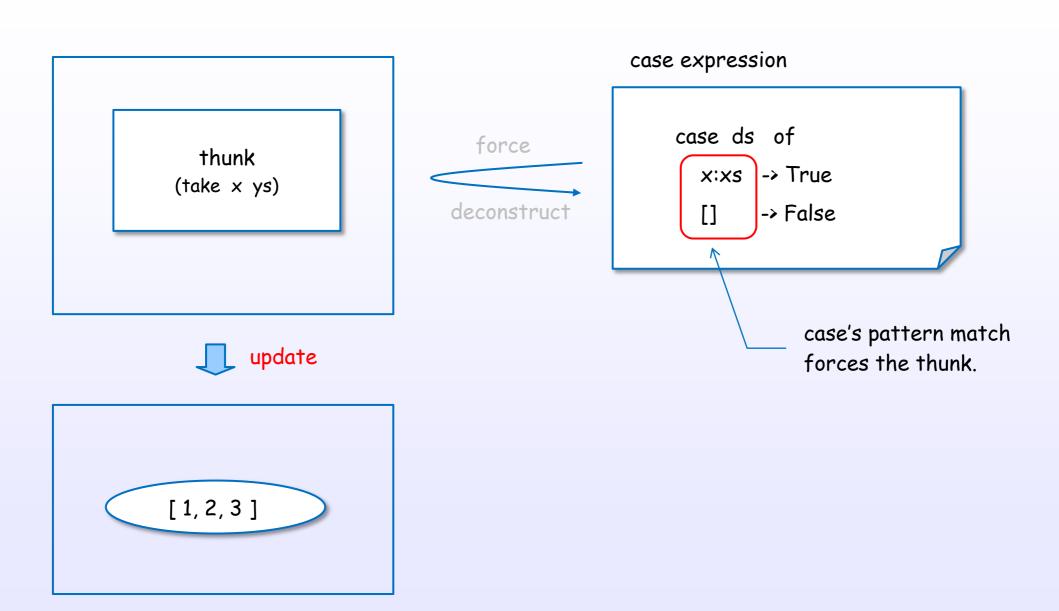
GHC internal representing



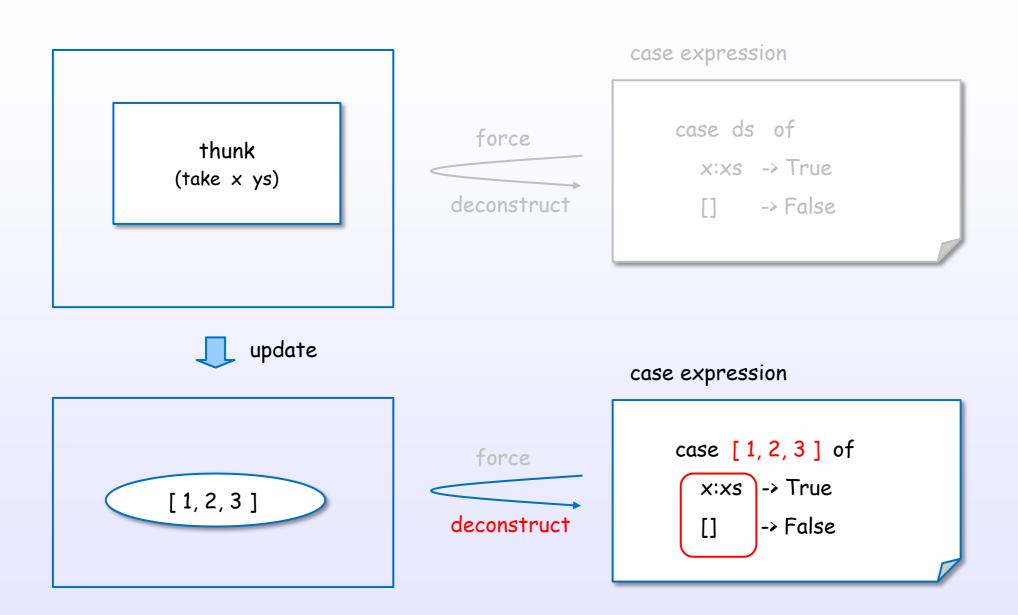
A case expression forces a thunk



A case expression forces a thunk



A case expression forces a thunk

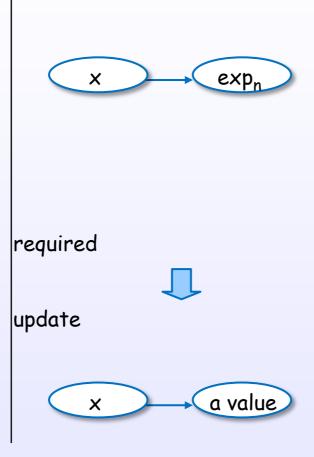


forcing and update

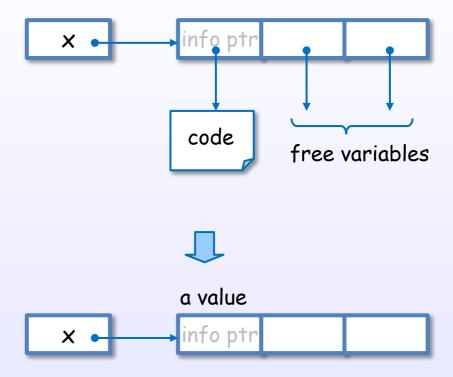
Haskell code

let x = exp_n

Expression



GHC internal representation



when a variable is bound

it is generally bound to an unevaluated closure allocated in the heap

このイメージを伝える

3. Internal representation of expressions

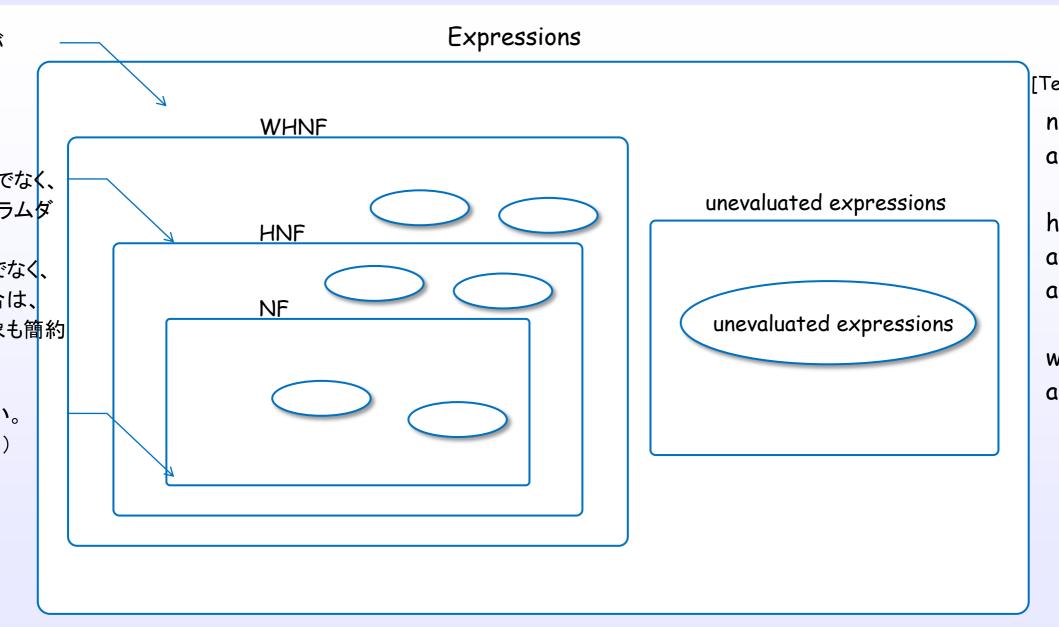
WHNF

evaluation step (GHC)

Our reduction order is therefore to reduce the top-level redex until weak head normal form is reached. (p.198) An expression We pursue normal order reduction, but stop at WHNF rather than proceeding all the way to NF. (p.198) exp "Normal order reduction of top-level rede: \leftarrow (1) top levelOreduction [slpj-book-1987] WHNE (Weak Head Normal Form) ← (2) innerのreduction "Normal order reduction of NF [Terei] NF A value [Bird, Chapter 2, 7] (Normal Form) [TAPL, Chapter 3] no more evaluation (reduction)

References: [1]

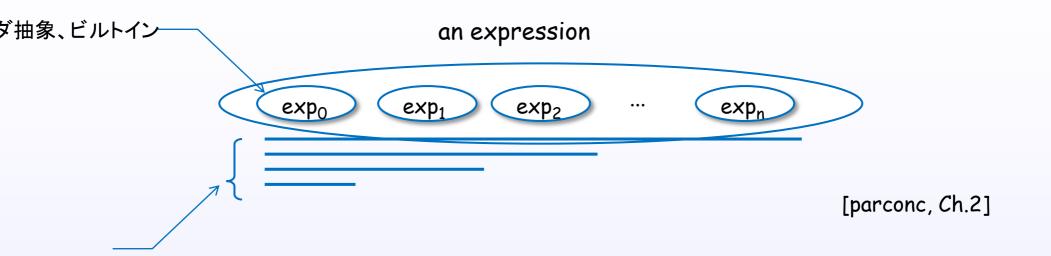
evaluation level



値には、評価レベルがある。

[STG]

WHNF



nore

An expression has no top level redex, if it is in WHNF.

[slpj-book-1987]

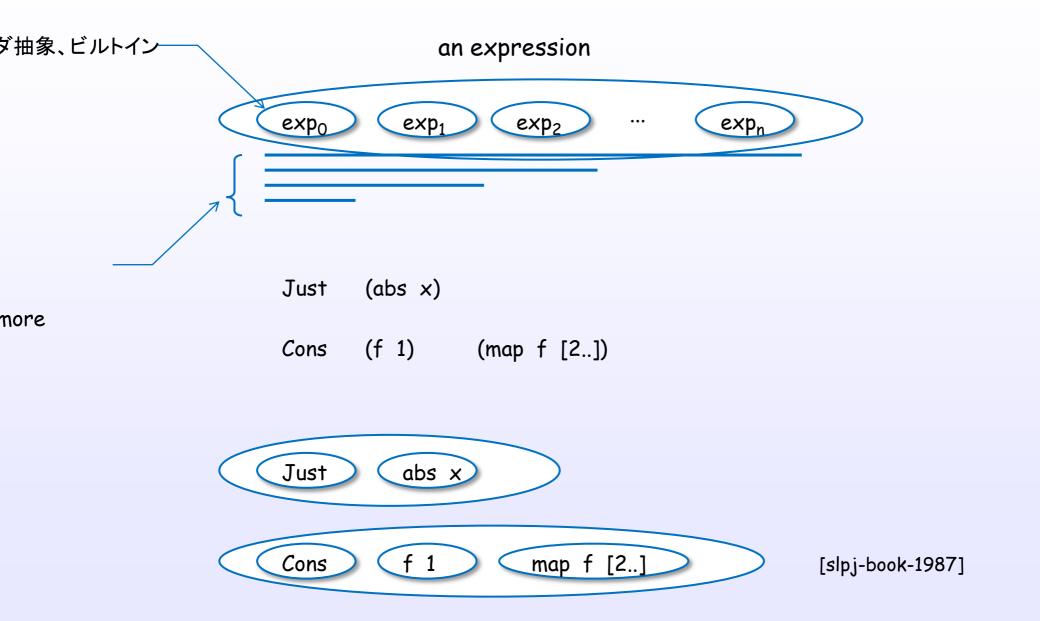
These are in weak head normal form, but not in normal form, since they contain inner redex. (p.198)

[Terei]
[Bird, Chapter 2, 7]
[TAPL, Chapter 3]

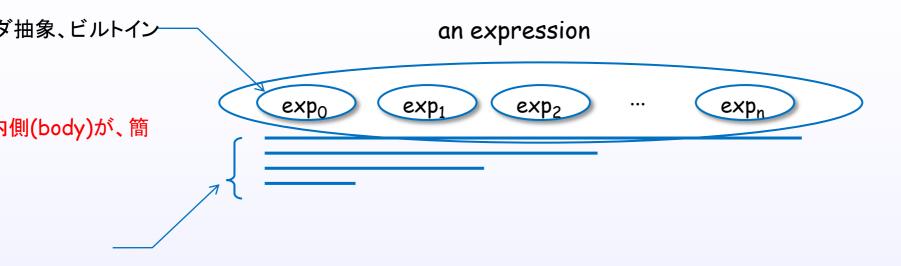
[Terei]

References: [1]

Examples of WHNF



HNF



nore

[slpj-book-1987]

[Terei]

References: [1]

NF

an expression



redexが内部に無い

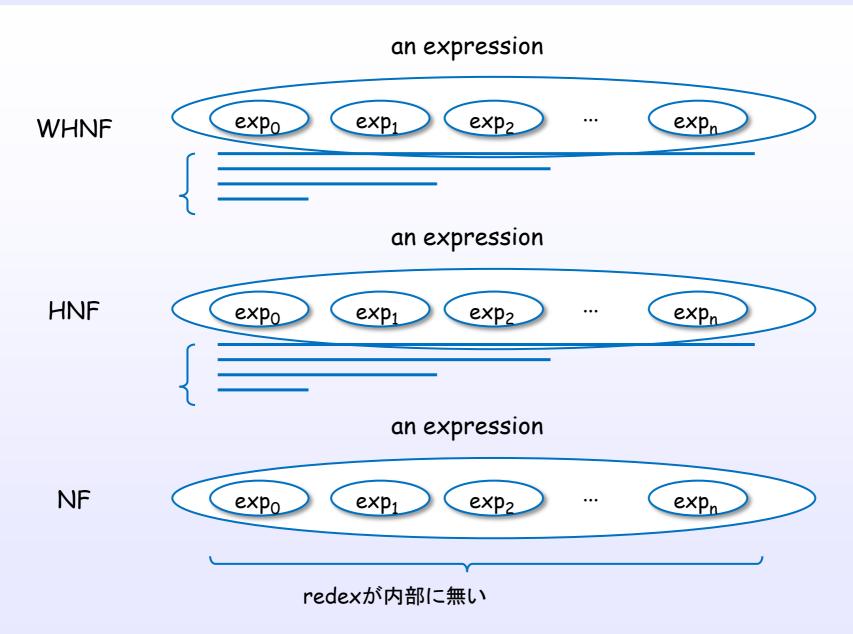
[slpj-book-1987]

[Terei]
[Bird, Chapter 2, 7]
[TAPL, Chapter 3]

[Terei]

References: [1]

WHNF, HNF, NF



[slpj-book-1987]

definition of WHNF and HNF

The implementation of functional programming languages [19]

11.3.1 Weak Head Normal Form

To express this idea precisely we need to introduce a new definition:

DEFINITION

A lambda expression is in weak head normal form (WHNF) if and only if it is of the form

where n ≥ 0; and either F is a variable or data object or F is a lambda abstraction or built-in function and (F E₁ E₂ ... E_m) is not a redex for any m≤n.

An expression has no top-level redex if and only if it is in weak head normal form.

11.3.3 Head Normal Form

Head normal form is often confus some discussion. The content of since for most purposes head nor form. Nevertheless, we will stick t

DEFINITION

A lambda expression is in head normal form (HNF) if and only if it is of the form

$$\lambda x_1 . \lambda x_2 ... \lambda x_n . (v M_1 M_2 ... M_m)$$

where n, $m \ge 0$;

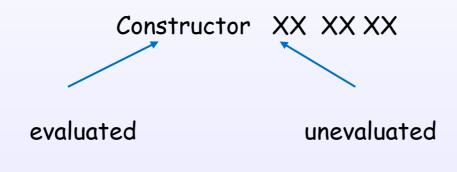
v is a variable (xi), a data object, or a built-in function;

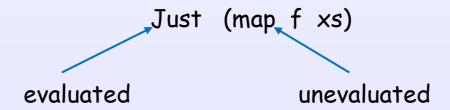
and $(v M_1 M_2 ... M_p)$ is not a redex for any $p \le m$.

[slpj-book-1987]

internal representation of WHNF







4. Evaluation

4. Evaluation

Evaluation in Haskell (GHC)

GHC chosen lazy evaluation

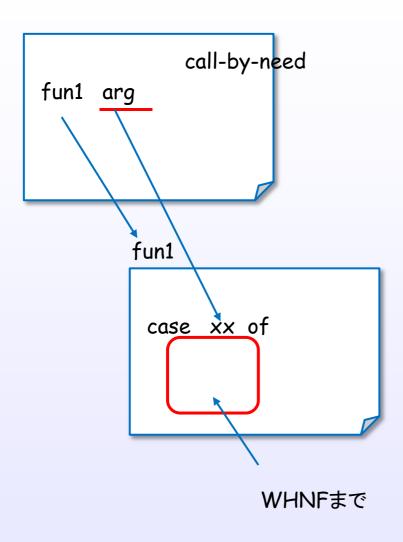
必要な時に、必要な箇所のみを評価する

(STG p.11)

- ・引数評価を先送る(case式が来るまで評価しない) call-by-need
- ・部分式を完全評価しない (caseのパターンマッチで参照するところのみを評価する)WHNF

これは、計算量を最小化する戦略(メモリ量でなく)

eval 全体のイメージ

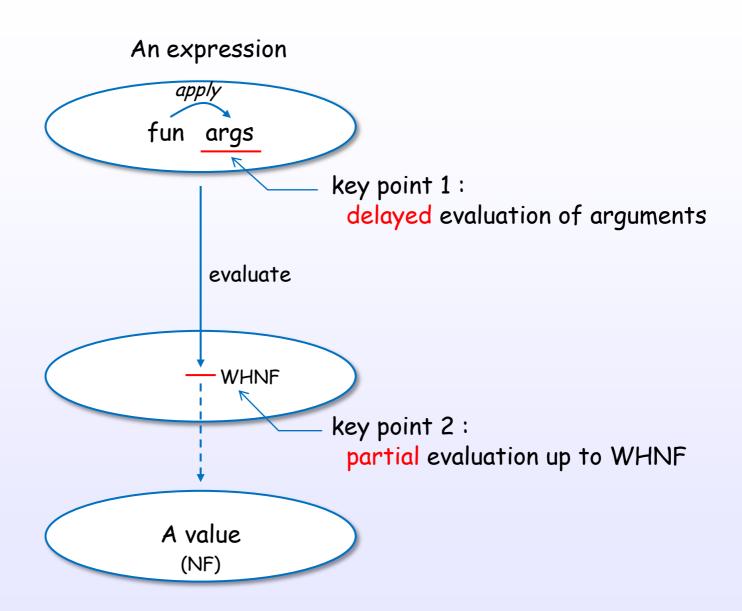


- ·call-by-need
- WHNFまで
- ・caseで駆動
- パターンマッチ

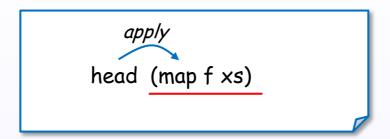
を、1枚の絵に

ページ順番の変更を

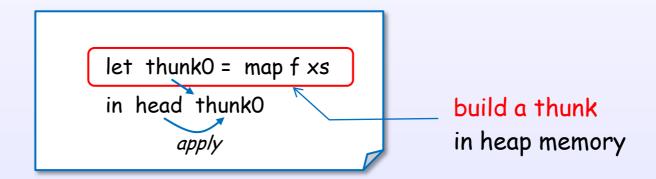
Key concept of Haskell's lazy evaluation



key point 1: delayed evaluation of arguments

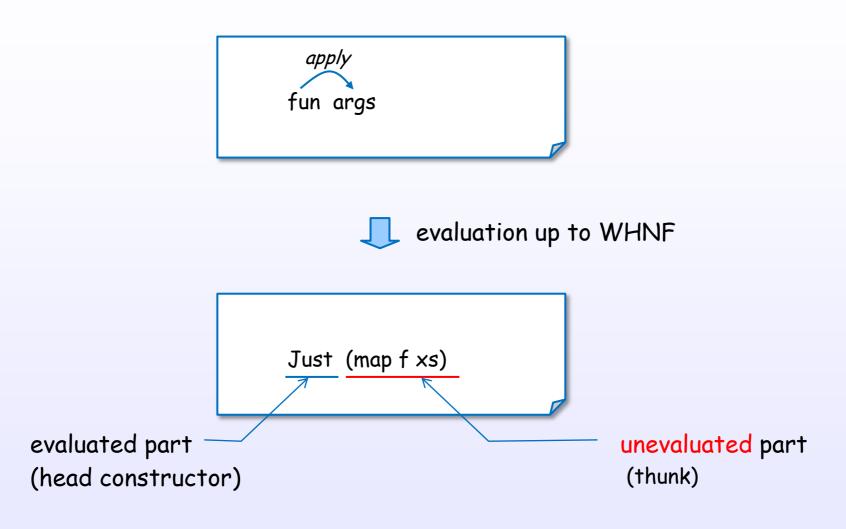


internal transformation by GHC



GHC implements lazy evaluation using the thunk. Evaluation of arguments is delayed with the thunk.

key point 2: partial evaluation up to WHNF



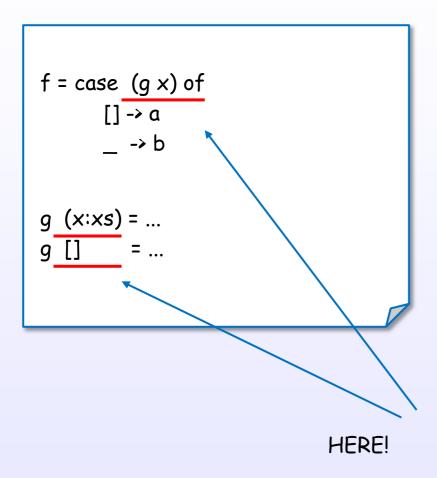
GHC can partially evaluate a expression.

Constructor can hold an unevaluated expression (a thunk).

では、必要なときはいつか?

では、必要なときはいつか?

Haskell code



pattern match via case expression and function definition will {cause, trigger} the evaluation

Pattern match

[CIS194]

4. Evaluation

Examples of evaluation steps

Example of repeat

repeat 1



1 : repeat 1



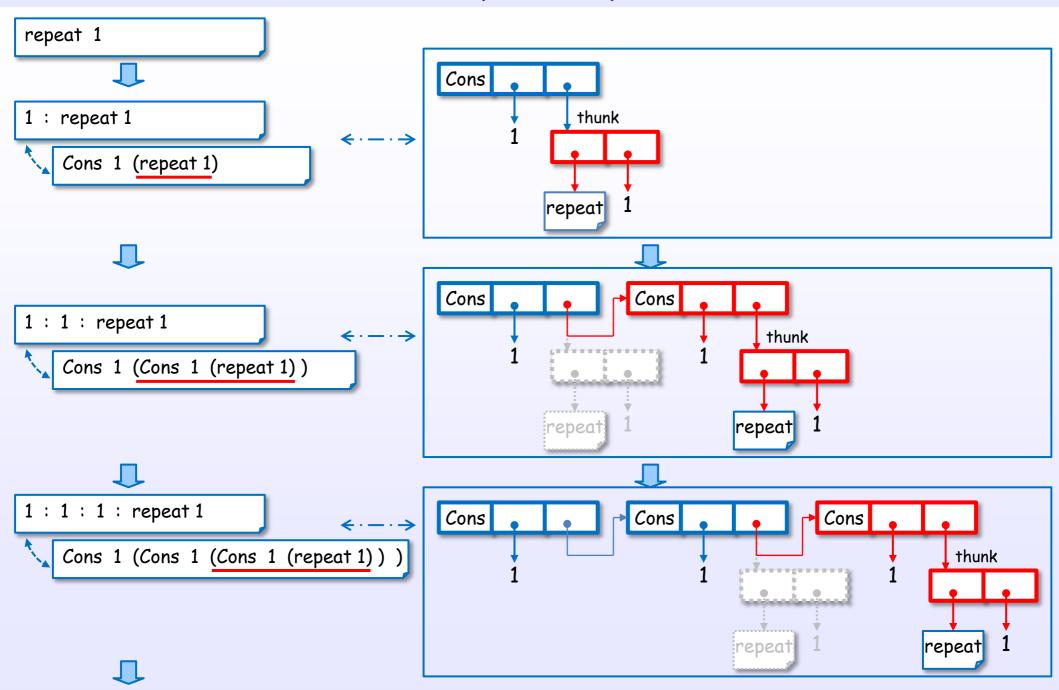
1 : 1 : repeat 1



1 : 1 : 1 : repeat 1



Example of repeat



References: [1]

Example of map

map f [1, 2, 3]



f 1: map f [2, 3]



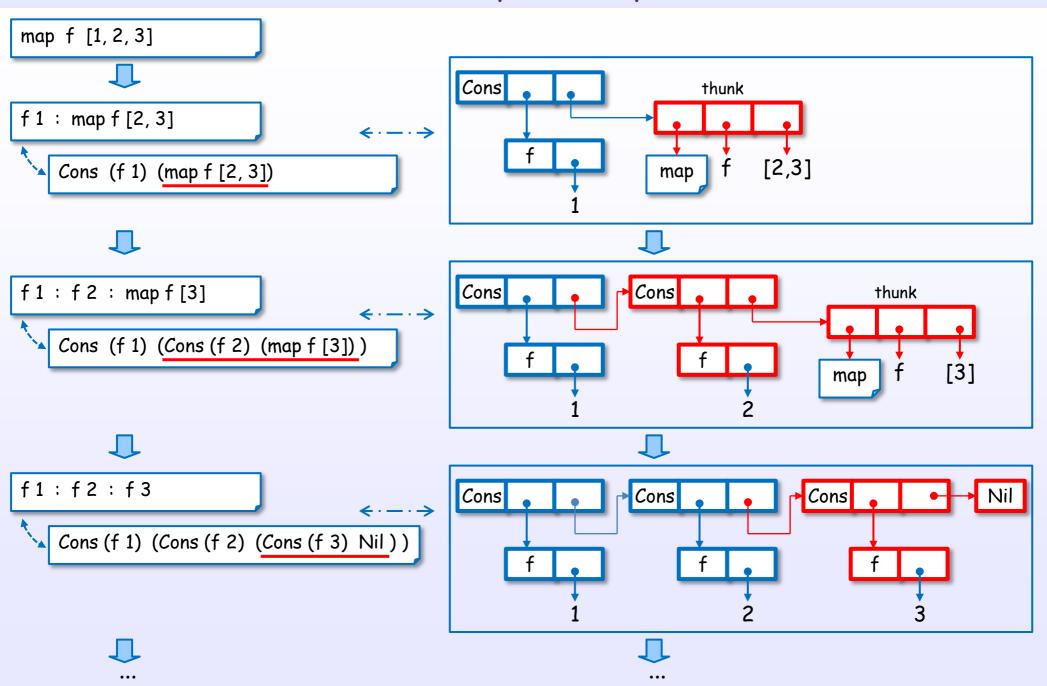
f1: f2: map f [3]



f1:f2:f3



Example of map



Example of foldl (non-strict)

foldl (+) 0 [1 .. 100]



foldl (+) (0 + 1) [2 .. 100]

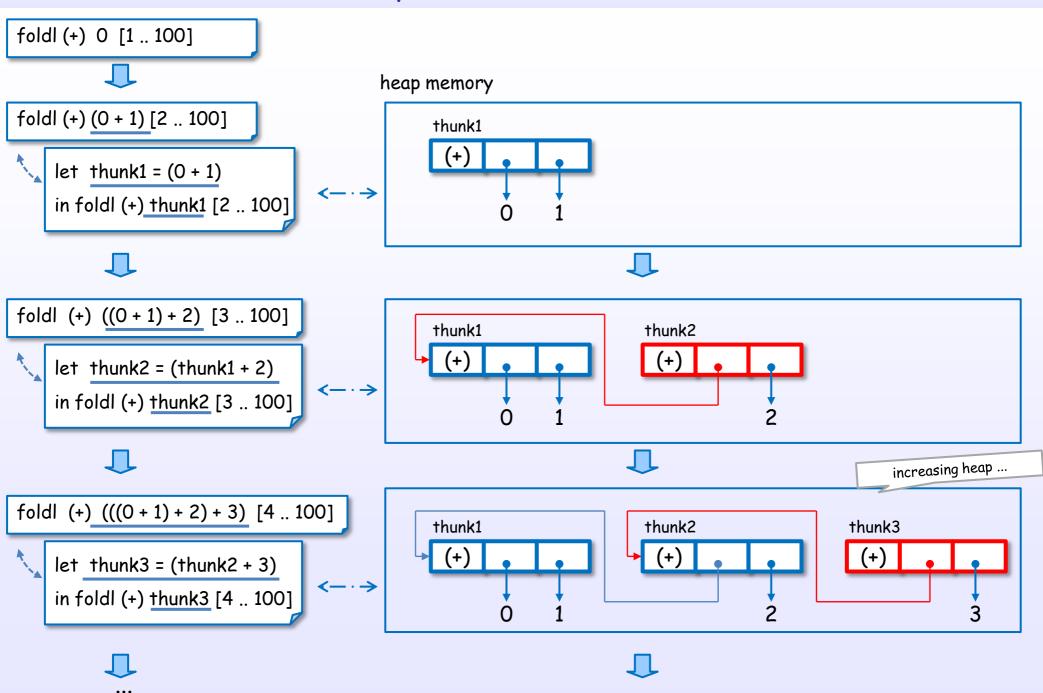


foldl (+) ((0+1)+2) [3 .. 100]



foldl (+) (((0+1)+2)+3) [4 .. 100]

Example of foldl (non-strict)



References: [1]

Example of foldl' (strict)

foldl'(+) 0 [1..100]



foldl' (+) (0 + 1) [2 .. 100]



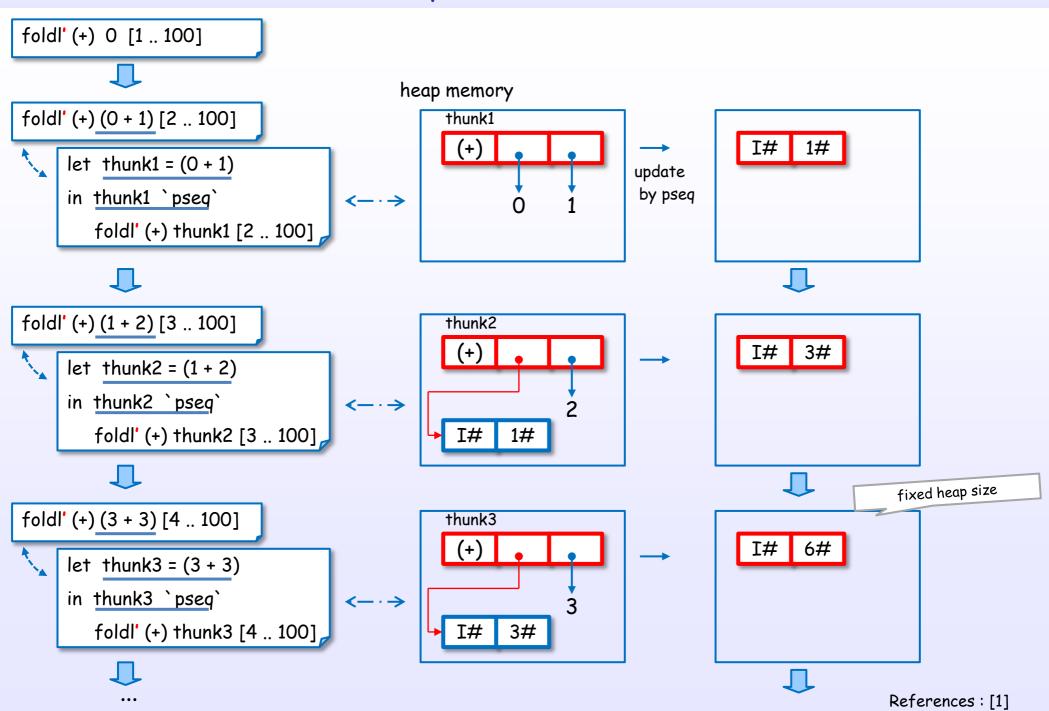
foldl' (+) (1 + 2) [3 .. 100]



foldl' (+) (3 + 3) [4 .. 100]



Example of foldl' (strict)

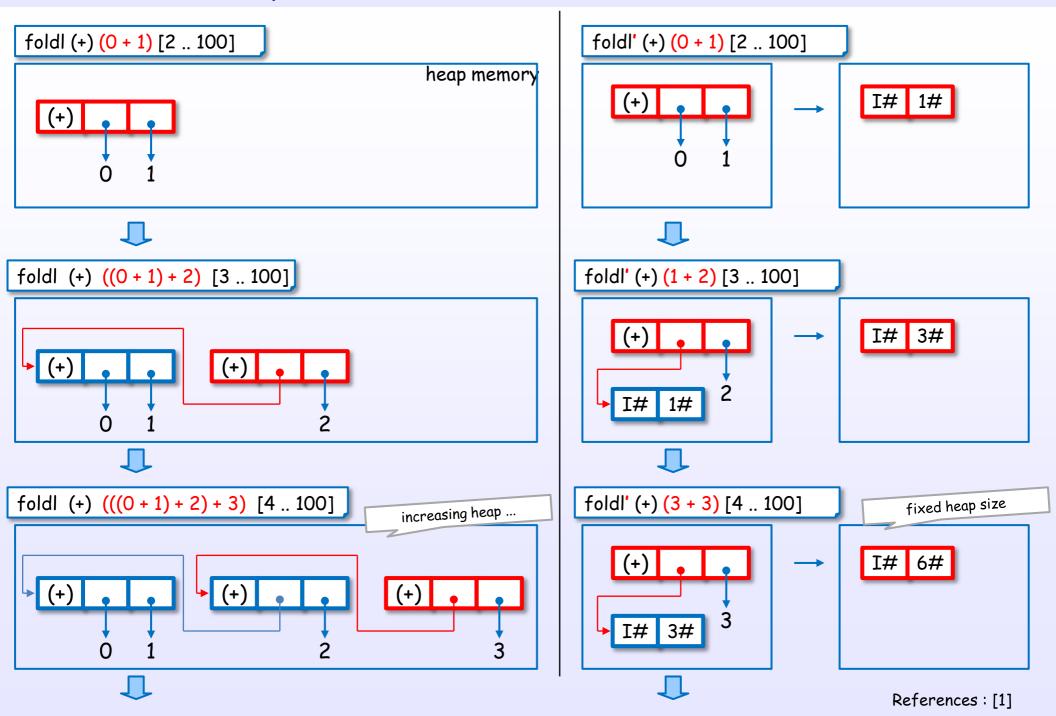


Example of foldl (non-strict) and foldl' (strict)

foldl' (+) (0 + 1) [2 .. 100] foldl (+) (0 + 1) [2 .. 100] foldl (+) ((0 + 1) + 2) [3 .. 100] foldl' (+) (1 + 2) [3 .. 100] foldl (+) (((0 + 1) + 2) + 3) [4 .. 100] foldl' (+) (3 + 3) [4 .. 100]



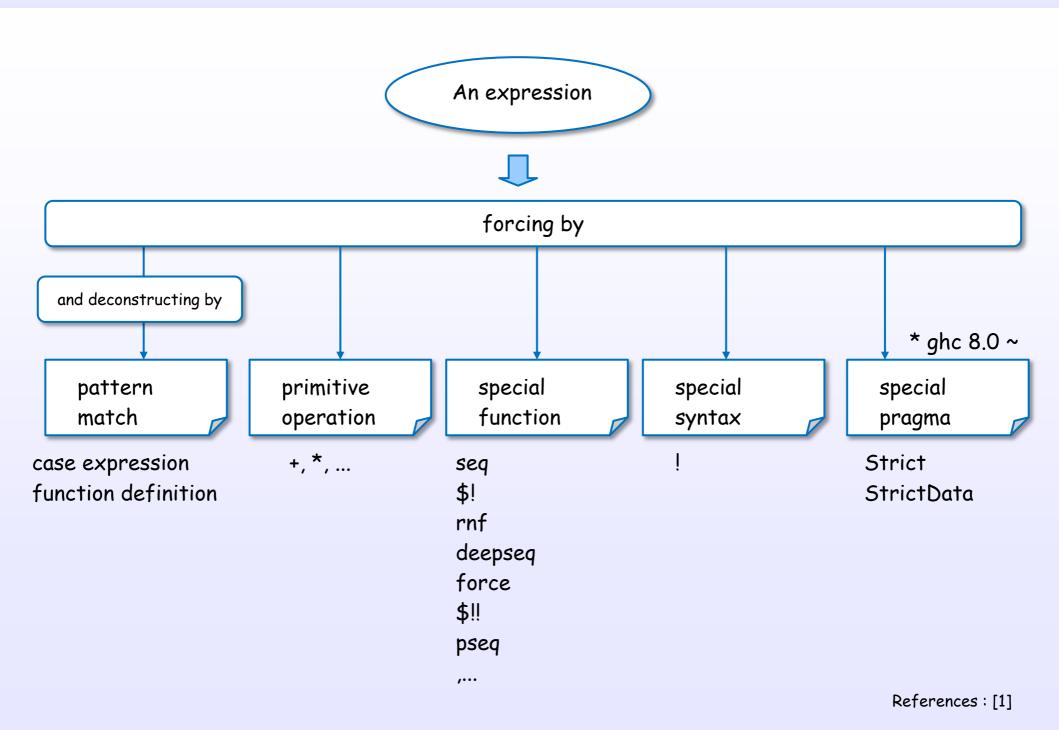
Example of foldl (non-strict) and foldl' (strict)



4. Evaluation

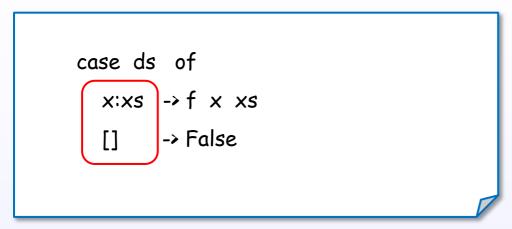
Control the evaluation in Haskell

How to drive evaluation



Example of the evaluation by pattern match

case expression



case expression function definition

Example of the evaluation by primitive operation

primitive operation

$$f \times y = x + y$$



Example of the evaluation by special function

special function

$$f \times y = seq \times y$$

```
$! to WHNF
rnf to NF
deepseq
force
$!! [parconc, Ch.2]
pseq
....
```

Please refer the document more detail. [xx] hoogle or hackage

Example of the evaluation by special syntax

special syntax

```
{-# LANGUAGE BangPatterns #-}
```

$$f!xs = g xs$$

{-# LANGUAGE BangPatterns #-}

data ...

Please refer the document more detail. [xx]

BangPattern

[RWH, Ch.25]

[user guide, 7.19]

Example of the evaluation by special pragma

special pragma

```
{-# LANGUAGE Strict #-}
```

$$f xs = g xs$$

* ghc 8.0 ~

{-# LANGUAGE StrictData #-}

$$f xs = g xs$$

Strict StrictData

Please refer the document more detail. [xx]

[wiki]

4. Evaluation

Strict analysis

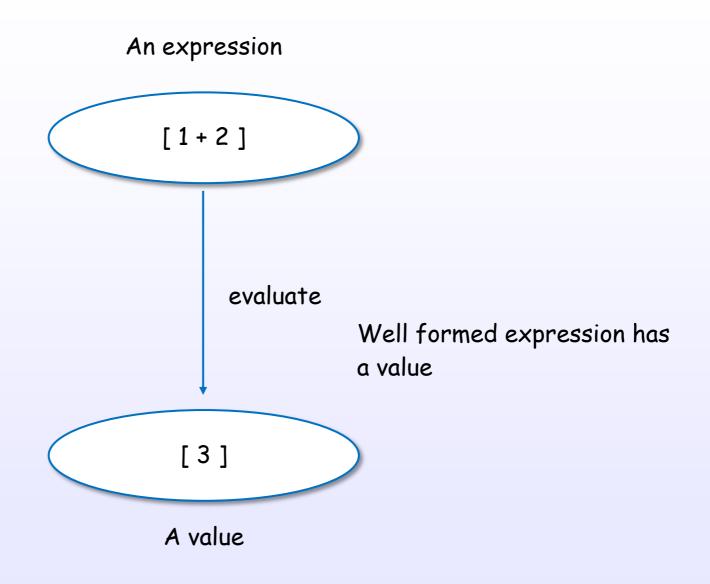
Strict analysis

5. Semantics

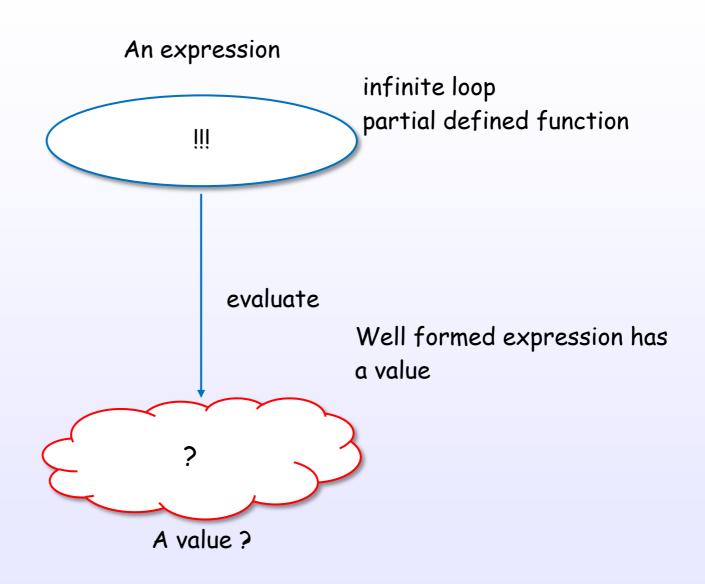
5. Semantics

Bottom

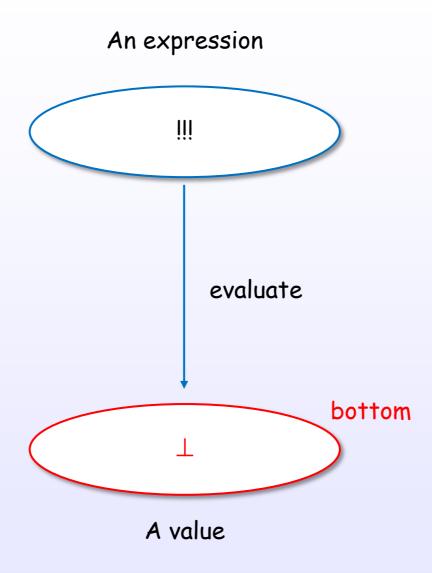
Well formed expression has a value



Well formed expression has a value



Well formed expression has a value

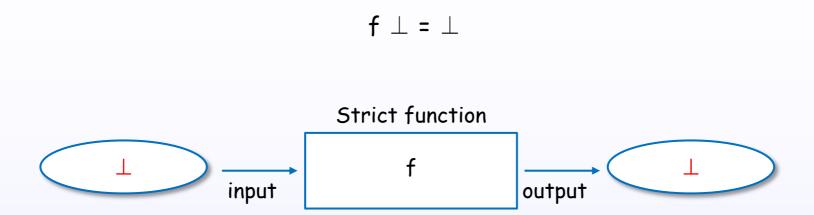


Bottom

5. Semantics

Non-strict Semantics

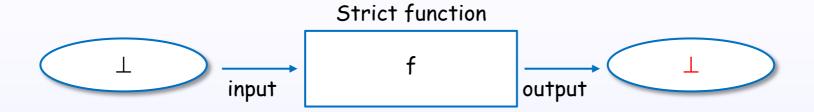
Strictness



Strictness and Non-strictness

Strict

f
$$\perp$$
 = \perp



Non-strict $\begin{array}{c} f \perp \neq \bot \\ \hline \\ Non-strict \ function \\ \hline \\ f \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ input \\ \end{array}$ a value or an unevaluated expression

Layer

Non-strictness

$$f \perp = \perp$$

Lazy evaluation

GHC chosen lazy evaluation to implement non-strict semantics.

Graph reduction

GHC chosen graph reduction to implement lazy evaluation.

STG-machine

GHC implements graph reduction by STG-machine.

seq and pseq

[Runtime Support for Multicore Haskell]

seq a
$$\perp$$
 = \perp seq \perp a = \perp

pseq a b =
$$\perp$$
, if a = \perp
= b, otherwise

[Snoyman]
Evaluation order and state tokens
https://www.fpcomplete.com/user/snoyberg/general-haskell/advanced/evaluation-order-and-state-tokens

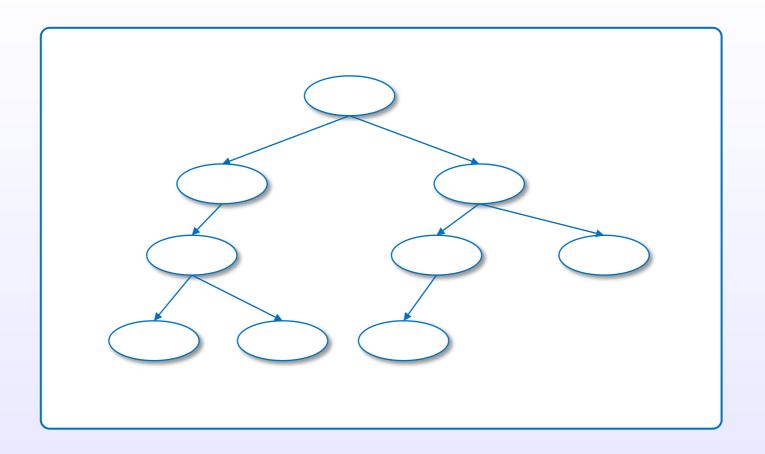
6. Implementation

6. Implementation

Graph reduction

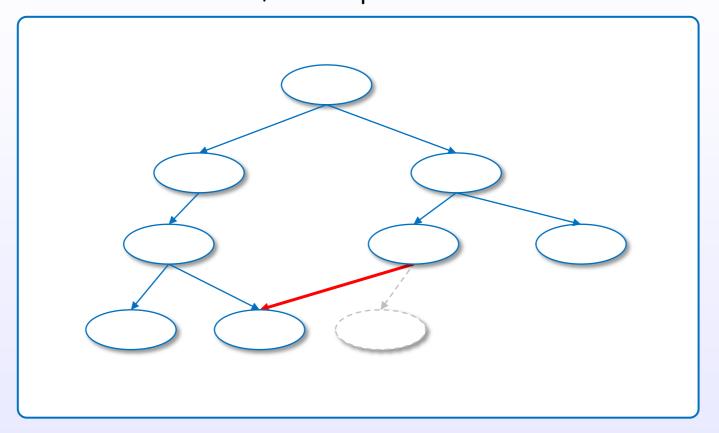
Tree

AST represents an expression



Graph

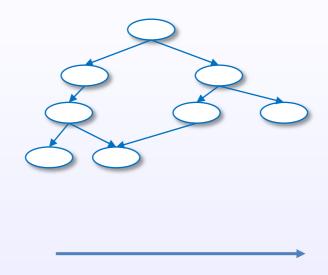
Share the term, looped not Tree, but Graph



Graph reduction



Graph reduction and lazy



5. Implementation

STG-machine

Layer

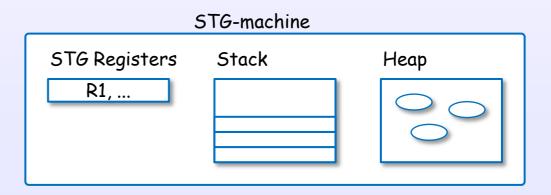
Haskell code

take 5 [1..10]

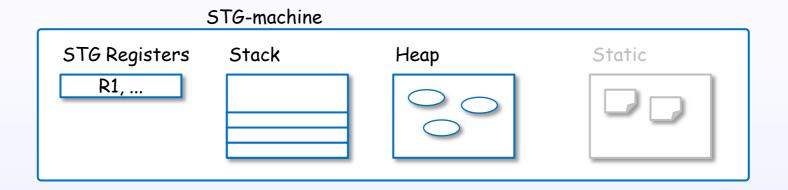
Internal representation by graph



Evaluation (execution, reduction) by STG-machine



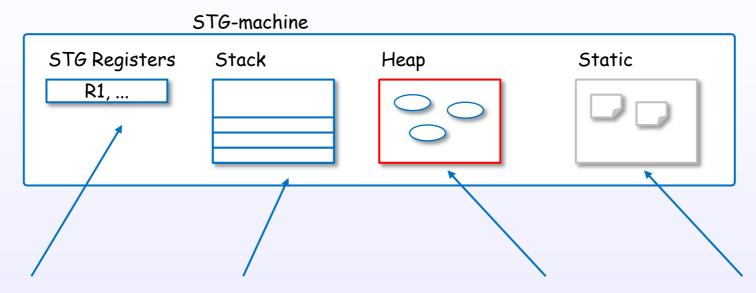
STG-machine



STG-machine is abstraction machine which is defined by operational semantics.

STG-machine efficiently performs lazy graph reduction.

STG-machine



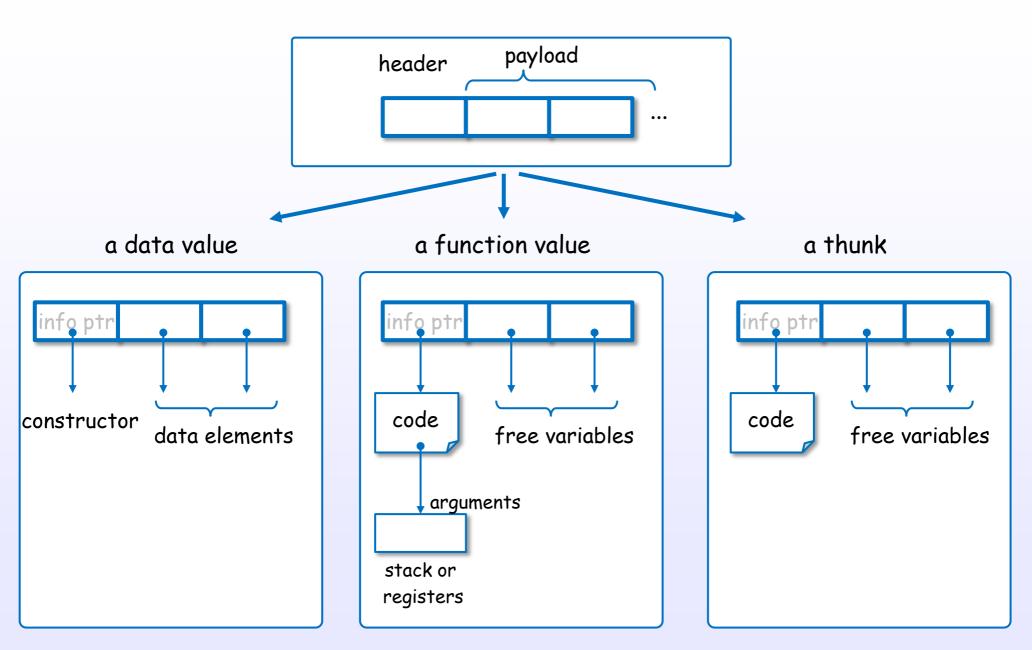
mainly using for call/return convention various control

mainly using for nest continuation argument passing

mainly using for allocating thunks

mainly using for code static closure

an unified representation in {heap, stack, static} memory



いずれも、広義の、"closure" (= code + environment(free variables))

References: [1]

7. Appendix

7. Appendix

- [1] Haskell 2010 Language Report https://www.haskell.org/definition/haskell2010.pdf
- [2] The Glorious Glasgow Haskell Compilation System (GHC user's guide) https://downloads.haskell.org/~ghc/latest/docs/users_guide.pdf
- [3] Thinking Functionally with Haskell (IFPH 3rd edition) http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/publications/books/functional/
- [4] Types and Programming Languages https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/types-and-programming-languages
- [5] A Haskell Compiler http://www.scs.stanford.edu/11au-cs240h/notes/ghc-slides.html
- [6] Being Lazy with Class http://www.seas.upenn.edu/~cis194/lectures/06-laziness.html
- [7] The Incomplete Guide to Lazy Evaluation (in Haskell) https://hackhands.com/guide-lazy-evaluation-haskell
- [8] Programming in Haskell https://www.cs.nott.ac.uk/~gmh/book.html
- [9] Parallel and Concurrent Programming in Haskell http://chimera.labs.oreilly.com/books/123000000929
- [10] Real World Haskell
 http://book.realworldhaskell.org/read/profiling-and-optimization.html

[11]	Laziness http://dev.stephendiehl.com/hask/#laziness
[12]	Evaluation on the Haskell Heap http://blog.ezyang.com/2011/04/evaluation-on-the-haskell-heap/
[13]	How to force a list https://ro-che.info/articles/2015-05-28-force-list
[14]	Haskell/Lazy evaluation https://wiki.haskell.org/Haskell/Lazy_evaluation
[15]	Lazy evaluation https://wiki.haskell.org/Lazy_evaluation
[16]	Lazy vs. non-strict https://wiki.haskell.org/Lazy_vsnon-strict
[17]	Haskell/Denotational semantics https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Denotational_semantics
[18]	Runtime Support for Multicore Haskell http://community.haskell.org/~simonmar/papers/multicore-ghc.pdf
[19]	Evaluation order and state tokens https://www.fpcomplete.com/user/snoyberg/general-haskell/advanced/evaluation-order-and-state-tokens
[20]	Haskell/Graph reduction https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Graph_reduction

- [21] A History of Haskell: Being Lazy With Class http://haskell.cs.yale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/history.pdf
- [22] The implementation of functional programming languages http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/people/simonpj/papers/slpj-book-1987/slpj-book-1987.pdf
- [23] Implementing lazy functional languages on stock hardware: the Spineless Tagless G-machine Version 2.5 http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/people/simonpj/Papers/spineless-tagless-gmachine.ps.gz
- [24] Making a Fast Curry Push/Enter vs Eval/Apply for Higher-order Languages http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/um/people/simonpj/papers/eval-apply/
- [25] I know kung fu: learning STG by example https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary/Compiler/GeneratedCode
- [26] GHC Commentary: The Layout of Heap Objects https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/Commentary/Rts/Storage/HeapObjects
- [27] GHC Commentary: Strict & StrictData https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/StrictPragma
- [28] Hoogle https://www.haskell.org/hoogle/
- [29] Hackage https://hackage.haskell.org/
- [30] GHC illustrated http://takenobu-hs.github.io/downloads/haskell_ghc_illustrated.pdf

Lazy,... 111