

Syntax

Infinite set **Vars**, of variables:

$u, v, x, y, z, \dots, x_1, x_2, \dots$

Well-formed λ -calculus expressions $LExpr$ is the smallest set of strings matching the following syntax:

$M, N, \dots \text{element of } LExpr ::= v \mid (\lambda x M) \mid (MN)$

where x is a random variable and M is an arbitrary lambda expression.

a λ -Calculus expression is either a variable (v), an abstraction of a variable from an expression $((\lambda x M))$ or an application of one expression to another $((M N))$

Free/Bound Variables

A variable occurrence is free in an expression if it is not mentioned in an enclosing abstraction. $x (\lambda y \bullet (yz))$ The z is free because it is not mentioned in the abstraction (which is λy) The y is bound

A variable can be both free and bound in the same expression

$(x (\lambda x \bullet (xy)))$

The first x is a global free variable outside the abstraction The second x is in (xy) is bound

λ -Calculus Moves

α -renaming $M \rightarrow_i M'$ β -reduction \rightarrow_n //missed //here

α -**Renaming** $(\lambda x \bullet (\lambda y \bullet (x y))) \rightarrow_i (\lambda u \bullet \lambda v \bullet (u v)) (\lambda x \bullet (x y)) \rightarrow_i (\lambda y \bullet (y y))$ formerly free y has been "captured"

Leaves the meaning of a term unchanged. Same as changing the name of a local variable in a program.

Substitution

Substituting an expression N for all free occurrences of X , in another expression M , written $M[N/x]$

$(x (\lambda y \bullet (z y))) [(\lambda u \bullet u) / z] \rightarrow_i (x (\lambda y \bullet ((\lambda u \bullet u) y)))$

Y is not free anywhere so substituting in for that would do nothing.

Careful Substitution

When doing general substitution $M[N/x]$, we need to avoid variable capture of free variable z in N by bindings in M :

$(x (\lambda y \bullet (z y))) \rightarrow_i (x (\lambda y \bullet ((y x) y)))$

If N has free variables which are going to be inside an abstraction on those variables in M , then we need to α -rename the abstractions to something else first and then substitute. //here The Golden Rule: //here

β -Reduction

$(\lambda x \bullet M) N \rightarrow_i M[N/x]$

We define an expression of the form $(\lambda x \bullet M) N$ as a β -redex (reducible expression)

How this applies to functions

$f(x) = 2x + 1$ $f(42) = \text{substitute 42 for } x \text{ in the } h.s(2x + 1)[42/x] 2 \cdot 42 + 1$

This is basically β -reduction

Normal Form An expression with no redexes.

Aim: reduce an expression to its normal form (if it exists) i.e. play the game until you can't make anymore moves

$(((\lambda x \bullet (\lambda y \bullet (y x))) u) v) \rightarrow ((\lambda y \bullet (y u)) v) \rightarrow (v u)$ A normal form

$((\lambda x \bullet (x x)) u) \rightarrow (u u)$ A normal form

Not all expressions have normal form.

Normal Form(III) //here innermost and outermost

n reduction (eta?)

λ - Calculus and Computability

We can use it to encode booleans, numbers and functions λ - Calculus is Turing-complete

How Important is Reduction Order?

The Church-Rosser theorem states: If we can reduce M to N_1 , by one set of redex choices, and to N_2 by another, then there always exists a third value R , to which both N_1 and N_2 can be reduced.

This third value R may be different but could also be one of N_1 or N_2

Normal Forms are Unique

We reduce M to N_1 , where N_1 is a normal form using some reduction sequence. We reduce M to N_2 , where N_2 is also a normal form using some reduction sequence.

By the Diamond Lemma, there exists an R to which both N_1 and N_2 can be reduced. But N_1 and N_2 are normal forms so can't be reduced further. Therefore $N_1 = R = N_2$

Reduction Order

If we have a choice of redexes, which should we reduce first?

Always the leftmost-outermost one (Normal Order Reduction)

Haskell uses the Graph Execution model (a variant of NOR) which gives rise to Lazy Evaluation.

Lambda Abstraction in Haskell

λ becomes $\backslash x \rightarrow 2 * x + 1$

Haskell's default behaviour is to reduce an expression to a notion of a partial/incomplete form. Weak Head Normal Form (WHNF)

A Haskell expression is WHNF when its top-level is either:

A data constructor applied to some or all of its values

or

A function that has not been applied to all of its arguments

Largely implemented by the way pattern-matching is

Strictness

Strict functions always evaluate all their arguments to Normal Form and then produce their own results as a Normal Form.

Example: isOdd1 //here