

# Higher Order Computability

John Longley & Dag Normann

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## 1 Theory of Computability Models

### 1.1 Computational Structure in Higher-Order Models

#### 1.1.1 Combinatory Completeness

Combinatory completeness can be seen as a syntactic counterpart to the notion of weakly cartesian closed model. In essence, combinatory completeness asserts that any operation definable by means of a formal expression over  $A$  (constructed using application) is representable by an element of  $A$  itself.

**Definition 1.1.** 1. A **partial applicative structure**  $A$  consists of

- an inhabited family  $|A|$  of datatypes  $A, B, \dots$  (indexed by some set  $T$ )
- a (right-associative) binary operation  $\Rightarrow$  on  $|A|$
- for each  $A, B \in |A|$ , a partial function  $\cdot_{AB} : (A \Rightarrow B) \times A \rightarrow B$

2. A **typed partial combinatory algebra** (TPCA) is a partial applicative structure  $\mathbf{A}$  satisfying the following conditions

- (a) For any  $A, B \in |\mathbf{A}|$ , there exists  $k_{AB} \in A \Rightarrow B \Rightarrow A$  s.t.

$$\forall a. k \cdot a \downarrow, \quad \forall a, b. k \cdot a \cdot b = a$$

- (b) For any  $A, B, C \in |\mathbf{A}|$ , there exists  $s_{ABC} \in (A \Rightarrow B \Rightarrow C) \Rightarrow (A \Rightarrow B) \Rightarrow (A \Rightarrow C)$  s.t.

$$\forall f, g. s \cdot f \cdot g \downarrow, \quad \forall f, g, a. s \cdot f \cdot g \cdot a \simeq (f \cdot a) \cdot (g \cdot a)$$

A **lax TPCA** is obtained from a TPCA change ' $\simeq$ ' to ' $\succeq$ ' in the axiom  $s$

3. If  $\mathbf{A}^\circ$  denotes a partial applicative structure, a **partial applicative sub-structure**  $\mathbf{A}^\sharp$  of  $\mathbf{A}^\circ$  consists of a subset  $A^\sharp \subseteq A$  for each  $A \in |\mathbf{A}^\circ|$  s.t.

- if  $f \in (A \Rightarrow B)^\sharp$ ,  $a \in A^\sharp$  and  $f \cdot a \downarrow$  in  $\mathbf{A}^\circ$ , then  $f \cdot a \in B^\sharp$

such a pair  $(\mathbf{A}^\circ; \mathbf{A}^\sharp)$  is called a **relative partial applicative structure**

4. A **relative TPCA** is a relative partial applicative structure  $(\mathbf{A}^\circ, \mathbf{A}^\sharp)$  s.t. there exist elements  $k_{AB}, s_{ABC}$  in  $\mathbf{A}^\sharp$  witnessing that  $\mathbf{A}^\circ$  is a TPCA

**Definition 1.2.** Suppose  $\mathbf{A}$  is a relative partial applicative structure over  $\mathbf{T}$

1. The set of well-typed **applicative expressions**  $e : \sigma$  over  $\mathbf{A}$  is defined inductively as follows
  - for each  $\sigma \in \mathbf{T}$ , we have an unlimited supply of variables  $x^\sigma : \sigma$
  - for each  $\sigma \in \mathbf{T}$  and  $a \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp(\sigma)$ , we have a **constant** symbol  $c_a : \sigma$  (we shall often write  $c_a$  simply as  $a$ )
  - If  $e : \sigma \rightarrow \tau$  and  $e' : \sigma$  are applicative expressions, then  $ee'$  is an applicative expression of type  $\tau$ .

We write  $V(e)$  for the set of variables appearing in  $e$

2. A **valuation** in  $\mathbf{A}$  is a function  $v$  assigning to certain variables  $x^\sigma$  an element  $v(x^\sigma) \in \mathbf{A}^\circ(\sigma)$ . Given an applicative expression  $e$  and a valuation  $v$  covering  $V(e)$ , the value  $\llbracket e \rrbracket_v$ , when defined, is given inductively by

$$\llbracket x^\sigma \rrbracket_v = v(x), \quad \llbracket c_a \rrbracket_v = a, \quad \llbracket ee' \rrbracket_v \simeq \llbracket e \rrbracket_v \cdot \llbracket e' \rrbracket_v$$

Note that if  $e : \tau$  and  $\llbracket e \rrbracket_v$  is defined then  $\llbracket e \rrbracket_v \in \mathbf{A}^\circ(\tau)$ .

Note that for any  $v$  with  $\text{ran}(v) \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp$ , we can prove  $\llbracket e : \tau \rrbracket_v \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp(\tau)$  by induction:

1. If  $e$  is of the form  $x^\tau$
2. If  $e$  is of the form  $c_a$  where  $a \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp(\tau)$
3. If  $e$  is of the form  $e' e''$  where  $e' : \sigma \rightarrow \tau$  and  $e'' : \sigma$ .  
 $\llbracket e \rrbracket_v = \llbracket e' \rrbracket_v \cdot \llbracket e'' \rrbracket_v$  where  $\llbracket e' \rrbracket_v \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp(\sigma \rightarrow \tau)$  and  $\llbracket e'' \rrbracket_v \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp(\sigma)$ . Since  $\mathbf{A}^\sharp$  is a substructure of  $\mathbf{A}^\circ$ , if  $\llbracket e' \rrbracket_v \cdot \llbracket e'' \rrbracket_v \downarrow$ , then  $\llbracket e \rrbracket_v \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp(\tau)$

**Definition 1.3.** Let  $\mathbf{A}$  be a relative partial applicative structure. We say  $\mathbf{A}$  is **lax combinatory complete** if for every applicative expression  $e : \tau$  over  $\mathbf{A}$  and every variable  $x^\sigma$ , there is an applicative expression  $\lambda^* x^\sigma . e$  with  $V(\lambda^* x^\sigma . e) = V(e) - \{x^\sigma\}$  s.t. for any valuation  $v$  covering  $V(\lambda^* x^\sigma . e)$  and any  $a \in \mathbf{A}^\circ(\sigma)$  we have

$$\llbracket \lambda^* x^\sigma . e \rrbracket_v \downarrow, \quad \llbracket \lambda^* x^\sigma . e \rrbracket_v \cdot a \geq \llbracket e \rrbracket_{v, x \mapsto a}$$

We say  $\mathbf{A}$  is **strictly combinatory complete** if this holds with ' $\simeq$ ' in place of ' $\geq$ '

**Theorem 1.4.** A (relative) partial applicative structure  $\mathbf{A}$  is a lax (relative) TPCA iff it is lax combinatory complete

*Proof.* If  $\mathbf{A}$  is lax combinatory complete, then for any  $\rho, \sigma, \tau$  we may define

$$\begin{aligned} k_{\sigma\tau} &= \llbracket \lambda^* x^\sigma . (\lambda^* y^\tau . x) \rrbracket_\emptyset \\ s_{\rho\sigma\tau} &= \llbracket \lambda^* x^{\rho \rightarrow \sigma \rightarrow \tau} . (\lambda^* y^{\rho \rightarrow \sigma} . (\lambda^* z^\rho . xz(yz))) \rrbracket_\emptyset \end{aligned}$$

Conversely, if  $\mathbf{A}$  is a lax TPCA, then given any suitable choice of elements  $k$  and  $s$  for  $\mathbf{A}$ , we may define  $\lambda^* x^\sigma . e$  by induction on the structure of  $e$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda^* x^\sigma . x &= s_{\sigma(\sigma \rightarrow \sigma)} k_{\sigma(\sigma \rightarrow \sigma)} k_{\sigma\sigma} \\ \lambda^* x^\sigma . a &= k_{\tau\sigma} a && \text{for each } a \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp(\tau) \\ \lambda^* x^\sigma . ee' &= s_{\sigma\tau\tau'} (\lambda^* x^\sigma . e) (\lambda^* x^\sigma . e') && \text{if } e : \tau \rightarrow \tau', e' : \tau \text{ and } ee' \text{ contains } x \end{aligned}$$

□

The same argument shows that  $\mathbf{A}$  is a strict TPCA iff it is strictly combinatory complete

we often tacitly suppose that a TPCA  $\mathbf{A}$  comes equipped with some choice of  $k$  and  $s$  drawn from  $A^\sharp$ , and in this case we shall use the notation  $\lambda^*x.e$  for the applicative expression given by the above proof. Since all the constants appearing in  $e$  are drawn from  $A^\sharp$ , the same will be true for  $\lambda^*x.e$ .

In TPCAs constructed as syntactic models for untyped or typed  $\lambda$ -calculi (as in Example 3.1.6 or Section 3.2.3), the value of  $\lambda^*x.e$  coincides with  $\lambda x.e$ . However, the notational distinction is worth retaining, since the term  $\lambda^*x.e$  as defined above is not syntactically identical to  $\lambda x.e$ .

More generally, we may consider terms of the  $\lambda$ -calculus as **meta-expressions** for applicative expressions. Specifically any such  $\lambda$ -term  $M$  can be regarded as denoting an applicative expression  $M^\dagger$  as follows:

$$x^\dagger = x, \quad c_a^\dagger = c_a, \quad (MN)^\dagger = M^\dagger N^\dagger, \quad (\lambda x.M)^\dagger = \lambda^*x.(M^\dagger)$$

Some caution is needed here, however, because  $\beta$ -equivalent meta-expressions do not always have the same meaning

**Example 1.1.** Consider the two meta-expressions  $(\lambda x.(\lambda y.y)x)$  and  $\lambda x.x$ . Although these are  $\beta$ -equivalent, the first expands to  $s(ki)i$  and the second to  $i$ , where  $i \equiv skk$ .

The moral here is that  $\beta$ -reductions are not valid underneath  $\lambda^*$ -abstractions: in this case, the reduction  $(\lambda^*y.y)x \rightsquigarrow x$  is not valid underneath  $\lambda^*$ . However at least for the definition of  $\lambda^*$  given above,  $\beta$ -reductions at top level are valid.

**Proposition 1.5.** 1. If  $M$  is a meta-expression,  $x$  is a variable and  $a$  is a constant or variable, then  $\llbracket ((\lambda x.M)a)^\dagger \rrbracket_v \geq \llbracket M[x \mapsto a]^\dagger \rrbracket$

2. If  $M, N$  are meta-expressions,  $x \notin FV(N)$ , no free occurrence of  $x$  in  $M$  occurs under a  $\lambda$ , and  $\llbracket N^\dagger \rrbracket_v \downarrow$ , then  $\llbracket ((\lambda x.M)N)^\dagger \rrbracket_v \geq \llbracket M[x \mapsto N]^\dagger \rrbracket_v$

*Proof.* Longley's PhD thesis □

From now on, we will not need to distinguish formally between meta-expressions and the applicative expressions they denote. For the remainder of this chapter we shall use the  $\lambda^*$  notation for such (meta-)expressions, retaining the asterisk as a reminder that the usual rules of  $\lambda$ -calculus are not always valid.

### 1.1.2 Pairing

**Definition 1.6.** 1. A **type world** is simply a set  $T$  of **type names**  $\sigma$ , optionally endowed with any or all of the following:

- (a) a **fixing map**, assigning a set  $T[\sigma]$  to certain type names  $\sigma \in T$
- (b) a **product structure**, consisting of a total binary operation  $(\sigma, \tau) \mapsto \sigma \times \tau$
- (c) an **arrow structure**, consisting of a total binary operation  $(\sigma, \tau) \mapsto \sigma \rightarrow \tau$

2. A **computability model over** a type world  $T$  is a computability model  $C$  with index set  $T$  (so that  $|C| = \{C(\sigma) \mid \sigma \in T\}$ ) subject to the following conventions

- (a) If  $T$  has a fixing map, then  $C(\sigma) = T[\sigma]$  whenever  $T(\sigma)$  is defined
- (b) If  $T$  has a product structure, then  $C$  has weak products and for any  $\sigma, \tau \in T$  we have  $C(\sigma \times \tau) = C(\sigma) \bowtie C(\tau)$
- (c) If  $T$  has an arrow structure, then  $C$  is a higher-order model and for any  $\sigma, \tau \in T$  we have  $C(\sigma \rightarrow \tau) = C(\sigma) \Rightarrow C(\tau)$
- (d) If  $T$  has both a product and an arrow structure, then  $C$  is weakly cartesian closed

**Theorem 1.7.** *There is a canonical bijection between higher-order models and relative TPCAs*

Let  $A$  be a relative TPCA (which is combinatory complete) over a type world  $T$  with arrow structure, and suppose that  $A$  (considered as a higher-order model) has weak products, inducing a product structure  $\times$  on  $T$ . This means that for any  $\sigma, \tau \in T$  there are elements

$$fst \in A^\sharp((\sigma \times \tau) \rightarrow \sigma), \quad snd \in A^\sharp((\sigma \times \tau) \rightarrow \tau)$$

And for each  $\sigma, \tau \in T$  a **pairing** operation

$$pair \in A^\sharp(\sigma \rightarrow \tau \rightarrow (\sigma \times \tau))$$

s.t.

$$\forall a \in A^\circ(\sigma), b \in A^\circ(\tau). \quad fst \cdot (pair \cdot a \cdot b) = a \wedge snd \cdot (pair \cdot a \cdot b) = b$$

**Proposition 1.8.** *A higher-order model with weak products has pairing iff it is weakly cartesian closed*

**Lemma 1.9** (??). Suppose  $m, n > 0$ . Given

$$\begin{aligned} f_j &\in (A_0 \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow A_{m-1} \Rightarrow B_j)^\sharp, \quad (j = 0, \dots, n-1), \\ g &\in (B_0 \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow B_{n-1} \Rightarrow C)^\sharp \end{aligned}$$

there exists  $h \in (A_0 \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow A_{m-1} \Rightarrow C)^\sharp$  s.t.

$$\forall a_0, \dots, a_{m-1}. h \cdot a_0 \cdot \dots \cdot a_{m-1} \simeq g \cdot (f_0 \cdot a_0 \cdot \dots \cdot a_{m-1}) \cdot \dots \cdot (f_{n-1} \cdot a_0 \cdot \dots \cdot a_{m-1})$$

*Proof.* The binary partial functions representable in  $\mathbf{A}^\sharp((\rho \times \sigma) \rightarrow \tau)$  are exactly those representable in  $\mathbf{A}^\sharp(\rho \rightarrow \sigma \rightarrow \tau)$

Given  $f \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp((\rho \times \sigma) \rightarrow \tau)$ , by Proposition ??, we have  $h \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp(\rho \rightarrow \sigma \rightarrow \tau)$  where

$$\forall a, b. h \cdot a \cdot b \simeq f \cdot (\text{pair} \cdot a \cdot b)$$

Given  $f \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp(\rho \rightarrow \sigma \rightarrow \tau)$ , by the same Proposition, we have  $h \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp((\rho \times \sigma) \rightarrow \tau)$  where

$$\forall a, b. h \cdot c \simeq f \cdot (\text{fst} \cdot c) \cdot (\text{snd} \cdot c)$$

□

Henceforth we shall generally work with *pair* in preference to the ‘external’ pairing of operations, and will write  $\text{pair} \cdot a \cdot b$  when there is no danger of confusion.

In untyped models, pairing is automatic

$$\text{pair} = \lambda^*xyz.zxy, \quad \text{fst} = \lambda^*p.p(\lambda^*xy.x), \quad \text{snd} = \lambda^*p.p(\lambda^*xy.y)$$

### 1.1.3 Booleans

**Definition 1.10.** A model  $\mathbf{A}$  has **booleans** if for some type  $\mathbf{B}$  there exist elements

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tt}, \text{ff} &\in \mathbf{A}^\sharp(\mathbf{B}) \\ \text{if}_\sigma &\in \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{B}, \sigma, \sigma \rightarrow \sigma) \text{ for each } \sigma \end{aligned}$$

s.t. for all  $x, y \in \mathbf{A}^\circ(\sigma)$  we have

$$\text{if}_\sigma \cdot \text{tt} \cdot x \cdot y = x, \quad \text{if}_\sigma \cdot \text{ff} \cdot x \cdot y = y$$

Note that  $\text{tt}, \text{ff}$  need not be the sole element of  $\mathbf{A}^\sharp(\mathbf{B})$

Alternatively, we may define a notion of having booleans in the setting of computability model **C** with weak products: replace  $if_\sigma$  with  $if'_\sigma \in \mathbf{C}[\mathbb{B} \times \sigma \times \sigma, \sigma]$ . In a TPCA with products and pairing the two definitions coincide

In untyped models, the existence of booleans is automatic:  $\# = \lambda^*xy.x$ ,  $\# = \lambda^*xy.y$  and  $if = \lambda^*zxy.zxy$

Obviously, the value of an expression  $if_\sigma.b.e.e'$  cannot be defined unless the values of both  $e$  and  $e'$  are defined. However, there is a useful trick that allows us to build conditional expressions whose definedness requires only that the chosen branch of the conditional is defined. This trick is specific to the higher-order setting, and is known as **strong definition by cases**:

**Proposition 1.11.** *Suppose **A** has booleans as above. Given applicative expressions  $e, e' : \sigma$  there is an applicative expression  $(e \mid e') : B \rightarrow \sigma$  s.t. for any valuation  $v$  covering  $V(e)$  and  $V(e')$  we have*

$$\llbracket (e \mid e') \rrbracket_v \downarrow, \quad \llbracket (e \mid e') \cdot \# \rrbracket_v \geq \llbracket e \rrbracket_v, \quad \llbracket (e \mid e') \cdot \# \rrbracket_v \geq \llbracket e' \rrbracket_v$$

*Proof.* Let  $\rho$  be any type s.t.  $\mathbf{A}^\circ(\rho)$  is inhabited by some element  $a$ , and define

$$(e \mid e') = \lambda^*z^B \cdot (if_\sigma z(\lambda^*r^\rho.e)(\lambda^*r^\rho.e')c_a)$$

where  $z, r$  are fresh variables

$\llbracket (e \mid e') \rrbracket_v \downarrow$  since by lax combinatory completeness

$\llbracket (e \mid e') \cdot \# \rrbracket_v \geq \llbracket e \rrbracket_v$  by 1.5 □

The expressions  $\lambda^*r.e, \lambda^*r.e'$  in the above proof are known as **suspensions** or **thunks**: the idea is that  $\llbracket \lambda^*r.e \rrbracket_v$  is guaranteed to be defined, but the actual evaluation of  $e_v$  (which may be undefined) is ‘suspended’ until the argument  $c_a$  is supplied.

#### 1.1.4 Numerals

**Definition 1.12.** A model **A** has **numerals** if for some type  $\mathbb{N}$  there exist

$$\hat{0}, \hat{1}, \hat{2}, \dots \in \mathbf{A}^\#(\mathbb{N})$$

$$suc \in \mathbf{A}^\#(\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N})$$

and for any  $x \in \mathbf{A}^\#(\sigma)$  and  $f \in \mathbf{A}^\#(\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \sigma \rightarrow \sigma)$  an element

$$Rec_\sigma(x, f) \in \mathbf{A}^\#(\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \sigma)$$

s.t. for all  $x \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp(\sigma)$ ,  $f \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp(\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \sigma \rightarrow \sigma)$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{suc} \cdot \hat{n} &= \widehat{n+1} \\ \text{Rec}_\sigma(x, f) \cdot \hat{0} &= x \\ \text{Rec}_\sigma(x, f) \cdot \widehat{n+1} &\geq f \cdot \hat{n} \cdot (\text{Rec}_\sigma(x, f) \cdot \hat{n}) \end{aligned}$$

The above definition has the advantage that it naturally adapts to the setting of a computability model  $\mathbf{C}$  with products: just replace the types of  $f$  and  $\text{Rec}_\sigma(x, f)$  above with  $\mathbf{C}[\mathbb{N} \times \sigma, \sigma]$  and  $\mathbf{C}[\mathbb{N}, \sigma]$  respectively.

**Proposition 1.13.** *A model  $\mathbf{A}$  has numerals iff it has elements  $\hat{n}$ ,  $\text{suc}$  as above and*

$$\text{rec}_\sigma \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp(\sigma \rightarrow (\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \sigma \rightarrow \sigma) \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \sigma) \quad \text{for each } \sigma$$

s.t. for all  $x \in \mathbf{A}^\circ(\sigma)$ ,  $f \in \mathbf{A}^\circ(\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \sigma \rightarrow \sigma)$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{suc} \cdot \hat{n} &= \widehat{n+1} \\ \text{rec}_\sigma \cdot x \cdot f \cdot \hat{0} &= x \\ \text{rec}_\sigma \cdot x \cdot f \cdot \widehat{n+1} &\geq f \cdot \hat{n} \cdot (\text{rec}_\sigma \cdot x \cdot f \cdot \hat{n}) \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.*  $\Leftarrow$ : Let  $\text{Rec}_\sigma(x, f) = \text{rec}_\sigma \cdot x \cdot f$   
 $\Rightarrow$ : define

$$\text{rec}_\sigma = \text{Rec}_{\sigma \rightarrow (\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \sigma \rightarrow \sigma) \rightarrow \sigma}(\lambda^* x f. x, \lambda^* n r. \lambda^* x f. f n(r x f))$$

?

□

*Exercise 1.1.1.* Show that  $\mathbf{A}$  has numerals, then  $\mathbf{A}$  has booleans

**Proposition 1.14.** *Every untyped model has numerals*

*Proof.* Using the encodings for pairings and booleans given above, we may define the **Curry numerals**  $\hat{n}$  in any untyped models as follows:

$$\hat{0} = \langle \text{tt}, \text{tt} \rangle, \quad \widehat{n+1} = \langle \text{ff}, \hat{n} \rangle$$

and  $\text{suc} = \lambda^* x. \langle \text{ff}, x \rangle$ . We also have elements for the zero testing and predecessor operations: take  $\text{iszero} = \text{fst}$  and  $\text{pre} = \lambda^* x. \text{if}(\text{iszero } x) \hat{0}(\text{snd } x)$  □

In any model with numerals, a rich class of functions  $\mathbb{N}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is representable. For example, the (first-order) primitive recursive functions on  $\mathbb{N}$



**Proposition 1.15.** *For any primitive recursive  $f : \mathbb{N}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  there is an applicative expression  $e_f : \mathbb{N}^{(r)} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  (involving constants  $0$ ,  $\text{suc}$ ,  $\text{rec}_{\mathbb{N}}$ ) s.t. in any model  $(\mathbf{A}^\circ; \mathbf{A}^\sharp)$  with numerals we have  $\llbracket e_f \rrbracket_v \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp$  (where  $v$  is the obvious valuation of the constants) and*

$$\forall n_0, \dots, n_{r-1}, m. f(n_0, \dots, n_{r-1}) = m \Rightarrow \llbracket e_f \rrbracket_v \cdot \hat{n}_0 \cdot \hat{n}_{r-1} = \hat{m}$$

*Proof.* □

### 1.1.5 Recursion and Minimization

- Definition 1.16.** 1. A total model  $\mathbf{A}$  has **general recursion**, or **has fixed points**, if for every element  $f \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp(\rho \rightarrow \rho)$  there is an element  $\text{Fix}_\rho(f) \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp(\rho)$  s.t.  $\text{Fix}_\rho(f) = f \cdot \text{Fix}_\rho(f)$
2. An arbitrary model  $\mathbf{A}$  has **guarded recursion**, or **guarded fixed points**, if for every element  $f \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp(\rho \rightarrow \rho)$  where  $\rho = \sigma \rightarrow \tau$  there is an element  $\text{GFix}_\rho(f) \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp(\rho)$  s.t.  $\text{GFix}_\rho(f) \cdot x \geq f \cdot \text{GFix}_\rho(f) \cdot x$  for all  $x \in \mathbf{A}^\circ(\sigma)$

**Proposition 1.17.** 1. A total model  $\mathbf{A}$  has general recursion iff for every type  $\rho$  there is an element  $Y_\rho \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp((\rho \rightarrow \rho) \rightarrow \rho)$  s.t. for all  $f \in \mathbf{A}^\circ(\rho \rightarrow \rho)$  we have

$$Y_\rho \cdot f = f \cdot (Y_\rho \cdot f)$$

2.  $\mathbf{A}$  has guarded recursion iff for every type  $\rho = \sigma \rightarrow \tau$  there is an element  $Z_\rho \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp((\rho \rightarrow \rho) \rightarrow \rho)$  s.t. for all  $f \in \mathbf{A}^\circ(\rho \rightarrow \rho)$  and  $x \in \mathbf{A}^\circ(\sigma)$  we have

$$Z_\rho \cdot f \downarrow, \quad Z_\rho \cdot f \cdot x \geq f \cdot (Z_\rho \cdot f) \cdot x$$

*Proof.* Define

$$Y_\rho = \text{Fix}_{(\rho \rightarrow \rho) \rightarrow \rho}(\lambda^* y. \lambda^* f. f(yf)), \quad Z_\rho = \text{GFix}_{(\rho \rightarrow \rho) \rightarrow \rho}(\lambda^* z. \lambda^* f. f(zf)x)$$

□

Not all models of interest possess such recursion operators. Clearly, if  $\mathbf{A}$  is a **total** model with  $\mathbf{A}(\mathbb{N}) = \mathbb{N}$  a type of numerals as above, then  $\mathbf{A}$  cannot have general or even guarded recursion: if  $\rho = \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  and  $f = \lambda^* gx. \text{suc}(gx)$  then we would have  $Z \cdot f \cdot \hat{n} = \text{suc} \cdot Z \cdot f \cdot \hat{n}$ , which is impossible. However, many models with  $\mathbf{A}(\mathbb{N}) = \mathbb{N}_\perp$  will have general recursion

Any **untyped** total model has general recursion, since we may take

$$W = \lambda^* wf.f(wwf), \quad Y = WW$$

(This element  $Y$  is known as the **Turing fixed point combinator**). Likewise, every untyped model, total or not, has guarded recursion, since we may take

$$V = \lambda^* vfx.f(vvf)x, \quad Z = VV$$

Note in passing that Kleene's **second recursion theorem** from classical computability theory is tantamount to the existence of a guarded recursion operator in  $K_1$

We can now prove 1.14. In any untyped model, let  $Z$  be a guarded recursion operator, define

$$R = \lambda^* rxfm.if(iszero\ m)(kx)(\lambda^* y.f(pre\ m))(rx\ f(pre\ m)\hat{0})$$

and take  $rec = \lambda^* xfm.(ZR)x\ fmi$ .

**Definition 1.18.** A model  $\mathbf{A}$  with numerals **has minimization** if it contains an element  $min \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp((\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}) \rightarrow \mathbb{N})$  s.t. whenever  $\hat{g} \in \mathbf{A}^\circ(\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N})$  represents some total  $g : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  and  $m$  is the least number s.t.  $g(m) = 0$ , we have  $min \cdot \hat{g} = \hat{m}$

**Proposition 1.19.** *There is an applicative expression  $Min$  involving constants  $\hat{0}$ ,  $suc$ ,  $iszero$ ,  $if$  and  $Z$  s.t. in any model with numerals and guarded recursion,  $\llbracket Min \rrbracket_v$  is a minimization operator*

*Proof.* Take  $Min = Z(\lambda^* M.\lambda^* g.if(iszero(g\ \hat{0}))\hat{0}(M(\lambda^* n.g(suc\ n))))$   $\square$

**Proposition 1.20.** *For any partial computable  $f : \mathbb{N}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  there is an applicative expression  $e_f : \mathbb{N}^{(r)} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  (involving constants  $0$ ,  $suc$ ,  $rec_N$ ,  $min$ ) s.t. in any model  $\mathbf{A}$  with numerals and minimization we have  $\llbracket e_f \rrbracket_v \in \mathbf{A}^\sharp$  (with the obvious valuation  $v$ ) and*

$$\forall n_0, \dots, n_{r-1}, m. f(n_0, \dots, n_{r-1}) = m \Rightarrow \llbracket e_f \rrbracket_v \cdot \hat{n}_0 \cdot \dots \cdot \hat{n}_{r-1} = \hat{m}$$

*Proof.* Since our definition of minimization refers only to total functions  $g : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ , we appeal to the *Kleene normal form* theorem: there are primitive recursive functions  $T : \mathbb{N}^{r+2} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  and  $U : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  such that any partial computable  $f$  has an 'index'  $e \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $f(\bar{n}) \simeq U(\mu y.T(e, \bar{n}, y) = 0)$  for all  $\bar{n}$ . Using this, the result follows easily from Propositions 1.15 and 1.19.  $\square$

### 1.1.6 The Category of Assemblies

**Definition 1.21.** Let  $\mathbf{C}$  be a lax computability model over  $T$ . The **category of assemblies over  $\mathbf{C}$** , written  $\mathcal{A}sm(\mathbf{C})$  is defined as follows:

- Objects  $X$  are triples  $(|X|, \rho_X, \Vdash_X)$  where  $|X|$  is a set,  $\rho_X \in T$  names some type, and  $\Vdash_X \subseteq \mathbf{C}(\rho_X) \times |X|$  is a relation s.t.  $\forall x \in |X|. \exists a \in \mathbf{C}(\rho_X). a \Vdash_X x$  (The formula  $a \Vdash_X x$  may be read as ‘ $a$  **realizes**  $x$ ’)
- A morphism  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a function  $f : |X| \rightarrow |Y|$  that is **tracked** by some  $\bar{f} \in \mathbf{C}[\rho_X, \rho_Y]$ , in the sense that for any  $x \in |X|$  and  $a \in \mathbf{C}(\rho_X)$  we have

$$a \Vdash_X x \Rightarrow \bar{f}(a) \Vdash_Y f(x)$$

An assembly  $X$  is called **modest** if  $a \Vdash_X x \wedge a \Vdash_X x'$  implies  $x = x'$ . We write  $\mathcal{M}od(\mathbf{C})$  for the full subcategory of  $\mathcal{A}sm(\mathbf{C})$  consisting of modest assemblies

Intuitively, we regard an assembly  $X$  as an “abstract datatype” for which we have a concrete implementation on the “machine”  $\mathbf{C}$ . The underlying set  $|X|$  is the set of values of the abstract type, and for each  $x \in |X|$ , the elements  $a \Vdash_X x$  are the possible machine representations of this abstract value. (Note that an abstract value  $x$  may have many possible machine representations  $a$ .) The morphisms  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  may then be regarded as the “computable mappings” between such datatypes

In the case that  $\mathbf{C}$  is a lax TPCA  $\mathbf{A}$ , we may also denote the above categories  $\mathcal{A}sm(\mathbf{A})$ ,  $\mathcal{M}od(\mathbf{A})$ , or by  $\mathcal{A}sm(\mathbf{A}^\circ; \mathbf{A}^\sharp)$ ,  $\mathcal{M}od(\mathbf{A}^\circ; \mathbf{A}^\sharp)$ . Note that realizers for elements  $x \in |X|$  may be arbitrary elements of  $\mathbf{A}^\circ(\rho_X)$ , whereas a morphism  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  must be tracked by an element of  $\mathbf{A}^\sharp(\rho_X \rightarrow \rho_Y)$

Viewed in this way, all the datatypes we shall typically wish to consider in fact live in the subcategory  $\mathcal{M}od(\mathbf{C})$ : an abstract data value is uniquely determined by any of its machine representations. Note also that if  $Y$  is modest, a morphism  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is completely determined by any  $\bar{f}$  that tracks it.

**Definition 1.22.** Let the category  $\mathbf{C}$  have binary products. An **exponential** of objects  $B$  and  $C$  consists of an object  $C^B$  and an arrow  $\epsilon : C^B \times B \rightarrow C$  s.t. for any object  $A$  and arrow  $f : A \times B \rightarrow C$  there is a unique arrow  $\tilde{f} : A \rightarrow C^B$  s.t.  $\epsilon \circ (\tilde{f} \times 1_B) = f$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C^B & & C^B \times B \xrightarrow{\epsilon} C \\ \uparrow \tilde{f} & & \uparrow \tilde{f} \times 1_B \quad \nearrow f \\ A & & A \times B \end{array}$$

**Theorem 1.23.** *Let  $\mathbf{C}$  be a lax computability model*

1. *If  $\mathbf{C}$  has a weak terminal, then  $\mathcal{Asm}(\mathbf{C})$  has a terminal object  $1$*
2. *If  $\mathbf{C}$  has weak products, then  $\mathcal{Asm}(\mathbf{C})$  has binary cartesian products*
3. *If  $\mathbf{C}$  weakly cartesian closed, then  $\mathcal{Asm}(\mathbf{C})$  is cartesian closed*
4. *If  $\mathbf{C}$  has a weak terminal and booleans,  $\mathcal{Asm}(\mathbf{C})$  has the coproduct  $1 + 1$*
5. *If  $\mathbf{C}$  has a weak terminal and numerals,  $\mathcal{Asm}(\mathbf{C})$  has a natural number object*

*Proof.* 1. If  $(I, i)$  is a weak terminal, define  $1 = (\{i\}, I, \Vdash_1 = \{(i, i)\})$ . Then for any  $X \in \mathcal{Asm}(\mathbf{C})$ ,  $f = \Lambda x.i$  is the unique morphism where  $\bar{f} = \Lambda x.i$ .

2. If  $X$  and  $Y$  are assemblies and  $\rho$  is a weak product of  $\rho_X$  and  $\rho_Y$ , define the assembly  $X \times Y$  by

$$|X \times Y| = |X| \times |Y|, \quad \rho_{X \times Y} = \rho, \quad a \Vdash_{X \times Y} (x, y) \text{ iff } \pi_X(a) \Vdash_X x \wedge \pi_Y(a) \Vdash_Y y$$

3. If  $X$  and  $Y$  are assemblies, let us say an element  $t \in \mathbf{C}(\rho_X \rightarrow \rho_Y)$  **tracks** a function  $f : |X| \rightarrow |Y|$  if

$$\forall x \in |X|, a \in \mathbf{C}(\rho_X). a \Vdash_X x \Rightarrow t \cdot_{XY} a \Vdash_Y f(x)$$

Now define the assembly  $Y^X$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} |Y^X| &= \{f : |X| \rightarrow |Y| \mid f \text{ is tracked by some } t \in \mathbf{C}(\rho_X \rightarrow \rho_Y)\} \\ \rho_{Y^X} &= \rho_X \rightarrow \rho_Y \\ t \Vdash_{Y^X} f &\Leftrightarrow t \text{ tracks } f \end{aligned}$$

□

Theorem ?? also holds with  $\mathcal{Mod}(\mathbf{C})$ , and the inclusion  $\mathcal{Mod}(\mathbf{C}) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{Asm}(\mathbf{C})$  preserves all the relevant structure