

# CS 456

## Programming Languages Fall 2024

Week 2  
Lambda-Calculus

# A Digression ...

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- Property-Based Testing
  - Test a “property” of a program
  - Properties hold for class of inputs
    - Don't need to write tests one-by-one
    - Randomly generate testcases to check a property

## Examples

- **Idempotence**: Applying a function twice same as applying it once
- **Equivalence**: Optimized function mirrors reference version
- **Well-formedness**:
  - A tree is a BST
  - A list is sorted
- **Relationships Between Functions**:
  - An inserted value is a member of a BST
  - Deleting an value from a BST means it is no longer a member
  - **Inverse**: One function “undoes” another function

# Property-Based Testing

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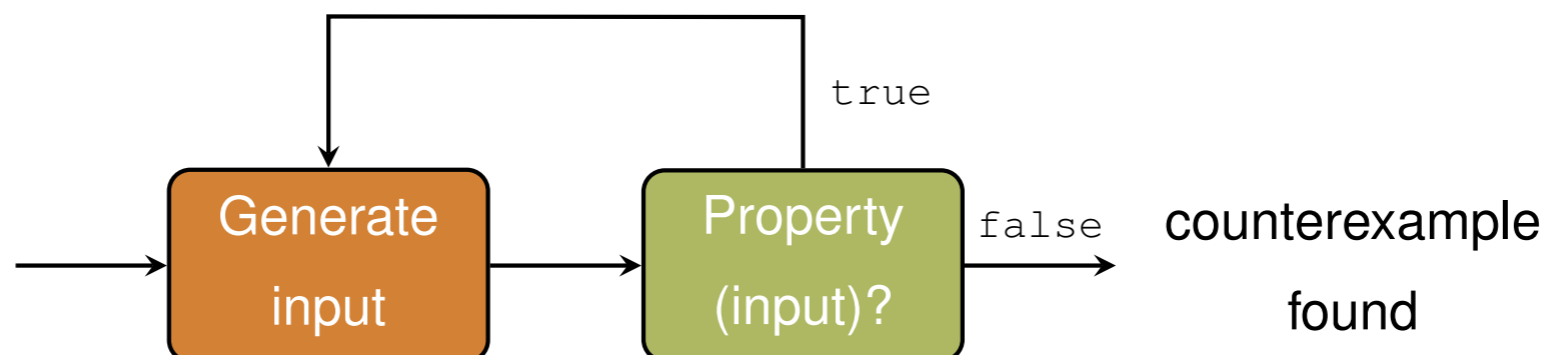
*Quickcheck*: A library for PBT of OCaml programs

Basic Idea:

- Write a random input generator using Quickcheck provided functions
  - Write properties of the program you would like to test
- \* Quickcheck will generate random inputs from the provided generator and check that the provided properties hold over those inputs
- \* When an input fails, Quickcheck will “shrink” it to find a minimal failing test case

Tests are described by

- a **generator** (delivering random input)
- a **property** (Boolean-valued function)



# Property-Based Testing

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- Test that list reverse is *involutive*:  $\text{List.rev} (\text{List.rev } l) == l$  for any list  $l$ .

```
let test =  
  QCheck.Test.make ~count:1000 ~name:"list_rev_is_involutive"  
    QCheck.(list small_nat)  
    (fun l -> List.rev (List.rev l) = l);;
```

*create a generator*

*generate random lists of small numbers*

*check the property holds for each such generated list*

```
QCheck.Test.check_exn test;;
```

```
QCheck_runner.run_tests [test];;
```

*Different mechanisms to run tests*

# Property-Based Testing

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```
type tree = Leaf of int | Node of tree * tree
```

```
let leaf x = Leaf x  
let node x y = Node (x, y)
```

*Generates a size and applies it to the generator returned by fix*

```
let tree_gen = QCheck.Gen.(sized @@ fix  
  (fun self n -> match n with  
  | 0 -> map leaf nat  
  | n ->  
    frequency  
      [1, map leaf nat;  
       2, map2 node (self (n/2)) (self (n/2))])  
  ));;
```

*Generate a natural number and supply it as an argument to leaf*

*Generate two subtrees and supply them as arguments to node*

# Defining a Language

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A “recipe” for defining a language:

1. Syntax:

- What are the valid expressions?

2. Semantics (Dynamic Semantics):

- What is the meaning of valid expressions?

3. Sanity Checks (Static Semantics):

- What expressions have meaningful evaluations?

# Defining a Programming Language

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## 1. Syntax

$atexp ::= scon$	special constant
$\langle op \rangle longvid$	value identifier
$\{ \langle exprow \rangle \}$	record
$let dec in exp end$	local declaration
$( exp )$	
$exprow ::= lab = exp \langle , exprow \rangle$	expression row
$exp ::= atexp$	atomic
$exp atexp$	application (L)
$exp_1 vid exp_2$	infix application
$exp : ty$	typed (L)
$exp handle match$	handle exception
$raise exp$	raise exception
$fn match$	function
$match ::= mrule \langle   match \rangle$	
$mrule ::= pat => exp$	
$dec ::= val tyvarseq valbind$	value declaration
$type typbind$	type declaration
$datatype datbind$	datatype declaratio
$datatype tycon == datatype longtycon$	datatype replicatio
$abstype datbind with dec end$	abstype declaration
$exception exbind$	exception declarati
$local dec_1 in dec_2 end$	local declaration
$open longstrid_1 \dots longstrid_n$	open declaration ( $n$
	empty declaration
$dec_1 \langle ; \rangle dec_2$	sequential declarati
$infix \langle d \rangle vid_1 \dots vid_n$	infix (L) directive
$infixr \langle d \rangle vid_1 \dots vid_n$	infix (R) directive
$nonfix vid_1 \dots vid_n$	nonfix directive
$valbind ::= pat = exp \langle and valbind \rangle$	
$rec valbind$	
$typbind ::= tyvarseq tycon = ty \langle and typbind \rangle$	
$datbind ::= tyvarseq tycon = conbind \langle and datbind \rangle$	
$conbind ::= \langle op \rangle vid \langle of ty \rangle \langle   conbind \rangle$	
$exbind ::= \langle op \rangle vid \langle of ty \rangle \langle and exbind \rangle$	
$\langle op \rangle vid = \langle op \rangle longvid \langle and exbind \rangle$	

## 2. Semantics

$\frac{E \vdash atexp \Rightarrow v}{E \vdash atexp \Rightarrow v}$	(96)
$\frac{E \vdash exp \Rightarrow vid \quad vid \neq \mathbf{ref} \quad E \vdash atexp \Rightarrow v}{E \vdash exp atexp \Rightarrow (vid, v)}$	(97)
$\frac{E \vdash exp \Rightarrow en \quad E \vdash atexp \Rightarrow v}{E \vdash exp atexp \Rightarrow (en, v)}$	(98)
$\frac{s, E \vdash exp \Rightarrow \mathbf{ref}, s' \quad s', E \vdash atexp \Rightarrow v, s'' \quad a \notin \text{Dom}(\text{mem of } s'')}{s, E \vdash exp atexp \Rightarrow a, s'' + \{a \mapsto v\}}$	(99)
$\frac{s, E \vdash exp \Rightarrow :=, s' \quad s', E \vdash atexp \Rightarrow \{1 \mapsto a, 2 \mapsto v\}, s''}{s, E \vdash exp atexp \Rightarrow \{\} \text{ in Val, } s'' + \{a \mapsto v\}}$	(100)
$\frac{E \vdash exp \Rightarrow b \quad E \vdash atexp \Rightarrow v \quad \text{APPLY}(b, v) = v'/p}{E \vdash exp atexp \Rightarrow v'/p}$	(101)
$\frac{E \vdash exp \Rightarrow (match, E', VE) \quad E \vdash atexp \Rightarrow v}{E' + \text{Rec } VE, v \vdash match \Rightarrow v'}$	(102)
$\frac{E \vdash exp \Rightarrow (match, E', VE) \quad E \vdash atexp \Rightarrow v}{E' + \text{Rec } VE, v \vdash match \Rightarrow \text{FAIL}}$	(103)
$\frac{E \vdash exp \Rightarrow v}{E \vdash exp handle match \Rightarrow v}$	(104)
$\frac{E \vdash exp \Rightarrow [e] \quad E, e \vdash match \Rightarrow v}{E \vdash exp handle match \Rightarrow v}$	(105)
$\frac{E \vdash exp \Rightarrow [e] \quad E, e \vdash match \Rightarrow \text{FAIL}}{E \vdash exp handle match \Rightarrow [e]}$	(106)
$\frac{E \vdash exp \Rightarrow e}{E \vdash raise exp \Rightarrow [e]}$	(107)
$\frac{}{E \vdash fn match \Rightarrow (match, E, \{\})}$	(108)

Figure 4: Grammar: Expressions, Matches, Declarations and Bindings

# Lambda Calculus

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- ★ Lambda calculus was developed by Alonzo Church in the 30s
  - A core language in which *everything* is a function

- ★ Syntax of Lambda terms:

$t ::= x$

|  $\lambda x. t$

|  $t t$

Variable

Lambda  
abstraction

Application





# Lambda Calculus

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$$t ::= x$$
$$| \lambda x. t$$
$$| t t$$
$$x \in \text{Var}$$

Identity function:

$$\lambda x. x$$

# Lambda Calculus

PLUS NUMBERS

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$$t ::= x$$
$$\lambda x. t$$
$$t \ t$$
$$n$$
$$t + t$$
$$x \in \text{Var}$$
$$n \in \mathbb{N}$$

Identity function:

$$\lambda x. x$$

Double function:

$$\lambda x. x + x$$

Applying a function:

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

# Lambda Calculus

PLUS NUMBERS

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$$t ::= x$$

		$\lambda x. t$
		$t t$
		$n$
		$t + t$

 $x \in \text{Var}$  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ 

Identity function:

$$\lambda x. x$$

Double function:

$$\lambda x. x + x$$

Applying a function:

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

# Lambda Calculus

PLUS NUMBERS

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$$\begin{array}{l} t ::= x \\ \quad | \lambda x. t \\ \quad | t \ t \\ \quad | n \\ \quad | t + t \end{array}$$
$$x \in \text{Var}$$
$$n \in \mathbb{N}$$

Identity function:

$$\lambda x. x$$

Double function:

$$\lambda x. x + x$$

Applying a function:

$$(\lambda x. \lambda y. x) (\lambda x. x)$$

# Lambda Calculus

PLUS NUMBERS

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$$t ::= x$$

		$\lambda x. t$
		$t t$
		$n$
		$t + t$

 $x \in \text{Var}$  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ 

Identity function:

```
fun x -> x
```

Double function:

```
fun x -> x + x
```

Applying a function:

```
(fun x -> x) 42
```

# Conventions

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$$\begin{array}{l} t ::= x \\ \quad | \lambda x. t \\ \quad | t \ t \\ \quad | n \\ \quad | t + t \\ x \in \text{Var} \\ n \in \mathbb{N} \end{array}$$

- ★ Application associates to the left:

$$s \ t \ u \equiv (s \ t) \ u$$

- ★ Group sequences of lambda abstractions:

$$\lambda x \ y. \ x \equiv \lambda x. \ \lambda y. \ x$$

- ★ Bodies of abstraction extend as far to the right as possible:

$$\begin{array}{l} \lambda x \ y. \ x \ y \ x \equiv \\ \lambda x. \ (\lambda y. \ ((x \ y) \ x)) \end{array}$$

# Variable Scopes

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$$\begin{array}{l} t ::= x \\ \quad | \lambda x. t \\ \quad | t \ t \\ \quad | n \\ \quad | t + t \\ \\ x \in \text{Var} \\ n \in \mathbb{N} \end{array}$$

1. A variable  $x$  is **bound** when it occurs in the body  $t$  of a lambda abstraction  $\lambda x. t$ :
2. A variable  $x$  is **free** if it is not bound by an enclosing lambda expression:
3. A **closed** term has no free variables

# Concept Check

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What the **free** and **bound** variables in these terms?

-  $\lambda x. \lambda y. y \ x \ z$

-  $(\lambda x. \lambda y. y \ x) \ (5+2) \ \lambda x. x+1$

-  $(\lambda x. x) \ (\lambda x. x \ y) \ (\lambda z. (\lambda y. y) \ z)$



# $\alpha$ -Equivalence

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$$\begin{array}{l} t ::= x \\ \quad | \lambda x. t \\ \quad | t \ t \\ \quad | n \\ \quad | t + t \\ x \in \text{Var} \\ n \in \mathbb{N} \end{array}$$

1. Variables are bound to the closest enclosing lambda:
2. The name of bound variables is not important:
3. Expressions  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  that differ only in bound variable names are called  **$\alpha$ -equivalent**

# Concept Check

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Which of these terms are  **$\alpha$ -equivalent**?

$$(\lambda x.x) ((\lambda w.w) ((\lambda z.(\lambda y.y) z))) \equiv_{\alpha} (\lambda x.x) ((\lambda x.x) ((\lambda x.(\lambda x.x) x)))$$

$$(\lambda x.\lambda y.y x) (5+2) \lambda x.x+1 \equiv_{\alpha} (\lambda q.\lambda y.y q) (5+2) (\lambda y.y+1)$$

$$(\lambda x.\lambda y.y x) (5+2) \lambda x.x+1 \equiv_{\alpha} ((\lambda q.\lambda y.y q) (5+2)) (\lambda x.x+1)$$

$$(\lambda x.\lambda y.y x) (5+2) \lambda x.x+1 \equiv_{\alpha} (\lambda x.\lambda y.y x) 7 \lambda x.x+1$$

$$(\lambda x.\lambda y.y x z) \equiv_{\alpha} (\lambda a.\lambda b.b c z)$$

$$(\lambda y.\lambda x.x y q) \equiv_{\alpha} (\lambda x.\lambda y.y x z)$$

# Inference Rules

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To describe the meaning of lambda-calculus expressions, we will use a notation called *inference (or reduction) rules*.

Informally, a rule of the form:

$$\frac{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n}{t_1 \rightarrow t_2}$$

reads:

Expression  $t_1$  evaluates to (or “reduces” to)  $t_2$   
if the constraints defined by  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$  hold

We’ll delve into a more formal characterization of what these rules signify later in the course ...

# Semantics

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## REDUCTION RULES

$$\frac{t_1 \rightarrow t_1'}{t_1 \ t_2 \rightarrow t_1' \ t_2}$$

$$\frac{\text{value } t_1 \quad t_2 \rightarrow t_2'}{t_1 \ t_2 \rightarrow t_1 \ t_2'}$$

$$\frac{\text{value } t_2}{(\lambda x. t_1) \ t_2 \rightarrow [x := t_2] t_1}$$

Read  $[x := t_2] t_1$  as “replace all free occurrences of  $x$  in  $t_1$  with  $t_2$ ”

This rule is called the beta reduction rule

## VALUE RULES

$$\frac{}{\text{value } (\lambda x. t)}$$

# Semantics

PLUS NUMBERS

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REDUCTION RULES

$$\frac{\text{value } t_1 \quad t_2 \rightarrow t_2'}{t_1 \ t_2 \rightarrow t_1 \ t_2'}$$

$$\frac{t_1 \rightarrow t_1'}{t_1 \ t_2 \rightarrow t_1' \ t_2}$$

$$\frac{\text{value } t_2}{(\lambda x. t_1) \ t_2 \rightarrow [x := t_2] t_1}$$

$$\frac{t_2 \rightarrow t_2'}{t_1 + t_2 \rightarrow t_1 + t_2'}$$

$$\frac{t_1 \rightarrow t_1'}{t_1 + t_2 \rightarrow t_1' + t_2}$$

$$\frac{n \in \mathbb{Z} \quad m \in \mathbb{Z}}{n + m \rightarrow n +_{\mathbb{Z}} m}$$

VALUE RULES

$$\frac{}{\text{value } (\lambda x. t)}$$

$$\frac{n \in \mathbb{Z}}{\text{value } n}$$

# Concept Review

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$$(1 + 2) + (5 * 4) \rightarrow$$

$$\frac{n \in \mathbb{Z} \quad m \in \mathbb{Z}}{n+m \rightarrow n +_{\mathbb{Z}} m}$$

EADDCONST

$$\frac{n \in \mathbb{Z} \quad m \in \mathbb{Z}}{n*m \rightarrow n *_{\mathbb{Z}} m}$$

EMULCONST

$$\frac{e_n \rightarrow e_o}{e_n + e_m \rightarrow e_o + e_m}$$

EADDDL

$$\frac{e_n \rightarrow e_o}{e_n * e_m \rightarrow e_o * e_m}$$

EMULL

$$\frac{e_m \rightarrow e_o}{e_n + e_m \rightarrow e_n + e_o}$$

EADDR

$$\frac{e_m \rightarrow e_o}{e_n * e_m \rightarrow e_n * e_o}$$

EMULR

# Substitution

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Need to ensure that we don't inadvertently bind free variables!

$$[x:=s]x \equiv s$$

$$[x:=s]y \equiv y \quad \text{if } x \neq y$$

$$[x:=s]\lambda x.t \equiv \lambda x.t$$

$$[x:=s]\lambda y.t \equiv \lambda y.[x:=s]t \quad \text{where } x \neq y$$

$$[x:=s]t_1 t_2 \equiv [x:=s]t_1 [x:=s]t_2$$

$$[x:=w](\lambda y.x) \equiv \lambda y.w$$

$$[x:=\lambda z.z w](\lambda y.x) \equiv \lambda y z.z w$$

$$[x:=y](\lambda x.x) \equiv \lambda x.x$$

$$[x:=w y z](\lambda z.x z) \equiv \lambda z.(w y z) z$$

$$[x:=w y z](\lambda z.x z) \neq \lambda z.(w y z) z$$

$$\equiv_{\alpha} [x:=w y z](\lambda u.x u) \equiv \lambda u.(w y z) u$$

Not sufficient when  $s$  is an open term


# Semantics

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$$\frac{t_1 \rightarrow t_1'}{t_1 \ t_2 \rightarrow t_1' \ t_2}$$

$$\frac{\text{value } t_1 \quad t_2 \rightarrow t_2'}{t_1 \ t_2 \rightarrow t_1 \ t_2'}$$

$$\frac{\text{value } t_2}{(\lambda x. t_1) \ t_2 \rightarrow [x:=t_2]t_1}$$

$\beta$ -redex 

$(\lambda x. \lambda y. x \ y) (\lambda z. z) (\lambda w. w) \rightarrow$   
 $(\lambda y. (\lambda z. z) \ y) (\lambda w. w) \rightarrow$   
 $(\lambda z. z) (\lambda w. w) \rightarrow$   
 $(\lambda w. w)$

Redexes are highlighted in blue

A term with no redexes is said to be in **normal form**



# Example

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$$\frac{t_1 \rightarrow t_1'}{t_1 \ t_2 \rightarrow t_1' \ t_2}$$

$$\frac{\text{value } t_1 \quad t_2 \rightarrow t_2'}{t_1 \ t_2 \rightarrow t_1 \ t_2'}$$

$$\frac{\text{value } t_2}{(\lambda x. t_1) \ t_2 \rightarrow [x:=t_2]t_1}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & (\lambda x. x) \ (\lambda x. \ x \ (\lambda t \ f. \ f) \ (\lambda t \ f. \ t)) \ (\lambda t \ f. \ t) \\ \rightarrow & (\lambda x. \ x \ (\lambda t \ f. \ f) \ (\lambda t \ f. \ t)) \ (\lambda t \ f. \ t) \\ \rightarrow & (\lambda t \ f. \ t) \ (\lambda t \ f. \ f) \ (\lambda t \ f. \ t) \\ \rightarrow & (\lambda f. \ (\lambda t \ f. \ f)) \ (\lambda t \ f. \ t) \\ \rightarrow & \lambda t \ f. \ f \end{aligned}$$

# Concept Check

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Identify any redexes in the following terms:

$$(\lambda x. x) \quad (\lambda x. x)$$
$$\lambda z. (\lambda x. x) \quad z$$
$$(\lambda x. x) \quad ((\lambda y. y) \quad (\lambda z. (\lambda x. x) \quad z))$$
$$\lambda x \ y. \quad x \ y \quad x$$

# Evaluation Strategies

CALL-BY-VALUE  
AKA STRICT

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Recall that lambda abstractions and numbers are values:



The lambda calculus' values are the functions:

value  $\lambda x.t$

This is called a *call-by-value* semantics: redexes are always the top-most function that is applied to a value:

$$\frac{\frac{t_1 \rightarrow t_1'}{t_1 \ t_2 \rightarrow t_1' \ t_2} \quad \frac{\text{value } t_1 \quad t_2 \rightarrow t_2'}{t_1 \ t_2 \rightarrow t_1 \ t_2'}}{\text{value } t_2}{(\lambda x.t_1) \ t_2 \rightarrow [x:=t_2]t_1}$$

# Examples

PLUS NUMBERS

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$$\begin{aligned} & (\lambda x. x + x) ((\lambda x. x + x) (5 + 3)) \longrightarrow \\ & (\lambda x. x + x) ((\lambda x. x + x) 8) \longrightarrow \\ & (\lambda x. x + x) (8 + 8) \longrightarrow \\ & ((\lambda x. x + x) 16) \longrightarrow \\ & 16 + 16 \longrightarrow \\ & 32 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & (\lambda x. \lambda y. y \ x) (5+2) \ \lambda x. x+1 \\ \longrightarrow & (\lambda x. \lambda y. y \ x) 7 \ \lambda x. x+1 \\ \longrightarrow & (\lambda y. y \ 7) \ \lambda x. x+1 \\ \longrightarrow & (\lambda x. x+1) 7 \\ \longrightarrow & 7+1 \\ \longrightarrow & 8 \end{aligned}$$

# Normalization

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- If every program in a language is guaranteed to always evaluate to a normal term, we say the language is *strongly normalizing*.
  - Formally:
    - **Statement of Strong Normalization:**
    - For any term  $t$ , all sequences of reduction steps starting from  $t$  eventually reaches a normal form  $t'$ .
- Every program in a strongly normalizing language terminates.



- Is the lambda calculus strongly normalizing under beta reduction?
  - Does every expression eventually evaluate to a normal form?
  - No!

This is a diverging computation, i.e. one that does not terminate  
We'll call this  $\Omega$

$$\Omega \equiv (\lambda x. (x x))(\lambda x. (x x))$$

# Evaluation Strategies

CALL-BY-NAME  
AKA LAZY

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An alternative: beta-reductions are performed as soon as possible:

---

$$(\lambda x. t_1) t_2 \rightarrow [x := t_2] t_1$$

$$\frac{t_1 \rightarrow t_1'}{t_1 t_2 \rightarrow t_1' t_2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & (\lambda x. \lambda y. y \ x) (5+2) \lambda x. x+1 \\ \rightarrow & (\lambda y. y \ (5+2)) \lambda x. x+1 \\ \rightarrow & (\lambda x. x+1) (5+2) \\ \rightarrow & (5 + 2) + 1 \\ \rightarrow & 7 + 1 \\ \rightarrow & 8 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & (\lambda f. f \ 7) ((\lambda x. x \ x) \ \lambda y. y) \\ \rightarrow & ((\lambda y. y) (\lambda y. y)) \ 7 \\ \rightarrow & (\lambda y. y) \ 7 \\ \rightarrow & 7 \end{aligned}$$

term  
duplicated!

# Evaluation Strategies

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**CALL-BY-NAME**

$$\begin{aligned} & (\lambda x. x + x)(5 + 6) \\ \rightarrow & (5 + 6) + (5 + 6) \\ \rightarrow & 11 + (5 + 6) \\ \rightarrow & 11 + 11 \\ \rightarrow & 22 \end{aligned}$$

Laziness can lead to duplicated work!

**CALL-BY-VALUE**

$$\begin{aligned} & (\lambda x y. x + x) 5 (5 + 6) \\ \rightarrow & (\lambda y. 5 + 5) (5 + 6) \\ \rightarrow & (\lambda y. 5 + 5) 11 \\ \rightarrow & 5 + 5 \\ \rightarrow & 10 \end{aligned}$$

Strictness can lead to unnecessary work!



# Concept Check

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Evaluate this expression using both CBV and CBN strategies:

$$(\lambda x. x) ((\lambda y. y) (\lambda z. (\lambda x. x) z))$$

(Recall application is left-associative)

# Eta-reduction

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One common additional reduction rule is called **eta reduction**:

$$\frac{x \text{ does not appear in } t}{(\lambda x. t \ x) \rightarrow t}$$

Captures the idea that  $\lambda x. (\lambda y. y \ x)$  and  $\lambda y. y$  are equivalent

# Expressivity

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Church's Thesis (1935): Informally, any function on the natural numbers that can be effectively computed (i.e., can be expressed as an algorithm) can be computed using the  $\lambda$ -calculus. In other words,  $\lambda$ -calculus is equivalent in its expressive power to Turing Machines.

- This property holds for the pure  $\lambda$ -calculus, i.e., the calculus without primitive support for numbers!
- This means that function abstraction and application are sufficiently powerful to model numbers and their operations.

# Booleans

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$\text{true} \equiv \lambda t. \lambda f. t$

$\text{false} \equiv \lambda t. \lambda f. f$

$(\text{true } v \ w) \equiv \frac{((\lambda t. \lambda f. t) \ v) \ w}{\frac{((\lambda f. v) \ w)}{v}}$

$(\text{false } v \ w) \equiv \frac{((\lambda t. \lambda f. f) \ v) \ w}{\frac{((\lambda f. f) \ w)}{w}}$

# Booleans

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- `not`  $\equiv \lambda b. b \text{ false true}$

The function that returns true if b is false, and false if b is true.

- `and`  $\equiv \lambda b. \lambda c. b c \text{ false}$

The function that given two Boolean values (v and w) returns w if v is true and false if v is false. Thus, `(and v w)` yields true only if both v and w are true.

# Church Numerals

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There are no explicit operations to manipulate numbers

Encode numbers using higher-order functions:

- **zero**  $\equiv \lambda s. \lambda z. z$
- **one**  $\equiv \lambda s. \lambda z. (s z)$
- **two**  $\equiv \lambda s. \lambda z. (s (s z))$

Read “s” as successor and “z” as zero

# Church Numerals

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- succ  $\lambda n. \lambda s. \lambda z. s (n s z)$

A function that takes s and z and applies s repeatedly to z.

- plus  $\lambda m. \lambda n. \lambda s. \lambda z. m s (n s z)$

takes two Church numerals and yields another Church numeral that given s and z applies s iterated n times to z and then applies s iterated m times to the result.

plus one two succ zero →

one succ (two succ zero) →

succ (two succ zero) →

succ (succ (succ zero)) →

3

# Naming and substitution

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Although we claimed that lambda calculus essentially manipulates functions (it does), we've spent a lot of time thinking about variables

- substitutions
- free variables
- equivalence upto renaming

Implementations must consider these issues seriously

- Rename bound variables when performing substitutions with “fresh” names.
- Impose a condition that all bound variables be distinct from each other, and other free variables.
- Derive a canonical representation that does not require renaming at all.



# Terms and Contexts

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De Bruijn indices:

- Have variable occurrences “point” directly to their binders rather than referring to them by name.
- Do so by replacing variable occurrences with numbers:

number  $k$  stands for “the variable bound by the  $k^{\text{th}}$  enclosing  $\lambda$ -term

Example:  $\lambda x. \lambda y. x (y x) \equiv \lambda . \lambda . 1 (0 1)$

Similar to static offsets in an activation record or display.

# Examples

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`identity`  $\equiv \lambda x. x \equiv \lambda .0$

`true`  $\equiv \lambda x. \lambda y. x \equiv \lambda.\lambda. 1$

`false`  $\equiv \lambda x. \lambda y. y \equiv \lambda.\lambda. 0$

`two`  $\equiv \lambda s. \lambda z. s (s z) \equiv \lambda . \lambda . (1 (1 0))$

# Contexts

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How do we replace free variables with their binders?

- Assume an ordered context listing all free variables that can occur, and map free variables to their index in this context (counting right to left)

Context:  $a, b$

$a \mapsto 1, b \mapsto 0$

$\lambda x. a \equiv \lambda . 2$

$\lambda x. b \equiv \lambda . 1$

$\lambda x. b (\lambda y. a) \equiv \lambda . 1 (\lambda . 3)$

# Shifting and substitution

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When substituting into a  $\lambda$  term, indices must be adjusted:

$\lambda y. x [z/x]$  in context  $x, y, z$

$[2 \mapsto 0] \lambda. 2 \equiv \lambda. [3 \mapsto 1] 3 \equiv \lambda. 1$

Key point: context becomes longer when substituting inside an abstraction. Need to be careful to adjust free variables, not bound ones.

$\text{shift}(d, c)(k) = k$  if  $k < c$

$k + d$  if  $k \geq c$

$\text{shift}(d, c)(\lambda. t) = (\lambda. \text{shift}(d, c+1)(t))$

$\text{shift}(d, c)(t_1 t_2) = (\text{shift}(d, c)(t_1))(\text{shift}(d, c)(t_2))$

Here  $c$  is a cutoff and  $d$  is the shift amount

$\text{shift}(d, c)$  thus shifts the indices of free variables equal to or above cutoff  $c$  by  $d$

# Example

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$\text{shift}(2,0)(\lambda.\lambda. 1 (0 2))$

$\lambda.\lambda. 1 (0 4)$

$\text{shift}(2,0)(\lambda. 0 1 (\lambda. 0 1 2))$

$\lambda. 0 3 (\lambda. 0 1 4)$

# Substitution

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$$[j \mapsto s] k = \begin{cases} s & \text{if } k = j \\ k & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
$$[j \mapsto s](\lambda .t) = \lambda . [j+1 \mapsto \text{shift}(1,0)s] t$$
$$[j \mapsto s](t_1 t_2) = ([j \mapsto s] t_1) ([j \mapsto s] t_2)$$

Beta-reduction:

$$(\lambda t) v \rightarrow \text{shift}(-1,0)([0 \mapsto \text{shift}(1,0)(v)] t)$$

# Examples

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Assume context  $\langle a, b \rangle$  Then,  $a \mapsto 1$ ,  $b \mapsto 0$

$$\begin{aligned} & [a / b] b \lambda x. \lambda y. b \\ & [0 \mapsto 1] 0 \lambda . \lambda . 2 \\ & 1 \lambda . \lambda . 3 \equiv a \lambda x. \lambda y. a \end{aligned}$$
$$\begin{aligned} & [(a (\lambda z. a)) / b] (b (\lambda x. b)) \\ & [0 \mapsto (1 (\lambda . 2))] (0 \lambda . 1) \\ & 1 (\lambda . 2) (\lambda . (2 (\lambda . 3))) \\ & (a (\lambda z. a)) (\lambda x. (a (\lambda z. a))) \end{aligned}$$

# Examples

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$[a/b] (\lambda b. (b a))$

$[0 \mapsto 1] (\lambda . (0 2))$

$(\lambda . (0 2))$

$(\lambda b. (b a))$

$[a/b] (\lambda a. (b a))$

$[0 \mapsto 1] \lambda . (1 0)$

$\lambda . (2 0)$

$(\lambda a'. a a')$