

Lambda-calculus

and programming language semantics

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ecampus site :

<https://ecampus.paris-saclay.fr/course/view.php?id=199492>

Outline

Lambda-calculus and (functional) programming language semantics

1. Pure lambda calculus
 - ▶ syntax, alpha, beta and eta-conversion
2. Reduction strategies
 - ▶ confluence
3. λ -computability
 - ▶ Representation of data and recursive functions
4. Simply-typed λ -calculus
 - ▶ type safety, normalisation, Curry-Howard correspondence
5. Implementing λ -calculus
6. Extra-course (to be confirmed) : second-order λ -calculus

Evaluation

- ▶ Homework (25%)
- ▶ Final exam (75%)

References



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North-Holland, 1985.



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Introduction to Combinators and Lambda-Calculus.
Cambridge University Press, 1986.



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Masson, 1993.

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Timeline

1870 Which ground for mathematics ?

Sets or functions ?

1920 Moses Schönfinkel, Haskell Curry: combinatory logic.

Basic blocks for building functions.

1936 Alonzo Church: λ -calculus.

Characterization of computable functions.

Equivalent to Turing machines.

Solves the *Entscheidungsproblem* (undecidability of first-order logic).

1970+ λ -calculus grows together with computer science.

Functional programming.

Proof assistants.

Functions

One concept, various notations.

Maths $x \mapsto x$
 $f \mapsto (x \mapsto f(f(x)))$

Caml `fun x -> x`
 `fun f -> (fun x -> f(f x))`

Python `lambda x: x`
 `lambda f: (lambda x: f(f(x)))`

λ -calculus $\lambda x.x$
 $\lambda f.(\lambda x.f(f x))$

Terms (expressions)

Formed with only 3 constructions :

x variable,
reference to a function parameter

$t_1 t_2$ application of a term t_1 to a term t_2 ,
 t_1 is to be seen as a function
and t_2 as its given argument.

$\lambda x.t$ function with a single parameter x ,
whose result is given by t

Functions are defined by their *behaviour*.

Examples

- ▶ Identity

$$\lambda x.x$$

- ▶ Constant functions generator

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

- ▶ Distribution

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

- ▶ What ?

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

Notations

- Instead of $\lambda x_1.(\dots(\lambda x_n.t)\dots)$ we write

$$\lambda x_1 \dots x_n.t$$

- Instead of $(\dots(t u_1)\dots u_n)$ we write

$$t u_1 \dots u_n$$

or even $t \vec{u}$ with $\vec{u} = u_1 \dots u_n$

For instance:

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

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

$$\lambda c x.c$$

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

Curryfication and n -ary functions

There is no cartesian product in core λ -calculus.

- ▶ A function $(x, y) \mapsto t$ with two parameters is encoded as

$$\lambda x. \lambda y. t \quad \text{or} \quad \lambda x y. t$$

- ▶ An application $f(x, y)$ of a binary function to two parameters is encoded as

$$f \ x \ y$$

Functions are *curryfied* (tribute to Haskell Curry).

This encoding allows *partial applications*.

Computing with the λ -calculus

Smallest computing block: a function applied to an argument.

$$(\lambda x.t) u \rightarrow ???$$

Result :

t where each occurrence of x is replaced by u

$$t\{x \leftarrow u\}$$

Sample computation

$$\begin{aligned} & (\lambda x y z. x z (y z)) (\lambda a b. a) t u && \{x \leftarrow \lambda a b. a\} \\ \rightarrow & (\lambda y z. (\lambda a b. a) z (y z)) t u && \{y \leftarrow t\} \\ \rightarrow & (\lambda z. (\lambda a b. a) z (t z)) u && \{z \leftarrow u\} \\ \rightarrow & (\lambda a b. a) u (t u) && \{a \leftarrow u\} \\ \rightarrow & (\lambda b. u) (t u) && \{b \leftarrow t u\} \\ \rightarrow & u && \end{aligned}$$

Exercise : reduction

Compute the result of

$$(\lambda x y. y x) (\lambda a b. b) (\lambda s. s t u)$$

Exercise : combinatory logic

Combinatory logic (Schönfinkel, 1920 - Curry, 1930) uses the five symbols I , K , S , B , C (called “combinators”) and one reduction rule for each.

$$\begin{aligned}I x &\rightarrow x \\K x y &\rightarrow x \\S x y z &\rightarrow x z (y z) \\B x y z &\rightarrow x (y z) \\C x y z &\rightarrow x z y\end{aligned}$$

Find λ -terms equivalent to these combinators

Compute the results of the following expressions

1. $S K K x$
2. $S (K S) K$

Dubious replacements / variable capture

How should we resolve the following replacements?

$$(\lambda x.(\lambda x.x)) y \quad \rightarrow \quad (\lambda x.x)\{x \leftarrow y\}$$

$$(\lambda x.(\lambda y.x)) y \quad \rightarrow \quad (\lambda y.x)\{x \leftarrow y\}$$

Related: what is the live-range of a variable?

Set of terms

The set Λ of the λ -terms is *the smallest set* that contains:

1. x for all variable x
2. $\lambda x.t$ if $t \in \Lambda$
3. $t_1 t_2$ if $t_1 \in \Lambda$ and $t_2 \in \Lambda$

Same definition, stated as an algebraic grammar.

$$t ::= x \mid \lambda x.t \mid t_1 t_2$$

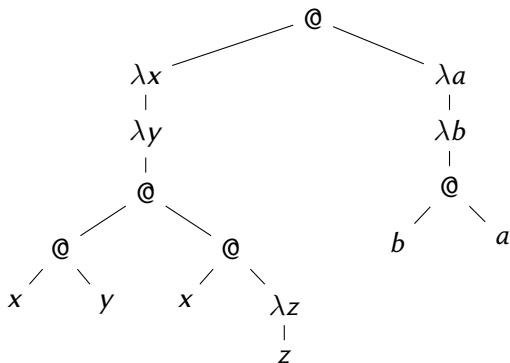
This definition is recursive, and allows *recursive reasoning*.

Term = tree

The expression

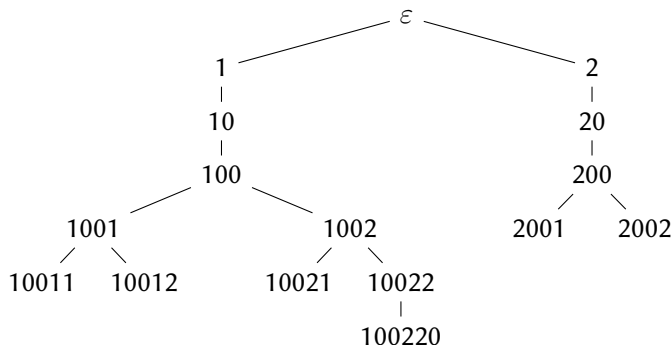
$$\lambda x y. x y (x (\lambda z. z)) (\lambda a b. b a)$$

denotes the tree



Positions in a term

Position: word over the alphabet $\{0, 1, 2\}$
denoting a path from the root.



Set $\text{pos}(t)$ of the positions of the term t

$$\begin{aligned}\text{pos}(x) &= \{\varepsilon\} \\ \text{pos}(\lambda x.t) &= \{\varepsilon\} \cup 0 \cdot \text{pos}(t) \\ \text{pos}(t_1 t_2) &= 1 \cdot \text{pos}(t_1) \cup 2 \cdot \text{pos}(t_2)\end{aligned}$$

Encoding in caml

An algebraic datatype for λ -terms

```
type term =  
  | Var of string  
  | Abs of string * term  
  | App of term * term
```

Encoding of the term $\lambda a b. b a$

```
Abs("a", Abs("b", App(Var "b", Var "a"))))
```

Defining functions on lambda-terms

Recursive definition of f , with three cases:

- ▶ $f(x)$ base
- ▶ $f(\lambda x.t)$ using $f(t)$
- ▶ $f(t_1 t_2)$ using $f(t_1)$ and $f(t_2)$

Examples

$f_{@}$: number of applications

$$f_{@}(x) = 0$$

$$f_{@}(\lambda x.t) = f_{@}(t)$$

$$f_{@}(t_1 t_2) = 1 + f_{@}(t_1) + f_{@}(t_2)$$

f_v : number of variable occurrences

$$f_v(x) = 1$$

$$f_v(\lambda x.t) = f_v(t)$$

$$f_v(t_1 t_2) = f_v(t_1) + f_v(t_2)$$

Defining a function in caml

Coding $f_{@}$

```
let rec nb_app = function  
  | Var _           -> 0  
  | Abs(_, t)      -> nb_app t  
  | App(t1, t2)   -> 1 + nb_app t1 + nb_app t2
```

Coding f_v

```
let rec nb_var = function  
  | Var _           -> 1  
  | Abs(_, t)      -> nb_var t  
  | App(t1, t2)   -> nb_var t1 + nb_var t2
```

Induction principle on lambda-terms

Goal: proving that a property P is true for all λ -terms. Three steps:

- ▶ prove $P(x)$ for any variable x
- ▶ prove $P(\lambda x.t)$ assuming that $P(t)$ is true
- ▶ prove $P(t_1 t_2)$ assuming that $P(t_1)$ and $P(t_2)$ are both true

Example of inductive reasoning

Goal: for any $t \in \Lambda$, $f_v(t) = 1 + f_{@}(t)$

$P(t)$ is $f_v(t) = 1 + f_{@}(t)$

- ▶ Proof of $P(x)$.

By definition, $f_v(x) = 1$ and $f_{@}(x) = 0$

Then $f_v(x) = 1 + f_{@}(x)$

- ▶ Proof of $P(t) \Rightarrow P(\lambda x.t)$.

Assume $f_v(t) = 1 + f_{@}(t)$.

Then $f_v(\lambda x.t) = f_v(t)$ *by definition of f_v*
 $= 1 + f_{@}(t)$ *by induction hypothesis*
 $= 1 + f_{@}(\lambda x.t)$ *by definition of $f_{@}$*

- ▶ Proof of $P(t_1) \wedge P(t_2) \Rightarrow P(t_1 t_2)$.

Assume $f_v(t_1) = 1 + f_{@}(t_1)$ and $f_v(t_2) = 1 + f_{@}(t_2)$.

Then

$f_v(t_1 t_2)$
 $= f_v(t_1) + f_v(t_2)$ *by definition of f_v*
 $= 1 + f_{@}(t_1) + 1 + f_{@}(t_2)$ *by induction hypotheses*
 $= 1 + (1 + f_{@}(t_1) + f_{@}(t_2))$
 $= 1 + f_{@}(t_1 t_2)$ *by definition of $f_{@}$*

A note on variables

The λ -abstraction

$$\lambda x.t$$

introduces a variable x *locally* in t

We call it a *bound variable*

In other words:

- ▶ the name x is not known outside of t
- ▶ seen from the outside, the name x means nothing
- ▶ changing the name x does not affect the outside world

Free variables

Variables that can be seen from “outside”

$$\begin{aligned} \text{fv}(x) &= \{x\} \\ \text{fv}(t_1 t_2) &= \text{fv}(t_1) \cup \text{fv}(t_2) \\ \text{fv}(\lambda x.t) &= \text{fv}(t) \setminus \{x\} \end{aligned}$$

Term with no free variables: *closed term*, or *combinator*

A name which appears both free and bound in a term:

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

Substitution

Replacing *free* occurrences of x in t by u .

$$t\{x \leftarrow u\}$$

Definition: inductively on the structure of t .

$$y\{x \leftarrow u\} = \begin{cases} u & \text{if } x = y \\ y & \text{if } x \neq y \end{cases}$$

$$(t_1 t_2)\{x \leftarrow u\} = t_1\{x \leftarrow u\} t_2\{x \leftarrow u\}$$

$$(\lambda y.t)\{x \leftarrow u\} = \begin{cases} \lambda y.t & \text{if } x = y \\ \lambda y.t\{x \leftarrow u\} & \text{if } x \neq y \text{ and } y \notin \text{fv}(u) \\ \lambda z.t\{y \leftarrow z\}\{x \leftarrow u\} & \text{if } x \neq y \text{ and } y \in \text{fv}(u) \\ & z \text{ new variable} \end{cases}$$

Barendregt's convention

To avoid abuse of names, we consider only terms where

no variable name appears both free and bound in any given subterm

$$\frac{\text{Don't write...} \quad \text{Write... instead}}{\lambda x.(x (\lambda x.x)) \quad \lambda x.(x (\lambda y.y))}$$

Simplified definition for the substitution $t\{x \leftarrow u\}$, relying on the convention (for t and u together)

$$y\{x \leftarrow u\} = \begin{cases} u & \text{si } x = y \\ y & \text{si } x \neq y \end{cases}$$

$$(t_1 t_2)\{x \leftarrow u\} = t_1\{x \leftarrow u\} t_2\{x \leftarrow u\}$$

$$(\lambda y.t)\{x \leftarrow u\} = \lambda y.t\{x \leftarrow u\}$$

(Un)stability of Barendregt's convention

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

Preserving Barendregt's convention over reduction requires
changing some variable names during computation/substitution

Bound variables renaming: α -conversion

$$\lambda x.t =_{\alpha} \lambda y.(t\{x \leftarrow y\}) \quad \text{if } y \notin \text{fv}(t)$$

The α -conversion does not change the meaning of a term:

- ▶ we can apply it *whenever* we need it

The α -conversion is a *congruence*:

$$\begin{aligned} t =_{\alpha} t' &\implies \lambda x.t =_{\alpha} \lambda x.t' \\ t_1 =_{\alpha} t'_1 &\implies t_1 t_2 =_{\alpha} t'_1 t_2 \\ t_2 =_{\alpha} t'_2 &\implies t_1 t_2 =_{\alpha} t_1 t'_2 \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ we can apply it *wherever* we need it

From now on we assume that any term we work with satisfies Barendregt's convention.

Exercise : bound variables and renaming

Rename some variables of these terms so that they obey Barendregt's convention.

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

Compute the result of

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

Exercise : free variables and substitution

Prove that

$$\text{fv}(t\{x \leftarrow u\}) \subseteq (\text{fv}(t) \setminus \{x\}) \cup \text{fv}(u)$$

Are these two sets equal?

β -reduction

Application of a function to an argument

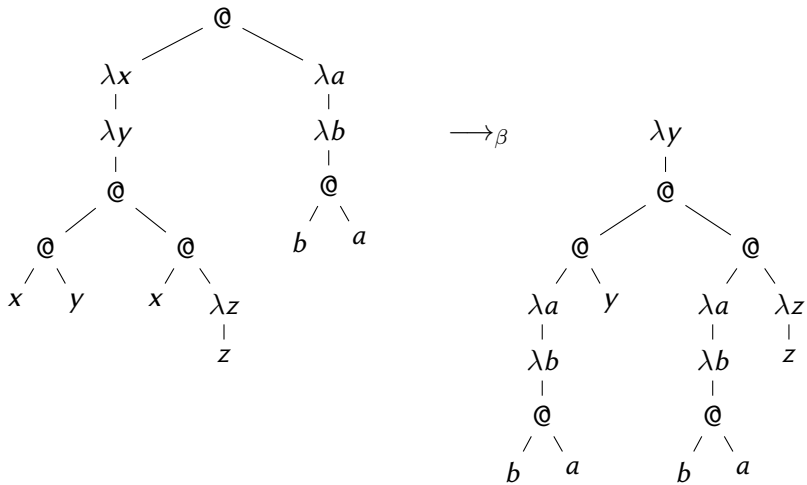
$$(\lambda x.t) u$$

The result is given by the function body, in which the formal parameter x is linked to the argument u .

$$(\lambda x.t) u \quad \rightarrow_{\beta} \quad t\{x \leftarrow u\}$$

where $t\{x \leftarrow u\}$ denotes substitution *without capture*

β -reduction, pictured on trees



β -reduction, programmed in caml

Function for reducing a β -redex

```
let beta_reduction = function  
  | App(Abs(x, t), u) -> subst t x u  
  | _ -> failwith "not_a_beta-redex"
```

Auxiliary function: `subst t x u` computes $t\{x \leftarrow u\}$

```
let rec subst t x u = match t with  
  | Var y          -> if x = y then u else t  
  | App(t1, t2) -> App(subst t1 x u,  
                        subst t2 x u)  
  | Abs(y, t)    -> (* renaming ? *)
```

Congruence

The β -reduction rule can be applied anywhere in a term. This can be formalized using inference rules.

$$\frac{}{(\lambda x.t) u \rightarrow_{\beta} t\{x \leftarrow u\}}$$
$$\frac{t \rightarrow_{\beta} t'}{t u \rightarrow_{\beta} t' u} \qquad \frac{u \rightarrow_{\beta} u'}{t u \rightarrow_{\beta} t u'}$$
$$\frac{t \rightarrow_{\beta} t'}{\lambda x.t \rightarrow_{\beta} \lambda x.t'}$$

Position of a reduction

Write

$$t \xrightarrow{p}_{\beta} t'$$

when t reduces to t' by contracting a redex at position p

$$\frac{}{(\lambda x.t) u \xrightarrow{\varepsilon}_{\beta} t\{x \leftarrow u\}}$$
$$\frac{t \xrightarrow{p}_{\beta} t'}{t u \xrightarrow{1 \cdot p}_{\beta} t' u} \qquad \frac{u \xrightarrow{p}_{\beta} u'}{t u \xrightarrow{2 \cdot p}_{\beta} t u'}$$
$$\frac{t \xrightarrow{p}_{\beta} t'}{\lambda x.t \xrightarrow{0 \cdot p}_{\beta} \lambda x.t'}$$

Justifying a reduction using a derivation tree

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{(\lambda y.z y) x \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} z x}{x ((\lambda y.z y) x) \xrightarrow{2} x (z x)}}{\lambda x.(x ((\lambda y.z y) x)) \xrightarrow{02} \lambda x.(x (z x))}}{(\lambda x.x ((\lambda y.z y) x)) z \xrightarrow{102} (\lambda x.x (z x)) z}$$

Inductive reasoning on a reduction

Since the reduction relation $t \rightarrow_{\beta} t'$ is defined by inference rules, there is an associated inductive reasoning principle. One can prove that a property P is such that

$$\forall t, t', \quad t \rightarrow_{\beta} t' \implies P(t, t')$$

by simply checking the following four points:

- ▶ $P((\lambda x.t)u, t\{x \leftarrow u\})$ for any x, t and u *base case*
- ▶ $P(tu, t'u)$ for any t, t' and u such that $P(t, t')$ *inductive case*
- ▶ $P(tu, t'u')$ for any t, u and u' such that $P(u, u')$ *another inductive case*
- ▶ $P(\lambda x.t, \lambda x.t')$ for any x, t and t' such that $P(t, t')$ *yet another inductive case*

Notice that these four conditions are quite similar to the four inference rules

Inductive reasoning on reduction

Reduction does not generate free variables.

$$\text{If } t \rightarrow t', \text{ then } \text{fv}(t') \subseteq \text{fv}(t)$$

Proof by induction on the derivation of $t \rightarrow t'$,

$P(t, t')$ is $\text{fv}(t') \subseteq \text{fv}(t)$

- ▶ Case $(\lambda x.t) u \rightarrow t\{x \leftarrow u\}$.

We already proved: $\text{fv}(t\{x \leftarrow u\}) \subseteq (\text{fv}(t) \setminus \{x\}) \cup \text{fv}(u)$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Moreover, we have } \text{fv}((\lambda x.t) u) &= \text{fv}(\lambda x.t) \cup \text{fv}(u) \\ &= (\text{fv}(t) \setminus \{x\}) \cup \text{fv}(u) \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Case $t u \rightarrow t' u$ with $t \rightarrow t'$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{fv}(t' u) &= \text{fv}(t') \cup \text{fv}(u) && \text{by definition} \\ &\subseteq \text{fv}(t) \cup \text{fv}(u) && \text{by induction hypothesis} \\ &= \text{fv}(t u) && \text{by definition} \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Case $t u' \rightarrow t u'$ with $u \rightarrow u'$ similar.

- ▶ Case $\lambda x.t \rightarrow \lambda x.t'$ with $t \rightarrow t'$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{fv}(\lambda x.t') &= \text{fv}(t') \setminus \{x\} && \text{by definition} \\ &\subseteq \text{fv}(t) \setminus \{x\} && \text{by induction hypothesis} \\ &= \text{fv}(\lambda x.t) && \text{by definition} \end{aligned}$$

Reduction sequences

\rightarrow_{β} one step

\rightarrow_{β}^* reflexive transitive closure: 0, 1 or many steps

\leftrightarrow_{β} symmetric closure: one step, forward or backward

$=_{\beta}$ reflexive, symmetric, transitive closure (equivalence)

Additional (optional) rule : η

Link between a function f and the function $\lambda x.(f x)$?

- ▶ if f is $\lambda y.t$ it is the same by β -conversion
- ▶ otherwise ?

Depending on what we want to model, can be used in both directions:

- ▶ η -contraction

$$\lambda x.(f x) \rightarrow_{\eta} f$$

- ▶ η -expansion

$$f \rightarrow_{\eta} \lambda x.(f x)$$

In both cases, there is a side condition : $x \notin \text{fv}(f)$

Alternative formalization: reduction in contexts

Focus on the redex r reduced in a term t

$$t = C[r] \quad \rightarrow \quad C[r'] = t'$$

with $r = (\lambda x.u)v$ and $r' = u\{x \leftarrow v\}$

\mathcal{C} is a *context*: a term with *one* hole

$$\mathcal{C} ::= \square \mid \mathcal{C} t \mid t \mathcal{C} \mid \lambda x.\mathcal{C}$$

$\mathcal{C}[u]$ is the result of filling the hole of \mathcal{C} with the term u

Exercise: contexts and subterms

Here are some decompositions of $\lambda x.(x \lambda y.x y)$ into a context and a term $C[u]$

C	\square	$\lambda x.\square$	$\lambda x.(\square \lambda y.x y)$	$\lambda x.(x \square)$...
u	$\lambda x.(x \lambda y.x y)$	$x \lambda y.x y$	x	$\lambda y.x y$...

What are the other possible decompositions?

We already showed that

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

What are the context and the redex associated to this reduction?

Exercise: equivalence of the two formalizations (first way)

Prove that if

$$t \rightarrow_{\beta} t'$$

then there are C , x , u , v such that

$$t = C[(\lambda x.u)v] \quad \text{and} \quad t' = C[u\{x \leftarrow v\}]$$

Pure λ -calculus: summary

Minimalistic formalism

- ▶ Variables
- ▶ λ -abstraction
- ▶ Application
- ▶ α -renaming
- ▶ β -reduction

*Theoretically, we do not need anything else!
see chapter on « λ -computability»*

PCF: *Programming with Computable Functions*

The λ -calculus can be extended with various programming features we want to study. Pick your favorite:

- ▶ integer arithmetic
- ▶ booleans and conditionals
- ▶ data structures
- ▶ recursive functions
- ▶ ...

PCF is a standard package of such extensions

Extending the λ -calculus

Ingredients

- ▶ new syntax
- ▶ reduction rules
- ▶ extended definitions (e.g. substitution)
- ▶ extended proofs

Integer arithmetic

New shapes of terms

$$t ::= \dots$$

	n	integer
	$t_1 \text{ op } t_2$	binary operation \oplus, \ominus, \dots

New base reduction rules

$$n_1 \oplus n_2 \rightarrow n \quad \text{with } n = n_1 + n_2$$

New congruence rules

$$\frac{t_1 \rightarrow t'_1}{t_1 \oplus t_2 \rightarrow t'_1 \oplus t_2} \qquad \frac{t_2 \rightarrow t'_2}{t_1 \oplus t_2 \rightarrow t_1 \oplus t'_2}$$

Extended definitions

$$\text{fv}(t_1 \text{ op } t_2) = \text{fv}(t_1) \cup \text{fv}(t_2)$$

$$(t_1 \text{ op } t_2)\{x \leftarrow u\} = (t_1\{x \leftarrow u\}) \text{ op } (t_2\{x \leftarrow u\})$$

Booleans and conditionals

New shapes of terms

$t ::=$...	
	T	true
	F	false
	isZero(t)	test
	if t_1 then t_2 else t_3	conditional expression

New base rules

isZero(0)	\rightarrow	T	
isZero(n)	\rightarrow	F	$n \neq 0$
if T then t_1 else t_2	\rightarrow	t_1	
if F then t_1 else t_2	\rightarrow	t_2	

+ new congruence rules

Pairs

New shapes of terms

$t ::=$	\dots	
	$\langle t_1, t_2 \rangle$	pair
	$\pi_1(t)$	left projection
	$\pi_2(t)$	right projection

New base rules

$$\pi_1(\langle t_1, t_2 \rangle) \rightarrow t_1$$
$$\pi_2(\langle t_1, t_2 \rangle) \rightarrow t_2$$

+ new congruence rules

Linked lists

New shapes of terms

$t ::=$...	
	Nil	empty list
	$t_1::t_2$	combine an element (head) and a list (tail)
	isNil(t)	test
	hd(t)	head element
	tl(t)	tail of the list

New base rules

isNil(Nil)	\rightarrow	T
isNil($t_1::t_2$)	\rightarrow	F
hd($t_1::t_2$)	\rightarrow	t_1
tl($t_1::t_2$)	\rightarrow	t_2

+ congruence rules

Recursion

New shapes of terms

$$t ::= \dots$$

| $\text{Fix}(t)$ fixed point

New base rules

$$\text{Fix}(t) \rightarrow t(\text{Fix}(t))$$

+ congruence rules

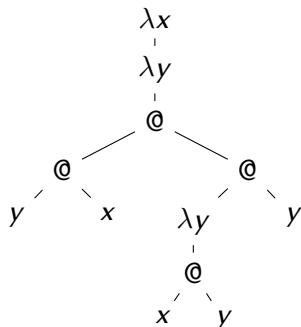
Exercise : extended reduction

Compute the value of the expression

$\text{Fix}(\lambda f s. \text{if isNil}(s) \text{ then } 0 \text{ else } 1 \oplus (f(\text{tl}(s)))) (2::4::8::\text{Nil})$

Use numbers instead of variable names

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



Replace each variable occurrence with the number of λ between the occurrence and its binder

$\lambda. \lambda. 0 \ 1 \ ((\lambda. 2 \ 0) \ 0)$

What we gain: the need for variable renamings disappears

de Bruijn, in caml

λ -terms with de Bruijn indices

```
type term =  
  | Var of int  
  | App of term * term  
  | Abs of term
```

Encoding of the term $\lambda.\lambda.0\ 1\ ((\lambda.2)0)\ 0$

```
Abs(Abs(App(App(Var 0, Var 1),  
              App(Abs(App(Var 2, Var 0)),  
                  Var 0))))))
```

Substitutions and indices

β -reduction

- ▶ substitution of 0 (occurrences bound by the λ in the redex)

$$(\lambda.0 (\lambda.0 1)) t \rightarrow_{\beta} t (\lambda.0 t)$$

- ▶ other indices under the λ -abstraction of the redex should be adjusted (-1)

$$(\lambda.0 1 (\lambda.0 1)) t \not\rightarrow_{\beta} t 1 (\lambda.0 t)$$

- ▶ indices in the substituted argument should also be adjusted each time we cross a λ (+1)

$$(\lambda.0 1 (\lambda.0 1)) 0 \not\rightarrow_{\beta} 0 1 (\lambda.0 0)$$

Substitution, in caml

Substitution of the index i

```
let rec subst t i u = match t with
  | Var j -> if i=j then u
              else if i<j then Var (j-1)
              else t
  | App(t1,t2) -> App(subst t1 i u,
                      subst t2 i u)
  | Abs t -> let u' = shift 0 u in
              Abs (subst t (i+1) u')
```

Auxiliary function: shift indices greater or equal to k

```
let rec shift k u = match u with
  | Var j -> if k<=j then Var (j+1)
              else u
  | App(t1, t2) -> App(shift k t1,
                      shift k t2)
  | Abs t -> Abs (shift (k+1) t)
```

Exercise: de Bruijn notation

Write the following terms using de Bruijn indices

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

Write the following term using de Bruijn indices, then reduce it

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

Homework

Write the proof down carefully and submit it before next course

Prove that if $x \neq y$ and $x \notin fv(v)$ then

$$t\{x \leftarrow u\}\{y \leftarrow v\} = t\{y \leftarrow v\}\{x \leftarrow u\{y \leftarrow v\}\}$$

Find (simple) counter-examples when one hypothesis or the other is not satisfied