

The λ -calculus as a 2-Dimensional Operad



LIS Laboratory



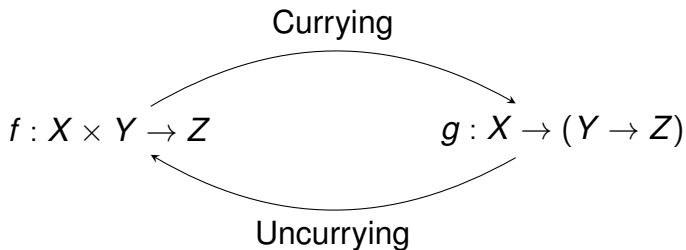
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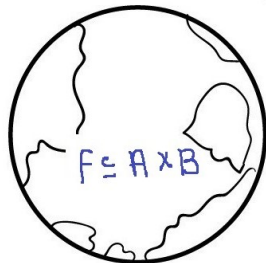
11th of November, 2025

Generalizing currying



Generalizing currying

Category theory



Set theory

Generalizing currying

Generalizing using *cartesian closed categories* (ccc)

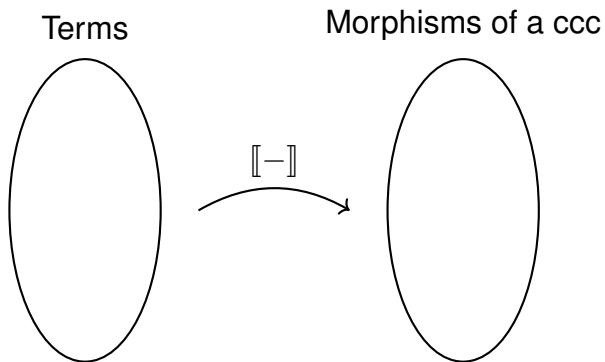
Cartesian product	Binary product
Set of functions	Exponential
One-point set	Terminal object

Generalizing currying

Generalization in a ccc : $\text{Hom}(X \times Y, Z) \cong \text{Hom}(X, Z^Y)$

Proof : Apply the soundness theorem

The soundness theorem



If two terms are $\beta\eta$ -Equal,
then their images by $\llbracket - \rrbracket$ are equal.

- General context
 - Terms and their types
 - $=_{\beta\eta}$ -Equality
 - The typing relation
 - An interpretation
 - How to construct a semantics of types and terms from an interpretation

- From soundness to the research project

Terms and their types

Variables x, y, z, \dots are terms

0 is a term

$\lambda x. \lambda y. x + y$ is a term

Types $A ::= G \mid \text{unit} \mid A \times A \mid A \rightarrow A$

where G is a ground type

Terms and their types

Closed terms

Terms whose variables are all λ -bound

$\lambda x : A. \lambda y : A. x + y$ is a **closed** term

versus

$\lambda x : A. x + y$

The typing relation

Typing relation

The typing relation \vdash relates a list of (variable,type)-pairs to a (term,type)-pair.

$$x : \mathbb{N}, y : \mathbb{N} \vdash x : \mathbb{N}$$

$$x : \mathbb{N} \vdash \lambda y : \mathbb{N}. x : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

$$\vdash \lambda x : \mathbb{N}. \lambda y : \mathbb{N}. x : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow (\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N})$$

$\beta\eta$ -Equality

$((\lambda x : \mathbb{N}.\lambda y : \mathbb{N}.x + y) 3) 1$

$\beta \downarrow$

$(\lambda y : \mathbb{N}.3 + y) 1$

$\beta \downarrow$

$3 + 1$

$\beta \downarrow^*$

4

Let t be a term whose type is functional. Denote its type by $A \rightarrow B$.

$$t$$
$$\eta \downarrow$$
$$\lambda x : A. (t x)$$

$=_{\beta\eta}$ -Equality

- **Relates terms** which have the same type
- Smallest **congruence relation** which contains **β -convertible terms** and **η -convertible terms**.

$=_{\beta\eta}$ -Equality

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Example (Some β -convertible terms)

Simplified β -conversion

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash t : A' \quad \Gamma \vdash t' : A}{(\lambda x : A. t) t' =_{\beta\eta} t[t'/x]}$$

where Γ is a list of (variable,type)-pairs

Interpretation

Interpretation

Let \mathcal{C} be a ccc. An interpretation is a function

$$\llbracket - \rrbracket_{Gnd} : Gnd \rightarrow \text{obj } \mathcal{C}$$

Semantics of types and terms

①

$\llbracket - \rrbracket : T(\text{Gnd}) \rightarrow \text{obj } \mathcal{C}$

$$A \mapsto \begin{cases} \llbracket A \rrbracket_{\text{Gnd}} & \text{if } A \text{ is a ground type} \\ \top & \text{if } A = \text{unit} \\ \llbracket A_1 \rrbracket \times \llbracket A_2 \rrbracket & \text{if } \exists A_1, A_2 \text{ s.t. } A = A_1 \times A_2 \\ \llbracket A_2 \rrbracket^{\llbracket A_1 \rrbracket} & \text{if } \exists A_1, A_2 \text{ s.t. } A = A_1 \rightarrow A_2 \end{cases}$$

Semantics of types and terms

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② **The semantics of types and terms**

$$\llbracket - \rrbracket : \Gamma \vdash t : A \mapsto \llbracket \Gamma \vdash t : A \rrbracket$$

where $\llbracket \Gamma \vdash t : A \rrbracket \in \mathcal{C}(\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket, \llbracket A \rrbracket)$

Soundness

$$t =_{\beta\eta} t' \Rightarrow \llbracket \Gamma \vdash t : A \rrbracket = \llbracket \Gamma \vdash t' : A \rrbracket$$

Goal : construct

- a CCC
- a semantics of types and terms

which give us the converse

Back to soundness

The ccc **F** of types + terms

- Objects : types

The ccc \mathbf{F} of types + terms

- Objects : types
- Let A and B be two types.

$$\mathbf{F}(A, B) = \{t \mid t \text{ is a closed term and } \vdash t : A \rightarrow B\} / =_{\beta\eta}$$

Back to soundness

$\llbracket - \rrbracket$ is the semantics of types and terms associated to

$$\begin{aligned} o_{Gnd} : Gnd &\rightarrow \text{obj } \mathbf{F} \\ G &\mapsto G \end{aligned}$$

Research project

$$\llbracket \Gamma \vdash t : A \rrbracket = \llbracket \Gamma \vdash t' : A \rrbracket \Leftrightarrow t =_{\beta\eta} t'$$

Step 1 :

New approaches

Multicategorical

2-dimensional

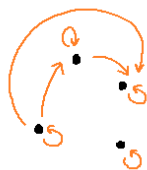
To encompass more terms

To encompass reductions

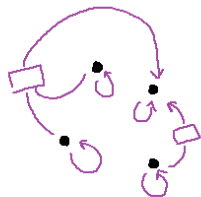
$$\text{Goal : } \llbracket \alpha : t \rightarrow t' \rrbracket = \llbracket \beta : t \rightarrow t' \rrbracket \Leftrightarrow \alpha =_{ST} \beta$$

Step 2 : Formalization

A multicategorical, 2-dim. structure



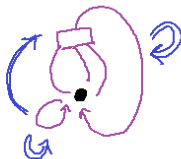
Category



Multicategory



Operad



2-Operad

Summary

Characterization of equality between programs/terms

↓ Research project

**Characterization of equality between program
executions/reductions**

Multicategorical approach

2-dimensional approach

Thank you!