

# The $\lambda$ -calculus: from simple types to non-idempotent intersection types

## Day 2: The untyped $\lambda$ -calculus

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# Outline

- 1 The syntax and the operational semantics of the untyped  $\lambda$ -calculus
- 2 Programming with the untyped  $\lambda$ -calculus
- 3 Conclusion, exercises and bibliography

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## The $\lambda$ -calculus beyond simple types

Term and  $\beta$ -reduction of the simply typed  $\lambda$ -calculus can be defined without types.

↪ Let us explore the world of the  $\lambda$ -calculus without types.

- 1 What do we gain?
- 2 What do we lose?

We can freely apply  $s$  to  $t$  to get  $st$ , without requiring  $s : A \Rightarrow B$  or  $t : A$ .

Consider the term  $\lambda x.xx$ . It not a term for the simply typed  $\lambda$ -calculus.

- Why is there no  $A$  such that  $\vdash \lambda x.xx : A$  is derivable?
- $(\lambda x.xx)(\lambda x.xx) \rightarrow_{\beta} (xx)\{\lambda x.xx/x\} = (\lambda x.xx)(\lambda x.xx) \rightarrow_{\beta} \dots$  (normalization fails).

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# The untyped $\lambda$ -calculus

**Terms:**  $s, t ::= x$  (variable) |  $\lambda x. t$  (abstraction) |  $st$  (application).

The **free variables** of a term  $t$  are the variables that are not bound to a  $\lambda$ . Formally,

$$\text{fv}(x) = \{x\} \quad \text{fv}(st) = \text{fv}(s) \cup \text{fv}(t) \quad \text{fv}(\lambda x. t) = \text{fv}(t) \setminus \{x\}$$

Terms are identified up to renaming of bound variables ( **$\alpha$ -equivalence**), e.g.  $\lambda x. x = \lambda y. y$

**$\beta$ -reduction** ( $t\{s/x\}$  is the capture-avoiding substitution of  $s$  for the free occurrences of  $x$  in  $t$ ):

$$\text{(the term on the left is a } \beta\text{-redex)} \quad (\lambda x. t)s \rightarrow_{\beta} t\{s/x\}$$

Substitution  $t\{s/x\}$  should be defined carefully to **avoid capture of variables**.

$$(\lambda x. yx)\{x/y\} \neq \lambda x. xx \quad \text{but} \quad (\lambda x. yx)\{x/y\} = (\lambda z. yz)\{x/y\} = \lambda z. xz$$

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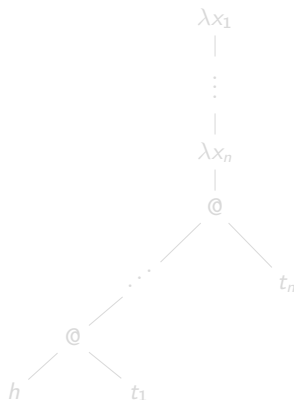
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## The structure of a term.

**Rmk.** Every term can be written in a **unique** way as

$$\lambda x_1 \dots \lambda x_n . h t_1 \dots t_m \quad \text{with } m, n \in \mathbb{N}$$

where  $h$  is either a variable (**head** variable) or a  $\beta$ -redex (**head**  $\beta$ -redex).

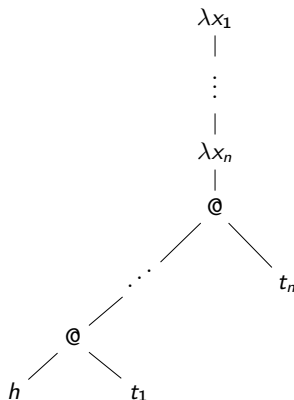


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## Different notions of reduction

(Full)  $\beta$ -reduction  $\rightarrow_{\beta}$  fires a  $\beta$ -redex anywhere in a term. Formally,

$$\frac{}{(\lambda x.t)s \rightarrow_{\beta} t\{s/x\}} \quad \frac{t \rightarrow_{\beta} t'}{\lambda x.t \rightarrow_{\beta} \lambda x.t'} \quad \frac{t \rightarrow_{\beta} t'}{ts \rightarrow_{\beta} t's} \quad \frac{t \rightarrow_{\beta} t'}{st \rightarrow_{\beta} st'}$$

Head  $\beta$ -reduction  $\rightarrow_{h\beta}$  fires a  $\beta$ -redex only in the “head” of a term. Formally,

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## Properties of different reductions

**Rmk.** Reductions  $\rightarrow_{h\beta}$  and  $\rightarrow_{l\beta}$  are **deterministic** (they can fire at most one redex). So:

If  $t \rightarrow_r s_1$  and  $t \rightarrow_r s_2$  then  $s_1 = s_2$ , for  $r \in \{h\beta, l\beta\}$ .

Reduction  $\rightarrow_\beta$  is not deterministic, it chooses among several  $\beta$ -redexes to fire in a term.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & ((\lambda z.z)y)((\lambda z.z)y) \\ & \nearrow & \beta \\ \text{outermost } \beta\text{-redex} & & \\ (\lambda x.xx)(\underbrace{(\lambda z.z)y}_{\text{inner } \beta\text{-redex}}) & \xrightarrow{\beta} & (\lambda x.xx)z \\ & & \beta \end{array}$$

**Notation.**  $t \rightarrow^* s$  means that  $t = t_0 \xrightarrow{\text{for some } n \in \mathbb{N}} t_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow t_n = s$  (in particular,  $t = s$  for  $n = 0$ ).

### Theorem (Confluence)

If  $t \rightarrow_\beta^* s_1$  and  $t \rightarrow_\beta^* s_2$ , then there is a term  $r$  such that  $s_1 \rightarrow_\beta^* r$  and  $s_2 \rightarrow_\beta^* r$ .

**Def.** Let  $r \in \{\beta, l\beta, h\beta\}$ . A term  $t$  is  **$r$ -normal** if there is no  $s$  such that  $t \rightarrow_r s$ .

### Corollary (Uniqueness of normal form)

If  $t \rightarrow_\beta^* s_1$  and  $t \rightarrow_\beta^* s_2$  where  $s_1$  and  $s_2$  are  $\beta$ -normal, then  $s_1 = s_2$ .

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## Properties of different reductions

**Rmk.** Reductions  $\rightarrow_{h\beta}$  and  $\rightarrow_{l\beta}$  are **deterministic** (they can fire at most one redex). So:

If  $t \rightarrow_r s_1$  and  $t \rightarrow_r s_2$  then  $s_1 = s_2$ , for  $r \in \{h\beta, l\beta\}$ .

Reduction  $\rightarrow_{\beta}$  is not deterministic, it chooses among several  $\beta$ -redexes to fire in a term.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & ((\lambda z.z)y)((\lambda z.z)y) \\ & \nearrow & \beta \\ \overbrace{(\lambda x.xx)(\lambda z.z)y}^{\text{outermost } \beta\text{-redex}} & \xrightarrow{\beta} & (\lambda x.xx)z \\ \underbrace{(\lambda z.z)y}_{\text{inner } \beta\text{-redex}} & & \end{array}$$

**Notation.**  $t \rightarrow^* s$  means that  $t = t_0 \xrightarrow{\text{for some } n \in \mathbb{N}} t_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow t_n = s$  (in particular,  $t = s$  for  $n = 0$ ).

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If  $t \rightarrow_{\beta}^* s_1$  and  $t \rightarrow_{\beta}^* s_2$ , then there is a term  $r$  such that  $s_1 \rightarrow_{\beta}^* r$  and  $s_2 \rightarrow_{\beta}^* r$ .

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## Normalization, strong normalization and divergence

**Def.** Let  $t$  be a term and  $r \in \{\beta, I\beta, h\beta\}$ .

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## Fixed point combinator

**Def.** A **fixed point** of a term  $t$  is a term  $s$  such that  $s \rightarrow_{\beta}^* ts$ .

A **fixed point combinator** is a term  $Y$  such that  $Yt$  is a fixed point of  $t$ , for every term  $t$ .

### Proposition (Fixed point combinator)

Let  $A = \lambda a. \lambda f. f(aaf)$  and  $\Theta = AA$ . Then,  $\Theta$  is a fixed point combinator.

**Proof.**  $\Theta = (\lambda a. \lambda f. f(aaf))A \rightarrow_{h\beta} \lambda f. f(AAf) = \lambda f. f(\Theta f)$ . Therefore, for every term  $t$ ,

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# Outline

- 1 The syntax and the operational semantics of the untyped  $\lambda$ -calculus
- 2 Programming with the untyped  $\lambda$ -calculus
- 3 Conclusion, exercises and bibliography

## Encoding Booleans

**Goal.** Encode propositional classical logic in the untyped  $\lambda$ -calculus.

We choose (arbitrarily) two terms to represent **true**  $\top$  and **false**  $\perp$ .

$$\top = \lambda x.\lambda y.x \quad \perp = \lambda x.\lambda y.y$$

**Rmk.** For every term  $s, t$ , we have  $\top s t \rightarrow_{h\beta}^* s$  and  $\perp s t \rightarrow_{h\beta}^* t$ .

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- ② To encode the AND:  $\underline{and} s t \rightarrow_{\beta}^* \top$  if  $s = t = \top$ , but  $\underline{and} s t \rightarrow_{\beta}^* \perp$  if  $s = \perp$  or  $t = \perp$ .

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- 3 To encode the OR:  $\underline{or} s t \rightarrow_{\beta}^* \perp$  if  $s = t = \perp$ , but  $\underline{or} s t \rightarrow_{\beta}^* \top$  if  $s = \top$  or  $t = \top$ .

$$\underline{or} =$$

- 4 To encode the IF-THEN-ELSE:  $\underline{if} r s t \rightarrow_{\beta}^* s$  if  $r = \top$  and  $\underline{if} r s t \rightarrow_{\beta}^* t$  if  $r = \perp$ .

$$\underline{if} =$$



## Encoding Booleans

**Goal.** Encode propositional classical logic in the untyped  $\lambda$ -calculus.

We choose (arbitrarily) two terms to represent **true**  $\top$  and **false**  $\perp$ .

$$\top = \lambda x.\lambda y.x \quad \perp = \lambda x.\lambda y.y$$

**Rmk.** For every term  $s, t$ , we have  $\top s t \rightarrow_{h\beta}^* s$  and  $\perp s t \rightarrow_{h\beta}^* t$ .

- 1 We look for a term to encode the NOT:  $\underline{\text{not}} \top \rightarrow_{\beta}^* \perp$  and  $\underline{\text{not}} \perp \rightarrow_{\beta}^* \top$ .

$$\underline{\text{not}} = \lambda p.p \perp \top$$

- 2 To encode the AND:  $\underline{\text{and}} s t \rightarrow_{\beta}^* \top$  if  $s = t = \top$ , but  $\underline{\text{and}} s t \rightarrow_{\beta}^* \perp$  if  $s = \perp$  or  $t = \perp$ .

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$$\underline{\text{if}} = \lambda p.\lambda a.\lambda b.p a b$$

## Encoding arithmetic

**Goal.** Encode the arithmetic in the untyped  $\lambda$ -calculus.

We choose a term  $\underline{n}$  to represent any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  (**Church numeral**).

$$\underline{n} = \lambda f. \lambda x. f^n x = \lambda f. \lambda x. \underbrace{f(f \dots (f x) \dots)}_{n \text{ times } f} \quad (\text{in particular, } \underline{0} = \lambda f. \lambda x. x)$$

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## More about encoding arithmetic: recursion

We can encode the functions:  $iszero: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{\perp, \top\}$  testing if a natural number is 0 or not, and the predecessor  $pred: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  such that  $pred(0) = 0$  and  $pred(n + 1) = n$ .

$$\underline{iszero} = \lambda n.n(\lambda x.\underline{\perp})\underline{\top} \qquad \underline{iszero} \ n \rightarrow_{\beta}^* \begin{cases} \underline{\top} & \text{if } n = 0 \\ \underline{\perp} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \qquad \underline{pred} = \dots$$

**Question.** How can the  $\lambda$ -calculus represent the **factorial** (typical recursive function)?

$$fact(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 0 \\ n \times fact(n - 1) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Let us rewrite the definition in a  $\lambda$ -calculus-like style, using IF-THEN-ELSE and mult:

$$F := \lambda f.\lambda n.if(\underline{iszero} \ n) \ \underline{\perp} \ (\underline{mult} \ n \ (f \ (\underline{pred} \ n)))$$

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## The untyped $\lambda$ -calculus is Turing-complete!

**Def.** Let  $f: \mathbb{N}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  be partial. A term  $\Phi$  **represents**  $f$  when, for all  $k_1, \dots, k_n \in \mathbb{N}$ :

- 1 if  $f(k_1, \dots, k_n)$  is undefined, then  $\Phi \underline{k_1} \dots \underline{k_n}$  is not  $h\beta$ -normalizing;
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### Theorem (Representability)

Every partial recursive function  $f: \mathbb{N}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is representable by a term in the  $\lambda$ -calculus.

**Rmk.** According to Church's thesis, the  $\lambda$ -calculus can represent everything is computable.

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## The untyped $\lambda$ -calculus is Turing-complete!

**Def.** Let  $f: \mathbb{N}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  be partial. A term  $\Phi$  **represents**  $f$  when, for all  $k_1, \dots, k_n \in \mathbb{N}$ :

- 1 if  $f(k_1, \dots, k_n)$  is undefined, then  $\Phi \underline{k_1} \dots \underline{k_n}$  is not  $h\beta$ -normalizing;
- 2 if  $f(k_1, \dots, k_n) = k \in \mathbb{N}$ , then  $\Phi \underline{k_1} \dots \underline{k_n} \rightarrow_{\beta}^* \underline{k}$ .

### Theorem (Representability)

Every partial recursive function  $f: \mathbb{N}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is representable by a term in the  $\lambda$ -calculus.

**Rmk.** According to Church's thesis, the  $\lambda$ -calculus can represent everything is computable.

**Rmk.** If  $\Phi$  represents a partial function  $f: \mathbb{N}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ , then  $\Phi$  could have whatever behavior when applied to arguments  $t_1, \dots, t_k$  that are **not** Church numerals.

**Rmk.** In Point 1 of the definition,  $h\beta$ -normalizing can be replaced by  $\beta$ -normalizing.

# Outline

- 1 The syntax and the operational semantics of the untyped  $\lambda$ -calculus
- 2 Programming with the untyped  $\lambda$ -calculus
- 3 Conclusion, exercises and bibliography

# Bibliography

- For more about the untyped  $\lambda$ -calculus:
  - 🌐 Jean-Louis Krivine. *Lambda-Calculus. Types and Models*. Ellis Horwood. 1990. [Chapters 1-2] <https://www.irif.fr/~krivine/articles/Lambda.pdf>
  - 🌐 Peter Selinger. *Lecture Notes on the Lambda Calculus*. vol. 0804, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Ottawa. 2008 [Chapters 2-3] <http://www.mathstat.dal.ca/~selinger/papers/lambdanotes.pdf>
  - 📖 Henk P. Barendregt. *The Lambda-Calculus. Its Syntax and Semantics*. Studies in Logic and the Foundations of Mathematics, vol. 103, North Holland, 1984. [Chapters 2-3, 6, 8]
- For an elegant proof of the confluence of  $\beta$ -reduction:
  - 📄 Masako Takahashi. *Parallel Reductions in  $\lambda$ -Calculus*. Information and Computation, vol. 118, issue 1, pages 120-127. 1995. <https://doi.org/10.1006/inco.1995.1057>