

# *Lambda Calculus and Types*

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Lecture 4: Simple Types

## Some Words about Types

- The untyped  $\lambda$ -calculus is very unconstrained, allowing e.g. self-application ( $xx$ ). As a result:
  - The calculus is very expressive (see Definability Theorem),
  - but it is also *ill-behaved* (see behaviour of  $\Omega$ ).
- The solution, due to Curry and Church following Russell is to introduce *types*. The idea is that:

*Types are there to stop you doing bad things*

- In particular, types impose the intuitive distinction between a *function* and its *argument*.
- It has turned out that types constitute one of the most fruitful *positive* ideas in Computer Science!

- There are very many type systems for the  $\lambda$ -calculus.  
(See H. P. Barendregt's book *Lambda Calculi With Types*, available online.)
- We are only interested in **simple** (no polymorphism) type systems, to which there are two non-equivalent approaches:
  - Curry's "type inference/assignment" system;
  - Church's "typed terms" system.

We focus on the former and proceed to define a *simple-types system*  $\lambda_{\rightarrow}^A$  which will consist of:

- A set of types **Typ**.
- A set of terms  $\Lambda$  (i.e. the set of  $\lambda$ -terms).
- A *typing relation*  $\vdash$  which will allow us to assign types to (some) terms, i.e. prove *typing judgements* of the form:

$$x_1 : A_1, \dots, x_n : A_n \vdash s : A$$

# Types

We assume a countable set  $\mathbb{A}$  of **type variables**, distinct from  $\lambda$ -variables. From them we build **Typ**, the set of **types**, by the following rules.

$$\frac{}{a \in \mathbf{Typ}} \quad a \in \mathbb{A} \qquad \frac{A \in \mathbf{Typ} \quad B \in \mathbf{Typ}}{(A \rightarrow B) \in \mathbf{Typ}}$$

Notes:

- We use lowercase Roman letters  $a, b, c$ , etc, to range over type variables.
- We use uppercase Roman letters  $A, B, C$ , etc, to range over types.
- We usually omit outermost parentheses:  $A \rightarrow B \equiv (A \rightarrow B)$ .
- We use the convention that, unless otherwise bracketed, nested arrows associate to the **right**:

$$A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \equiv (A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow C))$$

- Types which are type variables are sometimes called **atomic** types.
- Types of the form  $A \rightarrow B$  are called **composite types**, **function types**, etc.

A **type context** is a finite (possibly empty) set of  $\lambda$ -variable/type pairs, i.e:

$$\Gamma = \{ x_1 : A_1, \dots, x_n : A_n \}$$

Notes:

- We use uppercase Greek letters  $\Gamma, \Delta, \Delta'$ , etc, to range over type contexts.
- The  $x_i$ 's must be **distinct**.  
Thus, contexts can be viewed as *finite partial functions*:  $\mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathbf{Typ}$ .  
In fact, when  $(x : A) \in \Gamma$  we say that  $x$  is *assigned the type  $A$  in  $\Gamma$* .
- When  $\Gamma = \{ x_1 : A_1, \dots, x_n : A_n \}$  we write  $\text{Subj}(\Gamma)$  for the set of variables  $\{ x_1, \dots, x_n \}$ . These are the **subjects** of the context  $\Gamma$ .
- We write  $\Gamma, \Gamma'$  for the context  $\Gamma \cup \Gamma'$ , where it is assumed that  $\text{Subj}(\Gamma)$  and  $\text{Subj}(\Gamma')$  are disjoint.
- We usually omit the empty context altogether from typing judgements.

# Typing Rules

We say that a  $\lambda$ -term  $s$  is **typable** if there is a type  $A$  and context  $\Gamma$  such that:

$$\Gamma \vdash s : A$$

We define the typing relation by the following rules.

$$\text{(var)} \frac{}{\Gamma, x : A \vdash x : A} \quad \text{(app)} \frac{\Gamma \vdash s : B \rightarrow A \quad \Gamma \vdash t : B}{\Gamma \vdash st : A} \quad \text{(abs)} \frac{\Gamma, x : B \vdash s : A}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x.s : B \rightarrow A}$$

Notes:

- We apply the **variable convention** specifically as follows:

*In any typing judgement  $\Gamma \vdash s : A$ , we silently  $\alpha$ -convert  $s$  so that its bound variables are not the same as the subjects of  $\Gamma$ .*

# Examples

- For any types  $A$  and  $B$ :

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{}{x : A, y : B \vdash x : A}}{x : A \vdash \lambda y. x : B \rightarrow A}}{\vdash \lambda x y. x : A \rightarrow B \rightarrow A}}$$

We call the above tree a *derivation* of  $\vdash \lambda x y. x : A \rightarrow B \rightarrow A$ .

- For any  $A, B, C$  and  $D$ :

$$\vdash \lambda x y z. z(\lambda p. p) : A \rightarrow B \rightarrow ((C \rightarrow C) \rightarrow D) \rightarrow D$$

- Thus,  $\lambda x y. x$  and  $\lambda x y z. z(\lambda p. p)$  are typable. Other examples of typable terms:

$$x, \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{k}, (\lambda x. x)(\lambda y. y), \lceil n \rceil$$

- Some examples of untypable terms:

$$xx, \lambda x. xx, \mathbf{\Omega}, (\lambda x y. y)\mathbf{\Omega}, \mathbf{y}$$

**Weakening.** If  $\Gamma \vdash s : A$  and  $\Gamma \subseteq \Gamma'$  then  $\Gamma' \vdash s : A$ .

**Subject Construction.** Consider the derivation tree of  $\Gamma \vdash s : A$ .

- If  $s$  is a variable, say  $s \equiv x$ , then the whole derivation is:

$$\overline{\Gamma \vdash x : A}$$

- If  $s$  is an application, say  $s \equiv pq$ , then the final step of the derivation must be of the form:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash p : B \rightarrow A \quad \Gamma \vdash q : B}{\Gamma \vdash pq : A}$$

for some type  $B$

- If  $s$  is an abstraction, say  $s \equiv \lambda x.p$  with  $x \notin \text{Subj}(\Gamma)$ , then  $A$  must be of the form  $C \rightarrow D$  and the final step of the derivation must be of the form:

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : C \vdash p : D}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x.p : C \rightarrow D}$$



## Derivations are not Unique

- The Subject Construction property tells us that the structure of  $s$  determines much of the derivation  $\Gamma \vdash s : A$ .
- However, not quite all is determined:

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{x : B \rightarrow B, y : A \vdash y : A}{x : B \rightarrow B \vdash \lambda y. y : A \rightarrow A}}{\vdash \lambda x y. y : (B \rightarrow B) \rightarrow A \rightarrow A} \quad \frac{z : B \vdash z : B}{\vdash \lambda z. z : B \rightarrow B}}{\vdash (\lambda x y. y)(\lambda z. z) : A \rightarrow A}$$

(the type  $B$ , not appearing anywhere in the conclusion, is arbitrary).

- Nevertheless, it is the case that derivations *are* unique when the term in the conclusion is a  $\beta$ -normal form.

# Principal Typing

- Typable terms do not have unique types. For example,

$$\frac{\frac{x : A, y : B \vdash x : A}{x : A \vdash \lambda y. x : B \rightarrow A}}{\vdash \lambda x y. x : A \rightarrow B \rightarrow A}$$

is a valid derivation for **all** types  $A$  and  $B$ .

- But we cannot find a derivation of:

$$\vdash \lambda x y. x : A \rightarrow A \quad \text{nor of:} \quad \vdash \lambda x y. x : A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \quad (\text{if } C \not\equiv A)$$

- One show that every typable term has a **principal type**, of which every other type it can be given is an **instance**.

In the case of  $\lambda x y. x$ , the principal type is  $a \rightarrow b \rightarrow a$ .

- In fact, one can construct a **principal typing algorithm** which, given a term  $s$ :
  - if  $s$  is typable then it computes a principal type for  $s$ ,
  - or correctly states that  $s$  is not typable.

The algorithm is overly intricate to be covered here...

# A Substitution Lemma

**Lemma.** For any  $x \notin FV(t) \cup \text{Subj}(\Gamma)$ ,

- if  $\Gamma, x : B \vdash s : A$  and  $\Gamma \vdash t : B$  then  $\Gamma \vdash s[t/x] : A$ .

*Proof.* By induction on  $s$ .

If  $s \equiv y \neq x$  then  $\Gamma, x : B \vdash y : A$  implies  $\Gamma \vdash y : A$ , which is  $\Gamma \vdash s[t/x] : A$ .

If  $s \equiv x$  then it must be the case that  $A \equiv B$  and, therefore,  $\Gamma \vdash s[t/x] : A$  is in fact  $\Gamma \vdash t : B$ .

If  $s \equiv pq$  then, by subject construction, the final step in the derivation for  $s$  must be:

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : B \vdash p : C \rightarrow A \quad \Gamma, x : B \vdash q : C}{\Gamma, x : B \vdash pq : A}$$

for some type  $C$ . Applying the induction hypothesis we obtain:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash p[t/x] : C \rightarrow A \quad \Gamma \vdash q[t/x] : C}{\Gamma, x : B \vdash p[t/x]q[t/x] : A \quad (\equiv s[t/x])}$$

The final case,  $s \equiv \lambda y.p$ , is dealt with in a similar manner. □

# Subject Reduction Theorem

**Theorem.** *If  $\Gamma \vdash s : A$  and  $s \rightarrow_{\beta} t$  then  $\Gamma \vdash t : A$ .*

*Proof.* Use induction on the derivation of  $s \rightarrow_{\beta} t$  applying the Substitution Lemma in the case of the last rule in the derivation being  $(\beta)$ . □

Note, though, that **Subject Expansion** does not hold:

$$\Gamma \vdash t : A \wedge s \rightarrow_{\beta} t \not\Rightarrow \Gamma \vdash s : A$$

If terms which receive no type are considered “unsafe”, then it would be worrying for “safe” terms to reduce to “unsafe” terms (although the converse might happen).

# $\beta$ -reduction in the Simply Typed Lambda-calculus

We can now bring the theory of reduction from the untyped language into  $\lambda_{\rightarrow}^A$ .  
Everything goes through:

- There is the same definition for  **$\beta$ -reduction**.  
The Subject Reduction Theorem ensures that it interacts properly with types.
- The **Church-Rosser** proof carries over.
- $\beta$ -conversion is still **consistent** (the types don't affect it).

However, as the converse to the Subject Reduction Theorem (*Subject Expansion*) does *not* hold,  $\beta$ -conversion does not interact properly with the type system.

This might be unsatisfactory from a theoretical point of view, and people have considered ***Type Assignment with Equality*** systems.

# Strong Normalisation

- Recall that a term  $s \in \Lambda$  is **typable** if there is a context  $\Gamma$  and a type  $A$  such that:

$$\Gamma \vdash s : A$$

- A term  $s \in \Lambda$  is **strongly normalising** (w.r.t.  $\beta$ -reduction) if there is no infinite reduction sequence

$$s_0 \rightarrow_{\beta} s_1 \rightarrow_{\beta} s_2 \rightarrow_{\beta} \dots$$

such that  $s \equiv s_0$ .

Thus, if  $s$  is SN then the *reduction tree of  $s$*  is finite (by König's Lemma).  
In particular we can define the maximum length of path to normal form:

$$\nu(s) = \max\{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid \exists t_0, \dots, t_n. s \equiv t_0 \rightarrow_{\beta} t_1 \rightarrow_{\beta} \dots \rightarrow_{\beta} t_n \wedge t_n \text{ in } \beta\text{-nf}\}$$

**Theorem.** *All typable terms are strongly normalising w.r.t.  $\beta$ -reduction.*

To prove the SN-Theorem, we follow the strategy below.

- Define a set of *reducible terms* (by recursion on types).
- Prove that every reducible term is strongly normalising (induction on types).
- Prove that every typable term is reducible (induction on terms).

The proof we give here is an adaptation to Curry-style types of the one presented in the book *Proofs and Types* by J.-Y. Girard.

## Reducible terms

**Definition.** For any type  $A$  and context  $\Gamma$  we define the set of *reducible terms at*  $\Gamma, A$ , written  $\text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$ , recursively over  $A$ :

- If  $A$  is atomic (a type variable) then  $s \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$  if  $\Gamma \vdash s : A$  and  $s$  is strongly normalising.
- If  $A \equiv B \rightarrow C$  then  $s \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$  if  $\Gamma \vdash s : A$  and for all  $t \in \Lambda$  and  $\Gamma' \supseteq \Gamma$ :

$$t \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', B} \implies st \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', C}$$

**Lemma.** If  $s \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$  then  $\Gamma \vdash s : A$ .

**Lemma ( $\Gamma$ -Lemma).** If  $s \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$  and  $\Gamma \subseteq \Gamma'$  then  $s \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', A}$ .



**Defn.**  $s \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$  if  $\Gamma \vdash s : A$  and:

- If  $A \equiv a$  then  $s$  is  $SN$ .
- If  $A \equiv B \rightarrow C$  then  $\forall t, \Gamma' \supseteq \Gamma, t \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', B} \implies st \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', C}$

**Theorem.** For all  $\Gamma \vdash s : A$ :

**(CR1)** If  $s \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$  then  $s$  is strongly normalising.

**(CR2)** If  $s \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$  and  $s \rightarrow_{\beta} s'$  then  $s' \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$ .

**(CR3)** If  $s$  is not a  $\lambda$ -abs. and  $\forall s'. (s \rightarrow_{\beta} s' \implies s' \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A})$  then  $s \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$ .

*Proof.* By induction on the type  $A$ . If  $A$  is a type variable:

1. Immediate from the definition of reducibility.
2. As  $s$  is strongly normalising, so are its one-step  $\beta$ -reducts (and by Subject Reduction they can be typed with  $\Gamma, A$ ).
3. If all the one-step  $\beta$ -reducts of  $s$  are strongly normalising then so is  $s$ .

**Defn.**  $s \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$  if  $\Gamma \vdash s : A$  and:

- If  $A \equiv a$  then  $s$  is SN.
- If  $A \equiv B \rightarrow C$  then  $\forall t, \Gamma' \supseteq \Gamma, t \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', B} \implies st \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', C}$

**Theorem.** For all  $\Gamma \vdash s : A$ :

(CR1) If  $s \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$  then  $s$  is strongly normalising.

(CR2) If  $s \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$  and  $s \rightarrow_{\beta} s'$  then  $s' \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$ .

(CR3) If  $s$  is not a  $\lambda$ -abs. and  $\forall s'. (s \rightarrow_{\beta} s' \implies s' \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A})$  then  $s \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$ .

*Proof.* By induction on the type  $A$ . If  $A \equiv B \rightarrow C$ :

1. Let  $s \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$  and take  $\Gamma' = \Gamma, x : B$  for some fresh  $x$ .

By IH on (CR3),  $x \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', B}$ . Hence, by definition,  $sx \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', C}$ .

Then by IH on (CR1) we have that  $sx$  is SN and therefore  $s$  is SN.

2. Let  $s \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$  and  $s \rightarrow_{\beta} s'$  so, by Subject Reduction,  $\Gamma \vdash s' : A$ .

Now take some  $t \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', B}$  for  $\Gamma' \supseteq \Gamma$ .

By definition,  $s \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$  implies that  $st \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', C}$  and therefore, by IH on (CR2),  $s't \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', C}$ .

**Defn.**  $s \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$  if  $\Gamma \vdash s : A$  and:

- If  $A \equiv a$  then  $s$  is *SN*.
- If  $A \equiv B \rightarrow C$  then  $\forall t, \Gamma' \supseteq \Gamma, t \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', B} \implies st \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', C}$

**Theorem.** For all  $\Gamma \vdash s : A$ :

**(CR1)** If  $s \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$  then  $s$  is strongly normalising.

**(CR2)** If  $s \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$  and  $s \rightarrow_{\beta} s'$  then  $s' \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$ .

**(CR3)** If  $s$  is not a  $\lambda$ -abs. and  $\forall s'. (s \rightarrow_{\beta} s' \implies s' \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A})$  then  $s \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$ .

*Proof.* By induction on the type  $A$ . If  $A \equiv B \rightarrow C$ :

3. Finally, let  $s$  be a term that is not a  $\lambda$ -abstraction, and let all its one-step  $\beta$ -reducts be inside  $\text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$ .

Take some  $t \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', B}$  with  $\Gamma' \supseteq \Gamma$ . By IH on **(CR1)**,  $t$  is SN.

We show that  $st \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', C}$  by induction on  $\nu(t)$ . By IH on **(CR3)**, it suffices to show that if  $st \rightarrow_{\beta} u$  then  $u \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', C}$ . There are two cases:

- $u \equiv st'$  with  $t \rightarrow_{\beta} t'$ . Then  $t' \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', B}$  by IH on **(CR2)**, so use IH on  $\nu(t')$ .
- $u \equiv s't$  with  $s \rightarrow_{\beta} s'$ , in which case use the hypothesis.

In both cases,  $u \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', C}$ .

This completes the proof. □

## A Lemma for Abstractions

**Lemma.** *Let  $\Gamma \vdash \lambda y.s : B \rightarrow A$ . Then if, for all  $t \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', B}$  with  $\Gamma' \supseteq \Gamma$ , we have  $s[t/y] \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', A}$  then  $\lambda y.s \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, B \rightarrow A}$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $t \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', B}$  with  $\Gamma' \supseteq \Gamma$ ; we show that  $(\lambda y.s)t \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', A}$ .

By **(CR3)**,  $y \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma \cup \{y: B\}, B}$  and thus, by hypothesis,  $s \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma \cup \{y: B\}, A}$ . So, by **(CR1)**, both  $s, t$  are SN and therefore we can do induction on  $\nu(s) + \nu(t)$ .

Now let  $(\lambda y.s)t \rightarrow_{\beta} u$ ; we show that  $u \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', A}$ . There are three cases:

- $u \equiv s[t/y]$ , in which case use the hypothesis.
- $u \equiv (\lambda y.s)t'$  with  $t \rightarrow_{\beta} t'$ , in which case use the IH on  $\nu(s) + \nu(t')$  and obtain  $(\lambda y.s)t' \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', A}$ .
- $u \equiv (\lambda y.s')t$  with  $s \rightarrow_{\beta} s'$ . Note that, for all  $t' \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma'', B}$  with  $\Gamma'' \supseteq \Gamma$ , we have that  $s[t'/y] \twoheadrightarrow_{\beta} s'[t'/y]$  and therefore  $s'[t'/y] \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma'', A}$  by using the hypothesis and **(CR2)**.

Thus, we can use the IH on  $\nu(s') + \nu(t)$  and obtain  $(\lambda y.s')t \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', A}$ .

Thus, by **(CR3)**,  $(\lambda y.s)t \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', A}$ . □

# The Main Theorem

**Theorem.** Suppose  $x_1 : A_1, \dots, x_n : A_n \vdash s : A$ . Then, for all  $u_1, \dots, u_n \in \Lambda$  and  $\Gamma'$  such that  $u_i \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', A_i}$ , we have  $s[u_1/x_1, \dots, u_n/x_n] \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', A}$ .

*Proof.* By induction on  $s$ . Let  $\Gamma \equiv \{x_1 : A_1, \dots, x_n : A_n\}$  and let  $u_1, \dots, u_n$  be as above. There are three cases:

- $s \equiv x_i$  for some  $i$ , in which case  $s[\vec{u}/\vec{x}] \equiv u_i \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', A}$  by hypothesis.
- $s \equiv pq$ . By Subject Construction,  $\Gamma \vdash p : B \rightarrow A$  and  $\Gamma \vdash q : B$  for some type  $B$ . Thus,  $p[\vec{u}/\vec{x}] \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', B \rightarrow A}$  and  $q[\vec{u}/\vec{x}] \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', B}$  by IH. But then, by definition of reducibility,  $p[\vec{u}/\vec{x}] q[\vec{u}/\vec{x}] \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', A}$ , as required.
- $s \equiv \lambda y.p$  ( $y$  not in  $\Gamma, \Gamma'$ ). Then,  $\Gamma, y : B \vdash p : C$  with  $A \equiv B \rightarrow C$ . Now, for all  $t \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma'', B}$  with  $\Gamma'' \supseteq \Gamma'$ , by the IH and the  $\Gamma$ -Lemma:

$$p[\vec{u}/\vec{x}, t/y] \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma'', A}$$

that is,  $(p[\vec{u}/\vec{x}])[t/y] \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma'', A}$ .

But then, by previous Lemma,  $\lambda y.p[\vec{u}/\vec{x}] \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', B \rightarrow A}$ . □

**Theorem.** Suppose  $x_1 : A_1, \dots, x_n : A_n \vdash s : A$ . Then, for all  $u_1, \dots, u_n \in \Lambda$  and  $\Gamma'$  such that  $u_i \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', A_i}$ , we have  $s[u_1/x_1, \dots, u_n/x_n] \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma', A}$ .

**Corrolary.** Let  $s \in \Lambda$  be typable. Then  $s$  is strongly normalising.

*Proof.* Suppose  $\Gamma \vdash s : A$  with  $\Gamma \equiv \{x_1 : A_1, \dots, x_n : A_n\}$ .

Then, by **(CR3)**,  $x_i \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A_i}$  for each  $i$  and thus, by Theorem,  $s \equiv s[\vec{x}/\vec{x}] \in \text{Red}_{\Gamma, A}$ .

By **(CR1)**,  $s$  is strongly normalising. □

## Consequences of Strong Normalisation

Strong normalisation marks the simply-typed  $\lambda$ -calculus very different from the untyped  $\lambda$ -calculus:

- Equality under  $\beta$ -conversion is decidable.
- There are no (typable) fixed point combinators in  $\lambda_{\rightarrow}^{\mathbb{A}}$ .

The standard **Church numerals** are all typable and the successor combinator **succ** is typable and compatible with application to numerals.

**Lemma.** *The projection functions, constant functions, addition and multiplication are all definable in the simply-typed  $\lambda$ -calculus (w.r.t. Church numerals).*

**Theorem (Schwichtenberg & Statman).** *Define the set of functions on the natural numbers called the **extended polynomials** to be the smallest set:*

- *containing projection functions, constant functions and the function *ifzero*, where  $ifzero := \{ \langle 0, m, n \rangle \mapsto m, \langle k + 1, m, n \rangle \mapsto n \}$ ,*
- *and closed under addition and multiplication of functions.*

*Then the functions definable in the simply typed  $\lambda$ -calculus are exactly the extended polynomials.*



## An Aside: Simple Types à la Church

Two distinct presentations of the simply-typed  $\lambda$ -calculus:

- Type Assignment (what we've seen so far): simple types *à la Curry*.
- Typed Terms: simple types *à la Church*.

$\mathcal{V}^A$ 's disjoint

denoted by  $x^A, y^A$ , etc.

For the latter:

- Suppose that for each type  $A$  there is a countable set of variables  $\mathcal{V}^A$ .
- For each type  $A$  we define the set of **terms of type**  $A$ , written  $\Lambda^A$ , by the following mutually inductive rules.

$$\frac{}{x^A \in \Lambda^A} \quad x^A \in \mathcal{V}^A \quad \frac{s \in \Lambda^{A \rightarrow B} \quad t \in \Lambda^A}{st \in \Lambda^B} \quad \frac{s \in \Lambda^B}{\lambda x^A. s \in \Lambda^{A \rightarrow B}} \quad x^A \in \mathcal{V}^A$$

We have obvious parallel definitions of:

- Free and bound variables, closed terms.
- $\alpha$ -conversion ( $\alpha$ -convertible terms are still syntactically equivalent).
- Substitution (we now first need to prove a Substitution Lemma).

## Simple Types a la Church (ctd)

- **Typed reduction:** There is a family of relations  $\rightarrow_{\beta}^A$ , one for each type  $A$ , denoting  $\beta$ -reduction on terms of each type.
- With this presentation, the **Subject Reduction Theorem** is immediate, and also the **Subject Expansion Theorem** holds.
- The **Church-Rosser property** can be proven as in the untyped case (but it cannot be carried over).
- **Typability:** We can relate typed terms to untyped ones by erasing type information.

**Definition.** Define a family of maps,  $| - | : \Lambda^A \rightarrow \Lambda$  for each type  $A$ , by:

$$|x^A| = x, \quad |\lambda x^A.s| = \lambda x.|s|, \quad |st| = |s||t|$$

We say that a term  $s \in \Lambda$  is **typable** if there is a term  $s' \in \Lambda^A$ , for some type  $A$ , with  $|s'| = s$ .

# Exercises

- Give derivations of the following.
  - $x : A \vdash (\lambda y. y)x : A$
  - $\vdash \lambda xy. xy y : (A \rightarrow A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow A \rightarrow B$
  - $\vdash \lambda xy. xy : (A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow A \rightarrow B$
- Show that there is no type  $A$  such that  $\vdash \lambda xy. yxy : A$ . Is the same true for  $\vdash \lambda xy. yxx : A$ ?
- Write down closed terms  $s$  which can be given the following types (in other words, find a closed term  $s$  such that  $\vdash s : A$ ).
  - $(A \rightarrow A) \rightarrow A \rightarrow A$
  - $(A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C) \rightarrow (A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow A \rightarrow C$Can you find a closed term  $s$  such that  $\vdash s : a \rightarrow b$ , for different type variables  $a$  and  $b$ ?
- Show that, for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\vdash \ulcorner n \urcorner : (a \rightarrow a) \rightarrow a \rightarrow a$ , with  $a$  a type variable.
- Let  $s$  be a term in  $\beta$ -normal form.
  - Show that every subterm of  $s$  which is not a  $\lambda$ -abstraction is of the form  $x s_1 \cdots s_n$ , for some variable  $x$  and some terms  $s_1, \dots, s_n$  with  $n \geq 0$ .
  - Show that, if  $\Gamma \vdash s : A$ , for some  $\Gamma, A$ , then the derivation of the latter is unique.
- Prove the Subject Reduction Theorem on slide 12.
- The Strong Normalisation Theorem shows that every term which is typable is strongly normalising. Show the converse is false, i.e. that there is a term which is strongly normalising but not typable.
- We saw that a consequence of the Strong Normalisation Theorem is that equality under  $\beta$ -conversion is decidable. How does that reconcile with the Scott-Curry Theorem (and its consequent lemmas)?
- Show that, if there exists a (untyped) fixed point combinator which has a normal form, then there exists a fixed point combinator which is in normal form.  
Deduce that no fixed point combinator has a normal form.  
[Hint: consider a fixed point combinator  $F$  in normal form and suppose that  $Fx =_{\beta} x(Fx)$ , for a fresh variable  $x$ . By considering reducts of  $Fx$  and  $x(Fx)$ , derive a contradiction.]