

# 德布朗指数(de Bruijn index)

基础软件理论与实践公开课

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# Review: Church numerals

- Notation:
  - do not curry, e.g.  $\lambda(x, y). x$
  - do not omit parentheses when applying functions, e.g.  $\lambda(f, x, y). f(x, y)$
- Chain of natural numbers

# Review: Church numerals

- 0

$$\lambda(s, z). z$$

- succ

$$\lambda n. \lambda(s, z). s(n(s, z))$$

- 1: succ(0)

$$\lambda(s, z). s(z)$$

- 2: succ(1)

$$\lambda(s, z). s(s(z))$$

- 3: succ(2)

$$\lambda(s, z). s(s(s(z)))$$

# Review: Church numerals

Num	Peano	Lambda
0	$Z$	$\lambda(s, z). z$
$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$
1	$S(Z)$	$\lambda(s, z). s(z)$
$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$
2	$S(S(Z))$	$\lambda(s, z). s(s(z))$
$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$
$\dots$	$\dots$	$\dots$

# Review: Church numerals

In ReScript:

```
type rec nat = Z | S(nat)
let peano_zero = Z
let peano_one = S(Z)
let peano_two = S(S(Z))

type cnum<'a> = ('a => 'a, 'a) => 'a;
let church_zero = (s, z) => z
let church_one = (s, z) => s(z)
let church_two = (s, z) => s(s(z))

let peano_succ = (x) => S(x)
let church_succ = (n) => (s, z) => s(n(s, z))
```

- Notation:

$$\bar{n} = \lambda(s, z). s^n(z)$$

# Review: Church numerals

Isomorphism in ReScript:

```
let church_to_peano = (n) => n(x => S(x), Z)
let rec peano_to_church = (n) => {
  switch n {
    | Z => church_zero
    | S(n) => church_succ(peano_to_church(n))
  }
}
```

# Review: Predecessor

Num	Pair	Fst
0	(0, 0)	0
↓	↓	↓
1	(0, 1)	0
↓	↓	↓
2	(1, 2)	1
↓	↓	↓
...	...	...
$n$	$(n - 1, n)$	$n - 1$

# Review: Predecessor

$f = \lambda p. \text{ pair } (\text{second } p) (\text{succ } (\text{second } p))$

$\text{zero} = (\lambda f. \lambda x. x)$

$\text{pc0} = \text{pair zero zero}$

$\text{pred} = \lambda n. \text{ first } (n \ f \ \text{pc0})$

$\begin{aligned}\text{pred three} &= \text{first } (f (f (f (\text{pair zero zero})))) \\ &= \text{first } (f (f (\text{pair zero one}))) \\ &= \text{first } (f (\text{pair one two})) \\ &= \text{first } (\text{pair two three}) \\ &= \text{two}\end{aligned}$

# Review: Predecessor

In ReScript:

```
let pred = (n) => {
  let init = (church_zero, church_zero)
  let iter = ((_, y)) => (y, church_succ(y))
  let (ans, _) = n(iter, init)
  ans
}

let church_decode = (n) => n((x) => x + 1, 0)

Js.Console.log(church_decode(church_two)) // 2
Js.Console.log(church_decode(pred(church_two))) // 1
```

# References (for interested audience)

- TAPL: Sec 5-7

# Review

- Evaluate closed term, call by value

```
let rec eval = (t: lambda) => {
  switch t {
    | Var(_) => assert false
    | Fn(_, _) => t
    | App(f, arg) => {
        let Fn(x, body) = eval(f)
        let va = eval(arg)
        eval(subst(x, va, body)) // substitution explained later
      }
  }
}
```

# Substitution without free variables

```
// v must be closed. a[v/x]
let rec subst = (x, v, a) => {
    switch a {
        | Var(y) => if x == y { v } else { a }
        | Fn(y, b) => if x == y { a } else { Fn(y, subst(x, v, b)) }
        | App(b, c) => App(subst(x, v, b), subst(x, v, c))
    }
}
```

- For example,

$$(\lambda y. (\lambda z. z + a) y)[\bar{1}/a] \rightarrow (\lambda y. (\lambda z. z + \bar{1}) y)$$

# Substitution with non-closed terms

The substitution of  $N$  for free occurrence of  $x$  in  $M$ , denoted by  $M[N/x]$ , is defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 x[N/x] &= N, \\
 y[N/x] &= y, && \text{if } x \neq y, \\
 (MP)[N/x] &= (M[N/x])(P[N/x]), \\
 (\lambda x. M)[N/x] &= \lambda x. M, \\
 (\lambda y. M)[N/x] &= \lambda y. (M[N/x]), && \text{if } x \neq y \text{ and } y \notin FV(N),
 \end{aligned}$$

Question: what if the *binder*  $y \in FV(N)$ , for example

$$(\lambda y. xy)[\lambda z. yz/x] = ?$$

# Rename the binder to unique names

- The terms  $\lambda x. x$  and  $\lambda y. y$  are essentially the same
- Roughly speaking, names do not matter

```
// the new name must be unique like JS new symbol
let rename = (t, old, new) => {
  let rec go = (t) => {
    switch t {
      | Var(x) => if x == old { Var(new) } else { t }
      | Fn(x, a) => if x == old { Fn(new, go(a)) } else {Fn(x, go(a)) }
      | App(a, b) => App(go(a), go(b))
    }
  }
  go(t)
}
```

# Alpha equivalence

Formally,

$$\lambda x. M =_{\alpha} \lambda y. (M\{y/x\})$$

where  $M\{y/x\}$  is the result of renaming  $x$  as  $y$  in  $M$ , defined as:

$$x\{y/x\} = y,$$

$$z\{y/x\} = z, \quad \text{if } x \neq z,$$

$$(MN)\{y/x\} = (M\{y/x\})(N\{y/x\}),$$

$$(\lambda x. M)\{y/x\} = \lambda y. (M\{y/x\}),$$

$$(\lambda z. M)\{y/x\} = \lambda z. (M\{y/x\}), \quad \text{if } x \neq z.$$

- The new name  $y$  must be *fresh*

# Substitution

- Always rename

```
// t[u/x] where u might have free variables
let rec subst = (t, x, u) => {
    switch t {
        | Var(y) => if x == y { u } else { t }
        | Fn(y, b) => if x == y { t } else {
            let y' = fresh_name ()
            let b' = rename(b, y, y')
            Fn(y', subst(b', x, u))
        }
        | App(a, b) => App(subst(a, x, u), subst(b, x, u))
    }
}
```

- Free variables calcuation is not needed when we always do he renaming

## Example

$$\begin{aligned} (\lambda x. yx)[\lambda z. xz/y] &=_{\alpha} (\lambda x'. yx')[\lambda z. xz/y] \\ &\rightarrow_{\beta} \lambda x'. (\lambda z. xz)x' \end{aligned}$$

- why substitution matters when the interpreter with environment is more efficient?

# Example

- Capture-free Inlining

```
let x = ... in  
let f = fun a -> x + a in  
let g = fun x -> f(x) + x in ...
```

- wrong result

```
let x = ... in  
let f = fun a -> x + a in  
let g = fun x -> (let a = x in x + a) + x in ...
```

- what would be correct?

# De Bruijn index

- Names don't matter. So we don't need them
- For example,  $\lambda x. \lambda y. x(y(x))$  corresponds to  $\lambda. \lambda. 1(0(1))$
- The number  $i$  stands for the variable bound by the  $i$ th binder  $\lambda$
- Exercise: write down the de bruijn term for  $Y = \lambda f. (\lambda x. f (x\ x))(\lambda x. f (x\ x))$
  
- Used in Caml light, MoscowML VM
- We already learnt the De bruijn index in our tiny languages.

# Binders

- Let expression binds a function or expression to a variable

for example, in ReScript:

```
let f = a => a
let x = 2
f(x)
```

- Pattern matching introduces binders

for example, in ReScript:

```
switch p {
| (a, b) => a + b
}
```

# Binders

- let-expression: tiny language 2

```
type rec expr =  
  ...  
  | Var (int)  
  | Let (expr, expr)
```

for example,  $\text{Let}(x, 1, \text{Add}(\text{Var}(x), \text{Cst}(1)))$  becomes  $\text{Let}(1, \text{Add}(\text{Var}(0), \text{Cst}(1)))$

- Pattern matching

```
switch p {  
  C(a, b) => a + b  
}
```

```
switch Var(i) {  
  C(_, _) => Var(0) + Var(1)  
}
```

# Substitution in De Bruijn notation

- The index for the *substitued* variable can change

$$(x \times (\lambda y. x + y) (z))[\bar{2}/x] = \bar{2} \times (\lambda y. \bar{2} + y)(z)$$

$$(\textcolor{red}{0} \times (\lambda . \textcolor{red}{1} + 0) (3))[\bar{2}/0] = \bar{2} \times (\lambda . \bar{2} + 0)(3)$$

```
// t[u/i]: use u to replace Var(i) in term t
let rec subst = (t, i, u) => {
  switch t {
    ...
    | Fn(b) => Fn(subst(b, i+1, u))
    ...
  }
}
```

# Substitution in De Bruijn notation

- Shift the term  $u$

$$(x \times (\lambda y. x + y) (z))[w/x] = w \times (\lambda y. w + y)(z)$$

$$(0 \times (\lambda . 1 + 0) (3))[2/0] = 2 \times (\lambda . 3 + 0)(3)$$

- Notice:  $w$  becomes  $\text{Var}(3)$  when substitution goes under a binder

```
// t[u/i]: use u to replace Var(i) in term t
let rec subst = (t, i, u) => {
  switch t {
    | Var(j) => if j == i { u } else { t }
    | Fn(b) => Fn(subst(b, i+1, shift(1, u)))
    | App(a, b) => App(subst(a, i, u), subst(b, i, u))
  }
}
```

# Shift

- Shift should be only applied to *unbound variables*
- For example,

$$\uparrow^1 \text{Var}(i) = \text{Var}(i + 1)$$

- How about

$$\uparrow^1 (\lambda. 0)(1) = ???$$

## shift\_aux(i, d, t) where **d** is the cutoff

- Formally,

$$\uparrow_d^i(j) = j, \quad \text{if } j < d$$

$$\uparrow_d^i(j) = i + j, \quad \text{if } j \geq d$$

$$\uparrow_d^i(\lambda.t) = \lambda.\uparrow_{d+1}^i(t),$$

$$\uparrow_d^i(t_1 t_2) = \uparrow_d^i(t_1) \uparrow_d^i(t_2)$$

- $\text{shift}(i, t) = \text{shift\_aux}(i, 0, t)$
- unbound variables shifted by **i**, bounded variables kept intact

# Implementation

- Shift

```
// Var(j) becomes Var(i+j) if j >= d
let rec shift_aux = (i, d, u) => {
    switch u {
        | Var(j) => { if j >= d { Var(i+j) } else { u } }
        | Fn(b) => Fn(shift_aux(i, d+1, b))
        | App(a, b) =>
            App(shift_aux(i, d, a), shift_aux(i, d, b))
    }
}
let shift = (i, u) => shift_aux(i, 0, u)
```

# Implementation

```
// t[u/i]: use u to replace Var(i) in term t
let rec subst = (t, i, u) => {
    switch t {
        | Var(j) => if j == i { u } else { t }
        | Fn(b) => Fn(subst(b, i+1, shift(1, u)))
        | App(a, b) => App(subst(a, i, u), subst(b, i, u))
    }
}
```

- `shift` is a `nop` for closed term.
- Why we generalized `shift` for numbers other than 1 ?

# Interpreter

Don't forget shift the index by -1 after we drop a binder

For example,

$$(\lambda x. (\lambda y. x + y)(a)) \rightarrow_{\beta} (\lambda x. x + a)$$

$$(\lambda . (\lambda . 1 + 0)(3)) \rightarrow_{\beta} (\lambda . \textcolor{red}{0} + 3)$$

# Summary

How represent variables

- Symbolically: fresh names to avoid capture
- Symbolically with constraint: stamp
- More aggressive: single assignment for binders
- De Bruijn index: no need to rename but hard to manipulate
- Combinatory logic: no variables involved

# Homework

- Complete the de Bruijn index based interpreter in natural semantics
- Apply the de Bruijn index for extended lambda calculus (+ Let)

```
type rec debru =
| Var (int)
| App (debru, debru)
| Fun (debru)
| Let (debru, debru)
```