Sémantique des Langages de Programmation (SemLP)
TD n° 4 : λ-calculus

Exercice 1 : β-normal forms

Let NF be the smallest set of λ-terms such that :

$$\frac{M_i \in NF \quad i = 1, \dots, k}{\lambda x_1 \dots x_n . x M_1 \dots M_k \in NF} \; .$$

Show that NF is exactly the set of λ-terms in *β-normal form*.

Exercice 2 : Curry FP

We define $Y \equiv \lambda f.\ \Delta_f \Delta_f$ with $\Delta_f \equiv \lambda x.\ f(xx)$. Show that

$$YM =_\beta M(YM)$$

Exercice 3 : Turing FP

We define $Y_T \equiv (\lambda xy.y(xxy))(\lambda xy.y(xxy))$. Show that $Y_T f$ is not only convertible to, but *reduces to*, $f(Y_T f)$.

Exercice 4 :

Recall the definition of parallel β-reduction given in the lecture notes :

$$\frac{}{M \Rightarrow M} \qquad \frac{M \Rightarrow M' \qquad N \Rightarrow N'}{(\lambda x.M)N \Rightarrow [N'/x]M'} \qquad \frac{M \Rightarrow M' \qquad N \Rightarrow N'}{MN \Rightarrow M'N'} \qquad \frac{M \Rightarrow M'}{(\lambda x.M) \Rightarrow (\lambda x.M')}$$

Let $M \equiv (\lambda x.Ix)(II)$ where $I \equiv (\lambda z.z)$. Say what is the minimum number of reductions required to reduce M to I. Justify your answer.

Exercice 5 : Church Numerals

Recall the definition of *Church Numerals* of the lecture notes :

$$\underline{n} \equiv \lambda f.\lambda x.\ (\underbrace{f \dots (f}_{n \text{ times}} x) \dots)$$

1. Show semi-formally that the following functions are correct encodings of their natural numbers counterparts :

$$\begin{array}{rcll} A & \equiv & \lambda n.\lambda m.\lambda f.\lambda x.\ (nf)(mfx) & \text{(addition)} \\ S & \equiv & \lambda n.\ A\ n\ \underline{1} & \text{(successor)} \\ M & \equiv & \lambda n.\lambda m.\lambda x.\ n(mx) & \text{(product)} \end{array}$$

2. Consider now the encoding of *Booleans* :

$$T \equiv \lambda x.\lambda y.\ x \quad (\mathsf{true}) \qquad F \equiv \lambda x.\lambda y.\ y \quad (\mathsf{false})$$

Show that the following term encodes the standard if-then-else construct :

$$C \equiv \lambda x.\lambda y.\lambda z.\ xyz \quad (\mathsf{if\text{-}then\text{-}else})$$

3. Do the same for the following encoding of pairs and projections :

$$\begin{array}{rcll} P & \equiv & \lambda x.\lambda y.\lambda z.\ zxy & \text{(pairs)} \\ P_1 & \equiv & \lambda p.\ p\ (\lambda x.\lambda y.\ x) & \text{(first projection)} \\ P_2 & \equiv & \lambda p.\ p\ (\lambda x.\lambda y.\ y) & \text{(second projection)} \end{array}$$

Exercice 6 :

Prove that for any two terms M and M', with $M \xrightarrow{*}_\beta M'$, for any term N, and for any variable x, we have $N[M/x] \xrightarrow{*}_\beta N[M'/x]$.

Exercice 7 : let-expansion

We consider an extension of the λ-calculus with let definitions of the following form let $x = M$ in N. We denote by C a context with a *hole* and we define a reduction relation $\rightarrow_{\mathsf{let}}$ as :

$$\rightarrow_{\mathsf{let}} \;=\; \{(\ C[\mathsf{let}\ x = N\ \mathsf{in}\ M]\ ,\ C[[N/x]M]\ ) \mid C \text{ contex}, M, N\ \lambda\text{-terms}\ , x \text{ variable}\}$$

We define the size $|M|$ of a λ-term M as :

$$\begin{array}{rcl} |x| & = & 1 \\ |MN| & = & 1 + |M| + |N| \\ |\lambda x.M| & = & 1 + |M| \\ |\mathsf{let}\ x = M\ \mathsf{in}\ N| & = & 1 + |M| + |N| \end{array}$$

Finally, we define the *depth* $d(M)$ of a λ-term M as :

$$\begin{array}{rcl} d(x) & = & 1 \\ d(MN) & = & \mathsf{max}(d(M), d(N)) \\ d(\lambda x.M) & = & d(M) \\ d(\mathsf{let}\ x = M\ \mathsf{in}\ N) & = & d(M) + d(N) \end{array}$$

1. Show that there is a reduction strategy for a λ-term M towards a normal form N such that :

$$|N| \leqslant |M|^{d(M)}$$

That is, the size of the term after the let expansion is bound by the size of the origin term elevated to its depth.

Hint : reduce first the lets which do not contain inner lets and proceed by structural induction on the λ-term.

2. Show that the reduction relation $\rightarrow_{\mathsf{let}}$ is *locally* confluent.

Exercice 8 : η-reduction

1. Show that η reduction ($\rightarrow_\eta$) terminates.

2. Show that η reduction ($\rightarrow_\eta$) is *locally* confluent.