On the expressive power of types

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Some possible answers:

Computability

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- Computability
- Algorithmic complexity

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- Computability
- Algorithmic complexity
- Macro expressiveness



Matthias Felleisen

[Felleisen, 1990, "On the expressive power of programming languages"]

Can function types encode product types?

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Can positive iso-recursive types encode positive equi-recursive types?

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Can simple-typed lambda calculus encode System F?

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Can positive iso-recursive types encode positive equi-recursive types?

Can existential types encode universal types?

Can simple-typed lambda calculus encode System F?

Can row polymorphism encode row subtyping?

Part I

Products

Motivation



Alonzo Church

The standard Church encoding for a pair can only be ascribed a type in simply-typed lambda calculus if both components of the pair have the same type.

Motivation



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Do alternative simply-typed encodings exist for heterogeneous pairs?

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \mathcal{N}\llbracket A \rrbracket &=& (A^{\star} \to R) \to R \\ X^{\star} &=& X \\ (A \times B)^{\star} &=& \mathcal{N}\llbracket A \rrbracket \times \mathcal{N}\llbracket B \rrbracket \\ (A \to B)^{\star} &=& \mathcal{N}\llbracket A \rrbracket \to \mathcal{N}\llbracket B \rrbracket \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{lll} \mathcal{N}\llbracket X \rrbracket &=& (X \to R) \to R \\ \mathcal{N}\llbracket A \to B \rrbracket &=& ((\mathcal{N}\llbracket A \rrbracket \to \mathcal{N}\llbracket B \rrbracket) \to R) \to R \\ \mathcal{N}\llbracket A \times B \rrbracket &=& ((\mathcal{N}\llbracket A \rrbracket \times \mathcal{N}\llbracket B \rrbracket) \to R) \to R \end{array}$$

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{N}\llbracket X \rrbracket &= (X \to R) \to R \\ \mathcal{N}\llbracket A \to B \rrbracket &= ((\mathcal{N}\llbracket A \rrbracket \to \mathcal{N}\llbracket B \rrbracket) \to R) \to R \\ \mathcal{N}\llbracket A \times B \rrbracket &= ((\mathcal{N}\llbracket A \rrbracket \to \mathcal{N}\llbracket B \rrbracket) \to R) \to R \\ \mathcal{N}\llbracket A \times B \rrbracket &= ((\mathcal{N}\llbracket A \rrbracket \times \mathcal{N}\llbracket B \rrbracket) \to R) \to R \\ \mathcal{N}\llbracket X \rrbracket &= \lambda k.x \ k \\ \mathcal{N}\llbracket \lambda x.M \rrbracket &= \lambda k.k \ (\lambda x.\mathcal{N}\llbracket M \rrbracket) \\ \mathcal{N}\llbracket M \ N \rrbracket &= \lambda k.\mathcal{N}\llbracket M \rrbracket \ (\lambda f.f. \mathcal{N}\llbracket N \rrbracket k) \\ \mathcal{N}\llbracket pair \ M \ N \rrbracket &= \lambda k.\mathcal{N}\llbracket M \rrbracket \ (\lambda f.f. \mathcal{N}\llbracket N \rrbracket k) \\ \mathcal{N}\llbracket fst \ M \rrbracket &= \lambda k.\mathcal{N}\llbracket M \rrbracket \ (\lambda p.(fst \ p) \ k) \\ \mathcal{N}\llbracket snd \ M \rrbracket &= \lambda k.\mathcal{N}\llbracket M \rrbracket \ (\lambda p.(snd \ p) \ k) \end{cases}$$

Products are encodable via a curried global CPS translation

$$C[[X]] = (X \to R) \to R$$

$$C[[A \to B]] = ((C[[A]] \to C[[B]]) \to R) \to R$$

$$C[[A \times B]] = (C[[A]] \to C[[B]] \to R) \to R$$

$$C[[x]] = \lambda k.x k$$

$$C[[\lambda x.M]] = \lambda k.k (\lambda x.C[[M]])$$

$$C[[M N]] = \lambda k.C[[M]] (\lambda f.f C[[N]] k)$$

$$C[[pair M N]] = \lambda k.C[[M]] (\lambda x.\lambda y.x k)$$

$$C[[st M]] = \lambda k.C[[M]] (\lambda x.\lambda y.x k)$$

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What about a **local** encoding?

Localising CPS Untyped

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Simply typed — homogeneous products

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Polymorphic

We seek β -normal forms fst_{X,Y} and snd_{X,Y} such that:

$$\begin{bmatrix} p: X \times Y \vdash \mathsf{fst} \ p: X \end{bmatrix} = p: \begin{bmatrix} X \times Y \end{bmatrix} \vdash \mathsf{fst}_{X,Y} : X \\ \begin{bmatrix} p: X \times Y \vdash \mathsf{snd} \ p: Y \end{bmatrix} = p: \begin{bmatrix} X \times Y \end{bmatrix} \vdash \mathsf{snd}_{X,Y} : Y$$

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So we must have $m, n, M_1, ..., M_m, N_1, ..., N_n$ such that:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \mathsf{fst}_{X,Y} &=& p \; M_1 \; \dots \; M_m \\ \mathsf{snd}_{X,Y} &=& p \; N_1 \; \dots \; N_n \end{array}$$

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The typing rule for application means that we also have

$$A_1 \to \cdots \to A_m \to X = [X \times Y] = B_1 \to \cdots \to B_n \to Y$$

$$(p: \llbracket X \times Y \rrbracket \vdash M_i : A_i)_{1 \le i \le m} (p: \llbracket X \times Y \rrbracket \vdash N_j : B_i)_{1 \le j \le n} j$$

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But these equations could only hold if X and Y were the same type!

Hang on a minute!







John Longley

Dag Normann

Oleg Kiselyov

Type-indexed local encodings of products are well-known in PCF and System T. Examples:

- ▶ [Longley and Normann, 2015]
- ▶ [Kiselyov, 2021]

http://okmij.org/ftp/Computation/simple-encodings.html#product

How do we reconcile the existence of such encodings with the non-existence result?

No local encoding of $X \times (X \rightarrow X)$

Consider $X \times (X \to X)$. We seek β -normal forms $fst_{X,X \to X}$ and $snd_{X,X \to X}$ such that:

$$\begin{bmatrix} p: X \times (X \to X) \vdash \mathsf{fst} \ p: X \end{bmatrix} = p: \begin{bmatrix} X \times (X \to X) \end{bmatrix} \vdash \mathsf{fst}_{X,X \to X} : X \\ \begin{bmatrix} p: X \times (X \to X) \vdash \mathsf{snd} \ p: X \to X \end{bmatrix} = p: \begin{bmatrix} X \times (X \to X) \end{bmatrix} \vdash \mathsf{snd}_{X,X \to X} : X \to X$$

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As before, $fst_{X,X\to X}$ must be of the form

$$p M_1 \ldots M_m$$

and hence:

$$\llbracket X \times (X \to X) \rrbracket = A_1 \to \cdots \to A_m \to X$$

Two choices for $\operatorname{snd}_{X,X\to X}$:

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1.
$$p \ N_1 \ \dots \ N_{m-1}$$

 $\implies A_m = X \text{ and } M_m = p \ M'_1 \ \dots \ M'_m$
 $M'_m = p \ M''_1 \ \dots \ M'_m$

...

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...

No lambda abstraction can be β -converted to y.

Local encoding of $X \times (X \rightarrow X)$ with η

$$\begin{split} & \mathcal{E}[\![X \times (X \to X)]\!] = (X \to (X \to X) \to X) \to X \\ & \mathcal{E}[\![\text{pair } M^X \ N^{X \to X}]\!] = \lambda f.f. \mathcal{E}[\![M]\!] \, \mathcal{E}[\![N]\!] \\ & \mathcal{E}[\![\text{fst } M^{X \times (X \to X)}]\!] = \mathcal{E}[\![M]\!] \, (\lambda x \ y.x) \\ & \mathcal{E}[\![\text{snd } M^{X \times (X \to X)}]\!] = \lambda z. \mathcal{E}[\![M]\!] \, (\lambda x \ y.y \ z) \end{split}$$

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Now we have

$$\begin{array}{l} \mathcal{E}\llbracket \mathsf{fst} \ (\mathcal{E}\llbracket \mathsf{pair} \ x \ y \rrbracket) \rrbracket \sim_{\beta} x \\ \mathcal{E}\llbracket \mathsf{snd} \ (\mathcal{E}\llbracket \mathsf{pair} \ x \ y \rrbracket) \rrbracket \sim_{\beta} \lambda z. y \ z \ \sim_{\eta} y \end{array}$$

Local encoding of $A \times B$ with η and a single base type X

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{E}\llbracket A \times B \rrbracket &= (\mathcal{E}\llbracket A \rrbracket \to \mathcal{E}\llbracket B \rrbracket \to X) \to X \\ \mathcal{E}\llbracket \text{pair } M N \rrbracket &= \lambda f.f \ \mathcal{E}\llbracket M \rrbracket \ \mathcal{E}\llbracket N \rrbracket \\ \mathcal{E}\llbracket \text{fst } M^{A_1 \to \dots A_n \to X, B} \rrbracket &= \lambda z_1 \ \dots \ z_n. \mathcal{E}\llbracket M \rrbracket \ (\lambda x \ y. x \ z_1 \ \dots \ z_n) \\ \mathcal{E}\llbracket \text{snd } M^{A, B_1 \to \dots B_n \to X} \rrbracket &= \lambda z_1 \ \dots \ z_n. \mathcal{E}\llbracket M \rrbracket \ (\lambda x \ y. y \ z_1 \ \dots \ z_n) \end{split}$$

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This is a **type-indexed** local encoding.

It depends...

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- Parametric global CPS encoding
- Parametric local Church encodings
 - untyped
 - simple types, but only homogeneous products
 - polymorphic
- Multiple base types no local encoding
- ▶ Single base type without η no local encoding
- ▶ Single base type with η type-indexed local encoding

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Incidentally, none of these encodings preserves the $\eta\text{-rule}$ for products.

Part II

Recursive types





Stephen Dolan

Alan Mycroft

[Dolan and Mycroft, 2017, "Polymorphism, subtyping, and type inference in MLsub"]





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General equi-recursive types can type non-terminating programs.





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Positive iso-recursive types can be encoded in System F.





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Positive iso-recursive types can be encoded in System F.

Why the discrepancy between equi and iso?

Recursive types

Algebraic datatypes

Inline recursive types

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \mathsf{Nat} &=& \mu X.1 + X \\ \mathsf{List} &=& \mu X.1 + \mathsf{Int} \times X \\ \mathsf{Tree} &=& \mu X.1 + X \times \mathsf{Int} \times X \end{array}$$

Recursive type equations

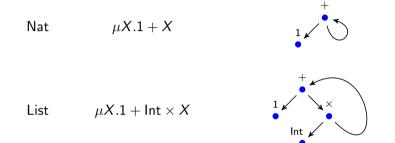
$$\begin{array}{rll} \mathsf{Nat} &=& 1 + \mathsf{Nat} \\ \mathsf{List} &=& 1 + \mathsf{Int} \times \mathsf{List} \\ \mathsf{Tree} &=& 1 + \mathsf{Tree} \times \mathsf{Int} \times \mathsf{Tree} \end{array}$$

Recursive types as regular trees

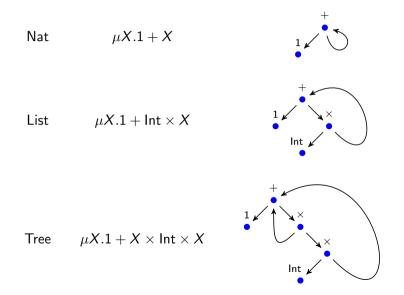
Nat
$$\mu X.1 + X$$



Recursive types as regular trees



Recursive types as regular trees



Equi-recursive types

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : A \qquad \vdash A \approx B}{\Gamma \vdash M : B}$$

 $\vdash A \approx B$ means

A and B are equivalent up to infinite unrolling

Equi-recursive types

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : A \qquad \vdash A \approx B}{\Gamma \vdash M : B}$$

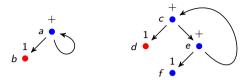
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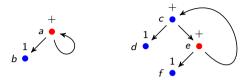
Example



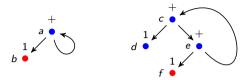




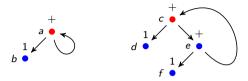
 $a \approx c$



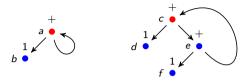
 $a \approx c$



 $a \approx c, a \approx e$



 $a \approx c, a \approx e$



 $a \approx c, a \approx e$

 $\Phi \vdash a \approx b$

F

$$\frac{\text{REPEAT}}{\overline{\Phi, a \approx b \vdash a \approx b}} \qquad \qquad \frac{\text{REC-CONS}}{abel(a) = label(b)} \\ \frac{\Phi, a \approx b \vdash children(a) \approx children(b)}{\Phi \vdash a \approx b}$$

 Φ a set — comma is disjoint extension

Iso-recursive types

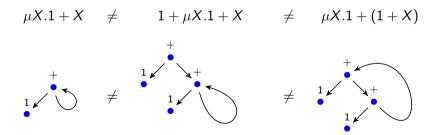
$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{Roll} \\ \Gamma \vdash M : A[\mu X.A/X] \\ \hline \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash \mathsf{roll} \ M : \mu X.A \end{array}$$

UNROLL $\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \mu X.A}{\Gamma \vdash \text{unroll } M : A[\mu X.A/X]}$

Iso-recursive types

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : A[\mu X.A/X]}{\Gamma \vdash \text{roll } M : \mu X.A} \qquad \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \mu X.A}{\Gamma \vdash \text{unroll } M : A[\mu X.A/X]}$$

Example



Equi-recursive versus iso-recursive types

- STLC Simply-Typed Lambda Calculus
- FPC Fixed Point Calculus
- FPC STLC + iso-recursive types
- $FPC_{=}$ STLC + equi-recursive types

Equi-recursive versus iso-recursive types

- STLC Simply-Typed Lambda Calculus
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Interdefinability

- ► FPC₌ can simulate FPC
 - just erase roll and unroll
- FPC can simulate FPC₌ up to observational equivalence
 coercion functions witness type equivalence
 [Abadi and Fiore, 1996; Brandt and Henglein, 1998]

Positive recursive types

Positive type variable: occurs on left of even number of arrows **Negative** type variable: occurs on left of odd number of arrows **Strictly positive** type variable: occurs on right of arrows

Examples — X occurs:

- ▶ strictly positively in X, $1 + Int \times X$, and $Int \rightarrow X$
- ▶ positively in $(X \rightarrow Int) \rightarrow Int$
- ▶ negatively in $X \rightarrow Int$
- ▶ both positively and negatively in $X \to X$

A recursive type is positive if all occurrences of the bound variable are positive, e.g:

$$\mu X.1 + \operatorname{Int} \times X \qquad \qquad \mu X.(X \to \operatorname{Int}) \to \operatorname{Int}$$

Positive equi- versus positive iso-

- FPC^+ STLC + positive iso-recursive types
- $FPC_{=}^{+}$ STLC + positive equi-recursive types
- FPC⁺⁺ STLC + strictly positive iso-recursive types
- $FPC_{=}^{++}$ STLC + strictly positive equi-recursive types

Positive equi- versus positive iso-

- FPC^+ STLC + positive iso-recursive types
- $FPC_{=}^{+}$ STLC + positive equi-recursive types
- FPC⁺⁺ STLC + strictly positive iso-recursive types
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Interdefinability

- ▶ FPC⁺₌ can simulate FPC⁺ just erase roll and unroll
- ▶ $FPC_{=}^{++}$ can simulate FPC^{++} just erase roll and unroll
- System F can simulate FPC⁺ (strong normalisation)
- ► FPC⁺ can simulate FPC⁻ (non-termination)
- ► FPC⁺₌ is stricty more expressive than FPC⁺

► FPC⁺ + general recursion can simulate FPC up to observational equivalence

▶ FPC^{++} + fold can simulate $FPC^{++}_{=}$ up to observational equivalence

Yeah, yeah

Universal type with a **negative** occurrence

$$U = U \rightarrow U = \mu X.X \rightarrow X$$

All untyped lambda terms can be typed with U

$$\omega = \lambda x. x x \qquad \qquad \Omega = \omega \omega \qquad \qquad \Omega \rightsquigarrow_{\beta} \Omega$$

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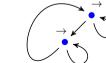
$$\omega = \lambda x. x x \qquad \qquad \Omega = \omega \omega \qquad \qquad \Omega \rightsquigarrow_{\beta} \Omega$$

Universal type as mutually recursive **positive** type

$$P = Q \rightarrow P = \mu X.(\mu Y.X \rightarrow Y) \rightarrow X$$
$$Q = P \rightarrow Q = \mu X.(\mu Y.X \rightarrow Y) \rightarrow X$$

U, P, Q all represent infinite binary tree of \rightarrow nodes

 $\vdash U \approx P \approx Q$



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Universal type as mutually recursive **positive** type

$$P = Q \rightarrow P = \mu X.(\mu Y.X \rightarrow Y) \rightarrow X$$
$$Q = P \rightarrow Q = \mu X.(\mu Y.X \rightarrow Y) \rightarrow X$$

U, P, Q all represent infinite binary tree of \rightarrow nodes

$$\vdash U \approx P \approx Q$$

$$\overrightarrow{\bigcirc}$$



All untyped lambda terms can be typed with P!

$FPC_{=}$ in $FPC_{=}^{+}$

Idea: split the positive and negative occurrences

$$\mu X.F[X,X] \approx \mu X.F[\mu Y.F[X,Y],X]$$

[Bekić, 1984]

Example: universal data type

FPC in FPC⁺ + general recursion

Coercions for simulating FPC in FPC₌ use general recursion

 $\mathsf{FPC}^+ + \mathsf{general} \ \mathsf{recursion} \longrightarrow \mathsf{FPC}^+_= \longrightarrow \mathsf{FPC}_= \longrightarrow \mathsf{FPC}$

Example:

$$\begin{split} \omega^{U \to U} &= \lambda x^{U} . (\text{unroll } x) x \\ \Omega^{U} &= \omega^{U \to U} (\text{roll } \omega^{U \to U}) \\ \omega^{Q \to P} &= \lambda x^{Q} . (\text{unroll } (V_{QP} x)) (V_{QP} x) \\ \Omega^{P} &= \omega^{Q \to P} (V_{PQ} (\text{roll } \omega^{Q \to P})) \\ \text{where} \\ V_{QP} &= \text{rec } f^{Q \to P} x^{Q} . \text{roll } (f \circ (\text{unroll } x) \circ f) \\ V_{PQ} &= \text{rec } f^{P \to Q} x^{P} . \text{roll } (f \circ (\text{unroll } x) \circ f) \end{split}$$

Summary

$\mathsf{FPC} \simeq \mathsf{FPC}_{=} \simeq \mathsf{FPC}_{=}^{+} \gtrsim \mathsf{FPC}^{+} \lesssim \mathsf{System} \mathsf{F}$

$FPC^{++} \simeq FPC^{++}_{=}$

Not without general recursion

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Intuitively the encoding requires the insertion of an infinite number of rolls and unrolls

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Morally the notion of a "positive" equi-recursive type is rather misleading

Part III

Existential types



Well-known how universal types can encode existential types

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What if we already have existential types, and want to encode universal types?

(I ran into this situation when trying to define a minimal effect handler calculus where parametric algebraic operations provide existentials, but there are no universals.)

De Morgan dual

$$\exists X.A \equiv \neg \forall X.\neg A = (\forall X.(A \rightarrow \bot)) \rightarrow \bot$$

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System F encoding generalises the de Morgan dual

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What about the other way round?

$$\forall X.A \equiv \neg \exists X. \neg A = (\exists X. (A \rightarrow \bot)) \rightarrow \bot$$

De Morgan dual

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System F encoding generalises the de Morgan dual

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What about the other way round?

$$\forall X.A \equiv \neg \exists X. \neg A = (\exists X. (A \rightarrow \bot)) \rightarrow \bot$$

The generalisation trick is no good as it depends on another universal quantifier

$$\forall X.A \equiv \forall Z.(\exists X.A \rightarrow Z) \rightarrow Z$$

Minimal existential logic

Types

$$A,B ::= \bot \mid \neg A \mid A \times B \mid \exists X.A \mid X$$

Terms

$$M, N ::= x$$

$$| \lambda x^{A}.M | M N$$

$$| (M, N) | let (x, y) = M in N$$

$$| (A, M) | let (X, y) = M in N$$

Universals as existentials [Fujita, 2010]

Judgements

$$(\Gamma \vdash M : A)^* = \neg \Gamma^* \vdash M^* : \neg A^*$$

Types

$$egin{array}{rcl} X^* &=& X\ (A
ightarrow B)^* &=&
eg A^* imes B^*\ (orall X.A)^* &=& \exists X.A^* \end{array}$$

Terms

$$(x : A)^* = \lambda k^{A^*} \cdot x k$$

$$(\lambda x.M : A)^* = \lambda k^{A^*} \cdot \text{let} (x, k) = k \text{ in } M^* k$$

$$(M N : A)^* = \lambda k^{A^*} \cdot M^* (N^*, k)$$

$$(\Lambda X.M : A)^* = \lambda k^{A^*} \cdot \text{let} (X, k) = k \text{ in } M^* k$$

$$(M B : A)^* = \lambda k^{A^*} \cdot M^* (B^*, k)$$

Can existentials encode universals?

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Yes, with a global CPS translation [Fujita, 2010]

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Open question: can we prove that there is no local encoding?

Part IV

Effectful anecdotes

Idioms are oblivious, arrows are meticulous, monads are meticulous



Philip Wadler

Jeremy Yallop

[Lindley, Wadler, and Yallop, 2008]

Semantically: (monads < arrows) and (idioms < arrows)

As programs: idioms < arrows < monads







Ohad Kammar



Matija Pretnar

[Forster, Kammar, Lindley, and Pretnar, 2019]

Eff = effect handlers Mon = monadic reflection

Del = delimited continuations



Yannick Forster



Ohad Kammar



Matija Pretnar

[Forster, Kammar, Lindley, and Pretnar, 2019]

Eff = effect handlers Mon = monadic reflection [

 $\mathsf{Del} = \mathsf{delimited} \ \mathsf{continuations}$

 $\mathsf{Untyped}\qquad \mathsf{Eff}\longleftrightarrow\mathsf{Mon}\longleftrightarrow\mathsf{Del}\longleftrightarrow\mathsf{Eff}$

- \blacktriangleright Translations Mon \longrightarrow Eff and Del \longrightarrow Eff simulate reduction on the nose
- Others translations don't



Yannick Forster



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 $\mathsf{Simply-typed} \qquad \mathsf{Eff} \longleftrightarrow \mathsf{Del}$



Yannick Forster



Ohad Kammar



Matija Pretnar

[Forster, Kammar, Lindley, and Pretnar, 2019]

Eff = effect handlers Mon = monadic reflection Del = definition

 $\mathsf{Del} = \mathsf{delimited} \ \mathsf{continuations}$

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 $\mathsf{Simply-typed} \qquad \mathsf{Eff} \longleftrightarrow \mathsf{Del}$

Novel form of answer-type polymorphism

Asymptotic improvement with control operators



Daniel Hillerström



John Longley

[Hillerström, Lindley, and Longley, 2020]

Generic search algorithm is:

- ▶ $\Omega(n2^n)$ in PCF
- $O(2^n)$ in PCF + effect handlers

Key constraint: no change of types

Higher-order computability [Longley and Normann, 2015]

Part V

Wrapping up

The range of notions of expressiveness is broad

Expressiveness results are fragile

Types enable richer notions of expressiveness