

Lecture
Computability
(DIT313, DAT415)

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Applications

- ▶ Inductively defined sets/structural induction:
General tools for defining and proving things.
- ▶ Primitive recursion: Terminating.
- ▶ Semantics: What do programs mean?
- ▶ Computability:
What can/cannot be implemented?

Today

- ▶ X-computability.
- ▶ A self-interpreter for χ .
- ▶ Reductions.
- ▶ More problems that are or are not computable.
- ▶ More about coding.

X-

computability

$\llbracket _ \rrbracket$

- ▶ Define $CExp = \{ p \in Exp \mid p \text{ is closed} \}$.
- ▶ The semantics as a partial function:

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket _ \rrbracket &\in CExp \rightarrow CExp \\ \llbracket p \rrbracket &= v \text{ if } p \Downarrow v \end{aligned}$$

χ -computable functions

Assume that we have methods for representing members of the sets A and B as closed χ expressions.

A partial function $f \in A \rightarrow B$ is χ -computable (with respect to these methods) if

$$\exists e \in CExp. \forall a \in A. \llbracket e \ulcorner a \urcorner \rrbracket = \ulcorner f a \urcorner.$$

Note: If one side is undefined, then the other side must also be undefined.

X-computable functions

A special case:

A (total) function $f \in A \rightarrow B$ is χ -computable if there is a closed expression e such that:

- ▶ $\forall a \in A. e \ulcorner a \urcorner \Downarrow \ulcorner f a \urcorner.$

Quiz

What would go “wrong” if we decided to represent closed χ expressions in the following way?

A closed χ expression is represented by `True()` if it terminates, and by `False()` otherwise.

Respond at <https://pingo.coactum.de/921051>.

Representation

- ▶ The choice of representation is important.
- ▶ In this course (unless otherwise noted or inapplicable): The “standard” representation.
- ▶ It might make sense to require that the representation function $\lceil _ \rceil$ is “computable”.
 - ▶ However, how should this be defined?

Examples

- ▶ Addition of natural numbers is χ -computable:

$$\begin{aligned} add &\in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \\ add(m, n) &= m + n \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ The intensional halting problem is not χ -computable:

$$\begin{aligned} halts &\in CExp \rightarrow Bool \\ halts\ p &= \mathbf{if}\ p\ \text{terminates}\ \mathbf{then}\ \text{true}\ \mathbf{else}\ \text{false} \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ The semantics $\llbracket _ \rrbracket$ is computable.

Self-
interpreter

Self-interpreter

Goal: Define $eval \in CExp$ satisfying

$$\forall e \in CExp. \llbracket eval \ulcorner e \urcorner \rrbracket = \ulcorner \llbracket e \rrbracket \urcorner.$$

Self-interpreter

```
rec eval =  $\lambda e.$  case e of  
  { ...  
  }
```

Self-interpreter

$$\overline{\text{lambd}a\ x\ e\ \Downarrow\ \text{lambd}a\ x\ e}$$
$$\text{Lambda}(x, e) \rightarrow \text{Lambda}(x, e)$$

Self-interpreter

$$\frac{e_1 \Downarrow \text{lambda } x \ e \quad e_2 \Downarrow v_2 \quad e [x \leftarrow v_2] \Downarrow v}{\text{apply } e_1 \ e_2 \Downarrow v}$$

Apply(e_1, e_2) \rightarrow **case** *eval* e_1 **of**
 { Lambda(x, e) \rightarrow *eval* (*subst* x (*eval* e_2) e)
 }

Exercise: Define *subst*.

Self-interpreter

$$\frac{e [x \leftarrow \text{rec } x e] \Downarrow v}{\text{rec } x e \Downarrow v}$$

$\text{Rec}(x, e) \rightarrow \text{eval} (\text{subst } x \text{ Rec}(x, e) e)$

Self-interpreter

$$\frac{es \Downarrow^* vs}{\text{const } c \text{ es} \Downarrow \text{const } c \text{ vs}}$$

$\text{Const}(c, es) \rightarrow \text{Const}(c, \text{map eval } es)$

Exercise: Define *map*.

Self-interpreter

$$\frac{e \Downarrow \text{const } c \text{ vs} \quad \text{Lookup } c \text{ bs } xs \ e' \quad e' [xs \leftarrow vs] \mapsto e'' \quad e'' \Downarrow v}{\text{case } e \text{ bs } \Downarrow v}$$

$\text{Case}(e, \text{bs}) \rightarrow \mathbf{case} \text{ eval } e \text{ of}$
 $\{ \text{Const}(c, \text{vs}) \rightarrow \mathbf{case} \text{ lookup } c \text{ bs of}$
 $\{ \text{Pair}(xs, e') \rightarrow \text{eval } (\text{subst } xs \text{ vs } e')$
 $\}$
 $\}$

Exercise: Define *lookup* and *subst*.

Self-interpreter

```
rec eval = λ e. case e of
  { Lambda(x, e) → Lambda(x, e)
  ; Apply(e1, e2) → case eval e1 of
    { Lambda(x, e) → eval (subst x (eval e2) e) }
  ; Rec(x, e) → eval (subst x Rec(x, e) e)
  ; Const(c, es) → Const(c, map eval es)
  ; Case(e, bs) → case eval e of
    { Const(c, vs) → case lookup c bs of
      { Pair(xs, e') → eval (substs xs vs e') }
    }
  }
```

Note: *subst*, *map*, *lookup* and *substs* are meta-variables that stand for (closed) expressions.

Quiz

Is the following partial function χ -computable?

$halts \in CExp \rightarrow Bool$

$halts\ p =$

if p terminates **then** true **else** undefined

Respond at <https://pingo.coactum.de/921051>.

Quiz

Is the following partial function
 χ -computable?

$halts \in CExp \rightarrow Bool$

$halts\ p =$

if p **terminates** **then** true **else** undefined

One implementation: $\lambda p. (\lambda _ . True()) (eval\ p)$.

X-decidable

A function $f \in A \rightarrow Bool$ is χ -*decidable* if it is χ -computable. If not, then it is χ -*undecidable*.

χ -semi-decidable

A function $f \in A \rightarrow Bool$ is χ -semi-decidable if there is a closed expression e such that, for all $a \in A$:

- ▶ If $f a = \text{true}$ then $e \ulcorner a \urcorner \Downarrow \ulcorner \text{true} \urcorner$.
- ▶ If $f a = \text{false}$ then $e \ulcorner a \urcorner$ does not terminate.

The halting problem is semi-decidable

The halting problem:

$halts \in CExp \rightarrow Bool$

$halts\ p = \mathbf{if}\ p\ \text{terminates}\ \mathbf{then}\ \text{true}\ \mathbf{else}\ \text{false}$

A program witnessing the semi-decidability:

$\lambda p. (\lambda _ . \text{True}()) (eval\ p)$

Reductions

Reductions (one variant)

A χ -reduction of $f \in A \rightarrow B$ to $g \in C \rightarrow D$ consists of a proof showing that, if g is χ -computable, then f is χ -computable.

Reductions (one variant)

A χ -reduction of $f \in A \rightarrow B$ to $g \in C \rightarrow D$ consists of a proof showing that, if g is χ -computable, then f is χ -computable.

- ▶ If f is reducible to g , and f is not computable, then g is not computable.
- ▶ Last week we proved that the halting problem is undecidable by reducing another problem to it.

More
(un)decidable
problems

Semantic equality

- ▶ Are two closed λ expressions semantically equal?

$equal \in CExp \times CExp \rightarrow Bool$

$equal(e_1, e_2) =$

if $\llbracket e_1 \rrbracket = \llbracket e_2 \rrbracket$ **then** true **else** false

- ▶ The halting problem reduces to this one:

$halts = \lambda p. not (equal \text{Pair}(p, \ulcorner \mathbf{rec } x = x \urcorner))$

Pointwise equality

- ▶ Pointwise equality:

$pointwise\text{-}equal \in CExp \times CExp \rightarrow Bool$

$pointwise\text{-}equal(e_1, e_2) =$
if $\forall e \in CExp. \llbracket e_1 e \rrbracket = \llbracket e_2 e \rrbracket$
then true else false

- ▶ The previous problem reduces to this one:

$equal = \lambda p. \mathbf{case} p \mathbf{of}$
 { $\mathbf{Pair}(e_1, e_2) \rightarrow$
 $pointwise\text{-}equal$
 $\mathbf{Pair}(\mathbf{Lambda}(\mathbf{Zero}(), e_1),$
 $\mathbf{Lambda}(\mathbf{Zero}(), e_2))$
 }

Termination in n steps

- ▶ Termination in n steps:

$terminates-in \in CExp \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow Bool$

$terminates-in(e, n) =$

if $\exists v. \exists p \in e \Downarrow v. |p| \leq n$

then true else false

$|p|$: The number of rules (\Downarrow , not \Downarrow^*)
in the derivation tree.

- ▶ Decidable: We can define a variant of the self-interpreter that tries to evaluate e but stops if more than n rules are needed.

Representation

- ▶ How do we represent a χ -computable function?
- ▶ For instance a member of the set

$$\{f \in \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \mid f \text{ is } \chi\text{-computable}\}.$$

- ▶ By the representation of one of the closed expressions witnessing the computability of the function. However, which one?
- ▶ One solution: Switch to

$$\{(f, e) \mid f \in \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}, e \in CExp, e \text{ implements } f\},$$

and define $\ulcorner (f, e) \urcorner = \ulcorner e \urcorner$.

Quiz

Is the following problem χ -decidable for $A = Bool$? What if $A = \mathbb{N}$?

```
let  $Fun = \{(f, e) \mid f \in A \rightarrow Bool, e \in CExp,$   
            $e \text{ implements } f\}$  in  
 $pointwise\text{-equal}' \in Fun \times Fun \rightarrow Bool$   
 $pointwise\text{-equal}' ((f, -), (g, -)) =$   
  if  $\forall a \in A. f\ a = g\ a$  then true else false
```

Hint: Use *eval* or *terminates-in*.

Respond at <https://pingo.coactum.de/921051>.

Pointwise equality of computable functions in $Bool \rightarrow Bool$

- ▶ The function *pointwise-equal'* is decidable.
- ▶ Implementation:

$$\begin{aligned} pointwise\text{-}equal' = \lambda p. \mathbf{case\ } p \mathbf{ of} \\ \{ \mathbf{Pair}(f, g) \rightarrow \\ \quad \mathit{and}\ (equal_{Bool}\ (eval\ \mathbf{Apply}(f, \lceil \mathbf{True}()\ \lceil \rceil)) \\ \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad (eval\ \mathbf{Apply}(g, \lceil \mathbf{True}()\ \lceil \rceil))) \\ \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad (equal_{Bool}\ (eval\ \mathbf{Apply}(f, \lceil \mathbf{False}()\ \lceil \rceil)) \\ \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad (eval\ \mathbf{Apply}(g, \lceil \mathbf{False}()\ \lceil \rceil))) \\ \} \end{aligned}$$

Pointwise equality of computable functions in $Bool \rightarrow Bool$

- ▶ The function *pointwise-equal'* is decidable.
- ▶ Implementation:

```
pointwise-equal' = λp. case p of  
  { Pair(f, g) →  
    and (equalBool (evalΓ ⊔ f ⊔ True() ⊔)  
          (evalΓ ⊔ g ⊔ True() ⊔))  
      (equalBool (evalΓ ⊔ f ⊔ False() ⊔)  
          (evalΓ ⊔ g ⊔ False() ⊔))  
    }
```

Pointwise equality of computable functions in $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow Bool$

- ▶ The function *pointwise-equal'* is undecidable.
- ▶ The halting problem reduces to it:

$$\begin{aligned} halts = \lambda p. not (pointwise-equal' \\ \text{Pair}(\ulcorner \lambda n. terminates-in \text{Pair}(_ code p _, n) \urcorner, \\ \ulcorner \lambda _. False() \urcorner)) \end{aligned}$$

Coding

┌ ─ ┐

One way to give a semantics to $\llbracket _ \rrbracket$:

- ▶ $\llbracket _ \rrbracket$ is a constructor of a variant of Exp :

$$\frac{e \in Exp}{\llbracket e \rrbracket \in \overline{Exp}} \quad \frac{e_1 \in \overline{Exp} \quad e_2 \in \overline{Exp}}{\text{apply } e_1 \ e_2 \in \overline{Exp}} \quad \dots$$

- ▶ This variant is the domain of $\ulcorner _ \urcorner$:

$$\begin{aligned} \ulcorner _ \urcorner \in \overline{Exp} &\rightarrow Exp \\ \ulcorner \llbracket e \rrbracket \urcorner &= e \\ \ulcorner \text{apply } e_1 \ e_2 \urcorner &= \text{Apply}(\ulcorner e_1 \urcorner, \ulcorner e_2 \urcorner) \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Examples:

$$\ulcorner _ f _ \text{True}() \urcorner = \text{Apply}(f, \ulcorner \text{True}() \urcorner)$$

$$\ulcorner \text{eval} _ \text{code } e _ \urcorner = \text{Apply}(\ulcorner \text{eval} \urcorner, \text{code } e)$$

- ▶ Note that you do not have to use $_ _ _$.



The reduction used above:

$$\text{halts} = \lambda p. \text{not} (\text{pointwise-equal}' \\ \text{Pair}(\ulcorner \lambda n. \text{terminates-in Pair}(\ulcorner \text{code } p \urcorner, n) \urcorner, \\ \ulcorner \lambda _ . \text{False}() \urcorner))$$

Expanded:

$$\lambda p. \text{not} (\text{pointwise-equal}' \\ \text{Pair}(\text{Lambda}(\ulcorner n \urcorner, \\ \text{Apply}(\ulcorner \text{terminates-in} \urcorner, \\ \text{Const}(\ulcorner \text{Pair} \urcorner, \\ \text{Cons}(\text{code } p, \\ \text{Cons}(\text{Var}(\ulcorner n \urcorner), \text{Nil}())))), \\ \ulcorner \lambda _ . \text{False}() \urcorner))$$

Coding

Probably not what you want:

$$\lambda p. \ulcorner eval\ p \urcorner = \lambda p. \text{Apply}(\ulcorner eval \urcorner, \text{Var}(\ulcorner p \urcorner))$$

If p corresponds to 0:

$$\lambda p. \text{Apply}(\ulcorner eval \urcorner, \text{Var}(\text{Zero}()))$$

The argument p is ignored.

Coding

Perhaps more useful:

$$\lambda p. \ulcorner eval _ code p \urcorner = \lambda p. \mathbf{Apply}(\ulcorner eval \urcorner, code\ p)$$

For any closed expression e :

$$(\lambda p. \ulcorner eval _ code p \urcorner) \ulcorner e \urcorner \Downarrow \ulcorner eval \ulcorner e \urcorner \urcorner$$

Quiz

What is the result of evaluating

$(\lambda p. eval \ulcorner eval _ code p \urcorner) \ulcorner Zero() \urcorner?$

1. Nothing
2. Zero()
3. $\ulcorner Zero() \urcorner$
4. $\ulcorner \ulcorner Zero() \urcorner \urcorner$
5. $\ulcorner \ulcorner \ulcorner Zero() \urcorner \urcorner \urcorner$
6. $\ulcorner \ulcorner \ulcorner \ulcorner Zero() \urcorner \urcorner \urcorner \urcorner$

Recall that $\llbracket eval \ulcorner e \urcorner \rrbracket = \ulcorner \llbracket e \rrbracket \urcorner$ and
 $\llbracket code \ulcorner e \urcorner \rrbracket = \ulcorner \ulcorner e \urcorner \urcorner$ (for $e \in CExp$).

Respond at <https://pingo.coactum.de/921051>.

Quiz

What is the result of evaluating

$(\lambda p. \text{eval} \ulcorner \text{eval} _ \text{code } p _ \urcorner) \ulcorner \text{Zero}() \urcorner?$

$$\begin{aligned} & \llbracket (\lambda p. \text{eval} \ulcorner \text{eval} _ \text{code } p _ \urcorner) \ulcorner \text{Zero}() \urcorner \rrbracket & = \\ & \llbracket (\lambda p. \text{eval} \text{Apply}(\ulcorner \text{eval} \urcorner, \text{code } p)) \ulcorner \text{Zero}() \urcorner \rrbracket & = \\ & \llbracket \text{eval} \text{Apply}(\ulcorner \text{eval} \urcorner, \text{code} \ulcorner \text{Zero}() \urcorner) \rrbracket & = \\ & \llbracket \text{eval} \text{Apply}(\ulcorner \text{eval} \urcorner, \ulcorner \ulcorner \text{Zero}() \urcorner \urcorner) \rrbracket & = \\ & \llbracket \text{eval} \ulcorner \text{eval} \ulcorner \text{Zero}() \urcorner \urcorner \rrbracket & = \\ & \ulcorner \llbracket \text{eval} \ulcorner \text{Zero}() \urcorner \rrbracket \urcorner & = \\ & \ulcorner \ulcorner \llbracket \text{Zero}() \rrbracket \urcorner \urcorner & = \\ & \ulcorner \ulcorner \text{Zero}() \urcorner \urcorner & \end{aligned}$$

Recall: $\llbracket \text{eval} \ulcorner e \urcorner \rrbracket = \ulcorner \llbracket e \rrbracket \urcorner$, $\llbracket \text{code} \ulcorner e \urcorner \rrbracket = \ulcorner \ulcorner e \urcorner \urcorner$.

Types

- ▶ The language λ is untyped.
- ▶ However, it may be instructive to see certain programs as typed.

Types

- ▶ *Rep A*: Representations of programs of type *A*.
- ▶ Some examples:

<code>True()</code>	$: Bool$
<code>⌈ True() ⌋</code>	$: Rep\ Bool$
<code>⌈ true ⌋</code>	$: Bool$
<code>$\lambda f. \lambda x. f\ x$</code>	$: (A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow A \rightarrow B$
<code>$\lambda f. \lambda x. \mathbf{Apply}(f, x)$</code>	$: Rep\ (A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow$ $Rep\ A \rightarrow Rep\ B$
<code><i>eval</i></code>	$: Rep\ A \rightarrow Rep\ A$
<code><i>code</i></code>	$: Rep\ A \rightarrow Rep\ (Rep\ A)$
<code><i>terminates-in</i></code>	$: Rep\ A \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow Bool$
<code>⌈ <i>terminates-in</i> ⌋</code>	$: Rep\ (Rep\ A \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow Bool)$

Types

The reduction used above:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{halts} = & \lambda p. \text{not } (\text{pointwise-equal}' \\ & \text{Pair}(\ulcorner \lambda n. \text{terminates-in } \text{Pair}(_ \text{code } p _, n) \urcorner, \\ & \ulcorner \lambda _. \text{False}() \urcorner)) \end{aligned}$$

If

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{pointwise-equal}' : \\ & \text{Rep } (\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Bool}) \times \text{Rep } (\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{Bool}) \rightarrow \text{Bool} \end{aligned}$$

then

$$\text{halts} : \text{Rep } A \rightarrow \text{Bool}.$$

More
undecidable
problems

Quiz

Is the following function χ -computable?

$optimise \in CExp \rightarrow CExp$

$optimise\ e =$

some optimally small expression with
the same semantics as e

Size: The number of constructors in the abstract syntax (Exp , Br , $List$, not Var or $Const$).

Respond at <https://pingo.coactum.de/921051>.

Full employment theorem for compiler writers

- ▶ An optimally small non-terminating closed expression is equal to $\mathbf{rec} \ x = x$ (for some x).
- ▶ The halting problem reduces to this one:

$$\begin{aligned} halts = \lambda p. \mathbf{case} \textit{optimise} \ p \ \mathbf{of} \\ \{ \mathbf{Rec}(x, e) \rightarrow \mathbf{case} \ e \ \mathbf{of} \\ \quad \{ \mathbf{Var}(y) \quad \rightarrow \mathbf{False}() \\ \quad ; \mathbf{Rec}(x, e) \rightarrow \mathbf{True}() \\ \quad ; \dots \\ \quad \} \\ ; \dots \\ \} \end{aligned}$$

Computable real numbers

- ▶ Computable reals can be defined in many ways.
- ▶ One example, using signed digits:

$$\begin{aligned} \textit{Interval} = \\ \{ (f, e) \mid f \in \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{-1, 0, 1\}, e \in \textit{CExp}, \\ e \text{ implements } f \} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket - \rrbracket \in \textit{Interval} &\rightarrow [-1, 1] \\ \llbracket (f, -) \rrbracket &= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} f_i \cdot 2^{-i-1} \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Why signed digits? Try computing the first digit of $0.00000\dots + 0.11111\dots$ (in binary notation).

Is a computable real number equal to zero?

- ▶ Is a computable real number equal to zero?

$is-zero \in Interval \rightarrow Bool$

$is-zero\ x = \mathbf{if}\ \llbracket x \rrbracket = 0\ \mathbf{then}\ \mathbf{true}\ \mathbf{else}\ \mathbf{false}$

- ▶ The halting problem reduces to this one:

$halts = \lambda p. not\ (is-zero\ \ulcorner\ \lambda n.$

$\mathbf{case}\ terminates\text{-in}\ \mathbf{Pair}(\ulcorner\ code\ p\ \urcorner, n)\ \mathbf{of}$

$\{ \mathbf{True}() \rightarrow \mathbf{One}()$

$;\ \mathbf{False}() \rightarrow \mathbf{Zero}()$

$\} \urcorner)$

Undecidable problems

- ▶ A list on Wikipedia.
- ▶ A list on MathOverflow.

Summary

- ▶ X-computability.
- ▶ A self-interpreter for χ .
- ▶ Reductions.
- ▶ More problems that are or are not computable.
- ▶ More about coding.