

Curry-Howard Correspondence for Classical Logic



CENTRE NATIONAL
DE LA RECHERCHE
SCIENTIFIQUE

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Practicalities

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Slides ...

Schedule: Tuesdays, from 16:15 to 19:15

7th December, 14th December, 3rd January, 10th January (guest lecture by Beniamino Accattoli)

Room : 2035, Sophie Germain building

Lecture I
Classical logic as a typing system

Contents

- I. Introduction
- II. What works and what does not
- III. A bit of history

I. Introduction

Curry-Howard correspondence for Classical Logic

These lectures are part of the course

Logique linéaire et paradigmes logiques du calcul

(mostly)

Although, *polarity* and *focusing* -from linear logic- have played a major part in the understanding of C-H correspondence for Classical Logic.

(see e.g. Olivier Laurent's PhD work [Laurent \[2003\]](#))

Curry-Howard correspondence

One of two sides of the coin

“**computational interpretation** of a logic”

output of a computation = cut-free proof

Side 1 computation as proof search

(starting from a formula to prove)

Logic programming (see e.g. Dale Miller’s course)

Side 2 computation as *composition* of proofs / cut-elimination

(starting from a proof with cuts)

Curry-Howard (see e.g. this course)

II. What works and what does not

Where it all works smoothly

Intuitionistic/minimal logic

<i>Logic</i>	<i>Programming language</i> λ -calculus	<i>Categories</i>
Propositions	Types	Objects
Proofs	Typed programs λ -terms	Morphisms
Cut/Composition	Program composition β -redex	Morphism composition
Where the stuff happens (Cut-elimination)	Execution β -reduction	Equality of morphisms (commuting diagrams)

Original correspondence

For minimal logic:

Curry Combinators (S,K,I) \leftrightarrow Hilbert-style system

Howard Howard [1980] Typed λ -terms \leftrightarrow Natural Deduction

$$\frac{}{\Gamma, x:A \vdash x:A}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x:A \vdash M:B}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x.M : A \rightarrow B} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : A \rightarrow B \quad \Gamma \vdash N : A}{\Gamma \vdash M N : B}$$

$$(\lambda x.M) N \longrightarrow_{\beta} \{N/x\} M$$

$$\lambda x.M x \longrightarrow_{\eta} M \qquad \text{if } x \notin \text{FV}(M)$$

$=_{\beta\eta}$ sound and complete for **Cartesian Closed Categories** (CCC)

Generalising the approach

Decorate proofs with syntactic terms: $\Gamma \vdash A$ becomes $\Gamma \vdash M : A$

Proof transformations

Reductions (execution of) $M: M \longrightarrow_{\mathcal{S}} N$

given by rewrite system \mathcal{S} .

Desired properties of the reduction system

- **Progress**, i.e. any term containing undesirable structures can be reduced.
 - **Subject reduction** property, i.e. preservation of typing:
If $\Gamma \vdash M : A$ and $M \longrightarrow_{\mathcal{S}} N$ then $\Gamma \vdash N : A$
1. **Confluence**, programs are deterministic
 2. **Normalisation** (strong), i.e. execution of programs terminates.

Example

From minimal logic to *intuitionistic logic* = *minimal logic* + “*Ex falso Quodlibet*”

add rule:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \perp}{\Gamma \vdash \text{abort}(M) : A}$$

Computational behaviour:

$$\text{abort}(M) N \longrightarrow \text{abort}(M)$$

In category theory: add to a CCC an *initial* object \perp

(i.e. for every object A there is a unique morphism $\perp \longrightarrow A$)

Now, remember that $\neg A$ is $A \rightarrow \perp$

How to get classical logic

Either add axiom schemes

$(\neg\neg A) \Rightarrow A$ (Elimination of double negation)

$((A \Rightarrow B) \Rightarrow A) \Rightarrow A$ (Peirce's law)

$A \vee \neg A$ (Law of excluded middle)

In presence of “Ex falso Quodlibet” ($\perp \Rightarrow A$):

All equivalent

Without “Ex falso Quodlibet”:

only EDN \Rightarrow PL \Rightarrow LEM

... Or with inference rules, for instance:

$$\frac{\Gamma, \neg A \vdash \perp}{\Gamma \vdash A} \text{ for EDN}$$

or by the structure of formalism

cf. classical sequent calculus and **right-contraction**

The bad news

Take a CCC with initial object \perp

Require that for all object A , A is naturally isomorphic to $(A \Rightarrow \perp) \Rightarrow \perp$

The category collapses to a boolean algebra:

at most 1 morphism between any 2 objects

= cannot distinguish 2 proofs of the same theorem

Quite useless for a theory of proofs, or for the proofs-as-program paradigm

Has classical logic a computational content?

Girard, Lafont, Taylor *Proofs and types*: No Girard et al. [1989]

III. A bit of history

The notion of continuation

Program execution flow:

↓ code P that has been executed, producing data v

v its output

↓ code E that remains to be executed, consuming data v

Continuation

= programming environment/context within which some code is executed

The notion of continuation

...is also useful for compiling recursive calls

```
myfunction(a1, ..., an) {  
  some code;  
  x = myfunction(a1', ..., an');  
  some code possibly using x;  
}
```

When executing recursive call, whole environment must be saved to resume computation (code that remains to be executed + state of memory).

Not needed if some code possibly using `x` is empty (tail recursion).

Trick = pass it to the recursive call as a “continuation” `c'` :

```
myfunction(a1, ..., an, c) {  
  some code;  
  return myfunction(a1', ..., an', c');  
}
```

The notion of continuation in λ -calculus

Program execution flow:

↓ code P that has been executed, producing data v

v its output

↓ code E that remains to be executed, consuming data v

can be seen in

- P is a λ -term that is reduced
- E is the context, in the syntactic sense (a term with a hole $E[]$)

$E[]$ can also be seen as a function $\lambda x.E[x]$

The notion of control

In **pure** λ -calculus, P has no knowledge of $E[]$ while being evaluated.

Control =

letting a program know and manipulate its environment/continuation

getting “unpure features”, modelling `goto` instructions

- Reynolds **Reynolds [1972]**, Strachey-Wadsworth **Strachey and Wadsworth [2000]**
(re-edition of 74)
on continuations and *call-with-current-continuation (call-cc): cc*
Added to programming language Scheme
- Felleisen’s PhD work **Felleisen [1987]** on Syntactic Theory of Control: the *C operator*

Connection with Logic (89-90)

The general idea:

$$E[\text{abort}(M)] \longrightarrow M$$

$$E[\text{cc } M] \longrightarrow E[M (\lambda x.E[x])]$$

$$E[\mathcal{C} M] \longrightarrow M (\lambda x.E[x])$$

In presence of $\text{abort}()$, cc and \mathcal{C} are interdefinable:

$$\mathcal{C} M := \text{cc } (\lambda k.\text{abort}(M k)) \quad k \notin \text{FV}(M)$$

$$\text{cc } M := \mathcal{C} (\lambda k.k (M k)) \quad k \notin \text{FV}(M)$$

Griffin Griffin [1990]:

cc can be typed by $((A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow A) \rightarrow A$

\mathcal{C} can be typed by $(\neg \neg A) \rightarrow A$

Central question about control

$$E[\text{abort}(M)] \longrightarrow M$$

$$E[\text{cc } M] \longrightarrow E[M (\lambda x.E[x])]$$

$$E[C M] \longrightarrow M (\lambda x.E[x])$$

Above rules are not “standard” rewrite rules. . .

What exactly does $E[]$ stand for / range over?

More fundamentally:

What kind of continuation can be captured by a control operator?

Is the capture delimited? undelimited? etc

One proposed formalisation: Parigot's $\lambda\mu$ -calculus Parigot [1992]

Terms $M, N, P \dots ::= x \mid \lambda x.M \mid M N \mid \mu\alpha.c$

Commands $c ::= [\alpha]M$

$$\frac{}{\Gamma, x:A \vdash x:A; \Delta}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x:A \vdash M:B; \Delta}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x.M:A \rightarrow B; \Delta} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M:A \rightarrow B; \Delta \quad \Gamma \vdash N:A; \Delta}{\Gamma \vdash M N:B; \Delta}$$

$$\frac{c:(\Gamma \vdash ; \alpha:A, \Delta)}{\Gamma \vdash \mu\alpha.c:A; \Delta} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M:A; \alpha:A, \Delta}{[\alpha]M:(\Gamma \vdash ; \alpha:A, \Delta)}$$

Parigot's $\lambda\mu$ -calculus Parigot [1992]

Extra reduction rules:

$$(\mu\alpha.c) N \longrightarrow \mu\beta.\{[\beta]^M N / [\alpha]_M\} c$$

$$[\beta]\mu\alpha.c \longrightarrow \{\beta / \alpha\} c$$

Integrates Peirce's law: $cc := \lambda x.\mu\alpha.[\alpha](x \lambda y.\mu\beta.[\alpha]y) \quad : ((A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow A) \rightarrow A$

Consider that contexts are of the form $E[] = [\gamma]([] N_1 \dots N_n)$

If given a top-level continuation variable $\text{top} : \perp$ (Ariola-Herbelin Ariola and Herbelin [2003]),

- integrates "Ex falso quod libet" $\lambda x.\mu\alpha.[\text{top}]x \quad : \perp \rightarrow A$
- integrates DNE $\mathcal{C} := \lambda x.\mu\alpha.[\text{top}](x \lambda y.\mu\beta.[\alpha]y) \quad : (\neg\neg A) \rightarrow A$

So far, so good

Symmetry

There's something symmetric about classical logic:

- Boolean algebras
- De Morgan duality:

$$\neg(A \wedge B) = \neg A \vee \neg B$$

$$\neg(A \vee B) = \neg A \wedge \neg B$$

- Classical Sequent calculus LK

left-contraction symmetric to right-contraction

(\neq intuitionistic logic)

So far, not explicit in our proof theory + term calculi

Filinski **Filinski** [1989]: first formalisation of a duality between

- functions as values
- functions as continuations

Symmetric λ -calculus, with explicit conversions from one view to the other

No explicit connection with logic. Is there one?

Barbanera - Berardi and after

Yes, there's one.

See BB's symmetric λ -calculus [Barbanera and Berardi \[1996\]](#): Natural Deduction with continuations

It is more like a one-sided sequent calculus

Symmetry of the calculus corresponds to symmetry/duality of LK

Other calculi for (bi-sided) versions of LK, with cut-elimination as computation:

- Urban's calculus [Urban \[2000\]](#),
- Curien-Herbelin's $\bar{\lambda}\mu\tilde{\mu}$ [Curien and Herbelin \[2000\]](#) for \Rightarrow (easier in bi-sided sequent calculus),

later extended by Wadler [Wadler \[2003\]](#) for \wedge and \vee (connecting to De Morgan)

Two independent works

Curien-Herbelin's aim:

Express duality of computation syntactically (with a Filinski-like calculus)

Semantics, no proof of SN.

Urban's aim:

Have a typing system as close as possible to LK, have a reduction system as close as possible to basic cut-elimination procedures

SN, but no semantics.

Then: a broad literature on comparing such calculi.

Curien-Herbelin-Wadler - syntax

terms $t ::= x \mid \mu\beta.c \mid \lambda x.t \mid \langle t_1, t_2 \rangle \mid \text{inj}_i(t)$

continuations $e ::= \alpha \mid \mu x.c \mid t :: e \mid \langle e_1, e_2 \rangle \mid \text{inj}_i(e)$

commands $c ::= \langle t \bullet e \rangle$

Intuition:

x, y, \dots : inputs (variables standing for terms)

α, β, \dots : outputs (variables standing for continuations)

terms = some inputs (free term variables)

+ one main output

+ alternative outputs (free continuation variables)

continuations = one main input

+ additional inputs (free term variables)

+ some outputs (free continuation variables)

commands = a term facing a continuation (this interaction creates computation)

Curien-Herbelin-Wadler - typing

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{}{\Gamma, x:A \vdash x:A; \Delta} \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma, x:A \vdash t:B; \Delta}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x.t:A \rightarrow B; \Delta} \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1:A_1; \Delta \quad \Gamma \vdash t_2:A_2; \Delta}{\Gamma \vdash \langle t_1, t_2 \rangle:A_1 \wedge A_2; \Delta} \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma \vdash t:A_i; \Delta}{\Gamma \vdash \text{inj}_i(t):A_1 \vee A_2; \Delta} \\
 \\
 \frac{c:(\Gamma \vdash \alpha:A, \Delta)}{\Gamma \vdash \mu \alpha.c:A; \Delta} \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma \vdash t:A; \Delta \quad \Gamma; e:A \vdash \Delta}{\langle t \bullet e \rangle:(\Gamma \vdash \Delta)}
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{c}
 \frac{}{\Gamma; \alpha:A \vdash \alpha:A, \Delta} \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma \vdash t:A; \Delta \quad \Gamma; e:B \vdash \Delta}{\Gamma; t::e:A \rightarrow B \vdash \Delta} \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma; e:A_i \vdash \Delta}{\Gamma; \text{inj}_i(e):A_1 \wedge A_2 \vdash \Delta} \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma; e_1:A_1 \vdash \Delta \quad \Gamma; e_2:A_2 \vdash \Delta}{\Gamma; \langle e_1, e_2 \rangle:A_1 \vee A_2 \vdash \Delta} \\
 \\
 \frac{c:(\Gamma, x:A \vdash \Delta)}{\Gamma; \mu x.c:A \vdash \Delta}
 \end{array}$$

Example: Law of Excluded Middle

A story: The devil, the fool, and the \$1000000.

(borrowed from Phil Wadler)



- I have an offer for you! My promise is:

Either I offer you \$1000000

or, if you give me \$1000000

then I will grant you any wish

I choose to offer you the latter.

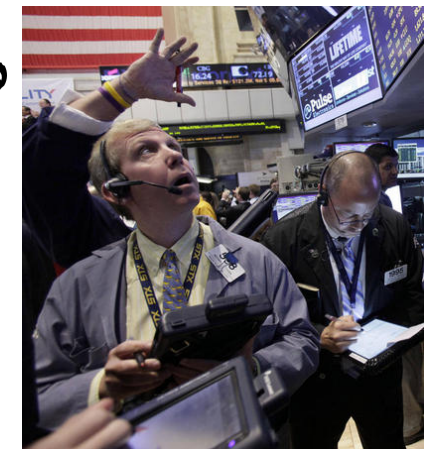


- Here's \$1000000! I want immortality.

- Well done and thank you!

Now, I've changed my mind.

I've now decided to fulfill my promise
by offering you \$1000000.



Here is your money back!

Questions?

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