

# General Recursion

Yu Zhang

<http://staff.ustc.edu.cn/~yuzhang/pldpa>

# References

- [PFPL](#)
  - Chapters
    - 19 System PCF of Recursive Functions
    - \* 20 System FPC of Recursive Types
- [TAPL](#)

# Outline

- Recursion theorem
- Recursive function
  - Example: factorial function in Lua
  - General recursor ( $fix_{\sigma}$  operator) and general recursion
    - (一般递归式和一般递归)
- Statics & Dynamics
- (Briefly intro.) Recursive types

# Recursion Theorem

- Recursion theorem: computability theory
- Computable functions (可计算函数) **f**
  - f is computable if it can be calculated by a finite mechanical procedure
  - 1936 Church(美): computable functions are general recursive functions (一般递归函数)  
(判定性问题 Entscheidungs problem )
- 和 Kleene在 20 世纪三十年代引入 untyped  $\lambda$  calculus

# Recursion Theorem

- Recursion theorem: computability theory
- Computable functions (可计算函数) **f**
  - 1936, Turing(英): 提出Turing机, any computable function is Turing computable —Church-Turing Thesis (论点)
  - 1936, Kleene(美): 证明一般递归函数就是Turing机所计算的函数。



# Recursion

- Example: factorial function in Lua

```
local function fact(n)
  if n == 0 then return 1
  else return n * fact(n - 1) end
end
```

Can we represent the recursion as any other kind of term?

```
local x = 0
local y = x + y
```



- A new kind of function where  $f$  is a **variable**:  $\mathbf{fn } f(x : \tau) t$

$\mathbf{fn } f(x : \mathbf{int}). \mathbf{if } x = 0 \mathbf{ then } 1 \mathbf{ else } x * f(x - 1)$

Self-reference

# Recursion: self-reference

- Dynamics

$$\frac{t_2 \text{ val}}{(\text{fn } f(x:\tau).t_1)t_2 \mapsto [t_2/x, (\text{fn } f(x:\tau).t_1)/f]t_1}$$

$(\text{fn } f(x : \text{int}).\text{if } x = 0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } x * f(x - 1)) 2$

$\mapsto [2 / x, (\text{fn } f(x : \text{int}).\text{if } x = 0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } x * f(x - 1)) / f]$

$\text{if } x = 0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } x * f(x - 1)$

$\equiv \text{if } 2 = 0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } 2 *$

$(\text{fn } f(x : \text{int}).\text{if } x = 0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } x * f(x - 1))(2 - 1)$

$\mapsto \text{if } \text{false} \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } 2 *$

$(\text{fn } f(x : \text{int}).\text{if } x = 0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } x * f(x - 1))(2 - 1)$

$\mapsto 2 * (\text{fn } f(x : \text{int}).\text{if } x = 0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } x * f(x - 1))(2 - 1)$

Need generalize the mechanism to work for any term!

# General Recursion: *fixpoint* operator

- General recursion(一般递归式):  $fix(F)$ 
  - $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ , such that  $f = F(f)$
  - $f$  is defined to be  $fix(F)$
  - $fix$ : higher-order operator on functionals  $F$
- Example `fn  $f(x : \text{int})$ .if  $x = 0$  then 1 else  $x * f(x - 1)$` 

Use fixpoint operator `fix`:

$$fix(\lambda(f : \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}).\lambda(x : \text{int}).\text{if } x = 0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } x * f(x - 1))$$

---

$$F \triangleq \lambda(f : \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}).\lambda(x : \text{int}).\text{if } x = 0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } x * f(x - 1)$$
- What is the type of `fix` ?



# General Recursion: *fixpoint* operator

- General recursion(一般递归式):  $fix(F)$ 
  - $f$  is defined to be  $fix(F)$
- Example `fn f(x : int).if x = 0 then 1 else x * f(x - 1)`

Use fixpoint operator `fix`:

$$fix(\lambda(f : int \rightarrow int).\lambda(x : int).if\ x = 0\ then\ 1\ else\ x * f(x - 1))$$

---

$$F \equiv \lambda(f : int \rightarrow int).\lambda(x : int).if\ =\ 0\ then\ 1\ else\ x * f(x - 1)$$
- What is the type of `fix` ?
  - $fix_{\sigma} : (\sigma \rightarrow \sigma) \rightarrow \sigma$
  - e.g.  $\sigma$  is `int` $\rightarrow$ `int` for the above factorial function example

# Fixpoint

- **Fixpoint:** If  $F: \sigma \rightarrow \sigma$  is a high order function, then the fixpoint of  $F$  is  $x: \sigma$  where  $F(x) = x$
- Fixpoint operator  $fix_{\sigma}$ 
  - **Equality Axiom:**  $fix_{\sigma} = \lambda(f: \sigma \rightarrow \sigma). f(fix_{\sigma} f)$
  - $fix_{\sigma} F = F (fix_{\sigma} f)$  generates a fixpoint of  $F$
  - **Reduction Rule:**  $fix_{\sigma} \mapsto \lambda(f: \sigma \rightarrow \sigma). f(fix_{\sigma} f)$
- **Example:**  $fact \equiv fix_{int \rightarrow int} F$ ,  $fact$  is a fixpoint of  $F$ 
  - $fact\ n \equiv (fix\ F)\ n \Rightarrow F(fix\ F)\ n$   
 $\equiv (\lambda(f: int \rightarrow int). \lambda(x: int). \text{if } x = 0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } x * f(x - 1))(fix\ F)\ n$   
 $\Rightarrow \text{if } = 0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } n * (fix\ F)(n - 1)$

# Some Examples of Fixpoints

- 自然数上的平方函数的不动点
- 恒等函数的不动点
- 后继函数的不动点
- $F \equiv \lambda(f: \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}). \lambda(x: \text{int}). \text{if } x = 0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } x * f(x - 1)$   
的不动点

# Some Examples of Fixpoints

- 自然数上的平方函数的不动点
  - 0 and 1
- 恒等函数的不动点
  - 无数个
- 后继函数的不动点
  - 无
- $F \equiv \lambda(f: \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}). \lambda(x: \text{int}). \text{if } x = 0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } x * f(x - 1)$   
的不动点
  - 阶乘函数

# System PCF of Recursive Functions

- Syntax

Typ $\tau$ ::=	nat	nat	naturals
	$\text{parr}(\tau_1; \tau_2)$	$\tau_1 \multimap \tau_2$	partial function
Exp $e$ ::=	$x$	$x$	variable
	$z$	$z$	zero
	$s(e)$	$s(e)$	successor
	$\text{ifz}\{e_0; x.e_1\}(e)$	$\text{ifz } e \{z \hookrightarrow e_0 \mid s(x) \hookrightarrow e_1\}$	zero test
	$\text{lam}\{\tau\}(x.e)$	$\lambda(x : \tau) e$	abstraction
	$\text{ap}(e_1; e_2)$	$e_1(e_2)$	application
	$\text{fix}\{\tau\}(x.e)$	$\text{fix } x : \tau \text{ is } e$	recursion

- $\text{fix}\{\tau\}(x.e)$  is general recursion (一般递归)
- $\text{ifz}\{e_0; x.e_1\}(e)$ : branches according to whether  $e$  evaluates to  $z$ , binding the predecessor to  $x$

# PCF: Statics

- Statics

$$\frac{}{\Gamma, x : \tau \vdash x : \tau} \quad (19.1a)$$

$$\frac{}{\Gamma \vdash z : \text{nat}} \quad (19.1b)$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \text{nat}}{\Gamma \vdash s(e) : \text{nat}} \quad (19.1c)$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \text{nat} \quad \Gamma \vdash e_0 : \tau \quad \Gamma, x : \text{nat} \vdash e_1 : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \text{ifz}\{e_0; x.e_1\}(e) : \tau} \quad (19.1d)$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash e : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \text{lam}\{\tau_1\}(x.e) : \text{parr}(\tau_1; \tau_2)} \quad (19.1e)$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \text{parr}(\tau_2; \tau) \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \text{ap}(e_1; e_2) : \tau} \quad (19.1f)$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \tau \vdash e : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \text{fix}\{\tau\}(x.e) : \tau} \quad (19.1g)$$

# PCF: Dynamics

- Values

$$\overline{z \text{ val}}$$

$$\left[ \frac{e \mapsto e'}{s(e) \mapsto s(e')} \right]$$

(19.3a)

$$\overline{\text{lam}\{\tau\}(x.e) \text{ val}} \quad \frac{[e \text{ val}]}{s(e) \text{ val}}$$

$$\frac{e \mapsto e'}{\text{ifz}\{e_0; x.e_1\}(e) \mapsto \text{ifz}\{e_0; x.e_1\}(e')}$$

(19.3b)

- Transitions

$$\overline{\text{ifz}\{e_0; x.e_1\}(z) \mapsto e_0}$$

(19.3c)

$$\frac{s(e) \text{ val}}{\text{ifz}\{e_0; x.e_1\}(s(e)) \mapsto [e/x]e_1}$$

(19.3d)

$$\frac{e_1 \mapsto e'_1}{\text{ap}(e_1; e_2) \mapsto \text{ap}(e'_1; e_2)}$$

(19.3e)

$$\left[ \frac{e_1 \text{ val} \quad e_2 \mapsto e'_2}{\text{ap}(e_1; e_2) \mapsto \text{ap}(e_1; e'_2)} \right]$$

(19.3f)

$$\frac{[e_2 \text{ val}]}{\text{ap}(\text{lam}\{\tau\}(x.e); e_2) \mapsto [e_2/x]e}$$

(19.3g)

$$\overline{\text{fix}\{\tau\}(x.e) \mapsto [\text{fix}\{\tau\}(x.e)/x]e}$$

(19.3h)

**Normal-order  
Reduction**

Unwinding  
the recursion

# Recursive Types

- Examples: list

- **natlist** = null: unit + cons: nat x **natlist**

- 该等式蕴含递归定义

- **Recursive types**: introduce a recursive operator  $\mu$

- natlist** =  $\mu t. null: unit + cons: nat x  $t$$

将natlist 定义为满足  $t = \text{unit} + \text{cons: nat} \times t$  的无穷的类型

- What's relationship between  $\mu t. \tau$  and  $[\mu t. \tau / t] \tau$

- **Equiv-recursive**(相等递归):  $\mu t. \tau = [\mu t. \tau / t] \tau$

- 问题: 类型表达式会有无穷个

- **Iso-recursive**(同构递归):  $\mu t. \tau$  与  $[\mu t. \tau / t] \tau$  同构但不等



# Iso-Recursive Types

- Examples

- Recursive type:  $\text{natlist} = \mu t. \text{null:unit} + \text{cons: nat} \times t$
- Expansion (or unrolling)
  - $\text{null:unit} + \text{cons: nat} \times \mu t. (\text{null:unit} + \text{cons: nat} \times t)$

- Syntax

Types  $\tau ::= t \mid \text{rec}(t. \tau)$   $t$ 是关于类型名的元变量

Expr's  $e ::= \text{fold}[t. \tau](e) \mid \text{unfold}(e)$

抽象语法

具体语法

$\text{rec}(t. \tau)$

$\mu t. \tau$

递归类型, 其展开式为  $[\text{rec}(t. \tau) / t] \tau$

$\text{fold}[t. \tau](e)$

$\text{fold}(e)$

引入形式: 折叠,  $e : [\text{rec}(t. \tau) / t] \tau$

$\text{unfold}(e)$

$\text{unfold}(e)$

消去形式: 展开,  $e : \text{rec}(t. \tau)$

# Iso-Recursive Types

- Statics

- **类型形成**判断:  $\Delta \mid \tau \text{ type}$

- $\Delta$ 是一组有限的形如 $t_i \text{ type}$ 的假设集合
- $t_i$ 为类型变量

$$\frac{\Delta, t \text{ type} \mid t \text{ type}}{\Delta \mid \tau_1 \text{ type} \quad \Delta \mid \tau_2 \text{ type}} \quad \frac{\Delta, t \text{ type} \mid \tau \text{ type}}{\Delta \mid \text{arr}(\tau_1; \tau_2) \text{ type}} \quad \frac{\Delta, t \text{ type} \mid \tau \text{ type}}{\Delta \mid \text{rec}(t.\tau) \text{ type}}$$

- **定型**判断:  $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : [\text{rec}(t.\tau)/t]\tau}{\Gamma \vdash \text{fold}[t.\tau](e) : \text{rec}(t.\tau)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \text{rec}(t.\tau)}{\Gamma \vdash \text{unfold}(e) : [\text{rec}(t.\tau)/t]\tau}$$

# Iso-Recursive Types

- Dynamics

$$\frac{\{e \text{ val}\}}{\text{fold}[t.\tau](e) \text{ val}}$$

eager语义下, e是值, 则其fold形式是值

$$\left\{ \frac{e \mapsto e'}{\text{fold}[t.\tau](e) \mapsto \text{fold}[t.\tau](e')} \right\}$$

eager语义下, e未完成求值, 则允许在fold下归约

$$\frac{e \mapsto e'}{\text{unfold}(e) \mapsto \text{unfold}(e')}$$

e未完成求值, 则允许在unfold下归约

$$\frac{\{e \text{ val}\}}{\text{unfold}(\text{fold}[t.\tau](e)) \mapsto e}$$

eager语义下, 对值e执行fold再unfold, 所得为e

- 惰性(lazy)语义 省去{}中的规则或前提
- 急切(eager)语义 包含{}中的规则或前提

- Safety(略)

```

36 let rec typecheck (t : Term.t) : Type.t option =
37   match t with
38   | Term.Z -> Some (Type.Int)
39   | Term.S t' ->
40     let tau = typecheck t' in
41     (match tau with
42      | Some Type.Int -> Some (Type.Int)
43      | _ -> None)
44   | Term.True -> Some (Type.Bool)
45   | Term.False -> Some (Type.Bool)
46   | Term.If (t1, t2, t3) ->
47     (match typecheck t1 with
48      | Some Type.Bool ->
49       (match typecheck t2 with
50        | Some tau ->
51          (match typecheck t3 with
52           | Some tau' ->
53             if tau = tau' then Some tau
54             else None
55           | _ -> None)
56        | _ -> None)
57      | _ -> None)
58   | Term.Iszero t' ->
59     match typecheck t' with
60     | Some Type.Int -> Some Type.Bool
61     | _ -> None

```

- [Interpreter.ml](#)

## Some, None, option

```

16 module Type = struct
17   type t =
18     | Int
19     | Bool
20 end

```

```

22 module Term = struct
23   type t =
24     | Z
25     | S of t
26     | True
27     | False
28     | If of t * t * t
29     | Iszero of t
30 end

```

```

63  exception Unreachable
68  let rec eval (t : Term.t) : Term.t =
69    match t with
70    | Term.Z -> Term.Z
71    | Term.S t' -> Term.S (eval t')
72    | Term.True -> Term.True
73    | Term.False -> Term.False
74    | Term.If (t1, t2, t3) ->
75      eval (match eval t1 with
76        | Term.True -> t2
77        | Term.False -> t3
78        | _ -> raise Unreachable)
79    | Term.Iszero t' ->
80      (match eval t' with
81        | Term.Z -> Term.True
82        | Term.S _ -> Term.False
83        | _ -> raise Unreachable)

```

```

22  module Term = struct
23    type t =
24      | Z
25      | S of t
26      | True
27      | False
28      | If of t * t * t
29      | Iszero of t
30  end

```

- [Interpreter.ml](#)

## Some, None, option

```

16  module Type = struct
17    type t =
18      | Int
19      | Bool
20  end

```

```

85  let main () =
86    let t1 = Term.Z in
87    assert (typecheck t1 = Some Type.Int);
88    assert (eval t1 = Term.Z);
89
90    let t2 = Term.Iszero Term.Z in
91    assert (typecheck t2 = Some Type.Bool);
92    assert (eval t2 = Term.True);
93
94    let t3 = Term.Iszero Term.True in
95    assert (typecheck t3 = None)
96
97  let () = main ()

```

**THANKS**