

Recursion Theorem

Droste
-HOLLAND

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Droste
HAARLEM - HOLLAND



Scheme Mystery

(lambda (x)

(list x (list 'quote x)))

(quote (lambda (x)

(list x (list 'quote x))))))

Py

- `_ = '_=%r;print(_%%_)';print(_%_)`

C Quine

```
main(){char *c="main(){char *c=%c%s%c;printf(c,34,c,34);}";printf(c,34,c,34);}
```

English

Print out two copies of the following, the second one in quotes:

“Print out two copies of the following, the second one in quotes:”



- To be is to be the value of a variable.
- I have been accused of denying consciousness, but I am not conscious of having done so.

Willard van Orman Quine

Partial Factorial

- $n!_k = \text{if } n < k \text{ then } n! \text{ else } \perp$
- $n!_{k+1} = \text{if } n = 0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } n \cdot (n-1)!_k$
- $f(g) = \lambda n. \text{if } n = 0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } n \cdot g(n-1)$
- $!_{k+1} = f(!_k) \quad !_0 = \perp$
- $! = f(!)$

Recursion Theorem

For every program $f: \text{Haskell} \rightarrow \text{Haskell}$ there exists a single-argument function c such that

$$c \equiv f(c).$$

Proof: Let $c = k(k)$ where $k = \lambda w.f(w(w))$

$$c \equiv k(k) \equiv (\lambda w.f(w(w))) (k) \equiv f(k(k)) \equiv f(c)$$

*Haskell is a purely functional language using lazy evaluation, like Baby

Example: Factorial

- $f(g) = \lambda n. \text{if } n=0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } n \cdot g(n-1)$
- $c(f) \Rightarrow \lambda z. f(c)(z)$ where $c = \dots$
- $c(0) \Rightarrow f(c)(0) \Rightarrow \text{if } 0=0 \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } \dots \Rightarrow 1$
- $c(1) \Rightarrow f(c)(1) \Rightarrow \text{if } 0=1 \dots \text{ else } 1 \cdot c(0) \Rightarrow 1 \cdot 1 \Rightarrow 1$
- $c(2) \Rightarrow f(c)(2) \Rightarrow \text{if } 0=2 \dots \text{ else } 2 \cdot c(1) \Rightarrow 2 \cdot 1 \Rightarrow 2$

Recursion

Have $c = k(k)$ where $k = \lambda w.f(w(w))$

Suppose f is the body of a recursive definition:

$$f(g) = \lambda y. \text{ if } A(y) \text{ then } D(y) \text{ else } E(g,y)$$

Then c (for this f) is the recursive function itself:

$$c(y) \Rightarrow k(k)(y) \Rightarrow (\lambda w.f(w(w)))(k)(y) \Rightarrow f(k(k))(y)$$

$$\Rightarrow (\lambda y. \text{ if } A(y) \text{ then } D(y) \text{ else } E(k(k),y))(y)$$

$$\Rightarrow (\text{if } A(y) \text{ then } D(y) \text{ else } E(k(k),y)) \Rightarrow$$

- $D(y)$
- $E(c,y)$

Why Haskell?

- Haskell uses normal-order evaluation, not applicative order.
- When evaluating $f(e)$, f is evaluated first, not e .
- For applicative order, more complicated:

Let $c := h(k)$ where

$$k(w) := f(h(w))$$

$$h(y) := \lambda z. y(y)(z)$$

Scheme

```
(let* ((f (lambda (g) (lambda (n)
  (if (= n 0) 1 (* n (g (- n 1)))))))
  (h (lambda (y) (lambda (z) ((y y) z))))
  (k (lambda (x) (f (h x))))
  (c (h k)))
  (c 3))
```

$\Rightarrow 6$

Viruses

The recursion theorem implies the existence of self-replicating virus programs!

Suppose $f(msg)(n)$ is “boo!; mail msg(n+1) to n”

$c := k(k), k(w) := f(w(w)) \equiv \lambda n. [boo!; mail w(w)(n+1) to n]$

$c(0) \Rightarrow [boo!; mail k(k)(1) to 0]$

$\equiv [boo!; mail c(1) to 0] \Rightarrow \text{etc.}$