

January 28, 2010

Programming Languages and Types

Homework Assignment 13

Please hand in your homework by email to <mailto:pllecture@informatik.uni-marburg.de> until February, 4. Please submit your solutions in appropriate file formats.

H13.1 Encoding Existential Types

Consider the following encoding of a counter with existentials.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{counterADT} = & \{ * \text{Nat}, \\ & \{ \text{new} = 1, \\ & \quad \text{get} = \lambda i : \text{Nat} . i, \\ & \quad \text{inc} = \lambda i : \text{Nat} . \text{succ}(i) \} \} \\ \text{as } & \{ \exists \text{Counter}, \\ & \{ \text{new} : \text{Counter}, \\ & \quad \text{get} : \text{Counter} \rightarrow \text{Nat}, \\ & \quad \text{inc} : \text{Counter} \rightarrow \text{Counter} \} \} \end{aligned}$$
$$\begin{aligned} \text{test} = & \text{let } \{ \text{Counter}, \text{counter} \} = \text{counterADT} \text{ in} \\ & \text{get } (\text{inc } (\text{inc } \text{new})) \end{aligned}$$

Rewrite this example using universal types. You can do this either in the formal System F notation, or you can write a little Haskell program using Rank-N types. In the latter case the type applications are implicit.

H13.2 Higher-Order Types

In F_ω , the universe of kinds can be separated into kind levels as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} K(1) &= \{ \} \\ K(i+1) &= \{ * \} \cup \{ \kappa_1 \Rightarrow \kappa_2 \mid \kappa_1 \in K(i) \wedge \kappa_2 \in K(i+1) \} \end{aligned}$$

For example, $* \Rightarrow *$ is in $K(3)$, $K(4)$ etc. but not in $K(2)$.

Corresponding to these levels, F_ω can be divided into sublanguages F_i , where the language F_i only permits kinds from kind level $K(i)$.

In this terminology, the simply-typed lambda calculus is F_1 , and System F is F_2 .

Write or find a useful program that can be written in F_4 but not in F_3 .