

# introduction & lambda calculus

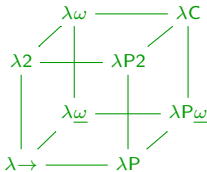
Freek Wiedijk

Type Theory & Coq

2023–2024

Radboud University Nijmegen

September 8, 2023



## organization

coordinates

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<https://www.cs.ru.nl/~freek/courses/tt-2023/>

+

Brightspace

teachers:

- ▶ Freek Wiedijk  
[freek@cs.ru.nl](mailto:freek@cs.ru.nl)
- ▶ Herman Geuvers  
[herman@cs.ru.nl](mailto:herman@cs.ru.nl)
- ▶ Robbert Krebbers  
[robbert@cs.ru.nl](mailto:robbert@cs.ru.nl)
- ▶ Marc Hermes  
[marc.hermes@ru.nl](mailto:marc.hermes@ru.nl)

## structure of the course

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### *first half:*

- ▶ five lectures on the type theory of Coq, by Freek (Fridays)
- ▶ three lectures on metatheory, by Herman (Fridays)
- ▶ Coq practicum (Mondays)  
→ required, not graded
- ▶ three hour written exam  
→ one third of the final grade

### *second half:*

- ▶ student presentations (Mondays & Fridays)  
45 minutes, in pairs  
→ one third of the final grade
- ▶ Coq project  
→ one third of the final grade

## materials

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- ▶ Femke van Raamsdonk, VU Amsterdam  
**Logical Verification Course Notes**, 2008
  - ▶ course notes
  - ▶ slides
  - ▶ Coq practicum files
- ▶ Herman Geuvers  
**Introduction to Type Theory**, 2008
  - ▶ summer school lecture notes
  - ▶ slides
  - ▶ some exercises
- ▶ **reading list papers**
- ▶ some supporting documents
  - ▶ Jules Jacobs: **Coq cheat sheet**
  - ▶ examples of **induction/recursion principles**
- ▶ many **old exams**, all with answers

## prerequisites

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course is self-contained, but...

we will presuppose some basic familiarity with:

- ▶ context-free grammars  
NWI-IPC002 Languages and Automata
- ▶ mathematical logic: natural deduction  
NWI-IPI004 Logic and Applications
- ▶ functional programming  
NWI-IBC040 Functional Programming
- ▶ lambda calculus  
NWI-IBC025 Semantics and Rewriting

as well as some mathematical maturity

## introduction

what is a type?

---

- ▶ an attribute of expressions in a language

← this!

```
int i;  
float pi = 3.14;  
i = 2 * pi;
```

- ▶ something like a set

```
int =  $\{-2^{31}, -2^{31} + 1, \dots, -1, 0, 1, \dots, 2^{31} - 1\}$   
nat =  $\{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ 
```

## introduction

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but: types do not overlap

the 0 of nat is different from the 0 of int

also: an object has a type

    a type has a kind

        ... but there it stops

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int i;  
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 Jules Jacobs @JulesJa... · 30/12/20...  
Replying to @JulesJacobs5 and @IanRay...  
"Types are the things that satisfy the rules  
of type theory." is true, but doesn't help me  
get past syntactic thinking.



## what is type theory?

---

- ▶ **typed lambda calculus**  
≠ untyped lambda calculus (today: recap)
- ▶ logic encoded as a **formal system of datatypes**  
**Curry-Howard correspondence**  
pairs in  $A \times B$  correspond to proofs of  $A \wedge B$   
functions in  $A \rightarrow B$  correspond to proofs of  $A \rightarrow B$
- ▶ one of the **logical foundations** for mathematics
  - ▶ set theory
    - ▶ HOL = Higher Order Logic = simple type theory
    - ▶ ZFC = Zermelo-Fraenkel set theory + AC (Axiom of Choice)
  - ▶ type theory
    - ▶ Martin-Löf type theory
    - ▶ CIC = Calculus of Inductive Constructions
  - ▶ category theory
    - ▶ topoi  $\longrightarrow$   $\infty$ -topoi

## the five type theories in this course

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$\lambda \rightarrow$  = STT

= simple type theory

= simply typed lambda calculus

$\lambda P$  = dependent type theory

$\lambda 2$  = system F

= polymorphic type theory

$\lambda C$  = CC

= Calculus of Constructions

CIC

= Calculus of Inductive Constructions


= the type theory of Coq

## implementations of dependent type theory

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Coq

INRIA, 1989 

Thierry Coquand, Gérard Huet, Christine Paulin-Mohring, Hugo Herbelin, Matthieu Sozeau



Agda

Chalmers, 1999 

Catarina Coquand, Ulf Norell

→ Cubical Agda



Lean 4

Microsoft Research, 2013 

Leonardo de Moura, Sebastian Ullrich

▶ *other implementations*

Automath, Cubical, Dedukti, Epigram, Idris, Lego, Matita, Nuprl, Plastic, Twelf, ...

## applications of type theory

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- ▶ advanced **functional programming**


Lisp  $\longrightarrow$  ML  $\longrightarrow$  Haskell  $\longrightarrow$  Agda, Coq

types are **dependent**: carry more information  
'correct by construction'

- ▶ proof **formalization**
  - ▶ verification of programs and other systems
  - ▶ verification of theoretical computer science
  - ▶ verification of mathematics

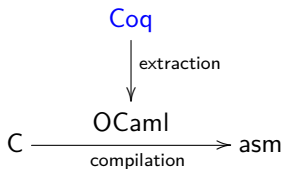
## CompCert

---

- ▶ **CompCert** = verified C compiler  
Xavier Leroy, INRIA 


compiles C to assembly, implemented in Coq  
similar optimization as `gcc -O1`

formal semantics for C and assembly + correctness proof



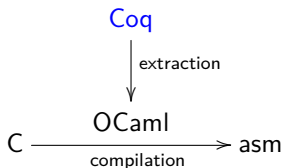
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- ▶  **VST = Verified Software Toolchain**  
Andrew Appel, Princeton   
separation logic, based on CompCert


## Iris

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Ralf Jung, Zürich , Robbert Krebbers, Nijmegen 

Jacques-Henri Jourdan, Paris , Derek Dreyer, Saarbrücken 

Lars Birkedal, Aarhus 

- ▶ **Ir/s\*** **separation logic** in Coq  
extension of Hoare logic  
pointers in a heap, ownership, concurrency
  - $l \mapsto v$  memory at location  $l$  has value  $v$
  - $P * Q$   $P$  and  $Q$  hold for separate parts of heapprogramming language independent
- ▶  **RustBelt**  
proof (using Iris) of safety and data race freedom of **Rust** + some unsafe Rust libraries

→ Robbert Krebbers

## mathematical components

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Georges Gonthier, Microsoft  → INRIA 

Ssreflect proof language for Coq  
math-comp mathematical library

- ▶ **four color theorem** (2005)  
every planar graph is four colorable  
proof contains a *huge* computer check
  
- ▶ **Feit-Thompson theorem** = odd order theorem (2012)  
every simple group of odd order is cyclic  
original proof was 255 pages  
→ two full books formalized



# HoTT

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## Homotopy Type Theory

Vladimir Voevodsky (Fields medal 2002), 2006, †2017  

type	~	topological space
function	~	continuous function
equality between points	~	path between points
equality between types	~	equivalence of spaces
$A = B$		$A \simeq B$

- ▶ UA = Univalence Axiom

$$(A = B) \simeq (A \simeq B)$$

- ▶ HITs = Higher Inductive Types  
= types with constructors for equalities




→ Niels van der Weide, Herman Geuvers

## Lean

---

Leonardo de Moura, Microsoft Research → Amazon 

Kevin Buzzard, Imperial College 

Jeremy Avigad, CMU 

Lean = 'Coq#' = Microsoft's Coq clone  
= Coq + Isabelle

- ▶ simpler and *slightly* different type theory  
**extra conveniences**: proof irrelevance, quotient types  
convertibility not transitive, no Subject Reduction
- ▶ implemented in Lean itself (+ small core in C++)  
serious compiler
- ▶ very nice interface based on VS Code
- ▶ **very different user community**: mathematicians!

## mathlib

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Lean mathematical library  
over a million lines of code

well organized, constantly refactored  
aims to include all undergraduate mathematics (Imperial College)

### large projects:

- ▶ formal definition of perfectoid spaces
- ▶ **liquid tensor experiment** (2020–2022)  
challenge by Peter Scholze (Fields medal 2018)
- ▶ working towards a proof of Fermat's Last Theorem

→ Michail Karatarakis, Freek Wiedijk

## untyped lambda calculus

### lambda abstraction and function application

---

lambda abstraction defines an unnamed function:

$$\lambda x. x^2$$

## untyped lambda calculus

### lambda abstraction and function application

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$\lambda x. x^2$       input:  $x$   
output:  $x^2$

## untyped lambda calculus

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sqr :=  $\lambda x. x^2$       input:  $x$   
output:  $x^2$

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$$\text{sqr}(3) = 9$$

$$\text{sqr } 3 = 9$$

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$$(\lambda x. x^2) 3 = 9$$



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lambda abstraction

$$\overbrace{(\lambda x. x^2)} \text{ } 3 = 9$$

## untyped lambda calculus

### lambda abstraction and function application

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lambda abstraction defines an unnamed function:

$$\text{sqr} := \lambda x. x^2 \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{input: } x \\ \text{output: } x^2 \end{array}$$

$$\text{sqr}(3) = 9$$

$$\text{sqr } 3 = 9$$

lambda abstraction

$$\underbrace{(\lambda x. x^2)}_{\text{function application}} 3 = 9$$

function application

## syntax versus semantics

---

$\lambda x. x$       a string of six symbols

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( $\lambda x . x$ )

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$\llbracket \lambda x. x \rrbracket$  a function (the identity function)

## syntax versus semantics

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$\lambda x. x$       a string of six symbols  
( $\lambda x. x$ )

$\llbracket \lambda x. x \rrbracket$       a function (the identity function)

no semantics of *untyped* lambda calculus in this course  
not trivial!

→ [NWI-IMC011 Semantics and Domain Theory](#)

## examples of untyped lambda terms

---

$x$	$\lambda n f x. f(n f x)$
$xx$	$\lambda m n f x. m f(n f x)$
$xy$	$\lambda m n f x. m(n f)x$
$\lambda x. x$	$\lambda m n f x. n m f x$
$\lambda x. y$	$\lambda x. xx$
$\lambda xy. x$	$(\lambda x. xx)(\lambda x. xx)$
$\lambda xy. y$	$(\lambda x. f(xx))(\lambda x. f(xx))$
$\lambda xyz. xz(yz)$	$\lambda f. (\lambda x. f(xx))(\lambda x. f(xx))$
$\lambda fxy. fyx$	$\lambda x f. f(xxf)$
$\lambda fx. fxx$	$(\lambda x f. f(xxf))(\lambda x f. f(xxf))$
$\lambda fgx. f(gx)$	$\lambda x. x(\lambda xyz. xz(yz))(\lambda xy. x)$
$\lambda fx. x$	
$\lambda fx. fx$	
$\lambda fx. f(fx)$	
$\lambda fx. f(f(fx))$	
$\vdots$	

## variables

---

the set of variables is called  $\text{Var}$

it does not matter what this set is,  
as long as it is countably infinite

for the formal definition of untyped lambda terms we will take

$$\text{Var} = \{x, x', x'', x''', \dots\}$$

but we will write these as

$x,$   
 $x', x'', x''', \dots$   
 $x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots$   
 $y, z, u, v, w, n, m, f, g, h, \dots$   
 $y', y'', y''', \dots$   
 $y_0, y_1, y_2, y_3, \dots$   
 $\dots$



## alpha equivalence

---

$$\lambda x. x^2 \not\equiv \lambda y. y^2$$

$$\lambda x. x^2 =_{\alpha} \lambda y. y^2$$

$$M \equiv N$$

$M$  and  $N$  are equal as strings

$$M =_{\alpha} N$$

‘names of variables bound by lambdas do not matter’

in practice we only consider lambda terms **modulo**  $=_{\alpha}$

## alpha equivalence

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$$\lambda x. x^2 =_{\alpha} \lambda y. y^2$$

$$x^2 \not\equiv y^2$$

$$x^2 \not=_{\alpha} y^2$$

in the first case the variables  $x$  and  $y$  are **bound**

in the second case the variables  $x$  and  $y$  are **free**

$FV(M)$  is the set of free variables in the term  $M$

$$M \equiv N$$

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‘names of variables bound by lambdas do not matter’

in practice we only consider lambda terms **modulo**  $=_{\alpha}$

## formal definition of untyped lambda terms

---

the set of untyped lambda terms  $\Lambda$  is the smallest set which

- ▶ contains all **variables**

if  $x \in \text{Var}$  then  $x \in \Lambda$

- ▶ is closed under **function application**

if  $F, M \in \Lambda$  then also  $(FM) \in \Lambda$

- ▶ is closed under **lambda abstraction**

if  $x \in \text{Var}$  and  $M \in \Lambda$  then  $(\lambda x. M) \in \Lambda$

## context-free grammar of untyped lambda terms

---

the set of variables  $\text{Var}$   
and the set of untyped lambda terms  $\Lambda$   
are sets of strings over the alphabet

$$\{\lambda, ., (, ), x, '\}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} x ::= x \mid x' & \text{Var} \\ M ::= x \mid (MM) \mid (\lambda x. M) & \Lambda \end{array}$$

$$\lambda fxy. fyx$$

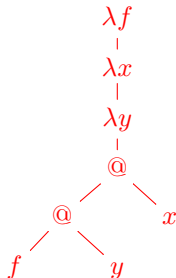
is the  $=_\alpha$ -equivalence class of the 28-symbol string

$$(\lambda x. (\lambda x'. (\lambda x''. ((xx'') x')))) \in \Lambda$$

## abstract syntax trees

---

the parentheses in the grammar are for non-ambiguity

$$\lambda fxy. fyx$$
$$(\lambda f. (\lambda x. (\lambda y. ((fy)x))))$$
$$(\lambda x''. (\lambda x. (\lambda x'. ((x''x') x))))$$


## notation

---

- ▶ parentheses may be omitted or added
- ▶ lambda abstraction binds more weakly than application:

$$\lambda x. yz \equiv ((\lambda x. y)z) \text{ or } (\lambda x. (yz))$$

- ▶ application associates to the left:

$$xyz \equiv ((xy)z) \text{ or } (x(yz))$$

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Curried function with three arguments applied to three values:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\lambda xyz. M)abc \\ & \quad \quad \quad \equiv \\ & (((\lambda x. (\lambda y. (\lambda z. M))) a) b) c \end{aligned}$$

what is this  $x^2$  anyway?

---

in untyped lambda calculus **everything** is a function  
there is **only** lambda abstraction and function application

## what is this $x^2$ anyway?

---

in untyped lambda calculus **everything** is a function  
there is **only** lambda abstraction and function application

- ▶ **numbers** are functions

$$0 = \lambda f x. x$$

$$7 = \lambda f x. f(f(f(f(f(f(fx))))))$$

$$x^2 = \lambda y z. x(xy)z$$

- ▶ **Booleans** are functions

$$\text{false} = \lambda xy. y$$

$$\text{true} = \lambda xy. x$$

- ▶ in untyped lambda calculus the elements of **all datatypes** are coded as functions

## computation

### beta reduction

---

'compute' the value of

$$(\lambda x. x^2) (y + 1)$$

substitute  $(y + 1)$  for the  $x$  under the lambda:

$$(\lambda x. x^2) (y + 1) \rightarrow_{\beta} (y + 1)^2$$

## computation

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general form of the beta rule:

$$\underbrace{(\lambda x. M) N}_{\text{redex}} \rightarrow_{\beta} M[x := N]$$

substitution operation on terms comes later:

$$M[x := N]$$

## three relations between terms

---



$$M \rightarrow_{\beta} N$$

one-step reduction  
subterms also can be redexes



$$M \twoheadrightarrow_{\beta} N$$

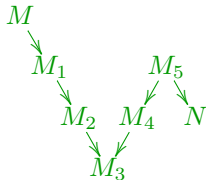
$$M \rightarrow_{\beta} M_1 \rightarrow_{\beta} M_2 \rightarrow_{\beta} \cdots \rightarrow_{\beta} N$$

many-step reduction  
zero, one or more steps



$$M =_{\beta} N$$

**convertible** = computationally equal  
zero, one or more steps in both directions  
smallest equivalence relation containing  $\rightarrow_{\beta}$



## example reduction

---

$$I = \lambda x. x$$

$$K = \lambda xy. x$$

$$\omega = \lambda x. xx$$

$$\Omega = \omega\omega$$

$$\begin{array}{c} K I \Omega \\ \equiv \\ (\lambda xy. x)(\lambda z. z) \Omega \\ \downarrow \beta \\ (\lambda y. (\lambda z. z)) \Omega \\ \equiv \\ (\lambda yz. z) \Omega \\ \downarrow \beta \\ \lambda z. z \\ \equiv \\ I \end{array}$$

$$K I \Omega \rightarrow_{\beta} I$$

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beware of the brackets!

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beta redex?

## beware of the brackets!

---

$$(\lambda xy. x) \underbrace{(\lambda z. z)}_{\text{beta redex?}} \Omega$$

$$\underbrace{((\lambda xy. x) (\lambda z. z))}_{\text{not a beta redex!}} \Omega$$

## beware of the brackets!

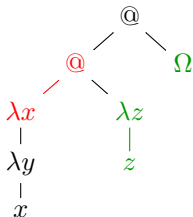
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$$(\lambda xy. x)(\lambda z. z) \Omega$$

beta redex?

$$((\lambda xy. x)(\lambda z. z)) \Omega$$

not a beta redex!



## avoiding variable capture by renaming

---

$$\omega = \lambda x. xx$$

$$1 = \lambda fx. fx$$

$$\omega 1 \twoheadrightarrow_{\beta} 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \omega 1 \\ & \equiv \\ & (\lambda z. zz)(\lambda fx. fx) \\ & \downarrow_{\beta} \\ & (\lambda fx. fx)(\lambda fx. fx) \\ & \downarrow_{\beta} \\ & \lambda x. (\lambda fx. fx) x \not\rightarrow_{\beta} \lambda x. (\lambda x. xx) \\ & \equiv \\ & \lambda x. (\lambda fx'. fx') x \\ & \downarrow_{\beta} \\ & \lambda x. \lambda x'. xx' \\ & \equiv \\ & \lambda xx'. xx' \\ & \equiv \\ & 1 \end{aligned}$$

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## example with more than one reduction path

---

$$I = \lambda x. x$$

$$\underline{IM} \equiv (\lambda x. x)M \rightarrow_{\beta} M$$

the red lines are not part of the syntax  
they just indicate where the redexes are

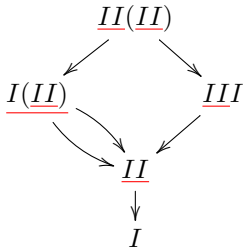
## example with more than one reduction path

---

$$I = \lambda x. x$$

$$\underline{IM} \equiv (\lambda x. x)M \rightarrow_{\beta} M$$

the red lines are not part of the syntax  
they just indicate where the redexes are



$$II(II) \twoheadrightarrow_{\beta} I$$

## wrapping up

### Currying revisited

---

- ▶ traditional mathematics:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) \\ f(g(x)) \\ h(x, y) \end{aligned}$$

$$h : A \times B \rightarrow C$$

- ▶ lambda calculus and type theory:

$$\begin{aligned} fx \\ f(gx) \\ hxy \quad \equiv \quad (hx)y \end{aligned}$$

$$h : A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C$$

$$hx : B \rightarrow C$$

$$hxy : C$$

## partial function application

---

$$\text{add} = \lambda xy. x + y = \lambda x. (\lambda y. x + y)$$

$$\text{add } 3 = \lambda y. 3 + y$$

$$\text{add } 3 \ 4 = 3 + 4 = 7$$

$$\text{add} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$$

$$\mathbb{N} \rightarrow (\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N})$$

## substitution more formally

---

recursive definition of substitution

the terms are modulo  $=_\alpha$

$$x[x := N] \equiv N$$

$$y[x := N] \equiv y \qquad y \neq x$$

$$(M_1 M_2)[x := N] \equiv (M_1[x := N] M_2[x := N])$$

$$(\lambda x. M)[x := N] \equiv (\lambda x. M)$$

$$(\lambda y'. M)[x := N] \equiv (\lambda y'. M[x := N]) \qquad y' \neq x, y' \notin \text{FV}(N)$$

if you want to be specific, you can let  $y'$  be the first variable from  $\text{Var} \setminus (\{x\} \cup \text{FV}(M) \cup \text{FV}(N))$

in practice, we always work in  $\Lambda / =_\alpha$

## fast-and-loose context-free grammars

---

$$x ::= x \mid x'$$
$$M ::= x \mid (MM) \mid (\lambda x. M)$$

$$M, N ::= x \mid MN \mid \lambda x. M$$

in this course from now on:

- ▶ no parentheses in grammars  
imagine them being there  
or imagine  $\Lambda$  to consist of abstract syntax trees
- ▶ no grammar rules for the variables  
imagine them being there  
or consider sets like  $\text{Var}$  to be a parameter of the definition
- ▶ multiple names for the same non-terminal



## recap

---

- ▶ a set of lambda terms as strings called  $\Lambda$
- ▶ relations  $\equiv, =_{\alpha}, \rightarrow_{\beta}, \twoheadrightarrow_{\beta}, =_{\beta}$
- ▶ Curried functions
- ▶ fast-and-loose context-free grammars

## recap

---

- ▶ a set of lambda terms as strings called  $\Lambda$
- ▶ relations  $\equiv, =_{\alpha}, \rightarrow_{\beta}, \twoheadrightarrow_{\beta}, =_{\beta}$
- ▶ Curried functions
- ▶ fast-and-loose context-free grammars

## homework for next Monday:

- ▶ install Coq on your computer
- ▶ download the Coq practicum files

## T-shirt

### a lambda calculus evaluator

---

$$U_k^i \equiv \lambda x_1 \dots x_k. x_i$$
$$\langle M_1, \dots, M_k \rangle \equiv \lambda z. z M_1 \dots M_k$$

$$\langle \langle \mathbf{K}, \mathbf{S}, \mathbf{C} \rangle \rangle \ulcorner M \urcorner \twoheadrightarrow M$$

$$\ulcorner x \urcorner \equiv \lambda e. e U_3^1 x e$$
$$\ulcorner PQ \urcorner \equiv \lambda e. e U_3^2 \ulcorner P \urcorner \ulcorner Q \urcorner e$$
$$\ulcorner \lambda x. P \urcorner \equiv \lambda e. e U_3^3 (\lambda x. \ulcorner P \urcorner) e$$

$$\mathbf{K} \equiv \lambda xy. x$$

$$\mathbf{S} \equiv \lambda xyz. xz(yz)$$

$$\mathbf{C} \equiv \lambda xyz. xzy$$

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