

QUIZ

$((\lambda x \rightarrow (x (\lambda x \rightarrow x))) \text{apple})$   
 $(\lambda x \rightarrow \dots) \quad e_1 \quad e_2$   
 =b> ???

$e_1[x := e_2]$

- A. (apple ( $\lambda x \rightarrow x$ ))
- B. (apple ( $\lambda$ apple  $\rightarrow$  apple))
- C. (apple ( $\lambda x \rightarrow$  apple))
- D. apple
- E. ( $\lambda x \rightarrow x$ )

$(\lambda x \rightarrow (x (\lambda x \rightarrow x)))$   
 def (binder)

func (x)  $\Sigma$   
 return  $x+1$  use (occurrences)

$(1+2)+3$   
 $= 3+3$   
 $= 6$

$(\lambda x \rightarrow \boxed{e_1}) e_2$

# EXERCISE

What is a  $\lambda$ -term fill\_this\_in such that

fill\_this\_in apple  
 =b> banana

$(\dots \text{apple})$   
 $=b> \text{banana}$

ELSA: <https://goto.ucsd.edu/elsa/index.html>

Click here to try this exercise ([https://goto.ucsd.edu/elsa/index.html#?demo=permalink%2F1585434473\\_24432.lc](https://goto.ucsd.edu/elsa/index.html#?demo=permalink%2F1585434473_24432.lc))

$(\lambda x \rightarrow ?) \text{ apple} = b \rightarrow \underline{\text{banana}} \quad \times$

$? [x := \text{apple}] \equiv \underline{\text{banana}}$   
 banana

A Tricky One  $\$ \text{ make}$

"downloading GHC"

$((\lambda x \rightarrow (\lambda y \rightarrow x)) y)$

(1) Make sure your  $\$ \text{ PATH}$   
 is set (cs131w)

$= b \rightarrow \lambda y \rightarrow y$

(2)  $\text{rm -rf } \sim / . \text{stack}$

Is this right?

**SYNTAX**

$e ::= x, y, z$   $\rightarrow$  formal  
 $(\lambda x \rightarrow e)$   $\rightarrow$  body  
 $(e_1, e_2)$   $\rightarrow$  "arg"  
 $\rightarrow$  "function"

$(\lambda x \rightarrow e_1) e_2$

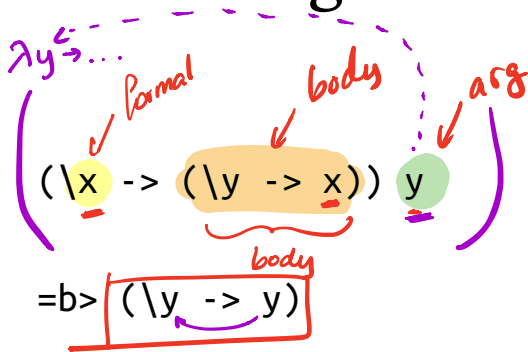
**REDEX**

formal body arg

$((\lambda x \rightarrow (x x)) \text{ apple})$

$= b \rightarrow (\text{apple apple})$

## Something is Fishy



Is this right?

**Problem:** The *free*  $y$  in the argument has been **captured** by  $\lambda y$  in *body*!

**Solution:** Ensure that *formals* in the body are **different from free-variables** of argument!

# Capture-Avoiding Substitution

We have to fix our definition of  $\beta$ -reduction:

$$(\lambda x \rightarrow e_1) e_2 \quad =_{\beta} \quad e_1[x := e_2]$$

where  $e_1[x := e_2]$  means “ ~~$e_1$  with all occurrences of  $x$  replaced with  $e_2$~~ ”

- $e_1$  with all *free* occurrences of  $x$  replaced with  $e_2$
- **as long as** no free variables of  $e_2$  get captured

Formally:

$$x[x := e] \quad = \quad e$$

$$y[x := e] \quad = \quad y \quad \text{-- as } x \neq y$$

$$(e_1 e_2)[x := e] \quad = \quad (e_1[x := e]) (e_2[x := e])$$

$$(\lambda x \rightarrow e_1)[x := e] \quad = \quad (\lambda x \rightarrow e_1) \quad \text{-- Q: Why leave `e1` unchanged?}$$

$$(\lambda y \rightarrow e_1)[x := e] \\ | \text{ not } (y \text{ in } \text{FV}(e)) = \lambda y \rightarrow e_1[x := e]$$

**Oops, but what to do if  $y$  is in the free-variables of  $e$ ?**

- i.e. if  $\lambda y \rightarrow \dots$  may *capture* those free variables?

# Rewrite Rules of Lambda Calculus

1.  $\beta$ -step (aka function call)
2.  $\alpha$ -step (aka renaming formals)

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| $\text{function } (x) \{$<br>$\quad \text{return } x+1$<br>$\}$ | $\text{function } (y) \{$<br>$\quad \text{return } y+1$<br>$\}$ | $\text{function } (z) \{$<br>$\quad \text{return } z+1$<br>$\}$ |
|---|---|---|

## Semantics: $\alpha$ -Renaming

$\lambda x \rightarrow y \quad \neq \lambda y \rightarrow y$

$\lambda x \rightarrow e \quad \text{=a>} \quad \lambda y \rightarrow e[x := y]$   
 where not (y in FV(e))

$\lambda x \rightarrow x \quad \text{=a>} \quad \lambda y \rightarrow y \quad \text{=a>} \quad \lambda z \rightarrow z$

- We rename a formal parameter  $x$  to  $y$
- By replace all occurrences of  $x$  in the body with  $y$
- We say that  $\lambda x \rightarrow e$   $\alpha$ -steps to  $\lambda y \rightarrow e[x := y]$

Example:

$(\lambda x \rightarrow x) \quad \text{=a>} \quad (\lambda y \rightarrow y) \quad \text{=a>} \quad (\lambda z \rightarrow z)$

All these expressions are  $\alpha$ -equivalent

What's wrong with these?

-- (A)

$(\lambda f \rightarrow (f x)) \quad \text{=a>} \quad (\lambda x \rightarrow (x x))$

-- (B)

$((\lambda x \rightarrow (\lambda y \rightarrow y)) y) \quad \text{=a>} \quad ((\lambda x \rightarrow (\lambda z \rightarrow z)) z)$

*outside scope of binder*

## Tricky Example Revisited

```
((\x -> (\y -> x)) y)
```

*-- rename 'y' to 'z' to avoid capture*

*ure*

```
=a> ((\x -> (\z -> x)) y)
```

*-- now do b-step without capture!*

```
=b> (\z -> y)
```

To avoid getting confused,

- you can **always rename** formals,
- so different **variables** have different **names!**

# Normal Forms

Recall **redex** is a  $\lambda$ -term of the form

$((\lambda x \rightarrow e1) e2)$

A  $\lambda$ -term is in **normal form** if it contains no redexes.

$(\lambda x \rightarrow y)$

## QUIZ

Which of the following term are **not** in normal form?

A. x

no-redex

ie contain further  $\beta$ -steps?  
 $\beta$ -redexes?



B.  $(x\ y)$  *no-redex*

✓ C.  $((\lambda x \rightarrow x)\ y)$

*yes-redex*

$((\lambda x \rightarrow e_1)\ e_2)$

D.  $(x\ (\lambda y \rightarrow y))$

*no-redex*

E. C and D

↑  
left  
(func)

↑  
right  
(arg)

## Semantics: Evaluation

A  $\lambda$ -term  $e$  evaluates to  $e'$  if

1. There is a sequence of steps

$e \Rightarrow e_1 \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow e_N \Rightarrow e'$

where each  $\Rightarrow$  is either  $=a>$  or  $=b>$  and  $N \geq 0$

2.  $e'$  is in *normal form*

$(2+2) - 3$

$\parallel$

$4 - 3$

$\parallel$

$1$

(normal)

## Examples of Evaluation

((\x -> x) apple)

=b> apple

(\f -> f (\x -> x)) (\x -> x)

=?> ???

(\x -> x x) (\x -> x)

=?> ???

## Elsa shortcuts

Named  $\lambda$ -terms:

**let** ID = (\x -> x) -- abbreviation for (\x -> x)

To substitute name with its definition, use a  $=d>$  step:

(ID apple)

$=d> ((\lambda x \rightarrow x) \text{ apple})$  -- *expand definition*

$=b> \text{ apple}$  -- *beta-reduce*

Evaluation:

- $e1 =*> e2$ :  $e1$  reduces to  $e2$  in 0 or more steps
  - where each step is  $=a>$ ,  $=b>$ , or  $=d>$
- $e1 =\sim> e2$ :  $e1$  evaluates to  $e2$  and  $e2$  is in normal form

$$(\lambda x \rightarrow x x) (\lambda y \rightarrow y y)$$

$$=b> (\lambda y \rightarrow y y) (\lambda y \rightarrow y y)$$

## EXERCISE

Fill in the definitions of FIRST, SECOND and THIRD such that you get the

following behavior in elsa

```
let FIRST = fill_this_in ( \x -> x )
let SECOND = fill_this_in
let THIRD = fill_this_in
```

```
eval ex1 :
(((FIRST apple) banana) orange)
=> apple
```

*Handwritten annotations: Red curly braces group the arguments in the lambda expression  $(\lambda x \rightarrow x)$  as  $(\lambda x \rightarrow x)$ ,  $apple$ ,  $ban$ , and  $orange$ . The numbers 1, 2, and 3 are written above the arguments in the original image.*

```
eval ex2 :
(((SECOND apple) banana) orange)
=> banana
```

*Handwritten annotations: A lambda expression  $(\lambda x_1 \rightarrow (\lambda x_2 \rightarrow (\lambda x_3 \rightarrow x_1)))$  is written in red. The variables  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$ , and  $x_3$  are circled in orange, yellow, and green respectively. The words "apple", "ban", and "orange" are written in red and highlighted in orange, yellow, and green respectively.*

```
eval ex3 :
(((THIRD apple) banana) orange)
=> orange
```

*Handwritten annotations: The words "apple", "ban", and "orange" are written in red and highlighted in orange, yellow, and green respectively.*

ELSA: <https://goto.ucsd.edu/elsa/index.html>

Click here to try this exercise ([https://goto.ucsd.edu/elsa/index.html#?demo=permalink%2F1585434130\\_24421.lc](https://goto.ucsd.edu/elsa/index.html#?demo=permalink%2F1585434130_24421.lc))

## Non-Terminating Evaluation

```
((\x -> (x x)) (\x -> (x x)))
```

```
=b> ((\x -> (x x)) (\x -> (x x)))
```

Some programs loop back to themselves ... *never* reduce to a normal form!

This combinator is called  $\Omega$

What if we pass  $\Omega$  as an argument to another function?

```
let OMEGA = ((\x -> (x x)) (\x -> (x x)))
```

```
((\x -> (\y -> y)) OMEGA)
```

Does this reduce to a normal form? Try it at home!

## Programming in $\lambda$ -calculus

Real languages have lots of features

- Booleans  $\rightarrow \tau, f, \text{if-then-else}, \&\&, \|\|$
- Records (structs, tuples)  $\rightarrow \{ \text{fst} : - , \text{snd} : - \}$
- Numbers  $\rightarrow 2 + 5$  *lists, trees*  $\{ x : - , y : - , z : - \}$

**✓ Functions [we got those]**

- Recursion

Lets see how to *encode* all of these features with the  $\lambda$ -calculus.

## *Syntactic Sugar*

| instead of  | we write  |
|---|---|
| $\lambda x \rightarrow (\lambda y \rightarrow (\lambda z \rightarrow e))$ | $\lambda x \rightarrow \lambda y \rightarrow \lambda z \rightarrow e$ |
| $\lambda x \rightarrow \lambda y \rightarrow \lambda z \rightarrow e$     | $\lambda x y z \rightarrow e$   |
| $((e1 e2) e3) e4$   | $e1 e2 e3 e4$   |

$\lambda x y \rightarrow y$     -- *A function that that takes two arguments  
-- and returns the second one...*

$(\lambda x y \rightarrow y)$  apple banana -- ... *applied to two arguments*

##  $\lambda$ -calculus: Booleans

bool/cond?  
↙ TRUE ↘ FALSE  
res-true res-false

How can we encode Boolean values ( TRUE and FALSE ) as functions?

Well, what do we **do** with a Boolean  $b$ ?

decisions / condition / choice

Make a *binary choice*

• `if b then e1 else e2`

$b ? e_1 : e_2$

## Booleans: API

We need to define three functions

`let TRUE = ???`  $(\lambda x \rightarrow (\lambda y \rightarrow x))$   
`let FALSE = ???`  $(\lambda x \rightarrow (\lambda y \rightarrow y))$   
`let ITE =  $\lambda b \lambda x \lambda y \rightarrow$  ???` -- if b then x else y  
 $(b \ x \ y)$

such that

ITE TRUE apple banana  $\rightsquigarrow$  apple

ITE FALSE apple banana  $\rightsquigarrow$  banana

(Here, `let NAME = e` means NAME is an *abbreviation* for e)



## Booleans: Implementation

```

let TRUE  = \x y -> x      -- Returns its first argument
let FALSE = \x y -> y      -- Returns its second argument
let ITE    = \b x y -> b x y -- Applies condition to branches
                                     -- (redundant, but improves readability)

```

## Example: Branches step-by-step

```

eval ite_true:
  ITE TRUE e1 e2
  =d> (\b x y -> b x y) TRUE e1 e2  -- expand def ITE
  =b>  (\x y -> TRUE x y) e1 e2     -- beta-step
  =b>  (\y -> TRUE e1 y) e2         -- beta-step
  =b>  TRUE e1 e2                   -- expand def TRUE
  =d>  (\x y -> x) e1 e2            -- beta-step
  =b>  (\y -> e1) e2                -- beta-step
  =b>  e1

```

## *Example: Branches step-by-step*

Now you try it!

Can you fill in the blanks to make it happen? (<http://goto.ucsd.edu:8095/index.html#?demo=ite.lc>)

```
eval ite_false:
```

```
  ITE FALSE e1 e2
```

```
-- fill the steps in!
```

```
=b> e2
```

# EXERCISE: Boolean Operators

ELSA: <https://goto.ucsd.edu/elsa/index.html> Click here to try this exercise  
([https://goto.ucsd.edu/elsa/index.html#?demo=permalink%2F1585435168\\_24442.lc](https://goto.ucsd.edu/elsa/index.html#?demo=permalink%2F1585435168_24442.lc))

Now that we have ITE it's easy to define other Boolean operators:

```
[ let NOT = \b      -> ???  
  let OR  = \b1 b2 -> ???  
  let AND = \b1 b2 -> ???
```

When you are done, you should get the following behavior:

eval ex\_not\_t:

NOT TRUE => FALSE

eval ex\_not\_f:

NOT FALSE => TRUE

eval ex\_or\_ff:

OR FALSE FALSE => FALSE

eval ex\_or\_ft:

OR FALSE TRUE => TRUE

eval ex\_or\_ft:

OR TRUE FALSE => TRUE

eval ex\_or\_tt:

OR TRUE TRUE => TRUE

eval ex\_and\_ff:

AND FALSE FALSE => FALSE

eval ex\_and\_ft:

AND FALSE TRUE => FALSE

eval ex\_and\_ft:

AND TRUE FALSE => FALSE

eval ex\_and\_tt:

AND TRUE TRUE => TRUE

AND TT FF  $\leadsto$  FF  
 AND FF FF  $\leadsto$  FF  
 AND FF TT  $\leadsto$  FF  
 AND TT TT  $\leadsto$  TT

# *Programming in $\lambda$ -calculus*

- **Booleans** [done]
- **Records** (structs, tuples)
- **Numbers**
- **Functions** [we got those]
- Recursion

## *$\lambda$ -calculus: Records*

Let's start with records with *two* fields (aka **pairs**)

What do we *do* with a pair?

1. **Pack** two items into a pair, then
2. **Get** first item, or
3. **Get** second item.

## *Pairs : API*

We need to define three functions

```
let PAIR = \x y -> ???      -- Make a pair with elements x and y  
                                -- { fst : x, snd : y }  
let FST  = \p -> ???      -- Return first element  
                                -- p.fst  
let SND  = \p -> ???      -- Return second element  
                                -- p.snd
```

such that

```
eval ex_fst:
```

```
FST (PAIR apple banana) ==> apple
```

```
eval ex_snd:
```

```
SND (PAIR apple banana) ==> banana
```

## *Pairs: Implementation*

A pair of  $x$  and  $y$  is just something that lets you pick between  $x$  and  $y$ ! (i.e. a function that takes a boolean and returns either  $x$  or  $y$ )

```
let PAIR = \x y -> (\b -> ITE b x y)
```

```
let FST  = \p -> p TRUE  -- call w/ TRUE, get first value
```

```
let SND  = \p -> p FALSE -- call w/ FALSE, get second value
```

## *EXERCISE: Triples*

How can we implement a record that contains **three** values?

ELSA: <https://goto.ucsd.edu/elsa/index.html>

Click here to try this exercise ([https://goto.ucsd.edu/elsa/index.html#?demo=permalink%2F1585434814\\_24436.lc](https://goto.ucsd.edu/elsa/index.html#?demo=permalink%2F1585434814_24436.lc))



```
let TRIPLE = \x y z -> ???  
let FST3   = \t -> ???  
let SND3   = \t -> ???  
let THD3   = \t -> ???
```

eval ex1:

```
FST3 (TRIPLE apple banana orange)  
=> apple
```

eval ex2:

```
SND3 (TRIPLE apple banana orange)  
=> banana
```

eval ex3:

```
THD3 (TRIPLE apple banana orange)  
=> orange
```

## *Programming in $\lambda$ -calculus*

- **Booleans** [done]
- **Records** (structs, tuples) [done]
- Numbers
- **Functions** [we got those]
- Recursion

## *$\lambda$ -calculus: Numbers*

Let's start with **natural numbers** (0, 1, 2, ...)

What do we *do* with natural numbers?

- Count: 0, inc
- Arithmetic: dec, +, -, \*
- Comparisons: ==, <=, etc

## *Natural Numbers: API*

We need to define:

- A family of **numerals**: ZERO , ONE , TWO , THREE , ...
- Arithmetic functions: INC , DEC , ADD , SUB , MULT
- Comparisons: IS\_ZERO , EQ

Such that they respect all regular laws of arithmetic, e.g.

```
IS_ZERO ZERO          ==> TRUE
IS_ZERO (INC ZERO) ==> FALSE
INC ONE              ==> TWO
...
```

# *Natural Numbers: Implementation*

**Church numerals:** a number  $N$  is encoded as a combinator that calls a function on an argument  $N$  times

```
let ONE    = \f x -> f x
let TWO    = \f x -> f (f x)
let THREE  = \f x -> f (f (f x))
let FOUR   = \f x -> f (f (f (f x)))
let FIVE   = \f x -> f (f (f (f (f x))))
let SIX    = \f x -> f (f (f (f (f (f x))))))
...

```

## *QUIZ: Church Numerals*

Which of these is a valid encoding of ZERO ?

- **A:** `let ZERO = \f x -> x`
- **B:** `let ZERO = \f x -> f`
- **C:** `let ZERO = \f x -> f x`
- **D:** `let ZERO = \x -> x`
- **E:** None of the above

Does this function look familiar?

## *$\lambda$ -calculus: Increment*

-- Call `f` on `x` one more time than `n` does

`let INC = \n -> (\f x -> ???)`

**Example:**

```
eval inc_zero :  
  INC ZERO  
=d> (\n f x -> f (n f x)) ZERO  
=b> \f x -> f (ZERO f x)  
=*> \f x -> f x  
=d> ONE
```

# EXERCISE

Fill in the implementation of `ADD` so that you get the following behavior

Click here to try this exercise (<https://goto.ucsd.edu>

[/elsa/index.html#?demo=permalink%2F1585436042\\_24449.lc](https://goto.ucsd.edu/elsa/index.html#?demo=permalink%2F1585436042_24449.lc))

```
let ZERO = \f x -> x
let ONE  = \f x -> f x
let TWO  = \f x -> f (f x)
let INC  = \n f x -> f (n f x)
```

```
let ADD = fill_this_in
```

```
eval add_zero_zero:
  ADD ZERO ZERO ==> ZERO
```

```
eval add_zero_one:
  ADD ZERO ONE ==> ONE
```

```
eval add_zero_two:
  ADD ZERO TWO ==> TWO
```

```
eval add_one_zero:
  ADD ONE ZERO ==> ONE
```

```
eval add_one_one:
  ADD ONE ONE ==> TWO
```

```
eval add_two_zero:
  ADD TWO ZERO ==> TWO
```

# QUIZ

How shall we implement ADD ?

- A. **let** ADD = \n m -> n INC m
- B. **let** ADD = \n m -> INC n m
- C. **let** ADD = \n m -> n m INC
- D. **let** ADD = \n m -> n (m INC)
- E. **let** ADD = \n m -> n (INC m)

$\lambda$ -calculus: Addition

-- Call `f` on `x` exactly `n + m` times

**let** ADD = \n m -> n INC m



**Example:**

```
eval add_one_zero :  
  ADD ONE ZERO  
  =~> ONE
```

## QUIZ

How shall we implement MULT ?

- A. **let** MULT = \n m -> n ADD m
- B. **let** MULT = \n m -> n (ADD m) ZERO
- C. **let** MULT = \n m -> m (ADD n) ZERO
- D. **let** MULT = \n m -> n (ADD m ZERO)
- E. **let** MULT = \n m -> (n ADD m) ZERO

## *$\lambda$ -calculus: Multiplication*

```
-- Call `f` on `x` exactly `n * m` times  
let MULT = \n m -> n (ADD m) ZERO
```

### **Example:**

```
eval two_times_three :  
  MULT TWO ONE  
  =~> TWO
```

# *Programming in $\lambda$ -calculus*

- **Booleans** [done]
- **Records** (structs, tuples) [done]
- **Numbers** [done]
- **Lists**
- **Functions** [we got those]
- **Recursion**

## *$\lambda$ -calculus: Lists*

Lets define an API to build lists in the  $\lambda$ -calculus.

### **An Empty List**

NIL

## Constructing a list

A list with 4 elements

```
CONS apple (CONS banana (CONS cantaloupe (CONS dragon NIL)))
```

intuitively CONS h t creates a *new* list with

- *head* h
- *tail* t

## Destructing a list

- HEAD l returns the *first* element of the list
- TAIL l returns the *rest* of the list

```
HEAD (CONS apple (CONS banana (CONS cantaloupe (CONS dragon NI  
L))))  
=> apple
```

```
TAIL (CONS apple (CONS banana (CONS cantaloupe (CONS dragon NI  
L))))  
=> CONS banana (CONS cantaloupe (CONS dragon NIL))
```

## *$\lambda$ -calculus: Lists*

```
let NIL = ???
```

```
let CONS = ???
```

```
let HEAD = ???
```

```
let TAIL = ???
```

```
eval exHd:
```

```
  HEAD (CONS apple (CONS banana (CONS cantaloupe (CONS dragon NI  
L))))
```

```
  =~> apple
```

```
eval exTl
```

```
  TAIL (CONS apple (CONS banana (CONS cantaloupe (CONS dragon NI  
L))))
```

```
  =~> CONS banana (CONS cantaloupe (CONS dragon NIL))
```

## *EXERCISE: Nth*

Write an implementation of `GetNth` such that

- `GetNth n l` returns the  $n$ -th element of the list `l`

*Assume that `l` has  $n$  or more elements*

```
let GetNth = ???
```

```
eval nth1 :
```

```
  GetNth ZERO (CONS apple (CONS banana (CONS cantaloupe NIL)))  
  =~> apple
```

```
eval nth1 :
```

```
  GetNth ONE (CONS apple (CONS banana (CONS cantaloupe NIL)))  
  =~> banana
```

```
eval nth2 :
```

```
  GetNth TWO (CONS apple (CONS banana (CONS cantaloupe NIL)))  
  =~> cantaloupe
```

Click here to try this in elsa (<https://goto.ucsd.edu>

[/elsa/index.html#?demo=permalink%2F1586466816\\_52273.lc](https://goto.ucsd.edu/elsa/index.html#?demo=permalink%2F1586466816_52273.lc))

# *$\lambda$ -calculus: Recursion*

I want to write a function that sums up natural numbers up to  $n$  :

```
let SUM = \n -> ... -- 0 + 1 + 2 + ... + n
```

such that we get the following behavior

```
eval exSum0: SUM ZERO  ==> ZERO
```

```
eval exSum1: SUM ONE   ==> ONE
```

```
eval exSum2: SUM TWO   ==> THREE
```

```
eval exSum3: SUM THREE ==> SIX
```

Can we write sum **using Church Numerals**?

Click here to try this in Elsa ([https://goto.ucsd.edu/elsa/index.html#?demo=permalink%2F1586465192\\_52175.lc](https://goto.ucsd.edu/elsa/index.html#?demo=permalink%2F1586465192_52175.lc))

## QUIZ

You *can* write SUM using numerals but its *tedious*.

Is this a correct implementation of SUM?

```
let SUM = \n -> ITE (ISZ n)
                ZERO
                (ADD n (SUM (DEC n)))
```

A. Yes

B. No

No!

- Named terms in Elsa are just syntactic sugar
- To translate an Elsa term to  $\lambda$ -calculus: replace each name with its definition

```
\n -> ITE (ISZ n)
        ZERO
        (ADD n (SUM (DEC n))) -- But SUM is not yet defined!
```

**Recursion:**



- Inside *this* function
- Want to call the *same* function on `DEC n`

Looks like we can't do recursion!

- Requires being able to refer to functions *by name*,
- But  $\lambda$ -calculus functions are *anonymous*.

Right?

## *$\lambda$ -calculus: Recursion*

Think again!

**Recursion:**

Instead of

- Inside *this* function I want to call the *same* function on  $\text{DEC } n$

Lets try

- Inside *this* function I want to call *some* function `rec` on  $\text{DEC } n$
- And BTW, I want `rec` to be the *same* function

**Step 1:** Pass in the function to call “recursively”

```
let STEP =
  \rec -> \n -> ITE (ISZ n)
                    ZERO
                    (ADD n (rec (DEC n))) -- Call some rec
```

**Step 2:** Do some magic to `STEP`, so `rec` is itself

```
\n -> ITE (ISZ n) ZERO (ADD n (rec (DEC n)))
```

That is, obtain a term `MAGIC` such that

```
MAGIC => STEP MAGIC
```

## *$\lambda$ -calculus: Fixpoint Combinator*

**Wanted:** a  $\lambda$ -term FIX such that

- FIX STEP calls STEP with FIX STEP as the first argument:

$(\text{FIX STEP}) \Rightarrow \text{STEP (FIX STEP)}$

(In math: a *fixpoint* of a function  $f(x)$  is a point  $x$ , such that  $f(x) = x$ )

Once we have it, we can define:

**let** SUM = FIX STEP

Then by property of FIX we have:

SUM  $\Rightarrow$  FIX STEP  $\Rightarrow$  STEP (FIX STEP)  $\Rightarrow$  STEP SUM

and so now we compute:

```
eval sum_two:
```

```

SUM TWO
=> STEP SUM TWO
=> ITE (ISZ TWO) ZERO (ADD TWO (SUM (DEC TWO)))
=> ADD TWO (SUM (DEC TWO))
=> ADD TWO (SUM ONE)
=> ADD TWO (STEP SUM ONE)
=> ADD TWO (ITE (ISZ ONE) ZERO (ADD ONE (SUM (DEC ONE))))
=> ADD TWO (ADD ONE (SUM (DEC ONE)))
=> ADD TWO (ADD ONE (SUM ZERO))
=> ADD TWO (ADD ONE (ITE (ISZ ZERO) ZERO (ADD ZERO (SUM DEC ZER
0))))
=> ADD TWO (ADD ONE (ZERO))
=> THREE

```

How should we define FIX ???

## *The Y combinator*

Remember  $\Omega$ ?

```
(\x -> x x) (\x -> x x)
=b> (\x -> x x) (\x -> x x)
```

This is *self-replicating code*! We need something like this but a bit more involved...

The Y combinator discovered by Haskell Curry:

```
let FIX = \stp -> (\x -> stp (x x)) (\x -> stp (x x))
```

How does it work?

```
eval fix_step:
```

```
FIX STEP
=d> (\stp -> (\x -> stp (x x)) (\x -> stp (x x))) STEP
=b> (\x -> STEP (x x)) (\x -> STEP (x x))
=b> STEP ((\x -> STEP (x x)) (\x -> STEP (x x)))
--      ^^^^^^^^^^^^^ this is FIX STEP ^^^^^^^^^^^^^
```

That's all folks, Haskell Curry was very clever.

**Next week:** We'll look at the language named after him ( Haskell )

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