

1 March 2007

We've seen any typed λ -calculus^P_A (e.g. the "typed λ -calculus for commutative rings" – which doesn't take full advantage of the features of the λ -calculus) gives a cartesian closed category C_P where objects of

objects of C_P are types of P

morphisms of C_P come from terms of P

equations between morphisms of C_P come from equations in P .

Then we can look at models of P , which are just cartesian closed functors

$$F: C_P \rightarrow \text{Set}$$

(where Set could be replaced by any other CCC if we wanted).

Last time we considered $P = \lambda\text{Th}(\text{CommRing})$

– the typed λ -calculus for comm. rings – and asked, "What's a Cartesian Closed functor

$$F: C_{\lambda\text{Th}(\text{CommRing})} \rightarrow \text{Set} ?$$

We guessed that the answer to this question is "a commutative ring", i.e. a "model of the typed λ -calculus for commutative rings". This is true. Let's look at it: what does F give us? We have $R \in C_{\lambda\text{Th}}(\text{CommRing})$, so we get

$$F(R) \in \text{Set}.$$

Any CCC has a terminal object, 1 , so we get

$$F(1) \cong 1 \in \text{Set}$$

where the isomorphism comes from the fact the a CCF preserves terminal objects. Similarly we get

$$F(R \times R) \cong F(R) \times F(R) \in \text{Set}$$

since CCF's preserve products, and

$$F(\text{hom}(R, R)) \cong \text{hom}(F(R), F(R)) \in \text{Set}$$

since CCF's preserve internal homs.

In $C_{\lambda\text{Th}}(\text{CommRing})$ we also have morphisms like

$$+ : R \times R \longrightarrow R$$

$$0 : 1 \longrightarrow R$$

$$- : R \longrightarrow R$$

$$\cdot : R \times R \longrightarrow R$$

$$1 : 1 \longrightarrow R$$

and these give morphisms in Set:

$$F(+): F(R \times R) \xrightarrow{\quad \text{def} \quad} F(R)$$

\Downarrow

$$F(R) \times F(R)$$

$$F(0) : F(1) \xrightarrow{\quad\text{if}\quad} F(R)$$

etc. Finally, these functions satisfy the usual commutative ring axioms... so $F(R)$ is a commutative ring!

Here's a slightly more interesting example:

Example 2 : The typed λ -calculus for
 "high school calculus." — how to differentiate polynomials.
 This typed λ -calculus $\lambda\text{Th}(\text{Calc})$, includes $\lambda\text{Th}(\text{CommRing})$
 and one more term, $\frac{d}{dx}$ or "D"

$$D \in hom(hom(R,R),hom(R,R))$$

since $\frac{d}{dx}$ "eats a function and spits out a function."

We also have extra equations. For example, we need an equation corresponding to

$$\frac{d}{dx} [f(x) + g(x)] = \frac{d}{dx} f(x) + \frac{d}{dx} g(x).$$

Formally, we'll say x is a variable of type R and f, g are variables of type $\text{hom}(R, R)$:

$$D(x \underset{\underset{R}{\in}}{\mapsto} + (f(x), g(x))) \underset{\{x, f, g\}}{=} x \underset{\underset{R}{\in}}{\mapsto} + ((D(f))(x), (D(g))(x))$$

Similarly we've got equations corresponding to

- product rule
- rule for differentiating " $-f$ "
- rule for " $\frac{d}{dx} x = 1$ " :

$$D(x \in R \mapsto x) = x \in R \mapsto 1(*)$$

- rules " $\frac{d}{dx} 0 = 0$ " " $\frac{d}{dx} 1 = 0$ ".

- chain rule: " $\frac{d}{dx} f(g(x)) = f'(g(x))g'(x)$ "

$$D(x \in R \mapsto f(g(x))) \underset{\{x, f, g\}}{=} x \in R \mapsto \cdot((Df)(g(x)), (Dg)(x))$$

If we use this as our (rough) definition of $\lambda\text{Th}(\text{Calc})$, what's a model of it like?

$$F: \lambda\text{Th}(\text{Calc}) \rightarrow \text{Set} ?$$

You might try $F(R) = R \in \text{Set}$, but

$$\begin{aligned}\text{hom}(F(R), F(R)) &\cong \text{hom}(R, R) \\ &= \{\underline{\text{all functions}} \ f: R \rightarrow R\}.\end{aligned}$$

and we have

$$D: \text{hom}(R, R) \longrightarrow \text{hom}(R, R) \text{ in } \mathcal{C}_{\lambda\text{Th}(\text{Calc})}$$

& thus

$$\begin{aligned}F(D): F(\text{hom}(R, R)) &\longrightarrow F(\text{hom}(R, R)) \text{ in Set.} \\ \text{hom}(R, R) &\xrightarrow{\quad \text{Id} \quad} \text{hom}(R, R)\end{aligned}$$

Challenge: show no model of this type (i.e. one with $F(R)=R$) exists, or construct one! (So, perhaps $\lambda\text{Th}(\text{Calc})$ describes the "freshman's paradise" where all functions are differentiable!)