# Monad P3 : Continuation Passing Style (1D)

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## Application operator

(\$) is a curious higher-order operator. Its type is:

(\$) :: (a -> b) -> a -> b

It takes a **function** <u>as its first **argument**</u>,

and all it does is to apply the function(a -> b)to the second argumenta

```
for instance, (head $ "abc") == (head "abc").
```

## Application operator as a function

Furthermore, as **(\$)** is just a **function** which happens to <u>apply</u> **functions**, and **functions** are just **values**, we can write intriguing expressions such as:

map (\$ 2) [(2\*), (4\*), (8\*)]

(\$) :: (a -> b) -> a -> b (\$ a) :: (a -> b) -> b

# Application operator (\$)

First, **(\$)** has very <u>low</u> **precedence**, unlike regular **function application** which has the <u>highest</u> **precedence**.

can avoid confusing <u>nesting</u> of **parentheses** by <u>breaking</u> **precedence** with **\$**.

# Application operator (\$) example -(1)

We write a <u>non-point-free</u> version of **myInits** without adding new parentheses:

```
mylnits :: [a] -> [[a]]
mylnits xs = map reverse . scanl (flip (:)) [] $ xs
```

mylnits [a1, a2, an] [[a1], [a2], [an]]

# Application operator (\$) example -(2)

```
mylnits :: [a] -> [[a]]
mylnits xs = map reverse . scanl (flip (:)) [] $ xs
(:) :: a -> [a] -> [a]
scanl :: (a -> b -> a) -> a -> [b] -> [a]
flip :: (a -> b -> c) -> b -> a -> c
```

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Higher-order\_functions#Function\_manipulation

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# Application operator (\$) example – (3)

#### scanl



http://zvon.org/other/haskell/Outputprelude/scanl\_f.html

#### scanl examples

Input: scanl (/) 64 [4,2,4] Output: [64.0,16.0,8.0,2.0]

Input: scanl (/) 3 []

Output: [3.0]

Input: scanl max 5 [1,2,3,4]

Output: [5,5,5,5,5]



http://zvon.org/other/haskell/Outputprelude/scanl\_f.html

# flip

flip takes a function of two arguments and returns a version of the same function with the arguments <u>swapped</u>.

flip :: (a -> b -> c) -> b -> a -> c

(flip map) [1,2,3] (\*2) [2,4,6]

map (\*2) [1,2,3]

# Point-free style programming

tacit programming, also called point-free style,is a programming paradigm in which function definitionsdo not identify the arguments (or "points") on which they operate.

Instead the **definitions** merely <u>compose</u> <u>other</u> **functions**, among which are **combinators** that <u>manipulate</u> the **arguments**.

Tacit programming is of theoretical interest, because the <u>strict use</u> of **composition** results in programs that are well adapted for equational reasoning

### Combinator

here are two distinct meanings of combinator
The first is a narrow, technical meaning, namely:
A function or definition with <u>no</u> free variables.
a pure lambda-expression that <u>refers only</u> to its arguments, like

\a -> a \a -> \b -> a \f -> \a -> \b -> f b a

The study of such things is called **combinatory logic**. the examples above are **id**, **const**, and **flip** respectively.

https://wiki.haskell.org/Combinator

#### Free variable

A **variable** that is <u>not</u> bound.

(\x -> x y)

In the above expression, **y** is a free variable.

Whether a variable is free or not depends largely on context.

It often helps to describe a **variable** as being free within a particular expression.

https://wiki.haskell.org/Free\_variable

# Point-free style programming (1)

```
Conventional (specify the <u>arguments</u> <u>explicitly</u>):
```

sum (x:xs) = x + (sum xs)

sum [] = 0

```
Point-free (no <u>explicit</u> <u>arguments</u>)
```

sum = foldr (+) 0

it's just a fold with + starting with 0

# Point-free style programming (2)

**Conventional** (specify the <u>arguments</u> <u>explicitly</u>):

g(x) = f(x)

Point-free (no explicit arguments)

g = f

It's closely related to currying

(or operations like function composition).

# Point-free style programming (3)

square :: a -> a
square x = x*x
inc :: a -> a
inc x = x+1

### Like a value is applied to a function

map (\$ 2) [ (2\*), (4\*), (8\*) ]

[(\$ 2) (2\*), (\$ 2) (4\*), (\$ 2) (8\*)] [ (2\*) \$ 2, (4\*) \$ 2, (8\*) \$ 2 ]

[4,8,16]

map (\*2) [ 2, 4, 8 ]

[ **(\*2)** 2, **(\*2)** 4, **(\*2)** 8 ]

#### Reversal of a value and a function

**map (\$ 2) [ (2\*), (4\*), (8\*) ]** [4,8,16]

[(2\*) \$ 2, (4\*) \$ 2, (4\*) \$ 2]

map (\*2) [ 2, 4, 8 ]

**[(\*2)** 2, **(\*2)** 4, **(\*2)** 8]

The **(\$)** section makes the code <u>appear</u> <u>backwards</u>, as if we are <u>applying</u> a **value** to the **functions** rather than the other way around.

such an **reversal** is at heart of continuation passing style!

(\$) :: (a -> b) -> a -> b (\$ a) :: (a -> b) -> b

map (\$ 2) [ (2\*), (4\*), (8\*) ]

[(\$ 2) (2\*), (\$ 2) (4\*), (\$ 2) (8\*)] [<del>(2\*) (\$ 2)</del>, <del>(4\*) (\$ 2)</del>, <del>(8\*) (\$ 2)</del>]

[<del>\$ 2 (2\*)</del>, <del>\$ 2 (4\*)</del>, <del>\$ 2 (8\*)</del>] [(2\*) \$ 2, (4\*) \$ 2, (8\*) \$ 2]

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Continuation\_passing\_style

## Suspended computation and continuation

From a CPS perspective, <b>(\$ 2)</b> is a <b>suspended computation</b> :		map (\$ 2) [(2*), (4*), (8*)]	
a <b>function</b> with general type			
(a -> r) -> r		(\$) :: (a -> b)	-> a -> b
		(\$ a) :: <b>(</b> a ->	<mark>b)</mark> -> b
takes another <u>function</u> as <b>argument</b>	(a -> r)		
produces a <u>final</u> <u>result</u> .	r	(\$ 2) <b>(2*)</b>	4
		(\$ 2) <mark>(4*)</mark>	8
the <b>(a -&gt; r) argument</b> is the <b>continuatio</b> r	<b>n</b> ;	(\$ 2) <b>(8*)</b>	16
it specifies how the computation			
will be brought to a <u>conclusion</u> .			
			a -> r
			•





## Continuation functions for conclusions

map	<b>(\$ 2)</b> Suspended Computation	[ (2*), (4*)	8*) ]
the func	<b>ctions</b> in the li	st are	(2*), (4*), (8*)
supplied	l as <b>continua</b>	tions via map,	
to the <b>sı</b>	uspended co	mputation	(\$ 2)
producir	ng three distin	ct results.	

## map (\$ 2) [ (2\*), (4\*), (8\*) ]

- suspended computations are largely
   (\$ 2)
   interchangeable with plain values:
- flip (\$) converts any value into a suspended computation
- passing id as its continuation gives back the original value.

(\$ 2) id

# Continuation Passing Style Example I : Factorial Computation

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Continuation\_passing\_style

Continuous Passing Style (1D)

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## **Recursive Calling**

#### fact x =

```
if x <= 1 then 1 else x * fact (x - 1)
```

fact 4

4 \* **fact** 3

4 \* (3 \* **fact** 2)

4 \* (3 \* (2 \* fact 1))

4 \* (3 \* (2 \* 1))

4 \* (3 \* 2)

4 \* 6

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Each call of fact is made with the **promise** that <u>the **value** returned</u> will be <u>multiplied</u> by <u>the **value** of the parameter</u> at the time of the call.

Thus **fact** is invoked with larger and larger **control contexts** as the calculation proceeds.

https://www.seas.upenn.edu/~cis552/13fa/lectures/FunCont.html

## Continuation passing style



#### using 'id' as the first continuation.

https://www.seas.upenn.edu/~cis552/13fa/lectures/FunCont.html

### **continuations** are supplied to the **suspended computation**



## **Continuation passing**



ContinuationskSuspended computationx \* v

https://www.seas.upenn.edu/~cis552/13fa/lectures/FunCont.html

## Passing and evaluating continuations



https://www.seas.upenn.edu/~cis552/13fa/lectures/FunCont.html

# Steps of passing and evaluating continuations



#### using 'id' as the first continuation.

https://www.seas.upenn.edu/~cis552/13fa/lectures/FunCont.html

### **Passing continuations**





https://www.seas.upenn.edu/~cis552/13fa/lectures/FunCont.html

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#### Suspended computation



https://www.seas.upenn.edu/~cis552/13fa/lectures/FunCont.html

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## Suspended computation

<pre>fact_cps x k = if x &lt;= 1 then k 1 else fact_cps (x -</pre>	1) (\v -> k (x * v))		
<ul> <li>fact_cps 4 id</li> </ul>	k = id		fact_cps 4 k
<ul> <li>fact_cps 3 (\v -&gt; k (4*v))</li> </ul>	k' = (\∨ -> k (4*∨))		fact_cps 3 k'
<ul> <li>fact_cps 2 (\v' -&gt; k' (3*v'))</li> </ul>	<b>k</b> '' = (\v' -> <b>k</b> ' (3*v'))		fact_cps 2 k"
fact_cps 1 (\v'' -> k'' (2*v''))	k''' = (\∨'' -> k'' (2*∨''))		fact_cps 1k'''
• return k <sup>"</sup> 1 = (\v" ->	k'' ( <mark>2</mark> *v'')) 1 = k'' (2*1)	v'' = 1	k''' 1 → k'' (2*1)
k'' (2*1) = (\v' -> k	x' (3*v')) (2*1) = k' (3*(2*1))	v' = (2*1)	k" (2*1) → k' (3*(2*1))
<b>k</b> ' (3*(2*1)) = (\v -> <b>k</b>	$(4^*v)) (3^*(2^*1)) = k (4^*(3^*(2^*1)))$	v = (3*(2*1))	k' (3*(2*1)) → k (4*(3*(2*1)))
Sus	→ id (4*(3*(2*1)))		

https://www.seas.upenn.edu/~cis552/13fa/lectures/FunCont.html

## Continuations and suspended computations



https://www.seas.upenn.edu/~cis552/13fa/lectures/FunCont.html



# **Evaluating continuations**



https://www.seas.upenn.edu/~cis552/13fa/lectures/FunCont.html



## **Evaluating continuations**



https://www.seas.upenn.edu/~cis552/13fa/lectures/FunCont.html

#### CPS Ex 1



https://www.seas.upenn.edu/~cis552/13fa/lectures/FunCont.html



#### CPS Ex 1

- fact\_cps 4 id
- fact\_cps 3 (\v -> id (4 \* v))
   for an input v, compute id (4 \* v)
- fact\_cps 2 (\v' -> (\v -> id (4 \* v)) (3 \* v'))
   for an input v', compute (\v -> id (4 \* v)) (3 \* v')
   = id (4 \* (3 \* v'))

each <u>step remembers</u> what to do with the <u>result</u> as a **first-class function**.

each step associates with an anonymous function (lambda expression) the result

https://www.seas.upenn.edu/~cis552/13fa/lectures/FunCont.html

### **First class functions**

functions as arguments to other functions,returning them as the values from other functions,and assigning them to variables or storing them in data structures.

in the context of "functions as first-class citizens"

1 Higher-order functions: passing functions as arguments

2 Anonymous and nested functions

3 Non-local variables and closures

4 Higher-order functions: returning functions as results

5 Assigning functions to variables

6 Equality of functions

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First-class\_function

## **Higher-order functions**

In mathematics and computer science, a **higher-order function** is a function that does <u>at least</u> one of the following:

- takes one or more functions as arguments (i.e. procedural parameters),
- returns a function as its result.

All other functions are first-order functions.

In mathematics higher-order functions are also termed **operators** or **functionals**.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Higher-order\_function

An elementary way to take advantage of **continuations** is to modify our functions so that they <u>return</u> **suspended computations** rather than <u>ordinary values</u>. -- without evaluation

> <u>create</u> suspended computations and <u>pass</u> continuations rather than return ordinary values

Suspending a computation : each step remembers what to do with the <u>result</u>

Get back to the suspended computation : At the **bottom** of the **recursion**, these **continuations** are **evaluated**.

# Passing the result



fact\_cps 3 k' k' = (\v -> k (4\*v))
fact\_cps 2 k'' k'' = (\v' -> k' (3\*v'))
fact\_cps 1 k''' k''' = (\v'' -> k'' (2\*v''))

https://www.seas.upenn.edu/~cis552/13fa/lectures/FunCont.html

## A callback and its return value

every function <u>takes</u> an extra argument (a callback) and <u>passes</u> its "return value" this callback.

every **function** <u>takes</u> an **extra argument** (a **callback**) and its "**return value**" is the application of this **callback**.



https://www.seas.upenn.edu/~cis552/13fa/lectures/FunCont.html

## Invoking the current continuation callback





https://www.seas.upenn.edu/~cis552/13fa/lectures/FunCont.html



## Callers provide the continuation

When calling functions written in **CPS-style**, **callers** must also <u>provide</u> the "**continuation**", i.e. a **function** that says <u>what to do</u> with the <u>result</u> of the **function call**.

fact\_cps 4 id



https://www.seas.upenn.edu/~cis552/13fa/lectures/FunCont.html

## **Control flow**

Continuations and suspended computations

make it possible

- to explicitly <u>manipulate</u> the **control flow** of a program
- to dramatically <u>alter</u> the **control flow** of a program.

## Returning early from a procedure

- <u>returning early</u> from a procedure can be implemented with **continuations**.
- exceptions and failure can also be handled with continuations
  - pass in a **continuation** for <u>success</u>,
  - another continuation for fail,
  - <u>invoke</u> the appropriate **continuation**.

<u>returning early</u> from a procedure without evaluations

delayed evaluations

suspended computations

## Suspending a computation

 <u>suspending a computation</u> and <u>returning</u> to it at another time, and implementing simple forms of **concurrency**

notably, one Haskell implementation, Hugs, uses **continuations** to implement cooperative concurrency Suspending a computation : each step remembers what to do with the <u>result</u>

Get back to the suspended computation : At the **bottom** of the **recursion**, these **continuations** are **evaluated**.

## Improving performance

In some circumstances, **CPS** can be used to <u>improve</u> performance by <u>eliminating</u> certain **construction-pattern matching sequences** 

i.e. a function <u>returns</u> a complex structure which the caller will at some point <u>deconstruct</u>

though a sufficiently **smart compiler** should be able to do the elimination

# Continuation Passing Style Example II : Pythagoras Equation Computation Ver 1

pow2 :: Float -> Float

pow2 a = a \*\* 2

add :: Float -> Float -> Float add a b = a + b

pyth :: Float -> Float -> Float
pyth a b = sqrt (add (pow2 a) (pow2 b))

To transform the traditional function to CPS, we need to <u>change</u> its <u>signature</u>.

The function will get another argument of function type, continuations of the type (Float -> a) and its return type <u>depends</u> on that function: cont :: Float -> a







https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continuation-passing\_style



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continuation-passing\_style

**Continuous Passing** 

Style (1D)

First we calculate the square of a in **pyth'** function and pass a **lambda function** as a **continuation** which will accept a **square** of **a** as a first argument. And so on until we reach the result of our calculations. To get the result of this function we can pass **id** function as a final argument which returns the value that was passed to it unchanged: **pyth' 3 4 id == 5.0**.

# Continuation Passing Style Example II : Pythagoras Equation Computation Ver 2

## A simple module – without continuation

```
-- We assume some primitives add and square
```

```
add :: Int -> Int -> Int
```

```
add x y = x + y
```

square :: Int -> Int

```
square x = x * x
```

```
pythagoras :: Int -> Int -> Int
pythagoras x y = add (square x) (square y)
```

## A simple module – with continuation

-- We assume CPS versions of the add and square primitives,

- -- (note: the actual definitions of add\_cps and square\_cps are not
- -- in **CPS** form, they just have the correct type)

```
add_cps :: Int -> Int -> ((Int -> r) -> r)
add_cps x y = \k -> k (add x y)
```

```
square_cps :: Int -> ((Int -> r) -> r)
square_cps x = \k -> k (square x)
```

#### **Continuations**

 $add_cps x y k = k (add x y)$ 

k :: Int -> r (add x y) :: Int k (add x y) :: r

square\_cps x k = k (square x)

k :: Int -> r (square x) :: Int k (square x) :: r

# A simple module – with continuation

```
-- We assume CPS versions of the add and square primitives,
```

- -- (note: the actual definitions of **add\_cps** and **square\_cps** are <u>not</u>
- -- in CPS form, they just have the correct type)

```
add_cps :: Int -> Int -> ((Int -> r) -> r)
add_cps x y = \k -> k (add x y)
```

```
square_cps :: Int -> ((Int -> r) -> r)
square_cps x = \k -> k (square x)
```



https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Continuation\_passing\_style





https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Haskell/Continuation\_passing\_style

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pythagoras\_cps :: Int -> Int -> ((Int -> r) -> r) pythagoras\_cps x y = \k ->

square\_cps x \$ \x2 ->

square\_cps y \$ \y2 ->

add\_cps x2 y2 \$ k

<u>square</u> **x** and <u>throw</u> the result <u>into</u> the (**\x2** -> ...) continuation <u>square</u> **y** and <u>throw</u> the result <u>into</u> the (**\y2** -> ...) continuation <u>add</u> **x\_squared** and **y\_squared** and <u>throw</u> the result <u>into</u> the top level/program continuation **k**.

We can try it out in GHCi by passing print as the program continuation: \*Main> pythagoras\_cps 3 4 print

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**continuations** can be used in a similar fashion, for implementing interesting **control flow** in **monads**.

Note that there usually are alternative techniques for such use cases, especially in tandem with **laziness**.



The mtl library, which is shipped with GHC,

has the module Control.Monad.Cont.

This module provides the Cont type,

which implements Monad and some other useful functions.

The following snippet shows the pyth' function using **Cont**:

```
pow2_m :: Float -> Cont a Float
pow2_m a = return (a ** 2)
```

```
pyth_m :: Float -> Float -> Cont a Float
pyth_m a b = do
 a2 <- pow2_m a
 b2 <- pow2_m b
 anb <- cont (add' a2 b2)
r <- cont (sqrt' anb)
return r
```

#### References

- [1] ftp://ftp.geoinfo.tuwien.ac.at/navratil/HaskellTutorial.pdf
- [2] https://www.umiacs.umd.edu/~hal/docs/daume02yaht.pdf