

# ***Topic 5***

PCF

# PCF syntax

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## Types

$$\tau ::= \text{nat} \mid \text{bool} \mid \tau \rightarrow \tau$$

E.g.

$$\text{bool} \rightarrow (\text{bool} \rightarrow \text{bool})$$
$$(\text{nat} \rightarrow \text{bool}) \rightarrow \text{bool}$$

# PCF syntax

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E.g.  $\text{bool} \rightarrow (\text{bool} \rightarrow \text{bool})$

$$(\text{nat} \rightarrow \text{bool}) \rightarrow \text{bool}$$

$\rightarrow$  is right associative:

$$\text{"}\tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2 \rightarrow \tau_3\text{" means } \tau_1 \rightarrow (\tau_2 \rightarrow \tau_3)$$

# PCF syntax

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## Types

$$\tau ::= \text{nat} \mid \text{bool} \mid \tau \rightarrow \tau$$

## Expressions

$$\begin{aligned} M ::= & \mathbf{0} \mid \text{succ}(M) \mid \text{pred}(M) \\ & \mid \text{true} \mid \text{false} \mid \text{zero}(M) \\ & \mid \text{if } M \text{ then } M \text{ else } M \end{aligned}$$

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## Expressions

$$\begin{aligned} M ::= & \mathbf{0} \mid \text{succ}(M) \mid \text{pred}(M) \\ & \mid \text{true} \mid \text{false} \mid \text{zero}(M) \\ & \mid x \mid \text{if } M \text{ then } M \text{ else } M \\ & \mid \text{fn } x : \tau . M \mid M M \mid \text{fix}(M) \end{aligned}$$

where  $x \in \mathbb{V}$ , an infinite set of **variables**.

Application is left associative:

" $M_1 M_2 M_3$ " means  $(M_1 M_2) M_3$

Whereas in OCaml one might write

```
let rec f x = if x=0 then 1 else x*f(x-1) in f 42
```

in PCF one has to write

```
(fix (fn f : nat → nat. fn x : nat.  
  if zero(x) then succ(0)  
  else times x (f (pred(x))) ) ) succ42(0)
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Where  $\text{succ}^{42}(0) \triangleq \underbrace{\text{succ}(\text{succ}(\dots \text{succ}(0)\dots))}_{42 \text{ succ's}}$

& times is as on p47 of the notes.

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where  $x \in \mathbb{V}$ , an infinite set of **variables**.

**Technicality:** We identify expressions up to  $\alpha$ -conversion of bound variables (created by the **fn** expression-former): by definition a PCF **term** is an  $\alpha$ -equivalence class of expressions.

$$\text{E.g. } \mathbf{fix}(\mathbf{fn} \ x : \tau . x) = \mathbf{fix}(\mathbf{fn} \ y : \tau . y)$$



## PCF typing relation, $\Gamma \vdash M : \tau$

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- $\Gamma$  is a **type environment**, *i.e.* a finite partial function mapping variables to types (whose domain of definition is denoted  $dom(\Gamma)$ )
- $M$  is a term
- $\tau$  is a **type**.

if this contains distinct variables  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  and  $\Gamma(x_i) = \tau_i$ , we sometimes write  $\Gamma$  as  $\{x_1 : \tau_1, x_2 : \tau_2, \dots, x_n : \tau_n\}$

## PCF typing relation (sample rules)

See Fig. 2  
page 40

$$(\text{:fn}) \quad \frac{\Gamma[x \mapsto \tau] \vdash M : \tau'}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{fn} \ x : \tau . M : \tau \rightarrow \tau'} \quad \text{if } x \notin \text{dom}(\Gamma)$$

$$\text{dom}(\Gamma[x \mapsto \tau]) = \text{dom} \Gamma \cup \{x\}$$

$\Gamma[x \mapsto \tau]$  maps  $x$  to  $\tau$  and  
otherwise acts like  $\Gamma$

## PCF typing relation (sample rules)

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$$(\text{:app}) \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M_1 : \tau \rightarrow \tau' \quad \Gamma \vdash M_2 : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash M_1 M_2 : \tau'}$$

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$$(\text{:app}) \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M_1 : \tau \rightarrow \tau' \quad \Gamma \vdash M_2 : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash M_1 M_2 : \tau'}$$

$$(\text{:fix}) \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \tau \rightarrow \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{fix}(M) : \tau}$$

## PCF typing relation, $\Gamma \vdash M : \tau$

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- $\Gamma$  is a **type environment**, *i.e.* a finite partial function mapping variables to types (whose domain of definition is denoted  $dom(\Gamma)$ )
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### Notation:

$M : \tau$  means  $M$  is closed and  $\emptyset \vdash M : \tau$  holds.

$PCF_\tau \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{M \mid M : \tau\}$ .

*i.e.*  $fv(M) = \emptyset$   
where...

$fv(M)$  — set of free variables of  $M$   
is defined by :

$$fv(0) = fv(true) = fv(false) = \emptyset$$

$$\begin{aligned}fv(\text{succ}(M)) &= fv(\text{pred}(M)) = fv(\text{zero}(M)) \\ &= fv(\text{fix}(M)) = fv(M)\end{aligned}$$

$$fv(\text{if } M \text{ then } M' \text{ else } M'') = fv(M) \cup fv(M') \cup fv(M'')$$

$$fv(M M') = fv(M) \cup fv(M')$$

$$fv(x) = \{x\}$$

$$fv(\lambda x : \tau. M) = \{x' \in fv(M) \mid x' \neq x\}$$

## PCF evaluation relation

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takes the form

$$M \Downarrow_{\tau} V$$

where

- $\tau$  is a PCF type
- $M, V \in \text{PCF}_{\tau}$  are closed PCF terms of type  $\tau$
- $V$  is a **value**,

$$V ::= \mathbf{0} \mid \mathbf{succ}(V) \mid \mathbf{true} \mid \mathbf{false} \mid \mathbf{fn } x : \tau . M.$$

## PCF evaluation (sample rules)

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See Fig. 3  
page 43

$(\Downarrow_{\text{val}}) \quad V \Downarrow_{\tau} V \quad (V \text{ a value of type } \tau)$



## PCF evaluation (sample rules)

---

$(\Downarrow_{\text{val}})$   $V \Downarrow_{\tau} V$  ( $V$  a value of type  $\tau$ )

$(\Downarrow_{\text{cbn}})$  
$$\frac{M_1 \Downarrow_{\tau \rightarrow \tau'} \mathbf{fn} x : \tau . M'_1 \quad M'_1[M_2/x] \Downarrow_{\tau'} V}{M_1 M_2 \Downarrow_{\tau'} V}$$

## PCF evaluation (sample rules)

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substitution (capture-avoiding — but since  $M_2$  is closed there can be no capture)

NB if  $\Gamma[x \mapsto \tau] \vdash M'_1 : \tau'$   
&  $\Gamma \vdash M_2 : \tau$ , then  $\Gamma \vdash M'_1[M_2/x] : \tau'$   
(see Proposition 5.3.1 (ii))

## PCF evaluation (sample rules)

---

$$(\Downarrow_{\text{val}}) \quad V \Downarrow_{\tau} V \quad (V \text{ a value of type } \tau)$$

$$(\Downarrow_{\text{cbn}}) \quad \frac{M_1 \Downarrow_{\tau \rightarrow \tau'} \mathbf{fn} \ x : \tau . M'_1 \quad M'_1[M_2/x] \Downarrow_{\tau'} V}{M_1 M_2 \Downarrow_{\tau'} V}$$

$$(\Downarrow_{\text{fix}}) \quad \frac{M \mathbf{fix}(M) \Downarrow_{\tau} V}{\mathbf{fix}(M) \Downarrow_{\tau} V}$$

# PCF evaluation

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$$\left( \Downarrow_{\text{pred}} \right) \frac{M \Downarrow_{\text{nat}} \text{Succ}(V)}{\text{pred}(M) \Downarrow_{\text{nat}} V}$$

is the only rule for  $\text{pred}$ .

Since  $0 \Downarrow_{\text{nat}} V$  only holds for  $V = 0$

we conclude that  $\text{pred}(0) \not\Downarrow_{\text{nat}} V$

(Making  $\text{pred}(0)$  not evaluate to anything is a somewhat arbitrary choice.)

Defining

$$\Omega_\tau \triangleq \text{fix} (\text{fn } x : \tau. x)$$

we get

$$\Omega_\tau : \tau \quad (\text{proof - easy})$$

$$\& \quad \nexists v. \Omega_\tau \Downarrow_\tau v \quad (\text{proof ...})$$

If  $\text{fix}(fn\ x:\tau.x) \Downarrow_{\tau} V$  had any proof, then we could find one of smallest height,  $n$  say, and it must look like

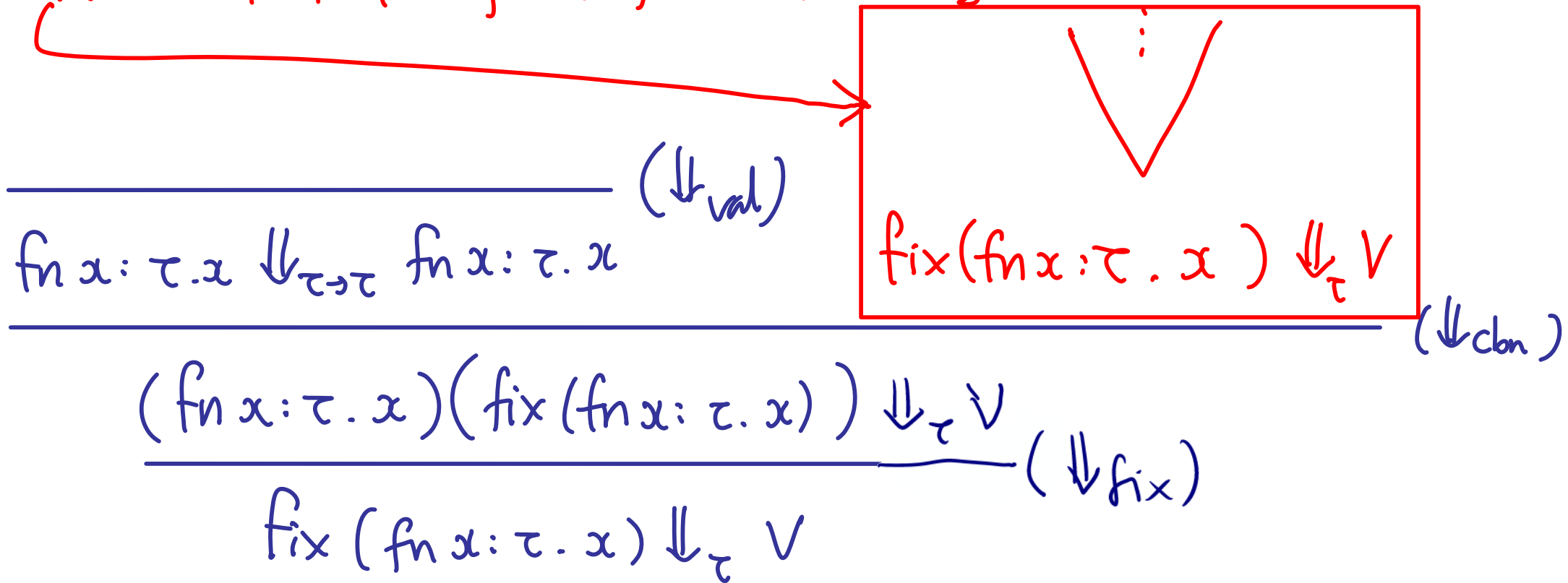
$$\begin{array}{c}
 \vdots \\
 \vee \\
 \hline
 \text{fn } x:\tau.x \Downarrow_{\tau \rightarrow \tau} \text{fn } x:\tau.x \quad \text{fn } x[\text{fix}(fn\ x:\tau.x)/x] \Downarrow_{\tau} V \quad (\Downarrow_{\text{val}}) \\
 \hline
 (\text{fn } x:\tau.x)(\text{fix}(fn\ x:\tau.x)) \Downarrow_{\tau} V \quad (\Downarrow_{\text{cbn}}) \\
 \hline
 \text{fix}(fn\ x:\tau.x) \Downarrow_{\tau} V \quad (\Downarrow_{\text{fix}})
 \end{array}$$

If  $\text{fix}(f_n x: \tau. x) \Downarrow_{\tau} V$  had any proof, then we could find one of smallest height,  $n$  say, and it must look like

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \vdots \\
 \vee \\
 \hline
 \text{fn } x: \tau. x \Downarrow_{\tau \rightarrow \tau} \text{fn } x: \tau. x \quad \text{fix}(f_n x: \tau. x) \Downarrow_{\tau} V \\
 \hline
 (f_n x: \tau. x)(\text{fix}(f_n x: \tau. x)) \Downarrow_{\tau} V \\
 \hline
 \text{fix}(f_n x: \tau. x) \Downarrow_{\tau} V
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{l}
 (\Downarrow_{\text{val}}) \\
 \\
 (\Downarrow_{\text{cbn}}) \\
 (\Downarrow_{\text{fix}})
 \end{array}$$

If  $\text{fix}(f_n x: \tau. x) \Downarrow_{\tau} V$  had any proof, then we could find one of smallest height,  $n$  say, and it must look like

This is a proof of height  $< n$ , contradicting this



So no such proof can exist.



PCF

"Programing Computable Functions"



We represent numbers  $n \in \mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$   
by closed values  $\text{suc}^n(0) : \text{nat}$  in PCF

$$\begin{cases} \text{suc}^0(0) = 0 \\ \text{suc}^{n+1}(0) = \text{suc}(\text{suc}^n(0)) \end{cases}$$

**FACT** For any **computable partial function**  
 $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  there is a closed PCF term  
 $F : \text{nat} \rightarrow \text{nat}$  such that for all  $n, m \geq 0$

$$F(\text{suc}^m(0)) \Downarrow_{\text{nat}} \text{suc}^n(0)$$

if & only if

$f$  is defined at  $m$  &  $f(m) = n$

## Partial recursive functions in PCF

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- Primitive recursion.

$$\begin{cases} h(x, 0) = f(x) \\ h(x, y + 1) = g(x, y, h(x, y)) \end{cases}$$

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$$\begin{cases} h(x, 0) = f(x) \\ h(x, y + 1) = g(x, y, h(x, y)) \end{cases}$$

if  $f$  is programmed in PCF by  $F : \text{nat} \rightarrow \text{nat}$   
&  $g$  " " " " "  $G : \text{nat} \rightarrow \text{nat} \rightarrow \text{nat} \rightarrow \text{nat}$   
then  $h$  can be programmed by :

$\text{Fix}(\text{fn } h : \text{nat} \rightarrow \text{nat} \rightarrow \text{nat}. \text{fn } x : \text{nat}. \text{fn } y : \text{nat}.$   
 $\text{if zero}(y) \text{ then } Fx \text{ else } Gx(\text{pred } y)(hx(\text{pred } y)))$

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- Primitive recursion.

$$\begin{cases} h(x, 0) = f(x) \\ h(x, y + 1) = g(x, y, h(x, y)) \end{cases}$$

- Minimisation.

$$m(x) = \text{the least } y \geq 0 \text{ such that } k(x, y) = 0$$

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- Minimisation.

$$m(x) = \text{the least } y \geq 0 \text{ such that } k(x, y) = 0$$

If  $k$  is programmed in PCF by  $K : \text{nat} \rightarrow \text{nat} \rightarrow \text{nat}$   
then  $m$  can be programmed by `fn x : nat. M' x 0`  
where  $M' \triangleq \text{fix} (\text{fn } m' : \text{nat} \rightarrow \text{nat} \rightarrow \text{nat}. \text{fn } x : \text{nat}. \text{fn } y : \text{nat}. \\ \text{if zero}(Kxy) \text{ then } y \text{ else } m' x (\text{succ } y))$