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12. Lazy evaluation



Introduction

So far, we have not looked at the details of how Haskell expressions are evaluated. The evaluation strategy is called

lazy evaluation („verzögerte Auswertung“)



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- Avoids unnecessary evaluations
- Terminates as often as possible



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- Supports infinite lists



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lazy evaluation („verzögerte Auswertung“)

Advantages:

- Avoids unnecessary evaluations
- Terminates as often as possible
- Supports infinite lists
- Increases modularity

Therefore Haskell is called a *lazy functional language*.



Evaluating expressions



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Expressions are evaluated (*reduced*) by successively applying definitions until no further reduction is possible.

Example:

```
sq :: Integer -> Integer
sq n = n * n
```



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One evaluation:

`sq(3+4)`



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One evaluation:

$$\text{sq}(3+4) = \underline{\text{sq}}\ 7 = \underline{7 * 7} = 49$$

Another evaluation:

$$\underline{\text{sq}}(3+4) = \underline{(3+4)} * (3+4) = 7 * \underline{(3+4)} = \underline{7 * 7} = 49$$


Theorem

Any two terminating evaluations of the same Haskell expression lead to the same final result.



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$$n + (n := 1)$$



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Any two terminating evaluations of the same Haskell expression lead to the same final result.

This is not the case in languages with side effects:

Example

Let `n` have value 0 initially.

Two evaluations:

$$\underline{n} + (n := 1) = 0 + (\underline{n := 1}) = \underline{0 + 1} = 1$$

$$n + (\underline{n := 1}) = \underline{n} + 1 = \underline{1 + 1} = 2$$



Reduction strategies

An expression may have many reducible subexpressions:

$$\underline{\text{sq}} (3+4)$$



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$\text{sq } (3+4) = (3+4) * (3+4)$



Comparison: termination

Definition:

`loop = tail loop`

Innermost reduction:



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Innermost reduction:

$\text{fst } (1, \text{loop}) = \text{fst}(1, \text{tail loop})$
 $= \text{fst}(1, \text{tail}(\text{tail loop}))$
 $= \dots$

Outermost reduction:



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Innermost reduction:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{fst}(1, \text{loop}) &= \text{fst}(1, \text{tail loop}) \\ &= \text{fst}(1, \text{tail}(\text{tail loop})) \\ &= \dots \end{aligned}$$

Outermost reduction:

$\text{fst}(1, \text{loop}) = 1$



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Theorem If expression e has a terminating reduction sequence, then outermost reduction of e also terminates.



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Outermost reduction:

$\text{fst}(1, \text{loop}) = 1$

Theorem If expression e has a terminating reduction sequence, then outermost reduction of e also terminates.

Outermost reduction terminates as often as possible



Why is this useful?



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Example

Can build your own control constructs:

```
switch :: Int -> a -> a -> a
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Can build your own control constructs:

```
switch :: Int -> a -> a -> a
switch n x y
  | n > 0      = x
  | otherwise  = y
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Example

Can build your own control constructs:

```
switch :: Int -> a -> a -> a
switch n x y
  | n > 0      = x
  | otherwise  = y

fac :: Int -> Int
fac n = switch n (n * fac(n-1)) 1
```



Comparison: Number of steps

Innermost reduction:

```
sq (3+4) = sq 7 = 7 * 7 = 49
```



Comparison: Number of steps

Innermost reduction:

$$\text{sq}(3+4) = \text{sq } 7 = 7 * 7 = 49$$

Outermost reduction:

$$\text{sq}(3+4) = (3+4)*(3+4) = 7*(3+4) = 7*7 = 49$$



$$\text{sq}(3+4)$$



$$\text{sq}(3+4) = \begin{array}{c} \bullet * \bullet \\ \swarrow \searrow \\ 3+4 \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet * \bullet \\ \swarrow \searrow \\ 7 \end{array}$$



$$\text{sq}(3+4) = \begin{array}{c} \bullet * \bullet \\ \swarrow \searrow \\ 3+4 \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet * \bullet \\ \swarrow \searrow \\ 7 \end{array} = 49$$



$$\text{sq}(3+4) = \bullet * \bullet = \bullet * \bullet = 49$$

$\swarrow \searrow$ $\swarrow \searrow$
3+4 7

The expression 3+4 is only evaluated *once!*



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The expression 3+4 is only evaluated *once!*

Lazy evaluation := outermost reduction + sharing



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- Arguments of functions are evaluated only if needed to continue the evaluation of the function.



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- Arguments are not necessarily evaluated fully, but only far enough to evaluate the function. (Remember `fst (1,loop)`)



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- Arguments of functions are evaluated only if needed to continue the evaluation of the function.
- Arguments are not necessarily evaluated fully, but only far enough to evaluate the function. (Remember `fst (1,loop)`)
- Each argument is evaluated at most once (sharing!)



Pattern matching

Example

```
f :: [Int] -> [Int] -> Int
f []      ys      = 0
f (x:xs) []      = 0
f (x:xs) (y:ys) = x+y
```



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Lazy evaluation:

```
f [1..3] [7..9]
```



Pattern matching

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f []     ys     = 0
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Lazy evaluation:

```
f [1..3] [7..9]           -- does f.1 match?
```



Pattern matching

Example

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f :: [Int] -> [Int] -> Int
f []     ys     = 0
f (x:xs) []     = 0
f (x:xs) (y:ys) = x+y
```

Lazy evaluation:

```
f [1..3] [7..9]           -- does f.1 match?
= f (1 : [2..3]) [7..9]
```



Pattern matching

Example

```
f :: [Int] -> [Int] -> Int
f []     ys     = 0
f (x:xs) []     = 0
f (x:xs) (y:ys) = x+y
```

Lazy evaluation:

```
f [1..3] [7..9]           -- does f.1 match?
= f (1 : [2..3]) [7..9]   -- does f.2 match?
```



Pattern matching

Example

```
f :: [Int] -> [Int] -> Int
f []     ys     = 0
f (x:xs) []     = 0
f (x:xs) (y:ys) = x+y
```

Lazy evaluation:

```
f [1..3] [7..9]           -- does f.1 match?
= f (1 : [2..3]) [7..9]   -- does f.2 match?
= f (1 : [2..3]) (7 : [8..9])
```



Pattern matching

Example

```
f :: [Int] -> [Int] -> Int
f []     ys     = 0
f (x:xs) []     = 0
f (x:xs) (y:ys) = x+y
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Lazy evaluation:

```
f [1..3] [7..9]           -- does f.1 match?
= f (1 : [2..3]) [7..9]   -- does f.2 match?
= f (1 : [2..3]) (7 : [8..9]) -- does f.3 match?
```



Pattern matching

Example

```
f :: [Int] -> [Int] -> Int
f []     ys     = 0
f (x:xs) []     = 0
f (x:xs) (y:ys) = x+y
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Lazy evaluation:

```
f [1..3] [7..9]           -- does f.1 match?
= f (1 : [2..3]) [7..9]   -- does f.2 match?
= f (1 : [2..3]) (7 : [8..9]) -- does f.3 match?
= 1+7
= 8
```



Guards

Example

```
f m n p | m >= n && m >= p = m
        | n >= m && n >= p = n
        | otherwise         = p
```



Guards

Example

```
f m n p | m >= n && m >= p = m
        | n >= m && n >= p = n
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Lazy evaluation:

```
f (2+3) (4-1) (3+9)
```



Guards

Example

```
f m n p | m >= n && m >= p = m
        | n >= m && n >= p = n
        | otherwise         = p
```

Lazy evaluation:

```
f (2+3) (4-1) (3+9)
? 2+3 >= 4-1 && 2+3 >= 3+9
```



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Example

```
f m n p | m >= n && m >= p = m
        | n >= m && n >= p = n
        | otherwise         = p
```

Lazy evaluation:

```
f (2+3) (4-1) (3+9)
? 2+3 >= 4-1 && 2+3 >= 3+9
? = 5 >= 3 && 5 >= 3+9
? = True && 5 >= 3+9
? = 5 >= 3+9
```



Guards

Example

```
f m n p | m >= n && m >= p = m
        | n >= m && n >= p = n
        | otherwise         = p
```

Lazy evaluation:

```
f (2+3) (4-1) (3+9)
? 2+3 >= 4-1 && 2+3 >= 3+9
? = 5 >= 3 && 5 >= 3+9
? = True && 5 >= 3+9
? = 5 >= 3+9
? = 5 >= 12
? = False
```



Guards

Example

```
f m n p | m >= n && m >= p = m
        | n >= m && n >= p = n
        | otherwise         = p
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Lazy evaluation:

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f (2+3) (4-1) (3+9)
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? = 5 >= 3+9
? = 5 >= 12
? = False
? 3 >= 5 && 3 >= 12
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Guards

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f m n p | m >= n && m >= p = m
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? = 5 >= 3+9
? = 5 >= 12
? = False
? 3 >= 5 && 3 >= 12
? = False && 3 >= 12
```



Guards

Example

```
f m n p | m >= n && m >= p = m
        | n >= m && n >= p = n
        | otherwise         = p
```

Lazy evaluation:

```
f (2+3) (4-1) (3+9)
? 2+3 >= 4-1 && 2+3 >= 3+9
? = 5 >= 3 && 5 >= 3+9
? = True && 5 >= 3+9
? = 5 >= 3+9
? = 5 >= 12
? = False
? 3 >= 5 && 3 >= 12
? = False && 3 >= 12
? = False
? otherwise = True
```



Guards

Example

```
f m n p | m >= n && m >= p = m
        | n >= m && n >= p = n
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```

Lazy evaluation:

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f (2+3) (4-1) (3+9)
? 2+3 >= 4-1 && 2+3 >= 3+9
? = 5 >= 3 && 5 >= 3+9
? = True && 5 >= 3+9
? = 5 >= 3+9
? = 5 >= 12
? = False
? 3 >= 5 && 3 >= 12
? = False && 3 >= 12
? = False
? otherwise = True
= 12
```



where

Same principle: definitions in `where` clauses are only evaluated when needed and only as much as needed.



Lambda

Haskell never reduces inside a lambda



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Haskell never reduces inside a lambda

Example: `\x -> False && x` cannot be reduced



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Reasons:

- Functions are black boxes



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- Functions are black boxes
- All you can do with a function is apply it



Lambda

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Example: `\x -> False && x` cannot be reduced

Reasons:

- Functions are black boxes
- All you can do with a function is apply it

Example:

```
(\x -> False && x) True = False && True = False
```



Built-in functions

Arithmetic operators and other built-in functions
evaluate their arguments first

Example

`3 * 5` is a redex



Built-in functions

Arithmetic operators and other built-in functions
evaluate their arguments first

Example

`3 * 5` is a redex

`0 * head (...)` is not a redex



Predefined functions from Prelude

They behave like their Haskell definition:

```
(&&) :: Bool -> Bool -> Bool  
True && y = y  
False && y = False
```



Slogan

Lazy evaluation evaluates an expression only when needed
and only as much as needed.



Slogan

Lazy evaluation evaluates an expression only when needed
and only as much as needed.
(*“Call by need”*)



12.1 Applications of lazy evaluation



Minimum of a list

```
min = head . inSort
```



Minimum of a list

```
min = head . inSort

inSort :: Ord a => [a] -> [a]
inSort []      = []
inSort (x:xs)  = ins x (inSort xs)
```



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min = head . inSort

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inSort []      = []
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ins :: Ord a => a -> [a] -> [a]
ins x []      = [x]
ins x (y:ys) | x <= y    = x : y : ys
              | otherwise = y : ins x ys
```



Minimum of a list

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min = head . inSort

inSort :: Ord a => [a] -> [a]
inSort []      = []
inSort (x:xs)  = ins x (inSort xs)

ins :: Ord a => a -> [a] -> [a]
ins x []      = [x]
ins x (y:ys) | x <= y    = x : y : ys
              | otherwise = y : ins x ys

=> inSort [6,1,7,5]
   = ins 6 (ins 1 (ins 7 (ins 5 [])))
```



```
min [6,1,7,5] = head(inSort [6,1,7,5])
```



```
min [6,1,7,5] = head(inSort [6,1,7,5])
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (ins 7 (ins 5 []))))
```



```
min [6,1,7,5] = head(inSort [6,1,7,5])
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (ins 7 (ins 5 []))))
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (ins 7 (5 : []))))
```



```
min [6,1,7,5] = head(inSort [6,1,7,5])
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (ins 7 (ins 5 []))))
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (ins 7 (5 : []))))
```



```
min [6,1,7,5] = head(inSort [6,1,7,5])
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (ins 7 (ins 5 []))))
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (ins 7 (5 : []))))
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (5 : ins 7 [])))
```



```

min [6,1,7,5] = head(inSort [6,1,7,5])
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (ins 7 (ins 5 []))))
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```



Minimum of a list

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inSort :: Ord a => [a] -> [a]
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ins x (y:ys) | x <= y = x : y : ys
              | otherwise = y : ins x ys

```



```

min [6,1,7,5] = head(inSort [6,1,7,5])
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (ins 7 (ins 5 []))))
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (ins 7 (5 : []))))
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (5 : ins 7 [])))
= head(ins 6 (1 : 5 : ins 7 []))

```



```

min [6,1,7,5] = head(inSort [6,1,7,5])
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (ins 7 (ins 5 []))))
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (ins 7 (5 : []))))
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (5 : ins 7 [])))
= head(ins 6 (1 : 5 : ins 7 []))
= head(1 : ins 6 (5 : ins 7 []))

```



```

min [6,1,7,5] = head(inSort [6,1,7,5])
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (ins 7 (ins 5 []))))
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (ins 7 (5 : []))))
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (5 : ins 7 [])))
= head(ins 6 (1 : 5 : ins 7 []))
= head(1 : ins 6 (5 : ins 7 []))
= 1

```



```

min [6,1,7,5] = head(inSort [6,1,7,5])
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (ins 7 (ins 5 []))))
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (ins 7 (5 : []))))
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (5 : ins 7 [])))
= head(ins 6 (1 : 5 : ins 7 []))
= head(1 : ins 6 (5 : ins 7 []))
= 1

```

Lazy evaluation needs only linear time



```

min [6,1,7,5] = head(inSort [6,1,7,5])
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (ins 7 (ins 5 []))))
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (ins 7 (5 : []))))
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (5 : ins 7 [])))
= head(ins 6 (1 : 5 : ins 7 []))
= head(1 : ins 6 (5 : ins 7 []))
= 1

```

Lazy evaluation needs only linear time
 although `inSort` is quadratic
 because the sorted list is never constructed completely



```

min [6,1,7,5] = head(inSort [6,1,7,5])
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= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (ins 7 (5 : []))))
= head(ins 6 (ins 1 (5 : ins 7 [])))
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= head(1 : ins 6 (5 : ins 7 []))
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```

Lazy evaluation needs only linear time
 although `inSort` is quadratic
 because the sorted list is never constructed completely

Warning: this depends on the exact algorithm and does not work
 so nicely with all sorting functions!



Maximum of a list

```
max = last . inSort
```



Maximum of a list

```
max = last . inSort
```

Complexity?



Takeuchi Function

```

t :: Int -> Int -> Int -> Int
t x y z | x <= y    = y
        | otherwise = t (t (x-1) y z)
                      (t (y-1) z x)
                      (t (z-1) x y)

```



Takeuchi Function

```

t :: Int -> Int -> Int -> Int
t x y z | x <= y    = y
        | otherwise = t (t (x-1) y z)
                      (t (y-1) z x)
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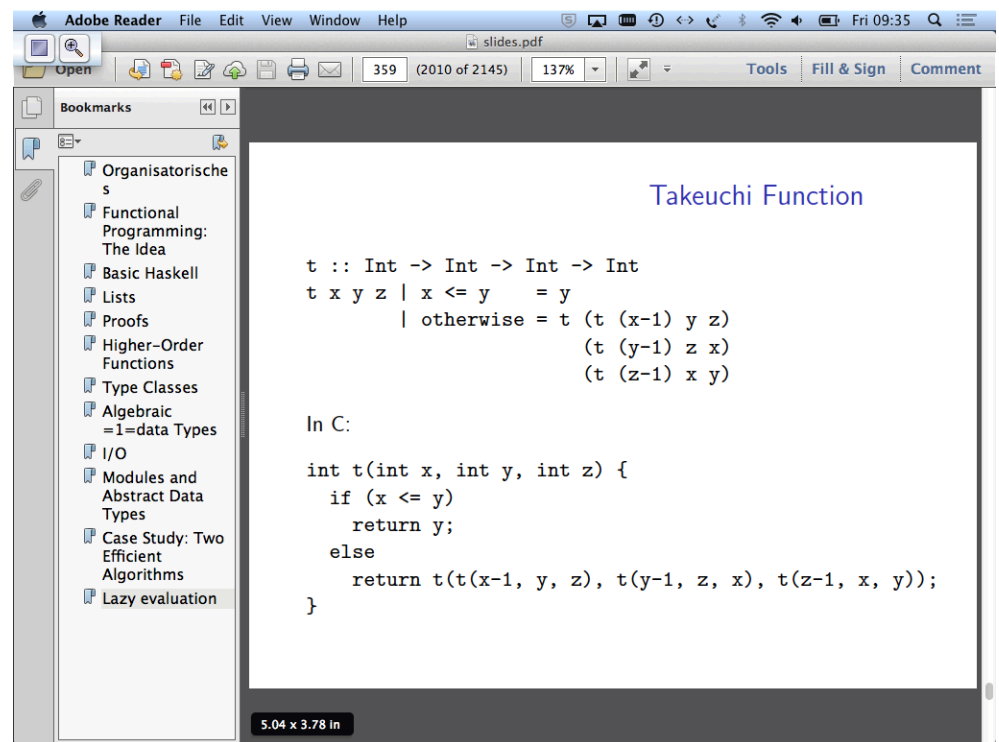
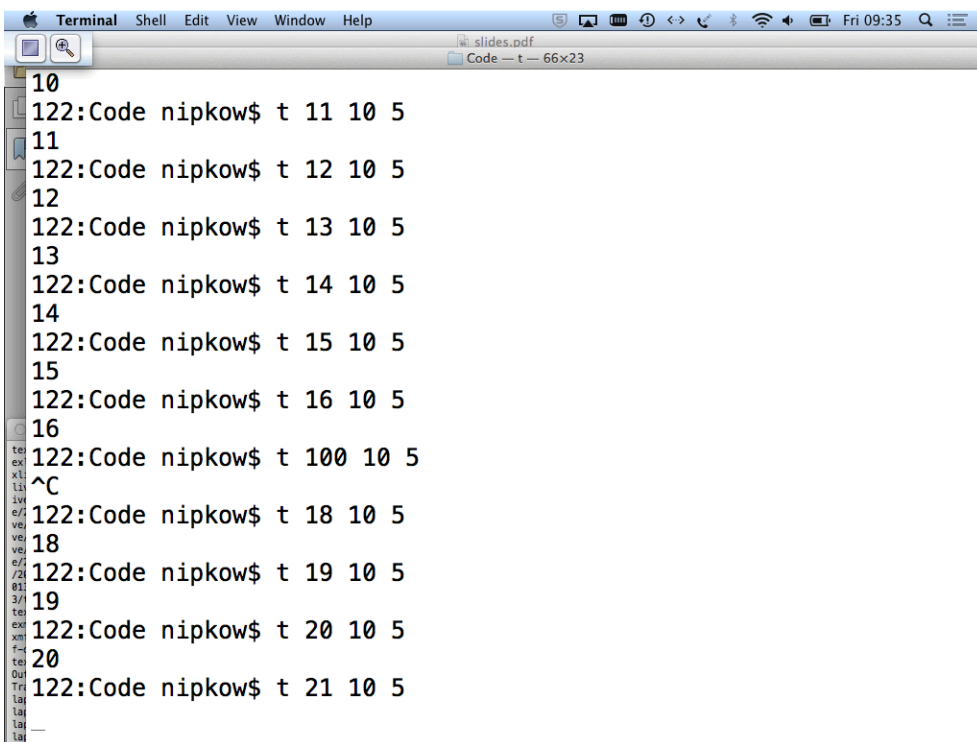
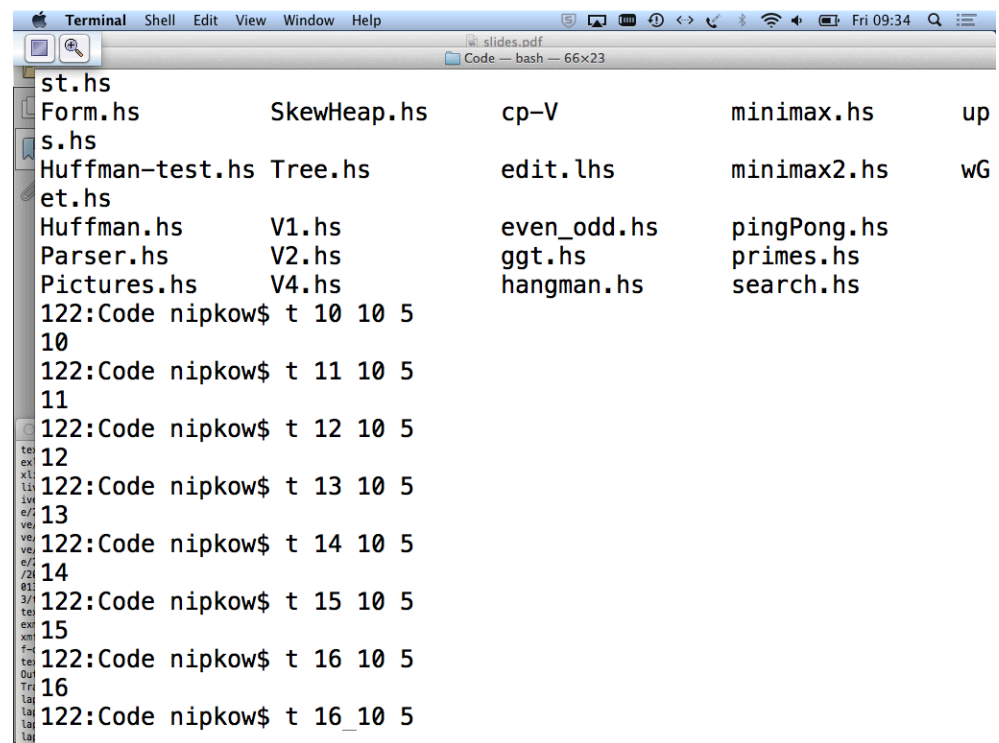
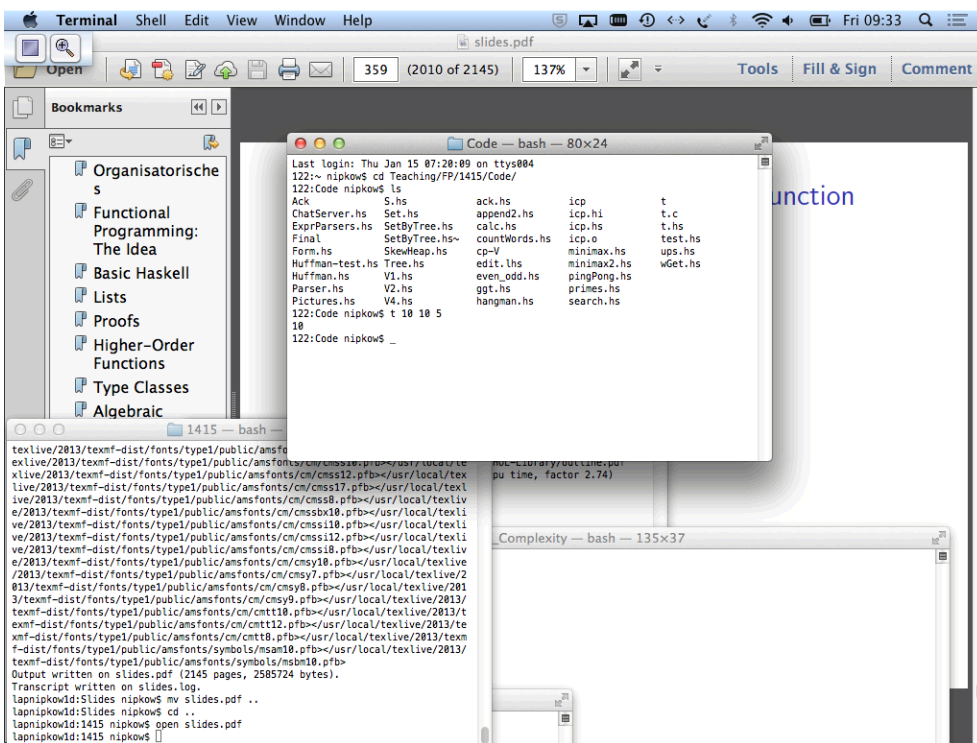
```

In C:

```

int t(int x, int y, int z) {
    if (x <= y)
        return y;
    else
        return t(t(x-1, y, z), t(y-1, z, x), t(z-1, x, y));
}

```

```

Terminal Shell Edit View Window Help
slides.pdf
Code — t — 66x23
10
122:Code nipkow$ t 11 10 5
11
122:Code nipkow$ t 12 10 5
12
122:Code nipkow$ t 13 10 5
13
122:Code nipkow$ t 14 10 5
14
122:Code nipkow$ t 15 10 5
15
122:Code nipkow$ t 16 10 5
16
122:Code nipkow$ t 100 10 5
^C
122:Code nipkow$ t 18 10 5
18
122:Code nipkow$ t 19 10 5
19
122:Code nipkow$ t 20 10 5
20
122:Code nipkow$ t 21 10 5

```

```

Terminal Shell Edit View Window Help
slides.pdf
Code — ghc — 66x23
18
122:Code nipkow$ t 19 10 5
19
122:Code nipkow$ t 20 10 5
20
122:Code nipkow$ t 21 10 5
^C
122:Code nipkow$ ghci
GHCi, version 7.6.3: http://www.haskell.org/ghc/  :? for help
Loading package ghc-prim ... linking ... done.
Loading package integer-gmp ... linking ... done.
Loading package base ... linking ... done.
Prelude> t 21 10 5
<interactive>:2:1: Not in scope: `t'
Prelude> :l t.hs
[1 of 1] Compiling Main                ( t.hs, interpreted )
Ok, modules loaded: Main.
*Main> t 21 10 5
21
*Main> t 100 10 5
100
*Main> _

```



Takeuchi Function

```

t :: Int -> Int -> Int -> Int
t x y z | x <= y    = y
         | otherwise = t (t (x-1) y z)
                       (t (y-1) z x)
                       (t (z-1) x y)

```

In C:

```

int t(int x, int y, int z) {
    if (x <= y)
        return y;
    else
        return t(t(x-1, y, z), t(y-1, z, x), t(z-1, x, y));
}

```

Try `t 15 10 0` — Haskell beats C!



12.2 Infinite lists



But Haskell can compute with infinite lists, thanks to lazy evaluation:

```
> head ones  
1
```

Remember:

Lazy evaluation evaluates an expression only as much as needed

Outermost reduction: `head ones = head (1 : ones) = 1`



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```
> head ones  
1
```

Remember:

Lazy evaluation evaluates an expression only as much as needed

Outermost reduction: `head ones = head (1 : ones) = 1`

Innermost reduction:

```
head ones  
= head (1 : ones)  
= head (1 : 1 : ones)  
= ...
```



Haskell lists are never actually infinite but only potentially infinite



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Lazy evaluation computes as much of the infinite list as needed

This is how partially evaluated lists are represented internally:



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Lazy evaluation computes as much of the infinite list as needed

This is how partially evaluated lists are represented internally:

1 : 2 : 3 : code pointer to compute rest



Why (potentially) infinite lists?

- They come for free with lazy evaluation



Why (potentially) infinite lists?

- They come for free with lazy evaluation
- They increase modularity:
list producer does not need to know
how much of the list the consumer wants



Example: The sieve of Eratosthenes



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- 1 Create the list 2, 3, 4, ...
- 2 Output the first value p in the list as a prime.
- 3 Delete all multiples of p from the list



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- 1 Create the list 2, 3, 4, ...
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3 5 7 9 11 ...
2



In Haskell:

```
primes :: [Int]
primes = sieve [2..]
```



In Haskell:

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primes :: [Int]
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In Haskell:

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primes :: [Int]
primes = sieve [2..]

sieve :: [Int] -> [Int]
sieve (p:xs) = p : sieve [x | x <- xs, x `mod` p /= 0]
```

Lazy evaluation:

```
primes = sieve [2..] = sieve (2:[3..])
```



In Haskell:

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primes :: [Int]
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sieve :: [Int] -> [Int]
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primes = sieve [2..] = sieve (2:[3..])
= 2 : sieve [x | x <- [3..], x `mod` 2 /= 0]
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Lazy evaluation:

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primes = sieve [2..] = sieve (2:[3..])
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= 2 : sieve [x | x <- 3:[4..], x `mod` 2 /= 0]
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primes :: [Int]
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Lazy evaluation:

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= 2 : sieve (3 : [x | x <- [4..], x `mod` 2 /= 0])
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= 2 : sieve (3 : [x | x <- [4..], x `mod` 2 /= 0])
= 2 : 3 : sieve [x | x <- [x|x <- [4..], x `mod` 2 /= 0]
                x `mod` 3 /= 0]
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In Haskell:

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primes :: [Int]
primes = sieve [2..]

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= 2 : sieve [x | x <- 3:[4..], x `mod` 2 /= 0]
= 2 : sieve (3 : [x | x <- [4..], x `mod` 2 /= 0])
= 2 : 3 : sieve [x | x <- [x|x <- [4..], x `mod` 2 /= 0]
                x `mod` 3 /= 0]
= ...
```



Modularity!

The first 10 primes:

```
> take 10 primes
[2,3,5,7,11,13,17,19,23,29]
```

The primes between 100 and 150:



Modularity!

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All twin primes:



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> [(p,q) | (p,q) <- zip primes (tail primes), p+2==q]
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Sharing!

There is only one copy of primes



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There is only one copy of primes

Every time part of primes needs to be evaluated



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Example: when computing take 5 primes



Sharing!

There is only one copy of primes

Every time part of primes needs to be evaluated

Example: when computing take 5 primes
primes is (invisibly!) updated to remember the evaluated part

Example: primes = 2 : 3 : 5 : 7 : 11 : sieve ...



Sharing!

There is only one copy of `primes`

Every time part of `primes` needs to be evaluated

Example: when computing `take 5 primes`

`primes` is (invisibly!) updated to remember the evaluated part

Example: `primes = 2 : 3 : 5 : 7 : 11 : sieve ...`

The next uses of `primes` are faster:

Example: now `primes !! 2` needs only 3 steps

Nothing special, just the automatic result of sharing



The list of Fibonacci numbers

Idea: 0 1 1 2 ...



The list of Fibonacci numbers

Idea: 0 1 1 2 ...
+ 0 1 1 ...
= 0 1 2 3 ...

From Prelude: `zipWith`



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Example: `zipWith f [a1, a2, ...] [b1, b2, ...]`



The list of Fibonacci numbers

```
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        +  0 1 1 ...
        =  0 1 2 3 ...
```

From Prelude: zipWith

```
Example: zipWith f [a1, a2, ...] [b1, b2, ...]
         = [f a1 b1, f a2 b2, ...]
```

```
fibs :: [Integer]
fibs = 0 :
```



The list of Fibonacci numbers

```
Idea:    0 1 1 2 ...
        +  0 1 1 ...
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```

From Prelude: zipWith

```
Example: zipWith f [a1, a2, ...] [b1, b2, ...]
         = [f a1 b1, f a2 b2, ...]
```

```
fibs :: [Integer]
fibs = 0 : 1 : zipWith (+) fibs
```



The list of Fibonacci numbers

```
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        =  0 1 2 3 ...
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fibs :: [Integer]
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The list of Fibonacci numbers

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Idea:    0 1 1 2 ...
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From Prelude: zipWith

```
Example: zipWith f [a1, a2, ...] [b1, b2, ...]
         = [f a1 b1, f a2 b2, ...]
```

```
fibs :: [Integer]
fibs = 0 : 1 : zipWith (+) fibs (tail fibs)
```

How about

```
fibs = 0 : 1 : [x+y | x <- fibs, y <- tail fibs]
```