Programming Abstractions

Week 14-1: Call With Current Continuation

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Some more CPS examples

`map-k`: CPS version of `map`

`collatz-k`: CPS version of `collatz`

`fib-k`: CPS version of `fib`

`map-k-k`: CPS version of `map` that takes a CPS `f`

From last time

A continuation is determined by the expression's evaluation context at run time

```
(define (fact n)
  (cond [(zero? n) 1]
        [else (* n (fact (sub1 n)))]))
```

At the point 1 is evaluated in the call `(fact 0)`, the continuation is □

At the point 1 is evaluated in the call `(fact 1)`, the continuation is `(* 1 □)`

At the point 1 is evaluated in the call `(fact 2)`, the continuation is `(* 2 (* 1 □))`

Key: The continuation is **all** the rest of computation

The current continuation

At every point in a computation the **current continuation** is the continuation of whatever expression is currently being evaluated

The current continuation is constantly changing

Example

```
(define (fact n)
  (cond [(zero? n) 1]
        [else (* n (fact (sub1 n)))]))
(fact 3)
```

redex	current continuation	value
(fact 3)	□	—
(zero? 3)	(cond [□ 1][else (* 3 (fact (sub1 3)))])	#f
(* 3 (fact (sub1 3)))	□	—
(fact (sub1 3))	(* 3 □)	—

Example: continued

redex	current continuation	value
(fact 3)	□	—
(zero? 3)	(cond [□ 1][else (* 3 (fact (sub1 3)))])	#f
(* 3 (fact (sub1 3)))	□	—
(fact (sub1 3))	(* 3 □)	—
(sub1 3)	(* 3 (fact □))	2
(fact 2)	(* 3 □)	—
(zero? 2)	(* 3 (cons [□ 1][else (* 2 (fact (sub1 2)))])	#f
(* 2 (fact (sub1 2)))	(* 3 □)	—
(fact (sub1 2))	(* 3 (* 2 □))	—

Example: continued

`redex`	current continuation	value
`(fact (sub1 2))`	`(* 3 (* 2 □))`	—
`(sub1 2)`	`(* 3 (* 2 (fact □)))`	1
`(fact 1)`	`(* 3 (* 2 □))`	—
`(zero? 1)`	`(* 3 (* 2 (cons [□ 1][else (* 1 (fact (sub1 1)))])))`	#f
`(* 1 (fact (sub1 1)))`	`(* 3 (* 2 □))`	—
`(fact (sub1 1))`	`(* 3 (* 2 (* 1 □)))`	—
`(sub1 1)`	`(* 3 (* 2 (* 1 (fact □))))`	0
`(fact 0)`	`(* 3 (* 2 (* 1 □)))`	—
`(zero? 0)`	`(* 3 (* 2 (* 1 (cons [□ 1][else (* 0 (fact (sub1 0)))]))))`	#t

Example: continued

redex	current continuation	value
(zero? 0)	(* 3 (* 2 (* 1 (cons [□ 1][else (* 0 (fact (sub1 0)))]))))	#t
1	(* 3 (* 2 (* 1 □)))	1
(* 1 1)	(* 3 (* 2 □))	1
(* 2 1)	(* 3 □)	2
(* 3 2)	□	6

Example: simplified

Let's just look at the recursive calls

`redex`	current continuation	value
`(fact 3)`	□	—
`(fact 2)`	`(* 3 □)`	—
`(fact 1)`	`(* 3 (* 2 □))`	—
`(fact 0)`	`(* 3 (* 2 (* 1 □)))`	1
`(* 1 1)`	`(* 3 (* 2 □))`	1
`(* 2 1)`	`(* 3 □)`	2
`(* 3 2)`	□	6

Example 2: With an accumulator

```
(define (fact-a n acc)
  (cond [(zero? n) acc]
        [else (fact-a (sub1 n) (* n acc))]))
(fact-a 3 1)
```

redex	current continuation	value
(fact-a 3 1)	□	—
(fact-a 2 3)	□	—
(fact-a 1 6)	□	—
(fact-a 0 6)	□	6

Tail-recursive calls

In the first example, the continuation changes at each recursive call

In the second example, the continuation doesn't change at the recursive calls

- It does fluctuate a bit as sub-expressions like `(* n acc)` are evaluated

Continuation of a general recursion grows with each recursive call

Continuation of tail-recursion remains constant with each recursive call

call-with-current-continuation
call/cc

Call with current continuation

Scheme gives the programmer programatic access to the current continuation

```
(call-with-current-continuation proc)
(call/cc proc)
```

- `proc` is a 1-argument procedure
- `proc` is called with the current continuation as an argument

Call/cc

`(call/cc (λ (k) body))`

When this is evaluated

- it calls the λ with the current continuation as the argument
- within `body`, calling `k` with a value, `(k value)`, immediately returns from `call/cc` with `value` as the result
- if `k` is not called in `body`, the return from `call/cc` has the value of `body`

Examples

```
(call/cc (λ (k) (k 42)))
```

`k` is called with value 42 => result is 42

```
(call/cc (λ (k) 42))
```

`k` is not called, so the result just the body, namely 42

Less simple example

```
(call/cc (λ (k) (* 5 3 (k 2))))
```

`k` is called with the value 2, so the result *is* 2

What is the value of this expression?

```
(+ 1 (call/cc (λ (k)
                ((λ (x) (* 20 (k x)))
                 3))))
```

A. 3

B. 4

C. 60

D. 61

E. 81

Escaping from recursion

Remember our example summing elements of a list

```
(define (sum-cc lst)
  (call/cc
   (λ (k)
     (letrec ([f (λ (lst)
                   (cond [(empty? lst) 0]
                         [(not (number? (first lst))) (k #f)]
                         [else (+ (first lst) (f (rest lst)))]))])
       (f lst)))))

(sum-cc '(1 2 3 4)) => 10
(sum-cc '(1 2 steve 4)) => #f
```

We can store the current continuation

```
(define add1-k 0)
(+ 1 (call/cc (λ (k)
                (begin
                  (set! add1-k k)
                  0))))
(add1-k 10)
```

This sets add1-k to be the continuation `(+ 1 □)` calling it with the value 10, returns 11

Another example

```
(define exit-k 0)
(call/cc (λ (k) (set! exit-k k)))

(define (prod-cc lst)
  (cond [(empty? lst) 1]
        [(not (number? (first lst))) (exit-k #f)]
        [else (* (first lst) (prod-cc (rest lst)))]))

(prod-cc '(1 2 3 4 #t 6)) ; returns #f
```

Continuations are deeply weird

```
(define A 0)
(set! A (call/cc identity))
(define B A)
```

This defines A and B to be the continuation `(set! A □)`

If I call `(A 10)`, it runs that continuation, setting `A` to be 10

If I call `(B 25)`, it runs the continuation again, setting `A` to be 25

There is so much more to this

`(call-with-composable-continuation proc)`

`(dynamic-wind pre-thunk value-thunk post-thunk)`

prompts

aborts

…

Final exam

Exam Format

Combination of problems (some or all of)

- True/false or multiple choice
- Short answer
- Code to write in DrRacket and uploaded to Blackboard

1 extra credit problem

Exam will be released at 11:00 EST on Friday, December 11

Your solutions are due by 11:00 EST on Saturday, December 12

Late exams are *not* allowed by College policy (sorry)

Final exam time

During the scheduled final exam time (09:00–11:00 EST), I will be in the class's Zoom meeting, feel free to hang out in there

If you have a question, send me a private chat either with the question itself or just say "I have a question" and I'll bring you into a breakout room and you can ask your question privately there

However, it's better to ask private questions on Piazza instead since the scheduled time is the last two hours.

Possible question topics

Anything we have covered in the course from day 1 until today

Course evals

Remember to fill out course evals!