

A Fuelled Self-Reducer For System T

Using simple types to encode complex ones

Greg Brown

`greg.brown01@ed.ac.uk`

University of Edinburgh

PEPM '25

Unreadable System T

```
(* sum : (nat -> nat -> nat -> nat -> nat) -> nat *)
let sum tree =
  let depth = tree 0 0 0 0 in
  let root  = tree 1 0 0 0 in
  let heap  = tree 2 in
  let go : nat -> nat = primrec depth with
    Z      -> fun i -> 0
  | S(acc) -> fun i ->
      let (tag, data) = (heap i 0 0, heap i 1) in
      if tag == 0 then
        data 0
      else
        acc (data 0) + acc (data 1)
  in
  go root
```

Outline

1 Type Encodings

2 Self Reducer

Unreadable System T

```
(* sum : (nat -> nat -> nat -> nat -> nat) -> nat *)  
let sum tree =  
  let depth = tree 0 0 0 0 in  
  let root  = tree 1 0 0 0 in  
  let heap  = tree 2 in  
  let go : nat -> nat = primrec depth with  
    Z      -> fun i -> 0  
  | S(acc) -> fun i ->  
    let (tag, data) = (heap i 0 0, heap i 1) in  
    if tag == 0 then  
      data 0  
    else  
      acc (data 0) + acc (data 1)  
in  
go root
```

Union Types¹

- $A \sqcup B$ defined inductively
- $\text{inl} : A \rightarrow A \sqcup B$
- $\text{inr} : B \rightarrow A \sqcup B$
- $\text{prl} : A \sqcup B \rightarrow A$
- $\text{prr} : A \sqcup B \rightarrow B$

¹Kiselyov, *Simply-typed encodings: PCF considered as unexpectedly expressive programming language*

System T_□

```
(* sum : (n -> (n /+| (n -> n -> (n /+| n /+| (n -> n)))) -> n *)  
let sum t =  
  let depth = prl (tree 0) in  
  let root  = prl (tree 1) in  
  let heap  = prr (tree 2) in  
  let go : nat -> nat = primrec depth with  
    Z      -> fun i -> 0  
  | S(acc) -> fun i ->  
    let (tag, data) = (prl (heap i 0), prr (heap i 1)) in  
    if tag == 0 then  
      prl data  
    else  
      acc ((prr data) 0) + acc ((prr data) 1)  
in  
go root
```

Product Types¹

- $A \times B := \mathbb{N} \rightarrow (A \sqcup B)$
- `fst p = prl (p 0)`
- `snd p = prr (p 1)`
- `(x, y) = fun i ->
 if i == 0 then inl x else inr y`

```
(* sum : (n * n * (n -> (n * (n /+ (n * n)))))) -> n *)
let sum tree =
  let (depth, root, heap) = tree in
  let go : nat -> nat = primrec depth with
    Z      -> fun i -> 0
  | S(acc) -> fun i ->
    let (tag, data) = heap i in
    if tag == 0 then
      prl data
    else
      let (left, right) = prr data in
      acc left + acc right
  in
  go root
```

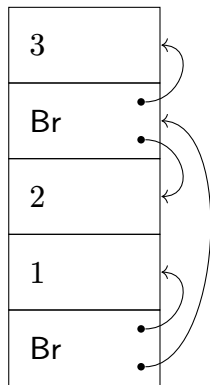

Sum Types¹

- $A + B := \mathbb{N} \times (A \sqcup B)$
- `left x = (0, inl x)`
- `right x = (1, inr x)`
- `either f g x =`
 `let (i, v) = x in`
 `if i == 0 then f (prl v) else g (prr v)`

```
(* sum : (nat * nat * (nat -> nat + (nat * nat))) -> nat *)
let sum tree =
  let (depth, root, heap) = tree in
  let go : nat -> nat = primrec depth with
    Z      -> fun i -> 0
  | S(acc) -> fun i ->
      match heap i with
      | Left(data)      -> data
      | Right(left, right) -> acc left + acc right
  in
  go root
```

Inductive Types²

- Heap with pointers
- Need depth for recursion
- Store root for efficiency



²Longley and Normann, *Higher-Order Computability*

```
(* sum : nat btree -> nat *)  
let sum tree = fold tree with  
  Lf x -> x  
| Br(left, right) -> left + right
```

Examples of Regular Types

Examples

Lists $\mu X.1 + A \times X$

Binary trees $\mu X.A + X^2$

Finite trees $\mu X.A \times \text{List } X$

Non-Examples

- $\mu X.1 + ((X \rightarrow \mathbb{N}) \rightarrow \mathbb{N})$
- $\mu X.A + (\mathbb{N} \rightarrow X)$

Representing Terms

```
type term =  
  Var of nat  
| Zero  
| Suc of term  
| Rec of term * term * term  
| Abs of term  
| App of term * term
```

Parallel Reduction Step

```
(* step : term -> term *)
```

```
step t = fold t with
```

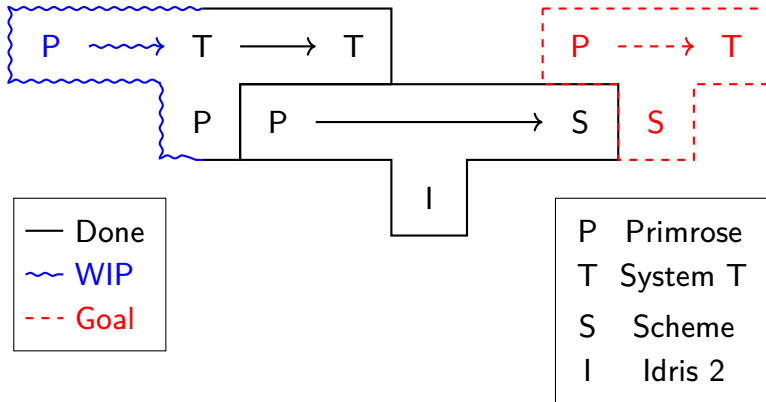
```
  Rec(z, s, Zero)    -> z
| Rec(z, s, Suc t)   -> App(s, Rec(z, s, t))
| App(Abs t, u)      -> subst t u

| Var n              -> Var n
| Zero               -> Zero
| Suc t              -> Suc t
| Rec(z, s, t)       -> Rec(z, s, t)
| Abs t              -> Abs t
| App(t, u)          -> App(t, u)
```

Computing Normal Forms

```
(* reduce : nat * term -> term *)  
reduce (n, t) =  
  fold n with  
    Zero -> t  
  | Suc t -> step t
```

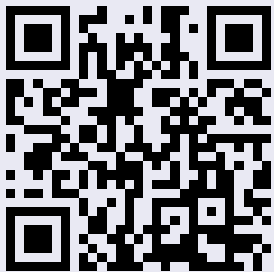

Future Work



Summary

- Encode regular types in System T
- Use for fuelled self-reducer
- Ongoing work on implementation

Self-Reducer



Compiler

