

Provided for non-commercial research and educational use.  
Not for reproduction, distribution or commercial use.

# Serdica

Bulgariacae mathematicae  
publicationes

---

# Сердика

Българско математическо  
списание

---

The attached copy is furnished for non-commercial research and education use only.  
Authors are permitted to post this version of the article to their personal websites or  
institutional repositories and to share with other researchers in the form of electronic reprints.

Other uses, including reproduction and distribution, or selling or  
licensing copies, or posting to third party websites are prohibited.

For further information on  
Serdica Bulgaricae Mathematicae Publicationes  
and its new series Serdica Mathematical Journal  
visit the website of the journal <http://www.math.bas.bg/~serdica>  
or contact: Editorial Office  
Serdica Mathematical Journal  
Institute of Mathematics and Informatics  
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences  
Telephone: (+359-2)9792818, FAX:(+359-2)971-36-49  
e-mail: [serdica@math.bas.bg](mailto:serdica@math.bas.bg)

## ON SOME DEPENDENCIES BETWEEN FUNCTIONAL FORMS IN FUNCTIONAL PROGRAMMING SYSTEMS

ATANAS A. RADENSKY

In the present paper, some dependencies between functional forms in functional programming systems are demonstrated. It is shown that any functional form can be expressed by using only the forms composition, condition and construction.

**1. Introduction.** In the remarkable paper of John Backus [1] the functional style of programming was opposed to the conventional one. It is shown in the present paper that any functional form in the Bachus' functional programming systems can be expressed by means of only three of the functional forms: composition, condition and construction.

The functional programming systems (FPS) consists of a set  $Ob$  of objects, a set  $F$  of primitive functions ( $F: Ob \rightarrow Ob$ ), a set  $\mathbf{F}$  of functional forms ( $\mathbf{F}: F \rightarrow F$ ) and a set of definitions [1]. We will present briefly some definitions concerning the FPS. Let  $A$  be a set comprising strings of digits, some specials symbols, the symbols  $T$  (true) and  $F$  (false), the empty set  $\emptyset$ . The elements of  $A$  will be referred to as atoms. Any atom is an object. If  $x_i, i=1, 2, \dots, n$ , are objects then  $\langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle$  is an object. There exists an object  $\perp$  (named "undefined") with the property  $\langle \dots, \perp, \dots \rangle = \perp$ . If  $f \in F, x \in Ob$ , then  $f: x$  ( $f: x$  is an object) is the result of the application of  $f$  to  $x$ . For any  $f, f \in F$ , the equality  $f: \perp = \perp$  holds. All primitive functions used in the present paper are shown in Table 1. The expression  $p_1 \rightarrow e_1; p_2 \rightarrow e_2; \dots; p_n \rightarrow e_n; e_{n+1}: x$  means  $e_i: x$  if and only if  $1 \leq i \leq n$  and  $p_j: x = F, j=1, 2, \dots, i-1, p_i: x = T$ ; it means  $e_{n+1}: x$  in any other case. The functional forms (Table 2) are expressions denoting functions. Any definition in the FPS is an expression of the type  $Def\ l \equiv r$ , where  $l$  is a functional symbol and  $r$  is a functional form, and for any  $x, x \in Ob$ , the equality  $l: x = r: x$  holds.

We will define the usual ordering on functions and equivalence in terms of this ordering.

Let  $f$  and  $g$  are arbitrary functions, then [1]:

–  $f \leq g$  iff for all objects  $x$ , either  $f: x = \perp$ , or  $f: x = g: x$ .

–  $f \equiv g$  iff  $f \leq g$  and  $g \leq f$ .

The so called "recursion theorem" is very useful when proving properties of functional programs.

Let  $f$  be a solution of  $f \equiv p \rightarrow g; Q(f)$  where  $Q(k) \equiv h-[i, k \circ j]$  for any function  $k$  ( $p, g, h, i, j$  are given functions). Then according to the recursion theorem [1]:

$$f \equiv p \rightarrow g;$$

$$p \circ j \rightarrow Q(g);$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \dots \dots \dots \\ & p \circ j^n \rightarrow Q^n(g); \\ & \dots \dots \dots \end{aligned}$$

where  $Q^n(g)$  is  $h \circ [i, Q^{n-1}(g) \circ j]$ , and  $j^n$  is  $j \circ j^{n-1}$  for  $n \geq 2$ , and  $Q^n(g) \equiv [h \circ [i, j, \dots, i \circ j^{n-1}, g \circ j^n]]$ .

The first three functional forms from Table 2 can be used to express any other form according to the following theorems:

**Theorem 1.** *If  $f, f \in F$ , is an arbitrary function and  $g1, h1$  are defined by:*

**Def**  $g1 \equiv \text{null} \circ \text{tail} \rightarrow 1; f \circ [1, g1 \circ \text{tail}]$ , **Def**  $h1 \equiv [f,$   
*then  $g1 \equiv h1$ .*

Table 1

Primitive Functions

Function	Definition
null	$\text{null} : x = x = \emptyset \rightarrow T; x \neq \emptyset \rightarrow F; \perp$
tail	$\text{tail} : x = x = \langle x_1 \rangle \rightarrow \emptyset; x = \langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle \ \& \ n \geq 2 \rightarrow \langle x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle; \perp$
id	$\text{id} : x = x$
apndl	$\text{apndl} : x = x = \langle y, \emptyset \rangle \rightarrow y; x = \langle y, \langle z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle \rangle \rightarrow \langle y, z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n \rangle; \perp$
not	$\text{not} : x = x = T \rightarrow F; x = F \rightarrow T; \perp$
1	$1 : x = x = \langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle \rightarrow x_1; \perp$

Table 2

Functional Forms

Name	Denotation	Definition
composition	$f \circ g$	$(f \circ g) : x = t : (g : x)$
construction	$[f_1, \dots, f_n]$	$[f_1, \dots, f_n] : x = \langle f_1 : x, \dots, f_n : x \rangle$
condition	$p \rightarrow f; g$	$(p \rightarrow f; g) : x = p : x = T \rightarrow f : x; p : x = F \rightarrow g : x; \perp$
constant	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x} : y = y = \perp \rightarrow \perp; x$
insert	$[f$	$[f : x = x = \langle x_1 \rangle \rightarrow x_1;$ $x = \langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle \ \& \ n \geq 2 \rightarrow$ $f : \langle x_1, f : \langle x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle \rangle; \perp$
apply to all	$a f$	$a f : x = x = \emptyset \rightarrow \emptyset;$ $x = \langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle \rightarrow \langle f : x_1, \dots, f : x_n \rangle; \perp$
binary to unary	$\text{bu } f \ x$	$(\text{bu } f \ x) : y = f : \langle x, y \rangle$
while	$\text{while } p \ f$	$(\text{while } p \ f) : x = p : = T \rightarrow$ $(\text{while } p \ f) : (f : x); p : x = F \rightarrow x; \perp$

**Theorem 2.** If  $f, f \in F$ , is an arbitrary function and  $g_2, h_2$  are defined by:

Def  $g_2 \equiv \text{null} \rightarrow \emptyset$ ;  $\text{apndl}[f \circ 1, g_2 \circ \text{tail}]$ , Def  $h_2 \equiv af$ ,  
then  $h_2 \equiv g_2$ .

**Theorem 3.** If  $f, f \in F$ , is an arbitrary function,  $x, x \in \text{Ob}$ , is an arbitrary object and  $g_3, h_3$  are defined by:

Def  $g_3 \equiv f \circ [x, \text{id}]$ , Def  $h_3 \equiv \text{bu } f \ x$ ,  
then  $g_3 \equiv h_3$ .

**Theorem 4.** If  $p, f, p \in F, f \in F$ , are arbitrary functions and  $g_4, h_4$  are defined by:

Def  $g_4 \equiv \text{not} \circ p \rightarrow \text{id}$ ;  $g_4 \circ f$ , Def  $h_4 \equiv \text{while } pf$ ,  
then  $g_4 \equiv f_4$ .

**2. Proofs of the theorems. 2.1. Proof of Theorem 1.**

A. From the recursion theorem [1] and from the definition of  $g_4$  it follows:

$$(1) \quad \begin{aligned} g_1 &\equiv \text{null} \circ \text{tail} \rightarrow 1; \\ \text{null} \circ \text{tail}^2 &\rightarrow q_1; \\ &\dots \dots \dots \\ \text{null} \circ \text{tail}^{n+1} &\rightarrow q_n; \\ &\dots \dots \dots \end{aligned}$$

where  $q_1 \equiv f \circ [1, 1 \circ \text{tail}]$ ,  $q_{n+1} \equiv f \circ [1, q_n \circ \text{tail}]$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$

B. We will demonstrate that  $h_1 \leq g_1$ .

B1. Let  $x = \langle x_1 \rangle$ , then  $h_1 : x = /f : x = x_1$  (according to the definition of the functional form  $/f$ ). Since  $\text{null} \circ \text{tail} : x = T$ , it follows from (1) that  $g_1 : x = 1 : x = x_1 = h_1 : x$ .

B2. Let  $x = \langle x_1, x_2 \rangle$ , then  $h_1 : x = /f : x = f : \langle x_1, /f : \langle x_2 \rangle \rangle = f : \langle x_1, x_2 \rangle = f : x$ . Consequently  $g_1 : x = h_1 : x$ .

B3. Suppose the equality

$$(2) \quad g_1 : \langle x_1, \dots, x_{k+1} \rangle = h_1 : \langle x_1, \dots, x_{k+1} \rangle$$

holds for every  $k, 1 \leq k \leq n-1$ . Let  $x = \langle x_1, \dots, x_{n+1} \rangle$ . From the above assumption:  $h_1 : \langle x_2, \dots, x_{n+1} \rangle = g_1 : \langle x_2, \dots, x_{n+1} \rangle$ . Besides  $\text{null} \circ \text{tail} : \langle x_2, \dots, x_{n+1} \rangle = \dots = \text{null} \circ \text{tail}^{n-1} : \langle x_2, \dots, x_{n+1} \rangle = F$ ,  $\text{null} \circ \text{tail}^n : \langle x_2, \dots, x_{n+1} \rangle = T$ , hence  $g_1 : \langle x_2, \dots, x_{n+1} \rangle = q_{n-1} : \langle x_2, \dots, x_{n+1} \rangle$ . In addition  $h_1 : x = /f : x = f : \langle x_1, h_1 : \langle x_2, \dots, x_{n+1} \rangle \rangle$ , according to the definition of  $/f$ . Since:  $\text{null} \circ \text{tail} : x = \dots = \text{null} \circ \text{tail}^n : x = F$ ,  $\text{null} \circ \text{tail}^{n+1} : x = T$ , it follows that  $g_1 : x = q_n : x = f \circ [1, q_{n-1} \circ \text{tail}] : x = f : \langle x_1, q_{n-1} : \text{tail} : x \rangle = f : \langle x_1, q_{n-1} : \langle x_2, \dots, x_{n+1} \rangle \rangle = f : \langle x_1, q_1 : \langle x_2, \dots, x_{n+1} \rangle \rangle = f : \langle x_1, h_1 : \langle x_2, \dots, x_{n+1} \rangle \rangle = h_1 : x$ , consequently  $h_1 : x = g_1 : x$ . Inductively it follows that the equality (2) holds for any  $k, k \geq 1$ .

B4. Points B1, B2, B3 and the definition of  $/f$  imply  $h_1 \leq g_1$ .

C. We will demonstrate that  $g_1 \leq h_1$ .

Let  $x, x \in \text{Ob}$  be such an object for which  $g_1 : x \neq \perp$ . Therefore there exists an integer  $n$  such, that  $\text{null} \circ \text{tail} : x = \dots = \text{null} \circ \text{tail}^{n-1} : x = F$ ,  $\text{null} \circ \text{tail}^n : x = T$ . Consequently  $x = \langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$  and from points B2 and B3 it follows  $g_1 \leq h_1$ .

D. The equality  $g_1 \equiv h_1$  follows from the relations  $h_1 \leq g_1$  and  $g_1 \leq h_1$  [1].

2.2. Proof of Theorem 2. A. The recursion theorem [1] and the definition of  $g^2$  give:

$$(3) \quad \begin{aligned} g^2 &\equiv \text{null} \rightarrow \bar{\emptyset}; \\ \text{null} \circ \text{tail} &\rightarrow q_1(\bar{\emptyset}); \\ &\dots \dots \dots \\ \text{null} \circ \text{tail}^n &\rightarrow q_n(\bar{\emptyset}); \\ &\dots \dots \dots \end{aligned}$$

with  $q_1(\bar{\emptyset}) \equiv \text{apndl} \circ [f \circ 1, \bar{\emptyset}]$ ,  $q_n(\bar{\emptyset}) \equiv \text{apndl} \circ [f \circ 1, q_{n-1}(\bar{\emptyset}) \circ \text{tail}]$ ,  $n = 2, 3, \dots$ .

B. We will demonstrate that  $h^2 \leq g^2$ .

B1. Let  $x = \emptyset$ , then  $h^2 : x = af : x = \emptyset$  (according to the definition of the functional form  $af$ ). Since  $\text{null} : x = T$ , then  $g^2 : x = \bar{\emptyset} : x = \emptyset = h^2 : x$ .

B2. Let  $x = \langle x_1 \rangle$ , then  $h^2 : x = af : x = \langle f : x_1 \rangle$  (according to the definition of  $af$ ). In view of the fact that  $\text{null} : x = F$ ,  $\text{null} \circ \text{tail} : x = T$  it follows  $g^2 : x = q_1(\bar{\emptyset}) : x = \text{apndl} \circ [f \circ 1, \bar{\emptyset}] : x = \text{apndl} : \langle f : x_1, \emptyset \rangle = \langle f : x_1 \rangle = h^2 : x$ . Consequently  $g^2 : x = h^2 : x$ .

B3. Suppose the equality:

$$(4) \quad g^2 : \langle x_1, \dots, x_k \rangle = h^2 : \langle x_1, \dots, x_k \rangle$$

holds for every  $k$ ,  $1 \leq k \leq n-1$ . Let  $x = \langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$ . From the above assumption:  $h^2 : \langle x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle = g^2 : \langle x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle$ . Besides that we have  $\text{null} : \langle x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle = \text{null} \circ \text{tail} : \langle x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle = \dots = \text{null} \circ \text{tail}^{n-2} : \langle x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle = F$ ,  $\text{null} \circ \text{tail}^{n-1} : \langle x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle = T$ , hence  $g^2 : \langle x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle = q_{n-1}(\bar{\emptyset}) : \langle x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle$ . In addition  $h^2 : x = af : x = \langle f : x_1, \dots, f : x_n \rangle$ , according to the definition of  $af$ . Since  $\text{null} \circ \text{tail} : x = \dots = \text{null} \circ \text{tail}^{n-1} : x = F$ ,  $\text{null} \circ \text{tail}^n : x = T$ , then  $g^2 : x = q_n(\bar{\emptyset}) : x = \text{apndl} \circ [f \circ 1, q_{n-1}(\bar{\emptyset}) \circ \text{tail}] : x = \text{apndl} : \langle f \circ 1 : x, q_{n-1}(\bar{\emptyset}) \circ \text{tail} : x \rangle = \text{apndl} : \langle f : x_1, q_{n-1}(\bar{\emptyset}) : \langle x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle \rangle = \text{apndl} : \langle f : x_1, g^2 : \langle x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle \rangle = \text{apndl} : \langle f : x_1, af : \langle x_2, \dots, x_n \rangle \rangle = \text{apndl} : \langle f : x_1, \langle f : x_2, \dots, f : x_n \rangle \rangle = \langle f : x_1, f : x_2, \dots, f : x_n \rangle = h^2 : x$ . Consequently  $h^2 : x = g^2 : x$ .

Inductively it follows that the equality (4) holds for any  $k$ ,  $k \geq 1$ .

B4. Points B1, B2, B3 and the definition of  $af$  imply  $h^2 \leq g^2$ .

C. We will demonstrate that  $g^2 \leq h^2$ . Let  $x, x \in \text{Ob}$ , be such an object that  $g^2 : x$  is defined. Consequently  $x = \emptyset$  or  $x = \langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$ ,  $n \geq 1$ . From points B1 and B3 it follows  $g^2 : x = h^2 : x$ , so  $g^2 \leq h^2$ .

D. The equality  $g^2 \equiv h^2$  follows from the relations  $h^2 \leq g^2$  and  $g^2 \leq h^2$ .

2.3. Proof of Theorem 3. Let  $y, y \in \text{Ob}$  is an arbitrary object, then  $h^3 : y = (\text{bu } f x) : y = f : \langle x, y \rangle$  and  $g^3 : y = f \circ [\bar{x}, \text{id}] : y = f : \langle \bar{x} : y, \text{id} : y \rangle = f : \langle \bar{x} : y, y \rangle$ . If  $y = \perp$ , then  $h^3 : y = f : \langle x, \perp \rangle = f : \perp = \perp$  and  $g^3 : \perp = f : \langle \bar{x} : \perp, \perp \rangle = f : \perp = \perp$ . If  $y \neq \perp$  then  $g^3 : y = f : \langle x, y \rangle$ . Consequently  $g^3 \equiv h^3$ .

2.4. Proof of Theorem 4. A. Let  $f_i, i = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  are functions which are defined in the following way:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Def } f_0 &\equiv \perp, \\ \text{Def } f_n &\equiv \text{not} \circ p \mapsto \text{id}; \\ &\text{not} \circ p \circ f \rightarrow \text{id} \circ f; \\ &\dots \dots \dots \\ &\text{not} \circ p \circ f^{n-1} \rightarrow \text{id} \circ f^{n-1}; \perp, \text{ where } n = 1, 2, \dots \end{aligned}$$

For any  $h, h \in F$ , let denote  $E(h) \equiv \text{notop} \rightarrow \text{id}; h \text{ of}$ . It is obvious that  $E(f_0) \equiv E(\perp) \equiv \text{notop} \rightarrow \text{id}; \perp \text{ of} \equiv \text{notop} \rightarrow \text{id}; \perp \equiv f_1$ . Suppose that for  $k=1, 2, \dots, n-1, n > 1$ , the equality  $f_k \equiv E(f_{k-1})$  holds. Therefore  $E(f_n) \equiv \text{notop} \rightarrow \text{id}; f_n \text{ of} \equiv \text{notop} \rightarrow \text{id}; (\text{notop} \rightarrow \text{id}; \text{notopof} \rightarrow \text{idof}; \dots; \text{notopof}^{n-1} \rightarrow \text{idof}^{n-1}; \perp) \text{ of} \equiv \text{notop} \rightarrow \text{id}; \text{notopof} \rightarrow \text{idof}; \dots; \text{notopof}^n \rightarrow \text{idof}^n; \perp \equiv f_{n+1}$ . Inductively it follows that  $E(f_n) \equiv f_{n+1}$  for  $n=0, 1, 2, \dots$ . The extension theorem [1] gives:

$$(5) \quad \begin{aligned} g4 &\equiv \text{notop} \rightarrow \text{id}; \\ &\text{notopof} \rightarrow \text{idof}; \\ &\dots \dots \dots \\ &\text{notopof}^n \rightarrow \text{idof}^n; \\ &\dots \dots \dots \end{aligned}$$

B. On the basis of (5), the rest of the proof of Theorem 4 is the same as the proofs of Theorems 1 and 2. In a similar way as with Theorems 1 and 2 the relations  $g4 \leq h4$  and  $h4 \leq g4$  can be demonstrated and since  $g4 \equiv h4$ .

REFERENCES

1. J. Backus. Can Programming Be Liberated from the Von Neuman Style? A Functional Style and Its Algebra of Programs. *Communs. ACM*, 21, 1978, 613-641.

Centre for Mathematics and Mechanics  
1090 Sofia P.O.Box, 373

Received 10. 12. 1979