Currently, the lambda calculus and intuitionistic logic were developed separately. Haskell Curry and William Howard independently discovered a close similarity: types in a typed lambda calculus correspond to formulas in intuitionistic logic in such a way that a derivation of a formula corresponds directly to a typed lambda term with that formula as its type. Moreover, beta reduction in the typed lambda calculus corresponds to certain transformations of derivations.

For instance, a derivation of $\varphi \rightarrow \psi$ corresponds to a term $\lambda x^\varphi. N^\psi$, which has the function type $\varphi \rightarrow \psi$. The inference rules of natural deduction correspond to typing rules in the typed lambda calculus, e.g.,

\[
\frac{[\varphi]^x}{\varphi \rightarrow \psi} \quad \rightarrow \text{Intro}
\]

 corresponds to

\[
\frac{x : \varphi \Rightarrow N : \psi}{\Rightarrow \lambda x^\varphi. N^\psi : \varphi \rightarrow \psi} \quad \lambda
\]

where the rule on the right means that if $x$ is of type $\varphi$ and $N$ is of type $\psi$, then $\lambda x^\varphi. N$ is of type $\varphi \rightarrow \psi$.

The $\rightarrow \text{Elim}$ rule corresponds to the typing rule for composition terms, i.e.,

\[
\frac{\varphi \rightarrow \psi \quad \varphi \rightarrow \psi \rightarrow \text{Elim}}{\Rightarrow P : \varphi \rightarrow \psi \Rightarrow Q : \varphi \Rightarrow P^{\varphi \rightarrow \psi}Q^{\varphi} : \psi} \quad \text{app}
\]

If a $\rightarrow \text{Intro}$ rule is followed immediately by a $\rightarrow \text{Elim}$ rule, the derivation can be simplified:

\[
\frac{[\varphi]^x}{\varphi \rightarrow \psi} \quad \rightarrow \text{Intro} \quad \rightarrow \varphi
\]

 corresponds to

\[
\frac{[\varphi]^x}{\varphi \rightarrow \psi} \rightarrow \text{Intro} \quad \rightarrow \varphi \quad \Rightarrow \hat{\varphi} \quad \Rightarrow \varphi \rightarrow \psi \rightarrow \hat{\varphi} \rightarrow \psi \rightarrow \text{Elim} \quad \Rightarrow \varphi \rightarrow \psi \rightarrow \text{Elim} \quad \Rightarrow \varphi \rightarrow \psi \rightarrow \varphi \rightarrow \psi
\]

which corresponds to the beta reduction of lambda terms

\[
(\lambda x^\varphi. P^\psi)Q \rightarrow P[Q/x].
\]

Similar correspondences hold between the rules for $\land$ and “product” types, and between the rules for $\lor$ and “sum” types.

This correspondence between terms in the simply typed lambda calculus and natural deduction derivations is called the “Curry–Howard”, or “propositions as types” correspondence. In addition to formulas (propositions) corresponding to types, and proofs to terms, we can summarize the correspondences as follows:
The Curry–Howard correspondence is one of the cornerstones of automated proof assistants and type checkers for programs, since checking a proof witnessing a proposition (as we did above) amounts to checking if a program (term) has the declared type.

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### Bibliography