

A Bibliography of Combinators

Stephen Wolfram

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Extensions & Applications

Extensions of Combinators

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Confusing Issues

The term “combinatory analysis” has nothing to do with “combinators”; it’s an earlier name for “combinatorics”, used for example in:

P. A. MacMahon (1915), *Combinatory Analysis*, The University Press (Cambridge).

“Combinatory” is also not used in the sense of combinators in:

E. Post (1936), “Finite Combinatory Processes—Formulation 1”, *The Journal of Symbolic Logic* 1, 103–105. doi: 10.2307/2269031.

“Combinator” is sometimes used as a fairly general term for a function or operation that combines computational operations, as in:

R. Milner (1982), “Four Combinators for Concurrency”, in *Proceedings of the First ACM SIGACT-SIGOPS Symposium on Principles of Distributed Computing*, Symposium on Principles of Distributed Computing, Association for Computing Machinery, 104–110. doi: 10.1145/800220.806687.

L. Cardelli and R. Davies (1999), “Service Combinators for Web Computing”, in *Transactions on Software Engineering*, IEEE, 309–316. doi: 10.1109/32.798321.

“The Combinator” is a recent combinatorial tool for idea generation, that seems to have no relation to combinators:

J. Han, et al. (2018), *The Combinator—A Computer-Based Tool for Creative Idea Generation Based on a Simulation Approach*, Cambridge University Press. doi: 10.1017/dsj.2018.7.

Y Combinator is a startup accelerator founded by P. Graham et al. in 2005; its name is derived from the fixed-point combinator, but otherwise it is unrelated:

Y Combinator (accessed March 22, 2021). www.ycombinator.com.

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Cite as: S. Wolfram (2021), “A Bibliography of Combinators”. wolframcloud.com/obj/sw-writings/Combinators/bibliography.pdf.