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The theory of calculi with explicit substitutions revisited

Delia Kesner

October 9, 2006

Abstract

Calculi with explicit substitutions are widely used in different areas of computer science such as functional and logic programming, proof-theory, theorem proving, concurrency, object-oriented languages, etc. Complex systems with explicit substitutions were developed these last 15 years in order to capture the good computational behaviour of the original system (with meta-level substitutions) they were implementing.

In this paper we first survey previous work in the domain by pointing out the motivations and challenges that guided the development of such calculi. Then we use very simple technology to establish a general theory of explicit substitutions for the lambda-calculus which enjoys all the expected properties such as simulation of one-step beta-reduction, confluence on meta-terms, preservation of beta-strong normalisation, strong normalisation of typed terms and full composition. Also, the calculus we introduce turns out to admit a natural translation into Linear Logic's proof-nets.

Contents

1	Introduction	3
1.1	Related Work	4
1.2	Linear logic and proof-nets	7
1.3	Summary	7
2	Syntax	8
3	Confluence on metaterms	11
3.1	A calculus with simultaneous substitutions	13
3.2	A calculus with normal simultaneous substitutions	14
3.3	Relating λ_{es} and λ_{nss}	16
3.4	Relating λ_{nss} and λ_{es}	17
4	Preservation of β-strong normalisation	18
4.1	The λ_{esw} -calculus	19
4.2	Relating λ_{es} and λ_{esw}	22
4.3	The Λ_I -calculus	23
4.4	Relating λ_{esw} and Λ_I	23
4.5	Solving the puzzle	25
5	Recovering the untyped λ-calculus	25
5.1	From λ -calculus to λ_{es} -calculus	26
5.2	From λ_{es} -calculus to λ -calculus	26
6	The typed λ_{es}-calculus	27
6.1	Typing Rules	27
6.2	Subject Reduction	28
7	Recovering the typed λ-calculus	28
8	Strong normalisation of typed λ_{es}-terms	29
8.1	Linear Logic's proof-nets	29
8.2	From λ_{es} -terms to Proof-nets	33
8.3	Discussion	35
9	PSN implies SN	36
10	Conclusion	37
A	Appendix: An abstract theorem	38

1 Introduction

This paper is about explicit substitutions (ES), an intermediate formalism that - by decomposing the β rule into more atomic steps - allows a better understanding of the execution models of λ -calculus.

We first survey previous work in the domain, by pointing out the motivations that were guided the development of such calculi as well as the main challenge behind their formulations. The goal of our work is to move back to previous works and results in the domain in order to establish a general and simple theory of explicit substitutions being able to capture all of them by using very simple technology.

Explicit substitutions

In λ -calculus, the evaluation process is modelled by β -reduction and the replacement of formal parameters by its corresponding arguments is modelled by *substitution*. While substitution in λ -calculus is a *meta-level* operation described outside the calculus itself, in calculi with ES it is internalised and handled by symbols and reduction rules belonging to the proper syntax of the calculus. However the two formalisms are still very close: let $s\{x/u\}$ denote the result of substituting all the *free* occurrences of x in s by u , then one defines β -reduction as

$$(\lambda x.s) v \longrightarrow_{\beta} s\{x/v\}$$

where the operation $s\{x/v\}$ can be defined modulo α -conversion¹ by induction on s as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} x\{x/v\} &:= v \\ y\{x/v\} &:= y && \text{if } x \neq y \\ (t u)\{x/v\} &:= (t\{x/v\} u\{x/v\}) \\ (\lambda y.t)\{x/v\} &:= \lambda y.(t\{x/v\}) && \text{if } x \neq y \text{ and } y \notin \text{fv}(v) \end{aligned}$$

Then, the simplest way to specify a λ -calculus with explicit substitution is to explicitly encode the previous definition, so that one still works modulo α -conversion, yielding the calculus known as λx which is shown in Figure 1.

$$\begin{aligned} (\lambda x.t) v &\longrightarrow t[x/v] \\ x[x/v] &\longrightarrow v \\ x[y/v] &\longrightarrow x && \text{if } x \neq y \\ (t u)[x/v] &\longrightarrow (t[x/v] u[x/v]) \\ (\lambda x.t)[y/v] &\longrightarrow \lambda x.(t[y/v]) && \text{if } x \neq y \text{ and } x \notin \text{fv}(v) \end{aligned}$$

Figure 1: Reduction rules for the λx -calculus

¹Definition of substitution modulo α -conversion avoids to explicitly deal with the variable capture case as one obtains it for free. Thus, for example $(\lambda x.y)\{y/x\} =_{\alpha} (\lambda z.y)\{y/x\} =_{def} \lambda z.y\{y/x\} = \lambda z.x$.

This reduction system corresponds to the minimal behaviour that can be found in most of the well-known calculi with ES appearing in the literature: substitutions are incorporated into the language and manipulated explicitly, β -reduction is implemented in two stages, first by the application of the first rule, which activates the calculus of substitutions, then by propagation of the substitution until variables are reached. More sophisticated treatment of substitutions considers also a composition operator allowing interactions between them.

1.1 Related Work

In these last years there has been a growing interest in λ -calculi with explicit substitutions. They were defined in de Bruijn notation [ACCL91a, HL89, Les94, KR95, Kes96, FKP96], or level notation [LRD95], or via combinators [GL99], or simply by named variables notation as shown above [Lin86, Lin92, Ros92, BR95a].

An abstract presentation of such calculi can be found in [Kes96, Kes00], where a (syntactic) axiomatisation is used to define and study them.

In any case, all these calculi were all introduced as a bridge between the classical λ -calculus and concrete implementations of functional programming languages such as CAML [Oca], SML [MTH90], Miranda [Tur85], Haskell [HPJP92] or proof-assistants such as Coq [Coq], PVS [PVS], HOL [HOL], LEGO [LEG], Maude [Mau] et ELAN [ELA].

Now, the implementation of the atomic substitution operation by several elementary explicit steps comes at a price. Indeed, while λ -calculus is perfectly *orthogonal*², calculi with ES suffer at least from the well-known diverging example

$$t[y/v][x/u[y/v]] \xleftarrow{*} ((\lambda x.t) u)[y/v] \longrightarrow^* t[x/u][y/v]$$

Different solutions were adopted by the calculi in the literature in order to close this diagram. If no new rewriting rules are added to those in Figure 1, then reduction turns out to be confluent on terms but not on *metaterms*³. If naive rules for composition are also considered, then one recovers confluence on metaterms but paying an important price: there exist terms which are strongly normalisable in λ -calculus but not in the corresponding explicit version of the λ -calculus. This phenomenon, known as Melliès' counter-example [Mel95], shows a flaw in the design of calculi with ES in that they are supposed to implement their underlying calculus (in our case the λ -calculus) without losing its good properties. More precisely, let us call λ_z a λ -calculus with ES and let consider a mapping $\tau_{\circ\lambda}$ from λ -syntax to λ_z -syntax (sometimes this mapping is just the identity). We identify the following list of properties:

(SIM) Any evaluation step in λ -calculus can be implemented by λ_z : If $t \longrightarrow_{\beta} t'$, then $\tau_{\circ\lambda}(t) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_z}^* \tau_{\circ\lambda}(t')$.

(CR) The refined reduction relation λ_z is confluent: If $u \xleftarrow{\lambda_z}^* t \longrightarrow_{\lambda_z}^* v$, then there is t' such that $u \longrightarrow_{\lambda_z}^* t' \xleftarrow{\lambda_z}^* v$.

²Does not have critical pairs.

³Terms with metavariables used to represent incomplete proofs

- (PSN) The reduction relation λ_z preserves β -strong normalisation: If $t \in \mathcal{SN}_\beta$, then $\text{to}_\lambda(t) \in \mathcal{SN}_{\lambda_z}$.
- (SN) Strong normalisation holds for λ_z -typed terms: If t is typed, then $t \in \mathcal{SN}_{\lambda_z}$.
- (FC) Full composition can be implemented by λ_z : $t[x/u]$ λ_z -reduces to $t\{x/u\}$ for an appropriate (and natural) notion of substitution on λ_z -terms.

The result of Melliès has revived the interest in ES since after his counterexample there was a clear *challenge* to find a calculus having all the good properties mentioned above.

There are several propositions that give (sometimes partial) answers to this challenge, they are summarised in Figure 2.

Calculus	CR	SN	PSN	SIM	FC
$\lambda_v \lambda_s \lambda_t \lambda_u \lambda_x \lambda_d \lambda_{dn} \lambda_e \lambda_f$	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
$\lambda_\sigma \lambda_{\sigma SP} \lambda_{\sigma \uparrow} \lambda_{se} \lambda_{\mathcal{L}}$	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
λ_ζ	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
λ_{ws}	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
$\lambda_{\lambda 1xr}$	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Figure 2: Summarising previous work in the field

In other words, there are many ways to avoid Melliès' counter-example in order to recover the PSN property. One of them is to simply forbid the substitution operators to cross lambda-abstractions [LM99, For02]; another consists of avoiding composition of substitutions [BBLRD96]; another one imposes a simple strategy on the calculus with explicit substitutions to mimic exactly the calculus without explicit substitutions [GL98]. The first solution leads to *weak* lambda calculi, not able to express *strong* beta-equality, which is used for example in implementations of proof-assistants [Coq, HOL]. The second solution is drastic as composition of substitutions is needed in implementations of HO unification [DHK95] or functional abstract machines [HMP96]. The last one exploits very little of the notion of explicit substitutions because they can be neither composed nor even delayed.

In order to cope with this problem David and Guillaume [DG01] defined a calculus with *labels* called λ_{ws} , which allows *controlled* composition of explicit substitutions without losing PSN and SN [DCKP00]. But the λ_{ws} -calculus has a complicated syntax and its named version [DCKP00] is even less readable.

The strong normalisation proof for λ_{ws} given in [DCKP00] reveals a natural semantics for composition of explicit substitutions via Linear Logic's proof-nets, suggesting that weakening (explicit erasure) and contraction (explicit duplication) can be added to the calculus without losing termination. These are the starting points of the ideas proposed by the $\lambda 1xr$ -calculus [KL05], which is in some sense a (complex) precursor of the λ_{es} -calculus that we present in this work. Indeed, λ -terms can not be viewed directly as $\lambda 1xr$ -terms, so that we prefer to adopt λx -syntax for λ_{es} , thus avoiding special encodings in order to explicitly incorporate weakening and contractions inside

λ -terms. Moreover, the reduction system of λLx is defined via 6 equations and 19 rewriting rules, thus requiring an important amount of combinatory reasoning when showing its properties.

Another calculi with safe notions of compositions appear for example in [SFM03, Sak]. The first of them lacks full composition and confluence on metaterms. The second of them specifies commutation of independent substitutions by a rewriting rule (instead of an equation), thus leading to complicated notions and proofs of its underlying normalisation properties. Here, we choose to make a minimal (just one) use of equational reasoning to axiomatise commutation of independent substitution. This will turn out to be essential to achieve the definition of a simple language being easy to understand, which can be projected into another elementary system like proof-nets, and whose properties can be proved with simple and natural proof techniques.

Last but not least, confluence on metaterms of both calculi in [KL05] and [Sak] on metaterms is only conjectured but not yet proved.

The logical meaning of explicit substitutions

Cut elimination is a logical evaluation process allowing to relate explicit substitution to a more atomic process. Indeed, the cut elimination process can be interpreted as the elimination of explicit substitutions. For example, let us consider the following sequent proof:

$$\frac{\frac{\mathcal{D}}{\Gamma \vdash A} \quad \Gamma, A \vdash A \text{ (axiom)}}{\Gamma \vdash A} \text{ (cut)}$$

If we want to eliminate the last cut rule used in this proof, it is sufficient to take the proof

$$\frac{\mathcal{D}}{\Gamma \vdash A}$$

which proves exactly the same sequent $\Gamma \vdash A$ but without the last cut rule. That is, in the cut elimination process, the first proof reduces to the second one. Now, let us interpret proofs by terms and propositions by types as suggested by the Curry-Howard correspondence. We then get

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash v : A \quad \Gamma, x : A \vdash x : A \text{ (proj)}}{\Gamma \vdash x[x/v] : A} \text{ (subs)}$$

which suggests that the process of cut elimination consists in reducing the term $x[x/v]$ to the term v , exactly as in the Var rule of the calculus λx written as

$$\text{(Var)} \quad x[x/v] \longrightarrow v$$

These remarks put in evidence the fact that explicit substitution is a term notation for the cut rule, and that reduction rules for explicit substitutions behave like cut elimination rules. However, λ and λx basic (typed) syntax are taken from a natural deduction logical system, where application annotates implication elimination and

abstraction annotates implication introduction. That means that λx (typed) syntax is based on a logical system mixing natural deduction with sequent calculus such that the meta-level operation in the normalisation process is replaced by a more elementary concept of cut elimination.

It is worth noticing that one can either define an explicit substitution calculus interpreting cut-elimination, in such a way to have a perfect Curry-Howard correspondence between them, as is done by Hugo Herbelin in [Her94]: there terms encode proofs, types encode propositions and reduction encodes cut-elimination in intuitionistic sequent calculus. So that the ideas we present in this paper can also be adapted to sequent calculus notation. We refer the reader to [Len06] for a systematic study of cut elimination in intuitionistic sequent calculus via proof-terms.

1.2 Linear logic and proof-nets

Linear Logic decomposes the intuitionistic logical connectives, like the implication, into more atomic, resource-aware connectives, like the linear implication and the explicit erasure and duplication operators given by the exponentials which provide a more refined computational model than the one given by the λ -calculus. However, sequent presentations of Linear Logic can contain a lot of details that are uninteresting (or bureaucratic). The main idea of proof-nets is to solve this problem by providing a sort of representative of an equivalence class of proofs in the sequent calculus style that differ only by the order of application of some logical or structural rules. Cut elimination over proof-nets is then a kind of normalisation procedure over these equivalence classes. Using different translations of the λ -calculus into Proof Nets, new abstract machines have been proposed, exploiting the Geometry of Interaction [Gir89, AJ92], culminating in the recent works on optimal reduction [GAL92, Lam90].

Some calculi with explicit substitutions [DCKP03, KL05] have been already put in relation with natural extended notions of proof-nets. In particular, one defines a typed version of the calculus and shows how to translate it into Proof Nets and how to establish, using this translation, a simulation of the reduction rules for explicit substitutions via cut elimination in Proof Nets. As an immediate consequence of this simulation, one proves that a simply typed version of the calculus is strongly normalizing. An important property of the simulation is that each step in the calculus with ES is simulated by a *constant* number of steps in proof-nets: this shows that the two systems are very close, unlike what happens when simulating the λ -calculus. This gives also a powerful tool to reason about the complexity of β -reduction.

We apply this idea to the λ_{es} -calculus that we introduce in this paper so that we obtain strong normalisation for typed λ_{es} -terms via simulation of reduction in proof-nets.

1.3 Summary

We present a calculus with ES using the named variable presentation, which makes some essential properties of explicit substitutions more apparent, by abstracting out the details of renaming and updating of de Bruijn notation. The main ideas and results of the paper can be summarised by the following points:

- We define a *simple* calculus with explicit substitutions using named variables and called λes . There is no use of explicit contraction and weakening.
- We show simulation of one-step β -reduction, confluence on metaterms, preservation of β -strong normalisation, strong normalisation of typed terms and implementation of full composition.
- We establish connections with untyped λ -calculus and typed λ -calculus.
- We give a natural translation into Linear Logic's proof-nets.
- We give some ideas for future work and applications.

The rest of the paper is organised as follows. Section 2 introduces syntax for λes -terms as well as appropriate notions of equivalence and reduction. We show there some fundamental properties of the calculus such as *full composition* and termination of the substitution calculus alone. In Section 3 we develop a proof of confluence for metaterms. This proof uses an interpretation method based on the confluence property of a simpler calculus that we define in the same section. Preservation of β -strong normalisation is studied and proved in Section 4. The proof is based on the terminating properties of other calculi that we introduce in the same section. Relations between reduction in λes and λ -calculus are established in Section 5. The typing system for λes is presented in 6 as well as the subject reduction property. Relations between typing in λes and λ -calculus are established in Section 7. Section 8 introduces proof nets and gives the translation from typed λes -terms into proof nets that is used to obtain strong normalisation of typed λes . Finally, a simpler proof of strong normalisation based on the main result of Section 4 is given in Section 9.

We refer the reader to [Kes06] for detailed proofs and to [BN98] for standard notions from rewriting that we will use throughout the paper.

2 Syntax

We introduce here the basic notions concerning syntax, α -conversion, reduction and congruence.

The set of λes -terms can be defined by the following grammar

$$t ::= x \mid (t t) \mid \lambda x.t \mid t[x/t]$$

A term x is called a *variable*, $(t u)$ an *application*, $\lambda x.t$ an *abstraction* and $t[x/u]$ a *closure*. The syntactic object $[x/u]$, which is not a term itself, is called an *explicit substitution*. We do not write the parenthesis of applications if they are clear from the context.

The syntax can also be given as a HRS [Nip91], with types \mathcal{V} and \mathcal{T} for variables and (raw)terms respectively, and four function symbols to be used as constructors:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{var:} & \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{T} & \text{sub:} & (\mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}) \rightarrow (\mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}) \\ \text{lam:} & (\mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}) \rightarrow \mathcal{T} & \text{app:} & \mathcal{T} \rightarrow (\mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}) \end{array}$$

Thus, for example the λ es-term $(x\ y)[x/\lambda z.z]$ is represented as the HRS-term $\text{sub}(x.\text{app}(\text{var}(x), \text{var}(y)), \text{lam}(z.\text{var}(z)))$. We prefer however to work with the syntax given by the grammar above which is the one usually used for calculi with ES.

A term is said to be *pure* if it has no explicit substitutions.

The terms $\lambda x.t$ and $t[x/u]$ bind x in t . Thus, the set of *free variables* of a term t , denoted $\text{fv}(t)$, is defined in the usual way as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{fv}(x) &:= \{x\} \\ \text{fv}(t\ u) &:= \text{fv}(t) \cup \text{fv}(u) \\ \text{fv}(\lambda x.t) &:= \text{fv}(t) \setminus x \\ \text{fv}(t[x/u]) &:= (\text{fv}(t) \setminus x) \cup \text{fv}(u) \end{aligned}$$

As a consequence, we obtain the standard notion of α -conversion on higher-order terms which allows us to use Barendregt's convention [Bar84] to assume that two different bound variables have different names, and no variable is free and bound at the same time.

Besides α -conversion we consider the following equation and set of reduction rules:

Equations :			
$t[x/u][y/v]$	$=_c$	$t[y/v][x/u]$	if $y \notin \text{fv}(u)$ & $x \notin \text{fv}(v)$
Reduction Rules :			
$(\lambda x.t)\ u$	\longrightarrow_B	$t[x/u]$	
$x[x/u]$	$\longrightarrow_{\text{var}}$	u	
$t[x/u]$	$\longrightarrow_{\text{Gc}}$	t	if $x \notin \text{fv}(t)$
$(t\ u)[x/v]$	$\longrightarrow_{\text{App}_1}$	$(t[x/v]\ u[x/v])$	if $x \in \text{fv}(t)$ & $x \in \text{fv}(u)$
$(t\ u)[x/v]$	$\longrightarrow_{\text{App}_2}$	$(t\ u[x/v])$	if $x \notin \text{fv}(t)$ & $x \in \text{fv}(u)$
$(t\ u)[x/v]$	$\longrightarrow_{\text{App}_3}$	$(t[x/v]\ u)$	if $x \in \text{fv}(t)$ & $x \notin \text{fv}(u)$
$(\lambda y.t)[x/v]$	$\longrightarrow_{\text{Lamb}}$	$\lambda y.t[x/v]$	if $y \notin \text{fv}(v)$ & $x \neq y$
$t[x/u][y/v]$	$\longrightarrow_{\text{Comp}_1}$	$t[y/v][x/u][y/v]$	if $y \in \text{fv}(u)$ & $y \in \text{fv}(t)$
$t[x/u][y/v]$	$\longrightarrow_{\text{Comp}_2}$	$t[x/u][y/v]$	if $y \in \text{fv}(u)$ & $y \notin \text{fv}(t)$

Figure 3: Equations and reduction rules for λ es

It is worth noticing that this presentation uses conditional rules, but non conditional rules could be used to specify this system when using for example proof-nets (Section 8) or director strings [KS88]. Also, rules $\{\text{App}_1, \text{App}_2, \text{App}_3\}$ could be gathered into the single rule (App) $(t\ u)[x/v] \longrightarrow (t[x/v]\ u[x/v])$ while rules $\{\text{Comp}_1, \text{Comp}_2\}$ could be replaced by the more compact version (Comp) $t[x/u][y/v] \longrightarrow t[y/v][x/u][y/v]$, where $y \in \text{fv}(u)$. While this change seems to be sound w.r.t. the properties of the calculus⁴ (c.f. Section 10), the translation to proof-nets does not work (c.f. Section 8.3). We thus prefer to work with this version of the calculus all along the paper to simplify into a one single presentation all the material presented here.

⁴While the weaker rule for composition given by $t[x/u][y/v] \longrightarrow t[x/u][y/v]$, where $y \notin \text{fv}(t)$, is well-known [BG99] to affect strong normalisation and preservation of β -strong normalisation.

The *rewriting system* containing all the previous rewriting rules except B is denoted by \mathfrak{s} . We write $\mathfrak{B}\mathfrak{s}$ for $\mathfrak{B} \cup \mathfrak{s}$. The *equivalence relation* generated by the conversions α and C is denoted by $\mathbb{E}_{\mathfrak{s}}$. The *reduction relation* generated by the *reduction rules* \mathfrak{s} (resp. $\mathfrak{B}\mathfrak{s}$) *modulo the equivalence relation* $\mathbb{E}_{\mathfrak{s}}$ is denoted by $\longrightarrow_{\mathfrak{s}}/\mathbb{E}_{\mathfrak{s}}$ or $\longrightarrow_{\mathfrak{es}}$ (resp. $\longrightarrow_{\mathfrak{B}\mathfrak{s}}/\mathbb{E}_{\mathfrak{s}}$ or $\longrightarrow_{\lambda\mathfrak{es}}$ (for equational \mathfrak{s} substitution), the \mathfrak{e} is for for equational and the \mathfrak{s} for substitution. More precisely

$$\begin{aligned} t \longrightarrow_{\mathfrak{es}} t' & \quad \text{iff there are } s, s' \text{ s.t. } t =_{\mathbb{E}_{\mathfrak{s}}} s \longrightarrow_{\mathfrak{s}} s' =_{\mathbb{E}_{\mathfrak{s}}} t' \\ t \longrightarrow_{\lambda\mathfrak{es}} t' & \quad \text{iff there are } s, s' \text{ s.t. } t =_{\mathbb{E}_{\mathfrak{s}}} s \longrightarrow_{\mathfrak{B}\mathfrak{s}} s' =_{\mathbb{E}_{\mathfrak{s}}} t' \end{aligned}$$

The equivalence relation preserves free variables and the reduction relation does not increase them. Indeed, one can easily show by induction on terms the following property.

Lemma 2.1 (Free variables do not increase) *If $t \longrightarrow_{\lambda\mathfrak{es}} t'$, then $\text{fv}(t') \subseteq \text{fv}(t)$. More precisely,*

- *If $t =_{\mathbb{E}_{\mathfrak{s}}} t'$, then $\text{fv}(t) = \text{fv}(t')$.*
- *If $t \longrightarrow_{\mathfrak{B}\mathfrak{s}} t'$, then $\text{fv}(t') \subseteq \text{fv}(t)$.*

The (sub)calculus of substitutions \mathfrak{es} , which is intended to implement (meta-level) substitution can be shown to be terminating.

Lemma 2.2 (Termination of \mathfrak{es}) *The reduction relation \mathfrak{es} is terminating.*

Proof. For each term s we define a size and a multiplicity by structural induction.

$$\begin{array}{ll} \mathbb{S}(x) & := 1 & \mathbb{M}_x(z) & := 1 \\ \mathbb{S}(\lambda x.t) & := \mathbb{S}(t) & \mathbb{M}_x(\lambda y.t) & := \mathbb{M}_x(t) + 1 \\ \mathbb{S}(t u) & := \mathbb{S}(t) + \mathbb{S}(u) & \mathbb{M}_x(t u) & := \mathbb{M}_x(t) + \mathbb{M}_x(u) + 1 \\ \mathbb{S}(t[x/u]) & := \mathbb{S}(t) + \mathbb{M}_x(t) \cdot \mathbb{S}(u) & \mathbb{M}_x(t[y/u]) & := \mathbb{M}_x(t) & \text{If } x \notin \text{fv}(u) \\ & & \mathbb{M}_x(t[y/u]) & := \mathbb{M}_x(t) + \mathbb{M}_y(t) \cdot (\mathbb{M}_x(u) + 1) & \text{If } x \in \text{fv}(u) \end{array}$$

Remark that $\mathbb{M}_x(s) \geq 1$ and $\mathbb{S}(s) \geq 1$ for every term s and every variable x .

We can now show, by induction on the definition of $=_{\mathbb{E}_{\mathfrak{s}}}$ and $\longrightarrow_{\mathfrak{s}}$, that size is compatible with α and C equality and each \mathfrak{s} -reduction step strictly decreases the size:

1. If $s =_{\mathbb{E}_{\mathfrak{s}}} s'$, then $\mathbb{S}(s) = \mathbb{S}(s')$.
2. If $s \longrightarrow_{\mathfrak{s}} s'$, then $\mathbb{S}(s) > \mathbb{S}(s')$.

We then conclude that \mathfrak{es} -reduction is terminating on all $\lambda\mathfrak{es}$ -terms by application of the abstract theorem A.1 : \mathcal{E} is $=_{\mathbb{E}_{\mathfrak{s}}}$, \mathcal{R}_1 is the empty relation, \mathcal{R}_2 is $\longrightarrow_{\mathfrak{s}}$, \mathbb{K} is the relation given by the function $\mathbb{S}(_)$ and \mathcal{S} is the standard well-founded order $>$ on natural numbers. \blacksquare

We now address the property of full composition. For that, we introduce the following notion of substitution on λes -terms.

Given λes -terms t and u , the result of *substituting* all the *free* occurrences of x in t by u is defined by induction, and modulo α -conversion, as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} x\{x/v\} &:= v \\ y\{x/v\} &:= y && \text{if } x \neq y \\ (t\ u)\{x/v\} &:= (t\{x/v\}\ u\{x/v\}) \\ (\lambda y.t)\{x/v\} &:= \lambda y.(t\{x/v\}) && \text{if } x \neq y \text{ and } y \notin \text{fv}(v) \\ t[y/u]\{x/v\} &:= t\{x/v\}[y/u\{x/v\}] && \text{if } x \neq y \text{ and } y \notin \text{fv}(v) \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to show by induction on λes -terms that $t\{x/u\} = t$ if $x \notin \text{fv}(t)$.

Lemma 2.3 (Full Composition) *Let t and u be λes -terms. Then $t[x/u] \longrightarrow_{\lambda\text{es}}^* t\{x/u\}$.*

Proof. By induction on t . ■

3 Confluence on metaterms

Metaterms are terms containing *metavariables* which are usually used to denote *incomplete* programs and/or proofs in higher-order unification [Hue76]. Each metavariable should come with a minimal amount of information in order to guarantee that some basic operations such as instantiation (replacement of metavariables by metaterms) is sound. Thus, we now consider a countable set of *raw* metavariables X, Y, \dots that we decorate them with sets of variables Γ, Δ, \dots , thus yielding *decorated* metavariables denoted by X_Γ, Y_Δ , etc.

We now extend the primitive grammar for λes -terms to obtain the λes -metaterms:

$$t ::= x \mid X_\Delta \mid (t\ t) \mid \lambda x.t \mid t[x/t]$$

We add to the definition of free variables in Section 2 the case $\text{fv}(X_\Delta) = \Delta$. Even if this new definition is using to completely specify the free variables of a metaterm, which may sound contradictory with the concept of metaterm, it is worth noticing that the partial specification of the set of (free) variables of an incomplete proof says nothing about the structure of the incomplete proof itself as this structural information remains still unknown. The minimal information inside metavariables given by decoration of set of variables guarantees that different occurrences of the same metavariable inside a metaterm are never instantiated by different metaterms. Indeed, given the (raw) metaterm $t = \lambda y.y\ X\ (\lambda z.X)$, the instantiation of the (raw) metavariable X by a term containing a free occurrence of z would be unsound (see [Muñ97, DHK00, FdK] for details).

From now on, we use \hat{y} to denote, indistinctly, a variable y or a metavariable Y_Δ .

Remark that decorated metavariables X_Δ in λes can be viewed as HRS-terms of the form $X(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ where $\Delta = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ and X is just a simply a variable that can only be instantiated by a closed strict (meta)term. Thus for example $Y_{x,z}$ can be instantiated by $x[y/z]$ but not by x . As a consequence, all the standard concepts on HRS-terms, such as α -conversion, reduction, etc, extend to our notion of

λ_{es} -metaterms. In particular, α -conversion is perfectly well-defined on metaterms by extending the renaming of bound variables to the decoration sets. Thus for example $\lambda x.Y_x =_{\alpha} \lambda z.Y_z$.

Towards confluence by composition of substitutions The idea behind calculi with explicit substitutions having composition is to implement what is known in λ -calculus as the *substitution lemma*: for all λ -terms t, u, v and variables x, y such that $x \neq y$ and $x \notin \text{fv}(v)$ we have

$$t\{x/u\}\{y/v\} = t\{y/v\}\{x/u\{y/v\}\}$$

It is well-known that confluence on metaterms fails for calculi with ES without composition (as for example λx) as the following example shows

$$s = t[y/v][x/u[y/v]] \xrightarrow{*} ((\lambda x.t) u)[y/v] \xrightarrow{*} t[x/u][y/v] = s'$$

Indeed, while this diagram can be closed for terms *without metavariables* [BR95a], there is no way to find a common reduct between s and s' whenever t is or contains metavariables and no reduction rule is allowed to mimic composition. Remark that this is true not only for raw but also for decorated metavariables.

It is evident that the reduction system λ_{es} cover all the cases of the substitution lemma: indeed,

If $y \in \text{fv}(u)$ and $y \in \text{fv}(t)$, then

$$t[x/u][y/v] \xrightarrow{\text{Comp}_1} t[y/v][x/u[y/v]]$$

If $y \in \text{fv}(u)$ and $y \notin \text{fv}(t)$, then

$$t[x/u][y/v] \xrightarrow{\text{Comp}_2} t[x/u[y/v]] \xrightarrow{\text{Gc}} t[y/v][x/u[y/v]]$$

If $y \notin \text{fv}(u)$ and $y \in \text{fv}(t)$, then

$$t[x/u][y/v] =_{\text{Comp}} t[y/v][x/u] \xrightarrow{\text{Gc}} t[y/v][x/u[y/v]]$$

If $y \notin \text{fv}(u)$ and $y \notin \text{fv}(t)$, then

$$t[x/u][y/v] \xrightarrow{\text{Gc}} t[x/u] \xrightarrow{\text{Gc}} t[x/u] \xrightarrow{*} t[x/u] \xrightarrow{\text{Gc}} t[x/u] \xrightarrow{*} t[x/u] \xrightarrow{\text{Gc}} t[x/u][y/v]$$

Proof techniques to show confluence While most of the calculi with explicit substitutions in the literature are only specified by rewriting rules, λ_{es} -reduction is defined by a notion of reduction modulo an equivalence relation. We then need to prove confluence of a *non-terminating reduction relation modulo*, for which the published techniques [Hue80, Ter03, Oh198, JK86] known by the author fail. More precisely, the *untyped* λ_{es} -calculus is trivially non-terminating (as it is able to simulate β -reduction), so these techniques cannot be applied to our case since they require the reduction relation to be terminating.

The solution we adopt in this paper consists in using a power version of the *interpretation technique* [Har87]. Thus, we infer confluence of λ_{es} from confluence of λ_{nss} , a calculus with *flattened or simultaneous substitutions* whose reduction process does not make use of any equivalence relation.

3.1 A calculus with simultaneous substitutions

We consider here a *total order* on the set of variables \mathcal{X} . We then define **ss**-metaterms as metaterms with n -ary substitutions used to denote *simultaneous substitutions*. The grammar can be given by:

$$t ::= x \mid X_\Delta \mid (t t) \mid \lambda x.t \mid t[x_{k_1}/t, \dots, x_{k_n}/t]$$

where substitutions $[x_{k_1}/u_{k_1}, \dots, x_{k_n}/u_{k_n}]$ are non-empty (so that $n \geq 1$) and x_{k_1}, \dots, x_{k_n} are all *distinct* variables.

Remark that no order exist in the general syntax between the distinct variables of a simultaneous substitution.

We use letters I, J, K to denote non-empty lists of indexes for variables and $I@J$ to denote concatenation of the lists I and J . If I is the list $k_1 \dots k_n$, then we write $[x_i/u_i]_I$ for the list $[x_{k_1}/u_{k_1}, \dots, x_{k_n}/u_{k_n}]$. We might also use the notation $[\text{lst}]$ for any of such (non-empty) lists and $[\text{cs}[x/t]_i]_I$ for a simultaneous substitution of I elements containing x/t at position $i \in I$. Given $[x_i/u_i]_I$, we use the notation $[x_i/u_i]_{I+}$ to denote the substitution where an element has been added at the end of the list $x_{k_1}/u_{k_1}, \dots, x_{k_n}/u_{k_n}$ and $[x_i/u_i]_{+I}$ to denote the substitution where an element has been added at the beginning of the list.

If $j \in I$ and $|I| \geq 2$, we write $[x_i/u_i]_{I \setminus j}$ for the list $[x_{k_1}/u_{k_1}, \dots, x_{k_n}/u_{k_n}]$ whose element x_j/u_j has been erased. Thus for example $x[x_2/z, x_3/w]$ can be written as $x[x_i/u_i]_{[2,3]}$ with $k_1 = 2, k_2 = 3, u_2 = z$ and $u_3 = w$ and $x[x_i/u_i]_{[2,1] \setminus 2}$ denotes the term $x[x_3/w]$.

For any permutation $\pi(I)$, the notation $[x_i/u_i]_{\pi(I)}$ denotes the (permuted) list $[x_{\pi(k_1)}/u_{\pi(k_1)}, \dots, x_{\pi(k_n)}/u_{\pi(k_n)}]$. Thus for example, if $I = k_1 \dots k_n$ and $\text{sort}(I) = j_1 \dots j_n$, $[x_i/u_i]_{\text{sort}(I)}$ means $[x_{j_1}/u_{j_1}, \dots, x_{j_n}/u_{j_n}]$.

Definition 3.1 (Free and bound variables) *Free and bound variables of ss-metaterms are defined by induction as follows:*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{fv}(x) &:= \{x\} \\ \text{fv}(X_\Delta) &:= \Delta \\ \text{fv}(t u) &:= \text{fv}(u) \cup \text{fv}(u) \\ \text{fv}(\lambda x.t) &:= \text{fv}(t) \setminus \{x\} \\ \text{fv}(t[x_{k_1}/u_{k_1}, \dots, x_{k_n}/u_{k_n}]) &:= \text{fv}(t) \setminus \{x_{k_1}, \dots, x_{k_n}\} \cup \text{fv}(u_{k_1}) \dots \cup \text{fv}(u_{k_n}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{bv}(x) &:= \emptyset \\ \text{bv}(X_\Delta) &:= \emptyset \\ \text{bv}(t u) &:= \text{bv}(u) \cup \text{bv}(u) \\ \text{bv}(\lambda x.t) &:= \text{bv}(t) \cup \{x\} \\ \text{bv}(t[x_{k_1}/u_{k_1}, \dots, x_{k_n}/u_{k_n}]) &:= \text{bv}(t) \cup \{x_{k_1}, \dots, x_{k_n}\} \cup \text{bv}(u_{k_1}) \dots \cup \text{bv}(u_{k_n}) \end{aligned}$$

As before, we work modulo alpha conversion so we assume all bound variables are distinct and no variable is bound and free at the same time. As a consequence, for any term of the form $t[x_{k_1}/u_{k_1}, \dots, x_{k_n}/u_{k_n}]$ we have $x_{k_i} \notin \text{fv}(u_{k_j})$ for all $1 \leq i, j \leq n$.

$(t u)[\mathbf{lst}]$	$\longrightarrow_{\mathbf{fl}_1}$	$t[\mathbf{lst}] u[\mathbf{lst}]$	
$(\lambda x.t)[\mathbf{lst}]$	$\longrightarrow_{\mathbf{fl}_2}$	$\lambda x.t[\mathbf{lst}]$	
$t[x_i/u_i]_I[y_j/v_j]_J$	$\longrightarrow_{\mathbf{fl}_3}$	$t[x_i/u_i][y_j/v_j]_J, y_j/v_j]_{I \oplus J}$	
$t[x_i/u_i]_I$	$\longrightarrow_{\mathbf{fl}_4}$	$t[x_i/u_i]_{\mathbf{sort}(I)}$	if I is not sorted

Figure 4: Reduction rules for \mathcal{F}

The following reduction system \mathcal{F} is used to transform successive depending unary substitutions into one single (flattened) simultaneous substitution.

Note that by α -conversion there is no capture of variable in the rules \mathbf{fl}_2 and \mathbf{fl}_4 .

As an example we have

$$\begin{array}{ll}
(x[x_4/x_3, x_2/z] y)[x_3/w] & \longrightarrow_{\mathbf{fl}_1} \\
(x[x_4/x_3, x_2/z][x_3/w] y[x_3/w]) & \longrightarrow_{\mathbf{fl}_3} \\
(x[x_4/x_3[x_3/w], x_2/z[x_3/w], x_3/w] y[x_3/w]) & \longrightarrow_{\mathbf{fl}_4} \\
(x[x_2/z[x_3/w], x_3/w, x_4/x_3[x_3/w]] y[x_3/w]) &
\end{array}$$

The system \mathcal{F} can be considered as a functional specification thanks to the following property.

Lemma 3.1 *The system \mathcal{F} is confluent and terminating on ss-metaterms.*

Proof. Confluence can be shown using the development closed confluence technique in [Ter03]. Termination can be shown using for example a semantic (for the sorting) Lexicographic Path Ordering [Ter03]. \blacksquare

From now on, we denote by $\mathcal{F}(t)$ the \mathcal{F} -normal form of t .

Observe that $t \longrightarrow_{\mathcal{F}} t'$ implies $\mathbf{fv}(t) = \mathbf{fv}(t')$ so that $\mathbf{fv}(\mathcal{F}(t)) = \mathbf{fv}(t)$.

The following property will be useful in the rest of this section, it can be shown by induction on ss-metaterms.

Lemma 3.2 (\mathcal{F} -normal forms) *The set $\mathbf{nf}(\mathcal{F})$ of ss-metaterms that are in \mathcal{F} -normal form can be characterised by the following inductive definition.*

- If $u_i \in \mathbf{nf}(\mathcal{F})$ for all $i \in I$ and \hat{y} is a variable or a metavariable, then $\hat{y}[x_i/u_i]_I \in \mathbf{nf}(\mathcal{F})$.
- If $u \in \mathbf{nf}(\mathcal{F})$, then $\lambda x.u \in \mathbf{nf}(\mathcal{F})$
- If $u, v \in \mathbf{nf}(\mathcal{F})$, then $(u v) \in \mathbf{nf}(\mathcal{F})$

3.2 A calculus with normal simultaneous substitutions

The λ_{nss} -metaterms are defined as the subset of the ss-metaterms that are in \mathcal{F} -normal form. The λ_{nss} -calculus is defined by the following set of reduction rules on λ_{nss} -metaterms.

$(\lambda x.t) u$	\longrightarrow_{n_1}	$\mathcal{F}(t[x/u])$	
$x_j[x_i/u_i]_I$	\longrightarrow_{n_2}	u_j	$j \in I$
$t[x_i/u_i]_I$	\longrightarrow_{n_3}	$t[x_i/u_i]_{I \setminus j}$	$j \in I \ \& \ x_j \notin \text{fv}(t)$
$t[x/u]$	\longrightarrow_{n_4}	t	$x \notin \text{fv}(t)$

Figure 5: Reduction rules for the λnss -calculus

Note that the n_4 is a particular case of n_3 , but we have to specify it separately because we choose to avoid the use of empty substitutions.

The λnss -reduction relation is defined by induction as follows.

- If $t \longrightarrow_{n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4} t'$, then $t \longrightarrow_{\lambda\text{nss}} t'$.
- If $t \longrightarrow_{\lambda\text{nss}} t'$, then $\lambda x.t \longrightarrow_{\lambda\text{nss}} \lambda x.t'$.
- If $t \longrightarrow_{\lambda\text{nss}} t'$, then $(t u) \longrightarrow_{\lambda\text{nss}} (t' u)$ and $(u t) \longrightarrow_{\lambda\text{nss}} (u t')$.
- If $u \longrightarrow_{\lambda\text{nss}} u'$ and $j \in I$, then $y[\text{cs}[x/u]_j]_I \longrightarrow_{\lambda\text{nss}} y[\text{cs}[x/u']_j]_I$ and $y_\Delta[\text{cs}[x/u]_j]_I \longrightarrow_{\lambda\text{nss}} y_\Delta[\text{cs}[x/u']_j]_I$.

As expected, the reduction system is well-defined in the sense that $t \in \text{nf}(\mathcal{F})$ and $t \longrightarrow_{\lambda\text{nss}} t'$ implies $t' \in \text{nf}(\mathcal{F})$.

Lemma 3.3 *\mathcal{F} -normal forms are stable by λnss .*

Here is an example of λnss -reduction, where we assume $y < x$.

$$\begin{array}{ll}
(\lambda x.x ((\lambda y.y) w)) z & \longrightarrow_{n_1} \\
x[x/z] ((\lambda y.y[x/z]) w[x/z]) & \longrightarrow_{n_1} \\
x[x/z] y[y/w[x/z], x/z[y/w[x/z]]] & \longrightarrow_{n_2} \\
x y[y/w[x/z], x/z[y/w[x/z]]] & \longrightarrow_{n_4} \\
x y[y/w[x/z], x/z] & \longrightarrow_{n_3} \\
x y[y/w[x/z]] & \longrightarrow_{n_2} \\
x w[x/z] & \longrightarrow_{n_4} \\
x w &
\end{array}$$

As expected, the λnss -calculus enjoys confluence

Theorem 3.4 (λnss is confluent) *The relation λnss is confluent on metaterms.*

Proof. Confluence can be shown using the development closed confluence theorem in [Ter03]. ■

3.3 Relating λ_{es} and λ_{nss}

We now establish a correspondence between λ_{es} and λ_{nss} -reduction which will be used in the interpretation proof of confluence for λ_{es} .

We first need the following lemma.

Lemma 3.5 *Let v and u_i ($i \in I$) be ss-terms.*

1. *If $j \in I$, where $|I| \geq 2$ and $x_j \notin \text{fv}(v)$, then $\mathcal{F}(v[x_i/u_i]_I) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{nss}}^+ \mathcal{F}(v[x_i/u_i]_{I \setminus j})$.*
2. *If $x \notin \text{fv}(v)$, then $\mathcal{F}(v[x/u]) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{nss}}^+ \mathcal{F}(v)$.*

Proof. We can reason by induction on v . ■

The λ_{nss} -reduction relation is stable by closure followed by flattening, that is,

Lemma 3.6 *Let v be a ss-term and t_1, t_2 be \mathcal{F} -normal forms. If $t_1 \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{nss}} t_2$, then*

1. $\mathcal{F}(t_1) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{nss}}^+ \mathcal{F}(t_2)$
2. $\mathcal{F}(t_1[x/v]) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{nss}}^+ \mathcal{F}(t_2[x/v])$
3. $\mathcal{F}(v[\text{cs}[x/t_1]_i]_I) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{nss}}^+ \mathcal{F}(v[\text{cs}[x/t_2]_i]_I)$.

Proof. We can show the first and second properties by induction on λ_{nss} and the third one by induction on v . ■

We are now ready to simulate λ_{es} -reduction into the system λ_{nss} via the flattening function \mathcal{F} :

Theorem 3.7 *If $t \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{es}} t'$, then $\mathcal{F}(t) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{nss}}^* \mathcal{F}(t')$.*

Proof. We proceed by induction. If the reduction is internal, and t is an application or an abstraction, then the proof is straightforward. If $t = t_1[x/v]$ is a closure and $t' = t_2[x/v]$, then $\mathcal{F}(t_1) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{nss}}^* \mathcal{F}(t_2)$ by i.h. and $\mathcal{F}(t) = \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{F}(t_1)[x/v]) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{nss}}^* \mathcal{F}(\mathcal{F}(t_2)[x/v])$ holds by Lemma 3.6:2. If $t = v[x/t_1]$ is a closure and $t' = v[x/t_2]$, then $\mathcal{F}(t_1) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{nss}}^* \mathcal{F}(t_2)$ by i.h. and $\mathcal{F}(t) = \mathcal{F}(v[x/\mathcal{F}(t_1)]) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{nss}}^* \mathcal{F}(v[x/\mathcal{F}(t_2)])$ holds by Lemma 3.6:3. If the reduction is external we have to inspect all the possible cases. ■

We can then conclude

Corollary 3.8 *If $t \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{es}}^* t'$, then $\mathcal{F}(t) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{nss}}^* \mathcal{F}(t')$.*

3.4 Relating λ_{nss} and λ_{es}

We have projected λ_{es} -reductions steps into λ_{nss} -reduction steps but we also need to prove that the projection in the other way around is possible too. This will be the second important ingredient of the interpretation proof of confluence that we present at the end of this section.

In order to translate λ_{nss} into λ_{es} we define the following sequentialisation function.

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{seq}(x) &:= x \\
\text{seq}(t u) &:= \text{seq}(t) \text{seq}(u) \\
\text{seq}(\lambda x.t) &:= \lambda x.\text{seq}(t) \\
\text{seq}(t[x_i/u_i]_I) &:= \text{seq}(t) && \text{if every } x_i \notin \text{fv}(\text{seq}(t)) \\
\text{seq}(t[x_i/u_i]_I) &:= \text{seq}(t)[x_i/\text{seq}(u_i)]_K
\end{aligned}$$

where K is the biggest non empty sublist of I such that for all $k \in K$ the variable x_k is free in $\text{seq}(t)$.

We remark that $\text{fv}(\text{seq}(t)) \subseteq \text{fv}(t)$.

As expected, the system seq can be used to project \mathcal{F} -reduction (Theorem 3.9) and λ_{nss} -reduction (Theorem 3.10) into λ_{es} -reduction.

Theorem 3.9 *If s and s' are ss-terms such that $s \longrightarrow_{\mathcal{F}} s'$, then $\text{seq}(s) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{\text{es}}}^* \text{seq}(s')$.*

Proof. By induction on the reduction \mathcal{F} . If the reduction is internal the property is straightforward. Otherwise we have to inspect all the possible cases. ■

Theorem 3.10 *If $s \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{\text{nss}}} s'$, then $\text{seq}(s) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{\text{es}}}^* \text{seq}(s')$*

Proof. By induction on $\longrightarrow_{\lambda_{\text{nss}}}$. The cases where the reduction is internal are straightforward so we have to inspect the cases of external reductions. ■

We can now conclude this section with one of the main results of the paper.

Corollary 3.11 *The system λ_{es} is confluent on metaterms.*

Proof. Let $t \equiv t'$, $t \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{\text{es}}}^* t_1$ and $t' \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{\text{es}}}^* t_2$. By Theorem 3.7 we have $\mathcal{F}(t) = \mathcal{F}(t')$ and $\mathcal{F}(t) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{\text{nss}}}^* \mathcal{F}(t_1)$ and $\mathcal{F}(t') \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{\text{nss}}}^* \mathcal{F}(t_2)$. Theorem 3.4 gives confluence of λ_{nss} on \mathcal{F} -normal forms so that there is an \mathcal{F} -normal form t_3 such that $\mathcal{F}(t_1) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{\text{nss}}}^* t_3$ and $\mathcal{F}(t_2) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{\text{nss}}}^* t_3$. Now, $t_1 \longrightarrow_{\mathcal{F}} \mathcal{F}(t_1)$ and $t_2 \longrightarrow_{\mathcal{F}} \mathcal{F}(t_2)$ imply $\text{seq}(t_1) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{\text{es}}}^* \text{seq}(\mathcal{F}(t_1))$ and $\text{seq}(t_2) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{\text{es}}}^* \text{seq}(\mathcal{F}(t_2))$ by Theorem 3.9. But $\text{seq}(t_1) = \text{Gc}(t_1)$ and $\text{seq}(t_2) = \text{Gc}(t_2)$ so that $t_1 \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{\text{es}}}^* \text{seq}(t_1)$ and $t_2 \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{\text{es}}}^* \text{seq}(t_2)$. Theorem 3.10 allows us to conclude $\text{seq}(\mathcal{F}(t_1)) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{\text{es}}}^* \text{seq}(t_3)$ and $\text{seq}(\mathcal{F}(t_2)) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{\text{es}}}^* \text{seq}(t_3)$ which closes the diagram. ■

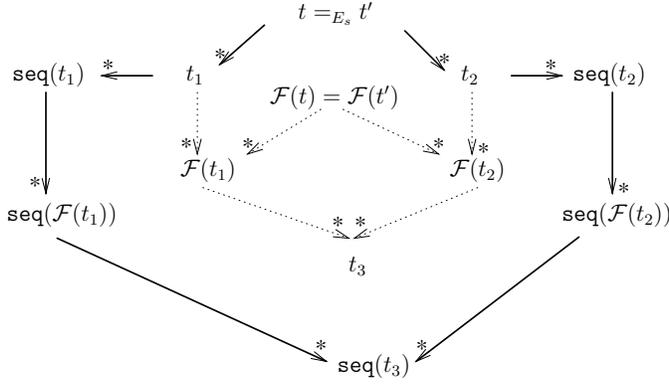


Figure 6: Confluence proof for λ_{es} on metaterms

4 Preservation of β -strong normalisation

Preservation of β -strong normalisation (PSN) in calculi with explicit substitutions received a lot of attention (see for example [ACCL91b, BBLRD96, BR95a, KR95]), starting from an unexpected result given by Melliès [Mel95] who has shown that there are β -strongly normalisable terms in λ -calculus that are not strongly normalisable when evaluated by the reduction rules of an explicit version of the λ -calculus. This is for example the case of $\lambda\sigma$ [ACCL91b] or $\lambda\sigma_{\uparrow}$ [HL89].

This phenomenon shows a flaw in the design of these calculi with explicit substitutions in that they are supposed to implement their underlying calculus without losing its good properties. However, there are many ways to avoid Melliès' counter-example in order to recover the PSN property. One of them is to simply forbid the substitution operators to cross lambda-abstractions [LM99, For02]; another consists of avoiding composition of substitutions [BBLRD96]; another one imposes a simple strategy on the calculus with explicit substitutions to mimic exactly the calculus without explicit substitutions [GL99]. The first solution leads to *weak* lambda calculi, not able to express *strong* beta-equality, which is used for example in implementations of proof-assistants [Coq, HOL]. The second solution is drastic as composition of substitutions is needed in implementations of HO unification [DHK95] or functional abstract machines [HMP96]. The last one exploits very little of the notion of explicit substitutions because they can be neither composed nor even delayed.

In order to cope with this problem David and Guillaume [DG01] defined a calculus with *labels*, called λ_{ws} , which allows *controlled* composition of explicit substitutions without losing PSN. These labels can be also seen as special annotations induced by a logical *weakening* rule. Another solution, called $\lambda_{l\text{xr}}$, has been introduced latter by Kesner and Lengrand [KL05], the idea is the complete control of resources, so

that not only for weakening, but also for *contraction*. Anyway, both calculi can be translated to Linear Logic's proof-nets [DCKP03, KL05], underlying in this way the key points where composition of substitutions must be controlled. The calculus λ_{ws} as well as λ_{lxr} introduces new syntax to handle composition. The claim of this paper is that explicit resources as weakening and contraction are not necessary to define composition correctly. Indeed, while λ_{lxr} -reduction is defined via 6 equations and 19 rewriting rules, λ_{es} only uses an equation for commutativity of substitutions and 9 natural rewriting rules.

Preservation of β -strong normalisation is quite difficult to prove in calculi with composition (see for example [Blo97, DG01, ABR00, KL05, KOvO01]). This is mainly because the so-called *decent* terms are not stable by reduction : a term t is said to be *decent* in the calculus Z if every subterm v appearing as body of some substitution (i.e. appearing in some subterm $u[x/v]$ of t) is Z -strongly normalising. As an example, the term $x[x/(y\ y)][y/\lambda w.(w\ w)]$ is decent in λ_{es} since $(y\ y)$ and $\lambda w.(w\ w)$ are λ_{es} -strongly normalising, but its Comp_2 -reduct $x[x/(y\ y)][y/\lambda w.(w\ w)]$ is not since $(y\ y)[y/\lambda w.(w\ w)]$ is not λ_{es} -strongly normalising.

In this paper we prove that λ_{es} preserves β -strong normalisation by using a proof technique based on simulation. The following steps will be developed

1. We define a new calculus λ_{esw} (section 4.1).
2. We define a translation $K(-)$ from λ_{es} -terms to λ_{rxw} such that
 - (a) $t \in \mathcal{SN}_\beta$ implies $K(t) \in \mathcal{SN}_{\lambda_{rxw}}$ (Corollary 4.15)).
 - (b) $K(t) \in \mathcal{SN}_{\lambda_{esw}}$ implies $t \in \mathcal{SN}_{\lambda_{es}}$ (Corollary 4.6).

4.1 The λ_{esw} -calculus

We introduce here the λ_{esw} -calculus, an intermediate language between λ_{es} and λ_{lxr} [KL05], which will be used as technical tool to prove PSN.

The grammar of λ_{esw} -terms is given as follows:

$$t ::= x \mid \lambda x.t \mid (t\ t) \mid t[x/t] \mid \mathcal{W}_x(t)$$

We will only consider here *strict* terms: every subterm $\lambda x.t$ and $t[x/u]$ is such that $x \in \text{fv}(t)$ and every subterm $\mathcal{W}_x(t)$ is such that $x \notin \text{fv}(t)$. We use the abbreviation $\mathcal{W}_\Gamma(t)$ for $\mathcal{W}_{x_1}(\dots \mathcal{W}_{x_n}(t))$ whenever $\Gamma = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$. In the particular case Γ is the empty set the notation $\mathcal{W}_\emptyset(t) = t$.

Besides α -conversion we consider the equations and and reduction rules in Figure 7.

The rewriting system containing all the previous rewriting rules except B is denoted by sw . We write Bsw for $\text{B} \cup \text{sw}$. The equivalence relation generated by all the equations is denoted by E_{sw} . The relation generated by the reduction rules sw (resp. Bsw) modulo the equivalence relation E_{sw} is denoted by $\longrightarrow_{\text{sw}}/\text{E}_{\text{sw}}$ or $\longrightarrow_{\text{esw}}$ (resp. $\longrightarrow_{\text{Bsw}}/\text{E}_{\text{sw}}$ or $\longrightarrow_{\lambda_{esw}}$). More precisely

$$\begin{aligned} t \longrightarrow_{\text{esw}} t' & \quad \text{iff there are } s, s' \text{ s.t. } t =_{\text{E}_{\text{sw}}} s \longrightarrow_{\text{sw}} s' =_{\text{E}_{\text{sw}}} t' \\ t \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{esw}} t' & \quad \text{iff there are } s, s' \text{ s.t. } t =_{\text{E}_{\text{sw}}} s \longrightarrow_{\text{Bsw}} s' =_{\text{E}_{\text{sw}}} t' \end{aligned}$$

Equations :			
$t[x/u][y/v]$	$=_C$	$t[y/v][x/u]$	if $y \notin \text{fv}(u)$ & $x \notin \text{fv}(v)$
$\mathcal{W}_x(\mathcal{W}_y(t))$	$=_{WC}$	$\mathcal{W}_y(\mathcal{W}_x(t))$	
$\mathcal{W}_y(t)[x/u]$	$=_{Weak1}$	$\mathcal{W}_y(t[x/u])$	if $x \neq y$ & $x \notin \text{fv}(u)$
$\mathcal{W}_y(\lambda x.t)$	$=_{WAbs}$	$\lambda x.\mathcal{W}_y(t)$	if $x \neq y$
Reduction Rules :			
$(\lambda x.t) u$	\longrightarrow_B	$t[x/u]$	
$x[x/u]$	\longrightarrow_{Var}	u	
$\mathcal{W}_x(t)[x/u]$	\longrightarrow_{Gc}	$\mathcal{W}_{\text{fv}(u) \setminus \text{fv}(t)}(t)$	
$(t u)[x/v]$	\longrightarrow_{App_1}	$(t[x/v] u[x/v])$	if $x \in \text{fv}(t)$ & $x \in \text{fv}(u)$
$(t u)[x/v]$	\longrightarrow_{App_2}	$(t u[x/v])$	if $x \notin \text{fv}(t)$ & $x \in \text{fv}(u)$
$(t u)[x/v]$	\longrightarrow_{App_3}	$(t[x/v] u)$	if $x \in \text{fv}(t)$ & $x \notin \text{fv}(u)$
$(\lambda y.t)[x/v]$	\longrightarrow_{Lamb}	$\lambda y.t[x/v]$	if $y \notin \text{fv}(v)$ & $x \neq y$
$t[x/u][y/v]$	\longrightarrow_{Comp_1}	$t[y/v][x/u[y/v]]$	if $y \in \text{fv}(u)$ & $y \in \text{fv}(t)$
$t[x/u][y/v]$	\longrightarrow_{Comp_2}	$t[x/u[y/v]]$	if $y \in \text{fv}(u)$ & $y \notin \text{fv}(t)$
$(\mathcal{W}_y(t) u)$	\longrightarrow_{WPush}	$(t u)$	if $y \in \text{fv}(u)$
$(\mathcal{W}_y(t) u)$	\longrightarrow_{WPush}	$(\mathcal{W}_y(t u))$	if $y \notin \text{fv}(u)$
$(t \mathcal{W}_y(u))$	\longrightarrow_{WPush}	$(t u)$	if $y \in \text{fv}(t)$
$(t \mathcal{W}_y(u))$	\longrightarrow_{WPush}	$(\mathcal{W}_y(t u))$	if $y \notin \text{fv}(t)$
$\mathcal{W}_y(t)[x/u]$	\longrightarrow_{WPush}	$t[x/u]$	if $y \in \text{fv}(u)$
$t[x/\mathcal{W}_y(u)]$	\longrightarrow_{WPush}	$\mathcal{W}_y(t[x/u])$	if $y \notin \text{fv}(t)$
$t[x/\mathcal{W}_y(u)]$	\longrightarrow_{WPush}	$t[x/u]$	if $y \in \text{fv}(t)$

Figure 7: Equations and Reduction rules for λesw

The following lemma can be proved by induction on terms.

The following property can be shown by induction on terms.

Lemma 4.1 *The λesw -reduction relation preserves strict terms.*

From now on, we only work with strict terms.

We proceed now to show that esw is a terminating system. We will do this in two steps: first we show that $\longrightarrow_{\text{esw}}$ minus $\longrightarrow_{\text{wPush}}$ is terminating (Lemma 4.2), then we show that $\longrightarrow_{\text{wPush}} / =_{\text{Esw}}$ is terminating (Lemma 4.3). All this allows us to conclude (Corollary 4.4) that the whole system $\longrightarrow_{\text{esw}}$ is terminating.

We will need the following measure for terms.

Definition 4.1 *For each λesw -term s we define a size and a multiplicity by structural induction.*

$$\begin{array}{llll}
\mathsf{S}(x) & := & 1 & \mathsf{M}_x(z) & := & 1 \\
\mathsf{S}(\mathcal{W}_x(t)) & := & \mathsf{S}(t) & \mathsf{M}_x(\mathcal{W}_y(t)) & := & \mathsf{M}_x(t) \\
& & & \mathsf{M}_x(\mathcal{W}_x(t)) & := & 1 \\
\mathsf{S}(\lambda x.t) & := & \mathsf{S}(t) & \mathsf{M}_x(\lambda y.t) & := & \mathsf{M}_x(t) + 1 \\
\mathsf{S}(t u) & := & \mathsf{S}(t) + \mathsf{S}(u) & \mathsf{M}_x(t u) & := & \mathsf{M}_x(t) + \mathsf{M}_x(u) + 1 \\
\mathsf{S}(t[x/u]) & := & \mathsf{S}(t) + \mathsf{M}_x(t) \cdot \mathsf{S}(u) & \mathsf{M}_x(t[y/u]) & := & \mathsf{M}_x(t) & \text{If } x \notin \text{fv}(u) \\
& & & \mathsf{M}_x(t[y/u]) & := & \mathsf{M}_x(t) + \mathsf{M}_y(t) \cdot (\mathsf{M}_x(u) + 1) & \text{If } x \in \text{fv}(u)
\end{array}$$

Remark that $\mathsf{M}_x(s) \geq 1$ and $\mathsf{S}(s) \geq 1$ for every term s and every variable x .

This measure enjoys the following property:

Lemma 4.2 *Let s, s' be λrxw -terms.*

1. *If $s =_{\text{Esw}} s'$, then $\mathsf{S}(s) = \mathsf{S}(s')$.*
2. *If $s \longrightarrow_{\text{wPush}} s'$, then $\mathsf{S}(s) = \mathsf{S}(s')$.*
3. *If $s \longrightarrow_{\text{sw} \setminus \text{wPush}} s'$, then $\mathsf{S}(s) > \mathsf{S}(s')$.*

Proof. The proof is by induction on $\longrightarrow_{\text{esw}}$. ■

Lemma 4.3 $\longrightarrow_{\text{wPush}} / =_{\text{Esw}}$ *is a terminating system.*

Proof. For each term s we define a measure $\mathsf{P}(s)$ by induction as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ll}
\mathsf{P}(x) & := & 1 \\
\mathsf{P}(t u) & := & 2 \cdot \mathsf{P}(t) + 2 \cdot \mathsf{P}(u) \\
\mathsf{P}(\lambda x.t) & := & \mathsf{P}(t) + 1 \\
\mathsf{P}(\mathcal{W}_x(t)) & = & \mathsf{P}(t) + 1 \\
\mathsf{P}(t[x/u]) & := & \mathsf{P}(t) + 2 \cdot \mathsf{P}(u)
\end{array}$$

Remark that $\mathsf{P}(s) \geq 1$ for every s .

Now, given s we consider $\langle \text{nbw}(s), \mathsf{P}(s) \rangle$, where $\text{nbw}(s)$ is the number of weakenings in s . We show that $s \longrightarrow_{\text{wPush}/\text{Esw}} s'$ implies $\langle \text{nbw}(s), \mathsf{P}(s) \rangle >_{\text{lex}} \langle \text{nbw}(s'), \mathsf{P}(s') \rangle$.

The proof proceeds by induction on $\longrightarrow_{\text{WPush}} / \text{E}_{\text{sw}}$.

We can then conclude that $\{\text{WPush}\} / \text{E}_{\text{sw}}$ -reduction is terminating on all λesw -terms by application of the abstract theorem A.1 : \mathcal{E} is $=_{\text{E}_{\text{sw}}}$, \mathcal{R}_1 is the empty relation, \mathcal{R}_2 is $\longrightarrow_{\text{WPush}}$, \mathcal{K} is the relation given by the measure $\langle \text{nbw}(_), \text{P}(_) \rangle$ and \mathcal{S} is $>_{\text{lex}}$ which is the standard (well-founded) lexicographic order on $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$. ■

In order to conclude with that the whole system esw is terminating on all λesw -terms we apply again Theorem A.1: \mathcal{E} is E_{sw} , \mathcal{R}_1 is the relation $\longrightarrow_{\text{WPush}}$ (so that $\longrightarrow_{\text{WPush}} / \text{E}_{\text{sw}}$ is well-founded by Lemma 4.3), \mathcal{K} is the relation given by the function $\text{S}(_)$, \mathcal{R}_2 is the relation $\longrightarrow_{\text{sw} \setminus \{\text{WPush}\}}$ which strictly decreases the measure $\text{S}(_)$ by Lemma 4.2 and \mathcal{S} is the standard well-founded order $>$ on \mathbb{N} .

Corollary 4.4 *The reduction relation esw is terminating.*

4.2 Relating λes and λesw

The aim of this section is to relate λes and λesw -reduction in order to infer that λesw -normalisation implies λes -normalisation.

We start by giving a translation from λes -terms to λesw -terms which introduces as many weakening constructors as is necessary to build strict λesw -terms.

Definition 4.2 (From λes -terms to (strict) λesw -terms) *The translation from λes -terms to strict λesw -terms is defined by induction as follows:*

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{K}(x) &= x \\
\mathcal{K}(u v) &= \mathcal{K}(u) \mathcal{K}(v) \\
\mathcal{K}(\lambda x.t) &= \lambda x.\mathcal{K}(t) && \text{If } x \in \text{fv}(t) \\
\mathcal{K}(\lambda x.t) &= \lambda x.\mathcal{W}_x(\mathcal{K}(t)) && \text{If } x \notin \text{fv}(t) \\
\mathcal{K}(u[x/v]) &= \mathcal{K}(u)[x/\mathcal{K}(v)] && \text{If } x \in \text{fv}(t) \\
\mathcal{K}(u[x/v]) &= \mathcal{W}_x(\mathcal{K}(u))[x/\mathcal{K}(v)] && \text{If } x \notin \text{fv}(t)
\end{aligned}$$

Remark that $\text{fv}(\mathcal{K}(t)) = \text{fv}(t)$.

The relevant point to relate now λes and λesw -reduction consists in pulling out weakening constructors:

Lemma 4.5 *If $s \longrightarrow_{\lambda\text{es}} s'$, then $\mathcal{K}(s) \longrightarrow_{\lambda\text{esw}}^+ \mathcal{W}_{\text{fv}(s) \setminus \text{fv}(s')}(\mathcal{K}(s'))$.*

Proof. By induction on $\longrightarrow_{\lambda\text{es}}$. ■

It is worth noticing that we really need in this proof Weak1 and WAbs as equations and not as rewriting rules.

We can then now conclude this part with the main result of this section.

Corollary 4.6 *If $\mathcal{K}(t) \in \mathcal{SN}_{\lambda\text{esw}}$, then $t \in \mathcal{SN}_{\lambda\text{es}}$.*

4.3 The Λ_I -calculus

Definition 4.3 *The set Λ_I of terms of the λI -calculus [Klo80] is defined by the following grammar:*

$$M ::= x \mid (M M) \mid \lambda x.M \mid [M, M]$$

We only consider *strict* terms: every subterm $\lambda x.M$ satisfies $x \in \text{fv}(M)$.

We use $[N, \langle M \rangle]$ or $[N, M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n]$ to denote the term $[\dots, [N, M_1], M_2, \dots, M_n]$ assuming that this expression is equal to N when $n = 0$. The term M and the notation $\langle M \rangle$ inside $[N, \langle M \rangle]$ must not be confused.

As in the λ -calculus, the following property is straightforward by induction on terms.

Lemma 4.7 (Substitutions [Klo80]) *For all Λ_I -terms M, N, L , we have $M\{x/N\} \in \Lambda_I$ and $M\{x/N\}\{y/L\} = M\{y/L\}\{x/N\}\{y/L\}$ provided there is no variable capture.*

In what follows we consider two reduction rules on Λ_I -terms:

$$\begin{array}{l} (\lambda x.M) N \longrightarrow_{\beta} M\{x/N\} \\ [M, N] L \longrightarrow_{\pi} [M L, N] \end{array}$$

Figure 8: Reduction rules for Λ_I

The reduction relation $\beta\pi$ on Λ_I -terms preserves free variables.

Lemma 4.8 (Preservation of free variables) *Let $t \in \Lambda_I$. Then $t \longrightarrow_{\beta\pi} t'$ implies $\text{fv}(t') = \text{fv}(t)$.*

Proof. By induction on t using the fact that any abstraction in t is of the form $\lambda x.u$ with $x \in \text{fv}(u)$. ■

As a consequence $\beta\pi$ -reduction preserves strict Λ_I -terms.

4.4 Relating λesw and Λ_I

We now introduce a translation from λesw to Λ_I by means of the relation $_ \mathcal{I} _$. The reason to use a relation (and not a function) is that we want to translate the λesw -term into Λ_I -syntax by adding some *garbage* information which is not uniquely determined. Thus, each λesw -term can be projected in different Λ_I -terms, this will be essential in the simulation property (Theorem 4.10).

Definition 4.4 *The relation \mathcal{I} between strict λesw -terms and strict Λ_I -terms which is inductively given by the following rules:*

$$\frac{}{x \mathcal{I} x} \quad \frac{t \mathcal{I} T}{\lambda x.t \mathcal{I} \lambda x.T} \quad \frac{t \mathcal{I} T \quad u \mathcal{I} U}{t u \mathcal{I} T U} \quad \frac{t \mathcal{I} T \quad u \mathcal{I} U}{t[x/u] \mathcal{I} T\{x/U\}}$$

$$\frac{t \mathcal{I} T}{t \mathcal{I} [T, M]} \quad M \text{ is a } \Lambda_I\text{-term} \quad \frac{t \mathcal{I} T}{\mathcal{W}_x(t) \mathcal{I} T} \quad x \in \text{fv}(T)$$

The relation \mathcal{I} enjoys the following properties.

Lemma 4.9 *Let t be a λesw -term and M be a Λ_I -term. If $t \mathcal{I} M$, then*

1. $\text{fv}(t) \subseteq \text{fv}(M)$
2. $M \in \Lambda_I$
3. $x \notin \text{fv}(t)$ and $N \in \Lambda_I$ implies $t \mathcal{I} M\{x/N\}$

Proof. Property (1) is a straightforward induction on the proof tree as well as Property (2) which also uses Lemma 4.7. Property (3) is also proved by induction on the tree, using Lemma 4.7. \blacksquare

Remark that property 1 in Lemma 4.9 holds since we work with *strict* terms : indeed, the rule for substitution does not imply $\text{fv}(t[x/u]) \subseteq \text{fv}(T\{x/U\})$ when $x \notin \text{fv}(t) \cup \text{fv}(T)$. This is also an argument to exclude from our calculus rewriting rules not preserving strict terms like

$$\begin{array}{l} (\text{App}) \quad (t u)[x/v] \longrightarrow (t[x/v] u[x/v]) \\ (\text{Comp}) \quad t[x/u][y/v] \longrightarrow t[y/v][x/u[y/v]] \quad \text{if } y \in \text{fv}(u) \end{array}$$

Reduction in λesw related to reduction in Λ_I by means of the following simulation property.

Theorem 4.10 (Simulation in Λ_I) *Let t be a λesw -term and T be a Λ_I -term.*

1. *If $s \mathcal{I} S$ and $s =_{\text{Esw}} s'$, then $s' \mathcal{I} S$.*
2. *If $s \mathcal{I} S$ and $s \longrightarrow_{\text{sw}} s'$, then $s' \mathcal{I} S$.*
3. *If $s \mathcal{I} S$ and $s \longrightarrow_{\text{B}} s'$, then there is $S' \in \Lambda_I$ such that $s' \mathcal{I} S'$ and $S \longrightarrow_{\beta\pi}^+ S'$.*

Proof. By induction on the reduction/equivalence step. \blacksquare

We can thus immediately conclude

Corollary 4.11 *If $t \mathcal{I} T$ and $T \in \mathcal{SN}_{\beta\pi}$, then $t \in \mathcal{SN}_{\lambda\text{esw}}$.*

Proof. We apply the abstract theorem A.1: \mathcal{E} is $=_{\text{Esw}}$, \mathcal{R}_1 is sw , \mathcal{R}_2 is $\longrightarrow_{\text{B}}$, \mathcal{K} is the relation \mathcal{I} and \mathcal{S} is $\longrightarrow_{\beta\pi}$ which is well-founded on T by hypothesis. \blacksquare

4.5 Solving the puzzle

In this section we put all the parts of the puzzle together in order to obtain preservation of β -strong normalisation.

Since we want to relate λ and λ_{es} -reduction, we first need to encode λ -terms into one of the calculi of this section. We proceed as follows.

Definition 4.5 ([Len05]) *Encoding of λ -terms into Λ_I is defined by induction follows:*

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{I}(x) &:= x \\ \mathbb{I}(\lambda x.t) &:= \lambda x.\mathbb{I}(t) && x \in \text{fv}(t) \\ \mathbb{I}(\lambda x.t) &:= \lambda x.[\mathbb{I}(t), x] && x \notin \text{fv}(t) \\ \mathbb{I}(t u) &:= \mathbb{I}(t) \mathbb{I}(u) \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 4.12 (Lengrand[Len05]) *For any λ -term t , if $t \in \mathcal{SN}_\beta$, then $\mathbb{I}(t) \in \text{WN}_{\beta\pi}$.*

Theorem 4.13 (Nederpelt[Ned73]) *For any λ -term t , if $\mathbb{I}(t) \in \text{WN}_{\beta\pi}$ then $\mathbb{I}(t) \in \mathcal{SN}_{\beta\pi}$.*

Theorem 4.14 *For any λ -term u , $\mathbb{K}(u) \mathcal{I} \mathbb{I}(u)$.*

Proof. By induction on u :

- $x \mathcal{I} x$ trivially holds.
- If $u = \lambda x.t$, then $\mathbb{K}(t) \mathcal{I} i(t)$ holds by the i.h. Therefore, we obtain $\lambda x.\mathbb{K}(t) \mathcal{I} \lambda x.i(t)$ in the case $x \in \text{fv}(t)$ and $\lambda x.\mathcal{W}_x(\mathbb{K}(t)) \mathcal{I} \lambda x.[i(t), x]$ in the case $x \notin \text{fv}(t)$.
- If $u = (t v)$, then $\mathbb{K}(t) \mathcal{I} i(t)$ and $\mathbb{K}(v) \mathcal{I} i(v)$ hold by the i.h. and thus we can conclude $\mathbb{K}(t) \mathbb{K}(v) \mathcal{I} i(t) i(v)$.

▪

Corollary 4.15 (λ_{esw} preserves β -strong normalisation) *For any λ -term t , if $t \in \mathcal{SN}_\beta$, then $\mathbb{K}(t) \in \mathcal{SN}_{\lambda_{\text{esw}}}$.*

Proof. If $t \in \mathcal{SN}_\beta$, then $\mathbb{I}(t) \in \mathcal{SN}_{\beta\pi}$ by Theorems 4.12 and 4.13. As $\mathbb{K}(t) \mathcal{I} \mathbb{I}(t)$ by Theorem 4.14, then we conclude $\mathbb{K}(t) \in \mathcal{SN}_{\lambda_{\text{esw}}}$ by Corollary 4.11. ▪

Corollary 4.16 (λ_{es} preserves β -strong normalisation) *For any λ -term t , if $t \in \mathcal{SN}_\beta$, then $t \in \mathcal{SN}_{\lambda_{\text{es}}}$.*

Proof. If $t \in \mathcal{SN}_\beta$, then $\mathbb{K}(t) \in \mathcal{SN}_{\lambda_{\text{esw}}}$ by Corollary 4.15 and $t \in \mathcal{SN}_{\lambda_{\text{es}}}$ by Corollary 4.6. ▪

5 Recovering the untyped λ -calculus

We establish here the basic connections between λ and λ_{es} -reduction. As expected from a calculus with explicit substitutions, β -reduction can be implemented by λ_{es} (Theorem 5.2) and λ_{es} -reduction can be projected into β (Corollary 5.4).

5.1 From λ -calculus to λes -calculus

We start by a simple lemma stating that explicit substitution can be used to implement meta-level substitution on pure-terms.

Definition 5.1 *The encoding of λ -terms into λes -terms is given by the identity function.*

Lemma 5.1 *Let t and u be λ -terms. Then $t[x/u] \longrightarrow_{\lambda\text{es}}^+ t\{x/u\}$*

Proof. By induction on the λ -term t . ■

The *correctness* result obtained in the previous lemma enables us to prove a more general property concerning simulation of β -reduction in λes .

Theorem 5.2 (Simulating β -reduction) *Let t be a λ -term such that $t \longrightarrow_{\beta} t'$. Then $t \longrightarrow_{\lambda\text{es}}^+ t'$.*

Proof. By induction on β -reduction. ■

5.2 From λes -calculus to λ -calculus

We now show how to encode a λes -term into a λ -term in order to project λes -reduction into β -reduction.

Definition 5.2 *Let t be a λes -term. We define the function $L(t)$ by induction on the structure of t as follows:*

$$\begin{aligned} L(x) &:= x \\ L(\lambda x.t) &:= \lambda x.L(t) \\ L(t\ u) &:= (L(t)\ L(u)) \\ L(t[x/u]) &:= L(t)\{x/L(u)\} \end{aligned}$$

The translation L enjoys $\text{fv}(L(t)) \subseteq \text{fv}(t)$.

Lemma 5.3 (Simulating λes -reduction)

1. If $t =_{\text{E}_s} u$, then $L(t) = L(u)$.
2. If $t \longrightarrow_s u$, then $L(t) = L(u)$.
3. If $t \longrightarrow_B u$, then $L(t) \longrightarrow_{\beta}^* L(u)$.

Proof. By induction on λes -reduction.

1. This is obvious by the well-known [Bar84] substitution lemma of λ -calculus stating that for any λ -terms t, u, v , $t\{x/u\}\{y/v\} = t\{y/v\}\{x/\{u\{y/v\}\}\}$.

2. All the es -reduction steps are trivially projected into an equality.
3. A B -reduction step at the root of t corresponds exactly to a β -reduction step at the root of $\text{L}(t)$ using the Definition of the translation.

■

We can finish this part with the following conclusion.

Corollary 5.4 *If $t \longrightarrow_{\lambda\text{es}} u$, then $\text{L}(t) \longrightarrow_{\beta}^* \text{L}(u)$.*

6 The typed λes -calculus

In this section we present the *simply-typed* λes -calculus for which we show Subject Reduction in Section 6.2 and Strong Normalisation in Sections 8 and 4.5.

In contrast to standard systems for typed λ -calculus [] and typed λx -calculus [], for which typing judgements $\Gamma \vdash t : A$ are built in such a way that the free variables of t belong to Γ , we define here more precise typing rules which ensures that every environment Γ in a typing judgement $\Gamma \vdash t : A$ contains *exactly* the set of free variables of the term t it types. This property turns out to be essential to obtain the simple translation of λes -terms into proof-nets that we given in Section 8.

Simply types are built over a countable set of atomic symbols $\mathcal{A}t$ by means of the following grammar:

$$A ::= \sigma \mid A \rightarrow A$$

where $\sigma \in \mathcal{A}t$.

An *environment* is a finite set of pairs of the form $x : A$. Two environments Γ and Δ are said to be *compatible* iff for all $x : A \in \Gamma$ and $y : B \in \Delta$, $x = y$ implies $A = B$. We denote the *union of compatible contexts* by $\Gamma \uplus \Delta$. Thus for example $(x : A, y : B) \uplus (x : A, z : C) = (x : A, y : B, z : C)$.

Set properties on environments are:

Remark 6.1

1. If $\Gamma \subseteq \Gamma'$ and $\Delta \subseteq \Delta'$, then $\Gamma \uplus \Delta \subseteq \Gamma' \uplus \Delta'$.
2. If Γ , Δ and Π are all compatible, then $\Gamma \uplus (\Delta \uplus \Pi) = (\Gamma \uplus \Delta) \uplus \Pi$.

6.1 Typing Rules

Typing judgements have the form $\Gamma \vdash t : A$ where t is a term, A is a type and Γ is an environment. *Derivations* of typing judgements can be obtained by application of the Typing Rules given in Figure 9.

In contrast to standard typing rules for λ -calculus [Bar92] and λx -calculus [LLD⁺04], our axiom rule types a variable in a *singleton* environment. Variables which do not appear free in terms may be introduced by means of the abs_2 or subs_2 rule. As a consequence, the typing system enjoys the following property:

$\frac{}{x : A \vdash x : A}$	(axiom)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : A \rightarrow B \quad \Delta \vdash u : A}{\Gamma \uplus \Delta \vdash (t u) : B}$	(app)
$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash t : B}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x. t : A \rightarrow B}$	(abs ₁)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : B \text{ and } x \notin \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x. t : A \rightarrow B}$	(abs ₂)
$\frac{\Gamma \vdash u : B \quad \Delta, x : B \vdash t : A}{\Gamma \uplus \Delta \vdash t[x/u] : A}$	(subs ₁)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash u : B \quad \Delta \vdash t : A \text{ and } x \notin \Gamma}{\Gamma \uplus \Delta \vdash t[x/u] : A}$	(subs ₂)

Figure 9: Typing Rules for λ_{es} -calculus

Lemma 6.2 *If $\Gamma \vdash_{\lambda_{\text{es}}} t : A$, then $\Gamma = \text{fv}(t)$.*

Proof. by induction on typed derivations. ▪

6.2 Subject Reduction

As expected, the calculus enjoys the subject reduction property. More precisely, the calculus enjoys a *local* subject reduction property, that is, no meta-theorem is needed to show preservation of types.

Lemma 6.3 (Subject Reduction I) *If $\Gamma \vdash_{\lambda_{\text{es}}} s : A$ and $s =_{E_s} s'$, then $\Gamma \vdash_{\lambda_{\text{es}}} s' : A$.*

Proof. By induction on $=_{E_s}$. ▪

Lemma 6.4 (Subject Reduction II) *If $\Pi \vdash_{\lambda_{\text{es}}} s : A$ and $s \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{\text{es}}} s'$, then $\Pi' \vdash_{\lambda_{\text{es}}} s' : A$ for some $\Pi' \subseteq \Pi$.*

Proof. By induction on $\longrightarrow_{\lambda_{\text{es}}}$. ▪

7 Recovering the typed λ -calculus

We established in Sections 5.1 and 5.2 the connexion between the the two notions of reduction in λ and λ_{es} which gives an *untyped* understanding of one calculus into the other one. We define here natural translations from typed λ -calculus to typed λ_{es} -calculus and vice-versa, thus completing the connection between λ and λ_{es} in a type setting.

We first recall in Figure 10 the typing rules for λ -calculus.

A straightforward induction on typing derivations allows us to show the soundness of the projection of λ into λ_{es} :

$\frac{}{\Gamma, x : A \vdash_\lambda x : A}$	$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash_\lambda t : B}{\Gamma \vdash_\lambda \lambda x.t : A \rightarrow B}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash_\lambda t : A \rightarrow B \quad \Gamma \vdash_\lambda v : A}{\Gamma \vdash_\lambda (t v) : B}$
---	--	---

Figure 10: Typing Rules for λ -calculus

Lemma 7.1 *If t is a λ -term s.t. $\Gamma \vdash_\lambda t : A$, then $\Gamma \cap \text{fv}(t) \vdash_{\lambda\text{es}} t : A$.*

Proof. By induction on the typing derivation $\Gamma \vdash_\lambda t : A$. ■

The type derivations are also preserved in the other sense around. To show that, we first state the following known properties of typed lambda calculus (they can be shown by a straightforward induction on typing derivations).

Lemma 7.2

1. *If $\Gamma \vdash_\lambda t : A$, then $\Gamma, x : B \vdash_\lambda t : A$.*
2. *If $\Gamma, x : B \vdash_\lambda t : A$ and $\Gamma \vdash_\lambda u : B$, then $\Gamma \vdash_\lambda t\{x/u\} : A$.*

We can now conclude with the following.

Lemma 7.3 (L preserves types) *If t is a λes -term such that $\Gamma \vdash_{\lambda\text{es}} t : A$, then $\Gamma \vdash_\lambda L(t) : A$.*

Proof. By induction on the typing derivation $\Gamma \vdash_{\lambda\text{es}} t : A$. ■

8 Strong normalisation of typed λes -terms

In this section we present a translation of the typed λes -calculus into proof nets. To do so, we will translate simply types into MELL formulae, typed λes -terms into typed proof-nets, then we will show that λes -reduction can be simulated by a corresponding reduction relation on proof-nets which is known to be normalising.

This same technique has been already applied to other calculi with explicit substitutions and resources [DCK97, DCKP03, KL05].

8.1 Linear Logic's proof-nets

We recall here some classical notions from Linear Logic's proof-nets. We refer the interested reader to [Gir87] or [Laf95] for more details.

Let $\mathcal{A}t$ be a set of *atom symbols*. The set of formulae of the multiplicative exponential fragment of linear logic (called MELL) is defined by the grammar:

$$A ::= \sigma \mid \bar{\sigma} \mid A \otimes A \mid A \wp A \mid ?A \mid !A$$

where the atomic symbol σ in the formulae σ and $\bar{\sigma}$ belongs to the set $\mathcal{A}t$.

The *linear negation* of a formula A , denoted A^\perp is defined by the following De Morgan equations:

$$\begin{aligned} (\sigma)^\perp &:= \bar{\sigma} & (A \otimes B)^\perp &:= A^\perp \wp B^\perp & (?A)^\perp &:= !(A^\perp) \\ (\bar{\sigma})^\perp &:= \sigma & (A \wp B)^\perp &:= A^\perp \otimes B^\perp & (!A)^\perp &:= ?(A^\perp) \end{aligned}$$

If Γ is the sequence A_1, \dots, A_m , we denote by $?\Gamma$ the sequence $?A_1, \dots, ?A_m$ and by Γ^\perp the sequence $A_1^\perp, \dots, A_m^\perp$.

The set of proof-nets, that we denote by PN , is defined inductively in Figure 11 where we use rectangles having rounded corners to denote already defined nets used in the inductive constructions.

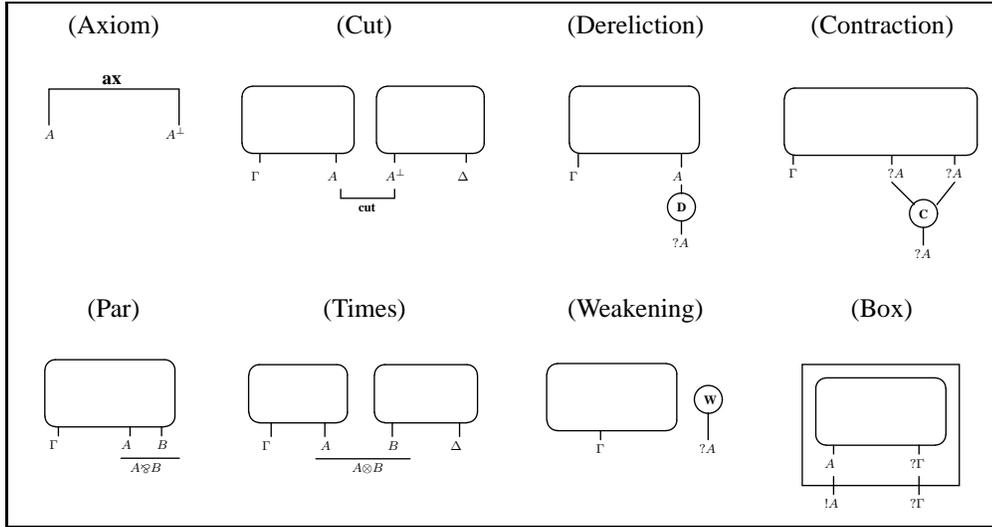


Figure 11: MELL Proof-nets

The traditional reduction system for MELL consists in the set of *cut elimination rules* appearing in Figure 12.

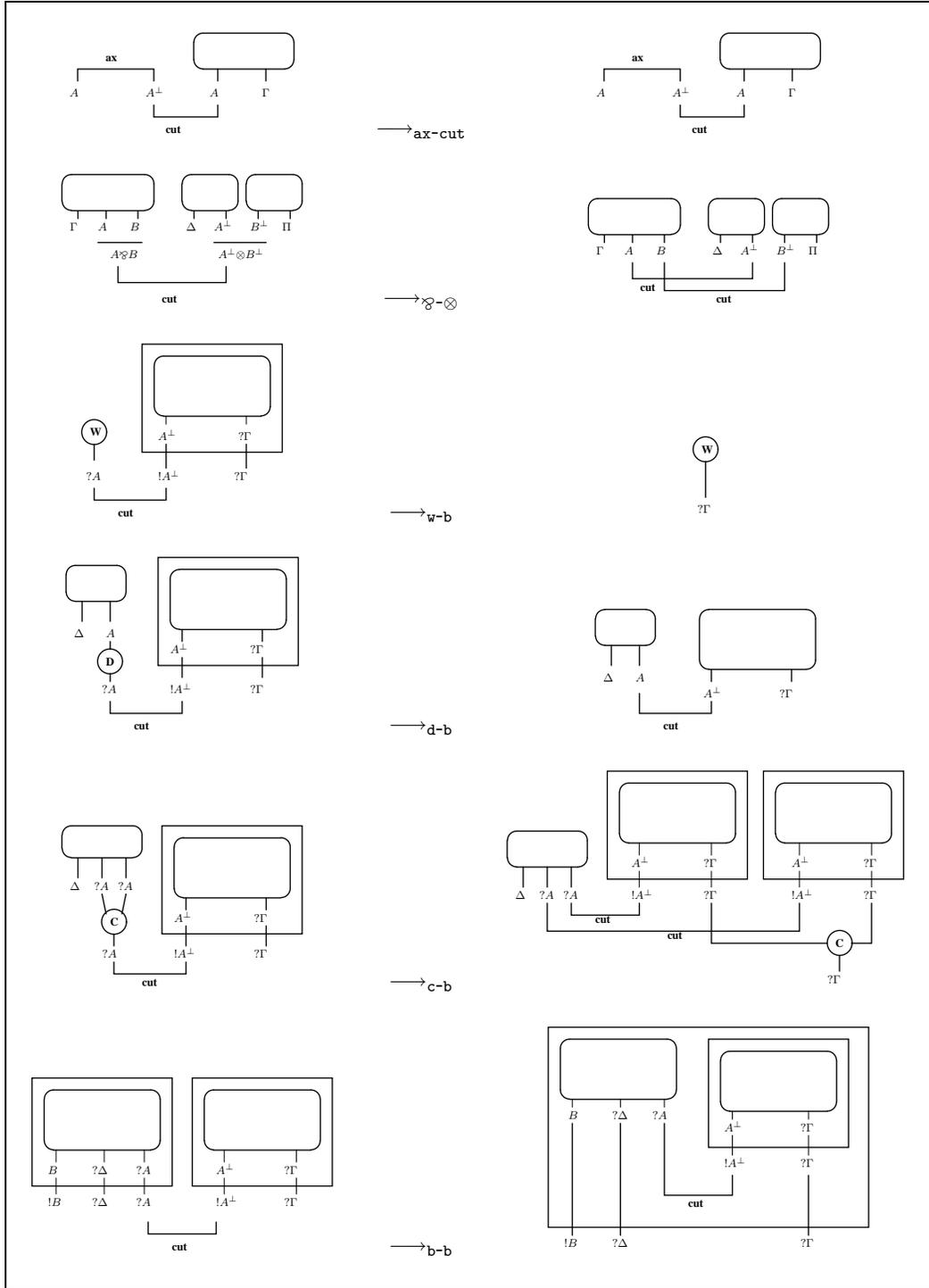


Figure 12: Cut elimination rules for MELL Proof-nets

We also consider an equivalence relation on PN , as in [DCG99], where two equations \sim_A and \sim_B are introduced (see Figure 13).

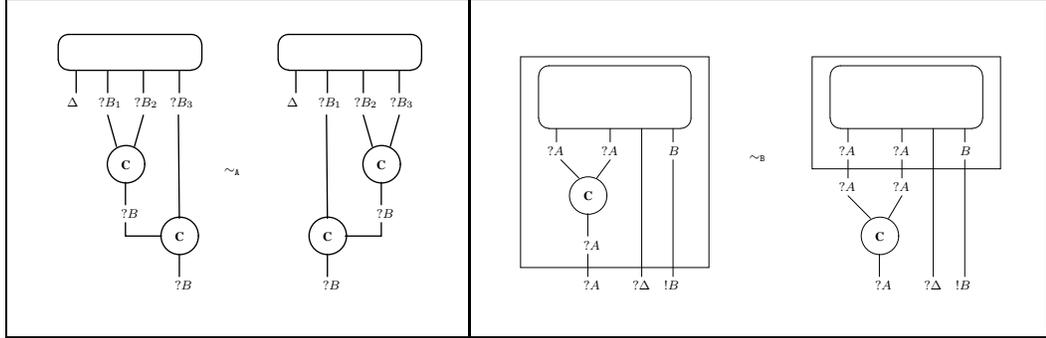


Figure 13: Equations for MELL proof-nets

Finally, we shall also use the two extra reduction rules in Figure 14 : U is used to simplify weakening linked to contraction nodes and V allows weakening links to go outside boxes in order to bring them together at the top of the proof-nets.

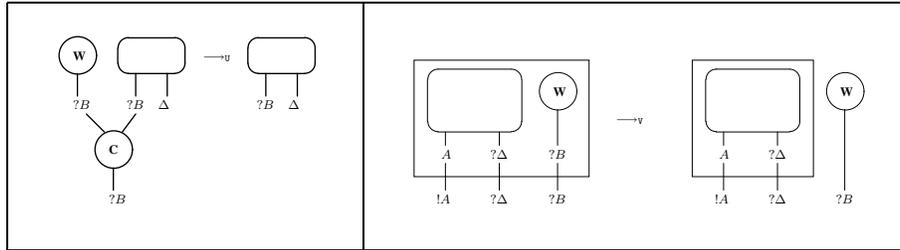


Figure 14: Extra reduction rules for MELL proof-nets

We call R the system made of rules ax-cut, \wp - \otimes , w-b, d-b, c-b, b-b and U and V. We shall write \sim_E for the congruence (reflexive, symmetric, transitive, closed by proof-net contexts) relation on proof-nets generated by equations A, B. We shall write R/E for the reduction relation generated by the rules in R and the equations in \sim_E , given by $r \longrightarrow_{R/E} s$ if and only if there exist r' and s' such that $r \sim_E r' \longrightarrow_R s' \sim_E s$.

The following result is well-known [Pol04] (see also [KL05] for details).

Theorem 8.1 *The reduction relation R/E on typed proof-nets is strongly normalising.*

8.2 From λ es-terms to Proof-nets

We now present the natural translation from λ es-terms to proof-nets. For that, let's start by the usual translation of intuitionistic types [Gir87] into MELL formulae given by :

$$\begin{aligned} A^* &:= A && \text{if } A \text{ is atomic} \\ (A \rightarrow B)^* &:= ?((A^*)^\perp) \wp B^* \end{aligned}$$

Now we can give our translation $T(\cdot)$ from typed λ es-terms to proof-nets, which is defined by induction on the derivation of typing judgements as shown in Figure 15. Every proof-net $T(\Gamma \vdash t : A)$ has one wire labelled with $?(D^*)^\perp$ for every $D \in \Gamma$ and one unique wire labelled with A^* . We shall often write $T(t)$ instead of $T(\Gamma \vdash t : A)$ when Γ and A are clear from the context.

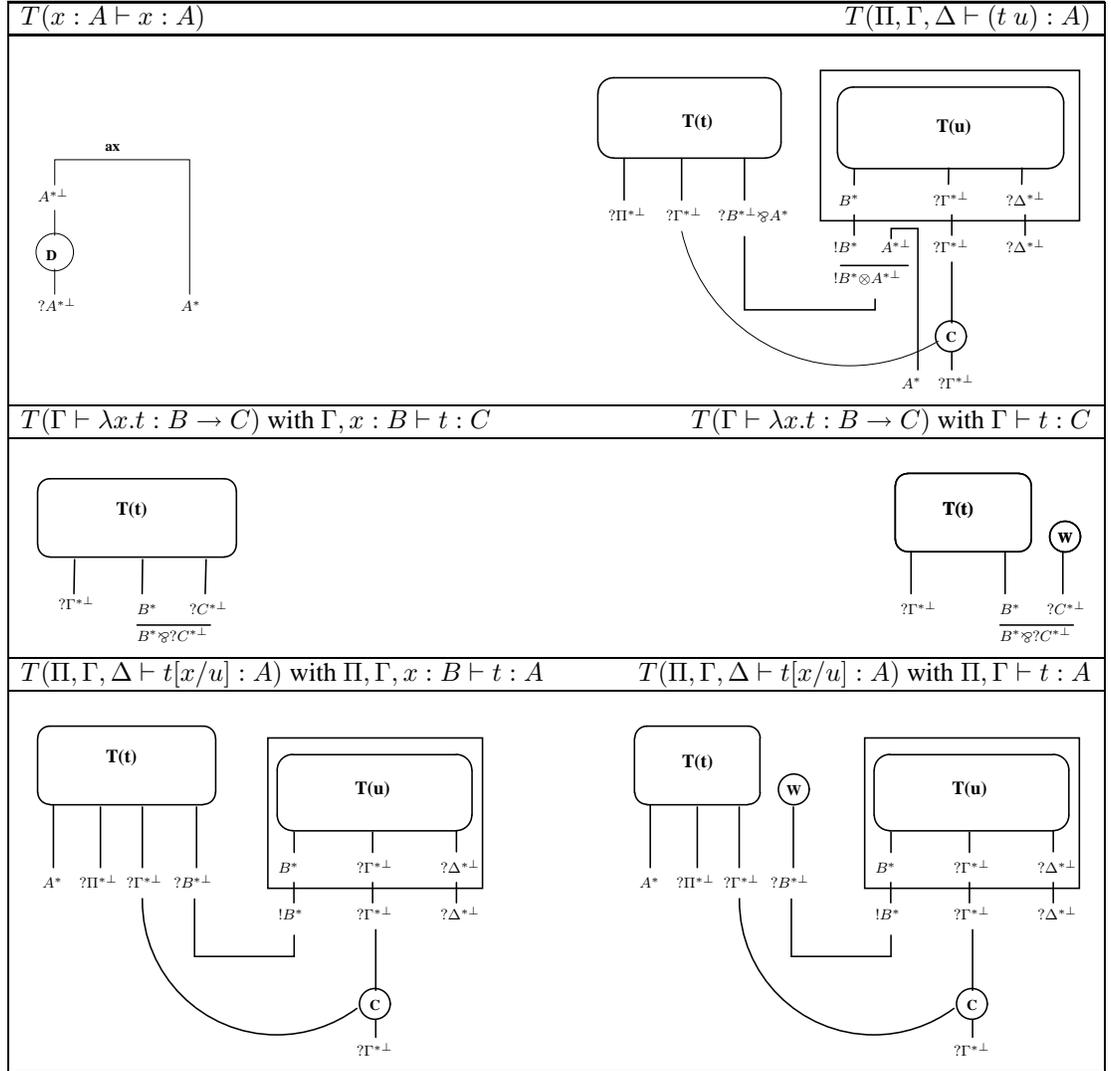


Figure 15: Encoding typed λ es-terms into MELL proof-nets

Now we can state the main theorem of this section. The proof also justifies the use of the additional equations A and B as well as the additional reduction rules V and U. In the following statement, we write $C[p]$ the proof-net obtained from p by adding a finite number of weakening wires on the top level of p (outside all the boxes).

Theorem 8.2 *Let s be a λ es-typed term.*

1. *If $s =_{E_s} s'$, then $T(s) \sim_e T(s')$.*

2. If $s \longrightarrow_{\text{App}_3, \text{Lamb}} s'$, then $T(s) \sim_e T(s')$.
3. If $s \longrightarrow_{\text{Bs} \setminus \{\text{App}_3, \text{Lamb}\}} s'$, then $T(s) \longrightarrow_{R/E}^+ C[T(s')]$.

Proof. The proof proceeds by induction on $\longrightarrow_{\lambda_{\text{es}}}$. We first show that cases where $s \longrightarrow_{\lambda_{\text{es}}} s'$ is an external reduction step, for which we consider all the root reduction/equivalence cases. ■

Remark that the only case where we get a non empty context in Lemma 8.2 is when simulating the rule Gc. This is because Gc is the only rule which looses free variables, all the other ones preserve the same set of free variables.

Corollary 8.3 (SN for λ_{es} -typed terms) *If $\Gamma \vdash_{\lambda_{\text{es}}} t : A$, then $t \in \text{SN}_{\lambda_{\text{es}}}$.*

Proof. We can apply the abstract theorem A.1 : \mathcal{E} is E_{es} , \mathcal{R}_1 is the relation $\longrightarrow_{\text{App}_3, \text{Lamb}}$ (for which we can trivially show that $\longrightarrow_{\text{App}_3, \text{Lamb}} / =_{\mathcal{E}}$ is well-founded), \mathcal{R}_2 is the relation $\longrightarrow_{\text{es} \setminus \{\text{App}_3, \text{Lamb}\}}$, \mathcal{K} is the relation given by the translation $T(_)$, \mathcal{S} is the reduction relation R/E on proof-nets which is well-founded on typed proof-nets by Theorem 8.1 and properties (ES),(WS),(SS) hold by Lemma 8.2. ■

8.3 Discussion

In this section we want to discuss some other alternative typing/reduction rules appearing in the litterature for calculi with ES.

As mentioned in Section 2 one is tempted to replace rules $\{\text{App}_1, \text{App}_2, \text{App}_3\}$ by the single rule

$$(\text{App}) \quad (t u)[x/v] \longrightarrow (t[x/v] u[x/v])$$

where no condition is used to distribute the explicit substituton $[x/u]$ w.r.t the application $(t u)$.

In the typing system presented in Section 6.1 this rule would be sound, i.e. subject reduction holds. However, (App) could not be translated anymore to proof-nets. Indeed, suppose x is free in u but not in t . Then the proof-net s obtained by translating the λ_{es} -term $(t u)[x/v]$ contains a cut between the wire representing x which is coming out from the box containing $T(u)$ and the single !-wire coming out from the box containing $T(v)$. It is evident that s does not reduce to the proof-net $s' = T(t[x/v] u[x/v])$ since the box containing $T(v)$ in s cannot be duplicated at all to obtain s' .

However, this problem could be solved by using a more standard *additive* typing system for explicit substitutions [Blo97] where the axioms are *weakened*, there is a single rule for abstraction and rules for application and substitution are *additive* :

$$\frac{}{\Gamma, x : A \vdash x : A} \quad (\text{axiom}) \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash t : A \rightarrow B \quad \Gamma \vdash u : A}{\Gamma \vdash (t u) : B} \quad (\text{app})$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash t : B}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x.t : A \rightarrow B} \quad (\text{abs}) \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash u : B \quad \Gamma, x : B \vdash t : A}{\Gamma \vdash t[x/u] : A} \quad (\text{subs})$$

Now, the Lamb-rewrite rule in Figure 3 cannot be translated anymore to R/E -reduction in proof-nets as subject reduction becomes non local: in order to construct a typing derivation of $\lambda y.t[x/u]$ from that of $(\lambda y.t)[x/u]$ one needs a weakening meta-theorem saying that $\Gamma \vdash u : B$ implies $\Gamma, y : A \vdash u : B$. It is evident that this kind of manipulation on proof-nets is not possible during R/E -reduction.

A third possible typing system coming up which makes possible the translation of the App and Lamb-rewrite rules into proof-nets is the one appearing in [DCK97] : the subs-typing rule is replaced by

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash u : B \quad \Gamma, x : B, \Delta \vdash t : A}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash t[x/u] : A}$$

Unfortunately, it is straightforward to verify that rewriting rules Comp_1 and Comp_2 (not considered in [DCK97]) do not enjoy anymore subject reduction.

Summing up, while the standard additive typing system for ES gives a technical solution to prove the subject reduction property for λes and its more compact variants mentioned in Section 2, it does not provide a correct tool to translated λes into proof-nets.

9 PSN implies SN

We give here a second proof of strong-normalisation for λes -typed terms. The proof-technique we use here to derive strong normalisation from PSN was suggested by Hugo Herbelin some years ago.

Theorem 9.1 (Strong Normalisation) *Every typable λes -term M is in $SN_{\lambda\text{es}}$.*

Proof. Let us define the following translation $\mathbb{C}()$ from λes -terms to λ -terms:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{C}(x) &:= x \\ \mathbb{C}(MN) &:= \mathbb{C}(M) \mathbb{C}(N) \\ \mathbb{C}(\lambda x.M) &:= \lambda x.\mathbb{C}(M) \\ \mathbb{C}(M[x/N]) &:= (\lambda x.\mathbb{C}(M)) \mathbb{C}(N) \end{aligned}$$

Thus for example, $\mathbb{C}((x[x/y] z)[w/(w_1 w_2)]) = (\lambda w.((\lambda x.x) y) z)(w_1 w_2)$.

We remark that for every λes -term one has $\mathbb{C}(M) \longrightarrow_{\lambda\text{es}}^* M$. We also remark that when M is typable in λes , then also $\mathbb{C}(M)$ is typable in λes (just change the use of subs_1 and subs_2 by abs_1 and abs_2 followed by app). By Lemma 7.3 the term $L(\mathbb{C}(M)) = \mathbb{C}(M)$ is also typable in simply typed λ -calculus and thus it is in SN_β by Strong Normalisation of typed λ -calculus [Bar92]. As a consequence we have that $\mathbb{C}(M)$ is in $SN_{\lambda\text{es}}$ by Theorem 4.16 and thus M is necessarily in $SN_{\lambda\text{es}}$ too. ■

We remark that this proof technique, which is very simple in the case of the λes -calculus, needs some additional work to be applied to other calculi [Pol04, Arb06].

10 Conclusion

In this paper we survey some properties concerning explicit substitutions calculi and we describe work done in the domain during these last 15 years.

As we pointed out in [DCK97], "the interpretation of explicit substitution via Linear Logic's proof-nets suggests that there really exists a typed calculus of explicit substitution with full composition, being able to simulate any one-step β -reduction and yet strongly normalizing (thus avoiding Mellies' counterexample): indeed, the composition of substitution is already present in the proof-nets reduction system, as the box-box reduction, yet strong normalization is not lost."

We propose here simple syntax and simple equations and rules to modelise a formalism enjoying all these good properties, specially confluence on metaterms, preservation of β -strong normalisation, strong normalisation of typed terms and implementation of full composition.

We believe however that some of our proofs can be simplified. In particular, PSN and confluence on metaterms might be proved directly without using translations of λ_{es} to other formalisms. We leave this for futur work.

Another interesting issue is the extension of Pure Type Systems (PTS) with explicit substitution systems in order to improve the understanding of proof systems based on them. Some work already done in this direction uses sequent calculi [LDM06], some other [KL04, Muñ97] use an intermediate formalism between natural deduction and sequent calculi, which is obtained by adding a system with ES to λ -calculus. The main contribution of λ_{es} w.r.t these formalisms previously mentioned would be our sound notion of composition which is necessary to obtain a system preserving types [KL04].

It is also legitimate to ask whether λ_{es} is minimal w.r.t. the number of rewriting rules as one is tempted to gather the rules $\{\text{App}_1, \text{App}_2, \text{App}_3\}$ (resp. $\{\text{Comp}_1, \text{Comp}_2\}$) into one single rule for application (resp composition). The resulting calculus would be given by

Equations :			
$t[x/u][y/v]$	$=_c$	$t[y/v][x/u]$	if $y \notin \text{fv}(u) \ \& \ x \notin \text{fv}(v)$
Reduction Rules :			
$(\lambda x.t) u$	\longrightarrow_B	$t[x/u]$	
$x[x/u]$	$\longrightarrow_{\text{Var}}$	u	
$t[x/u]$	$\longrightarrow_{\text{Gc}}$	t	if $x \notin \text{fv}(t)$
$(t u)[x/v]$	$\longrightarrow_{\text{App}}$	$(t[x/v] u[x/v])$	
$(\lambda y.t)[x/v]$	$\longrightarrow_{\text{Lamb}}$	$\lambda y.t[x/v]$	if $y \notin \text{fv}(v) \ \& \ x \neq y$
$t[x/u][y/v]$	$\longrightarrow_{\text{Comp}}$	$t[y/v][x/u][y/v]$	if $y \in \text{fv}(u)$

Note that λ_{es} -reduction can be translated to the correspondent notion of reduction in this calculus : thus for example App_1 can be obtained by App followed by Gc . Besides that, strong normalisation of this calculus, which we conjecture to hold, cannot be obtained via a standard translation to Girard's proof-nets (c.f. discussion in Section 8.3).

Another interesting question is whether we can extract from λ_{es} a pure rewriting system (without equations) verifying the same properties than λ_{es} . We believe that

simultaneous substitutions will be needed for that, even if translation to proof-nets will be much more intricate. Also, a total order $>$ on variables would be necessary in order to obtain canonical representatives for simultaneous substitutions. The first ideas of such a solution could be found in the ss -calculus defined in Section 3.1. A more elementary representation of a calculus with simultaneous substitutions and controlled composition could be given by

Terms

$$t ::= x \mid (t t) \mid \lambda x.t \mid t[s] \mid t(s)$$

Substitutions

$$s ::= id \mid x/u.s \mid s \circ s$$

Reduction Rules

$$\begin{array}{lll}
(\lambda x.t) u & \longrightarrow & t[x/u] \\
(t u)[s] & \longrightarrow & (t[s] u[s]) \\
(\lambda x.t)[s] & \longrightarrow & \lambda x.t[s] \\
x[(x/u).s] & \longrightarrow & u \\
t[(x/u).s] & \longrightarrow & t[s] & \text{If } x \notin \text{fv}(t) \\
t[s][p] & \longrightarrow & t[s \circ p] \\
(s \circ p) \circ q & \longrightarrow & s \circ (p \circ q) \\
id \circ s & \longrightarrow & s \\
x[id] & \longrightarrow & x \\
(x/u.s) \circ p & \longrightarrow & x/u(t).(s \circ p) \\
u(id) & \longrightarrow & id \\
u(y/v.s) & \longrightarrow & u[y/v](s) & \text{If } y \in \text{fv}(u) \\
u(y/v.s) & \longrightarrow & u(s) & \text{If } y \notin \text{fv}(u) \\
y/v.x/u.s & \longrightarrow & x/u.y/v.s & \text{If } x < y
\end{array}$$

Then, one can verify for example that the critical pair

$$t[y/v.id][x/u[y/v.id].id] \xleftarrow{*} ((\lambda x.t) u)[y/v.id] \xrightarrow{*} t[x/u.id][y/v.id]$$

can be closed by $t[x/u[y/v.id].y/v.id]$ when $y \in \text{fv}(u)$, or by $t[x/u.y/v.id]$ when $y \notin \text{fv}(u)$, if $x < y$ holds in the total order on variables which is necessary to obtain a canonical order between simultaneous substitutions.

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A Appendix: An abstract theorem

Theorem A.1 *Let $\mathcal{R}_1, \mathcal{R}_2$ (resp. \mathcal{E}) be two relations (resp. equivalence relation) over \mathcal{O} such that $\mathcal{R}_1/\mathcal{E}$ is well-founded. Let consider a relation \mathcal{K} on $\mathcal{O} \times \mathcal{P}$ such that*

(ES) $t \mathcal{E} t'$ and $t \ll T$ implies $t' \ll T$

(WS) $t \mathcal{R}_1 t'$ and $t \ll T$ implies there is T' such that $t' \ll T'$ and $T \mathcal{S}^* T'$

(SS) $t \mathcal{R}_2 t'$ and $t \ll T$ implies there is T' such that $t' \ll T'$ and $T \mathcal{S}^+ T'$

Then, if $t \ll T$ and \mathcal{S} is a well-founded relation on T , then $(\mathcal{R}_1 \cup \mathcal{R}_2)/\mathcal{E}$ is well-founded on t .

Proof. Suppose $(\mathcal{R}_1 \cup \mathcal{R}_2)/\mathcal{E}$ is not well-founded on t . Since $\mathcal{R}_1/\mathcal{E}$ is well-founded by hypothesis, then there is an infinite sequence on \mathcal{O} of the form

$$t \xrightarrow{\mathcal{R}_1/\mathcal{E}}^* t_1 \cdots \xrightarrow{\mathcal{R}_1/\mathcal{E}}^* t_i \xrightarrow{\mathcal{R}_1/\mathcal{E}}^* t_{i+1} \cdots$$

By hypothesis there are $T_1, \dots, T_i, \dots \in \mathcal{P}$ such that $t \ll T, t_1 \ll T_1, \dots, t_i \ll T_i, \dots$ and the following infinite \mathcal{S} -reduction sequence exists

$$T \mathcal{S}^+ T_1 \mathcal{S}^+ \dots \mathcal{S}^+ T_i \mathcal{S}^+ \dots$$

This leads to a contradiction with the fact that \mathcal{S} is well-founded on T . ■

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