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# Why the usual candidates of reducibility do not work for the symmetric $\lambda\mu$ -calculus

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## Abstract

The symmetric  $\lambda\mu$ -calculus is the  $\lambda\mu$ -calculus introduced by Parigot in which the reduction rule  $\mu'$ , which is the symmetric of  $\mu$ , is added. We give examples explaining why the technique using the usual candidates of reducibility does not work. We also prove a standardization theorem for this calculus.

*Key words:*  $\lambda\mu$ -calculus, reducibility.

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## 1 Introduction

Since it has been understood that the Curry-Howard isomorphism relating proofs and programs can be extended to classical logic, various systems have been introduced: the  $\lambda_c$ -calculus (Krivine [11]), the  $\lambda_{\text{exn}}$ -calculus (de Groote [6]), the  $\lambda\mu$ -calculus (Parigot [17]), the  $\lambda^{\text{Sym}}$ -calculus (Barbanera & Berardi [1]), the  $\lambda_{\Delta}$ -calculus (Rehof & Sorensen [23]), the  $\bar{\lambda}\mu\tilde{\mu}$ -calculus (Curien & Herbelin [3]), ...

The first calculus which respects the intrinsic symmetry of classical logic is  $\lambda^{\text{Sym}}$ . It is somehow different from the previous calculi since the main connector is not the arrow as usual but the connectors *or* and *and*. The symmetry of the calculus comes from the de Morgan laws.

The second calculus respecting this symmetry has been  $\bar{\lambda}\mu\tilde{\mu}$ . The logical part is the (classical) sequent calculus instead of natural deduction.

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Natural deduction is not, intrinsically, symmetric but Parigot has introduced the so called *Free deduction* [16] which is completely symmetric. The  $\lambda\mu$ -calculus comes from there. To get a confluent calculus he had, in his terminology, to fix the inputs on the left. To keep the symmetry, it is enough to keep the same terms and to add a new reduction rule (called the  $\mu'$ -reduction) which is the symmetric rule of the  $\mu$ -reduction and also corresponds to the elimination of a cut. We get then a symmetric calculus that is called the *symmetric  $\lambda\mu$ -calculus*.

The  $\mu'$ -reduction has been considered by Parigot for the following reasons. The  $\lambda\mu$ -calculus (with the  $\beta$ -reduction and the  $\mu$ -reduction) has good properties : confluence in the un-typed version, subject reduction and strong normalization in the typed calculus. But this system has, from a computer science point of view, a drawback: the unicity of the representation of data is lost. It is known that, in the  $\lambda$ -calculus, any term of type  $N$  (the usual type for the integers) is  $\beta$ -equivalent to a Church integer. This no more true in the  $\lambda\mu$ -calculus and we can find normal terms of type  $N$  that are not Church integers. Parigot has remarked that by adding the  $\mu'$ -reduction and some simplification rules the unicity of the representation of data is recovered and subject reduction is preserved, at least for the simply typed system, even though the confluence is lost.

Barbanera & Berardi proved the strong normalization of the  $\lambda^{Sym}$ -calculus by using candidates of reducibility but, unlike the usual construction (for example for Girard's system  $F$ ), the definition of the interpretation of a type needs a rather complex fix-point operation. Yamagata [24] has used the same technique to prove the strong normalization of the  $\beta\mu\mu'$ -reduction where the types are those of system  $F$  and Parigot, again using the same ideas, has extended Barbanera & Berardi's result to a logic with second order quantification.

The following property trivially holds in the  $\lambda\mu$ -calculus:

If  $(\lambda x M N P_1 \dots P_n) \triangleright^* (\lambda x M' N' P'_1 \dots P'_n) \triangleright (M'[x := N'] P'_1 \dots P'_n)$ , then we may start the reduction by reducing the  $\beta$  redex, i.e  $(\lambda x M N P_1 \dots P_n) \triangleright (M[x := N] P_1 \dots P_n) \triangleright^* (M'[x := N'] P'_1 \dots P'_n)$ . This point is the key in the proof of two results for this calculus:

- (1) If  $N$  and  $(M[x := N] P_1 \dots P_n)$  are in  $SN$ , then so is  $(\lambda x M N P_1 \dots P_n)$ . Similarly, if  $N$  and  $(M[\alpha =_r N] P_1 \dots P_n)$  are in  $SN$ , then so is  $(\mu \alpha M N P_1 \dots P_n)$ . They are at the base of the proof of the strong normalization of the typed calculus.
- (2) The standardization theorem.

Even though this result remains (trivially) true in the symmetric  $\lambda\mu$ -calculus and the standardization theorem still holds in this calculus, point (1) above is no more true. This simply comes from the fact that an infinite reduction of  $(\lambda x M N)$  does not necessarily reduce the  $\beta$  redex (and similarly for  $(\mu \alpha M N)$ ) since it can also reduce the  $\mu'$  redex.

The other key point in the proof of the strong normalization of typed calculus is the following property which remains true in the symmetric  $\lambda\mu$ -calculus.

(3) If  $M_1, \dots, M_n$  are in  $SN$ , then so is  $(x M_1 \dots M_n)$ .

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 defines the symmetric  $\lambda\mu$ -calculus and its reduction rules. We give the proof of (3) in section 3. Section 4 gives the counter-examples for (1). Finally we prove the standardization theorem in section 5.

## 2 The symmetric $\lambda\mu$ -calculus

The set (denoted as  $\mathcal{T}$ ) of  $\lambda\mu$ -terms or simply terms is defined by the following grammar where  $x, y, \dots$  are  $\lambda$ -variables and  $\alpha, \beta, \dots$  are  $\mu$ -variables:

$$\mathcal{T} ::= x \mid \lambda x \mathcal{T} \mid (\mathcal{T} \mathcal{T}) \mid \mu \alpha \mathcal{T} \mid (\alpha \mathcal{T})$$

Note that we adopt here a more liberal syntax (also called de Groote's calculus) than in the original calculus since we do not ask that a  $\mu\alpha$  is immediately followed by a  $(\beta M)$  (denoted  $[\beta]M$  in Parigot's notation).

Even though this paper is only concerned with the un-typed calculus, the  $\lambda\mu$ -calculus comes from a Logic and, in particular, the  $\mu$ -constructor comes from a logical rule. To help the reader un-familiar with it, we give below the typing and the reduction rules.

The types are those of the simply typed  $\lambda\mu$ -calculus i.e. are built from atomic formulas and the constant symbol  $\perp$  with the connector  $\rightarrow$ . As usual  $\neg A$  is an abbreviation for  $A \rightarrow \perp$ .

The typing rules are given by figure 1 below where  $\Gamma$  is a context, i.e. a set of declarations of the form  $x : A$  and  $\alpha : \neg A$  where  $x$  is a  $\lambda$  (or intuitionistic) variable,  $\alpha$  is a  $\mu$  (or classical) variable and  $A$  is a formula.

$$\begin{array}{c} \overline{\Gamma, x : A \vdash x : A} \text{ } ax \\ \frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash M : B}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x M : A \rightarrow B} \rightarrow_i \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : A \rightarrow B \quad \Gamma \vdash N : A}{\Gamma \vdash (M N) : B} \rightarrow_e \\ \frac{\Gamma, \alpha : \neg A \vdash M : \perp}{\Gamma \vdash \mu \alpha M : A} \perp_e \quad \frac{\Gamma, \alpha : \neg A \vdash M : A}{\Gamma, \alpha : \neg A \vdash (\alpha M) : \perp} \perp_i \end{array}$$

Figure 1.

Note that, here, we also have changed Parigot's notation but these typing rules are those of his classical natural deduction. Instead of writing

$$M : (A_1^{x_1}, \dots, A_n^{x_n} \vdash B, C_1^{\alpha_1}, \dots, C_m^{\alpha_m})$$

we have written

$$x_1 : A_1, \dots, x_n : A_n, \alpha_1 : \neg C_1, \dots, \alpha_m : \neg C_m \vdash M : B$$

The cut-elimination procedure corresponds to the reduction rules given below. There are three kinds of cuts.

- A *logical cut* occurs when the introduction of the connective  $\rightarrow$  is immediately followed by its elimination. The corresponding reduction rule (denoted by  $\beta$ ) is:

$$(\lambda x M N) \triangleright M[x := N]$$

- A *classical cut* occurs when  $\perp_e$  appears as the left premiss of a  $\rightarrow_e$ . The corresponding reduction rule (denoted by  $\mu$ ) is:

$$(\mu \alpha M N) \triangleright \mu \alpha M[\alpha =_r N]$$

where  $M[\alpha =_r N]$  is obtained by replacing each sub-term of  $M$  of the form  $(\alpha U)$  by  $(\alpha (U N))$ .

- A *symmetric classical cut* occurs when  $\perp_e$  appears as the right premiss of a  $\rightarrow_e$ . The corresponding reduction rule (denoted by  $\mu'$ ) is:

$$(M \mu \alpha N) \triangleright \mu \alpha N[\alpha =_l M]$$

where  $N[\alpha =_l M]$  is obtained by replacing each sub-term of  $N$  of the form  $(\alpha U)$  by  $(\alpha (M U))$ .

### Remark

It is shown in [17] that the  $\beta\mu$ -reduction is confluent but neither  $\mu\mu'$  nor  $\beta\mu'$  is. For example  $(\mu \alpha x \mu \beta y)$  reduces both to  $\mu \alpha x$  and to  $\mu \beta y$ . Similarly  $(\lambda z x \mu \beta y)$  reduces both to  $x$  and to  $\mu \beta y$ .

The following property is straightforward.

**Theorem 2.1** *If  $\Gamma \vdash M : A$  and  $M \triangleright M'$  then  $\Gamma \vdash M' : A$ .*

### 3 If $M_1, \dots, M_n$ are in $SN$ , then so is $(x M_1 \dots M_n)$

The proofs are only sketched. More details can be found in [10] where an arithmetical proof of the strong normalization of the  $\beta\mu\mu'$ -reduction for the simply typed calculus is given.

**Definition 3.1** •  $cxy(M)$  is the number of symbols occurring in  $M$ .

- We denote by  $N \leq M$  (resp.  $N < M$ ) the fact that  $N$  is a sub-term (resp. a strict sub-term) of  $M$ .
- The reflexive and transitive closure of  $\triangleright$  is denoted by  $\triangleright^*$ .
- If  $M$  is in  $SN$  i.e.  $M$  has no infinite reduction,  $\eta(M)$  will denote the length of the longest reduction starting from  $M$ .

- We denote by  $N \prec M$  the fact that  $N \leq M'$  for some  $M'$  such that  $M \triangleright^* M'$  and either  $M \triangleright^+ M'$  or  $N < M'$ . We denote by  $\preceq$  the reflexive closure of  $\prec$ .

**Lemma 3.2** (i) *If  $(M N) \triangleright^* \lambda x P$ , then  $M \triangleright^* \lambda y M_1$  and  $M_1[y := N] \triangleright^* \lambda x P$ .*

- (ii) *If  $(M N) \triangleright^* \mu \alpha P$ , then either  $(M \triangleright^* \lambda y M_1$  and  $M_1[y := N] \triangleright^* \mu \alpha P$ ) or  $(M \triangleright^* \mu \alpha M_1$  and  $M_1[\alpha =_r N] \triangleright^* P$ ) or  $(N \triangleright^* \mu \alpha N_1$  and  $N_1[\alpha =_l M] \triangleright^* P$ ).*

**Proof** Easy. □

**Lemma 3.3** *Assume  $M, N \in SN$  and  $(M N) \notin SN$ . Then, either  $(M \triangleright^* \lambda y P$  and  $P[y := N] \notin SN$ ) or  $(M \triangleright^* \mu \alpha P$  and  $P[\alpha =_r N] \notin SN$ ) or  $(N \triangleright^* \mu \alpha P$  and  $P[\alpha =_l M] \notin SN$ ).*

**Proof** By induction on  $\eta(M) + \eta(N)$ . □

**Lemma 3.4** *The term  $(x M_1 \dots M_n)$  never reduces to a term of the form  $\lambda y M$ .*

**Proof** By induction on  $n$ . Use lemma 3.2. □

**Definition 3.5** • Let  $M_1, \dots, M_n$  be terms and  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . We will denote by  $M[\alpha =_i (M_1 \dots M_n)]$  the term  $M$  in which every sub-term of the form  $(\alpha U)$  is replaced by  $(\alpha (x M_1 \dots M_{i-1} U M_{i+1} \dots M_n))$ .

- We will denote by  $\Sigma_x$  the set of simultaneous substitutions of the form  $[\alpha_1 =_{i_1} (M_1^1 \dots M_n^1), \dots, \alpha_k =_{i_k} (M_1^k \dots M_n^k)]$ .

**Lemma 3.6** *Assume  $(x M_1 \dots M_n) \triangleright^* \mu \alpha M$ . Then, there is an  $i$  such that  $M_i \triangleright^* \mu \alpha P$  and  $P[\alpha =_i (M_1 \dots M_n)] \triangleright^* M$ .*

**Proof** By induction on  $n$ . Use lemmas 3.2 and 3.4. □

**Lemma 3.7** *Assume  $M_1, \dots, M_n \in SN$  and  $(x M_1 \dots M_n) \notin SN$ . Then, there is an  $1 \leq i \leq n$  such that  $M_i \triangleright^* \mu \alpha U$  and  $U[\alpha =_i (M_1 \dots M_n)] \notin SN$ .*

**Proof** Let  $k$  be the least such that  $(x M_1 \dots M_{k-1}) \in SN$  and  $(x M_1 \dots M_k) \notin SN$ . Use lemmas 3.3, 3.4 and 3.6. □

**Lemma 3.8** *Let  $M$  be a term and  $\sigma \in \Sigma_x$ . If  $M[\sigma] \triangleright^* \mu \alpha P$  (resp.  $M[\sigma] \triangleright^* \lambda x P$ ), then  $M \triangleright^* \mu \alpha Q$  (resp.  $M \triangleright^* \lambda x Q$ ) for some  $Q$  such that  $Q[\sigma] \triangleright^* P$ .*

**Proof** By induction on  $M$ . □

The next lemma is the key of the proof of theorem 3.10. Though intuitively clear (if the cause of non  $SN$  is the substitution  $\delta =_i (P_1 \dots P_n)$ , this must come from some  $(\delta M') \prec M$ ) its proof is rather technical.

**Lemma 3.9** *Let  $M$  be a term and  $\sigma \in \Sigma_x$ . Assume  $\delta$  is free in  $M$  but not free in  $Im(\sigma)$ . If  $M[\sigma] \in SN$  but  $M[\sigma][\delta =_i (P_1 \dots P_n)] \notin SN$ , there is  $M' \prec M$  and  $\sigma'$  such that  $M'[\sigma'] \in SN$  and  $(x P_1 \dots P_{i-1} M'[\sigma'] P_{i+1} \dots P_n) \notin SN$ .*

**Proof** See [10] for more detail. □

**Theorem 3.10** *Assume  $M_1, \dots, M_n$  are in  $SN$ . Then  $(x M_1 \dots M_n) \in SN$ .*

**Proof** We prove a more general result. Let  $M_1, \dots, M_n$  be terms and  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n$  be in  $\Sigma_x$ . If  $M_1[\sigma_1], \dots, M_n[\sigma_n] \in SN$ , then  $(x M_1[\sigma_1] \dots M_n[\sigma_n]) \in SN$ . This is done by induction on  $(\Sigma\eta(M_i), \Sigma cxtty(M_i))$ . Assume  $(x M_1[\sigma_1] \dots M_n[\sigma_n]) \notin SN$ . By lemma 3.7, there is an  $i$  such that  $M_i[\sigma_i] \triangleright^* \mu\alpha U$  and  $U[\alpha =_i (M_1[\sigma_1] \dots M_n[\sigma_n])] \notin SN$ . By lemma 3.8,  $M_i \triangleright^* \mu\alpha Q$  for some  $Q$  such that  $Q[\sigma_i] \triangleright^* U$ . Thus  $Q[\sigma_i][\alpha =_i (M_1[\sigma_1] \dots M_n[\sigma_n])] \notin SN$ . By lemma 3.9, let  $M' \prec Q \preceq M_i$  and  $\sigma'$  be such that  $M'[\sigma'] \in SN$  and  $(x M_1[\sigma_1] \dots M_{i-1}[\sigma_{i-1}] M'[\sigma'] M_{i+1}[\sigma_{i+1}] \dots M_n[\sigma_n]) \notin SN$ . This contradicts the induction hypothesis since  $(\eta(M'), cxtty(M')) < (\eta(M_i), cxtty(M_i))$ .  $\square$

## 4 The counter-examples

**Definition 4.1** Let  $U$  and  $V$  be terms.

- $U \hookrightarrow V$  means that each reduction of  $U$  which is long enough must go through  $V$ , i.e. there is some  $n_0$  such that, for all  $n > n_0$ , if  $U = U_0 \triangleright U_1 \triangleright \dots \triangleright U_n$  then  $U_p = V$  for some  $p$ .
- $U \curvearrowright V$  means that  $U$  has only one redex and  $U \triangleright V$ .

**Remark**

It is easy to check that if  $U \hookrightarrow V$  (resp.  $U \curvearrowright V$ ) and  $V \in SN$ , then  $U \in SN$ .

**Definition 4.2** • Let  $M_0 = \lambda x(x P \underline{0})$  and  $M_1 = \lambda x(x P \underline{1})$  where  $\underline{0} = \lambda x\lambda y y$ ,  $\underline{1} = \lambda x\lambda y x$ ,  $P = \lambda x\lambda y\lambda z (y (z \underline{1} \underline{0}) (z \underline{0} \underline{1}) \lambda d\underline{1} \Delta \Delta)$  and  $\Delta = \lambda x(x x)$ .

- Let  $M = \langle (x M_1), (x M_0) \rangle$ ,  $M' = \langle (\beta \lambda x(x M_1)), (\beta \lambda x(x M_0)) \rangle$  where  $\langle T_1, T_0 \rangle$  denotes the pair of terms, i.e. the term  $\lambda f(f T_1 T_0)$  where  $f$  is a fresh variable.
- Let  $N = (\alpha \lambda z(\alpha z))$ .

**Lemma 4.3** (i)  $(M_1 M_0), (M_0 M_1) \notin SN$ .

(ii)  $(M_0 M_0), (M_1 M_1) \in SN$ .

**Proof**

(i) Assume  $i \neq j$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} (M_i M_j) \triangleright^* (P P \underline{j} \underline{i}) \\ \triangleright^* (\underline{j} (\underline{i} \underline{1} \underline{0}) (\underline{i} \underline{0} \underline{1}) \lambda d\underline{1} \Delta \Delta) \\ \triangleright^* (\underline{0} \lambda d\underline{1} \Delta \Delta) \\ \triangleright^* (\Delta \Delta) \end{aligned}$$

and thus  $(M_i M_j) \notin SN$ .

(ii) It is easy to check that  $(M_i M_i) \hookrightarrow (\underline{1} \lambda d\underline{1} \Delta \Delta) \curvearrowright (\lambda y\lambda d\underline{1} \Delta \Delta) \curvearrowright (\lambda d\underline{1} \Delta) \curvearrowright \underline{1}$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 4.4**  $M[x := \mu\alpha N] \in SN$  but  $(\lambda x M \mu\alpha N) \notin SN$ .

**Proof** (a) Since  $M[x := \mu\alpha N] = \langle (\mu\alpha N M_1), (\mu\alpha N M_0) \rangle$ , by theorem 3.10, to show that  $M[x := \mu\alpha N] \in SN$ , it is enough to show that  $(\mu\alpha N M_i) \in SN$ .

$$\begin{aligned} (\mu\alpha N M_i) &\curvearrowright \mu\alpha(\alpha(\lambda z(\alpha(z M_i)) M_i)) \\ &\curvearrowright \mu\alpha(\alpha(\alpha(M_i M_i))) \\ &\hookrightarrow \mu\alpha(\alpha(\alpha \underline{1})) \end{aligned}$$

(b)

$$\begin{aligned} (\lambda x M \mu\alpha N) &\triangleright^* \mu\alpha(\alpha(\lambda x M \lambda z(\alpha(\lambda x M z)))) \\ &\triangleright^* \mu\alpha(\alpha(\lambda x M \lambda z(\alpha(\langle (z M_1), (z M_0) \rangle)))) \\ &\triangleright^* \mu\alpha(\alpha(\langle (\alpha(\langle (M_1 M_1), (M_1 M_0) \rangle), (\alpha(\langle (M_0 M_1), (M_0 M_0) \rangle))) \rangle)) \\ &\triangleright^* \mu\alpha(\alpha(\langle (\alpha(\underline{1}, (\Delta \Delta))), (\alpha(\underline{1}, (\Delta \Delta))) \rangle)) \end{aligned}$$

and thus  $(\lambda x M \mu\alpha N) \notin SN$ . □

**Proposition 4.5**  $M'[\beta =_r \mu\alpha N] \in SN$  but  $(\mu\beta M' \mu\alpha N) \notin SN$ .

**Proof** (a)  $(\lambda x(x M_i) \mu\alpha N)$  has two redexes thus either

$$\begin{aligned} (\lambda x(x M_i) \mu\alpha N) &\triangleright (\mu\alpha N M_i) \\ &\curvearrowright \mu\alpha(\alpha(\lambda z(\alpha(z M_i)) M_i)) \\ &\curvearrowright \mu\alpha(\alpha(\alpha(M_i M_i))) \\ &\hookrightarrow \mu\alpha(\alpha(\alpha \underline{1})) \end{aligned}$$

or

$$\begin{aligned} (\lambda x(x M_i) \mu\alpha N) &\triangleright \mu\alpha(\alpha(\lambda x(x M_i) \lambda z(\alpha(\lambda x(x M_i) z)))) \\ &\hookrightarrow \mu\alpha(\alpha(\alpha(M_i M_i))) \\ &\hookrightarrow \mu\alpha(\alpha(\alpha \underline{1})) \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $(\lambda x(x M_i) \mu\alpha N) \hookrightarrow \mu\alpha(\alpha(\alpha \underline{1}))$  and, by theorem 3.10, it follows that  $M'[x := \mu\alpha N] = \langle (\beta(\lambda x(x M_1) \mu\alpha N), (\beta(\lambda x(x M_0) \mu\alpha N))) \rangle \in SN$ .

(b)

$$\begin{aligned} (\mu\beta M' \mu\alpha N) &\triangleright^* \mu\alpha(\alpha(\mu\beta M' \lambda z(\alpha(\mu\beta M' z)))) \\ &\triangleright^* \mu\alpha(\alpha(\mu\beta M' \lambda z(\alpha(\mu\beta(\langle (\beta(z M_1)), (\beta(z M_0)) \rangle)))) \\ &\triangleright^* \mu\alpha(\alpha(\mu\beta(\langle (\beta(\alpha(\mu\beta(\langle (\beta \underline{1}), (\beta(\Delta \Delta)) \rangle))), \\ &\quad (\beta(\alpha(\mu\beta(\langle (\beta(\Delta \Delta)), (\beta \underline{1}) \rangle)))) \rangle)) \end{aligned}$$

and thus  $(\mu\beta M' \mu\alpha N) \notin SN$ . □

## 5 Standardization

In this section we give a standardization theorem for the  $\beta\mu\mu'$ -reduction. It also holds for the  $\mu\mu'$ -reduction and its proof simply is a restriction of the



other one.

**Definition 5.1** (i) The sequence  $(M_i)_{1 \leq i \leq n}$  is standard iff one of the following cases hold:

- (a) For all  $i$ ,  $M_i = \lambda x N_i$  (resp.  $M_i = \mu \alpha N_i$ ,  $M_i = (x N_i)$ ,  $M_i = (\alpha N_i)$ ) and the sequence  $(N_i)_{1 \leq i \leq n}$  is standard
- (b) There are standard sequences  $(N_i)_{1 \leq i \leq k}$  and  $(P_i)_{k \leq i \leq n}$  such that, for  $1 \leq i \leq k$ ,  $M_i = (N_i P_k)$  and, for  $k \leq i \leq n$ ,  $M_i = (N_k P_i)$ .
- (c) There is a standard sequence  $(N_i)_{1 \leq i \leq k}$  and  $Q$  such that,
  - either, for  $1 \leq i \leq k$ ,  $M_i = (N_i Q)$  and  $N_k = \lambda x P$  and  $N_{k-1}$  does not begin with  $\lambda$  and  $M_{k+1} = P[x := Q]$  and the sequence  $(M_i)_{k+1 \leq i \leq n}$  is standard.
  - or, for  $1 \leq i \leq k$ ,  $M_i = (N_i Q)$  and  $N_k = \mu \alpha P$  and  $N_{k-1}$  does not begin with  $\mu$  and  $M_{k+1} = P[\alpha =_r Q]$  and the sequence  $(M_i)_{k+1 \leq i \leq n}$  is standard.
  - or, for  $1 \leq i \leq k$ ,  $M_i = (Q N_i)$  and  $N_k = \mu \beta P$  and  $N_{k-1}$  does not begin with  $\mu$  and  $M_{k+1} = P[\beta =_l Q]$  and the sequence  $(M_i)_{k+1 \leq i \leq n}$  is standard.

- (ii)  $M \triangleright_{st} M'$  iff there is a standard sequence  $(M_i)_{1 \leq i \leq n}$  such that  $M = M_1$  and  $M' = M_n$ .

**Remarks and notation**

- The clauses in 1 above correspond to a definition by induction on the ordered pair  $(n, cxy(M_1))$ .
- It is easy to check that, restricted to the  $\lambda$ -calculus, this definition is equivalent to the usual definition of a standard reduction.
- Clearly, if  $M \triangleright_{st} M'$  then  $M \triangleright^* M'$ . In this case, we will denote the length of the reduction by  $lg(M \triangleright_{st} M')$ .

**Lemma 5.2** *Assume  $M \triangleright_{st} P$  and  $N \triangleright_{st} Q$ . Then :* (a)  $\mu \alpha M \triangleright_{st} \mu \alpha P$ , (b)  $\lambda x M \triangleright_{st} \lambda x P$ , (c)  $(M N) \triangleright_{st} (P Q)$ , (d)  $M[x := N] \triangleright_{st} P[x := Q]$  and (e) for  $j \in \{l, r\}$ ,  $M[\alpha =_j N] \triangleright_{st} P[\alpha =_j Q]$ .

**Proof** (a), (b) and (c) are immediate. (d) and (e) are proved by induction on  $(lg(M \triangleright_{st} P), cxy(M))$  and a straightforward case analysis on the definition of a standard sequence bringing from  $M$  to  $P$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 5.3** *Assume  $M \triangleright_{st} P$  and  $P \triangleright Q$ . Then  $M \triangleright_{st} Q$ .*

**Proof** This is proved by induction on  $(lg(M \triangleright_{st} P), cxy(M))$  and by case analysis on the reduction  $M \triangleright_{st} P$ . The only case which is not immediate is the following:  $M = (M_1 M_2) \triangleright^* (N_1 M_2) \triangleright^* (N_1 N_2) = P$  where  $M_1 \triangleright_{st} N_1$  and  $M_2 \triangleright_{st} N_2$ . If the redex reduced in  $P \triangleright Q$  is in  $N_1$  or  $N_2$  the result follows immediately from the induction hypothesis. Otherwise, assume, for example that  $N_1 = \mu \alpha R$  and  $Q = R[\alpha =_r N_2]$ . Let the reduction  $M_1 \triangleright_{st} N_1$  be as follows:  $M_1 \triangleright_{st} \mu \alpha R_1 \triangleright_{st} \mu \alpha R$  where  $\mu \alpha R_1$  is the first term in the reduction that begins with  $\mu$ . It follows then from lemma 5.2 that the following reduction

is standard.  $M = (M_1 M_2) \triangleright_{st} (\mu\alpha R_1 M_2) \triangleright \mu\alpha R_1[\alpha =_r M_2] \triangleright_{st} \mu\alpha R[\alpha =_r N_2]$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 5.4** *Assume  $M \triangleright^* P$ . Then  $M \triangleright_{st} P$ .*

**Proof** By induction on the length of the reduction  $M \triangleright^* M_1$ . The result follows immediately from lemma 5.3.  $\square$

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