Lambda-calculus and programming language semantics

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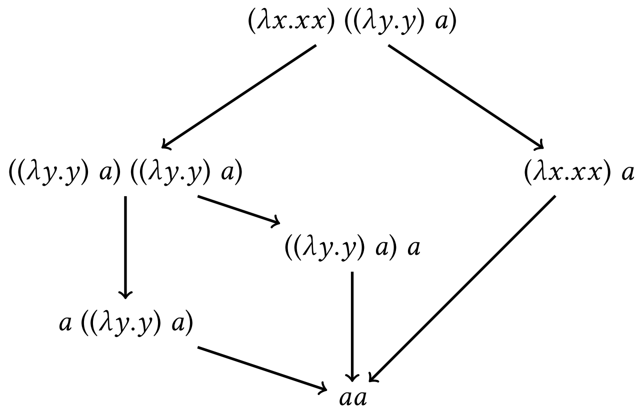
https://www.lri.fr/~blsk/LambdaCalculus/

Chapter 2: reduction strategies

Reduction graph

There may be several possible reductions for a given term.
The set of all possible reductions can be pictured as a graph



Questions:

- are some paths better than others?
- is there always a result in the end? is it unique?

1 Normalisation

Normal form

A *normal form* is a term that cannot be reduced anymore

Examples

- x
- $\lambda x.xy$
- $x\ (\lambda y.y)\ (\lambda z.zx)$

Counter-examples

- $(\lambda x.x)\ y$
- $x\ ((\lambda y.y)\ (\lambda z.zx))$

If $t \longrightarrow^* t'$ and t' is normal, the term t' is said to be a normal form of t
This defines our informal notion of a *result* of a term

Terms without normal form

$$\begin{array}{rcl}\Omega & = & (\lambda x.xx)\ (\lambda x.xx) \\ & \longrightarrow & (xx)\{x \leftarrow \lambda x.xx\} \\ & = & x\{x \leftarrow \lambda x.xx\}\ x\{x \leftarrow \lambda x.xx\} \\ & = & (\lambda x.xx)\ (\lambda x.xx) \\ & = & \Omega\end{array}$$

Summary:

- reduction of Ω does not terminate
- Ω is a term withour “result”

What about this other example?

$$(\lambda xy.y)\ \Omega\ z$$

Normalization properties

A term t is:

- *strongly normalizing* if every reduction sequence starting from t eventually reaches a normal form

$$(\lambda xy.y)\ ((\lambda z.z)\ (\lambda z.z))$$

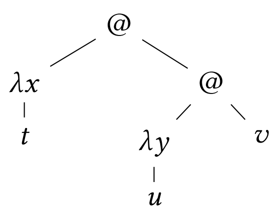
- *weakly normalizing*, or *normalizable*, if there is at least one reduction sequence starting from t and reaching a normal form

$$(\lambda xy.y)\ ((\lambda z.zz)\ (\lambda z.zz))$$

Note: normalization (strong or weak), is an undecidable property (see chapter on λ-computability)

2 Reduction strategies

Reduction orders



Normal order: reduce the most external redex first

- apply functions without reducing the arguments

Applicative order: reduce the most internal redex first

- normalize the arguments before reducing the function application itself

For disjoint redexes: from left to right

Exercise: normal order vs. applicative order

Compare normal order reduction and applicative order reduction of the following terms:

1. $(\lambda xy.x)\ z\ \Omega$
2. $(\lambda x.xx)\ ((\lambda y.y)\ z)$
3. $(\lambda x.x(\lambda y.y))\ (\lambda z.(\lambda a.aa)(z\ b))$

In each case: does another order allow shorter sequences?
Answer

1. Normal order

$$\begin{aligned}&(\lambda xy.x)\ z\ \Omega\\ \to\quad &(\lambda y.z)\ \Omega\\ \to\quad &z\end{aligned}$$

   Applicative order

$$\begin{aligned}&(\lambda xy.x)\ z\ \Omega\\ \to\quad &(\lambda y.z)\ \Omega\\ \to\quad &(\lambda y.z)\ \Omega\\ \to\quad &\ldots\end{aligned}$$

   Normal order reduction is as short as possible

2. Normal order

$$\begin{aligned}&(\lambda x.xx)\ ((\lambda y.y)\ z)\\ \to\quad &((\lambda y.y)\ z)\ ((\lambda y.y)\ z)\\ \to\quad &z\ ((\lambda y.y)\ z)\\ \to\quad &zz\end{aligned}$$

   Applicative order

$$\begin{aligned}&(\lambda x.xx)\ ((\lambda y.y)\ z)\\ \to\quad &(\lambda x.xx)\ z\\ \to\quad &zz\end{aligned}$$

   Applicative order reduction is as short as possible

3. Normal order

$$\begin{aligned}&(\lambda x.x(\lambda y.y))\ (\lambda z.(\lambda a.aa)\ (z\ b))\\ \to\quad &(\lambda z.(\lambda a.aa)(z\ b))\ (\lambda y.y)\\ \to\quad &(\lambda a.aa)\ ((\lambda y.y)\ b)\\ \to\quad &((\lambda y.y)\ b)\ ((\lambda y.y)\ b)\\ \to\quad &b\ ((\lambda y.y)\ b)\\ \to\quad &bb\end{aligned}$$

   Applicative order

$$\begin{aligned}&(\lambda x.x(\lambda y.y))\ (\lambda z.(\lambda a.aa)(z\ b))\\ \to\quad &(\lambda x.x(\lambda y.y))\ (\lambda z.(z\ b)\ (z\ b))\\ \to\quad &(\lambda z.(z\ b)\ (z\ b))\ (\lambda y.y)\\ \to\quad &((\lambda y.y)\ b)\ ((\lambda y.y)\ b)\\ \to\quad &b\ ((\lambda y.y)\ b)\\ \to\quad &bb\end{aligned}$$

   Shortest reduction

$$\begin{aligned}&(\lambda x.x(\lambda y.y))\ (\lambda z.(\lambda a.aa)\ (z\ b))\\ \to\quad &(\lambda z.(\lambda a.aa)(z\ b))\ (\lambda y.y)\\ \to\quad &(\lambda a.aa)\ ((\lambda y.y)\ b)\\ \to\quad &(\lambda a.aa)\ b\\ \to\quad &bb\end{aligned}$$

Normalizing strategy

Property of *normal order* reduction

- If a term t does have a normal form then *normal order* reduction reaches this normal form

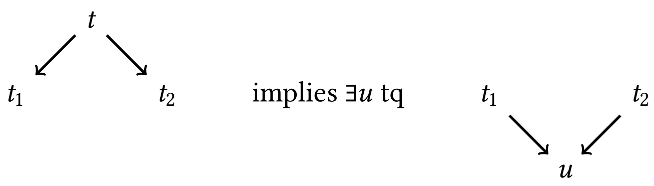
(proof in another chapter)

Such a reducion strategy is said to be *normalizing*

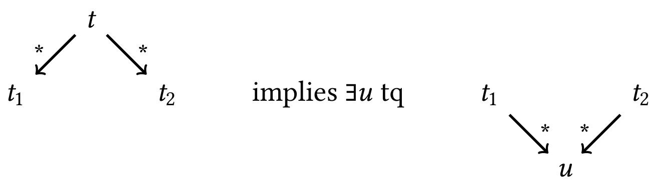
3 Confluence

Confluences

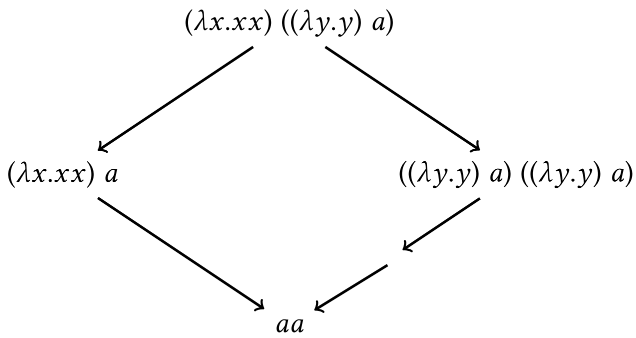
Diamond property



Confluence



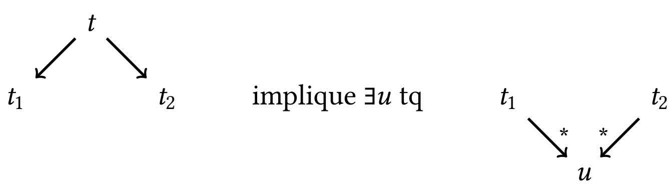
The λ-calculus does not have the diamond property



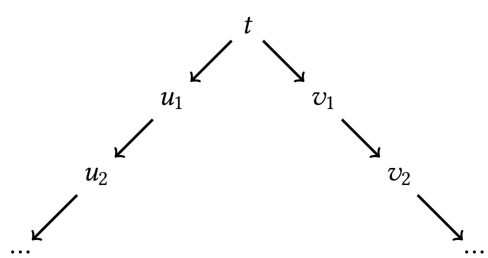
It is however confluent

Confluence of the λ-calculus

1. One can prove that the λ-calculus is *locally confluent*, which is:

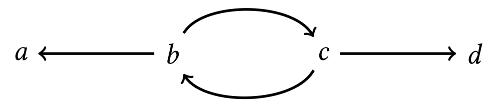


2. Then one closes every opening diagram

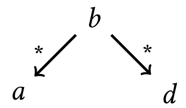


by repeated application of local confluence.

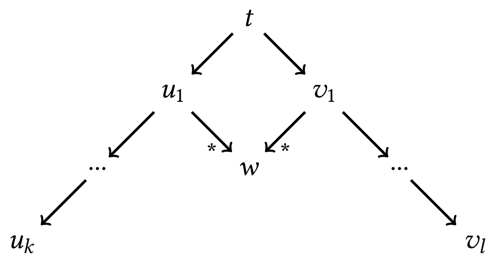
Counter-example: local confluence does not imply confluence



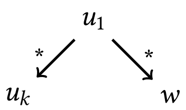
This relation is locally confluent, but one cannot close the following diagram



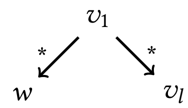
Why repeated local confluence is not a proof



No guarantee that the opening subdiagrams



and



are smaller than the first diagram!

Confluence of the λ-calculus, *for real*

Proof of Tait and Martin-Löf

Define a relation $\rightrightarrows_\beta$ which:

- is “between” $\longrightarrow_\beta$ and $\longrightarrow^*_\beta$
- has the diamond property

Idea: reduce several redexes in parallel in such a way that, for instance:

$$((\lambda y.y)a)\ ((\lambda y.y)a) \quad \rightrightarrows_\beta \quad aa$$

Proof of Tait and Martin-Löf: structure of the argument

- Since $\rightrightarrows_\beta$ has the diamond property, one deduces that $\rightrightarrows^*_\beta$ has the diamond property
- With $\longrightarrow_\beta \subseteq \rightrightarrows_\beta \subseteq \longrightarrow^*_\beta$, one deduces $\rightrightarrows^*_\beta = \longrightarrow^*_\beta$
- therefore $\longrightarrow^*_\beta$ has the diamond property
- and $\longrightarrow_\beta$ is confluent

Defining $\rightrightarrows_\beta$

Base case *"identity" reduction for variables*

$$\frac{}{x \rightrightarrows_\beta x}$$

Inductive cases *parallel reduction of subterms*

$$\frac{t \rightrightarrows_\beta t'}{\lambda x.t \rightrightarrows_\beta \lambda x.t'} \qquad \frac{t_1 \rightrightarrows_\beta t_1' \qquad t_2 \rightrightarrows_\beta t_2'}{t_1\ t_2 \rightrightarrows_\beta t_1'\ t_2'}$$

Redexes *parallel reduction of the β-redex and its subterms*

$$\frac{t \rightrightarrows_\beta t' \qquad u \rightrightarrows_\beta u'}{(\lambda x.t)\ u \rightrightarrows_\beta t'\{x \leftarrow u'\}}$$

Example of parallel reduction

$$\dfrac{\dfrac{\dfrac{\dfrac{}{y \rightrightarrows_\beta y} \qquad \dfrac{\dfrac{}{z \rightrightarrows_\beta z}}{\lambda z.z \rightrightarrows_\beta \lambda z.z}}{(\lambda y.y)\ (\lambda z.z) \rightrightarrows_\beta \lambda z.z} \qquad \dfrac{}{x \rightrightarrows_\beta x}}{((\lambda y.y)\ (\lambda z.z))\ x \rightrightarrows_\beta (\lambda z.z)\ x} \qquad \dfrac{\dfrac{}{w \rightrightarrows_\beta w} \qquad \dfrac{}{a \rightrightarrows_\beta a}}{(\lambda w.w) a \rightrightarrows_\beta a}}{(\lambda x.((\lambda y.y)\ (\lambda z.z))\ x)\ ((\lambda w.w)\ a) \rightrightarrows_\beta (\lambda z.z)\ a}$$

Remark: one reduces only already-present redexes *the resulting term may contain "new" redexes*

Exercise: framing $\rightrightarrows_\beta$

Prove that

$$t \rightrightarrows_\beta t$$

Prove that

$$\rightarrow_\beta \ \subseteq \ \rightrightarrows_\beta$$

Prove that

$$\rightrightarrows_\beta \ \subseteq \ \rightarrow_\beta^*$$

Answer

- $t \rightrightarrows_\beta t$ by induction on t.
  - Case of a variable x. Then by definition $x \rightrightarrows_\beta x$.
  - Case of an application $t_1\ t_2$. Induction hypotheses: $t_1 \rightrightarrows_\beta t_1$ and $t_2 \rightrightarrows_\beta t_2$. Then by application rule $t_1\ t_2 \rightrightarrows_\beta t_1\ t_2$.
  - Case of an abstraction $\lambda x.t$. Induction hypothesis: $t \rightrightarrows_\beta t$. Then by abstraction rule $\lambda x.t \rightrightarrows_\beta \lambda x.t$. □

- $\rightarrow_\beta \subseteq \rightrightarrows_\beta$ by induction on $\rightarrow_\beta$.
  - Case of β-reduction at the root $(\lambda x.t)\ u \rightarrow_\beta t\{x \leftarrow u\}$. By previous result $t \rightrightarrows_\beta t$ and $u \rightrightarrows_\beta u$. Then by redex rule $(\lambda x.t)\ u \rightrightarrows_\beta t\{x \leftarrow u\}$.
  - Case of reduction at the left of an application $t\ u \rightarrow_\beta t'\ u$ with $t \rightarrow_\beta t'$. Induction hypothesis: $t \rightrightarrows_\beta t'$. Moreover, by the previous result $u \rightrightarrows_\beta u$. Then by application rule $t\ u \rightrightarrows_\beta t'\ u$.
  - Cases of reduction at the right of an application or under an abstraction similar.

- $\rightrightarrows_\beta \subseteq \longrightarrow^*_\beta$ by induction on $\rightrightarrows_\beta$.
  - Variable rule: $x \rightrightarrows_\beta x$. In particular $x \longrightarrow^0_\beta x$.
  - Abstraction rule: $\lambda x.t \rightrightarrows_\beta \lambda x.t'$ with $t \rightrightarrows_\beta t'$. Induction hypothesis: $t \longrightarrow^*_\beta t'$. Then by recurrence on the length of the sequence $\lambda x.t \longrightarrow^*_\beta \lambda x.t'$.
  - Application rule: $t_1\ t_2 \rightrightarrows_\beta t'_1\ t'_2$ with $t_1 \rightrightarrows_\beta t'_1$ and $t_2 \rightrightarrows_\beta t'_2$. Induction hypotheses: $t_1 \longrightarrow^*_\beta t'_1$ and $t_2 \longrightarrow^*_\beta t'_2$. Then $t_1\ t_2 \longrightarrow^*_\beta t'_1\ t_2 \longrightarrow^*_\beta t'_1\ t'_2$.
  - Redex rule: $(\lambda x.t)\ u \rightrightarrows_\beta t'\{x \leftarrow u'\}$ with $t \rightrightarrows_\beta t'$ and $u \rightrightarrows_\beta u'$. Induction hypotheses: $t \longrightarrow^*_\beta t'$ and $u \longrightarrow^*_\beta u'$. Then $(\lambda x.t)\ u \longrightarrow^*_\beta (\lambda x.t')\ u \longrightarrow^*_\beta (\lambda x.t')\ u' \longrightarrow_\beta t'\{x \leftarrow u'\}$.

Exercise: method of Tait and Martin-Löf

Prove that if $\longrightarrow$ has the diamond property, then its reflexive-transitive closure $\longrightarrow^*$ has the diamond property

Prove that if two relations $\longrightarrow$ and $\rightrightarrows$ are such that

$$\longrightarrow \ \subseteq \ \rightrightarrows \ \subseteq \ \longrightarrow^*$$

then their reflexive-transitive closures $\rightrightarrows^*$ and $\longrightarrow^*$ are equal

Answer

- Assume $\longrightarrow$ has the diamond property. If $b \longleftarrow a \longrightarrow^n c$ then there is d such that $b \longrightarrow^n d \longleftarrow c$ (proof by recurrence on the length n of the sequence on the right). Then, we prove that if $b\ ^k\!\!\longleftarrow a \longrightarrow^n c$, then there is d such that $b \longrightarrow^n d\ ^k\!\!\longleftarrow c$ (recurrence on k). Then $\longrightarrow^*$ has the diamond property.
- From $\longrightarrow \subseteq \rightrightarrows \subseteq \longrightarrow^*$ we deduce $\longrightarrow^* \subseteq \rightrightarrows^* \subseteq \longrightarrow^{**}$. Remark: $\longrightarrow^{**} = \longrightarrow^*$. Then $\longrightarrow^* \subseteq \rightrightarrows^* \subseteq \longrightarrow^*$, which means $\longrightarrow^* = \rightrightarrows^*$.

Diamond property for parallel reduction

If $s \leftleftarrows t \rightrightarrows r$ then there is u such that $s \rightrightarrows u \leftleftarrows r$

By induction on the derivation of $t \rightrightarrows_\beta r$

- Case $x \rightrightarrows x$. Then $s = x$, and we define $u = x$
- Case $\lambda x.t_0 \rightrightarrows \lambda x.r_0$ with $t_0 \rightrightarrows r_0$. Then $s = \lambda x.s_0$ with $s_0 \leftleftarrows t_0$.

  By induction hypothesis there is u_0 such that $s_0 \rightrightarrows u_0 \leftleftarrows r_0$.

  Therefore $\lambda x.s_0 \rightrightarrows \lambda x.u_0 \leftleftarrows \lambda x.r_0$
- Case $t_1 t_2 \rightrightarrows r_1 r_2$ with $t_1 \rightrightarrows r_1$ and $t_2 \rightrightarrows r_2$. Two cases for $s \leftleftarrows t_1 t_2$.
  - if $s = s_1\ s_2$ with $s_1 \leftleftarrows t_1$ and $s_2 \leftleftarrows t_2$
    by induction hypotheses there are u_1 and u_2 such that $s_1 \rightrightarrows u_1 \leftleftarrows r_1$ and $s_2 \rightrightarrows u_2 \leftleftarrows r_2$,
    therefore $s_1 s_2 \rightrightarrows u_1 u_2 \leftleftarrows r_1 r_2$
  - if $s = s_1\{x \leftarrow s_2\}$ with $t_1 = \lambda x.t'_1$ and $s_1 \leftleftarrows t'_1$ et $s_2 \leftleftarrows t_2$,
    then $r_1 = \lambda x.r'_1$ with $t'_1 \rightrightarrows r'_1$ and by induction hypotheses there are u_1 and u_2 such that $s_1 \rightrightarrows u_1 \leftleftarrows r'_1$ et $s_2 \rightrightarrows u_2 \leftleftarrows r_2$,
    therefore $u_1\{x \leftarrow u_2\} \leftleftarrows (\lambda x.r'_1) r_2$
    and we conclude if we can show that $s_1\{x \leftarrow s_2\} \rightrightarrows u_1\{x \leftarrow u_2\}$
    Lemma: if $a \rightrightarrows_\beta a'$ and $b \rightrightarrows_\beta b'$ then $a\{x \leftarrow b\} \rightrightarrows_\beta a'\{x \leftarrow b'\}$ *coming soon*
- Case $(\lambda x.t_1) t_2 \rightrightarrows r_1\{x \leftarrow r_2\}$ with $t_1 \rightrightarrows r_1$ et $t_2 \rightrightarrows r_2$. Two cases for $s \leftleftarrows (\lambda x.t_1) t_2$.
  - if $s = (\lambda x.s_1) s_2$ with $s_1 \leftleftarrows t_1$ and $s_2 \leftleftarrows t_2$ we conclude as above.
  - if $s = s_1\{x \leftarrow s_2\}$ with $s_1 \leftleftarrows t_1$ and $s_2 \leftleftarrows t_2$
    then by induction hypotheses there are u_1 and u_2 such that $s_1 \rightrightarrows u_1 \leftleftarrows r_1$ and $s_2 \rightrightarrows u_2 \leftleftarrows r_2$,
    and we conclude if we can show that $s_1\{x \leftarrow s_2\} \rightrightarrows u_1\{x \leftarrow u_2\} \leftleftarrows r_1\{x \leftarrow r_2\}$
    Same lemma

Lemma $a \rightrightarrows_\beta a' \wedge b \rightrightarrows_\beta b' \implies a\{x \leftarrow b\} \rightrightarrows_\beta a'\{x \leftarrow b'\}$
By induction on the derivation of $a \rightrightarrows_\beta a'$

- Case $y \rightrightarrows y$.

  Case on x and y.

  - If $x = y$, then $x\{x \leftarrow b\} = b \rightrightarrows b' = x\{x \leftarrow b'\}$
  - If $x \neq y$, then $y\{x \leftarrow b\} = y \rightrightarrows y = y\{x \leftarrow b'\}$

- Case $\lambda y.a_0 \rightrightarrows \lambda y.a_0'$ with $a_0 \rightrightarrows a_0'$.

  Then $(\lambda y.a_0)\{x \leftarrow b\} = \lambda y.(a_0\{x \leftarrow b\})$ and by induction hypothesis $a_0\{x \leftarrow b\} \rightrightarrows a_0'\{x \leftarrow b'\}$.

  Therefore $\lambda y.(a_0\{x \leftarrow b\}) \rightrightarrows \lambda y.(a_0'\{x \leftarrow b'\}) = (\lambda x.a_0')\{x \leftarrow b'\}$

- Case $a_1 a_2 \rightrightarrows a_1' a_2'$ with $a_1 \rightrightarrows a_1'$ et $a_2 \rightrightarrows a_2'$.

  Then $(a_1 a_2)\{x \leftarrow b\} = (a_1\{x \leftarrow b\})(a_2\{x \leftarrow b\})$ and $(a_1' a_2')\{x \leftarrow b'\} = (a_1'\{x \leftarrow b'\})(a_2'\{x \leftarrow b'\})$

  and by induction hypotheses $a_1\{x \leftarrow b\} \rightrightarrows a_1'\{x \leftarrow b'\}$ and $a_2\{x \leftarrow b\} \rightrightarrows a_2'\{x \leftarrow b'\}$.

  Therefore $(a_1 a_2)\{x \leftarrow b\} \rightrightarrows (a_1' a_2')\{x \leftarrow b'\}$

- Case $(\lambda y.a_1)a_2 \rightrightarrows a_1'\{y \leftarrow a_2'\}$ with $a_1 \rightrightarrows a_1'$ and $a_2 \rightrightarrows a_2'$.

  Then $((\lambda y.a_1)a_2)\{x \leftarrow b\} = (\lambda y.a_1\{x \leftarrow b\})(a_2\{x \leftarrow b\})$.

  By induction hypotheses we have $a_1\{x \leftarrow b\} \rightrightarrows_\beta a_1'\{x \leftarrow b'\}$ and $a_2\{x \leftarrow b\} \rightrightarrows_\beta a_2'\{x \leftarrow b'\}$.

  Therefore $(\lambda y.a_1\{x \leftarrow b\})(a_2\{x \leftarrow b\}) \rightrightarrows (a_1'\{x \leftarrow b'\})\{y \leftarrow a_2'\{x \leftarrow b'\}\}$.

  With α-renaming we can choose $y \neq x$ and $y \notin \mathrm{fv}(b')$, therefore by substitution lemma $(a_1'\{x \leftarrow b'\})\{y \leftarrow a_2'\{x \leftarrow b'\}\} = (a_1'\{y \leftarrow a_2'\})\{x \leftarrow b'\}$.

Substitution lemma
If $x \neq y$ and $x \notin \mathrm{fv}(v)$ then

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

Proof by induction on t

- Case of a variable.

  - Case $t = x$. Then $x\{x \leftarrow u\}\{y \leftarrow v\} = u\{y \leftarrow v\}$ and $x\{y \leftarrow v\}\{x \leftarrow u\{y \leftarrow v\}\} = x\{x \leftarrow u\{y \leftarrow v\}\} = u\{y \leftarrow v\}$
  - Case $t = y$. Then $y\{x \leftarrow u\}\{y \leftarrow v\} = y\{y \leftarrow v\} = v$ and $y\{y \leftarrow v\}\{x \leftarrow u\{y \leftarrow v\}\} = v\{x \leftarrow u\{y \leftarrow v\}\} = v$
  - Case $t = z$, otherwise. Then $z\{x \leftarrow u\}\{y \leftarrow v\} = z$ and $s\{y \leftarrow v\}\{x \leftarrow u\{y \leftarrow v\}\} = z$

- Case of an application $t_1\ t_2$. Assume $t_1\{x \leftarrow u\}\{y \leftarrow v\} = t_1\{y \leftarrow v\}\{x \leftarrow u\{y \leftarrow v\}\}$ and $t_2\{x \leftarrow u\}\{y \leftarrow v\} = t_2\{y \leftarrow v\}\{x \leftarrow u\{y \leftarrow v\}\}$ Then

$$\begin{aligned}
&(t_1\ t_2)\{x \leftarrow u\}\{y \leftarrow v\} \\
=\ & (t_1\{x \leftarrow u\}\ t_2\{x \leftarrow u\})\{y \leftarrow v\} \\
=\ & t_1\{x \leftarrow u\}\{y \leftarrow v\}\ t_2\{x \leftarrow u\}\{y \leftarrow v\} \\
=\ & t_1\{y \leftarrow v\}\{x \leftarrow u\{y \leftarrow v\}\}\ t_2\{y \leftarrow v\}\{x \leftarrow u\{y \leftarrow v\}\} \\
=\ & (t_1\{y \leftarrow v\}\ t_2\{y \leftarrow v\})\{x \leftarrow u\{y \leftarrow v\}\} \\
=\ & (t_1\ t_2)\{y \leftarrow v\}\{x \leftarrow u\{y \leftarrow v\}\}
\end{aligned}$$

- Case of an abstraction $\lambda z.t$. Assume $t\{x \leftarrow u\}\{y \leftarrow v\} = t\{y \leftarrow v\}\{x \leftarrow u\{y \leftarrow v\}\}$ and by Barendregt convention $z \neq x$ and $z \neq y$ and $z \notin \mathsf{fv}(u)$ and $z \notin \mathsf{fv}(v)$ (and $z \notin \mathsf{fv}(u\{y \leftarrow v\})$) Then

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
& (\lambda z.t)\{x \leftarrow u\}\{y \leftarrow v\} \\
= & (\lambda z.(t\{x \leftarrow u\}))\{y \leftarrow v\} \\
= & \lambda z.(t\{x \leftarrow u\}\{y \leftarrow v\}) \\
= & \lambda z.(t\{y \leftarrow v\}\{x \leftarrow u\{y \leftarrow v\}\}) \\
= & (\lambda z.(t\{y \leftarrow v\}))\{x \leftarrow u\{y \leftarrow v\}\} \\
= & (\lambda z.t)\{y \leftarrow v\}\{x \leftarrow u\{y \leftarrow v\}\}
\end{array}
$$

Corollary: Church-Rosser theorem

If

$$t_1 \quad =_\beta \quad t_2$$

then there is u such that

$$t_1 \quad \longrightarrow_\beta^* \quad u \qquad \text{et} \qquad t_2 \quad \longrightarrow_\beta^* \quad u$$

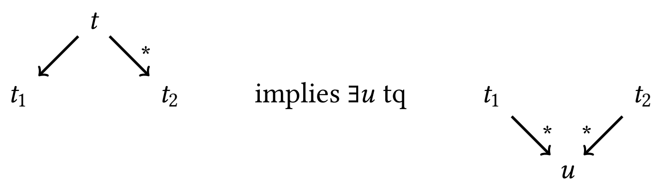
Consequences

- if t has a normal form n, then $t \longrightarrow^* n$
- any λ-term can has only one normal form
- if two normal forms n and m are syntactically different, then $n \neq_\beta m$

4 Confluence: another proof

Strip lemma

Property of the λ-calculus:

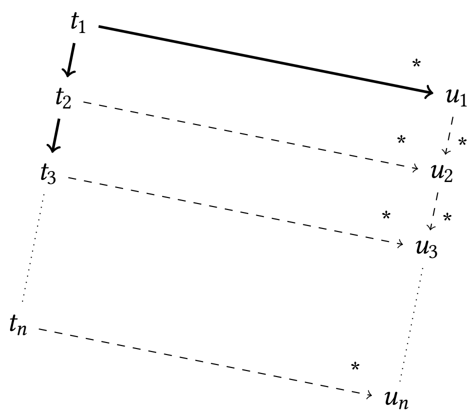


Idea: identify the redex R that is reduced by the step $t \longrightarrow t_1$. Then track what remains of R in t_2, and reduce every occurrence. (proof later in the chapter)

The strip lemma implies confluence

If $t_1 \longrightarrow^* t_n$ and $t_1 \longrightarrow^* u_1$, then there exists u_n such that $t_n \longrightarrow^* u_n$ and $u_1 \longrightarrow^* u_n$.

Proof by recurrence on the length of the reduction sequence $t_1 \longrightarrow t_2 \longrightarrow t_3 \longrightarrow \ldots \longrightarrow t_n$. Each step uses the strip lemma to make one “strip” in the following diagram.



Residuals

Consider a β-reduction step $t \xrightarrow{p} t'$ of a redex $(\lambda x.u)v$ at position p in t. Positions of t can be tracked in t'. Let q be a position in t, and define $D(q)$ the set of *descendant positions* of q in t'.

- Positions outside of $(\lambda x.u)v$ still exist, unmodified, in t'.

$$D(q) = \{q\} \qquad \text{if } p \text{ is not a prefix of } q$$

- The positions p of the redex $(\lambda x.u)v$ and $p.1$ of the abstraction $\lambda x.u$ have no descendants.
- Every part of u still exist in $u\{x \leftarrow v\}$. The positions however are slightly modified between t and t' since an application and an abstraction disappeared.

$$D(p.1.0.q) = \{p.q\}$$

(We could argue on what happens to the occurrences of x. Here we choose to keep them in the descendant relation.)

- Every part of v exist in $u\{x \leftarrow v\}$ in each substituted occurrence of v (whose number can be arbitrary). The new position of each occurrence of v in $u\{x \leftarrow v\}$ corresponds to the position of an occurrence of x in u.

$$D(p.2.q) = \{p.p_x.q \mid p_x \text{ position of an occurrence of } x \text{ in } u\}$$

A redex R' at position q' in t' is a *residual* of a redex R at position q in t after $t \xrightarrow{p} t'$ if $q' \in D(q)$.

Marked λ-terms

A simple solution to track the residuals of a set of redexes in a given source term is to add some "marks" in our λ-terms. For this we introduce an extension $\underline{\Lambda}$ of the syntax, where λ-abstractions can be underlined. This extended grammar is:

$$\begin{array}{rcll} t & ::= & x & \text{variable} \\ & | & t\ t & \text{application} \\ & | & \lambda x.t & \text{ordinary abstraction} \\ & | & \underline{\lambda} x.t & \text{marked abstraction} \end{array}$$

The β-reduction rule applies for both ordinary λ's and marked $\underline{\lambda}$'s.

$$\begin{array}{rcl} (\lambda x.t)\ u & \to_\beta & t\{x \leftarrow u\} \\ (\underline{\lambda} x.t)\ u & \to_\beta & t\{x \leftarrow u\} \end{array}$$

Free variables, variable renaming and substitution are also extended to treat marked $\underline{\lambda}$'s as ordinary λ's.

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \mathsf{fv}(x) & = & \{x\} \\ \mathsf{fv}(t\ u) & = & \mathsf{fv}(t) \cup \mathsf{fv}(u) \\ \mathsf{fv}(\lambda x.t) & = & \mathsf{fv}(t) \setminus \{x\} \\ \mathsf{fv}(\underline{\lambda} x.t) & = & \mathsf{fv}(t) \setminus \{x\} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{rcll} x\{x \leftarrow v\} & = & v & \\ y\{x \leftarrow v\} & = & y & \text{if } y \neq x \\ (t\ u)\{x \leftarrow v\} & = & t\{x \leftarrow v\}\ u\{x \leftarrow v\} & \\ (\lambda y.t)\{x \leftarrow v\} & = & \lambda y.(t\{x \leftarrow v\}) & \text{if } y \neq x \text{ and } y \notin \mathsf{fv}(v) \\ (\underline{\lambda} y.t)\{x \leftarrow v\} & = & \underline{\lambda} y.(t\{x \leftarrow v\}) & \text{if } y \neq x \text{ and } y \notin \mathsf{fv}(v) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{rcll} \lambda x.t & =_\alpha & \lambda y.(t\{x \leftarrow y\}) & \text{if } y \notin \mathsf{fv}(t) \\ \underline{\lambda} x.t & =_\alpha & \underline{\lambda} y.(t\{x \leftarrow y\}) & \text{if } y \notin \mathsf{fv}(t) \end{array}$$

Removing marks

Let $t \in \underline{\Lambda}$ be a marked term. Define $|t|$ the ordinary λ-term obtained by removing all the marks in t.

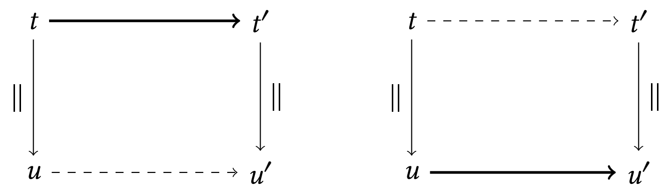
$$\begin{array}{rcl} |x| & = & x \\ |t\ u| & = & |t|\,|u| \\ |\lambda x.t| & = & \lambda x.|t| \\ |\underline{\lambda} x.t| & = & \lambda x.|t| \end{array}$$

We can trivially check that the marks do not interfere with reduction.

Lemma 1.

$$\text{For any } t, t' \in \underline{\Lambda}, \qquad t \longrightarrow t' \qquad \text{iff} \qquad |t| \longrightarrow |t'|$$

Diagrammatically:



(solid arrows are assumptions, dashed arrow are deduced)

Reducing marked redexes

Let $t \in \underline{\Lambda}$ be a marked term. Define $\varphi(t)$ the term obtained by reducing all marked redexes in t (and removing any remaining mark).

$$\begin{array}{rcll} \varphi((\underline{\lambda} x.t)\ u) & = & (\varphi(t))\{x \longleftarrow \varphi(u)\} & \\ \varphi(x) & = & x & \\ \varphi(t\ u) & = & \varphi(t)\ \varphi(u) & \text{if } t \text{ does not start with } \underline{\lambda} \\ \varphi(\lambda x.t) & = & \lambda x.\varphi(t) & \\ \varphi(\underline{\lambda} x.t) & = & \lambda x.\varphi(t) & \end{array}$$

Lemma 2. Commutation of φ and substitution.

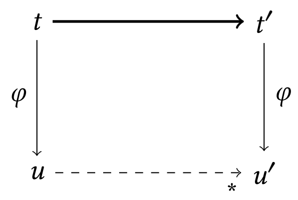
$$\text{For any } t, u \in \underline{\Lambda}, \qquad \varphi(t\{x \longleftarrow u\}) = \varphi(t)\{x \longleftarrow \varphi(u)\}$$

Proof by induction on t.

Lemma 3. Commutation of φ and β-reduction.

$$\text{For any } t, t' \in \underline{\Lambda}, \text{ if} \qquad t \longrightarrow t' \qquad \text{then} \qquad \varphi(t) \longrightarrow \varphi(t')$$

Diagrammatically:

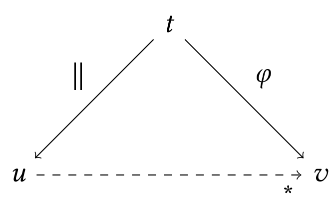


Proof by induction on the derivation of $t \longrightarrow t'$, using lemma 2.

Lemma 4. The simultaneous reduction performed by φ can be realized with ordinary β-reduction.

$$\text{For any } t \in \underline{\Lambda}, \qquad |t| \longrightarrow_\beta^* \varphi(t)$$

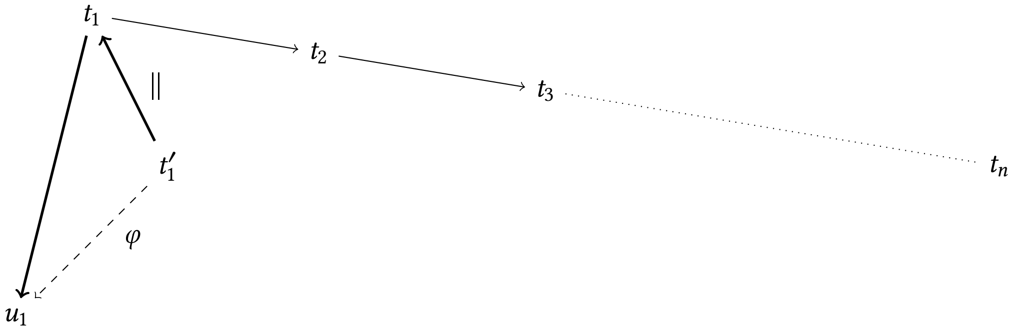
Diagrammatically:



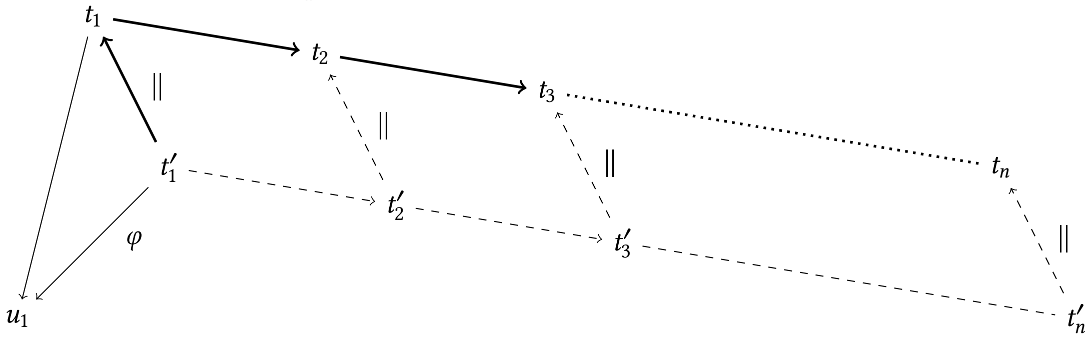
Proof by induction on t.

Proof of the strip lemma

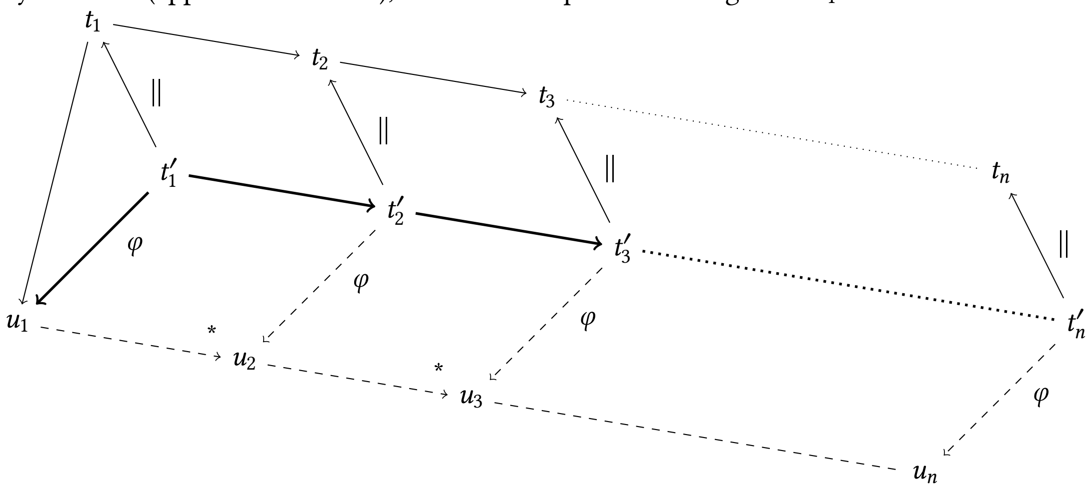
Consider the reduction $t_1 \longrightarrow_\beta u_1$ of a single β-redex $R = (\lambda x.a)\ b$, and a sequence $t_1 \longrightarrow t_2 \longrightarrow t_3 \longrightarrow \ldots \longrightarrow t_n$. Let t'_1 be the term obtained from t_1 by marking the λ in R. First remark that $\varphi(t'_1)$ is precisly the term u_1 obtained by reducing R in t_1.



Since marks do not interfere with reduction ($n - 1$ applications of lemma 1), we can reproduce the sequence $t_1 \longrightarrow^* t_n$ starting from t'_1.



Then by lemma 3 (applied $n - 1$ times), we build a sequence starting from u_1.



Finally, by lemma 4 on the last triangle formed with the terms t_n, t'_n, u_n, we deduce a reduction sequence from $t_n = |t'_n|$ to $u_n = \varphi(t'_n)$.