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INSTITUT NATIONAL DE RECHERCHE EN INFORMATIQUE ET EN AUTOMATIQUE

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λv , a calculus of explicit substitutions which preserves strong normalisation

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Abstract: Explicit substitutions were proposed by Abadi, Cardelli, Curien, Hardin and Lévy to internalise substitutions into λ -calculus and to propose a mechanism for computing on substitutions. λv is another view of the same concept which aims to explain the process of substitution and to decompose it in small steps. λv is simple and preserves strong normalisation. Apparently that important property cannot stay with another important one, namely confluence on open terms. The spirit of λv is closely related to another calculus of explicit substitutions proposed by de Bruijn and called $C\lambda\xi\phi$. In this paper, we introduce λv , we present $C\lambda\xi\phi$ in the same framework as λv and we compare both calculi. Moreover, we prove properties of λv ; namely λv correctly implements β reduction, λv is confluent on closed terms, i.e., on terms of classical λ -calculus and on all terms that are derived from those terms, and finally λv preserves strong normalization of β -reduction.

Key-words: Explicit substitutions, λ -calculus

(Résumé : *tsvp*)

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λv , un calcul de substitutions explicites qui preserve la forte normalisation

Résumé : Les calculs de substitutions explicites ont été proposés par Abadi, Cardelli, Curien, Hardin et Lévy dans le but d'inclure les substitutions à l'intérieur du λ -calcul et de proposer un mécanisme pour les évaluer. λv est une autre approche qui permet d'expliquer le processus de substitution en décomposant celle-ci en plusieurs petites opérations élémentaires. Le calcul λv est simple et préserve la forte normalisation de la β -réduction. Néanmoins, ce calcul n'est pas confluent sur les termes ouverts. L'esprit du λv est lié à un autre calcul proposé par de Bruijn, appelé $C\lambda\xi\phi$. Dans ce rapport, on introduira λv et $C\lambda\xi\phi$ puis on comparera ces deux calculs. De plus, on prouvera plusieurs propriétés sur λv , qui sont: la correction du λv par rapport à la β -réduction, la confluence de λv sur les termes clos, i.e tous les termes du λ -calcul, et enfin la préservation de la forte normalisation de la β -réduction.

Mots-clé : Substitutions explicites, λ -calcul

1 Introduction

The main mechanism of λ -calculus is β -conversion which is usually defined as $(\lambda x.a)b \rightarrow a[b/x]$, where $[b/x]$ is the substitution of the term b to the variable x . In classical λ -calculus [3] the mechanism of substitution is described by a specific and external formalism. This description is part of the *epittheory* [11] which means it is not integrated into the theory. In the introduction of their book Curry and Feys insist on the importance of substitution in logic in general and especially in the framework of λ -calculus. They write page 6 of [11] that the synthetic theory of combinators "gives the ultimate analysis of substitutions in terms of a system of extreme simplicity. The theory of lambda-conversion is intermediate in character between synthetic theories and ordinary logic ... and it has the advantage of departing less radically from our intuition." In other words, they say that λ -calculus treats substitution better than ordinary logic, but not as well as it should and not as well as combinatory logic does, but λ -calculus is closer to our intuition of a function than combinatory logic. λ -calculi of explicit substitution answer this challenge since they contain in the same framework both a version the β -rule and a description of the evaluation of the substitution. Thus explicit substitutions fulfill both Curry and Feys's wishes of an internalisation of the substitution mechanism and of a system which does not depart from our intuition. There are two approaches to calculus of explicit substitution.

De Bruijn's approach which is also ours aims to describe faithfully the mechanism of substitution with the character of "extreme simplicity" advocated by Curry and Feys for combinatory logic. Historically, the first calculus in this family was introduced by de Bruijn [13], see also [20]. Another calculus belonging to this family, which is extensively studied in this paper was proposed by one of us in [22]. Those calculi attempt to describe (perhaps naively) the principles of the implementation of λ -calculus. They do not aim to efficiency. Their main feature is that they preserve strong normalisation.

The other approach, which we propose to call the $\lambda\sigma$ family, has been proposed by Abadi, Cardelli, Curien, Hardin, Lévy and Field around 1989 [1, 2, 15, 19, 10, 24]. It follows previous research by Curien who proposed in 1983 *categorical combinators* [6, 8, 7] a combinatory logic more intuitive than the classical one. Hardin in 1987 [17, 18] studied confluence on open terms for that calculus. Categorical combinators are more intuitive in the sense that they are based on λ -calculus, more precisely on λ -calculus with Cartesian products and keep its structure. An important contribution toward explicit substitutions is the $\lambda\rho$ calculus [9] which is a calculus for weak reduction. The calculi of the $\lambda\sigma$ family insist on confluence on open terms, i.e., on terms with variables of sort term and substitution. For that, they introduce a **cons** operation and a composition of substitutions which plays a central role. Contrary to expectation, Melliès [23] has shown that those calculi do not preserve strong normalisation. More precisely, he has exhibited a simply typed term of the classical λ -calculus which starts an infinite derivation in the calculus $\lambda\sigma$ of [2], or in the calculus $\lambda\sigma_{\uparrow}$ of [19]. This derivation goes through terms that contain compositions and **cons**.

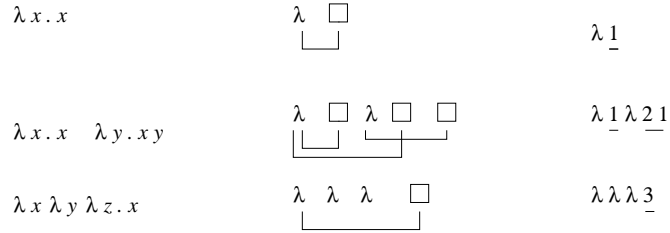


Figure 1: Bourbaki’s style notations

2 The λv -calculus

First let us remind the unfamiliar reader with de Bruijn’s indices [12]. The first idea that comes in mind if one wants to avoid explicit naming of bound variables is to draw pictures. For instance, one replaces the variables by a dummy name like a box \square and one draws a line between the variable and its binders. In Figure 1 we have represented a few terms. This is exactly the approach proposed by Bourbaki [4]. De Bruijn follows the same idea, for him variables are natural numbers, the *indices*. The index of a variable is the number of λ one crosses before the λ that binds that variable. For instance in $\lambda x \lambda y \lambda z . x$ the index of the only occurrence of x is $\underline{3}$ and in the notation of λ -terms with indices, x will be replaced by $\underline{3}$. The indices allow us to associate directly a variable (an index) with its binder, therefore there is no need for the name of a variable next to each λ . Thus from a term a one creates an *abstraction* by adding just a λ on the front of a . For instance, $\lambda \underline{1}$ is equivalent to $\lambda x . x$ in the usual λ -calculus, $\lambda \underline{1}(\lambda \underline{2} \underline{1})$ is equivalent to $\lambda x . x (\lambda y . y x)$ and $\lambda \lambda \lambda \underline{3}$ is equivalent to $\lambda x \lambda y \lambda z . x$.

One main feature of λv (read *lambda-epsilon*) is that its set of operators is minimal in the sense that it contains only operators that are necessary to describe the substitution calculus. There are four operators on terms namely *abstraction*, *application*, *closure* and *variables*. The three operators on substitutions *slash*, *lift* and *shift* are introduced by need. The operator *closure* $[-]$ introduces *substitutions* into the calculus. λv uses de Bruijn’s indices [12] and we write variables $\underline{1}, \underline{2}, \dots, \underline{n}, \underline{n+1}, \dots$. Notice the underlining which creates a variable (an index) out of a natural number. It is a basic operator of the theory and in particular it receives an interpretation in Figure 3 for proving strong normalisation of v . A term that does not contain any closure is called a *pure term* and when we want to insist

that a term contains a closure we call it *impure*. In λv , the β -rule is replaced by a more elementary rule. Unlike our predecessors who called a similar rule (*Beta*), we call that rule (*B*) in order to avoid confusion with rule β . (*B*) is

$$(B) \quad (\lambda a)b \rightarrow a[b/]$$

where $b/$ is the substitution with the intuitive meaning:

$$b/ : \begin{array}{l} \underline{1} \quad \mapsto \quad b \\ \underline{2} \quad \mapsto \quad \underline{1} \\ \quad \quad \quad \vdots \\ \underline{n+1} \mapsto \quad \underline{n} \\ \quad \quad \quad \vdots \end{array}$$

This form of (*B*) was introduced by Ehrhard [14], but we borrowed it from system τ of Rios [24]. Other rules are given to get rid of substitutions, these rules will form the calculus v . λv is the calculus (*B*) \cup v . The first rule of v is *App*, it distributes a substitution into an application (*ab*).

$$(App) \quad (ab)[s] \rightarrow a[s]b[s].$$

When a substitution goes under a λ it has to be modified, namely

$$(Lambda) \quad (\lambda a)[s] \rightarrow \lambda(a[\uparrow(s)]).$$

\uparrow is called *Lift* and has the following intuitive meaning:

$$\uparrow(s) : \begin{array}{l} \underline{1} \quad \mapsto \quad \underline{1} \\ \underline{2} \quad \mapsto \quad s(\underline{1})[\uparrow] \\ \quad \quad \quad \vdots \\ \underline{n+1} \mapsto \quad s(\underline{n})[\uparrow] \\ \quad \quad \quad \vdots \end{array}$$

\uparrow is a specific substitution that just *shifts* the indices in a term.

$$\uparrow : \begin{array}{l} \underline{1} \mapsto \underline{2} \\ \underline{2} \mapsto \underline{3} \\ \quad \quad \quad \vdots \\ \underline{n} \mapsto \underline{n+1} \\ \quad \quad \quad \vdots \end{array}$$

The meaning of *Lambda* can be explained as follows. In the expression $(\lambda a)[s]$, s does not affect the $\underline{1}$'s which occur in a . Similarly, in the expression $\lambda(a[\uparrow(s)])$, $\uparrow(s)$ should not affect the $\underline{1}$'s which occur in a . On the other hand when $[\uparrow(s)]$ is applied to other

(B)	$(\lambda a)b \rightarrow a[b/]$
(App)	$(ab)[s] \rightarrow a[s]b[s]$
(Lambda)	$(\lambda a)[s] \rightarrow \lambda(a[\uparrow(s)])$
(FVar)	$\underline{1}[a/] \rightarrow a$
(RVar)	$\underline{n+1}[a/] \rightarrow \underline{n}$
(FVarLift)	$\underline{1}[\uparrow(s)] \rightarrow \underline{1}$
(RVarLift)	$\underline{n+1}[\uparrow(s)] \rightarrow \underline{n}[s][\uparrow]$
(VarShift)	$\underline{n}[\uparrow] \rightarrow \underline{n+1}$

Figure 2: The rewrite system λv

variables, it has to take into account that variables under λ have been renamed and to reset the name of the variables in $s(\underline{n})$ accordingly. This is done by \uparrow . Notice that in λv there is no need for a closure rule, i.e., a rule of the form $a[s][t] \rightarrow a[s \circ t]$. Indeed, in a term of the form $a[s][t]$ it is not necessary to tell how t acts on $a[s]$ since by induction one gets rid of s . Now to specify completely the behavior of substitutions one has just to describe by rewrite rules their action on variables. Putting together all these ideas, we get the rewrite rules of Figure 2. Notice that the system is essentially *lazy*, in the sense that the evaluation of the substitution $a[b/]$ created by $(\lambda a)b$ can be delayed. The rewrite system v terminates. The proof is easy and can be done with elementary interpretations (functions made of polynomials and exponentials) [22, 21]. It is given in Figure 3. v is also an *orthogonal* rewrite system, which means that it is left-linear and without superposition. This property is very important both for implementation and proofs, for instance Luc Maranget (private communication) used it to prove termination by structural induction. λv has three sorts of objects, namely

Terms_v	$a ::= \underline{n} \mid aa \mid \lambda a \mid a[s]$
Substitutions_v	$s ::= a/ \mid \uparrow(s) \mid \uparrow$
Naturals	$n ::= n+1 \mid 1.$

λv does not introduce composition of substitutions. This makes the system simpler. Indeed for presenting a calculus of explicit substitutions, such a composition is not absolutely necessary, at least at the logical level and its introduction in other calculi seems dictated by “efficiency” and/or laziness. If new rules dealing with composition need to be introduced, they should be first proved correct as induction theorems and then added to the system. See [22] for a discussion on the way to mechanize the introduction of composition and a comparison with other approaches. Among other systems of explicit substitutions, [22] introduces λv but does not prove any of its properties.

$\llbracket n \rrbracket_1 = 2^{[n]_1}$	$\llbracket n \rrbracket_2 = 2^{[n]_2}$
$\llbracket n + 1 \rrbracket_1 = \llbracket n \rrbracket_1 + 1$	$\llbracket n + 1 \rrbracket_2 = \llbracket n \rrbracket_2 + 1$
$\llbracket 1 \rrbracket_1 = 2$	
$\llbracket ab \rrbracket_1 = \llbracket a \rrbracket_1 + \llbracket b \rrbracket_1 + 1$	
$\llbracket \lambda a \rrbracket_1 = \llbracket a \rrbracket_1 + 1$	
$\llbracket a[s] \rrbracket_1 = \llbracket a \rrbracket_1 \llbracket s \rrbracket_1$	$\llbracket a[s] \rrbracket_2 = \llbracket a \rrbracket_2 \llbracket s \rrbracket_2$
$\llbracket \uparrow(s) \rrbracket_1 = \llbracket s \rrbracket_1$	$\llbracket \uparrow(s) \rrbracket_2 = 2 \llbracket s \rrbracket_2$
$\llbracket \uparrow \rrbracket_1 = 2$	$\llbracket \uparrow \rrbracket_2 = 3$
$\llbracket a/ \rrbracket_1 = \llbracket a \rrbracket_1$	

Figure 3: Interpretations for proving the termination of v

The rest of the paper is structured as follows. In Section 3, we prove that λv correctly implements β -reduction. In Section 4, we prove the confluence of λv . In Section 5, we prove that λv preserves strong normalization. In Section 6 we introduce $C\lambda\xi\phi$.

3 Correction of the β -reduction in λv

We write $v(a)$ the normal form of the term a w.r.t. v . Notice that $v(a)$ is pure, that is $v(a) \in \mathbf{Terms}_v$. β is the classical β -reduction of λ -calculus. It is the relation $a \xrightarrow{\beta} b$ between pure terms where $a \xrightarrow{\beta} b'$ and $b = v(b')$. This definition is correct. Indeed, let us introduce an external definition of substitution σ_0 . The classical definition of β -reduction in terms of this operation (with definitions from [16]), is

$$(\lambda a)b \xrightarrow{\beta} \sigma_0(a, b)$$

where σ_0 is the instance in 0 of a function σ_n defined as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_n(ac, b) &= \sigma_n(a, b)\sigma_n(c, b) & \sigma_n(\underline{m}, b) &= \begin{cases} \frac{m-1}{\tau_0^n(b)} & \text{if } m > n+1 \\ \tau_0^n(b) & \text{if } m = n+1 \\ \underline{m} & \text{if } m \leq n \end{cases} \\ \sigma_n(\lambda a, b) &= \lambda(\sigma_{n+1}(a, b)) \end{aligned}$$

where:

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_i^n(ab) &= \tau_i^n(a)\tau_i^n(b) & \tau_i^n(\underline{m}) &= \begin{cases} \frac{m+n}{\underline{m}} & \text{if } m > i \\ \underline{m} & \text{if } m \leq i \end{cases} \\ \tau_i^n(\lambda a) &= \lambda(\tau_{i+1}^n(a)) \end{aligned}$$

Notice that $\tau_i^n \circ \tau_i^m = \tau_i^{n+m}$ and $\tau_i^0(a) = a$. We define a translation μ that links impure terms with σ_n and τ_n^i .

$$\mu(a[\uparrow^n(b/)]) = \sigma_n(\mu(a), \mu(b))$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mu(a[\uparrow^n(\uparrow)]) &= \tau_n^1(\mu(a)) \\
 \mu(\underline{n}) &= \underline{n} \\
 \mu(ab) &= \mu(a)\mu(b) \\
 \mu(\lambda a) &= \lambda(\mu(a))
 \end{aligned}$$

Notice that if a is a pure term, then $\mu(a) = a$, in particular, $\mu(v(a)) = v(a)$. The following proposition shows that both definitions coincide.

Proposition 1 1. $a \xrightarrow{v} b \Rightarrow \mu(a) = \mu(b)$, hence $v(a) = \mu(a)$.

2. $v(a[b/]) = \sigma_0(\mu(a), \mu(b))$.

Proof: In order to prove the first assertion we consider each rule of v .

• $(ab)[s] \xrightarrow{v} a[s]b[s]$

– case $s = \uparrow^n(c/)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mu((ab)[s]) &= \sigma_n(\mu(ab), \mu(c)) = \sigma_n(\mu(a)\mu(b), \mu(c)) \\
 &= \sigma_n(\mu(a), \mu(c)) \sigma_n(\mu(b), \mu(c)). \\
 \mu(a[s]b[s]) &= \mu(a[s])\mu(b[s]) \\
 &= \sigma_n(\mu(a), \mu(c)) \sigma_n(\mu(b), \mu(c)).
 \end{aligned}$$

– case $s = \uparrow^n(\uparrow)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mu((ab)[s]) &= \tau_n^1(\mu(ab)) = \tau_n^1(\mu(a) \mu(b)) = \tau_n^1(\mu(a)) \tau_n^1(\mu(b)). \\
 \mu(a[s]b[s]) &= \mu(a[s]) \mu(b[s]) = \tau_n^1(\mu(a)) \tau_n^1(\mu(b)).
 \end{aligned}$$

• $(\lambda a)[s] \xrightarrow{v} \lambda(a[\uparrow(s)])$

– case $s = \uparrow^n(b/)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mu((\lambda a)[s]) &= \sigma_n(\mu(\lambda a), \mu(b)) = \sigma_n(\lambda\mu(a), \mu(b)) = \lambda\sigma_{n+1}(\mu(a), \mu(b)). \\
 \mu(\lambda(a[\uparrow(s)])) &= \lambda\mu(a[\uparrow(s)]) = \lambda\sigma_{n+1}(\mu(a), \mu(b)).
 \end{aligned}$$

– case $s = \uparrow^n(\uparrow)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mu((\lambda a)[s]) &= \tau_n^1(\mu(\lambda a)) = \tau_n^1(\lambda\mu(a)) = \lambda\tau_{n+1}^1(\mu(a)). \\
 \mu(\lambda(a[\uparrow(s)])) &= \lambda\mu(a[\uparrow(s)]) = \lambda\tau_{n+1}^1(\mu(a)).
 \end{aligned}$$

• $\underline{1}[a/] \xrightarrow{v} a$, $\mu(\underline{1}[a/]) = \sigma_0(\mu(\underline{1}), \mu(a)) = \sigma_0(\underline{1}, \mu(a)) = \tau_0^0(\mu(a)) = \mu(a)$.

• $\underline{n+1}[a/] \xrightarrow{v} \underline{n}$

$$\mu(\underline{n+1}[a/]) = \sigma_0(\mu(\underline{n+1}), \mu(a)) = \sigma_0(\underline{n+1}, \mu(a)) = \underline{n} = \mu(\underline{n}).$$

• $\underline{1}[\uparrow(s)] \xrightarrow{v} \underline{1}$

– case $s = \uparrow^n(b/)$

$$\mu(\underline{1}[\uparrow(s)]) = \sigma_{n+1}(\mu(\underline{1}), \mu(b)) = \sigma_{n+1}(\underline{1}, \mu(b)) = \underline{1} = \mu(\underline{1})$$

– case $s = \uparrow^n(\uparrow)$

$$\mu(\underline{1}[\uparrow(s)]) = \tau_{n+1}^1(\mu(\underline{1})) = \tau_{n+1}^1(\underline{1}) = \underline{1} = \mu(\underline{1}).$$

- $\underline{n+1}[\uparrow(s)] \xrightarrow{v} \underline{n}[s][\uparrow]$
 - case $s = \uparrow^k(b/)$

$$\mu(\underline{n+1}[\uparrow(s)]) = \sigma_{k+1}(\mu(\underline{n+1}), \mu(b)) = \sigma_{k+1}(\underline{n+1}, \mu(b)).$$
 By case,
 - * $\sigma_{k+1}(\underline{n+1}, \mu(b)) = \underline{n+1}$ if $n \leq k$,
 - * $\sigma_{k+1}(\underline{n+1}, \mu(b)) = \underline{n}$ if $n > k+1$
 - * and $\sigma_{k+1}(\underline{n+1}, \mu(b)) = \tau_0^{k+1}(\mu(b))$ if $n = k+1$.
$$\mu(\underline{n}[s][\uparrow]) = \tau_0^1(\mu(\underline{n}[\uparrow^k(b/)])) = \tau_0^1(\sigma_k(\mu(\underline{n}), \mu(b))) = \tau_0^1(\sigma_k(\underline{n}, \mu(b))).$$
 By case,
 - * $\tau_0^1(\sigma_k(\mu(\underline{n}), \mu(b))) = \tau_0^1(\sigma_k(\underline{n}, \mu(b))) = \tau_0^1(\underline{n}) = \underline{n+1}$ if $n \leq k$,
 - * $\tau_0^1(\sigma_k(\mu(\underline{n}), \mu(b))) = \tau_0^1(\sigma_k(\underline{n}, \mu(b))) = \tau_0^1(\underline{n-1}) = \underline{n}$ if $n > k+1$
 - * $\tau_0^1(\sigma_k(\mu(\underline{n}), \mu(b))) = \tau_0^1(\sigma_k(\underline{n}, \mu(b))) = \tau_0^1(\tau_0^k(\mu(b))) = \tau_0^{k+1}(\mu(b))$ if $n = k+1$, from $\tau_i^n \circ \tau_i^m = \tau_i^{n+m}$.
 - case $s = \uparrow^k(\uparrow)$

$$\mu(\underline{n+1}[\uparrow(s)]) = \tau_{k+1}^1(\mu(\underline{n+1})) = \tau_{k+1}^1(\underline{n+1}).$$
 Thus
 - * $\underline{n+2}$ if $n > k$
 - * $\underline{n+1}$ if $n \leq k$.
$$\mu(\underline{n}[s][\uparrow]) = \tau_0^1(\mu(\underline{n}[\uparrow^k(\uparrow)])) = \tau_0^1\tau_k^1(\mu(\underline{n})) = \tau_0^1\tau_k^1(\underline{n}).$$
 Therefore
 - * $\tau_0^1(\underline{n+1}) = \underline{n+2}$ if $n > k$
 - * and $\tau_0^1(\underline{n}) = \underline{n+1}$ if $n \leq k$.
- $\underline{n}[\uparrow] \xrightarrow{v} \underline{n+1}$

$$\mu(\underline{n}[\uparrow]) = \tau_0^1(\mu(\underline{n})) = \tau_0^1(\underline{n}) = \underline{n+1} = \mu(\underline{n+1}).$$

The proof of 2 comes from $\sigma_0(\mu(a), \mu(b)) = \mu(a[b/])$, by definition of μ . $\mu(a[b/]) = v(a[b/])$ comes from Part 1. \square

4 Confluence of λv on Terms_v

A key point for the confluence of β reduction in classical λ -calculus is the substitution lemma. It expresses the fact that the following β -contractions are confluent :

$$(\lambda x.(\lambda y.M)N)L \xrightarrow{\beta} (\lambda x.M[y := N])L \xrightarrow{\beta} M[y := N][x := L]$$

$$(\lambda x.(\lambda y.M)N)L \xrightarrow{\beta} (\lambda y.M[x := L])N[x := L] \xrightarrow{\beta} M[x := L][y := N[x := L]]$$

Indeed, if $y \notin \text{FreeVar}(L)$, we have [3] Lemma 2.1.16 :

$$M[x := N][y := L] \equiv M[y := L][x := N[y := L]]$$

We find a similar situation in λv . Indeed, observe that λv has a sole critical pair, obtained by the superposition of rule B over rule App :

$$((\lambda a)b)[s] \xrightarrow{B} a[b/][s]$$

$$((\lambda a)b)[s] \xrightarrow{*} (\lambda a[\uparrow(s)])b[s] \xrightarrow{B} a[\uparrow(s)][b[s]/]$$

Thus, in order to get local confluence, we need to prove this v -conversion, which we also call substitution lemma :

$$a[b/][s] \xleftrightarrow{*} a[\uparrow(s)][b[s]/]$$

Lemmas 1 to 6 do the job. Notice that in the following we prove the substitution lemma only for pure terms, but the result remains true for impure terms since if a is impure

$$a[b/][s] \xleftrightarrow{*} v(a)[b/][s] \xleftrightarrow{*} v(a)[\uparrow(s)][b[s]/] \xleftrightarrow{*} a[\uparrow(s)][b[s]/].$$

The same lifting from pure terms to impure terms is true for every lemma in this section.

Lemma 1 For $n \geq 1$ and $i \geq 0$, $\underline{n}[\uparrow^{n+i}(s)] \xrightarrow{*} \underline{n}$.

For readability, we use the following abbreviation

$$a[\uparrow^i] \equiv a[\uparrow] \dots i \text{ times} \dots [\uparrow].$$

Obviously,

$$\underline{n}[\uparrow^i] \xrightarrow{*} \underline{n+i}.$$

Lemma 2 For $n \geq 1$ and $i \geq 0$, $\underline{n+i}[\uparrow^i(s)] \xrightarrow{*} \underline{n}[s][\uparrow^i]$.

Corollary 1 For $n > i \geq 0$, $\underline{n}[\uparrow^i(\uparrow)] \xrightarrow{*} \underline{n+1}$.

Lemma 3 For $i \geq 1$, $a[\uparrow^i(\uparrow)][\uparrow^i(b/)] \xrightarrow{*} a$.

Lemma 4 For all $j \geq i \geq 0$, $a[\uparrow^i(\uparrow)][\uparrow^{j+1}(\uparrow)] \xleftrightarrow{*} a[\uparrow^j(\uparrow)][\uparrow^i(\uparrow)]$.

Corollary 2 $a[\uparrow][\uparrow^{i+1}(\uparrow)] \xleftrightarrow{*} a[\uparrow^i(\uparrow)][\uparrow]$, when $i = 0$ $a[\uparrow][\uparrow(\uparrow)] \xleftrightarrow{*} a[\uparrow][\uparrow]$.

Corollary 3 For $i \geq 0$, $a[\uparrow^i][\uparrow^i(\uparrow)] \xleftrightarrow{*} a[\uparrow^{i+1}]$.

Lemma 5 $a[\uparrow^i(\uparrow)][\uparrow^{i+1}(s)] \xleftrightarrow{*} a[\uparrow^i(s)][\uparrow^i(\uparrow)]$.

Lemma 5 has an important corollary.

Corollary 4 $a[\uparrow][\uparrow(s)] \xleftrightarrow{*} a[s][\uparrow]$.

By the corollary it entails, the next lemma which is the key of the confluence of λv .

Lemma 6 $a[\uparrow^{i+1}(s)][\uparrow^i(b[s]/)] \xleftrightarrow[v]{*} a[\uparrow^i(b/)][\uparrow^i(s)]$.

Corollary 5 (Substitution Lemma) $a[b/][s] \xleftrightarrow[v]{*} a[\uparrow(s)][b[s]/]$.

For its use in the next lemma, Substitution Lemma has to be iterated.

Corollary 6 $a[b/][s_1] \dots [s_p] \xleftrightarrow[v]{*} a[\uparrow(s_1)] \dots [\uparrow(s_p)][b[s_1] \dots [s_p]/]$.

Lemma 7 (Projection Lemma) *If $a \xrightarrow[B]{*} b$ then $v(a) \xrightarrow[\beta]{*} v(b)$. If $s \xrightarrow[B]{*} t$ then $v(s) \xrightarrow[\beta]{*} v(t)$.*

Proof: The second statement comes from the fact that if $s \xrightarrow[B]{*} t$, then $s = \uparrow^i(a/)$ and $t = \uparrow^i(b/)$ with $a \xrightarrow[B]{*} b$ and $v(s) = \uparrow^i(v(a)/)$ and $v(t) = \uparrow^i(v(b)/)$. Hence from the first statement $v(a) \xrightarrow[\beta]{*} v(b)$ and $v(s) \xrightarrow[\beta]{*} v(t)$. Therefore we prove the statement for a and b . We proceed by noetherian induction on the lexicographic product of the two well-founded relations $(\xrightarrow[v]{*}, \sqsupset)$, where \sqsupset is the subterm relation. We distinguish cases according to the structure of a .

- If $a = a_1 a_2$ is an application and if the B -redex is in a_1 , since $a_1 a_2 \sqsupset a_1$ and $a_1 \xrightarrow[B]{*} b_1$ by induction one gets $v(a_1) \xrightarrow[\beta]{*} v(b_1)$ and

$$v(a_1 a_2) = v(a_1) v(a_2) \xrightarrow[\beta]{*} v(b_1) v(a_2) = v(b_1 a_2).$$

We proceed likewise if the B -redex is in a_2 or if $a = \lambda a_1$.

- If the B -redex is $a = (\lambda a_1) a_2$ then $b = a_1[a_2/]$ and $v(a) = (\lambda v(a_1)) v(a_2)$. By definition of β , one has

$$v(a) \xrightarrow[\beta]{*} v(v(a_1)[v(a_2)/]) = v(b).$$

- If a is a closure then $a = a'[s_1] \dots [s_p]$ and $b = b'[t_1] \dots [t_p]$.
 - $a = (a_1 a_2)[s_1] \dots [s_p]$ and $b = (b_1 a_2)[s_1] \dots [s_p]$. The B redex occurs inside a_1 with $a_1 \xrightarrow[B]{*} b_1$ then $a_1[s_1] \dots [s_p] \xrightarrow[B]{*} b_1[s_1] \dots [s_p]$, and as

$$(a_1 a_2)[s_1] \dots [s_p] \xrightarrow[v]{*} a_1[s_1] \dots [s_p] a - 2[s_1] \dots [s_p] \sqsupset a_1[s_1] \dots [s_p],$$

by induction

$$v(a_1[s_1] \dots [s_p]) \xrightarrow[\beta]{*} v(b_1[s_1] \dots [s_p])$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} v((a_1 a_2)[s_1] \dots [s_p]) &= v(a_1[s_1] \dots [s_p]) v(a_2[s_1] \dots [s_p]) \\ &\xrightarrow[\beta]{*} v(b_1[s_1] \dots [s_p]) v(a_2[s_1] \dots [s_p]) = v((b_1 a_2)[s_1] \dots [s_p]), \end{aligned}$$

and the same if the B rewrite takes place inside a_2 or inside a s_i .

– $a = ((\lambda a_3) a_2)[s_1] \dots [s_p]$ and $b = a_3[a_2/][s_1] \dots [s_p]$.

$$\begin{aligned} v(a) &= v(\lambda(v(a_3[\uparrow(s_1)] \dots [\uparrow(s_p)]))) v(a_2[s_1] \dots [s_p]) \\ &\xrightarrow{\beta} v(v(a_3[\uparrow(s_1)] \dots [\uparrow(s_p)])) [v(a_2[s_1] \dots [s_p])/] \\ &= v(a_3[\uparrow(s_1)] \dots [\uparrow(s_p)]) [a_2[s_1] \dots [s_p]/] \end{aligned}$$

and by corollary 6,

$$= v(a_3[a_2/][s_1] \dots [s_p]) = v(b).$$

– $a = (\lambda a_1)[s_1] \dots [s_p]$. If $a_1 \xrightarrow{B} b_1$ or $s_i \xrightarrow{B} t_i$,

$$\lambda(a_1[\uparrow(s_1)] \dots [\uparrow(s_p)]) \xrightarrow{B} \lambda(b_1[\uparrow(t_1)] \dots [\uparrow(t_p)])$$

and we can apply the induction hypothesis.

– $a = \underline{n}[s_1] \dots [s_p]$. The B redex is inside a s_i with $s_i = \uparrow^{j_i}(c_i/)$. If $i > 1$, then $\underline{n}[s_1] \xrightarrow{v} a_1$ where a_1 is not a closure and

$$a_1[s_2] \dots [s_p] \xrightarrow{B} a_1[t_2] \dots [t_p]$$

where all the t_j are equal to s_j except t_i which is $\uparrow^{j_i}(d_i/)$ with $c_i \xrightarrow{B} d_i$. The result comes by induction. If the B redex is inside s_1 ,

$$s_1 = \uparrow^{j_1}(c_1/) \xrightarrow{B} t_1 = \uparrow^{j_1}(d_1/).$$

By case, one gets:

* $n = 1$ and $j_1 = 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{1}[c_1/][s_2] \dots [s_p] &\xrightarrow{v} c_1[s_2] \dots [s_p] \xrightarrow{B} d_1[s_2] \dots [s_p] \\ \underline{1}[d_1/][s_2] \dots [s_p] &\xrightarrow{v} d_1[s_2] \dots [s_p] \end{aligned}$$

and the result comes by induction.

* $n = k + 1$ and $j_1 = 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{k+1}[c_1/][s_2] \dots [s_p] &\xrightarrow{v} \underline{k}[s_2] \dots [s_p] \\ \underline{k+1}[d_1/][s_2] \dots [s_p] &\xrightarrow{v} \underline{k}[s_2] \dots [s_p] \end{aligned}$$

and the result is immediate.

* $n = 1$ and $j_1 = j + 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{1}[\uparrow^{j+1}(c_1/)][s_2] \dots [s_p] &\xrightarrow{v} \underline{1}[s_2] \dots [s_p] \\ \underline{1}[\uparrow^{j+1}(d_1/)][s_2] \dots [s_p] &\xrightarrow{v} \underline{1}[s_2] \dots [s_p] \end{aligned}$$

and like above the result is immediate.

* $n = k + 1$ and $j_1 = j + 1$.

$$\underline{k+1}[\uparrow^{j+1}(c_1/)] [s_2] \dots [s_p] \xrightarrow{v} \underline{k}[\uparrow^j(c_1/)] [\uparrow] [s_2] \dots [s_p]$$

$$\underline{k+1}[\uparrow^{j+1}(d_1/)] [s_2] \dots [s_p] \xrightarrow{v} \underline{k}[\uparrow^j(d_1/)] [\uparrow] [s_2] \dots [s_p]$$

and the result comes by induction.

□

Theorem 1 (Confluence Theorem) λv is confluent on \mathbf{Terms}_v .

Proof: The proof of the theorem resembles the proof of a similar theorem by Abadi et al. in [2] which in turn was based on Hardin’s interpretation method [18] with modifications due to the change of substitution calculus from σ to v . It relies on the Projection Lemma. □

5 λv preserves strong β normalization

The essential difference between $\xrightarrow{\beta}$ on one hand and, $\xrightarrow{\lambda v}$ and $\xrightarrow{\lambda \sigma}$ on the other hand is that β rewrites with B and then normalises with v or σ in order to remove all the closures, whereas λv or $\lambda \sigma$ rewrite also with B but perform or postpone reductions of closures created by B . This raises the following question. Are strongly β normalisable λ terms strongly λv normalisable or strongly $\lambda \sigma$ normalisable? The answer is “yes” for λv whereas Mellies gave a negative answer for $\lambda \sigma$. There are strongly β normalisable λ terms, even simply typed λ terms, which are not strongly $\lambda \sigma$ normalisable. The difficulty is that it could happen that $a \xrightarrow{B} b$ and $v(a) = v(b)$. In that case, the reduced B -redex of a lies in the substitution part of a subterm which is a closure. That closure is eliminated by rule *Rvar* or rule *FVarLift* which are the only rules of v that can delete a B -redex¹. Thus in the projection lemma, it could be the case that we perform a B -reduction that does not correspond to a β -reduction on the v normal form, we could therefore make more (but not infinitely many more) B reductions than β reductions. The key of the proof of preservation of strong normalisation is the fact that, in λv , closures can only be created by B unlike $\lambda \sigma$ where closures are also created by *Map*

$$(a \cdot s) \circ t \rightarrow a[t] \cdot (s \circ t).$$

Therefore, given a closure the B rewrite that creates it can always be tracked back. This will be expressed more formally through lemmas 8 and 9. First let us remind the reader what we call a *position* in a term. Although it has been understood in what precedes, it plays a main role in the following proofs and has to be made precise.

Definition 1 (Position) A *position* in a λ term t is a sequence of numbers 1 or 2, such that

¹*App* also deletes B -redexes, but *Lambda* enables them immediately.

- $t|_\epsilon = t$
- If $t|_p = a[s]$, then $t|_{p1} = a$ and $t|_{p2} = s$.
- If $t|_p = \lambda(a)$, then $t|_{p1} = a$.
- If $t|_p = a_1 a_2$, then $t|_{p1} = a_1$ and $t|_{p2} = a_2$.
- If $t|_p = b/$, then $t|_{p1} = b$.
- If $t|_p = \uparrow(s)$, then $t|_{p1} = s$.

Positions are compared by the prefix order. p is a prefix of q , if there exists p' such that $p p' = q$.

Definition 2 (Replacement) The term $t\{u\}_p$ obtained by replacing the subterm of t at position p by u is the term written $t\{u\}_p$ and defined by

- $(t\{u\}_p)|_{pp'} = u|_{p'}$,
- $(t\{u\}_p)|_{p'} = t|_{p'}\{u\}_{p''}$ if $p = p'p''$.
- $(t\{u\}_p)|_q = t|_q$ if p and q are disjoint, i.e., q is none of the above cases.

Rewriting the term t at the position p by the rule B into the term t' means that there exists a substitution (in the usual sense) f such that $t|_p = f((\lambda a)b)$ and $t' = t\{f(a[b/])\}_p$ which we write $t \xrightarrow[B,p]{} t'$.

Lemma 8 Let $a, b \in \mathbf{Terms}_v$ such that $a \xrightarrow[\lambda v]{} b = t\{d[\uparrow^i(e/)]\}_p$. Then,

1. either $a = t'\{d'[\uparrow^j(e'/)]\}_{p'}$ and $(e' \xrightarrow[\lambda v]{} e$ or $e' = e)$,
2. or $a = t\{(\lambda d)e\}_p$.

Proof: As a rewrites to b , $a = u\{l\}_q$ and $b = u\{r\}_q$, with l , a λv -redex, and r the corresponding λv -reduct. We proceed by a case analysis based on the relative positions of $d[\uparrow^i(e/)]$ and of the reduct r . Both are subterms of b , namely $b|_p = d[\uparrow^i(e/)]$, $b|_q = r$.

1. p, q are disjoint positions. By definition of rewriting $a|_{p'} = b|_{p'}$ for each position p' disjoint of q . Therefore: $a|_p = d[\uparrow^i(e/)]$.
2. p, q are not disjoint. $d[\uparrow^i(e/)]$ is a subterm of r or vice-versa.
 - (a) r is a strict subterm of $d[\uparrow^i(e/)]$. As λv only rewrites terms of sort \mathbf{Terms}_v , the reduct is either in d or in e . Thus $a = t\{d'[\uparrow^i(e'/)]\}_p$ with $(d' \xrightarrow[\lambda v]{} d$ and $e' = e)$ or $(e' \xrightarrow[\lambda v]{} e$ and $d' = d)$.

- (b) $d[\uparrow^i(e/)]$ is a subterm of r . In that case, the λv -rewrite produces a reduct which contains $d[\uparrow^i(e/)]$. Hence, a subterm g of the right hand side of the λv -rule matches $d[\uparrow^i(e/)]$ or $E\{d[\uparrow^i(e/)]\}$. If g is a variable, then g occurs in the left hand side and the result follows. Else, g has to be a closure $g = f[s]$ and matches $d[\uparrow^i(e/)]$. One of the following rules has been used :

- (App). This means

$$b = u\{d'[\uparrow^i(e/)]d[\uparrow^i(e/)]\}_q$$

or

$$b = u\{d[\uparrow^i(e/)]d'[\uparrow^i(e/)]\}_q.$$

In the first case, this implies $a = u\{(d'd)[\uparrow^i(e/)]\}_q$. The other case is similar.

- (Lambda). This means : $b = u\{\lambda(d[\uparrow^{j+1}(e/)])\}_q$ with $i = j + 1$. This implies : $a = u\{(\lambda d)[\uparrow^j(e/)]\}_q$.
- (B). This means : $b = t\{d[e/]\}_p$ with $i = 0$. Then $a = t\{(\lambda d)e\}_p$.
- (RVarLift). This means : $b = u\{\underline{n}[\uparrow^i(e/)][\uparrow]\}_q$ and implies : $a = u\{\underline{n+1}[\uparrow^{i+1}(e/)]\}_q$.

□

Lemma 9 Let $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbf{Terms}_v$ such that $a_i \xrightarrow{\lambda v} a_{i+1}$, $1 \leq i \leq n-1$, and $a_n = t\{d[\uparrow^i(e/)]\}_p$. Then,

1. either there is an i such that $a_i = t\{(\lambda d')e'\}_p$, and $e' \xrightarrow{\lambda v} e$,
2. or $a_1 = t\{d'[\uparrow^j(e'/)]\}_p$, and $e' \xrightarrow{\lambda v} e$.

Proof: By induction on n . The basic case $n = 1$ is immediate. Suppose :

$$a_1 \xrightarrow{\lambda v} a_n \xrightarrow{\lambda v} a_{n+1} = t\{d[\uparrow^i(e/)]\}_p$$

By previous lemma, either $a_n = t\{(\lambda d)e\}_p$ and $i = n$, or $a_n = t\{d'[\uparrow^j(e'/)]\}_p$ with $e' \xrightarrow{\lambda v} e$ and we apply the induction hypothesis. □

Definition 3 (External position) The set $Ext(a)$ of external positions of a term a is the set defined as:

$$\begin{aligned} Ext(ab) &= 1Ext(a) \cup 2Ext(b) \cup \{\epsilon\} \\ Ext(\lambda a) &= 1Ext(a) \cup \{\epsilon\} \\ Ext(a[s]) &= 1Ext(a) \cup \{\epsilon\} \\ Ext(\underline{n}) &= \{\epsilon\} \end{aligned}$$

Intuitively external positions are those under no brackets, i.e., in no substitution part of any closure. A rewrite which takes place at an external position is said *external*, otherwise it is said *internal*. If one wants to make precise that a rewrite $\xrightarrow{\lambda_v}$ is external (resp. internal) one writes $\xrightarrow{\lambda_v}^{ext}$ (resp. $\xrightarrow{\lambda_v}^{int}$).

Lemma 10 *If $p \in Ext(a)$ and if $a \xrightarrow{B,p} b$, then $v(a) \xrightarrow{\beta} v(b)$. In particular, if $v(a)$ is strongly β normalisable $v(a) \neq v(b)$.*

The proof is similar to this of the projection lemma. There is exactly one β rewrite since v may not duplicate or eliminate a subterm at an external position.

We also use the contraposition: if $v(a)$ is strongly β normalisable, $v(a) = v(b)$, and $a \xrightarrow{B,p} b$, then p is internal.

In the following lemma, $\xrightarrow{1,2}$ means one or two rewrites and $\xrightarrow{0,1,2}$ means zero, one or two rewrites.

Lemma 11 (Commutation Lemma) *If $v(a)$ is strongly β normalisable, $v(a) = v(b)$ and $a \xrightarrow{\lambda_{v,p}}^{int} \cdot \xrightarrow{v,q}^{ext} b$ then $a \xrightarrow{v}^{1,2}^{ext} \cdot \xrightarrow{\lambda_v}^{0,1,2}^{int} b$.*

Proof: The proof is by case analysis on the first rewrite position p relatively to the second one q .

- p and q are disjoint, then it is clear that we can permute the two rewrites, thus $a \xrightarrow{v}^{ext} \cdot \xrightarrow{\lambda_v}^{int} b$.
- p is a strict prefix of q , this case is impossible, indeed if p is an internal position in b (a rewrite at an internal position remains internal) and $b|_q$ is a subterm of $b|_p$ then q is not an external position.
- q is a prefix of p , let us analyse each v -rewrite rule at q .
 - (App) is applied, $b|_q = c_1[s] c_2[s]$, then there are only three possible cases to rewrite $a|_q$.
 - If $s' \xrightarrow{\lambda_v} s$ and $(c_1 c_2)[s'] \xrightarrow{\lambda_v}^{int} (c_1 c_2)[s] \xrightarrow{v}^{ext} c_1[s] c_2[s]$, then

$$(c_1 c_2)[s'] \xrightarrow{v}^{ext} c_1[s'] c_2[s'] \xrightarrow{\lambda_v}^{int} c_1[s] c_2[s'] \xrightarrow{\lambda_v}^{int} c_1[s] c_2[s].$$
 - If $c'_1 \xrightarrow{\lambda_v}^{int} c_1$ and $(c'_1 c_2)[s] \xrightarrow{\lambda_v}^{int} (c_1 c_2)[s] \xrightarrow{v}^{ext} c_1[s] c_2[s]$, then

$$(c'_1 c_2)[s] \xrightarrow{v}^{ext} c'_1[s] c_2[s] \xrightarrow{\lambda_v}^{int} c_1[s] c_2[s].$$
 - Similarly if $c_2 \xrightarrow{\lambda_v}^{int} c'_2$.

Notice that, the term $A\{(c_1 c_2)[s]\}_q$ cannot be produced by an internal rewrite on a at p since $a|_p$ is a subterm of $a|_q$ and q is an external position.

– (Lambdab) is applied, $b|_q = \lambda c[\uparrow(s)]$, then there are only two possible cases,

- If $s' \xrightarrow{\lambda v} s$ and $(\lambda c)[s'] \xrightarrow{\lambda v}^{int} (\lambda c)[s] \xrightarrow{v}^{ext} (\lambda c)[\uparrow(s)]$, then

$$(\lambda c)[s'] \xrightarrow{v}^{ext} \lambda c[\uparrow(s')] \xrightarrow{\lambda v}^{int} \lambda c[\uparrow(s)].$$

- If $c' \xrightarrow{\lambda v}^{int} c$ and $(\lambda c')[s] \xrightarrow{\lambda v}^{int} (\lambda c)[s] \xrightarrow{v}^{ext} \lambda c[\uparrow(s)]$, then

$$(\lambda c')[s] \xrightarrow{v}^{ext} \lambda c'[\uparrow(s)] \xrightarrow{\lambda v}^{int} \lambda c[\uparrow(s)].$$

– (FVar) is applied, then $b|_q = c$ such that $\underline{1}[c'/] \xrightarrow{\lambda v}^{int} \underline{1}[c/] \xrightarrow{v}^{ext} c$, with $c' \xrightarrow{\lambda v} c$. Three possible cases which depend on the nature (internal or external) of the rewrite of c' .

- $c' \xrightarrow{\lambda v}^{int} c$, then

$$\underline{1}[c'/] \xrightarrow{v}^{ext} c' \xrightarrow{\lambda v}^{int} c.$$

- $c' \xrightarrow{v}^{ext} c$, then

$$\underline{1}[c'/] \xrightarrow{v}^{ext} c' \xrightarrow{v}^{ext} c.$$

- $c' \xrightarrow{\beta}^{ext} c$, this case is impossible under the hypothesis $v(a) = v(b)$ and $v(a)$ is β strongly β normalisable, indeed we have also

$$a = A\{\underline{1}[c'/]\}_q \xrightarrow{v} A\{c'\}_q \xrightarrow{\beta}^{ext} A\{c\}_q = b$$

and $v(a) = v(A\{c'\}_q)$ is strongly normalisable then by lemma 10 $v(A\{c'\}_q) \neq v(A\{c\}_q)$, and

$$\begin{aligned} v(a) &= v(A\{\underline{1}[c'/]\}_q) = v(A\{c'\}_q), \\ v(b) &= v(A\{c\}_q). \end{aligned}$$

then $v(a) \neq v(b)$.

– (RVar) is applied, then $b|_q = \underline{n}$, such that,

$$\underline{n} + \underline{1}[c'/] \xrightarrow{\lambda v}^{int} \underline{n} + \underline{1}[c/] \xrightarrow{v}^{ext} \underline{n}, \text{ then } \underline{n} + \underline{1}[c'/] \xrightarrow{v}^{ext} \underline{n}.$$

– (FVarLift) is applied, then $b|_q = \underline{1}$, such that,

$$\underline{1}[\uparrow(s')] \xrightarrow{\lambda v}^{int} \underline{1}[\uparrow(s)] \xrightarrow{v}^{ext} \underline{1}, \text{ then } \underline{1}[\uparrow(s')] \xrightarrow{v}^{ext} \underline{1}.$$

– (RVarLift) is applied, then $b|_q = \underline{n}[s][\uparrow]$, such that,

$$\underline{n} + \underline{1}[\uparrow(s')] \xrightarrow{\lambda v}^{int} \underline{n} + \underline{1}[\uparrow(s)] \xrightarrow{v}^{ext} \underline{n}[s][\uparrow], \text{ then}$$

$$\underline{n} + \underline{1}[\uparrow(s')] \xrightarrow{v}^{ext} \underline{n}[s'][\uparrow] \xrightarrow{\lambda v}^{int} \underline{n}[s][\uparrow].$$

□

Lemma 12 *Let a_1 be a strongly β normalisable pure term. In each infinite λv derivation of terms starting with a_1 there exists an N such that for $i \geq N$ all the λv rewrites are internal.*

Proof: A λv derivation $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, \dots$ starting from a_1 can be written :

$$a_1 \xrightarrow{B}^{ext} a'_1 \xrightarrow{\lambda v}^* a''_1 \xrightarrow{B}^{ext} a'_2 \cdots a''_i \xrightarrow{B}^{ext} a'_i \xrightarrow{\lambda v}^* a''_{i+1} \xrightarrow{B}^{ext} a'_{i+1} \cdots$$

Where the rewrites from a'_i to a''_{i+1} are either v rewrites or internal B rewrites. By Lemma 10, we have $v(a''_i) \xrightarrow{\beta} v(a'_i) = v(a''_{i+1})$, hence

$$a_1 = v(a_1) \xrightarrow{\beta} v(a'_2) \cdots v(a'_i) \xrightarrow{\beta} v(a''_{i+1}) \cdots$$

Since a_1 is strongly β normalisable, there are only finitely many β rewrites. Therefore the number of external B rewrites in the λv derivation a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots is finite. Thus there exists a P such that for $i \geq P$ we have only internal B rewrites :

$$a_P \xrightarrow{\lambda v}^* int \cdot \xrightarrow{v}^{ext} \cdot \xrightarrow{\lambda v}^* int \cdots$$

We can also claim that there exists an $N \geq P$ such that for $i \geq N$, the v rewrites are internal. Indeed since v is strongly normalising there exists a natural number n_{a_P} such that no λv derivation starting at a_P can begin with more than n_{a_P} v rewrites. If one supposes there are infinitely many external v rewrites in an infinite λv -derivation starting from a_P , there are at least $n_{a_P} + 1$ of them. By iterative application of Commutation Lemma, one can create by shifting $n_{a_P} + 1$ external v rewrites starting from a_p (see Figure 4), which is not possible. \square

Definition 4 (Minimal λv derivation) *An infinite λv derivation $a_1 \xrightarrow{\lambda v, p_1} a_2 \xrightarrow{\lambda v, p_2} \cdots a_n \xrightarrow{\lambda v, p_n} a_{n+1} \cdots$ starting from the pure term a_1 is minimal if for $a_1 \xrightarrow{\lambda v, p_1} a_2 \xrightarrow{\lambda v, p_2} \cdots a_n \xrightarrow{\lambda v, q_n} b_{n+1} \cdots$ any other infinite derivation, for all $p', q_n \neq p_n p'$ (see Figure 5).*

That means that either p_n and q_n are disjoint positions or q_n is above p_n (i.e., $p_n = q_n q'$). In other words, one rewrites always the lowest possible redex to keep non termination. This does not preclude a possible λv redex in a_n at a position lower than p_n , but minimality says that rewriting at such a position leads to a finite derivation.

We need also another definition which we call *frontier* and which represents the set of closures at external positions.

Definition 5 (Frontier) *The frontier of a term a , denoted $Fr(a)$, is the set of external positions p such that $a|_p$ is a closure, i.e. is of the form $[-]$.*

Theorem 2 (Preservation of normalisation) *If a pure term a_1 is strongly β normalisable, then a_1 is strongly λv normalisable.*

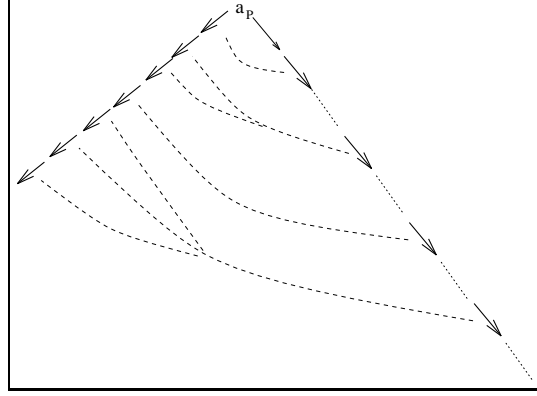


Figure 4: Shifting external v rewrites. v rewrites are emphasized

Proof: The proof is by contradiction. Suppose a_1 is a pure term strongly β normalisable, but non strongly λv normalisable. Let us consider a *minimal* infinite λv derivation \mathcal{D} starting with the term a_1 . By Lemma 12 there exists N after which only internal λv rewrites take place. We have $Fr(a_N) = Fr(a_{N+1})$, since a closure at the frontier can be created only by an external rewrite. The cardinal of $Fr(a_N)$ is finite, we can therefore choose a position p in $Fr(a_N)$ such that $a_{N|_p} = c[\uparrow^i(b_N/)]$ and such that the minimal λv derivation contains infinitely many rewrites below p . The rewrites below each p in $Fr(a_N)$ are independent, we can therefore extract from the derivation \mathcal{D} an infinite λv derivation $\mathcal{D}' = (a_1, \dots, a_N, a'_{N+1}, \dots, a'_i, \dots)$ starting with the same N first terms and such that all the internal λv rewrites take place inside the closure $c[\uparrow^i(b_N/)]$. \mathcal{D}' is a minimal infinite derivation. In \mathcal{D}' we have

$$a_N = t\{c[\uparrow^i(b_N/)]\}_p \xrightarrow[\lambda v]{in_t} a'_{N+1} = t\{c[\uparrow^i(b_{N+1}/)]\}_p \xrightarrow[\lambda v]{in_t} \dots a'_j = t\{c[\uparrow^i(b_j/)]\}_p \dots$$

where t is a context, $p \in Fr(a_N)$ and the sequence $(b_N, b_{N+1}, \dots, b_j, \dots)$ is an infinite derivation in which there are necessarily B rewrites. From Lemma 9 we know that the closure $c[\uparrow^i(b_N/)]$ has been created sometime before N , by a B rewrite. Lemma 9 says also that there exists $J \leq N$ and a position p_J such that:

$$a_J = t'\{(\lambda c')b\}_{p_J} \xrightarrow[B, p_J]{} t'\{c'[b/]\}_{p_J} = a'_J$$

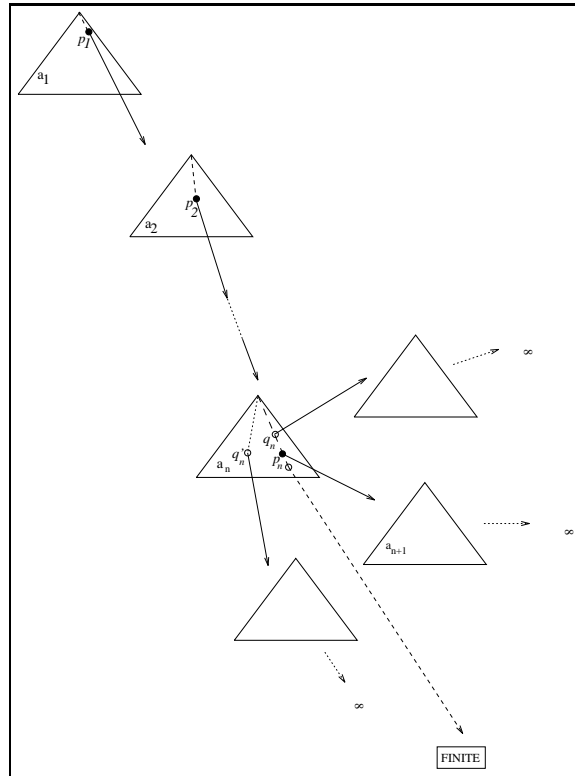


Figure 5: A minimal λv derivation

where t' is a context. Moreover $b \xrightarrow[\lambda v]{\star} b_N$ and $t'\{c'[b/]\}_{p_J} \xrightarrow[\lambda v]{\star} t'\{c[\uparrow^i(b_N/)]\}_{p_J}$. Let us consider the following infinite λv derivation \mathcal{D}'' defined as

$$\begin{array}{c} a_1 \quad \xrightarrow[\lambda v]{} \quad a_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_J \quad = \quad t'\{(\lambda c')b\}_{p_J} \\ \quad \quad \quad \xrightarrow[\lambda v]{\star} \quad t'\{(\lambda c')b_N\}_{p_J} \\ \quad \quad \quad \xrightarrow[\lambda v]{} \quad t'\{(\lambda c')b_{N+1}\}_{p_J} \\ \quad \quad \quad \vdots \\ \quad \quad \quad \xrightarrow[\lambda v]{} \quad t'\{(\lambda c')b_l\}_{p_J} \\ \quad \quad \quad \vdots \end{array}$$

In \mathcal{D}'' all the rewrites from a_J are below p_J , especially the rewrite from $t'\{(\lambda c')b_N\}_{p_J}$ to $t'\{(\lambda c')b_{N+1}\}_{p_J}$. That contradicts the minimality of the derivation \mathcal{D}' . \square

Corollary 7 *Typed pure terms in \mathbf{Term}_v are strongly λv normalisable.*

6 The system $C\lambda\xi\phi$

In [13], N. G. de Bruijn presents the first calculus of explicit substitutions which he calls $C\lambda\xi\phi$. As his notations are somewhat difficult to read and different of these we are used to, we propose to describe his rules in notations similar to those used in the previous section.

Starting from rule (B), de Bruijn distinguishes two kinds of substitutions: substitutions that rename variables and substitutions that assign terms to variables. The substitutions of the first kind are associated with functions $\theta : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$. In our notations $\underline{\theta}$'s correspond to substitutions of the form $\uparrow^i(\uparrow)$ and $\uparrow^i(\downarrow)$, where \downarrow is the substitution defined below. The calculus of explicit substitution proposes a notation for representing those functions, and distinguishes a function from its associated explicit substitution. The explicit substitution associated with function θ will be written $\underline{\theta}$. Actually de Bruijn uses $\xi(n)$ for our \underline{n} and $\phi(\theta)$ for our $\underline{\theta}$, hence the name $C\lambda\xi\phi$. Among those functions de Bruijn considers a function which he names θ_2 and which corresponds to:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \theta_2 : & \underline{1} & \mapsto \underline{2} \\ & \underline{2} & \mapsto \underline{1} \\ & \underline{3} & \mapsto \underline{3} \\ & \vdots & \\ & \underline{n+2} & \mapsto \underline{n+2} \\ & \vdots & \end{array}$$

To include this substitution in our notations, we propose to write $\underline{\theta_2}$ as \downarrow and to call it a *transposition*. The behavior of \downarrow can be described by its effect on indices as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\text{Transp}_1) \quad \underline{1}[\uparrow] &\rightarrow \underline{2} \\
 (\text{Transp}_2) \quad \underline{2}[\uparrow] &\rightarrow \underline{1} \\
 (\text{Transp}_3) \quad \underline{n+2}[\uparrow] &\rightarrow \underline{n+2}
 \end{aligned}$$

The effect of a function $\theta : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ on pure terms is described by de Bruijn with the following rules. In them, de Bruijn distinguishes constant functions, e.g., c of arity 0, f of arity 1, and g of arity 2.

$$\begin{aligned}
 (A_1) \quad c[\underline{\theta}] &\rightarrow c \\
 (A_2) \quad \underline{n}[\underline{\theta}] &\rightarrow \underline{\theta(n)} \\
 (A_4) \quad (f \ a)[\underline{\theta}] &\rightarrow f(a[\underline{\theta}]) \\
 (A_6) \quad a[\underline{\theta}][\underline{\theta}'] &\rightarrow a[\underline{\theta' \cdot \theta}] \\
 (A_7) \quad (\lambda a)[\underline{\theta}] &\rightarrow \lambda(a[\underline{L(\theta)}]) \\
 (A_8) \quad (g \ a \ b)[\underline{\theta}] &\rightarrow g(a[\underline{\theta}] \ b[\underline{\theta}])
 \end{aligned}$$

where $L(\theta)(1) = 1$ and $L(\theta)(n+1) = \theta(n) + 1$, and $\theta' \cdot \theta(n) = \theta'(\theta(n))$. (A_9) is a rule scheme which is just a generalization of (A_1), (A_4), and (A_8) to functions of arity $n = 3, \dots$. Rules (A_3) and (A_5) are omitted purposely since they are not relevant here. Actually in (A_6) and (A_7), $\underline{\theta' \cdot \theta}$ and $\underline{L(\theta)}$ are defined directly on the underlying functions. L is just the *Lift* operation that is written \uparrow in our notations and \cdot is the composition written \circ in contemporary notations. Notice that the composition introduced in rule (A_6) is not used elsewhere and is not necessary for a complete definition.

The second kind of substitutions are these of the form $t/$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 (B_1) \quad c[t/] &\rightarrow c \\
 (B_2) \quad \underline{n+1}[t/] &\rightarrow \underline{n} \\
 (B_3) \quad \underline{1}[t/] &\rightarrow t \\
 (B_4) \quad a[\uparrow][t/] &\rightarrow a \\
 (B_6) \quad (f \ a)[t/] &\rightarrow f(a[t/]) \\
 (B_7) \quad (\lambda a)[t/] &\rightarrow \lambda(a[\uparrow][t\uparrow/]) \\
 (B_{10}) \quad g \ (a \ b)[t/] &\rightarrow g(a[t/] \ b[t/])
 \end{aligned}$$

As above, (B_{11}) is a rule scheme which is just a generalization of (B_1), (B_6) and (B_{10}). Likewise, rules (B_5) and (B_8) are omitted purposely since they are not relevant here.

This system inspires us a calculus of explicit substitutions which we call $\lambda\xi\phi$ (Figure 6). Let us call $\mathbf{Terms}_{\xi\phi}$ the set of terms described by the grammar:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{Terms}_{\xi\phi} \quad a &::= \underline{n} \mid ab \mid \lambda a \mid a[s] \mid a[t/] \\
 \mathbf{Substitutions}_{\xi\phi} \quad s &::= \uparrow(s) \mid \uparrow \mid \downarrow \\
 \mathbf{Naturals} \quad n &::= n+1 \mid 1.
 \end{aligned}$$

$[\]$ denotes substitutions that rename variables, those that are written $\underline{\theta}$ in de Bruijn's notations and $[/]$ denotes substitutions that assign a term to the index $\underline{1}$. We call $\xi\phi$ the system $\lambda\xi\phi \setminus (B)$, $\xi\phi$ can be shown to be strongly normalizing by using the lexicographic

(B)	$(\lambda a)b \rightarrow a[b/]$
(App ₁)	$(a\ b)[c/] \rightarrow a[c/] b[c/]$
(Lambda ₁)	$(\lambda a)[b/] \rightarrow \lambda(a[\uparrow][b[\uparrow]/])$
(FVar)	$\underline{1}[a/] \rightarrow a$
(RVar)	$\underline{n+1}[a/] \rightarrow \underline{n}$
(App ₂)	$(a\ b)[s] \rightarrow a[s] b[s]$
(Lambda ₂)	$(\lambda a)[s] \rightarrow \lambda(a[\uparrow(s)])$
(FVarLift)	$\underline{1}[\uparrow(s)] \rightarrow \underline{1}$
(RVarLift)	$\underline{n+1}[\uparrow(s)] \rightarrow \underline{n}[s][\uparrow]$
(VarShift)	$\underline{n}[\uparrow] \rightarrow \underline{n+1}$
(Transp ₁)	$\underline{1}[\uparrow] \rightarrow \underline{2}$
(Transp ₂)	$\underline{2}[\uparrow] \rightarrow \underline{1}$
(Transp ₃)	$\underline{n+2}[\uparrow] \rightarrow \underline{n+2}$

Figure 6: The rewrite system $\lambda\xi\phi$

products $(<_l, <_{\kappa_1}, <_{\kappa_2})$. $<_l$ is defined by the interpretation $\iota : \mathbf{Terms}_{\xi\phi} \rightarrow \mathbf{Terms}_{\xi}$ where \mathbf{Terms}_{ξ} is described by the grammar:

$$\begin{array}{l} \mathbf{Terms}_{\xi} \quad a ::= \underline{n} \mid ab \mid \lambda a \mid a[t/] \\ \mathbf{Naturals} \quad n ::= n+1 \mid 1. \end{array}$$

and ι is described as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \iota(\underline{n}) &= \underline{1} \\ \iota(ab) &= \iota(a)\ \iota(b) \\ \iota(\lambda a) &= \lambda(\iota(a)) \\ \iota(a[s]) &= \iota(a) \\ \iota(a[b/]) &= \iota(a)[\iota(b)/] \end{aligned}$$

$a <_l b$ if and only if $\iota(a) <_{\xi} \iota(b)$ where $<_{\xi}$ is a lexicographic path ordering described in \mathbf{Terms}_{ξ} by the precedence that says that an abstraction is less than a closure and less than an application which could be pictured by the following inequalities $\lambda < _ [_ /]$ and $\lambda < _ _$.

κ_1 and κ_2 are interpretations from $\mathbf{Terms}_{\xi\phi}$ to the set of elementary functions over \mathbb{N} . We conclude that $\xi\phi$ is strongly normalising. $\xi\phi$ also is orthogonal, i.e., left-linear and without superposition, $\xi\phi$ is then confluent.

$\kappa_1(\underline{n}) = 2^{\kappa_1(n)}$	$\kappa_2(\underline{n}) = 2^{\kappa_2(n)}$
$\kappa_1(n+1) = \kappa_1(n) + 1$	$\kappa_2(n+1) = \kappa_2(n) + 1$
$\kappa_1(1) = 2$	
$\kappa_1(ab) = \kappa_1(a) + \kappa_1(b) + 1$	
$\kappa_1(\lambda a) = \kappa_1(a) + 1$	
$\kappa_1(a[s]) = \kappa_1(a)\kappa_1(s)$	$\kappa_2(a[s]) = \kappa_2(a)\kappa_2(s)$
$\kappa_1(\uparrow(s)) = \kappa_1(s)$	$\kappa_2(\uparrow(s)) = 2\kappa_2(s)$
$\kappa_1(\uparrow) = 2$	$\kappa_2(\uparrow) = 3$
$\kappa_1(\downarrow) = 2$	
$\kappa_1(a/) = any$	

Figure 7: Interpretations for proving the termination of v

There are two critical pairs between B and App_1 on one side and between B and App_2 on another side. The critical pairs are:

$$\begin{aligned} a[b/][c/] &= a[\downarrow][c[\downarrow]/][b[c/]/] \\ a[b/][s] &= a[\uparrow(s)][b[s]/] \end{aligned}$$

Those critical pairs can be proved as inductive lemmas in $\mathbf{Terms}_{\xi\phi} / \xrightarrow[\lambda\xi\phi]{\star}$, i.e., modulo the equality generated by $\lambda\xi\phi$ on $\mathbf{Terms}_{\xi\phi}$. Then it can be proved by classical methods that the rewriting relation $\xrightarrow[\lambda\xi\phi]{\star}$ defined on $\mathbf{Terms}_{\xi\phi}$ and generated by $\lambda\xi\phi$ is confluent.

Actually the system $C\lambda\xi\phi$ can be presented without substitutions $[b/]$. The rule B is replaced by four rules $\{B_{App}, B_{Lambda}, B_F, B_R\}$ and the new system $\lambda\xi\phi_{Red}$ is given in Figure 8. This calculus has properties somewhat different from the other calculi of explicit substitutions and these properties should be carefully studied.

The systems λv , $\lambda\xi\phi$ and $\lambda\xi\phi_{Red}$ share the same goal. All three introduce operators by necessity. In λv , substitutions of both kinds are lifted when put under λ , whereas in $\lambda\xi\phi$ only *renaming substitutions* are because there is a way to avoid lifting of substitutions of type $a/$. The calculi are different in the form, but are similar in spirit. We feel that λv is slightly closer to the aim extreme simplicity suggested by Curry, but this is debatable.

7 Conclusion

λv has had several extensions, namely to handle more complex structures of environment or to include η -rules [5]. Theorem 2 together with confluence of $\lambda\sigma_{\uparrow}$ on open terms raises an interesting challenge, namely, finding a calculus of explicit substitutions which is confluent on open terms and preserves strong normalisation.

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(B _{App})	$(\lambda(a\ b))\ c \rightarrow (\lambda a)c\ (\lambda b)c$
(B _{Lambda})	$(\lambda(\lambda a))\ b \rightarrow \lambda((\lambda a[\uparrow])\ b[\uparrow])$
(B _F)	$(\lambda\ \underline{1})\ a \rightarrow a$
(B _R)	$(\lambda\ \underline{n+1})\ a \rightarrow \underline{n}$
(App ₂)	$(a\ b)[[s]] \rightarrow a[[s]]\ b[[s]]$
(Lambda ₂)	$(\lambda a)[[s]] \rightarrow \lambda(a[[\uparrow(s)]])$
(FVarLift)	$\underline{1}[[\uparrow(s)]] \rightarrow \underline{1}$
(RVarLift)	$\underline{n+1}[[\uparrow(s)]] \rightarrow \underline{n}[[s]][[\uparrow]]$
(VarShift)	$\underline{n}[[\uparrow]] \rightarrow \underline{n+1}$
(Transp ₁)	$\underline{1}[[\downarrow]] \rightarrow \underline{2}$
(Transp ₂)	$\underline{2}[[\downarrow]] \rightarrow \underline{1}$
(Transp ₃)	$\underline{n+2}[[\downarrow]] \rightarrow \underline{n+2}$

Figure 8: The rewrite system $\lambda\xi\phi_{Red}$

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