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# *A Framework for Defining Logical Frameworks*

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## A Framework for Defining Logical Frameworks

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**Abstract:** In this paper, we introduce a *General Logical Framework*, called GLF, for defining Logical Frameworks, based on dependent types, in the style of the well known Edinburgh Logical Framework LF. The framework GLF features a generalized form of lambda abstraction where  $\beta$ -reductions fire provided the argument satisfies a logical predicate and may produce an  $n$ -ary substitution. The type system *keeps* track of when reductions have yet to fire. The framework GLF subsumes, by simple instantiation, LF as well as a large class of generalized constrained-based lambda calculi, ranging from well known restricted lambda calculi, such as Plotkin's call-by-value lambda calculus, to lambda calculi with patterns. But it suggests also a wide spectrum of completely new calculi which have intriguing potential as Logical Frameworks.

We investigate the metatheoretical properties of the calculus underpinning GLF and illustrate its expressive power. In particular, we focus on two interesting instantiations of GLF. The first is the Pattern Logical Framework (PLF), where applications fire via *pattern-matching* in the style of Cirstea, Kirchner, and Liquori. The second is the Closed Logical Framework (CLF) which features, besides standard  $\beta$ -reduction, also a reduction which fires only if the argument is a *closed* term. For both these instantiations of GLF we discuss standard metaproperties, such as subject reduction, confluence and strong normalization.

The GLF framework is particularly suitable, as a metalanguage, for encoding rewriting logics and logical systems, where rules require proof terms to have special syntactic constraints, *e.g.* logics with *rules of proof*, in addition to *rules of derivations*, such as, *e.g.*, modal logics, and call-by-value lambda calculus.

**Category D.3.1:** Formal Definitions and Theory: Syntax, Semantics.

**Category D.3.2:** Language Classifications: Applicative (functional) languages, Constraint and logic languages

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**Category F.4.1:** Mathematical Logic: Lambda calculus and related systems, Logic and constraint programming, Mechanical theorem proving.

**Key-words:** Edinburgh's Logical Framework, Lambda calculus, Patterns, Pattern matching, Dependent-type systems, Curry-Howard, Logics.

## “Un cadre pour encadrer des cadres”

**Résumé :** Dans cet article, nous introduisons un *Cadre Logique Générique* appelé GLF, qui permet de définir des cadres logiques. Il est basé sur la discipline des types dépendants, dans le style du fameux Cadre Logique d’Edinburgh LF. Le cadre GLF est caractérisé par une forme généralisée de lambda abstraction pour laquelle la  $\beta$ -réduction s’applique à condition que l’argument puisse satisfaire un prédicat logique et en produisant une substitution. Le système de typage mémorise le fait qu’il y a une contrainte à satisfaire pour que la réduction s’applique. Le cadre GLF capture, comme instance, LF ainsi qu’une classe étendue de lambda calculs avec contraintes, et des lambda calculs bien connus comme, par exemple, le lambda calcul avec appel par valeur de Plotkin, ou le lambda calcul avec motifs. Mais il ouvre aussi sur un spectre plus large de nouveaux calculs.

Nous étudions les propriétés metathéoriques du calcul sous-jacent à GLF et illustrons son pouvoir expressif. En particulier nous nous concentrons sur deux instances intéressantes de GLF. La première est le Cadre Logique avec Motifs (PLF) dans lequel une application se déclenche à travers le filtrage de motifs dans le style de Cirstea, Kirchner et Liquori. Le second est le Lambda Calcul Clos (CLF) qui en outre de la  $\beta$ -réduction standard, possède une réduction qui se déclenche seulement si l’argument est une expression *close*. Pour ceux deux instances de GLF, nous étudions leurs metapropriétés standard telles que Church-Rosser, la préservation du type par réduction et la normalisation forte.

Le cadre GLF est particulièrement adapté, en tant que métalangage, pour codifier des logiques de réécriture et des systèmes logiques, dans lesquelles les règles imposent aux termes de preuve de respecter des contraintes syntaxiques particulières, telles que des logiques avec *règles de preuve* adjointes aux *règles de dérivations*, comme on peut les trouver, par exemple, en logique modale.

**Category D.3.1:** Définitions formelles et Théorie: Syntaxe et Sémantique.

**Category D.3.2:** Classification des Langages: Langages Applicatifs (fonctionnels), Langages à base de Contraintes et Langage Logiques.

**Category F.4.1:** Logique Mathématique: Lambda calcul, et systèmes dérivés, Logique et programmation par contraintes, Théorie de la démonstration automatisée.

**Mots-clés :** Edinburgh’s Logical Framework, Lambda calcul, Motifs, Filtrage de motifs, Systèmes de types dépendants, Curry-Howard, Logique.

## 1 Introduction

We start with a short recollection, by the first author, from exactly twenty years ago.

The Edinburgh LF took a rather short time to blossom: essentially the spring of 1986. A General Interactive Proof Development Environment was one of the first three projects of, what was then, the recently established Laboratory for the Foundations of Computer Science, LFCS, in Edinburgh. According to its first director, Robin Milner, the Laboratory was supposed to develop theoretically principled applications, in the spirit that Computer Science is also an experimental science. The goal of this project was a general interactive proof assistant which could provide a large number of proof editing, proof checking, and proof searching facilities for an arbitrary logical system as were available, at the time, in tools such as LCF [Pau85] or NuPr1 [Con86], only for specific formal systems. The challenge was that of not having to duplicate the implementation effort each time an interactive environment for a new logic was needed. The idea was that of developing a general theory of logical systems, which factored out uniformities across a wide class of logics and then of implementing, once and for all, a general logic-independent proof development environment based on such a theory. This general environment could then be tailored to a specific system, without having to re-implement everything from scratch each time.

In the early months of 1986 Gordon Plotkin started experimenting with typed lambda calculi, supporting the *proposition-as-types paradigm*, as a general metalanguage and framework for logical systems. A few researchers at LFCS joined in, and by midsummer 1986 the *Framework for Defining Logics* [HHP93] as it was presented to the LICS conference in 1987, was pretty much finalized.

It was immediately clear that the higher order nature of the Dependent Typed Lambda Calculus, later to be known as ELF, was particularly satisfactory as a general metalanguage for expressing logical languages, binding operators, rules, and proof development. What appeared in the traditional presentations of logical systems as intricate idiosyncrasies and strange provisos in rules, either completely disappeared in the ELF encoding of the system or were greatly clarified. An encoding of a logic in the Framework always turned out to be particularly insightful in understanding the system itself, to the point that ELF appeared as normative. The conclusion was that ELF was the most suitable type system introduced so far to play the role of a metalanguage for logics presented in natural deduction style. It was the perfect medium to implement the newly formulated *judgments-as-types* paradigm. Furthermore, ELF subsumed also a number of previous ideas in formal mathematics and proof theory stemming from the Automath tradition [dB80, NGe94], Constructive Type Theory [Mar84, CH88] and it capitalized on the notion of *judgment* as discussed by Martin-Löf in a series of papers in the mid '80's [ML85a, ML85b].

The Logical Framework game, triggered by ELF, became rapidly quite popular in the formal proof development community and many authors [Fef88, CH90] played it on their systems. Since then, Logical Frameworks, logical metalanguages, and general proof assistants grew up to a well defined, and very active sector of Logic and Computer Science. It benefited considerably by the results stemming from the community working on Constructive Type Theory as a framework for formalizing mathematics, [Alf06, Coq06]. Nowadays

there are a number of specific conferences that address these topics, *e.g.* *Merλin*, *Theorem Proving in Higher Order Logic*, *Logical Framework Metalanguages: theory and practice*, a vast literature, see *e.g.* [Luo90, Pfe96, PS99, BG01, Pfe01] and an almost twenty years old EU Working Group community, called Types, actively working on Type Theory [TW].

Since the birth of ELF, the challenge was that of assessing the expressive power of the metalanguage, or equivalently that of coming up with logics which could break the Framework. ELF proved to be particularly successful in dealing with metavariables, variable scoping and binding, Higher Order Abstract Syntax and, with a little effort, also with names [Des00, HMS01], program logics [HM96] and modal logics [AHMP98, AHMP92].

Enough for introductory personal views on history, and let's start we the paper proper.

Although LF, very rightly so, allows to encode rules as functions from proofs to proofs, it is nevertheless a little restrictive as to the “side conditions” that it can enforce on the application of rules. Rule application being encoded simply as lambda application, there are only roundabout ways to encode provisos, even as simple as that appearing in a *rule of proof*. Recall that a rule of proof can be applied only to premises which do not depend on any assumption, as opposed to a *rule of derivation* which can be applied everywhere. Also rules which appear in many natural deduction presentations of modal and program logics are very problematic in standard LF. Many such systems feature rules which can be applied only to premises which depend solely on assumptions of a particular shape [CH84], or whose derivation has been carried out using only certain sequences of rules. Finally, Linear or Relevance Logics appear to be encodable only using a very heavy machinery.

In the past, extensions of ELF have often been proposed. The price to pay, however, was always very high as far as the language theory. The *desideratum* has always been that of having a metalogical framework, *i.e.* a *telescope* of systems, each a conservative extension of the previous ones, which can incrementally and naturally encode nastier and nastier classes of side-conditions. This is precisely what we propose in this paper.

The key idea is extremely simple. It amounts to removing a *blind spot*, thus making explicit two different notions, which are conflated to only one, in the original LF, *i.e.* which are taken to be definitionally equal. As already mentioned much of the rigidity of LF arises from the fact that  $\beta$ -reduction can be applied too generally. One would like to restrict it, but the type system appears not to be rich enough to be able to express such restrictions. What we propose is to use as type of an application, in the term application rule, (O·Appl) below, not the type which is obtained by carrying out directly in the metalanguage the substitution of the argument in the type, but a new form of type which simply records the information that such a reduction needs to be carried out. An application of the Type Conversion Rule can then recover the usual effect of the application rule. The old rule and the new rule (O·Appl') appear as follows.

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \Pi x:\sigma.\tau \quad \Gamma \vdash N : \sigma}{\Gamma \vdash M N : \tau[N/x]} \text{(O·Appl)} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \Pi x:\sigma.\tau \quad \Gamma \vdash N : \sigma}{\Gamma \vdash M N : (\lambda x:\sigma.\tau) N} \text{(O·Appl')}$$



As it is often said: sometimes, less is more. And once this move has been made, we have a means of annotating in a type the information that a reduction is waiting to be carried out in the term. If we take seriously this move, such a type need not be necessarily *definitionally equal* to the reduced one as in the case of LF and we can generalize further our approach. Without much hassle, in effect, we have a principled and natural way of typing generalized calculi featuring generalized or restricted forms of  $\beta$ -reduction which wait for some constraint to be satisfied before they can fire. Each such calculus can be considered as a potential candidate for underpinning a new Logical Framework, where all the extra complexity in terms can be naturally tamed utilizing the expressive power of the new typing system. Once this program is carried out in a sufficiently modular form, we have the telescopic metalogical framework we were looking for.

In order to proceed in full generality we introduce a new form of  $\lambda$  and corresponding  $\Pi$  abstraction:

$$\Pi\mathcal{P}:\Delta.\tau \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda\mathcal{P}:\Delta.M$$

The predicate  $\mathcal{P}$  is completely general at this stage, and is taken as a *parameter*, and the type context  $\Delta \triangleq x_1:\sigma_1, \dots, x_n:\sigma_n$  denotes the variables bound by  $\Pi$  and  $\lambda$ . We will show in the paper that it can be instantiated in various useful ways. For instance, it can enforce the fact that the argument is closed, or that all its free variables have a type of a given form. This format can also recover many existing calculi in the literature such as LF, the Rewriting Calculus [CKL01a, CKL01b], and the Plotkin's call-by-value lambda calculus [Plo75]. In all cases, an application of the “type equality” rule can be used to recover, *conservatively*, the effect of successful  $\beta$ -reductions:

$$(\lambda\mathcal{P}:\Delta.M)N \longrightarrow M\widehat{\mathcal{P}(N)} \quad \text{provided } \mathcal{P}(N) \text{ holds and } \widehat{\mathcal{P}(N)} \text{ is a substitution.}$$

The extra types deriving from failures allow for precisely the extra elbow-room that is needed to prevent the applications of certain rules too loosely. It is now immediate to see that rules of proof can be dealt with straightforwardly by restricting applications to closed terms.

This idea of distinguishing between two notions which were previously flattened into one is a small step for a type system but a momentous step for a Logical Framework. The idea of capitalizing on the similarities between the “ $\lambda$ ” and “ $\Pi$ ” operators is not new, see *e.g.* [dB80, KN96, PM97, KBN99, KL01], but what we do here is to capitalize on it, in the type system, as was done in the work by Cirstea, Kirchner and Liquori *Rho Cube* [CKL01b]. By so doing, we allow for a generalized form of pattern lambda calculi, and also go beyond.

The papers which are most influential for our proposal and which we are most indebted with are [CKL01b] and [BCKL03]. The former is the paper which first puts to use the decomposition of the rule (O·Appl') in special cases. It presents a collection of type systems

for a typed variant of the Rewriting Calculus<sup>1</sup>, which was later generalized in [BCKL03] to Pure Type Systems with patterns.

Summing up, we propose a General Logical Framework GLF and the General Lambda Calculus GL underpinning it. In this very general form, the language theory satisfies only very weak properties. For lack of space, we cannot proceed in a modular incremental form, deriving more and more properties of the Framework as we specify further the nature of the predicate parameter  $\mathcal{P}$  in GL, but the gist of the idea should be clear. What we do in this paper is rather to carry out an extensive investigation of the language theory of two important instantiations of GLF, called PLF and CLF respectively. The first features a general form of pattern  $\beta$ -reduction, while the second subsumes LF but it provides also a form of  $\beta$ -reduction restricted only to closed arguments.

**Synopsis.** The paper is structured as follows. In Section 2, we present the syntax of GL and the type system of GLF. We discuss general properties of GLF and present several instantiations of GLF to known as well as new calculi. In Section 3, we discuss an important instantiation of GLF, the Pattern Logical Framework, called PLF, where reductions fire via pattern-matching. A thorough investigation of the metatheoretical properties of PLF is carried out. In Section 4, we present another instantiation of the GLF framework, CLF which features besides standard  $\beta$ -reduction also a  $\beta$ -reduction restricted to closed terms. In Section 5, we illustrate the expressive power of these new typed calculi as metalanguages. In particular we give a shorter, and possibly sharper, encoding of Plotkin's call-by-value lambda calculus in PLF capitalizing on algebraic patterns, and an encoding in CLF of rules of proof in *Modal Logics*. Conclusions and directions for future work appear in Section 6.

## 2 The General Logical Framework

In this section, we present the General Lambda Calculus GL and we discuss the language theory underpinning the General Logical Framework GLF.

**General Notations.** Let  $M, N, \dots \in \mathcal{O}$  denote terms (a.k.a. objects),  $\sigma, \tau, \dots \in \mathcal{F}$  denote types (a.k.a. families),  $a, b, c, \dots$  denote constant types,  $K \in \mathcal{K}$  denote kinds,  $x, y, z, \dots$  denote variables,  $f, g, \dots$  denote term constants,  $\Gamma, \Delta \in \mathcal{C}$  denote contexts,  $\Sigma \in \mathcal{S}$  denote signatures, and let  $\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{Q}, \dots$  range over a set of logical predicates  $\mathcal{L}$ . All symbols can appear indexed. The symbol  $\equiv$  denotes syntactic identity on terms. Terms will be taken up to  $\alpha$ -conversion.

### 2.1 The General Typed Lambda Calculus

The General Typed Lambda Calculus, called GL, is a generalization of the typed lambda calculus *à la* Church with constants, but it allows unary logical predicates instead of simple

<sup>1</sup>This version of the Rewriting Calculus was a kind of typed lambda calculus with constants, algebraic patterns, and built-in matching constructions.

variables in lambda abstractions. The syntax of GL terms is given below, type families will be defined later.

**Definition 1 (GL Terms a.k.a. Objects)**

$M, N \in \text{GL}$	$M, N ::= f \mid x \mid \lambda \mathcal{P}:\Delta.M \mid M N$	<i>Terms</i>
$\Gamma, \Delta \in \mathcal{C}$	$\Gamma ::= \emptyset \mid \Gamma, x:\sigma$	<i>Contexts</i>
$\sigma, \tau \in \mathcal{F}$	$\sigma ::= \dots$	<i>Types</i>
$\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{Q} \in \mathcal{L}$	$\mathcal{P} ::= \dots$	<i>Predicates</i>

where variables in  $\text{Dom}(\Delta)$  are bound in  $\lambda \mathcal{P}:\Delta.M$ .

The term  $\lambda \mathcal{P}:\Delta.M$  is called a *predicate abstraction*. The intuition behind a generalized  $\beta$ -redex of the shape

$$(\lambda \mathcal{P}:\Delta.M) N$$

is that the argument  $N$  of the function can be propagated in the body  $M$ , and the redex progresses to  $M\theta$ , for a suitable substitution  $\theta$ , provided the predicate  $\mathcal{P}(N)$  is true. Otherwise the term *is stuck*. The language GL is parametrized over the language  $\mathcal{L}$  of predicates  $\mathcal{P}$ , which is not specified further at this stage. In order to define generalized  $\beta$ -reduction we need to define the following auxiliary functions:

**Definition 2 (Auxiliary Functions)**

1. Let  $\bar{\cdot} : [\mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}]$  be a function taking a predicate  $\mathcal{P}$  and producing an object;
2. Let  $\hat{\cdot} : [\mathcal{L} \rightarrow [\text{GL} \rightarrow \text{Sub}]_{\perp}]$  be a function taking a predicate  $\mathcal{P}$  and producing a partial function that takes a term  $M$  and produces a substitution provided that  $\mathcal{P}$  is satisfied by the term  $M$ . Informally,  $\mathcal{P}$  is a logical filter that constrains reductions. To ease the notation, we will write  $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}(M)$  by  $\widehat{\mathcal{P}}(M)$ ;
3. Let  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $M$ . We say that  $\overline{\mathcal{P}}$  and  $\widehat{\overline{\mathcal{P}}(M)}$  are coherent if  $\text{Fv}(\overline{\mathcal{P}}) = \text{Dom}(\widehat{\overline{\mathcal{P}}(M)})$  (Dom is defined as usual).

The next definition introduces the standard notions of top-level, one-step, many-steps  $\beta$ -reduction, and its congruence closure.

**Definition 3 (One-step/Many-Steps Reduction, Congruence)**

1. For every predicate  $\mathcal{P} \in \mathcal{L}$ , the top-level reduction is defined as

$$(\beta_{\mathcal{P}}) \quad (\lambda \mathcal{P}:\Delta.M) N \rightarrow_{\beta_{\mathcal{P}}} M \widehat{\overline{\mathcal{P}}(N)} \quad \text{if } \mathcal{P}(N) \text{ holds and } \widehat{\overline{\mathcal{P}}(N)} \text{ is a substitution}$$

2. Let  $C[-]$  denote a context with a “single hole” inside, defined as usual, and let  $C[M]$  be the result of filling the hole with the term  $M$ . The one-step evaluation  $\mapsto_{\beta_{\mathcal{P}}}$  is defined by the inference rule

$$\frac{M \rightarrow_{\beta_{\mathcal{P}}} N}{C[M] \mapsto_{\beta_{\mathcal{P}}} C[N]} \text{(Ctx)}$$

3. The many-step evaluation  $\mapsto_{\beta_{\mathcal{P}}}^*$  and the congruence relation  $=_{\beta_{\mathcal{P}}}$  are respectively defined as the reflexive-transitive and reflexive-symmetric-transitive closure of  $\mapsto_{\beta_{\mathcal{P}}}$ .

## 2.2 The General Logical Framework

The General Logical Framework, called GLF, is a dependent type system for the General Typed Lambda Calculus GL. In a nutshell, there are two main generalizations with respect to a standard dependent type theory *à la* LF:

1. The LF product-type

$$\Pi x:\sigma.\tau$$

is replaced in GLF by the more general constrained product-type

$$\Pi \mathcal{P}:\Delta.\tau$$

that will be inhabited by a predicate-abstraction of the shape  $\lambda \mathcal{P}:\Delta.M$ .

2. In the typing rule for application one usually has that the final type for  $M N$  is

$$\tau[N/x]$$

where the notation  $[N/x]$  means the meta-operation of substituting every occurrence of  $x$  with the object term  $N$ . In GLF, this meta notation for the type of the application is taken seriously and is represented by a GLF dependent-type not necessarily in normal form

$$(\lambda \mathcal{P}:\Delta.\tau) N$$

Naturally, this term reduces to the dependent-type

$$\widehat{\tau \mathcal{P}(N)}$$

if and only if  $\mathcal{P}(N)$  holds and  $\widehat{\mathcal{P}(N)}$  is a substitution, otherwise it gets stuck. Of course, if the reduction fires, via a standard type conversion rule, the reduced type is inhabited by the application  $M N$ .

### 2.2.1 Syntax.

The syntax of GLF families is defined as follows.

#### Definition 4 (GLF Types a.k.a. Families)

$$\sigma, \tau \in \mathcal{F} \quad \sigma, \tau ::= a \mid \Pi \mathcal{P} : \Delta. \tau \mid \lambda \mathcal{P} : \Delta. \tau \mid \sigma M \quad \text{Types}$$

In the syntax,  $a$  is a constant type, or more generally, a curried type valued function,  $\Pi \mathcal{P} : \Delta. \tau$  is a constrained product-type,  $\lambda \mathcal{P} : \Delta. \tau$  is a constructor for type families, and  $\sigma M$  as usual, is the type family produced by applying a type family of higher kind to a term.

To complete the presentation of GLF we need, as usual, suitable syntax for *signatures*, *contexts*, and *kinds* as follows.

#### Definition 5 (GLF Signatures, Contexts and Kinds)

$$\Sigma \in \mathcal{S} \quad \Sigma ::= \emptyset \mid \Sigma, a : K \mid \Sigma, f : \sigma \quad \text{Signatures}$$

$$\Gamma, \Delta \in \mathcal{C} \quad \Gamma ::= \emptyset \mid \Gamma, x : \sigma \quad \text{Contexts}$$

$$K \in \mathcal{K} \quad K ::= \text{Type} \mid \Pi \mathcal{P} : \Delta. K \mid \lambda \mathcal{P} : \Delta. K \mid K M \quad \text{Kinds}$$

In GLF, we introduce a reduction on kinds not in normal form

$$(\lambda \mathcal{P} : \Delta. K) M$$

that, again, reduces to

$$K \widehat{\mathcal{P}(M)}$$

if and only if  $\mathcal{P}(M)$  is satisfied. Figure 1 summarizes the syntax and the operational semantics of GLF.

### 2.2.2 Type System.

As usual, the type system for GLF proves judgments of the shape:

$$\Sigma \text{ sig} \quad \vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} K \quad \Gamma \vdash \sigma : K \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : \sigma$$

The type system rules for GLF are presented in Figure 2. Notice that rule schemas  $(*\cdot\text{Pi})$ ,  $(*\cdot\text{Abs})$ , and  $(*\cdot\text{App})$  are parametrized over the predicate  $\mathcal{P}$ . The inference rules make use of a notion of definitional equality (which we leave unspecified), consisting of the following three forms of auxiliary judgments:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} K =_{\beta_{\mathcal{P}}} K' & K \text{ and } K' \text{ are definitionally equal kinds in } \Gamma \text{ and } \Sigma \\ \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma =_{\beta_{\mathcal{P}}} \tau & \sigma \text{ and } \tau \text{ are definitionally equal types in } \Gamma \text{ and } \Sigma \\ \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M =_{\beta_{\mathcal{P}}} N & M \text{ and } N \text{ are definitionally equal terms in } \Gamma \text{ and } \Sigma \end{array}$$

$\Sigma \in \mathcal{S}$	$\Sigma ::= \emptyset \mid \Sigma, a:K \mid \Sigma, f:\sigma$	Signatures
$\Gamma, \Delta \in \mathcal{C}$	$\Gamma ::= \emptyset \mid \Gamma, x:\sigma$	Contexts
$K \in \mathcal{K}$	$K ::= \text{Type} \mid \Pi\mathcal{P}:\Delta.K \mid \lambda\mathcal{P}:\Delta.K \mid KM$	Kinds
$\sigma, \tau \in \mathcal{F}$	$\sigma, \tau ::= a \mid \Pi\mathcal{P}:\Delta.\tau \mid \lambda\mathcal{P}:\Delta.\tau \mid \sigma M$	Types (Families)
$M, N \in \mathcal{O}$	$M, N ::= f \mid x \mid \lambda\mathcal{P}:\Delta.M \mid MN$	Terms (Objects)
$(\beta_{\mathcal{P}}\text{-Terms})$	$(\lambda\mathcal{P}:\Delta.M)N \rightarrow_{\beta_{\mathcal{P}}} M \widehat{\mathcal{P}(N)}$	
$(\beta_{\mathcal{P}}\text{-Types})$	$(\lambda\mathcal{P}:\Delta.\tau)N \rightarrow_{\beta_{\mathcal{P}}} \tau \widehat{\mathcal{P}(N)}$	
$(\beta_{\mathcal{P}}\text{-Kinds})$	$(\lambda\mathcal{P}:\Delta.K)N \rightarrow_{\beta_{\mathcal{P}}} K \widehat{\mathcal{P}(N)}$	

Figure 1: GLF Syntax and Operational Semantics

The first two of these relations are used directly; the third one is used to define the others. We do not give the complete list of rules for these three judgments. These are standard but for the fact that we have to consider multiple substitutions. By way of example we give only the main rule for type equality:

$$\frac{\forall y_i \in \text{Dom}(\widehat{\mathcal{P}(M)}). [\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} \widehat{\mathcal{P}(M)}(y_i) : \Delta(y_i)] \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} \overline{\mathcal{P}} : \sigma \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : \sigma}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} (\lambda\mathcal{P}:\Delta.\tau)M =_{\beta_{\mathcal{P}}} \tau \widehat{\mathcal{P}(M)}} \text{ (Type-Eq)}$$

### 2.3 Instantiating GL/GLF

Clearly the behavior of GL, and of the corresponding GLF, strongly depend on the precise nature of the predicates involved in abstractions. In general we can instantiate them as follows.

#### Definition 6 (General Predicate Set $\mathbb{S}$ )

A General Predicate Set is

$$\mathbb{S} \triangleq \{ (\mathcal{P}_i, \overline{\mathcal{P}}_i, \widehat{\mathcal{P}}_i) \}_{i \in I}$$

where  $\overline{\phantom{x}}$  and  $\widehat{\phantom{x}}$  are some coherent functions as defined in Definition 2.

#### Definition 7 (General Predicate $\text{GL}_{\mathbb{S}}/\text{GLF}_{\mathbb{S}}$ )

For a given  $\mathbb{S}$ , a Predicate Lambda Calculus (respectively General Predicate Logical Frame-

<p><b>Signatures rules</b></p> $\frac{}{\emptyset \text{ sig}} \text{ (S-Empty)}$ $\frac{\Sigma \text{ sig} \quad \vdash_{\Sigma} K \quad a \notin \text{Dom}(\Sigma)}{\Sigma, a:K \text{ sig}} \text{ (S-Kind)}$ $\frac{\Sigma \text{ sig} \quad \vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma : \text{Type} \quad f \notin \text{Dom}(\Sigma)}{\Sigma, f:\sigma \text{ sig}} \text{ (S-Type)}$ <p><b>Contexts rules</b></p> $\frac{\Sigma \text{ sig}}{\vdash_{\Sigma} \emptyset} \text{ (C-Empty)}$ $\frac{\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma : \text{Type} \quad x \notin \text{Dom}(\Gamma)}{\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma, x:\sigma} \text{ (C-Type)}$ <p><b>Kind rules</b></p> $\frac{\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \text{Type}} \text{ (K-Type)}$ $\frac{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} \overline{\mathcal{P}} : \sigma \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} K}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Pi\mathcal{P}:\Delta.K} \text{ (K-Pi)}$ $\frac{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} \overline{\mathcal{P}} : \sigma \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} K}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \lambda\mathcal{P}:\Delta.K} \text{ (K-Abs)}$ $\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Pi\mathcal{P}:\Delta.K \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} \overline{\mathcal{P}} : \sigma \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} N : \sigma}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} (\lambda\mathcal{P}:\Delta.K) N} \text{ (K-App)}$	<p><b>Families rules</b></p> $\frac{\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma \quad a:K \in \Sigma}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} a : K} \text{ (F-Var)}$ $\frac{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} \overline{\mathcal{P}} : \sigma \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} \tau : \text{Type}}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Pi\mathcal{P}:\Delta.\tau : \text{Type}} \text{ (F-Pi)}$ $\frac{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} \overline{\mathcal{P}} : \sigma \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} \tau : K}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \lambda\mathcal{P}:\Delta.\tau : \Pi\mathcal{P}:\Delta.K} \text{ (F-Abs)}$ $\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma : \Pi\mathcal{P}:\Delta.K \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma M : (\lambda\mathcal{P}:\Delta.K) M} \text{ (F-App)}$ $\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma : K' \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} K \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} K =_{\beta\mathcal{P}} K'}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma : K} \text{ (F-Conv)}$ <p><b>Object rules</b></p> $\frac{\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma \quad f:\sigma \in \Sigma}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} f : \sigma} \text{ (O-Const)}$ $\frac{\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma \quad x:\sigma \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} x : \sigma} \text{ (O-Var)}$ $\frac{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} \overline{\mathcal{P}} : \sigma \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} M : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \lambda\mathcal{P}:\Delta.M : \Pi\mathcal{P}:\Delta.\tau} \text{ (O-Abs)}$ $\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : \Pi\mathcal{P}:\Delta.\tau \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} \overline{\mathcal{P}} : \sigma \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} N : \sigma}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M N : (\lambda\mathcal{P}:\Delta.\tau) N} \text{ (O-App)}$ $\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : \sigma \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \tau : \text{Type} \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma =_{\beta\mathcal{P}} \tau}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : \tau} \text{ (O-Conv)}$
--	--

Figure 2: The GLF Type System

work), called  $\text{GL}_{\mathbb{S}}$  (respectively  $\text{GLF}_{\mathbb{S}}$ ), can be obtained by restricting (instantiating) the predicates to the ones declared in  $\mathbb{S}$ .

The following is a list of desired properties for  $\text{GLF}_{\mathbb{S}}$ . Let  $\alpha$  be any judgment in  $\text{GLF}_{\mathbb{S}}$ .

### Definition 8 (Desired Properties of $\text{GLF}_{\mathbb{S}}$ )

#### Subderivation Property

- Any derivation of  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \alpha$  has subderivations of  $\Sigma \text{ sig}$  and  $\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma$ ;
- Any derivation of  $\Sigma, a:K \text{ sig}$  has a subderivation of  $\vdash_{\Sigma} K$ ;
- Any derivation of  $\Sigma, f:\sigma \text{ sig}$  has a subderivation of  $\vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma : \text{Type}$ ;
- Any derivation of  $\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma, x:\sigma$  has a subderivation of  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma : \text{Type}$ ;
- Given a derivation of  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \alpha$  and any subterm occurring in the subject of the judgment, there exists a derivation of a smaller length of a judgment having that subterm as a subject;
- If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma : K$ , then  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} K$ ;
- If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : \sigma$ , then  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma : \text{Type}$ .

#### Derivability of Weakening and Permutation

If  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$  are valid contexts, and every declaration occurring in  $\Gamma$  also occurs in  $\Delta$ , then  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \alpha$  implies  $\Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} \alpha$ .

#### Unicity of Types and Kinds

- If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : \sigma$  and  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : \tau$ , then  $\Gamma \vdash \sigma =_{\beta_P} \tau$ ;
- If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma : K$  and  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma : K'$ , then  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} K =_{\beta_P} K'$ .

#### Transitivity

If  $\Gamma, x:\sigma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} \alpha$  and  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : \sigma$ , then  $\Gamma, \Delta[M/x] \vdash_{\Sigma} \alpha[M/x]$ .

#### Confluence

- If  $K_1 \mapsto_{\beta_P} K_2$  and  $K_1 \mapsto_{\beta_P} K_3$ , then there exists  $K_4$  such that  $K_2 \mapsto_{\beta_P} K_4$  and  $K_3 \mapsto_{\beta_P} K_4$ ;
- If  $\sigma_1 \mapsto_{\beta_P} \sigma_2$  and  $\sigma_1 \mapsto_{\beta_P} \sigma_3$ , then there exists  $\sigma_4$  such that  $\sigma_2 \mapsto_{\beta_P} \sigma_4$  and  $\sigma_3 \mapsto_{\beta_P} \sigma_4$ ;
- If  $M_1 \mapsto_{\beta_P} M_2$  and  $M_1 \mapsto_{\beta_P} M_3$ , then there exists  $M_4$  such that  $M_2 \mapsto_{\beta_P} M_4$  and  $M_3 \mapsto_{\beta_P} M_4$ .

#### Abstraction Typing

- If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \lambda\mathcal{P}:\Delta.\tau : \Pi\mathcal{P}:\Delta'.K$ , then  $\text{Dom}(\Delta) \equiv \text{Dom}(\Delta')$ , and for all  $x \in \text{Dom}(\Delta)$ , we have  $\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} \Delta(x) =_{\beta_P} \Delta'(x)$ ;



- If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \lambda\mathcal{P}:\Delta.M : \Pi\mathcal{P}:\Delta'.\tau$ , then  $\text{Dom}(\Delta) \equiv \text{Dom}(\Delta')$ , and for all  $x \in \text{Dom}(\Delta)$ , we have  $\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} \Delta(x) =_{\beta_{\mathcal{P}}} \Delta'(x)$ ;
- If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \lambda\mathcal{P}:\Delta.\tau : \Pi\mathcal{P}:\Delta.K$ , then  $\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} \overline{\mathcal{P}} : \sigma$  and  $\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} \tau : K$ ;
- If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \lambda\mathcal{P}:\Delta.M : \Pi\mathcal{P}:\Delta.\tau$ , then  $\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} \overline{\mathcal{P}} : \sigma$  and  $\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} M : \tau$ .

### Subject Reduction

- If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} K$  and  $K \rightarrow_{\beta_{\mathcal{P}}} K'$ , then  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} K'$ ;
- If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma : K$  and  $\sigma \rightarrow_{\beta_{\mathcal{P}}} \tau$ , then  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \tau : K$ ;
- If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : \sigma$  and  $M \rightarrow_{\beta_{\mathcal{P}}} N$ , then  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} N : \sigma$ .

### Strong Normalization

- If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} K$ , then  $K$  is strongly normalizing;
- If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma : K$ , then  $\sigma$  is strongly normalizing;
- If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : \sigma$ , then  $M$  is strongly normalizing.

### Judgments decidability

*It is decidable whether  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \alpha$  is derivable.*

The following is about the most that one could prove for a General Logical Framework at this stage of generality.

### Conjecture 1 (General Properties of GLF)

- *The Subderivation Property is valid in GLF;*
- *Derivability of Weakening and Permutation is valid in GLF;*
- *Unicity of Types and Kinds is valid in GLF;*
- *If Abstraction Typing is valid, then Subject Reduction is valid in GLF.*

## 2.4 Simple Examples

We illustrate the General Lambda Calculus and the General Logical Framework through some simple instantiations. More lambda calculi and logical frameworks can be captured by GLF, using appropriate general predicate sets  $\mathbb{S}$ 's.

Given an instantiation, it is often convenient to simplify the notation, also to recover visually the traditional syntax. To this end we give the following trivial definition:

### Definition 9 (Instantiation of $\text{GL}_{\mathbb{S}}/\text{GL}_{\mathbb{S}}$ )

1. *A Lambda Calculus  $\overline{\Lambda}$  can be obtained by instantiation of one  $\text{GL}_{\mathbb{S}}$  if there exists a compilation function  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket : [\text{GL}_{\mathbb{S}} \rightarrow \overline{\Lambda}]$  such that*

- (a)  $M \in \text{GL}_S$  implies  $\llbracket M \rrbracket \in \overline{\Lambda}$ ;  
 (b)  $M \rightarrow_{\beta_p} N$  implies  $\llbracket M \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket N \rrbracket$  in  $\overline{\Lambda}$ ;
2. A first order type system (with or without dependent types) for  $\overline{\Lambda}$  can be obtained by instantiation of a  $\text{GLF}_S$  if we apply uniformly the compilation function (extended to types, kinds, contexts and signatures) in all the typing rules such that

$\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : \sigma$  is derivable in  $\text{GLF}_S$  iff  $\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \vdash_{\llbracket \Sigma \rrbracket} \llbracket M \rrbracket : \llbracket \sigma \rrbracket$   
 is derivable within the type system for  $\overline{\Lambda}$ .

### 2.4.1 The Typed Lambda Calculus à la Church.

The set  $\mathbb{S}_{\text{Church}}$  is

$$\mathbb{S}_{\text{Church}} \triangleq \{ (\text{True}_x, \overline{\text{True}_x}, \widehat{\text{True}_x})^{x \in \mathbb{V}} \}$$

where  $\text{True}_x$  is

$$\text{True}_x(M) \triangleq \text{true} \quad \forall M$$

and

$$\overline{\text{True}_x} \triangleq x \quad \widehat{\text{True}_x}(M) \triangleq [M/x]$$

Notice that the freshness of the variable  $x$  is enforced in the typing rules by the well-formedness of contexts. The function  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket x \rrbracket &\triangleq x \\ \llbracket f \rrbracket &\triangleq f \\ \llbracket \lambda \text{True}_x : \Delta. M \rrbracket &\triangleq \lambda x : \Delta(x). \llbracket M \rrbracket \\ \llbracket M N \rrbracket &\triangleq \llbracket M \rrbracket \llbracket N \rrbracket \\ \llbracket a \rrbracket &\triangleq a \\ \llbracket \Pi \text{True}_x : \Delta. \tau \rrbracket &\triangleq \llbracket \Delta(x) \rrbracket \rightarrow \llbracket \tau \rrbracket \\ \llbracket \lambda \text{True}_x : \Delta. K \rrbracket &\triangleq \llbracket K \rrbracket \\ \llbracket \sigma M \rrbracket &\triangleq \llbracket \sigma \rrbracket \\ \llbracket K \rrbracket &\triangleq \text{Type} \end{aligned}$$

### 2.4.2 Plotkin's Call-by-Value Lambda Calculus.

The set  $\mathbb{S}_{\beta_v}$  is

$$\mathbb{S}_{\beta_v} \triangleq \{ (\text{Value}_x, \overline{\text{Value}_x}, \widehat{\text{Value}_x})^{x \in \mathbb{V}} \}$$

where  $\text{Value}_x$  is

$$\text{Value}_x(M) \triangleq \begin{cases} true & \text{if } M \text{ is a variable or an abstraction} \\ false & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and

$$\overline{\text{Value}_x} \triangleq x \quad \widehat{\text{Value}_x}(M) \triangleq \text{if } M \text{ is a variable or an abstraction then } [M/x] \text{ else } \perp$$

The function  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket$  (on terms) is

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket x \rrbracket &\triangleq x \\ \llbracket \lambda \text{Value}_x : \Delta . M \rrbracket &\triangleq \lambda x : \Delta(x) . \llbracket M \rrbracket \\ \llbracket M N \rrbracket &\triangleq \llbracket M \rrbracket \llbracket N \rrbracket \end{aligned}$$

### 2.4.3 The Closed Typed Lambda Calculus.

The set  $\mathbb{S}_\emptyset$  is

$$\mathbb{S}_\emptyset \triangleq \{ ( \text{Closed}_x , \overline{\text{Closed}_x} , \widehat{\text{Closed}_x} )^{x \in \mathbb{V}} \}$$

where  $\text{Closed}_x$  is

$$\text{Closed}_x(M) \triangleq \begin{cases} true & \text{if } \text{Fv}(M) = \emptyset \\ false & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and

$$\overline{\text{Closed}_x} \triangleq x \quad \widehat{\text{Closed}_x}(M) \triangleq \text{if } \text{Fv}(M) = \emptyset \text{ then } [M/x] \text{ else } \perp$$

The function  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket$  (on terms) is

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket x \rrbracket &\triangleq x \\ \llbracket \lambda \text{Closed}_x : \Delta . M \rrbracket &\triangleq \lambda x : \Delta(x) . \llbracket M \rrbracket \\ \llbracket M N \rrbracket &\triangleq \llbracket M \rrbracket \llbracket N \rrbracket \end{aligned}$$

### 2.4.4 The Rewriting Calculus à la Cirstea-Kirchner-Liquori.

The set  $\mathbb{S}_{\text{Rho}}$  is:

$$\mathbb{S}_{\text{Rho}} \triangleq \{ ( \text{Match}_{P_i} , \overline{\text{Match}_{P_i}} , \widehat{\text{Match}_{P_i}} )^{i \in I} \}$$

where the predicate  $\text{Match}_{P_i}$  is defined as follows.

$$\text{Match}_{P_i}(M) \triangleq \begin{cases} true & \text{if } \exists \theta_i . \text{Alg}(P_i; M) = \theta_i \text{ and } \text{Nf}(P_i) \\ false & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where

- the predicate  $\text{Nf}(P_i)$  is true if and only if  $P_i$  has a  $\rightarrow_{\text{nos}}$ -normal form,
- $\text{Alg}$  is essentially the matching algorithm defined in [BCKL03] (where  $\text{Fv}(P_i) = \text{Dom}(\Delta)$ ), which provides a substitution if  $M$  matches with the pattern  $P$ , and fails, otherwise, and
- $\overline{\text{Match}_{P_i}} \triangleq P_i$      $\widehat{\text{Match}_{P_i}}(M) \triangleq$  if  $\exists \theta_i. \text{Alg}(P_i; M) = \theta_i$  then  $\theta_i$  else  $\perp$

The function  $\llbracket \ ]$  (on terms) is

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket x \rrbracket &\triangleq x \\ \llbracket \lambda \text{Match}_{P_i} : \Delta_i . M \rrbracket &\triangleq \lambda P_i : \Delta_i . \llbracket M \rrbracket \\ \llbracket M N \rrbracket &\triangleq \llbracket M \rrbracket \llbracket N \rrbracket \end{aligned}$$

This function can be naturally extended on types, kinds, and contexts. The compiled version is equivalent to the class of *functional* Pure Type Systems with Patterns of [BCKL03]. A specific version of GLF, which features rather general shapes of patterns, but nevertheless has a considerably rich theory of expressions, will be introduced and studied in Section 3.

#### 2.4.5 The Edinburgh's Logical Framework à la Harper-Honsell-Plotkin.

The set  $\mathbb{S}_{\text{LF}}$  is  $\mathbb{S}_{\text{Church}}$ . The function  $\llbracket \ ]$  is essentially a function that replaces every occurrence of  $\text{True}_x$  by  $x$ .

#### 2.4.6 The Closed Logical Framework CLF.

The set  $\mathbb{S}_{\text{CLF}}$  is:

$$\mathbb{S}_{\text{CLF}} \triangleq \{ (\text{True}_x, \overline{\text{True}_x}, \widehat{\text{True}_x})^{x \in \mathbb{V}}, (\text{Closed}_x, \overline{\text{Closed}_x}, \widehat{\text{Closed}_x})^{x \in \mathbb{V}} \}$$

where  $\text{True}_x$  and  $\text{Closed}_x$  are defined as before. The function  $\llbracket \ ]$  is essentially a function that replaces every occurrence of  $\text{True}_x$  by  $x$ , and leaves  $\text{Closed}_x$  as a *side-condition* on  $\beta$ -reduction.

The Closed Logical Framework CLF combines two notions of  $\beta$ -reduction, the standard  $\beta$ -reduction and the  $\beta$ -reduction restricted to closed arguments. This Logical Framework will be extensively studied in Section 4.

## 3 The Pattern Logical Framework

Since the introduction of Logical Frameworks in [HHP93], blending dependent typed lambda calculi with rewriting systems has been a major challenge, see [Oka89, JO91, Dou92, KvOvR93, Oos94, BFG97, JO97], and [CKL01a, BCKL03, CPT03, Wac05]. When the lambda calculus underpinning a logical framework features also rewriting rules, there is potential for enhancing the pragmatic usability of the system. More natural and transparent encodings can be

provided, see section 5, and decision procedures, such as checking and encoding equality, can be more easily automated.

In this section, we introduce the Pattern Logical Framework, called PLF. This is a uniform framework based on a dependent typed lambda calculus enriched with pattern matching in lambda abstractions. PLF can be viewed as an instance of the General Logical Framework GLF, by considering predicates corresponding to PLF patterns, similarly to what was done in Section 2 for the Rewriting Calculus.

In contrast to the simple lambda calculus, the pattern-matching algorithm can either fire a substitution, or keep the computation stuck, unless further substitutions are provided. As an example, for an algebraic constant  $f$  of type  $a \rightarrow a$ :

$$M \equiv (\lambda(f\ y):[y:a].y)\ x$$

is stuck, but

$$(\lambda(f\ x):[x:a].M)\ (f\ (f\ 3)) \mapsto_{\beta} 3.$$

As it is well known, since the seminal work of [vO90], in untyped calculi, variables in patterns can be bound only if they occur *linearly* (*i.e.* at most once) and *not actively* (*i.e.* not in functional position), otherwise confluence is lost. For this reason, only *algebraic patterns* are often considered in the literature, [CKL01b, BCKL03, Wac05]. The Pattern Logical Framework that we present in this section features a larger set of patterns, essentially corresponding to suitable normal forms satisfying linearity and not activity conditions of variables. For this calculus, we show confluence, subject reduction, and strong normalization. The proof of strong normalization is technically quite difficult, and it is based on a generalized computability argument which accommodates the possibility for an argument to match the pattern after reduction.

### 3.1 PLF Terms

Since patterns occur as *binders* in abstractions, the types of the “matchable” variables in the pattern are decorated in suitable contexts, *i.e.* a pattern lambda abstraction has the form  $\lambda P:\Delta.M$ . In the following definition, we introduce the PLF pseudo-syntax for kinds, families, objects and contexts.

#### Definition 10 (PLF Pseudo-syntax)

$\Sigma \in \mathcal{S}$	$\Sigma ::= \emptyset \mid \Sigma, a:K \mid \Sigma, f:A$	<i>Signatures</i>
$\Gamma, \Delta \in \mathcal{C}$	$\Gamma ::= \emptyset \mid \Gamma, x:A$	<i>Contexts</i>
$K \in \mathcal{K}$	$K ::= \text{Type} \mid \Pi P:\Delta.K \mid \lambda P:\Delta.K \mid K\ M$	<i>Kinds</i>
$A, B, C \in \mathcal{F}$	$A ::= a \mid \Pi P:\Delta.A \mid \lambda P:\Delta.A \mid A\ M$	<i>Families</i>
$M, N, Q \in \mathcal{O}$	$M ::= f \mid x \mid \lambda P:\Delta.M \mid M\ M$	<i>Objects</i>

where  $P \in \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{P}} \subseteq \mathcal{O}$  and  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{P}}$  is a set of patterns to be defined (see Definition 18 below).

In a pattern abstraction

$$\lambda P:\Delta.M$$

$P$  is the *pattern* to be matched,  $\Delta$  is the type context containing the type of all the free variables of  $P$ , and  $M$  is the usual body of the abstraction.

In a PLF pattern type-product

$$\Pi P:\Delta.A$$

object dependencies are spread much more than in the standard LF. Namely,  $P$  is the *object pattern* to be matched,  $\Delta$  is the type context containing the type of all the free variables of  $P$ , and  $A$  is the usual dependent type codomain, containing possibly free occurrences of some free variables of  $P$ , hence declared in  $\Delta$ .

As usual, application associates to the right. Let “ $T$ ” range over any term in the calculus (kind, family, object), and let the symbol “ $\surd$ ” range over the set of binders  $\{\lambda, \Pi\}$ . To ease the notation, we write  $\surd x:T_1.T_2$  for  $\surd x:[x:T_1].T_2$  in case of a variable-pattern (corresponding to plain typed lambda calculus). As in ordinary systems dealing with dependent-types, we suppose that, in the context  $\Gamma, x:T$ , the variable  $x$  does not occur in  $\Gamma$  and  $T$ .  $\text{Dom}(\Gamma)$  and  $\text{CoDom}(\Gamma)$  are defined as usual. The definition of free variables needs to be rephrased as follows.

### Definition 11 (Free Variables)

The set  $\text{Fv}$  of free variables in terms, signatures and contexts is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Fv}(\emptyset), \text{Fv}(\text{Type}), \text{Fv}(a), \text{Fv}(f) &\triangleq \emptyset \\ \text{Fv}(\Sigma, a:K) &\triangleq \text{Fv}(\Sigma) \cup \text{Fv}(K) \\ \text{Fv}(\Sigma, f:A) &\triangleq \text{Fv}(\Sigma) \cup \text{Fv}(A) \\ \text{Fv}(\Delta, x:A) &\triangleq \text{Fv}(\Delta) \cup (\text{Fv}(A) \setminus \text{Dom}(\Delta)) \\ \text{Fv}(\surd P:\Delta.T) &\triangleq ((\text{Fv}(P) \cup \text{Fv}(T)) \setminus \text{Dom}(\Delta)) \cup \text{Fv}(\Delta) \\ \text{Fv}(T_1 T_2) &\triangleq \text{Fv}(T_1) \cup \text{Fv}(T_2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Ex: } \text{Fv}(\lambda(x:[x:\Pi w:a.a].x y):[y:a].z) = \{z\}.$$

We denote by  $\text{Bv}(T)$  the set of *bound variables* of a term  $T$ , *i.e.* the set of variables in the term which are not free. Let denote by  $\text{Var}$  the set of all variables, and by  $\text{Var}(T)$  the set of both free and bound variables of  $T$ . Since we work modulo  $\alpha$ -conversion, we suppose that all bound variables of a term have different names, and therefore the domains of all contexts are distinct.

### Definition 12 (Substitutions)

A substitution  $\theta$  is a finite map  $[M_1/x_1, \dots, M_m/x_m]$ . The application of a substitution  $\theta$  to

a term  $T$  extends the definition for the typed lambda calculus (possibly by renaming bound variables) as follows.

$$(\sqrt{P:\Delta}.M)\theta \triangleq \sqrt{P\theta:\Delta\theta}.M\theta$$

where  $\Delta\theta$  denotes the point-wise extension of the substitution application to contexts. As usual we let

$$\text{Dom}(\theta) \triangleq [x_1, \dots, x_m] \quad \text{and} \quad \text{CoDom}(\theta) \triangleq \bigcup_{i=1\dots m} \text{Fv}(M_i) .$$

In what follows, we will consider only *safe terms*, i.e. terms where the free variables occurring in patterns are *precisely* the variables declared in the corresponding context. Formally:

**Definition 13 (PLF Safe Terms)** A PLF term  $T$  is safe if  $\text{EPC}(T)$  holds, where the predicate  $\text{EPC}(T)$ , Exact Pattern Condition, is defined by induction on the structure of  $T$  as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{EPC}(x) &\triangleq \text{true} \\ \text{EPC}(\sqrt{P:\Delta}.T) &\triangleq (\text{Dom}(\Delta) = \text{Fv}(P) \wedge \text{EPC}(P) \wedge \text{EPC}(T) \wedge \text{EPC}(\Delta)) \\ \text{EPC}(T_1 T_2) &\triangleq \text{EPC}(T_1) \wedge \text{EPC}(T_2) \end{aligned}$$

where  $\text{EPC}(\Delta)$  holds if and only if  $\text{EPC}(A)$  holds for all  $A \in \text{CoDom}(\Delta)$ .

The above restriction is motivated by the fact that, if we allow free variables in patterns which are not declared in the context, we loose confluence of the untyped system (see Section 3.3 for more details).

Notice that substitutions applied to safe terms do not act on patterns.

We still have to specify the syntax of patterns. In order to do this, we first need to introduce the notion of matching between objects.

## 3.2 Matching and Operational Semantics

PLF features pattern abstractions whose application requires solving matching problems. The next two definitions introduce the notions of matching system and matching algorithm. Both are an easy modification of the ones presented in [BCKL03]. The algorithm is first-order, hence decidable.

**Definition 14 (Matching System)**

1. A matching system

$$\top \triangleq \bigwedge_{i=0\dots n} M_i \ll_{\mathbb{W}_i}^{\mathbb{V}} N_i$$

is a conjunction of matching equations, where  $\wedge$  is idempotent, associative and commutative. The set  $\mathbb{V}$  records the name of the free variables that are matchable, while the sets  $\mathbb{W}_i$  record the names of bound variables appearing in abstractions which cannot be matched.

2. A matching system  $\mathbb{T}$  is solved by the substitution  $\theta$  if for all  $i = 0 \dots n$ , we have that  $M_i \theta \equiv N_i$ .

3. A matching system  $\mathbb{T}$  is in normal form when it has the form

$$\mathbb{T} \triangleq \bigwedge_{i=0 \dots m} x_i \ll_{\mathbb{W}_i}^{\forall} N_i \quad \bigwedge_{j=0 \dots n} f_j \ll_{\mathbb{W}_j}^{\forall} f_j$$

4. A matching system in normal form is solvable and produces the substitution

$$[N_1/x_1 \cdots N_n/x_n]$$

if the following conditions are satisfied (otherwise the matching fails)

(a) for all  $h, k = 0 \dots n$ , if  $x_h \equiv x_k$  then  $N_h \equiv N_k$ . The rationale is to rule out matching-clashes, e.g.

$$x \ll_{\mathbb{W}}^{\forall} y \wedge x \ll_{\mathbb{U}}^{\forall} z$$

(b) for all  $i = 0 \dots n$ , if  $x_i \in \mathbb{W}_i$ , then  $N_i \equiv x_i$ . The rationale is to forbid to match a bound variable  $x$  against a free one  $y$ , e.g.

$$x \ll_x^{\forall} y$$

(c) for all  $i = 0 \dots n$ , if  $\text{Fv}(N_i) \cap \mathbb{W}_i \neq \emptyset$ , then  $N_i \equiv x_i$ . The rationale is to forbid to match a free variable  $x$  with a bound one  $y$ , e.g.

$$x \ll_y^{\forall} y$$

Let  $\text{solve}$  be a function that returns a substitution if a matching system in normal form is solvable, and fails otherwise, i.e.

$$\text{solve}(\mathbb{T}) = \begin{cases} \theta & \text{if } \mathbb{T} \text{ is solvable with } \theta \\ \text{fail} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

### Definition 15 (Matching Algorithm Alg)

1. The reduction  $\rightsquigarrow$  is the compatible relation induced by the following two rules:

$$\frac{\mathbb{W} \triangleq \mathbb{U} \cup \text{Dom}(\Delta)}{\sqrt{P}:\Delta.T_1 \ll_{\mathbb{U}}^{\forall} \sqrt{P}:\Delta.T_2 \rightsquigarrow T_1 \ll_{\mathbb{W}}^{\forall} T_2} \text{ (Lbd/Prod)}$$

$$\frac{}{M_1 N_1 \ll_{\mathbb{U}}^{\forall} M_2 N_2 \rightsquigarrow M_1 \ll_{\mathbb{U}}^{\forall} M_2 \wedge N_1 \ll_{\mathbb{U}}^{\forall} N_2} \text{ (Appl)}$$

In rule (Lbd/Prod), the condition  $\mathbb{W} \triangleq \mathbb{U} \cup \text{Dom}(\Delta)$  increases the set of bound variables to be matched; moreover, since all free variables in  $P$  are declared in the context  $\Delta$ , two abstraction/product terms match if and only if they have the same pattern (up-to  $\alpha$ -conversion).



2. The reduction  $\rightsquigarrow^*$  is defined as the reflexive and transitive closure of  $\rightsquigarrow$ . Let `normalize` be the function that reduces a matching system in normal form, or fails, i.e.

$$\text{normalize}(T) \triangleq \begin{cases} T' & \text{if } T \rightsquigarrow^* T' \text{ and } T' \text{ is in normal form} \\ \text{fail} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

3. Let  $\mathcal{Alg}(M; N)$  be defined as follows.

$$\mathcal{Alg}(M; N) \triangleq \begin{cases} \text{fail} & \text{if } \text{solve}(\text{normalize}(M \leftarrow_{\emptyset}^{\text{Fv}(M)} N)) = \text{fail} \\ \text{solve}(\text{normalize}(M \leftarrow_{\emptyset}^{\text{Fv}(M)} N)) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

The matching algorithm is clearly terminating (since all rules decrease the size of terms), deterministic (no critical pairs), and works modulo  $\alpha$ -conversion and Barendregt's hygiene-convention.

The matching algorithm  $\mathcal{Alg}$  is sound, in the sense that, if the initial matching system is solvable, then the substitution computed by  $\mathcal{Alg}$  solves this system.

**Lemma 1 (Soundness of  $\mathcal{Alg}$ )**

If  $\mathcal{Alg}(M; N) = \theta$ , then  $M\theta \equiv N$ .

The next definition introduces the standard notions of one-step, many-steps  $\beta$ -reduction, and the corresponding congruence relation.

**Definition 16 (One/Many-Steps Reduction, Congruence)**

Let  $\theta = \mathcal{Alg}(P; N)$ .

1. The top-level rules are

$$(\beta\text{-Obj}) \quad (\lambda P:\Delta.M) N \mapsto_{\beta} M\theta$$

$$(\beta\text{-Fam}) \quad (\lambda P:\Delta.A) N \mapsto_{\beta} A\theta$$

$$(\beta\text{-Kinds}) \quad (\lambda P:\Delta.K) N \mapsto_{\beta} K\theta$$

2. Let  $C[-]$  denote a pseudo-context with a "single hole" inside, defined on terms and contexts as follows

$$C[-] ::= [-] \mid C[-]T \mid TC[-] \mid \sqrt{\mathcal{P}}:\Delta.C[-] \mid \sqrt{\mathcal{P}}:C[-].T \mid \sqrt{C[-]}:\Delta.T \mid \Delta, x:C[-]$$

and let  $C[T]$  be the result of filling the hole with the term  $T$ . The one-step evaluation  $\mapsto_{\beta}$  is defined by the following inference rule

$$\frac{T_1 \mapsto_{\beta} T_2}{C[T_1] \mapsto_{\beta} C[T_2]} \text{(Ctx)}$$

3. The many-step evaluation  $\mapsto_{\beta}$  and the congruence relation  $\equiv_{\beta}$  are defined respectively as the reflexive-transitive and reflexive-symmetric-transitive closure of  $\mapsto_{\beta}$ . By  $\mapsto_{\beta}^0$  we denote the reflexive closure of  $\mapsto_{\beta}$ .

### 3.3 PLF Patterns

In this subsection, we will characterize the set of patterns in  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{P}}$ , which we left unspecified in Definition 18. Such patterns will be objects in suitable normal form, satisfying the following conditions:

- each free variable appears at most once (linearity condition);
- variables are not in functional position (non-activity condition).

The notion of normal form which we consider requires special care. Namely: terms are taken to be in normal form whenever all redexes are *substitution-stuck*, i.e. they are stuck, no matter what substitution is applied to the argument, formally:

**Definition 17 (PLF Normal Forms)**

PLF contexts and terms in normal form are mutually defined as follows.

$$\text{Nf}_{\mathcal{C}} \ni \Gamma ::= \emptyset \mid \Gamma, x:A$$

$$\text{Nf}_{\mathcal{K}} \ni K ::= \text{Type } K_1 \dots K_n \mid \Pi P:\Delta. K \mid (\lambda P:\Delta. K) N K_1 \dots K_n$$

$$\text{Nf}_{\mathcal{F}} \ni A ::= a A_1 \dots A_n \mid \Pi P:\Delta. A \mid (\lambda P:\Delta. A) N A_1 \dots A_n$$

$$\text{Nf}_{\mathcal{O}} \ni M, N ::= f M_1 \dots M_n \mid x M_1 \dots M_n \mid \lambda P:\Delta. M \mid (\lambda P:\Delta. M) N M_1 \dots M_n$$

where, the redexes  $(\lambda P:\Delta. K) N$ ,  $(\lambda P:\Delta. A) N$ ,  $(\lambda P:\Delta. M) N$  are substitution-stuck, i.e., for any substitution  $\theta$ ,  $\text{Alg}(P; N\theta) = \text{fail}$ .

Finally, we are in the position of characterizing the set of patterns in  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{P}}$ :

**Definition 18 (PLF Patterns)**

Let  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{P}}$  be the set of objects defined by

$$\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{P}} \triangleq \{P \in \text{Nf}_{\mathcal{O}} \mid \text{LPC}(P; \text{Fv}(P)) = \text{true} \wedge \text{APC}(P; \text{Fv}(P)) = \text{false}\}$$

where, for any term  $T$  and finite set of variables  $\mathbb{V}$ ,

- the predicate  $\text{LPC}(T; \mathbb{V})$ , Linear Pattern Condition, is defined by induction on  $T$  as follows.

$$\text{LPC}(x; \mathbb{V}) \triangleq \text{true}$$

$$\text{LPC}(f; \mathbb{V}) \triangleq \text{true}$$

$$\text{LPC}(a; \mathbb{V}) \triangleq \text{true}$$

$$\text{LPC}(\sqrt{P:\Delta}. T; \mathbb{V}) \triangleq \text{LPC}(P; \text{Dom}(\Delta)) \wedge \text{LPC}(\Delta; \mathbb{V} \cup \text{Dom}(\Delta)) \wedge \text{LPC}(T; \mathbb{V} \cup \text{Dom}(\Delta))$$

$$\text{LPC}(T_1 T_2; \mathbb{V}) \triangleq \text{LPC}(T_1; \mathbb{V}) \wedge \text{LPC}(T_2; \mathbb{V}) \wedge (\text{Fv}(T_1) \cap \text{Fv}(T_2) \cap \mathbb{V} = \emptyset)$$

- the predicate  $\text{APC}(T; \mathbb{V})$ , Active Pattern Condition, is defined by induction on  $T$  as follows.

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{APC}(x; \mathbb{V}) &\triangleq \text{false} \\
\text{APC}(f; \mathbb{V}) &\triangleq \text{false} \\
\text{APC}(a; \mathbb{V}) &\triangleq \text{false} \\
\text{APC}(\sqrt{P}:\Delta.T; \mathbb{V}) &\triangleq (P \equiv x P_1 \wedge x \in \text{Dom}(\Delta)) \vee \text{APC}(P; \text{Dom}(\Delta)) \vee \\
&\quad \text{APC}(T; \mathbb{V} \cup \text{Dom}(\Delta)) \vee \text{APC}(\Delta; \mathbb{V} \cup \text{Dom}(\Delta)) \\
\text{APC}(T_1 T_2; \mathbb{V}) &\triangleq \text{APC}(T_1; \mathbb{V}) \vee \text{APC}(T_2; \mathbb{V})
\end{aligned}$$

At first sight, the above definitions of normal forms and patterns may seem a little awkward, because of the requirement that only those redexes are considered, which are stuck no matter what substitution is applied to the argument. Somewhat surprisingly, such a restriction is necessary to achieve confluence. Actually, any of the restrictions on patterns imposed in Definition 18 above can be hardly relaxed, apart from considering only well-typed terms. In the following, we discuss in detail each condition, and possible extensions.

1. *Variables in functional position.* It is well known, since [vO90], that allowing variables in functional position breaks confluence. Here is a simple counterexample:

$$M \triangleq (\lambda(x y):[x:a \rightarrow a, y:a].x) (\mathbf{l} z) ,$$

where  $\mathbf{l} \triangleq \lambda x:a.x$ . Namely,  $M \mapsto_{\beta} (\lambda(x y):[x:a \rightarrow a, y:a].x) z$ , by reducing the argument, while  $M \mapsto_{\beta} \mathbf{l}$ , by reducing the outermost redex.

2. *Linearity condition.* Since [vO90], it is also well-known that if we abandon the linearity condition in patterns, we loose confluence of raw terms (*i.e.* all PLF terms, including also terms not typable in the type system of Section 3.5 below). Namely, let

- $Y \triangleq (\lambda y:?.\lambda x:?.(x (y y x))) (\lambda y:?.\lambda x:?.(x (y y x)))$  be the (hopefully untypable) fix-point combinator
- $N \triangleq \lambda(f z z):[z:a].g$  be a term with a non-linear pattern
- $M \triangleq Y(\lambda y:?.\lambda x:?.N (f x (y x)))$
- $Q \triangleq Y M$

Then, we have:  $Q \mapsto_{\beta} C g$  and  $Q \mapsto_{\beta} g$ . Thus the system is not confluent. However, one can check that the fix-point operator  $Y$  is *not* typable in the PLF type system of Section 3.5 below. Hence the above counterexample does not apply to the case of well-typed terms. Actually, we do not know whether the linearity condition may be relaxed, without loosing confluence of well-typed terms. In this paper, we stick with this condition, and we prove confluence for all raw terms (see Section 3.4 below).

3. *Substitution-stuck redexes.* The reason for allowing in patterns only substitution-stuck redexes, and not simply stuck redexes, is that, in this way, patterns can match only arguments where the corresponding redexes will never fire. Otherwise, if we include patterns of the shape  $(\lambda P_1:\Delta.P_2)P_3\bar{P}'$ , where only  $\text{Alg}(P_1;P_3) = \text{fail}$ , *i.e.* only the present reduction is stuck, we lose confluence. The following term gives a counterexample:

$$M \triangleq (\lambda((\lambda l:\emptyset.l) x):[x:a \rightarrow a].x)((\lambda l:\emptyset.l) l)$$

Namely, by reducing the outermost redex, we get  $M \mapsto_{\beta} l$ ; while, by reducing inside the argument,  $M \mapsto_{\beta} (\lambda((\lambda l:\emptyset.l) x):[x:a \rightarrow a].x)l$ .

4. *Exact Pattern Condition.* In this paper, we consider only terms where the variables occurring in patterns are precisely the variables declared in the corresponding contexts. Clearly, relaxing this condition to  $\text{Fv}(P) \subseteq \text{Dom}(\Delta)$  is a useless and ultimately vacuous generalization. On the other hand, one could think of having  $\text{Dom}(\Delta) \subseteq \text{Fv}(P)$ , *i.e.* patterns can contain free variables, which can be bound outside, and hence they can be substituted during reductions, as the variable  $y$  in the following term

$$(\lambda y:a.\lambda(f x y):[x:a].y) z \mapsto_{\beta} \lambda(f x z):[x:a].z$$

But this causes problems when combined with untypable fix-points, since, as noticed in [Wac05], the non-linear term  $N$  in item 2 above can be mimicked in this setting, even under the linearity pattern condition. Namely, let  $M \triangleq \lambda x:a.\lambda x:\emptyset.g$ . Then  $M$  behaves as  $N$  of item 2, since

$$M N_1 N_2 \mapsto_{\beta} (\lambda N_1:\emptyset.g) N_2 \mapsto_{\beta} g \quad \text{if and only if} \quad N_1 \equiv N_2$$

Thus  $M$ , combined with the untypable fix-point operator  $Y$ , breaks confluence of raw terms.

5. *Pattern reductions.* The counterexample in item 3 above also shows that extending the class of patterns beyond normal forms, by allowing reductions in patterns is potentially dangerous. In this perspective, in order to preserve confluence when reductions in patterns are permitted, a possible solution is that of allowing reductions to fire only when the pattern is a normal form in the sense of Definition 18. This corresponds to partially fixing a reduction strategy. However, *K-reductions* in patterns deserve special discussion.
6. *K-reductions in patterns.* A *K-redex* is a redex  $(\lambda P:\Delta.M)N$ , where  $\lambda P:\Delta.M$  is a *K-abstraction*, *i.e.*  $\text{Fv}(M) \subset \text{Fv}(P)$ . When a *K-redex* is reduced, (parts of) the argument is erased. As a consequence, the Exact Pattern Condition is violated, and bound variables may become free. Here is an example:

$$M \triangleq (\lambda (\underbrace{(\lambda x:a.y) z}_P):[y:a \rightarrow a, z:a].y z) (\underbrace{(\lambda x:a.f) g}_N)$$

Then, by reducing the pattern  $P$  and the argument  $N$ , and then reducing the outermost redex, we get

$$M \mapsto_{\beta} (\lambda y:[y:a \rightarrow a, z:a].y z) f \mapsto_{\beta} f z$$

*i.e.*  $z$  comes out of its scope!

To avoid this problem, we could simply block K-reductions in patterns, but then we also need to block pattern matching when the pattern contains a K-redex. Otherwise, we lose confluence, the term  $M$  above being a counterexample. Namely, by reducing the outermost redex,  $M \mapsto_{\beta} f g$ , while, by reducing the argument  $N$ , we get  $M \mapsto_{\beta} (\lambda((\lambda x:a.y) z):[y:a \rightarrow a, z:a].y z) f$ , which is not reducible anymore.

The above discussion shows that reaching confluence regardless typability is a rather brittle property, and can be lost even for small extensions of the definition of patterns. On the basis of all this, in Definition 18 above, we have carefully devised a notion of pattern, and corresponding reduction, which we will see satisfies the confluence property, but nevertheless is considerably general. In our case, confluence holds already for raw terms. This turns out to be particularly handy in proving strong normalization.

In particular, our definition of patterns guarantees the validity of the Matching Preservation Lemma and the Substitution Lemma below, which are crucial for proving confluence and some fundamental properties of the PLF type system, such as subject reduction and strong normalization.

The Matching Preservation Lemma 2 expresses the fact that matchings are preserved both under  $\mapsto_{\beta}$ -reductions, and substitutions of the argument, *i.e.*:

**Lemma 2 (Reduction/Substitution Preserve Matching)**

1. If  $\text{Alg}(P; N) = \theta$  and  $N \mapsto_{\beta} N'$ , then there exist  $\theta'$  such that  $\text{Alg}(P; N') = \theta'$  and  $\theta \mapsto_{\beta} \theta'$ ;
2. If  $\bar{\theta} = \text{Alg}(P; N)$ , then, for all  $\theta$  such that  $\text{Var}(\bar{\theta}) \cap \text{CoDom}(\theta) = \emptyset$ , there exists  $\bar{\theta}' = \text{Alg}(P; N\theta)$ ; moreover, for all  $T$ ,  $T\bar{\theta}\theta \equiv T\bar{\theta}'$ .

*Proof:*

1. By induction on  $P$ .

$P \equiv f$  or  $P \equiv x$ , then the thesis is immediate.

$P \equiv f P_1 \dots P_n$ . Then  $N \equiv f N_1 \dots N_n$ , with  $\theta_i = \text{Alg}(P_i; N_i)$ ,  $\theta = \bigcup_i \theta_i$ , and  $N_i \mapsto_{\beta}^0 N'_i$ , for all  $i$  (and, for exactly one  $i$ ,  $N_i \mapsto_{\beta} N'_i$ ). By induction hypothesis, for all  $i$ , there exists  $\theta'_i$  such that  $\theta'_i = \text{Alg}(P_i; N'_i)$  and  $\theta_i \mapsto_{\beta} \theta'_i$ . Now, by the linearity hypothesis on  $P$ , the  $\theta'_i$ 's are all coherent, thus we can define  $\theta' \triangleq \bigcup_i \theta'_i$  such that  $\theta' = \text{Alg}(f P_1 \dots P_n, f N'_1 \dots N'_n)$ .

$P \equiv \lambda P_1:\Delta.P_2$ , then  $N \equiv \lambda P_1:\Delta.N_2$ , with  $\theta = \text{Alg}(P; N) = \text{Alg}(P_2; N_2)$ ,  $\theta(x) = x$ , for all  $x \in \text{Fv}(P_1)$ , and  $\lambda P_1:\Delta.N_2 \mapsto_{\beta} \lambda P_1:\Delta.N'_2 \equiv N'$ . By induction hypothesis, there

exists  $\theta'$  such that  $\theta' = \text{Alg}(P_2; N'_2)$  and  $\theta \mapsto_{\beta} \theta'$ , hence  $\theta' = \text{Alg}(P; N')$ .

$P \equiv (\lambda P_1 : \Delta. P_2) P_3 \vec{P}$ , with  $\text{Alg}(P_1; P_3 \vec{\theta}) = \text{fail}$ , for all  $\vec{\theta}$ , then  $N \equiv (\lambda P_1 : \Delta. N_2) N_3 \vec{N}$ ,  $\text{Alg}(P_1; N_3) = \text{fail}$ , and  $\theta = \theta_1 \cup \theta_2 \cup \vec{\theta}$ , where  $\theta_1 = \text{Alg}(P_2; N_2)$ ,  $\theta_2 = \text{Alg}(P_3; N_3)$ ,  $\vec{\theta} = \text{Alg}(\vec{P}; \vec{N})$  ( $\theta_1, \theta_2, \vec{\theta}$  are the identity on the free variables of  $P_1$ ), and  $(\lambda P_1 : \Delta. N_2) N_3 \vec{N} \mapsto_{\beta} (\lambda P_1 : \Delta. N'_2) N'_3 \vec{N}' \equiv N'$ . By induction hypothesis, there exist  $\theta'_1 = \text{Alg}(P_2, N'_2)$ ,  $\theta'_2 = \text{Alg}(P_3, N'_3)$ ,  $\vec{\theta}' = \text{Alg}(\vec{P}, \vec{N}')$  such that  $\theta_1 \mapsto_{\beta} \theta'_1$ ,  $\theta_2 \mapsto_{\beta} \theta'_2$  and  $\vec{\theta} \mapsto_{\beta} \vec{\theta}'$ . By the linearity hypothesis on  $P$ , the  $\theta'_i$ 's are all coherent, thus we have  $\theta' \triangleq \bigcup_i \theta'_i = \text{Alg}(P; N')$ .

2. We proceed by induction on  $P$ .

$P \equiv f$ , then the thesis is immediate.

$P \equiv x$ , then  $\vec{\theta} \equiv [N/x]$  and  $\vec{\theta}' \equiv [N\theta/x]$ . The thesis follows by proving, by induction on  $T$ , that, if  $\theta$  does not overlap with  $[N/x]$ , then  $T[N/x]\theta \equiv T\theta[N\theta/x]$ .

$P \equiv f P_1 \dots P_n$ , then  $N \equiv f N_1 \dots N_n$ ,  $\vec{\theta} = \bigcup_i \vec{\theta}_i$  and  $\theta_i = \text{Alg}(P_i; N_i)$ , for all  $i$ . By induction hypothesis, for all  $i$ , there exists  $\theta'_i = \text{Alg}(P'_i; N'_i)$  such that, for all  $T$ ,  $T\vec{\theta}_i\theta = T\theta\vec{\theta}'_i$ . Then the thesis follows by the fact that the  $\vec{\theta}_i$ 's ( $\vec{\theta}'_i$ 's) are all coherent, since patterns satisfy the linearity condition on variables.

$P \equiv \lambda P_1 : \Delta. P_2$  and  $\vec{\theta} = \text{Alg}(P; N)$ . Then  $\vec{\theta}(x) = x$ , for all  $x \in \text{Fv}(P_1)$ ,  $N \equiv \lambda P_1 : \Delta. N_2$  and  $\theta = \text{Alg}(P_2; N_2)$ . By induction hypothesis, for any  $\theta$  non-overlapping with  $\vec{\theta}$  (in particular  $\vec{\theta}$  does not overlap with the bound variables of  $P$ ), there exists  $\vec{\theta}'$  such that  $\vec{\theta}' = \text{Alg}(P_2, N_2\theta)$ , and, for all  $T$ ,  $T\vec{\theta}\theta \equiv T\theta\vec{\theta}'$ . Hence, we also have  $\vec{\theta}' = \text{Alg}(\lambda P_1 : \Delta. P_2, \lambda P_1 : \Delta. \theta. N_2\theta)$ .

$P \equiv (\lambda P_1 : \Delta. P_2) P_3 \vec{P}$ , and  $\vec{\theta} = \text{Alg}(P; N)$ . Then  $N \equiv (\lambda P_1 : \Delta. N_2) N_3 \vec{N}$ , with  $\vec{\theta} = \vec{\theta}_1 \cup \vec{\theta}_2 \cup \vec{\theta}$ , where  $\vec{\theta}_1 = \text{Alg}(P_2; N_2)$ ,  $\vec{\theta}_2 = \text{Alg}(P_3; N_3)$  and  $\vec{\theta} = \text{Alg}(\vec{P}; \vec{N})$  (and  $\theta_1, \theta_2, \vec{\theta}$  are the identity on the free variables of  $P_1$ ). By induction hypothesis, for any non-overlapping  $\theta$ , there exist  $\vec{\theta}'_1 = \text{Alg}(P_2, N_2\theta)$ ,  $\vec{\theta}'_2 = \text{Alg}(P_3, N_3\theta)$ ,  $\vec{\theta}' = \text{Alg}(\vec{P}, \vec{N}')$  such that, for all  $T$ ,  $T\vec{\theta}\theta \equiv T\theta\vec{\theta}'$ . By the linearity hypothesis on  $P$ , the  $\theta'_i$ 's are all coherent, thus we have  $\theta' \triangleq \bigcup_i \theta'_i = \text{Alg}(P; N')$ .  $\square$

Using Lemma 2.(2), we can prove:

**Lemma 3 (Substitution)**

1. If  $\theta \mapsto_{\beta} \theta'$ , then, for all  $T$ ,  $T\theta \mapsto_{\beta} T\theta'$ ;
2. If  $T \mapsto_{\beta} T'$ , then, for all  $\theta$ ,  $T\theta \mapsto_{\beta} T'\theta$ ;
3. If  $T \mapsto_{\beta} T'$  and  $\theta \mapsto_{\beta} \theta'$ , then  $T\theta \mapsto_{\beta} T'\theta'$ .

*Proof:*

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{}{T \Rightarrow_{\beta} T} \text{ (Par}_1\text{)} \\
\\
\frac{T \Rightarrow_{\beta} T' \quad N \Rightarrow_{\beta} N'}{TN \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'N'} \text{ (Par}_2\text{)} \\
\\
\frac{T \Rightarrow_{\beta} T' \quad \Delta \Rightarrow_{\beta} \Delta'}{\sqrt{P:\Delta}.T \Rightarrow_{\beta} \sqrt{P:\Delta'}.T'} \text{ (Par}_3\text{)} \\
\frac{\Delta \Rightarrow_{\beta} \Delta' \quad T \Rightarrow_{\beta} T' \quad N \Rightarrow_{\beta} N' \quad \mathcal{Alg}(P; N') = \theta}{(\lambda P:\Delta.T)N \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'\theta} \text{ (Par}_4\text{)}
\end{array}$$

Figure 3: Parallel Reduction

1. Straightforward, by induction on  $T$ ;
2. By induction on the number of reduction steps of  $T \mapsto_{\beta} T'$ , using Lemma 2.(2);
3. The proof follows by items 1. and 2., using transitivity of  $\mapsto_{\beta}$ . □

### 3.4 Confluence

The proof of confluence is a suitable application of the usual argument based on *parallel reduction*, see [Tak89]. As pointed out above it can be given on raw terms, provided they satisfy the suitable restrictions on patterns introduced so far.

#### Definition 19 (Parallel Reduction)

The parallel reduction  $\Rightarrow_{\beta}$  is defined in Figure 3.

It is easy to prove that:

#### Lemma 4 (Relations)

$$\mapsto_{\beta} \subseteq \Rightarrow_{\beta} \subseteq \mapsto_{\beta}.$$

By Lemma 4 above, in order to prove the confluence of the  $\mapsto_{\beta}$  relation, it is enough to prove the diamond property of the parallel reduction  $\Rightarrow_{\beta}$ . To this aim, we need the following definition and a number of instrumental lemmas.

#### Definition 20 (Diamond)

We define the mapping  $\diamond$  by induction (point-wise extended to contexts):

$$\begin{array}{lcl}
x^{\diamond} & \triangleq & x \\
(\sqrt{P:\Delta}.T)^{\diamond} & \triangleq & \sqrt{P:\Delta^{\diamond}}.T^{\diamond} \\
(TN)^{\diamond} & \triangleq & T^{\diamond}N^{\diamond} & \text{if } T \text{ is not an abstraction} \\
((\lambda P:\Delta.T)N)^{\diamond} & \triangleq & \begin{cases} T^{\diamond}\theta \\ (\lambda P:\Delta.T)^{\diamond}N^{\diamond} \end{cases} & \begin{array}{l} \text{if } \mathcal{Alg}(P; T^{\diamond}) = \theta \\ \text{otherwise} \end{array}
\end{array}$$

**Lemma 5**

For any  $T$ , we have  $T \Rightarrow_{\beta} T^{\diamond}$ .

*Proof:* By induction on the structure of  $T$ . □

The following lemma is the counterpart of Lemma 2.(1) for  $\Rightarrow_{\beta}$ , and it expresses the fact that matchings are preserved under  $\Rightarrow_{\beta}$ -reductions.

**Lemma 6 (Parallel Reduction Preserves Matching)**

If  $\theta = \text{Alg}(P; N)$  and  $N \Rightarrow_{\beta} N'$ , then there exists  $\theta'$  such that  $\theta' = \text{Alg}(P; N')$  and  $\theta \Rightarrow_{\beta} \theta'$ .

*Proof:* The proof is similar to that of Lemma 2.(1).

**Lemma 7 (Parallel Substitution)**

If  $T \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'$  and  $\theta \Rightarrow_{\beta} \theta'$ , then  $T\theta \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'\theta'$ .

*Proof:* By induction on the derivation of  $T \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'$ . If  $T \Rightarrow_{\beta} T$  is obtained by an application of rule (Par<sub>1</sub>), then the thesis follows by proving that, if  $\theta \Rightarrow_{\beta} \theta'$ , then for all  $T$ ,  $T\theta \Rightarrow_{\beta} T\theta'$  (which can be shown by straightforward induction on  $T$ ). The remaining cases are dealt with straightforwardly using the induction hypothesis, except for the case where the last rule applied in the derivation is (Par<sub>4</sub>), i.e.:

$$\frac{\Delta \Rightarrow_{\beta} \Delta' \quad T_1 \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'_1 \quad N \Rightarrow_{\beta} N' \quad \text{Alg}(P; N') = \bar{\theta}}{T \equiv (\lambda P:\Delta.T_1) N \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'_1 \bar{\theta} \equiv T'} \text{(Par}_4\text{)}$$

By induction hypothesis,  $\Delta\theta \Rightarrow_{\beta} \Delta'\theta'$ ,  $T_1\theta \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'_1\theta'$ , and  $N\theta \Rightarrow_{\beta} N'\theta'$ . Moreover, by Lemma 2.(2), there exists  $\bar{\theta}' = \text{Alg}(P; N'\theta')$ . Thus, by rule (Par<sub>4</sub>), we have  $(\lambda P:\Delta\theta.T_1\theta)N\theta \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'_1\theta'\bar{\theta}' \equiv T'_1\theta'\bar{\theta}'$ . This concludes the proof. □

**Lemma 8 (Diamond Property of Parallel Reduction)**

If  $T_1 \Rightarrow_{\beta} T_2$ , then  $T_2 \Rightarrow_{\beta} T_1^{\diamond}$ .

*Proof:* By induction on the derivation of  $T_1 \Rightarrow_{\beta} T_2$ . If the only rule applied in the derivation is (Par<sub>1</sub>), then the thesis follows by Lemma 5. If the last rule in the derivation is (Par<sub>2</sub>) or (Par<sub>3</sub>), then the thesis follows by induction hypothesis. Finally, let us consider the case when the last rule in the derivation is (Par<sub>4</sub>), i.e.:

$$\frac{\Delta \Rightarrow_{\beta} \Delta' \quad T \Rightarrow_{\beta} T' \quad N \Rightarrow_{\beta} N' \quad \text{Alg}(P; N') = \theta}{T_1 \equiv (\lambda P:\Delta.T) N \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'\theta \equiv T_2} \text{(Par}_4\text{)}$$

By induction hypothesis,  $\Delta' \Rightarrow_{\beta} \Delta^{\diamond}$ ,  $T' \Rightarrow_{\beta} T^{\diamond}$ , and  $N' \Rightarrow_{\beta} N^{\diamond}$ . Hence, by Lemma 6, there exists  $\theta' = \text{Alg}(P; N^{\diamond})$  and  $\theta \Rightarrow_{\beta} \theta'$ . Thus, by definition of  $(\ )^{\diamond}$ , we have  $T_1^{\diamond} \equiv T^{\diamond}\theta'$ , and, by the Substitution Lemma,  $T'\theta \Rightarrow_{\beta} T^{\diamond}\theta'$ . □



Finally, by Lemmas 4 and 8, we have:

**Theorem 1 (Confluence)**

*The relation  $\mapsto_{\beta}$  is confluent.*

□

### 3.5 PLF Type System

PLF involves type judgments of the following shape:

$\Sigma$	sig	(	$\Sigma$ is a valid signature)
$\vdash_{\Sigma}$	$\Gamma$	(	$\Gamma$ is a valid context in $\Sigma$ )
$\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma}$	$K$	(	$K$ is a kind in $\Gamma$ and $\Sigma$ )
$\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma}$	$A : \text{Type}$	(	$A$ is has kind $K$ in $\Gamma$ and $\Sigma$ )
$\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma}$	$M : A$	(	$M$ is has type $A$ in $\Gamma$ and $\Sigma$ )

The typing rules of PLF are presented in Figure 4. As remarked in the introduction, rules (F·Appl), (O·Appl) do not utilize metasubstitution as in standard LF, but rather introduce an explicit type redex. Rules (F·Conv), and (O·Conv) allow to recover the usual rules, if the reduction fires.

Strictly speaking, one should mention also the auxiliary equality judgments, but in view of the fact that confluence holds also over non well-typed terms, we do not need contexts and signatures in the equality judgments, and therefore they can be safely “swept under the rug”.

### 3.6 Fundamental Properties of the Type System

Let  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \alpha$  be any judgment in the system.

Lemmas 9, 10, 11, 12 below are the instantiations of Theorem 1 to PLF.

**Lemma 9 (Subderivation Property)**

- Any derivation of  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \alpha$  has subderivations of  $\Sigma$  sig and  $\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma$ ;
- Any derivation of  $\Sigma, a:K$  sig has a subderivation of  $\vdash_{\Sigma} K$ ;
- Any derivation of  $\Sigma, f:A$  sig has a subderivation of  $\vdash_{\Sigma} A : \text{Type}$ ;
- Any derivation of  $\Gamma, x:A \vdash_{\Sigma} \text{Type}$  has a subderivation of  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} A : \text{Type}$ ;
- Given a derivation of  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \alpha$  and any subterm occurring in the subject of the judgment, there exists a derivation of a smaller length of a judgment having that subterm as a subject;
- If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} A : K$ , then  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} K$ ;
- If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : A$ , then  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} A : \text{Type}$ .

<p>Signatures rules</p> $\frac{}{\emptyset \text{ sig}} \text{ (S-Empty)}$ $\frac{\Sigma \text{ sig} \quad \vdash_{\Sigma} K \quad a \notin \text{Dom}(\Sigma)}{\Sigma, a:K \text{ sig}} \text{ (S-Kind)}$ $\frac{\Sigma \text{ sig} \quad \vdash_{\Sigma} A : \text{Type} \quad f \notin \text{Dom}(\Sigma)}{\Sigma, f:A \text{ sig}} \text{ (S-Type)}$ <p>Contexts rules</p> $\frac{\Sigma \text{ sig}}{\vdash_{\Sigma} \emptyset} \text{ (C-Empty)}$ $\frac{\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} A : \text{Type} \quad x \notin \text{Dom}(\Gamma)}{\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma, x:A} \text{ (C-Type)}$ <p>Kind rules</p> $\frac{\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \text{Type}} \text{ (K-Type)}$ $\frac{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} P : A \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} K}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Pi P:\Delta.K} \text{ (K-Pi)}$ $\frac{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} P : A \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} K}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \lambda P:\Delta.K} \text{ (K-Abs)}$ $\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Pi P:\Delta.K \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} P : A \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} N : A}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} (\lambda P:\Delta.K) N} \text{ (K-App1)}$	<p>Families rules</p> $\frac{\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma \quad a:K \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} a : K} \text{ (F-Var)}$ $\frac{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} P : B \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} A : \text{Type}}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Pi P:\Delta.A : \text{Type}} \text{ (F-Pi)}$ $\frac{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} P : B \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} A : K}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \lambda P:\Delta.A : \Pi P:\Delta.K} \text{ (F-Abs)}$ $\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} A : \Pi P:\Delta.K \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} P : B \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} N : B}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} A N : (\lambda P:\Delta.K) N} \text{ (F-App1)}$ $\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} A : K' \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} K \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} K =_{\beta_P} K'}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} A : K} \text{ (F-Conv)}$ <p>Object rules</p> $\frac{\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma \quad x:A \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} x : A} \text{ (O-Var)}$ $\frac{\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma \quad f:A \in \Sigma}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} f : A} \text{ (O-Const)}$ $\frac{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} P : B \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} M : A}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \lambda P:\Delta.M : \Pi P:\Delta.A} \text{ (O-Abs)}$ $\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : \Pi P:\Delta.A \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} P : B \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} N : B}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M N : (\lambda P:\Delta.A) N} \text{ (O-App1)}$ $\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : A \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} B : \text{Type} \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} A =_{\beta_P} B}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : B} \text{ (O-Conv)}$
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Figure 4: PLF Type System

**Lemma 10 (Permutation)**

If  $\Gamma_1, x:A, \Delta, y:B, \Gamma_2 \vdash_{\Sigma} \alpha$ , then  $\Gamma_1, y:B, \Delta, x:A, \Gamma_2 \vdash_{\Sigma} \alpha$ , provided that  $x \notin \text{Fv}(\Delta) \cup \text{Fv}(B)$ .

**Lemma 11 (Weakening)**

If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \alpha$  and  $\vdash \Gamma, \Delta$ , then  $\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} \alpha$ .

**Lemma 12 (Unicity of Types and Kinds)**

1. If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} A : K$  and  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} A : K'$ , then  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} K' =_{\beta_P} K$ ;
2. If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : A$  and  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : A'$ , then  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} A =_{\beta_P} A'$ .

**Lemma 13 (Transitivity)**

If  $\Gamma, x:A, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} \alpha$  and  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : A$ , then  $\Gamma, \Delta[M/x] \vdash_{\Sigma} \alpha[M/x]$ .

*Proof:* By induction on the derivation  $\Gamma, x:A, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} \alpha$ , using Weakening Lemma 11 and Lemma 2.  $\square$

**Lemma 14 (Abstraction Typing)**

- If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \lambda P:\Delta. A : \Pi P:\Delta'. K$ , then  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Delta =_{\beta} \Delta'$ ;
- If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \lambda P:\Delta. M : \Pi P:\Delta'. A$ , then  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Delta =_{\beta} \Delta'$ ;
- If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \lambda P:\Delta. A : \Pi P:\Delta. K$ , then  $\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} A : K$ ;
- If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \lambda P:\Delta. M : \Pi P:\Delta. A$ , then  $\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} M : A$ .

*Proof:* By induction on derivations, using Confluence and the above lemmas.  $\square$

The following lemma implies that any substitution arising from a pattern matching of well-typed terms is *type-coherent* on all substituted variables:

**Lemma 15 (Matching Coherence)**

If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} N : B$  and  $\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} P : B$ , with  $\text{Fv}(P) \subseteq \text{Dom}(\Delta)$ , and  $\text{Alg}(P; N) = \theta$ , then for any subterm  $P'$  of  $P$ , there exists  $B'$  such that  $\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} P' : B'$  and  $\Gamma, \Delta \vdash P'\theta : B'$ .

*Proof:* By induction on  $P$  using Confluence and the above lemmas.  $\square$

We are now ready to prove that typing is preserved by reduction.

**Theorem 2 (Subject Reduction)**

1. If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} A : K$  and  $A \mapsto_{\beta} B$ , then  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} B : K$ ;
2. If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : A$  and  $M \mapsto_{\beta} N$ , then  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} N : A$ .

*Proof:* By induction on the structure of derivations, using the Subderivation Property, Transitivity, Abstraction Typing and Matching Coherence Lemmas.  $\square$

### 3.7 Strong Normalization

Let  $\text{SN} = \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}} \cup \text{SN}^{\mathcal{F}} \cup \text{SN}^{\mathcal{K}}$  be the set of strongly normalizing terms. This section is devoted to the proof of the following theorem:

**Theorem 3 (Strong Normalization)**

1. If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} K$ , then  $K \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{K}}$ ;
2. If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} A : K$ , then  $A \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{F}}$ ;
3. If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : A$ , then  $M \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$ .

The proof of the above theorem is based on a non-trivial extension of the standard *Computability Argument* to accommodate the presence of patterns in the syntax. For technical reasons, in this section we find convenient to work in the equivalent PLF system with the more informative lambda pattern abstraction

$$\surd P : \Delta : B.T$$

where  $B$  is meant to be the type inferred for  $P$ . We will omit  $B$  when it is irrelevant in proofs.

**Definition 21 (Comp Sets)**

- Let  $\text{Comp}^{\mathcal{O}}$  be the set of object computability candidates defined as follows.  
 $\mathcal{N} \in \text{Comp}^{\mathcal{O}}$  if and only if  $\mathcal{N}$  satisfies:

- (c1)  $\mathcal{N} \subseteq \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$ ;
- (c2)  $\forall \vec{N} \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}. x \vec{N}$ , and  $f \vec{N} \in \mathcal{N}$ ;
- (c3)  $\mathcal{N}$  is closed under the rule

$$\frac{Q \mapsto_{\beta} Q' \quad \text{Alg}(P; Q') = \theta \quad (M\theta)\vec{N} \in \mathcal{N} \quad \text{CoDom}(\Delta), Q \in \text{SN}}{(\lambda P : \Delta.M) Q \vec{N} \in \mathcal{N}}$$

- (c4)  $\mathcal{N}$  is closed under the rule

$$\frac{\forall Q'. [Q \mapsto_{\beta} Q' \Rightarrow \text{Alg}(P; Q') = \text{fail}] \quad \text{CoDom}(\Delta), M, Q, \vec{N} \in \text{SN}}{(\lambda P : \Delta.M) Q \vec{N} \in \mathcal{N}}$$

- Let  $\text{Comp}^{\mathcal{F}}$  be the set of family computability candidates defined as follows.  
 $\mathcal{N} \in \text{Comp}^{\mathcal{F}}$  if and only if  $\mathcal{N}$  satisfies:

- (c1)  $\mathcal{N} \subseteq \text{SN}^{\mathcal{F}}$ ;

- (c2)  $\forall \vec{N} \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{F}}. a \vec{N} \in \mathcal{N}$ ;  
(c3)  $\mathcal{N}$  is closed under the rule

$$\frac{Q \mapsto_{\beta} Q' \quad \text{Alg}(P; Q') = \theta \quad (A\theta)\vec{N} \in \mathcal{N} \quad \text{CoDom}(\Delta), Q \in \text{SN}}{(\lambda P:\Delta.A) Q \vec{N} \in \mathcal{N}}$$

- (c4)  $\mathcal{N}$  is closed under the rule

$$\frac{\forall Q'. [Q \mapsto_{\beta} Q' \Rightarrow \text{Alg}(P; Q') = \text{fail}] \quad \text{CoDom}(\Delta), A, Q, \vec{N} \in \text{SN}}{(\lambda P:\Delta.A) Q \vec{N} \in \mathcal{N}}$$

The rule in (c3) above captures the case when there exists, *eventually* a possible matching between the pattern and the argument, while the rule in (c4) captures the case when *never* there will be a matching. In what follows, we denote by  $P \sqsubseteq Q$  the fact that there exist  $Q', \theta$  such that  $Q \mapsto_{\beta} Q'$  and  $\theta = \text{Alg}(P; Q')$ , and by  $P \not\sqsubseteq Q$  the fact that, for all  $Q'$  such that  $Q \mapsto_{\beta} Q'$ , we have  $\text{Alg}(P; Q') = \text{fail}$ .

The following lemma holds.

**Lemma 16**

$\text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}} \in \text{Comp}^{\mathcal{O}}$  and  $\text{SN}^{\mathcal{F}} \in \text{Comp}^{\mathcal{F}}$ .

*Proof:* We only prove that  $\text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}} \in \text{Comp}^{\mathcal{O}}$ . The proof of  $\text{SN}^{\mathcal{F}} \in \text{Comp}^{\mathcal{F}}$  being similar. The set  $\text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$  clearly satisfies (c1) and (c2). We prove that  $\text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$  satisfies property (c3). Let assume that  $Q \mapsto_{\beta} Q', \text{Alg}(P; Q') = \theta, (M\theta)\vec{N} \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}, \text{CoDom}(\Delta), Q \in \text{SN}$ . We have to prove that  $(\lambda P:\Delta.M) Q \vec{N} \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$ . We proceed by induction on the lengths of the minimal derivations to normal forms of  $(M, Q, \vec{N}, \text{CoDom}(\Delta))$ , lexicographically ordered. If  $M, Q, \vec{N}, \text{CoDom}(\Delta)$  are all normal forms, then the thesis is immediate. Otherwise, let us consider all possible  $\mapsto_{\beta}$ -reductions starting from  $(\lambda P:\Delta.M) Q \vec{N}$ . We have to prove that the reduced terms are strongly normalizing. There are various cases:

- $(\lambda P:\Delta.M) Q \vec{N} \mapsto_{\beta} (\lambda P:\Delta.M') Q \vec{N}$ . Since  $M\theta \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$  by hypothesis, and  $M\theta \mapsto_{\beta} M'\theta$ , by Lemma 3.(3), then  $M'\theta \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$ . Thus, by induction hypothesis,  $(\lambda P:\Delta.M') Q \vec{N} \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$ ;
- $(\lambda P:\Delta.M) Q \vec{N} \mapsto_{\beta} (\lambda P:\Delta.M) Q' \vec{N}$ . Then, since  $\text{Alg}(P; Q) = \theta$ , by Lemma 2.(1), there exists  $\theta'$  such that  $\theta' = \text{Alg}(P; Q')$  and  $\theta \mapsto_{\beta} \theta'$ . Thus, since by Lemma 3.(1)  $M\theta \mapsto_{\beta} M\theta'$  and  $M\theta \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$ , then also  $M\theta' \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$ . Hence, by induction hypothesis,  $(\lambda P:\Delta.M) Q' \vec{N} \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$ ;
- $(\lambda P:\Delta.M) Q \vec{N} \mapsto_{\beta} (\lambda P:\Delta.M) Q \vec{N}'$ . Then the thesis follows by induction hypothesis.

Using a similar (simpler) argument, one can prove that  $\text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$  satisfies also (c4).  $\square$

The next definition, together with Lemma 17 below, give an interpretation of families in  $\text{Comp}^{\mathcal{O}}$ , and of kinds in  $\text{Comp}^{\mathcal{F}}$ . Such interpretation is defined by induction on families and kinds. The complexity measure  $\mathfrak{m}$  for families and kinds is given by the number of family/kind metaoperators like, *e.g.*  $\checkmark$  and the hidden application metaoperator, *i.e.*:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{m}(a) &= 0 \\ \mathfrak{m}(\text{Type}) &= 0 \\ \mathfrak{m}(TM) &= \mathfrak{m}(T) + 1 \\ \mathfrak{m}(\checkmark P:\Delta.T) &= \mathfrak{m}(T) + 1 \end{aligned}$$

Notice that, in particular,  $A$  and  $A\theta$  have the same complexity.

**Definition 22 (Family and Kind Interpretation)**

- Let  $\llbracket - \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$  be the family interpretation function defined by induction on families as follows.
 
$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket a \vec{N} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} &= \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}} \\ \llbracket \checkmark P:\Delta.B.A \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} &= \\ &\left\{ M \mid Q \in \llbracket B \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \implies MQ \in \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}} & \text{if } P \not\sqsubseteq Q \\ \bigcup \{ \llbracket A\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \mid Q \mapsto_{\beta} Q' \wedge \theta = \text{Alg}(P; Q') \} & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right\} \right\} \\ \llbracket (\lambda P:\Delta.A) M \vec{N} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} &= \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}} & \text{if } P \not\sqsubseteq M \\ \bigcup \{ \llbracket (A\theta)\vec{N} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \mid M \mapsto_{\beta} M' \wedge \theta = \text{Alg}(P; M') \} & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right\} \end{aligned}$$
- Let  $\llbracket - \rrbracket^{\mathcal{K}}$  be the family interpretation function defined by induction on kinds as follows.
 
$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \text{Type } \vec{N} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{K}} &= \text{SN}^{\mathcal{F}} \\ \llbracket \checkmark P:\Delta.B.K \rrbracket^{\mathcal{K}} &= \\ &\left\{ A \mid Q \in \llbracket B \rrbracket^{\mathcal{K}} \implies AQ \in \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{SN}^{\mathcal{F}} & \text{if } P \not\sqsubseteq Q \\ \bigcup \{ \llbracket K\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{K}} \mid Q \mapsto_{\beta} Q' \wedge \theta = \text{Alg}(P; Q') \} & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right\} \right\} \\ \llbracket (\lambda P:\Delta.K) M \vec{N} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{K}} &= \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{SN}^{\mathcal{F}} & \text{if } P \not\sqsubseteq M \\ \bigcup \{ \llbracket (K\theta)\vec{N} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{K}} \mid M \mapsto_{\beta} M' \wedge \theta = \text{Alg}(P; M') \} & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

Then the following lemma holds:

**Lemma 17**

1. For every family  $A$ , we have  $\llbracket A \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \in \text{Comp}^{\mathcal{O}}$ ;
2. For every kind  $K$ , we have  $\llbracket K \rrbracket^{\mathcal{K}} \in \text{Comp}^{\mathcal{F}}$ .

*Proof:* We prove a stronger statement for item 1., (we omit the proof of item 2., since it is similar): for any family  $A$  and for any substitution  $\theta$ , we have  $\llbracket A\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \in \text{Comp}^{\mathcal{O}}$ . We

proceed by induction on  $A$ .

$A \equiv a \vec{N}$ , then the thesis follows by definition of  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ , using Lemma 16.

$A \equiv \sqrt{P}:\Delta:B.A'$ . Then  $\llbracket A\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} =$

$$\left\{ M \left| Q \in \llbracket B \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \Rightarrow MQ \in \begin{cases} \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}} & \text{if } P \not\sqsubseteq Q \\ \bigcup \{ \llbracket A'\theta\bar{\theta} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \mid Q \mapsto_{\beta} Q' \wedge \bar{\theta} = \text{Alg}(P; Q') \} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \right. \right\}$$

We have to check that  $\llbracket A\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$  satisfies conditions **(c1)–(c4)** in Definition 21.

Conditions **(c1,c2)** follow from the fact that, by induction hypothesis,  $\llbracket A'\theta\bar{\theta} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \in \text{Comp}^{\mathcal{O}}$ , for all  $\theta, \bar{\theta}$ .

**(c3)** We have to prove that  $(\lambda P':\Delta'.M')Q'\vec{N}' \in \llbracket A\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ , whenever there exists  $Q''$  such that  $Q' \mapsto_{\beta} Q''$ ,  $\bar{\theta} = \text{Alg}(P'; Q'')$ ,  $(M'\bar{\theta})\vec{N}' \in \llbracket A\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ , and  $\text{CoDom}(\Delta'), Q' \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$ . By definition of  $\llbracket A\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ , we have  $(\lambda P':\Delta'.M')Q'\vec{N}' \in \llbracket A\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$  if, for any  $Q \in \llbracket B \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ ,

$$(\lambda P':\Delta'.M')Q'\vec{N}'Q \in \begin{cases} \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}} & \text{if } P \not\sqsubseteq Q \\ \bigcup \{ \llbracket A'\theta\bar{\theta} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \mid Q \mapsto_{\beta} Q'' \wedge \bar{\theta} = \text{Alg}(P'; Q'') \} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Thus let  $Q$  be such that  $Q \in \llbracket B \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ , two cases can arise

1.  $P \not\sqsubseteq Q$ . Since  $(M'\bar{\theta})\vec{N}' \in \llbracket A\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ , by definition of  $\llbracket A\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ , we have that  $(M'\bar{\theta})\vec{N}'Q \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$ , and since  $\text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}} \in \text{Comp}^{\mathcal{O}}$ ,  $\text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$  satisfies condition **(c4)**, and hence  $(\lambda P':\Delta'.M')Q'\vec{N}'Q \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$ .
2. There exists  $Q''$  such that  $Q \mapsto_{\beta} Q''$  and  $\bar{\theta} = \text{Alg}(P'; Q'')$ . Then, since  $(M'\bar{\theta})\vec{N}' \in \llbracket A\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ , by definition of  $\llbracket A\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ , we have  $(M'\bar{\theta})\vec{N}'Q \in \bigcup \{ \llbracket A'\theta\bar{\theta} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \mid Q \mapsto_{\beta} Q'' \wedge \bar{\theta} = \text{Alg}(P'; Q'') \}$ . Since by induction hypothesis,  $\llbracket A\theta\bar{\theta} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$  satisfies **(c3)**, we have

$$(\lambda P':\Delta'.M')Q'\vec{N}'Q \in \bigcup \{ \llbracket A'\theta\bar{\theta} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \mid Q \mapsto_{\beta} Q'' \wedge \bar{\theta} = \text{Alg}(P'; Q'') \}$$

**(c4)** Let  $\text{CoDom}(\Delta'), M', Q', \vec{N}' \in \text{SN}$  and  $P' \not\sqsubseteq Q'$ . We have to prove that  $(\lambda P':\Delta'.M')Q'\vec{N}' \in \llbracket A\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ . To prove this, by definition of  $\llbracket A\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ , it is sufficient to show the following two facts: let  $Q \in \llbracket B \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ , then

1. if  $P \not\sqsubseteq Q$ , then  $(\lambda P':\Delta'.M')Q'\vec{N}'Q \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$ ;
2. otherwise,  $(\lambda P':\Delta'.M')Q'\vec{N}'Q \in \bigcup \{ \llbracket A'\theta\bar{\theta} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \mid Q \mapsto_{\beta} Q'' \wedge \bar{\theta} = \text{Alg}(P'; Q'') \}$ .

Fact 1. above follows by the fact that  $\text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}} \in \text{Comp}$  satisfies **(c4)**. Fact 2. follows since, by induction hypothesis, each  $\llbracket A\theta\bar{\theta} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$  also satisfies **(c4)**.

Finally, let  $A \equiv (\lambda P:\Delta.A')M\vec{N}$ . Then

$$\llbracket A\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} = \begin{cases} \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}} & \text{if } P \not\sqsubseteq M\theta \\ \bigcup \{ \llbracket A'\theta\bar{\theta} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \mid M\theta \mapsto_{\beta} M'' \wedge \bar{\theta} = \text{Alg}(P'; M'') \} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Now, one can easily check that  $\llbracket A\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$  satisfies (c1–c4), by applying the induction hypothesis to  $\llbracket A'\theta\bar{\theta} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 18 (Soundness of  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} / \llbracket \cdot \rrbracket^{\mathcal{K}}$ )**

1. If  $A \mapsto_{\beta} B$ , then  $\llbracket A \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} = \llbracket B \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ ;
2. If  $K \mapsto_{\beta} K'$ , then  $\llbracket K \rrbracket^{\mathcal{K}} = \llbracket K' \rrbracket^{\mathcal{K}}$ .

*Proof:* We prove a stronger statement for item 1. (we omit the proof of item 2., which is similar): if  $A \mapsto_{\beta} B$  and  $\theta \mapsto_{\beta} \theta'$ , then  $\llbracket A\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} = \llbracket B\theta' \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ . We proceed by induction on the number of reduction steps of  $A \mapsto_{\beta} B$ .

Base case

$A \equiv B$ . Then we prove by induction on the structure of  $A$  that, if  $\theta \mapsto_{\beta} \theta'$ , then  $\llbracket A\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} = \llbracket A\theta' \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ .

$A \equiv a\vec{N}$ , then the thesis is immediate.

$A \equiv \sqrt{P}:\Delta:B.A'$ , then  $\llbracket (\sqrt{P}:\Delta:B.A')\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} =$

$$\left\{ M \left| Q \in \llbracket B \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \Rightarrow MQ \in \begin{cases} \text{SN}^{\circ} & \text{if } P \not\sqsubseteq Q \\ \bigcup \{ \llbracket A'\theta\bar{\theta} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \mid Q \mapsto_{\beta} Q' \wedge \bar{\theta} = \text{Alg}(P; Q') \} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \right. \right\}$$

and  $\llbracket (\sqrt{P}:\Delta:B.A')\theta' \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} =$

$$\left\{ M \left| Q \in \llbracket B \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \Rightarrow MQ \in \begin{cases} \text{SN}^{\circ} & \text{if } P \not\sqsubseteq Q \\ \bigcup \{ \llbracket A'\theta'\bar{\theta} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \mid Q \mapsto_{\beta} Q' \wedge \bar{\theta} = \text{Alg}(P; Q') \} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \right. \right\}$$

Now, from  $\theta \mapsto_{\beta} \theta'$ , using Lemma 3.(2), we have  $\theta\bar{\theta} \mapsto_{\beta} \theta'\bar{\theta}$ . Thus, by induction hypothesis,

$$\llbracket A'\theta\bar{\theta} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} = \llbracket A'\theta'\bar{\theta} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$$

and hence the thesis follows immediately.

$A \equiv (\lambda P:\Delta.A')M\vec{N}$ , then

$\llbracket (\lambda P:\Delta.A')\theta(\vec{N}\theta) \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} =$

$$\left\{ \text{SN}^{\circ} \quad \text{if } P \not\sqsubseteq M\theta \right. \\ \left. \bigcup \{ \llbracket (A'\theta\bar{\theta})(\vec{N}\theta) \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \mid M\theta \mapsto_{\beta} M'' \wedge \bar{\theta} = \text{Alg}(P; M'') \} \quad \text{otherwise} \right.$$

and

$\llbracket (\lambda P:\Delta.A')\theta'(\vec{N}\theta') \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} =$

$$\left\{ \text{SN}^{\circ} \quad \text{if } P \not\sqsubseteq M\theta' \right. \\ \left. \bigcup \{ \llbracket (A'\theta'\bar{\theta})(\vec{N}\theta') \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \mid M\theta' \mapsto_{\beta} M'' \wedge \bar{\theta}' = \text{Alg}(P; M'') \} \quad \text{otherwise} \right.$$



Now, in order to show that  $\llbracket A\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} = \llbracket A\theta' \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ , it is sufficient to prove the following fact:

*Fact (\*)*: whenever  $M\theta \mapsto_{\beta} M''$  and  $\bar{\theta} = \text{Alg}(P; M'')$ , then there exist  $M'''$  and  $\bar{\theta}'$  such that  $M\theta' \mapsto_{\beta} M'''$ ,  $\bar{\theta}' = \text{Alg}(P; M''')$ , and  $\bar{\theta} \mapsto_{\beta} \bar{\theta}'$ .

Namely, if *Fact (\*)* holds, then, by the Substitution Lemma 3, we have  $\theta\bar{\theta} \mapsto_{\beta} \theta'\bar{\theta}'$ , and, by induction hypothesis,  $\llbracket A'\theta\bar{\theta} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} = \llbracket A'\theta'\bar{\theta}' \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ . But *Fact (\*)* above follows from the Confluence Theorem 1 and Lemma 2.(1), using the fact that, by the Substitution Lemma 3,  $M\theta \mapsto_{\beta} M\theta'$ .

**Induction Step**

$A \mapsto_{\beta} B \mapsto_{\beta} B'$ . By induction hypothesis,  $\llbracket B\theta' \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} = \llbracket B'\theta' \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ . Thus, we are left to show that, if  $A \mapsto_{\beta} B$  and  $\theta \mapsto_{\beta} \theta'$ , then  $\llbracket A\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} = \llbracket B\theta' \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ . This is shown by induction on the structure of  $A$ .

$A \equiv a\vec{N}$ , then the thesis is immediate from the definition of  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ .

$A \equiv \sqrt{P}:\Delta.A' \mapsto_{\beta} \sqrt{P}:\Delta'.B'$ , then the thesis follows by induction hypothesis, using an argument similar to that used for dealing with  $A$  of the same shape in the Base Case.

$A \equiv (\lambda P:\Delta.A')M\vec{N}$ , then there are two subcases:

1.  $A \equiv (\lambda P:\Delta.A')M\vec{N} \mapsto_{\beta} (\lambda P:\Delta.B')M'\vec{N}' \equiv B$ ;
2.  $A \equiv (\lambda P:\Delta.A')M\vec{N} \mapsto_{\beta} A'\hat{\theta}\vec{N} \equiv (A'\vec{N})\hat{\theta} \equiv B$ , where  $\hat{\theta} = \text{Alg}(P; M)$ .

In case 1, one can reason as in the Base Case. Let us prove the thesis in case 2. We have:

$$\llbracket A\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} = \bigcup \{ \llbracket (A'\vec{N})\theta\bar{\theta} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \mid M\theta \mapsto_{\beta} M'' \wedge \bar{\theta} = \text{Alg}(P; M'') \} \quad (*)$$

and

$$\llbracket B\theta' \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} = \llbracket (A'\vec{N})\hat{\theta}\theta' \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}.$$

First of all, using the Confluence Theorem 1, Lemma 2.(1), and the induction hypothesis, one can show that all the elements in equation (\*) above coincide. Moreover, by the Base Case, we have  $\llbracket B\theta' \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} = \llbracket B\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} = \llbracket (A'\vec{N})\hat{\theta}\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ . But then, since  $\hat{\theta} = \text{Alg}(P; M)$ , by Lemma 2.(2), we have that there exists  $\bar{\theta} = \text{Alg}(P; M\theta)$  such that  $(A'\vec{N})\hat{\theta}\theta \equiv (A'\vec{N})\theta\bar{\theta}$ . Thus  $\llbracket B\theta' \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} = \llbracket (A'\vec{N})\hat{\theta}\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} = \llbracket (A'\vec{N})\theta\bar{\theta} \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} = \llbracket A\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ .  $\square$

Notice that, by the Confluence Theorem 1, Lemma 2.(1), and Lemma 18 above, Definition 22 of the interpretation functions  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$  and  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket^{\mathcal{K}}$  simplify, since all the elements in the  $\bigcup$ -unions coincide.

**Lemma 19 (Key Lemma)**

Let  $\Gamma$  be a context, and let  $N_i \in \llbracket \Gamma(x_i) \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ , for all  $x_i \in \text{Dom}(\Gamma)$ . Then:

1. If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} K$ , then  $K[\vec{N}/\vec{x}] \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{K}}$ ;
2. If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} A : K$ , then  $A[\vec{N}/\vec{x}] \in \llbracket K[\vec{N}/\vec{x}] \rrbracket^{\mathcal{K}}$ ;

3. If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : A$ , then  $M[\vec{N}/\vec{x}] \in \llbracket A[\vec{N}/\vec{x}] \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ .

*Proof:* We prove items 1., 2., 3. by mutual induction on the derivations of the judgments. We only deal with object rules, since the other rules can be dealt with similarly.

(O·Var) Immediate, since if  $\Gamma_1, x:A, \Gamma_2 \vdash_{\Sigma} x : A$ , then  $x \notin \text{Fv}(A)$ .

(O·Const) Immediate.

(O·Conv) The thesis follows by induction hypothesis and by Lemma 18.

(O·Abs)

$$\frac{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} P : B \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} M : A}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \lambda P:\Delta:B.A.M : \Pi P:\Delta.A} \text{(O·Abs)}$$

We have to prove that

$$(\lambda P:\Delta[\vec{N}/\vec{x}].M[\vec{N}/\vec{x}]) \in \llbracket \Pi P:\Delta[\vec{N}/\vec{x}].A[\vec{N}/\vec{x}] \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \quad (1)$$

Let  $Q \in \llbracket B \rrbracket$ . Then statement (1) is true if

1.  $\exists Q'. [Q \mapsto_{\beta} Q' \wedge \text{Alg}(P; Q') = \theta] \implies (\lambda P:\Delta[\vec{N}/\vec{x}].M[\vec{N}/\vec{x}]) Q \in \llbracket A[\vec{N}/\vec{x}]\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$   
and
2.  $P \not\sqsubseteq Q \implies (\lambda P:\Delta[\vec{N}/\vec{x}].M[\vec{N}/\vec{x}]) Q \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$ .

*Proof of 1.* By Lemma 17,  $\llbracket A[\vec{N}/\vec{x}]\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \in \text{Comp}^{\mathcal{O}}$ , hence  $\llbracket A[\vec{N}/\vec{x}]\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$  satisfies condition **(c3)** of Definition 21. Thus, for proving  $(\lambda P:\Delta[\vec{N}/\vec{x}].M[\vec{N}/\vec{x}]) Q \in \llbracket A[\vec{N}/\vec{x}]\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ , it is sufficient to prove that  $\text{CoDom}(\Delta[\vec{N}/\vec{x}]), Q \in \text{SN}$  and  $M[\vec{N}/\vec{x}]\theta \in \llbracket A[\vec{N}/\vec{x}]\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ . Now, since  $Q \in \llbracket B \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ , then, by Lemma 17, we get  $Q \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$ . Moreover,  $\text{CoDom}(\Delta[\vec{N}/\vec{x}]) \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{F}}$ , since by the Subderivation Property 9, for each family  $A' \in \text{CoDom}(\Delta)$ , there exists a smaller derivation of  $\Gamma' \vdash_{\Sigma} A' : K$ ; hence we can apply the induction hypothesis to this latter derivation. Finally,  $M[\vec{N}/\vec{x}]\theta \in \llbracket A[\vec{N}/\vec{x}]\theta \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ , by induction hypothesis, noticing that  $\text{Dom}(\theta) = \text{Dom}(\Delta)$ .

*Proof of 2.* By induction hypothesis,  $M[\vec{N}/\vec{x}] \in \llbracket A[\vec{N}/\vec{x}] \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ . Moreover, by Lemma 17, we get  $\llbracket A[\vec{N}/\vec{x}] \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \subseteq \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$ , hence in particular  $M[\vec{N}/\vec{x}] \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$ . Thus, since  $\text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$  is closed under **(c4)**, using the Subderivation Property 9, we get  $(\lambda P:\Delta[\vec{N}/\vec{x}].M[\vec{N}/\vec{x}]) Q \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$ .

(O·Appl)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M_1 : \Pi P:\Delta.A \quad \Gamma, \Delta \vdash_{\Sigma} P : B \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M_2 : B}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M_1 M_2 : (\lambda P:\Delta.A) M_2} \text{(O·Appl)}$$

We have to prove that

$$(M_1 M_2)[\vec{N}/\vec{x}] \in \llbracket (\lambda P:\Delta[\vec{N}/\vec{x}].A[\vec{N}/\vec{x}]) M_2[\vec{N}/\vec{x}] \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}} \quad (2)$$

By induction hypothesis, we have  $M_1[\vec{N}/\vec{x}] \in \llbracket \Pi P:\Delta[\vec{N}/\vec{x}].A[\vec{N}/\vec{x}] \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ , with  $P \in \llbracket B[\vec{N}/\vec{x}] \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ , and  $M_2[\vec{N}/\vec{x}] \in \llbracket B[\vec{N}/\vec{x}] \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ . Now statement (2) follows by definition of  $\llbracket \Pi P:\Delta[\vec{N}/\vec{x}].A[\vec{N}/\vec{x}] \rrbracket^{\mathcal{F}}$ .  $\square$

By Lemma 19, using the fact that variables belong to any set in  $\mathbf{Comp}^{\mathcal{O}}$ , we can prove the Strong Normalization Theorem 3.

Finally, we are in the position of proving that PLF can be used as a framework for proof checking.

**Theorem 4 (Judgements decidability)**

*It is decidable whether the PLF judgment  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \alpha$  is derivable.*

*Proof: Routine, following the template of [HHP93].*  $\square$

## 4 The Closed Logical Framework

In this section, we investigate the Closed Logical Framework, CLF, introduced in Section 2.4 as an instance of GLF. We recall that CLF is obtained from GLF by considering the set

$$\mathbb{S}_{\text{CLF}} \triangleq \{ (\text{True}_x, \overline{\text{True}_x}, \widehat{\text{True}_x}), (\text{Closed}_x, \overline{\text{Closed}_x}, \widehat{\text{Closed}_x}) \}$$

This instantiation of GLF amounts to a logical framework which features the standard  $\beta$ -rule as well as a restricted  $\beta$ -rule that fires only when the argument is closed. In Section 5, we will provide a very interesting application of CLF as a Logical Framework.

The Closed Logical Framework is an example of an interesting class of Logical Frameworks, which arise when we instantiate GLF to systems which feature standard  $\beta$ -reduction together with a restricted  $\beta$ -reduction *i.e.*

$$(\beta_{\mathcal{V}}) \quad (\lambda x.M) N \rightarrow_{\beta_{\mathcal{V}}} M[N/X] \quad \text{provided } N \in \mathcal{V}$$

where  $\mathcal{V}$  is a set of *values*. Gordon Plotkin was the first to introduce this kind of restriction in the call-by-value lambda calculus, [Plo75], in order to discuss the observational equivalence of the SECD machine. Other restricted lambda calculi were introduced in [HL99], to analyze the behavior of special classes of terms, *i.e.* strongly normalizing terms. However the simultaneous combination of both the standard  $\beta$  and  $\beta_{\mathcal{V}}$  was rarely discussed, let alone in a typed context. Once again we point out that the special nature of the type system, which records potential reductions which have not yet fired, is the crucial ingredient, which makes this enterprise worthwhile.

It is interesting to point out that, in what follows, everything goes through, provided the set  $\mathcal{V}$  of values is closed under standard  $\beta$ -reduction and non-overlapping substitutions which derive from the reductions involved, *i.e.* provided the appropriate form of Lemma 20 below holds.

In discussing CLF for the sake of brevity, we write  $\text{Closed}_x x$  by  $x_\emptyset$  and  $\text{True}_x x$  by  $x$ . We also let  $\bar{x} \in \{x, x_\emptyset\}$ .

## 4.1 CLF Terms

In the next definition, we introduce the pseudo-syntax for kinds, families, objects and contexts.

### Definition 23 (CLF Pseudo-syntax)

$\Sigma \in \mathcal{S}$	$\Sigma ::= \emptyset \mid \Sigma, a:K \mid \Sigma, f:A$	<i>Signatures</i>
$\Gamma, \Delta \in \mathcal{C}$	$\Gamma ::= \emptyset \mid \Gamma, \bar{x}:A$	<i>Contexts</i>
$K \in \mathcal{K}$	$K ::= \text{Type} \mid \Pi \bar{x}:A.K \mid \lambda \bar{x}:A.K \mid K M$	<i>Kinds</i>
$A, B, C \in \mathcal{F}$	$A ::= a \mid \Pi \bar{x}:A.B \mid \lambda \bar{x}:A.B \mid A M$	<i>Families</i>
$M, N, Q \in \mathcal{O}$	$M ::= f \mid x \mid \lambda \bar{x}:A.N \mid M N$	<i>Objects</i>

## 4.2 Operational Semantics

### Definition 24 (One/Many-Steps, Congruence)

Let  $\mathcal{O}^0$  be the set of closed objects.

1. The top-level rules are

$$\begin{array}{llll}
 (\beta\text{-Obj}) & (\lambda x:A.M) N \rightarrow_\beta M[N/x] & (\lambda x_\emptyset:A.M) N \rightarrow_\beta M[N/x] & \text{if } N \in \mathcal{O}^0 \\
 (\beta\text{-Fam}) & (\lambda x:A.B) N \rightarrow_\beta B[N/x] & (\lambda x_\emptyset:A.B) N \rightarrow_\beta B[N/x] & \text{if } N \in \mathcal{O}^0 \\
 (\beta\text{-Kinds}) & (\lambda x:A.K) N \rightarrow_\beta K[N/x] & (\lambda x_\emptyset:A.K) N \rightarrow_\beta K[N/x] & \text{if } N \in \mathcal{O}^0
 \end{array}$$

2. one-step, many-steps reduction and congruence are defined as usual.

The two notions of  $\beta$ -reduction in CLF, namely standard  $\beta$ -reduction and restricted  $\beta$ -closed reduction, nicely combine, in the sense that a potential  $\beta$ -closed reduction is preserved under application of any substitution (coming from another, possibly standard reduction).

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{}{T \Rightarrow_{\beta} T} \text{ (Par}_1\text{)} \\
\\
\frac{T \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'}{\check{x}:A.T \Rightarrow_{\beta} \check{x}:A.T'} \text{ (Par}_3\text{)} \\
\\
\frac{T \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'}{\check{x}_{\emptyset}:A.T \Rightarrow_{\beta} \check{x}_{\emptyset}:A.T'} \text{ (Par}_5\text{)} \\
\\
\frac{T \Rightarrow_{\beta} T' \quad N \Rightarrow_{\beta} N'}{TN \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'N'} \text{ (Par}_2\text{)} \\
\\
\frac{T \Rightarrow_{\beta} T' \quad N \Rightarrow_{\beta} N'}{(\lambda x:A.T)N \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'[N/x]} \text{ (Par}_4\text{)} \\
\\
\frac{T \Rightarrow_{\beta} T' \quad N \Rightarrow_{\beta} N' \in \mathcal{O}^{\emptyset}}{(\lambda x_{\emptyset}:A.T)N \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'[N/x]} \text{ (Par}_6\text{)}
\end{array}$$

Figure 5: Parallel Reduction

**Lemma 20 (Closure under Reduction and Substitution)**

If  $N \in \mathcal{O}^{\emptyset}$ , then, for any substitution  $\theta$ ,  $N\theta \in \mathcal{O}^{\emptyset}$ . Moreover, for any  $N$  and  $T$ , and for any  $\theta$  such that  $x \notin \text{CoDom}(\theta)$ , we have  $T[N/x]\theta \equiv T\theta[N\theta/x]$ .

*Proof:* Straightforward, by induction on  $T$ . □

Using the above lemma, one can prove the following substitution lemma.

**Lemma 21 (Substitution)**

If  $T \mapsto_{\beta} T'$  and  $\theta \mapsto_{\beta} \theta'$ , then  $T\theta \mapsto_{\beta} T'\theta'$ .

*Proof:* We proceed by proving that:

1. If  $\theta \mapsto_{\beta} \theta'$ , then, for any  $\Upsilon$ ,  $\Upsilon\theta \mapsto_{\beta} \Upsilon\theta'$  (straightforward, by induction on  $\Upsilon$ );
2. If  $T \mapsto_{\beta} T'$ , then for any  $\theta$ ,  $T\theta \mapsto_{\beta} T'\theta$  (by induction on the number of derivation steps of  $T \mapsto_{\beta} T'$ , using Lemma 20).

Then the thesis follows using transitivity of  $\mapsto_{\beta}$ . □

Lemma 20 and the Substitution Lemma above are fundamental for proving the confluence property of CLF and the strong normalization of the type system.

**4.3 Confluence**

The proof of confluence follows the pattern used for PLF based on *parallel reduction*, see [Tak89].

**Definition 25 (Parallel Reduction)**

The parallel reduction  $\Rightarrow_{\beta}$  is defined in Figure 5.

It is easy to prove that:

**Lemma 22 (Relations)**

$$\mapsto_{\beta} \subseteq \Rightarrow_{\beta} \subseteq \mapsto_{\beta}.$$

By Lemma 22 above, in order to prove the confluence of the  $\mapsto_{\beta}$ -relation, it is enough to prove the diamond property of the parallel reduction  $\Rightarrow_{\beta}$ . Actually, we will prove the Strong Diamond Property 25 below. To this aim, we need the following definition and a number of instrumental lemmas.

**Definition 26 (Diamond)**

We define the mapping  $\diamond$  by induction (point-wise extended to contexts):

$$\begin{aligned} x^{\diamond} &\triangleq x \\ (\surd x:A.T)^{\diamond} &\triangleq \surd x:A.T^{\diamond} \\ (\surd x_{\emptyset}:A.T)^{\diamond} &\triangleq \surd x_{\emptyset}:A.T^{\diamond} \\ (TN)^{\diamond} &\triangleq T^{\diamond} N^{\diamond} && \text{if } T \text{ is not an abstraction} \\ ((\lambda x:A.T)N)^{\diamond} &\triangleq T^{\diamond}[N^{\diamond}/x] \\ ((\lambda x_{\emptyset}:A.T)N)^{\diamond} &\triangleq \begin{cases} T^{\diamond}[N^{\diamond}/x] & \text{if } N^{\diamond} \in \mathcal{O}^{\emptyset} \\ (\lambda x_{\emptyset}:A.T^{\diamond})N^{\diamond} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 23**

For any  $T$ ,  $T \Rightarrow_{\beta} T^{\diamond}$ .

*Proof:* By induction on the structure of  $T$ . □

**Lemma 24 (Parallel Substitution)**

If  $T \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'$  and  $\theta \Rightarrow_{\beta} \theta'$ , then  $T\theta \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'\theta'$ .

*Proof:* By induction on the derivation of  $T \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'$ . If  $T \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'$  is obtained by an application of rule (Par<sub>1</sub>), then the thesis follows by proving that, if  $\theta \Rightarrow_{\beta} \theta'$ , then for all  $T$ , we have  $T\theta \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'\theta'$  (which can be shown by straightforward induction on  $T$ ). The remaining cases are dealt with straightforwardly using the induction hypothesis, except for the case where the last rule applied in the derivation is (Par<sub>4</sub>) or (Par<sub>6</sub>). Let us consider the case of (Par<sub>6</sub>):

$$\frac{T_1 \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'_1 \quad N \Rightarrow_{\beta} N' \in \mathcal{O}^{\emptyset}}{T \equiv (\lambda x_{\emptyset}:B.T_1)N \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'_1[N'/x] \equiv T'} \text{(Par}_6\text{)}$$

By induction hypothesis,  $T_1\theta \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'_1\theta'$  and  $N\theta \Rightarrow_{\beta} N'\theta'$  and  $N'\theta' \in \mathcal{O}^{\emptyset}$ . Thus, by rule (Par<sub>6</sub>), we have  $(\lambda x_{\emptyset}:B.T_1\theta)N\theta \Rightarrow_{\beta} T'_1\theta'[N'\theta'/x]$ . Now, by Lemma 20,  $T'_1\theta'[N'\theta'/x] \equiv T'_1[N'/x]\theta'$ . This concludes the proof. □

**Lemma 25 (Diamond Property of Parallel Reduction)**

If  $T_1 \Rightarrow_\beta T_2$ , then  $T_2 \Rightarrow_\beta T_1^\circ$ .

*Proof:* By induction on the derivation of  $T_1 \Rightarrow_\beta T_2$ . The only non-trivial cases are when the last rule is (Par<sub>4</sub>) or (Par<sub>6</sub>). Let us consider the case of (Par<sub>6</sub>):

$$\frac{T \Rightarrow_\beta T' \quad N \Rightarrow_\beta N' \in \mathcal{O}^0}{T_1 \equiv (\lambda x_\emptyset : B.T) N \Rightarrow_\beta T'[N'/x] \equiv T_2} \text{(Par}_6\text{)}$$

By induction hypothesis,  $T' \Rightarrow_\beta T^\circ$ , and  $N' \Rightarrow_\beta N^\circ$ . Thus, by the Parallel Substitution Lemma,  $T_2 \equiv T'[N'/x] \Rightarrow_\beta T^\circ[N^\circ/x] \equiv T_1^\circ$ .  $\square$

Finally, by Lemma 25, we have:

**Theorem 5 (Confluence)**

The relation  $\mapsto_\beta$  is confluent.  $\square$

**4.4 CLF Type System**

CLF involves type judgments of the following shape:

$\Sigma$	sig	( $\Sigma$ is a valid signature)
$\vdash_\Sigma$	$\Gamma$	( $\Gamma$ is a valid context in $\Sigma$ )
$\Gamma \vdash_\Sigma$	$K$	( $K$ is a kind in $\Gamma$ and $\Sigma$ )
$\Gamma \vdash_\Sigma$	$A : \text{Type}$	( $A$ is has kind $K$ in $\Gamma$ and $\Sigma$ )
$\Gamma \vdash_\Sigma$	$M : A$	( $M$ is has type $A$ in $\Gamma$ and $\Sigma$ )

The typing rules of CLF are given in Figure 6. As was the case for PLF, we have also here the auxiliary equality judgments  $\Gamma \vdash_\Sigma M =_\beta N$ . As for PLF, confluence holds for raw terms, hence equality judgments are unproblematic. Due to the simplicity of predicates, the metatheory of CLF follows from that of LF [HHP93], with minor modifications. The following *gallery* of results holds:

**Proposition 1 (Gallery)**

1. *Subderivation Property;*
2. *Derivability of Permutation and Weakening;*
3. *Unicity of Types and Kinds;*
4. *Transitivity;*

<p><b>Signatures rules</b></p> $\frac{}{\emptyset \text{ sig}} \text{ (S-Empty)}$ $\frac{\Sigma \text{ sig} \quad \vdash_{\Sigma} K \quad a \notin \text{Dom}(\Sigma)}{\Sigma, a:K \text{ sig}} \text{ (S-Kind)}$ $\frac{\Sigma \text{ sig} \quad \vdash_{\Sigma} A : \text{Type} \quad c \notin \text{Dom}(\Sigma)}{\Sigma, f:A} \text{ (S-Type)}$	<p><b>Families rules</b></p> $\frac{\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma \quad a:K \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} a : K} \text{ (F-Var)}$ $\frac{\Gamma, \bar{x}:B \vdash_{\Sigma} A : \text{Type}}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Pi \bar{x}:B. A : \text{Type}} \text{ (F-Pi)}$ $\frac{\Gamma, \bar{x}:B \vdash_{\Sigma} A : K}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \lambda \bar{x}:B. A : \Pi \bar{x}:B. K} \text{ (F-Abs)}$
<p><b>Contexts rules</b></p> $\frac{\Sigma \text{ sig}}{\vdash_{\Sigma} \emptyset} \text{ (C-Empty)}$ $\frac{\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} A : \text{Type} \quad \bar{x} \notin \text{Dom}(\Gamma)}{\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma, \bar{x}:A} \text{ (C-Type)}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} A : \Pi \bar{x}:B. K \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} N : B}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} A N : (\lambda \bar{x}:B. K) N} \text{ (F-Appl)}$ $\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} A : K' \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} K \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} K =_{\beta_P} K'}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} A : K} \text{ (F-Conv)}$
<p><b>Kind rules</b></p> $\frac{\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \text{Type}} \text{ (K-Type)}$ $\frac{\Gamma, \bar{x}:A \vdash_{\Sigma} K}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Pi \bar{x}:A. K} \text{ (K-Pi)}$ $\frac{\Gamma, \bar{x}:A \vdash_{\Sigma} K}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \lambda \bar{x}:A. K} \text{ (K-Abs)}$ $\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Pi \bar{x}:A. K \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} N : A}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} (\lambda \bar{x}:A. K) N} \text{ (K-Appl)}$	<p><b>Object rules</b></p> $\frac{\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma \quad \bar{x}:A \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \bar{x} : A} \text{ (O-Var)}$ $\frac{\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma \quad f:A \in \Sigma}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} f : A} \text{ (O-Const)}$ $\frac{\Gamma, \bar{x}:B \vdash_{\Sigma} M : A}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \lambda \bar{x}:B. M : \Pi \bar{x}:B. A} \text{ (O-Abs)}$ $\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : \Pi \bar{x}:B. A \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} N : B}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M N : (\lambda \bar{x}:B. A) N} \text{ (O-Appl)}$ $\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : A \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} B : \text{Type} \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} A =_{\beta_P} B}{\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : B} \text{ (O-Conv)}$

Figure 6: CLF Type System



5. *Abstraction Typing;*
6. *Subject Reduction.*

Strong Normalization follows from strong normalization of standard LF, observing that  $\beta$ -reduction restricted to closed arguments is a special case of the plain  $\beta$ -reduction.

**Theorem 6 (Strong Normalization for CLF)**

1. *If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} K$ , then  $K \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{K}}$ ;*
2. *If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} A : K$ , then  $A \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{F}}$ ;*
3. *If  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} M : A$ , then  $M \in \text{SN}^{\mathcal{O}}$ .* □

## 5 Putting GLF to use: Examples

In this section we illustrate by means of a few simple examples how PLF and CLF can be conveniently used as Logical Frameworks. Clearly, more experiments are necessary in order to assess in full generality the potential of such Frameworks. But we are confident that already these very simple encodings of logical systems, which are problematic in standard LF, make the point concerning the usability of the new Frameworks. Further possible developments will be mentioned in Section 6. We assume the reader familiar with the pragmatics of Logical Frameworks. An elementary introduction appears in [AHMP92, Pfe96]. Most of the papers cited in the Introduction provide further interesting material.

### 5.1 Case Analysis in PLF

Case analysis can be handled very easily and neatly in PLF by taking advantage of the pattern matching facilities.

For instance, in order to encode in PLF the predecessor, for the classical (untyped) term rewriting system over the constant integer type `int`,  $(0 \rightarrow 0, (\text{succ } x) \rightarrow x)$ , we can simply write  $\lambda 0:\text{int}.0$  and  $\lambda(\text{succ } x):[x:\text{int}].x$ . Following van Oostroom [vO90], and [BCKL03], we can take advantage of having functions-as-patterns. Namely, projections for pairs can be neatly defined as follows.

$$\text{Pi}_1 \triangleq \lambda(\lambda z:\text{bool}.z \ x \ y):[x:A, y:B].x \quad \text{Pi}_2 \triangleq \lambda(\lambda z:\text{bool}.z \ x \ y):[x:A, y:B].y$$

where `bool` is the constant boolean type.

### 5.2 Plotkin's Call-by-value Lambda Calculus.

For lack of space, we will provide only one example encoding to illustrate how patterns can increase the usability of Dependent Type Theory as a metalanguage for encoding logical systems. Another encoding appears in [LHR05].

Plotkin's call-by-value lambda calculus ( $\lambda_v$ -calculus) [Pl075] differs from the traditional lambda calculus in the formulation of the  $\beta_v$ -reduction rule, namely  $(\lambda x.M) N \rightarrow_{\beta_v} M[N/x]$  provided that  $N$  is a value, that is a variable or an abstraction. The  $\eta$ -reduction rule is the usual  $(\lambda x.M x) \rightarrow_{\eta} M$ , provided  $x \notin \text{Fv}(M)$ , since variables are intended to range over values. Although interesting encodings of Plotkin's  $\lambda_v$ -calculus do exist in standard LF, the price to pay is to introduce an auxiliary machinery for representing syntactic subcategories, [AHMP92].

In PLF we can present alternate encodings of Plotkin's  $\lambda_v$ -calculus which safely do away with subcategories, as in the signature appearing in Figure 7.

Syntactic Categories  
 $o$  : Type  
Constructors and Judgments  
 $! : o^2$      $\text{Lam} : \Pi f : [\Pi! x^o.o]. o$      $\text{App} : o^3$      $= : o \rightarrow o \rightarrow \text{Type}$   
Axioms and Rules  
 $\text{Eq}_{\text{refl}} : \Pi x^o. x = x$   
 $\text{Eq}_{\text{symm}} : \Pi x^o. \Pi y^o. (x = y) \rightarrow (y = x)$   
 $\text{Eq}_{\text{trans}} : \Pi x^o. \Pi y^o. \Pi z^o. (x = y) \rightarrow (y = z) \rightarrow (x = z)$   
 $\text{Eq}_{\text{ctx}} : \Pi x^o. \Pi y^o. \Pi z^o. \Pi w^o. (x = y) \rightarrow (z = w) \rightarrow (\text{App } x z = \text{App } y w)$   
 $\text{Betav} : \Pi f : [\Pi! x^o.o]. \Pi y^o. \text{App } (! (\text{Lam } f)) (! y) = f (! y)$   
 $\text{Xiv} : \Pi f : [\Pi! x^o.o]. \Pi g : [\Pi! x^o.o].$   
 $(\Pi z^o. f (! z) = g (! z) \rightarrow (! (\text{Lam } f)) = ! (\text{Lam } g))$   
 $\text{Etav} : \Pi x^o. ! (\text{Lam } (\lambda (! y^o). \text{App } (! x) (! y))) = ! x$

Figure 7: The signature  $\Sigma_v$  for Plotkin's  $\lambda_v$ -calculus in PLF

In the signature  $\Sigma_v$  of Figure 7 standard abbreviations are in use, *i.e.* infix notation, operators precedence,  $\Pi x:A.B \equiv A \rightarrow B$ , if  $x \notin \text{FV}(B)$ , as well as the following ones:  $o^n$  for  $\overbrace{o \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow o}^{n \text{ times}}$  and  $\check{C}[x]:[x:o]$  for  $\check{C}[x^o]$ .

All the constants are self-explicatory but for  $!$ . This constructor denotes values, and coherently, the domain of the  $\text{Lam}$  constructor takes as arguments only functions whose argument has to have the pattern of a value. Please notice the essential use of patterns. The rationale of this signature is clarified by the following adequacy theorem:

**Theorem 7 (Adequacy and Faithfulness)**

Let  $\Xi_{\Gamma}(o)$  be the set of PLF terms in normal form of type  $o$  in the context  $\Gamma \equiv [x_1:o, \dots, x_n:o]$ ,

and let  $\llbracket - \rrbracket_\Gamma : \Lambda_v[x_1, \dots, x_n] \longrightarrow \Xi_\Gamma(o)$  be the bijective function defined as follows.

$$\llbracket M \rrbracket_\Gamma = \begin{cases} !x & \text{if } M \equiv x \\ \text{App}[\llbracket P \rrbracket_\Gamma][\llbracket Q \rrbracket_\Gamma] & \text{if } M \equiv PQ \\ !( \text{Lam } (\lambda! x^o. \llbracket P[x] \rrbracket_{\Gamma, x:o})) & \text{if } M \equiv \lambda x.P[x] \end{cases}$$

and let  $\vdash_v M = N$  denote the standard equational theory for Plotkin's  $\lambda_v$ -calculus [Plo75]. The following holds:

1.  $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma_v} \llbracket M \rrbracket_\Gamma : o$  is provable if and only if  $M \in \Lambda_v[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  (i.e. the set of terms in  $\Lambda_v$  with  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  free variables).
2.  $\Delta \vdash_{\Sigma_v} P : \llbracket M \rrbracket_\Gamma = \llbracket N \rrbracket_\Gamma$  is provable, for  $\Delta \triangleq y_1:\llbracket M_1 \rrbracket_\Gamma = \llbracket N_1 \rrbracket_\Gamma, \dots, y_n:\llbracket M_n \rrbracket_\Gamma = \llbracket N_n \rrbracket_\Gamma$  and some  $P$ , if and only if  $M_1 = N_1, \dots, M_n = N_n \vdash_v M = N$ .

### 5.3 Modal Logics

The expressive power of the Closed Logical Framework allows to encode smoothly *rules of proof*, i.e. rules which apply only to premises which do not depend on any assumption, such as the rule of *necessitation* in Modal Logic, as well as *rules of derivation*, such as *modus ponens*. It uses a constrained  $\Pi$ -abstraction in rules of proof and a standard  $\Pi$ -abstraction in rules of derivation.

We shall not develop here the encodings of all the plethora of modal logics, in Hilbert and Natural Deduction style, which appear in [AHMP98]. By way of example, we shall only give the signature for classical  $S_4$  in Hilbert style, which features necessitation as a rule of proof, namely

$$\frac{\emptyset \vdash \phi}{\emptyset \vdash \Box \phi} \text{ (NEC)}$$

The predicate  $\text{Closed}_x \triangleq$  “ $x$  is a term with no free variables” is precisely what is needed to encode it correctly.

The signature  $\Sigma_{S_4}$  encoding the modal logic  $S_4$  in CLF is presented in Figure 8. Standard abbreviations are in use. Notice that, apart from the encoding of the rule of proof NEC, all the remaining constants are standard. We can easily show that:

#### Theorem 8 (Logical Adequacy)

$\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n \vdash_{S_4} \psi$  if and only if  $\exists M. \Gamma, \text{True}\phi_1, \dots, \text{True}\phi_n \vdash_{\Sigma_{S_4}} M : \text{True}\psi$ , where  $\Gamma \equiv X_1:o, \dots, X_k:o$  for  $X_i$  free propositional variables in  $\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n, \psi$ .

## 6 Conclusions and Directions for Future Work

In this paper, we have introduced a general Logical Framework which subsumes the Logical Framework LF of [HHP93], and generates new Logical Frameworks. These can feature a

**Propositional Connectives**  
 $o$  : Type  
 $\supset$  :  $o^3$   
 $\neg$  :  $o^2$   
 $\Box$  :  $o^2$   
**Judgment**  
 $\text{True} : o \rightarrow \text{Type}$   
**Propositional Axioms**  
 $A_1 : \Pi\phi^o. \Pi\psi^o. \text{True}\phi \supset (\psi \supset \phi)$   
 $A_2 : \Pi\phi^o. \Pi\psi^o. \Pi\theta^o. \text{True}(\phi \supset (\psi \supset \theta)) \supset (\phi \supset \psi) \supset (\phi \supset \theta)$   
 $A_3 : \Pi\phi^o. \Pi\psi^o. \text{True}(\neg\psi \supset \neg\phi) \supset ((\neg\psi \supset \phi) \supset \psi)$   
**Modal Axioms**  
 $K : \Pi\phi^o. \Pi\psi^o. \text{True}\Box(\phi \supset \psi) \supset (\neg\phi \supset \neg\psi)$   
 $4 : \Pi\phi^o. \text{True}\Box\phi \supset \Box\Box\phi$   
 $T : \Pi\phi^o. \text{True}\Box\phi \supset \phi$   
**Rules**  
 $\text{MP} : \Pi\phi^o. \Pi\psi^o. \text{True}\phi \supset \text{True}\phi \supset \psi \rightarrow \text{True}\psi$   
 $\text{NEC} : \Pi\phi^o. \Pi x_\theta. \text{True}\phi. \text{True}\Box\phi$

Figure 8: The signature  $\Sigma_{S_4}$  for classic  $S_4$  modal logic in Hilbert style in CLF

very broad spectrum of generalized  $\beta$ -reductions, together with an expressive type system which records when such reductions do not fire. The key ingredient in the typing system is a decomposition of the standard term-application rule.

We have instantiated our Framework to two important case-studies. The Pattern Lambda Calculus PLF, which arises from the tradition of [vO90,CKL01a,CKL01b,BCKL03], and the Closed Logical Framework CLF. For both calculi we have studied in depth the language theory, proving major metatheoretical results, such as subject reduction, confluence, strong normalization. In both cases we achieve decidability, which legitimates them as metalanguages for proof checking and interactive proof editing.

Finally, we have illustrated the usability and expressivity of such Frameworks giving some examples of encodings which were hitherto problematic in standard LF.

We believe that our metalogical Framework has some considerable potential, but more experiments need to be done to show this. A thorough comparison with existing work is also mandatory.

Among various results, we prove also strong normalization via reducibility candidates, for a pattern lambda calculus PLF. This problem was left open in [BCKL03], already for

a weaker subsystem. A strong normalization proof for a weaker system than PLF appears in [Wac05].

Here is a rather rhapsodic list of comments and directions for future work.

- We conjecture that confluence and strong normalization properties can be established for a generic predicative calculus, provided that the various notions of reductions nicely combine, in the sense that  $\mapsto_{\mathcal{P}_i}$ -reductions are preserved both under  $\mapsto_{\mathcal{P}_j}$ -reductions of the argument and application to the argument of any substitution coming from other reductions.
- Case analysis arising in PLF should be compared with that arising from inductive types [Coq06].
- As a possible new instantiation of GLF we briefly hint at the possibility of encoding the Natural Deduction  $\Box$ -*introduction rule* of Prawitz:

$$\frac{\Box\Gamma \vdash \phi}{\Box\Gamma \vdash \Box\phi} (\Box\text{-Intro})$$

Instantiate GLF to a new predicate  $\text{Occurs}_x \triangleq$  “ $x$  is a term whose free variables occur only in subterms of type  $\text{True}\Box\psi$  for some formula  $\psi$ ”. Then the above rule can be encoded as follows.

$$\Box\text{-I} : \Pi\phi:o. \Pi\text{Occurs}_x.[x:\text{True}\phi]. \text{True}\Box\phi$$

The reader is invited to check the language theory of this new instantiation of the GLF predicate calculus.

- In the light of Section 3.3, there is no natural notion of pattern reduction. Possibly, we can allow reductions in patterns, only under specific strategies, *e.g.* we can allow only reductions where the pattern is in normal form according to Definition 17 and it does not contain K-redexes.
- It should be investigated whether the linearity restriction in patterns can be relaxed still preserving confluence and strong normalization over well typed patterns.
- Our results should scale up to all the systems in [BCKL03], *i.e.* to systems corresponding to the full Calculus of Constructions [CH88]; but more work needs to be done.
- Is there an interesting Curry-Howard isomorphism for PLF and more generally for systems blending rewriting facilities and higher order calculi?
- Which instantiation of GLF provides the sharpest encodings of relevance and linear logics?
- Extend existing proof assistants based on dependent type systems such as Coq [Coq06], with pattern matching facilities as in PLF, and more generally with GLF.

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