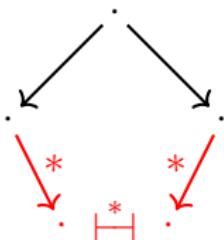


Confluence of Cut-elimination up to Rules commutations in Linear Logic

Rémi Di Guardia

Syntax Meets Semantics, 8 January 2026



Syntax

Semantics

- ◊ **Identity** of proofs / terms:
when are two proofs equal?

Syntax

- Syntactic equality
 - ✗ too constraint: $2 + 2 \neq 1 + 3$

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In Linear Logic equality up to cut-elimination
is exactly equality up to rules commutations!

Why LL? fine-grained enough for this to be relevant, LK equates all proofs

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Motivations:

- instance of *when are two morphisms in a category equal?*
- relevant for isomorphisms: *when are two formulas A and B equal?*
- useful when looking for a canonical representative: proof-nets!

Plan

- ▶ Equality of terms up to β -reduction in λ -calculus
- ▶ Equality of proofs up to cut-elimination in Linear Logic
 - Quick sketch of Linear Logic
 - Why is equality more complicated than in λ -calculus?
 - Linking cut-elimination and rules commutations

Simply typed λ -calculus

Terms

$$M, N := x \mid \lambda x. M \mid M\ N$$

Types

$$A, B := O \mid A \rightarrow B$$

β -reduction

$$(\lambda x. M)\ N \xrightarrow{\beta} M\{N/x\}$$

η -expansion

$$M \xrightarrow{\eta} (\lambda x. M\ x)$$

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Syntactic equality is usually not enough:

- Church encoding: $\underline{n} := \lambda f. \lambda x. \underbrace{f \ f \ \dots \ f}_{n \text{ times}} \ x$

$\underline{2} + \underline{2}$ should be *equivalent* to $\underline{2} + (\underline{1} + \underline{1})$

- Quotient in category / denotational model:

$$M =_{\beta\eta} N \implies \llbracket M \rrbracket = \llbracket N \rrbracket$$

→ a useful notion of equality is up to **computations** = $\beta\eta$ equivalence

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Here: **only equality up to β -reduction** (the most interesting)

Checking equality of terms

Problem:

- $M =_{\beta} N$? Give a sequence of terms $M \xleftarrow{\beta} \cdot \xrightarrow{\beta} \cdot \xrightarrow{\beta} \cdots \xleftarrow{\beta} N$
- $M \neq_{\beta} N$? Prove such a sequence cannot exist!

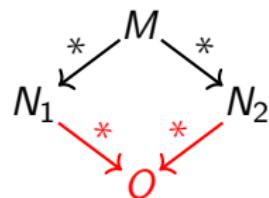
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Key results:

- β is **strongly normalizing**
(no infinite sequence of reductions)
- β is **confluent**



Corollary

$$M =_{\beta} N \iff \beta(M) = \beta(N)$$

with $\beta(\cdot)$ the unique normal form of the term

Examples

$$\underline{2} + \underline{2} \xrightarrow{\beta^*} \underline{4} \xleftarrow{\beta^*} \underline{2} + (\underline{1} + \underline{1}) \quad \underline{2} + \underline{2} \xrightarrow{\beta^*} \underline{4} \neq \underline{3} \xleftarrow{\beta^*} \underline{2} + \underline{1}$$

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Linear Logic

Formulas

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| $A, B := X X^\perp$ | <i>atom</i> |
| $ A \wp B A \otimes B \perp 1$ | <i>multiplicative</i> |
| $ A \oplus B A \& B 0 \top$ | <i>additive</i> |
| $?A !A$ | <i>exponential</i> |
| $ \forall X A \exists X A$ | <i>quantifier</i> |

Involutive Negation / Orthogonality

$$(X^\perp)^\perp = X$$

$$(A \wp B)^\perp = A^\perp \otimes B^\perp \quad (A \otimes B)^\perp = A^\perp \wp B^\perp \quad \perp^\perp = 1 \quad 1^\perp = \perp$$

$$(A \oplus B)^\perp = A^\perp \& B^\perp \quad (A \& B)^\perp = A^\perp \oplus B^\perp \quad 0^\perp = \top \quad \top^\perp = 0$$

$$(?A)^\perp = !A^\perp \quad (!A)^\perp = ?A^\perp \quad (\forall X A)^\perp = \exists X A^\perp \quad (\exists X A)^\perp = \forall X A^\perp$$

Sub-systems

- MLL = atom + multiplicative
- MALL = atom + multiplicative + additive
- ...

16 Rules of Linear Logic

$$\begin{array}{c} \frac{}{\vdash A^\perp, A} (\text{ax}) \quad \frac{\vdash A^\perp, \Gamma \quad \vdash A, \Delta}{\vdash \Gamma, \Delta} (\text{cut}) \\[10pt] \frac{\vdash A, B, \Gamma}{\vdash A \wp B, \Gamma} (?) \quad \frac{\vdash A, \Gamma \quad \vdash B, \Delta}{\vdash A \otimes B, \Gamma, \Delta} (\otimes) \quad \frac{\vdash \Gamma}{\vdash \perp, \Gamma} (\perp) \quad \frac{}{\vdash 1} (1) \\[10pt] \frac{\vdash A, \Gamma \quad \vdash B, \Gamma}{\vdash A \& B, \Gamma} (\&) \quad \frac{\vdash A, \Gamma}{\vdash A \oplus B, \Gamma} (\oplus_1) \quad \frac{\vdash B, \Gamma}{\vdash A \oplus B, \Gamma} (\oplus_2) \quad \frac{}{\vdash \top, \Gamma} (\top) \\[10pt] \frac{\vdash A, \Gamma}{\vdash ?A, \Gamma} (?d) \quad \frac{\vdash ?A, ?A, \Gamma}{\vdash ?A, \Gamma} (?c) \quad \frac{\vdash \Gamma}{\vdash ?A, \Gamma} (?w) \quad \frac{\vdash A, ?\Gamma}{\vdash !A, ?\Gamma} (!) \\[10pt] X \text{ not free in } \Gamma \quad \frac{\vdash A, \Gamma}{\vdash \forall X A, \Gamma} (\forall) \quad \frac{\vdash A\{B/X\}, \Gamma}{\vdash \exists X A, \Gamma} (\exists) \end{array}$$

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Curry-Howard isomorphism: β -reduction \approx cut-elimination

Cut-elimination - 9 Key steps (*Computations*)

| | |
|---|--|
| ax $\vdash B^\perp \& A^\perp, \Gamma \quad (\text{?})$ $\frac{\pi}{\vdash B^\perp, A^\perp, \Gamma} \quad (\text{?})$ $\frac{\vdash B^\perp, A^\perp, \Gamma \quad \vdash A, \Delta \quad \vdash B, \Sigma}{\vdash A \otimes B, \Delta, \Sigma} \quad (\otimes)$ $\frac{\vdash B^\perp \& A^\perp, \Gamma \quad \vdash A, \Delta \quad \vdash B, \Sigma}{\vdash \Gamma, \Delta, \Sigma} \quad (\text{cut})$ | $\frac{\vdash A^\perp, A \quad (\text{ax}) \quad \vdash A, \Gamma}{\vdash A, \Gamma} \quad (\text{cut})$ $\frac{\vdash A, \Gamma \quad \pi}{\vdash \pi, \Gamma}$ $\frac{\vdash B^\perp, A^\perp, \Gamma \quad \vdash A, \Delta \quad \vdash B, \Sigma \quad \pi \quad \rho}{\vdash B^\perp, A^\perp, \Gamma \quad \vdash B, \Sigma} \quad (\text{cut})$ $\frac{\vdash B^\perp, A^\perp, \Gamma \quad \vdash A, \Delta \quad \vdash B, \Sigma \quad \pi \quad \rho}{\vdash \Gamma, \Delta, \Sigma} \quad (\text{cut})$ |
| $\perp - 1$ $\vdash B^\perp, \Gamma \quad (\&)$ $\frac{\pi \quad \rho}{\vdash B^\perp \& A^\perp, \Gamma} \quad (\&)$ $\frac{\vdash B^\perp, \Gamma \quad \vdash A^\perp, \Gamma \quad \pi \quad \rho}{\vdash \Gamma, \Delta} \quad (\text{cut})$ | $\frac{\vdash \Gamma \quad \perp \quad \vdash \Gamma}{\vdash \perp, \Gamma} \quad (\perp)$ $\frac{\vdash \perp, \Gamma \quad \vdash 1 \quad (\text{!})}{\vdash 1} \quad (\text{cut})$ $\frac{\vdash \Gamma \quad \vdash \Gamma \quad \pi \quad \rho}{\vdash \Gamma} \quad (\text{cut})$ |
| $\& - \oplus_1$ $\vdash B^\perp, \Gamma \quad (\&)$ $\frac{\pi \quad \rho}{\vdash B^\perp \& A^\perp, \Gamma} \quad (\&)$ $\frac{\vdash B^\perp, \Gamma \quad \vdash A^\perp, \Gamma \quad \pi \quad \rho}{\vdash \Gamma, \Delta} \quad (\text{cut})$ | $\frac{\vdash A, \Delta \quad \tau}{\vdash A \oplus B, \Delta} \quad (\oplus_1)$ $\frac{\vdash A \oplus B, \Delta \quad \vdash A, \Delta \quad \tau}{\vdash \Gamma, \Delta} \quad (\text{cut})$ |
| $\& - \oplus_2$ $\vdash B^\perp, \Gamma \quad (\&)$ $\frac{\pi \quad \rho}{\vdash B^\perp \& A^\perp, \Gamma} \quad (\&)$ $\frac{\vdash B^\perp, \Gamma \quad \vdash A^\perp, \Gamma \quad \pi \quad \rho}{\vdash \Gamma, \Delta} \quad (\text{cut})$ | $\frac{\vdash B, \Delta \quad \tau}{\vdash A \oplus B, \Delta} \quad (\oplus_2)$ $\frac{\vdash A \oplus B, \Delta \quad \vdash B, \Delta \quad \pi \quad \tau}{\vdash \Gamma, \Delta} \quad (\text{cut})$ |
| $?d - !$ $\vdash ?A^\perp, \Gamma \quad (?d)$ $\frac{\vdash A^\perp, \Gamma \quad \rho}{\vdash ?A^\perp, \Gamma} \quad (?d)$ $\frac{\vdash A^\perp, \Gamma \quad \vdash A, ?\Delta \quad \pi \quad \rho}{\vdash \Gamma, ?\Delta} \quad (\text{cut})$ | $\frac{\vdash A, ?\Delta \quad \rho}{\vdash !A, ?\Delta} \quad (!)$ $\frac{\vdash A^\perp, \Gamma \quad \vdash A, ?\Delta \quad \pi \quad \rho}{\vdash \Gamma, ?\Delta} \quad (\text{cut})$ |
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| $?w - !$ $\vdash ?A^\perp, \Gamma \quad (?w)$ $\frac{\vdash ?A^\perp, \Gamma \quad \rho}{\vdash ?A^\perp, \Gamma} \quad (?w)$ $\frac{\vdash ?A^\perp, \Gamma \quad \vdash A, ?\Delta \quad \pi \quad \rho}{\vdash \Gamma, ?\Delta} \quad (\text{cut})$ | $\frac{\vdash \Gamma \quad \pi}{\vdash ?A^\perp, \Gamma} \quad (?w)$ $\frac{\vdash ?A^\perp, \Gamma \quad \vdash A, ?\Delta \quad \pi \quad \rho}{\vdash \Gamma, ?\Delta} \quad (\text{cut})$ |
| $\forall - \exists$ $X \text{ not free in } \Gamma$ $\vdash \forall X A^\perp, \Gamma \quad (\forall)$ $\frac{\vdash A^\perp, \Gamma \quad \rho}{\vdash \exists X A, \Delta} \quad (\exists)$ $\frac{\vdash A^\perp, \Gamma \quad \vdash A[B/X], \Delta \quad \pi \quad \rho}{\vdash \Gamma, \Delta} \quad (\text{cut})$ | $\frac{\vdash A, \Gamma \quad \pi}{\vdash A^\perp, \Gamma} \quad (\text{cut})$ $\frac{\vdash A^\perp, \Gamma \quad \vdash B, \Sigma \quad \pi \quad \rho}{\vdash B^\perp, A^\perp, \Gamma} \quad (\text{cut})$ $\frac{\vdash B^\perp, A^\perp, \Gamma \quad \vdash A, \Delta \quad \pi \quad \rho}{\vdash \Gamma, \Delta} \quad (\text{cut})$ |

Cut-elimination - 15 Commutative steps (To key)

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B^\perp, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} (\text{cut)}}{\vdash B^\perp, \Gamma, \Delta} (\text{cut})} {\vdash \Gamma, \Delta, \Sigma}$$

$$\xrightarrow{\beta} \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B^\perp, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\tau}{\vdash B, \Sigma} (\text{cut})}{\vdash \Gamma, \Delta, \Sigma}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B, C, \Gamma} (\exists)}{\vdash A^\perp, B \otimes C, \Gamma} (\text{cut}) \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta}}{\vdash B \otimes C, \Gamma, \Delta}$$

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$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash C, \Delta} (\otimes)}{\vdash A^\perp, B \otimes C, \Gamma, \Delta} (\text{cut}) \quad \frac{\tau}{\vdash A, \Sigma}}{\vdash B \otimes C, \Gamma, \Delta, \Sigma}$$

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$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, \Gamma} (\perp)}{\vdash A^\perp, \perp, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} (\text{cut})}{\vdash \perp, \Gamma, \Delta}$$

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$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, C, \Gamma} (\oplus_2)}{\vdash A^\perp, B \oplus C, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} (\text{cut})}{\vdash B \oplus C, \Gamma, \Delta}$$

$$\xrightarrow{\beta} \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, C, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} (\text{cut})}{\vdash B \oplus C, \Gamma, \Delta}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, \top, \Gamma} (\top) \quad \frac{\pi}{\vdash A, \Delta} (\text{cut})}{\vdash \top, \Gamma, \Delta}$$

$$\xrightarrow{\beta} \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B, \Gamma} (\exists d) \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} (\text{cut})}{\vdash ?B, \Gamma, \Delta}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, ?B, B, \Gamma} (\exists c)}{\vdash A^\perp, ?B, \Gamma} (\text{cut}) \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta}}{\vdash ?B, ?B, \Gamma, \Delta}$$

$$\xrightarrow{\beta} \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, ?B, \Gamma} (\text{?w}) \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} (\text{cut})}{\vdash ?B, \Gamma, \Delta}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash ?A^\perp, B, ?\Gamma} (\text{!l}) \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, ?\Delta} (\text{!l})}{\vdash ?A^\perp, B, ?\Gamma} (\text{cut})}{\vdash !B, ?\Gamma, ?\Delta}$$

$$\xrightarrow{\beta} \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B, \Gamma} (\forall v) \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} (\text{cut})}{\vdash \forall X B, \Gamma, \Delta}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B[C/X], \Gamma} (\exists)}{\vdash A^\perp, \exists X B, \Gamma} (\text{cut}) \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta}}{\vdash \exists X B, \Gamma, \Delta}$$

* X not free in ...

Cut-elimination - 15 Commutative steps (To key)

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B^\perp, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)}}{\vdash B^\perp, \Gamma, \Delta} \text{ (cut)} \quad \frac{\tau}{\vdash B, \Sigma} \text{ (cut)}}{\vdash \Gamma, \Delta, \Sigma}$$

β

$$\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B^\perp, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\tau}{\vdash B, \Sigma} \text{ (cut)}}{\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, \Gamma, \Sigma} \text{ (cut)}}{\vdash \Gamma, \Delta, \Sigma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)}}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B, C, \Gamma} \text{ (?)}}{\vdash A^\perp, B \otimes C, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)} \quad \xrightarrow{\beta} \quad \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B, C, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)}}{\frac{\pi}{\vdash B, C, \Gamma, \Delta} \text{ (?)}}$$

β

$$\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash C, \Delta} \text{ (})}{\vdash A^\perp, B \otimes C, \Gamma, \Delta} \quad \frac{\tau}{\vdash A, \Sigma} \text{ (cut)} \quad \xrightarrow{\beta} \quad \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\tau}{\vdash A, \Sigma} \text{ (cut)}}{\vdash B \otimes C, \Gamma, \Delta, \Sigma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash C, \Delta} \text{ (})}$$

β

$$\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash B, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A^\perp, C, \Delta} \text{ (})}}{\vdash A^\perp, B \otimes C, \Gamma, \Delta} \quad \frac{\tau}{\vdash A, \Sigma} \text{ (cut)} \quad \xrightarrow{\beta} \quad \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash B, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A^\perp, C, \Delta} \quad \frac{\tau}{\vdash A, \Sigma} \text{ (cut)}}{\vdash B \otimes C, \Gamma, \Delta, \Sigma} \text{ (})}$$

β

$$\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, \Gamma} \text{ (L)}}{\vdash A^\perp, \perp, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)} \quad \xrightarrow{\beta} \quad \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)}}{\frac{\pi}{\vdash \perp, \Gamma, \Delta} \text{ (L)}}$$

β

$$\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A^\perp, C, \Gamma} \text{ (&)}}{\vdash A^\perp, B \& C, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\tau}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)} \quad \xrightarrow{\beta} \quad \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\tau}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)}}{\vdash B, \Gamma, \Delta} \quad \frac{\frac{\rho}{\vdash A^\perp, C, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\tau}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)}}{\vdash C, \Gamma, \Delta} \text{ (&)}$$

β

$$\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B, \Gamma} \text{ (})_1}{\vdash A^\perp, B \oplus C, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)} \quad \xrightarrow{\beta} \quad \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)}}{\frac{\pi}{\vdash B, \Gamma, \Delta} \text{ (})_1}$$

β

$$\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, C, \Gamma} \text{ (})_2}{\vdash A^\perp, B \oplus C, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)} \quad \xrightarrow{\beta} \quad \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, C, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)}}{\frac{\pi}{\vdash C, \Gamma, \Delta} \text{ (})_2}$$

β

$$\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, \top, \Gamma} \text{ (T)}}{\vdash \top, \Gamma, \Delta} \quad \frac{\pi}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)} \quad \xrightarrow{\beta} \quad \frac{\pi}{\vdash \top, \Gamma, \Delta} \text{ (T)}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B, \Gamma} \text{ (?)d}}{\vdash A^\perp, ?B, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)} \quad \xrightarrow{\beta} \quad \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)}}{\frac{\pi}{\vdash ?B, \Gamma, \Delta} \text{ (?)d}}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, ?B, B, \Gamma} \text{ (?)c}}{\vdash A^\perp, ?B, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)} \quad \xrightarrow{\beta} \quad \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, ?B, B, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)}}{\frac{\pi}{\vdash ?B, ?B, \Gamma, \Delta} \text{ (?)c}}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, \Gamma} \text{ (?)w}}{\vdash A^\perp, ?B, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)} \quad \xrightarrow{\beta} \quad \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)}}{\frac{\pi}{\vdash ?B, \Gamma, \Delta} \text{ (?)w}}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash ?A^\perp, B, ?\Gamma} \text{ (?)l}}{\vdash ?A^\perp, !B, ?\Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, ?\Delta} \text{ (})l} \quad \xrightarrow{\beta} \quad \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash ?A^\perp, B, ?\Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, ?\Delta} \text{ (})l}}{\frac{\pi}{\vdash B, ?\Gamma, ?\Delta} \text{ (?)l}}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B, \Gamma} \text{ (V)}}{\vdash A^\perp, \forall X B, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)} \quad \xrightarrow{\beta} \quad \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)}}{\frac{\pi}{\vdash \forall X B, \Gamma, \Delta} \text{ (V)}}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B[C/X], \Gamma} \text{ (?)}}{\vdash A^\perp, \exists X B, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)} \quad \xrightarrow{\beta} \quad \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A^\perp, B[C/X], \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, \Delta} \text{ (cut)}}{\frac{\pi}{\vdash \exists X B, \Gamma, \Delta} \text{ (?)}}$$

* X not free in ...

Cut-elimination on an example

$$\frac{\frac{}{\vdash A^\perp, A} \text{(ax)} \quad \frac{}{\vdash B, B^\perp} \text{(ax)}}{\vdash A^\perp, A \otimes B, B^\perp} \text{(\otimes)} \quad \frac{\frac{}{\vdash A, A^\perp} \text{(ax)} \quad \frac{}{\vdash C^\perp, C} \text{(ax)}}{\vdash A, A^\perp \otimes C^\perp, C} \text{(\otimes)}$$
$$\frac{}{\vdash A \otimes B, A^\perp \otimes C^\perp, B^\perp, C} \text{(cut)}$$

Cut-elimination on an example

$$\frac{\frac{}{\vdash A^\perp, A} \text{(ax)} \quad \frac{}{\vdash B, B^\perp} \text{(ax)}}{\vdash A^\perp, A \otimes B, B^\perp} \text{(\otimes)} \quad \frac{\frac{}{\vdash A, A^\perp} \text{(ax)} \quad \frac{}{\vdash C^\perp, C} \text{(ax)}}{\vdash A, A^\perp \otimes C^\perp, C} \text{(\otimes)}$$
$$\frac{}{\vdash A \otimes B, A^\perp \otimes C^\perp, B^\perp, C} \text{(cut)}$$

β-com

$$\frac{}{\vdash A^\perp, A} \text{(ax)} \quad \frac{\frac{}{\vdash A, A^\perp} \text{(ax)} \quad \frac{}{\vdash C^\perp, C} \text{(ax)}}{\vdash A, A^\perp \otimes C^\perp, C} \text{(\otimes)}$$
$$\frac{}{\vdash A, A^\perp \otimes C^\perp, C} \text{(cut)} \quad \frac{}{\vdash B, B^\perp} \text{(ax)}$$
$$\frac{}{\vdash A \otimes B, A^\perp \otimes C^\perp, B^\perp, C} \text{(\otimes)}$$

Cut-elimination on an example

$$\frac{}{\vdash A^\perp, A} \text{ (ax)} \quad \frac{}{\vdash B, B^\perp} \text{ (ax)} \quad \frac{}{\vdash A, A^\perp} \text{ (ax)} \quad \frac{}{\vdash C^\perp, C} \text{ (ax)}$$

$$\frac{}{\vdash A^\perp, A \otimes B, B^\perp} \text{ (⊗)} \quad \frac{}{\vdash A, A^\perp \otimes C^\perp, C} \text{ (⊗)}$$

$$\frac{}{\vdash A \otimes B, A^\perp \otimes C^\perp, B^\perp, C} \text{ (cut)}$$

β com

$$\frac{}{\vdash A^\perp, A} \text{ (ax)} \quad \frac{}{\vdash A, A^\perp} \text{ (ax)} \quad \frac{}{\vdash C^\perp, C} \text{ (ax)} \quad \frac{}{\vdash B, B^\perp} \text{ (ax)}$$

$$\frac{}{\vdash A, A^\perp \otimes C^\perp, C} \text{ (⊗)} \quad \frac{}{\vdash A^\perp \otimes C^\perp, C} \text{ (cut)} \quad \frac{}{\vdash B, B^\perp} \text{ (⊗)}$$

$$\frac{}{\vdash A \otimes B, A^\perp \otimes C^\perp, B^\perp, C} \text{ (⊗)}$$

β key

$$\frac{}{\vdash A, A^\perp} \text{ (ax)} \quad \frac{}{\vdash C^\perp, C} \text{ (ax)}$$

$$\frac{}{\vdash A, A^\perp \otimes C^\perp, C} \text{ (⊗)} \quad \frac{}{\vdash B, B^\perp} \text{ (ax)}$$

$$\frac{}{\vdash A \otimes B, A^\perp \otimes C^\perp, B^\perp, C} \text{ (⊗)}$$

Plan

- ▶ Equality of terms up to β -reduction in λ -calculus
- ▶ Equality of proofs up to cut-elimination in Linear Logic
 - Quick sketch of Linear Logic
 - Why is equality more complicated than in λ -calculus?
 - Linking cut-elimination and rules commutations

Checking equality of proofs

Problem:

- $\pi =_{\beta} \rho$? Give a sequence of proofs $\pi \xleftarrow{\beta} \cdot \xrightarrow{\beta} \cdot \xrightarrow{\beta} \cdots \xleftarrow{\beta} \rho$
- $\pi \neq_{\beta} \rho$? Prove such a sequence cannot exist!

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Can we do the same as in λ -calculus?

- Cut-elimination is **strongly normalizing**?

- Cut-elimination is **confluent**?

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Almost: an infinite reduction has an infinite suffix made only of

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\vdash A^\perp, B^\perp, \Gamma \quad \vdash A, \Delta}{\vdash B^\perp, \Gamma, \Delta} \text{ (cut)} \quad \vdash B, \Sigma \quad \vdash \tau}{\vdash \Gamma, \Delta, \Sigma} \text{ (cut)}}{\vdash \Gamma, \Delta, \Sigma} \xrightarrow{\beta} \frac{\frac{\frac{\vdash A^\perp, B^\perp, \Gamma \quad \vdash B, \Sigma}{\vdash A^\perp, \Gamma, \Sigma} \text{ (cut)} \quad \vdash A, \Delta \quad \vdash \rho}{\vdash \Gamma, \Delta, \Sigma} \text{ (cut)}}{\vdash \Gamma, \Delta, \Sigma} \text{ (cut)}$$

→ let's just ignore those for now

- Cut-elimination is **confluent**?

Checking equality of proofs

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$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\vdash A^\perp, B^\perp, \Gamma \quad \vdash A, \Delta}{\vdash B^\perp, \Gamma, \Delta} \text{ (cut)} \quad \vdash B, \Sigma \quad \vdash \tau}{\vdash \Gamma, \Delta, \Sigma} \text{ (cut)}}{\vdash \Gamma, \Delta, \Sigma} \xrightarrow{\beta} \frac{\frac{\frac{\vdash A^\perp, B^\perp, \Gamma \quad \vdash B, \Sigma}{\vdash A^\perp, \Gamma, \Sigma} \text{ (cut)} \quad \vdash A, \Delta \quad \vdash \rho}{\vdash \Gamma, \Delta, \Sigma} \text{ (cut)}}{\vdash \Gamma, \Delta, \Sigma} \text{ (cut)}$$

→ let's just ignore those for now

- Cut-elimination is **confluent**?

Not at all!

Cut-elimination is not confluent!

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\vdash A^\perp, A \quad \vdash B^\perp, B}{\vdash A \otimes B, A^\perp, B^\perp} (\otimes) \quad \frac{\frac{\vdash A^\perp, A \quad \vdash C^\perp, C}{\vdash A^\perp \otimes C^\perp, A, C} (\otimes)}{\vdash A \otimes B, A^\perp \otimes C^\perp, B^\perp, C} (cut)}}{\vdash A \otimes B, A^\perp \otimes C^\perp, B^\perp, C}$$

10. *What is the best way to manage your time effectively?*

$$\frac{\frac{\vdash A^\perp, A \quad \vdash C^\perp, C}{\vdash A, A^\perp \otimes C^\perp, C} (\otimes) \quad \vdash B^\perp, B}{\vdash A \otimes B, A^\perp \otimes C^\perp, B^\perp, C} (\otimes)$$

\neq

$$\frac{\frac{\vdash A^\perp, A \quad \vdash B^\perp, B}{\vdash A \otimes B, A^\perp, B^\perp} (\otimes) \quad \frac{}{\vdash C^\perp, C} (\alpha)}{\vdash A \otimes B, A^\perp \otimes C^\perp, B^\perp, C} (\otimes)$$

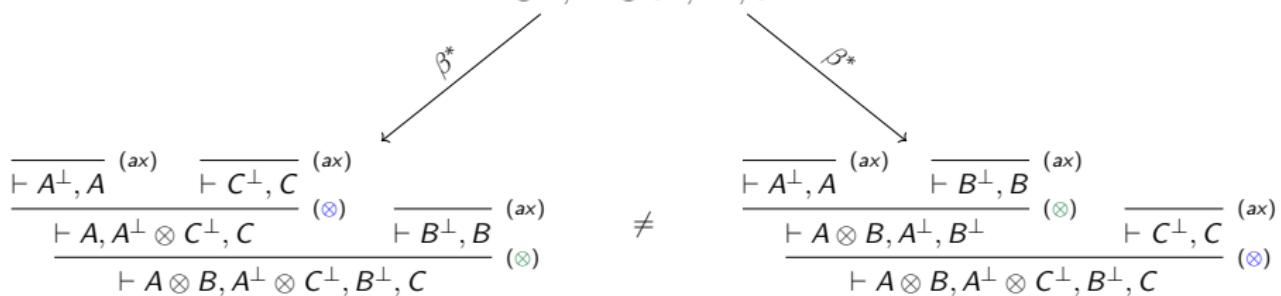
Irreversible choice at the beginning:

first commutative case with the left \otimes -rule or with the right one?

No confluence even in the *simplest* sub-systems: unit-free MLL, ALL, ...

Cut-elimination is not confluent!

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\vdash A^\perp, A \quad \vdash B^\perp, B}{\vdash A \otimes B, A^\perp, B^\perp} (\otimes) \quad \frac{\vdash A^\perp, A \quad \vdash C^\perp, C}{\vdash A^\perp \otimes C^\perp, A, C} (\otimes)}{\vdash A \otimes B, A^\perp \otimes C^\perp, B^\perp, C} (cut)}$$



Irreversible choice at the beginning:

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No confluence even in the *simplest* sub-systems: unit-free MLL, ALL, ...

But confluence up to rules commutation!

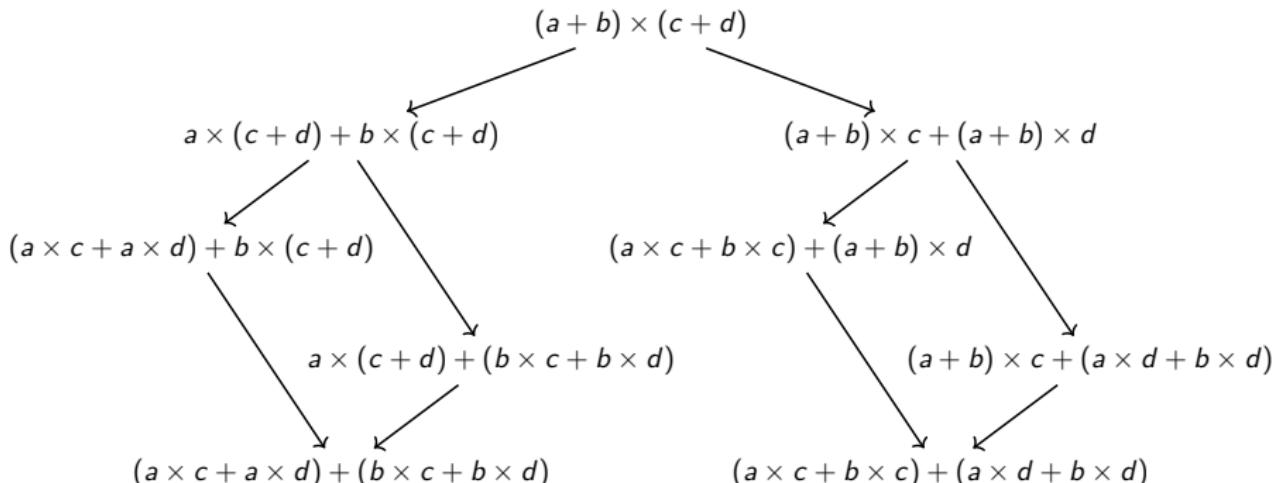
Intuition: Confluence up to in distributivity

Exercices from junior high school: **distributivity** of \times over $+$

$$a \times (b + c) \rightarrow (a \times b) + (a \times c)$$

$$(b + c) \times a \rightarrow (b \times a) + (c \times a)$$

Not confluent:



But confluent up to associativity and commutativity of $+$

Rules commutations (from a list of cases)

$$\vdash \frac{\pi}{\vdash C, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho \quad \tau}{\vdash A, D, \Delta \quad \vdash B, \Sigma} \quad \vdash \frac{(\otimes)}{\vdash A \otimes B, D, \Delta, \Sigma} \quad \vdash \frac{\pi \quad \rho}{\vdash C, \Gamma \quad \vdash A, D, \Delta} \quad \vdash \frac{(\otimes)}{\vdash A, C \otimes D, \Gamma, \Delta} \quad \vdash \frac{\tau}{\vdash B, \Sigma} \quad \vdash \frac{(\otimes)}{\vdash A \otimes B, C \otimes D, \Gamma, \Delta, \Sigma}$$

$$\vdash \frac{\pi}{\vdash A, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho \quad \tau}{\vdash B, C, \Delta \quad \vdash B, D, \Delta} \quad \vdash \frac{(\&)}{\vdash B, C \& D, \Delta} \quad \vdash \frac{\pi}{\vdash A, \Gamma} \quad \vdash \frac{\rho}{\vdash B, C, \Delta} \quad (\otimes) \quad \vdash \frac{\pi}{\vdash A, \Gamma} \quad \vdash \frac{\tau}{\vdash B, D, \Delta} \quad (\otimes) \\ \vdash \frac{(\otimes)}{\vdash A \otimes B, C \& D, \Gamma, \Delta} \quad \vdash \frac{(\&)}{\vdash A \otimes B, C \& D, \Gamma, \Delta}$$

$$\vdash \frac{}{\vdash \top, ?A, \Gamma} \quad (\top) \quad \vdash \frac{\vdash \top, ?A, ?A, \Gamma \quad (\top)}{\vdash \top, ?A, \Gamma} \quad (?_c)$$

$$\vdash \frac{}{\vdash \top, A \otimes B, \Gamma, \Delta} \quad (\top) \quad \vdash \frac{\vdash \top, A, \Gamma \quad (\top) \quad \vdash \frac{\pi}{\vdash B, \Delta}}{\vdash \top, A \otimes B, \Gamma, \Delta} \quad (\otimes)$$

... and many many many more ...

Rules commutations (from a list of cases)

$$\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash C, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, D, \Delta} \quad \frac{\tau}{\vdash B, \Sigma}}{\vdash A \otimes B, D, \Delta, \Sigma} (\otimes) \quad \text{H} \quad \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash C, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, D, \Delta}}{\frac{\vdash A, C \otimes D, \Gamma, \Delta}{\vdash A \otimes B, C \otimes D, \Gamma, \Delta, \Sigma}} (\otimes) \quad \frac{\tau}{\vdash B, \Sigma}$$

$$\frac{\pi}{\vdash A, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\frac{\rho}{\vdash B, C, \Delta} \quad \frac{\tau}{\vdash B, D, \Delta}}{\vdash B, C \& D, \Delta} (\&) \quad \text{H} \quad \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash B, C, \Delta}}{\frac{\vdash A \otimes B, C, \Gamma, \Delta}{\vdash A \otimes B, C \& D, \Gamma, \Delta}} (\otimes) \quad \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\tau}{\vdash B, D, \Delta}}{\frac{\vdash A \otimes B, D, \Gamma, \Delta}{\vdash A \otimes B, C \& D, \Gamma, \Delta}} (\otimes)$$

$$\frac{}{\vdash \top, ?A, \Gamma} (\top) \quad \text{H} \quad \frac{\frac{\vdash \top, ?A, ?A, \Gamma}{\vdash \top, ?A, \Gamma} (\top)}{\vdash \top, ?A, \Gamma} (?_c)$$

$$\frac{}{\vdash \top, A \otimes B, \Gamma, \Delta} (\top) \quad \text{H} \quad \frac{\frac{\vdash \top, A, \Gamma}{\vdash \top, A, \Gamma} (\top) \quad \frac{\pi}{\vdash B, \Delta}}{\frac{\vdash \top, A \otimes B, \Gamma, \Delta}{\vdash \top, A \otimes B, \Gamma, \Delta}} (\otimes)$$

... and many many many more ...

! Non-trivial: **duplicates** / merges sub-proofs

Rules commutations (from a list of cases)

$$\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash C, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, D, \Delta} \quad \frac{\tau}{\vdash B, \Sigma}}{\vdash A \otimes B, D, \Delta, \Sigma} (\otimes) \quad \text{H} \quad \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash C, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash A, D, \Delta}}{\frac{\vdash A, C \otimes D, \Gamma, \Delta}{\vdash A \otimes B, C \otimes D, \Gamma, \Delta, \Sigma}} (\otimes)$$

$$\frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash B, C, \Delta} \quad \frac{\tau}{\vdash B, D, \Delta}}{\vdash A \otimes B, C \& D, \Gamma, \Delta} (\otimes) \quad \text{H} \quad \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\rho}{\vdash B, C, \Delta}}{\frac{\vdash A \otimes B, C, \Gamma, \Delta}{\vdash A \otimes B, C \& D, \Gamma, \Delta}} (\otimes) \quad \frac{\frac{\pi}{\vdash A, \Gamma} \quad \frac{\tau}{\vdash B, D, \Delta}}{\frac{\vdash A \otimes B, D, \Gamma, \Delta}{\vdash A \otimes B, C \& D, \Gamma, \Delta}} (\otimes)$$

$$\frac{}{\vdash \top, ?A, \Gamma} (\top) \quad \text{H} \quad \frac{\frac{}{\vdash \top, ?A, ?A, \Gamma} (\top)}{\frac{}{\vdash \top, ?A, \Gamma} (?_c)}$$

$$\frac{}{\vdash \top, A \otimes B, \Gamma, \Delta} (\top) \quad \text{H} \quad \frac{\frac{}{\vdash \top, A, \Gamma} (\top) \quad \frac{\pi}{\vdash B, \Delta}}{\frac{}{\vdash \top, A \otimes B, \Gamma, \Delta}} (\otimes)$$

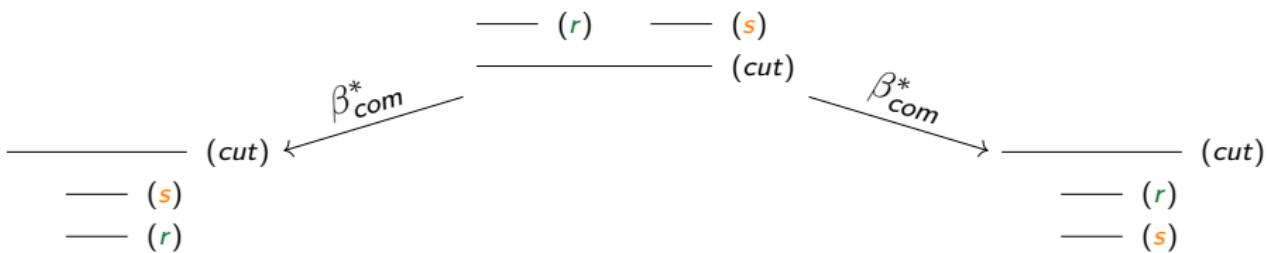
... and many many many more ...

! Non-trivial: **duplicates** / merges sub-proofs

! Tricky: **produces** / deletes rules and sub-proofs

Rules commutations (from a general method)

Every pair $\begin{array}{c} \text{--- } (\textcolor{brown}{s}) \\ \text{--- } (\textcolor{green}{r}) \end{array} \vdash \begin{array}{c} \text{--- } (\textcolor{green}{r}) \\ \text{--- } (\textcolor{brown}{s}) \end{array}$ coming from:



$\approx \#|rules|^2$ commutations \rightarrow 93 equations in LL!

Rules commutations (from a general method)

Every pair $\frac{\text{--- } (s)}{\text{--- } (r)}$ \vdash $\frac{\text{--- } (r)}{\text{--- } (s)}$ coming from:

$$\frac{\text{--- } (r) \quad \text{--- } (s)}{\text{--- } (cut)} \quad \frac{\beta_{com}^*}{\text{--- } (cut)} \quad \frac{\beta_{com}^*}{\text{--- } (cut)}$$

β_{com}^*

$$\frac{\text{--- } (s) \quad \text{--- } (r)}{\text{--- } (cut)}$$

$\approx \#|rules|^2$ commutations \rightarrow 93 equations in LL!

Remarks

- $\vdash \subseteq =_\beta$
- \vdash is the usual (cut-free) commutations **without** $! - ?_c$ and $! - ?_w$

$$\frac{\vdash A, ?B, ?B, ?\Gamma \stackrel{\pi}{\vdash} \vdash !A, ?B, ?B, ?\Gamma \stackrel{(!)}{\vdash} \vdash !A, ?B, ?\Gamma \stackrel{(?_c)}{\vdash}}{\vdash !A, ?B, ?\Gamma \stackrel{(?_c)}{\vdash}}$$
$$\frac{\vdash A, ?B, ?B, ?\Gamma \stackrel{\pi}{\vdash} \vdash !A, ?B, ?\Gamma \stackrel{(!)}{\vdash} \vdash !A, ?B, ?\Gamma \stackrel{(!)}{\vdash}}{\vdash !A, ?B, ?\Gamma \stackrel{(!)}{\vdash}}$$
 and $\frac{\vdash A, ?\Gamma \stackrel{\pi}{\vdash} \vdash !A, ?\Gamma \stackrel{(!)}{\vdash} \vdash !A, ?B, ?\Gamma \stackrel{(!)}{\vdash}}{\vdash !A, ?\Gamma \stackrel{(!)}{\vdash}}$
$$\frac{\vdash A, ?\Gamma \stackrel{\pi}{\vdash} \vdash !A, ?\Gamma \stackrel{(!)}{\vdash} \vdash !A, ?B, ?\Gamma \stackrel{(!)}{\vdash}}{\vdash !A, ?B, ?\Gamma \stackrel{(!)}{\vdash}}$$

Plan

- ▶ Equality of terms up to β -reduction in λ -calculus
- ▶ Equality of proofs up to cut-elimination in Linear Logic
 - Quick sketch of Linear Logic
 - Why is equality more complicated than in λ -calculus?
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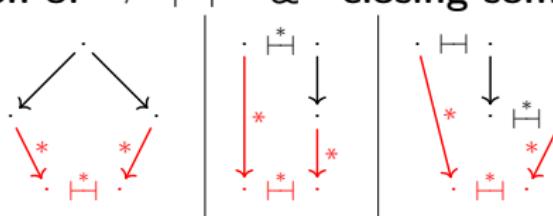
Proving Confluence up to

Definition: Church-Rosser modulo

→ is Church-Rosser modulo an equivalence relation $\overset{*}{\vdash}$ when:



How to prove it? Several theorems in rewriting theory. Usual hypotheses:
strong normalization of \rightarrow & closing some diagrams



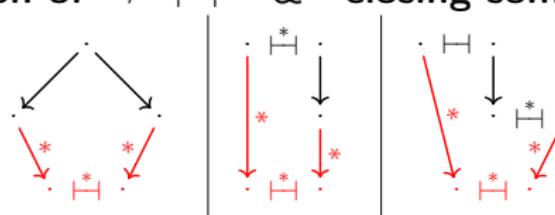
Proving Confluence up to

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→ is Church-Rosser modulo an equivalence relation $\overset{*}{\vdash}$ when:



How to prove it? Several theorems in rewriting theory. Usual hypotheses:
strong normalization of \rightarrow & closing some diagrams



Difficulties:

- $\overset{*}{\vdash}$ is too complex, we prefer \vdash
- $\rightarrow \cdot \overset{*}{\vdash}$ is **not** strongly normalizing!

$\rightarrow \cdot \vdash^*$ is not strongly normalizing!

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\vdash X^\perp, X}{\vdash X^\perp \wp X} (\text{ax})}{\vdash ! (X^\perp \wp X)} (!)}{\vdash \top} \quad \frac{\frac{\frac{\vdash ?(X^\perp \otimes X), \top}{\vdash ?(X^\perp \otimes X), ?(X^\perp \otimes X), \top} (\top) \quad \frac{\vdash ?(X^\perp \otimes X), ?(X^\perp \otimes X), \top}{\vdash ?(X^\perp \otimes X), \top} (?_w)}{\vdash ?(X^\perp \otimes X), \top} (?_c)}{\vdash ?(X^\perp \otimes X), \top} (\text{cut})} \rightarrow \frac{\frac{\frac{\vdash X^\perp, X}{\vdash X^\perp \wp X} (\text{ax})}{\vdash ! (X^\perp \wp X)} (!)}{\vdash \top} \quad \frac{\frac{\frac{\vdash X^\perp, X}{\vdash X^\perp \wp X} (\text{ax})}{\vdash ! (X^\perp \wp X)} (!)}{\vdash \top} \\
 \vdash \top
 \end{array}$$

\vdash

$$\downarrow$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\vdash X^\perp, X}{\vdash X^\perp \wp X} (\text{ax})}{\vdash ! (X^\perp \wp X)} (!)}{\vdash \top} \quad \frac{\frac{\frac{\vdash ?(X^\perp \otimes X), ?(X^\perp \otimes X), \top}{\vdash ?(X^\perp \otimes X), \top} (\top) \quad \frac{\vdash ?(X^\perp \otimes X), ?(X^\perp \otimes X), \top}{\vdash ?(X^\perp \otimes X), \top} (?_w)}{\vdash ?(X^\perp \otimes X), \top} (?_c)}{\vdash ?(X^\perp \otimes X), \top} (\text{cut})} \vdash \top
 \end{array}$$

We have an infinity of **key** cut-elimination cases!

Idea

The problem comes from the **production** of rules / sub-proofs.

Confluence up to rules commutation

Theorem (Proved in MALL [CP05; DL23]; in redaction for LL)

Cut-elimination is *Church-Rosser modulo* rules commutation.

Theorem (inspired from Theorem 2.2 in [AT12])

Let \vdash , \rightarrow and \rightsquigarrow be relations such that \vdash is symmetric and $\rightsquigarrow \subseteq \vdash$.

Set $\Rightarrow = \rightarrow \cup \rightsquigarrow$. Suppose:

1 $\rightarrow \cdot \rightsquigarrow^*$ is strongly normalizing

2 $\leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow \subseteq \Rightarrow^* \cdot \bar{\vdash} \cdot^* \leftarrow$

3 if $a \vdash b \rightarrow c$ then either:

- $a \rightarrow \cdot \Rightarrow^* \cdot \bar{\vdash} \cdot^* \leftarrow c$
or
- $a \rightarrow \cdot \Rightarrow^* \cdot \bar{\vdash} \cdot^* \leftarrow \cdot \leftarrow b \rightarrow c$

Then \rightarrow is Church-Rosser modulo \vdash^* .

Confluence up to rules commutation

Theorem (Proved in MALL [CP05; DL23]; in redaction for LL)

Cut-elimination is *Church-Rosser modulo* rules commutation.

Theorem (inspired from Theorem 2.2 in [AT12])

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1 $\rightarrow \cdot \rightsquigarrow^*$ is strongly normalizing

2 $\leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow \subseteq \Rightarrow^* \cdot \bar{\vdash} \cdot^* \leftarrow$

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Confluence up to rules commutation – SN

Proposition

Set \rightsquigarrow the rules commutations *without T-commutations in the direction "creating rules"*, plus the cut-cut step of cut-elimination.

Then $\xrightarrow{\bar{\beta}} \cdot \rightsquigarrow^*$ is strongly normalizing, with $\xrightarrow{\bar{\beta}} = (\xrightarrow{\beta} \text{ without cut-cut})$.

Confluence up to rules commutation – SN

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Set \rightsquigarrow the rules commutations without \top -commutations in the direction “creating rules”, plus the cut-cut step of cut-elimination.

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Strong Normalization Property
for Second Order Linear Logic

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Abstract

The paper contains the first complete proof of strong normalization (SN) for full second order linear logic (LL). Girard's original proof uses a standardization theorem which is not proven. We introduce sliced pure structures (sps), a very general version of Girard's proof-nets, and we apply to sps Gandy's method to infer SN from weak normalization (WN). We prove a standardization theorem for sps: if WN without erasing steps holds for an sps, then it enjoys SN. A key step in our proof of standardization is a confluence theorem for sps obtained by using only a very weak form of correctness, namely acyclicity slice by slice. We conclude by showing how standardization for sps allows to prove SN of LL, using as input Girard's reducibility candidates.

Key words: (weak) strong normalization, confluence, standardization, linear logic, proof-nets, additive connectives, sliced pure structures

1. Introduction

In every abstract approach to computation, the distinction between terminating and non-terminating processes is crucial. A rewriting system enjoys *weak normalization* (WN) if every term in the system has a normal form (a unique number of reductions).

In the λ -calculus, weak normalizing computations start from λ -terms that strongly exploit self-application: every λ -term can be applied to itself (see for example [13]). Termination fails for the λ -calculus (even in its weak form WN), but holds for some of its most remarkable subsystems: the simply typed λ -calculus and its extension Girard's system F ([6]). The proofs of WN for these calculi have a deep logical content: they correspond to proofs of consistency in the logical sense, as highlighted by the *proofs-as-programs* paradigm. This paradigm is also called *Curry-Howard isomorphism* and establishes a correspondence between a fragment of intuitionistic natural deduction

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[PT10] almost do it

“Just” check that some additions at the start go through the 61 pages of this technical proof using non-standard proof-nets!

Confluence up to rules commutation

Theorem (Proved in MALL [CP05; DL23]; in redaction for LL)

Cut-elimination is *Church-Rosser modulo* rules commutation.

Theorem (inspired from Theorem 2.2 in [AT12])

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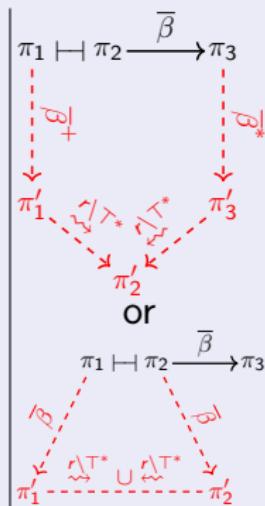
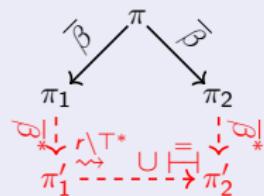
Confluence up to rules commutation

Theorem (Proved in MALL [CP05; DL23]; in redaction for LL)

Cut-elimination is *Church-Rosser modulo rules commutation*.

Proof.

$\#(\text{cut steps})^2$
 $\approx \#|\text{rules}|^2$ cases



$\#(\text{cut steps}) \times$
 $\#(\text{commutations})$
 $\approx \#|\text{rules}|^3$ cases

□

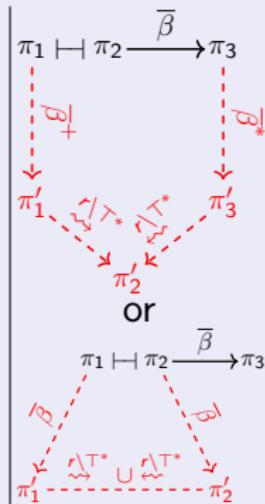
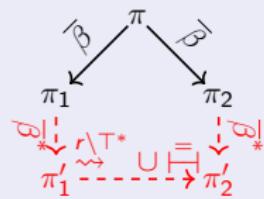
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 $\approx \#|\text{rules}|^2$ cases



$\#(\text{cut steps}) \times$
 $\#(\text{commutations})$
 $\approx \#|\text{rules}|^3$ cases

Thousands of similar cases to check

→ horrible and tedious with pen and paper, better in a proof assistant!
But the exchange rule over-complicates everything...



Confluence up to rules commutation

Theorem (Proved in MALL [CP05; DL23]; in redaction for LL)

Cut-elimination is Church-Rosser modulo rules commutation.

We still need to add the *cut – cut* cut-elimination step back.

Proposition

*Equality up to
cut-elimination*

=

*Equality up to
cut-elimination
without cut-cut*

Confluence up to rules commutation

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Equality up to
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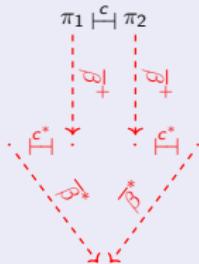
=

Equality up to
cut-elimination
without cut-cut

Proof.

Follows from:

- strong normalization of $\xrightarrow{\bar{\beta}} \cdot \vdash^c$ with \vdash^c a cut-cut commutation
-



Confluence up to rules commutation

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Cut-elimination is *Church-Rosser modulo* rules commutation.

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Proposition

Equality up to
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=

Equality up to
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without cut-cut

Corollary: Equality on cut-free proofs

Between cut-free proofs, $=_\beta$ is exactly $=_{\overline{\beta}}$ which is exactly \vdash^* .

cut-free proofs {



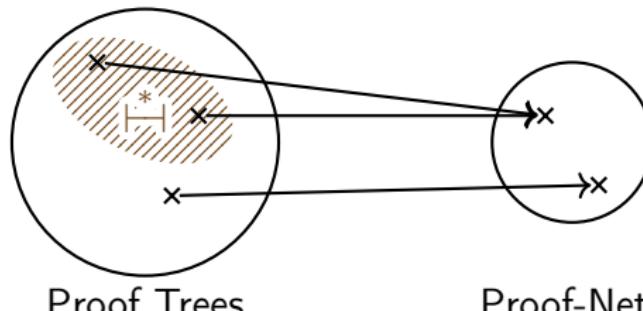
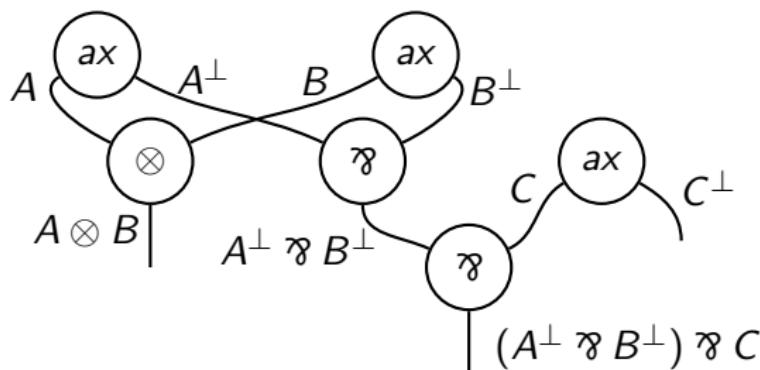
Consequences & Avail

- “Bureaucracy”: have to order all rules, but some order does not matter and **no canonical** choice

Consequences & Avail

- “Bureaucracy”: have to order all rules, but some order does not matter and **no canonical** choice
- **Proof-nets**: identify proofs exactly up to rules commutation \vdash^*

- ▶ \vdash is **equality of graphs**
- ▶ cut-elimination is **confluent** and has **only key steps**
- ▶ defined **only in some sub-systems** of LL



\vdash^* is better than $=_\beta$ but is not “nice”

Proof Equivalence problem: given proofs π and ρ , does $\pi \vdash^* \rho$ hold?

\vdash^* is better than $=_\beta$ but is not “nice”

Proof Equivalence problem: *given proofs π and ρ , does $\pi \vdash^* \rho$ hold?*

| Sub-system | Complexity of Proof Equivalence | Method |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| ALL unit-free MLL | in P [Hei11] in P | through proof-nets through proof-nets |
| unit-free MALL | in EXPTIME [HG05; HG16] | through proof-nets |

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| MALL $LL^2 \setminus T$ | decidable decidable | finite number of cut-free proofs finite number of proofs in a class |

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| ALL | in P [Hei11] | through proof-nets |
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| MLL | PSPACE-complete [HH16] | reduces to a graph rewriting pb |
| unit-free MALL | in EXPTIME [HG05; HG16] | through proof-nets |
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| unit-free MALL | in EXPTIME [HG05; HG16] | through proof-nets |
| MALL | decidable | finite number of cut-free proofs |
| $LL^2 \setminus T$ | decidable | finite number of proofs in a class |
| LL | undecidable | reduces to provability |

Lemma

$$\frac{\vdash !A \otimes T, T}{\vdash !A \otimes T, T \oplus T} (\oplus_1) \quad \vdash^* \quad \frac{\vdash !A \otimes T, T}{\vdash !A \otimes T, T \oplus T} (\oplus_2) \iff A \text{ is provable}$$

$\implies \vdash^*$ decidable would imply provability decidable, but it is not [Lin95]

Rules commutations & Provability

Lemma

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\vdash !A \otimes T, T}{\vdash !A \otimes T, T \oplus T} (\top)}{\vdash !A \otimes T, T \oplus T} (\oplus_1)}{\vdash !A \otimes T, T \oplus T} \vdash^* \frac{\frac{\vdash !A \otimes T, T}{\vdash !A \otimes T, T \oplus T} (\top)}{\vdash !A \otimes T, T \oplus T} (\oplus_2) \iff A \text{ is provable}$$

Proof.

♦ If A is provable ($\iff !A$ is provable)

We use its proof to find a sequence of commutations:

$$\begin{array}{c} \frac{\frac{\frac{\vdash !A \otimes T_A, T}{\vdash !A \otimes T_A, T \oplus T} (\top)}{\vdash !A \otimes T_A, T \oplus T} (\oplus_i)}{\vdash !A \otimes T_A, T \oplus T} \vdash \frac{\frac{\vdash !A \quad \frac{\vdash T_A, T}{\vdash !A \otimes T_A, T} (\top)}{\vdash !A \otimes T_A, T} (\otimes)}{\vdash !A \otimes T_A, T} \vdash \frac{\frac{\vdash !A \quad \frac{\vdash T_A, T}{\vdash !A \otimes T_A, T} (\top_A)}{\vdash !A \otimes T_A, T} (\otimes)}{\vdash !A \otimes T_A, T} \\ \vdash !A \otimes T_A, T \oplus T \qquad \vdash !A \otimes T_A, T \oplus T \qquad \vdash !A \otimes T_A, T \oplus T \\ \vdash !A \otimes T_A, T \oplus T \qquad \vdash !A \otimes T_A, T \oplus T \qquad \vdash !A \otimes T_A, T \oplus T \\ \vdash !A \quad \frac{\vdash T_A, T \oplus T}{\vdash !A \otimes T_A, T \oplus T} (\oplus_i) \qquad \vdash !A \quad \frac{\vdash T_A, T \oplus T}{\vdash !A \otimes T_A, T \oplus T} (\oplus_i) \qquad \vdash !A \quad \frac{\vdash T_A, T \oplus T}{\vdash !A \otimes T_A, T \oplus T} (\oplus_i) \\ \vdash !A \quad \frac{\vdash T_A, T \oplus T}{\vdash !A \otimes T_A, T \oplus T} (\otimes) \qquad \vdash !A \quad \frac{\vdash T_A, T \oplus T}{\vdash !A \otimes T_A, T \oplus T} (\otimes) \qquad \vdash !A \quad \frac{\vdash T_A, T \oplus T}{\vdash !A \otimes T_A, T \oplus T} (\otimes) \\ \vdash !A \otimes T_A, T \oplus T \qquad \vdash !A \otimes T_A, T \oplus T \qquad \vdash !A \otimes T_A, T \oplus T \end{array}$$

Rules commutations & Provability

Lemma

$$\frac{\frac{\overline{\vdash !A \otimes T, T} \text{ } (\top)}{\vdash !A \otimes T, T \oplus T} \text{ } (\oplus_1)}{\vdash !A \otimes T, T \oplus T} \text{ } (\oplus_2) \quad \vdash^* \quad \frac{\frac{\overline{\vdash !A \otimes T, T} \text{ } (\top)}{\vdash !A \otimes T, T \oplus T} \text{ } (\top)}{\vdash !A \otimes T, T \oplus T} \text{ } (\oplus_2) \iff A \text{ is provable}$$

Proof.

- ♦ If A is provable ($\iff !A$ is provable)
- ♦ If A is not provable ($\iff !A$ is not provable)

We can compute the full equivalence class in this case:

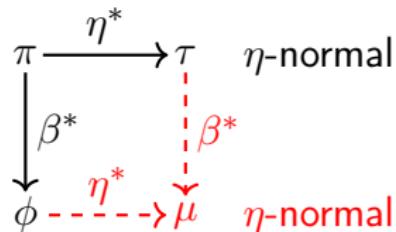
$$\frac{\frac{\overline{\vdash !A \otimes T_A, T} \text{ } (\top)}{\vdash !A \otimes T_A, T \oplus T} \text{ } (\oplus_i)}{\vdash !A \otimes T_A, T \oplus T} \quad \vdash \quad \frac{\frac{\overline{\vdash !A, T} \text{ } (\top) \quad \overline{\vdash T_A} \text{ } (\top_A)}{\vdash !A \otimes T_A, T} \text{ } (\otimes)}{\vdash !A \otimes T_A, T \oplus T} \quad \vdash \quad \frac{\frac{\overline{\vdash !A, T} \text{ } (\top)}{\vdash !A, T \oplus T} \text{ } (\oplus_i) \quad \overline{\vdash T_A} \text{ } (\top_A)}{\vdash !A \otimes T_A, T \oplus T} \text{ } (\otimes)}$$

Remark we use $!A$ instead of A to prevent commutations in $\overline{\vdash !A, T} \text{ } (\top)$, as $!$ is the sole rule not commuting with T .



We may have more than cut-elimination . . .

- Axiom-expansion and its interactions with cut-elimination



(holds without 2nd order quantifiers)

We may have more than cut-elimination . . .

- Axiom-expansion and its interactions with cut-elimination
- One may want **more commutations**, yielding even more cases!

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\vdash A, ?B, ?B, ?\Gamma}{\vdash !A, ?B, ?B, ?\Gamma} (!)}{\vdash !A, ?B, ?\Gamma} (?)_c}}{\vdash !A, ?B, ?\Gamma} (?)_c \equiv \frac{\frac{\vdash A, ?B, ?B, ?\Gamma}{\vdash A, ?B, ?\Gamma} (?)_c}{\frac{\vdash A, ?B, ?\Gamma}{\vdash !A, ?B, ?\Gamma} (!)}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\vdash A, ?\Gamma}{\vdash !A, ?\Gamma} (!)}{\vdash !A, ?B, ?\Gamma} (?)_w}}{\vdash !A, ?B, ?\Gamma} (?)_w \equiv \frac{\frac{\vdash A, ?\Gamma}{\vdash A, ?B, ?\Gamma} (?)_w}{\frac{\vdash A, ?B, ?\Gamma}{\vdash !A, ?B, ?\Gamma} (!)}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\pi_B}{\vdash A[B/X], \Gamma} (\exists)}{\vdash \exists X A, \Gamma} (\exists) \equiv \frac{\frac{\pi_C}{\vdash A[C/X], \Gamma} (\exists)}{\vdash \exists X A, \Gamma} (\exists) \text{ when } \pi_B \text{ and } \pi_C \text{ are "witness irrelevant"}$$

We may have more than cut-elimination . . .

- Axiom-expansion and its interactions with cut-elimination
- One may want **more commutations**, yielding even more cases!
- One may want **other rewritings**, with interactions to check

$$\frac{\vdash ?A, \Gamma}{\vdash ?A, ?A, \Gamma} \stackrel{(\text{?}_w)}{\rightsquigarrow} \frac{\vdash ?A, \Gamma}{\vdash ?A, \Gamma} \stackrel{(\text{?}_c)}{\rightsquigarrow} \vdash ?A, \Gamma$$

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$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\vdash ?A, \Gamma}{\vdash ?A, ?A, \Gamma} (\text{?}_w)}{\vdash ?A, \Gamma} (\text{?}_c)}{\vdash ?A, \Gamma}$$

Thank you!

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Back-up: Isomorphisms in Linear Logic

Isomorphism $A \simeq B$

Proofs π of $A \vdash B$ and ρ of $B \vdash A$ such that

$$\frac{\pi \quad \rho}{A \vdash B \quad B \vdash A} \text{ (cut)} =_{\beta\eta o} \frac{}{A \vdash A} \text{ (ax)} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\rho \quad \pi}{B \vdash A \quad A \vdash B} \text{ (cut)} =_{\beta\eta o} \frac{}{B \vdash B} \text{ (ax)}$$

Conjecture

| | | |
|----------------|--|--|
| Associativity | $A \otimes (B \otimes C) \simeq (A \otimes B) \otimes C$ $A \oplus (B \oplus C) \simeq (A \oplus B) \oplus C$ | $A \wp (B \wp C) \simeq (A \wp B) \wp C$ $A \& (B \& C) \simeq (A \& B) \& C$ |
| Commutativity | $A \otimes B \simeq B \otimes A$ | $A \wp B \simeq B \wp A$ |
| Neutrality | $A \otimes 1 \simeq A$ | $A \wp \perp \simeq A$ |
| Distributivity | $A \otimes (B \oplus C) \simeq (A \otimes B) \oplus (A \otimes C)$ | $A \wp (B \& C) \simeq (A \wp B) \& (A \wp C)$ |
| Annihilation | $A \otimes 0 \simeq 0$ | $A \wp \top \simeq \top$ |
| Seely | $!(A \& B) \simeq !A \otimes !B$ $! \top \simeq 1$ | $? (A \oplus B) \simeq ?A \wp ?B$ $?0 \simeq \perp$ |
| Quantifiers | $\forall X (A \& B) \simeq \forall X A \& \forall X B$ $\forall X B \wp A \simeq \forall X (B \wp A)^*$ | $\exists X (A \oplus B) \simeq \exists X A \oplus \exists X B$ $\exists X B \otimes A \simeq \exists X (B \otimes A)^*$ |
| | | $\forall X \top \simeq \top$ $\forall X \forall Y A \simeq \forall Y \forall X A$ |
| | | $\exists X \exists Y A \simeq \exists Y \exists X A$ |

* if X not free in A

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Conjecture

| | | |
|----------------|--|--|
| Associativity | $A \otimes (B \otimes C) \simeq (A \otimes B) \otimes C$ $A \oplus (B \oplus C) \simeq (A \oplus B) \oplus C$ | $A \wp (B \wp C) \simeq (A \wp B) \wp C$ $A \& (B \& C) \simeq (A \& B) \& C$ |
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| Seely | $!(A \& B) \simeq !A \otimes !B$ $!T \simeq 1$ | $?(A \oplus B) \simeq ?A \wp ?B$ $?0 \simeq \perp$ |
| Quantifiers | $\forall X (A \& B) \simeq \forall X A \& \forall X B$ $\forall X B \wp A \simeq \forall X (B \wp A)^*$ | $\exists X (A \oplus B) \simeq \exists X A \oplus \exists X B$ $\exists X B \otimes A \simeq \exists X (B \otimes A)^*$ |
| | | $\forall X \top \simeq \top$ $\exists X 0 \simeq 0$ |
| | | $\forall X \forall Y A \simeq \forall Y \forall X A$ $\exists X \exists Y A \simeq \exists Y \exists X A$ |

* if X not free in A

With the $! - ?_c$, $! - ?_w$ and $?_c - ?_w$ commutations and reductions

$$\frac{\vdash A, ?B, ?B, ?\Gamma \quad \pi}{\vdash !A, ?B, ?B, ?\Gamma} \text{ (!)} \equiv \frac{\vdash A, ?B, ?B, ?\Gamma \quad \pi}{\vdash !A, ?B, ?\Gamma} \text{ (?}_c\text{)} \quad \frac{\vdash A, ?\Gamma \quad \pi}{\vdash !A, ?\Gamma} \text{ (!)} \equiv \frac{\vdash A, ?\Gamma \quad \pi}{\vdash !A, ?B, ?\Gamma} \text{ (?}_w\text{)} \quad \frac{\vdash ?A, \Gamma \quad \pi}{\vdash ?A, ?A, \Gamma} \text{ (?}_w\text{)} \rightarrow \frac{\vdash ?A, \Gamma \quad \pi}{\vdash ?A, \Gamma} \text{ (?}_c\text{)}$$

Back-up: Isomorphisms in Linear Logic

Isomorphism $A \simeq B$

Proofs π of $A \vdash B$ and ρ of $B \vdash A$ such that

$$\frac{\pi \quad \rho}{A \vdash B \quad B \vdash A} \text{ (cut)} =_{\beta\eta\circ} \frac{}{A \vdash A} \text{ (ax)} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\rho \quad \pi}{B \vdash A \quad A \vdash B} \text{ (cut)} =_{\beta\eta\circ} \frac{}{B \vdash B} \text{ (ax)}$$

Conjecture

| | | |
|----------------|--|--|
| Associativity | $A \otimes (B \otimes C) \simeq (A \otimes B) \otimes C$ $A \oplus (B \oplus C) \simeq (A \oplus B) \oplus C$ | $A \wp (B \wp C) \simeq (A \wp B) \wp C$ $A \& (B \& C) \simeq (A \& B) \& C$ |
| Commutativity | $A \otimes B \simeq B \otimes A$ | $A \wp B \simeq B \wp A$ |
| Neutrality | $A \otimes 1 \simeq A$ | $A \wp \perp \simeq A$ |
| Distributivity | $A \otimes (B \oplus C) \simeq (A \otimes B) \oplus (A \otimes C)$ | $A \wp (B \& C) \simeq (A \wp B) \& (A \wp C)$ |
| Annihilation | $A \otimes 0 \simeq 0$ | $A \wp \top \simeq \top$ |
| Seely | $!(A \& B) \simeq !A \otimes !B$ $!1 \simeq 1$ | $?!(A \oplus B) \simeq ?A \wp ?B$ $?0 \simeq \perp$ |
| Quantifiers | $\forall X (A \& B) \simeq \forall X A \& \forall X B$ $\forall X B \wp A \simeq \forall X (B \wp A)^*$ | $\exists X (A \oplus B) \simeq \exists X A \oplus \exists X B$ $\exists X B \otimes A \simeq \exists X (B \otimes A)^*$ |
| Optional | $\forall X A \simeq A^{*\dagger}$ | $\exists X A \simeq A^{*\dagger}$ |
| | | $1 \simeq \perp^\ddagger$ |
| | | $0 \simeq \top^\ddagger$ |

* if X not free in A

$$\textcolor{red}{†} \text{ if } \frac{\pi_B}{\vdash \exists X A, \Gamma} \text{ (}\exists\text{)} \equiv \frac{\vdash A[C/X], \Gamma}{\vdash \exists X A, \Gamma} \text{ (}\exists\text{)}$$

when π is “witness irrelevant”

$$\textcolor{red}{‡} \text{ if } \frac{\pi}{\vdash \Gamma \quad \vdash \Gamma} \text{ (mix}_\mathbf{0}\text{)} \equiv \frac{\pi}{\vdash \Gamma} \text{ (mix}_\mathbf{2}\text{)}$$

♣ with $\overline{\vdash \Gamma}$ (0)