

Type-and-Scope Safe Programs and their Proofs

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Abstract

We abstract the common type-and-scope safe structure from computations on λ -terms that deliver, e.g., renaming, substitution, evaluation, CPS-transformation, and printing with a name supply. By exposing this structure, we can prove generic simulation and fusion lemmas relating operations built this way. This work has been fully formalised in Agda.

1. Introduction

A programmer implementing an embedded language with bindings has a wealth of possibilities. However, should she want to be able to inspect the terms produced by her users in order to optimise or even compile them, she will have to work with a deep embedding. Which means that she will have to (re)implement a great number of traversals doing such mundane things as renaming, substitution, or partial evaluation. Should she want to get help from the typechecker in order to fend off common bugs, she can opt for inductive families (Dybjer 1991) to enforce precise invariants. But the traversals now have to be invariant preserving too!

In an unpublished manuscript, McBride (2005) observes the similarity between the types and implementations of renaming and substitution for simply typed λ -calculus (ST λ C) in a dependently typed language. He defines a notion of “Kit” abstracting the difference between the two. The **Kit**— uses generalising the traversal are shown (in pink) in fig. 2.

The contributions of the present paper are twofold:

- We generalise the “Kit” approach from syntax to semantics bringing operations like normalisation (cf. fig. 3) and printing with a name supply into our framework.
- We prove generic results about simulations between and fusions of semantics given by, and enabled by, Kit.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ren} &: (\forall \sigma. \text{Var } \sigma \Gamma \rightarrow \text{Var } \sigma \Delta) \rightarrow (\forall \sigma. \text{Tm } \sigma \Gamma \rightarrow \text{Tm } \sigma \Delta) \\ \text{ren } \rho (\text{'var } v) &= \text{'var } (\rho v) \\ \text{ren } \rho (f \text{'\$ } t) &= \text{ren } \rho f \text{'\$ ren } \rho t \\ \text{ren } \rho (\text{'\lambda } b) &= \text{'\lambda } (\text{ren } ((\text{su } \circ \rho) -, \text{ze}) b) \\ \\ \text{sub} &: (\forall \sigma. \text{Var } \sigma \Gamma \rightarrow \text{Tm } \sigma \Delta) \rightarrow (\forall \sigma. \text{Tm } \sigma \Gamma \rightarrow \text{Tm } \sigma \Delta) \\ \text{sub } \rho (\text{'var } v) &= \rho v \\ \text{sub } \rho (f \text{'\$ } t) &= \text{sub } \rho f \text{'\$ sub } \rho t \\ \text{sub } \rho (\text{'\lambda } b) &= \text{'\lambda } (\text{sub } ((\text{ren su } \circ \rho) -, \text{'var ze}) b) \end{aligned}$$

Figure 1. Renaming and Substitution for the ST λ C

$$\begin{aligned} \text{kit} &: (\forall \sigma. \text{Var } \sigma \Gamma \rightarrow \blacklozenge \sigma \Delta) \rightarrow (\forall \sigma. \text{Tm } \sigma \Gamma \rightarrow \text{Tm } \sigma \Delta) \\ \text{kit } \rho (\text{'var } v) &= \text{Kit.var } \kappa (\rho v) \\ \text{kit } \rho (f \text{'\$ } t) &= \text{kit } \rho f \text{'\$ kit } \rho t \\ \text{kit } \rho (\text{'\lambda } b) &= \text{'\lambda } (\text{kit } ((\text{Kit.wkn } \kappa \circ \rho) -, \text{Kit.zro } \kappa) b) \end{aligned}$$

Figure 2. Kit traversal for the ST λ C, for κ of type **Kit** \blacklozenge

$$\begin{aligned} \text{nbe} &: (\forall \sigma. \text{Var } \sigma \Gamma \rightarrow \text{Val } \sigma \Delta) \rightarrow (\forall \sigma. \text{Tm } \sigma \Gamma \rightarrow \text{Val } \sigma \Delta) \\ \text{nbe } \rho (\text{'var } v) &= \rho v \\ \text{nbe } \rho (f \text{'\$ } t) &= \text{APP } (\text{nbe } \rho f) (\text{nbe } \rho t) \\ \text{nbe } \rho (\text{'\lambda } t) &= \text{LAM } (\lambda \text{ re } v \rightarrow \text{nbe } ((\text{wk re } \circ \rho) -, v) t) \end{aligned}$$

Figure 3. Normalisation by Evaluation for the ST λ C

Outline We start by defining the simple calculus we will use as a running example. We then introduce a notion of environments and one well known instance: the category of renamings. This leads us to defining a generic notion of type and scope-preserving Semantics together with a generic evaluation function. We then showcase the ground covered by these Semantics: from the syntactic ones corresponding to renaming and substitution to printing with names or variations of Normalisation by Evaluation. Finally, given the generic definition of Semantics, we can prove fundamental lemmas about these evaluation functions: we characterise the semantics which are synchronisable and give an abstract treatment of composition yielding compaction and reuse of proofs compared to Benton et al. (2012).

Notation This article is a literate Agda file. We hide telescopes of implicit arguments and **Set** levels, and properly display (super / sub)-scripts as well as special operators such as \gg or $\gg+$. Colours matter: **green** identifiers are data constructors, **pink** names refer to record fields, and **blue** is characteristic of defined symbols. Underscores have a special status: when defining mixfix identifiers (Danielsson and Norell 2011), they mark positions where arguments may be inserted.

Formalisation This whole development¹ has been checked by Agda (Norell 2009) which guarantees that all constructions are indeed well typed, and all functions are total. Nonetheless, it should be noted that the generic model constructions and the various examples of **Semantics** given here, although not the proofs, can and have been fully replicated in Haskell using type families, higher rank polymorphism and GADTs to build singletons (Eisenberg and Weirich 2013) providing the user with the runtime descriptions of their types or their contexts' shapes. This yields, to the best of our knowledge, the first tagless and typeful implementation of a Kripke-style Normalisation by Evaluation in Haskell.

2. The Calculus and its Embedding

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma, \tau &::= 1 \mid 2 \mid \sigma \rightarrow \tau \\ b, t, u &::= x \mid tu \mid \lambda x. b \mid \langle \rangle \\ &\mid tt \mid ff \mid \text{if } b \text{ then } t \text{ else } u \end{aligned}$$

We work with a deeply embedded simply typed λ -calculus. It has 1 and 2 as base types and serves as a minimal example of a system with a record type equipped with an η -rule and a sum type. This grammar is represented in Agda as follows:

```
data Ty : Set where
  '1 '2 : Ty
  _'_>_ : Ty → Ty → Ty
data Cx : Set where
  ε : Cx
  _•_ : Cx → Ty → Cx
```

To talk about the types of the variables in scope, we need *contexts*. We choose to represent them as “snoc” lists of types; ϵ denotes the empty context and $\Gamma \bullet \sigma$ the context Γ extended with a fresh variable of type σ .

To make type signatures more readable, we introduce combinators acting on context-indexed types. The most straightforward ones are pointwise lifting of existing operators on types, and we denote them as dotted versions of their counterparts: the definition of the pointwise function space $_ \dot{\rightarrow} _$ is shown here and the reader will infer the corresponding one for pointwise disjoint sums ($_ \dot{+} _$) and products ($_ \dot{\times} _$). The “universally” operator $_ \sqbracket _$ turn a context-indexed type into a type using an (implicit) universal quantification. Last but not least, the operator $_ \vdash _$ mechanizes the mathematical convention of only mentioning context *extensions* when presenting judgements (Martin-Löf 1982).

$$\begin{aligned} _ \dot{\rightarrow} _ &: (Cx \rightarrow Set) \rightarrow (Cx \rightarrow Set) \rightarrow (Cx \rightarrow Set) \\ (S \dot{\rightarrow} T) \Gamma &= S \Gamma \rightarrow T \Gamma \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} _ \sqbracket _ &: (Cx \rightarrow Set) \rightarrow Set \\ [T] &= \forall \{ \Gamma \} \rightarrow T \Gamma \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} _ \vdash _ &: Ty \rightarrow (Cx \rightarrow Set) \rightarrow (Cx \rightarrow Set) \\ (\sigma \vdash S) \Gamma &= S (\Gamma \bullet \sigma) \end{aligned}$$

Variables are then positions in such a context represented as typed de Bruijn (1972) indices. As shown in the comments, this amounts to an inductive definition of context membership. We use the combinators defined above to show only local changes to the context.

```
data Var (τ : Ty) : Cx → Set where
  ze : - ∀ Γ. Var τ (Γ • τ)
  [   τ ⊢ Var τ ]
  su : - ∀ Γ σ. Var τ Γ → Var τ (Γ • σ)
  [ Var τ → σ ⊢ Var τ ]
```

The syntax for this calculus guarantees that terms are well scoped-and-typed by construction. This presentation due to Altenkirch and Reus (1999) relies heavily on Dybjer’s (1991) inductive families. Rather than having untyped pre-terms and a typing relation assigning a type to them, the typing rules are here enforced in the syntax. Notice that the only use of $_ \vdash _$ to extend the context is for the body of a λ .

```
data Tm : Ty → (Cx → Set) where
  'var : [ Var σ → Tm σ ]
  _'$ : [ Tm (σ → τ) → Tm σ → Tm τ ]
  'λ : [ σ ⊢ Tm τ → Tm (σ → τ) ]
  '⟨⟩ : [ Tm '1 ]
  'tt 'ff : [ Tm '2 ]
  'if : [ Tm '2 → Tm σ → Tm σ → Tm σ ]
```

3. A Generic Notion of Environment

All the semantics we are interested in defining associate to a term t of type $Tm \sigma \Gamma$, a value of type $C \sigma \Delta$ given an interpretation $\mathcal{E} \Delta \tau$ for each one of its free variables τ in Γ . We call the collection of these interpretations an \mathcal{E} -(evaluation) environment. We leave out \mathcal{E} when it can easily be inferred from the context. The content of environments may vary wildly between different semantics: when defining renaming, the environments will carry variables whilst the ones used for normalisation by evaluation contain elements of the model. But their structure stays the same which prompts us to define the notion generically for a notion of **Model**.

```
Model : Set
Model = Ty → Cx → Set
```

Formally, this translates to \mathcal{E} -environments being the pointwise lifting of the relation \mathcal{E} between contexts and types to a relation between two contexts. Rather than using a datatype to represent such a lifting, we choose to use a function space. This decision is based on Jeffrey’s observation (2011) that one can obtain associativity of append for free by using difference lists. In our case the interplay

¹<https://github.com/gallais/type-scope-semantics>

between various combinators (e.g. `refl` and `select`) defined later on is vastly simplified by this rather simple decision.

`record` `_Env` $(\Gamma : \text{Cx}) (\mathcal{V} : \text{Model}) (\Delta : \text{Cx}) : \text{Set}$ *where*
constructor `pack`; *field* `lookup` : $\text{Var } \sigma \Gamma \rightarrow \mathcal{V} \sigma \Delta$

Just as an environment interprets variables in a model, a computation gives a meaning to terms into a model.

`_Comp` : $\text{Cx} \rightarrow (\text{C} : \text{Model}) \rightarrow \text{Cx} \rightarrow \text{Set}$
 $(\Gamma \text{ _Comp}) \text{C } \Delta = \text{Tm } \sigma \Gamma \rightarrow \text{C } \sigma \Delta$

An appropriate notion of semantics for the calculus is one that will map environments to computations. In other words, a set of constraints on \mathcal{V} and C guaranteeing the existence of a function of type: $[(\Gamma \text{ _Env}) \mathcal{V} \rightarrow (\Gamma \text{ _Comp}) \text{C}]$

These environments naturally behave like the contexts they are indexed by: there is a trivial environment for the empty context and one can easily extend an existing one by providing an appropriate value. The packaging of the function representing to the environment in a record allows for two things: it helps the typechecker by stating explicitly which `Model` the values correspond to and it empowers us to define environments by copattern-matching (Abel et al. 2013) thus defining environments by their use cases.

`'ε` : $[(\epsilon \text{ _Env}) \mathcal{V}]$
`'•_` : $[(\Gamma \text{ _Env}) \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{V} \sigma \rightarrow (\Gamma \bullet \sigma \text{ _Env}) \mathcal{V}]$

`lookup` `'ε` $()$
`lookup` $(\rho \bullet s)$ `ze` $= s$
`lookup` $(\rho \bullet s)$ `(su n)` $= \text{lookup } \rho \text{ } n$

The Category of Renamings A key instance of environments playing a predominant role in this paper is the notion of renaming. The reader may be accustomed to the more restrictive notion of renamings as described variously as Order Preserving Embeddings (Chapman 2009), thinnings (which we use) or context inclusions, or just weakenings (Altenkirch et al. 1995). Writing non-injective or non-order preserving renamings would take perverse effort given that we only implement generic interpretations. In practice, although the type of renamings is more generous, we only introduce weakenings (skipping variables at the beginning of the context) that become thinnings (skipping variables at arbitrary points in the context) when we push them under binders.

A thinning $\Gamma \subseteq \Delta$ is an environment pairing each variable of type σ in Γ to one of the same type in Δ .

`_C_` : $(\Gamma \Delta : \text{Cx}) \rightarrow \text{Set}$
 $\Gamma \subseteq \Delta = (\Gamma \text{ _Env}) \text{Var } \Delta$

We formulate a thinning principle using \subseteq . By a “thinning principle”, we mean that if P holds of Γ and $\Gamma \subseteq \Delta$ then P holds for Δ too. In the case of variables, thinning merely corresponds to applying the renaming function in order to obtain a new variable. The environments’ case is also quite simple: being a pointwise lifting of a relation \mathcal{V}

between contexts and types, they enjoy thinning if \mathcal{V} does.

`Thinnable` : $(\text{Cx} \rightarrow \text{Set}) \rightarrow \text{Set}$
`Thinnable` $S = \Gamma \subseteq \Delta \rightarrow (S \Gamma \rightarrow S \Delta)$

`thε` : $(\sigma : \text{Ty}) \rightarrow \text{Thinnable} (\text{Var } \sigma)$
`thε` $\sigma \text{ inc } v = \text{lookup } \text{inc } v$

`th[]` : $((\sigma : \text{Ty}) \rightarrow \text{Thinnable} (\mathcal{V} \sigma)) \rightarrow$
 $\text{Thinnable } ((\Gamma \text{ _Env}) \mathcal{V})$
`lookup` $(\text{th} [\text{th}] \text{inc } \rho) = \text{th_inc} \circ \text{lookup } \rho$

These simple observations allow us to prove that thinnings form a category which, in turn, lets us provide the user with the constructors Altenkirch, Hofmann and Streicher’s “Category of Weakening” (1995) is based on.

`refl` : $\Gamma \subseteq \Gamma$
`refl` $= \text{pack id}$
`select` : $\Gamma \subseteq \Delta \rightarrow (\Delta \text{ _Env}) \mathcal{V} \Theta \rightarrow (\Gamma \text{ _Env}) \mathcal{V} \Theta$
`lookup` $(\text{select } \text{inc } \rho) = \text{lookup } \rho \circ \text{lookup } \text{inc}$
`step` : $\Gamma \subseteq \Delta \rightarrow \Gamma \subseteq (\Delta \bullet \sigma)$
`step` $\text{inc} = \text{select } \text{inc} (\text{pack su})$
`pop!` : $\Gamma \subseteq \Delta \rightarrow (\Gamma \bullet \sigma) \subseteq (\Delta \bullet \sigma)$
`pop!` $\text{inc} = \text{step } \text{inc} \text{ '•ze}$

The modal operator \Box states that a given predicate holds for all thinnings of a context. It is a closure operator for `Thinnable`.

`□` : $(\text{Cx} \rightarrow \text{Set}) \rightarrow (\text{Cx} \rightarrow \text{Set})$
 $(\Box S) \Gamma = \Gamma \subseteq \Delta \rightarrow S \Delta$

`th□` : $\text{Thinnable} (\Box S)$
`th□` $\text{inc } s = s \circ \text{select } \text{inc}$

Now that we are equipped with the notion of inclusion, we have all the pieces necessary to describe the Kripke structure of our models of the simply typed λ -calculus.

4. Semantics and their Generic Evaluators

The upcoming sections demonstrate that renaming, substitution, printing with names, and normalisation by evaluation all share the same structure. We start by abstracting away a notion of `Semantics` encompassing all these constructions. This approach will make it possible for us to implement a generic traversal parametrised by such a `Semantics` once and for all and to focus on the interesting model constructions instead of repeating the same pattern over and over again.

A `Semantics` is indexed by two relations \mathcal{V} and C describing respectively the values in the environment and the ones in the model. In cases such as substitution or normalisation by evaluation, \mathcal{V} and C will happen to coincide but keeping these two relations distinct is precisely what makes it possible to go beyond these and also model renaming or

printing with names. The record packs the properties of these relations necessary to define the evaluation function.

```
record Semantics (V : Model) (C : Model) : Set where
```

The first method of a `Semantics` deals with environment values. They need to be thinnable (`th`) so that the traversal may introduce fresh variables when going under a binder whilst keeping the environment well-scoped.

```
th : (σ : Ty) → Thinnable (V σ)
```

The structure of the model is quite constrained: each constructor in the language needs a semantic counterpart. We start with the two most interesting cases: `[[var]]` and `[[λ]]`. The variable case bridges the gap between the fact that the environment translates variables into values V but the evaluation function returns computations C .

```
[[var]] : [ V σ → C σ ]
```

The semantic λ -abstraction is notable for two reasons: first, following Mitchell and Moggi (1991), its \square -structure is typical of models à la Kripke allowing arbitrary extensions of the context; and second, instead of being a function in the host language taking computations to computations, it takes *values* to computations. It matches precisely the fact that the body of a λ -abstraction exposes one extra free variable, prompting us to extend the environment with a value for it. In the special case where $V = C$ (normalisation by evaluation for instance), we recover the usual Kripke structure.

```
[[λ]] : [ □ (V σ → C τ) → C (σ ↗ τ) ]
```

The remaining fields' types are a direct translation of the types of the constructor they correspond to: substructures have simply been replaced with computations thus making these operators ideal to combine induction hypotheses.

```

_[$_] : [ C (σ ↗ τ) → C σ → C τ ]
[[<>]] : [ C '1 ]
[[tt]] : [ C '2 ]
[[ff]] : [ C '2 ]
[[if]] : [ C '2 → C σ → C σ → C σ ]
```

The type we chose for `[[λ]]` makes the `Semantics` notion powerful enough that even logical predicates are instances of it. And we indeed exploit this power when defining normalisation by evaluation as a semantics: the model construction is, after all, nothing but a logical predicate. As a consequence it seems rather natural to call `sem`, the fundamental lemma of semantics. We prove it in a module parameterised by a `Semantics`, which would correspond to using a Section in Coq. It is defined by structural recursion on the term. Each constructor is replaced by its semantic counterpart which combines the induction hypotheses for its subterms.

```
module Eval (S : Semantics V C) where
```

```
open Semantics S
```

```

sem : [ (Γ → Env) V → (Γ → Comp) C ]
sem ρ ('var v) = [[var]] (lookup ρ v)
sem ρ (t '$ u) = sem ρ t [$] sem ρ u
sem ρ ('λ b) = [[λ]] (λ σ v →
    sem (th [ th ] σ ρ '• v) b)
sem ρ '<> = [[<>]]
sem ρ 'tt = [[tt]]
sem ρ 'ff = [[ff]]
sem ρ ('if b l r) = [[if]] (sem ρ b) (sem ρ l) (sem ρ r)
```

5. Syntax is the Identity Semantics

As we have explained earlier, this work has been directly influenced by McBride's (2005) manuscript. It seems appropriate to start our exploration of `Semantics` with the two operations he implements as a single traversal. We call these operations syntactic because the computations in the model are actual terms and almost all term constructors are kept as their own semantic counterpart. As observed by McBride, it is enough to provide three operations describing the properties of the values in the environment to get a full-blown `Semantics`. This fact is witnessed by our simple `Syntactic` record type together with the `syntactic` function turning its inhabitants into associated `Semantics`.

```

record Syntactic (V : Model) : Set where
  field th : (σ : Ty) → Thinnable (V σ)
  var0 : [ σ ⊢ V σ ]
  [[var]] : [ V σ → Tm σ ]
```

```

syntactic : Syntactic V → Semantics V Tm
syntactic syn = let open Syntactic syn in record
{ th = th; [[var]] = [[var]]
; [[λ]] = λ t → 'λ (t (step refl) var0); _[$_] = _'$_
; [[<>]] = '<>; [[tt]] = 'tt; [[ff]] = 'ff; [[if]] = 'if }
```

The shape of `[[λ]]` or `[[<>]]` should not trick the reader into thinking that this definition performs some sort of η -expansion: `sem` indeed only ever uses one of these when the evaluated term's head constructor is already respectively a `'λ` or a `'<>`. It is therefore absolutely possible to define renaming or substitution using this approach. We can now port McBride's definitions to our framework.

Functoriality, also known as Renaming Our first example of a `Syntactic` operation works with variables as environment values. We have already defined thinning earlier (see Section 3) and we can turn a variable into a term by using the `'var` constructor. The type of `sem` specialised to this semantics is then precisely the proof that terms are thinnable.

```

thTm : (σ : Ty) → Thinnable (Tm σ)
thTm σ ρ t = let open Eval Renaming in sem ρ t
```


Simultaneous Substitution Our second example of a semantics is another spin on the syntactic model: environment values are now terms. We get thinning for terms from the previous example. Again, specialising the type of `sem` reveals that it delivers precisely the simultaneous substitution.

```
subst : (Γ → Env) Tm Δ → Tm σ Γ → Tm σ Δ
subst ρ t = let open Eval Substitution in sem ρ t
```

6. Printing with Names

Before considering the various model constructions involved in defining normalisation functions deciding different equational theories, let us make a detour to a perhaps slightly more surprising example of a [Semantics](#): printing with names. A user-facing project would naturally avoid directly building a `String` and rather construct an inhabitant of a more sophisticated datatype in order to generate a prettier output (Hughes 1995; Wadler 2003). But we stick to the simpler setup as *pretty printing* is not our focus here.

This example is interesting for two reasons. Firstly, the distinction between values and computations is once more instrumental: we get to give the procedure a precise type guiding our implementation. The environment carries *names* for the variables currently in scope whilst the computations thread a name-supply (a stream of strings) to be used to generate fresh names for bound variables. If the values in the environment had to be computations too, we would not root out some faulty implementations e.g. a program picking a new name each time a variable is mentioned.

```
record Name (σ : Ty) (Γ : Cx) : Set where
  constructor mkN; field getN : String
record Printer (σ : Ty) (Γ : Cx) : Set where
  constructor mkP; field runP : State (Stream String) String
```

Secondly, the fact that the model's computation type is a monad and that this poses no problem whatsoever in this framework means it is appropriate for handling languages with effects (Moggi 1991), or effectful semantics e.g. logging the various function calls. Here is the full definition of the printer assuming the existence of various `format` primitives picking a way to display `'λ`, `'$` and `'if`.

Printing : Semantics Name Printer

Printing = record

```
{ th      = λ _ _ → mkN . getN
; [var]   = mkP . return . getN
; _[$]_   = λ mf mt → mkP (
    format$ <$> runP mf ⊗ runP mt)
; [λ]     = λ mb → mkP (
    get >> λ ns → let x' = head ns in
    put (tail ns) >> λ _ →
    runP (mb (step refl) (mkN x')) >> λ b' →
    return (formatλ x' b'))
; [⟨⟩]    = mkP (return "<>")
```

```
; [tt]    = mkP (return "tt")
; [ff]    = mkP (return "ff")
; [if]    = λ mb ml mr → mkP (
    formatIf <$> runP mb ⊗ runP ml ⊗ runP mr) }
```

The evaluation function `sem` will deliver a printer which needs to be run on a `Stream` of distinct `Strings`. Our definition of `names` (not shown here) simply cycles through the letters of the alphabet and guarantees uniqueness by appending a natural number incremented each time we are back at the beginning of the cycle. This crude name generation strategy would naturally be replaced with a more sophisticated one in a user-facing language: we could e.g. use naming hints for user-introduced binders and type-based schemes otherwise (*f* or *g* for function, *is* or *js* for integers, etc.).

In order to kickstart the evaluation, we still need to provide `Names` for each one of the free variables in scope. We deliver that environment by a simple stateful computation `init` chopping off an initial segment of the name supply of the appropriate length. The definition of `print` follows:

```
init : State (Stream String) ((Γ → Env) Name Γ)
```

```
print : Tm σ Γ → String
```

```
print t = let open Eval Printing in
```

```
  proj₁ ((init >> λ ρ → runP (sem ρ t)) names)
```

We can observe `print`'s behaviour by writing a test; we state it as a propositional equality and prove it using `refl`, forcing the typechecker to check that both expressions indeed compute to the same normal form. Here we display the identity function defined in a context of size 2. As we can see, the binder receives the name `"c"` because `"a"` and `"b"` have already been assigned to the free variables in scope.

```
prettyId : print (λ λ ('var ze)) ≡ "λc. c"
prettyId = PEq.refl
```

7. Normalisation by Evaluation

Normalisation by Evaluation (NBE) is a technique leveraging the computational power of a host language in order to normalise expressions of a deeply embedded one. The process is based on a `Model` construction describing a family of types by induction on its `Ty` index. Two procedures are then defined: the first (`eval`) constructs an element of $C \sigma \Gamma$ provided a well typed term of the corresponding $Tm \sigma \Gamma$ type whilst the second (`reify`) extracts, in a type-directed manner, normal forms $\Gamma \vdash_{nf} \sigma$ from elements of the model $C \sigma \Gamma$. NBE composes the two procedures. The definition of this `eval` function is a natural candidate for our [Semantics](#) framework. NBE is always defined for a given equational theory; we start by recalling the various rules a theory may satisfy.

Thanks to [Renaming](#) and [Substitution](#) respectively, we can formally define η -expansion and β -reduction. The η -rules say that for some types, terms have a canonical form: func-

tions will all be λ -headed whilst records will collect their fields — here this makes all elements of $\mathbf{1}$ equal to $\langle \rangle$.

$\text{eta} : [\text{Tm } (\sigma \rightarrow \tau) \rightarrow \text{Tm } (\sigma \rightarrow \tau)]$

$\text{eta } t = \lambda (\text{th}_{\text{Tm}} _ (\text{step refl}) t \text{ '$' var ze})$

$_ \langle _ / \text{var}_0 \rangle : [\sigma \vdash \text{Tm } \tau \rightarrow \text{Tm } \sigma \rightarrow \text{Tm } \tau]$

$t \langle u / \text{var}_0 \rangle = \text{subst } (\text{pack } \text{'var' } \bullet u) t$

$$\frac{t : \text{Tm } (\sigma \rightarrow \tau) \Gamma}{t \rightsquigarrow \text{eta } t} \eta_1 \quad \frac{t : \text{Tm } \mathbf{1} \Gamma}{t \rightsquigarrow \langle \rangle} \eta_2$$

$$\frac{(\lambda t) \text{'$' } u \rightsquigarrow t \langle u / \text{var}_0 \rangle}{\beta}$$

The β -rule is the main driver for actual computation, but the presence of an inductive data type ($\mathbf{2}$) and its eliminator ('if') means we have further redexes: whenever the boolean the eliminator branches on is in canonical form, we may apply a ι -rule. Finally, the ξ -rule lets us reduce under λ -abstractions — the distinction between weak-head normalisation and strong normalisation.

$$\frac{}{\text{'if' } \text{'tt' } l r \rightsquigarrow l} \iota_1 \quad \frac{}{\text{'if' } \text{'ff' } l r \rightsquigarrow r} \iota_2 \quad \frac{t \rightsquigarrow u}{\lambda t \rightsquigarrow \lambda u} \xi$$

Now that we have recalled all these rules, we can talk precisely about the sort of equational theory decided by the model construction we choose to perform. We start with the usual definition of NBE which goes under λ s and produces η -long β -short normal forms.

7.1 Normalisation by Evaluation for $\beta\iota\xi\eta$

In the case of NBE, the environment values and the computations in the model will both have the same type \mathbf{Kr} (standing for “Kripke”), defined by induction on the \mathbf{Ty} argument. The η -rules allow us to represent functions (resp. inhabitants of $\mathbf{1}$) in the source language as function spaces (resp. \mathbf{T}). In Agda, there are no such rules for boolean values. We thus need a notion of syntactic normal forms. We parametrise the mutually defined inductive families \mathbf{Ne} and \mathbf{Nf} by a predicate R constraining the types at which one may embed a neutral as a normal form. This make it possible to control the way NBE η -expands all terms at certain types.

```
data Ne : Model L.zero where
  'var  : [ Var  $\sigma \rightarrow$                 Ne  $\sigma$  ]
  '$_   : [ Ne  $(\sigma \rightarrow \tau) \rightarrow$  Ne  $\sigma \rightarrow$  Ne  $\tau$  ]
  'if   : [ Ne  $\mathbf{2} \rightarrow$  Ne  $\sigma \rightarrow$  Ne  $\sigma \rightarrow$  Ne  $\sigma$  ]

data Nf : Model L.zero where
  'ne   : R  $\sigma \rightarrow$  [ Ne  $\sigma \rightarrow$       Nf  $\sigma$       ]
  '<>'   : [                [                Nf  $\mathbf{1}$       ]
  '<>'   : [                [                Nf  $\mathbf{2}$       ]
  'tt 'ff : [                [                Nf  $\mathbf{2}$       ]
  '\lambda : [  $\sigma \vdash$  Nf  $\tau \rightarrow$  Nf  $(\sigma \rightarrow \tau)$  ]
```

Once more, the expected notions of thinning thne and thnf are induced as \mathbf{Nf} and \mathbf{Ne} are syntaxes. We omit their purely structural implementation here and wish we could do so in source code, too: our constructions so far have been syntax-directed and could surely be leveraged by a generic account

of syntaxes with binding. We now define the model. The \mathbf{R} predicate characterising the types for which neutral terms may be considered normal is here equivalent to the unit type for $\mathbf{2}$ and the empty type otherwise. This makes us use η -rules eagerly: all inhabitants of $\mathbf{Nf } \Gamma \mathbf{1}$ and $\mathbf{Nf } \Gamma (\sigma \rightarrow \tau)$ are equal to $\langle \rangle$ and λ -headed respectively.

The model construction then follows the usual pattern pioneered by Berger (1993) and formally analysed and thoroughly explained by Catarina Coquand (2002). We work by induction on the type and describe η -expanded values: all inhabitants of $\mathbf{Kr } \mathbf{1} \Gamma$ are indeed equal and all elements of $\mathbf{Kr } (\sigma \rightarrow \tau) \Gamma$ are functions in Agda.

```
Kr : Model
Kr  $\mathbf{1}$  = const T
Kr  $\mathbf{2}$  = Nf  $\mathbf{2}$ 
Kr  $(\sigma \rightarrow \tau)$  =  $\square$  (Kr  $\sigma \rightarrow$  Kr  $\tau$ )
```

This model is defined by induction on the type in terms either of syntactic objects (\mathbf{Nf}) or using the \square -operator which is a closure operator for Thinnings. As such, it is trivial to prove that for all type σ , $\mathbf{Kr } \sigma$ is *Thinnable*. Application’s semantic counterpart is easy to define: given that \mathcal{V} and \mathcal{C} are equal in this instance definition, we just feed the argument directly to the function, with the identity renaming: $f \text{ \$\$ } t = f \text{ refl } t$. Conditional branching however is more subtle: the boolean value 'if' branches on may be a neutral term in which case the whole elimination form is stuck. This forces us to define reify and reflect first. These functions, also known as quote and unquote respectively, give the interplay between neutral terms, model values and normal forms. reflect performs a form of semantic η -expansion: all stuck $\mathbf{1}$ terms are equated and all functions are λ -headed. It allows us to define var_0 , the semantic counterpart of 'var ze .

```
reify  : ( $\sigma : \text{Ty}$ )  $\rightarrow$  [ Kr  $\sigma \rightarrow$  Nf  $\sigma$  ]
reflect : ( $\sigma : \text{Ty}$ )  $\rightarrow$  [ Ne  $\sigma \rightarrow$  Kr  $\sigma$  ]

reflect  $\mathbf{1}$       t =  $\langle \rangle$ 
reflect  $\mathbf{2}$       t = 'ne _ t
reflect  $(\sigma \rightarrow \tau)$  t =  $\lambda \rho u \rightarrow$  let b = thne  $(\sigma \rightarrow \tau) \rho t$ 
                                in reflect  $\tau$  (b '$' reify  $\sigma u$ )

reify  $\mathbf{1}$       T =  $\langle \rangle$ 
reify  $\mathbf{2}$       T = T
reify  $(\sigma \rightarrow \tau)$  T = '\lambda (reify  $\tau$  (T (step refl) (var0  $\sigma$ )))
```

We can then give the semantics of 'if : if the boolean is a value, the appropriate branch is picked; if it is stuck the whole expression is reflected in the model.

```
if : [ Kr  $\mathbf{2} \rightarrow$  Kr  $\sigma \rightarrow$  Kr  $\sigma \rightarrow$  Kr  $\sigma$  ]
if 'tt      l r = l
if 'ff      l r = r
if ('ne _ T) l r = reflect  $\sigma$  ('if T (reify  $\sigma l$ ) (reify  $\sigma r$ ))
```

We can then combine these components. The semantics of a λ -abstraction is simply the identity function: the struc-

ture of the functional case in the definition of the model matches precisely the shape expected in a [Semantics](#). Because the environment carries model values, the variable case is trivial. We obtain a normaliser by kickstarting the evaluation with a dummy environment of reflected variables.

Normalise : Semantics Kr Kr

Normalise = record

```
{ th = thKr; [var] = id; _[$]_ = _$$_; [λ] = id
; [⟨⟩] = ⟨⟩; [tt] = 'tt; [ff] = 'ff; [if] = if }
```

nbe : [(Γ -Env) Kr → (Γ -Comp) Kr]

nbe ρ t = let open Eval Normalise in sem ρ t

norm : (σ : Ty) → [Tm σ → Nf σ]

norm σ t = reify σ (nbe (pack (reflect _ • 'var)) t)

7.2 Normalisation by Evaluation for βιξ

As seen above, the traditional typed model construction leads to an NBE procedure outputting βι-normal η-long terms. However actual proof systems rely on evaluation strategies that avoid applying η-rules as much as possible: unsurprisingly, it is a rather bad idea to η-expand proof terms which are already large when typechecking complex developments.

In these systems, normal forms are neither η-long nor η-short: the η-rule is never deployed except when comparing a neutral and a constructor-headed term for equality. Instead of declaring them distinct, the algorithm does one step of η-expansion on the neutral term and compares their subterms structurally. The conversion test fails only when confronted with neutral terms with distinct head variables or normal forms with different head constructors.

To reproduce this behaviour, NBE must be amended. It is possible to alter the model definition described earlier so that it avoids unnecessary η-expansions. We proceed by enriching the traditional model with extra syntactical artefacts in a manner reminiscent of Coquand and Dybjer’s (1997) approach to defining an NBE procedure for the SK combinator calculus. Their resorting to glueing terms to elements of the model was dictated by the sheer impossibility to write a sensible reification procedure but, in hindsight, it provides us with a powerful technique to build models internalizing alternative equational theories.

This leads us to using a predicate [R](#) allowing embedding of neutrals into normal forms at all types and mutually defining the model (Kr) together with the *acting* model (Go):

```
Kr : Model      Go : Model
Kr σ = Ne σ ∪ Go σ  Go '1      = const T
                  Go '2      = const Bool
                  Go (σ → τ) = □ (Kr σ → Kr τ)
```

Most combinators acting on this model follow a pattern similar to their counterpart’s in the previous section. Semantic application is more interesting: in case the function is a stuck term, we grow its spine by reifying its argument;

otherwise we have an Agda function ready to be applied. We proceed similarly for the definition of the semantical “if” (omitted here). Altogether, we get another normaliser which is, this time, *not* producing η-long normal forms.

```
_$$_ : [ Kr (σ → τ) → Kr σ → Kr τ ]
(inj1 ne) $$ u = inj1 (ne ' $ reify _ u)
(inj2 F)  $$ u = F refl u
```

7.3 Normalisation by Evaluation for βι

The decision to apply the η-rule lazily can be pushed even further: one may forgo using the ξ-rule too and simply perform weak-head normalisation. This drives computation only when absolutely necessary, e.g. when two terms compared for equality have matching head constructors and one needs to inspect these constructors’ arguments to conclude.

The model construction is much like the previous one except that source terms are now stored in the model too. This means that from an element of the model, one can pick either the reduced version of the input term (i.e. a stuck term or the term’s computational content) or the original. We exploit this ability most notably in reification where once we have obtained either a head constructor or a head variable, no subterms need be evaluated.

```
Kr : Model      Go : Model
Kr σ = Tm σ ×   Go '1      = const T
(Whne σ ∪ Go σ) Go '2      = const Bool
                  Go (σ → τ) = □ (Kr σ → Kr τ)
```

8. Proving Properties of Semantics

Thanks to [Semantics](#), we have already saved work by not reiterating the same traversals. Moreover, this disciplined approach to building models and defining the associated evaluation functions can help us refactor the proofs of some properties of these semantics.

Instead of using proof scripts as Benton et al. (2012) do, we describe abstractly the constraints the logical relations (Reynolds 1983) defined on computations (and environment values) have to respect to ensure that evaluating a term in related environments produces related outputs. This gives us a generic framework to state and prove, in one go, properties about all of these semantics.

Our first example of such a framework will stay simple on purpose. However it is no mere bureaucracy: the result proven here will actually be useful in the next section when considering more complex properties.

8.1 The Simulation Relation

This first example is describing the relational interpretation of the terms. It should give the reader a good introduction to the setup before we take on more complexity. The types involved might look a bit scarily abstract but the idea is rather simple: we have a [Simulation](#) between two [Semantics](#)

when evaluating a term in related environments yields related values. The bulk of the work is to make this intuition formal.

The evidence that we have a **Simulation** between two **Semantics** is packaged in a record indexed by the semantics as well as two relations. We call **RModel** (for *Relational Model*) the type of these relations; the first one (\mathcal{VR}) relates values in the respective environments and the second one (\mathcal{CR}) describes simulation for computations.

record Simulation

$(S_A : \text{Semantics } \mathcal{V}_A C_A) (S_B : \text{Semantics } \mathcal{V}_B C_B)$
 $(\mathcal{V}_R : \text{RModel } \mathcal{V}_A \mathcal{V}_B) (C_R : \text{RModel } C_A C_B) : \text{Set where}$

The record's fields say what structure these relations need to have. \mathcal{VR}_{th} states that two similar environments can be thinned whilst staying in simulation. It is stated using the $\text{'}\forall[\]$ predicate transformer (omitted here) which lifts \mathcal{VR} to contexts in a pointwise manner.

$\mathcal{VR}_{\text{th}} : \text{'}\forall[\ \mathcal{V}_R] \rho_A \rho_B \rightarrow$
 $\text{'}\forall[\ \mathcal{V}_R] (\text{th}[S_A.\text{th}] \text{inc } \rho_A) (\text{th}[S_B.\text{th}] \text{inc } \rho_B)$

We then have the relational counterparts of the term constructors. To lighten the presentation we introduce \mathcal{R} , which states that the evaluation of a term in distinct contexts yields related computations. And we focus on the most interesting combinators, giving only one characteristic example of the remaining ones.

$\mathcal{R} : \text{Term } \sigma \Gamma \rightarrow (\Gamma \text{ --Env } \mathcal{V}_A \Delta \rightarrow (\Gamma \text{ --Env } \mathcal{V}_B \Delta \rightarrow \text{Set } _)$
 $\mathcal{R} \ t \ \rho_A \ \rho_B = \text{rmodel } C_R (\text{sema } \rho_A \ t) (\text{sema } \rho_B \ t)$

Our first interesting case is the relational counterpart of **'var**: a variable evaluated in two related environments yields related computations. In other words **[var]** turns related values in related computations.

$\mathcal{R}[\text{var}] : \text{'}\forall[\ \mathcal{V}_R] \rho_A \rho_B \rightarrow \mathcal{R} (\text{'var } v) \rho_A \rho_B$

The second, and probably most interesting case, is the relational counterpart to the **[λ]** combinator. The ability to evaluate the body of a λ in thinned environments, each extended by related values, and deliver similar values is enough to guarantee that evaluating the λ s in the original environments will produce similar values.

$\mathcal{R}[\lambda] : (r : \forall \text{inc} \rightarrow \text{rmodel } \mathcal{V}_R \ u_A \ u_B \rightarrow$
 $\text{let } \rho_A' = \text{th}[S_A.\text{th}] \text{inc } \rho_A \bullet u_A$
 $\rho_B' = \text{th}[S_B.\text{th}] \text{inc } \rho_B \bullet u_B$
 $\text{in } \mathcal{R} \ b \ \rho_A' \ \rho_B') \rightarrow$
 $\text{'}\forall[\ \mathcal{V}_R] \rho_A \rho_B \rightarrow \mathcal{R} (\lambda b) \rho_A \rho_B$

All the remaining cases follow suit: assuming that the evaluation of subterms produces related computations and that the current environments are related, we conclude that the evaluation of the whole term should yield related computations. We show here the relational counterpart of the application constructor and omit the remaining ones:

$\mathcal{R}[\$] : \mathcal{R} \ f \ \rho_A \ \rho_B \rightarrow \mathcal{R} \ t \ \rho_A \ \rho_B \rightarrow$

$\text{'}\forall[\ \mathcal{V}_R] \rho_A \rho_B \rightarrow \mathcal{R} (f \ \$ \ t) \rho_A \rho_B$

This specification is only useful if some semantics satisfy it and if given that these constraints are satisfied we can prove the fundamental lemma of simulations stating that the evaluation of a term on related inputs yields related output.

Theorem 1 (Fundamental Lemma of Simulations). *Given two Semantics SA and SB in simulation with respect to relations \mathcal{VR} for values and \mathcal{CR} for computations, we have:*

For any term t and environments ρ_A and ρ_B , if the two environments are \mathcal{VR} -related in a pointwise manner then the semantics associated to t by SA using ρ_A is \mathcal{CR} -related to the one associated to t by SB using ρ_B .

Proof. The proof is a structural induction on t like the one used to define **sem**. It uses the combinators provided by the constraint that SA and SB are in simulation to make use of the induction hypotheses. \square

Corollary 1 (Renaming is a Substitution). *Applying a renaming ρ to a term t amounts to applying the substitution $\text{mapEnv } \text{'var } \rho$ to that same term t .*

Proof. This is shown by instantiating the fundamental lemma of simulations for the special case where: SA is **Renaming**, SB is **Substitution**, $\mathcal{VR} \ v \ t$ is $\text{'var } v \equiv t$ (in other words: the terms in the substitution are precisely the variables in the renaming), and \mathcal{CR} is propositional equality.

The constraints corresponding to the various combinators are mundane: propositional equality is a congruence. \square

Another corollary of the simulation lemma relates NBE to itself. This may seem bureaucratic but it is crucial: the model definition **Kr** uses the host language's function space which contains more functions than simply the ones obtained by evaluating a λ -term. These exotic functions have undesirable behaviours and need to be ruled out to ensure that normalisation has good properties. This is done by defining a Partial Equivalence Relation (Mitchell 1996) (PER) on the model: the elements equal to themselves will be guaranteed to be well behaved. We show that given an environment of values PER-related to themselves, the evaluation of a λ -term produces a computation equal to itself too.

We start by defining the PER for the model. It is constructed by induction on the type and ensures that terms which behave the same extensionally are declared equal. Two values of type **'1** are always trivially equal; values of type **'2** are normal forms and are declared equal when they are effectively syntactically the same; finally functions are equal whenever equal inputs map to equal outputs.

$\text{PER} : (\sigma : \text{Ty}) \rightarrow [\text{Kr } \sigma \rightarrow \text{Kr } \sigma \rightarrow \text{const Set }]$
 $\text{PER } \text{'1} \quad T \ U = \top$
 $\text{PER } \text{'2} \quad T \ U = T \equiv U$
 $\text{PER } (\sigma \rightarrow \tau) \ T \ U = \forall \text{inc} \rightarrow \text{PER } \sigma \ V \ W \rightarrow$

$$\text{PER } \tau (T \text{ inc } V) (U \text{ inc } W)$$

It is indeed a PER as witnessed by the (omitted here) proofs that **PER** σ is symmetric and transitive. It also respects the notion of thinning defined for **Kr**.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{sym}_{\text{PER}} &: \text{PER } \sigma \text{ } S \text{ } T \rightarrow \text{PER } \sigma \text{ } T \text{ } S \\ \text{trans}_{\text{PER}} &: \text{PER } \sigma \text{ } S \text{ } T \rightarrow \text{PER } \sigma \text{ } T \text{ } U \rightarrow \text{PER } \sigma \text{ } S \text{ } U \\ \text{th}_{\text{PER}} &: \text{PER } \sigma \text{ } T \text{ } U \rightarrow \text{PER } \sigma (\text{th}_{\text{Kr}} \sigma \text{ inc } T) (\text{th}_{\text{Kr}} \sigma \text{ inc } U) \end{aligned}$$

The interplay of reflect and reify with this notion of equality has to be described in one go because of their mutual definition. It confirms that **PER** is an appropriate notion of semantic equality: **PER**-related values are reified to propositionally equal normal forms whilst propositionally equal normal terms are reflected to **PER**-related values.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{reify}_{\text{PER}} &: \text{PER } \sigma \text{ } T \text{ } U \rightarrow \text{reify } \sigma \text{ } T \equiv \text{reify } \sigma \text{ } U \\ \text{reflect}_{\text{PER}} &: t \equiv u \rightarrow \text{PER } \sigma (\text{reflect } \sigma \text{ } t) (\text{reflect } \sigma \text{ } u) \end{aligned}$$

That suffices to show that evaluating a term in two environments related pointwise by **PER** yields two semantic objects themselves related by **PER**.

Corollary 2 (No exotic values). *The evaluation of a term t in an environment of values equal to themselves according to **PER** yields a value equal to itself according to **PER**.*

Proof. By the fundamental lemma of simulations with SA and SB equal to **Normalise**, \mathcal{V}_R and CR to **PER**. \square

We can move on to the more complex example of a proof framework built generically over our notion of **Semantics**

8.2 Fusions of Evaluations

When studying the meta-theory of a calculus, one systematically needs to prove fusion lemmas for various semantics. For instance, Benton et al. (2012) prove six such lemmas relating renaming, substitution and a typeful semantics embedding their calculus into Coq. This observation naturally led us to defining a fusion framework describing how to relate three semantics: the pair we sequence and their sequential composition. The fundamental lemma we prove can then be instantiated six times to derive the corresponding corollaries.

The evidence that SA , SB and SC are such that SA followed by SB is equivalent to SC (e.g. **Substitution** followed by **Renaming** can be reduced to **Substitution**) is packed in a record **Fusable** indexed by the three semantics but also three relations. The first one ($\mathcal{V}_{R_{BC}}$) states what it means for two environment values of SB and SC respectively to be related. The second one (\mathcal{V}_R) characterises the triples of environments (one for each one of the semantics) which are compatible. Finally, the last one (CR) relates values in SB and SC 's respective models.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{record Fusable } (SA : \text{Semantics } \mathcal{V}_A \text{ } C_A) \\ (SB : \text{Semantics } \mathcal{V}_B \text{ } C_B) (SC : \text{Semantics } \mathcal{V}_C \text{ } C_C) \\ (\mathcal{V}_{R_{BC}} : \text{RModel } \mathcal{V}_B \text{ } \mathcal{V}_C) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathcal{V}_R : (\Gamma \text{ --Env}) \mathcal{V}_A \Delta \rightarrow (\Delta \text{ --Env}) \mathcal{V}_B \Theta \rightarrow (\Gamma \text{ --Env}) \mathcal{V}_C \Theta \rightarrow \text{Set}) \\ (CR : \text{RModel } C_B \text{ } C_C) : \text{Set where} \end{aligned}$$

As before, most of the fields of this record describe what structure these relations need to have. However, we start with something slightly different: given that we are planing to run the **Semantics** SB after having run SA , we need two components: a way to extract a term from an SA and a way to manufacture a dummy SA value when going under a binder. Our first two fields are therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{reify}_A &: [C_A \sigma \rightarrow \text{Tm } \sigma] \\ \text{var}_{A_0} &: [\sigma \vdash \mathcal{V}_A \sigma] \end{aligned}$$

Then come two constraints dealing with the relations talking about evaluation environments. \mathcal{V}_R tells us how to extend related environments: one should be able to push related values onto the environments for SB and SC whilst merely extending the one for SA with the token value var_{A_0} .

$\mathcal{V}_{R_{th}}$ guarantees that it is always possible to thin the environments for SB and SC in a \mathcal{V}_R preserving manner.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{V}_R &: \mathcal{V}_R \rho_A \rho_B \rho_C \rightarrow \text{rmodel } \mathcal{V}_{R_{BC}} \text{ } u_B \text{ } u_C \rightarrow \\ &\quad \text{let } \rho_A' = \text{th}[SA.th] (\text{step refl}) \rho_A \bullet \text{var}_{A_0} \\ &\quad \text{in } \mathcal{V}_R \rho_A' (\rho_B \bullet u_B) (\rho_C \bullet u_C) \\ \mathcal{V}_{R_{th}} &: \mathcal{V}_R \rho_A \rho_B \rho_C \rightarrow \\ &\quad \mathcal{V}_R \rho_A (\text{th}[SB.th] \text{ inc } \rho_B) (\text{th}[SC.th] \text{ inc } \rho_C) \end{aligned}$$

Then we have the relational counterpart of the various term constructors. We can once more introduce an extra definition \mathcal{R} which will make the type of the combinators defined later on clearer. \mathcal{R} relates a term and three environments by stating that the computation one gets by sequentially evaluating the term in the first and then the second environment is related to the one obtained by directly evaluating the term in the third environment.

$$\mathcal{R} \text{ } t \rho_A \rho_B \rho_C = \text{rmodel } C_R (\text{semb } \rho_B (\text{reify}_A (\text{sema } \rho_A \text{ } t))) (\text{semc } \rho_C \text{ } t)$$

As with the previous section, only a handful of these combinators are out of the ordinary. We will start with the **'var** case. It states that fusion indeed happens when evaluating a variable using related environments.

$$\mathcal{R} [\text{var}] : \forall v \rightarrow \mathcal{V}_R \rho_A \rho_B \rho_C \rightarrow \mathcal{R} (\text{'var } v) \rho_A \rho_B \rho_C$$

The **' λ** -case puts some rather strong restrictions on the way the λ -abstraction's body may be used by SA : we assume it is evaluated in an environment thinned by one variable and extended using var_{A_0} . But it is quite natural to have these restrictions: given that **reify** $_A$ quotes the result back, we are expecting this type of evaluation in an extended context (i.e. under one lambda). And it turns out that this is indeed enough for all of our examples. The evaluation environments used by the semantics SB and SC on the other hand can be arbitrarily

thinned before being extended with related values to be substituted for the variable bound by the λ .

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{R}[\lambda] &: (t : \mathbf{Tm} \tau (\Gamma \bullet \sigma)) \\ (r : \forall \text{inc} \rightarrow \mathbf{rmodel} \mathcal{V}_{\text{RBC}} \text{UB} \text{UC} \rightarrow \\ &\quad \text{let } \rho_A' = \mathbf{th}[S_A.\text{th}] (\text{step refl}) \rho_A \bullet \mathbf{var}_{A_0} \\ &\quad \rho_B' = \mathbf{th}[S_B.\text{th}] \text{inc } \rho_B \bullet \text{UB} \\ &\quad \rho_C' = \mathbf{th}[S_C.\text{th}] \text{inc } \rho_C \bullet \text{UC} \\ &\quad \text{in } \mathcal{R} t \rho_A' \rho_B' \rho_C') \rightarrow \\ &\quad \mathcal{V}_R \rho_A \rho_B \rho_C \rightarrow \mathcal{R} (\lambda t) \rho_A \rho_B \rho_C \end{aligned}$$

The other cases (omitted here) are just stating that, given the expected induction hypotheses, and the assumption that the three environments are $\mathcal{V}R$ -related we can deliver a proof that fusion can happen on the compound expression.

As with simulation, we measure the utility of this framework by the way we can prove its fundamental lemma and then obtain useful corollaries. Once again, having carefully identified what the constraints should be, proving the fundamental lemma is not a problem:

Theorem 2 (Fundamental Lemma of Fusable Semantics). *Given three Semantics SA , SB and SC which are fusable with respect to the relations $\mathcal{V}R_{\text{BC}}$ for values of SB and SC , $\mathcal{V}R$ for environments and CR for computations, we have that:*

For any term t and environments ρ_A , ρ_B , and ρ_C , if the three environments are $\mathcal{V}R$ -related then the semantics associated to t by SA using ρ_A followed by SB using ρ_B is CR -related to the one associated to t by SC using ρ_C .

Proof. The proof is by structural induction on t using the combinators to assemble the induction hypotheses. \square

The Special Case of Syntactic Semantics The translation from **Syntactic** to **Semantics** uses a lot of constructors as their own semantic counterpart, it is hence possible to generate evidence of **Syntactic** triplets being fusable with much fewer assumptions. We isolate them and prove the result generically to avoid repetition. A **SyntacticFusible** record packs the evidence for **Syntactic** semantics $\text{syn}A$, $\text{syn}B$ and $\text{syn}C$. It is indexed by these three **Syntactics** as well as two relations corresponding to the $\mathcal{V}R_{\text{BC}}$ and $\mathcal{V}R$ ones of the **Fusible** framework. It contains the same $\mathcal{V}R$, $\mathcal{V}R_{\text{th}}$ and $\mathbf{R}[\text{var}]$ fields as a **Fusible** as well as a fourth one ($\mathbf{var}_{\text{OBC}}$) saying that $\text{syn}B$ and $\text{syn}C$'s respective \mathbf{var}_0 s are producing related values.

$$\mathbf{var}_{\text{BC}_0} : \mathbf{rmodel} \mathcal{V}_{\text{RBC}} \text{SynB.var}_0 \text{SynC.var}_0$$

Theorem 3 (Fundamental Lemma of Fusable Syntactics). *Given a **SyntacticFusible** relating three **Syntactic** semantics, we get a **Fusible** relating the corresponding **Semantics** where CR is the propositional equality.*

Proof. The proof relies on the way the translation from **Syntactic** to **Semantics** is formulated in section 5. \square

Corollary 3 (Renaming-Renaming fusion). *Given two renamings ρ from Γ to Δ and ρ' from Δ to Θ and a term t of type*

σ with free variables in Γ , we have that:

$$\mathbf{th}_{\text{Tm}} \sigma \rho' (\mathbf{th}_{\text{Tm}} \sigma \rho t) \equiv \mathbf{th}_{\text{Tm}} \sigma (\mathbf{select} \rho \rho') t$$

Corollary 4 (Renaming-Substitution fusion). *Given a renaming ρ from Γ to Δ , a substitution ρ' from Δ to Θ and a term t of type σ with free variables in Γ , we have that:*

$$\mathbf{subst} \rho' (\mathbf{th}_{\text{Tm}} \sigma \rho t) \equiv \mathbf{subst} (\mathbf{select} \rho \rho') t$$

Corollary 5 (Substitution-Renaming fusion). *Given a substitution ρ from Γ to Δ , a renaming ρ' from Δ to Θ and a term t of type σ with free variables in Γ , we have that:*

$$\mathbf{th}_{\text{Tm}} \sigma \rho' (\mathbf{subst} \rho t) \equiv \mathbf{subst} (\mathbf{map}_{\text{Env}} (\mathbf{th}_{\text{Tm}} \rho) \rho) t$$

Corollary 6 (Substitution-Substitution fusion). *Given two substitutions, ρ from Γ to Δ and ρ' from Δ to Θ , and a term t of type σ with free variables in Γ , we have that:*

$$\mathbf{subst} \rho' (\mathbf{subst} \rho t) \equiv \mathbf{subst} (\mathbf{map}_{\text{Env}} (\mathbf{subst} \rho) \rho) t$$

These four lemmas are usually proven in painful separation. Here we discharged them by rapid successive instantiation of our framework, using the earlier results to satisfy the later constraints. We are not limited to **Syntactic** statements:

Examples of Fusable Semantics The most simple example of **Fusable Semantics** involving a non **Syntactic** one is probably the proof that **Renaming** followed by **Normalise $\beta\eta$** is equivalent to NBE with an adjusted environment.

Corollary 7 (Renaming-Normalise fusion). *Given a renaming ρ from Γ to Δ , an environment of values ρ' from Δ to Θ such that they are all equal to themselves in the **PER** and a term t of type σ with free variables in Γ , we have that:*

$$\mathbf{PER} \sigma (\mathbf{nbe} \rho' (\mathbf{th}_{\text{Tm}} \sigma \rho t)) (\mathbf{nbe} (\mathbf{select} \rho \rho') t)$$

Then, we use the framework to prove that to **Normalise $\beta\eta$** by Evaluation after a **Substitution** amounts to normalising the original term where the substitution has been evaluated first. The constraints imposed on the environments might seem quite restrictive but they are actually similar to the Uniformity condition described by C. Coquand (2002) in her detailed account of NBE for a ST λ C with explicit substitution.

Corollary 8 (Substitution-Normalise fusion). *Given a substitution ρ from Γ to Δ , an environment of values ρ' from Δ to Θ such that all these values are equal to themselves and thinning and evaluation in ρ' commute, and a term t of type σ with free variables in Γ , we have that:*

$$\mathbf{PER} \sigma (\mathbf{nbe} \rho' (\mathbf{subst} \rho t)) (\mathbf{nbe} (\mathbf{map}_{\text{Env}} (\mathbf{nbe} \rho') \rho) t)$$

9. Related Work

The programming part of this work can be replicated in Haskell and a translation of the definitions is available on

the paper’s repository². The subtleties of working with dependent types in Haskell (Lindley and McBride 2014) are outside the scope of this paper. It should be noted that Danvy, Keller and Puech have achieved a similar goal in OCaml () but their formalisation uses parametric higher order abstract syntax (Chlipala 2008) freeing them from having to deal with variable binding, contexts and use models à la Kripke. However we consider these to be primordial: they can still guide the implementation of more complex type theories where, until now, being typeful is still out of reach. Type-level guarantees about scope preservation can help root out bugs related to fresh name generation, name capture or conversion from de Bruijn levels to de Bruijn indices.

This work is at the intersection of two traditions: the formal treatment of programming languages and the implementation of embedded Domain Specific Languages (eDSL) (Hudak 1996) both require the designer to deal with name binding and the associated notions of renaming and substitution but also partial evaluation (Danvy 1999), or even printing when emitting code or displaying information back to the user (Wiedijk 2012). The mechanisation of a calculus in a *meta language* can use either a shallow or a deep embedding (Svenningsson and Axelsson 2013; Gill 2014).

The well-scoped and well typed final encoding described by Carette, Kiselyov, and Shan (2009) allows the mechanisation of a calculus in Haskell or OCaml by representing terms as expressions built up from the combinators provided by a “Symantics”. The correctness of the encoding relies on parametricity (Reynolds 1983) and although there exists an ongoing effort to internalise parametricity (Bernardy and Moulin 2013) in Type Theory, this puts a formalisation effort out of the reach of all the current interactive theorem provers.

Because of the strong restrictions on the structure our **Models** may have, we cannot represent all the interesting traversals imaginable. Chapman and Abel’s work on normalisation by evaluation (2009; 2014) which decouples the description of the big-step algorithm and its termination proof is for instance out of reach for our system. Indeed, in their development the application combinator may *restart* the computation by calling the evaluator recursively whereas the **Applicative** constraint we impose means that we may only combine induction hypotheses.

McBride’s original unpublished work (2005) implemented in Epigram (McBride and McKinna 2004) was inspired by Goguen and McKinna’s Candidates for Substitution (1997). It focuses on renaming and substitution for the simply typed λ -calculus and was later extended to a formalisation of System F (Girard 1972) in Coq (The Coq development team 2004) by Benton, Hur, Kennedy and McBride (2012). Benton et al. both implement a denotational semantics for their language and prove the properties of their traversals. However both of these things are done in an ad-hoc manner: the meaning function associated to their denotational semantics

is not defined in terms of the generic traversal and the proofs are manually discharged one by one. They also choose to prove the evaluation function correct by using propositional equality and assuming function extensionality rather than resorting to the traditional Partial Equivalence Relation approach we use.

10. Conclusion

We have explained how to make using an inductive family to only represent the terms of an eDSL which are well-scoped and well typed by construction more tractable. We proceeded by factoring out a common notion of **Semantics** encompassing a wide range of type and scope preserving traversals such as renaming and substitution, which were already handled by the state of the art, but also pretty printing, or various variations on normalisation by evaluation. Our approach crucially relied on the careful distinction we made between values in the environment and values in the model, as well as the slight variation on the structure typical of Kripke-style models. Indeed, in our formulation, the domain of a binder’s interpretation is an environment value rather than a model one.

We have then demonstrated that, having this shared structure, one could further alleviate the implementer’s pain by tackling the properties of these **Semantics** in a similarly abstract approach. We characterised, using a first logical relation, the traversals which were producing related outputs provided they were fed related inputs. A more involved second logical relation gave us a general description of triples of **Fusable** semantics such that composing the two first ones would yield an instance of the third one.

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²<https://github.com/gallais/type-scope-semantics>

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