Lambda-Definable Order-3 Tree Functions are Well-Quasi-Ordered

Kazuyuki Asada

Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan asada@riec.tohoku.ac.jp https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8782-2119

Naoki Kobavashi

The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan koba@is.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Abstract

Asada and Kobayashi [ICALP 2017] conjectured a higher-order version of Kruskal's tree theorem, and proved a pumping lemma for higher-order languages modulo the conjecture. The conjecture has been proved up to order-2, which implies that Asada and Kobayashi's pumping lemma holds for order-2 tree languages, but remains open for order-3 or higher. In this paper, we prove a variation of the conjecture for order-3. This is sufficient for proving that a variation of the pumping lemma holds for order-3 tree languages (equivalently, for order-4 word languages).

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Introduction

Kruskal's tree theorem [7] says that the homeomorphic embedding relation \preceq^{he} on finite trees is a well-quasi-ordering, i.e., for every infinite sequence of trees $\pi_0, \pi_1, \pi_2, \ldots$, there exist i < j such that $\pi_i \leq^{\text{he}} \pi_j$. Here, $\pi \leq^{\text{he}} \pi'$ means that there exists an embedding of the nodes of π to those of π' , preserving the labels and the ancestor/descendant relation. Asada and Kobayashi [2] considered a higher-order version $\preceq_{\kappa}^{\text{he}}$ of \preceq^{he} on simply-typed λ -terms of type κ , and conjectured that $\leq_{\kappa}^{\text{he}}$ is also a well-quasi-ordering, for every simple type κ . Under the assumption that the conjecture (which we call AK-conjecture) is true, they proved a pumping lemma for higher-order languages (a la higher-order languages in Damm's IO hierarchy [3]), which says that for any order-k tree grammar that generates an infinite language L, there exists a strictly increasing infinite sequence $\pi_0 \prec^{\text{he}} \pi_1 \prec^{\text{he}} \pi_2 \prec^{\text{he}} \cdots$ such that $\pi_i \in L$ and $|\pi_i| \leq \exp_k(ci+d)$, where \prec^{he} is the strict version of the homeomorphic embedding, c and d are constants that depend on the grammar, and $\exp_k(x)$ is defined by $\exp_0(x) = x$ and $\exp_{k+1}(x) = 2^{\exp_k(x)}$. The pumping lemma can be used to prove that a certain language does not belong to the class of order-k languages. They also proved that the conjecture is

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true up to order-2 types, and hence also the pumping lemma for order-2 tree languages and (by the correspondence between tree/word languages [1, 3]) order-3 word languages. The AK-conjecture is still open for order-3 or higher.

In the present paper, we consider a variation of the AK-conjecture (which we call nAK-conjecture), where the homeomorphic embedding relation is replaced by $\preceq^{\#}$, defined by $\pi_1 \preceq^{\#} \pi_2$ if and only if, for every tree constructor a, $\#_a(\pi_1) \leq \#_a(\pi_2)$; here $\#_a(\pi)$ denotes the number of occurrences of a in π . The correctness of the nAK-conjecture would imply the following variation of the pumping lemma: for any order-k tree grammar that generates an infinite language L, there exists a strictly increasing infinite sequence $\pi_0 \prec^{\#} \pi_1 \prec^{\#} \pi_2 \prec^{\#} \cdots$ such that $\pi_i \in L$ and $|\pi_i| \leq \exp_k(ci+d)$. We prove that the nAK-conjecture is true for the order-3 case, i.e., that $\preceq^{\#}_{\kappa}$ (the logical relation on simply-typed λ -terms of type κ , obtained from $\preceq^{\#}$) is a well-quasi-ordering for any type κ of order up to 3. The variation of the pumping lemma above is thus obtained for order-3 tree languages and order-4 word languages. To our knowledge, pumping lemmas were known only for tree (word, resp.) languages of order up to 2 (3, resp.) [2].

To prove the order-3 nAK-conjecture, we define a transformation $(\cdot)^{\natural}$ from order-3 λ -terms to order-2 numeric functions (that are also represented by λ -terms), and prove (i) the transformation reflects the quasi-orderings, i.e., $t_1 \preceq_{\kappa}^{\#} t_2$ if $t_1^{\natural} \preceq^{\mathbb{N}} t_2^{\natural}$ for a certain quasi-ordering $\preceq^{\mathbb{N}}$ on numeric functions, and (ii) $\preceq^{\mathbb{N}}$ is a well-quasi-ordering.

Related work. We are not aware of directly related work, besides our own previous work [2]. Our reduction from the well-quasi-orderedness of order-3 λ -terms to that of order-2 numeric functions relies on the inexpressiveness of simply-typed λ -terms as (higher-order) tree functions. Zaionc [11, 12, 13] studied the expressive power of simply-typed λ -terms. Pumping lemmas for higher-order languages have been known to be difficult. After Hayashi [5] proved a pumping lemma for indexed languages (i.e. order-2 word languages), it was only in 2017 that a pumping lemma for order-3 word languages was proved [2]. We have further improved the result to obtain a pumping lemma for order-4 word (or, order-3 tree) languages.

The rest of the paper is structured as follows. Section 2 introduces basic definitions. Section 3 explains the nAK-conjecture and the pumping lemma. Section 4 proves the nAK-conjecture up to order-3. Section 5 concludes the paper.

2 Preliminaries

We give basic definitions on λ -terms and quasi-orderings.

2.1 λ -terms and higher-order languages

▶ **Definition 1** (types and terms). The set of *simple types*, ranged over by κ , is given by: $\kappa ::= o \mid \kappa_1 \to \kappa_2$. The order¹ of a simple type κ , written $order(\kappa)$ is defined by order(o) = 0 and $order(\kappa_1 \to \kappa_2) = max(order(\kappa_1) + 1, order(\kappa_2))$. The type o describes trees, and $\kappa_1 \to \kappa_2$ describes functions from κ_1 to κ_2 . A (ranked) alphabet Σ is a map from a finite set of constants (that represent tree constructors) to the set of natural numbers called arities. The set of $\lambda Y^{\rm nd}$ -terms, ranged over by s, t, u, v, is defined by:

$$t ::= x \mid a t_1 \cdots t_k \mid t_1 t_2 \mid \lambda x : \kappa \cdot t \mid Y_{\kappa} t \mid t_1 \oplus t_2$$

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¹ For clarity, we use the word *order* for this notion, and *ordering* for relations such as \leq , \leq he, etc.

Here, x, y, \ldots ranges over variables, and a over $dom(\Sigma)$. The term $at_1 \cdots t_k$ (where we require $\Sigma(a) = k$) constructs a tree that has a as the root and (the values of) t_1, \ldots, t_k as children. Y_{κ} and \oplus represent a fixed-point combinator and a non-deterministic choice, respectively. We often omit the type annotation and just write $\lambda x.t$ and Y t for $\lambda x : \kappa.t$ and $Y_{\kappa} t$. A λY^{nd} -term is called: (i) a $\lambda^{\to,\mathrm{nd}}$ -term if it does not contain Y; (ii) a λ^{\to} -term if it contains neither Y nor \oplus ; and (iii) an applicative term if it contains none of λ -abstractions, Y, and \oplus . We often call a λ^{\to} -term just a term. As usual, we identify λY^{nd} -terms up to the α -equivalence, and implicitly apply α -conversions.

A type environment Γ is a sequence of type bindings of the form $x : \kappa$ such that Γ contains at most one binding for each variable x. A λY^{nd} -term t has type κ under Γ if $\Gamma \vdash_{\mathtt{ST}} t : \kappa$ is derivable from the following typing rules.

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{ST}} t_1 : \mathsf{o} \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{ST}} t_1 : \mathsf{o} \quad (\mathsf{for \ each} \ i \in \{1, \dots, k\})}{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{ST}} t_1 : \mathsf{o} \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{ST}} t_1 : \mathsf{o}} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{ST}} t_1 : \mathsf{o} \quad (\mathsf{for \ each} \ i \in \{1, \dots, k\})}{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{ST}} t_1 : \mathsf{o}} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{ST}} t_1 : \mathsf{o} \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{ST}} t_2 : \mathsf{o}}{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{ST}} t_1 : \mathsf{o}} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{ST}} t_2 : \mathsf{o}}{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{ST}} t_1 : \mathsf{o}} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{ST}} t_2 : \mathsf{o}}{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{ST}} t_1 : \mathsf{o} \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{ST}} t_2 : \mathsf{o}} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{ST}} t_1 : \mathsf{o} \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{ST}} t_2 : \mathsf{o}}{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{ST}} t_1 : \mathsf{o} \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{ST}} t_2 : \mathsf{o}}$$

We consider below only well-typed λY^{nd} -terms. Note that given Γ and t, there exists at most one type κ such that $\Gamma \vdash_{\mathtt{ST}} t : \kappa$. We call κ the type of t (with respect to Γ). We often omit "with respect to Γ " if Γ is clear from context. Given a judgment $\Gamma \vdash t : \kappa$, we define $\lambda \Gamma.t$ by: $\lambda \emptyset.t := t$ and $\lambda(\Gamma, x : \kappa').t := \lambda \Gamma.\lambda x.t$. Also we define $\Gamma \to \kappa$ by: $\emptyset \to \kappa := \kappa$ and $(\Gamma, x : \kappa') \to \kappa := \Gamma \to (\kappa' \to \kappa)$; thus we have $\vdash \lambda \Gamma.t : \Gamma \to \kappa$ if $\Gamma \vdash t : \kappa$. Given an alphabet Σ , we write Λ^{Σ} for the set of λ^{\to} -terms whose constants are taken from Σ . Also we define $\Lambda^{\Sigma}_{\Gamma,\kappa} := \{t \in \Lambda^{\Sigma} \mid \Gamma \vdash t : \kappa\}$ and $\Lambda^{\Sigma}_{\kappa} := \Lambda^{\Sigma}_{\emptyset,\kappa}$.

For a λY^{nd} -term t with a type environment Γ , the *(internal) order* of t (with respect to Γ), written $\mathrm{order}_{\Gamma}(t)$, is the largest order of the types of subterms of $\lambda \Gamma.t$, and the external order of t (with respect to Γ), written $\mathrm{eorder}_{\Gamma}(t)$, is the order of the type of t with respect to Γ . We often omit Γ when it is clear from context. For example, for $t=(\lambda x:o.x)e$, $\mathrm{order}_{\emptyset}(t)=1$ and $\mathrm{eorder}_{\emptyset}(t)=0$. We define the size |t| of a λY^{nd} -term t by: |x|:=1, $|a\,t_1\,\cdots\,,t_k|:=1+|t_1|+\cdots+|t_k|,\,|s\,t|:=|s|+|t|+1,\,|\lambda x.t|:=|t|+1,\,|Y_\kappa\,t|:=|t|+1$ and $|s\oplus t|:=|s|+|t|+1$. We call a λY^{nd} -term t ground (with respect to Γ) if $\Gamma \vdash_{\mathrm{ST}} t:o$. We call t a (finite, Σ -ranked) tree if t is a ground closed applicative term (consisting of only constants). We write $Tree_{\Sigma}$ for the set of Σ -ranked trees, and use the meta-variable π for a tree. We often write $\overrightarrow{\cdot}$ to denote a sequence (possibly with a condition on the range of the sequence in the superscript). For example, $\overrightarrow{t_i}^{\underline{\cdot}\leq m}$ denotes the sequence t_1,\ldots,t_m of terms, and $[\overrightarrow{t_i/x_i}^{\underline{\cdot}i}]$ denotes the substitution $[t_1/x_1,\ldots,t_m/x_m]$.

We sometimes identify a ranked alphabet $\Sigma = \{a_1 \mapsto r_1, \dots, a_k \mapsto r_k\}$ with the first-order environment $\Sigma = \{a_1 : o^{r_1} \to o, \dots, a_k : o^{r_k} \to o\}$ (assuming an arbitrary fixed linear ordering on Σ).

▶ **Definition 2** (reduction and language). The set of (call-by-name) evaluation contexts is defined by:

$$E ::= [] t_1 \cdots t_k | a \pi_1 \cdots \pi_i E t_1 \cdots t_k$$

and the call-by-name reduction for (possibly open) ground $\lambda Y^{\rm nd}$ -terms is defined by:

$$E[(\lambda x.t)t'] \longrightarrow E[t[t'/x]] \qquad E[Yt] \longrightarrow E[t(Yt)] \qquad E[t_1 \oplus t_2] \longrightarrow E[t_i] \quad (i=1,2)$$

where t[t'/x] is the usual capture-avoiding substitution. We write \longrightarrow^* for the reflexive transitive closure of \longrightarrow . A call-by-name normal form is a ground $\lambda Y^{\rm nd}$ -term t such that

 $t \not\to t'$ for any t'. For a ground closed λY^{nd} -term t, we define the tree language $\mathcal{L}(t)$ generated by t by $\mathcal{L}(t) := \{\pi \mid t \longrightarrow^* \pi\}$. For a ground closed λ^{\to} -term t, $\mathcal{L}(t)$ is a singleton set $\{\pi\}$; we write $\mathcal{T}(t)$ for such π and call it the tree of t.

In the previous paper [2] we stated the pumping lemma for the notion of a higher-order grammar; in this paper, following [8, 9], we use only the formalism by $\lambda Y^{\rm nd}$ -terms for simplicity. Since there exist well-known order-preserving and language-preserving transformations between higher-order grammars and ground closed $\lambda Y^{\rm nd}$ -terms, we obtain corresponding results on higher-order grammars immediately.

The notion of a word can be seen as a special case of that of a tree:

▶ **Definition 3** (word alphabet). We call a ranked alphabet Σ a word alphabet if it has a special nullary constant \mathbf{e} and all the other constants have arity 1. For a tree $\pi = a_1(\cdots(a_n \mathbf{e})\cdots)$ of a word alphabet, we define $\mathbf{word}(\pi) := a_1 \cdots a_n$, and we define \mathbf{utree} as the inverse function of \mathbf{word} , i.e., $\mathbf{utree}(a_1 \cdots a_n) := a_1(\cdots(a_n \mathbf{e}))$. The word language generated by a ground closed λY^{nd} -term t over a word alphabet, written $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{w}}(t)$, is defined as $\{\mathbf{word}(\pi) \mid \pi \in \mathcal{L}(t)\}$.

A tree language (word language, resp.) over an alphabet (word alphabet, resp.) Σ is called order-n if it is generated by some order-n ground closed $\lambda Y^{\rm nd}$ -term of Σ ; we note that the classes of order-0, order-1, and order-2 word languages coincide with those of regular, context-free, and indexed languages, respectively [10].

2.2 Some quasi-orderings and their logical relation extension

▶ Definition 4 ((well-)quasi-ordering). A quasi-ordering (a.k.a. preorder) on a set A is a binary relation on A that is reflexive and transitive. A well-quasi-ordering (wqo for short) on a set S is a quasi-ordering \leq on S such that for any infinite sequence $(s_i)_i$ of elements in S there exist j and k such that j < k and $s_j \leq s_k$.

As a general notation, for a quasi-ordering denoted by \leq , we write \approx for the induced equivalence relation (i.e., $x \approx y$ if $x \leq y$ and $y \leq x$), and write \prec for the strict version (i.e., $x \prec y$ if $x \leq y$ and $y \not\leq x$). Also, for a quasi-ordering denoted by \leq , we write \sim for the induced equivalence relation and < for the strict version. We apply these conventions also to notations with superscript/subscript such as $\leq^a, \leq_b, \leq^a, \leq_b$, and \leq^a_b . Further, for any quasi-ordering on the set of trees of a word alphabet, we use the same notation also for the quasi-ordering on the set of words induced through **utree**.

▶ Definition 5 (logical relation extension). Let Σ be a ranked alphabet. We call \leq a base quasi-ordering (with respect to Σ) if \leq is a quasi-ordering on the set Λ_{\circ}^{Σ} modulo $\beta\eta$ -equivalence and every constant in Σ is monotonic on \leq . We define the logical relation extension of \leq as the family $(\leq_{\kappa})_{\kappa}$ of relations \leq_{κ} on the set $\Lambda_{\kappa}^{\Sigma}$ modulo $\beta\eta$ -equivalence indexed by simple types κ where \leq_{κ} 's are defined by induction on κ as follows:

$$\begin{array}{lll} t_1 \leq_{\mathfrak o} t_2 & \quad \text{if} & \quad t_1 \leq t_2 \\ \\ t_1 \leq_{\kappa \to \kappa'} t_2 & \quad \text{if} & \quad \text{for any } t_1', t_2', \quad t_1' \leq_{\kappa} t_2' \implies \quad t_1 \, t_1' \leq_{\kappa'} t_2 \, t_2'. \end{array}$$

Furthermore we extend the relation to open terms: for $t_1, t_2 \in \Lambda^{\Sigma}_{\Gamma,\kappa}$, we define $t_1 \leq_{\Gamma,\kappa} t_2$ if $\lambda \Gamma. t_1 \leq_{\Gamma \to \kappa} \lambda \Gamma. t_2$. We omit the subscripts of \leq_{κ} and $\leq_{\Gamma,\kappa}$ if there is no confusion.

The next lemma follows immediately from the basic lemma (a.k.a. the abstraction theorem) of logical relations (see the full version for details).

▶ **Lemma 6.** Let \leq be a base quasi-ordering. Each component \leq_{κ} of the logical relation extension of \leq is a quasi-ordering. Further, \leq_{κ} is the point-wise quasi-ordering:

$$t_1 \leq_{\kappa \to \kappa'} t_2$$
 if and only if for any $t' \in \Lambda^{\Sigma}_{\kappa}$, $t_1 t' \leq_{\kappa'} t_2 t'$.

Every quasi-ordering for higher-order terms used in this paper is a logical relation extension (of some base quasi-ordering). The next ordering is used in the previous paper [2].

▶ **Definition 7** (homeomorphic embedding). Let Σ be a ranked alphabet. The homeomorphic embedding ordering $\preceq^{\text{he},\Sigma}$ between Σ -ranked trees² is inductively defined by the following rules:

$$\frac{\pi_i \preceq^{\operatorname{he},\Sigma} \pi_i' \quad \text{(for all } i \leq k) \qquad k = \Sigma(a)}{a \, \pi_1 \cdots \pi_k \preceq^{\operatorname{he},\Sigma} a \, \pi_1' \cdots \pi_k'} \qquad \frac{\pi \preceq^{\operatorname{he},\Sigma} \pi_i \qquad k = \Sigma(a) > 0 \qquad 1 \leq i \leq k}{\pi \preceq^{\operatorname{he},\Sigma} a \, \pi_1 \cdots \pi_k}$$

We extend the above ordering to a base ordering by: $t_1 \leq^{\text{he},\Sigma} t_2$ if $\mathcal{T}(t_1) \leq^{\text{he},\Sigma} \mathcal{T}(t_2)$.

For example, $\operatorname{brab} \leq^{\operatorname{he}} \operatorname{br}(\operatorname{brac})$ b. The homeomorphic embedding on words is nothing but the (scattered) subsequence ordering. The following is a fundamental result on the homeomorphic embedding:

▶ **Proposition 8** (Kruskal's tree theorem [7]). For any (finite) ranked alphabet Σ , the homeomorphic embedding \leq^{he} on Σ -ranked trees is a well-quasi-ordering.

Also, we often use the Dickson's theorem [6] which says that the product quasi-ordering (component-wise quasi-ordering) of a finite number of wgo's is a wgo.

The next is the quasi-ordering that is used in the theorems in this paper.

▶ Definition 9 (occurrence-number quasi-ordering). Let Σ be a ranked alphabet. For $a \in \Sigma$ and a Σ -tree π , we define $\#_a(\pi)$ as the number of occurrences of a in π , and extend this to a ground closed λ^{\rightarrow} -term t by $\#_a(t) := \#_a(\mathcal{T}(t))$. Then we define a base quasi-ordering $\prec^{\#,\Sigma,a}$ by:

$$t_1 \preceq^{\#,\Sigma,a} t_2$$
 if $\#_a(t_1) \le \#_a(t_2)$.

Also we define a base quasi-ordering $\prec^{\#,\Sigma}$ by:

$$t_1 \preceq^{\#,\Sigma} t_2$$
 if for every $a \in \Sigma$, $t_1 \preceq^{\#,\Sigma,a} t_2$.

Note that $\pi \preceq^{\text{he}} \pi'$ implies $\pi \preceq^{\#,\Sigma} \pi'$, shown by induction on the rule of \preceq^{he} ; and further $\pi \preceq^{\text{he}}_{\kappa} \pi'$ implies $\pi \preceq^{\#,\Sigma}_{\kappa} \pi'$ for any κ since $\preceq^{\text{he}}_{\kappa}$ and $\preceq^{\#,\Sigma}_{\kappa}$ are point-wise quasi-ordering. Also note that $\preceq^{\#,\Sigma}_{\kappa} = \bigcap_{a \in \Sigma} (\preceq^{\#,\Sigma,a}_{\kappa})$ for any κ .

The next quasi-ordering is used just in proofs. We write $\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}$ for the ranked alphabet $\{0\mapsto 0, 1\mapsto 0, +\mapsto 2, \times\mapsto 2\}$; we write $+t\,t'$ as t+t' and $\times\,t\,t'$ as $t\times t'$. We define a set-theoretical denotational interpretation $[\![-]\!]$ of $\Lambda^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}}$ by: $[\![\mathfrak{o}]\!] := \mathbb{N}$, $[\![\kappa \to \kappa']\!]$ is the set of functions from $[\![\kappa]\!]$ to $[\![\kappa']\!]$, $[\![0]\!] := 0$, $[\![1]\!] := 1$, $[\![+]\!](n)(m) := n+m$, and $[\![\times]\!](n)(m) := n\times m$. For $t_1,t_2\in\Lambda^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}}_{\Gamma,\kappa}$, we write $t_1=[\![\Gamma_{L_{\mathbb{N}}},t_2]\!]$ (or $t_1=[\![U]\!]$ to $[\![t_1]\!] = [\![t_2]\!]$.

▶ **Definition 10** (natural number quasi-ordering). We define a base quasi-ordering $\preceq^{\mathbb{N}}$ on the set $\Lambda_{\mathfrak{o}}^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}}$ by:

$$t_1 \preceq^{\mathbb{N}} t_2$$
 if $\llbracket t_1 \rrbracket \leq \llbracket t_2 \rrbracket$.

² In the usual definition, a quasi-ordering on labels (tree constructors) is assumed. Here we fix the quasi-order on labels to the identity relation.

3 Numeric Pumping Lemma for Higher-order Tree Languages

Here we explain the nAK-conjecture and the pumping lemma for higher-order tree languages with respect to $\leq^{\#,\Sigma}$.

▶ Conjecture 11 (nAK-conjecture). For any Σ and κ , $\leq_{\kappa}^{\#,\Sigma}$ is a well quasi-ordering.

Our main theorem (Theorem 14) is to show the above conjecture for κ of order up to 3. The above conjecture (and Theorem 14) can be used for the following pumping lemma:

- ▶ **Theorem 12** (pumping lemma). Assume that Conjecture 11 holds. Then, for any order-n ground closed λY^{nd} -term t of a ranked alphabet Σ such that $\mathcal{L}(t)$ is infinite, there exist an infinite sequence of trees $\pi_0, \pi_1, \pi_2, \ldots \in \mathcal{L}(t)$, and constants c, d such that:
 - (i) $\pi_0 \prec^{\#,\Sigma} \pi_1 \prec^{\#,\Sigma} \pi_2 \prec^{\#,\Sigma} \cdots$, and
- (ii) $|\pi_i| \leq \exp_n(ci+d)$ for each $i \geq 0$.

Furthermore, we can drop the assumption on Conjecture 11 when $n \leq 3$.

The proof of the above theorem is obtained as a simple modification of the proof of the pumping lemma in [2]: see the full version.

- ▶ Remark. The theorem we prove in the full version is actually slightly stronger than Theorem 12 above, in the following three points (see the full version for details):
 - (i) As in [2], we relax the assumption of nAK conjecture, so that $\preceq_{\kappa}^{\#,\Sigma}$ need not be the logical relation; any higher-order extension of the base quasi-ordering that is closed under application suffices.
- (ii) As in [2], we use actually a weaker conjecture, called the *periodicity*, which requires that, for any $\vdash_{ST} t : \kappa \to \kappa$ and $\vdash_{ST} s : \kappa$, there exist i, j > 0 such that $t^i s \preceq_{\kappa}^{\#, \Sigma} t^{i+j} s \preceq_{\kappa}^{\#, \Sigma} t^{i+2j} s \preceq_{\kappa}^{\#, \Sigma} \cdots$.
- (iii) Whilst Theorem 12 states a pumping lemma on $\preceq^{\#,\Sigma}$, the generalized theorem states a pumping lemma on arbitrary base quasi-ordering with certain conditions, which includes $\preceq^{\#,\Sigma}$ and \preceq^{he} as instances.

By the correspondence between order-n tree grammars and order-(n+1) word grammars [3, 1], we also have:

- ▶ Corollary 13 (pumping lemma for word languages). Assume that Conjecture 11 holds. Then, for any order-n ground closed λY^{nd} -term t of a word alphabet Σ (where $n \geq 1$) such that $\mathcal{L}_{\mathtt{w}}(t)$ is infinite, there exist an infinite sequence of words $w_0, w_1, w_2, \ldots \in \mathcal{L}_{\mathtt{w}}(t)$, and constants c, d such that:
 - (i) $w_0 \prec^{\#,\Sigma} w_1 \prec^{\#,\Sigma} w_2 \prec^{\#,\Sigma} \cdots$, and
- (ii) $|w_i| \leq \exp_{n-1}(ci+d)$ for each $i \geq 0$.

Furthermore, we can drop the assumption on Conjecture 11 when $n \leq 4$.

4 Numeric Version of Order-3 Kruskal's Tree Theorem

Here we prove the main theorem (Theorem 14 below), which states that the nAK-conjecture (Conjecture 11) holds for order-3 types. In this whole section, by a term, we mean a λ^{\rightarrow} -term, and we never consider a fixed-point combinator nor non-determinism.

4.1 Main theorem

- ▶ **Theorem 14.** For any alphabet Σ and any type κ of order up to 3, $\leq_{\kappa}^{\#,\Sigma}$ on $\Lambda_{\kappa}^{\Sigma}$ is a wqo. The theorem above is obtained as a corollary of the following lemma.
- ▶ **Lemma 15.** For any alphabet Σ , any $a \in \Sigma$, and any order-2 type environment Γ (i.e., a type environment whose codomain consists of types of order up to 2), the quasi-ordering $\preceq_{\Gamma, \circ}^{\#, \Sigma, a}$ on $\Lambda_{\Gamma, \circ}^{\emptyset}$ is a wqo.

Proof sketch of Theorem 14.

- For Theorem 14, it is sufficient that $\preceq_{\kappa}^{\#,\Sigma,a}$ on $\Lambda_{\kappa}^{\Sigma}$ is a wqo for every $a \in \Sigma$ and κ with $\mathtt{order}(\kappa) \leq 3$, because $\preceq_{\kappa}^{\#,\Sigma} = \bigcap_{a \in \Sigma} (\preceq_{\kappa}^{\#,\Sigma,a})$ and well-quasi-orderings are closed under finite intersection.
- For $\leq_{\kappa}^{\#,\Sigma,a}$ to be a wqo for every order-3 type κ , it is sufficient that the restriction
- of $\leq_{\kappa}^{\#,\Sigma,a}$ to $\Lambda_{\kappa}^{\emptyset}$ (i.e. $\leq_{\kappa}^{\#,\Sigma,a} \cap (\Lambda_{\kappa}^{\emptyset} \times \Lambda_{\kappa}^{\emptyset})$) is a wqo for every order-3 type κ , because $t_1 \leq_{\kappa}^{\#,\Sigma,a} t_2$ holds if $\lambda \Sigma. t_1 (\leq_{\Sigma \to \kappa}^{\#,\Sigma,a} \cap (\Lambda_{\Sigma \to \kappa}^{\emptyset} \times \Lambda_{\Sigma \to \kappa}^{\emptyset})) \lambda \Sigma. t_2$, and $\operatorname{order}(\Sigma \to \kappa) \leq 3$.

 For $\leq_{\kappa}^{\#,\Sigma,a} \cap (\Lambda_{\kappa}^{\emptyset} \times \Lambda_{\kappa}^{\emptyset})$ to be a wqo, Lemma 15 is sufficient, because $t_1 (\leq_{\kappa}^{\#,\Sigma,a} \cap (\Lambda_{\kappa}^{\emptyset} \times \Lambda_{\kappa}^{\emptyset})) t_2$ holds if $t_1 z_1 \cdots z_k \leq_{\Gamma,o}^{\#,\Sigma,a} t_2 z_1 \cdots z_k$, where $\kappa = \kappa_1 \to \cdots \to \kappa_k \to o$ and $\Gamma = z_1 : \kappa_1, \dots, z_k : \kappa_k.$

See the full version for details.

Henceforth, we fix arbitrary $a_{\rm fix} \in \Sigma$, and show Lemma 15 for $a = a_{\rm fix}$. We prove this lemma in two steps: First we give a transformation $(\cdot)^{\natural}$ from order-3 terms in $\Lambda_{\Gamma, \bullet}^{\emptyset}$ (and their type environment Γ) to order-2 terms in $\Lambda_{\Gamma^{\natural}, \mathbf{o}}^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}}$ (and to Γ^{\natural}) so that it reflects quasi-orderings: $t^{\natural} \preceq^{\mathbb{N}}_{\Gamma^{\natural}, \mathbf{o}} t'^{\natural}$ implies $t \preceq^{\#, \Sigma, a_{\text{fix}}}_{\Gamma, \mathbf{o}} t'$ (Lemma 18). Then we show that $\preceq^{\mathbb{N}}_{\Gamma^{\natural}, \mathbf{o}}$ on $\Lambda^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}}_{\Gamma^{\natural}, \mathbf{o}}$ is a wqo (Lemma 19). From these two results, Lemma 15 follows immediately.

Transformation from order-3 terms to order-2 terms

The key observation behind the transformation $(\cdot)^{\natural}$ is as follows. Let s be a closed term of type $o^m \to o$ and t_1, \ldots, t_m be closed terms of type o. Then, we have:

$$\#_a(s\,t_1\cdots t_m) = c_1 \times \#_a(t_1) + \cdots + c_m \times \#_a(t_m) + d$$

for some numbers c_1, \ldots, c_m, d that do not depend on t_1, \ldots, t_m . This is because the order-1 function s representable as a λ^{\rightarrow} -term can copy only arguments, and the number of copies cannot depend on the arguments. Thus, if we are interested only in the number of occurrences of a constant, information about an order-1 function can be represented by a tuple (c_1, \ldots, c_m, d) of numbers (order-0 values, in other words). By lifting this representation to order-3 terms in $\Lambda_{\Gamma, \bullet}^{\emptyset}$, we obtain order-2 terms in $\Lambda_{\Gamma^{\natural}, \bullet}^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}}$.

The actual transformation is non-trivial. Let us first fix $\Gamma = \varphi_1 : \kappa_1, \ldots, \varphi_m : \kappa_m, f_1 : \mathfrak{o}^{q_1} \to \mathfrak{o}^{q_1}$ $0, \ldots, f_{\ell} : 0^{q_{\ell}} \to 0$. Here, φ_i 's are order-2 variables and f_j 's are variables of order up to 1. Every element of $\Lambda_{\Gamma, \bullet}^{\emptyset}$ can be normalized to a term generated by the following syntax (which we call an order-3 normal form):

$$t ::= y \mid f_j \mid t_1 t_2 \mid \varphi_i t_1 \cdots t_k \mid \lambda y.t.$$

Here, y is a local variable of order 0. We require that the order of $\varphi t_1 \cdots t_k$ is at most 1. For example, $\varphi: (o \to o) \to o \to o \to o$, $f: o \to o \to o$, $x: o \vdash \lambda y: o. \varphi(fx)((\lambda y': o. \varphi(fx)))$ o. $f(y',y')(y): o \to o \to o$ is an order-3 normal form. It can be checked by induction that for any order-3 normal form t, $eorder_{\Gamma}(t) \leq 1$ (with a suitable environment Γ). Since any long $\beta\eta$ -normal form in $\Lambda_{\Gamma,o}^{\emptyset}$ with $\operatorname{order}(\Gamma \to o) = 3$ is an order-3 normal form, considering only order-3 normal forms does not lose generality. In the rest of this section, we use the meta-variable t for order-3 normal forms.

We now define the transformation for order-3 normal forms. Given a term $t_0 \in \Lambda_{\Gamma, \bullet}^{\emptyset}$, we transform the term in a compositional manner, by transforming each subterm t typed by:

$$\varphi_1: \kappa_1, \ldots, \varphi_m: \kappa_m, f_1: o^{q_1} \to o, \ldots, f_\ell: o^{q_\ell} \to o; y_1: o, \ldots, y_n: o \vdash t: o^r \to o$$

to a term e with some suitable type environment. Here, y_1, \ldots, y_n are order-0 variables that are bound inside t_0 (rather than t), $\operatorname{order}(\kappa_i) = 2$ for $i \leq m$, and $q_i \geq 0$ for $i \leq \ell$. We call f_i and φ_i external variables and y_i an internal variable. Note that an external variable f_i can be order-0.

We first explain how variables and environments are transformed.

- \blacksquare The variables y_1, \ldots, y_n will just disappear after the transformation.
- For each order-1 variable f_i of type $o^{q_i} \to o$, we prepare a tuple of variables $(c_{f_i,1}, \ldots, c_{f_i,q_i}, d_{f_i})$. Each $c_{f_i,j}$ expresses how often f_i copies the j-th argument, and d_{f_i} expresses how often a_{fix} occurs in the value of f_i , so that the number of a_{fix} in $f_i t_1, \ldots, t_{q_i}$ can be represented by $c_{f_i,1} \times \#_{a_{\text{fix}}}(t_1) + \cdots + c_{f_i,q_i} \times \#_{a_{\text{fix}}}(t_{q_i}) + d_{f_i}$ (recall the observation given at the beginning of this subsection).
- For each order-2 variable φ_i of type $\kappa_i = (o^{q_1} \to o) \to \cdots \to (o^{q_k} \to o) \to (o^q \to o)$ (where $q_k > 0$), we prepare a tuple of order-1 variables $(g_{\varphi_i,1}, \ldots, g_{\varphi_i,q}, h_{\varphi_i}, \hat{h}_{\varphi_i})$. Basically, $g_{\varphi_i,j}$ and h_{φ_i} are analogous to $c_{f_i,j}$ and d_{f_i} , respectively. Given order-1 functions t_1, \ldots, t_k whose values are $\vec{u}_1, \ldots, \vec{u}_k$ (where each \vec{u}_ℓ is a tuple of size $q_\ell + 1$), for each $j \leq q$, the function $\varphi_i t_1 \cdots t_k$ copies the j-th order-0 argument $g_{\varphi_i,j}(\vec{u}_1, \ldots, \vec{u}_k)$ times, and creates $h_{\varphi_i}(\vec{u}_1, \ldots, \vec{u}_k)$ copies of the constant a_{fix} . The other function variable \hat{h}_{φ_i} is similar to h_{φ_i} but used for counting an internal variable y_j rather than a_{fix} .

For a type environment

$$\Gamma = \varphi_1 : \kappa_1, \dots, \varphi_m : \kappa_m, f_1 : o^{q_1} \to o, \dots, f_\ell : o^{q_\ell} \to o$$

where $\kappa_i = (o^{q_1^i} \to o) \to \cdots \to (o^{q_{k_i}^i} \to o) \to (o^{q^i} \to o) (q_{k_i}^i > 0, i = 1, \dots, k)$, we define:

$$\Gamma^{\natural} := \overrightarrow{g_{\varphi_i,j}}^{j \leq q^i}, h_{\varphi_i}, \hat{h}_{\varphi_i} : \mathbf{o}^{q^i_1+1} \to \ldots \to \mathbf{o}^{q^i_{k_i}+1} \to \mathbf{o}, \ \overrightarrow{c_{f_i,j}}^{j \leq q_i}, \ d_{f_i} : \mathbf{o}$$

We now define the transformation of terms. A term t such that

$$\varphi_1: \kappa_1, \ldots, \varphi_m: \kappa_m, f_1: o^{q_1} \to o, \ldots, f_\ell: o^{q_\ell} \to o; y_1: o, \ldots, y_n: o \vdash t: o^r \to o$$

is transformed to a tuple $(v_1, \ldots, v_n; w_1, \ldots, w_r; e)$, using the transformation relation

$$\varphi_1:\kappa_1,\ldots,\varphi_m:\kappa_m,f_1:\mathfrak{0}^{q_1}\to\mathfrak{0},\ldots,f_\ell:\mathfrak{0}^{q_\ell}\to\mathfrak{0};y_1:\mathfrak{0},\ldots,y_n:\mathfrak{0}\vdash t\triangleright(v_1,\ldots,v_n;w_1,\ldots,w_r;e)$$

defined below. Here, each component is constructed from variables $c_{f_i,j}, d_{f_i}, g_{\varphi_i,j}, h_{\varphi_i}, \hat{h}_{\varphi_i}$ above and $\times, +, 0, 1$. The output of the transformation consists of three parts, separated by semicolons: a (possibly empty) sequence v_1, \ldots, v_n , a (possibly empty) sequence w_1, \ldots, w_r , and a single element e. The term v_j represents how often y_j is copied, w_j represents how often the j-th argument of t is copied, and e represents how often the constant a_{fix} is copied. The terms v_j and w_j are auxiliary ones for this transformation, and e plays the role of t^{\natural} explained in Section 4.1.

The transformation relation is defined by the following rules, where $\Gamma = \varphi_1 : \kappa_1, \ldots, \varphi_m : \kappa_m, f_1 : o^{q_1} \to o, \ldots, f_\ell : o^{q_\ell} \to o$ is fixed.

$$\Gamma; y_1 : \mathsf{o}, \dots, y_n : \mathsf{o} \vdash y_j \triangleright \underbrace{(0, \dots, 0, 1, \underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{n-j}; 0)}_{j-1}$$
(IVAR)

$$\Gamma; y_1: \mathsf{o}, \dots, y_n: \mathsf{o} \vdash f_i \triangleright \underbrace{(0, \dots, 0)}_{n}; c_{f_i, 1}, \dots, c_{f_i, q_i}; d_{f_i})$$
(VAR)

$$\frac{\Gamma; y_1: \mathtt{o}, \ldots, y_n: \mathtt{o} \vdash t_1 \triangleright (v_1, \ldots, v_n; w_1, \ldots, w_r; e)}{\Gamma; y_1: \mathtt{o}, \ldots, y_n: \mathtt{o} \vdash t_2 \triangleright (v_1', \ldots, v_n'; e')}{\Gamma; y_1: \mathtt{o}, \ldots, y_n: \mathtt{o} \vdash t_1 t_2 \triangleright (v_1 + w_1 v_1', \ldots, v_n + w_1 v_n'; w_2, \ldots, w_r; e + w_1 e')}$$
(APPO)

$$\Gamma; y_1: \mathtt{o}, \ldots, y_n: \mathtt{o} \vdash t_j \rhd (\vec{v}_j; \vec{w}_j; e_j) \qquad \vec{u}_j = (\vec{w}_j; e_j) \qquad \text{(for each } j \in \{1, \ldots, k\})$$

$$\vec{u'}_{j,j'} = (\vec{w}_j; v_{j,j'}) \qquad \text{(for each } j \in \{1, \ldots, k\} \text{ and } j' \in \{1, \ldots, n\})$$

$$k \geq 1 \text{ and the type of } t_k \text{ is order-1}$$

$$\Gamma; y_{1}: \mathsf{o}, \dots, y_{n}: \mathsf{o} \vdash \varphi_{i} t_{1} \dots t_{k} \triangleright \\ (\hat{h}_{\varphi_{i}}(\vec{u'}_{1,1}, \dots, \vec{u'}_{k,1}) \dots, \hat{h}_{\varphi_{i}}(\vec{u'}_{1,n}, \dots, \vec{u'}_{k,n}); \\ g_{\varphi_{i},1}(\vec{u}_{1}, \dots, \vec{u}_{k}), \dots, g_{\varphi_{i},q_{i}}(\vec{u}_{1}, \dots, \vec{u}_{k}); \ h_{\varphi_{i}}(\vec{u}_{1}, \dots, \vec{u}_{k}))$$
(APP1)

$$\frac{\Gamma; y_1 : \mathsf{o}, \dots, y_n : \mathsf{o}, y_{n+1} : \mathsf{o} \vdash t \triangleright (v_1, \dots, v_n, v_{n+1}; w_1, \dots, w_r; e)}{\Gamma; y_1 : \mathsf{o}, \dots, y_n : \mathsf{o} \vdash \lambda y_{n+1}.t \triangleright (v_1, \dots, v_n; v_{n+1}, w_1, \dots, w_r; e)}$$
(LAM)

Rules (IVAR) (for internal variables of type o) (VAR) (for order-1 variables), and (LAM) should be obvious from the intuition on the tuple and the translation of an environment. Rules (APP0) and (APP1) are for applications of order-1 and order-2 functions respectively. (Note however that in (APP0), t_1 itself may be an application of order-2 function, of the form $\varphi t_{1,1} \cdots t_{1,k}$.) In (APP0), note that t_1t_2 creates w_1 copies of (the value of) t_2 , so that the number of copies of y_i can be calculated by $v_i + w_1v_i'$, where v_i and v_i' are the numbers of copies created by t_1 and t_2 respectively. Rule (APP1) is based on the intuition explained above about the translation of order-2 variables. Note that the same function \hat{h}_{φ_i} is used for counting y_1, \ldots, y_n ; this is because φ_i does not know y_j (in other words, φ_i cannot be instantiated to a term containing y_j as a free variable), so that the information for counting y_j can only be passed through arguments $\vec{u'}_{i,j'}$.

It should be clear that if $\Gamma; y_1 : \mathsf{o}, \ldots, y_n : \mathsf{o} \vdash t \rhd (v_1, \ldots, v_n; w_1, \ldots, w_r; e)$ then $v_j, w_{j'}, e \in \Lambda_{\Gamma^{\natural}, \mathsf{o}}^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}}$ and the order of $\Gamma^{\natural} \to \mathsf{o}$ is no greater than 2.

► Example 16. Let $\Gamma = \varphi : (o \to o) \to o \to o, f : o \to o$. Then, we have

$$\Gamma^{\natural} = g_{\omega,1}, h_{\omega}, \hat{h}_{\omega} : o^2 \rightarrow o, c_{f,1}, d_f : o$$

and $t := \lambda y. \varphi(\varphi f) y$ is transformed to

$$t^{\natural} = h_{\varphi}(g_{\varphi,1}(c_{f,1}, d_f), h_{\varphi}(c_{f,1}, d_f)) + g_{\varphi,1}(g_{\varphi,1}(c_{f,1}, d_f), h_{\varphi}(c_{f,1}, d_f)) \times 0$$

by the following derivation:

$$\frac{\Gamma; y: \mathsf{o} \vdash f \rhd (0; c_{f,1}; d_f)}{\Gamma; y: \mathsf{o} \vdash \varphi f \rhd (\hat{h}_\varphi(c_{f,1}, 0); g_{\varphi,1}(c_{f,1}, d_f); h_\varphi(c_{f,1}, d_f))} \underbrace{(\mathsf{APP1})}_{(\mathsf{APP1})} \underbrace{\frac{\Gamma; y: \mathsf{o} \vdash \varphi(\varphi f) \rhd (\hat{h}_\varphi(\vec{u}'); g_{\varphi,1}(\vec{u}); h_\varphi(\vec{u}))}{\Gamma; y: \mathsf{o} \vdash \varphi(\varphi f) \lor (\hat{h}_\varphi(\vec{u}') + g_{\varphi,1}(\vec{u}))}}_{(\mathsf{APP0})} \underbrace{(\mathsf{APP1})}_{(\mathsf{APP0})} \underbrace{\frac{\Gamma; y: \mathsf{o} \vdash \varphi(\varphi f) y \rhd (\hat{h}_\varphi(\vec{u}') + g_{\varphi,1}(\vec{u}) \times 1; ; h_\varphi(\vec{u}) + g_{\varphi,1}(\vec{u}) \times 0)}_{\Gamma; \vdash \lambda y. \varphi(\varphi f) y \rhd (; \hat{h}_\varphi(\vec{u}') + g_{\varphi,1}(\vec{u}) \times 1; h_\varphi(\vec{u}) + g_{\varphi,1}(\vec{u}) \times 0)}} \underbrace{(\mathsf{LAM})}_{(\mathsf{LAM})}$$

where $\vec{u} = g_{\varphi,1}(c_{f,1}, d_f), h_{\varphi}(c_{f,1}, d_f)$ and $\vec{u}' = g_{\varphi,1}(c_{f,1}, d_f), \hat{h}_{\varphi}(c_{f,1}, 0)$. The terms in the bottom line of the derivation, $\hat{h}_{\varphi}(\vec{u}') + g_{\varphi,1}(\vec{u}) \times 1$ and $t^{\natural} = h_{\varphi}(\vec{u}) + g_{\varphi,1}(\vec{u}) \times 0$, have type o under the environment Γ^{\natural} , and $\operatorname{eorder}(\lambda \Gamma^{\natural}.t^{\natural}) = \operatorname{order}(\Gamma^{\natural} \to o) = 2$.

The next example is a slightly modified one involving an external variable $x:\mathfrak{o}$ instead of the internal variable $y:\mathfrak{o}$. We have

$$(\Gamma, x : \mathsf{o})^{\natural} = \Gamma^{\natural}, d_x : \mathsf{o}$$

and $t' := \varphi(\varphi f) x$ is transformed to

$$t'^{\natural} = h_{\varphi}(g_{\varphi,1}(c_{f,1},d_f),h_{\varphi}(c_{f,1},d_f)) + g_{\varphi,1}(g_{\varphi,1}(c_{f,1},d_f),h_{\varphi}(c_{f,1},d_f)) \times d_x$$

by the following derivation:

$$\frac{\overline{\Gamma, x : \mathsf{o}; \vdash f \rhd (0; c_{f,1}; d_f)}}{\Gamma, x : \mathsf{o}; \vdash \varphi f \rhd (\hat{h}_{\varphi}(c_{f,1}, 0); g_{\varphi,1}(c_{f,1}, d_f); h_{\varphi}(c_{f,1}, d_f))}}{\frac{\Gamma, x : \mathsf{o}; \vdash \varphi (\varphi f) \rhd (\hat{h}_{\varphi}(\vec{u}'); g_{\varphi,1}(\vec{u}); h_{\varphi}(\vec{u}))}{\Gamma, x : \mathsf{o}; \vdash \varphi (\varphi f) x \rhd (\hat{h}_{\varphi}(\vec{u}') + g_{\varphi,1}(\vec{u}) \times 0; ; h_{\varphi}(\vec{u}) + g_{\varphi,1}(\vec{u}) \times d_x)}}} \xrightarrow{\Gamma, x : \mathsf{o}; \vdash \varphi (\varphi f) x \rhd (\hat{h}_{\varphi}(\vec{u}') + g_{\varphi,1}(\vec{u}) \times 0; ; h_{\varphi}(\vec{u}) + g_{\varphi,1}(\vec{u}) \times d_x)}} (\mathsf{VAR})$$
where \vec{u} and \vec{u}' are the same as above.

Lemma 17 below says that the transformation preserves the meaning of ground terms. Here we regard constants in Σ as variables of up to order 1, and we define a substitution $\theta_{\Sigma}^{a_{\text{fix}}}$ by:

$$\theta_{\Sigma}^{a_{\mathrm{fix}}} := [\overrightarrow{1/c_{a,i}}^{a \in \Sigma, i \leq \mathrm{ar}(a)}, \ 1/d_{a_{\mathrm{fix}}}, \ \overrightarrow{0/d_a}^{a \in \Sigma \setminus \{a_{\mathrm{fix}}\}}].$$

(Recall that $a_{\rm fix} \in \Sigma$ above is the constant arbitrarily fixed at the end of Section 4.1.)

▶ **Lemma 17** (preservation of meaning). If Σ ; $\vdash t \triangleright (;;e)$, then we have $\#_{a_{\text{fix}}}(t) = \llbracket e\theta_{\Sigma}^{a_{\text{fix}}} \rrbracket$.

The above lemma follows from a usual substitution lemma (on internal variables) and a subject reduction property; see the full version for the proof.

The correctness of the transformation is stated as the following lemma.

▶ **Lemma 18** (ordering reflection). Let: Σ be an alphabet; $a_{\text{fix}} \in \Sigma$; Γ be an environment of the form

$$\Gamma = \varphi_1 : \kappa_1, \dots, \varphi_m : \kappa_m, f_1 : \mathsf{o}^{q_1} \to \mathsf{o}, \dots, f_\ell : \mathsf{o}^{q_\ell} \to \mathsf{o}$$

where $\operatorname{order}(\kappa_i) = 2$ and $q_i \geq 0$; $t, t' \in \Lambda_{\Gamma, \sigma}^{\emptyset}$; and

$$\Gamma; \vdash t \triangleright (;;e)$$
 $\Gamma; \vdash t' \triangleright (;;e').$

Then we have:

$$t \preceq_{\Gamma, 0}^{\#, \Sigma, a_{\text{fix}}} t'$$
 if $e \preceq_{\Gamma \downarrow, 0}^{\mathbb{N}} e'$.

The proof of the above lemma is given in the full version, where we use Lemma 17 and substitution lemmas on external variables.

4.3 $\preceq^{\mathbb{N}}$ on order-2 terms is a wqo

The main goal of this subsection is to prove the following lemma.

▶ **Lemma 19** ($\preceq_{\Gamma,o}^{\mathbb{N}}$ on order-2 terms is wqo). For $\Gamma = f_1 : o^{q_1} \to o, \ldots, f_n : o^{q_n} \to o$, the quasi-ordering $\preceq_{\Gamma,o}^{\mathbb{N}}$ on $\Lambda_{\Gamma,o}^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}}$ is a wqo.

Lemma 15 follows as a corollary of Lemma 19 above and Lemma 18 in the previous subsection:

Proof of Lemma 15. Let $t_0, t_1, \ldots \in \Lambda_{\Gamma, o}^{\emptyset}$ be an infinite sequence. We have the infinite sequence $e_0, e_1, \ldots \in \Lambda_{\Gamma^{\natural, o}}^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}}$ such that $\Gamma; \vdash t_i \rhd (;; e_i)$, and by Lemma 18, $t_i \preceq_{\Gamma, o}^{\#, \Sigma, a_{\text{fix}}} t_j$ if $e_i \preceq_{\Gamma^{\natural, o}}^{\mathbb{N}} e_j$. By Lemma 19, there indeed exist $i, j \ (i < j)$ such that $e_i \preceq_{\Gamma, o}^{\mathbb{N}} e_j$. Thus, we have $t_i \preceq_{\Gamma, o}^{\#, \Sigma, a_{\text{fix}}} t_j$ as required.

To prove Lemma 19, we restrict (without loss of generality) $\Lambda_{\Gamma,o}^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}}$ to the set of β -normal forms (which we call order-2 polynomials), generated by the following grammar:

$$P ::= 0 \mid 1 \mid P_1 + P_2 \mid P_1 \times P_2 \mid f P_1 \cdots P_q$$

Here, in $f P_1 \cdots P_q$, f should have type $o^q \to o$. We write $P_2^{\mathbb{N}}$ for the set of all order-2 polynomials, and write $P_{\Gamma,o}^{\mathbb{N}}$ for $\Lambda_{\Gamma,o}^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}} \cap P_2^{\mathbb{N}}$. Note that the arity of f may be 0, so that, for example, $f_1(f_2 \times (f_2 + 1)) \in P_{f_1:o\to o, f_2:o,o}^{\mathbb{N}}$. Thus, for Lemma 19, the following suffices:

▶ Lemma 20 ($\preceq_{\Gamma,o}^{\mathbb{N}}$ on order-2 polynomials is wqo). For $\Gamma = f_1 : o^{q_1} \to o, \dots, f_n : o^{q_n} \to o$, the quasi-ordering $\preceq_{\Gamma,o}^{\mathbb{N}}$ on $P_{\Gamma,o}^{\mathbb{N}}$ is a wqo.

The idea for proving this lemma is as follows:

- An order-2 polynomial is regarded as a tree. Thus, by Kruskal's tree theorem (Proposition 8), the set $P^{\mathbb{N}}_{\Gamma,o}$ is well-quasi-ordered with respect to the homeomorphic embedding $\preceq_{\mathsf{o}}^{\mathsf{he},\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}\cup\Gamma}$. Unfortunately, however, the relation $P_1\preceq_{\mathsf{o}}^{\mathsf{he},\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}\cup\Gamma}P_2$ does not necessarily imply $\preceq_{\Gamma,o}^{\mathbb{N}}$; for example, if $P_1=1$ and $P_2=f_1(1)$, then $P_1\preceq_{\mathsf{o}}^{\mathsf{he},\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}\cup\Gamma}P_2$ holds but $P_1\preceq_{\Gamma,o}^{\mathbb{N}}P_2$ does not, because f_1 may be instantiated to $\lambda x.0$. Similarly for $P_1=f_2$ and $P_2=f_2\times 0$.
- To address the problem above, we classify the values of $f \in P_{\Gamma,o}^{\mathbb{N}}$ (i.e. elements of $\Lambda_{o^q \to o}^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}}$) into a finite number of equivalence classes $A^{(1)}, \ldots, A^{(\ell)}$, and use the classification to further normalize order-2 polynomials, so that $P_1 \preceq_{o}^{\operatorname{he}, \Sigma_{\mathbb{N}} \cup \Gamma} P_2$ implies $P_1 \preceq_{\Gamma,o}^{\mathbb{N}} P_2$ on the normalized polynomials. For example, in the case of $P_1 = 1$ and $P_2 = f_1(1)$ above, the values of f_1 are classified to (i) those that use the argument, (ii) those that return a positive constant without using the argument, and (iii) those that always return 0. We can then normalize $P_2 = f_1(1)$ to $f_1(1)$ (in case (i)), $f_1(0)$ (in case (ii)), and 0 (in case (iii)), respectively. (In case (ii), any argument is replaced with 0, because the argument is irrelevant.) Thus, we can indeed deduce $P_1 \preceq_{\Gamma,o}^{\mathbb{N}} P_2$ from $P_1 \preceq_{o}^{\operatorname{he}, \Sigma_{\mathbb{N}} \cup \Gamma} P_2$ when the value of f_1 is restricted to just those in (i); and the same holds also for (ii) and (iii). It follows that the restriction of the relation $\preceq_{\Gamma,o}^{\mathbb{N}}$ to each classification of the values of $f_1, \ldots, f_\ell \in dom(\Gamma)$ is a wqo. Since the number of classifications is finite, by Dickson's theorem (recall the sentence below Proposition 8), $\preceq_{\Gamma,o}^{\mathbb{N}}$ (which is the intersection of the restrictions of $\preceq_{\Gamma,o}^{\mathbb{N}}$ to the finite number of classifications) is also a wqo.

We first formalize and justify the reasoning in the last part (using Dickson's theorem).

▶ Definition 21 (finite case analysis). For $\Gamma = f_1 : \kappa_1, \ldots, f_n : \kappa_n$, we call a *finite case analysis of* Γ a family $(A_i^j)_{i \leq n, j \in J_i}$ of sets such that $\Lambda_{\kappa_i}^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}} = \bigcup_{j \leq J_i} A_i^j$ for each $i \leq n$. For $(A_i)_{i \leq n}$ such that $A_i \subseteq \Lambda_{\kappa_i}^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}}$, we define a quasi-ordering $\preceq_{\Gamma,(A_i)_i}^{\mathbb{N}}$ on $\Lambda_{\Gamma,\bullet}^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}}$ as follows:

$$t \preceq^{\mathbb{N}}_{\Gamma,(A_i)_i} t' \iff \forall t_1 \in A_1, \dots, t_n \in A_n. \llbracket t[t_i/f_i]_i \rrbracket \leq \llbracket t'[t_i/f_i]_i \rrbracket$$

We often omit the subscript Γ of $\preceq^{\mathbb{N}}_{\Gamma,(A_i)_i}$ and write $\preceq^{\mathbb{N}}_{(A_i)_i}$.

The following lemma follows immediately from the fact that the intersection of a finite number of wqo's is a wqo (which is in turn an immediate corollary of Dickson's theorem). (see the full version for omitted proofs in the rest of this section).

▶ Lemma 22. For $\Gamma = f_1 : \kappa_1, \ldots, f_n : \kappa_n$ and a finite case analysis $(A_i^j)_{i \leq n, j \in J_i}$ of Γ , if $\preceq_{(A_i^{j_i})_i}^{\mathbb{N}}$ on $\Lambda_{\Gamma, \circ}^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}}$ is a wqo for any "case" $(j_i)_{i \leq n} \in \prod_{i \leq n} J_i$, then so is $\preceq^{\mathbb{N}}$ on $\Lambda_{\Gamma, \circ}^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}}$.

Thus, to prove Lemma 20, it remains to find an appropriate decomposition $\Lambda_{\kappa_i}^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}} = \bigcup_{j \leq J_i} A_i^j$ (where κ_i is an order-1 type $o^q \to o$), and prove that $\preceq_{(A_i^{j_i})_i}^{\mathbb{N}}$ is a wqo.

Henceforth we identify an element of $\Lambda_{\mathsf{o}^q \to \mathsf{o}}^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}}$ with the corresponding element of the polynomial semi-ring $\mathbb{N}[x_1,\ldots,x_q]$. For example, $\lambda x_1.\lambda x_2.((\lambda y.y)x_1) + x_2 \times x_2$ is identified with the polynomial $x_1 + x_2^2$ (which is obtained by normalizing and omitting λ -abstractions, assuming a fixed ordering of the bound variables). For $t \in \Lambda_{\mathsf{o}^q \to \mathsf{o}}^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}}$ we write $\mathsf{poly}(t)$ for the corresponding polynomial.

We define the equivalence relation \sim as the least semi-ring congruence relation on $\mathbb{N}[x_1,\ldots,x_q]$ that satisfies (i) $a\sim 1$ if a>0 and (ii) $x_i^j\sim x_i$ if j>0. For example, $2x_1^2x_2+3x_1x_2^2+x_1+4\sim x_1x_2+x_1+1$, and the quotient set $\mathbb{N}[x_1]/\sim$ consists of:

$$[0]_{\sim}, [1]_{\sim}, [x_1]_{\sim}, [x_1+1]_{\sim},$$

and $\mathbb{N}[x_1, x_2]/\sim$ consists of

$$[0]_{\sim}, [1]_{\sim}, [x_1]_{\sim}, [x_2]_{\sim}, [x_1x_2]_{\sim}, [1+x_1]_{\sim}, [1+x_2]_{\sim}, [1+x_1x_2]_{\sim}, [x_1+x_2]_{\sim}, \dots, [1+x_1+x_2+x_1x_2]_{\sim}$$

In general, $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}([q]))$ (where [q] denotes $\{1,\ldots,q\}$ and $\mathcal{P}(X)$ denotes the powerset of X) gives a complete representation of the quotient set $\mathbb{N}[x_1,\ldots,x_q]/\sim$, i.e.,

$$\mathbb{N}[x_1, \dots, x_q]/\sim = \left\{ \left[\sum_{\{p_1 < \dots < p_r\} \in \Phi} x_{p_1} \cdots x_{p_r} \right]_{\sim} \middle| \Phi \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}([q])) \right\}.$$

Through poly: $\Lambda_{\sigma^q \to o}^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}} \to \mathbb{N}[x_1, \dots, x_q]$, we can induce an equivalence relation on $\Lambda_{\sigma^q \to o}^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}}$ from \sim on $\mathbb{N}[x_1, \dots, x_q]$, and let A_q^{Φ} be the equivalence class corresponding to Φ , i.e.,

$$A_q^{\Phi} := \Big\{ t \in \Lambda_{\mathbf{o}^q \to \mathbf{o}}^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}} \, \Big| \, \mathsf{poly}(t) \sim \sum_{\{p_1 < \dots < p_r\} \in \Phi} x_{p_1} \cdots x_{p_r} \Big\}. \tag{1}$$

Then we have $\Lambda_{\circ q \to \circ}^{\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}} = \sqcup_{\Phi \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}([q]))} A_q^{\Phi}$. Now, given $\Gamma = f_1 : \circ^{q_1} \to \circ, \ldots, f_n : \circ^{q_n} \to \circ$, we have obtained a finite case analysis of Γ as $(A_{q_i}^{\Phi})_{i \leq n, \Phi \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}([q_i]))}$; for $(\Phi_i)_i \in \prod_{i \leq n} \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}([q_i]))$, we write $\preceq_{(\Phi_i)_i}^{\mathbb{N}}$ for $\preceq_{(A_{q_i}^{\Phi_i})_i}^{\mathbb{N}}$. Thus it remains to show that $\preceq_{(\Phi_i)_i}^{\mathbb{N}}$ on $P_{\Gamma, \circ}^{\mathbb{N}}$ is a wqo for each $(\Phi_i)_i \in \prod_{i \leq n} \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}([q_i]))$.

The following lemma justifies the partition of polynomials based on \sim .

▶ Lemma 23 (zero/positive). For any $\Gamma = f_1 : o^{q_1} \to o, \ldots, f_n : o^{q_n} \to o, \ (\Phi_i)_i \in \prod_{i \leq n} \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}([q_i])), \ and \ \Gamma \vdash P : o, \ we \ have \ either \ P \preceq^{\mathbb{N}}_{(\Phi_i)_i} \ 0 \ or \ 1 \preceq^{\mathbb{N}}_{(\Phi_i)_i} \ P.$

In other words, the lemma above says that, given an order-2 polynomial P, whether $P[t_1/f_1, \ldots, t_n/f_n]$ evaluates to 0 or not is solely determined by the equivalence classes t_1, \ldots, t_n belong to.

▶ Example 24. Let $\Gamma := f : o^2 \to o$, and $\Phi := \{\emptyset, \{1,2\}\} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}([2]))$, which denotes the equivalence class $[1 + x_1x_2]_{\sim}$. We have $1 \leq_{\Phi}^{\mathbb{N}} f P_1 P_2$ for any P_1 and P_2 , since any element of the equivalence class is of the form $a + \cdots$ for some natural number $a \geq 1$.

Based on the property above, we define the rewriting relation $\longrightarrow_{(\Phi_i)_i}$, to simplify order-2 polynomials by replacing (i) subterms that always evaluate to 0, and (ii) arguments of a function that are irrelevant, with 0.

- ▶ **Definition 25** (rewriting relation and $(\Phi_i)_i$ -normal form). For $\Gamma = f_1 : o^{q_1} \to o, \ldots, f_n : o^{q_n} \to o$ and $(\Phi_i)_i \in \prod_{i \leq n} \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}([q_i]))$, we define the relation $\longrightarrow_{(\Phi_i)_i}^{\circ}$ by the following two rules.
- $P \longrightarrow_{(\Phi_i)_i}^{\circ} 0 \text{ if } P \preceq_{(\Phi_i)_i}^{\mathbb{N}} 0 \text{ and } P \neq 0.$
- $= f_{\ell} P_1 \cdots P_{q_{\ell}} \longrightarrow_{(\Phi_i)_i}^{\circ} f_{\ell} P_1 \cdots P_{k-1} 0 P_{k+1} \cdots P_{q_{\ell}} \text{ if (i) } P_k \neq 0 \text{ and (ii) for all } \phi \in \Phi_{\ell}$ such that $k \in \phi$, there exists $p \in \phi$ such that $P_p \preceq_{(\Phi_i)_i}^{\mathbb{N}} 0$.

We write $P_0 \longrightarrow_{(\Phi_i)_i} P_1$ if $P_i = E[P'_i]$ and $P'_0 \longrightarrow_{(\Phi_i)_i}^{\circ} P'_1$ for some E, P'_0 and P'_1 , where the evaluation context E is defined by:

$$E ::= [] | E + P | P + E | E \times P | P \times E | f P_1 \dots P_{i-1} E P_{i+1} \dots P_q.$$

We call a normal form of $\longrightarrow_{(\Phi_i)_i}$ a $(\Phi_i)_i$ -normal form.

Intuitively, the condition (ii) in the second rule says that whenever the k-th argument P_k is used by f_ℓ , it occurs only in the form of $P_k \times P_p \times \cdots$ (up to equivalence) and P_p always evaluates to 0; thus, the value of P_k is actually irrelevant.

Example 26. We continue Example 24. Recall $\Gamma = f : o^2 \to o$ and $\Phi = \{\emptyset, \{1, 2\}\}$. Consider the order-2 polynomial f 1 (1 × 0). It can be rewritten to f 1 0 by using the first rule (and the evaluation context E = f 1 []). We can further apply the second rule to obtain f 1 0 $\longrightarrow_{\Phi} f$ 0 0, because k = 1 satisfies the conditions ((i) and) (ii). In fact, if 1 ∈ ϕ ∈ Φ , then $\phi = \{1, 2\}$; hence, the required condition holds for p = 2. Note that f 0 0 is a Φ -normal form; the first rule is not applicable, as f 0 0 $\not \succeq_{\Phi}^{\mathbb{N}}$ 0 by the discussion in Example 24.

The following lemma guarantees that any order-2 polynomial can be transformed to at least one equivalent $(\Phi_i)_i$ -normal form.

- ▶ Lemma 27 (existence of normal form).
- 1. $\longrightarrow_{(\Phi_i)_i}$ is strongly normalizing.
- 2. If $P \longrightarrow_{(\Phi_i)_i} P'$ then $P \approx_{(\Phi_i)_i}^{\mathbb{N}} P'$.

We can reduce the wooness of $\preceq_{(\Phi_i)_i}^{\mathbb{N}}$ to that of $\preceq_{\mathbf{o}}^{\text{he},\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}}\cup\Gamma}$ by the following lemma:

▶ Lemma 28. For $\Gamma = f_1 : o^{q_1} \to o, \ldots, f_n : o^{q_n} \to o, (\Phi_i)_i \in \prod_{i \leq n} \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}([q_i]))$, and $(\Phi_i)_i$ -normal forms $\Gamma \vdash P', P : o$, if $P' \preceq_o^{\operatorname{he}, \Sigma_{\mathbb{N}} \cup \Gamma} P$ then $P' \preceq_{(\Phi_i)_i}^{\mathbb{N}} P$.

The proof is given by a simple calculation using Lemma 23 and that the given $(\Phi_i)_i$ -normal forms P', P do not satisfy the condition for the rewriting $\longrightarrow_{(\Phi_i)_i}$.

Now we are ready to prove Lemma 20.

Proof of Lemma 20. By Lemma 22, it suffices to show that $\preceq_{(\Phi_i)_i}^{\mathbb{N}}$ on $P_{\Gamma,o}^{\mathbb{N}}$ is a wqo for each $(\Phi_i)_i \in \prod_{i \leq n} \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}([q_i]))$. By the Kruskal's tree theorem, $\preceq_{o}^{\operatorname{he},\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}} \cup \Gamma}$ on $P_{\Gamma,o}^{\mathbb{N}}$ is a wqo, and hence the sub-ordering $\preceq_{o}^{\operatorname{he},\Sigma_{\mathbb{N}} \cup \Gamma}$ on the subset

$$\{P \in \mathcal{P}^{\mathbb{N}}_{\Gamma, \mathbf{o}} \mid P \text{ is a } (\Phi_i)_i\text{-normal form}\} \subseteq \mathcal{P}^{\mathbb{N}}_{\Gamma, \mathbf{o}}$$

is a wqo. Therefore by Lemma 28, $\preceq^{\mathbb{N}}_{(\Phi_i)_i}$ on $\{P \in \mathcal{P}^{\mathbb{N}}_{\Gamma, \bullet} \mid P \text{ is a } (\Phi_i)_i\text{-normal form}\}$ is a wqo. By Lemma 27, $\{P \in \mathcal{P}^{\mathbb{N}}_{\Gamma, \bullet} \mid P \text{ is a } (\Phi_i)_i\text{-normal form}\}$ and $\mathcal{P}^{\mathbb{N}}_{\Gamma, \bullet}$ - both modulo $\beta\eta$ -equivalence – are isomorphic (with respect to $\preceq^{\mathbb{N}}_{(\Phi_i)_i}$ and $\preceq^{\mathbb{N}}_{(\Phi_i)_i}$); hence $\preceq^{\mathbb{N}}_{(\Phi_i)_i}$ on $\mathcal{P}^{\mathbb{N}}_{\Gamma, \bullet}$ is a wqo.

5 Conclusion

W have introduced the nAK-conjecture, a weaker version of the AK-conjecture in [2], and proved it up to order 3. We have also proved a pumping lemma for higher-order grammars (which is slightly weaker than the pumping lemma conjectured in [2]) under the assumption that the nAK-conjecture holds. Obvious future work is to show the nAK-conjecture or the original AK-conjecture for arbitrary orders. Finding other applications of the two conjectures (cf. an application of Kruskal's tree theorem to program termination [4]) is also left for future work.

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