

CT- λ , a cyclic simply typed λ -calculus with fixed points

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Abstract

We explore the possibility of having a circular syntax directly for λ -abstraction, instead of interpreting λ -abstraction through combinators and circular syntax afterwards. We introduce circular syntax as a case fixed point operator. Our motivation for using binders instead of combinators is that this way of introducing circular syntax could be more familiar for researchers in the field of Type Theory.

We prove the usual results for the new syntax: every closed term of type N reduces to some numeral, and we have strong normalization for reductions outside all fixed points, strong normalization for fair reductions, Church-Rosser property and the equivalence with Gödel system \mathbb{T} . Terms with cyclic syntax are much shorter than the equivalent terms of \mathbb{T} .

1 Introduction

We will introduce \mathbb{A} , a set of infinite terms whose types are: the atomic type N , possibly type variables, and all types $A \rightarrow B$ for any types A, B . The terms of \mathbb{A} are possibly infinite trees representing expressions defined with $0, \mathbf{S}, \mathbf{ap}$ (application), variables, λ (the binder for defining maps), and \mathbf{cond} , a fixed point binder operator for the arithmetic conditional (test on zero). If we have no type variables, the trees in \mathbb{A} represent partial functionals on N , provided we add reduction rules.

In this paper we will consider a subset CT- λ of \mathbb{A} which we call the circular version of Gödel system \mathbb{T} . Differently from all previous circular version of \mathbb{T} , our system uses binder instead of combinators. Our goal is providing a circular syntax more familiar to research in the field of Type Theory.

CT- λ consists of all trees in \mathbb{A} which are well-typed, satisfy a condition called global trace condition, and are regular (they only have finitely many sub-trees). We will prove the usual results for the new syntax, in particular that the trees in CT- λ whose only atomic type is N represent exactly the total computable functionals on N definable in Gödel system \mathbb{T} using N as only atomic type.

2 The set of infinite λ -terms

We define the set \mathbb{A} of infinite terms, well-typed terms and a reduction relation for them.

Definition 2.1 (Types and infinite terms in \mathbb{A})

1. The types of \mathbb{A} are all types we can define with N and \rightarrow .
2. The terms of \mathbb{A} are all possibly infinite trees we can define with x (variable name), $\lambda x : T.t$ (binder, abstraction), $\mathbf{ap}(t, u)$, 0 , $\mathbf{S}(t)$ (successor of t), $\mathbf{cond}x.(f, g)$ (binder, arithmetical conditional). As usual, we abbreviate $\mathbf{ap}(t, u)$ with $t(u)$.

When $t = \mathbf{S}^n(0)$ for some natural number n we say that t is a numeral. We write \mathbb{N} for the set of numeral.

\mathbb{N} is yet another representation of the set of natural numbers. All numeral are finite terms of \mathbb{A} . All finite well-typed typed λ -terms we can define with the rules above are finite terms of \mathbb{A} . The term $t = \mathbf{cond}x.(0, t)$ is in \mathbb{A} . t is an infinite tree (it includes itself as a subtree). The unique infinite branch is t, t, t, \dots . The subterms of t are 0 and t , therefore t is a regular tree.

We define context and inherited context for any term of \mathbb{A} .

Definition 2.2 (Inherited Contexts of \mathbb{A}) A context is any finite list $\Gamma = x_1 : A_1, \dots, x_n : A_n$ of pairwise distinct variables and types. Given any context Γ , any $t \in \mathbb{A}$, any subterm u of t we define a unique inherited context for u , of the form Γ, Δ for some Δ .

1. t has inherited context Γ .
2. Any binder on x subtracts the variable x from the context of its last argument: if $t = \lambda x : \Gamma.u, \text{cond}x.(f, g)$ has inherited context Γ, Δ , then u and g have context $\Gamma, \Delta, x : T$, while f has inherited context Γ, Δ (because f is not the last argument of $\text{cond} x.(f, g)$).
3. In any other case the context of a term and an immediate subterm are the same: If $t = \mathbf{S}(u), f(a)$ has inherited context Γ, Δ , then u, f, a have inherited context Γ, Δ .

We abbreviate “inherited context” with context.

Below we define the statement: “ t has context Γ and type A ”, written $\Gamma \vdash t : A$, and the statement “ Π is a proof of $\Gamma \vdash t : A$ ”.

The typing rules are the usual ones but for the conditional binder **cond**, and for a fresh rule η -rule. η -rule corresponds to an η -expansion and it introduces a global variable name. η -rule is but a particular case of **ap** rule. We prefer to use a separate name for η -rule because of the special role this rule has in this paper.

We have a single structural rule **struct_f**, which can be used for: weakening, variable permutation and variable renaming.

Definition 2.3 (Typing rules of \mathbb{A}) Assume $\Gamma = x_1 : A_1, \dots, x_n : A_n$, $\Delta = y_1 : B_1, \dots, y_m : B_m$ are sequents of length n, m respectively. Suppose $f : \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, m\}$ is any injection, compatible with types in Γ, Δ : we assume $A_i = B_{f(i)}$ for all $1 \leq i \leq n$.

1. Structural rule **struct_f**. If $t : \Gamma \vdash T$ then $t[y_{f(1)}/x_1, \dots, y_{f(n)}/x_n] : \Delta \vdash T$
2. η -rule. If $x \notin \Gamma$ and $f : \Gamma \vdash N \rightarrow T$ then $f(x) : \Gamma, x : N \vdash T$.
3. **var**-rule. If $x : A \in \Gamma$ then $x : \Gamma \vdash A$.
4. **ap**-rule. If $\Gamma \vdash f : A \rightarrow B$ and $a : \Gamma \vdash A$ then $f(a) : \Gamma \vdash B$.
5. λ -rule. If $\Gamma, x : A \vdash b : B$ then $\lambda x : A. b : \Gamma \vdash A \rightarrow B$.
6. 0-rule. $0 : \Gamma \vdash N$
7. **S**-rule. If $t : \Gamma \vdash N$ then $\mathbf{S}(t) : \Gamma \vdash N$.
8. **cond**-rule. **cond**. If $f : \Gamma, x : T \vdash T$, $x \notin \text{FV}(f)$ and $g : \Gamma, x : T \vdash T$ then $\text{cond}x.(f, g) : \Gamma \vdash N \rightarrow T$.

Rules are syntax-directed (each term is the consequence of at most one rule) provided we reserve the η -rule in the case of a term $f(x)$, for x variable, and the **ap** rule in the case of a term $f(a)$, for a not a variable.

A proof Π that a term t is well-typed has the identical tree structure of t . In particular, Π is infinite when t is.

Definition 2.4 (Well-typed term of \mathbb{A}) We write $\Pi : \Gamma \vdash t : A$, and we say that Π is a proof of $\Gamma \vdash t : A$ if Π is an assignment of one sequent $\Delta \vdash B$ to each subterm u of t , in such a way that:

1. $\Pi(t) = \Gamma \vdash A$
2. For all subterms u of t , if u_1, \dots, u_n are immediate subterms of u , then the sequent $\Pi(u)$ is the consequence of $\Pi(u_1), \dots, \Pi(u_n)$ under some rule.

We introduce the type judgment for a term.

1. $\Gamma \vdash t : A$ is true if and only if $\Pi : \Gamma \vdash t : A$ for some Π .
2. $t \in \mathbb{A}$ is well-typed if $\Gamma \vdash t : A$ for some Γ, A .
3. **Wtyped** is the set of well-typed $t \in \mathbb{A}$.

We abbreviate $\emptyset \vdash t : A$ with $\vdash t : A$.

Rules are syntax-directed, therefore a well-typed term t has exactly one proof Π , up to application of the rule **struct_f**. Π is computable from t .

As we said, η -rule is a particular case of **ap**. When we substitute $x : N$ with some $\Gamma \vdash a : N$ which is not a variable, then we replace η -rule with **ap**-rule.

An example: if $t = \text{cond}x.(0, t)$, then $\vdash t : N \rightarrow N$.

Our goal is to provide a set of well-formed term for \mathbb{A} and interpret them as partial functionals. Some terms, those satisfying the global trace condition (to be introduced later) will be total functionals. Our first step is to provide reduction rules for \mathbb{A} .

Definition 2.5 (reduction rules for \mathbb{A})

1. β : $(\lambda x : A.b)(a) \mapsto_\beta b[a/x]$
2. $\text{condx}.(f, g)(0) \mapsto_{\text{cond}} f$ and $\text{condx}.(f, g)(S(t)) \mapsto_{\text{cond}} g[t/x]$.
3. \mapsto is the context and transitive closure of \mapsto_β and \mapsto_{cond}
4. We say that $t \mapsto_{\text{safe}} u$, or that t reduces safely to u , if we never reduce in proper subterms of any $\text{condx}.(f, g)$.
5. A term is safe-normal if all its redexes (if any) are inside some $\text{condx}.(f, g)$.

As example. If $u = \text{condx}.(0, (\lambda x.u)(z))$ is as above, then u is safe-normal, because all redexes in u are of the form $(\lambda x.u)(z)$ and inside a cond . However, the tree form of u has the following branch:

$$u, \quad (\lambda x.u)(z), \quad \lambda x.u, \quad u, \quad \dots$$

This branch is cyclic, infinite, and it includes infinitely many β -redexes.

The reason for forbidding reductions inside $\text{condx}.(f, g)$ is that through cond we will express fixed-point equations. Therefore reductions for cond are in fact unfolding of the definition of a fixed point. As unfolding of a fixed point, they can easily loop, and they are “unsafe”. For this reason, we first consider reductions $\text{condx}.(f, g)(0) \mapsto_{\text{cond}} f$ and $\text{condx}.(f, g)(S(t)) \mapsto_{\text{cond}} g[t/x]$ for maximal cond -expression only, and no reduction inside the arguments f, g of cond . In a second moment, by adding a restriction of fairness we will be able to recover strong normalization also for “unsafe” reductions.

Some examples of reduction.

1. An example of reduction of a term $v(n)$ to a normal form. If n is any numeral and $v = \text{condx}.(0, (\lambda x.v(x)))$, then $v(n) : N$ has infinitely many β -redexes inside cond , therefore infinitely many unsafe reductions are possible. There are only finitely many safe reduction from $v(n)$ instead: $v(n)$ cond -reduces to $(\lambda x.v(x))(n-1)$, this latter β -reduces to $v(n-1)$, then we loop: $v(n-1)$ reduces to $v(n-2)$ in one cond -step and one β -step and so forth. After n cond -reductions and n β -reductions we get $v(0)$. With one last cond -reduction we get 0 and we stop.
2. The term $v(n)$ above is also an example of a strongly normalizing term. There is the unique reduction sequence from $v(n)$, because we cannot cond -reduce $\lambda x.v(x)$ before assigning either 0 or $S(u)$ to x . Thus, all reductions sequences from $v(n)$ terminate in $2n+1$ steps to the normal form 0.

3 The trace of the λ -terms

Total λ -terms will be well-typed terms satisfying a condition call *global trace condition*. In order to define the global trace condition, we define a notion of trace for possibly infinite λ -terms, describing how an input of type N is used when computing an output. The first step toward a trace is defining a correspondence between atoms in the proof that t is well-typed. We need first the notion of *list of argument types* and index of atomic types for a term.

First, an example. Assume $t : \{x_1 : A_1, x_2 : A_2\} \vdash B_3 \rightarrow N$. Then the list of argument types of t is A_1, A_2, B_3 . Remark that for an open term t we list as “argument types” also the types of the free variables. We motivate our terminology: in a sense, t is an abbreviation of the closed term $t' = \lambda x_1 : A_1, x_2 : A_2. t : (A_1, A_2, B_3 \rightarrow N)$, and the argument types of t' are in fact A_1, A_2, B_3 . The index of an atomic argument of t is any $j \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ such that $A_j = N$ or $B_j = N$ respectively.

Definition 3.1 (List of argument types of a term) Assume that $\vec{A} = A_1, \dots, A_n$, $\vec{B} = B_{n+1}, \dots, B_{n+m}$, $\Gamma = \{\vec{x} : \vec{A}\}$, and $t : \Gamma \vdash \vec{B} \rightarrow N$.

1. The list of argument types of t is $\vec{C} = \vec{A}, \vec{B}$, the list of types of free variables and arguments of the type $\vec{B} \rightarrow N$ of t .
2. An index of an atomic argument of t is any $j \in \{1, \dots, n+m\}$ such that $C_j = N$.

We now define the atom correspondence between arguments of type N of subterms of t in a proof $\Pi : t : \Gamma \vdash A$ of \mathbb{A} . Two arguments of type N are in correspondence if and only if they receive the same global input: local input are ignored. Usually two corresponding argument types have the same index, but for a few special cases we discuss through examples. We draw in the same color two arguments of type N which are in correspondence.

Example 3.1 Below we give an example of atom correspondence for some instance of the rule **struct**.

$$\frac{x_1 : \mathbf{N}, x_2 : \mathbf{N} \vdash t : \mathbf{N} \rightarrow N}{x_1 : \mathbf{N}, x_2 : \mathbf{N}, x_3 : \mathbf{N} \vdash t : \mathbf{N} \rightarrow N} \text{ (struct)}$$

Example 3.2 Below we give an example of atom correspondence for the rule **ap**. We draw in the same color two arguments of type N which are in correspondence. We assume that a is *not* a variable.

$$\frac{x_1 : \mathbf{N}, x_2 : \mathbf{N} \vdash f : \mathbf{N}, \mathbf{N} \rightarrow N \quad x_1 : \mathbf{N}, x_2 : \mathbf{N} \vdash a : N}{x_1 : \mathbf{N}, x_2 : \mathbf{N} \vdash f(a) : \mathbf{N} \rightarrow N} \text{ (ap)}$$

Remark that the first argument of f (in **green**) is in correspondence with no argument in the rule **ap**. The reason is that in the term $f(a)$, the first argument of f receives a value from the value a which is local to the term $f(a)$. However, the first argument of f can be in correspondence with some argument higher in the proof.

Definition 3.2 (Atom correspondence in a proof of \mathbb{A}) Assume $\vec{A} = A_1, \dots, A_n$, $\vec{B} = B_1, \dots, B_m$, $\Gamma = \vec{x} : \vec{A}$, and $t : \vec{B} \rightarrow N$. We define an injection

$$\text{ins} : N, N \rightarrow N$$

by $\text{ins}(a, x) = x + 1$ if $x \geq a + 1$, and $\text{ins}(a, x) = x$ if $x \leq a$.

1. For each atom index k in t , each immediate subterms t' of t each atom index k' in t' we define the relation: “ k', t' the successor of k, t ”. We require:
 - (1) if t is obtained by a rule **struct**(f) then $k = f(k')$ if $k' \leq n$ and $k = k' - n + m$ if $k \geq n + 1$.
 - (2) $k' = \text{ins}(n, k)$ if $t = f(a)$, $a : N$ is not a variable and $t' = f$.
 - (3) $k = k'$ in all other cases, which are: **S**, λ , η -rule, **cond**.

The correspondence on atoms in a proof $\Pi : \Gamma \vdash$ defines a graph $\text{Graph}(\Pi)$ whose nodes are all pairs (k, u) , with u subterm of t and k index of some atomic argument of u . We define a trace as a (finite or infinite) path in the graph $\text{Graph}(\Pi)$.

Definition 3.3 (Trace for well-typed terms in \mathbb{A})

1. A path π in t is any list t_0, \dots, t_n of subterms of t such that $t_0 = t$ and each t_{i+1} is an immediate subterm of t_i .
2. Assume $\pi = t_0, \dots, t_n$ is a branch of t . A trace of π consists of a list $(k_m, t_m), \dots, (k_n, t_n)$ such that for each $i = m, \dots, n$: k_i is an atom index of t_i , and if $i + 1 \leq n$ then k_{i+1}, t_{i+1} is the successor of k_i, t_i in Π .
3. An infinite path and an infinite trace in Π are the union of a family of paths and a family of traces in Π which are increasing by the prefix order.

4 The circular system CT- λ

We define a subset **CT- λ** of the set **Wtyped** of well-typed term, by adding the global trace condition and regularity. For the terms of **CT- λ** we will prove strong normalization, church-rosser for terms of type N , and the fact that every term of type N is a numeral. As a consequence, terms **CT- λ** will be interpreted as total functionals.

From the atom correspondence we define the global trace condition and terms **CT- λ** .

We say that a tree is regular if it has finitely many subtrees. $t = \text{cond}x.(0, t)$ is an infinite regular tree, with subtrees: $t, 0$.

Definition 4.1 (Global trace condition and terms of CT- λ)

1. Assume $\tau = k_m, \dots, k_n$ is a trace of $\pi = t_0, \dots, t_n$ and $i = m, \dots, n$. τ is progressing in i if $t_i = \text{cond}x.(f, g)$ for some f, g , and k_i is the index of the first argument the **cond**-rule, otherwise τ is not progressing in i .
2. t satisfies the global trace condition if for all infinite paths π in t there is some infinitely progressing path τ in π .
3. Terms of **CT- λ** are all well-typed terms which are regular trees (having finitely many subtrees), and satisfy the global trace condition.

5 Examples of terms of CT-λ

5.1 The sum map

DK: Add sum (start) As a first example of term of CT-λ we can provide a term **Sum** computing the sum on N , which is an infinite term defined by $\text{Sum} = \lambda x : N. \text{cond}z.(x, \mathbf{S}(\text{Sum}(x)(z)))$. This term is well-typed by the following circular derivation with a back edge from the (\dagger) above to the (\dagger) below. The only infinite path contains a progressing trace, a sequence of N 's marked by underlines.

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\vdash \text{Sum} : N \rightarrow \underline{N} \rightarrow N \ (\dagger)}{x : N \vdash \text{Sum}(x) : \underline{N} \rightarrow N} \ (\eta)}{x : N, z : \underline{N} \vdash \text{Sum}(x)(z) : N} \ (\eta)}{x : N \vdash x : N \quad x : N, z : \underline{N} \vdash \mathbf{S}(\text{Sum}(x)(z)) : N} \ (\text{cond})}{\vdash \text{Sum} : N \rightarrow \underline{N} \rightarrow N \ (\dagger)}$$

DK: Add sum (end)

5.2 The Iterator

A second example. We define a term **It** of CT-λ computing the iteration of maps on N . We define a normal term $\text{It} : (N \rightarrow N), N, N \rightarrow N$ such that $\text{It}(f, n, a) = f^n(a)$ for all $n \in N$. We have to solve the equations $\text{It}(f, a, 0) = a$ and $\text{It}(f, a, \mathbf{S}(t)) = f(\text{It}(f, a, t))$. We solve them with $\text{It} = \lambda f, a, x. i[a, f, x]$ with $i[a, f, x] = (\text{cond}x.(a, f(i[a, f, x])))(x)$.

The term is well-typed and regular by definition. We check the global trace condition. We mark the last unnamed argument N of **It**. The mark moves to x in $i[a, f, x]$. Through a η -rule the mark moves to the unique unnamed argument N of $\text{cond}x.(a, f(i[a, f, x]))$. The mark either moves to the name x in the context of a and there it stops, or it progresses and moves to x in the context of $f(i[a, f, x])$, then in the context of $i[a, f, x] : N$. Now we loop: if the path continues forever, then after infinitely many step the mark from which we started progresses infinitely many times, each time it crosses a **cond**-rule.

5.3 The Interval Map

A third example. We simulate lists with two variables $\text{nil} : \alpha$ and $\text{cons} : N, \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$. We recursively define a notation for lists by $[] = \text{nil}$, $a@l = \text{cons}(a, l)$ and $[a, \vec{a}] = a@[\vec{a}]$. We add no elimination rules for lists, though, only the variables **nil** and **cons**.

We will define a term **I** with one argument $f : N \rightarrow N$ and three argument $a, x, y : N$, such that

$$\mathbf{I}(f, a, n, m) = [f^n(a), f^{n+1}(a), \dots, f^{n+m}(a)]$$

for all $n, m \in N$. We have to solve the recursive equations

$$\mathbf{I}(f, a, x, 0) = [\mathbf{It}(a, f, x)] \quad \mathbf{I}(f, a, x, \mathbf{S}(t)) = \mathbf{It}(a, f, x) @ \mathbf{I}(f, a, \mathbf{S}(x), t)$$

We solve them with $\mathbf{I} = \lambda f, a, v$, where $v : N, N \rightarrow N$, $v = \lambda x. \text{cond}y.([w], w @ v(\mathbf{S}(x), y))$ and $w = \mathbf{It}(f, a, x)$.

The term is well-typed and regular by definition. We check the global trace condition. We mark the last unnamed argument N of **I**. The mark moves to the last unnamed argument N of $v : N, N \rightarrow N$. We unfold v to $\lambda x. \text{cond}y.(\text{cons}(w, \text{nil}), \text{cons}(w, v(\mathbf{S}(x), y)))$. The mark progresses and moves to the name y in the context of the body of the λ -abstraction, then to y in the context of $\text{cons}(w, \text{nil})$ or of $\text{cons}(w, v(\mathbf{S}(x), y))$, then in the context of **nil** and stops, or in the context of $w = \mathbf{It}(f, a, x) : N$, for which we already checked the global trace condition, or in the context of $v(\mathbf{S}(x), y) : \alpha$.

Then the mark moves from the named argument y of $v(\mathbf{S}(x)) : N \rightarrow N$ to the unique unnamed argument N of $v(\mathbf{S}(x))$, and eventually to the last argument of $v : N, N \rightarrow N$. From v we loop: after infinitely many step either we reached some w and we find some infinite progressing trace inside it, or

the mark from which we started progresses infinitely many times through v . In both cases we have the global trace condition.

We have infinitely many nested β -reduction $(\lambda x. \dots)(S(x))$. We can remove all of them in a single step. Inside the β -redex number n we obtain a sub-term $w[S(x)/x] \dots [S(x)/x]$ (substitution repeated n times). The result is $w[S^n(x)] = \text{It}(f, a, S^n(x))$. The nested substitution produce new β -reductions $\text{It}(f, a, S^n(x)) = (\lambda x. i[f, a, x])(S^n(x))$ for all $n \in N$. This is a non-regular term: we have infinitely many pairwise different sub-terms $x, S(x), S(S(x)), S(S(S(x))), \dots$. We need infinitely many steps to normalize all $\text{It}(f, a, S^n(x))$ to $f^n(i[f, a, x])$, even if we allow to reduce all β , **cond**-redexes at the same time. Also the normal form is not regular: it contains all terms $f^n(i[f, a, x])$ for $n \in N$, hence infinitely many pairwise different terms. These infinite sub-terms are of a particular simple form, though. They are obtained by the repeating n times the assignment $z := f(z)$, then applying $z := i[f, a, x]$ once to the result.

Apparently, I is some term of **CT- λ** which cannot be normalized in finite time, not even if we allow infinite parallel reductions without any "safety" restriction. The normal form is produced *only in the limit* and it is *not regular*. If we allow to reduce infinitely many nested β -redexes in one step, also the intermediate steps of the infinite reduction of I are not regular.

6 Subject reduction for terms of **CT- λ** of type N

DK: SR start

(Here we should fill this part) **DK: SR end**

7 Weak normalization for closed terms of **CT- λ** of type N

DK: WN start In this section we prove that every closed term of **CT- λ** (that is, well-typed, regular and with the global trace condition) normalizes with finitely many "safe" steps to some numeral $n \in N$. In the following, we explicitly write $t[x_1, \dots, x_n]$, where each x_i may appear as a free variable in t , and, under this notation, also write $t[a_1, \dots, a_n]$ instead of $t[a_1/x_1, \dots, a_n/x_n]$.

Definition 7.1 (Values and total on values) We define values and total terms on values by induction on types.

1. A closed term $t : N$ is total on values if and only if $t \mapsto_{\text{safe}}^* n$ for some $n \in N$. A closed term $t : N$ is a value if and only if $t \in N$.
2. A closed term $t : A \rightarrow B$ is total on values if and only if, $t(a)$ is total on values for any closed value $a : A$. A closed term $t : A \rightarrow B$ is a value if and only if t is total.
3. A term $t[\vec{x}] : C$, whose all free variables are $\vec{x} : \vec{A}$, is total on values, if and only if $t[\vec{a}]$ is total for any closed values \vec{a} of type \vec{A} .

Lemma 7.2 1. Let $t : A$ be a closed term and $t \mapsto_{\text{safe}} u$. If u is total on values, then so is t .
 2. Let $t[\vec{x}] : \vec{A} \rightarrow N$ be a term, whose all free variables are $\vec{x} : \vec{B}$, and $\vec{u} : \vec{B}$ and $\vec{a} : \vec{A}$ be closed values. If $t[\vec{u}]\vec{a} : N$ is total on values, then $t[\vec{x}]$ is total on values.

Proof The claim 1. is shown by induction on A . We first show the base case, namely A is N . By the assumption and the subject reduction property, u has type A and closed total on values. Then we have $t \mapsto_{\text{safe}} u \mapsto_{\text{safe}}^* n$ for some $n \in N$. Hence $t : N$ is total on values. We show the induction case, namely A is $A_1 \rightarrow A_2$. Take arbitrary closed value $a : A_1$. Then we have $t(a) \mapsto_{\text{safe}} u(a)$ and $u(a) : A_2$ is total on values by the assumption and the subject reduction property. Hence, by the induction hypothesis, $t(a)$ is total on values. We obtain that $t : A_1 \rightarrow A_2$ is total on values.

The claim 2. is shown by induction on $|\vec{A}|$. The base case $|\vec{A}| = 0$ is immediately shown by the definition. We show the induction case. Let $\vec{A} = A_0 \vec{A}'$. Take arbitrary closed values $\vec{u} : \vec{B}$, $\vec{a}' : \vec{A}'$, and $a_0 : A_0$. By the assumption, we have $t[\vec{u}]a_0\vec{a}' : N$ is closed total on values. Then $t[\vec{u}]a_0 : \vec{A}' \rightarrow N$ is total on values by the induction hypothesis. Hence $t[\vec{u}] : \vec{A} \rightarrow N$ is total on values, and so is $t[\vec{x}]$ as we expected.

Let Π be a proof and e be a node of Π . We write $\Pi(e)$ for $t : \Gamma \vdash A$ at the node e in Π .

Theorem 7.3 *If t is not total on values, then there is no Γ and A such that $t : \Gamma \vdash A$.*

Proof Assume that t is not total on values and $t : \vec{x} : \vec{D} \vdash \vec{A} \rightarrow N$ has a proof Π (we show a contradiction). By 2. of Lemma 7.2, there exist closed values $\vec{a} : \vec{A}$ and $\vec{d} : \vec{D}$ such that $t[\vec{d}]\vec{a}$ is not total on values. We inductively construct $(e_i, \vec{d}_i, \vec{a}_i)$ for each natural number i , such that

- (i) e_i is a node of Π , where $t_i : \vec{x}_i : \vec{D}_i \vdash \vec{A}_i \rightarrow N$ is at the node e_i in Π , and e_{i+1} is a child node of e_i in Π ;
- (ii) t_i is not total on values;
- (iii) $\vec{d}_i : \vec{D}_i$ and $\vec{a}_i : \vec{A}_i$ are closed values such that $t_i[\vec{d}_i]\vec{a}_i$ is not total on values;
- (iv) there is a trace compatible connection from $(\vec{d}_i; \vec{a}_i)$ to $(\vec{d}_{i+1}; \vec{a}_{i+1})$, for any $i \geq 0$, in Π . Moreover, if i is a progress point, namely t_i is of the form $\text{cond}x.(f, g)$ and t_{i+1} is g , then $\vec{a}_i = \mathbf{S}(m')\vec{a}'$, $\vec{d}_{i+1} = \vec{d}_i m'$, and a trace passes from $\mathbf{S}(m')$ to m' . DK: mynote:write this more clearly

We first define $(e_0, \vec{d}_0, \vec{a}_0)$ by (r, \vec{d}, \vec{a}) , where r is the root node of Π . Then we have $t_0 = t$, (ii) and (iii). Next, assume that $(e_i, \vec{d}_i, \vec{a}_i)$ is already constructed. Then we define $(e_{i+1}, \vec{d}_{i+1}, \vec{a}_{i+1})$ by the case analysis of the last rule for the node e_{i+1} in Π .

The case of **struct**-rule, namely $\Pi(e_i) = t[y_{f(1)}/x_1, \dots, y_{f(n)}/x_n] : \Delta \vdash \vec{A}_i \rightarrow N$ is obtained from $t : \Gamma \vdash A$, where $\Gamma = x_1 : C_1, \dots, x_n : C_n$, $\Delta = y_1 : B_1, \dots, y_m : B_m$, $f : \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, m\}$ is an injection, and $C_i = B_{f(i)}$ for all $1 \leq i \leq n$. By the induction hypothesis and (b), $t[y_{f(1)}/x_1, \dots, y_{f(n)}/x_n][d_{i,f(1)}/y_{f(1)}, \dots, d_{i,f(n)}/y_{f(n)}]\vec{a}_i : N$ is not total on values, where $\vec{d}_i = d_{i,1} \dots d_{i,m}$. Then define e_{i+1} as the unique parent node of e_i , and also define \vec{d}_{i+1} and \vec{a}_{i+1} by $d_{i,f(1)} \dots d_{i,f(n)}$ and \vec{a}_i , respectively. We obtain (i), (ii), and (iii) for $i+1$, as expected. We also have (iv) since the connection, determined by f , from $(d_{i,1} \dots d_{i,m}; \vec{a}_i)$ to $(\vec{d}_{i+1}; \vec{a}_{i+1}) = (d_{i,f(1)} \dots d_{i,f(n)}; \vec{a}_i)$ is trace compatible.

The case of η -rule, namely $\Pi(e_i) = f[\vec{x}](x) : \Gamma, x : N \vdash \vec{A} \rightarrow N$ is obtained from $f[\vec{x}] : \Gamma \vdash N \rightarrow \vec{A} \rightarrow N$, where $x \notin \Gamma$. By the induction hypothesis, $f[\vec{d}']\vec{d}\vec{a}_i : N$ is not total on values, where $\vec{d}_i = \vec{d}'d$. Define e_{i+1} as the unique parent node of e_i , and also define \vec{d}_{i+1} by \vec{d}' and define \vec{a}_{i+1} by $\vec{d}\vec{a}_i$. We obtain (i), (ii), and (iii) for $i+1$, as expected. We also have (iv) since the connection from $(\vec{d}_i; \vec{a}_i) = (\vec{d}'d; \vec{a}_i)$ to $(\vec{d}_{i+1}; \vec{a}_{i+1}) = (\vec{d}'; \vec{d}\vec{a}_i)$ is trace compatible.

The case of 0-rule, namely $\Pi(e_i) = 0 : \Gamma \vdash N$, is not the case since $t_i = 0$ is total on values.

The case of **S**-rule, namely $\Pi(e_i) = \mathbf{S}(t_{i+1}) : \Gamma \vdash N$ is obtained from $t_{i+1} : \Gamma \vdash N$. By the induction hypothesis, \vec{a}_i is empty, and $\mathbf{S}(t_{i+1}[\vec{d}_i]) : N$ is not total on values. Then, by the definition, $t_{i+1}[\vec{d}_i]$ is not total on values. Define e_{i+1} as the unique parent node of e_i , and also define \vec{d}_{i+1} and \vec{a}_{i+1} by \vec{d}_i and empty, respectively. We obtain (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv) for $i+1$, as expected.

The case of **ap**-rule, namely $\Pi(e_i) = t[\vec{x}](u[\vec{x}]) : \Gamma \vdash \vec{A} \rightarrow N$ is obtained from $t[\vec{x}] : \Gamma \vdash B \rightarrow \vec{A} \rightarrow N$ and $u[\vec{x}] : \Gamma \vdash B$. By the induction hypothesis, $t[\vec{d}_i](u[\vec{d}_i])\vec{a}_i : N$ is not total on values. We first consider the subcase that $u[\vec{d}_i] : B$ is total on values. We define a value $a' : B$ by $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $u[\vec{d}_i] \mapsto_{\text{safe}}^n a'$ if $B = N$, by $u[\vec{d}_i]$ otherwise. Then define e_{i+1} by the parent node whose term is $t[\vec{x}]$, and define $\vec{d}_{i+1} = \vec{d}_i$ and $\vec{a}_{i+1} = a'\vec{a}_i$. Using Lemma 7.2, we obtain (i), (ii), (iii) for $i+1$, as expected. We also have (iv) since the connection from $(\vec{d}_i; \vec{a}_i)$ to $(\vec{d}_{i+1}; \vec{a}_{i+1}) = (\vec{d}_i; a'\vec{a}_i)$ is trace compatible. Next we consider the subcase that $u[\vec{d}_i] : B$ is not total on values. Then there is a sequence of values \vec{a}' such that $u[\vec{d}_i]\vec{a}' : N$ is not total on values. Define e_{i+1} by the parent node whose term is $u[\vec{x}]$, and define $\vec{d}_{i+1} = \vec{d}_i$ and $\vec{a}_{i+1} = \vec{a}'$. We obtain (i), (ii), (iii) for $i+1$, as expected. We also have (iv) since the connection from $(\vec{d}_i; \vec{a}_i)$ to $(\vec{d}_{i+1}; \vec{a}_{i+1}) = (\vec{d}_i; \vec{a}')$ is trace compatible.

The case of λ -rule, namely $\Pi(e_i) = \lambda x.(t_{i+1}[\vec{x}, x]) : \Gamma \vdash A \rightarrow \vec{A} \rightarrow N$ is obtained from $t_{i+1}[\vec{x}, x] : \Gamma, x : A \vdash \vec{A} \rightarrow N$. By the induction hypothesis, $(\lambda x.(t_{i+1}[\vec{d}_i, x]))a\vec{a}' : N$ is not total on values, where $\vec{a}_i = a\vec{a}'$. Then, by Lemma 7.2, $t_{i+1}[\vec{d}_i, a]\vec{a}'$ is not total on values. Define e_{i+1} as the unique parent node of e_i , and also define $\vec{d}_{i+1} = \vec{d}_i a$ and $\vec{a}_{i+1} = \vec{a}'$. We obtain (i), (ii), (iii) for $i+1$, as expected. We also have (iv) since the connection from $(\vec{d}_i; \vec{a}_i) = (\vec{d}_i; a\vec{a}')$ to $(\vec{d}_{i+1}; \vec{a}_{i+1}) = (\vec{d}_i a; \vec{a}')$ is trace compatible.

The case of **cond**-rule, namely $\Pi(e_i) = \text{cond}x.(f[\vec{x}], g[\vec{x}, x]) : \Gamma \vdash N \rightarrow \vec{A} \rightarrow N$ is obtained from $f[\vec{x}] : \Gamma \vdash \vec{A} \rightarrow N$ and $g[\vec{x}, x] : \Gamma, x : N \vdash \vec{A} \rightarrow N$. By the induction hypothesis, $\text{cond}x.(f[\vec{d}_i], g[\vec{d}_i, x])m\vec{a}' : N$ is

not total on values, where $\vec{a}_i = m\vec{a}'$ and $m \in \mathbb{N}$. We first consider the subcase $m = 0$. Define e_{i+1} by the parent node whose term is $f[\vec{x}]$, and define $\vec{d}_{i+1} = \vec{d}_i$ and $\vec{a}_{i+1} = \vec{a}'$. We obtain (i), (ii), (iii) for $i + 1$, as expected. We also have (iv) since the connection from $(\vec{d}_i; \vec{a}_i) = (\vec{d}_i; 0\vec{a}')$ to $(\vec{d}_{i+1}; \vec{a}_{i+1}) = (\vec{d}_i; \vec{a}')$ is trace compatible. Next we consider the subcase $m = \mathbf{S}(m')$. Define e_{i+1} by the parent node whose term is $g[\vec{x}, x]$, and define $\vec{d}_{i+1} = \vec{d}_i m'$ and $\vec{a}_{i+1} = \vec{a}'$. We obtain (i), (ii), (iii) for $i + 1$, as expected. We also have (iv) since the connection from $(\vec{d}_i; \vec{a}_i) = (\vec{d}_i; \mathbf{S}(m')\vec{a}')$ to $(\vec{d}_{i+1}; \vec{a}_{i+1}) = (\vec{d}_i m'; \vec{a}')$ is trace compatible.

Hence, by the above construction, we have an infinite path $\vec{e} = (e_0, e_1, \dots)$ in Π . Since Π satisfies the global trace condition, \vec{e} contains a progressing trace (k_m, k_{m+1}, \dots) , where, for each $m \leq i$, k_i is an atom index of t_i , and k_{i+1}, t_{i+1} is the successor of k_i, t_i . Let n_i be a numeral in \vec{d}_i, \vec{a}_i at index k_i for each $m \leq i$. Then the sequence (n_m, n_{m+1}, \dots) decreases at each progressing point. This means that it decreases infinitely many times since (k_m, k_{m+1}, \dots) has infinitely many progressing point. Finally we have a contradiction.

By this theorem, we have the following corollaries.

Corollary 7.4 $t : \Gamma \vdash A$ implies t is total on values.

Corollary 7.5 For any closed $t : N$, there is $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $t \mapsto_{\text{safe}}^* n$.

DK: WN end

8 Uniqueness of normal form for closed terms of CT- λ of type N

In this section we prove a weak form of confluence: normal form for all closed terms of CT- λ of type N is unique.

By the weak normalization result proved in **S7**, we will deduce: for all for all closed terms t of CT- λ of type N , there is some $n \in N$ such that there is a safe reduction $t \mapsto n$, and all normal form of t are equal to n .

We define a notion \sim of equivalence for well-typed terms with the same type. Assume $t, u : A$ are closed terms of CT- λ . (that is, well-typed, regular and with the global trace condition).

We define an equivalence \sim_0 for closed terms, by induction on the type A of t, u .

1. Assume $A = N$. Then $t \sim_0 u$ if and only if for all normal $t', u' : N$, if $t \mapsto t'$ and $u \mapsto u'$ then $t' = u'$.
2. Assume $A = B \rightarrow C$. Then $t \sim_0 u$ if and only if for all closed $b, c : B$ if $b \sim_0 c$ then $t(b) \sim_0 u(c)$.

We will prove that for all closed terms t of CT- λ we have $t \sim_0 t$. If $A = N$ this means that the normal form of all closed terms of CT- λ of type N is unique, which is our goal.

We first define $t \sim u$ for any terms of CT- λ with the same type. $t \sim u$ if and only if for any two substitution $\sigma = [\vec{t}/\vec{x}]$ and $\tau = [\vec{u}/\vec{x}]$, if $\vec{t} \sim_0 \vec{u}$ and $\sigma(t), \tau(u)$ are closed then $\sigma(t) \sim_0 \tau(u)$.

We will prove that for all terms t of CT- λ we have $t \sim t$. In the case of closed terms t we can choose $\sigma = \tau =$ the empty substitution and we obtain $t \sim_0 t$, which is our goal.

Assume that $t : N$ is a closed term t of CT- λ and $n \in N$.

1. We say that n is a value of t if $t \mapsto n$ (if t safely reduces to n).
2. We say that t is confluent if $t \sim_0 t$.

Assume $\vec{x} : \vec{A}$ and $t[\vec{x}] : \vec{D} \rightarrow N$. Assume $\vec{a} : \vec{A}, \vec{d} : \vec{D}$ and $\vec{b} : \vec{A}, \vec{e} : \vec{D}$ are vectors of closed terms of CT- λ . We say that these four vectors are a counterexample to t if $\vec{a}, \vec{d} \sim_0 \vec{b}, \vec{e}$ and $\neg(t[\vec{a}](\vec{d}) \sim_0 t[\vec{b}](\vec{e}))$.

We have $t \sim t$ if and only if there is no counter-example for t .

By the weak normalization result proved in

Succ 7, all closed term t of CT- λ of type N have a value. If t is confluent, then the value is unique. For confluent closed term t of CT- λ of type N , "safe" reduction preserves the value. Indeed, if $t \mapsto u$ then u is a closed term of CT- λ of type N , therefore u has a value m , which is also a value of t . By confluence of t we conclude that $n = m$.

If t is as above, with value n , and $t \mapsto \mathbf{S}(u)$, then $n > 0$, u is a confluent closed term t of CT- λ of type N , and the value of u is $n - 1$. Indeed, if $u \mapsto u'$ and u' is normal, then $t \mapsto \mathbf{S}(u')$, therefore $\mathbf{S}(u') = n$ by confluence of t , and we conclude that $n > 0$ and $u' = n - 1$. Thus, the normal form of u is unique.

We will prove the following.

Theorem 8.1 *Assume t is any well-typed term such that $\neg(t \sim t)$. Then there is some infinite path $\pi = \{t_i | i \in \mathbb{N}\}$ of t with some infinite sequence $\sigma = \{\sigma_i | i \in \mathbb{N}\}$, with each σ_i counter-example for t_i , and with the value of σ compatible with the trace conditions of π .*

As a corollary from the theorem we will conclude: if t satisfies the global trace condition, then there is no such σ , therefore $t \sim t$, as we wished to show.

We prove that for any term $(t \sim t)$ with counter-example $\vec{a}, \vec{d} \sim_0 \vec{b}, \vec{e}$ and $\neg(t[\vec{a}](\vec{d}) \sim_0 t[\vec{b}](\vec{e}))$ we can find some immediate subterm t' and with a counter-example $\vec{a}', \vec{d}' \sim_0 \vec{b}', \vec{e}'$ and $\neg(t'[\vec{a}'](\vec{d}') \sim_0 t'[\vec{b}'](\vec{e}'))$, compatible with trace condition.

9 Infinite reductions

For infinite terms we can define a notion of reduction contracting infinitely many redexes at the same time. In this section investigate this notion, we show that for recursive terms it is a recursive operation, and that the result is well-defined for the set **GlTrCon** of terms with the global trace condition. We also show that **GlTrCon** is closed under infinite reductions.

Assume $t \in \mathbb{A}$ and X is a set of redexes in t . We define an operation \mapsto_X on each node t' of t , and its result $u \in \mathbb{A}$ by induction on the distance between t' and t .

If $t \notin X$ and $t = 0, \mathbf{S}(u), x, \lambda x : Tu, f(u), \mathbf{cond}(f, g)$, we apply \mapsto_X on all immediate subterms t' of t . If $t = (\lambda x : T.b)(u), \mathbf{condx}.(f, g)(0), \mathbf{condx}.(f, g)(\mathbf{S}(u))$, we contract t , respectively, to $b[u/x], f, g[u/x]$, then we apply \mapsto_X to the result.

The operation \mapsto_X loops if in some path of t we always find redexes in X . This is the case of $t = (\lambda x : T.t)(x)$ and of $u = \mathbf{condx}.(0, u)(1)$ and of $X =$ all redexes of t, u respectively. In both terms, the unique infinite path of the term is made of redexes of X , and \mapsto_X never provides a single symbol of the output.

If we want to consider infinite redexes in \mathbb{A} we should allow undefined sub-terms inside a term. This is not the case for the set **GlTrCon** of terms with the global trace condition: we can show that **GlTrCon** is closed under \mapsto_X .

We first check that \mapsto_X applied to **GlTrCon** produces no undefined sub-term.

Lemma 9.1 (No infinite redex path) *If $t \in \mathbf{GlTrCon}$ (if t has the global trace condition) then \mapsto_X applied to t produces no undefined sub-term.*

Proof We have to prove that there is no path in t made only of redexes. Suppose a path in t contains an a redex $r = (\lambda x : T.b)(u)$ or $r = (\mathbf{condx}.(f, g))(t)$, with $t = 0$ or $t = \mathbf{S}(u)$. We first check that no trace τ starting from r can progress in the next sub-term of the path. Indeed, τ can only continue through the left-hand-side of r , and if τ progresses, then the left-hand-side must be $\mathbf{condx}.(f, g)$ and τ should move to the variable x bound by $\mathbf{condx}.(f, g)$. The only way to obtain this is that $t = x$ and r is obtained by an η -rule, and in this case r is no redex.

This implies that in a path π only made of redexes any trace τ cannot progress after its first point, and therefore it cannot infinitely progress and the term has no global trace condition.

We prove that **GlTrCon** is closed under \mapsto_X .

Lemma 9.2 *If $t \in \mathbf{GlTrCon}$ and $t \mapsto_X u$ then $u \in \mathbf{GlTrCon}$*

Proof We prove that for any infinite path π in u there is some infinite path ρ in t such that for all traces τ of ρ there is some trace σ of π which is obtained by removing some points of τ which are either the first point or are not progress points. It will follow that if we have an infinitely progressing trace τ in ρ , then we have some infinitely progressing trace σ in π .

We follow π and we apply \mapsto_X . We find finitely many redexes which we reduce to some $v[t_n/x_n] \dots [t_1/x_1]$ with v not redex. A single step in ρ through v corresponds to $n + 1$ steps in π , in such a way that a trace in π is restricted to a trace in ρ . The restriction removes no progresses point but at most the first.

If the path ρ continues in this way forever then we are done.

The other possibility is: π could move to some t_i which was an x_i in t . In this case we restart the path in t through t_i , while ρ continues in $t_i[t_{i-1}/x_{i-1}] \dots [t_1/x_1]$. After finitely many steps ρ can

continue through t_j for some $1 \leq j < i$, which was an x_j in t . This process can continue at most n times. Eventually ρ continues forever inside t_k for some $1 \leq k \leq n$. In this case there is a 1 to 1 correspondence between the trace in ρ and in t_k and the traces in π and in t_k .

10 Normalization and Fairness

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 (Here we should insert our notes for the proof of strong normalization for safe reductions)

There are terms requiring infinite reductions to normalize, but there are reductions normalizing in the limit. We conjecture that we can characterize reductions normalizing in the limit using the notion of "fair" reductions.

Definition 10.1 1. We say that a node is in the k, cond -level if it has less than k nodes cond in its branch.

2. We say that an infinite reduction sequence is fair for nodes of k, cond -level in the following case: for all $i \in N$, all $k > 0$, there is some $j \geq i$ such that at step j either all nodes in the k, cond -level are normal, or one of them is reduced at step j .

Conjecture 1. For all $k \in N$, an infinite reduction sequence σ eventually stop reducing nodes in the k, cond -level.

Conjecture 1 should be proved by adapting the proof of strong normalization for safe reductions to a termination result on the first k -levels for all reductions, and assuming the same result for $k - 1$.

Conjecture 2. An infinite reduction sequence σ is normalizing in the limit if and only if for all $k \in N$, $k > 0$, σ is fair for the task of reducing nodes in the k, cond -level.

Conjecture 2 should follow in few steps from conjecture Conjecture 1.

11 Equivalence between cyclic and non-cyclic system T

In this section we prove that the set of total functionals on N definable in \mathbb{T} and $\text{CT-}\lambda$ are the same.

The inclusion from \mathbb{T} and $\text{CT-}\lambda$ is easy to prove. For any type T we can define a term $\text{Rec} : T, (N, T \rightarrow T) \rightarrow T$ such that $\text{Rec}(a, f, 0) = a$ and $\text{Rec}(a, f, n+1) = f(n, \text{Rec}(a, f, n))$, for all numeral $n \in \mathbb{N}$. The definition is $\text{Rec} = \lambda a, f. \text{rec.}$ with $\text{rec} = \text{condx.}(a, f(x, \text{rec}(x))) : N \rightarrow T$.

The opposite inclusion, from $\text{CT-}\lambda$ to \mathbb{T} , it has been proved by proof-theory for the combinatorial version of circular \mathbb{T} . For $\text{CT-}\lambda$, we will define instead an algorithm taking an infinite term in $\text{CT-}\lambda$, described as a finite circular tree, and returning a term in \mathbb{T} . Our translation can expand more than exponentially the size of the finite circular tree.

Assume $t : T$ is a cyclic term, represented as a cyclic tree with buds t_1, \dots, t_n . We translate it to a term of \mathbb{T} . This is a first draft about how to do it.

1. We first move all buds to the same type and context, by adding dummy variables and dummy arguments. This operation preserves regularity and global trace condition. Now t_1, \dots, t_n all have context Γ and type A .
2. We merge all buds into the same term, defined by some u such that $u(i) = t_i$, for $i = 1, \dots, n$, and $u(i) = \text{some dummy term of type } A \text{ otherwise}$. We replace each t_i with $u(i)$, for $i = 1, \dots, n$. This operation preserves regularity and global trace condition. Now we have n buds, all are the same u with context Γ and type $N \rightarrow A$. Each bud b defines a partial bijection between the occurrence of N in its context and type $\Gamma \vdash N \rightarrow A$, and the occurrences of N in the context and type $\Gamma \vdash N \rightarrow A$ of its companion. We extend this partial bijection to any total bijection τ , depending on the bud b .
3. We close the partial bijections defined by each bud by composition. The number of partial bijections can grow in an exponential way.
4. Assume we have m occurrences of N inside the context and type $\Gamma \vdash N \rightarrow A$ of u . We fix a permutation $\sigma : \{1, \dots, m\}$ and we label them by variables x_1, \dots, x_n of \mathbb{T} , with x_i label of the argument with type N and number i . We will define a translation $t^\sigma \in \mathbb{T}$ of $t \in \text{CT-}\lambda$.

5. All traces move from u to any of the occurrences of u inside u . Some traces of some N in $\Gamma \vdash N \rightarrow A$ disappear, some other are moved to some other N , in an injective way. Two traces never merge. We label each trace in the bud u with the name x_i of the corresponding trace, if any. All those corresponding to no trace are labeled at random using the remaining variable names. At least one trace progresses, otherwise by repeating infinitely many times this step we would get a path with no progressing trace. The same is true for any combination of one or more movements from u to u .
6. At least one trace x_i progresses and it is not erased by any other trace. Otherwise we could follow a path in which each progress is erased in some new step, and so there is no infinite progressing trace. We use this trace as the main variable x_i of the recursion. In all steps, either x_i is constant or decreases, and in at least one case it decreases. In all cases in which x_i decrease we use primitive recursion on x_i in \mathbb{T} , as main variable. In all other case, x_i is not removed, therefore it stays the same. We isolate the main variable x_j of the recursion for these steps, it is progressing therefore $j \neq i$. We use primitive recursion on x_j : this is the second variable of primitive recursion. We continue in this way and we define a primitive recursion in \mathbb{T} , with pairwise distinct indexes $x_{i_1} = x_i$, $x_{i_2} = x_j, \dots, x_{i_k}$ for some $k \geq 1$. We extend x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_k} to x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_n} in a random way: we defined in this way a permutation σ on $\{1, \dots, m\}$ by $\sigma(j) = i_j$ for $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$. We define in this way a closed primitive recursive term $\lambda \vec{x}. t^\sigma \in \mathbb{T}$. Each bud u defining a permutation τ is replaced by $\text{exch}_\tau(f)$. The term $\text{exch}_\tau \in \mathbb{T}$ applies the permutation τ to the arguments of f , and during the recursive call f is replaced by $\lambda \vec{x}. u^\sigma$.

We claim that the infinite term $t^\sigma \in \mathbb{T}$ is equivalent to the cyclic recursive term $t \in \text{CT-}\lambda$ we started from.