Dependent Session Types

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— Abstract

Session types offer a type-based discipline for enforcing communication protocols in distributed programms. Our previous work has formalized simple session types in the settings of multi-threaded λ -calculus with linear types. However, there are still protocols that can't be described precisely in simple session types. In this work, we extend our previous results to present dependent session types that supports quantification of session types over static terms. We provide linearity and duality guarantees natively and statically by our type system without runtime checks or any special encodings. Our technical results include preservation and progress properties. If a program conforms to some dependent session type, the program will adhere to session protocols and will not deadlock. Our formulation is the first dependent session type system to base on λ -calculus. Such formulation is practical to implement, and we describe one of our implementations in ATS that compiles to an Erlang/Elixir back-end.

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1 Introduction

A session is a series of interactions among concurrently running programs. Session types [5, 6, 24, 7] are type disciplines safeguarding such interactions by assigning session types to communication channels so that all parties can use the channels in perfect harmony. Recent works [27, 26, 2, 4, 3] have established a form of Curry-Howard correspondence where propositions in some logic are session types for terms in some variants of π -calculus [13, 14]. A recent work [25] pushed it further to account for dependent session types by incorporating quantifiers.

Instead of π -calculus, it is also possible to formulate session types in the settings of λ -calculus [11, 34]. Such a formulation is closer to concrete implementations. This paper extends [34] and formulates dependent session types.

More specifically, the formulation is based on Applied Type Systems (\mathcal{ATS} [30, 28]), a type system supporting dependent types (of DML-style [33]), linear types, and programming with theorem proving. \mathcal{ATS} takes a layered approach to dependent types in which *statics*, where types are formed and reasoned about, are completely separated from *dynamics*, where programs are constructed and evaluated. Based on \mathcal{ATS} , session protocols are then captured by extending statics with session types (static terms of sort *stype*), while communication channels are *linear* dynamic values whose types are *indexed* by such session protocols.

A very important difference of our formulation as compared to other similar works, say [25], is that our session types describe the intended behavior *globally*, instead of using a

polarized presentation where dual session types are used to describe dual endpoints of a channel *locally*. This global treatment of session types also applies to quantifiers. We shall see the handling of quantifiers from the following (contrived) example.

Imagine we have an equality testing service, that given two integers m and n, returns whether they are equal or not as a boolean value. Let's use roles, 0 (server) and 1 (client), to represent the two participants in a session. And to make it easier to remember, we define integer constants S to be 0, and C to be 1. We could describe this equal protocol in simple session type as

```
\mathtt{equal} ::= \mathtt{msg}(\mathtt{C}, int) :: \mathtt{msg}(\mathtt{C}, int) :: \mathtt{msg}(\mathtt{S}, bool) :: \mathtt{end}(\mathtt{S})
```

where $msg(r, \hat{\tau})$ means the party r will send a (linear) value of type $\hat{\tau}$ to the other side, :: chains together many actions in order, and end(r) means the party r will terminate the session (while the other side waits for the termination). The protocol merely describes the types of input/output but conveys no information about the intended functionality of the service. However, the following dependent session type is much more precise.

```
\begin{split} \text{equal} &::= \text{quan}(\mathtt{C}, \lambda m : int. \text{quan}(\mathtt{C}, \lambda n : int. \\ & \quad \mathsf{msg}(\mathtt{C}, \mathbf{int}(m)) :: \mathsf{msg}(\mathtt{C}, \mathbf{int}(n)) :: \mathsf{msg}(\mathtt{S}, \mathbf{bool}(m=n)) :: \mathtt{end}(\mathtt{S}))) \end{split}
```

where quan is a global encoding of quantifiers. For any role r, quan (r, \cdot) means universal quantification at party r, and dually, existential quantification at the other party (1-r). In equal, it is universally quantified at the client side, meaning the channel's endpoint at party $\mathbb C$ is expecting any possible input from the client, meaning the client process should send a value onto the endpoint, and the value will be transmitted to the other endpoint, and get's received by the server. Dually, the session type is existentially quantified at the server side, and that server side endpoint is expected to output a value to the server process. int and bool are type constructors (static functions of c-sort $int \Rightarrow type$ and $bool \Rightarrow type$, respectively), where int and bool are sorts for static terms. Therefore int(i) and bool(b) are singleton types representing values that equal i and b, respectively. This session type specifies the relation between two integer inputs and the boolean output, that is, given integers m and n, the server should send back a boolean value that equals the result of testing m = n. Such session type forces the server to be only able to implement an equality service on the channel. An example server of type $chan(S, equal) \rightarrow 1$ can be written as follows, roughly using the syntax of ATS, a ML-like language based on \mathcal{ATS} .

```
fun eq_test (ch:chan(S,equal)): void = let
  prval () = exify ch
  prval () = exify ch
  val m = recv ch
  val n = recv ch
  val () = send (ch, m = n)
in close ch end
```

The details of syntax will become clear later, and we focus on some key points now. To establish communications between two processes, we use a *channel*, where each participant is holding an *endpoint* of the channel. When one process sends a value onto one endpoint, the value gets transmitted to the other endpoint of the channel. ch is one such endpoint of the channel at party S, denoted as **chan**(S, equal). The *linear* type constructor, **chan**, will construct a linear type **chan**(r, π) given a role r and a global session type π . The combination

of r and π is where a global session type gets "projected" locally. This can be used to type an endpoint of a channel at party r. As equal is globally quantified by session type constructor quan, we need to locally interpret it at party S, by calling a session API exify twice, which essentially turns chan(S, equal) into

```
\exists m: int. \exists n: int. \operatorname{chan}(S, \operatorname{msg}(C, \operatorname{int}(m)) :: \operatorname{msg}(C, \operatorname{int}(n)) :: \operatorname{msg}(S, \operatorname{bool}(m=n)) :: \operatorname{end}(S))
```

for use with other session API, e.g. recv. The guard in the signature of exify (see Figure 10), $r \neq r_0$, specifies that, for any $quan(r_0, \cdot)$ at endpoint $chan(r, \cdot)$, only when $r \neq r_0$ is true that exify can be invoked to turn $chan(r, quan(r_0, \cdot))$ into $\exists a:\sigma.chan(r, \cdot)$. Dually, before the client can use the channel to send two integers, it has to locally interpret quan at party C, by calling unify (see Figure 10) whose guard is $r = r_0$, which is the dual of exify since roles can only be 0 or 1 in a binary sesion. It will turn the endpoint at the client side into

```
\forall m: int. \forall n: int. \operatorname{chan}(S, \operatorname{msg}(C, \operatorname{int}(m)) :: \operatorname{msg}(C, \operatorname{int}(n)) :: \operatorname{msg}(S, \operatorname{bool}(m = n)) :: \operatorname{end}(S))
```

After such local interpretations, it is left to our intermediate language $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}$, multi-threaded λ -calculus with linear types and dependent types, to interpret the quantifiers. Essentially, a universally quantified endpoint *inputs* an instance from the user to eliminate the quantifier, while an existentially quantified endpoint outputs the witness to the user to eliminate the quantifier. Note that the user of an endpoint is the process holding such endpoint, so as mentioned above, "inputs from the user" means the user writes a program to *send* a value using the endpoint. Such twist is found in other works as well, e.g. [27, 26].

The main contribution of this paper is the formulation of dependent session types in the settings of λ -calculus, which is a first to the best of our knowledge. Our system of session types supports quantification over static terms, recursions, and uses unpolarized presentation. Our technical results include preservation and progress properties, which indicates session fidelity and deadlock-freeness. We also present the implementation of dependent session types, which is also a first. Our approach can also be easily adapted to support multi-party sessions.

The following sections are organised as follows. Section 2 breifly sets up multi-threaded λ -calculus with linear types, denoted as \mathcal{L}_0 . Section 3 introduces predicatization to extend \mathcal{L}_0 into multi-threaded λ -calculus with dependent types and linear types, denoted as $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}$. Section 4 further extends $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}$ to formulate dependent session types as $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}^{\pi}$. Section 5 describes technical details of our implementations. Section 6 demonstrates the benefits of dependent session types through examples. We then mention extensions (multi-party sessions, polymorphism, etc) in Section 7, related works in Section 8 and finally conclude in Section 9.

2 Multi-threaded λ -calculus with Linear Types

The formulation of multi-threaded λ -calculus with linear types is largely standard and follows exactly from our previous work [34] except for some minor cosmetic changes. Therefore, we only present it very briefly and refer the readers to our prior work for details.

2.1 Syntax

The syntax is shown in Figure 1 which is mostly standard. $\delta/\hat{\delta}$ are non-linear/linear base types. "vtype" is just linear type. Note that a type τ is also a linear type $\hat{\tau}$, but it is not regarded as a *true* linear type. dcc/dcf are dynamic constant constructors/functions (pre-defined constructors/functions). dcr are dynamic constant resources that are treated

Figure 1 Syntax of Multi-threaded λ -calculus with Linear Types

```
\tau ::= \delta \mid \mathbf{1} \mid \tau_1 \times \tau_2 \mid \tau_1 \to \tau_2
                                                       \hat{\tau} ::= \hat{\delta} \mid \tau \mid \hat{\tau}_1 \otimes \hat{\tau}_2 \mid \hat{\tau}_1 \multimap \hat{\tau}_2
                                 vtypes
        dynamic constants
                                                            ::=
                                                                        dcc \mid dcf
                                                       e ::= x \mid dcx(\overrightarrow{e}) \mid dcr \mid \langle \rangle \mid \langle e_1, e_2 \rangle \mid
                dynamic terms
                                                                         let \langle x_1, x_2 \rangle = e_1 in e_2 \mid if e then e_1 else e_2 \mid
                                                                         \mathbf{fst}(e) \mid \mathbf{snd}(e) \mid \mathbf{lam} \ x.e \mid \mathbf{app}(e_1, e_2)
               dynamic values
                                                       v
                                                             ::=
                                                                         x \mid dcc(\overrightarrow{v}) \mid \langle \rangle \mid \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle \mid \mathbf{lam} \ x.e
  dynamic type context
                                                             ::=
                                                                         \varnothing \mid \Gamma, x : \tau
                                                                         \varnothing \mid \Delta, x : \hat{\tau}
                                                      \Delta ::=
dynamic vtype context
                                                            ::= \varnothing \mid \mathcal{S}, dcx : (\overrightarrow{\tau}) \Rightarrow \tau \mid \mathcal{S}, dcx : (\overrightarrow{\hat{\tau}}) \Rightarrow \hat{\tau}
         dynamic signature
                                                       \theta ::= [] \mid \theta[x \mapsto v]
 dynamic substitutions
                                                      \Pi ::= [] \mid \Pi[t \mapsto e]
                                    pools
```

linearly. S are dynamic signatures that assign types to dynamic constants, and these types are called *c-types*. Note that $\overrightarrow{\cdot}$ stands for a possibly empty sequence of \cdot , i.e. \overrightarrow{e} is a possibly empty sequence of dynamic terms. $dcx(\overrightarrow{e})$ is a term of type τ if dcx is a constant of c-type $(\tau_1, \ldots, \tau_n) \Rightarrow \tau$ in S and for each $e_i(1 \le i \le n)$ in \overrightarrow{e} , e_i has type τ_i .

We use [] for the empty mapping and $[a_1,\ldots,a_n\mapsto b_1,\ldots,b_n]$ for a mapping that maps a_i to b_i for $1\leqslant i\leqslant n$, in which case we write $m(a_i)$ to mean b_i . We use $\mathbf{dom}(m)$ for the domain of a mapping m. If $a\notin \mathbf{dom}(m)$, then $m[a\mapsto b]$ means to extend m with a new link from a to b. We also use $m\setminus a$ to mean the mapping obtained by removing a from $\mathbf{dom}(m)$, and m[a:=b] to mean $(m\setminus a)[a\mapsto b]$. Substitution θ is a mapping from variables to dynamic values. We write $e[\theta]$ for the result of applying θ to e. Pool Π is a mapping from thread identifiers t (represented as natural numbers) to closed dynamic expressions such that $0\in \mathbf{dom}(\Pi)$. We use $\Pi(t), t\in \mathbf{dom}(\Pi)$ to refer to a thread in Π whose thread identifier is t. We use $\Pi(0)$ for the main thread.

Typing contexts are divided into a non-linear part Γ and a linear part Δ . They are intuitionistic meaning that it is required that each variable occurs at most once in a non-linear context Γ or a linear context Δ . Given Γ_1, Γ_2 s.t. $\mathbf{dom}(\Gamma_1) \cap \mathbf{dom}(\Gamma_2) = \emptyset$, we write (Γ_1, Γ_2) for the union of the two. The same notion also applies to linear context Δ . Given non-linear context Γ and linear context Δ , we can form a combined context $(\Gamma; \Delta)$ when $\mathbf{dom}(\Gamma) \cap \mathbf{dom}(\Delta) = \emptyset$. Given $(\Gamma; \Delta)$, we may write $(\Gamma; \Delta), x : \hat{\tau}$ for either $(\Gamma; \Delta, x : \hat{\tau})$ or $(\Gamma, x : \hat{\tau}; \Delta)$ if $\hat{\tau}$ is indeed a non-linear type.

Besides integers and booleans, we also assume a constant function thread_create in dcx whose c-type in S is $(1 \multimap 1) \Rightarrow 1$. A function of type $1 \multimap 1$ takes no argument and returns no result (if it terminates). Since it is a true linear function, it contains no resources and can be invoked exactly once. Intuitively, thread_create creates a thread that evaluates the linear function. Its semantic is to be formally introduced later.

To manage resources, we follow [34] and define $\rho(\cdot)$ (Figure 8) to compute the multiset (bag) of constant resources in a given expression and \mathcal{R} (RES in [34]) to range over such multisets of resources. We say R is valid if $R \in \mathcal{R}$ holds. Intuitively, \mathcal{R} can be thought of like all the resources of all the programs and R the resources of a single program. We need to make sure that resource allocation to different programs is consistent in \mathcal{R} . For precise definitions, please refer to our prior work.

2.2 Sementics

Typing rules are the same as [34], and we push it to Figure 9 in the appendix. The c-type judgment based on the signature is of the form $\mathcal{S} \vDash e : \hat{\tau}$. A typing judgment is of the form $\Gamma; \Delta \vdash e : \hat{\tau}$ which is standard. By inspecting the rules in Figure 9, we can readily see that a closed value cannot contain resources if it can be assigned a non-linear type τ . The *Lemma of Canonical Forms* and the *Lemma of Substitution* are the same as our previous work ([34] Lemma 2.2 and Lemma 2.3), we thus omit them completely.

 \mathcal{L}_0 has a call-by-value semantic, and the definition of evaluation context (E), redex, and reducts are completely standard and are the same as our previous work. We thus omit the details and present just reduction on pools and properties of \mathcal{L}_0 . Given pools Π_1, Π_2 , we define parallal reductions on pools $\Pi_1 \to \Pi_2$ as follows,

$$\begin{split} &\frac{e_1 \rightarrow e_2}{\Pi[t \mapsto e_1] \rightarrow \Pi[t \mapsto e_2]} \, \mathbf{pr0} \quad \frac{t > 0}{\Pi[t \mapsto \langle \rangle] \rightarrow \Pi} \, \mathbf{pr2} \\ &\frac{\Pi(t) = E[\mathtt{thread_create}(\mathbf{lam} \ x.e)]}{\Pi \rightarrow \Pi[t := E[\langle \rangle]][t' \mapsto \mathbf{app}(\mathbf{lam} \ x.e, \langle \rangle)]} \, \mathbf{pr1} \end{split}$$

- ▶ **Theorem 1** (Subject Reduction on Pools). Assume $\varnothing; \varnothing \vdash \Pi_1 : \hat{\tau}$ is derivable and $\Pi_1 \to \Pi_2$ holds for some Π_2 satisfying $\rho(\Pi_2) \in \mathcal{R}$. Then $\varnothing; \varnothing \vdash \Pi_2 : \hat{\tau}$ is also derivable.
- ▶ Theorem 2 (Progress Property on Pools). Assume that $\varnothing; \varnothing \vdash \Pi_1 : \hat{\tau}$ is derivable. Then we have
- \blacksquare Π_1 is a singleton mapping $[0 \mapsto v]$ for some value v, or
- $\Pi_1 \to \Pi_2 \ holds \ for \ some \ \Pi_2 \ s.t. \ \rho(\Pi_2) \in \mathcal{R}.$
- ▶ Theorem 3 (Soundness of \mathcal{L}_0). Assume that $\varnothing; \varnothing \vdash \Pi_1 : \hat{\tau}$ is derivable. Then for any Π_2 , $\Pi_1 \to^* \Pi_2$ implies that either Π_2 is a singleton mapping $[0 \mapsto v]$ for some value v or $\Pi_2 \to \Pi_3$ for some Π_3 satisfying $\rho(\Pi_3) \in \mathcal{R}$, where \to^* is the transitive and reflective closure of \to .

Proof. Follows directly from Theorem 1 and Theorem 2.

3 Predicatization

In this section, we extremely briefly describe an approach to extend \mathcal{L}_0 to support both universally and existentially quantified types. Such process is *predicatization* and is mostly standard in the framework of \mathcal{ATS} [30]. Predicatization is extensively described in [29, 33, 31], and has been employed in several other papers based on \mathcal{ATS} , e.g. [23, 22]. We thus only summarize the process to prepare for the development of $\mathcal{L}_{\nabla,\exists}^{\pi}$, and omit any technical details.

As an applied type system, $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}$ is layered into *statics* and *dynamics*. The dynamics of $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}$ is based on \mathcal{L}_0 , while the statics will be a newly introduced layer underlying \mathcal{L}_0 . The predicatization process concerns mostly about formalizing the type index language while maintaining the dynamic semantics of \mathcal{L}_0 , and reducing type equality problems into constraint solving problems w.r.t. some constraint domain, such as integer arithmetic. General steps of predicatization involve the followings:

- Formalizing statics, the language of type index. This involves its syntax, sorting rules, and specifically, non-linear type/linear type formation rules, etc.
- Formalizing type equality in terms of subtyping relations and regular constraint relations.
- Extending dynamics. This involves extending the syntax, typings, evaluation context, and reduction relations to accommodate, for instance, the introduction and elimination of quantifiers.

Figure 2 Syntax of Statics

```
base sorts b ::= int \mid bool \mid type \mid vtype
sorts \sigma ::= b \mid \sigma_1 \rightarrow \sigma_2
static constants scx ::= scc \mid scf
static terms s ::= a \mid scx(\overrightarrow{s}) \mid \lambda a : \sigma.s \mid s_1(s_2)
static context \Sigma ::= \varnothing \mid \Sigma, a : \sigma
static signature S ::= \varnothing \mid S, scx : (\overrightarrow{\sigma}) \Rightarrow \sigma
static substitutions \theta ::= [] \mid \theta[a \mapsto s]
```

Figure 3 Types

```
types \tau ::= a \mid \delta(\vec{s}) \mid \mathbf{1} \mid \tau_1 \times \tau_2 \mid \tau_1 \to \tau_2 \mid P \supset \tau \mid P \land \tau \mid \forall a : \sigma. \tau \mid \exists a : \sigma. \tau
vtypes \hat{\tau} ::= \hat{a} \mid \hat{\delta}(\vec{s}) \mid \tau \mid \hat{\tau}_1 \otimes \hat{\tau}_2 \mid \hat{\tau}_1 \multimap \hat{\tau}_2 \mid P \supset \hat{\tau} \mid P \land \hat{\tau} \mid \forall a : \sigma. \hat{\tau} \mid \exists a : \sigma. \hat{\tau}
```

Figure 4 Extended Dynamic Language Syntax

```
dynamic terms e ::= \cdots \mid \supset^+(v) \mid \supset^-(e) \mid \land(e) \mid \mathbf{let} \land (x) = e_1 \mathbf{in} \ e_2 \mid \forall^+(v) \mid \forall^-(e) \mid \exists (e) \mid \mathbf{let} \ \exists (x) = e_1 \mathbf{in} \ e_2
dynamic values v ::= \cdots \mid \supset^+(v) \mid \forall^+(v) \mid \land(v) \mid \exists (v)
```

Figure 5 Some Additional Typing Rules of $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}$

$$\frac{\sum \vdash s : \sigma}{\sum; \overrightarrow{P}; \Gamma; \Delta \vdash \forall \cdot : \widehat{\tau}} \underbrace{\sum; \overrightarrow{P}; \Gamma; \Delta \vdash e : \forall a : \sigma. \widehat{\tau}}_{\Sigma; \overrightarrow{P}; \Gamma; \Delta \vdash e : \widehat{\tau}[a \mapsto s]} \mathbf{ty} \cdot \forall \mathbf{-intr} \underbrace{\frac{\sum; \overrightarrow{P}; \Gamma; \Delta \vdash e : \forall a : \sigma. \widehat{\tau}}{\sum; \overrightarrow{P}; \Gamma; \Delta \vdash e : \widehat{\tau}[a \mapsto s]}}_{\Sigma; \overrightarrow{P}; \Gamma; \Delta \vdash e : \widehat{\tau}[a \mapsto s]} \mathbf{ty} \cdot \forall \mathbf{-elim}$$

$$\frac{\sum; \overrightarrow{P}; \Gamma; \Delta \vdash e : \widehat{\tau}[a \mapsto s]}{\sum; \overrightarrow{P}; \Gamma; \Delta \vdash e : \widehat{\tau}[a \mapsto s]} \mathbf{ty} \cdot \exists \mathbf{-intr} \underbrace{\frac{\sum; \overrightarrow{P}; \Gamma; \Delta \vdash e_1 : \exists a : \sigma. \widehat{\tau}_1}{\sum; \overrightarrow{P}; \Gamma; \Delta \vdash e_2 : \widehat{\tau}_2}}_{\Sigma; \overrightarrow{P}; \Gamma; \Delta \vdash e : \exists a : \sigma. \widehat{\tau}} \mathbf{ty} \cdot \exists \mathbf{-elim}$$

The language of statics can be regarded as a simply typed λ -calculus. The "types" for static terms are denoted as *sorts* to avoid confusion. The syntax for statics is shown in Figure 2 which is mostly standard. We assume base sorts b to include int, bool, type for types, and vtype for linear types. Non-linear/linear types in the $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}$ are now static terms of sorts type/vtype, respectively. We reformulate types in the dynamics in Figure 3.

Given a proposition P (a static term of sort bool) and a type τ , $P \supset \tau$ is a guarded type, and $P \wedge \tau$ is an asserting type. Formal definition of guarded types and asserting types can be found in [31]. Intuitively, in order to turn a value of type $P \supset \tau$ into a value of type τ , we must establish the proposition P, thus "guarded"; if a value of type $P \wedge \tau$ is generated, we can assume that the proposition P holds, thus "asserting".

The extended syntax of $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}$ over that of \mathcal{L}_0 is given in Figure 4. Typing judgement in $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}$ is of the form $\Sigma; \overrightarrow{P}; \Gamma; \Delta \vdash e : \hat{\tau}$ where Σ is sorting environment for static terms and \overrightarrow{P} is

a sequence of propositions keeping track of the constraints. We present only some additional typing rules in Figure 5.

We claim that Theorem 1, Theorem 2, and Theorem 3 can be carrier over to $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}$ following the proof in [31].

4 Dependent Session Types

Dependent types are types that depend on terms, and they offer much more expressive power for specifying intended behavior of a program through types. A restricted form of dependent types, we call dependent types of DML-style [31], are types that depend on *static* terms. In this section, we will formally develop *dependent session types* (of DML-style), where session types can have quantification over static terms. Based on $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}$, we first extend the statics, then extend the dynamics, and finally discuss the soundness of $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}^{\pi}$.

4.1 Extending Statics

The syntax of extended statics is given in Figure 6. We add stype as a new base sort to represent session types. Session types π are now static terms of sort stype. We use i for static integers and b for static booleans. end(i) means party i will close the session while the other party will wait for closing. Given linear type $\hat{\tau}$ and a session type π , $msg(i,\hat{\tau}) :: \pi$ means party i should send a message to the other party, and then continue as π . branch (i, π_1, π_2) is for branching, where party i should choose to continue as π_1 or π_2 while the other party simply follows the choice. Beyond these basic session type constructs, we have ite¹ for conditional branch, quan for universal/existential quantification, and fix for recursions. Given a static boolean expression, $ite(b, \pi_1, \pi_2)$ represents π_1 when b is \top (true), or π_2 when b is \perp (false). Given a static function of sort $\sigma \to stype$, quan $(i, \lambda a: \sigma.\pi)$ is interpreted intuitively² as universally quantified $\forall a:\sigma.\pi$ by party i, or as existentially quantified $\exists a:\sigma.\pi$ by the other party. Note that this is actually a session type scheme and we assume the existence of such quan for every sort σ . The need for a unified representation of quantifiers, quan, is a must since we essentially formulate all session types as global, as compared to polarized presentation where session types are all local. Given a static function of sort stype \rightarrow stype, $fix(\lambda a:stype.\pi)$ is an encoding of the fixpoint operator that represents the fixpoint of the input function. In practice, we may write recursive definitions directly as a syntax sugar as shown in Example 8.

Figure 6 Syntax of Dependent Session Types

```
\begin{array}{lll} \text{base sorts} & b & ::= & \cdots \mid stype \\ & \text{stypes} & \pi & ::= & \operatorname{end}(i) \mid \operatorname{msg}(i,\hat{\tau}) :: \pi \mid \operatorname{branch}(i,\pi_1,\pi_2) \mid \\ & & \operatorname{ite}(b,\pi_1,\pi_2) \mid \operatorname{quan}(i,\lambda a : \sigma . \pi) \mid \operatorname{fix}(\lambda a : stype . \pi) \end{array}
```

Besides, we also introduce role as a subset sort $\{r:int \mid r=0 \lor r=1\}$ to represent two parties, server (0) and client (1), involved in a binary session. Note that subset sorts

¹ Note that branch is just a special case of ite and we can indeed encode branch using ite.

² This is only intuitively interpreted. Its accurate interpretation should be considered together with an endpoint since π is global. See later sections.

are merely syntax sugars for a guarded/asserting type [33]. For instance, $\forall r:role.\mathbf{int}(r)$ is desugared into $\forall r:int.(r=0 \lor r=1) \supset \mathbf{int}(r)$.

We also add the following *linear* type constructor as a static constant³,

```
chan : (role, stype) \Rightarrow vtype
```

that represents a linear channel. Given role r and session type π , $\operatorname{chan}(r,\pi)$ is the endpoint of a channel held by party r. The channel is governed by the session type π , and the endpoint interprets this session type $\operatorname{locally}$ at party r.

4.2 Extending Dynamics

We add the following dynamic constant functions (pre-defined functions), shown in Figure 10, to create, use, and consume linear channels. We will refer to them as session API or just the API. We break up the figure and present them with explanations here.

```
\mathtt{create}: \forall r_1, r_2 : role. \forall \pi : stype. (r_1 \neq r_2) \supset (\mathtt{chan}(r_2, \pi) \multimap \mathbf{1}) \Rightarrow \mathtt{chan}(r_1, \pi)
```

create is to create a session of two threads, connected via a channel of session type π , and each thread holds an endpoint of the channel. The party r_1 is holding endpoint $\operatorname{chan}(r_1,\pi)$ as returned by create in the current thread, while the party $r_2 \neq r_1$ is holding endpoint $\operatorname{chan}(r_2,\pi)$ in a newly spawned thread evaluating the given linear function of type $\operatorname{chan}(r_2,\pi) \to 1$. As the (closure) function may contains resources, it must be linear to guarantee that it can be called exactly once. The channel endpoint will be consumed in this function as it is linear.

```
\mathbf{send} : \forall r, r_0 : role. \forall \pi : stype. \forall \hat{\tau} : vtype. (r = r_0) \supset (\mathbf{chan}(r, \mathsf{msg}(r_0, \hat{\tau}) :: \pi), \hat{\tau}) \Rightarrow \mathbf{chan}(r, \pi)
\mathbf{recv} : \forall r, r_0 : role. \forall \pi : stype. \forall \hat{\tau} : vtype. (r \neq r_0) \supset (\mathbf{chan}(r, \mathsf{msg}(r_0, \hat{\tau}) :: \pi)) \Rightarrow \hat{\tau} \otimes \mathbf{chan}(r, \pi)
```

send is for sending linear values. Given global session type $\mathtt{msg}(r_0,\hat{\tau})::\pi$, its interpretation at party r where $r=r_0$ is to send a message of linear type $\hat{\tau}$ then to proceed as π . The send function consumes the channel, uses the capability of sending denoted by $\mathtt{msg}(r_0,\hat{\tau})$, and returns another channel of type $\mathtt{chan}(r,\pi)$, where the sending capability is now removed. Dually, the interpretation of $\mathtt{msg}(r_0,\hat{\tau})::\pi$ is to receive at party $r(\neq r_0)$, implemented by \mathtt{recv} . Note that even though we encode it here in the style of continuation, our implementation directly changes the type of channel without consuming it. In ATS programming language, it is presented in the following style,

```
send: \forall r, r_0: role. \forall \pi: stype. \forall \hat{\tau}: vtype.
```

$$(r = r_0) \supset (!\mathbf{chan}(r, \mathtt{msg}(r_0, \hat{\tau}) :: \pi) \gg \mathbf{chan}(r, \pi), \hat{\tau}) \Rightarrow \mathbf{1}$$

Similarly, close is for terminating a session while wait is waiting for the other side to close.

```
close: \forall r, r_0 : role.(r = r_0) \supset (\mathbf{chan}(r, \mathbf{end}(r_0))) \Rightarrow \mathbf{1}
wait: \forall r, r_0 : role.(r \neq r_0) \supset (\mathbf{chan}(r, \mathbf{end}(r_0))) \Rightarrow \mathbf{1}
```

The interpretation of $\operatorname{branch}(r_0, \pi_1, \pi_2)$ at party $r(\neq r_0)$ is to offer two choices, π_1 and π_2 . Therefore, offer function will consume the endpoint and return a linear pair of the other

³ It is indeed **chan**: $(int, stype) \Rightarrow vtype$ since in \mathcal{ATS} , subset sort is not allowed in a c-sort. We use role here just to simplify our presentation.

party's choice (as a singleton boolean) and the endpoint whose session type is a conditional branch between π_1, π_2 using the received tag b as the condition. Dually, **choosel** and **chooser** will choose π_1 and π_2 respectively by internally sending out a boolean tag to the other party.

```
\begin{split} \text{offer}: \forall r, r_0 : role. \forall \pi_1, \pi_2 : stype. (r \neq r_0) \supset (\mathbf{chan}(r, \mathsf{branch}(r_0, \pi_1, \pi_2)) \\ &\Rightarrow \exists b : bool. \mathbf{bool}(b) \otimes \mathbf{chan}(r, \mathtt{ite}(b, \pi_1, \pi_2)) \\ \text{choosel}: \forall r, r_0 : role. \forall \pi_1, \pi_2 : stype. \\ & (r = r_0) \supset (\mathbf{chan}(r, \mathtt{branch}(r_0, \pi_1, \pi_2))) \Rightarrow \mathbf{chan}(r, \pi_1) \\ \text{chooser}: \forall r, r_0 : role. \forall \pi_1, \pi_2 : stype. \\ & (r = r_0) \supset (\mathbf{chan}(r, \mathtt{branch}(r_0, \pi_1, \pi_2))) \Rightarrow \mathbf{chan}(r, \pi_2) \end{split}
```

unify is to interpret quan (r_0, \cdot) at party $r(=r_0)$ as universal quantifier, while exify is to interpret it dually as existential quantifier at party $r(\neq r_0)$.

```
\begin{split} \text{unify}: \forall r, r_0: role. \forall \pi: stype. \forall f: \sigma \rightarrow stype. \\ (r = r_0) \supset \mathbf{chan}(r, \mathbf{quan}(r_0, f)) \Rightarrow \forall s: \sigma. \mathbf{chan}(r, f(s)) \\ \text{exify}: \forall r, r_0: role. \forall \pi: stype. \forall f: \sigma \rightarrow stype. \\ (r \neq r_0) \supset \mathbf{chan}(r, \mathbf{quan}(r_0, f)) \Rightarrow \exists s: \sigma. \mathbf{chan}(r, f(s)) \end{split}
```

itet and itef reduces the conditional branching session type $ite(b, \pi_1, \pi_2)$ according to static boolean expression b. recurse unrolls the fixpoint encoding.

```
itet: \forall r: role. \forall \pi_1, \pi_2: stype. (\mathbf{chan}(r, \mathtt{ite}(\top, \pi_1, \pi_2))) \Rightarrow \mathbf{chan}(r, \pi_1)
itef: \forall r: role. \forall \pi_1, \pi_2: stype. (\mathbf{chan}(r, \mathtt{ite}(\bot, \pi_1, \pi_2))) \Rightarrow \mathbf{chan}(r, \pi_2)
recurse: \forall r: role. \forall f: stype \rightarrow stype. (\mathbf{chan}(r, \mathtt{fix}(f))) \Rightarrow \mathbf{chan}(r, f(\mathtt{fix}(f)))
```

Note that these functions (unify/exify/itet/itef/recurse) are *proof* functions that merely change the types of endpoints. They have no runtime counterparts and thus can be eliminated after type checking has passed.

Duality is not explicitly encoded as is usually done in session types literature [12, 19, 10]. Instead, we choose to make the duality as general as possible and use a global session type π paired with a role r to guide the local interpretation at endpoint r. Given that r can only be 0 or 1, we can define that $\mathbf{chan}(0,\pi)$ and $\mathbf{chan}(1,\pi)$ are dual endpoints of a channel. Session API come in dual pairs, and the dual usage of dual endpoints are realized by the corresponding session API pairs with the help of guarded types. The typing rules for guarded types will force one endpoint to be only used with one API in the pair while the dual endpoint to be only used with the dual API in the same pair. A crucial indication of such formulation is that we essentially reduce duality checking problem into a simple integer comparison problem, which greatly simplifies our formulation. Also, it reduces the number of the dynamic constants in Figure 10 in half by avoiding coercion between so-called input/output types [12]. In our previous work [34], we used a polarized presentation, e.g. chanpos(p) and **channeg**(p) where p is a local type. This is similar to In[]/Out[] in [21], S_7/S_1 in [12]Section 6, and dual/notDual in [20]. We found this polarized presentation is not suitable for extending to multi-party sessions, whereas our "global+role+guard" formulation can be very easily adapted to multi-party sessions based on [35]. For example, in a three-party session, we can define $\mathbf{chan}(0,\pi)$, $\mathbf{chan}(1,\pi)$, and $\mathbf{chan}(2,\pi)$ to be *compatible*, as a generalization to duality. We very briefly mention such extension in Section 7.

```
\operatorname{cut}: \forall r_1, r_2 : role. \forall \pi : stype. (r_1 \neq r_2) \supset (\operatorname{chan}(r_1, \pi), \operatorname{chan}(r_2, \pi)) \Rightarrow \mathbf{1}
```

Given dual endpoints, cut will link together the endpoints by performing bi-directional forwarding. In other words, it will send onto one endpoint each received value from the other endpoint. cut is often used to implement delegation of service. It can be proven that these two endpoints must belong to different channels since otherwise, it will obviously deadlock.

4.3 Dynamic Semantics

The dynamic semantics of $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}^{\pi}$ is indeed the same as our prior work except that we have added a branching construct and we use a more general unpolarized presentation. We thus push additional reduction ruls on pools in Figure 11 and Figure 12 to the appendix. Note that, as mentioned above, unify/exify/itet/itef/recurse do not have any dynamic semantics. The meaning of these rules should be intuitively clear. For instance, **pr-msg** states, if thread t_1 in pool Π is of the form $E[\text{send}(ch_{i,r_1},v)]$, and thread t_2 in pool Π is of the form $E[\text{recv}(ch_{i,r_2})]$, then Π can be reduced to another pool where t_1 is replaced by $E[ch_{i,r_1}]$ and t_2 is replaced by $E[\langle v, ch_{i,r_2} \rangle]$.

4.4 Soundness of the Type System

While Theorem 1 can be easily established for $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}^{\pi}$, Theorem 2 is more involved due to the addition of session API. However, based on [30, 33], $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}$ and $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}^{\pi}$ are conservative extensions of \mathcal{L}_0 , and the deadlock-freeness is proven for \mathcal{L}_0 with channels in [34] using a technique known as DF-Reducibility. Thus the same results can be proven for $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}^{\pi}$ using the exact same technique since the dynamic semantics are the same. We thus refer readers to [34, 33] for detailed proofs. We can them establish the same deadlock-freeness guarantee as stated in Lemma 3.1 of [34]

- ▶ **Theorem 4** (Subject Reduction of $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}^{\pi}$). Assume that $\varnothing; \varnothing \vdash \Pi_1 : \hat{\tau}$ is derivable and $\Pi_1 \to \Pi_2$ s.t. $\rho(\Pi_2) \in \mathcal{R}$. Then $\varnothing; \varnothing \vdash \Pi_2 : \hat{\tau}$ is derivable.
- ▶ **Theorem 5** (Progress Property of $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}^{\pi}$). Assume that $\varnothing; \varnothing \vdash \Pi_1 : \hat{\tau}$ is derivable and $\rho(v)$ contains no channel endpoins for every $v : \hat{\tau}$. Then
- \blacksquare Π_1 is a singleton mapping $[0 \mapsto v]$ for some v, or
- $\Pi_1 \to \Pi_2 \ holds \ for \ some \ \Pi_2 \ s.t. \ \rho(\Pi_2) \in \mathcal{R}.$
- ▶ Theorem 6 (Soundness of $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}^{\pi}$). Assume that $\varnothing; \varnothing \vdash \Pi_1 : \hat{\tau}$ is derivable and $\rho(v)$ contains no channel endpoins for every $v : \hat{\tau}$. Then for any Π_2 satisfying $\rho(\Pi_2) \in \mathcal{R}$, $\Pi_1 \to^* \Pi_2$ implies either Π_2 is a singleton mapping $[0 \mapsto v]$ for some v, or $\Pi_2 \to \Pi_3$ for some Π_3 s.t. $\rho(\Pi_3) \in \mathcal{R}$.

5 Implementations

Our implementations consist of two parts, a session API library in ATS, and a runtime implementation of the session API (referred to as a back-end) in a target language. ATS is a programming language based on \mathcal{ATS} , and it supports a style of co-programming with many target languages by compiling an ATS program into the target language. Its default compilation target is C. For the purpose of this paper, besides a native back-end in ATS/C itself, we also support back-ends in Erlang/Elixir and JavaScript. A session-typed program will be firstly type-checked based on the type system of $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}^{\pi}$, and then compiled into a target language (if passed type checking). The compiler/interpreter of the target language will then be invoked to compile/interpret the program together with the corresponding back-end. Although formalized as synchronous sessions (for the sake of simplicity), our implementations

can fully support asynchronous communications. Our linear typing guarantees no resources leaks. For instance, in our Erlang/Elixir back-end, there are no process leaks related to channels.

Our session API library in ATS is (almost) a direct translation of those listed in Figure 10, except for some slight syntax differences. For example, send is translated into the followings.

where {} is universal quantification (and [] is existential quantification), ! means not to consume a linear value, and >> means to change the linear type after the function returns. As mentioned before, whenever possible, the API will change the types of endpoints directly instead of relying on continuations. There are a couple other minor changes. First, with guarded recursive data types [32] and pattern matching, the API formulates offer/choosel/chooser in a more uniform way as below.

where choice is a guarded recursive data type that essentially captures the equality on session types. Also, since it is existentially quantified, the type-checker will enforce *exhuastive* case analysis on the received choice to instantiate s. Note that s as in >> chan(r,s) is in the scope of quantifier [s:stype] even though it appears before such quantifier.

We briefly mention some technical details below and refer the readers to http://multirolelogic.org for pointers to all the source code. Due to space limitation, we assume that the readers are reasonably familiar with these target languages.

5.1 Message-passing Back-end in Erlang/Elixir

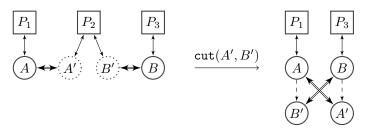
Erlang offers functional distributed programming abilities through its powerful virtual machine. Elixir offers a more friendly syntax and better tooling on top of the same runtime. In Erlang/Elixir, every process has a unique pid (process identifier), and an associated mailbox. Communications are achieved via message-passing asynchronously and can be done across different nodes. In this particular implementation, choose and offer are implemented as send and receive, respectively. close and wait are implemented both to terminate the process directly. This back-end relies on order-preserving messages and is inherently asynchronous and distributed.

In Erlang/Elixir back-end, a message is represented by a label, a pid, a ref, and a payload. A channel endpoint is identified through a combination of a pid and a ref. The message labels are used to identify the kind of messages, e.g. :send/:receive. The pid is used to locate the message's origin, or an endpoint's mailbox. The ref's are globally unique references, generated through a built-in function make_ref for every endpoint. The need for ref is discussed in [15]. Intuitively speaking, the ref acts as a signature of the message and every out-going message is signed using the sending endpoint's own ref. Thus it can be

used both to distinguish in-session messages from out-of-session messages⁴, and to identify requests from the endpoint's owning process and messages from the dual endpoint.

An endpoint will run a loop in a dedicated process and talk to the owning process through messages-passing. The endpoint loop keeps track of two parameters: self, which is its own signature as a ref, and dual, which is the dual endpoint's pid and ref. In every iteration, the loop will receive a request from the owning process by pattern matching against messages signed by self, and then process the request accordingly. For instance, when the owning process sends a message with label :receive signed with self, the endpoint will then pattern match against messages in the endpoint's mailbox and block until it finds the first message whose label is :send and is signed by the dual endpoint's ref, which is dual.ref. The found message will then be delivered to the owning process's mailbox, fulfilling the request.

Figure 7 Example cut in Erlang/Elixir Back-end



cut is implemented as delegation, where :send requests are handled as before, but :receive requests are delegated to an endpoint involved in a cut. Suppose we have dual endpoints A:chan(0,p)/A':chan(1,p) and dual endpoints B':chan(0,p)/B:chan(1,p) of some session type p, and we are to perform cut(A',B'). The owning process P_2 of both A' and B', will send a :cut request to A' and B', with a payload of the pid and ref of B' and A', respectively. The info about B' will be forwarded to A, and A will delegate :receive requests to B'. Similarly, the info about A' will be forwarded to B. and B will delegate :receive requests to A'. A delegated request will change its signature from the original requester's ref, to the delegator's ref, so that the delegator can still process the request as if the request comes from its owning process. An example is illustrated in Figure 7, where \leftrightarrow is for endpoint ownership, \Leftrightarrow connects dual endpoints, and dashed arrow denotes delegation. Now, if P_1 sends a message to P_3 , it will be sent through endpoint A, and then delivered to the mailbox of A'. When P_3 tries to receive the message, it will send a :receive request to B, and B delegates it to A', and A' will fulfill the request since the message is in its mailbox.

We also have a shared memory implementation in ATS/C which implements our own message queue guarded by locks, and a continuation-based implementation in JavaScript using WebWorker.

6 Examples

We will show some example dependent session types or programs in the followings. We will assume that the server plays role 0 (S), and the client plays role 1 (C). We will use ATS's ML-like syntax to present the program (after omitting some insignificant details), which can be easily mapped to $\mathcal{L}_{\forall.\exists}^{\pi}$. We also use syntax sugar and implementation optimizations described

⁴ This is because that knowing just the pid is enough for any process to randomly inject messages to its mailbox.

in Section 5 and extensions from Section 7. Again, the source code can be found online through http://multirolelogic.org, and all the code can be type-checked, compiled, and executed.

▶ Example 7 (Counter). One can easily define a counter as an integer stream. But more precisely, we can define dependently session typed constructor counter as

```
counter(n:int) ::= branch(C, msg(S, int(n)) :: counter(n+1), end(1))
```

which says, in every iteration, the client can choose to receive an integer n and let the session continue from n+1, or to end the session. counter makes use of higher-order fixpoint encoding, fix, which is better explained in Example 8. On top of counter, we can define a service from that given an integer n, returns an endpoint of session type counter(n).

```
from ::= quan(C, \lambda n:int.msg(C, int(n)) :: msg(S, chan(C, counter(n))) :: end(C))
```

Since **chan** is a linear type constructor, a channel can then be sent over another channel just as other linear values, and **send** will consume it. This forms a high order session type. We omit any testing code since it is similar to Example 8. Due to space limitation, we push other examples to Appendix A.

7 Extensions

We very briefly describe possible extensions of $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}^{\pi}$. First, it is straightforward to add general recursion to our language (not to the session type) as has been done in [34].

Second, one can always introduce a higher-order fix into session types, such as

$$fix(\lambda f:(\overrightarrow{\sigma} \to stype).\lambda \overrightarrow{a}:\overrightarrow{\sigma}.\pi), \overrightarrow{s})$$

where f is a static function of sort $(\vec{\sigma} \to stype) \to \vec{\sigma} \to stype$, and \vec{s} are static terms of matching sorts $\vec{\sigma}$. Correspondingly, we need to introduce another recurse to unroll it. A higher-order fix will input static terms to form a new session type that dependents on these static terms. Thus these are also dependent session types.

More importantly, we can extend $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}^{\pi}$ to support multi-party session types based on [35]. Roles will be extended from $\{0,1\}$ to a larger set of natural numbers, $\mathbf{chan}(r,\pi)$ will be extended to $\mathbf{chan}(R,\pi)$ where R is now a set of roles. This is essential because of the need to represent one party's complement roles, which has to be a set. Guards in session API will change from $r = r_0$ to $r_0 \in R$, and from $r \neq r_0$ to $r_0 \notin R$. cut will be extended to another form based on [35].

Also, both predicative quantification (dependent types) and higher-order impredicative quantification (polymorphism) are supported by \mathcal{ATS} , and our formulation naturally supports polymorphic session types in the sense of [1] since quan and higher-order fix can input session types to form a session type. We give such an example in Example 10. However, we focus on predicative quantification in this paper.

8 Related Works

To our best knowledge, [25] is the only other formalization of dependent session types (in the same sense as ours). It is based on intuitionistic linear type theory for a variant of π -calculus, which extends the work in [2] where a kind of Curry-Howard isomorphism is established between propositions in intuitionistic linear logic and session types for π -calculus. The work

concerns with two layers, an unspecified dependently typed layer for functional terms that assign meanings to atomic propositions, and a session typed layer that composes sessions and interprets linear logic connectives. Quantifiers connect these two layers where universal quantifier inputs a functional term and existential quantifier outputs a functional term. Cut of \forall/\exists is communication. Their line of works presents session types in a polarized style, corresponding to their left/right introduction/elimination rules of the logic. Our work is different in many ways. Our work is based on λ -calculus instead of π -calculus/linear logic, and we have shown our concrete implementations and source code to support the argument that such formulation is practical to implement. Quantifiers are handled slightly differently. We present unpolarized global quantifiers in the session type, then locally interpreted it as \forall/\exists through our session API. However, the input/output action is not limited to follow the quantifiers immediately as they do. Our unpolarized style is easier to extend to multi-party sessions, while theirs is inherently binary due to the nature of duality in linear logic. [1] and [18] are based on [25] which focus on polymorphic session types and proof-carrying code in session types, respectively. Our work supports polymorphic session in the sense of [1] but we do not have space to formally address it.

There are many attempts to integrate session types into practical programming languages. [19, 12, 20] embed session types into Haskell, [21] in Scala, [10] in Rust, [16] in C, and [9, 17, 8] in Java. The single sailent feature is that we support dependent session types while none of above supports. Our type system also guarantees linearity and duality natively and staticly without any special encoding. Due to the lack of linear types, [12] relies on an encoiding of linear λ -calculus, [19, 20] reley on indexed monads. [10] makes use of affine types in Rust that guarantees "at most once" usage which is still not enough. Other works did not capture linearity in the type system. Duality is encoded as a proof system using type classes in [19, 12], and using traits in [10]. [21] uses Scala's In[-]/Out[-] types where - is a local type, and similarly [20] uses dual/notDual, and they are both similar to our prior work using chanpos and channeg. [9] ensures duality in the runtime and [17, 8] are its extensions.

There are other works that are loosely related to ours, such as those investigating links between logics and session types [27, 26, 2]. Please refer to [34] for more due to space limitations.

9 Conclusion

We have presented a dependent session type system $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}^{\pi}$ based on multi-threaded λ -calculus with linear types. Our type system handles quantification over static terms in session types, allowing more precise session protocols to be described elegantly. We use an unpolarized presentation that treats quantifiers in session types as global and interprets them locally as either universal quantifier for inputs or existential quantifier for outputs. Linearity is guaranteed statically by the type system, duality is guaranteed by a combination of global session types, roles at a local endpoint, and guards in the session API. $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}^{\pi}$ also supports delegations, high-order sessions, polymorphic sessions, and recursive sessions. Our type system enjoys subject reduction and progress properties, which implies session fidelity and deadlock-freeness. We have shown the practicality of $\mathcal{L}_{\forall,\exists}^{\pi}$ by providing a concrete back-end in Erlang/Elixir, that is asynchronous, distributed and leak-free. Our formulation also bears extensions in mind and can be easily adapted to multi-party sessions based on multirole logic. We will leave this as a future work.

A Appendix - More Examples

Example 8 (Array). One can safely send an array by sending a length n first, then followed by n messages for n elements of the array. Such a channel can be encoded in the following dependent session types.

```
\begin{split} \mathtt{repeat}(\tau: &type, n: int) ::= \mathtt{ite}(n > 0, \mathtt{msg}(\mathtt{S}, \tau) :: \mathtt{repeat}(\tau, n - 1), \mathtt{end}(\mathtt{S})) \\ &\mathtt{array}(\tau: type) ::= \mathtt{quan}(\mathtt{S}, \lambda n: int.\mathtt{msg}(\mathtt{S}, \mathbf{int}(n)) :: \mathtt{repeat}(\tau, n)) \end{split}
```

where **repeat** is a recursive session type constructor written in direct style, and its desugared version is as follows,

```
\texttt{repeat}(\tau:type,n:int) ::= \\ \texttt{fix}(\lambda p:(int \rightarrow stype).\lambda n:int.\mathtt{ite}(n>0,\mathtt{msg}(\mathtt{S},\tau) :: p(n-1),\mathtt{end}(\mathtt{S})),n)
```

Note that repeat and array are session type constructors, which are just static functions returning static terms of sort stype. Also, the fix is a higher-order fixpoint described in Section 7. repeat (τ, n) then says, if n > 0 is true, the session proceeds to allow sending of a value of type τ from party S $(msg(S, \tau))$, then proceeds as repeat $(\tau, n - 1)$. If n > 0 is false, the session can only be terminated by party S (end(S)). Similarly, array says, party S is to send an integer n followed by n repeated messages described by repeat (τ, n) . Therefore, the server side can be programmed as follows,

```
fun server {a:type} {n:nat}
    (ch:chan(S,array(a)), data:arrref(a,n), len:int(n)): void = let
    prval () = unify ch (* locally interprets the quantifier *)
      val () = send (ch, len) (* provide an instance for the quantifier *)
    fun sendarr {a:type} {n,m:nat|n<=m}</pre>
         (ch:chan(S,repeat(a,n)), x:int(n), data:arrref(a,m), len:int(m)): void =
         if x = 0 then let prval () = recurse ch
                            prval () = itef ch
                         in close ch end
         else let prval () = recurse ch
                  prval () = itet ch
                     val () = send (ch, data[len-x])
               in sendarr (ch, x-1, data, len) end
in sendarr (ch, len, data, len) end
And its type is
   server: \forall \tau: type. \forall n: nat. (chan(S, array(\tau)), arrref(\tau, n), int(n)) \rightarrow 1
```

where data is the array to be sent, whose type is indexed by the type of elements and the length of array. len is then length of array, whose type is a singleton integer that equals the length of data.

▶ Example 9 (Queue). The example comes from SILL⁵, an implementation of binary session types based on [2]. As compared to a simple queue, we define a dependently typed queue indexed by its length as follows, with the higher-order fix introduced in Section 7,

https://github.com/ISANobody/sill

```
\begin{aligned} \text{queue}(\tau: type, n: int) &::= \text{branch}(\texttt{C}, \texttt{msg}(\texttt{C}, \tau) :: \text{queue}(\tau, n+1), \\ &\quad \text{ite}(n > 0, \texttt{msg}(\texttt{S}, \tau) :: \text{queue}(\tau, n-1), \text{end}(\texttt{S}))) \end{aligned}
```

where the client can choose to either enqueue or dequeue an element of type τ . In the dequeue case, instead of encoding an optional value as a branch to deal with dequeuing from an empty queue, we use the length of the queue to decide the continuation of the session type. If the length n is greater than 0, the endpoint allows dequeuing. Otherwise, the endpoint can only be closed. As mentioned before, itet/itef are proof functions that have no runtime cost, while a non-dependently session typed queue will require choose/offer that need to communicate a tag at runtime. We follow their example, and present the elem function as follows, which given a queue and an element e, construct a new queue where e will be inserted into the queue as if it is the first element, and e will be the first to be dequeued.

```
fun elem {a:type} {n:nat}
    (q:chan(C,queue(a,n)), e:a): chan(C,queue(a,n+1)): void = let
        (* out: endpoint held by the server
         * inp: endpoint to the tail of queue
         *)
        fun server {n:nat}
            (out:chan(S,queue(a,n+1)), inp:chan(C,queue(a,n))): void =
            let prval () = recurse out (* unroll the fixpoint *)
                  val c = offer out
             in case c of
                (* dequeue case *)
                | Right () => let prval () = itet out
                                    val () = send (out, e)
                               (* let `inp` delegate the server *)
                               in cut (out, inp) end
                (* enqueue case *)
                | Left () => let
                                    val y = recv
                                                      out
                                  prval () = recurse inp
                                    val () = choose (inp, Left())
                                    val() = send
                                                     (inp, y)
                               in server (out, inp) end
            end
    in
        (* create the server thread, and return the client endpoint *)
        create (lam out => server (out, queue))
    end
```

▶ Example 10 (Polymorphism). We define a polymorphic cloud service that, given any unlimited function, will provide replicated services of such function. The example is taken from [1] that makes use of higher-order quantification over session types, and high-order sessions. We define polymorphic session types as follows,

```
\begin{split} \mathtt{service}(\pi : stype) &::= \mathtt{branch}(\mathtt{C}, \mathtt{msg}(\mathtt{S}, \mathbf{chan}(\mathtt{C}, \pi)) :: \mathtt{service}(\pi), \mathtt{end}(\mathtt{C})) \\ \mathtt{cloud} &::= \mathtt{quan}(\mathtt{C}, \lambda \pi : stype.\mathtt{msg}(\mathtt{C}, \mathbf{chan}(\mathtt{S}, \pi) \to \mathbf{1}) :: \mathtt{service}(\pi)) \end{split}
```

Here, $service(\pi)$ is a polymorphic session type constructor that says a client can repeatedly choose to use a service through a newly created endpoint disciplined by session

type π , or to close it. cloud is a polymorphic session type that says, as long as the client sends an *unlimited/non-linear* function that can provide the functionality described by π , the server will turn it into a replicated service. Corresponding server and client programs could be written like the followings.

```
implement server (ch:chan(S,cloud)): void = let
    prval () = exify ch (* locally interpret `quan` as `exists` *)
      val f = recv ch (* receive the witness *)
    (* the `srv` function provide replicated service
     * by spawning a new endpoint every time the user requests
     *)
    fun srv {p:stype} (ch:chan(0,service(p)), f:chan(0,p)->void): void =
        let prval () = recurse ch
              val c = offer ch
        in case c of
           (* the user choose to close *)
           | Right () => wait ch
           (* the user request one such service *)
           Left () => let val ep = create (lam ch => f ch)
                             val () = send (ch, ep)
                          in srv (ch, f) end
        end
in
    srv (ch, f)
end
implement client (ch:chan(C,cloud)): void = let
    (* This is an instance of the service that does printing *)
    fun echo (ch:chan(S,msg(C,string)::end(C))): void =
        let val () = print (recv ch)
         in wait ch end
    prval () = unify ch (* locally interpret `quan` as `forall` *)
      val () = send (ch, echo) (* provide an instance *)
    (* request the printing service n times *)
    fun prt (ch:chan(C,service(msg(C,string)::end(C))), n:int): void =
        let prval () = recurse ch
        in if n \le 0
           then (choose (ch, Right()); close ch)
           else let val () = choose (ch, Left())
                    (* receive the endpoint and use the service *)
                    val ep = recv ch
                    val () = send (ep, "hello world!")
                    val () = close ep
                 in prt (ch, n-1) end
        end
in
    prt (ch, 10)
end
```

B Appendix - Figures

Figure 8 Definition of $\rho(\cdot)$ in \mathcal{L}_0

Figure 9 Typing Rules of Multi-threaded λ -calculus with Linear Types

Figure 10 Extended Dynamic Constants

```
\mathtt{create}: \forall r_1, r_2 : role. \forall \pi : stype. (r_1 \neq r_2) \supset (\mathtt{chan}(r_2, \pi) \multimap \mathbf{1}) \Rightarrow \mathtt{chan}(r_1, \pi)
       \mathtt{send}: \forall r, r_0: role. \forall \pi: stype. \forall a: vtype. (r = r_0) \supset (\mathtt{chan}(r, \mathtt{msg}(r_0, a) :: \pi), a) \Rightarrow \mathtt{chan}(r, \pi)
       \mathsf{recv} : \forall r, r_0 : role. \forall \pi : stype. \forall a : vtype. (r \neq r_0) \supset (\mathsf{chan}(r, \mathsf{msg}(r_0, a) :: \pi)) \Rightarrow a \otimes \mathsf{chan}(r, \pi)
     close: \forall r, r_0 : role.(r = r_0) \supset (\mathbf{chan}(r, \mathbf{end}(r_0))) \Rightarrow \mathbf{1}
       wait: \forall r, r_0 : role.(r \neq r_0) \supset (\mathbf{chan}(r, \mathbf{end}(r_0))) \Rightarrow \mathbf{1}
     offer: \forall r, r_0: role. \forall \pi_1, \pi_2: stype. (r \neq r_0) \supset (\mathbf{chan}(r, \mathbf{branch}(r_0, \pi_1, \pi_2)))
                                     \Rightarrow \exists b:bool.bool(b) \otimes chan(r, ite(b, \pi_1, \pi_2))
choosel: \forall r, r_0: role. \forall \pi_1, \pi_2: stype.
                                    (r = r_0) \supset (\mathbf{chan}(r, \mathbf{branch}(r_0, \pi_1, \pi_2))) \Rightarrow \mathbf{chan}(r, \pi_1)
chooser: \forall r, r_0: role. \forall \pi_1, \pi_2: stype.
                                    (r = r_0) \supset (\mathbf{chan}(r, \mathbf{branch}(r_0, \pi_1, \pi_2))) \Rightarrow \mathbf{chan}(r, \pi_2)
     unify: \forall r, r_0: role. \forall \pi: stype. \forall f: \sigma \rightarrow stype.
                                    (r = r_0) \supset \mathbf{chan}(r, \mathbf{quan}(r_0, f)) \Rightarrow \forall s : \sigma. \mathbf{chan}(r, f(s))
     exify: \forall r, r_0: role. \forall \pi: stype. \forall f: \sigma \rightarrow stype.
                                    (r \neq r_0) \supset \mathbf{chan}(r, \mathbf{quan}(r_0, f)) \Rightarrow \exists s : \sigma. \mathbf{chan}(r, f(s))
       itet: \forall r: role. \forall \pi_1, \pi_2: stype. (\mathbf{chan}(r, \mathtt{ite}(\top, \pi_1, \pi_2))) \Rightarrow \mathbf{chan}(r, \pi_1)
       itef: \forall r: role. \forall \pi_1, \pi_2: stype. (\mathbf{chan}(r, ite(\bot, \pi_1, \pi_2))) \Rightarrow \mathbf{chan}(r, \pi_2)
recurse : \forall r: role. \forall f: stype \rightarrow stype. (chan(r, fix(f))) \Rightarrow chan(r, f(fix(f)))
          \mathtt{cut}: \forall r_1, r_2 : role. \forall \pi : stype. (r_1 \neq r_2) \supset (\mathbf{chan}(r_1, \pi), \mathbf{chan}(r_2, \pi)) \Rightarrow \mathbf{1}
```

Figure 11 Reductions, Part A

To distinguish linear channels, we assign a natural number i to each channel as an identifier. We use ch to range over linear channels, ch_i for a channel with identifier i, and $ch_{i,r_1}/ch_{i,r_2}$ for its dual endpoints of role r_1/r_2 , respectively. Assuming i is some channel identifier and r_1, r_2 are two different roles.

$$\frac{\Pi(t) = E[\mathsf{create}(\mathsf{lam}\ x.e)]}{\Pi \to \Pi[t := E[ch_{i,r_2}]][t' \mapsto \mathsf{app}(\mathsf{lam}\ x.e, ch_{i,r_1})]} \mathsf{pr\text{-}create}$$

$$\frac{\Pi(t_1) = E[\mathsf{close}(ch_{i,r_1})] \ \Pi(t_2) = E[\mathsf{wait}(ch_{i,r_2})]}{\Pi \to \Pi[t_1 := E[\langle\rangle]][t_2 := E[\langle\rangle]]} \mathsf{pr\text{-}end}$$

$$\frac{\Pi(t_1) = E[\mathsf{send}(ch_{i,r_1}, v)] \ \Pi(t_2) = E[\mathsf{recv}(ch_{i,r_2})]}{\Pi \to \Pi[t_1 := E[ch_{i,r_1}]][t_2 := E[\langle v, ch_{i,r_2} \rangle]]} \mathsf{pr\text{-}msg}$$

$$\frac{\Pi(t_1) = E[\mathsf{choosel}(ch_{i,r_1})] \ \Pi(t_2) = E[\mathsf{offer}(ch_{i,r_2})]}{\Pi \to \Pi[t_1 := E[ch_{i,r_1}]][t_2 := E[\langle\top, ch_{i,r_2} \rangle]]} \mathsf{pr\text{-}branch\text{-}l}$$

$$\frac{\Pi(t_1) = E[\mathsf{chooser}(ch_{i,r_1})] \ \Pi(t_2) = E[\mathsf{offer}(ch_{i,r_2})]}{\Pi \to \Pi[t_1 := E[ch_{i,r_1}]][t_2 := E[\langle\bot, ch_{i,r_2} \rangle]]} \mathsf{pr\text{-}branch\text{-}r}$$

Figure 12 Reductions, Part B

Let e be $\operatorname{cut}(ch_{i,r_2}, ch_{j,r_1})$

$$\frac{\Pi(t_1) = E[\mathsf{close}(ch_{i,r_1})] \ \Pi(t) = E[e] \ \Pi(t_2) = E[\mathsf{wait}(ch_{j,r_2})]}{\Pi \to \Pi[t_1 := E[\langle\rangle]][t := E[\langle\rangle]][t_2 := E[\langle\rangle]]} \mathbf{pr\text{-cut-end}}$$

$$\frac{\Pi(t_1) = E[\mathsf{send}(ch_{i,r_1},v)] \ \Pi(t) = E[e] \ \Pi(t_2) = E[\mathsf{recv}(ch_{j,r_2})]}{\Pi \to \Pi[t_1 := E[ch_{i,r_1}]][t := E[e]][t_2 := E[\langle v, ch_{j,r_2} \rangle]]} \mathbf{pr\text{-cut-msg}}$$

$$\frac{\Pi(t_1) = E[\mathsf{choosel}(ch_{i,r_1})] \ \Pi(t) = E[e] \ \Pi(t_2) = E[\mathsf{offer}(ch_{j,r_2})]}{\Pi \to \Pi[t_1 := E[ch_{i,r_1}]][t := E[e]][t_2 := E[\langle\top, ch_{j,r_2} \rangle]]} \mathbf{pr\text{-cut-branch-l}}$$

$$\frac{\Pi(t_1) = E[\mathsf{chooser}(ch_{i,r_1})] \ \Pi(t) = E[e] \ \Pi(t_2) = E[\mathsf{offer}(ch_{j,r_2})]}{\Pi \to \Pi[t_1 := E[ch_{i,r_1}]][t := E[e]][t_2 := E[\langle\bot, ch_{j,r_2} \rangle]]} \mathbf{pr\text{-cut-branch-r}}$$

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