A linear λ -calculus for pure, functional memory updates

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We present the destination calculus, a linear λ -calculus for pure, functional memory updates. We introduce the syntax, type system, and operational semantics of the destination calculus, and prove type safety formally in the Coq proof assistant.

We show how the principles of the destination calculus can form a theoretical ground for destination-passing style programming in functional languages. In particular, we detail how the present work can be applied to Linear Haskell to lift the main restriction of DPS programming in Haskell as developed in [1]. We illustrate this with a range of pseudo-Haskell examples.

ACM Reference Format:

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1 INTRODUCTION

2 SYSTEM IN ACTION ON SIMPLE EXAMPLES

Build up to DList.

3 LIMITIONS OF THE PREVIOUS APPROACH

- 3.1 Breadth-first tree traversal
- 3.2 Storing linear data in destination-based data structures
- 3.3 Need for scope control
- 4 UPDATED BREADTH-FIRST TREE TRAVERSAL

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5 LANGUAGE SYNTAX

5.1 Names and variables

The destination calculus uses two classes of names: regular (meta) variable names x, y, and hole names, h, h_1 , h_2 which represents the identifier or address of a memory cell that hasn't been written to yet.

```
var, x, y, d, un, ex, st Variable names

hvar, h ::= Hole (or destination) name, represented by a natural number

\begin{vmatrix} h+h' & M \\ | h[H:h'] & M & Shift by h' if h \in H \\ | max(H) & M & Maximum of a set of hole names
```

Hole names are represented by natural numbers under the hood, so they can act both as relative or absolute offsets in memory. Typically, when a structure is effectively allocated, its hole names are shifted by the maximum hole name encountered so far in the program; this corresponds to finding the next unused memory cell in which to write new data.

We sometimes need to keep track of hole names bound by a particular runtime value or evaluation context, hence we also define sets of hole names $H, H_1, H_2 \dots$

Shifting all hole names in a set by a given offset h' is denoted $H \pm h'$. We also define a conditional shift operation $[H \pm h']$ which shifts each hole name appearing in the operand to the left of the brackets by h' if this hole name is also member of H. This conditional shift can be used on a single hole name, a value, or a typing context.

5.2 Term and value core syntax

Destination calculus is based on linear simply-typed λ -calculus, with built-in support for sums, pairs, and exponentials. The syntax of terms is quite unusual, as we need to introduce all the tooling required to manipulate destinations, which constitute the primitive way of building a data structures for the user.

In fact, the grammatical class of values v, presented as a subset of terms t, could almost be removed completely from the user syntax, and just used as a runtime representation for data structures. We only need to keep the *ampar* form $\{h\}\langle h_{\wedge} \to h\rangle$ as part of the user syntax as a way to spawn a fresh memory cell to be later filled using destination-filling primitives.

```
Pattern-match on exponential
                       t \rhd \mathsf{case}_{\mathsf{m}} \, \mathsf{E}_{\mathsf{n}} \, \mathsf{X} \mapsto u
                                                                   Map over the right side of ampar
                       t \triangleright \mathsf{map} \times \mapsto t'
                                                                   Wrap into a trivial ampar
                       to<sub>⋉</sub> u
                                                                   Convert ampar to a pair
                       from_{\kappa} t
                                                                   Fill destination with unit
                       t \triangleleft ()
                       t \triangleleft Inl
                                                                   Fill destination with left variant
                       t ⊲ Inr
                                                                   Fill destination with right variant
                                                                   Fill destination with exponential constructor
                       t ⊲ E<sub>m</sub>
                                                                   Fill destination with product constructor
                       t \triangleleft (,)
                                                                   Fill destination with function
                       t \triangleleft (\lambda \times_{\mathsf{m}} \mapsto u)
                       t \triangleleft \bullet t'
                                                                   Fill destination with root of other ampar
                       t[\mathbf{x} \coloneqq v]
                                                       Μ
val. v
                                                               Value
                                                                   Hole
                       h
                       \rightarrow h
                                                                   Destination
                       ()
                                                                   Unit
```

| Em v | Exponential | (v_1, v_2) | Product | $H(v_2 \land v_1)$ | Ampar | v[H = h'] | M | Shift hole names inside v by h' if they belong to H.

Function with no free variable

Left variant for sum

Right variant for sum

Pattern-matching on every type of structure (except unit) is parametrized by a mode m to which the scrutinee is consumed. The variables which bind the subcomponents of the scrutinee then inherit this mode. In particular, this choice crystalize the equivalence $!_{\omega a}(T_1 \otimes T_2) \simeq (!_{\omega a}T_1) \otimes (!_{\omega a}T_2)$, which is not part of intuitionistic linear logic, but valid in Linear Haskell[2].

map is the main primitive to operate on an ampar, which represents an incomplete data structure whose building is in progress. map binds the right-hand side of the ampar — the one containing destinations of that ampar — to a variable, allowing those destinations to be operated on by destination-filling primitives. The left-hand side of the ampar is inaccessible as it is being mutated behind the scenes by the destination-filling primitives.

5.3 Syntactic sugar for constructors and commonly used operations

 $^{v}\lambda \times_{m} \mapsto u$

Inl ν

Inr ν

sterm	::=	::= Syntactic sugar for terms			
		alloc	Μ	Evaluate to a fresh new ampar	
		$t \triangleleft t'$	Μ	Fill destination with supplied term	
		$from'_{\bowtie} t$	Μ	Extract left side of ampar when right side is unit	
		${}^{s}\lambda \times_{m} \mapsto u$	Μ	Allocate function	
		s Inl t	Μ	Allocate left variant	
		s Inr t	Μ	Allocate right variant	
		s E _m t	Μ	Allocate exponential	
		$^{s}(t_{1}, t_{2})$	Μ	Allocate product	

alloc ≜	{1}⟨1 _^ →1⟩	$t \triangleleft t'$	≜	$t \triangleleft \bullet (to_{\bowtie} t')$
$from'_{\bowtie} t \triangleq$	$(from_{\mathbb{K}} (t \triangleright map un \mapsto un ; E_{1\infty} ())) \triangleright case_{1\nu}$	${}^{s}\lambda \times {}_{m}\mapsto$	<i>u</i> ≜	from' _k (
	$(st, ex) \mapsto ex \triangleright case_{1\nu}$			alloc ⊳map d ↔
	$E_{1\infty}$ un \mapsto un; st			$d \triangleleft (\lambda x_m \mapsto u)$
)
$sInl t \triangleq$	from' _⋉ (sInr t	\triangleq	from' _⋉ (
	alloc ⊳ map d ↔			alloc ⊳map d↔
	$d \triangleleft Inl \triangleleft t$			d⊲ Inr⊲ <i>t</i>
))
s E _m $t \triangleq$	from' _⋉ ($s(t_1, t_2)$	≜	from' _⋉ (
	alloc ⊳ map d ↔			alloc ⊳map d ↔
	d ⊲ E _m ⊲ <i>t</i>			$(d \triangleleft (,)) \triangleright case_{1\nu}$
)			$(d_1,d_2)\mapsto d_1 \triangleleft t_1\;;d_2 \triangleleft t_2$
)

Table 1. Desugaring of syntactic sugar forms for terms

6 TYPE SYSTEM

6.1 Syntax for types, modes, and typing contexts

```
type, T, U
                   ::=
                                              Type
                        1
                                                 Unit
                        \mathsf{T}_1 \oplus \mathsf{T}_2
                                                 Sum
                    \mathsf{T}_1 \otimes \mathsf{T}_2
                                                Product
                                                Exponential
                      !mT
                    \mathsf{U} \ltimes \mathsf{T}
                                                 Ampar
                        T_m \rightarrow U
                                                 Function
                         |_{m}T|
                                                 Destination
                                              Mode (Semiring)
mode, m, n
                   ::=
                                                 Pair of a multiplicity and age
                         pa
                                                 Error case (incompatible types, multiplicities, or ages)
                         •
mul, p
                   ::=
                                              Multiplicity (Semiring, first component of modality)
                                                 Linear use
                         1
                                                 Non-linear use
                                              Age (Semiring, second component of modality)
age, a
                                                 Born now
                                                 One scope older
                         \infty
                                                 Infinitely old / static
ctx, \Gamma, \Delta, \Theta
                                              Typing context
                                                 Variable typing binding
                        x :_m T
                         h:_nT
                                                 Hole typing binding
                                                 Destination typing binding
                    \rightarrow h:_m [_n T]
                        m \cdot \Gamma
                                                 Multiply the leftmost mode of each binding by m
                                        Μ
                                                 \Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2
                                        Μ
                        \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2
                                        Μ
                                                 Disjoint sum
                        \rightarrow-1\Gamma
                                                 Transforms dest bindings into a hole bindings
                                        Μ
                         \rightarrow \Gamma
                                                 Transforms hole bindings into dest bindings
                                        Μ
                                                 Shift hole/dest names by h' if they belong to H
                        Γ[H<sub>±</sub>h′]
                                        Μ
```

6.2 Typing of terms and values

 $\Gamma \Vdash \nu : \mathsf{T}$

(Typing judgment for values)

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Ty-val-Ampar} \\ \text{LinOnly } \Delta_3 \\ \text{FinAgeOnly } \Delta_3 \\ \text{Ty-val-Exp} \\ \frac{\Gamma \Vdash \nu' : \mathsf{T}}{\mathsf{n} \cdot \Gamma \Vdash \mathsf{E}_\mathsf{n} \; \nu' : !_\mathsf{n} \mathsf{T}} \\ \end{array}$

 $\Theta \vdash t : \mathsf{T}$

(Typing judgment for terms)

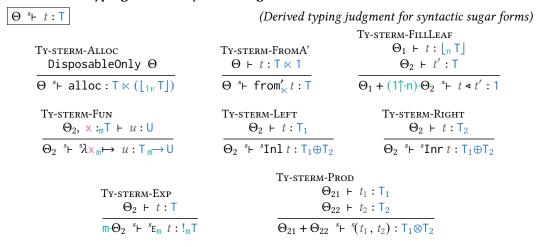
Ty-TERM-PATS

 $\begin{array}{c} \Theta_1 \vdash t : \mathsf{T}_1 \oplus \mathsf{T}_2 \\ \\ \mathsf{T}_{\mathsf{Y}\text{-}\mathsf{TERM}\text{-}\mathsf{PATU}} \\ \Theta_1 \vdash t : \mathsf{1} \quad \Theta_2 \vdash u : \mathsf{U} \\ \hline \Theta_1 \vdash \theta_2 \vdash t ; u : \mathsf{U} \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} \Theta_1 \vdash t : \mathsf{T}_1 \oplus \mathsf{T}_2 \\ \\ \Theta_2, \ \mathsf{x}_1 :_{\mathsf{m}} \mathsf{T}_1 \vdash u_1 : \mathsf{U} \\ \\ \Theta_2, \ \mathsf{x}_2 :_{\mathsf{m}} \mathsf{T}_2 \vdash u_2 : \mathsf{U} \\ \hline \\ \mathsf{m} \cdot \Theta_1 + \Theta_2 \vdash t \rhd \mathsf{case}_{\mathsf{m}} \left\{ \mathsf{Inl} \ \mathsf{x}_1 \mapsto u_1 \, , \ \mathsf{Inr} \ \mathsf{x}_2 \mapsto u_2 \right\} : \mathsf{U} \end{array}$

 $\begin{array}{lll} & & & & & & & & & & & & \\ & \Theta_1 \vdash t : \mathsf{T}_1 \otimes \mathsf{T}_2 & & & & & & & & \\ & \Theta_2 \vdash x : :_{\mathsf{m}} \mathsf{T}_2 \vdash u : \mathsf{U} & & & & & & \\ & \Theta_2 \vdash t \rhd \mathsf{case}_{\mathsf{m}} (\mathsf{x}_1, \mathsf{x}_2) \mapsto u : \mathsf{U} & & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & & & & & \\ \hline \end{array}$

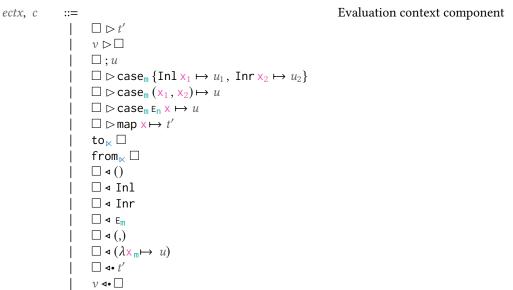
 $\begin{array}{lll} \text{Ty-term-Map} & & & & & & \\ \Theta_1 \vdash t : \mathsf{U} \ltimes \mathsf{T} & & & & & \\ 1 \uparrow \cdot \Theta_2, \; \times :_{1\nu} \mathsf{T} \vdash t' : \mathsf{T}' & & & \Theta \vdash u : \mathsf{U} & & \Theta \vdash t : \mathsf{U} \ltimes (!_{1\infty} \mathsf{T}) \\ \hline \Theta_1 + \Theta_2 \vdash t \rhd \mathsf{map} \; \times \mapsto t' : \mathsf{U} \ltimes \mathsf{T}' & & \Theta \vdash \mathsf{to}_{\aleph} \; u : \mathsf{U} \ltimes \mathsf{1} & & \Theta \vdash \mathsf{from}_{\aleph} \; t : \mathsf{U} \otimes (!_{1\infty} \mathsf{T}) \\ \end{array}$

6.3 Derived typing rules for syntactic sugar forms



7 EVALUATION CONTEXTS AND SEMANTICS

7.1 Evaluation contexts forms



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$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Ty-ectxs-Fille-Foc} \\ \Delta \dashv C: \lfloor_{m \vdash n} \mathsf{T} \rfloor \rightarrowtail \mathsf{U}_0 \\ \hline \Delta \dashv C \circ (\square \blacktriangleleft \mathsf{E}_m) : \lfloor_n !_m \mathsf{T} \rfloor \rightarrowtail \mathsf{U}_0 \\ \hline \Delta_1, \ (1 \uparrow \cdot \mathsf{n}) \cdot \Delta_2 \dashv C: 1 \rightarrowtail \mathsf{U}_0 \\ \hline \Delta_2, \ \times :_m \mathsf{T} \vdash u : \mathsf{U} \\ \hline \Delta_1 \dashv C \circ (\square \blacktriangleleft \mathsf{E}_m) : \lfloor_n !_m \mathsf{T} \rfloor \rightarrowtail \mathsf{U}_0 \\ \hline \\ \text{Ty-ectxs-FillComp-Foc1} \\ \Delta_1, \ (1 \uparrow \cdot \mathsf{n}) \cdot \Delta_2 \dashv C: \mathsf{T} \rightarrowtail \mathsf{U}_0 \\ \hline \\ \Delta_2 \vdash t' : \mathsf{U} \ltimes \mathsf{T} \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \Delta_1 \dashv C \circ (\square \blacktriangleleft (\lambda \times_m \mapsto u)) : \lfloor_n \mathsf{T}_m \mapsto \mathsf{U} \rfloor \rightarrowtail \mathsf{U}_0 \\ \hline \\ \Delta_1, \ (1 \uparrow \cdot \mathsf{n}) \cdot \Delta_2 \dashv C: \mathsf{T} \rightarrowtail \mathsf{U}_0 \\ \hline \\ \Delta_2 \vdash t' : \mathsf{U} \ltimes \mathsf{T} \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \Delta_1 \dashv C \circ (\square \blacktriangleleft \bullet t') : \lfloor_n \mathsf{U} \rfloor \rightarrowtail \mathsf{U}_0 \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ \Delta_2 \dashv C \circ (\nu \blacktriangleleft \bullet \square) : \mathsf{U} \ltimes \mathsf{T} \rightarrowtail \mathsf{U}_0 \\ \hline \\ \hline \end{array}$$

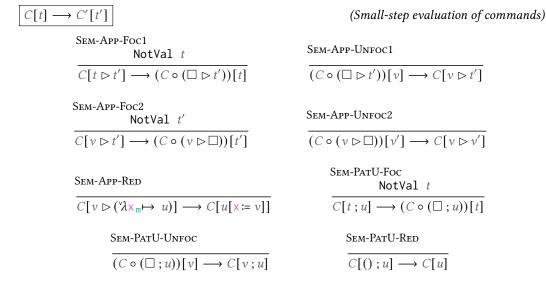
$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Ty-ectxs-OpenAmpar-Foc} \\ & \textit{hvars}(\textit{C}) \;\; \# \;\; \textit{hvars}(\rightarrow^{-1}\Delta_3) \\ & \text{LinOnly} \;\; \Delta_3 \\ & \text{FinAgeOnly} \;\; \Delta_3 \\ & \Delta_1, \;\; \Delta_2 \;\; \dashv \; \textit{C} : \; (\textbf{U} \ltimes \textbf{T}') \rightarrowtail \textbf{U}_0 \\ & \Delta_2, \;\; \rightarrow^{-1}\Delta_3 \;\; \Vdash \;\; \textit{v}_2 : \textbf{U} \\ \hline \\ \hline \textbf{1} \uparrow \cdot \Delta_1, \;\; \Delta_3 \;\; \dashv \; \textit{C} \circ \left(\stackrel{\text{op}}{\textit{hvars}(\rightarrow^{-1}\Delta_3)} \langle \textit{v}_2 \;_{\land} \Box \rangle \right) : \textbf{T}' \rightarrowtail \textbf{U}_0 \end{array}$$

⊢ C[t]: T

(Typing judgment for commands)

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Ty-cmd} \\ \Delta + C: \text{T} {\rightarrowtail} \text{U}_0 \\ \\ \underline{\Delta \vdash t: \text{T}} \\ \vdash C[t]: \text{U}_0 \end{array}$$

7.3 Small-step semantics



SEM-PATS-Foc

NotVal t

 $\overline{C[t\rhd \mathsf{case}_{\mathtt{m}}\left\{\mathsf{Inl}\,\mathsf{x}_1\mapsto u_1,\,\,\mathsf{Inr}\,\mathsf{x}_2\mapsto u_2\right\}]}\longrightarrow (C\circ (\Box\rhd \mathsf{case}_{\mathtt{m}}\left\{\mathsf{Inl}\,\mathsf{x}_1\mapsto u_1,\,\,\mathsf{Inr}\,\mathsf{x}_2\mapsto u_2\right\}))[t]$

SEM-PATS-UNFOC

$$\frac{\text{SEM-TOA-NFOC}}{(C \circ (\log \square))[v_2] \to C[\text{to}_{\mathsf{K}} \ v_2]} = \frac{\text{SEM-ToA-RED}}{C[\text{to}_{\mathsf{K}} \ v_2] \to C[\{(\sqrt{v_2}_{\mathsf{K}}()))]}$$

$$\frac{\text{SEM-FROMA-Foc}}{C[\text{from}_{\mathsf{K}} \ t] \to (C \circ (\text{from}_{\mathsf{K}} \square))[t]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FROMA-UNFOC}}{(C \circ (\text{from}_{\mathsf{K}} \square))[v] \to C[\text{from}_{\mathsf{K}} \ v]}$$

$$\frac{\text{SEM-FROMA-RED}}{C[\text{from}_{\mathsf{K}} \ t](\sqrt{v_2}_{\mathsf{K}} \epsilon_{100} \ v_1)] \to C[(\sqrt{v_2}_{\mathsf{K}} \epsilon_{100} \ v_1)]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLU-Foc}}{C[t \circ (0] \to (1))[t]}$$

$$\frac{\text{SEM-FILLU-UNFOC}}{(C \circ (\square \triangleleft ()))[v] \to C[v \triangleleft ()]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLU-UNFOC}}{C[-h \triangleleft ()] \to C[h \bowtie (-1)](0]}$$

$$\frac{\text{SEM-FILLL-FOC}}{C[t \triangleleft \text{In1}] \to (C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{In1}))[t]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLL-UNFOC}}{(C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{In1}))[v] \to C[v \triangleleft \text{In1}]}$$

$$\frac{\text{SEM-FILLR-RED}}{C[-h \triangleleft \text{In1}] \to C[h \bowtie (-h'+1)]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLR-FOC}}{C[-h \triangleleft \text{Inr}] \to (C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{Inr}))[t]}$$

$$\frac{\text{SEM-FILLR-RED}}{C[-h \triangleleft \text{Inr}] \to (C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{Inr}))[t]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLE-HOC}}{(C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{Inr}))[v] \to C[v \triangleleft \text{Inr}]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLE-UNFOC}}{(C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{Inr}))[v] \to C[v \triangleleft \text{Inr}]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLE-UNFOC}}{(C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{Inr}))[v] \to C[v \triangleleft \text{Inr}]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLE-UNFOC}}{(C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{Inr}))[v] \to C[v \triangleleft \text{Inr}]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLE-UNFOC}}{(C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{Inr}))[v] \to C[v \triangleleft \text{Inr}]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLE-UNFOC}}{(C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{Inr}))[v] \to C[v \triangleleft \text{Inr}]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLE-UNFOC}}{(C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{Inr}))[v] \to C[v \triangleleft \text{Inr}]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLE-UNFOC}}{(C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{Inr}))[v] \to C[v \triangleleft \text{Inr}]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLE-UNFOC}}{(C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{Inr}))[v] \to C[v \triangleleft \text{Inr}]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLE-UNFOC}}{(C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{Inr}))[v] \to C[v \triangleleft \text{Inr}]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLP-UNFOC}}{(C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{Inr}))[v] \to C[v \triangleleft \text{Inr}]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLP-UNFOC}}{(C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{Inr}))[v] \to C[v \triangleleft \text{Inr}]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLP-UNFOC}}{(C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{Inr}))[v] \to C[v \triangleleft \text{Inr}]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLP-UNFOC}}{(C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{Inr}))[v] \to C[v \triangleleft \text{Inr}]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLP-UNFOC}}{(C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{Inr}))[v] \to C[v \triangleleft \text{Inr}]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLP-UNFOC}}{(C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{Inr}))[v] \to C[v \triangleleft \text{Inr}]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLP-UNFOC}}{(C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{Inr}))[v] \to C[v \triangleleft \text{Inr}]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLP-UNFOC}}{(C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{Inr}))[v] \to C[v \triangleleft \text{Inr}]} = \frac{\text{SEM-FILLP-UNFOC}}{(C \circ (\square \triangleleft \text{Inr}))[v] \to C[v \triangleleft \text{Inr}]} = \frac{$$

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8 PROOF OF TYPE SAFETY USING COQ PROOF ASSISTANT

- Not particularly elegant. Max number of goals observed 232 (solved by a single call to the congruence tactic). When you have a computer, brute force is a viable strategy. (in particular, no semiring formalisation, it was quicker to do directly)
- Rules generated by ott, same as in the article (up to some notational difference). Contexts are not generated purely by syntax, and are interpreted in a semantic domain (finite functions).
- Reasoning on closed terms avoids almost all complications on binder manipulation. Makes proofs tractable.
- Finite functions: making a custom library was less headache than using existing libraries (including MMap). Existing libraries don't provide some of the tools that we needed, but the most important factor ended up being the need for a modicum of dependency between key and value. There wasn't really that out there. Backed by actual functions for simplicity; cost: equality is complicated.
- Most of the proofs done by author with very little prior experience to Coq.
- Did proofs in Coq because context manipulations are tricky.
- Context sum made total by adding an extra invalid *mode* (rather than an extra context). It seems to be much simpler this way.
- It might be a good idea to provide statistics on the number of lemmas and size of Coq codebase.
- (possibly) renaming as permutation, inspired by nominal sets, make more lemmas don't require a condition (but some lemmas that wouldn't in a straight renaming do in exchange).
- (possibly) methodology: assume a lot of lemmas, prove main theorem, prove assumptions, some wrong, fix. A number of wrong lemma initially assumed, but replacing them by correct variant was always easy to fix in proofs.
- Axioms that we use and why (in particular setoid equality not very natural with ott-generated typing rules).
- Talk about the use and benefits of Copilot.

9 IMPLEMENTATION OF DESTINATION CALCULUS USING IN-PLACE MEMORY MUTATIONS

What needs to be changed (e.g. linear alloc)

- 10 RELATED WORK
- 11 CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

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