

Tracking Redexes in the lambda-calculus

(rev. 2:1)



jean-jacques.levy@inria.fr

Shanghai ECNU

2024-11-20

<http://jeanjacqueslevy.net/talks/24track-rev2/track.pdf>



The lambda-calculus

- for logicians: important tool for proof theory
- for computer scientists: kernel of functional programming

Tracking redexes in the lambda-calculus
"The French School of Programming"
ed. Bertrand Meyer, Springer, 2024.

The lambda-calculus

- for logicians: important tool for proof theory
- for computer scientists: kernel of functional programming

RÉDUCTIONS CORRECTES ET OPTIMALES DANS LE LAMBDA-CALCUL

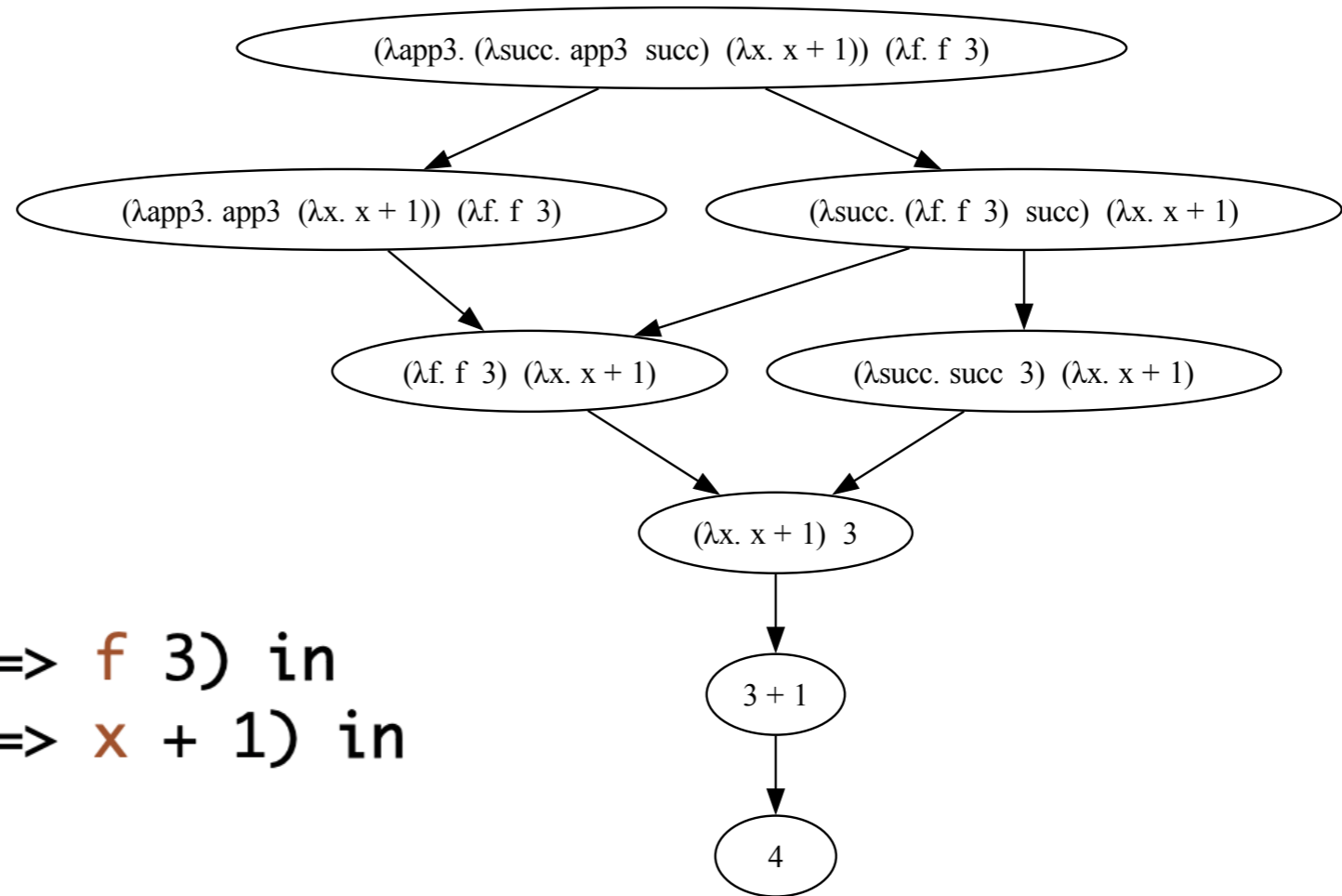
Soutenu le 17 janvier 1978 devant la Commission composée de :

MM	L. NOLIN	Président
	H. BARENDREGT	
	J.-Y. GIRARD	
	G. HUET	Examineurs
	M. NIVAT	
	J.-C. SIMON	
	J. VUILLEMIN	
	G. KAHN	Invité

Tracking redexes in the lambda-calculus
"The French School of Programming"
ed. Bertrand Meyer, Springer, 2024.

The lambda-calculus

- calculus of functions with **nested** redexes and **bound variables**



```
let app3 = (fun f => f 3) in  
let succ = (fun x => x + 1) in  
app3 succ
```

Tracking redexes

- continuity of Bohm trees
- reversible computations
- flow analysis
- causality (event structures)
- incremental calculations (*makefile*)
- termination (strong normalization)
- reduction strategies (correctness, cost)
- and ...

call-by-need

Initial motivation

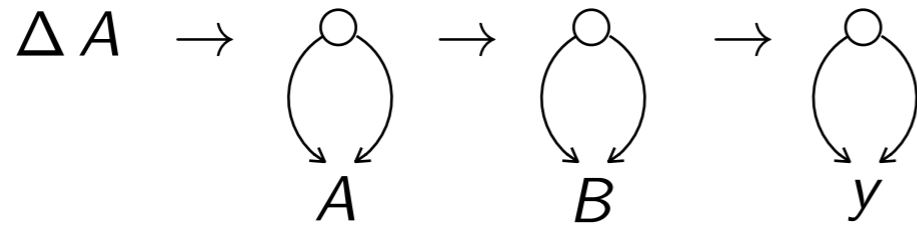
- **call-by-value** : evaluate arguments of functions before application [`Ocaml`]
- **call-by-name** : apply arguments to functions without evaluating them [`Haskell`]
- **call-by-need** : call-by-name with sharing to avoid duplications
- what is duplication ?
- duplication along reductions already performed
- so duplication should take care of history of reductions

Initial motivation

- call-by-need in the λ -calculus ?
 - recursive program schemes with dag implementation [Vuillemin 1973]
 - attempts (non optimal) for the λ -calculus [Wadsworth 1972]
 - dag with 1st-order term-rewriting systems [Maranget 1992]
 - using explicit substitutions ? [Ariola et al 1995]
- problem with sharing of functions

Duplication of redexes

- call-by-need is call-by-name with sharing to avoid duplications



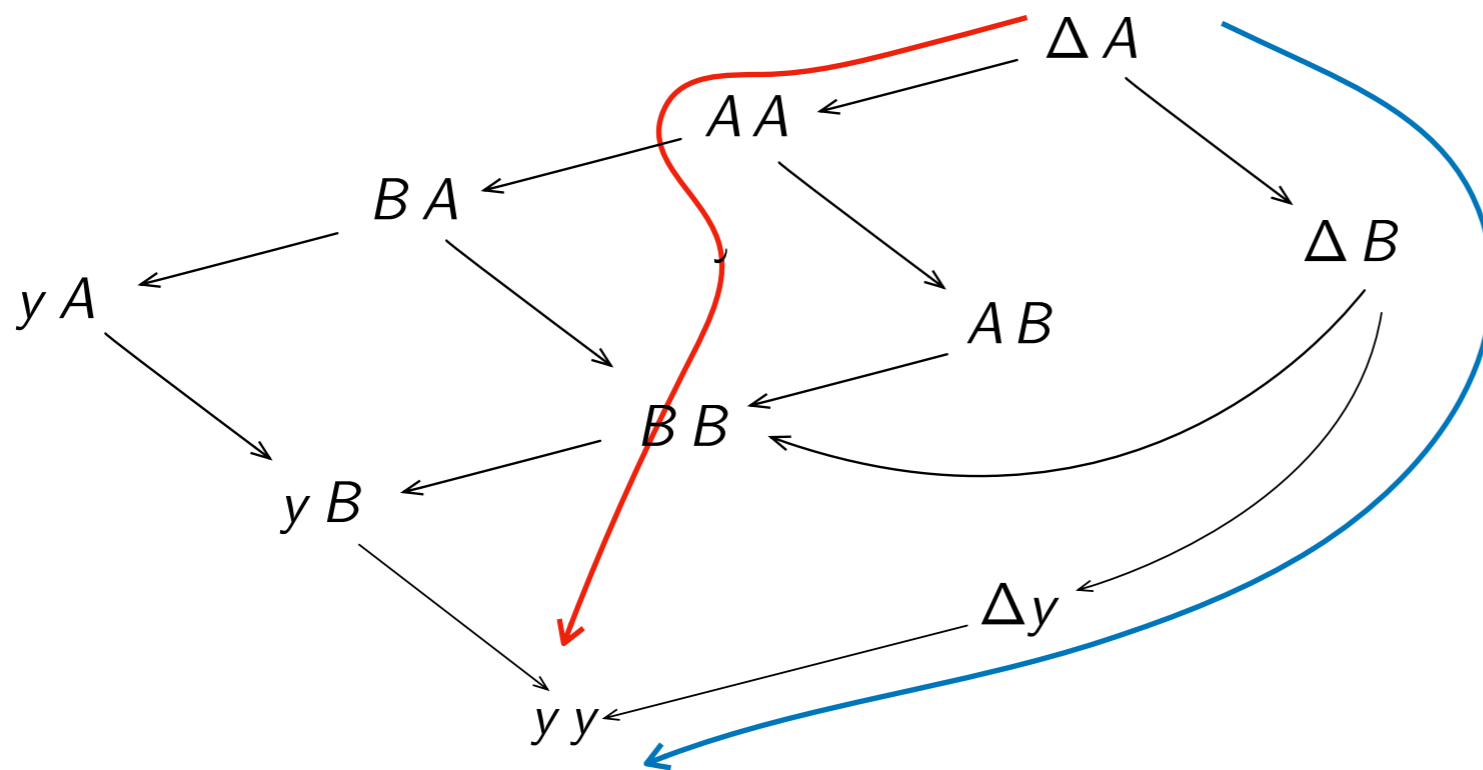
$$\Delta = \lambda x. x x$$

$$F = \lambda f. f y$$

$$I = \lambda x. x$$

$$A = F I$$

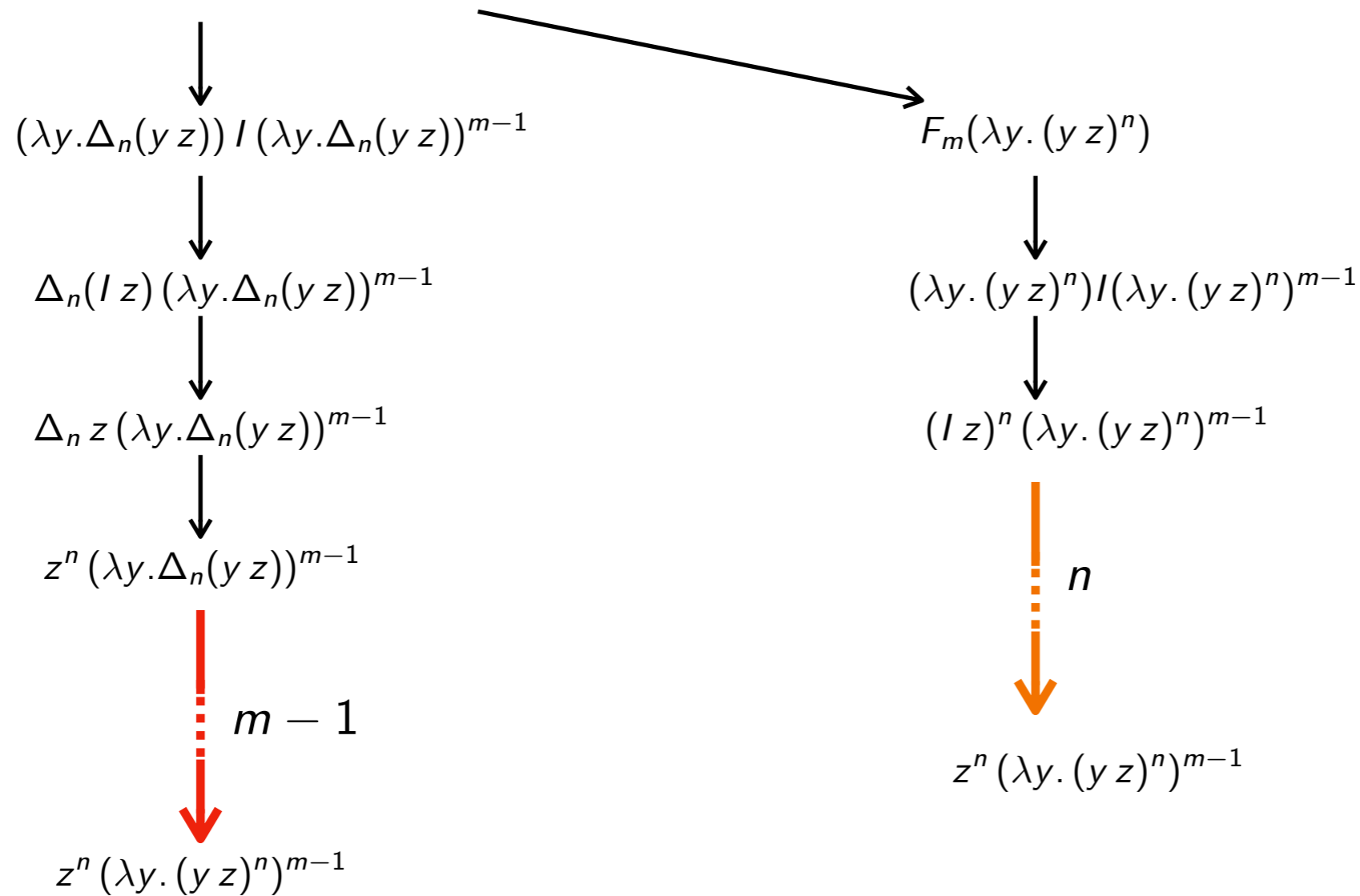
$$B = I y$$



Initial motivation (side remark)

- no single-redex reduction strategy can be optimal

example $F_m(\lambda y. \Delta_n(y z))$ where $F_m = \lambda x. x / x x \dots x$ and $\Delta_n = \lambda x. x x \dots x$



reduction steps

and

residuals

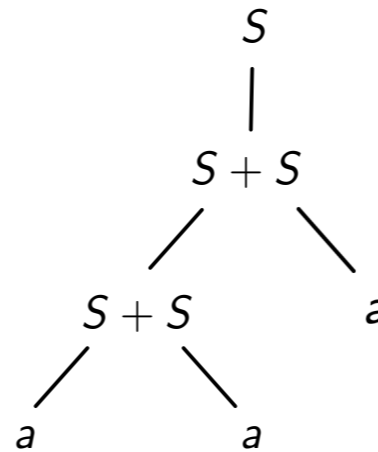
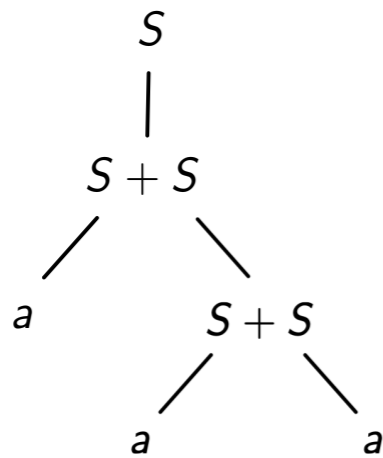
Back to context-free languages

- ambiguous grammar

$$S \rightarrow S + S$$

$$S \rightarrow a$$

- 2 distinct parse trees for $a + a + a$



- a parse tree represents a **permutation equivalence** class w.r.t. to derivations

$$S \rightarrow S + S \rightarrow a + S \rightarrow a + S + S \rightarrow a + a + S \rightarrow a + a + a$$

$$S \rightarrow S + S \rightarrow a + S \rightarrow a + S + S \rightarrow a + S + a \rightarrow a + a + a$$

$$S \rightarrow S + S \rightarrow S + S + S \rightarrow a + S + S \rightarrow a + a + S \rightarrow a + a + a$$

$$S \rightarrow S + S \rightarrow S + S + S \rightarrow S + a + S \rightarrow a + a + S \rightarrow a + a + a$$

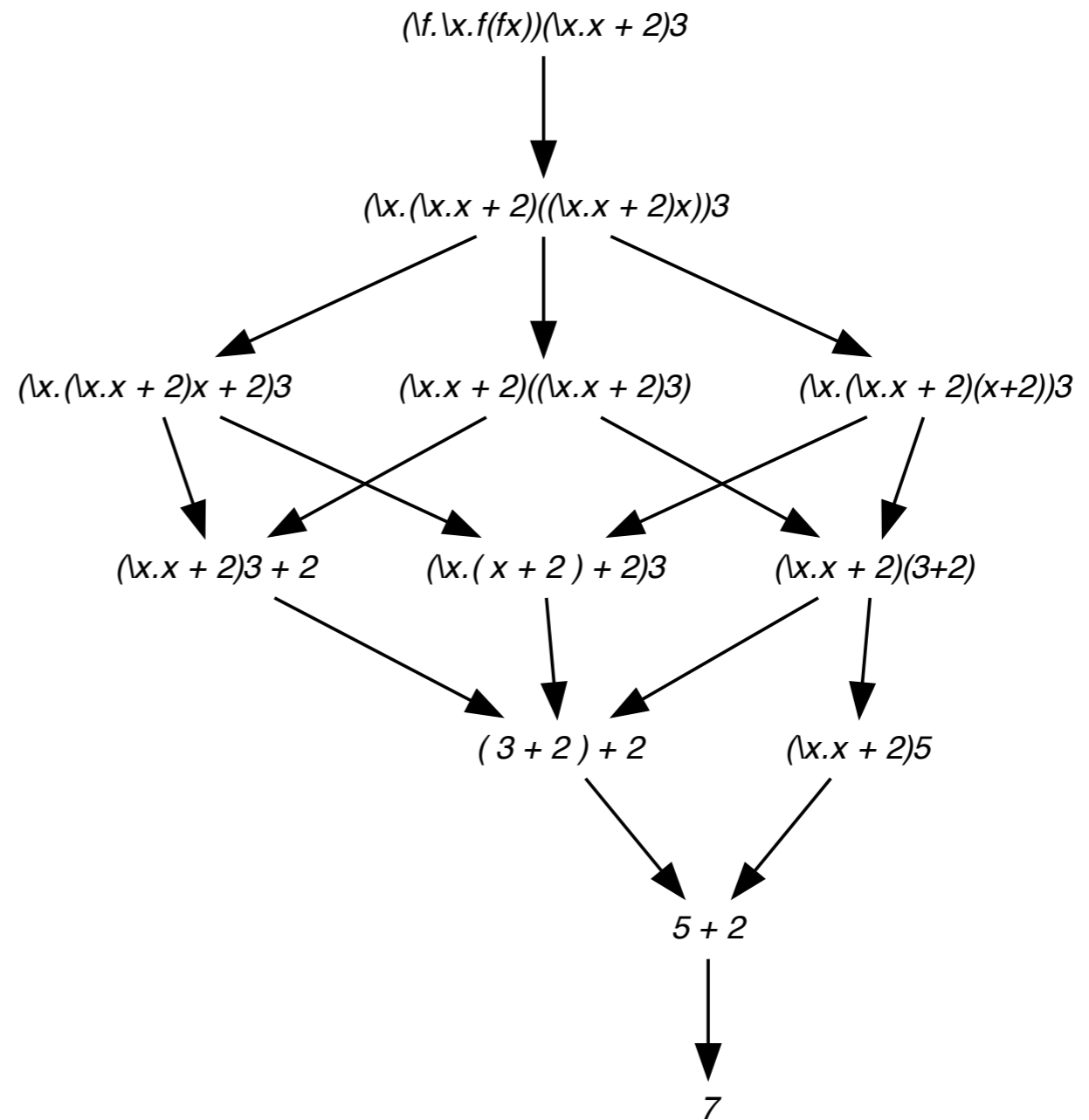
...

- only 1 leftmost derivation per parse tree

The lambda-calculus

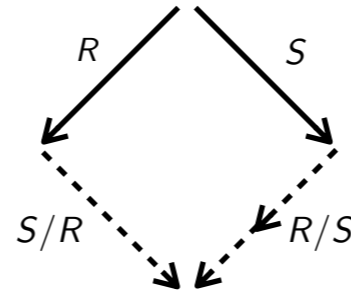
- many **permutations** of redex contractions

$(\lambda f.\lambda x.f(f x))(\lambda x.x + 2)3 \rightarrow \dots$



The lambda-calculus

- **local confluence**



- and let R and S be two occurrences of redexes in a given term.

Then the **residuals** of R by S is the set R/S of occurrences of (disjoint) redexes which remain of R when S is contracted.

- residuals of (underlined) redexes

$$\underline{(Ix)} (Ix) \rightarrow \underline{(Ix)} x$$

$$Ix \underline{(Ix)} \rightarrow x \underline{(Ix)}$$

$$\Delta \underline{(Ix)} \rightarrow \underline{(Ix)} \underline{(Ix)}$$

$$(\lambda x. Ix \underline{(Ix)}) y \rightarrow Iy \underline{(Iy)}$$

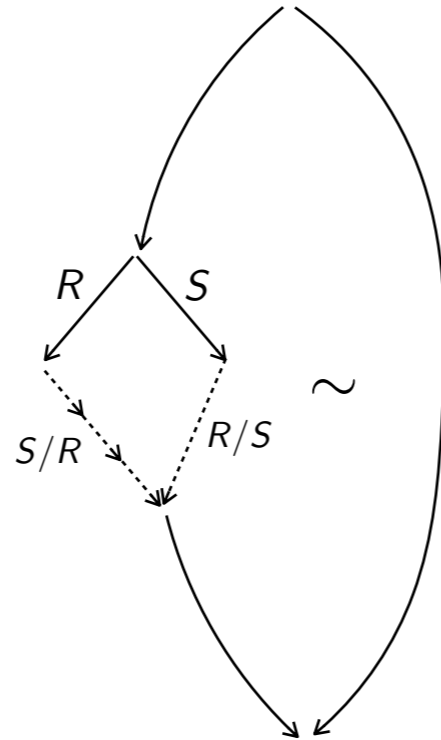
$$\underline{\Delta (Ix)} \rightarrow \underline{(\Delta x)}$$

$$\underline{(Ix)} \rightarrow x$$

where $\Delta = \lambda x. x x$, $I = \lambda x. x$

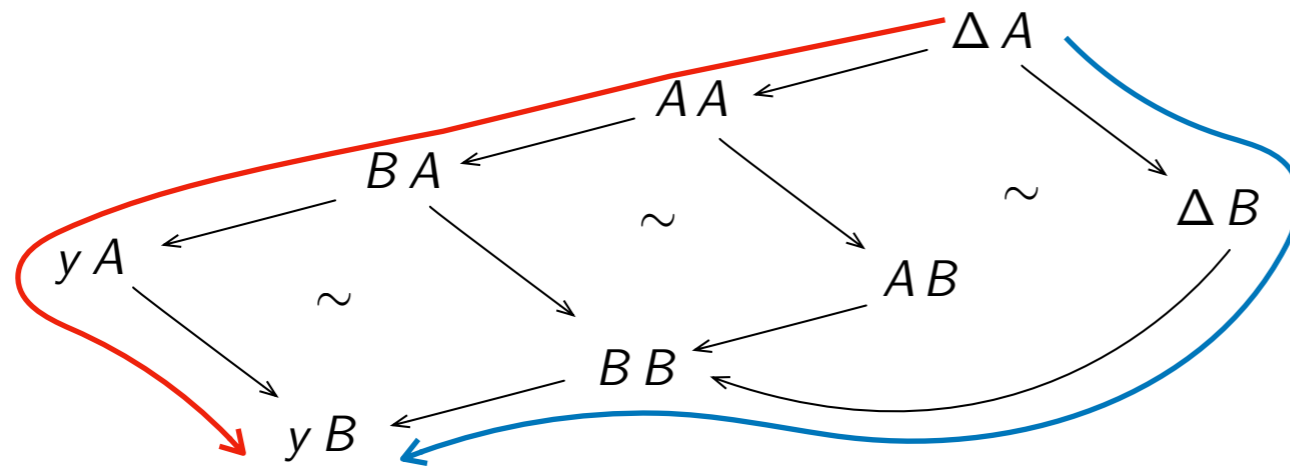
Equivalence by permutations

- 2 reductions are permutation equivalent by iterating the local confluence diagram



Equivalence by permutations

- example



$$\Delta = \lambda x. x x$$

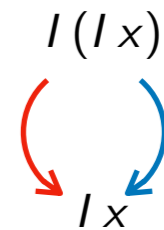
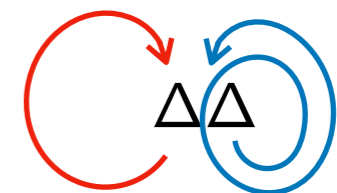
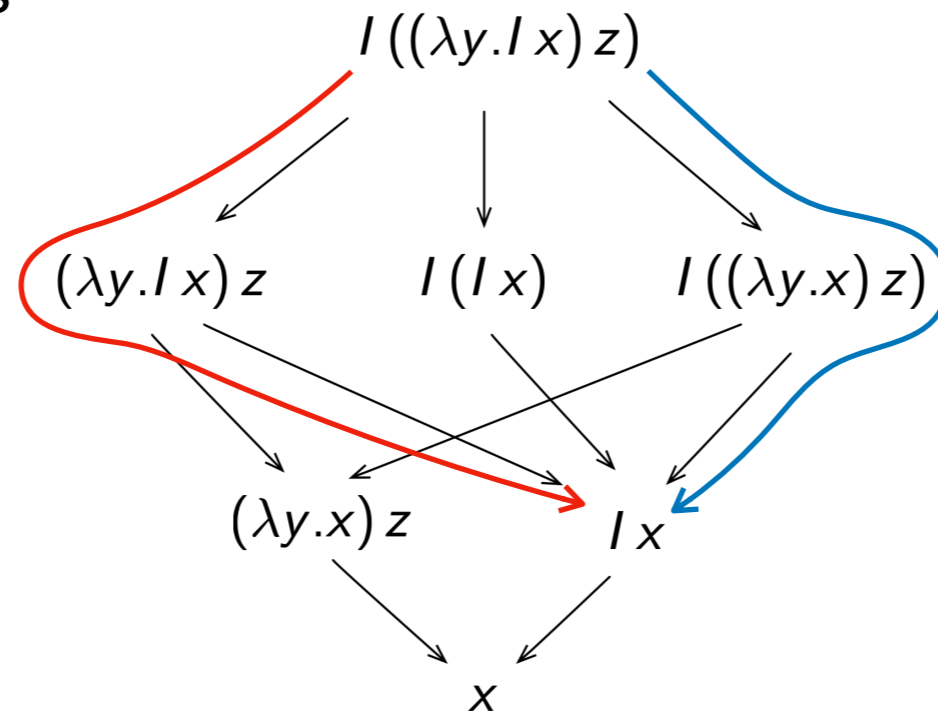
$$F = \lambda f. f y$$

$$I = \lambda x. x$$

$$A = F I$$

$$B = I y$$

- counter-examples

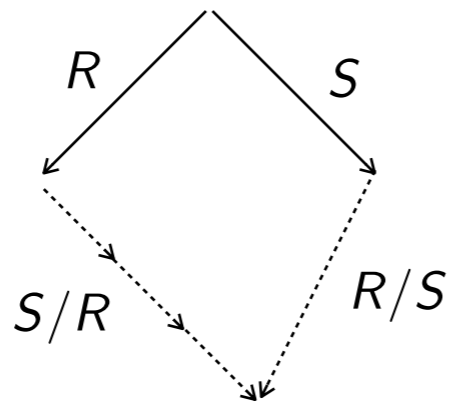


permutation

equivalence

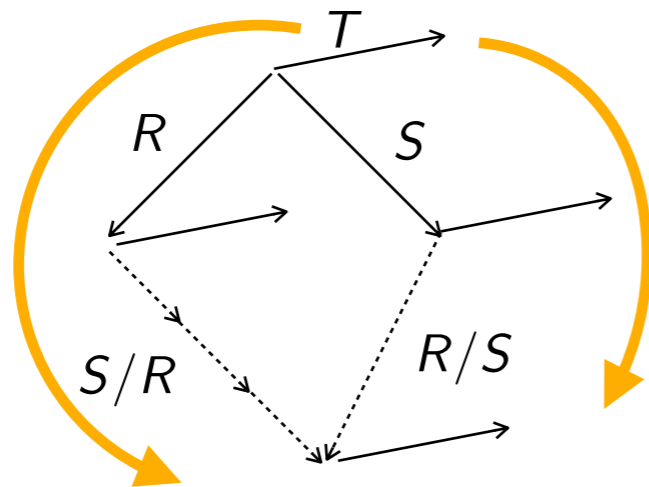
Permutation equivalence

- single-redex reduction steps $M \xrightarrow{R} N$
- residuals S/R of another redex S in M are **disjoint** redexes
 - let \mathcal{F} be a set of disjoint redexes
 - write $\rho : \mathcal{F}$ for any single-redex reduction ρ of redexes of \mathcal{F} in any order
 - these reductions are all cofinal (end on a same term)
- single-redex reductions are locally confluent



Permutation equivalence

- moreover, let T be a another redex in M
- residuals of T on both sides of the permutation are the **same**



$$T/(R \sqcup S) = T/(S \sqcup R)$$

the minicube lemma

$$T/(R; (S/R)) = T/(S; (R/S))$$

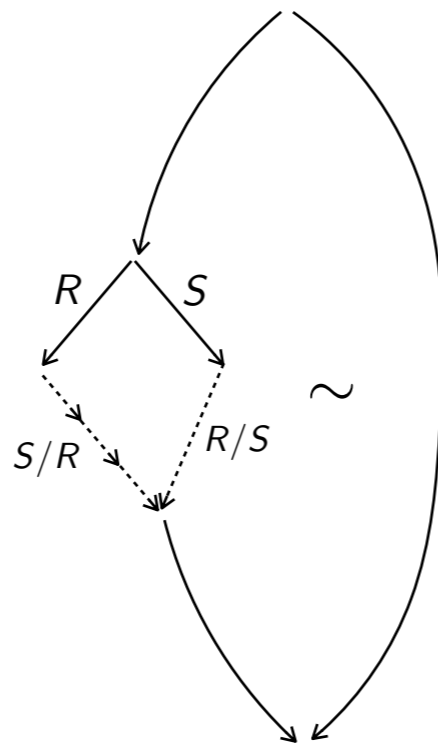
Permutation equivalence

- definition with permutations

\sim is the smallest equivalence relation such that:

$$(i) \quad R \sqcup S \sim S \sqcup R$$

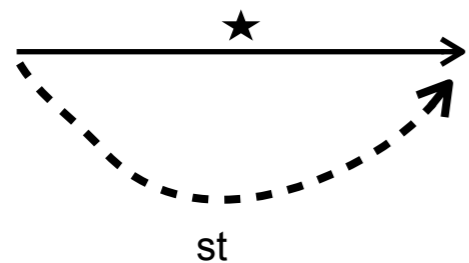
$$(ii) \quad \rho \sim \sigma \implies \tau; \rho; \nu \sim \tau; \sigma; \nu$$



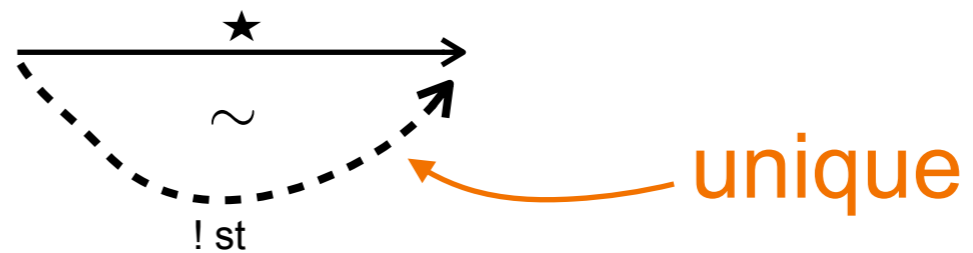
aka parse trees
for context-free
languages

Permutation equivalence

- a **standard** reduction is an outside-in left-to-right reduction strategy
- any reduction is equivalent by permutations to a unique standard reduction



λ -calculus



λ -calculus with permutations

- standard reductions are canonical representatives in equivalence classes

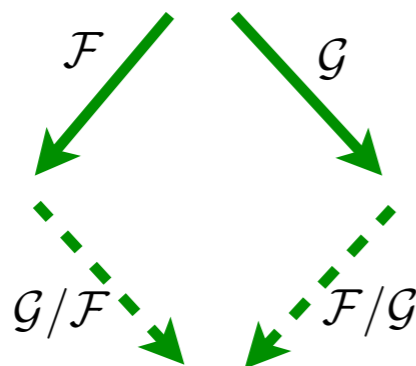
Finite developments

- parallel reduction steps $M \xrightarrow{\mathcal{F}} N$ where \mathcal{F} is a set of redexes in a given term

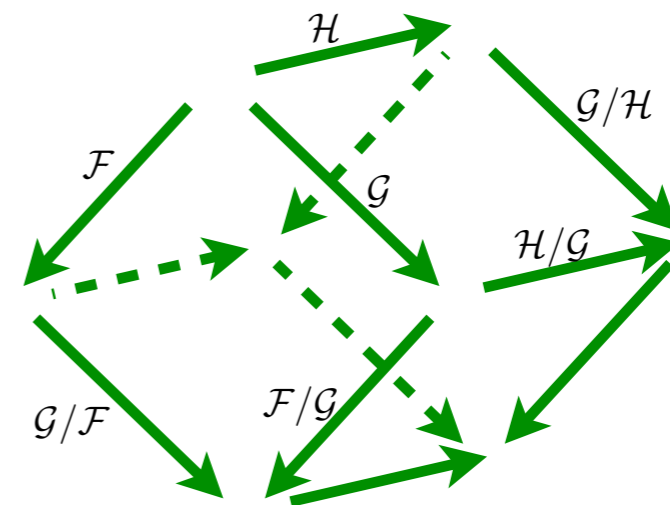
finite development thm [Curry] let \mathcal{F} be a set of redexes in a term M

- all reductions contracting only residuals of \mathcal{F} have **finite** length
- these reductions are all **cofinal** (end on a same term N)
- these maximal reductions are named developments of \mathcal{F}
- write $\rho : M \xrightarrow{\mathcal{F}} N$ or simply $\rho : \mathcal{F}$ for any development ρ of \mathcal{F}
- residuals of any redex R in initial term are the **same** for all developments of \mathcal{F}

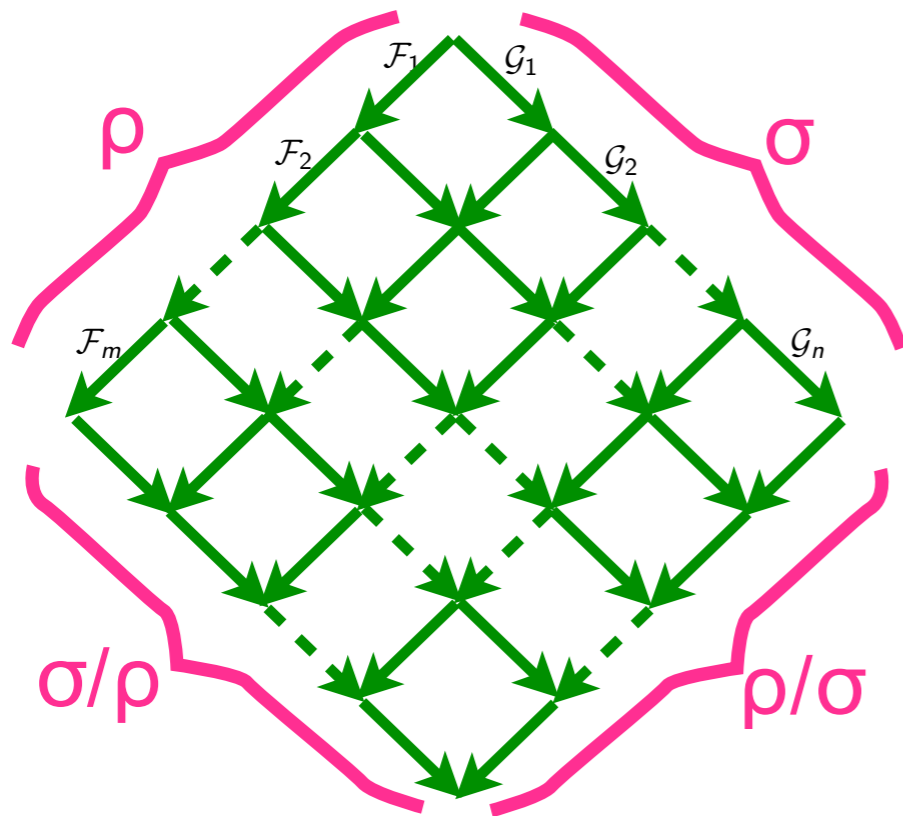
corollary: parallel moves [Curry]



cube lemma

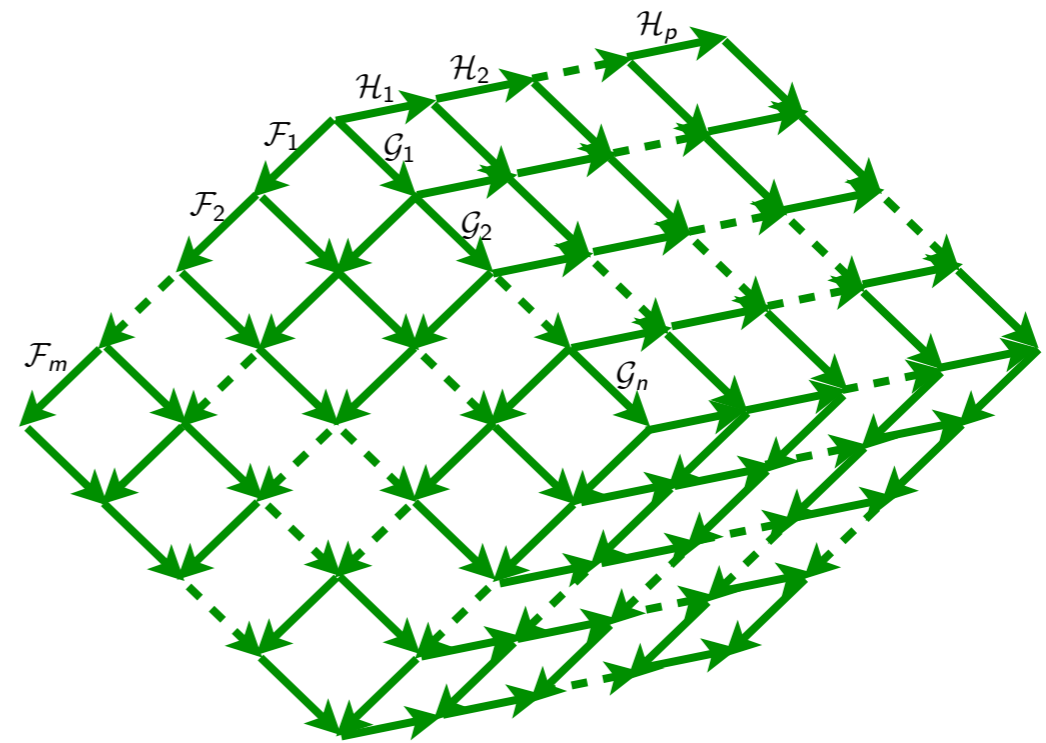


Residual of reductions



parallel moves +

$\rho \sqcup \sigma$ and $\sigma \sqcup \rho$ are cofinal



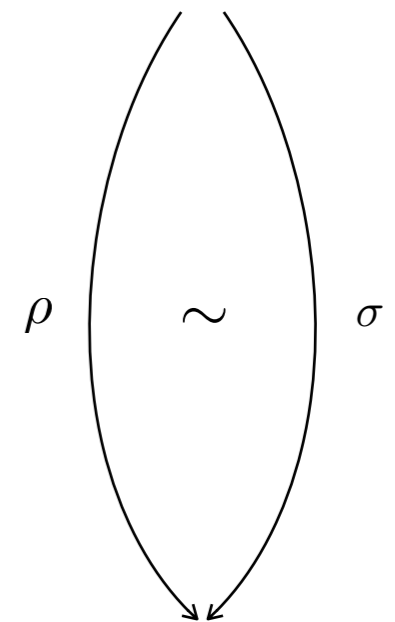
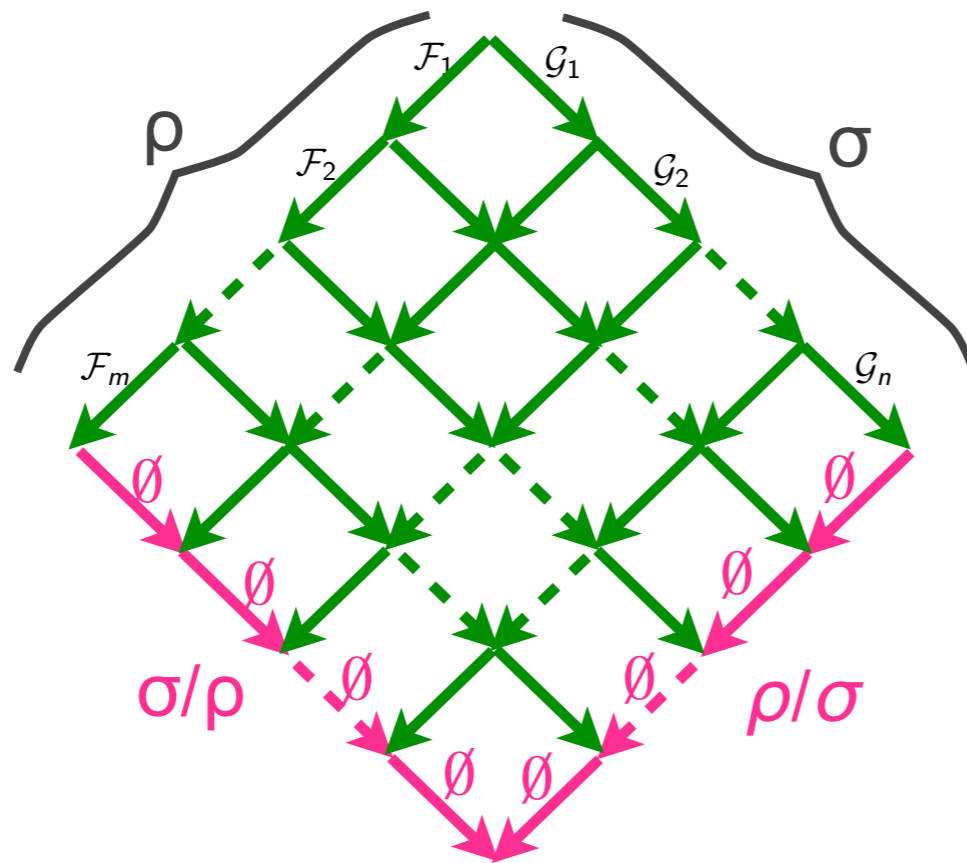
cube lemma +

$$\tau / (\rho \sqcup \sigma) = \tau / (\sigma \sqcup \rho)$$

Permutation equivalence

permutation equivalence (revisited) Let ρ and σ be coinital reductions.

Then $\rho \sim \sigma$ iff $\rho/\sigma = \emptyset^m$ and $\sigma/\rho = \emptyset^n$

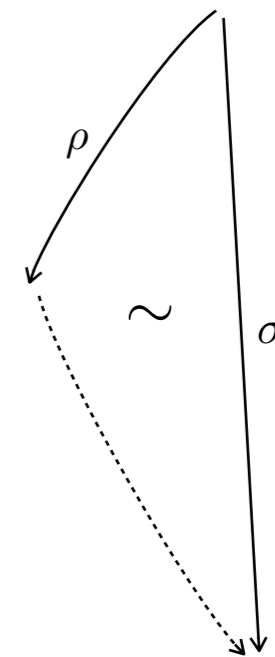
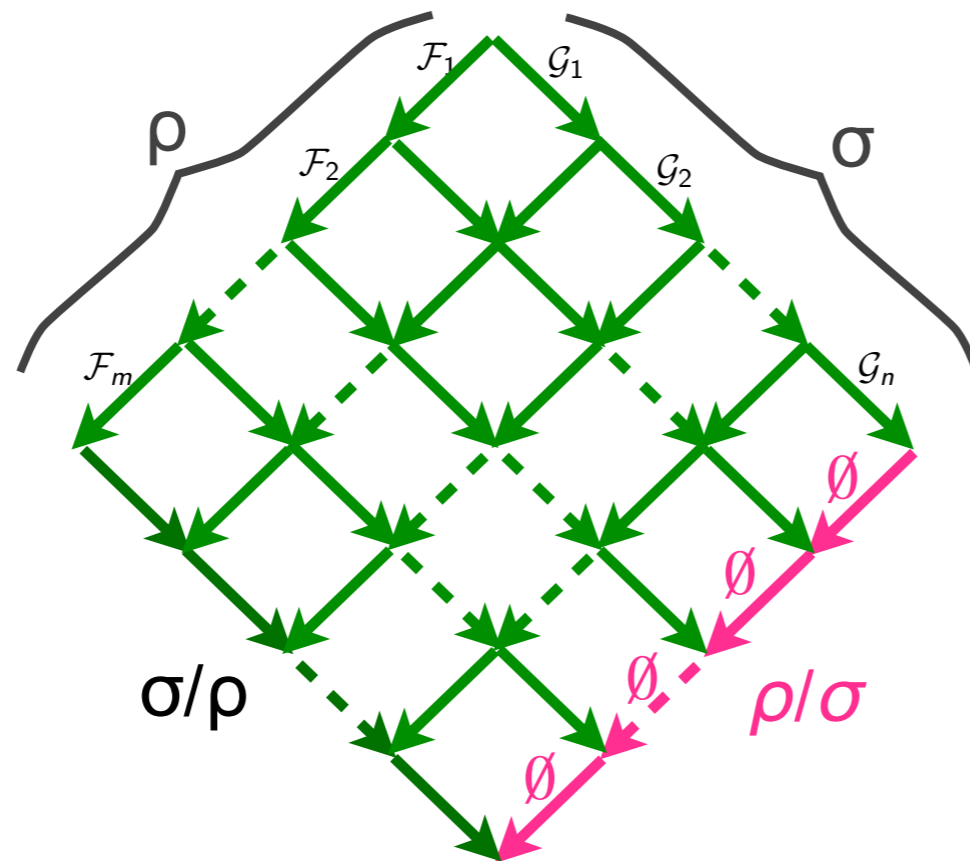


exercise Test previous example and counterexamples for permutation equivalence

Prefix modulo permutations

prefix modulo permutations Let ρ and σ be coinitial reductions.

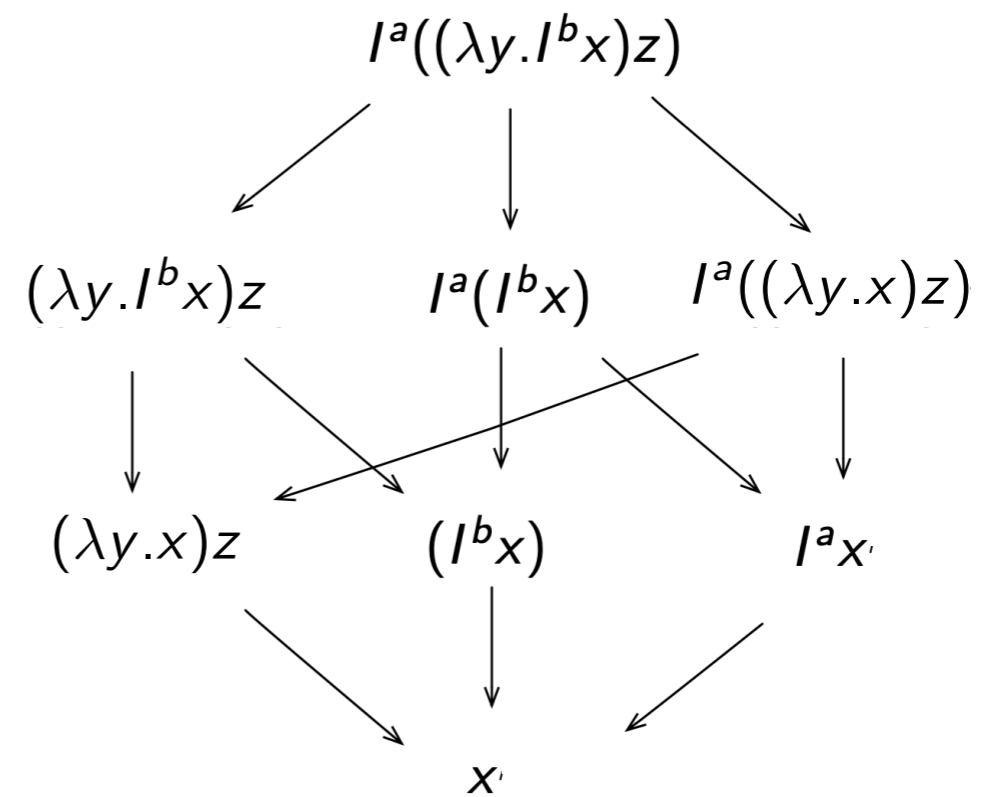
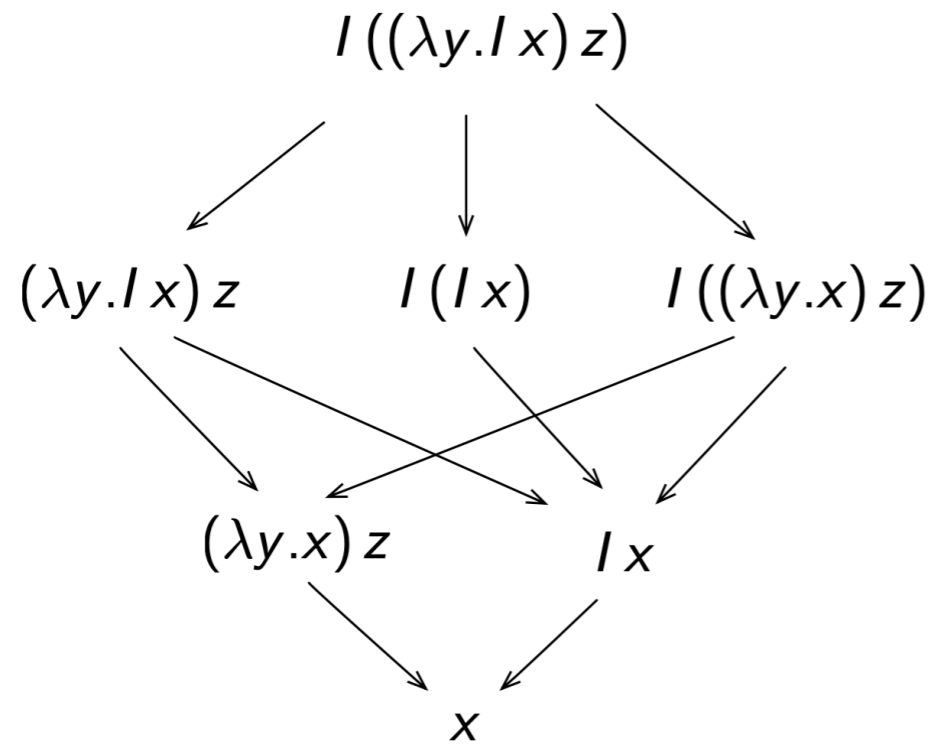
Then $\rho \leq \sigma$ iff $\rho/\sigma = \emptyset^m$



exercise Prove $\rho \leq \sigma$ iff $\exists \tau, \rho ; \tau \sim \sigma$

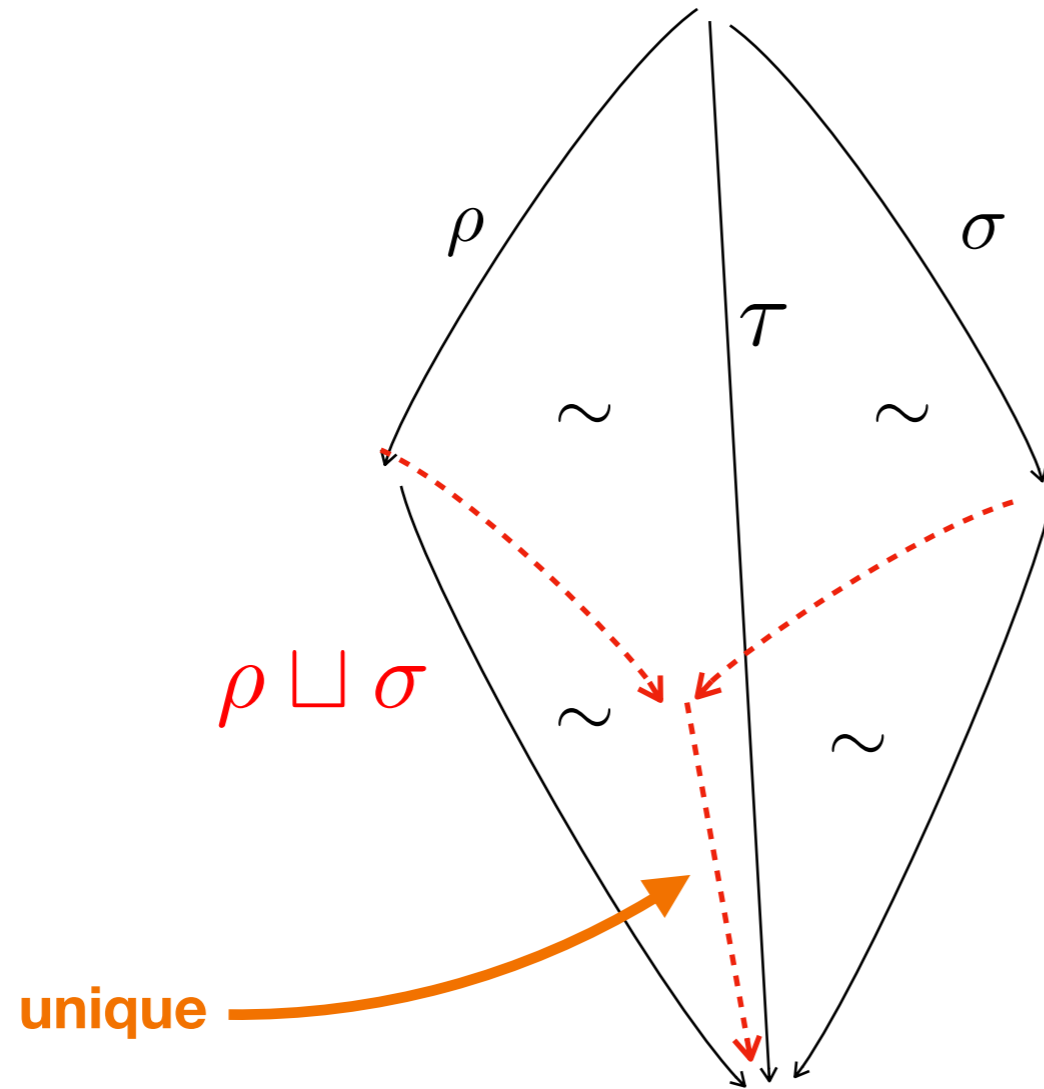
Prefix modulo permutations

lattice of prefix modulo permutations



Prefix modulo permutations

lattice of prefix modulo permutations



Easy lemmas

properties of permutations

$$(i) \quad \rho \sim \sigma \iff \forall \tau. \tau/\rho = \tau/\sigma$$

$$(ii) \quad \rho \sim \sigma \iff \rho/\tau \sim \sigma/\tau$$

$$(iii) \quad \rho \sim \sigma \iff \tau;\rho \sim \tau;\sigma$$

$$(iv) \quad \rho \sim \sigma \iff \rho;\tau \sim \sigma;\tau$$

$$(v) \quad \rho \sqcup \sigma \sim \sigma \sqcup \rho$$

proof

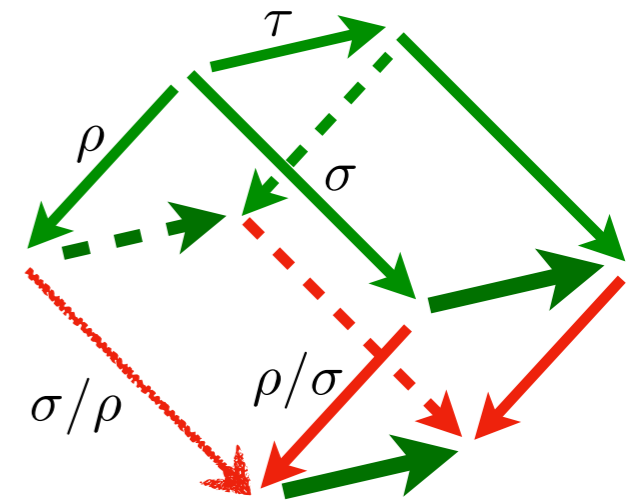
$$(i) \quad \rho \sim \sigma \implies \sigma/\rho = \emptyset^n \text{ and } \rho/\sigma = \emptyset^m$$

$$\text{Thus } \tau/(\rho \sqcup \sigma) = \tau/(\rho;(\sigma/\rho)) = \tau/\rho/(\sigma/\rho) = \tau/\rho/\emptyset^n = \tau/$$

$$\text{Similarly } \tau/(\sigma \sqcup \tau) = \tau/\sigma$$

$$\text{By cube lemma } \tau/\rho = \tau/\sigma$$

Conversely, take $\tau = \rho$ and $\tau = \sigma$



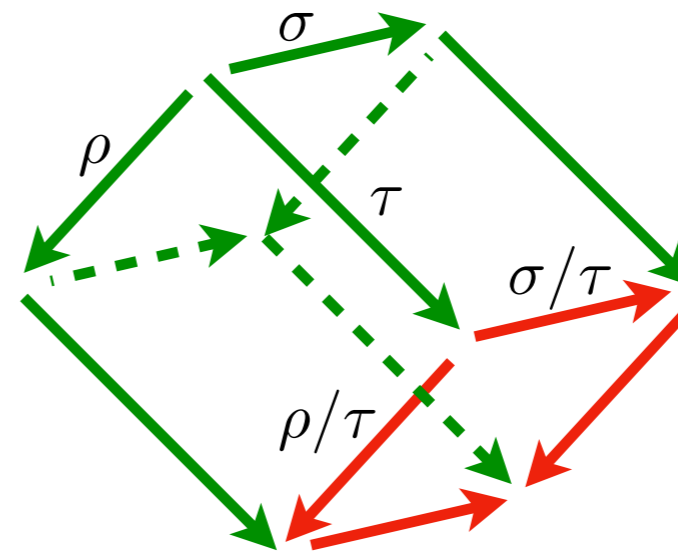
Easy lemmas

properties of prefixes modulo permutations

- (i) $\rho \leq \sigma \leq \rho \iff \rho \sim \sigma$
- (ii) $\rho \leq \sigma \leq \tau \implies \rho \leq \tau$
- (iii) $\rho \leq \rho \sqcup \sigma$ and $\sigma \leq \rho \sqcup \sigma$
- (iv) $\rho \leq \tau$ and $\sigma \leq \tau \implies \rho \sqcup \sigma \leq \tau$
- (v) $\rho \leq \sigma \iff \tau; \rho \leq \tau; \sigma$

proof

$$\rho \leq \tau \text{ and } \sigma \leq \tau \implies \rho \sqcup \sigma \leq \tau$$



history: the terminology "equivalence by permutations" is due to [G rard Berry]
[my initial definition was with residual of reductions]

redex and
history

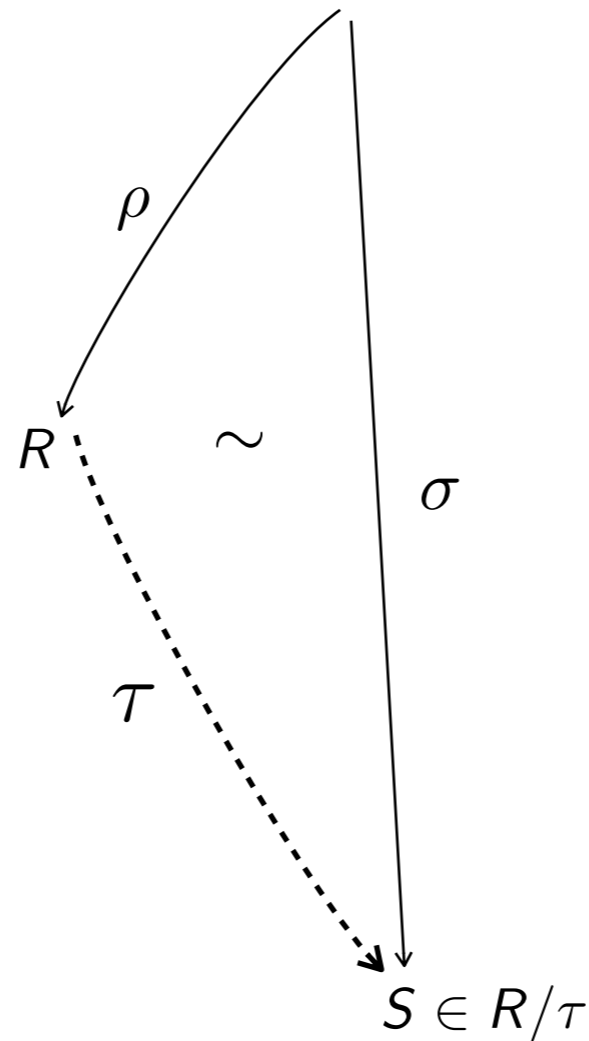
Initial motivation (bis)

- call-by-need is call-by-name with sharing to avoid duplications
- what is duplication ?
- duplication along reductions already performed
- so duplication should take care of history of reductions

Redex & history

h-redex (definition) $\langle \rho, R \rangle$ when R is a redex in final term of ρ

residual of h-redex $\langle \rho, R \rangle \lesssim \langle \sigma, S \rangle$ if there is τ such that $\rho; \tau \sim \sigma \wedge S \in R/\tau$



Residuals modulo permutations

- properties of residuals of h-redexes

$$(i) \quad \langle \rho, R \rangle \lesssim \langle \sigma, S \rangle \iff \rho \leq \sigma \wedge S \in R/(\sigma/\rho)$$

$$(ii) \quad \langle \rho, R \rangle \lesssim \langle \rho, R \rangle$$

$$(iii) \quad \langle \rho, R \rangle \lesssim \langle \sigma, S \rangle \lesssim \langle \rho, R \rangle \iff \rho \sim \sigma \wedge R = S$$

← consistency with permutation equivalence

$$(iv) \quad \langle \rho, R \rangle \lesssim \langle \sigma, S \rangle \lesssim \langle \tau, T \rangle \implies \langle \rho, R \rangle \lesssim \langle \tau, T \rangle$$

$$(v) \quad \langle \rho, R \rangle \lesssim \langle \tau, T \rangle \wedge \rho \leq \sigma \leq \tau \implies \exists! S, \langle \rho, R \rangle \lesssim \langle \sigma, S \rangle \lesssim \langle \tau, T \rangle$$

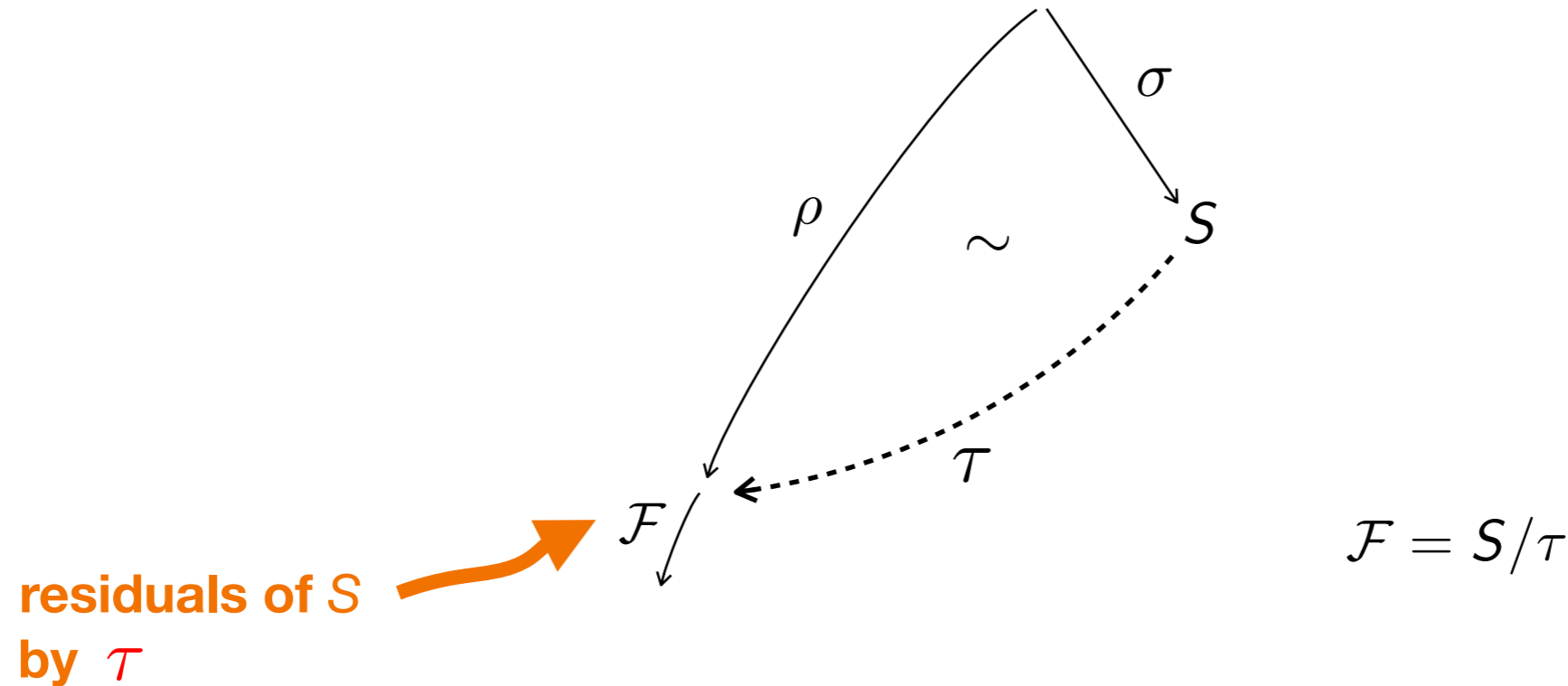
← interpolation

$$(vi) \quad \langle \rho, R \rangle \lesssim \langle \sigma, S \rangle \iff \langle \tau; \rho, R \rangle \lesssim \langle \tau; \sigma, S \rangle$$

- residuals of h-redexes are consistent with permutation equivalence

Duplication complete reductions

- a reduction step $\xrightarrow{\mathcal{F}}$ is duplication complete if \mathcal{F} is a maximal set of h-redexes residuals of a single h-redex



Goal [optimality thm] leftmost-outermost d-complete reductions are optimal in their number of reduction steps

- but how to find the $\langle \sigma, S \rangle$ h-redex ?

labeled
calculus

The labeled λ -calculus

- labels over alphabet $\mathcal{A} = \{a, b, c, \dots\}$

$$\alpha, \beta ::= a \mid \alpha\beta \mid \overline{\underline{a}} \mid \underline{\overline{a}}$$



- labeled λ -calculus

$$M, N, \dots ::= x \mid MN \mid \lambda x.M \mid M^\alpha$$

$$(\lambda x.M)^\alpha N \rightarrow M\{x := N^{\overline{\underline{\alpha}}}\}^{\underline{\overline{\alpha}}}$$

$$M^\alpha\{x := N\} = M\{x := N\}^\alpha$$

$$(M^\alpha)^\beta = M^{\alpha\beta}$$

The labeled λ -calculus

- again an alphabet of atomic labels $\mathcal{A} = \{a, b, c, \dots\}$
- their labeled λ -calculus [Asperti-Laneve]

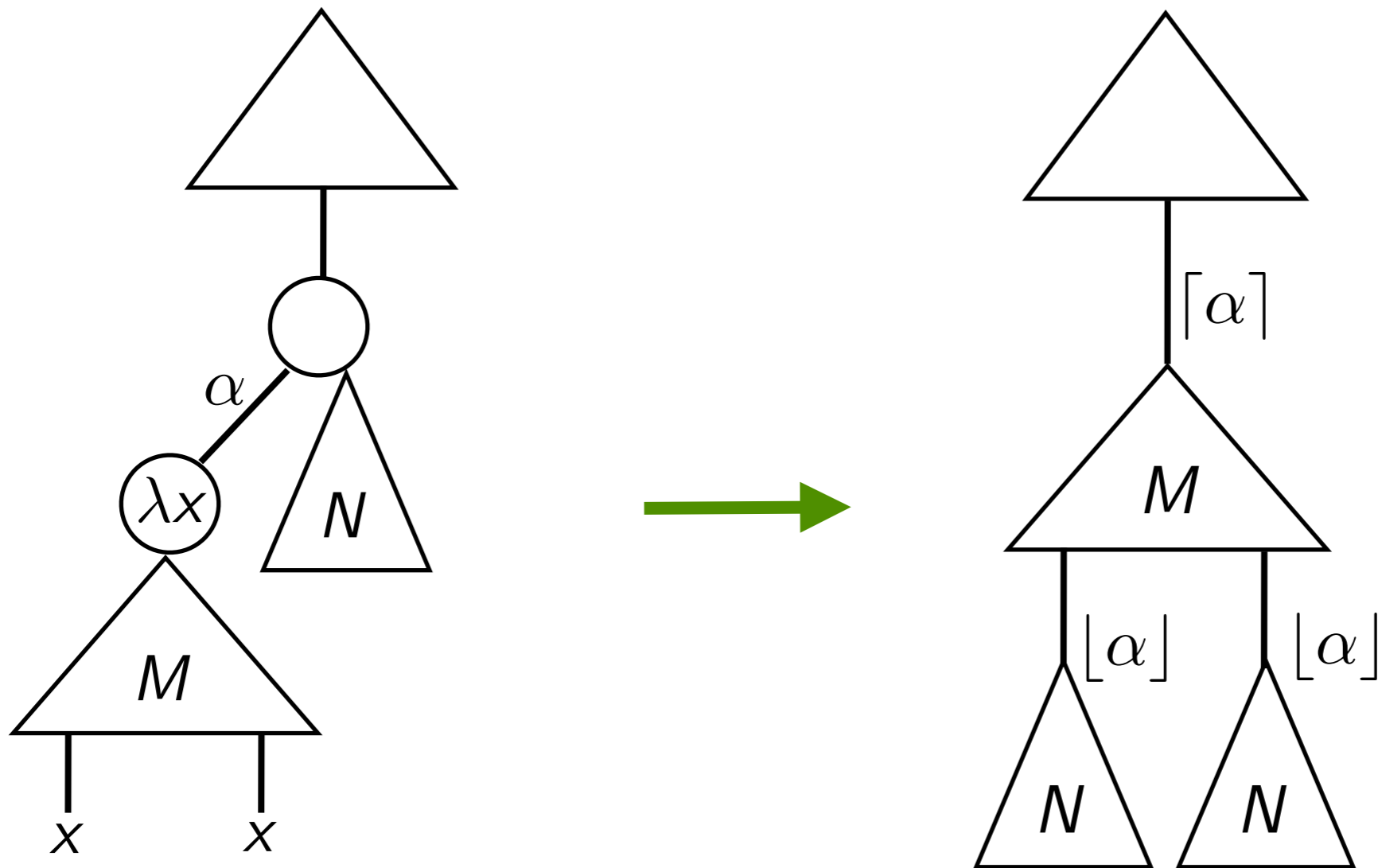
$$M, N, \dots ::= x \mid MN \mid \lambda x.M \mid a:M$$

$$(a_1 : a_2 : \dots : a_n : \lambda x.M)N \rightarrow a_1 : a_2 : \dots : a_n : M\{x := a_n : a_{n-1} : \dots : a_1 : N\}$$

$$(a : M)\{x := N\} = a : M\{x := N\}$$

- correspondence with paths in initial term

The labeled λ -calculus



The labeled λ -calculus

- Let $\Delta = \lambda x.xx$, $\gamma_1 = [a]$, $\gamma_2 = \gamma_1[\gamma_1]$

$$\Delta^a \Delta \rightarrow (\Delta^{\gamma_1} \Delta^{\gamma_1})^{[a]} \rightarrow (\Delta^{\gamma_2} \Delta^{\gamma_2})^{[\gamma_1][a]} \rightarrow \dots$$

- the **name** of a redex be the label of its function part

$$\text{name}((\lambda x.M)^\alpha N) = \alpha$$

- the name of a redex gives its **origin**
- residuals of a redex keep their names
- created new redexes strictly contain the names of their creators

The labeled λ -calculus

- An example: $\underline{\Delta} = \lambda x.(x^c x^d)^b$, $\Delta = \lambda x.(x^g x^h)^f$

$$\Omega = \underline{\Delta}^a \Delta^e$$

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow \Omega_1 &= (\Delta^{\gamma_1} \Delta^{\delta_1})^{b[a]} & \gamma_1 &= e[a]c & \delta_1 &= e[a]d \\ \rightarrow \Omega_2 &= (\Delta^{\gamma_2} \Delta^{\delta_2})^{f[\gamma_1]b[a]} & \gamma_2 &= \delta_1[\gamma_1]g & \delta_2 &= \delta_1[\gamma_1]h \\ \rightarrow \Omega_3 &= (\Delta^{\gamma_3} \Delta^{\delta_3})^{f[\gamma_2]f[\gamma_1]b[a]} & \gamma_3 &= \delta_2[\gamma_2]g & \delta_3 &= \delta_2[\gamma_2]h \\ \rightarrow \dots & & & & & \end{aligned}$$

- or simpler with partial labels: $\Delta = \lambda x.x x$

$$\Omega = \Delta^a \Delta$$

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow \Omega_1 &= (\Delta^{\gamma_1} \Delta^{\gamma_1})^{[a]} & \gamma_1 &= [a] \\ \rightarrow \Omega_2 &= (\Delta^{\gamma_2} \Delta^{\gamma_2})^{[\gamma_1][a]} & \gamma_2 &= \gamma_1[\gamma_1] \\ \rightarrow \Omega_3 &= (\Delta^{\gamma_3} \Delta^{\gamma_3})^{[\gamma_2][\gamma_1][a]} & \gamma_3 &= \gamma_2[\gamma_2] \\ \rightarrow \dots & & & \end{aligned}$$

The labeled λ -calculus

- the labeled calculus is **confluent**
- the labeled calculus is **strongly normalizable** when reduction is restricted to a **finite** set of redex names
- unique normal form when exists
[Generalized Finite Developments thm]
- the standard λ -calculus can be seen as an infinite limit of finite labeled-calculi

The labeled λ -calculus

a

$$\Delta = \lambda x.(x^c x^d)^b$$

$$F = \lambda f.(f^k y^\ell)^j$$

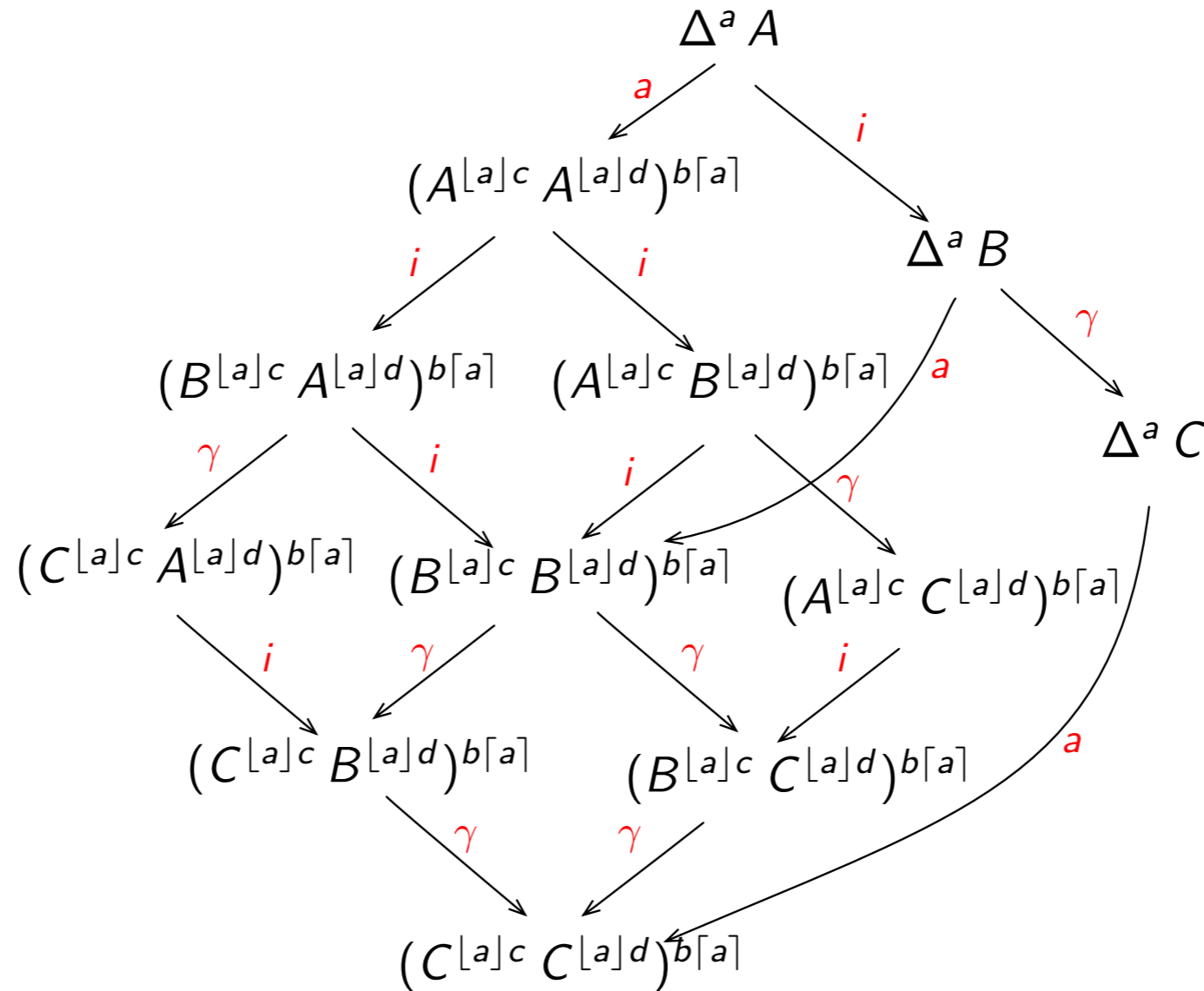
$$I = \lambda x.x^v$$

$$A = (F^i I^u)^q$$

$$B = (I^\gamma y^\ell)^q$$

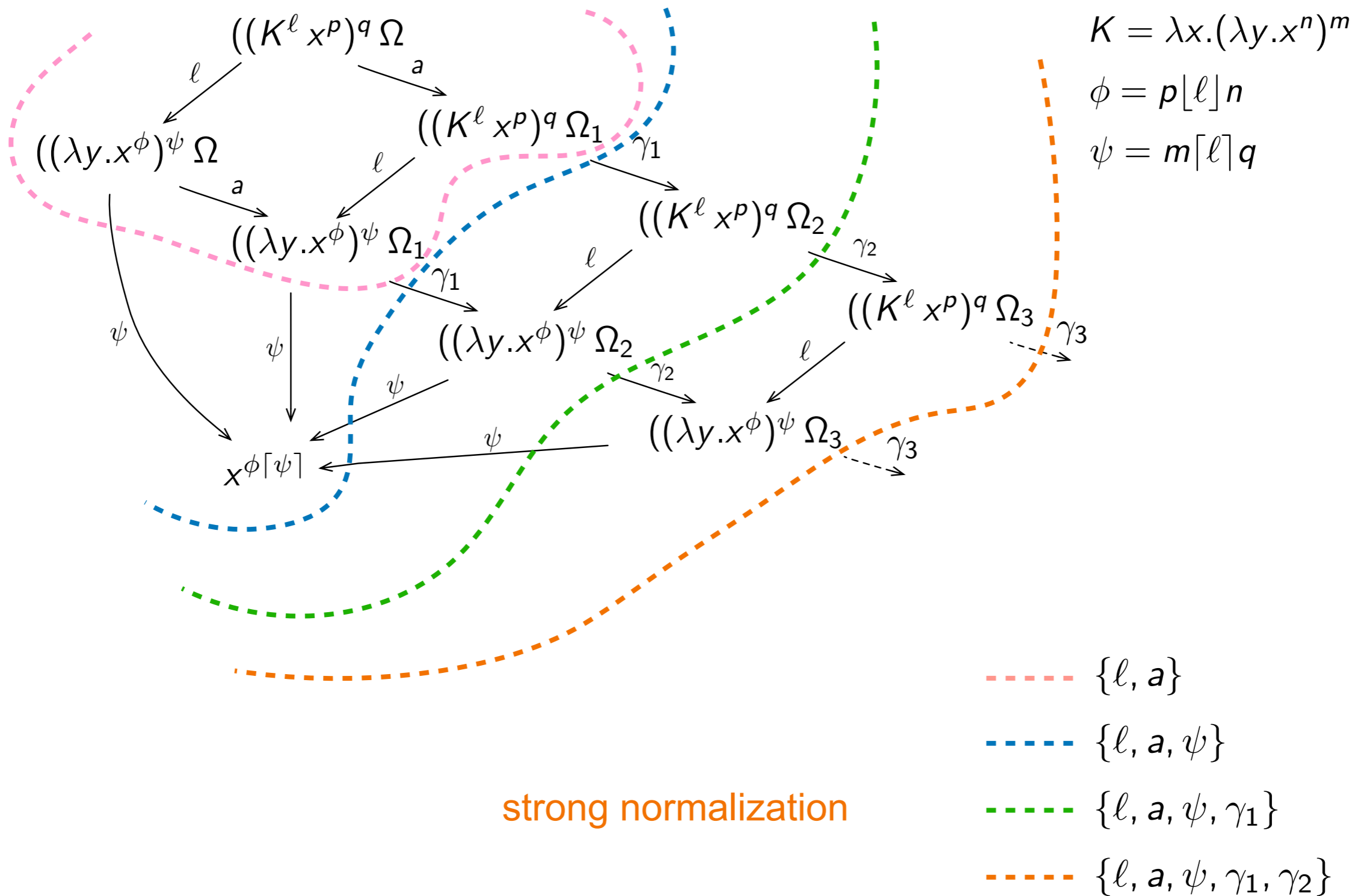
$$C = y^\ell [\gamma] v [\gamma] q$$

$$\gamma = u [i] k$$



confluence

The labeled λ -calculus



The labeled λ -calculus

$$\underbrace{(\lambda x. \dots (x^\beta N) \dots)^\alpha (\lambda y. M)^\gamma}_{\alpha} \rightarrow \dots \underbrace{((\lambda y. M)^{\gamma[\alpha]\beta} N') \dots}_{\gamma[\alpha]\beta}$$

creates

$$\underbrace{((\lambda x. (\lambda y. M)^\gamma)^\alpha N)^\beta P}_{\alpha} \rightarrow \underbrace{(\lambda y. M')^{\gamma[\alpha]\beta} P}_{\gamma[\alpha]\beta}$$

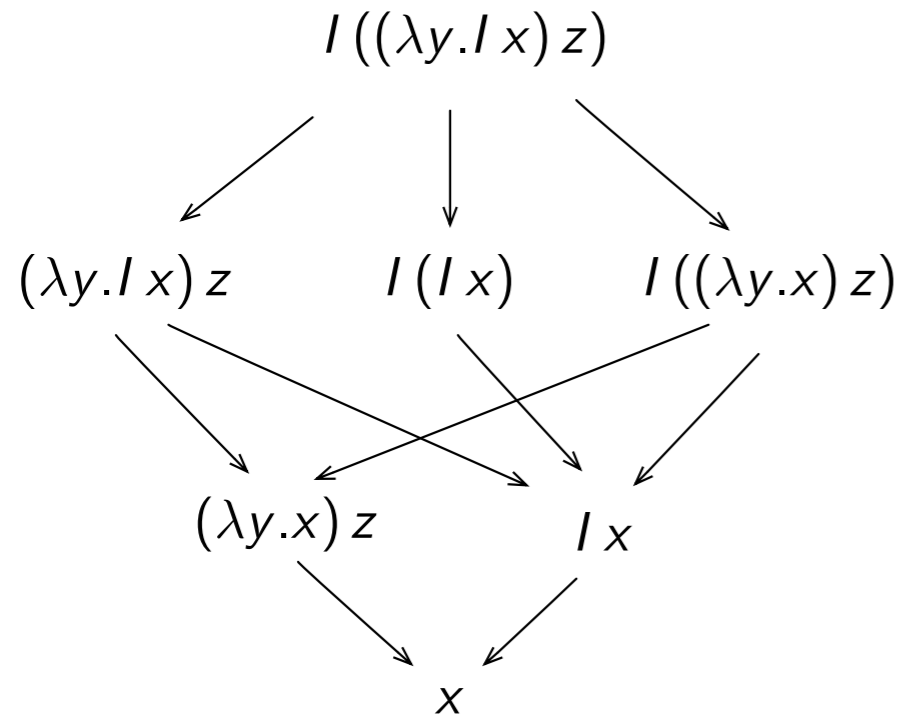
creates

$$\underbrace{((\lambda x. x^\gamma)^\alpha (\lambda y. M)^\delta)^\beta N}_{\alpha} \rightarrow \underbrace{(\lambda y. M)^{\delta[\alpha]\gamma[\alpha]\beta} N}_{\delta[\alpha]\gamma[\alpha]\beta}$$

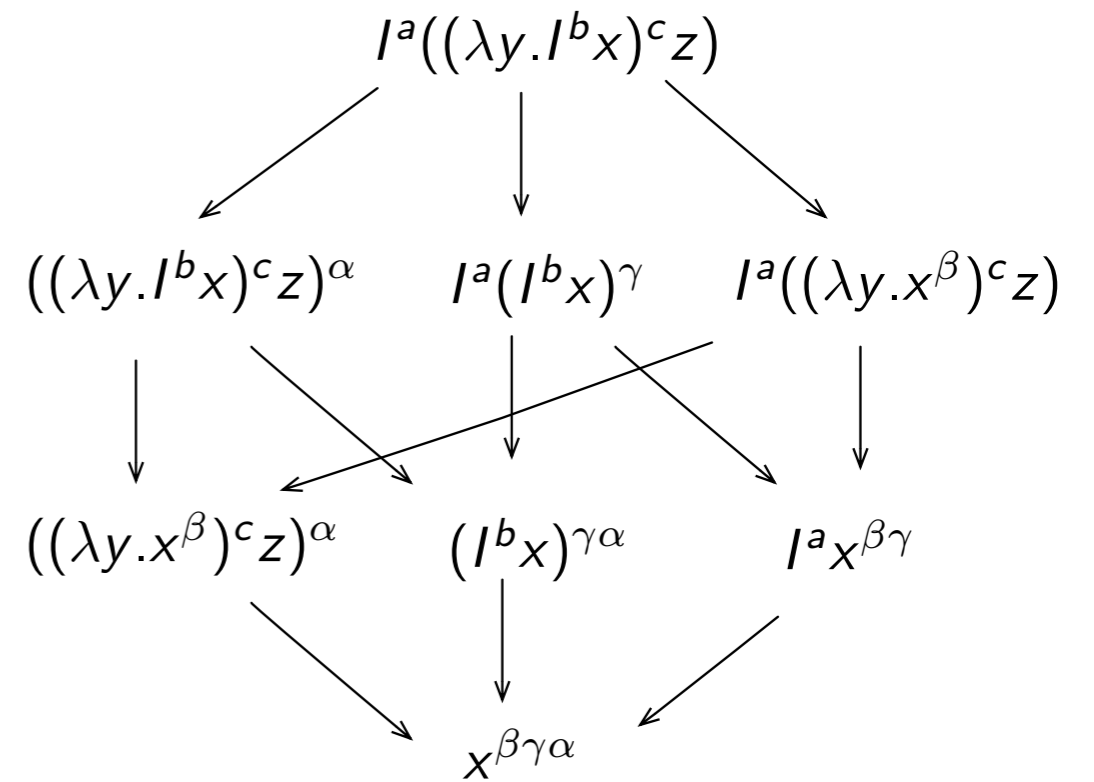
creates

origin

The labeled λ -calculus



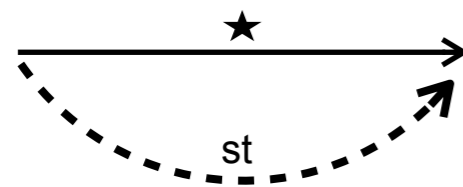
$I = \lambda x. x$
 $\alpha = [a][a]$
 $\beta = [b][b]$
 $\gamma = [c]$



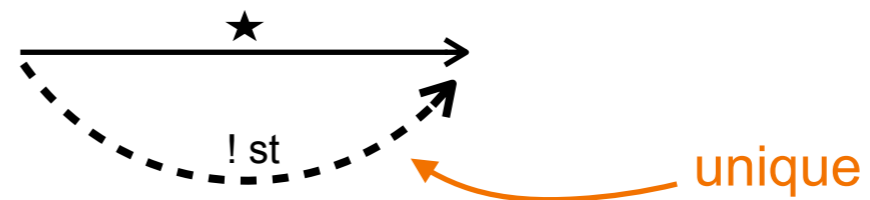
lattice

The labeled λ -calculus

- a **standard** reduction is an outside-in left-to-right reduction strategy
- any reduction can be reordered in a standard reduction [**Curry 1958**]



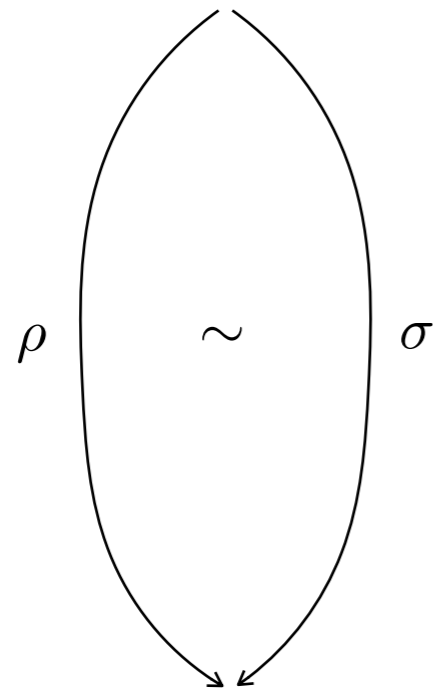
λ -calculus



labeled λ -calculus

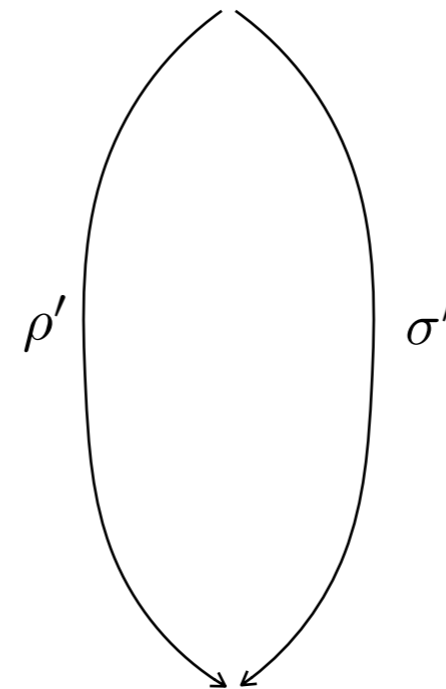
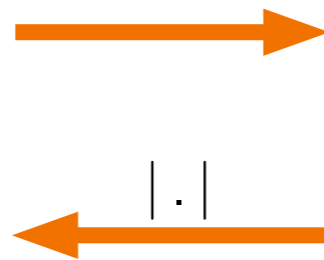
Permutation equivalence

- \sim corresponds to the coinital / cofinal reductions of the labeled λ -calculus



λ -calculus

$$\rho \sim \sigma$$



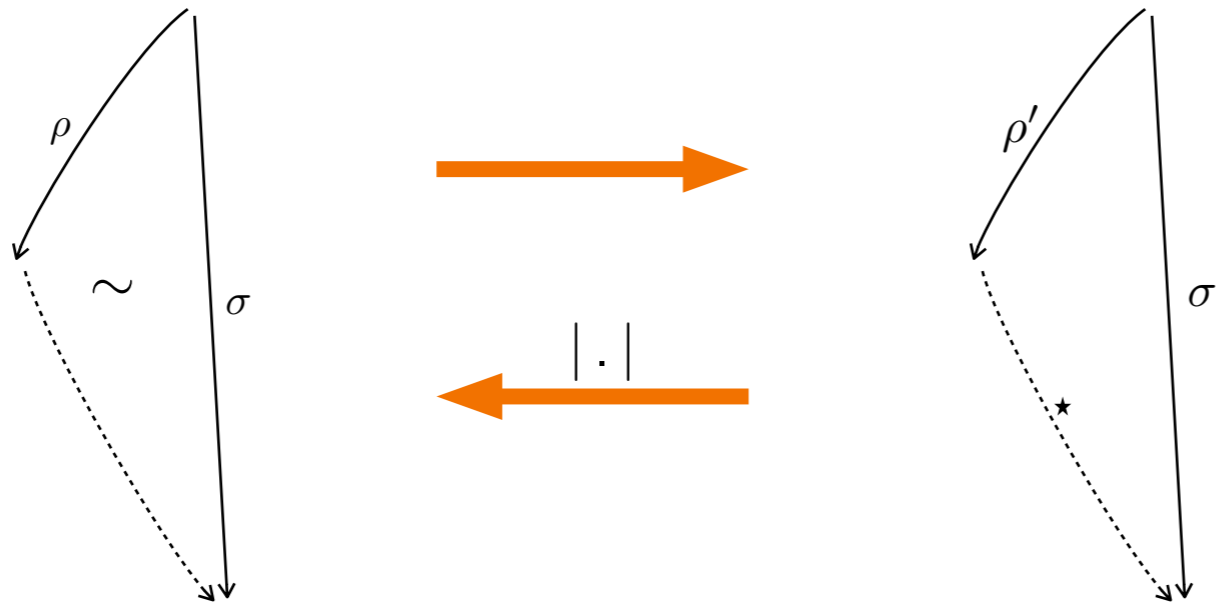
labeled λ -calculus

$$\text{org}(\rho') = \text{org}(\sigma')$$

$$\text{end}(\rho') = \text{end}(\sigma')$$

Prefix modulo permutations

- \leq corresponds to reductions of the labeled λ -calculus



λ -calculus

$$\rho \leq \sigma$$

labeled λ -calculus

$$\text{org}(\rho') = \text{org}(\sigma')$$

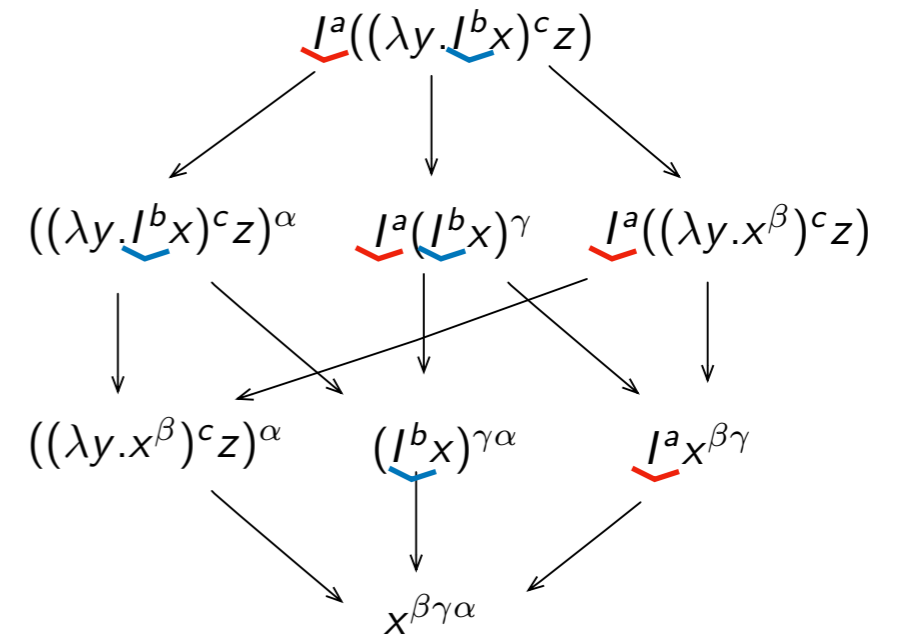
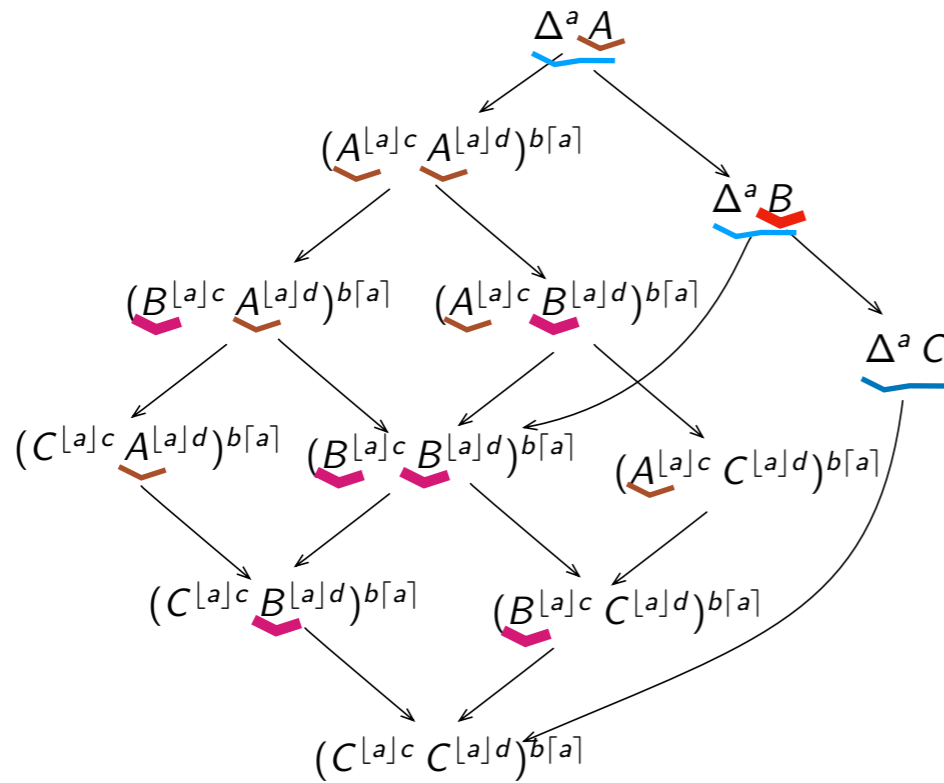
$$\text{end}(\rho') \rightarrow \text{end}(\sigma')$$

redex

families

Residuals modulo permutations

- residuals of h-redexes correspond to names of redexes in :



$$\Delta = \lambda x.(x^c x^d)^b$$

$$A = (F^i I^u)^q$$

$$F = \lambda f.(f^k y^\ell)^j$$

$$B = (I^\gamma y^\ell)^q$$

$$I = \lambda x.x^\nu$$

$$C = y^{\ell[\gamma]\nu[\gamma]q}$$

$$\alpha = [a]$$

$$\beta = [b]$$

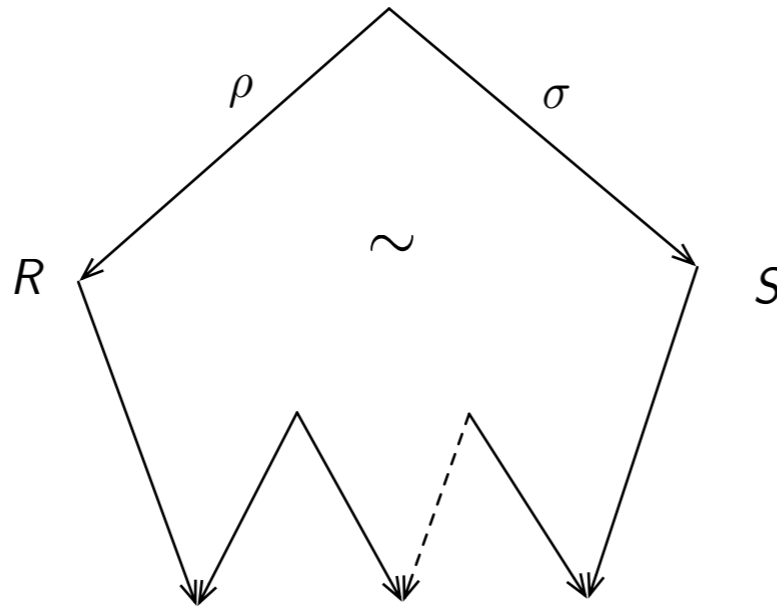
$$\gamma = [c]$$

Redex families

family relation \simeq between h-redexes is defined by :

$$(i) \quad \langle \rho, R \rangle \lesssim \langle \sigma, S \rangle \implies \langle \rho, R \rangle \simeq \langle \sigma, S \rangle \simeq \langle \rho, R \rangle$$

$$(ii) \quad \langle \rho, R \rangle \simeq \langle \sigma, S \rangle \simeq \langle \tau, T \rangle \implies \langle \rho, R \rangle \simeq \langle \tau, T \rangle$$



- symmetric + transitive closure of residuals modulo permutations

Redex families

- from now on, we only consider standard reductions
- then the extraction relation \triangleleft on h-redexes is defined as follows

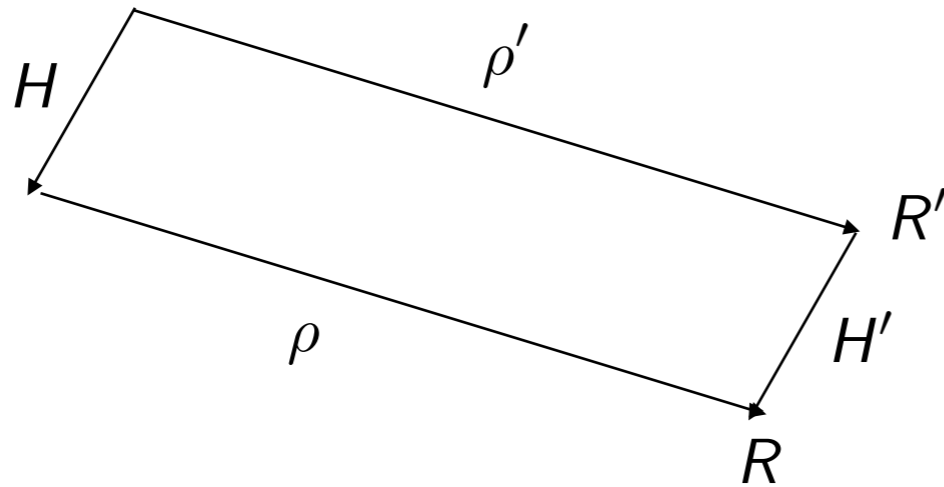
$$(i) \quad \langle o, R \rangle \triangleleft \langle o, R \rangle$$

$$(ii) \quad \langle \rho, R \rangle \triangleleft \langle \sigma, S \rangle \implies \langle \rho', R' \rangle \triangleleft \langle H; \sigma, S \rangle$$

where $\langle \rho', R' \rangle$ is defined by cases analysis on ρ w.r.t. H

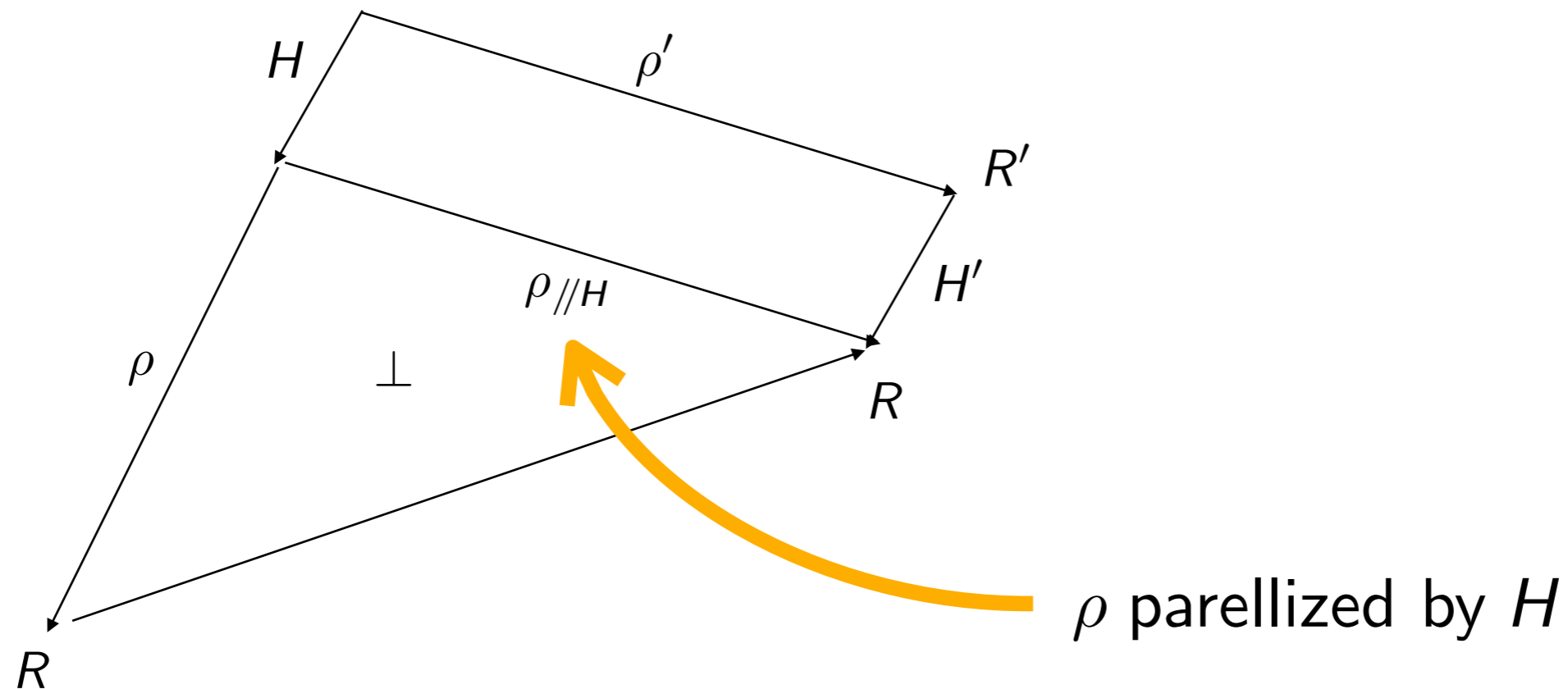
Redex families

- **Case 1:** ρ is in body of H or disjoint to the right of the contractum of H
then ρ' is isomorphic to ρ



Redex families

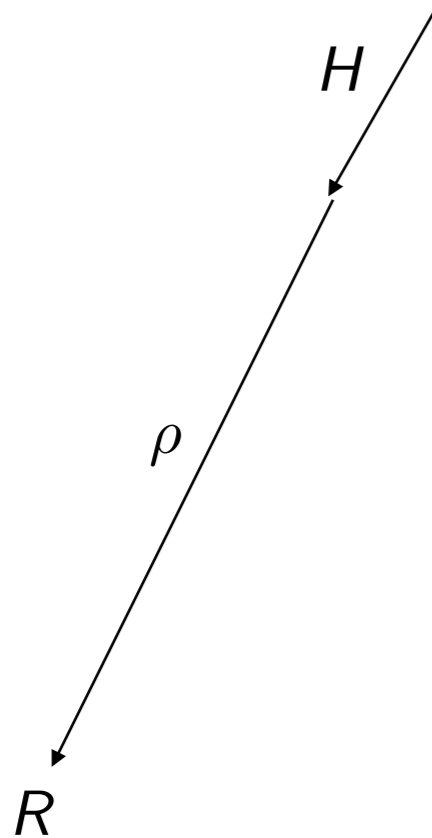
- **Case 2:** ρ is internal to an instance of a copy of the argument of H
then ρ' is isomorphic to ρ in the argument of H



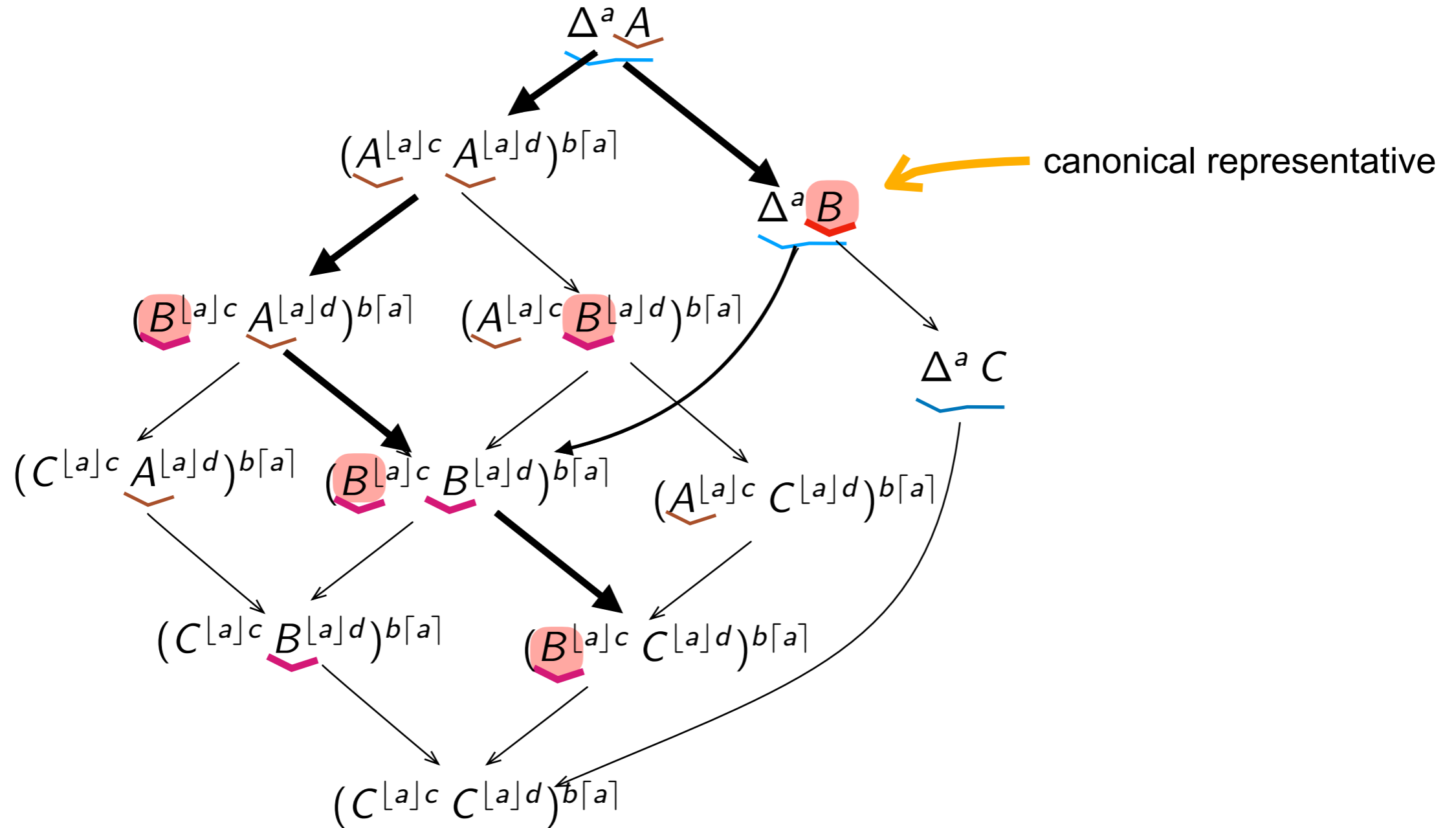
Redex families

- **Otherwise** (H necessary for R)

$$\rho' = H; \rho \wedge R' = R$$



Redex families



Redex families

- the family relation \simeq can be decided by extraction

$$\langle \rho, R \rangle \simeq \langle \sigma, S \rangle \iff \langle \tau, T \rangle \triangleleft \langle \rho, R \rangle \wedge \langle \tau, T \rangle \triangleleft \langle \sigma, S \rangle \quad \text{for some } \langle \tau, T \rangle$$

- in fact $\langle \tau, T \rangle$ is unique and is the **canonical representative** of its family
- $\langle \tau, T \rangle$ is unique in family with **minimum length** of (standard) reduction τ

redexes are stable in the λ -calculus



sequentiality

Redex families

- when $\langle \tau, T \rangle$ is a canonical representative

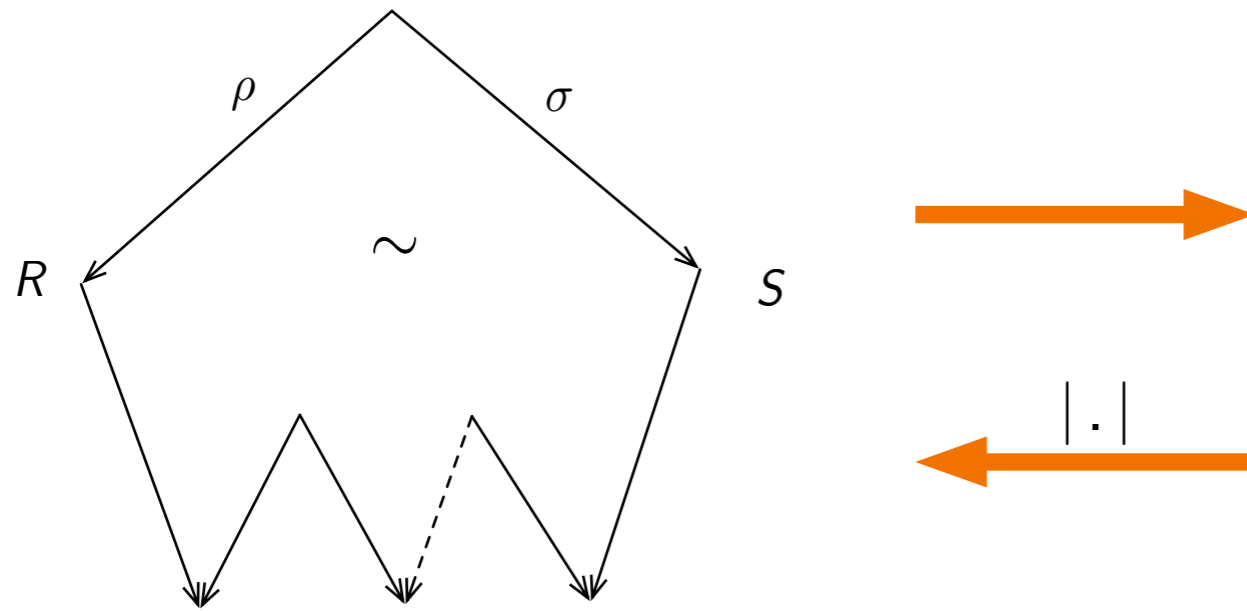
$$\langle \rho, R \rangle \simeq \langle \tau, T \rangle \wedge \tau \leq \rho \implies \langle \tau, T \rangle \lesssim \langle \rho, R \rangle$$

- family complete reductions are duplication complete reductions
- sublattice of family complete reductions

[optimality thm] leftmost-outermost d-complete reductions are optimal in their number of reduction steps

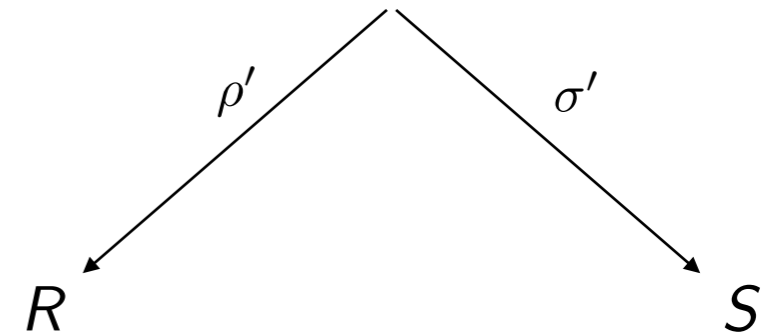
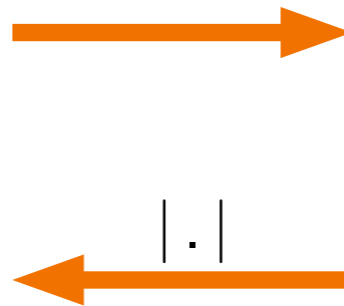
Redex families

- the family relation \simeq corresponds to equality of names in the labeled calculus



λ -calculus

$$\langle \rho, R \rangle \simeq \langle \sigma, S \rangle$$



labeled λ -calculus

$$\text{name}(R) = \text{name}(S)$$

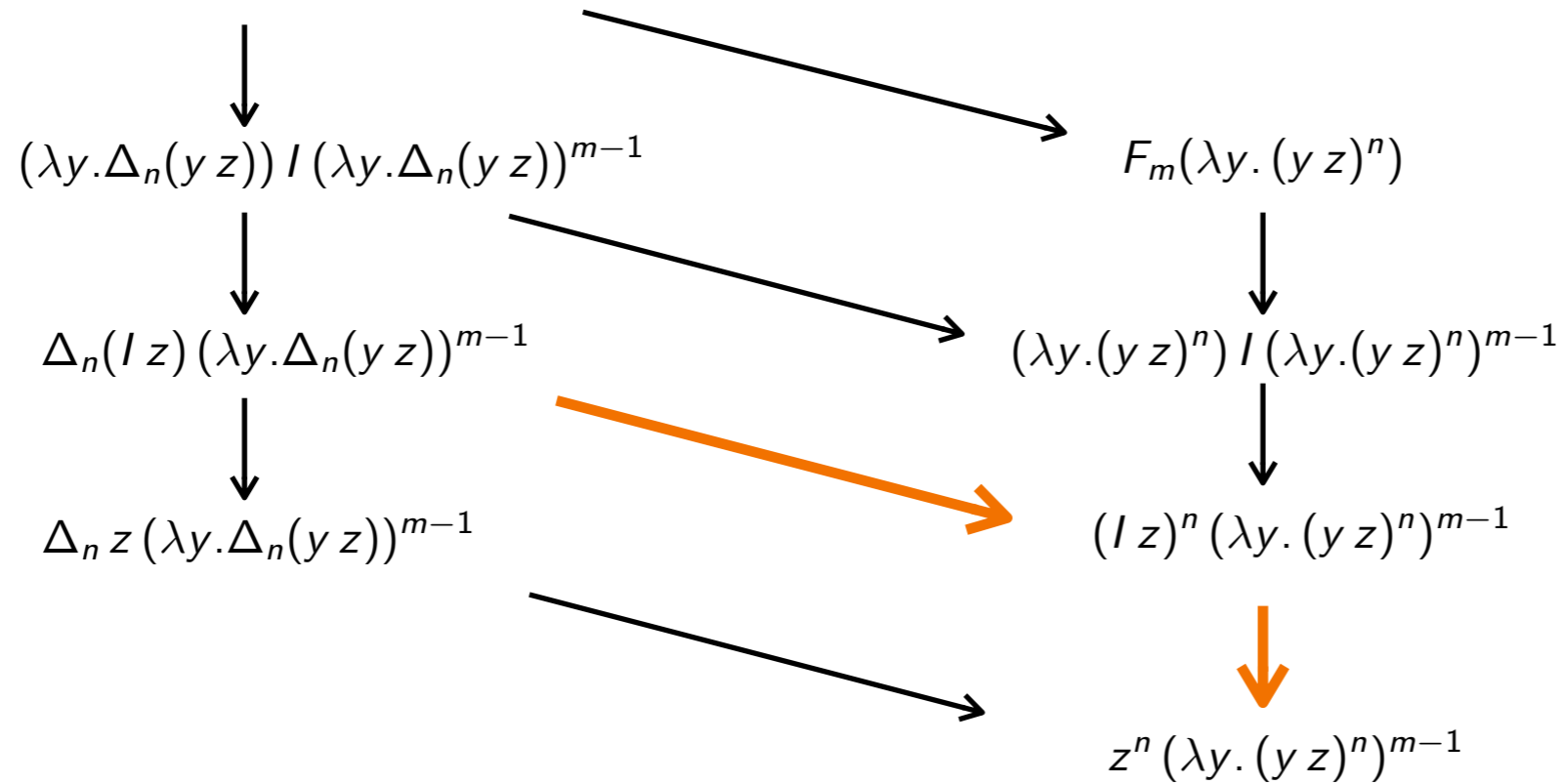
when initial term is **labeled with distinct letters**

- family complete reductions are labeled complete reductions

The sublattice of optimal reductions

- optimal family complete reductions

example $F_m(\lambda y. \Delta_n(y z))$ where $F_m = \lambda x. x / x x \dots x$ and $\Delta_n = \lambda x. x x \dots x$



Generalized finite developments

GFD++ thm [JJL] let \mathcal{F} be a finite set of redex families

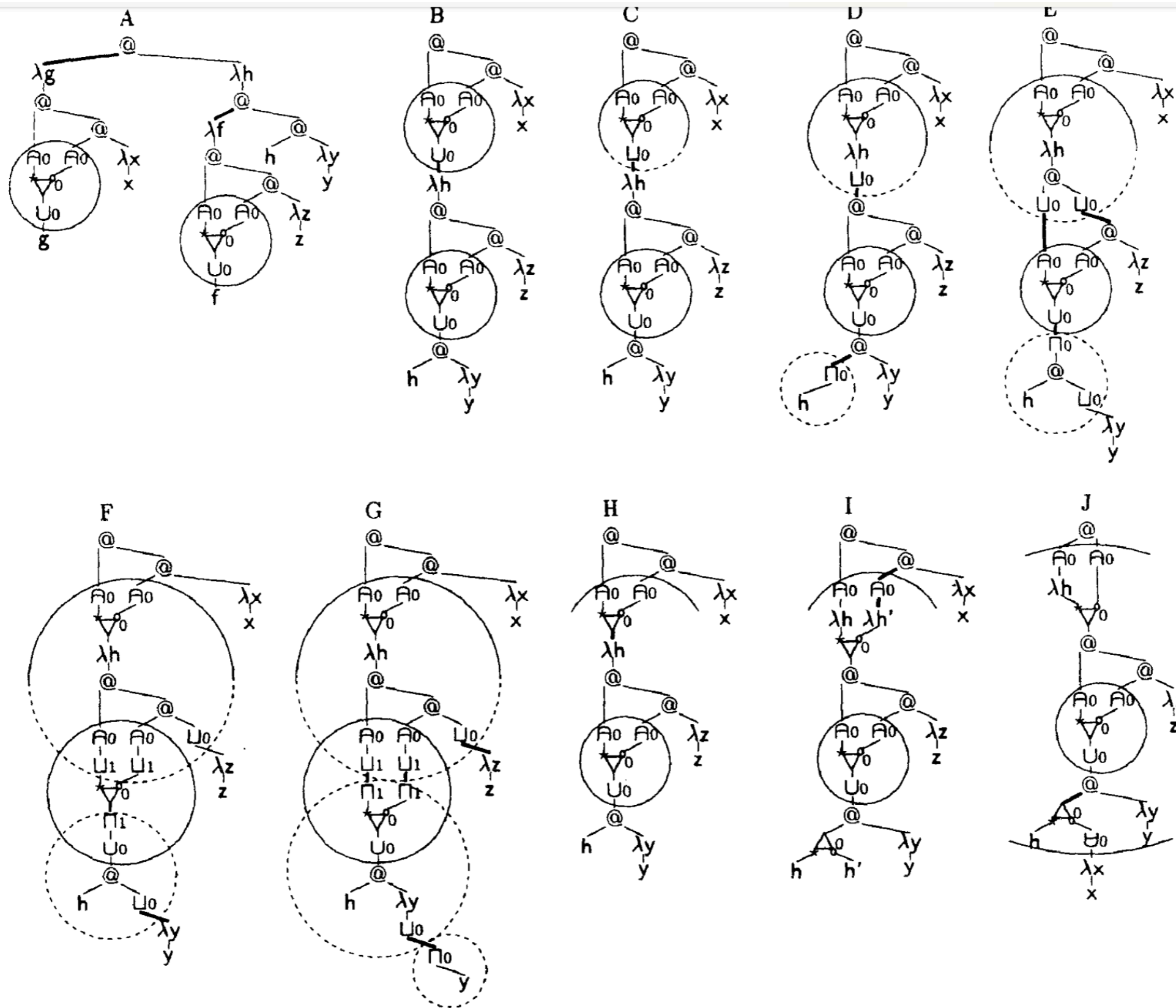
- all reductions contracting only h-redexes in \mathcal{F} have **finite** length
- these **maximal** reductions are permutation equivalent

corollary a lambda-term is strongly normalizable iff it only contracts a finite set of redex families.

strong normalization  finiteness of redex families

Lamping algorithm

- implements optimal reductions [Lamping 90, Gonthier et al 92]



Extra properties

- algebraic laws with **parallel reductions** of redexes
- residuals of parallel reductions
- optimality of **family complete** reductions
- reductions with ultra sharing [*Lamping*]
- **linear logic** without boxes [*Gonthier et al*]
- generalization to **other systems** (interaction systems, ...)

Conclusion

- **real** implementations of sharing (more than call-by-need) ?
[non exponential implementations]
- subsets where possible manageable sharing (weak calculi, others?)
- **intuitive** proofs of strong normalization ($\lfloor \alpha \rightarrow \beta \rfloor = \alpha$, $\lceil \alpha \rightarrow \beta \rceil = \beta$, $\alpha\beta = \alpha$)
- simplification of the extraction process
- history-based information **flow**
- **incremental** computations (makefiles [Vesta], neural networks)