

A Proof-theoretic Characterization of Independence in Type Theory

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Question: After adding `c : nat` does the theorem still hold?

Answer: Yes. Because `bt`-terms (in normal form) cannot contain `nat`-terms.

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Example: `bt` is independent of `nat` in the last example.

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We use the simply-typed λ -calculus (STLC) as an example.

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Realization: encode typing for the fixed context in a spec logic and do inductive proof on the encoding.

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- A derivation alternates between the following two phases:
 - Simplify the goal until it becomes atomic;
 - Perform backchaining on the atomic goal.

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- Define a mapping $\llbracket - \rrbracket$ from STLC types τ to predicates $\tau \rightarrow \circ$:

$$\begin{aligned}\llbracket b \rrbracket &= \lambda t. \hat{b} t \quad \text{if } b \text{ is an atomic type.} \\ \llbracket \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2 \rrbracket &= \lambda t. \forall x:\tau_1. \llbracket \tau_1 \rrbracket x \Rightarrow \llbracket \tau_2 \rrbracket (t x)\end{aligned}$$

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- A typing judgment $\Gamma \vdash t : \tau$ is encoded as an HH sequent

$$\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \vdash \llbracket \tau \rrbracket t$$

where $\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket = \{ \llbracket \tau_1 \rrbracket x_1, \dots, \llbracket \tau_n \rrbracket x_n \}$

Example of Encoding

Assume the following STLC signature Γ :

$z : \text{nat} \quad s : \text{nat} \rightarrow \text{nat}$
 $\text{leaf} : (\text{nat} \rightarrow \text{bt}) \rightarrow \text{bt} \quad \text{node} : \text{bt} \rightarrow \text{bt} \rightarrow \text{bt}$

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$\hat{\text{nat}} z. \quad \forall x. \hat{\text{nat}} x \Rightarrow \hat{\text{nat}} (s x).$

$\forall x. (\forall y. \hat{\text{nat}} y \Rightarrow \hat{\text{bt}} (x y)) \Rightarrow \hat{\text{bt}} (\text{leaf } x).$

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- Example of encoding typing judgments:

$$\Gamma, x : \text{nat} \rightarrow \text{bt}, y : \text{bt} \vdash \text{node } (\text{leaf } x) y : \text{bt}$$

is encoded as the following HH sequent:

$$\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket, (\forall y. \hat{\text{nat}} y \Rightarrow \hat{\text{bt}} (x y)), \hat{\text{bt}} y \vdash \hat{\text{bt}} (\text{node } (\text{leaf } x) y)$$

Independence as Strengthening Lemmas

Now τ_2 is independent of τ_1 can be stated as follows:

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Proof by Induction: the context may be dynamically extended when backchaining on:

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We prove a generalized lemma:

If $(\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket, \Delta, \hat{\text{nat}} x \vdash \hat{\text{bt}} t)$ is derivable, then so is $(\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket, \Delta \vdash \hat{\text{bt}} t)$, where Δ is the dynamic context.

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- We write $\{L \vdash G\}$ for $\text{seq } L \ G$.

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We prove a generalized lemma:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall \Delta t. \nabla x. \text{ctx } \Delta \supset \{[\Gamma], \Delta, \text{nat } x \vdash \widehat{\text{bt}} (t x)\} \\ \supset \exists t'. t = (\lambda y. t') \wedge \{[\Gamma], \Delta \vdash \widehat{\text{bt}} t'\} \end{aligned}$$

where ctx defines the dynamically extended context

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Main Idea: To prove the strengthening lemma

$$\{\Gamma, a_1 x \vdash a_2 t\} \supset \{\Gamma \vdash a_2 t\}$$

Show $a_1 x$ is never used in the derivation of $\Gamma, a_1 x \vdash a_2 t$.

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- Since $a \in S(a)$, a is independent of b .

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- By examining the context, compute a set $S(a)$ of all predicates that a can depend on.
- For any $b \notin S(a)$, every predicate in $S(a)$ is independent of b . Generate a proof for this by mutual induction.
- Since $a \in S(a)$, a is independent of b .

Example: For our example, $S(\hat{b}t) = \{\hat{b}t\}$. Thus bt is independent of nat .

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Problems with subordination:

- It is built into the given type theory, thus completely trusted
- (Non-)subordination is an (under)over-approximation of the (in)dependence.

Example: `nat` is subordinate to `bt` by the type of `leaf`.

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Thank you!