

# Alpha-conversion for lambda terms with explicit weakenings

George Cherevichenko

## Abstract

Using explicit weakenings, we can define alpha-conversion by simple equations without any mention of free variables.

## 1 Terms and alpha-conversion

The set of terms  $\Lambda \uparrow$  is shown in the Tab. 1. A term of the form  $\uparrow M$  corresponds to usual  $M[\uparrow]$  (but now we need much less parentheses). For example,  $\lambda x \uparrow M$  corresponds to  $\lambda x(M[\uparrow])$  and  $\uparrow \lambda x M$  corresponds to  $(\lambda x M)[\uparrow]$ . We also define a lot of functions  $F: \Lambda \uparrow \rightarrow \Lambda \uparrow$ . Each  $F$  has a form  $\{yx\}$  or  $\{yx\}_{z_1 \dots z_n}$ . A function of the form  $\{yx\}$  roughly corresponds to  $[y/x]$ , but is not the same. It corresponds to  $[1 \cdot \uparrow]$  or  $\langle Fst, Snd \rangle$  and does nothing except variable renaming. A function of the form  $F_x$  corresponds to  $[\uparrow F]$ . I shall usually write  $FM$  instead of  $F(M)$ . For example,  $\{yx\} \lambda z x$  is shorthand for  $\{yx\}(\lambda z x)$ .

Alpha-conversion is the smallest compatible equivalence relation such that  $\lambda x M =_\alpha \lambda y \{yx\} M$  for all  $x, y, M$  (no restrictions). See Tab. 2.

**Example 1.1.**  $\lambda x z =_\alpha \lambda y z =_\alpha \lambda z \uparrow z =_\alpha \lambda x \uparrow z =_\alpha \lambda y \uparrow z$

$\lambda x z =_\alpha \lambda z \{zx\} z = \lambda z \uparrow z$

$\lambda y z =_\alpha \lambda z \{zy\} z = \lambda z \uparrow z$

$\lambda x z =_\alpha \lambda x \{xx\} z = \lambda x \uparrow z$

**Example 1.2.**  $\lambda x \lambda z x =_\alpha \lambda y \lambda z y$

$\lambda x \lambda z x =_\alpha \lambda y \{yx\} \lambda z x = \lambda y \lambda z \{yx\}_z x = \lambda y \lambda z \uparrow \{yx\} x = \lambda y \lambda z \uparrow y$

$\lambda y \lambda z y =_\alpha \lambda y \{yy\} \lambda z y = \lambda y \lambda z \{yy\}_z y = \lambda y \lambda z \uparrow \{yy\} y = \lambda y \lambda z \uparrow y$

Tab. 1: Terms and functions

$x, y, z, w ::= x \mid y \mid z \mid \dots$	(Variables)
$M, N ::= x \mid MN \mid \lambda x M \mid \uparrow M$	(Terms)
$F ::= \{y x\} \mid F_x$	(Functions)
$F(MN) = F(M)F(N)$	
$F(\lambda x M) = \lambda x F_x(M)$	
$F_x(\uparrow M) = \uparrow F(M)$	
$F_x(x) = x$	
$F_x(z) = \uparrow F(z)$	( $z \neq x$ )
$\{y x\}(\uparrow M) = \uparrow M$	
$\{y x\}(x) = y$	
$\{y x\}(z) = \uparrow z$	( $z \neq x$ )

Tab. 2: Alpha-conversion

$M =_\alpha M$	$\frac{M_1 =_\alpha M_2}{\uparrow M_1 =_\alpha \uparrow M_2}$
$\frac{M_1 =_\alpha M_2}{M_2 =_\alpha M_1}$	$\frac{M_1 =_\alpha M_2 \quad N_1 =_\alpha N_2}{M_1 N_1 =_\alpha M_2 N_2}$
$\frac{M_1 =_\alpha M_2 \quad M_2 =_\alpha M_3}{M_1 =_\alpha M_3}$	$\frac{M_1 =_\alpha M_2}{\lambda x M_1 =_\alpha \lambda x M_2}$
$\lambda x M =_\alpha \lambda y \{y x\} M$	

**Definition 1.3.** Context is a finite list of variables, may be with repetitions.  $nil$  is the empty context. For example  $\Gamma = x, x, y, z$  is a context.  $\Gamma, \Delta$  is concatenation of  $\Gamma$  and  $\Delta$ .

**Definition 1.4.**  $\{x_1 x_2\}_\Gamma$  is shorthand for  $\{x_1 x_2\}_{y_1 \dots y_n}$  if  $\Gamma = y_1 \dots y_n$   
 $\{x_1 x_2\}_{nil}$  is simply  $\{x_1 x_2\}$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \{x_1 x_2\}_{\Gamma, y} \uparrow M &= \uparrow \{x_1 x_2\}_\Gamma M \\ \{x_1 x_2\}_{\Gamma, y} y &= y \\ \{x_1 x_2\}_{\Gamma, y} z &= \uparrow \{x_1 x_2\}_\Gamma z \quad \text{if } z \neq y \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 1.5.**  $\{x_1 x_2\} \{x_2 x_3\} M = \{x_1 x_3\} M$

*Proof.* We shall prove the stronger statement

$$\{x_1 x_2\}_\Gamma \{x_2 x_3\}_\Gamma M = \{x_1 x_3\}_\Gamma M$$

( $\Gamma$  is arbitrary) by induction on the structure of  $M$ .

Case 1.  $M = \lambda y N$

Prove the induction step

$$\frac{\{x_1 x_2\}_{\Gamma, y} \{x_2 x_3\}_{\Gamma, y} N = \{x_1 x_3\}_{\Gamma, y} N}{\{x_1 x_2\}_\Gamma \{x_2 x_3\}_\Gamma \lambda y N = \{x_1 x_3\}_\Gamma \lambda y N}$$

This is true because

$$\begin{aligned} \{x_1 x_2\}_\Gamma \{x_2 x_3\}_\Gamma \lambda y N &= \lambda y \{x_1 x_2\}_{\Gamma, y} \{x_2 x_3\}_{\Gamma, y} N \\ \{x_1 x_3\}_\Gamma \lambda y N &= \lambda y \{x_1 x_3\}_{\Gamma, y} N \end{aligned}$$

Case 2.  $M$  is a variable  $z$ . Induction on the length of  $\Gamma$ .

Suppose  $\Gamma = nil$  and prove

$$\{x_1 x_2\} \{x_2 x_3\} z = \{x_1 x_3\} z$$

If  $z = x_3$  then

$$\{x_1 x_2\} \{x_2 x_3\} x_3 = x_1 = \{x_1 x_3\} x_3$$

If  $z \neq x_3$  then

$$\{x_1 x_2\} \{x_2 x_3\} z = \uparrow z = \{x_1 x_3\} z$$

Suppose  $\Gamma = \Delta, y$  and prove the induction step

$$\frac{\{x_1 x_2\}_\Delta \{x_2 x_3\}_\Delta z = \{x_1 x_3\}_\Delta z}{\{x_1 x_2\}_{\Delta, y} \{x_2 x_3\}_{\Delta, y} z = \{x_1 x_3\}_{\Delta, y} z}$$

If  $z = y$  then

$$\{x_1 x_2\}_{\Delta, y} \{x_2 x_3\}_{\Delta, y} y = y = \{x_1 x_3\}_{\Delta, y} y$$

If  $z \neq y$  then

$$\begin{aligned} \{x_1 x_2\}_{\Delta, y} \{x_2 x_3\}_{\Delta, y} z &= \uparrow \{x_1 x_2\}_\Delta \{x_2 x_3\}_\Delta z \\ \{x_1 x_3\}_{\Delta, y} z &= \uparrow \{x_1 x_3\}_\Delta z \end{aligned}$$

Case 3.  $M = \uparrow N$

If  $\Gamma = nil$  then

$$\{x_1x_2\}\{x_2x_3\}\uparrow N = \uparrow N = \{x_1x_3\}\uparrow N$$

If  $\Gamma = \Delta, y$  then (induction on the structure of  $M$ )

$$\frac{\{x_1x_2\}_\Delta\{x_2x_3\}_\Delta N = \{x_1x_3\}_\Delta N}{\{x_1x_2\}_{\Delta,y}\{x_2x_3\}_{\Delta,y}\uparrow N = \{x_1x_3\}_{\Delta,y}\uparrow N}$$

because

$$\begin{aligned} \{x_1x_2\}_{\Delta,y}\{x_2x_3\}_{\Delta,y}\uparrow N &= \uparrow\{x_1x_2\}_\Delta\{x_2x_3\}_\Delta N \\ \{x_1x_3\}_{\Delta,y}\uparrow N &= \uparrow\{x_1x_3\}_\Delta N \end{aligned}$$

Case 4.  $M = N_1N_2$

Straightforward, because  $F(N_1N_2) = F(N_1)F(N_2)$  □

**Lemma 1.6.**  $\{y\}F_x M = F_y\{y\}M$

*Proof.* We shall prove the stronger statement

$$\{y\}_\Gamma F_{x,\Gamma} M = F_{y,\Gamma}\{y\}_\Gamma M$$

( $\Gamma$  is arbitrary) by induction on the structure of  $M$ .

Case 1.  $M = \lambda z N$

Prove the induction step

$$\frac{\{y\}_{\Gamma,z} F_{x,\Gamma,z} N = F_{y,\Gamma,z}\{y\}_{\Gamma,z} N}{\{y\}_\Gamma F_{x,\Gamma} \lambda z N = F_{y,\Gamma}\{y\}_\Gamma \lambda z N}$$

This is true because

$$\begin{aligned} \{y\}_\Gamma F_{x,\Gamma} \lambda z N &= \lambda z \{y\}_{\Gamma,z} F_{x,\Gamma,z} N \\ F_{y,\Gamma}\{y\}_\Gamma \lambda z N &= \lambda z F_{y,\Gamma,z}\{y\}_{\Gamma,z} N \end{aligned}$$

Case 2.  $M$  is a variable  $z$ . Induction on the length of  $\Delta$ .

Suppose  $\Gamma = nil$  and prove

$$\{y\}F_x z = F_y\{y\}z$$

If  $z = x$  then

$$\{y\}F_x x = y = F_y\{y\}x$$

If  $z \neq x$  then

$$\{y\}F_x z = \uparrow Fz = F_y\{y\}z$$

Suppose  $\Gamma = \Delta, w$  and prove the induction step

$$\frac{\{y\}_\Delta F_{x,\Delta} z = F_{y,\Delta}\{y\}_\Delta z}{\{y\}_{\Delta,w} F_{x,\Delta,w} z = F_{y,\Delta,w}\{y\}_{\Delta,w} z}$$

If  $z = w$  then

$$\{y\}_{\Delta,w} F_{x,\Delta,w} w = w = F_{y,\Delta,w}\{y\}_{\Delta,w} w$$

If  $z \neq w$  then

$$\begin{aligned} \{y\mathbf{x}\}_{\Delta,w}F_{x,\Delta,w}z &= \uparrow\{y\mathbf{x}\}_{\Delta}F_{x,\Delta}z \\ F_{y,\Delta,w}\{y\mathbf{x}\}_{\Delta,w}z &= \uparrow F_{y,\Delta}\{y\mathbf{x}\}_{\Delta}z \end{aligned}$$

Case 3.  $M = \uparrow N$

If  $\Gamma = nil$  then

$$\{y\mathbf{x}\}F_x\uparrow N = \uparrow FN = F_y\{y\mathbf{x}\}\uparrow N$$

If  $\Gamma = \Delta, w$  then (induction on the structure of  $M$ )

$$\frac{\{y\mathbf{x}\}_{\Delta}F_{x,\Delta}N = F_{y,\Delta}\{y\mathbf{x}\}_{\Delta}N}{\{y\mathbf{x}\}_{\Delta,w}F_{x,\Delta,w}\uparrow N = F_{y,\Delta,w}\{y\mathbf{x}\}_{\Delta,w}\uparrow N}$$

because

$$\begin{aligned} \{y\mathbf{x}\}_{\Delta,w}F_{x,\Delta,w}\uparrow N &= \uparrow\{y\mathbf{x}\}_{\Delta}F_{x,\Delta}N \\ F_{y,\Delta,w}\{y\mathbf{x}\}_{\Delta,w}\uparrow N &= \uparrow F_{y,\Delta}\{y\mathbf{x}\}_{\Delta}N \end{aligned}$$

Case 4.  $M = N_1N_2$

Straightforward, because  $F(N_1N_2) = F(N_1)F(N_2)$  □

**Theorem 1.7.** *If  $M =_{\alpha} N$  then  $F(M) =_{\alpha} F(N)$*

*Proof.* We need to prove  $F\lambda\mathbf{x}M =_{\alpha} F\lambda\mathbf{y}\{y\mathbf{x}\}M$

$$F\lambda\mathbf{x}M = \lambda\mathbf{x}F_xM =_{\alpha} \lambda\mathbf{y}\{y\mathbf{x}\}F_xM = \lambda\mathbf{y}F_y\{y\mathbf{x}\}M = F\lambda\mathbf{y}\{y\mathbf{x}\}M$$

(the third equality by the previous lemma). □

## 2 de Bruijn's terms

For each variable  $z$  and term  $M$  we define the term  $db_z(M)$  such that  $M =_{\alpha} N$  iff  $db_z(M) = db_z(N)$

**Definition 2.1.**

$$\begin{aligned} db_z(x) &= x \\ db_z(\uparrow M) &= \uparrow db_z(M) \\ db_z(MN) &= db_z(M)db_z(N) \\ db_z(\lambda\mathbf{x}M) &= \lambda z\{z\mathbf{x}\}db_z(M) \end{aligned}$$

**Example 2.2.**

$$\begin{aligned} db_z(\lambda x\lambda y y) &= \lambda z\lambda z z \\ db_z(\lambda x\lambda y x) &= \lambda z\lambda z \uparrow z \quad (db \text{ means "de Bruijn"}) \\ db_z(\lambda y x) &= \lambda z \uparrow x \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 2.3.**  $db_z(M) =_{\alpha} M$

*Proof.* Induction on the structure of  $M$ .

If  $M = \lambda\mathbf{x}N$  and  $db_z(N) =_{\alpha} N$  then

$$db_z(\lambda\mathbf{x}N) = \lambda z\{z\mathbf{x}\}db_z(N) =_{\alpha} \lambda\mathbf{x}db_z(N) =_{\alpha} \lambda\mathbf{x}N$$

□

**Theorem 2.4.** *If  $db_z(M) = db_z(N)$  then  $M =_\alpha N$*

*Proof.*  $M =_\alpha db_z(M) = db_z(N) =_\alpha N$

□

**Lemma 2.5.**  $F(db_z M) = db_z(FM)$

*Proof.* Induction on the structure of  $M$ .

Case 1. If  $M = \lambda x N$  then

$$F(db_z(\lambda x N)) = F \lambda z \{z x\} db_z(N) = \lambda z F_z \{z x\} db_z(N) = \lambda z \{z x\} F_x db_z(N)$$

the last equality by Lemma 1.6

$$db_z(F \lambda x N) = db_z(\lambda x F_x N) = \lambda z \{z x\} db_z(F_x N)$$

but  $F_x db_z(N) = db_z(F_x N)$  by induction hypothesis.

Case 2. If  $M$  is a variable  $y$  then

$$F(db_z y) = Fy$$

$$db_z(Fy) = Fy \text{ because } Fy \text{ always is a variable or } \underbrace{\uparrow \dots \uparrow}_{n} \text{ var.}$$

More rigorously, use induction on the structure of  $F$  (see Tab. 1).

Suppose  $F$  is  $\{x_1 x_2\}$  and prove

$$db_z(\{x_1 x_2\}y) = \{x_1 x_2\}y$$

If  $y = x_2$  then

$$db_z(\{x_1 x_2\}x_2) = db_z(x_1) = x_1 = \{x_1 x_2\}x_2$$

If  $y \neq x_2$  then

$$db_z(\{x_1 x_2\}y) = db_z(\uparrow y) = \uparrow db_z(y) = \uparrow y = \{x_1 x_2\}y$$

Now prove the induction step

$$\frac{db_z(Fy) = Fy}{db_z(F_x y) = F_x y}$$

$$db_z(F_x y) = F_x y$$

If  $y = x$  then

$$db_z(F_x x) = db_z(x) = x = F_x x$$

If  $y \neq x$  then

$$db_z(F_x y) = db_z(\uparrow Fy) = \uparrow db_z(Fy)$$

$$F_x y = \uparrow Fy$$

Case 3. Suppose  $M = \uparrow N$ .

If  $F$  is  $\{x_2, x_1\}$  then

$$\{x_1, x_2\} db_z(\uparrow N) = \{x_1, x_2\} \uparrow db_z(N) = \uparrow db_z(N)$$

$$db_z(\{x_1, x_2\} \uparrow N) = db_z(\uparrow N) = \uparrow db_z(N)$$

If function has the form  $F_x$  then (induction on the structure of  $M$ )

$$\frac{db_z(FN) = FN}{db_z(F_x \uparrow N) = F_x \uparrow N}$$

because

$$\begin{aligned} db_z(F_x \uparrow N) &= db_z(\uparrow FN) = \uparrow db_z(FN) \\ F_x \uparrow N &= \uparrow FN \end{aligned}$$

Case 4.  $M = N_1 N_2$

Straightforward. □

**Theorem 2.6.** *If  $M =_\alpha N$  then  $db_z(M) = db_z(N)$*

*Proof.* We need to prove  $db_z(\lambda x M) = db_z(\lambda y \{y x\} M)$

$$db_z(\lambda x M) = \lambda z \{z x\} db_z(M)$$

$$db_z(\lambda y \{y x\} M) =$$

$$= \lambda z \{z y\} db_z(\{y x\} M)$$

$$= \lambda z \{z y\} \{y x\} db_z(M) \quad (\text{by the previous lemma})$$

$$= \lambda z \{z x\} db_z(M) \quad (\text{by Lemma 1.5}) \quad \square$$

**Theorem 2.7.**  $\lambda x M =_\alpha \lambda y N$  iff  $\{z x\} M =_\alpha \{z y\} N$

*Proof.* Suppose  $\{z x\} M =_\alpha \{z y\} N$ . Then

$$\lambda z \{z x\} M =_\alpha \lambda z \{z y\} N$$

and

$$\lambda x M =_\alpha \lambda z \{z x\} M =_\alpha \lambda z \{z y\} N =_\alpha \lambda y N$$

Suppose  $\lambda x M =_\alpha \lambda y N$ . Then

$$db_z(\lambda x M) = db_z(\lambda y N)$$

$$\lambda z \{z x\} db_z(M) = \lambda z \{z y\} db_z(N)$$

$$\{z x\} db_z(M) = \{z y\} db_z(N)$$

and  $\{z x\} M =_\alpha \{z y\} N$  because

$$M =_\alpha db_z(M)$$

$$N =_\alpha db_z(N) \quad \square$$

### 3 de Bruijn's terms 2

The set of inference rules is shown in Tab. 3. Note that for each  $\Gamma, M$  there is a unique rule with the conclusion  $\Gamma \vdash M$

**Lemma 3.1.** *For each  $\Gamma, M$  there is a unique derivation of  $\Gamma \vdash M$*

Tab. 3: Inference rules

$nil \vdash x$
$\Gamma, x \vdash x$
$\frac{\Gamma \vdash x}{\Gamma, z \vdash x} \quad (z \neq x)$
$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M \quad \Gamma \vdash N}{\Gamma \vdash MN}$
$\frac{nil \vdash M}{nil \vdash \uparrow M}$
$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M}{\Gamma, x \vdash \uparrow M}$
$\frac{\Gamma, x \vdash M}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x M}$

*Proof.* Induction on the structure of  $M$ .

Case 1.  $M$  is a variable  $x$ . Induction over the length of  $\Gamma$ .

If  $\Gamma = nil$  then the unique inference is  $nil \vdash x$

If  $\Gamma = \Delta, z$  then

$\Delta, x \vdash x$  if  $z = x$

$\frac{\Delta \vdash x}{\Delta, z \vdash x}$  if  $z \neq x$

Case 2. And so on (nothing more to prove). □



Tab. 4: Generalized de Bruijn's terms

$x, y, z ::= x \mid y \mid z \mid \dots$	(Variables)
$A, B ::= x \mid \underline{1} \mid AB \mid \lambda A \mid \uparrow A$	(Terms)
$\ nil \vdash x\  = x$	
$\ \Gamma, x \vdash x\  = \underline{1}$	
$\frac{\ \Gamma \vdash x\  = A}{\ \Gamma, z \vdash x\  = \uparrow A} \quad (z \neq x)$	
$\frac{\ \Gamma \vdash M\  = A \quad \ \Gamma \vdash N\  = B}{\ \Gamma \vdash MN\  = AB}$	
$\frac{\ nil \vdash M\  = A}{\ nil \vdash \uparrow M\  = \uparrow A}$	
$\frac{\ \Gamma \vdash M\  = A}{\ \Gamma, x \vdash \uparrow M\  = \uparrow A}$	
$\frac{\ \Gamma, x \vdash M\  = A}{\ \Gamma \vdash \lambda x M\  = \lambda A}$	

**Example 3.2.** The (unique) inference of  $nil \vdash \lambda x \lambda y x y z$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{x \vdash x}{x, y \vdash x} \quad \frac{nil \vdash z}{x \vdash z} \\
 \frac{x, y \vdash x \quad x, y \vdash y}{x, y \vdash xy} \quad \frac{x \vdash z}{x, y \vdash z} \\
 \frac{x, y \vdash xyz}{x \vdash \lambda y xyz} \\
 \frac{x \vdash \lambda y xyz}{nil \vdash \lambda x \lambda y xyz}
 \end{array}$$

**Definition 3.3.** The set of generalized de Bruijn's terms is shown in Tab. 4. For each  $\Gamma, M$  we put in correspondence the generalized de Bruijn's term

$\|\Gamma \vdash M\|$  as shown in Tab. 4. Note that we can write these rules shorter:

$$\begin{aligned}
\|nil \vdash x\| &= x \\
\|\Gamma, x \vdash x\| &= \underline{1} \\
\|\Gamma, z \vdash x\| &= \uparrow \|\Gamma \vdash x\| \quad \text{if } z \neq x \\
\|\Gamma \vdash MN\| &= \|\Gamma \vdash M\| \|\Gamma \vdash N\| \\
\|nil \vdash \uparrow M\| &= \uparrow \|nil \vdash M\| \\
\|\Gamma, x \vdash \uparrow M\| &= \uparrow \|\Gamma \vdash M\| \\
\|\Gamma \vdash \lambda x M\| &= \lambda \|\Gamma, x \vdash M\|
\end{aligned}$$

**Example 3.4.**  $\|nil \vdash \lambda x \lambda y x y z\| = \lambda \lambda (\uparrow \underline{1}) \underline{1} \uparrow \uparrow z$

because

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{\|x \vdash x\| = \underline{1}}{\|x, y \vdash x\| = \uparrow \underline{1}} \quad \frac{\|nil \vdash z\| = z}{\|x \vdash z\| = \uparrow z} \\
\frac{\|x, y \vdash x\| = \uparrow \underline{1} \quad \|x, y \vdash y\| = \underline{1}}{\|x, y \vdash xy\| = (\uparrow \underline{1}) \underline{1}} \quad \frac{\|x \vdash z\| = \uparrow z}{\|x, y \vdash z\| = \uparrow \uparrow z} \\
\frac{\|x, y \vdash xy\| = (\uparrow \underline{1}) \underline{1} \quad \|x, y \vdash z\| = \uparrow \uparrow z}{\|x, y \vdash xyz\| = (\uparrow \underline{1}) \underline{1} \uparrow \uparrow z} \\
\frac{\|x \vdash \lambda y xyz\| = \lambda (\uparrow \underline{1}) \underline{1} \uparrow \uparrow z}{\|nil \vdash \lambda x \lambda y xyz\| = \lambda \lambda (\uparrow \underline{1}) \underline{1} \uparrow \uparrow z}
\end{array}$$

**Theorem 3.5.** *If  $M =_{\alpha} N$  then  $\|\Gamma \vdash M\| = \|\Gamma \vdash N\|$  for arbitrary  $\Gamma$ .*

*Proof.* We have to prove

$$\|\Gamma \vdash \lambda x M\| = \|\Gamma \vdash \lambda y \{yx\} M\|$$

It is enough to prove

$$\|\Gamma, x \vdash M\| = \|\Gamma, y \vdash \{yx\} M\|$$

because

$$\|\Gamma \vdash \lambda x M\| = \lambda \|\Gamma, x \vdash M\|$$

$$\|\Gamma \vdash \lambda y \{yx\} M\| = \lambda \|\Gamma, y \vdash \{yx\} M\|$$

We shall prove the stronger statement

$$\|\Gamma, x, \Delta \vdash M\| = \|\Gamma, y, \Delta \vdash \{yx\}_{\Delta} M\|$$

for arbitrary  $\Delta$ . Induction on the structure of  $M$ .

Case 1.  $M = \lambda z N$ . Prove the induction step

$$\|\Gamma, x, \Delta, z \vdash N\| = \|\Gamma, y, \Delta, z \vdash \{yx\}_{\Delta, z} N\|$$

$$\frac{\| \Gamma, x, \Delta, z \vdash N \| = \| \Gamma, y, \Delta, z \vdash \{yx\}_{\Delta, z} N \|}{\| \Gamma, x, \Delta \vdash \lambda z N \| = \| \Gamma, y, \Delta \vdash \{yx\}_{\Delta} \lambda z N \|}$$

This is true because

$$\|\Gamma, x, \Delta \vdash \lambda z N\| = \lambda \|\Gamma, x, \Delta, z \vdash N\|$$

$$\|\Gamma, y, \Delta \vdash \{y\mathbf{x}\}_\Delta \lambda z N\| = \|\Gamma, y, \Delta \vdash \lambda z \{y\mathbf{x}\}_{\Delta, z} N\| = \lambda \|\Gamma, y, \Delta, z \vdash \{y\mathbf{x}\}_{\Delta, z} N\|$$

Case 2.  $M$  is a variable  $z$ . We have to prove

$$\|\Gamma, x, \Delta \vdash z\| = \|\Gamma, y, \Delta \vdash \{y\mathbf{x}\}_\Delta z\|$$

Induction over the length of  $\Delta$ .

Suppose  $\Delta = nil$  and prove

$$\|\Gamma, x \vdash z\| = \|\Gamma, y \vdash \{y\mathbf{x}\}z\|$$

If  $z = x$  then

$$\|\Gamma, x \vdash x\| = \underline{1}$$

$$\|\Gamma, y \vdash \{y\mathbf{x}\}x\| = \|\Gamma, y \vdash y\| = \underline{1}$$

If  $z \neq x$  then

$$\|\Gamma, x \vdash z\| = \uparrow \|\Gamma \vdash z\|$$

$$\|\Gamma, y \vdash \{y\mathbf{x}\}z\| = \|\Gamma, y \vdash \uparrow z\| = \uparrow \|\Gamma \vdash z\|$$

Suppose  $\Delta = \Sigma, w$  and prove the induction step

$$\|\Gamma, x, \Sigma \vdash z\| = \|\Gamma, y, \Sigma \vdash \{y\mathbf{x}\}_\Sigma z\|$$

$$\hline \|\Gamma, x, \Sigma, w \vdash z\| = \|\Gamma, y, \Sigma, w \vdash \{y\mathbf{x}\}_{\Sigma, w} z\|$$

If  $z = w$  then

$$\|\Gamma, x, \Sigma, w \vdash w\| = \underline{1}$$

$$\|\Gamma, y, \Sigma, w \vdash \{y\mathbf{x}\}_{\Sigma, w} w\| = \|\Gamma, x, \Sigma, w \vdash w\| = \underline{1}$$

If  $z \neq w$  then

$$\|\Gamma, x, \Sigma, w \vdash z\| = \uparrow \|\Gamma, x, \Sigma \vdash z\|$$

$$\|\Gamma, y, \Sigma, w \vdash \{y\mathbf{x}\}_{\Sigma, w} z\| = \|\Gamma, y, \Sigma, w \vdash \uparrow \{y\mathbf{x}\}_\Sigma z\| = \uparrow \|\Gamma, y, \Sigma \vdash \{y\mathbf{x}\}_\Sigma z\|$$

Case 3.  $M = \uparrow N$ .

Suppose  $\Delta = nil$ , then

$$\|\Gamma, x \vdash \uparrow N\| = \|\Gamma, y \vdash \{y\mathbf{x}\} \uparrow N\|$$

because

$$\|\Gamma, x \vdash \uparrow N\| = \uparrow \|\Gamma \vdash N\|$$

$$\|\Gamma, y \vdash \{y\mathbf{x}\} \uparrow N\| = \|\Gamma, y \vdash \uparrow N\| = \uparrow \|\Gamma \vdash N\|$$

Suppose  $\Delta = \Sigma, w$  and prove the induction step (induction on the structure of  $M$ )

$$\|\Gamma, x, \Sigma \vdash N\| = \|\Gamma, y, \Sigma \vdash \{y\mathbf{x}\}_\Sigma N\|$$

$$\hline \|\Gamma, x, \Sigma, w \vdash \uparrow N\| = \|\Gamma, y, \Sigma, w \vdash \{y\mathbf{x}\}_{\Sigma, x} \uparrow N\|$$

This is true because

$$\|\Gamma, x, \Sigma, w \vdash \uparrow N\| = \uparrow \|\Gamma, x, \Sigma \vdash N\|$$

$$\|\Gamma, y, \Sigma, w \vdash \{y\mathbf{x}\}_{\Sigma, x} \uparrow N\| = \|\Gamma, y, \Sigma, w \vdash \uparrow \{y\mathbf{x}\}_\Sigma N\| = \uparrow \|\Gamma, y, \Sigma \vdash \{y\mathbf{x}\}_\Sigma N\|$$

Case 4.  $M = N_1 N_2$

Straightforward.

□

Now we shall prove that  $\|nil \vdash M\| = \|nil \vdash N\|$  implies  $M =_\alpha N$

**Definition 3.6.** For each  $z$  and  $\Gamma$  we define the function  $\{z/\Gamma\}$  as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \{z/nil\}M &= M \\ \{z/x, \Delta\}M &= \{z/\Delta\}\{zx\}_\Delta M \end{aligned}$$

For example

$$\begin{aligned} \{z/x\}M &= \{zx\}M \\ \{z/x_1, x_2\}M &= \{zx_2\}\{zx_1\}_{x_2}M \\ \{z/x_1, x_2, x_3\} &= \{zx_3\}\{zx_2\}_{x_3}\{zx_1\}_{x_2, x_3}M \end{aligned}$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \{z/\Delta, x\}\uparrow N &= \uparrow\{z/\Delta\}N \\ \{z/\Delta, x\}x &= z \\ \{z/\Delta, x\}y &= \uparrow\{z/\Delta\}y \quad \text{if } y \neq x \end{aligned}$$

(easy induction)

**Example 3.7.**  $\lambda_{x_1}\lambda_{x_2}M =_\alpha \lambda z\lambda z\{z/x_1, x_2\}M$

$$\begin{aligned} &\lambda_{x_1}\lambda_{x_2}M \\ &=_\alpha \lambda z\{zx_1\}\lambda_{x_2}M \\ &= \lambda z\lambda_{x_2}\{zx_1\}_{x_2}M \\ &=_\alpha \lambda z\lambda z\{zx_2\}\{zx_1\}_{x_2}M \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 3.8.**  $\{z/\Gamma\}\lambda z\{zx\}M = \lambda z\{z/\Gamma, x\}M$

*Proof.* Induction over the length of  $\Gamma$ .

Suppose  $\Gamma = y, \Delta$  and prove the induction step

$$\frac{\{z/\Delta\}\lambda z\{zx\}N = \lambda z\{z/\Delta, x\}N}{\{z/y, \Delta\}\lambda z\{zx\}M = \lambda z\{z/y, \Delta, x\}M}$$

where  $N = \{zy\}_{\Delta, x}M$

$$\begin{aligned} \{z/y, \Delta\}\lambda z\{zx\}M &= \\ &= \{z/\Delta\}\{zy\}_\Delta \lambda z\{zx\}M \\ &= \{z/\Delta\}\lambda z\{zy\}_{\Delta, z}\{zx\}M \\ &= \{z/\Delta\}\lambda z\{zx\}\{zy\}_{\Delta, x}M \quad \text{by Lemma 1.6} \\ &= \lambda z\{z/\Delta, x\}\{zy\}_{\Delta, x}M \quad \text{by induction hypothesis} \\ &= \lambda z\{z/y, \Delta, x\}M \end{aligned}$$

□

**Definition 3.9.** For each generalized de Bruijn's term  $A$  and variable  $z$  we put in correspondence the term  $db_z(A)$  (note that  $db_z(A) \in \Lambda \uparrow$ )

$$\begin{aligned}
db_z(x) &= x \\
db_z(\underline{1}) &= z \\
db_z(\lambda A) &= \lambda z db_z(A) \\
db_z(AB) &= db_z(A)db_z(B) \\
db_z(\uparrow A) &= \uparrow db_z(A)
\end{aligned}$$

**Example 3.10.**

$$\begin{aligned}
db_z(\lambda\lambda(\uparrow\underline{1})\underline{1} \uparrow\uparrow z) &= \lambda z \lambda z(\uparrow z)z \uparrow\uparrow z \\
db_x(\lambda\lambda(\uparrow\underline{1})\underline{1} \uparrow\uparrow z) &= \lambda x \lambda x(\uparrow x)x \uparrow\uparrow z
\end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 3.11.**  $db_z\|\text{nil} \vdash M\| = db_z(M)$

*Proof.* We shall prove the stronger statement: for each  $\Gamma$

$$db_z\|\Gamma \vdash M\| = \{z/\Gamma\}db_z(M)$$

Induction on the structure of  $M$ .

Case 1.  $M = \lambda x N$

Prove the induction step

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{db_z\|\Gamma, x \vdash N\| = \{z/\Gamma, x\}db_z(N)}{db_z\|\Gamma \vdash \lambda x N\| = \{z/\Gamma\}db_z(\lambda x N)}
\end{aligned}$$

Note that  $\|\Gamma \vdash \lambda x N\| = \lambda\|\Gamma, x \vdash N\|$

hence

$$\begin{aligned}
&db_z\|\Gamma \vdash \lambda x N\| = \\
&= \lambda z db_z\|\Gamma, x \vdash N\| \\
&= \lambda z \{z/\Gamma, x\}db_z(N) \quad \text{by induction hypothesis}
\end{aligned}$$

But

$$db_z(\lambda x N) = \lambda z \{zx\}db_z(N)$$

hence

$$\begin{aligned}
&\{z/\Gamma\}db_z(\lambda x N) = \\
&= \{z/\Gamma\}\lambda z \{zx\}db_z(N) \\
&= \lambda z \{z/\Gamma, x\}db_z(N) \quad \text{by Lemma 3.8}
\end{aligned}$$

Case 2.  $M$  is a variable  $x$ . Prove that

$$db_z\|\Gamma \vdash x\| = \{z/\Gamma\}db_z(x)$$

Induction on the length of  $\Gamma$ .

Suppose  $\Gamma = \text{nil}$  then

$$db_z\|\text{nil} \vdash x\| = x = db_z(x)$$

Suppose  $\Gamma = \Delta, y$  and prove the induction step

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{db_z\|\Delta \vdash x\| = \{z/\Delta\}db_z(x)}{db_z\|\Delta, y \vdash x\| = \{z/\Delta, y\}db_z(x)}
\end{aligned}$$

If  $y = x$  then

$$db_z\|\Delta, x \vdash x\| = db_z(\underline{1}) = z$$

$$\{z/\Delta, x\}db_z(x) = \{z/\Delta, x\}x = z$$

If  $y \neq x$  then

$$db_z\|\Delta, y \vdash x\| = db_z(\uparrow\|\Delta \vdash x\|) = \uparrow db_z(\|\Delta \vdash x\|)$$

$$\{z/\Delta, y\}db_z(x) = \{z/\Delta, y\}x = \uparrow\{z/\Delta\}x$$

Case 3.  $M = \uparrow N$

Suppose  $\Gamma = nil$  and prove the induction step

$$\frac{db_z\|nil \vdash N\| = db_z(N)}{db_z\|nil \vdash \uparrow N\| = db_z(\uparrow N)}$$

This is true because

$$db_z\|nil \vdash \uparrow N\| = db_z(\uparrow\|nil \vdash N\|) = \uparrow db_z\|nil \vdash N\|$$

$$db_z(\uparrow N) = \uparrow db_z(N)$$

Suppose  $\Gamma = \Delta, y$  and prove the induction step (induction on the structure of  $M$ )

$$\frac{db_z\|\Delta \vdash N\| = \{z/\Delta\}db_z(N)}{db_z\|\Delta, y \vdash \uparrow N\| = \{z/\Delta, y\}db_z(\uparrow N)}$$

This is true because

$$db_z\|\Delta, y \vdash \uparrow N\| = db_z(\uparrow\|\Delta \vdash N\|) = \uparrow db_z\|\Delta \vdash N\|$$

$$\{z/\Delta, y\}db_z(\uparrow N) = \{z/\Delta, y\}\uparrow db_z(N) = \uparrow\{z/\Delta\}db_z(N)$$

Case 4.  $M = N_1 N_2$

Straightforward. □

# Bibliography

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