

# System F

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- Quite different motivations...

**Girard:** Interpretation of second-order logic

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... connected by the **Curry-Howard isomorphism**

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  - Girard:** System  $F$  (1970)
  - Reynolds:** The polymorphic  $\lambda$ -calculus (1974)
- Quite different motivations...
  - Girard:** Interpretation of second-order logic
  - Reynolds:** Functional programming

... connected by the **Curry-Howard isomorphism**
- Significant influence on the development of Type Theory
  - Interpretation of higher-order logic [Girard, Martin-Löf]
  - Type:Type [Martin-Löf 1971]
  - Martin-Löf Type Theory [1972, 1984, 1990, ...]
  - The Calculus of Constructions [Coquand 1984]

## Part I

### System F: Church-style presentation



# System F syntax

## Definition

**Types**       $A, B ::= \alpha \mid A \rightarrow B \mid \forall \alpha B$

**Terms**       $t, u ::= x$   
                   $\mid \lambda x : A . t \mid tu$       (term abstr./app.)  
                   $\mid \Lambda \alpha . t \mid tA$       (type abstr./app.)

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## Notations

- Set of free (term) variables:  $FV(t)$
- Set of free type variables:  $TV(t), TV(A)$
- Term substitution:  $u\{x := t\}$
- Type substitution:  $u\{\alpha := A\}, B\{\alpha := A\}$

Perform  $\alpha$ -conversion to prevent captures of free (term/type) variables!

# System F typing rules

**Contexts**

$$\Gamma ::= x_1 : A_1, \dots, x_n : A_n$$

**Typing judgments**

$$\Gamma \vdash t : A$$

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- Declaration of type variables is **implicit** (for each  $\alpha \in TV(\Gamma)$ )
- Type variables could be declared explicitly:  $\alpha : *$  (cf PTS)
- One rule for each syntactic construct  $\Rightarrow$  System is **syntax-directed**

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$\Rightarrow$  Type system is **impredicative** (or **cyclic**)

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Both problems are **decidable**

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- $\beta$ -reduction  $t \succ^* t' \equiv$   
reflexive-transitive closure of  $\succ$
- $\beta$ -convertibility  $t \simeq t' \equiv$   
reflexive-symmetric-transitive closure of  $\succ$

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Proof. Girard and Tait's method of reducibility candidates (postponed)



## Part II

### Encoding data types

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$$\text{if}_A \ \text{true} \ \text{then} \ t_1 \ \text{else} \ t_2 \rightarrow^* t_1$$

# Booleans (1/3)

## Encoding of booleans

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$$\text{true} \equiv \Lambda \gamma. \lambda x, y: \gamma. x \quad : \quad \text{Bool}$$

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$$\text{if}_A \ u \ \text{then} \ t_1 \ \text{else} \ t_2 \equiv u \ A \ t_1 \ t_2$$

## Correctness w.r.t. typing

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$$\text{if}_A \ \text{true} \ \text{then} \ t_1 \ \text{else} \ t_2 \ \twoheadrightarrow^* \ t_1$$

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## Booleans (2/3)

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`true`  $\equiv \lambda x, y. x$

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`if`  $u$  `then`  $t_1$  `else`  $t_2 \equiv u \ t_1 \ t_2$

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But nothing prevents the following computation:

$$\text{if } \underbrace{\lambda x. x}_{\text{bad bool}} \text{ then } t_1 \text{ else } t_2 \equiv (\lambda x. x) \ t_1 \ t_2 \succ \underbrace{t_1 t_2}_{\text{meaningless result}}$$



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**Question:** Does the type discipline of system  $F$  avoid this?

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Lemma (Canonical forms of type `bool`)

The terms  $\text{true} \equiv \Lambda\gamma. \lambda x, y: \gamma. x$  and  $\text{false} \equiv \Lambda\gamma. \lambda x, y: \gamma. y$  are the only closed normal terms of type  $\text{Bool} \equiv \forall\gamma (\gamma \rightarrow \gamma \rightarrow \gamma)$

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**Proof.** Case analysis on the derivation.



# Cartesian product

# Cartesian product

## Encoding of the cartesian product $A \times B$

$$A \times B \equiv \forall \gamma ((A \rightarrow B \rightarrow \gamma) \rightarrow \gamma)$$

$$\langle t_1, t_2 \rangle \equiv \Lambda \gamma. \lambda f : A \rightarrow B \rightarrow \gamma. f \ t_1 \ t_2$$

$$\text{fst} \equiv \lambda p : A \times B. p \ A \ (\lambda x : A. \lambda y : B. x) \ : \ A \times B \rightarrow A$$

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## Correctness w.r.t. typing and reduction

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 : A \quad \Gamma \vdash t_2 : B}{\Gamma \vdash \langle t_1, t_2 \rangle : A \times B}$$

$$\text{fst} \ \langle t_1, t_2 \rangle \quad \Upsilon^* \quad t_1$$

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## Lemma (Canonical forms of type $A \times B$ )

The closed normal terms of type  $A \times B$  are of the form  $\langle t_1, t_2 \rangle$ , where  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  are closed normal terms of type  $A$  and  $B$ , respectively.

# Disjoint union

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$$A + B \equiv \forall \gamma ((A \rightarrow \gamma) \rightarrow (B \rightarrow \gamma) \rightarrow \gamma)$$

$$\text{inl}(v) \equiv \Lambda \gamma . \lambda f : A \rightarrow \gamma . \lambda g : B \rightarrow \gamma . f \ v : A + B \quad (\text{with } v : A)$$

$$\text{inr}(v) \equiv \Lambda \gamma . \lambda f : A \rightarrow \gamma . \lambda g : B \rightarrow \gamma . g \ v : A + B \quad (\text{with } v : B)$$

$$\text{case}_C \ u \text{ of } \text{inl}(x) \mapsto t_1 \mid \text{inr}(y) \mapsto t_2 \equiv u \ C \ (\lambda x : A . t_1) (\lambda y : B . t_2)$$

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## Correctness w.r.t. typing and reduction

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash u : A + B \quad \Gamma, x : A \vdash t_1 : C \quad \Gamma, y : B \vdash t_2 : C}{\Gamma \vdash \text{case}_C \ u \text{ of } \text{inl}(x) \mapsto t_1 \mid \text{inr}(y) \mapsto t_2 : C}$$

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+ Canonical forms of type  $A + B$  (works as expected)



# Finite types

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## Encoding of $\text{Fin}_n$ ( $n \geq 0$ )

$$\text{Fin}_n \equiv \forall \gamma \left( \underbrace{\gamma \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \gamma}_{n \text{ times}} \rightarrow \gamma \right)$$

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(Notice that there is no closed normal term of type  $\perp$ .)

# Natural numbers



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$$\overline{1} \equiv \Lambda \gamma . \lambda x : \gamma . \lambda f : \gamma \rightarrow \gamma . f \ x$$

$$\overline{2} \equiv \Lambda \gamma . \lambda x : \gamma . \lambda f : \gamma \rightarrow \gamma . f \ (f \ x)$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\overline{n} \equiv \Lambda \gamma . \lambda x : \gamma . \lambda f : \gamma \rightarrow \gamma . \underbrace{f(\dots(f \ x)\dots)}_{n \text{ times}} \quad : \quad \text{Nat}$$

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$$\vdots$$

## Lemma (Canonical forms of type Nat)

The terms  $\bar{0}, \bar{1}, \bar{2}, \dots$  are the only closed normal terms of type Nat.

# Computing with natural numbers (1/2)

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**Intuition:** Church numeral  $\bar{n}$  acts as an iterator:

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- Successor

$$\text{succ} \quad \equiv \quad \lambda n : \text{Nat} . \Lambda \gamma . \lambda x : \gamma . \lambda f : \gamma \rightarrow \gamma . f (n \gamma x f)$$

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- Addition

$$\text{plus} \quad \equiv \quad \lambda n, m : \text{Nat} . \Lambda \gamma . \lambda x : \gamma . \lambda f : \gamma \rightarrow \gamma . m \gamma (n \gamma x f) f$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{plus} &\equiv \lambda n, m : \text{Nat} . \Lambda \gamma . \lambda x : \gamma . \lambda f : \gamma \rightarrow \gamma . m \gamma (n \gamma x f) f \\ \text{plus}' &\equiv \lambda n, m : \text{Nat} . m \text{ Nat } n \text{ succ} \end{aligned}$$



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- Multiplication

$$\text{mult} \quad \equiv \quad \lambda n, m : \text{Nat} . \Lambda \gamma . \lambda x : \gamma . \lambda f : \gamma \rightarrow \gamma . n \gamma x (\lambda y : \gamma . m \gamma y f)$$

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## Computing with natural numbers (2/2)

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$$\text{pred } \bar{0} \quad \simeq \quad \bar{0}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\text{pred } \bar{0} &\simeq \bar{0} \\ \text{pred } (\overline{n+1}) &\simeq \bar{n}\end{aligned}$$

<code>fst</code>	$\equiv$	$\lambda p : \text{Nat} \times \text{Nat} . p \text{ Nat } (\lambda x, y : \text{Nat} . x)$	:	$\text{Nat} \times \text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{Nat}$
<code>snd</code>	$\equiv$	$\lambda p : \text{Nat} \times \text{Nat} . p \text{ Nat } (\lambda x, y : \text{Nat} . y)$	:	$\text{Nat} \times \text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{Nat}$
<code>step</code>	$\equiv$	$\lambda p : \text{Nat} \times \text{Nat} . \langle \text{snd } p, \text{succ } (\text{snd } p) \rangle$	:	$\text{Nat} \times \text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{Nat} \times \text{Nat}$
<code>pred</code>	$\equiv$	$\lambda n : \text{Nat} . \text{fst } (n (\text{Nat} \times \text{Nat}) \langle \bar{0}, \bar{0} \rangle \text{step})$	:	$\text{Nat} \rightarrow \text{Nat}$

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- ▷ **SN** theorem guarantees that all well-typed computations terminate

## Part III

### System F: Curry-style presentation

# System $F$ polymorphism

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## ML/Haskell polymorphism

*Types*                     $A, B ::= \alpha \mid A \rightarrow B \mid \dots$  (user datatypes)

*Schemes*                 $S ::= \forall \vec{\alpha} B$

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$\Rightarrow$  Type system is **impredicative**, or **cyclic**

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In Church-style system  $F$ , polymorphism is **explicit**:

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Erasing function  $t \mapsto |t|$

$$\begin{array}{lll} |x| & = & x \\ |\lambda x : A. t| & = & \lambda x. |t| \\ |tu| & = & |t||u| \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{ll} |\Lambda\alpha. t| & = & |t| \\ |tA| & = & |t| \end{array}$$

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- Target language is **pure  $\lambda$ -calculus**
- Second kind redexes are erased, first kind redexes are preserved

# Extending the erasing function

Erased terms have a **nice computational behaviour**...

- Only one kind of redex, easy to execute (Krivine's machine)
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⇒ Induces a new formalism: **Curry-style system  $F$**

# Church-style system $F$

**Types**  $A, B ::= \alpha \mid A \rightarrow B \mid \forall \alpha B$

**Terms**  $t, u ::= x \mid \lambda x : A. t \mid tu \mid \Lambda \alpha. t \mid tA$

**Judgments**  $\Gamma ::= [] \mid \Gamma, x:A$

**Reduction**

$$\begin{aligned} (\lambda x : A. t)u &\succ t\{x := u\} \\ (\Lambda \alpha. t)A &\succ t\{\alpha := A\} \end{aligned}$$

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## Remarks:

- Types (and contexts) are unchanged
- Terms are now **pure  $\lambda$ -terms**
- Only one kind of redex

# Church-style system F: typing rules

$$\overline{\Gamma \vdash x : A} \quad (x:A) \in \Gamma$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash t : B}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x : A. t : A \rightarrow B}$$

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$\Rightarrow$  Rules are no more syntax directed

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- Type checking/inference becomes **undecidable** [Wells 94]

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Equivalence between Church and Curry's presentations

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- | <u>Church's world</u> |    | <u>Curry's world</u> |                   |
|-----------------------|----|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. derivations        | to | derivations          | (isomorphism)     |
| 2. valid judgements   | to | valid judgements     | (surjective only) |



# Erasing and typing

## Equivalence between Church and Curry's presentations

- 1 If  $\Gamma \vdash t_0 : A$  (Church), then  $\Gamma \vdash |t_0| : A$  (Curry)
- 2 If  $\Gamma \vdash t : A$  (Curry), then  $\Gamma \vdash t_0 : A$  (Church)  
for some  $t_0$  s.t.  $|t_0| = t$

The erasing function maps:

- | <u>Church's world</u> |    | <u>Curry's world</u> |                   |
|-----------------------|----|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. derivations        | to | derivations          | (isomorphism)     |
| 2. valid judgements   | to | valid judgements     | (surjective only) |



On valid judgements, erasing is **not injective**:

$$\begin{array}{lll} \lambda f : (\forall \alpha (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha)) . f(\forall \alpha (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha))f & : & \forall \alpha (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \forall \alpha (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \\ \lambda f : (\forall \alpha (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha)) . \lambda \alpha . f(\alpha \rightarrow \alpha)(f\alpha) & : & \forall \alpha (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \forall \alpha (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \\ \rightsquigarrow & & \lambda f . ff & : & \forall \alpha (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \forall \alpha (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \end{array}$$

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(Church)  $(\lambda\alpha.\lambda x:\alpha.x)By \succ (\lambda x:B.x)y \succ y$

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Fact 1 (Church to Curry):

If  $t_0, t'_0 \in \text{Church}$ , then

$$t \succ^n t' \implies |t_0| \succ^p |t'_0| \quad (\text{with } p \leq n)$$

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Fact 2 (Curry to Church):

If  $t_0 \in \text{Church}$ ,  $t' \in \text{Curry}$  and  $t_0$  **well-typed**, then

$$|t_0| \succ^p t' \Rightarrow \exists t'_0 (|t'_0| = t' \wedge t_0 \succ^n t'_0) \quad (\text{with } n \geq p)$$

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Combining facts 1, 2 and 3, we easily prove:

## Theorem (Normalisation equivalence):

The following statements are **combinatorially** equivalent:

- ① All typable terms of syst.  $F$ -Church are strongly normalisable
- ② All typable terms of syst.  $F$ -Curry are strongly normalisable

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(Subsumption)

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The well-typed term:  $\lambda x. fx : (\forall \alpha \alpha) \rightarrow \text{Bool}$  (Curry-style)  
comes from the term  $\lambda x : (\forall \alpha \alpha). f (x \text{ Nat}) \text{ Bool}$  (Church-style)

not an  $\eta$ -redex



# System $F_\eta$ [Mitchell 88]

Extend Curry-style system  $F$  with a new rule

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## Expansion lemma

If  $\Gamma \vdash t : A$  is derivable in  $F_\eta$ , then  $\Gamma \vdash t' : A$  is derivable in system  $F$  for some  $\eta$ -expansion  $t'$  of the term  $t$ .

# More subtyping

If we set

$$\begin{aligned}\perp &:= \forall \gamma \, \gamma \\ A \times B &:= \forall \gamma \, ((A \rightarrow B \rightarrow \gamma) \rightarrow \gamma) \\ A + B &:= \forall \gamma \, ((A \rightarrow \gamma) \rightarrow (B \rightarrow \gamma) \rightarrow \gamma) \\ \text{List}(A) &:= \forall \gamma \, (\gamma \rightarrow (A \rightarrow \gamma \rightarrow \gamma) \rightarrow \gamma)\end{aligned}$$

then, in  $F_\eta$ , the following subtyping rules are admissible:

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But most typable terms have no **principal type**

# Adding intersection types

Extend system  $F_\eta$  with **binary intersections**

**Types**      $A, B \quad ::= \quad \alpha \quad | \quad A \rightarrow B \quad | \quad \forall \alpha B \quad | \quad A \cap B$

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$$\lambda x : x x . : \forall \alpha \forall \beta ((\alpha \rightarrow \beta) \cap \alpha \rightarrow \beta)$$

## Part IV

# The Strong Normalisation Theorem

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... seems to be very confusing!

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... our intuition feels much better!



# The meaning of second-order quantification (2/2)

**Second scenario:** In  $F$ -Curry, both rules  $\forall$ -intro and  $\forall$ -elim

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : B}{\Gamma \vdash t : \forall \alpha B} \quad \alpha \notin TV(\Gamma) \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash t : \forall \alpha B}{\Gamma \vdash t : B\{\alpha := A\}}$$

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$\Rightarrow$  We will prove **strong normalisation** for Curry-style system  $F$

Remember that  $SN(F\text{-Church}) \Leftrightarrow SN(F\text{-Curry})$  (combinatorial equivalence)

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- **Reducibility candidates** [Girard], or
- **Saturated sets** [Tait]

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- 5 Conclude that any well-typed term  $t$  is SN by step 2.



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- **Notations:**

$\Lambda$	$\equiv$	set of all untyped $\lambda$ -terms (open & closed)
$SN$	$\equiv$	set of all strongly normalisable untyped $\lambda$ -terms
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- Finite reduction sequences of a term  $t$  form a tree, called the **reduction tree** of  $t$

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## Proposition

The following assertions are equivalent:

- 1  $t$  is strongly normalisable
- 2 All the reducts of  $t$  are strongly normalisable
- 3 The reduction tree of  $t$  is finite



# Saturated sets [Tait]

## Definition (Saturated set)

A set  $S \subset \Lambda$  is **saturated** if:

$$(SAT1) \quad S \subset SN$$

$$(SAT2) \quad x \in \text{Var}, \quad \vec{v} \in \text{list}(SN) \Rightarrow x\vec{v} \in S$$

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- The set of all saturated sets is written **SAT**  $[\subset \mathfrak{P}(SN) \subset \mathfrak{P}(\Lambda)]$

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## Proposition (Closure under realisability arrow)

If  $S, T \in \mathbf{SAT}$ , then  $(S \rightarrow T) \in \mathbf{SAT}$

# Interpreting types (1/2)

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**Definition (Type valuations)**

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The set of type valuations is written  $\text{TVAl} \quad (= \text{TVar} \rightarrow \text{SAT})$

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$\Rightarrow$  Strengthen induction hypothesis using **substitutions**

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A **substitution** is a finite list  $\sigma = [x_1 := u_1; \dots; x_n := u_n]$  where  $x_i \neq x_j$  (for  $i \neq j$ ) and  $u_i \in \Lambda$



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## Definition (Interpretation of contexts)

For all  $\Gamma = x_1 : A_1; \dots; x_n : A_n$  and  $\rho \in \text{TVal}$  set:

$$\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket_\rho = \{ \sigma = [x_1 := u_1; \dots; x_n := u_n]; \quad u_i \in \llbracket A_i \rrbracket_\rho \quad (i = 1..n) \}$$

Substitutions  $\sigma \in \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket_\rho$  are said to be **adapted** to the context  $\Gamma$  (in the type valuation  $\rho$ )

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If  $\Gamma \vdash t : A$  in Curry-style system  $F$ , then

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**Proof.** By induction on the derivation of  $\Gamma \vdash t : A$ .

**Exercise:** Write down the 5 cases completely

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$$\sigma = [x_1 := x_1; \dots; x_n := x_n] \in \llbracket x_1 : A_1; \dots; x_n : A_n \rrbracket_\rho$$

From the lemma we get  $t = t[\sigma] \in \llbracket B \rrbracket_\rho$ , hence  $t \in \text{SN}$  (SAT1)

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## Theorem (Strong normalisation)

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## Corollary (Church-style SN)

The typable terms of  $F$ -Church are strongly normalisable

# A remark on impredicativity

In the SN proof, interpretation of  $\forall$  relies on the property:

*If  $(S_i)_{i \in I}$  ( $I \neq \emptyset$ ) is a family of saturated sets,  
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 $\Rightarrow$  Standard set theories (Z, ZF, ZFC) are impredicative
- In (Bishop, Martin-Löf's style) constructive mathematics, this principle is rejected, mainly for philosophical reasons:
  - No convincing 'constructive' explanation
  - Suspicion about (this kind of) cyclicity

## Impredicativity: An example (1/2)

Assume  $E$  is a vector space,  $S$  a set of vectors.

How to define the sub-vector space  $\overline{S} \subset E$  **generated** by  $S$  in  $E$  ?



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The set  $\overline{S}$  is defined *from*  $\mathfrak{G}$ , that already contains  $\overline{S}$  as an element  
discovered **a fortiori**

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Let  $\overline{S}$  be the set of all vectors of the form  $v = \alpha_1 \cdot v_1 + \cdots + \alpha_n \cdot v_n$

where  $(v_i)$  ranges over all the finite families of elements of  $S$ ,

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Let  $\overline{S}$  be the set inductively defined by:

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$\Rightarrow$  Both definitions are **predicative** (and give the same object)