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The $\Delta$-framework

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Abstract

We introduce the $\Delta$-framework, LF$_\Delta$, a dependent type theory based on the Edinburgh Logical Framework LF, extended with the strong proof-functional connectives, i.e., strong intersection, minimal relevant implication and strong union. Strong proof-functional connectives take into account the shape of logical proofs, thus reflecting polymorphic features of proofs in formulæ. This is in contrast to classical or intuitionistic connectives where the meaning of a compound formula depends only on the truth value or the provability of its subformulæ. Our framework encompasses a wide range of type disciplines. Moreover, since relevant implication permits to express subtyping, LF$_\Delta$ subsumes also Pfenning’s refinement types. We discuss the design decisions which have led us to the formulation of LF$_\Delta$, study its metatheory, and provide various examples of applications. Our strong proof-functional type theory can be plugged in existing common proof assistants.

Theory of computation $\rightarrow$ Logic $\rightarrow$ Logic and verification

Logic of programs, type theory, $\lambda$-calculus

1 Introduction

This paper provides a unifying framework for two hitherto unreconciled understandings of types: i.e., types-as-predicates à la Curry and types-as-propositions (sets) à la Church. The key to our unification consists in introducing strong proof-functional connectives [40, 3, 4] in a dependent type theory such as the Edinburgh Logical Framework (LF) [22]. Both Logical Frameworks and Proof-Functional Logics consider proofs as first class citizens, albeit differently. Strong proof-functional connectives take seriously into account the shape of logical proofs, thus allowing for polymorphic features of proofs to be made explicit in formulæ. Hence they provide a finer semantics than classical/intuitionistic connectives, where the meaning of a compound formula depends only on the truth value or the provability of its subformulæ. However, existing approaches to strong proof-functional connectives are all quite idiosyncratic in mentioning proofs. Existing Logical Frameworks, on the other hand,
provide a uniform approach to proof terms in object logics, but they do not fully capitalize on subtyping.

This situation calls for a natural combination of the two understandings of types, which should benefit both worlds. On the side of Logical Frameworks, the expressive power of the metalanguage would be enhanced thus allowing for shallower encodings of logics, a more principled use of subtypes [37], and new possibilities for formal reasoning in existing interactive theorem provers. On the side of type disciplines for programming languages, a principled framework for proofs would be provided, thus supporting a uniform approach to “proof reuse” practices based on type theory [38, 12, 20, 9, 6].

Therefore, in this paper, we extend LF with the connectives of strong intersection, strong union, and minimal relevant implication of Proof-Functional Logics [40, 3, 4]. We call this extension the $\Delta$-framework ($\text{LF}_\Delta$), since it builds on the $\Delta$-calculus [31]. Moreover, we illustrate by way of examples, that $\text{LF}_\Delta$ subsumes many expressive type disciplines in the literature [37, 3, 4, 38, 12].

It is not immediate to extend the judgments-as-type, Curry-Howard paradigm to logics supporting strong proof-functional connectives, since these connectives need to compare the shapes of derivations and do not just take into account the provability of propositions, i.e., the inhabitation of the corresponding type. In order to capture successfully strong logical connectives such as $\cap$ or $\cup$, we need to be able to express the rules:

$$
\begin{array}{c}
D_1 : A \\
D_2 : B
\end{array}
\quad
\frac{D_1 \equiv D_2}{A \cap B}
$$

and:

$$
\begin{array}{c}
D_1 : A \\
D_2 : B
\end{array}
\quad
\frac{D_1 : A \supset C \quad D_2 : B \supset C \quad A \cup B}{C}
\equiv
\frac{D_1 \equiv D_2}{\cup E}
$$

where $\equiv$ is a suitable equivalence between logical proofs. Notice that the above rules suggest immediately intriguing applications in polymorphic constructions, i.e. the same evidence can be used as a proof for different statements. Pottinger [40] was the first to study the strong connective $\cap$. He contrasted it to the intuitionistic connective $\land$ as follows: “The intuitive meaning of $\cap$ can be explained by saying that to assert $A \cap B$ is to assert that one has a reason for asserting $A$ which is also a reason for asserting $B$ ... (while) ... to assert $A \land B$ is to assert that one has a pair of reasons, the first of which is a reason for asserting $A$ and the second of which is a reason for asserting $B$". A logical theorem involving intuitionistic conjunction which does not hold for strong conjunction is $(A \supset A) \land (A \supset B \supset A)$, otherwise there should exist a closed $\lambda$-term having simultaneously both one and two abstractions. Lopez-Escobar [32] and Mints [35] investigated extensively logics featuring both strong and intuitionistic connectives especially in the context of realizability interpretations.

Dually, it is in the $\cup$-elimination rule that proof equality needs to be checked. Following Pottinger, we could say that asserting $(A \cup B) \supset C$ is to assert that one has a reason for $(A \cup B) \supset C$, which is also a reason to assert $A \supset C$ and $B \supset C$. The two connectives differ since the intuitionistic theorem $((A \supset B) \lor B) \supset A \supset B$ is not derivable for $\cup$, otherwise there would exist a term which behaves both as $I$ and as $K$.

Following Barbanera and Martini [4], Minimal Relevant Implication, $\supset_r$, can be viewed as a special case of implication whose related function space is the simplest possible one, namely the one containing only the identity function. The operators $\supset$ and $\supset_r$ differ, since $A \supset_r B \supset_r A$ is not derivable. Relevant implication allows for a natural introduction of subtyping, in that $A \supset_r B$ morally means $A \leq B$. Relevant implication amounts to a notion of “proof-reuse”. Combining the remarks in [4, 3], minimal relevant implication, strong intersection and strong union correspond respectively to the implication, conjunction and disjunction operators of Meyer and Routley’s Minimal Relevant Logic $B^+$ [34].

1 A terminological comment is in order. We refer to $\supset_r$ as “relevant implication” in order to be faithful
Same difficulties can be found with union types. Intersection and union type disciplines of union types is due to Pierce [38]: without union types, the best information we can get for [33, 3]. In [3] strong intersection, union and subtyping were thoroughly studied in the Stone duality. Union types were introduced semantically, by MacQueen, Plotkin, and Sethi semantics [14]. This line of research was later explored by Abramsky [1] in a full-fledged type assignment system for pure

\[
\begin{align*}
B \vdash M : \sigma & \quad B \vdash M : \tau \\
B \vdash M : \sigma \cap \tau \quad (\cap I) & \quad B \vdash M : \sigma \cap \tau \\
B \vdash M : \sigma \cup \tau \quad (\cup I) & \\
B, x : \sigma \vdash M : \rho & \\
B, x : \sigma \vdash M : \rho \quad B \vdash N : \sigma \cup \tau \quad (\cup E) & \\
B \vdash M[N/x] : \rho & \\
B \vdash x : \sigma \quad (\text{Var}) & \\
B \vdash x : \sigma \quad \text{B} & \\
B \vdash M : \sigma \rightarrow \tau \quad (\text{App}) & \\
B, x : \sigma \vdash M : \tau \quad (\text{Abs}) & \\
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
(1) & \quad \sigma \leq \sigma \cap \sigma \\
(2) & \quad \sigma \cup \sigma \leq \sigma \\
(3) & \quad \sigma \cap \tau \leq \sigma, \sigma \cap \tau \leq \tau \\
(4) & \quad \sigma \leq \sigma \cup \tau, \tau \leq \sigma \cup \tau \\
(5) & \quad \sigma \leq \omega \\
(6) & \quad \sigma \leq \sigma \\
(7) & \quad \sigma_1 \leq \sigma_2, \tau_1 \leq \tau_2 \Rightarrow \sigma_1 \cap \tau_1 \leq \sigma_2 \cap \tau_2 \\
(8) & \quad \sigma_1 \leq \sigma_2, \tau_1 \leq \tau_2 \Rightarrow \sigma_1 \cup \tau_1 \leq \sigma_2 \cup \tau_2 \\
(9) & \quad \sigma \leq \tau, \tau \leq \rho \Rightarrow \sigma \leq \rho \\
(10) & \quad \sigma \cap (\tau \cup \rho) \leq (\sigma \cap \tau) \cup (\sigma \cap \rho) \\
(11) & \quad (\sigma \rightarrow \tau) \cap (\sigma \rightarrow \rho) \leq \sigma \rightarrow (\tau \cap \rho) \\
(12) & \quad (\sigma \rightarrow \rho) \cap (\tau \rightarrow \rho) \leq (\sigma \cup \tau) \rightarrow \rho \\
(13) & \quad \omega \leq \omega \rightarrow \omega \\
(14) & \quad \sigma_2 \leq \sigma_1, \tau_2 \leq \tau_1 \Rightarrow \sigma_2 \leq \sigma_1, \tau_2 \leq \tau_1 \\
\end{align*}
\]

\textbf{Figure 1} The type assignment system \( B \) of [3] and the subtype theory \( \Xi \)

Strong connectives arise naturally in investigating the propositions-as-types analogy for intersection and union type assignment systems. Intersection types were introduced by Coppo, Dezani et al. in the late 70’s [13, 15, 16, 5] to support a form of \textit{ad hoc} polymorphism, for untyped \( \lambda \)-calculi, à la Curry. Intersection types were used originally as an (undecidable) type assignment system for pure \( \lambda \)-calculi, \textit{i.e.} for finitary descriptions of denotational semantics [14]. This line of research was later explored by Abramsky [1] in a full-fledged Stone duality. Union types were introduced semantically, by MacQueen, Plotkin, and Sethi [33, 3]. In [3] strong intersection, union and subtyping were thoroughly studied in the context of type-assignment systems, see Figure 1. A classical example of the expressiveness of union types is due to Pierce [38]: without union types, the best information we can get for

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Test} & \overset{\text{def}}{=} \text{if } b \text{ then } 1 \text{ else } -1 : \text{Pos} \cup \text{Neg} \\
\text{Is}_0 & : \text{Neg} \rightarrow F \cap (\text{Zero} \rightarrow T) \cap (\text{Pos} \rightarrow F) \quad \text{la Church with intersection and union types is problematic. The usual approach of simply adding types to binders does not work, as shown in Figure 2. Same difficulties can be found with union types. Intersection and union type disciplines}
\end{align*}
\]

to the original logical literature, since this constructor satisfies the logical properties of implication in the minimal relevant logical system introduced in [34]. And precisely in this sense it was used later in [4]. This use of the word “relevant” is therefore considerably \textit{stronger} than, but not totally unrelated to, the one arising in the context of \( \lambda \)-\textit{calculus} and linear logic, where it expresses the requirement that the variable “is used at least once” in the function, in contrast to affine “at most one use” and linear “exactly one use”.

\[
\begin{align*}
B \vdash M : \sigma & \quad B \vdash M : \tau \\
B \vdash M : \sigma \cap \tau \quad (\cap I) & \quad B \vdash M : \sigma \cap \tau \\
B \vdash M : \sigma \cup \tau \quad (\cup I) & \\
B, x : \sigma \vdash M : \rho & \\
B, x : \sigma \vdash M : \rho \quad B \vdash N : \sigma \cup \tau \quad (\cup E) & \\
B \vdash M[N/x] : \rho & \\
B \vdash x : \sigma \quad (\text{Var}) & \\
B \vdash x : \sigma \quad \text{B} & \\
B \vdash M : \sigma \rightarrow \tau \quad (\text{App}) & \\
B, x : \sigma \vdash M : \tau \quad (\text{Abs}) & \\
\end{align*}
\]
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started to be investigated in a explicitly typed programming language settings à la Church, much later by Reynolds and Pierce \[41, 38\], Wells et al. \[48, 49\], Liquori et al. \[29, 18\], Frisch et al. \[21\] and Dunfield \[19\]. From a logical point of view, there are many proposals to find a suitable logics to fit intersection: among them we cite \[35, 37, 47, 42, 36, 11, 10, 39\].

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{x:\sigma \vdash x:\sigma}{(\text{Var})} & \quad \frac{x:T \vdash x:T}{(\text{Var})} \\
\frac{\lambda x:\sigma.x:\sigma \rightarrow \sigma}{(\rightarrow I)} & \quad \frac{\lambda x:T.x:T \rightarrow T}{(\rightarrow I)} \\
\vdash \lambda x:???:x:(\sigma \rightarrow \sigma) \cap (\tau \rightarrow \tau)}{(\cap I)}
\end{align*}
\]

**Figure 2** Polymorphic identity

The LF\(\Delta\), introduced in this paper extends \[31\] with union types, dependent types and minimal relevant implication. The novelty of LF\(\Delta\) in the context of Logical Frameworks, lies in the full-fledged use of strong proof-functional connectives, which to our knowledge has never been explored before. Clearly, all \(\Delta\)-terms have a computational counterpart.

Pfenning’s work on Refinement Types \[37\] pioneered an extension of the Edinburgh Logical Framework with subtyping and intersection types. His approach capitalises on a tame and essentially \textit{ad hoc} notion of subtyping, but the logical strength of that system does not go beyond the LF (\textit{i.e.} simple types). The logical power of LF\(\Delta\) allows to type all strongly normalizing terms. Furthermore, subtyping in LF\(\Delta\) arises naturally as a derived notion from the more fundamental concept of minimal relevant implication, as illustrated in Section 2.

Miquel \[36\] discusses an extension of the Calculus of Constructions with implicit typing, which subsumes a kind of proof-functional intersection. His approach has opposite motivations to ours. While LF\(\Delta\) provides a Church-style version of Curry-style type assignment systems, Miquel’s Implicit Calculus of Constructions encompasses some features of Curry-style systems in an otherwise Church-style Calculus of Constructions. In LF\(\Delta\) we can discuss also \textit{ad hoc} polymorphism, while in the Implicit Calculus only structural polymorphism is encoded. Indeed, he cannot assign the type \(((\sigma \cap \tau) \rightarrow \sigma) \cap (\rho \rightarrow \rho))\) to the identity \(\lambda x.x\) \[28\]. Kopylov \[27\] adds a dependent intersection type constructor \(x:A \cap B[x]\) to NuPRL, allowing the resulting system to support dependent records (which are a very useful data structure to encode mathematics). The implicit product-type of Miquel, together with the dependent intersection type of Kopylov, and a suitable equality-type is used by Stump \[46\] to enrich the impredicative second-order system \(\lambda P2\), in order to derive induction.

In order to achieve our goals, we could have carried out simply the encoding of LF\(\Delta\) in LF. But, due to the side-conditions characterizing proof-functional connectives, this would have be achieved only through a deep encoding. As an example of this, in Figure 8, we give an encoding of a subsystem of \[3\], where subtyping has been simulated using relevant arrows. This encoding illustrates the expressive power of LF in treating proofs as first-class citizens, and it was also a source of inspiration for LF\(\Delta\).

All the examples discussed in this paper have been checked by an experimental proof development environment for LF\(\Delta\) \[45\] (see Bull and Bull-Subtyping in \[44\]).

**Synopsis.** In Section 2, we introduce LF\(\Delta\) and outline its metatheory, together with a discussion of the main design decisions. In Section 3, we provide the motivating examples. In Section 4, we outline the details of the implementation and future work.

## 2 The \(\Delta\)-framework: LF with proof-functional operators

The syntax of LF\(\Delta\) pseudo-terms is given in Figure 3. For the sake of simplicity, we suppose that \(\alpha\)-convertible terms are equal. Signatures and contexts are defined as finite sequence of declarations, like in LF. Observe that we could formulate LF\(\Delta\) in the style of \[23\], using only
Kinds
\[ K ::= \text{Type} | \Pi \sigma.K \] as in LF

Families
\[ \sigma, \tau ::= a | \Pi x: \sigma. \tau | \sigma \Delta | \sigma \cap \tau | \sigma \cup \tau \] as in LF

Objects
\[ \Delta ::= c | x | \lambda x: \sigma. \Delta | \Delta \Delta | \Delta \cap \Delta | \Delta \cup \Delta \] as in LF

\[ \lambda x: \sigma. \Delta \] relevant abstraction

\[ \Delta \Delta \] relevant application

\[ \langle \Delta, \Delta \rangle \] intersection objects

\[ [\Delta, \Delta] \] union objects

\[ \rho_i \Delta | \rho_i \Delta \] projections objects

\[ \rho_i \Delta | \rho_i \Delta \] injections objects

\[ \eta \Delta \] inclusions objects

\[ \rho_i \Delta \] projections objects

\[ \rho_i \Delta \] injections objects

\[ c \] canonical forms and without reductions, but we prefer to use the standard LF format to support better intuition. There are three proof-functional objects, namely strong conjunction (typed with \( \sigma \cap \tau \)) with two corresponding projections, strong disjunction (typed with \( \sigma \cup \tau \)) with two corresponding injections, and strong (or relevant) \( \lambda \)-abstraction (typed with \( \sigma \rightarrow r \tau \)). Indeed, a relevant implication is not a dependent one because the essence of the inhabitants of type \( \sigma \rightarrow r \tau \) is essentially the identity function as enforced in the typing rules. Note that injections \( \rho_i \) need to be decorated with the injected type \( \sigma \) in order to ensure the unicity of typing.

We need to generalize the notion of essence, introduced in [17, 30] to syntactically connect pure \( \lambda \)-terms (denoted by \( M \)) and type annotated LF terms (denoted by \( \Delta \)). The essence function compositionally erases all type annotations, see Figure 4.

One could argue that the choice of \( \Delta_1 \) in the definition of strong pairs/co-pairs is arbitrary and could have been replaced with \( \Delta_2 \): however, the typing rules will ensure that, if \( \langle \Delta_1, \Delta_2 \rangle \) (resp. \( [\Delta_1, \Delta_2] \)) is typable, then we have that \( \Delta_1 \vdash \Delta_2 \). Thus, strong pairs/co-pairs are constrained. The rule for the essence of a relevant application is justified by the fact that the operator amounts to just a type decoration.

The six basic reductions for LF\( \Delta \) objects appear on the left in Figure 5. Congruence rules are as usual, except for the two cases dealing with pairs and co-pairs which appear on the right of Figure 5. Here redexes need to be reduced “in parallel” in order to preserve identity of essences in the components. We denote by \( \rightarrow_\Delta \) the symmetric, reflexive, and transitive closure of \( \rightarrow_\Delta \), i.e. the compatible closure of the reduction induced by the first six rules on the left in Figure 5, with the addition of the last two congruence rules in the same figure. In order to make this definition truly functional as well as to be able to prove a simple subject reduction result, we need to constrain pairs and co-pairs, i.e. objects of the form...
The extended type theory LF with relevant implication, as the following example shows. Consider two constants

\[
\Delta_1 \to \Delta_2 \quad \Delta_2 \to \Delta_3 \quad \iota \delta_1 \equiv \iota \delta_2
\]

(Congr₁)

\[
\Delta_1 \to \Delta_2 \quad \Delta_2 \to \Delta_3 \quad \iota \delta_1 \equiv \iota \delta_2
\]

(Congr₂)

Thus, we rule out such options in relating relevant implications in LF to subtypes in the type assignment system \(B\) of \([3]\).
Valid Objects

\[
\begin{align*}
\Gamma &\vdash c : \sigma \quad (\text{Const}) \\
\Gamma &\vdash x : \sigma \quad (\text{Var}) \\
\Gamma, \Delta &\vdash \lambda x. \sigma. \Delta \rightarrow \Pi x. \sigma. \tau \quad (\Pi I) \\
\Gamma, \Delta &\vdash \Delta \rightarrow x \quad (\rightarrow I) \\
\Gamma &\vdash \Delta : \sigma \quad (\cap I) \\
\Gamma &\vdash \sigma \cup \tau : \text{Type} \quad (\cup I) \\
\Gamma &\vdash \rho : \text{Type} \quad (\text{Conv})
\end{align*}
\]

\textbf{Figure 6} The type rules for valid objects

2.1 Relating LF\(_{\Delta}\) to \(B\)

We compare and contrast certain design decisions of LF\(_{\Delta}\) to the type assignment system \(B\) of [3]. The proof of strong normalization for LF\(_{\Delta}\) will rely, in fact, on a forgetful mapping from LF\(_{\Delta}\) to \(B\). As pointed out in [3], the elimination rule for union types in \(B\) breaks subject reduction for one-step \(\beta\)-reduction, but this can be recovered using a suitable parallel \(\beta\)-reduction. The well-known counter-example for one-step reduction, due to Pierce is

\[
x ((l y) z) ((l y) z) \beta x (y z) ((l y) z) \beta x (y z) (y z)
\]

where \(l\) is the identity. In the typing context \(B \overset{\text{def}}{=} x : (\sigma_1 \rightarrow \sigma_1 \rightarrow \tau) \cap (\sigma_2 \rightarrow \sigma_2 \rightarrow \tau), y : \rho \rightarrow (\sigma_1 \cup \sigma_2), z : \rho\), the first and the last terms can be typed with \(\tau\), while the terms in the fork cannot. The reason is that the subject in the conclusion of the \((\cup E)\) rule uses a context which can have more than one hole, as in the present case\(^2\). In LF\(_{\Delta}\), the formulation of the \((\cup E)\) rule takes a different route which does not trigger the counterexample. Indeed, we have introduction and elimination constructs \(in_1, in_\tau\) and \([,\,]\) which allow to reduce the term only if we know that the argument, stripped of the introduction construct, has one of the types of the disjunction. Pierce’s critical term can be expressed and typed in LF\(_{\Delta}\) with the

\[\frac{\text{B}, x_1 : \sigma_1, \ldots, x_n : \sigma_n \vdash M : \rho \quad B, x_1 : \tau_1, \ldots, x_n : \tau_n \vdash M : \rho \quad B \vdash N_i : \sigma \cup \tau \quad N_i =_{\beta} N_j \quad i, j = 1 \ldots n}{B \vdash M[N_i/x_1 \ldots N_n/x_n] : \rho} (\cup E^')[/itex]

Removing the non-static clause on the \(N_i\)’s would yield a more permissive type system than \(B\).

\(^2\) The problem would not arise if \((\cup E)\) is replaced by the rule schema

\[
\frac{B, x_1 : \sigma_1, \ldots, x_n : \sigma_n \vdash M : \rho \quad B, x_1 : \tau_1, \ldots, x_n : \tau_n \vdash M : \rho \quad B \vdash N_i : \sigma \cup \tau \quad N_i =_{\beta} N_j}{B \vdash M[N_i/x_1 \ldots N_n/x_n] : \rho} (\cup E')
\]
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following judgment (the full derivation is in the Appendix):

$$
\Gamma \vdash \Sigma \left[ (\lambda x_1 : \sigma_1 . \left( y_1 \rho x_1 \right) x_1 x_1 ) , \right. \\
\left. (\lambda x_2 : \sigma_2 . \left( y_2 \rho x_2 \right) x_2 x_2 ) \right] \ ( (\lambda x_3 : \rho \rightarrow \sigma_1 \cup \sigma_2 . x_3 ) \ y \ z ) : \tau
$$

where $\Gamma \overset{\text{def}}{=} x : (\Pi x_1 : \sigma_1 . \Pi x_2 : \sigma_2 . \tau) \cap (\Pi x_1 : \sigma_2 . \Pi x_2 : \sigma_2 . \tau)$, $y : \rho \rightarrow \sigma_1 \cup \sigma_2 , z : \rho$, and $\Sigma \overset{\text{def}}{=} \tau : \text{Type}$.

Notice that there is only one redex, namely $\Delta_3 y$, and the reduction of this redex leads to $[\Delta_1 , \Delta_2] \ (y z)$, and no other intermediate (untypable) $\Delta$-terms are possible.

The following result will be useful in the following section.

▶ Theorem 2. The system $\mathcal{B}$ without $\omega$ gives types only to strongly normalizing terms.

A proof is embedded in Theorem 4.8 of [3]. It can also be obtained using the general computability method presented in [25] Section 4, by interpreting intersection and union types precisely as intersections and unions in the lattice of computability sets.

2.2 LF$_\Delta$ metatheory

LF$_\Delta$ can play the role of a Logical Framework only if decidable. Due to the lack of space, we list here only the main results: the complete list appears in the Appendix. The first important step states that if a $\Delta$-term is typable, then its type is unique up to $\equiv_\Delta$.

▶ Theorem 3 (Unicity of types and kinds).

1. If $\Gamma \vdash_\Sigma \Delta : \sigma$ and $\Gamma \vdash_\Sigma \Delta : \tau$, then $\sigma \equiv_\Delta \tau$.

2. If $\Gamma \vdash_\Sigma \sigma : K$ and $\Gamma \vdash_\Sigma \sigma : K'$, then $K \equiv_\Delta K'$.

Strong normalization is proved as in LF. First we encode LF$_\Delta$-terms into terms of the type assignment system $\mathcal{B}$ such that redexes in the source language correspond to redexes in the target language and we use Theorem 2. Then, we introduce two forgetful mappings, namely $\lceil \cdot \rceil$ and $\lfloor \cdot \rfloor$, defined in Figure 11 of the Appendix, to erase dependencies in types and to drop proof-functional constructors in $\Delta$-terms and we conclude. Special care is needed in dealing with redexes occurring in type-dependencies, because these need to be flattened at the level of terms.

▶ Theorem 4 (Strong normalization).

1. LF$_\Delta$ is strongly normalizing, i.e.,
   a. If $\Gamma \vdash_\Sigma K$, then $K$ is strongly normalizing.
   b. If $\Gamma \vdash_\Sigma \sigma : K$, then $\sigma$ is strongly normalizing.
   c. If $\Gamma \vdash_\Sigma \Delta : \sigma$, then $\Delta$ is strongly normalizing.

2. Every strongly normalizing pure $\lambda$-term can be annotated so as to be the essence of a $\Delta$-term.

Local confluence and strong normalization entail confluence, so we have

▶ Theorem 5 (Confluence). LF$_\Delta$ is confluent, i.e.:

1. If $K_1 \rightarrow^{*}_\Delta K_2$ and $K_1 \rightarrow^{*}_\Delta K_3$, then $\exists K_4$ such that $K_2 \rightarrow^{*}_\Delta K_4$ and $K_3 \rightarrow^{*}_\Delta K_4$.

2. If $\sigma_1 \rightarrow^{*}_\Delta \sigma_2$ and $\sigma_1 \rightarrow^{*}_\Delta \sigma_3$, then $\exists \sigma_4$ such that $\sigma_2 \rightarrow^{*}_\Delta \sigma_4$ and $\sigma_3 \rightarrow^{*}_\Delta \sigma_4$.

3. If $\Delta_1 \rightarrow^{*}_\Delta \Delta_2$ and $\Delta_1 \rightarrow^{*}_\Delta \Delta_3$, then $\exists \Delta_4$ such that $\Delta_2 \rightarrow^{*}_\Delta \Delta_4$ and $\Delta_3 \rightarrow^{*}_\Delta \Delta_4$.

Then, we have subject reduction, whose proof relies on technical lemmas about inversion and subderivation properties (see Appendix).

▶ Theorem 6 (Subject reduction of LF$_\Delta$).
1. If $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} K$ and $K \rightarrow_{\Delta} K'$, then $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} K'$.
2. If $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma : K$ and $K \rightarrow_{\Delta} \sigma'$, then $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma' : K$.
3. If $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Delta : \sigma$ and $\Delta \rightarrow_{\Delta} \Delta'$, then $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Delta' : \sigma$.

Finally, we define a possible algorithm for checking judgements in LF$_{\Delta}$ by computing a type or a kind for a term, and then testing for definitional equality, i.e. $=_{\Delta}$, against the given type or kind. This is achieved by reducing both to their unique normal forms and checking that they are identical up to $\alpha$-conversion. Therefore we finally have:

$\blacktriangleright$ **Theorem 7** (Decidability). All the type judgments of LF$_{\Delta}$ are recursively decidable.

**Minimal Relevant Implications and Type Inclusion.** Type inclusion and the rules of subtyping are related to the notion of minimal relevant implication, see [4, 17]. The insight is quite subtle, but ultimately very simple. This is what makes it appealing. The apparently intricate rules of subtyping and type inclusion, which occur in many systems, and might even appear ad hoc at times, can all be explained away in our principled approach, by proving that the relevant implication type is inhabited by a term whose essence is essentially a variable.

In the following theorem we show how relevant implication subsumes the type-inclusion rules of the theory $\Xi$ of [3], without rules (5) and (13) (dealing with $\omega$) and rule (10) (distributing $\cap$ over $\cup$) in Figure 1: we call $\Xi'$ such restricted subtype theory. Note that the reason to drop subtype rule (10) is due to the fact that we cannot inhabit the type $\sigma \cap (\tau \cup \rho) \rightarrow' (\sigma \cap \tau) \cup (\sigma \cap \rho)$.

$\blacktriangleright$ **Theorem 8** (Type Inclusion). The judgement $\langle \rangle \vdash_{\Sigma} \Delta : \sigma \rightarrow' \tau$ (where both $\sigma$ and $\tau$ do not contain dependencies or relevant families) holds iff $\sigma \leq \tau$ holds in the subtype theory $\Xi'$ of $B$ enriched with new axioms of the form $\sigma_1 \leq \sigma_2$ for each constant $c : \sigma_1 \rightarrow' \sigma_2 \in \Sigma$.

As far as the $\lambda^{\Pi_2}$ system of Refinement Types introduced by Pfenning in [37], we have the following theorem:

$\blacktriangleright$ **Corollary 9** (Pfenning’s Refinement Types). The judgment $\vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma \leq \tau$ in $\lambda^{\Pi_2}$ can be encoded in LF$_{\Delta}$ by adding a constant of type $\sigma \rightarrow' \tau$ to $\Sigma'$, where the latter is the signature obtained from $\Sigma$ by replacing each clause of the form $a_1 :: a_2$ or $a_1 \leq a_2$ in $\Sigma$ by a constant of type $a_1 \rightarrow' a_2$.

Moreover, while Pfenning needs to add explicitly the rules of subtyping (i.e. the theory of $\leq$) in $\lambda^{\Pi_2}$, we inherit them naturally in LF$_{\Delta}$ from the rules for minimal relevant implication.

3 **Examples**

As we have argued in the previous sections, the point of this paper is a uniform and principled approach to the encoding of a plethora of type disciplines and systems which ultimately stem or can capitalize from strong proof-functional connectives and subtyping. The framework LF$_{\Delta}$, presented in this paper, is the first to accommodate all the examples.
The Δ-framework

Atomic propositions, non-atomic goals and non-atomic programs:  \( \alpha, \gamma_0, \pi_0 : \text{Type} \)

Goals and programs:  \( \gamma = \alpha \cup \gamma_0 \)  \( \pi = \alpha \cup \pi_0 \)

Constructors (implication, conjunction, disjunction).

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{impl} & : (\pi \to \gamma \to \gamma_0) \cap (\gamma \to \pi \to \pi_0) \\
\text{impl}_1 & = \lambda x. \pi. \lambda y. \gamma. \pi. \gamma_0 \quad \text{impl}_2 = \lambda x. \pi. \lambda y. \gamma. \pi. \gamma_0 \\
\text{and} & : (\gamma \to \gamma \to \gamma_0) \cap (\pi \to \pi \to \pi_0) \\
\text{and}_1 & = \lambda x.\gamma. \lambda y.\gamma_0. \quad \text{and}_2 = \lambda x.\pi. \lambda y.\gamma_0.
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{solve} & : \pi \to \gamma \to \text{Type} \\
\text{bchain} & : \pi \to \alpha \to \gamma \to \text{Type}
\end{align*}
\]

Rules for solve:

\[
\begin{align*}
- & : \Pi_{(\alpha, \pi)}(g_1, g_2, \gamma) \text{solve } p \ g_1 \to \text{solve } p \ g_2 \to \text{solve } p \ (\text{and}_1 \ g_1, g_2) \\
- & : \Pi_{(\alpha, \pi)}(g_1, g_2, \gamma) \text{solve } p \ g_1 \to \text{solve } p \ (\text{or}_1 \ g_1) \\
- & : \Pi_{(\alpha, \pi)}(g_1, g_2, \gamma) \text{solve } p \ g_2 \to \text{solve } p \ (\text{or}_1 \ g_1) \\
- & : \Pi_{(\alpha, \pi)}(g_1, g_2, \gamma) \text{solve } (\text{and}_2 \ p_1, p_2) \ g_2 \to \text{solve } p_1 \ (\text{impl}_1 \ p_2, g) \\
- & : \Pi_{(\alpha, \pi)}(\alpha, \gamma) \text{bchain } p \ a \ g \to \text{solve } p \ g \to \text{solve } p \ (\text{in}_1, a)
\end{align*}
\]

Rules for bchain:

\[
\begin{align*}
- & : \Pi_{(\alpha, \pi)}(\alpha) \text{bchain } (\text{impl}_2 \ g \ (\text{in}_1, \pi)) \ a \ g \\
- & : \Pi_{(\alpha, \pi)}(g_1, g_2, \gamma) \text{bchain } p_1 \ a \ g \to \text{bchain } (\text{and}_2 \ p_1, p_2) \ a \\
- & : \Pi_{(\alpha, \pi)}(g_1, g_2, \gamma) \text{bchain } p_2 \ a \ g \to \text{bchain } (\text{and}_2 \ p_1, p_2) \ a \\
- & : \Pi_{(\alpha, \pi)}(g_1, g_2, \gamma) \text{bchain } (\text{impl}_2 \ (g_1, g_2, p_2)) \ a \ g \to \text{bchain } (\text{impl}_2 \ g_1, \text{impl}_2 \ g_2, p) \ a \\
- & : \Pi_{(\alpha, \pi)}(g_1, g_2, \gamma) \text{bchain } (\text{impl}_2 \ g_1, \text{impl}_2 \ g_2, p) \ a \ g \to \text{bchain } (\text{impl}_2 \ g_1, (\text{impl}_2 \ g_2, p)) \ a \\
- & : \Pi_{(\alpha, \pi)}(g_1, g_2, \gamma) \text{bchain } (\text{impl}_2 \ g_1, (\text{impl}_2 \ g_2, p)) \ a \ g \to \text{bchain } (\text{impl}_2 \ g_1, (\text{and}_1 \ p_1, p_2)) \ a \\
- & : \Pi_{(\alpha, \pi)}(g_1, g_2, \gamma) \text{bchain } (\text{impl}_2 \ g_1, (\text{and}_1 \ p_1, p_2)) \ a \ g \to \text{bchain } (\text{impl}_2 \ g_1, (\text{and}_2 \ p_1, p_2)) \ a \\
\end{align*}
\]

\textbf{Figure 7} The LF_\Delta encoding of Hereditary Harrop Formulae

and counterexamples that have appeared in the literature. The complete developments of both the implementation of the \( \Delta \)-framework and example encodings can be found in \[44\].

We start the section showing the expressive power of LF_\Delta in encoding classical features of typing disciplines with strong intersection and union.

**Auto application.** The judgement \( \vdash_B \lambda x. x : \sigma \cap (\sigma \to \tau) \to \tau \) in \( B \), is rendered in LF_\Delta by the LF_\Delta-judgement \( \vdash_{\Delta} \lambda x. x : (\sigma \cap (\sigma \to \tau)).(pr_1 \ x, pr_2 \ x) : \sigma \cap (\sigma \to \tau) \to \tau. \)

**Polymorphic identity.** The judgement \( \vdash_B \lambda x. x : (\sigma \to \sigma) \cap (\tau \to \tau) \to \tau \) in \( B \), is rendered in LF_\Delta by the judgement \( \vdash_{\Gamma} (\lambda x. \sigma. x). (\lambda x. \tau. x) : (\sigma \to \sigma) \cap (\tau \to \tau). \)

**Commutativity of union.** The judgement \( \lambda x. x : (\sigma \cup \tau) \to (\tau \cup \sigma) \) in \( B \) is rendered in LF_\Delta by the judgement \( \lambda x. \sigma \cup \tau \cap \{\lambda y. \sigma. \text{in}_1 \ y , \lambda y. \tau. \text{in}_1 \ y\} \ x : (\sigma \cup \tau) \to (\tau \cup \sigma). \)

**Pierce’s expression of page 2.** The expressive power of union types highlighted by Pierce is rendered in LF_\Delta by

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Neg} & : \text{Type} \\
\text{Zero} & : \text{Type} \\
\text{Pos} & : \text{Type} \\
T & : \text{Type} \\
F & : \text{Type} \\
\text{Test} & : \text{Pos} \cup \text{Neg} \\
\text{Is}_0 & : (\text{Neg} \to F) \cap (\text{Zero} \to T) \cap (\text{Pos} \to F) \\
\text{Is}_0 \_\text{Test} & \overset{\text{def}}{=} \{ \lambda x. \text{Neg}. (pr_1 \ pr_1 \text{Is}_0 \ x) , \lambda x. \text{Pos}. (pr_2 \text{Is}_0 \ x) \} \text{Test}
\end{align*}
\]

The above example illustrates the advantages of taking LF_\Delta as a framework. In LF we would render it only encoding \( B \) deeply, ending up with the verbose code in pierce_program.v \[44\].

**Hereditary Harrop Formulae.** The encoding of Hereditary Harrop’s Formulae is one of the motivating examples given by Pfennig for introducing refinement types in \[37\]. In LF_\Delta it can be expressed as in Figure 7 and type checked in the environment \[45\] using our concrete syntax (file pfenning_harrop.bull \[44\]), without any reference to intersection types,
by a subtle use of union types. We add also rules for solving and backchaining. Hereditary
Harrop formulæ can be recursively defined using two mutually recursive syntactical objects
called programs (\( \pi \)) and goals (\( \gamma \)):

\[
\gamma \ ::= \ a | \gamma \land \gamma | \pi \Rightarrow \gamma | \gamma \lor \gamma \\
\pi \ ::= \ a | \pi \land \pi | \gamma \Rightarrow \pi
\]

Using Corollary 9, we can provide an alternative encoding of atoms, goals and programs
which is more faithful to the one by Pfenning. Namely, we can introduce in the signature
the constants \( c_1 : a \rightarrow \gamma \) and \( c_2 : a \rightarrow \pi \) in order to represent the axioms \( atom \leq goal \) and
\( atom \leq prog \) in Pfenning’s encoding. Our approach based on union types, while retaining
the same expressivity permits to shortcut certain inclusions and to rule out also certain
exotic goals and exotic programs. Indeed, for the purpose of establishing the adequacy of the
encoding, it is sufficient to avoid variables involving union types in the derivation contexts.

**Natural Deductions in Normal Form.** The second motivating example for intersection
types given in [37] is natural deductions in normal form. We recall that a natural deduction
is in normal form if there are no applications of elimination rules of a logical connective
immediately following their corresponding introduction, in the main branch of a subderivation.
The encoding we give in LF\( \Delta \) is a slightly improved version of the one in [37]; as Pfenning,
we restrict to the purely implicational fragment. As in the previous example, we use
union types to define normal forms (NF\( (A) \)) either as pure elimination-deductions from hy-
potheses (\( Elim(A) \)) or normal form-deductions (NF\( (A) \)). As above we could have used also
intersection types. This example is interesting in itself, being the prototype of the encoding
of type systems using canonical and atomic syntactic categories [23] and also of Fitch Set
Theory [26].

**Adequacy, Canonical Forms, Exotic terms.** In the presence of union types, we have to
pay special attention to the exact formulation of Adequacy Theorems, as in the Harrop’s
formule example above. Otherwise exotic terms arise, such as \( \lambda x : \sigma . C(x) \) \( \lambda x : \tau . D(x) \) \( y \),
where \( C(\cdot) \) and \( D(\cdot) \) are distinct contexts (i.e. terms with holes), which cannot be naturally
simplified even if \( \lambda C(\cdot) \equiv \lambda D(\cdot) \). More work needs to be done to streamline how to exclude, or
even capitalize on exotic terms.

**Metacircular Encodings.** The following diagram summarizes the network of adequate
encodings/inclusions between LF\( \Delta \), LF, and B that can be defined. We denote by \( S_1 \Rightarrow S_2 \)
the encoding of system \( S_1 \) in system \( S_2 \), where the label \( sh \) (resp. \( dp \)), denotes a shallow (resp. deep) embedding. The
notation \( S_1 \Rightarrow S_2 \) denotes that \( S_2 \) is an extension of \( S_1 \). Due
to lack of space, but with the intention of providing a better formal understanding of the semantics of strong intersection
and union types in a logical framework, we provide in Figure 8
a deep LF encoding of a presentation of B à la Church [17]. A
shallow encoding of B in LF\( \Delta \) (file intersection_union.bull [44]) can be mechanically type
checked in the environment [45]. A shallow encoding of LF in LF\( \Delta \) (file lf.bull) making
essential use of intersection types can be also type checked.

**LF encoding of B.** Figure 8 presents a pure LF encoding of a presentation of B à la Church
in Coq syntax using HOAS. We use HOAS in order to take advantage of the higher-order
The $\Delta$-framework

( Define our types )
Axion o : Set.
( Define oneonetype : o * )
Axions (arrow inter union : o \rightarrow o \rightarrow o).

( Transform our types into LF types )
Axion OK o : \rightarrow Set.

( Define the essence equality as an equivalence relation )
Axion Eq : forall (s t : o), OK s \rightarrow OK t \rightarrow Prop.
Axion Eqrefl : forall (s : o) (M : OK s), Eq s s M \rightarrow Eq t t M.
Axion Eqsym : forall (s t : o) (M : OK s) (N : OK t), Eq s t M N \rightarrow Eq t s N M.
Axion Eqtrans : forall (s t u : o) (M : OK s) (N : OK t) (O : OK u), Eq s t M N \rightarrow Eq t u N O \rightarrow Eq s u M O.

( constructors for arrow (\rightarrow I and \rightarrow E) )
Axion Axiom (forall ih) : ((OK s \rightarrow (OK t)) \rightarrow OK (arrow s t)).
Axion Axiom (forall ih) : (OK (arrow s t)) \rightarrow OK s \rightarrow OK t.

( constructors for intersection )
Axion Axiom (forall ih) : (forall (s t : o), OK (inter s t) \rightarrow OK s).
Axion Axiom (forall ih) : (forall (s t : o), OK (inter s t) \rightarrow OK t).
Axion Axiom (forall ih) : (forall (s t : o) (M : OK s) (N : OK t), Eq s t M N \rightarrow OK (inter s t)).

( constructors for union )
Axion Axiom (forall ih) : (forall (s t : o) (M : OK s) (N : OK t), Eq s t M N \rightarrow OK (union s t)).
Axion Axiom (forall ih) : (forall (s t : o) (X : OK (arrow s u)) (Y : OK (arrow t u)), OK (union s t) \rightarrow Eq (arrow s u) (arrow t u) X Y \rightarrow OK u).

( define equality w.r.t arrow constructors )
Axion Axiom (forall ih) : (forall (s t : o) (M : OK s \rightarrow OK t) (N : OK s' \rightarrow OK t'), 
(forall (x : OK s) (y : OK s'), Eq s x y \rightarrow Eq t' x y) \rightarrow Eq (arrow s t) (arrow s' t') (Abort s t M) (Abort s t' N).
Axion Axiom (forall ih) : (forall (s t : o) (M : OK (arrow s t)) (N : OK s) (M' : OK (arrow s' t')) (N' : OK s'),
Eq (arrow s t) (arrow s' t') M M' \rightarrow Eq s s' N N' \rightarrow Eq t t' (App s t M N) (App s' t' M' N').

( define equality w.r.t intersection constructors )
Axion Axiom (forall ih) : (forall (s t : o) (M : OK s) (N : OK t) (pf : Eq s t M N), Eq (inter s t) s (Pair s t M N pf) M).
Axion Axiom (forall ih) : (forall (s t : o) (M : OK (inter s t)), Eq (inter s t) s M (Proj l s t M)).
Axion Axiom (forall ih) : (forall (s t : o) (M : OK (inter s t)), Eq (inter s t) t M (Proj r s t M)).

( define equality w.r.t union )
Axion Axiom (forall ih) : (forall (s t : o) (M : OK s), Eq (union s t) s (Inj l s t M) M.
Axion Axiom (forall ih) : (forall (s t : o) (M : OK t), Eq (union s t) t (Inj r s t M) M.
Axion Axiom (forall ih) : (forall (s t u : o) (M : OK (arrow s u)) (N : OK (arrow t u)) (O : OK (union s t) (pf : Eq (arrow s u) (arrow t u)) (M : OK s) (N : OK t) (M' : OK (union s t) (x : OK s),
Eq s (union s t) x O \rightarrow Eq u u (App u u M x) (Copair s t u M O pf).

Figure 8 The LF encoding of $B$ (Coq syntax)

features of the frameworks: other abstract syntax representation techniques would not be much different, but more verbose. The Eq predicate plays the same role of the essence function in LF-$\Delta$, namely, it encodes the judgement that two proofs (i.e. two terms of type (OK \_)) have the same structure. This is crucial in the Pair axiom (i.e. the introduction rule of the intersection type constructor) where we can inhabit the type (inter s t) only when the proofs of its component types s and t share the same structure (i.e. we have a witness of type (Eq s t M N), where M has type (OK s) and N has type (OK t)). A similar role is played by the Eq premise in the Copair axiom (i.e. the elimination rule of the union type constructor). We have an Eq axiom for each proof rule. Examples of this encoding can be found in intersection_union.v \[44].

4 Implementation and Future Work

In a previous paper \[45\], we have implemented in OCaml suitable algorithms for type reconstruction, as well as type checking. In \[30\] we have implemented the subtyping algorithm
which extends the well-known Hindley algorithm for intersection types [24] with union types. The subtyping algorithm has been mechanically proved correct in Coq, extending the Bessai’s mechanized proof of a subtyping algorithm for intersection types [8].

A Read-Eval-Print-Loop allows to define axioms and definitions, and performs some basic terminal-style features like error pretty-printing, subexpressions highlighting, and file loading. Moreover, it can type-check a proof or normalize it, using a strong reduction evaluator. We use the syntax of Pure Type Systems [7] to improve the compactness and the modularity of the kernel. Binders are implemented using de Brujin indexes. We implemented the conversion rule in the simplest way possible: when we need to compare types, we syntactically compare their normal form. Abstract and concrete syntax are mostly aligned: the concrete syntax is similar to the concrete syntax of Coq (see Bull and Bull-Subtyping [44]).

We are currently designing a higher-order unification algorithm for $\Delta$-terms and a bidirectional refinement algorithm, similar to the one found in [2]. The refinement can be split into two parts: the essence refinement and the typing refinement. In the same way, there will be a unification algorithm for the essence terms, and a unification algorithm for $\Delta$-terms. The bidirectional refinement algorithm aims to have partial type inference, and to give as much information as possible to a hypothetical solver, or the unifier. For instance, if we want to find a $?y$ such that $\vdash_\Sigma (\lambda x:\sigma. x, \lambda x:\tau. ?y) : (\sigma \to \sigma) \cap (\tau \to \tau)$, we can infer that $x:\tau \vdash ?y : \tau$ and that $?y \equiv x$.

**LF$\Delta$ in Canonical Form.** We presented LF$\Delta$ in the standard LF format in order to support intuition. It would be worthwhile however, to attempt to formulate LF$\Delta$ in the style of [23], using only canonical forms without reductions, especially in view of Adequacy Theorems. The term constructs peculiar to LF$\Delta$ would then introduce new clauses in the definition of canonical and atomic terms. The principle to follow in this task is that atomic terms synthesize their type, while canonical terms are checked against their type. We are currently exploring with the following extension:

\[
M ::= \ldots | X.M | \langle M, M \rangle | [M, M] | in_l M | in_r M
\]

\[
R ::= \ldots | pr_l R | pr_r R | R.M
\]

Notice the somewhat surprising treatment of the $[ , ]$ constructor, which is not really an elimination construct but rather behaves as another form of abstraction. Accordingly hereditary substitution needs to be extended.

An intriguing issue raised by one of the referees is to explore the connections between strong implication and the singleton type of the identity function. This could lead also to an internalization of the essence function.

---

**References**


8 Jan Bessai. Extracting a formally verified Subtyping Algorithm for Intersection Types from Ideals and Filters. Talk at COST Types, 2016.


F. Honsell, L. Liquori, C. Stolze and I. Scagnetto


### A Appendix

Let Figure 9 denote Valid Signatures and Contexts and Figure 10 denote Valid Kinds and Families.

Let $\Gamma \overset{\text{def}}{=} \{x_1:\sigma_1, \ldots, x_n:\sigma_n\} (i \neq j \text{ implies } x_i \neq x_j)$, and $\Gamma, x:\sigma \overset{\text{def}}{=} \Gamma \cup \{x:\sigma\}$

Let $\Sigma \overset{\text{def}}{=} \{c_1:\sigma_1, \ldots, c_n:\sigma_n\}$, and $\Sigma, c: \sigma \overset{\text{def}}{=} \Sigma \cup \{c: \sigma\}$

**Valid Signatures**

$$\frac{}{\Gamma \overset{\text{sig}}{\vdash} ()}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma \overset{\text{sig}}{\vdash} \Sigma}{\Sigma, a: K \overset{\text{sig}}{\vdash} (\Sigma)\Sigma}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma \overset{\text{sig}}{\vdash} \Sigma}{\Sigma, c: \sigma \overset{\text{sig}}{\vdash} (\Sigma)\Sigma}$$

**Valid Contexts**

$$\frac{}{\Sigma \overset{\text{sig}}{\vdash} \Sigma}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Sigma}{\Gamma \vdash \Sigma \{\epsilon\}}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma \overset{\text{sig}}{\vdash} \Sigma}{\Sigma, x: \sigma \overset{\text{sig}}{\vdash} (\Sigma)\Sigma}$$

**Valid Kinds**

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Sigma}{\Gamma \overset{\text{Type}}{\vdash} \Sigma}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \overset{\text{Type}}{\vdash} \Sigma}{\Gamma \overset{\text{Type}}{\vdash} \Pi x: \sigma. K}$$

**Valid Families**

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Sigma}{\Gamma \overset{\text{Const}}{\vdash} \Sigma}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Sigma}{\Gamma \overset{\text{Type}}{\vdash} \Sigma}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Sigma}{\Gamma \overset{\text{Type}}{\vdash} \Sigma}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Sigma}{\Gamma \overset{\text{Type}}{\vdash} \Sigma}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Sigma}{\Gamma \overset{\text{Type}}{\vdash} \Sigma}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Sigma}{\Gamma \overset{\text{Type}}{\vdash} \Sigma}$$

**Figure 9** Valid Signatures and Contexts

**Figure 10** Valid Kinds and Families

$\mathsf{LF}_\Delta$ can play the role of a logical framework only if decidable. The road map which we follow to establish decidability is the standard one, see e.g. [22]. In particular, we prove in order: uniqueness of types and kinds, structural properties, normalization for raw well-formed terms, and hence confluence. Then we prove the inversion property, the subderivation...
The following lemmas are proved by straightforward structural induction.

\[ \text{Theorem 3} \]

\[ \text{Lemma 10.} \]

\[ \text{Definition 11.} \]

need to be flattened at the level of terms.

Special care is needed in dealing with redexes occurring in type-dependencies, because these are mapped into redexes in the target language, and then take advantage of Theorem 2.

Weakening: If \( \Gamma \vdash \Sigma \alpha \) and \( \Gamma, \Gamma' \vdash \Sigma \alpha \), then \( \Gamma, \Gamma' \vdash \Sigma \alpha \).

Strengthening: If \( \Gamma, x: \alpha, \Gamma' \vdash \Sigma \alpha \), then \( \Gamma, \Gamma' \vdash \Sigma \alpha \), provided that \( x \notin \text{FV}(\Gamma') \cup \text{FV}(\alpha) \).

Transitivity: If \( \Gamma \vdash \Sigma \Delta : \sigma \) and \( \Gamma, \Sigma, \Gamma' \vdash \Sigma \alpha \), then \( \Gamma, \Sigma, \Delta, \Gamma' \vdash \Sigma \alpha[\Delta/x] \).

Permutation: If \( \Gamma, x_1 : \sigma, \Gamma', x_2 : \tau, \Gamma'' \vdash \Sigma \alpha \), then \( \Gamma, x_2 : \tau, \Gamma', x_1 : \sigma, \Gamma'' \vdash \Sigma \alpha \), provided that \( x_1 \) does not occur free in \( \Gamma'' \) or in \( \tau \), and that \( \tau \) is valid in \( \Gamma \).

\[ \text{Theorem 3 (Unicity of Types and Kinds).} \]

1. If \( \Gamma \vdash \Sigma \Delta : \sigma \) and \( \Gamma \vdash \Sigma \Delta : \tau \), then \( \sigma = \Delta \tau \).

2. If \( \Gamma \vdash \Sigma \sigma : K \) and \( \Gamma \vdash \Sigma \sigma : K' \), then \( \Delta \sigma = \Delta K' \).

In order to prove strong normalization we follow the pattern used for pure LF. Namely, we map LF\(_{\Delta}\)-terms into terms of the system B in such a way that redexes in the source language are mapped into redexes in the target language, and then take advantage of Theorem 2. Special care is needed in dealing with redexes occurring in type-dependencies, because these need to be flattened at the level of terms.

\[ \text{Definition 11.} \]

The forgetful mappings \( \| \cdot \| \) and \( \cdot \| \) be defined as in Figure 11.

The forgetful mappings are extended to contexts and signatures in the obvious way. The clauses for strong pairs/co-pairs are justified by the following lemma:

\[ \text{Lemma 12.} \]

The following lemmas are proved by straightforward structural induction.

\[ \text{Lemma 13.} \]

1. If \( \sigma = \Delta \tau \), then \( \| \sigma \|= \| \tau \| \).
Lemma 14.
1. \(|\Delta_1[\Delta_2/x]| =_\beta \Delta_1 \mid \| \Delta_2 \| / x|.
2. \(|\sigma[\Delta/x]| =_\beta \sigma \mid \| \Delta \| / x|.

Lemma 15.
1. If \(\Gamma \vdash_\Sigma \sigma : K\), then \(|\Gamma| \vdash_\mathcal{B}^n |\sigma| : |K|\).
2. If \(\Gamma \vdash_\Sigma \Delta : \sigma\), then \(|\Gamma| \vdash_\mathcal{B}^n |\Delta| : |\sigma|\).

where \(\vdash_\mathcal{B}^n\) denotes the type system \(\mathcal{B}\), augmented by \(c_x : \top \rightarrow \top \rightarrow \top\) and the infinite set of axioms \(c_{\psi} : \top \rightarrow (|\sigma| \rightarrow \top) \rightarrow \top\), for each type \(\sigma\).

Notice that the function \(t \?\) and \(|\|\) treat differently relevant implication.

Lemma 16.
1. If \(\sigma \rightarrow_\beta \tau\), then \(|\sigma| \rightarrow^+_\beta |\tau|\).
2. If \(\Delta_1 \rightarrow_\beta \Delta_2\), then \(|\Delta_1| \rightarrow^+_\beta |\Delta_2|\).

Parallel reduction enjoys the strong normalization property, i.e.

Theorem 4 (Strong normalization).
1. The LF\(_\Delta\) is strongly normalizing, i.e.,
   a. If \(\Gamma \vdash_\Sigma K\), then \(K\) is strongly normalizing.
   b. If \(\Gamma \vdash_\Sigma \sigma : K\), then \(\sigma\) is strongly normalizing.
   c. If \(\Gamma \vdash_\Sigma \Delta : \sigma\), then \(\Delta\) is strongly normalizing.
2. Every strongly normalizing pure \(\lambda\)-term can be annotated so as to be the essence of a \(\Delta\)-term.

Proof. 1) Strong normalization derives directly from Lemmas 15, 16 and Theorem 2.
2) By induction on the specification of strongly normalizing terms which can be inductively defined as i) \(\Delta_1 \ldots \Delta_n \in SN \Rightarrow \lambda x_1, \ldots, x_n. x \Delta_1 \ldots \Delta_n \in SN\) for \(x\) possibly among the \(x_i\)'s, ii) \(\Delta[\Delta'/x]\Delta_1 \ldots \Delta_n \in SN\), and iii) \(\Delta' \in SN \Rightarrow (\lambda x: \sigma. \Delta) \Delta_1 \ldots \Delta_n \in SN\). \(\square\)

Local confluence (Proposition 1) and strong normalization (Theorem 4) entail confluence, so we have

Theorem 5 (Confluence). LF\(_\Delta\) is confluent, i.e.: 1. If \(K_1 \rightarrow^*_\Delta K_2\) and \(K_1 \rightarrow^*_\Delta K_3\), then \(\exists K_4\) such that \(K_2 \rightarrow^*_\Delta K_4\) and \(K_3 \rightarrow^*_\Delta K_4\).
2. If \(\sigma_1 \rightarrow^*_\Delta \sigma_2\) and \(\sigma_1 \rightarrow^*_\Delta \sigma_3\), then \(\exists \sigma_4\) such that \(\sigma_2 \rightarrow^*_\Delta \sigma_4\) and \(\sigma_3 \rightarrow^*_\Delta \sigma_4\).
3. If \(\Delta_1 \rightarrow^*_\Delta \Delta_2\) and \(\Delta_1 \rightarrow^*_\Delta \Delta_3\), then \(\exists \Delta_4\) such that \(\Delta_2 \rightarrow^*_\Delta \Delta_4\) and \(\Delta_3 \rightarrow^*_\Delta \Delta_4\).

The following lemmas are proved by structural induction.

Lemma 17 (Inversion properties).
1. If \(\Pi x: \sigma. \tau =_\Delta \tau''\), then \(\tau'' \equiv \Pi x: \sigma'. \tau'\), for some \(\sigma', \tau'\), such that \(\sigma' =_\Delta \sigma\), and \(\tau' =_\Delta \tau\).
2. If \(\sigma \rightarrow^*_\Delta \tau =_\Delta \tau''\), then \(\tau'' \equiv \sigma \rightarrow^*_\Delta \tau'\), for some \(\sigma', \tau'\), such that \(\sigma' =_\Delta \sigma\), and \(\tau' =_\Delta \tau\).
3. If \(\sigma \cap \tau =_\Delta \rho\), then \(\rho \equiv \sigma' \cap \tau'\), for some \(\sigma', \tau'\), such that \(\sigma' =_\Delta \sigma\), and \(\tau' =_\Delta \tau\).
4. If \(\sigma \cup \tau =_\Delta \rho\), then \(\rho \equiv \sigma \cup \tau'\), for some \(\sigma', \tau'\), such that \(\sigma' =_\Delta \sigma\), and \(\tau' =_\Delta \tau\).
5. If \(\Gamma \vdash_\Sigma x: \sigma. \Delta : \tau\), then \(\Gamma, x: \sigma \vdash_\Sigma \Delta : \tau\).
6. If \(\Gamma \vdash_\Sigma \Pi x: \sigma. \Delta : \tau\), then \(\Gamma, x: \sigma \vdash_\Sigma \Delta : \tau\) and \(\iota \Delta =_\gamma x\).
7. If \(\Gamma \vdash_\Sigma (\Delta_1, \Delta_2) : \sigma \cap \tau, \rho\), then \(\Gamma \vdash_\Sigma \Delta_1 : \sigma, \Gamma \vdash_\Sigma \Delta_2 : \tau, \) and \(\iota \Delta_1 =_\beta \iota \Delta_2\).
8. If \(\Gamma \vdash_\Sigma (\Delta_1, \Delta_2) : \Pi x: \sigma \cup \tau, \rho\), then \(\Gamma \vdash_\Sigma \Delta_1 : \Pi y: \sigma, \rho (\iota _y^x y), \Gamma \vdash_\Sigma \Delta_2 : \Pi y: \tau, \rho (\iota _y^x y), \) and \(\iota \Delta_1 =_\beta \iota \Delta_2\).
9. If $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Pi_1 \Delta : \sigma$, then $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Delta \cap \tau$, for some $\tau$.

10. If $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Pi_1 \Delta : \tau$, then $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Delta \cap \tau$, for some $\sigma$.

11. If $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Pi_1 \Delta : \sigma \cup \tau$, then $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Delta : \sigma$ and $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma \cup \tau : \text{Type}$.

12. If $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Pi_1 \Delta : \sigma \cup \tau$, then $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Delta : \tau$ and $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma \cup \tau : \text{Type}$.

▶ Proposition 18 (Subderivation).
1. A derivation of $\vdash_{\Sigma} \langle \rangle$ has a subderivation of $\Sigma \sigma$.
2. A derivation of $\Sigma, a : K \sigma$ has subderivations of $\Sigma \sigma$ and $\vdash_{\Sigma} K$.
3. A derivation of $\Sigma, f : \sigma \sigma$ has subderivations of $\Sigma \sigma$ and $\vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma : \text{Type}$.
4. A derivation of $\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma, x : \sigma$ has subderivations of $\Sigma \sigma$, $\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma$, and $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma : \text{Type}$.
5. A derivation of $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \alpha$ has subderivations of $\Sigma \sigma$ and $\vdash_{\Sigma} \Gamma$.
6. Given a derivation of the judgement $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \alpha$, and a subterm occurring in the subject of this judgement, there exists a derivation of a judgement having this subterm as a subject.

▶ Theorem 6 (Subject reduction of $\text{LF}_{\Delta}$).
1. If $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} K$, and $K \rightarrow_{\Delta} K'$, then $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} K'$.
2. If $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma : K$, and $\sigma \rightarrow_{\Delta} \sigma'$, then $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \sigma' : K$.
3. If $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Delta : \sigma$, and $\Delta \rightarrow_{\Delta'} \Delta'$, then $\Gamma \vdash_{\Sigma} \Delta' : \sigma$.

Finally, we define a possible algorithm for checking judgements in $\text{LF}_{\Delta}$ by computing a type or a kind for a term, and then testing for definitional equality, i.e. $\equiv_{\Delta}$, against the given type or kind. This is achieved by reducing both to their unique normal forms and checking that they are identical up to $\alpha$-conversion. Therefore we finally have:

▶ Theorem 7 (Decidability). All the type judgments of $\text{LF}_{\Delta}$ are recursively decidable.

Minimal Relevant Implications and Type Inclusion. Type inclusion and the rules of subtyping are related to the notion of minimal relevant implication, see [4, 17]. The insight is quite subtle, but ultimately very simple. This is what makes it appealing. The apparently intricate rules of subtyping and type inclusion, which occur in many systems, and might even appear ad hoc at times, can all be explained away in our principled approach, by proving that the relevant implication type is inhabited by a term whose essence is essentially a variable.

The following theorem we show how relevant implication subsumes the type-inclusion rules of the theory $\Xi$ of [3], without rule (10): we call $\Xi'$ the resulting set.

▶ Theorem 8 (Type Inclusion). The judgement $\vdash_{\Sigma} \Delta : \sigma \rightarrow_{\Delta} \tau$ (where both $\sigma$ and $\tau$ do not contain dependencies or relevant families) holds iff $\sigma \leq \tau$ holds in the subtype theory $\Xi'$ of $B$ enriched with new axioms of the form $\sigma_1 \leq \sigma_2$ for each constant $c : \sigma_1 \rightarrow_{\Delta} \sigma_2 \in \Sigma$.

Proof.

(if). Follows directly from Lemma 17.

(only if). It is possible to write a $\Delta$-term whose essence is an $\eta$–expansion of the identity $(\lambda x.\tau)$ corresponding to each of the axioms and rules in $\Xi'$. The $\Delta$-term is obtained by defining a function $|\sigma \leq \tau|_{\Delta}$, where $\sigma \leq \tau$ is a subtyping derivation tree in the type theory $\Xi'$, which coerce a $\Delta$-term from type $\sigma$ to type $\tau$.
The $\Delta$-framework

\[\| \sigma \leq \sigma \cap \sigma \|_\Delta \overset{\text{def}}{=} (\Delta, \Delta)\]
\[\| \sigma \cup \sigma \leq \sigma \|_\Delta \overset{\text{def}}{=} [\lambda x: \sigma, \lambda x: \sigma.] \Delta\]
\[\| \sigma_1 \cap \sigma_2 \leq \sigma_i \|_\Delta \overset{\text{def}}{=} pr_i \Delta\]
\[\| \sigma_i \leq \sigma_1 \cup \sigma_2 \|_\Delta \overset{\text{def}}{=} in_i \Delta\]
\[\| \sigma \leq \sigma \|_\Delta \overset{\text{def}}{=} \Delta\]
\[\| \sigma_1 \leq \sigma_2 \cap \tau_1 \leq \tau_2 \|_\Delta \overset{\text{def}}{=} \langle \| \sigma_1 \leq \sigma_2 \|_{(\Delta \| \sigma_2 \leq \sigma_1 \|_x)} , \| \tau_1 \leq \tau_2 \|_{(\Delta \| \sigma_2 \leq \sigma_1 \|_x)} \rangle\]
\[\| \sigma_1 \leq \sigma_2 \cap \tau_1 \leq \tau_2 \|_\Delta \overset{\text{def}}{=} [\lambda x: \sigma_1, \text{in}_{\sigma_2}^x \| \sigma_1 \leq \sigma_2 \|_x , \lambda x: \tau_1, \text{in}_{\tau_2}^x \| \tau_1 \leq \tau_2 \|_x] \Delta\]
\[\| \sigma \leq \tau \cap \sigma \leq \rho \|_\Delta \overset{\text{def}}{=} \| \tau \leq \rho \|_{(\| \sigma \leq \tau \|_\Delta)}\]
\[\| (\sigma \rightarrow \tau) \cap (\sigma \rightarrow \rho) \leq \sigma \rightarrow (\tau \cap \rho) \|_\Delta \overset{\text{def}}{=} \lambda x: \sigma., ([pr_1 \Delta] x , (pr_1 \Delta) x)\]
\[\| (\sigma \rightarrow \rho) \cap (\tau \rightarrow \rho) \leq (\sigma \cup \tau) \rightarrow \rho \|_\Delta \overset{\text{def}}{=} \lambda x: \sigma \cup \tau., [\lambda y: \sigma. (pr_1 \Delta y \ , \lambda y: \tau. (pr_1 \Delta y)] x\]
\[\| \sigma_2 \leq \sigma_1 \cap \tau_1 \leq \tau_2 \|_\Delta \overset{\text{def}}{=} \lambda x: \sigma_2., \| \tau_1 \leq \tau_2 \|_{(\Delta \| \sigma_2 \leq \sigma_1 \|_x)}\]
A.1 Typed derivation of Pierce’s example of Subsection 2.1

\[
\begin{align*}
\Gamma &\vdash \lambda x_1 : \sigma_1. (pr_1 x) x_1 x_1 : \Pi x_1 : \sigma_1. (a x_4 x_4)[in_1^{\sigma_2} x_1/x_4] \\
\Gamma &\vdash \lambda x_2 : \sigma_2. (pr_2 x) x_2 x_2 : \Pi x_2 : \sigma_2. (a x_4 x_4)[in_2^{\sigma_2} x_2/x_4] \\
\Gamma, x_4 : \sigma_1 \cup \sigma_2 &\vdash a x_4 x_4 : \text{Type} \\
\Gamma &\vdash \lambda x_1 : \sigma_1. (pr_1 x) x_1 x_1 \equiv \lambda x_2 : \sigma_2. (pr_2 x) x_2 x_2 \\
\Gamma &\vdash \Sigma \text{ where } \Gamma \equiv x : \Pi x_1 : \sigma_1. \Pi x_2 : \sigma_1. a (in_1^{\sigma_2} x_1)(in_2^{\sigma_2} x_2) \cap \Pi x_1 : \sigma_2. \Pi x_2 : \sigma_2. a (in_1^{\sigma_3} x_1)(in_2^{\sigma_3} x_2), y : \rho \rightarrow \sigma_1 \cup \sigma_2 \\
\Sigma &\equiv a : \sigma_1 \cup \sigma_2 \rightarrow \sigma_1 \cup \sigma_2 \rightarrow \text{Type}
\end{align*}
\]