

The Curry-Howard isomorphism

MAP-i, UP, 2008

Nelma Moreira

Departamento de Ciência de Computadores
Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade do Porto

Program Semantics, Verification, and Construction
3-Part II

NJ_0 for $IPC(\rightarrow)$

IPC: Intuitionistic propositional logic

$$\frac{[\alpha] \quad \vdots \quad \beta}{\alpha \rightarrow \beta} \rightarrow\text{I} \qquad \frac{\vdots \quad \alpha \quad \vdots \quad \alpha \rightarrow \beta}{\beta} \rightarrow\text{E}$$

NJ_0 with *sequents* for $IPC(\rightarrow)$

Γ set of formulas

$\Gamma \vdash \Theta$ *sequent*

$$\overline{\Gamma, \alpha \vdash \alpha}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \alpha \rightarrow \beta \quad \Gamma \vdash \alpha}{\Gamma \vdash \beta} (\rightarrow E)$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \alpha \vdash \beta}{\Gamma \vdash \alpha \rightarrow \beta} (\rightarrow I)$$

Simple typed λ -calculus, \mathbf{TA}_λ

Γ set of assignments

$$x : \tau \vdash x : \tau$$

$$\frac{\Gamma_1 \vdash M : \sigma \rightarrow \tau \quad \Gamma_2 \vdash N : \sigma}{\Gamma_1 \cup \Gamma_2 \vdash (MN) : \tau} (APP) \quad \Gamma_1 \cup \Gamma_2 \text{ consistent}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \tau}{\Gamma - x \vdash (\lambda x.M) : (\sigma \rightarrow \tau)} (ABS) \quad \Gamma \text{ consistent with } x : \sigma$$

Γ consistent with $x : \tau$

$$(\rightarrow E) = (APP), (\rightarrow I) = (ABS)$$

Formulas \sim **Types**
Proofs \sim **Terms (Programs)**
Normalizations \sim **Computations**
 $\vdots \sim \vdots$

Correspondence $\lambda \rightarrow \Rightarrow_L \text{IPC}(\rightarrow)$

Δ **TA** $_{\lambda}$ -deduction $\Gamma \vdash M : \tau$

Δ_L **NJ** $_0$ -deduction defined by:

- $M \equiv x$ and Δ is $x : \tau \vdash x : \tau$ then Δ_L is $\tau \vdash \tau$
- $M \equiv PQ$, $\Gamma = \Gamma_1 \cup \Gamma_2$ and the last step of Δ is
 Δ_1 Δ_2

$$\frac{\Gamma_1 \vdash M : \sigma \rightarrow \tau \quad \Gamma_2 \vdash N : \sigma}{\Gamma_1 \cup \Gamma_2 \vdash (MN) : \tau} (\rightarrow E)$$

Δ_L applying $(\rightarrow E)$ to Δ_{1L} and to Δ_{2L}

Correspondence $\lambda \rightarrow \Rightarrow_L \text{IPC}(\rightarrow)$

- $M \equiv \lambda x.P$, $\tau \equiv \rho \rightarrow \sigma$, $\Gamma = \Gamma_1 - x$ and the last step of Δ is Δ_1

$$\frac{\Gamma_1 \vdash P : \sigma}{\Gamma_1 - x \vdash (\lambda x.P) : (\rho \rightarrow \sigma)} (\rightarrow I)$$

Δ_L applying $(\rightarrow I)$ to Δ_{1L} with ρ

If we use NJ_0 without *sequents* we must discharge **all** as occurrences of ρ in Δ_{1L} whose positions coincide with the free occurrences of x in P

Examples

$\vdash (\lambda xyz.xzy) : (a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c) \rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c$

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c \vdash x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c}{x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c, z:a \vdash (xz):a \rightarrow c} \quad \frac{z:a \vdash z:a}{y:a \vdash y:a}}{x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c, z:a, y:a \vdash (xzy):c} \quad \frac{x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c, y:a \vdash (\lambda z.xzy):a \rightarrow c}{x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c \vdash (\lambda yz.xzy):a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c}}{\vdash (\lambda xyz.xzy):(a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c) \rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c \vdash a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c}{a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c, a \vdash a \rightarrow c} \quad \frac{a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c, a, a \vdash c}{a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c, a \vdash a \rightarrow c}}{a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c \vdash a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c}}{\vdash (a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c) \rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c}$$

$\vdash (\lambda xyz.xzz) : (a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c) \rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c$

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c \vdash x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c}{x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c, z:a \vdash (xz):a \rightarrow c} \quad \frac{z:a \vdash z:a}{z:a \vdash z:a}}{x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c, z:a \vdash (xzz):c} \quad \frac{x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c \vdash (\lambda z.xzz):a \rightarrow c}{x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c \vdash (\lambda yz.xzz):a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c}}{\vdash (\lambda xyz.xzz):(a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c) \rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c \vdash a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c}{a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c, a \vdash a \rightarrow c} \quad \frac{a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c, a \vdash c}{a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c \vdash a \rightarrow c}}{a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c \vdash a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c}}{\vdash (a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c) \rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c}$$

Examples

NJ_0 without sequents

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c \vdash x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c}{x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c, z:a \vdash (xz):a \rightarrow c} \quad \frac{z:a \vdash z:a}{y:a \vdash y:a}}{x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c, z:a, y:a \vdash (xzy):c} \quad \frac{x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c, y:a \vdash (\lambda z. xzy):a \rightarrow c}{x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c \vdash (\lambda yz. xzy):a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c}}{\vdash (\lambda xyz. xzy):(a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c) \rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{[a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c]^{(3)}}{a \rightarrow c} \quad \frac{[a]^{(1)}}{[a]^{(2)}}}{c} \quad \frac{c}{a \rightarrow c^{(1)}}}{a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c^{(2)}}{(a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c) \rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c^{(3)}}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c \vdash x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c}{x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c, z:a \vdash (xz):a \rightarrow c} \quad \frac{z:a \vdash z:a}{z:a \vdash z:a}}{x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c, z:a \vdash (xzz):c} \quad \frac{x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c \vdash (\lambda z. xzz):a \rightarrow c}{x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c \vdash (\lambda yz. xzz):a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c}}{\vdash (\lambda xyz. xzz):(a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c) \rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{[a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c]^{(3)}}{a \rightarrow c} \quad \frac{[a]^{(1)}}{[a]^{(2)}}}{c} \quad \frac{c}{a \rightarrow c^{(1)}}}{a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c^{(2)}}{(a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c) \rightarrow a \rightarrow a \rightarrow c^{(3)}}$$

Note: The correspondence $()_L$ is not injective !

$IPC(\rightarrow) \Rightarrow_\lambda \lambda \rightarrow$

$\Delta NJ_0(\rightarrow)$ -deduction of $\Gamma \vdash \tau$

$\Delta_\lambda \mathbf{TA}_\lambda$ -deduction of $\Gamma' \vdash M : \tau$, where $\Gamma' = \{x : \tau \mid \tau \in \Gamma\}$, and defined by:

- if Δ is $\Gamma, \tau \vdash \tau$ there are two subcases:
 - ① $\tau \in \Gamma$ Then Δ_λ is $\Gamma' \vdash x : \tau$
 - ② $\tau \notin \Gamma$. Then Δ_λ is $\Gamma', x : \tau \vdash x : \tau$
- The last step of Δ is $(\rightarrow E)$ applied to the conclusion of Δ_1 and of Δ_2 and Δ_{1_λ} and Δ_{2_λ} are deductions of

$$\Gamma'_1 \vdash M : \sigma \rightarrow \tau \quad \Gamma'_2 \vdash N : \sigma$$
 apply (APP) to Δ_{1_λ} and Δ_{2_λ} after substituting all variables by new ones, and then

$$\Gamma'_1 \cup \Gamma'_2 \vdash MN : \tau$$

- The derivation ends in Δ is $(\rightarrow I)$

$$\frac{\Delta_1 \quad \Gamma, \rho \vdash \sigma}{\Gamma \vdash \rho \rightarrow \sigma}$$

We consider two subcases:

- $\rho \in \Gamma$. Then by the induction hypothesis the conclusion of $\Delta_{1\lambda}$ is $\Gamma' \vdash P : \sigma$, with $v_i : \rho \in \Gamma'$ e $v_i \in FV(P)$, $1 \leq i \leq k$. We can modify $\Delta_{1\lambda}$ for a deduction of $\Gamma', x : \rho \vdash P^* : \sigma$, where x is a new variable and

$$P^* \equiv [x/v_1, \dots, x/v_k]P$$

Applying (ABS): $\Gamma' \vdash (\lambda x.P^*) : \rho \rightarrow \sigma$

- $\rho \notin \Gamma$. Then the conclusion of $\Delta_{1\lambda}$ is $\Gamma', x : \rho \vdash P : \sigma$ and applying (ABS) we have

$$\Gamma' \vdash (\lambda x.P) : \rho \rightarrow \sigma$$

Examples

$$\frac{\frac{a, a \vdash a}{a \vdash a \rightarrow a}}{\vdash a \rightarrow a \rightarrow a}$$

$(\rightarrow)_{\lambda} \Rightarrow$ type inferences for $\lambda xy.x$ and $\lambda yx.x$:

$$\frac{\frac{x:a, y:a \vdash x:a}{x:a \vdash \lambda y.x:a \rightarrow a}}{\vdash \lambda xy.x:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow a} \quad \frac{\frac{x:a, y:a \vdash y:a}{x:a \vdash \lambda y.y:a \rightarrow a}}{\vdash \lambda xy.y:a \rightarrow a \rightarrow a}$$

The two inferences can be distinguished in NJ_0 using the structural rules or if we consider NJ_0 without *sequents*:

$$\frac{[a]^{(1)}}{a \rightarrow a^{(2)}} \quad \frac{[a]^{(1)}}{a \rightarrow a^{(1)}}$$

$$\frac{a \rightarrow a^{(2)}}{a \rightarrow a \rightarrow a^{(1)}} \quad \frac{a \rightarrow a^{(1)}}{a \rightarrow a \rightarrow a^{(2)}}$$

Empty discharges correspond to the weakening rule.

Curry-Howard Isomorphism Theorem

- 1 The provable formulae of IPC are exactly the types of closed λ -terms.
- 2 $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n \vdash \tau$ iff exists M such that $x_1 : \sigma_1, \dots, x_n : \sigma_n \vdash M : \tau$
- 3 For all deductions:
 $\Delta_{L_\lambda} \equiv_\alpha \Delta$
 $\Delta_{\lambda_L} = \Delta$

Curry-Howard Isomorphism

TA_λ	IPC(→)
types	formulas
term variables	assumptions
terms	deduction (construction)
inhabitants	Proofs
typable term	deduction for a formula
type constructor	connective
redex	deduction with redundances
reduction	normalization
normal form	normal form derivation

Inhabitation = Is there a term for this type?

Typability = Is there a type for this term?

β reduction

$$(\lambda x.t)u \longrightarrow_{\beta} t[u/x]$$

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\Delta_1}{\vdots} \quad \Gamma, x:\sigma \vdash t:\tau}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x.t:\sigma \rightarrow \tau} \quad \frac{\Delta_2}{\vdots} \quad \Theta \vdash u:\sigma}{\Gamma, \Theta \vdash (\lambda x.t)u:\tau} \Rightarrow \frac{\frac{\Delta_2 \dots \Delta_2}{\vdots} \quad \Delta_1}{\vdots}}{\Gamma, \Theta \vdash t[u/x]:\tau}$$

Extension to $\lambda(\rightarrow, \wedge, \vee)$

Extending the simple types to $\sigma \wedge \tau$ (or $\sigma \times \tau$) and to $\sigma \vee \tau$ (or $\sigma + \tau$)

Extending the simple-typed λ -terms to pairs and disjoint sums:

- If $M : \tau$ and $N : \sigma$ are λ -terms, then $\langle M, N \rangle : \tau \wedge \sigma$ is a λ -term
- If $M : \tau \wedge \sigma$, then $\pi_1(M) : \tau$, $\pi_2(M) : \sigma$ are λ -terms
- If $M : \tau$, then $in_1^{\tau \vee \sigma}(M) : \tau \vee \sigma$ is a λ -term.
- If $M : \sigma$, then $in_2^{\tau \vee \sigma}(M) : \tau \vee \sigma$ is um λ -term
- If $M : \tau \vee \sigma$, $L : \tau \rightarrow \tau'$ and $K : \sigma \rightarrow \tau'$ are λ -terms, then $case(M, x.L, y.K) : \tau'$ where x and y are variables (of types τ and σ)

Note that here it is not possible to write the above terms only with abstractions and applications, as one can do in the pure λ -calculus (Why?)

Inference rules

The inference rules correspond to $\wedge E$, $\wedge I$, $\vee I$ e $\vee E$, labelled with terms...

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \sigma \quad \Gamma \vdash N : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \langle M, N \rangle : \sigma \wedge \tau} \wedge I$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \sigma \wedge \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \pi_1(M) : \sigma} \wedge E_1 \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \sigma \wedge \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \pi_2(M) : \tau} \wedge E_2$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash in_1^\tau \vee^\sigma(M) : \tau \vee \sigma} \vee I_1 \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \sigma}{\Gamma \vdash in_2^\tau \vee^\sigma(M) : \tau \vee \sigma} \vee I_2$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \tau \vee \sigma \quad \Gamma, x : \tau \vdash L : \gamma \quad \Gamma, y : \sigma \vdash K : \gamma}{\Gamma \vdash case(M; x.L, y.K) : \gamma} \vee E$$

Reduction rules

The notion of [redex](#) extends to the new constructors/destructors:

$$\pi_1(\langle M, N \rangle) \longrightarrow M$$

$$\pi_2(\langle M, N \rangle) \longrightarrow N$$

$$case(in_1^\tau \vee^\sigma(N); x.L, y.K) \longrightarrow L[N/x]$$

$$case(in_2^\tau \vee^\sigma(N); x.L, y.K) \longrightarrow K[N/y]$$

- Hilbert-style axiomatic systems and combinatory logic systems
(**IPC**(\rightarrow) corresponds to $\{\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{K}, \mathbf{W}\}$)
- *sequents* calculi
- Propositional classical logic (1990)
- First-order intuitionistic logic correspond to dependent type systems
- Second order intuitionistic propositional logic corresponds to polymorphic type systems (system **F**)
- ...

Some sub-structural logics

λ I-terms: for each subterm $\lambda x.M$, x occurs free in M at least once

BCK λ -terms: for each subterm $\lambda x.M$, x occurs free in M at most once
and each free variable occurs only once

BCI λ -terms (linear): **BCK** e λ **I**

The restriction of this classes to TA_λ , corresponds to several logic systems:

Relevance Logic (R_\rightarrow): **IPC**(\rightarrow) where it is forbidden empty discharges, i.e the weakening rule is forbidden.

BCK Logic: **IPC**(\rightarrow) where multiple discharges are forbidden: or empty or of only an assumption; i.e the contraction rule is forbidden.

BCI Logic: **IPC**(\rightarrow) where each discharge is of one assumption, i.e the contraction rule is forbidden and left empty *sequents* are also forbidden.




$$\mathbf{BCI} \subseteq \mathbf{BCK} \subseteq \mathbf{IPC}(\rightarrow) (= \mathbf{BCKW})$$

$$\mathbf{BCI} \subseteq R_\rightarrow \subseteq \mathbf{IPC}(\rightarrow)$$

By the **Curry-Howard isomorphism**:

theorems	closed-terms types
R_\rightarrow	λ I-terms
BCK	BCK λ -terms
BCI	BCI λ -terms

[GLM97] Cap.4: 1.1-3.2 [PU96]Cap 1,3,4,5,6,7,8 [Hin97] Cap.6

-  Jean Goubault-Larrecq and Ian Mackie.
Proof Theory and Automated Deduction.
Kluwer Academic Press, 1997.
-  J. Roger Hindley.
Basic simple type theory.
Number 42 in Cambridge Tracts in Theoretical Computer Science.
CUP, 1997.
-  Morten B. Sorensen Pawel Urzyczyn.
Lecture on the curry-howard isomorphism.
Technical report, University of Copenhagen, 1996.
<http://zls.mimuw.edu.pl/urzy/ftp.html>.