UNIVERSIDAD DE BUENOS AIRES Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales Departamento de Computación



# Semántica dinámica de cálculos de sustituciones explícitas a distancia

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Defensa de tesis doctoral

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# Outline

### Introduction

Strong call-by-need

Lévy labels

Conclusion



-Ada Lovelace, on the Analytical Engine (1843)



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## State of the art (2020)

Writing correct and efficient software is still a difficult problem.



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### **Ultimate goal**

Write declarative programs, execute them efficiently.



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## State of the art (2020)

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### Ultimate goal

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### Techniques used in this thesis

Abstract machines, rewriting theory, type theory, ...

$$f(x) = x * x$$

$$f(2+3) \longrightarrow (2+3) * (2+3)$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$5 * (2+3)$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$5 * 5$$

----> Call-by-name: Apply the function first. Dup



$$f(x) = x * x$$

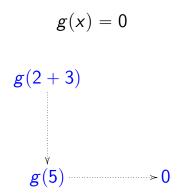
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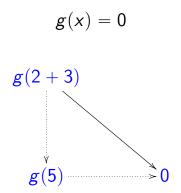
$$5 * (2+3)$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$f(5) \longrightarrow 5 * 5$$



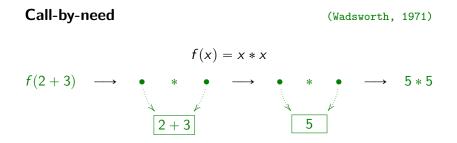
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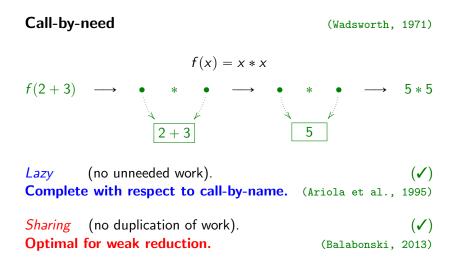


Call-by-value: Evaluate the argument first.
 Call-by-name: Apply the function first.

Unneeded (✗) Needed (✓)

5





# The $\lambda\text{-calculus}$

### Syntax

Terms	<b>t</b> , <b>s</b> ,	::=	X	variable
			$\lambda x.t$	lambda abstraction
			t s	application

Semantics

$$(\lambda x.t) s \rightarrow_{\beta} t\{x := s\}$$

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Example

Erasure  $(\lambda x.0)(yz) \rightarrow_{\beta} 0$ 

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### Semantics

$$(\lambda x.t) s \rightarrow_{\beta} t\{x := s\}$$

### Example

Erasure	$(\lambda x.0)(y z)$	$\rightarrow_{\beta}$	0
Duplication	$(\lambda x.x x)(y z)$	$\rightarrow_{\beta}$	(yz)(yz)

# The $\lambda\text{-calculus}$

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$$(\lambda x.t) s \rightarrow_{\beta} t\{x := s\}$$

Example

Limitation — It cannot express sharing.

# Linear Substitution Calculus (LSC) (Accattoli & Kesner, 2010) Syntax

Terms	<b>t</b> , <b>s</b> ,	::=	x	variable
			$\lambda x.t$	lambda abstraction
		Í	ts	application
		Í	<b>t</b> [x/s]	explicit substitution
List contexts	L	::=	$[x_1/t_1]$	$\left[x_n/t_n\right]$
Term contexts	С	::=	$\Box \mid \lambda x.C$	Ct tC C[x/t] t[x/C]

### Semantics

$$\begin{array}{lll} (\lambda x.t) L \, s & \rightarrow_{\rm db} & t[x/s] L \\ C \langle x \rangle [x/t] & \rightarrow_{\rm 1s} & C \langle t \rangle [x/t] \\ t[x/s] & \rightarrow_{\rm gc} & t & \text{if } x \notin {\rm fv}(t) \end{array}$$

Rules are at a distance. Justified by linear logic proof nets ( $\checkmark$ )

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Rules are at a distance. Justified by linear logic proof nets ( $\checkmark$ ) **Example** 

$$\begin{array}{rcl} (\lambda x.x\,x)(y\,z) & \rightarrow_{\mathrm{db}} & (x\,x)[x/y\,z] \\ & \rightarrow_{\mathrm{1s}} & ((y\,z)\,x)[x/y\,z] \\ & \rightarrow_{\mathrm{1s}} & ((y\,z)\,(y\,z))[x/y\,z] \\ & \rightarrow_{\mathrm{gc}} & (y\,z)\,(y\,z) \end{array}$$

# This thesis

### Overarching theme

Evaluation strategies in the Linear Substitution Calculus.

Three lines of work

1. Abstract machines

(with Accattoli, Mazza)

2. Strong call-by-need (with Balabonski, Bonelli, Kesner) + Pattern matching and fixed points (with Bonelli, Mohamed)

3. Lévy labels

(with Bonelli)

# This thesis

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Introduction

Strong call-by-need

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# Weak vs. strong reduction

Typical programming languages use weak reduction:

- Bodies of functions are not evaluated (until applied).
- Programs are *closed* (no free variables).
- The result is a weak head normal form.

Example

 $\lambda x. (2+3) * id x$  is already a weak head normal form.

# Weak vs. strong reduction

Contrast with strong reduction:

- Bodies of functions must be evaluated.
- Programs may be open.
- The result is a *(strong) normal form*.

Example

 $\lambda x. (2+3) * \text{id } x \longrightarrow \lambda x. 5 * \text{id } x \longrightarrow \lambda x. 5 * x$ 

Motivation to study strong reduction

Proof assistants based on dependent type theory (**Coq**, **Agda**, ...) include the following typing rule:

 $\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : A \quad A \equiv B}{\Gamma \vdash t : B}$ 

- To decide whether  $A \equiv B$ , compare their normal forms.
- This requires strong reduction, as types may depend on terms.

# Weak call-by-need

### Weak call-by-need reduction

```
(Accattoli, Barenbaum, Mazza, 2014)
```

Values  $v ::= \lambda x.t$ Weak evaluation contexts  $E ::= \Box | E t | E[x/t] | E\langle x \rangle [x/E]$ 

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (\lambda x.t) L \, s & \stackrel{\mathsf{W}}{\longrightarrow} & t[x/s] L \\ E\langle x \rangle [x/vL] & \stackrel{\mathsf{W}}{\longrightarrow} & E\langle v \rangle [x/v] L \end{array}$$

Similar to (Ariola et al., 1995), but with rules at a distance.

# Our goal

# Extend weak call-by-need ( $\stackrel{W}{\leadsto}$ ) to strong call-by-need ( $\stackrel{S}{\leadsto}$ ).

# Technical challenges

### **Context-dependency**

 $\lambda x.t$  (no arguments)  $\implies$  evaluate t.  $(\lambda x.t) u$  (with arguments)  $\implies$  do not evaluate t yet.

Production  $E ::= ... | \lambda x.E$  is too naive.

# Technical challenges

### **Context-dependency**

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Production  $E ::= ... | \lambda x \cdot E$  is too naive.

**Frozen variables** 

 $\lambda x.x t$  (x is frozen)  $\implies$  evaluate t.

 $(x t)[x/\lambda y.y]$  (x is not frozen)  $\implies$  do not evaluate t yet.

Production E ::= ... | x E is too naive.

### Normal forms under frozen variables $\vartheta$ :

$$\begin{split} \mathsf{N}_{\vartheta} & ::= \ \mathsf{S}_{\vartheta} & | \ \lambda x. \mathsf{N}_{\vartheta \cup \{x\}} \ | \ \underbrace{\mathsf{N}_{\vartheta \cup \{x\}}[x/\mathsf{S}_{\vartheta}]}_{x \in \mathsf{ngv}(\mathsf{N}_{\vartheta})} \ | \ \underbrace{\mathsf{N}_{\vartheta}[x/t]}_{x \notin \mathsf{ngv}(\mathsf{N}_{\vartheta})} \\ \mathsf{S}_{\vartheta} & ::= \ \underbrace{x}_{x \in \vartheta} \ | \ \mathsf{S}_{\vartheta} \ \mathsf{N}_{\vartheta} \ | \ \underbrace{\mathsf{S}_{\vartheta} \ \mathsf{N}_{\vartheta}}_{x \in \mathsf{ngv}(\mathsf{S}_{\vartheta})} \ | \ \underbrace{\mathsf{S}_{\vartheta \cup \{x\}}[x/\mathsf{S}_{\vartheta}]}_{x \in \mathsf{ngv}(\mathsf{S}_{\vartheta})} \ | \ \underbrace{\mathsf{S}_{\vartheta}[x/t]}_{x \notin \mathsf{ngv}(\mathsf{S}_{\vartheta})} \end{split}$$

**Evaluation contexts** under frozen variables  $\vartheta$ :

$$\begin{split} \mathsf{E}_{\vartheta} & ::= \ \mathsf{E}_{\vartheta}^{\circ} & | \ \lambda x.\mathsf{E}_{\vartheta \cup \{x\}} \\ & | \ \underbrace{\mathsf{E}_{\vartheta}[x/t]}_{x \notin \vartheta, t \notin \mathsf{S}_{\vartheta}} \ | \ \mathsf{E}_{\vartheta \cup \{x\}}[x/\mathsf{S}_{\vartheta}] \ | \ \mathsf{E}_{\vartheta} \langle x \rangle [x/\mathsf{E}_{\vartheta}^{\circ}] \\ \\ \mathsf{E}_{\vartheta}^{\circ} & ::= \ \Box & | \ \mathsf{E}_{\vartheta}^{\circ} t \ | \ \mathsf{S}_{\vartheta} \ \mathsf{E}_{\vartheta} \\ & | \ \underbrace{\mathsf{E}_{\vartheta}^{\circ}[x/t]}_{x \notin \vartheta, t \notin \mathsf{S}_{\vartheta}} \ | \ \mathsf{E}_{\vartheta \cup \{x\}}^{\circ}[x/\mathsf{S}_{\vartheta}] \ | \ \mathsf{E}_{\vartheta}^{\circ} \langle x \rangle [x/\mathsf{E}_{\vartheta}^{\circ}] \\ \end{split}$$

### **Reduction rules**

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathsf{C}\langle (\lambda x.t) \mathsf{L} \, s \rangle & \stackrel{\vartheta}{\leadsto} & \mathsf{C}\langle t[x/s] \mathsf{L} \rangle \\ \mathsf{C}_1 \langle \mathsf{C}_2 \langle x \rangle [x/v \mathsf{L}] \rangle & \stackrel{\vartheta}{\leadsto} & \mathsf{C}_1 \langle \mathsf{C}_2 \langle v \rangle [x/v] \mathsf{L} \rangle \end{array}$$

If the context is a strong call-by-need  $\vartheta$ -evaluation context.

I.e., C and  $C_1(C_2(\square)[x/vL])$  are generated by the non-terminal symbol  $E_{\vartheta}$ .

Properties

- 1. Strong reduction if  $t \in NF(\stackrel{S}{\leadsto})$  then  $t^{\diamond} \in NF(\rightarrow_{\beta})$ .
- 2. **Determinism**  $t \xrightarrow{S} s_1$  and  $t \xrightarrow{S} s_2$  implies  $s_1 = s_2$ .
- 3. Conservativity  $\underset{\sim}{\overset{\mathsf{W}}{\longrightarrow}} \subseteq \underset{\sim}{\overset{\mathsf{S}}{\leadsto}}$ .
- 4. **Soundness** If  $t \stackrel{\mathsf{S}}{\leadsto} s$  then  $t^{\diamond} =_{\beta} s^{\diamond}$ .
- 5. **Completeness** If  $t =_{\beta} s$  and s is a  $\beta$ -normal form, then  $t \stackrel{S}{\leadsto}^* u$  with  $u^{\diamond} = s$ .

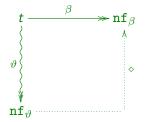
Properties

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- If  $t =_{\beta} s$  and s is a  $\beta$ -normal form, then  $t \xrightarrow{S} u$  with  $u^{\diamond} = s$ . Most interesting/difficult one. We discuss the proof next.

For example,  $(\lambda x.\lambda y.x) a b \xrightarrow{S} x[y/b][x/a]$  and  $x[y/b][x/a]^{\diamond} = a$ .

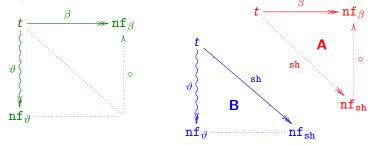
# Proof of Completeness of strong call-by-need

Completeness of strong call-by-need If  $t \to_{\beta}^{*} \operatorname{nf}_{\beta}$  then  $t \xrightarrow{\vartheta}^{*} \operatorname{nf}_{\vartheta}$  and  $(\operatorname{nf}_{\vartheta})^{\diamond} = \operatorname{nf}_{\beta}$ .



# Proof of Completeness of strong call-by-need

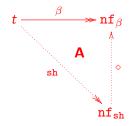
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A: Completeness of the Theory of Sharing If  $t \rightarrow^*_{\beta} nf_{\beta}$  then  $t \rightarrow^*_{sh} nf_{sh}$  and  $nf^{\diamond}_{sh} = nf_{\beta}$ . B: Factorization of the Theory of Sharing If  $t \rightarrow^*_{sh} nf_{sh}$  then  $t \xrightarrow{\vartheta}^* nf_{\vartheta}$  and  $nf^{\diamond}_{sh} = nf^{\diamond}_{\vartheta}$ .

# Proof of A: Completeness of the Theory of Sharing

If  $t \to_{\beta}^{*} \operatorname{nf}_{\beta}$  then  $t \to_{\operatorname{sh}}^{*} \operatorname{nf}_{\operatorname{sh}}$  and  $\operatorname{nf}_{\operatorname{sh}}^{\diamond} = \operatorname{nf}_{\beta}$ .



An argument based on *non-idempotent intersection types*. Extending a **similar argument for weak call-by-need**. (Kesner, 2016)

## Proof of A: Completeness of the Theory of Sharing

The proof passes through the type system  $\mathcal{HW}$ .

(Kesner & Ventura, 2014)

•  $\mathcal{HW}$  is an non-idempotent intersection type system.

(Coppo & Dezani-Ciancaglini, 1978) (Gardner, 1994; Kfoury, 2004; de Carvalho, 2007)

Intersection type systems characterize normalization properties.

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Intersection type systems characterize normalization properties.

```
t \text{ is weakly normalizing with respect to } \rightarrow_{\beta} \\ \downarrow \\ \Gamma \vdash t : \tau \text{ in system } \mathcal{HW}, \text{ without positive occurrences of []} \\ \downarrow \\ t \text{ is weakly normalizing with respect to } \rightarrow_{\mathtt{sh}}
```

Proof of **B**: Factorization of the Theory of Sharing If  $t \to_{sh}^* nf_{sh}$  then  $t \xrightarrow{\vartheta}^* nf_{\vartheta}$  and  $nf_{sh}^\diamond = nf_{\vartheta}^\diamond$ .

nf

 $nf_{sh}$ 

Proof of **B**: Factorization of the Theory of Sharing If  $t \to_{sh}^* nf_{sh}$  then  $t \xrightarrow{\vartheta} nf_{\vartheta}$  and  $nf_{sh}^{\diamond} = nf_{\vartheta}^{\diamond}$ .

Core of the argument: internal/external commutation.

$$\rightarrow_{\rm sh} = \stackrel{\vartheta}{\longrightarrow} \uplus \stackrel{\neg \vartheta}{\longrightarrow}_{\rm sh}$$

We prove  $(\xrightarrow{\neg\vartheta}_{sh} \xrightarrow{\vartheta}) \subseteq (\xrightarrow{\vartheta}_{sh})$  by exhaustive case analysis. Very long/intrincate proof. It relies on an abstract factorization result. (Accattoli, 2012).

### Outline

Introduction

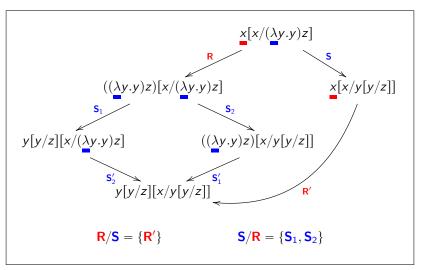
Strong call-by-need

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### Residuals

#### S/R denotes the set of **residuals** of S after R



*R* creates S' if there is no S such that  $S' \in S/R$ .

$$(\overset{\lambda x.xx}{\xrightarrow{}})(\lambda y.y) \xrightarrow{\mathsf{R}} (\overset{xx}{\xrightarrow{}})[x/\lambda y.y] \xrightarrow{\mathsf{S}} ((\lambda y.y)x)[x/\lambda y.y]$$
**R** creates **S**

## Our goal

#### Develop the residual theory of reduction in the LSC.

Adapt the notions of redex families, Lévy labels, FFD, extraction, optimality, etc..

(Vuillemin, Lévy, Lamping, Laneve, van Oostrom, Asperti, Guerrini, Glauert, Khasidashvili, ...)

#### Motivations

- Conceptual ..... Causality in the presence of sharing.
- **Pragmatical** ...... Build technology to prove theorems.

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#### Two parts

- The LSC with Lévy labels.
- Applications of the LSC with Lévy labels.

# The LSC with Lévy labels (LLSC) Syntax

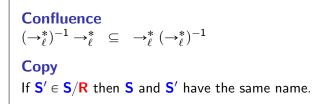
Labeled terms  $t ::= x^{\alpha} \mid \lambda^{\alpha} x.t \mid \mathbb{Q}^{\alpha}(t,t) \mid t[x/t]$ Labels  $\alpha ::= \bullet \mid \mathbf{a} \mid \lceil \alpha \rceil \mid \lfloor \alpha \rfloor \mid d\mathbf{b}(\alpha) \mid \alpha \alpha$ 

#### Operations

 $\begin{array}{l} \uparrow (t) & \text{denotes the outermost sublabel of } t. \\ \downarrow (\alpha) & \text{denotes the innermost sublabel of } \alpha. \\ \alpha: t & \text{adds a label } \alpha \text{ to a term } t. \end{array}$ 

#### Reduction rules

$$\begin{split} & \mathbb{Q}^{\alpha}((\lambda^{\beta}x.t)\mathbf{L},s) & \xrightarrow{\mathrm{db}(\beta)} & \alpha[\mathrm{db}(\beta)] : t[x/[\mathrm{db}(\beta)] : s]\mathbf{L} \\ & \\ & \mathsf{C}\langle x^{\alpha}\rangle[x/t] & \xrightarrow{\downarrow(\alpha)\bullet\uparrow(t)} & \mathsf{C}\langle \alpha\bullet : t\rangle[x/t] \end{split}$$



Example  $x^{a}[x/y^{b}][y/z^{c}] \xrightarrow{a \cdot b} y^{a \cdot b}[x/y^{b}][y/z^{c}]$   $b \cdot c$   $z^{a \cdot b \cdot c}[x/y^{b}][y/z^{c}]$   $b \cdot c$   $x^{a}[x/z^{b \cdot c}][y/z^{c}] \xrightarrow{a \cdot b} z^{a \cdot b \cdot c}[x/z^{b \cdot c}][y/z^{c}]$ 

Creation If R creates S, the name of R is a sublabel of the name of S.

Example (1s creates db)

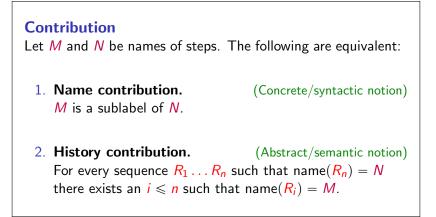
$$\mathbb{Q}^{\mathbf{a}}(x^{\mathbf{b}},t)[x/\lambda^{\mathbf{c}}y.z^{\mathbf{d}}]$$

$$\overset{\mathbf{b} \bullet \mathbf{c}}{\longrightarrow} \quad \mathbb{Q}^{\mathbf{a}}((\lambda^{\mathbf{b} \bullet \mathbf{c}} y. z^{\mathbf{d}}), t)[x/\lambda^{\mathbf{c}} y. z^{\mathbf{d}}]$$

$$\xrightarrow{db(\mathbf{b} \bullet \mathbf{c})} z^{\mathbf{a}[db(\mathbf{b} \bullet \mathbf{c})]d} [y/[db(\mathbf{b} \bullet \mathbf{c})] : t] [x/\lambda^{c}y.z^{d}]$$

#### **Finite Family Developments**

Reduction in the LLSC is **strongly normalizing** if restricted to names of bounded height.



The proof relies on the Finite Family Developments property.

The properties we just mentioned:

- 1. Confluence
- 2. **Сору**
- 3. Creation
- 4. Finite Family Developments
- 5. Contribution

make the LSC a **Deterministic Family Structure** (DFS).

(Glauert & Khasidashvili, 1996)

# Applications (1)

A family reduction  $\mathcal{M}_1 \dots \mathcal{M}_n$  to normal form is optimal if there is no shorter family reduction to normal form.

```
Optimal reduction for the LSC
Any complete and needed family reduction \mathcal{M}_1 \dots \mathcal{M}_n to
normal form is optimal.
A corollary of Glauert & Khasidashvili, 1996.
Itself extending work by Lévy (1978).
```

# **Applications (2)**

Two reduction sequences are **permutation equivalent** if they perform the same computational work (swapping steps).

 $\begin{array}{l} \mbox{Standardization for the LSC} \\ \mbox{For each reduction $\rho$, we can compute a canonical} \\ \mbox{representative $\mathbb{M}(\rho)$ of its permutation equivalence class.} \\ & \mbox{Generalizes a theorem by Klop (1980) to DFSs.} \end{array}$ 

Canonical representatives are known as standard reductions.

# **Applications (3)**

A deterministic reduction strategy  $\ensuremath{\mathbb{S}}$  is:

- invariant if steps in S have residuals in S,
- strongly invariant if moreover  $NF(\mathbb{S})$  is stable by reduction,
- ▶ normalizing if given a term with normal form, S finds it.

#### Normalization for the LSC

Any **strongly invariant** strategy in the LSC is normalizing. In particular, call-by-name and a variant of weak call-by-need are normalizing.

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## Contributions

#### 1. Abstract machines\*

Evaluation strategies in the LSC **distill abstract machines**. They are **reasonable** in terms of time complexity.

```
(ICFP'14, APLAS'15)
```

#### 2. Strong call-by-need

We designed a **strong call-by-need strategy**. The main result is **completeness**.

(ICFP'17)

+ Pattern matching and fixed points\*

We extended these results to allow **recursion** and **pattern matching**.

(PPDP'18)

#### 3. Lévy labels

We endowed the LSC with **Lévy labels**. We applied it to obtain **optimality**, **standardization**, and **normalization** results.

(FSCD'17)

\* Not included in this defense.

### Conclusions

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The **efficient implementation of strong reduction** is still poorly understood.

Some of the **technology developed in the 1970s/1980s** remains underexplored:

- Labeled λ-calculus.
- Finite Family Developments.
- Optimal reduction.

#### Future work

Use Lévy labels to capture dynamic properties of programs. E.g.: information flow, measuring partial evaluation.

Related: Blanc's PhD thesis, 2006

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- Design a reasonable strong call-by-need strategy/machine. Related: Biernacka & Charatonik, 2019

#### Future work

- Use Lévy labels to capture dynamic properties of programs. *E.g.*: information flow, measuring partial evaluation. Related: Blanc's PhD thesis, 2006
- Design a reasonable strong call-by-need strategy/machine. Related: Biernacka & Charatonik, 2019
- Characterize redex families by means of extraction.

