

A graphical calculus for linear categories

Norihiro Yamada

Centre for Mathematics, University of Coimbra

`norihiro@mat.uc.pt`

LLAMA Seminar

ILLC, University of Amsterdam

Feb 4, 2026

Plan of the talk

- 1 Background and motivation
- 2 The ℓ -calculus
- 3 Picturing linear categories
- 4 Application

Linear categories

Linear categories

Linear-nonlinear adjunctions

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \curvearrowright & \\
 \mathcal{C} = (\mathcal{C}, \times, 1, \Rightarrow) & \perp & \mathcal{L} = (\mathcal{L}, \otimes, \top, \multimap) \\
 & \curvearrowleft &
 \end{array}$$

between a CCC \mathcal{C} and an SMCC \mathcal{L} are *ubiquitous*.

Linear categories

Linear-nonlinear adjunctions

$$\mathcal{C} = (\mathcal{C}, \times, 1, \Rightarrow) \quad \perp \quad \mathcal{L} = (\mathcal{L}, \otimes, \top, \multimap)$$

between a CCC \mathcal{C} and an SMCC \mathcal{L} are *ubiquitous*.

Of our particular interest are **linear categories** – semantics of **ILL**

$$\mathcal{L}! = (\mathcal{L}!, \times, 1, \Rightarrow) \quad \perp \quad \mathcal{L} = (\mathcal{L}, \otimes, \top, \multimap, !, \times, 1)$$

Graphical calculi and an open problem

Graphical calculi and an open problem

However, the formal theory of linear categories (*à la* type theory) is *extremely complex* – with 70 knotty equations!

Graphical calculi and an open problem

However, the formal theory of linear categories (*à la* type theory) is *extremely complex* – with 70 knotty equations!

On the other hand, **string diagrams** or **graphical calculi** – intuitive yet rigorous – have been extensively used in category theory.

Graphical calculi and an open problem

However, the formal theory of linear categories (*à la* type theory) is *extremely complex* – with 70 knotty equations!

On the other hand, **string diagrams** or **graphical calculi** – intuitive yet rigorous – have been extensively used in category theory.

$$(\text{id}_T \otimes (f \circ \text{id}_A)) \otimes (\text{id}_D \circ g) = (\text{id}_B \circ f) \otimes (g \circ \text{id}_C) \otimes \text{id}_T$$

Graphical calculi and an open problem

However, the formal theory of linear categories (*à la* type theory) is *extremely complex* – with 70 knotty equations!

On the other hand, **string diagrams** or **graphical calculi** – intuitive yet rigorous – have been extensively used in category theory.

$$\frac{\frac{A}{C} \quad \boxed{f} \quad \frac{B}{D}}{\boxed{g}} \longrightarrow \quad = \quad \frac{A}{C} \quad \boxed{f} \quad \frac{B}{D} \quad \boxed{g} \longrightarrow$$

$$(\text{id}_\top \otimes (f \circ \text{id}_A)) \otimes (\text{id}_D \circ g) = (\text{id}_B \circ f) \otimes (g \circ \text{id}_C) \otimes \text{id}_\top$$

Graphical calculi and an open problem

However, the formal theory of linear categories (*à la* type theory) is *extremely complex* – with 70 knotty equations!

On the other hand, **string diagrams** or **graphical calculi** – intuitive yet rigorous – have been extensively used in category theory.

$$\frac{\frac{A}{C} \quad \boxed{f} \xrightarrow{B}}{\boxed{g} \xrightarrow{D}} = \frac{\frac{A}{C} \quad \boxed{f} \quad \xrightarrow{B}}{\boxed{g} \xrightarrow{D}}$$

$$(\text{id}_\top \otimes (f \circ \text{id}_A)) \otimes (\text{id}_D \circ g) = (\text{id}_B \circ f) \otimes (g \circ \text{id}_C) \otimes \text{id}_\top$$

Problem (technical nightmare of formal linear categories)

There has been no graphical calculi for linear categories for 39 years.

Graphical calculi and an open problem

However, the formal theory of linear categories (*à la* type theory) is *extremely complex* – with 70 knotty equations!

On the other hand, **string diagrams** or **graphical calculi** – intuitive yet rigorous – have been extensively used in category theory.

$$\frac{\frac{A}{C} \quad \boxed{f} \quad \frac{B}{D}}{\boxed{g}} \quad = \quad \frac{\frac{A}{C} \quad \boxed{f} \quad B}{\boxed{g} \quad D}$$

$$(\text{id}_\top \otimes (f \circ \text{id}_A)) \otimes (\text{id}_D \circ g) = (\text{id}_B \circ f) \otimes (g \circ \text{id}_C) \otimes \text{id}_\top$$

Problem (technical nightmare of formal linear categories)

There has been no graphical calculi for linear categories for 39 years.

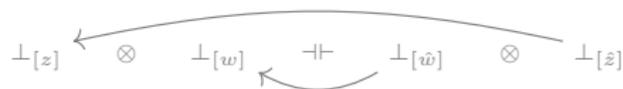
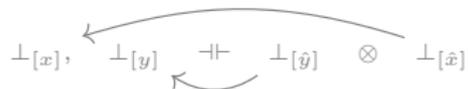
We solve it by a graphical calculus that forms an *initial* linear category.

Plan of the talk

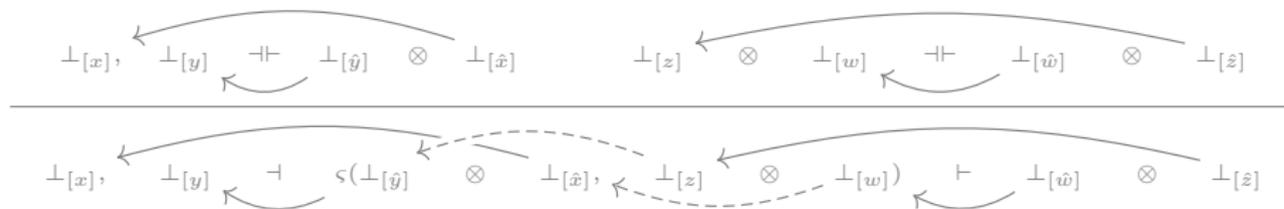
- 1 Background and motivation
- 2 The ℓ -calculus
- 3 Picturing linear categories
- 4 Application

Example (1/2)

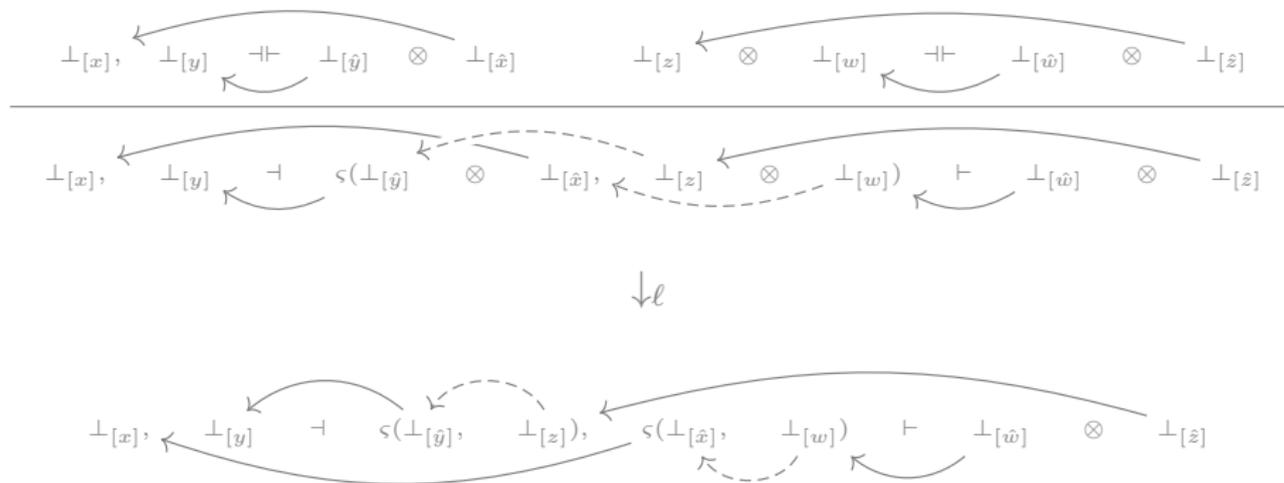
Example (1/2)



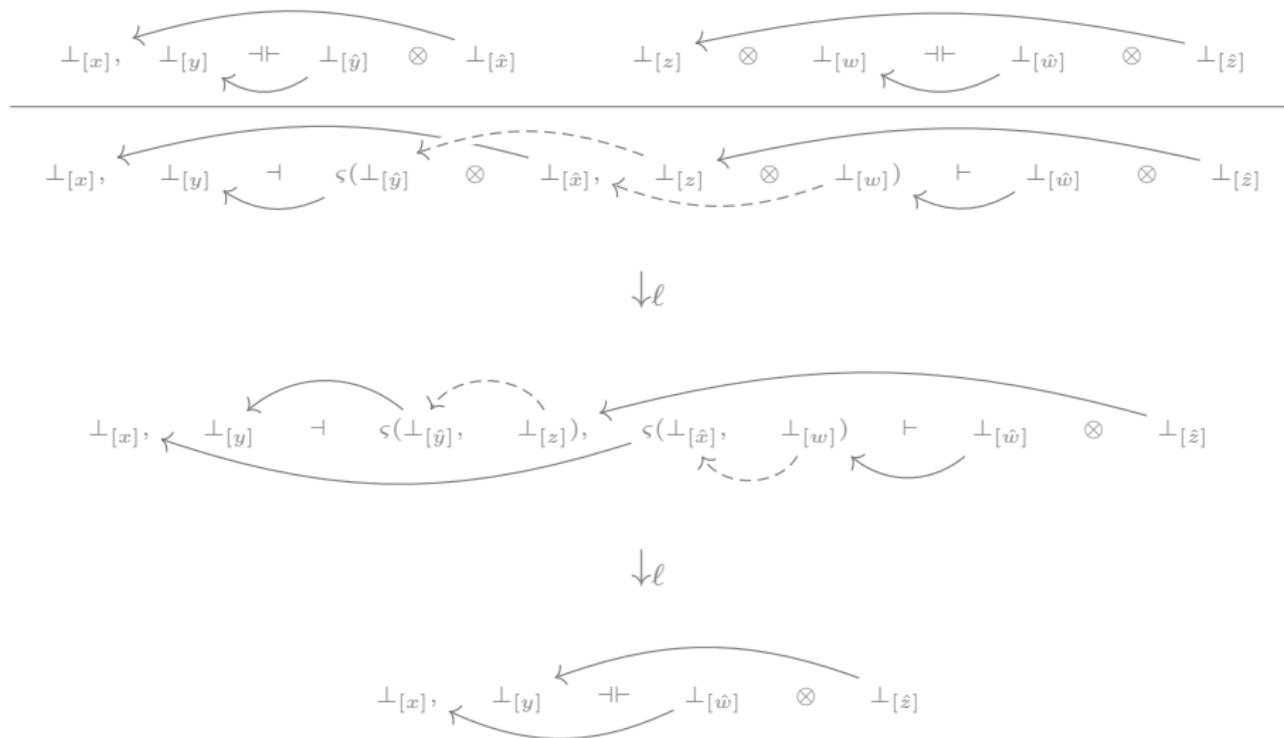
Example (1/2)



Example (1/2)



Example (1/2)

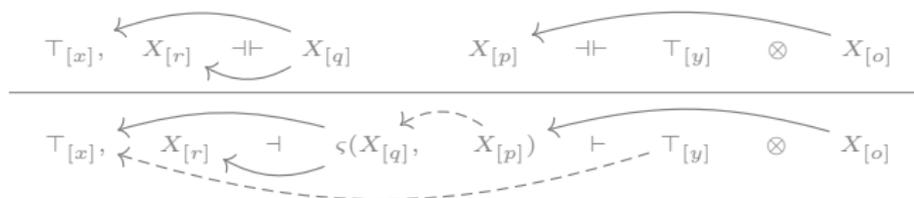


Example (2/2)

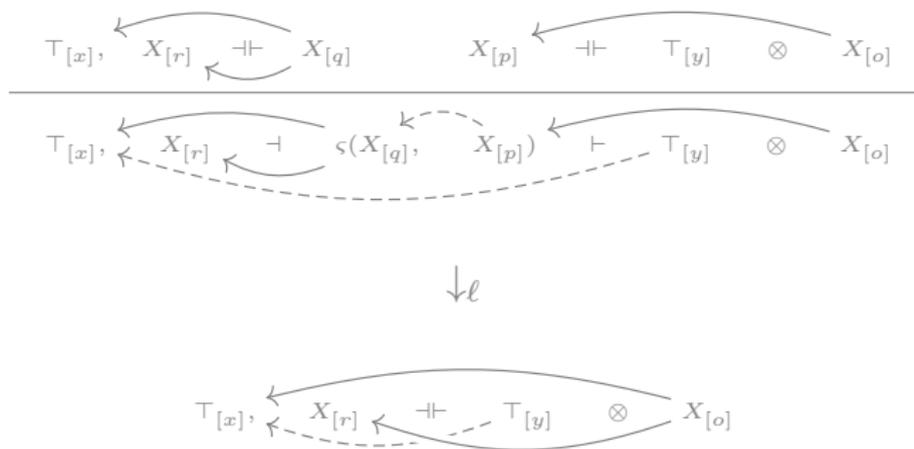
Example (2/2)



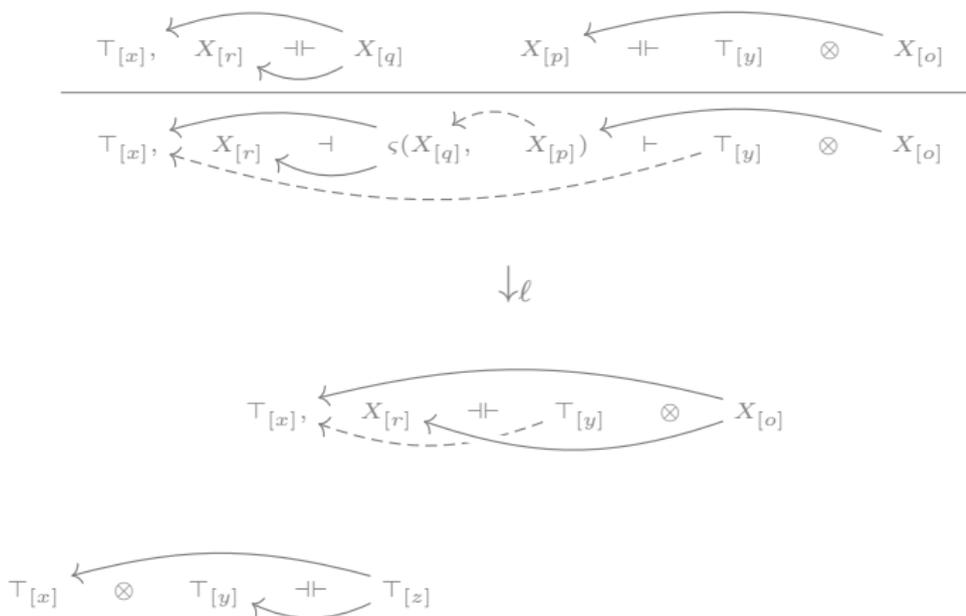
Example (2/2)



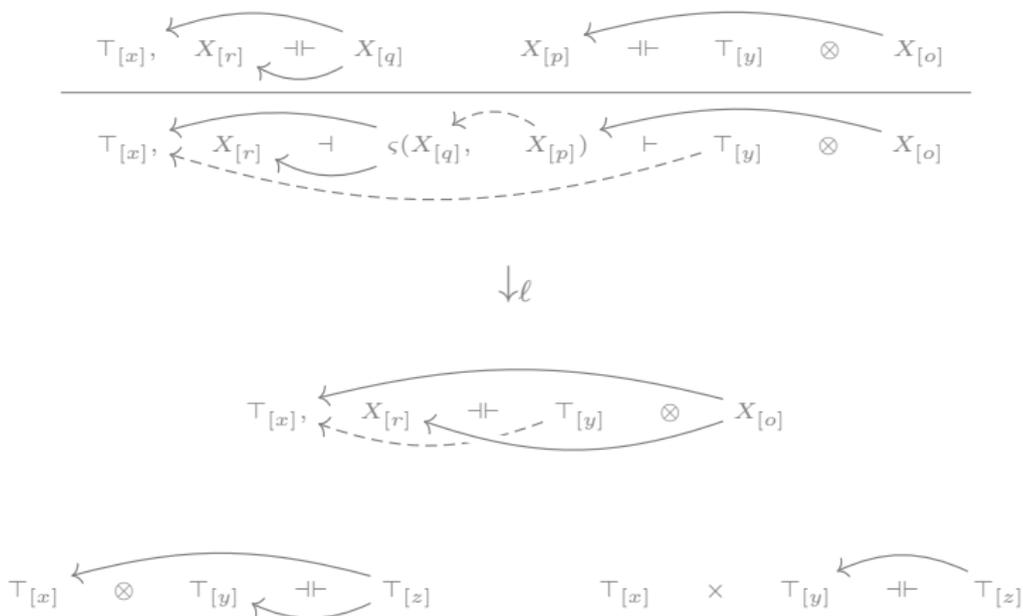
Example (2/2)



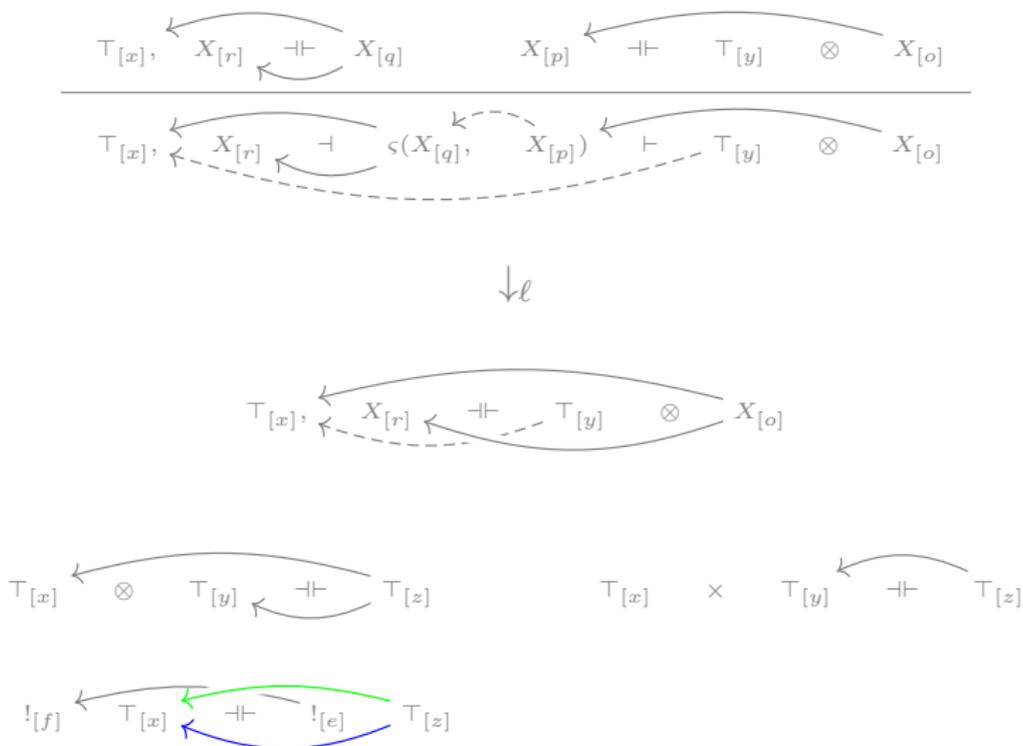
Example (2/2)



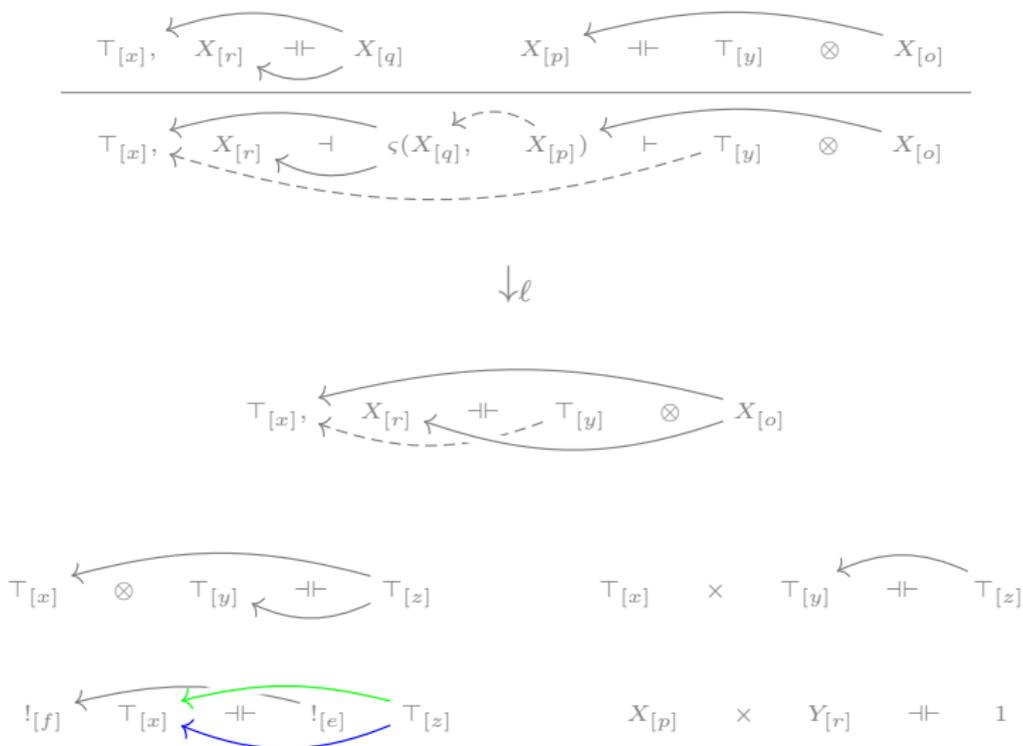
Example (2/2)



Example (2/2)



Example (2/2)



The ℓ -calculus (1/4)

The ℓ -calculus (1/4)

Our graphical calculus for linear categories – the ℓ -calculus – has

The ℓ -calculus (1/4)

Our graphical calculus for linear categories – the ℓ -calculus – has

- ℓ -types T – rooted trees – defined by

$$T := X_{[v]} \mid \top_{[v]} \mid 1 \mid \perp_{[v]} \mid T \otimes T' \mid T \times T' \mid T \multimap T' \mid !_{[v]}T,$$

where $\square_{[v]}$ is a **move** v labelled with \square ;

The ℓ -calculus (1/4)

Our graphical calculus for linear categories – the ℓ -calculus – has

- ℓ -types T – rooted trees – defined by

$$T := X_{[v]} \mid \top_{[v]} \mid 1 \mid \perp_{[v]} \mid T \otimes T' \mid T \times T' \mid T \multimap T' \mid !_{[v]}T,$$

where $\square_{[v]}$ is a **move** v labelled with \square ;

- ℓ -cuts Θ – rooted trees – defined by

$$\Theta := \top_{[v]} \mid \varsigma(T, \hat{T}) \mid \Theta \otimes \Theta' \mid \Theta \times \Theta' \mid !_{[v]}\Theta \quad (\underline{T} = \underline{\hat{T}}),$$

where \underline{T} is the formula underlying T ;

The ℓ -calculus (1/4)

Our graphical calculus for linear categories – the **ℓ -calculus** – has

- **ℓ -types** T – rooted trees – defined by

$$T := X_{[v]} \mid \top_{[v]} \mid 1 \mid \perp_{[v]} \mid T \otimes T' \mid T \times T' \mid T \multimap T' \mid !_{[v]}T,$$

where $\square_{[v]}$ is a **move** v labelled with \square ;

- **ℓ -cuts** Θ – rooted trees – defined by

$$\Theta := \top_{[v]} \mid \varsigma(T, \hat{T}) \mid \Theta \otimes \Theta' \mid \Theta \times \Theta' \mid !_{[v]}\Theta \quad (\underline{T} = \underline{\hat{T}}),$$

where \underline{T} is the formula underlying T ;

- **ℓ -sequents** F – rooted trees – of the form

$$T_1, T_2, \dots, T_n \dashv \Theta_1, \Theta_2, \dots, \Theta_m \vdash T_0,$$

The ℓ -calculus (1/4)

Our graphical calculus for linear categories – the **ℓ -calculus** – has

- **ℓ -types** T – rooted trees – defined by

$$T := X_{[v]} \mid \top_{[v]} \mid 1 \mid \perp_{[v]} \mid T \otimes T' \mid T \times T' \mid T \multimap T' \mid !_{[v]}T,$$

where $\square_{[v]}$ is a **move** v labelled with \square ;

- **ℓ -cuts** Θ – rooted trees – defined by

$$\Theta := \top_{[v]} \mid \varsigma(T, \hat{T}) \mid \Theta \otimes \Theta' \mid \Theta \times \Theta' \mid !_{[v]}\Theta \quad (\underline{T} = \underline{\hat{T}}),$$

where \underline{T} is the formula underlying T ;

- **ℓ -sequents** F – rooted trees – of the form

$$T_1, T_2, \dots, T_n \dashv \Theta_1, \Theta_2, \dots, \Theta_m \vdash T_0,$$

where moves of F may be *initial*, *O* or *P*, and *joker* if on \top or $!$;

The ℓ -calculus (2/4)

The ℓ -calculus (2/4)

- **Preterms** $t :: F$, where F is an ℓ -sequent, $t = (t, \mathfrak{C}(t))$,

The ℓ -calculus (2/4)

- **Preterms** $t :: F$, where F is an ℓ -sequent, $t = (t, \mathfrak{C}(t))$,
 - ① t is a set of edges $o \xrightarrow{S} p$ from an O-move o to a P-move p of F that preserve joker and propositional labels (if p is not joker), labelled with a finite set S of children of \times -labelled O-moves of F ;

The ℓ -calculus (2/4)

- **Preterms** $t :: F$, where F is an ℓ -sequent, $t = (t, \mathfrak{C}(t))$,
 - ① t is a set of edges $o \xrightarrow{S} p$ from an O-move o to a P-move p of F that preserve joker and propositional labels (if p is not joker), labelled with a finite set S of children of \times -labelled O-moves of F ;
 - ② $\mathfrak{C}(t) = \{\mathfrak{C}(t)_{(e,L)}\}_{(e,L)}$, where e ranges over $!$ -labelled P-moves of F , and L over the labels of edges in t going into F_e , is a set of partitions $\mathfrak{C}(t)_{(e,V)}$ of edges $o \xrightarrow{S} p$ in t with $S \subseteq V$ going into or out of F_e ,

The ℓ -calculus (2/4)

- **Preterms** $t :: F$, where F is an ℓ -sequent, $t = (t, \mathfrak{C}(t))$,
 - ① t is a set of edges $o \xrightarrow{S} p$ from an O-move o to a P-move p of F that preserve joker and propositional labels (if p is not joker), labelled with a finite set S of children of \times -labelled O-moves of F ;
 - ② $\mathfrak{C}(t) = \{\mathfrak{C}(t)_{(e,L)}\}_{(e,L)}$, where e ranges over $!$ -labelled P-moves of F , and L over the labels of edges in t going into F_e , is a set of partitions $\mathfrak{C}(t)_{(e,V)}$ of edges $o \xrightarrow{S} p$ in t with $S \subseteq V$ going into or out of F_e ,
 and $\bar{t}_F := t \cup \{p \xrightarrow{\emptyset} o \mid \text{a P-move } p \text{ justifies an O-move } o \text{ in } F\}$;

The ℓ -calculus (2/4)

- **Preterms** $t :: F$, where F is an ℓ -sequent, $t = (t, \mathfrak{C}(t))$,
 - 1 t is a set of edges $o \xrightarrow{S} p$ from an O-move o to a P-move p of F that preserve joker and propositional labels (if p is not joker), labelled with a finite set S of children of \times -labelled O-moves of F ;
 - 2 $\mathfrak{C}(t) = \{\mathfrak{C}(t)_{(e,L)}\}_{(e,L)}$, where e ranges over $!$ -labelled P-moves of F , and L over the labels of edges in t going into F_e , is a set of partitions $\mathfrak{C}(t)_{(e,V)}$ of edges $o \xrightarrow{S} p$ in t with $S \subseteq V$ going into or out of F_e , and $\bar{t}_F := t \cup \{p \xrightarrow{\emptyset} o \mid \text{a P-move } p \text{ justifies an O-move } o \text{ in } F\}$;
- **Valid paths** in a preterm $t :: F$ – finite OP-alternating paths

$$o_1 \xrightarrow{S_1} p_1 \xrightarrow{\emptyset} o_2 \xrightarrow{S_2} p_2 \xrightarrow{\emptyset} o_3 \dots \xrightarrow{S} m$$

in \bar{t}_F that satisfy: o_1 is initial in F , $S_i \subseteq \bigcup_{j \leq i} \&_F(o_j)$, any segment on (e, V) is *compatible* with $\mathfrak{C}(t)_{(e,V)}$, and m is joker if it is O;

The ℓ -calculus (2/4)

- **Preterms** $t :: F$, where F is an ℓ -sequent, $t = (t, \mathfrak{C}(t))$,
 - 1 t is a set of edges $o \xrightarrow{S} p$ from an O-move o to a P-move p of F that preserve joker and propositional labels (if p is not joker), labelled with a finite set S of children of \times -labelled O-moves of F ;
 - 2 $\mathfrak{C}(t) = \{\mathfrak{C}(t)_{(e,L)}\}_{(e,L)}$, where e ranges over $!$ -labelled P-moves of F , and L over the labels of edges in t going into F_e , is a set of partitions $\mathfrak{C}(t)_{(e,V)}$ of edges $o \xrightarrow{S} p$ in t with $S \subseteq V$ going into or out of F_e ,
 and $\bar{t}_F := t \cup \{p \xrightarrow{\emptyset} o \mid \text{a P-move } p \text{ justifies an O-move } o \text{ in } F\}$;

- **Valid paths** in a preterm $t :: F$ – finite OP-alternating paths

$$o_1 \xrightarrow{S_1} p_1 \xrightarrow{\emptyset} o_2 \xrightarrow{S_2} p_2 \xrightarrow{\emptyset} o_3 \dots \xrightarrow{S} m$$

in \bar{t}_F that satisfy: o_1 is initial in F , $S_i \subseteq \bigcup_{j \leq i} \&_F(o_j)$, any segment on (e, V) is *compatible* with $\mathfrak{C}(t)_{(e,V)}$, and m is joker if it is O;

- **Terms** – preterms with *no redundancy* for valid paths;

The ℓ -calculus (3/4)

The ℓ -calculus (3/4)

- **\times -slices** – for a **\times -slice assignment** f on F , which assigns to each \times -labelled O-move of F one of its children, the **\times -slice** of a preterm $t :: F$ at f is the preterm $t/f :: F$ defined by

The ℓ -calculus (3/4)

- **\times -slices** – for a **\times -slice assignment** f on F , which assigns to each \times -labelled O-move of F one of its children, the **\times -slice** of a preterm $t :: F$ at f is the preterm $t/f :: F$ defined by

$$t/f := \{ o \xrightarrow{S} p \in t \mid S \cap (\mathcal{V}_F \setminus \text{Ran}(f)) = \emptyset \},$$

The ℓ -calculus (3/4)

- **\times -slices** – for a **\times -slice assignment** f on F , which assigns to each \times -labelled O-move of F one of its children, the **\times -slice** of a preterm $t :: F$ at f is the preterm $t/f :: F$ defined by

$$t/f := \{ o \xrightarrow{S} p \in t \mid S \cap (\mathcal{V}_F \setminus \text{Ran}(f)) = \emptyset \},$$

$$\mathfrak{C}(t/f)_{(e,S)} := \{ P \in \mathfrak{C}(t)_{(e,S)} \mid P \cap t/f \} \quad (\mathfrak{C}(t)_{(e,S)} \in \mathfrak{C}(t));$$

The ℓ -calculus (3/4)

- **\times -slices** – for a **\times -slice assignment** f on F , which assigns to each \times -labelled O-move of F one of its children, the **\times -slice** of a preterm $t :: F$ at f is the preterm $t/f :: F$ defined by

$$t/f := \{ o \xrightarrow{S} p \in t \mid S \cap (\mathcal{V}_F \setminus \text{Ran}(f)) = \emptyset \},$$

$$\mathfrak{C}(t/f)_{(e,S)} := \{ P \in \mathfrak{C}(t)_{(e,S)} \mid P \cap t/f \} \quad (\mathfrak{C}(t)_{(e,S)} \in \mathfrak{C}(t));$$

- **!-expansions** – each preterm $t :: F$ yields its **!-expansion** $\text{exp}(t :: F)$ by the *reverse of contraction*;

The ℓ -calculus (3/4)

- **\times -slices** – for a **\times -slice assignment** f on F , which assigns to each \times -labelled O-move of F one of its children, the **\times -slice** of a preterm $t :: F$ at f is the preterm $t/f :: F$ defined by

$$t/f := \{ o \xrightarrow{S} p \in t \mid S \cap (\mathcal{V}_F \setminus \text{Ran}(f)) = \emptyset \},$$

$$\mathfrak{C}(t/f)_{(e,S)} := \{ P \in \mathfrak{C}(t)_{(e,S)} \mid P \cap t/f \} \quad (\mathfrak{C}(t)_{(e,S)} \in \mathfrak{C}(t));$$

- **!-expansions** – each preterm $t :: F$ yields its **!-expansion** $\text{exp}(t :: F)$ by the *reverse of contraction*;
- **Logical preterms** – a preterm $t :: F$ is said to be **logical** if the expansion of any slice of it satisfies:

The ℓ -calculus (3/4)

- **\times -slices** – for a **\times -slice assignment** f on F , which assigns to each \times -labelled O-move of F one of its children, the **\times -slice** of a preterm $t :: F$ at f is the preterm $t/f :: F$ defined by

$$t/f := \{ o \xrightarrow{S} p \in t \mid S \cap (\mathcal{V}_F \setminus \text{Ran}(f)) = \emptyset \},$$

$$\mathfrak{C}(t/f)_{(e,S)} := \{ P \in \mathfrak{C}(t)_{(e,S)} \mid P \cap t/f \} \quad (\mathfrak{C}(t)_{(e,S)} \in \mathfrak{C}(t));$$

- **!-expansions** – each preterm $t :: F$ yields its **!-expansion** $\text{exp}(t :: F)$ by the *reverse of contraction*;
- **Logical preterms** – a preterm $t :: F$ is said to be **logical** if the expansion of any slice of it satisfies:
 - ① Each P-move of F is *covered* by a valid path (*n.b.*, 1 , \times and $!$);

The ℓ -calculus (3/4)

- **\times -slices** – for a **\times -slice assignment** f on F , which assigns to each \times -labelled O-move of F one of its children, the **\times -slice** of a preterm $t :: F$ at f is the preterm $t/f :: F$ defined by

$$t/f := \{ o \xrightarrow{S} p \in t \mid S \cap (\mathcal{V}_F \setminus \text{Ran}(f)) = \emptyset \},$$

$$\mathfrak{C}(t/f)_{(e,S)} := \{ P \in \mathfrak{C}(t)_{(e,S)} \mid P \cap t/f \} \quad (\mathfrak{C}(t)_{(e,S)} \in \mathfrak{C}(t));$$

- **!-expansions** – each preterm $t :: F$ yields its **!-expansion** $\text{exp}(t :: F)$ by the *reverse of contraction*;
- **Logical preterms** – a preterm $t :: F$ is said to be **logical** if the expansion of any slice of it satisfies:
 - ① Each P-move of F is *covered* by a valid path (*n.b.*, 1 , \times and $!$);
 - ② When $o \xrightarrow{S} p \xleftarrow{S'} o'$ with $o \neq o'$ in t , the P-move p is joker.

The ℓ -calculus (4/4)

The ℓ -calculus (4/4)

- \approx -eq. – let $t \sim t' :: F$ if the $!$ -expansion of a \times -slice of a logical term $t :: F$ is given from that of another $t' :: F$ by the replacement of the source of an edge whose target is joker,

The ℓ -calculus (4/4)

- **\approx -eq.** – let $t \sim t' :: F$ if the $!$ -expansion of a \times -slice of a logical term $t :: F$ is given from that of another $t' :: F$ by the replacement of the source of an edge whose target is joker, and let \approx be the least equivalence relation between logical terms containing \sim ;

The ℓ -calculus (4/4)

- **\approx -eq.** – let $t \sim t' :: F$ if the $!$ -expansion of a \times -slice of a logical term $t :: F$ is given from that of another $t' :: F$ by the replacement of the source of an edge whose target is joker, and let \approx be the least equivalence relation between logical terms containing \sim ;
- **ℓ -terms** – an ℓ -term is a logical term *saturated* under \approx .

The ℓ -calculus (4/4)

- **\approx -eq.** – let $t \sim t' :: F$ if the $!$ -expansion of a \times -slice of a logical term $t :: F$ is given from that of another $t' :: F$ by the replacement of the source of an edge whose target is joker, and let \approx be the least equivalence relation between logical terms containing \sim ;
- **ℓ -terms** – an ℓ -term is a logical term *saturated* under \approx .

In this way, we replace derivable terms and their equality in type theory (given formally and inductively) with *geometric* objects and conditions.

The ℓ -calculus (4/4)

- **\approx -eq.** – let $t \sim t' :: F$ if the $!$ -expansion of a \times -slice of a logical term $t :: F$ is given from that of another $t' :: F$ by the replacement of the source of an edge whose target is joker, and let \approx be the least equivalence relation between logical terms containing \sim ;
- **ℓ -terms** – an ℓ -term is a logical term *saturated* under \approx .

In this way, we replace derivable terms and their equality in type theory (given formally and inductively) with *geometric* objects and conditions.

Proposition (existence and uniqueness of ℓ -form)

Every logical preterm $t :: F$ has a unique ℓ -term $lt :: F$, or its **ℓ -form**.

Why \times -states?

Why \times -states?

There is an ℓ -term whose \times -slices are

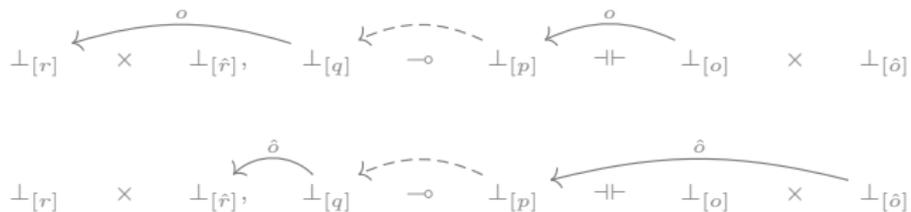
Why \times -states?

There is an ℓ -term whose \times -slices are

$$\perp_{[r]} \times \perp_{[\hat{r}]} \xrightarrow{o} \perp_{[q]} \dashrightarrow \perp_{[p]} \xrightarrow{o} \perp_{[o]} \times \perp_{[\hat{o}]}$$

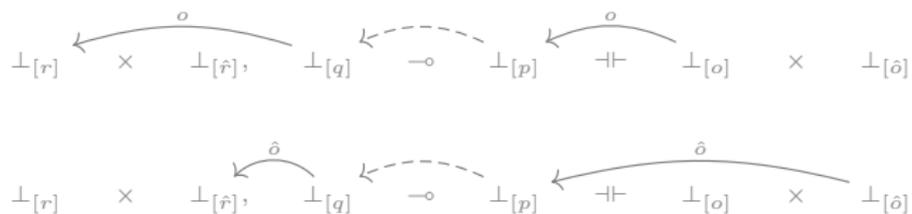
Why \times -states?

There is an ℓ -term whose \times -slices are



Why \times -states?

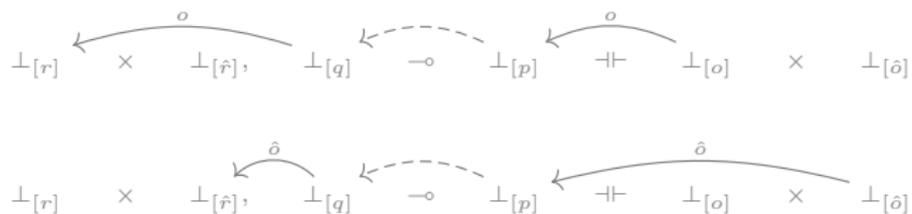
There is an ℓ -term whose \times -slices are



and there is another ℓ -term whose \times -slices are

Why \times -states?

There is an ℓ -term whose \times -slices are

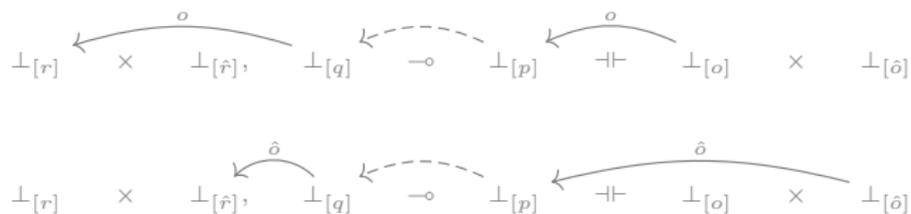


and there is another ℓ -term whose \times -slices are

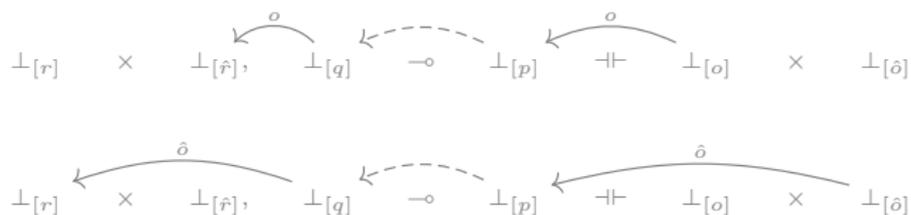


Why \times -states?

There is an ℓ -term whose \times -slices are

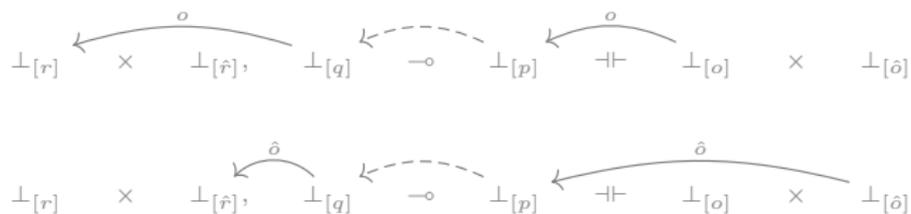


and there is another ℓ -term whose \times -slices are

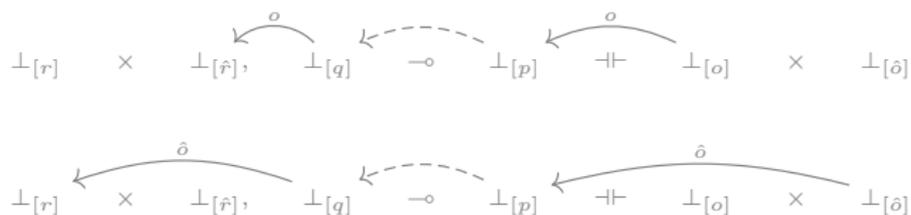


Why \times -states?

There is an ℓ -term whose \times -slices are



and there is another ℓ -term whose \times -slices are



They must be distinguished, but without \times -states they coincide as



Why ℓ -terms, not logical preterms?

Why ℓ -terms, not logical preterms?

There is one non-logical term and three logical terms

Why ℓ -terms, not logical preterms?

There is one non-logical term and three logical terms

$$\top_{[p]} \quad \dashv\vdash \quad \top_{[\circ]} \quad \otimes \quad \top_{[\delta]}$$

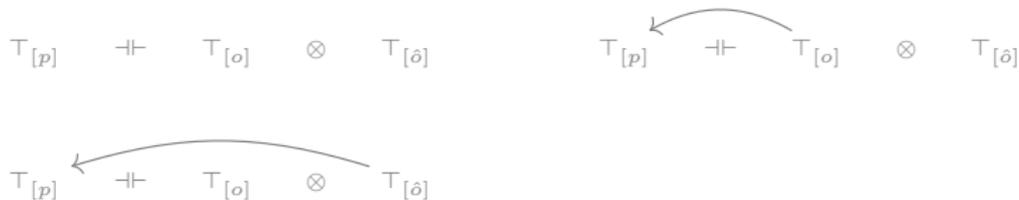
Why ℓ -terms, not logical preterms?

There is one non-logical term and three logical terms

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \top_{[p]} & \dashv\vdash & \top_{[o]} & \otimes & \top_{[\hat{o}]} & & \\ & & & & & \longleftarrow & \\ & & & & & \top_{[p]} & \dashv\vdash & \top_{[o]} & \otimes & \top_{[\hat{o}]} \end{array}$$

Why ℓ -terms, not logical preterms?

There is one non-logical term and three logical terms



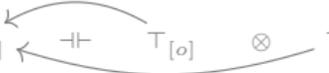
Why ℓ -terms, not logical preterms?

There is one non-logical term and three logical terms

$$\top_{[p]} \quad \dashv\vdash \quad \top_{[o]} \quad \otimes \quad \top_{[\delta]}$$

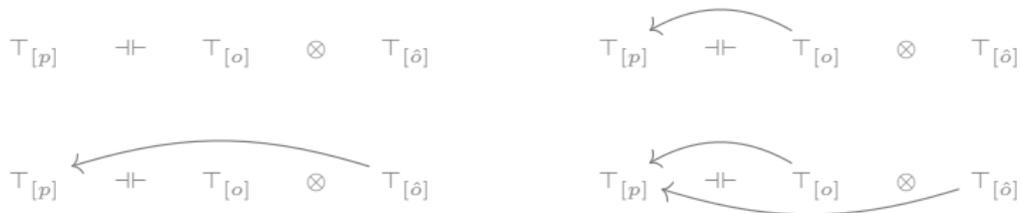
$$\top_{[p]} \quad \dashv\vdash \quad \top_{[o]} \quad \otimes \quad \top_{[\delta]}$$


$$\top_{[p]} \quad \dashv\vdash \quad \top_{[o]} \quad \otimes \quad \top_{[\delta]}$$


$$\top_{[p]} \quad \dashv\vdash \quad \top_{[o]} \quad \otimes \quad \top_{[\delta]}$$


Why ℓ -terms, not logical preterms?

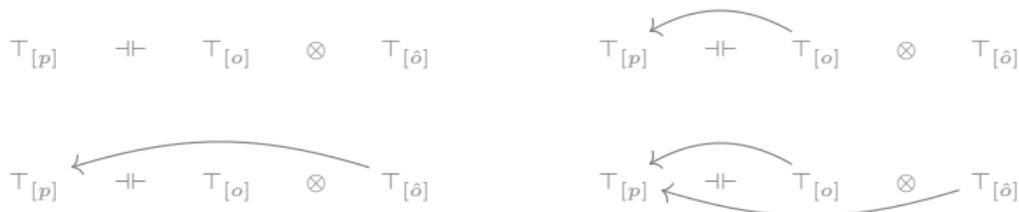
There is one non-logical term and three logical terms



but they must all coincide (as $\top \cong \top \otimes \top$).

Why ℓ -terms, not logical preterms?

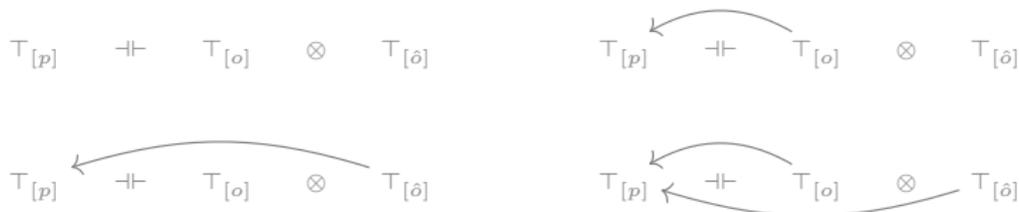
There is one non-logical term and three logical terms



but they must all coincide (as $\top \cong \top \otimes \top$). Only the last is an ℓ -term.

Why ℓ -terms, not logical preterms?

There is one non-logical term and three logical terms

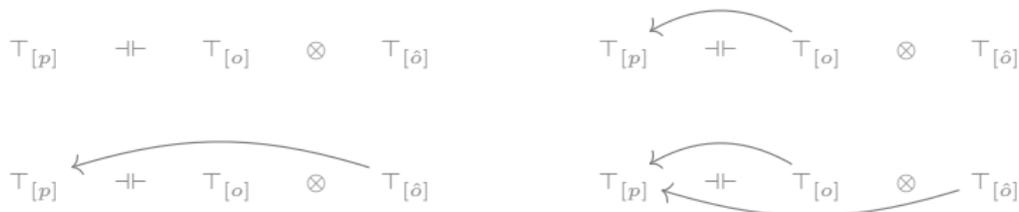


but they must all coincide (as $\top \cong \top \otimes \top$). Only the last is an ℓ -term.

There are two logical preterms

Why ℓ -terms, not logical preterms?

There is one non-logical term and three logical terms



but they must all coincide (as $\top \cong \top \otimes \top$). Only the last is an ℓ -term.

There are two logical preterms

$$\perp_{[r]}, \quad \perp_{[o]} \multimap 1 \dashv\vdash 1$$

Why ℓ -terms, not logical preterms?

There is one non-logical term and three logical terms

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \top_{[p]} & \dashv\vdash & \top_{[o]} \otimes \top_{[\delta]} \\
 & \curvearrowright & \\
 \top_{[p]} & \dashv\vdash & \top_{[o]} \otimes \top_{[\delta]}
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 \top_{[p]} & \dashv\vdash & \top_{[o]} \otimes \top_{[\delta]} \\
 & \curvearrowright & \\
 \top_{[p]} & \dashv\vdash & \top_{[o]} \otimes \top_{[\delta]}
 \end{array}$$

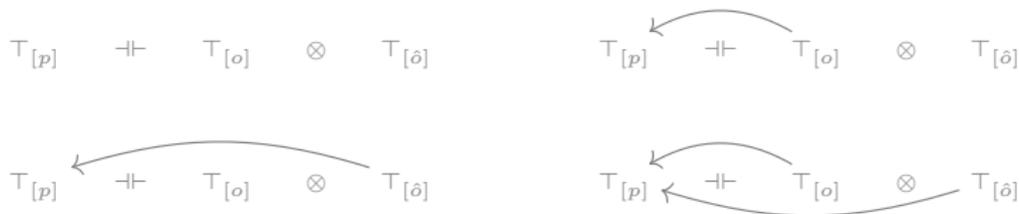
but they must all coincide (as $\top \cong \top \otimes \top$). Only the last is an ℓ -term.

There are two logical preterms

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \perp_{[r]}, & \perp_{[o]} \multimap 1 & \dashv\vdash & 1 \\
 & \curvearrowright & \\
 \perp_{[r]}, & \perp_{[o]} \multimap 1 & \dashv\vdash & 1
 \end{array}$$

Why ℓ -terms, not logical preterms?

There is one non-logical term and three logical terms



but they must all coincide (as $\top \cong \top \otimes \top$). Only the last is an ℓ -term.

There are two logical preterms



Why ℓ -terms, not logical preterms?

There is one non-logical term and three logical terms

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \top_{[p]} & \dashv\vdash & \top_{[o]} \otimes \top_{[\delta]} \\
 & \longleftarrow & \\
 \top_{[p]} & \dashv\vdash & \top_{[o]} \otimes \top_{[\delta]}
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 & \longleftarrow & \\
 \top_{[p]} & \dashv\vdash & \top_{[o]} \otimes \top_{[\delta]} \\
 & \longleftarrow & \\
 \top_{[p]} & \dashv\vdash & \top_{[o]} \otimes \top_{[\delta]}
 \end{array}$$

but they must all coincide (as $\top \cong \top \otimes \top$). Only the last is an ℓ -term.

There are two logical preterms

$$\perp_{[r]}, \quad \perp_{[o]} \multimap 1 \dashv\vdash 1
 \qquad
 \perp_{[r]}, \quad \perp_{[o]} \multimap 1 \dashv\vdash 1$$

but they must be equal.

Why ℓ -terms, not logical preterms?

There is one non-logical term and three logical terms

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \top_{[p]} & \dashv\vdash & \top_{[o]} \otimes \top_{[\delta]} \\
 & \longleftarrow & \\
 \top_{[p]} & \dashv\vdash & \top_{[o]} \otimes \top_{[\delta]}
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 & \longleftarrow & \\
 \top_{[p]} & \dashv\vdash & \top_{[o]} \otimes \top_{[\delta]} \\
 & \longleftarrow & \\
 \top_{[p]} & \dashv\vdash & \top_{[o]} \otimes \top_{[\delta]}
 \end{array}$$

but they must all coincide (as $\top \cong \top \otimes \top$). Only the last is an ℓ -term.

There are two logical preterms

$$\perp_{[r]}, \quad \perp_{[o]} \multimap 1 \dashv\vdash 1
 \qquad
 \perp_{[r]}, \quad \perp_{[o]} \multimap 1 \dashv\vdash 1$$

but they must be equal. Only the first is an ℓ -term.

The ℓ -reduction

The ℓ -reduction

The ℓ -reduction \rightarrow_ℓ transforms preterms by splitting/yanking ℓ -cuts.

The ℓ -reduction

The ℓ -reduction \rightarrow_ℓ transforms preterms by splitting/yanking ℓ -cuts.

Theorem (correctness of ℓ -reduction)

The ℓ -reduction

The ℓ -reduction \rightarrow_ℓ transforms preterms by splitting/yanking ℓ -cuts.

Theorem (correctness of ℓ -reduction)

Each ℓ -term $lt_0 :: F_0$ has a finite sequence $(lt_{i-1} :: F_{i-1} \rightarrow_\ell lt_i :: F_i)_{i=1}^n$ of ℓ -reduction, and any of these sequences satisfies

The ℓ -reduction

The **ℓ -reduction** \rightarrow_ℓ transforms preterms by splitting/yanking ℓ -cuts.

Theorem (correctness of ℓ -reduction)

Each ℓ -term $lt_0 :: F_0$ has a finite sequence $(lt_{i-1} :: F_{i-1} \rightarrow_\ell lt_i :: F_i)_{i=1}^n$ of ℓ -reduction, and any of these sequences satisfies

- ① $F_n = \Gamma \dashv\vdash \Phi$ if $F_0 = \Gamma \dashv \Sigma \vdash \Phi$;

The ℓ -reduction

The ℓ -**reduction** \rightarrow_ℓ transforms preterms by splitting/yanking ℓ -cuts.

Theorem (correctness of ℓ -reduction)

Each ℓ -term $lt_0 :: F_0$ has a finite sequence $(lt_{i-1} :: F_{i-1} \rightarrow_\ell lt_i :: F_i)_{i=1}^n$ of ℓ -reduction, and any of these sequences satisfies

- ① $F_n = \Gamma \Vdash \Phi$ if $F_0 = \Gamma \dashv \Sigma \vdash \Phi$;
- ② $lt_n :: F_n$ is unique for $lt_0 :: F_0$,

where $\text{nf}_\ell(lt_0 :: F_0) := lt_n :: F_n$ is called the **normal form** of $lt_0 :: F_0$.

The ℓ -reduction

The ℓ -**reduction** \rightarrow_ℓ transforms preterms by splitting/yanking ℓ -cuts.

Theorem (correctness of ℓ -reduction)

Each ℓ -term $lt_0 :: F_0$ has a finite sequence $(lt_{i-1} :: F_{i-1} \rightarrow_\ell lt_i :: F_i)_{i=1}^n$ of ℓ -reduction, and any of these sequences satisfies

- ① $F_n = \Gamma \dashv\vdash \Phi$ if $F_0 = \Gamma \dashv \Sigma \vdash \Phi$;
- ② $lt_n :: F_n$ is unique for $lt_0 :: F_0$,

where $\text{nf}_\ell(lt_0 :: F_0) := lt_n :: F_n$ is called the **normal form** of $lt_0 :: F_0$.

By this theorem, the ℓ -**equivalence**

$$lt :: F \simeq_\ell lt' :: F' :\Leftrightarrow \text{nf}_\ell(lt :: F) = \text{nf}_\ell(lt' :: F')$$

between ℓ -terms is a well-defined equivalence.

Plan of the talk

- 1 Background and motivation
- 2 The ℓ -calculus
- 3 Picturing linear categories**
- 4 Application

The initiality theorem

The initiality theorem

Theorem (a graphical initial linear category)

*The ℓ -calculus forms an **initial** linear category $\text{Cl}(\ell)$.*

The initiality theorem

Theorem (a graphical initial linear category)

*The ℓ -calculus forms an **initial** linear category $\text{Cl}(\ell)$.*

- An object is a formula in intuitionistic linear logic;

The initiality theorem

Theorem (a graphical initial linear category)

*The ℓ -calculus forms an **initial** linear category $\text{Cl}(\ell)$.*

- An object is a formula in intuitionistic linear logic;
- A morphism $A \rightarrow B$ is the ℓ -eq. class $[lt :: F]_\ell$ of an ℓ -term $lt :: F$ such that $F = T_A \multimap \Sigma \vdash T_B$, where $\underline{T}_A = A$;

The initiality theorem

Theorem (a graphical initial linear category)

The ℓ -calculus forms an *initial* linear category $\text{Cl}(\ell)$.

- An object is a formula in intuitionistic linear logic;
- A morphism $A \rightarrow B$ is the ℓ -eq. class $[lt :: F]_\ell$ of an ℓ -term $lt :: F$ such that $F = T_A \multimap \Sigma \vdash T_B$, where $\underline{T}_A = A$;
- The composition $A \xrightarrow{[lt::F]_\ell} B \xrightarrow{[lu::G]_\ell} C$, where

$$t :: F = t_A : T_A \multimap t_\Sigma : \Sigma \vdash t_B : T_B,$$

$$u :: G = u_B : T_B \multimap u_\Pi : \Pi \vdash u_C : T_C,$$

The initiality theorem

Theorem (a graphical initial linear category)

The ℓ -calculus forms an *initial* linear category $\text{Cl}(\ell)$.

- An object is a formula in intuitionistic linear logic;
- A morphism $A \rightarrow B$ is the ℓ -eq. class $[lt :: F]_\ell$ of an ℓ -term $lt :: F$ such that $F = T_A \multimap \Sigma \vdash T_B$, where $\underline{T}_A = A$;
- The composition $A \xrightarrow{[lt::F]_\ell} B \xrightarrow{[lu::G]_\ell} C$, where

$$\begin{aligned} t :: F &= t_A : T_A \multimap t_\Sigma : \Sigma \vdash t_B : T_B, \\ u :: G &= u_B : T_B \multimap u_\Pi : \Pi \vdash u_C : T_C, \end{aligned}$$

is the ℓ -eq. class of the ℓ -form of the logical preterm

$$t_A : T_A \multimap t_\Sigma : \Sigma, t_B \cup u_B : \varsigma(T_B, T_B), u_\Pi : \Pi \vdash u_C : T_C;$$

The initiality theorem

Theorem (a graphical initial linear category)

The ℓ -calculus forms an *initial* linear category $\text{Cl}(\ell)$.

- An object is a formula in intuitionistic linear logic;
- A morphism $A \rightarrow B$ is the ℓ -eq. class $[lt :: F]_\ell$ of an ℓ -term $lt :: F$ such that $F = T_A \multimap \Sigma \vdash T_B$, where $\underline{T}_A = A$;
- The composition $A \xrightarrow{[lt::F]_\ell} B \xrightarrow{[lu::G]_\ell} C$, where

$$\begin{aligned} t :: F &= t_A : T_A \multimap t_\Sigma : \Sigma \vdash t_B : T_B, \\ u :: G &= u_B : T_B \multimap u_\Pi : \Pi \vdash u_C : T_C, \end{aligned}$$

is the ℓ -eq. class of the ℓ -form of the logical preterm

$$t_A : T_A \multimap t_\Sigma : \Sigma, t_B \cup u_B : \varsigma(T_B, T_B), u_\Pi : \Pi \vdash u_C : T_C;$$

- The identity $\text{id}_A : A \rightarrow A$ links pairs of corresponding moves.

Plan of the talk

- 1 Background and motivation
- 2 The ℓ -calculus
- 3 Picturing linear categories
- 4 Application

The triple unit problem (1/2)

The triple unit problem (1/2)

Corollary (triple unit)

The initial linear category has just one morphism

$$((\top \multimap \top) \multimap \top) \multimap \top \rightarrow ((\top \multimap \top) \multimap \top) \multimap \top,$$

and just two morphisms

$$((X \multimap \top) \multimap \top) \multimap \top \rightrightarrows ((X \multimap \top) \multimap \top) \multimap \top.$$

The triple unit problem (1/2)

Corollary (triple unit)

The initial linear category has just one morphism

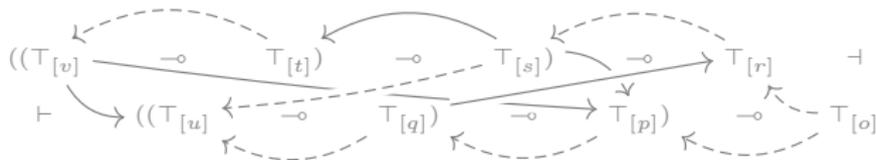
$$((\top \multimap \top) \multimap \top) \multimap \top \rightarrow ((\top \multimap \top) \multimap \top) \multimap \top,$$

and just two morphisms

$$((X \multimap \top) \multimap \top) \multimap \top \rightrightarrows ((X \multimap \top) \multimap \top) \multimap \top.$$

Proof.

For the first part, there is just one ℓ -term

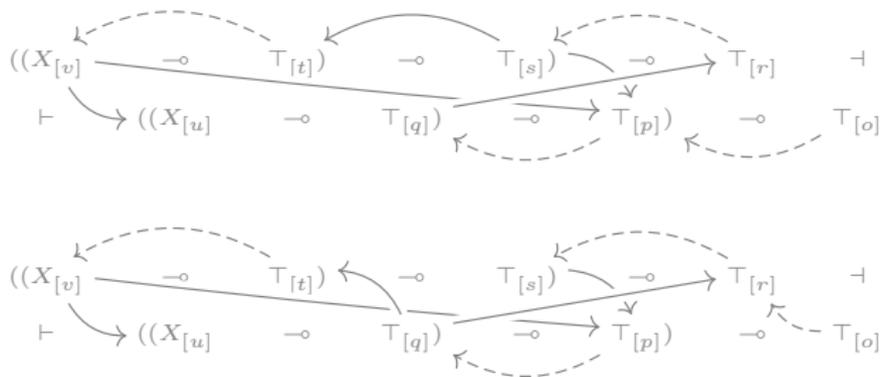


The triple unit problem (2/2)

The triple unit problem (2/2)

Proof (continued).

For the second part, there are just two ℓ -terms



The coherence theorem

The coherence theorem

Corollary (coherence)

*In any linear category, two parallel **canonical** natural transformations (where all the objects are parameters) are equal.*

The coherence theorem

Corollary (coherence)

*In any linear category, two parallel **canonical** natural transformations (where all the objects are parameters) are equal.*

Proof.

The coherence theorem

Corollary (coherence)

*In any linear category, two parallel **canonical** natural transformations (where all the objects are parameters) are equal.*

Proof.

Take the ℓ -terms that represent the canonical natural transformations whose parameters are given by propositional variables.

The coherence theorem

Corollary (coherence)

*In any linear category, two parallel **canonical** natural transformations (where all the objects are parameters) are equal.*

Proof.

Take the ℓ -terms that represent the canonical natural transformations whose parameters are given by propositional variables. Because they simply connect two occurrences of the same propositional variables, the coherence holds for these ℓ -terms.

The coherence theorem

Corollary (coherence)

*In any linear category, two parallel **canonical** natural transformations (where all the objects are parameters) are equal.*

Proof.

Take the ℓ -terms that represent the canonical natural transformations whose parameters are given by propositional variables. Because they simply connect two occurrences of the same propositional variables, the coherence holds for these ℓ -terms. In essentially the same fashion, the coherence holds for the canonical natural transformations in $\text{Cl}(\ell)$, and from this coherence the corollary follows by the initiality of $\text{Cl}(\ell)$.