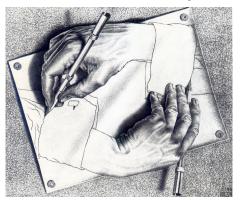
#### Jérôme Fortier, with Luigi Santocanale

# Cuts in circular proofs



Delft - February 17, 2014











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### (Circular) Definition

A natural number is either 0, or of the form suc(n) where n is a natural number.

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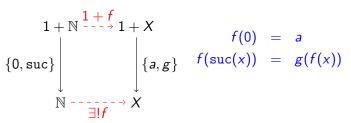
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Initial algebra!

$$1 + \mathbb{N} \xrightarrow{1+f} 1 + X \qquad f(0) = a$$

$$\{0, \operatorname{suc}\} \left( \int \operatorname{pre} \left\{ a, g \right\} \right) \qquad f(\operatorname{suc}(x)) = g(f(x))$$

$$\mathbb{N} \xrightarrow{-----} X$$

$$\mathbb{N} = \mu X.(1+X)$$



Other inductive types...

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•  $\mu X.(1 + A \times X) = A^* = \text{Finite words over } A$ 

$$\begin{array}{ccc} * & \mapsto & \varepsilon \\ \langle a, w \rangle & \mapsto & a \cdot w \end{array}$$

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•  $\mu X.(1 + A \times X \times X)$  = Finite binary labelled trees

 $* \mapsto \mathsf{Empty}\;\mathsf{tree}$ 

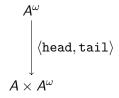
$$\langle a, T_1, T_2 \rangle \mapsto T_1 T_2$$

### (Circular) Definition

A stream over an alphabet A is made of a head  $a \in A$ , and another stream called the tail.

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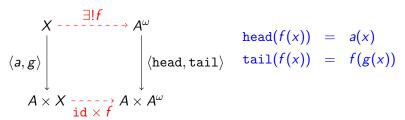
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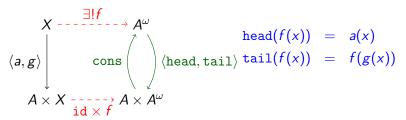
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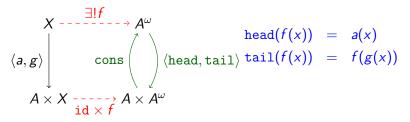
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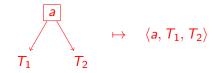
$$A^{\omega} = \nu X.(A \times X)$$



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•  $\nu X.(A \times X \times X)$  = Infinite binary labelled trees



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$$t := X \mid 1 \mid t \times t \mid 0 \mid t + t \mid \mu X.t \mid \nu X.t$$

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#### Functorial interpretation

- ×,+ = Product / Coproduct;
- 0,1 = Initial / Final object;
- $\mu X.F(X), \nu X.F(X) = \text{Initial } F\text{-algebra} / \text{Final } F\text{-coalgebra}.$

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#### **Definition**

A category C is  $\mu$ -bicomplete iff this interpretation makes sense in C.

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Priority(
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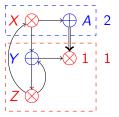
$$Y =_{\mu} 1 + Z \qquad (1)$$

$$Z =_{\mu} X \times Y \qquad (1)$$

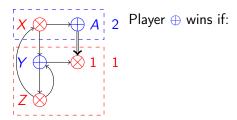
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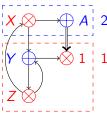
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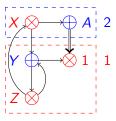
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Player  $\oplus$  wins if:

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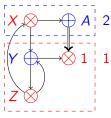
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Player ⊕ wins if:

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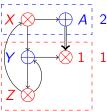


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### Theorem (Santocanale, 2002)

Solutions for variable V in  $S(t) \simeq {The set of deterministic winning strategies for <math>\oplus$  from position V.

Therefore, we have a combinatorial (dynamic) characterization of the  $\mu$ -defined objects.

### Curry-Howard correspondence

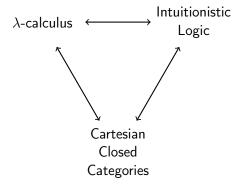
#### Goal

Find a "good" (dynamic) syntax for expressing (and computing) functions (arrows) between objects of this kind.

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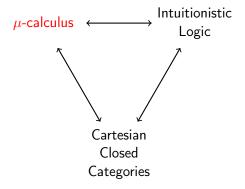
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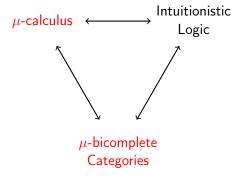
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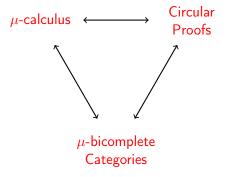
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# Inference rules (Gentzen style)

Axioms: 
$$\frac{s_{i} + t}{0 + t} LAx \qquad \frac{t + 1}{t + 1} RAx \qquad \frac{1}{t + t} Id$$
Product: 
$$\frac{s_{i} + t}{s_{0} \times s_{1} + t} L \times_{i} \qquad \frac{s + t_{0} \quad s + t_{1}}{s + t_{0} \times t_{1}} R \times$$
Coproduct: 
$$\frac{s_{0} + t \quad s_{1} + t}{s_{0} + s_{1} + t} L + \qquad \frac{s + t_{i}}{s + t_{0} + t_{1}} R +_{i}$$
Fixpoint: 
$$\frac{F(X) + t}{X + t} LFix \qquad \frac{s + F(X)}{s + X} RFix \qquad \text{if } X = F(X)$$
Cut: 
$$\frac{r + s \quad s + t}{x + t} Cut$$

# Categorical interpretation

Axioms: 
$$\frac{0 \xrightarrow{7_t} LAx}{0 \xrightarrow{7_t} t} \xrightarrow{LAx} \frac{1}{t \xrightarrow{t} 1} \xrightarrow{RAx} \frac{1}{t \xrightarrow{id_t} t} \text{ Id}$$
Product: 
$$(\text{conjunction}) \frac{s_i \xrightarrow{f} t}{s_0 \times s_1} \xrightarrow{\text{pr}_i \cdot f} t \xrightarrow{L \times_i} \frac{s \xrightarrow{f} t_0 \quad s \xrightarrow{g} t_1}{s \xrightarrow{(f,g)} t_0 \times t_1} \text{R} \times \frac{s \xrightarrow{f} t_0}{s \xrightarrow{f \cdot in_i} t_0 \times t_1}$$
Coproduct: 
$$(\text{disjunction}) \frac{s_0 \xrightarrow{f} t \quad s_1 \xrightarrow{g} t}{s_0 + s_1 \xrightarrow{f} t} \xrightarrow{L +} \frac{s \xrightarrow{f} t_i}{s \xrightarrow{f \cdot in_i} t_0 + t_1} \text{R}_{+i}$$
Fixpoint: 
$$\frac{F(X) \xrightarrow{f} t}{X \xrightarrow{X^{-1} \cdot f} t} \xrightarrow{LFix} \frac{s \xrightarrow{f} F(X)}{s \xrightarrow{f \cdot (X)} X} \text{RFix} \quad \text{if } X =_{\mu} F(X)$$

$$\frac{F(X) \xrightarrow{f} t}{X \xrightarrow{\xi_X \cdot f} t} \xrightarrow{LFix} \frac{s \xrightarrow{f} F(X)}{s \xrightarrow{f \cdot (X)} X} \text{RFix} \quad \text{if } X =_{\nu} F(X)$$
Cut: 
$$\frac{r \xrightarrow{f} s \quad s \xrightarrow{g} t}{f \cdot g} \text{Cut}$$

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$$double(0) = 0$$
  
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Solution: 
$$\frac{1+\mathbb{N} \xrightarrow{\{0, suc\}} \mathbb{N}}{1+\mathbb{N} \xrightarrow{\{1\vdash 1+N\}} \frac{\mathbb{R} + \mathbb{N}}{\mathbb{R} + \mathbb{N}}} \frac{\mathbb{R} + \mathbb{N}}{\mathbb{N} + \mathbb{N}} \frac{\mathbb{N} + \mathbb{N}}{\mathbb{N} + \mathbb{N}} \frac{\mathbb{N} + \mathbb{N}}{\mathbb{N} + \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{L} + \mathbb{N}$$
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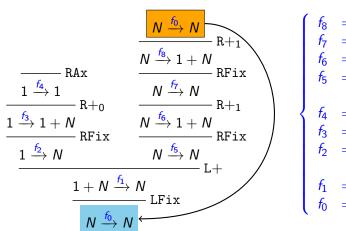
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Solution: 
$$\frac{1}{1+N} \xrightarrow{\{0, suc\}} \mathbb{N} \qquad \frac{1}{1+1} \xrightarrow{RAx} \frac{N \vdash N}{N \vdash 1+N} \xrightarrow{RFix} \frac{N \vdash N}{N \vdash N} \xrightarrow{RFix} \frac{1}{1+N} \xrightarrow{RFix} \frac{1+N \vdash N}{N \vdash N} \xrightarrow{RFix} \frac{1+N \vdash N}{N \vdash N} \xrightarrow{LFix} \frac{1+N \vdash N}{N \vdash N} \xrightarrow{L$$

# Proofs $\Rightarrow$ Systems of equations



$$egin{array}{lll} f_8 &=& f_0 \cdot ext{in}_1 \ f_7 &=& f_8 \cdot \zeta_N \ f_6 &=& f_7 \cdot ext{in}_1 \ f_5 &=& f_6 \cdot \zeta_N \ \end{array} \ egin{array}{lll} f_4 &=& !_1 \ f_3 &=& f_4 \cdot ext{in}_0 \ f_2 &=& f_3 \cdot \zeta_N \ \end{array} \ egin{array}{lll} f_1 &=& \{f_2, f_5\} \ f_0 &=& \zeta_N^{-1} \cdot f_1 \ \end{array}$$

# Proofs $\Rightarrow$ Systems of equations

$$\frac{1 \xrightarrow{f_{4}} RAx}{1 \xrightarrow{f_{4}} 1} R+0$$

$$\frac{1 \xrightarrow{f_{5}} 1+N}{1 \xrightarrow{f_{5}} N} RFix$$

$$\frac{1+N \xrightarrow{f_{5}} N}{1 \xrightarrow{f_{5}} N} L+1$$

$$\frac{1+N \xrightarrow{f_{5}} N}{1 \xrightarrow{f_{5}} N} LFix$$

Solution: 
$$f_0 = double$$



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Solution (Kupke-Rutten, 2012)

$$S \xrightarrow{\langle \text{head}, \text{even}, \text{odd} \rangle} 2 \times S \times S$$

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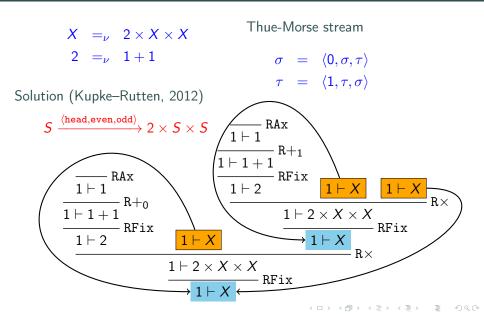
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Thue-Morse stream

$$\sigma = \langle 0, \sigma, \tau \rangle$$

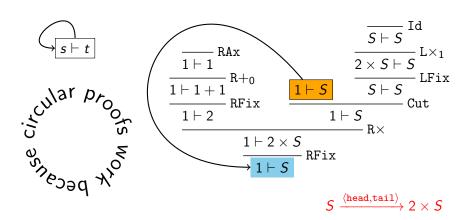
$$\tau = \langle 1, \tau, \sigma \rangle$$

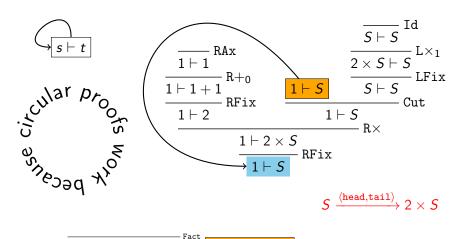


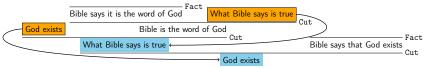




Sylesay No.







### Guard condition

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- **①** Every cycle in Π either has a left  $\mu$ -trace or a right  $\nu$ -trace.
- **2** Every infinite path  $\Gamma$  in  $\Pi$  has a tail  $\Gamma'$  that has either a left  $\mu$ -trace or a right  $\nu$ -trace and every fixpoint rule in  $\Gamma'$  occurs infinitely often.

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- **①** Every cycle in Π either has a left  $\mu$ -trace or a right  $\nu$ -trace.
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- **3** Every strongly connected component of  $\Pi$  either has a left  $\mu$ -trace or a right  $\nu$ -trace.

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#### Definition

A circular proof is a finite pre-proof that satisfies the guard conditions.

## Soundness Theorem (F.-S. 2013)

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- If Π is strongly connected: take a cycle Γ that covers Π. If Γ has a left μ-trace, split Π in parts Π<sub>i</sub> s.t. ∀i, ‡<sub>L</sub>(Π<sub>i</sub>) < ‡(Π).</li>

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Obvious for most diagrams (by contruction of the rules).

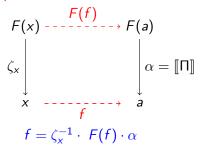
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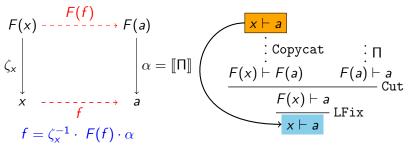
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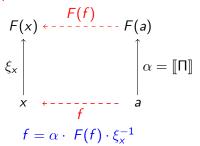
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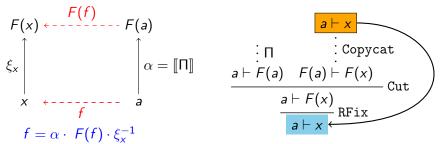
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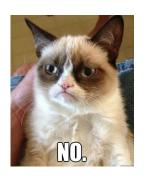


### Cut-elimination



#### Cut-elimination





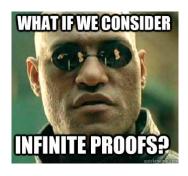
## Theorem (Santocanale, 2001)

There is no cut-free circular proof whose interpretation in Sets is the diagonal  $\Delta: \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}^2$ .

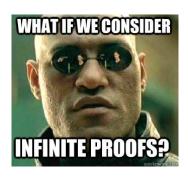
# Diagonal map (with cuts)

$$\begin{array}{c} \Delta : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^{2} \\ n \mapsto (n,n) \\ &\stackrel{1 \vdash 1}{\underset{1 \vdash 1 + N}{R}} \underset{R \vdash 0}{\overset{1}{\underset{1 \vdash 1 + N}{R}}} \\ &\stackrel{1}{\underset{1 \vdash 1 + N}{R}} \underset{R \vdash 1}{\overset{R \vdash 1}{\underset{1 \vdash 1 + N}{R}}} \\ &\stackrel{1}{\underset{1 \vdash 1 + N}{R}} \underset{R \vdash 1}{\overset{R \vdash 1}{\underset{1 \vdash 1 + N}{R}}} \\ &\stackrel{1}{\underset{1 \vdash 1}{\underset{1 \vdash N}{R}}} \\ &\stackrel{1}{\underset{1 \vdash N \vdash N}{R}} \\ &\stackrel{1}{\underset{1 \vdash N \vdash$$

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$$\frac{t_0 \vdash t_1 \quad t_1 \vdash t_2}{\frac{t_0 \vdash t_2}{t_0 \vdash t_3}} \texttt{Cut} \qquad \underbrace{t_2 \vdash t_3}_{\texttt{Cut}} \texttt{Cut}$$

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$$\frac{t_0 \vdash t_1 \quad t_1 \vdash t_2 \quad t_2 \vdash t_3}{t_0 \vdash t_3} \operatorname{Cut}$$

### Definition

A tape is a finite list  $M := [u_1, \ldots, u_n]$  of composable vertices of  $\Pi$ .

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# Cut Man - A tape automaton

- Finite state machine (over a circular proof Π).
- Carries a tape (of states) in memory.
- Outputs a branch (chosen nondeterministically) of the cut-free infinite proof tree.

$$\frac{0 \vdash t_1}{0 \vdash t_1} \xrightarrow{\text{LAx}} t_1 \vdash t_2 \cdots \underbrace{\text{Cut}}$$

$$\frac{0 \vdash t_1}{0 \vdash t_n} \xrightarrow{LAx} t_1 \vdash t_2 \cdots \underbrace{Cut} \qquad \frac{\bot Flip}{0 \vdash t_n} \bot LAx$$

$$\frac{\overbrace{0 \vdash t_1}^{\text{LAx}} \underbrace{t_1 \vdash t_2 \quad \cdots}_{0 \vdash t_n} \text{Cut}}{0 \vdash t_n} \xrightarrow{\text{Cut}} \frac{\text{LFlip}}{0 \vdash t_n} \text{LAx}$$

$$\frac{F(X) \vdash t_1}{X \vdash t_1} \text{LFix} \underbrace{t_1 \vdash t_2 \quad \cdots}_{X \vdash t_n} \text{Cut}$$

$$\frac{0 \vdash t_1}{0 \vdash t_n} \xrightarrow{LAx} \underbrace{t_1 \vdash t_2 \cdots}_{Cut} \xrightarrow{Cut} \xrightarrow{\text{Cut}} \frac{1}{0 \vdash t_n} LAx$$

$$\frac{(X) \vdash t_1}{X \vdash t_1} LFix \underbrace{t_1 \vdash t_2 \cdots}_{X \vdash t_n} Cut$$

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$$\frac{\overline{0 \vdash t_1} \overset{\text{LAx}}{t_1 \vdash t_2} \cdots}{0 \vdash t_n} \overset{\text{Cut}}{\longrightarrow} \frac{ \overset{\text{LFlip}}{\longrightarrow} }{0 \vdash t_n} \overset{\text{LAx}}{\longrightarrow} \frac{ }{0 \vdash t_n} \overset{\text{LAx}}{\longrightarrow} \overset{\text{LFlip}}{\longrightarrow} \frac{ }{X \vdash t_n} \overset{\text{LFlip}}{\longrightarrow} \overset{\text{Cut}}{\longrightarrow} \overset{\text{Cut}}{\longrightarrow} \frac{ }{X \vdash t_n} \overset{\text{LFlip}}{\longrightarrow} \overset{\text{Cut}}{\longrightarrow} \overset{\text{Cut}}{$$

# Commutative reductions (left)

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$$\frac{\overline{0 \vdash t_1} \overset{LAx}{t_1 \vdash t_2} \cdots}{0 \vdash t_n} \overset{Cut}{\longrightarrow} \frac{ \overset{LFlip}{ }}{0 \vdash t_n} \overset{LAx}{ }$$

$$\frac{F(X) \vdash t_1}{X \vdash t_1} \overset{LFix}{LFix} \overset{t_1 \vdash t_2}{\longrightarrow} \cdots \overset{Cut}{\longrightarrow} \frac{ \overset{LFlip}{ }}{X \vdash t_n} \overset{F(X) \vdash t_1}{\longrightarrow} \overset{t_1 \vdash t_2}{\longrightarrow} \cdots \overset{Cut}{\longrightarrow} \frac{ X \vdash t_n}{X \vdash t_n} \overset{LFlip}{ } \overset{S_k \vdash t_1}{\longrightarrow} \overset{LFlip}{\longleftarrow} \overset{S_k \vdash t_1}{\longrightarrow} \overset{LFlip}{\longleftarrow} \overset{S_k \vdash t_1}{\longrightarrow} \overset{LFlip}{\longleftarrow} \overset{S_0 \vdash t_1}{\longrightarrow} \overset{t_1 \vdash t_2}{\longrightarrow} \cdots \overset{Cut}{\longrightarrow} \frac{ S_0 \vdash t_1}{\longrightarrow} \overset{t_1 \vdash t_2}{\longrightarrow} \cdots \overset{Cut}{\longrightarrow} \overset{S_0 \vdash t_1}{\longrightarrow} \overset{t_1 \vdash t_2}{\longrightarrow} \overset{Cut}{\longrightarrow} \overset{S_0 \vdash t_1}{\longrightarrow} \overset{Cut}{\longrightarrow} \overset{S_0 \vdash t_1}{\longrightarrow} \overset{t_1 \vdash t_2}{\longrightarrow} \overset{Cut}{\longrightarrow} \overset{S_0 \vdash t_1}{\longrightarrow} \overset{Cut}{\longrightarrow} \overset{Cu$$

# Commutative reductions (right)

$$\frac{\cdots \quad t_{n-2} \vdash t_{n-1} \quad \overline{t_{n-1} \vdash 1}}{t_0 \vdash 1} \overset{\mathsf{RAx}}{\mathsf{Cut}} \qquad \frac{\mathsf{RFlip}}{\mathsf{Tol}} \qquad \frac{\mathsf{RFlip}}{t_0 \vdash 1} \overset{\mathsf{RAx}}{\mathsf{RAx}}$$

$$\frac{\cdots \quad t_{n-2} \vdash t_{n-1} \quad t_{n-1} \vdash F(X)}{t_{n-1} \vdash X} \overset{\mathsf{RFlip}}{\mathsf{Cut}} \qquad \frac{\mathsf{RFlip}}{\mathsf{Tol}} \qquad \frac{\mathsf{RFlip}}{t_0 \vdash X} \overset{\mathsf{Cut}}{\mathsf{RFix}} \overset{\mathsf{Cut}}{\mathsf{RFix}} \overset{\mathsf{Cut}}{\mathsf{Cut}}$$

$$\frac{t_{n-1} \vdash s_k}{t_0 \vdash s_0 + s_1} \overset{\mathsf{R}_{+k}}{\mathsf{RFix}} \overset{\mathsf{RFlip}}{\mathsf{Cut}} \qquad \frac{t_{n-1} \vdash s_k}{t_0 \vdash s_0 + s_1} \overset{\mathsf{Cut}}{\mathsf{Cut}} \overset{\mathsf{Cut}}{\mathsf{Cut}} \overset{\mathsf{RFlip}}{\mathsf{Cut}} \overset{\mathsf{Cut}}{\mathsf{Cut}} \overset{\mathsf{Cut}}{\mathsf$$

#### Elimination of identities

$$\frac{\cdots \quad t_{i-1} \vdash s \quad \frac{}{s \vdash s} \text{ Id } s \vdash t_{i+2} \quad \cdots}{t_0 \vdash t_n} \text{Cut}$$

### Elimination of identities

 $IdElim(M, i) = Remove u_i from M.$ 



Otherwise, 
$$M = [R \dots RL \dots L]$$
.

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.

$$\frac{ \cdots \frac{t_{i-1} \vdash s_0 \quad t_{i-1} \vdash s_1}{t_{i-1} \vdash s_0 \times s_1} \, \mathbf{R} \times \ \frac{s_k \vdash t_{i+1}}{s_0 \times s_1 \vdash t_{i+1}} \, \mathbf{L} \times_k}{t_0 \vdash t_n} }{\mathsf{Cut}}$$

$$\underbrace{ \cdots \frac{t_{i-1} \vdash s_0 \quad t_{i-1} \vdash s_1}{t_{i-1} \vdash s_0 \times s_1} \, \mathbb{R} \times \, \frac{s_k \vdash t_{i+1}}{s_0 \times s_1 \vdash t_{i+1}} \, \mathbb{L} \times_k}_{t_0 \vdash t_n} \, \overset{\mathsf{Reduce}}{\longrightarrow} \quad \underbrace{ \frac{ \vdash t_{i-1} \vdash s_k \quad s_k \vdash t_{i+1} \quad \cdots}{t_0 \vdash t_n} \, \mathsf{Cut} }_{\mathsf{Cut}}$$

$$\stackrel{\text{deduce}}{\Longrightarrow} \frac{\cdots \quad t_{i-1} \vdash s_k \quad s_k \vdash t_{i+1} \quad \cdots}{t_0 \vdash t_n}$$

$$\frac{t_{i-1} \vdash s_0 \quad t_{i-1} \vdash s_1}{t_{i-1} \vdash s_0 \times s_1} \operatorname{R} \times \frac{s_k \vdash t_{i+1}}{s_0 \times s_1 \vdash t_{i+1}} \operatorname{L} \times_k \dots \atop t_0 \vdash t_n}{\operatorname{Cut}} \xrightarrow{ \operatorname{Reduce} \atop t_0 \vdash t_n} \frac{\cdots \quad t_{i-1} \vdash s_k \quad s_k \vdash t_{i+1} \quad \cdots}{t_0 \vdash t_n} \operatorname{Cut}$$

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$$\frac{t_{i-1} \vdash s_k}{t_{i-1} \vdash s_0 + s_1} \operatorname{R} +_k \frac{s_0 \vdash t_{i+1} \quad s_1 \vdash t_{i+1}}{s_0 \vdash s_1 \vdash t_{i+1}} \operatorname{L} + \cdots}{t_0 \vdash t_n} \operatorname{Cut} \xrightarrow{ \text{Reduce} } \frac{\cdots \quad t_{i-1} \vdash s_k \quad s_k \vdash t_{i+1} \quad \cdots}{t_0 \vdash t_n} \operatorname{Cut}$$

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$$\frac{t_{i-1} \vdash F(X)}{t_{i-1} \vdash X} \, \mathbb{R}Fix} \, \underbrace{\frac{F(X) \vdash t_{i+1}}{X \vdash t_{i+1}} \, \mathbb{L}Fix}_{t_1 \vdash t_n} \, \mathbb{C}ut } \xrightarrow{\mathbb{C}ut}$$

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$$\frac{t_{i-1} \vdash s_k}{t_{i-1} \vdash s_0 + s_1} \operatorname{RFix} \frac{F(X) \vdash t_{i+1}}{X \vdash t_{i+1}} \operatorname{LFix} \dots \underbrace{t_1 \vdash t_n} \operatorname{Cut}$$

$$\frac{t_{i-1} \vdash F(X)}{t_{i-1} \vdash X} \operatorname{RFix} \frac{F(X) \vdash t_{i+1}}{X \vdash t_{i+1}} \operatorname{LFix} \dots \underbrace{t_1 \vdash t_n} \operatorname{Cut}$$

$$\frac{\operatorname{Reduce}}{t_0 \vdash t_n} \stackrel{\dots \quad t_{i-1} \vdash F(X)}{t_0 \vdash t_n} \operatorname{Cut}$$

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## Theorem (F.-S., 2013)

For every input tape M, the internal phase halts!

$$M_1 = \begin{bmatrix} u_{11} & u_{12} & u_{13} \end{bmatrix}$$

Merge  $\downarrow$ 
 $M_2 = \begin{bmatrix} u_{21} & u_{22} & u_{23} & u_{24} \end{bmatrix}$ 

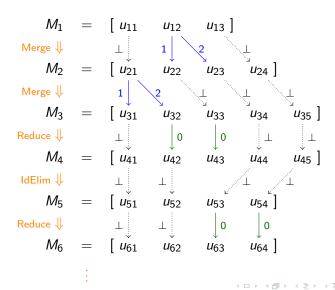
Merge  $\downarrow$ 
 $M_3 = \begin{bmatrix} u_{31} & u_{32} & u_{33} & u_{34} & u_{35} \end{bmatrix}$ 

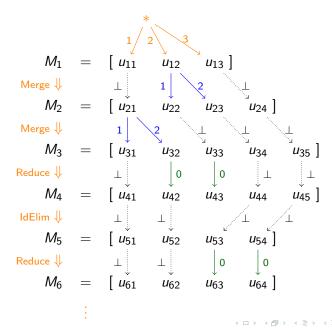
Reduce  $\downarrow$ 
 $M_4 = \begin{bmatrix} u_{41} & u_{42} & u_{43} & u_{44} & u_{45} \end{bmatrix}$ 

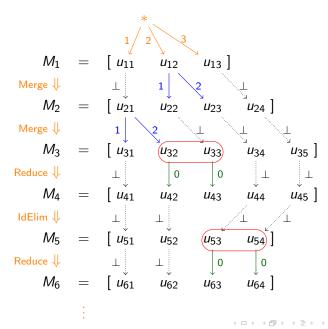
IdElim  $\downarrow$ 
 $M_5 = \begin{bmatrix} u_{51} & u_{52} & u_{53} & u_{54} \end{bmatrix}$ 

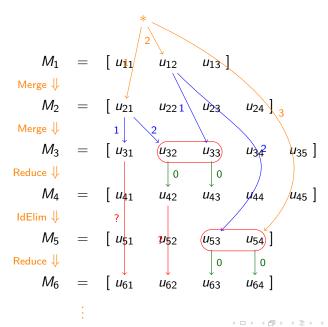
Reduce  $\downarrow$ 
 $M_6 = \begin{bmatrix} u_{61} & u_{62} & u_{63} & u_{64} \end{bmatrix}$ 

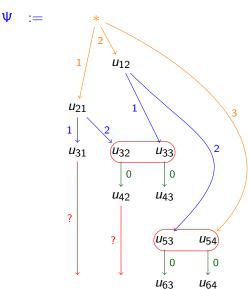
$$M_1 = \begin{bmatrix} u_{11} & u_{12} & u_{13} \end{bmatrix}$$
 $Merge \Downarrow \qquad \qquad 1 \downarrow \qquad 2$ 
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 $Reduce \Downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow 0 \qquad \downarrow 0$ 
 $M_4 = \begin{bmatrix} u_{41} & u_{42} & u_{43} & u_{44} & u_{45} \end{bmatrix}$ 
 $IdElim \Downarrow \qquad \qquad M_5 = \begin{bmatrix} u_{51} & u_{52} & u_{53} & u_{54} \end{bmatrix}$ 
 $Reduce \Downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow 0 \qquad \downarrow 0$ 
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 $\bullet$   $\Psi$  is an infinite finitely branching tree.

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- The set  $\mathcal{B}_{\infty}(\Psi)$  of its infinite branches is non-empty. (Kőnig)

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### Lemma (F.-S., 2013)

- **1** The least infinite branch of  $\Psi$  is a  $\nu$ -branch.
- **2** Let E be a nonempty collection of  $\nu$ -branches and let  $\gamma = \bigvee E$ . Then  $\gamma$  is a  $\nu$ -branch.
- 3 If  $\beta$  is a  $\nu$ -branch, then there exists another  $\nu$ -branch  $\beta' \succ \beta$ .

Let

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Cut-elimination is a generic algorithm for computing all the  $\mu$ -definable functions.

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• What about higher order pushdown trees?

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- Philosophical question: What is the meaning of circularity in mathematical reasoning?

