

Soft Linear Set Theory

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Abstract

A formulation of naive set theory is given in Lafont’s Soft Linear Logic, a logic with polynomial time cut-elimination. We demonstrate that the provably total functions of this set theory are precisely the PTIME functions. A novelty of this approach is the representation of the unary/binary natural numbers by two distinct sets (the safe naturals and the soft naturals).

1 Introduction

The observation that contraction is essential for Russell’s paradox, and that moreover the logic given by adding unrestricted comprehension to what is now known as **MALL** yields a consistent logic, seems to have been made first by Grishin, in [9] (see [10] for an exposition in English of these results). While this logic is certainly powerful in some regards (for example, in [4] it is proved that in it one may represent pure combinatory logic), it is computationally very weak. The search for more expressive naïve set theories leads to in a surprising direction: the characterisation of complexity classes of functions and in particular of the polynomial time functions.

Girard, in his paper Light Linear Logic [7], introduced the notion of intrinsic poly-time normalization, whereby a logical system (a system of sequent calculus, proof nets or lambda terms) has normalization polynomially bounded by some property of the proofs/terms, independent of the complexity of any cuts involved. Thus, for example, a proof net in Light Linear Logic normalizes after a number of steps

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bounded by a polynomial whose degree depends only on the nesting of its exponentials. Girard makes the observation that it is precisely this property (bounds on cut-elimination are independent of cut-rank) which allows for a consistent extension into naïve set theory, and gives an overview in the appendix of [7], including an (unproved) claim that the provably total functions of this system are precisely the polytime functions.

Owing to complications in the proof theory of light linear logic, details of a set theory with light exponentials did not appear until [16], which establishes this polytime representation property for Light Affine Set Theory (**LAST**). **LAST** is based on Light Affine Logic[1], a system which, by virtue of unrestricted contraction, has a simpler presentation as a sequent calculus.

While light logics have been very successful in capturing the polytime functions, they suffer from the presence of the paragraph modality §, meaning that light logics are not subsystems of Linear Logic.

Lafont’s Soft Linear Logic [11] is another logic which captures the polynomial time functions. Unlike Light Linear/Affine Logic, it is a fragment of linear logic (that is, it does not include the paragraph modality), and additionally it has a very simple sequent calculus presentation. It is natural to consider whether SLL with unrestricted comprehension also captures the polytime functions. This is the question addressed in this paper. We will see that this is the case.

2 Soft Linear Logic

Soft Linear Logic [11] is a system based on the same language as Linear Logic [5], and whose cut-elimination enjoys a polynomial bound. The logic arises by observing that the usual exponential rules of linear logic

$$\frac{!\Gamma \vdash A}{!\Gamma \vdash !A} \quad \frac{\Gamma, A \vdash C}{\Gamma, !A \vdash C} \quad \frac{\Gamma, !A, !A \vdash C}{\Gamma, !A \vdash C} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash C}{\Gamma, !A \vdash C}$$

are interderivable with the rules *soft promotion*, *digging* and *multiplexing*:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A}{!\Gamma \vdash !A} \quad \frac{\Gamma, !!A \vdash C}{\Gamma, !A \vdash C} \quad \frac{\Gamma, A^{(n)} \vdash C}{\Gamma, !A \vdash C}$$

Second-order Soft Linear Logic (**SLL**₂) is the fragment of second-order Linear Logic with the usual exponentials replaced by soft promotion and multiplexing. Since we omit digging, we also cannot cover the usual !-contraction rule of linear logic.

Lafont gives a system of proof nets for this logic, and gives a proof that each net

$\frac{}{A \vdash A} \text{Ax}$		
$\frac{\Gamma, A, B \vdash C}{\Gamma, A \otimes B \vdash C} \otimes L$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad \Gamma' \vdash B}{\Gamma, \Gamma' \vdash A \otimes B}$	
$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \Delta}{\Gamma, \mathbf{1} \vdash C} \mathbf{1}L$	$\frac{}{\vdash \mathbf{1}} \mathbf{1}R$	
$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad \Delta, B \vdash C}{\Gamma, \Delta, A \multimap B \vdash C} \multimap L$	$\frac{\Gamma, A \vdash B}{\Gamma \vdash A \multimap B} \multimap R$	
$\frac{\Gamma \vdash B}{\Gamma \vdash A \oplus B} \oplus R$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A}{\Gamma \vdash A \oplus B} \oplus R$	$\frac{\Gamma, A \vdash C \quad \Gamma, B \vdash C}{\Gamma, A \oplus B \vdash C} \oplus L$
$\frac{}{\Gamma, \mathbf{0} \vdash \Delta} \mathbf{0}L$		
$\frac{\Gamma \vdash C}{!\Gamma \vdash C} \text{SP}$	$\frac{\Gamma, A^{(n)} \vdash C}{\Gamma, !A \vdash C} \text{mplx}$	
$\frac{A[x := t], \Gamma \vdash C}{\forall x.A, \Gamma \vdash C} \forall L$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash C}{\Gamma \vdash \forall x.C} \forall R$	
$\frac{\Gamma, A \vdash C}{\Gamma, \exists x.A \vdash C} \exists L$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash C[x := t]}{\Gamma \vdash \exists x.C} \exists R$	
$\frac{A[x := t], \Gamma \vdash C}{t \in \{x A\}, \Gamma \vdash C} \in L$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash C[x := t]}{\Gamma \vdash t \in \{x A\}} \in R$	
$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A, \Delta \quad \Gamma', A \vdash \Delta'}{\Gamma, \Gamma' \vdash \Delta, \Delta'} \text{Cut}$		

Table 1
Soft Linear Set Theory

reduces to a unique normal form in a number of steps bounded polynomially – this bound has degree given by the nesting of exponentials in the proof net.

Lafont proceeds to define a type of natural numbers

$$N := \forall \alpha. !(\alpha \multimap \alpha) \multimap \alpha \multimap \alpha$$

and to give representations of functions on those natural numbers. A quirk of the system is that these functions are not typable $N \multimap N$, or even $!N \multimap N$; for example, successor is represented by the following proof:

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{\alpha \vdash \alpha \quad \alpha \vdash \alpha}{\alpha, \alpha \multimap \alpha \vdash \alpha} \multimap \text{L} \\
\frac{\alpha \vdash \alpha}{\alpha, \alpha \multimap \alpha \vdash \alpha} \multimap \text{L} \\
\frac{\alpha, \alpha \multimap \alpha, \alpha \multimap \alpha \vdash \alpha}{\alpha \multimap \alpha, \alpha \multimap \alpha \vdash \alpha \multimap \alpha} \multimap \text{R} \\
\frac{\alpha \multimap \alpha, \alpha \multimap \alpha \vdash \alpha \multimap \alpha \quad !(\alpha \multimap \alpha) \vdash !(\alpha \multimap \alpha)}{!(\alpha \multimap \alpha), (\alpha \multimap \alpha), !(\alpha \multimap \alpha) \multimap \alpha \multimap \alpha \vdash \alpha \multimap \alpha} \multimap \text{L} \\
\frac{!(\alpha \multimap \alpha), (\alpha \multimap \alpha), !(\alpha \multimap \alpha) \multimap \alpha \multimap \alpha \vdash \alpha \multimap \alpha}{!(\alpha \multimap \alpha) \otimes (\alpha \multimap \alpha), !(\alpha \multimap \alpha) \multimap \alpha \multimap \alpha \vdash \alpha \multimap \alpha} \otimes \text{L} \\
\frac{!(\alpha \multimap \alpha) \otimes (\alpha \multimap \alpha), !(\alpha \multimap \alpha) \multimap \alpha \multimap \alpha \vdash \alpha \multimap \alpha}{!(\alpha \multimap \alpha) \multimap \alpha \multimap \alpha \vdash !(\alpha \multimap \alpha) \otimes (\alpha \multimap \alpha) \multimap \alpha \multimap \alpha} \multimap \text{R} \\
\frac{!(\alpha \multimap \alpha) \multimap \alpha \multimap \alpha \vdash !(\alpha \multimap \alpha) \otimes (\alpha \multimap \alpha) \multimap \alpha \multimap \alpha}{\forall \alpha. !(\alpha \multimap \alpha) \multimap \alpha \multimap \alpha \vdash \forall \alpha. !(\alpha \multimap \alpha) \otimes (\alpha \multimap \alpha) \multimap \alpha \multimap \alpha} \forall \text{L}, \forall \text{R}
\end{array}$$

and the type of the codomain varies with the function being represented.

Lafont gives a type B of booleans, and demonstrates that for any polytime predicate $A(w)$ on the boolean words W , there is a \mathbf{SLL}_2 proof of $W^n \vdash B$ corresponding to that predicate; this completes the proof that \mathbf{SLL}_2 captures polytime.

3 Soft Linear Set Theory

3.1 Syntax

Our syntax mirrors that of [7] and [16], the only difference being the lack of a paragraph modality:

Definition 1 (Soft Linear Set Theory SLST) *The terms and formulae of SLST are defined simultaneously as follows:*

- Term variables x, y, z, \dots are terms;
- If A is a formula and x is a term variable then $\{x \mid A\}$ is term;
- If t and u are terms then $t \in u$ is a formula;
- $\mathbf{0}$ and $\mathbf{1}$ are formulae;

- If A and B are formulae then the following are formulae: $A \otimes B$, $A \multimap B$, $A \oplus B$, $!A$;
- If A is a formula and x is a term variable, then $\forall x.A$ and $\exists x.A$ are formulae.

We use t, u, v, \dots to denote sets, A, B, C, \dots to denote formulae, and $\Gamma, \Delta, \Sigma, \dots$ to denote multisets of formulae. If Γ stands for A_1, \dots, A_n , then $!\Gamma$ stands for $!A_1, \dots, !A_n$. The notation $A^{(d)}$ stands for $\underbrace{A, \dots, A}_{d \text{ times}}$, the notation A^d for $\underbrace{A \otimes \dots \otimes A}_{d \text{ times}}$, and the notation $!^d A$ for $\underbrace{!\dots!}_{d \text{ times}} A$.

A variable x is *bound* in $\{x \mid A\}$, $\forall x.A$ and $\exists x.A$. We will consider two terms which differ up to renaming of bound variables to be identical. We use the notation $u[x := t]$ to denote the term obtained from u by substituting t for all free occurrences of x . A similar notation is used for substitution into formulae.

The rules of **SLST** are given in Table 1. Note that we could refine our presentation by omitting the rules for \otimes , $\mathbf{1}$ and \exists — these connectives are derivable from \forall , \multimap and \in in a standard manner, as we will see later; however, since we are working in a linear environment the connective \oplus is not derivable. Note also that we could just as easily give a classical version of **SLST** — since our goal here is to prove polynomial soundness and completeness it suffices to consider the intuitionistic fragment.

Theorem 2 (Cut elimination) *If A is provable in **SLST**, it is provable without using cut.*

PROOF. By Girard’s observations about unrestricted comprehension — since cut-elimination in **SLL** does not proceed cut-rank, the extension of **SLL** by comprehension retains cut-elimination.

Corollary 3 ***SLST** does not prove $\mathbf{0}$.*

3.2 General substructural set theory

Before approaching the behaviour of the soft modality in set theory, we recall some standard properties of naïve set theory in the absence of contraction (and weakening). For more details see [14,16].

We may define an equality on terms of **SLST** by the identity of indiscernables (Leibniz’s law) — that is, two individuals are equal if they have identical properties (where here the notion of property is given by set membership).

Definition 4 (Leibniz Equality)

$$t = u := \forall x.(t \in x \multimap u \in x)$$

The following are easy to verify:

Proposition 5 • $\vdash t = t$

- $\vdash t = u \multimap (A[x := t] \multimap A[x := u])$
- $\vdash t = u \multimap u = t$
- $\vdash t = u \otimes u = r \multimap t = r$
- $\vdash t = u \multimap t = u \otimes t = u$
- $\vdash t = u \multimap \mathbf{1}$

We may now define some standard set theoretic operations:

Definition 6

$$\begin{aligned} \emptyset &:= \{x \mid \mathbf{0}\}; & \{t\} &:= \{x \mid x = t\}; \\ \{t, u\} &:= \{x \mid x = t \oplus x = u\}; & \{t_1, \dots, t_n\} &:= \{x \mid x = t_1 \oplus \dots \oplus t_n\}; \\ t \cup u &:= \{x \mid x \in t \oplus x \in u\}; & \langle t, u \rangle &:= \{\{t\}, \{t, u\}\}; \\ \langle t_1, \dots, t_n \rangle &:= \langle t_1, \langle t_2, \langle t_3, \dots, \langle t_{n-1}, t_n \rangle \dots \rangle \rangle \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Proposition 7 *The following are provable in SLST:*

- $t \notin \emptyset$;
- $t \in \{u\} \multimap t = u$;
- $t \in \{t, u\} \multimap t = u \oplus t = v$;
- $\langle t, u \rangle = \langle r, s \rangle \multimap t = r \otimes u = s$.

Strikingly, the axiom of extensionality

$$\forall x.(x \in t \multimap x \in u) \multimap t = u$$

is inconsistent, since from it we may derive unrestricted contraction (see [4,?]).

Naïve set theory also admits a powerful fixpoint theorem:

Theorem 8 (Fixpoint theorem, Girard[7], Shirahata[14], Cantini[4]) *For any formula A , there exists a term f such that*

$$t \in f \multimap A[y := f, x := t]$$

is provable for any t .

The fixpoint is given by the following: first define

$$s := \{ z \mid \exists u. \exists v. (z = \langle u, v \rangle \otimes A[y := \{ w \mid \langle w, v \rangle \in v \}, x := u]) \},$$

and then let the term f (the desired fixpoint of A) be

$$f := \{ w \mid \langle w, s \rangle \in s \}.$$

The required properties may now be easily inferred.

4 Representing sets and functions in SLST

Our goal is to show that the functions representable as terms of **SLST** are precisely the polytime functions. We give here two notions of the representation of functions in **SLST**; both identify a function with its graph, but they differ on the statement of totality.

Definition 9 (a) A set S is represented by a term s of **SLST** if there is a bijection $(\cdot)^*$ from S to the terms u such that $\vdash u \in s$ is provable in **SLS**.

(b) A function $\phi : T_1 \times \dots \times T_k \rightarrow S$ is represented by a term f of **SLST** with domains t_1, \dots, t_k and codomain s if

- i Each T_i and S are represented by t_i and s , respectively;
- ii For any any $\vec{m} \in \bar{T}$ and $n \in S$ such that $\phi(\vec{m}) = n$, $\vdash \langle \vec{m}^*, n^* \rangle \in f$; and
- iii $\vdash \forall x_1. \dots \forall x_k. \exists! y. ((!(x_1 \in t_1) \otimes \dots \otimes !(x_k \in t_k)) \multimap (y \in s \otimes \langle \vec{x}, y \rangle \in f))$

This definition is unsurprising in the context of linear logic, where the translation of an (intuitionistic) function space $A \rightarrow B$ is given by $!A \multimap B$. However, in **SLL** the lack of a digging principle means that we cannot in general compose functions:

$$!A \xrightarrow{\text{digging}} / \multimap !!A \xrightarrow{!f} \multimap !B \xrightarrow{g} \multimap C$$

Similar problems to this will arise in the composition of representable functions. To allow, in certain special cases, composition of functions, we introduce following:

Definition 10 A function $\phi : T_1 \times \dots \times T_k \rightarrow S$ is generically represented by a term f of **SLST** with domains t_1, \dots, t_k and codomain s if

- (a) Each T_i and S are represented by t_i and s , respectively;
- (b) For any any $\vec{m} \in \bar{T}$ and $n \in S$ such that $\phi(\vec{m}) = n$, $\vdash \langle \vec{m}^*, n^* \rangle \in f$; and
- (c) There exists natural numbers n_1, \dots, n_k such that

$$\vdash \forall x_1. \dots \forall x_k. \exists! y. (((x_1 \in t_1)^{n_1} \otimes \dots \otimes (x_k \in t_k)^{n_k}) \multimap (y \in s \otimes \langle \vec{x}, y \rangle \in f))$$

is generically provable in **SLST**.

Clearly, generic representability implies representability. We will write

$$f : t_1^{(n_1)} \times \dots \times t_k^{(n_k)} \rightarrow s$$

if f is a term with the third property above. We refer to the number n_i as the *multiplicity* of t_i in f .

5 Tally integers

We will need something like the tally integers to give a representation of a polynomial clock when simulating the extended transition function of a polynomial time Turing machine. While we could use induction over the length of binary words to achieve the same effect, the example of natural numbers neatly illustrates some of the properties of **SLST**.

Following [16], we represent natural numbers via ordered pairs

$$0 = \emptyset; \quad S t = \langle \emptyset, t \rangle; \quad n = S^n 0.$$

Proposition 11 (a) $S(t) \neq 0$.
 (b) $S(t) = S(s) \circ\text{-}\circ t = s$.

We may now internally define the natural numbers in **SLST**, based upon the type of natural numbers in linear logic:

Definition 12 (Soft natural numbers)

$$x \in \mathbb{N} \circ\text{-}\circ \forall \alpha (!\forall y (y \in \alpha \text{-}\circ S y \in \alpha) \text{-}\circ (0 \in \alpha \text{-}\circ x \in \alpha))$$

Proposition 13 *The term \mathbb{N} represents \mathbb{N} in **SLST**. That is, $t \in \mathbb{N}$ iff $t = n$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$*

Thus, if a term t is provably in \mathbb{N} , and for some other term s , we have $\vdash 0 \in s$ and $y \in s \vdash S y \in s$, by cut we have $\vdash t \in s$.

By instantiating α with $\{x \mid \mathbf{1}\}$, we may derive weakening for soft naturals:

Proposition 14 *The following is provable in **SLST**: $x \in \mathbb{N} \vdash \mathbf{1}$.*

PROOF. By the following derivation:

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{}{\mathbf{1} \vdash \mathbf{1}} \\
\frac{}{y \in \{x | \mathbf{1}\} \vdash \mathbf{S}y \in \{x | \mathbf{1}\}} \\
\frac{}{\vdash y \in \{x | \mathbf{1}\} \multimap \mathbf{S}y \in \{x | \mathbf{1}\}} \\
\frac{}{\vdash \forall y.(y \in \{x | \mathbf{1}\} \multimap \mathbf{S}y \in \{x | \mathbf{1}\})} \\
\frac{}{\vdash !\forall y.(y \in \{x | \mathbf{1}\} \multimap \mathbf{S}y \in \{x | \mathbf{1}\})} \\
\frac{}{!\forall y.(y \in \{x | \mathbf{1}\} \multimap \mathbf{S}y \in \{x | \mathbf{1}\}) \multimap (0 \in \{x | \mathbf{1}\} \multimap x \in \{x | \mathbf{1}\}) \vdash \mathbf{1}} \\
\frac{}{\forall \alpha.(!\forall y.(y \in \alpha \multimap \mathbf{S}y \in \alpha) \multimap (0 \in \alpha \multimap x \in \alpha)) \vdash \mathbf{1}}
\end{array}$$

The soft natural numbers exhibit a form of induction, which we will call *Soft induction over N*.

Proposition 15 *The following inference is derivable in SLST:*

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A[x := 0] \quad \Delta, A[x := y] \vdash A[x := \mathbf{S}y]}{\Gamma, !\Delta, t \in \mathbf{N} \vdash A[x := t]} \mathbf{N-ind.}$$

PROOF.

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{}{\Delta, A[x := y] \vdash A[x := \mathbf{S}y]} \in \mathbf{L}, \in \mathbf{R} \\
\frac{}{\Delta, y \in \{x | A\} \vdash \mathbf{S}y \in \{x | A\}} \multimap \mathbf{R} \\
\frac{}{\Delta \vdash y \in \{x | A\} \multimap \mathbf{S}y \in \{x | A\}} \mathbf{VL} \\
\frac{}{\Delta \vdash \forall y.(y \in \{x | A\} \multimap \mathbf{S}y \in \{x | A\})} \mathbf{SP} \\
!\Delta \vdash !\forall y.(y \in \{x | A\} \multimap \mathbf{S}y \in \{x | A\}) \\
\frac{}{\Gamma \vdash A[x := 0]} \in \mathbf{R} \quad \frac{}{A[x := t] \vdash A[x := t]} \in \mathbf{L} \\
\frac{}{\Gamma \vdash 0 \in \{x | A\}} \quad \frac{}{t \in \{x | A\} \vdash A[x := t]} \multimap \mathbf{L} \\
\frac{}{\Gamma, 0 \in \{x | A\} \multimap t \in \{x | A\} \vdash A[x := t]} \multimap \mathbf{L} \\
\frac{}{\Gamma, !\Delta, !\forall y.(y \in \{x | A\} \multimap \mathbf{S}y \in \{x | A\}) \multimap (0 \in \{x | A\} \multimap t \in \{x | A\}) \vdash A[x := t]} \multimap \mathbf{L} \\
\frac{}{\Gamma, !\Delta, t \in \mathbf{N} \vdash A[x := t]} \mathbf{VL}
\end{array}$$

However, it does not seem possible to find a non-trivial set A such that $\exists y \in \mathbf{N}. A(x, y) \vdash \exists y \in \mathbf{N}. A(\mathbf{S}x, y)$ holds; there is no obvious proof even for successor. Consider, however, the following set defined by a fixpoint:

Definition 16 (Safe natural numbers)

$$x \in \mathbf{N}' \iff x = 0 \oplus \exists y (y \in \mathbf{N}' \oplus x = \mathbf{S}y)$$

This set also represents the natural numbers in **SLST**, but unlike \mathbf{N} it is provably closed under successor.

- Proposition 17** (a) $\vdash 0 \in \mathbb{N}'$;
 (b) $t \in \mathbb{N}' \vdash \mathbf{S}t \in \mathbb{N}'$;
 (c) $t \in \mathbb{N}'$ iff $t \in \mathbb{N}$ iff $t = n$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$

Of course, the final part of the preceding is a metatheorem, but we may derive one direction of the transformation via soft induction. In fact, we can do better.

Theorem 18 (Soft coercion) For each natural number n ,

$$x \in \mathbb{N} \vdash !^n x \in \mathbb{N}'.$$

PROOF. Fix an $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then $\vdash !^n 0 \in \mathbb{N}'$ is provable in **SLST**, and $!^n t \in \mathbb{N}' \vdash !^n \mathbf{S}t \in \mathbb{N}$, from Proposition 17 and soft promotion. The result follows by soft induction.

Similarly, we obtain a form of contraction for safe naturals.

Theorem 19 The following inference is derivable in **SLST**:

$$\frac{t \in \mathbb{N}', t \in \mathbb{N}', \Gamma \vdash \Delta}{t \in \mathbb{N}, \Gamma \vdash \Delta} \mathbb{N}' - cont$$

PROOF. We have $\vdash 0 \in \mathbb{N}' \otimes 0 \in \mathbb{N}'$ and $x \in \mathbb{N}' \otimes x \in \mathbb{N}' \vdash \mathbf{S}x \in \mathbb{N}' \otimes \mathbf{S}x \in \mathbb{N}'$. By soft induction, $t \in \mathbb{N} \vdash t \in \mathbb{N}' \otimes t \in \mathbb{N}'$. An application of cut completes the proof.

Using these two terms representing the naturals together, we can begin to recover some arithmetic operations, using soft induction over \mathbb{N} . We define the graphs of addition and multiplication by fixpoint:

Definition 20 Let *add* be a term which satisfies

$$\langle x, y, z \rangle \in \text{add} \iff (y = 0 \otimes z = 0) \\ \exists y'. \exists z'. (y = \mathbf{S}(y') \otimes z = \mathbf{S}(z') \otimes \langle x, y', z' \rangle \in \text{add}).$$

Such a term exists by the fixpoint theorem. Similarly, let *mult* be a term which satisfies

$$\langle x, y, z \rangle \in \text{mult} \iff (y = 0 \otimes x = z) \\ \exists y'. \exists z'. (y = \mathbf{S}(y') \otimes \langle x, z', z \rangle \in \text{add} \otimes \langle x, y', z' \rangle \in \text{mult}).$$

Certainly these terms satisfy the first and second conditions of representability:

- Proposition 21** (a) $\langle n, m, k \rangle \in \text{add}$ is provable in **SLST** iff $n + m = k$;
 (b) $\langle n, m, k \rangle \in \text{mult}$ is provable in **SLST** iff $n.m = k$.

We show now, by induction over \mathbf{N} , that these terms represent addition and multiplication, respectively, with domains \mathbf{N} and codomain \mathbf{N}'

Proposition 22 *The following are provable in SLST:*

- (a) $\forall x \in \mathbf{N}'. \forall y \in \mathbf{N}. \exists! z \in \mathbf{N}'. (\langle x, y, z \rangle \in \text{add})$;
(b) $\forall x. \forall y. \exists! z. (! (x \in \mathbf{N}) \otimes y \in \mathbf{N} \multimap (z \in \mathbf{N}' \otimes \langle x, y, z \rangle \in \text{mult}))$.

PROOF. (a) We prove

- i $\vdash \forall x \in \mathbf{N}'. \exists! z \in \mathbf{N}'. (\langle x, 0, z \rangle \in \text{add})$, and
ii $\forall x \in \mathbf{N}'. \exists! z \in \mathbf{N}'. (\langle x, y, z \rangle \in \text{add}) \vdash \forall x \in \mathbf{N}'. \exists! z \in \mathbf{N}'. (\langle x, \mathbf{S}y, z \rangle \in \text{add})$.

An application of soft induction over \mathbf{N} gives

$$y \in \mathbf{N} \vdash \forall x \in \mathbf{N}'. \exists! z \in \mathbf{N}'. (\langle x, y, z \rangle \in \text{add})$$

from which the desired conclusion trivially follows.

It is clear that $\langle x, 0, x \rangle \in \text{add}$ is provable. Suppose $\vdash \langle x, 0, z \rangle \in \text{add}$. Then $\vdash 0 = 0 \otimes x = z$ or $\vdash \exists y'. \exists z'. (0 = \mathbf{S}(y') \otimes z = \mathbf{S}(z') \otimes \langle x, y', z' \rangle \in \text{add})$ is derivable. Since 0 is provably not the successor of any term, (i) follows.

For (ii), existence of an image follows from the following:

$$\frac{\frac{\langle x, y, z \rangle \in \text{add} \vdash \langle x, y, z \rangle \in \text{add} \quad \vdash \mathbf{S}y = \mathbf{S}y \otimes \mathbf{S}z = \mathbf{S}z}{\langle x, y, z \rangle \in \text{add} \vdash \mathbf{S}y = \mathbf{S}y \otimes \mathbf{S}z = \mathbf{S}z \otimes \langle x, y, z \rangle \in \text{add}}}{\langle x, y, z \rangle \in \text{add} \vdash \exists y'. \exists z'. (\mathbf{S}y = \mathbf{S}y' \otimes \mathbf{S}z = \mathbf{S}z' \otimes \langle x, y, z \rangle \in \text{add})}$$

$$\frac{\langle x, y, z \rangle \in \text{add} \vdash \langle x, \mathbf{S}y, \mathbf{S}z \rangle \in \text{add} \quad z \in \mathbf{N}' \vdash \mathbf{S}z \in \mathbf{N}'}{z \in \mathbf{N}' \otimes \langle x, y, z \rangle \in \text{add} \vdash \mathbf{S}z \in \mathbf{N}' \otimes \langle x, \mathbf{S}y, \mathbf{S}z \rangle \in \text{add}} \otimes \mathbf{R}, \otimes \mathbf{L}$$

Here it is critical that we use the set \mathbf{N}' , as we require that $z \in \mathbf{N}' \vdash \mathbf{S}z \in \mathbf{N}'$ is provable.

For uniqueness, see the following derivation:

$$\begin{array}{c}
w = Sw', w' = z \vdash w = Sz \quad \langle x, y, w' \rangle \in \text{add} \vdash \langle x, y, w' \rangle \in \text{add} \\
\hline
w = Sw', \langle x, y, w' \rangle \in \text{add}, \langle x, y, w' \rangle \in \text{add} \multimap w' = z \vdash w = Sz \\
\hline
w = Sw', \langle x, y, w' \rangle \in \text{add}, \forall w. (\langle x, y, w \rangle \in \text{add} \multimap w = z) \vdash w = Sz \\
\hline
w = Sw' \otimes \langle x, y, w' \rangle \in \text{add}, \forall w. (\langle x, y, w \rangle \in \text{add} \multimap w = z) \vdash w = Sz \\
\hline
\exists w'. (w = Sw' \otimes \langle x, y, w' \rangle \in \text{add}), \forall w. (\langle x, y, w \rangle \in \text{add} \multimap w = z) \vdash w = Sz \\
\hline
\langle x, Sy, w \rangle \in \text{add}, \forall w. (\langle x, y, w \rangle \in \text{add} \multimap w = z) \vdash w = Sz \\
\hline
\forall w. (\langle x, y, w \rangle \in \text{add} \multimap w = z) \vdash \langle x, Sy, w \rangle \in \text{add} \multimap w = Sz \\
\hline
\forall w. (\langle x, y, w \rangle \in \text{add} \multimap w = z) \vdash \forall w. (\langle x, Sy, w \rangle \in \text{add} \multimap w = Sz)
\end{array}$$

Combining the last two results, we complete the proof of (ii). Applying soft induction yields the derivation of totality required.

(b) Similarly to the above, we can prove:

$$\vdash \exists^! z \in N'. (\langle x, 0, z \rangle \in \text{mult}) \quad (1)$$

We can also prove

$$\exists^! z \in N'. (\langle x, y, z \rangle \in \text{mult}), \forall z \in N'. \exists^! w \in N'. (\langle x, z, w \rangle \in \text{add}) \vdash \exists^! w \in N'. (\langle x, Sy, w \rangle \in \text{mult}) \quad (2)$$

From the representability of addition, we have $x \in N \vdash \forall z \in N'. \exists^! w \in N'. (\langle z, x, w \rangle \in \text{add})$. Hence we may derive

$$x \in N, \exists^! z \in N. (\langle x, y, z \rangle \in \text{mult}) \vdash \exists^! w \in N'. (\langle x, Sy, w \rangle \in \text{mult}) \quad (3)$$

Applying soft induction over $y \in N$ with (1) and (3), we obtain

$$!(x \in N), y \in N \vdash \exists^! w \in N'. (\langle x, y, w \rangle \in \text{mult})$$

as required.

Corollary 23 *Addition and multiplication of natural numbers are representable in SLST with domain N and codomain N' .*

PROOF. The result follows immediately for multiplication, by an application of multiplexing to $(y \in N)$. For addition, we must first apply coercion to $(y \in N')$, and then multiplexing to both arguments.

There is a major difficulty with this approach, where we use \mathbf{N} as a domain and \mathbf{N}' as a codomain; we do not have an obvious method for composing represented functions.² Thus we cannot infer representability of the polynomials from representability of addition and multiplication. To remedy this situation, we will go via a translation of Lafont’s representation of the polynomials in \mathbf{SLL}_2

5.1 Polynomial functions and sets of preimages

Recall from the introduction that the typing of polynomial functions in \mathbf{SLL}_2 is somewhat eccentric; specifically, one cannot type the terms representing polynomial functions from N to N . This is also seemingly the case in \mathbf{SLST} . For example, successor may be given as follows:

Lemma 24 *The following is provable in \mathbf{SLST} :*

$$x \in \mathbf{N} \vdash \forall \alpha. (!\forall y.(y \in \alpha \multimap S y \in \alpha) \otimes \forall y.(y \in \alpha \multimap S y \in \alpha) \multimap (0 \in \alpha \multimap S x \in \alpha))$$

We will give the set

$$\{ x \mid \alpha. (!\forall y.(y \in \alpha \multimap S y \in \alpha) \otimes \forall y.(y \in \alpha \multimap S y \in \alpha) \multimap (0 \in \alpha \multimap x \in \alpha)) \}$$

the name $N\langle X + 1 \rangle$. This notation comes from a similar structure in \mathbf{SLL}_2 :

Definition 25 *We extend the definition A^n to polynomial expressions as follows:*

$$A^X = !A \qquad A^{P+Q} = A^P \otimes A^Q \qquad A^{PQ} = (A^P)^Q.$$

Given a polynomial expression P , we write $A\langle P \rangle$ for the formula A where each subformula $!B$ is replaced by B^P .

It should now be clear that $N\langle X + 1 \rangle$ fits into this general scheme.

This scheme allows Lafont to define a representation of addition in \mathbf{SLL}_2 :

$$\mathbf{N}, \mathbf{N} \vdash \mathbf{N}\langle X + X \rangle,$$

or more generally

$$\mathbf{N}\langle P \rangle, \mathbf{N}\langle Q \rangle \vdash \mathbf{N}\langle P + Q \rangle,$$

To annotate this proof with set theoretic information, so that it yields a proof of the totality of addition in \mathbf{SLST} , we would need to be given (or define atomically) an operation “+” on terms of \mathbf{SLST} , such that

² This is *not* the issue with composition mentioned in Section 4; however, note that we have not yet proven multiplication to be generically representable.

- (a) $t + 0 = t$, and
- (b) $t + Ss = S(t + s)$

which yields a term $t + s$ which we may substitute into $\exists x.(x \in N\langle P + Q \rangle \otimes \langle x, y, z \rangle \in \text{add})$. However, such operations do not fit naturally into a set theoretic setting, so instead we work with a term inspired by the ‘‘Types with integer’’ approach of Baillot and Mogbil.

Lemma 26 *Consider the following term of SLST:*

$$N\langle P + Q \rangle[\text{add}] := \{ t \mid t = \langle x, y \rangle \otimes \forall \alpha. (\forall y (y \in \alpha \rightarrow Sy \in \alpha))^P \otimes \forall y (y \in \alpha \rightarrow Sy \in \alpha)^Q \\ \rightarrow (0 \in \alpha \rightarrow \exists^! z. (z \in \alpha \otimes \langle x, y, z \rangle \in \text{add})) \}$$

The following is provable in SLST:

$$x \in N\langle P \rangle, y \in N\langle Q \rangle \vdash \langle x, y \rangle \in N\langle P + Q \rangle[\text{add}]$$

PROOF. See appendices.

We will call the term $N\langle P + Q \rangle[\text{add}]$ a set of add preimages, the idea being that we may prove that if x and y are natural numbers, then they have a unique sum in any set containing 0 and closed under successor. Similarly:

Lemma 27 *Consider the following term of SLST:*

$$N\langle PQ \rangle[\text{mult}] := \{ t \mid t = \langle x, y \rangle \otimes \forall \alpha. (\forall y (y \in \alpha \rightarrow Sy \in \alpha))^P Q \\ \rightarrow (0 \in \alpha \rightarrow \exists^! z. (z \in \alpha \otimes \langle x, y, z \rangle \in \text{mult})) \}$$

The following is provable in SLST:

$$x \in N\langle P \rangle, y \in N\langle Q \rangle \vdash \langle x, y \rangle \in N\langle PQ \rangle[\text{mult}]$$

More generally, given a polynomial expression P and a term t of SLST, define the following term:

$$N\langle P \rangle[t] := \{ x \mid \forall \alpha. (\forall y (y \in \alpha \rightarrow Sy \in \alpha))^P \\ \rightarrow (0 \in \alpha \rightarrow \exists^! z. (z \in \alpha \otimes \langle x, z \rangle \in t)) \}$$

Define also the *pseudo-degree* δP of a polynomial expression P as follows:

$$\delta n = 0, \quad \delta X = 1, \quad \delta(P + Q) = \delta(PQ) = \delta P + \delta Q.$$

Theorem 28 *For any polynomial expression P , there exists a term p of SLST such that*

and $(s \in \mathbf{N})^{(n)} \vdash s \in N\langle P \rangle[p]$ is provable in **SLST**. Now apply $N\langle P \rangle[p]$ induction to the formula $x \in N'$, to obtain

$$t \in N\langle P \rangle[p] \vdash \exists^! w (w \in N' \otimes \langle t, w \rangle \in p).$$

apply cut to obtain

$$(t \in \mathbf{N})^{(n)} \vdash \exists^! w (w \in N' \otimes \langle t, w \rangle \in p).$$

6 Words over a finite alphabet

In this section we consider the representation of binary words in **SLST**, as a special case of words over n symbols. As one might expect, a similar separation occurs for the words as occurs for the natural numbers. First, define

$$\varepsilon := \emptyset, \quad \mathbf{S}_i(t) := \langle i, t \rangle.$$

The following two definitions each give a term which represents the words over an alphabet with n elements:

Definition 31 (Soft Words)

$$x \in W_n \circ\text{-}\circ \forall \alpha (\forall y (y \in \alpha \rightarrow \mathbf{S}_0 y \in \alpha) \rightarrow \forall y (y \in \alpha \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \mathbf{S}_{n-1} y \in \alpha) \rightarrow (\varepsilon \in \alpha \rightarrow x \in \alpha))$$

Definition 32 (Safe Words)

$$x \in W'_n \circ\text{-}\circ x = \varepsilon \oplus \exists y (y \in W'_n \otimes x = \mathbf{S}_0 y) \oplus \dots \oplus \exists y (y \in W'_n \otimes x = \mathbf{S}_{n-1} y)$$

From this point onward, let \mathbb{W} stand for \mathbb{W}_2 , and similarly $W := W_2$ and $W := W'_2$

We derive an induction principle over the structure of strings in W_n :

Proposition 33 *The following inference is derivable in **SLST**:*

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A[x := \varepsilon] \quad \Delta_0, A[x := y] \vdash A[x := \mathbf{S}_0 y] \quad \dots \quad \Delta_{n-1}, A[x := y] \vdash A[x := \mathbf{S}_{n-1} y]}{\Gamma, !\Delta, s \in W_n \vdash A[x := s]} W_n - ind.$$

Corollary 34 *For each $n \leq m$, and for any p ,*

$$x \in W_n \vdash !^p x \in W'_m.$$

We may capture the length function $|x|$ as follows:

Proposition 35 Let the term len_n be defined by fixpoint as

$$\langle x, y \rangle \in \text{len} \iff (x = \varepsilon \otimes y = 0) \oplus \\ \exists x'. \exists y'. (x = S_0(x') \oplus \dots \oplus x = S_{n-1}x \otimes y = S(y') \otimes \langle x, y' \rangle \in \text{len}_n).$$

Then the following is provable in **SLST**:

$$x \in W_n \vdash x \in N\langle X^n \rangle[\text{len}_n]$$

We leave the proof as an easy exercise.

The purpose of all this is to provide a polynomial bound on the output of a Turing machine; as such, the following is an important but trivial generalisation of the preceding proposition:

Proposition 36 Given a term p representing a polynomial expression P , let p' be defined as $\{x \mid \exists! v. (\langle x, v \rangle \in \text{len}_n \otimes \langle v, w \rangle \in p)\}$ Writing $P\langle Q \rangle$ for the polynomial expression given by replacing each instance of X with Q , we have

$$(x \in W_n)^{\delta P} \vdash x \in N\langle P\langle X^n \rangle \rangle[p']$$

Meanwhile, the safe words are well behaved with respect to the successor functions.

Proposition 37 For each $i < n$

$$x \in W_n \vdash S_i x \in W_n$$

is provable in **SLST**

Corollary 38 The successor functions on \mathbb{W}_n are generically representable with multiplicity 1 from W'_n to W'_n .

Additionally, one may define functions by cases of a term in W'_n :

Proposition 39 Given functions $\psi_\varepsilon : T \rightarrow U$ and $\psi_i : \mathbb{W}_n \times T \rightarrow U$, define a new function ϕ :

$$\phi(\varepsilon, t) = \psi_\varepsilon(t); \\ \phi(i.w, t) = \psi_i(w, t).$$

Suppose now that T and U are represented by terms t and u , and that ψ_ε is generically representable from t to u by h_ε , and ψ_i is generically representable from W' , t to u by h_i , such that

- (a) The multiplicity of W' in each h_i is 1, and
- (b) The multiplicity of t in h_ε each h_i is some value r .

Then ϕ is generically representable with domains W' , t and codomain u .

PROOF.

$$\langle x, y, z \rangle \in f \circ\text{-}\circ(x = \varepsilon \otimes \langle y, z \rangle \in h_\varepsilon) \oplus \\ \exists x'(x = \mathbf{S}_0(x') \otimes \langle x', y, z \rangle \in h_0) \oplus \dots \oplus \exists x'(x = \mathbf{S}_{n-1}x' \otimes \langle x', y, z \rangle \in h_{n-1}).$$

By assumption, $(y \in t)^r \vdash \exists^! z. (\langle y, z \rangle \in h_\varepsilon)$, from which

$$x = \varepsilon, (y \in t)^r \vdash \exists^! z. (\langle x, y, z \rangle \in f).$$

Also, for each $0 \leq i \leq n - 1$, we have

$$x' \in W'_n \otimes x = \mathbf{S}_i(x'), (y \in t)^r \vdash \exists^! z. (\langle x, y, z \rangle \in f).$$

Hence we have

$$x \in W'_n, (y \in t)^r \vdash \exists^! z. (\langle x, y, z \rangle \in f).$$

Corollary 40 *The predecessor function on \mathbb{W} is generically representable with both domain and codomain W'_n , and multiplicity 1*

6.1 Soft lambda calculus and polynomial soundness

We will demonstrate in the next section that any function computable in polynomial time is generically representable, but first we address the issue of “polytime soundness” – that is, we must verify that any generically representable function is polytime computable. To do so, we turn to the Soft lambda-calculus of Baillot and Mogbil [2]. Soft lambda-calculus (**SLC**) is a calculus typable in Soft *Affine* Logic – that is, **SLL** with unrestricted weakening.

We give the typing rules for Soft Lambda calculus in Table

A typed term of **SLC** is a pair $M : A$ arising from a judgement $\Gamma \vdash M : A$; such a term M is a special case of a well-formed term³. Given such a term, we define its *depth* and *size* as follows:

³ The typed/typable terms are not the only ones of interest in **SLC**; the untyped calculus also enjoys polynomial reduction.

$\frac{}{x : A \vdash x : A} \text{Ax}$	
$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash M : B}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x. M : A \multimap B} \multimap R$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash u : A \quad \Delta, x : B \vdash M : C}{\Gamma, \Delta, y : A \multimap B \vdash M[x := yu] : C} \multimap L$
$\frac{x_1 : A_1, \dots, x_n : A_n \vdash M : C}{y_1 : !A_1, \dots, y_n : !A_n \vdash \text{let } y \text{ be } !x \text{ in } !M : !C} \text{SP}$	$\frac{\Gamma, x_1 : A \dots x_n : A \vdash M : C}{\Gamma, y : !A \vdash \text{let } y \text{ be } !x \text{ in } M[x_1 := y, \dots, x_n := y] : C} \text{mplx}$
$\frac{x : A[x := t], \Gamma \vdash M : C}{x : \forall x. A, \Gamma \vdash M : C} \forall L$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : C}{\Gamma \vdash M : \forall x. C} \forall R$
$\frac{x : A[x := t], \Gamma \vdash M : C}{x : t \in \{x A\}, \Gamma \vdash M : C} \in L$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : C[x := t]}{\Gamma \vdash M : t \in \{x A\}} \in R$
$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : A \quad \Gamma', x : A \vdash N : C}{\Gamma, \Gamma' \vdash u[x := t] : C} \text{Cut}$	

Table 2
ISAL typing rules, plus typing for comprehension

Definition 41 (a) The size $|M|$ of a term M is given by:

$$\begin{aligned}
|x| &= 1, & |\lambda x. M| &= |M| + 1, & |(MN)| &= |M| + |N| \\
|!M| &= |M| + 1 & |\text{let } M \text{ be } x \text{ in } N| &= |M| + |N| + 1
\end{aligned}$$

(b) The depth of a term M is defined as follows: let N be a subterm of M . The define $d(N, M)$ to be the number of subterms L of M such that N is a subterm of L and L is of the form $!L'$. The depth $d(M)$ of M is then the maximum value of $d(N, M)$ for N a subterm of M .

The reductions rules of **SLC** are the following

$$\begin{aligned}
(\beta) : & ((\lambda x. M.) N) \longrightarrow M[x := N]; \\
(!) : & \text{let } !N \text{ be } !x \text{ in } M \longrightarrow M[x := N]; \\
(\text{com1}) : & \text{let } (\text{let } M_1 \text{ be } !y \text{ in } M_2) \text{ be } !x \text{ in } M_3 \longrightarrow \text{let } M_1 \text{ be } !y \text{ in } (\text{let } M_2 \text{ be } !x \text{ in } M_3); \\
(\text{com2}) : & (\text{let } M \text{ be } !x \text{ in } M_2) M_3 \longrightarrow \text{let } M_1 \text{ be } !x \text{ in } (M_2 M_3).
\end{aligned}$$

We have the following theorem:

Theorem 42 (Polytime strong normalization) For any integer d there is a poly-

$\frac{\Gamma, x : t \in \mu X.A \vdash M : B}{\Gamma, y : A[X := \mu X.A, z := t] \vdash M[x := \text{fold } y] : B} \text{ (left unfold)}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \mu X.A}{\Gamma \vdash \text{unfold } M : A[X := \mu X.A]} \text{ (right unfold)}$
$\frac{\Gamma, x : A[X := \mu X.A, z := t] \vdash M : B}{\Gamma, y : t \in \mu X.A \vdash M[x := \text{unfold } y] : B} \text{ (left fold)}$	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : A[X := \mu X.A, z := t]}{\Gamma \vdash \text{fold } M : t \in \mu X.A} \text{ (right fold)}$

Table 3
Fixpoint typing rules

nomial P_d (with degree linear in d) such that for any term M of depth d , any sequence of reductions of t has length bounded by $P_d(|M|)$.

Since this polytime normalization theorem holds even for the type-free calculus, **SLC** may be extended with recursive types (fixpoints); Baillot and Mogbil thus extend their typed calculus to a calculus with fixpoints (**ISALF**) while retaining polytime normalization. In our setting, we also have access to fixpoints, but their typing derivations are not quite so simple as in **ISALF**. The typing derivations for set theoretic fixpoints are given in Table 3.

In this table, the abbreviations

$$\text{fold } M := \lambda yzw. yzw (\lambda v. v M)$$

and

$$\text{unfold } N := N(\lambda v. v \lambda w. w \lambda xy. y),$$

, derived from the definitions in the fixpoint theorem.

Theorem 43 (Subject reduction) *If we have $\Gamma \vdash: MA$ in **ISALF**, and $M \rightarrow M'$, then $\Gamma \vdash M' : A$*

We now use this calculus to help demonstrate polynomial soundness. Observe that we may translate any proof in **SLST** into a typing judgement in **SLC**— instances of nullary multiplexing are replaced by first a weakening and then a unary multiplexing, and then all the missing connectives (including the additive \oplus) may be defined, since we have access to unrestricted weakening. In particular, recall that the existential is given by

$$\exists y. A := \forall x. (\forall y. (A \multimap t_0 \in x) \multimap t_0 \in x),$$

multiplicative conjunction by

$$A \otimes B := \forall x. ((A \multimap t_0 \in x) \multimap (B \multimap t_0 \in x) \multimap t_0 \in x).$$

and additive disjunction by

$$A \oplus B := \forall x.(A \multimap B \multimap t_0 \in x) \multimap t_0 \in x).$$

with the standard lambda terms to represent constructs such as `inl`, `inr` pairing (written $- \otimes -$), and projections `fst` and `snd`.

We now give canonical proofs that, for any word $w \in \mathbb{W}$, $w \in W$ and $w \in W'$:

Definition 44 Let $w := i_0 \cdots i_n \in \mathbb{W}_2$. Then \bar{w} denotes

$$\lambda x_0 x_1. (\text{let } x_0 \text{ be } !z_0 \text{ in } (\text{let } x_1 \text{ be } !z_1 \text{ in } (\lambda y. (z_{i_0} \cdots (z_{i_n})))))),$$

and let \hat{e} denote `foldinl` $\lambda x.x$ and $\hat{w}.i$ denote

$$\text{fold inr}(\lambda z.z(\hat{i} \otimes \hat{w}))$$

where $\hat{0} := \text{inl} \lambda x.x$ and $\hat{1} := \text{inr} \lambda x.x$

A W representation of w is a term M of **SLC** such that $\vdash M : (w \in W)$, and a W' representation of w is a term M of **SLC** such that $\vdash M : (w \in W')$.

Now define the relation \approx on terms of **SLC** as the least binary congruence satisfying:

- (η) : $\lambda x.Mx \approx M$, if $x \notin FV(M)$
- (let) : $\text{let } be N \text{ in } !xM \approx M$ if $x \notin FV(M)$
- (λ – let) : $\lambda x.(\text{let } M \text{ be } !y \text{ in } N \approx \text{let } M \text{ be } !y \text{ in } \lambda x.N$, if $x \notin FV(M)$;
- (let–let) : $\text{let } M \text{ be } !x \text{ in } (\text{let } N \text{ be } !y \text{ in } L) \approx \text{let } N \text{ be } !y \text{ in } (\text{let } M \text{ be } !x \text{ in } L)$

It is easy to see that \approx is compatible with \longrightarrow^* . That is, if $M \approx N$ and $M \longrightarrow^* M'$, then there is a term N' such that $N \longrightarrow^* N'$ and $N \approx N'$.

- Lemma 45**
- (a) \bar{w} is a W representation of w ;
 - (b) If M is a W representation of w , then $M \approx \bar{w}$;
 - (c) \hat{w} is a W' representation of w ;
 - (d) If N is a W' representation of w , then $N \approx \hat{w}$.

Now suppose that we have some statement of the representability of a function $\phi : W_2 \rightarrow W_2$. Then we have

$$\vdash G : \forall x.(!(x \in W_2) \multimap \exists y(y \in W'_2 \otimes \langle x, y \rangle \in f))$$

as the result of a typing derivation in **ISAL**. Let $w \in \mathbb{W}_2$. Then $\vdash \bar{w} : w \in W_2$ is derivable. In addition, we have $\vdash G : !(w \in W_2) \multimap \exists y \in W'_2.(\langle w, y \rangle \in f)$, so

$$\vdash G!\bar{w} : \exists y \in W'_2.(\langle w, y \rangle \in f)$$

By subject reduction the normal form of $G!\bar{w}$ also has this type, and must therefore be of the form $\lambda x.x(\lambda v.vNL)$. Moreover, $\vdash N : u \in \mathbb{W}'_2$ and $\vdash L : \langle w, u \rangle \in f$ must be derivable for some term u of **SLST**. Hence u is \hat{w}' for some word $w' \in \mathbb{W}_2$. Finally, we obtain, setting $\text{id} := \lambda x.x$ and $\text{fst} := \lambda xy.x$,

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda z.(((G z) \text{id}) \text{fst}) !\bar{w} &\longrightarrow ((G !\bar{w}) \text{id}) \text{fst} \\ &\longrightarrow^* ((\lambda x.x (\lambda v.vNL)) \text{id}) \text{fst} \longrightarrow^* \lambda v.vNL \text{fst} \longrightarrow^* N \approx \hat{w}', \end{aligned}$$

as required.

Theorem 46 *Representable functions are polytime computable.*

PROOF. Given a word w , its canonical representant \bar{w} has depth one, and so the depth of $\lambda z.(((G z) \text{id}) \text{fst}) !\bar{w}$ is a constant d no matter which word we pick. The size $|\bar{w}|$ is $10 + |w|$; let the the size of $\lambda z.(((G z) \text{id}) \text{fst})$ be n . We have, by polytime strong normalization, a bounding function $P_d(n + 10 + |w|)$ – a polynomial in $|w|$.

7 Simulation of Turing Machines

We present an encoding of single tape polynomial-time Turing machines in **SLST**, demonstrating that the latter proves total any function computable in polynomial time.

We will work with Turing machines over a three letter alphabet ($1, 0$ and b = “blank”) with set of states $Q_n = \{q_0, \dots, q_{n-1}\}$, where q_0 is the initial state. The current configuration of the machine may then be given as a triple $\langle q, l, r \rangle \in \text{Conf} = Q \times \mathbb{W}_3 \times \mathbb{W}_3$, where q is the current state, l is the non-blank portion of the tape to the left of the head, and r is the non-blank portion of the tape to the right of the head. By convention, l is written in reverse order, and r includes the symbol currently read.

Definition 47 *A function $\phi : \mathbb{W}_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{W}_2$ is a polynomial-time function if there is some Turing machine T and some polynomial P such that after running T with input the string x for $P(|x|)$ steps, the output (the non-empty right-hand portion of the tape) is $\phi(x)$.*

We show now how, given such a function ϕ , one may construct a term f that represents it in **SLST**.

The set of states of T may be represented in **SLST** by the term $Q_n = \{0, \dots, n - 1\}$, with evident bijection. We represent the set of possible configurations of T by the

term

$$\text{Conf} = \mathbf{Q}_n \times W'_3 \times W'_3.$$

By Corollary 34, $x \in W_2 \vdash x \in W'_3$. It is clear that $x \in W_2 \vdash \langle 0, \varepsilon, x \rangle \in \text{Conf}$ is provable in **SLST**: an application of cut gives:

$$x \in W_2 \vdash \langle 0, \varepsilon, x \rangle \in \text{Conf} \quad (4)$$

The transition function for T may be expressed as a function $\delta : \text{Conf} \rightarrow \text{Conf}$: given a particular state and a particular read symbol, the new tape is given by successor and predecessor operations on the left and right tapes. Recall that successor and predecessor are both generically representable from W'_3 to W'_3 with multiplicity 1. Since transition function is defined by a conditional on W'_3 over functions satisfying the conditions of Proposition 39 it is generically representable with domain Conf , codomain Conf and multiplicity 1. Let b be a term of **SLST** representing this function.

We represent the extended transition function of T started on an initial string c by the a term d by fixpoint in a manner which should by now be familiar:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle t, w \rangle \in d \circ\!\!\circ (t = 0 \otimes w = \langle 0, \varepsilon, c \rangle) \\ \oplus \exists t' \exists x \exists x'. \exists y \exists y'. \exists z \exists z'. (w = \langle x, y, z \rangle \\ \otimes \langle \langle x', y', z' \rangle, w \rangle \in b \otimes t = \mathbf{S}t' \otimes \langle t', \langle x', y', z' \rangle \rangle \in d) \end{aligned}$$

Given a polynomial P , we want to know what the configuration of the machine is after $P(x)$ steps – the function $\psi(P(x))$. To arrive at this we use induction over $\mathbf{N}\langle P\langle X^2 \rangle \rangle[p']$, as defined in Proposition 29, where, as before, $p := \{ x \mid \exists^1 v. (\langle x, v \rangle \in \text{len}_n \otimes \langle v, w \rangle \in p) \}$:

$$\frac{c \in \text{Conf} \vdash \exists^1 c. (c \in \text{Conf} \otimes \langle 0, c \rangle \in d) \quad \exists^1 c. (c \in \text{Conf} \otimes \langle y, c \rangle \in d) \vdash \exists^1 c. (c \in \text{Conf} \otimes \langle \mathbf{S}y, c \rangle \in d)}{c \in \text{Conf}, x \in \mathbf{N}\langle P\langle X^2 \rangle \rangle[p'] \vdash \exists^1 k. (k \in \text{Conf} \otimes \exists^1 n. (\langle n, k \rangle \in d) \otimes \langle x, n \rangle \in p')} \quad \mathbf{N}\langle P \rangle[t] - \text{ind.} \quad (5)$$

From lemma 36:

$$(x \in W_2)^{\delta P} \vdash x \in \mathbf{N}\langle P\langle X^2 \rangle \rangle[p']. \quad (6)$$

Combining (4), (5) and (6), we obtain

$$(x \in W_2)^{1+\delta P}. x \in W'_3 \vdash \exists^1 k. (k \in \text{Conf} \otimes \exists^1 n. (\langle n, k \rangle \in d) \otimes \langle x, n \rangle \in p') \quad (7)$$

Finally, we extract the result of the function: this will be the non-empty portion of the right-hand tape. This consists of two stages. First observe that the following holds:

$$\begin{aligned} \exists^1 w. (w \in \text{Conf} \otimes \langle x, w \rangle \in t) \vdash \\ \exists^1 r. (r \in W'_3 \otimes \exists^1 q. \exists^1 l. (q \in \mathbf{Q}_n \otimes l \in W'_3 \otimes \langle x, \langle q, l, r \rangle \rangle \in t)) \end{aligned}$$

Combining this with (7) yields

$$(x \in W_2)^{1+\delta P}, x \in W'_3 \vdash \exists^1 r.(r \in W'_3 \otimes \exists^1 q.\exists^1 l.(q \in Q_n \otimes l \in W'_3 \otimes \exists^1 n.(\langle n, \langle q, l, r \rangle \rangle \in d) \otimes \langle x, n \rangle \in p')) \quad (8)$$

The righthand side of this is of the form $\exists^1 r.(r \in W'_3 \otimes A(x, r))$

The output r is only well-formed if it consists of only 1s and 0s. The following function extracts the well-formed outputs, sending the outputs containing a blank to the empty string: and is representable in **SLST**:

$$\begin{aligned} \tau(0, y) = \tau(x, \varepsilon) = \tau(\mathbf{S}x, \mathbf{S}_2y) &= \varepsilon; \\ \tau : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{W}_3 \rightarrow \mathbb{W}_2, \quad \tau(\mathbf{S}x, \mathbf{S}_0y) &= \mathbf{S}_0\tau(x, y); \\ \tau(\mathbf{S}x, \mathbf{S}_1y) &= \mathbf{S}_1\tau(x, y); \end{aligned}$$

Let g be the evident term of **SLST** expressing this function as a fixpoint.:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x, y, z \rangle \in g \circ\circ (x = 0 \otimes z = \varepsilon) \oplus (y = \varepsilon \otimes z = \varepsilon) \oplus \exists y'(y = \mathbf{S}_2y' \otimes z = \varepsilon \\ \oplus \exists x'.\exists y'.\exists z'.(x = \mathbf{S}x' \otimes \\ ((y = \mathbf{S}_0y' \otimes z = \mathbf{S}_0z') \oplus (y = \mathbf{S}_1y' \otimes z = \mathbf{S}_1z')) \otimes \langle x', y', z' \rangle \in r) \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$y \in \mathbf{N}\langle P\langle X^2 \rangle \rangle[p], \vdash \forall x \in W'_3.\exists^1 z \in W'_2(\langle x, y \rangle \in g)$$

by induction over $x \in \mathbf{N}\langle P\langle X^2 \rangle \rangle[p]$. We leave the details to the reader, noting that the inductive step

$$\forall y \in W'_3.\exists^1 z \in W'_2(\langle x, y, z \rangle \in g) \vdash \forall y \in W'_3.\exists^1 z \in W'_2(\langle \mathbf{S}x, y, z \rangle \in g)$$

uses as a lemma the fact that predecessor on words over three letters is generically representable with multiplicity one (see Corollary ??).

We have

$$(y \in W_2)^{1+(2.\delta P)} \vdash x \in \mathbf{N}\langle P\langle X^2 \rangle \rangle[p] \otimes \exists^1 r.(r \in W'_3 \otimes A(x, r))$$

from which

$$(x \in W_2)^{1+(2.\delta P)} \vdash \exists^1 y.(y \in W'_2 \otimes B(x, y))$$

where $B(x, y) = \exists n.\exists^1 r.(\langle x, n \rangle \in p' \otimes \langle n, r, y \rangle \in g \otimes A(x, r))$. Finally, letting f be defined as $f = \{ z \mid \exists x \exists y.(z = \langle x, y \rangle \otimes B(x, y)) \}$, we have

$$(x \in W_2)^{1+(2.\delta P)} \vdash \exists^1 y.(y \in W'_2 \otimes \langle x, y \rangle \in f)$$

where f is a term of **SLST** satisfying $\langle m, n \rangle \in f$ iff $\phi(m) = n$.

We have shown:

Theorem 48 *Polynomial time functions from \mathbb{W} to \mathbb{W} are generically representable in $SLST$ with domain W and codomain W' and so are also representable.*

8 Conclusion and Further work

We have a notion of provably total function in a set theory based on Lafont’s Soft Linear Logic, and shown that these functions are precisely the polynomial time functions. Moreover, by using the fixpoints inherent in set theory, we have been able to give the same codomain (W') to each represented function. One curiosity of the representation given is that input and output of total functions are given by different representations of the same set. This gives rise to an obvious question about composition. Of course, since the class of polynomial-time functions is closed under composition, so are the class of representable functions, but finding a constructive proof of this fact has proved elusive. What is known is that for any representable function f , the proof that it is representable yields a polynomial bound Q on the size of the output of f . Using a function similar to τ from the previous section, one can then extract a pre-image representation of the output of f . However, it is only in certain special cases that the proof that a function g is representable may be reworked into a proof that will take such an input – in particular, it must be generically representable, but in addition we need to be able to give a pre-image as an argument. One special case in which this works is that of a proof via Turing representability:

Lemma 8.1 *Let ϕ be a function computed by some Turing machine T in polynomial time. There is a term f such that f represents ϕ and, for any term t and polynomial Q , for some polynomial P*

$$(x \in W\langle Q \rangle[t])^{1+(2,\delta P)} \vdash \exists^! y. (y \in W'_2 \otimes \langle x, y \rangle \in f')$$

holds, where $\langle x, y \rangle \in f'$ iff $\exists^! z. \langle x, z \rangle \in t \otimes \langle z, y \rangle \in f$.

(where $W\langle Q \rangle[t]$ is the evident generalization of sets of pre-images to words).

Another evident question is the relationship between this approach to polytime and the function algebra approach; indeed, the fixpoint definitions of the tally integers and the words are named “safe” in deliberate allusion to Bellantoni and Cook’s algebra BC [3]. We believe that the properties of these fixpoints more closely match those of the safe variables in BC than in the (purely logical) light logics approach [12] where a variable is safe if it is of the form $x : \S Bint$ (where $Bint$ is the light logic representation of the binary integers. These variables allow a restricted form of induction, whereas our safe variables do not.

If the sets defined by fixpoint merit the label “safe”, why then do the numbers over which we *do* have induction not merit the name “normal”? The answer comes from the imperfect manner in which we may encode safe recursion. Recall our first proof that multiplication is representable. In that proof, the variable $x \in \mathbb{N}$ is a side formula in the inductive step, and we obtain $!(x \in \mathbb{N})$ in result of the applied induction. In addition, of course, the number of times a variable is used is important, since we do not have unrestricted contraction.

A possible solution to the problem is to consider a more liberal notion of representation, which we call *stratified representation*.

Definition 49 *A term f is a stratified representation of a function $\phi : T_1 \times \dots \times T_k \rightarrow S$ with domains t_1, \dots, t_k and codomain s if*

- (a) *Each T_i and S are represented by t_i and s , respectively;*
- (b) *For any any $\vec{m} \in \bar{T}$ and $n \in S$ such that $\phi(\vec{m}) = n$, $\vdash \langle \vec{m}^*, n^* \rangle \in f$; and*
- (c) *There exists natural numbers n_1, \dots, n_k and $m_1 \dots m_k$ such that*

$$\vdash \forall x_1 \dots \forall x_k. \exists^1 y. (((!^{m_1}(x_1 \in t_1))^{n_1} \otimes \dots \otimes (!^{m_k}(x_k \in t_k))^{n_k}) \multimap (y \in s \otimes \langle \vec{x}, y \rangle \in f))$$

is generically provable in SLST.

We conjecture that a stratified version of BC counting multiplicities of variables (and using a simplified variant of the cases construction in [12]) captures polynomial time. However, it has already been demonstrated in [2] that Soft Lambda Calculus with fixpoints goes beyond the representational strength of both light logics and safe recursion; it is possible, by clever choice of typing, to represent insertion sort in an intuitive fashion. It would be interesting to look at representing the operations involved as a function algebra, which by virtue of its representability in Soft Linear Logic would be immediately known to be polynomially sound.

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A Sets of preimages for addition and multiplication

The proof of Theorem 28 (that there is a set of preimages for every polynomial expression P) relied on the existence of certain sets of preimages for generalized addition and subtraction. We give here the proofs of these assumptions. In the following, $N_\theta\langle P\rangle[t]$ is the instantiation of the outermost quantifier in $N\langle P\rangle[t]$ with the set θ .

Proposition 50 *The following is provable in SLST:*

$$x \in \mathbf{N}(P)[t], z \in \mathbf{N}(Q)[s] \\ \vdash (((y \in \alpha \rightarrow \mathbf{S}y \in \alpha)^{P+Q} \rightarrow (0 \in \alpha \rightarrow \exists^1 u. \exists^1 v. \exists^1 w (w \in \alpha \otimes \langle x, u \rangle \in t \otimes \langle z, v \rangle \in s \otimes \langle u, v, w \rangle \in \text{add}))))$$

PROOF. Given some term α of **SLST**, let

$$\beta := \{ z \mid \exists^1 u. \exists^1 w (w \in \alpha \otimes \langle x, u \rangle \in t \otimes \langle u, z, w \rangle \in \text{add}). \}$$

Then the following are provable in **SLST**:

- i $\exists^1 w. (w \in \alpha \otimes \langle x, w \rangle \in t) \vdash 0 \in \beta$
- ii $\forall y. (y \in \alpha \rightarrow \mathbf{S}y \in \alpha) \vdash \forall z. (z \in \beta \rightarrow \mathbf{S}z \in \beta)$
- iii $\exists^1 w. (w \in \beta \otimes \langle z, w \rangle \in s) \vdash \exists^1 u. \exists^1 v. \exists^1 w (w \in \alpha \otimes \langle x, u \rangle \in t \otimes \langle z, v \rangle \in s \otimes \langle u, v, w \rangle \in \text{add})$

These follow by elementary applications of the definition of **add**. The proof is completed by the derivation given in Table A.1.

Proposition 51 *The following is provable in SLST:*

$$x \in \mathbf{N}(P)[t], z \in \mathbf{N}(Q)[s] \\ \vdash (((y \in \alpha \rightarrow \mathbf{S}y \in \alpha)^{PQ} \rightarrow (0 \in \alpha \rightarrow \exists^1 u. \exists^1 v. \exists^1 w (w \in \alpha \otimes \langle x, u \rangle \in t \otimes \langle z, v \rangle \in s \otimes \langle u, v, w \rangle \in \text{mult}))))$$

PROOF. Given some term α of **SLST**, let

$$\beta := \{ z \mid (\forall x \in \alpha \exists^1 u \in \alpha. (\langle x, z, u \rangle \in \text{add}))^P \}$$

and let

$$\gamma := \{ z \mid \exists^1 u. \exists^1 w. (w \in \alpha \otimes \langle x, u \rangle \in t \otimes \langle u, z, w \rangle \in \text{mult}) \}.$$

Then the following are provable in **SLST**:

- i $0 \in \beta$
- ii $0 \in \alpha \vdash 0 \in \gamma$
- iii $\exists^1 w. (w \in \gamma \otimes \langle x, w \rangle \in t) \vdash \exists^1 u. \exists^1 v. \exists^1 w (w \in \alpha \otimes \langle x, u \rangle \in t \otimes \langle z, v \rangle \in s \otimes \langle u, v, w \rangle \in \text{mult})$
- iv $\exists^1 w. (w \in \beta \otimes \langle z, w \rangle \in s) \vdash (y \in \gamma \rightarrow \mathbf{S}y \in \gamma)^P$
- v $(y \in \alpha \rightarrow \mathbf{S}y \in \alpha)^{PQ} \vdash ((y \in \beta \rightarrow \mathbf{S}y \in \beta)^Q)$

These follow by elementary applications of the definition of **add** and **mult**. The proof is completed by the derivation given in Table A.2.

$$\begin{array}{c}
\vdots (i) \\
0 \in \alpha \vdash 0 \in \gamma \quad \exists^! w.(w \in \gamma \otimes \langle x, w \rangle \in t) \vdash \exists^! u. \exists^! v. \exists^! w(w \in \alpha \otimes \langle x, u \rangle \in t \otimes \langle z, v \rangle \in s \otimes \langle u, v, w \rangle \in \text{mult}) \\
\hline
0 \in \alpha, 0 \in \gamma \rightarrow \exists^! w.(w \in \gamma \otimes \langle x, w \rangle \in t) \vdash \exists^! u. \exists^! v. \exists^! w(w \in \alpha \otimes \langle x, u \rangle \in t \otimes \langle z, v \rangle \in s \otimes \langle u, v, w \rangle \in \text{mult}) \quad \exists^! w.(w \in \beta \otimes \langle z, w \rangle \in s) \vdash (y \in \gamma \rightarrow \text{Sy} \in \gamma)^P \\
\hline
0 \in \alpha, \exists^! w.(w \in \beta \otimes \langle z, w \rangle \in s), (y \in \gamma \rightarrow \text{Sy} \in \gamma)^P \rightarrow (0 \in \gamma \rightarrow \exists^! w.(w \in \gamma \otimes \langle x, w \rangle \in t) \vdash \exists^! u. \exists^! v. \exists^! w(w \in \alpha \otimes \langle x, u \rangle \in t \otimes \langle z, v \rangle \in s \otimes \langle u, v, w \rangle \in \text{mult})) \\
\hline
0 \in \alpha, \exists^! w.(w \in \beta \otimes \langle z, w \rangle \in s), (y \in \gamma \rightarrow \text{Sy} \in \gamma)^P \rightarrow (0 \in \gamma \rightarrow \exists^! w.(w \in \gamma \otimes \langle x, w \rangle \in t) \vdash \exists^! u. \exists^! v. \exists^! w(w \in \alpha \otimes \langle x, u \rangle \in t \otimes \langle z, v \rangle \in s \otimes \langle u, v, w \rangle \in \text{mult})) \quad \vdash 0 \in \beta \\
\hline
0 \in \alpha, (0 \in \beta \rightarrow \exists^! w.(w \in \beta \otimes \langle z, w \rangle \in s)), (y \in \beta \rightarrow \text{Sy} \in \beta)^P \rightarrow (0 \in \gamma \rightarrow \exists^! w.(w \in \gamma \otimes \langle x, w \rangle \in t) \vdash \exists^! u. \exists^! v. \exists^! w(w \in \alpha \otimes \langle x, u \rangle \in t \otimes \langle z, v \rangle \in s \otimes \langle u, v, w \rangle \in \text{mult})) \quad (y \in \alpha \rightarrow \text{Sy} \in \alpha)^{PQ} \vdash ((y \in \beta \rightarrow \text{Sy} \in \beta)^Q) \\
\hline
0 \in \alpha, (y \in \alpha \rightarrow \text{Sy} \in \alpha)^{PQ}, x \in \mathbf{N}_\beta(P)[t], y \in \mathbf{N}_\gamma(Q)[s] \vdash \exists^! u. \exists^! v. \exists^! w(w \in \alpha \otimes \langle x, u \rangle \in t \otimes \langle z, v \rangle \in s \otimes \langle u, v, w \rangle \in \text{add}) \\
\hline
x \in \mathbf{N}_\beta(P)[t], z \in \mathbf{N}_\gamma(Q)[s] \vdash ((y \in \alpha \rightarrow \text{Sy} \in \alpha)^{PQ} \rightarrow (0 \in \alpha \rightarrow \exists^! u. \exists^! v. \exists^! w(w \in \alpha \otimes \langle x, u \rangle \in t \otimes \langle z, v \rangle \in s \otimes \langle u, v, w \rangle \in \text{mult}))) \\
\hline
x \in \mathbf{N}(P)[t], z \in \mathbf{N}(Q)[s] \vdash (((y \in \alpha \rightarrow \text{Sy} \in \alpha)^{PQ} \rightarrow (0 \in \alpha \rightarrow \exists^! u. \exists^! v. \exists^! w(w \in \alpha \otimes \langle x, u \rangle \in t \otimes \langle z, v \rangle \in s \otimes \langle u, v, w \rangle \in \text{mult})))
\end{array}$$

Table A.2
Preimage for multiplication