

Lecture #2

The Church Rosser Theorem

1936 Church/Kosser for  $\lambda I$  calculus

1958 Curry/Feys for CL

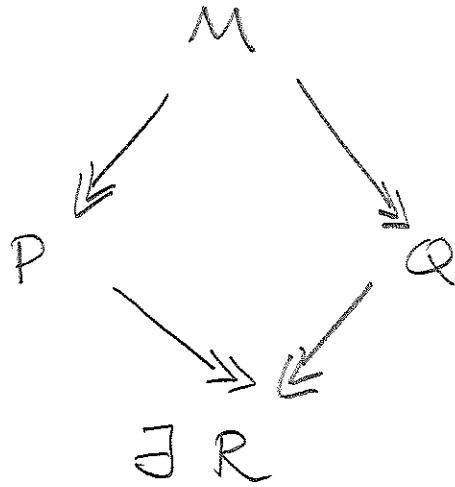
1965 Schroer for full  $\beta$  reduction

1967 Tait/Martin-Löf via parallel reduction

1975 Welch via super parallel reduction

What does it say?

• (DP)  
'diamond property'



any two divergent reduction sequences  
may be brought back together  
(for the cost of some more reduction)  
R is the 'common reduct' of P, Q

corollaries

• (CR)

$M \approx N$

any two convertible terms have a  
common reduct

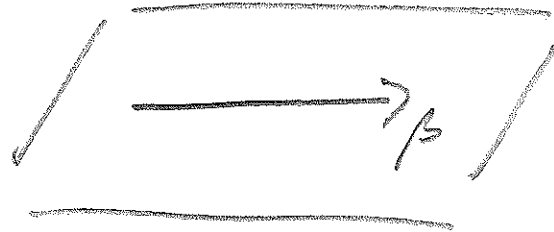


• if  $M \approx N$ ,  $N$  is is normal form then  $M \longrightarrow N$

$\beta$  reduction

$\beta$  normal forms

$\beta$  equality / conversion



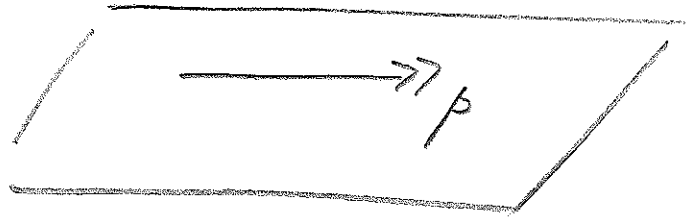
reserve this relation symbol  
for the single 'top-level' instances

$$(\lambda e). a \longrightarrow_{\beta} e[a]$$

'redex'

'contractum'

" $(\lambda e). a$  contracts to  $e[a]$ "



let this be the  
least precongruence<sup>\*</sup>  
 containing  $\rightarrow_{\beta}$

\* i.e.

- reflexive
- transitive
- closed under the term constructors<sup>(\*\*)</sup>

$$(r) \frac{}{\underline{\underline{x \rightarrow_{\beta} x}}} \text{ (***)}$$

$$(**) \frac{e_1 \rightarrow_{\beta} e_2}{\lambda e_1 \rightarrow_{\beta} \lambda e_2} \text{ (λ)}$$

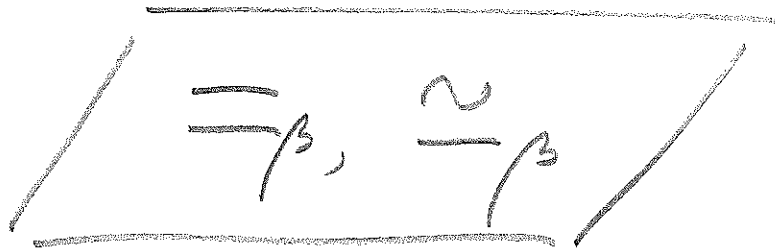
$$e_1 \rightarrow_{\beta} e \rightarrow_{\beta} e_2$$

$$(t) \frac{}{e_1 \rightarrow_{\beta} e_2}$$

$$(o) \frac{e_1 \rightarrow_{\beta} e_2 \quad a_1 \rightarrow_{\beta} a_2}{e_1 \circ a_1 \rightarrow_{\beta} e_2 \circ a_2}$$

$$(\beta) \frac{e_1 \rightarrow_{\beta} e_2}{e_1 \rightarrow_{\beta} e_2}$$

NB(\*\*\*)  $e \rightarrow_{\beta} e$  is an admissible property, by induction

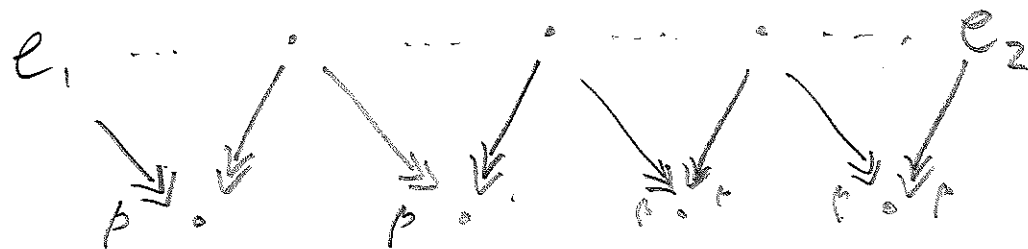


this is the least congruence<sup>(\*)</sup> containing  $\rightarrow_{\beta}$

(\*) ie additionally consider an inference rule (s)  $\frac{e \sim_{\beta} e'}{e' \sim_{\beta} e}$

or consider an additional rule  $(\beta^{-1})$   $\frac{e' \rightarrow_{\beta} e}{e \sim_{\beta} e'}$

or define  $\sim_{\beta}$  by



$$\underline{\underline{nf_{\beta} e}}$$

say that  $e$  is in  $\beta$ -normal form  $nf_{\beta} e$  'e in  $\beta$ -nf'

if  $\bullet e \rightarrow_{\beta} e' \Rightarrow e' \equiv e$  and reduction sequence is 'empty'

ie. there is no subterm  $f$  of  $e$  such that  $f \rightarrow_{\beta} f'$  in  $e \rightarrow_{\beta} e'$

NB. if we consider  $\omega = (\lambda x.xx)$  i.e.  $\lambda((\text{var } 0) \cdot (\text{var } 0))$

then  $\omega$  is in  $\beta$ -nf

• but if  $\Omega = \omega \cdot \omega$  then  $\Omega \rightarrow_{\beta} \Omega$  indeed  $\Omega \rightarrow_{\beta} \Omega$

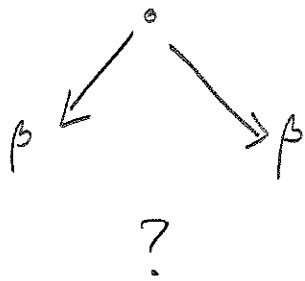
so  $\Omega$  is not in  $\beta$ -nf indeed  $\Omega \rightarrow_{\beta} \Omega \rightarrow_{\beta} \Omega \rightarrow \dots$

so we've already left the realm of terminating expressions



why might Church-Rosser  
be hard to prove

problem #1



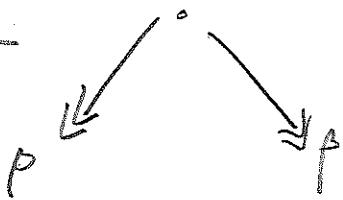
$(\lambda e). a \rightarrow_{\beta} e[a]$  seems OK

but 'a' is potentially repeated 0, 1, 2, ... many times in  $e[a]$

each of which might subsequently reduce

(so we can't easily take 'contextual closure' of  $\rightarrow_{\beta}$ )

problem #2



transitivity rule kills you

almost before you can start doing anything using proof by induction

problem #3

infinite reductions

eg.  $\Omega \rightarrow_{\beta} \Omega \rightarrow_{\beta} \dots$

mean you can't assume that  $\rightarrow_{\beta}$  is bounded

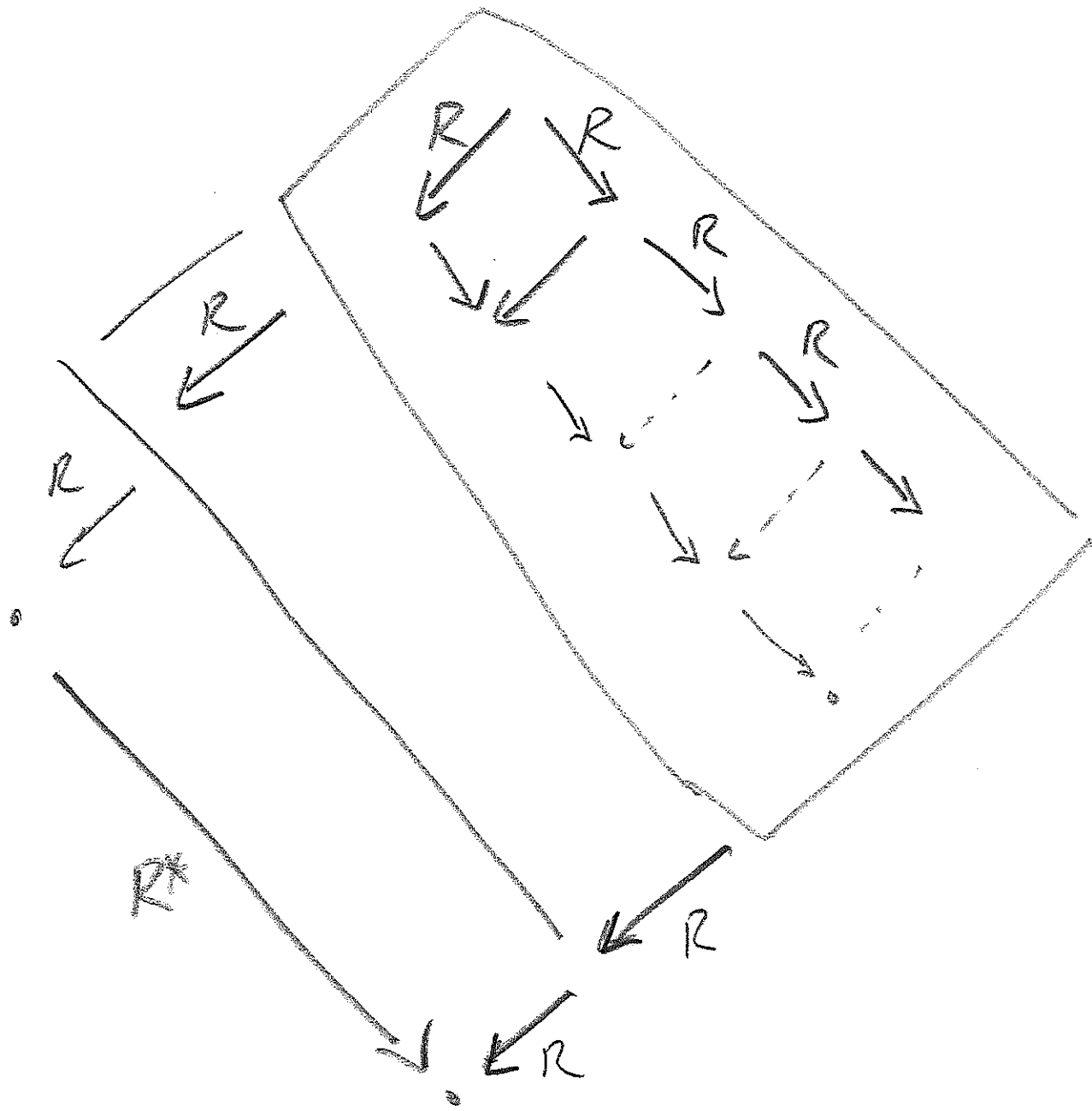
what we need

a relation  $R$  between terms such that

- $\rightarrow_{\beta} \subseteq R$  so that  $R$  can do at least as much reduction
- $R^* \subseteq \rightarrow_{\beta}$  so that problematic transitivity in  $\rightarrow_{\beta}$  can be 'tamed' by transitivity of  $R^*$
- $R$  is closed under 'contextual rules' for  $(\lambda), (\cdot)$
- $R$  satisfies DP

lemma  $R$  satisfies DP  $\Rightarrow R^*$  satisfies DP

lemma  $R$  closed under  $(\lambda), (\cdot)$   $\Rightarrow R^*$  closed under  $(\lambda), (\cdot)$



$R$  and  $R^*$  play nicely

'strip lemma'

one solution to the problems

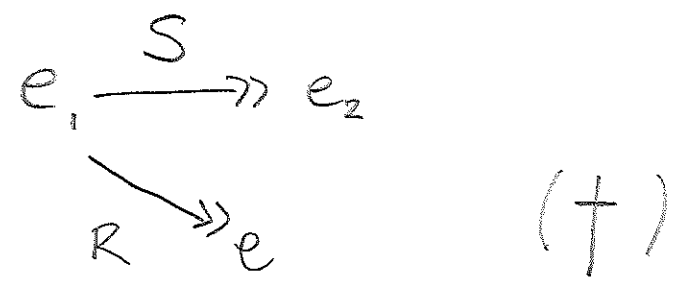
consider two relations  $R, S$  such that

- $S \subseteq R$
- $\rightarrow_p \subseteq R$
- $R^* \subseteq \rightarrow_p$
- $R$  closed under  
(A) (o)

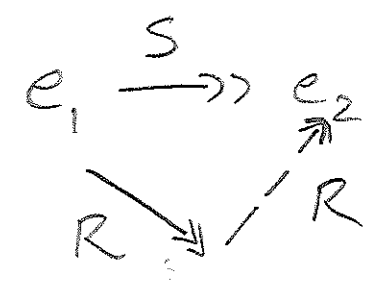
together  
with

"triangle lemma"  
(Takahashi 1989/95; Lévy 1977; ...)

if



then



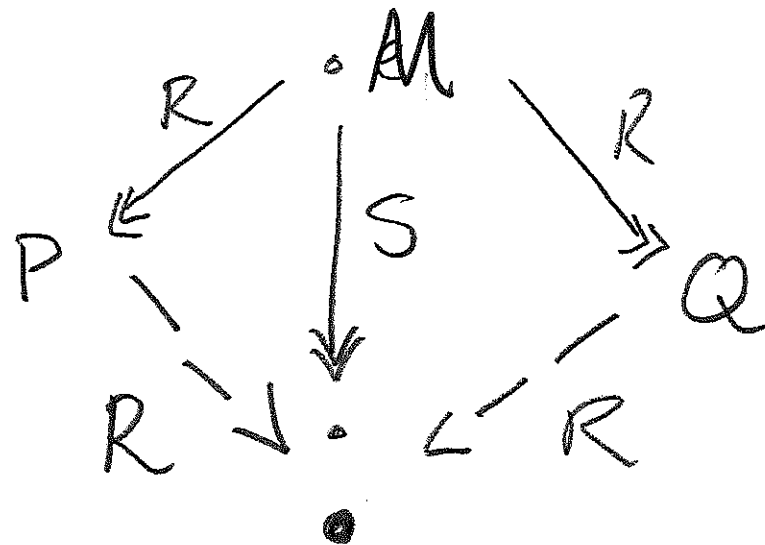
(\*) lemma if  $(R, S)$  satisfy (+)  
then  $R$  satisfies DP

(\*\*) provided  $\forall e \exists e'. e S e'$

NB

(\*) is a partial correctness statement  
(\*\*) the corresponding termination proof

(\*) diamonds vier triangles



Welch, 1975 ; Park, Aczel

Klop, van Raamsdonk

Say that  $(R) e \Rightarrow e'$  "e Super-parallel reduces to e'"

(s)  $e \Rightarrow_d e'$  "e' is a complete superdevelopment of e"

if  $\overline{x \Rightarrow x}$  (var) plus for  $R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Rightarrow$   $\frac{e_1 \Rightarrow \lambda e \quad a_1 \Rightarrow a}{e_1 \cdot a_1 \Rightarrow e[a]}$  ( $\beta$ )

$\frac{e_1 \Rightarrow e_2}{\lambda e_1 \Rightarrow \lambda e_2}$  ( $\lambda$ )

$\frac{e_1 \Rightarrow e_2 \quad a_1 \Rightarrow a_2}{e_1 \cdot a_1 \Rightarrow e_2 \cdot a_2}$  ( $\cdot$ ) for  $S \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Rightarrow_d$

- above rule ( $\beta$ )
- in ( $\cdot$ ) rule, forbid  $e_2 \equiv \lambda e$

idea

- $S \subseteq R$  every rule defining  $S$  is an  $R$ -rule
- $\rightarrow_p \in R$  by rule ( $p$ ), plus proof of reflexivity  
(admissible by 'usual' reasoning)
- $R$  allows reduction to proceed as far as the creation of a top level redex and then is allowed to contract it
- $S$  forces contraction of all top level redexes created inductively as it proceeds

## Termination

- $\forall e \exists e' \quad e \Rightarrow_d e'$  induction on  $e$ ; case analysis in  $(\cdot)$  case

partial correctness

- $$\begin{array}{ccc} e_1 \xRightarrow[S]{d} e' & & \\ R \Downarrow e & \Rightarrow & e \xRightarrow{R} e' \end{array}$$
 idea the  $S$  reduction contracts at least as many redexes as  $R$

so for the 'leftovers' in  $e$ , does one step of  $R$  suffice to mop up all the others?

answer yes (!)

proof induction on  $S$   
case analysis on  $R$

lemma

$$\frac{e_1 \Rightarrow e_2 \quad a_1 \Rightarrow a_2}{e_1[a_1] \Rightarrow e_2[a_2]}$$



# Substitutivity

Say that  $R$   
is substitutive  
                    

$$e_1 R e_2 \quad a_1 R a_2$$

---

$$e_1[a_1] R e_2[a_2]$$

strongly  
substitutive

$$e_1 R e_2 \quad \sigma_1 [R] \sigma_2$$

---

$$e_1[\sigma_1] R e_2[\sigma_2]$$

where  $[R]$  is the pointwise extension of  $R$  to  $\sigma$ s

lemma  $R$  strongly substitutive  $\Rightarrow R$  substitutive

lemma  $\Rightarrow$  is strongly substitutive (why?)