

Lecture Notes on A Mixed Linear/Nonlinear Logic

15-836: Substructural Logics
Frank Pfenning

Lecture 10
September 28, 2023

1 Introduction

As we have seen in the last lecture, introducing the judgment of validity and then internalizing it as the exponential modality $!A$ permits a compositional translation of structural (intuitionistic) logic into linear logic. At this point we could declare victory and see if similar techniques apply to other logics, e.g., if there is some embedding of linear logic into ordered logic.

However, there are some nagging issues, despite the elegance of the cut elimination proof.

1. The exponential $!A$ is neither positive nor negative in that it is invertible neither on the right nor on the left. On the right, in a judgment $\Gamma ; \Delta \vdash !A$ we may have to wait until Δ becomes empty before applying $!R$. On the left, we can move the linear antecedent $!A$ *true* to A *valid*, but we cannot necessarily move it back immediately to A *true* because that renders the linear context nonempty (thereby possibly preventing $!R$).
2. If we have a particular interpretation of intuitionistic (structural) logic in mind, then translation to linear logic may mangle this interpretation. Among other concerns, a notion of observability may not be preserved, in which case the translation couldn't properly serve as a compiler.

So it is worth looking for a direct combination of logics, rather than translating one into the other. If structural logic represents functional programming, and linear logic message-passing, then we'd look for a way to combine functional and message-passing programming.

Today, we take a first step in this direction by developing a mixed linear/non-linear logic (mostly) following [Benton \[1994\]](#). Since ours is a minor variant, we also call it LNL. We will see that it repairs some of the noted issues. Moreover, it

presents a clear path towards further generalization in the form of *adjoint logic* [Reed, 2009, Pruiksmas et al., 2018].

2 Shifting Between Logics

Given the desire to keep the native meaning of both structural and linear logic, we place them in two different strata and speculate that we may just go back and forth between them using two shift operators.

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Structural } A_S ::= P_S \mid A_S \supset B_S \mid A_S \wedge B_S \mid \top \mid A_S \vee B_S \mid \perp \mid \quad \uparrow A_L \\ \text{Linear } A_L ::= P_L \mid A_L \multimap B_L \mid A_L \otimes B_L \mid \mathbf{1} \mid A_L \& B_L \mid \top \mid A_L \oplus B_L \mid \mathbf{0} \mid \downarrow A_S \end{array}$$

We call S and L *modes*.

The key questions are: Which properties do we expect from the combination, and which laws should the two shifts satisfy so that these properties hold? At least, we the combination should satisfy cut and identity elimination. Beyond that, the combination should be *conservative* over each fragment in a strong sense: not only do we want purely structural or purely linear propositions to be true precisely if they are true in purely structural or purely linear logic, but we also want them to have essentially the same proofs.

A lesson from the study of validity is that we cannot allow validity (here: truth of a structural proposition) to depend on truth (here: truth of a linear proposition). This gives us two judgment forms for the mixed linear/nonlinear logic.

$$(1) \Gamma_S ; \Delta_L \vdash A_L$$

$$(2) \Gamma_S \vdash A_S$$

The significant differences to the judgments from dual intuitionistic linear logic is that (a) there no longer is an exponential $!A$, and (b) we can apply inference rules directly to structural propositions A_S , both in the antecedent and in the succedent.

3 Rules for Implication

Because we have two judgments and also two forms of implication, there are more rules concerning implication than one might at first suspect. This kind of redundancy is unfortunate, but, as we will see in the next lecture, it can be eliminated to obtain a quite streamlined system in which there are just a single right rule and a single left rule for implication.

Because we can tell, by notation and by position, when antecedents are structural or linear propositions, we omit the subscription Γ_S and Δ_L .

First, the right rules. Since the mode of the succedent is uniquely determined by the judgment (or vice versa, depending on how you look at it), there are just two rules.

$$\frac{\Gamma, A_S \vdash B_S}{\Gamma \vdash A_S \supset B_S} \supset R \qquad \frac{\Gamma ; \Delta, A_L \vdash B_L}{\Gamma ; \Delta \vdash A_L \multimap B_L} \multimap R$$

There is only one left rule for $A_L \multimap B_L$ because it can appear in only one of the two judgments.

$$\frac{\Gamma ; \Delta_1 \vdash A_L \quad \Gamma ; \Delta_2, B_L \vdash C_L}{\Gamma ; \Delta_1, \Delta_2, A_L \multimap B_L \vdash C_L} \multimap L$$

On the other hand, structural implication can appear in both judgment forms, so there are two left rules for $A_S \supset B_S$.

$$\frac{\Gamma, A_S \supset B_S \vdash A_S \quad \Gamma, A_S \supset B_S, B_S ; \Delta \vdash C_L}{\Gamma, A_S \supset B_S ; \Delta \vdash C_L} \supset L_{SL}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, A_S \supset B_S \vdash A_S \quad \Gamma, A_S \supset B_S, B_S \vdash C_S}{\Gamma, A_S \supset B_S \vdash C_S} \supset L_{SS}$$

Note that the first premises of the two rules are the same. That's because A_S is structural, and thereby determines the judgment form needed to prove it. It is also forced that we sort B_S into Γ , just from its mode.

4 Rules for Shifts

Besides identifying the right judgment forms, the rules for the shifts are a key to understanding the mixed linear/nonlinear system. As guidance in this process, let's recall the rules in the dyadic system from last lecture. We show the original form of $!R$ with an explicit, albeit forced, $valid_R$ rule.

$$\frac{\Gamma ; \cdot \vdash A \text{ true}}{\Gamma \vdash A \text{ valid}} \text{ valid}_R \qquad \frac{\Gamma, A \text{ valid} ; \Delta, A \text{ true} \vdash C \text{ true}}{\Gamma, A \text{ valid} ; \Delta \vdash C \text{ true}} \text{ valid}_L$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \text{ valid}}{\Gamma ; \cdot \vdash !A \text{ true}} !R \qquad \frac{\Gamma, A \text{ valid} ; \Delta \vdash C \text{ true}}{\Gamma ; \Delta, !A \vdash C \text{ true}} !L$$

Here is a thought experiment: what if the structural layer was only occupied by $\uparrow A_L$? Then for any proposition $\downarrow A_S$ the proposition A_S must have the form $\uparrow A_L$. Then we can try to gain insight from the decomposition $!A_L \triangleq \downarrow \uparrow A_L$. Here, both A_L and $\downarrow \uparrow A_L$ are at mode L. Therefore, $A_S \text{ valid}$ corresponds to $\uparrow A_L \text{ true}$ because this is the only possibility for A_S . From this we get the following rules (showing the prior

rule on the left, the LNL rule on the right):

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{\Gamma ; \cdot \vdash A \text{ true}}{\Gamma \vdash A \text{ valid}} \text{ valid}_R \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma, A \text{ valid} ; \Delta, A \text{ true} \vdash C \text{ true}}{\Gamma, A \text{ valid} ; \Delta \vdash C \text{ true}} \text{ valid}_L \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \text{ valid}}{\Gamma ; \cdot \vdash !A \text{ true}} !R \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma, A \text{ valid} ; \Delta \vdash C \text{ true}}{\Gamma ; \Delta, !A \vdash C \text{ true}} !L \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma ; \cdot \vdash A_L}{\Gamma \vdash \uparrow A_L} \uparrow R \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma, \uparrow A_L ; \Delta, A_L \vdash C_L}{\Gamma, \uparrow A_L ; \Delta \vdash C_L} \uparrow L \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma \vdash A_S}{\Gamma ; \cdot \vdash \downarrow A_S} \downarrow R \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma, A_S ; \Delta \vdash C_L}{\Gamma ; \Delta, \downarrow A_S \vdash C_L} \downarrow L
 \end{array}$$

Some of the anomalies have disappeared. For example, every rule now concerns a particular logical connective rather than a judgment.

Furthermore, we have an explanation why $!A$ was neither positive nor negative. From writing out the proofs of identities we can see that \uparrow is negative (invertible on the right) and \downarrow is positive (invertible on the left). So $!A_L = \downarrow \uparrow A_L$ is neither positive nor negative because there is a shift in polarity between the two shifts. It is sometimes said that $!$ is “*positive on the outside and negative on the inside*”, which reflects this decomposition precisely.

5 Identity and Cut

In LNL we have two forms of identity, and several forms of cut. This is because we can apply rules directly to structural propositions.

$$\frac{}{\Gamma, A_S \vdash A_S} \text{id}_S \qquad \frac{}{\Gamma ; A_L \vdash A_L} \text{id}_L$$

For the same reason we have multiple left rules, we also get multiple versions of cut (three, to be precise).

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{\Gamma \vdash A_S \quad \Gamma, A_S \vdash C_S}{\Gamma \vdash C_S} \text{cut}_{SS} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A_S \quad \Gamma, A_S ; \Delta' \vdash C_L}{\Gamma ; \Delta' \vdash C_L} \text{cut}_{SL} \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma ; \Delta \vdash A_L \quad \Gamma ; \Delta', A_L \vdash C_L}{\Gamma ; \Delta, \Delta' \vdash C_L} \text{cut}_{LL}
 \end{array}$$

The admissibility of cut and identity is not essentially different from before, and perhaps proof are even a bit simpler since we do not need to order different forms of cut among each other. But we need to prove it simultaneously for the two forms of identity and three three forms of cut since shifts will move us between these judgments.

Theorem 1 (Admissibility of Identity) *The rules of identity id_s and id_l are admissible in the system where they are restricted to atomic propositions.*

Proof: By simultaneous structural induction on A_s and A_l . \square

Theorem 2 (Admissibility of Cut) *The three rules of cut are admissible in the system without cut.*

Proof: By simultaneous nested induction on all three forms of cut, first on the cut proposition A_l and A_s , and second on the first and second given derivation.

To account for the requirement that the structural context Γ be the same among the premises of the cut we may have to apply the admissibility of weakening for structural antecedents, that is, we can add a new antecedent B_s to every sequent in a proof. \square

Once we have cut elimination, the conservative extension properties are almost immediate.

Theorem 3 (Conservative Extension)

- (i) *If Γ and A_s do not contain any upshift \uparrow then $\Gamma \vdash A_s$ if and only if $\Gamma \vdash A_s$ in structural (intuitionistic) logic.*
- (ii) *If Δ and A_l do not contain any downshift \downarrow then $\cdot ; \Delta \vdash A_l$ if and only if $\Delta \vdash A_l$ in purely linear logic.*

Proof: All the rules except cut have the subformula property, and the rules can be read as rules from the purely structural (part (i)) or purely linear (part (ii)) sequent calculus. Therefore conservative extension follows directly from cut elimination. \square

6 Examples

We can now experiment with some properties. For example, we see that \uparrow distributes over implication, we just have to be careful to pick the *correct* kind of implication. We elide some structural antecedents when they are no longer needed.

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{}{- ; A_l \vdash A_l} \text{id} \quad \frac{}{- ; B_l \vdash B_l} \text{id} \\
 \frac{}{- ; A_l \multimap B_l, A_l \vdash B_l} \multimap L \\
 \frac{\uparrow(A_l \multimap B_l), \uparrow A_l ; \cdot \vdash B_l}{\uparrow(A_l \multimap B_l), \uparrow A_l \vdash \uparrow B_l} \uparrow L \times 2 \\
 \frac{\uparrow(A_l \multimap B_l), \uparrow A_l \vdash \uparrow B_l}{\cdot \vdash \uparrow(A_l \multimap B_l) \supset (\uparrow A_l \supset \uparrow B_l)} \uparrow R \\
 \frac{}{\cdot \vdash \uparrow(A_l \multimap B_l) \supset (\uparrow A_l \supset \uparrow B_l)} \supset R \times 2
 \end{array}$$

We need to transition from a structural channel x_s to a linear channel y_L , so that's what we need to receive! We write $\langle y \rangle$ for receiving a channel of a different mode (linear or structural). Then we have:

$$\frac{\Gamma ; \cdot \vdash P(y_L) :: (y_L : A_L)}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{recv} x_s (\langle y_L \rangle \Rightarrow P(y_L)) :: (x_s : \uparrow A_L)} \uparrow R$$

Next, the left rule $\uparrow L$. To match $\uparrow R$, we clearly need to send a channel but which one? We annotate the rule and then think of a process notation.

$$\frac{\Gamma, \uparrow A_L ; \Delta, A_L \vdash C_L}{\Gamma, \uparrow A_L ; \Delta \vdash C_L} \uparrow L \quad \frac{\Gamma, x_s : \uparrow A_L ; \Delta, y_L : A_L \vdash (z : C_L)}{\Gamma, x_s : \uparrow A_L ; \Delta \vdash (z : C_L)} \uparrow L$$

We see that what we have to send is a fresh linear channel y_L . This is a new phenomenon since there is no cut involved, and so far only cut would create a fresh channel. So we have to make up some new form of syntax.

$$\frac{\Gamma, x_s : \uparrow A_L ; \Delta, y_L : A_L \vdash Q(y_L) :: (z : C_L)}{\Gamma, x_s : \uparrow A_L ; \Delta \vdash \mathbf{send} x_s (\langle y_L \rangle \Rightarrow Q(y_L)) :: (z : C_L)} \uparrow L$$

What happens operationally? The client sends a fresh channel and the provider continues with the fresh channel. So the first approximation would be

$$\rightarrow \text{proc}(\mathbf{recv} a_s (\langle y_L \rangle \Rightarrow P(y_L))), \quad \text{proc}(\mathbf{send} a_s (\langle y_L \rangle \Rightarrow Q(y_L))) \\ \text{proc}(P(b_L)), \quad \text{proc}(Q(b_L)) \quad b_L \text{ fresh}$$

This does not quite work, however, since structural channels may have multiple clients. In the rule above the provider of a_s disappears after interacting with one client, so the other clients will be left dangling without a provider.

A similar practically occurring scenario is a web server. When a client sends an HTTP request, the server spawns a fresh one-to-one connection and meanwhile continues to serve other requests. What this means here is that the provider of a structural channel spawns a fresh linear process *but remains in the configuration* to receive further requests.

We model this with a new feature of multiset rewriting: we combine linear and structural inference. The state consists of a set (the persistent propositions) and a multiset (the ephemeral propositions). We just underline the persistent proposition, because the alternative notation $!A$ may be misleading. Then the rule reads:

$$\rightarrow \text{proc}(\mathbf{recv} a_s (\langle y_L \rangle \Rightarrow P(y_L))), \quad \text{proc}(\mathbf{send} a_s (\langle y_L \rangle \Rightarrow Q(y_L))) \\ \text{proc}(P(b_L)), \quad \text{proc}(Q(b_L)) \quad b_L \text{ fresh}$$

The persistent semantic objects originate in the cut_{SL} rule (we omit the cut_{SS} rule). With process terms:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash P(x_s) :: (x_s : A_s) \quad \Gamma, x_s : A_s ; \Delta' \vdash Q(x_s) :: (z_L : C_L)}{\Gamma ; \Delta' \vdash x_s \leftarrow P(x_s) ; Q(x_s) :: (z_L : C_L)} \text{cut}_{\text{SL}}$$

And the dynamics:

$$\text{proc}(x_s \leftarrow P(x_s) ; Q(x_s)) \longrightarrow \underline{\text{proc}}(P(a_s)), \text{proc}(Q_s(a_s)) \quad (a_s \text{ fresh})$$

Because it is not needed for the example, for the downshifts we jump directly to the annotated versions and dynamics. As with other symmetric pairs of connectives (\multimap / \otimes and $\& / \oplus$) we'd like to reuse the syntax for a streamlined language, just swapping provider and client roles.

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash P(y_s) :: (y_s : A_s)}{\Gamma ; \cdot \vdash \text{send } x_L (\langle y_s \rangle \Rightarrow P(y_s)) :: (x_L : \downarrow A_s)} \downarrow R$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, y_s : A_s ; \Delta \vdash Q(y_s) :: (z_L : C_L)}{\Gamma ; \Delta, x_L : \downarrow A_s \vdash \text{recv } x_L (\langle y_s \rangle \Rightarrow P(y_s)) :: (z_L : C_L)} \downarrow L$$

The dynamics is similar to the one for $\uparrow A_L$, except that different processes are persistent and channels go from linear to structural instead of vice versa.

$$\longrightarrow \underline{\text{proc}}(\text{send } a_L (\langle y_s \rangle \Rightarrow P(y_s))), \quad \text{proc}(\text{recv } a_L (\langle y_s \rangle \Rightarrow Q(y_s)))$$

$$\underline{\text{proc}}(P(b_s)), \quad \text{proc}(Q(b_s)) \quad b_s \text{ fresh}$$

9 Example Continued

Returning to the example, we can now write the process for *mapreduce*. Both h and f are structural channels; we omit the subscript on the linear channels.

$$\text{tree}_A = \oplus\{\text{leaf} : A, \text{node} : \text{tree}_A \otimes \text{tree}_A\}$$

$$\text{mapreduce}_{AB}(r : B) (h_s : \uparrow(A \multimap B)) (f_s : \uparrow(B \multimap (B \multimap B))) (t : \text{tree}_A) =$$

$$\text{recv } t (\text{leaf} \Rightarrow \text{send } h_s (\langle h' \rangle \Rightarrow \text{send } h' t ; \text{fwd } r h')$$

$$| \text{node} \Rightarrow \text{recv } t (s \Rightarrow$$

$$x \leftarrow \text{call } \text{mapreduce}_{AB} x h_s f_s s ;$$

$$y \leftarrow \text{call } \text{mapreduce}_{AB} y h_s f_s t ;$$

$$\text{send } f_s (\langle f' \rangle \Rightarrow$$

$$\text{send } f' x ;$$

$$\text{send } f' y ;$$

$$\text{fwd } r f'))$$

The structural nature of h_s and f_s is crucial here because they are indeed used multiple or zero times in the two branches.

This may also be a good time to think about parallelism. We see that the two recursive calls to *mapreduce* proceed entirely independently. But the parallelism even goes further: the computation of f' on x and y can proceed while *mapreduce* is still computing. So x and y are shared between the providers (the recursive calls

to *mapreduce*) and the client (f' , a linear instance of f_s), synchronization between these two processes only takes place during input or output on those channels. This phenomenon of *pipelining* can improve the asymptotic complexity of some parallel algorithms, as observed by [Blelloch and Reid-Miller \[1999\]](#).

Since it came up during lecture: if we change the type of f_s to take a pair of channels, we have to create this pair in the code which is minimally more complicated. The result is below.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tree}_A &= \oplus\{\text{leaf} : A, \text{node} : \text{tree}_A \otimes \text{tree}_A\} \\ \text{mapreduce}_{AB}(r : B) (h_s : \uparrow(A \multimap B)) (f_s : \uparrow((B \otimes B) \multimap B)) (t : \text{tree}_A) &= \\ &\text{recv } t (\text{leaf} \Rightarrow \text{send } h_s (\langle h' \rangle \Rightarrow \text{send } h' t ; \text{fwd } r h') \\ &\quad | \text{node} \Rightarrow \text{recv } t (s \Rightarrow \\ &\quad \quad x \leftarrow \text{call } \text{mapreduce}_{AB} x h_s f_s s ; \\ &\quad \quad y \leftarrow \text{call } \text{mapreduce}_{AB} y h_s f_s t ; \\ &\quad \quad \text{send } f_s (\langle f' \rangle \Rightarrow \\ &\quad \quad p_{B \otimes B} \leftarrow (\text{send } p x ; \text{fwd } p y) ; \\ &\quad \quad \text{send } f' p ; \\ &\quad \quad \text{fwd } r f')))) \end{aligned}$$

10 Summary

We have presented LNL [[Benton, 1994](#)], a mixed linear/nonlinear logic that arises from the logic of validity from the last lecture by decomposing $!A$ into two shifts: one (\uparrow) from linear to structural and one (\downarrow) from structural to linear. [Benton](#) makes the point that there is an adjunction between the two shifts, which results in their composition $\downarrow\uparrow$ being a comonad and the opposite composition $\uparrow\downarrow$ being a monad.

This approach solves some small issues with the dyadic formulation from last lecture. For example, \uparrow is negative and \downarrow is positive, which means their composition $!$ is neither.

Since we view LNL mainly as a stepping stone to full adjoint logic¹ we do not summarize the rules here.

References

Nick Benton. A mixed linear and non-linear logic: Proofs, terms and models. In Leszek Pacholski and Jerzy Tiuryn, editors, *Selected Papers from the 8th International Workshop on Computer Science Logic (CSL'94)*, pages 121–135, Kazimierz, Poland, September 1994. Springer LNCS 933. An extended version appears as Technical Report UCAM-CL-TR-352, University of Cambridge.

¹briefly previewed in this lecture, but covered in the notes for the next lecture

G. E. Blelloch and M. Reid-Miller. Pipeling with futures. *Theory of Computing Systems*, 32:213–239, 1999.

Klaas Pruiksma, William Chargin, Frank Pfenning, and Jason Reed. Adjoint logic. Unpublished manuscript, April 2018. URL <http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~fp/papers/adjoint18b.pdf>.

Jason Reed. A judgmental deconstruction of modal logic. Unpublished manuscript, May 2009. URL <http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~jcreed/papers/jdm12.pdf>.