

Context Equivalences and Metrics in Probabilistic λ -Calculi

Ugo Dal Lago

(Based on joint work with *Michele Alberti*, *Alberto Cappai*,
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Syntax and Operational Semantics of Λ_{\oplus}

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{}{M \Downarrow \emptyset} \quad \frac{}{V \Downarrow \{V^1\}} \quad \frac{M \Downarrow \mathcal{D} \quad N \Downarrow \mathcal{E}}{M \oplus N \Downarrow \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{D} + \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{E}} \\
 \\
 \frac{M \Downarrow \mathcal{K} \quad \{P[N/x] \Downarrow \mathcal{E}_P\}_{\lambda x. P \in \mathcal{S}\mathcal{K}}}{MN \Downarrow \sum_{\lambda x. P \in \mathcal{S}\mathcal{K}} \mathcal{K}(\lambda x. P) \cdot \mathcal{E}_P}
 \end{array}$$

$\mathcal{D}(V) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{\infty}[0,1] \quad \sum_V \mathcal{D} = \sum_V \mathcal{D}(V) \leq 1.$

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$$C ::= [\cdot] \mid \lambda x.C \mid CM \mid MC \mid C \oplus M \mid M \oplus C \quad (V) \leq 1.$$

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- ▶ **Context Distance:**
 $\delta^C(M, N) = \sup_C \left| \sum \llbracket C[M] \rrbracket - \sum \llbracket C[N] \rrbracket \right|.$

Examples

$$I \oplus \Omega \quad \text{vs.} \quad I$$

Examples



$\lambda x.x$

$I \oplus \Omega$ vs. I

Examples

$$\Delta\Delta = (\lambda x.xx)(\lambda x.xx)$$


$I \oplus \Omega$ vs. I

Exam

Not Context Equivalent: $C = [\cdot]$.

Context Distance? Consider $C_n = (\lambda x. \underbrace{x \dots x}_{n \text{ times}})[\cdot]$.

$I \oplus \Omega$ vs. I

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Examples

Not Context Equivalent: $C = [\cdot]$.
Context Distance? Cannot Easily Amplify.

$I \oplus \Omega$ vs. I

$I \oplus \Omega$ vs. Ω

Examples

$$I \oplus \Omega \quad \text{vs.} \quad I$$

$$I \oplus \Omega \quad \text{vs.} \quad \Omega$$

$$(\lambda x. I) \oplus (\lambda x. \Omega) \quad \text{vs.} \quad \lambda x. I \oplus \Omega$$

Examples

$I \oplus \Omega$ vs. I
Not Context Equivalent in CBV: $C = (\lambda x.x(xI))[\cdot]$
Apparently Context Equivalent in CBN.

$I \oplus \Omega$ vs. Ω

$(\lambda x.I) \oplus (\lambda x.\Omega)$ vs. $\lambda x.I \oplus \Omega$

A Labelled Markov Chain for Λ_{\oplus}

Terms

A Labelled Markov Chain for Λ_{\oplus}

Terms

Values

A Labelled Markov Chain for Λ_{\oplus}

Terms

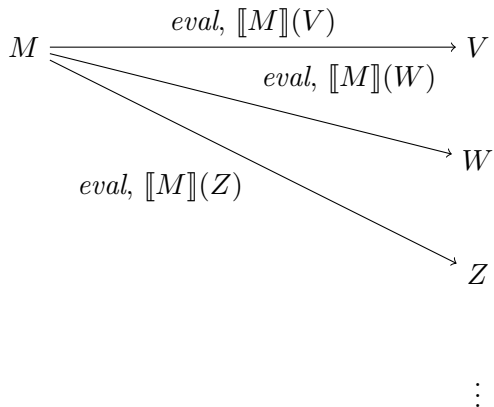
Values

M

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Values

$\lambda x.N$

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Terms

Values

$$N\{W/x\} \xleftarrow{W, 1} \lambda x.N$$

Probabilistic Bisimulation Relations

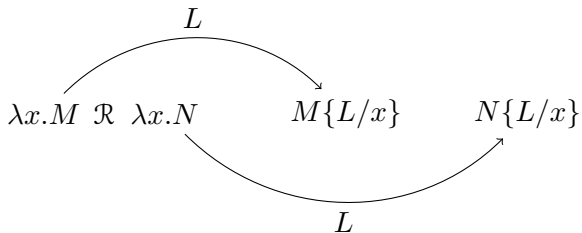
$$\lambda x.M \mathcal{R} \lambda x.N$$

Probabilistic Bisimulation Relations

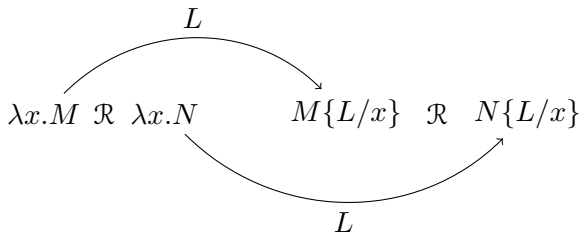
$$\lambda x.M \mathcal{R} \lambda x.N \quad M\{L/x\}$$

The diagram illustrates a relationship between lambda terms. On the left, the expression $\lambda x.M \mathcal{R} \lambda x.N$ is shown. An arrow labeled L originates from $\lambda x.N$ and points to the substituted term $M\{L/x\}$ on the right.

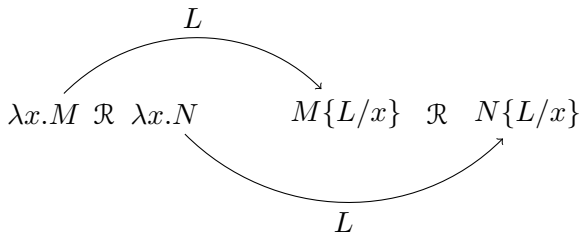
Probabilistic Bisimulation Relations



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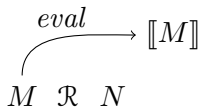
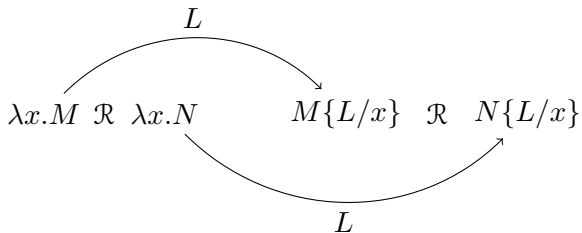


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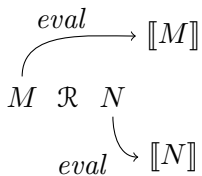
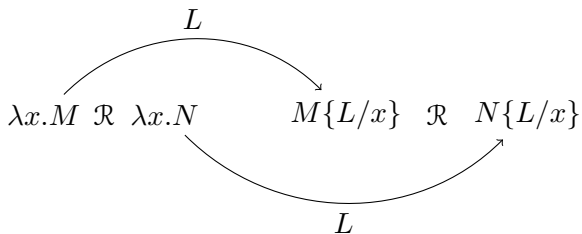


$$M \ \mathcal{R} \ N$$

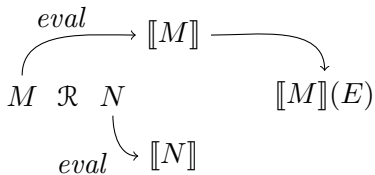
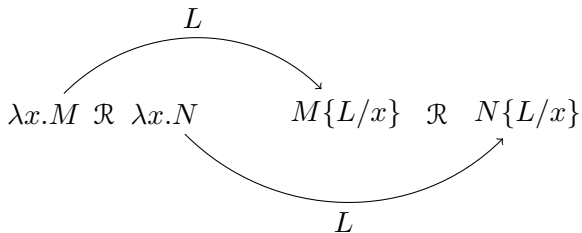
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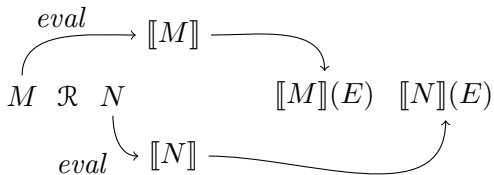
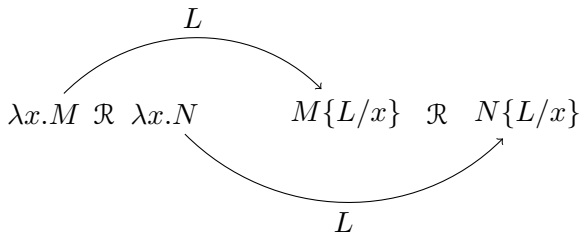
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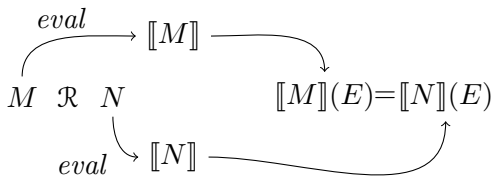
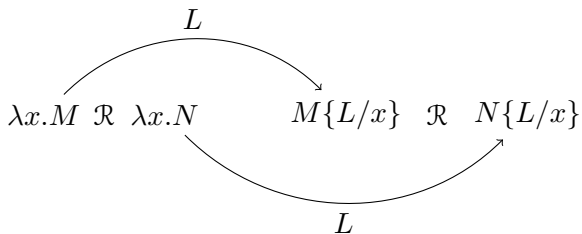
Probabilistic Bisimulation Relations



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Probabilistic Bisimulation Relations



Bisimilarity vs. Context Equivalence

- ▶ **Bisimilarity**: the union \sim of all bisimulation relations.
- ▶ Is it that \sim is included in \equiv ? How to prove it?
- ▶ Natural strategy: is \sim a congruence?

- ▶ If this is the case:

$$\begin{aligned} M \sim N &\implies C[M] \sim C[N] \implies \sum \llbracket C[M] \rrbracket = \sum \llbracket C[N] \rrbracket \\ &\implies M \equiv N. \end{aligned}$$

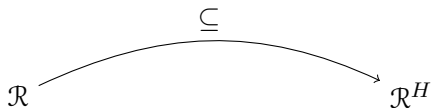
- ▶ This is a necessary sanity check anyway.
- ▶ The naïve proof by induction **fails**, due to application: from $M \sim N$, one cannot directly conclude that $LM \sim LN$.

Howe's Technique

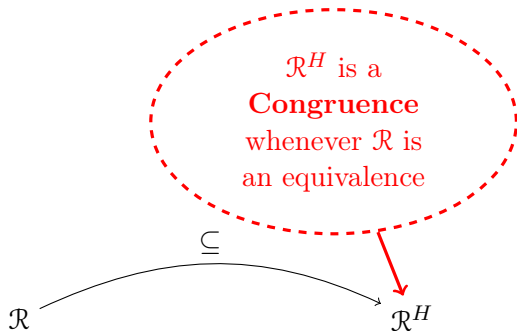
\mathcal{R}

\mathcal{R}^H

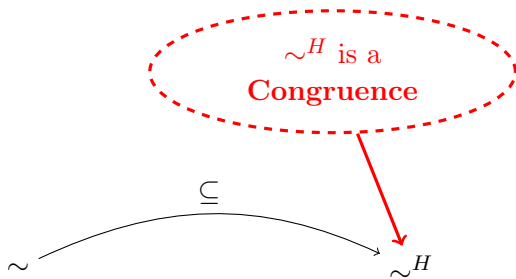
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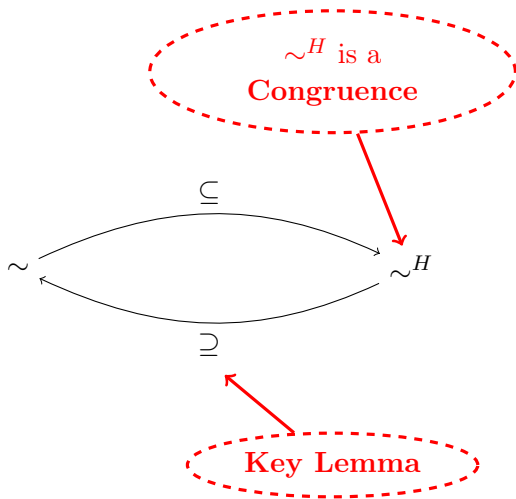
Howe's Technique



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Howe's Technique



Our Neighborhood

- ▶ Λ , where we observe **convergence**

	$\sim \subseteq \equiv$	$\equiv \subseteq \sim$
<i>CBN</i>	✓	✓
<i>CBV</i>	✓	✓

[Abramsky1990, Howe1993]

- ▶ Λ_{\oplus} with nondeterministic semantics, where we observe **convergence**, in its **may** or **must** flavors.

	$\sim \subseteq \equiv$	$\equiv \subseteq \sim$
<i>CBN</i>	✓	✗
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[Ong1993, Lassen1998]

The Probabilistic Case

- ▶ Λ_{\oplus} with probabilistic semantics.

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- ▶ Counterexample for CBN: $(\lambda x.I) \oplus (\lambda x.\Omega) \not\sim \lambda x.I \oplus \Omega$
- ▶ **Where** these discrepancies come from?

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- ▶ From **testing!**

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- ▶ From **testing!**
- ▶ Bisimulation can be characterized by testing equivalence as follows:

Calculus	Testing
Λ	$T ::= \omega \mid a \cdot T$
$P\Lambda_{\oplus}$	$T ::= \omega \mid a \cdot T \mid \langle T, T \rangle$
$N\Lambda_{\oplus}$	$T ::= \omega \mid a \cdot T \mid \bigwedge_{i \in I} T_i \mid \dots$

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- ▶ Full abstraction can be recovered if endowing Λ_{\oplus} with parallel disjunction [CDLSV2015].

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Cor

$$\frac{}{\Gamma, x \vdash x} \quad \frac{x, \Gamma \vdash M}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x.M} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M \quad \Delta \vdash N}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash MN} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M \quad \Gamma \vdash N}{\Gamma \vdash M \oplus N}$$

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 - ▶ The maximum distance induced by traces, i.e., sequences of actions: $\delta^t(M, N) = \sup_{\Upsilon} |Pr(M, \Upsilon) - Pr(N, \Upsilon)|$.

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- ▶ **Soundness and Completeness Results:**

$\delta^b \leq \delta^c$	$\delta^c \leq \delta^b$	$\delta^t \leq \delta^c$	$\delta^c \leq \delta^t$
✓	✗	✓	✓

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- ▶ **Example:** $\delta^t(I, I \oplus \Omega) = \delta^t(I \oplus \Omega, \Omega) = \frac{1}{2}$.

Context Distance: the General Case [CDL2016]

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 - ▶ **Actions** not only model parameter passing, but also *copying* of terms.

Context Distance: the General Case [CDL2016]

▶ N	$\frac{}{!\Gamma, x \vdash x}$	$\frac{}{!\Gamma, !x \vdash x}$	$\frac{x, \Gamma \vdash M}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x.M}$	$\frac{!x, \Gamma \vdash M}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda !x.M}$
▶ δ				
▶ T	$\frac{!\Gamma \vdash M}{!\Gamma \vdash !M}$	$\frac{\Gamma, !\Theta \vdash M \quad \Delta, !\Theta \vdash N}{\Gamma, \Delta, \Theta \vdash MN}$		$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M \quad \Gamma \vdash N}{\Gamma \vdash M \oplus N}$
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- ▶ **Examples:** $\delta^t(! (I \oplus \Omega), !\Omega) = \frac{1}{2}$ $\delta^t(! (I \oplus \Omega), !I) = 1$.
- ▶ **Trivialisation** does not hold in general, but becomes true in *strongly normalising* fragments or in presence of *parallel disjunction*.

Open Problems

- ▶ Would it be possible to read the distance between two terms M and N from their interpretations $\llbracket M \rrbracket$ and $\llbracket N \rrbracket$ (given in a suitable denotational model?).

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 - ▶ **Computational indistinguishability** is a key notion of cryptography, and can be seen as a form of parametric equivalence.
 - ▶ We have a preliminary work on characterizing it as trace equivalence in a λ -calculus for polynomial time, called RSLR [CDL2015].

$\{\mathcal{D}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $\{\mathcal{E}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ (where both \mathcal{D}_n and \mathcal{E}_n are distributions on binary strings) are said to be *computationally indistinguishable* iff for every PPT algorithm \mathcal{A} the following quantity is a negligible function of $n \in \mathbb{N}$:

$$|\Pr_{x \leftarrow \mathcal{D}_n}(\mathcal{A}(x, 1^n) = \epsilon) - \Pr_{x \leftarrow \mathcal{E}_n}(\mathcal{A}(x, 1^n) = \epsilon)|.$$

between two
[] and [N]

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Open Problems

- ▶ Would it be possible to read the distance between two terms M and N from their interpretations $\llbracket M \rrbracket$ and $\llbracket N \rrbracket$ (given in a suitable denotational model?).
- ▶ Applications to Cryptography?
 - ▶ **Computational indistinguishability** is a key notion of cryptography, and can be seen as a form of parametric equivalence.
 - ▶ We have a preliminary work on characterizing it as trace equivalence in a λ -calculus for polynomial time, called RSLR [CDL2015].
- ▶ Higher-order computational indistinguishability?

Thank You!

Questions?