Lecture Notes on Heyting Arithmetic

15-317: Constructive Logic
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Lecture 7
February 4, 2020

1 Introduction

In this lecture we discuss the data type of natural numbers. They serve as a prototype for a variety of inductively defined data types, such as lists or trees, because they are the easiest case of a data type generated by a constructor taking the data type as an argument (successor) from an atomic constructor (0). Together with quantification from the previous lecture, this allow us to reason constructively about natural numbers and extract corresponding functions. The constructive system for reasoning logically about natural numbers is called *intuitionistic arithmetic* or *Heyting arithmetic* [Hey56]. The *classical* version of the same principles is called *Peano arithmetic* [Pea89]. Both of these are usually introduced *axiomatically* rather than as an extension of natural deduction as we do here.

2 Induction

As usual, we think of the type of natural numbers as defined by its introduction form. Note, however, that nat is a *type* rather than a proposition. It is possible to completely unify these concepts to arrive at *type theory*, something we might explore later in this course. For now, we just specify cases for the typing judgment $t : \tau$, read term t has type τ, that was introduced in the previous lecture on quantification, but for which we have seen no

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specific instances yet. We distinguish this from $M : A$ which has the same syntax, but relates a proof term to a proposition instead of a term to a type. We now fill the typing judgment on terms with life as $t : \mathsf{nat}$ compared to its abstract treatment in the quantification lecture.

There are two introduction rules, one for zero and one for successor.

$$\frac{}{\mathsf{0} : \mathsf{nat}}\ \mathsf{nat}I_0 \qquad \frac{n : \mathsf{nat}}{\mathsf{s}\,n : \mathsf{nat}}\ \mathsf{nat}I_s$$

Intuitively, these rules express that $\mathsf{0}$ is a natural number ($\mathsf{nat}I_0$) and that the successor $\mathsf{s}\,n$ is a natural number if n itself is a natural number. This definition has a different character from previous definitions. We defined the meaning of $A \wedge B$ *true* from the meaning of A *true* and of B *true*, all of which are propositions. It is even different from the proof term assignment rules where, for example, we defined $\langle M, N\rangle : A \wedge B$ in terms of $M : A$ and $N : B$. In each case, the proposition itself is decomposed into its parts.

The types in the conclusion and premise of the $\mathsf{nat}I_s$ rules stay the same, namely nat. Fortunately, the *term* n in the premise is a part of the term $\mathsf{s}\,n$ in the conclusion, so the definition is not circular, because the judgment in the premise is still smaller than the judgment in the conclusion even if this is not because of the types. In (verificationist) constructive logic truth is defined by the introduction rules. The resulting implicit principle, that nothing is true unless the introduction rules prove it to be true, is of deep significance here. Nothing else is a natural number, except the objects constructed via $\mathsf{nat}I_s$ from $\mathsf{nat}I_0$. The rational number $\frac{7}{4}$ cannot sneak in claiming to be a natural number (which, by $\mathsf{nat}I_s$ would also make its successor $\frac{11}{4}$ claim to be natural).

But what should the elimination rule be? We cannot decompose the proposition into its parts, as it has no parts, so we decompose the term instead. Natural numbers have two introduction rules just like disjunctions. Their elimination rule, thus, also proceeds by cases, accounting for the possibility that a given n of type nat is either $\mathsf{0}$ or $\mathsf{s}\,x$ for some x. A property $C(n)$ is true if it holds no matter whether the natural number n was introduced by $\mathsf{nat}I_0$ so is zero or was introduced by $\mathsf{nat}I_s$ so is a successor:

$$\frac{n : \mathsf{nat} \quad C(\mathsf{0})\ \textit{true} \qquad \begin{array}{c}\dfrac{}{x : \mathsf{nat}} \quad \dfrac{}{C(x)\ \textit{true}}\,u \\ \vdots \\ C(\mathsf{s}\,x)\ \textit{true}\end{array}}{C(n)\ \textit{true}}\ \mathsf{nat}E^{x,u}$$

In words: In order to prove property C of a natural number n we have to prove $C(0)$ and also $C(\mathsf{s}\,x)$ under the assumption that $C(x)$ for a new parameter x. The scope of x and u is just the rightmost premise of the rule. This corresponds exactly to proof by induction, where the proof of $C(0)$ is the base case, and the proof of $C(\mathsf{s}\,x)$ from the assumption $C(x)$ is the induction step. That is why $\mathsf{nat}E^{x,u}$ is also called an *induction rule* for nat.

We managed to state this rule without any explicit appeal to universal quantification, using parametric judgments instead. We could, however, write it down with explicit quantification, in which case it becomes:

$$\forall n{:}\mathsf{nat}.\ C(0) \supset (\forall x{:}\mathsf{nat}.\ C(x) \supset C(\mathsf{s}\,x)) \supset C(n)$$

for an arbitrary property C of natural numbers. It is an easy exercise to prove this with the induction rule above, since the respective introduction rules lead to a proof that exactly has the shape of $\mathsf{nat}E^{x,u}$.

All natural numbers are zero or successors. To illustrate elimination rule $\mathsf{nat}E^{x,u}$ in action, we start with a very simple property: every natural number is either 0 or has a predecessor. First, a detailed induction proof in the usual mathematical style and then a similar formal proof.

> **Theorem:** $\forall x{:}\mathsf{nat}.\ x = 0 \vee \exists y{:}\mathsf{nat}.\ x = \mathsf{s}\,y$.
> **Proof:** By induction on x.
>
> **Base:** $x = 0$. Then the left disjunct is true.
>
> **Step:** $x = \mathsf{s}\,x'$. That is, x is the successor of some natural number (x') for which the theorem holds. Then the right disjunct is true: pick $y = x'$ and observe $x = \mathsf{s}\,x' = \mathsf{s}\,y$.

Next we write this in the formal notation of inference rules. We suggest the reader try to construct this proof step-by-step; we show only the final deduction. We assume there is either a primitive or derived rule of inference called refl expressing reflexivity of equality on natural numbers ($n = n$). We use the same names as in the mathematical proof.

$$\dfrac{\dfrac{}{x : \mathsf{nat}} \quad \dfrac{\dfrac{}{0 = 0\ \mathit{true}}\,\mathsf{refl}}{0 = 0 \vee \exists y{:}\mathsf{nat}.\ 0 = \mathsf{s}\,y\ \mathit{true}}\,\vee I_1 \quad \dfrac{\dfrac{\dfrac{}{x' : \mathsf{nat}} \quad \dfrac{}{\mathsf{s}\,x' = \mathsf{s}\,x'\ \mathit{true}}\,\mathsf{refl}}{\exists y{:}\mathsf{nat}.\ \mathsf{s}\,x' = \mathsf{s}\,y\ \mathit{true}}\,\exists I}{\mathsf{s}\,x' = 0 \vee \exists y{:}\mathsf{nat}.\ \mathsf{s}\,x' = \mathsf{s}\,y\ \mathit{true}}\,\vee I_2}{x = 0 \vee \exists y{:}\mathsf{nat}.\ x = \mathsf{s}\,y\ \mathit{true}}\,\mathsf{nat}E^{x',u}$$
$$\dfrac{}{\forall x{:}\mathsf{nat}.\ x = 0 \vee \exists y{:}\mathsf{nat}.\ x = \mathsf{s}\,y\ \mathit{true}}\,\forall I^{x}$$

This is a simple proof by cases and, in this particular proof, does not even use the induction hypothesis $x' = 0 \vee \exists y{:}\mathsf{nat}.\ x' = \mathsf{s}\,y\ \mathit{true}$, which would have been labeled u. It is also possible to finish the proof by eliminating from that induction hypothesis, but the proof then ends up being more complicated. At our present level of understanding, the computational counterpart for the above proof might be a zero-check function for natural numbers. It takes any natural number and provides the left disjunct if that number was 0 while providing the right disjunct if it was a successor. Making use of the witness, we will later discover more general computational content once we have a proof term assignment.

In the application of the induction rule $\mathsf{nat}E$ we used the property $C(x)$, which is a proposition with the free variable x of type nat. More explicitly:

$$C(x) = (x = 0 \vee \exists y{:}\mathsf{nat}.\ x = \mathsf{s}\,y)$$

While getting familiar with formal induction proofs it may be a good idea to write out the induction formula explicitly.

3 Equality

We already used equality in the previous example, without justification, so we now introduce it properly into our formal system. Equality is certainly a central part of Heyting (and Peano) arithmetic.

There are many ways to define and reason with equality. The one we choose here is the one embedded in arithmetic where we are only concerned with numbers. Thus we are trying to define $x = y$ only for natural numbers x and y. Of course, $x = y$ must be a *proposition*, not a term. As a proposition, we will use the techniques of the course and define its truth by means of introduction and elimination rules!

The introduction rules are straightforward.[1]

$$\frac{}{0 = 0\ \mathit{true}}\ {=}I_{00} \qquad \frac{x = y\ \mathit{true}}{\mathsf{s}\,x = \mathsf{s}\,y\ \mathit{true}}\ {=}I_{ss}$$

If this is our definition of equality on natural numbers, how can we use the knowledge that $n = k$? If n and k are both 0, we cannot learn anything, because no knowledge was used for $=I_{00}$. If both are successors, we know

[1] As a student observed in lecture, we could also just state $x = x\ \mathit{true}$ as an inference rule with no premise. However, it is difficult to justify the elimination rules we need for Heyting arithmetic from this definition.

their argument must be equal. Finally, if one is a successor and the other zero, then this is contradictory and we can derive anything.

no rule E_{00} $\quad \dfrac{\mathsf{0} = \mathsf{s}\,x \ \mathit{true}}{C \ \mathit{true}} =E_{0s} \quad \dfrac{\mathsf{s}\,x = \mathsf{0} \ \mathit{true}}{C \ \mathit{true}} =E_{s0} \quad \dfrac{\mathsf{s}\,x = \mathsf{s}\,y \ \mathit{true}}{x = y \ \mathit{true}} =E_{ss}$

Local soundness is very easy to check, but what about local completeness? It turns out to be a complicated issue so we will not discuss it here.

4 Equality is Reflexive

As a simple inductive theorem we show the reflexivity of equality.

Theorem 1 $\forall x{:}\mathsf{nat}.\ x = x$

Proof: By induction on x.

Base: $x = 0$. Then, indeed, $0 = 0$ by rule $=I_{00}$

Step: Assume the theorem $x = x$ already holds for x and show $\mathsf{s}\,x = \mathsf{s}\,x$ for the successor $\mathsf{s}\,x$, which follows by $=I_{ss}$.

□

This proof is small enough so we can present it in the form of a natural deduction. For induction, we use $C(n) = (n = n)$.

$$\dfrac{\dfrac{}{n : \mathsf{nat}} \quad \dfrac{}{0 = 0 \ \mathit{true}} =I_{00} \quad \dfrac{\dfrac{}{x = x \ \mathit{true}}\,u}{\mathsf{s}\,x = \mathsf{s}\,x \ \mathit{true}} =I_{ss}}{\dfrac{n = n \ \mathit{true}}{\forall x{:}\mathsf{nat}.\ x = x \ \mathit{true}}\ \forall I^{n}}\ \mathsf{nat}E^{x,u}$$

The hypothesis $x : \mathsf{nat}$ introduced by $\mathsf{nat}E^{x,u}$ is implicitly used to establish that $x = x$ is a well-formed proposition, but is not explicit in the proof.

The above theorem justifies a derived rule of inference:

$$\dfrac{x : \mathsf{nat}}{x = x \ \mathsf{true}}\ \mathsf{refl}$$

by using $\forall E$ with the theorem just proved. We usually suppress the premise $x : \mathsf{nat}$ since we already must know $x : \mathsf{nat}$ for the proposition $x = x$ to be well-formed at all. This is the rule we used in Section 2.

5 Primitive Recursion

Reconsidering the elimination rule for natural numbers, we notice that we exploit the knowledge that $n : \mathsf{nat}$, but we only do so when we are trying to establish the truth of a proposition, $C(n)$. However, we are equally justified in using $n : \mathsf{nat}$ when we are trying to establish not another proposition $C(n)$ but another typing judgment of the form $t : \tau$. The rule, also called *rule of primitive recursion* for nat, then becomes

$$\frac{\begin{array}{ccc} n : \mathsf{nat} & t_0 : \tau & \begin{array}{c}\overline{\begin{array}{c} \\ x : \mathsf{nat} \end{array}} \quad \overline{\begin{array}{c} \\ r : \tau \end{array}} \\ \vdots \\ t_s : \tau \end{array} \end{array}}{R(n, t_0, x.\, r.\, t_s) : \tau}\ \mathsf{nat}E^{x,r}$$

Here, R is a new term constructor,[2] the term t_0 is the term used for the zero case where $n = \mathsf{0}$, and the term t_s captures the successor case where $n = \mathsf{s}\, n'$. In the latter case x is a new parameter introduced in the rule that stands for the predecessor n'. And r is a new parameter that stands for the result of the function R when applied to that predecessor n', which corresponds to an appeal to the induction hypothesis. The dots in the notation $x.\, r.\, t_s$ indicate that occurrences of x and r in t_s are bound with scope t_s. The fact that both are bound corresponds to the newly introduced assumptions $x : \mathsf{nat}$ and $r : \tau$ that are introduced to prove $t_s : \tau$ in the rightmost premise.

The local reduction rules may help explain this. We first write them down just on the terms, where they are computation rules.

$$\begin{array}{lcl} R(\mathsf{0}, t_0, x.\, r.\, t_s) & \Longrightarrow_R & t_0 \\ R(\mathsf{s}\, n', t_0, x.\, r.\, t_s) & \Longrightarrow_R & [R(n', t_0, x.\, r.\, t_s)/r][n'/x]\, t_s \end{array}$$

The first argument of R carries the recursion. The first reduction reduces recursors at $\mathsf{0}$ to their designed result t_0 coming from the second argument. The second reduction reduces, at a successor $\mathsf{s}\, n'$, to the term t_s with parameter x instantiated to the concrete number n' for the inductive hypothesis and with parameter r instantiated to the particular value that the same recursor R had at n'. So the argument t_0 of R indicates the output to use for $n = \mathsf{0}$ while t_s indicates the output to use for $n = \mathsf{s}\, x$ as a function of the smaller number x and of r for the recursive outcome of $R(n, t_0, x.\, r.\, t_s)$.

[2] The name R starting the proof term suggests recursion

These are still somewhat unwieldy, so we consider a more readable schematic form, called *primitive recursion schema*. If we define f by cases

$$\begin{array}{lcl} f(\mathsf{0}) & = & t_0 \\ f(s\,x) & = & t_s(x, f(x)) \end{array}$$

where the only occurrence of f on the right-hand side is the one shown applied to x, then we could have equivalently defined f explicitly with:

$$f = (\mathsf{fn}\ n \Rightarrow R(n, t_0, x.\, r.\, t_s(x, r)))$$

To verify this, apply f to $\mathsf{0}$ and apply the reduction rules and also apply f to $\mathsf{s}\,n$ for an arbitrary n and once again apply the reduction rules.

$$\begin{array}{lcl} f(\mathsf{0}) & \Longrightarrow_R & R(\mathsf{0}, t_0, x.\, r.\, t_s(x, r)) \\ & \Longrightarrow_R & t_0 \end{array}$$

noting that the x in $x.r.t_s(\ldots)$ is not a free occurrence (indicated by the presence of the dot in x.) since it corresponds to the hypothesis $x : \mathsf{nat}$ in $\mathsf{nat}E^{x,r}$. Finally

$$\begin{array}{lcl} f(\mathsf{s}\,n) & \Longrightarrow_R & R(\mathsf{s}\,n, t_0, x.\, r.\, t_s(x, r)) \\ & \Longrightarrow_R & t_s(n, R(n, t_0, x.\, r.\, t_s(x, r))) \\ & = & t_s(n, f(n)) \end{array}$$

The last equality is justified by a (meta-level) induction hypothesis, because we are trying to show that $f(n) = R(n, t_0, x.\, r.\, t_s(x, r))$ and, when showing it for $\mathsf{s}\,n$, can assume to already have established it for the smaller n itself.

So far, our knowledge of typing judgments is limited to natural numbers. Before we use primitive recursion for something exciting, we first need to understand how it works on more general types τ.

6 Function Types

For moving beyond natural number types, we consider the type $\tau \to \sigma$ that a term has that is a function from input of type τ to output of type σ. We also reuse the notion of functional abstraction (already used to describe proof terms of $A \supset B$ and $\forall x{:}\tau.\, A(x)$ to describe functions at the level of data.[3] We write $\tau \to \sigma$ for functions from type τ to type σ and present them

[3] The case for unifying all these notions in type theory looks pretty strong at this point.

here without further justification since they just mirror the kinds of rules we have seen multiple times already.

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c}\overline{x : \tau} \\ \vdots \\ s : \sigma\end{array}}{\mathsf{fn}\, x{:}\tau \Rightarrow s : \tau \to \sigma}\ {\to}I \qquad \frac{s : \tau \to \sigma \quad t : \tau}{s\, t : \sigma}\ {\to}E$$

The local reduction is

$$(\mathsf{fn}\, x{:}\tau \Rightarrow s)\, t \quad \Longrightarrow_R \quad [t/x]s$$

Now we can define double via the schema of primitive recursion.

$$\begin{array}{lcl} \mathsf{double}(\mathsf{0}) & = & \mathsf{0} \\ \mathsf{double}(\mathsf{s}\, x) & = & \mathsf{s}\,(\mathsf{s}\,(\mathsf{double}\, x)) \end{array}$$

We can read off the closed-form definition if we wish:

$$\mathsf{double} = (\mathsf{fn}\, n \Rightarrow R(n, \mathsf{0}, x.\, r.\, \mathsf{s}\,(\mathsf{s}\, r)))$$

After having understood this, we will be content with using the schema of primitive recursion. We define addition and multiplication as exercises.

$$\begin{array}{lcl} \mathsf{plus}(\mathsf{0}) & = & \mathsf{fn}\, y \Rightarrow y \\ \mathsf{plus}(\mathsf{s}\, x) & = & \mathsf{fn}\, y \Rightarrow \mathsf{s}\,((\mathsf{plus}\, x)\, y) \end{array}$$

Notice that plus is a function of type $\mathsf{nat} \to (\mathsf{nat} \to \mathsf{nat})$ that is primitive recursive in its (first and only) argument.

$$\begin{array}{lcl} \mathsf{times}(\mathsf{0}) & = & \mathsf{fn}\, y \Rightarrow \mathsf{0} \\ \mathsf{times}(\mathsf{s}\, x) & = & \mathsf{fn}\, y \Rightarrow (\mathsf{plus}\ ((\mathsf{times}\, x)\, y))\, y \end{array}$$

Modulo currying/uncurrying to the appropriate function types, these are the expected definitions of addition/multiplication of natural numbers.

7 Proof Terms

With proof terms for primitive recursion in place, we can now revisit and make a consistent proof term assignment for the elimination form with respect to the truth of propositions. It stands to reason to use the same proof terms as for typing judgments.

$$\dfrac{n : \mathsf{nat} \quad M_0 : C(\mathsf{0}) \qquad \begin{array}{c} \overline{x : \mathsf{nat}} \quad \overline{u : C(x)}\ u \\ \vdots \\ M_s : C(\mathsf{s}\,x) \end{array}}{R(n, M_0, x.\, u.\, M_s) : C(n)}\ \mathsf{nat}E^{x,u}$$

Except for the type of judgment (proof terms and propositions versus typing judgments), this elimination rule $\mathsf{nat}E^{x,u}$ is the same as the (primitive) recursion rule $\mathsf{nat}E^{x,r}$, just on propositions instead of data.

The local reductions we discussed before for terms representing data, also work for these proofs terms, because they are both derived from slightly different variants of the elimination rules (one with proof terms, one with data terms).

$$\begin{array}{lcl} R(\mathsf{0}, M_0, x.\, u.\, M_s) & \Longrightarrow_R & M_0 \\ R(\mathsf{s}\,n', M_0, x.\, u.\, M_s) & \Longrightarrow_R & [R(n', M_0, x.\, u.\, M_s)/u][n'/x]\, M_s \end{array}$$

Computationally, we can conclude that proofs by induction correspond to functions defined by primitive recursion, and that they compute in the same way!

Returning to the earlier example, we can write the proof terms.

Theorem: $\forall x{:}\mathsf{nat}.\ x = \mathsf{0} \vee \exists y{:}\mathsf{nat}.\ x = \mathsf{s}\,y$.
Proof: By induction on x.

Base: $x = \mathsf{0}$. Then the left disjunct is true.

Step: $x = \mathsf{s}\,x'$. Then the right disjunct is true: pick $y = x'$ and observe $x = \mathsf{s}\,x' = \mathsf{s}\,y$.

The extracted function we obtain by marking its natural deduction proof with proof terms is the predecessor function (note how the use of **inl** versus **inr** correspond to the zero check that predecessor functions need to perform on natural numbers as 0 has no predecessor):

$$\mathsf{pred} \quad = \quad \mathsf{fn}\, x{:}\mathsf{nat} \Rightarrow R(x, \mathbf{inl}\ \_, x.\, r.\, \mathbf{inr}(x, \_))$$

Here we have suppressed the evidence for equalities, since we have not yet introduced proof terms for them. We just write $\_$ for proofs of equality (whose computational content we do not care about).

$$\dfrac{\dfrac{}{x : \mathsf{nat}} \quad \dfrac{\dfrac{}{\_ : 0 = 0}\,\mathsf{refl}}{\mathbf{inl}\ \_ : 0 = 0 \vee \exists y{:}\mathsf{nat}.\ 0 = \mathsf{s}\,y}\,\vee I_1 \quad \dfrac{\dfrac{\dfrac{}{x' : \mathsf{nat}} \quad \dfrac{}{\_ : \mathsf{s}\,x' = \mathsf{s}\,x'}\,\mathsf{refl}}{(x', \_) : \exists y{:}\mathsf{nat}.\ \mathsf{s}\,x' = \mathsf{s}\,y}\,\exists I}{\mathbf{inr}(x', \_) : \mathsf{s}\,x' = 0 \vee \exists y{:}\mathsf{nat}.\ \mathsf{s}\,x' = \mathsf{s}\,y}\,\vee I_2}{R(x, \mathbf{inl}\ \_, x'.r'.\mathbf{inr}(x', \_)) : x = 0 \vee \exists y{:}\mathsf{nat}.\ x = \mathsf{s}\,y}\,\mathsf{nat}E^{x',u}$$

$$\dfrac{}{\mathsf{fn}\,x \Rightarrow R(x, \mathbf{inl}\ \_, x'.r'.\mathbf{inr}(x', \_)) : \forall x{:}\mathsf{nat}.\ x = 0 \vee \exists y{:}\mathsf{nat}.\ x = \mathsf{s}\,y}\,\forall I^x$$

8 Local Proof Reduction

For harmony, we would like to check that the rules for natural numbers are locally sound and complete.

Local Soundness. For soundness, we verify that no matter how we introduce the judgment n : nat, we can find a "more direct" proof of the conclusion. In the case of $\mathsf{nat}I_0$ this is very easy to see, because the second premise already establishes our conclusion directly.

$$\dfrac{\dfrac{}{0 : nat}\,\mathsf{nat}I_0 \quad \begin{array}{c}\mathcal{E}\\ C(0)\ true\end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c}\dfrac{}{x : nat} \quad \dfrac{}{C(x)\ true}\,u\\ \mathcal{F}\\ C(\mathsf{s}\,x)\ true\end{array}}{C(0)\ true}\,\mathsf{nat}E^{x,u} \quad \Longrightarrow_R \quad \begin{array}{c}\mathcal{E}\\ C(0)\ true\end{array}$$

The case where $n = \mathsf{s}\,n'$ is more difficult and more subtle. Intuitively, we should be using the deduction of the second premise for this case.

$$\dfrac{\dfrac{\overset{\mathcal{D}}{n' : \mathsf{nat}}}{\mathsf{s}\,n' : \mathsf{nat}}\,\mathsf{nat}I_s \qquad \overset{\mathcal{E}}{C(0)\ \mathit{true}} \qquad \dfrac{\overset{\overline{x : \mathsf{nat}}}{} \qquad \overset{\overline{C(x)\ \mathit{true}}}{}\,u \qquad \overset{\mathcal{F}}{C(\mathsf{s}\,x)\ \mathit{true}}}{C(\mathsf{s}\,n')\ \mathit{true}}\,\mathsf{nat}E^{x,u}}{}$$

$$\Longrightarrow_R \quad \dfrac{\overset{\mathcal{D}}{n' : \mathsf{nat}} \qquad \dfrac{\overset{\mathcal{D}}{n' : \mathsf{nat}} \qquad \overset{\mathcal{E}}{C(0)\ \mathit{true}} \qquad \dfrac{\overset{\overline{x : \mathsf{nat}}}{} \qquad \overset{\overline{C(x)\ \mathit{true}}}{}\,u \qquad \overset{\mathcal{F}}{C(s\,x)\ \mathit{true}}}{C(n')\ \mathit{true}}\,\mathsf{nat}E^{x,u}}{[n'/x]\mathcal{F}'\ \ C(s\,n')\ \mathit{true}}}{}$$

It is difficult to see, however, in which way this is actually a reduction: $\mathcal{D}$ is duplicated, $\mathcal{E}$ persists, and we still have an application of $\mathsf{nat}E$. The key to appreciating this as a reduction, regardless, however, is that the term we are eliminating with the applicaton of $\mathsf{nat}E$ becomes smaller: from $\mathsf{s}\,n'$ to n'. In hindsight we should have expected this, because the term is also the only component getting smaller in the second introduction rule for natural numbers. Fortunately, the term that $\mathsf{nat}E$ is applied to can only get smaller finitely often, because it will ultimately just be $\mathsf{0}$, so will be back in the first local reduction case.

The computational content of this local reduction directly explains in what way the natural number gets smaller even if the form of the judgment stays the same, because it corresponds directly to the reductions for primitive recursors $R(n, M_0, x.\, u.\, M_s)$.

The question of local expansion does not make sense for our truth setting. The difficulty is that we need to show that we can apply the elimination rules in such a way that we can reconstitute a proof of the original judgment. However, the elimination rule we have so far works only for the truth judgment, so we cannot really reintroduce $n : \mathsf{nat}$, since the only two introduction rules $\mathsf{nat}I_0$ and $\mathsf{nat}I_s$ do not apply.

9 Local Expansion

Using primitive recursion on typing judgments, we obtain a local expansion.

$$\begin{array}{c}\mathcal{D}\\ n : \mathsf{nat}\end{array} \quad \Longrightarrow_E \quad \dfrac{\begin{array}{cccc}\mathcal{D} & & \overline{} & \dfrac{\overline{x : \mathsf{nat}}}{\mathsf{s}\,x : \mathsf{nat}}\,\mathsf{nat}I_s\\ n : \mathsf{nat} & \overline{\mathsf{0} : \mathsf{nat}}\,\mathsf{nat}I_0 & & \end{array}}{R(n, \mathsf{0}, x.\, r.\, \mathsf{s}\,x) : \mathsf{nat}}\,\mathsf{nat}E^{x,r}$$

A surprising observation about the local expansion is that it does not use the recursive result, r, which corresponds to a use of the induction hypothesis. Consequently, a simple proof-by-cases that uses $\mathsf{nat}E_0$ when n is zero and uses $\mathsf{nat}E_s$ when n is a successor would also have been locally sound and complete already.

This is a reflection of the fact that the local completeness property we have does not carry over to a comparable global completeness. The difficulty is the well-known property that in order to prove a proposition A by induction, we may have to first generalize the induction hypothesis to some B, prove B by induction and also prove $B \supset A$. Such proofs do not have the subformula property, which means that our strict verificationist program of explaining the meaning of propositions from the meaning of their parts breaks down in arithmetic. In fact, there is an entire hierarchy of arithmetic theories, depending on which propositions we may use as induction formulas.

References

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[Pea89] Giuseppe Peano. *Arithmetices Principia, Nova Methodo Exposita*. Fratres Bocca, 1889.