A Syntactic Approach to Structure Generativity

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Abstract

Advanced module systems like Standard ML's [13, 17] support structure generativity. Structure generativity denotes the mechanism that parameterized modules (functors) generate a "new" module instance (structure) for every application to a suitable argument. This operational behaviour is essentially a side effect. Since interfaces in general depend on module instances, module instances are computationally characterised as "stamps" for the purpose of interface-checking.

This paper presents a typed module calculus that makes instances of modules syntactically apparent in expressions and interfaces. The module calculus has a simple rewriting semantics without side effects. Interface-checking is based on a type system with dependent functions, strong sums and additionally a non-standard variant of weak sums. A module system derived from the module calculus forms a separate layer above some typed core language. As a demonstrating example, we sketch M/SML, a module language on top of core SML.

Key words: module language, ML, type systems, dependent types

1 Introduction

Module systems provide support for factoring large software systems into separate but dependent program units. These program units, called *simple modules* (or just *modules* for short) in the following and variously known as clusters, packages, or structures, in their simplest form define collections of identifiers: types and values in a purely functional setting, additionally variables and exceptions for imperative features, and even classes for the object-oriented paradigm. The types of simple modules, called *simple interfaces* for convenience, are known as definition modules, package specifications, and signatures. They classify a simple module's exported identifiers with types for values and with kinds for type constructors. In general, simple interfaces are essentially *dependent types*.

In order to build a large system, simple modules and simple interfaces have to be organized in a hierarchical, or more exactly, topological order with respect to the relationship "depends-on". This can be done rigidly, by defining modules one after another in a language like Modula-2 [24] or more flexible in a language like SML [17, 16], where dependencies are expressed via functor parameters and structures are linked by functor applications.

An essential feature of SML's module system is *structure generativity*. Structure generativity deals with the question when a structure is instantiated in order to be part of a system. This is no problem in a static module system like Modula-2's modules where declaration and instantiation

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of a module coincide and an instance of a module is simply identified by the module's name. In SML, structures are instantiated as the result of functor applications, and structure generativity denotes the computational behaviour that a "new" instance of a structure is generated for every functor application. Essentially, this is a side effect at the module level.

Since signatures in general depend on structures (or more exactly on instances of structures) structure generativity is also important for the static semantics of SML's modules. In the static semantics instances are identified by stamps. This computational characterisation of SML's type-checker is standardized in [17] and has been extended to higher-order functors in [15].

In this work we want to treat module instances in a more abstract, type-theoretic framework. We abandon the side effect of module instantiation and develop a module calculus that has a simple rewriting semantics and makes instances of simple modules syntactically apparent in expressions. For the purpose of interface-checking, we develop a type system, based on dependent functions, strong sums and a non-standard variant of weak sums that also makes module instances apparent. In this module calculus a complete software system is simply an expression, and the expression's type represents its interface. In a sense, the module calculus is purely functional. Furthermore, we will sketch a module language on top of core SML that is derived from the module calculus.

To reach our goals, we reassess MacQueen's proposal for the module system of SML [13]. As we will see, this leads us to a module system similar in spirit but technically quite different to SML's modules. We adopt MacQueen's definition that a module, in its simplest form, is a named collection of declarations whose purpose is to define an environment. That means, a simple module is identified by a name, classified by a simple interface, and realized by an implementation.

The purpose of our module calculus is to describe *systems*. Declaring a simple module m with interface M and implementation i, for later use within some expression u with interface U is, roughly, a *dependent pair*:

$$(m: M = i, u\{m\}): (m: M \times U\{m\}),$$

where m may occur free in expression $u\{m\}$ and interface $U\{m\}$. We prefer the notation:

$$\mathsf{dec}[m\!:\!M ext{ is } i] \, u\{m\}: \mathsf{some}[m\!:\!M] \, U\{m\}.$$

We call this binding construct a *system*. The expression u which uses the simple module m is also called the *export part*.

However, as MacQueen points out, the implementation as well as the interface of a simple module often contain free identifiers referring to other modules or to predefined declarations. Therefore, he argues, a module in general is a *dependent function* (called *functor* in SML) from an *environment of definition* to the *defined environment*:

$$fun(x:A) m\{x\} : all(x:A) M\{x\}.$$

There seems to be a contradiction between MacQueens explanation of a module as the result of a function application and our understanding, where a simple module is declared as a part of a system. A closer look shows that the first is the implementor's view (What is necessary to implement a module?), while the second is the system architect's view (How can I use a certain module in a system's architecture?). But both views do not exclude each other.

It is no problem to add an additional parameter module x with interface A to our notion of a system:

$$F = \mathsf{fun}(x:A) \; (\mathsf{dec}[m:M\{x\} \, \mathsf{is} \, i\{x\}] \; (u\{x\}\{m\})).$$

We get a parameterized system (a function), where the interface of module m, its implementation i, and the export part u may refer to the parameter module x. If F is applied to a matching module a, x is substituted by a. The result is a system which declares simple modules a and m and exports u.

$$\operatorname{dec}[a:A \text{ is } i'](Fa) \equiv \operatorname{dec}[a:A \text{ is } i'](\operatorname{dec}[m:M\{x \leftarrow a\} \text{ is } i\{x \leftarrow a\}](u\{x \leftarrow a\}\{m\})).$$

The simplest system we can imagine declares one simple module and exports it.

$$dec[a:A is i_a] a$$

What seems rather useless becomes more meaningful if we imagine a system which declares two modules a and b and exports module b.

$$dec[a:A is i_a] (dec[b:B\{a\} is i_b\{a\}] b)$$

In general, it should be possible that a system exports more than one module. Therefore, we additionally introduce labelled tupels (which are essentially strong sums, see for example [7, 22]) in order to be able to group several simple modules of a system into one exported expression¹.

$$dec[a:A is i_a] (dec[b:B\{a\} is i_b\{a\}] \langle l_a = a, l_b = b \rangle$$

Now, both modules a and b are exported as a tuple where a is labelled with l_a and b is labelled with l_b .

So far, we have separated two concerns: instances of simple modules are made explicit by declarations, and the export part specifies which components of a system can be used from outside. The question arises, how to use such a system. First, we can imagine a (sub-)system as a component of a larger system. Since a system is simply an expression of a calculus with a rewriting semantics (see section 4 below) using a system or applying a parameterized system is equivalent to textually inserting the system itself. Second and more important, if a system (a client) depends on another system (the supplier), the supplier system has to be *opened* in order to enable access to the internal structure.

2 Using systems—module instances made explicit

Now, if we want to use a system partially or as a whole in another context, we somehow have to *open* or to *eliminate* the system. Since we regard a system as a dependent pair combined of a module declaration and an export part we have to use an appropriate elimination form. There are several syntactic formulations for eliminating dependent pairs [22, 7, 18]. We prefer the following syntactic form:

use
$$p$$
 as $[x]y$ in e

This means, bind the first resp. the second part of system p to variables x resp. y in expression e. The standard computation rule for dependent pairs using our notation is as follows:

use
$$(\operatorname{dec}[a:A \text{ is } i_a] b)$$
 as $[x]y$ in $e \to e\{x \leftarrow i_a\}\{y \leftarrow b\{a \leftarrow i_a\}\}$.

In words, i_a substitutes x in e, and since b depends on a, a is substituted by i_a before b substitutes y in e.

Because we are interested in making module instances explicit in interfaces, we could regard systems as standard *weak sums* (see for example, [22]). The typing rule for weak sums has the following form:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash p: \operatorname{some}[a:A] B \quad \Gamma, x:A, y:B \vdash e:C}{\Gamma \vdash \operatorname{use} p \text{ as } [x]y \text{ in } e:C} \quad x,y \notin C.$$

If we assume weak sums, every use of a system "generates" an instance of its declared module. This is very similar to Mitchell and Plotkin's type-theoretic explanation of abstract types [18]. But, for our purpose weak sums are lacking in several respects. Generating module instances is still implicitly connected to the reduction of use. Furthermore, dependencies from expression e to the used system p expressed via variables x and y must not be propagated into the interface C of

¹In general, a labelled tuple contains arbitrary expressions

e. This leads to the well-known critique [6, 14, 4] that weak sums have to be eliminated globally for all their clients.

What we really need is an elimination form that makes instances explicit in expressions and allows for the propagation of dependencies through interfaces. Therefore, we propose the following non-standard computation rule for use:

use
$$(\operatorname{dec}[a:A \text{ is } i_a] b)$$
 as $[x]y$ in $e \to \operatorname{dec}[a:A \text{ is } i_a] (e\{x \leftarrow a\}\{y \leftarrow b\})$.

Instead of the implementation i_a the module's name *a* substitutes *x*. At the same time, we (re)bind *a* outside, ensuring that *a* does not escape its scope. Consequently, the implementation i_a remains the same. What seems to be a "cheap trick" solves several problems at once.

First, instances are made explicit, because we can regard every dec-bound module name as an instance of the assigned implementation. If we need two instances of a simple module, we have to use a system two times, and we get two instances due to α -conversion. For example:

$$S \equiv \operatorname{dec}[a:A \operatorname{is} i_a] b$$
use S as $[x]y$ in (use S as $[u]v$ in $f x u$) $\rightarrow \operatorname{dec}[a:A \operatorname{is} i_a]$ ((use S as $[u]v$ in $f x u$) $\{x \leftarrow a\}\{y \leftarrow b\}$)
 $\rightarrow \operatorname{dec}[a:A \operatorname{is} i_a] (\operatorname{dec}[a':A \operatorname{is} i_a] (f a u)\{u \leftarrow a'\}\{v \leftarrow b\})$
 $\rightarrow \operatorname{dec}[a:A \operatorname{is} i_a] (\operatorname{dec}[a':A \operatorname{is} i_a] (f a a')).$

Here, using system S two times, "generates" two instances of implementation i_a , named a and a'.

Second, we get an system closure mechanism for free. An arbitrary part of a system can only be used in its context. Imagine a system $S \equiv dec[a:A is i_a] dec[b:B is i_b] dec[c:C is i_c] d$; using b from system S automatically rebuilds the context, b depends on:

use S as
$$[u]v$$
 in (use v as $[x]y$ in $f(x) \rightarrow dec[a:A is i_a] (dec[b:B is i_b] f(b))$

At the same time, those parts of system S which are not needed are disregarded in the result.

If we look at the appropriate non-standard typing rule, this closure mechanism (the complete modular structure of the result) is also apparent in the resulting interface:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash p: \mathsf{some}[a:A] \ B \quad \Gamma, x:A, y:B \vdash c:C}{\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{use} \ p \ \mathsf{as} \ [x]y \ \mathsf{in} \ c: \mathsf{some}[a:A] \ (C\{x \leftarrow a\})}, y \notin C.$$

The result of using a system again is a system. The interface shows the modular structure an expression will have after a reduction is possible. Similar to weak sums, y must not occur in C, because it would otherwise escape its scope.

To sum up, the proposed elimination form makes instances of simple modules apparent in expressions and interfaces and supplies the relevant context when using a system partially or as a whole. It allows the propagation of dependencies through interfaces and eliminates the need to use a system globally for all its clients. Unfortunately, use cannot be called an elimination construct because the result of using a system again is a system. But, it does exactly what we need.

Together with function abstractions and labelled tuples, as mentioned in the introduction, we get a complete module calculus. But before we formally describe the module calculus and its typing system, we take a look at the connection of the core and the module language.

3 Embedding a core language

From the module calculus' point of view a simple module is an indivisible unit, an atom, identified by a name for later reference and specified by a simple interface hiding local declarations of the accompanying implementation. Simple interfaces and implementations are determined by some typed core language and connect the separated layers of module and core language. For the purpose of demonstration we will use core SML [17] as our core language, consequently implementation modules are called *structures* and simple interfaces are called *signatures*. Signatures classify core language declarations. These are types, values, and exceptions.

Contrary to SML, signatures do not contain structure specifications. Furthermore, implementations should be separately compilable, and interface-checking module language expressions should not utilize implementation details. Therefore, we regard type specifications as abstract (opaque) and additionally introduce specifications of type synonyms (manifest types [9]). Similar to SML, we have a notion of subtyping between signatures that allows to define different views of a simple module. According to standard techniques, signatures may be thinned and type synonyms may be converted to abstract types. The paradigmatic signature of a module implementing a stack of integer values has the following form:

> interface $INT_STACK = sig$ type item = int (* type synonym *) type stack (* abstract type *) val $push : item \rightarrow stack \rightarrow stack$ val $pop : stack \rightarrow item * stack$ end

If we now declare a module *stack* with interface *INT_STACK* for use in some module expression **u**, we write:

 $dec[Stack:INT_STACK \text{ is struct } \dots \text{ end}] u$

The combination of module name, interface and implementation struct ... end is very similar to a *structure binding* in SML, apart from the fact that the visibility of the module name is restricted to the expression u. Signatures occurring inside u now can refer to types from *Stack* by the dot notation, writing *Stack.item* or *Stack.stack*. Structures (module implementations) scoped inside u can refer to types as well as to values and exceptions, e. g. *Stack.push*.

Technically, we guarantee that the identity of an abstract type declared inside a simple module is connected to the module's name, in other words, a *new* abstract type is generated for every instance of a simple module. Similar to *translucent sums* [6] or *manifest types* [9, 10], we use a *strengthening* operation (see section 4) to give identities to abstract types. In the example, the abstract type *stack* is manifestly equivalent to *Stack.stack* inside expression u.

We have seen that signatures and structures naturally depend on module names. Technically, the module calculus is a programming language with dependent types. Therefore, due to reductions, references to a module name may become references to an arbitrary module expression. As a consequence, interface-checking has to decide the equality of module language expressions, and reductions are also necessary inside structures. As we will discuss in the next section, the module calculus is *confluent* and *strongly normalising*, which makes structural equality of normal forms an adequate formulation for equality and guarantees a terminating reduction of module expressions.

The goal of reducing a module program is the production of an executable software system. Such a system coincides with our notion of a system. If a module language expression only consists of a sequence of module declarations together with an export expression, all simple modules involved in the complete system are in some topological order with respect to the relationship "depends-on". If all implementations of simple modules have been supplied, the dependencies indicate how to link these implementations in order to form an executable program.

4 The $\lambda\delta$ -module calculus

Essentially, the foundation of our module calculus is a lambda calculus with types depending on values. Since, system declaration and use are the main novell features in our calculus we call it the $\lambda\delta$ -module calculus². The $\lambda\delta$ -module calculus forms a separate layer above some typed core

 $^{^2\}lambda$ for abstractions and δ for declarations

Expressions				
Interfaces	m	::= 	x l fun(x:I) m $m_1 m_2$ $\langle l_1 = m_1, \dots, l_n = m_n \rangle$ $m \# l$ dec[x:S] m use m_1 as $[x_1]x_2$ in m_2	variable/name label (function) abstraction application tuple construction tuple selection (system) declaration use
Interfaces	Ι	::=	S	simple interface
Signatures				function interface tuple interface system interface
Signatures	S	::=	sig E end	$\operatorname{signature}$
	E	::= 	D, E $arepsilon$	signature entries
	D	::= 	type t type $t = T$ val $v:T$	opaque type specification manifest type specification value specification
	Т	::= 	$ \begin{array}{l} t \\ m.t \\ int \ \ bool \\ T_1 \rightarrow T_2 \end{array} $	type name type component predefined simple types function type

Figure 1: Syntax of the $\lambda\delta$ -module calculus

language. Therefore, we first take a look at syntax and reduction of the module calculus and then explain the connection to the core language.

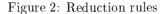
4.1 Syntax and reduction

Figure 1 shows the syntax of the $\lambda\delta$ -module calculus. There are two distinct identifier classes variables/names (x) and labels (l). Expressions are composed from variables/names, labels, function abstraction and application, tuple construction and selection, and system declaration and use. Abstraction, declaration, and use introduce variables/names. Tuples introduce labels. Labels are visible in subsequent tuple components and are used to select a tuple component from outside.

There are suitable interfaces for every kind of expression. Function interfaces are dependent functions. Tuple interfaces are a generalized form of strong sums. System interfaces are a non-standard variant of weak sums, as explained before. Simple interfaces play the role of simple types, which characterize simple modules, the simple values of the calculus. The interface of a module name introduced in a system declaration is syntactically restricted to a simple interface. This reflects the fact that system declarations only introduce simple modules. Simple modules and their interfaces are determined by the embedded core language. Since we assume an ML-like core language, simple interfaces are called signatures.

Signatures allow for the specification of abstract types (opaque type specifiation), type synonyms

Reduction for the $\lambda\delta$ -module calculus



(manifest type specification), and core language values (value specification). Essentially, type names (t) and values (v) are two further identifier classes distinct from variables/names and labels. These identifiers can only be used inside signatures. Type expressions (T) are composed from predefined simple types, type names, type components and function types. Type components from "imported" modules are referenced via the dot notation; a module expressions (m) qualifies the module and a type name (t) selects the component. Due to type components, interfaces are value-dependent types.

Although we have signatures, structure construction is not part of the module calculus. We regard a *structure* as the implementation of a simple module which is part of the core language. In the module calculus itself, a module is either declared by a name in a system declaration or bound via a variable as a function parameter or in the use construct. The module's signature completely classifies the structure. This makes module expressions independent from representation details and allows for separate compilation of structures.

The reduction rules for the $\lambda\delta$ -module calculus are shown in figure 2. Substitution ({ $x \leftarrow m$ }) is defined as usual. For simplicity, α -conversion, which has to be considered, is not made explicit in the reduction rules, and compatibility rules for selecting redexes are omitted. Since simple modules are indivisible units, there is no reduction rule for the dot notation—the dot notation is simply a qualified identifier. Note that substitutions and reductions also occur inside interfaces, because interfaces depend on module expressions.

4.2 The core language

The core language is connected to the module calculus via module implementations. For every *declaration* of a simple module a *structure* may (but need not) be supplied as its *implementation*. The simple module's signature and the implementation are in the same scope. The additional syntax which connects structures to the module calculus is shown in figure 3. To go with signatures, structures contain type and value declarations.

The core language distinguishes declarations of type synonyms (*non-generative type binding*) and of new type constructors (*generative type creation*). For simplicity, the declaration of constructor functions is not part of the syntax, and new type constructors are always nullary. The addition of constructor functions, n-ary type constructors and exception declarations is straightforward.

Similar to signatures, structures also may depend on module expressions, when values and types from "imported" modules are used via the dot notation. As a consequence, the reduction of module expressions also leads to substitutions inside structures.

If all declarations of modules have been implemented by structures, and if the reduced expression does not contain any abstractions, module expressions inside implementations can be reduced to module names, indicating how the separately compiled structures have to be linked. The result is a sequence of structures, topologically ordered according to the relationship "depends-on". The export part indicates the "main module" of the whole system.

4.3 Interface inference

Interface-checking module expressions is a delicate issue, because interfaces may depend on arbitrary module expressions. The complete typing rules are given in the appendix. Here we only Structure implementations:

m	::= 	dec[x:S is s] m	declaration and implementation
s	::=	struct e end	structure
e	::= 	$d,e \ arepsilon$	structure entries
d	::= 	type $t = T$ datatype t val $v : t = c$	type binding (non-generative) type creation (generative) value declaration
c	::= 	m.v	(value) component core language expressions

Figure 3: Syntax for the core language

discuss the essential and the most unusual rules shown in figure 4.

The rules are written down in a non-deterministic manner, in order to show the principal inference steps. All derivations start from an *axiom*. There are three axioms: an empty tuple interface, an empty signature and the kind **type** are wellformed. The symbol \Box denotes wellformedness and symbol [] denotes an empty *basis*. There is a *start* and a *weakening* rule for variables/names, labels, opaque types, type synonyms and values³. Interface formation rules for function, system, and tuple interfaces, and rules for *signature formation* and *type formation* allow to derive wellformedness of complex and simple interfaces.

Function interfaces are dependent functions introduced by *abstractions*. Tuple interfaces are a generalized form of strong sums, which are introduced by *tuple construction*. System interfaces are introduced by system *declarations* and may be regarded as a non-standard variant of weak sums. Note that the syntactic restriction that names introduced by declarations must have simple interfaces is reflected by the declaration rule and by the formation rule for system interfaces. The elimination rules for function interfaces (*application*) and tuple interfaces (*tuple selection*) are standard. Rather unusual is the rule *use*.

The syntactic construct use matches an expression m_1 that has a system interface to variables x_2 and x_3 for use in expression m_2 . x_2 binds a simple module and, therefore, has a simple interface. x_3 binds the export part of the used system. The resulting interface again is a system interface, where the declared name is rebound by x_1 in the resulting system interface. That means, I_2 may very well contain x_2 but must not contain x_3 , because x_2 is substituted by x_1 while x_3 would escape its scope. Figuratively, the typing rule use reflects the fact that the module declared in the used system is always part of the using expression, ensuring the system closure mechanism mentioned in section 2.

Type specifications in signatures may refer to internally declared type names. Therefore, the *module* rules extend the basis ensuring that type names do not escape their scope when typing type components and value components referenced via the dot notation.

The conversion rule allows to convert interfaces. It integrates several important conversion operations. First of all, our type system supports the idea that abstract types are connected to the instance of the module they are declared in. This approach is very similar to the approaches of Leroy [9, 10] or Harper and Lillebridge [6]. Similar to Leroy's system, we use a *strengthening* operation

³stmt denotes an arbitrary type statement

(axiom)	$[] \vdash \langle \rangle : \Box$ $[] \vdash sig end : \Box$ $[] \vdash type : \Box$				
(start)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash I: \Box}{\Gamma, x: I \vdash x: I}, x \notin \Gamma \qquad \text{other start rules omitted}$				
(weakening)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash stmt \Gamma \vdash I: \Box}{\Gamma, x: I \vdash stmt}, x \notin \Gamma \qquad \text{other weakening rules omitted}$				
(interface formation)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash S: \Box \Gamma, x: S \vdash I: \Box}{\Gamma \vdash some[x:S] \ I: \Box} \text{other interface formation rules omitted}$				
(signature formation)	omitted				
(type formation)	omitted				
(module)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash m : \text{sig type } t, E \text{ end}}{\Gamma, \text{type } t \vdash m : \text{sig } E \text{ end}} \text{other module rules omitted}$				
(abstraction)	$\frac{\Gamma, x: I_1 \vdash m: I_2 \Gamma \vdash all(x:I_1) \ I_2: \Box}{\Gamma \vdash fun(x:I_1) \ m: all(x:I_1) \ I_2}$				
(application)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash m_1 : all(x:I_2) \ I_1 \Gamma \vdash m_2 : I_2}{\Gamma \vdash m_1 \ m_2 : I_1 \{x \leftarrow m_2\}}$				
(tuple construction)	e construction) $ \frac{\Gamma \vdash \langle l_2 = m_2, \dots, l_n = m_n \rangle \{l_1 \leftarrow m_1\} : \langle l_2 : I_2, \dots, l_n : I_n \rangle \{l_1 \leftarrow m_1\} }{\Gamma \vdash m_1 : I_1 \Gamma \vdash \langle l_1 : I_1, \dots, l_n : I_n \rangle : \Box} $				
(tuple construction)	$\Gamma \vdash \langle l_1 = m_1, \dots l_n = m_n \rangle : \langle l_1 : I_1, \dots, l_n : I_n \rangle$				
(tuple selection)	$\Gamma \vdash m : \langle l_1 : I_1, \ldots, l_k : I_k, \ldots, l_n : I_n \rangle$				
(tuple selection)	$\overline{\Gamma \vdash m \# l_k : I_k \{ l_1 \leftarrow m \# l_1 \} \cdots \{ l_{k-1} \leftarrow m \# l_{k-1} \}}$				
(declaration)	$\Gamma, x : I_1 \vdash m : I \Gamma \vdash some[x : S] \ I : \Box$				
	$\Gamma \vdash dec[x\!:\!S] \; m : some[x\!:\!S] \; I$				
(use)	$\frac{\Gamma \vdash m_1: some[x_1:S] \ I_1 \Gamma, x_2: S, x_3: I_1 \vdash m_2: I_2}{\Gamma \vdash use \ m_1 \ as \ [x]y \ in \ m_2: some[x_1:S] \ (I_2\{x_2 \leftarrow x_1\})}, x_3 \notin I_2$				
()	$\Gamma \vdash$ use m_1 as $[x]y$ in m_2 : some $[x_1\!:\!S] \left(I_2\{x_2 \leftarrow x_1\} ight)$				
(conversion $)$	$\Gamma \vdash m: I_1 \Gamma \vdash I_2: \Box I_1/m <:_{\Gamma} I_2$				
	$\Gamma \vdash m: I_2$				
Figure 4: Interface inference rules					

⁽figure 5) to represent the fact that abstract type components in signatures are not arbitrary types, but come from the module expression they are connected to. Different to Leroy's approach we do not restrict strengthening to *path expressions*, but allow arbitrary module expressions.

Beside strengthening, our module calculus also supports a *subtyping* relation (see figure 5) between interfaces in order to allow for different views of a simple module. Subtyping between interfaces ($<:_{\Gamma}$) is defined as usual: signatures may be thinned, manifest type specifications are considered subtypes of opaque type specifications, function interfaces are contra-variant, tuple and system interfaces are covariant.

Strengthening

$$(\operatorname{sig} E \operatorname{end})/m = \operatorname{sig} E/m \operatorname{end}$$

 $\varepsilon/m = \varepsilon$
 $(\operatorname{type} t, E)/m = \operatorname{type} t = m.t, E/m$
 $(\operatorname{type} t = T, E)/m = \operatorname{type} t = T, E/m$
 $(\operatorname{val} v : T, E)/m = \operatorname{val} v : T, E/m$
 $I/m = I$

Subtyping of interfaces $(<:_{\Gamma})$

Manifest equality of types (\approx_{Γ}) (reflexivity and transitivity omitted)

$$\begin{array}{lll} T_1 \to T_2 \approx_{\Gamma} T'_1 \to T'_2 & \Leftarrow & T_1 \approx_{\Gamma} T'_1, & T_2 \approx_{\Gamma} T'_2 \\ t \approx_{\Gamma} T & \Leftarrow & \Gamma \vdash t = T : \mathsf{type} \\ m.t \approx_{\Gamma} T & \Leftarrow & \Gamma \vdash m : \mathsf{sig} \mathsf{type} \ t = T, E \mathsf{ end} \\ t \approx_{\Gamma} t \\ m_1.t \approx_{\Gamma} m_2.t & \Leftarrow & m_1 = m_2 \end{array}$$

Syntactic equality of expressions modulo reduction (=) (simple syntactic equality of expressions (\equiv) and reduction (\rightarrow) omitted)

 $m_1 = m_2 \quad \Leftarrow \quad m_1' \equiv m_2', \quad m_1 \twoheadrightarrow m_1', \quad m_2 \twoheadrightarrow m_2'$

Figure 5: Conversion

Due to dependencies, the subtyping relation has to consider *manifest equality* of types (\approx_{Γ}). Subtyping and manifest equality need basis Γ as an additional parameter because manifest type specifications which determine manifest type equality are recorded in the basis. Two type components are manifestly equal if the qualifying module expressions are syntactically equal (=) modulo reduction (\rightarrow).

Syntactic equality (\equiv) is the last step in converting interfaces. We have chosen a simplified form of syntactic equality which is obviously decidable. For simplicity, we regard any two expressions containing interface annotations as different. For practical purposes this form of equality seems

to be sufficient. We are not sure whether syntactic equality is decidable if we take interface annotations into account.

Without proof, we state the following proposition:

Proposition 1 Reduction in the $\lambda\delta$ -module calculus is confluent and strongly normalising.

These properties guarantee a terminating reduction and make syntactic equality of expressions modulo reduction a meaningful relation.

Type-checking structures is fairly standard. The rules are given in the appendix. Basis Γ is the same for type-checking a simple module's implementation and the system declaration the module is declared in. Since type-checking structures and interface-checking module expressions use the same basis, there are also start and weakening rules for value specifications.

5 M/SML—a module language for core SML

As an example for a module language based on the $\lambda\delta$ -module calculus, we are implementing M/SML, a module language for core SML. For several reason we have chosen the core of SML as our core language. Core SML has a rich type system that is formally defined [17], SML itself has a powerful module system, and variants of SML's module system are the subject of ongoing research (see section 6). In this section we will sketch additional features of M/SML necessary for a module language which are not covered by the $\lambda\delta$ -module calculus.

First of all, interface declarations are an essential feature of a module language. Interface declarations define a name for a signature or an arbitrary complex interface. Without any restriction, function, tuple, and system interfaces may be declared. The example shows the well-known interface characterizing a module that represents an order.

interface ORD = sig
 type t
 val less: t -> t -> bool
 end

MacQueen's signature closure rule [13] claims that a signature should contain the structures it depends on as substructures. In SML, the names of these substructures are *free* and are instantiated with every use of the signature. M/SML does not allow for substructures. In order to express the dependency of an interface from certain modules, we use parameterized interfaces. Parameterized interfaces are functions from modules to interfaces which can be "instantiated" at different uses by application to a matching module.

The interface DICT for a dictionary depends on a module that realizes keys and can be characterized as an order.

An SML signature that serves the same purpose has the following form:

```
signature DICT = sig
    structure Key: ORD
    type key = Key.t
    ... (* rest as above *)
    end
```

The main difference is that the SML signature is instantiated implicitly, while parameterized interfaces in M/SML have to be applied explicitly.

Since system declarations are the most unusual part of M/SML, we will start with the most simple system.

IntOrder = dec [IntOrd: INT_ORD] IntOrd

The system IntOrder consists of a single simple module IntOrd that is also exported. The interface INT_ORD is a subinterface of ORD and can be characterized by the following interface declaration.

interface INT_ORD = ORD with sig type t = int end

MakeDict represents a dictionary that is parameterized by a key. Note that the interface of Dict is characterized by applying parameterized interface DICT to module Key. Key—or more exactly what Key will be, when MakeDict has been applied—and Dict are exported as a tuple.

MakeDict = fun (Key: ORD)
 dec [Dict: DICT Key]
 <Key = Key, Dictionary = Dict>

In order to build a dictionary with integer keys we use system IntOrder and apply MakeDict. Since we use IntOrder via the export part the declaration is matched with a wild card (_).

Usually, the use of a system happens only via the export part, therefore, we could abbreviate the as-part of use.

IntKeyDict = use IntOrder as Key in MakeDict Key

The resulting system IntKeyDict can be characterized by interface INT_KEY_DICT.

If we want to add an extension module that defines additional operations on dictionaries, e.g. a domain function that returns a set of keys, we need a set module and the extension itself. These modules are characterized by parameterized interfaces SET and EXT.

The set as well as the extension can be realized very generally, in order to allow for reuse in different contexts.

```
MakeSet = fun (Elt: ORD)
    dec [Set: SET Elt]
        Set
ExtendDict = fun (Elt:ORD)
    fun (EltDict: DICT Elt)
    fun (EltSet: SET Elt)
    dec [Extend: EXT Elt EltSet]
        <Key = Elt,
        Keyset = EltSet,
        Dictionary = EltDict,
        Extensions = ExtendDict>
```

If we now want to build an extension of the integer dictionary above, we have to use system IntKeyDict, combine it with a KeySet, and build an appropriate extension. Normally, a system consists of several declarations. Therefore, use allows to match such a "curried" system in one step.

IntKeyExtDict = use IntKeyDict as [_][_] Dict in use MakeSet (Dict#Key) as [_] KeySet in ExtendDict (Dict#Key) (Dict#Dictionary) IntSet

We can abbreviate matching all leading declarations, and accessing the "last" export just the same way as matching one declaration and accessing the export part.

IntKeyExtDict = use IntKeyDict as Dict in
 use MakeSet (Dict#Key) as KeySet in
 ExtendDict (Dict#Key) (Dict#Dictionary) KeySet

If we additionally introduce pattern matching for tuples, **IntKeyExtDict** can be written down very elegantly:

Until now, no implementations of simple modules have been supplied. Preferably, every declaration defines a unique name global to the top-level expression it occurs in. Then, the accompanying implementation can be separated, provided top-level declarations are also unique. The implementations needed above can be added separately.

implementation IntOrd of IntOrder = struct ... end implementation Dict of MakeDict = struct ... end implementation Set of MakeSet = struct ... end implementation Extend of ExtendDict = struct ... end

The environment for the implementation remains the same as the environment for the declaration. Separate compilation of implementations is possible and reorganization of module programs is rather easy.

If all implementations have been supplied, a system like IntKeyExtDict can be compiled into an executable program. Currently we compile implementations into SML structures which maintain reduction of module expressions via import lists. Several instances of an implementation are simply represented as duplicated code.

6 Related work

The central aim of the $\lambda\delta$ -module calculus is to integrate the side effect of generating module instances into a calculus with a simple rewriting semantics. The idea to use names for representing

instances is inspired by calculi which integrate side effects into functional languages, especially Odersky's $\lambda\nu$ -calculus [19]. While $\lambda\nu$ is essentially a calculus of local names, $\lambda\delta$ may be characterized as a calculus of global names.

The $\lambda\delta$ -module calculus is a predicative calculus, where types depend on values. A non-standard variant of weak sums is used to explain module generativity. Similar in spirit, Mitchell and Plotkin [18] use the SOL-calculus to give a type-theoretic account of abstract types. A type and its operations may be packaged into an abstract type—essentially a weak sum. An abstract type has to be opened, thereby generating a "new" type before it can be used. Although the SOL-calculus is impredicative, with values depending on types, using a system in the $\lambda\delta$ -module calculus is similar to combining open and pack in SOL, with systems instead of abstract types.

MacQueen's original explanation of SML's module system using strong sums [14] has been further developed in the XSML-calculus [7]. The XSML-calculus is a predicative calculus with strong sums that is used to give a type-theoretic explanation of Standard ML regarding, both, the core and the module language. Structure generativity is not explained. Since structures may occur in interfaces, type-checking XSML is undecidable, because of the need for checking the equality of arbitrary core language expressions. In [8] Harper et. al. show how to introduce a phase distinction that makes type-checking decidable. The $\lambda\delta$ -module calculus also embodies strong sums, but they are only used to form labelled tuples of module expressions. These tuples do not contain any core language expressions. Module instances can only occur in tuples, if they have been bound before in a declaration.

Type generativity and abstract types are not explained by the XSML-calculus. In order to prevent the need for weak sums, which have to be opened globally and to allow access to abstract types via the dot notation [4], translucent sums [6] or manifest types [9, 12] have been proposed. Both concepts identify abstract types with the module expression they come from. This leads to a more abstract and less operational treatment of type generativity than in the definition of SML [17]. The identity of abstract types (generative type declarations) is intimately connected to the generation of structure instances. While the operational approach of SML generates "new" types for every structure instance, in the manifest-types approach abstract types are compatible if they come from the same *path expression*. This can be a doubtful feature if two module instances with compatible abstract types belong to one software system and we want to restructure the system by substituting one instance by another implementation. This clearly hurts the principle of information hiding. The $\lambda\delta$ -module calculus also uses manifest types to give identities to abstract types, but abstract types are new in every module instance, since the instances are explicit. Furthermore, structure construction is not part of the calculus and, therefore, manifest type expressions are not restricted to path expressions.

All the theoretical work above is used to develop module systems of the ML-family. Manifest types constitute the foundation of the module system of Objective Caml (formerly known as Caml Special Light [11]). SML-1996 [21] is a proposal for a language based on XSML and translucent sums. Besides theoretical foundations and the handling of type generativity, the integration of higher-order functors has been a major goal. All approaches scale up to higher-order functors, the more abstract approaches [10, 8] as well as the more operational approach [23, 15]. The $\lambda\delta$ -module calculus also allows higher-order expressions, but it is not so closely connected to the ML-family.

7 Summary and future work

The $\lambda\delta$ -module calculus introduces a syntactic way to handle the identity of module instances. System declaration and the dual use-construct allow to deal with module instances in a calculus with a simple rewriting semantics instead of using an operational semantics which describes structure generation as a side effect at the module level.

The type system describes interfaces of expressions using types (interfaces) that depend on values (module expressions). The most simple interfaces are signatures, the interfaces of simple modules. A non-standard variant of weak sums, called system interfaces, makes module instances

explicit in interfaces. Together with dependent functions, characterizing parameterized systems, strong sums for tupling arbitrary module expressions, and manifest types for expressing dependencies, we get a rich type system appropriate for a module language.

Essentially, the $\lambda\delta$ -module calculus is a predicative calculus. Simple modules are its simple values, and signatures may be regarded as "simple" types. In a sense, the calculus is completely functional. The notion of a software system coincides with our notion of a system. It is simply a closed expression of the module language. Consequently, the interface reveals the complete modular structure an expression will have when all parameters have been supplied and the expression is reduced to normal form. Equational reasoning at the module level is possible, for example, to show that two different systems are equivalent⁴. Simple modules (and arbitrary module expression) that interfaces and implementations depend on are always represented syntactically in the module program. Therefore, it is not possible to declare *defective signatures* [1] (also called "monsters" in [16]) which can not be implemented by any structure.

The module language M/SML is just a testbed for the $\lambda\delta$ -module calculus. Currently we are developing a concept-proof implementation of M/SML using parts of the ML-Kit [3] for the static analysis of module implementations. Since we are mainly interested in the module language, module language expressions which form an executable system are compiled into a sequence of SML structures.

Our original motivation was to support the description and development of software architectures [5], using a module language similar to the module language of SML. In principle, SML or one of its variants could serve this task [2], but in SML the elaboration of module expressions is only possible if all structures have been implemented. Architectional and implementational concerns cannot be separated. In M/SML a software achitecture can be designed and module expressions can be elaborated without supplying implementations for every dec-bound module.

The strict separation of module and implementation languages opens the door for several interesting applications of the $\lambda\delta$ -module calculus. For example, we could allow a restricted form of mutual dependencies between module implementations, similar to Modula-2, where two or more implementation modules may mutually depend on each other's definition module.

Furthermore, we could apply the $\lambda\delta$ -module calculus to the problem of namespace management for an object-oriented language. In a strongly-typed object-oriented language, a class could play the role of a simple module, and it seems possible to develop a powerful module system for an object-oriented core language.

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⁴The topological order according to the depends-on relation between simple modules is not unique

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A Appendix

A.1 Syntax

A.1.1 Module calculus

Expressions

	m	::= 	$\begin{array}{l} x\\l\\ fun(x:I)\ m\\m_1\ m_2\\ \langle l_1=m_1,\ldots,l_n=m_n\rangle\\m\#l\\ dec[x:S]\ m\\ use\ m_1\ as\ [x_1]x_2\ in\ m_2 \end{array}$	variable/name label (function) abstraction application tuple construction tuple selection (system) declaration use
Interfaces	Ι		S all $(x:I_1)$ I_2 $\langle l_1:I_1,\ldots,l_1:I_n angle$ some $[x:S]$ I	simple interface function interface tuple interface system interface
Signatures	S	::=	sig E end	$\operatorname{signature}$
	E	::= 	D, E arepsilon	signature entries
	D	::= 	type t type $t = T$ val $v: T$	opaque type specification manifest type specification value specification
	Т	::= 	$ \begin{array}{l} t \\ m.t \\ int \mid bool \\ T_1 \rightarrow T_2 \end{array} $	type name type component predefined simple types function type

A.1.2 Core language

Implementations

m	::= 	dec[x:S is s] m	declaration and implementation
s	::=	struct e end	structure
e	::= 	$d,e \\ arepsilon$	structure entries
d	::= 	type $t = T$ datatype t val $v : t = c$	type binding (non-generative) type creation (generative) value declaration
С	::= 	m.v	(value) component core language expressions

A.2 Typing rules

A.2.1 Module calculus

$$(axiom) \qquad [] \vdash \langle \rangle : \Box \qquad [] \vdash sig end : \Box \qquad [] \vdash type : \Box \\ \frac{\Gamma \vdash I : \Box}{\Gamma, x : I \vdash x : I}, x \notin \Gamma \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash I : \Box}{\Gamma, l : I \vdash l : I}, l \notin \Gamma \\ \frac{\Gamma \vdash type : \Box}{\Gamma, type t \vdash t : type}, t \notin \Gamma \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash T : type \ \Gamma \vdash type : \Box}{\Gamma, type t = T \vdash t = T : type}, t \notin \Gamma \\ \frac{\Gamma \vdash T : type}{\Gamma, val \ v : T \vdash val \ v : T}, v \notin \Gamma$$

$$(weakening)$$

(1

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash stmt \quad \Gamma \vdash I: \Box}{\Gamma, x: I \vdash stmt}, x \notin \Gamma \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash stmt \quad \Gamma \vdash I: \Box}{\Gamma, l: I \vdash stmt}, l \notin \Gamma$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash stmt \quad \Gamma \vdash type: \Box}{\Gamma, type \ t \vdash stmt}, t \notin \Gamma \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash stmt \quad \Gamma \vdash T: type \quad \Gamma \vdash type: \Box}{\Gamma, type \ t \vdash stmt}, t \notin \Gamma$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash stmt \quad \Gamma \vdash T: type}{\Gamma, val \ v: T \vdash stmt}, v \notin \Gamma \qquad stmt \ denotes \ an \ arbitrary \ typing \ statement$$

(interface formation)

$$\begin{array}{c|c} \hline \Gamma \vdash I_1 : \Box & \Gamma, x : I_1 \vdash I_2 : \Box \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash \mathsf{all}(x : I_1) & I_2 : \Box \\ \hline \hline \Gamma \vdash \mathsf{some}[x : S] & I : \Box \\ \hline \hline \Gamma \vdash \mathsf{I}_1 : \Box & \Gamma, l_1 : I_1 \vdash \langle l_2 : I_2, \dots, l_n : I_n \rangle : \Box \\ \hline \hline \hline \Gamma \vdash \langle l_1 : I_1, \dots, l_n : I_n \rangle : \Box \\ \end{array}$$

(signature formation)

$$(\text{signature formation}) \underbrace{ \begin{array}{c} \Gamma \vdash T: \text{type } \Gamma, \text{type } t = T \vdash \text{sig } E \text{ end } : \square \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash \text{sig type } t = T, E \text{ end } : \square \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash \text{type } : \square & \Gamma, \text{type } t \vdash \text{sig } E \text{ end } : \square \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash \text{sig type } t, E \text{ end } : \square \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash \text{sig type } t, E \text{ end } : \square \\ (\text{type formation}) \\ \hline \begin{array}{c} \Gamma \vdash T_1: \text{type } & \Gamma \vdash T_2: \text{type} \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash T_1 \rightarrow T_2: \text{type} \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash T_1 \rightarrow T_2: \text{type} \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash T_1 \rightarrow T_2: \text{type} \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash T_1: \text{type } \Gamma \vdash T : \text{type } \Gamma \vdash t: \text{type } \Gamma \vdash t: \text{type } \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash T_1 \rightarrow T_2: \text{type } \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash T_1 \rightarrow T_2: \text{type } \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash T : \text{type } \Gamma \vdash t: \text{type } \Gamma \vdash t: \text{type } \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash T : \text{type } \Gamma \vdash t: \text{type } \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash T : \text{type } \Gamma \vdash T : \text{type } \\ \hline T \vdash T : \text{type } \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash T : \text{type } \\ \hline T \vdash T : T : \text{type } \\ \hline T \vdash T : T : \text{type } \\ \hline T \vdash T : T : T : \text{type } \\ \hline T \vdash T : \\ \hline T \vdash T : T : \\ \hline T \vdash T : T : T : \\ T \vdash T : \\ \hline T : T : T : \\ T \vdash T : \\$$

(abstraction)

$$\frac{\Gamma, x: I_1 \vdash m: I_2 \quad \Gamma \vdash \mathsf{all}(x:I_1) \ I_2: \Box}{\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{fun}(x:I_1) \ m: \mathsf{all}(x:I_1) \ I_2}$$
(application)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash m_1: \mathsf{all}(x:I_2) \ I_1 \quad \Gamma \vdash m_2: I_2}{\Gamma \vdash m_1 \ m_2: I_1\{x \leftarrow m_2\}}$$

(tuple construction)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \langle l_2 = m_2, \dots, l_n = m_n \rangle \{l_1 \leftarrow m_1\} : \langle l_2 : I_2, \dots, l_n : I_n \rangle \{l_1 \leftarrow m_1\}}{\Gamma \vdash m_1 : I_1 \quad \Gamma \vdash \langle l_1 : I_1, \dots, l_n : I_n \rangle : \Box}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \langle l_1 = m_1, \dots, l_n = m_n \rangle : \langle l_1 : I_1, \dots, l_n : I_n \rangle}{\Gamma \vdash \langle l_1 = m_1, \dots, l_n = m_n \rangle : \langle l_1 : I_1, \dots, I_n : I_n \rangle}$$

(tuple selection)

A.2.2 Core language

(declaration)

(1

: sig val
$$v: T, E$$
 end
 $\Gamma \vdash m.v: T$ further core language rules omitted

A.3 Conversion and reduction

A.3.1 Strengthening (/)

$$(\operatorname{sig} E \operatorname{end})/m = \operatorname{sig} E/m \operatorname{end}$$

 $\varepsilon/m = \varepsilon$
 $(\operatorname{type} t, E)/m = \operatorname{type} t = m.t, E/m$
 $(\operatorname{type} t = T, E)/m = \operatorname{type} t = T, E/m$
 $(\operatorname{val} v : T, E)/m = \operatorname{val} v : T, E/m$
 $I/m = I$

A.3.2 Subtyping of interfaces $(<:_{\Gamma})$

$all(x\!:\!I_1) \; I_2 <:_{\Gamma} all(x\!:\!I_1') \; I_2'$	\Leftarrow	$I_1' <:_{\Gamma} I_1, \ I_2 <:_{\Gamma'} I_2'$
		where $\Gamma'=\Gamma, x$: I_1'
$\langle \rangle <:_{\Gamma} \langle \rangle$		
$\langle l_1:I_1,\ldots,l_n:I_n\rangle <:_{\Gamma} \langle l_1:I_1',\ldots,l_n:I_n'\rangle$	\Leftarrow	$I_1 <_{\Gamma} I_1',$
		$\langle l_2: I_2, \ldots, l_n: I_n \rangle <:_{\Gamma'} \langle l_2: I'_2, \ldots, l_n: I'_n \rangle$
		where $\Gamma'=\Gamma, l_1$: I_1
$some[a\!:\!S] \; I <:_{\Gamma} some[a\!:\!S'] \; I'$	\Leftarrow	$S <_{:\Gamma} S', \ I <_{:\Gamma'} I'$
		where $\Gamma' = \Gamma, a : S$
sig E end $<:_{\Gamma}$ sig end		
sig D_1, \ldots, D_n end $<:_{\Gamma}$ sig D'_1, \ldots, D'_m end	\Leftarrow	$D_{\sigma(i)} <:_{\Gamma'} D'_i$ for $i \in \{1, \ldots, m\}$
		where $\Gamma'=\Gamma, D_1,\ldots,D_n$
		and $\sigma:\{1,\ldots,m\} o\{1,\ldots,n\}$

 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{type } t <:_{\Gamma} \text{type } t \\ \text{type } t = T <:_{\Gamma} \text{type } t \\ \text{val } v: T_1 <:_{\Gamma} \text{val } v: T_2 \\ \text{type } t = T_1 <:_{\Gamma} \text{type } t = T_2 \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{ll} \Leftarrow & T_1 \approx_{\Gamma} T_2 \\ \Leftarrow & T_1 \approx_{\Gamma} T_2 \\ \leftarrow & T_1 \approx_{\Gamma} T_2 \end{array}$

A.3.3 Manifest equality of types (\approx_{Γ})

$T_1 \to T_2 \approx_{\Gamma} T'_1 \to T'_2$	\Leftarrow	$T_1 \approx_{\Gamma} T'_1, T_2 \approx_{\Gamma} T'_2$
$t \approx_{\Gamma} T$	\Leftarrow	$\Gamma dash t = T: type$
$m.t \approx_{\Gamma} T$	\Leftarrow	$\Gamma \vdash m$: sig type $t = T, E$ end
$t \approx_{\Gamma} t$		
$m_1.t \approx_{\Gamma} m_2.t$	\Leftarrow	$m_1 = m_2$
$T_2 \approx_{\Gamma} T_1$	\Leftarrow	$T_1 \approx_{\Gamma} T_2$
$T_1 \approx_{\Gamma} T_3$	\Leftarrow	$T_1 \approx_{\Gamma} T_2, T_2 \approx_{\Gamma} T_3$

A.3.4 Syntactic equality of expressions modulo reduction (=)

$$m_1 = m_2 \quad \Leftarrow \quad m'_1 \equiv m'_2, \quad m_1 \twoheadrightarrow m'_1, \quad m_2 \twoheadrightarrow m'_2$$

A.3.5 Simple syntactic equality of expressions (\equiv)

A.3.6 Reduction (\rightarrow)

A.3.7 One-step reduction (\rightarrow)

The compatibility rules for selecting a redex and α -conversion are omitted.

 $\begin{array}{lll} (\mathsf{fun}(x:A) \ m_1) \ m_2 & \rightarrow & m_1 \{x \leftarrow m_2\} \\ \langle l_1 = m_1, \dots, l_k = m_k, \dots, l_n = m_n \rangle \# l_k & \rightarrow & m_k \{l_1 \leftarrow m_1\} \cdots \{l_{k-1} \leftarrow m_{k-1}\} \\ \mathsf{use} \ (\mathsf{dec}[x_1:S] \ m_1) \ \mathsf{as} \ [x_2] x_3 \ \mathsf{in} \ m_2 & \rightarrow & \mathsf{dec}[x_1:S] \ (m_2 \{x_2 \leftarrow x_1\} \{x_3 \leftarrow m_1\}) \end{array}$

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