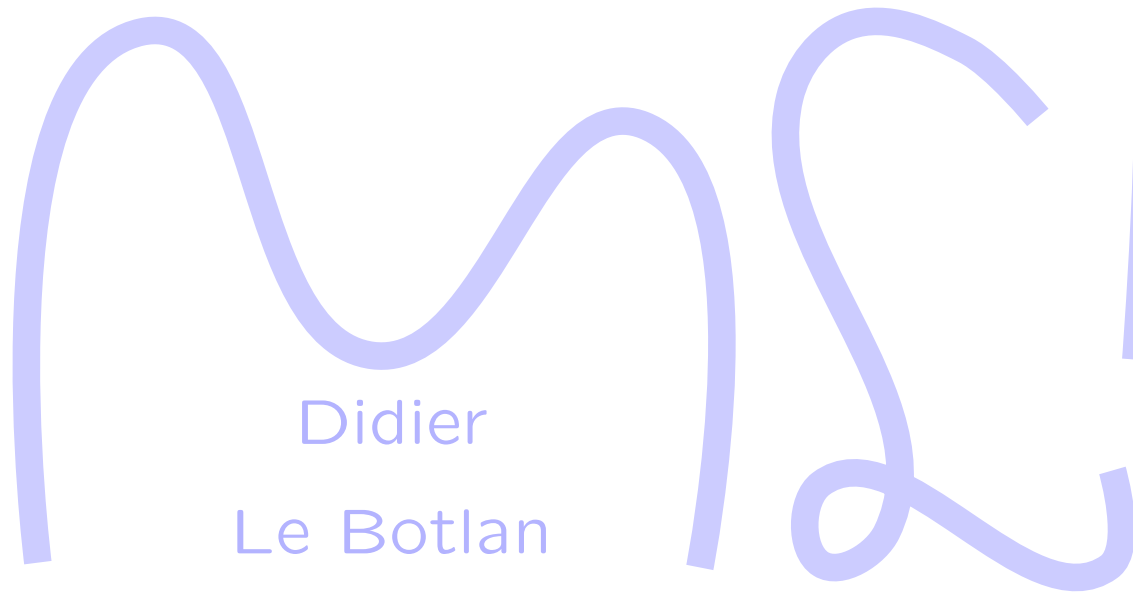


**A graphical presentation  
of  $ML^F$  types with  
a linear-time incremental  
unification algorithm.**



Didier  
Le Botlan

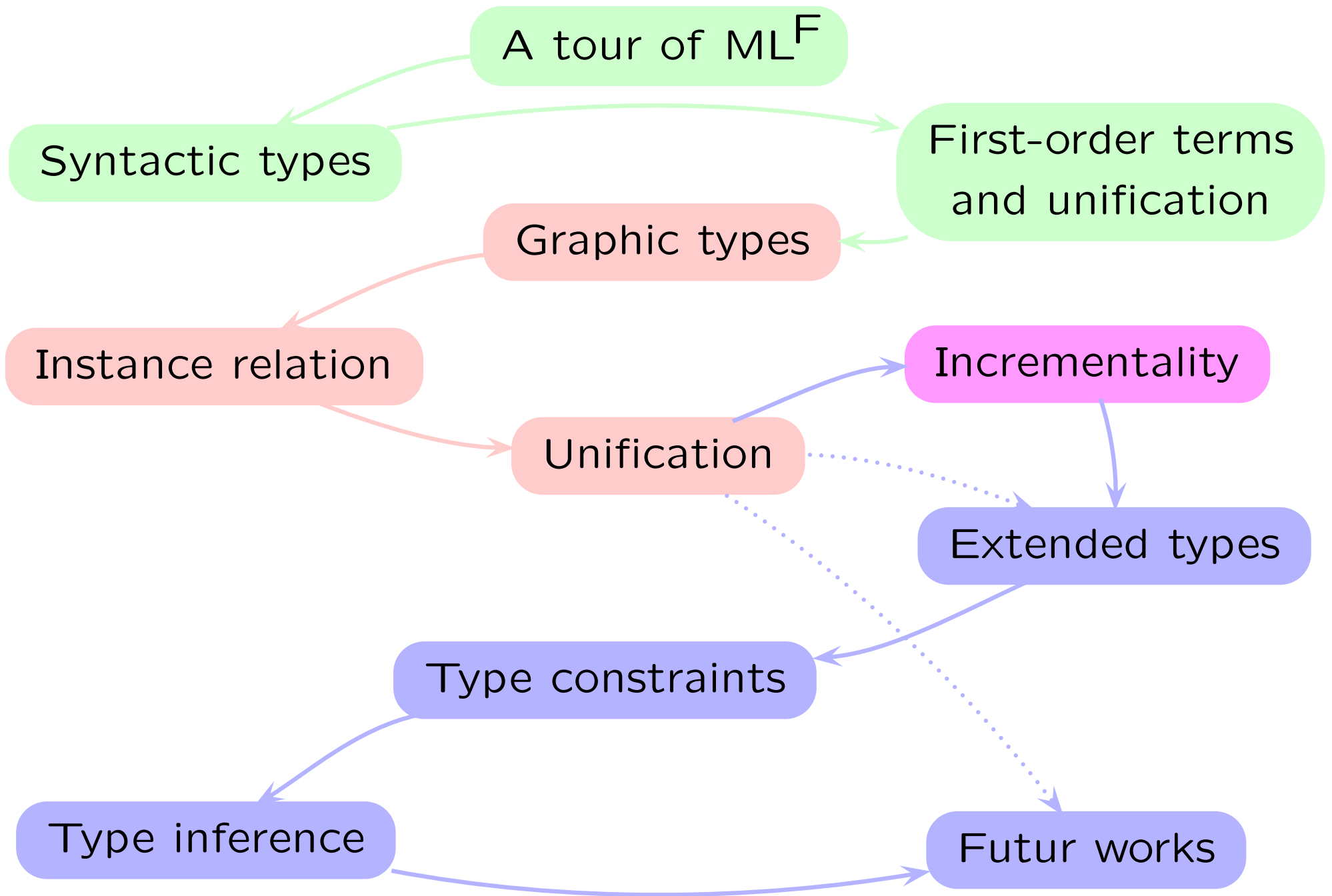


Didier Rémy

&

Boris Yakobowski

INRIA-Rocquencourt



**First-class polymorphism is (sometimes) useful.**

## Today's solutions

- ▶ Should we give up type inference? **no!**
- ▶ Local type inference? **no!** —very fragile to program transformations
- ▶ Algorithmically specified type-inference?
- ▶ Stratified type inference? —still a backup when better solutions fail.
- ▶ Boxy types?

**no!**

## Improve System-F — regardless of type inference

- ▶ There is a gap between implicit and explicit type systems.
- ▶ Is System F the right choice? (think of  $F^\eta$ ,  $F_{\leq}$ , F-bounded, *etc.*)

**First-class polymorphism is (sometimes) useful.**

## **Today's solutions**

- ▶ Should we give up type inference? **no!**
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## **Improve System-F — regardless of type inference**

- ▶ There is a gap between implicit and explicit type systems.
- ▶ Is System F the right choice? (think of  $F^\eta$ ,  $F_{\leq}$ , F-bounded, *etc.*)

---

let choose =  $\lambda(x) \lambda(y) \mathbf{if} \textit{true} \mathbf{then} x \mathbf{else} y : \forall \alpha \cdot \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$

let *id* =  $\lambda(z) z : \forall \alpha \cdot \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$

choose ( $\lambda(x) x$ ) :

let  $\text{choose} = \lambda(x) \lambda(y) \text{ if } \text{true} \text{ then } x \text{ else } y : \forall \alpha \cdot \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$

let  $\text{id} = \lambda(z) z : \forall \alpha \cdot \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$

$\text{choose } (\lambda(x) x) : \begin{cases} \forall \alpha \cdot (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \\ (\forall \alpha \cdot \alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow (\forall \alpha \cdot \alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \end{cases}$

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$choose (\lambda(x) x) : \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \forall \alpha \cdot (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \\ (\forall \alpha \cdot \alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow (\forall \alpha \cdot \alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \end{array} \right\}$  No better choice in F

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$: \forall (\beta \geq \forall (\alpha) \alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \beta \rightarrow \beta$  in  $ML^F$



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$\leq \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \forall (\beta = \forall (\alpha) \alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \beta \rightarrow \beta \\ \forall (\alpha) \forall (\beta = \alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \beta \rightarrow \beta \end{array} \right.$

let choose =  $\lambda(x) \lambda(y)$  **if** *true* **then**  $x$  **else**  $y : \forall \alpha \cdot \alpha \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$

let *id* =  $\lambda(z) z : \forall \alpha \cdot \alpha \rightarrow \alpha$

choose ( $\lambda(x) x$ ) :  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \forall \alpha \cdot (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow (\alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \\ (\forall \alpha \cdot \alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow (\forall \alpha \cdot \alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \end{array} \right\}$  No better choice in F

:  $\forall (\beta \geq \forall (\alpha) \alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \beta \rightarrow \beta$  in  $ML^F$

$\leq \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \forall (\beta = \forall (\alpha) \alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \beta \rightarrow \beta \\ \forall (\alpha) \forall (\beta = \alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \beta \rightarrow \beta \end{array} \right.$

**But**

$\lambda(x) x x$  : ill-typed Do not guess polymorphism!

$\lambda(x : \forall (\alpha) \alpha \rightarrow \alpha) x x$  :  $\forall (\beta = \forall (\alpha) \alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \beta \rightarrow \beta$

## Principal types

Type inference, relies on *first-order unification in the presence of second-order types*.

## Convervative over both ML and System F

ML programs need no annotations

F programs need fewer annotations: type abstractions and type applications are always inferred.

## $ML^F$ is robust (to program transformations)

For example, if  $E[a_1 a_2]$  is typable so  $E[apply a_1 a_2]$  where  $apply$  is  $\lambda(f) \lambda(x) f x$ .

<p>Var</p> $\frac{x : \sigma \in \Gamma}{\Gamma \vdash x : \sigma}$	<p>Fun</p> $\frac{\Gamma, x : \tau \vdash a : \tau'}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda(x) a : \tau \rightarrow \tau'}$	<p>App</p> $\frac{\Gamma \vdash a_1 : \tau_2 \rightarrow \tau_1 \quad \Gamma \vdash a_2 : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash a_1 a_2 : \tau_1}$
<p>Inst</p> $\frac{\Gamma \vdash a : \sigma \quad \sigma \leq \sigma'}{\Gamma \vdash a : \sigma'}$	<p>Gen</p> $\frac{\Gamma \vdash a : \sigma \quad \text{dom}(q) \notin \text{ftv}(\Gamma)}{\Gamma \vdash a : \forall q \cdot \sigma}$	
<p>Let</p> $\frac{\Gamma \vdash a : \sigma \quad \Gamma, x : \sigma \vdash a' : \sigma'}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let } x = a \text{ in } a' : \sigma'}$		

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Var} \\ \frac{x : \sigma \in \Gamma}{(Q) \Gamma \vdash x : \sigma} \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} \text{Fun} \\ \frac{(Q) \Gamma, x : \tau \vdash a : \tau'}{(Q) \Gamma \vdash \lambda(x) a : \tau \rightarrow \tau'} \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} \text{App} \\ \frac{(Q) \Gamma \vdash a_1 : \tau_2 \rightarrow \tau_1 \quad (Q) \Gamma \vdash a_2 : \tau_2}{(Q) \Gamma \vdash a_1 a_2 : \tau_1} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Inst} \\ \frac{(Q) \Gamma \vdash a : \sigma \quad (Q) \sigma \leq \sigma'}{(Q) \Gamma \vdash a : \sigma'} \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} \text{Gen} \\ \frac{(Q, q) \Gamma \vdash a : \sigma \quad \text{dom}(q) \notin \text{ftv}(\Gamma)}{(Q) \Gamma \vdash a : \forall q \cdot \sigma} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Let} \\ \frac{(Q) \Gamma \vdash a : \sigma \quad (Q) \Gamma, x : \sigma \vdash a' : \sigma'}{(Q) \Gamma \vdash \text{let } x = a \text{ in } a' : \sigma'} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{Var} \\
 \frac{x : \sigma \in \Gamma}{(Q) \Gamma \vdash x : \sigma} \\
 \\
 \text{Fun} \\
 \frac{(Q) \Gamma, x : \tau \vdash a : \tau'}{(Q) \Gamma \vdash \lambda(x) a : \tau \rightarrow \tau'} \\
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 \\
 \text{Let} \\
 \frac{(Q) \Gamma \vdash a : \sigma \quad (Q) \Gamma, x : \sigma \vdash a' : \sigma'}{(Q) \Gamma \vdash \text{let } x = a \text{ in } a' : \sigma'}
 \end{array}$$

$(Q)$  binds free type variables of  $\Gamma$ .

$(Q)$  could be interleaved with  $\Gamma$  as  $\Gamma_Q$  and read back by restricting the domain of  $\Gamma_Q$  to type variables.

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{Var} \\
 \frac{x : \sigma \in \Gamma}{(Q) \Gamma \vdash x : \sigma} \\
 \\
 \text{Fun} \\
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 \end{array}$$

## ML

### Types

$$\tau ::= \alpha \mid \tau \rightarrow \tau$$

$$\sigma ::= \tau \mid \forall (q) \sigma$$

$$q ::= \alpha$$

### Instance relation $\leq$

$$\forall (\bar{\alpha}) \tau \leq \forall (\beta) \tau[\bar{\tau}' / \bar{\alpha}]$$

$$\beta \notin \text{ftv}(\forall (\bar{\alpha}) \tau)$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{Var} \\
 \frac{x : \sigma \in \Gamma}{(Q) \Gamma \vdash x : \sigma} \\
 \\
 \text{Fun} \\
 \frac{(Q) \Gamma, x : \tau \vdash a : \tau'}{(Q) \Gamma \vdash \lambda(x) a : \tau \rightarrow \tau'} \\
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 \end{array}$$

## System F

### Types

$$\tau ::= \alpha \mid \tau \rightarrow \tau \mid \forall (\alpha) \tau$$

$$\sigma ::= \tau$$

$$q ::= \alpha$$

### Instance relation $\leq$

$$\forall (\bar{\alpha}) \tau \leq \forall (\beta) \tau[\bar{\tau}' / \bar{\alpha}]$$

$$\beta \notin \text{ftv}(\forall (\bar{\alpha}) \tau)$$



$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{Var} \\
 \frac{x : \sigma \in \Gamma}{(Q) \Gamma \vdash x : \sigma} \\
 \\
 \text{Fun} \\
 \frac{(Q) \Gamma, x : \tau \vdash a : \tau'}{(Q) \Gamma \vdash \lambda(x) a : \tau \rightarrow \tau'} \\
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$$\begin{array}{c}
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 \end{array}$$

## System $F^\eta$

### Types

$$\tau ::= \alpha \mid \tau \rightarrow \tau \mid \forall(\alpha) \tau$$

$$\sigma ::= \tau$$

$$q ::= \alpha$$

### Instance relation $\leq$

type containment :

deep, contra-variant, *etc.*

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{Var} \\
 \frac{x : \sigma \in \Gamma}{(Q) \Gamma \vdash x : \sigma} \\
 \\
 \text{Fun} \\
 \frac{(Q) \Gamma, x : \tau \vdash a : \tau'}{(Q) \Gamma \vdash \lambda(x) a : \tau \rightarrow \tau'} \\
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 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{Inst} \\
 \frac{(Q) \Gamma \vdash a : \sigma \quad (Q) \sigma \leq \sigma'}{(Q) \Gamma \vdash a : \sigma'} \\
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 \text{Gen} \\
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 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{Let} \\
 \frac{(Q) \Gamma \vdash a : \sigma \quad (Q) \Gamma, x : \sigma \vdash a' : \sigma'}{(Q) \Gamma \vdash \text{let } x = a \text{ in } a' : \sigma'}
 \end{array}$$

## Explicit MLF

### Types

$$\tau ::= \alpha \mid \tau \rightarrow \tau$$

$$\sigma ::= \tau \mid \forall (q) \tau \mid \perp$$

$$q ::= (\alpha \geq \sigma) \mid (\alpha = \sigma)$$

### Instance relation $\leq$



$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{Var} \\
 \frac{x : \sigma \in \Gamma}{(Q) \Gamma \vdash x : \sigma} \\
 \\
 \text{Fun} \\
 \frac{(Q) \Gamma, x : \tau \vdash a : \tau'}{(Q) \Gamma \vdash \lambda(x) a : \tau \rightarrow \tau'} \\
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 \end{array}$$

## Implicit MLF

### Types

$$\tau ::= \alpha \mid \tau \rightarrow \tau \mid \forall(\alpha) \tau$$

$$\sigma ::= \tau \mid \forall(q) \tau \mid \perp$$

$$q ::= (\alpha \geq \sigma)$$

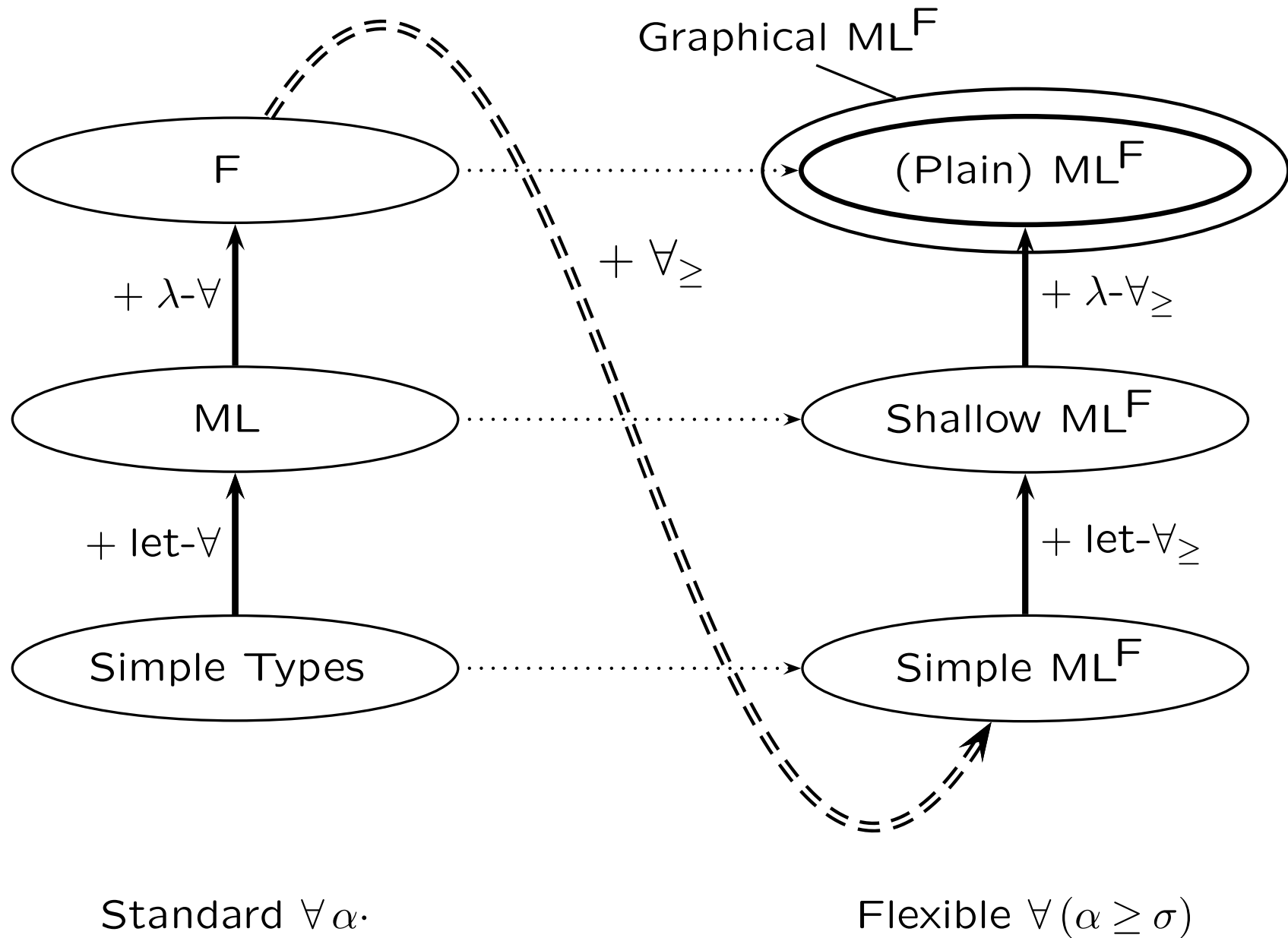
### Instance relation $\leq$

$$\sqsubseteq \quad (\text{simpler version})$$



Standard  $\forall \alpha$ .

Flexible  $\forall (\alpha \geq \sigma)$



## A lot of administrative rules (See?)

- ▶ Hides the underlying principles
- ▶ Heavy proofs (finite length)

$$\begin{aligned}\forall (\alpha \geq \sigma) \tau &\equiv \forall (\beta = s) \forall (\alpha \geq \forall (\gamma = \sigma) \gamma) \tau \\ &\equiv \forall (\beta = s) \forall (\alpha \geq \forall (\gamma = \beta) \gamma) \tau \\ &\equiv \forall (\beta = s) \forall (\alpha \geq \beta) \tau \\ &\equiv \forall (\alpha = s) \tau\end{aligned}$$

i.e. the instance relation is not a simple substitution.

**No!:** An improvement was suggested by F. Pottier, but it technically collapses the syntactic instance relation via dark corners, to our surprise...

## A lot of administrative rules (See?)

- ▶ Hides the underlying principles
- ▶ Heavy proofs (in breadth more than in depth).
- ▶ Made extensions difficult.

## Do we have the definition right?

*i.e.* the instance relation the best within the framework?

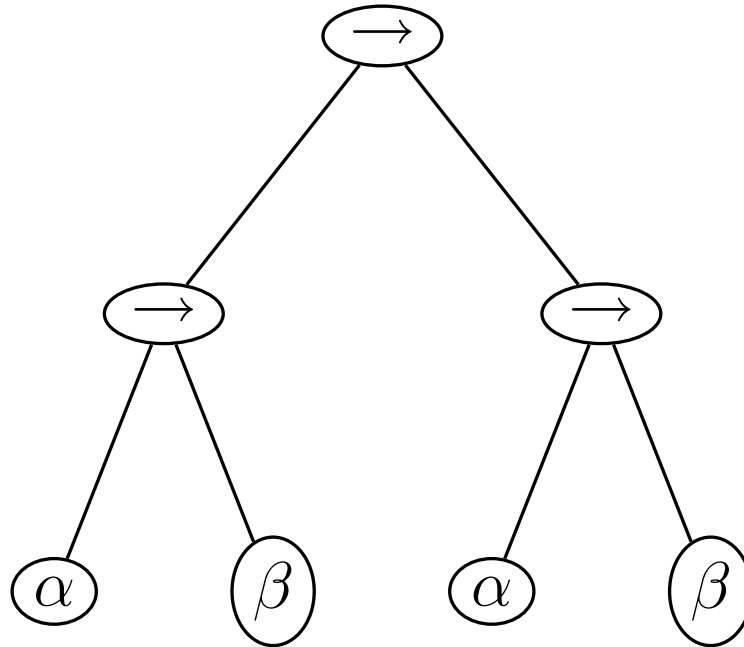
**No!**: An improvement was suggested by F. Pottier, but it technically collapses the syntactic instance relation via dark corners, to our surprise...

## Efficiency

Expensive unification (and type inference) algorithms.

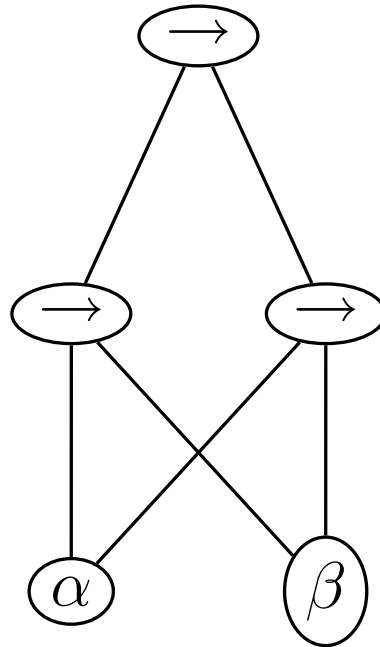
Does it scale up to large, automatically generated, programs?

A tree



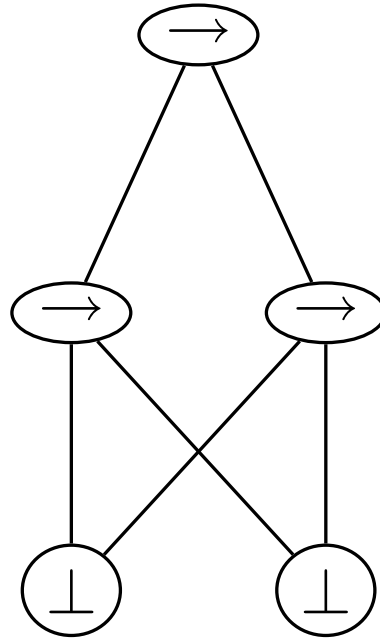


A ~~tree~~ dag



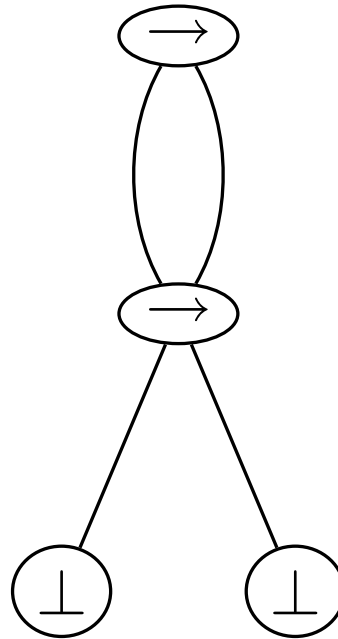
All occurrences of a variables are shared.

A ~~tree~~ dag



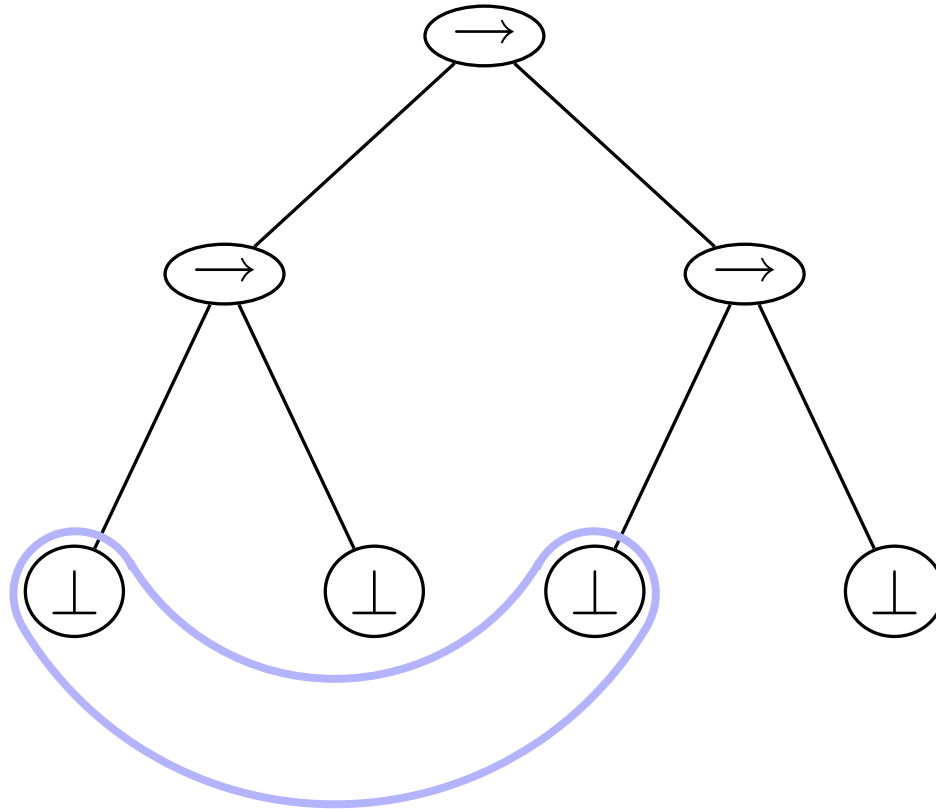
Variables need not be represented.

A ~~tree~~ dag

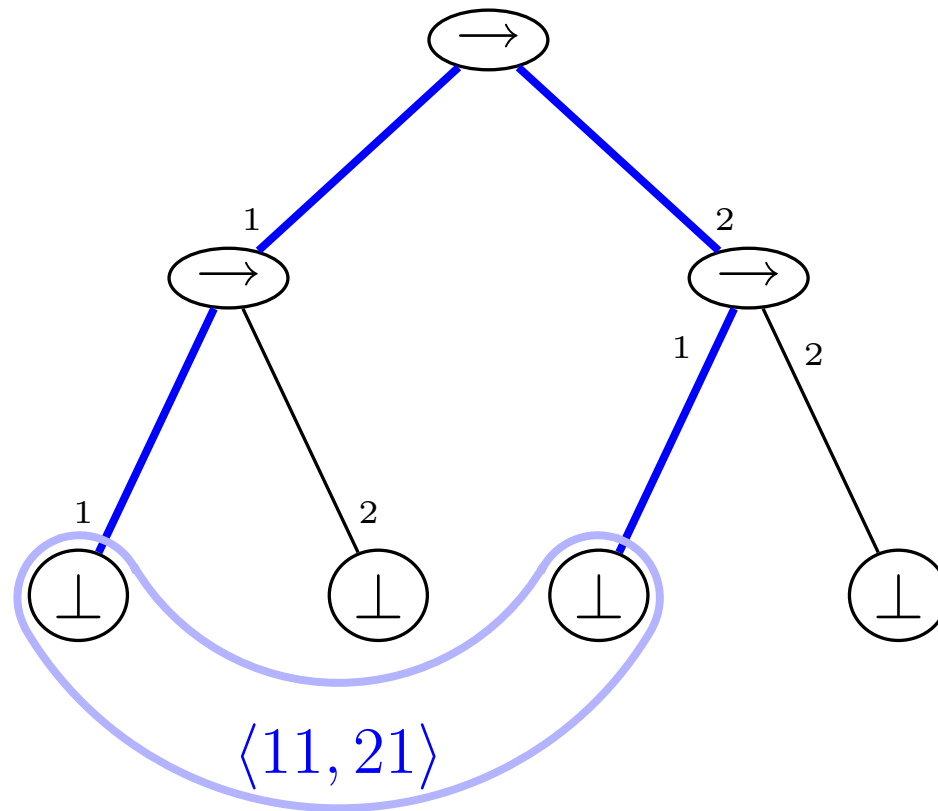


Other nodes may be also shared.

A dag  $\tau$  is the superposition of  
a tree  $\hat{\tau}$  and an equivalence  $\tilde{\tau}$  on nodes of  $\tau$

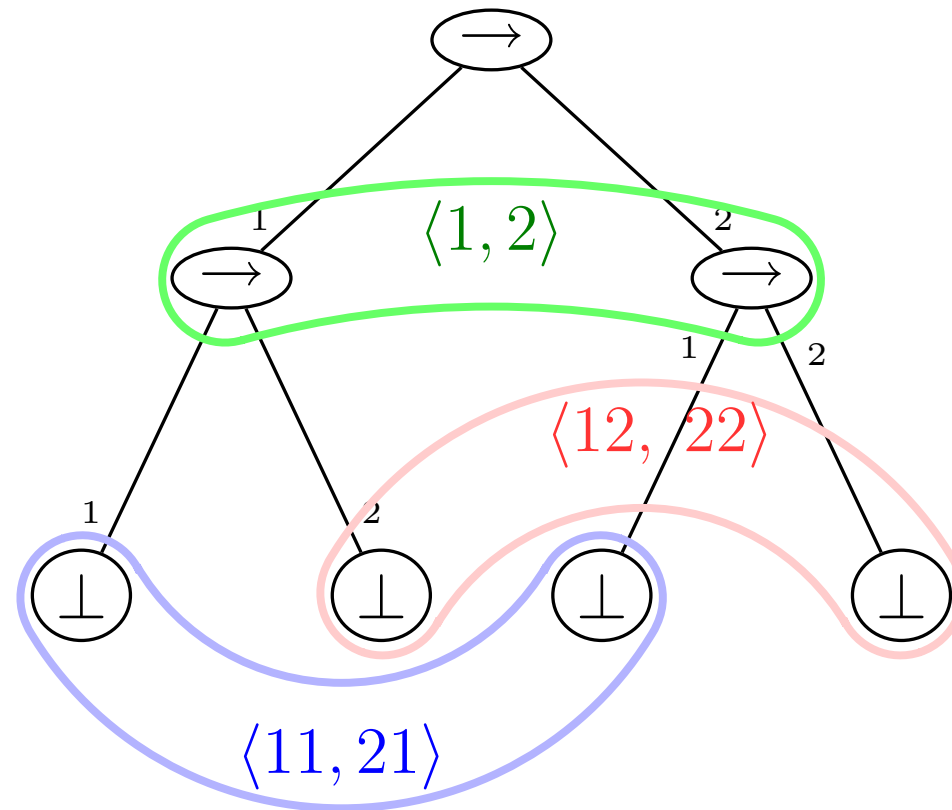


A dag  $\tau$  is the superposition of a tree  $\hat{\tau}$  and an equivalence  $\tilde{\tau}$  on nodes of  $\tau$



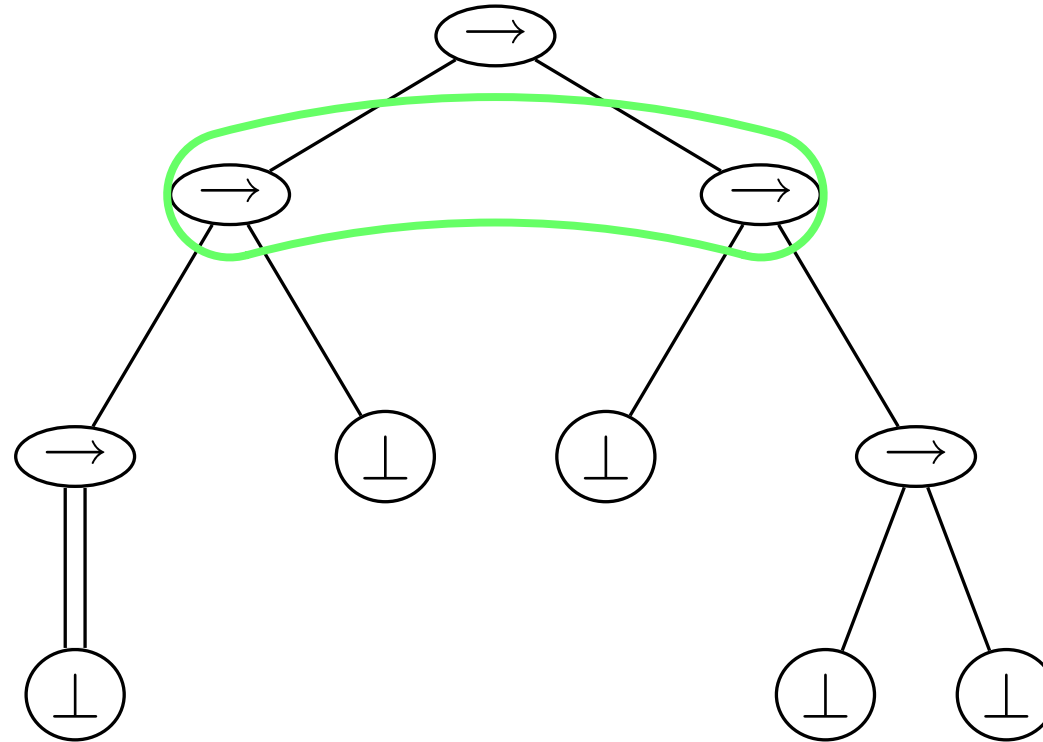
Nodes may be named after the set of paths leading to them.

A dag  $\tau$  is the superposition of  
a tree  $\hat{\tau}$  and an equivalence  $\tilde{\tau}$  on nodes of  $\tau$



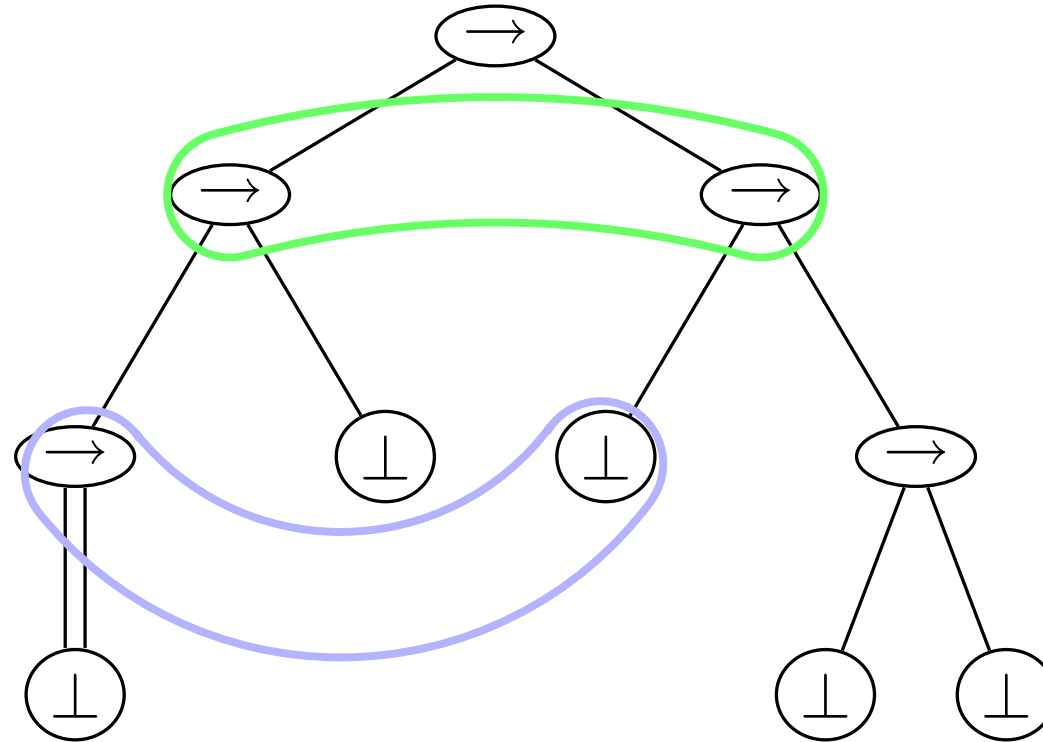
name of merged nodes = union of merged names.

Unification computes the smallest equivalence that is congruent and consistent



*congruent*: successors of merged nodes are merged

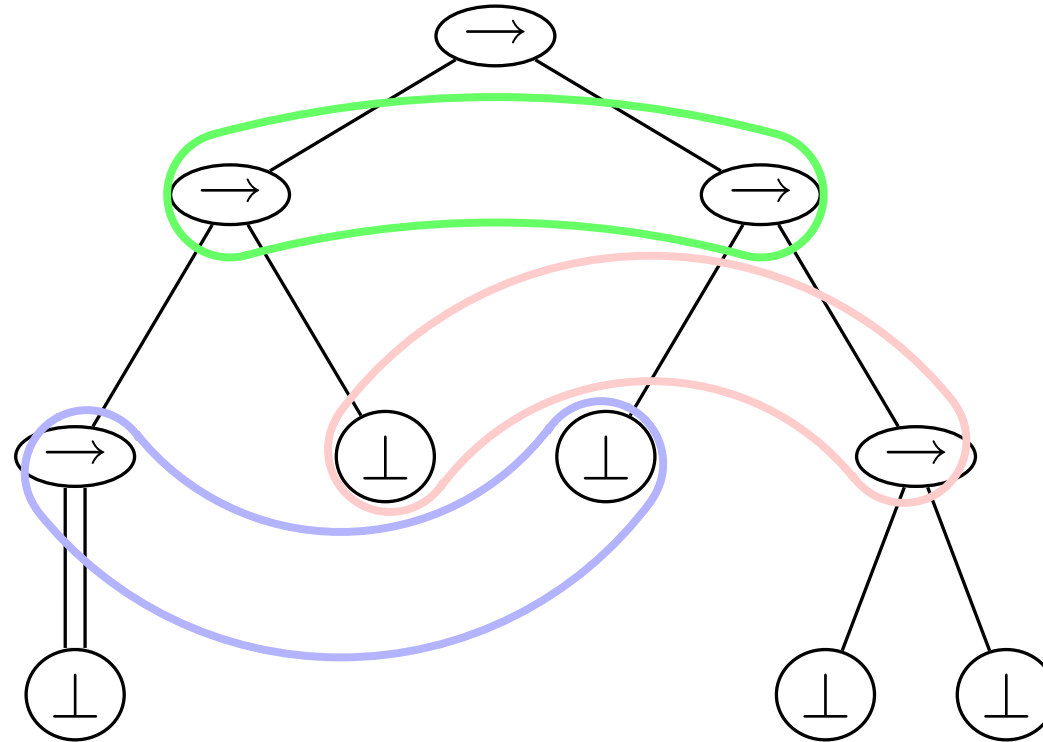
Unification computes the smallest equivalence that is congruent and consistent



*consistent* : no symbol class, but  $\perp$  is a pseudo-symbol that never clashes

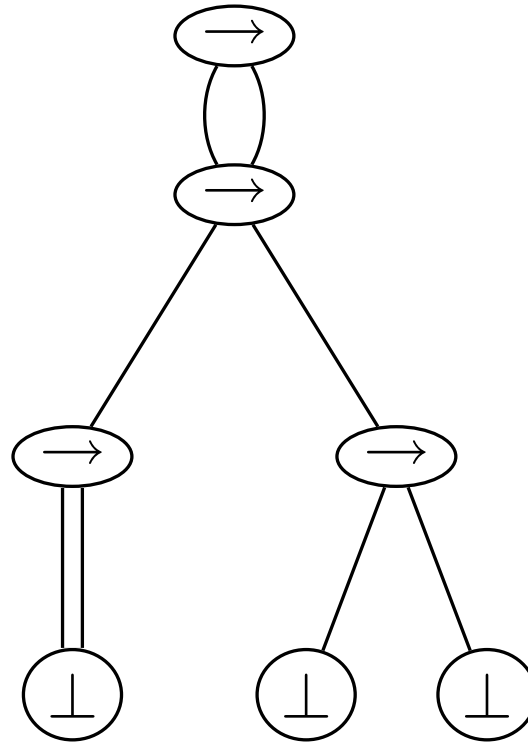


Unification computes the smallest equivalence that is congruent and consistent



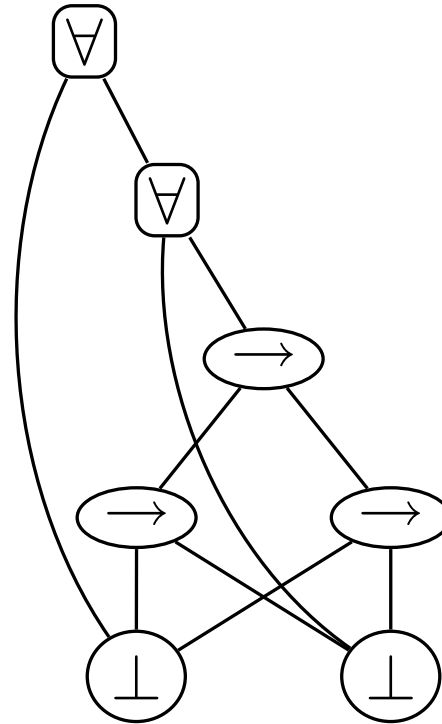
*consistent* : no symbol class, but  $\perp$  is a pseudo-symbol that never clashes

Unification computes the smallest equivalence that is congruent and consistent



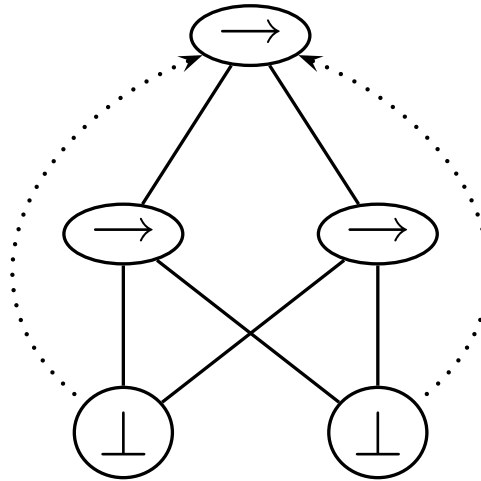
Drawn as a graph.

Explicitly with forward pointers (as usual)



Problem: binders do not commute and cannot be removed implicitly.

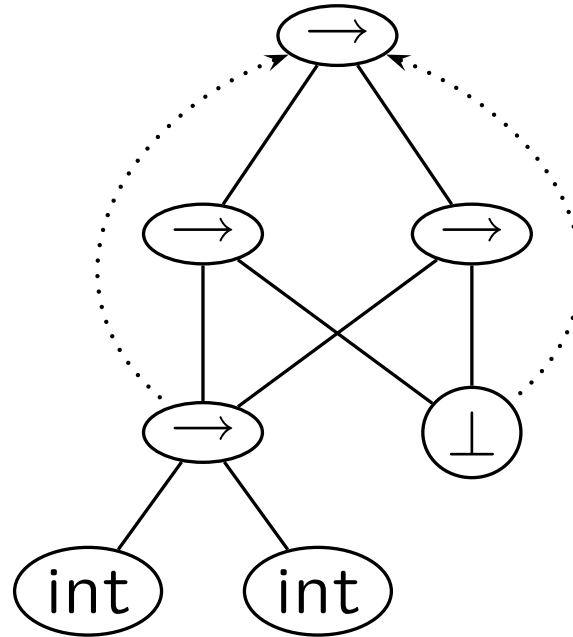
Implicitly with backward pointers (bindings edges)



$$\forall (\beta \geq \perp, \gamma \geq \perp) \boxed{\beta \rightarrow \gamma} \rightarrow \boxed{\beta \rightarrow \gamma}$$

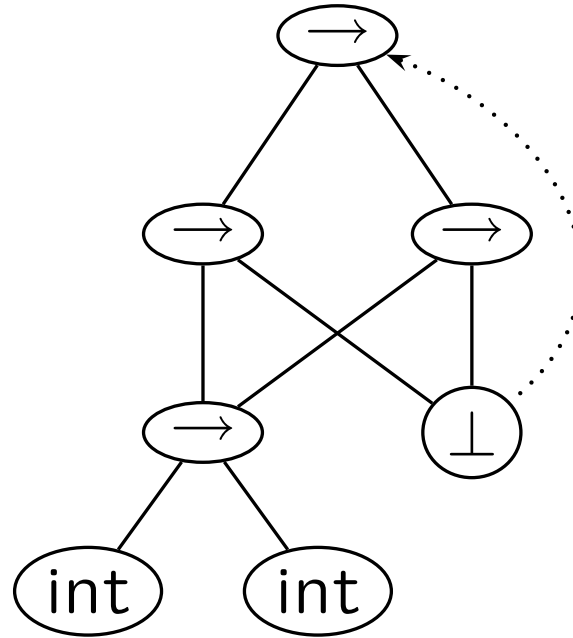
Binding edges point to the node where they (as variables) would have been introduced.

Commutation of binders come for free!

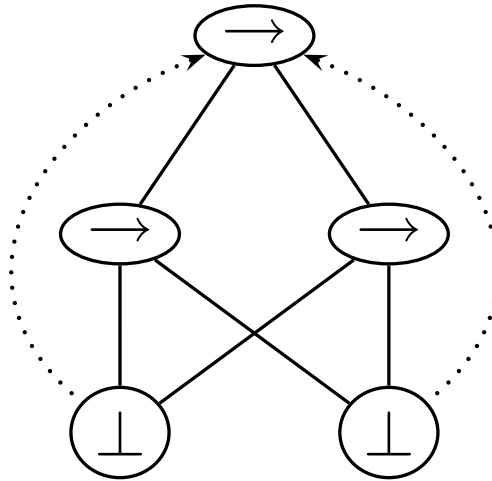


$$\forall (\beta = \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}, \gamma \geq \perp) \boxed{\beta \rightarrow \gamma} \rightarrow \boxed{\beta \rightarrow \gamma}$$

Useless binders may be removed (GC).

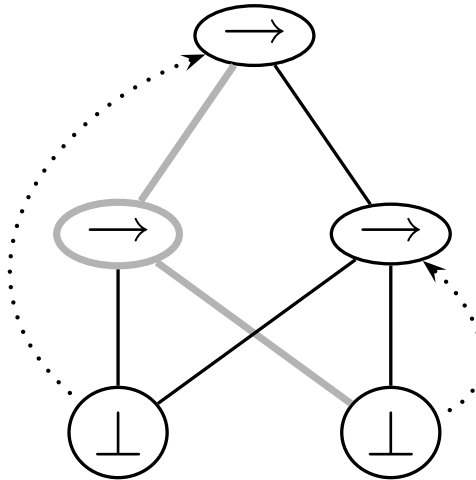


$$\forall (\beta = \text{int} \rightarrow \text{int}, \gamma \geq \perp) \boxed{\beta \rightarrow \gamma} \rightarrow \boxed{\beta \rightarrow \gamma}$$



$$\forall (\beta \geq \perp, \gamma \geq \perp) \boxed{\beta \rightarrow \gamma} \rightarrow \boxed{\beta \rightarrow \gamma}$$

## Well-formed conditions (1)

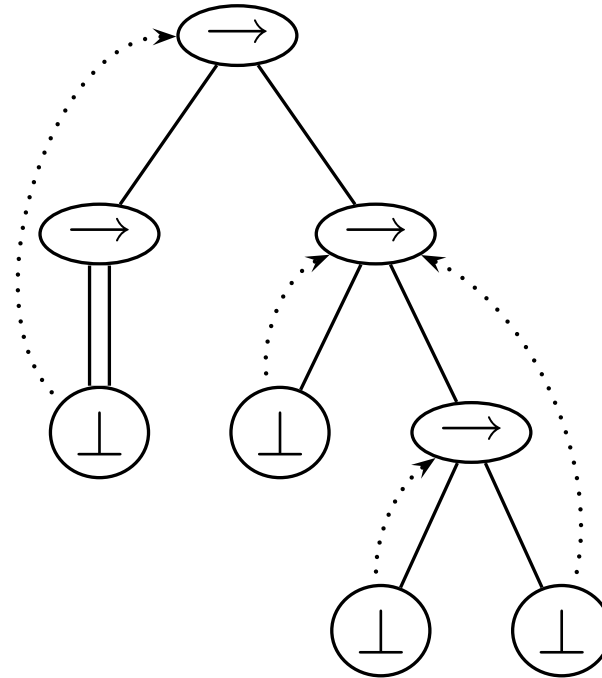


$$\forall (\beta \geq \perp) \boxed{\beta \rightarrow \gamma} \rightarrow \boxed{\forall (\gamma \geq \perp) \beta \rightarrow \gamma}$$

(1) The binding of a node must be one of its dominators.



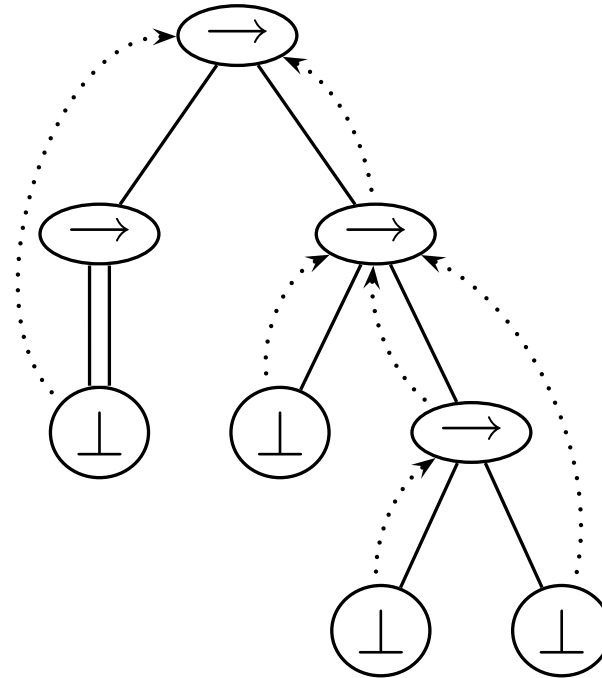
## Well-formed conditions (2)



$$\forall (\beta_1 \geq \perp) \boxed{\beta_1 \rightarrow \beta_1} \rightarrow \boxed{\forall (\beta_2 \geq \perp, \beta_3 \geq \perp) \forall (\beta_4) \beta_4 \rightarrow \beta_3 \rightarrow \beta_2}$$

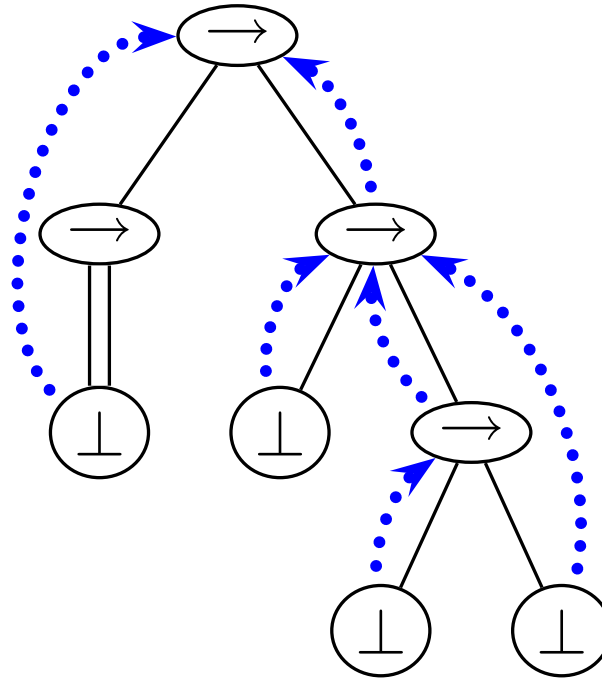
(2) Binding paths are upward closed.

## Well-formed conditions (2)



$$\forall \left( \beta_1 \geq \perp, \alpha_1 = \boxed{\forall \left( \beta_2 \geq \perp, \beta_3 \geq \perp, \alpha_2 = \boxed{\forall (\beta_4) \beta_4 \rightarrow \beta_3} \right) \beta_2 \rightarrow \alpha_2} \right) \boxed{\beta_1 \rightarrow \beta_1} \rightarrow \alpha_1$$

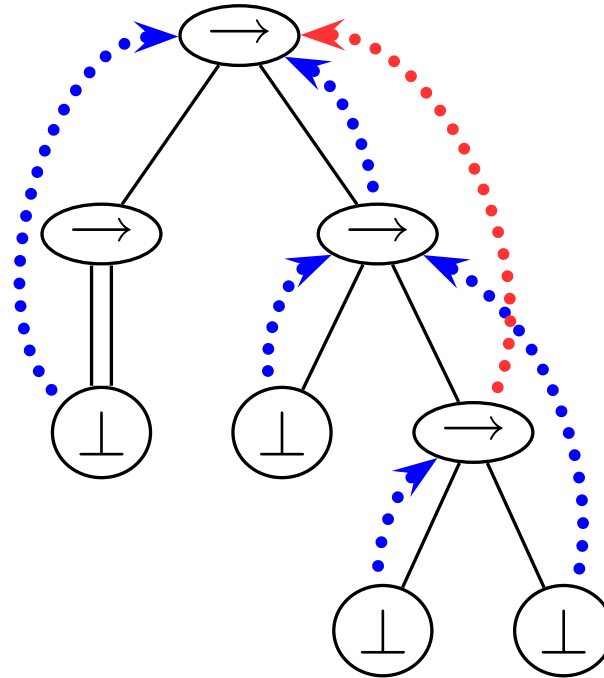
## Well-formed conditions (2)



$$\forall \left( \beta_1 \geq \perp, \alpha_1 = \boxed{\forall \left( \beta_2 \geq \perp, \beta_3 \geq \perp, \alpha_2 = \boxed{\forall (\beta_4) \beta_4 \rightarrow \beta_3} \right) \beta_2 \rightarrow \alpha_2} \right) \boxed{\beta_1 \rightarrow \beta_1} \rightarrow \alpha_1$$

(2) Inverse binding edges form a tree (with the same root)

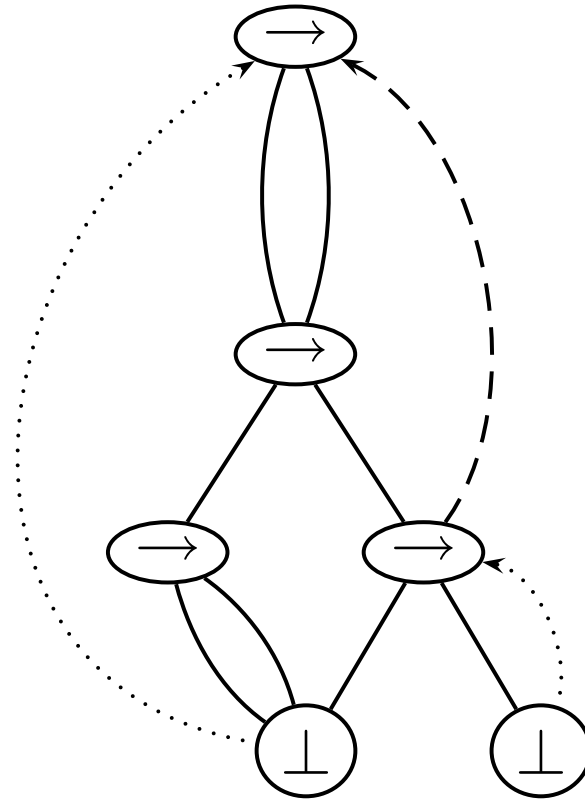
## Well-formed conditions (3)



$$\forall \left( \beta_1 \geq \perp, \alpha_2 = \boxed{\forall (\beta_4) \beta_4 \rightarrow \beta_3}, \alpha_1 = \boxed{\forall (\beta_2 \geq \perp, \beta_3 \geq \perp) \beta_2 \rightarrow \alpha_2} \right) \boxed{\beta_1 \rightarrow \beta_1} \rightarrow \alpha_1$$

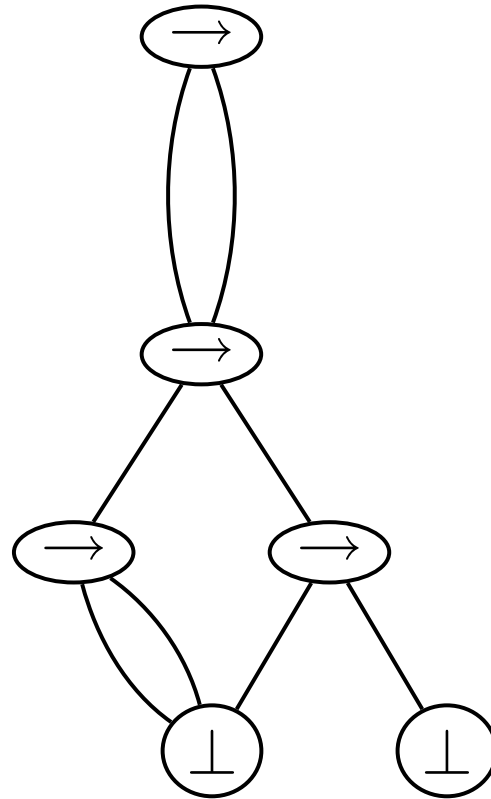
(3) Binding edges cannot cross (to be made precise)

A graphic type...

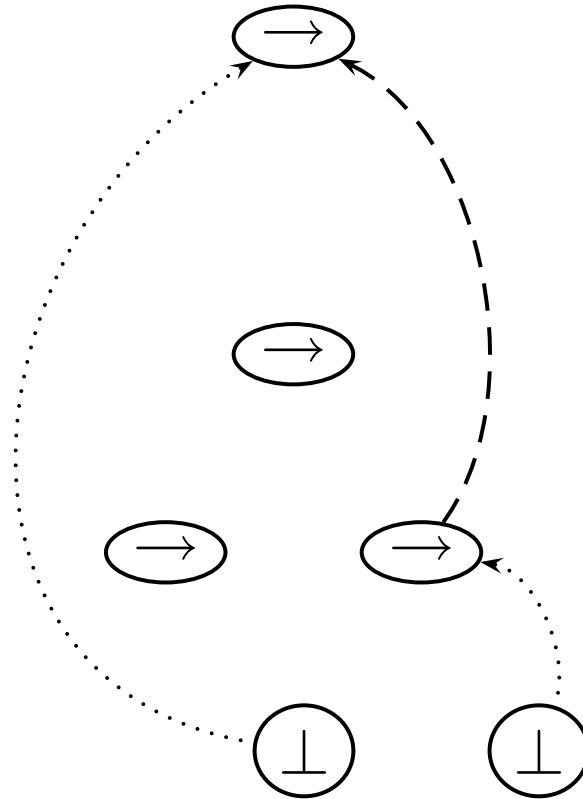


$$\forall (\beta \geq \perp, \alpha = \forall (\gamma \geq \perp) \beta \rightarrow \gamma, \alpha' = (\beta \rightarrow \beta) \rightarrow \alpha) \alpha' \rightarrow \alpha'$$

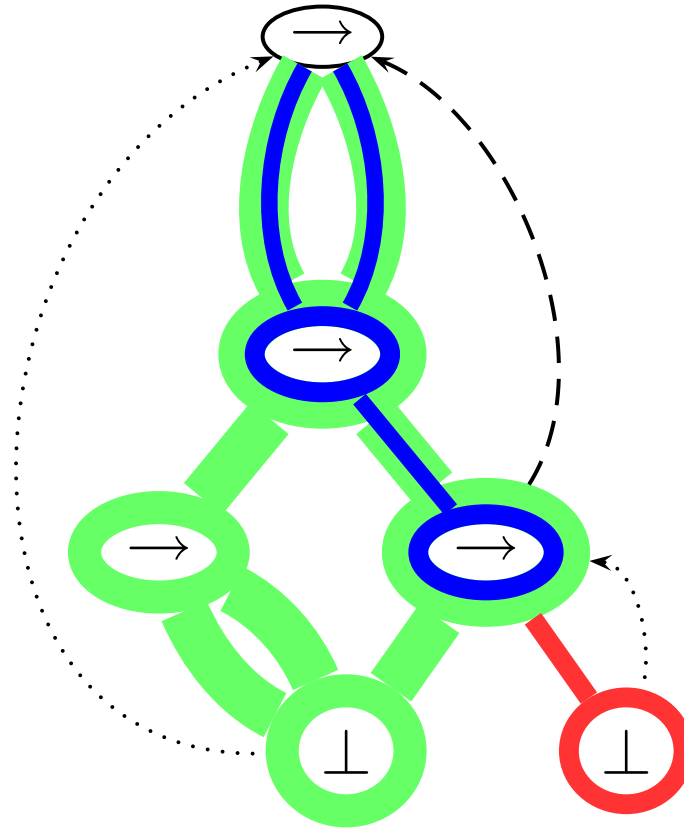
is a first-order term graph...



...plus a binding tree...



with relations between them.

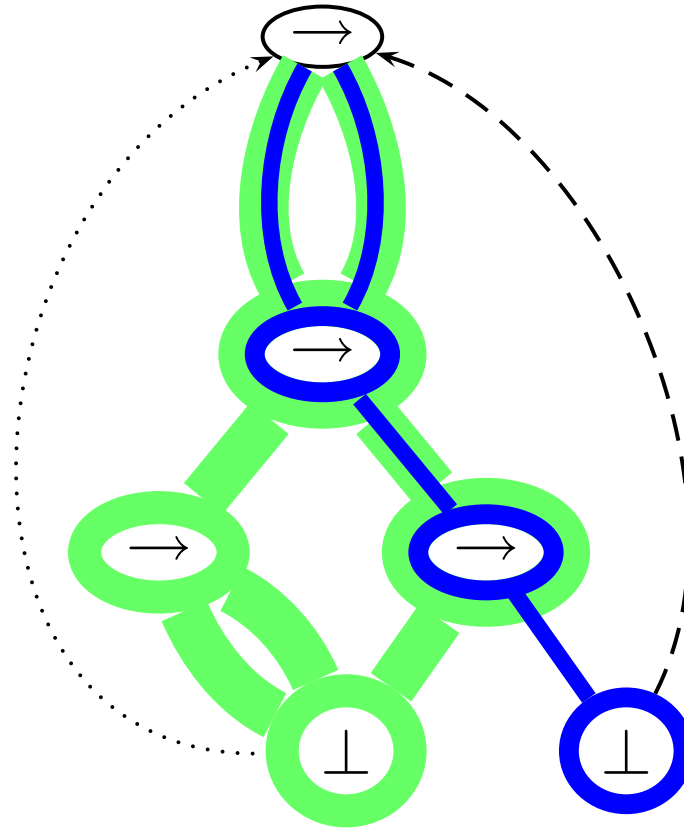


$\mathcal{B}(n) = \{m \mid n \circ \rightarrow m \circ \rightarrow \tilde{n}\}$  where  $n \succ \rightarrow \tilde{n}$ .

If  $m \in \mathcal{B}(n)$ , then  $\mathcal{B}(m) \subseteq \mathcal{B}(n)$



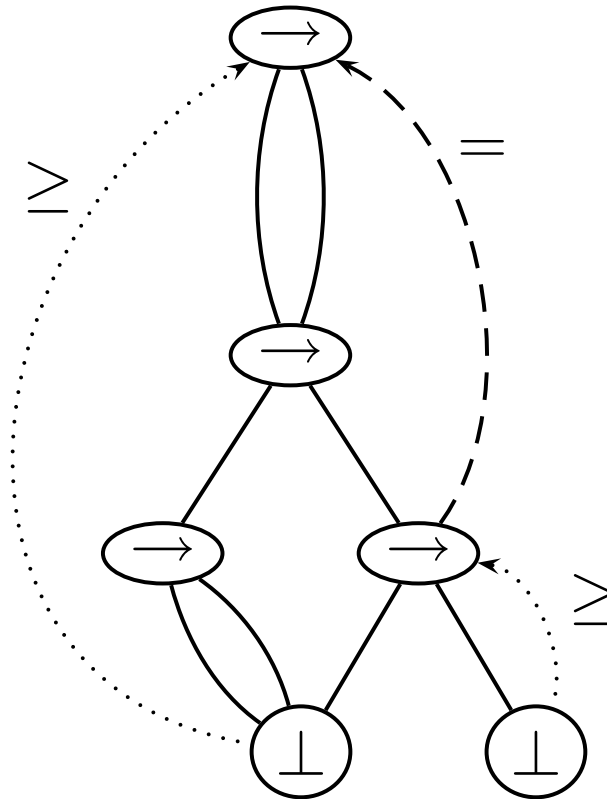
with relations between them.



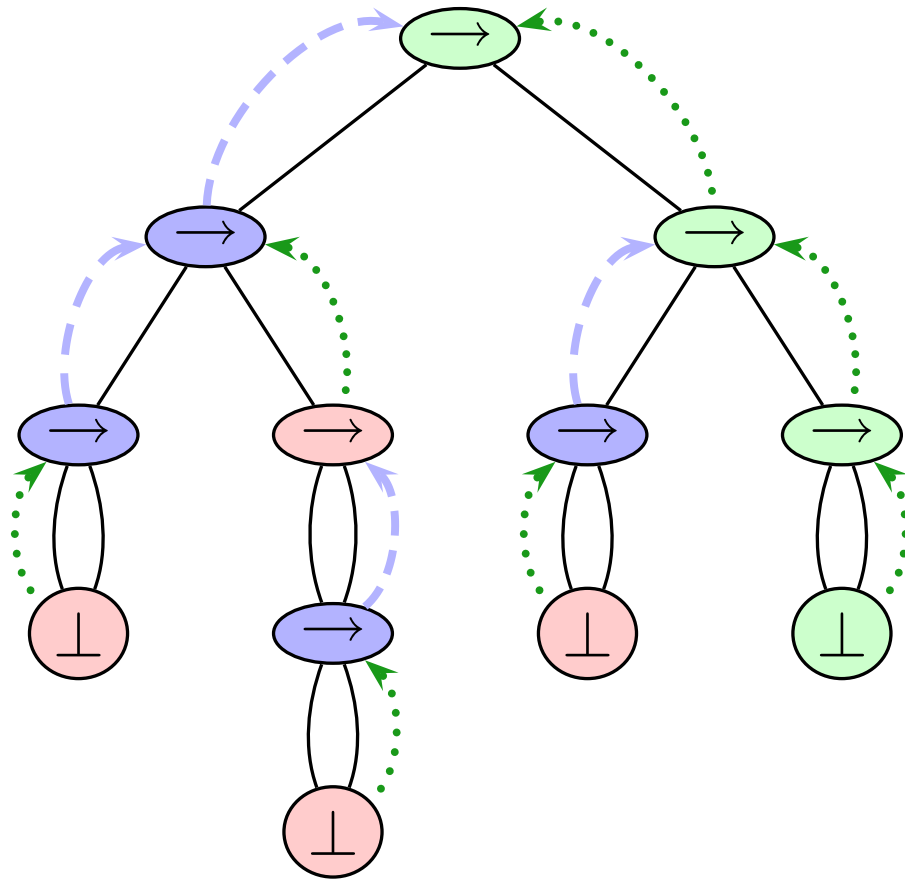
$\mathcal{B}(n) = \{m \mid n \circ \rightarrow m \circ \rightarrow \tilde{n}\}$  where  $n \succ \rightarrow \tilde{n}$ .

If  $m \in \mathcal{B}(n)$ , then  $\mathcal{B}(m) \subseteq \mathcal{B}(n)$

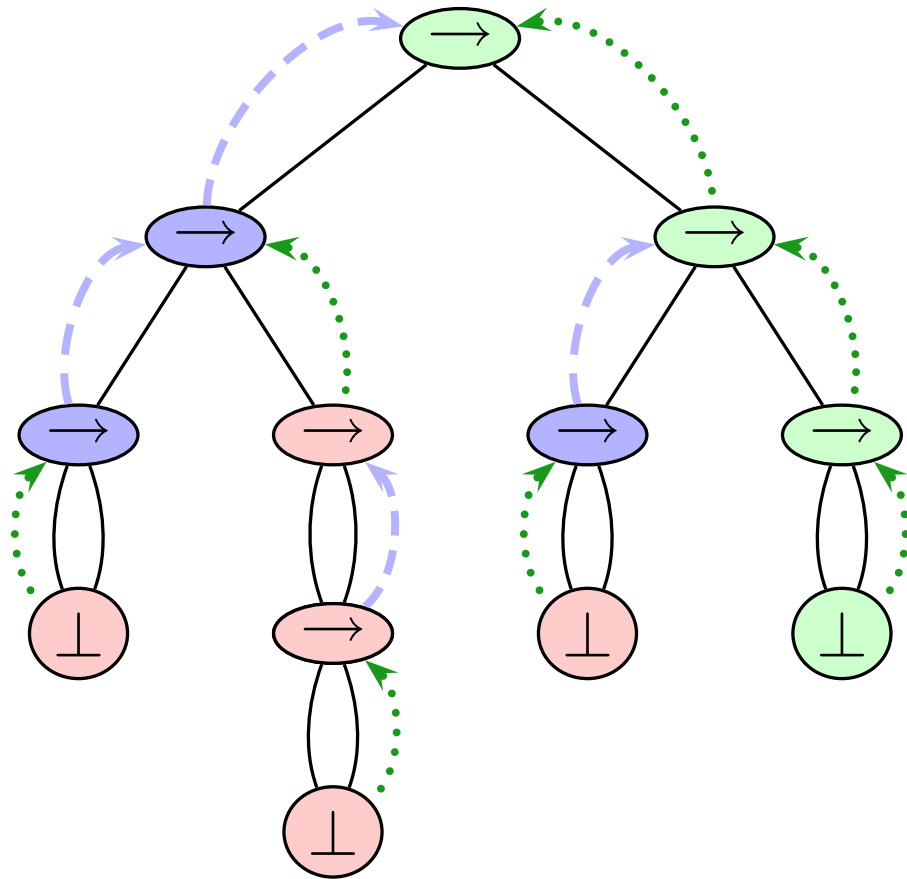
## Two kinds of binding arrows



- Flexible binding ( $\geq$  flag, dotted arrows): mean instances may be taken.
- Rigid ( $=$  flag, dashed arrows): mean no instance may not be taken.



Binding path	Permissions
$\geq^*$	$\{\geq, =\}$
$=(\geq =)^*$	$\{=\}$
Others	$\{\}$

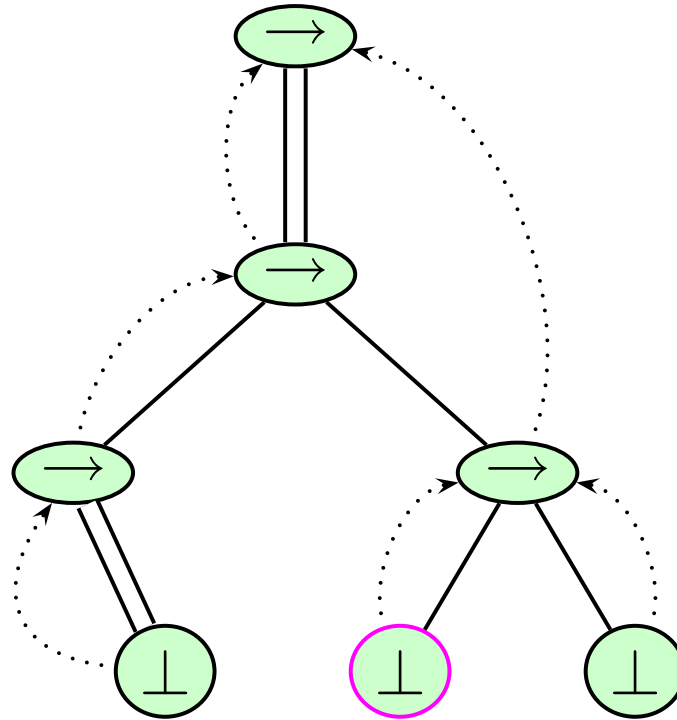


Binding path	Permissions
$\geq^*$	$\{\geq, =\}$
$=(\geq )^*$	$\{=\}$
Others	$\{\}$

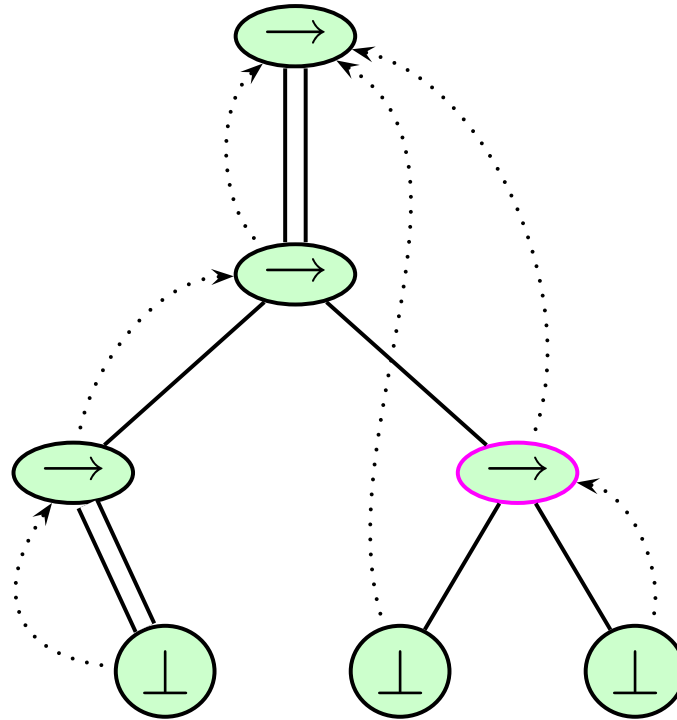
$$= + \geq^*$$



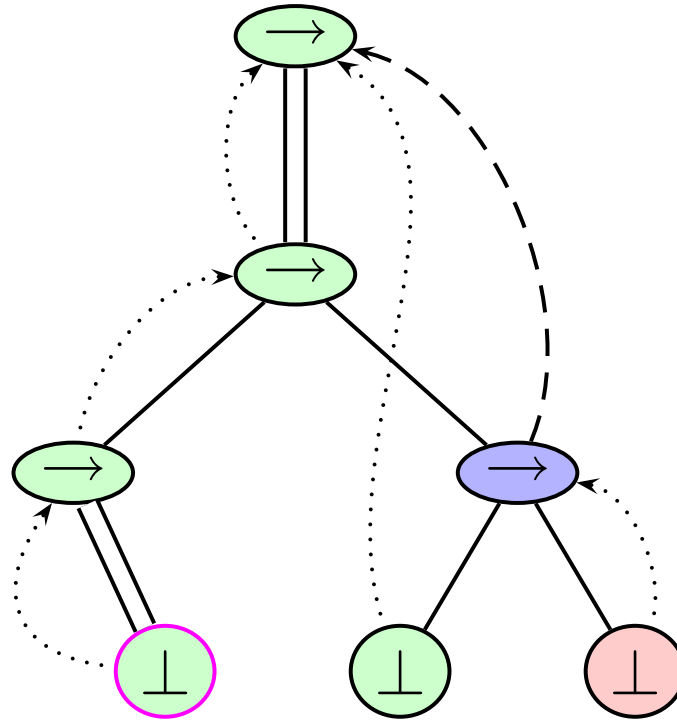
Raising



## Weakening

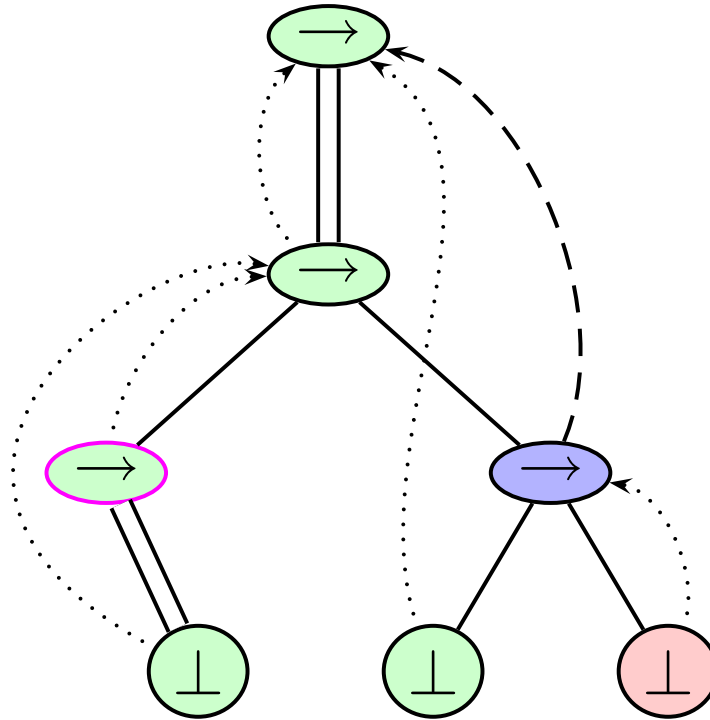


Raising

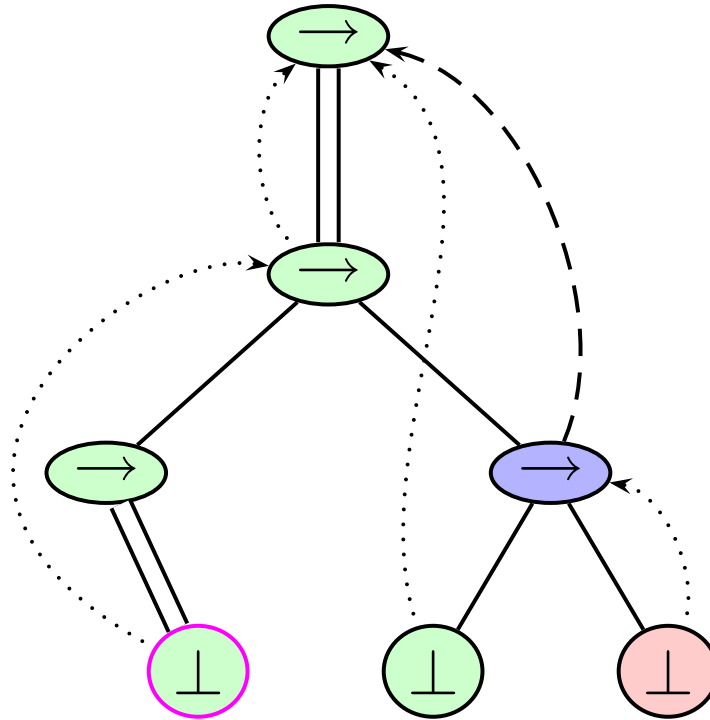




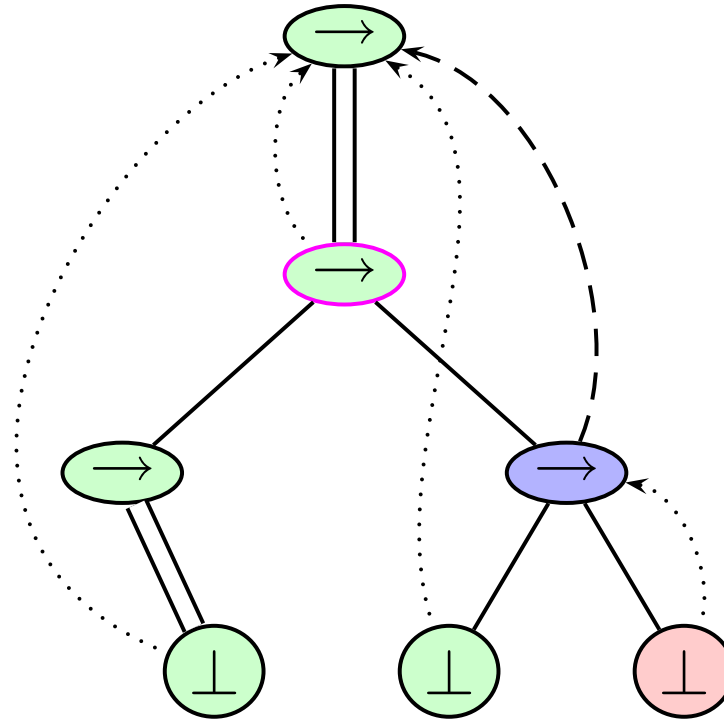
*Deletion (implicit)*



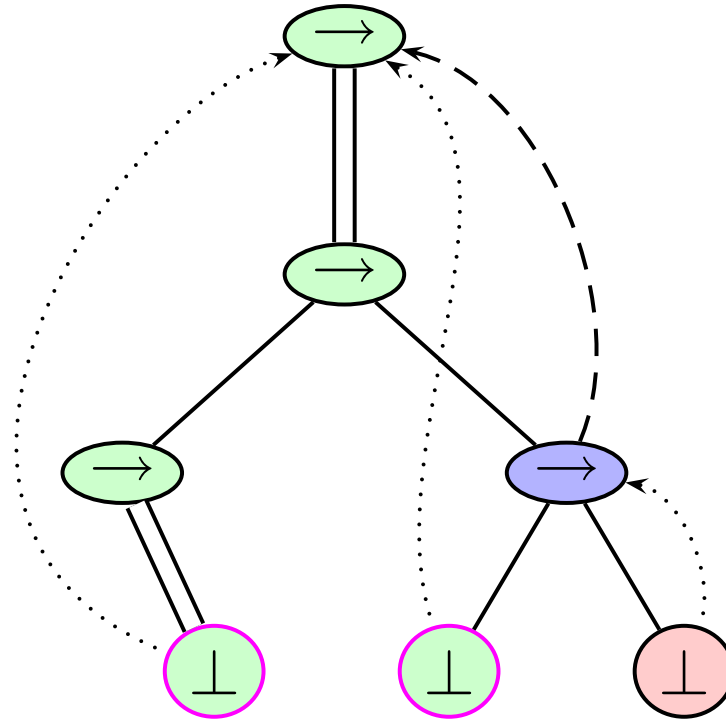
Raising

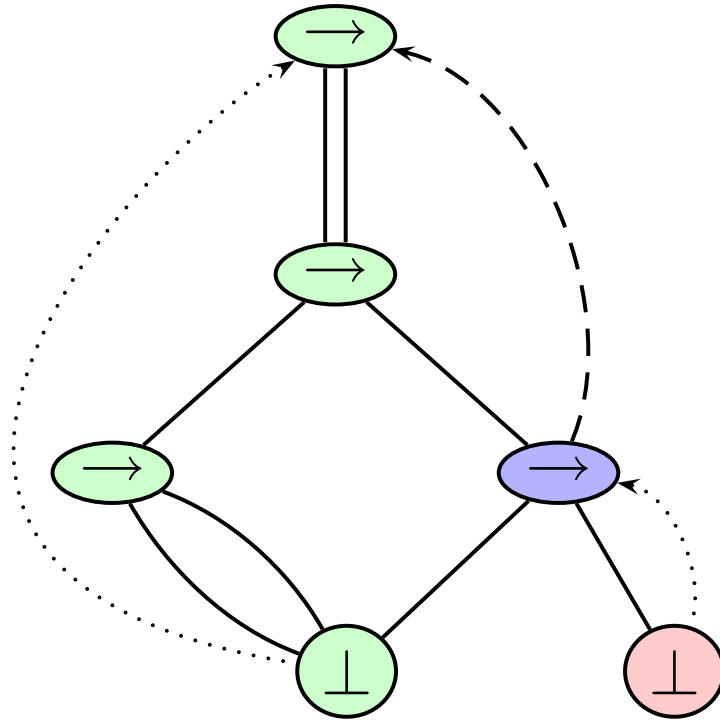



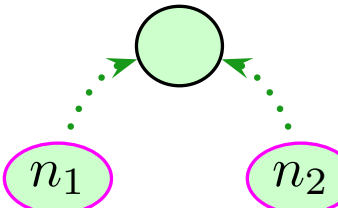
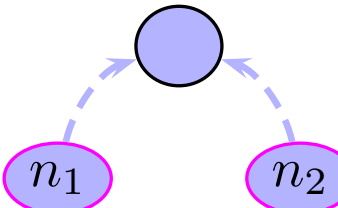
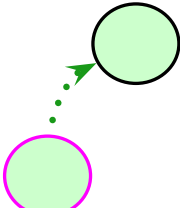
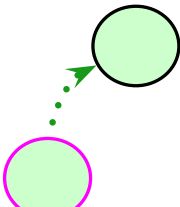
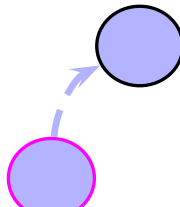
*Deletion (implicit)*



## Merging



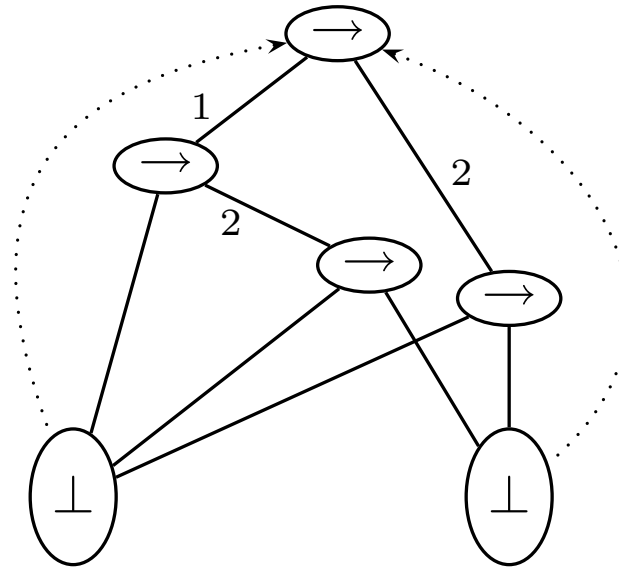
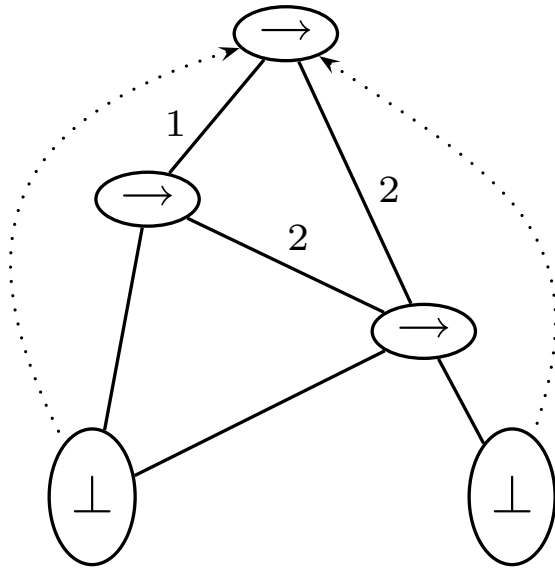


Operation	Relation	Conditions
Graft( $\tau'', n$ )	$\leq^G$	
Merge( $n_1, n_2$ )	$\leq^M$	 or 
Weaken( $n$ )	$\leq^W$	
Raise( $n$ )	$\leq^R$	 or 

$$\leq \triangleq (\leq^G \cup \leq^M \cup \leq^W \cup \leq^R)^*$$

$\leq^m$  is the subrelation of  $\leq^M$  that merges monomorphic nodes.

Similarity is the relation  $\approx$  is  $(\leq^m \cup \geq^m)^*$ .

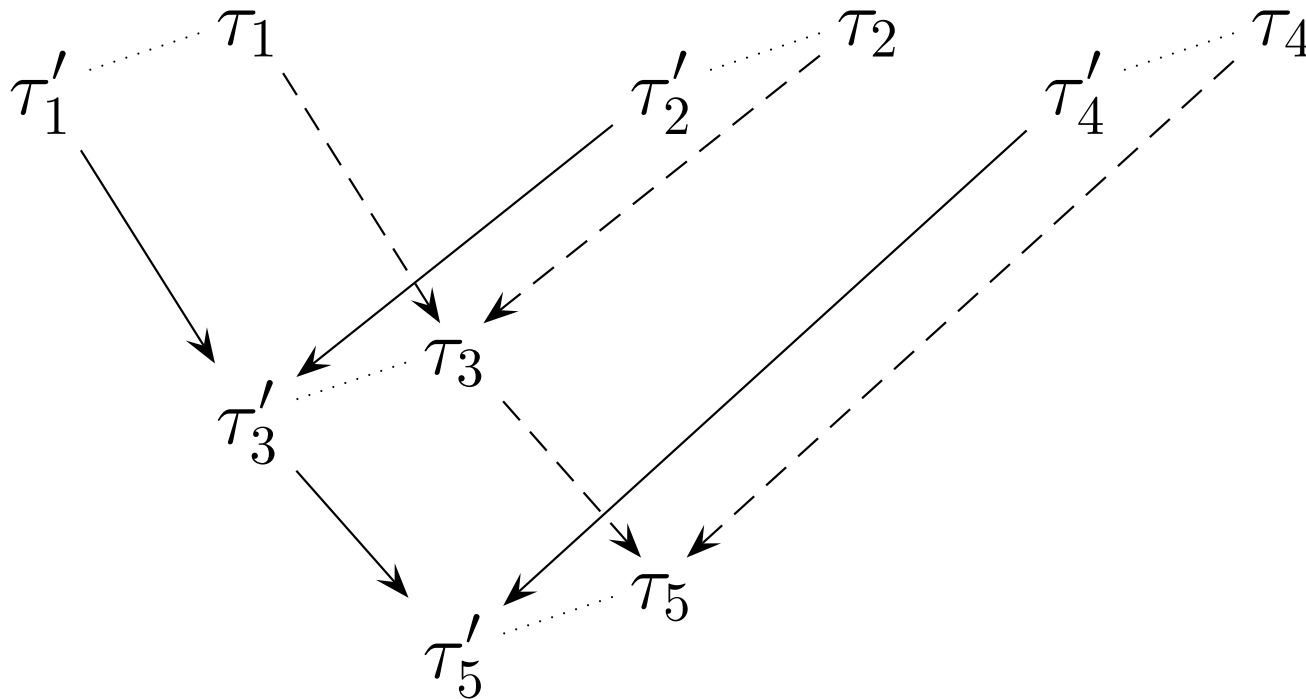


We are interested in instance modulo similarity  $\leq_{\approx}$ , which is  $(\leq \cup \approx)^*$ .

We compute instance up to deletion, but not up to similarity...

**Similarity** is equal to  $\leq^m ; \geq^m$ .

**Instance modulo similarity**  $\leq_{\approx}$  is equal to  $\leq ; \geq^m$  are equal. Hence:



**Instance** is equal to  $(\leq^G ; \leq^R ; \leq^{MW})$ , where  $\leq^{MW}$  is  $(\leq^M \cup \leq^W)^*$ .



**Definition** A type  $\tau'$  unifies nodes  $N$  of  $\tau$  if  $\tau'$  is an instance of  $\tau$  and all nodes in  $N$  are merged in  $\tau'$ .

Moreover  $\tau'$  is a principal unifier if all other unifiers are an instance of  $\tau'$ .

**The algorithm** proceeds in three steps:

- 1) Computes  $\tilde{\tau}_u$  by performing first-order unification on the term-graph to merge all nodes of  $N$ .
- 2) Compute the binding tree  $\tilde{\tau}_u$ : Given a node  $n$  of  $\tilde{\tau}_u$ , let  $n_1, \dots, n_k$  be the nodes of  $\tau$  that are merged into  $n$ . The binding edges of  $n_1, \dots, n_k$  are raised until they are all bound at the same level. The flag for  $n$  is the best flag common to  $n_1, \dots, n_k$ .
- 3) Check permissions for all merges of  $\tilde{\tau}_u$  that are still polymorphic in  $\tilde{\tau}_u$ .

**Definition** A type  $\tau'$  unifies nodes  $N$  of  $\tau$  if  $\tau'$  is an instance of  $\tau$  and all nodes in  $N$  are merged in  $\tau'$ .

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**The algorithm** proceeds in three steps:

- 1) Computes  $\tilde{\tau}_u$  by performing first-order unification on the term-graph to merge all nodes of  $N$ . Cost  $O(n)$  (ou  $O(n\alpha(n))$ ).
- 2) Compute the binding tree  $\tilde{\tau}_u$ : Given a node  $n$  of  $\tilde{\tau}_u$ , let  $n_1, \dots, n_k$  be the nodes of  $\tau$  that are merged into  $n$ . The binding edges of  $n_1, \dots, n_k$  are raised until they are all bound at the same level. The flag for  $n$  is the best flag common to  $n_1, \dots, n_k$ . Cost  $O(n)$ : a top down visit. The most involved part of the algorithm. Uses a linear algorithm for computing least-common ancestors.
- 3) Check permissions for all merges of  $\tilde{\tau}_u$  that are still polymorphic in  $\tilde{\tau}_u$ . Cost  $O(n)$ , simple visit of  $\tilde{\tau}_u$ .

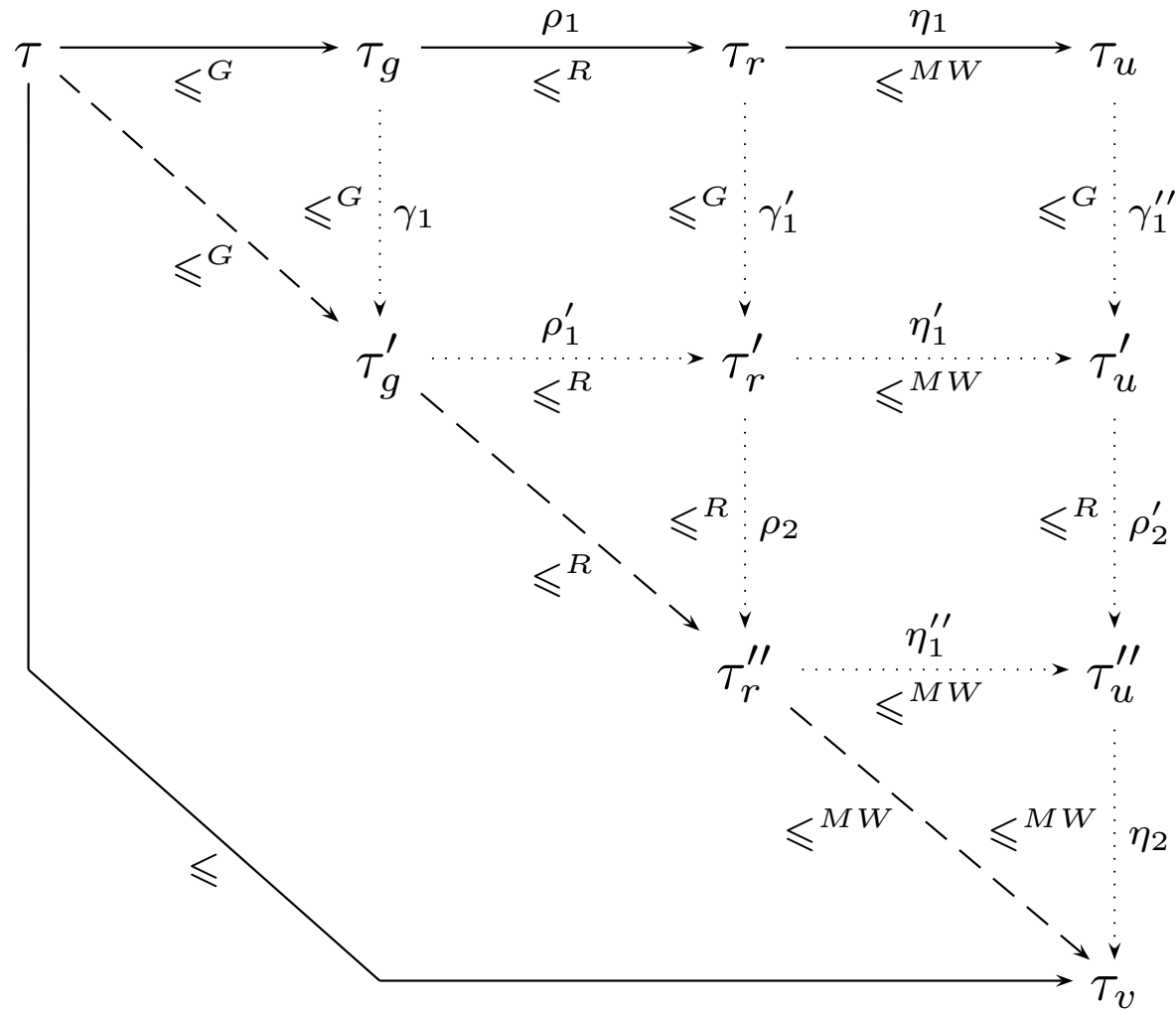
**Correction**  $\tau'$  is a unifier of  $\tau$ .

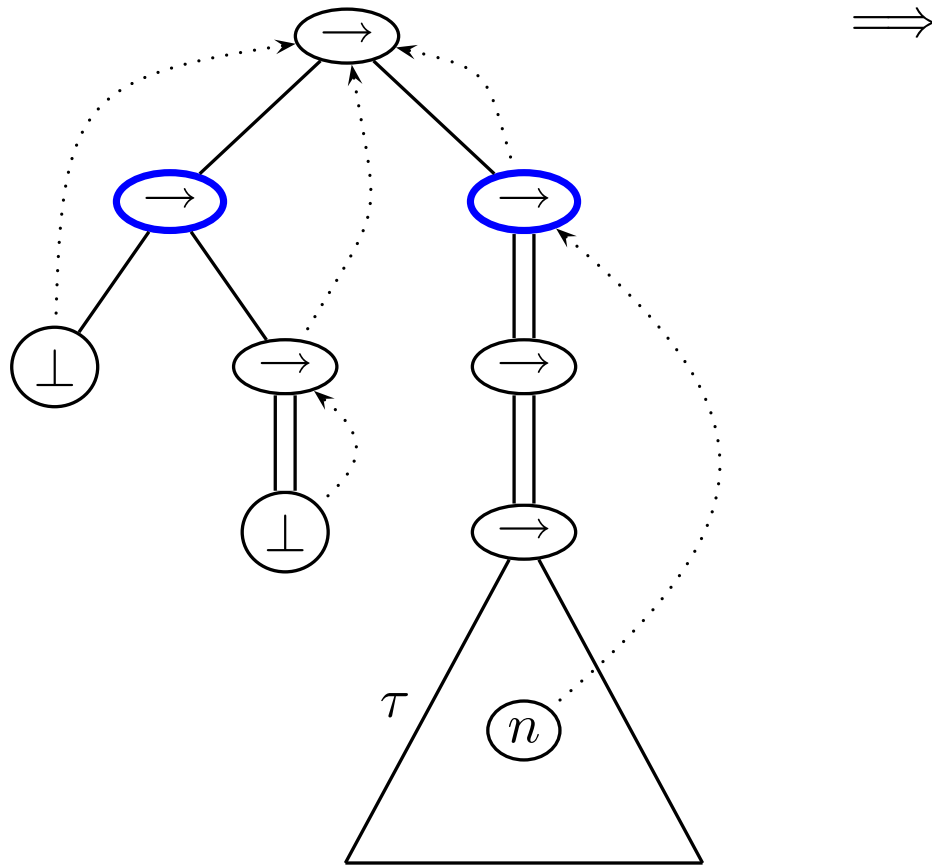
**Completeness** If there is a unifier of  $\tau$ , this algorithm finds one.

**Principality** The unifier return by the algorithm is a principal one.

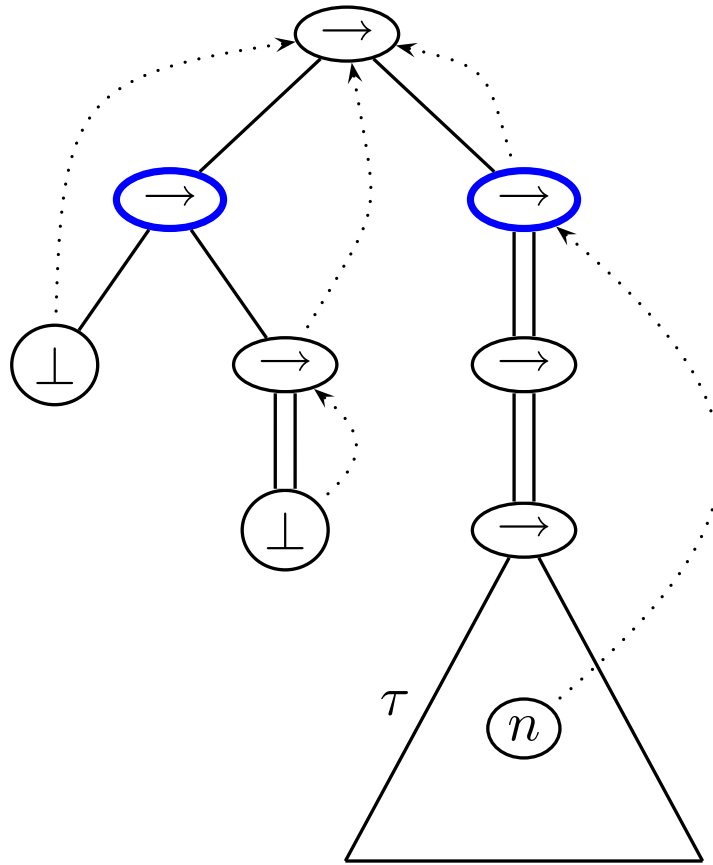
Proofs are involved. Relies a lot on commutation lemmas, but not only.

## Principality

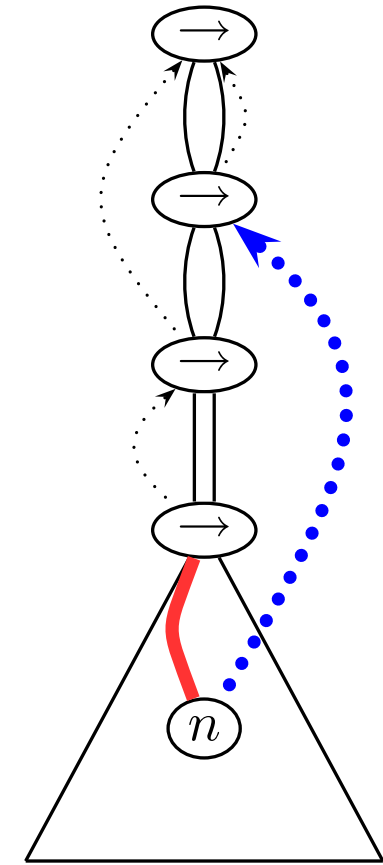




Merging



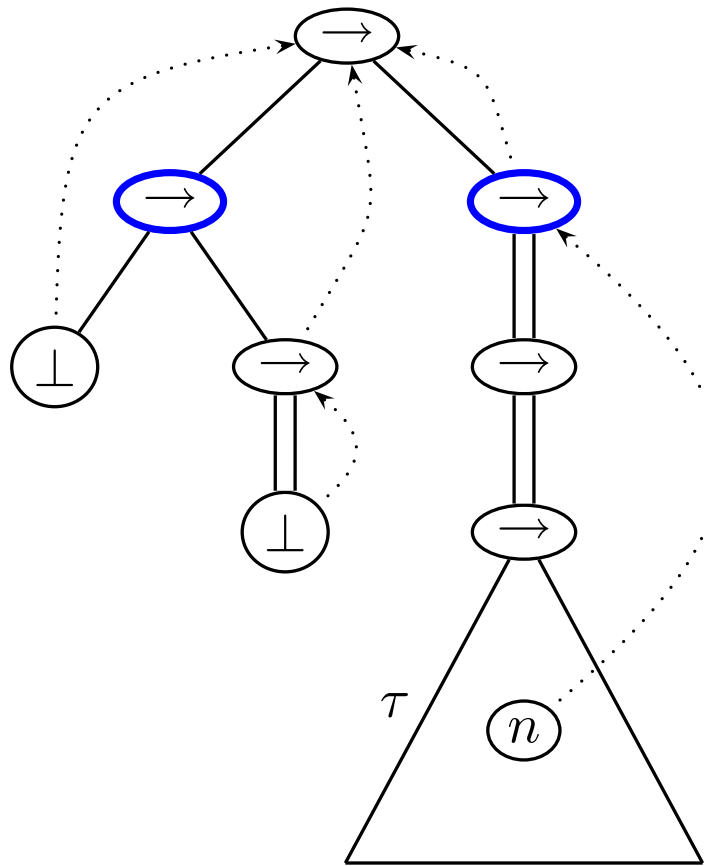
$\Rightarrow$



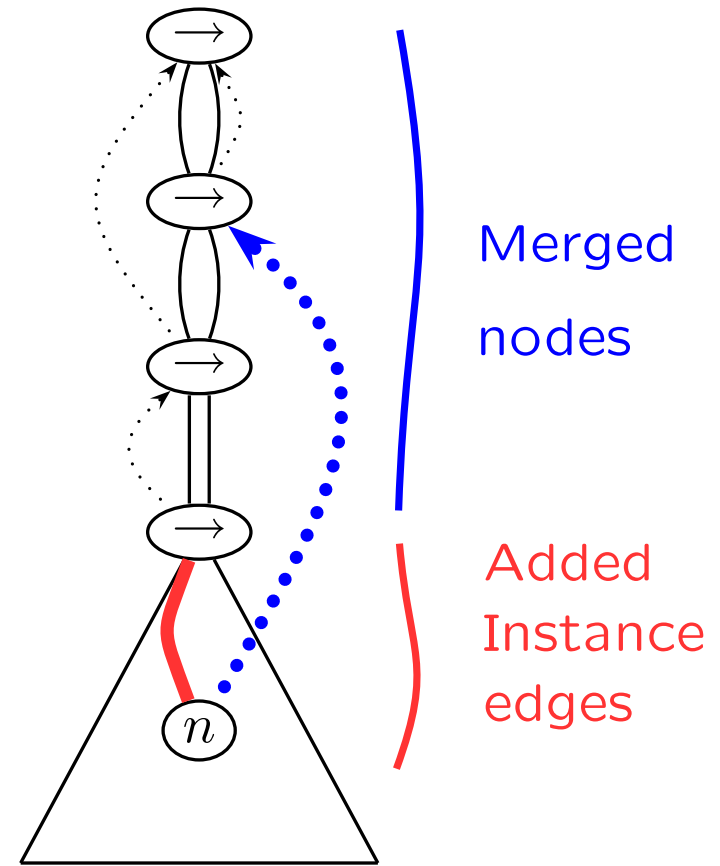
Merged nodes

Added Instance edges

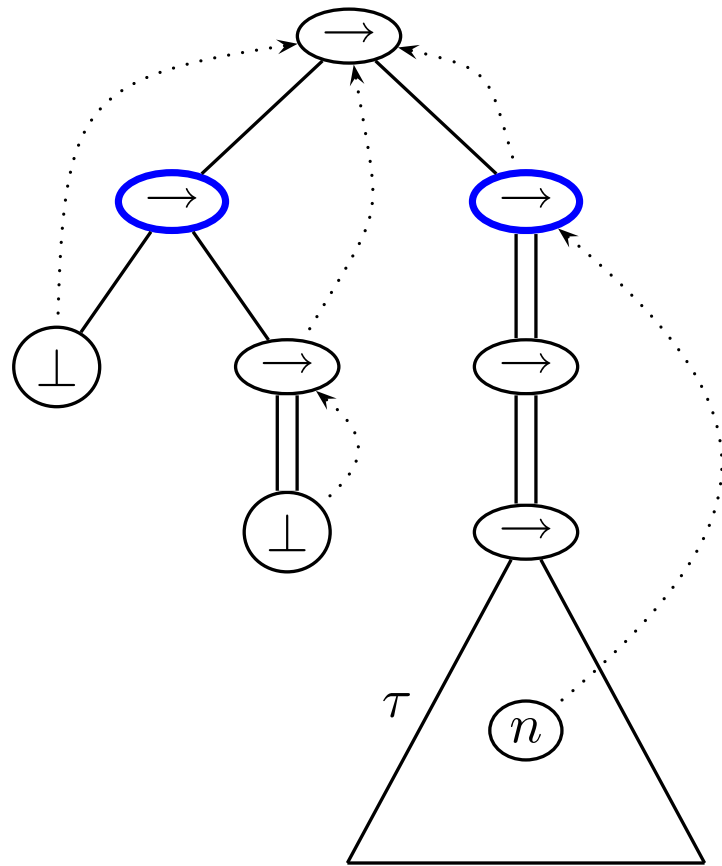
Escaping edge



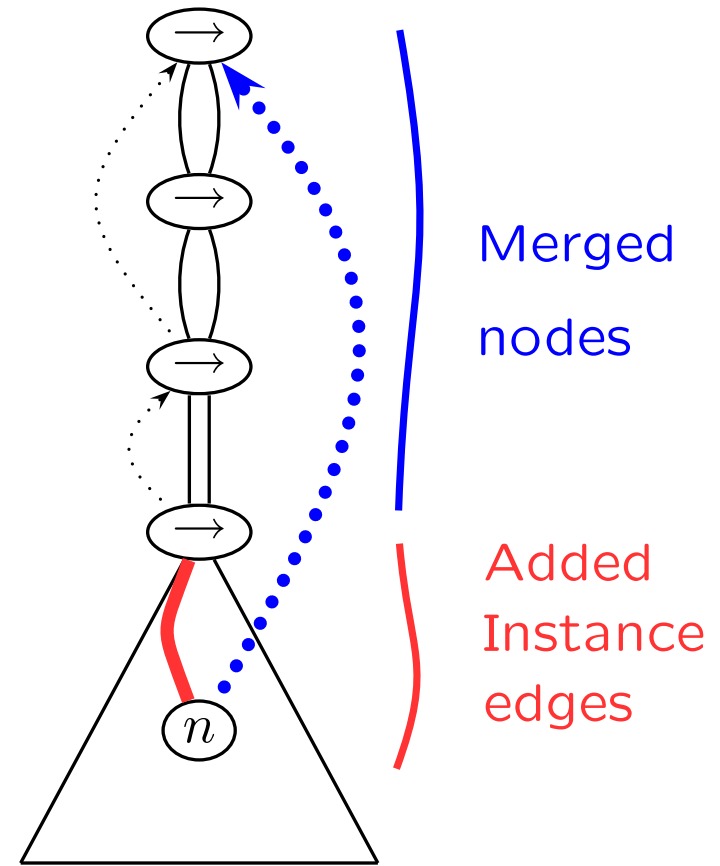
$\Rightarrow$



Add virtual structure edge

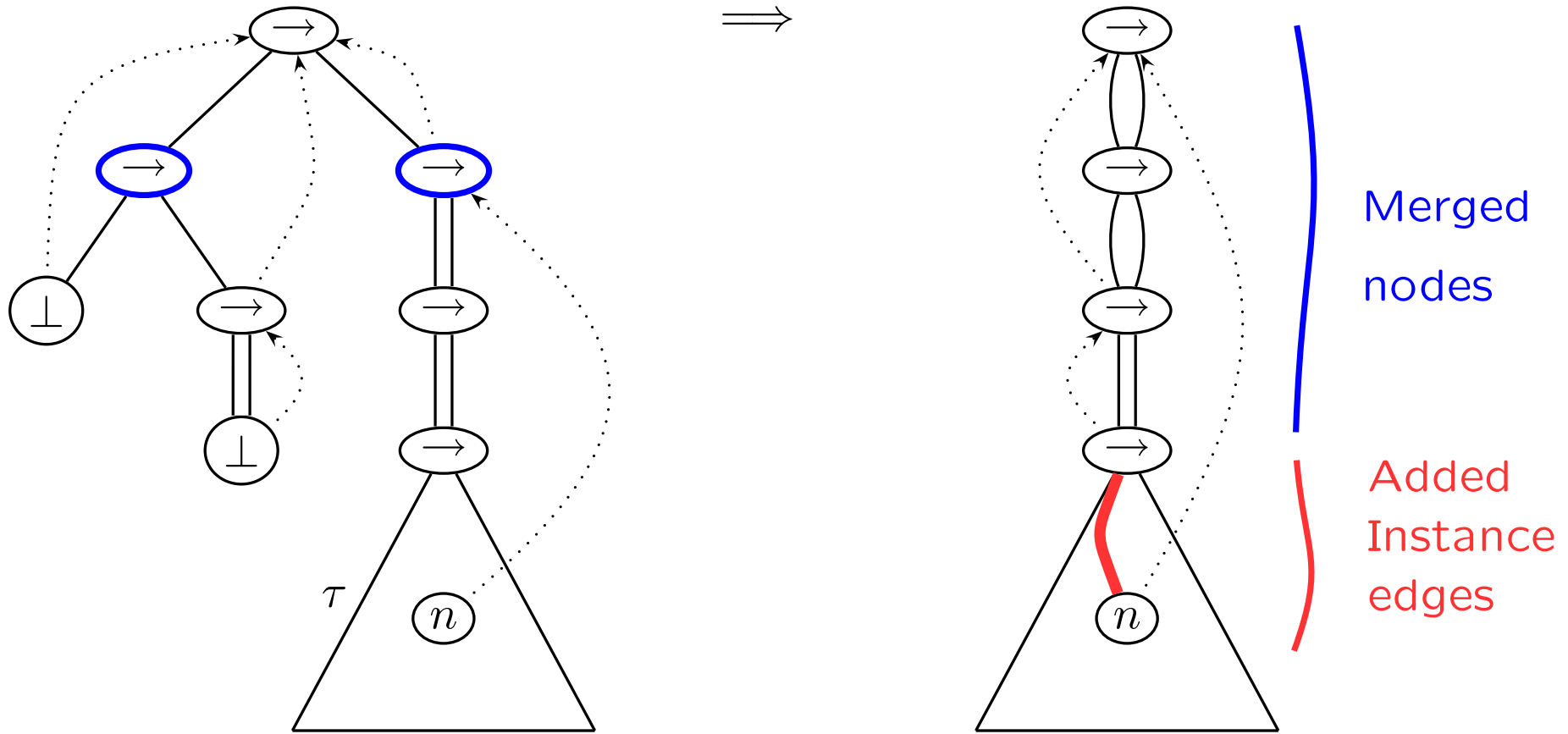


$\Rightarrow$



Now correct





Cost linear in number of merged nodes plus number of added instance edges

## Key features

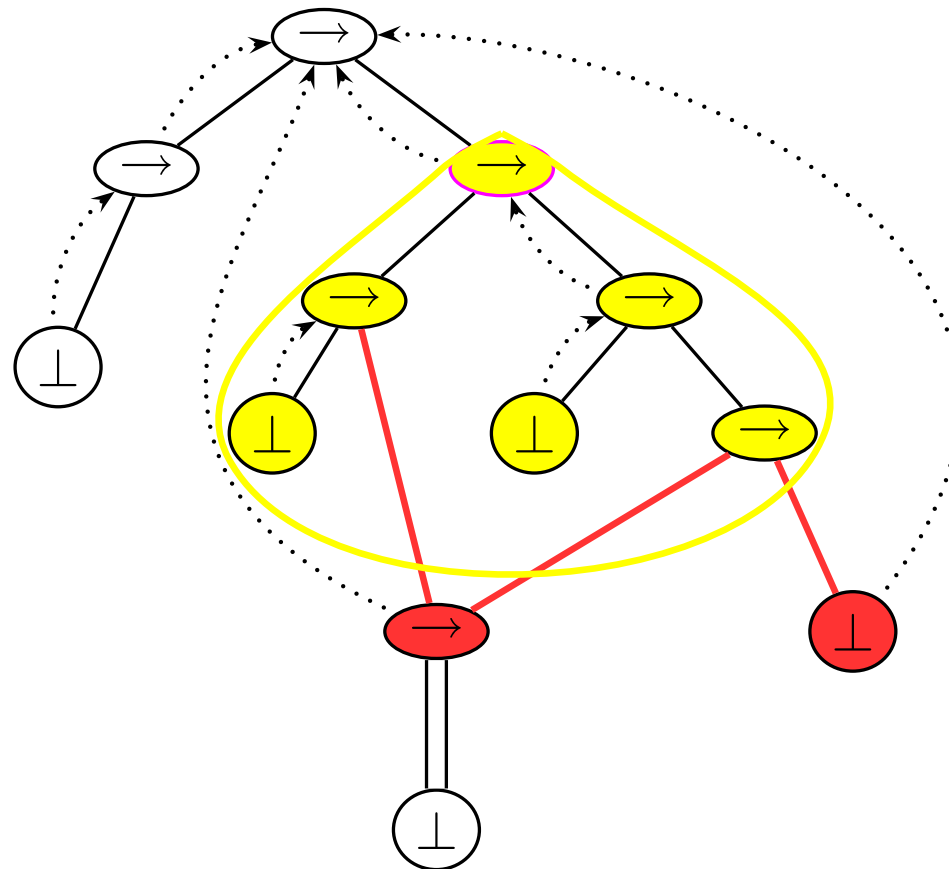
- ▶ Binding structure (and invariants)
- ▶ Instance relation

## Type constraints

- ▶ Add new node to types, that are to be interpreted, especially as type constraints.
- ▶ Preserve the invariants
- ▶ Introduce new transformations (beyond instantiation) to simplify them.

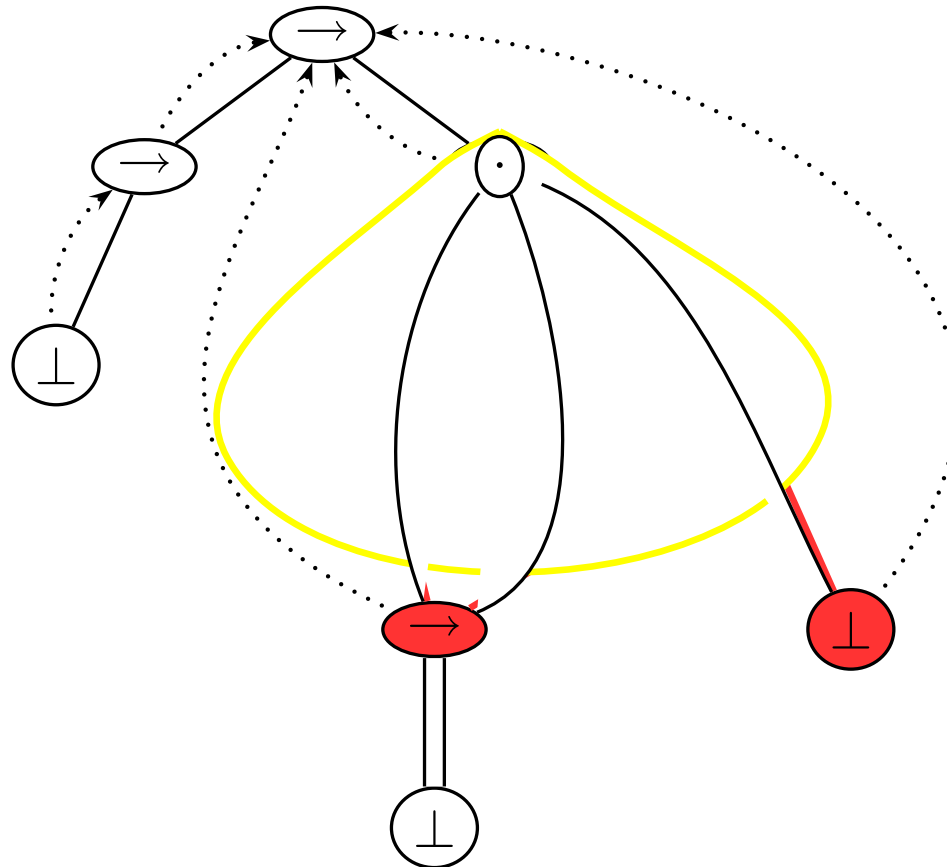
The *interior*  $[n]$  of a node  $n$  is the set of nodes dominated by  $n$  when inverse binding edges are added to structure edges.

The *frontier* of  $n$  is the set of nodes that are not interior nodes but reached by structure edges from interior nodes.



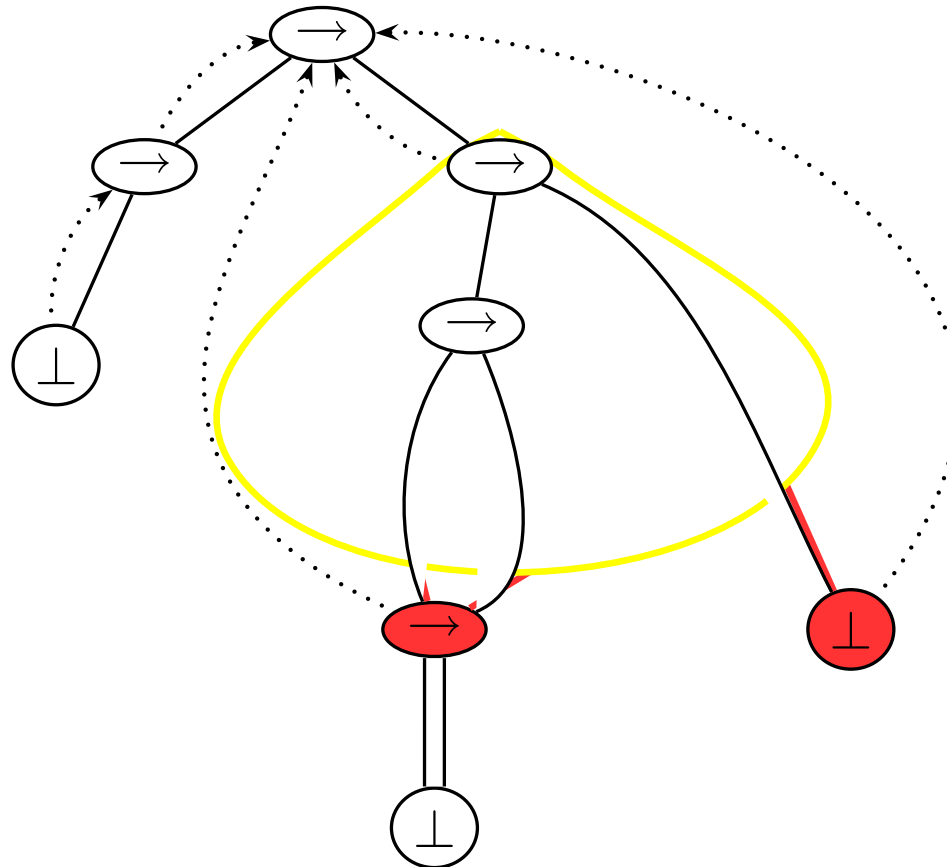
The *interior*  $\lceil n \rceil$  of a node  $n$  is the set of nodes dominated by  $n$  when inverse binding edges are added to structure edges.

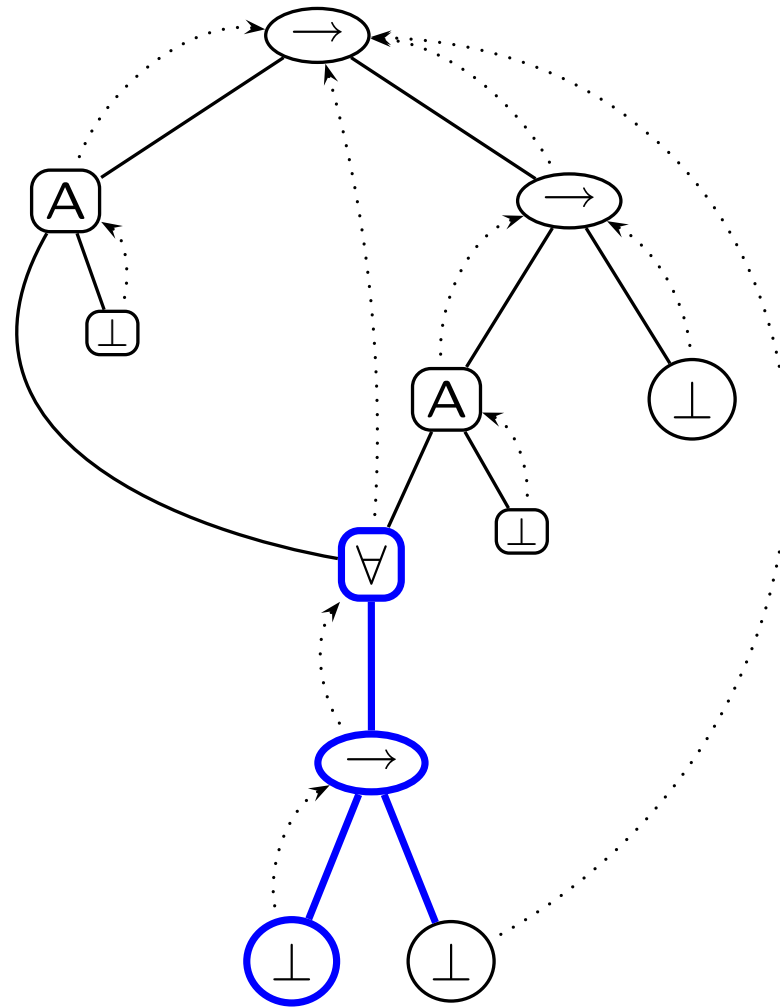
The *frontier* of  $n$  is the set of nodes that are not interior nodes but reached by structure edges from interior nodes.

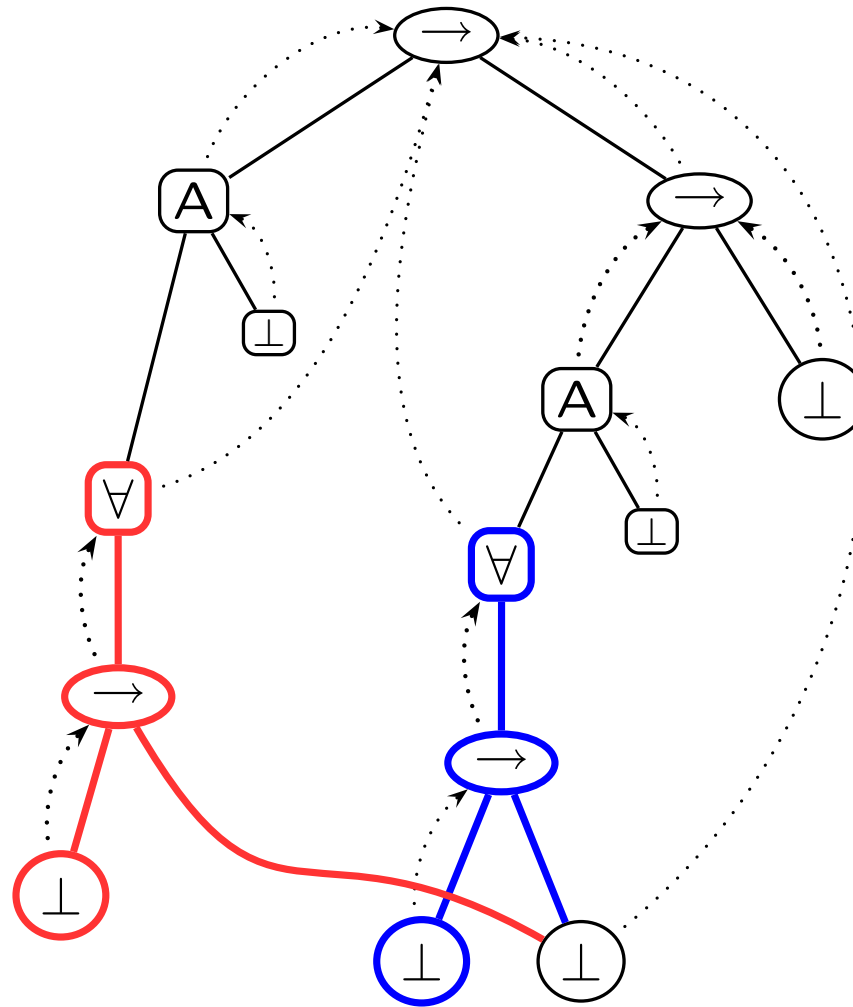


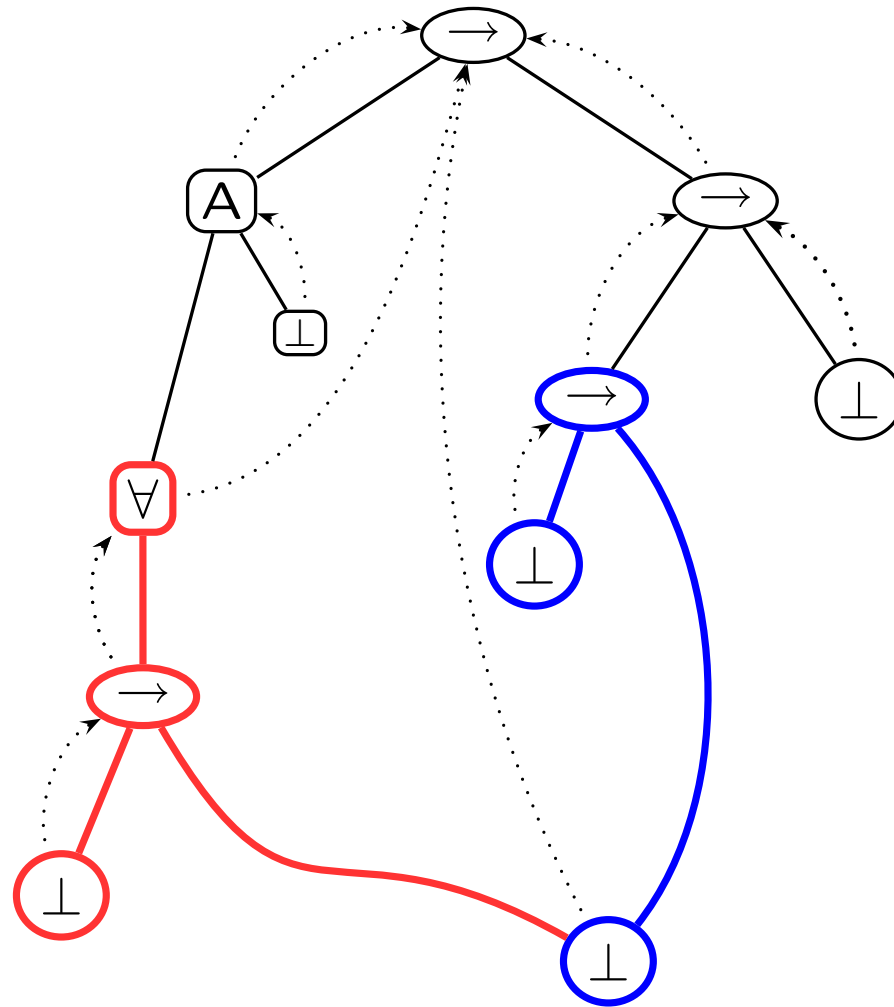
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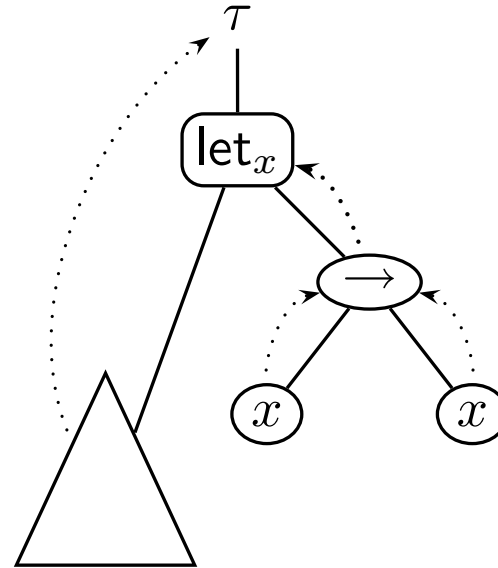




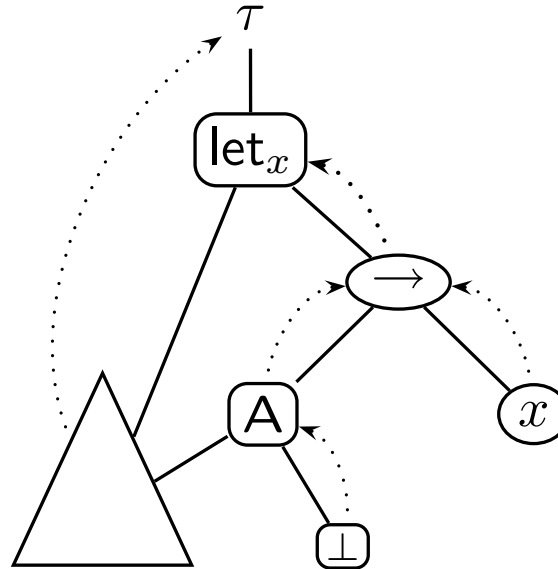




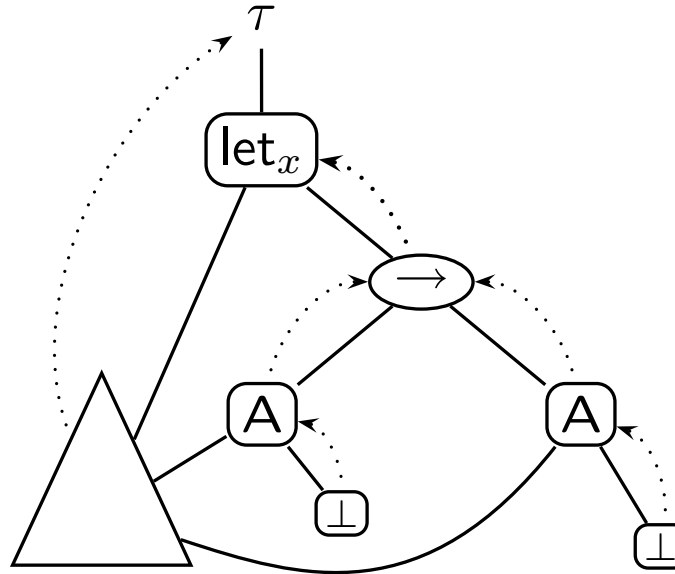




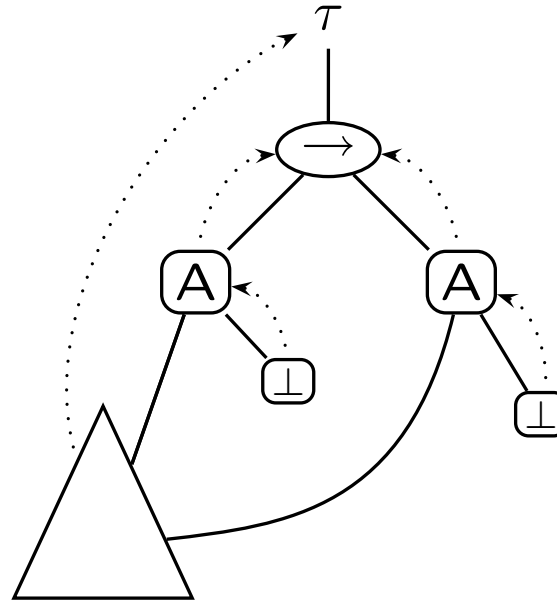
Replace any occurrence of  $x$  by a copy.



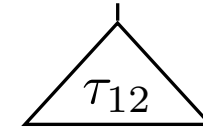
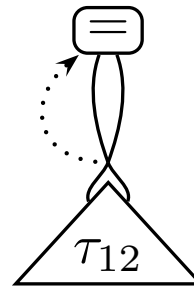
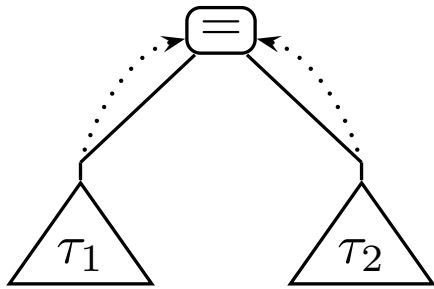
Replace any occurrence of  $x$  by a copy.



Remove unused  $\text{let}_x$  —provided left-hand branch is consistent Reduce copies as before

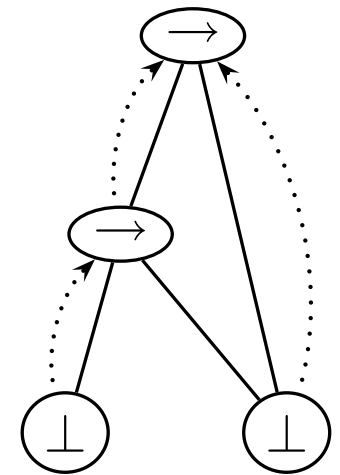
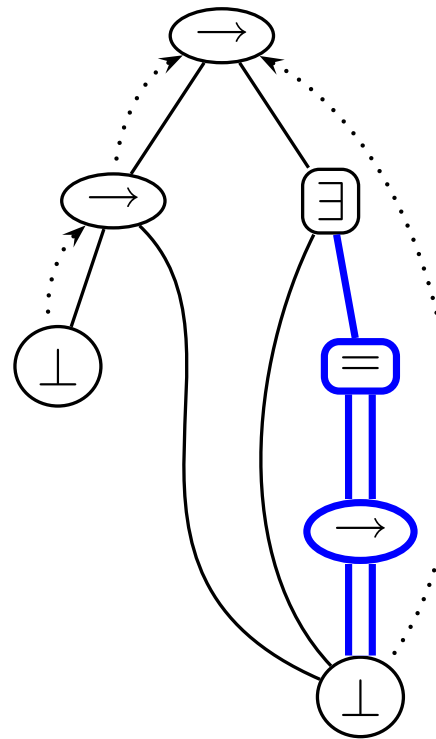
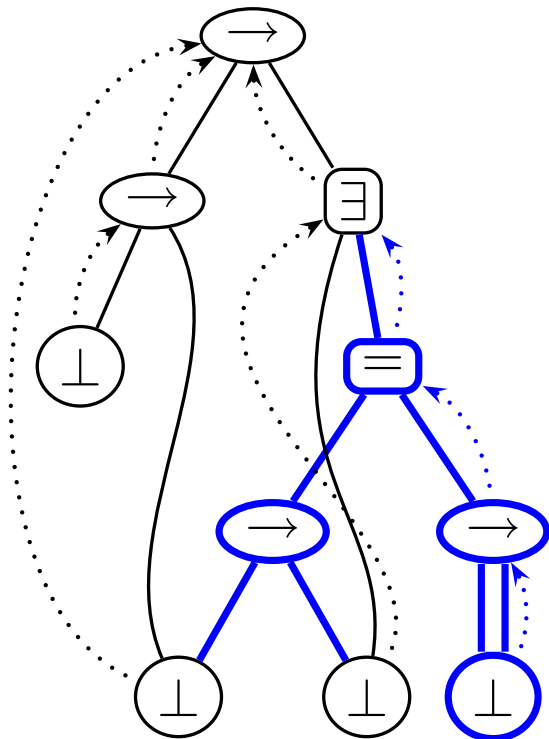


## Unification



## Unification

### More general constraints



## Syntactically

$$(Q) \Gamma \vdash a : \tau$$

Find pairs  $Q', \tau'$  such that  $Q' \leq \tau'$  and  $(Q') \tau \leq \tau'$  and  $(Q') \Gamma \vdash a : \tau'$ .



## Syntactically

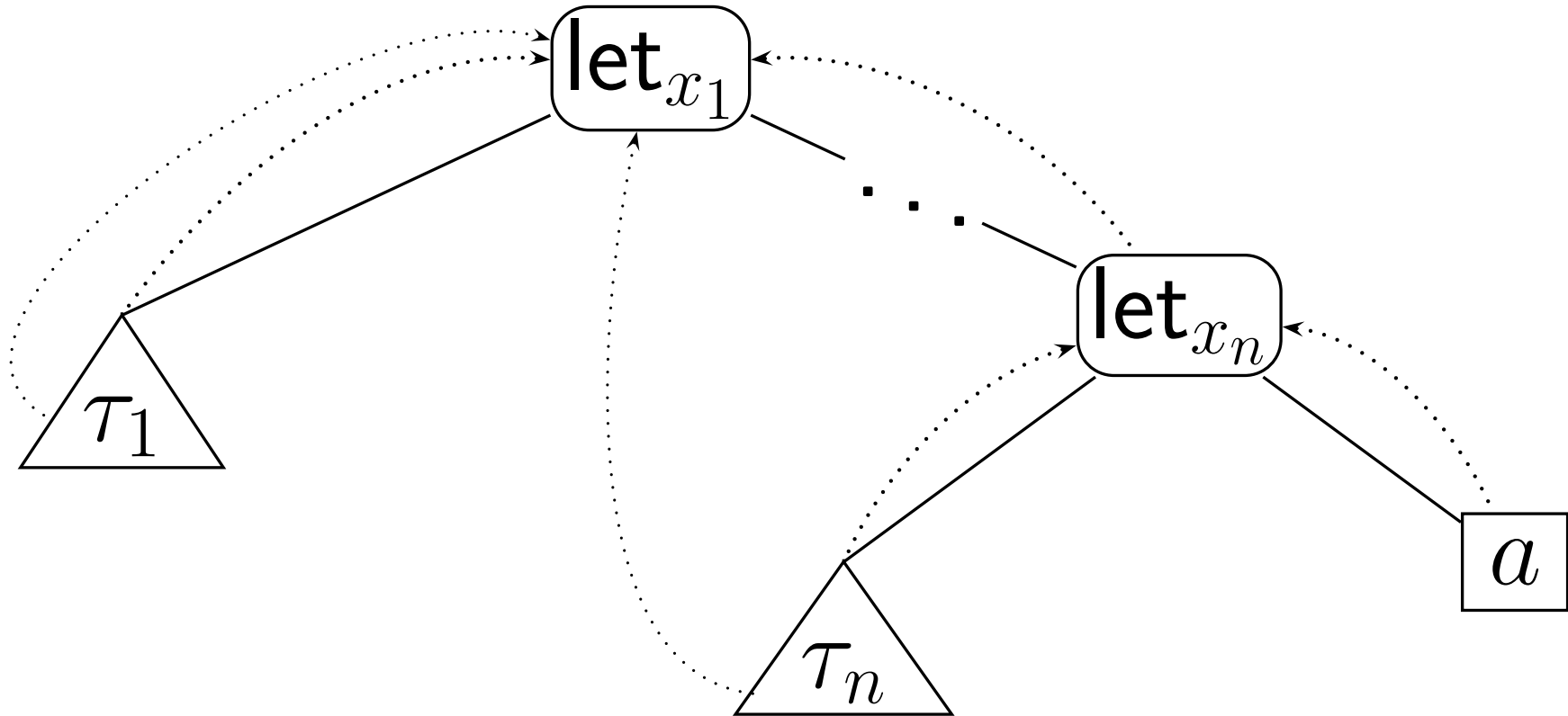
$$(Q) x_1 : \tau_1, \dots, x_n : \tau_n \vdash a : \alpha$$

Find pairs  $Q', \tau'$  such that  $Q' \leq \tau'$  and  $(Q') \tau \leq \tau'$  and  $(Q') \Gamma \vdash a : \tau'$ .

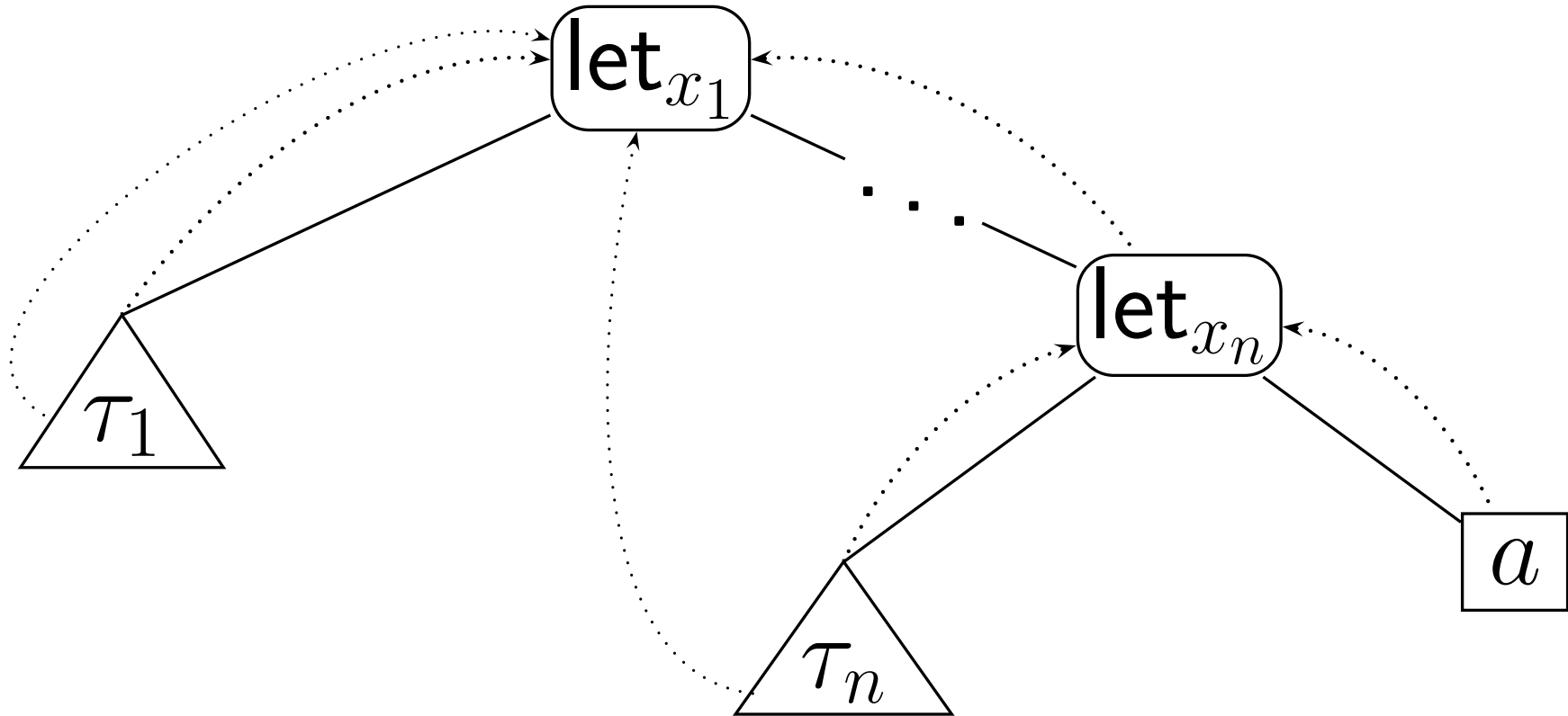
## Syntactically

$$(Q) \quad x_1 : \tau_1, \dots, x_n : \tau_n \vdash a : \alpha$$

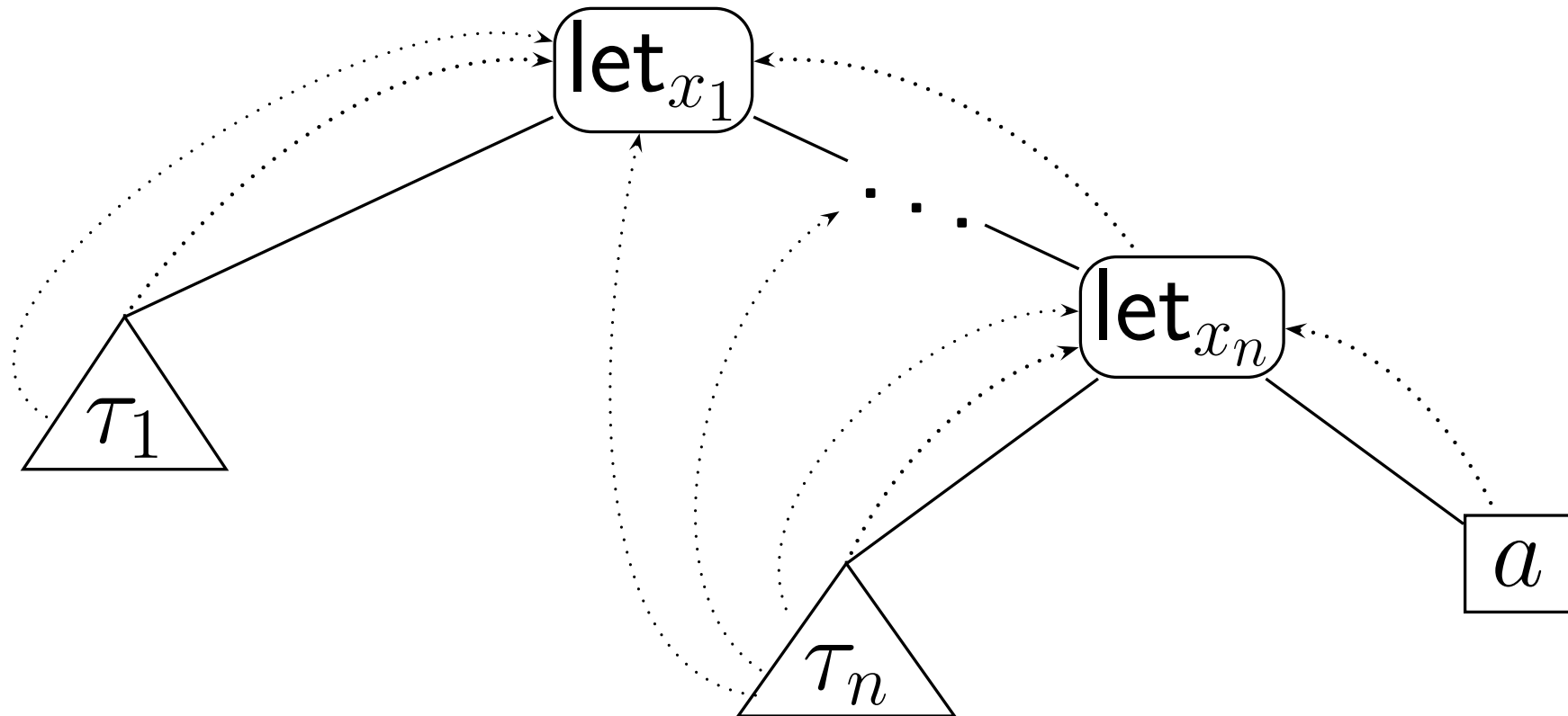
## Graphically



## Graphically



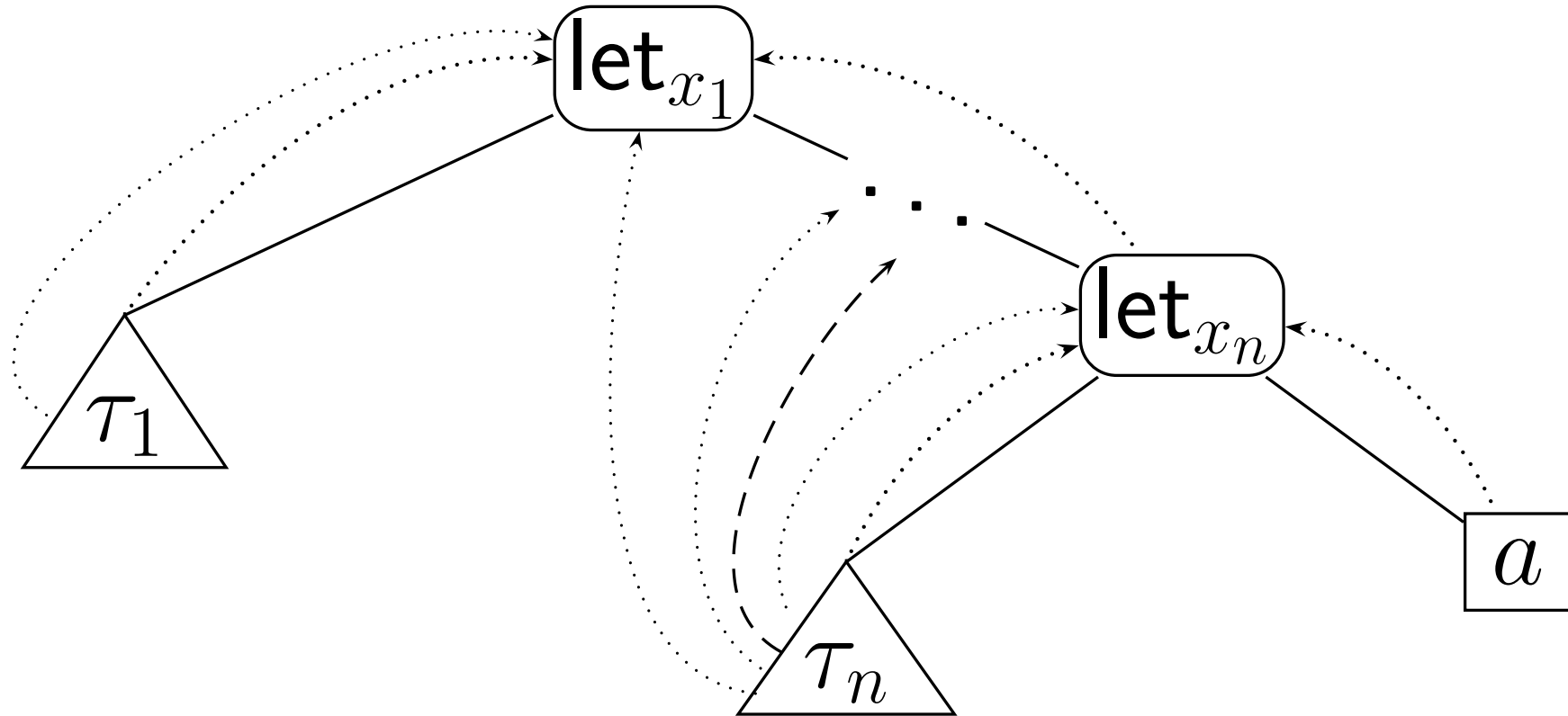
## Graphically



## Key

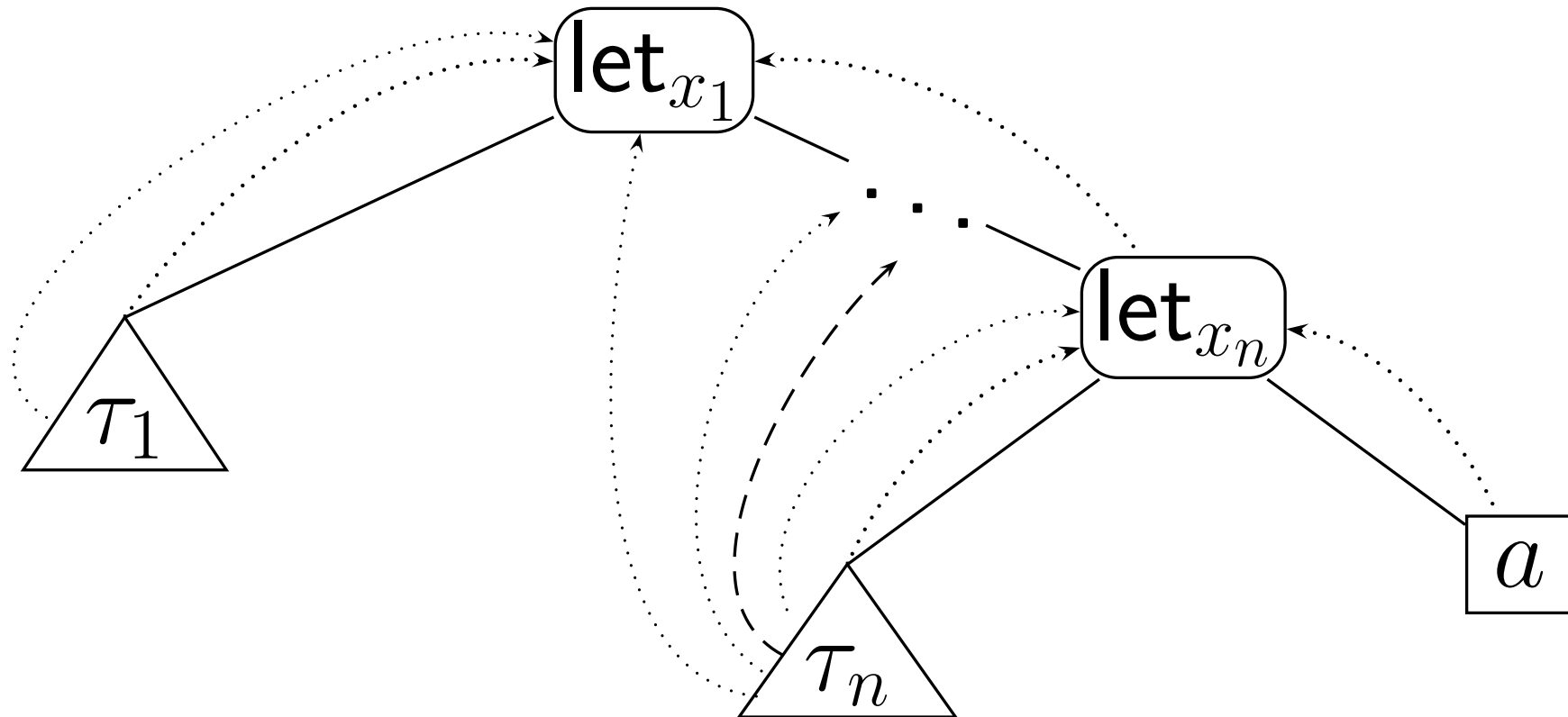
Some nodes of  $\tau_n$  may actually be bound tighter, just as tightly as permitted.

## Graphically



Of course, some bindings may also be rigid.

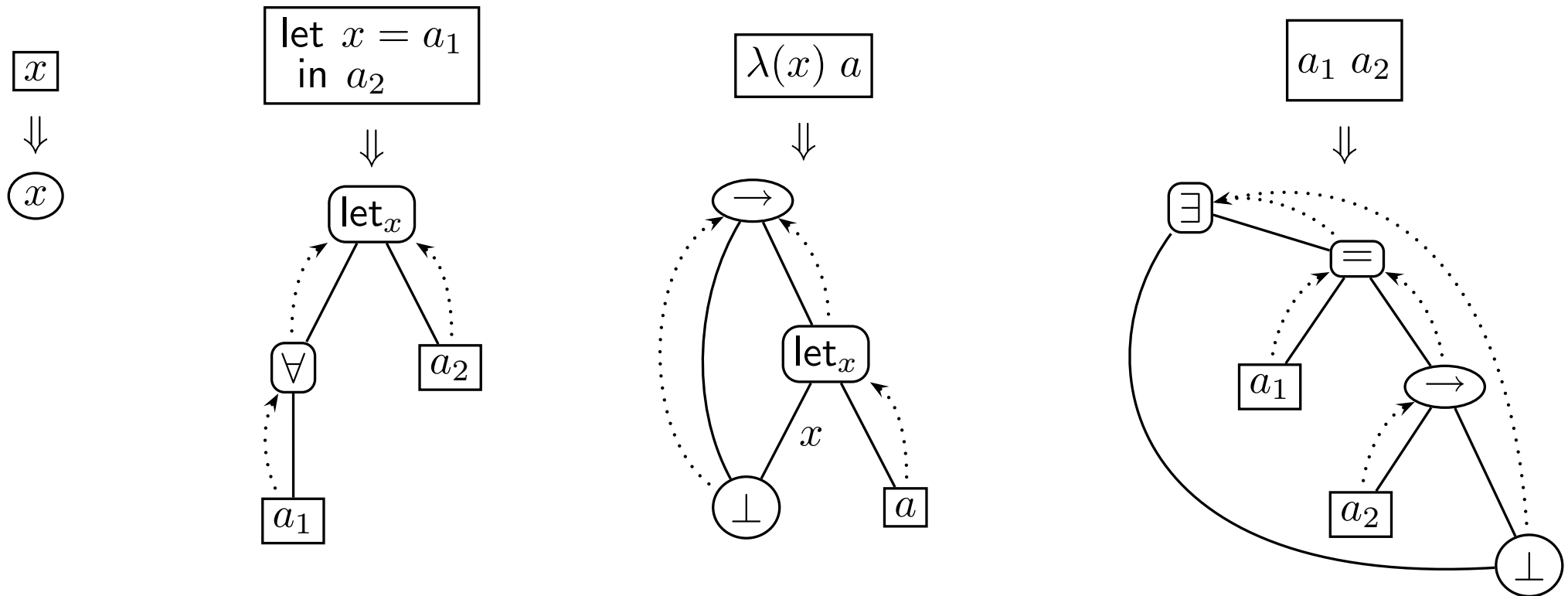
## Graphically



Find instances of the graph so that constraints are satisfied.

There is a smaller solution if any, of which all other solutions are instances.

## Simplification

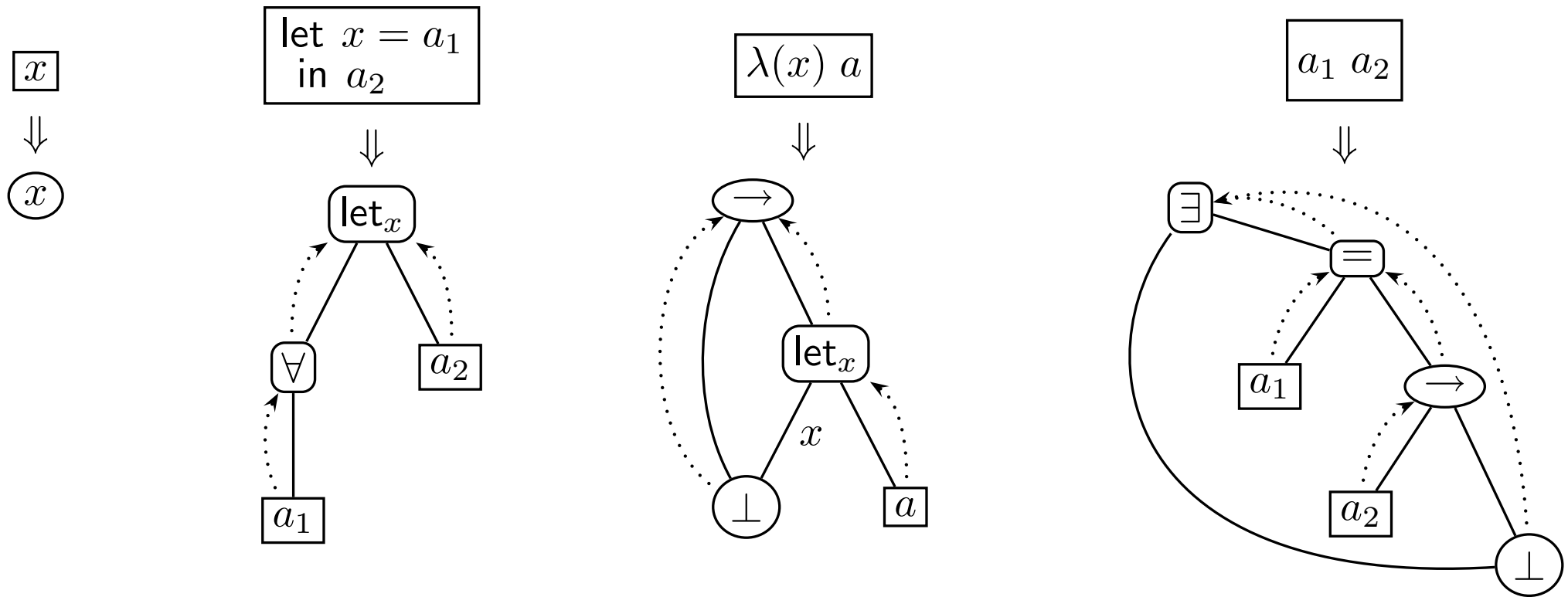


## Key feature

Types always kept as polymorphic as possible.

Interior application nodes will remain bound to interior nodes (hence polymorphic) unless unified with some exterior node. [possible optimization]

## Simplification



## Type abbreviations

A key in  $\text{ML}^F$ , but technically treated as coercion functions.



**Unification** is all formalized. (See papers on the web)

**Type constraints** need to be formalized

**Subject reduction**: calls for a direct proof using graphical constraints.

## Extensions of the core language

- ▶ Recursive types
- ▶  $F^\omega$  (i.e. allow quantification over type operators)
- ▶ Existential types:
  - ▷ Encoding via universal types: encapsulation is explicit, opening is explicit but with no type information
  - ▷ Can we infer positions of openings? (See work by Daan Leijen)



# Appendices



## Type Equivalence

Eq-Refl

$$(Q) \sigma \equiv \sigma$$

Eq-Trans

$$\frac{(Q) \sigma_1 \equiv \sigma_2 \quad (Q) \sigma_2 \equiv \sigma_3}{(Q) \sigma_1 \equiv \sigma_3}$$

Eq-Context-R

$$\frac{(Q, \alpha \diamond \sigma) \sigma_1 \equiv \sigma_2}{(Q) \forall (\alpha \diamond \sigma) \sigma_1 \equiv \forall (\alpha \diamond \sigma) \sigma_2}$$

Eq-Context-L

$$\frac{(Q) \sigma_1 \equiv \sigma_2}{(Q) \forall (\alpha \diamond \sigma_1) \sigma \equiv \forall (\alpha \diamond \sigma_2) \sigma}$$

Eq-Free

$$\frac{\alpha \notin \text{ftv}(\sigma_1)}{(Q) \forall (\alpha \diamond \sigma) \sigma_1 \equiv \sigma_1}$$

Eq-Comm

$$\frac{\alpha_1 \notin \text{ftv}(\sigma_2) \quad \alpha_2 \notin \text{ftv}(\sigma_1)}{(Q) \forall (\alpha_1 \diamond_1 \sigma_1) \forall (\alpha_2 \diamond_2 \sigma_2) \sigma \equiv \forall (\alpha_2 \diamond_2 \sigma_2) \forall (\alpha_1 \diamond_1 \sigma_1) \sigma}$$

Eq-Var

$$(Q) \forall (\alpha \diamond \sigma) \alpha \equiv \sigma$$

Eq-Mono

$$\frac{(\alpha \diamond \sigma_0) \in Q \quad (Q) \sigma_0 \equiv \tau_0}{(Q) \tau \equiv \tau[\tau_0/\alpha]}$$

## Type Abstraction

<p>A-Equiv</p> $\frac{(Q) \sigma_1 \equiv \sigma_2}{(Q) \sigma_1 \in \sigma_2}$	<p>A-Trans</p> $\frac{(Q) \sigma_1 \in \sigma_2 \quad (Q) \sigma_2 \in \sigma_3}{(Q) \sigma_1 \in \sigma_3}$	<p>A-Context-R</p> $\frac{(Q, \alpha \diamond \sigma) \sigma_1 \in \sigma_2}{(Q) \forall (\alpha \diamond \sigma) \sigma_1 \in \forall (\alpha \diamond \sigma) \sigma_2}$	<p>A-Hyp</p> $\frac{(\alpha_1 = \sigma_1) \in Q}{(Q) \sigma_1 \in \alpha_1}$
<p>A-Context-L</p> $\frac{(Q) \sigma_1 \in \sigma_2}{(Q) \forall (\alpha = \sigma_1) \sigma \in \forall (\alpha = \sigma_2) \sigma}$			

## Type Instance

I-Abstract	I-Trans	I-Context-R	I-Hyp
$(Q) \sigma_1 \sqsubseteq \sigma_2$	$(Q) \sigma_1 \sqsubseteq \sigma_2$	$(Q, \alpha \diamond \sigma) \sigma_1 \sqsubseteq \sigma_2$	$(\alpha_1 \geq \sigma_1) \in Q$
$(Q) \sigma_1 \sqsupseteq \sigma_2$	$(Q) \sigma_2 \sqsubseteq \sigma_3$	$(Q) \forall (\alpha \diamond \sigma) \sigma_1 \sqsubseteq \forall (\alpha \diamond \sigma) \sigma_2$	$(Q) \sigma_1 \sqsubseteq \alpha_1$
$(Q) \sigma_1 \sqsubseteq \sigma_2$	$(Q) \sigma_1 \sqsubseteq \sigma_3$		
I-Context-L	I-Bot	I-Rigid	
$(Q) \sigma_1 \sqsubseteq \sigma_2$	$(Q) \perp \sqsubseteq \sigma$	$(Q) \forall (\alpha \geq \sigma_1) \sigma \sqsubseteq \forall (\alpha = \sigma_1) \sigma$	
$(Q) \forall (\alpha \geq \sigma_1) \sigma \sqsubseteq \forall (\alpha \geq \sigma_2) \sigma$			