

Local confluence of the λ -calculus

We will show today that the λ -calculus is locally confluent (it is actually confluent but this is another story).

Local confluence

Show that if $M \in \Lambda$, $M \rightarrow_\beta M'$ and $M \rightarrow_\beta M''$ then there exists $N \in \Lambda$ such that $M' \rightarrow_\beta^* N$ and $M'' \rightarrow_\beta^* N$.

First Substitution Lemma

Show that if $M, N \in \Lambda$ and $N \rightarrow_\beta N'$ then $M[x/N] \rightarrow_\beta^* M[x/N']$.

Second Substitution Lemma

Show that if $M, N, P \in \Lambda$, $x \notin \text{fv}(P)$ and $x \neq y$ then $M[x/N][y/P] = M[y/P][x/N[y/P]]$.

Third Substitution Lemma

Show that if $M, N \in \Lambda$ and $M \rightarrow_\beta M'$ then $M[x/N] \rightarrow_\beta M'[x/N]$.