A Core Calculus for Provenance Inspection

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Abstract

Recent research has been devoting increasing attention to provenance, or information describing the origin, derivation, and history of data, due to its relevance to critical issues including transparency, privacy, and security. Engineering a software system to make it provenance-aware by means of ad-hoc instrumentation requires a substantial effort: the development of general-purpose infrastructure is thus very important to achieve the goal of making provenance widely available. In this article we describe a core functional language equipped with a provenance-aware semantics that is sufficiently generic to accommodate many notions of provenance proposed in the literature. While existing proposals typically treat provenance views and provenance extraction as second-class, extralinguistic mechanisms, in our work provenance views are expressed as standard programs and provenance data can be reflected into the language, allowing for programs that inspect their own provenance.

1 Introduction

Not all information can be trusted: we know from experience that some sources are unreliable; but even trustworthy sources can make mistakes, which is why, to decide whether some information can be believed, we need to consider how it was processed. This shows the importance of an accurate description of the origin, history, and derivation of some information, which has been known for decades as provenance [20, 2], but has clearly been studied by philosophers of knowledge for a much longer time. Provenance is essential to the development of scientific knowledge: raw experimental data is useless without a thorough explanation of how it was obtained, allowing the public to reproduce the experiment (at least in principle) and confirm it or contradict it. Data collection and processing was originally a human activity (and scientists had to keep an accurate record of it); by means of computer systems, it is now possible to process much greater quantities of data in an efficient way.

Computer systems do not, however, provide the provenance of the data they process for free: propagating it from the input to the output, while logging all intermediate operations, requires additional code; and more code means not only more effort, but also more occasions to introduce bugs. For these reasons, a line of research has devoted its attention to automated techniques to record provenance. Many of these techniques are designed to be employed in interesting but restricted settings (especially scientific workflow computation [18, 4, 11, 21] and databases [10, 13, 14, 3, 6]).

In a 2013 paper [1], Acar et al. have laid the basis for tracking provenance in a general-purpose programming language, by proposing a core functional calculus (Transparent ML, or TML) equipped with a provenance extraction framework. They provide a tracing big-step semantics, which records the history (or trace) of computation; by analysing this trace, the extraction framework is able to “replay” the computation, while at the same time propagating provenance annotations from the source expression to the final value. They show that TML and its provenance framework are expressive enough to extract many forms of provenance.

Despite this, in TML provenance remains a second class citizen: the extraction framework is an external layer combining several user-provided functions (provenance views) to process annotations and an execution trace and return the provenance; neither the views, nor the annotations, nor the execution trace are expressed as TML terms. Secondly, traces appear as an unneeded intermediate step, as the extraction framework is required to replay them, essentially executing the program a second time. Furthermore, TML traces closely reflect the big-step semantics of the language, limiting implementations to a call-by-value strategy and essentially requiring provenance inspection to take place after the execution of the program, and making self-inspecting programs impossible.
1.1 Summary
We take inspiration from TML and develop a more tightly integrated provenance inspection calculus (PIC), in which provenance is expressed as, and manipulated by first-class terms of the language. In this paper, we provide the following contributions:

- a core functional calculus with special constructs to manipulate syntactic locations (represented as lists of integers)
- language types for provenance labellings and provenance transducers together with a rich set of combinators
- a small-step, traceless semantics associating to each computation step the corresponding provenance transducer
- a simplified framework to define provenance views as language expressions
- an inspection construct allowing reflective reasoning on provenance

Outline. Section 2 introduces some basic notions about provenance. The syntax and semantics of PIC is introduced in Section 3, along with the provenance combinators. In Section 4 we provide a framework for the simplified definition of provenance views. Section 5 integrates PIC with an inspection construct and discusses the full language with an extensive example. Finally in Section 6 we draw conclusions and discuss future work.

2 Background
Provenance is most easily defined informally, as a form of metadata describing the origin or history of an artifact, or the process by which it has been constructed. As soon as we try to make this concept more formal, we realize that it depends on choices which are, to a certain degree, arbitrary: the origin of data can include an identifier of the person or organization that provided it; a description of the technical equipment that produced it, along with its accuracy; a timestamp; localization information from a GPS sensor; etc. Likewise, the computational process manipulating data can be described with various levels of precision. Since the choice of provenance information is largely a human task, we do not expect a single, universally acceptable notion of provenance.

The core calculus TML [1] provides a big-step tracing semantics, with evaluation judgments in the following form:

\[ M \downarrow V, t \]

The judgment evaluates \( M \) and produces a result \( V \) and a trace \( t \), which is a data structure describing the computation that produced \( V \) (with a slight approximation, \( t \) can be considered a linearized version of the evaluation tree). In this setting, the evaluation of an arithmetic expression \( N_1 + N_2 \) takes the following form:

\[
\frac{N_1 \downarrow 2, t_1 \quad N_2 \downarrow 3, t_2 \quad \downhat{+}(2, 3) = 5}{N_1 + N_2 \downarrow 5, t_1 + t_2}
\]

where \( t_1 + t_2 \) is the trace expressing the evaluation of a sum whose two arguments have histories described, respectively, by \( t_1 \) and \( t_2 \), and \( + \) is the meta-language sum. The evaluation of a larger term yields a more complex trace:

\[
\frac{N_1 \downarrow 2, t_1 \quad N_2 \downarrow 3, t_2 \quad \downhat{+}(2, 3) = 5}{N_1 + N_2 \downarrow 5, t_1 + t_2}
\]

\[
\frac{\downhat{+}(N_1 + N_2, N_3) \downarrow 5, (t_1 + t_2, t_3)}{\text{fst}((N_1 + N_2, N_3)) \downarrow 5, \text{fst}((t_1 + t_2, t_3))}
\]

TML provides a framework to extract various forms of provenance from traces: the user annotates the source term with primitive provenance information and passes it, along with the execution trace, to a provenance view which, basically, replays the computation while at the same time propagating the annotations. Views are TML’s way of allowing a user to define several notions of provenance: if we annotate the original term as \( \text{fst}((N_1^{a_1} + N_2^{a_2}, N_3^{a_3})) \), and we want the provenance of the final value to reflect that of all the portions of the input on which it depends (dependency provenance [9]), it is possible to define, by structural recursion on the execution trace, a view that will return \( S^{a_1lah_{2,ln}a} \). Notice that the framework is an external facility: annotations do not have to be TML terms, and views are defined as set-theoretic functions (although it is implied that they should be computable). Other forms of provenance that can be expressed in TML include:

\footnote{For simplicity, we omit evaluation environments.}
**Prim. types**

\[ B ::= 1 | B | N | \ldots \]

**Types**

\[ \sigma, \tau ::= B | \sigma \times \tau | \sigma \supset \tau | [\sigma] | \sim \sigma \]

**Contexts**

\[ \Gamma ::= [x_1 : \tau_1, \ldots, x_n : \tau_n] \]

**Expressions**

\[ L, M, N ::= c | x | M N | f(x).M | \oplus(M) \]

\[ \bullet \sim M | \epsilon | M \# N | \text{case } M \text{ of } \pi \]

\[ \text{fst}(M) | \text{snd}(M) | [N], N | \rho(M).M \]

**Patterns**

\[ \pi ::= \{ M; \epsilon \Rightarrow N \} | \{ \epsilon \Rightarrow M; \# \Rightarrow N \} \]

**Views**

\[ F ::= \langle M_1, M_{\text{fst}}, M_{\text{snd}}, M_1, M_2, \ldots, M_{\#}, M_{\#}, M_{\#} \rangle \]

**Values**

\[ U, V ::= c | x | \sim U | \epsilon | U \# V | \langle U, V \rangle | f(x).M | \rho(M) \]

Figure 1: Syntax of the language

- where-provenance [7], whose labels identify the input location from which each portion of an expression was copied;
- expression provenance [1], whose labels are expression graphs or trees describing how a value was computed in terms of primitive operations.

Motivated by the limitations of TML, we set out to embed the extraction framework into the language itself: as we started investigating the issue of allowing provenance extraction within programs, we realized that evaluating a sub-program to obtain its trace and then processing its trace with a provenance view, essentially evaluating it a second time, made little sense; it should be possible to compute the provenance applying a view immediately, without materializing the execution trace as an intermediate step. To accomplish this task, we decided to replace traces with *transducers*, or functions that transform provenance according to a certain execution history. A major obstacle in defining transducers is the need to undo the substitutions created by the evaluation of functions or pattern matching: to address this, we equip the language with a special *relocation* operator. One property of transducers is that they can be combined by functional composition to obtain the transducer corresponding to express a transitivity rule. This allows us to adopt a small-step semantics, which can be used to reason on the provenance of non-terminating programs.²

## 3 A provenance-aware calculus

We define the *provenance inspection calculus* PIC, a pure functional language equipped with a reduction semantics and extended with facilities to annotate expressions with provenance and propagate it during the computation. Its syntax, shown in Fig. 1, includes a standard type system, with primitive types \( B \) (e.g. the singleton type \( 1 \), booleans \( B \), and natural numbers \( N \), pairs, functions, and lists and optional values on a base type \( \sigma \) (respectively \([\sigma]\) and \(\sim\sigma\)).

The definition of expressions is standard. We parametrize the syntax and semantics over primitive operators \(c\) and primitive operations \(\oplus\), whose arguments must be of primitive types. We assume constants and primitive operations including booleans \(tt\) and \(ff\), and natural numbers \(0, 1, 2\ldots\), along with standard arithmetic operations and the equality test on natural numbers \(\equiv\).

We fix a multi-sorted signature \(\Sigma\), containing type declarations for constants (e.g.: \(c : \sigma\)) and primitive operations \(\oplus : \tau_m \supset \tau\), where \(\tau_m\) is a sequence of \(m\) types \(\tau_1, \ldots, \tau_m\). Each operation symbol \(\oplus\) be associated to a metalanguage function \(\oplus\) from values to values, expressing its semantics, thus defining an algebra for \(\Sigma\).

Expressions \(f(x).M\) represent recursive functions \(f\) with formal argument \(x\) and body \(M\), where both \(f\) and \(x\) are bound in \(M\); non-recursive lambda-expressions \(\lambda x.M\) are treated as recursive functions \(\lambda x.M\), under the condition that the irrelevant function name is free in \(M\).

For optional values and lists, we use the following notation: an expression of type \(\sim\sigma\) can be obtained either by encapsulating some \(M\) of type \(\sigma\) using the syntax \(\sim M\), or by means of the “none” constructor represented by \(\bullet\); list constructors include the empty list \(\epsilon\) and the \(\text{cons}\) operation \(M \# N\). For explicit lists, we will use the notation \([M_1; \ldots; M_k]\), which is syntactic sugar for \(M_1 \# \ldots \# M_k \# \epsilon\).

Two case analysis constructs are used to decompose lists and optional values; similarly, case analysis also supports reasoning on booleans. We will allow ourselves to use an extended case analysis notation, which should

\[\text{A small-step semantics of TML was originally considered for this precise reason, but left for future work. In the words of its proponents, “moving to a small-step semantics [seems] likely to complicate the trace semantics (and subsequent analysis) considerably.”}\]
be considered syntactic sugar:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{case } M \text{ of } \\
&\{ \epsilon \mapsto N_1 \\
&: h_1 \not\in l_1 \mapsto \text{case } h \not\in 1 \text{ of } \\
&\{ \text{tt } \mapsto N_2 \\
&: \text{ff } \mapsto \text{case } h_1 \not\in 2 \text{ of } \\
&\{ \text{tt } \mapsto \text{case } l_1 \text{ of } \\
&: \text{tt } \mapsto N_4 \\
&: \text{ff } \mapsto N_4 \}
\end{align*}
\]

As an example, we can use recursion and case analysis to define a list map function of type \((\mathbb{N} \circ \mathbb{N}) \circ [\mathbb{N}] \circ [\mathbb{N}]\) as follows:

\[
\text{map} := \lambda f. \text{map}(l). \text{case } l \text{ of } \\
\{ \epsilon \mapsto \epsilon \\
: h \# i \mapsto (f \ h) \# (\text{map } t) \}
\]

The main feature of \text{PIC} is that its semantics is expressed by reduction judgments in the following form:

\[
F \vdash M \xrightarrow{T} N
\]

The intended reading is that \(M\) reduces to \(N\); additionally, \(F\) is a parameter describing a provenance view, or a set of rules that express how the initial provenance data contributes to the final provenance, and \(T\) is a provenance transducer, a normal language expression that, given provenance data for \(M\), returns the provenance for \(N\).

The reduct \(N\) does not depend on the view \(F\), therefore we will write \(M \xrightarrow{} N\) when we evaluate an expression, but have no interest in its provenance; on the other hand, \(T\) is constructed based on the content of \(F\): thus different views will produce different transducers.

One last expression kind, which we introduce in this calculus, is the relocation \(\rho(\overrightarrow{x}.M)\), of type \([\mathbb{N}] \circ [\mathbb{N}]\). This operation, which expresses a mapping from locations in a (simultaneously) substituted term \(M[\overrightarrow{N}/\overrightarrow{x}]\) to locations in its components \(M, \overrightarrow{N}\), cannot be defined in terms of other language constructs and is thus taken as primitive. Notice that, since this mapping depends on the syntactic structure of \(M\), no evaluation can take place within \(\rho\).

### 3.1 Locations

To explain how relocations work, we need to formally describe what locations are and how they are manipulated in our language. A syntactic location is an entity that can be used to denote a specific subexpression within a larger language expression. We want to express provenance as a labelling, i.e. a function assigning a label to each location in an expression; it should also be possible to represent such labellings as language expressions, thus we need to provide a representation for locations as well.

We choose to represent syntactic locations by means of lists of natural numbers: given \(M\), a list \([n_1, \ldots, n_k]\) identifies one of its subexpressions \(N\) by means of the abstract syntax tree path leading to \(N\) from the root of \(M\); each number \(n_i\) in the list means that the next node in the path is the \(n_i\)-th child of the current node; the root location is represented by the empty list \(\epsilon\). For better clarity, we will write \text{Loc} rather than \([\mathbb{N}]\) when lists of natural numbers are used as locations: this is just a presentational choice, and the two notations express the same type.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{locs}(\epsilon) = \text{locs}(x) = \text{locs}(\bullet) = \text{locs}(\epsilon) = \text{locs}(\rho(\overrightarrow{x}.M)) = \{\epsilon\} \\
\text{locs}(f(x).M) = \text{locs}(\text{fst}(M)) = \text{locs}(\text{snd}(M)) = \text{locs}(\overrightarrow{x}M) \\
= \{\epsilon\} \cup (1 \ # \ \text{locs}(M)) \\
\text{locs}(M \# N) = \text{locs}((M, N)) = \text{locs}(M \# N) \\
= \{\epsilon\} \cup (1 \ # \ \text{locs}(M)) \cup (2 \ # \ \text{locs}(N)) \\
\text{locs}(\text{case } M_i \text{ of } \overrightarrow{x} \Rightarrow M_j) \\
= \{\epsilon\} \cup (\bigcup_{i=1 \ldots 3} i \ # \ \text{locs}(M_i)) \\
\text{locs}(\oplus(M_i)) = \{\epsilon\} \cup (\bigcup_{i=1 \ldots n} i \ # \ \text{locs}(M_i))
\end{align*}
\]
where we have abused the cons notation to apply it to sets of terms $S$ as follows:

$$n \not\in S \triangleq \{n \# M : M \in S\}$$

A lookup meta-operation $M\mid_\ell$ computes the subterm of $M$ to which the location $\ell$ points; if, while scanning $M$, the operation reaches a variable before consuming the whole location, it returns the variable together with the remaining, unconsumed part of the location. The location lookup operation is defined in Fig. 2.

In all other cases, the location is inconsistent with the term being scanned and lookup is undefined.

Given a location $\ell_N$ valid for $N$, we can obtain the corresponding location $\ell$ valid for $\langle M, N \rangle$ as $\ell = 2 \# \ell_N$. More generally, given a composite $n$-ary expression $k(M_1, \ldots, M_n) = k(M'_n)$, we can map locations for $M_i$ into locations for $k(M'_n)$ by means of a location injection $\gamma_{n,i}^{\text{loc}} = \lambda. i \# \ell$. Dually, a location for $k(M'_n)$ can be processed by case analysis as follows: we map the root location $\epsilon$ to a given $N$ of type $\tau$; moreover, for each $i = 1, \ldots, n$, we provide a function $p_i$ from $\text{Loc}$ to a fixed type $\tau$ which is used to map locations $i \# \ell$ for the $i$-th subexpressions to $p_i \ell$. This case analysis, which we call location elimination, can be expressed as a term of the language, which we will refer to as $\epsilon_{n,i}^{\text{loc}}$.

3.2 Labels and provenance labellings

A provenance labelling for an expression $M$ is a function that maps all locations valid for $M$ to expressions of an arbitrary option type $\sim \tau$, where $\bullet$ is taken to represent a default, non-informative label. We will denote the type of $\tau$-valued labellings by $\text{Prov}_\tau = \text{Loc} \supset \sim \tau$; we will also allow ourselves to write $\text{Prov}$ when the intended $\tau$ is obvious. We will use the metavariables $a$ and $\tilde{a}$, possibly decorated with subscripts or superscripts, to denote base labels and optional labels respectively. In general, we will define provenance labellings only for the locations in $\text{locs}(M)$, even though our type system does not guarantee that labellings will be applied consistently: we assume that if a labelling is not explicitly defined for a location, it returns $\bullet$. The default labelling $\lambda_a \bullet$ will be denoted by $\perp$.

The labelling for a composite $n$-ary expression $k(M'_n)$ can be obtained by putting together labellings $p_i$ for every sub-expression $M_i$, and providing an additional label $a$ for the root. The corresponding $n$-ary labelling injection operator $\gamma_{n,i}^{\text{Prov}}$ has the same definition of the location elimination $\epsilon_{n,i}^{\text{loc}}$. Dually, a labelling for a composite expression $k(M'_n)$ induces a projection labelling for each of its sub-expressions $M_i$. The labelling projections $\epsilon_{n,i}^{\text{Prov}}$ defined as $\lambda p.p \circ \gamma_{n,i}^{\text{loc}}$ compose a labelling for $k(M'_n)$ with the $i$-th injection.

3.3 Provenance transducers

The way a labelling is transformed by evaluation allows us to express different kinds of provenance, including where-provenance, dependency provenance, and expression provenance: whenever an expression $M$ reduces to $N$, there should be a way to transform any labelling for $M$ into a labelling for $N$. This transformation will be expressed intra-linguistically, by means of functions of type $\text{Prov} \supset \text{Prov}$ which we call provenance transducers; this type will be also written $\text{Trans}$, for short. Rather than defining an ad-hoc transducer for each possible reduction, which would be of little use, we will give rules to synthesize transducers based on the reduction rules of the language: for example, we will have a transducer for the reduction of function application, two transducers for the two reductions of case analysis over option types, and similarly two transducers for case analysis over lists, etc.

In the special case of congruence rules, the corresponding transducer will not be provided by the user: the language provides default transducers that reflect the administrative nature of these rules. For example, given a transducer $T$ for the reduction $M \rightsquigarrow M'$, the transducer for the congruence reduction $M N \rightsquigarrow M' N$ can and should be obtained by lifting $T$.

$$\begin{align*}
x\mid_\ell &= x, \ell \\
(f(x).M)\mid_{1\#\ell} &= M'\mid_\ell \\
\text{fst}(M)\mid_{1\#\ell} &= M\mid_\ell \\
(M_1 M_2)\mid_{1\#\ell} &= M_1\mid_\ell \\
\text{snd}(M)\mid_{1\#\ell} &= M\mid_\ell \\
(M_1 M_2)\mid_{1\#\ell} &= M_1\mid_\ell \\
\oplus(M_n)\mid_{i\#\ell} &= M_i\mid_\ell \\
\langle M_1, M_2 \rangle\mid_{i\#\ell} &= M_i\mid_\ell \\
(\sim M)\mid_{1\#\ell} &= M\mid_\ell \\
\end{align*}$$

Figure 2: Location lookup
We now use the notions introduced in the previous sections to formally define a provenance-aware small-step semantics.

### 3.4 Semantics

Relocation operations are functions with type $\text{Loc} \supset \text{Loc}$: when $\rho(x_n.M)$ is applied to a location $\ell$ in $\text{locs}(M[N_n/x_n])$, it first computes the lookup $M|_{\ell'_i}$: if the lookup yields $x_i, \ell'$, for $i = 1, \ldots, n$ – i.e. one of the variables declared by the relocation, together with an unconsumed location – $\ell'$ represents the path to the subexpression of $N_i$ which corresponds to location $\ell$ in the substituted expression; in this case, the relocation maps $\ell$ to $i \neq \ell'$. If instead the lookup $M|_{\ell'_i}$ returns another subterm of $M$ together with $\epsilon$, the relocation maps $\ell$ to $(n+1) \neq \ell$; in all the other cases, $\ell$ is an invalid location for $M[N_n/x_n]$, and we return a (meaningless) default location $\epsilon$.

In general, given a reduction $M_i \rightarrow M'_i$ and a corresponding transducer $T$, the transducer for the congruence $k(M_1, \ldots, M_i, \ldots, M_n) \rightarrow k(M'_1, \ldots, M'_i, \ldots, M_n)$ must perform the following actions:

1. obtain a labelling $p$ for the full unreduced expression;
2. apply labelling projections to obtain the labellings $p_1, \ldots, p_n$ for each of the sub-expressions $M_1, \ldots, M_n$;
3. apply $T$ to $p_i$ to obtain a labelling for $M'_i$;
4. use the labelling injection $I^n_{\text{prov}}$ to compose the new labelling for $M'_i$ with the old labellings for the unchanged $M_j$ ($j \neq i$).

The above actions are expressed by the operator $I_{n,i}$ (i-th transducer congruence of order $n$), defined in terms of $I^n_{\text{prov}}$ and $E^n_{\text{prov}}$.

Fig. 3 summarizes the definition of location injections and elimination, labelling injection and projections, and transducer congruences. We will refer to these operations, collectively, by the name of provenance combinators.

![Figure 3: Definition of the provenance combinators](image-url)
\[
\begin{array}{ll}
F \vdash (f(x).M) N \xrightarrow{\beta \rho(f,x,M)} M[f(x).M/N[f,x]] & F \vdash (\oplus(V_\rho) \xrightarrow{\oplus(\rho(V_\rho)}) N \xrightarrow{\beta \rho(V_\rho)} N)
\\
F \vdash \text{fst}((M,N)) \xrightarrow{\text{fst}} M & F \vdash \text{snd}((M,N)) \xrightarrow{\text{snd}} N
\\
(\bullet \rightarrow N) \in m & (\text{case } f \rightarrow N) \in m
\\
(\epsilon \rightarrow N) \in m & (\text{case } \sim M \rightarrow m) \xrightarrow{\text{case } \sim M \text{ of } m}
\\
M |_x = M', \epsilon & M' \notin x^\mapsto
\\
F \vdash \rho(x^\mapsto,M) \ell \xrightarrow{\lambda_{x} \rightarrow \ell} (n + 1) \# \ell & F \vdash \rho(x^\mapsto,M) \ell \xrightarrow{\lambda_{t} \rightarrow \ell} (n + 1) \# \ell
\\
M |_x = N, \ell' \neq \epsilon & \text{for all } i \text{ s.t. } 1 \leq i \leq n : N \neq x_i
\\
F \vdash \rho(x^\mapsto,M) \ell \xrightarrow{\lambda_{t} \rightarrow \ell} \epsilon & F \vdash \text{case } M \rightarrow m
\\
F \vdash M_i \xrightarrow{T} M'_i & F \vdash M \xrightarrow{T} M'
\\
F \vdash (M,N) \xrightarrow{2_1 \rightarrow T} (M',N) & F \vdash M \xrightarrow{T} M'
\\
F \vdash M \xrightarrow{T} M' & F \vdash N \xrightarrow{T} N'
\\
F \vdash M \xrightarrow{T} M' & F \vdash \text{snd}(M) \xrightarrow{\lambda_{t} \rightarrow T} \text{snd}(M')
\\
F \vdash \text{case } M \rightarrow m & F \vdash \text{case } M \rightarrow m
\end{array}
\]

Figure 4: Provenance-carrying semantics

Thanks to relocations, we can map the locations of a beta-reduced expression back to the original function application. For instance, if \(\ell \in \text{locs}(M[f(x).M/N[f,x]])\), \(\rho(f,x,M)\) \(\ell\) will reduce to one among \(1 \# \ell_1\) (where \(\ell_1 \in \text{locs}(f(x).M))\), \(2 \# \ell_2\) (where \(\ell_2 \in \text{locs}(N))\), or \(3 \# \ell_3\) (where \(\ell_3 \in \text{locs}(M))\). Mapping these locations to locations in \(\text{locs}((f(x).M)/N))\) is then a matter of a simple case analysis, which we provide as a relocation helper \(\beta\) (with type \((\text{Loc} \circ \text{Loc}) \circ \text{Loc} \circ \text{Loc})\):

\[
\beta := \lambda r. \ell. \text{case } r \ell \text{ of } \{3 \# \ell_3 \mapsto 1 \# 1 \# \ell_3; \ldots \mapsto \ell\}
\]

Then for all \(N\), the expression \(\beta \rho(f,x,M)\) maps locations in \(\text{locs}(M[f(x).M/N[f,x]])\) to locations in \(\text{locs}((f(x).M)/N))\).

Non-recursive function applications \((\lambda x. M) N \mapsto M[x \mapsto N]\) are a special case of recursive functions, thus the same operator can be used to express their relocation function as well.

The view \(F\) is, in essence, a collection of basic transducers that correspond to the basic reduction rules. This is especially clear in the rules for the contraction of pair projections and the simpler forms of \(\text{case}\) reductions, which simply return the transducers \(F_{\text{fst}}, F_{\text{snd}}, F_\#, F_\star, F_{\oplus}, F_{\oplus_{\#}}, F_{\oplus_{\#}}\), and \(F_{\oplus_{\#}}\). The reduction of primitive operations is similar, save for the fact that we allow a transducer \(F_{\oplus}\) to receive the actual arguments of \(\oplus\) as parameters; furthermore, notice that primitive operations only reduce when applied to values.

The rule for function application must express the propagation of provenance under substitution; this requires us to produce a transducer capable of mapping locations in the substitution \(M[f(x).M/N[f,x]]\) back to their label in the unreduced application \((f(x).M)/N\). To accomplish this task, \(F_\beta\) will receive the relocation function \(\beta \rho(f,x,M)\) as a parameter. Case analysis can reduce to substituted expressions as well, which explains why \(F_{\#}\) and \(F_{\#\#}\) receive relocations \(\beta\) \(\rho(x,N)\) and \(\beta_{\#\#} \rho(h,t.N)\) as parameters; the concrete definition of \(\beta\) and
**(3.5 Type system)**

The type system of PIC (Fig. 5) is defined in a standard way. Aside from mentioning that it is parametric on the signature \( \Sigma \) used to type constants and primitive operations, the only rule that deserves to be mentioned here is the one concerning relocations. Relocations, which are functions from Loc to Loc, are well-typed provided that their argument is well-typed in a properly extended context.
Even though provenance views as such are not PIC-expressions, they are used in reductions and must be well-typed to function properly. To typecheck a view, we use an auxiliary definition $T_\sigma$ (Fig. 6): each of the transducers $F_\kappa$ within a view $F$ must have type $T_\sigma(\kappa)$, where $\sigma$ is a type of provenance labels and $\kappa$ identifies one of the basic reduction rules. Each $T_\sigma(\kappa)$ returns a provenance transducer of type $\text{Trans}_\kappa$, which may be parameterized by a relocation (for $\kappa = \beta, \sim, \#$) or by the actual arguments of the primitive operation being reduced (for $\kappa = \oplus$). Type-safety for PIC follows immediately.

**Theorem 1** (Preservation and progress). 1. If $\Gamma \vdash M : \sigma$, $\Gamma \vdash F : T_\tau$, and $F \vdash M \xrightarrow{T} M'$, then $\Gamma \vdash M' : \sigma$ and $\Gamma \vdash T : \text{Trans}_\tau$. 2. If $\vdash M : \sigma$ and $M$ is not a value, then for all $F, \tau$ s.t. $\vdash F : T_\tau$, there exist $T, M'$ such that $F \vdash M \xrightarrow{T} M'$.

### 4 Provenance views

The provenance-carrying semantics we defined allows us to choose a view $F$ with great flexibility. Consider for example the reduction:

$$F \vdash \text{fst}((M, N)) \xrightarrow{F_{\text{fst}}} M$$

Here, the transducer $F_{\text{fst}}$ is allowed to transform the input labelling without any restriction: the most obvious choice would be to propagate the labels of the first element of the source pair, but other choices are possible. $F$ could erase all labels, or add a static label to arbitrary subterms of $M$; it could even provide a new labelling of $M$ using labels taken from $N$, even though $N$ is not part of the reduced term. The only limitation is that $F_{\text{fst}}$ be a transducer expressible as a language function.

The generality with which provenance views can be defined is one of the strengths of our approach, but it comes at a cost: views will usually be defined by pattern matching on locations, and the transducers for function applications and case analysis will often have to use a relocation function explicitly, which is rather cumbersome. For many of the notions of provenance we are interested in, such a generality is not needed and is only an element of confusion. Consider, for example, a $\text{fst}$-projection labelled with three distinguished provenance annotations in the form $\text{fst}((M^a_1, N)^{a_2})^{a_3}$ (for better readability, we represent provenance annotations as superscripts, rather than providing an explicit function expression from locations to annotations). When reducing the projection, we might want the outermost label of the reduced $M$ to depend only on those $a_i$ (ignoring the annotations of $N$) and the inner subexpressions of $M$ to keep the same labels that they had before the reduction. In other words, we would like the labelling to be transformed as follows:

$$\text{fst}((M^a_1, N)^{a_2})^{a_3} \xrightarrow{M_{\text{fst}}} M_{\text{fst}}^{a_3} \bar{a_1} \bar{a_2}$$

where $v_{\text{fst}}$ is some expression with type $\sim \tau \supset \sim \tau \supset \sim \tau \supset \sim \tau$, for an annotation type $\sim \tau$.

Similarly, when reducing $((f(x), M^a_1)^{a_2})^{a_3} \xrightarrow{N^{a_3}}^{a_4}$, we often expect the reduced term to be, essentially, $M^a_1$, where free occurrences of $f$ and $x$ have been replaced by $(f(x), M^a_1)^{a_2}$ and $N^{a_3}$; the outermost label of the reduced term could additionally depend on $\bar{a_2}$ and $\bar{a_4}$ (which annotate AST nodes that are destroyed by the reduction). A transducer $F_\beta$ satisfying these conditions could be defined as:

$$\lambda r, p, \ell. \text{case } \ell \text{ of } \{ \epsilon \mapsto v_\beta (p \epsilon) (p [1]) (p (r \epsilon)); \_ \mapsto p (r \ell) \}$$

where $v_\beta$ is an arbitrary term combining three annotations into one, $(p \epsilon)$ and $(p [1])$ return the annotations corresponding to $\bar{a_4}$ and $\bar{a_2}$ in the example. The argument $r$ receives a relocation function in the form $\beta \rho(f, x, M)$, provided by the standard provenance-carrying semantics, which is used to retrieve the “natural” annotation arising from the substitution of a labelled term into another labelled term.

These examples show that while manipulating raw provenance labellings is tricky, we can keep things simple by providing functions like $v_{\text{fst}}$ and $v_\beta$, which combine a few distinguished annotations and propagate all the others.

Based on this considerations, we provide the following **lifting framework** that lifts functions $v_\kappa$ on provenance annotations to the corresponding provenance transducers $F_\kappa$:
Example 1 • therefor the corresponding transducer will produce the default, uninformative label term beyond recognizability (for example, when reducing primitive operations), there is no label to propagate, transducer will propagate the provenance annotations along with the data; when a reduction transforms the view can use any optional type of labels \( \sim \tau \). When a reduction copies certain data, the corresponding transducer will propagate the provenance annotations along with the data; when a reduction transforms the term beyond recognizability (for example, when reducing primitive operations), there is no label to propagate, therefore the corresponding transducer will produce the default, uninformative label \( \bullet \).

Now consider the following provenance labelling \( L \) assigning annotations \( \tilde{a}, \tilde{a}_1, \tilde{a}_2, \tilde{a}_3 \) as follows:

\[
\text{map } (f \ 2^2) [1^{\tilde{a}_1}; 2^{\tilde{a}_2}; 3^{\tilde{a}_3}]
\]

(subexpressions without an annotation are considered to labelled by \( \bullet \)). A where-provenance reduction acts as follows:

\[
\text{map } (f \ 2^2) [1^{\tilde{a}_1}; 2^{\tilde{a}_2}; 3^{\tilde{a}_3}]
\]

In the output list, only the second element is annotated with \( a \), meaning that it was copied from the argument of \( f \); the other two elements were not copied, but obtained by incrementing previous values in the same position, and thus receive the \( \bullet \) annotation.

\[
F_\beta (v_\beta ) := \lambda r, p, \ell . \text{ case } \ell \ of \\
\{ \epsilon \mapsto v_\beta (p \ \epsilon \ (p \ [1]) \ (p \ (r \ \epsilon )); \sim \mapsto p \ (r \ \ell ) \}
\]

\[
F_{\text{fst}} (v_{\text{fst}} ) := \lambda p, \ell . \text{ case } \ell \ of \\
\{ \epsilon \mapsto v_{\text{fst}} (p \ (p \ [1]) \ (p \ [1; 1]) ; \sim \mapsto p \ (1 \ # 1 \ # \ \ell ) \}
\]

\[
F_{\text{snd}} (v_{\text{snd}} ) := \lambda p, \ell . \text{ case } \ell \ of \\
\{ \epsilon \mapsto v_{\text{snd}} (p \ (p \ [1]) \ (p \ [1; 2]) ; \sim \mapsto p \ (1 \ # 2 \ # \ \ell ) \}
\]

\[
F_{\text{tt}} (v_{\text{tt}} ) := \lambda p, \ell . \text{ case } \ell \ of \\
\{ \epsilon \mapsto v_{\text{tt}} (p \ (p \ [1]) \ (p \ [2]) ; \sim \mapsto p \ (2 \ # \ \ell ) \}
\]

\[
F_{\text{ff}} (v_{\text{ff}} ) := \lambda p, \ell . \text{ case } \ell \ of \\
\{ \epsilon \mapsto v_{\text{ff}} (p \ (p \ [1]) \ (p \ [3]) ; \sim \mapsto p \ (3 \ # \ \ell ) \}
\]

\[
F_{\bullet } (v_{\bullet } ) := \lambda p, \ell . \text{ case } \ell \ of \\
\{ \epsilon \mapsto v_{\bullet } (p \ (p \ [1]) \ (p \ [2]) ; \sim \mapsto p \ (2 \ # \ \ell ) \}
\]

\[
F_{\sim } (v_{\sim } ) := \lambda r, p, \ell . \text{ case } \ell \ of \\
\{ \epsilon \mapsto v_{\sim } (p \ (p \ [1]) \ (p \ (r \ \epsilon )); \sim \mapsto p \ (r \ \ell ) \}
\]

\[
F_{\epsilon } (v_{\epsilon } ) := \lambda p, \ell . \text{ case } \ell \ of \\
\{ \epsilon \mapsto v_{\epsilon } (p \ (p \ [1]) \ (p \ [2]) ; \sim \mapsto p \ (2 \ # \ \ell ) \}
\]

\[
F_{\# } (v_{\# } ) := \lambda r, p, \ell . \text{ case } \ell \ of \\
\{ \epsilon \mapsto v_{\# } (p \ (p \ [1]) \ (p \ (r \ \epsilon )); \sim \mapsto p \ (r \ \ell ) \}
\]

\[
F_{\otimes } (v_{\otimes } ) := \lambda \otimes \in \{ 1, 2, 3 \}. \text{ case } \\ell \ of \\
\{ \epsilon \mapsto v_{\otimes } \ F_{\otimes } (p \ (p \ [1]) \ (p \ [2]) \cdots (p \ [n]) \\
\}; \sim \mapsto \epsilon \}
\]

\[
F (w) := (F_\beta (v_\beta ), \ldots , F_{\otimes } (v_{\otimes }))
\]

### 4.1 Where-provenance

Using the lifting framework, we define a where-provenance view \( W \) by means of label-propagating transducers. The view can use any optional type of labels \( \sim \tau \). When a reduction copies certain data, the corresponding transducer will propagate the provenance annotations along with the data; when a reduction transforms the term beyond recognizability (for example, when reducing primitive operations), there is no label to propagate, therefore the corresponding transducer will produce the default, uninformative label \( \bullet \).

\[
w_{\otimes } := \lambda \otimes \in \{ 1, 2, 3 \}. \text{ case } \\ell \ of \\
\{ \epsilon \mapsto v_{\otimes } \ F_{\otimes } (p \ (p \ [1]) \ (p \ [2]) \cdots (p \ [n]) \\
\}; \sim \mapsto \epsilon \}
\]

\[
w_{\kappa } := \lambda \kappa \in \{ 1, 2, 3 \} \mapsto \tilde{a}_{\kappa } \tilde{a} \\
W := F (w)
\]

Example 1. Let \( f := \lambda x, y . \text{ case } x = y \ of \{ \text{tt map to x; ff map to y + 1} \} \). We map \( f \) 2 to a list \([1; 2; 3]\):

\[
\text{map } (f \ 2) [1; 2; 3] \leftrightarrow [2; 2; 4]
\]

Now consider the following provenance labelling \( L \) assigning annotations \( \tilde{a}, \tilde{a}_1, \tilde{a}_2, \tilde{a}_3 \) as follows:

\[
\text{map } (f \ 2^2) [1^{\tilde{a}_1}; 2^{\tilde{a}_2}; 3^{\tilde{a}_3}]
\]

(subexpressions without an annotation are considered to labelled by \( \bullet \)). A where-provenance reduction acts as follows:

\[
\text{map } (f \ 2^2) [1^{\tilde{a}_1}; 2^{\tilde{a}_2}; 3^{\tilde{a}_3}]
\]

In the output list, only the second element is annotated with \( a \), meaning that it was copied from the argument of \( f \); the other two elements were not copied, but obtained by incrementing previous values in the same position, and thus receive the \( \bullet \) annotation.
As a general rule, after each execution step we expect subexpressions labelled with \( \sim a \) to be copied from parts of the original expression having the same label. The actual well-behavedness property of where-provenance, in our setting, is less naive than that: consider the reduction
\[
(\lambda x.(\lambda y.(x\ y)^a))\ N \rightsquigarrow \lambda y.(N\ y)^a
\]
The subexpression \((N\ y)\) is indeed derived from the similarly labelled \((x\ y)\), but the two are only equal up to the substitution \([N/x]\). The relation between the two expressions can be made formal:

**Definition 1.** \( M \subseteq N \iff \exists s. M[s] \sim N, \) where \( s \) is a substitution.

**Lemma 1.**
1. \( \subseteq \) is an order relation;
2. if \( M \subseteq N \) and \( N \sim R \), then \( M \subseteq R \).

We can then prove that \( W \) satisfies the following well-behavedness property of where-provenance:

**Theorem 2** (well-behavedness of \( W \)). Suppose \( W \vdash M \xrightarrow{\tau} N \): then for all labellings \( L \) and \( \ell \in \text{locs}(N) \), if \( T \ L \ell \sim \sim a \), there exists \( \ell' \in \text{locs}(M) \) such that \( L \ell' \sim \sim a \) and \( M|_{\ell'} \subseteq N|_{\ell} \).

### 4.2 Expression provenance

To define expression provenance, we allow provenance labels to be simplified syntax trees with constants or primitive annotations as leaves and primitive operation symbols as inner nodes. More formally, we assume a type \( \tau \) containing the following elements:

\[
a := \bar{b} | k_e | k_{\oplus}(\bar{a}_n)
\]

where \( b \) belongs to a type of basic annotations \( \tau_b \), and \( k_e \) and \( k_{\oplus} \), defined for all constants \( c \) and all n-ary basic operations \( \oplus \), are reified representations of language expressions. As usual, \( \tau \) will be wrapped in an optional type \( \sim \).

Accordingly, a numeric value, say \( 2 \), could have several possible labels: a label \( \sim \bar{b} \) means that \( 2 \) was copied from a part of the input with the same label; a label \( \sim k_e(a_1, a_2) \) means it was obtained by adding together two values originally labelled with \( \sim a_1 \) and \( \sim a_2 \); the label \( \bullet \), as usual, provides no information; finally the label \( \sim k_2 \), merely indicates a literal 2, but does not specify its provenance otherwise, therefore it can be considered a variant of \( \bullet \).

The expression provenance view can be defined by means of a simple variation on where-provenance. The only transducer that needs a different definition, unsurprisingly, is the one associated with the evaluation of primitive operations \( (e_{\oplus}) \):

\[
e_{\oplus} := \lambda\bar{x}_{\oplus}.\bar{a}_{\oplus}, k_{\oplus}(\bar{a}_n \ast x_n)
e_{\oplus} := \lambda_{\ast\ast}.\bar{a}_{\ast}, k_{\ast}(\bar{a}_n, k_{\ast}(\bar{a}_n \ast x_n))
\]

\[
E := F(e)
\]

In the definition, we use the following \( \ast \) operation:

\[
(\bar{a}) \ast x = \begin{cases} 
\sim k_x & \text{if } \bar{a} = \bullet \\
\bar{a} & \text{else}
\end{cases}
\]

where \( k_x \) is the label corresponding to the constant \( x \) (remember that primitive operations are reduced when applied to constants, thus we must have \( x = c \) for some \( c \)). This allows us to conjure an informative annotation for constants that have not been given a provenance.

**Example 2.** We start with the same labelling as in the where-provenance example:

\[
\text{map } (f, 2\bar{a}) \ [1\bar{a}_1, 2\bar{a}_2, 3\bar{a}_3]
\]

If we evaluate the term according to expression provenance, we obtain the following labelled value:

\[
[2k_2(\bar{a}_1, k_1), 2\bar{a}_2, 4k_4(\bar{a}_3, k_1)]
\]

Just like in where-provenance, \( 2\bar{a} \) indicates a term that was copied from the input; the term \( 2k_2(\bar{a}_1, k_1) \), instead, has been obtained by adding together \( 1\bar{a}_1 \) and an unannotated literal 1.
Expression provenance annotations should allow us to recompute the annotated expression. To make this formal, let us consider metalanguage functions $h$ mapping basic annotation values in $\tau$ to arbitrary language values. We then define the extension of such an $h$ to full annotations as the metalanguage function $\hat{h}$ mapping values in $\tau$ to arbitrary language values, as follows:

$$\hat{h}(\hat{b}) = h(b)$$

$$\hat{h}(h_c) = c$$

$$\hat{h}(\hat{a}_0(\hat{a}_1, \ldots, \hat{a}_n)) = \tilde{\oplus}(\hat{h}(\hat{a}_1), \ldots, \hat{h}(\hat{a}_n))$$

We then introduce consistent mappings (a modified version of the analogous concept used in [1]) as those functions $h$ which agree with a certain annotated expression.

**Definition 2.** Let $M$ be a term, and $L$ a provenance labelling for $M$ of type $\text{Loc} \supset \sim \tau$. We say that $h$ is a consistent mapping for $L \triangleright M$ (and write $h \vdash L \triangleright M$) if and only if for all $\ell \in \text{locs}(M)$ there exist an annotation $\tilde{a}$ such that $L \triangleright a \sim \tilde{a}$ and, if $\tilde{a} = \sim \tilde{a}'$, then $\hat{h}(\tilde{a}') \sqsubseteq M|_\ell$.

Finally, we prove that reduction under the view $E$ preserves consistent mappings.

**Theorem 3** (well-behavedness of $E$). If $h \vdash L \triangleright M$ and $E \vdash M \dashv N$, then $h \vdash T \triangleright L \triangleright N$.

### 4.3 Dependency provenance

Dependency provenance associates to each expression location an annotation containing a set of labels. A full definition of dependency provenance would therefore require us to encode sets as a type of the language, providing at the same time an implementation of standard set operations. We could for example use the list encoding of sets, which is a simple programming exercise; for the purposes of this paper, we will abstract from the actual definition of the type of dependency annotations, assuming that a sound implementation of set operations like union and membership test exists. In particular, we assume that the default annotation $\bullet$ be interpreted as the empty set of labels $\emptyset$ rather than the “none” optional value.

The dependency view then merely amounts to taking the union of all the dependency sets involved in a reduction:

$$d_\emptyset := \lambda \overrightarrow{\tilde{a}}. \bigcup \overrightarrow{\tilde{a}}$$

$$d_\kappa := \lambda \tilde{a}_1, \tilde{a}_2, \tilde{a}_3. \tilde{a}_1 \cup \tilde{a}_2 \cup \tilde{a}_3$$

$$D := F(d)$$

**Example 3.** We adapt our example to dependency provenance by extending the language of provenance labels to accept sets of annotations:

$$\text{map} \langle f \{2_1^a\}; 1_1^a; 2_2^a; \{3_3^a\} \rangle$$

(where subexpressions without an annotation are considered to labelled by $\emptyset$). After evaluation, we get the following dependency provenance labelling:

$$[2_1^a; 2_2^a; \{3_3^a\}]$$

The new labelling reflects the fact that each element of the list depends from both the corresponding element in the source list, and the argument to the function $f$.

To state the well-behavedness property for the view $D$ we use a relation $L \triangleright M \approx_a L' \triangleright M'$ that holds when the annotated terms $L \triangleright M$ and $L' \triangleright M'$ are quasi-equal, up to subterms annotated with a label $a$ (e.g. $(1, 2^S) \approx_a (1, 3^S)$ provided that $a \in S \cap S'$). The idea is that, if starting with $L \triangleright M$ we perform a reduction step $D \vdash M \triangleright N$ whose redex is entirely guarded by the label $a$, we obtain a term that is still quasi-equal to $L' \triangleright M'$. If instead the redex is not guarded by $a$, then we can find a reduction $D \vdash M' \triangleright N'$ such that $T \triangleright N \approx_a T' \triangleright N'$.

To indicate reductions guarded and not guarded by an annotation, we use the notation:

$$D \vdash (L \triangleright M) \triangleright T_a N$$

$$D \vdash (L \triangleright M) \triangleright T_a N$$

(a formal definition is given in the appendix).
Expressions \( L, M, N \ ::= \ldots | \iota(F, L \triangleright M) \)

Views

\[ F ::= \langle M_\beta, M_{\text{ext}}, M_{\text{snd}}, M_\ast, M_\omega, \theta \rangle \]

\[ \text{locs}(\iota(F, L \triangleright M)) = \{ \epsilon \} \]

\begin{align*}
G \vdash M \frac{T}{N} \\
F \vdash \iota(G, L \triangleright M) \frac{\iota}{\iota(G, T \triangleright N)}
\end{align*}

\begin{align*}
\Gamma \vdash F : \tau & \quad \Gamma \vdash L : \text{Prov}_\sigma \\
\Gamma \vdash \iota(F, L \triangleright M) : \tau \times \text{Prov}_\sigma
\end{align*}

\[ T_\sigma(\iota) = \text{Trans}_\sigma \]

\[ F(v_i) = \lambda p, \ell. \text{case } \ell \text{ of } \{ \epsilon \mapsto v_i (p \epsilon); \_ \mapsto \_ \} \]

Figure 7: Syntax, semantics, and typing of inspection

**Theorem 4** (well-behavedness of \( D \)). Suppose \( L \triangleright M \approx_a L' \triangleright M' \). Then:

1. If \( D \vdash (L \triangleright M) \frac{T}{\triangleright_a N} \), we have \( T \triangleright L \triangleright N \approx_a L' \triangleright M' \).

2. If \( D \vdash (L \triangleright M) \frac{T}{\triangleright_a N} \), there exist \( T', N' \) such that \( D \vdash M' \frac{T'}{\triangleright N'} \) and \( T \triangleright L \triangleright N \approx_a T' \triangleright L' \triangleright N' \).

Admittedly, this property is weaker than the dependency-correctness of [9], as we do not consider redexes that are partially guarded by \( a \), such as \( (f(x).M)[a^1] \triangleright N \). We believe that full dependency-correctness also holds, but cannot be proved without resorting to a more complex argument involving well-typedness; we thus leave this proof as future work.

5 Self-inspection

The language described in Section 3, together with the view definition framework of Section 4, can be compared to TML. Although we have simplified the type system by renouncing to recursive types, the two languages are quite similar; the provenance extraction framework can also be compared to our view definition framework. Our approach, however, does provide a few enhancements:

- our small-step semantics is not limited to call-by-value evaluation, like their big-step definition, but accommodates a variety of evaluation strategies;
- provenance views and provenance data are expressed in the same language as the programs whose provenance is being considered;
- in our language, we need not take the extra step of materializing the execution trace of a program before extracting its provenance;
- as a consequence, to compute the provenance of a program we do not have to replay its execution trace.

The most important reason why these features matter is that they make it possible for our language to be extended with an introspective inspection operation, which we will denote by the following syntax:

\[ \iota(F, L_M \triangleright M) \]

The intended semantics of inspections, informally, is that \( M \) will be evaluated to \( V \); at the same time, the provenance view \( F \) will be applied to \( L_M \) to obtain a new labelling \( L_V \) for \( V \); finally, evaluation will produce the pair \( (V, L_V) \), making both the value and its provenance available for the rest of the program.

Provenance inspection is introduced by means of the extension described in Figure 7. From the point of view of location lookup, inspections are treated like opaque boxes: the \( \text{locs} \) operation only returns the singleton \( \{ \epsilon \} \) when applied to an inspection, so access to its syntactic subterms is not allowed.

The typing rule checks that the type of the provenance view \( F \) agree with that of the provenance labelling \( L \); the term under inspection can be of any type.

Two different reduction rules are applied depending on whether the term under inspection has been fully evaluated or not. When the term \( M \) under inspection is not a value, it can be reduced to \( N \), by means of the
first reduction rule, using the view \( G \) specified by the inspection; this returns a transducer \( T \) that we apply to
the initial provenance labelling \( L \) to obtain a new labelling \( T\,L \) suitable for \( N \).

When, after a certain number \( n \) of reduction steps, the inspected term becomes a value \( V \), with a certain
provenance
\[
L' = T_n \left( T_{n-1} \cdots (T_0 \, L) \cdots \right); \text{ then the inspection can be concluded by a final step, using the second rule, which}
\]
merely returns the value \( V \) together with its labelling \( L' \). The premise requiring that \( V \) should be a
closed term is needed because free variables might be replaced by any expression, including expressions contain-
ing redexes, and in such a case the inspection should continue; however, since we do not allow reduction inside
binders, this check is only necessary if we are interested in evaluating open terms.

Unlike TML, the syntax of PIC allows free nesting of provenance inspections. For this reason we also need
to explain what an external observer can see when an inspection is performed. Here we need to make a choice
and decide whether inner reductions can be observed or not. Since inspections come with a local provenance
labelling, they cannot be easily reconciled with a non-local provenance view; then the simplest policy, which we
adopt, is to make inner reductions not observable: this is obtained by returning the identity \( I = \lambda x.x \) as the
transducer for inner reductions. The final inspection step, instead, can be observed: it employs the transducer \( F_i \),
which is defined in the outer view \( F \).

The presence of nested inspections has implications for privacy and confidentiality: on one hand, inner
inspections decide whether to share provenance information with external observers, and to what extent; on
the other hand, the external observer is aware of hidden computations thanks to the transducer \( F_i \). This
interaction is not unexpected: implications of provenance for confidentiality, privacy, availability, and other
security properties have been investigated by some previous work ([8, 5, 12, 16]). We will now elaborate further
by considering an example of security application.

5.1 Example: inspection of dynamic linking

In the previous sections we have discussed provenance as a property of data, and how it evolves during the
execution of a program, but we have not provided concrete examples of how provenance can be used in a
concrete setting.

We will here provide a demonstration of how provenance can be used to detect possible security issues. Our
example considers dynamic linking, a technique widely available in modern operating systems, which allows the
linking of object code from several sources to happen at load time (or in certain cases at run time), rather than
compile time. When an executable file is built from source code containing references to functions defined in
a shared (or dynamic-link) library, those references remain unresolved; instead, special directives are added to
the executable file header, including a record of the required library functions (sometimes called import table).
When loading the executable file, the operating system is expected to find the required shared libraries and
load them into memory beside the program code, and link the two by resolving the function references declared
in the import table.

Dynamic linking allows a system to avoid duplication of frequently used code, both on disk and in RAM
(when two processes using the same library are running concurrently, the memory image of the library can be
shared across the two addressing spaces by means of paging). While 30 years ago programs usually employed less
than 5 dynamic-link libraries, today’s software systems can require several even hundreds of libraries provided
by different developers. Libraries from trusted sources may coexist with libraries from untrusted sources, and
they may use each other’s services.

To model a simple dynamic linker, we assume a type \([N] \supset N\) for shared library functions – an acceptable
assumption, given that executable file formats often enforce a loose or trivial typing discipline for these functions.
A store of type \([\text{id} \times ([N] \supset N)]\) associates function identifiers to the corresponding shared function.

A program comprises executable code, which we model as a function of type \([[N] \supset N] \supset [N] \supset N\), and an
import table, which in our setting is simply a list of identifiers of shared functions that should be loaded. The
code receives as its first parameter a list of concrete functions matching the imported identifiers from import
table, while the second argument must be a list of input parameters for the program; at the end, a natural
number is returned.

The goal of the dynamic linker is to serve the list of imported functions to the program code. If the store
and the import table are both ordered by increasing values of identifiers, this can be achieved by the following
procedure:

\[
\text{dynalink} := \lambda \text{store}, \text{code}, \text{imptab}.
\]

\[
\text{let imps := filter_map } (\lambda(x, f).x \in \text{imptab}) (\lambda(x, f).f) \text{ store}
\]

\[
\text{in code imps}
\]

where \text{filter_map} \( p \, f \, l \) ignores the elements of the list \( l \) that do not satisfy the predicate \( p \), but is otherwise
the same as \text{map} \( f \, l \).
We now consider a toy program whose purpose is to store passwords to permanent memory. The program employs salt and a hash function to make dictionary attacks unfeasible in case a malicious agent gained access to the password file:

\[
\text{savepw} \ := \lambda \text{imps}, \text{pw}. \\
\text{let} \ \text{salt} := \$\text{RND} \ [] \ \text{in} \\
\$\text{WRITE} \ [\text{salt}]; \\
\$\text{WRITE} \ [\$\text{HASH} \ [(\text{salt} \ || \ \text{pw})]]
\]

where the semi-colon is a binary operator on natural numbers simply returning the second argument, and || combines two natural numbers into one, for example by concatenating their bit representations, or by means of Cantor’s encoding of pairs. \text{HASH}, \text{RND}, and \text{WRITE} are identifiers for three imported functions: the import table for \text{savepw} is thus the following:

\[\text{[HASH; RND; WRITE]}\]

Finally, we write $\text{ID}$ as syntactic sugar for an imported function call; concretely, this involves a lookup by ordinal number in the import list \text{imps}: e.g $\$\text{WRITE} = \text{nth} \ \text{imps} \ 2$ (where \text{nth} returns the element of a list referred to by a zero-based index).

Suppose that we do not have access to the source code of \text{savepw}: we can still read its import table and see that the program requires the use of a cryptographic hash function, a random number generator, and persistent storage. This is not suspicious, but for increased trust we may want to inspect the operation of \text{savepw} and verify that only a properly encrypted password has been stored.

For this purpose, we use the following provenance label type:

\[
\sim\text{label} ::= \bullet | \sim\text{private} | \sim\text{random} | \sim\text{rndpriv} | \sim\text{breach} \\
| \sim\text{standard} | \sim\text{unsafe} | \sim\text{oneway}
\]

The first four labels are used to express the provenance of data: the default $\bullet$ labels data that is public or irrelevant as far as confidentiality goes; data labelled by $\sim\text{private}$, on the contrary, is confidential; $\sim\text{random}$ is used for non-private data coming from a random source; finally, $\sim\text{rndpriv}$ labels data containing both private and random information. A label $\sim\text{breach}$, also used to annotate data, is only generated when a potential security breach is detected.

The last three labels are used to annotate functions:

- $\sim\text{standard}$ is used for pure functions that manipulate the input in an unknown way; they can throw away part of the input, but may not create private data out of thin air: since the randomized part of the input may not be preserved, this label combines with labelled data as follows

\[
\sim\text{standard}(\bullet) = \bullet \\
\sim\text{standard}(\sim\text{random}) = \bullet \\
\sim\text{standard}(\sim\text{private}) = \sim\text{private} \\
\sim\text{standard}(\sim\text{rndpriv}) = \sim\text{private} \\
\sim\text{standard}(\sim\text{breach}) = \sim\text{breach}
\]

- $\sim\text{unsafe}$ annotates functions that should not receive private data, because they contain untrusted code with side effects (e.g. writing to disk, sending data over a network, displaying information on a terminal); it behaves as follows

\[
\sim\text{unsafe}(\bullet) = \bullet \\
\sim\text{unsafe}(\sim\text{random}) = \bullet \\
\sim\text{unsafe}(\sim\text{private}) = \sim\text{breach} \\
\sim\text{unsafe}(\sim\text{rndpriv}) = \sim\text{breach} \\
\sim\text{unsafe}(\sim\text{breach}) = \sim\text{breach}
\]

- $\sim\text{oneway}$ is similar to $\sim\text{standard}$ but is used with functions known to be one-way; thus when applied to randomized private data, it produces non-confidential output:

\[
\sim\text{oneway}(\bullet) = \bullet \\
\sim\text{oneway}(\sim\text{random}) = \bullet \\
\sim\text{oneway}(\sim\text{private}) = \sim\text{private} \\
\sim\text{oneway}(\sim\text{rndpriv}) = \sim\text{private} \\
\sim\text{oneway}(\sim\text{breach}) = \sim\text{breach}
\]
This annotation propagation policy can be implemented as a provenance view $S$. The labelling $L_{\text{store}}$ for the shared library functions will usually be fixed, and we assume that the concrete functions $\text{hash, rnd, write}$ are labelled by $\text{oneway, random, unsafe}$. Given the password $\text{pw}$ (which, for simplicity, will be a natural number), we make it confidential by defining its labelling as

$$L_{\text{pw}} := \lambda \ell. \text{case } \ell \text{ of } \epsilon \mapsto \text{private}; \ldots \mapsto \bullet$$

As previously mentioned, an outer inspection cannot see what happens within an inner one, so an additional task of $S$, besides propagating annotations, is to flag inner inspections as possible security breaches, by means of the transducer

$$S_i := \lambda \cdot \text{breach}$$

Now we can apply the dynamic linker to $\text{savepw}$ and try running it by means of the syntax:

$$M = \text{dynalink store savepw}[\text{HASH; RND; WRITE}] \text{pw}$$

where the provenance labelling for $M$ can be obtained by combining $L_{\text{store}}, L_{\text{pw}},$ and trivial labellings for all the other parts of $M$:

$$L = \pi^\text{Prov}_1 (\pi^\text{Prov}_1 (\pi^\text{Prov}_1 (\pi^\text{Prov}_1 \bot L_{\text{store}} \bullet \bot \bullet \bot \bullet L_{\text{pw}} \bullet$$

Finally, we perform an inspection:

$$\iota(S, L \triangleright M) \xrightarrow{\epsilon} (0, L')$$

where 0 is the value returned by the call to $\text{WRITE}$, and $L' \epsilon \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{public}$ confirms that no security breaches were detected.

6 Conclusions

The language PIC that we have described in this paper represents provenance by means of labelling functions. This seems to be a natural approach in a calculus allowing provenance to be manipulated as a first-class expression because in this way all the provenance annotations for the same term are gathered in the same place. Other approaches based on annotation propagation would scatter this information across various subterms, and would thus require additional effort to extract the provenance and separate it from the term it describes.

Provenance as labelling functions also seems to have a relatively elegant, albeit slightly low-level, theory of combinators, which guides the definition of the provenance-aware semantics. Although defining provenance views by combining annotations locally (as in TML) is simpler than doing so by handling whole labellings (as required by our semantics), we have provided a simplified framework to bridge this gap.

Although PIC is a pure functional language, we envision extending it with imperative constructs such as references and exceptions. Experience in the related area of program slicing ([19]) tells us that such an extension would not be straightforward, but might provide a good starting point.

We have chosen to make provenance inspection local: an outer inspection cannot observe the computation happening within an inner inspection; this ensures a certain confidentiality of metadata, which cannot be shared by accident with the public. However, this is not the only possible way to handle nested inspections: a transparent provenance inspection could also be defined using the following evaluation rule:

$$G \vdash M \xrightarrow{G[\mathcal{R}]} N$$

where $F \vdash \iota(G, L \triangleright M) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{R}} \iota(G, T \triangleright N)$

where $\mathcal{R}$ identifies the reduction rule used in the premise, and $F[\mathcal{R}]$ returns the trasducer for rule $\mathcal{R}$ according to the view $F$: this allows reduction within $\iota$ to be treated like any other congruence. Apart from a slight notational complication, this extension appears straightforward.

Another possibility, given $\iota(G, L \triangleright M)$ is to make $M$ invisible to an external observer, but to allow an outer inspection to provide a labelling for $G$ and $L$. Indeed, since a provenance view contains standard language functions, it needs not be statically determined: it is perfectly admissible to receive provenance transducers as the arguments of a program, and use them to construct a view to be used in an inspection. In other words, views may have a non-trivial provenance, which could provide a reason to inspect the provenance of provenance. This concept appears not to be entirely new (see e.g. [15, 17]); further investigation of relations between nested inspections and provenance of provenance will be the subject of future work.

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References


A Proofs

Lemma 2. For all $\ell \in \text{locs}(R[M_n^{R} ] )$ (where the $x_i$ are distinct), one of the following holds:

- $R|_\ell = x_i, \ell'$ and $R[M_n^{R} ]_\ell = M_i|_{\ell'}$, for some $\ell' \in \text{locs}(M_i)$
- $R|_\ell = R', \ell$ and $R[M_n^{R} ]_\ell = R'[M_n^{R} ]_\ell$, for some $R'$.

Proof. By structural induction on $R$, followed by a case analysis on $\ell \in \text{locs}(R[M_n^{R} ] )$. For the recursive cases, we only consider functions, but the other cases are similar.

- $R = x_i$ then $\ell \in \text{locs}(M_i)$ and $R|_\ell = x_i|_\ell = x, \ell$. We complete the proof by proving $x_i[M_n^{R} ]_\ell = M_i|_{\ell'}$, which is trivial by definition of substitution.
- $R = y \notin M_n^{R} $ then $\ell \in \text{locs}(y)$, which implies $\ell = \epsilon$ and $R|_\ell = y|_\ell = y, \epsilon$. Finally, $y[M_n^{R} ]_\ell = y[M_n^{R} ]_\ell$, which completes the proof.

- $R = g(y).S$, where $g, y \notin M_n^{R} $, then $\ell = \epsilon$ or $\ell = 1.\ell_1$, where $\ell_1 \in \text{locs}(S[M_n^{R} ] )$. In the first case, we have $g(y).S|_\ell = g(y).S, \epsilon$ and $(g(y).S)\big[ M_n^{R} ]_\ell = (g(y).S)\big[ M_n^{R} ]_\ell, \epsilon$, which proves the thesis. In the other case, $g(y).S|_{1.\ell_1} = S|_{\ell_1}$ and $(g(y).S)\big[ M_n^{R} ]_\ell= \epsilon, \ell_1 = S[ M_n^{R} ]_{\ell_1}$, and the thesis follows by induction hypothesis.

\[\square\]

Lemma 3. For all $\ell \in \text{locs}(M[f(x).M/N/f,x])$, there exists $\ell' \in \text{locs}(f(x).M) N$ such that $\beta \rho(f,x,M) \ell \hookrightarrow \ell'$ and $(f(x).M) N|_\ell \subseteq M[f(x).M,N/f,x]|_\ell$.

Proof. By cases on $M|_\ell$, using Lemma 2, we get three cases:

- $M|_\ell = f, \ell_1$, $M[f(x).M,N/f,x]|_\ell = f(x).M|_{\ell_1}$ and $\ell_1 \in \text{locs}(f(x).M)$: we easily prove that $\beta\rho(f,x,M)\ell \hookrightarrow 1 \# \ell_1$ and $(f(x).M) N|_{\ell_1} \subseteq f(x).M|_{\ell_1}$, thus a fortiori $(f(x).M) N|_{1.\ell_1} \subseteq M[f(x).M,N/f,x]|_\ell$.

- $M|_\ell = x, \ell_1$, $M[f(x).M,N/f,x]|_\ell = N|_{\ell_1}$ and $\ell_1 \in \text{locs}(N)$: we easily prove that $\beta\rho(f,x,M)\ell \hookrightarrow 2 \# \ell_1$ and $(f(x).M) N|_{2.\ell_1} = N|_{\ell_1} \subseteq M[f(x).M,N,f,x]|_\ell$, thus a fortiori $(f(x).M) N|_{2.\ell_1} \subseteq M[f(x).M,N,f,x]|_\ell$.

- $M[f(x).M,N,f,x]|_\ell = M'[f(x).M,N,f,x], \epsilon$ and $M|_\ell = M', \epsilon$: we easily prove that $\beta\rho(f,x,M)\ell \hookrightarrow 1 \# 1 \# \ell$, $M[f(x).M,N,f,x]|_{1.\ell} = M'|\ell$, and $M[f(x).M,N,f,x]|_\ell \subseteq M'[f(x).M,N,f,x]|_\ell$, consequently $M|_\ell \subseteq M'[f(x).M,N,f,x], \epsilon$, which proves the thesis.

\[\square\]

Lemma 4. For all $\ell \in \text{locs}(N[M/x])$, there exists $\ell' \in \text{locs}(\text{case } N[M/x])$ such that $\beta \rho(x,N) \ell \hookrightarrow \ell'$ and, if $\sim x \rightarrow N \in m$, then case $\sim M$ of $m|_\ell \subseteq N[M/x]|_\ell$.

For all $\ell \in \text{locs}(N[M_1,M_2/x,y])$, there exists $\ell' \in \text{locs}(\text{case } M_1 \# M_2)$ of $m)$ such that $\beta \rho(x,N) \ell \hookrightarrow \ell'$ and, if $\sim x \rightarrow N \in m$, then case $M_1 \# M_2$ of $m|_\ell \subseteq N[M_1,M_2/x,y]|_\ell$.

Proof. Follows the same principle as Lemma 3.

\[\square\]

Lemma 5. Assume that for all $\ell_1 \in \text{locs}(M')$ and for all $J$ there exists $\ell_2 \in \text{locs}(M)$ s.t. $J J \ell_1 \hookrightarrow J \ell_2$ and $M|_{\ell_2} \subseteq M'|_{\ell_1}$. Then for all $\ell_1 \in \text{locs}(M' N)$ and for all $J$ there exists $\ell_2 \in \text{locs}(M N)$ s.t. $J J \ell_1 \sim J \ell_2$ and $M N|_{\ell_2} \subseteq M' N|_{\ell_1}$.

Lemma 6. If $h \vdash L \triangleright R$, then $h \vdash L \circ \Sigma_{21}^{\text{Loc}} \triangleright R$.

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Proof of Theorem 2. Suppose \( W \models M \xrightarrow{T} N \); then for all labellings \( L \) and \( \ell \in \text{locs}(N) \), if \( T \vdash \ell \xrightarrow{\sim} a \), there exists \( \ell' \) such that \( L \ell' \xrightarrow{\sim} a \) and \( M|_{\ell'} \subseteq N|_{\ell'} \).

Proof. By induction on the derivation of \( W \models M \xrightarrow{T} N \). We consider only some of the rules, but the full proof can be obtained following the same approach.

- \( W \vdash (f(x).R) S \xrightarrow{W_\beta (\beta \rho(f,x.R))} R(f(x).R, S/f,x) \)
  we have
  \[
  W_\beta (\beta \rho(f,x.R)) J \ell \xrightarrow{\sim}
  \]
  case \( \ell \) of
  \[
  \{\epsilon \mapsto w_\beta (J \epsilon) (J [1]) (J (\beta \rho(f,x,R) \epsilon))
  \]
  \[
  \zeta \mapsto J (\beta \rho(f,x,R) \ell)\}
  
  and by cases on \( \ell \) we prove that this reduces to
  \( J (\beta \rho(f,x,R) \ell) \); by Lemma 3 we obtain \( \ell' \) such that \( J (\beta \rho(f,x,R) \ell) \xrightarrow{\sim} J \ell' \) and \( (f(x).R) S|_{\ell'} \subseteq R(f(x).R, S/f,x)|_{\ell'} \), which proves the thesis.

- \( W \vdash \oplus(V_n) \xrightarrow{W_\oplus} \oplus(V_n) \)
  \( \ell \in \text{locs}(\oplus(V_n)) \) means \( \ell = \epsilon \), thus we have \( W_\oplus (V_n) J \epsilon \xrightarrow{\sim} w_\oplus (V_n) (J [1]_{i=1\ldots n}) (J \epsilon) \). Since this term only reduces to \( \bullet \), we have nothing to prove.

- \( W \vdash \text{fst}(\langle R,S \rangle) \xrightarrow{W_\text{mn}} R \)
  by a simple case analysis on \( \ell \) we obtain \( W_{\text{fst}} J \ell \xrightarrow{\sim} J (1 \# 1 \# \ell) \); then we take \( \ell' = 1 \# 1 \# \ell \) and prove \( \text{fst}(R,S)|_{1\#1\#\ell} = R|_{\ell'} \), thus the thesis holds.

- \( W \vdash \text{case} (R_1 \# R_2) \text{ of } m \xrightarrow{W_\# (\beta \# \rho(x,y.S))} S[R_1,R_2/x,y], \text{ where } (x,y) \mapsto S \in m \)
  by cases on \( \ell \) we show \( W_\# (\beta \# \rho(x,y.S)) J \ell \xrightarrow{\sim} J (\beta \# \rho(x,y,S) \ell) \); we use Lemma 4 to obtain \( \ell' \) such that \( \beta \# \rho(x,y,S) \ell \xrightarrow{\sim} \ell' \) and \text{case} \( (R_1 \# R_2) \text{ of } m|_{\ell'} \subseteq S[R_1,R_2/x,y]|_{\ell'} \), which proves the thesis.

- \( W \vdash R S \xrightarrow{3_2\ I \ T} R' S \)
  assume by IH that for all \( J \) and all \( \ell \in \text{locs}(R') \) there exists \( \ell' \in \text{locs}(R) \) s.t. \( T J \ell \xrightarrow{\sim} J \ell' \) and \( R'|_{\ell'} \subseteq R|_{\ell'} \).
  By Lemma 5 we prove that for all \( J \) and all \( \ell \in \text{locs}(R') \) there exists \( \ell' \in \text{locs}(R S) \) s.t. \( J_2, T I \ell \xrightarrow{\sim} \ell' \), \( R S|_{\ell'} \subseteq R' S|_{\ell'} \).

Proof of Theorem 3. If \( h \models L \triangleright M \) and \( E \vdash M \xrightarrow{T} N \), then \( h \models T L \triangleright N \).

Proof. We proceed by induction on the derivation of \( E \vdash M \xrightarrow{T} N \). We consider only some of the rules, but the full proof can be obtained following the same approach.

- \( E \vdash (f(x).R) S \xrightarrow{E_\beta (\beta \rho(f,x,R,S))} R(f(x).R, S/f,x) \)
  assume \( \ell \in \text{locs}(R(f(x).R, S/f,x)) \) we have
  \[
  E_\beta (\beta \rho(f,x.R)) L \ell \xrightarrow{\sim}
  \]
  case \( \ell \) of
  \[
  \{\epsilon \mapsto e_\beta (L \epsilon) (L [1]) (L (\beta \rho(f,x.R)) \epsilon)
  \]
  \[
  \zeta \mapsto L (\beta \rho(f,x,R) \ell)\}
  
  by cases on \( \ell \) we prove that this reduces to \( L (\beta \rho(f,x,R) \ell) \); by Lemma 3 we obtain \( \ell' \) such that \( L (\beta \rho(f,x,R) \ell) \xrightarrow{\sim} L \ell' \) and \( (f(x).R) S|_{\ell'} \subseteq R(f(x).R, S/f,x)|_{\ell'} \); since by hypothesis \( h \) is a consistent map for the function application, we obtain \( V \) such that \( h(V) \subseteq (f(x).R) S|_{\ell'} \); by transitivity of \( \subseteq \), we obtain \( h(V) \subseteq R(f(x).R, S/f,x)|_{\ell'} \), which proves the thesis.
• $E \vdash \oplus(U_n) \xrightarrow{E \oplus U_n} \oplus(U_n)$

the only location in $\oplus(U_n)$ is $\epsilon$, so we have to find $V$ such that $E \oplus U_n \ell \xrightarrow{\epsilon} V$ and $\hat{h}(V) \subseteq \oplus(U_n)$.

We show that $E \oplus U_n \ell \xrightarrow{\epsilon} k_{U_i}((L[i]) \rho U_i)_{i=1..n}$ and choose this as $V$; we also compute $\hat{h}(V) = \hat{h}(k_{U_i}((L[i]) \rho U_i)_{i=1..n}) = \oplus(h((L[i]) \rho U_i)_{i=1..n})$; for each $i = 1..n$ we prove $\hat{h}((L[i]) \rho U_i) \subseteq U_i$; in fact, the argument of the function is either a symbol $k_{U_i}$ representing $U_i$ (which must be a constant), and $h(U_i) = U_i$, or some value $U^*$ such that $L[i] \rho U^*$, and this is enough to prove $\hat{h}(U^*) \subseteq U_i$ by the hypothesis on $h$; this implies $\hat{h}(V) \subseteq \oplus(U_n) \xrightarrow{\epsilon} \oplus(U_n)$, which proves the thesis.

• $E \vdash \text{fst}((R,S)) \xrightarrow{E \text{fst}} R$

by a simple case analysis on $\ell$ we obtain $E \text{fst} \ell \xrightarrow{\ell} (1 \# 1 \# \ell)$, where $1 \# 1 \# \ell \in \text{locs}((R,S))$; since $h \vdash \text{fst}((R,S))$, we obtain $V$ such that $\hat{h}(V) \subseteq \text{fst}(R,S)|_{1\#1\#\ell} = R|_{\ell}$, which proves the thesis.

• $E \vdash R S \xrightarrow{\text{2 \# 1 \# 1 \#}} R' S$

assume by IH that, for all $L'$, if $h \vdash L' \triangleright R$, then $h \vdash T L' \triangleright R'$; we assume $\ell \in \text{locs}(R' S)$ and proceed by cases:

- $\ell = \epsilon$: then we have $J_{2,1} T L \xrightarrow{\epsilon} L \epsilon$; since $\epsilon \in \text{locs}(R S)$ and $h \vdash L \triangleright R S$, we obtain $V$ such that $\hat{h}(V) \subseteq R S|_{\epsilon} = R S$; since $R S \xrightarrow{\epsilon} R' S$, this also implies $\hat{h}(V) \subseteq R' S$.

- $\ell = 2 \# \ell_1$, where $\ell_1 \in \text{locs}(S)$: then we have $J_{2,1} T L (2 \# \ell_1) \xrightarrow{\epsilon} L (2 \# \ell_1)$; similarly to the previous case, we obtain $V$ such that $\hat{h}(V) \subseteq R S|_{2\#\ell_1} = R' S|_{2\#\ell_1}$, which proves the thesis.

- $\ell = 1 \# \ell_1$, where $\ell_1 \in \text{locs}(R)$: then we have $J_{2,1} T L (1 \# \ell_1) \xrightarrow{\epsilon} T L (\circ \text{loc}_1) \ell_1$; by Lemma 6 we prove $h \vdash L \circ \text{loc}_1 \triangleright R$, and consequently, by IH, we obtain $V$ such that $\hat{h}(V) \subseteq R'|_{\ell_1} = R' S|_{1\#\ell_1}$, which proves the thesis.

\hfill \square

**Definition 3.** Given a relation $\mathcal{R}$ on values, we define its extension to expressions $\mathcal{R}^+$ as follows:

$$M_1 \mathcal{R}^+ M_2 \iff (\forall V_1. M_1 \xrightarrow{\epsilon} V_1 \Rightarrow \exists V_2. M_2 \xrightarrow{\epsilon} V_2 \land V_1 \mathcal{R} V_2)$$

To prove the soundness theorem for dependency provenance, we introduce the following notations:

- quasi-equality $L_M \triangleright M \approx_a L_N \triangleright N$ (Fig. 8)

- substitution for provenance-labelled expressions

- guarded reduction $D \vdash (L \triangleright M) \overset{\mathcal{T}}{\rightarrow} a N$ (Fig. ??)

- non-guarded reduction $D \vdash (L \triangleright M) \overset{\mathcal{N}}{\rightarrow} a N$ (Fig. ??)

\hfill \square

**Lemma 7.** Assume $L_M \triangleright M \approx_a L_N \triangleright N$. Let $L'_{M,} L'_{N}$ such that for all $\ell \in \text{locs}(M) \cup \text{locs}(N)$ we have $L_M \ell \xrightarrow{\mathcal{R}} L'_{M,} \ell$ and $L_N \ell \xrightarrow{\mathcal{R}} L'_{N,} \ell$. Then $L_M \triangleright M \approx_a L'_{N,} \triangleright N$

\hfill \square

**Lemma 8.** Suppose $L_M \triangleright M \approx_a L'_M \triangleright M'$ and $L_N \triangleright N \approx_a L'_N \triangleright N'$ (pointwise). Then $(L_M \triangleright M)\{L'_N \triangleright N'\} \approx_a (L'_M \triangleright M')\{L'_N \triangleright N'\}$.

\hfill \square

**Lemma 9.** Suppose:

$$\begin{align*}
\text{\text{Prov}_{2,1}} & \ L \triangleright f(x).M_1 \approx_a \text{\text{Prov}_{2,1}} \ L' \triangleright f(x).M'_1 \\
\text{\text{Prov}_{1,1}} & \ (\text{\text{Prov}_{2,1}} \ L) \triangleright M_1 \approx_a \text{\text{Prov}_{2,1}} \ (\text{\text{Prov}_{2,1}} \ L') \triangleright M'_1 \\
\text{\text{Prov}_{2,2}} & \ L \triangleright M_2 \approx_a \text{\text{Prov}_{2,2}} \ L' \triangleright M'_2 \\
\end{align*}$$

Then:

$$D_{\beta} (f(x).M_1, M_2) \ L \triangleright M_1[f(x), M_1, M_2/f, x] \approx_a (D_{\beta} (f(x).M_1, M_2) \ L' \triangleright M'_1[f(x), M'_1, M'_2/f, x])$$

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\[\begin{align*}
\text{Figure 8: Quasi-equality} & \\
\text{Figure 9: Substitution for provenance-labelled expressions (selected cases)} & \\
\text{Figure 10: Guarded reduction}
\end{align*}\]
Figure 11: Non-guarded reduction
Proof. Let

\[ L_N \vdash N = (\mathsf{E}_{1,1}^{\mathsf{Prov}} L) \vdash M_1 \]
\[
\{ \mathsf{E}_{1,1}^{\mathsf{Prov}} L \vdash f(x).M_1, \mathsf{E}_{2,2}^{\mathsf{Prov}} L \vdash M_2/f, x \} \]
\[ L_N' \vdash N' = (\mathsf{E}_{1,1}^{\mathsf{Prov}} L') \vdash M'_1 \]
\[
\{ \mathsf{E}_{2,2}^{\mathsf{Prov}} L' \vdash f(x).M'_1, \mathsf{E}_{2,2}^{\mathsf{Prov}} L' \vdash M'_2/f, x \} \]

Let us use the following notation:

\[ L \preceq_S L' \iff (\forall \ell \in S : L \ell \subseteq^* L' \ell) \]

We prove:

\[ L_N \preceq_{\mathsf{Locs}(N), \mathsf{Locs}(N')} D_\beta \beta(f(x).M_1, M_2) L \]
\[ L_N' \preceq_{\mathsf{Locs}(N), \mathsf{Locs}(N')} D_\beta \beta(f(x).M'_1, M'_2) L' \]

So, by Lemma 7, to prove the lemma we only need to show that

\[ L_N \vdash N \approx_a L_N' \vdash N' \]

which is a consequence of Lemma 8. \(\square\)

**Proof of Theorem 4**

Suppose \( L \triangleright M \approx_a L' \triangleright M' \). Then:

1. If \( D \vdash (L \triangleright M) \rho_a N \), we have \( T \vdash N \approx_a L' \triangleright M' \).
2. If \( D \vdash (L \triangleright M) \rho_a N \), there exist \( N', M' \) such that \( D \vdash M' \rho_a N' \) and \( T \vdash N \approx_a L' \triangleright N' \).

Proof. We proceed by induction on the derivation of \( L \triangleright M \approx_a L' \triangleright M' \). Selected cases:

- \( a \in ^* (L \ell) \cup (L' \ell) \)

1. Assume \( D \vdash (L \triangleright M) \rho_a N \); we prove that \( a \in ^* T L \ell \cup (L' \ell) \) (under the dependency view, annotations are monotonically increasing), thus \( a \in ^* T L \ell \cup (L' \ell) \) and thus \( T \vdash N \approx_a L' \triangleright M' \).
2. Assume \( D \vdash (L \triangleright M) \rho_a N \); by case analysis on the last rule of this derivation we show that \( a \not\in ^* L \ell \), reaching a contradiction

- \( a \not\in ^* (L \ell) \cup (L' \ell) \), \( M = M_1 \cup M_2 \)
- \( M' = M'_1 \cup M'_2 \)
- \( \mathsf{E}_{2,1}^{\mathsf{Prov}} L \vdash M_i \approx_a \mathsf{E}_{2,2}^{\mathsf{Prov}} L' \triangleright M'_i \) for \( i = 1, 2 \)

1. Assume \( D \vdash (L \triangleright M_1 \cup M_2) \rho_a N \); since \( a \not\in ^* L \ell \), by a case analysis on the derivation of reduction we see that the reduction is happening entirely within \( M_i \) (for \( i = 1, 2 \)); if \( i = 1 \) (the case for \( i = 2 \)) is similar, for some \( T_1, N_1 \) we have \( T = T_1 \cup T_1, N = N_1 \cup M_2 \) and

\[ D \vdash (\mathsf{E}_{2,1}^{\mathsf{Prov}} L \triangleright M_1) \rho_{T_1} N_1 \]

By IH we have \( T_1 \vdash (\mathsf{E}_{2,1}^{\mathsf{Prov}} L) \vdash N_1 \approx_a \mathsf{E}_{2,2}^{\mathsf{Prov}} L' \triangleright M'_1 \), thus also \( T \vdash N_1 \cup M_2 \approx_a L' \triangleright M'_1 \cup M'_2 \). 2. Assume \( D \vdash (L \triangleright M_1 \cup M_2) \rho_a N \); by case analysis on the last rule of this derivation we show that either the reduction happened entirely within \( M_1 \) or \( M_2 \) (in which case the proof is similar to the previous subcase), or \( M_1 = f(x).M_0 \) and the reduction is a beta reduction

\[ D \vdash L \triangleright (f(x).M_0) M_0 \approx_a \mathsf{E}_{2,1}^{\mathsf{Prov}} L \triangleright M'_1 \]

Additionally, a \( \not\in ^* L \) [1]. By case analysis on \( \mathsf{E}_{2,2}^{\mathsf{Prov}} L \triangleright f(x).M_0 \approx_a \mathsf{E}_{2,2}^{\mathsf{Prov}} L' \triangleright M'_1 \) we prove \( M'_1 = f(x).M'_0 \), with \( \mathsf{E}_{1,1}^{\mathsf{Prov}} (\mathsf{E}_{2,2}^{\mathsf{Prov}} L) \vdash M_0 \approx_a \mathsf{E}_{1,1}^{\mathsf{Prov}} (\mathsf{E}_{2,2}^{\mathsf{Prov}} L') \vdash M'_0 \). Then we prove:

\[ D \vdash (f(x).M'_0) M'_0 \approx_a \mathsf{E}_{2,2}^{\mathsf{Prov}} L' \triangleright M'_0 \]

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Finally, by Lemma 9, we have:

\[ D_\beta (\rho(f, x.M_0)) L \triangleright M_0[f(x).M_0, M_2/f, x] \approx_a \]
\[ D_\beta (\rho(f, x.M'_0)) L' \triangleright M'_0[f(x).M'_0, M'_2/f, x] \]

which proves the thesis.

□