

# Soft Time and Soft Space

## *Soft Linear Logic and Polynomial-bound Complexity Classes*

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# Introduction

- ICC: Implicit Computational Complexity
- The problem: to design programming languages with bounded computational complexity
- The proposed solution: a ML-like approach
  - $\lambda$ -calculus as paradigmatic programming language
  - Types as semantic properties of terms
  - Type assignment for  $\lambda$ -calculus such that:
    - types guarantee the correctness of terms, in particular their complexity bound
    - if the type inference is decidable, the desired properties can be checked statically at compilation time
  - The technical tool: the Light Logics (derived from the Linear Logic of Girard) where the cut-elimination procedure is bounded in time by the size of the proof, exploiting the isomorphism:

*FORMULAE as TYPES*

# Outline

- Soft Linear Logic (SLL)(Lafont, 1988)
- STA, a type assignment for  $\lambda$ -calculus derived from SLL
- Properties of STA:
  - Subject reduction
  - Correctness: a term typable in STA reduces to normal form in a number of steps polynomial in its size
  - Completeness : all polynomial functions can be programmed in STA
- $STA_B$ , an extension of STA typing an extended  $\lambda$ -calculus
  - Subject reduction
  - Correctness : a term typable in  $STA_B$  can be reduced to normal form using polynomial space in its size
  - Completeness : all polynomial space functions can be programmed in  $STA_B$
- Future development

# Intuitionistic Linear Logic ( $\multimap, !, \forall$ fragment)

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{}{A \vdash A} \text{ (Id)} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad \Delta, A \vdash B}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash B} \text{ (cut)} \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma, A \vdash B}{\Gamma \vdash A \multimap B} \text{ (\multimap R)} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad B, \Delta \vdash C}{A \multimap B, \Gamma, \Delta \vdash C} \text{ (\multimap L)} \\
 \\
 \frac{! \Gamma \vdash A}{! \Gamma \vdash ! A} \text{ (!R)} \qquad \frac{\Gamma, B \vdash A}{\Gamma, ! B \vdash A} \text{ (!L)} \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma \vdash A}{\Gamma, ! B \vdash A} \text{ (W)} \qquad \frac{\Gamma, ! B, ! B \vdash A}{\Gamma, ! B \vdash A} \text{ (C)} \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad \alpha \notin FV(\Gamma)}{\Gamma \vdash \forall \alpha. A} \text{ (\forall R)} \qquad \frac{\Gamma, B[C/\alpha] \vdash A}{\Gamma, \forall \alpha. B \vdash A} \text{ (\forall L)}
 \end{array}$$

# An equivalent formulation of ILL

$$\frac{}{A \vdash A} \text{ (Id)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad \Delta, A \vdash B}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash B} \text{ (cut)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, A \vdash B}{\Gamma \vdash A \multimap B} \text{ (}\multimap R\text{)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad B, \Delta \vdash C}{A \multimap B, \Gamma, \Delta \vdash C} \text{ (}\multimap L\text{)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \overbrace{A, \dots, A}^{n \text{ times}} \vdash C}{\Gamma, !A \vdash C} \text{ (mpx)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A}{! \Gamma \vdash !A} \text{ (sp)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, !!B \vdash A}{\Gamma, !B \vdash A} \text{ (digging)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad \alpha \notin FV(\Gamma)}{\Gamma \vdash \forall \alpha. A} \text{ (}\forall R\text{)} \quad \frac{\Gamma, B[C/\alpha] \vdash A}{\Gamma, \forall \alpha. B \vdash A} \text{ (}\forall L\text{)}$$

NOTE. (W) is (mpx), with  $n = 0$ . (C) is (mpx)+(digging).

# From ILL to SLL

$$\text{SLL} = \text{ILL} - (\textit{digging})$$

which means that

$$!A \multimap !!A$$

does not hold anymore.

So the modality ! can effectively be used for counting the number of duplications of formulae performed in a proof.

# Soft Linear Logic (SLL) ( $\multimap, !, \forall$ fragment)

$$\frac{}{A \vdash A} \text{ (Id)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad \Delta, A \vdash B}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash B} \text{ (cut)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, A \vdash B}{\Gamma \vdash A \multimap B} \text{ (\multimap R)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad B, \Delta \vdash C}{A \multimap B, \Gamma, \Delta \vdash C} \text{ (\multimap L)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, \overbrace{A, \dots, A}^{n \text{ times}} \vdash C}{\Gamma, !A \vdash C} \text{ (mpx)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash A}{! \Gamma \vdash !A} \text{ (sp)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad \alpha \notin FV(\Gamma)}{\Gamma \vdash \forall \alpha. A} \text{ (\forall R)} \quad \frac{\Gamma, B[C/\alpha] \vdash A}{\Gamma, \forall \alpha. B \vdash A} \text{ (\forall L)}$$

$n$  is the **rank** of the rule (mpx).

# Properties of SLL

The cut elimination procedure applied on a proof  $\Pi$  of size  $n$  takes a number of steps  $\leq |\Pi| \times n^d$ , where:

- $|\Pi|$  is the **size** of  $\Pi$
- $n$  is the **maximum rank** of a multiplexor in  $\Pi$
- $d$  is the **maximum number of nested applications of rule (*sp*)** in  $\Pi$  (**depth** of the proof).

So, considering:

*PROOFS*                      *as*                      *PROGRAM*  
*CUT – ELIMINATION*      *as*                      *COMPUTATION*

SLL is **correct** for polynomial time computations. Moreover, every polynomial time Turing

Machine can be encoded by a SLL proof. Since data can be encoded by proofs with depth 0,

SLL is also **complete** for polynomial time computations.



# A standard decoration of SLL by $\lambda$ -terms

$$\frac{}{x : A \vdash x : A} \text{ (Id)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : A \quad \Delta, x : A \vdash N : B \quad \Gamma \# \Delta}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash N[M/x] : B} \text{ (cut)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : A \quad x : B, \Delta \vdash N : C \quad \Gamma \# \Delta \quad y \text{ fresh}}{\Gamma, y : A \multimap B, \Delta \vdash N[yM/x] : C} (\multimap L)$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash M : B}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x.M : A \multimap B} (\multimap R)$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : A}{!\Gamma \vdash M : !A} \text{ (sp)} \quad \frac{\Gamma, x_0 : A, \dots, x_n : A \vdash M : B}{\Gamma, x : !A \vdash M[x/x_0, \dots, x/x_n] : B} \text{ (mpx)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : A}{\Gamma \vdash M : \forall \alpha.A} (\forall R) \quad \frac{\Gamma, x : A[B/\alpha] \vdash M : C}{\Gamma, x : \forall \alpha.A \vdash M : C} (\forall L)$$

# Problems

- The decorated system **does not enjoy subject reduction**.

$$x : A \multimap !B, y : A \vdash xy : !B$$

So  $x : A \multimap !B, y : A \vdash (\lambda zw.wzz)(xy) : !B \multimap (!B \multimap !B \multimap A) \multimap A$ , but  
 $x : A \multimap !B, y : A \not\vdash \lambda w.w(xy)(xy) : !B \multimap (!B \multimap !B \multimap A) \multimap A$

- The decorated system **does not inherit the complexity properties of SLL** :  
some terms can be typed, which reduce in exponential time in their size:

$$z : !A, y_1 : !A \multimap !A \multimap !A, \dots, y_n : !A \multimap !A \multimap !A \vdash_L (\lambda x.y_1 xx)(\dots((\lambda x.y_n xx)z)) : !A$$

(Technical reason: a term with a modal type can be derived from a not modal context, so **modality does not implies anymore that the term can be duplicated**) .

Moreover:

- **The sequent calculus presentation is not suitable for a programming language** :  
it does not allow proofs by induction on terms.

# Solution

STA is a natural deduction style type assignment system inspired by SLL, but:

- Terms are built in a linear way, and  $(mpx)$  rule is used for controlling variable duplication.

Technically this is realized by using as types a subset of the SLL formulae such that:

- $\forall$  is not allowed on modal formulae
- $!$  is not allowed on the right of  $\multimap$
- weakening introduces not modal formulae

STA types are the following subset of SLL formulae:

$$\begin{aligned} A & ::= \alpha \mid \sigma \multimap A \mid \forall \alpha. A && \text{(linear types)} \\ \sigma & ::= A \mid !\sigma \end{aligned}$$

# Rules of STA

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{}{x : A \vdash x : A} \text{ (Ax)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \sigma}{\Gamma, x : A \vdash M : \sigma} \text{ (w)} \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma, x : \sigma \vdash M : A}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x.M : \sigma \multimap A} \text{ (}\multimap\text{I)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \sigma \multimap A \quad \Delta \vdash N : A \quad \Gamma \# \Delta}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash MN : A} \text{ (}\multimap\text{E)} \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma, x_1 : \sigma, \dots, x_n : \sigma \vdash M : A}{\Gamma, x : !\sigma \vdash M[x/x_1, \dots, x/x_n] : A} \text{ (mpx)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash \sigma}{!\Gamma \vdash !\sigma} \text{ (sp)} \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad \alpha \notin FV(\Gamma)}{\Gamma \vdash M : \forall \alpha.A} \text{ (}\forall\text{I)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \forall \alpha.A}{\Gamma \vdash M : A[B/\alpha]} \text{ (}\forall\text{E)}
 \end{array}$$

NOTE.  $\Gamma \# \Delta$  denotes that the two contexts have disjoint variables.

# Linearity Properties of STA

- $\Gamma \vdash M : \sigma$  and  $x : A \in \Gamma$  imply  $x$  occurs **at most once** in  $M$ ;
- $\Pi : !\Gamma \vdash M : !\sigma$  implies  $\Pi$  can be transformed into a derivation  $\Pi'$ :

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \sigma}{!\Gamma \vdash M : !\sigma} \text{ (sp)}$$

So the modality ! is truly a witness of the possibility of duplication!

# Properties of STA

**Theorem 1 (Subject Reduction)**  $\Gamma \vdash M : \mu$  and  $M \rightarrow_{\beta} M'$  imply  $\Gamma \vdash M' : \mu$

**Theorem 2 (Polynomial Time Soundness)** Let  $M$  be typable in STA and let  $\Pi : \Gamma \vdash M : \sigma$ , for some  $\Gamma$  and  $\sigma$ , and let  $d(\Pi)$  be the maximal nesting of (*sp*) rule applications in  $\Pi$ . Then  $M$  reduces to a normal form in a number of steps:

$$\leq |M|^{d(\Pi)+1}$$

and this implies that it reduces to normal form on a Turing machine in time:

$$\leq |M|^{3 \times (d(\Pi)+1)}$$

This means that every typing for  $M$  gives an upper bound to its reduction time !

# Toward the Polynomial Completeness

**Definition 1 ( $\lambda$ -definability)** Let  $f$  be an  $n$ -ary total function from  $I_1 \times \dots \times I_n$  to  $O$ , and let elements in  $I_i$  and in  $O$  be encoded by  $\lambda$ -terms ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ). Let  $\underline{d}$  be the term encoding the data  $d$ .

$f$  is  $\lambda$ -definable if, for some  $\underline{f} \in \Lambda$ :  $\underline{f}\underline{i_1}\dots\underline{i_n} =_{\beta} \underline{f}(i_1, \dots, i_n)$ .

So we can code:

- iterators by Church numerals

$$\underline{n} = \lambda xy. \underbrace{x(\dots x(xy))}_n : \forall \alpha. !^i(\alpha \multimap \alpha) \multimap \alpha \multimap \alpha$$

- natural numbers by strings of booleans

$$[b_0, b_1, \dots, b_n] \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lambda cz. cb_0(\dots (cb_n z) \dots) : \forall \alpha. !^i(\mathbf{B} \multimap \alpha \multimap \alpha) \multimap (\alpha \multimap \alpha)$$

where  $\mathbf{B} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \forall \alpha. \alpha \multimap \alpha \multimap \alpha$

# Polynomial Completeness

**Theorem 3 (PTIME Completeness)** *If a decision problem  $\mathfrak{P}$  is decided in polynomial time  $P$ , where  $\text{deg}(P) = m$ , and in polynomial space  $Q$ , where  $\text{deg}(Q) = l$ , by a Turing Machine  $\mathcal{M}$  then it is representable by a term  $\underline{M}$  typable in STA with a derivation  $\Pi$  with conclusion*

$$s : !^{\max(l,m,1)+1} \forall \alpha. (\mathbf{B} \multimap \alpha \multimap \alpha) \multimap (\alpha \multimap \alpha) \vdash \underline{M} : \mathbf{B}$$

**Theorem 4 (FPTIME Completeness)** *If a function  $\mathcal{F}$  is computed in polynomial time  $P$ , where  $\text{deg}(P) = m$ , and in polynomial space  $Q$ , where  $\text{deg}(Q) = l$ , by a Turing Machine  $\mathcal{M}$ , then it is representable by a term  $\underline{M}$  such that:*

$$s : !^{\max(l,m,1)+1} \forall \alpha. (\mathbf{B} \multimap \alpha \multimap \alpha) \multimap (\alpha \multimap \alpha) \vdash \underline{M} : \forall \alpha. !^{2m+1} (\mathbf{B} \multimap \alpha \multimap \alpha) \multimap (\alpha \multimap \alpha)$$



# From Polynomial Time to Polynomial Space

Polynomial Space Computations coincide with polynomial time alternating Turing Machine Computations (APT<sub>TIME</sub>). In particular:

$$\text{PSPACE} = \text{NPSPACE} = \text{APT}_{\text{TIME}}$$

So we can start from STA, characterizing polynomial time computations, adding to it some features (both to types and to the  $\lambda$ -calculus) in order to catch PSPACE.

We need to represent a computation that repeatedly fork into subcomputations and whose result is obtained by a backward computation from all the subcomputations results.

Technically we need:

- an **if** constructor on the language
- a special type **B** for booleans

# Terms and Types of $\text{STA}_{\mathbf{B}}$

Terms of  $\text{STA}_{\mathbf{B}}$ :

$$M ::= x \mid 0 \mid 1 \mid \lambda x.M \mid MM \mid \text{if } M \text{ then } M \text{ else } M$$

Reduction rules:

$$(\lambda x.M)N \rightarrow_{\beta} M[N/x]$$
$$\text{if } 0 \text{ then } M \text{ else } N \rightarrow_{\delta} M \quad \text{if } 1 \text{ then } M \text{ else } N \rightarrow_{\delta} N$$

$\rightarrow_{\beta\delta}^*$  denotes the reflexive and transitive closure of  $\rightarrow_{\beta\delta}$ .

Types of  $\text{STA}_{\mathbf{B}}$ :

$$A ::= \mathbf{B} \mid \alpha \mid \sigma \multimap A \mid \forall\alpha.A \quad (\text{Linear Types})$$
$$\sigma ::= A \mid !\sigma$$

# Rules of STA<sub>B</sub>

$$\frac{}{x : A \vdash x : A} \text{ (Ax)} \quad \frac{}{\vdash 0 : \mathbf{B}} \text{ (B}_0\text{I)} \quad \frac{}{\vdash 1 : \mathbf{B}} \text{ (B}_1\text{I)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \sigma}{\Gamma, x : A \vdash M : \sigma} \text{ (w)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \sigma \vdash M : A}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x. M : \sigma \multimap A} \text{ (}\multimap\text{I)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \sigma \multimap A \quad \Delta \vdash N : \sigma \quad \Gamma \# \Delta}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash MN : A} \text{ (}\multimap\text{E)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x_1 : \sigma, \dots, x_n : \sigma \vdash M : \mu}{\Gamma, x : !\sigma \vdash M[x/x_1, \dots, x/x_n] : \mu} \text{ (m)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \sigma}{!\Gamma \vdash M : !\sigma} \text{ (sp)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : A \quad \alpha \notin \text{FTV}(\Gamma)}{\Gamma \vdash M : \forall \alpha. A} \text{ (}\forall\text{I)} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \forall \alpha. B}{\Gamma \vdash M : B[A/\alpha]} \text{ (}\forall\text{E)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \mathbf{B} \quad \Gamma \vdash N_0 : \sigma \quad \Gamma \vdash N_1 : \sigma}{\Gamma \vdash \text{if } M \text{ then } N_0 \text{ else } N_1 : \sigma} \text{ (BE)}$$

# Properties of $\text{STA}_{\mathbf{B}}$

**Theorem 5 (Subject Reduction)** *Let  $\Gamma \vdash M : \sigma$  and  $M \rightarrow_{\beta\delta} N$ . Then  $\Gamma \vdash N : \sigma$ .*

**Remark 1** *The new rule ( $\mathbf{BE}$ ) has an additive behaviour of contexts. As consequence,  $\text{STA}_{\mathbf{B}}$  is no more correct for polynomial time computations.*

*In fact, let:*

$$M_n = (\lambda yz.y^n z)(\lambda x.\text{if } x \text{ then } x \text{ else } x)0$$

*for all  $n$ :*

$$\vdash M_n :!(\mathbf{B} \multimap \mathbf{B}) \multimap \mathbf{B} \multimap \mathbf{B}$$

*but*

$$M_n \rightarrow_{\beta\delta}^* 0$$

*in a number of steps exponential in  $n$ !*

# Toward PSPACE characterization

Let  $M_0 \rightarrow_{\beta\delta} M_1 \rightarrow_{\beta\delta} \dots \rightarrow_{\beta\delta} M_n$ , where  $M_n$  is a normal form. The **space** used by this reduction is the maximum size of  $M_i$  ( $0 \leq i \leq n$ ).

While for STA the **complexity time properties hold for every reduction strategy** (i.e., a term  $M$  typable in STA reduces to normal form in a polynomial number of steps, for every reduction strategy), **the space characterization will hold only for the leftmost-outermost reduction strategy**. In fact, let:

$$M = (\lambda yz.z)M_n = (\lambda yz.z)((\lambda yz.y^n z)(\lambda x. \text{if } x \text{ then } x \text{ else } x)0) \rightarrow_{\beta\delta}^* \lambda z.z$$

Clearly the size of  $M$  is linear in  $n$ . Using the leftmost outermost reduction strategy, it takes space linear in  $M$ :

$$(\lambda yz.z)M_n \rightarrow_{\beta\delta} \lambda z.z$$

while, using the innermost strategy, it takes space exponential in  $n$ , since (posing  $P = \lambda x. \text{if } x \text{ then } x \text{ else } x)0$ )

$$M \rightarrow_{\beta\delta}^* (\lambda yz.z)(P^n 0) \rightarrow_{\beta\delta}^* 0$$

# A leftmost outermost reduction machine

The machine is a set of rules of the shape:

$$\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{A} \models N \Downarrow b$$

where:

- $\mathcal{A}$  is the store, and it allows to perform substitutions one occurrence at a time:

$$\mathcal{A} ::= \emptyset \mid \mathcal{A}@\{x := M\}$$

- $\mathcal{C}$  is a context remembering the computation path, and it allows to avoid backtracking:

$$\mathcal{C}[\circ] ::= \circ \mid (\text{if } \mathcal{C}[\circ] \text{ then } L \text{ else } R)V_1 \cdots V_n$$

- $N$  is program (a closed term of type **B**)

# The rules of the machine

$$\overline{\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{A} \models \mathbf{b} \Downarrow \mathbf{b}} \quad (Ax)$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{A}@\{x' := N\} \models M[x'/x]V_1 \cdots V_m \Downarrow \mathbf{b}^*}{\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{A} \models (\lambda x.M)NV_1 \cdots V_m \Downarrow \mathbf{b}} \quad (\beta)$$

$$\frac{\{x := N\} \in \mathcal{A} \quad \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{A} \models NV_1 \cdots V_m \Downarrow \mathbf{b}}{\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{A} \models xV_1 \cdots V_m \Downarrow \mathbf{b}} \quad (h)$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{C}[(\text{if } [0] \text{ then } N_0 \text{ else } N_1)V_1 \cdots V_m], \mathcal{A} \models M \Downarrow 0 \quad \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{A} \models N_0V_1 \cdots V_m \Downarrow \mathbf{b}}{\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{A} \models (\text{if } M \text{ then } N_0 \text{ else } N_1)V_1 \cdots V_m \Downarrow \mathbf{b}} \quad (\text{if } 0)$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{C}[(\text{if } [0] \text{ then } N_0 \text{ else } N_1)V_1 \cdots V_m], \mathcal{A} \models M \Downarrow 1 \quad \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{A} \models N_1V_1 \cdots V_m \Downarrow \mathbf{b}}{\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{A} \models (\text{if } M \text{ then } N_0 \text{ else } N_1)V_1 \cdots V_m \Downarrow \mathbf{b}} \quad (\text{if } 1)$$

(\*)  $x'$  is a fresh variable.

# Properties of $STA_B$

Let the abstract machine compute:  $\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{A} \models M \Downarrow b$ . Then the **space** used by the machine during this computation is:

the maximal size of the store used during the computation

+

the maximal size of the context used during the computation

**Theorem 6 (Polynomial Space Soundness)** *Let  $M$  be a **program** (a closed term of type  $B$ ), and let  $\Pi$  be a **derivation** of  $\vdash M : B$ , and let  $d(\Pi)$  be the **depth** of  $\Pi$  (the maximal nesting of applications of  $(sp)$  rule in  $\Pi$ ). Then  $M$  reduces to normal form using a space*

$$\leq 3 \times |M|^{3 \times d(\Pi) + 4}$$

This means that **every typing for  $M$  gives an upper bound to its reduction space !**



# Properties of $\text{STA}_B$

**Lemma 1** A *decision problem*  $\mathcal{D} : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  decidable by an Alternating Turing Machine  $\mathcal{M}$  in polynomial time and space is programmable in  $\text{STA}_B$ .

The proof is given by a coding of Alternating Turing Machine, similar to the coding used for STA.

**Theorem 7 (Polynomial Space Completeness)** Every decision problem  $\mathcal{D} \in \text{PSPACE}$  is programmable in  $\text{STA}_B$ .

# Bibliography

- **STA and STA<sub>B</sub> have been presented respectively in:**  
*Gaboardi M., Ronchi Della Rocca S., “ A Soft type assignment system for  $\lambda$ -calculus”, CSL '07.*  
*Gaboardi M., Marion J. Y., Ronchi Della Rocca S., “ A logical account of PSPACE”, submitted.*
- **Other characterization of polynomial computations though  $\lambda$ -calculus and type assignment system based on LAL (Light Affine Logic):**  
*Baillot P., Terui K., “Light Types for polynomial time computation in  $\lambda$ -calculus”, LICS 04.*
- **A characterization of elementary computations though  $\lambda$ -calculus and type assignment system based on EAL (Elementary Affine Logic):**  
*Coppola P., Dal Lago U., Ronchi Della Rocca S., “Elementary Affine Logic and and the call-by-value  $\lambda$ -calculus”, TLCA 05.*
- **There are not other logical charactizations of PSPACE, beyond STA<sub>B</sub>.**

# Future developments

- The STA type assignment system is undecidable. We are exploring **decidable restrictions of STA**, which preserve the complexity bounds.  
(with Marco Gaboardi and Luca Roversi)
- We would like to give a **characterization by a type assignment system also for (F)NPTIME**, the computations that can be carried out in polynomial time by a non deterministic Turing Machine. The idea is to extend the  $\lambda$ -calculus by a non deterministic operator, and STA by a logical sum.  
(with Marco Gaboardi)