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# Lambek Calculus with Banged Atoms for Parasitic Gaps

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**Abstract.** Lambek Calculus is a non-commutative substructural logic for formalising linguistic constructions. However, its domain of applicability is limited to constructions with local dependencies. We propose here a simple extension that allows us to formalise a range of relativised constructions with long distance dependencies, notably medial extractions and the challenging case of parasitic gaps. In proof theoretic terms, our logic combines commutative and non-commutative behaviour, as well as linear and non-linear resource management. This is achieved with a single restricted modality. But unlike other extensions of Lambek Calculus with modalities, our logic remains decidable, and the complexity of proof search (i.e., sentence parsing) is the same as for the basic Lambek calculus. Furthermore, we provide not only a sequent calculus, and a cut elimination theorem, but also proof nets.

**Keywords:** Substructural Logics · Permutation and Contraction · Exponentials · Proof Nets · Polarised Systems · Natural Language · Relativisation · Long Distance Dependencies

## 1 Introduction

The *Lambek Calculus* [21] is a well-established tool in formal linguistics. It is a cut-free proof calculus for a logic with a non-commutative multiplication and two directional divisions. Proof search in the Lambek calculus is **NP**-complete [37]. It has been implemented in automatic parsers—the most recent using deep neural network technology—and applied to verify the grammaticality of sentences and phrases of languages such as English, Dutch and French [29,28,18,19]. However, the non-commutative nature of Lambek Calculus means that it can only model the elementary fragments of these languages.

Natural Languages, on the other hand, witnesses long distance dependencies in a range of constructions such as relativisation, topicalisation, and wh-questions. In these cases, a syntactic element such as an object of a verb e.g. the direct object “articles” of the verb “read” in (a) below, is withdrawn from its original place, i.e. after the verb, and placed at a different part of the sentence, for instance to the head of the relative clause. In such cases, a relative

pronoun such as “that” *relates* the head to the rest of the clause. Traditionally, withdrawal places are called *gaps* and marked with  $-$ , as in the examples below:

- (a) articles that reviewers read  $-$  yesterday
- (b) articles that reviewers accepted  $-_1$  without reading  $-_2$
- (c) articles that reviewers accepted  $-_1$  after skimming  $-_2$  without reading  $-_3$
- (d) the article that a review about  $-_1$  in a blog post made  $-_2$  famous
- (e) articles that chairs persuaded every reviewer of  $-_1$  to accept  $-_2$

A relative clause can have multiple gaps, where often some of the gaps, for instance  $-_2$  in (b) and  $-_2$  and  $-_3$  in (c), become *parasitic*. As the name suggests, for a gap to be parasitic means that its presence relies on the existence of another gap [5,3,26]. In other words, the second and third gaps did not exist if the first gap was not there in the first place. In order to see this, note that phrases such as “articles that reviewers read them” are not grammatical. In (b), the main gap  $-_1$  is after the verb “accepted” and the *parasitic* gap  $-_2$  occurs after the gerund “reading”. In (c), we have a similar situation, but one main gap  $-_1$  and two parasitic ones  $-_2$  and  $-_3$ . The parasitic gap can be the first gap, as is the case for  $-_1$  in (d). In this case, both gaps are arguments of the verb “made”. Gaps can also be nested, as in (e), where the parasitic gap  $-_2$  is the object of “accept”, itself nested within a complement of “persuaded”.

Naturally, the Lambek calculus has been extended in various ways with different modalities and additional binary connectives to model long distance dependencies, for example [31,2,24,11,12,25,36,32,34,33]. There has been some recent interest in this by adding the linear logic exponentials [6] and subexponentials [35] to the Lambek calculus [13,14]. However, the presence of exponentials or subexponentials with contraction in a system with non-commutative connectives leads immediately to an undecidable proof system [15,16,39]. The existing solution [13,14] is imposing an external bound on the number of copies. Apart from needing *a priori* knowledge about the bound, this solution contradicts the compositional nature of language constructions. Furthermore, even with such a bound, the complexity of parsing is much higher [22].

We propose here an alternative solution that simply restricts the structure of the formulas under the modalities. For the linguistic applications mentioned above, it is enough to allow the exponentials only for atomic formulas. With this insight, we are able to present a cut-free proof system with the same proof search complexity as the original Lambek calculus.

Besides the aforementioned linguistic motivation for our proof system, there is also an independent proof theoretical interest. Since the advent of linear logic, there has been a dichotomy between linear resources (that can be used exactly once) and classical resources (that can be used unlimited). From the beginning, there have been attempts to merge the two in a single proof system, starting with linear logic itself with the exponentials added, leading to sophisticated systems like Girard’s LU [7], merging all the connectives of classical and linear logic. We take here the opposite direction, allowing the duplication only for a selected set of atoms, which leads to a very simple proof system.

Another dichotomy in substructural proof theory is the one between commutativity and non-commutativity—again with various existing proposals to merge

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{\Gamma_1, a, \Gamma_2 \vdash C}{\Gamma_1, !a, \Gamma_2 \vdash C} \text{!}_L \\
\frac{\Gamma_1, A, B, \Gamma_2 \vdash C}{\Gamma_1, A \cdot B, \Gamma_2 \vdash C} \cdot_L \\
\frac{\Delta \vdash A \quad \Gamma_1, B, \Gamma_2 \vdash C}{\Gamma_1, \Delta, A \setminus B, \Gamma_2 \vdash C} \setminus_L \\
\frac{\Gamma_1, B, \Gamma_2 \vdash C \quad \Delta \vdash A}{\Gamma_1, B/A, \Delta, \Gamma_2 \vdash C} /_L \\
\frac{}{!a \vdash !a} \text{id}_! \\
\frac{\Gamma \vdash A \quad \Delta \vdash B}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash A \cdot B} \cdot_R \\
\frac{A, \Gamma \vdash B}{\Gamma \vdash A \setminus B} \setminus_R \\
\frac{\Gamma, A \vdash B}{\Gamma \vdash B/A} /_R \\
\frac{}{a \vdash a} \text{id} \\
\frac{\Gamma_1, !a, !a, \Gamma_2 \vdash C}{\Gamma_1, !a, \Gamma_2 \vdash C} \text{con} \\
\frac{\Gamma_1, !a, \Delta, \Gamma_2 \vdash C}{\Gamma_1, \Delta, !a, \Gamma_2 \vdash C} \text{perm}_1 \\
\frac{\Gamma_1, \Delta, !a, \Gamma_2 \vdash C}{\Gamma_1, !a, \Delta, \Gamma_2 \vdash C} \text{perm}_2
\end{array}$$

**Fig. 1.** System  $\mathcal{L}$ .

the two in a single proof system [38,1,8,9]. All of these follow the idea of having both, commutative and non-commutative connectives in the logic. Our approach here is fundamentally different. We only have non-commutative connectives, but we allow to permute a selected set of atoms.

The result is a very simple proof system, that allows us to obtain a notion of proofs nets that is very similar to the one for plain MLL.

In summary, this paper presents a sequent calculus for a logic that is based on the Lambek calculus, but allows the duplication and permutation of atomic formulas that are marked by the !-modality. We prove cut elimination and provide a notion of proof nets with a simple correctness criterion, and we show decidability and **NP**-completeness of the provability problem. This is achieved by translating our system into a one-sided proof system that is based on cyclic MLL [40] and uses the methods presented in [20]. Finally, we show how our calculus can be applied for linguistic purposes.

## 2 The System

We start by defining the set  $\mathcal{L}$  of **formulas** of our calculus. Formulas are denoted by capital Latin letters  $A, B, \dots$ , and are generated from a countable set  $\mathcal{A} = \{a, b, \dots, s, n, gp, \dots\}$  of **atoms** via the following grammar

$$\mathcal{L} ::= \mathcal{A} \mid !A \mid \mathcal{L} \cdot \mathcal{L} \mid \mathcal{L} \setminus \mathcal{L} \mid \mathcal{L} / \mathcal{L}$$

Observe that the modality ! operates only on atoms, whereas the binary connectives  $\cdot$ ,  $\setminus$ , and  $/$  operate on arbitrary formulas, the modality ! can only be applied to atoms, and we call those atom **banged atoms**. We use capital Greek letters  $\Gamma, \Delta, \dots$ , to denote finite lists of formulas, separated by comma:  $\Gamma = A_1, \dots, A_n$ . A **sequent** is a pair  $\Gamma \vdash A$ . The inference rules of our system, denoted by  $\mathcal{L}_1$  and shown in Figure 1, consist of the standard Lambek calculus [21], extended by inference rules dealing with the !-modality. As discussed in the introduction, banged atoms can be duplicated and freely permuted with other formulas. This

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{}{n \vdash n} \text{id} \quad \frac{}{s \vdash s} \text{id} \\
\frac{}{n, n \setminus s \vdash s} \setminus_R \quad \frac{}{n \vdash n} \text{id} \quad \frac{}{s \vdash s} \text{id} \\
\frac{}{n \setminus s \vdash n \setminus s} \setminus_R \quad \frac{}{n, n \setminus s \vdash s} \setminus_L \\
\frac{}{n, n \setminus s, (n \setminus s) \setminus (n \setminus s) \vdash s} \setminus_L \quad \frac{}{n \vdash n} \text{id} \\
\frac{}{n, (n \setminus s) / n, n, (n \setminus s) \setminus (n \setminus s) \vdash s} /_L \quad \frac{}{gp \vdash gp} \text{id} \\
\frac{}{n, (n \setminus s) / n, n, ((n \setminus s) \setminus (n \setminus s)) / gp, gp \vdash s} /_L \quad \frac{}{n \vdash n} \text{id} \\
\frac{}{n, (n \setminus s) / n, n, ((n \setminus s) \setminus (n \setminus s)) / gp, gp / n, n \vdash s} /_L \\
\frac{}{n, (n \setminus s) / n, n, ((n \setminus s) \setminus (n \setminus s)) / gp, gp / n, !n \vdash s} !_L \\
\frac{}{n, (n \setminus s) / n, !n, ((n \setminus s) \setminus (n \setminus s)) / gp, gp / n, !n \vdash s} !_L \\
\frac{}{n, (n \setminus s) / n, ((n \setminus s) \setminus (n \setminus s)) / gp, gp / n, !n \vdash s} \text{perm}_1 \\
\frac{}{n, (n \setminus s) / n, ((n \setminus s) \setminus (n \setminus s)) / gp, gp / n, !n \vdash s} \text{con} \\
\frac{}{n \vdash n} \text{id} \quad \frac{}{n \vdash n} \text{id} \\
\frac{}{n, n \setminus n \vdash n} \setminus_L \quad \frac{}{n, (n \setminus s) / n, ((n \setminus s) \setminus (n \setminus s)) / gp, gp / n, !n \vdash s} /_R \\
\frac{}{n, (n \setminus n) / (s / !n), n, (n \setminus s) / n, ((n \setminus s) \setminus (n \setminus s)) / gp, gp / n \vdash n} /_L
\end{array}$$

Fig. 2. Derivation in  $L_!$  for example (b)

is achieved by the rules  $\text{con}$  (*contraction*) and  $\text{perm}_1$  and  $\text{perm}_2$  (*permutation*)<sup>3</sup> In order to be able to *use* banged atoms in a proof, we need to release the modality eventually. This is done by the  $!_L$ -rule.

In order to have cut elimination, to be discussed in the next section, we also need a  $!_R$ -rule. The reader familiar with rules for modalities in the sequent calculus, might immediately think of the following three options:

$$\frac{a \vdash b}{!a \vdash !b} !_R^1 \quad \frac{a_1, \dots, a_n \vdash b}{!a_1, \dots, !a_n \vdash !b} !_R^2 \quad \frac{!a_1, \dots, !a_n \vdash b}{!a_1, \dots, !a_n \vdash !b} !_R^3 \quad (1)$$

All three rules would ensure the cut elimination result. Now observe that  $!_R^1$  is a special case of  $!_R^2$ , and  $!_R^2$  is derivable from  $!_R^3$  with the  $!_L$ -rule. Thus, in the general case, the three rules have increasing strength. However, since there is no weakening and the  $!$  is restricted to atoms, all three rules are equivalent. This is easy to see by observing that  $!a_1, \dots, !a_n \vdash b$  is only provable if  $n = 1$  and  $a_1 = b$ . For this reason, it is sufficient to have  $!_R = !_R^1$ .

However, as the sequent  $a \vdash b$  is only provable if  $a = b$ , and in that case the proof consists of a single application of the  $\text{id}$ -rule, we can replace  $!_R$  by the  $\text{id}_!$ -rule.<sup>4</sup>

Finally, we have the so-called *Lambek restriction* which demands that we never have an empty left-hand side in a sequent. Looking at our rules, this is equivalent to asking that in the rules  $\setminus_R$  and  $/_R$ , the  $\Gamma$  must not be empty.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Note that we do not have *weakening*. This has linguistic reasons as well as proof theoretical reasons [10].

<sup>4</sup> We thank an anonymous referee for this simplification. However, if the reader insists on a system with only atomic  $\text{id}$ -rules, then  $\frac{}{a \vdash a} \text{id}_!$  can be replaced by  $\frac{a \vdash b}{!a \vdash !b} !_R$ , yielding an equivalent system, not affecting any of the results in this paper.

<sup>5</sup> Observe that since we only allow atoms under the  $!$ , we do not have the issue discussed in [17].

The cut-rule has the usual form: 
$$\frac{\Delta \vdash A \quad \Gamma_1, A, \Gamma_2 \vdash C}{\Gamma_1, \Delta, \Gamma_2 \vdash C} \text{ cut}$$

**Theorem 2.1.** *If a sequent is provable in  $\mathsf{L}_1 + \text{cut}$ , then it is also provable in  $\mathsf{L}_1$ .*

We show the proof in the next section, and we end this section with the observation that even though the the id-rule is restricted to atoms, its general form is derivable.

**Proposition 2.2.** *The rule  $\frac{}{A \vdash A} \text{ id}$  is derivable in  $\mathsf{L}_1$ .*

*Proof.* Straightforward induction on  $A$ . □

*Example 2.3.* Figure 2 shows the derivation for our example (b), which will serve as the running example for this paper. For better readability we highlighted for each inference rule instance the principal formula in the conclusion.

### 3 Cut Elimination

We prove Theorem 2.1 with the help of the following reduction lemma:

**Lemma 3.1.** *If we have a proof*

$$\frac{\begin{array}{c} \triangleleft \pi_1 \\ \Delta \vdash A \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \triangleleft \pi_2 \\ \Gamma_1, A, \Gamma_2 \vdash C \end{array}}{\Gamma_1, \Delta, \Gamma_2 \vdash C} \text{ cut}$$

where  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$  are proofs in  $\mathsf{L}_1$  that do not contain any cuts, then  $\Gamma_1, \Delta, \Gamma_2 \vdash C$  is also provable in  $\mathsf{L}_1$  without the cut-rule.

For proving this lemma, we need the following notions. For a formula  $A$ , we define  $|A|$  to be the *size* of  $A$ , i.e., the number of symbols needed to write  $A$ . For a proof  $\pi$ , we define  $|\pi|$  to be the *size* of  $\pi$ , i.e., the number of inference rule instances used in  $\pi$ .

*Proof (of Lemma 3.1).* The proof is standard and proceeds by induction on the lexicographic pair  $\langle |A|, |\pi_1| + |\pi_2| \rangle$  and a case analysis on the bottom-most rule instances in  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$ .

1. If the bottommost rule instance in  $\pi_1$  or in  $\pi_2$  does not operate on the cut-formula  $A$ , then we can do a simple rule permutation and proceed by induction hypothesis (since  $|\pi_1| + |\pi_2|$  has decreased).
2. We now consider the cases where the bottommost rules instances in  $\pi_1$  and in  $\pi_2$  do operate on the cut-formula  $A$ . If  $A = a$  for some atom  $a$ , then the cut disappears trivially.
3. If  $A = A'/A''$ , then we can replace

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\triangleleft \pi'_1}{\Delta, A'' \vdash A'} / \text{R}}{\Delta \vdash A'/A''} \quad \frac{\frac{\triangleleft \pi'_2}{\Gamma_1, A', \Gamma_2 \vdash C} \quad \frac{\triangleleft \pi''_2}{A \vdash A''} / \text{L}}{\Gamma_1, A', A'', A, \Gamma_2 \vdash C} / \text{L}}{\Gamma_1, \Delta, A, \Gamma_2 \vdash C} \text{ cut} \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \frac{\frac{\triangleleft \pi''_2}{A \vdash A''} \quad \frac{\triangleleft \pi'_1}{\Delta, A'' \vdash A'} \text{ cut}}{\Delta, A \vdash A'} \text{ cut} \quad \frac{\triangleleft \pi'_2}{\Gamma_1, A', \Gamma_2 \vdash C} \text{ cut}}{\Gamma_1, \Delta, A, \Gamma_2 \vdash C} \text{ cut}$$

and proceed by induction hypothesis.

4. If  $A = A' \setminus A''$  or  $A = A' \cdot A''$ , we proceed similarly.  
 5. Let us now look at the cases when  $A = !a$  for some atom  $a$ . There are four possibilities for the bottommost rule in  $\pi_2$ . In the case for  $!_L$  we have

$$\frac{\frac{!a \vdash !a}{!_L} \text{id} \quad \frac{\frac{\pi'_2}{\Gamma_1, a, \Gamma_2 \vdash C}}{\Gamma_1, !a, \Gamma_2 \vdash C} \text{!}_L}{\Gamma_1, !a, \Gamma_2 \vdash C} \text{cut} \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \frac{\frac{\pi'_2}{\Gamma_1, a, \Gamma_2 \vdash C}}{\Gamma_1, !a, \Gamma_2 \vdash C} \text{!}_L$$

and in the case of the **con**-rule we have

$$\frac{\frac{!a \vdash !a}{!_L} \text{id} \quad \frac{\frac{\pi'_2}{\Gamma_1, !a, !a, \Gamma_2 \vdash C}}{\Gamma_1, !a, \Gamma_2 \vdash C} \text{con}}{\Gamma_1, !a, \Gamma_2 \vdash C} \text{cut} \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \frac{\frac{\pi'_2}{\Gamma_1, !a, !a, \Gamma_2 \vdash C}}{\Gamma_1, !a, \Gamma_2 \vdash C} \text{con}$$

Finally, the cases of the **perm**<sub>1</sub>- and **perm**<sub>2</sub>-rules is similar to case 1 above.  $\square$

*Proof (of Theorem 2.1).* By induction on the number of cuts in the derivation, using Lemma 3.1.  $\square$

## 4 A One-sided System

In this section we present a system equivalent to  $L_!$ , but with the (non-commutative versions of the) two connectives  $\otimes$  and  $\wp$  from multiplicative linear logic (MLL). For this, we closely follow the presentation of [20]. The main ingredient is the distinction of the formulas that would occur on the left-hand side of the sequent turnstile from the ones on the right-hand side, using the polarities  $\bullet$  (called *input*) and  $\circ$  (called *output*).

The *raison d'être* of this exercise is to give the proof nets in the next section, which will essentially be the proof nets for cyclic MLL restricted to the Lambek calculus as presented in [20], with some additional conditions for accommodating our  $!$ -atoms.

First, let us recall MLL in its cyclic version [40]. While doing so, we add the necessary modalities that will correspond to the one of  $L_!$ . We denote this logic by  $\text{CyMLL}_{!?,}^6$ . For defining its set  $\mathcal{M}$  of formulas, we introduce a set  $\mathcal{A}^\perp = \{a^\perp, b^\perp, \dots, s^\perp, n^\perp, gp^\perp, \dots\}$  of dual atoms, isomorphic to  $\mathcal{A}$ . We let  $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{A} \cup \mathcal{A}^\perp$  and define  $\mathcal{M}$  via the following grammar:

$$\mathcal{M} ::= \mathcal{X} \mid !\mathcal{X} \mid ?\mathcal{X} \mid \mathcal{M} \otimes \mathcal{M} \mid \mathcal{M} \wp \mathcal{M}$$

The operation  $(\cdot)^\perp$  can be extended to all formulas via  $a^{\perp\perp} = a$ , and  $(!a)^\perp = ?a^\perp$ , and  $(?a)^\perp = !a^\perp$ , and  $(A \otimes B)^\perp = B^\perp \wp A^\perp$ , and  $(A \wp B)^\perp = B^\perp \otimes A^\perp$ .<sup>7</sup> Sequents of  $\text{CyMLL}_{!?,}$  are simply finite lists of formulas  $\vdash \Gamma = \vdash A_1, \dots, A_n$ , i.e., everything is one-sided, and we can write  $\wp \Gamma$  for  $A_1 \wp \dots \wp A_n$ . The inference rules are shown in Figure 3, and as expected, the cut-rule (in its one-sided version) is admissible.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Note that even though the language is similar to cyclic MELL, the logic is very different.

<sup>7</sup> Note the inversion of the order of the arguments, which is crucial.

<sup>8</sup> There is only one **perm**-rule in  $\text{CyMLL}_{!?,}$  because the other one is derivable with the help of the **cyc**-rule.

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{}{\vdash a, a^\perp} \text{id} \quad \frac{\vdash \Gamma, A, B, \Delta}{\vdash \Gamma, A \wp B, \Delta} \wp \quad \frac{\vdash \Gamma, A \quad \vdash B, \Delta}{\vdash \Gamma, A \otimes B, \Delta} \otimes \quad \frac{\vdash \Delta, \Gamma}{\vdash \Gamma, \Delta} \text{cyc} \\
\frac{}{\vdash ?a, !a^\perp} \text{id!} \quad \frac{\vdash \Gamma_1, a, \Gamma_2}{\vdash \Gamma_1, ?a, \Gamma_2} ? \quad \frac{\vdash \Gamma_1, ?a, ?a, \Gamma_2}{\vdash \Gamma_1, ?a, \Gamma_2} \text{con} \quad \frac{\vdash \Gamma_1, \Delta, ?a, \Gamma_2}{\vdash \Gamma_1, ?a, \Delta, \Gamma_2} \text{perm}
\end{array}$$

Fig. 3. Inference rules for CyMLL!<sub>?</sub>

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{\frac{\frac{}{n \vdash n} \text{id} \quad \frac{}{s \vdash s} \text{id}}{\vdash n^\perp, n \otimes s^\perp, s} \otimes}{\vdash n \otimes s^\perp, s, n^\perp} \text{cyc}}{\vdash n \otimes s^\perp, s \wp n^\perp} \wp \quad \frac{\frac{\frac{}{\vdash n^\perp, n} \text{id} \quad \frac{}{\vdash s^\perp, s} \text{id}}{\vdash n^\perp, n \otimes s^\perp, s} \otimes}{\vdash n \otimes s^\perp, s, n^\perp} \text{cyc}}{\vdash n \otimes s^\perp, (s \wp n^\perp) \otimes (n \otimes s^\perp), s, n^\perp} \otimes}{\vdash (s \wp n^\perp) \otimes (n \otimes s^\perp), s, n^\perp, n \otimes s^\perp} \text{cyc}} \otimes \\
\frac{\vdash (s \wp n^\perp) \otimes (n \otimes s^\perp), s, n^\perp, (n \otimes s^\perp) \otimes n, n^\perp}{\vdash s, n^\perp, (n \otimes s^\perp) \otimes n, n^\perp, (s \wp n^\perp) \otimes (n \otimes s^\perp)} \text{cyc} \quad \frac{}{\vdash n, n^\perp} \text{id}}{\vdash s, n^\perp, (n \otimes s^\perp) \otimes n, n^\perp, ((s \wp n^\perp) \otimes (n \otimes s^\perp)) \otimes gp, gp^\perp} \otimes \quad \frac{}{\vdash n, n^\perp} \text{id}}{\vdash s, n^\perp, (n \otimes s^\perp) \otimes n, n^\perp, ((s \wp n^\perp) \otimes (n \otimes s^\perp)) \otimes gp, gp^\perp \otimes n, n^\perp} \otimes \\
\frac{\vdash n^\perp, s, n^\perp, (n \otimes s^\perp) \otimes n, n^\perp, ((s \wp n^\perp) \otimes (n \otimes s^\perp)) \otimes gp, gp^\perp \otimes n}{\vdash ?n^\perp, s, n^\perp, (n \otimes s^\perp) \otimes n, n^\perp, ((s \wp n^\perp) \otimes (n \otimes s^\perp)) \otimes gp, gp^\perp \otimes n} ? \\
\frac{\vdash ?n^\perp, s, n^\perp, (n \otimes s^\perp) \otimes n, n^\perp, ((s \wp n^\perp) \otimes (n \otimes s^\perp)) \otimes gp, gp^\perp \otimes n}{\vdash ?n^\perp, s, n^\perp, (n \otimes s^\perp) \otimes n, ?n^\perp, ((s \wp n^\perp) \otimes (n \otimes s^\perp)) \otimes gp, gp^\perp \otimes n} ? \\
\frac{\vdash ?n^\perp, s, n^\perp, (n \otimes s^\perp) \otimes n, n^\perp, ((s \wp n^\perp) \otimes (n \otimes s^\perp)) \otimes gp, gp^\perp \otimes n}{\vdash ?n^\perp, ?n^\perp, s, n^\perp, (n \otimes s^\perp) \otimes n, ((s \wp n^\perp) \otimes (n \otimes s^\perp)) \otimes gp, gp^\perp \otimes n} \text{perm}}{\vdash ?n^\perp, s, n^\perp, (n \otimes s^\perp) \otimes n, ((s \wp n^\perp) \otimes (n \otimes s^\perp)) \otimes gp, gp^\perp \otimes n} \text{con} \\
\frac{\vdash n, n^\perp, (n \otimes n^\perp) \otimes (?n^\perp \wp s), n^\perp, (n \otimes s^\perp) \otimes n, ((s \wp n^\perp) \otimes (n \otimes s^\perp)) \otimes gp, gp^\perp \otimes n}{\vdash n^\perp, (n \otimes n^\perp) \otimes (?n^\perp \wp s), n^\perp, (n \otimes s^\perp) \otimes n, ((s \wp n^\perp) \otimes (n \otimes s^\perp)) \otimes gp, gp^\perp \otimes n, n} \text{cyc}}{\vdash n^\perp, (n \otimes n^\perp) \otimes (?n^\perp \wp s), n^\perp, (n \otimes s^\perp) \otimes n, ((s \wp n^\perp) \otimes (n \otimes s^\perp)) \otimes gp, gp^\perp \otimes n, n} \text{cyc}
\end{array}$$

Fig. 4. Example of a derivation in CyMLL!<sub>?</sub>

There is the obvious mapping  $(\cdot)^\flat: \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ , defined via:<sup>9</sup>

$$\begin{array}{l}
a^\flat = a \quad (!a)^\flat = !a \quad (A \cdot B)^\flat = B^\flat \otimes A^\flat \\
(A \setminus B)^\flat = B^\flat \wp (A^\flat)^\perp \quad (B / A)^\flat = (A^\flat)^\perp \wp B^\flat
\end{array}$$

Let us now characterize the image of that translation. For this, we define *polarized formulas*:

$$\begin{array}{l}
\mathcal{M}^\bullet ::= \mathcal{A}^\perp \mid ?\mathcal{A}^\perp \mid \mathcal{M}^\bullet \wp \mathcal{M}^\bullet \mid \mathcal{M}^\bullet \otimes \mathcal{M}^\circ \mid \mathcal{M}^\circ \otimes \mathcal{M}^\bullet \\
\mathcal{M}^\circ ::= \mathcal{A} \mid !\mathcal{A} \mid \mathcal{M}^\circ \otimes \mathcal{M}^\circ \mid \mathcal{M}^\circ \wp \mathcal{M}^\bullet \mid \mathcal{M}^\bullet \wp \mathcal{M}^\circ
\end{array}$$

It immediately follows that  $\mathcal{M}^\bullet \cap \mathcal{M}^\circ = \emptyset$  and  $\mathcal{M}^\bullet \cup \mathcal{M}^\circ \subsetneq \mathcal{M}$ , and that  $(\cdot)^\perp$  inverts the polarity.

The purpose of this is to have access to the following two propositions that we can now formulate. For the first one, we define  $\mathcal{L}^\flat$  to be the image of  $\mathcal{L}$  under  $(\cdot)^\flat$ .

**Proposition 4.1** ([20]). *We have  $\mathcal{L}^\flat = \mathcal{M}^\circ$ .*

<sup>9</sup> Here we also invert the order, even though this is not strictly needed (and also not done in [20]). We do it here to ease the use of the system for the linguistic applications.

**Proposition 4.2** ([20]). *A sequent  $A_1, \dots, A_n \vdash B$  is provable in  $L_!$  if and only if the sequent  $\vdash (A_1^b)^\perp, \dots, (A_n^b)^\perp, B^b$  is provable in  $CyMLL_{!}^?$ .*

Observe that such a translated sequent has exactly one formula with  $\circ$ -polarity and (because of the non-empty LHS condition of  $L_!$ ) at least one formula of  $\bullet$ -polarity.

*Example 4.3.* In Figure 4 we show the result of applying these two propositions to the derivation in Example 2.3. Observe that the overall structure of the two derivations is the same. This is the reason for the choice of which premise is left and which is right in the  $\backslash_L$ - and  $/_L$ -rules in Figure 1.<sup>10</sup>

## 5 Proof Nets

With the work of the previous section, we can now profit from the well developed theory of proof nets for MLL [4], and apply it to our logic, following the presentation in [20].

The *tree* of a formula  $A$  is the term tree of  $A$ , where the inner nodes are labeled by binary connectives and the leaves are labeled by atoms or atoms with a modality.<sup>11</sup> A *prenet*  $\pi$  is a pair  $\langle \Gamma, \ell \rangle$  where  $\Gamma$  is a finite list of formulas from  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\ell$  is an (*axiom linking*), which is a symmetric binary relation on the leaves of the sequent forest  $\Gamma$ , such that

- (i) every non-modal atom is related to exactly one other non-modal atom or  $?$ -atom that is dual to it, and
- (ii) every  $!$ -atom is connected to exactly one  $?$ -atom that is dual to it, and
- (iii) every  $?$ -atom is connected only to non-modal atoms or  $!$ -atoms that are all dual to it, and it has to be connected to at least one such atom.

Such a related pair of leaves is called an *axiom link*. We can draw a prenet by simply writing  $\Gamma$  and adding the axiom links on top of it by simply connecting the corresponding atoms by an edge, as in the example below:

$$\vdash n^\perp, (n \otimes n^\perp) \otimes (?n^\perp \wp s), n^\perp, (n \otimes s^\perp) \otimes n, ((s \wp n^\perp) \otimes (n \otimes s^\perp)) \otimes gp, gp^\perp \otimes n, n \quad (2)$$

The *graph*  $\mathcal{G}(\pi)$  of the prenet  $\pi = \langle \Gamma, \ell \rangle$  is obtained from the sequent forest of  $\Gamma$  by adding an edge between any leaves that are in  $\ell$ -relation. For example,

<sup>10</sup> Furthermore, the order of the formulas in the conclusion is the same in the two derivations in Figures 2 and 4. This is the reason for inverting the order in the definition of  $(\cdot)^b$ .

<sup>11</sup> To simplify the presentation, we consider the modalities not as unary inner nodes, but as part of the leaves.



*Remark 5.3.* The four conditions are independent, and their presence or absence leads to different logics. For example, having only conditions 1 and 3 would lead to a correctness criterion for  $\text{CyMLL}_{1?}$ , which might be of independent proof theoretical interest.

## 6 Decidability and Complexity

**Theorem 6.1.** (i) *The logic  $L_1$  is decidable. (ii) Moreover, the complexity of proof search is NP-complete.*

*Proof.* Every axiom link connects a positive and a negative atom. The number of positive atoms is fixed by the endsequent. Only negative atoms can be duplicated by the **con**-rule. This means that the size of the sequents in a proof is limited, and decidability follows immediately. Furthermore, the size of a sequent is also linear in the size of the endsequent, which means the size of the whole proof is bound by a polynomial and can therefore be guessed by an **NP**-algorithm.<sup>12</sup> Finally, **NP**-hardness follows from **NP**-hardness of the standard Lambek calculus.  $\square$

*Remark 6.2.* The same holds for the logic  $\text{CyMLL}_{1?}$ , but the proof is a bit more involved, because in  $\text{CyMLL}_{1?}$  the **con**-rule can also duplicate positive atoms. However, the number of possible duplications is still bounded by a polynomial because the DR-switching condition forbids an axiom link between two ?-atoms.

## 7 Application to Relativisation in Natural Language

In this section, we put  $L_1$  to use and show how it is employed in linguistic reasoning. The simplest cases of relativisation are when the extraction site is either at the front or rear of the original sentence. For instance, at the subject position of a verb in (f) below, or its object position in (g) below.

(f) articles that – disappeared

(g) articles that reviewers read –

These are still derivable in Lambek Calculus without permutation or contraction. One starts to face challenges when the extraction sites are medial, as is the case for all of the examples presented in the introduction. In order to demonstrate the differences, we first present a derivation for (g), and then show how our calculus deals with (a)–(c) from the introduction. Derivations for (d) and (e) are provided in the appendix. The proof of (f) is straightforward. In order to model these clauses, we first design a *lexicon*, which is an assignment of  $\mathcal{L}$  to the vocabulary used in the examples, where  $s$  is a declarative sentence,  $n$  a noun phrase, and  $gp$

<sup>12</sup> Note that we can restrict the number of consecutive applications of the **cyc**- and **perm**-rules.

a gerund phrase (or gerundive verb):

articles, reviewers	::	$n$	
that	::	$(n \setminus n) / (!n \setminus s)$ or $(n \setminus n) / (s / !n)$	
disappeared	::	$(n \setminus s)$	
read, accepted	::	$(n \setminus s) / n$	(4)
reading, skimming	::	$gp / n$	
yesterday	::	$(n \setminus s) \setminus (n \setminus s)$	
without, after	::	$((n \setminus s) \setminus (n \setminus s)) / gp$ or $((n \setminus s) \setminus (n \setminus s)) / n$	

The syntactic categories of “that” take care of its roles, as a subject or an object relative pronoun. In its subject role in (f), it needs a sentence with a missing noun somewhere at its front (before its verb), expressed by the  $\setminus$  connective in its subtype  $(!n \setminus s)$ . In the object role in (g), it is expecting a sentence with a missing noun somewhere at its rear (after its verb), expressed by the use of  $/$  in its subtype  $(s / !n)$ . In either case,  $!n$  indicates that the missing noun can be any where (before or after the verb, respectively) and any number of times. This reasoning about the subtype  $(s / !n)$  is expressible using the cut-rule, as shown in the derivation of (g) below:

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\overline{n \vdash n} \text{ id}}{\overline{n, (n \setminus s) / n, n \vdash s} /L} \quad \frac{\overline{n \vdash n} \text{ id} \quad \overline{s \vdash s} \text{ id}}{\overline{n, n \setminus s \vdash s} \setminus L}}{\overline{n, (n \setminus s) / n, !n \vdash s} !L} \quad \frac{\overline{s / !n \vdash s / !n} \text{ id} \quad \frac{\overline{n \vdash n} \text{ id} \quad \overline{n \vdash n} \text{ id}}{\overline{n, n \setminus n \vdash n} /L}}{\overline{n, (n \setminus n) / (s / !n), (s / !n) \vdash n} /R} \quad \text{cut}}{\overline{n, (n \setminus n) / (s / !n), n, (n \setminus s) / n \vdash n} /R}$$

After eliminating the cut-rule, the first rule that is applied is the  $/L$ -rule, which leads to a linguistically unintuitive proof. The reason  $!$  is used in the type of the relative pronoun rather than the type of the noun is since nouns takes other – non contractive – roles in the absence of “that”. The proof net corresponding to either derivation, however, is the same and is shown below:

In (a), we have an extraction from the middle of the incomplete sentence and need to permute the missing noun, as shown below.

$$\frac{\frac{\text{as before}}{\overline{n, (n \setminus s) / n, n, (n \setminus s) \setminus (n \setminus s) \vdash s} /L} \quad \frac{\overline{n \vdash n} \text{ id}}{\overline{!n \vdash !n} !R} \quad \frac{\overline{s \vdash s} \text{ id}}{\overline{s / !n, !n \vdash s} /R} \quad \frac{\overline{n \vdash n} \text{ id} \quad \overline{n \vdash n} \text{ id}}{\overline{n, n \setminus n \vdash n} /L}}{\overline{n, (n \setminus s) / n, (n \setminus s) \setminus (n \setminus s), !n \vdash s} \text{ perm}_2} \quad \frac{\overline{s / !n, !n \vdash s} /R} \quad \frac{\overline{n, (n \setminus n) / (s / !n), s / !n \vdash n} /L}}{\overline{n, (n \setminus s) / n, (n \setminus s) \setminus (n \setminus s) \vdash s / !n} /R} \quad \text{cut}}{\overline{n, (n \setminus n) / (s / !n), n, (n \setminus s) / n, (n \setminus s) \setminus (n \setminus s) \vdash n} /L}$$



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