A stratified approach to Löb induction

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Abstract

Guarded type theory extends type theory with a handful of modalities and constants to encode productive recursion. While these theories have seen widespread use, the metatheory of guarded type theories, particularly guarded dependent type theories remains underdeveloped. We show that integrating Löb induction is the key obstruction to unifying guarded recursion and dependence in a well-behaved type theory and prove a no-go theorem sharply bounding such type theories.

Based on these results, we introduce GuTT: a stratified guarded type theory. GuTT is properly two type theories, sGuTT and dGuTT. The former contains only propositional rules governing Löb induction but enjoys decidable type-checking while the latter extends the former with definitional equalities. Accordingly, dGuTT does not have decidable type-checking. We prove, however, a novel guarded canonicity theorem for dGuTT, showing that programs in dGuTT can be run. These two type theories work in concert, with users writing programs in sGuTT and running them in dGuTT.

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1 Introduction

It is well-known that a fixed-point combinator fix : (A → A) → A wreaks havoc within type theory by rendering the theory unsound and making type-checking undecidable. Instead of a unified concept of recursion therefore, type theory is extended with sound induction and coinduction principles with implementations using syntactic checks to ensure that recursively-defined functions can be elaborated into these tamer principles.

Unfortunately, these syntactic checks are brittle, often forcing an artificial restructuring of a program. In order to obtain a type-theoretic account of recursion, Nakano [20] introduced guarded recursion. Instead of ensuring a posteriori that recursive calls occur after progress has been made, guarded recursion changes the type of recursive calls to prevent non-productive use.

Concretely, guarded type theory extends type theory with a modality—a unary type constructor—later A (pronounced “later A”). This modality is cartesian and comes with a point next : A → later A. It does not, however, have an operator later A → A; once data enters the later modality, it cannot be extracted again. The fixed-points are then restored by Löb induction:

\[ \text{lob} : (\text{later} A \rightarrow A) \rightarrow A \qquad \text{lob}(f) = f(\text{next}(\text{lob}(f))) \]

While Löb induction was introduced in the context of provability, the later modality has a temporal intuition: later A contains elements of A available one step in the future. As it stands, however, lob prevents non-productive usage a little too well and there are no types
A stratified approach to Löb induction

with non-constant maps $\triangleright A \to A$ which renders $\text{lob}$ induction useless. In order to rectify this, guarded type theories introduce variants of common types instrumented with $\triangleright s$. The perennial example of this is the guarded stream type:

$$G\text{Str}_A = A \times \triangleright G\text{Str}_A$$

(1)

After isolating the tail of the stream under $\triangleright$, stream processors are defined using Löb:

$$\text{map}(f) = \text{lob}(\lambda r. \lambda s. (f(pr_1(s)), r \otimes pr_2(s)))$$

Here $(\otimes) : \triangleright (A \to B) \to \triangleright A \to \triangleright B$ is an operator which witnesses the fact that $\triangleright$ is cartesian. A non-productive stream processor such as $\text{filter}$ cannot be defined: any attempt to define $\text{filter}$ leaves us with $\triangleright \text{Str}_A$ in a place where we require $\text{Str}_A$.

On top of this substrate, many variants of guarded type theory have been proposed [1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 12, 19, 22]. These extend the theory with guarded recursive types, more intricate combinations of modalities, or more flexible notions of time. In particular, extending the theory with an idempotent comonad $\Box$ such that $\Box \triangleright A \simeq \Box A$ allows guarded type theories to encode coinductive types through guarded recursive types [7].

Unfortunately, attempts to extend guarded type theory to dependent types have been met with mixed success. On one hand they escape the inconsistencies of an unguarded fixed-point combinator, but on the other this alone does not make type-checking decidable.

1.1 Modal dependent type theory

In prior work [4, 5, 19], the precise cause of this undecidability issue was muddied. Type theorists had only just begun to understand modalities in dependent type theory, and the inclusion of any modality was apt to break properties such as decidability of type-checking. Independent of guarded type theories, modal type theory have been the subject of intense focus and recently Gratzer et al. [10] have proposed $\text{MTT}$, a calculus which enjoys normalization, canonicity, and decidable type-checking [9] and which can support $\triangleright$ and $\Box$ (but not $\text{lob}$).

$\text{MTT}$ is a Fitch-style modal type theory [3] parameterized by a 2-category of modes, modalities, and coercions between them. In this theory, modalities (written $(\mu | A)$) are equipped with an ‘adjoint’ action on contexts $\Gamma.\{\mu\}$. The introduction rules for modalities are given by tranposition along the ‘adjunction’ $\dashv$. $\{\mu\} \vdash (\mu | -$):

$$\Gamma \vdash \text{mod}_\mu(M) : (\mu | A)$$

$\text{MTT}$ can be instantiated with two modalities $\ell$ and $e$ along with equations forcing $\ell$ to model $\triangleright$ while $(e | -$) becomes its left adjoint. The left adjoint to $\triangleright$, written $\triangleright$ by Birkedal et al. [4], can be used to encode the more familiar $\Box$ modality as the limit of $\triangleright$, $\triangleright^2$, etc., as in the standard model of guarded recursion in $\text{PSh}(\omega)$ (presheaves over $\omega$).

Even with these advances, however, a comprehensive guarded dependent type theory has remained out of reach. Adding Löb induction directly to $\text{MTT}$ disrupts canonicity and normalization, and other proposed guarded type theories either fail to support crucial reasoning principles [2] or lack a proof of canonicity or normalization [17].

In fact, Löb induction has proven to be a far more serious obstacle to a well-behaved guarded type theory than the modal apparatus. We will prove a ‘no-go’ result that shows that including a definitional equality allowing Löb induction to unfold nearly always results in undecidable type-checking. This effectively rules out a theory which naïvely includes $\text{lob}$. 
1.2 Stratifying guarded type theory

Given the complications of including Löb induction into guarded type theory, we propose a novel approach to the problem with a type theory \textit{GuTT} stratified into two layers: static and dynamic. Both of the two layers of the theory exhibit one of the two key properties of a type theory (normalization and canonicity), but neither satisfies both.

The static layer of our system does not include any definitional equalities for Löb induction and only supplies the user with propositional equalities. This layer includes not only $\rhd$ and \lob, but an $\ll$ modality which enables the user to encode coinductive types. Traditionally, the inclusion of $\rhd$ and $\ll$ satisfying the correct properties has been a significant source of difficulty for type theorists, but the aforementioned advances in modal type theory ensure that this static system enjoys decidable type-checking. Moreover, even without definitional equalities for Löb induction we have shown the static layer to be highly usable.

By including these axioms without the corresponding definitional equalities, however, the static layer does not validate canonicity; there are closed terms of type \textit{nat} which are not convertible to numerals. Our ‘no-go’ theorem implies that rectifying this problem would require a radical restructuring of \textit{GuTT}. Accordingly, we introduce a second ‘dynamic’ layer to our theory. The dynamic system is an extension of the static theory by definitional equalities making \lob compute and forcing the propositional equality governing Löb induction to collapse to reflexivity. The dynamic theory does not enjoy decidable type-checking, but the additional equalities cause previously stuck terms to compute which we have proven via a novel ‘guarded’ canonicity theorem.

In total, a user may write a term in the static theory and type-check it as expected and then extract it to the dynamic theory for computation. By a careful analysis of the models of these theories, we show that computation can be used as a valid reasoning principle when viewing the type theory as the internal language of a model such as the topos of trees.

1.3 Guarded canonicity

Typically, canonicity states that a closed term in type theory is convertible with a canonical form. In guarded type theory, this is complicated by two factors.

The first is the presence of modal types like $\rhd A$: what are the canonical forms of $\rhd A$? The answer depends on the precise formulation of modalities, but existing solutions from MTT [9] apply. Specifically, we prove a canonicity result not just for terms in context $1$, but in contexts $1, \{\mu\}$ for all $\mu$. This generalization makes it easy to state the canonical forms of $\langle \mu \mid A \rangle$ in context $1, \{\nu\}$: they are terms $\text{mod}_\mu (M)$ such that $M$ is canonical in $1, \{\nu \circ \mu\}$.

More seriously, in the presence of Löb induction canonical elements of some types must be infinite. In order to tame this non-termination, we adopt an idea common in guarded recursion and allow only finite approximations of infinite canonical forms [12]. \textit{dGuTT} is extended with a special context $0$ under which all judgments collapse. By indexing $0$ with a modality and ensuring $0[\mu], \{\mu\} \cong 0$, we can prove canonicity only to a certain ‘depth’, without counting steps or otherwise imposing any rewriting system on our type theory. We prove guarded canonicity through an adaptation of \textit{multimodal synthetic Tait computability} [9, 26].

1.4 Contributions

We prove the first ‘no-go’ theorem bounding the possibilities for including Löb induction in a type theory with decidable type-checking. As an answer to this result, we contribute \textit{GuTT}, a guarded type theory stratified into static and dynamic layers. We show that the
3:4 A stratified approach to Löb induction

static layer has decidable type-checking and that the dynamic layer satisfies a novel form of
canonicity.

In Section 2 we motivate and prove the no-go theorem for Löb induction. In Section 3 we
introduce GuTT and prove that the static layer enjoys decidable type-checking. In Section 4
we state and prove the first guarded canonicity result for a guarded type theory. Finally, in
Section 5 we show that even without certain definitional equalities the static layer is highly
usable and formalize a model of idealized synchronous programming within sGuTT.

2 A no-go theorem for Löb induction

Consider the essential ingredients of a guarded type theory specified above: Martin-Löf
type theory equipped with a pointed cartesian modality \( \bigtriangledown \), \( \text{next} \), \( \otimes \) and a constant \( \text{lob} \) :
\( (\bigtriangledown A \to A) \to A \)
satisfying the following definitional equality:
\[
\text{lob}(f) = f(\text{next}(\text{lob}(f)))
\]

We show that under two minor additional assumptions, definitional equality—and there-
therefore type-checking—is undecidable in this system. Our first assumption is the existence of a
non-trivial guarded type. Specifically, a type \( S \) equipped with a definitional isomorphism:
\[
\text{cons} : S \cong \text{nat} \times \bigtriangledown S
\]

In the presence of universes and a suitable dependent version of later \( \bigtriangledown : \bigtriangledown U \to U \), we
can define \( S = \text{lob}(x. \text{nat} \times \bigtriangledown x) \). In order to make this counter-example as broad as possible,
however, we have chosen to explicitly isolate \( S \).

The second assumption is that \( \text{next} \) must be suitably injective with respect to definitional
equality. In particular, \( 1 \vdash \text{next}(M) = \text{next}(N) : \bigtriangledown A \) must be equivalent to \( 1 \vdash M = N : A \).
This second requirement is more onerous than the first, and it does not follow directly from
the existence of a familiar structure like universes. It does hold, however, in the standard
model of guarded recursion \( \text{PSh}(\omega) \) [4]. Additionally, in a guarded type theory extended
with \( \Box \) or \( \triangledown \), this bi-implication is derivable. In fact, while initially surprising, this second
assumption is satisfied by all guarded type theories in the literature.

With these requirements, we show that deciding conversion would entail deciding the
extensional equality of functions \( \text{nat} \to \text{nat} \).

\[
\textbf{Lemma 1.} \text{ There exists a function } \text{tabulate} : (\text{nat} \to \text{nat}) \to S \text{ such that the } n \text{th element of }
\text{tabulate}(f) \text{ is } \text{next}^n(f(\bar{n})) : \bigtriangledown^n \text{nat}. \]

\textbf{Proof.} We define \text{tabulate} by means of a helper function using Löb induction:

\[
\text{go} : (\text{nat} \to \text{nat}) \to \text{nat} \to S
\]
\[
\text{go}(f) = \text{lob}(\lambda r, n. \text{cons}(f(n), r \otimes \text{next}(n + 1)))
\]
\[
\text{tabulate}(f) = \text{go}(f, 0)
\]

\[
\textbf{Theorem 2.} \text{ Given two closed functions } f, g : \text{nat} \to \text{nat}, \text{ the streams }
\text{tabulate}(f) \text{ and }
\text{tabulate}(g) \text{ are convertible if and only if } f(\bar{n}) = g(\bar{n}) \text{ for all } n : \text{N}. \]

\textbf{Proof.} The definitional isomorphism \text{cons} together with the \( \eta \) principle for dependent sums
ensure that it is both necessary and sufficient to show that the two streams are pointwise
equal, but Lemma 1 together with the injectivity of \text{next} on closed terms reduces this condition
to the extensional equality of \( f \) and \( g \).
Corollary 3. Conversion is undecidable in a guarded type theory satisfying the following requirements:
- there is a type $S$ equipped with a definitional isomorphism $S \simeq \text{nat} \times \top S$.
- $\text{next} : A \to \top A$ is injective on closed terms,
- the $\text{lob}$ operator unfolds.

3 GuTT: a stratified guarded type theory

Corollary 3 places firm bounds on how much a guarded type theory can hope to achieve while maintaining decidable type-checking. In particular, it shows that including an unconditional unfolding rule for Löb induction makes this goal practically untenable, but without the ability to unfold $\text{lob}$ there is no hope for any canonicity or computational adequacy result. While some guarded type theories have approached this problem by attempting to restrict the behavior of Löb induction to compute only in certain situations [2, 17], GuTT takes a more radical approach.

Instead of considering a single theory which is carefully crafted to enjoy both computational adequacy and decidable type-checking simultaneously, GuTT is split into a pair of type theories: $s\text{GuTT}$ and $d\text{GuTT}$. The first enjoys decidable type-checking and the second satisfies (guarded) canonicity, but neither type theory has both properties.

Both type theories are extensions of $\text{MTT}$ [10] with a mode theory $\mathcal{M}$ for guarded recursion detailed in Figure 1. For compatibility with $\text{MTT}$, this mode theory is presented as a 2-category, but contains only one object and is poset-enriched, so that all 2-cells are uniquely determined by their boundaries. In fact, $\mathcal{M}$ could equivalently be described as a monoidal partial order with two generating modalities $\ell$ and $e$. The inequalities governing these modalities force $\ell$ (respectively $e$) to behave like $\top$ (resp. $\bot$) on $\text{PSh}(\omega)$.

3.1 Posetal MTT

Given that both $s\text{GuTT}$ and $d\text{GuTT}$ are based around this instantiation of $\text{MTT}$, we briefly review some of the key rules of $\text{MTT}$ specialized to this mode theory. We refer the reader to Gratzer et al. [10] for a more comprehensive introduction to $\text{MTT}$. As a Fitch-style type theory, each modality in $\text{MTT}$ behaves like an adjoint—in fact, a dependent right adjoint [3]—with the left adjoint acting on contexts. For a given modality $\mu$, we write the action of this left adjoint $\Gamma.\{\mu\}$. In fact, this action extends to a 2-functor from $\mathcal{M}^{\text{coop}}$ to the category of contexts and substitutions,\footnote{$\mathcal{M}^{\text{coop}}$ is a 2-category with the same objects as $\mathcal{M}$, but with the directions of 1 and 2-cells reversed.} complete with a functorial action $\gamma \mapsto \gamma.\{\mu\}$ on substitutions and definitional equalities $\Gamma.\{\nu \circ \mu\} = \Gamma.\{\nu\}.\{\mu\}$. Moreover, an inequality of modalities $\mu \leq \nu$ induces a natural transformation $-\{\nu\} \to -.\{\mu\}$.
Remark 4. While formally we follow [10] and work with MTT, sGuTT, and dGuTT as generalized algebraic theories—complete with explicit substitutions, de Bruijn indices, etc.—for exposition’s sake we work with a more familiar informal syntax in examples.

As was mentioned in Section 1.1, the introduction rule for the modality $\langle \mu \mid - \rangle$ is then inspired by transposition:

$$\frac{\Gamma,\{\mu\} \vdash M : A}{\Gamma \vdash \text{mod}_\mu(M) : \langle \mu \mid A \rangle}$$

Here we already have taken advantage of the particulars of $\mathcal{M}$ to simplify the rules of MTT; in general, a mode theory might contain multiple modes (multiple objects in the 2-category) which would require us to annotate all the judgments of the type theory by a mode. Given that we work with only one mode, however, we omit these annotations.

The elimination rule is more complex; adding the inverse direction of transposition would disrupt the substitution properties of the type theory. Instead, each entry in the context is annotated by a modality $\Gamma, x : \langle \mu \mid A \rangle$. The role of the elimination rule for $\langle \mu \mid \_ \rangle$ is then tweaked to factor in both the annotation on a variable and the modalities following it in the context:

$$\frac{\mu \leq \text{mods}(\Gamma_1)}{\Gamma_0, x : \langle \mu \mid A \rangle, \Gamma_1 \vdash x : A}$$

Here $\text{mods}(\Gamma_1)$ is the composition of all modalities $\{\nu\}$ occurring in $\Gamma_1$. Unlike full MTT, variables are not annotated by 2-cells. As $\mathcal{M}$ is merely enriched over posets, at most one 2-cell can exist for any given pair of modalities. Accordingly, we remove these annotations on variables and replace them with the premise $\mu \leq \nu$ in the variable rule. In fact, given an inequality $\mu \leq \nu$ we will silently coerce from terms and types in context $\Gamma, \{\mu\}$ to terms and types in context $\Gamma, \{\nu\}$. No ambiguity can arise from this because $\mathcal{M}$ is poset-enriched.

Dependent products are in turn generalized to allow for abstraction over elements of $A$ annotated with a modality other than id:

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \langle \mu \mid A \rangle \vdash M : B}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x. M : \langle \mu \mid x : A \rangle \rightarrow B} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M : \langle \mu \mid x : A \rangle \rightarrow B}{\Gamma, \mu \vdash N : A} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M(N) : B[N/x]}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let}_\nu \text{mod}_\mu(x) \leftarrow M_0 \text{ in } M_1 : B[M_0/x]}$$

Finally, the addition of annotations for variables in the context introduces some redundancy in the system: what is the relationship between a variable of type $\langle \mu \mid A \rangle$ annotated with $\nu$ and a variable of type $A$ annotated with $\nu \circ \mu$. The role of the elimination rule for $\langle \nu \mid - \rangle$ is to address this mismatch and patch the difference between $\Gamma, \{\nu \mid \langle \mu \mid A \rangle\}$ and $\Gamma, \{\nu \circ \mu \mid A\}$:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M_0 : \langle \mu \mid A \rangle \quad \Gamma, x : \langle \nu \circ \mu \mid A \rangle \vdash B}{\Gamma, \{\nu \circ \mu\} \vdash A \quad \Gamma, x : \langle \nu \mid \langle \mu \mid A \rangle \rangle \vdash B \quad \Gamma, \mu \vdash N : A} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash M_1 : B[\text{mod}_\mu(x)/x]}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let}_\nu \text{mod}_\mu(x) \leftarrow M_0 \text{ in } M_1 : B[M_0/x]}$$

These primitives combine to ensure that e.g. modal types become a “pseudofunctor” so that $\text{comp}[\mu; \nu] : \langle \mu \circ \nu \mid A \rangle \simeq \langle \mu \mid \langle \nu \mid A \rangle \rangle$ and an inequality $\mu \leq \nu$ induces a coercion $\text{coe}[\mu \leq \nu] : \langle \mu \mid A \rangle \rightarrow \langle \nu \mid A \rangle$. We introduce some shorthand for this instantiation of MTT:

$$\upstar A \triangleq \langle \ell \mid A \rangle \quad \downarrow A \triangleq \langle e \mid A \rangle$$

The pseudofunctorial structure of modalities quickly yields the standard operations of a guarded type theory e.g. $\downarrow A \simeq A$ and $\upstar : A \rightarrow \upstar A$. For instance,

$$\text{next}_A = \lambda x. \text{mod}_\mu(x)$$
3.2 Crisp identity induction principles

In MTT, the elimination principles for types like $\text{id}_A(M, N)$ or $\text{bool}$ are *mode-local* and therefore can only be applied to a variable if it is annotated with id. This restriction is vital for soundness; the intended model of GuTT does not validate $(\ell \mid \text{bool}) \simeq \text{bool}$ and allowing if $x$ then $M_0$ else $M_1$ when $x$ is under an $\ell$ annotation is equivalent to such an identification.

The intended model does, however, validate such an equivalence for the identity type. Intuitively, the typical models of GuTT are extensional and accordingly $\text{id}_A(M, N)$ is realized by an equalizer (a limit) which is therefore preserved by all modalities (right adjoints):

$$\text{id}_{[\mu A]}(\text{mod}_\mu(M), \text{mod}_\mu(N)) \simeq (\mu \mid \text{id}_A(M, N))$$

(3)

As it turns out, this equivalence is crucial in practice. While we will see specific examples in Section 5, informally any proof of equality between programs defined via Löb induction requires Equation (3). In order to prove e.g. that two stream processors are equal, we must show that they produce streams which have identical heads and tails. Löb induction gives a proof under a later that the two tails are equal, but without Equation (3) we cannot parlay this into an equality between next applied to the two tails.

In prior guarded variants of MTT, this was circumvented by adopting equality reflection, but GuTT takes a more refined approach and adds a stronger variant of the elimination principle for identity types inspired by Shulman’s crisp induction principles [24]:

$$\Gamma, a_0 : (\mu \mid A), a_1 : (\mu \mid A), p : (\mu \mid \text{id}_A(a_0, a_1)) \vdash B$$

$$\Gamma, x : (\mu \mid A) \vdash M : B[x, x, \text{refl}(a)/a_0, a_1, p]$$

$$\Gamma, \{\mu\} \vdash N_0, N_1 : A$$

$$\Gamma, \{\mu\} \vdash P : \text{id}_A(N_0, N_1)$$

$$\Gamma \vdash J^\mu(B, a.M, P) : B[N_0, N_1, P/a_0, a_1, p]$$

$$J^\mu(B, x.M, \text{refl}(N)) = M[N/x]$$

Gratzer [9] has shown that extending MTT with these rules preserves both canonicity and normalization. This, together with the fact that all intended models of GuTT validate the equivalent Equation (3), ensures that adding these rules to guarded MTT has no downside.

3.3 sGuTT: The static fragment of GuTT

The ‘static’ fragment of the guarded calculus adds Löb induction to guarded MTT. It enjoys decidable type-checking but escapes Corollary 3 by not including any definitional equalities for the $\text{lob}$ operator. Concretely, sGuTT is the instantiation of MTT described above supplemented with the following pair of axioms:

$$\Gamma, x : (\ell \mid A) \vdash M : A$$

$$\Gamma, x : (\ell \mid A) \vdash M : A$$

$$\Gamma \vdash \text{lob}(x.M) : A$$

$$\Gamma \vdash \text{fold}(M) : \text{id}_A(\text{lob}(x.M), M[\text{lob}(x.M)/x])$$

A term in sGuTT is then precisely a term in MTT in a context extended by these two constants, so we may immediately deduce the following results from the results of Gratzer [9]:

\textbf{Theorem 5.} Conversion and type-checking in sGuTT are both decidable sGuTT.

\textbf{Proof.} Corollaries 6.5 and 6.6 of Gratzer [9] show that conversion and type-checking are decidable if the equality of 1- and 2-cells $\mathcal{M}$ enjoy decidable conversion. This problem is easily seen to be equivalent to the decidability of the $\leq$ relation presented in Figure 1. We first observe that every 1-cell can be uniquely presented as $l^n \circ e^m$ for some pair $(n, m)$. Next, because $l^{n_0} \circ e^{m_0} \leq l^{n_1} \circ e^{m_1}$ if and only if $n_0 \leq n_1$ and $m_1 - n_1 \leq m_0 - n_0$, the equality of 1-cells and existence of 2-cells are both decidable as required.

\textbf{□}
3.4 dGuTT: the dynamic fragment of GuTT

The dynamic half of GuTT is an extension of sGuTT, supplementing the static theory with a pair of definitional equalities:

\[ \Gamma, x : (\ell | A) \vdash M : A \]
\[ \Gamma \vdash \text{lob}(x.M) = M[\text{lob}(x.M)/x] : A \]
\[ \Gamma \vdash \text{unfold}(x.M) = \text{refl}(\text{lob}(x.M)) : \text{Id}_A(\text{lob}(M), M[\text{lob}(x.M)/x]) \]

Notice that Corollary 3 applies to dGuTT and so type-checking dGuTT is undecidable.

We also equip dGuTT with a new form of context \(0\[\mu]\), which will prove crucial to understanding its computational behavior. The context \(0 = 0[\text{id}]\) acts like an initial object in the category of contexts so that all judgments \(0 \vdash J\) hold, and the more general \(0[\mu]\) intuitively represents the application of the modality \(\mu\) to this initial object. The rules for these contexts are presented in Figure 2, but we postpone further discussion of \(0\) until Section 4 where its role can be fully motivated.

Henceforth, it will become important to distinguish between which judgments hold in sGuTT and which hold in dGuTT. We write \(\Sigma \vdash_s M : A\) if \(M : A\) is derivable with only the rules of sGuTT and \(\Sigma \vdash_d M : A\) for the corresponding notion for dGuTT. As dGuTT is a strict extension of sGuTT, the following is immediate:

\[ \text{Theorem 6. If a judgment is derivable in sGuTT, the same judgment holds in dGuTT.} \]

3.5 The semantics of GuTT

A priori, of course, Theorem 6 could hold even if dGuTT included all manner of extensions to sGuTT. The fact that it only extends sGuTT with two additional equations means that all models of dGuTT are models of sGuTT and all ‘natural’ semantic models of sGuTT are also model of dGuTT. Concretely, the category of models of sGuTT is precisely the category of models of MTT [10] with mode theory \(\mathcal{M}\) together with constants for \text{lob} and \text{unfold}. Unfolding these definitions, a model of sGuTT is a category with families [8] equipped with functors interpreting \(-\{\mu\}\) and structure for interpreting modal types.

A model of dGuTT is a model of sGuTT satisfying a pair of additional equalities and with structure interpreting \(0[\mu]\). In practice these additional requirements are easily satisfied:

\[ \text{Theorem 7. A model of sGuTT satisfying the following extends to a model of dGuTT:} \]
\begin{enumerate}
  \item the category of contexts and substitutions has an initial object
  \item the interpretation of \text{Id} validates equality reflection
  \item the model is democratic; every context can be realized as a type
  \item the modalities are realized by dependent right adjoints [3, Definition 2]
\end{enumerate}

In particular, the standard models of guarded recursion in sheaves over complete Heyting algebras with a well-founded basis such as \(\text{PSh}(\omega)\) are models of both sGuTT and dGuTT [4]. See Appendix A for a full definition of models of sGuTT and dGuTT.

4 Guarded canonicity

We have shown that sGuTT enjoys decidable type-checking. In this section we establish that the twin theory dGuTT is computationally effective, i.e. that programs in this theory can run. Typically, a canonicity theorem for type theory states that any closed boolean is convertible with either true or false. For dGuTT, this result would be unsatisfactory because it would
not give information about terms of ▶ bool and therefore could not shed light on executing guarded programs. We therefore characterize canonical forms in a class of contexts C other than the empty context. By ensuring that C is closed under −.[μ], canonicity applies to programs executing under a ▶ , but this raises a further complication in the presence of Löb induction: programs like tabulate(id) (Lemma 1) with infinite canonical forms. Rather than allowing the canonical forms themselves to be infinite, we use a novel type-directed form of “fuel” in our statement of canonicity.

Prior to formulating this more refined notion, recall from Section 3.4 that dGuTT has a distinguished context 0 which is initial in the category of contexts and substitutions (Figure 2). For each modality μ, there exists an additional context 0[μ]—intuitively this is the context 0 under the modality μ—whose behavior is fully captured by a natural isomorphism of hom-sets in the category of contexts: \( \text{hom}(\Gamma, 0[μ]) \cong \text{hom}(\Gamma, 0[μ], 0) \). In order to force this isomorphism, we add new substitution formers to our calculus: \( γ^\rightarrow \) and \( γ^\leftarrow \).

With this additional structure, we then characterize the canonical forms in programs in context 0[μ].[ν] so that (μ, ν) serves as an abstracted form of fuel:

▶ Theorem 20 (Guarded canonicity). Given a term 0[μ].[ν] ⊢_d M : A, the following holds

- If \( A = \text{nat} \) then there exist a numeral \( k \) such that \( M = \bar{k} \)
- If \( A = (ξ | B) \) then \( M = \text{mod}_ξ(N) \) for some 0[μ].[ν(ξ)] ⊢_d N : B
- If \( A = \text{ld}_D(b_0,b_1) \) then \( M = \text{refl}(b_0) \) and 0[μ].[ν] ⊢_d b_0 = b_1 :

▶ Remark 8. Theorem 20 characterizes the canonical forms of all types in dGuTT—not merely nat, (− | −), and \( \text{ld}_D(−,−) \). This characterization is trivial, however, for types with an η law. For instance, every element of (μ | A) → B is of the form \( λ(M) \) by η-expansion. We have further elided the characterization of canonical forms of the universe for reasons of space.

We pause for a moment to consider the consequences of Theorem 20 for various types and pairs (μ, ν). First, if \( μ = ν \) then there is a canonical substitution 0[μ].[ν] ⊢ id^\rightarrow : 0 and canonicity trivializes—all types are inhabited and all terms are equal in such a context.

Suppose instead, therefore, we have a term 0[ℓ o ℓ].[id] ⊢_d M : (ℓ | (ℓ | A)). Guarded canonicity then ensures that \( M = \text{mod}_ℓ(M_0) \) for some 0[ℓ o ℓ].[id] ⊢_d M_0 : (ℓ | A). The theorem then applies to \( M_0 \), yielding \( M_0 = \text{mod}_ℓ(M_1) \) for some 0[ℓ o ℓ].[ℓ o ℓ] ⊢_d M_1 : A but the process stops here; the context is now isomorphic to 0 and so \( M_1 = \bar{\varepsilon} \).

Informally, in a context 0[μ].[ν] the modality μ represents the initial fuel given to evaluate a program, while ν signifies the fuel expended thus far in the process. The analogy is imperfect—the presence of the earlier modality allows for ‘negative’ fuel to be spent—but it does make it clear how one might use Theorem 20: to evaluate a closed program \( M : ▶ n \text{ nat} \), one begin by weakening the program into the context 0[^{n+1}] and then repeatedly apply

---

**Figure 2** The vacuous context.
guarded canonicity to deduce that $M = \mod_i(\mod_i(\ldots (\mod_i(\ell))))$ for some numeral $k$. Crisply, in order to extract a numeral from $\langle \mu | \text{nat} \rangle$ one must evaluate it with more than $\mu$ fuel.

Unlike other canonicity results based on fuel [12], our guarded canonicity result does not depend on a fixed operational semantics or presentation of the equality judgment. The fuel is a purely type-directed notion and throughout the statement and proof of guarded canonicity we manipulate only equivalence classes of terms up to definitional equality.

4.1 Proving guarded canonicity

In order to prove Theorem 20, we use a modified variant of \emph{multimodal synthetic Tait computability} [9, 26], a refinement of gluing proofs. Rather than fixing a rewriting system presenting the equational theory of dGuTT, we construct a model of dGuTT lying over the syntactic model comprised essentially of terms equipped with a guarded canonical form. The initiality of syntax then guarantees that every term has a guarded canonical form.

To a first approximation, this proof is a categorical restructuring of a proof-relevant Beth logical relation on equivalences classes of terms up to definitional equality. The predicates associated with each type vary over contexts of the form $0[\mu].\{\nu\}$, subject to the condition that each predicate collapses to $\{\star\}$ whenever $\mu \leq \nu \circ \xi$ for some $\xi$. Working with proof-relevant predicates enables us to give an elegant interpretation of the universe and manipulating only equivalence classes of terms ensures that we can exploit the various universal properties of connectives like dependent products and sums. We refer the reader to Sterling [26] for a systematic introduction to this style of canonicity proof.

Several caveats complicate this simple picture. In the first instance, it is frequently difficult to construct a model of dGuTT lying over the syntactic model due to the number of strict equations involved. We therefore follow the approach taken by Gratzer [9]: we begin by defining a relaxed category of Löb cosmoi and show that there is an appropriate syntactic Löb cosmos which enjoys a suitable weakening of initiality. From there, we construct a glued Löb cosmos which supports a rich model of MTT complete with several new primitives. We call the resultant language \emph{multimodal synthetic Tait computability} (MSTC) and use this language to construct the interpretation of types and terms internally. In fact, because the model construction takes place within MSTC, once this language is in place the construction of the actual model is \emph{mutatis mutandis} the one given by Gratzer [9].

For the sake of space, therefore, we trace through the aspects of the proof which differ significantly from the normalization proof for MTT. In particular, we show how we construct the glued cosmos necessary to prove guarded canonicity and gloss the interpretation of Löb induction within MSTC. The remaining details—such as the interpretation of all the connectives of MTT—are deferred to Appendices B and C.

► Definition 9. A Löb cosmos is a strict 2-functor $G : \mathcal{M} \to \text{Cat}$ such that $G(m)$ (which we abusively write $G$) is a locally Cartesian closed category with an initial object and each $G(\mu)$ is a right adjoint. We require the following additional structure:

1. A morphism $\tau_G : \hat{T}_G \to T_G$ in $G$ representing the universe of types and closed under all the connectives of MTT e.g. for each $\mu$ a map $G(\mu)(\hat{T}_G) \to T_G$ encoding the formation rule for modal types.

2. An element $\text{lob}$ with the appropriate type and necessary equation.

A morphism of Löb cosmoi is a 2-natural transformation of LCC functors satisfying Beck-Chevalley which preserves all structure.

While Gratzer [9] could organize syntax into a cosmos enjoying a property akin to initiality by taking presheaves on the category of contexts and substitutions $\text{Cx}$, the same maneuver is
not available here: the vacuous context $0$ would no longer be initial when embedded into $\text{PSh}(\text{Cx})$. We therefore localize at $0_{\text{PSh}(\text{Cx})} \rightarrow y(0)$ and consider sheaves over the category of contexts. Explicitly, we equip $\text{Cx}$ with a Grothendieck topology $J$:

$$J(\Gamma) = \begin{cases} \{\text{hom}(-, \Gamma), 0\} & \text{if there exists a substitution } \Gamma \rightarrow 0 \\ \{\text{hom}(-, \Gamma)\} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

The rules in Figure 2 ensure that this Grothendieck topology is subcanonical and that the presheaves of types and terms are in fact sheaves for this topology. It is also easily seen that the precomposition functors induced by $-\cdot\{\mu\}$ restrict to right adjoints on sheaves and that $\text{Sh}(\text{Cx})$ is closed under finite limits and dependent products in $\text{PSh}(\text{Cx})$.

Theorem 10. There is a Löb cosmos $S(m) = \text{Sh}(\text{Cx})$ where $\mathcal{T}$ (respectively $\hat{\mathcal{T}}$) are realized by the sheaves of types (respectively terms) and $S(\mu)$ is given by precomposition with $-\cdot\{\mu\}$.

Passing to sheaves enables us to recover quasi-projectivity as described by Gratzer [9]:

Theorem 11. Given a Löb cosmos $G$ and a map $\pi : G \rightarrow S$, the following holds:
1. For every context $\Gamma \in_A$, there exists an object $[\Gamma] : G$ and $\alpha_{\Gamma} : \pi([\Gamma]) \cong y([\Gamma])$.
2. For every type $\Gamma \vdash_A A$, there is a morphism $[[A]] : [\Gamma] \rightarrow [A]$ such that $\pi([A]) \circ \alpha_{\Gamma} = [A]$.
3. For every $\Gamma \vdash_A M : A$, there exists $[M] : [\Gamma] \rightarrow [A]$ such that $\pi([M]) \circ \alpha_{\Gamma} = [M]$.

Passing to sheaves ensures that the precomposition functors induced by $-\cdot\{\mu\}$ restrict to right adjoints on sheaves and that $\text{Sh}(\text{Cx})$ is closed under finite limits and dependent products in $\text{PSh}(\text{Cx})$.

We now revise our original proof strategy for guarded canonicity: we will construct a particular Löb cosmos by gluing the syntactic cosmos along a functor to a Grothendieck topos.

As in all gluing proofs, the choice of functor to glue along is crucial. For instance, when proving a standard canonicity result one glues along $\text{PSh}(\text{Cx}) \rightarrow \text{Set} = \text{PSh}(1)$ given by precomposition with $1 \rightarrow \text{Cx}$. For normalization, one wishes to work with arbitrary contexts but normal forms are stable under a limited class of renamings. Accordingly, one glues along $\text{PSh}(\text{Cx}) \rightarrow \text{PSh}(\text{Ren})$ given by precomposing with the inclusion $\text{Ren} \rightarrow \text{Cx}$.

In our case, because we wish to prove a result about terms in context $0[\mu].\{\nu\}$ we will take a category spanned by contexts of this form. Moreover, because guarded canonical forms are stable under the natural transformations $0[\mu].\{\nu_0\} \rightarrow 0[\mu].\{\nu_1\}$, we can recast this subcategory $\text{Cx}$ spanned by contexts $0[\mu].\{\nu\}$ as a partial order:

Definition 12. Define $(P, \leq)$ to be a partial order whose elements are pairs of modalities $\langle \mu, \nu \rangle$ such that $(\mu_0, \nu_0) \leq (\mu_1, \nu_1)$ if $\mu_0 = \mu_1$ and $\nu_1 \leq \nu_0$. There is a functor $i : P \rightarrow \text{Cx}$ sending $\langle \mu, \nu \rangle$ to $0[\mu].\{\nu\}$.

Unlike in prior gluing proofs, we represent syntax with $\text{Sh}(\text{Cx})$ rather than $\text{PSh}(\text{Cx})$. Accordingly, we must impose a Grothendieck topology on $P$ so that the inclusion $P \rightarrow \text{Cx}$ induces a functor $\text{Sh}(\text{Cx}) \rightarrow \text{Sh}(P)$ and it is this functor that we will glue along.

Definition 13. Transporting the Grothendieck topology on $\text{Cx}$ along the functor $i : P \rightarrow \text{Cx}$ yields a new topology on $P$ covering $\langle \mu, \nu \rangle$ with the empty family if $\exists \xi. \mu \circ \xi \leq \nu$.

Lemma 14. Precomposition by $\langle \mu, \nu \rangle \mapsto \langle \mu, \nu \circ \xi \rangle$ induces a right adjoint $R_\xi : \text{Sh}(P) \rightarrow \text{Sh}(P)$.

Lemma 15. Recalling $S(\xi) = (-\cdot\{\xi\})^*$ from Theorem 10, $i^* \circ S(\xi) = R_\xi \circ i^*$.

Observe that for any pair $\langle \mu, \nu \rangle$, there exists $n$ such that $\exists \xi. \mu \circ \xi \leq \nu \circ \xi^n$. Accordingly, given $X : \text{Sh}(P)$ and $\langle \mu, \nu \rangle : P$ there exists $n$ such that $R^n(\xi)(\mu, \nu) = \{\ast\}$. This eventual trivialization ensures that $\text{Sh}(P)$ satisfies Löb induction:
Lemma 16. For any $X : \text{Sh}(P)$ there is a morphism $\text{lob}_X : X^{R_\ell(X)} \to X$ satisfying the unfolding equation for L"ob induction.

Lemma 17. Precomposition with $i$ induces a right adjoint $i^* : S = \text{Sh}(Cx) \to \text{Sh}(P)$.

Gluing along $i^*$, we obtain a Grothendieck topos $\mathcal{G} = \text{Gl}(i^*)$ whose objects are triples $(X : \text{Sh}(Cx), Y : \text{Sh}(P), f : Y \to i^*X)$. Intuitively, these are proof-relevant predicates on syntax so that constructing a L"ob cosmos in $\mathcal{G}$ is akin to a proof-relevant logical relation.

Lemma 18. There is a strict 2-functor $G : \mathbf{M} \text{Cat} \to \mathbf{S} = \text{Sh}(Cx)$ determined component-wise by $S(\mu)$ and $R_\mu$. Furthermore, $\pi : G \to S$ is a 2-natural transformation spanned by LCC functors and satisfying Beck-Chevalley.

Proof. This follows from a slight variation on Theorem 4.13 of Gratzer [9] and Lemma 14.

It remains only to equip $\mathcal{G}$ with the structure of a L"ob cosmos i.e. a universe $\tau_\mathcal{G} : \mathcal{T}_\mathcal{G} \to \mathcal{T}_G$ closed under various connectives. In fact, this process is remarkably routine. $\mathcal{G}$ is a Grothendieck topos and therefore models extensional Martin-L"of type theory with a hierarchy of cumulative universes [11] satisfying the internal realignment principle formulated by Orton and Pitts [21]. Moreover, $\mathcal{G}$ is a model of extensional MTT with a pair of complementary idempotent monads $\circ$ and $\bullet$ presenting $\text{Sh}(Cx)$ (respectively $\text{Sh}(P)$) as an open (resp. closed) subtopos.

This combination of modalities shapes $\mathcal{G}$ into a model of multimodal synthetic Tait computability. While there are minor differences in the precise properties of multimodal synthetic Tait computability, this interpretation ensures that we can virtually replay the construction of a universe closed under the connectives of MTT given by Gratzer [9]. Given this essential similarity, we gloss only L"ob induction: the last novelty of this construction.

Interpreting $\text{lob}$ hinges on the fact that $\text{Sh}(P)$ and $R_\ell$ satisfy L"ob induction. Lifting Lemma 16 this into the internal language of $\mathcal{G}$ gives us a variant of L"ob induction:

$$\prod_{A : U}(\ell_! \bullet A) \to \bullet A$$

This limited constant is sufficient to construct the proper interpretation of L"ob induction, which in turn yields the following cousin of the fundamental lemma of logical relations:

Theorem 19. There is a L"ob cosmos in $\mathcal{G}$ such that $\pi : \mathcal{G} \to S$ is a map of L"ob cosmoi.

Finally, from Theorems 11 and 19 combined with the definition of terms in $\mathcal{G}$ we conclude:

Theorem 20 (Guarded canonicity). Given a term $0[\mu].\{\nu\} \vdash_d M : A$, the following holds

- If $A = \text{nat}$ then there exist a numeral $k$ such that $M = \bar{k}$
- If $A = \langle \xi \mid B \rangle$ then $M = \text{mod}_\xi(N)$ for some $0[\mu].\{\nu \circ \xi\} \vdash_d N : B$
- If $A = \text{id}_B(b_0, b_1)$ then $M = \text{refl}(b_0)$ and $0[\mu].\{\nu\} \vdash_d b_0 = b_1$.

2 Unlike the well-known construction of universes in presheaf topos set forth by Hofmann and Streicher [16], Gratzer et al. [11] give a construction which applies in arbitrary arbitrary Grothendieck topos using a small-object argument. This construction requires the axiom of choice and it is currently open whether a constructively acceptable analog exists.
5 Proving and programming with guarded streams

While Theorems 5 and 20 ensure that each half of GuTT satisfies one of the two theorems typically used to evaluate usability of a type theory, neither satisfies both. It is unclear, therefore, whether or not sGuTT can really be used to write guarded programs. This is an empirical question, but we argue the affirmative by showing an encoding of synchronous programming [6] in sGuTT and capitalize on Theorems 6 and 20 to compute with the results.

5.1 A warmup: defining guarded streams

To begin with, we define the type of guarded streams \( \text{Str} : U \rightarrow U \) in sGuTT:

\[
\text{Str} : U \rightarrow U \quad \iota : (A : U) \rightarrow \text{l}d_U(\text{Str}(A), A \times (\ell | \text{Str}(A)))
\]

\[
\text{Str}(A) = \text{lob}(S, A \times (\ell | S)) \quad \iota = \text{unfold}(S, A \times (\ell | S))
\]

We can define the usual operations on streams using this equivalence. For instance, \textit{cons} (respectively \textit{head} and \textit{tail}) is given by transporting along \( \iota \) (resp. \( \iota \)). The functoriality of transports then yields an identification \( \text{l}d_{\text{Str}(A)}(\text{cons}(\text{head}(s), \text{tail}(s)), s) \).

Fix types \( A, B : U \) and a map \( f : A \rightarrow B \), we extend this map to a map of streams:

\[
\text{map}(f) = \text{lob}(g, \lambda s. \text{cons}(f(\text{head}(s)), \text{mod}_\ell(g) \circ \text{tail}(s)))
\]

\( \blacktriangleright \text{Lemma 21.} \) Given \( s : \text{Str}(A) \), there is an identification \( \text{l}d_{\text{Str}(A)}(\text{map}(\text{id}, s), s) \).

\( \text{Proof.} \) We prove this by Löb induction so we are given an induction hypothesis:

\[
r : (\ell | (s : \text{Str}(A)) \rightarrow \text{l}d_{\text{Str}(A)}(\text{map}(\text{id}, s), s))
\]

Now fix \( s : \text{Str}(A) \). We have an identification between \( s \) and \( \text{cons}(\text{head}(s), \text{tail}(s)) \). The left-hand side is identified with \( \text{cons}(\text{id}(\text{head}(s)), \text{next}(\text{map}(\text{id})) \circ \text{tail}(s)) \) via \( \text{unfold}(...) \). It then suffices to construct an element of \( \text{l}d_{(\ell | \text{Str}(A))}(\text{next}(\text{map}(\text{id})) \circ \text{tail}(s), \text{tail}(s)) \). To this end, we use the elimination rule for modal types: Applying this rule to \( \text{tail}(s) \), it suffices to construct the following identification for an arbitrary \( x : (\ell | \text{Str}(A)) \):

\[
\text{l}d_{(\ell | \text{Str}(A))}(\text{mod}_\ell(\text{map}(\text{id}, x)), \text{mod}_\ell(x))
\]

The result is now an immediate consequence of \( r(x) \) combined with Equation (3).

\( \blacktriangleright \text{Lemma 22.} \) Given functions \( f : A \rightarrow B \), \( g : B \rightarrow C \), for each \( s : \text{Str}(A) \) there is an identification \( \text{l}d_{\text{Str}(C)}(\text{map}(g \circ f, s), \text{map}(g, \text{map}(f, s))) \).

The proofs of the above lemmas (see the one for Lemma 21), show how several features of sGuTT are crucial for programming. In particular, we have made heavy use of the propositional unfolding rules for Löb induction to manipulate a definition using \( \text{lob} \), and we rely on crisp identity induction principles to use Löb induction to prove an equality.

5.2 A logical foundation for synchronous programming

In order to test the limits of sGuTT, we revisit the abstract encoding of synchronous programming [14] (as implemented by e.g. Lustre [13]) in dependent type theory with coinductive streams given by Boulmé and Hamon [6]. We repeat their construction with the guarded streams defined in Section 5.1. Intuitively, we interpret a type \( \tau \) of their calculus as
3:14 A stratified approach to Löb induction

guarded stream of values in GuTT. By using guarded streams, however, we are able to simplify
the construction of this model and eliminate the need to manually ensure well-formedness of
various constructions. Moreover, we show that propositional Löb is sufficient for guarded
programming.

We first define a type of clocks or warps which dictate the rate at which a stream is
expected to produce values. Following Boulmé and Hamon [6], these are realized by streams
of booleans \( W = \text{Str}(\text{bool}) \). The primitive objects of our encoding are specialized streams
indexed by a warp:

\[
W\text{Str}(A) = \text{lob}(B. \lambda w. \text{let mod}_\ell(u) \leftarrow \text{tail}(w) \text{ in } A \times (\ell | B(u)) \text{ else } (\ell | B(u)))
\]

So a \( W\text{Str} \) is indexed by a type \( A \) and warp \( w \), and contains values of \( A \) only when \( w \)
is true. This is similar to the model of Lustre detailed by Boulmé and Hamon [6], but in
contrast to loc. cit., which uses coinductive streams, our use of guarded streams facilitates a
number of conceptual simplifications while immediately guaranteeing some theorems.

Henceforth we will stop explicitly using \( \text{lob} \) to define guarded recursive functions, and
adopt the more typical informal style so that the above definition could be written

\[
W\text{Str}(A, \text{cons}(b, \text{mod}_\ell(w))) = \text{if } b \text{ then } A \times (\ell | W\text{Str}(A, w)) \text{ else } (\ell | W\text{Str}(A, w))
\]

We also adopt pattern-matching syntax for modal types and equivalences like \( \text{cons} \) as
well as a \texttt{rewrite} based on the available operation in Agda. We further avail ourselves of
\( \text{cons} \), \( \text{head} \), and \( \text{tail} \) for \( W\text{Str} \). These have slightly unusual types to account for the presence
of warps and the potential absence of data at a given step.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{cons} &: (b : \text{bool})(\ell \mid w : W) \\
& \quad \rightarrow (\text{if } b \text{ then } A \times (\ell \mid W\text{Str}(A, w)) \text{ else } (\ell \mid W\text{Str}(A, w)) \rightarrow W\text{Str}(A, \text{cons}(b, \text{mod}_\ell(w)))) \\
\text{head} &: (\ell \mid w : W) \rightarrow W\text{Str}(A, \text{cons}(\texttt{tt}, \text{mod}_\ell(w))) \rightarrow A \\
\text{tail} &: (b : \text{bool})(\ell \mid w : W) \rightarrow W\text{Str}(A, \text{cons}(b, \text{mod}_\ell(w))) \rightarrow (\ell \mid W\text{Str}(A, w))
\end{align*}
\]

We use this new surface syntax to define the constant stream of values:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{const} &: A \rightarrow (w : W) \rightarrow W\text{Str}(A, w) \\
\text{const}(x, \text{cons}(b, \text{mod}_\ell(w))) &= \text{if } b \text{ then } \text{cons}(x, \text{mod}_\ell(\text{const}(x, w))) \text{ else } \text{cons}(\text{mod}_\ell(\text{const}(x, w)))
\end{align*}
\]

Next, we define a combinator allowing us to zip two streams and combine their values:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{zip} &: (w : W) \rightarrow W\text{Str}(A \rightarrow B, w) \rightarrow W\text{Str}(A, w) \rightarrow W\text{Str}(B) \\
\text{zip} &\text{(cons}(b, \text{mod}_\ell(w)), s_1, s_2) = \\
& \quad \text{if } b \\
& \quad \text{then } \text{cons}(\text{head}(s_1)\langle \text{head}(s_2)\rangle, \text{mod}_\ell(\text{zip}(w)) \odot \text{tail}(s_1) \odot \text{tail}(s_2)) \\
& \quad \text{else } \text{cons}(\text{mod}_\ell(\text{zip}(w)) \odot \text{tail}(s_1) \odot \text{tail}(s_2))
\end{align*}
\]

While we omit the definitions, we also can define a variant of Lustre’s \texttt{fby} operator, which
delays a stream by one and replaces the first element:

\[
\text{fby} &: (w : W) \rightarrow A \rightarrow W\text{Str}(A, \text{cons}(\texttt{ff}, \text{mod}_\ell(w))) \rightarrow W\text{Str}(A, \text{cons}(\texttt{tt}, \text{mod}_\ell(w)))
\]

In fact, we have provided definitions of all the combinators presented by Boulmé and
Hamon [6], including several which further exercise the dependent types of \( s\text{GuTT} \).
5.3 Running an example program

Thus far we have carefully worked in sGuTT, so our programs can be type-checked. Unfortunately, the lack of canonicity in sGuTT means that they cannot be run. The split nature of GuTT, however, guarantees equivalent programs in dGuTT which can be executed. To concretize this discussion, consider the following stream of natural numbers in sGuTT:

\[
\text{nats} : \text{WStr} (\text{nat}, \text{lob}(\text{cons}(\text{tt}, \text{mod}\ell(-))))
\]

\[
\text{nats rewrite unfold(...)} = \text{fby}(0, \text{zip}(\text{cons}(\text{next}(\text{const}(\lambda n. \text{suc}(n))), \text{cons}(\text{mod}\ell(\text{nats})))))
\]

While this program is relatively simple, we can already detect something unsatisfactory: it is hard to verify that the second element of this stream is 1. Using Theorem 6, we interpret nats as a program in dGuTT where the corresponding equality follows from computation:

\[
\text{next(head) @ tail(nats)} = \text{next(head) @ mod}\ell(\text{zip}(\text{const}(\lambda n. \text{suc}(n))), \text{nats})
\]

\[
= \text{mod}\ell(\text{head}(\text{zip}(\text{const}(\lambda n. \text{suc}(n))), \text{nats}))
\]

\[
= \text{mod}\ell(1)
\]

These equalities are definitional; in dGuTT our stream combinators reduce on-the-nose. Moreover, Theorem 7 ensures that if we were to interpret the original sGuTT program into e.g., the topos of trees, the second element would indeed be 1.

This example is indicative of a general phenomenon: we can always program in sGuTT to type-check a program and switch to dGuTT to execute it and obtain a concrete result. Theorem 20 guarantees that this always yields a numeral, and Theorem 7 ensures that we obtain the expected results in standard models of sGuTT such as the topos of trees.

6 Related work

GuTT is closely related to a number of modal and guarded type theories. Most directly, GuTT refines guarded recursion in MTT and improves upon the proposed guarded MTT presented by Gratzer et al. [10] by avoiding equality reflection. By replacing this rule with propositional Löb induction as well as a crisp identity induction principle, the theory remains practicable. Moreover, by extending with only these principles we are able to benefit from the metatheory of MTT and its prototype proof assistant, which implements sGuTT [25].

Clock Type Theory

Clock Type Theory (CloTT) [2,17,18] is a family of closely related guarded type theories which also rely on dependent right adjoints to structure the later modality. Like sGuTT, CloTT escapes Corollary 3 by preventing Löb induction in most circumstances. Rather than having a separate type theory where Löb induction does compute, CloTT carefully allows lob to unfold only when at the ‘top-level’. In particular, if we were to construct the gadget used by Corollary 3 in CloTT, only the outer application of Löb would unfold.

Unfortunately, the additional definitional equality provided CloTT cannot be used in most circumstances; whenever a user is manipulating terms in a non-trivial context, Löb induction unfolds only up to a propositional equality, just as with sGuTT. Moreover, in the existing formulation of CloTT in Agda [27], Löb induction is added as an axiom without even the definitional equality unfolding it at the top-level. The fact that CloTT has been used to formalize substantial arguments under these circumstances serves as further evidence for the practicability of propositional Löb induction as available in sGuTT.
Accordingly, while we conjecture that it is possible to add a similar limited form of
unfolding for Löb induction to sGuTT, this would not impact the use of the calculus. For
example, in Section 5.2 we could not benefit from the addition of these definitional equalities;
we could only take advantage of them when calculating a closed program as in Section 5.3
and at the cost of adding other machinery to the theory to ensure that congruence does not
allow the unfolding of Löb to escape to arbitrary positions in the program.

By avoiding this top-level unfolding, GuTT is able to take advantage of results about MTT
off-the-shelf. Consequently, the metatheory of GuTT is more developed than CloTT; the
decidability of type-checking of GuTT is proven—with a prototype implementation [25]—and
an appropriate canonicity theorem is proven for the full system. Both of these results are
conjectured for CloTT, but neither have been proven for a complete version of the system.

Synthetic Tait computability

We have proven Theorem 20 by adapting (multimodal) synthetic Tait computability (STC) [9,
26]. This is the first application of STC—multimodal or not—which takes full advantage of
the fact that STC applies to arbitrary sheaf topoi rather than just presheaf topoi. Moreover,
this result expands the reach of STC to yet another class of languages: guarded recursion.
Theorem 20 therefore opens the door to applying STC to guarded programming languages.

7 Conclusions

We contribute GuTT, a type theory for guarded recursion featuring a novel decomposition
into ‘static’ and ‘dynamic’ fragments. We prove that the static fragment enjoys normalization
and decidability of type-checking and formulate and prove a guarded canonicity result for the
‘dynamic’ fragment. In so doing, we escape a no-go theorem (Corollary 3) showing that the
presence of Löb induction is all but certain to disrupt the decidability of conversion. Finally,
we have shown that this dichotomy between static and dynamic results in a usable system
by carrying out a case-study based on synchronous programming.

In the future, we hope to further develop a prototype implementation of GuTT based on
the work of Stassen et al. [25] and potentially extend GuTT with a richer mode theory for
guarded recursion to permit more flexible guarded programming.

We also intend to investigate whether sGuTT enjoys a ‘homotopy canonicity’ property
i.e., while not every \( M : \text{nat} \) is definitional equal to a numeral, we conjecture that \( M \) is
propositionally equal to a numeral \( \bar{n} \). If homotopy canonicity holds, then \( \bar{n} \) is necessarily
definitionally equal to the numeral yielded by Theorem 20. More generally, we conjecture that
dGuTT is conservative over sGuTT. Such a result would diminish some of the importance of
dGuTT, but the dynamic portion of the theory would still serve as an important computational
justification for sGuTT and will almost certainly still prove more convenient when using
GuTT as an internal language.\(^3\)

References

1 Robert Atkey and Conor McBride. Productive Coprogramming with Guarded Recursion. In
Proceedings of the 18th ACM SIGPLAN International Conference on Functional Programming,

\(^3\) One may fruitfully compare this to the situation with intensional and extensional type theory. Hofmann’s
celebrated conservativity result [15] has not obviated extensional type theory, though it has clarified the
relationship between the two theories.


A stratified approach to Löb induction


A Models of GuTT

A model of sGuTT extends a model of MTT instantiated with \( M \) with two additional constants for \( \text{lob} \) and \( \text{unfold} \).

▶ Definition 23. A model of MTT with mode \( M \) consists of a 2-functor \( F : M^{\text{coop}} \to \text{Cat} \) such that \( F(m) \) has a terminal object along with the following structure:
- A modal representable natural transformation \( \tau : \check{T} \to T \) [10].
- A choice of codes closing \( \tau \) under dependent sums, modal dependent products, natural numbers, modalities, etc.
- A choice of code closing \( \tau \) under identity types and left-lifting structure further equipping those types with a crisp induction principle.

▶ Definition 24. A model of sGuTT consists of a model of MTT further supplemented with two elements of \( \check{T} \) witnessing \( \text{lob} \) and \( \text{unfold} \).

▶ Definition 25. A model of dGuTT consists of a model of sGuTT satisfying the following conditions:
- \( \text{lob} \) satisfies the expected definitional equality
- \( \text{unfold} \) is precisely interpreted by reflexivity
- There is a chosen initial object \( 0 \) in \( F(m) \) which is preserved by each \( F(\mu) \)
- \( \check{T}(0) = T(0) = \{\ast\} \)
- A choice of objects representing the functors \( \text{hom}(\cdot, \{\mu\}, 0) \) for each \( \mu \).

B Löb cosmoi

Here we give a more precise definition of Löb cosmoi. We presuppose knowledge with Section 3 of Gratzer [9] which introduces the notion of MTT cosmoi.

▶ Definition 26. A Löb cosmos is a strict 2-functor \( G : M \to \text{Cat} \) such that \( G(m) \) (which we abusively write \( G \)) is a locally Cartesian closed category with an initial object and each \( G(\mu) \) is a right adjoint. We require the following additional structure:
1. A morphism \( \tau_G : \check{T}_G \to T_G \) in \( G \)
2. A choice of codes ensuring that \( \tau_G \) is closed under dependent sums, weak natural numbers, identity types with a crisp induction principle and a weak Tarski universe. The last is itself closed under all connectives except the universe.
3. A choice of code making \( \tau_G \) closed under modal dependent products: a code for \( P_{G(\mu)\tau_G}(\tau_G) \) for each \( \mu : m \to m \).
4. An element \( \text{lob} \) with the appropriate type and necessary equation.
5. For each \( \mu \), there exists a chosen commuting square

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
G(\mu)(\check{T}_n) & \xrightarrow{} & G(\mu)(\check{T}_m) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
G(\mu)(T_n) & \xrightarrow{} & G(\mu)(T_m)
\end{array}
\]  \quad (4)

6. For each \( \mu : m \to m \) and \( \nu : m \to m \), there is a chosen lifting structure \( G(\mu)(m) \sqcup G(\mu \circ \nu)(\check{T}_G) \times \tau_G \), where \( m : G(\nu)(\check{T}_n) \to G(\nu)(\check{T}_G) \times \tau_G \check{T}_G \) is the comparison map induced by Diagram 4.
Definition 27. A morphism of Löb cosmoi is a 2-natural transformation whose components are LCC functors preserving the initial object up to isomorphism and all structure strictly.

We can form a Löb cosmos in \( \text{Sh}(\text{Cx}) \): sheaves over contexts and substitutions localizing the map \( 0_{\text{PSh}(\text{Cx})} \to y(0) \).

Theorem 28. This topology is subcanonical.

The universe of types and terms is taken is given by the standard representable universe (it is a map of sheaves by the \( \eta \)-laws governing 0) which we write \( \tau_{\text{Sh}(\text{Cx})} \):

\[
\tau_{\text{Sh}(\text{Cx})}(\Gamma) = \{ A \mid \Gamma \vdash_\text{d} A \} \\
\tau_{\text{Sh}(\text{Cx})}(\Gamma) = \{(A, M) \mid \Gamma \vdash_\text{d} M : A \}
\]

We must show that \( \tau \) is closed under the various required connectives. These proofs are based on the following observation.

Lemma 29. Viewed as a subcategory of \( \text{PSh}(\text{Cx}) \), \( \text{Sh}(\text{Cx}) \) is closed under limits and dependent products.

Remark 30. A type-theoretic proof of this the second half of this lemma follows from Lemma 1.26 of Rijke et al. [23].

We already know that \( \tau \) is closed under dependent sums and products in \( \text{PSh}(\text{Cx}) \) so that there is a Cartesian square

\[
\sum_A : I(\tau_{\text{Sh}(\text{Cx})}) \overset{\sum_A : I(\tau_{\text{Sh}(\text{Cx})})}{\longrightarrow} I(\tau_{\text{Sh}(\text{Cx})})
\]

However, sheaves are closed under the formation of finite limits and dependent products, so this is already a Cartesian square in \( \text{Sh}(\text{Cx}) \). A similar argument holds for dependent sums and natural numbers.

It remains to describe the interpretations of modalities on this category. Given a modality \( \mu \) we define \( F_\mu := (-;\{\mu\})^* \). We first must show that this sends sheaves to sheaves: there is an isomorphism \( 0;\{\mu\} \cong 0 \) so if \( \Gamma \) is covered by the empty sieve so too is \( \Gamma;\{\mu\} \). This functor also preserves all limits (they are computed pointwise in sheaves) so it is a right adjoint. We must show that it is weakly representable, but we already have such a representation in presheaves and it again descends.

Theorem 31. There is a Löb cosmos \( S \) sending \( m \) to \( \text{Sh}(\text{Cx}) \) and each modality \( \mu \) to \( F_\mu \).

The universe of types and terms is interpreted by \( \tau \) and all the connectives descend from \( \text{PSh}(\text{Cx}) \) in the manner described above.

C The canonicity cosmos

In this appendix we highlight the novel constructions of the canonicity cosmos. As with Appendix B, we again presuppose some familiarity with Gratzer [9]. Specifically, we make use of the internal presentation of cosmoi discussed in Section 3, the language of multimodal
As with the construction of the normalization cosmos of Gratzer [9], we now construct a Löb cosmos in $G$ which lies strictly over the syntactic Löb cosmos $S$. We proceed internally to $G$, using the language of multimodal synthetic Tait computability to define a sequence of constants.

**Definition 32.** The language of multimodal synthetic Tait computability consists of extensional $\text{MTT}$ together with a universe of strict propositions, a distinguished proposition $\text{syn} : \Omega$ inducing a pair of complementary lex idempotent monads $\circ = \text{syn} \to -$ and $\bullet = \text{syn} \lor -$. Furthermore, each universe of $\text{MTT}$ satisfies the internal realignment axiom of Orton and Pitts [21] and both lex monads commute with $\langle \mu \mid - \rangle$.

A word of caution is required as—unlike the situation described by Gratzer [9]—$\langle \mu \mid \text{syn} \rangle \neq \text{syn}$. This divergence stems essentially from the fact that $\langle \ell \mid - \rangle$ does not preserve 0. However, this is immaterial as $\langle \mu \mid - \rangle$ does commute with both $\circ$ and $\bullet$.

When interpreted into $G$, the $\circ$-modal correspond to objects in $S$. Accordingly, the syntactic model is manifested as a series of $\circ$-modal types ($Ty$, $Tm$, etc.) and constants as done by Gratzer [9]. We then must construct a series of types and constants in $\text{MTT}$ which collapse to the syntactic model under $\text{syn}$.

**Remark 33.** We write $\circ z A(z)$ as shorthand for the dependent open modality $\prod z : \text{syn} A(z)$.

**Remark 34.** We write $\{ A \mid z : \phi \mapsto a(z) \}$ for the type of elements of $A$ which are equal to $a(z)$ under the assumption $z : \phi$. We treat the coercion to $A$ as silent.

**Remark 35.** We will write $\text{foo}^*$ for the constant lying over $\text{foo}$.

We begin by defining the following type using realignment to ensure that it lies over $Ty$:

$$\text{record } Ty^* : \{ U_2 \mid z : \text{syn} \mapsto Ty(z) \} \text{ where}$$

- code : $\circ_2 Ty(z)$
- pred : $\{ U_1 \mid z : \text{syn} \mapsto Tm(z, \text{code}) \}$

We further define $Tm^* : \{ Ty^* \mapsto U_1 \mid z : \text{syn} \mapsto Tm(z) \}$ to send $A$ to $\text{pred}(A)$.

The following lemma follows more-or-less verbatim the proofs given by Gratzer [9].

**Lemma 36.** The gluing model supports dependent products and sums, a weak Tarski universe, identity types with a crisp induction principle, and modal types.

**Lemma 37.** The gluing model supports weak natural numbers.

**Proof.** We begin by defining $\text{Nat}^*$:

- code($\text{Nat}^*$) = $\text{Nat}$
- pred($\text{Nat}^*$) = $\sum_M : \circ_2 \text{Nat}(z) \bullet \left[ \sum_{n : \text{nat}} \bar{n} = M \right]$

The two introduction forms deviate only slightly from the standard definitions:

- zero$^* = (\text{zero}, \eta(0, *))$
- succ$^* = \lambda M. (\text{succ}(M), (n, *) \leftarrow \pi_1(M); \eta(n + 1, *))$

We finally define $\text{rec}^*$:

$$\text{rec}^*(A, M_z, M_s, N) = \begin{cases} \text{rec}^*(z, M_z, M_s, N) & \pi_1(N) = \iota_0(z) \\ M_s^n(M_z) & \pi_1(N) = \iota_1(n, *) \end{cases} \quad \triangleright$$
Lemma 38. There is a constant $\text{lob}^* : (\ell_\top Tm^*(A)) \to Tm^*(A) \to Tm^*(A)$ lying strictly over $\text{lob}$ and satisfying the unrolling rule.

Proof. Let us fix $f : (\ell \top Tm^*(A)) \to Tm^*(A)$. We must construct $\text{lob}^*(f)$. We now use the fracture theorem: $A \cong \circ A \times \circ A \bullet A$.

We have the left component of this pullback already: $\lambda z. \text{lob}(z, f)$. It remains to construct an element of $\bullet Tm^*(A)$ which coheres appropriately with $\text{lob}$. Here we use $\text{lob}$ induction with the target $\bullet Tm^*(A)$. We must produce a function $\langle \ell \top \bullet Tm^*(A) \rangle \to \bullet Tm^*(A)$. We have $g = \bullet f : \langle \ell \top \bullet A \rangle \to \bullet A$. Therefore $\text{lob}^*(g) : \bullet Tm^*(A)$. We must show the following:

$$ (\bullet \eta_\circ)(\text{lob}^*(g)) = \eta_\bullet (\lambda z. \text{lob}(z, f)) $$  \hspace{1cm} (6)

Let us prove this through L"ob induction, available because equality of terms of $\bullet$-modal type is a $\bullet$-modal type. We then assume Equation (6) under $\langle \ell \top - \rangle$. Taking advantage of $\langle \ell \top - \rangle$ as a fully-fledged dependent right adjoint, we rephrase this assumption as the equality

$$ \text{next}(\bullet \eta_\circ)(\text{lob}^*(g)) = \text{next}(\eta_\bullet (\lambda z. \text{lob}(z, f))) $$

We may simplify this by taking advantage of our ability to commute MTT modalities past those induced by gluing:

$$ (\bullet (\eta_\circ \circ \text{next})(\text{lob}^*(g))) = (\eta_\bullet (\lambda z. (\text{next}(\text{lob}(z, f)))) $$

Returning now to our goal, after applying both computation rules for the different forms of L"ob induction, we are left with the following:

$$ (\bullet \eta_\circ(g((\bullet \text{next})(\text{lob}^*(g)))) = (\eta_\bullet (\lambda z. f(\text{next}(\text{lob}(z, f)))) $$

Rewriting, we obtain

$$ (\circ f \circ \eta_\circ \circ \text{next})(\text{lob}^*(g)) = (\circ f)(\eta_\bullet (\lambda z. \text{next}(\text{lob}(z, f)))) $$

The result now follows from our induction hypothesis.  \hfill \blacktriangleleft

Theorem 39. $G$ supports a L"ob cosmos equipped with a projection onto $S$.

Theorem 20 (Guarded canonicity). Given a term $\nu,\nu \vdash A$ : $A$, the following holds
- If $A = \text{nat}$ then there exist a numeral $k$ such that $M = k$
- If $A = \langle \xi \top B \rangle$ then $M = \text{mod}_k(N)$ for some $\nu,\nu \vdash N : B$
- If $A = \text{ld}_B(b_0, b_1)$ then $M = \text{refl}_B(b_0)$ and $\nu,\nu \vdash b_0 = b_1 :$. 

Proof. Fix a term $\nu,\nu \vdash A$. By Theorem 11 we obtain an element of $M^* : A$ which lies over $M$ up to isomorphism of contexts. We have the following square in $\text{Sh}(P)$

$$ (F_\nu)(F_\nu(0_{\text{Sh}(P)})) \longrightarrow (\tau_{\nu}[A^*])_0 \bigg\downarrow \bigg\uparrow \tau_{\nu}[A^*] \leftarrow \tau_{\nu}[A] \bigg\downarrow \bigg\uparrow i^*y(\nu,M) \quad \text{\hfill (7)} $$

We instantiate this diagram of sheaves at $(\mu,\nu)$. Let us construct an $(\mu,\nu)$-point of $(F_\nu)(F_\nu(0_{\text{Sh}(P)}))$. By functoriality, it suffices to construct a $(\mu,\text{id})$-point of $F_\nu(0)$. Transposing, it is sufficient to construct a $(\mu,\mu)$-point of $0$, which exists uniquely (it is a map between initial objects). Calculating, this lies over $i^*y(0_{\nu,\nu})(\nu,\nu)$, which, together with the definition of the computability data for $\text{nat}$, $\langle - \top - \rangle$, and $\text{ld}_{-}(\langle - \top - \rangle)$, yields the desired result.  \hfill \blacktriangleleft