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# An Operational Characterization of (lazy) Strong Normalization

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- $\Delta$ -Solvability and Potential  
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- A call-by-value  
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- Problem 1:  $\lambda\Phi$ -Calculus
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- The problems we want to solve.

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■ Some Basic Notions.

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- A new characterization of (lazy) Strong Normalization.



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- The notions of (lazy)-normal form and (lazy)-strong normalization become meaningless in a call-by-value  $\lambda$ -calculus.
- In fact, in the Plotkin call-by-value  $\lambda$ -calculus there are two normal forms that can be consistently equated:

$$\lambda x.xxx = (\lambda x.(\lambda z.xxx)(xx))$$

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- In fact, in the Plotkin call-by-value  $\lambda$ -calculus there are two normal forms that can be consistently equated:

$$\lambda x. xxx = (\lambda x. (\lambda z. xxx)(xx))$$

- **Potential valuability**: all non potentially valuable terms can be consistently equated.
- We explore the relation between **(lazy)-potential valuability** and **(lazy)- $\beta$ -strong normalization**.
- We ask for two call-by-value  $\lambda$ -calculi, such that the set of potentially valuable terms in them coincide with the set of (lazy)- $\beta$ -strongly normalizing terms.

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- The set  $\Lambda$  of  $\lambda$ -terms is defined by the following grammar:

$$M ::= x \mid MM \mid \lambda x.M$$

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$$M ::= x \mid MM \mid \lambda x.M$$

- The classical evaluation rule is

$$(\lambda \mathbf{x}. \mathbf{M}) \mathbf{N} \rightarrow_{\beta} \mathbf{M}[\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{x}]$$

where  $(\lambda x.M)N$  is named  $\beta$ -redex.

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- A term of the  $\lambda$ -calculus is in  $\beta$ -normal form if and only if it does not contain occurrences of  $\beta$ -redexes.



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■ A term of the  $\lambda$ -calculus is in  $\beta$ -normal form if and only if it does not contain occurrences of  $\beta$ -redexes.

■ The set  $\beta$ -NF can be defined in the following recursive way:

$$\beta\text{-NF} = \text{Var} \cup \{xM_1\dots M_n \mid M_k \in \beta\text{-NF} (1 \leq k \leq n)\} \\ \cup \{\lambda\vec{x}.M \mid M \in \beta\text{-NF}\}$$

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- A term  $M$  is **strongly  $\beta$ -normalizing** if both  $M$  has  $\beta$ -normal form and every reduction sequence starting from  $M$  eventually stops.

# The Parametric Lambda-Calculus

Let  $\Delta \subseteq \Lambda$ .

■ The  $\Delta$ -reduction ( $\rightarrow_{\Delta}$ ) is the contextual closure of:

$$(\lambda x.M)N \rightarrow M[N/x] \quad \text{if and only if} \quad N \in \Delta.$$

where  $(\lambda x.M)N$  is said  $\Delta$ -redex.

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- A set  $\Delta \subseteq \Lambda$  is a **set of input values**, when the following conditions are satisfied:

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(i)  $\text{Var} \subseteq \Delta$  (Var-closure);

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(i)  $\text{Var} \subseteq \Delta$  (Var-closure);

(ii)  $P, Q \in \Delta$  implies  $P[Q/x] \in \Delta$ , for each  $x \in \text{Var}$   
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- The  $\lambda\Delta$ -calculus is **confluent**.

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- **Standardization** holds under one more condition.

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■  $\Lambda$  is a set of input values

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- $\Lambda$  is a set of input values
- $\rightarrow_{\Lambda}$  and  $\rightarrow_{\beta}$  are the same relation  
(the  $\lambda\Lambda$ -calculus is the usual  $\lambda$ -calculus)

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■ The set  $\Delta$ -NF of  $\Delta$ -normal forms is

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta\text{-NF} = \text{Var} \quad & \cup \{xM_1 \dots M_n \mid M_k \in \Delta\text{-NF} (1 \leq k \leq n)\} \\ & \cup \{\lambda\vec{x}.M \mid M \in \Delta\text{-NF}\} \\ & \cup \{(\lambda x.P)QM_1 \dots M_n \mid P, Q, M_i \in \Delta\text{-NF}, Q \notin \Delta\} \end{aligned}$$

# Lazy evaluation

- The evaluation of a  $\lambda$ -term is said **lazy** if no reduction is made under the scope of a  $\lambda$ -abstraction.

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- A term is in  **$\Delta\ell$ -normal form** (or **lazy  $\Delta$ -normal form**) if it has no occurrences of  $\Delta$ -redexes, but under the scope of a  $\lambda$ -abstraction.

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- $\Delta$ -normal forms are  $\Delta\ell$ -normal forms.
- The lazy  $\beta$ -normal form of a term, if there exists, may not be unique. In fact,  $(\lambda xy.x)(II) \rightarrow_{\beta\ell}^* \lambda y.II$  and  $(\lambda xy.x)(II) \rightarrow_{\beta\ell}^* \lambda y.I$  where both  $\lambda y.II$  and  $\lambda y.I$  are lazy  $\beta$ -normal forms.

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# $\Delta$ -Solvability and Potential Valuability

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- A term  $M$  is  $\Delta$ -solvable if and only if there is a sequence  $\vec{N}$  of  $\Delta$ -values such that:

$\vec{x}$  sequentializes variables of  $FV(M)$

and  $(\lambda\vec{x}.M)\vec{N} \rightarrow_{\Delta}^* I$

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- A term  $M$  is **valuable** iff  $M \rightarrow_{\Delta}^* N \in \Delta$
- A term  $M$  is **potentially  $\Delta$ -valuable** iff there is a substitution  $s$  replacing variables by closed values, such that  $s(M)$  is  $\Delta$ -valuable

# A call-by-value characterization of (lazy) $\beta$ -str

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The two problems we are interested in are the following:

- 1 Is there a set of input values  $\Delta$  such that the set of **potentially  $\Delta$ -valuable** terms coincides with the set of **strongly  $\beta$ -normalizing** terms?

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The two problems we are interested in are the following:

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- 2 Is there a set of input values  $\Delta$  such that the set of **potentially  $\Delta$ -valuable** terms coincides with the set of **strongly  $\beta\ell$ -normalizing** terms?



# Problem 1: $\lambda\Phi$ -Calculus

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# Problem 1: $\lambda\Phi$ -Calculus

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  - (i) if  $M \in \Phi$  then either  $M \in \text{Var}$  or  $M$  is closed;

# Problem 1: $\lambda\Phi$ -Calculus

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- $\Phi$  is a set of **input values** such that
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  - (ii) if  $M \in \Phi$  then  $M$  is a  $\Phi$ -normal form;

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  - (iii) if  $M \in \Phi$  then  $M$  is strongly  $\beta$ -normalizing.
  
- $\Phi = \text{Var} \cup (\Upsilon)^0$  where  $\Upsilon = \cup_i \Upsilon_i$  and  $\Upsilon_i, \Phi_i$  are defined as follows:

$$\Upsilon_0 = \text{Var}$$

$$\Phi_i = \text{Var} \cup (\Upsilon_i)^0$$

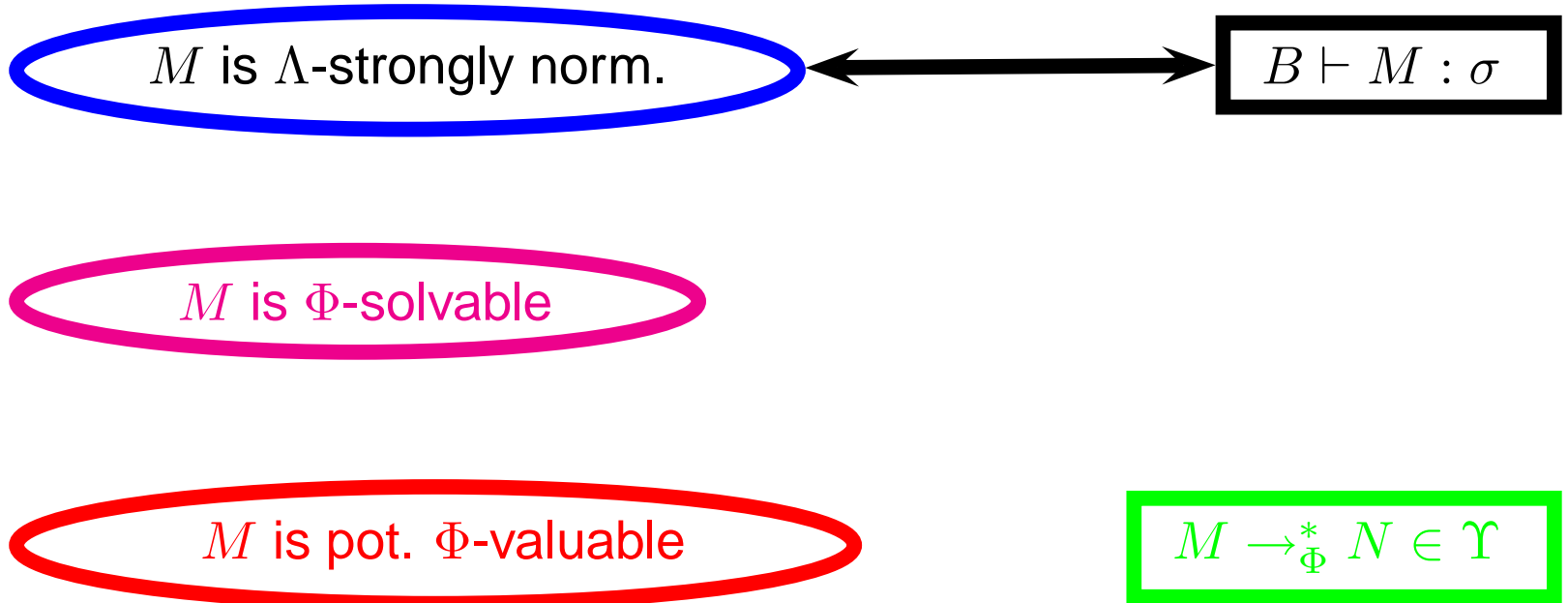
$$\Upsilon_{i+1} = \text{Var} \cup \{xM_1 \dots M_n \mid M_k \in \Upsilon_i (1 \leq k \leq n)\}$$

$$\cup \{\lambda \vec{x}.M \mid M \in \Upsilon_i\}$$

$$\cup \left\{ (\lambda x.P)Q M_1 \dots M_n \mid \begin{array}{l} Q \in \Upsilon_i - (\Lambda^0 \cup \text{Var}), \\ M_k \in \Upsilon_i (1 \leq k \leq n) \\ P[Q/x]M_1 \dots M_n \rightarrow_{\Phi_i}^* R \in \Upsilon_i \end{array} \right\}$$

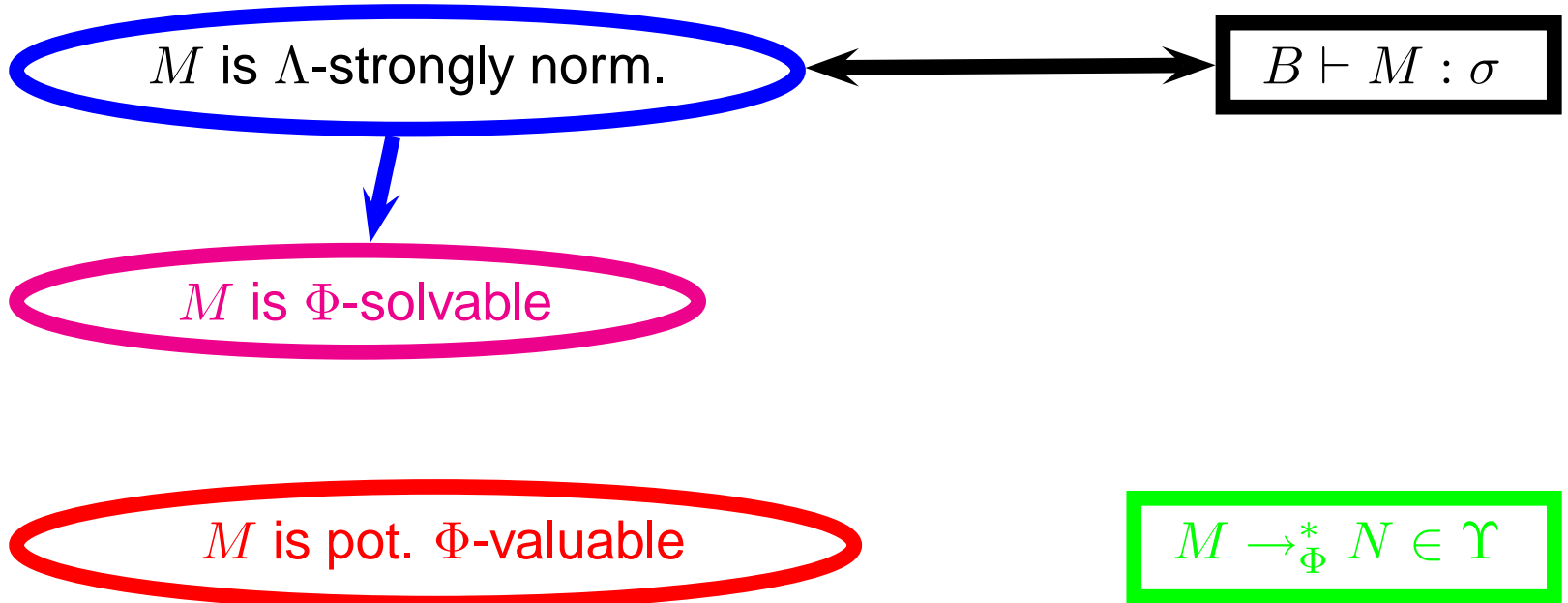
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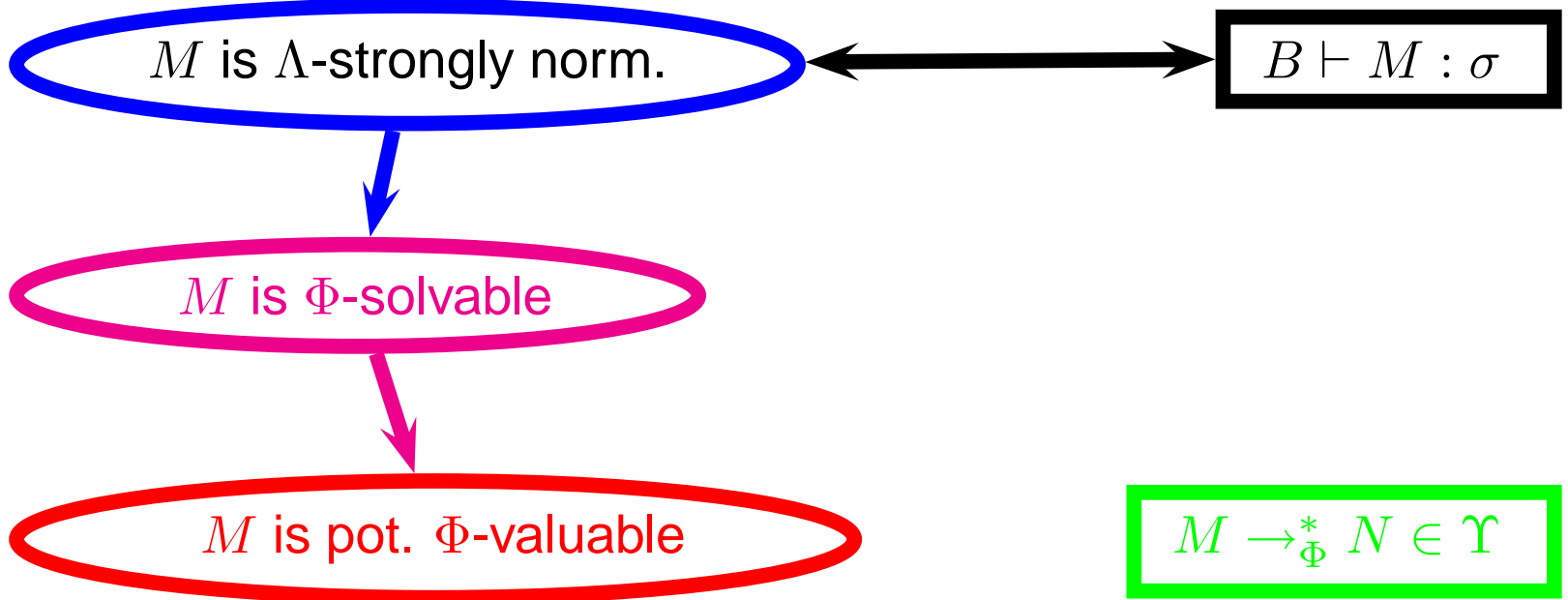
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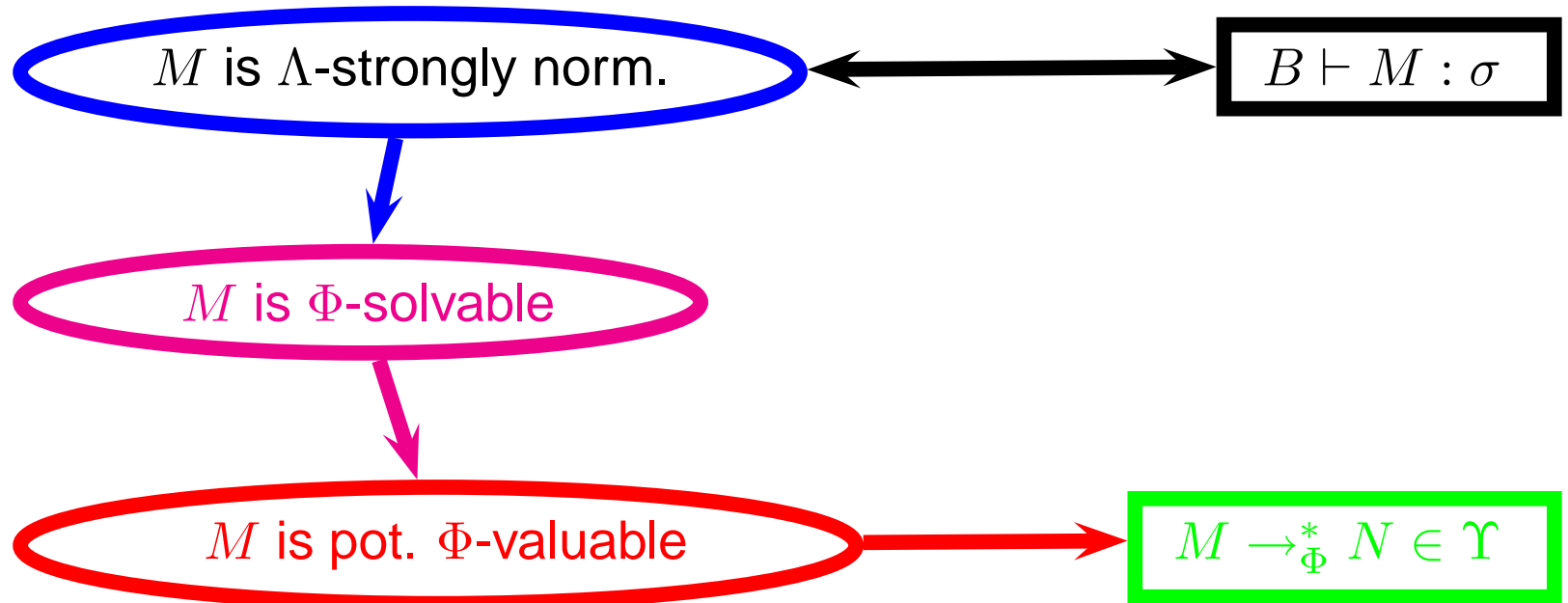
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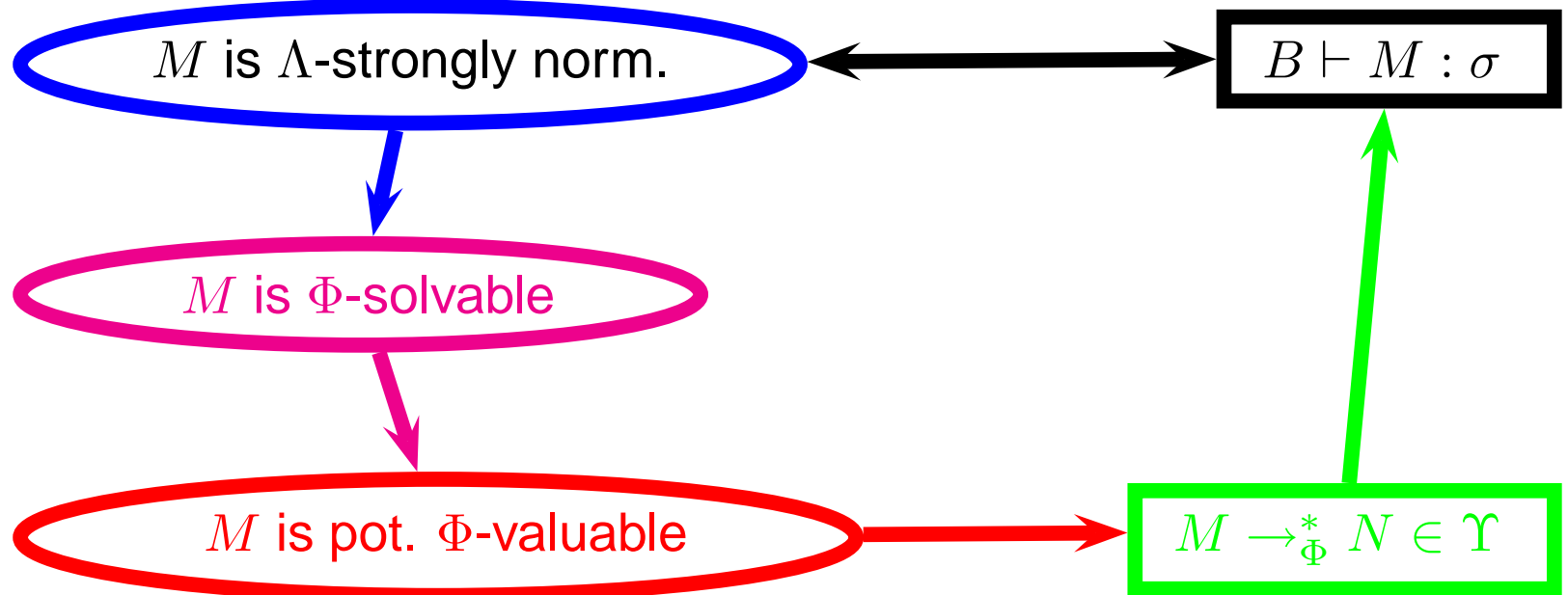
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# Logical Characterization

- Let  $C_\nu$  be a countable set of *type-constants* containing at least the type constant  $\nu$ .

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- Let  $C_\nu$  be a countable set of *type-constants* containing at least the type constant  $\nu$ .
- Intersection Types:  $\sigma ::= a \mid \sigma \rightarrow \sigma \mid \sigma \cap \sigma.$

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■ Let  $C_\nu$  be a countable set of *type-constants* containing at least the type constant  $\nu$ .

■ Intersection Types:  $\sigma ::= a \mid \sigma \rightarrow \sigma \mid \sigma \cap \sigma$ .

■ The **type assignment system** is the following:

$$\frac{}{B[\sigma/x] \vdash_\nu x : \sigma} \text{ (var)}$$

$$\frac{B[\sigma/x] \vdash_\nu M : \tau}{B \vdash_\nu \lambda x.M : \sigma \rightarrow \tau} \text{ (}\rightarrow I\text{)}$$

$$\frac{B \vdash_\nu M : \sigma \rightarrow \tau \quad B \vdash_\nu N : \sigma}{B \vdash_\nu MN : \tau} \text{ (}\rightarrow E\text{)}$$

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$$\frac{B \vdash_\nu M : \sigma \cap \tau}{B \vdash_\nu M : \sigma} \text{ (}\cap E_l\text{)}$$

$$\frac{B \vdash_\nu M : \sigma \cap \tau}{B \vdash_\nu M : \tau} \text{ (}\cap E_r\text{)}$$

$$\frac{}{B \vdash_\nu \lambda x.M : \nu} \text{ (}\nu\text{)}$$

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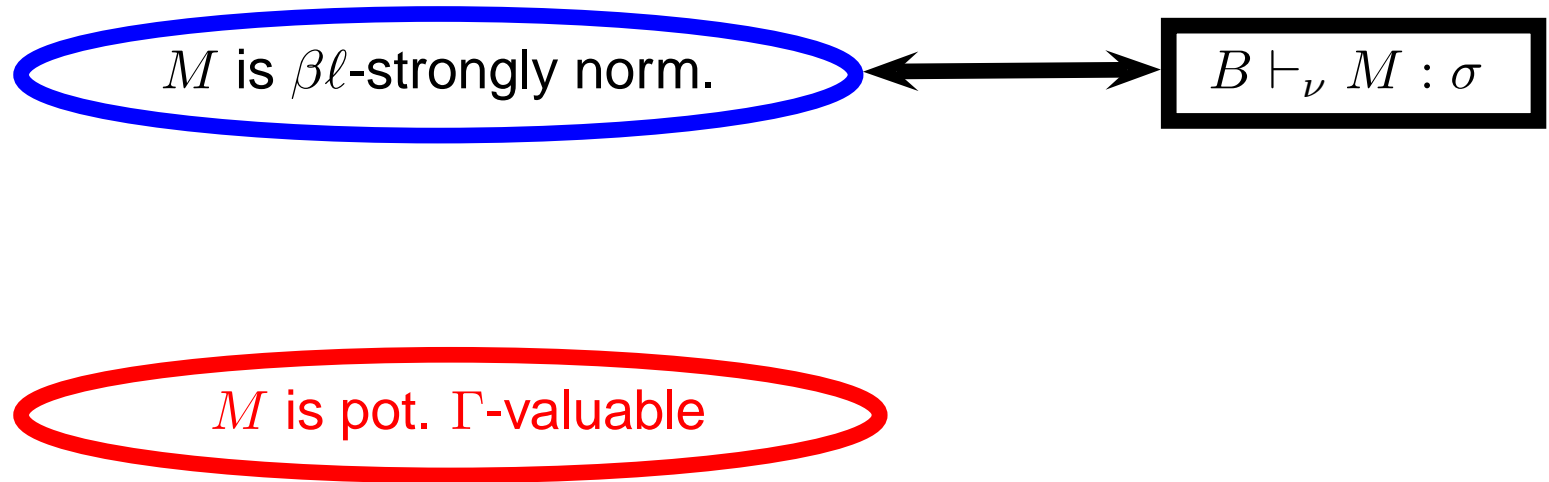
$M$  is  $\beta\ell$ -strongly norm.

$B \vdash_{\nu} M : \sigma$

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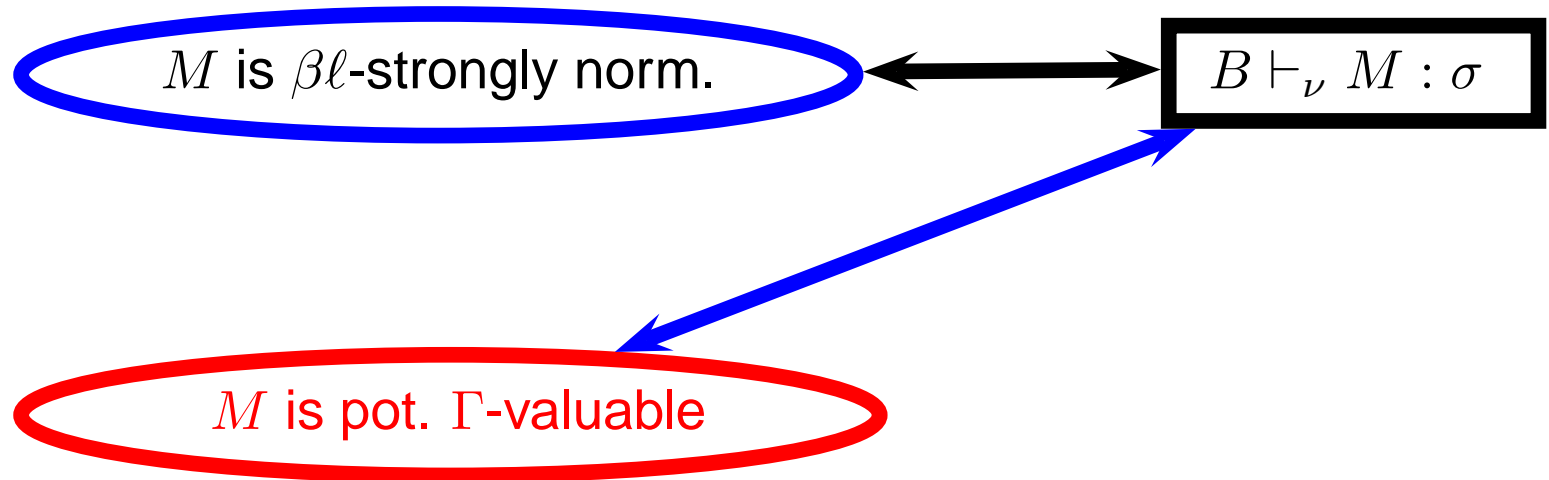
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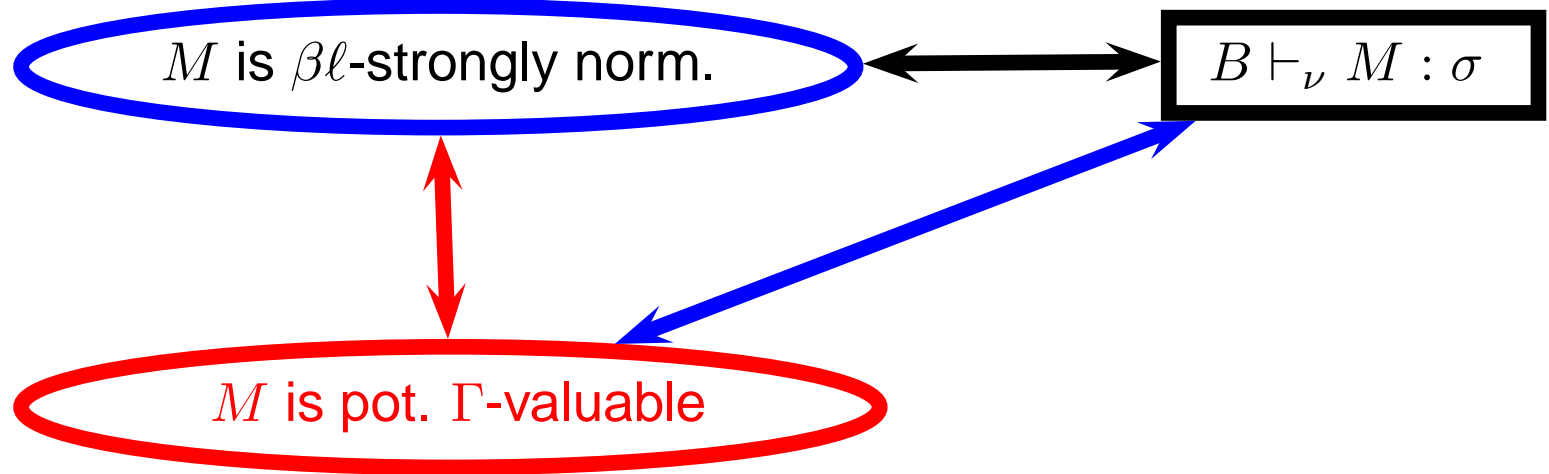
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- It's an open question if there is a decidable set of input values such that its potentially valuable terms correspond exactly to that of  $\beta$ -strongly normalizing terms.
- We conjecture that the answer to this question is negative.