

Pointing to Private Names

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Pointing to Private Names

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Scoped channels, in the π -calculus, are not nameable, as they are bound and subject to alpharenaming. For program analysis purposes, however, to identify properties of these channels, it is necessary to talk about them. We present herein a method for uniquely identifying scoped channels.

1 Introduction

In process calculi like the π -calculus [2, 3, 4], the new operator has two roles: it creates a fresh channel and binds its occurrences in a declared scope. The usual semantic rules dealing with binders apply, namely those of the λ -calculus [1].

A basic rule of the operational semantics is α -conversion, i.e., the simultaneous substitution of all occurrences of a bound identifier in a given scope by another one, usually taking into account care to avoid capturing free identifiers.

So, the identifies of bound identifiers are actually meaningless, as they can change. However, to develop program analysis methods like particular occurrences of a bound identifier to pinpoint program defects, for instance, require the ability to name such occurrences of the bound identifier, what seems to be a contradiction in terms. We address the problem by associating with each syntactic occurrence of an identifier in a new operator

In short, our contribution is the following: a syntactic mechanism, simple to automatise, that generates unique identifiers associated with each scoped name. The uniqueness of these identifiers is preserved by reduction, the usual operational semantics mechanism of the calculus. This mechanism is usefult for program analysis purposes, like detecting deadlocks on scoped names.

2 Syntax and semantics

The syntax of the process language is inductively defined by the grammar in Figure 1. As usual, u, v range over *names* and n, x over name variables. Moreover, h, i, j range over natural numbers.

The distinctive characteristic of our language is the use of labels to uniquely identify private names. This paper is dedicated to show that the reduction semantics of our language indeed guarantees label uniqueness.

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Definition 2.1 (Process Labels). Let the following sets be inductively defined by the given rule and by homomorphic rules on the remaining process constructs.

- *1.* $\operatorname{secLabs}((\operatorname{newn}:(h,i))P) = \{i\} \cup \operatorname{secLabs}(P)$
- 2. labelPairs((newn: (h,i))P) = {(h,i)} \cup labelPairs(P)

We work with well formed processes, where label pairs occur linearly. To define the concept precisely, we need to define the multiset of subprocesses of a process.

Definition 2.2 (Subprocesses). *The multiset of the subprocesses of a process P is inductively generated by the following rules.*

$$\begin{split} \mathsf{subprocs}(\mathit{nil}) &= \{\mathit{nil}\}\\ \mathsf{subprocs}(\mathit{u!v.P}) &= \{\mathit{u!v.P}\} \uplus \mathsf{subprocs}(P)\\ \mathsf{subprocs}(\mathit{u?x.P}) &= \{\mathit{u?x.P}\} \uplus \mathsf{subprocs}(P)\\ \mathsf{subprocs}(*\mathit{u?x.P}) &= \{*\mathit{u?x.P}\} \uplus \mathsf{subprocs}(P)\\ \mathsf{subprocs}((\mathit{newn}:(h,i))P) &= \{(\mathit{newn}:(h,i))P\} \uplus \mathsf{subprocs}(P)\\ \mathsf{subprocs}(P \parallel Q) &= \mathsf{subprocs}(P) \uplus \mathsf{subprocs}(Q) \end{split}$$

We are now ready to define what is a well-formed process.

Definition 2.3 (Well-Formedness). A process *P* is well-formed (and we write wf(*P*)) if when there is a set $S \in \text{subprocs}(P)$ such that $\{(newn : (h,i))Q, (newn : (h',j))Q'\} \subseteq S$ then $i \neq j$.

From now on we simply say 'P well-formed' whenever wf(P) holds. Notice that if a static (defined below) and well-formed process uses labels $(h_1, h_1), \ldots, (h_n, h_n)$, then h_1, \ldots, h_n are all distinct.¹

Definition 2.4 (Static Processes). Let a process P be static if the predicate below, inductively defined by the two rules and by homomorphic rules on the remaining process constructs, holds. static(nil) = true and static((newn : (h,i))P) = (static(P) $\land h = i$)

So, in well-formed static processes no label pair occurs more than once – well-formedness implies that labels are used linearly. Therefore, if a process is well-formed, so are all its subprocesses.

Lemma 2.5 (Label freshness). Let wf(P) hold. Then,

- 1. *if* P = (newn : (h,i))Q *then* $i \notin secLabs(Q)$ *;*
- 2. *if* P = (Q || R) *then* secLabs $(Q) \cap$ secLabs $(R) = \emptyset$;
- *3.* wf($P\sigma$), being σ be a substitution of a name for a variable;
- 4. for any $Q \in S$, for some $S \in \text{subprocs}(P)$, it holds that wf(Q);
- 5. for any Q and R such that $\{Q, R\} \subseteq S$, for some $S \in \text{subprocs}(P)$, it holds that wf(Q || R);
- 6. *if* wf(*Q*) *and* secLabs(*P*) \cap secLabs(*Q*) = \emptyset *then* wf(*P* || *Q*).

Proof. Immediate, due to the definition of well-formed processes.

Let π_1 denote the first pair projection function. The set *S* contains the labels to avoid when renaming the labels of the process.

¹This result is an immediate consequence of Lemma A.2 in Page 7.

Static Process Syntax

$P,Q,R \in PROC ::=nil$	(inert)	$ (P \parallel Q)$	(composition)
u?x.P	(input)	<i>*u?x.P</i>	(replication)
u!v.P	(output)	$ (\operatorname{new} n : (h,h))P$	(hiding)

Dynamic Process Syntax Let $i \in \mathbb{N}$.

$$P,Q,R \in \text{PROC} ::= \dots \mid (\text{new} \, n : (h,i))P$$
 (hiding)

Figure 1: The process language: syntax

Definition 2.6 (Process Relabelling). Let the (partial) binary function relabelling, taking a process and a set of labels and returning a process and a set of labels, be inductively defined by the rules below (the remaining cases being homomorphic). Consider $S \subseteq \mathcal{H}$.

1. if $S \supseteq \{i\} \cup \text{secLabs}(P)$ and $j \notin S$ then let $(P', S') = \text{relabelling}(P, S \cup \{j\})$ in

relabelling((newn: (h, i))P, S) = ((newn: (h, j))P', S')

2. let (P', S') = relabelling(P, S) and (Q', S'') = relabelling(Q, S') in

relabelling($P \parallel Q, S$) = ($P' \parallel Q', S''$)

Note that the first label in label pairs is not affected by relabelling. The relevant results are that labels obtained by relabelling are fresh and relabelling preserves well-formedness. The proofs are in Appendix A.2.

Proposition 2.7 (Relabelling preserves label freshness). *Let P be well-formed. Then, for any set of labels* $S \subseteq \mathcal{H}$ such that $S \supseteq$ secLabs(*P*),

- 1. relabelling(P,S) is defined;
- 2. $\operatorname{secLabs}(P) \cap \operatorname{secLabs}(\pi_1(\operatorname{relabelling}(P,S))) = \emptyset$;
- 3. π_1 (relabelling(*P*,*S*)) *is well-formed*.

3 Reduction semantics

Considering, as usual, processes indistinguishable up to α -conversion, the operational semantics of the language is defined with two relations: *structural congruence* and *reduction*. Figure 2 presents the rules inductively defining both relations.

Note that labels, being constants, are not subject to α -conversion (naturally, only variables are). Labels are thus a mechanism to identify places where bound channels (variables) are used.

Structural Congruence

SNIL
$$P \parallel \mathsf{nil} \equiv P$$
 SCOM $P \parallel Q \equiv Q \parallel P$ SASS $P \parallel (Q \parallel R) \equiv (P \parallel Q) \parallel R$
SSWP $(\mathsf{new} n : (h, i))(\mathsf{new} n' : (h', j))P \equiv (\mathsf{new} n' : (h', j))(\mathsf{new} n : (h, i))P$
SEXT $P \parallel (\mathsf{new} n : (h, i))Q \equiv (\mathsf{new} n : (h, i))(P \parallel Q) \text{ if } n \notin \mathbf{fn}(()P)$

Reduction system

$$\begin{array}{c} \operatorname{Com} \underbrace{ n!v.P \parallel n?x.Q \xrightarrow{n} P \parallel Q[v/x] } \\ \operatorname{Hid} \underbrace{ P \xrightarrow{n} Q } \\ \operatorname{(new} n: (h,i))P \xrightarrow{(h,i)} (\operatorname{new} n: (h,i))Q \\ \operatorname{Res} \underbrace{ P \xrightarrow{o} Q \quad o \neq n } \\ (\operatorname{new} n: (h,i))P \xrightarrow{-o} (\operatorname{new} n: (h,i))Q \\ \operatorname{Res} \underbrace{ P \xrightarrow{o} Q \quad o \neq n } \\ \operatorname{(new} n: (h,i))P \xrightarrow{-o} (\operatorname{new} n: (h,i))Q \\ \operatorname{Res} \underbrace{ P \xrightarrow{o} Q \quad o \neq n } \\ \operatorname{(new} n: (h,i))P \xrightarrow{-o} (\operatorname{new} n: (h,i))Q \\ \operatorname{Str} \underbrace{ P \equiv P' \quad P' \xrightarrow{o} Q' \quad Q' \equiv Q } \\ P \xrightarrow{-o} Q \end{array}$$

Figure 2: The process language: operational semantics

Remark 3.1 (Notation).

- We write $P \longrightarrow Q$ in lieu of $\exists o \, . P \stackrel{o}{\longrightarrow} Q$.
- Let \implies be the reflexive and transitive closure of \longrightarrow .
- For simplicity sake, in the examples and in some statements, we just write (newn : h)P, instead of (newn : (h,h))P.

Notice that reduction preserves the first label in any label pair.

Lemma 3.2 (Label preservation). Let $P \longrightarrow^* Q$. For any $(h, j) \in \mathsf{labelPairs}(Q)$ there is an i such that $(h, i) \in \mathsf{labelPairs}(P)$.

Proof. Straightforward.

Relabelling at work. A simpler mechanism to generate fresh labels would be to increase the second label each time a new thread is spawned. The idea, however, does not guarantee label uniqueness. **Example 3.3** (Why increment doesn't work).

$$\begin{aligned} &*a?.*b?.(newn:(l,1))nil \|a!.nil\| a!.nil\| b!.nil \longrightarrow \\ &*b?.(newn:(l,1))nil\| *a?.*b?.(newn:(l,2))nil\| a!.nil\| b!.nil \longrightarrow \\ &*b?.(newn:(l,1))nil\| *b?.(newn:(l,2))nil\| *a?.*b?.(newn:(l,3))nil\| b!.nil \longrightarrow \\ &(newn:(l,1))nil\| *b?.(newn:(l,2))nil\| *b?.(newn:(l,2))nil\| *a?.*b?.(newn:(l,3))nil\| b!.nil \longrightarrow \\ \end{aligned}$$

The relabelling mechanism defined actually guarantees that label uniqueness is preserved by reduction. An elaborate example is below.

 \square

Example 3.4 (Relabelling works). Consider

$$P = a!.(newn: (l_1, l_1))nil || Q_0 withQ_0 = *a?.Q_{00} and Q_{00} = *b?.(newn: (l_0, l_0))nil$$

By rule REP, we have $P \longrightarrow Q$, where

$$Q = (\mathit{newn}: (l_1, l_1))\mathit{nil} \| Q_{00} \| *a$$
?.relabel (Q_{00})

and relabel $(Q_{00}) = *b?.(newn: (l_0, l_4))$ nil with a fresh label l_4 . Notice how

$$\left(\mathsf{secLabs}((\mathit{newn}:(l_1,l_1))\mathit{nil} \| Q_0) = \{l_0,l_1\}\right) \cap \left(\{l_4\} = \mathsf{secLabs}(\mathsf{relabel}(Q_{00})))\right) = \emptyset$$

Consider now

$$R = a!.(newn: (l_2, l_2))nil || b!.(newn: (l_3, l_3)nil)$$

Since $\operatorname{secLabs}(Q) = \{l_0, l_1, l_4\}$ and $\operatorname{secLabs}(R) = \{l_2, l_3\}$ (they are disjoint), we conclude, by rule PAR,

$$P \| R = \begin{cases} a!.(newn:(l_1,l_1))nil \| *a?.*b?.(newn:(l_0,l_0))nil \\ \| a!.(newn:(l_2,l_2))nil \| b!.(newn:(l_3,l_3))nil \\ & \longrightarrow \\ Q \| R = \begin{cases} (newn:(l_1,l_1)nil) \| *b?.(newn:(l_0,l_0))nil \| *a?.*b?.(newn:(l_0,l_4))nil \\ \| a!.(newn:(l_2,l_2))nil \| b!.(newn:(l_3,l_3))nil \end{cases}$$

The same reasoning applies now for the subsequent reduction step:

• Assuming relabel(*b?.(newn: (l₀,l₄))nil) = *b?.(newn: (l₀,l₅))nil with l₅ fresh, by rule REP we have:

$$a?.*b?.(newn:(l_0,l_4))nil ||a!.(newn:(l_2,l_2))nil \longrightarrow *b?.(newn:(l_0,l_4))nil ||*a?.*b?.(newn:(l_0,l_5))nil || (newn:(l_2,l_2))nil$$

• thus, by rule PAR, $P' = Q || a! (newn : (l_2, l_2)) nil \longrightarrow Q'$, where

$$Q' = \begin{cases} (newn: (l_1, l_1))nil \| (newn: (l_2, l_2))nil \| *b?.(newn: (l_0, l_0))nil \\ \| *b?.(newn: (l_0, l_4))nil \| *a?. *b?.(newn: (l_0, l_5))nil \end{cases}$$

So, $Q || R \longrightarrow Q' || b! (newn : (l_3, l_3))$ nil, and again, reasoning as above, we get

$$\begin{array}{ll} \mathcal{Q}' \| b!.(\textit{newn}:(l_3,l_3))\textit{nil} & \longrightarrow \\ & \begin{cases} (\textit{newn}:(l_1,l_1))\textit{nil} \| (\textit{newn}:(l_2,l_2))\textit{nil} \| (\textit{newn}:(l_3,l_3))\textit{nil} \\ \| *b?.(\textit{newn}:(l_0,l_6))\textit{nil} \| *b?.(\textit{newn}:(l_0,l_4))\textit{nil} \| *a?.*b?.(\textit{newn}:(l_0,l_5))\textit{nil} \end{cases} \end{array}$$

Notice that all labelled pairs are different.

5

4 Label uniqueness.

A crucial property of our language is that the uniqueness of labels is preserved by reduction. The precision of our deadlock detection analysis relies on this fact.

An example of relabelling at work is in Appendix 3. From it it is simple to understand why using only one label (or an indexing mechanism) would not work.

Preservation of label uniqueness by reduction. A key property to ensure the soundness of our deadlock detection algorithm is the preservation of well-formedness by reduction. The proof is in Appendix A.3.

Lemma 4.1. If P is well-formed and $P \rightarrow Q$ then Q is well-formed.

5 A standard reduction semantics.

Notice that, for well-formed processes, our semantics coincides with a standard one. To state this property, consider the auxiliary function labErasure on processes that removes the label pairs from the hiding constructor (hence producing standard π -calculus processes). The function is inductively defined by homomorphic rules on all process constructs but on hiding, where the function is defined by the following rule:

labErasure((new n : (h, i))P) = (new n)labErasure(P)

The usual relation \rightarrow on standard processes is obtained by removing the side condition secLabs $(Q) \cap$ secLabs $(R) = \emptyset$ from rule REP in Figure 2 and by replacing rule REP with the following axiom:

$$n!v.P \parallel *n?x.Q \xrightarrow{*n} P \parallel Q[v/x] \parallel *n?x.Q$$

Obviously, $labErasure(P) \rightarrow labErasure(Q)$, if $P \rightarrow Q$. The opposite direction does not work only due to the side condition of the PAR rule.

6 Conclusions

We devised a simple mechanism to uniquely identify scoped names in the π -calculus. This approach is useful to support the analysis of properties of scoped names, an example being identify which ones are leaked.

References

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A On ensuring label uniqueness

A.1 No label clashes

Consider the following function, inductively defined by the given rules.

nLabels nLabels(nil) = 0, $nLabels(P \parallel Q) = nLabels(P) + nLabels(Q)$, nLabels(u?x.P) = nLabels(*u?x.P) = nLabels(u!v.P) = nLabels(P), and nLabels((new n : (h, h'))P) = 1 + nLabels(P)

Obviously, #labelPairs(P) \leq nLabels(P).

Let σ be a substitution of a name for a variable. One easily sees that the sets labels and nLabels are preserved by substitutions and by alpha-congruence on names and variables (*i.e.*, labels are like constants). Moreover, both sets might increase with reduction (labels are never removed).

Lemma A.1 (Reduction preserves labels).

$$nLabels(P) = nLabels(P\sigma)$$
 (1)

$$labelPairs(P) = labelPairs(P\sigma)$$
(2)

$$(P \equiv_{\alpha} Q) \Rightarrow (nLabels(P) = nLabels(Q) \land labelPairs(P) = labelPairs(Q))$$
(3)
$$(R \to Q) \Rightarrow (nLabels(R) \subseteq labelPairs(Q) \land labelPairs(R) \subseteq labelPairs(Q))$$
(4)

$$(P \longrightarrow Q) \Rightarrow (nLabels(P) \subseteq labelPairs(Q) \land labelPairs(P) \subseteq labelPairs(Q))$$
 (4)

Proof. Immediate.

Consider the following predicate, stating that all pairs of labels in a given process are different.

$$noLabelClashes(P) = (#labelPairs(P) = nLabels(P))$$

The predicate above provides an alternative characterisation of well-formedness.

Lemma A.2 (No label clashes). wf(*P*) if and only if noLabelClashes(*P*)

Proof. Immediate, due to the definition of well-formed processes.

A.2 Relabelling

Let π_2 denote the second pair projection functions.

Lemma A.3 (Monotonicity). *If P is well-formed and* $S' = \pi_2(\text{relabelling}(P,S))$ *then* $S \subseteq S'$.

Proof. Immediate, due to the definition of well-formed processes.

Lemma A.4 (Relabelling preserves label freshness). *Let P be well-formed and consider a set of labels* $S \supseteq$ secLabs(*P*). *Then, the following results hold.*

$$nLabels(\pi_1(relabelling(P,S))) = nLabels(P)$$
 (5)

$$S \cap \operatorname{secLabs}(\pi_1(\operatorname{relabelling}(P,S))) = \emptyset$$
 (6)

Proof. The proofs are by structural induction on P. The first equation is straightforward to prove – it ensures that rellabelling preserves the number of labels.

In the proof of the second equation, two cases matter. Let first P = (new n : (h, i))Q Since by hypothesis wf(P), Lemma 2.5.2 ensures $i \notin \text{secLabs}(Q)$. Take $j \neq i$ such that $j \notin \text{secLabs}(Q)$. Then, as $j \notin (\{i\} \cup \text{secLabs}(Q)) = \text{secLabs}(P)$, taking a set $S \supseteq \{i\} \cup \text{secLabs}(Q)$ where $j \notin S$, the function relabelling gives the following result.

let $(Q', S') = \text{relabelling}(Q, S \cup \{j\})$ in

$$\mathsf{relabelling}(P,S) = ((\mathsf{new}\,n:(h,j))Q',S') \;.$$

So, as $S \supseteq \operatorname{secLabs}(P)$, we have

 $\operatorname{secLabs}(\pi_1(\operatorname{relabelling}(P, S \cup \{j\}))) = \{j\} \cup \operatorname{secLabs}(Q')$.

Since wf(Q) by Lemma 2.5.4, by induction hypothesis,

 $S \cup \{j\} \cap \operatorname{secLabs}(\pi_1(\operatorname{relabelling}(Q, S \cup \{j\}))) = \emptyset,$

so, as $S \supseteq \{i\} \cup \text{secLabs}(Q)$ and $Q' = \pi_1(\text{relabelling}(Q, S \cup \{j\}))$ and furthermore $j \neq i$, we conclude $S \cap (\{j\} \cup \text{secLabs}(Q')) = \emptyset$ as required.

Consider now P = (Q || R). Since by hypothesis wf(P), Lemma 2.5.2 ensures secLabs(Q) \cap secLabs(R) = \emptyset . As both wf(Q) and wf(R) by Lemma 2.5.4, by induction hypothesis, we have $S \cap$ secLabs(Q') = \emptyset and $S' \cap$ secLabs(R') = \emptyset where (Q', S') = relabelling(Q, S) and $R' = \pi_1$ (relabelling(R, S')). So, since $S \subseteq S'$ by Lemma A.3, we conclude

$$S \cap \operatorname{secLabs}(Q' || R') =$$

$$S \cap (\operatorname{secLabs}(Q') \cup \operatorname{secLabs}(R')) =$$

$$(S \cap \operatorname{secLabs}(Q')) \cup (S \cap \operatorname{secLabs}(R')) =$$

$$\emptyset \cup \emptyset = \emptyset$$

as required.

Lemma A.5 (Relabelling preserves well-formedness). *Let P be well-formed and consider a set of labels* $S \supseteq$ secLabs(*P*). *Then,* π_1 (relabelling(*P*,*S*)) *is well-formed.*

Proof. The proof is by structural induction on *P*. All homomorphic cases in the definition of relabelling are either straightforward or following by the induction hypothesis, using Lemma 2.5.4. So, two cases matter. Let first P = (new n : (h, i))Q. As *P* is well-formed, so is *Q* (again, by the previous lemma). By definition,

relabelling(
$$(\text{new} n : (h, i))Q, S$$
) = $((\text{new} n : (h, j))Q', S')$

where $(Q', S') = \text{relabelling}(Q, S \cup \{j\})$, considering $i \in S$ and $j \notin (S \cup \text{secLabs}(P))$. By induction hypothesis, Q' is well-formed. Since by hypothesis, $S \supseteq \text{secLabs}(P)$, obviously $j \notin S$ and $i \neq j$, so (new n : (h, j))Q' is also well-formed.

Consider now P = (Q || R). As P is well-formed, by the same lemma, so are Q and R. By definition,

relabelling
$$(Q || R, S) = (Q' || R', S'')$$

where (Q', S') = relabelling(Q, S) and (R', S'') = relabelling(R, S'). Since by hypothesis $S \supseteq \text{secLabs}(P)$, obviously $S \supseteq \text{secLabs}(Q)$, so by induction hypothesis, Q' is well-formed. It is also the case that $S \supseteq \text{secLabs}(R)$, and since by Lemma A.3, $S' \supseteq S$, by induction hypothesis, R' is also well-formed. Since Lemma A.4.6 ensures that $S \cap \text{secLabs}(Q') = \emptyset$ and $S' \cap \text{secLabs}(R') = \emptyset$, we have $\text{secLabs}(Q') \cap$ $\text{secLabs}(R') = \emptyset$, thus by Lemma 2.5.6 we conclude that Q' || R' is well-formed. \Box

A.3 Reduction preserves label uniqueness

Lemma A.6. If P is well-formed and $P \rightarrow Q$ then Q is well-formed.

Proof. Notice first that structural congruence preserves label uniqueness, as no relabelling happens. To prove that well-formedness is preserved by reduction, we proceed by induction of the derivation of $P \longrightarrow Q$.

Base cases. The only base case that changes the labels is the REP rule:

$$\underset{R \in P}{\mathsf{Rep}} \frac{P_2' = \pi_1(\mathsf{relabelling}(P_2, \mathsf{secLabs}(P_1)))}{n! v. P_1 \parallel * n? x. P_2 \xrightarrow{*n} P_1 \parallel P_2[v/x] \parallel * n? x. P_2'}$$

As $P = n! v. P_1 || *n? x. P_2$, let $P' = P_1 || P_2[v/x]$. By hypothesis *P* is well-formed, thus by Lemmas 2.5.4, 2.5.3 2.5.5, and A.4.3, both *P'* and *Q''* are well-formed. Moreover, by definition of well-formedness, *c? x. Q'' is also well-formed.

Since by Lemmas 2.5.2 and A.4.2 we conclude that $\operatorname{secLabs}(P' || Q'[\nu/x]) \cap \operatorname{secLabs}(Q'') = \emptyset$, and obviously $\operatorname{secLabs}(Q'') = \operatorname{secLabs}(*c?x.Q'')$, we attain the result using Lemma 2.5.6.

Inductive steps. The only relevant case is the PAR rule.

Let $P = P_1 || P_2$ and $Q = P'_1 || P_2$. By hypothesis,

 $P_1 \longrightarrow P'_1$ and secLabs $(P'_1) \cap$ secLabs $(P_2) = \emptyset$

Since by induction hypothesis, P'_1 is well-formed, we attain the result – Q is well-formed – using again Lemma 2.5.6.