The Logical Essence of Compiling With Continuations

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Abstract

The essence of compiling with continuations is that conversion to continuation-passing style (CPS) is equivalent to a source language transformation converting to administrative normal form (ANF). Taking as source language Moggi's computational lambda-calculus ($\lambda\mathsf{C}$), we define an alternative to the CPS-translation with target in the sequent calculus LJQ, named *value-filling style* (VFS) translation, and making use of the ability of the sequent calculus to represent contexts formally. The VFS-translation requires no type translation: indeed, double negations are introduced only when encoding the VFS target language in the CPS target language. This optional encoding, when composed with the VFS-translation reconstructs the original CPS-translation. Going back to direct style, the "essence" of the VFS-translation is that it reveals a new sublanguage of ANF, the *value-enclosed style* (VES), next to another one, the *continuation-enclosing style* (CES): such an alternative is due to a dilemma in the syntax of $\lambda\mathsf{C}$, concerning how to expand the application constructor. In the typed scenario, VES and CES correspond to an alternative between two proof systems for call-by-value, LJQ and natural deduction with generalized applications, confirming proof theory as a foundation for intermediate representations.

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1 Introduction

The conversion of a program in a source call-by-value language to continuation-passing style (CPS) by an optimizing translation that reduces on the fly the so-called administrative redexes produces programs which can be translated back to direct style, so that the final result, obtained by composing the two stages of translation, is a new program in the source language which can be obtained from the original one by reduction to administrative normal form (ANF) – a program transformation in the source language [10, 24]. This fact has been dubbed the "essence" of compiling with continuations and has had a big impact and generated an on-going debate in the theory and practice of compiler design [11, 16, 18].

Our starting point is the refinement of that "essence", obtained in [25], in the form of a reflection of the CPS target in the computational λ-calculus [20], the latter playing the role of source language and here denoted $\lambda\mathsf{C}$ – see Fig. 1. Then we ask: What is the proof-theoretical meaning of this reflection? What is the logical reading of this reflection in the typed setting? Of course, the CPS-translation has a well-known logical reading as a

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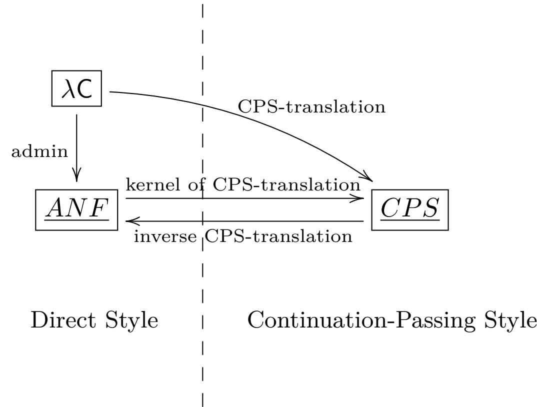

Figure 1 The essence of compiling with continuations

negative translation, based on the introduction of double negations, capable of translating a classical source calculus with control operators [19, 12, 26]. But it is not clear how this reading is articulated with the reflection in Fig.1, which provides a *decomposition* of the CPS-translation as the reduction to ANF followed by a "kernel" translation that relates the "kernel" ANF with CPS.

It is also well-known that the CPS-translation can be decomposed in several ways: indeed in the reference [25] alone we may find two of them, one through the monadic meta-language [21], the other through the linear λ-calculus [17]. Here we will propose another intermediate language, the sequent calculus LJQ [3, 4]. The calculus LJQ has a long history and several applications in proof theory [3] and can be turned into a typed call-by-value λ-calculus in equational correspondence with $\lambda\mathsf{C}$ [4]. Here we want to show it has a privileged role as a tool to analyze the CPS-translation.

Languages of proof terms for the sequent calculus handle contexts (*i*.e. λ-terms with a hole) formally [13, 1, 8, 5]. This seems most convenient, since a continuation may be seen as a certain kind of context, and suggests that we can write an alternative translation into the sequent calculus, as if we were CPS-translating, but without the need to pass around a reification of the current continuation as a λ-abstraction, nor the concomitant need to translate types by the insertion of double negations, to make room for a type $A^\sim$ of values, a type $\neg A^\sim$ of continuations and a type $\neg\neg A^\sim$ of programs, out of a source type A.

We develop this in detail, which requires: to rework entirely the term calculus for LJQ and obtain a system, named λQ, more manageable for our purposes; and to identify the kernel and the sub-kernel of λQ, the latter being the target system, named VFS after *value-filling style*, of the new translation. In the end, we are rewarded with an isomorphism between VFS and the target of the CPS-translation, which, when composed with the alternative translation, reconstructs the CPS-translation. The isomorphism is a negative translation, reduced to the role of optional and late stage of translation.

Going back to direct style, the "essence" of the VFS-translation is that it reveals a new sublanguage of ANF, the *value-enclosed style* (VES), next to another sublanguage of ANF, the *continuation-enclosing style* (CES): such alternative between VES and CES is due to a dilemma in the syntax of $\lambda\mathsf{C}$, concerning how to *expand* the application constructor. Hence,

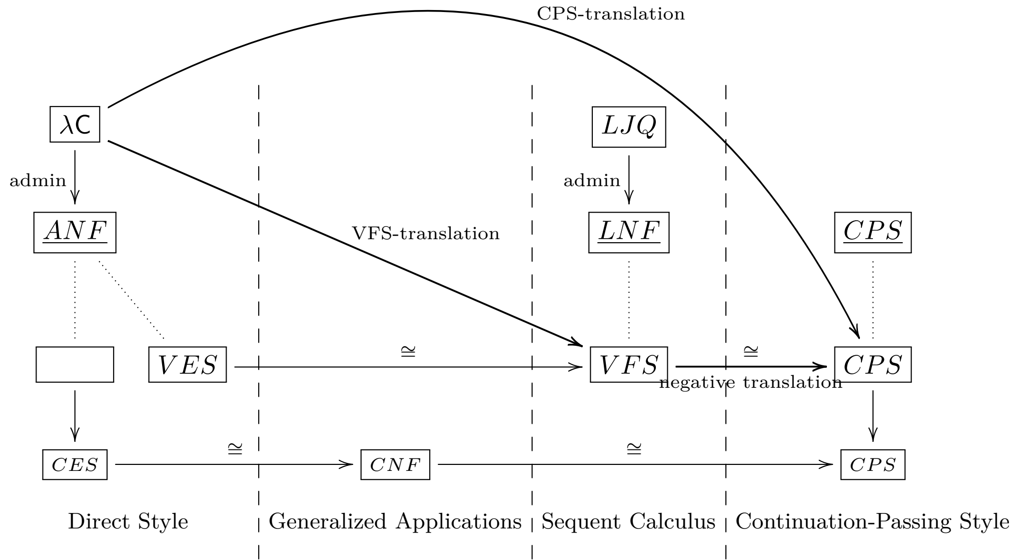

Figure 2 The logical essence of compiling with continuations

these two sub-kernels of λC are under a layer of expansion – and the same was already true for the passage from the kernel to the sub-kernel of λQ.

While VES corresponds to the sub-kernel VFS of λQ, CES corresponds to a fragment of $\lambda \mathsf{J}_v$ [6], a call-by-value λ-calculus with generalized applications; the fragment is that of *commutative normal forms* (CNF), that is, normal forms w. r. t. the commutative conversions, naturally arising when application is generalized, which reduce both the head term and the argument in an application to the form of values. So the alternative between VES and CES is also a reflection, in the source language, of the alternative between two proof systems for call-by-value: the sequent calculus LJQ and the natural deduction system behind $\lambda \mathsf{J}_v$.

A summary is contained in Fig. 2: it shows a proof-theoretical background hidden in Fig. 1, which this paper wants to reveal. In the process, we want to confirm proof theory as a foundation for intermediate representations useful in the compilation of functional languages.

Plan of the paper. Section 2 recalls λC and the CPS-translation. Section 3 contains our reworking of LJQ. Section 4 introduces the alternative translation into LJQ and the decomposition of the CPS-translation. Section 5 goes back to direct style and studies the sub-kernels of λC. Section 6 summarizes our contribution and discusses related and future work. All proofs can be found in the long version of this paper [7].

2 Background

Preliminaries. Simple types (=formulas) are given by $A, B, C ::= a | A \supset B$. In typing systems, a context Γ will always be a *consistent* set of declarations $x : A$; consistency here means that no variable can be declared with two different types in Γ.

We recall the concepts of equational correspondence, pre-Galois connection and reflection [4, 24, 25] characterizing different forms of relationship between two calculi.

▶ **Definition 1.** *Let* $(\Lambda_1, \to_1)$ *and* $(\Lambda_2, \to_2)$ *be two calculi and, for each* $i = 1, 2$, *let* $\twoheadrightarrow_i$

(resp. $\leftrightarrow_i$) be the reflexive-transitive (resp. reflexive-transitive-symmetric) closure of $\to_i$. Consider the mappings $f : \Lambda_1 \to \Lambda_2$ and $g : \Lambda_2 \to \Lambda_1$.

- *f and g form an* ***equational correspondence*** *between Λ_1 and Λ_2 if the following conditions hold: (1) If $M \to_1 N$ then $f(M) \leftrightarrow_2 f(N)$; (2) If $M \to_2 N$ then $g(M) \leftrightarrow_1 g(N)$; (3) $M \leftrightarrow_1 g(f(M))$; (4) $f(g(M)) \leftrightarrow_2 M$.*
- *f and g form a* ***pre-Galois connection*** *from Λ_1 to Λ_2 if the following conditions hold: (1) If $M \to_1 N$ then $f(M) \twoheadrightarrow_2 f(N)$; (2) If $M \to_2 N$ then $g(M) \twoheadrightarrow_1 g(N)$; (3) $M \twoheadrightarrow_1 g(f(M))$.*
- *f and g form a* ***reflection*** *in Λ_1 of Λ_2 if the following conditions hold: (1) If $M \to_1 N$ then $f(M) \twoheadrightarrow_2 f(N)$; (2) If $M \to_2 N$ then $g(M) \twoheadrightarrow_1 g(N)$; (3) $M \twoheadrightarrow_1 g(f(M))$; (4) $f(g(M)) = M$.*

Note that if f and g form a pre-Galois connection from Λ_1 to Λ_2 and $\to_2$ is confluent, then $\to_1$ is also confluent. Besides, it is also important to observe that if f and g form a reflection from Λ_1 to Λ_2, then g and f form a pre-Galois connection from Λ_2 to Λ_1.

Computational lambda-calculus. The computational λ-calculus [20] is defined in Table 1. In addition to ordinary λ-terms, one also has *let-expressions* $\mathsf{let}\, x := M \,\mathsf{in}\, N$: these are explicit substitutions which trigger only after the actual parameter M is reduced to a value (that is, a variable or λ-abstraction). So, in addition to the rule let_v that triggers substitution, there are reduction rules – let_1, let_2 and $assoc$ – dedicated to that preliminary reduction of actual parameters in let-expressions.

For the reduction of β-redexes, we adopt the rule B from [4], which triggers even if the argument N is not a value, and just generates a let-expression. Most presentations of $\lambda\mathsf{C}$ [20, 25] have rule β_v instead, which reads $(\lambda x.M)V \to [V/x]M$. The two versions of the system are equivalent. In our presentation, the effect of β_v is achieved with B followed by let_v. Conversely, when N is not a value, we can perform the reduction

$$(\lambda x.M)N \to \mathsf{let}\, y := N \,\mathsf{in}\, (\lambda x.M)y \to \mathsf{let}\, y := N \,\mathsf{in}\, [y/x]M =_\alpha \mathsf{let}\, x := N \,\mathsf{in}\, M \quad .$$

The first step is by let_2, the second by β_v. The last term is the contractum of B.

In this paper, we leave the η-rule for λ-abstraction out of the definition of $\lambda\mathsf{C}$, and similarly for other systems – since it plays no rule in what we want to say. But we include the η-rule for let-expressions, and other incarnations of it in other systems.

In [4, 25] the $\lambda\mathsf{C}$-calculus is studied in its untyped version. Here we will also consider its simply-typed version, which handles sequents $\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{C}} M : A$, where Γ is a set of declarations $x : A$. The typing rules are obvious, Table 1 only contains the rule for typing let-expressions.

The *kernel* of the computational λ-calculus [25] is defined in Table 2. It is named here $\underline{ANF}$, after "administrative normal form", because its terms are the normal forms w. r. t. the administrative rules of $\lambda\mathsf{C}$: let_1, let_2 and $assoc$ [25].

In the kernel, only a specific form of applications and two forms of let-expressions are primitive. The general form of a let-expression, written $\mathsf{LET}\, y := M \,\mathsf{in}\, P$, is a derived form defined by recursion on M as follows:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \mathsf{LET}\, y := V \,\mathsf{in}\, P &=& \mathsf{let}\, y := V \,\mathsf{in}\, P \\ \mathsf{LET}\, y := VW \,\mathsf{in}\, P &=& \mathsf{let}\, y := VW \,\mathsf{in}\, P \\ \mathsf{LET}\, y := (\mathsf{let}\, x := V \,\mathsf{in}\, M) \,\mathsf{in}\, P &=& \mathsf{let}\, x := V \,\mathsf{in}\, \mathsf{LET}\, y := M \,\mathsf{in}\, P \\ \mathsf{LET}\, y := (\mathsf{let}\, x := VW \,\mathsf{in}\, M) \,\mathsf{in}\, P &=& \mathsf{let}\, x := VW \,\mathsf{in}\, \mathsf{LET}\, y := M \,\mathsf{in}\, P \end{array}$$

Obviously, given M and P in the kernel, $\mathsf{let}\, y := M \,\mathsf{in}\, P \twoheadrightarrow_{assoc} \mathsf{LET}\, y := M \,\mathsf{in}\, P$ in $\lambda\mathsf{C}$. Hence, a B_v-step in the kernel can be simulated in $\lambda\mathsf{C}$ as a B-step followed by a series of

$$
\begin{array}{rrcl}
\text{(terms)} & M, N, P, Q & ::= & V \mid MN \mid \mathsf{let}\, x := M \,\mathsf{in}\, N \\
\text{(values)} & V, W & ::= & x \mid \lambda x.M
\end{array}
$$

$$
\begin{array}{lrcll}
(B) & (\lambda x.M)N & \to & \mathsf{let}\, x := N \,\mathsf{in}\, M & \\
(let_v) & \mathsf{let}\, x := V \,\mathsf{in}\, M & \to & [V/x]M & \\
(\eta_{let}) & \mathsf{let}\, x := M \,\mathsf{in}\, x & \to & M & \\
(assoc) & \mathsf{let}\, y := (\mathsf{let}\, x := M \,\mathsf{in}\, N) \,\mathsf{in}\, P & \to & \mathsf{let}\, x := M \,\mathsf{in}\, \mathsf{let}\, y := N \,\mathsf{in}\, P & \\
(let_1) & MN & \to & \mathsf{let}\, x := M \,\mathsf{in}\, xN & (a) \\
(let_2) & VN & \to & \mathsf{let}\, x := N \,\mathsf{in}\, Vx & (b)
\end{array}
$$

$$
\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{C}} M : A \quad \Gamma, x : A \vdash_{\mathsf{C}} N : B}{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{C}} \mathsf{let}\, x := M \,\mathsf{in}\, N : B}
$$

Table 1 The computational λ-calculus, here also named $\lambda\mathsf{C}$-calculus. Provisos: (a) M is not a value. (b) N is not a value. Typing rules for x, $\lambda x.M$ and MN as usual.

$$
\begin{array}{rrcl}
\text{(terms)} & M, N, P, Q & ::= & V \mid VW \mid \mathsf{let}\, x := V \,\mathsf{in}\, M \mid \mathsf{let}\, x := VW \,\mathsf{in}\, M \\
\text{(values)} & V, W & ::= & x \mid \lambda x.M
\end{array}
$$

$$
\begin{array}{lrcl}
(B_v) & \mathsf{let}\, y := (\lambda x.M)V \,\mathsf{in}\, P & \to & \mathsf{let}\, x := V \,\mathsf{in}\, \mathsf{LET}\, y := M \,\mathsf{in}\, P \\
(B'_v) & (\lambda x.M)V & \to & \mathsf{let}\, x := V \,\mathsf{in}\, M \\
(let_v) & \mathsf{let}\, x := V \,\mathsf{in}\, M & \to & [V/x]M \\
(\eta_{let}) & \mathsf{let}\, x := VW \,\mathsf{in}\, x & \to & VW
\end{array}
$$

Table 2 The kernel of the computational λ-calculus, here named $\underline{ANF}$.

assoc-steps. On the other hand B_v' is a restriction of rule B to the sub-syntax, and the same is true of the remaining rules of the kernel.

Notice that in the form $\mathsf{let}\,x := VW\,\mathsf{in}\,M$ the immediate sub-expressions are V, W and M – but not VW. For this reason, there is no overlap between the redexes of rules B_v and B_v', nor between the redexes of rules B_v' and η_{let}.

Our presentation of the kernel is very close to the original one in [25], as detailed in Appendix B.

CPS-translation. We present in this subsection the call-by-value CPS-translation of $\lambda\mathsf{C}$. It is a "refined " translation [4], in the sense that it reduces "administrative redexes" at translation time, as already done in [23].

The target of the translation is the system $\underline{CPS}$, presented in Table 3. This target is a subsystem of the λ-calculus (or of Plotkin's call-by-value λ_v-calculus – the "indifference property" [23]), whose expressions are the union of four different classes of λ-terms (commands, continuations, values and terms), and whose reduction rules are either particular cases of rules β and η (the cases of σ_v or η_k, respectively), or are derivable as two β-steps (the case of β_v). Each command or continuation has a unique free occurrence of k, which is a fixed (in the calculus) *continuation variable*. A term is obtained by abstracting this variable over a command. A command is always composed of a continuation K, to which a value may be passed (the form KV), or which is going to instantiate k in the command resulting from an application VW (the form VWK).

There is a simply-typed version of this target, *not* found in [23, 4, 25], defined as follows. Simple types are augmented with a new type $\bot$, and we adopt the usual abbreviation $\neg A := A \supset \bot$. Then, as defined in Table 3, one has: two subclasses of such types, one ranged by $\mathcal{A}$, $\mathcal{A}'$ and the other ranged over by $\mathcal{B}$, $\mathcal{B}'$; four kinds of sequents, one per each syntactic class; and one typing rule for each syntactic constructor.

The CPS-translation is defined in Table 4. It comprises: For each $V \in \lambda\mathsf{C}$, a value $V^\dagger$; for each term $M \in \lambda\mathsf{C}$ and continuation $K \in \underline{CPS}$, a command $(M : K)$; for each term $M \in \lambda\mathsf{C}$, a command $M^\star$ and a term $\overline{M}$.

In the typed setting, each simple type A of $\lambda\mathsf{C}$ determines an $\mathcal{A}$-type $A^\dagger$ and a $\mathcal{B}$-type $\overline{A}$, as in Table 4. The translation preserves typing, according to the admissible typing rules displayed in the last row of the same table.

3 Sequent calculus LJQ and its simplification λQ

In this section we start by recapitulating the term calculus for LJQ designed by Dyckhoff-Lengrand [4]. Next we do some preliminary work, by proposing a simplified variant, named λQ, more appropriate for our purposes in this paper. Finally, we also single out the *kernel* of λQ, which is the sub-calculus of "administrative" normal forms. This further simplification will be necessary for the later analysis of CPS.

The original term calculus. An abridged presentation of the original term calculus for LJQ by Dyckhoff-Lengrand is found in Table 5 [1]. The separation between terms and values corresponds to the separation between the two kinds of sequents handled by LJQ: the ordinary sequents $\Gamma \Rightarrow M : A$ and the focused sequents $\Gamma \to V : A$. There are three forms of cut and the reduction rules correspond to cut-elimination rules. We may think of the forms $\mathsf{C}_1(V, x.W)$ and $\mathsf{C}_2(V, x.N)$ as explicit substitutions: in this abridged presentation we omitted the rules for their stepwise execution.

[1] See Appendix A for the full system.

$$
\begin{array}{rrcl}
\text{(Commands)} & M, N & ::= & KV \mid VWK \\
\text{(Continuations)} & K & ::= & \lambda x.M \mid k \\
\text{(Values)} & V, W & ::= & \lambda x.P \mid x \\
\text{(Terms)} & P & ::= & \lambda k.M
\end{array}
$$

$$
\begin{array}{lrcll}
(\sigma_v) & (\lambda x.M)V & \to & [V/x]M & \\
(\beta_v) & (\lambda xk.M)WK & \to & [K/k][W/x]M & \\
(\eta_k) & \lambda x.Kx & \to & K & \text{if } x \notin FV(K)
\end{array}
$$

$$\text{Types:} \quad \mathcal{A} ::= a \mid \mathcal{A} \supset \mathcal{B} \qquad \mathcal{B} ::= \neg\neg\mathcal{A}$$

Contexts Γ: sets of declarations $(x : \mathcal{A})$

Sequents: $k : \neg\mathcal{A}, \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} M : \bot \quad k : \neg\mathcal{A}, \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} K : \neg\mathcal{A}' \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} V : \mathcal{A} \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} P : \mathcal{B}$

$$\frac{k : \neg\mathcal{A}, \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} K : \neg\mathcal{A}' \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} V : \mathcal{A}'}{k : \neg\mathcal{A}, \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} KV : \bot}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} V : \mathcal{A} \supset \neg\neg\mathcal{A}' \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} W : \mathcal{A} \quad k : \neg\mathcal{A}'', \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} K : \neg\mathcal{A}'}{k : \neg\mathcal{A}'', \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} VWK : \bot}$$

$$\frac{k : \neg\mathcal{A}, \Gamma, x : \mathcal{A}' \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} M : \bot}{k : \neg\mathcal{A}, \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} \lambda x.M : \neg\mathcal{A}'} \qquad \frac{}{k : \neg\mathcal{A}, \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} k : \neg\mathcal{A}}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \mathcal{A} \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} P : \mathcal{B}}{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} \lambda x.P : \mathcal{A} \supset \mathcal{B}} \qquad \frac{}{\Gamma, x : \mathcal{A} \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} x : \mathcal{A}}$$

$$\frac{k : \neg\mathcal{A}, \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} M : \bot}{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} \lambda k.M : \neg\neg\mathcal{A}}$$

Table 3 The system $\underline{CPS}$

$$
\begin{array}{rcl@{\qquad}rcll}
x^\dagger & = & x & (V : K) & = & KV^\dagger & \\
(\lambda x.M)^\dagger & = & \lambda x.\overline{M} & (PQ : K) & = & (P : \lambda m.(mQ : K)) & (a) \\
\overline{M} & = & \lambda k.M^\star & (VQ : K) & = & (Q : \lambda n.(Vn : K)) & (b) \\
M^\star & = & (M : k) & (VW : K) & = & V^\dagger W^\dagger K & \\
 & & & (\mathsf{let}\, y := M \,\mathsf{in}\, P : K) & = & (M : \lambda y.(P : K)) &
\end{array}
$$

$$\overline{A} = \neg\neg A^\dagger \qquad a^\dagger = a \qquad (A \supset B)^\dagger = A^\dagger \supset \overline{B}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{C}} V : A}{\Gamma^\dagger \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} V^\dagger : A} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{C}} M : A \quad k : \neg B^\dagger, \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} K : \neg A^\dagger}{k : \neg B^\dagger, \Gamma^\dagger \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} (M : K) : \bot}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{C}} M : A}{k : \neg A^\dagger, \Gamma^\dagger \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} M^\star : \bot} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{C}} M : A}{\Gamma^\dagger \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} \overline{M} : \overline{A}}$$

Table 4 The CPS-translation, from $\lambda\mathsf{C}$ to $\underline{CPS}$, with admissible typing rules. Provisos: (a) P is not a value. (b) Q is not a value.

$$
\begin{array}{llcl}
\text{(terms)} & M, N & ::= & \uparrow V \mid x(V, y.N) \mid \mathsf{C}_2(V, x.N) \mid \mathsf{C}_3(M, x.N) \\
\text{(values)} & V, W & ::= & x \mid \lambda x.M \mid \mathsf{C}_1(V, x.W)
\end{array}
$$

$$
\begin{array}{lrcll}
(1) & \mathsf{C}_3(\uparrow(\lambda x.M), y.y(V, z.N)) & \to & \mathsf{C}_3(\mathsf{C}_3(\uparrow V, x.M), z.N) & (a) \\
(2) & \mathsf{C}_3(\uparrow x, y.N) & \to & [x/y]N & \\
(3) & \mathsf{C}_3(M, x.\uparrow x) & \to & M & \\
(4) & \mathsf{C}_3(z(V, y.P), x.N) & \to & z(V, y.\mathsf{C}_3(P, x.N)) & \\
(5) & \mathsf{C}_3(\mathsf{C}_3(\uparrow W, y.y(V, z.P)), x.N) & \to & \mathsf{C}_3(\uparrow W, y.y(V, z.\mathsf{C}_3(P, x.N))) & (b) \\
(6) & \mathsf{C}_3(\mathsf{C}_3(M, y.P), x.N) & \to & \mathsf{C}_3(M, y.\mathsf{C}_3(P, x.N)) & (c) \\
(7) & \mathsf{C}_3(\uparrow(\lambda x.M), y.N) & \to & \mathsf{C}_2(\lambda x.M, y.N) & (d)
\end{array}
$$

$$
\frac{}{\Gamma, x : A \to x : A}\ Ax \qquad \frac{\Gamma \to V : A}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \uparrow V : A}\ Der
$$

$$
\frac{\Gamma, x : A \Rightarrow M : B}{\Gamma \to \lambda x.M : A \supset B}\ R\supset \qquad \frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow M : A \quad \Gamma, x : A \Rightarrow N : B}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \mathsf{C}_3(M, x.N) : B}\ Cut_3
$$

$$
\frac{\Gamma, x : A \supset B \to V : A \quad \Gamma, x : A \supset B, y : B \Rightarrow N : C}{\Gamma, x : A \supset B \Rightarrow x(V, y.N) : C}\ L\supset
$$

Table 5 The original calculus by Dyckhoff-Lengrand, here named λLJQ-calculus (abridged). Provisos: (a) $y \notin FV(V) \cup FV(N)$. (b) $y \notin FV(V) \cup FV(P)$. (c) If rule (5) does not apply. (d) If rule (1) does not apply.

We now introduce a slight modification of λLJQ, named λLjQ, determined by two changes in the reduction rules: in rule (6) we omit the proviso; and rule (5) is dropped. A former redex of (5) is reduced by (6) – now possible because there is no proviso – followed by (4), achieving the same effect as previous rule (5).

In fact, very soon we will define a *big* modification and simplification of the original λLJQ, which is more appropriate to our goals here. But we need to justify that big modification, by a comparison with the original system. For the purpose of this comparison, we will use, not λLJQ, but λLjQ instead. So, the first thing we do is to check that λLjQ has the same properties as the original.

The maps between $\lambda\mathsf{C}$ and λLJQ defined by Dyckhoff-Lengrand can be seen as maps to and from λLjQ instead. Next, it is easy to see that such maps still establish an equational correspondence, now between $\lambda\mathsf{C}$ and λLjQ. It turns out that the correspondence is also a pre-Galois connection from λLjQ to $\lambda\mathsf{C}$. Because of this, λLjQ inherits confluence of $\lambda\mathsf{C}$, as λLJQ did.

A simplified calculus. We now define the announced simplified calculus, named λQ. It is presented in Table 6. The idea is to drop the cut forms $\mathsf{C}_1(V, x.W)$ and $\mathsf{C}_2(V, x.N)$, which correspond to explicit substitutions. Since only one form of cut remain, $\mathsf{C}_3(M, x.N)$, we write it as $\mathsf{C}(M, x.N)$. The typing rules of the surviving constructors remain the same. The omitted reduction rules for the stepwise execution of substitution are now dropped, since they concerned the omitted forms of cut. Rules (1) and (3) are renamed as B_v and η_{cut}, respectively. Rules (4) and (6) are renamed π_1 and π_2, respectively, and we let $\pi := \pi_1 \cup \pi_2$. Rules (2) and (7) are combined into a single rule named σ_v.

The design of rule σ_v is interesting. Rule (2) fired a variable substitution operation $[x/y]-$, already present in the original calculus. The contractum of rule (7), being an explicit substitution, has to be replaced by the call to an appropriate, *implicit*, substitution operator

$$
\begin{array}{lrcl}
\text{(terms)} & M, N & ::= & \uparrow V \mid x(V, y.N) \mid \mathsf{C}(M, x.N) \\
\text{(values)} & V, W & ::= & x \mid \lambda x.M
\end{array}
$$

$$
\begin{array}{lrcll}
(B_v) & \mathsf{C}(\uparrow(\lambda x.M), y.y(V, z.N)) & \to & \mathsf{C}(\mathsf{C}(\uparrow V, x.M), z.N) & \text{if } y \notin FV(V) \cup FV(N) \\
(\sigma_v) & \mathsf{C}(\uparrow V, y.N) & \to & [V/y]N & \text{if } B_v \text{ does not apply} \\
(\eta_{cut}) & \mathsf{C}(M, x.\uparrow x) & \to & M & \\
(\pi_1) & \mathsf{C}(z(V, y.P), x.N) & \to & z(V, y.\mathsf{C}(P, x.N)) & \\
(\pi_2) & \mathsf{C}(\mathsf{C}(M, y.P), x.N) & \to & \mathsf{C}(M, y.\mathsf{C}(P, x.N)) &
\end{array}
$$

Table 6 The simpified λLJQ-calculus, named λQ-calculus

$[\lambda x.M/y]-$, whose stepwise execution should be coherent with the omitted reduction rules for $\mathsf{C}_1(V, x.W)$ and $\mathsf{C}_2(V, x.N)$. Hopefully, the sought operation and the already present variable substitution operation are subsumed by a value substitution operation $[V/y]-$.

The critical clause is the definition of $[V/y](y(W, z.P))$. We adopt $[V/y](y(W, z.P)) = \mathsf{C}(\uparrow V, y.y([V/y]W, z.[V/y]P))$ in the case $V = \lambda x.M$, but not in the case of $V = x$, because σ_v would immediately generate a cycle in the case $y \notin FV(V) \cup FV(N)$. We adopt instead $[x/y](y(W, z.P)) = x([x/y]W, z.[x/y]P)$ which moreover is what the original calculus dictates. Notice that another cycle would arise, if a B_v-redex was contracted by σ_v. But this is blocked by the proviso of the latter rule.

There is a map $(_)^{\checkmark} : \lambda LjQ \to \lambda Q$, based on the idea of translating the omitted cuts by calls to substitution: $\mathsf{C}_1(V, x.W)$ is mapped to $[V/x]W$ and $\mathsf{C}_2(V, y.N)$ is mapped to $[V/x]N$. This map, together with the inclusion $\lambda Q \subset \lambda LjQ$ (seeing $\mathsf{C}(M, x.N)$ as $\mathsf{C}_3(M, x.N)$) gives a reflection of λQ in λLjQ. This reflection allows to conclude easily that reduction in λLjQ is conservative over reduction in λQ. Moreover, this reflection can be composed with the equational correspondence between $\lambda\mathsf{C}$ and λLjQ to produce an equational correspondence between $\lambda\mathsf{C}$ and λQ. Finally, this reflection is also a pre-Galois connection from λQ to λLjQ. Thus, confluence of λQ can be pulled back from the confluence of λLjQ.

To sum up, we obtained a more manageable calculus, conservatively extended by the original one, which, as the latter, is confluent and is in equational correspondence with $\lambda\mathsf{C}$.

The kernel of the simplified calculus. For a moment, we do an analogy between $\lambda\mathsf{C}$ and λQ. As was recalled in Section 2, the former system admits a *kernel*, a subsystem of "administrative" normal forms, which are the normal forms with respect to a subset of the set of reduction rules [25]. For λQ, the "administrative" normal forms are very easy to characterize: in a cut $\mathsf{C}(M, x.N)$, M has to be of the form $\uparrow V$. Logically, this means that the left premiss of the cut comes from a sequent $\Gamma \to V : A$; given that such sequents are obtained either with Ax or $R\supset$, the cut formula A in that premiss is not a passive formula of the previous inference; hence the cut is fully permuted to the left – so we call such forms *left normal forms*. The reduction rules of λQ which perform left permutation are rules π_1 and π_2 (even though textually the outer cut in the redex of those rules seems to move to the right after the reduction), so these rules are declared "administrative".

The kernel of λQ is named $\underline{LNF}$. The specific form of cut allowed, namely $\mathsf{C}(\uparrow V, x.N)$, is written $\mathsf{C}_v(V, x.N)$. No other change is made to the grammar of terms. Given $M, N \in \underline{LNF}$, the general form of cut becomes in $\underline{LNF}$ a derived constructor written $\mathsf{C}_v(M : z.N)$ and

$$\begin{array}{rrcl}
\text{(terms)} & M, N & ::= & \uparrow V \mid \mathsf{C}_v(V, c) \\
\text{(values)} & V, W & ::= & x \mid \lambda x.M \\
\text{(formal contexts)} & c & ::= & x.M \mid (W, x.M)
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{lrcl}
(B_v) & \mathsf{C}_v(\lambda x.M, (V, y.N)) & \to & \mathsf{C}_v(V, x.\mathsf{C}_v(M : y.N)) \\
(\sigma_v) & \mathsf{C}_v(V, y.N) & \to & [V/y]N
\end{array}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \to V : A \quad \Gamma | A \Rightarrow c : B}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \mathsf{C}_v(V, c) : B} \quad \frac{\Gamma, x : A \Rightarrow M : B}{\Gamma | A \Rightarrow x.M : B} \quad \frac{\Gamma \to W : A \quad \Gamma, x : B \Rightarrow M : C}{\Gamma | A \supset B \Rightarrow (W, x.M) : C}$$

Table 7 The sub-kernel of the λQ, named VFS. Typing rules for $\uparrow V$, x and $\lambda x.M$ as before.

defined by recursion on M as follows:

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
\mathsf{C}_v(\uparrow V : z.N) & = & \mathsf{C}_v(V, z.N) \\
\mathsf{C}_v(x(V, y.M) : z.N) & = & x(V, y.\mathsf{C}_v(M : z.N)) \\
\mathsf{C}_v(\mathsf{C}_v(V, y.M) : z.N) & = & \mathsf{C}_v(V, y.\mathsf{C}_v(M : z.N))
\end{array}$$

As to reduction rules, rule B_v in $\underline{LNF}$ reads

$$\mathsf{C}_v(\lambda x.M, y.y(V, z.N)) \to \mathsf{C}_v(V, x.\mathsf{C}_v(M : z.N)) \ .$$

Notice that the contractum is the same as $\mathsf{C}_v(\mathsf{C}_v(\uparrow V : x.M) : z.N)$. The proviso remains the same: $y \notin FV(V) \cup FV(N)$. As to the other reduction rules: there is no change to rule σ_v; the specific form of rule η_{cut} that survives becomes a particular case of σ_v, hence is omitted; and the system has no π-rules.

There is a map $(_)^{\triangledown} : \lambda Q \to \underline{LNF}$ based on the idea of replacing $\mathsf{C}(M, x.N)$ by $\mathsf{C}_v(M : x.N)$. This map, together with the inclusion $\underline{LNF} \subset \lambda Q$ (seeing $\mathsf{C}_v(V, x.N)$ as $\mathsf{C}(\uparrow V, x.N)$), gives a reflection in λQ of $\underline{LNF}$. Quite obviously, $M \twoheadrightarrow_\pi M^{\triangledown}$; in fact $M^{\triangledown}$ is a π-normal form, as are all the expressions of $\underline{LNF}$.

$\underline{LNF}$ is a stepping stone in the way to the definition, in the next section, of the value-filling style fragment, which will be a central player in this paper.

4 The value-filling style

In this section we define the target language VFS (a fragment of $\underline{LNF}$) of a new compilation of $\lambda\mathsf{C}$, the value-filling style translation. Next we slightly modify the target $\underline{CPS}$, and introduce the negative translation, mapping VFS to the modified $\underline{CPS}$. Then we show that the CPS-translation is decomposed in terms of the alternative compilation and the negative translation; and that the negative translation is in fact an isomorphism.

The sub-kernel of LJQ**.** We now define the *sub-kernel* of λQ, a language named VFS that will serve as a target language for compilation alternative to CPS. Despite the simplicity of λQ, there is still room for a huge simplification: to forbid the left-introduction constructor $y(W, x.M)$ to stand as a term on its own. However, we regret that, by that omission, that term cannot be used in a very particular situation: as the term N in $\mathsf{C}_v(V, y.N)$, when $y \notin FV(W) \cup FV(M)$. So, we keep that particular combination of cut and left-introduction as a separate form of cut. The result is presented in Table 7.

In fact, we introduce a third syntactic class, that of *formal contexts* – this terminology will be justified later. Think of $(W, x.M)$ as $y.y(W, x.M)$ with $y \notin FV(W) \cup FV(M)$. The

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
x^\circ & = & x \\
(\lambda x.M)^\circ & = & \lambda x.M^\bullet \\
\\
M^\bullet & = & (M; x.\uparrow x)
\end{array}
\qquad
\begin{array}{rcll}
(V; x.N) & = & \mathsf{C}_v(V^\circ, x.N) & \\
(PQ; x.N) & = & (P; m.(mQ; x.N)) & (*) \\
(VQ; x.N) & = & (Q; n.(Vn; x.N)) & (**) \\
(VW; x.N) & = & \mathsf{C}_v(V^\circ, (W^\circ, x.N)) & \\
(\mathsf{let}\, y := M \,\mathsf{in}\, P; x.N) & = & (M; y.(P; x.N)) &
\end{array}
$$

$$
\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{C}} V : A}{\Gamma \rightarrow V^\circ : A} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{C}} M : A \quad \Gamma | A \Rightarrow c : B}{\Gamma \Rightarrow (M; c) : B} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{C}} M : A}{\Gamma \Rightarrow M^\bullet : A}
$$

Table 8 The VFS-translation, from $\lambda\mathsf{C}$ to VFS. Provisos: $(*)$ P is not a value. $(**)$ Q is not a value.

new class allows us to account uniformly for the two possible forms of cut: $\mathsf{C}_v(V, c)$. The reduction rules of VFS are those of the kernel $\underline{LNF}$, restricted to the sub-kernel: pleasantly, the side conditions have vanished! Moreover, the operation $[V/y]N$ is now plain substitution.

There is, again, an auxiliary operation used in the contractum of B_v. Cut $\mathsf{C}_v(M : c')$ and formal context $(c : c')$ are defined by simultaneous recursion on M and c as follows:

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
\mathsf{C}_v(\uparrow V : c') & = & \mathsf{C}_v(V, c') \\
\mathsf{C}_v(\mathsf{C}_v(V, c) : c') & = & \mathsf{C}_v(V, (c : c'))
\end{array}
\qquad
\begin{array}{rcl}
((x.M) : c') & = & x.\mathsf{C}_v(M : c') \\
((W, x.M) : c') & = & (W, x.\mathsf{C}_v(M : c'))
\end{array}
$$

In the type system, a third form of sequents is added for the typing of formal contexts. We know the formula A in $\Gamma \rightarrow V : A$ is a focus [4], but the formula A in $\Gamma | A \Rightarrow c : B$ is not, since it can simply be selected from the context Γ in the typing rule for $x.M$.

We already know how to map VFS back to $\underline{LNF}$. How about the inverse direction? How do we compensate the omission of $y(W, x.M)$? The answer is: by the following expansion

$$
y(W, x.M) \leftarrow_{\sigma_v} \mathsf{C}_v(y, z.z(W, x.M)) = \mathsf{C}_v(y, (W, x.M)) \tag{1}
$$

The VFS-translation. The system VFS is the target of a translation of $\lambda\mathsf{C}$ alternative to the CPS-translation, to be introduced now. The idea is to represent a term of $\lambda\mathsf{C}$, not as a command of CPS (in terms of a continuation that is called of passed), but rather as a cut of the sequent calculus VFS, making use of "formal contexts". Later, we will give a detailed comparison with the CPS-translation, which will make sense of the terminology "formal context" and "value-filling"; more importantly, the comparison will show that VFS and the translation into it is a style equivalent to CPS, but much simpler, in particular due to this very objective fact: there is no translation of types involved.

The VFS-translation is given in Table 8. It comprises: For each $V \in \lambda\mathsf{C}$, a value V° in VFS; for each $M \in \lambda\mathsf{C}$ and formal context $c \in VFS$, a cut $(M; c)$ in VFS; for each $M \in \lambda\mathsf{C}$, a cut $M^\bullet$ in VFS. Again: there is no translation of types.

▶ **Theorem 1** (Simulation).

1. *Let $R \in \{B, let_v, \eta_{let}\}$. If $M \rightarrow_R N$ in $\lambda\mathsf{C}$ then $M^\bullet \twoheadrightarrow N^\bullet$ in VFS.*
2. *Let $R \in \{let_1, let_2, assoc\}$. If $M \rightarrow_R N$ in $\lambda\mathsf{C}$ then $M^\bullet = N^\bullet$ in VFS.*

The language CPS. Recall the CPS-translation of $\lambda\mathsf{C}$, given in Table 4, with target system $\underline{CPS}$, given in Table 3, our own reworking of Reynold's translation and respective target [4]. We now introduce a tiny modification in the CPS-translation, an η-expansion of k

in the definition of $M^\star$: $M^\star = (M : \lambda x.kx)$. This requires a slight modification of the target system. First, the grammar of commands and continuations becomes:

$$\text{(Commands)} \quad M, N \quad ::= \quad kV \,|\, KV \,|\, VWK \qquad \text{(Continuations)} \quad K \quad ::= \quad \lambda x.M$$

The continuation variable k is no longer by itself a continuation – but nothing is lost with respect to $\underline{CPS}$, since k may be expanded thus:

$$k \leftarrow_{\eta_k} \lambda x.kx \tag{2}$$

Since K is now necessarily a λ-abstraction, the η_k-reduction $\lambda x.Kx \to K$ of $\underline{CPS}$ becomes a σ_v-reduction in the modified target, and so the latter system has no rule η_k.

We do a further modification to the reduction rules: instead of following [25] and having rule β_v, we prefer that the modified target system has the rule $(\lambda xk.M)WK \to (\lambda x.[K/k]M)W$, named B_v. That is, we substitute K, but not W.[2] The new contractum is a σ_v-redex, that can be immediately reduced to produce the effect of $\underline{CPS}$'s rule β_v.

In the typed case, the typing rule for k is replaced by this one:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} V : \mathcal{A}}{k : \neg\mathcal{A}, \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} kV : \perp}$$

No other modification is introduced w. r. t. Table 3. The obtained system is named CPS.

For the modified CPS-translation, we reuse the notation $\overline{M}$, $M^\star$, $V^\dagger$ and $(M : K)$. From now on, "CPS-translation" refers to the modified one, while the original one will be called <u>CPS</u>-translation.

In $\underline{CPS}$, k is a fixed continuation variable. In CPS, k is a fixed *covariable*, again occurring exactly once in each command and continuation. The word "covariable" intends to be reminiscent of the covariables, or "names", of the $\lambda\mu$-calculus [22]. Accordingly, kV is intended to be reminiscent of the naming constructor of that calculus, and some "structural substitution" should be definable in CPS.

Indeed, consider the following notion of *context* for CPS: $\mathbb{C} ::= K[_] \,|\, [_]WK$. Filling the hole $[_]$ of $\mathbb{C}$ with V results in the command $\mathbb{C}[V]$. Then, we can define the structural substitution operation $[\mathbb{C}/k]-$ whose critical clause is $[\mathbb{C}/k](kV) = \mathbb{C}[V]$. There is no need to recursively apply the operation to V, since $k \notin FV(V)$.

Now in the case $\mathbb{C} = K[_]$, the structural substitution $[\mathbb{C}/k]-$ is the same operation as the ordinary substitution $[K/k]-$, and it turns out that we will only need this case of substitution. That is why we will not see the structural substitution anymore in this paper.

However, contexts $\mathbb{C}$ will be crucial for understanding the relationship between VFS and CPS. In preparation for that, we derive typing rules for contexts of CPS. The corresponding sequents are of the form $\Gamma | A \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} \mathbb{C} : \perp$, where A is the type of the hole of $\mathbb{C}$. Hence, the command $\mathbb{C}[V]$ is typed as follows:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} V : A \quad \Gamma | A \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} \mathbb{C} : \perp}{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} \mathbb{C}[V] : \perp}\ \mathbb{C}1$$

[2] We could have made this modification in Table 3, without any change to our results. The only thing to observe is that, if we want $\underline{CPS}$ (or its modification) to consists of syntax that is derivable from the ordinary λ-calculus or Plotkin's call-by-value λ-calculus, then we have to consider these systems equipped with the well-known permutation $(\lambda x.M)VV' \to (\lambda x.MV')V$.

$$\begin{array}{rclrcl} x^\sim & = & x & (\uparrow V)^\wr & = & kV^\sim \\ (\lambda x.M)^\sim & = & \lambda x.M^- & \mathsf{C}_v(V,x.M)^\wr & = & (\lambda x.M^\wr)V^\sim \\ M^- & = & \lambda k.M^\wr & \mathsf{C}_v(V,(W,x.M))^\wr & = & V^\sim W^\sim(\lambda x.M^\wr) \end{array}$$

$$A^- = \neg\neg A^\sim \qquad a^\sim = a \qquad (A \supset B)^\sim = A^\sim \supset B^-$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \to V : A}{\Gamma^\sim \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} V^\sim : A^\sim} \quad \frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow M : A}{k : \neg A^\sim, \Gamma^\sim \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} M^\wr : \bot} \quad \frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow M : A}{\Gamma^\sim \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} M^- : A^-}$$

Table 9 The negative translation, from VFS to CPS, with admissible typing rules

The rules for typing $\mathbb{C}$ are obtained from the rules for typing KV and VWK in Table 3, erasing the premise relative to V and declaring V's type as the type of the hole of $\mathbb{C}$:

$$\frac{k : \neg\mathcal{A}, \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} K : \neg\mathcal{A}'}{k : \neg\mathcal{A}, \Gamma|\mathcal{A}' \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} K[_] : \bot}\ \mathbb{C}2 \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} W : \mathcal{A} \quad k : \neg\mathcal{A}'', \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} K : \neg\mathcal{A}'}{k : \neg\mathcal{A}'', \Gamma|\mathcal{A} \supset \neg\neg\mathcal{A}' \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} [_]WK : \bot}\ \mathbb{C}3$$

We also observe that $K_\mathbb{C} := \lambda z.\mathbb{C}[z]$ is a continuation, and that $K_\mathbb{C}V \to_{\sigma_v} \mathbb{C}[V]$ in CPS.

VFS vs CPS: the negative translation. We now see that the CPS-translation can be decomposed as the VFS-translation followed by a *negative* translation of system VFS. This latter translation is a CPS-translation, hence involving, at the level of types, the introduction of double negations (hence the name "negative"). It turns out that this negative translation is an isomorphism between VFS and CPS, at the levels of proofs and proof reduction. This renders the last stage of translation (the negative stage) and its style of representation (the CPS style) an optional addition to what is already achieved with VFS.

The negative translation is found in Table 9. It comprises: For each $V \in VFS$, a value $V^\sim$ in CPS; for each $M \in VFS$, a command $M^\wr$ and a term M^- in CPS.

The translation has a typed version, mapping between the typed version of source and target calculi. This requires a translation of types: for each simple type A of VFS, there is an $\mathcal{A}$-type $A^\sim$ and a $\mathcal{B}$-type A^-, as defined in Table 9. The translation preserves typing, according to the admissible rules displayed in the last row of the same table.

The negative translation is defined at the level of terms and values. How about formal contexts? A formal context c is translated as a context $c^\wr$ of CPS, defined as follows:

$$(x.M)^\wr \;=\; (\lambda x.M^\wr)[_] \qquad\qquad (W,x.M)^\wr \;=\; [_]W^\sim(\lambda x.M^\wr)$$

Then the definition of $\mathsf{C}_v(V,c)^\wr$ can be made uniform in c as $c^\wr[V^\sim]$. The translation of non-values $\mathsf{C}_v(V,c)^\wr$ is thus defined as filling the (translation) of V in the hole of the actual context $c^\wr$ that translates the formal context c. Hence the name "value-filling" of the translation.

We have two admissible typing rules:

$$\frac{\Gamma|A \Rightarrow c : B}{k : \neg B^\sim, \Gamma^\sim|A^\sim \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} c^\wr : \bot}\ (a) \qquad \frac{\Gamma|A \Rightarrow c : B}{k : \neg B^\sim, \Gamma^\sim \vdash_{\mathsf{CPS}} K_{c^\wr} : \neg A^\sim}\ (b)$$

Rule (a) follows from typing rules $\mathbb{C}2$ and $\mathbb{C}3$; rule (b) is obtained from (a) and rule $\mathbb{C}1$.

It is no exaggeration to say that typing rule (b) is the heart of the negative translation. In the sequent calculus VFS we can single out a formula A in the l. h. s. of the sequent to act as the type of the hole of a (formal) context c. In CPS, we have the related concept of a continuation K, a function of type $A \supset \bot$. The type B of c has to be stored as the negated type $\neg B$ of a special variable k. Cutting with c in the sequent calculus corresponds

to applying K, to obtain a command, of type $\bot$. But the cut produces a term of type B, while the best we can do in CPS is to abstract k, to obtain $\neg\neg B$. In the sequent calculus, a type A may have uses in both sides of the sequent. To approximate this flexibility in CPS, a type A requires types $\mathcal{A}$, $\neg\mathcal{A}$, and $\neg\neg\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{B}$, presupposing $\bot$.

▶ **Theorem 2** (Decomposition of the CPS-translation)**.**
1. *For all* $V \in \lambda\mathsf{C}$, $V^{\circ\sim} = V^{\dagger}$.
2. *For all* $M \in \lambda\mathsf{C}$, $N \in VFS$, $(M; x.N)^{\wr} = (M : \lambda x.N^{\wr})$.
3. *For all* $M \in \lambda\mathsf{C}$, $M^{\bullet\wr} = M^{\star}$.
4. *For all* $M \in \lambda\mathsf{C}$, $M^{\bullet-} = \overline{M}$.

Nothing is lost, if we wish to replace CPS with VFS, because the negative translation is an isomorphism. Its inverse translation comprises: For each term $P \in CPS$, a term $P^{+} \in VFS$; for each command $M \in CPS$, a term $M^{\times} \in VFS$; for each value $V \in CPS$, a value $V^{⋇} \in VFS$. The definition is as follows:

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
(\lambda k.M)^{+} & = & M^{\times} \\
(kV)^{\times} & = & \uparrow(V^{⋇}) \\
((\lambda x.M)V)^{\times} & = & \mathsf{C}_v(V^{⋇}, x.M^{\times}) \\
(VW(\lambda x.M))^{\times} & = & \mathsf{C}_v(V^{⋇}, (W^{⋇}, x.M^{\times})) \\
x^{⋇} & = & x \\
(\lambda x.P)^{⋇} & = & \lambda x.P^{+}
\end{array}
$$

▶ **Theorem 3** ($VFS \cong CPS$)**.**
1. *For all* $M, V \in VFS$, $M^{-+} = M$ *and* $M^{\wr\times} = M$ *and* $V^{\sim⋇} = V$.
2. *For all* $P, M, V \in CPS$, $P^{+-} = P$ *and* $M^{\times\wr} = M$ *and* $V^{⋇\sim} = V$.
3. *If* $M_1 \to M_2$ *in* VFS *then* $M_1^{\wr} \to M_2^{\wr}$ *in* CPS *(hence* $M_1^{-} \to M_2^{-}$ *in* CPS*).*
4. *If* $M_1 \to M_2$ *in* CPS *then* $M_1^{\times} \to M_2^{\times}$ *in* VFS*. Hence If* $P_1 \to P_2$ *in* CPS *then* $P_1^{+} \to P_2^{+}$ *in* VFS*.*

5 Back to direct style

We now do to the VFS-translation what [10, 25] did to the CPS-translation, that is, try to find a program transformation in the source language $\lambda\mathsf{C}$ that corresponds to the effect of the translation. We have seen in Section 4 that the VFS-translation identifies reduction steps generated by let_1, let_2 and $assoc$. So we start from the normal forms w. r. t. these rules, that is, from the kernel $\underline{ANF}$ (recall Table 2). We first identify two sub-syntaxes relevant in this analysis. Next, we point out the proof-theoretical meaning of such alternative.

Two sub-kernels of $\underline{ANF}$. It turns out that the syntax of $\underline{ANF}$, despite its simplicity, still contains several dilemmas: (1) Do we need a let-expression whose actual parameter is a value V? Or should we normalize with respect to let_v? (2) Do we need VW to stand alone as a term and also as the actual parameter of a let-expression? (3) Is η_{let} a reduction or an expansion? Some of these dilemmas give rise to the following diagram:

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
VW & \xleftarrow{\;let_v\;} & \mathsf{let}\, x := V \,\mathsf{in}\, xW \\
\uparrow{\scriptstyle \eta_{let}} & & \uparrow{\scriptstyle \eta_{let}} \\
\mathsf{let}\, y := VW \,\mathsf{in}\, y & \xleftarrow[let_v]{} & \mathsf{let}\, x := V \,\mathsf{in}\, \underbrace{\mathsf{let}\, y := xW \,\mathsf{in}\, y}_{c_x}
\end{array}
\tag{3}
$$

We take this diagram as giving, in its lower row, two different ways of expanding VW. These two alternatives signal two sub-syntaxes of $\underline{ANF}$ without VW. In the alternative corresponding to the expansion $\mathsf{let}\,y := VW\,\mathsf{in}\,y$, we are free to, additionally, normalize w. r. t. let_v and get rid of the form $\mathsf{let}\,x := V\,\mathsf{in}\,M$. In the alternative $\mathsf{let}\,x := V\,\mathsf{in}\,\mathsf{let}\,y := xW\,\mathsf{in}\,y$, we are not free to normalize w. r. t. let_v, as otherwise we might reverse the intended expansions. In both cases, values are $V, W ::= x \,|\, \lambda x.M$. Moreover, we do not want to consider η_{let} as a reduction rule; and rule B'_v disappears, since there are no applications VW.

In the first sub-kernel, named $\textsc{ces}$, terms M are given by the grammar

$$M ::= V \,|\, \mathsf{let}\,x := VW\,\mathsf{in}\,M \ .$$

We call this representation *continuation enclosing* style, since the "serious" (=non-value) terms have the form of an application VW enclosed in a let-expression. The unique reduction rule of $\textsc{ces}$ is

$$(\beta_v) \qquad \mathsf{let}\,y := (\lambda x.M)V\,\mathsf{in}\,P \to \mathsf{LET}\,y := [V/x]M\,\mathsf{in}\,P$$

In $\underline{ANF}$, it corresponds to a B_v-step followed by let_v-step. The operation $\mathsf{LET}\,y := M\,\mathsf{in}\,P$ of $\underline{ANF}$ is reused, except that the base case of its definition integrates a further let_v-step: $\mathsf{LET}\,y := V\,\mathsf{in}\,P = [V/y]P$.

In the second sub-kernel, named VES, terms are given by the grammar

$$\begin{array}{rcl} M, N & ::= & V \,|\, \mathsf{let}\,x := V\,\mathsf{in}\,c_x \\ c_x & ::= & M \,|\, \mathsf{let}\,y := xW\,\mathsf{in}\,N, \text{ where } x \notin FV(W) \cup FV(N) \end{array}$$

We call this representation *value enclosed* style, since the serious terms have the form of a value enclosed in a let-expression. There are two reduction rules:

$$\begin{array}{rrcl} (B_v) & \mathsf{let}\,y := (\lambda x.M)\,\mathsf{in}\,\mathsf{let}\,z := yV\,\mathsf{in}\,P & \to & \mathsf{let}\,x := V\,\mathsf{in}\,\mathsf{LET}\,z := M\,\mathsf{in}\,P \\ (let_v) & \mathsf{let}\,y := V\,\mathsf{in}\,N & \to & [V/y]N \end{array}$$

In VES, we define $\mathsf{LET}\,y := M\,\mathsf{in}\,P$ and $\mathsf{LET}\,y := c_z\,\mathsf{in}\,P$, which are a term and an element of the class c_z, respectively, the latter satisfying $z \notin FV(P)$. The definition is by simultaneous recursion on M and c_z as follows:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \mathsf{LET}\,y := V\,\mathsf{in}\,P & = & \mathsf{let}\,y := V\,\mathsf{in}\,P \\ \mathsf{LET}\,y := (\mathsf{let}\,z := V\,\mathsf{in}\,c_z)\,\mathsf{in}\,P & = & \mathsf{let}\,z := V\,\mathsf{in}\,\mathsf{LET}\,y := c_z\,\mathsf{in}\,P \\ \mathsf{LET}\,y := (\mathsf{let}\,x := zW\,\mathsf{in}\,N)\,\mathsf{in}\,P & = & \mathsf{let}\,x := zW\,\mathsf{in}\,\mathsf{LET}\,y := N\,\mathsf{in}\,P \end{array}$$

In the second equation, since in the l. h. s. P is not in the scope of the (inner) let-expression, we may assume $z \notin FV(P)$. So, the proviso for the call $\mathsf{LET}\,y := c_z\,\mathsf{in}\,P$ in the r. h. s. is satisfied. In the third equation, c_z in the l. h. s. is $\mathsf{let}\,x := zW\,\mathsf{in}\,N$. By definition of c_z, $z \notin FV(W) \cup FV(N)$; moreover, we may assume $z \notin FV(P)$: hence the r. h. s. is in c_z.

Despite the trouble with variable conditions, this definition corresponds to the operator $\mathsf{LET}\,y := M\,\mathsf{in}\,P$ of $\underline{ANF}$ restricted to the syntax of VES. Therefore, rule B_v of VES corresponds, in $\underline{ANF}$, to a let_v-step followed by a B_v-step.

Proof-theoretical alternative. We now see that VES is related to the sequent calculus VFS, while $\textsc{ces}$ is related to a fragment $\textsc{cnf}$ of the call-by-value λ-calculus with generalized applications $\lambda\mathsf{J}_v$ introduced in [6]. In both cases, the relation is an isomorphism, in the sense of a type-preserving bijection with a 1-1 simulation of reduction steps.

▶ **Theorem 4.** *$VES \cong VFS$ and $\textsc{ces} \cong \textsc{cnf}$.*

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
\Psi(V) & = & \uparrow\Psi_v(V) \\
\Psi(\mathsf{let}\, x := V \,\mathsf{in}\, c_x) & = & \mathsf{C}_v(\Psi_v V, \Psi_x(c_x)) \\
\Psi_v(x) & = & x \\
\Psi_v(\lambda x.M) & = & \lambda x.\Psi M \\
\Psi_x(M) & = & x.\Psi M \\
\Psi_x(\mathsf{let}\, y := xW \,\mathsf{in}\, N) & = & (\Psi W, y.\Psi N) \\
\\
\Theta(\uparrow V) & = & \Theta_v(V) \\
\Theta(\mathsf{C}_v(V,c)) & = & \mathsf{let}\, x := \Theta_v V \,\mathsf{in}\, \Theta_x(c) \\
\Theta_v(x) & = & x \\
\Theta_v(\lambda x.M) & = & \lambda x.\Theta M \\
\Theta_x(y.M) & = & [x/y](\Theta M) \\
\Theta_x(W, y.N) & = & \mathsf{let}\, y := x(\Theta_v W) \,\mathsf{in}\, \Theta N
\end{array}
$$

Table 10 Translation from VES to VFS and vice-versa.

Therefore the alternative between the two sub-kernels corresponds to the alternative between two proof-systems for call-by-value, the sequent calculus LJQ and the natural deduction system with general elimination rules behind $\lambda\mathsf{J}_v$.

A $\lambda\mathsf{J}_v$-term is either a value or a generalized applications $M(N, x.P)$, with typing rule

$$
\frac{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{J}} M : A \supset B \quad \Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{J}} N : A \quad \Gamma, x : B \vdash_{\mathsf{J}} P : C}{\Gamma \vdash_{\mathsf{J}} M(N, x.P) : C}
$$

If the head term M is itself an application $M_1(M_2, y.M_3)$, then M_3 has type $A \supset B$ and the term can be rearranged as $M_1(M_2, y.M_3(N, x.P))$, to bring M_3 and N together. This is a known *commutative conversion* [15], here named π_1, which aims to convert the head term M to a value V. On the other hand, if the argument N is itself an application $N_1(N_2, y.N_3)$, then N_3 has type A and the term can be rearranged as $N_1(N_2, y.M(N_3, x.P))$, to bring M and N_3 together. This is a conversion π_2 which has *not* been studied, and which aims to convert the argument N to a value W.

The combined effect of $\pi := \pi_1 \cup \pi_2$ is to reduce generalized applications to the form $V(W, x.P)$, called *commutative normal form*. On these forms, the β_v-rule of $\lambda\mathsf{J}_v$ reads

$$
(\beta_v) \qquad (\lambda y.M)(W, x.P) \to [[W/y]M\backslash x]P
$$

The *left substitution* operation $[N\backslash x]P$ is defined by

$$
[V\backslash x]P = [V/x]P \qquad [V(W, y.N_3)\backslash x]P = V(W, y.[N_3\backslash x]P)
$$

The commutative normal forms, equipped with β_v, constitute the system $\textsc{cnf}$.

The announced isomorphisms are given in Tables 10 and 11. The map $\Psi : VES \to VFS$ requires the key auxiliary map Ψ_x, whose design is guided by types: if $\Gamma, x : A \vdash_{\mathsf{C}} c_x : B$ then $\Gamma|A \Rightarrow \Psi_x(c_x) : B$. The isomorphism $\Upsilon : \textsc{ces} \to \textsc{cnf}$ should be obvious. It can be proved that the operation $\mathsf{LET}\, y := M \,\mathsf{in}\, P$ in $\textsc{ces}$ is translated as left substitution: $\Upsilon(\mathsf{LET}\, y := M \,\mathsf{in}\, P) = [\Upsilon M\backslash y]\Upsilon P$.

A final point. The sub-kernel VES is isomorphic to the CPS-target, after composition with the negative translation: $VES \cong VFS \cong CPS$. A variant of the negative translation delivers:

▶ **Theorem 5.** $\textsc{cnf} \cong \textsc{cps}$.

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
\Upsilon(x) & = & x \\
\Upsilon(\lambda x.M) & = & \lambda x.\Upsilon M \\
\Upsilon(\mathsf{let}\, x := VW \,\mathsf{in}\, M) & = & \Upsilon V(\Upsilon W, x.\Upsilon M) \\
\\
\Phi(x) & = & x \\
\Phi(\lambda x.M) & = & \lambda x.\Phi M \\
\Phi(V(W, x.M)) & = & \mathsf{let}\, x := \Phi V \Phi W \,\mathsf{in}\, \Phi M
\end{array}
$$

Table 11 Translation from CES to CNF and vice-versa.

So we also have CES $\cong$ CNF $\cong$ CPS. Here CPS is the sub-calculus of CPS where commands KV are omitted and σ_v normalization is enforced. Its unique reduction rule, named β_v, becomes

$$(\beta_v) \qquad\qquad (\lambda y.\lambda k.M)W(\lambda x.N) \to [\lambda x.N/k][W/y]M$$

The definition of substitution $[\lambda x.N/k]M$ has the following critical clause:

$$[\lambda x.N/k](kV) = [V/x]N$$

This clause does the reduction of the σ_v-redex $(\lambda x.N)V$ on the fly; and it echoes the critical clause of a structural substitution. Moreover, CPS is the target of a version of the CPS-translation, obtained by changing just one clause: $(V : \lambda x.M) = [V^\dagger/x]\overline{M}$.

The variant of the negative translation yielding CNF $\cong$ CPS is defined by

$$(V(W, x.M))^\wr = V^\sim W^\sim(\lambda x.M^\wr)$$

All the other needed clauses as before. For the isomorphism, we have to prove:

$$([N \backslash x]M)^\wr = [\lambda x.M^\wr/k]N^\wr$$

This is a last minute bonus: a CPS explanation of left substitution.

6 Conclusions

Contributions. We list our main contribution: the VFS-translation; the negative translation as an isomorphism between the VFS and CPS targets; the decomposition of the CPS-translation in terms of the VFS-translation and the negative translation; the two sub-kernels of λC and their perfect relationship with appropriate fragments of the sequent calculus LJQ and natural deduction with general eliminations; the reworking of the term calculus for LJQ.

In all, we took the polished account of the essence of CPS, obtained in [25] and illustrated in Fig. 1, and revealed a rich proof-theoretical background, as in Fig. 2, with a double layer of sub-kernels, under a layer of expansions (see the dotted lines in Fig. 2 and recall (1), (2), and (3)), intersecting an intermediate zone, between the source language and the CPS targets, of calculi corresponding to proof systems.

Related work. In [4], LJQ is studied as a source language, while the CPS translation of LJQ is a tool to establish indirectly a connection with λC, through their respective kernels, in order to confirm that cut-elimination in LJQ is connected with call-by-value computation. There is nothing wrong with using the sequent calculus as source language and translating it with CPS: this has been done abundantly, even by the first author [1, 27, 4, 9]. But the

point made here is that the sequent calculus should also be used as a tool to analyze the CPS-translation, and is able to play a special role as an intermediate language.

The sequent calculus was put forward as an intermediate representation for compilation of functional programs in [2]. This study addresses compilation of programs for a real-world language; designs an intermediate language *Sequent Core* (SC) inspired in the sequent calculus for such source language; and compares SC with CPS heuristically w. r. t. several desirable properties in the context of optimized compilation. In the present paper, we address the foundations of compilation, employing theoretical languages; pick the sequent calculus LJQ, which is a standard systems with decades of history in proof-theory [3]; and compare LJQ and CPS, not through a benchmarking of competing languages, but through mathematical results showing their intimate connection.

Future work. We know an appropriate CPS target will be capable of interpreting a classical extension of our chosen source language. The problem in moving in this direction is that there is no standard extension of $\lambda\mathsf{C}$ with control operators readily available. Source languages with let-expressions and control operators can be found in [14, 5], but adopting them means to redo all that we have done here – that is another project. On the other hand, maybe a system with generalized applications will make a good source language. The system $\lambda\mathsf{J}_v$ performed well in this paper, since its sub-kernel of administrative normal forms (cnf) is reachable without consideration of expansions – a sign of a well calibrated syntax.

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A The original LJQ system

The original calculus by Dyckhoff-Lengrand is recalled in Table 12.

$$\begin{array}{lrcl} \text{(terms)} & M,N & ::= & \uparrow V \mid x(V,y.N) \mid \mathsf{C}_2(V,x.N) \mid \mathsf{C}_3(M,x.N) \\ \text{(values)} & V,W & ::= & x \mid \lambda x.M \mid \mathsf{C}_1(V,x.W) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{rrcll}
(1) & \mathsf{C}_3(\uparrow(\lambda x.M), y.y(V,z.N)) & \to & \mathsf{C}_3(\mathsf{C}_3(\uparrow V, x.M), z.N) & (a) \\
(2) & \mathsf{C}_3(\uparrow x, y.N) & \to & [x/y]N & \\
(3) & \mathsf{C}_3(M, x.\uparrow x) & \to & M & \\
(4) & \mathsf{C}_3(z(V,y.P), x.N) & \to & z(V, y.\mathsf{C}_3(P,x.N)) & \\
(5) & \mathsf{C}_3(\mathsf{C}_3(\uparrow W, y.y(V,z.P)), x.N) & \to & \mathsf{C}_3(\uparrow W, y.y(V,z.\mathsf{C}_3(P,x.N))) & (b) \\
(6) & \mathsf{C}_3(\mathsf{C}_3(M,y.P), x.N) & \to & \mathsf{C}_3(M, y.\mathsf{C}_3(P,x.N)) & (c) \\
(7) & \mathsf{C}_3(\uparrow(\lambda x.M), y.N) & \to & \mathsf{C}_2(\lambda x.M, y.N) & (d) \\
(8) & \mathsf{C}_1(V, x.x) & \to & V & \\
(9) & \mathsf{C}_1(V, x.y) & \to & y & (e) \\
(10) & \mathsf{C}_1(V, x.(\lambda y.M)) & \to & \lambda y.\mathsf{C}_2(V,x.M) & \\
(11) & \mathsf{C}_2(V, x.\uparrow W) & \to & \uparrow(\mathsf{C}_1(V,x.W)) & \\
(12) & \mathsf{C}_2(V, x.x(W,z.N)) & \to & \mathsf{C}_2(\uparrow V, x.x(\mathsf{C}_1(V,x.W), z.\mathsf{C}_2(V,x.N))) & \\
(13) & \mathsf{C}_2(V, x.y(W,z.N)) & \to & y(\mathsf{C}_1(V,x.W), z.\mathsf{C}_2(V,x.N)) & (e) \\
(14) & \mathsf{C}_2(V, x.\mathsf{C}_3(M,y.N)) & \to & \mathsf{C}_3(\mathsf{C}_2(V,x.M), y.\mathsf{C}_2(V,x.N)) &
\end{array}$$

Provisos: (a) $y \notin FV(V) \cup FV(N)$. (b) $y \notin FV(V) \cup FV(P)$. (c) If rule (5) does not apply. (d) If rule (1) does not apply. (e) $x \neq y$.

$$\frac{}{\Gamma, x : A \to x : A}\,Ax \qquad \frac{\Gamma \to V : A}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \uparrow V : A}\,Der$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \Rightarrow M : B}{\Gamma \to \lambda x.M : A \supset B}\,R\supset \qquad \frac{\Gamma \Rightarrow M : A \quad \Gamma, x : A \Rightarrow N : B}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \mathsf{C}_3(M, x.N) : B}\,Cut_3$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \to V : A \quad \Gamma, x : A \to W : B}{\Gamma \to \mathsf{C}_1(V, x.W) : B}\,Cut_1 \qquad \frac{\Gamma \to V : A \quad \Gamma, x : A \Rightarrow N : B}{\Gamma \Rightarrow \mathsf{C}_2(V, x.N) : B}\,Cut_2$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \supset B \to V : A \quad \Gamma, x : A \supset B, y : B \Rightarrow N : C}{\Gamma, x : A \supset B \Rightarrow x(V, y.N) : C}\,L\supset$$

Table 12 The original calculus by Dyckhoff-Lengrand

B Kernel of λC

Our presentation of the kernel of λC given in Table 2 is very close to the original one in [25], as we now see. In [25], the terms M of the kernel are generated by the grammar:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} M,N,P & ::= & \mathbb{K}[V] | \mathbb{K}[VW] \\ V,W & ::= & x | \lambda x.M \\ \mathbb{K} & ::= & [_] | \mathsf{let}\, x := [_]\, \mathsf{in}\, P \end{array}$$

We take for granted the sets of terms and values of λC, together with the set of contexts of λC, which are λC-terms with a single hole, and the concept of hole filling in such contexts. This grammar defines simultaneously a subset of the terms of λC, a subset of the values of λC, and a subset of the contexts of λC.

The second production in the grammar of terms, $\mathbb{K}[VW]$, should be understood thus: given in the kernel values V, W and a context $\mathbb{K}$, the λC-term $\mathbb{K}[VW]$, obtained by filling the

hole of $\mathbb{K}$ with the λC-term VW, is in the kernel. In λC, VW is a subterm of $\mathbb{K}[VW]$; but, as we observed in Section 2, in the kernel, the term VW is not an immediate subterm of $\mathbb{K}[VW]$ – the immediate subexpressions are just V, W, and $\mathbb{K}$. Notice the λC-term $M = VW$ is a term in the kernel, generated by the second production of the grammar with $\mathbb{K} = [_]$. But that second production *should not* be interpreted as $\mathbb{K}[M]$ with $M = VW$.

There is no primitive $\mathbb{K}[M]$ in the kernel. Instead, there is the operation $(M : \mathbb{K})$, defined by recursion on M as follows:

$$\begin{array}{rcl}(V : \mathbb{K}) & = & \mathbb{K}[V] \\ (VW : \mathbb{K}) & = & \mathbb{K}[VW] \\ (\mathsf{let}\, x := V \,\mathsf{in}\, M : \mathbb{K}) & = & \mathsf{let}\, x := V \,\mathsf{in}\, (M : \mathbb{K}) \\ (\mathsf{let}\, x := VW \,\mathsf{in}\, M : \mathbb{K}) & = & \mathsf{let}\, x := VW \,\mathsf{in}\, (M : \mathbb{K})\end{array}$$

It is easy to see that $(M : \mathsf{let}\, x := [_] \,\mathsf{in}\, P) = \mathsf{LET}\, x := M \,\mathsf{in}\, P$ and that $(M : [_]) = M$.

In [25], the kernel has the following reduction rule

$$(\beta.v) \qquad \mathbb{K}[(\lambda x.M)V] \to ([V/x]M : \mathbb{K}) \ .$$

There is no need for the requirement of maximal $\mathbb{K}$ in this rule, as done in [25], once the above clarification about $\mathbb{K}[VW]$ is obtained. We now see the relationship between $\beta.v$ and our B_v and B'_v.

Let $\mathbb{K} = \mathsf{let}\, y := [_] \,\mathsf{in}\, P$. Then rule B_v can re written as

$$\mathbb{K}[(\lambda x.M)V] \to \mathsf{let}\, x := V \,\mathsf{in}\, (M : \mathbb{K}) \ .$$

The contractum is a let_v-redex, which could be immediately reduced, to achieve the effect of $\beta.v$. Here we prefer to delay this let_v-step, and the same applies to our rule B'_v, which corresponds to the case $\mathbb{K} = [_]$. This issue of delaying let_v is also seen in Section 5.

Finally, rule η_{let} in [25] reads $\mathsf{let}\, x := [_] \,\mathsf{in}\, \mathbb{K}[x] \to \mathbb{K}$. We argue that in our presentation we can derive

$$(M : \mathsf{let}\, x := [_] \,\mathsf{in}\, \mathbb{K}[x]) \to (M : \mathbb{K}) \ .$$

If $\mathbb{K} = [_]$, then we have to prove $\mathsf{LET}\, x := M \,\mathsf{in}\, x \to M$. This is proved by an easy induction on M: the case $M = V$ (resp. $M = VW$) gives rise to a σ_v-step (resp. η_{let}-step); the remaining two cases follow by induction hypothesis.

If $\mathbb{K} = \mathsf{let}\, y := [_] \,\mathsf{in}\, P$, then we have to prove $\mathsf{LET}\, x := M \,\mathsf{in}\, \mathsf{let}\, y := x \,\mathsf{in}\, P \to \mathsf{LET}\, y := M \,\mathsf{in}\, P$. Now $\mathsf{let}\, y := x \,\mathsf{in}\, P \to_{let_v} [y/x]P$. Since $Q \to Q'$ implies $\mathsf{LET}\, x := M \,\mathsf{in}\, Q \to \mathsf{LET}\, x := M \,\mathsf{in}\, Q'$, we obtain $\mathsf{LET}\, x := M \,\mathsf{in}\, \mathsf{let}\, y := x \,\mathsf{in}\, P \to \mathsf{LET}\, x := M \,\mathsf{in}\, [y/x]P =_\alpha \mathsf{LET}\, y := M \,\mathsf{in}\, P$.