

The Call-by-Value λ -Calculus from a Linear Logic Perspective

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Workshop in honour of Thomas Ehrhard's 60 years

Paris, 30 September 2022

Outline

- 1 What is Call-by-Value?
- 2 What is Wrong with Plotkin's Call-by-Value?
- 3 A Linear Logic Perspective to Call-by-Value
- 4 Restoring Call-by-Value thanks to Linear Logic
- 5 Conclusions

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A specific λ -calculus among a plethora of λ -calculi

The λ -calculus is the model of computation underlying

- functional programming languages (Haskell, OCaml, ...)
- proof assistants (Coq, Isabelle/Hol, ...).

Actually, there are **many** λ -calculi, depending on

- the evaluation mechanism (e.g., call-by-name, call-by-value, call-by-need);
- computational feature the calculus aims to model (e.g., pure, non-deterministic);
- the type system (e.g. untyped, simply typed, second order).

In this talk: pure untyped **call-by-value** λ -calculus (mainly).

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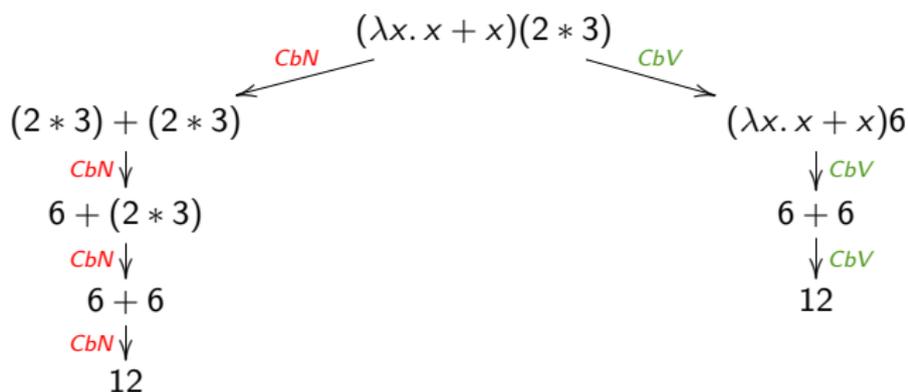
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Call-by-Name vs. Call-by-Value (for dummies)

- Call-by-Name (**CbN**): pass the argument to the calling function **before** evaluating it.
- Call-by-Value (**CbV**): pass the argument to the calling function **after** evaluating it.

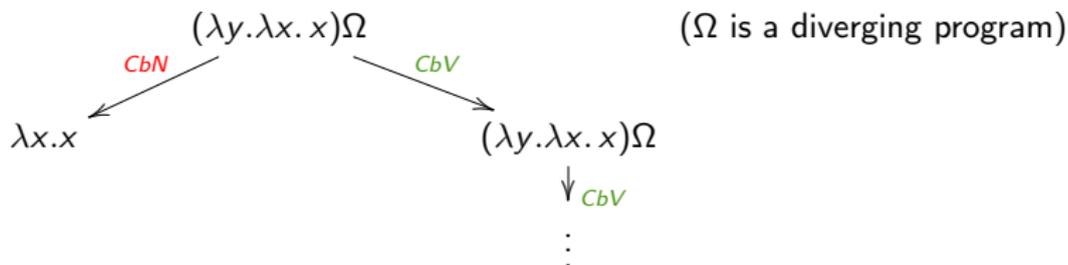
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Summing up, **CbV** is **eager**, that is,

- 1 **CbV** is **smarter** than **CbN** when the argument must be duplicated;
- 2 **CbV** is **sillier** than **CbN** when the argument must be discarded.

Plotkin's Call-by-Value λ -calculus [Plo75]

Terms: $s, t, u ::= v \mid tu$

Values: $v ::= x \mid \lambda x.t$

CbV reduction: $(\lambda x.t)v \rightarrow_{\beta_v} t\{v/x\}$

(restriction to ~~CbN~~ β -rule)

Why? Closer to real implementation of most programming languages & proof assistants.

CbN and CbV λ -calculi have different operational and denotational semantics

\rightsquigarrow in general, it is impossible to derive a property for CbV from CbN, or vice versa.

Examples, with $I := \lambda z.z$ (identity) and $\delta := \lambda z.zz$ (duplicator):

① $(\lambda y.I)(\delta\delta)$ β -normalizes but β_v -diverges

$$(\lambda y.I)(\delta\delta) \rightarrow_{\beta} I \quad (\lambda y.I)(\delta\delta) \rightarrow_{\beta_v} (\lambda y.I)(\delta\delta) \rightarrow_{\beta_v} \dots$$

② $(\lambda x.\delta)(xx)\delta$ is β_v -normal but β -divergent: $(\lambda x.\delta)(xx)\delta \rightarrow_{\beta} \delta\delta \rightarrow_{\beta} \delta\delta \rightarrow_{\beta} \dots$

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A symptom that Plotkin's CbV is sick: Contextual equivalence

Def. Terms t, t' are **contextually equivalent** if they are observably indistinguishable, i.e., for every context C , $C\langle t \rangle \rightarrow_{\beta_V}^* v$ (for some value v) iff $C\langle t' \rangle \rightarrow_{\beta_V}^* v'$ (for some value v')

Consider the terms (with $\delta := \lambda z.zz$ as usual)

$$\delta_1 := (\lambda x.\delta)(xx)\delta \quad \delta_3 := \delta((\lambda x.\delta)(xx))$$

δ_1 and δ_3 are β_V -normal but contextually equivalent to $\delta\delta$ (which is β_V -divergent)!

The “energy” (i.e. divergence) in δ_1 and δ_3 is only **potential**, in $\delta\delta$ is **kinetic**!

Why are δ_1 and δ_3 stuck? Why cannot we transform their potential energy in kinetic? It seems that in Plotkin's CbV λ -calculus something is missing...

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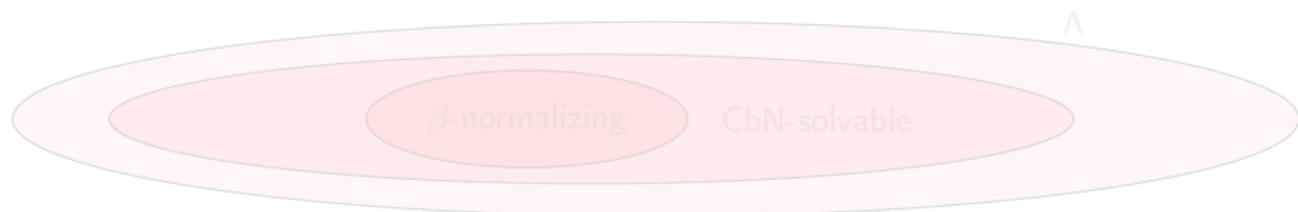
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A second symptom that Plotkin's CbV is sick: Solvability (1 of 2)

In a calculus X , a term t is **solvable** if there is a head context H such that $H\langle t \rangle \rightarrow_X^* I$.

In the **CbN** λ -calculus, solvability is well-studied and has an elegant theory.

- 1 **Internal operational** characterization: t is **CbN-solvable** iff t is **head β -normalizing**.
- 2 Every β -normalizing term is **CbN-solvable**, but the converse fails (e.g. Y).
- 3 The λ -theory that equates all **CbN-unsolvable** terms is **consistent**.
- 4 **CbN-unsolvable** terms represent undefined partial recursive functions.



Moral: **CbN-solvable** terms are all and only the **meaningful** terms in **CbN**.

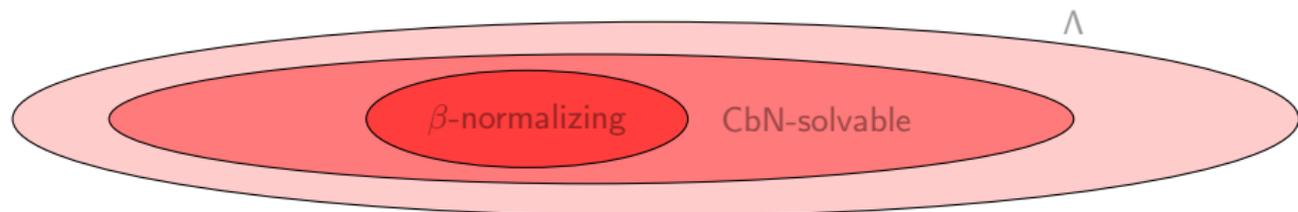
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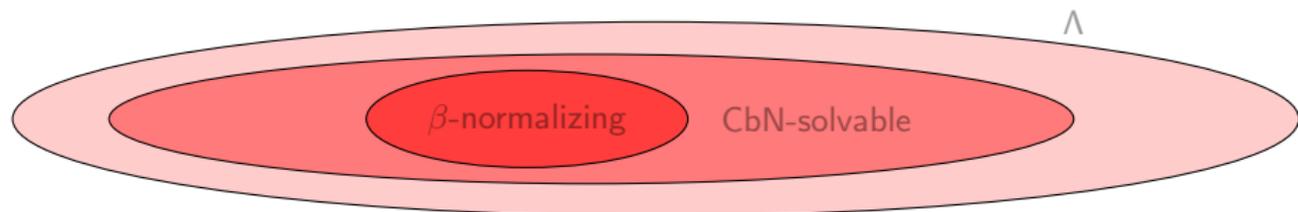
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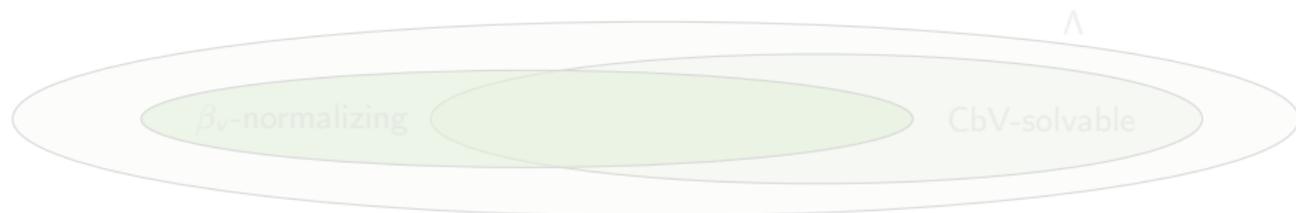
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In **CbV**, all these results are false! In particular,

- ❶ There is no **internal** operational characterization of **CbV**-solvability.
- ❷ The set of **CbV**-solvable terms does not include the set of β_v -normalizing ones.

$$\delta_1 := (\lambda x. \delta)(xx)\delta \quad \delta_3 := \delta((\lambda x. \delta)(xx))$$

δ_1 and δ_3 are **β_v -normal** but **CbV-unsolvable** ($\delta\delta$ is **CbV-unsolvable** too)!



Moral: If we stick to the idea **CbV-solvable** = **meaningful** in **CbV**, we have two options:

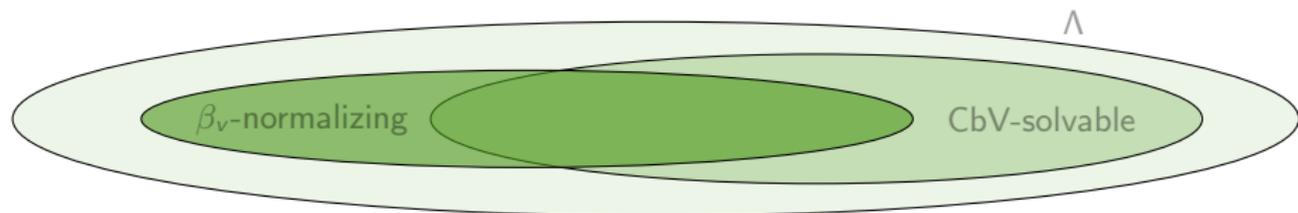
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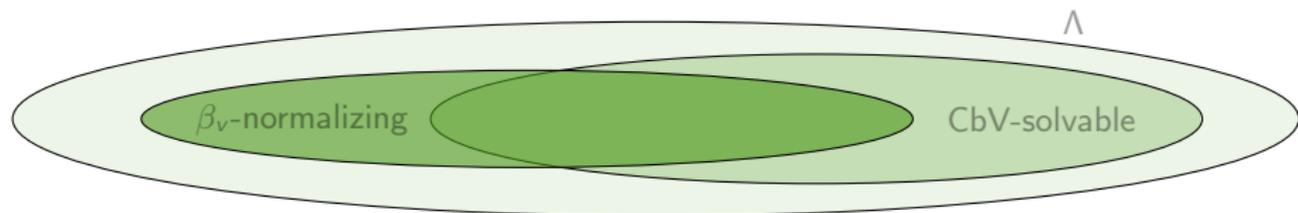
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A third symptom that Plotkin's CbV is sick: denotational semantics. (1 of 2)

[Ehr12] defined a **non-idempotent** intersection type system for Plotkin's **CbV** λ -calculus.

Linear types $L ::= M \multimap N$ Multi types $M, N ::= [L_1, \dots, L_n] \quad n \geq 0$

Idea: $[L, L', L'] \approx L \wedge L' \wedge L' \neq L \wedge L'$ (commutative, associative, non-idempotent \wedge).

$$\frac{}{x : [L] \vdash x : L} \text{ax} \quad \frac{\Gamma, x : M \vdash t : N}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x. t : M \multimap N} \lambda \quad \frac{\Gamma_1 \vdash v : L_1 \quad \dots \quad \Gamma_n \vdash v : L_n}{\Gamma \vdash v : [L_1, \dots, L_n]} ! \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash t : [M \multimap N] \quad \Delta \vdash s : M}{\Gamma \vdash ts : N} \textcircled{\text{e}}$$

Idea: A term $t : [L, L', L']$ can be used once as a data of type L , twice as a data of type L' .

Rmk: The constructor for multi types (rule $!$) can be used only by values!

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Non-idempotent intersection types define a **denotational** model: relational semantics

$$\llbracket t \rrbracket_{\bar{x}} = \{(\Gamma, M) \mid \Gamma \vdash t : M \text{ is derivable}\}$$

Theorem (Invariance, [Ehr12])

If $t \rightarrow_{\beta_v} u$ then $\llbracket t \rrbracket_{\bar{x}} = \llbracket u \rrbracket_{\bar{x}}$.

Theorem (Correctness, [Ehr12])

If $\llbracket t \rrbracket_{\bar{x}} \neq \emptyset$ then t is normalizing for “weak” β_v -reduction (not reducing under λ 's).

The converse (**completeness**) fail!

$$\llbracket \delta_1 \rrbracket = \emptyset = \llbracket \delta_3 \rrbracket \quad (\text{and } \llbracket \delta\delta \rrbracket = \emptyset \text{ too!})$$

but δ_1 and δ_3 are β_v -normal, while $\delta\delta$ is β_v -divergent!

Rmk: Not only in relational semantics but also in other denotational models of CbV!

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Summing up: a mismatch between syntax and semantics

In Plotkin's **CbV** λ -calculus there is a **mismatch** between syntax and semantics.

There are terms, such as

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- semantics: context equivalence, solvability, denotational models, ...

Somehow, in Plotkin's **CbV** λ -calculus, β_v -reduction is "not enough".

- Can we extend β_v so that δ_1 and δ_3 are divergent?
- But we want to keep a **CbV** discipline:

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Idea: Let us see what happens in **CbV** from a proof-theoretic viewpoint (Curry-Howard).

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What I learned from Thomas when I was his PhD student



T: In the eternal fight between syntax and semantics, the semantics always wins.

G: I see.

T: Use linear logic and its semantics as a guideline.

G: Thank you!



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The role of linear logic with respect to λ -calculi

Girard's linear logic (1987) provides new concepts and tools to **study** λ -calculi:

- 1 denotational models of linear logic provides denotational models for λ -calculi;
- 2 clear notion of resource and linear consumption
 $f: A \multimap B \approx f$ consumes a value of type A and transforms it into a value of type B ;
- 3 quantitative analysis of computation
 - ▶ semantic tools to study execution time (De Carvalho *et al.*);
 - ▶ "compatible" with cost models (Accattoli *et al.*).
- 4 ...

LL also hints how to **modify** syntax and dynamics of λ -calculi to have "good properties".

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Girard's linear logic (1987) provides new concepts and tools to **study** λ -calculi:

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- 2 clear notion of resource and linear consumption
 $f : A \multimap B \approx f$ consumes a value of type A and transforms it into a value of type B ;
- 3 quantitative analysis of computation
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The Curry-Howard-Girard correspondence

Logic		Computer Science
formula	\longleftrightarrow	type
proof	\longleftrightarrow	program
cut-elimination	\longleftrightarrow	evaluation
coherence	\longleftrightarrow	termination
different encodings of intuitionistic arrow in LL	\longleftrightarrow	different evaluation mechanisms

Tools from intuitionistic linear logic (ILL) can be used to study properties of:

- call-by-name evaluation via Girard's translation $(\cdot)^N$,
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The two Girard's translations of IL into ILL (1987)

well-known translation $(\cdot)^N$

$$X^N = X$$

$$(A \rightarrow B)^N = !A^N \multimap B^N$$

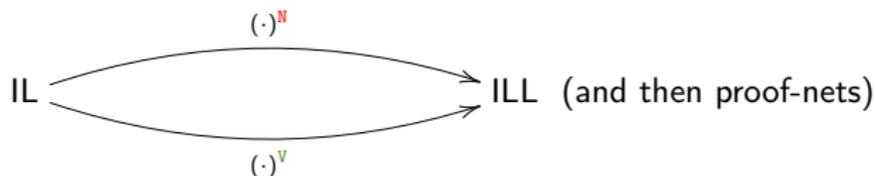
$$(\Gamma \vdash A)^N = !\Gamma^N \vdash A^N$$

“boring” translation $(\cdot)^V$

$$X^V = X$$

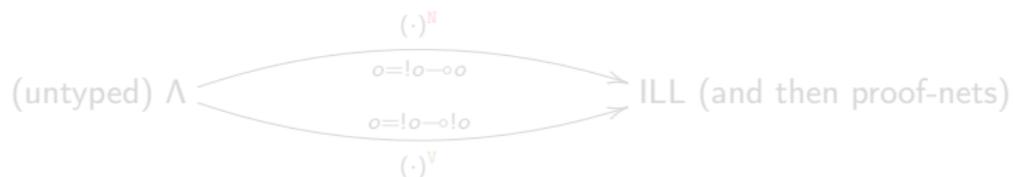
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simply typed $\Lambda = \text{IL}$ (via Curry-Howard)

(untyped) $\Lambda = \text{IL} + \text{unique atomic type } o + \text{type identity } o = o \rightarrow o$



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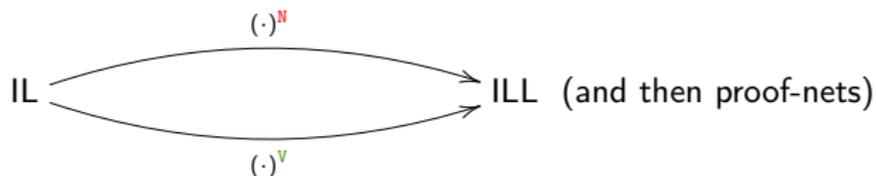
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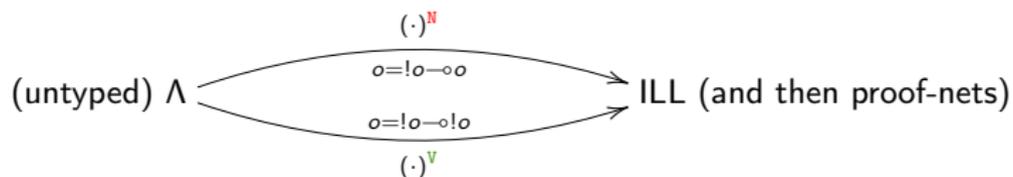
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(natural deduction for IL)

(sequent calculus for ILL)

$$\frac{}{x:A \vdash x:A} \text{ax} \rightsquigarrow \frac{}{!A^N \vdash A^N} \text{der}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x:A \vdash M:B}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x M : A \rightarrow B} \rightarrow_i \rightsquigarrow \frac{!\Gamma^N, !A^N \vdash B^N}{!\Gamma^N \vdash !A^N \multimap B^N} \wp$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M:A \rightarrow B \quad \Delta \vdash N:A}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash MN:B} \rightarrow_e \rightsquigarrow \frac{\frac{!\Delta^N \vdash A^N}{!\Delta^N \vdash !A^N} ! \quad \frac{}{B^N \vdash B^N} \text{ax}}{!\Delta^N, !A^N \multimap B^N \vdash B^N} \otimes}{!\Gamma^N \vdash !A^N \multimap B^N \quad \frac{}{!\Gamma^N, !\Delta^N \vdash B^N} \text{cut}}$$

The translation $(\cdot)^N$ puts a ! in front of every formula on the left-hand side of \vdash
 \rightsquigarrow the translation of the structural rules is obvious.

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Girard's second ("boring") translation: $(\cdot)^V$

$$\begin{aligned}
 X^V &= X \\
 (A \rightarrow B)^V &= !A^V \multimap !B^V \\
 (\Gamma \vdash A)^V &= !\Gamma^V \vdash !A^V
 \end{aligned}$$

(natural deduction for IL)

(sequent calculus for ILL)

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$$\frac{}{!A^V \vdash !A^V} \text{ ax}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x:A \vdash M:B}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x.M:A \rightarrow B} \rightarrow_i \rightsquigarrow$$

$$\frac{!\Gamma^V, !A^V \vdash !B^V}{!\Gamma^V \vdash !A^V \multimap !B^V} \wp$$

$$\frac{}{!\Gamma^V \vdash !(A^V \multimap B^V)} !$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash M:A \rightarrow B \quad \Delta \vdash N:A}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash MN:B} \rightarrow_e \rightsquigarrow$$

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The translation $(\cdot)^V$ puts a ! in front of every formula on the left-hand side of \vdash
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An example: from IL (natural deduction)...

$$\pi = \frac{\frac{\frac{\overline{a:A \vdash a:A}^{ax}}{a:A, c:C \vdash a:A}^w}{a:A \vdash \lambda c a. C \rightarrow A} \rightarrow_i \quad \frac{\frac{\overline{x:B \rightarrow C \vdash x:B \rightarrow C}^{ax} \quad \frac{\overline{b:B \vdash b:B}^{ax}}{b:B, x:B \rightarrow C \vdash xb.C} \rightarrow_e}{a:A, b:B, x:B \rightarrow C \vdash (\lambda c a)(xb).A} \rightarrow_e}{a:A, b:B, x:B \rightarrow C \vdash (\lambda c a)(xb).A} \rightarrow_e$$

↓cut

$$\text{nf}(\pi) = \frac{\frac{\overline{a:A \vdash a:A}^{ax}}{a:A, b:B, \vdash a:A}^w}{a:A, b:B, x:B \rightarrow C \vdash a.A}^w$$

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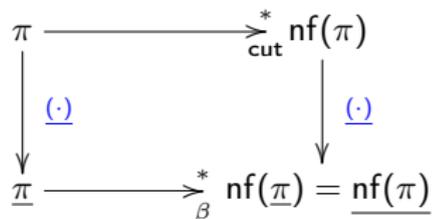
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An example: from IL (natural deduction)...

int. logic (IL):

Curry-Howard
↓

λ -calculus:



An example: ... to ILL via $(\cdot)^N$

$$\pi^N = \frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{\overline{A \vdash A}^{ax}}{\overline{!A \vdash A}}^{der}}{\overline{!A, !C \vdash A}}^w}{\overline{!A \vdash !C \multimap A}}^{\wp}}{\frac{\frac{\frac{\overline{!B \multimap C \vdash !B \multimap C}^{ax}}{\overline{!(B \multimap C) \vdash !B \multimap C}}^{der}}{\overline{!B, !(B \multimap C) \vdash C}}^!}{\frac{\frac{\overline{B \vdash B}^{ax}}{\overline{!B \vdash B}}^{der}}{\overline{!B, !B \multimap C \vdash C}}^{\otimes}}{\overline{!C \multimap A, !B, !(B \multimap C) \vdash A}}^{cut}}{\overline{!B, !(B \multimap C) \vdash !C}}^!}{\overline{!C \multimap A, !B, !(B \multimap C) \vdash A}}^{cut}}{\overline{A \vdash A}^{ax}}^{\otimes}}}{\overline{!A \vdash !C \multimap A}}^{\wp}}^{cut}$$

$$\frac{}{\overline{a : !A, b : !B, x : !(B \multimap C) \vdash (\lambda c a)(xb) : A}}^{cut}$$

cut \downarrow_+

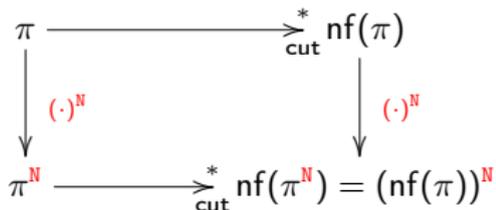
$$nf(\pi^N) = \frac{\frac{\frac{\overline{a : A \vdash a : A}^{ax}}{\overline{a : !A \vdash a : A}}^{der}}{\overline{a : !A, b : !B, \vdash a : A}}^w}{\overline{a : !A, b : !B, x : !(B \multimap C) \vdash a : A}}^w} = (nf(\pi))^N$$

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intuit. logic (IL):

$(\cdot)^N$

intuit. LL (ILL):



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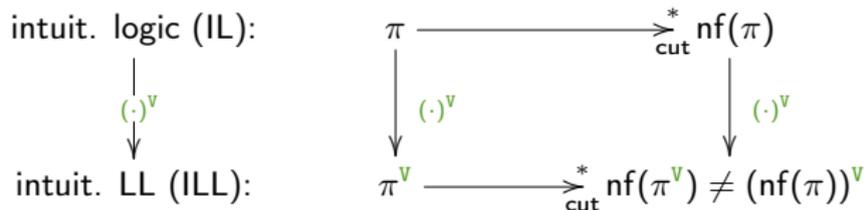
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cut \downarrow_+

$$\text{nf}(\pi^N) = \frac{\frac{\frac{\overline{a:A \vdash a:A}^{ax}}{a!:A \vdash a:A}^{der}}{a!:A, b!:B, \vdash a:A}^w}{a!:A, b!:B, x:!(B \multimap C) \vdash a:A}^w = (\text{nf}(\pi))^N$$

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Call-by-name vs. call-by-value from a Linear Logic point of view

In the λ -calculus there are two evaluation mechanisms:

- *call-by-name* (CbN, β -reduction): no restriction in firing a β -redex;
- *call-by-value* (CbV, β_v -reduction): a β -redex $(\lambda x t)s$ can be fired only if s is a **value**.

ILL (and proof-nets) cut-elimination simulates $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \beta\text{-reduction via the translation } (\cdot)^N \\ \beta_v\text{-reduction via the translation } (\cdot)^V \end{array} \right.$

- via $(\cdot)^N$ every argument is translated by a box
 \rightsquigarrow every argument can be duplicated or discarded (CbN discipline);
- via $(\cdot)^V$ every (and only) abstraction or variable is translated by a box
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The two Girard's logical translations can explain the two different evaluation mechanisms inside the same setting, bringing them into the scope of the **Curry-Howard** isomorphism.



Call-by-name, call-by-value, call-by-need, and the linear lambda calculus. John Maraist, Martin Odersky, David Turner, and Philip Wadler. MFPS, 1995.

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Outline

- 1 What is Call-by-Value?
- 2 What is Wrong with Plotkin's Call-by-Value?
- 3 A Linear Logic Perspective to Call-by-Value
- 4 Restoring Call-by-Value thanks to Linear Logic**
- 5 Conclusions

What can LL say about the issues in Plotkin's CbV?

The terms

$$\delta_1 := (\lambda x. \delta)(xx)\delta \quad \delta_3 := \delta((\lambda x. \delta)(xx))$$

are β_v -normal because the β -redex (but not β_v -redex) $(\lambda x. \dots)(xx)$ is stuck.

↪ The β -redex prevents the two δ 's from interacting!

But if we translate δ_1 and δ_3 into ILL proof-nets, the two δ 's can interact.

↪ The translations of δ_1 and δ_3 into ILL proof-nets are diverging!

ILL is suggesting a way to extend β_v -reduction in a CbV setting.

Question: How can we internalize ILL behavior into a calculus?

Answer: There are at least two solutions.

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Solution 1: Value Substitution Calculus [AccPao12]

Terms: $s, t, u ::= v \mid tu \mid t[u/x]$

Values: $v ::= x \mid \lambda x.t$

Substitution contexts: $L ::= [t_1/x_1] \dots [t_n/x_n]$

Reductions: $(\lambda x.t)LS \rightarrow_m t[s/x]L$

$t[vL/x] \rightarrow_e t\{v/x\}L$

- 1 β_V -reduction can be simulated into VSC.

$$(\lambda x.t)v \rightarrow_m t[v/x] \rightarrow_e t\{v/x\}$$

- 2 VSC extends β_V -reduction:

$$\delta_1 = (\lambda x.\delta)(\lambda x.\delta) \rightarrow_m \delta[\lambda x.\delta/x] \rightarrow_m (zz)[\delta/z][\lambda x.\delta/x] \rightarrow_e \delta\delta[\lambda x.\delta/x] \rightarrow \dots$$

$$\delta_3 = \delta((\lambda x.\delta)(\lambda x.\delta)) \rightarrow_m \delta(\delta[\lambda x.\delta/x]) \rightarrow_m (zz)[\delta[\lambda x.\delta/x]/z] \rightarrow_e \delta\delta[\lambda x.\delta/x] \rightarrow \dots$$

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In VSC, δ_1 and δ_3 are divergent as $\delta\delta$!

Solution 2: Shuffling Calculus [CarrGue14]

Terms: $s, t, u ::= v \mid tu$

Values: $v ::= x \mid \lambda x.t$

β_v -reduction: $(\lambda x.t)v \rightarrow_{\beta_v} t\{v/x\}$

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- The shuffling calculus extends β_v -reduction:

$\delta_1 = (\lambda x.\delta)(xx)\delta \rightarrow_{\sigma_1} (\lambda x.\delta\delta)(xx) \rightarrow_{\beta_v} (\lambda x.\delta\delta)(xx) \rightarrow_{\beta_v} \dots$

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In the shuffling calculus, δ_1 and δ_3 are divergent as $\delta\delta!$

Solution 2: Shuffling Calculus [CarrGue14]

Terms: $s, t, u ::= v \mid tu$

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VSC vs. Shuffling: the importance of being (linearly) logical

Both VSC and Shuffling (Shuf) calculi are inspired by ILL proof-nets.
It turns out that they are “essentially the same” (termination equivalence)

Theorem (termination equivalence, [AccGue16])

Let t be a term: t is VSC-normalizing iff t is Shuf-normalizing.

Not *ad hoc*: these settings are termination equivalent to other extensions of Plotkin's one

- fireball calculus (Paolini & Ronchi Della Rocca, 1999; Grégoire & Leroy, 2002);
- CbV $\bar{\lambda}\mu\tilde{\mu}$ -calculus (Curien & Herbelin, 2000);
- ...

(Introduced with different motivations: implementative, semantic, proof-theoretic, etc.)

Just different syntactic incarnations of the “same” CbV calculus (extending Plotkin's one).

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Restoring what was wrong in Plotkin's CbV!

In these CbV extensions we restore the good properties missing in Plotkin's CbV calculus.

- 1 Contextual equivalence in VSC and Shuf is the same as in Plotkin's calculus, but now δ_1 and δ_3 are CbV-divergent as $\delta\delta$.
- 2 Solvability in VSC and Shuf is the same as in Plotkin's calculus, but now we have an internal operational characterization of CbV solvability

Theorem [AccPao12, CarrGue14]

- 1 t is CbV-solvable iff t is normalizing for weak CbV-reduction.
- 2 Every CbV-normalizing term is CbV-solvable, but the converse fails (e.g. Y_V).
- 3 Denotational semantics in the VSC and Shuf is the same as in Plotkin's calculus, but now we also have completeness

Theorem (Correctness and Completeness [CarrGue12])

$\llbracket t \rrbracket_x \neq \emptyset$ iff t is normalizing for "weak" CbV-reduction (not reducing under λ 's).

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Outline

- 1 What is Call-by-Value?
- 2 What is Wrong with Plotkin's Call-by-Value?
- 3 A Linear Logic Perspective to Call-by-Value
- 4 Restoring Call-by-Value thanks to Linear Logic
- 5 Conclusions

Summing up

- 1 Plotkin's **CbV** λ -calculus can be extended by taking inspiration from LL.
- 2 The extensions are "conservative": they do not change **CbV** semantic notions.
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Open Question 0: Categorical Semantics for CbV

Question: $CbN : CCC = CbV : X$. What is X ?

Partial answer: [Ehrh12] shows how to build a model for CbV from a model of LL.

Open Question 1: A more general framework!

The existence of **two separate paradigms** (**CbN** and **CbV** λ -calculi) is troubling:

- it makes each language appear arbitrary (a unified language is more canonical);
- each time we create a new style of semantics (e.g. operational semantics, continuations, Scott semantics, game semantics, etc.) we always need to do it twice.

Question: Is there a general calculus containing both **CbN** and **CbV**?

In this setting we compare **CbN** and **CbV** λ -calculi

- in the **same** rewriting system, and
- with the **same** denotational semantics,
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Answer: [EhrGue16], [GueMan18], [BKVV20], [FagGue20], ...

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Open Question 2: Inhabitation

In the non-idempotent intersection type system for **CbV**, typability is undecidable.

Question: Is the **inabitation** problem decidable in **CbV**?

Given an typing context Γ and a multi type M , is there a term t such that

$$\Gamma \vdash t : M \text{ is derivable?}$$

Question bis: Same question, but in a more general framework subsuming **CbV** and **CbN**.

Answer: Yes, it is decidable and we can find all the inhabitants! [ArrKesGue23]

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Thank you!

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