



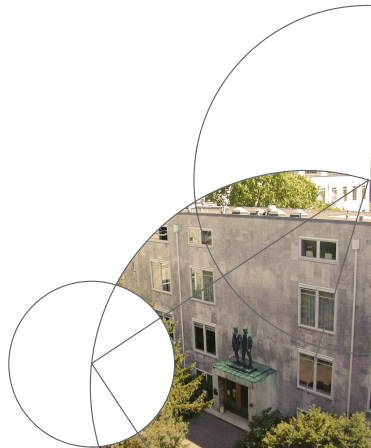
Faculty of Science

Calculating Correct Compilers

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Goal

Calculate a compiler that is correct by construction



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- Derive compiler implementation from
denotational semantics
- Derivation by formal calculations



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denotational semantics
- Derivation by formal calculations
- Result: compiler + virtual machine
+ correctness proof



Background

Reasoning about compilers, Hutton & Wright

- **Verifying a compiler** for a simple language with exceptions (MPC '04)
- **Calculating an abstract machine** that is correct by construction (TFP '05)



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Reasoning about compilers, Hutton & Wright

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Last 2.1 meeting, Hutton & Danielsson

- **Calculating a compiler** for a simple language with exceptions
- Use of dependent types during the calculation



This Talk: A Simplified Approach

- **simple calculations** without the need for dependent types
- little prior knowledge needed
(e.g. “Target machine has a stack.”)
- scales to wide variety of **language features**



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- little prior knowledge needed
(e.g. “Target machine has a stack.”)
- scales to wide variety of **language features**:
 - arithmetic expressions
 - exceptions (synchronous and asynchronous)
 - state (global and local)
 - lambda calculi (call-by-value, call-by-name, call-by-need)
 - loops (bounded and unbounded)
 - non-determinism



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(e.g. “Target machine has a stack.”)
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 - arithmetic expressions
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 - lambda calculi (call-by-value, call-by-name, call-by-need)
 - loops (bounded and unbounded)
 - non-determinism
- Underlying techniques: **continuation-passing style** & **defunctionalisation** (Reynolds, 1972)



How Does it Work?

Calculate a Compiler in 3 Steps:

- 1 Define **evaluation function** in compositional manner.

Semantics



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- 2 Calculate a version that uses a **stack and continuations**.

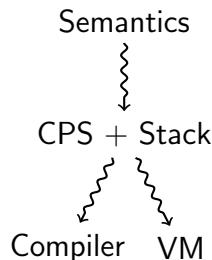
Semantics
⋈
CPS + Stack



How Does it Work?

Calculate a Compiler in 3 Steps:

- 1 Define **evaluation function** in compositional manner.
- 2 Calculate a version that uses a **stack and continuations**.
- 3 **Defunctionalise** to produce a compiler & virtual machine.



Toy Example: Simple Arithmetic Language

Step 1: Semantics of the language

Syntax

data $Expr = Val\ Int \mid Add\ Expr\ Expr$



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Syntax

data $Expr = Val\ Int \mid Add\ Expr\ Expr$

Semantics

$eval \quad \quad \quad :: Expr \rightarrow Int$

$eval\ (Val\ n) \quad = n$

$eval\ (Add\ x\ y) = eval\ x + eval\ y$



Step 2: Transformation into CPS

Type Definitions

```
type Stack = [Int]  
type Cont = Stack  $\rightarrow$  Stack
```



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$eval_C :: Expr \rightarrow Cont \rightarrow Cont$



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Specification

$$eval_C\ e\ c\ s = c\ (eval\ e : s)$$


Step 2: Transformation into CPS

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type $Stack = [Int]$
type $Cont = Stack \rightarrow Stack$

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Specification

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Constructive induction: “prove” specification by induction on e



Step 2: Transformation into CPS

Type Definitions

type $Stack = [Int]$
type $Cont = Stack \rightarrow Stack$

$eval_C :: Expr \rightarrow Cont \rightarrow Cont$

Specification

$$eval_C\ e\ c\ s = c\ (eval\ e\ : s)$$

Constructive induction: “prove” specification by induction on e

\rightsquigarrow definition of $eval_C$



The easy case: *Val*

$$eval_C (Val\ n)\ c\ s$$



The easy case: *Val*

$$\begin{aligned} & eval_C (Val\ n)\ c\ s \\ = & \{ \text{specification of } eval_C \} \\ & c\ (eval\ (Val\ n) : s) \end{aligned}$$



The easy case: *Val*

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$$eval_C\ e\ c\ s = c\ (eval\ e : s)$$



The easy case: *Val*

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The easy case: *Val*

$$\begin{aligned}
 & eval_C (Val\ n)\ c\ s \\
 = & \quad \{ \text{specification of } eval \} \\
 & c\ (eval\ (Val\ n) : s) \\
 = & \quad \{ \text{definition of } eval \} \\
 & c\ (n : s)
 \end{aligned}$$

eval (Val n) = n



The easy case: *Val*

$$\begin{aligned} & eval_C (Val\ n)\ c\ s \\ = & \{ \text{specification of } eval_C \} \\ & c\ (eval\ (Val\ n) : s) \\ = & \{ \text{definition of } eval \} \\ & c\ (n : s) \\ = & \{ \text{define: } push\ n\ c\ s = c\ (n : s) \} \\ & push\ n\ c\ s \end{aligned}$$



The interesting case: *Add*

$$eval_C (Add \times y) \text{ c } s$$



The interesting case: *Add*

$$\begin{aligned} & eval_C (Add \ x \ y) \ c \ s \\ = & \quad \{ \text{specification of } eval_C \} \\ & c \ (eval \ (Add \ x \ y) : s) \end{aligned}$$



The interesting case: *Add*

$$\begin{aligned} & eval_C (Add\ x\ y)\ c\ s \\ = & \{ \text{specification of } eval_C \} \\ & c\ (eval\ (Add\ x\ y) : s) \end{aligned}$$

$$eval_C\ e\ c\ s = c\ (eval\ e : s)$$



The interesting case: *Add*

$$\begin{aligned} & eval_C (Add\ x\ y)\ c\ s \\ = & \{ \text{specification of } eval_C \} \\ & c\ (eval\ (Add\ x\ y) : s) \\ = & \{ \text{definition of } eval \} \\ & c\ ((eval\ x + eval\ y) : s) \end{aligned}$$



The interesting case: *Add*

$$\begin{aligned}
 & eval_C (Add\ x\ y)\ c\ s \\
 = & \quad \{ \text{specification of } eval \} \\
 & c\ (eval\ (Add\ x\ y) : s) \\
 = & \quad \{ \text{definition of } eval \} \\
 & c\ ((eval\ x + eval\ y) : s)
 \end{aligned}$$

$eval\ (Add\ x\ y) = eval\ x + eval\ y$



The interesting case: *Add*

$$\begin{aligned}
 & eval_C (Add\ x\ y)\ c\ s \\
 = & \quad \{ \text{specification of } eval \} \\
 & c\ (eval\ (Add\ x\ y) : s) \\
 = & \quad \{ \text{definition of } eval \} \\
 & c\ ((eval\ x + eval\ y) : s)
 \end{aligned}$$

Induction Hypothesis

For all c' and s' :

$$eval_C\ x\ c'\ s' = c'\ (eval\ x : s')$$

$$eval_C\ y\ c'\ s' = c'\ (eval\ y : s')$$



The interesting case: *Add*

$$\begin{aligned} & eval_C (Add\ x\ y)\ c\ s \\ = & \{ \text{specification of } eval_C \} \\ & c\ (eval\ (Add\ x\ y) : s) \\ = & \{ \text{definition of } eval \} \\ & c\ ((eval\ x + eval\ y) : s) \\ = & \{ \text{define: } add\ c\ (n : m : s) = c\ ((m + n) : s) \} \\ & add\ c\ (eval\ y : eval\ x : s) \end{aligned}$$



The interesting case: *Add*

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{eval}_C (\text{Add } x \ y) \ c \ s \\
 = & \quad \{ \text{specification of } \text{eval}_C \} \\
 & \ c \ (\text{eval } (\text{Add } x \ y) : s) \\
 = & \quad \{ \text{definition of } \text{eval} \} \\
 & \ c \ ((\text{eval } x + \text{eval } y) : s) \\
 = & \quad \{ \text{define: } \text{add } c \ (n : m : s) = c \ \text{eval}_C \ y \ c' \ s' = c' \ (\text{eval } y : s') \} \\
 & \ \text{add } c \ (\text{eval } y : \text{eval } x : s) \\
 = & \quad \{ \text{induction hypothesis for } y \} \\
 & \ \text{eval}_C \ y \ (\text{add } c) \ (\text{eval } x : s)
 \end{aligned}$$



The interesting case: *Add*

$$\begin{aligned}
 & eval_C (Add\ x\ y)\ c\ s \\
 = & \quad \{ \text{specification of } eval_C \} \\
 & c\ (eval\ (Add\ x\ y) : s) \\
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 & c\ ((eval\ x + eval\ y) : s) \\
 = & \quad \{ \text{define: } add\ c\ (n : m : s) = c\ ((m + n) : s) \} \\
 & add\ c\ (eval\ y : eval\ x : s) \\
 = & \quad \{ \text{induction hypothesis for } y \} \\
 & eval_C\ y\ (add\ c)\ (eval\ x : s) \\
 = & \quad \{ \text{induction hypothesis for } x \} \\
 & eval_C\ x\ (eval_C\ y\ (add\ c))\ s
 \end{aligned}$$

$eval_C\ x\ c'\ s' = c'\ (eval\ x : s')$



Step 2: Transformation into CPS (cont.)

Derived definition

$$\text{eval}_C :: \text{Expr} \rightarrow \text{Cont} \rightarrow \text{Cont}$$
$$\text{eval}_C (\text{Val } n) \quad c \ s = \text{push } n \ c \ s$$
$$\text{eval}_C (\text{Add } x \ y) \ c \ s = \text{eval}_C \ x \ (\text{eval}_C \ y \ (\text{add } c)) \ s$$


Step 2: Transformation into CPS (cont.)

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Step 2: Transformation into CPS (cont.)

Derived definition

$$\text{eval}_C :: \text{Expr} \rightarrow \text{Cont} \rightarrow \text{Cont}$$
$$\text{eval}_C (\text{Val } n) \quad c = \text{push } n \, c$$
$$\text{eval}_C (\text{Add } x \, y) \, c = \text{eval}_C \, x \, (\text{eval}_C \, y \, (\text{add } c))$$
$$\text{push} :: \text{Int} \rightarrow \text{Cont} \rightarrow \text{Cont}$$
$$\text{push } n \, c \, s = c \, (n : s)$$
$$\text{add} :: \text{Cont} \rightarrow \text{Cont}$$
$$\text{add } c \, (n : m : s) = c \, ((m + n) : s)$$


Step 2: Transformation into CPS (cont.)

Derived definition

$$\text{eval}_C :: \text{Expr} \rightarrow \text{Cont} \rightarrow \text{Cont}$$
$$\text{eval}_C (\text{Val } n) \quad c = \text{push } n \ c$$
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$$\text{add } c \ (n : m : s) = c \ ((m + n) : s)$$

Identity continuation

$$\text{eval}_S :: \text{Expr} \rightarrow \text{Cont}$$
$$\text{eval}_S \ e = \text{eval}_C \ e \ \text{halt}$$
$$\text{halt} :: \text{Cont}$$
$$\text{halt } s = s$$


Step 3: Defunctionalisation

$$eval_S :: Expr \rightarrow Cont$$
$$eval_S e = eval_C e \text{ halt}$$
$$eval_C :: Expr \rightarrow Cont \rightarrow Cont$$
$$eval_C (Val\ n) \quad c = \text{push } n\ c$$
$$eval_C (Add\ x\ y) \quad c = eval_C\ x\ (eval_C\ y\ (\text{add } c))$$
$$\text{halt} :: Cont$$
$$\text{push} :: Int \rightarrow Cont \rightarrow Cont$$
$$\text{add} :: Cont \rightarrow Cont$$


Step 3: Defunctionalisation

$$eval_S :: Expr \rightarrow Cont$$
$$eval_S e = eval_C e \text{ halt}$$
$$eval_C :: Expr \rightarrow Cont \rightarrow Cont$$
$$eval_C (Val\ n) \quad c = \text{push } n\ c$$
$$eval_C (Add\ x\ y) \quad c = eval_C\ x\ (eval_C\ y\ (\text{add } c))$$

data Code where

$$\text{HALT} :: \text{Code}$$
$$\text{PUSH} :: Int \rightarrow \text{Code} \rightarrow \text{Code}$$
$$\text{ADD} :: \text{Code} \rightarrow \text{Code}$$


Step 3: Defunctionalisation

$$eval_S :: Expr \rightarrow Cont$$
$$eval_S e = eval_C e \text{ halt}$$
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Or equivalently:

data Code = HALT | PUSH Int Code | ADD Code Code



Step 3: Defunctionalisation

$$eval_S :: Expr \rightarrow Code$$
$$eval_S e = eval_C e \text{ HALT}$$
$$eval_C :: Expr \rightarrow Code \rightarrow Code$$
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data *Code* **where**

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Or equivalently:

data *Code* = *HALT* | *PUSH Int Code* | *ADD Code Code*



Step 3: Defunctionalisation

$\text{comp} :: \text{Expr} \rightarrow \text{Code}$

$\text{comp } e = \text{comp}' e \text{ HALT}$

$\text{comp}' :: \text{Expr} \rightarrow \text{Code} \rightarrow \text{Code}$

$\text{comp}' (\text{Val } n) \quad c = \text{PUSH } n \ c$

$\text{comp}' (\text{Add } x \ y) \ c = \text{comp}' x \ (\text{comp}' y \ (\text{ADD } c))$

data Code where

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$\text{ADD} :: \text{Code} \rightarrow \text{Code}$

Example

$\text{comp} (\text{Val } 1 \ \text{'Add'} \ \text{Val } 2) \rightsquigarrow \text{PUSH } 1 \ \$ \ \text{PUSH } 2 \ \$ \ \text{ADD} \ \$ \ \text{HALT}$



Step 3: Defunctionalisation (cont.)

data *Code* **where**

HALT :: *Code*

PUSH :: *Int* \rightarrow *Code* \rightarrow *Code*

ADD :: *Code* \rightarrow *Code*

Type *Code* represents the function type *Cont* ($= \textit{Stack} \rightarrow \textit{Stack}$).



Step 3: Defunctionalisation (cont.)

data *Code* **where**

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Type *Code* represents the function type *Cont* ($= \textit{Stack} \rightarrow \textit{Stack}$).

Interpretation function

exec :: *Code* \rightarrow *Cont*

exec HALT = *halt*

exec (PUSH n c) = *push n (exec c)*

exec (ADD c) = *add (exec c)*



Step 3: Defunctionalisation (cont.)

data *Code* **where**

HALT :: *Code*

PUSH :: *Int* \rightarrow *Code* \rightarrow *Code*

ADD :: *Code* \rightarrow *Code*

Type *Code* represents the function type *Cont* ($= \textit{Stack} \rightarrow \textit{Stack}$).

Interpretation function

exec :: *Code* \rightarrow *Cont*

exec HALT $s = s$

exec (PUSH n c) $s = \textit{exec } c \ (n : s)$

exec (ADD c) (n : m : s) $= \textit{exec } c \ ((m + n) : s)$



Step 3: Defunctionalisation (cont.)

data *Code* **where**

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PUSH :: *Int* \rightarrow *Code* \rightarrow *Code*

ADD :: *Code* \rightarrow *Code*

Type *Code* represents the function type *Cont* ($= \textit{Stack} \rightarrow \textit{Stack}$).

Virtual Machine

exec :: *Code* \rightarrow *Cont*

exec HALT $s = s$

exec (PUSH n c) $s = \textit{exec } c \ (n : s)$

exec (ADD c) (n : m : s) $= \textit{exec } c \ ((m + n) : s)$



Compiler Correctness

$$eval_C e \ c \ s = c \ (eval \ e : s) \quad (\text{Specification})$$



Compiler Correctness

proved by constructive induction

$$\text{eval}_C e \ c \ s = c \ (\text{eval } e : s) \quad (\text{Specification})$$



Compiler Correctness

$$eval_C e c s = c (eval e : s) \quad (\text{Specification})$$

$$exec (comp e) s = eval_S e s \quad (\text{Defunctionalisation})$$



Compiler Correctness

$$eval_C e c s = c (eval e : s) \quad (\text{Specification})$$

$$exec (comp e) s = eval_S e s \quad (\text{Defunctionalisation})$$

$$eval_S e = eval_C e halt \quad (\text{Definition of } eval_S)$$



Compiler Correctness

$$eval_C e \ c \ s = c \ (eval \ e : s) \quad (\text{Specification})$$

$$exec \ (comp \ e) \ s = eval_S \ e \ s \quad (\text{Defunctionalisation})$$

$$eval_S \ e = eval_C \ e \ halt \quad (\text{Definition of } eval_S)$$

$$exec \ (comp \ e) \ s = eval \ e : s \quad (\text{Compiler correctness})$$



A Language with Exceptions

[▶ Skip this](#)

data $Expr = Val\ Int \mid Add\ Expr\ Expr$
 $\mid Throw \mid Catch\ Expr\ Expr$



A Language with Exceptions

► Skip this

data $Expr = Val\ Int \mid Add\ Expr\ Expr$
 $\mid Throw \mid Catch\ Expr\ Expr$

$eval :: Expr \rightarrow Maybe\ Int$

$eval\ (Val\ n) = Just\ n$

$eval\ (Add\ x\ y) = \mathbf{case}\ eval\ x\ \mathbf{of}$

$Nothing \rightarrow Nothing$

$Just\ n \rightarrow \mathbf{case}\ eval\ y\ \mathbf{of}$

$Nothing \rightarrow Nothing$

$Just\ m \rightarrow Just\ (n + m)$

$eval\ Throw = Nothing$

$eval\ (Catch\ x\ h) = \mathbf{case}\ eval\ x\ \mathbf{of}$

$Nothing \rightarrow eval\ h$

$Just\ n \rightarrow Just\ n$



A Language with Exceptions

► Skip this

data $Expr = Val\ Int \mid Add\ Expr\ Expr$
 $\mid Throw \mid Catch\ Expr\ Expr$

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Partial Specifications

Partial Type Definition

```
type Stack = [Elem]  
data Elem = VAL Int | ...
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type Stack = [Elem]  
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Partial Specification of $eval_C$

$$eval_C\ e\ c\ s = c\ (eval\ e : s)$$



Partial Specifications

Partial Type Definition

type *Stack* = [*Elem*]
data *Elem* = *VAL Int* | ...

Partial Specification of $eval_C$

$eval_C\ e\ c\ s = c\ (VAL\ n : s)$	if $eval\ e = Just\ n$
$eval_C\ e\ c\ s = ??$	if $eval\ e = Nothing$



Partial Specifications

Partial Type Definition

type $Stack = [Elem]$
data $Elem = VAL\ Int \mid \dots$

Partial Specification of $eval_C$

$eval_C\ e\ c\ s = c\ (VAL\ n : s)$	if $eval\ e = Just\ n$
$eval_C\ e\ c\ s = fail\ s$	if $eval\ e = Nothing$

where $fail :: Stack \rightarrow Stack$ is left unspecified



Constructive Induction: *Add*

► Skip this

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{eval}_C (\text{Add } x \ y) \ c \ s \\
 = & \quad \{ \text{specification} \} \\
 & \text{case eval } x \text{ of} \\
 & \quad \text{Just } n \rightarrow \text{case eval } y \text{ of} \\
 & \quad \quad \text{Just } m \rightarrow c \ (\text{VAL } (n + m) : s) \\
 & \quad \quad \text{Nothing} \rightarrow \text{fail } s \\
 & \quad \text{Nothing} \rightarrow \text{fail } s \\
 = & \quad \{ \text{define: } \text{add } c \ (\text{VAL } m : \text{VAL } n : s) = c \ (\text{VAL } (n + m) : s) \} \\
 & \text{case eval } x \text{ of} \\
 & \quad \text{Just } n \rightarrow \text{case eval } y \text{ of} \\
 & \quad \quad \text{Just } m \rightarrow \text{add } c \ (\text{VAL } m : \text{VAL } n : s) \\
 & \quad \quad \text{Nothing} \rightarrow \text{fail } s \\
 & \quad \text{Nothing} \rightarrow \text{fail } s
 \end{aligned}$$


Constructive Induction: *Add* (2)

case eval x of

Just n \rightarrow **case eval y of**

Just m \rightarrow *add c* (*VAL m* : *VAL n* : *s*)

Nothing \rightarrow *fail s*

Nothing \rightarrow *fail s*

$=$ { *define: fail* (*VAL n* : *s*) = *fail s* }

case eval x of

Just n \rightarrow **case eval y of**

Just m \rightarrow *add c* (*VAL m* : *VAL n* : *s*)

Nothing \rightarrow *fail* (*VAL n* : *s*)

Nothing \rightarrow *fail s*

$=$ { *induction hypothesis for y* }

case eval x of

Just n \rightarrow *eval_C y* (*add c*) (*VAL n* : *s*)

Nothing \rightarrow *fail s*

$=$ { *induction hypothesis for x* }

eval_C x (*eval_C y* (*add c*)) *s*



Constructive Induction: *Catch*

► Skip this

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{eval}_C (\text{Catch } x \ h) \ c \ s \\
 = & \quad \{ \text{specification} \} \\
 & \text{case eval } x \text{ of} \\
 & \quad \text{Just } n \rightarrow c \ (\text{VAL } n : s) \\
 & \quad \text{Nothing} \rightarrow \text{case eval } h \text{ of} \\
 & \qquad \text{Just } m \rightarrow c \ (\text{VAL } m : s) \\
 & \qquad \text{Nothing} \rightarrow \text{fail } s \\
 = & \quad \{ \text{induction hypothesis for } h \} \\
 & \text{case eval } x \text{ of} \\
 & \quad \text{Just } n \rightarrow c \ (\text{VAL } n : s) \\
 & \quad \text{Nothing} \rightarrow \text{eval}_C \ h \ c \ s
 \end{aligned}$$



Constructive Induction: *Catch* (2)

```

case eval x of
  Just n  → c (VAL n : s)
  Nothing → evalC h c s
= { define: fail (HAN c' : s) = c' s }
case eval x of
  Just n  → c (VAL n : s)
  Nothing → fail (HAN (evalC h c) : s)
= { define: unmark c (VAL n : HAN _ : s) = c (VAL n : s) }
case eval x of
  Just n  → unmark c (VAL n : HAN (evalC h c) : s)
  Nothing → fail (HAN (evalC h c) : s)
= { induction hypothesis for x }
  evalC x (unmark c) (HAN (evalC h c) : s)
= { define: mark c' c s = c (HAN c' : s) }
  mark (evalC h c) (evalC x (unmark c)) s

```



Resulting Compiler

$comp \quad \quad \quad :: Expr \rightarrow Code$

$comp\ e \quad \quad = comp' e\ HALT$

$comp' \quad \quad \quad :: Expr \rightarrow Code \rightarrow Code$

$comp' (Val\ n)\ c \quad = PUSH\ n\ c$

$comp' (Add\ x\ y)\ c \quad = comp'\ x\ (comp'\ y\ (ADD\ c))$

$comp'\ Throw\ c \quad = FAIL$

$comp' (Catch\ x\ h)\ c = MARK\ (comp'\ h\ c)\ (comp'\ x\ (UNMARK\ c))$



Resulting Virtual Machine

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{exec} & :: \text{Code} \rightarrow \text{Cont} \\ \text{exec } (\text{PUSH } n \ c) & s = \text{exec } c \ (\text{VAL } n : s) \\ \text{exec } (\text{MARK } h \ c) & s = \text{exec } c \ (\text{HAN } h : s) \\ & \vdots \\ \text{exec } \text{FAIL} & s = \text{fail } s \end{array}$$


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 & \vdots \\
 \text{exec } \text{FAIL} & s = \text{fail } s
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \text{fail} & :: \text{Cont} \\
 \text{fail } (\text{VAL } n : s) & = \text{fail } s \\
 \text{fail } (\text{HAN } h : s) & = \text{exec } h \ s \\
 \text{fail } [] & = []
 \end{array}$$


Key Techniques

- transformation into CPS semantics
- defunctionalisation of CPS semantics



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- partial specifications
 - fixpoint induction
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Ongoing and Future Work

- Simplify reasoning for “cyclic” features (recursion, loops)
- Simplify reasoning for register machines
- Support for sharing (i.e. graph structures)
- Abstraction over effects
- Derivation of compilers for fixed instruction sets

