

1 2017 Paper 23 Question 4

Consider the following simple evaluator for a language of expressions written in OCaml.

```
type expr =  
  | Integer of int  
  | Pair of expr * expr  
  | Apply of string * expr
```

```
type value =  
  | INT of int  
  | PAIR of value * value
```

```
let rec eval = function  
  | Integer n      -> INT n  
  | Pair (e1, e2)  -> PAIR (eval e1, eval e2)  
  | Apply (f, e)   -> eval_function(f, eval e)
```

In this code the function `eval_function` has type `string * value -> value` and is used to evaluate some “built in” functions. For example,

```
eval_function("add", PAIR(INT 10, INT 7))
```

could return the value `INT 17`.

- (a) Rewrite the `eval` function in continuation passing style (CPS) to produce a function `eval_cps` so that the function

```
let eval_2 e = eval_cps (fun x -> x) e
```

will produce the same result as the function `eval`.

```
let rec eval_cps k = function  
  | Integer n      -> k (INT n)  
  | Pair (e1, e2)  -> eval_cps (fun x -> eval_cps (fun y -> k (PAIR (x, y)) e2)) e1  
  | Apply (f, e)   -> eval_cps (fun x -> k (eval_function (f, x))) e
```

- (b) Eliminate higher-order continuations from your `eval_cps` function. That is, introduce a data type `cnt` to represent continuations and write functions of type

```
eval_cps_dfn      : cnt -> expr -> value  
apply_cnt         : cnt * value -> value  
eval_3            : expr -> value
```

using the technique of defunctionalisation. Note that `eval_cps_dfn` and `apply_cnt` will be mutually recursive.

```
type cnt = Nil  
  | Eval_pair_cnt of expr * cnt  
  | Make_pair_cnt of value * cnt  
  | Apply_cnt of string * cnt  
  
let rec eval_cps_dfn k = function  
  | Integer n -> apply_cnt (k, INT n)  
  | Pair (e1, e2) -> eval_cps_dfn (Eval_pair_cnt(e2, k)) e1  
  | Apply (f, e) -> eval_cps_dfn (Apply_cnt(f, k)) e  
  
and apply_cnt = function  
  | Nil, v -> v
```



<https://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/teaching/exams/pastpapers/y2017p23q4.pdf>



```
| Eval_pair_cnt(e, k), v -> eval_cps_dfn (Make_pair_cnt(v, k)) e
| Make_pair_cnt(v1, k), v2 -> apply_cnt (k, (PAIR(v1, v2)))
| Apply_cnt(f, k), v -> apply_cnt (k, eval_function(f, v))

let eval_3 = eval_cps_dfn Nil
```

