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By-Name Context Parameters

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Context parameters can be declared by-name to avoid a divergent inferred expansion. Example:

```
trait Codec[T]:  
  def write(x: T): Unit  
  
given intCodec: Codec[Int] = ???  
  
given optionCodec[T](using ev: => Codec[T]): Codec[Option[T]] with  
  def write(xo: Option[T]) = xo match  
    case Some(x) => ev.write(x)  
    case None =>  
  
val s = summon[Codec[Option[Int]]]  
  
s.write(Some(33))  
s.write(None)
```

As is the case for a normal by-name parameter, the argument for the context parameter `ev` is evaluated on demand. In the example above, if the option value `x` is `None`, it is not evaluated at all.

The synthesized argument for a context parameter is backed by a local `val` if this is necessary to prevent an otherwise diverging expansion.

The precise steps for synthesizing an argument for a by-name context parameter of type `=> T` are as follows.

1. Create a new given of type `T`:

```
given lv: T = ???
```

where `lv` is an arbitrary fresh name

where `lv` is an arbitrary fresh name.



2. This given is not immediately available as candidate for argument inference (making it immediately available could result in a loop in the synthesized computation). But it becomes available in all nested contexts that look again for an argument to a by-name context parameter.
3. If this search succeeds with expression `E`, and `E` contains references to `lv`, replace `E` by

```
{ given lv: T = E; lv }
```

Otherwise, return `E` unchanged.

In the example above, the definition of `s` would be expanded as follows.

```
val s = summon[Test.Codec[Option[Int]]](
  optionCodec[Int](using intCodec)
)
```

No local given instance was generated because the synthesized argument is not recursive.

Reference

For more information, see [Issue #1998](#) and the associated [Scala SIP](#).

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