# **Type-Level Computation One Step at a Time**

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### **Abstract**

Many type systems support a conversion rule that allows type-level computation. In such type systems ensuring the *decidability* of type checking requires type-level computation to terminate. For calculi where the syntax of types and terms is the same, the decidability of type-checking is usually dependent on the strong normalization of the calculus, which ensures termination. An unfortunate consequence of this coupling between decidability and strong normalization is that adding (unrestricted) general recursion to such calculi is not possible.

This paper proposes an alternative to the conversion rule that allows the same syntax for types and terms, type-level computation, and preserves decidability of type-checking under the presence of general recursion. The key idea, which is inspired by the traditional treatment of *iso-recursive types*, is to make each type-level computation step explicit. Each beta reduction or expansion at the type-level is introduced by a language construct. This allows control over the type-level computation and ensures decidability of type-checking even in the presence of non-terminating programs at the type-level. We realize this idea by presenting a variant of the calculus of constructions with general recursion and recursive types. Furthermore we show how many advanced programming language features of state-of-the-art functional languages (such as Haskell) can be encoded in our minimalistic core calculus.

Categories and Subject Descriptors D.3.1 [Programming Languages]: Formal Definitions and Theory

General Terms Languages, Design

Keywords Dependent types, Intermediate language

### 1. Introduction

Modern statically typed functional languages (such as ML, Haskell, Scala or OCaml) have increasingly expressive type systems. Often these large source languages are translated into a much smaller typed core language. The choice of the core language is essential to ensure that all the features of the source language can be encoded. For a simple polymorphic functional language it is possible, for example, to pick a variant of System F as a core language. However, the desire for more expressive type system features puts

pressure on the core languages, often requiring them to be extended to support new features. For example, if the source language supports higher-kinded types or type-level functions then System F is not expressive enough and can no longer be used as the core language. Instead another core language that does provide support for higher-kinded types, such as System  $F_{\omega}$ , needs to be used. However System  $F_{\omega}$  is significantly more complex than System F and thus harder to maintain. If later a new feature, such as kind polymorphism, is desired the core language may need to be changed again to account for the new feature, introducing at the same time new sources of complexity.

The more expressive type systems become, the more types become similar to the terms. Therefore a natural idea is to unify terms and types. There are obvious benefits in this approach: only one syntactic level (terms) is needed; and there are much less language constructs, making the core language easier to implement and maintain. At the same time the core language becomes more expressive, giving us for free many useful language features. *Pure type systems* [] build on this observation and they show how a whole family of type systems (including System F and System  $F_{\omega}$ ) can be implemented using just a single syntactic form. With the added expressiveness it is even possible to have type-level programs expressed using the same syntax as terms as well as dependently typed programs [].

However having the same syntax for types and terms can also be problematic. If arbitrary type-level computation is allowed then type-level programs can use the same language constructs as terms. Usually type systems have a conversion rule to support type-level computation. In such type systems ensuring the *decidability* of type checking requires type-level computation to terminate. For calculi where the syntax of types and terms is the same, the decidability of type-checking is usually dependent on the strong normalization of the calculus, which ensures termination. An unfortunate consequence of this coupling between decidability and strong normalization is that adding (unrestricted) general recursion to such calculi is not possible.

Tension between decidability of type-checking, logical consistency and general recursion.

Brief summary of related work

This paper proposes an alternative to the conversion rule that allows the same syntax for types and terms, type-level computation, and preserves decidability of type-checking under the presence of general recursion. The key idea, which is inspired by the traditional treatment of *iso-recursive types*, is to make each type-level computation step explicit.

Point about the treatment of type-level computation in Haskell. Haskell's core language has type applications, but no type-level lambda. Equality is syntactic modulo alpha-conversion. This design choice was rooted in the desire to support Hindley-Milner type-inference...

Each beta reduction or expansion at the type-level is introduced by a language construct. This allows control over the type-level

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computation and ensures decidability of type-checking even in the presence of non-terminating programs at the type-level. We realize this idea by presenting a variant of the calculus of constructions with general recursion and recursive types. Furthermore we show how many programming language features of state-of-the-art functional languages (such as Haskell) can be encoded in our minimalistic core calculus.

#### a) Motivations:

- Because of the reluctance to introduce dependent types<sup>1</sup>, the current intermediate language of Haskell, namely System F<sub>C</sub> [12], separates expressions as terms, types and kinds, which brings complexity to the implementation as well as further extensions [14, 15].
- Popular full-spectrum dependently typed languages, like Agda, Coq, Idris, have to ensure the termination of functions for the decidability of proofs. No general recursion and the limitation of enforcing termination checking make such languages impractical for general-purpose programming.
- We would like to introduce a simple and compiler-friendly dependently typed core language with only one hierarchy, which supports general recursion at the same time.

### b) Contribution:

- A core language based on Calculus of Constructions (CoC) that collapses terms, types and kinds into the same hierarchy.
- General recursion by introducing recursive types for both terms and types by the same μ primitive.
- Decidable type checking and managed type-level computation by replacing implicit conversion rule of CoC with generalized fold/unfold semantics.
- First-class equality by coercion, which is used for encoding GADTs or newtypes without runtime overhead.
- Surface language that supports datatypes, pattern matching and other language extensions for Haskell, and can be encoded into the core language.

### c) Related work:

- Henk [6] and one of its implementation [8] show the simplicity of the Pure Type System (PTS). [9] also tries to combine recursion with PTS.
- Zombie [3, 10] is a language with two fragments supporting logics with non-termination. It limits the β-reduction for congruence closure [11].
- ΠΣ [1] is a simple, dependently-typed core language for expressing high-level constructions<sup>2</sup>. UHC compiler [7] tries to use a simplified core language with coercion to encode GADTs.
- System  $F_C$  [12] has been extended with type promotion [15] and kind equality [14]. The latter one introduces a limited form of dependent types into the system<sup>3</sup>, which mixes up types and kinds.

### 2. Overview

BRUNO: Jeremy: can you give this section a go and start writing it up? I think this section should be your priority for now.

We begin this section with an informal introduction to the main features of  $\lambda C_{\beta}$ . We show how it can serve as a simple and compiler-friendly core language with general recursion and decidable type system. The formal details are presented in §??.

### 2.1 Calculus of Constructions

 $\lambda C_{\beta}$  is based on the *Calculus of Constructions* ( $\lambda C$ ) [5], which is a higher-order typed lambda calculus. One "unconventional" feature of  $\lambda C$  is the so-called *conversion* rule as shown below:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \tau_1 \qquad \Gamma \vdash \tau_2 : s \qquad \tau_1 =_{\beta} \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash e : \tau_2} \quad \text{Tcc\_Conv}$$

The conversion rule allows one to derive  $e:\tau_2$  from the derivation of  $e:\tau_1$  and the  $\beta$ -equality of  $\tau_1$  and  $\tau_2$ . Note that in  $\lambda C$ , the use of this rule is implicit in that it is automatically applied during type checking to all non-normal form terms. To illustrate, let us consider a simple example. Suppose we have a built-in base type Int and

$$f \equiv \lambda x : (\lambda y : \star . y) \operatorname{Int}.x$$

Without the conversion rule, f cannot be applied to, say 3 in  $\lambda C$ . Given that f is actually  $\beta$ -convertible to  $\lambda x$ : Int.x, the conversion rule would allow the application of f to 3 by implicitly converting  $\lambda x:(\lambda y:\star y)$  Int.x to  $\lambda x:$  Int.x.

### 2.2 Explicit Type Conversion Rules

BRUNO: Contrast our calculus with the calculus of constructions. Explain fold/unfold.

In contrast to the implicit reduction rules of  $\lambda C$ ,  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  makes it explicit as to when and where to convert one type to another. To achieve that, it makes type conversion explicit by introducing two operations: cast<sup>↑</sup> and cast<sub>⊥</sub>.

In order to have a better intuition, let us consider the same example from  $\S 2.1$ . In  $\lambda C_{\beta}$ , f 3 is intended as an ill-typed application. Instead one would like to write the application as

$$f(\mathsf{cast}^{\uparrow}[(\lambda y:\star.y)\,\mathsf{Int}]3)$$

The intuition is that,  $\mathsf{cast}^{\uparrow}$  is actually doing type conversion since the type of 3 is Int and  $(\lambda y : \star . y)$  Int can be reduced to Int.

The dual operation of  $\mathsf{cast}^\uparrow$  is  $\mathsf{cast}_\downarrow$ . The use of  $\mathsf{cast}_\downarrow$  is better explained by another similar example. Suppose that

$$g \equiv \lambda x : \mathsf{Int}.x$$

and term z has type

2

$$(\lambda y: \star . y)$$
 Int

 $g\,z$  is again an ill-typed application, while  $g\,(\mathsf{cast}_\downarrow\,z)$  is type correct because  $\mathsf{cast}_\downarrow$  reduces the type of z to Int.

### 2.3 Decidability and Strong Normalization

BRUNO: Informally explain that with explicit fold/unfold rules the decidability of the type system does not depend on strong normalization

The decidability of the type system of  $\lambda C$  depends on the normalization property for all constructed terms [4]. However strong normalization does not hold with general recursion. This is simply because due to the conversion rule, any non-terminating term would force the type checker to go into an infinitely loop (by constantly applying the conversion rule without termination), thus rendering the type system undecidable.

With explicit type conversion rules, however, the decidability of the type system no longer depends on the normalization property.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This might be changed in the near future. See https://ghc.haskell.org/trac/ghc/wiki/DependentHaskell/Phase1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> But the paper didn't give any meta-theories about the langauge.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Richard A. Eisenberg is going to implement kind equality [14] into GHC. The implementation is proposed at https://phabricator.haskell.org/D808 and related paper is at http://www.cis.upenn.edu/~eir/papers/2015/equalities/equalities-extended.pdf.

In fact  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  is not strong normalizing, as we will see in later sections. The ability to write non-terminating terms motivates us to have more control over type-level computation. To illustrate, let us consider a contrived example. Suppose that d is a "dependent type" where

$$d: \mathsf{Int} \to \star$$

so that  $d\,3$  or  $d\,100$  all yield the same type. With general recursion at hand, we can image a term z that has type

$$d \log p$$

where loop stands for any diverging computation and of type Int. What would happen if we try to type check the following application:

$$(\lambda x:d\ 3.x)\ z$$

Under the normal typing rules of  $\lambda C$ , the type checker would get stuck as it tries to do  $\beta$ -equality on two terms: d 3 and d loop, where the latter is non-terminating.

This is not the case for  $\lambda C_{\beta}$ : (i) it has no such conversion rule, therefore the type checker would do syntactic comparison between the two terms instead of  $\beta$ -equality in the above example; and (ii) one would need to write infinite number of  $\mathsf{cast}_{\downarrow}$ 's to make the type checker loop forever (e.g.,  $(\lambda x:d\ 3.x)(\mathsf{cast}_{\downarrow}(\mathsf{cast}_{\downarrow}\dots z))$ , which is impossible in reality.

In summary,  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  achieves the decidability of type checking by explicitly controlling type-level computation, which is independent of the normalization property, while supporting general recursion at the same time.

### 2.4 Unifying Recursive Types and Recursion

BRUNO: Show how in  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  recursion and recursive types are unified. Discuss that due to this unification the sensible choice for the evaluation strategy is call-by-name.

Recursive types arise naturally if we want to do general recursion.  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  differs from other programming languages in that it unifies both recursion and recursive types by the same  $\mu$  primitive.

Recursive types. In the literature on type systems, there are two approaches to recursive types. One is called equi-recursive, the other iso-recursive.  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  takes the latter approach since it is more intuitive to us with regard to recursion. The iso-recusive approach treats a recursive type and its unfolding as different, but isomorphic. In  $\lambda C_{\beta}$ , this is witnessed by first cast $^{\uparrow}$ , then cast $_{\downarrow}$ . A classic example of recursive types is the so-called "hungry" type:  $H = \mu \sigma : \star . \operatorname{Int} \to \sigma .$  A term z of type H can accept any number of numeric arguments and return a new function that is hungry for more, as illustrated below:

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{cast}_{\downarrow} z : \operatorname{Int} &\to H \\ \operatorname{cast}_{\downarrow} (\operatorname{cast}_{\downarrow} z) : \operatorname{Int} &\to \operatorname{Int} &\to H \\ \operatorname{cast}_{\bot} (\operatorname{cast}_{\bot} \dots z) : \operatorname{Int} &\to \operatorname{Int} &\to \dots \to H \end{aligned}$$

*Recursion.* The same  $\mu$  primitive can also be used to define recursive functions, e.g., the factorial function:

$$\mu f: \operatorname{Int} \to \operatorname{Int.} \lambda x: \operatorname{Int.} \operatorname{if} (x == 0) \operatorname{then} 1 \operatorname{else} x * f(x - 1)$$

This is reflected by the dynamic semantics of the  $\mu$  primitive:

$$\mu x:T.\,E\longrightarrow E[x:=\mu x:T.\,E]$$

which is exactly doing recursive unfolding of the same term.

Due to the unification, the *call-by-value* evaluation strategy does not fit in our setting. In call-by-value evaluation, recursion can be expressed by the recursive binder  $\mu$  as  $\mu f:T\to T.$  E (note that the type of f is restricted to function types). Since we don't want to pose restrictions on the types, the *call-by-name* evaluation is a sensible choice.

### 2.5 Encoding Datatypes

BRUNO: Informally explain how to encode recursive datatypes and recursive functions using datatypes.

With the explicit type conversion rules and the  $\mu$  primitive, it is straightforward to encode recursive datatypes and recusive functions using datatypes. While inductive datatypes can be encoded using either the Church or the Scott encoding, we adopt the Scott encoding as it is bear some resemblance to case analysis, making it more convenient to encode pattern matching. We demonstrate the encoding method using a simple datatype as a running example: the natural numbers.

The datatype declaration for natural numbers is:

data 
$$Nat = Z \mid S \ Nat;$$

In the Scoot encoding, the encoding of the *Nat* type reflects how its two constructors are going to be used. Since *Nat* is a recursive datatype, we have to use recursive types at some point to reflect its recursive nature. As it turns out, the *Nat* type can be simply represented as  $\mu X : \star$ .  $\Pi B : \star$ .  $B \to (X \to B) \to B$ .

As can be seen, in the function type  $B \to (X \to B) \to B$ , B corresponds to the type of the Z constructor, and  $X \to B$  corresponds to the type of the S constructor. The intuition is that any use of the datatype being defined in the constructors is replaced with the recursive type, except for the return type, which is a type variable for use in the recursive functions.

Now its two constructors can be encoded correspondingly as below:

```
 \begin{split} \mathbf{let} \ Z : Nat &= \mathsf{cast}^{\uparrow} \ [\mathit{Nat}] \ (\lambda B : \star. \ \lambda z : B. \ \lambda f : \mathit{Nat} \to B. \ z) \\ \mathbf{in} \\ \mathbf{let} \ S : \mathit{Nat} \to \mathit{Nat} &= \lambda n : \mathit{Nat}. \\ & \mathsf{cast}^{\uparrow} \ [\mathit{Nat}] \ (\lambda B : \star. \ \lambda z : B. \ \lambda f : \mathit{Nat} \to B. \ f \ n) \\ \mathbf{in} \\ \end{split}
```

Thanks to the explicit type conversion rules, we can make use of the cast<sup>↑</sup> operation to do type conversion between the recursive type and its unfolding.

As the last example, let us see how we can define recursive functions using the *Nat* datatype. A simple example would be recursively adding two natural numbers, which can be defined as below:

```
let add: Nat \rightarrow Nat \rightarrow Nat = \mu \ f: Nat \rightarrow Nat \rightarrow Nat.

\lambda n: Nat. \lambda m: Nat.

(\mathsf{cast}_{\downarrow} \ n) \ Nat \ m \ (\lambda n': Nat. S \ (f \ n' \ m))
```

As we can see, the above definition quite resembles case analysis common in modern functional programming languages. (Actually we formalize the encoding of case analysis in  $\S 6$ .)

Due to the unification of recursive types and recursion, we can use the same  $\mu$  primitive to write both recursive types and recursion with ease.

### 3. Applications

In this section, we show some large examples using  $\lambda C_{\beta}$ .

### 3.1 Parametric HOAS

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Parametric Higher Order Abstract Syntax (PHOAS) is a higher order approach to represent binders, in which the function space of the meta-language is used to encode the binders of the object language. We show that  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  can handle PHOAS by encoding lambda calculus as below:

```
data PLambda (a : \star) = Var \ a

\mid Num \ nat

\mid Lam (a \rightarrow PLambda \ a)

\mid App (PLambda \ a) (PLambda \ a);
```

Next we define the evaluator for our lambda calculus. One advantage of PHOAS is that, environments are implicitly handled by the meta-language, thus the type of the evaluator is simply  $plambda\ value \rightarrow value$ . The code is presented in Figure 1.

```
data Value = VI \ nat
| VF \ (Value \rightarrow Value);
let eval : PLambda \ Value \rightarrow Value =
\mu \ ev : PLambda \ Value \rightarrow Value.
\lambda e : PLambda \ Value \cdot \mathbf{case} \ e \ \mathbf{of}
Var \ (v : Value) \Rightarrow v
| Num \ (n : nat) \Rightarrow VI \ n
| Lam \ (f : Value \rightarrow PLambda \ Value) \Rightarrow
VF \ (\lambda x : Value \cdot ev \ (f \ x))
| App \ (a : PLambda \ Value) \ (b : PLambda \ Value) \Rightarrow
\mathbf{case} \ (ev \ a) \ \mathbf{of}
VI \ (n : nat) \Rightarrow VI \ n \ - \mathbf{impossible} \ \mathbf{to} \ \mathbf{reach}
| VF \ (f : Value \rightarrow Value) \Rightarrow f \ (ev \ b)
in
```

Figure 1. Lambda Calculus in PHAOS

Now we can evaluate some lambda expression and get the result back as in Figure 2

```
let show: Value \rightarrow nat = \lambda e: Value. case e of VI \ (n:nat) \Rightarrow n \ | \ VF \ (f: Value \rightarrow Value) \Rightarrow 10000 \ -- \text{impossible to reach} in let example: PLambda \ Value = App \ Value \ (Lam \ Value \ (\lambda x: Value. \ Var \ Value \ X)) \ (Num \ Value \ 42) in show \ (eval \ example) \ -- \text{return } 42
```

Figure 2. Example of using PHOAS

### 3.2 Perfect binary trees

A perfect binary tree is a binary tree whose size is exactly a power of two. In Haskell, perfect binary trees are usually represented using nested datatypes. We show that  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  is able to encode nested datatypes.

First we define a pair datatype as follows:

```
data PairT(a:\star)(b:\star) = P \ a \ b;
```

Using pairs, perfect binary trees are easily defined as below:

```
data B(a:\star) = One \ a \mid Two \ (B(PairT \ a \ a));
```

Notice that the recursive use of B does not hold a, but PairT a. This means every time we use a Two constructor, the size of the pairs doubles. In case you are curious about the encoding of B, here is the one:

```
\begin{array}{l} \mathbf{let} \ B : \star \to \star = \mu \ X : \star \to \star. \\ \lambda a : \star. \left( B : \star \right) \to \left( a \to B \right) \to \left( X \ \left( PairT \ a \ a \right) \to B \right) \to B \\ \mathbf{in} \end{array}
```

Because of the polymorphic recursive type ( $\mu X: \star \to \star$ ) being used, it is fairly straightforward to encode nested datatypes.

To easily construct a perfect binary tree from a list, we define a help function that transform a list to a perfect binary tree as shown in Figure 3.

```
let pairs: (a:\star) \to List \ a \to List \ (PairT \ a \ a) =
   \mu \ pairs' : (a : \star) \rightarrow List \ a \rightarrow List \ (PairT \ a \ a).
      \lambda a: \star. \lambda xs: List \ a.
         case xs of
             Nil \Rightarrow Nil (PairT \ a \ a)
          | Cons (y:a) (ys:List a) \Rightarrow
                case ys of Nil \Rightarrow
                   Nil (PairT a a)
                | Cons (y':a) (ys': List a) \Rightarrow
                   Cons (PairT a a) (P a a y y') (pairs' a ys')
in
let fromList: (a:\star) \rightarrow List \ a \rightarrow B \ a =
   \mu \ from' : (a : \star) \to List \ a \to B \ a.
      \lambda a : \star . \lambda xs : List \ a.
         case xs of
            Nil \Rightarrow Two \ a \ (from' \ (PairT \ a \ a) \ (pairs \ a \ (Nil \ a)))
          | Cons (x:a) (xs': List a) \Rightarrow
            case xs' of
                Nil \Rightarrow One \ a \ x
             | Cons (y:a) (zs:List a) \Rightarrow
                   Two a (from' (PairT a a) (pairs a xs))
in
```

Figure 3. Construct a perfect binary tree from a list

Now we can define an interesting function powerTwo. Given a natural number n, it computes the largest natural number m, such that  $2^m < n$ :

```
let twos: (a:\star) \rightarrow B \ a \rightarrow nat = \\ \mu \ twos': (a:\star) \rightarrow B \ a \rightarrow nat. \\ \lambda a:\star. \lambda x: B \ a. \\ \mathbf{case} \ x \ \mathbf{of} \\ One \ (y:a) \Rightarrow 0 \\ \mid Two \ (c:B \ (PairT \ a \ a)) \Rightarrow \\ 1 + twos' \ (PairT \ a \ a) \ c \\ \mathbf{in} \\ \text{let} \ powerTwo: Nat \rightarrow nat = \\ \lambda n: Nat. \ twos \ nat \ (fromList \ nat \ (take \ n \ (repeat \ 1))) \\ \mathbf{in} \ powerTwo \ (S \ (S \ (S \ (S \ Z)))) \quad -- \text{return } 2
```

## 4. The core language

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In this section, we present  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  calculus, the core language with explicit type-level computation.  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  is carefully designed to be minimal enough for simplifying type checking and meta-theoretic studying, while still keeps the expressiveness to represent rich high-level constructions (§??). By explicitly controlling the type-level computation with cast operators,  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  can safely allow non-termination without breaking the decidability of type checking. In rest of this section, we demonstrate the syntax (§4.1), type system (§4.2) and meta-theories (§4.3) of  $\lambda C_{\beta}$ .

### 4.1 Syntax

Figure 4 shows the syntax of  $\lambda C_{\beta}$ , including expressions, contexts and values. The syntax follows  $\lambda C$  and straightforward to understand, while there are still some differences that embody the simplicity and expressiveness of  $\lambda C_{\beta}$ .

*Unified syntactic levels*  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  uses a unified syntactic representation for different levels of expressions by following the *pure type system* (PTS) representation of  $\lambda C$ . Traditionally in  $\lambda C$ , there are two distinct sorts  $\star$  and  $\square$  representing the type of *types* and *sorts* respectively, and an axiom  $\star$ :  $\square$  specifying the relation. In  $\lambda C_{\beta}$ , we further merge types and kinds together by including only a single sort  $\star$  and an impredicative axiom  $\star$ :  $\star$ .

Therefore, there is no syntactic distinction between terms, types or kinds. This design brings the economy for type checking, since one set of rules can cover all syntactic levels. By convention, we use metavariables  $\tau$  and  $\sigma$  for an expression on the type-level position and e for one on the term level.

**Dependent function types** In the context of  $\lambda C$ , if a term x has the type  $\tau_1$ , and  $\tau_2$  is a type, i.e.  $x:\tau_1:\star$  and  $\tau_2:\square$ , we call the type  $\Pi x:\tau_1.\tau_2$  a *dependent product*.  $\lambda C_\beta$  follows  $\lambda C$  to use the same  $\Pi$ -notation to represent dependent function types.

However, a higher-kind polymorphic function type such as  $\Pi\,x:\Box.x\to x$  is not allowed in  $\lambda C$ , because  $\Box$  is the highest sort that can not be typed. While  $\Pi$ -notation in  $\lambda C_\beta$  is more expressive and does not have such limitation because of the axiom  $\star:\star$ . In the source language, we interchangeably use the arrow form  $(x:\tau_1)\to\tau_2$  of the product for clarity. By convention, we also use the syntactic sugar  $\tau_1\longrightarrow\tau_2$  to represent the product if x does not occur free in  $\tau_2$ .

General recursion We use the polymorphic recursion operator  $\mu$  to represent general recursion on both term and type level in the same form  $\mu x : \tau.e$ . On the term level, a  $\mu$ -term has the similar functionality as a fixpoint, that its unfolding  $e[x \mapsto \mu x : \tau.e]$  can be achieved by one-step reduction (See examples in §??). On the type level,  $\mu x : \tau.e$  represents recursive types and uses the *iso-recursive* approach, that the recursive type is not equal but only isomorphic to its unrolling.

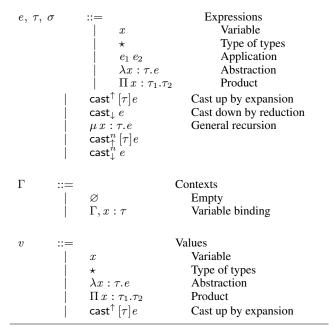
**Explicit type conversion** We introduce two new primitives cast  $^{\uparrow}$  and cast  $_{\downarrow}$  (pronounced as 'cast up' and 'cast down') to replace implicit conversion rule of  $\lambda C$  with one-step explicit type conversion. They represent two directions of type conversion: cast  $_{\downarrow}$  stands for the  $\beta$ -reduction of types, while cast  $^{\uparrow}$  is the inverse (see examples in §??). cast  $^{\uparrow}$  and cast  $_{\downarrow}$  also serve as the fold and unfold for isorecursive types to map back and forth between the original and unrolled form (§4.2).

Though cast primitives make the syntax verbose when type conversion is heavily used, the implementation of type checking is simplified because typing rules of  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  become type-directed without  $\lambda C$ 's implicit conversion rule. Considering the core language is compiler-oriented and source language does not include cast primitives, end-users will not directly use them. Some type conversions can be generated through the translation of the source language (§??).

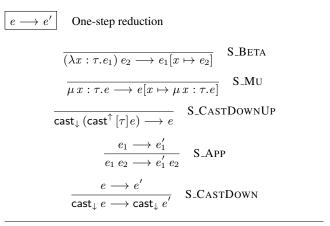
#### 4.2 Type system

The type system for the core language includes operational semantics and typing judgements. Typing judgements include rules of context well-formedness  $\vdash \Gamma$  and expression typing  $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau$ . Note that there is only a single set of rules for expression typing, because of no distinction of different syntactic levels.

*Operational semantics* Figure 5 shows the *call-by-name* operational semantics, defined by one-step reduction relations, namely



**Figure 4.** Syntax of  $\lambda C_{\beta}$ 



**Figure 5.** Operational semantics of  $\lambda C_{\beta}$ 

 $\longrightarrow$ . Three base cases include S\_BETA for  $\beta$ -reduction, S\_MU for recursion unrolling and S\_CASTDOWNUP for cast canceling. Two inductive case, S\_APP and S\_CASTDOWN, define reduction in the head position of an application, and in the cast $_{\downarrow}$  inner expression respectively.

The reduction rules are weak in the sense that it is not allowed to reduce inside a  $\lambda$ -term or cast<sup>†</sup>-term which are viewed as a value (see Figure 4) that ends the reduction. Note that we do not treat the  $\mu$ -term as a value, which is different from conventional isorecursive types. Because on the term level, the  $\mu$  operator is treated as a fixpoint. The  $\mu$ -term is equivalent to a recursive function that should be allowed to unroll without restriction.

**Expression typing** Figure 6 gives the *syntax-directed* typing rules of valid context and expression. Most typing rules are quite standard. We write  $\vdash \Gamma$  if a context  $\Gamma$  is well-formed. Since there is only a single sort  $\star$ ,  $\Gamma \vdash \tau$ :  $\star$  is used in rules to check if  $\tau$  is a well-formed type. Rule T\_AX is the 'type-in-type' axiom. Rule T\_VAR checks the type of variable x from the valid context. Rules T\_APP and T\_LAM check the validity of application and abstraction. Rules

T\_PI and T\_MU check the type well-formedness of the dependent function and polymorphic recursion. Rule T\_MU indicates that the polymorphic recursion  $\mu x : \tau.e$  should have the same type  $\tau$  as the binder x and the body e.

Rules T\_CASTUP and T\_CASTDOWN deal with the explicit type conversion. They differ from the conventional implicit type conversion rule (see  $\ref{eq:top:conversion}$ ) in  $\lambda C$ : cast rules are syntax-directed and only perform *one-step* type conversion for every cast operator. Specifically speaking, if given  $\Gamma \vdash e: \tau_2$  and  $\tau_1 \longrightarrow \tau_2 \longrightarrow \tau_3$ , then cast  $\ref{eq:top:conversion}$  [ $\tau_1$ ] e expands the type of e from  $\tau_2$  to  $\tau_1$ , while cast  $\ref{eq:top:conversion}$  e reduces the type of e from  $\tau_2$  to  $\tau_3$ .

Giving up the implicit conversion rule means that we do not have  $\beta$ -equality but only have *syntactical equality* (or  $\alpha$ -equality) for types in  $\lambda C_{\beta}$ . By limiting the reduction relation to only one step, evaluating type-level recursive terms is fully controlled by the cast operators: the number of evaluation steps of is equal to the number of cast operators, which is finite. Thus, this prevents the type checker from looping forever when evaluating recursive terms.

Finally, we look back at the polymorphic recursion  $\mu x: \tau.e$  again. If it appears on the term level, the reduction rule S\_MU makes the  $\mu$ -operator behave like a fixpoint. Because evaluating  $\mu x: \tau.e$  obtains its unrolling  $e[x \mapsto \mu x: \tau.e]$ , i.e. substituting all x in e with the whole  $\mu$ -term itself, just like a fixpoint. If the recursion appears on the type level, assume there exist expressions  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  such that

$$e_1 : \mu x : \tau.e$$
  
 $e_2 : e[x \mapsto \mu x : \tau.e]$ 

Note that  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  have distinct types but the type of  $e_2$  is the unrolling of  $e_1$ 's type, which follows the one-step reduction relation by rule S\_MU:

$$\mu x : \tau.e \longrightarrow e[x \mapsto \mu x : \tau.e]$$

Thus, by applying rules T\_CASTUP and T\_CASTDOWN, we can obtain the following typing results:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \mathsf{cast}_{\downarrow} \ e_1 & : \ e[x \mapsto \mu \ x : \tau.e] \\ \mathsf{cast}^{\uparrow} \left[\mu \ x : \tau.e \right] e_2 & : \mu \ x : \tau.e \end{array}$$

Thus, cast<sup>↑</sup> and cast<sub>↓</sub> witness the isomorphism between the original recursive type and its unrolling, which behave the same as fold and unfold operations in iso-recursive types.

### 4.3 Meta-theory

We now discuss the meta-theory of  $\lambda C_{\beta}$ . We focus on two properties: the decidability of type checking and the type-safety of the language. First, we want to show type checking  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  is decidable without normalizing property. And the type checker will never be stuck by type-level non-termination. Second, the core language is type safe, or sound, proven by standard subject reduction and progress lemmas.

### Decidability of type checking

Type safety

### 5. The Explicit Calculus of Constructions with Recursion

BRUNO: Linus and Jeremy, I think you should do this section together. Most work is on Linus though since he needs to work out the proofs. Jeremy is mostly for Linus to consult with here:).

We have shown that  $\lambda C_{\text{exp}}$  does not rely on strong normalization for decidable type checking and soundness. Thus it is safe to combine general recursion with  $\lambda C_{\text{exp}}$  under the control of explicit type conversion operations cast $^{\uparrow}$  and cast $_{\downarrow}$ . We extend  $\lambda C_{\text{exp}}$  into  $\lambda C_{\beta}$ 

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \tau_1 : \star \qquad \Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash \tau_2 : \star}{\Gamma \vdash (\Pi \, x : \tau_1 . \tau_2) : \star} \quad \text{T-PI}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \tau \vdash e : \tau \qquad \Gamma \vdash \tau : \star}{\Gamma \vdash (\mu \, x : \tau . e) : \tau} \quad \text{T-MU}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \tau_2 \qquad \Gamma \vdash \tau_1 : \star \qquad \tau_1 \longrightarrow \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash (\mathsf{cast}^{\uparrow} \, [\tau_1] e) : \tau_1} \quad \text{T-CASTUP}$$

 $\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \tau_1 \qquad \Gamma \vdash \tau_2 : \star \qquad \tau_1 \longrightarrow \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash (\mathsf{cast}_{\downarrow} \; e) : \tau_2} \quad \text{$\mathsf{T}$\_$CASTDOWN}$ 

Figure 6. Typing rules of  $\lambda C_{\beta}$ 

by introducing one unified primitive called  $\mu$ -notation for general recursion. It functions as a fixed point at the term level as well as a recursive type at the type level.

### 5.1 The $\mu$ -notation

 $| \vdash \Gamma |$ 

Well-formed context

Based on the syntax of  $\lambda C_{\text{exp}}$ , we add the following  $\mu$ -notation for  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  (the same part as  $\lambda C_{\text{exp}}$  is left out):

The  $\mu$ -notation is similar to the definition of recursive types, except that it is not only treated as types but also terms. This also corresponds to the property of  $\lambda C_{\rm exp}$  that terms and types are not distinguished.

The typing rule and operational semantics of  $\mu$ -notation for terms and types are also unified, thus each one rule for static and dynamic semantics is only needed to add over  $\lambda C_{\rm exp}$ . The new type checking rule of  $\mu$ -notation is as follows:

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : \tau \vdash e : \tau \qquad \Gamma \vdash \tau : \star}{\Gamma \vdash (\mu \, x : \tau . e) : \tau} \quad \text{T\_MU}$$

And the one-step reduction rule is as follows:

If  $\mu x: \tau.e$  is a term, with the S\_MU rule, it is not treated as a value and can be further reduced, which is different from conventional iso-recursive types. The one-step reduced term of

$$\frac{1}{\mu x : \tau . e \longrightarrow e[x \mapsto \mu x : \tau . e]} \quad \text{S-MU}$$

 $\mu\,x: au.e$  is the substitution of x in e with itself, i.e.  $e[x\mapsto \mu\,x: au.e]$ . Such behavior is just the same as the definition of a fixed point.

If  $\mu x: \tau.e$  is a type, assume there exist  $e_1: \mu x: \tau.e$  and  $e_2: e[x \mapsto \mu x: \tau.e]$ . Notice that the types of  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  are equivalent by  $\beta$ -equivalence. But such result cannot be directly obtained because of the removal of implicit conversion rule. Instead, by using explicit cast operations of  $\lambda C_{\rm exp}$ , we can obtain the following transformation between e and e':

$$\begin{split} \mathsf{cast}^{\uparrow} \left[ \mu \, x : \tau.e \right] e_2 & : \mu \, x : \tau.e \\ \mathsf{cast}_{\downarrow} e_1 & : \left( \mu \, x : \tau.e [x \mapsto \mu \, x : \tau.e] \right) \end{split}$$

For type-level  $\mu$ -notation, cast<sup>†</sup> and cast<sub> $\downarrow$ </sub> work in the same way as fold and unfold operations in iso-recursive types to control recursion explicitly.

### 5.2 Decidability and soundness

LINUS: Not finished. Needs thorough thinking about the proof of soundness.

Due to the introduction of recursive types,  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  is no long consistent so that not able to be used as a logic. But with the power of general recursion, the expressibility of  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  is increased since more data types and functions can be mapped or encoded into  $\lambda C_{\beta}$ . And more importantly, even with  $\mu$ -notation,  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  can still be proved to have the same properties as  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  in the sense of decidability of type checking and soundness.

As what we previously illustrate in Section  $\ref{section}$ , the type checking of  $\lambda C_{\text{exp}}$  can always terminate because the derivation is finite without the implicit conversion rule. With the mu-notation in  $\lambda C_{\beta}$ , the decidability of type checking still holds because the type level recursion is explicitly controlled by cast operations. Notice that in the typing rule of cast  $\uparrow$  and cast  $\downarrow$ , the reduction is performed by one step. Thus the reduction sequences are always finite. Also by adopting the definitional equality, to judge if two terms are equal in the type checking is also decidable. Therefore, the new  $T_-MU$  rule is decidable for type checking.

To prove the soundness, we only need to consider each one more case for subject reduction and progress, i.e. S\_MU and T\_MU. It is straightforward to verify these two rules still keeping the soundness.

### 6. Surface language

BRUNO: Jeremy, I think you should write up this section.

- Expand the core language with datatypes and pattern matching by encoding.
- Give translation rules.
- Encode GADTs and maybe other Haskell extensions? GADTs seems challenging, so perhaps some other examples would be datatypes like Fixf, and Monad as a record. Could formalize records in Haskell style.

In this section, we present the surface language ( $\lambda C_{\text{suf}}$ ) that supports simple datatypes and case analysis. Due to the expressiveness of  $\lambda C_{\beta}$ , all these features can be elaborated into the core language without extending the built-in language constructs of  $\lambda C_{\beta}$ . In what follows, we first give the syntax of  $\lambda C_{\text{suf}}$ , followed by the extended typing rules, then we show the formal translation rules that translates  $\lambda C_{\text{suf}}$  expressions into  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  expressions. Finally we demonstrate the translation using a simple example.

### 6.1 Extended Syntax

The syntax of  $\lambda C_{\text{suf}}$  is shown in Figure 7. Compared with  $\lambda C_{\beta}$ ,  $\lambda C_{\text{suf}}$  has a new syntax category: a program, consisting of a list of datatype declarations, followed by a expression. An *algebraic data* type D is introduced as a top-level **data** declaration with its data constructors. The type of a data constructor K has the form:

$$K: \Pi \overline{u:\kappa}^n.\Pi \overline{x}: \overline{\tau} \to D \, \overline{u}^n$$

The first n quantified type variables  $\overline{u}$  appear in the same order in the return type  $D\,\overline{u}$ . Note that the use of  $\Pi$  to tie together the data constructor arguments makes it possible to let the types of some data constructor arguments depend on other data constructor arguments. The **case** expression is conventional, used to break up values built with data constructors. The patterns of a case expression are flat (no nested patterns), and bind value variables.

Declarations			
pgm	::=	$\overline{decl}; e$	Declarations
decl	::=	$\mathbf{data}D\overline{u:\kappa} = \overline{\mid K\overline{\tau}}$	Datatype
Terms			
u	::=	$x \mid K$	Variables and constructors
$e, \tau, \sigma, \upsilon, \kappa$	::=	u	Term atoms
	1	$ case e of \overline{p \Rightarrow e} $	Case analysis
p	::=	$K \overline{x : \tau}$	Pattern
Environments			
Γ	::=	Ø	Empty
		$\Gamma, u:  au$	Variable binding

**Figure 7.** Syntax of  $\lambda C_{\text{suf}}$  (e for terms;  $\tau, \sigma, v$  for types;  $\kappa$  for kinds)

With datatypes, it is easy to encode *records* as syntactic sugar of simple datatypes, as shown in Figure 8.

```
\begin{array}{l} \operatorname{\mathbf{data}} R\,\overline{u:\kappa} = K\,\big\{\,\overline{S:\tau}\,\big\} \triangleq \\ \operatorname{\mathbf{data}} R\,\overline{u:\kappa} = K\,\overline{\tau} \\ \operatorname{\mathbf{let}} S_i: \overline{\Pi}\overline{u:\kappa}.R\,\overline{u} \to \tau_i = \\ \lambda\overline{(u:\kappa)}.\lambda l: R\,\overline{u}.\operatorname{\mathbf{case}} l \operatorname{\mathbf{of}} K\,\overline{x:\tau} \Rightarrow x_i \\ \operatorname{\mathbf{in}} \end{array}
```

Figure 8. Syntactic sugar for records

### 6.2 Extended Typing Rules

The type system of  $\lambda C_{\text{suf}}$  is shown in Figure 9. To save space, we only show the new typing rules. Furthermore, we sometimes adopt the following syntactic convention:

$$\overline{\tau}^n \to \tau_r \equiv \tau_1 \to \cdots \to \tau_n \to \tau_r$$

Rule (Pgm) type-checks a whole problem. It first type-checks the declarations, which in return gives a new typing environment. Combined with the original environment, it then checks the expression and return the result type. Rule (Data) type-checks datatype declarations by ensuing the well-formedness of the kinds of type constructors and the types of data constructors. Finally rule (Alt) validates the patterns by looking up the the existence of corresponding data constructors in the typing environment, replacing universally quantified type variables with proper concrete types.

**Figure 9.** Typing rules of  $\lambda C_{\text{suf}}$ 

#### 6.3 Translation Overview

We use a type-directed translation. The typing relations have the form:

$$\Gamma \vdash e : \tau \leadsto E$$

It states that  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  expression E is the translation of  $\lambda C_{\text{suf}}$  expression e of type  $\tau$ . Figure 10 shows the translation rules, which are the typing rules in Figure 9 extended with the resulting expression E. In the translation, We require that applications of constructors to be *saturated*.

Among others, Rules (Case), (Alt) and (Data) are of the essence for the translation. Rule (Case) translates case expressions into applications by first type-converting the scrutinee expression, then applying it to the result type and a  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  expression. Rule (Alt) translate each pattern into a lambda expression, with each variable in the pattern corresponding to a variable in the lambda expression in the same order. The body in the alternative is recursively translated and taken as the lambda body.

Rule (Data) does the most heavy work and deserves further explanation. First of all, it results in a incomplete expression (as can be seen by the incomplete let expressions), The result expression is supposed to be prepended to the translation of the last expression to form a complete  $\lambda C_{\beta}$  expression, as specified by Rule (Pgm). Furthermore, each type constructor is translated as a lambda expression, with a recursive type as the body. Each data constructor is also translated as a lambda expression. Notice that we use cast operation in the lambda body to restore to the corresponding datatype.

The rest of the translation rules hold few surprises.

### 7. Related Work

### 8. Conclusion

Conclusion and related work.

### Acknowledgments

Thanks to Blah. This work is supported by Blah.

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### A. Full specification of source language

### A.1 Syntax

See Figure 11.

### A.2 Expression typing

See Figure 12.

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**Figure 10.** Type-directed translation from  $\lambda C_{\text{suf}}$  to  $\lambda C_{\beta}$ 

### A.3 Translation to the core

See Figure 13.

#### В. **Proofs about core language**

### **B.1** Properties

**Lemma B.1** (Free variable lemma). If  $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau$ , then  $\mathsf{FV}(e) \subseteq$  $dom(\Gamma)$  and  $FV(\tau) \subseteq dom(\Gamma)$ .

*Proof.* By induction on the derivation of  $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau$ . We only treat cases T\_MU, T\_CASTUP and T\_CASTDOWN (since proofs of other cases are the same as  $\lambda C$  [2]):

**Case T\_Mu:** From premises of  $\Gamma \vdash (\mu \ x : \tau . e_1) : \tau$ , by induction hypothesis, we have  $\mathsf{FV}(e_1) \subseteq \mathsf{dom}(\Gamma) \cup \{x\}$  and  $\mathsf{FV}(\tau) \subseteq$  $dom(\Gamma)$ . Thus the result follows by  $FV(\mu x : \tau.e_1) = FV(e_1) \setminus$  $\{x\} \subseteq \mathsf{dom}(\Gamma) \text{ and } \mathsf{FV}(\tau) \subseteq \mathsf{dom}(\Gamma).$ 

**Case T\_CASTUP:** Since  $FV(cast^{\uparrow} [\tau]e_1) = FV(e_1)$ , the result follows directly by the induction hypothesis.

Case T\_CASTDOWN: Since  $FV(cast_{\downarrow} e_1) = FV(e_1)$ , the result follows directly by the induction hypothesis.

П

**Lemma B.2** (Substitution lemma). *If*  $\Gamma_1, x : \sigma, \Gamma_2 \vdash e_1 : \tau$  *and*  $\Gamma_1 \vdash e_2 : \sigma$ , then  $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2[x \mapsto e_2] \vdash e_1[x \mapsto e_2] : \tau[x \mapsto e_2]$ .

*Proof.* By induction on the derivation of  $\Gamma_1, x : \sigma, \Gamma_2 \vdash e_1 : \tau$ . Let  $e^* \equiv e[x \mapsto e_2]$ . Then the result can be written as  $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2^* \vdash e_1^*$ :  $\tau^*$ . We only treat cases T\_Mu, T\_CASTUP and T\_CASTDOWN. Consider the last step of derivation of the following cases:

Case T\_Mu: 
$$\frac{\Gamma_1, x: \sigma, \Gamma_2 \vdash e_1: \tau \qquad \Gamma_1, x: \sigma, \Gamma_2 \vdash \tau: \star}{\Gamma_1, x: \sigma, \Gamma_2 \vdash (\mu \ y: \tau. e_1): \tau}$$

is just the result.

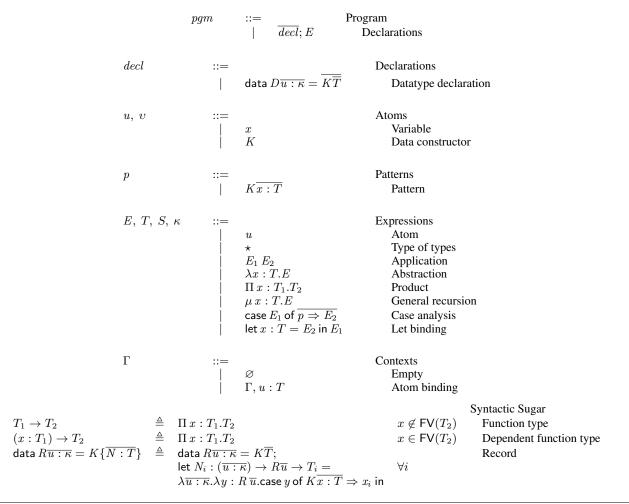


Figure 11. Syntax of source language

$$\textbf{Case T\_CASTUP:} \ \frac{\Gamma_1, x : \sigma, \Gamma_2 \vdash e_1 : \tau_2}{\Gamma_1, x : \sigma, \Gamma_2 \vdash \tau_1 : \star \qquad \tau_1 \longrightarrow \tau_2} \\ \frac{\Gamma_1, x : \sigma, \Gamma_2 \vdash \tau_1 : \star \qquad \tau_1 \longrightarrow \tau_2}{\Gamma_1, x : \sigma, \Gamma_2 \vdash (\mathsf{cast}^{\uparrow}[\tau_1]e_1) : \tau_1}$$

By induction hypothesis, we have  $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2^* \vdash e_1^* : \tau_2^*, \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2^* \vdash \tau_1^* : \star$  and  $\tau_1 \longrightarrow \tau_2$ . By the definition of substitution, we can obtain  $\tau_1^* \longrightarrow \tau_2^*$  by  $\tau_1 \longrightarrow \tau_2$ . Then by the deviation rule,  $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2^* \vdash (\mathsf{cast}^{\uparrow}[\tau_1^*]e_1^*) : \tau_1^*$ . Thus we have  $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2^* \vdash (\mathsf{cast}^{\uparrow}[\tau_1]e_1)^* : \tau_1^*$  which is just the result.

Case T\_CASTDOWN: 
$$\frac{\Gamma_{1}, x: \sigma, \Gamma_{2} \vdash e_{1}: \tau_{1}}{\Gamma_{1}, x: \sigma, \Gamma_{2} \vdash \tau_{2}: \star \qquad \tau_{1} \longrightarrow \tau_{2}}{\Gamma_{1}, x: \sigma, \Gamma_{2} \vdash (\mathsf{cast}_{\downarrow} e_{1}): \tau_{2}}$$

By induction hypothesis, we have  $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2^* \vdash e_1^* : \tau_1^*, \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2^* \vdash \tau_2^* : \star$  and  $\tau_1 \longrightarrow \tau_2$  thus  $\tau_1^* \longrightarrow \tau_2^*$ . Then by the deviation rule,  $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2^* \vdash (\mathsf{cast}_\downarrow e_1^*) : \tau_2^*$ . Thus we have  $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2^* \vdash (\mathsf{cast}_\downarrow e_1)^* : \tau_2^*$  which is just the result.

### Lemma B.3 (Generation lemma).

- (1) If  $\Gamma \vdash x : \sigma$ , then there exist an expression  $\tau$  such that  $\tau \equiv \sigma$ ,  $\Gamma \vdash \tau : \star$  and  $x : \tau \in \Gamma$ .
- (2) If  $\Gamma \vdash e_1 e_2 : \sigma$ , then there exist expressions  $\tau_1$  and  $\tau_2$  such that  $\Gamma \vdash e_1 : (\prod x : \tau_1.\tau_2), \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_1$  and  $\sigma \equiv \tau_2[x \mapsto e_2].$

- (3) If  $\Gamma \vdash (\lambda x : \tau_1.e) : \sigma$ , then there exist an expression  $\tau_2$  such that  $\sigma \equiv \Pi x : \tau_1.\tau_2$  where  $\Gamma \vdash (\Pi x : \tau_1.\tau_2) : \star$  and  $\Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash e : \tau_2$ .
- (4) If  $\Gamma \vdash (\Pi x : \tau_1.\tau_2) : \sigma$ , then  $\sigma \equiv \star$ ,  $\Gamma \vdash \tau_1 : \star$  and  $\Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash \tau_2 : \star$ .
- (5) If  $\Gamma \vdash (\mu x : \tau.e) : \sigma$ , then  $\Gamma \vdash \tau : \star$ ,  $\sigma \equiv \tau$  and  $\Gamma, x : \tau \vdash e : \tau$ .
- (6) If  $\Gamma \vdash (\mathsf{cast}^{\uparrow}[\tau_1]e) : \sigma$ , then there exist an expression  $\tau_2$  such that  $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau_2, \Gamma \vdash \tau_1 : \star, \tau_1 \longrightarrow \tau_2$  and  $\sigma \equiv \tau_1$ .
- (7) If  $\Gamma \vdash (\mathsf{cast}_{\downarrow} \ e) : \sigma$ , then there exist expressions  $\tau_1, \tau_2$  such that  $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau_1, \Gamma \vdash \tau_2 : \star, \tau_1 \longrightarrow \tau_2$  and  $\sigma \equiv \tau_2$ .

*Proof.* Consider a derivation of  $\Gamma \vdash e: \sigma$  for one of cases in the lemma. Note that rule T\_WEAK does not change e, then we can follow the process of derivation until expression e is introduced the first time. The last step of derivation can be done by

- rule T\_VAR for case 1;
- rule T\_APP for case 2;
- rule T\_LAM for case 3;
- rule T\_PI for case 4;
- rule T\_MU for case 5;
- rule T\_CASTUP for case 6;
- rule T\_CASTDOWN for case 7.

 $\vdash \Gamma$  Well-formed context

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & & & \\ \hline \vdash \varnothing & & & \\ \hline \vdash \Gamma & & \Gamma \vdash T : \star \\ \hline \vdash \Gamma, x : T & & \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \text{CTX\_VAR}$$

 $\Gamma \vdash pgm : T$  Program context

$$\frac{\overline{\Gamma_0 \vdash decl : \Gamma'} \qquad \Gamma = \Gamma_0, \overline{\Gamma'} \qquad \Gamma \vdash E : T}{\Gamma_0 \vdash (\overline{decl}; E) : T} \qquad \text{TPGM\_PGM}$$

 $\Gamma \vdash decl : \Gamma'$  Datatype declaration

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash (\overline{u} : \overline{\kappa}) \to \star : \star}{\Gamma \vdash (\mathsf{data} \, D\overline{u} : \overline{\kappa} = \overline{K}\overline{T}) : (D : (\overline{u} : \overline{\kappa}) \to \star, \overline{u} : \overline{\kappa} \vdash \overline{T} \to D\overline{u} : \star}{\Gamma \vdash (\mathsf{data} \, D\overline{u} : \overline{\kappa} = \overline{K}\overline{T}) : (D : (\overline{u} : \overline{\kappa}) \to \star, \overline{K} : (\overline{u} : \overline{\kappa}) \to \overline{T} \to D\overline{u})} \quad \mathsf{TDECL\_DATA}$$

 $\Gamma \vdash p \Rightarrow E : S \rightarrow T$  Pattern typing

$$\frac{K: (\overline{u:\kappa}) \to \overline{S} \to D\overline{u} \in \Gamma \qquad \Gamma, \overline{x:S[\overline{u\mapsto v}]} \vdash E:T \qquad \Gamma \vdash S[\overline{u\mapsto v}]: \star}{\Gamma \vdash K\overline{x:S[\overline{u\mapsto v}]} \Rightarrow E:D\overline{v} \to T} \qquad \text{TPAT\_ALT}$$

 $\Gamma \vdash E : T$  Expression typing

Figure 12. Typing rules of source language

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In each case, assume the conclusion of the rule is  $\Gamma' \vdash e : \tau'$  where  $\Gamma' \subseteq \Gamma$  and  $\tau' \equiv \sigma$ . Then by inspection of used derivation rules, it can be shown that the statement of the lemma holds and is the only possible case.

**Lemma B.4** (Correctness of types). *If*  $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau$  *then*  $\tau \equiv \star$  *or*  $\Gamma \vdash \tau : \star$ .

*Proof.* Trivial induction on the derivation of  $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau$  using Lemma B.3.  $\qed$ 

### **B.2** Decidability of type checking

**Lemma B.5** (Uniqueness of one-step reduction). The relation  $\longrightarrow$ , i.e. one-step reduction, is **unique** in the sense that given e there is at most one e' such that  $e \longrightarrow e'$ .

*Proof.* By induction on the structure of e:

**Case** e = v: e has one of the following forms: (1)  $\star$ , (2) x, (3)  $\lambda x : \tau . e$ , (4)  $\Pi x : \tau_1 . \tau_2$ , (5)  $\mathsf{cast}^{\uparrow}[\tau]e$ , which cannot match any rules of  $\longrightarrow$ . Thus there is no e' such that  $e \longrightarrow e'$ . **Case**  $e = (\lambda x : \tau . e_1) e_2$ : There is a unique  $e' = e_1[x \mapsto e_2]$  by

rule S\_BETA.

 $\Gamma \vdash pgm : T \leadsto e$  Program translation

$$\frac{\overline{\Gamma_0 \vdash decl : \Gamma' \leadsto e_1} \qquad \Gamma = \Gamma_0, \overline{\Gamma'} \qquad \Gamma \vdash E : T \leadsto e}{\Gamma_0 \vdash (\overline{decl}; E) : T \leadsto \overline{e_1} \uplus e} \qquad \text{TRPGM\_PGM}$$

 $\Gamma \vdash decl : \Gamma' \leadsto e$  Datatype translation

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash (\overline{u} : \overline{\kappa}) \to \star : \star \leadsto (\overline{u} : \overline{\sigma}) \to \star}{\Gamma, D : (\overline{u} : \overline{\kappa}) \to \star, \overline{u} : \overline{\kappa} \vdash \overline{T} \to D\overline{u} : \star \leadsto \overline{\tau} \to D\overline{u}}}{\Gamma \vdash (\mathsf{data} \ D\overline{u} : \overline{\kappa} = \overline{K}\overline{T}) : (D : (\overline{u} : \overline{\kappa}) \to \star, \overline{K} : (\overline{u} : \overline{\kappa}) \to \overline{T} \to D\overline{u}) \leadsto e}} \quad \mathsf{TRDECL\_DATA}$$

$$e \triangleq \mathsf{let} \ D : (\overline{u} : \overline{\sigma}) \to \star = \mu \ X : (\overline{u} : \overline{\sigma}) \to \star.\lambda \overline{u} : \overline{\sigma}.(\alpha : \star) \to \overline{(\overline{\tau}[D \mapsto X] \to \alpha)} \to \alpha \mathsf{ in}$$

$$\mathsf{let} \ K_i : (\overline{u} : \overline{\sigma}) \to \overline{\tau} \to D\overline{u} = \lambda \overline{u} : \overline{\sigma}.\lambda \overline{x} : \overline{\tau}.\mathsf{cast}^{\uparrow}_{\uparrow} \ [D\overline{u}](\lambda \alpha : \star.\lambda \overline{b} : \overline{\tau} \to \alpha.b_i \ \overline{x}) \mathsf{ in}$$

 $\Gamma \vdash p \Rightarrow E : S \rightarrow T \leadsto e$  Pattern translation

$$\frac{K: (\overline{u:\kappa}) \to \overline{S} \to D\overline{u} \ \in \ \Gamma \qquad \Gamma, \overline{x:S[\overline{u\mapsto v}]} \vdash E: T \leadsto e \qquad \Gamma \vdash S[\overline{u\mapsto v}]: \star \leadsto \sigma}{\Gamma \vdash K\overline{x:S[\overline{u\mapsto v}]} \Rightarrow E:D\overline{v} \to T \leadsto \lambda \overline{x:\sigma}.e} \qquad \text{TRPAT\_ALT}$$

 $\Gamma \vdash E : T \leadsto e$  Expression translation

Figure 13. Translation rules of source language

Case  $e = \mathsf{cast}_{\downarrow}(\mathsf{cast}^{\uparrow}[\tau]e)$ : There is a unique e' = e by rule S\_CASTDOWNUP.

Case  $e = \mu x : \tau.e$ : There is a unique  $e' = e[x \mapsto \mu x : \tau.e]$  by rule S\_MU.

Case  $e=e_1\ e_2$  and  $e_1$  is not a  $\lambda$ -term: If  $e_1=v$ , there is no  $e_1'$  such that  $e_1\longrightarrow e_1'$ . Since  $e_1$  is not a  $\lambda$ -term, there is no rule to reduce e. Thus there is no e' such that  $e\longrightarrow e'$ .

Otherwise, there exists some  $e'_1$  such that  $e_1 \longrightarrow e'_1$ . By the induction hypothesis,  $e'_1$  is unique reduction of  $e_1$ . Thus by rule S\_APP,  $e' = e'_1 e_2$  is the unique reduction for e.

Case  $e = \mathsf{cast}_{\downarrow} \ e_1$  and  $e_1$  is not a  $\mathsf{cast}^{\uparrow}$ -term: If  $e_1 = v$ , there is no  $e_1'$  such that  $e_1 \longrightarrow e_1'$ . Since  $e_1$  is not a  $\mathsf{cast}^{\uparrow}$ -term, there is no rule to reduce e. Thus there is no e' such that  $e \longrightarrow e'$ .

Otherwise, there exists some  $e'_1$  such that  $e_1 \longrightarrow e'_1$ . By the induction hypothesis,  $e'_1$  is unique reduction of  $e_1$ . Thus by rule S\_CASTDOWN,  $e' = \mathsf{cast}_{\downarrow} e'_1$  is the unique reduction for e.

**Lemma B.6** (Decidability of type checking). There is a decidable algorithm which given  $\Gamma$ , e computes the unique  $\tau$  such that  $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau$  or reports there is no such  $\tau$ .

*Proof.* By induction on the structure of e:

**Case**  $e = \star$ : Trivial by applying T\_Ax and  $\tau \equiv \star$ .

Case e=x: By Lemma ??, we only need to consider context  $\Gamma$  that is well-formed. By rule TS\_VAR, if  $x:\tau\in\Gamma$ ,  $\tau$  is the unique type of x.

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Case  $e=e_1\ e_2$ , or  $\lambda x:\tau_1.e_1$ , or  $\Pi\ x:\tau_1.\tau_2$ , or  $\mu\ x:\tau.e_1$ : Trivial according to Lemma B.3 by using rule T\_APP, T\_LAM, T\_PI, or T\_MU respectively.

Case  $e = \mathsf{cast}^{\uparrow} [\tau_1] e_1$ : From the premises of rule T\_CASTUP, by induction hypothesis, we can derive the type of  $e_1$  as  $\tau_2$ , and check whether  $\tau_1$  is legal, i.e. its sorts is  $\star$ . If  $\tau_1$  is legal, by Lemma B.5, there is at most one  $\tau'_1$  such that  $\tau_1 \longrightarrow \tau'_1$ . If such  $\tau_1'$  does not exist, then we report the type checking is failed. Otherwise, we examine if  $\tau'_1$  is syntactically equal to  $\tau_2$ , i.e.  $\tau_1' \equiv \tau_2$ . If the equality holds, we obtain the unique type of e which is  $\tau_1$ . Otherwise, we report e fails to type check.

Case  $e = \text{cast}_{\perp} e_1$ : From the premises of rule T\_CASTDOWN, by induction hypothesis, we can derive the type of  $e_1$  as  $\tau_1$ . By Lemma B.5, there is at most one  $\tau_2$  such that  $\tau_1 \longrightarrow \tau_2$ . If such  $\tau_2$  exists and its sorts is  $\star$ , we have found the unique type of e is  $\tau_2$ . Otherwise, we report e fails to type check.

### **B.3** Soundness

**Definition B.7** (Multi-step reduction). The relation  $\rightarrow$  is the transitive and reflexive closure of  $\longrightarrow$ .

**Lemma B.8** (Subject reduction). If  $\Gamma \vdash e : \sigma \text{ and } e \twoheadrightarrow e' \text{ then}$  $\Gamma \vdash e' : \sigma$ .

*Proof.* We prove the case for one-step reduction, i.e.  $e \longrightarrow e'$ . The lemma can follow by induction on the number of one-step reductions of  $e \rightarrow e'$ . The proof is by induction with respect to the definition of one-step reduction  $\longrightarrow$  as follows:

Case 
$$\frac{(\lambda x : \tau . e_1) e_2 \longrightarrow e_1[x \mapsto e_2]}{}$$
 S\_BETA

Suppose  $\Gamma \vdash (\lambda x : \tau_1.e_1) e_2 : \sigma$  and  $\Gamma \vdash e_1[x \mapsto e_2] : \sigma'$ . By Lemma B.3(2), there exist expressions  $\tau'_1$  and  $\tau_2$  such that

$$\Gamma \vdash (\lambda x : \tau_1.e_1) : (\Pi x : \tau'_1.\tau_2)$$

$$\Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau'_1$$

$$\sigma \equiv \tau_2[x \mapsto e_2]$$

$$(1)$$

By Lemma B.3(3), the judgement (1) implies that there exists an expression  $\tau_2'$  such that

$$\Pi x : \tau'_1.\tau_2 \equiv \Pi x : \tau_1.\tau'_2$$

$$\Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash e_1 : \tau'_2$$
(2)

Hence, by (2) we have  $\tau_1 \equiv \tau_1'$  and  $\tau_2 \equiv \tau_2'$ . Then we can obtain  $\Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash e_1 : \tau_2$  and  $\Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_1$ . By Lemma B.2, we have  $\Gamma \vdash e_1[x \mapsto e_2] : \tau_2[x \mapsto e_2]$ . Therefore, we conclude with  $\sigma' \equiv \tau_2[x \mapsto e_2] \equiv \sigma$ .

Case 
$$\frac{e_1 \longrightarrow e_1'}{e_1 \ e_2 \longrightarrow e_1' \ e_2}$$
 S\_APP:

Suppose  $\Gamma \vdash e_1 e_2 : \sigma$  and  $\Gamma \vdash e'_1 e_2 : \sigma'$ . By Lemma B.3(2), there exist expressions  $\tau_1$  and  $\tau_2$  such that

$$\Gamma \vdash e_1 : (\Pi x : \tau_1.\tau_2)$$
  
$$\Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_1$$
  
$$\sigma \equiv \tau_2[x \mapsto e_2]$$

By induction hypothesis, we have  $\Gamma \vdash e'_1 : (\Pi x : \tau_1.\tau_2)$ . By rule T\_APP, we obtain  $\Gamma \vdash e_1' e_2 : \tau_2[x \mapsto e_2]$ . Therefore,  $\sigma' \equiv \tau_2[x \mapsto e_2] \equiv \sigma.$ 

Case 
$$\frac{e \longrightarrow e'}{\mathsf{cast}_{\downarrow} e \longrightarrow \mathsf{cast}_{\downarrow} e'}$$
 S\_CASTDOWN:

Suppose  $\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{cast}_{\bot} e : \sigma \text{ and } \Gamma \vdash \mathsf{cast}_{\downarrow} e' : \sigma'$ . By Lemma B.3(7), there exist expressions  $\tau_1, \tau_2$  such that

$$\Gamma \vdash e : \tau_1 \qquad \Gamma \vdash \tau_2 : \star$$
 $\tau_1 \longrightarrow \tau_2 \qquad \sigma \equiv \tau_2$ 

By induction hypothesis, we have  $\Gamma \vdash e' : \tau_1$ . By rule T\_CASTDOWN, we obtain  $\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{cast}_{\downarrow} e' : \tau_2$ . Therefore,  $\sigma' \equiv \tau_2 \equiv \sigma$ .

Case - S\_CASTDOWNUP:  $\mathsf{cast}_{\downarrow} \, (\mathsf{cast}^{\uparrow} \, [\tau] \, e) \longrightarrow e$ 

Suppose  $\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{cast}_{\downarrow}(\mathsf{cast}^{\uparrow}[\tau_1]e) : \sigma \text{ and } \Gamma \vdash e : \sigma'.$  By Lemma B.3(7), there exist expressions  $\tau_1', \tau_2$  such that

$$\Gamma \vdash (\mathsf{cast}^{\uparrow} [\tau_1] e) : \tau_1' \tag{3}$$

$$\tau_1' \longrightarrow \tau_2$$
 (4)

$$\sigma \equiv \tau_2 \tag{5}$$

By Lemma B.3(6), the judgement (3) implies that there exists an expression  $\tau_2'$  such that

$$\Gamma \vdash e : \tau_2' \tag{6}$$

$$\tau_1 \longrightarrow \tau_2'$$
(7)
 $\tau_1' \equiv \tau_1$ 
(8)

$$\tau_1' \equiv \tau_1 \tag{8}$$

By (4, 7, 8) and Lemma B.5 we obtain  $\tau_2 \equiv \tau_2'$ . From (6) we have  $\sigma' \equiv \tau_2'$ . Therefore, by (5),  $\sigma' \equiv \tau_2' \equiv \tau_2 \equiv \sigma$ .

Case  $\frac{}{\mu \, x : \tau.e \longrightarrow e[x \mapsto \mu \, x : \tau.e]}$ 

Suppose  $\Gamma \vdash (\mu \ x : \tau . e) : \sigma \text{ and } \Gamma \vdash e[x \mapsto \mu \ x : \tau . e] : \sigma'$ . By Lemma B.3(5), we have  $\sigma \equiv \tau$  and  $\Gamma, x : \tau \vdash e : \tau$ . Then we obtain  $\Gamma \vdash (\mu x : \tau . e) : \tau$ . Thus by Lemma B.2, we have  $\Gamma \vdash e[x \mapsto \mu \ x : \tau.e] : \tau[x \mapsto \mu \ x : \tau.e].$ 

Note that  $x:\tau$ , i.e. the type of x is  $\tau$ , then  $x\notin \mathsf{FV}(\tau)$  holds implicitly. Hence, by the definition of substitution, we obtain  $\tau[x \mapsto \mu \, x : \tau.e] \equiv \tau$ . Therefore,  $\sigma' \equiv \tau[x \mapsto \mu \, x : \tau.e] \equiv$  $\tau \equiv \sigma$ .

**Lemma B.9** (Progress). If  $\vdash e : \sigma$  then either e is a value v or there exists e' such that  $e \longrightarrow e'$ .

*Proof.* By induction on the derivation of  $\vdash e : \sigma$  as follows:

Case e = v: Trivial, since e is already a value that has one of the following forms: (1)  $\star$ , (2) x, (3)  $\lambda x : \tau . e$ , (4)  $\Pi x : \tau_1 . \tau_2$ , (5) cast  $\uparrow$   $[\tau]e$ .

Case  $e = e_1 e_2$ : By Lemma B.3(2), there exist expressions  $\tau_1$  and  $\tau_2$  such that  $\vdash e_1 : (\prod x : \tau_1.\tau_2)$  and  $\vdash e_2 : \tau_1$ . Consider whether  $e_1$  is a value:

- If  $e_1 = v$ , by Lemma B.3(3), it must be a  $\lambda$ -term such that  $e_1 \equiv \lambda x : \tau_1.e_1'$  for some  $e_1'$  satisfying  $\vdash e_1' : \tau_2$ . Then by rule S\_BETA, we have  $(\lambda x : \tau_1.e_1) e_2 \longrightarrow e_1'[x \mapsto e_2]$ . Thus, there exists  $e' \equiv e'_1[x \mapsto e_2]$  such that  $e \longrightarrow e'$ .
- Otherwise, by induction hypothesis, there exists  $e'_1$  such that  $e_1 \longrightarrow e_1'$ . Then by rule S\_APP, we have  $e_1 \ e_2 \longrightarrow e_1' \ e_2$ . Thus, there exists  $e' \equiv e'_1 e_2$  such that  $e \longrightarrow e'$ .

Case  $e = \mathsf{cast}_{\downarrow} e_1$ : By Lemma B.3(7), there exist expressions  $\tau_1$ and  $\tau_2$  such that  $\vdash e_1 : \tau_1$  and  $\tau_1 \longrightarrow \tau_2$ . Consider whether  $e_1$ 

• If  $e_1 = v$ , by Lemma B.3(6), it must be a cast<sup> $\uparrow$ </sup>-term such that  $e_1 \equiv \mathsf{cast}^{\uparrow} [\tau_1] e_1'$  for some  $e_1'$  satisfying  $\vdash$  $e_1'$ :  $\tau_2$ . Then by rule S\_CASTDOWNUP, we can obtain  $\mathsf{cast}_{\downarrow} (\mathsf{cast}^{\uparrow} [\tau_1] e_1') \longrightarrow e_1'$ . Thus, there exists  $e' \equiv e_1'$ such that  $e \longrightarrow e'$ .

• Otherwise, by induction hypothesis, there exists  $e_1'$  such that  $e_1 \longrightarrow e_1'$ . Then by rule S\_CASTDOWN, we have  $\mathsf{cast}_\downarrow e_1 \longrightarrow \mathsf{cast}_\downarrow e_1'$ . Thus, there exists  $e' \equiv \mathsf{cast}_\downarrow e_1'$  such that  $e \longrightarrow e'$ .

Case  $e=\mu\,x:\tau.e_1$ : By rule S\_MU, there always exists  $e'\equiv e_1[x\mapsto\mu\,x:\tau.e_1].$