ÉCOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE DE LYON

Internship Report

CFG Patterns: A new tool to formally verify optimisations in Vellvm

Leon Frenot

supervised by Yannick Zakowski & Gabriel Radanne at ENS Lyon

Contents

1	Intr	oduction	2
2	Bac	Background	
	2.1	Interaction Trees	2
	2.2	Vellvm	3
3	The pattern language		
	3.1	Pat: a DSL for pattern matching on graphs	4
	3.2	Matcher functions	7
4	Denotation		
	4.1	An optimization class	10
	4.2	Motivations for Block Fusion	11
5	A voir: Approfondissements		
	5.1	Loop pattern	13
	5.2	Other interpretation levels	14
	5.3	Optim efficace	14

Abstract

Abstract

1 Introduction

For my M2 year at ENS de Lyon, I completed a 20 weeks internship in the LIP Computer Science laboratory in ENS Lyon. This internship was supervised by Yannick Zakowski and Gabriel Radanne in the Compilation and Analysis, Software and Hardware Laboratory of the LIP. The goal of this internship was to design and implement a pattern language over control flow graphs to provide a framework for formal proofs on optimizations.

Compilation certifiée AJD

Importance de la compilation certifiée, et surtout de certifier les optims.

The Contribution of This Work

- Design d'un DSL de patterns: Pat + Implémentation naive d'un matcher
- Preuve d'un théorème central pour prouver des optims (sur un CFG)
- Utiliser ce langage pour block fusion + preuve de correction

Premier exemple: CCstP

2 Background

2.1 Interaction Trees

Interaction Trees (ITrees) are a co-inductive structure designed to represent the dynamic behaviors of a computation. The goal of ITrees is to model recursive and effectful programs, including divergent computations.

Figure 1 show the Coq definition of ITrees. An instance of the type features an *event* type $E: Type \rightarrow Type$, and a return type R: Type. The definition uses three constructors: Ret corresponds to halting and returning a value of type R: Tau corresponds to a *silent step*, i.e. an internal computation, followed by computation t: Tau value of type t: Tau continuation t: Tau describes an external computation t: Tau which returns a value of type t: Tau and a continuation t: Tau which depends on that return value.

```
CoInductive itree (E : Type \rightarrow Type) (R : Type) : Type := | Ret (r : R) | Tau (t : itree E R) | Vis \{A : Type\} (e : E A) (k : A \rightarrow itree E R).
```

Figure 1: The itree datatype

To reason over ITrees, we have multiple notions of *bisimulation*. The most relevant one is weak bisimulation, noted t1 \approx t2. We say that t1 \approx t2 if they return the same value, and have the same visible events. This relation is an equivalence "up-to-Tau" in the sense that we have Tau t \approx t and t \approx Tau t. This equivalence be refined up to a relationship $R: A \to B \to Prop$: we then have Ret $a \approx_R \text{Ret } b \iff R \ a \ b$.

Effects can easily be added or removed from the semantics of an ITree. The Vis constructor represents *uninterpreted events*. By defining an *event handler*, semantics are assigned to these events. Interpreting an ITree then consists of folding that handler over the ITree. This allows the semantics of ITrees to be *modular*.

Furthermore, the semantics of ITrees are also *compositional* with the use of *combinators*. For example, bind: itree $E A \to (A \to itree E B) \to itree E B$ allows composing ITrees (with the use of continuations). Other combinators include iter: $(A \to itree E (A+B)) \to (A \to itree E B)$ to encode the iterations and hide the co-induction (by hiding each body step in a Tau), and mrec for mutual-recursive combinators.

Unlike similar projects, which rely on *operational semantics* and simulation diagrams, ITrees rely on *denotational semantics*. That is, it is based on equations that can be used to prove bisimulation. These equations allow the user to reason equationally, hiding the co-inductive reasoning and the definition of the weak bisimulation. The compositionality of the semantics also allow simpler reasoning than operational semantics, since program counter and similar notions are lifted away.

2.2 Vellvm

TODO: figures (vir syntax and intrep stack), emphs

The goal of the Vellvm project is to formally define the semantic of the LLVM IR and construct verified components for that formalization.

LLVM is a compiler infrastructure designed around a language-independent intermediate representation (IR). It is used to develop frontends for programming languages and backends for instruction set architectures.

The LLVM IR is a RISC-like low level instruction set, but also features high-level informations. This duality allows it to represent any program while still permuting analysis and optimizations. It is based on control flow-graphs, with named labels and registers, and guarantees Single Static Assignment (SSA) form, which is key to many static analyses and optimizations. The LLVM IR is statically typed, and features integer-pointer casts. Optimizations ans analysis on the LLVM IR are done through successive analysis and transformation passes.

Vellvm introduces Verified LLVM IR (VIR), a realistic subset of the LLVM IR. Figure ?? shows a subset of VIR's syntax. VIR's semantics are defined with ITrees: each element of VIR's syntax is represented by a corresponding ITree. Each effect (except control flow) is captured by a Vis event, which can be interpreted later. This semantic includes many non-trivial features of LLVM IR, including pointers, LLVM's phi-nodes and undefined behaviors.

Since the semantics of a block or set of blocks can be defined without relying on a "complete" CFG, it is possible to use "open control-flow graphs" (OCFG), which is simply a set of blocks without a defined entry point.

Finally, to interpret the semantics of the different effects of its syntax, Vellvm uses a stack of interpreters. It allows to gradually introduce external elements to the semantic (intrinsics, global

and local environments, ...). Figure ?? show that stack of interpretation. The final levels split between a *propositional* model, which interprets the non-determinism of LLVM IR's undefined behaviors, and a *executable* model, which implements one of these behaviors.

3 The pattern language

De façon générale, commencer par des bullet points ou des séries de paragraphe est excellent, mais c'est important de lui donner corps en rédigeant dans un second temps un texte cohésif. Je tente une proposition rapide par exemple pour ce chapeau pour illustrer.

Remarque générale : il faut utiliser beaucoup beaucoup de macros quand on écrit du TeX. Par exemple OCFG va apparaître beaucoup, et on peut hésiter sur la façon de le typeset/écrire : macro

Il peut être pratique d'avoir un nom pour ton langage pour pouvoir y référer.

We now turn our attention to the central piece of our contribution: the design of Pat, a DSL of patterns for writing and proving correct program transformations. This DSL is composed of two core components. First, an indexed datatype provides a syntax for the user to specify how they wish to decompose an input OCFG. Second, a *matcher* provides a semantics to the language, specifying the valid decompositions associated to each pattern. Finally, we illustrate on an example the definition and semantic characterization of a pattern extracting the heads of a graph, written in our DSL.

In this section we will focus on our main contribution: the design of Pat, a DSL of patterns for writing and proving correct program transformations. This DSL is composed of two core components. The first is a datatype, **Pattern**, which provides a syntax for the user to specify how they wish to decompose an input OCFG. The second is a *matcher* function, which provides semantics to apply the language to an OCFG, specifying the valid decompositions associated to each pattern. Finally, we illustrate on an example the definition and semantic characterization of a pattern extracting the heads of a graph, written in our DSL.

In this section we will:

- Define a Domain Specific Language that can capture optimizable subgraphs in an OCFG.
- Introduce a matcher on this language and the corresponding semantics of each constructor.
- Present the Coq implementation of the language, matcher and semantics.

3.1 Pat: a DSL for pattern matching on graphs

At a high level, we look for a language allowing the user to characterize and reason about optimizable subgraphs in an OCFG. To this end, we introduce Pat, a general, very expressive DSL for pattern matching on graphs. The specific patterns we are interested in from the perspective of compilation will then be expressed in Pat.

Attention il faut TOUJOURS, équipper les objets flottants d'un label, ET y faire référence dans le texte. Tu as fait le premier, mais pas le second ici :

Attention, l'idée d'un tel type indexé n'est pas évident pour beaucoup de lecteurs. Il est bon de prendre ton temps pour l'introduire.

```
Inductive Pattern : Type \rightarrow Type := 
| Graph: Pattern ocfg 
| When: \forall {S}, Pattern S \rightarrow (S \rightarrow bool) \rightarrow Pattern S 
| Map: \forall {S} {T}, Pattern S \rightarrow (S \rightarrow T) \rightarrow Pattern T 
| Focus: \forall {S}, Pattern S \rightarrow Pattern (ocfg * S) 
| Block: \forall {S}, Pattern S \rightarrow Pattern (bid * blk * S) 
| Head: \forall {S}, Pattern S \rightarrow Pattern (bid * blk * S) 
| Branch: \forall {S}, Pattern S \rightarrow Pattern (bid * blk * S)
```

Figure 2: The Pattern datatype

Figure 2 introduces Pat's syntax, defined as an inductive datatype Pattern. Because the purpose of a pattern is to decompose a graph into a certain structure, the Pattern datatype reflects this intention by taking as argument a type, which represents the return type of the pattern. This typing information is leveraged in the definition of the matcher, introduced in Section 3.2: a pattern of type Pattern S will be matched against elements of type S.

Attention ici il est beaucoup plus digeste et élégant d'éviter une telle succession de paragraphes, et plutôt construire du texte. Je commence pour illustrer ce que j'imagine.

Patterns are built out of seven constructors. The only base case is the **Graph** pattern which trivially match any graph and does not perform any decomposition. On more traditional paper presentation, it corresponds to a single hole \Box .

The six other constructors recursively decompose the graph, typically enriching the return type of the pattern in doing so. The When constructor acts as a filter: given a pattern of return type S, it builds a pattern with the same return type, but takes as argument a filtering function $S \to bool$ used to restrict the set of matching graphs to those satisfying the condition. The Map constructor simply hardcodes functoriality into the datatype, allowing for post-processing the output of a pattern by a pure function.

The **Pattern** type is build of seven constructors. The only base case is the Graph constructor which trivially match any graph and does not perform any decomposition. On more traditional paper presentation, it corresponds to a single hole \Box .

The six other constructors recursively decompose the graph, typically enriching the return type of the pattern in doing so. The When constructor acts as a filter: given a pattern of return type S, it builds a pattern with the same return type, but takes as argument a filtering function $S \to bool$ used to restrict the set of matching graphs to those satisfying the condition. The Map constructor simply hardcodes functoriality into the datatype, allowing for post-processing the output of a pattern by a pure function. That is: given a return type S and a function $S \to T$, it builds a pattern of return type T. The Focus constructor, given a pattern P, builds a pattern that tries to match P on any subset of the graph given as argument. or: The Focus constructor removes any subgraph from the graph and matches the pattern given as argument against the rest. The Block constructor removes any block from the graph and matches the pattern given as argument against the rest of the graph. The Head constructor removes a block without predecessors from the graph and matches the pattern given as argument against the rest of the graph. The Branch constructor removes a block whose terminator is a branch from the graph and matches the pattern

¹Such families of types are common in dependently typed languages, and are referred to as Generalized Algebraic Data Types in languages such as OCaml or Haskell.

given as argument against the rest of the graph.

This set of patterns is not minimal. Indeed, λ p \Rightarrow Block p could be written as λ p \Rightarrow When (Focus p) (λ '(1, _) \Rightarrow and λ p \Rightarrow Branch p could be written as λ p \Rightarrow When (Block p) (λ '(id, b, _) \Rightarrow term_is_branch b).

TODO: finir d'intégrer les paragraphes ci-après dans le texte ci-dessus.

Each constructor adds to the return types of the following constructors, with the base case Graph accepting any graph.

We will now introduce each constructor and their function.

Graph The Graph constructor is the "base" case that matches any graph. It does not take any extra argument, and returns the graph given as argument.

When The When constructor allows adding a boolean condition to a pattern. It takes a pattern and a corresponding boolean function as argument, and returns what the patterns matched if it fulfils the condition.

Map The Map constructor allows mapping a function onto a pattern's return type. It takes a pattern and a function as argument, and returns the image of the function by what the patterns matched.

Focus The Focus constructor matches any subgraph. It takes a pattern as argument to match against the rest of the graph, and returns the matched subgraph and what the pattern matched.

Block The Block constructor matches any single block in the graph. It takes a pattern as argument to match against the rest of the graph, and returns the matched block and what the pattern matched.

Head The Head constructor matches any block of the graph without predecessors. It takes a pattern as argument to match against the rest of the graph, and returns the matched block and what the pattern matched.

Note that this constructor could not be directly implemented as a When (Block _) _ since it depends on the rest of the graph, which When wouldn't have access to. TODO: expand on this note, detailing what filter you would want to write and pointing out why you can't precisely. In particular, explain that you could write When (Block Graph) (λ '(i,bk,g) \Rightarrow is_head i g), but not λ p \Rightarrow When (Block p) (λ s \Rightarrow ???), and why it may matter.

Branch The Branch constructor matches any block of the graph whose terminator is a conditional jump. It takes a pattern as argument to match against the rest of the graph, and returns the matched block and what the pattern matched. This constructor could be implemented as a When (Block _) _, but has been implemented directly because ???.Give the exact definition in terms of when/block, and indeed justify.

Je pense qu'il faut insérer ici une discussion assez généreuse sur le choix de ce jeu de constructeurs : remarquer qu'il y a de la redondance, en pointant du doigt que tout pattern fixé peut être encodé avec Focus, Graph et When (à vérifier que c'est vrai) par exemple, mais pas des familles de patterns qui composent; remarquer que Map parait assez naturel, mais que l'on en a pas d'usage

en ce moment; expliquer que l'on cherche un point de design alliant facilité d'utilisation et facilité de développer la méta-théorie, et que ce n'est pas encore fixé dans le marbre.

An example of pattern: block fusion. We illustrate the use of Pat to implement² a bloc fusion optimization. That is: fusing two blocks whose execution always follow each other into a single block. Explain the optimisation in a little bit more details (unless you plan on introducing it in more detail earlier in the paper, in which case put a reference to it).

Note: it's almost never a good idea to force a return carriage via a double slash.

The applicable subgraphs are specified with the pattern When (Block (Head Graph)) BlockFusion_f. Name the pattern, like pfusion for instance, you will want to refer to it later to give its spec. The pattern starts by the Block to match any block bk (What does first mean here? I think you just mean to say that's the first thing you match on. I would rather give a name to this block, and not refer to it by the name of the pattern!). Then, Head matches a block head that has no predecessors (except possibly bk as it is not in scope of the pattern anymore), and finally When _ BlockFusion_f sets additional constraints on the two blocks required for the optimization to be valid. Give the code for BlockFusion_f and explain these additional constraints in details.

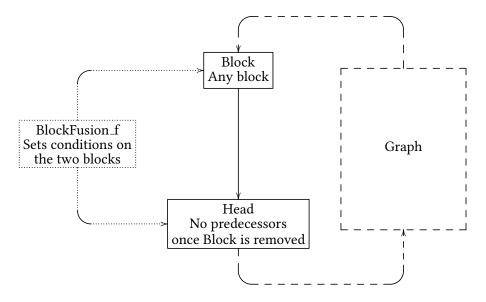


Figure 3: The BlockFusion pattern

Refer to and explain the figure! "Figure 2 illustrate graphically the shape of the graph decompositions that match pfusion ..." Use the names suggested above, and explain the meaning of the different arrows.

3.2 Matcher functions

We now turn to the question of defining the semantics of our patterns, via a *matcher function*. Such function takes a pattern p and an OCFG G as arguments, and returns a set of decompositions of G

²Or rather, to *specify* such an optimization. We discuss briefly executability in conclusion.

that match p. We have mainly focused so far on *specifying* patterns, by implementing a matcher that returns *all* valid decompositions. Although rather meant as a specification than as a realistic implementation, the MatchAll function, depicted in Figure 4, is nonetheless executable. This not only allows for testing, but also drastically the distance left to bridge to reach a provably sound, efficient implementation. To do so, the matcher lives in the list monad: it computes recursively the decomposition according to the sub-pattern, and flat maps (Definition provided on Figure 5) a function for each constructor extending the decomposition according to the head constructor.

Figure 4: The MatchAll function

```
Definition flat_map_r {A B C} (f : B \rightarrow list C) := fix flat_map_r (1 : list (A*B)) : list (A*C) := match 1 with | [] \Rightarrow [] | (a, b)::q \Rightarrow (map (\lambda c \Rightarrow (a, c)) (f b))++flat_map_r q end.
```

Figure 5: The flat_map_r function Use Fixpoint in this code, nesting a fix is superficial and confusing for non coq experts

Where are the descriptions of focus / block / heads / branches ??? To insert here Ah je vois que tu mets celle de head ci-dessous. Il faut bien découpler la description de MatchAll de la specification du langage et la preuve de correction de matchall. Et à moins que tu manques de place, je donnerais les défs des quatres.

Specification. We have claimed that MatchAll returns all valid decompositions. We capture this statement by providing specifications for each constructor of Pat, and proving they are exactly captures by MatchAll.

Proving the correctness for Graph, When and Map is immediate thanks to builtin lemmas on filter and map. Tu n'as pas énoncé cette correction, on ne peut donc comprendre en quoi c'est immédiat!

The proof mechanism for Block, Head and Branch are similar. We will now detail it for Head.Comme dit au dessus, pousser la partie définition de heads au dessus, et garder la partie spec et preuve ici.

MatchAll relies on the heads function to match the Head constructor.

The goal of that function is to find all the "heads", i.e. blocks without predecessors, in an OCFG. To do that, it folds a heads_aux function over the map. That function calls the predecessors function on each block, and appends the result to the return list if the block doesn't have predecessors.

```
Definition heads_aux (G: ocfg) id b acc : list (bid*blk*ocfg) :=
   if is_empty (predecessors id G)
   then (id, b, delete id G)::acc
   else acc.

Definition heads (G: ocfg): list (bid*blk*ocfg) := map_fold (heads_aux G) [] G.
```

Figure 6: The heads function

With these function, we can define the semantics corresponding to each function. We have to define them first for the auxiliary function for the semantics proof.

```
Record heads_aux_sem (G0 G G': ocfg) id b := {
   EQ: G' = delete id G0;
   IN: G !!id = Some b;
   PRED: predecessors id G0 = Ø
}.

Definition heads_sem (G G':ocfg) (id:bid) b := heads_aux_sem G G G' id b.
```

Figure 7: The semantic definition for Head/heads

Finally, we can prove the semantics for the auxiliary function, the heads function and $MatchAll\ Head.$

```
Definition heads_aux_P G0 (s:list (bid*blk*ocfg)) G :=
    ∀ id b G', (id, b, G') ∈ s ↔ heads_aux_sem G0 G G' id b.

Lemma heads_aux_correct:
    ∀ G G0,
    heads_aux_P G0 (map_fold (heads_aux G0) [] G) G.

Lemma heads_correct:
    ∀ G G' id b,
    (id, b, G') ∈ (heads G) ↔ heads_sem G G' id b.

Theorem Pattern_Head_correct {S}:
    ∀ (G: ocfg) (P: Pattern S) id b X,
    (id, b, X) ∈ (MatchAll (Head P) G) ↔
    ∃ G', heads_sem G G' id b ∧ X ∈ (MatchAll P G').
```

Décrire en anglais tout cela.

4 Denotation

In this section we will informally define an optimization class, show a theorem for proving the correctness of optimizations of that class, and apply this theorem to an implementation of Block Fusion.

4.1 An optimization class

Since the goal of the patterns is to identify subgraphs, we want to focus on optimizations that only modify a section of the graph. (As opposed to ones that may modify everything, like constant propagation.)

Ideally, we want to be able to replace any subgraph with an equivalent subgraph.

$$G_2 \qquad pprox \qquad G_2' \qquad \Longrightarrow \qquad \begin{picture}(200,20) \put(0,0){\line(1,0){120}} \put(0,0){\line(1,0){$$

```
Theorem (g1 g2 g2' : ocfg): 
 \forall from to, [g2]bs (from,to) ≈ [g2']bs (from, to) \rightarrow 
 \forall from to, [g2 \cup g1]bs (from,to) ≈ [g2' \cup g1]bs (from, to).
```

However, this ideal theorem is not enough. In the case of Block Fusion for example, since we replace two blocs by one, the change in ids means that either we have to enter by different ids, or we have to exit by different ids.

There needs to be some renaming. We chose to apply the renaming to to and to g1's terminators, since that keeps the semantics equivalent.

We define a function ocfg_term_rename which, given a function over ids σ and a graph g, returns g with σ applied to each id in its blocks' terminators.

This new function gives us the following theorem:

```
Theorem (g1 g2 g2' : ocfg) (\sigma : bid → bid):
 \forall from to, [g2]bs (from,to) \approx [g2']bs (from, \sigma to) → \forall from to, [g2 \cup g1]bs (from,to) \approx [g2' \cup ocfg\_term\_rename <math>\sigma g1]bs (from, \sigma to).
```

However, this still cannot be applied to Block Fusion. Indeed, if we try to start on the second block, the semantics are obliviously different.

Similar issues can come from having an incorrect origin block. So we have to introduce two sets of ids nTO and nFROM to set condition on the input and origin ids.

```
Theorem (g1 g2 g2' : ocfg) (\sigma : bid → bid) (nFROM nTO: gset bid): (\forall from to, to \notin nTO → from \notin nFROM → \llbracketg2\rrbracketbs (from,to) \approx \llbracketg2'\rrbracketbs (from, \sigma to)) → \forall from to, to \notin nTO → from \notin nFROM → \llbracketg2 \cup g1\rrbracketbs (from,to) \approx \llbracketg2' \cup ocfg_term_rename \sigmag1\rrbracketbs (from, \sigma to).
```

Finally, we need some conditions to make sure that:

- the unions are well-formed,
- nFROM and nTO are preserved during the (coinductive) proof,
- σ only changes ids from g2 to g2'.

These conditions give us the following final theorem:

```
Theorem denote_ocfg_equiv  
(g1 g2 g2' : ocfg) (\sigma : bid \rightarrow bid) (nFROM nTO: gset bid) : inputs g2 \cap inputs g2' ## nFROM \rightarrow nFROM \subseteq inputs g2 \cup inputs g2' \rightarrow inputs g2' \ inputs g2 \subseteq nTO \rightarrow nTO \subseteq inputs g2 \cup inputs g2' \rightarrow nTO ## outputs g1 \rightarrow g1 ## g2 \rightarrow ocfg_term_rename \sigma g1 ## g2' \rightarrow (\forall id, id \in inputs g2 \rightarrow (\sigma id) \in inputs g2') \rightarrow (\forall id, id \notin nFROM \rightarrow (\sigma id) = id) \rightarrow (\forall from to, to \notin nTO \rightarrow from \notin nFROM \rightarrow [g2]]bs (from,to) \approx [g2']bs (from, \sigma to)) \rightarrow \forall from to, to \notin nTO \rightarrow from \notin nFROM \rightarrow [g2 \cup g1]]bs (from,to) \approx [g2' \cup ocfg_term_rename \sigma g1]]bs (from, \sigma to).
```

Figure 8: The denote_ocfg_equiv theorem

4.2 Motivations for Block Fusion

In this section, we will define the Block Fusion optimization, describe a corresponding OCFG pattern, and outline the proof of correctness of the optimization using the pattern.

The Block Fusion optimization consists of picking two blocks A and B, such that A is the only predecessor of B and B is the only successor of A, and replacing them with a single block containing the code of A and B.

This optimization is relevant for three main reasons:

- It is a commonly used optimization, for example to clear blocks created while building SSA form.
- It is an optimization that modifies the graph.
- It is simple to prove on paper that the optimization is correct.

In the previous section, we already gave a pattern for BlockFusion, we will use a slight variation, which allows further composing:

```
Definition BlockFusion S (P: Pattern S) := When (Block (Head P)) BlockFusion_f. BlockFusion_f has two conditions:
```

- the terminator of the first block is an absolute jump to the second block,
- the second block does not have phi nodes.

The first condition is needed (instead of just checking the successors) because, if there is a conditional jump, evaluating the condition may lead to an error, and so to a difference in semantic after the fusion.

The second condition is needed because of the difference in evaluation between phi-nodes and assignment operations.

With this, we can create a fusion function for Block Fusion (term_rename applies σ to each id in the terminator).

Figure 9: The fusion function

We also define σ fusion, the renaming function for Block Fusion:

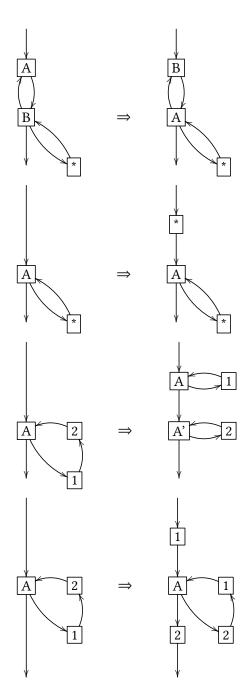
```
Definition \sigma fusion idA idB := \lambda(id: bid) \Rightarrow if decide (id=idA) then idB else id.
```

With these, we can prove first that fusion is correct, and then that the Block Fusion optimization is correct.

```
Theorem Denotation_BlockFusion_correct {S} G idA A idB B f to P (X:S): let \sigma := \sigma fusion idA idB in let G0 := delete idB (delete idA G) in to \neq idB \rightarrow f \neq idA \rightarrow (idA, A, (idB, B, X)) \in (MatchAll (BlockFusion P) G) \rightarrow [G ]bs (f, to) \approx [<[idB:=fusion \sigma idA A B]> (ocfg_term_rename \sigma G0) ]bs (f, \sigma to).
```

5 A voir: Approfondissements

5.1 Loop pattern



- 5.2 Other interpretation levels
- 5.3 Optim efficace

Conclusion