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CPS Transformation of Flow Information, Part II: Administrative Reductions

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Abstract

We characterize the impact of a linear β -reduction on the result of a control-flow analysis. (By “a linear β -reduction” we mean the β -reduction of a linear λ -abstraction, i.e., of a λ -abstraction whose parameter occurs exactly once in its body.)

As a corollary, we consider the administrative reductions of a Plotkin-style transformation into continuation-passing style (CPS), and how they affect the result of a constraint-based control-flow analysis and in particular the least element in the space of solutions. We show that administrative reductions preserve the least solution. Since we know how to construct least solutions, preservation of least solutions solves a problem that was left open in Palsberg and Wand’s paper “CPS Transformation of Flow Information.”

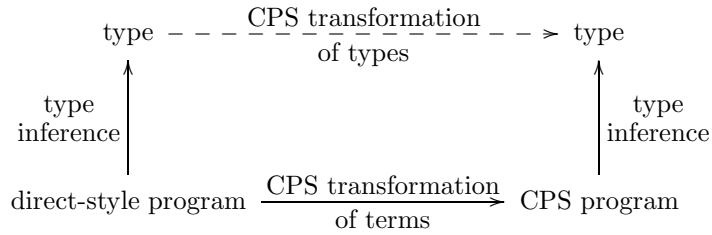
Therefore, together, Palsberg and Wand’s article “CPS Transformation of Flow Information” and the present article show how to map, in linear time, the least solution of the flow constraints of a program into the least solution of the flow constraints of the CPS counterpart of this program, after administrative reductions. Furthermore, we show how to CPS transform control-flow information in one pass.

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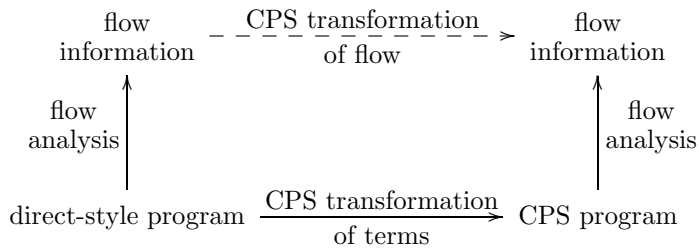
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1 Background and introduction

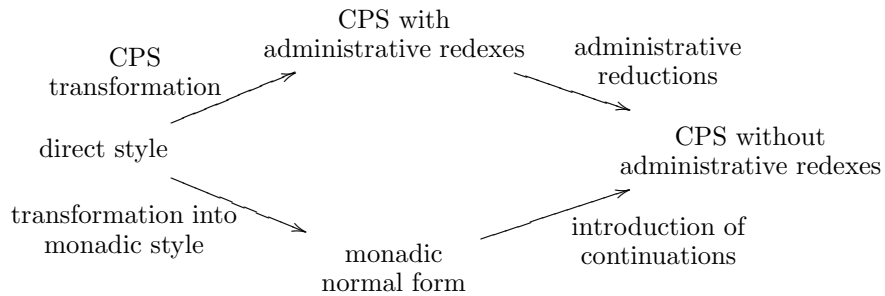
Since their inception, over thirty years ago [10], continuations and the transformation into continuation-passing style (CPS) have been the topic of much study, ranging from semantics and logic to implementations of sequential, concurrent, and distributed programming languages and systems. Fifteen years ago [6, 13], Meyer and Wand noticed that the CPS transformation preserves types and constructed a CPS transformation of types.



Over the last couple of years, Palsberg and Wand have extended this observation to flow types and the flow information gathered by a control-flow analysis [8], designing a CPS transformation of flow information.



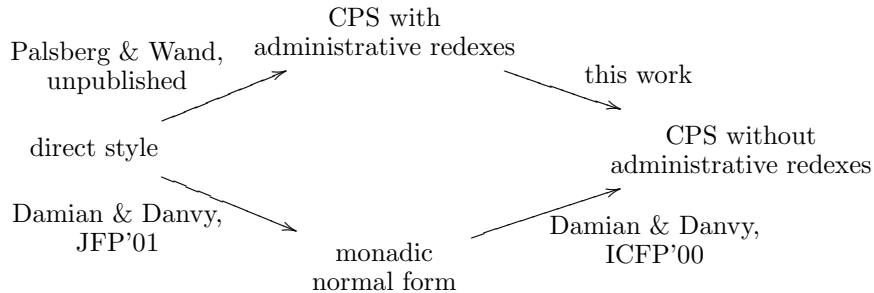
Independently, and with a different motivation, we have also designed a CPS transformation of flow information for control flow and binding times [1, 2, 3]. The two CPS transformations of flow information correspond to two different takes on the CPS transformation of λ -terms:



The CPS transformation is Plotkin's [9]. It is a first-order, compositional rewriting system generating numerous administrative redexes that need to be

post-reduced in practice [12]. Alternatively [5, 11], the CPS transformation can be staged into a transformation into monadic normal form followed by an introduction of continuations.

The two CPS transformations of flow information can be depicted as follows.



Palsberg and Wand show how to construct, in linear time, the flow information corresponding to a CPS program obtained through a Plotkin-style CPS transformation [8, 9]. The resulting programs contain all administrative redexes induced by Plotkin’s transformation. Therefore, the corresponding CPS information of flow also contains spurious information which accounts for the extraneous λ -abstractions and their flow. The problem of eliminating this spurious information is open.

Damian and Danvy show how to construct, in linear time, the flow information corresponding to the introduction of continuations, starting from monadic normal forms [2, 5]. They also show how to construct, in linear time, the flow information corresponding to the transformation into monadic normal forms [1, 3].

In this work, we complete the picture above by showing how to perform, in linear time, administrative reductions on CPS transformed programs (Section 4). Our result hinges on linear reductions (Section 3). But first, we present the source language and a constraint-based control-flow analysis (Section 2).

2 Preliminaries

2.1 The source language

We consider that input terms are given by the grammar in Figure 1. Terms are annotated with distinct labels taken from a countable set Lab . Each λ -abstraction is annotated with a distinct label π from a set Lam , and we consider that there exists a bijection between λ -abstractions and their labels.

We consider that the language has a standard call-by-value semantics, which is left unspecified. A program p is a closed labeled expression e^ℓ .

Definition 2.1. *A properly labeled expression is a labeled expression in which all labels are distinct and all variables are distinct.*

$$\begin{array}{lcl}
e \in Exp & ::= & x \mid n \mid e_1^{\ell_1} e_2^{\ell_2} \mid \mathbf{if0} \ e^\ell \ e_0^{\ell_0} \ e_1^{\ell_1} \mid \lambda^\pi x.e^\ell \\
\pi \in Lam & & (\lambda\text{-abstraction labels}) \\
\ell \in Lab & & (\text{term labels}) \\
n \in Lit & & (\text{integer literals})
\end{array}$$

Figure 1: The language of labeled λ -terms

$$\begin{array}{lcl}
Lam^p & \text{The set of } \lambda\text{-abstraction labels in } p \\
Var^p & \text{The set of identifiers in } p \\
Lab^p & \text{The set of term labels in } p \\
\\
Val^p = \mathcal{P}(Lam^p) & \text{Abstract values} \\
\widehat{C} \in Cache_p = Lab^p \rightarrow Val^p & \text{Abstract cache} \\
\widehat{\rho} \in Env_p = Var^p \rightarrow Val^p & \text{Abstract environment} \\
\\
\models_p \subseteq (Cache_p \times Env_p) \times Lab^p
\end{array}$$

Figure 2: Control-flow analysis relation for a program p : functionality

2.2 Control-flow analysis

We consider a constraint-based control-flow analysis. We use the same notations and definitions as in Nielson, Nielson and Hankin's recent textbook on program analysis [7].

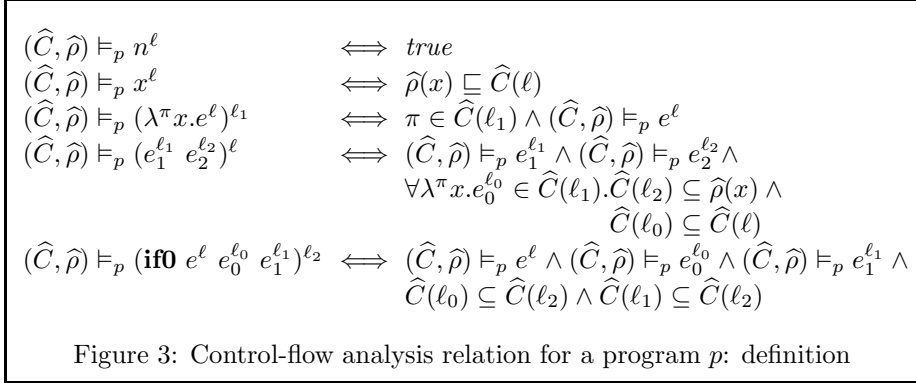
Given a program p , the control-flow analysis is defined as a relation \models_p whose functionality is displayed in Figure 2.

A solution of the analysis of p' is a pair $(\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho})$ such that $(\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho}) \models p$. The set of solutions of the analysis is ordered by the natural pointwise ordering of functions, and has a least element. This property ensures the existence of a least solution of the analysis of p . The analysis relation is defined inductively on the syntax as defined in Figure 3.

3 Linear reductions

We observed that linear reductions preserve flow information. A linear reduction is a β -reduction in which the λ -abstraction in the function position is linear, i.e., such that it uses its argument once and only once. Let us formalize the notion of linear reduction using linear contexts.

Definition 3.1. A linear context is a labeled expression with a unique hole $[\cdot]$.



Linear contexts are defined by the grammar:

$$\begin{aligned}
E ::= & [\cdot] \mid x^\ell \mid n^\ell \mid (E e_2^{\ell_2})^\ell \mid (e_1^{\ell_1} E)^\ell \mid \\
& (\mathbf{if0} E e_0^{\ell_0} e_1^{\ell_1})^\ell \mid (\mathbf{if0} e^\ell E e_1^{\ell_1})^{\ell_0} \mid (\mathbf{if0} e^\ell e_0^{\ell_0} E)^{\ell_1} \mid \\
& (\lambda^\pi x. E)^\ell
\end{aligned}$$

Given a linear context E and a labeled expression e^ℓ , we use $E[e^\ell]$ to denote the context E with the hole $[\cdot]$ replaced with e^ℓ . It is trivial to see that $E[e^\ell]$ is a well-formed expression.

We also use $FV(e)$ to denote the set of free variables of the expression e . This notation naturally extends to contexts: given the context E , by definition $FV(E) = FV(E[n])$, where n is an arbitrary literal. We use L as the function extracting the label of an expression. By definition, for any labeled expression e^ℓ , $L(e^\ell) = \ell$.

Definition 3.2. A λ -abstraction $\lambda^\pi x. e^\ell$ is linear if and only if is properly labeled and e^ℓ and contains a unique free occurrence of x , i.e., if there exists a linear context E such that $x \notin FV(E)$ and $e = E[x^{\ell_1}]$ for some label ℓ_1 .

Definition 3.3. A linear redex is a β -redex $(\lambda x. e_1) e_2$ such that $\lambda x. e_1$ is a linear λ -abstraction.

Definition 3.4. A linear reduction is the β -reduction of a linear redex.

Example:

$$((\lambda^\pi x. E[x^\ell])^{\ell_1} e^{\ell_2})^{\ell_3} \rightarrow E[e^{\ell_2}]$$

where E is a linear context where x does not occur free. Note that such a reduction might not necessarily be sound wrt. call-by-value semantics. Nevertheless, we show that it does not affect the result of control-flow analysis. In any case, we treat linear reductions in CPS, which is evaluation-order independent [9].

4 Control-flow analysis and linear reduction

We show that performing a linear reduction does not alter the results of the analysis of a properly labeled program. More precisely, we show that, given a properly labeled program which contains a linear β -redex, control-flow analysis yields strictly equivalent results before and after performing a linear β -reduction.

We are given a program that contains a linear redex and the least solution of its analysis. The goal of this section is to construct the least solution of the analysis of this program after a linear β -reduction.

Let p be a properly labeled program containing a linear β -redex. Therefore there exists two linear contexts E and E_1 , an expression e , a fresh variable x , and labels $\pi, \ell_0, \ell_1, \ell_2$ and ℓ_3 such that

$$p = E[(\lambda^\pi x. E_1[x^{\ell_0}])^{\ell_1} e^{\ell_2}]^{\ell_3}$$

and $x \notin FV(E)$. Let then

$$p' = E[E_1[e^{\ell_2}]]$$

be the program p with the linear redex above reduced. It is immediate to see that p' is also a properly labeled program.

In the rest of this section, we define a monotone function \mathcal{F}_p which, given a solution of the analysis of p , constructs a solution of the analysis of p' . We then define a reverse function \mathcal{G}_p , monotone as well, which, given a solution of the analysis of p' , constructs a solution of the analysis of p . Using the two functions and their monotonicity, we show that the best solution for p is transformed into the best solution for p' . We then show how to construct, in linear time, the least solution of the analysis of p' from the least solution of the analysis of p .

4.1 Flow constructions

For the programs p and p' defined as above, by construction,

- $Lab^p = Lab^{p'} \cup \{\ell_0, \ell_1, \ell_3\}$,
- $Lam^p = Lam^{p'} \cup \{\pi\}$, and
- $Var^p = Var^{p'} \cup \{x\}$.

We define a function $\mathcal{F}_p : (Cache_p \times Env_p) \rightarrow (Cache_{p'} \times Env_{p'})$ as $\mathcal{F}_p(\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho}) = (\widehat{C}|_{Lam^{p'}}, \widehat{\rho}|_{Lam^{p'}})$. Obviously, \mathcal{F}_p is a projection function and it is monotone with respect to the ordering of solutions.

We define a reverse function $\mathcal{G}_p : (Cache_{p'} \times Env_{p'}) \rightarrow (Cache_p \times Env_p)$ as follows. If $\mathcal{G}_p(\widehat{C}', \widehat{\rho}') = (\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho})$ then:

- for all $\ell \in Lab^{p'}$, $\widehat{C}(\ell) = \widehat{C}'(\ell)$; $\widehat{C}(\ell_3) = \widehat{C}'(L(E_1[e^{\ell_2}]))$; $\widehat{C}(\ell_0) = \widehat{\rho}(x) = \widehat{C}'(\ell_2)$; $\widehat{C}(\ell_1) = \{\pi\}$; and
- for all $y \in Var^{p'}$, $\widehat{\rho}(y) = \widehat{\rho}'(y)$.

Obviously, \mathcal{G}_p is an embedding function and it is monotone as well.

Lemma 4.1. *Let $(\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho}) \in (\text{Cache}_p \times \text{Env}_p)$ such that $(\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho}) \models_p p$. Then $\mathcal{F}_p(\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho}) \models_{p'} p'$.*

Proof. Let $(\widehat{C}', \widehat{\rho}') = \mathcal{F}_p(\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho})$. We show that $(\widehat{C}', \widehat{\rho}') \models_{p'} p'$. The proof has two steps:

- i) A proof of the fact that $(\widehat{C}', \widehat{\rho}') \models_{p'} E_1[e^{\ell_2}]$. The proof is by structural induction on the context E_1 , using the assumption that $(\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho}) \models_p E_1[x^{\ell_0}]$.
- ii) A proof of the fact that $(\widehat{C}', \widehat{\rho}') \models_{p'} E[E_1[e^{\ell_2}]]$. The proof is by structural induction on the context E .

□

Lemma 4.2. *Let $(\widehat{C}', \widehat{\rho}') \in (\text{Cache}_{p'} \times \text{Env}_{p'})$ such that $(\widehat{C}', \widehat{\rho}') \models_{p'} p'$. Then $\mathcal{G}_p(\widehat{C}', \widehat{\rho}') \models_p p$.*

Proof. Let $(\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho}) = \mathcal{G}_p(\widehat{C}', \widehat{\rho}')$. We show that $(\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho}) \models_p p$. The proof has two steps:

- i) A proof of the fact that $(\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho}) \models_p E_1[x^{\ell_0}]$. The proof is by structural induction on the context E_1 , using the assumption that $(\widehat{C}', \widehat{\rho}') \models_{p'} E_1[e^{\ell_2}]$.
- ii) A proof of the fact that $(\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho}) \models_p ((\lambda^\pi x. E_1[x^{\ell_0}])^{\ell_1} e^{\ell_2})^{\ell_3}$. Using i), the proof amounts to showing that a small set of constraints are satisfied.
- iii) A proof of the fact that $(\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho}) \models_p E[((\lambda^\pi x. E_1[x^{\ell_0}])^{\ell_1} e^{\ell_2})^{\ell_3}]$. The proof is by structural induction on the context E .

□

Lemma 4.3. *Let $(\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho})$ be the least solution of the analysis of p . Let $(\widehat{C}', \widehat{\rho}')$ be the least solution of the analysis of p' . Then $\mathcal{F}_p(\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho}) = (\widehat{C}', \widehat{\rho}')$ and $\mathcal{G}_p(\widehat{C}', \widehat{\rho}') = (\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho})$.*

Proof. We can immediately see that $\mathcal{F}_p(\mathcal{G}_p(\widehat{C}', \widehat{\rho}')) = (\widehat{C}', \widehat{\rho}')$ and that $\mathcal{G}_p(\mathcal{F}_p(\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho})) \sqsubseteq (\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho})$. Therefore, \mathcal{G}_p and \mathcal{F}_p form an embedding/projection pair. Using the monotonicity of the two functions, we obtain that $\mathcal{F}_p(\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho}) = (\widehat{C}', \widehat{\rho}')$ and $\mathcal{G}_p(\widehat{C}', \widehat{\rho}') = (\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho})$. □

4.2 The CPS transformation of flow information and administrative reductions

Lemma 4.3 says that the least analysis after a linear β -reduction is a restriction of the least analysis of the initial term. From this, we can infer that any linear β -reduction does not alter the results of the CFA. We use this result to show that administrative reductions after Plotkin's CPS transformation do not change the result of the flow analysis.

Theorem 4.4. *Let p be a program, p_1 be its CPS counterpart without administrative reductions, and p_2 be its CPS counterpart after administrative reduction. Let $(\widehat{C}_1, \widehat{\rho}_1)$ be the least solution of the analysis of p_1 . The least solution $(\widehat{C}_2, \widehat{\rho}_2)$ of the analysis of p_2 can be obtained in linear time from $(\widehat{C}_1, \widehat{\rho}_1)$, by restricting $(\widehat{C}_1, \widehat{\rho}_1)$ to the program points preserved by the administrative reductions.*

Proof. All administrative reductions are linear, and furthermore, administrative reduction is known to terminate [4]. We apply Lemma 4.3. \square

Corollary 4.5. *Let p be a program, p_1 be its CPS counterpart without administrative reductions, and p_2 be its CPS counterpart after administrative reduction. Let $(\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho})$ be the least solution of the analysis of p . The least solution $(\widehat{C}_2, \widehat{\rho}_2)$ of the analysis of p_2 can be obtained in linear time from $(\widehat{C}, \widehat{\rho})$.*

Proof. We compose the construction given by Theorem 4.4 with Palsberg and Wand’s CPS transformation of flow information [8], which also works in linear time. \square

5 Conclusion and issues

We have shown how to complement Palsberg and Wand’s CPS transformation of flow information with administrative reductions, while preserving its linear-time complexity. Our extension hinges on the linearity of administrative redexes.

Let us now show how to integrate administrative reductions in Palsberg and Wand’s CPS transformation, therefore making it operate in one pass, still in linear time. As shown in “Representing Control” [4], at CPS-transformation time, one can segregate the administrative lambdas and applications and the residual ones. (The residual lambdas and applications are the ones preserved by the administrative reductions.) Therefore, in Palsberg and Wand’s CPS transformation of flow information, we can segregate the labels of the administrative lambdas and applications and the labels of the residual ones as well. In practice, the solution after administrative reduction is thus obtained simply by restricting Palsberg and Wand’s solution to the residual labels. In the overall process of (1) CPS transformation and (2) administrative reduction, the administrative labels are used transitorily, just as in the one-pass CPS transformation, which is conceptually fitting.

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