

Continuations and Transducer Composition

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PLDI 2006

The Big Idea

Observation

Some programs easier to write with transducer abstraction.

Goal

Design features and compilation story to support this abstraction.

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Design features and compilation story to support this abstraction.

Oh...

Transducer \equiv Coroutine \equiv Process

A computational analogy

The world of functions

- ▶ Agents are functions.
- ▶ Functions are stateless.
- ▶ Composed with \circ operator: $h = f \circ g$.

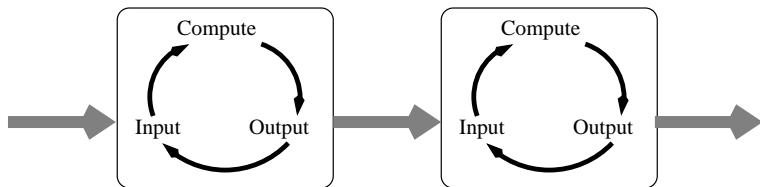
A computational analogy

The world of functions

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- ▶ Composed with \circ operator: $h = f \circ g$.

The world of online transducers

- ▶ Agents are input/compute/output processes.
- ▶ Processes have local, bounded state.
- ▶ Composed with Unix $|$ operator: $h = g | f$.



Online transducers

- ▶ DSP networks
Convolve / integrate / filter / difference / ...
- ▶ Network-protocol stacks (“micro-protocols”, layer integration)
packet-assembly / checksum / order / http-parse / html-lex / ...
- ▶ Graphics processing
viewpoint-transform / clip1 / ... / clip6 / z-divide / light / scan
- ▶ Stream processing
- ▶ Unix pipelines
- ▶

Optimisation across composition

Functional paradigm

$f \circ g$ optimised by β -reduction:

$$f = \lambda y . y + 3$$

$$g = \lambda z . z + 5$$

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$$f \circ g = (\lambda m n . \lambda x . m(n x))(\lambda y . y + 3)(\lambda z . z + 5)$$

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$$\circ = \lambda m n . \lambda x . m(n x) \quad (\text{"Plumbing" made explicit in } \lambda \text{ rep.})$$

$$\begin{aligned} f \circ g &= (\lambda m n . \lambda x . m(n x))(\lambda y . y + 3)(\lambda z . z + 5) \\ &= \lambda x . (\lambda y . y + 3)((\lambda z . z + 5)x) \\ &= \lambda x . (\lambda y . y + 3)(x + 5) \\ &= \lambda x . (x + 5) + 3 \\ &= \lambda x . x + (5 + 3) \\ &= \lambda x . x + 8 \end{aligned}$$

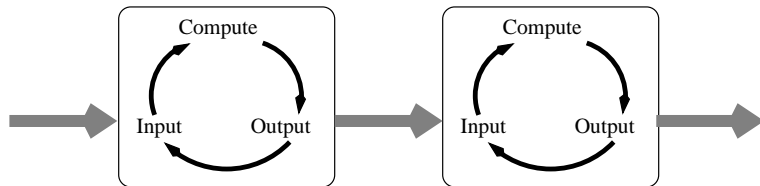
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Transducer paradigm

No good optimisation story.

Optimisation across composition is
key technology supporting abstraction:
Enables construction by composition.

If only...



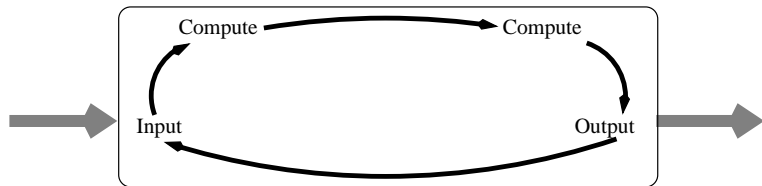
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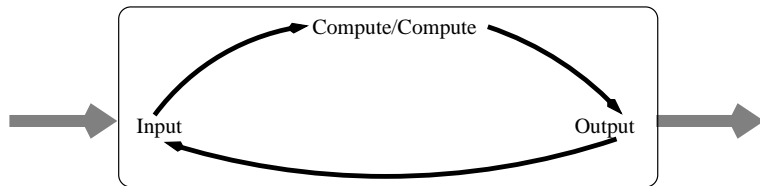
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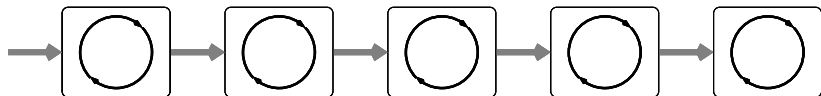
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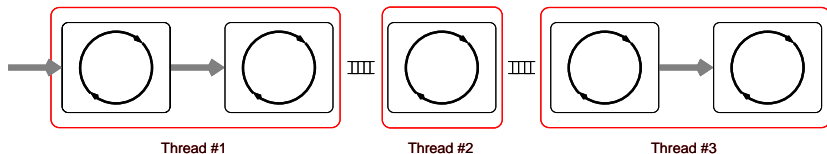
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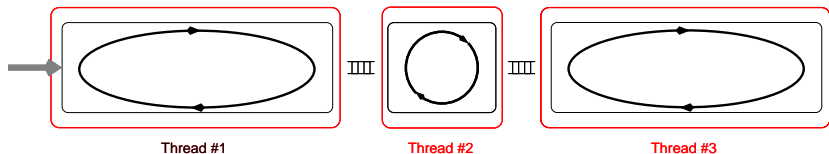
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Strategy

- ▶ Build transducers from continuations.

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- ▶ Build continuations from λ .

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- ▶ Build continuations from λ .
- ▶ Handle λ well.

Strategy

- ▶ Build transducers from continuations.
- ▶ Build continuations from λ .
- ▶ Handle λ well.
- ▶ Watch what happens.

Tool: Continuation-passing style (CPS)

Restricted subset of λ calculus: Function calls do not return.

Thus cannot write $f(g(x))$.

Must pass extra argument—the *continuation*—to each call, to represent rest of computation:

$(- a (* b c)) \Rightarrow (* b c (\lambda (temp) (- a temp halt)))$

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$(- a (* b c)) \Rightarrow (* b c (\lambda (temp) (- a temp halt)))$

CPS is the “assembler” of functional languages.

CPS Payoff

CPS is universal representation of control & env.

Construct	encoding
fun call	call to λ

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<u>Construct</u>	<u>encoding</u>
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<u>Construct</u>	<u>encoding</u>
fun call	call to λ
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iteration	call to λ

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<u>Construct</u>	<u>encoding</u>
fun call	call to λ
fun return	call to λ
iteration	call to λ
sequencing	call to λ

CPS Payoff

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<u>Construct</u>	<u>encoding</u>
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fun return	call to λ
iteration	call to λ
sequencing	call to λ
conditional	call to λ

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fun call	call to λ
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iteration	call to λ
sequencing	call to λ
conditional	call to λ
exception	call to λ
continuation	call to λ

CPS Payoff

CPS is universal representation of control & env.

<u>Construct</u>	<u>encoding</u>
fun call	call to λ
fun return	call to λ
iteration	call to λ
sequencing	call to λ
conditional	call to λ
exception	call to λ
continuation	call to λ
coroutine switch	call to λ
⋮	⋮

Writing transducers with `put` and `get`

```
(define (send-fives)
  (put 5)
  (send-fives))
```

Writing transducers with `put` and `get`

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(define (send-fives)
  (put 5)
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```
(define (doubler)
  (put (* 2 (get))))
(doubler))
```


Writing transducers with put and get

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(define (send-fives)
  (put 5)
  (send-fives))
```

```
(define (doubler)
  (put (* 2 (get)))
  (doubler))
```


```
(define (integ sum)
  (let ((next-sum (+ sum (get))))
    (put next-sum)
    (integ next-sum)))
```

Tool: 3CPS & transducer pipelines

fxkud

Tool: 3CPS & transducer pipelines

fxkud



ExpCont: rest
of this stage's
computation

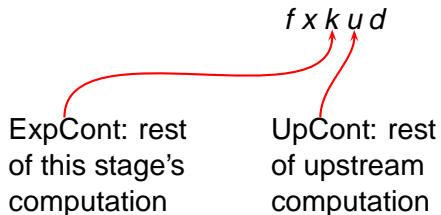
Semantic domains / Types

$x \in \text{Value}$

$k \in \text{ExpCont} = \text{Value} \rightarrow \text{UpCont} \rightarrow \text{DownCont} \rightarrow \text{Ans}$

(a transducer)

Tool: 3CPS & transducer pipelines



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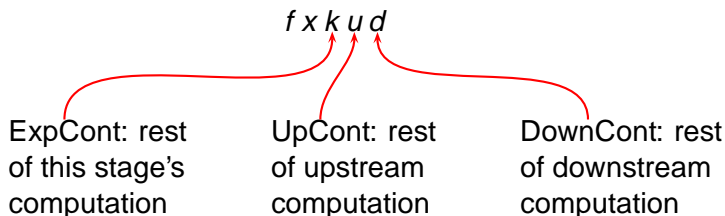
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$c \in \text{CmdCont} = \text{UpCont} \rightarrow \text{DownCont} \rightarrow \text{Ans}$ (a transducer)

Transducers in 3CPS

Get & put in 3CPS

get $x k u d =$

put $x k u d =$

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Transducers in 3CPS

Get & put in 3CPS

$$\begin{aligned} \text{get } x \ k \ u \ d &= u (\quad \quad \quad) \\ \text{put } x \ k \ u \ d &= \end{aligned}$$

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Transducers in 3CPS

Get & put in 3CPS

$$\begin{aligned} \text{get } x \ k \ u \ d &= u (\lambda x' \ u' . \quad \quad \quad) \\ \text{put } x \ k \ u \ d &= \end{aligned}$$

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Transducers in 3CPS

Get & put in 3CPS

get $x k u d = u (\lambda x' u' . k x' u' d)$

put $x k u d =$

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Get & put in 3CPS

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Transducers in 3CPS

Get & put in 3CPS

$$\text{get } x \ k \ u \ d = u \ (\lambda x' \ u' . k \ x' \ u' \ d)$$
$$\text{put } x \ k \ u \ d = d \ x \ (\lambda d' . k \ \text{unit} \quad)$$

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Transducers in 3CPS

Get & put in 3CPS

get $x k u d = u (\lambda x' u' . k x' u' d)$

put $x k u d = d x (\lambda d' . k \text{unit } u d')$

Semantic domains / Types

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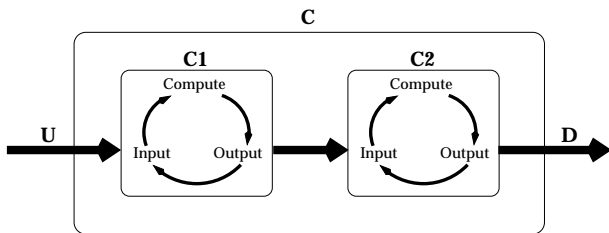
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Composing transducers in 3CPS



compose/pull c_1 c_2

Semantic domains / Types

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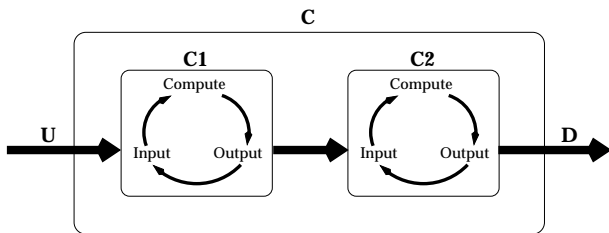
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Composing transducers in 3CPS



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Semantic domains / Types

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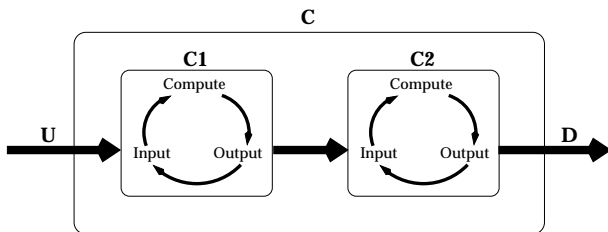
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Composing transducers in 3CPS



compose/pull $c_1 c_2 = \lambda u d . c_2$

Semantic domains / Types

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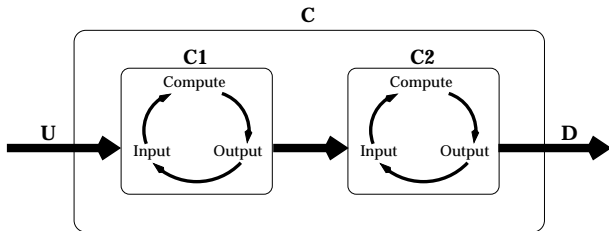
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Composing transducers in 3CPS



compose/pull $c_1 c_2 = \lambda u d . c_2 (\lambda d' . \quad) d$

Semantic domains / Types

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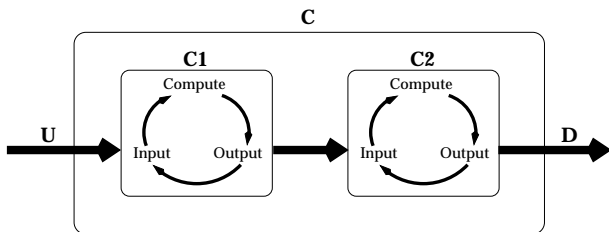
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Composing transducers in 3CPS



$$\text{compose/pull } c_1 c_2 = \lambda u d . c_2 (\lambda d' . c_1 \quad) d$$

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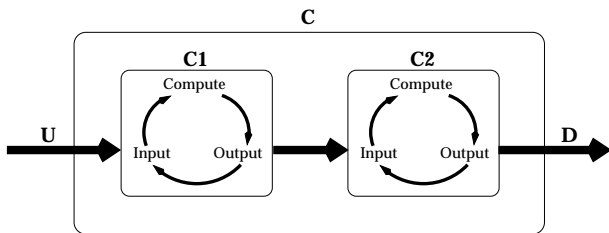
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Composing transducers in 3CPS



$$\text{compose/pull } c_1 c_2 = \lambda u d . c_2 (\lambda d' . c_1 u \) d$$

Semantic domains / Types

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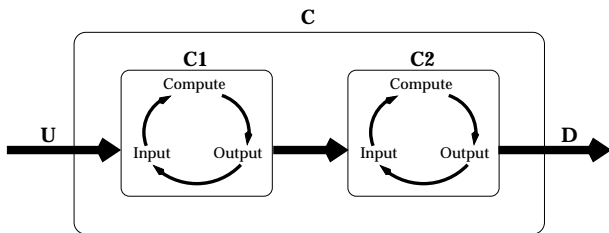
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Composing transducers in 3CPS



$$\text{compose/pull } c_1 c_2 = \lambda u d . c_2 (\lambda d' . c_1 u d') d$$

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Transducer data/control flow in 3CPS

$$\text{get } x \ k \ u \ d = u (\lambda x \ u' . k \ x \ u' \ d)$$

$$\text{put } x \ k \ u \ d = d \ x (\lambda d' . k \ \text{unit} \ u \ d)$$

$$\text{compose/pull } c_1 \ c_2 = \lambda u \ d . c_2 (\lambda d' . c_1 \ u \ d') \ d$$

Transducer data/control flow in 3CPS

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$$\text{compose/pull } c_1 \ c_2 = \lambda u \ d . c_2 (\lambda d' . c_1 \ u \ d') \ d$$

All the “plumbing” made explicit
in three short equations.

A toy example

```
(λ () ; Put-5
  (letrec ((lp1 (λ () (put 5) (lp1))))
    (lp1)))
```

```
(λ () ; Doubler
  (letrec ((lp2 (λ ()
                  (put (* 2 (get)))
                  (lp2))))
    (lp2)))
```

After CPS conversion

```
(λ (k1 u1 d1) ; Put-5
  (letrec ((lp1 (λ (k1a u1a d1a)
                  (d1a 5 (λ (d1b) (lp1 k1a u1a d1b))))))
    (lp1 k1 u1 d1)))

(λ (k2 u2 d2) ; Doubler
  (letrec ((lp2 (λ (k2a u2a d2a)
                  (u2a (λ (x u2b)
                        (d2a (* 2 x)
                              (λ (d2b)
                                (lp2 k2a u2b d2b))))))))))
    (lp2 k2 u2 d2)))
```

(compose/pull put-5 doubler)

```
((λ (c1 c2) ; Compose/pull
  (λ (k u d) (c2 k (λ (d') (c1 k u d')) d)))
 (λ (k1 u1 d1) ; Put-5
  (letrec ((lp1 (λ (k1a u1a d1a)
                  (d1a 5 (λ (d1b) (lp1 k1a u1a d1b))))))
    (lp1 k1 u1 d1)))
 (λ (k2 u2 d2) ; Doubler
  (letrec ((lp2 (λ (k2a u2a d2a)
                  (u2a (λ (x u2b)
                        (d2a (* 2 x)
                              (λ (d2b)
                                (lp2 k2a u2b d2b))))))))))
  (lp2 k2 u2 d2))))
```

(compose/pull put-5 doubler)

```
((λ (c1 c2) ; Compose/pull
  (λ (k u d) (c2 k (λ (d') (c1 k u d')) d)))
 (λ (k1 u1 d1) ; Put-5
  (letrec ((lp1 (λ (k1a u1a d1a)
                  (d1a 5 (λ (d1b) (lp1 k1a u1a d1b))))))
    (lp1 k1 u1 d1)))
 (λ (k2 u2 d2) ; Doubler
  (letrec ((lp2 (λ (k2a u2a d2a)
                  (u2a (λ (x u2b)
                        (d2a (* 2 x)
                              (λ (d2b)
                                (lp2 k2a u2b d2b))))))))))
  (lp2 k2 u2 d2))))
```

Eliminate useless variables (1991)

```
(compose/pull put-5 doubler)
```

```
((λ (c1 c2) ; Compose/pull
  (λ (k u d) (c2 (λ (d') (c1 d')) d)))
 (λ (d1) ; Put-5
  (letrec ((lp1 (λ (d1a)
                  (d1a 5 (λ (d1b) (lp1 d1b))))))
    (lp1 d1)))
 (λ (u2 d2) ; Doubler
  (letrec ((lp2 (λ (u2a d2a)
                  (u2a (λ (x u2b)
                        (d2a (* 2 x)
                              (λ (d2b)
                                (lp2 u2b d2b))))))))))
  (lp2 u2 d2))))
```

(compose/pull put-5 doubler)

```
((λ (c1 c2) ; Compose/pull
  (λ (k u d) (c2 (λ (d') (c1 d')) d)))
 (λ (d1) ; Put-5
  (letrec ((lp1 (λ (d1a)
                  (d1a 5 (λ (d1b) (lp1 d1b))))))
    (lp1 d1)))
 (λ (u2 d2) ; Doubler
  (letrec ((lp2 (λ (u2a d2a)
                  (u2a (λ (x u2b)
                        (d2a (* 2 x)
                              (λ (d2b)
                                (lp2 u2b d2b))))))))))
    (lp2 u2 d2))))
```

η -reduce (1935)

(compose/pull put-5 doubler)

```
((λ (c1 c2) ; Compose/pull
  (λ (k u d) (c2 c1 d)))
 (λ (d1) ; Put-5
  (letrec ((lp1 (λ (d1a)
                  (d1a 5 lp1))))
    (lp1 d1)))
 (λ (u2 d2) ; Doubler
  (letrec ((lp2 (λ (u2a d2a)
                  (u2a (λ (x u2b)
                        (d2a (* 2 x)
                              (λ (d2b)
                                (lp2 u2b d2b))))))))
    (lp2 u2 d2))))
```


(compose/pull put-5 doubler)

```
((λ (c1 c2) ; Compose/pull
  (λ (k u d) (c2 c1 d)))
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  (letrec ((lp1 (λ (d1a)
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 (λ (u2 d2) ; Doubler
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                  (u2a (λ (x u2b)
                        (d2a (* 2 x)
                              (λ (d2b)
                                (lp2 u2b d2b))))))))
    (lp2 u2 d2))))
```

β-reduce whole thing (1935)

```
(compose/pull put-5 doubler)
```

```
(λ (k u d)
  ((λ (u2 d2)
    ; Doubler
    (letrec ((lp2 (λ (u2a d2a)
      (u2a (λ (x u2b)
        (d2a (* 2 x)
          (λ (d2b)
            (lp2 u2b d2b))))))))
      (lp2 u2 d2)))
  (λ (d1)
    ; Put-5
    (letrec ((lp1 (λ (d1a) (d1a 5 lp1))))
      (lp1 d1)))
  d))
```

(compose/pull put-5 doubler)

```
(λ (k u d)
  ((λ (u2 d2)
     (letrec ((lp2 (λ (u2a d2a)
                    (u2a (λ (x u2b)
                          (d2a (* 2 x)
                                (λ (d2b)
                                  (lp2 u2b d2b))))))))
      (lp2 u2 d2)))
   ; Doubler
   (λ (d1)
     (letrec ((lp1 (λ (d1a) (d1a 5 lp1))))
       (lp1 d1)))
   ; Put-5
  d))
```

β again (1935)

```
(compose/pull put-5 doubler)
```

```
(λ (k u d)
  (letrec ((lp2 (λ (u2a d2a)
                 (u2a (λ (x u2b)
                       (d2a (* 2 x)
                             (λ (d2b)
                               (lp2 u2b d2b))))))))))
  (lp2 (λ (d1) ; Put-5
        (letrec ((lp1 (λ (d1a) (d1a 5 lp1))))
          (lp1 d1)))
    d)))
```

(compose/pull put-5 doubler)

```
(λ (k u d)
  (letrec ((lp2 (λ (u2a d2a)
                 (u2a (λ (x u2b)
                       (d2a (* 2 x)
                             (λ (d2b)
                               (lp2 u2b d2b))))))))))
  (lp2 (λ (d1)
        ; Put-5
        (letrec ((lp1 (λ (d1a) (d1a 5 lp1))))
          (lp1 d1)))
    d)))
```

Hoist inner letrec. (1980's)

```
(compose/pull put-5 doubler)
```

```
(λ (k u d)
```

```
  (letrec ((lp2 (λ (u2a d2a)
```

```
    (u2a (λ (x u2b)
```

```
      (d2a (* 2 x)
```

```
        (λ (d2b)
```

```
          (lp2 u2b d2b))))))
```

```
    (lp1 (λ (d1a) (d1a 5 lp1))))
```

```
  (lp2 (λ (d1) (lp1 d1))
```

```
    d)))
```

(compose/pull put-5 doubler)

```
(λ (k u d)
  (letrec ((lp2 (λ (u2a d2a)
                 (u2a (λ (x u2b)
                       (d2a (* 2 x)
                             (λ (d2b)
                               (lp2 u2b d2b))))))))
    (lp1 (λ (d1a) (d1a 5 lp1))))
  (lp2 (λ (d1) (lp1 d1))
    d)))
```

η-reduce (1935)

```
(compose/pull put-5 doubler)
```

```
(λ (k u d)
```

```
  (letrec ((lp2 (λ (u2a d2a)
```

```
    (u2a (λ (x u2b)
```

```
      (d2a (* 2 x)
```

```
        (λ (d2b)
```

```
          (lp2 u2b d2b))))))
```

```
    (lp1 (λ (d1a) (d1a 5 lp1))))
```

```
  (lp2 lp1  
    d)))
```


(compose/pull put-5 doubler)

```
(λ (k u d)
  (letrec ((lp2 (λ (u2a d2a)
                 (u2a (λ (x u2b)
                       (d2a (* 2 x)
                             (λ (d2b)
                               (lp2 u2b d2b))))))))
    (lp1 (λ (d1a) (d1a 5 lp1))))
  (lp2 lp1
    d)))
```

Super-β: $u2a = u2b = lp1$ (2006)

```
(compose/pull put-5 doubler)
```

```
(λ (k u d)
```

```
  (letrec ((lp2 (λ (u2a d2a)
```

```
    (lp1 (λ (x u2b)
```

```
      (d2a (* 2 x)
```

```
        (λ (d2b)
```

```
          (lp2 lp1 d2b))))))
```

```
    (lp1 (λ (d1a) (d1a 5 lp1))))
```

```
  (lp2 lp1 d)))
```

```
(compose/pull put-5 doubler)
```

```
(λ (k u d)
  (letrec ((lp2 (λ (u2a d2a)
                 (lp1 (λ (x u2b)
                       (d2a (* 2 x)
                            (λ (d2b)
                              (lp2 lp1 d2b))))))))
    (lp1 (λ (d1a) (d1a 5 lp1))))
  (lp2 lp1 d)))
```

Eliminate useless `u2a`, `u2b`.

```
(compose/pull put-5 doubler)
```

```
(λ (k u d)
```

```
  (letrec ((lp2 (λ (d2a)
```

```
    (lp1 (λ (x)
```

```
      (d2a (* 2 x)
```

```
        (λ (d2b)
```

```
          (lp2 d2b))))))
```

```
    (lp1 (λ (d1a) (d1a 5))))
```

```
  (lp2 d)))
```

```
(compose/pull put-5 doubler)
```

```
(λ (k u d)
  (letrec ((lp2 (λ (d2a)
                 (lp1 (λ (x)
                       (d2a (* 2 x)
                             (λ (d2b)
                               (lp2 d2b)))))))
           (lp1 (λ (d1a) (d1a 5))))
    (lp2 d)))
```

η -reduce. (1935)

```
(compose/pull put-5 doubler)
```

```
(λ (k u d)
  (letrec ((lp2 (λ (d2a)
                 (lp1 (λ (x)
                       (d2a (* 2 x) lp2))))))
    (lp1 (λ (d1a) (d1a 5))))
  (lp2 d)))
```

(compose/pull put-5 doubler)

```
(λ (k u d)
  (letrec ((lp2 (λ (d2a)
                  (lp1 (λ (x)
                        (d2a (* 2 x) lp2))))))
    (lp1 (λ (d1a) (d1a 5))))
  (lp2 d)))
```

Inline & β -reduce lp1 application. (1935)

```
(compose/pull put-5 doubler)
```

```
(λ (k u d)
```

```
  (letrec ((lp2 (λ (d2a)
```

```
    ((λ (d1a) (d1a 5))
```

```
     (λ (x) (d2a (* 2 x) lp2))))))
```

```
  (lp2 d)))
```


(compose/pull put-5 doubler)

```
(λ (k u d)
  (letrec ((lp2 (λ (d2a)
                  ((λ (d1a) (d1a 5))
                   (λ (x) (d2a (* 2 x) lp2))))))
    (lp2 d)))
```

Two more β steps. (1935)

```
(compose/pull put-5 doubler)
```

```
(λ (k u d)
```

```
  (letrec ((lp2 (λ (d2a)
```

```
                (d2a (* 2 5) lp2))))
```

```
    (lp2 d)))
```

Liftoff!

Issues

- ▶ Linear “pipeline” topology wired in. Can we generalise?
- ▶ Can it be typed?
- ▶ OK, it works “by hand.” Can it be *implemented*?

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Yes.

Channels in CPS

Explicit channels permit non-linear control/data-flow topologies.

Same optimisation story applies as in 3CPS case.

Types for functional coroutines

(α, β) Channel */* coroutine connection: send an α , get a β . */*

switch : $\alpha \times (\alpha, \beta)$ Channel $\rightarrow \beta \times (\alpha, \beta)$ Channel

```
datatype ( $\alpha, \beta$ ) Channel =  
  Chan of ( $\alpha * (\beta, \alpha)$  Channel) cont;
```

```
fun switch(x, Chan k) =  
  callcc (fn k' => throw k (x, Chan k'));
```

Details are in the paper.

Composing non-iterative computations

Some producers are truly recursive:

```
(define (gen-fringe tree chan)
  (if (leaf? tree)
      (put (leaf:val tree) chan)
      (let ((chan (gen-fringe (tree:left tree) chan)))
          (gen-fringe (tree:right tree) chan))))
```

What if we compose with summing consumer?

Composing non-iterative computations

Some producers are truly recursive:

```
(define (gen-fringe tree chan)
  (if (leaf? tree)
      (put (leaf:val tree) chan)
      (let ((chan (gen-fringe (tree:left tree) chan)))
          (gen-fringe (tree:right tree) chan))))
```

What if we compose with summing consumer?

Prototype compiler produces recursive, tree-walk summation.

Experience

- ▶ Built prototype compiler for toy dialect of Scheme.
 - ▶ Direct-style front end
 - ▶ Includes `call/cc`
 - ▶ Standard optimisations (β , η , ...)
 - ▶ Plus Δ CFA (POPL 2006), abstract GC, abstract counting (Γ CFA, ICFP 2006)
- ▶ Used for testing out Ph.D. analyses/optimisations
Nothing transducer/coroutine specific—just a machine for attacking CPS.
- ▶ Successfully fuses `put5/doubler`, integrators, (rendered with coroutines/channels)
- ▶ Limiting reagent: Super- β .

Related work

Transducer fusion

- ▶ Deforestation
- ▶ Haskell's fold/build, unfold/destroy, *etc.*
- ▶ Clu loop generators
- ▶ APL
- ▶ Filter fusion / Integrated layer processing

Final thoughts

- ▶ It's all about the representation.
 - ▶ λ as essential control/env/data-structure
 - ▶ CPS \Rightarrow Our *main* concern becomes our *only* concern.

Once in CPS, generic optimisations suffice.

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- ▶ Coroutines don't have to be heavyweight.
(λ , CPS & static analysis are answer to efficiency issues.)

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This generalises to exotic control structures.

- ▶ Coroutines are the neglected control structure.
- ▶ Coroutines don't have to be heavyweight.
(λ , CPS & static analysis are answer to efficiency issues.)
- ▶ Lots to do! (Stay tuned)
 - ▶ Full-blown SML compiler
 - ▶ TCP/IP (Foxnet)
 - ▶ DSP libs.

Thank you.