

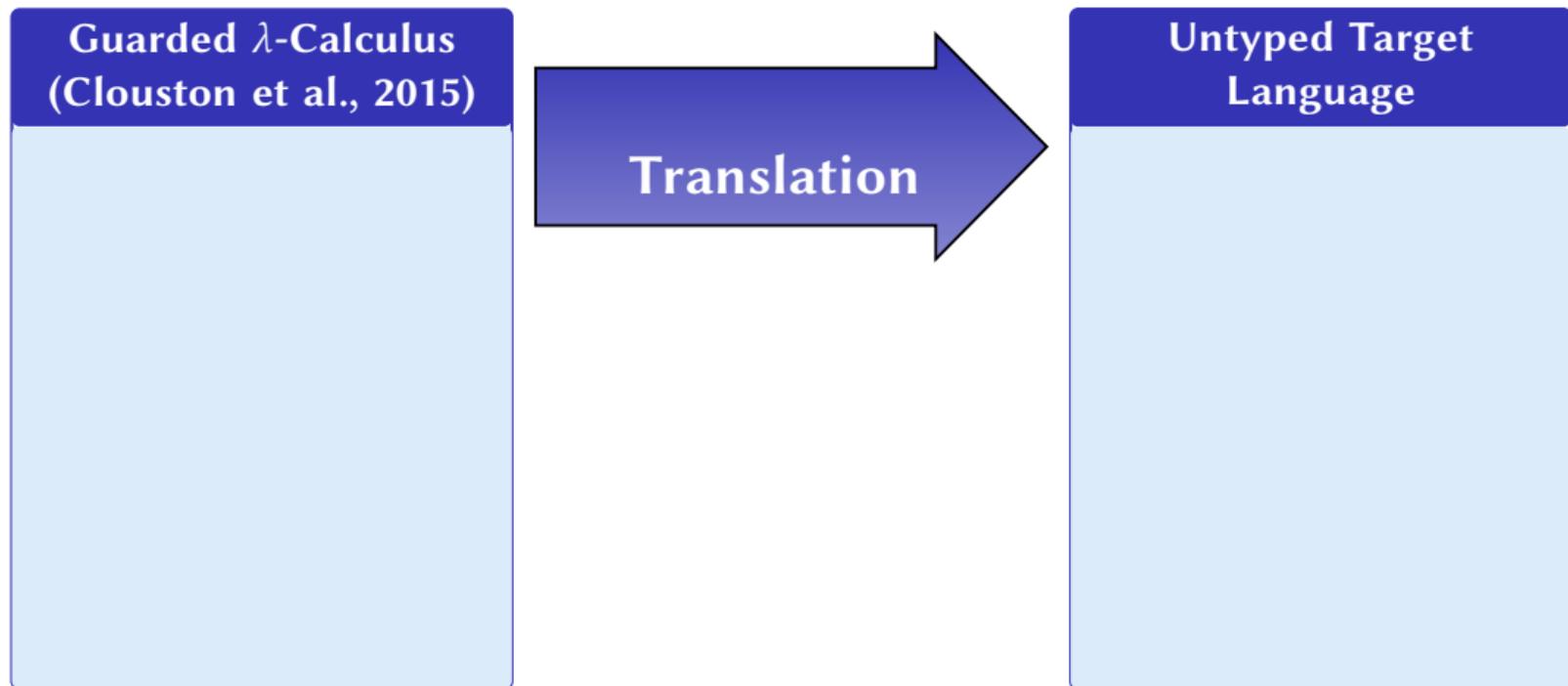
Verified Translation of Guarded Programs

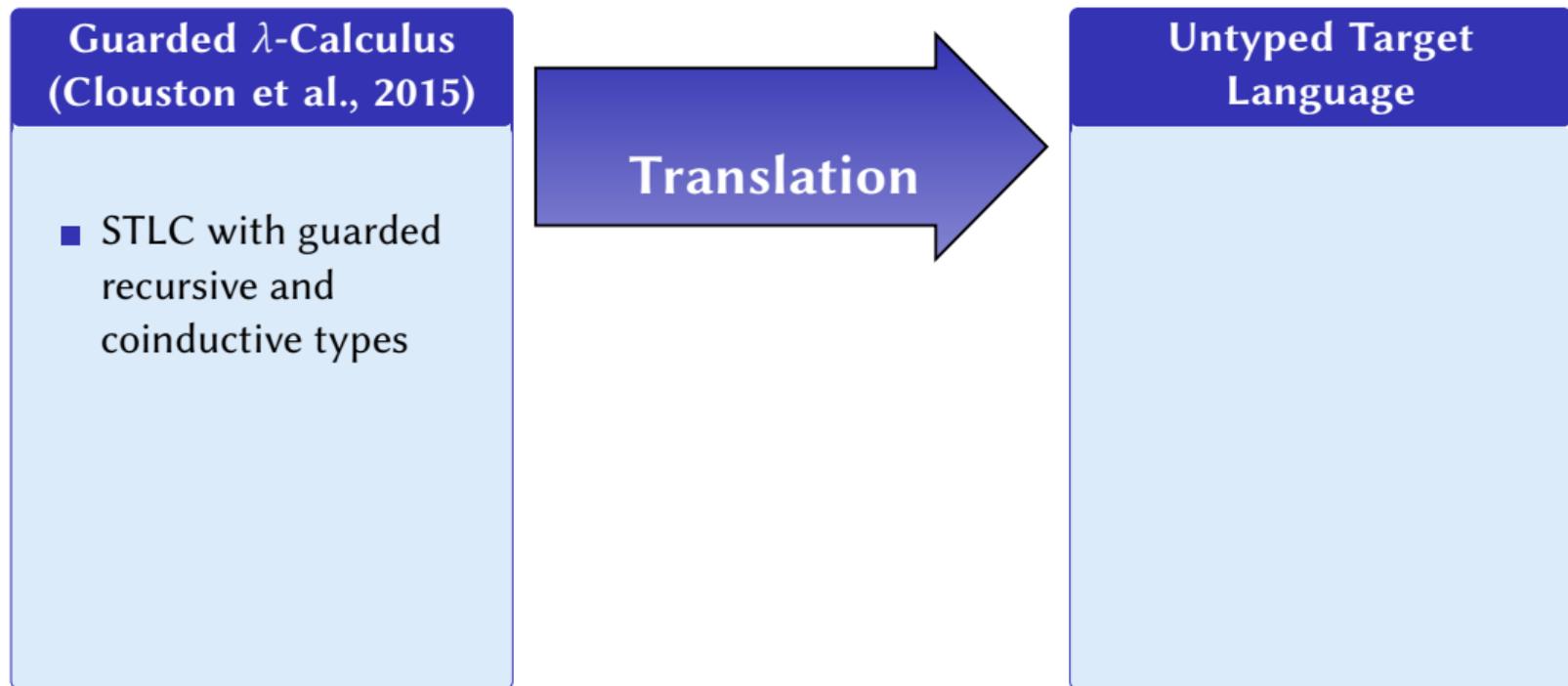
David Läwen, joint work with Robbert Krebbers and Bálint Kocsis

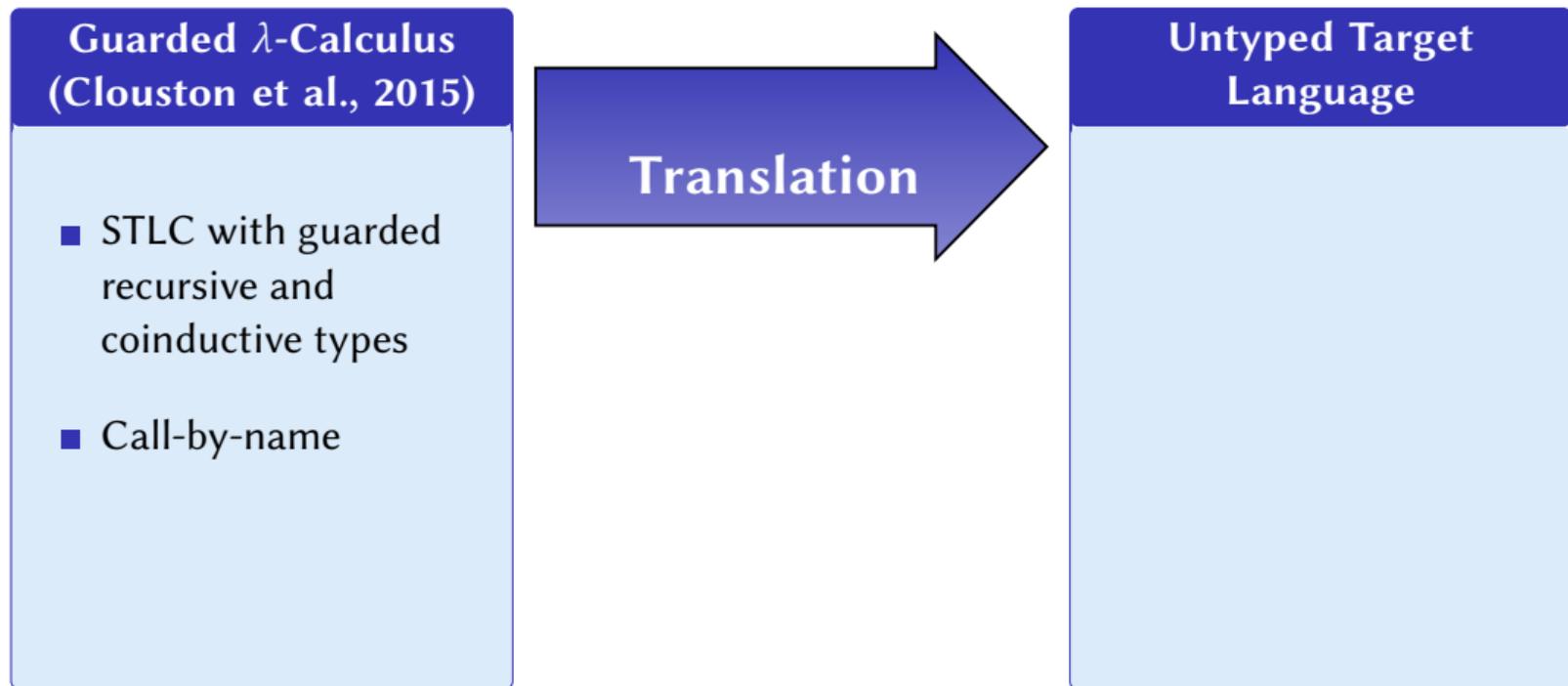
Radboud University

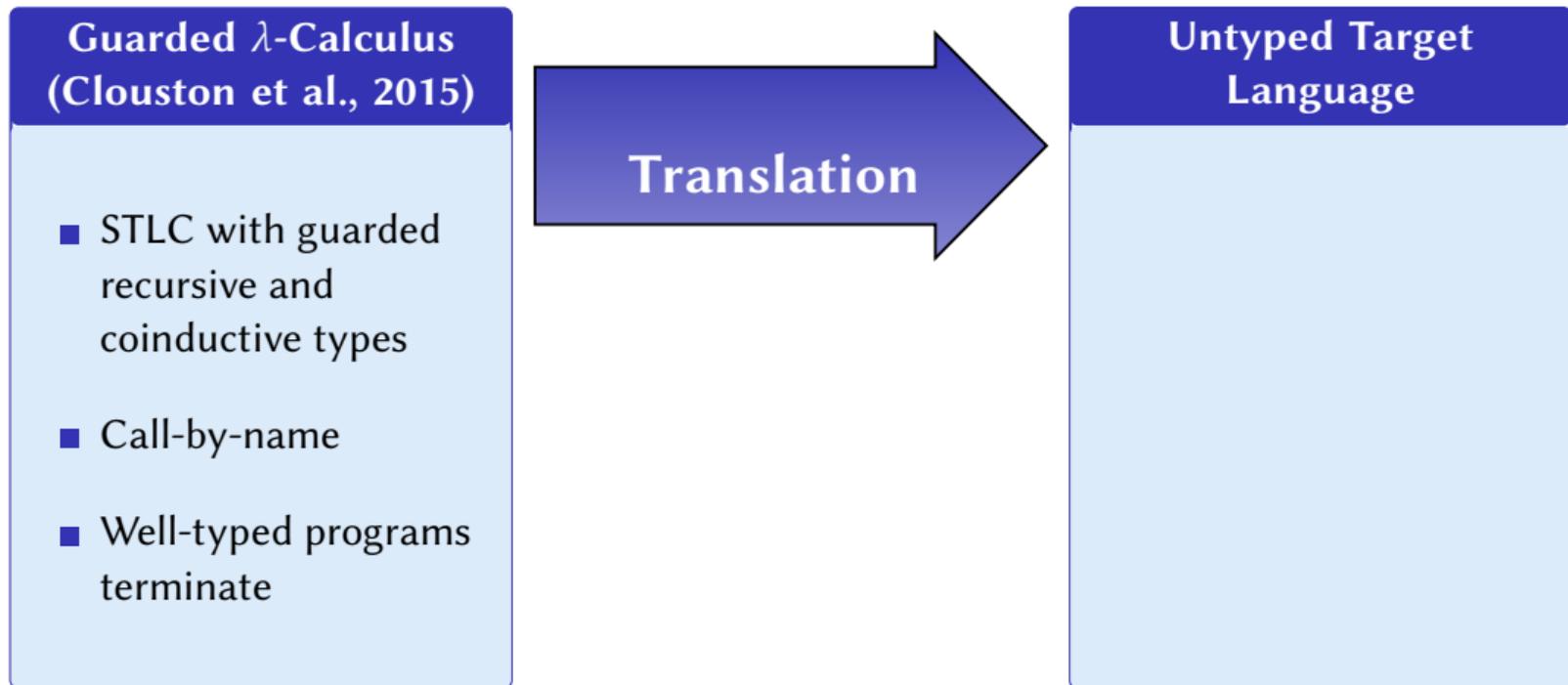
PLNL @ CWI Amsterdam, 28 November 2025

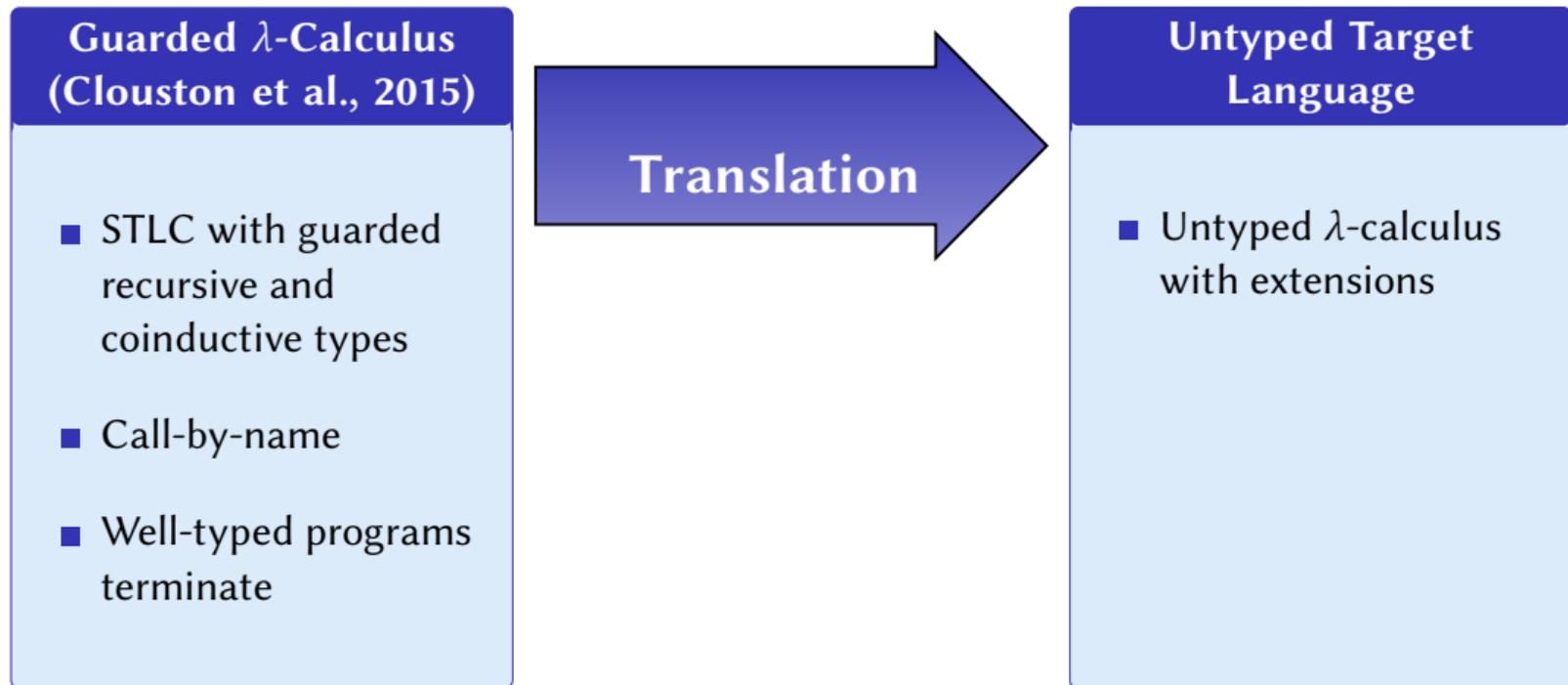
The Main Idea











Guarded λ -Calculus (Clouston et al., 2015)

- STLC with guarded recursive and coinductive types
- Call-by-name
- Well-typed programs terminate

Translation



Untyped Target Language

- Untyped λ -calculus with extensions
- Call-by-value

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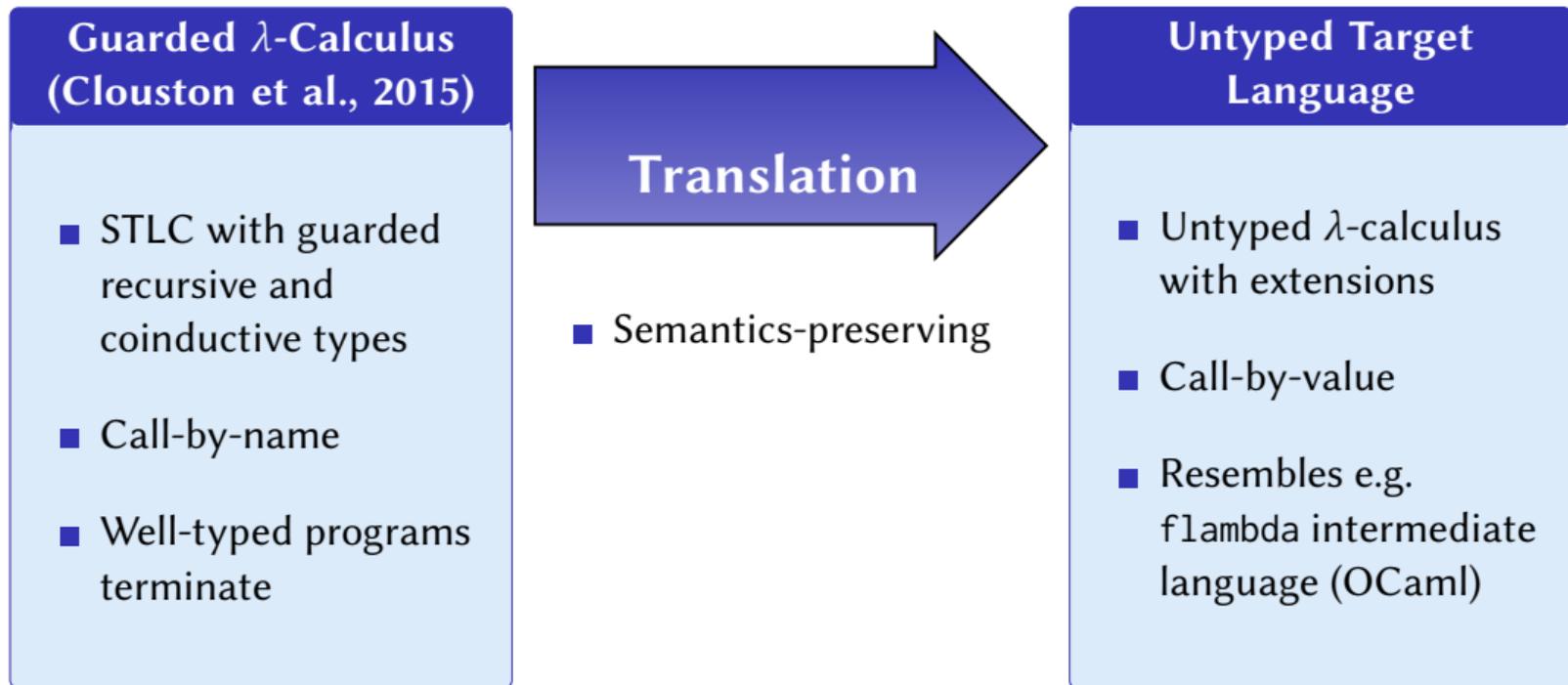
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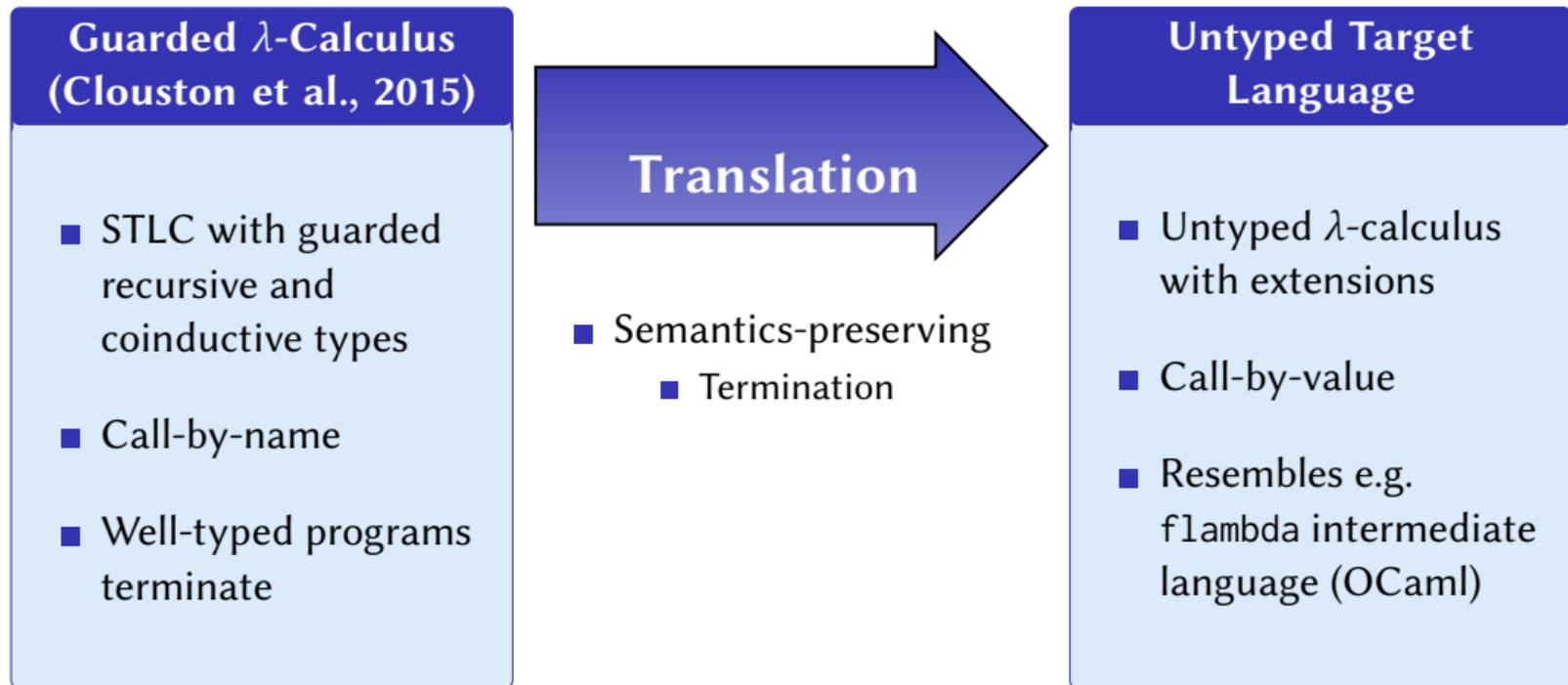
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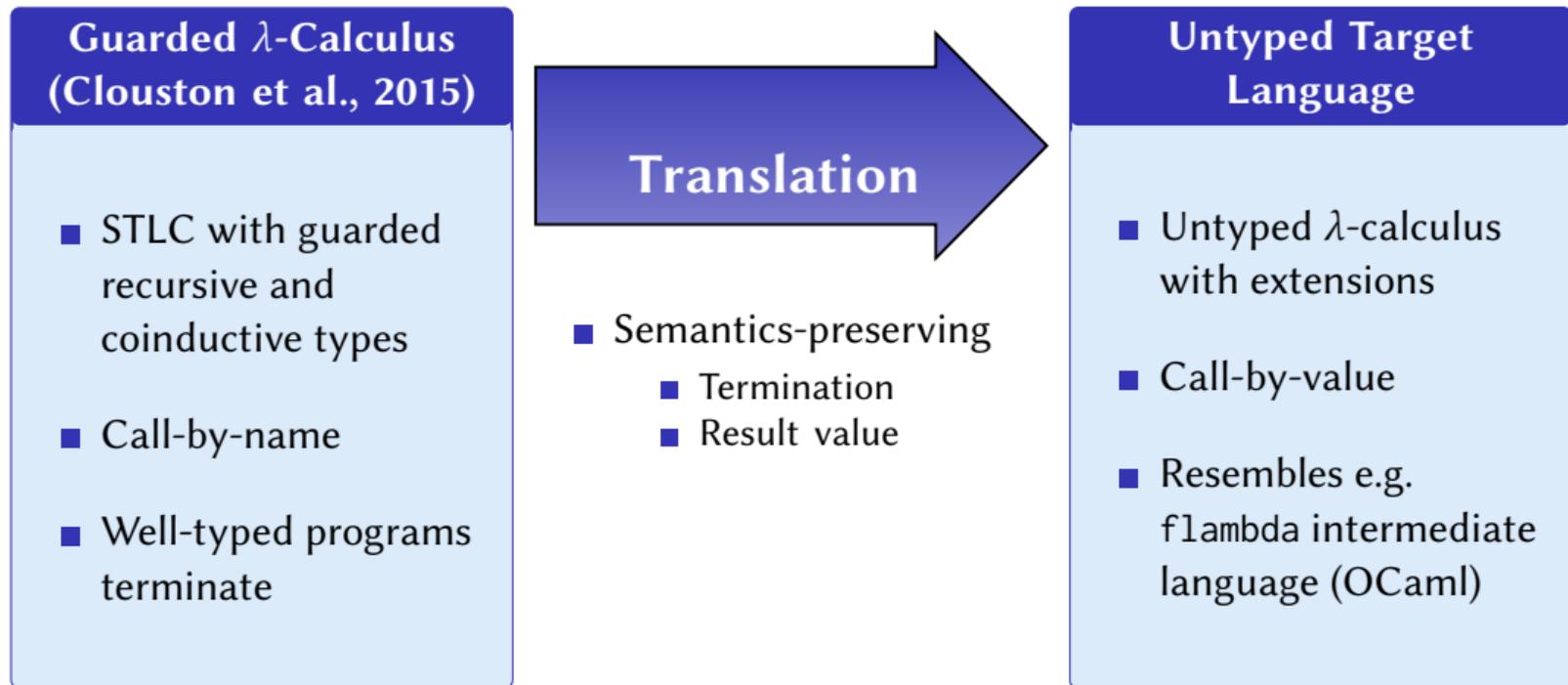


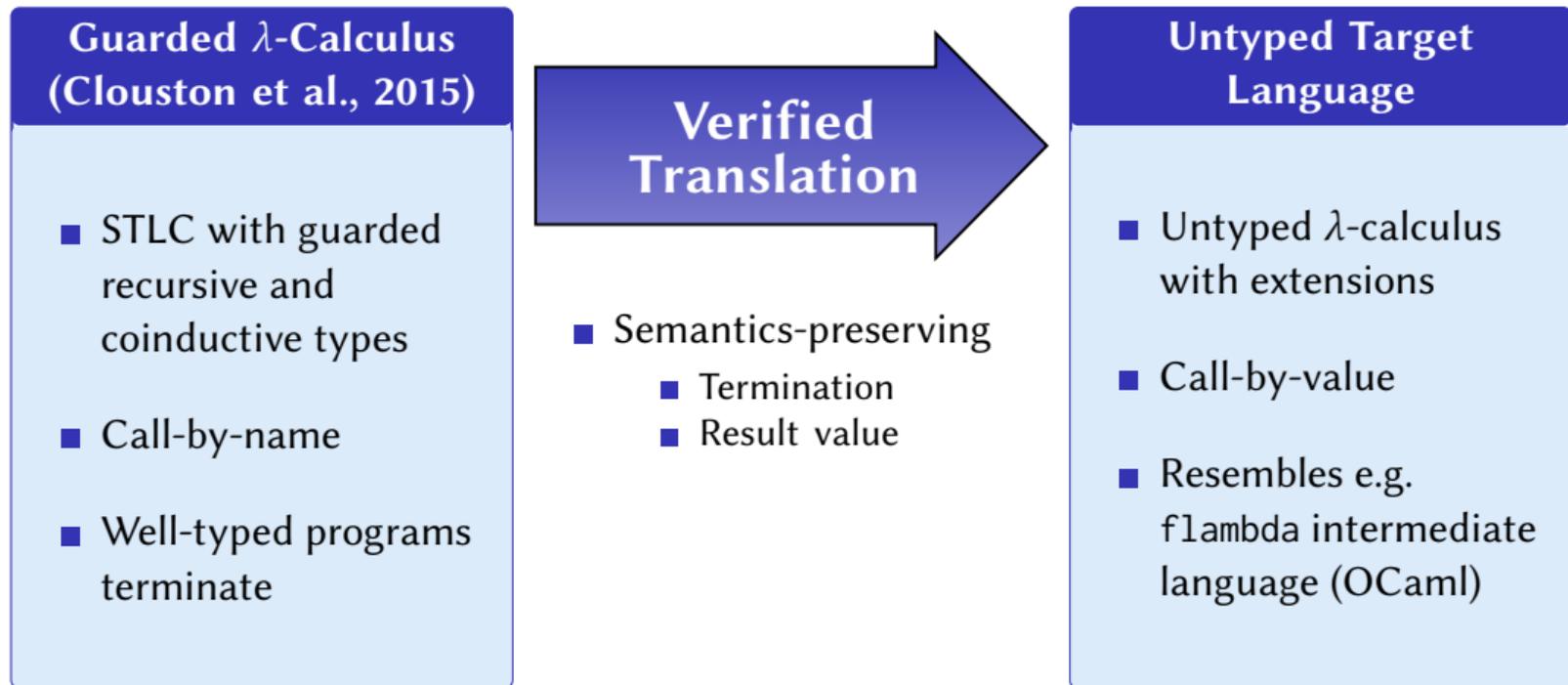
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Verified Translation



- Semantics-preserving
 - Termination
 - Result value
- Mechanised in Rocq using Iris framework

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The Guarded Lambda-Calculus

STLC with Unrestricted Recursive Types

STLC with iso-recursive types $\mu\alpha.\tau$, a.k.a. $\lambda\mu$ -calculus

fold : $\tau[\mu\alpha.\tau/\alpha] \rightarrow \mu\alpha.\tau$ unfold : $\mu\alpha.\tau \rightarrow \tau[\mu\alpha.\tau/\tau]$

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Problem: Type system accepts diverging programs!

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Idea: Restrict recursive types with new type modality ▶ ('later')

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Problem solved: Diverging programs are rejected.

New term syntax:

next : $\tau \rightarrow \blacktriangleright \tau$

\otimes : $\blacktriangleright (\tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2) \rightarrow \blacktriangleright \tau_1 \rightarrow \blacktriangleright \tau_2$

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Needed for more interesting examples:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{toggle} &\triangleq \text{fix}^{\text{g}} (\lambda s. 1 :: \text{next } (0 :: s)) && : \text{Str}^{\text{g}} \mathbf{N} \\ \text{interleave} &\triangleq \text{fix}^{\text{g}} (\lambda f s t. \text{hd } s :: (f \text{\textcircled{*}} t \text{\textcircled{*}} \text{next } (\text{tl } s))) && : \text{Str}^{\text{g}} \tau \rightarrow \blacktriangleright \text{Str}^{\text{g}} \tau \rightarrow \text{Str}^{\text{g}} \tau \end{aligned}$$

Guarded Term Formers

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Can we erase fold, unfold, next and \otimes while preserving program behaviour?

Translation & Correctness

Source and Target Language

Goal: Translate $ge \in GExp$ to some $ue \in UExp$

$$\begin{aligned} ge & ::= x \mid \lambda x. ge \mid ge \ ge \\ & \mid lit \ n \\ & \mid \langle ge, ge \rangle \mid \langle \rangle \\ & \mid proj_1 \ ge \mid proj_2 \ ge \\ & \mid inj_1 \ ge \mid inj_2 \ ge \\ & \mid case \ ge \ of \ x. ge; x. ge \\ & \mid fold \ ge \mid unfold \ ge \\ & \mid next \ ge \mid ge \otimes ge \end{aligned}$$
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$\llbracket - \rrbracket : GExp \rightarrow UExp$

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$\llbracket \text{lit } n \rrbracket \triangleq \text{lit } n$

$\llbracket \langle ge_1, ge_2 \rangle \rrbracket \triangleq \langle \llbracket ge_1 \rrbracket, \llbracket ge_2 \rrbracket \rangle$

$\llbracket \text{proj}_i ge \rrbracket \triangleq \text{proj}_i \llbracket ge \rrbracket$

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Translation to Untyped Target

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$$\langle \text{fold } ge \rangle \triangleq \langle ge \rangle$$

$$\langle \text{unfold } ge \rangle \triangleq \langle ge \rangle$$

$$\langle \text{next } ge \rangle \triangleq \text{delay } \langle ge \rangle$$

$$\langle ge_1 \otimes ge_2 \rangle \triangleq \text{delay } (\text{force } \langle ge_1 \rangle) (\text{force } \langle ge_2 \rangle)$$

$$\text{delay } ue \triangleq \lambda x. ue, x \notin FV(ue)$$

$$\text{force } ue \triangleq ue \langle \rangle$$

Correctness of Translation

Theorem (Correctness of $\llbracket - \rrbracket$)

Let $ge \in GExp$. If $\emptyset \vdash ge : \mathbf{N}$, we have that

$$ge \mapsto^* \text{lit } n \iff \llbracket ge \rrbracket \mapsto^* \text{lit } n.$$

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- Reasoning about \blacktriangleright with *abstract* step-indexing

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Novel/interesting aspects

- Reasoning about \blacktriangleright with *abstract* step-indexing
- Relating call-by-name to call-by-value

- Limitation: Source language cannot express *non-causal* functions, e.g.

$$\text{every2nd } (x :: x' :: xs) \triangleq x :: \text{every2nd } xs$$

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Future work:

- Extend source with polymorphism and existential types
- Support inductive types alongside guarded recursive types

-  Clouston, Ranald et al. (2015). ‘Programming and Reasoning with Guarded Recursion for Coinductive Types’. In: *FoSSaCS*. Vol. 9034. LNCS, pp. 407–421. DOI: [10.1007/978-3-662-46678-0_26](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-662-46678-0_26).
-  Nakano, Hiroshi (2000). ‘A Modality for Recursion’. In: *15th Annual IEEE Symposium on Logic in Computer Science*, pp. 255–266. DOI: [10.1109/LICS.2000.855774](https://doi.org/10.1109/LICS.2000.855774).