

1999 Paper 4 Question 4

Compiler Construction

It is commonly suggested that Algol-60 call-by-name can be modelled by passing a function as a call-by-value parameter. Show how a program containing a definition

```
int f(int x:name) { ... x ... x ... }
```

of f (where x occurs only in Rvalue context) and a call $f(e)$ to f can be replaced by an equivalent definition and call using only call-by-value. [6 marks]

Most such explanations assume that the uses of x within f occur only in Rvalue context. However, Algol-60 also permits the equivalent of

```
int g(int x:name) { if (p) { ... x := x+1; x := -x; ... }  
                  return x;  
                  }
```

and calls like $g(a[k()])$ which, when p is `true`, would have the effect of calling $k()$ five times and consequent access to five (possibly different) subscripts of array $a[]$. Develop your explanation for the first part of this question to cover also the case of a call-by-name parameter being used in both Lvalue and Rvalue contexts. [Hint: note that when p is `false` then the actual parameter to g need not be an Lvalue, so you may need two parameterless procedure arguments (“thunks”).] [8 marks]

Using the previous part or otherwise, give a translation of a definition and call $h(e)$ using call-by-value-result (Ada `in out` mode) with no uses of the address-of (`&`) operator other than those involved in call-by-name. Your explanation is allowed to deviate from call-by-value-result by allowing side-effects in e to take place twice. [6 marks]