



# BEYOND BHK

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*Beyond BHK*

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## Beyond BHK<sup>0</sup>

**0. Introduction. On a misleading tradition.** Traditionally, the “language” of the first-order classical logic has means of referring to “*individuals*” in some domain (so-called *univers du discours*) and means of expressing “facts” (or “*propositions*”) about them. The *proofs themselves* are handled in a *non-objectual* way. In particular, they are not codified syntactically. Some other kind of representation is implicitly involved in the so-called “proof theory”. Usually, the latter makes appeal to the *eye* (as opposed to the *mind!*), rendering any *theoretical approach to logic* debatable.<sup>1</sup> This policy, justified, now and then, by an essentially empiricist *metaphysics of vision* [paradigmatically: Wittgenstein, but also the early Kreisel] is common in the post-Fregean logic tradition. Among other things, it forbids subjects like “proof-semantics for classical logic”, for instance. On the same basis, it does not make too much sense to

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<sup>0</sup>“Extended abstract”. A reprint from: HENK BARENDREGT, MARC BEZEM & JAN WILLEM KLOP (eds.) **Dirk van Dalen Festschrift**, Utrecht 1993, pp. 114–120 [*Quaestiones Infinitae V – Publications of the Department of Philosophy, Utrecht University*] The full paper [“monograph”] is [likely] published elsewhere. Besides the obvious historical debts in matters of concern below, the author is, directly or indirectly, indebted to several persons, among whom (in, more or less, a *subjective* historical order): Corrado Böhm, Ernst Engeler, Dag Prawitz, Nuel D. Belnap Jr., Roger J. Hindley, Jon [= Jonathan P.] Seldin, Anne S. Troelstra, Henk [= Hendrik Pieter] Barendregt, Dirk van Dalen, David Meredith, Alonzo Church, Jeff [= Jeffrey] Zucker, Dick [= Nicolaas G.] de Bruijn, Bert [= L. S.] van Benthem Jutting, Diederik [= D. T.] van Daalen, Rob [= R. L.] Nederpelt, Peter [= P. A. G.] Aczel, Per Martin-Löf, Martin [= Marteen] Bunder, Bob [= Robert K.] Meyer, Matthias Felleisen, and – [very] last[ly], but not least – Jean-Yves Girard.

<sup>1</sup>As understood here, logic is a *theory about proofs*, codifying, basically, our intuitions on *inference* and *generality*.



look for *theoretical criteria of proof-identity*, beyond obvious isomorphisms that can be established on “proof-figures”, “proof-trees” or some other *ad hoc* organization of the visual representation space.

The [Frege]-Hilbert-Gentzen proof-theoretic tradition is, in fact, almost exclusively concerned with *provability*.<sup>2</sup> As useful as it might have been on a pure epistemological level (as opposing various metaphysical, psychological, or linguistic views on the “nature of proving”, for instance), the “positive” investigation of the combinatorial properties of formula-configurations and the resulting discipline (the “metamathematics”, as understood in the Hilbert school) remained parochial enterprises: *proof-structures* and *proof-properties* were thereby ignored programatically.<sup>3</sup>

There is room for a *mathematically specific* way of thinking about proofs, however, going beyond the elementary tree-mathematics. We are – surprisingly, indeed – able

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<sup>2</sup>This is a property of *formulas* (or, if one prefers, one of *propositions*), not a *proof-property*. Needless to say that model-theorists have been significantly more successful, so far, in extracting mathematically specific information on this matter.

<sup>3</sup>For the historian, the picture is somewhat more complex, since, as early as in 1904 [at the Third Int. Math. Congress], building upon his previous experience in axiomatics [for geometry], Hilbert can be seen to adopt, methodologically, an *amalgamating standpoint* in metamathematical research, advocating explicitly the need for a “*partially simultaneous development of the laws of logic and arithmetic*” [read: “*analysis*”]. As a side-effect, the new discipline comes to be confused, from the very beginning, about [the nature of] *logic* and/or its *specifics*, as contrasted with bare “mathematical” topics. (Although the factual pre-history of the so-called “Hilbert program” has been studied recently in detail [cf. Volker Peckhaus: Ph D Diss., Erlangen-Nürnberg 1990], the wide implications of this “*completely new aspect*” of Hilbert’s thought – as Paul Bernays used still to think of it, in the early thirties – for the contemporary logic and proof-theory deserved little attention so far.)



to *recognize* and *identify* proofs on *pure theoretical* grounds. But the objects we are looking for, their structure and formal behavior, are to be properly located, at a higher “level of abstraction”, so to speak.

The notes summarized here are meant to suggest a possible way of revising the traditional [= post- $\{\text{Frege, Hilbert, Gentzen}\}$ ] picture of the facts.<sup>4</sup>

1. *Categories of objects. Logics as equational proof-theories.* Beside individual terms and formulas, we construct first-order formal systems (“languages”) with an additional “syntactic” category: the *proof-terms*. The intended meaning of a proof-formalism is given by the *propositions-as-types* isomorphism [H. B. Curry, C. A. Meredith,

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<sup>4</sup>The somewhat older idea of a “general proof-theory” [D. Prawitz] won’t perfectly cover the outcome, because the enterprise is – *prima facie*, at least – not a *philosophical* one. Actually, in recent times, some philosophers used to discuss closely related matters under the somewhat misleading rubric “meaning theory (for the logical operations)”, thought of as a part of the *philosophy of language*. Still, the “linguistic” import of these topics is rather minimal, and Brouwer was right, in a sense, to fight against and discard this old – bi-millennial, in fact – illusion. Since, in view of the Hilbert tradition, the term “proof theory” [“reductive” sense] looks rather compromised by now (*pace* Kreisel), this area of investigation – making up, in a sense, “the core of logic”, *qua* mathematical theory of proofs – appears to be in need for a right label. Our obvious *ideological* debts go back to L. E. J. Brouwer, A. Heyting and A. N. Kolmogorov (whence “**BHK**”). *Technically*, we improve on the pioneering work of Dag Prawitz [Ph D Diss., University of Stockholm 1965], exploiting also – among other things – deep intuitions of V. I. Glivenko (1928-1929) on the *nature of proving* in classical logic [*sic*] (whence, somehow, “beyond”). The “elementary” part of the discussion – as seen from the point of view of the worker in (typed)  $\lambda$ -calculus – appears in a forthcoming monograph of the author, on *the equational theory of classical proofs*. A larger body of facts (to be catalogued under the “right label” we are still looking for) will be surveyed next.



H. Läuchli, D. S. Scott, W. A. Howard, etc.]: the propositions are the “types” of proofs (*proof-classifiers*).

A *category of objects* is (analogous to) a constructive set (*à la* Errett W. Bishop or Per Martin-Löf). In intuitionistic/constructive mathematics, the proofs (traditionally: “derivations”) make up a category of *abstract* objects. In this sense, understanding proofs would require

1° (generic) means to refer to *arbitrary objects* of the category (*proof-variables, proof-terms*) and

2° *identity-criteria* for these objects.

The proofs of a first-order logic  $L$  (containing the so-called “positive” implication) can be described *via* an equational theory  $\lambda(L)$ , viz. a typed [= “stratified”]  $\lambda$ -calculus, extending the ordinary typed  $\lambda$ -calculus  $\lambda^\tau$ . So far, this procedure has been known to apply only to the first-order intuitionistic logic **HQ** and some derivatives, as obtained by adding, e.g., [propositional] quantifiers to the propositional fragment of **HQ** or higher-order classifiers (“universes”). As applied to **HQ**, this is the essence of the so-called “**BHK**”-interpretation [“**Brouwer-Heyting-Kolmogorov**”] of the intuitionistic proof-operations [cf., e.g., A. S. Troelstra & D. van Dalen **Constructivism in Mathematics**, Amsterdam 1988]. We can extend this technique “beyond **BHK**”, to classical first-order logic **CQ**, modal logics contained in Lewis’ [first-order] **S5**, various intensional logics sharing genuinely classical [= “non-intuitionistic”] features, etc. [see footnote 4, above].



2. Which proofs are “reliable” within the classical proof-world? Here, we examine the equational proof-theory of the first-order intuitionistic logic [“the Heyting calculus”] as a subsystem of classical proofs.

In other words, we ask rather, in “positive” terms: *what is a “reliable” proof [for Brouwer and Heyting, Dutch: betrouwbaar], within the classical proof-world?* Obviously, the extant (classical, non-intuitionistic, post-Gentzen) tradition in proof-theory (*Beweistheorie*) has no means to answer this type of question. (In fact, the question cannot be even formulated properly.)

For an intuitionist, a *proof* is an (abstract) *object* (of thought), occurring naturally in the current (mathematical) practice, as a result of a *systematic reflection* on this practice. As expected, intuitionistically, a *proof-theory* is a piece of (intuitionistic) mathematics.

Putting aside the reputedly obscure ideological talk on “reliable” [read: “intuitionistic”] proofs as “*constructions*” in Brouwer, this view can be, *mutatis mutandis*, accommodated to the full proof-realm [of classical logic]: we can take it, indeed, as a *methodological guide* in the reconstruction of [classical] logic [= proof-theory, in some sense] as such.

3. [Classical] *reductio ad absurdum* as an abstraction operator. For the first-order classical logic **CQ** or its extensions, the required additions – to some background knowledge of typed  $\lambda$ -calculus – presuppose the fact that [1°] we are able to define, e.g., a proof-operator [an abstractor, say, i.e., a *proof*-variable binding mechanism], recording the genuinely Boolean uses of *reductio ad absurdum* and that [2°] we can describe its equational behavior. (There is a *combinatory* alternative to this, less



transparent, however.)

This operator points out to a new abstraction operation (here: the  $\gamma$ -abstraction): intuitively, it allows to conclude “positively” to the fact that a proposition expressed by a formula  $A$  has a proof  $[\gamma x:\neg A.e[x]]$ , say] from the fact that a proof  $[e[x]]$  of a contradiction  $\perp [= \textit{falsum}, \textit{absurdum}]$  has been obtained from the [“negative”] assumption that there is an arbitrary proof  $[x]$  of  $\neg A$ . (Everywhere here, negation  $\neg$  is supposed to be understood inferentially  $[\neg A \equiv_{df} A \rightarrow \perp]$ .)

The general concept disclosed is that of a [typed]  $\lambda\gamma$ -theory [= Post-consistent extension of  $\lambda\tau$ ]. In particular, the proof-theory of the first-order classical logic  $\mathbf{CQ}$  can be formulated as a typed  $\lambda$ -calculus  $\lambda(\mathbf{CQ})$ .

We build on a typed  $\lambda$ -calculus  $\lambda\pi!$ , which is familiar from the *Automath* literature and Martin-Löf’s type-theory: beside the usual typed abstractions and applications,  $\lambda\pi!$  has *type-products* [represented by conjunctions] with an *extensional pairing* [“surjective pairing”] and is augmented by first-order abstractors and applications associated to *first-order products of families of types* [represented by universal quantifications]. In fact,  $\lambda\pi!$  is, more or less, the “pure” part of an *Automath*-system, proposed by Jeffrey Zucker in 1975. Proof-theoretically, it describes also the proof-behavior of the  $[\perp, \rightarrow, \wedge, \forall]$ -fragment of Johansson’s *Minimalkalkül*. The (typed) calculus  $\lambda\pi!$  is known to be Post-consistent [*qua* equational theory].

**4.  $\lambda\gamma_{(0,\&)}\mathbf{CQ}$ : the [“actualistic”] proof-theory of first-order classical logic.** The most economical formulation for a  $\lambda(\mathbf{CQ})$ -theory is likely a calculus  $\lambda\gamma_0\mathbf{CQ}$ , which extends properly  $\lambda\pi!$ , by primitive  $\gamma$ -abstractions  $\gamma x:\neg A.e[x]$ , where  $A$  is *atomic* (“prime”), subjected to the obvious proof-term *stratification rule*:

$$(\rightarrow i\gamma): \Gamma[x:\neg A] \vdash e[x] : \perp \Rightarrow \Gamma \vdash \gamma x:\neg A.e[x] : A,$$

for any assumption-set  $\Gamma$ , and – ignoring  $\gamma$ -congruence – only two equational postulates, stating, resp.

$[\eta \rightarrow \gamma]$ :  $\gamma$ -*extensionality*, i.e., unicity of the  $\gamma$ -behavior relative to the usual typed applications [= uses of *modus ponens*], [formally, assuming stratifiability on both sides, one has a reversal of the usual  $\eta$ -rule:

$\gamma x:\neg A.x(f) = f$ , provided  $f$  does not depend on  $x$ ], and

$[\oint \gamma]$ :  $\gamma$ -*diagonalization*, allowing to eliminate specific uses of *reductio ad absurdum* occurring within the scope of [“inside”] a proof by *reductio* “of the same type”, so to speak. [Assuming stratifiability on both sides, this reads, formally:

$$\gamma x:\neg A.f[x](x(\gamma y:\neg A.e[x,y])) = \gamma z:\neg A.f[z](e[z,z]),$$

where the proof-term  $e[z,z]$  is obtained from  $e[x,y]$  by identifying the displayed proof-variables [ $x \equiv y \equiv z$ ]. Intuitively, a proof represented by a proof-term of the form

$$\gamma x:\neg A.f[x](x(\gamma y:\neg A.e[x,y]))$$

has, indeed, the character of a slightly sophisticated “proof-détour”, since  $\gamma$  plays, classically, the rôle of an “introduction” rule, rather than that of an “elimination”. However, the “*introduction-elimination*” dichotomy applies properly only to *Minimal-kalkül*-like systems of rules/proof-operators.]

Note that  $A$  is supposed to be “prime”, in both  $[\eta \rightarrow \gamma]$  and  $[\oint \gamma]$ .<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>For readers familiar with the proof-system of the Heyting first-order logic, the  $\gamma$ -diagonalization postulate must be also reminiscent of the Heyting “commuting conversions”. Indeed, the “selectors”



The “complex” uses of *reductio* [ $\gamma$ -abstractions  $\gamma x:\neg A.e[[x]]$ , where  $A \equiv \perp$  or a complex formula] can be then introduced by an *inductive definition*.

The full theory  $\lambda\gamma\&\mathbf{CQ}$ , obtained by using arbitrary typed  $\gamma$ -terms as primitives, and by replacing the inductive conditions ( $[\gamma\perp]$ ,  $[\gamma\rightarrow]$ ,  $[\gamma\wedge]$ ,  $[\gamma\forall]$ ) by obvious postulates is (stratification resp. equationally) equivalent to  $\lambda\gamma_0\mathbf{CQ}$ .<sup>6</sup>

We can show  $\mathbf{Cons}(\lambda\gamma_0\mathbf{CQ})$ , i.e., Post-consistency for  $\lambda\gamma_0\mathbf{CQ}$  [= proof consistency for first-order classical logic], by extending the kernel of the “negative” translation of V. I. Glivenko [*Acad. Royale de Belgique, Bull. Cl. Sci.* (5) **15**, 1928, pp. 225–228] to the proof(-term)s of  $\lambda\gamma_0\mathbf{CQ}$ . The outcome is an *effective* (1–1) *translation* from  $\lambda\gamma_0\mathbf{CQ}$  to its  $\gamma$ -free fragment  $\lambda\pi!$ , known to be Post-consistent.<sup>7</sup> In particular, the procedure – described on half a page – is also *admissible* intuitionistically: it supplies a “dictionary” for proof-operations that do not make sense, in general, in the intuitionist practice.

What is *not intelligible intuitionistically* is just the *intuitive interpretation of the abstract  $\gamma$ -operations as logical proof-operations*: indeed, the abstraction operator corresponding, classically, to *reductio ad absurdum* has only *local* – “finitary”, so to speak – *meaning* in terms of  $\mathbf{HQ}$ -proofs. Technically, for each  $[\perp, \rightarrow, \wedge, \vee, \forall, \exists]$ -formula  $A$  and any proof  $f$  such that  $f$  proves intuitionistically  $\neg A \vee A$ , there is an abstraction

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associated to the intuitionistic  $\vee$  and  $\exists$  are analogous to appropriate uses of  $\gamma$ . In general, the Heyting proof-calculus would allow only “cancelling”  $\gamma$ -abstractions, of the form  $\omega_A(e) \equiv_{df} \gamma x:\neg A.e$ , where  $e : \perp$  does *not* “depend on” the assumption  $[x:\neg A]$ , so that this structural analogy is useful only in a genuinely Boolean setting.

<sup>6</sup>The “recursive eliminability” of  $\gamma$  was, in fact, known to Dag Prawitz (1965), although not in type-theoretic – or  $\lambda\gamma$ -calculus – form. This does not depend on  $\gamma$ -diagonalization, by the way.

<sup>7</sup>The result can be also obtained by a *type-free* argument.



operation  $\gamma_f$ , depending on  $f$ , which can be shown to share relevant properties with the “global”  $\gamma$ -abstractor. Beyond the – intuitionistically – recognizable “local” / “finitary” information, the classical  $\gamma$ -abstractor attempts to supply “global” information about proofs, acting, *qua* information-processing agent, like a *highly predictable* – although *intuitionistically “unreliable” – oracle*.

The calculus  $\lambda_{\gamma\&\mathbf{CQ}}$  has  $[\vee, \exists]$ -“type-constructors” defined *via* the usual Ockham/De Morgan transformations  $[A \vee B \equiv_{df} \neg(\neg A \wedge \neg B)]$ , with  $\exists$  “generalizing”  $\vee$ , as expected]. These definitions admit of associated “negative” proof-operators (Boolean “injections” and Boolean “selectors”), with an appropriate *extensional* behavior. The latter appear to be more general than the Johansson-Heyting “injections” and “selectors”, familiar from the literature on constructive type theories.

**5.** *The [full] Heyting calculus is a proper fragment of  $\lambda_{\gamma\&\mathbf{CQ}}$ .* The bulk of the work is devoted to the derivation of the stratification and equational behavior of the *Minimalkalkül* resp. Heyting proof-operators associated to  $[\perp, \vee, \exists]$  in terms of the “negative” Boolean analogues. The *full* Heyting first-order proof-calculus  $\lambda\mathbf{HQ}$ , with “ $\perp$ -conversions” [*ex-falso*-rules, here  $\omega$ -rules] and so-called “commuting conversions” is shown, finally, to admit of a definitional embedding into the classical theory  $\lambda_{\gamma\&\mathbf{CQ}}$ .

The simulation of the intuitionistic proof-operations in terms of  $\lambda_{\gamma\&\mathbf{CQ}}$  proof-operations is an *effective translation*. This yields  $\mathbf{Cons}(\lambda\mathbf{HQ})$ , too.

Ultimately, we obtain an effective translation of  $\lambda\mathbf{HQ}$  into  $\lambda\pi!$ , i.e., into a *proper fragment* of it, known to be consistent by intuitionistically acceptable means.

In fact,  $\lambda\pi!$  and  $\lambda^\tau$  can be shown to be *equi-consistent* by simple translations, so that  $\mathbf{Cons}(\lambda\mathbf{HQ})$  amounts to  $\mathbf{Cons}(\lambda^\tau)$ , i.e., the problem is reduced to a question



about the ordinary typed  $\lambda$ -calculus.<sup>8</sup> Existing alternatives of showing  $\mathbf{Cons}(\lambda\mathbf{HQ})$  recommend either a *confluence* argument or a *model-theoretic* approach. The former involves hundreds of separate cases to check, whereas the latter has meager chances of becoming intuitionistically intelligible.

On the intuitive level,  $\lambda\gamma\&\mathbf{CQ}$  appears, in fact, as a kind of “asymptotic” extension of the first-order Heyting proof-calculus  $\lambda\mathbf{HQ}$ , and corresponds – more or less – to an “*actualistic*” interpretation of the classical logic proof-operations [where “actualistic” = Gentzen’s “*an sich*” in, e.g., **Math. Annalen 112**, 1936].

**6.** *The logic of “complete refutability”.* In analogy with  $\lambda\mathbf{HQ}$ , one can isolate – within  $\lambda\gamma\&\mathbf{CQ}$  – the equational proof-theory of the first-order logic of “complete refutability”  $\mathbf{DQ}$ , also known as a “logic of strict negation” [= Curry’s logic *LD*, in **JSL 17**, 1952, pp. 35–42]. The interest in  $\mathbf{DQ}$  is in the fact that its inferential  $[\perp, \rightarrow]$  part is, in a sense, “non-Brouwerian” and – inside  $\mathbf{CQ}$  – *complementary* to the inferential part of  $\mathbf{HQ}$ . Indeed,  $\mathbf{DQ}$  and  $\mathbf{HQ}$  disagree mainly on negation:  $\mathbf{DQ}$  allows “the Law of Clavius” [*consequentia mirabilis*:  $\neg A \rightarrow A \rightarrow A$ ], which is, clearly, not  $\mathbf{HQ}$ -derivable,

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<sup>8</sup>Note that  $\mathbf{Cons}(\lambda\mathbf{HQ})$  is *not* implied by the corresponding result for Martin-Löf’s (1984) constructive type theory. Actually, the Heyting calculus is *not* contained *equationally* in any one of Martin-Löf’s type theories, because of the “ $\perp$ -conversions” and the “commuting conversions”, which are absent from the latter systems, even if higher order classifiers [= “universes”] and corresponding closure conditions are assumed. Equationally, indeed, Martin-Löf’s type systems are just higher-order variations on the *Minimalkalkül*; this corresponds, in fact, to the *intended meaning* of these formalizations, viz. that of capturing – at a formal level – Bishop’s point of view [**BCM**], not Brouwer’s [**BI**].

and discards as incorrect (“non-strict”) the intuitionistically unobjectionable *ex falso quodlibet* [ $\perp \rightarrow A$ ].

On a proof-level, behind the “Rule of Clavius”  $\neg A \models A \Rightarrow \models A$ , there is a *specific* inferential proof-operation [i.e., an abstraction operator]  $\varepsilon$ , say, which is definable classically, in  $\lambda\gamma\&\mathbf{CQ}$ , by  $\varepsilon x:\neg A.a[x] \equiv_{df} \gamma x:\neg A.x(a[x])$ . So, the type-theoretic variant of this – strange, old – proof-pattern [cf. Euclid **Elementa** IX.12, Christoph Klau (= Clavius) **Opera mathematica I**, Mayence 1611, *ad locum*, etc.] is:

$$\Gamma[x:\neg A] \vdash a[x] : A \Rightarrow \Gamma \vdash \varepsilon x:\neg A.a[x] : A.$$

Now, the  $\omega$ ’s mentioned above [that is: the uses of *ex falso quodlibet*:  $\omega_A(e) \equiv \gamma x:\neg A.e$ , with  $x$  not free in  $e$ ], and the “Clavian” abstractions  $\varepsilon$  are “complementary” within/inside  $\lambda\gamma\&\mathbf{CQ}$ , in the sense that they can be put together, in order to make up [the effect of] a use of *reductio ad absurdum* [ $\gamma$ ]. On a provability level, this is well-known. Formally, one can define, in  $\lambda\gamma\&\mathbf{CQ}$ ,

$$\gamma^\circ x:\neg A.e[x] \equiv_{df} \varepsilon x:\neg A.\omega_A(e[x]),$$

on a proof-(term)-level, and, in view of (a special case of) [ $\oint \gamma$ ],  $\lambda\gamma\&\mathbf{CQ}$  is able to identify the new  $\gamma^\circ$ -abstraction with the old one. This can be generalized to a hierarchy of triples  $[\gamma^{[n]}, \varepsilon^{[n]}, \omega^{[n]}]$ , ( $n \geq 0$ ), that are collapsed back to  $[\gamma, \varepsilon, \omega]$  by  $\gamma$ -diagonalization. Without [ $\oint \gamma$ ] or with assumptions weaker than [ $\oint \gamma$ ], one can distinguish a hierarchy of subsystems of  $\lambda\gamma\&\mathbf{CQ}$ , that “prove the same theorems” [i.e., share the same *stratification criteria* for proof-terms], but are still equationally distinct (using different *identity-criteria*).

The addition of the  $\varepsilon$ -abstraction to the ordinary typed  $\lambda$ -calculus  $\lambda^\tau$  yields the proof-theory of the inferential [ $\perp, \rightarrow$ ] part of **DQ**. The “positive” [ $\rightarrow, \wedge, \forall$ ] part of **DQ** is like in **CQ** and in *Minimalkalkül*, whereas the “negative” [ $\vee, \exists$ ]-proof-operators of

**DQ** are slight generalizations of their *Minimalalkalkül* and intuitionistic analogues. In the end, one can reconstruct proof-theoretically **DQ** as a typed  $\lambda$ -calculus,  $\lambda\mathbf{DQ}$  say, that can be embedded into  $\lambda\gamma\&\mathbf{CQ}$ , as in the case of the Heyting proof-calculus. A complete description of  $\lambda\mathbf{DQ}$  is tedious (although it has no “ $\perp$ -conversions” - since it has no  $\omega$ 's - it requires more “commuting conversions” than **HQ**): we give only the information that has been estimated useful in view of retrieving the basic ingredients.

**7. Post-completeness?** Internal evidence (as, e.g., among other things, the fact that  $\lambda\gamma\&\mathbf{CQ}$  is complete relative to the Heyting calculus, that it collapses many distinctions, like those among  $[\gamma, \varepsilon, \omega]$ -triples, etc.) suggests the *conjecture* that  $\lambda\gamma\&\mathbf{CQ}$  is also *Post-complete*. That is: if  $\mathbf{CQ} \models A$  one cannot add a new closed equation  $a_1 = a_2$ , where  $a_1, a_2$  are proofs of  $A$ , without loosing [Post-] consistency for the resulting extension. This is a typed analogue of a situation obtaining for the *extensional type-free  $\lambda$ -calculus*, where we cannot identify consistently two arbitrary normal forms [Corrado Böhm **Pubbl. IAC** (Rome) **696**, 1968]. Here, the normal[izabi]lity requirement is already insured by stratifiability.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup>In an *appendix*, we pay attention to *assorted topics*, somewhat loosely related to the main theme: the Gentzen *L*-systems, the concept of a proof-transformation for **CQ**, and the “double negation” interpretations of **CQ** into **HQ**, along the Kolmogorov (1925) translation-pattern.



