Interacting with the external world using comodels (aka runners)

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The plan

- Computational effects and external resources in PL
- Runners a natural model for top-level runtime
- T-runners for also modelling non-top-level runtimes
- Turning **T**-runners into a **useful programming construct**
- Some programming examples
- Some implementation details

Computational effects and external resources

• Using monads (as in HASKELL)

```
type St a = String \rightarrow (a,String)

f :: St a \rightarrow St (a,a)
f c = c >>= (\x \rightarrow c >>= (\y \rightarrow return (x,y)))
```

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```

• Using alg. effects and handlers (as in Eff, Frank, Koka)

```
effect Get : int effect Put : int \rightarrow unit let g (c:Unit \rightarrow a!{Get,Put}) = with state_handler handle (perform (Put 42); c ()) (*: int \rightarrow a * int *)
```

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effect Get: int effect Put: int \rightarrow unit 

let g (c:Unit \rightarrow a!{Get,Put}) = with state_handler handle (perform (Put 42); c ()) 

(*: int \rightarrow a * int *)
```

Both are good for faking comp. effects in a pure language!
 But what about effects that need access to the external world?

External resources in PL

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• Declare a signature of monads or algebraic effects, e.g.,

```
(* System.IO *)

type IO a
openFile :: FilePath → IOMode → IO Handle

(* pervasives . eff *)
effect RandomInt : int → int
effect RandomFloat : float → float
```

And then treat them specially in the compiler, e.g.,

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• And then treat them specially in the compiler, e.g.,

but there are some issues with that approach . . .

- Difficult to cover all possible use cases
 - external resources hard-coded into the top-level runtime
 - non-trivial to change what's available and how it's implemented

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```
Ohad 4 8:35 PM
So here's the hack I added We should do something a bit more principled
In pervasives.eff:
 effect Write : (string*string) -> unit
in eval.ml under let rec top handle op = add the case:
     | "Write" ->
        (match v with
         | V.Tuple vs ->
            let (file_name :: str :: _) = List.map V.to_str vs in
            let file_handle = open_out_gen
                                 [Open_wronly
                                 :Open append
                                 ;Open_creat
                                 ;Open_text
                                 1 0o666 file_name in
            Printf.fprintf file handle "%s" str:
            close_out file_handle;
            top_handle (k V.unit_value)
```

- Difficult to cover all possible use cases
 - external resources hard-coded into the top-level runtime
 - non-trivial to change what's available and how it's implemented



This talk — a principled modular (co)algebraic approach!

• Lack of linearity for external resources

```
let f (s: string) =
  let fh = fopen "foo.txt" in
  fwrite (fh,s^s);
  fclose fh;
  return fh

let g s =
  let fh = f s in fread fh
```

Lack of linearity for external resources

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- We shall address these kinds of issues indirectly,
 - by **not** introducing a linear typing discipline
 - but instead make it convenient to hide external resources

• Excessive generality of effect handlers

```
let f (s: string) =
  let fh = fopen "foo.txt" in
  fwrite (fh,s^s);
  fclose fh

let h = handler { fwrite (fh,s) k → return () }

let f' s = handle (f "bar") with h
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• Excessive generality of effect handlers

```
let f (s: string) =
   let fh = fopen "foo.txt" in
   fwrite (fh,s^s);
   fclose fh
 let h = \text{handler} \{ \text{ fwrite (fh,s) } k \rightarrow \text{return ()} \}
 let f' s = handle (f "bar") with h
where misuse of external resources can also be purely accidental
 let g (s: string) =
   let fh = fopen "foo.txt" in
   let b = choose () in
   if b then (fwrite (fh,s)) else (fwrite (fh,s^s));
   fclose fh
 let nondet handler =
   handler { choose () k \rightarrow return (k true ++ k false) }
```

• Excessive generality of effect handlers

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  let fh = fopen "foo.txt" in
  fwrite (fh,s^s);
  fclose fh

let h = handler { fwrite (fh,s) k → return () }

let f' s = handle (f "bar") with h
```

- We shall address these kinds of issues directly,
 - by proposing a restricted form of handlers for resources
 - that support controlled initialisation and finalisation,
 - and limit how general handlers can be used

Runners enter the spotlight

• Given a **signature**¹ Σ of operation symbols $(A_{op}, B_{op} \text{ countable})$

$$op: A_{op} \leadsto B_{op}$$

a runner² \mathcal{R} for Σ is given by a carrier $|\mathcal{R}|$ and co-operations

$$\left(\overline{\operatorname{op}}_{\mathcal{R}}: A_{\operatorname{op}} \times |\mathcal{R}| \longrightarrow B_{\operatorname{op}} \times |\mathcal{R}|\right)_{\operatorname{op} \in \Sigma}$$

¹We consider runners for signatures, but the work generalises to alg. theories.

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 \bullet For example, a natural runner \mathcal{R} for S-valued state

get :
$$\mathbb{1} \rightsquigarrow S$$
 set : $S \rightsquigarrow \mathbb{1}$

is given by

$$|\mathcal{R}| \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} S$$
 $\overline{\text{get}}_{\mathcal{R}}(\star, s) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (s, s)$ $\overline{\text{set}}_{\mathcal{R}}(s, s) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\star, s)$

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- Runners/comodels have been used for
 - operational semantics using tensors of models and comodels
 [Plotkin and Power '08]
 and
 - stateful running of algebraic effects [Uustalu '15]
 - linear-use state-passing translation

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[Uustalu '15]

- The latter explicitly rely on one-to-one correspondence between
 - ullet runners ${\cal R}$ and
 - $\bullet \ \ \text{monad morphisms}^3 \ \ r : \text{Free}_{\Sigma}(-) \longrightarrow \text{St}_{|\mathcal{R}|}$

where

$$\mathbf{St}_{C}X \stackrel{\mathsf{def}}{=} C \Rightarrow X \times C$$

 $^{{}^{3}}$ Free $_{\Sigma}(X)$ is the free monad ind. defined with leaves val x and nodes op (a, κ) .

• For our purposes, we see runners

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 - hardware vs OS
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 - signal failure caused by unavoidable circumstances

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- Unfortunately, runners, as defined above, are not readily able to
 - use external resources
 - signal failure caused by unavoidable circumstances
- But is there a useful generalisation that would achieve this?

• Møgelberg and Staton usefully observed that a runner \mathcal{R} is equivalently simply a family of **generic effects** for $\mathbf{St}_{|\mathcal{R}|}$, i.e.,

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• Building on this, we define a **T-runner** \mathcal{R} for Σ to be given by

$$\left(\overline{\operatorname{op}}_{\mathcal{R}}:A_{\operatorname{op}}\longrightarrow \mathbf{T}\,B_{\operatorname{op}}\right)_{\operatorname{op}\in\Sigma}$$

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• The one-to-one correspondence with monad morphisms

$$r: \mathbf{Free}_{\Sigma}(-) \longrightarrow \mathbf{T}$$

now simply amounts to the univ. property of free models, e.g.,

$$\mathsf{r}_X \, (\mathsf{val} \, x) = \eta \, x \qquad \mathsf{r}_X \, (\mathsf{op}(\mathsf{a}, \kappa)) = (\mathsf{r}_X \circ \kappa)^\dagger (\overline{\mathsf{op}}_\mathcal{R} \, \mathsf{a})$$

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$$r_X(val x) = \eta x$$
 $r_X(op(a, \kappa)) = (r_X \circ \kappa)^{\dagger}(\overline{op}_{\mathcal{R}} a)$

• Observe that κ appears in a **tail call position** on the right!

• What would be a **useful class of monads T** to use?

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 - (i) provide management of (internal) resources
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- Algebraically (and pragmatically), this amounts to taking
 - (i) getenv : $\mathbb{1} \rightsquigarrow C$, setenv : $C \rightsquigarrow \mathbb{1}$
 - (ii) op : $A_{op} \leadsto B_{op}$ (op $\in \Sigma'$, for some external Σ')
 - (iii) kill : $S \leadsto \mathbb{O}$
 - s.t., (i) satisfy state equations; and (i) commute with (ii) and (iii)

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 - s.t., (i) satisfy state equations; and (i) commute with (ii) and (iii)
- The induced monad is then isomorphic to

$$\mathsf{T} X \stackrel{\mathsf{def}}{=} C \Rightarrow \mathsf{Free}_{\Sigma'} \big((X \times C) + S \big)$$

• The corresponding **T-runners** \mathcal{R} for Σ are then of the form

$$\left(\overline{\operatorname{op}}_{\mathcal{R}}: A_{\operatorname{op}} \longrightarrow C \Rightarrow \operatorname{Free}_{\Sigma'}((B_{\operatorname{op}} \times C) + S)\right)_{\operatorname{op} \in \Sigma}$$

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• With this, our **T-runners** \mathcal{R} for Σ are of the form

$$\left(\overline{\operatorname{op}}_{\mathcal{R}}: A_{\operatorname{op}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{K}_{C}^{\Sigma'!E_{\operatorname{op}} \checkmark S} B_{\operatorname{op}}\right)_{\operatorname{op} \in \Sigma}$$

where we call $\mathbf{K}_{C}^{\Sigma!E \notin S}$ a **kernel monad**, given by

$$\mathbf{K}_{C}^{\Sigma!E \nmid S} X \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} C \Rightarrow \mathbf{Free}_{\Sigma} (((X+E) \times C) + S)$$

T-runners as a programming construct

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we can easily accommodate them in a programming language as

let
$$R = \text{runner} \{ \text{ op}_1 \times_1 \to K_1 \text{ , ... , op}_n \times_n \to K_n \} @ C$$

where K_i are **kernel computations**, modelled using $\mathbf{K}_C^{\Sigma'!E_{op_i} \notin S}$

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For instance, we can implement a write-only file handle as

where

$$\Sigma \stackrel{\mathsf{def}}{=} \big\{ \text{ write : String} \leadsto \mathbb{1} \big\} \qquad \mathsf{fwrite : FileHandle} \times \mathsf{String} \leadsto \mathbb{1} \in \Sigma'$$

$$\mathsf{WriteSizeLimitExceeded} \in E_\mathsf{op} \qquad S = \mathbb{0}$$

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induced by a T-runner $\mathcal R$ are all tail-recursive

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induced by a **T**-runner \mathcal{R} are all **tail-recursive**

• We can make use of it, to accommodate running user code:

```
using R @ M_1 run M_2 finally \{ return x @ c \to M_3 , raise e @ c \to M_4 , kill s \to M_5 \}
```

where

- M₁ is an **initialiser** producing the initial kernel state
- M₂ is the user computation being run using the runner R
- M₃, M₄, M₅ are **finalisers** for return values, exceptions, signals

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where

- M₁ is an **initialiser** producing the initial kernel state
- M₂ is the user computation being run using the runner R
- \bullet M₃, M₄, M₅ are **finalisers** for return values, exceptions, signals
- M₃ and M₄ depend on the final state c, but M₅ does not

• For instance, we can define a PYTHON-like with-file construct

```
with file_name do M = using R<sub>FH</sub> @ (fopen file_name) run M finally { return \times @ fh \rightarrow fclose fh; return \times , raise e @ fh \rightarrow fclose fh; raise e , kill s \rightarrow match s with \{\}
```

- Importantly,
 - here the file handle is hidden from M
 - and M can only use write of type String $\rightsquigarrow 1$
 - and fopen and fclose are limited to initialisation-finalisation

• In a set-theoretic semantics, in

- M_1 denotes an element of $\mathbf{U}^{\Sigma'!E'}C \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{Free}_{\Sigma'}(C+E')$ (a user monad)
- M_2 denotes an element of $\mathbf{U}^{\Sigma!E} A$
- M₃ denotes an element of $A \times C \Rightarrow \mathbf{U}^{\Sigma'!E'}B$
- M_4 denotes an element of $E \times C \Rightarrow \mathbf{U}^{\Sigma'!E'} B$
- M_5 denotes an element of $S \Rightarrow \mathbf{U}^{\Sigma'!E'} B$

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- M_4 denotes an element of $E \times C \Rightarrow \mathbf{U}^{\Sigma'!E'} B$
- M_5 denotes an element of $S \Rightarrow \mathbf{U}^{\Sigma'!E'} B$
- allowing us to interpret (b) and (c) as the composite

$$\mathbf{U}^{\Sigma!E}A \xrightarrow{r_{A+E}} \mathbf{K}_{C}^{\Sigma'!E \nmid S}A \xrightarrow{(\lambda M_{3})^{\ddagger}} C \Rightarrow \mathbf{U}^{\Sigma'!E'}B$$

and (a) using the **Kleisli extension** of $\mathbf{U}^{\Sigma'!E'}$

A core calculus for programming with runners

Core calculus (very briefly)

Core calculus (very briefly)

Values

$$\llbracket \Gamma \vdash V : A \rrbracket : \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \longrightarrow \llbracket A \rrbracket$$

• User computations

$$\llbracket \Gamma \overset{\Sigma}{\vdash} M : A ! E \rrbracket : \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \longrightarrow \mathbf{U}^{\Sigma ! E} \llbracket A \rrbracket$$

• Kernel computations

$$\llbracket \Gamma \stackrel{\Sigma}{\vdash} K : A ! E \nleq S @ C \rrbracket : \llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket \longrightarrow \mathbf{K}_{\llbracket C \rrbracket}^{\Sigma ! E \nleq S} \llbracket A \rrbracket$$

Core calculus (very briefly) ctd.

```
M ::= \mathbf{return} \ V \mid \mathbf{try} \ M \mathbf{ with } \{ \mathbf{return} \ x \mapsto N_{val} \ , \ (\mathbf{raise} \ e \mapsto N_e)_{e \in E} \}
          VW \mid \mathbf{match} \ V \ \mathbf{with} \ \{ \langle x_1, x_2 \rangle \mapsto N \ \}
            match V with \{\}_X \mid \text{match } V \text{ with } \{ \text{ inl } x_1 \mapsto N_1 \text{ , inr } x_2 \mapsto N_2 \}
         \operatorname{op}_{X} V(x.M)(N_{e})_{e \in E_{\operatorname{op}}} \mid \operatorname{raise}_{X} e
            using V @ W run M finally { return x @ c \mapsto N_{val},
                                                                      (raise \ e \ @ \ c \mapsto N_e)_{c \in F},
                                                                      (kill s \mapsto N_s)
            exec K @ W finally { return x @ c \mapsto N_{val},
                                                      (raise \ e \ @ \ c \mapsto N_e)_{c \in F},
                                                      \{\text{kill } s \mapsto N_s\}_{s \in \mathbb{R}} \}
K ::= \mathbf{return}_C V \mid \mathbf{try} \ K \ \mathbf{with} \ \{ \ \mathbf{return} \ x \mapsto L_{val} \ , \ (\mathbf{raise} \ e \mapsto L_e)_{e \in E} \ \}
        VW \mid \mathbf{match} \ V \ \mathbf{with} \ \{ \langle x_1, x_2 \rangle \mapsto L \ \}
            match V with \{\}_{X@C} \mid \text{match } V \text{ with } \{ \text{ inl } x_1 \mapsto L_1 \text{ , inr } x_2 \mapsto L_2 \}
         \operatorname{op}_{Y \otimes C} V(x.K)(L_e)_{e \in E_{op}} \mid \operatorname{raise}_{Y \otimes C} e \mid \operatorname{kill}_{Y \otimes C} s
         getenv_C(c.K) \mid setenv V K
            exec M finally { return x \mapsto L_{val} , (raise e \mapsto L_e) ... }
```

Fig. 1. Syntax of user and kernel computations

Core calculus (very briefly) ctd.

• For example, the typing rule for running user comps. is

$$\begin{split} \Gamma \vdash V : \Sigma \Rightarrow \Sigma' \; & \not : \; S \;@\; C \qquad \Gamma \vdash W : C \\ \Gamma \vdash M : A \; & ! \; E \qquad \Gamma, x : A, c : C \vdash N_{ret} : B \; ! \; E' \\ & \left(\Gamma, c : C \vdash N_e : B \; ! \; E'\right)_{e \in E} \qquad \left(\Gamma \vdash N_s : B \; ! \; E'\right)_{s \in S} \\ \hline \Gamma \vdash \text{using } V \; & @ \; W \; \text{run } M \; \text{finally} \; & \left(\text{rater } x \; @\; c \mapsto N_{ret} \; , \\ & \left(\text{raise } e \; @\; c \mapsto N_e\right)_{e \in E} \; , \\ & \left(\text{kill } s \mapsto N_s\right)_{s \in S} \; & \ \ \end{cases} \; : \; B \; ! \; E' \end{split}$$

Core calculus (very briefly) ctd.

• For example, the typing rule for running user comps. is

• and the main β -equation for running user comps. is

```
\begin{split} \Gamma &\stackrel{\Sigma'}{=} \textbf{using} \ \textit{R}_{\textit{C}} \ @ \ \textit{W} \ \textbf{run} \ (\texttt{op}_{\textit{X}} \ \textit{V} \ (\textit{x}.\textit{M}) \ (\textit{M}_{e})_{e \in \textit{E}_{\texttt{op}}}) \ \textbf{finally} \ \textit{F} \\ &\equiv \textbf{exec} \ \textit{R}_{op}[\textit{V}] \ @ \ \textit{W} \ \textbf{finally} \ \textit{\{} \\ & \textbf{return} \ \textit{x} \ @ \ \textit{c'} \mapsto \textbf{using} \ \textit{R}_{\textit{C}} \ @ \ \textit{c'} \ \textbf{run} \ \textit{M} \ \textbf{finally} \ \textit{F} \ , \\ & \big( \textbf{raise} \ e \ @ \ \textit{c'} \mapsto \textbf{using} \ \textit{R}_{\textit{C}} \ @ \ \textit{c'} \ \textbf{run} \ \textit{M}_{e} \ \textbf{finally} \ \textit{F} \big)_{e \in \textit{E}_{\texttt{op}}} \ , \\ & \big( \textbf{kill} \ \textit{s} \mapsto \textit{N}_{\textit{s}} \big)_{\textit{s} \in \textit{S}} \ \textit{\}} : \textit{Y} \ ! \ \textit{E'} \end{split}
```

Runners in action

Runners can be vertically nested

Runners can be vertically nested

```
using R<sub>FH</sub> @ (fopen file_name)
run (
  using R<sub>FC</sub> @ (return "")
  run m
  finally {
     return x \otimes s \rightarrow write s; return x,
     raise e \mathbf{0} s \rightarrow write s; raise e
finally {
  return x \bigcirc fh \rightarrow fclose fh; return x ,
  raise e @ fh \rightarrow fclose fh; raise e \}
```

where the **file contents runner** (with $\Sigma' = 0$) is defined as

Runners can be horizontally paired

Runners can be horizontally paired

• Given a runner for Σ

```
let R1 = runner \{ \dots, op1_i \times k1_i, \dots \} @ C1
and a runner for \Sigma'
 let R2 = runner \{ \dots, op2_i \times k2_i, \dots \} @ C2
we can pair them to get a runner for \Sigma \cup \Sigma'
 let R = runner {
   op1_i \times \rightarrow let (c,c') = getenv () in
                let (x,c'') = k1_i \times in
                setenv (c ", c');
                return x.
   op2_i \times \to ... (* analogously to above *),
   0 \text{ C1} * \text{C2}
```

Vertical nesting for instrumentation

Vertical nesting for instrumentation

```
• using R<sub>Sniffer</sub> @ (return 0)
run m
finally {
   return x @ c →
        let fh = fopen "nsa.txt" in fwrite (fh, to_str c); fclose fh }
```

where the **instrumenting runner** is defined as

- ullet The runner $R_{Sniffer}$ implements the same sig. Σ that m is using
- ullet As a result, the runner $R_{Sniffer}$ is **invisible** from m's viewpoint

type IntHeap = { memory : Nat → Option Int; next : Nat }

```
let R_{IntState} = runner {
  alloc x \rightarrow ...
  deref r \rightarrow let h = getenv () in
               match (heap_sel h r) with
                 Some x \rightarrow return x
                 None \rightarrow kill "ReferenceDoesNotExistSignal",
  assign r y \rightarrow let h = getenv () in
                  match (heap_upd h r y) with
                   Some h' \rightarrow if (rel x y)
                                 then (setenv h')
                                  else (raise "MonotonicityException")
                     None → kill "ReferenceDoesNotExistSignal"
} 🧿 IntHeap
```

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• This is runtime verification for rel -monotonic integer state

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```

- This is runtime verification for rel -monotonic integer state
- Also possible with vertical nesting: MLState ↔ Monotonicity

Other examples

- More general forms of (ML-style) state (for general Ref A)
 - if the host language allows it, we use GADTs, etc for safety
 - some examples extract a footprint from a larger memory
- Combinations of different effects and runners
 - in particular the combination of IO and state
 - good use case for both vertical and horizontal composition
- Koka-style ambient values and ambient functions
 - ambient values are essentially mutable variables/parameters
 - ambient functions are executed in their lexical context
 - a runner for amb. funs. treats fun. application as a co-operation
 - amb. funs. are stored in a context-sensitive heap
 - the appl. co-operation restores the heap to the lexical context

Implementing runners

- A small experimental language Coop⁴
 - Implements the core calculus with few extras
 - The interpreter is directly based on the denotational semantics
 - Top-level containers for running external (OCaml) code

⁴coop [/ku:p/] – a cage where small animals are kept, especially chickens

- A small experimental language Coop⁴
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- A HASKELL library HASKELL-COOP
 - A shallow-embedding of the core calculus in HASKELL
 - Uses one of the Freer monad implementations underneath
 - Again, the operational aspects implement the denot. semantics
 - Top-level containers for arbitrary HASKELL monads
 - Examples make use of HASKELL's features (GADTs, ...)

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 - Top-level containers for arbitrary HASKELL monads
 - Examples make use of HASKELL's features (GADTs, ...)
- Both still need some finishing touches, but will be public soon

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```
module AmbientsTests where
import Control.Runner
import Control.Runner.Ambients
ambFun :: AmbVal Int -> Int -> AmbEff Int
ambFun x y =
  do x <- getVal x;</pre>
     return (x + y)
test1 :: AmbEff Int
test1 =
  withAmbVal
    (4 :: Int)
    (\ x ->
      withAmbFun
        (ambFun x)
        (\ f ->
          do rebindVal x 2:
             applyFun f 1))
test2 = ambTopLevel test1
```

Wrapping up

- Runners are a natural model of top-level runtime
- We proposed T-runners to also model non-top-level runtimes
- We turned T-runners into a practical programming construct, that supports controlled initialisation and finalisation
- We showed some combinators and programming examples
- Two implementations in the works, COOP and HASKELL-COOP

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Thank you!

