



University of  
**BRISTOL**

# The Scope of Algebraic Effects

Nicolas Wu  
with Maciej Pirog, Tom Schrijvers, and Mauro Jaskelioff

University of Bristol

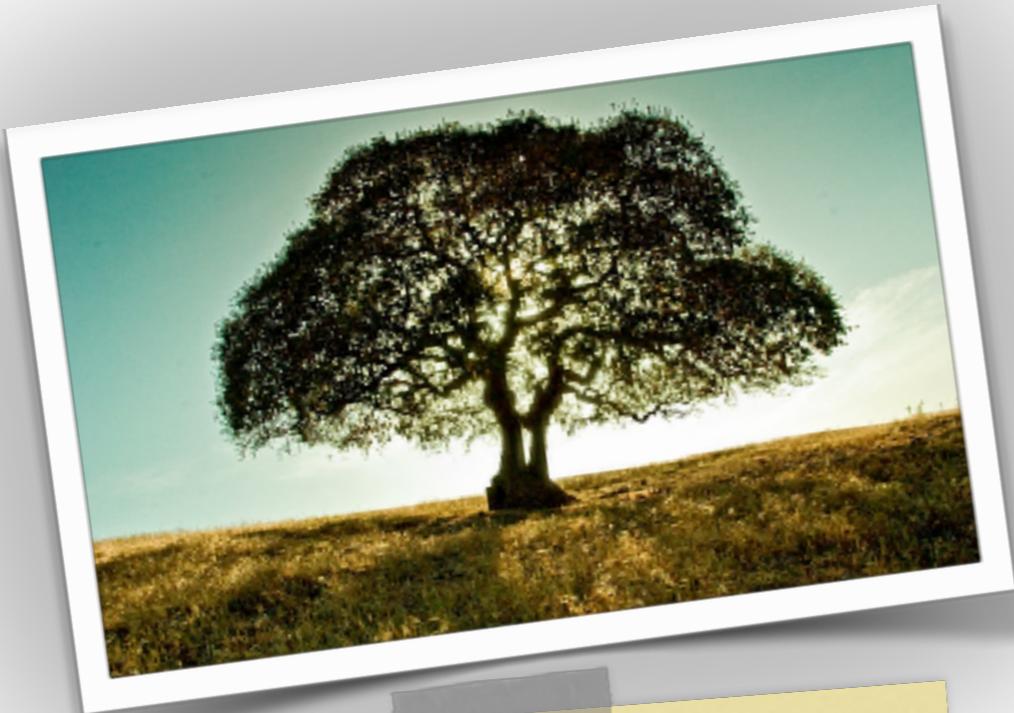
Shonan Seminar I46  
26th March 2019

# Effect Handlers



# Effect Handlers

Syntax



Syntax represented by the free monad for a functor that provides a signature

Semantics



Semantics often in terms of a fold over the free monad



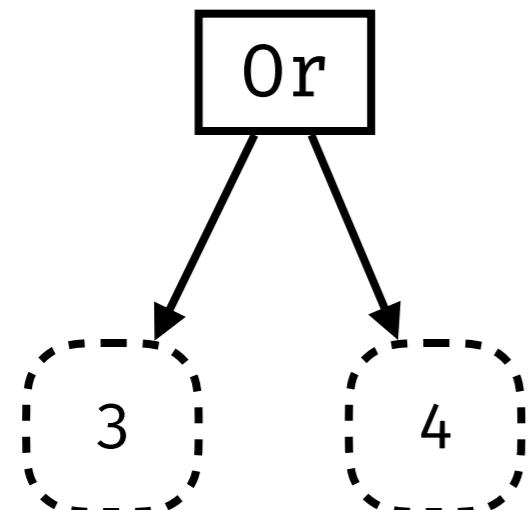
# Effect Handlers



## Syntax

```
data Free f a
= Var a
| Op (f (Free f a))
```

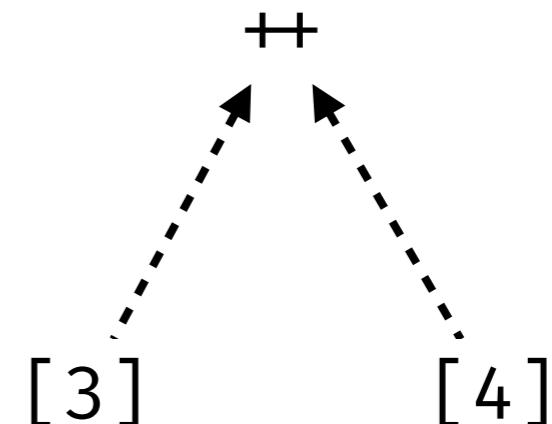
```
data Or k = Or k k
```



```
Op (Or (Var 3) (Var 4))
```

## Semantics

```
type Alg f a = f a → a
eval :: Functor f ⇒
(a → b) → Alg f b →
Free f a → b
eval gen alg (Var x) = gen x
eval gen alg (Op op) =
(alg . fmap (eval gen alg)) op
```



```
[3, 4]
```



# Syntax

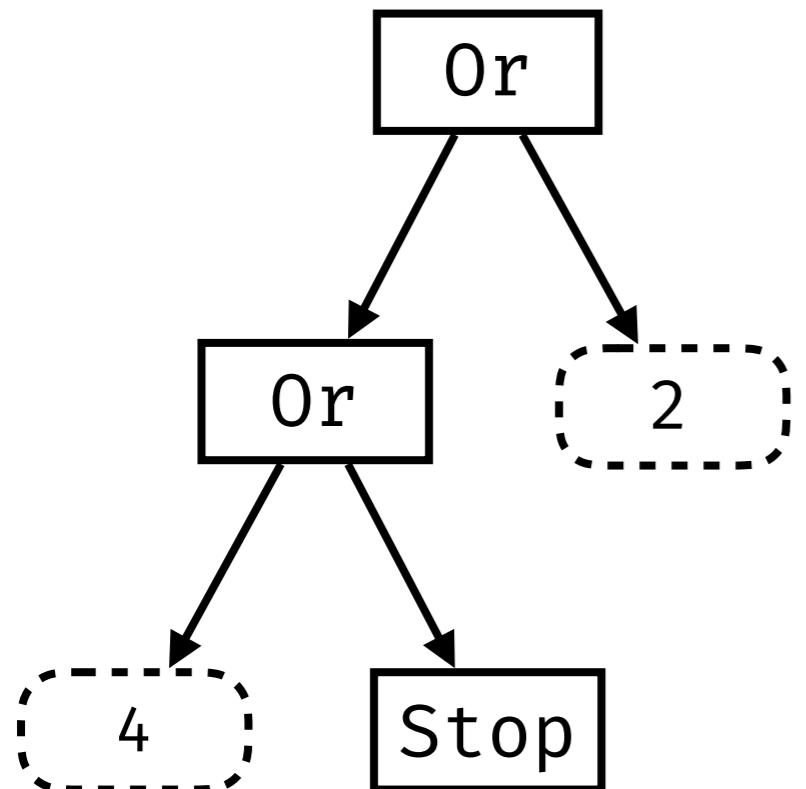
*Extra language features can  
be added as needed*

**data** Or k = Or k k

**data** Stop k = Stop

**data** Void k

**data** (f ::+ sig) a = Eff (f a) | Sig (sig a)



:: Free (Or ::+ Stop ::+ Void) Int  
≈ Free (Stop ::+ Or ::+ Void) Int

Semantics target  
individual operations

# Semantics



**data** Or k = Or k k

list :: Free Or a → [a]

list = eval gen alg **where**

gen x = [x]

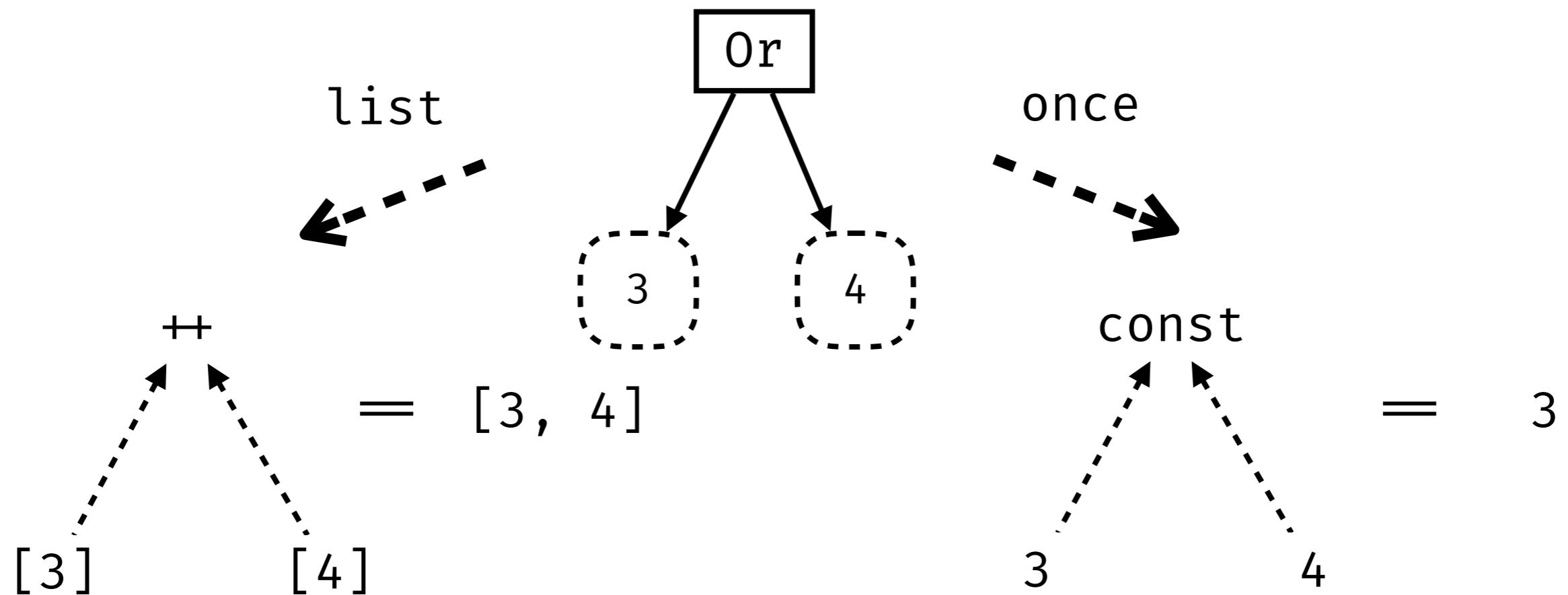
alg (Or xs ys) = xs ++ ys

once :: Free Or a → a

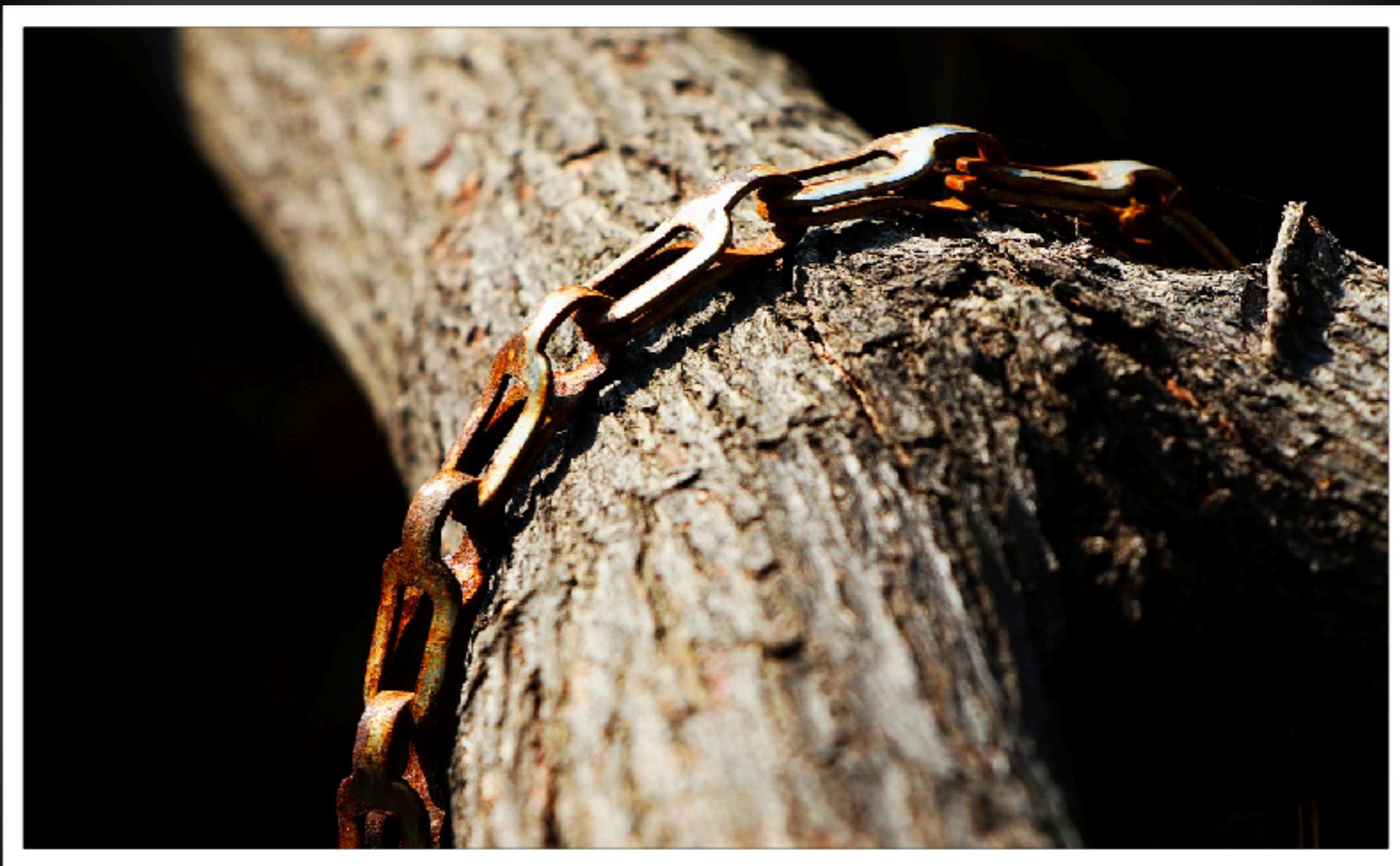
once = eval gen alg **where**

gen x = x

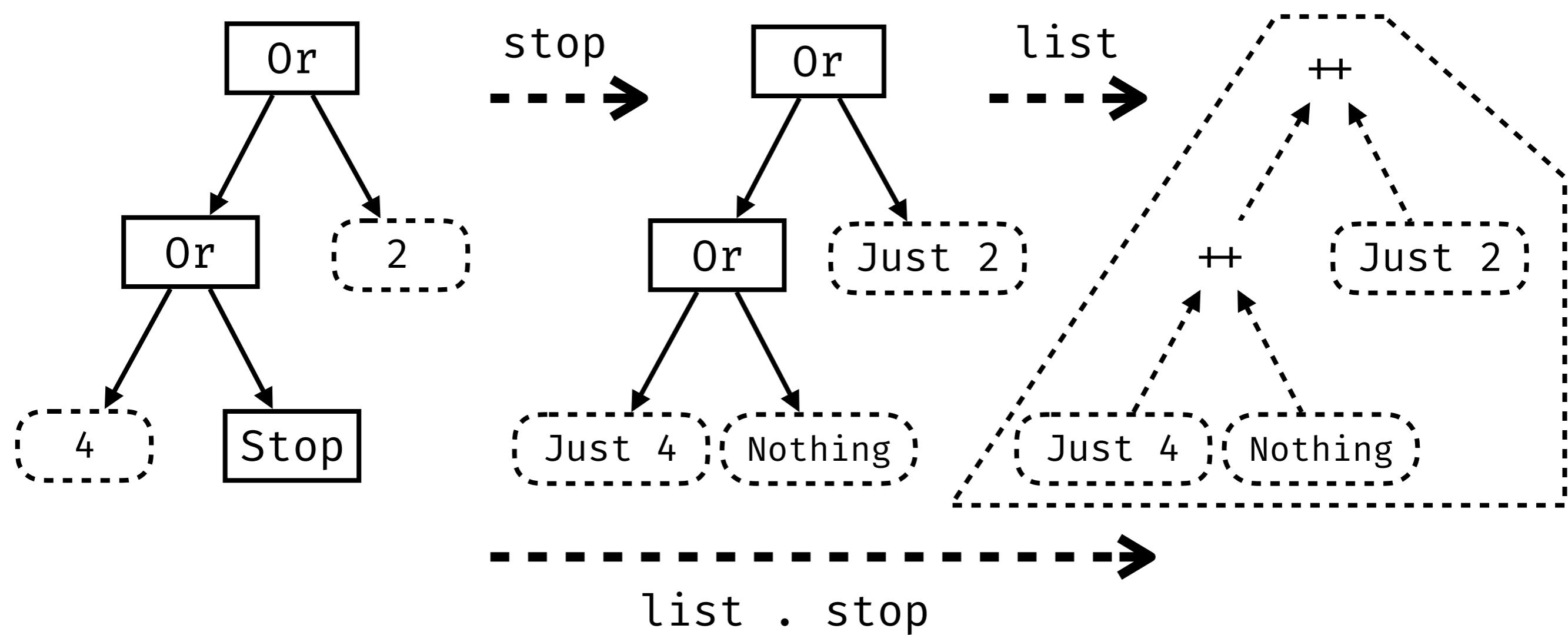
alg (Or xs ys) = const xs ys  
= xs



# Chained Handlers



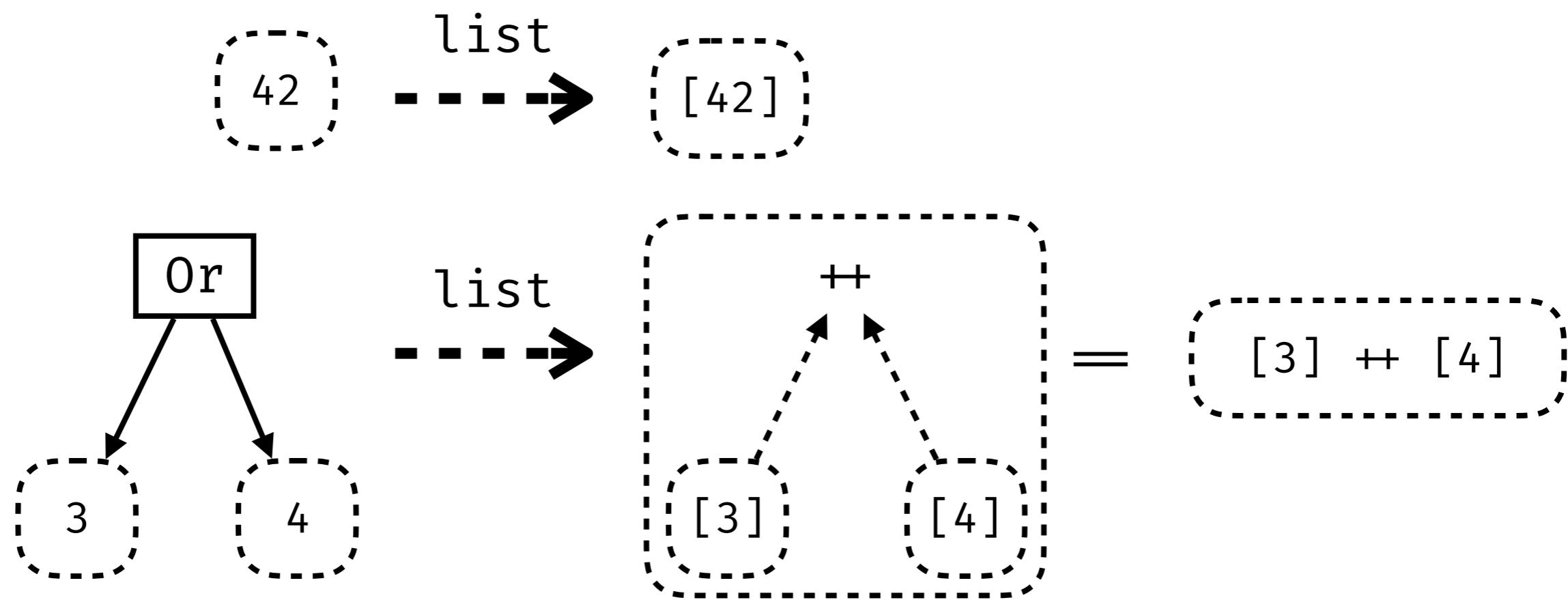
# Chained Handlers



# Nondeterminism

```
data Or k = Or k k
```

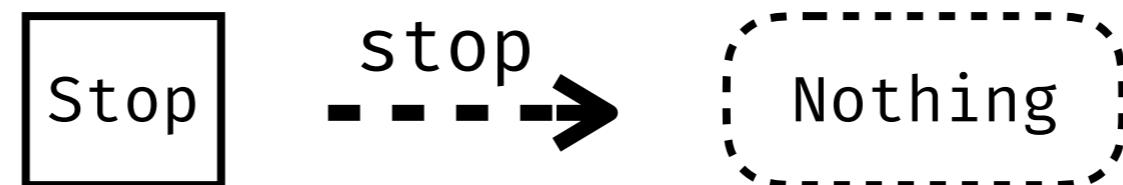
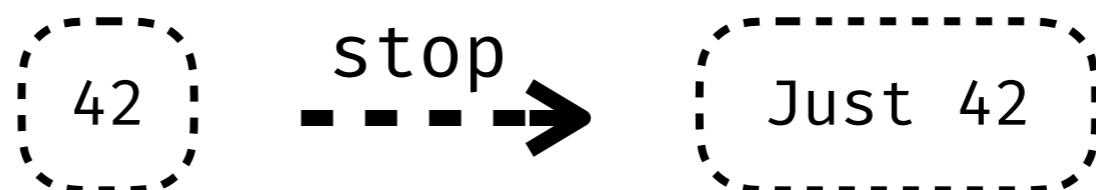
```
list :: Functor f => Free (Or :+ f) a -> Free f [a]
list = eval gen (embed alg) where
  gen x = Var [x]
  alg (Or mx my) = do xs <- mx
                        ys <- my
                        Var (xs ++ ys)
```



# Exceptions

```
data Stop k = Stop
```

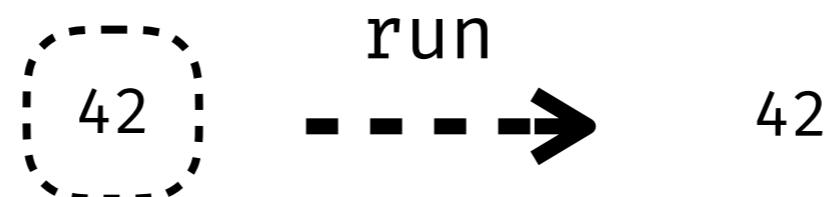
```
stop :: Functor f => Free (Stop :+ f) a -> Free f (Maybe a)  
stop = eval gen (embed alg) where  
  gen x = Var (Just x)  
  alg :: Alg (Stop) (Free f (Maybe a))  
  alg Stop = Var (Nothing)
```



# Void

```
data Void k
```

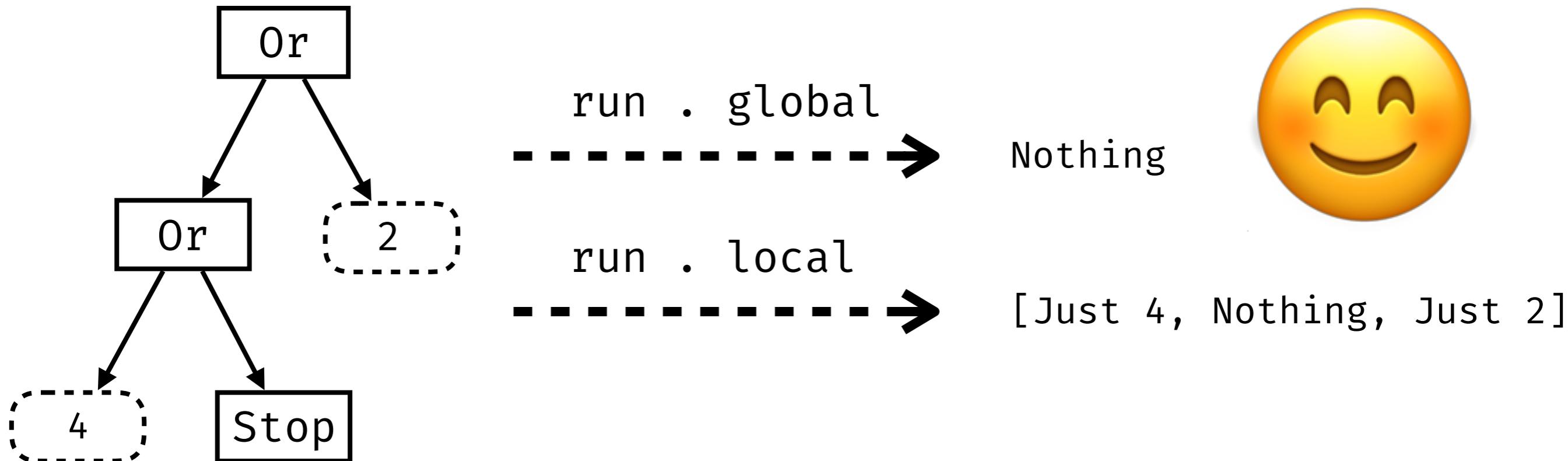
```
run :: Free Void a → a
run = eval gen alg where
  gen = id
  alg = error "unreachable"
```



# Local and Global Exceptions

```
global :: Functor sig =>
  Free (Or :+ Stop :+ sig) a -> Free sig (Maybe [a])
global = stop . list
```

```
local :: Functor sig =>
  Free (Stop :+ Or :+ sig) a -> Free sig [Maybe a]
local = list . stop
```



# Local and Global Exceptions

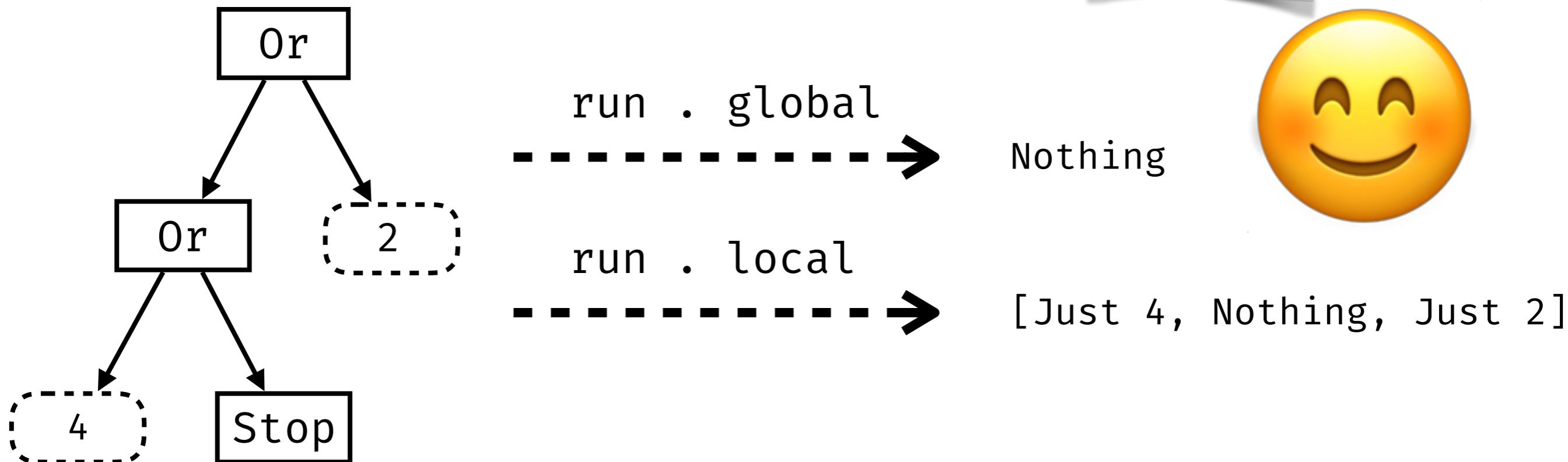
```
global :: Functor sig =>


Persistent (Or :+ Stop :+ sig) a -> Free sig (Maybe a)
global = stop . list


```



```
local :: Functor sig =>
provisional (Stop :+ Or :+ sig) a -> Free sig a]
local = list . stop
```



# Effects Everywhere!

There are lots of algebraic effects, each with various handlers that deal with them

<b>Effect</b>	<b>Handlers</b>
Exceptions	catch
Nondeterminism	every, once
Reader	local
Writer	flush
State	exec, run
Threads	spawn, fork

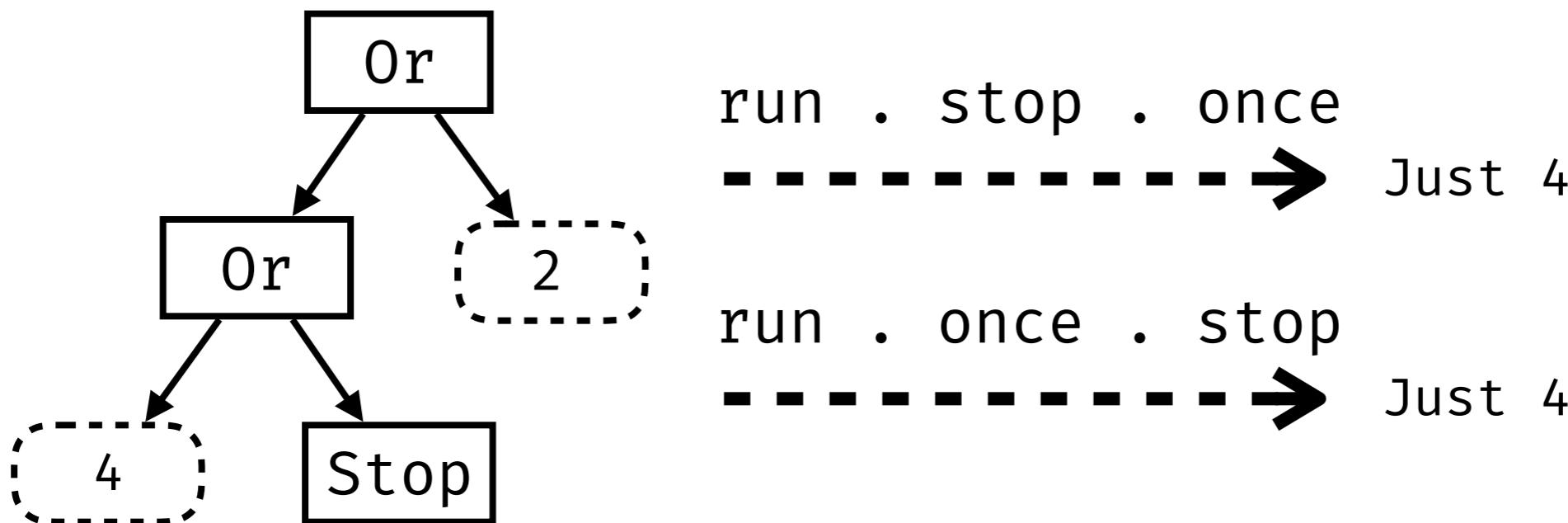
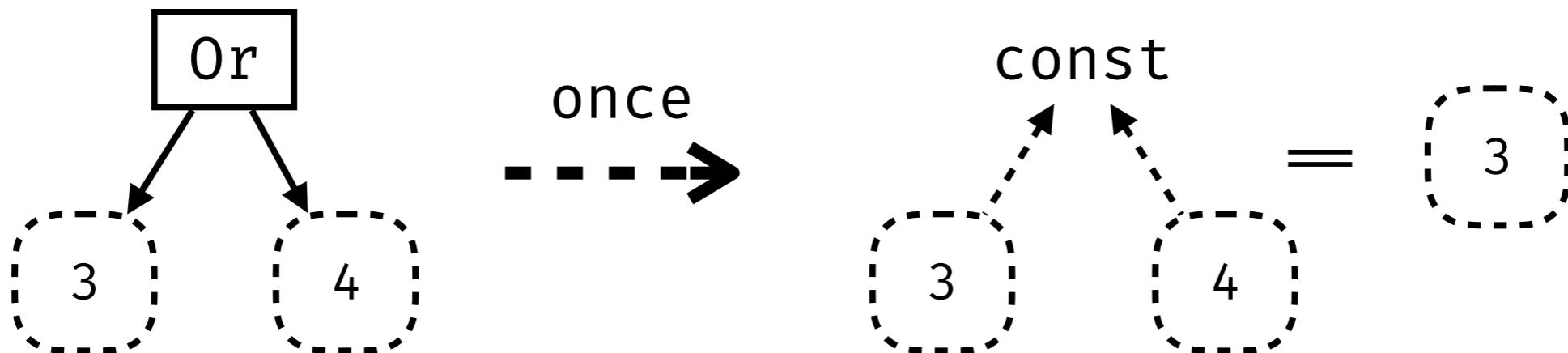
So ... did you spot the fine details that lead to failure in pragmatic programming?

Effects are handled algebraically  
Handlers might not be!

# The Fine Print

```
once :: Functor f => Free (Or :+ f) a -> Free f a
once = eval gen (embed alg) where
```

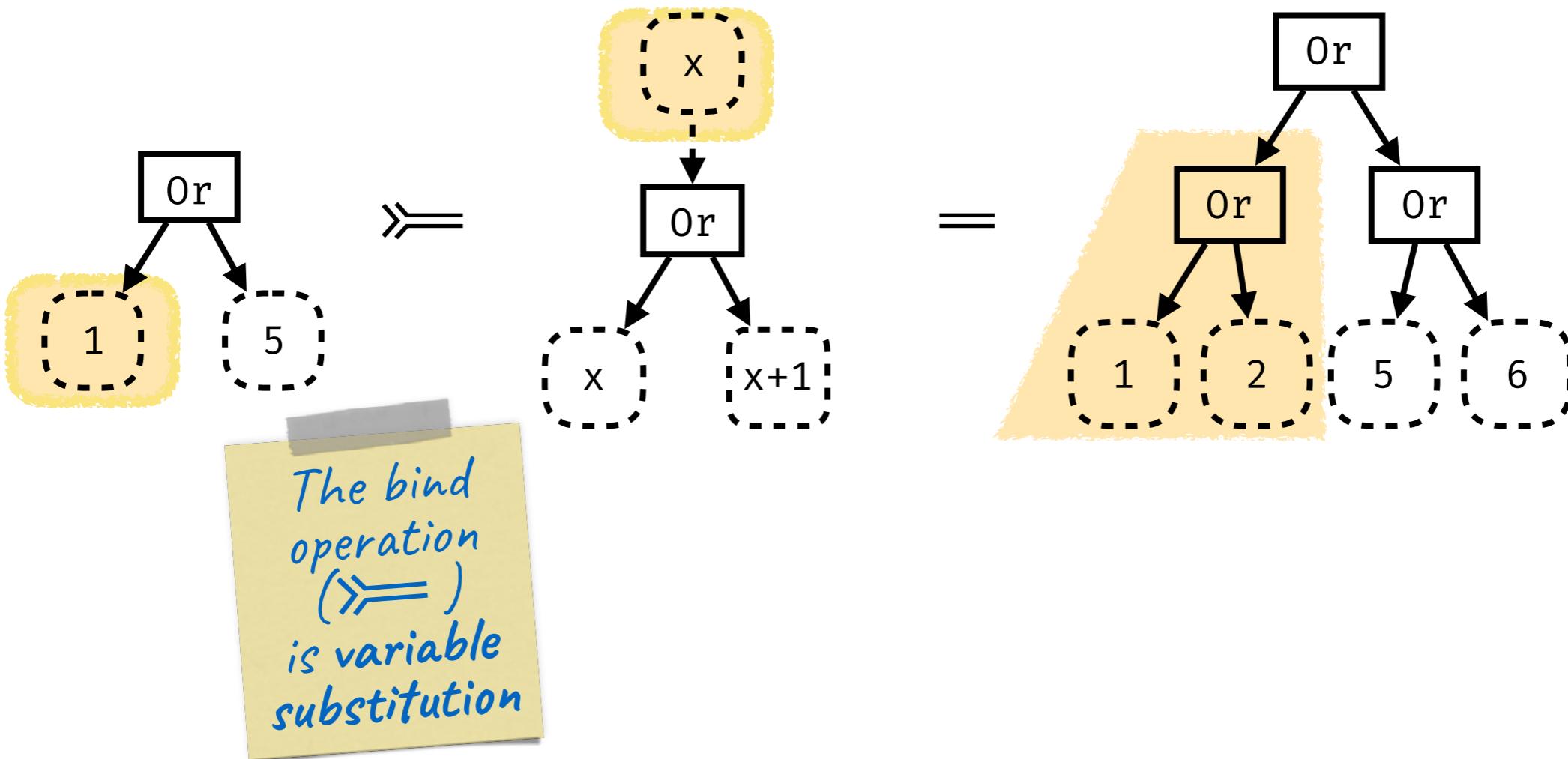
```
gen x          = Var x
alg (Or x y) = const x y
              = x
```



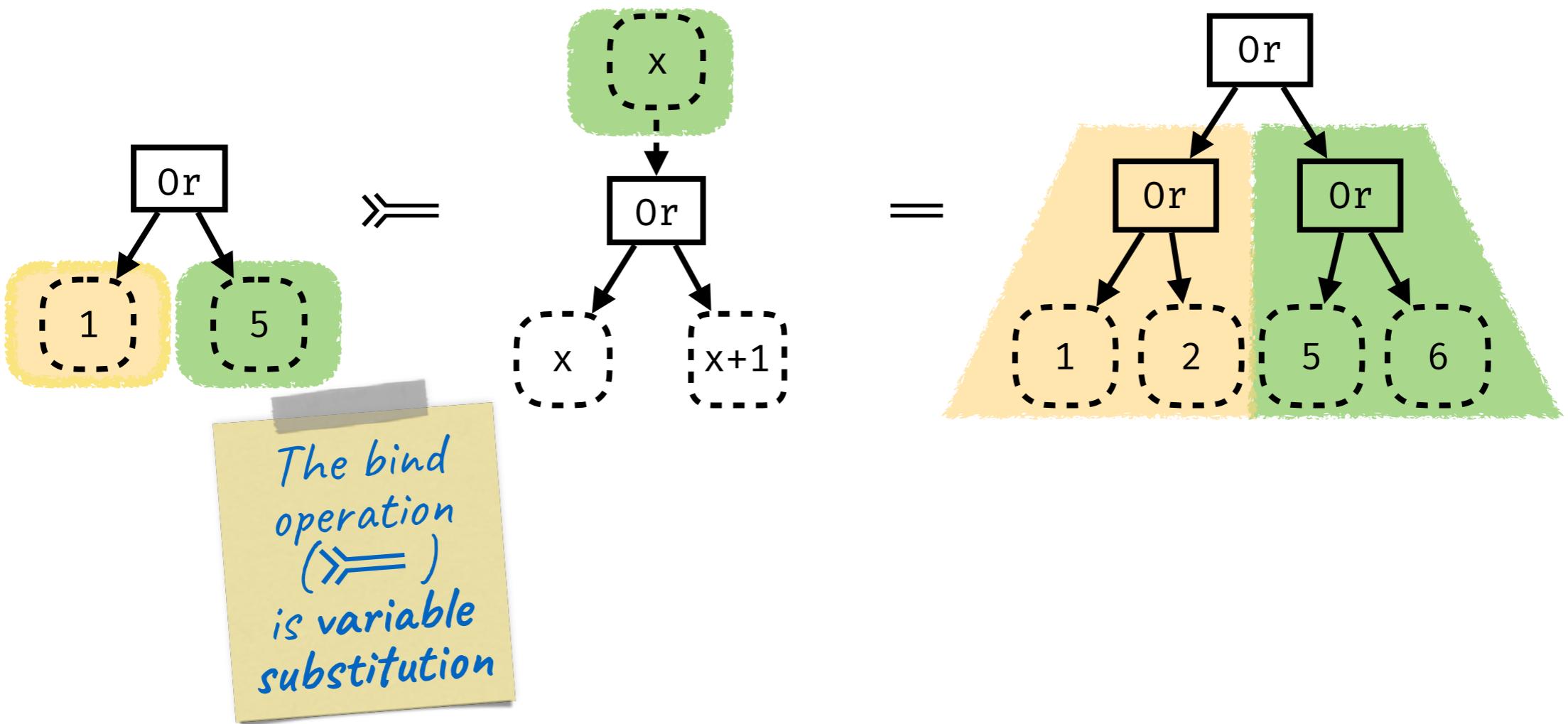
# Scoped Operations



# Algebraicity



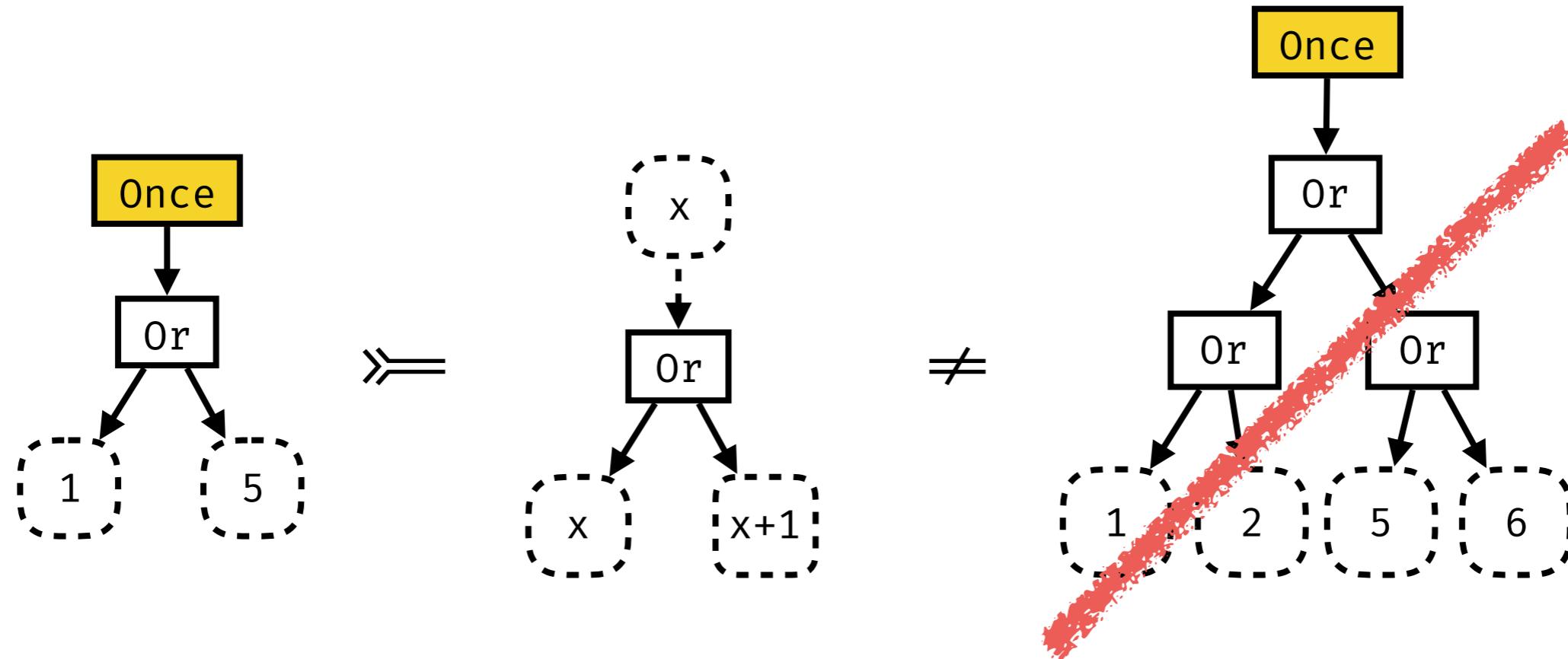
# Algebraicity



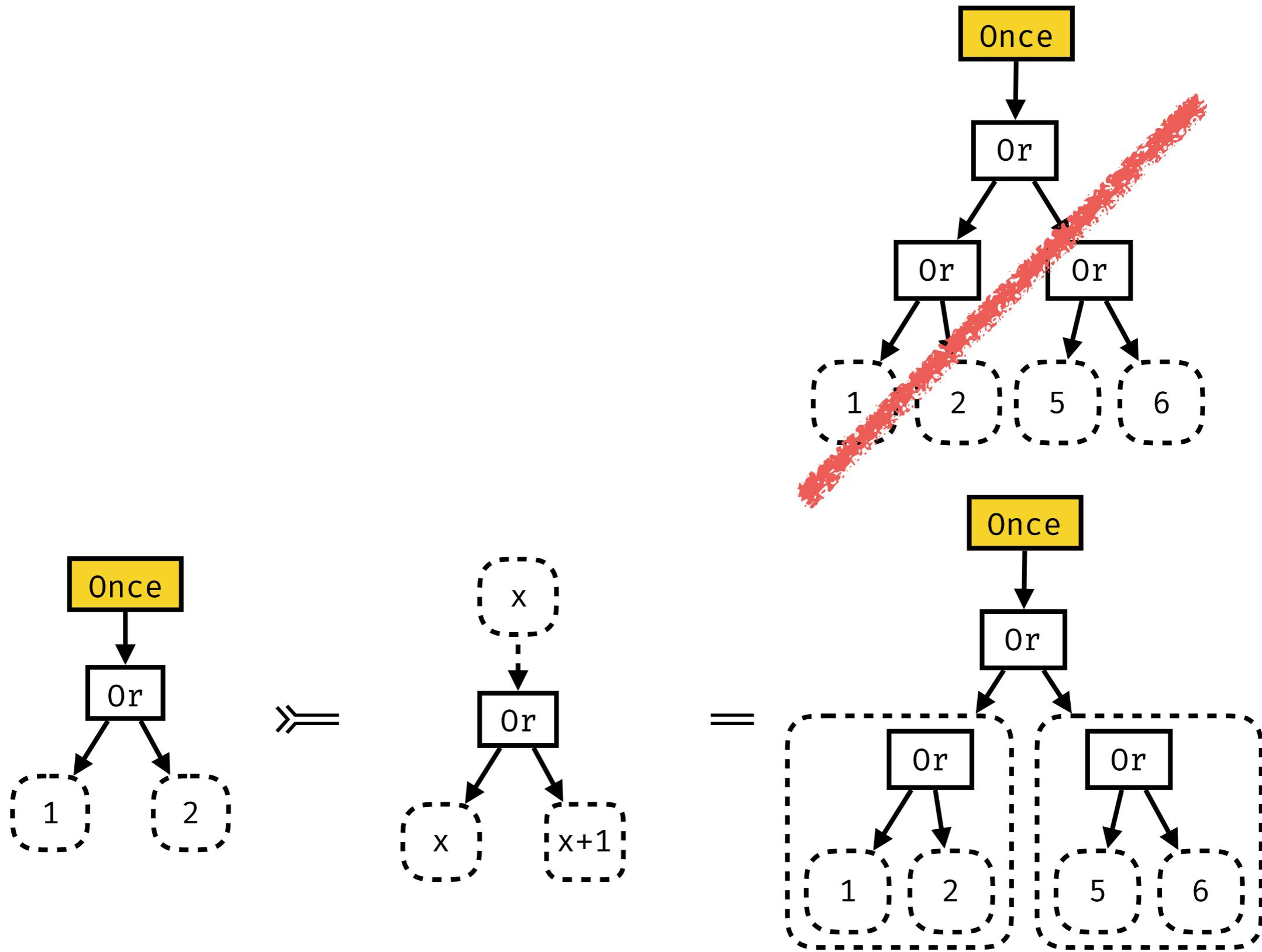
The **or** operation is *algebraic* because it behaves well with substitution:

$$\text{or}(p_1, p_2) \gg k = \text{or}(p_1 \gg k, p_2 \gg k)$$

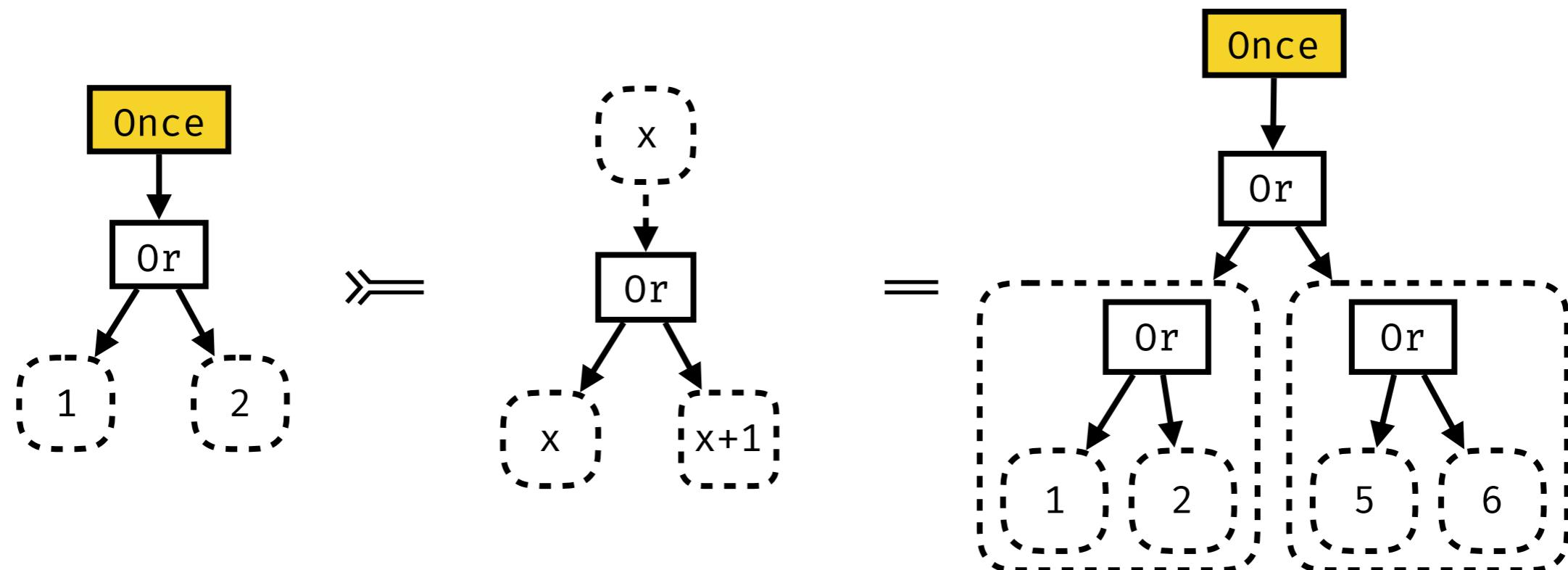
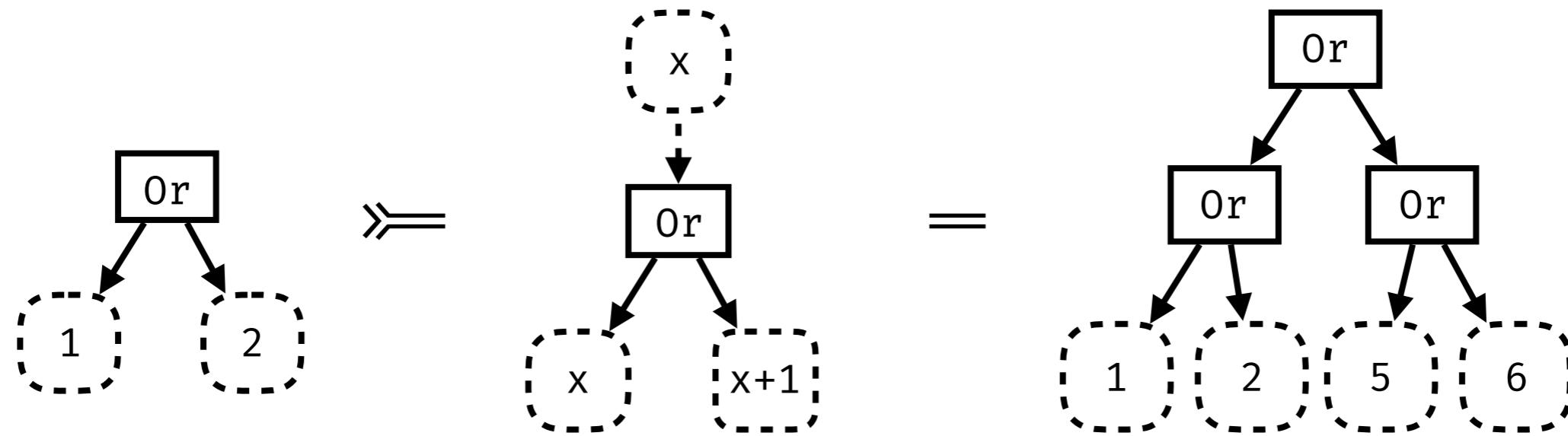
# Once



# Once

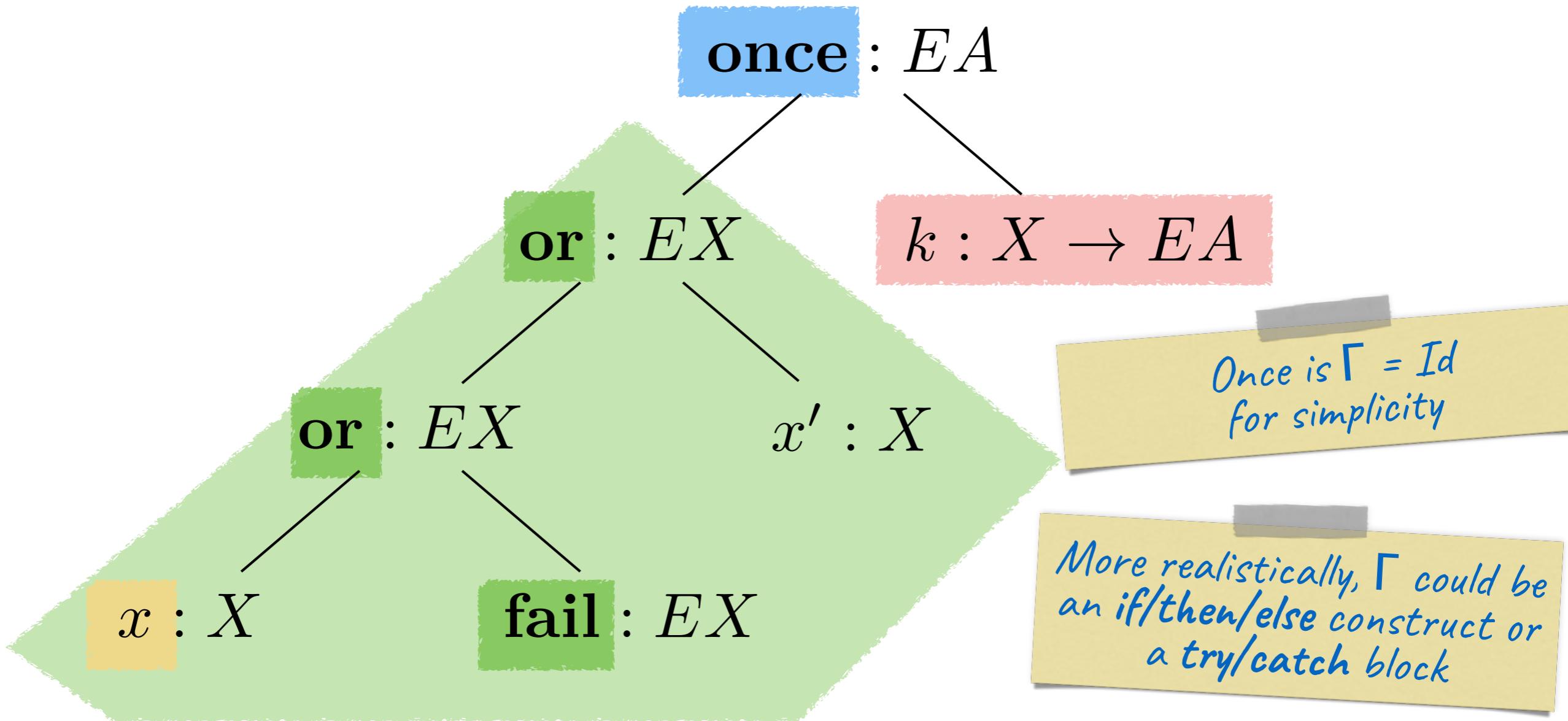


# Once



# Once

Our goal is to treat once like an operation:



$$EA \cong A + \Sigma(EA) + \int^{X \in \mathcal{C}} \Gamma(EX) \times (EA)^X$$

# Scoped Free

The coend equation for our explicit substitution is:

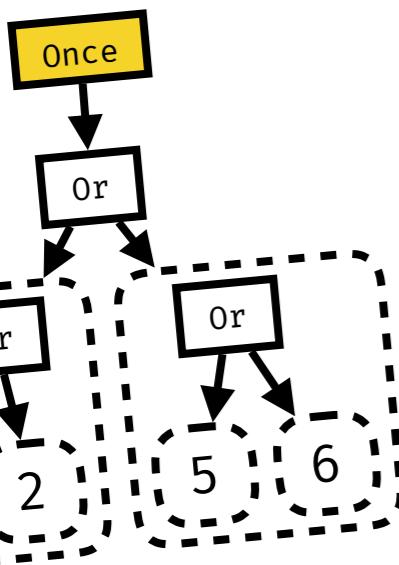
$$EA \cong A + \Sigma(EA) + \int^{X \in \mathcal{C}} \Gamma(EX) \times (EA)^X$$

it can be reduced to:

$$EA \cong A + \Sigma(EA) + \Gamma(E(EA))$$

and this has an easy implementation:

```
data Prog f g a = Var a
                  | Op (f (Prog f g a))
                  | Scope (g (Prog f g (Prog f g a)))
```

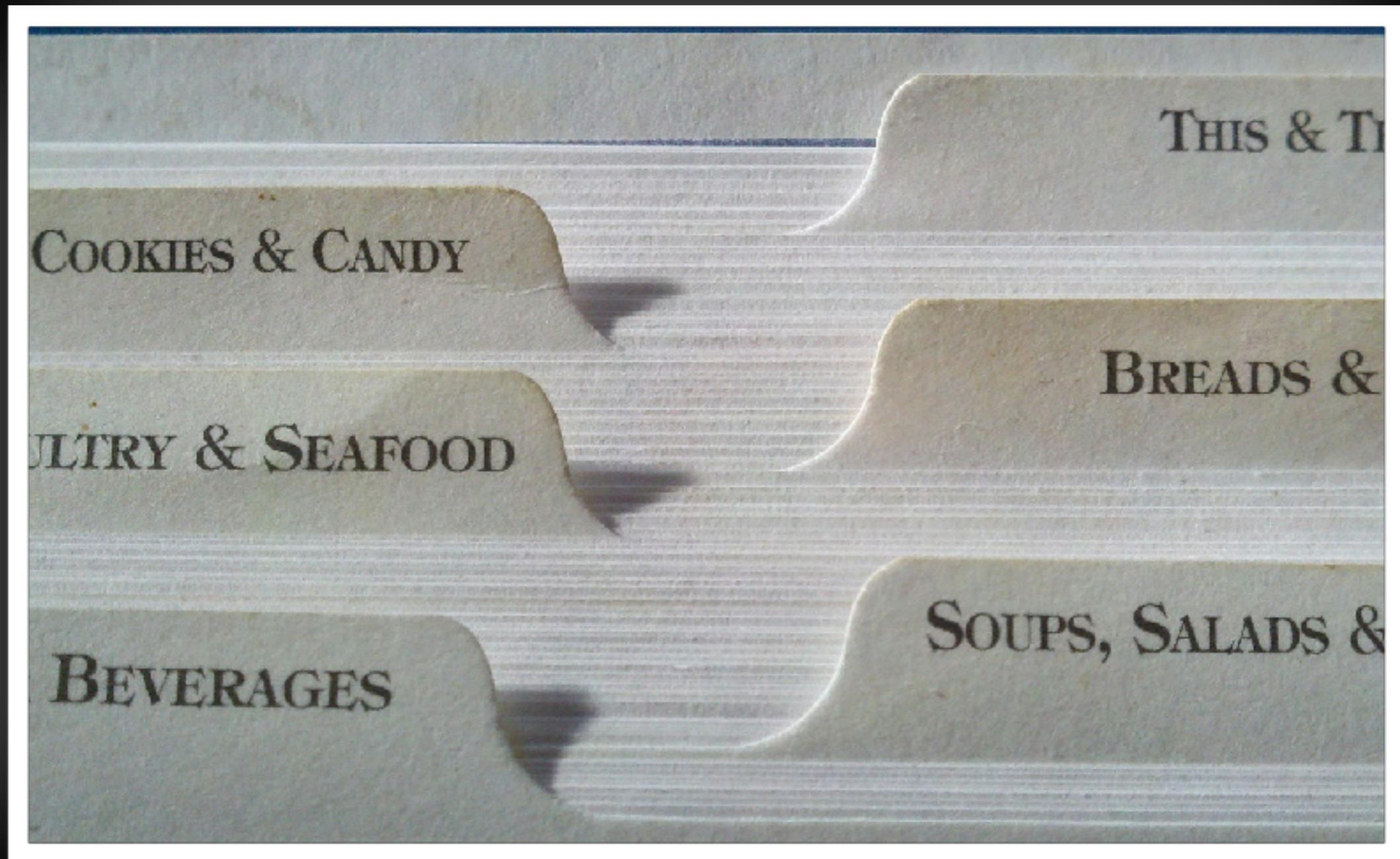


However, the algebras are problematic:

```
alg :: g (Prog f g a) → a
```

this violates step-by-step reduction strategy!

# Indexed Carriers

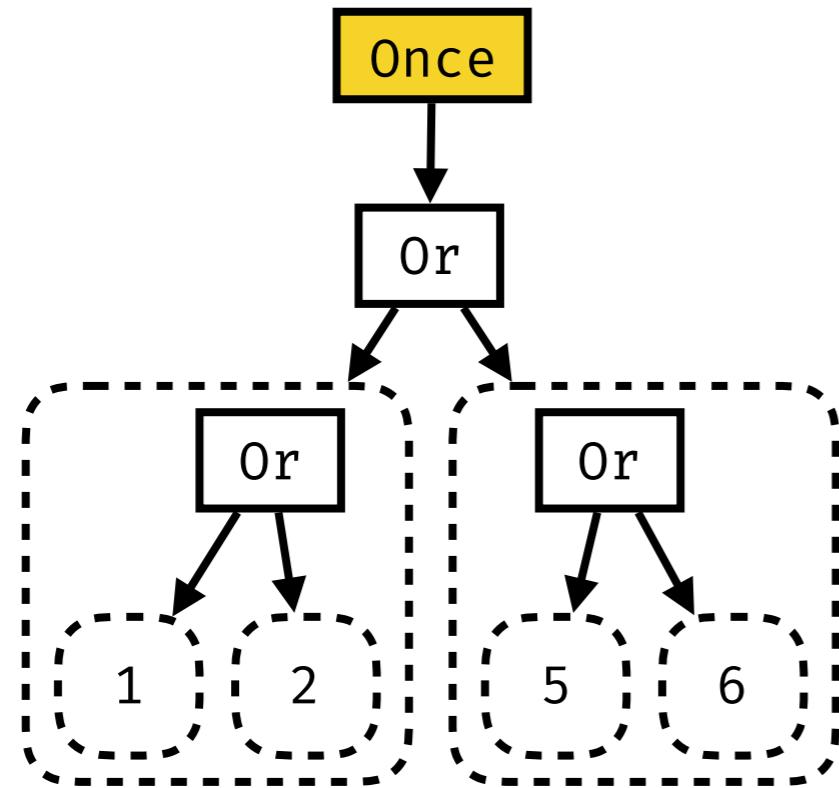


# Once Again

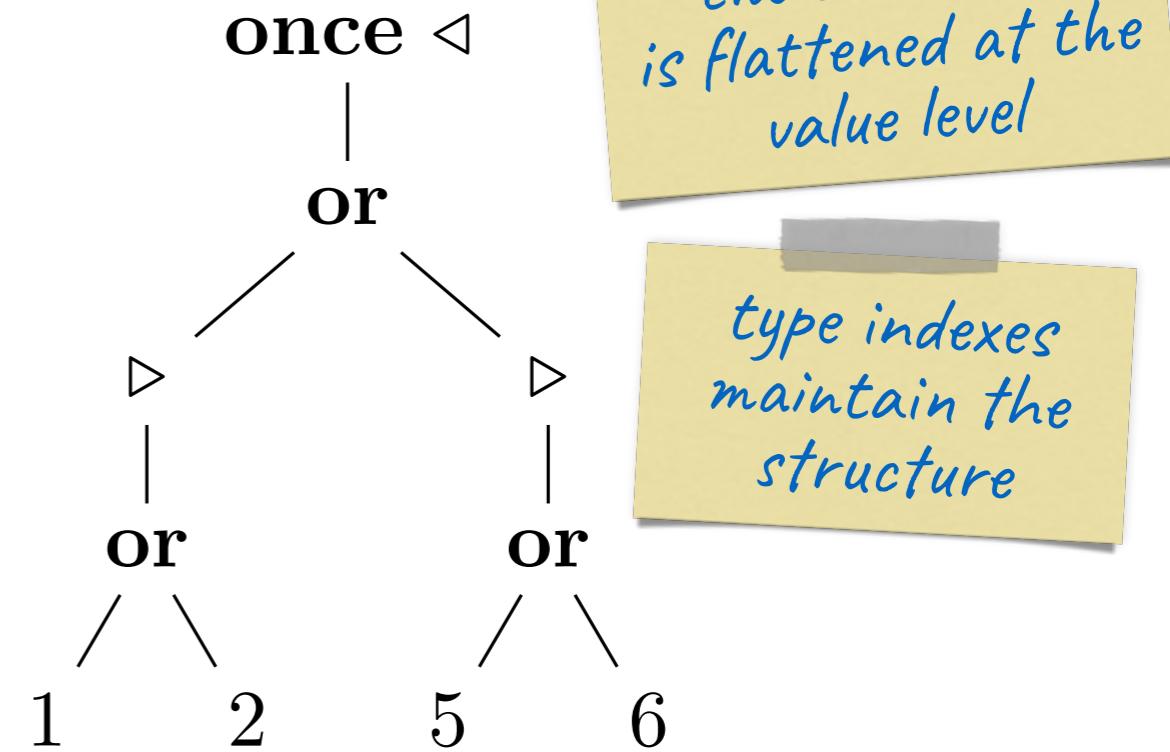
Consider this example:

$$\text{once}(\text{or}(\text{return } 1, \text{return } 5)) \geqslant \lambda x. \text{or}(\text{return } x, \text{return } (x + 1))$$

As a tree, this becomes:

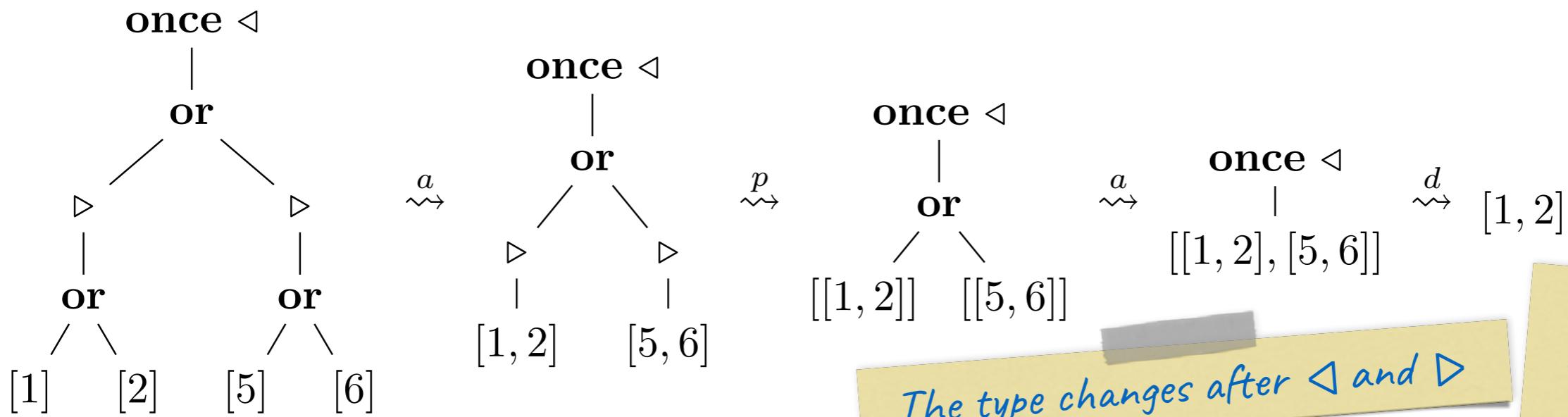


$\approx$



# Once Again

Starting from the bottom, step-by-step:



We can interpret the tree with these three algebras:

**data** Nat = Z | S Nat

**data** Alg f g a = Alg { a :: forall n . f (a n)  $\rightarrow$  a n  
                  , p :: forall n . a n  $\rightarrow$  a (S n)  
                  , d :: forall n . g (a (S n))  $\rightarrow$  a n }

$\langle A, a : \bar{\Sigma} A \rightarrow A, d : \bar{\Gamma} \triangleleft A \rightarrow A, p : \triangleright A \rightarrow A \rangle$

$\bar{\Sigma} + \bar{\Gamma} \triangleleft + \triangleright : \mathcal{C}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^{\mathbb{N}}$

# Indexed Carriers

We are working in an indexed category:  $\mathcal{C}^{\mathbb{N}}$

These endofunctors provide a way of  
moving between levels:

$$(\triangleleft A)_i = A_{i+1}$$

$$(\triangleright A)_0 = 0 \quad (\triangleright A)_{i+1} = A_i$$

We can lift the signatures easily enough:

$$(\overline{\Sigma} A)_n = \Sigma(A_n)$$

# Lifting to $\mathcal{C}^{\mathbb{N}}$

Our computations are in the underlying category

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \downarrow : \mathcal{C}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \mathcal{C} & & \uparrow : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^{\mathbb{N}} \\ \downarrow A = A_0 & & (\uparrow X)_0 = X \quad (\uparrow X)_{n+1} = 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & \uparrow & & \\ \downarrow M \uparrow \subset \mathcal{C} & \xrightarrow[\perp]{} & \mathcal{C}^{\mathbb{N}} & \xrightarrow[\perp]{F} & (\overline{\Sigma} + \overline{\Gamma} \triangleleft + \triangleright)\text{-Alg} \\ & & \downarrow \cup & & \\ & & M = UF & & \\ & & = (\overline{\Sigma} + \overline{\Gamma} \triangleleft + \triangleright)^* & & \end{array}$$

# Implementation

in Haskell we implement this as follows, where the carrier is indexed:

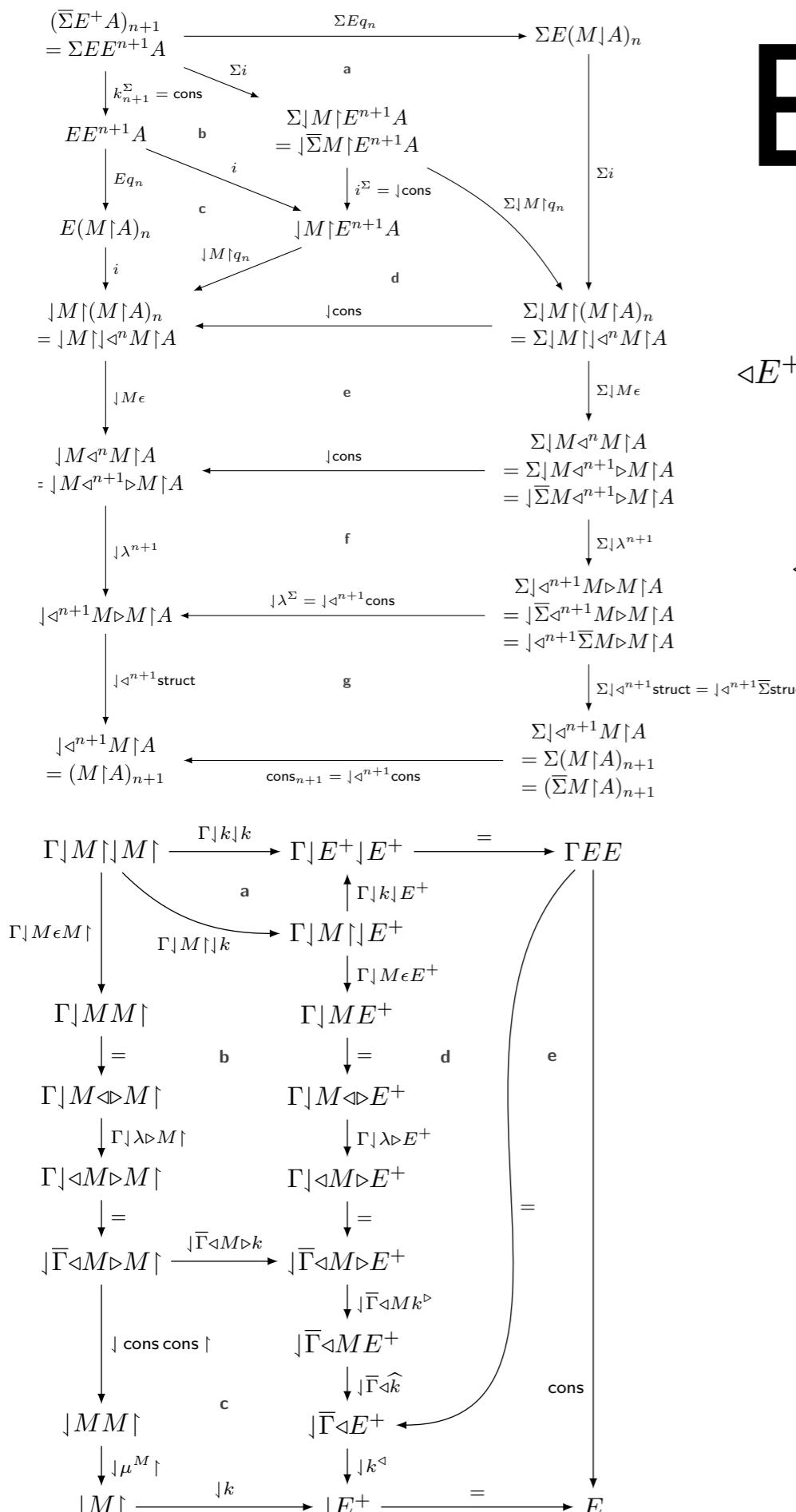
```
data Nat = Zero | Succ Nat  
  
data Alg f g a = A { a :: ∀n. f (a n) → a n  
                      , d :: ∀n. g (a (Succ n)) → a n  
                      , p :: ∀n. a n → a (Succ n) }
```

the fold for this is as expected, using p and d where required:

```
fold :: (Functor f, Functor g) ⇒ Alg f g a → Prog f g (a n) → a n  
fold alg (Var x) = x  
fold alg (Op op) = a alg (fmap (fold alg) op)  
fold alg (Scope sc) = d alg (fmap (fold alg ∘ fmap (p alg ∘ fold alg)) sc)
```

# Once Implementation

```
data CarrierND a n = ND [CarrierND' a n]  
  
data CarrierND' a :: Nat → *where  
  CZND :: a → CarrierND' a Zero  
  CSND :: [CarrierND' a n] → CarrierND' a (Succ n)  
  
  
genND :: a → CarrierND a Zero  
genND x = ND [CZND x]  
  
algND :: Alg Choice Once (CarrierND a)  
algND = A {..} where  
  a :: ∀n a. Choice (CarrierND a n) → CarrierND a n  
    a Fail                      = ND []  
    a (Or (ND l) (ND r))       = ND (l ++ r)  
  
  d :: ∀n a. Once (CarrierND a (Succ n)) → CarrierND a n  
  d (Once (ND []))           = ND []  
  d (Once (ND (CSND l : _))) = ND l  
  
  p :: ∀n a. CarrierND a n → CarrierND a (Succ n)  
  p (ND l)                   = ND [CSND l]
```



$$E = \sqrt{M_1}$$

