

# Algebraic Effects for Calculating Compilers

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# Outline

## Background

- Calculating Compilers
- The Specification Problem
- Computational Effects

## Contributions

## Calculating Compilers With Algebraic Effects

- Effects in the Source Language
- Free Monads, Abstract Syntax Trees and Folds
- Co-product Functors, Smart Constructors and Syntactic Sugar
- Calculating Compilers with Algebraic Effects

## Conclusions and Further Work

- Related Work
- Further Work

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# Source languages and Semantics

Given *Hutton's Razor*[7] as the source language:

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data Expr  
  = Val Int  
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Given *Hutton's Razor*[7] as the source language:

```
data Expr
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```

And evaluation semantics *eval*:

```
eval :: Expr → Int
eval (Val n) = n
eval (Add e1 e2) = eval e1 + eval e2
```

We have a target language *Code*:

**data** *Code* **where**

*HALT* :: *Code*

*PUSH* :: *Int* → *Code* → *Code*

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**data** *Code* **where**

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*ADD* :: *Code* → *Code*

with a compiler *comp'* and top-level *comp*:

*comp'* :: *Expr* → *Code* → *Code*

*comp'* (*Val* *n*)      *t* = *PUSH* *n* *t*

*comp'* (*Add* *e1* *e2*) *t* = *comp'* *e1* (*comp'* *e2* (*ADD* *t*))

*comp* :: *Expr* → *Code*

*comp* *x* = *comp'* *x* *HALT*

# VMs

and a *Stack-based* virtual machine to run the compiled code:

**type** *Stack* = [*Int*]

*exec* :: *Code* → *Stack* → *Stack*

*exec* *HALT* *c* = *c*

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example:

*Main* > *exec* (*comp'* (*Val* 1) *HALT*) []  
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We can derive this using equational reasoning!

## Equational Reasoning

Functional programmers enjoy the benefits of *referential transparency*, that is through algebraic manipulation and a substitution of ‘equals of equals’[5].

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From which we can define a *quadruple* function:

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Which we can derive:

Proof.

$$\text{double} (\text{double } x) = (x + x) + (x + x)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{double} (\text{double } x) \\ &= \{-\text{Definition of inner } \text{double} -\} \\ & \quad \text{double } (x + x) \\ &= \{-\text{Definition of } \text{double} -\} \\ & \quad (x + x) + (x + x) \end{aligned}$$

as required. □

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Adopting *constructive equational reasoning* we can derive function definitions as we go.



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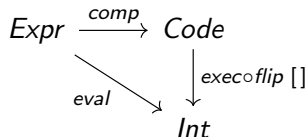
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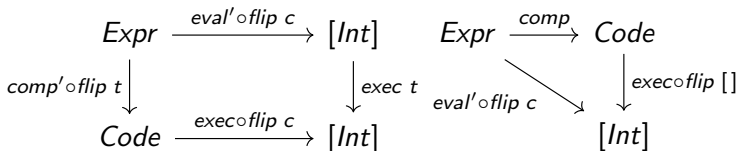
# Calculating Compilers: Background

- ▶ Wand, deriving compilers using continuation semantics[21].
- ▶ Ager *et al.* in deriving virtual machines and compilers from interpreters[1].
- ▶ Meijer in calculating compilers[13].
- ▶ Bahr and Hutton on *Calculating Correct Compilers*[3].

Notably, work by Ager *et al.*[1] derived implementations from the relationship between interpreters (evaluation semantics), compilers and virtual machines:



This relationship was taken further by Hutton[8] and generalised by Bahr and Hutton[3] to define correctness conditions of  $comp$ ,  $comp'$  and  $exec$  and  $eval'$ :



Or put another way, we obtain the following *correctness specifications*:

$$\text{exec } (\text{comp}' s t) c = \text{exec } t (\text{eval}' s c) \quad (1)$$

$$\text{exec } (\text{comp } s) c = \text{eval}' s c \quad (2)$$

for source expression  $s :: \text{Expr}$ , target code  $t :: \text{Code}$ , empty configuration  $c :: [\text{Int}]$  and functions

# Calculating Correct Compilers

- ▶ Bahr and Hutton[3] describe a method which when given  $s$ ,  $eval'$  and the correctness specifications, can be applied to derive an implementation of  $exec$ ,  $comp$  and  $comp'$  that implement the semantics  $eval'$  and satisfy the correctness specifications via *constructive induction*.



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- ▶ Constructive induction is an extension of constructive equational reasoning to encompass inductively defined languages such as *Expr*.
- ▶ We can calculate correct definitions of the compiler and virtual machines from before.

We proceed by calculating  $\text{exec}(\text{comp } s) \ c = \text{exec } t' \ c$  as follows:

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**Proof.**

Calculation of *comp* definition

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{exec} (\text{comp } s) c \\ = & \{-\text{Equation 2 -}\} \\ & \text{eval } s c \\ = & \{-\text{Define } \text{exec } \text{HALT } c = c \text{ and } \text{Code } \text{HALT} \text{ constructor -}\} \\ & \text{exec } \text{HALT} (\text{eval } s c) \\ = & \{-\text{Equation 1 -}\} \\ & \text{exec} (\text{comp}' s \text{HALT}) c \end{aligned}$$

so we define:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{exec } \text{HALT } c &= c \\ \text{comp } s &= \text{comp}' s \text{HALT} \\ \text{data Code where } \{ \dots \} \text{HALT} &:: \text{Code} \end{aligned}$$

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# The Specification Problem

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- ▶ Bahr and Hutton[3] change the correctness specification as languages become more complex.
- ▶ Specification Complexity increases with the inclusion of *Computational Effects*.
- ▶ We want to tackle the *specification problem* by simply fixing the correctness specification outright. We do this by adopting *Algebraic Effects*



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# Monads

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- ▶ Monads are the canonical means to model computational effects in functional languages[14, 20].
- ▶ Informally, a computational effect is some notion of computation that influences how a function proceeds; an effect is a pattern in execution we wish to capture.
- ▶ We can redefine the VM to be *total* by adopting the *Maybe* type:

$exec'' :: Code \rightarrow Stack \rightarrow Maybe\ Stack$

$exec''\ HALT \quad c = return\ c$

$exec''\ (PUSH\ n\ t)\ c = exec''\ t\ (n : c)$

$exec''\ (ADD\ t) \quad c = \mathbf{do}$

**case**  $c$  **of**

$(x : y : xs) \rightarrow exec''\ t\ (x + y : xs)$

$- \rightarrow Nothing$

# What if we want multiple effects?

A solution: *Monad Transformers*, problems:

- ▶ Once a transformer stack is instantiated, the stack and the order of effects becomes concrete[9].

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- ▶ We may have interleaving effects and statically defined stacks where ‘no complete static layering of one effect over the other provides the desired semantics’[11].

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- ▶ Once a transformer stack is instantiated, the stack and the order of effects becomes concrete[9].
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- ▶ Whilst lifting algebraic operations (*Just*, *Nothing* etc...) is typically easy, lifting scoped operations is not[22].

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- ▶ Once a transformer stack is instantiated, the stack and the order of effects becomes concrete[9].
- ▶ We may have interleaving effects and statically defined stacks where ‘no complete static layering of one effect over the other provides the desired semantics’[11].
- ▶ Whilst lifting algebraic operations (*Just*, *Nothing* etc...) is typically easy, lifting scoped operations is not[22].
- ▶ Programming with monads forces a *phase distinction*: in modelling impure computation in a pure way, we break the abstraction boundary[5, 9, 6, 11]



# The Solution?

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Algebraic Effects!

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- ▶ Computations using algebraic effects become *abstract computations*[9].
- ▶ We solve the abstraction problem of monads through *modular abstraction*[9].
- ▶ We do not adopt free theories however.

# Algebraic Effect Handlers

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- ▶ An algebraic handler is a concrete interface for the abstract operations, thus enabling *modular instantiation of effects*.
- ▶ Between modular abstraction and modular instantiation, Kammar *et al.* note that all the issues of monad transformers, outlined before, are solved.

## Contributions

- Generalise Bahr and Hutton's calculation method [3] to machines with *configurations*, calculating correct compilers for Hutton's razor.

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- ▶ Calculate compilers and virtual machines for languages with and without exceptions on *stack-based* machines.
- ▶ Implement typeclasses to capture correctness specifications for compilers with handlers, scoping constructs and interacting effects.
- ▶ Calculate a compiler for Levy's Call-By-Push-Value  $\lambda$ -Calculus [12] with exceptions as a non-trivial case study.

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We return to the toy language we have been using:

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And a more general evaluation semantics *eval*:

```
eval :: Expr → [ExprValue] → [ExprValue]
eval (Val n)      c = (Num n) : c
eval (Add e1 e2) c =
  case eval e1 c of
    c' → case eval e2 c' of
      ((Num m) : (Num n) : c'') → ((Num (m + n)) : c'')
```

**data** ExprValue = Num Int

## Implicit Effects in the Semantics

- ▶ There are implicit *push* and *pop* operations in the semantics:  
$$c' \rightarrow \mathbf{case\ eval\ } e2\ c' \mathbf{ of\ } ((Num\ m) : (Num\ n) : c'') \rightarrow ((Num\ (m + n)) : c'')$$

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- ▶ The *ExprValue* stack combined with *push* and *pop* operations form a stateful computation, and a stateful computation is a computational effect.

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- ▶ This pattern matching is semantically equivalent to popping *Num n* and *Num m*, then subsequently pushing *Num (m + n)*.
- ▶ The *ExprValue* stack combined with *push* and *pop* operations form a stateful computation, and a stateful computation is a computational effect.
- ▶ Differentiate between effects in the *Source/Semantics* and Effects in the *Configuration*, algebraic effects handles them uniformly!

# Modelling State

We declare the stateful stack effect with a *Stackfunctor* declaration, each constructor is an abstract operation, and part of the computational effect in question:

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data StackFunctor s a  
  = Pop (s → a)  
  | Push s a  
  deriving Functor
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Comes with canonical state laws.



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## Free Trees and Folds

- We separate the concerns of syntax and semantics so that the stateful *Stackfunctor* over *Expr* forms the *free monad* abstract syntax tree, consisting of abstract operations.

**data** *Free* *f* *a* = *Var* *a* | *Cons* (*f* (*Free* *f* *a*))

## Free Trees and Folds

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**data** *Free f a* = *Var a* | *Cons (f (Free f a))*

- ▶ Capture semantics with algebraic handlers, which *fold* algebras (semantics) over the tree to interpret it in the semantic domain (*Int*) [22].

**instance** *Functor f*  $\Rightarrow$  *Monad (Free f)* **where**  
*return* = *Var*  
*m*  $\gg=$  *f* = *fold Cons f m*

## IR ASTs and Free ASTs

With this free monad machinery, we create an abstract monadic evaluator that produces an abstract syntax tree from an expression:

```

$$\begin{aligned} eval_{free} &:: Expr \rightarrow Free (StackFunctor ExprValue) () \\ eval_{free} (Val\ n) &= Cons (Push (Num\ n) (Var\ ())) \\ eval_{free} (Add\ e1\ e2) &= \mathbf{do} \\ &\quad eval_{free}\ e1 \\ &\quad eval_{free}\ e2 \\ &\quad (Num\ n) \leftarrow Cons (Pop\ Var) \\ &\quad (Num\ m) \leftarrow Cons (Pop\ Var) \\ &\quad Cons (Push (Num\ (n + m)) (Var\ ())) \end{aligned}$$

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In this sense compiler IR ASTs and ASTs produced from  $eval_{free}$  are the same!

## Closed Handlers

We can additionally define a *closed* handler for such abstract computations:

```
handleStackClosed ::  
  Stack →  
  Free (StackFunctor ExprValue) a →  
  (Stack, a)  
handleStackClosed s (Var x)  
  = (s, x)  
handleStackClosed (x : xs) (Cons (Pop k))  
  = handleStackClosed xs (k x)  
handleStackClosed xs (Cons (Push x k))  
  = handleStackClosed (x : xs) k
```

## example

```
Main > handleStackClosed [Num 11]  
  (evalfree (Add (Val 2) (Val 1)))  
([Num 3, Num 11], ())
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problems:

- ▶ Cannot handle more than one effect
- ▶ Introduced syntax tree boilerplate *Cons*(-tructions) in *eval<sub>free</sub>* and the handler.



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solve these problems by adopting Swierstra's datatypes *à la carte*[19].

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## Combining Effect-Functors

Want to handle more than one effect in the language and configuration, use co-product functors for this purpose:

```
data (+) f g a where  
lnl :: f a → (f + g) a  
lnr :: g a → (f + g) a  
deriving Functor
```

# Open Handlers

Can redefine the open handlers using co-product functors:

```

handleStackOpen :: Functor g  $\Rightarrow$ 
  Stack
   $\rightarrow$  Free (StackFunctor ExprValue + g) a
   $\rightarrow$  Free g (Stack, a)
handleStackOpen s (Var a)
  = return (s, a)
handleStackOpen (x : xs) (Cons (Inl (Pop k)))
  = handleStackOpen xs (k x)
handleStackOpen xs (Cons (Inl (Push x k)))
  = handleStackOpen (x : xs) k

```

## Syntactic sugar

Introduce Swierstra's smart constructors[19],  $g$  supports  $f$ :

```
class (Functor  $f$ , Functor  $g$ )  $\Rightarrow f \subset g$  where  
   $inj :: f\ a \rightarrow g\ a$   
   $prj :: g\ a \rightarrow Maybe\ (f\ a)$ 
```

with class additional instances, (see [19])

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Introduce Swierstra's smart constructors[19],  $g$  supports  $f$ :

**class** ( $Functor\ f, Functor\ g$ )  $\Rightarrow f \subset g$  **where**  
 $inj :: f\ a \rightarrow g\ a$   
 $prj :: g\ a \rightarrow Maybe\ (f\ a)$

with class additional instances, (see [19]) We have *injection* and *projection* functions to capture the tree boilerplate *Cons*(-tructions):

$inject :: (g \subset f) \Rightarrow g\ (Free\ f\ a) \rightarrow Free\ f\ a$   
 $inject = Cons \circ inj$   
 $project :: (f \subset g) \Rightarrow Free\ g\ a \rightarrow Maybe\ (f\ (Free\ g\ a))$   
 $project\ (Cons\ s) = prj\ s$   
 $project\ \_ = Nothing$

## Syntactic Sugar II

We redefine the abstract operations used in  $eval_{free}$ :

$$pop' :: (StackFunctor\ ExprValue \subset g) \Rightarrow Free\ g\ ExprValue$$

$$pop' = inject\ (Pop\ Var)$$

$$push' :: (StackFunctor\ ExprValue \subset g) \Rightarrow ExprValue \rightarrow Free\ g\ ()$$

$$push'\ v = inject\ (Push\ v\ (Var\ ()))$$

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$$push'\ v = inject\ (Push\ v\ (Var\ ()))$$

This captures that tricky tree notation



## *eval* redefined

We get a simpler *eval<sub>free</sub>* function:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{eval}' &:: (\text{StackFunctor ExprValue} \subset g) \Rightarrow \\ &\quad \text{Expr} \rightarrow \text{Free } g () \rightarrow \text{Free } g () \\ \text{eval}' (\text{Val } n) \ c &= \mathbf{do} \\ &\quad c \\ &\quad \text{push}' (\text{Num } n) \\ \text{eval}' (\text{Add } e1 \ e2) \ c &= \mathbf{do} \\ &\quad \mathbf{let} \ c' = \text{eval}' \ e1 \ c \\ &\quad \text{eval}' \ e2 \ c' \\ &\quad (\text{Num } n) \leftarrow \text{pop}' \\ &\quad (\text{Num } m) \leftarrow \text{pop}' \\ &\quad \text{push}' (\text{Num } (m + n)) \end{aligned}$$

## Expr, handled

With a handler for pure computations [22]:

**data** *Void* *k* **deriving** *Functor*

*handleVoid* :: *Free Void a* → *a*

*handleVoid* = *fold* ⊥ *id*

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can run as follows:

```
Main > (handleVoid ∘ handleStackOpen [Num 2])
      (eval' (Add (Val 1) (Val 2)) (return ()))
      ([Num 3, Num 2], ())
```

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Now to calculate a correct compiler with algebraic effects!

# Outline

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## Calculating Compilers, Statefully

Using the same correctness specifications, 1 and 2 but replacing *eval* with *eval'*:

$$\text{exec } (\text{comp}' s t) c = \text{exec } t (\text{eval}' s c) \quad (3)$$

$$\text{exec } (\text{comp } s) c = \text{eval}' s c \quad (4)$$

We proceed by performing constructive induction on the term *s* in the equation  $\text{exec } (\text{comp}' s t) c = \text{exec } t' c$ .

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We proceed by performing constructive induction on the term *s* in the equation  $\text{exec } (\text{comp}' s t) c = \text{exec } t' c$ .

We start with the base case  $s = \text{Val } n$ :

$$\text{eval}' (\text{Val } n) c = \mathbf{do} \{ c; \text{push}' (\text{Num } n) \}$$

## Proof.

Base case  $s = \text{Val } n$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{exec } (\text{comp}' (\text{Val } n) t) c \\
 &= \{-\text{Equation 3} -\} \\
 & \quad \text{exec } t (\text{eval}' (\text{Val } n) c) \\
 &= \{-\text{Definition of } \text{eval}' -\} \\
 & \quad \text{exec } t (\text{do } \{c; \text{push}' (\text{Num } n)\}) \\
 &= \{-\text{Define } \text{exec } (\text{PUSH } v t) c \text{ (below) and } \text{Code PUSH} -\} \\
 & \quad \text{exec } (\text{PUSH } (\text{Num } n) t) c
 \end{aligned}$$

so we define:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{exec } (\text{PUSH } v t) c = \text{exec } t (\text{do } \{c; \text{push}' v\}) \\
 & \text{data Code where } \{...\} \text{ PUSH} :: \text{ExprValue} \rightarrow \text{Code} \rightarrow \text{Code} \\
 & \text{comp}' (\text{Val } n) t = \text{PUSH } (\text{Num } n) t
 \end{aligned}$$

## Inductive case

Next, we tackle the inductive *Add* case, we have the inductive hypothesis for sub-expressions *e1* and *e2*:

$$\text{exec } (\text{comp}' e t') c' = \text{exec } t' (\text{eval}' e c') \quad (5)$$

```
eval' (Add e1 e2) c = do
  let c' = eval' e1 c
  eval' e2 c'
  (Num n) ← pop'
  (Num m) ← pop'
  push' (Num (m + n))
```

## Proof.

Inductive case  $s = \text{Add } e1 \ e2$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{exec } (\text{comp}' (\text{Add } e1 \ e2) \ t) \ c \\
 = & \ \{-\text{Equation 3 -}\} \\
 & \text{exec } t \ (\text{eval}' (\text{Add } e1 \ e2) \ c) \\
 = & \ \{-\text{Definition of eval}' -\} \\
 & \text{exec } t \ (\mathbf{do} \\
 & \quad \mathbf{let} \ c' = \text{eval}' \ e1 \ c \\
 & \quad \text{eval}' \ e2 \ c' \\
 & \quad (\text{Num } n) \leftarrow \text{pop}' \\
 & \quad (\text{Num } m) \leftarrow \text{pop}' \\
 & \quad \text{push}' (\text{Num } (m + n)))
 \end{aligned}$$





## Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} &= \{-\text{let substitution -}\} \\ &\quad \text{exec } t \text{ (do} \\ &\quad \quad \text{eval' } e2 \text{ (eval' } e1 \text{ } c) \\ &\quad \quad (Num \text{ } n) \leftarrow \text{pop'} \\ &\quad \quad (Num \text{ } m) \leftarrow \text{pop'} \\ &\quad \quad \text{push' (Num (} m + n \text{))}) \\ &= \{-\text{Define exec (ADD } t) \text{ } c \text{ and Code ADD -}\} \\ &\quad \text{exec (ADD } t) \text{ (eval' } e2 \text{ (eval' } e1 \text{ } c))} \\ &= \{-\text{Induction hypothesis for } e2, \text{ eq 5 -}\} \\ &\quad \text{exec (comp' } e2 \text{ (ADD } t)) \text{ (eval' } e1 \text{ } c)} \\ &= \{-\text{Induction hypothesis for } e1, \text{ eq 5 -}\} \\ &\quad \text{exec (comp' } e1 \text{ (comp' } e2 \text{ (ADD } t))) \text{ } c \end{aligned}$$



## Calculation end

so we define:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{exec } (ADD \ t) \ c &= \text{exec } t \ (\mathbf{do} \\ &\quad c \\ &\quad (Num \ n) \leftarrow pop' \\ &\quad (Num \ m) \leftarrow pop' \\ &\quad push' \ (Num \ (m + n))) \\ \mathbf{data} \ Code \ \mathbf{where} \ \{ \dots \} \ ADD &:: Code \rightarrow Code \\ comp' \ (Add \ e1 \ e2) \ t &= comp' \ e1 \ (comp' \ e2 \ (ADD \ t)) \end{aligned}$$

and we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{exec } (comp' \ (Add \ e1 \ e2) \ t) \ c &= \\ \text{exec } (comp' \ e1 \ (comp' \ e2 \ (ADD \ t))) \ c & \end{aligned}$$

as required.

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- ▶ Compiler and VM definitions are correct by construction[18].
- ▶ algebraic effects preserve abstractions and come with algebraic laws (compiler optimisation?)
- ▶ Calculation of *comp* comes from straightforward equational reasoning, see *Background*.

## Contributions Revisited

- Generalise Bahr and Hutton's calculation method [3] to machines with *configurations*, calculating correct compilers for Hutton's razor. ✓

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- ▶ Calculate compilers and virtual machines for languages with and without exceptions on *stack-based* machines.
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- ▶ Calculate a compiler for Levy's Call-By-Push-Value  $\lambda$ -Calculus [12] with exceptions as a non-trivial case study.

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- ▶ Wu *et al.* make use of *pattern synonyms* and *view patterns*[23] to capture the abstract operations.

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- ▶ Explore compiler optimisation using Wu and Shrijver's *fold fusion* [22] for algebraic handlers.

Thank you for listening!  
Any Questions?  
Code available at:



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