

The Scope of Algebraic Effects

Nicolas Wu

with Maciej Pirog, Tom Schrijvers, and Mauro Jaskelioff

University of Bristol

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Effect Handlers



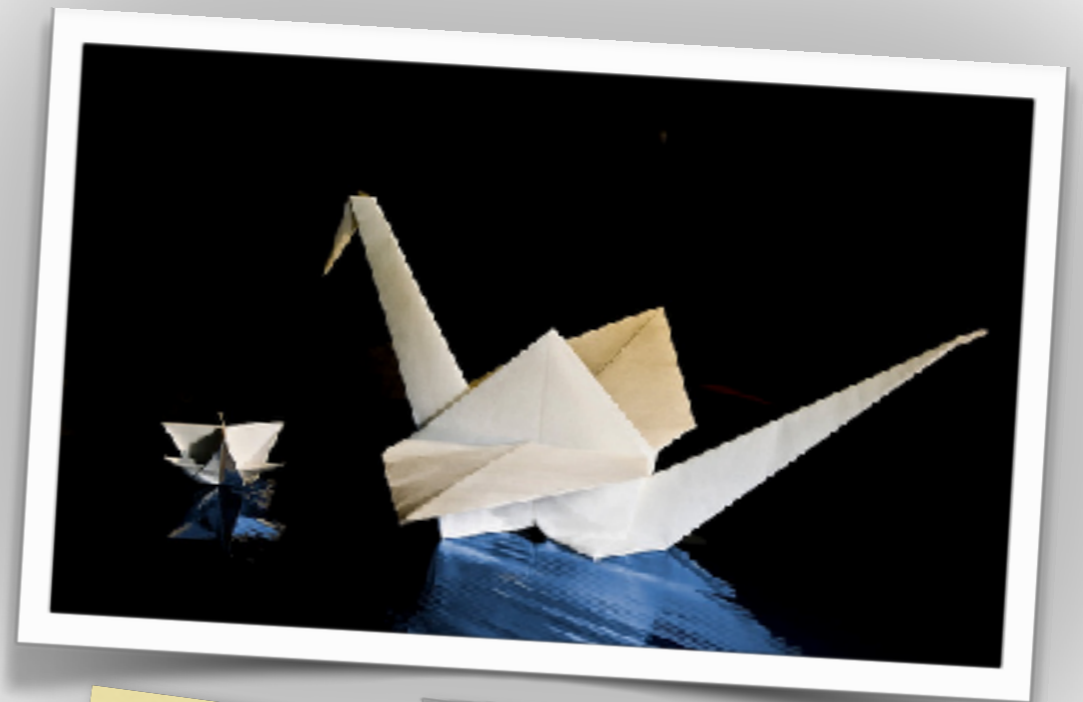
Effect Handlers

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

```

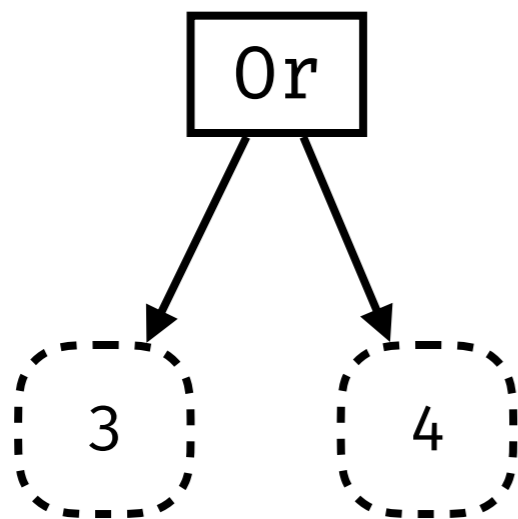
data Free f a
  = Var a
  | Op (f (Free f a))

```

```

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

```

```

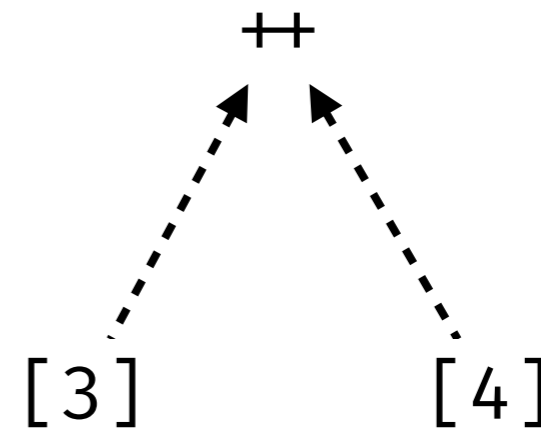
eval gen alg (Var x) = gen x

```

```

eval gen alg (Op op) =
  (alg . fmap (eval gen alg)) op

```



```

[3, 4]

```



Syntax

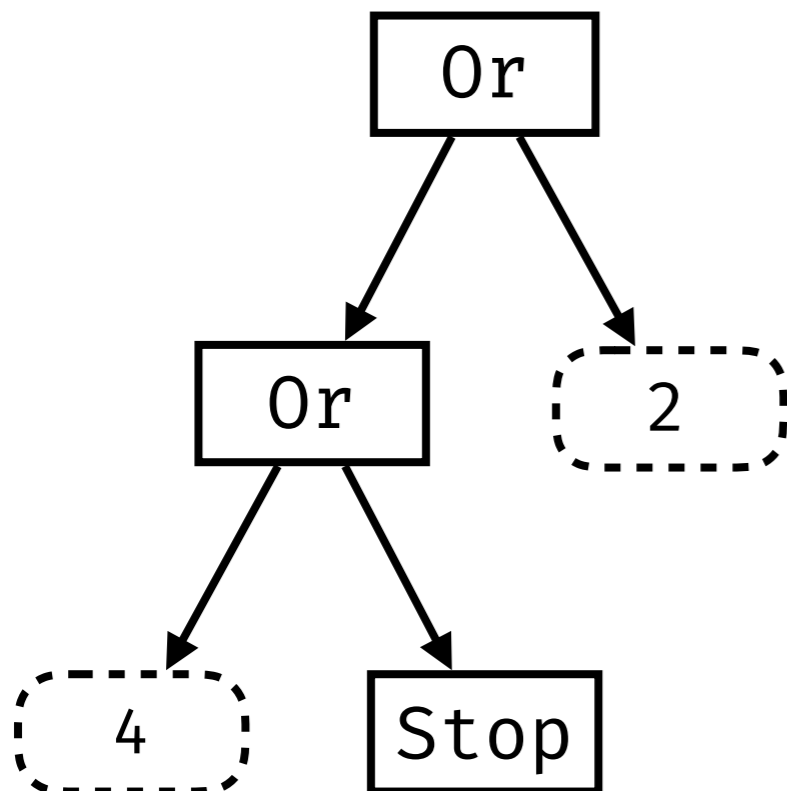
Extra language features can be added as needed

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
 \cong Free (Stop :+: Or :+: Void) Int

Semantics target individual operations

Semantics



data Or k = Or k k

list :: Free Or a → [a]

once :: Free Or a → a

list = eval gen alg **where**

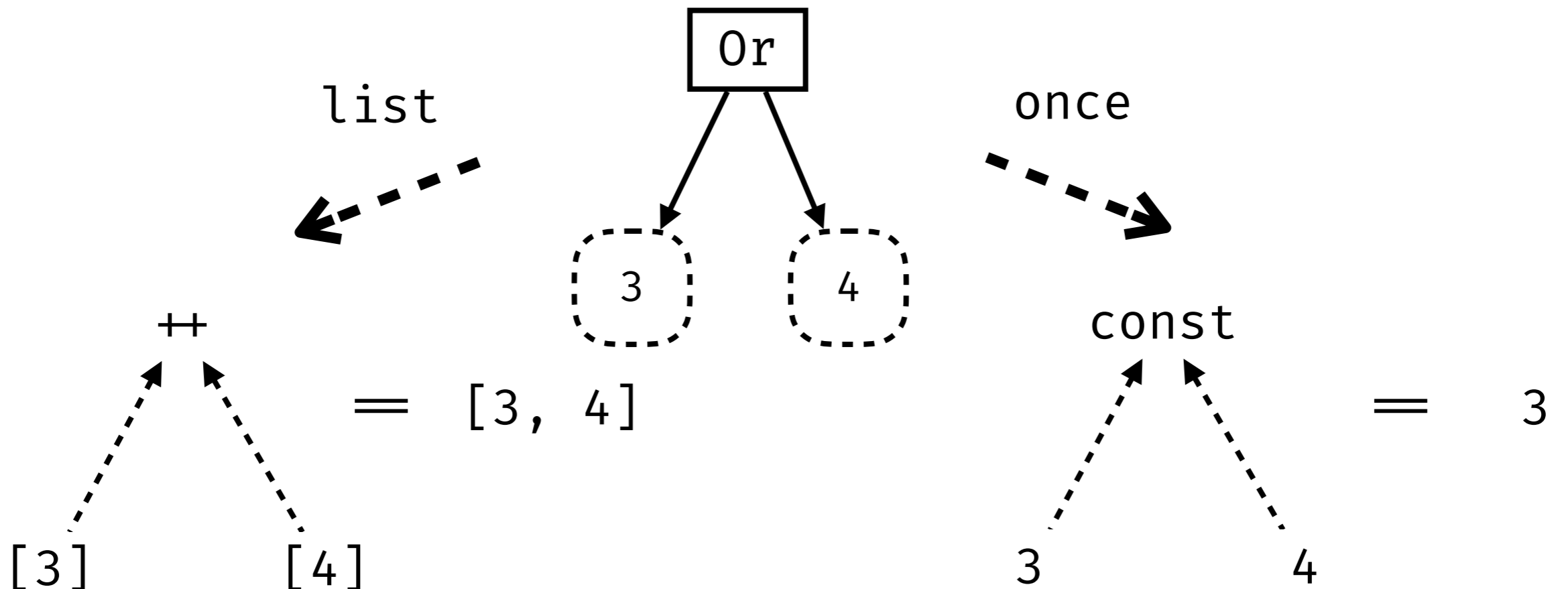
once = eval gen alg **where**

gen x = [x]

gen x = x

alg (Or xs ys) = xs ++ ys

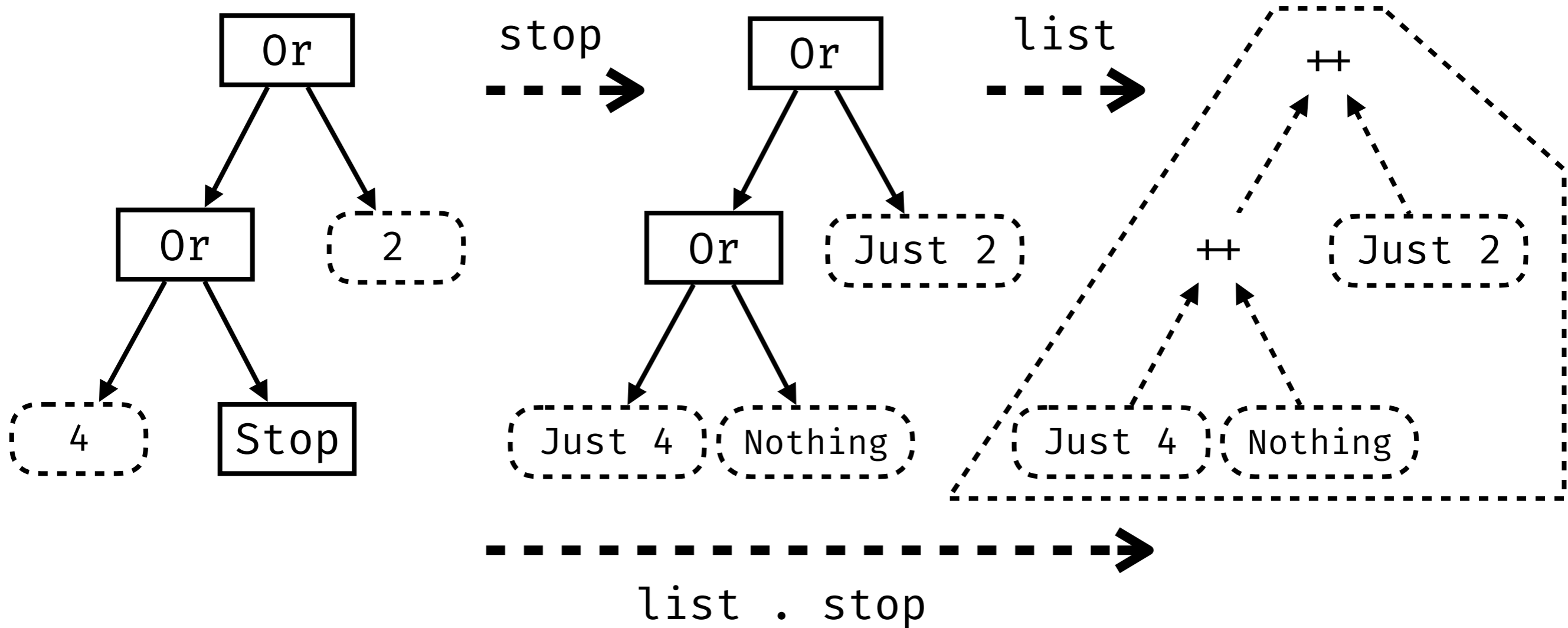
alg (Or xs ys) = const xs ys
= xs



Chained Handlers



Chained Handlers



Nondeterminism

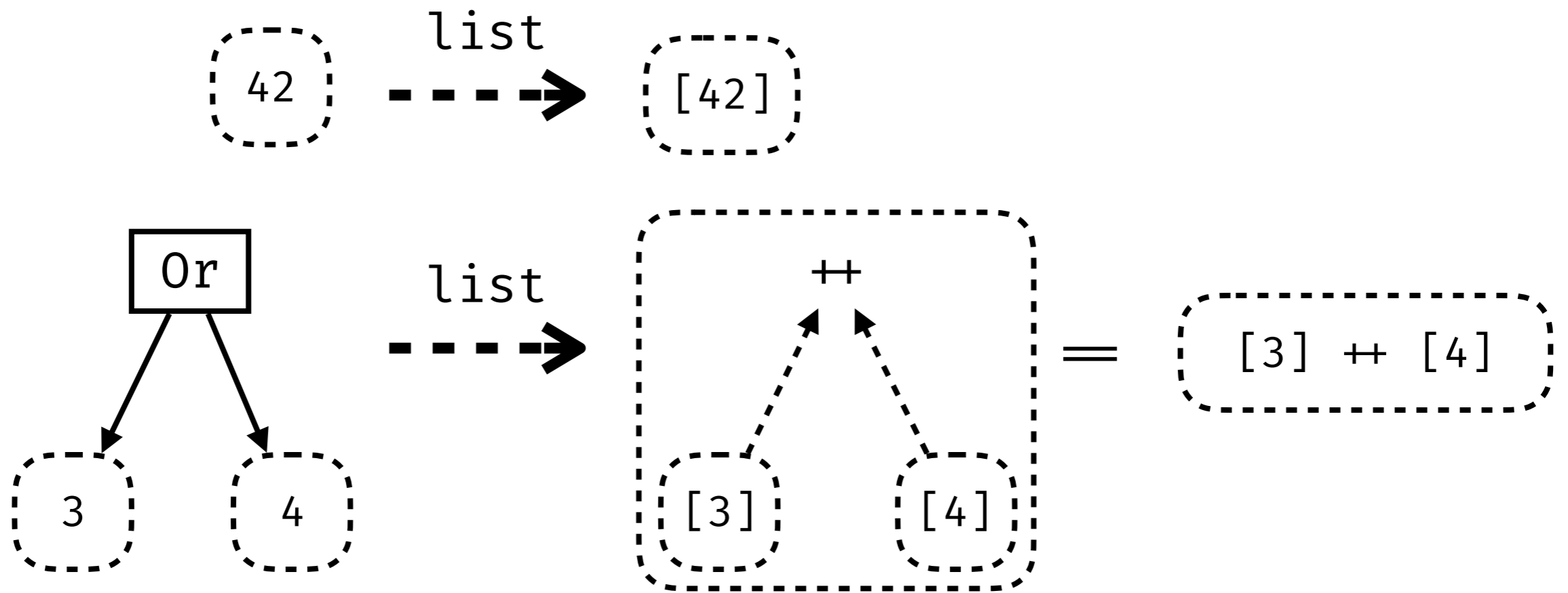
data Or k = Or k k

list :: Functor f \Rightarrow Free (Or :+: f) a \rightarrow Free f [a]

list = eval gen (embed alg) **where**

gen x = Var [x]

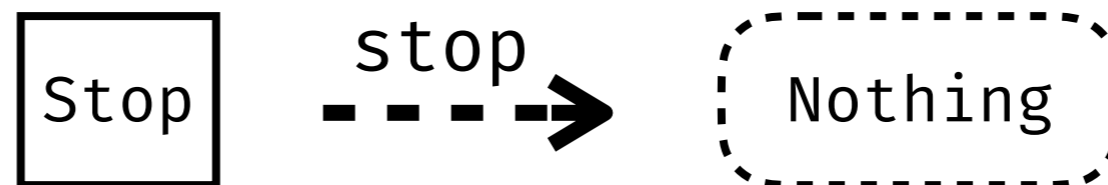
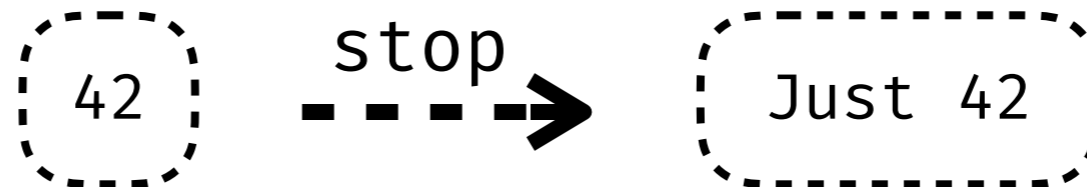
alg (Or mx my) = **do** xs \leftarrow mx
ys \leftarrow my
Var (xs ++ ys)



Exceptions

```
data Stop k = Stop
```

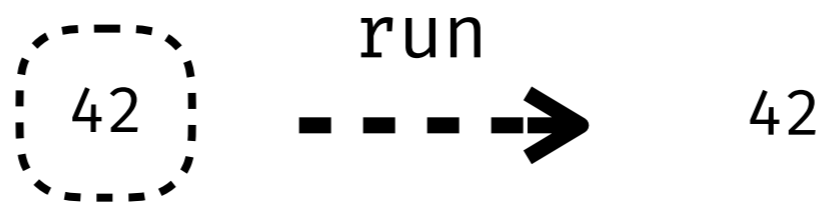
```
stop :: Functor f => Free (Stop :+ f) a -> Free f (Maybe a)
stop = eval gen (embed alg) where
  gen x = Var (Just x)
  alg :: Alg (Stop) (Free f (Maybe a))
  alg Stop = Var (Nothing)
```



Void

```
data Void k
```

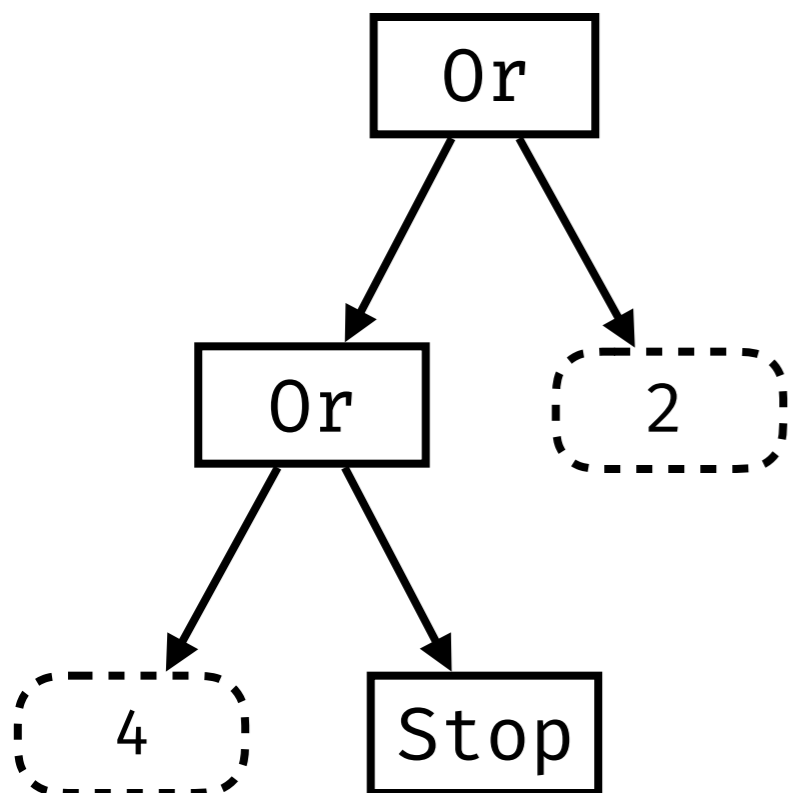
```
run :: Free Void a → a  
run = eval gen alg where  
  gen = id  
  alg = error "unreachable"
```



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
```



run . global
----->

Nothing

run . local
----->

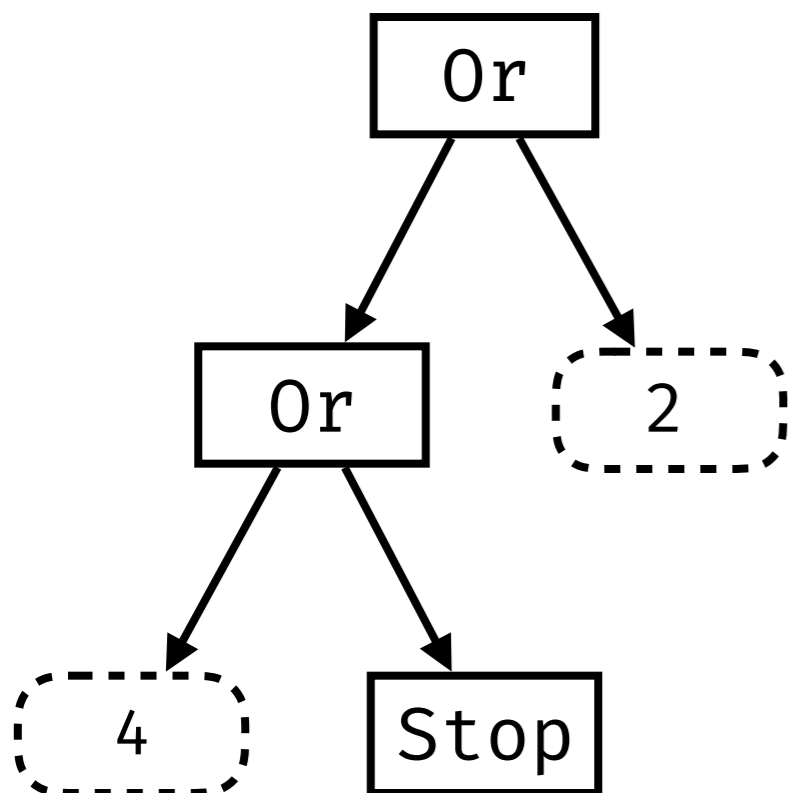
[Just 4, Nothing, Just 2]



Local and Global Exceptions

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

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



`run . global`
 ----->

Nothing

`run . local`
 ----->

[Just 4, Nothing, Just 2]

Effects Everywhere!

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

Effect

Exceptions

Nondeterminism

Reader

Writer

State

Threads

Handlers

catch

every, once

local

flush

exec, run

spawn, fork

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

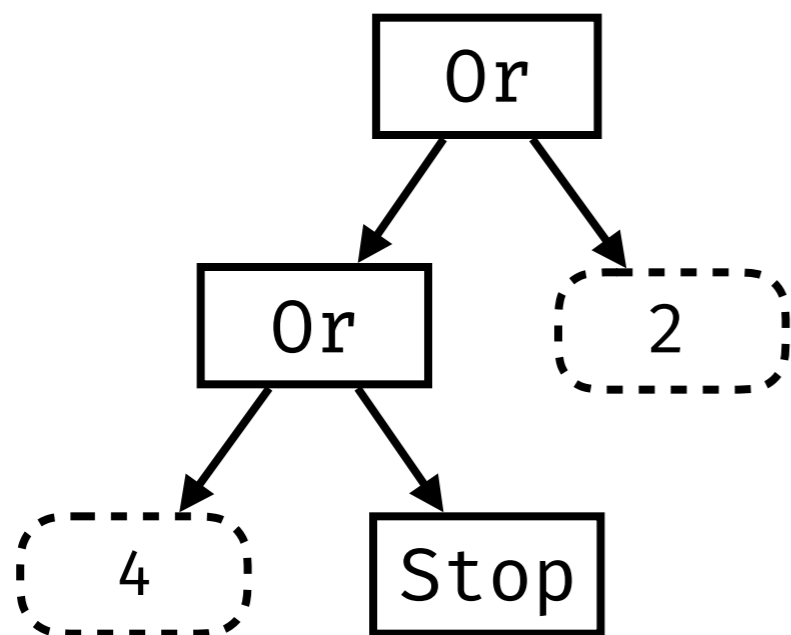
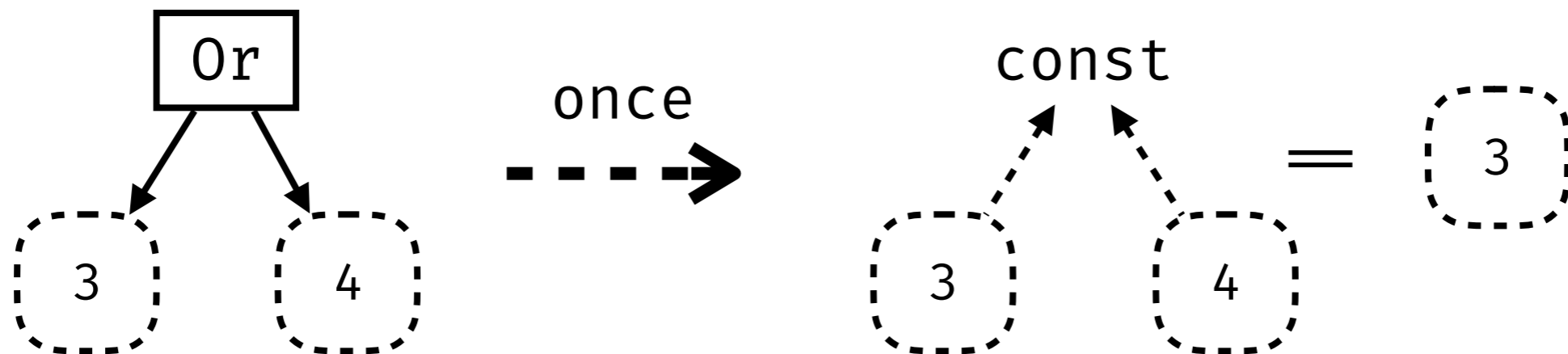
Effects are handled algebraically

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



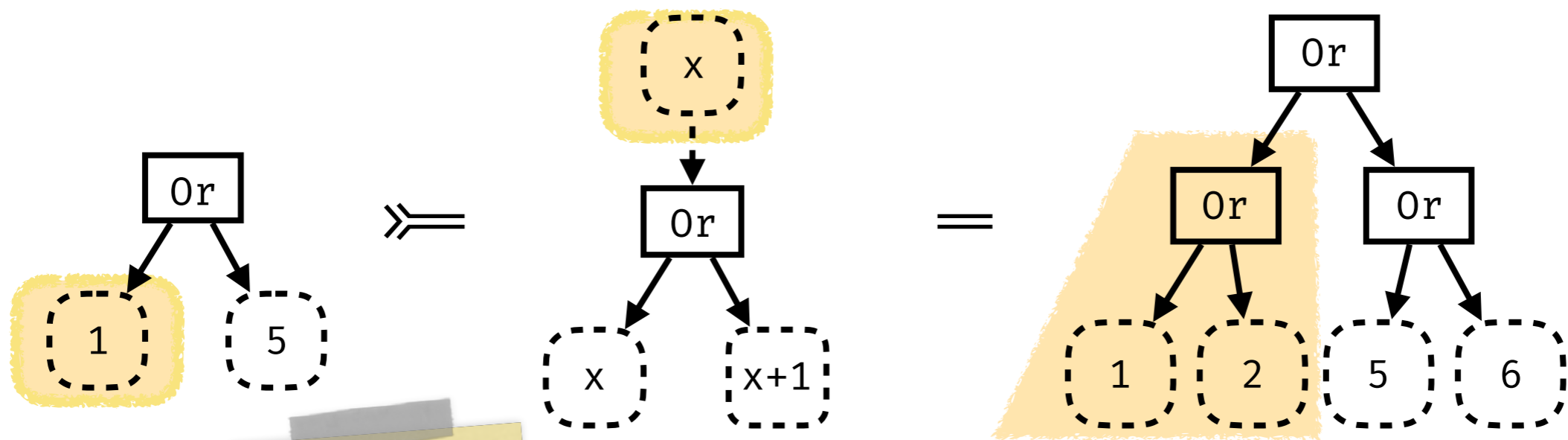
run . stop . once
 -----> Just 4
 run . once . stop
 -----> Just 4



Scoped Operations

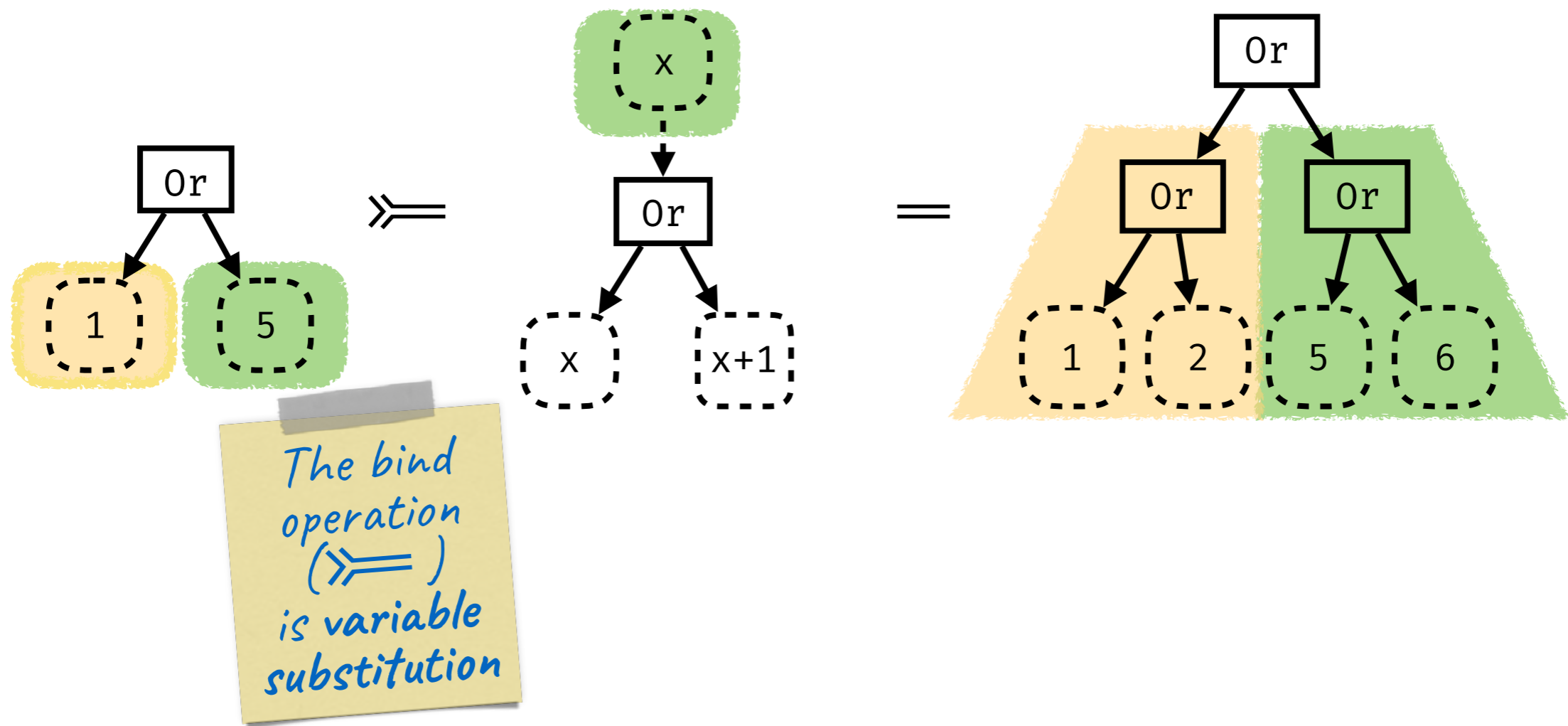


Algebraicity



The bind operation (\Rightarrow) is variable substitution

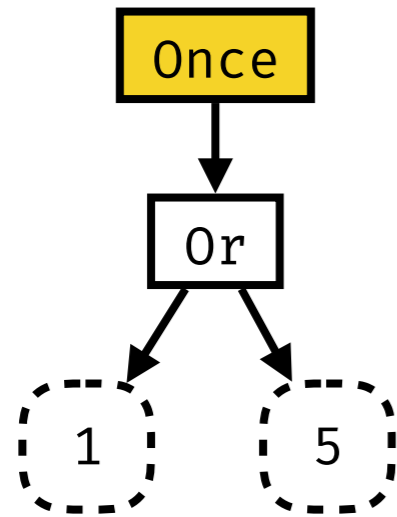
Algebraicity



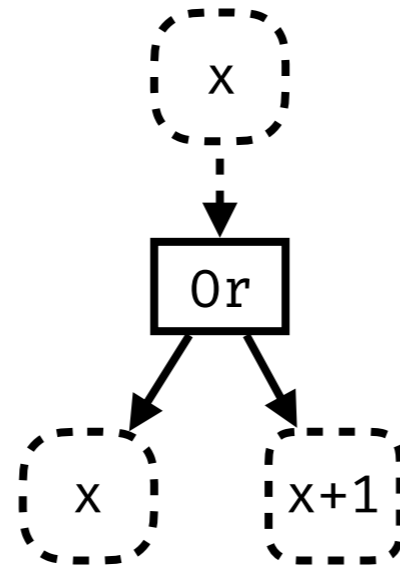
The `or` operation is *algebraic* because it behaves well with substitution:

$$\text{or}(p1, p2) \gg k = \text{or}(p1 \gg k, p2 \gg k)$$

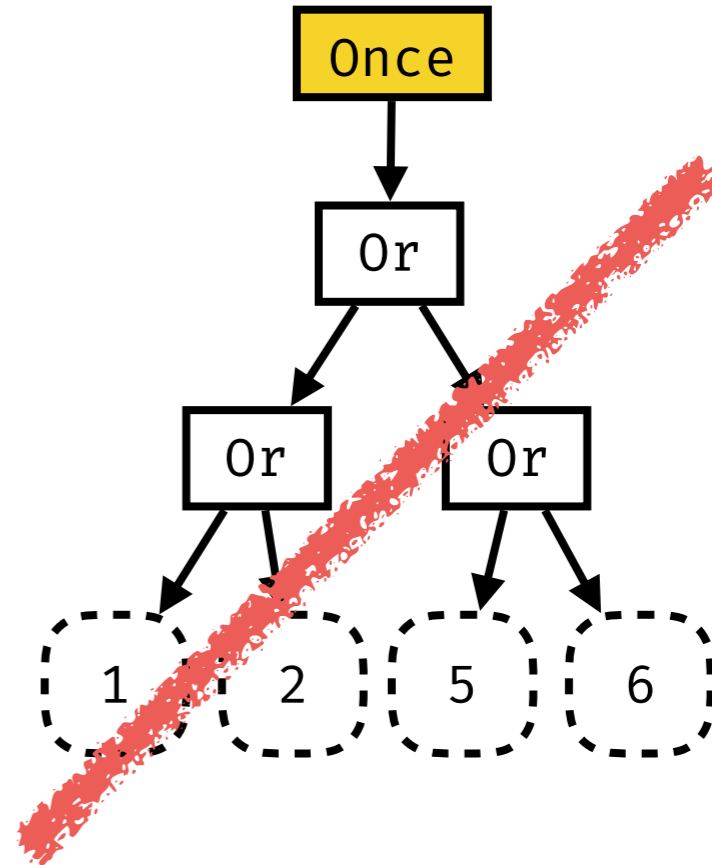
Once



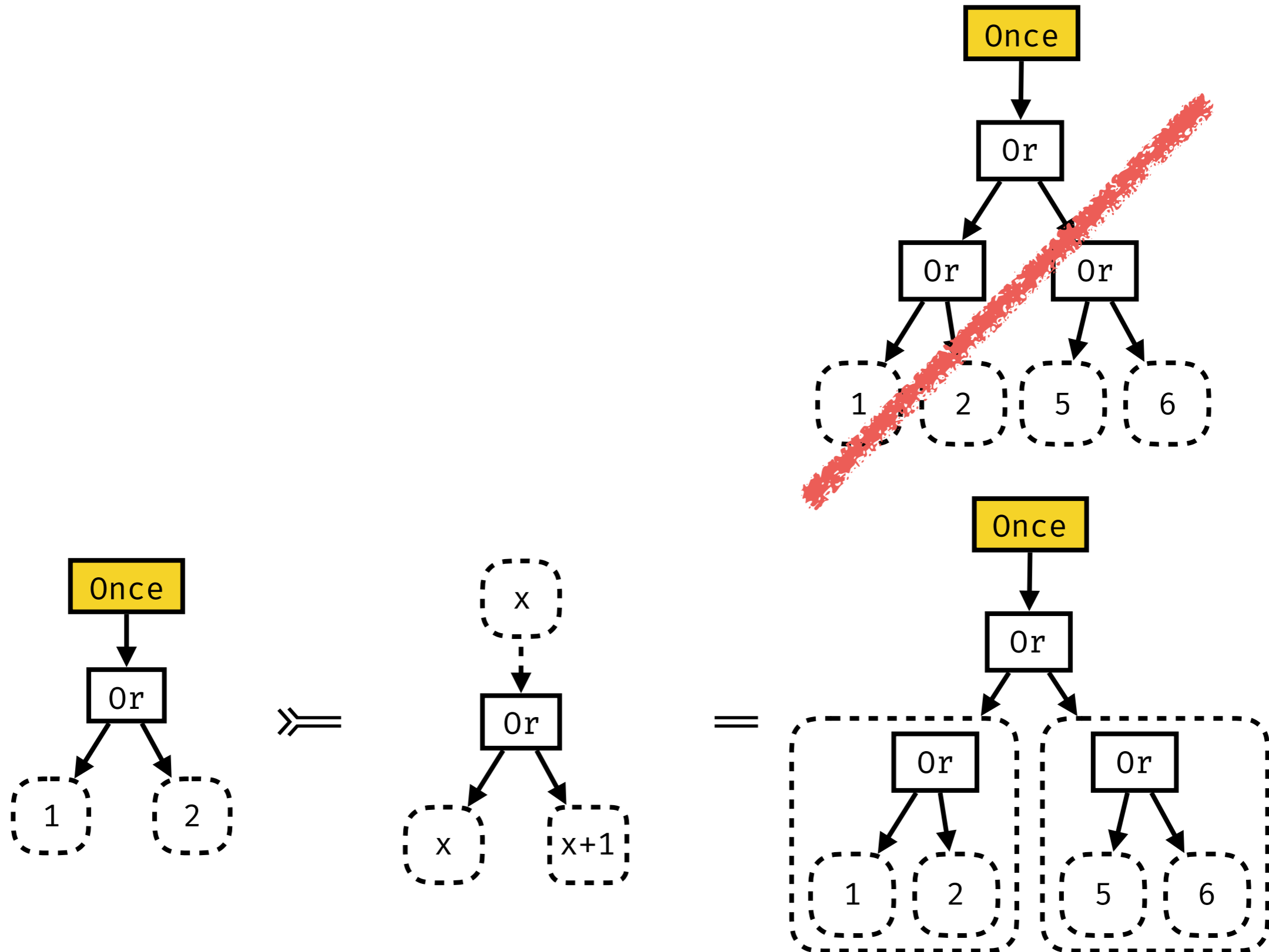
≈



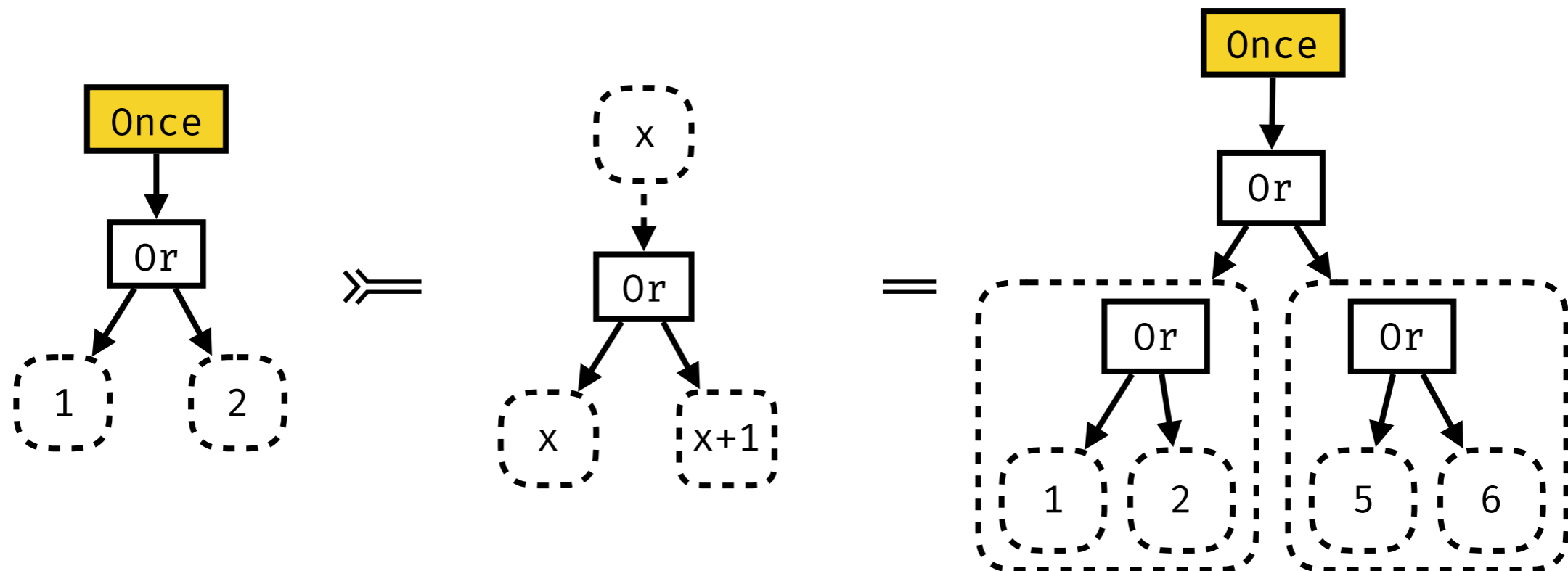
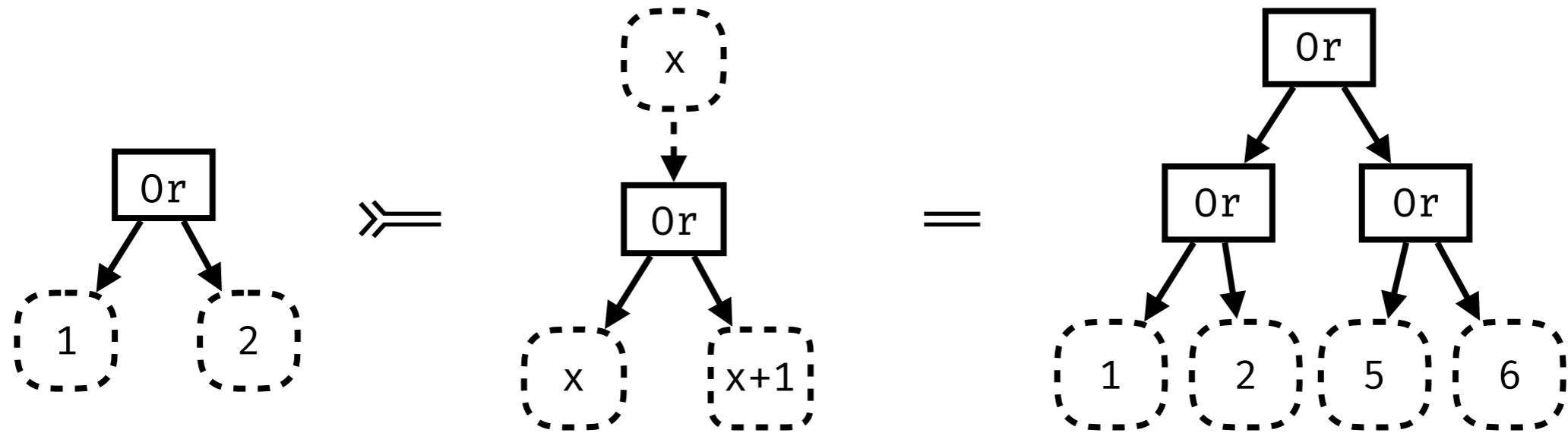
≠



Once

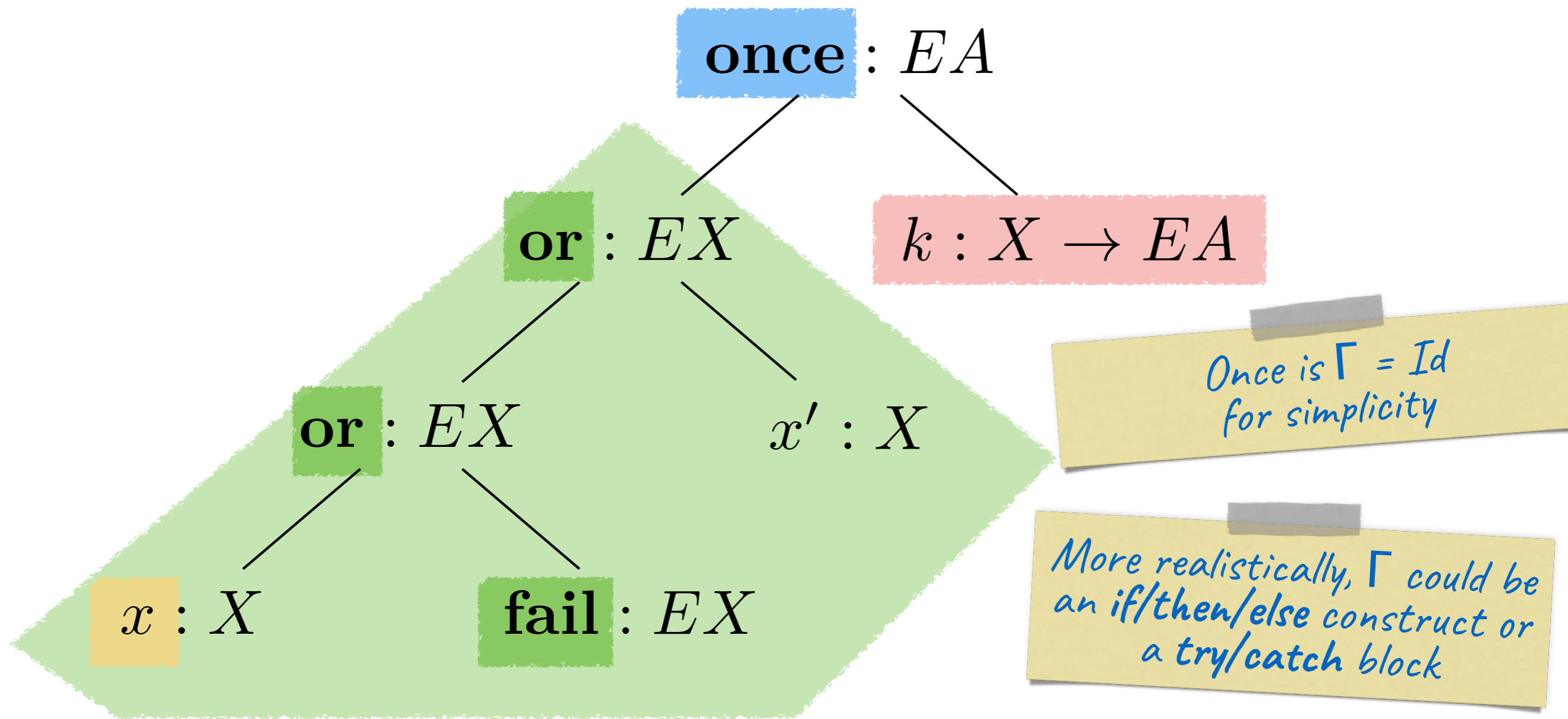


Once



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:

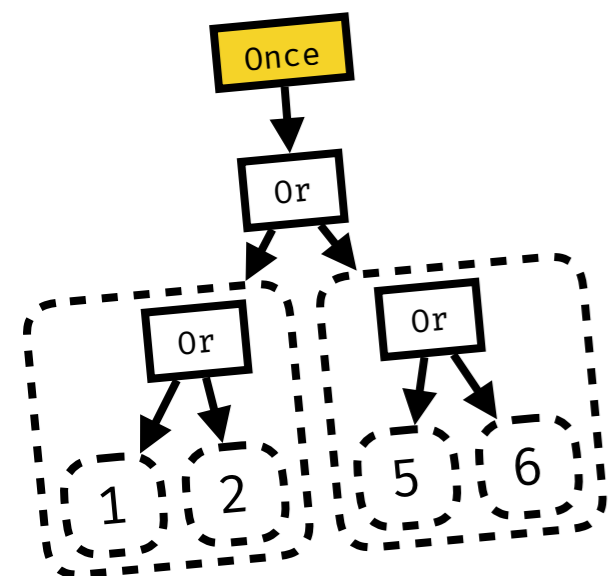
$$EA \cong A + \Sigma(EA) + \int^{X \in \mathcal{C}} \Gamma(EX) \times (EA)^X$$

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)))
```

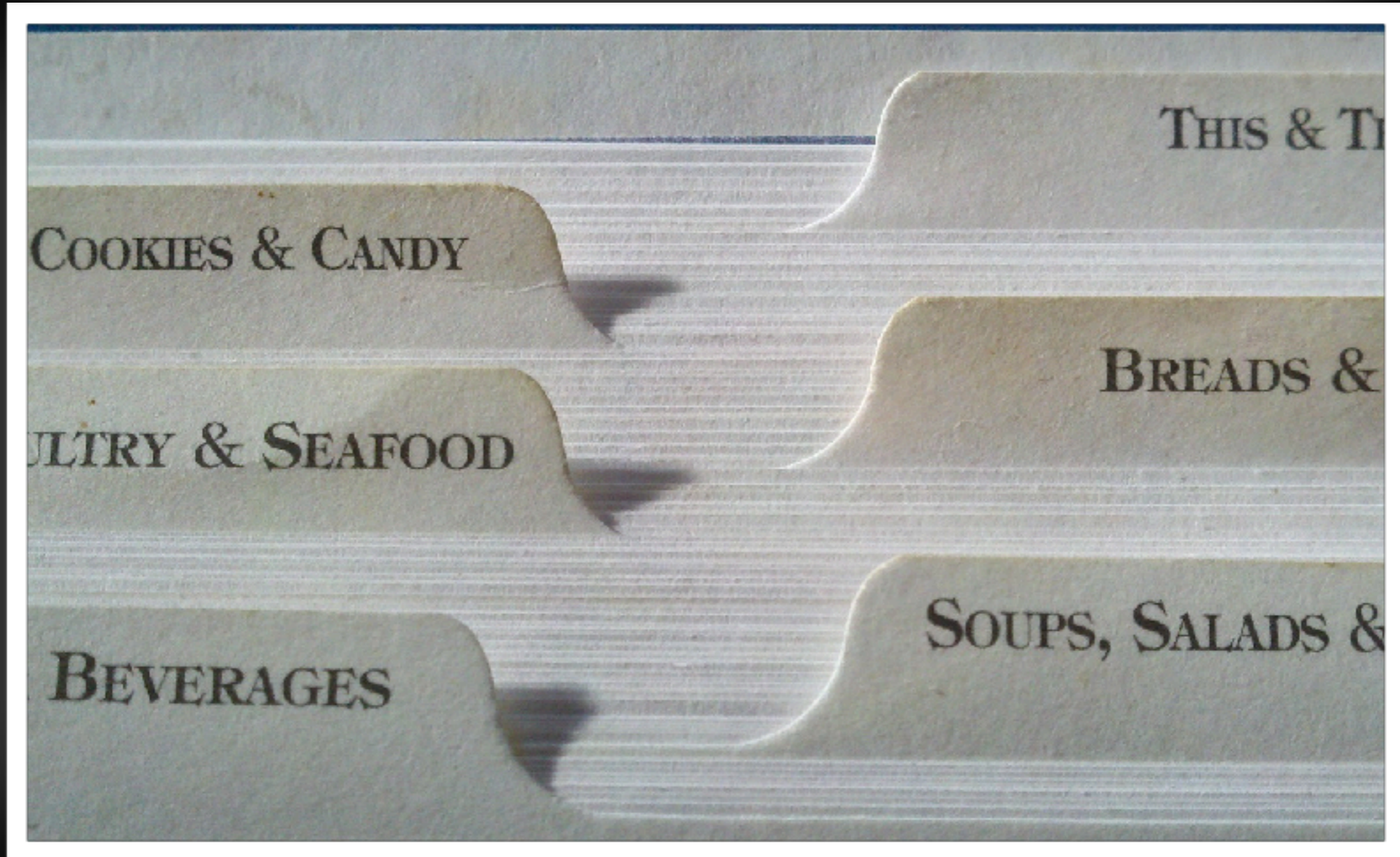


However, the algebras are problematic:

```
alg :: g (Prog f g a) -> a
```

this violates step-by-step reduction strategy!

Indexed Carriers

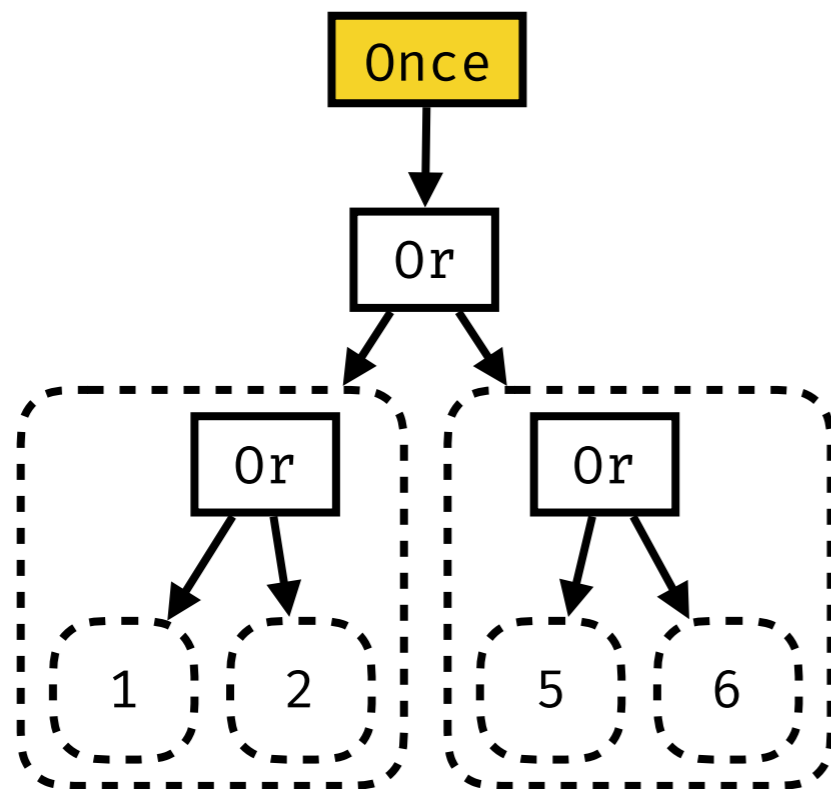


Once Again

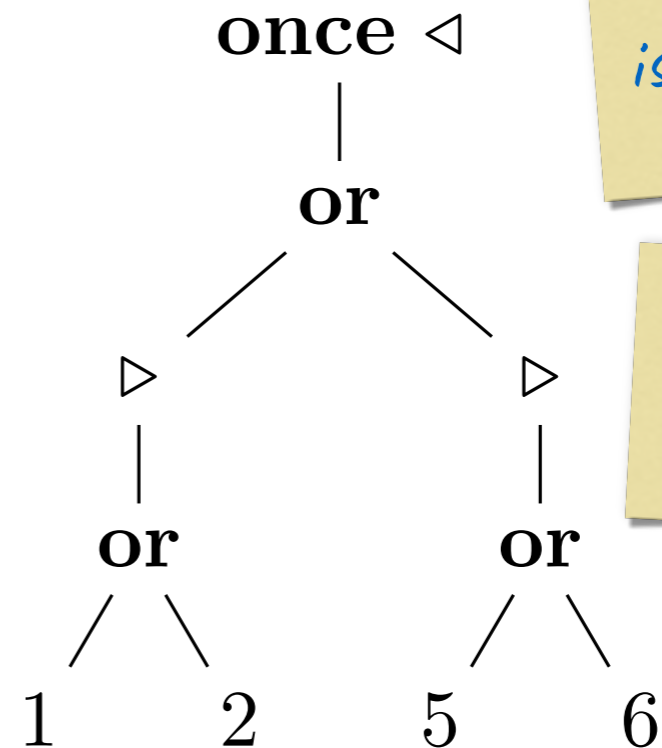
Consider this example:

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

As a tree, this becomes:



≡

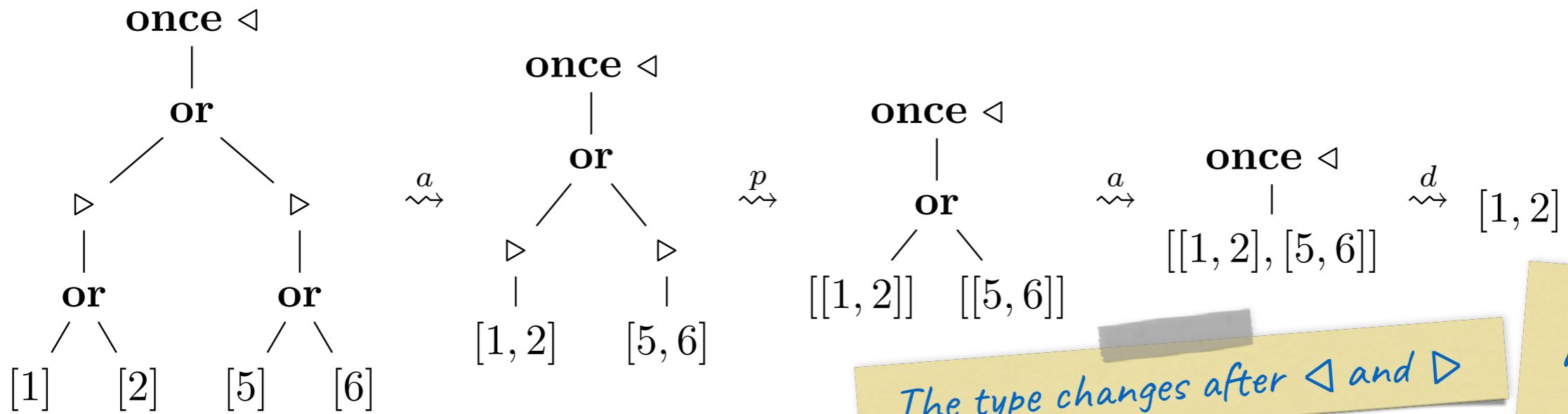


the structure is flattened at the value level

type indexes maintain the structure

Once Again

Starting from the bottom, step-by-step:



The type changes after \triangleleft and \triangleright

each level is indexed by a number

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) → a n
 , p :: forall n . a n → a (S n)
 , d :: forall n . g (a (S n)) → 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:

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

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

Our computations are in the underlying category

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

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

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 $Carrier_{ND} a n = ND [Carrier_{ND}' a n]$

data $Carrier_{ND}' a :: Nat \rightarrow *$ **where**

$CZ_{ND} :: a \rightarrow Carrier_{ND}' a Zero$

$CS_{ND} :: [Carrier_{ND}' a n] \rightarrow Carrier_{ND}' a (Succ n)$

$gen_{ND} :: a \rightarrow Carrier_{ND} a Zero$

$gen_{ND} x = ND [CZ_{ND} x]$

$alg_{ND} :: Alg Choice Once (Carrier_{ND} a)$

$alg_{ND} = A \{..\}$ **where**

$a :: \forall n a. Choice (Carrier_{ND} a n) \rightarrow Carrier_{ND} a n$

$a Fail = ND []$

$a (Or (ND l) (ND r)) = ND (l \# r)$

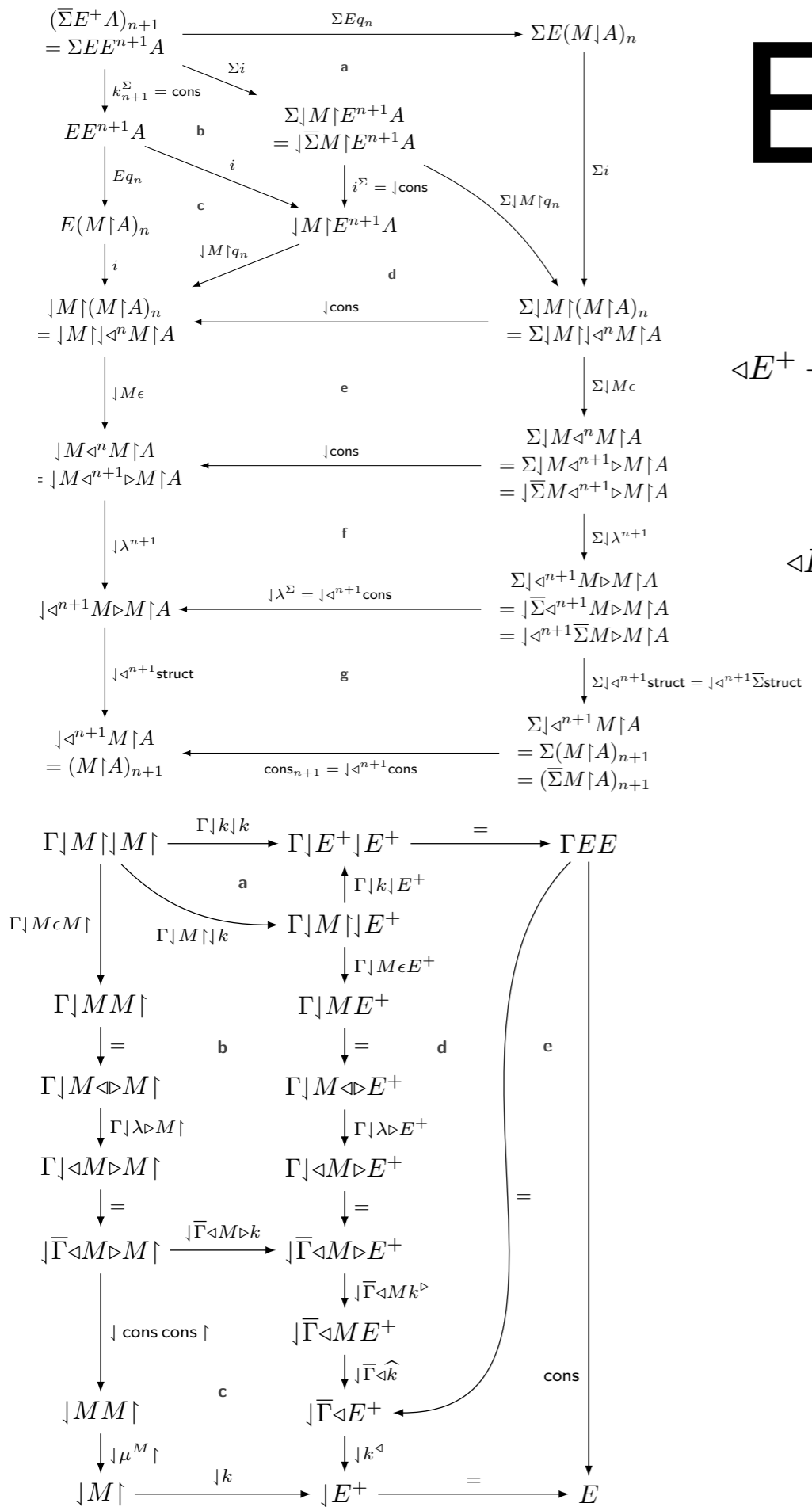
$d :: \forall n a. Once (Carrier_{ND} a (Succ n)) \rightarrow Carrier_{ND} a n$

$d (Once (ND [])) = ND []$

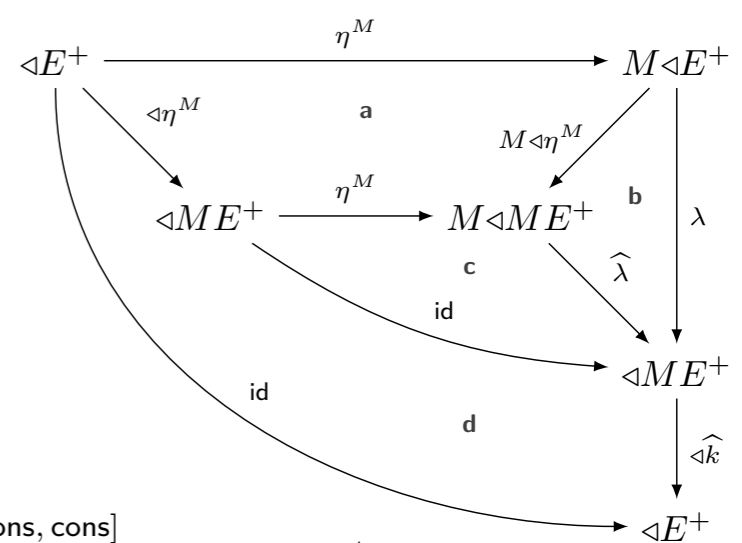
$d (Once (ND (CS_{ND} l: _))) = ND l$

$p :: \forall n a. Carrier_{ND} a n \rightarrow Carrier_{ND} a (Succ n)$

$p (ND l) = ND [CS_{ND} l]$



$$E = \downarrow M \uparrow$$



$$\begin{aligned} \triangleleft E^+ + \bar{\Sigma} M \triangleleft E^+ + \bar{\Gamma} \triangleleft M \triangleleft E^+ + \triangleright M \triangleleft E^+ &\xrightarrow{[\eta^M, \text{cons}, \text{cons}, \text{cons}]} M \triangleleft E^+ \\ &\downarrow \text{id} + \bar{\Sigma}(\triangleleft \hat{k} \cdot \lambda E^+) + \bar{\Gamma}(\triangleleft \hat{k} \cdot \lambda E^+) + \triangleright(\triangleleft \hat{k} \cdot \lambda E^+) \\ \triangleleft E^+ + \bar{\Sigma} \triangleleft E^+ + \bar{\Gamma} \triangleleft \triangleleft E^+ + \triangleright \triangleleft E^+ &\xrightarrow{[\text{id}, k^\Sigma E, k^\triangleleft E, k^\triangleright E]} \triangleleft E^+ \end{aligned}$$

