

## Abstract

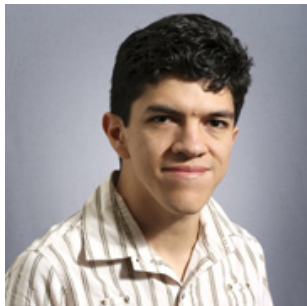
In this talk I will show an implementation of angelic non-determinism (as with the 'amb' operator) that uses only mutable state and exceptions – we have pure OCaml and SML implementations, without changing the compiler or the runtime system.

This approach, which relies on a neat trick found by James Koppel, can be extended to an implementation of full delimited continuations!

# Keep (re)playing until you get all the successes

James Koppel, **Gabriel Scherer**, Armando Solar-Lezama

June 22, 2018



## Direct-style angelic non-determinism

**val** choose : 'a list  $\rightarrow$  'a

**val** with\_choice : (unit  $\rightarrow$  'a)  $\rightarrow$  'a list

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**let** range = List.init n (**fun** i  $\rightarrow$  i) **in** (\* [0; ...; n-1] \*)

**let rec** enum\_nqueens i qs =

**if** i = n **then** qs **else**

**let** q = **choose** (List.filter (okay qs) range) **in**  
enum\_nqueens (i+1) (q :: qs)

**in**

**with\_choice** (**fun** ()  $\rightarrow$  enum\_nqueens 0 [])

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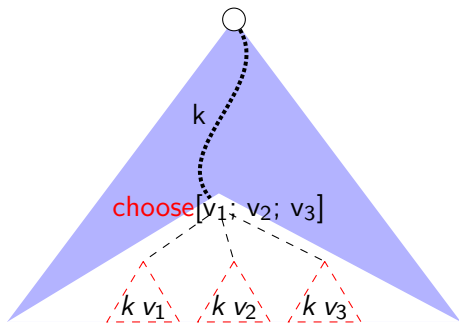
But: except for calls to **choose**, the argument of **with\_choice** has to be (observably) *pure*.

But: proof of *feasibility*, not a practical implementation.

# Angelic non-determinism computation trees

**val** choose : 'a list  $\rightarrow$  'a

**val** with\_choice : (unit  $\rightarrow$  'a)  $\rightarrow$  'a list



(usually done by capturing and copying continuations)

# Section 1

## Jimmy's neat trick

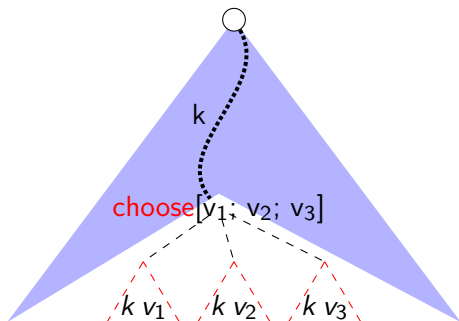




## Jimmy's trick

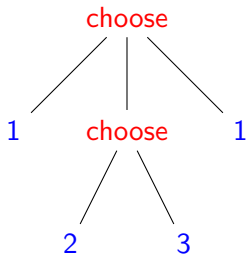
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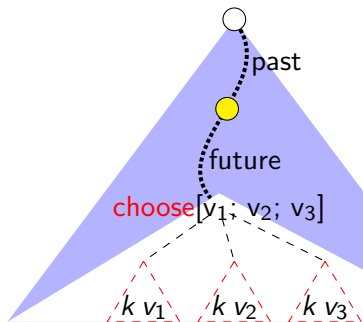
Jimmy's trick: if we can't *capture* *k*, just *replay* it.

```
with_choice (fun () →  
  if choose [true; false; true] then 1  
  else  
    if choose [true; false] then 2 else 3  
)
```



On replay, remember the value

## Setup (1/3)



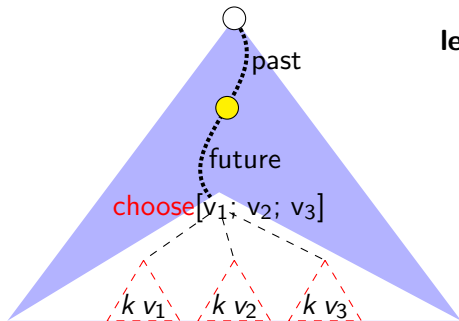
```
type idx = int * int
let start_idx xs = (0, List.length xs)
let next_idx (k, len) =
  if k + 1 = len then None
  else Some (k + 1, len)
let get xs (k, len) = List.nth xs k
```

```
type 'a stack = 'a list ref
let push stack x =
  stack := x :: !stack
let pop stack = match !stack with
| [] → None
| x::xs → stack := xs; Some x
```

## choose (2/3)

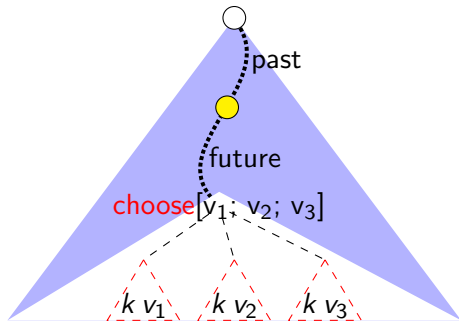
```
let past = ref []  
let future = ref []  
exception Empty
```

```
let choose = function  
| [] → raise Empty  
| xs →  
  let i = match pop future with  
  | None → start_idx xs  
  | Some i → i  
  in  
  push past i;  
  get xs i
```

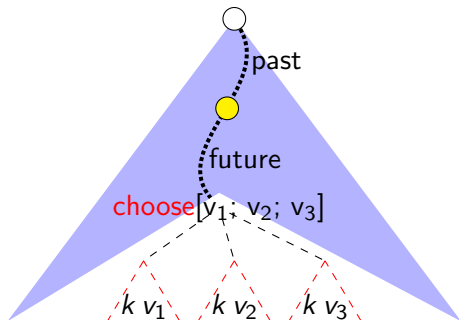


with\_choice (3/3)

```
let rec with_choice f = loop f []  
and loop f acc =  
  let r =  
    try [f ()] with Empty → [] in  
  let acc = r @ acc in
```

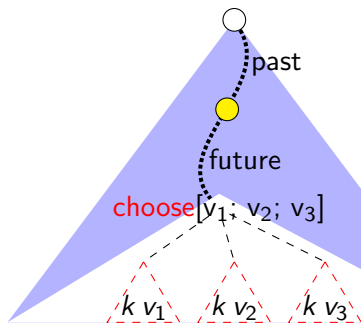


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  let acc = r @ acc in  
  match next_path !past with  
  | None → List.rev acc  
  | Some path →  
    past := [];  
    future := List.rev path;  
    loop f acc
```

## with\_choice (3/3)



```
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  let acc = r @ acc in  
  match next_path !past with  
  | None → List.rev acc  
  | Some path →  
    past := [];  
    future := List.rev path;  
    loop f acc  
and next_path = function  
  | [] → None  
  | i::is →  
    match next_idx i with  
    | Some i' → Some (i'::is)  
    | None → next_path is
```

## Delimited continuations

Jimmy extended this idea to implement *delimited continuations*.



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*Not* in this talk!

<https://arxiv.org/abs/1710.10385>

## Section 2

### Non-determinism: correctness proof



# Continuation machines

$(t, K, s, R)$        $(t, \text{halt}, \emptyset, \emptyset)$

$t, u ::=$

|  $x, y, z \dots$

|  $n \in \mathbb{N}$

|  $S t$

|  $\text{let } x = t \text{ in } t'$

|  $\text{choose } x y$

$K ::=$

|  $S K$

|  $\text{let } x = \square \text{ in } (t, K)$

|  $\text{halt}$

$s ::= \emptyset \mid (t, K).s$

$R ::= \emptyset \mid n.R$

## Continuation machines

$$\boxed{(t, K, s, R)} \quad (t, \text{halt}, \emptyset, \emptyset)$$

$$\begin{array}{l} (S t, K, s, R) \\ (n, S K, s, R) \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \rightarrow (t, S K, s, R) \\ \rightarrow (n + 1, K, s, R) \end{array}$$



## Continuation machines

 $(t, K, s, R)$  $(t, \text{halt}, \emptyset, \emptyset)$  $(S\ t, K, s, R)$  $\rightarrow (t, S\ K, s, R)$  $(n, S\ K, s, R)$  $\rightarrow (n + 1, K, s, R)$  $(\text{let } x = t \text{ in } t', K, s, R)$  $\rightarrow (t, (\text{let } x = \square \text{ in } (t', K)), s, R)$

## Continuation machines

$(t, K, s, R)$

$(t, \text{halt}, \emptyset, \emptyset)$

$(S\ t, K, s, R)$

$\rightarrow (t, S\ K, s, R)$

$(n, S\ K, s, R)$

$\rightarrow (n + 1, K, s, R)$

$(\text{let } x = t \text{ in } t', K, s, R)$

$\rightarrow (t, (\text{let } x = \square \text{ in } (t', K)), s, R)$

$(n, \text{let } x = \square \text{ in } (t', K), s, R)$

$\rightarrow (t'[x \leftarrow n], K, s, R)$

## Continuation machines

 $(t, K, s, R)$  $(t, \text{halt}, \emptyset, \emptyset)$  $(S\ t, K, s, R)$  $\rightarrow (t, S\ K, s, R)$  $(n, S\ K, s, R)$  $\rightarrow (n + 1, K, s, R)$  $(\text{let } x = t \text{ in } t', K, s, R)$  $\rightarrow (t, (\text{let } x = \square \text{ in } (t', K)), s, R)$  $(n, \text{let } x = \square \text{ in } (t', K), s, R)$  $\rightarrow (t'[x \leftarrow n], K, s, R)$  $(\text{choose } n_1\ n_2, K, s, R) \rightarrow (n_1, K, (n_2, K).s, R)$

## Continuation machines

 $(t, K, s, R)$  $(t, \text{halt}, \emptyset, \emptyset)$ 

- $(S\ t, K, s, R) \rightarrow (t, S\ K, s, R)$   
 $(n, S\ K, s, R) \rightarrow (n + 1, K, s, R)$   
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 $(n, \text{let } x = \square \text{ in } (t', K), s, R) \rightarrow (t'[x \leftarrow n], K, s, R)$
- $(\text{choose } n_1\ n_2, K, s, R) \rightarrow (n_1, K, (n_2, K).s, R)$   
 $(n, \text{halt}, (n', K).s, R) \rightarrow (n', K, s, n.R)$

## History machines

$$\boxed{(t, K, P, F, R)_u} \quad (t, \text{halt}, \emptyset, \emptyset, \emptyset)_t$$

$$i ::= 1 \mid 2 \quad \begin{array}{l} P ::= \emptyset \mid P.i \\ F ::= \emptyset \mid i.F \end{array}$$

# History machines

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$$(\text{choose } n_1 \ n_2, K, P, \emptyset, R)_u \quad \rightarrow \quad (\text{choose } n_1 \ n_2, K, P, 1.\emptyset, R)_u$$

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$$\begin{aligned} P.1+1 &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P.2 \\ P.2+1 &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P+1 \end{aligned}$$

# Proof

## Theorem

$$(t, K, \emptyset, \emptyset) \rightarrow (n, \text{halt}, \emptyset, R)$$

$\implies$

$$(t, K, \emptyset, \emptyset)_t \rightarrow (n, \text{halt}, 2^*, \emptyset, R)$$

$$(n, \text{halt}, \emptyset, (n', K).s, R) \rightarrow (n', K, \emptyset, s, n.R)$$

$$(n, \text{halt}, P, \emptyset, R)_u \rightarrow (u, \text{halt}, \emptyset, P+1, n.R)_u$$

$$(n, \text{halt}, P, \emptyset, R)_u \rightarrow (u, \text{halt}, \emptyset, P+1, n.R)_u \rightarrow^* (n', K, \emptyset, n.R)_u$$

$$\boxed{(t, K_P, F, s, R)_u}$$

(Witty transition slide)

## Section 3

Benchmarks!

## Worst case is very bad

```
with_choice (fun () →  
  let v = long_pure_computation () in  
  let i = choose [0; 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9] in  
  (i, v)  
)
```

## N queens

```
let n = int_of_string Sys.argv.(1)
```

```
let range = Array.init n (fun i → i) |> Array.to_list
```

```
let okay qs q =
```

```
  let rec okay i c = function
```

```
    | [] → true
```

```
    | x::xs →
```

```
      c <> x && (c-x) <> i && (c-x) <> -i && okay (i+1) c xs
```

```
  in okay 1 q qs
```

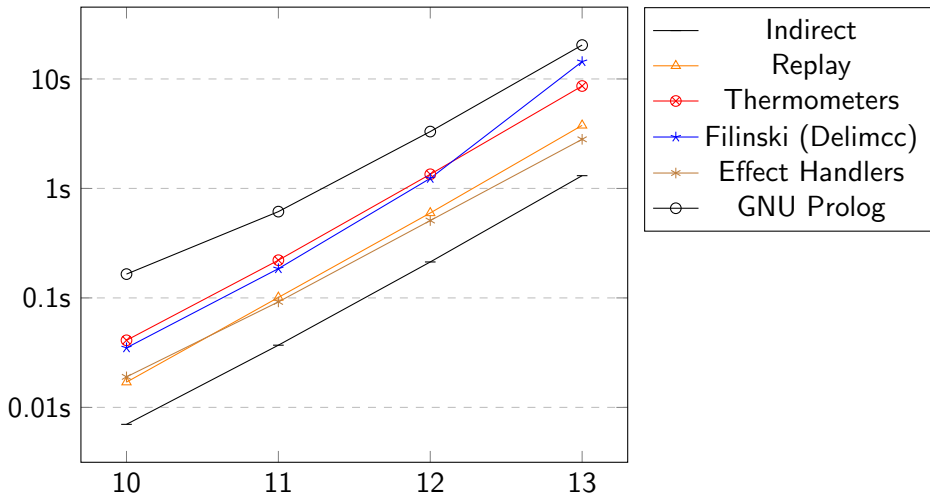
```
let rec enum_nqueens i qs =
```

```
  if i = n then qs else
```

```
    let q = choose (List.filter (okay qs) range) in
```

```
    enum_nqueens (i+1) (q :: qs)
```

```
let nb_sols = List.length (with_choice (fun () → enum_nqueens 0 []))
```





Thanks. Any more questions?

queens(N, N, L, L).

queens(N, I, L, Res) :-

  I < N,

  choose\_okay\_in\_range(0, N, C, L),

  I1 is I+1,

  queens(N, I1, [C|L], Res).

choose\_okay\_in\_range(I, N, I, L) :- I < N, okay(1, I, L).

choose\_okay\_in\_range(I, N, C, L) :-

  I < N, I1 is I+1, choose\_okay\_in\_range(I1, N, C, L).

okay(\_, \_, []).

okay(I, C, [X|XS]) :-

  C =\= X, (C-X) =\= I, (X-C) =\= I, I1 is I+1, okay(I1, C, XS).

count(N, Count) :- aggregate\_all(count, queens(N, 0, [], L), Count).

	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Indirect</b>	0.007s	0.037s	0.213s	1.308s
<b>Replay</b>	0.017s	0.101s	0.597s	3.768s
<b>Therm.</b>	0.041s	0.221s	1.347s	8.621s
<b>Filinski (Delimcc)</b>	0.035s	0.185s	1.236s	14.412s
<b>Effect Handlers (Multicore OCaml)</b>	0.019s	0.092s	0.509s	2.81s
<b>Prolog search (GNU Prolog)</b>	0.165s	0.614s	3.307s	20.401s

## Proof: combined machines

$$\boxed{(t, K_P, F, s, R)_u} \quad (t, \text{halt}_{\emptyset}, \emptyset, \emptyset, \emptyset)_t$$

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$$\begin{aligned} (\text{choose } n_1 \ n_2, K_P, \emptyset, s, R)_u &\rightarrow (n_1, K_{P.1}, \emptyset, (n_2, K_{P.2}).s, R)_u \\ (\text{choose } n_1 \ n_2, K_P, i.F, s, R)_u &\rightarrow (n_i, K_{P.i}, F, s, R)_u \\ (n, \text{halt}_P, \emptyset, (n', K_{P'}).s, R)_u &\rightarrow (n', K_{P'}, \emptyset, s, n.R)_u \end{aligned}$$

## Proof: combined machines

$$(t, K_P, F, s, R)_u$$
$$(t, \text{halt}_\emptyset, \emptyset, \emptyset, \emptyset)_t$$
$$(\text{choose } n_1 \ n_2, K_P, \emptyset, s, R)_u \rightarrow (n_1, K_{P.1}, \emptyset, (n_2, K_{P.2}).s, R)_u$$
$$(\text{choose } n_1 \ n_2, K_P, i.F, s, R)_u \rightarrow (n_i, K_{P.i}, F, s, R)_u$$
$$(n, \text{halt}_P, \emptyset, (n', K_{P'}).s, R)_u \rightarrow (n', K_{P'}, \emptyset, s, n.R)_u$$
$$(\text{choose } n_1 \ n_2, K, s, R) \rightarrow (n_1, K, (n_2, K).s, R)$$
$$(n, \text{halt}, (n', K).s, R) \rightarrow (n', K, s, n.R)$$
$$(\text{choose } n_1 \ n_2, K, P, \emptyset, R)_u \rightarrow (\text{choose } n_1 \ n_2, K, P, 1.\emptyset, R)_u$$
$$(\text{choose } n_1 \ n_2, K, P, (i.F), R)_u \rightarrow (n_i, K, (P.i), F, R)_u$$
$$(n, \text{halt}, P, \emptyset, R)_u \rightarrow (u, \text{halt}, \emptyset, P+1, n.R)_u$$

## Proof: timeline and replay

$$\begin{aligned}(n, \text{halt}, P, \emptyset, R)_u &\rightarrow (u, \text{halt}, \emptyset, P+1, n.R)_u \\(n, \text{halt}_P, \emptyset, (n', K_{P'}) \cdot s, R)_u &\rightarrow (n', K_{P'}, \emptyset, s, n.R)_u\end{aligned}$$

$$(n, \text{halt}_P, \emptyset, (n', K_{P'}) \cdot s, R)_u \rightarrow (u, \text{halt}_{\emptyset}, P', s, n.R)_u \rightarrow^* (n', K_{P'}, \emptyset, s, n.R)_u$$

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$$(n, \text{halt}_P, \emptyset, (n', K_{P'}).s, R)_u \rightarrow (u, \text{halt}_{\emptyset}, P', s, n.R)_u \rightarrow^* (n', K_{P'}, \emptyset, s, n.R)_u$$

Timeline Invariant:

$$P' = P+1$$

$$(\text{choose } n_1 \ n_2, K_P, \emptyset, s, R)_u \rightarrow (n_1, K_{P.1}, \emptyset, (n_2, K_{P.2}).s, R)_u$$



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$$(n, \text{halt}_P, \emptyset, (n', K_{P'}).s, R)_u \rightarrow (u, \text{halt}_\emptyset, P', s, n.R)_u \rightarrow^* (n', K_{P'}, \emptyset, s, n.R)_u$$

Timeline Invariant:

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$$(\text{choose } n_1 \ n_2, K_P, \emptyset, s, R)_u \rightarrow (n_1, K_{P.1}, \emptyset, (n_2, K_{P.2}).s, R)_u$$

Replay Theorem:

$$\text{replay}(n, K_P, F, s, R)_u \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (u, \text{halt}_\emptyset, (P.F), s, R)_u$$

$$(t, \text{halt}_\emptyset, \emptyset, \emptyset)_t \rightarrow^* c \implies \text{replay}(c) \rightarrow_{\text{pure}}^* c$$