

Delimited Control with Multiple Prompts in Theory and Practice

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Crash course on control

Separating a redex from its evaluation context

$$1 + 2 + (3 \times 4)$$

Separating a redex from its evaluation context

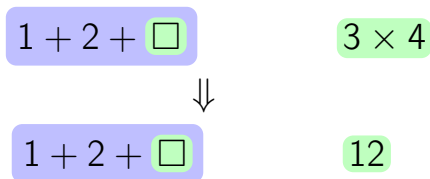
$$1 + 2 + (3 \times 4)$$

$$1 + 2 + \square$$

$$3 \times 4$$

Separating a redex from its evaluation context

$$1 + 2 + (3 \times 4)$$



$$1 + 2 + 12$$

Classical control: Abortive continuations

$1 + 2 + \text{call/cc}(\lambda k. 3 \times (k\ 4))$

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$\text{call/cc}(\lambda k.3 \times (k\ 4))$

Classical control: Abortive continuations

$1 + 2 + \text{call/cc}(\lambda k. 3 \times (k \ 4))$

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$\text{call/cc}(\lambda k. 3 \times (k \ 4))$

\Downarrow

$k : 1 + 2 + \square$

$3 \times (k \ 4)$

$1 + 2 + 3 \times (k \ 4)$

Classical control: Abortive continuations

$1 + 2 + \text{call/cc}(\lambda k. 3 \times (k\ 4))$

$1 + 2 + \square \qquad \text{call/cc}(\lambda k. 3 \times (k\ 4))$

\Downarrow

$k : 1 + 2 + \square \qquad 3 \times (k\ 4)$

$1 + 2 + 3 \times (k\ 4)$

$1 + 2 + 3 \times \square$

$k\ 4$

Classical control: Abortive continuations

$1 + 2 + \text{call/cc}(\lambda k. 3 \times (k\ 4))$

$1 + 2 + \square \qquad \text{call/cc}(\lambda k. 3 \times (k\ 4))$

\Downarrow

$k : 1 + 2 + \square \qquad 3 \times (k\ 4)$

$1 + 2 + 3 \times (k\ 4)$

$1 + 2 + 3 \times \square \qquad k\ 4$

\Downarrow

$1 + 2 + \square \qquad 4$

$1 + 2 + 4$

Delimited control: Composable continuations

$$1 + \#(2 + \mathcal{F}(\lambda k.3 \times (k \ 4)))$$

Delimited control: Composable continuations

$1 + \#(2 + \mathcal{F}(\lambda k.3 \times (k\ 4)))$

$1 + \# \square$

$2 + \square$

$\mathcal{F}(\lambda k.3 \times (k\ 4))$

Delimited control: Composable continuations

$$1 + \#(2 + \mathcal{F}(\lambda k.3 \times (k 4)))$$

$1 + \# \square$

$k : 2 + \square$

$\mathcal{F}(\lambda k.3 \times (k 4))$

\Downarrow

$1 + \# \square$

\square

$3 \times (k 4)$

$$1 + \#(3 \times (k 4))$$

Delimited control: Composable continuations

$$1 + \#(2 + \mathcal{F}(\lambda k.3 \times (k 4)))$$

$$1 + \# \square$$

$$k : 2 + \square$$

$$\mathcal{F}(\lambda k.3 \times (k 4))$$

↓

$$1 + \# \square$$

$$\square$$

$$3 \times (k 4)$$

$$1 + \#(3 \times (k 4))$$

$$1 + \# \square$$

$$3 \times \square$$

$$k 4$$

Delimited control: Composable continuations

$$1 + \#(2 + \mathcal{F}(\lambda k.3 \times (k 4)))$$

$$1 + \# \square \quad k : 2 + \square \quad \mathcal{F}(\lambda k.3 \times (k 4))$$

↓

$$1 + \# \square \quad \square \quad 3 \times (k 4)$$

$$1 + \#(3 \times (k 4))$$

$$1 + \# \square \quad 3 \times \square \quad k 4$$

↓

$$1 + \# \square \quad 3 \times \square \quad 2 + 4$$

$$1 + \#(3 \times (2 + 4))$$

A zoo of delimited control operators

Design decisions

$E[\#(E'[\mathcal{F} V])]$

- ▶ Does \mathcal{F} remove $\#$ surrounding E' ?
- ▶ Does continuation guard its call-site with a $\#$?

A family of operators: $*\mathcal{F}$ *

$$E[\#(E'[+\mathcal{F} + V])] \mapsto E[\#(V k)]$$

$$\text{where } k x = \#(E'[x])$$

$$E[\#(E'[+\mathcal{F} - V])] \mapsto E[\#(V k)]$$

$$\text{where } k x = E'[x]$$

$$E[\#(E'[-\mathcal{F} + V])] \mapsto E[V k]$$

$$\text{where } k = \#(E'[x])$$

$$E[\#(E'[-\mathcal{F} - V])] \mapsto E[V k]$$

$$\text{where } k x = E'[x]$$

A family of operators: $+\mathcal{F}^*$ vs $-\mathcal{F}^*$

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where $k = \#(E'[x])$

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A family of operators: $*\mathcal{F}+$ vs $*\mathcal{F}-$

$$E[\#(E'[+\mathcal{F} + V])] \mapsto E[\#(V k)]$$

$$\text{where } k x = \#(E'[x])$$

$$E[\#(E'[+\mathcal{F} - V])] \mapsto E[\#(V k)]$$

$$\text{where } k x = E'[x]$$

$$E[\#(E'[-\mathcal{F} + V])] \mapsto E[V k]$$

$$\text{where } k = \#(E'[x])$$

$$E[\#(E'[-\mathcal{F} - V])] \mapsto E[V k]$$

$$\text{where } k x = E'[x]$$

A family of operators

- ▶ $+\mathcal{F}+$: shift (\mathcal{S}) and reset ($\langle_ \rangle$) of Danvy and Filinski
- ▶ $+\mathcal{F}-$: control (\mathcal{F}) and prompt ($\#$) of Felleisen
- ▶ $-\mathcal{F}+$: shift_0 (\mathcal{S}_0) and reset_0 ($\langle_ \rangle_0$)
- ▶ $-\mathcal{F}-$: control_0 (\mathcal{F}_0) and prompt_0 ($\#_0$)

shift = control?

List traversal two ways (Biernacki et al., 2005)

Straverse $xs = \langle visit\ xs \rangle$

where $visit\ [] = []$

$visit\ (x :: xs) = visit\ (\mathcal{S}(\lambda k. x :: (k\ xs)))$

Ftraverse $xs = \#(visit\ xs)$

where $visit\ [] = []$

$visit\ (x :: xs) = visit\ (\mathcal{F}(\lambda k. x :: (k\ xs)))$

What's the difference?

shift = shift₀?

Continuation swap two ways

$$\text{swap } x = \mathcal{S}(\lambda k_1. \mathcal{S}(\lambda k_2. k_1 (k_2 x)))$$

$$\text{swap}_0 x = \mathcal{S}_0(\lambda k_1. \mathcal{S}_0(\lambda k_2. k_1 (k_2 x)))$$

What's the difference?

shift \neq shift₀

Continuation swap two ways

$$\text{swap } x = \mathcal{S}(\lambda k_1. \mathcal{S}(\lambda k_2. k_1 (k_2 x)))$$

$$\text{swap}_0 x = \mathcal{S}_0(\lambda k_1. \mathcal{S}_0(\lambda k_2. k_1 (k_2 x)))$$

What's the difference?

$$\langle 10 + \langle 2 \times (\text{swap } 1) \rangle \rangle \mapsto^* \langle 10 + \langle k_1 (k_2 1) \rangle \rangle \mapsto^* 12$$

$$\text{where } k_1 x = \langle 2 \times x \rangle \quad k_2 x = \langle x \rangle$$

identity function

$$\langle 10 + \langle 2 \times (\text{swap}_0 1) \rangle \rangle_0 \mapsto^* k_1 (k_2 1) \mapsto^* 22$$

$$\text{where } k_1 x = \langle 2 \times x \rangle_0 \quad k_2 x = \langle 10 + x \rangle_0$$

Context switch

Theory vs. Practice

Theory

- ▶ Focus on $*\mathcal{F}+$ operators
- ▶ shift and reset are heavily studied
- ▶ shift_0 and reset_0 recently gaining interest
- ▶ Both have theories with desirable properties
 - ▶ Simple continuation-passing style semantics
 - ▶ Sound and complete axiomatizations
 - ▶ Error-free type and effect systems
 - ▶ “Observational purity”

Theory vs. Practice

Practice

- ▶ Focus on $*\mathcal{F}$ – operators
- ▶ Major implementations of delimited control
 - ▶ Racket: control and prompt
 - ▶ Haskell library CC-delcont: control₀ and prompt₀
 - ▶ OCaml library delcontcc: control₀ and prompt₀
- ▶ Practical extensions of delimited control
 - ▶ Integrated into languages with other effects
 - ▶ Multiple prompts

Theory vs. Practice

Practice

- ▶ Focus on $*\mathcal{F}$ – operators
- ▶ Major implementations of delimited control
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Giving prompts a name

Multiple prompts

- ▶ Multiple prompts, referred to by name
- ▶ Similar to exception handling
 - ▶ $\mathcal{F}^{\hat{\alpha}}$: go to nearest prompt (handler) for $\hat{\alpha}$
 - ▶ $\#^{\hat{\alpha}}$: delimit (handle) control effects for $\hat{\alpha}$

Multiple prompts: Dynamic continuations

$$\#^{\hat{\gamma}}(1 + \#^{\hat{\beta}}(2 + \#^{\hat{\alpha}}(3 + \mathcal{F}^{\hat{\beta}}(\lambda k.4 \times (k 5))))))$$

Multiple prompts: Dynamic continuations

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$$\#^{\hat{\gamma}}(1 + \#^{\hat{\beta}}\square)$$

$$2 + \#^{\hat{\alpha}}(3 + \square)$$

$$\mathcal{F}^{\hat{\beta}}(\lambda k.4 \times (k 5))$$

Multiple prompts: Dynamic continuations

$$\#^{\hat{\gamma}}(1 + \#^{\hat{\beta}}(2 + \#^{\hat{\alpha}}(3 + \mathcal{F}^{\hat{\beta}}(\lambda k.4 \times (k 5))))))$$

$$\#^{\hat{\gamma}}(1 + \#^{\hat{\beta}}\square) \quad k : 2 + \#^{\hat{\alpha}}(3 + \square) \quad \mathcal{F}^{\hat{\beta}}(\lambda k.4 \times (k 5))$$

↓

$$\#^{\hat{\gamma}}(1 + \#^{\hat{\beta}}\square) \quad \square \quad 4 \times (k 5)$$

$$\#^{\hat{\gamma}}(1 + \#^{\hat{\beta}}(4 \times (k 5)))$$

Multiple prompts: Dynamic continuations

$$\#^{\hat{\gamma}}(1 + \#^{\hat{\beta}}(2 + \#^{\hat{\alpha}}(3 + \mathcal{F}^{\hat{\beta}}(\lambda k.4 \times (k 5))))))$$

$$\#^{\hat{\gamma}}(1 + \#^{\hat{\beta}} \square) \quad k : 2 + \#^{\hat{\alpha}}(3 + \square) \quad \mathcal{F}^{\hat{\beta}}(\lambda k.4 \times (k 5))$$

↓

$$\#^{\hat{\gamma}}(1 + \#^{\hat{\beta}} \square) \quad \square \quad 4 \times (k 5)$$

$$\#^{\hat{\gamma}}(1 + \#^{\hat{\beta}}(4 \times (k 5)))$$

$$\#^{\hat{\gamma}}(1 + \#^{\hat{\beta}} \square)$$

$$4 \times \square$$

$$k 5$$

Multiple prompts: Dynamic continuations

$$\#^{\hat{\gamma}}(1 + \#^{\hat{\beta}}(2 + \#^{\hat{\alpha}}(3 + \mathcal{F}^{\hat{\beta}}(\lambda k.4 \times (k 5))))))$$

$$\#^{\hat{\gamma}}(1 + \#^{\hat{\beta}} \square) \quad k : 2 + \#^{\hat{\alpha}}(3 + \square) \quad \mathcal{F}^{\hat{\beta}}(\lambda k.4 \times (k 5))$$

↓

$$\#^{\hat{\gamma}}(1 + \#^{\hat{\beta}} \square) \quad \square \quad 4 \times (k 5)$$

$$\#^{\hat{\gamma}}(1 + \#^{\hat{\beta}}(4 \times (k 5)))$$

$$\#^{\hat{\gamma}}(1 + \#^{\hat{\beta}} \square)$$

$$4 \times \square$$

$$k 5$$

↓

$$\#^{\hat{\gamma}}(1 + \#^{\hat{\beta}} \square)$$

$$4 \times \square$$

$$2 + \#^{\hat{\alpha}}(3 + 5)$$

$$\#^{\hat{\gamma}}(1 + \#^{\hat{\beta}}(4 \times (2 + \#^{\hat{\alpha}}(3 + 5))))$$

Putting practice to theory

Multiple prompts via marked stacks

- ▶ Monadic Framework for Delimited Continuations (Dybvig et al., 2007)
- ▶ control_0 and prompt_0 style control with multiple prompts
- ▶ Use hybrid abstract/concrete continuation monad
 - ▶ Stack of ordinary continuations
 - ▶ Special markers representing prompts

Multiple prompts via dynamic binding

- ▶ Systematic Approach to Delimited Control with Multiple Prompts (Downen and Ariola, 2012)
- ▶ shift_0 and reset_0 style control with multiple prompts
- ▶ $\lambda\hat{\mu}_0$: Conservative extension of CBV Parigot's $\lambda\mu$ (i.e., λ -calculus with call/cc)
 - ▶ Dynamic continuation variables
 - ▶ Splitting/joining dynamic environment of continuations

Comparing the two frameworks

- ▶ Biggest mismatch comes down to representation of meta-contexts
- ▶ Monadic framework: marked stack

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MetaCont} &= [\text{Ident} + \text{Cont}] \\ &[k_3, \hat{\alpha}_3, \hat{\alpha}_2, k_2, k_1, \hat{\alpha}_1] \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ $\lambda\hat{\mu}_0$: dynamic environment

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MetaCont} &= [\text{Ident} * \text{Cont}] \\ &[\hat{\alpha}_3 \mapsto k_3, \hat{\alpha}_2 \mapsto k_2, \hat{\alpha}_1 \mapsto k_1] \end{aligned}$$

Dynamic environment to marked stack

- ▶ Embed $\lambda\hat{\mu}_0$ into Monadic Framework
- ▶ Flatten $[Ident * Cont]$ to $[Ident + Cont]$?
- ▶ Easy!

$$\begin{aligned} & [\hat{\alpha}_3 \mapsto k_3, \hat{\alpha}_2 \mapsto k_2, \hat{\alpha}_1 \mapsto k_1] \\ & = [k_3, \hat{\alpha}_3, k_2, \hat{\alpha}_2, k_1, \hat{\alpha}_1] \end{aligned}$$

Marked stack to dynamic environment

- ▶ Embed Monadic Framework into $\lambda\hat{\mu}$
- ▶ Restore $[Iden + Cont]$ to $[Ident * Cont]$
- ▶ Not so easy. . .

Distinguished return

- ▶ Reserve one dynamic continuation variable (\widehat{tp})
 - ▶ “Return” value by sending it to \widehat{tp}
 - ▶ “Empty” continuation $k_{\widehat{tp}}$ “returns” input to \widehat{tp}
 - ▶ Continuations associated with \widehat{tp} (next return point)
 - ▶ Prompts associated with empty continuation $k_{\widehat{tp}}$ (skip other prompts, go to next return point)
- ▶ Embedding back into environment!

$$\begin{aligned} & [k_3, \widehat{\alpha}_3, \widehat{\alpha}_2, k_2, k_1, \widehat{\alpha}_1] \\ & = [\widehat{tp} \mapsto k_3, \widehat{\alpha}_3 \mapsto k_{\widehat{tp}}, \widehat{\alpha}_2 \mapsto k_{\widehat{tp}}, \\ & \quad \widehat{tp} \mapsto k_2, \widehat{tp} \mapsto k_1, \widehat{\alpha}_1 \mapsto k_{\widehat{tp}}] \end{aligned}$$

From practice to theory

- ▶ Embedding from Monadic Framework to $\lambda\hat{\mu}_0$
- ▶ With multiple prompts, shift_0 and reset_0 style control implements control_0 and prompt_0
- ▶ Corollary: shift_0 and reset_0 style control with 2 prompts implements control_0 and prompt_0

Simulation of $*\mathcal{F}$ - style operators

$\# \equiv$ Prompt handler for $\mathcal{F}_0, \mathcal{F}$

$\langle _ \rangle \equiv$ Traces of “naked” context composition

$$E ::= \square \mid E M \mid V E \mid \langle M \rangle$$

$$E[\#(E'[\mathcal{F}_0 V])] \mapsto E[\langle V k \rangle]$$

$$\text{where } k = \lambda x. \langle E[x] \rangle$$

$$E[\#(E'[\mathcal{F} V])] \mapsto E[\langle \#(V k) \rangle]$$

$$\text{where } k = \lambda x. \langle E[x] \rangle$$

Dynamic traversal

$$\#(E[\textit{visit}(x :: xs)]) \mapsto^* \langle \#(x :: \langle E[\textit{visit} xs] \rangle) \rangle$$
$$F\textit{traverse} [1, 2, 3] \mapsto \#(\textit{visit} [1, 2, 3])$$
$$\mapsto^* \langle \#(1 :: \langle \textit{visit} [2, 3] \rangle) \rangle$$
$$\mapsto^* \langle \langle \#(2 :: \langle 1 :: \langle \textit{visit} [3] \rangle \rangle) \rangle \rangle$$
$$\mapsto^* \langle \langle \langle \#(3 :: \langle 2 :: \langle 1 :: \langle \textit{visit} [] \rangle \rangle \rangle \rangle \rangle \rangle \rangle$$
$$\mapsto \langle \langle \langle \#(3 :: \langle 2 :: \langle 1 :: \langle [] \rangle \rangle \rangle \rangle \rangle \rangle \rangle$$
$$\mapsto^* [3, 2, 1]$$

Dynamic traversal

$\#(E[\text{visit}(x :: xs)]) \mapsto^* \langle \#(x :: \langle E[\text{visit } xs] \rangle) \rangle$

$F\text{traverse } [1, 2, 3] \mapsto \#(\text{visit } [1, 2, 3])$

$\mapsto^* \langle \#(1 :: \langle \text{visit } [2, 3] \rangle) \rangle$

$\mapsto^* \langle \langle \#(2 :: \langle 1 :: \langle \text{visit } [3] \rangle \rangle) \rangle \rangle$

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Questions?

References

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- R. K. Dybvig, S. P. Jones, and A. Sabry. A monadic framework for delimited continuations. Journal of Functional Programming, 17(06):687–730, 2007.