

CM 9 de Compilation

The mini-JS machine exceptions and objects

Flavien BREUVART

March 11, 2025

© CC-BY-NC-SA

Exceptions : a control structure

```
try {  
    print("x/5 :"+f(x))  
} catch (e) {  
    print("x%5 :"+(e+5))  
}  
function f (x) {  
    if (x < 0) throw (x+5);  
    if (x == 0) return x;  
    return 1+f(x-5);  
}
```

Remarks

- The catch (e) recover from a throw inside the try.
- The exception is thrown through multiple function calls.
- throw interups all calculations.
- The stack is overfilled whenever the exception is thrown.

If x is divisible by 5 then we get x/5, else we get res=x%5.

3 implementations of exceptions

Exception Table

- also called 0-cost (optimal if no exception thrown),
- the table : l. of code → whet to do on exception.
- Compiler difficult to code.
- Bloc some powerful optimisations.

Used by Java, but less and less popular.

Exception Mode

- exception flag,
- tow instruction sets (depending on the flag),
- slow if not optimised,
- difficult to optimize.

Mostly legacy, or can be implemented at sofwear level (library/framework)

Error continuation

- throw ~ return,
- if exception, pop until the next continuation,
- difficult to optimise on big stacks, would need an allocated register and static informations.

Trendy (LLVM...)

Error continuations

A continuation contains

- a pointer toward the line that called the function,
- a **context**
- a “type” : return or erreur,

(some langages have access to more kind of continuations.)

Instruction Throw

Save the head of the stack,
Pop everything until next error continuation,
Restore the state (PC and CC) of the error continuation,
Restore the head of the stack.

Intermezzo : instruction Return

You need a “clean stack”

The instructions may use “Peak” or “Pop”, carefully used the correct one.
The instruction Drop remove residuals, you can also use alternative instructions

Example :

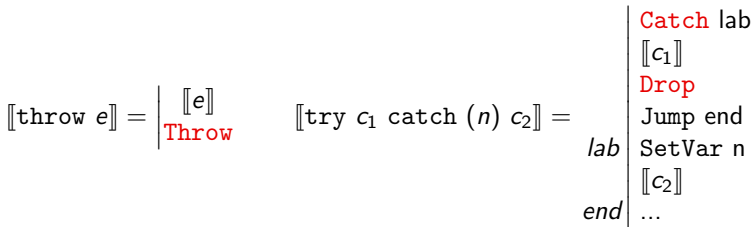
42; y = 2 + (x=3);

#42;	#y=2+(x=3)	SetVaD x
CsteNb 42	CsteNb 2	AddiNb
Drop	CsteNb 3	SetVar y

Our (non-optimal) Return instruction automatically cleans the stack

To avoid bugs in the begining of the project, Return behave like Throw : it digs for the next return continuation.

Naif encodaging



Catch off	Push(NewContinuation{cont = CC, code = PC + off + 1, err = true})	pile	#t:pile
------------------	---	------	---------

Warning: now you have to clean up your stack
 The instruction Drop will misbehave if the stack is not cleaned in the "try" block.

Example

```

try {
    res = 2 + f(x)
} catch (e) {
    res = e+5
}
function f (x) {
    if (x < 0) throw x;
    if (x == 0) return x;
    return 1+f(x-5);
}
    
```

```

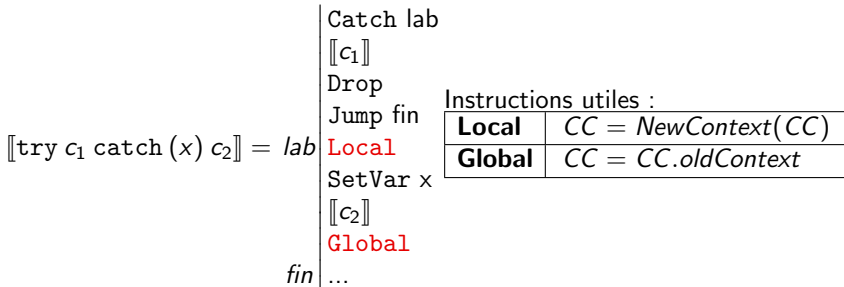
NewClo 16      #function f      GetVar x
DecArg x       GetVar x        CsteNb 5
SetVar f       CsteNb 0       SubsNb
Catch 7        LwStNb         SetArg
                CsteNb 2       ConJmp 2       Call
                GetVar f       GetVar x       Return
                StCall         Throw
                AddiNb         GetVar x
                SetVar res     CsteNb 0
Drop           Equals
Jump 5         ConJmp 2
SetVar e       GetVar x
                GetVar e       Return
                CsteNb 5       CsteNb 1
                AddiNb         GetVar f
                SetVar res     StCall
Halt
    
```

Patching our implementation:

The variable catching the error should be local

```
try c1 catch (x) c2
x have to be local in c2
```

Il serait mieux de rendre x visible uniquement dans c_2 et non dans le contexte global.



var vs let keywords

var x

Hoisted to the header of the current function.

let x

Hoisted at the start of the block (the {...})

Issue with let x:
x available only inside a block

On utilise encors les instruction Local et Global

$$\llbracket \{ p_1 \text{let } x = 3; p_2 \} \rrbracket = \begin{array}{l} \text{Local} \\ \text{DecVar } x \\ \llbracket p_1 \rrbracket \\ \text{CstNb } 3 \\ \text{SetVar } x \\ \llbracket p_2 \rrbracket \\ \text{Global} \end{array}$$

Optimizing locality: host variable in the stack

Local and Global can sometime be optimized

Use DecStk, GetStk n, SetStk n in place of DecVar x, GetVar x, SetVar n

$$\llbracket \{ \text{let } x = 5; \text{let } y = 7+x; x+y; \} \rrbracket =$$

DecStk	GetStk 3	AddiNb
DecStk	AddiNb	Swap
CstNb 5	SetStk 1	Drop
SetStk 2	GetStk 2	Swap
CstNb 7	GetStk 2	Drop

DecStk	Push(undefined)	stk	$u:stk$
GetStk n	Push(Stk[n])	$v_1 : \dots : v_n : stk$	$v_n : v_1 : \dots : v_n : stk$
SetStk n	Stk[n] = Pop	$v' : v_1 : \dots : v_n : stk$	$v_1 : \dots : v' : stk$

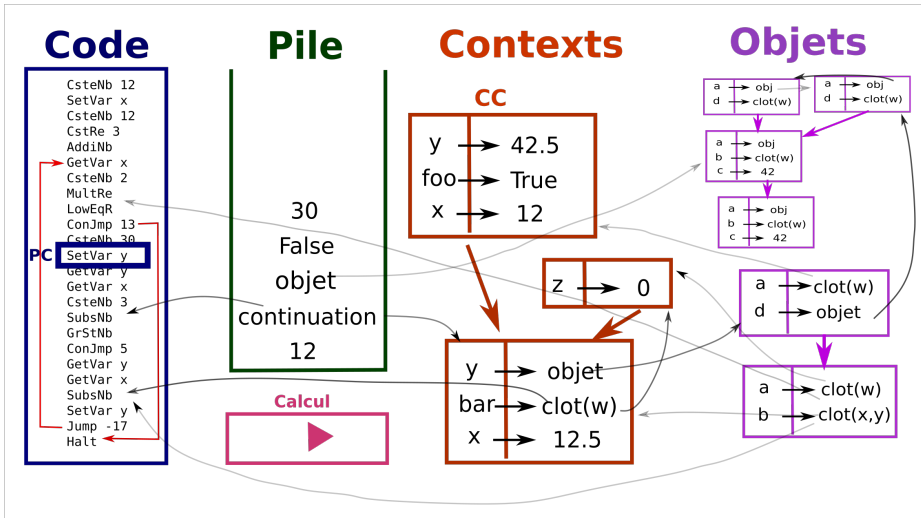
Dificulty: knowing variable's depth in the stack

Impossibility of closure

Closures will not see variables in the stack.

Objects

(JS objects ≠ Java objects)



Objects are values

An object is also implemented as a dictionary

Attributes and methods are both values associated to a name.

```

{ attr1: 42,
  attr2: 256,
  meth1: function (x)
    {return x+1;}
}
NewObj          # function meth1
CsteNb 42       GetVar x
SetObj attr1    CsteNb 1
CsteNb 256      AddiNb
SetObj attr2    Return
NewClo 3
DecArg x
SetObj meth1
Halt

```

NewObj	Push(NewObject{})	stack	o:stack
SetObj nom	Pull.cont.Set(nom, Pop)	v:o:stack	o:stack

Assignment et récupération dans un objet

```

z = {
  a: 42
  b: 0
}
z.b = 1 + z.a;
#créer z      #z.b = z.a+1;
NewObj      GetVar z
CsteNb 42    CsteNb 1
SetObj a     GetVar z
CsteNb 0     GetObj a
SetObj b     AddiNb
SetVar z     SetObj b
  
```

GetObj nom	Push(Pop.Get(nom))	o:stack	v:stack
SetObj nom	Pull.cont.Set(nom, Pop)	v:o:stack	o:stack

GetObj and SetObj

Those are similar to GetVal or SetVal but look at an object on the stack rather than CC.

The keyword this in JS

```
foo = {  
  a: 41,  
  getA: function (x)  
    {return this.a;}  
};  
foo.a=foo.a+1;
```

The keyword this in JS

```
foo = {  
  a: 41,  
  getA: function (x)  
    {return this.a;}  
};  
foo.a=foo.a+1;           → 42
```

The keyword this in JS

```
foo = {  
  a: 41,  
  getA: function (x)  
    {return this.a;}  
};  
foo.a=foo.a+1;           → 42  
foo.getA();
```

The keyword this in JS

```
foo = {  
  a: 41,  
  getA: function (x)  
    {return this.a;}  
};  
  
foo.a=foo.a+1;           → 42  
  
foo.getA();             → 42
```

The keyword this in JS

```
foo = {  
  a: 41,  
  getA: function (x)  
    {return this.a;}  
};
```

```
foo.a=foo.a+1;           → 42
```

```
foo.getA();              → 42
```

```
bar = {  
  a: foo.getA()-42,  
  getA: foo.getA  
}
```

The keyword this in JS

```
foo = {  
  a: 41,  
  getA: function (x)  
    {return this.a;}  
};  
  
foo.a=foo.a+1;           → 42  
  
foo.getA();             → 42  
  
bar = {  
  a: foo.getA()-42,  
  getA: foo.getA  
}  
  
bar.a+bar.a;
```

The keyword this in JS

```
foo = {  
  a: 41,  
  getA: function (x)  
    {return this.a;}  
};  
  
foo.a=foo.a+1;           → 42  
  
foo.getA();             → 42  
  
bar = {  
  a: foo.getA()-42,  
  getA: foo.getA  
}  
  
bar.a+bar.a;           → 0
```

The keyword this in JS

```
foo = {  
  a: 41,  
  getA: function (x)  
    {return this.a;}  
};  
  
foo.a=foo.a+1;           → 42  
  
foo.getA();             → 42  
  
bar = {  
  a: foo.getA()-42,  
  getA: foo.getA  
}  
  
bar.a+bar.a;           → 0  
  
bar.getA();
```

The keyword this in JS

```
foo = {  
  a: 41,  
  getA: function (x)  
    {return this.a;}  
};  
  
foo.a=foo.a+1;           → 42  
  
foo.getA();             → 42  
  
bar = {  
  a: foo.getA()-42,  
  getA: foo.getA  
}  
  
bar.a+bar.a;           → 0  
  
bar.getA();            → 0
```

In JS, “this” refers to the object from which is extracted the current closure

```
foo = { a:42, getA: function(){return this.a}};
bar = {a:0, getA:foo.getA}
bar.getA();
```

```
#créer foo      #créer bar      #bar.getA      Halt
NewObj          NewObj          GetVar bar
CsteNb 0        CsteNb 42        Copy           #code f
SetObj a        SetObj a         GetObj getA    GetVar this
NewClo 21       GetVar foo       StCall         GetObj a
SetObj getA     GetObj getA     Swap           return
SetVar foo      SetObj getA     SetIn this
                SetVar bar      Call
```

SetIn n	Push(Pop.Set(n,Pop))	v:c:stack	c:stack
----------------	----------------------	-----------	---------

Dur to the keyword `this`, the operatot “.” is polymorph

<code>z = {</code>	<code>#créer z</code>	<code>#z.getA()</code>	<code>Call</code>
<code> a: 42,</code>	<code>NewObj</code>	<code>GetVar z</code>	<code>Halt</code>
<code> getA: function (x)</code>	<code>CsteNb 42</code>	<code>Copy</code>	<code>#getA</code>
<code>{return this.a;}</code>	<code>SetObj a</code>	<code>GetObj getA</code>	<code>GetVar this</code>
<code>};</code>	<code>NewClo 12</code>	<code>StCall</code>	<code>GetObj a</code>
<code>z.getA();</code>	<code>DecArg x</code>	<code>Swap</code>	<code>return</code>
	<code>SetObj getA</code>	<code>SetIn this</code>	
	<code>SetVar z</code>	<code>StCall</code>	

The behaviour of “.” in `ob.var` is type dependant

- on a closure, one has to add “`this`” in the context,
- On any other value, no need to do anything.

→ we need dynamic typing mecanism...

Is the operator “.” really an operator ?

In JS keywords can be use as atributes

```
z = {  
  if: 42,  
  else: 0  
};  
z.if;
```

Possible solution : modify the LEXER !

“if:” and “.if” can be considered as lexems vastly diferent from “if”

Remark: to consider “if” and “if :” as diferent lexems, the maximum much is needed.

History of JS classes:

Starts as syntactic sugar hiding a constructor

```
class MaClasse {  
  attr1 = 42;  
  attr2;  
  meth1(){return 128;}  
}  
new Maclasse();
```

≈

```
function new_MaClasse () {  
  return {  
    attr1 : 42,  
    attr2 : undefined,  
    meth1 : function () {  
      return 128;  
    }  
  }  
}  
new_MaClasse();
```

History of JS classes:

Starts as syntactic sugar hiding a constructor

```
class MaClasse {  
  attr1 = 42;  
  attr2;  
  meth1(){return 128;}  
  constructor(x){  
    this.attr2 = x+a;  
  }  
}  
new MaClasse(64);
```

≈

```
function new_MaClasse (x){  
  rez = {  
    attr1 : 42,  
    attr2 : undefined,  
    meth1 : function (){  
      return 128;  
    }  
  }  
  rez.attr2 = x+a;  
  return rez;  
}  
new_MaClasse(64);
```

Consequence: environment binded to the point where the class is created

```
function f(x) {  
  var y=42  
  class MaClass{  
    x = y;  
    g() {return y++;}  
  }  
  return MaClass;  
}  
maclasse = f(42);  
ob1 = new maclasse();  
ob1.g();  
ob2 = new maclasse();  
ob1.x;  
ob2.x;
```

Consequence: environment binded to the point where the class is created

```
function f(x) {  
  var y=42  
  class MaClass{  
    x = y;  
    g() {return y++;}  
  }  
  return MaClass;  
}  
maclasse = f(42);  
ob1 = new maclasse();  
ob1.g();  
ob2 = new maclasse();  
ob1.x;           → 42  
ob2.x;           → 43
```

History of JS classes:

Need for factorisation in classes which many methodes

Slow initialisation

For each execution of the constructor, the closures are reinitialised.

Inneficient space management

Methodes closures are integrates in each objects.

Example: For chained lists, each node would contains more than 70 closures which have to be initialised at each insertion !

History of JS classes:

Prototype containing a constructor

```
class MaClasse {  
  attr1 = 42;  
  attr2;  
  meth1(){  
    return 128;  
  }  
  meth2(){  
    this.attr1++;  
  }  
}  
new Maclasse();
```

≈

```
MaClasse = {  
  meth1 : function () {return 128;}  
  meth2 : function () {this.attr1++;}  
  constructor : function () {  
    return {  
      __proto__ : MaClasse,  
      attr1 : 42,  
      attr2 : undefined  
    };  
  }  
}  
MaClass.constructor();
```

JS object : attributs + prototype (≧methodes)

objet1

nom		"Compilation"
mcc		function (pr,p2){....}

objet1

nom		"Calculabilité"
mcc		function (p1,p2){....}

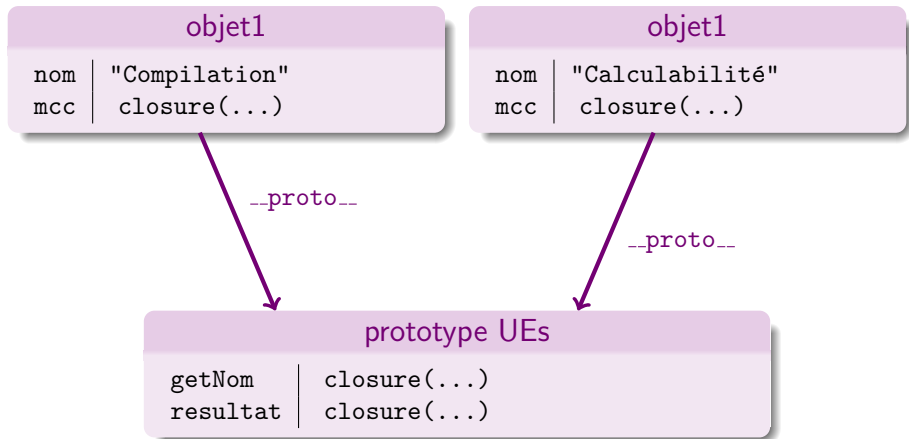
--proto--

--proto--

prototype UEs

getNom		function(){return this.nom}
resultat		function(eleve){....}

JS object : attributs + prototype (≧methodes)



Inheritance = Prototypes imbrication

