

Arrows in Commercial Web Applications

Eric Fritz Jose Antony Tian Zhao

University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

Research History

Directing JavaScript with Arrows

Khoo Yit Phang, Michael Hicks, Jeffrey S. Foster, and Vibha Sazawal.
5th Symposium on Dynamic Languages, 2009.

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Typing and Semantics of Asynchronous Arrows in JavaScript

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In Review, 2016.

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Arrows in Commercial Web Applications

Eric Fritz, Jose Antony, and Tian Zhao.

HotWeb, 2016.

Example Application - Inventory Search

[Prev](#) · [Displaying 21-24 of 24](#) · [Next](#)

ID	Name	Category	Subcategory	Price / Unit	Margin
223	Rush Hierlooms Collection 1" Thick Stackable Bookcases	Furniture	Bookcases	170.98	0.66
224	Rush Hierlooms Collection Rich Wood Bookcases	Furniture	Bookcases	160.98	0.72
230	Safco Value Mate Steel Bookcase, Baked Enamel Finish on Steel, Black	Furniture	Bookcases	70.98	0
231	Sauder Camden County Barrister Bookcase, Planked Cherry Finish	Furniture	Bookcases	120.98	0.71

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Requirements:

- Filter displayed results by name and category
- Paginate results when filtered set is > 50 items

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Requirements:

Filter displayed results by name and category

Paginate results when filtered set is > 50 items

Performance Optimizations:

Cache server results for same query/page

Attempt to pre-fetch the next page of results

Don't make a remote request while the user is typing

Sequencing Filtering + Paging (Using Callbacks)

```
function call(query, page, handler) {
  $.ajax({ 'url': makeURL(query, page), 'success': handler });
}

function showPage(resp) {
  const pageTo = (page) => () => {
    $('#prev, #next').unbind('click');
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  displayTable(resp);
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Call Stack

Event Queue

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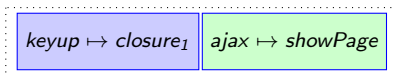
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showPage

Call Stack



keyup \mapsto *closure*₁

next \mapsto *closure*₃

Event Queue

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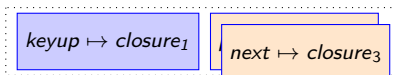
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Event Queue

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closure₃

Call Stack



keyup \mapsto *closure₁*

prev \mapsto *closure₂*

Event Queue

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Callbacks - The Problems

Lose flow of (synchronous) code

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Event registration/de-registration is ad-hoc

Callbacks - The Problems

- Lose flow of (synchronous) code
- Event registration/de-registration is ad-hoc
- Lose imperative exception semantics

```
try {
  User.findOne({name: 'Eric'}, (err, obj) => {
    if (err != null) { throw err; }
    else if (obj == null) { throw new Error('Not Found'); }
    else { /* ... */ }
  });
} catch (err) {
  /* ... */
}
```

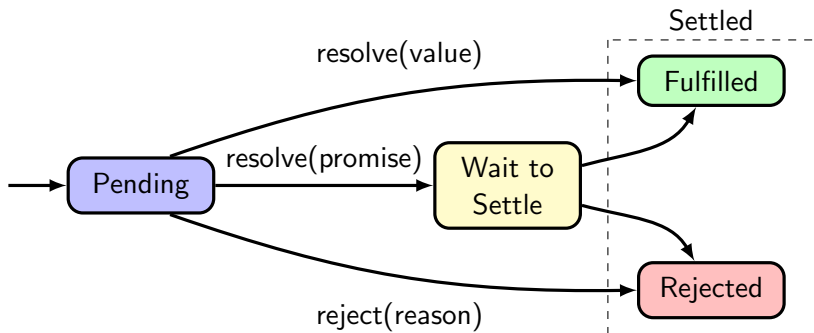
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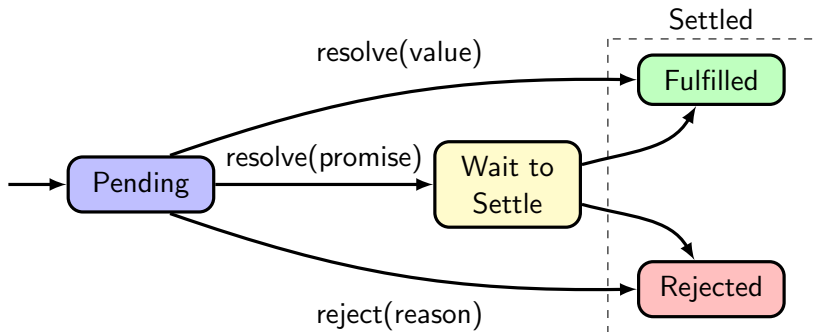
- 20% of function calls provide a callback
 - 72% of callbacks are asynchronous
 - 48% of callbacks are anonymous
- (Gallaba et al.)

Promises – A Better Abstraction



```
promise.then(onSuccess);  
promise.then(onSuccess, onError);  
promise.then(onSuccess).catch(onError);
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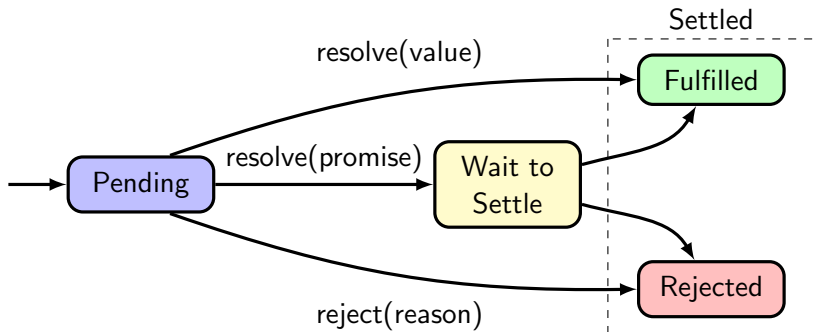
Promises – A Better Abstraction



```
var promise = new Promise((resolve, reject) => {
  conn.query('SELECT * from items', (err, row) => {
    if (!!err) reject(err);
    else resolve(row);
  });
});
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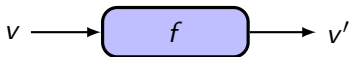
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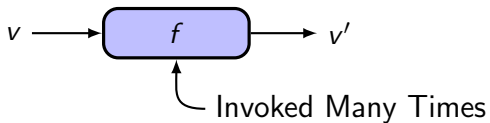
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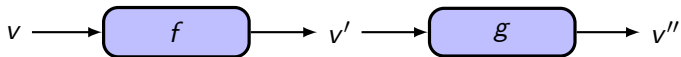
Arrows – Attacking the Abstraction Differently



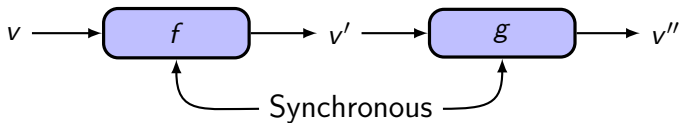
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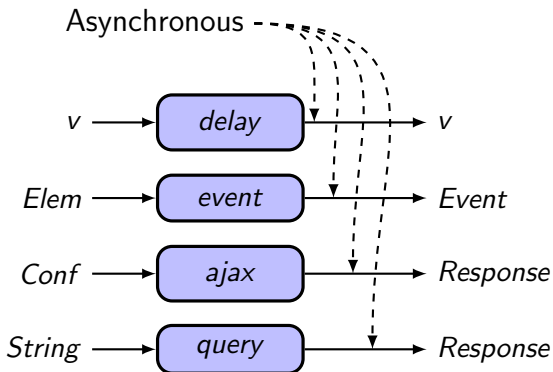
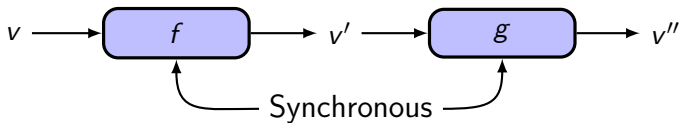
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Arrows – Attacking the Abstraction Differently



Arrows - Async Machine Composition

```
let page = Arrow.fix(a => Arrow.seq([
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  explode,
  Arrow.seq([
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    handle
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  Arrow.any([
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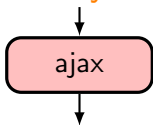
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filter.run();
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Composition Time {

Execution Time {

Arrows - Async Machine Composition

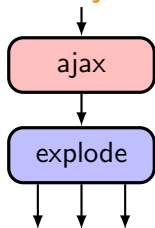


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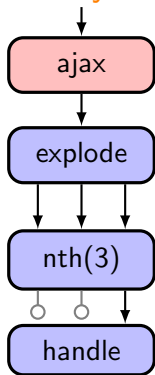


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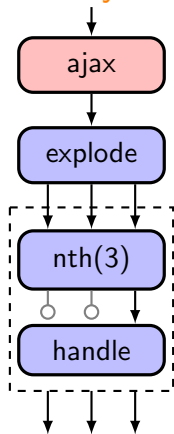


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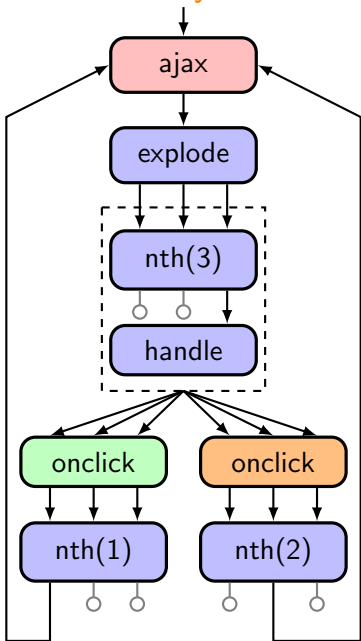


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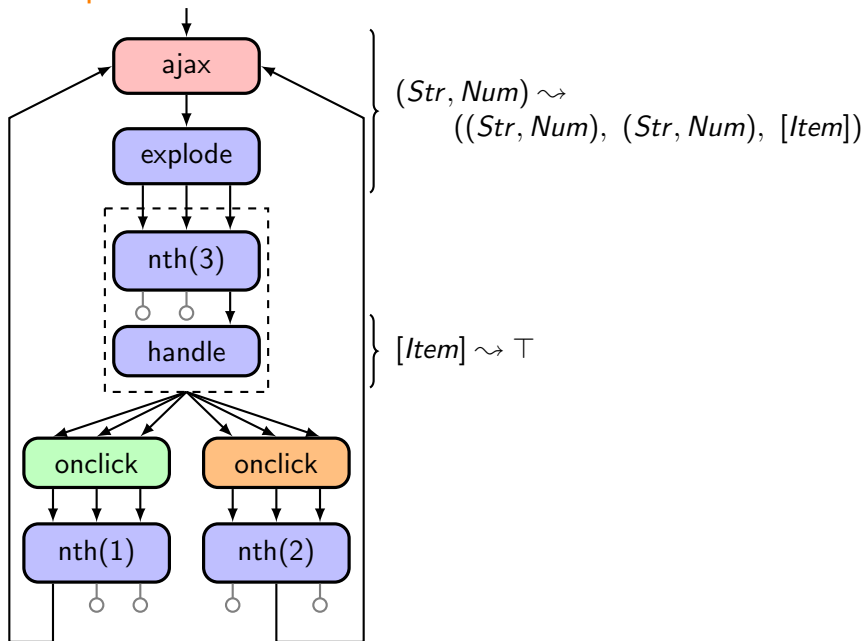


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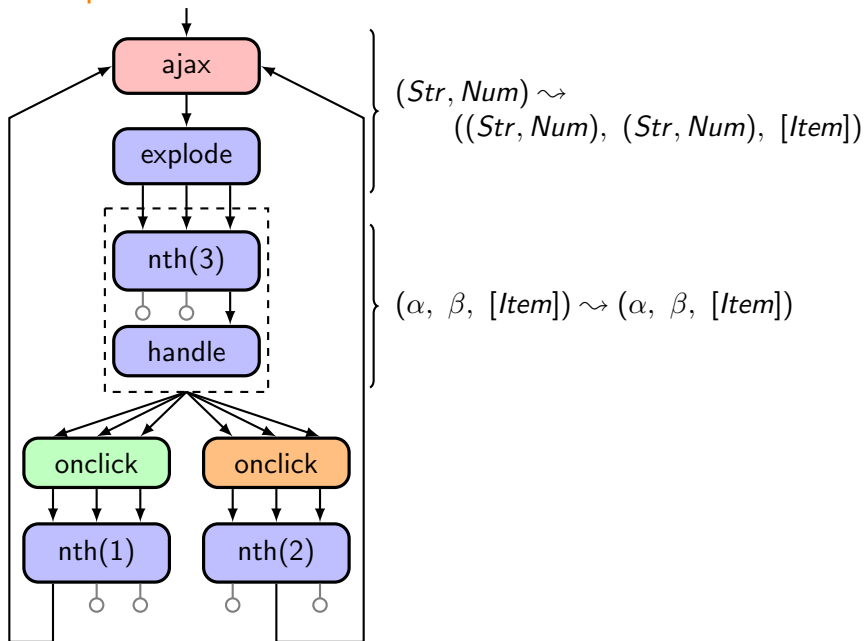
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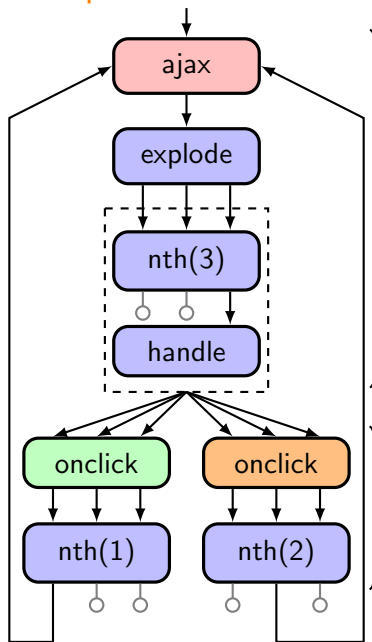
Composition-Time Inference



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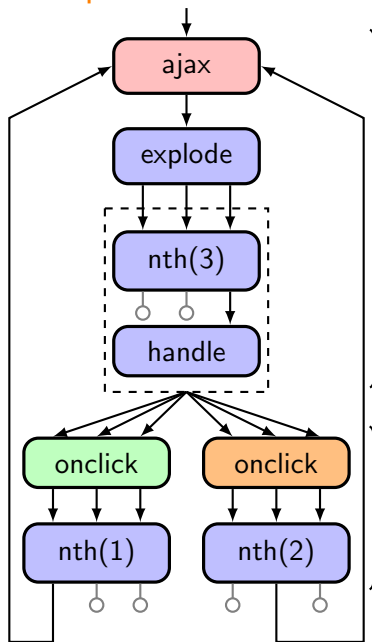
Composition-Time Inference



$(Str, Num) \rightsquigarrow$
 $((Str, Num), (Str, Num), [Item])$

$(\mu, \nu, \theta) \rightsquigarrow \mu \setminus \{\mu \leq (Str, Num)\}$ and
 $(\mu, \nu, \theta) \rightsquigarrow \nu \setminus \{\nu \leq (Str, Num)\}$

Composition-Time Inference

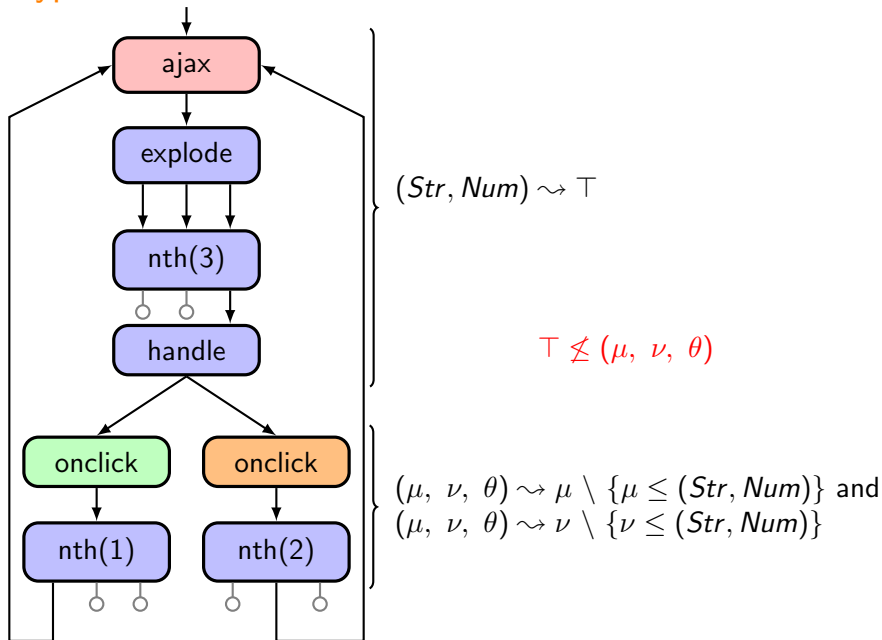


$(Str, Num) \rightsquigarrow$
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$(Str, Num) \leq \nu \leq (Str, Num)$
 $(Str, Num) \leq \mu \leq (Str, Num)$

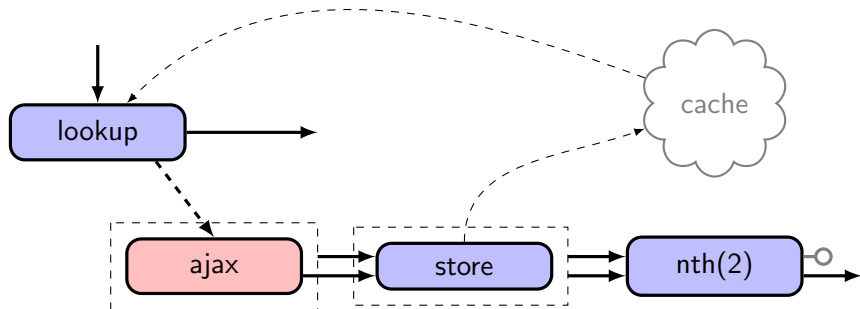
$(\mu, \nu, \theta) \rightsquigarrow \mu \setminus \{\mu \leq (Str, Num)\}$ and
 $(\mu, \nu, \theta) \rightsquigarrow \nu \setminus \{\nu \leq (Str, Num)\}$

Type Clash Detection



Adding Optimizations

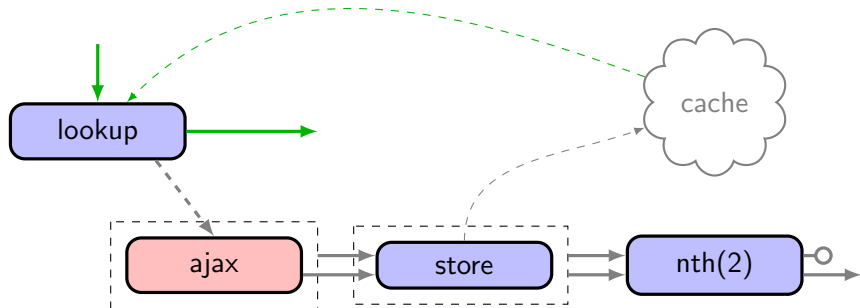
Cached Ajax Responses



```
const cachedAjax = Arrow.catch(lookup, Arrow.seq([
  ajax.carry(),
  store.remember(),
  new NthArrow(2)
]));
```

```
function lookup(key) {
  if (key in cache) return cache[key];
  else               throw key;
}
```

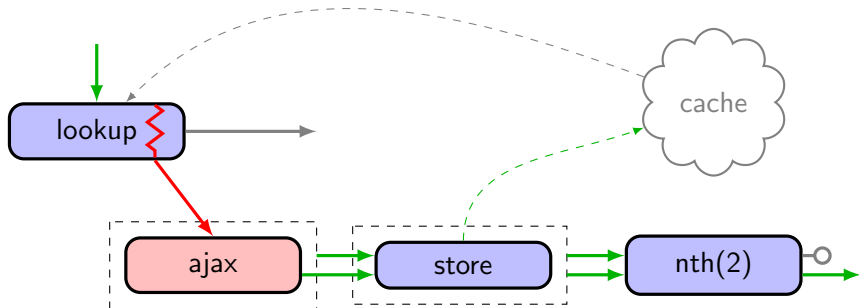
Cached Ajax Responses



```
const cachedAjax = Arrow.catch(lookup, Arrow.seq([
  ajax.carry(),
  store.remember(),
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function lookup(key) {
  if (key in cache) return cache[key];
  else               throw key;
}
```

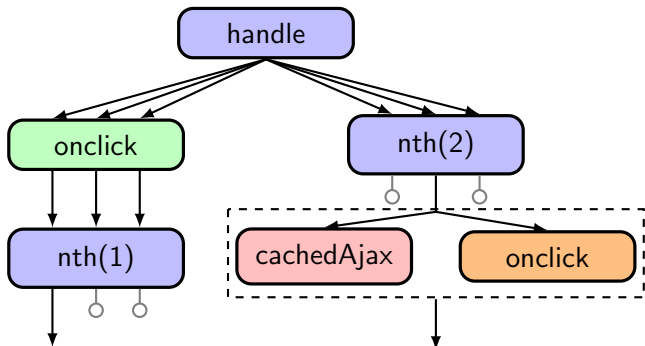
Cached Ajax Responses



```
const cachedAjax = Arrow.catch(lookup, Arrow.seq([
  ajax.carry(),
  store.remember(),
  new NthArrow(2)
]));
```

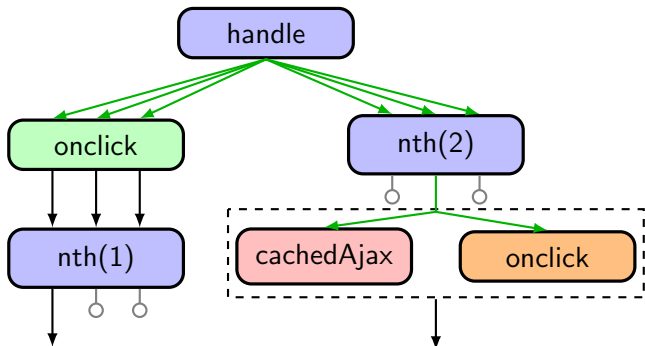
```
function lookup(key) {
  if (key in cache) return cache[key];
  else               throw key;
}
```

Pre-Fetching Next Page



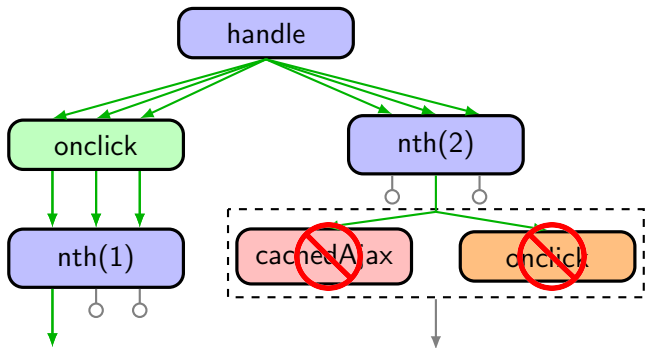
```
Arrows.any([
  new NthArrow(1).onclick('#prev'),
  new NthArrow(2).seq(Arrow.fanout([
    ajaxOrCached,
    onclick('#next')
  ])).noemit().remember()
]);
```

Pre-Fetching Next Page



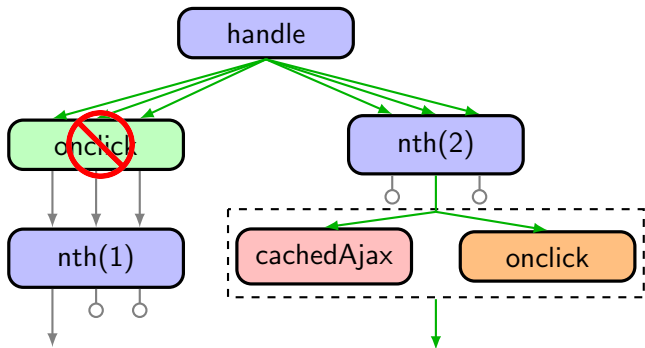
```
Arrows.any([
  new NthArrow(1).onclick('#prev'),
  new NthArrow(2).seq(Arrow.fanout([
    ajaxOrCached,
    onclick('#next')
  ]).noemit().remember())
]);
```

Pre-Fetching Next Page



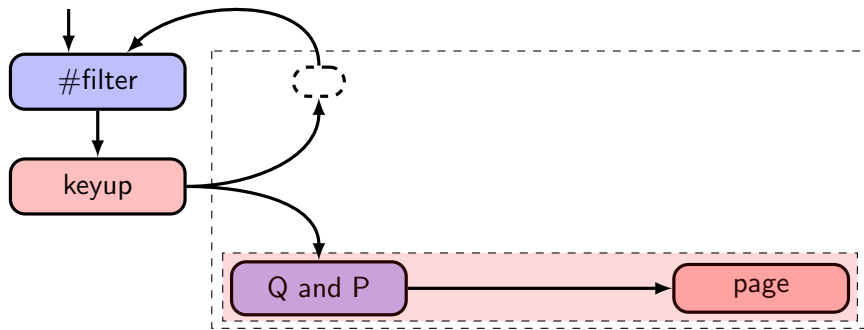
```
Arrows.any([
  new NthArrow(1).onclick('#prev'),
  new NthArrow(2).seq(Arrow.fanout([
    ajaxOrCached,
    onclick('#next')
  ]).noemit().remember())
]);
```

Pre-Fetching Next Page



```
Arrows.any([  
  new NthArrow(1).onclick('#prev'),  
  new NthArrow(2).seq(Arrow.fanout([  
    ajaxOrCached,  
    onclick('#next')  
  ]).noemit().remember())  
]);
```

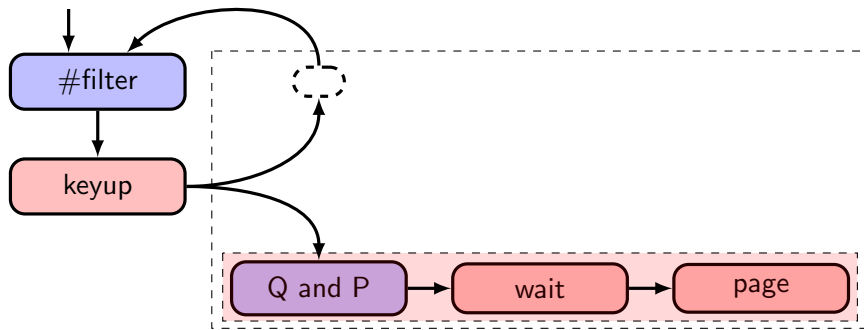
No In-Flight Requests as User Types



```
let filter = Arrow.fix(a => Arrow.any([
  a,
  Arrow.seq([
    getQueryAndPage,

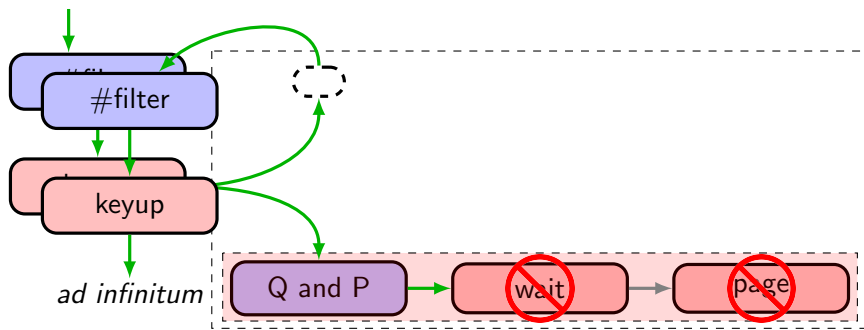
    page
  ]).noemit(),
]).onkeyup('#filter'));
```


No In-Flight Requests as User Types



```
let filter = Arrow.fix(a => Arrow.any([
  a,
  Arrow.seq([
    getQueryAndPage,
    new DelayArrow(400),
    page
  ]).noemit(),
]).onkeyup('#filter'));
```

No In-Flight Requests as User Types



```
let filter = Arrow.fix(a => Arrow.any([
  a,
  Arrow.seq([
    getQueryAndPage,
    new DelayArrow(400),
    page
  ]).noemit(),
]).onkeyup('#filter'));
```

Conclusion

Composing an *interaction machine* is a powerful shift in abstraction
Opens up opportunity for 'static' benefits

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Questions?