# Incremental, zero-config Code Navigation using stack graphs

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@dcreager

Languages, Systems, and Data Seminar
May 27, 2021 – UC Santa Cruz

Builds on the Scope Graphs framework
from Eelco Visser's group at TU Delft.

`https://pl.ewi.tudelft.nl/research/projects/scope-graphs/`

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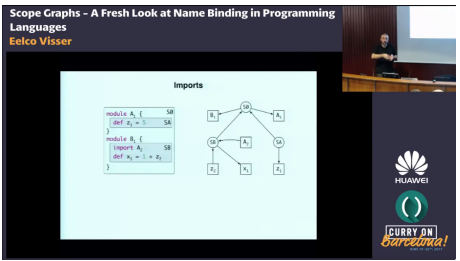
Curry On Barcelona 2017



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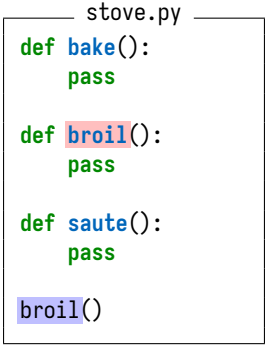

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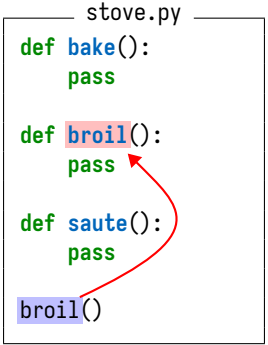


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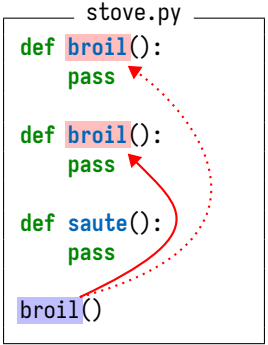

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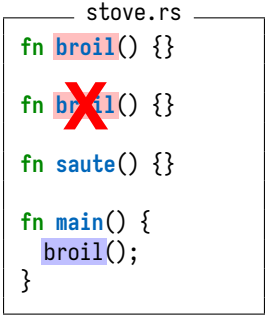

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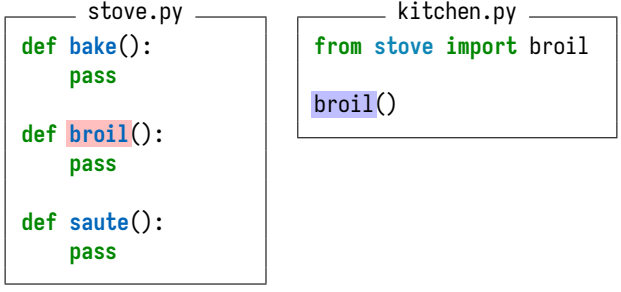

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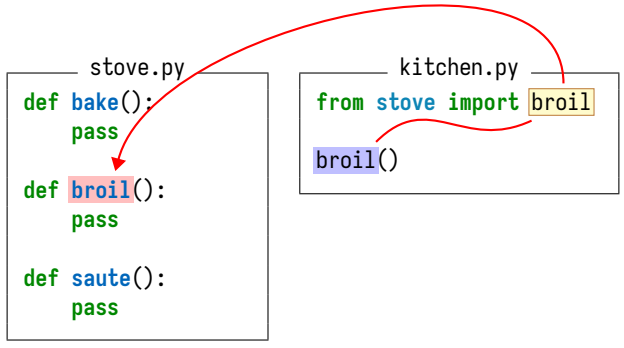

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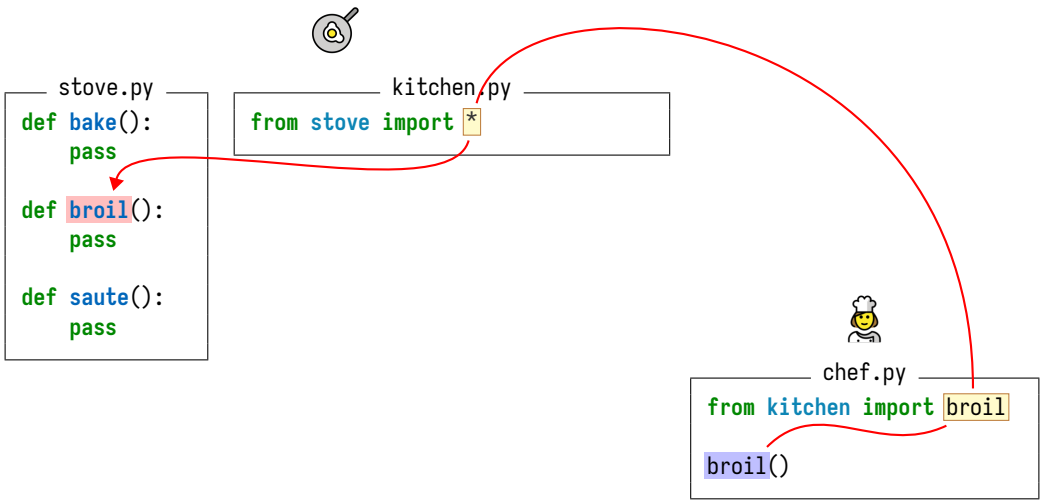

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    import stove
    return stove.broil()
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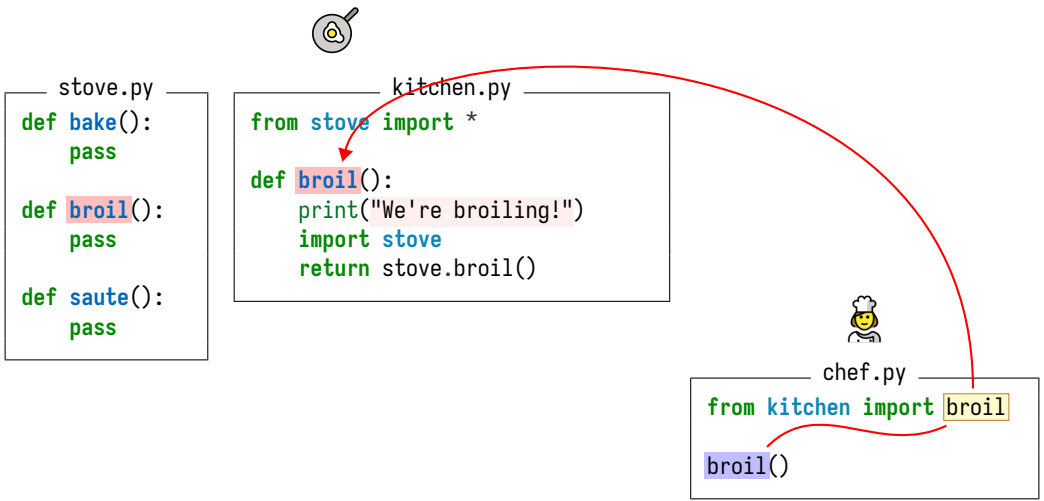

# Why is this hard?

stove.py

```
class Stove(object):
    def bake(self):
        pass

    def broil(self):
        pass

    def saute(self):
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kitchen.py

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from stove import *
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chef.py

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from kitchen import Stove

stove = Stove()
stove.broil()
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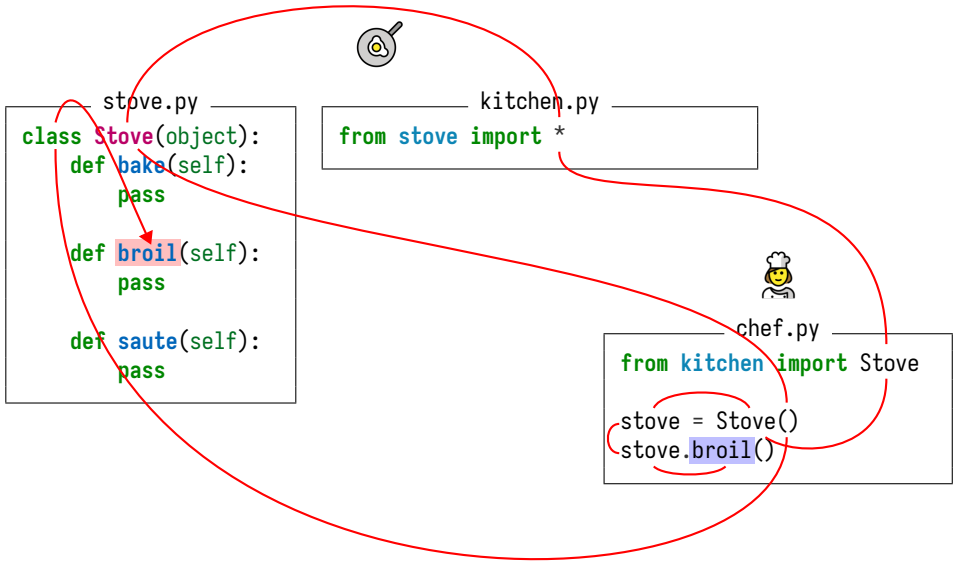

# Why is this hard?

dataflow.py

```
def passthrough(x):
    return x
```

a.py

```
from dataflow import passthrough

class A:
    one = 1

passthrough(A).one
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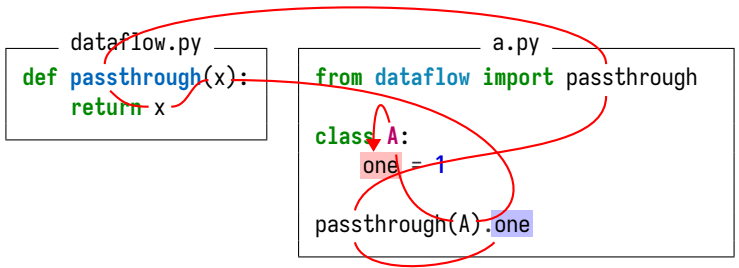

Oh is that all?

# Zero configuration

We don't want to have to ask the package owner how to collect the data we need.

Or ask them to configure a job to produce that data.

It should **Just Work**.

# SCALE

200 million repositories and counting

2 billion contributions
in the last 12 months

500 programming languages

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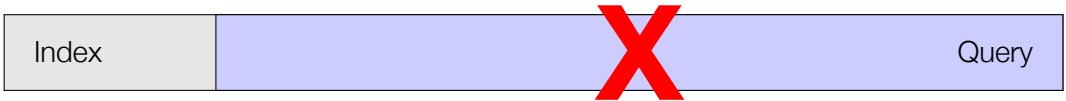
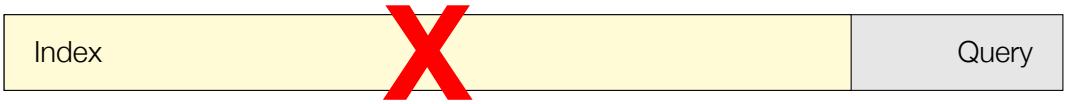



This is an interactive feature, so we can't do too much work at query time.

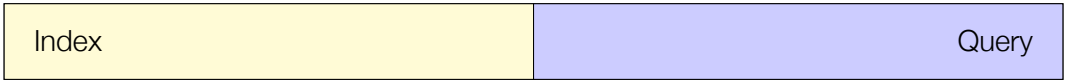
Goal: < 100ms

# When do we do the work?




Because of our scale, we can't doo too much work at index time, either!
(Compute and storage costs are too high, work is wasted, etc.)

# When do we do the work?




We want to strike a balance.

Precalculate as much as we can.
Minimize the amount of **duplicated** work.
Defer **some** work until query time to make that happen.

# Why is this hard?

- Different languages have different name binding rules.
- Some of those rules can be quite complex.
- The result might depend on intermediate files.
- We don’t want to require manual per-repo configuration.
- We need to balance work between index time vs query time.

# Incremental results

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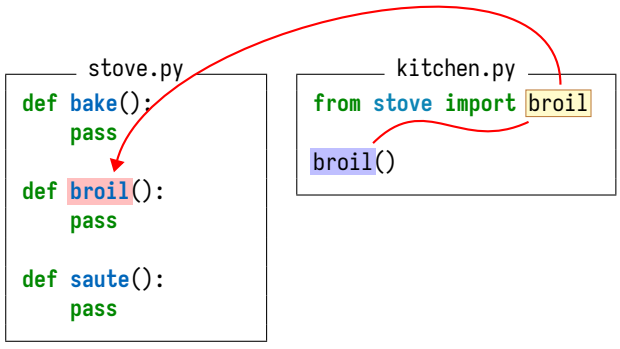
In a typical commit, a small fraction of files in the repo change.

We want to reuse results that we've
already calculated for unchanged files.

*Structural sharing* (like git itself) helps save storage.

*Incremental processing* also helps save compute.

# What would incremental results look like?



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`stove.broil` is defined at *stove.py:4:5*

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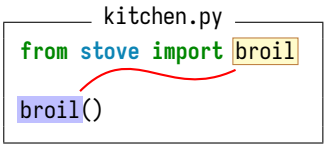


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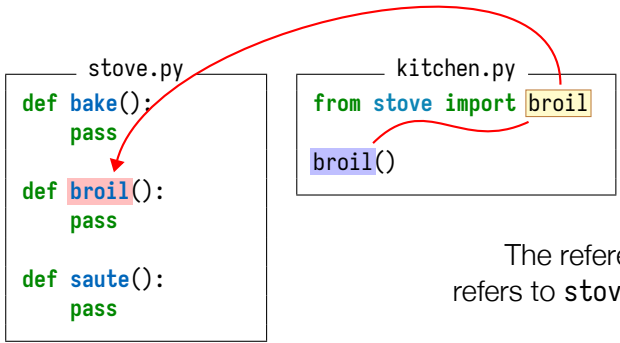


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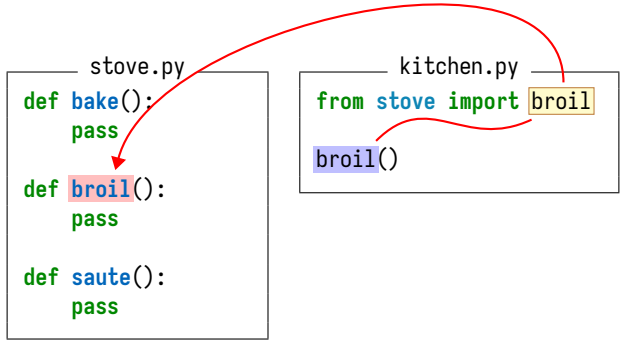

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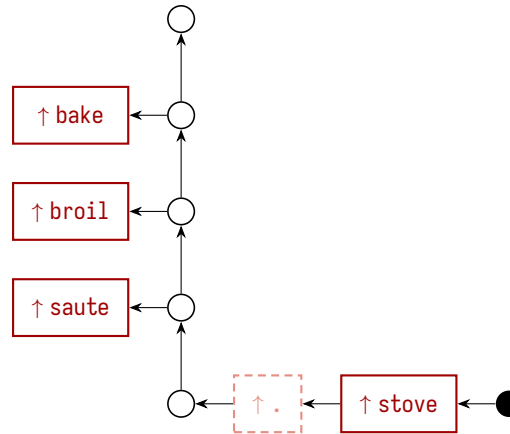

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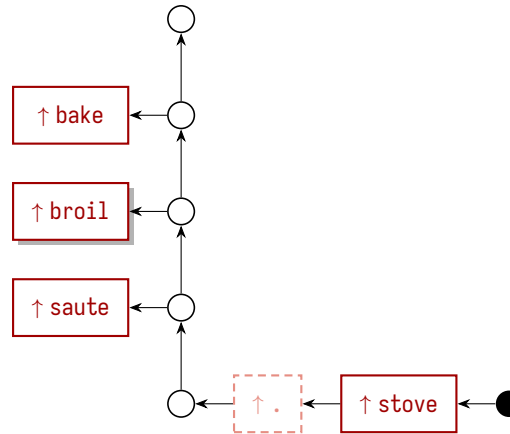

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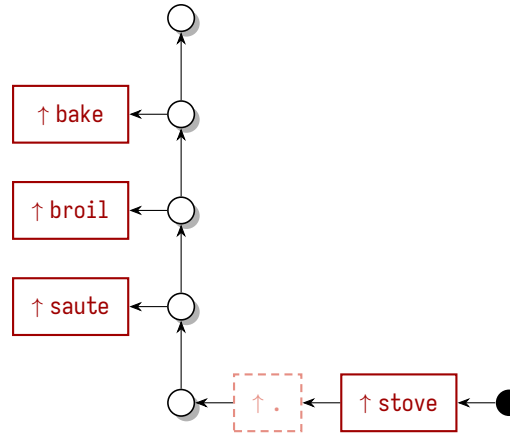

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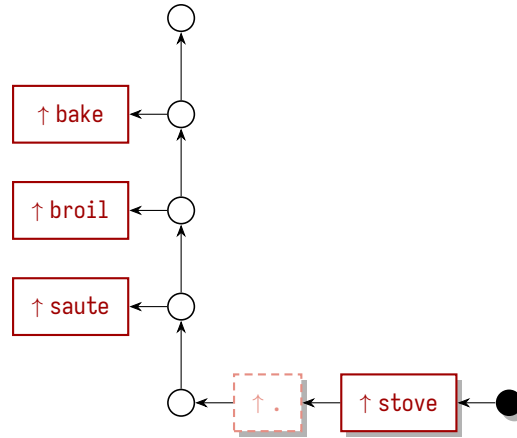

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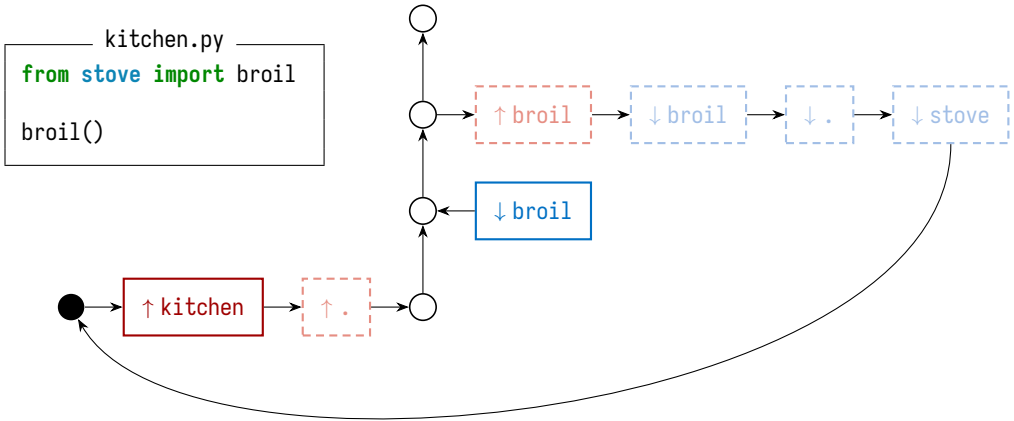

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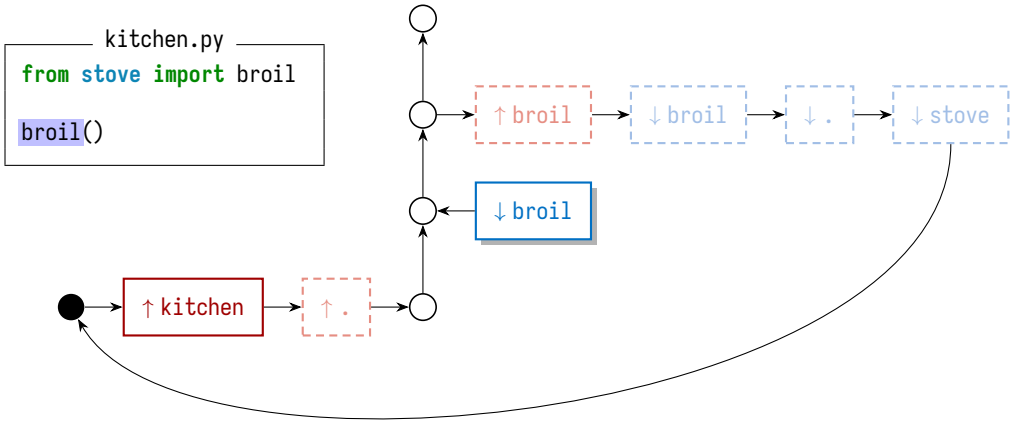

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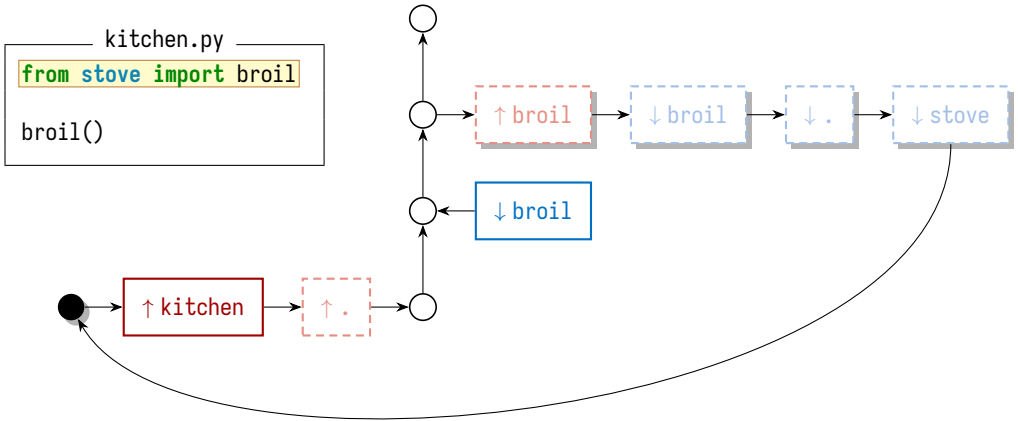

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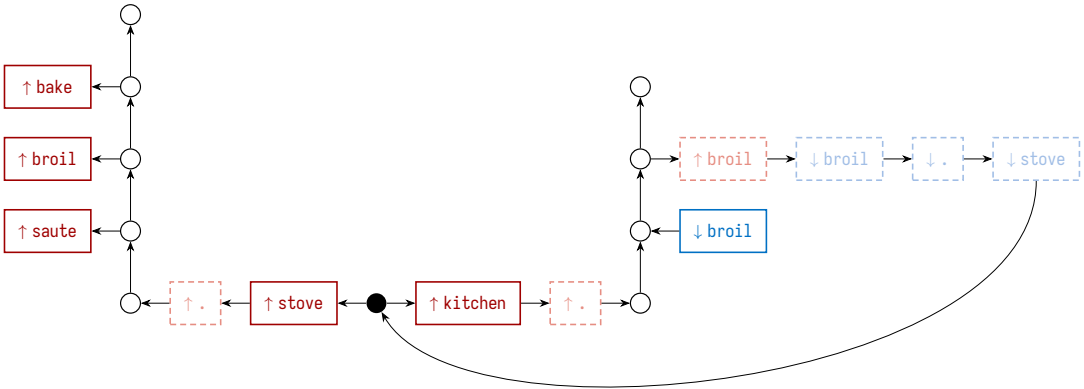

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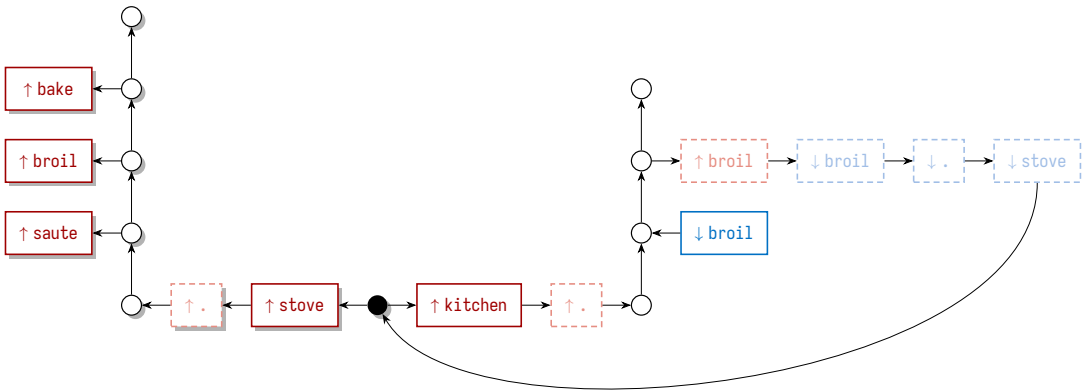

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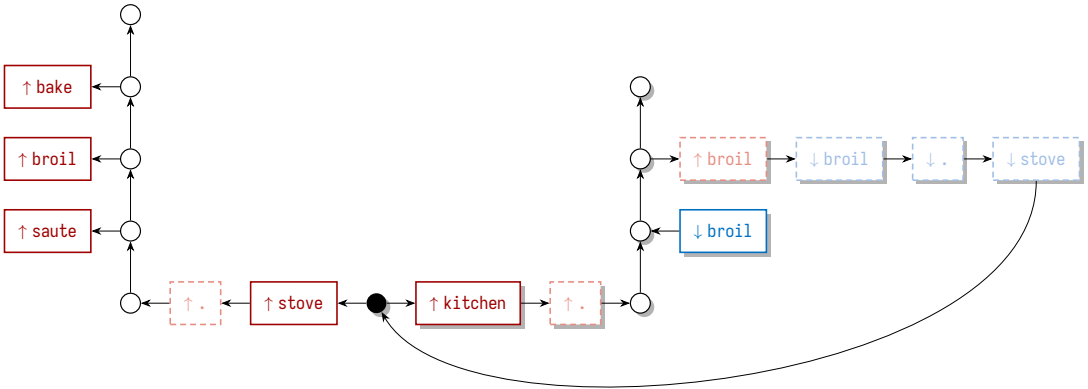

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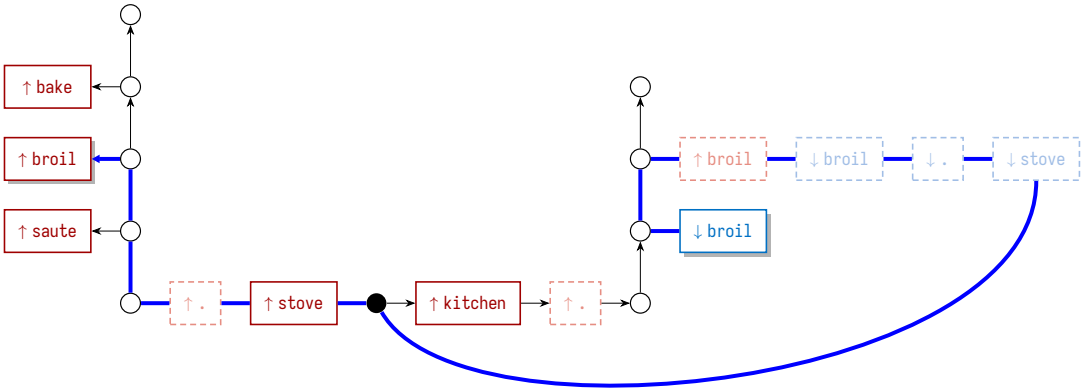

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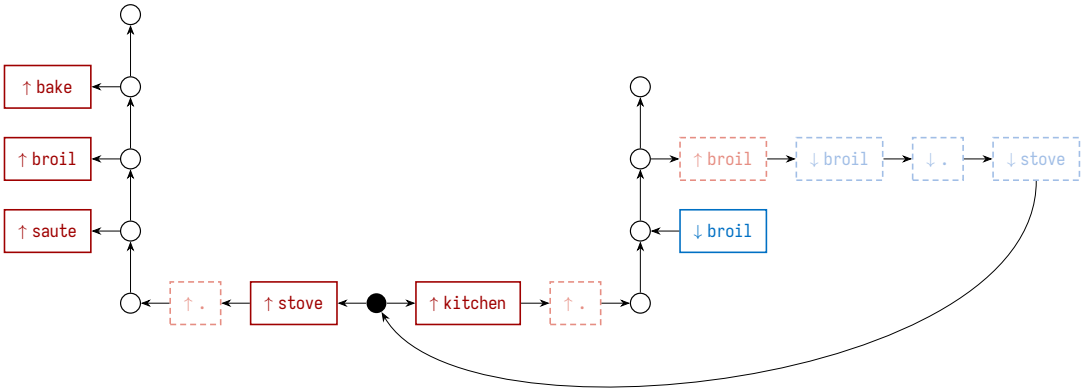


Symbol stack: ◇

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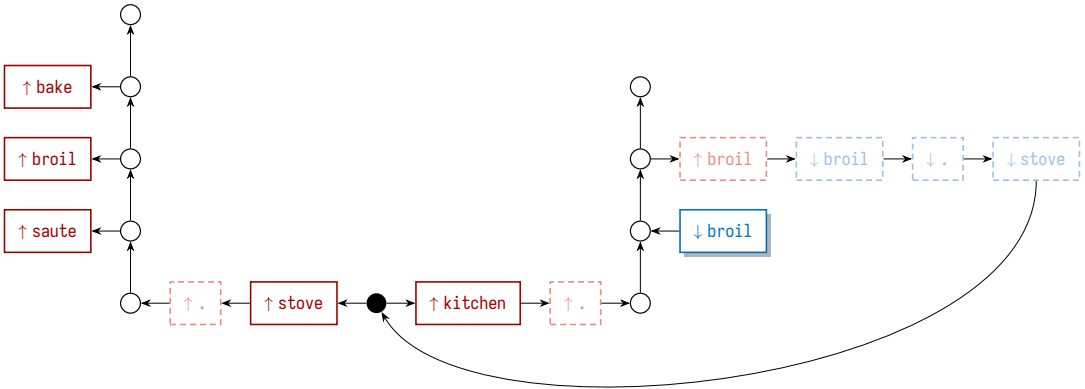


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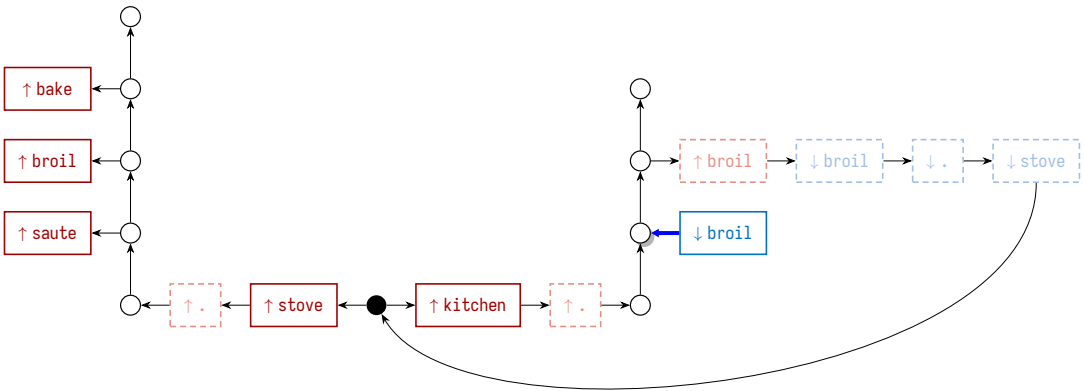


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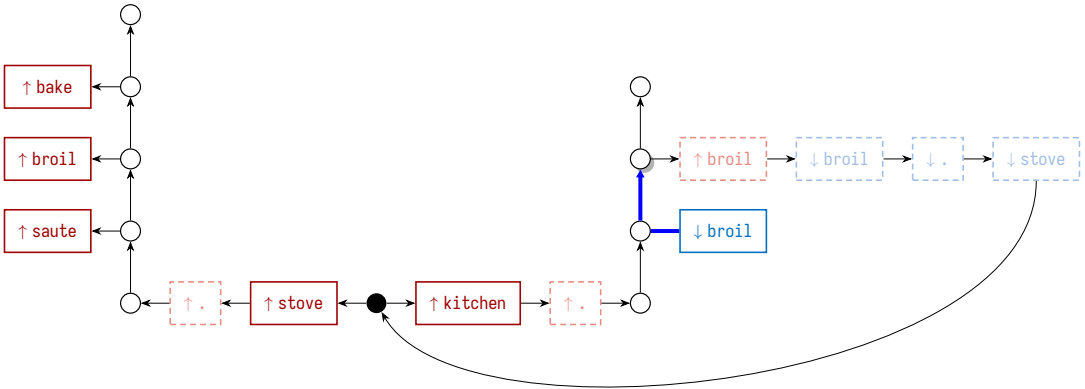


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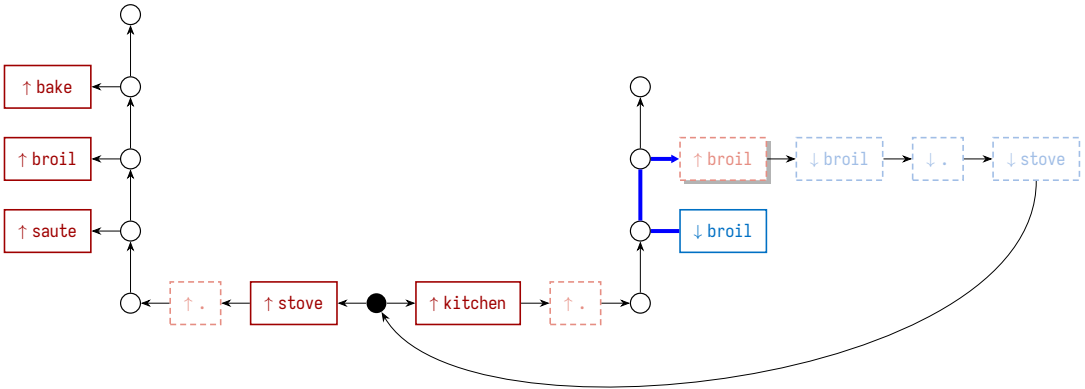


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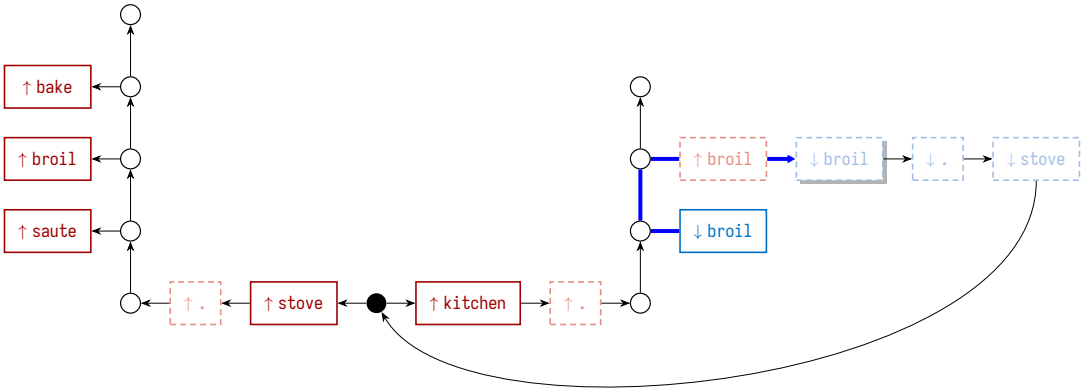


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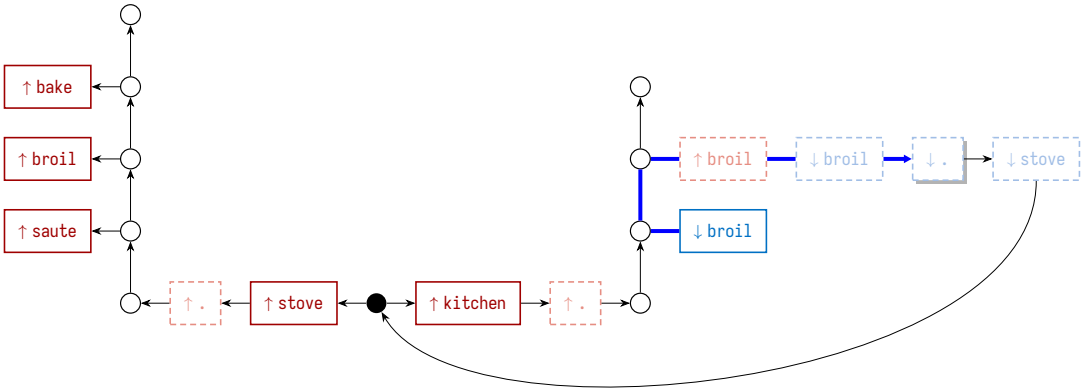


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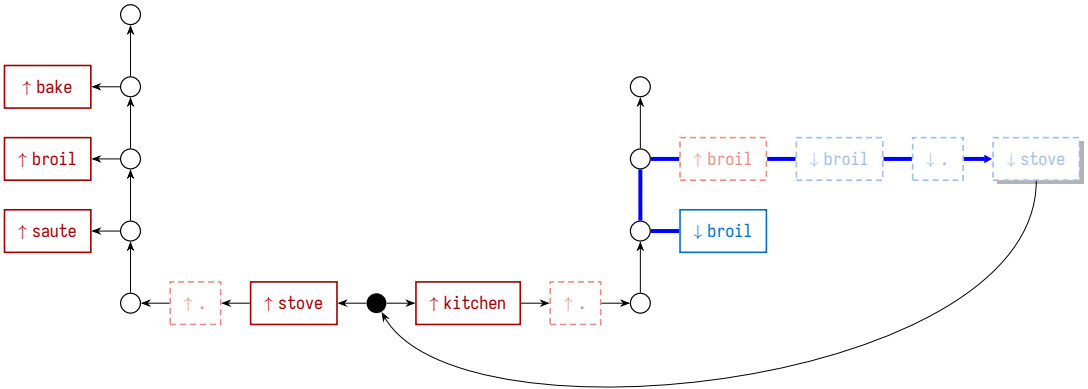


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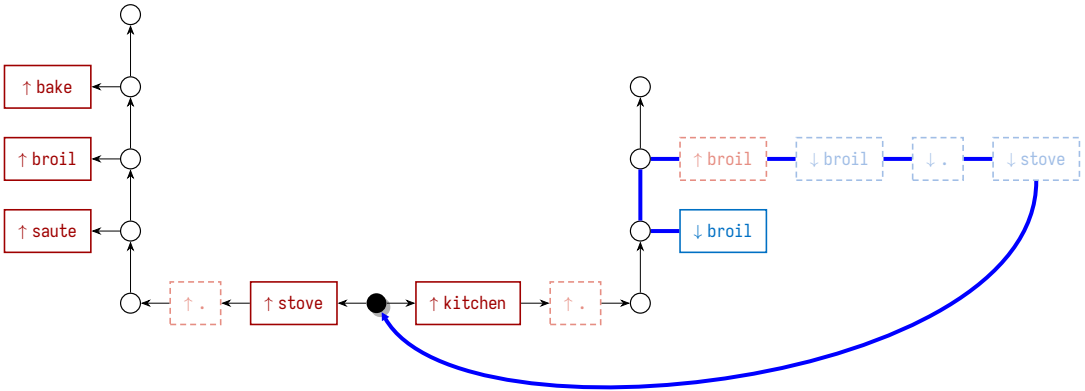


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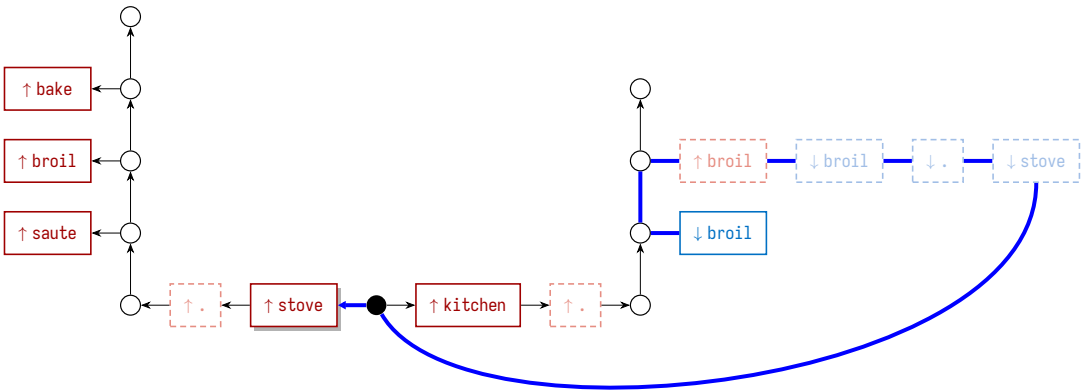
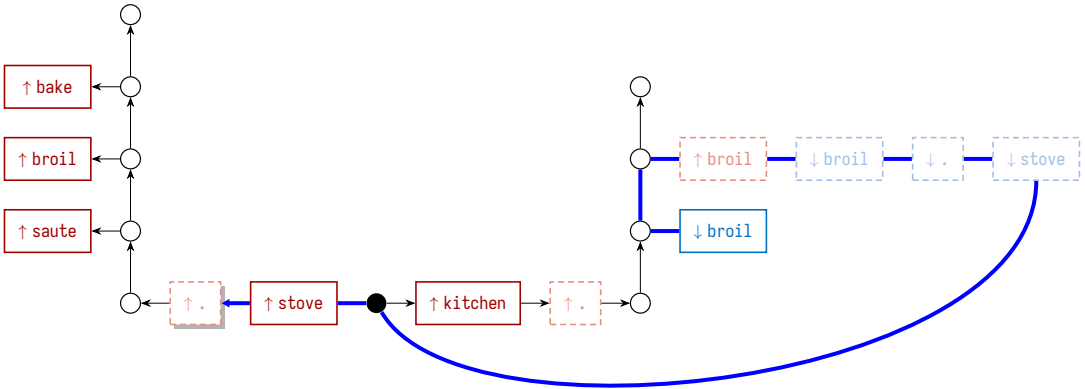


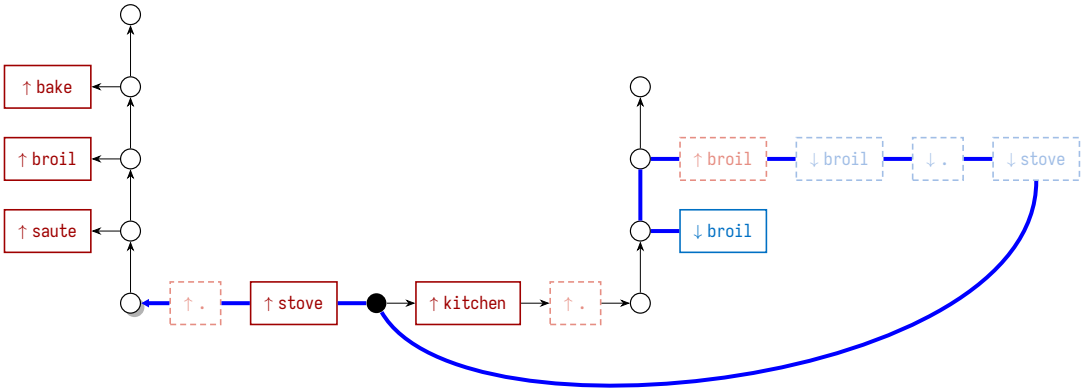

Symbol stack: ⟨.broil⟩

# Stack graphs



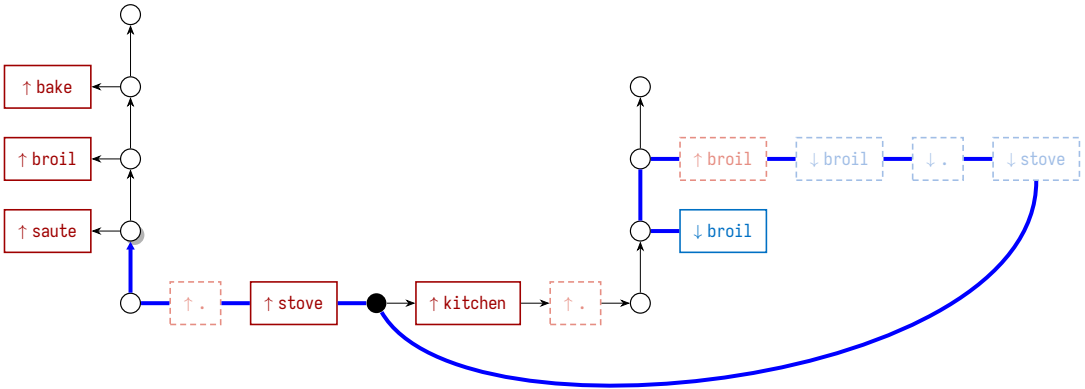

Symbol stack: ⟨broil⟩

# Stack graphs



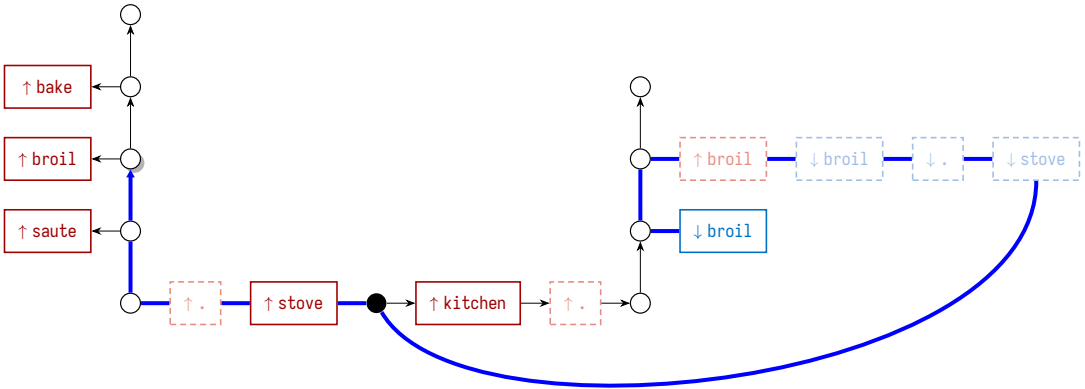

Symbol stack: ⟨broil⟩

# Stack graphs



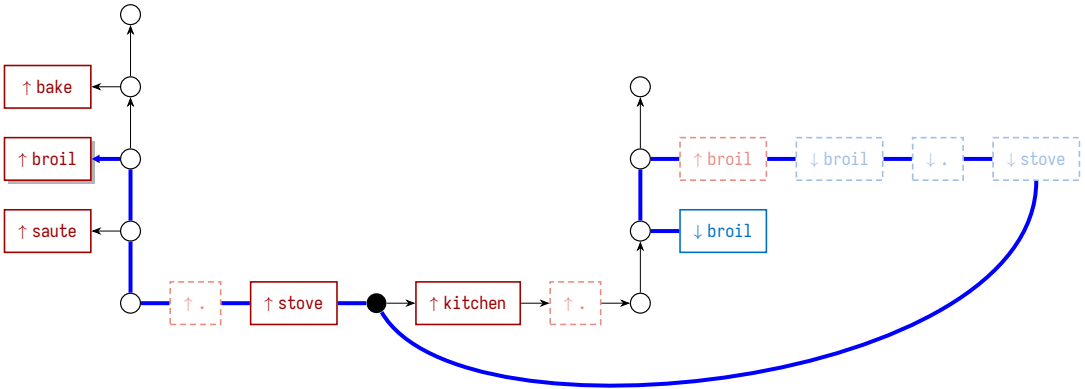

Symbol stack: ⟨broil⟩

# Stack graphs



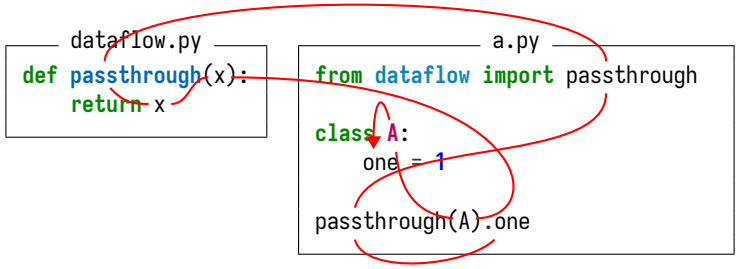

Symbol stack: ⟨broil⟩

# Stack graphs

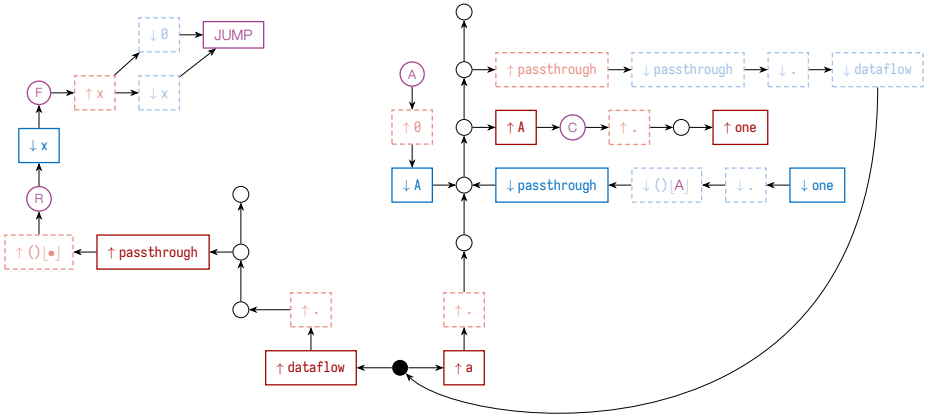



Symbol stack: ◇

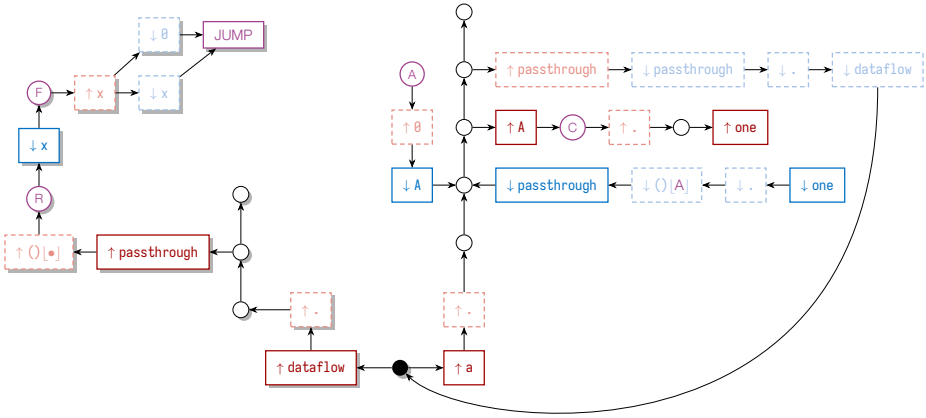
# The dataflow example



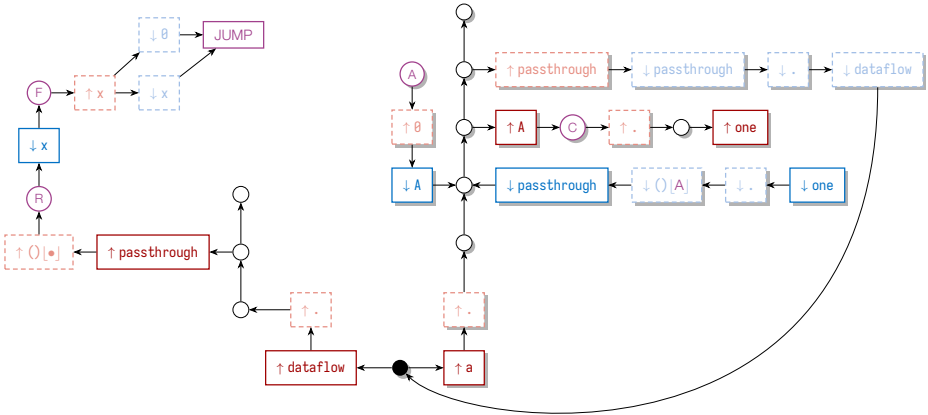
# The dataflow example



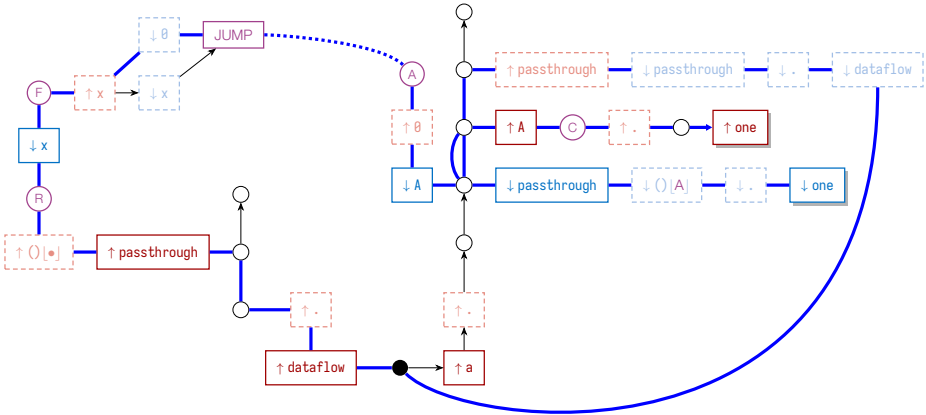
# The dataflow example



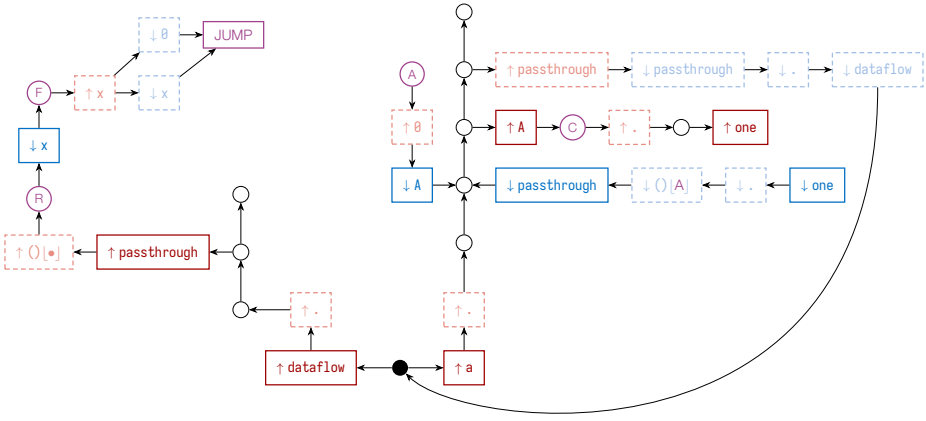
# The dataflow example



# The dataflow example



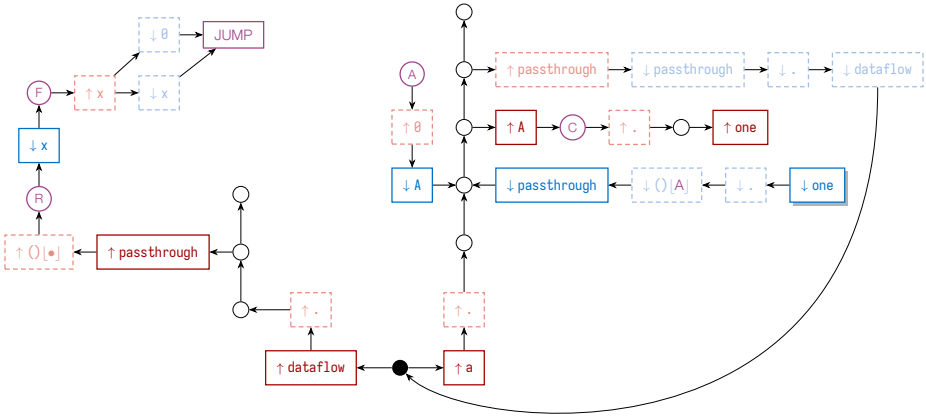
# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ◇

Scope stack: ○

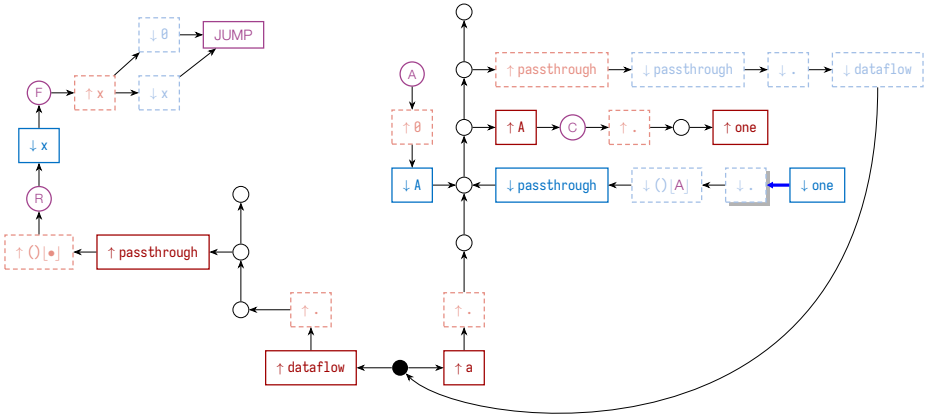
# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨one⟩

Scope stack: ○

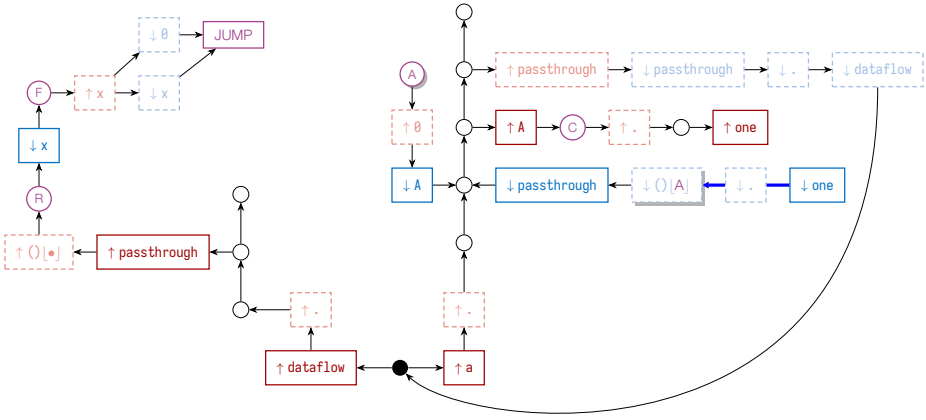
# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨.one⟩

Scope stack: ○

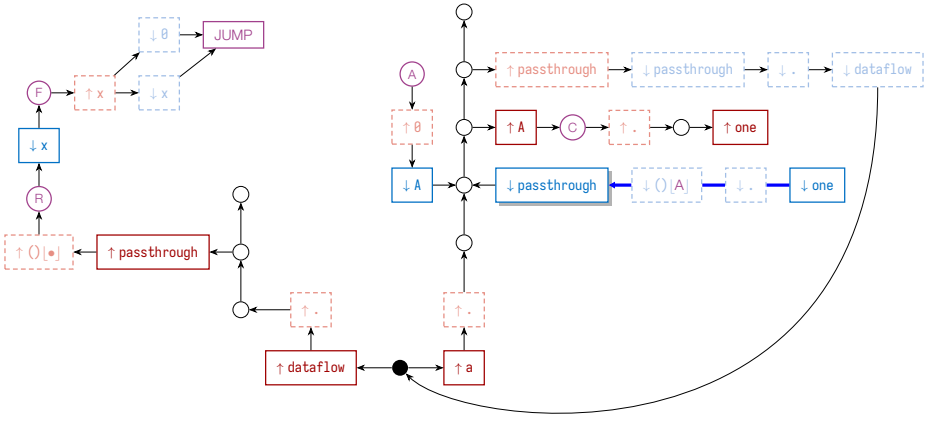
# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨()⌊A⌋.one⟩

Scope stack: ○

# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨passthrough()⌊A⌋.one⟩

Scope stack: ○

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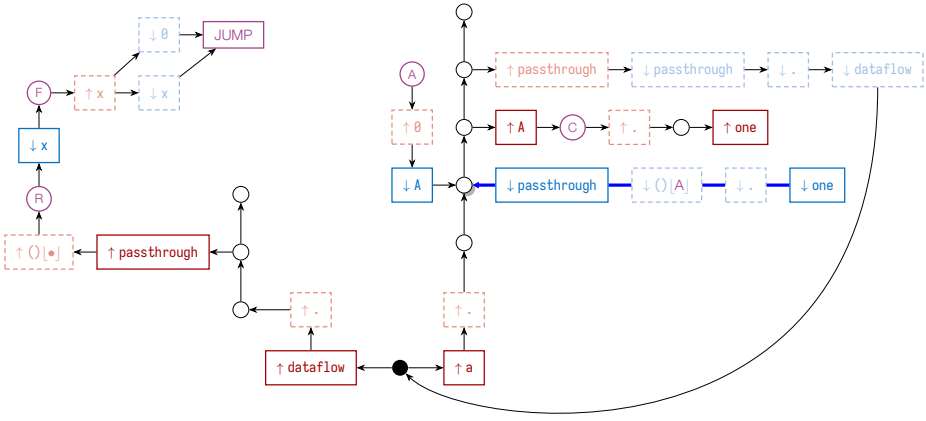


Symbol stack: ⟨passthrough()⌊A⌋.one⟩

Scope stack: ○

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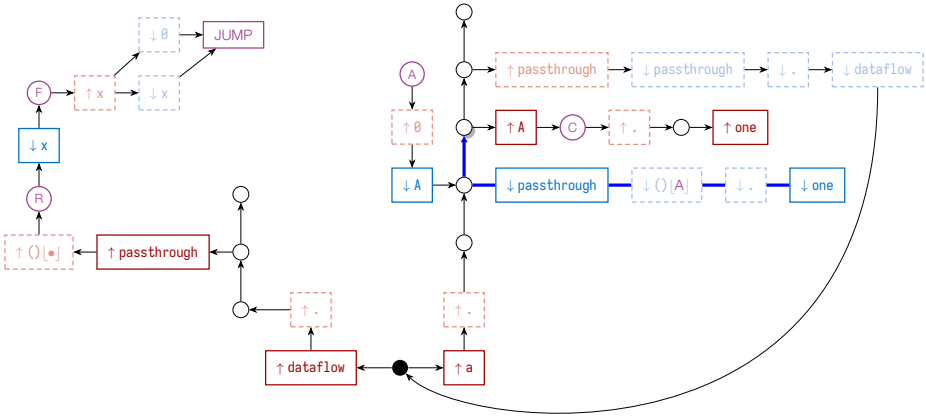
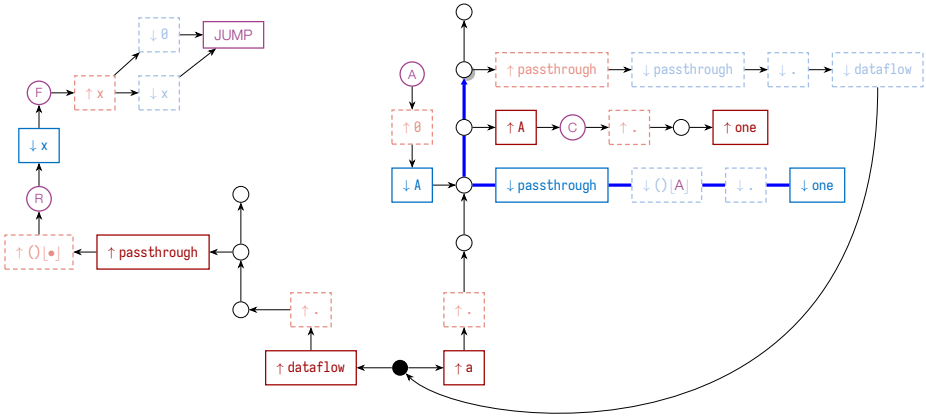



Symbol stack: ⟨passthrough()⌊A⌋.one⟩

Scope stack: ○

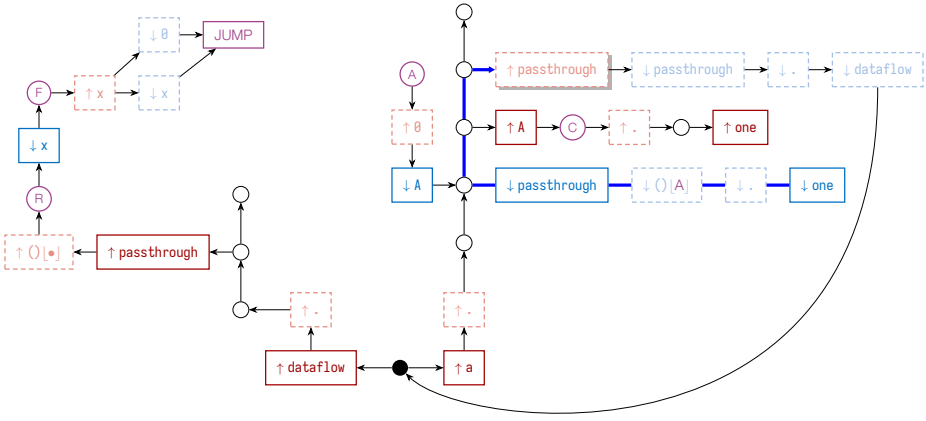
# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨passthrough()⌊A⌋.one⟩

Scope stack: ○

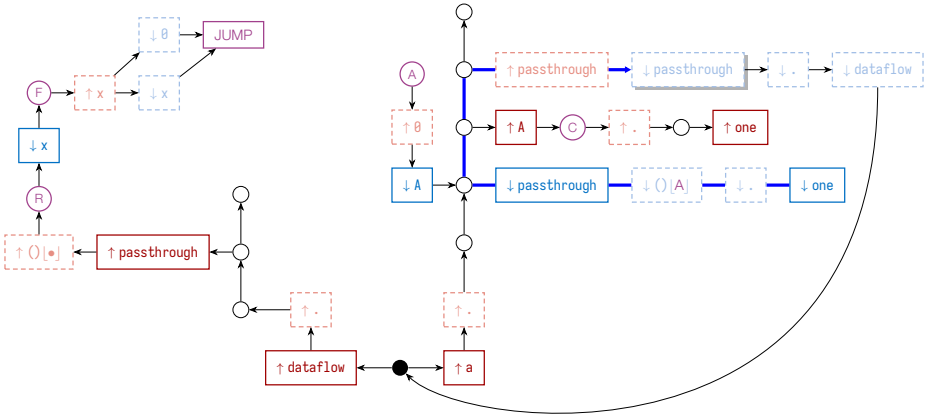
# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨()⌊A⌋.one⟩

Scope stack: ○

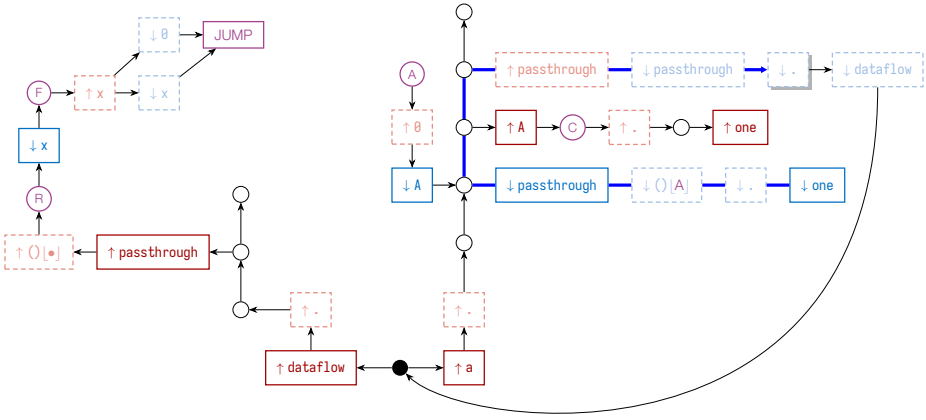
# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨passthrough()⌊A⌋.one⟩

Scope stack: ○

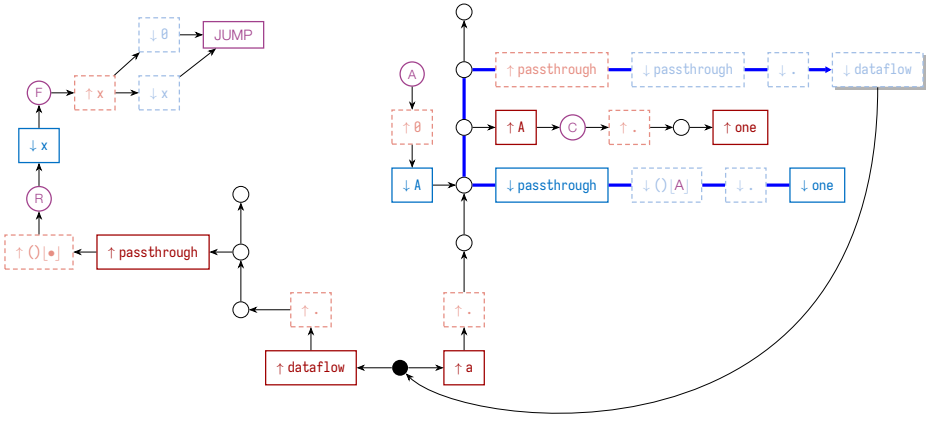
# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨ .passthrough()⌊A⌋.one ⟩

Scope stack: ○

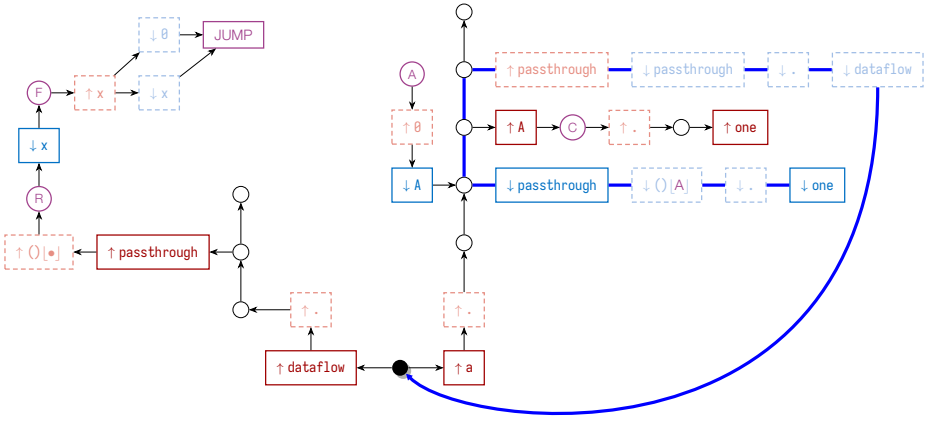
# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨dataflow.passthrough()⌊A⌋.one⟩

Scope stack: ○

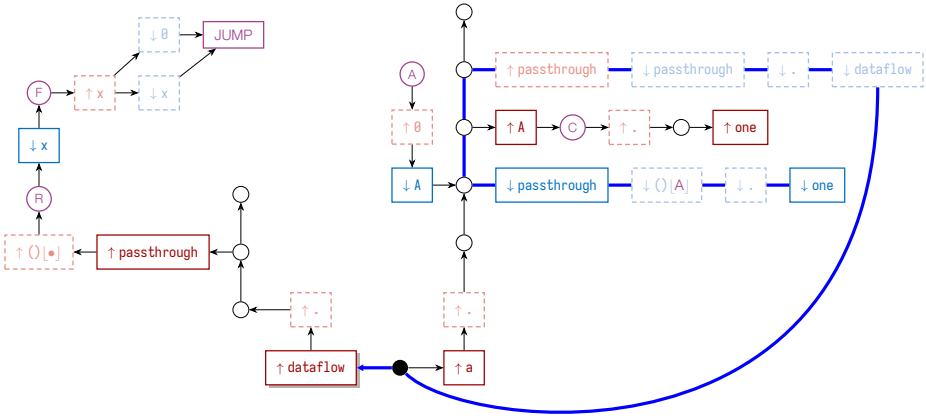
# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨dataflow.passthrough()⌊A⌋.one⟩

Scope stack: ○

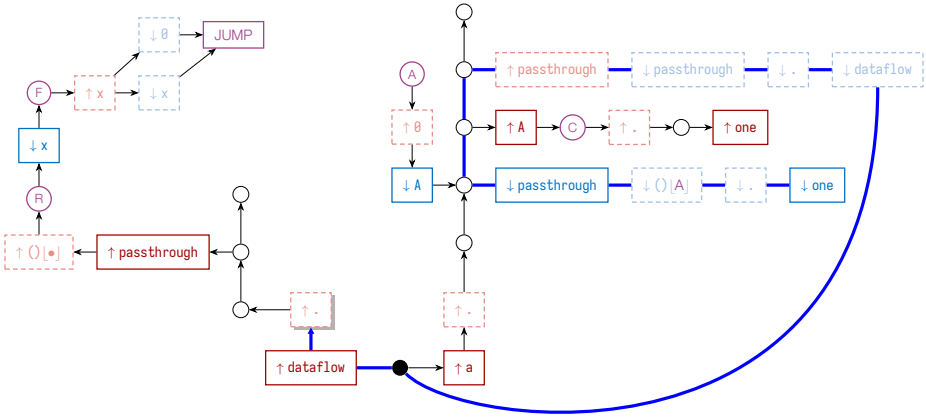
# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨ `.passthrough`()⌊A⌋`.one` ⟩

Scope stack: ○

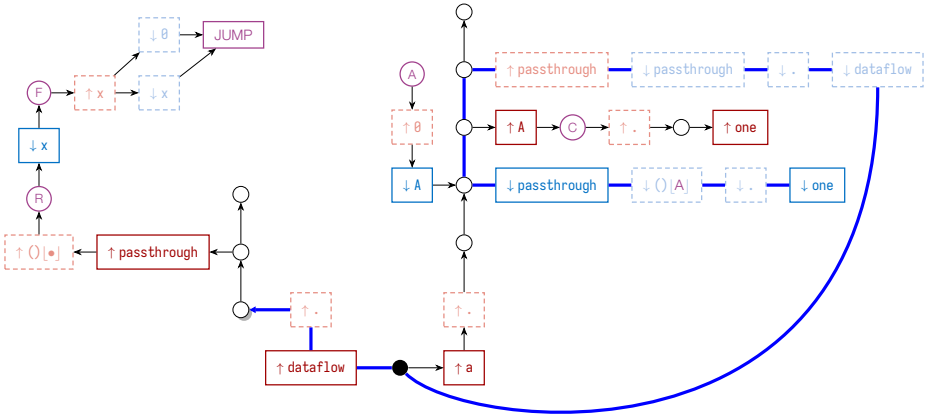
# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨passthrough()⌊A⌋.one⟩

Scope stack: ○

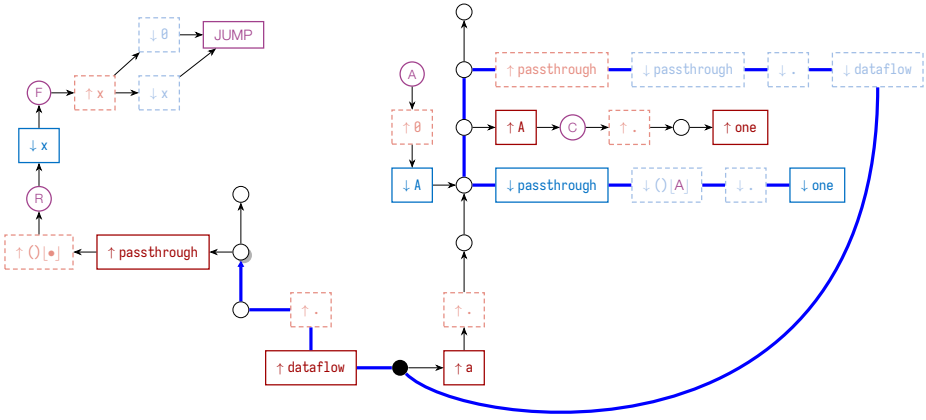
# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨passthrough()⌊A⌋.one⟩

Scope stack: ○

# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨passthrough()⌊A⌋.one⟩

Scope stack: ○

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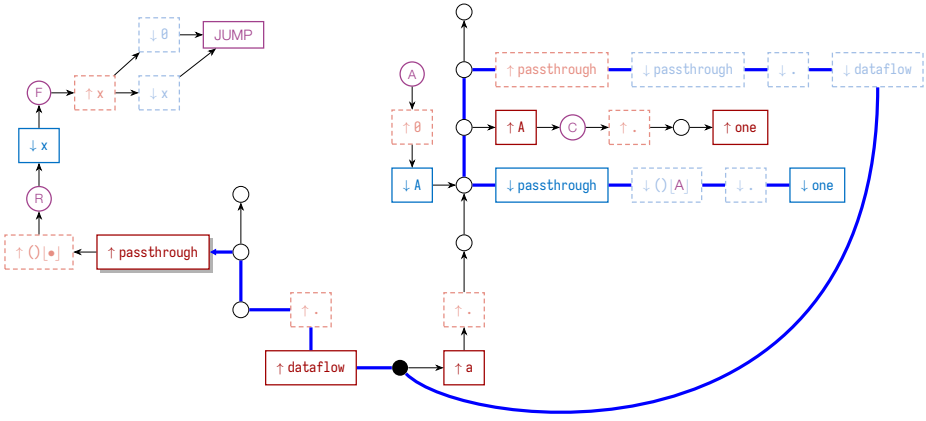
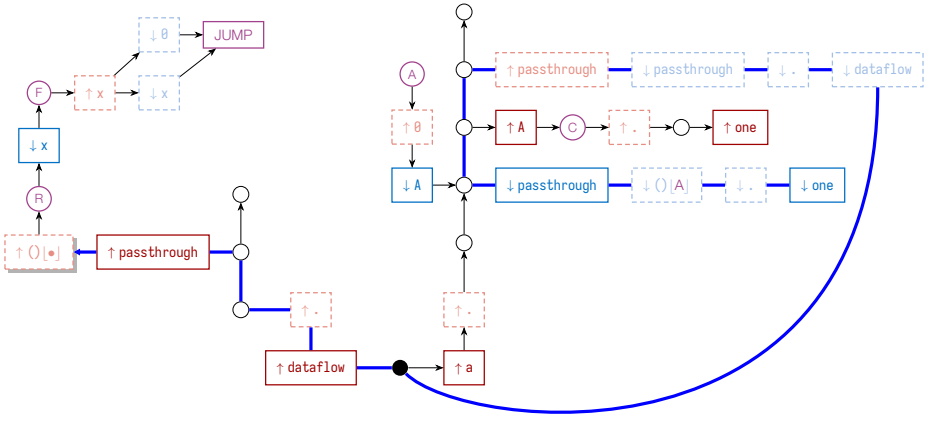



Symbol stack: ⟨()⌊A⌋.one⟩

Scope stack: ○

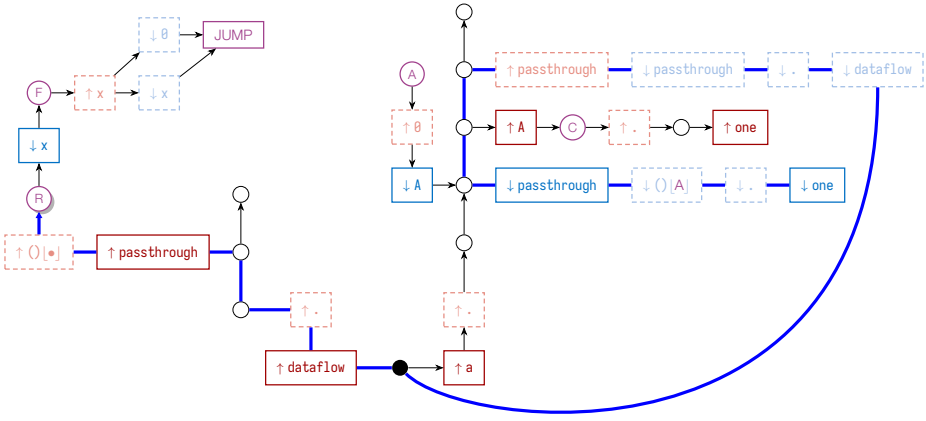
# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨.one⟩

Scope stack: (A)

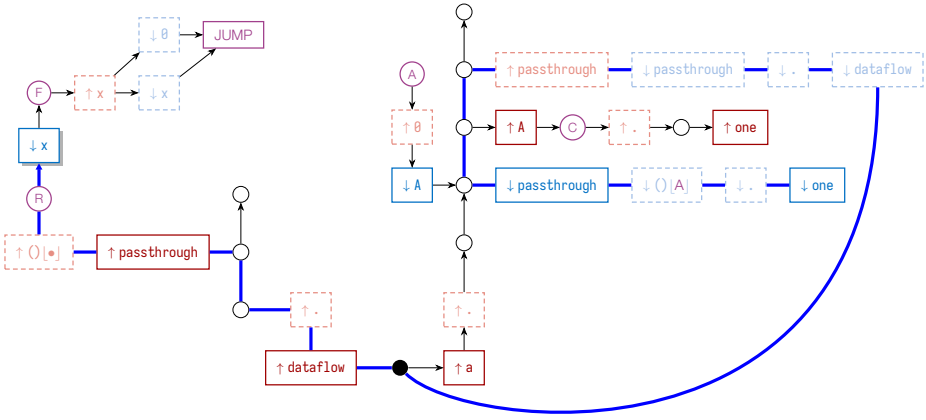
# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨.one⟩

Scope stack: (A)

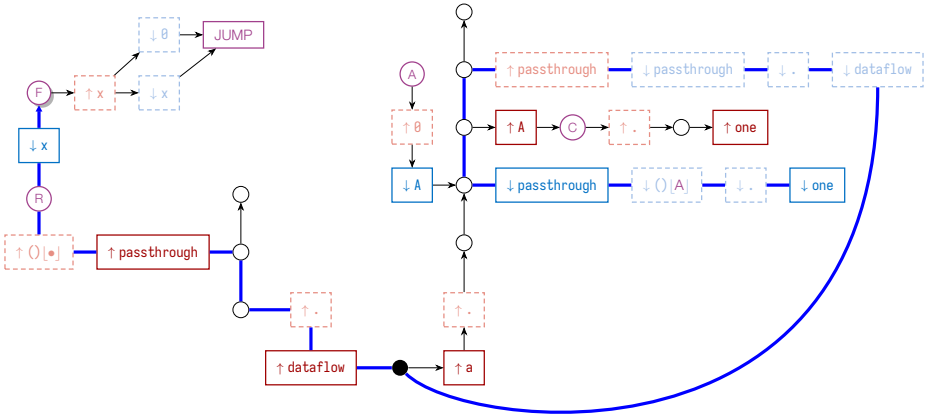
# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨x.one⟩

Scope stack: (A)

# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨x.one⟩

Scope stack: (A)

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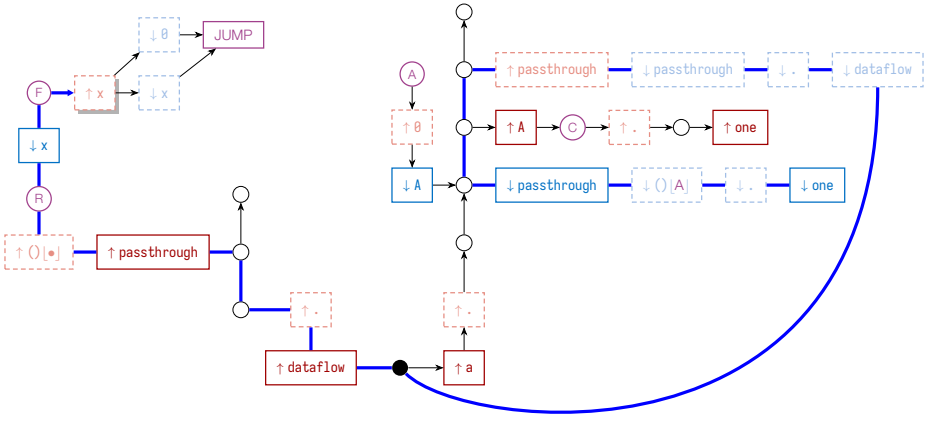


Symbol stack: ⟨.one⟩

Scope stack: (A)

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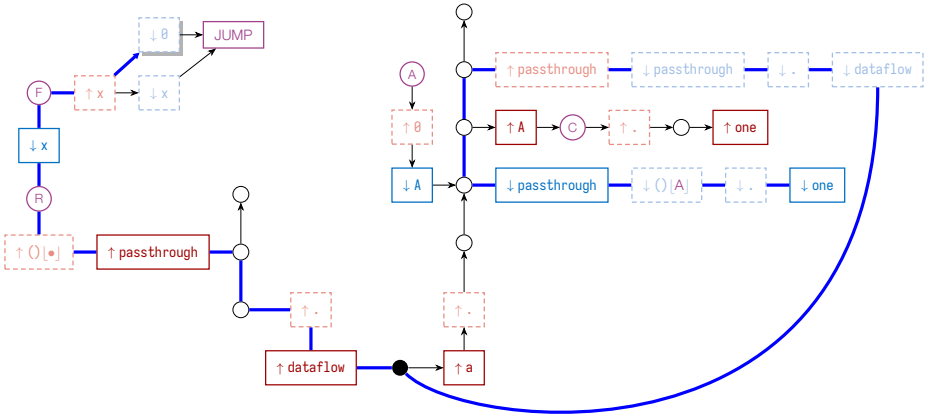
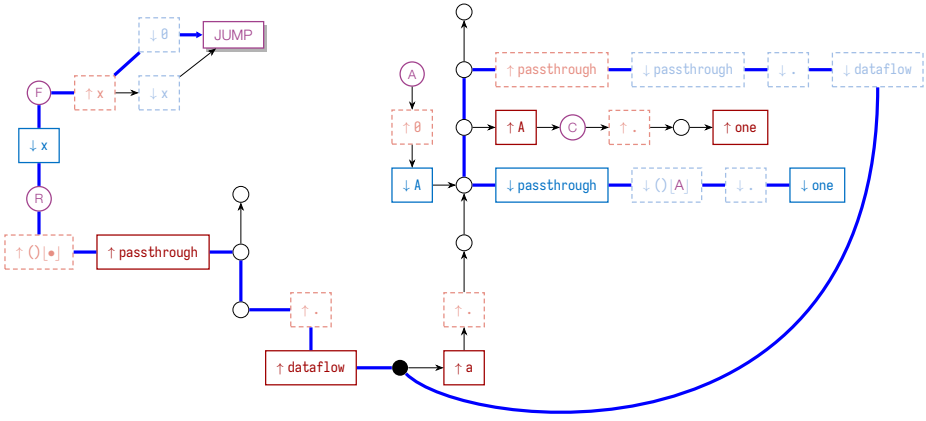



Symbol stack: ⟨0.one⟩

Scope stack: (A)

# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨0.one⟩

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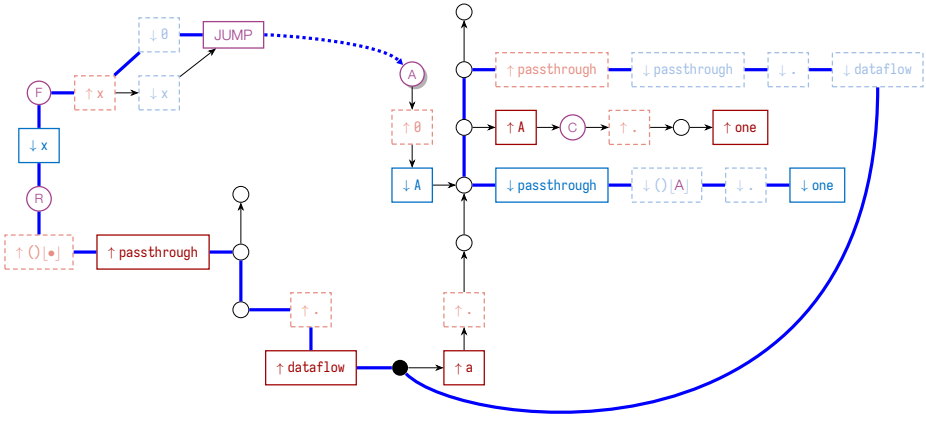
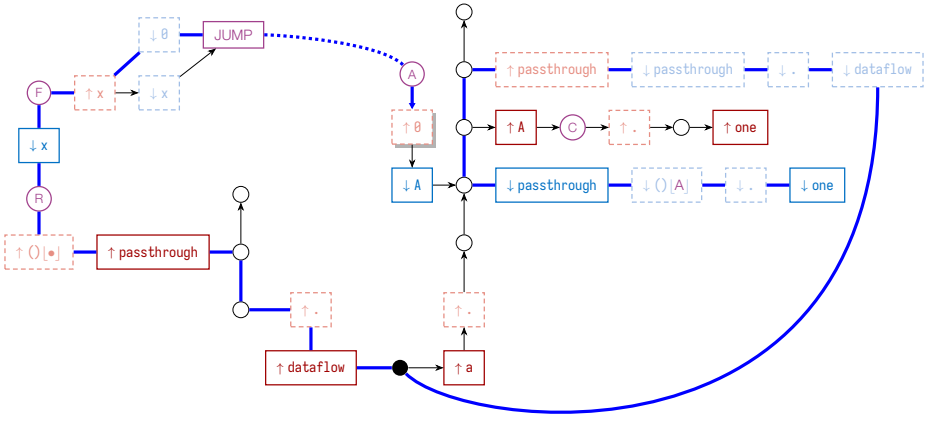



Symbol stack: ⟨0.one⟩

Scope stack: ○

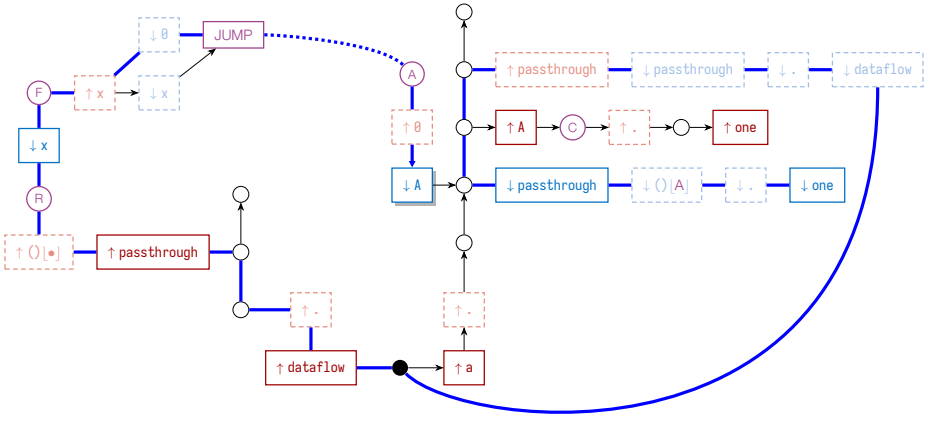
# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨.one⟩

Scope stack: ○

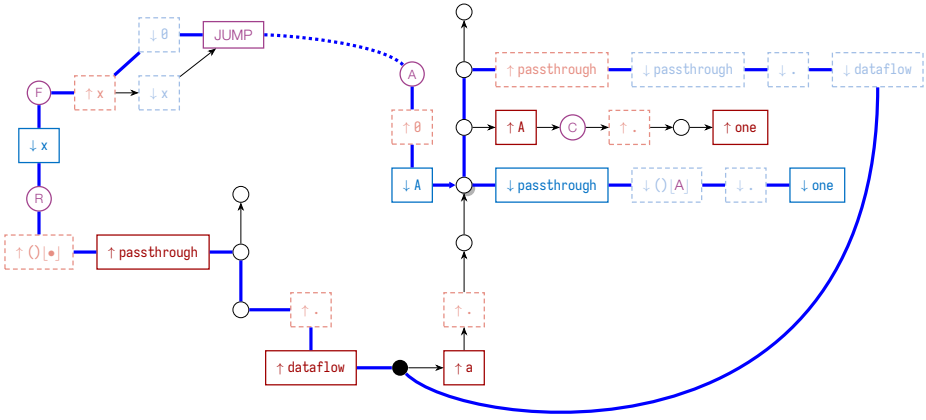
# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨A.one⟩

Scope stack: ○

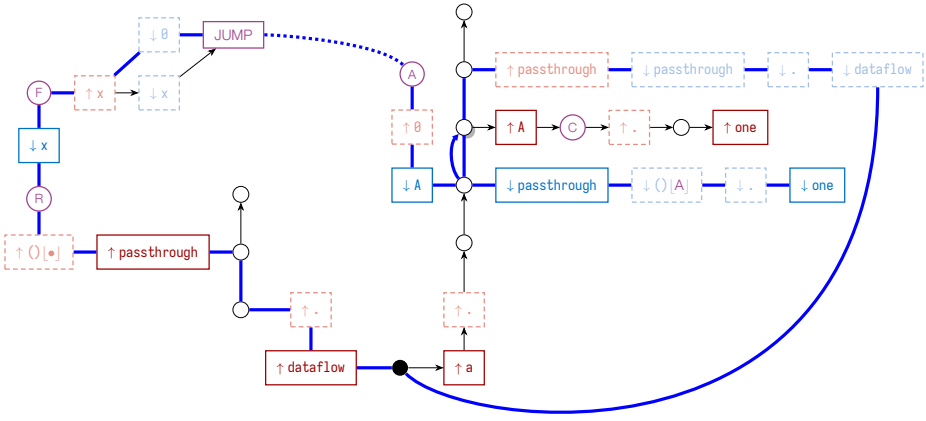
# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨A.one⟩

Scope stack: ○

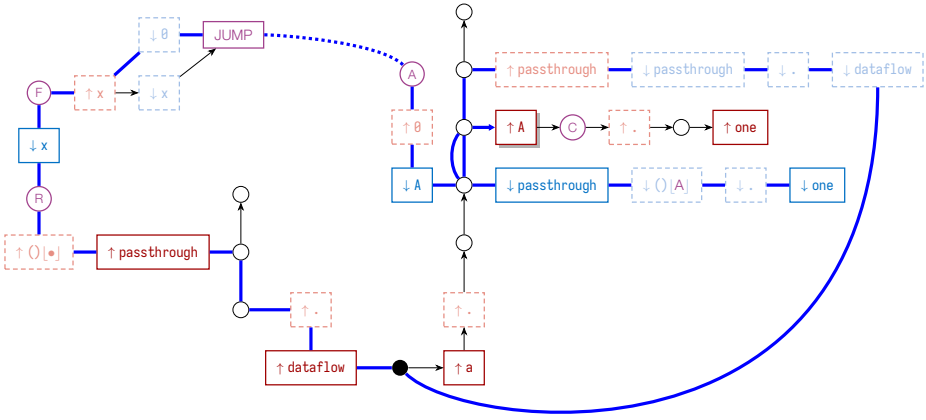
# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨A.one⟩

Scope stack: ○

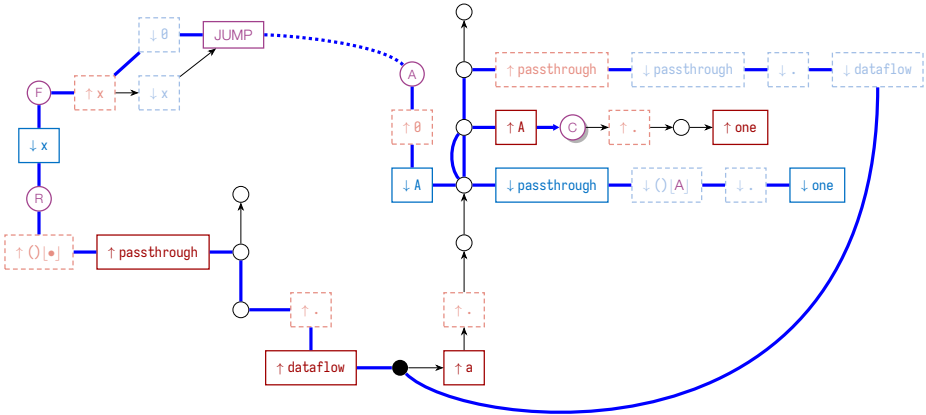
# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨.one⟩

Scope stack: ○

# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨.one⟩

Scope stack: ○

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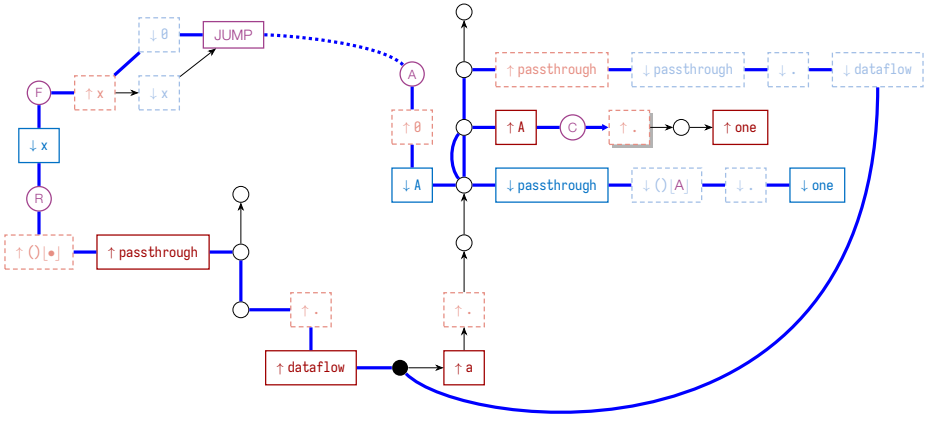
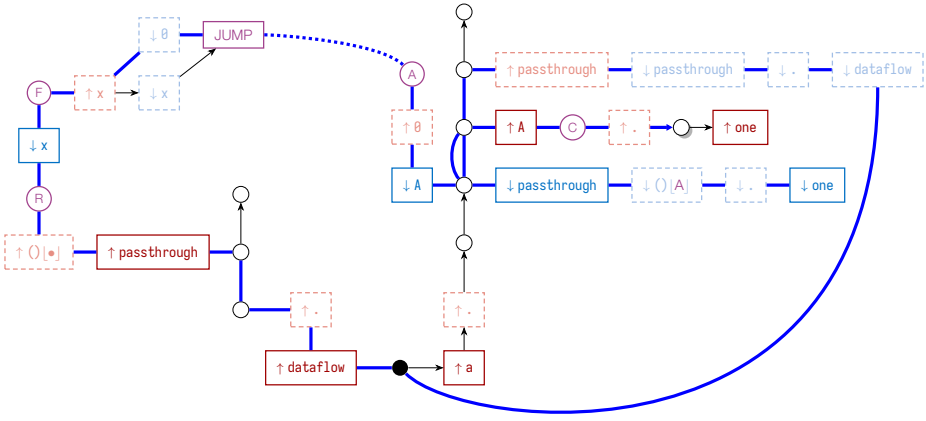



Symbol stack: ⟨one⟩

Scope stack: ○

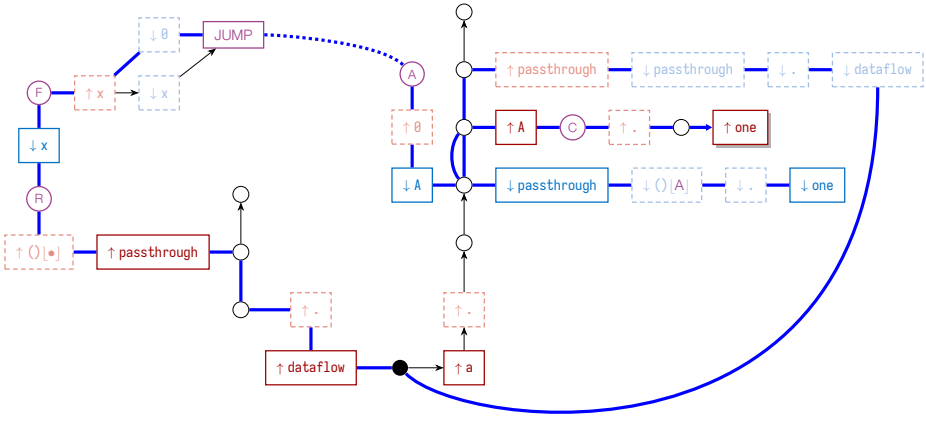
# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ⟨one⟩

Scope stack: ○

# The dataflow example




Symbol stack: ◇

Scope stack: ○

# Are we done?


We're still doing too much work at query time!

Can we shift more of the work to index time,
while still remaining incremental?

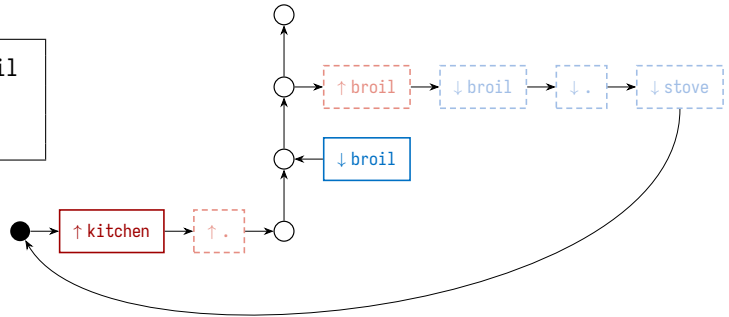

Partial paths

# Partial paths

kitchen.py

```
from stove import broil

broil()
```



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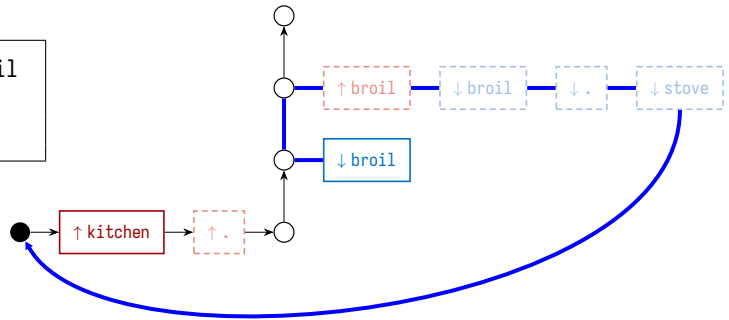

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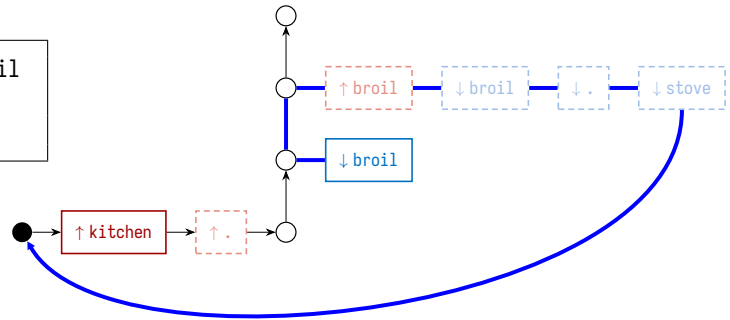
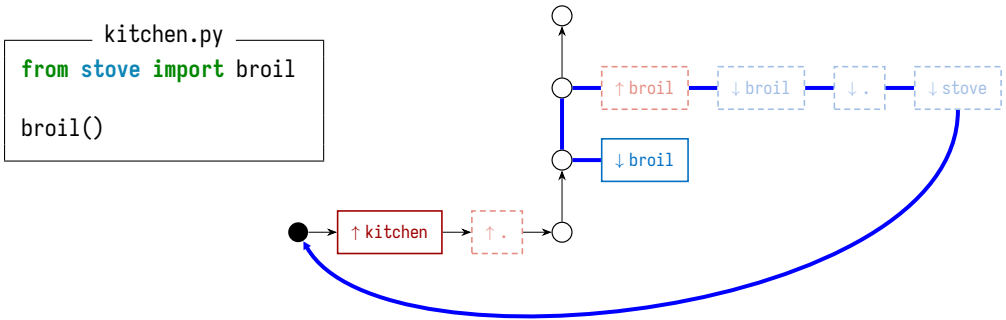
broil()
```




$\{\diamond, \circ\}$ ↓ broil $\rightsquigarrow$ ● $\{\langle \text{stove.broil} \rangle, \circ\}$

# Partial paths




$\{\diamond, \circ\}$ ↓ broil $\rightsquigarrow \bullet$ $\{\langle \texttt{stove.broil} \rangle, \circ\}$

The reference at *kitchen.py:3:1* refers to **`stove.broil`** in some other file

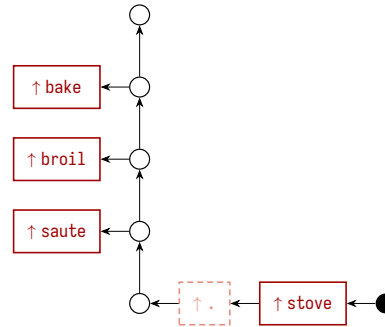
# Partial paths

stove.py

```
def bake():
    pass

def broil():
    pass

def saute():
    pass
```



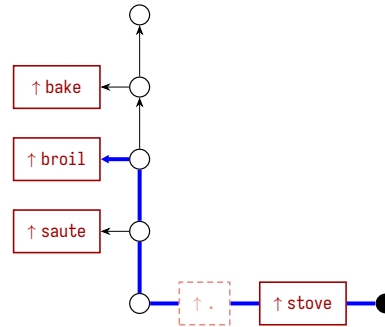
# Partial paths

stove.py

```
def bake():
    pass

def broil():
    pass

def saute():
    pass
```



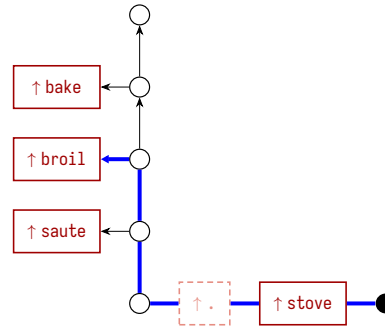
# Partial paths

stove.py

```
def bake():
    pass

def broil():
    pass

def saute():
    pass
```




$\{\langle \texttt{stove.broil} \rangle \cdot \psi, \phi\}$ ● ⇝ ↑ broil $\{\psi, \phi\}$

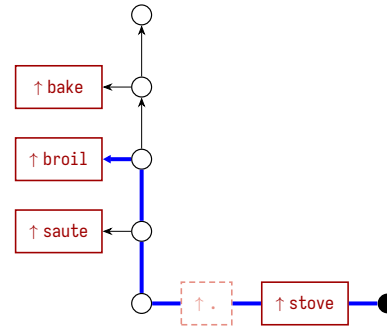
# Partial paths

stove.py

```
def bake():
    pass

def broil():
    pass

def saute():
    pass
```




$\{\langle \texttt{stove.broil} \rangle \cdot \psi, \phi\}$ ● ⇝ ↑ broil $\{\psi, \phi\}$

`stove.broil` is defined at *stove.py:4:5*.

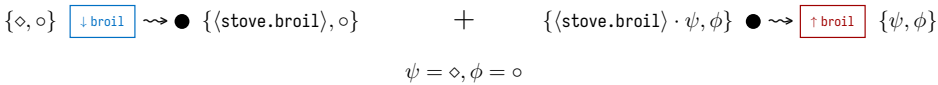
# Concatenating partial paths


The reference at *kitchen.py:3:1* refers to `stove.broil` in some other file

+

`stove.broil` is defined at *stove.py:4:5*

# Concatenating partial paths

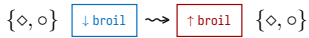



The reference at *kitchen.py:3:1* refers to `stove.broil` in some other file

+

`stove.broil` is defined at *stove.py:4:5*

# Concatenating partial paths

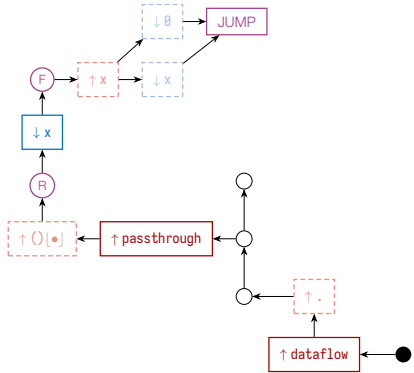



The reference at *kitchen.py:3:1*
is defined at *stove.py:4:5*.

# The dataflow example

dataflow.py

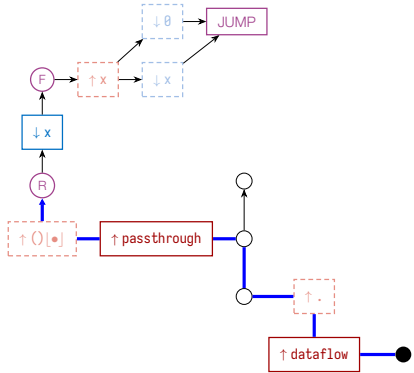
```
def passthrough(x):
    return x
```



# The dataflow example

dataflow.py

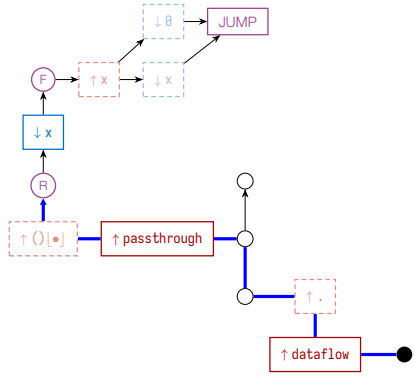
```
def passthrough(x):
    return x
```



# The dataflow example

dataflow.py

```
def passthrough(x):
    return x
```

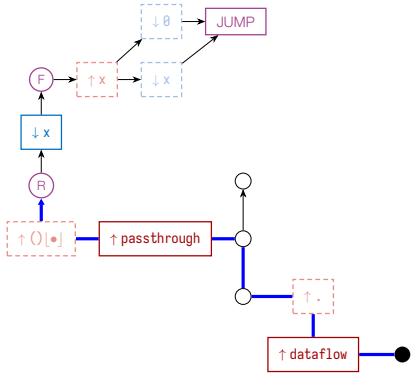



$$\{\langle \texttt{dataflow.passthrough()}\lfloor \phi_A \rfloor \rangle \cdot \psi, \phi\} \bullet \rightsquigarrow \textcircled{R} \{\psi, \phi_A\}$$

# The dataflow example

dataflow.py

```
def passthrough(x):
    return x
```



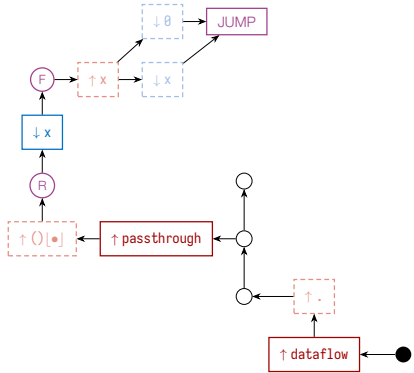

$\{\langle \texttt{dataflow.passthrough()}\lfloor \phi_A \rfloor \rangle \cdot \psi, \phi\}$ ● ⇝ (R) $\{\psi, \phi_A\}$

`dataflow.passthrough` is a function
that can be invoked.

# The dataflow example

dataflow.py

```
def passthrough(x):
    return x
```



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dataflow.py

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def passthrough(x):
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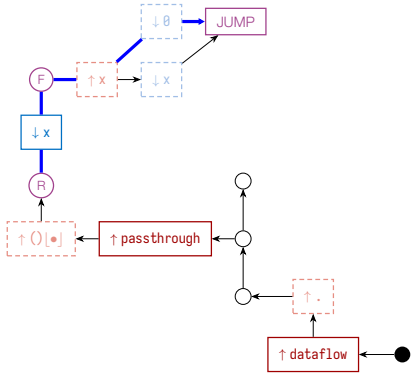
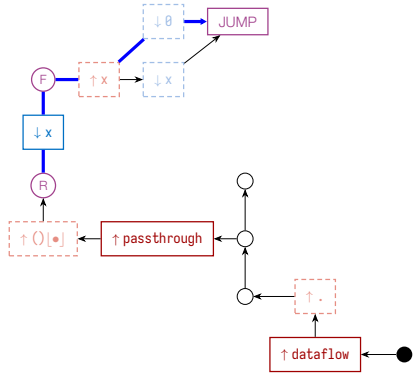


# The dataflow example

dataflow.py

```
def passthrough(x):
    return x
```

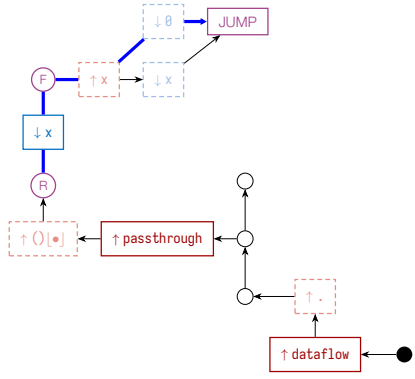



$$\{\psi, \phi\} \ \text{R} \rightsquigarrow \boxed{\text{JUMP}} \ \{\langle \mathtt{0} \rangle \cdot \psi, \phi\}$$

# The dataflow example

dataflow.py

```
def passthrough(x):
    return x
```




$$\{\psi, \phi\} \quad \text{R} \rightsquigarrow \boxed{\text{JUMP}} \quad \{\langle 0 \rangle \cdot \psi, \phi\}$$

The return value of `dataflow.passthrough`
has the same type as positional parameter 0.

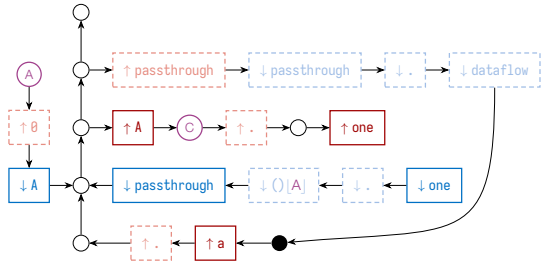
# The dataflow example

a.py

```
from dataflow import passthrough

class A:
    one = 1

passthrough(A).one
```



# The dataflow example

a.py

```
from dataflow import passthrough

class A:
    one = 1

passthrough(A).one
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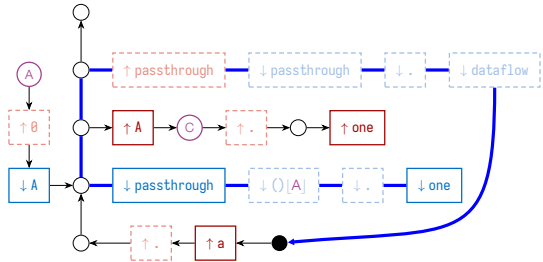

# The dataflow example

a.py

```
from dataflow import passthrough

class A:
    one = 1

passthrough(A).one
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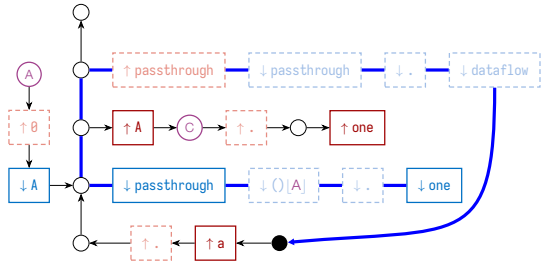



$\{\diamond, \circ\}$ one $\rightsquigarrow$ ● $\{\langle$dataflow.passthrough()[A].one$\rangle, \circ\}$

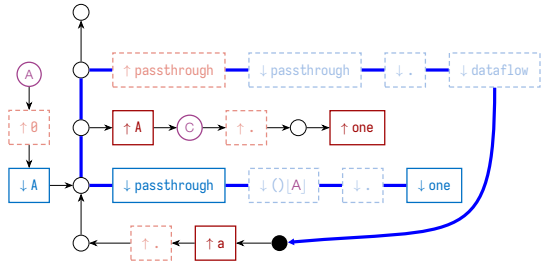
# The dataflow example

a.py

```
from dataflow import passthrough

class A:
    one = 1

passthrough(A).one
```




$\{\diamond, \circ\}$ one $\rightsquigarrow \bullet$ $\{\langle \texttt{dataflow.passthrough()[A].one} \rangle, \circ\}$

If you can find what **`dataflow.passthrough`** resolves to and can call it
then the result should have a member named **one**
which the reference at *a.py:6:16* resolves to.

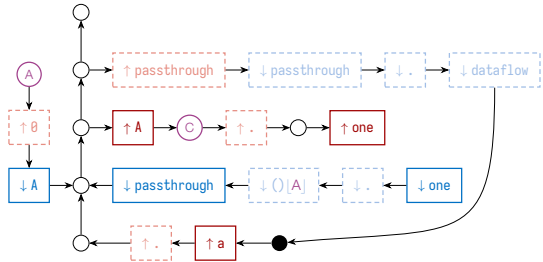
# The dataflow example

a.py

```
from dataflow import passthrough

class A:
    one = 1

passthrough(A).one
```



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from dataflow import passthrough

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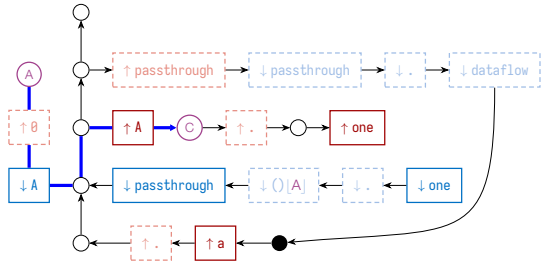

# The dataflow example

a.py

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class A:
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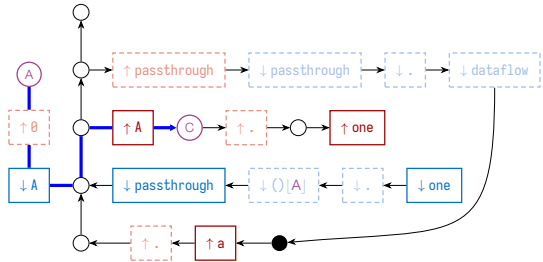



$$\{\langle 0 \rangle \cdot \psi, \phi\} \ \text{A} \rightsquigarrow \text{C} \ \{\psi, \phi\}$$

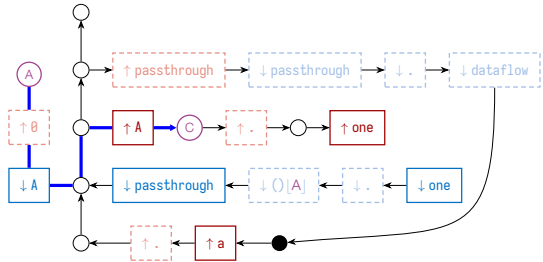
# The dataflow example

a.py

```
from dataflow import passthrough

class A:
    one = 1

passthrough(A).one
```




$$\{\langle 0 \rangle \cdot \psi, \phi\} \ \text{A} \rightsquigarrow \text{C} \ \{\psi, \phi\}$$

The class `A` is positional parameter 0
in the call to `dataflow.passthrough`.

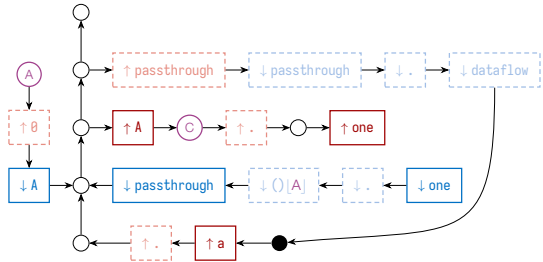
# The dataflow example

a.py

```
from dataflow import passthrough

class A:
    one = 1

passthrough(A).one
```



# The dataflow example

a.py

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from dataflow import passthrough

class A:
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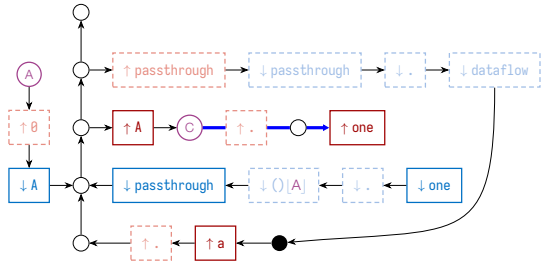

# The dataflow example

a.py

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from dataflow import passthrough

class A:
    one = 1

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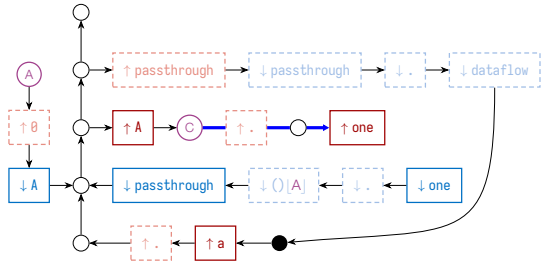



$$\{\langle .\text{one}\rangle \cdot \psi, \phi\} \ \text{C} \rightsquigarrow \boxed{\text{one}} \ \{\psi, \phi\}$$

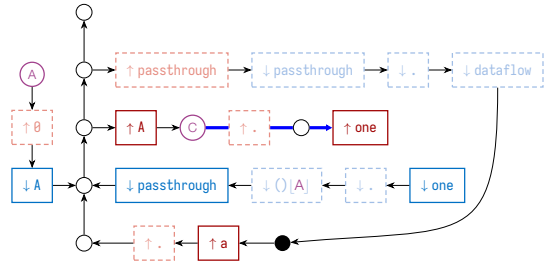
# The dataflow example

a.py

```
from dataflow import passthrough

class A:
    one = 1

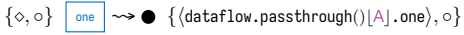
passthrough(A).one
```




$$\{\langle \texttt{.one} \rangle \cdot \psi, \phi\} \quad \text{C} \rightsquigarrow \boxed{\texttt{one}} \quad \{\psi, \phi\}$$

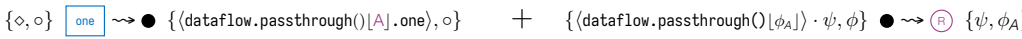
The class **A** has a class member named **one**
which is defined at *a.py:4:5*.

# The dataflow example




If you can find what **`dataflow.passthrough`** resolves to and can call it, then the result should have a member named **`one`** which the reference at *a.py:6:16* resolves to.

# The dataflow example

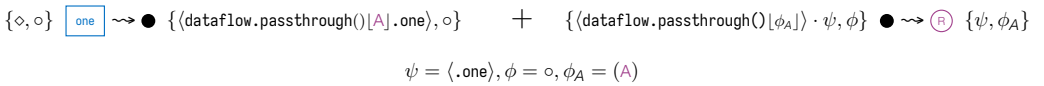



If you can find what **`dataflow.passthrough`** resolves to and can call it, then the result should have a member named **`one`** which the reference at *a.py:6:16* resolves to.

+

**`dataflow.passthrough`** is a function that can be invoked.

# The dataflow example




If you can find what **dataflow.passthrough** resolves to and can call it, then the result should have a member named **one** which the reference at *a.py:6:16* resolves to.

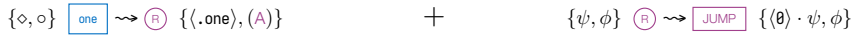
+

**dataflow.passthrough** is a function that can be invoked.

# The dataflow example


The result of calling `dataflow.passthrough`
should have a member named `one`
which the reference at *a.py:6:16* resolves to.

# The dataflow example




The result of calling `dataflow.passthrough` should have a member named `one` which the reference at *a.py:6:16* resolves to.

+

The return value of `dataflow.passthrough` has the same type as positional parameter 0.

# The dataflow example

$$\{\diamond, \circ\} \ \boxed{\texttt{one}} \rightsquigarrow \textcircled{R} \ \{\langle \texttt{.one} \rangle, (\mathrm{A})\} \quad + \quad \{\psi, \phi\} \ \textcircled{R} \rightsquigarrow \boxed{\mathrm{JUMP}} \ \{\langle \texttt{0} \rangle \cdot \psi, \phi\}$$

$$\psi = \langle \texttt{.one} \rangle, \phi = \circ$$

The result of calling **`dataflow.passthrough`** should have a member named **`one`** which the reference at *a.py:6:16* resolves to.

+

The return value of **`dataflow.passthrough`** has the same type as positional parameter 0.

# The dataflow example

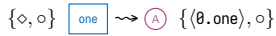

Positional parameter 0
should have a member named **one**
which the reference at *a.py:6:16* resolves to.

# The dataflow example


Positional parameter 0
should have a member named **one**
which the reference at *a.py:6:16* resolves to.

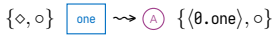
Resolve the JUMP node.

# The dataflow example




Positional parameter 0
should have a member named **one**
which the reference at *a.py:6:16* resolves to.

# The dataflow example

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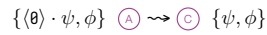


Positional parameter 0
should have a member named **one**
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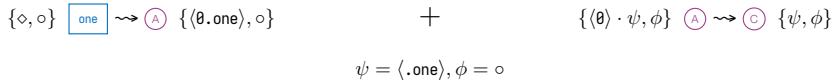
+

The class **A** is positional parameter 0
in the call to **dataflow.passthrough**.

# The dataflow example




Positional parameter 0
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+

The class **A** is positional parameter 0
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# The dataflow example


The class `A`
should have a member named `one`
which the reference at *a.py:6:16* resolves to.

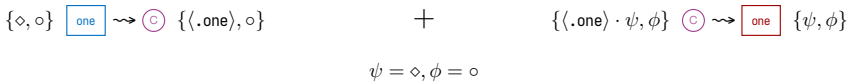
# The dataflow example


The class `A`
should have a member named **one**
which the reference at *a.py:6:16* resolves to.

+

The class `A` has a class member named **one**
which is defined at *a.py:4:5*.

# The dataflow example

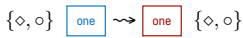



The class `A`
should have a member named **one**
which the reference at *a.py:6:16* resolves to.

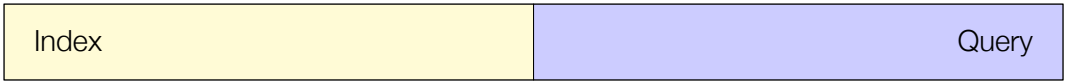
+

The class `A` has a class member named **one**
which is defined at *a.py:4:5*.

# The dataflow example

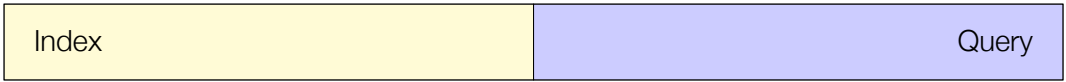



The definition at *a.py:4:5* is what the reference at *a.py:6:16* resolves to.




Clone changed files
Parse using tree-sitter
Construct stack graph
Find partial paths

Load partial paths lazily
Stitch them together




Clone changed files
Parse using tree-sitter
Construct stack graph
Find partial paths

p50: 5 sec
p99: 1-2 min

Load partial paths lazily
Stitch them together

p50: 50ms
p99: 100ms

# One more for the road

MyMap.java

```
import java.util.HashMap;

class MyMap extends HashMap<String, String> {
    int firstLength() {
        return this.entrySet().iterator()
            .next().getKey().length();
    }
}
```

# Picture credits

Slide 3 Ivan Radic, “Close-up of a compass graffiti on the ground”
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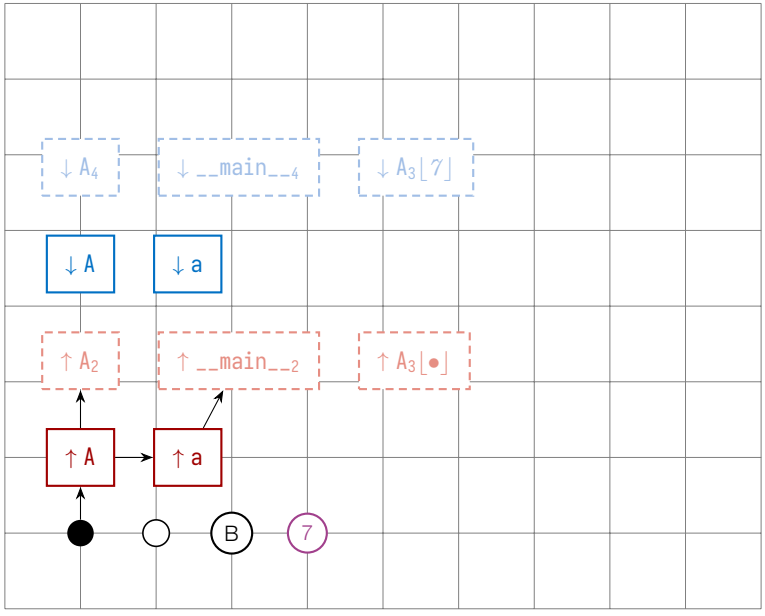
github/stack-graphs
tree-sitter/tree-sitter-graph


↓ A4
↓ __main__4
↓ A3⌊7⌋
↓ A
↓ a
↑ A2
↑ __main__2
↑ A3⌊•⌋
↑ A
↑ a
B
7

# Are we done?

- Different languages have different name binding rules.
- Some of those rules can be quite complex.
- The result might depend on intermediate files.
- We don’t want to require manual per-repo configuration.
- We need incremental processing to handle our scale.

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Making stack graphs


tree-sitter

# tree-sitter

stove.py

```
def bake():
    pass

def broil():
    pass

def saute():
    pass

broil()
```

# tree-sitter

```
(module [0, 0] - [10, 0]
  (function_definition [0, 0] - [1, 8]
    name: (identifier [0, 4] - [0, 8])
    parameters: (parameters [0, 8] - [0, 10])
    body: (block [1, 4] - [1, 8]
      (pass_statement [1, 4] - [1, 8])))
  (function_definition [3, 0] - [4, 8]
    name: (identifier [3, 4] - [3, 9])
    parameters: (parameters [3, 9] - [3, 11])
    body: (block [4, 4] - [4, 8]
      (pass_statement [4, 4] - [4, 8])))
  (function_definition [6, 0] - [7, 8]
    name: (identifier [6, 4] - [6, 9])
    parameters: (parameters [6, 9] - [6, 11])
    body: (block [7, 4] - [7, 8]
      (pass_statement [7, 4] - [7, 8])))
  (expression_statement [9, 0] - [9, 7]
    (call [9, 0] - [9, 7]
      function: (identifier [9, 0] - [9, 5])
      arguments: (argument_list [9, 5] - [9, 7]))))
```

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```

```
(function_definition
  name: (identifier) @name) @function
```

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    (call [9, 0] - [9, 7]
      function: (identifier [9, 0] - [9, 5])
      arguments: (argument_list [9, 5] - [9, 7]))))
```

```
(function_definition
  name: (identifier) @name) @function
{
    node @function.def
    attr (@function.def) kind = "definition"
    attr (@function.def) symbol = @name

    edge @function.containing_scope -> @function.def
}
```

# tree-sitter

```
(module [0, 0] - [10, 0]
  (function_definition [0, 0] - [1, 8]
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github/stack-graphs
tree-sitter/tree-sitter
tree-sitter/tree-sitter-graph

github/stack-graphs
tree-sitter/tree-sitter
tree-sitter/tree-sitter-graph

tree-sitter/tree-sitter-python


tree-sitter/tree-sitter-javascript

tree-sitter/tree-sitter-rust

tree-sitter/tree-sitter-ruby

elixir-lang/tree-sitter-elixir

r-lib/tree-sitter-r

⋮

# Extras

stove.rs

```
fn broil() {}

fn broil() {}

fn saute() {}
```