

Compiler and Runtime Support for Continuation Marks



Matthew Flatt
University of Utah

R. Kent Dybvig
Cisco Systems, Inc.

Why Continuation Marks

```
open "data.txt"
```



Why Continuation Marks

```
open "data.txt"  
  'create
```



Why Continuation Marks

```
open "data.txt"  
  'create  
  'binary
```



Why Continuation Marks

```
open "data.txt"  
  'create  
  'binary
```

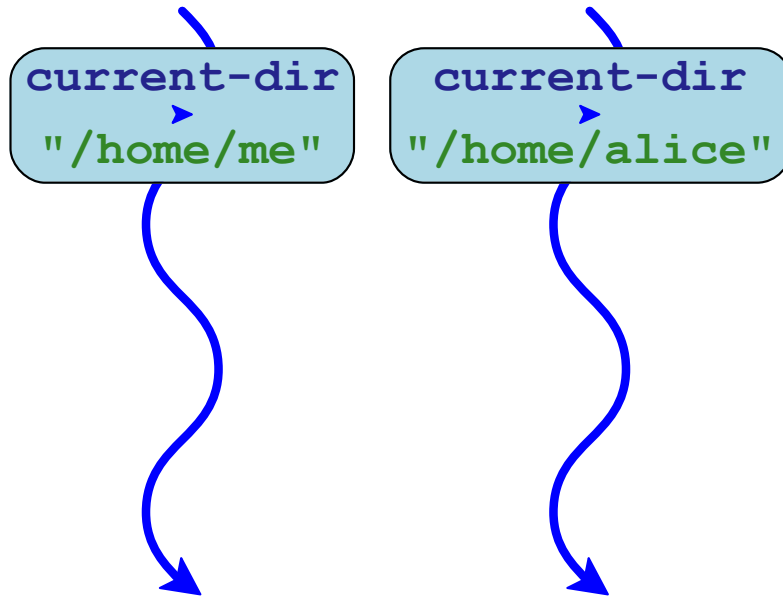


```
current-dir  
  ▶  
  "/home/me"
```

Why Continuation Marks

```
open "data.txt"  
  'create  
  'binary
```

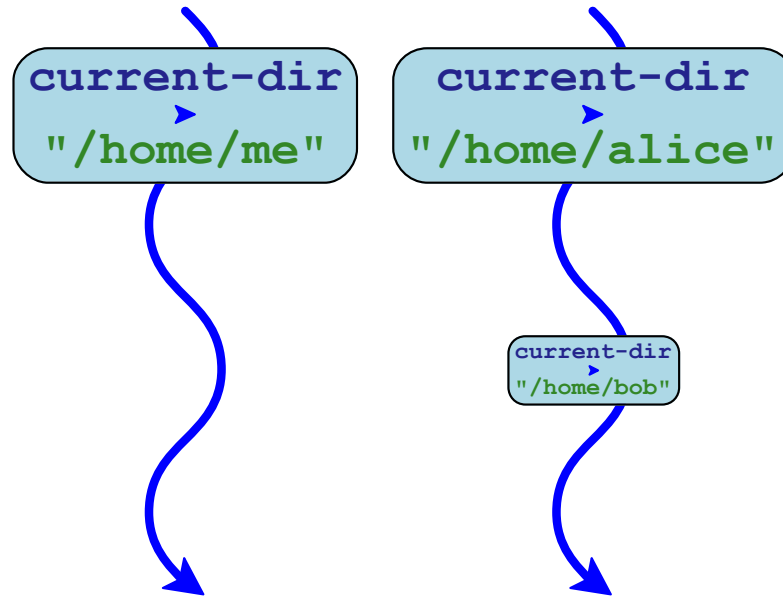
```
010..  
11010  
001+
```



Why Continuation Marks

```
open "data.txt"  
  'create  
  'binary
```

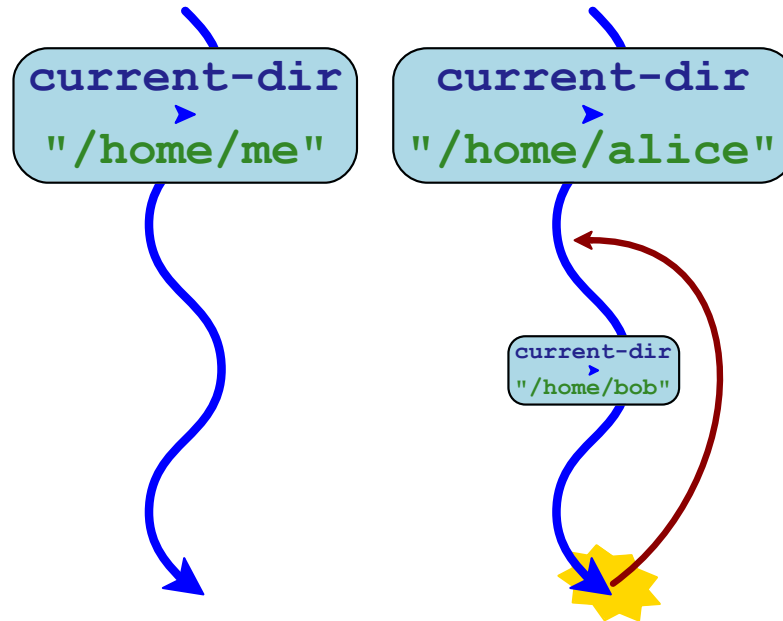
```
010..  
11010  
001+
```



Why Continuation Marks

```
open "data.txt"  
  'create  
  'binary
```

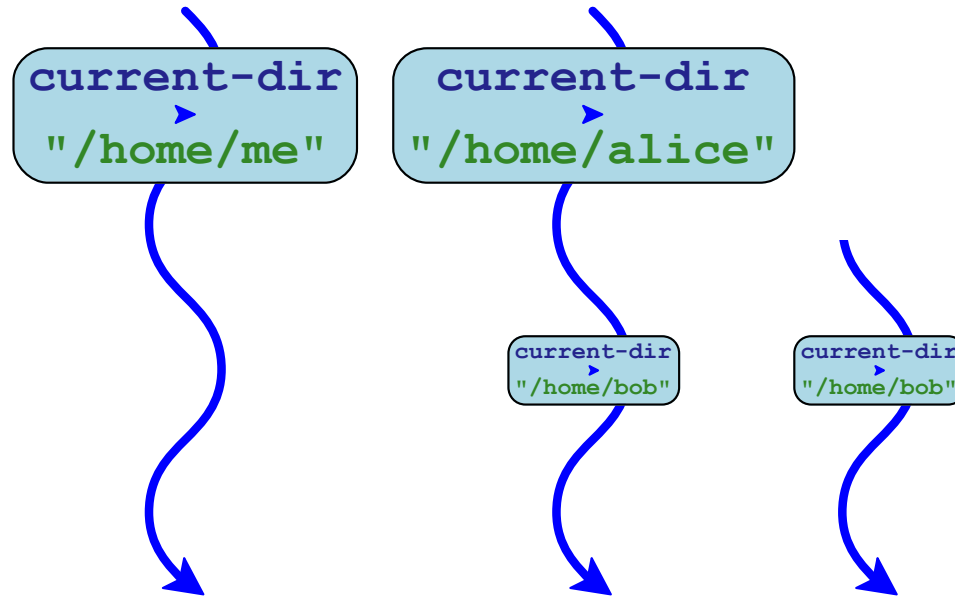
```
010..  
11010  
001+
```



Why Continuation Marks

```
open "data.txt"  
  'create  
  'binary
```

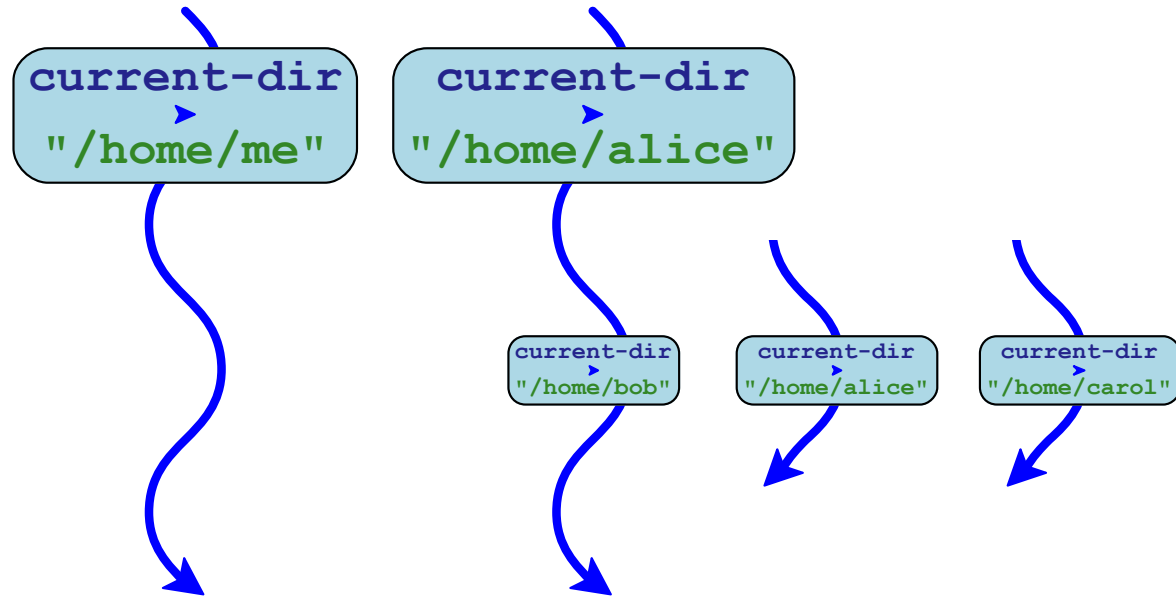
```
010..  
11010  
001+
```



Why Continuation Marks

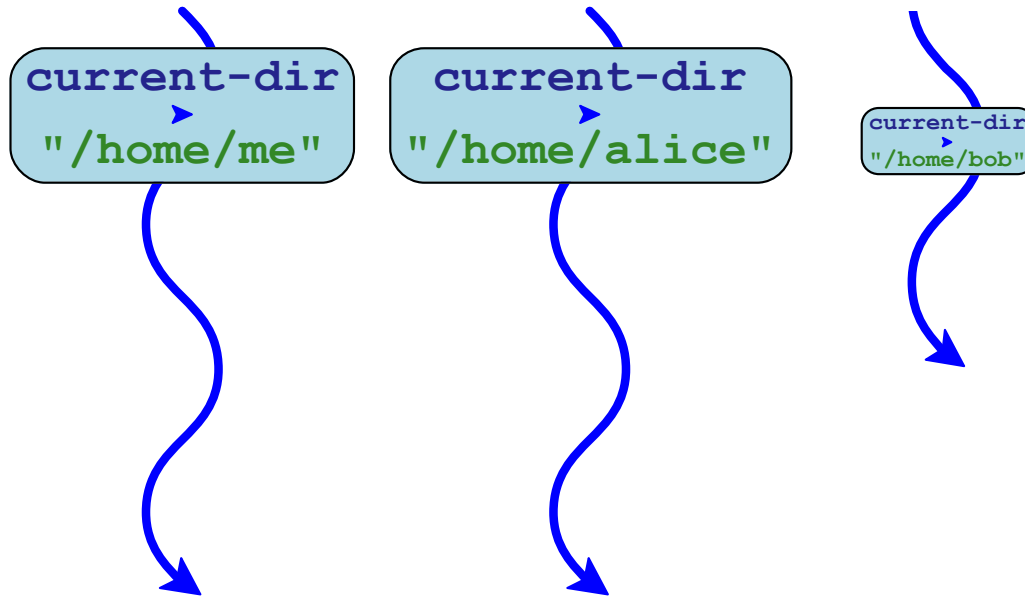
```
open "data.txt"  
  'create  
  'binary
```

```
010..  
11010  
001+
```



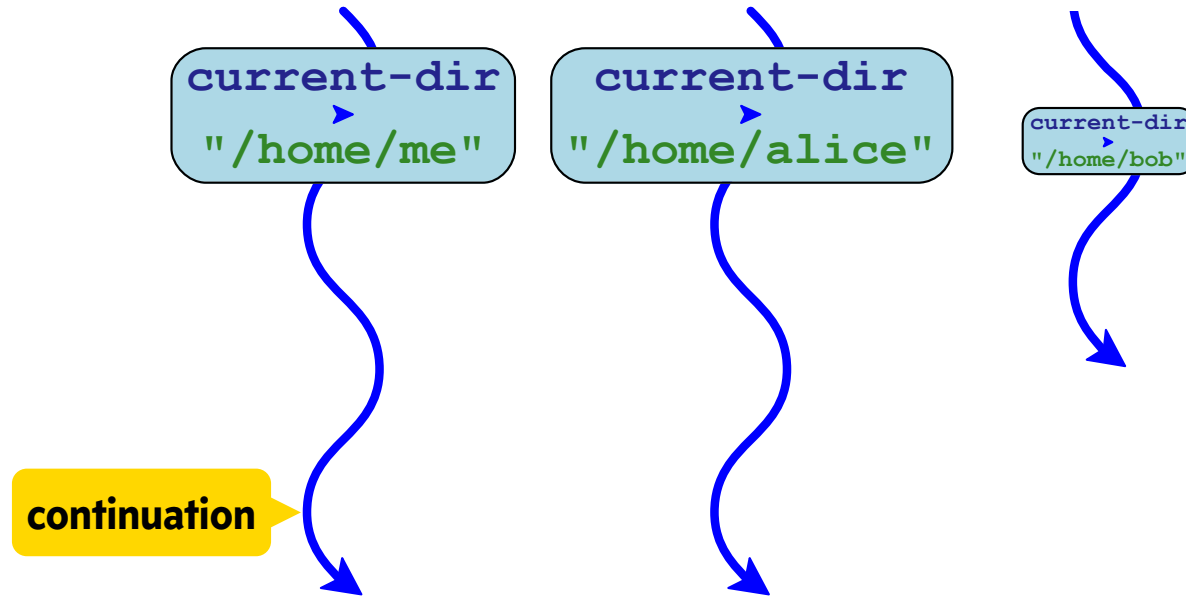
Why Continuation Marks

```
open "data.txt"  
  'create  
  'binary
```



Why Continuation Marks

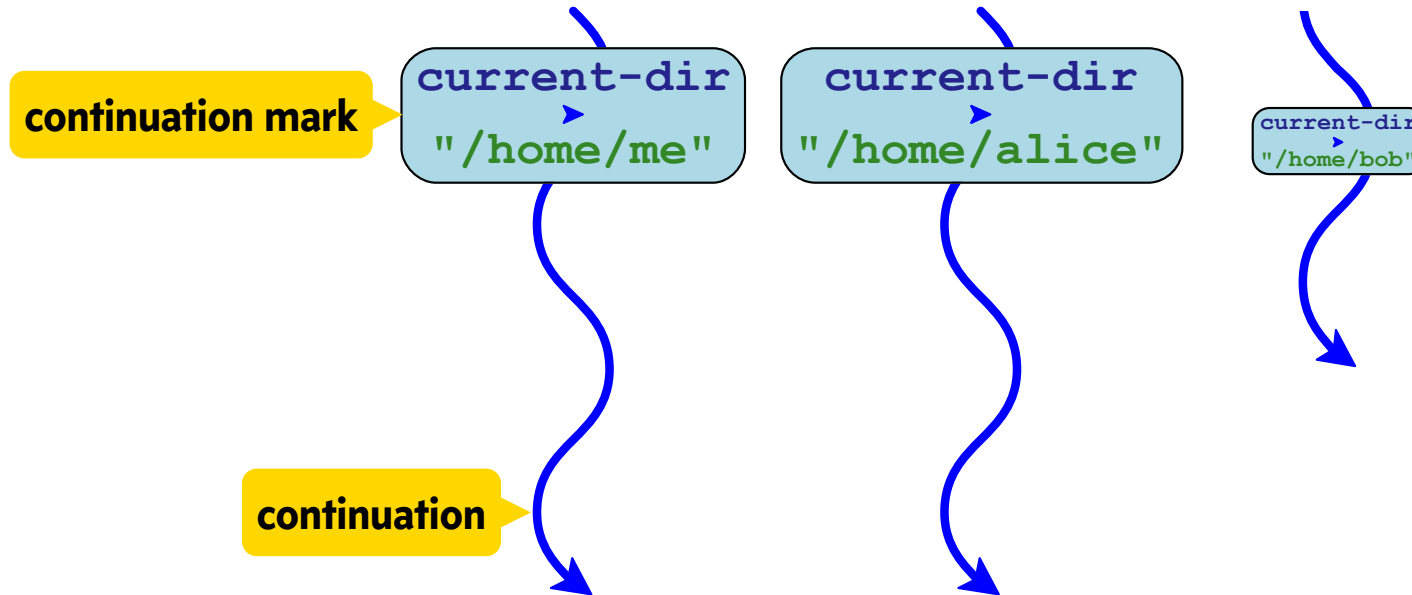
```
open "data.txt"  
  'create  
  'binary
```



Why Continuation Marks

```
open "data.txt"  
  'create  
  'binary
```

```
010..  
11010  
001+
```



Continuation Mark Primitives

```
(parameterize ([current-directory "/home/alice"])  
  (shuffle-files))
```

```
(define (path->complete-path path)  
  (build-path (current-directory)  
              path))
```

Continuation Mark Primitives

```
(with-mark  
  current-directory "/home/alice"  
  (shuffle-files))
```

```
(define (path->complete-path path)  
  (build-path (current-directory)  
              path))
```

Continuation Mark Primitives

```
(with-mark  
  current-directory "/home/alice"  
  (shuffle-files))
```

```
(define (path->complete-path path)  
  (build-path (current-mark current-directory)  
              path))
```


Continuation Mark Primitives

```
(with-mark  
  current-directory "/home/alice"  
  (shuffle-files))
```

```
(define (path->complete-path path)  
  (build-path (first  
              (current-marks current-directory))  
              path))
```

Uses of Continuation Marks

- dynamic binding [\[ICFP'07\]](#)
- exception handlers
- debugging [\[ESOP'01, SLE'17\]](#)
- profiling [\[TOPLAS'19\]](#)
- generators
- serializable continuations [\[ICFP'09\]](#)
- security checks [\[OOPSLA'16\]](#)
- avoiding redundant contracts [\[OOPSLA'18\]](#)

Running **Racket** on **Chez Scheme**

Racket

delimited continuations
with `marks`

state-of-the-art
functionality

Chez Scheme

continuations
via `call/cc`

state-of-the-art
performace

Running **Racket** on **Chez Scheme**

good performance via `call/cc`

Racket

delimited continuations
with `marks`

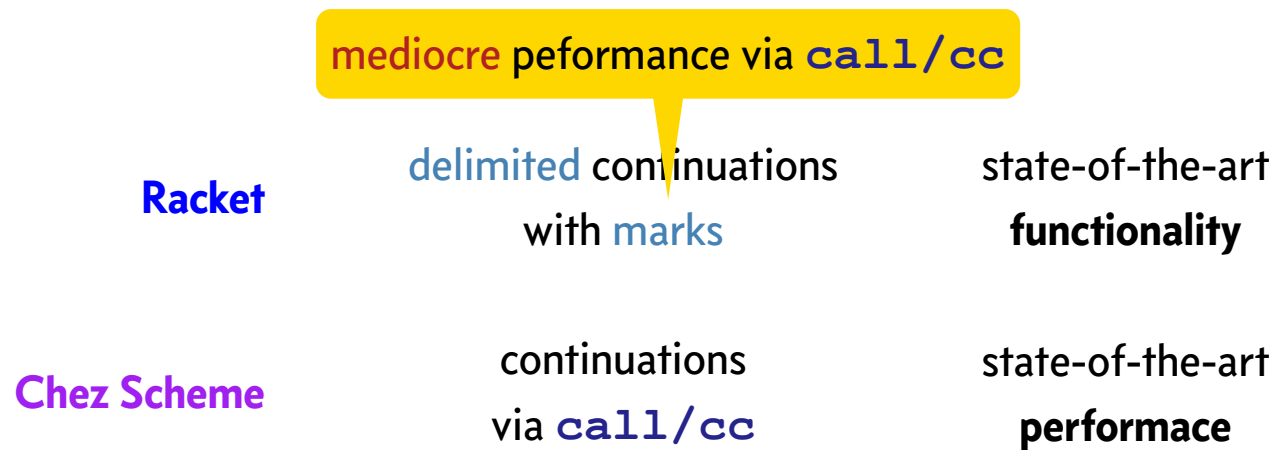
state-of-the-art
functionality

Chez Scheme

continuations
via `call/cc`

state-of-the-art
performace

Running **Racket** on **Chez Scheme**



Adding Marks to **Chez Scheme**

speedup relative to using `call/cc`

continuation marks

×3 – ×22

contracts

×3.4

applications

×1.10 – ×1.25

Notation

$(v_1 ((\lambda (x) x) v_3) v_2))$

“Adding Delimited and Composable Control to a Production Programming Environment”
ICFP’07
Flatt, Yu, Findler, and Felleisen

Notation

$(v_1 ((\lambda (x) x) v_3) v_2)$

Notation

$$((\lambda \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}) \mathbf{v}_3)$$
$$(\mathbf{v}_1 ((\lambda \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}) \mathbf{v}_3) \mathbf{v}_2))$$

Notation

$$((\lambda \ (x) \ x) \ v_3)$$
$$(v_1 \ ((\lambda \ (x) \ x) \ v_3) \ v_2))$$

Notation

$((\lambda \ x) \ x) \ v_3$

$(v_1 \ ((\lambda \ x) \ x) \ v_3) \ v_2$

$([] \ v_2)$

Notation

$((\lambda (x) x) v_3)$

$(v_1 ((\lambda (x) x) v_3) v_2)$

$([] v_2)$

Notation

$((\lambda (x) x) v_3)$

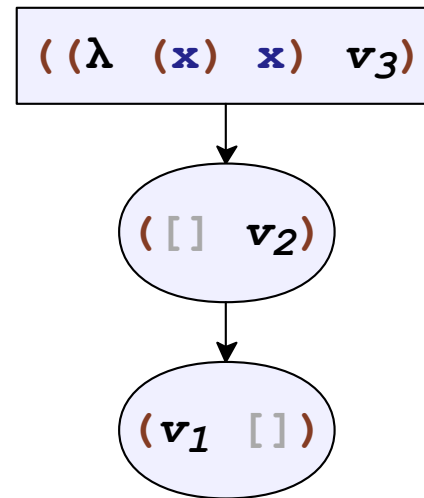
$(v_1 ((\lambda (x) x) v_3) v_2)$

$([] v_2)$

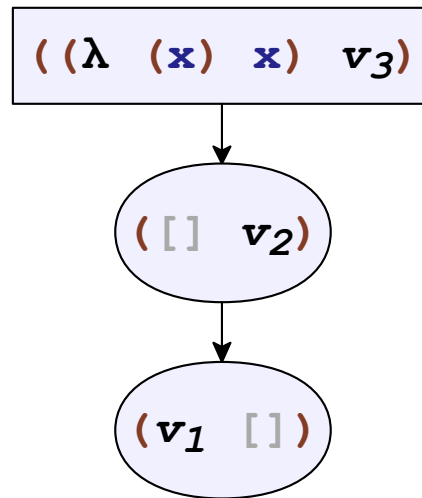
$(v_1 [])$

Notation

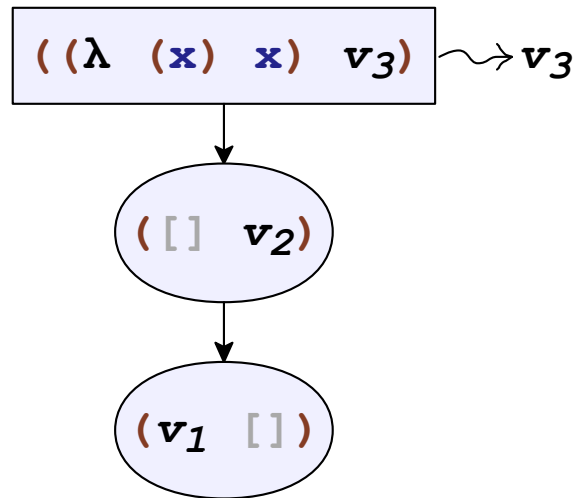
$$(v_1 ((\lambda (x) x) v_3) v_2) =$$



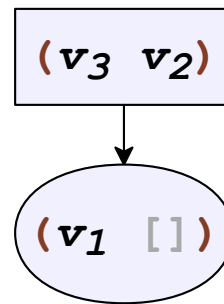
Reductions



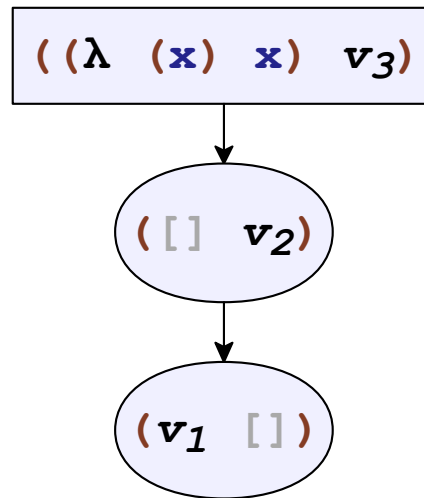
Reductions



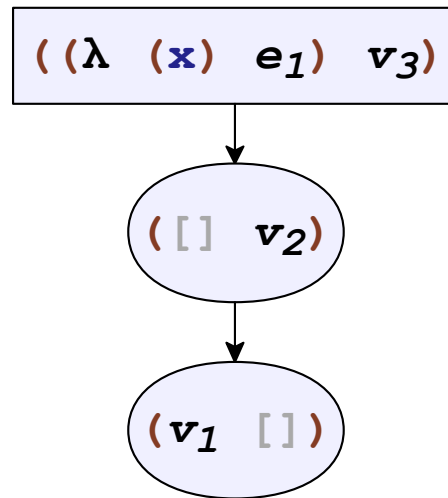
Reductions



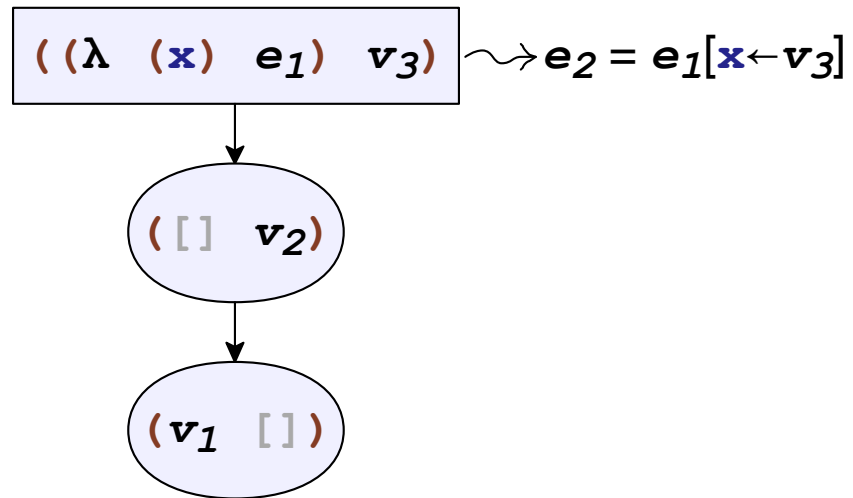
Reductions



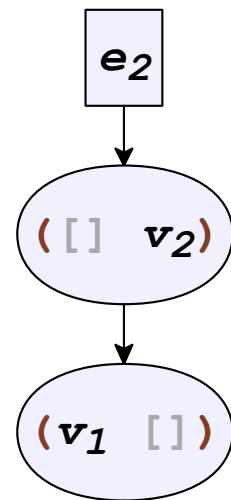
Tail Evaluation



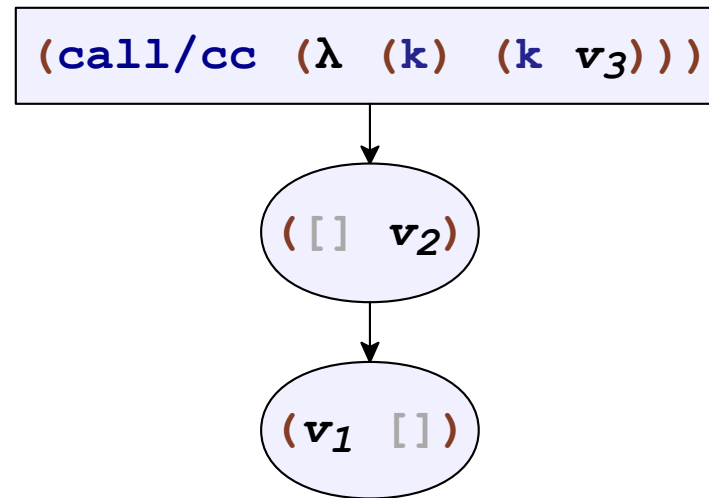
Tail Evaluation



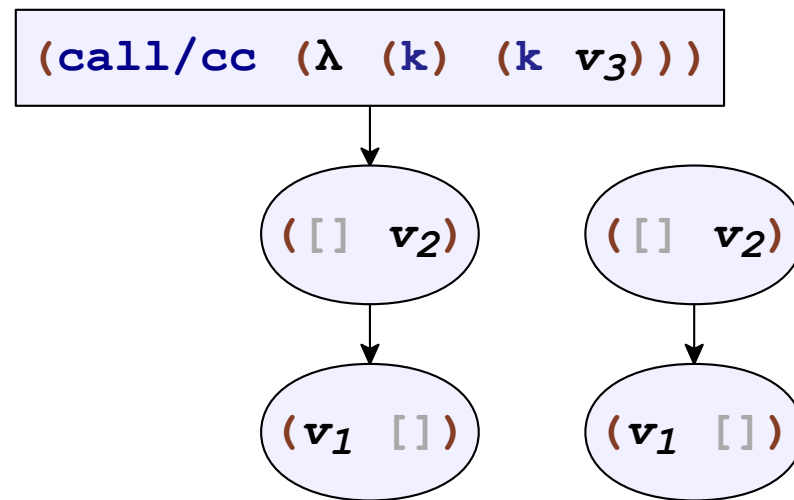
Tail Evaluation



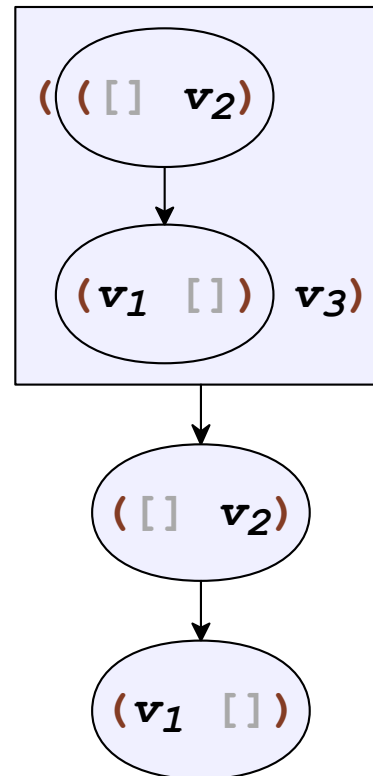
Continuations



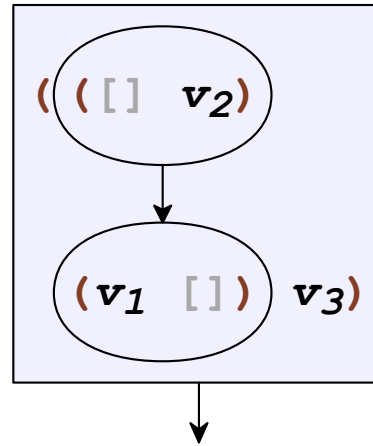
Continuations



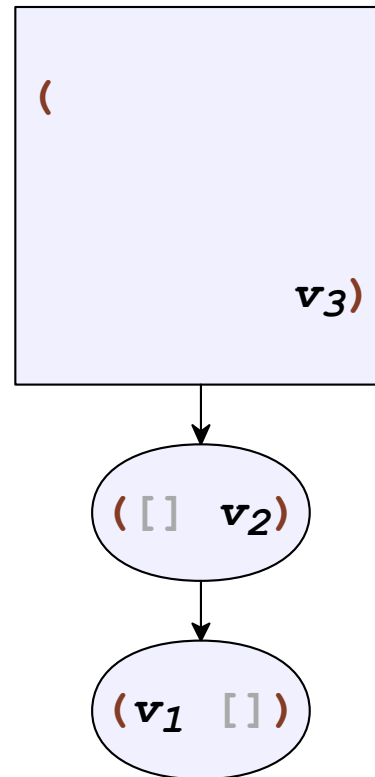
Continuations



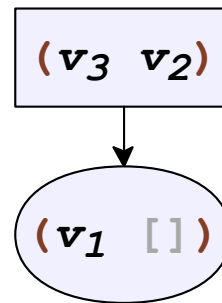
Continuations



Continuations



Continuations

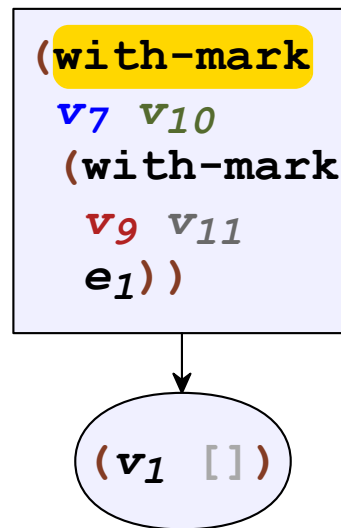


Continuation Marks

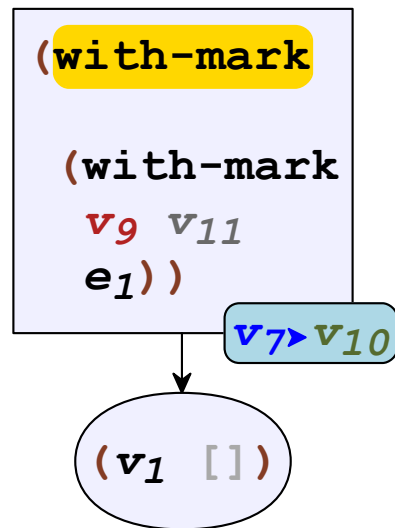
```
(with-mark  
  current-directory "/home/alice"  
  (with-mark  
    v9 v11  
    e1))
```

(v₁ [])

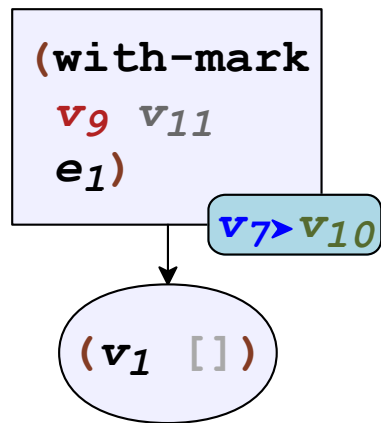
Continuation Marks



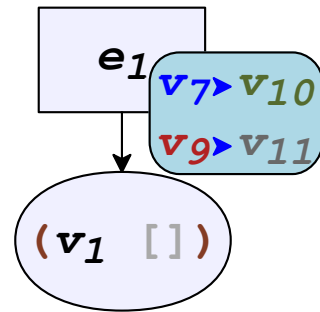
Continuation Marks



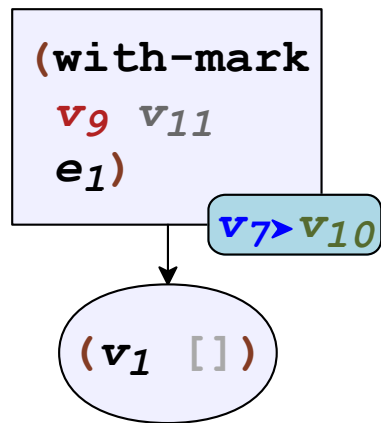
Continuation Marks



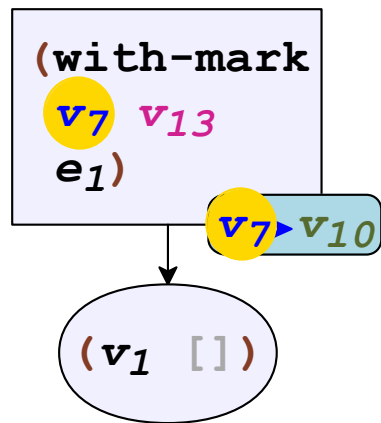
Continuation Marks



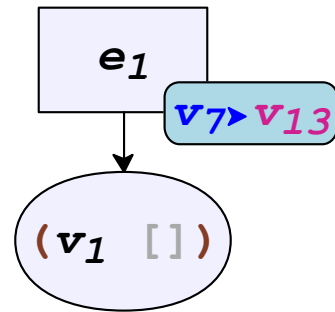
Continuation Marks



Continuation Marks



Continuation Marks



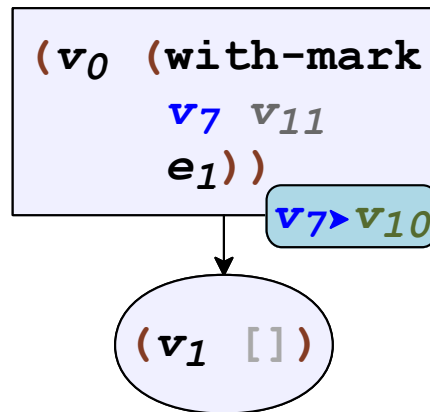
Continuation Marks

```
(with-mark  
  v7 v10  
  (v0 (with-mark  
       v7 v11  
       e1)))
```

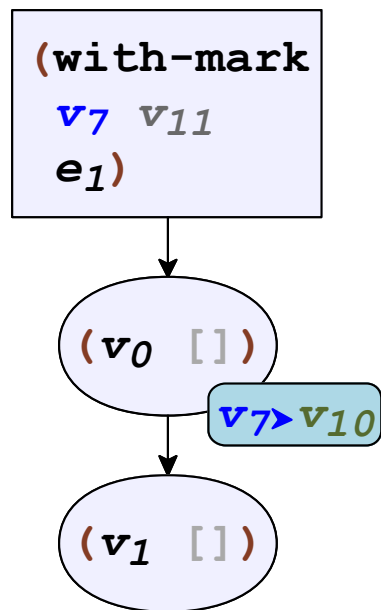
↓

```
(v1 [])
```

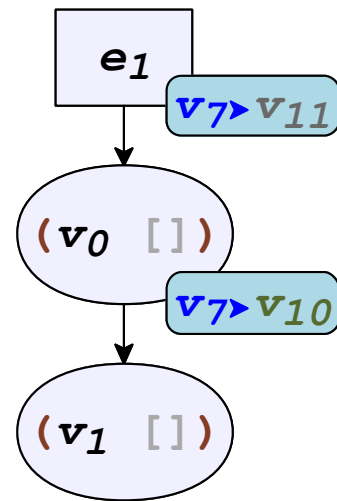
Continuation Marks



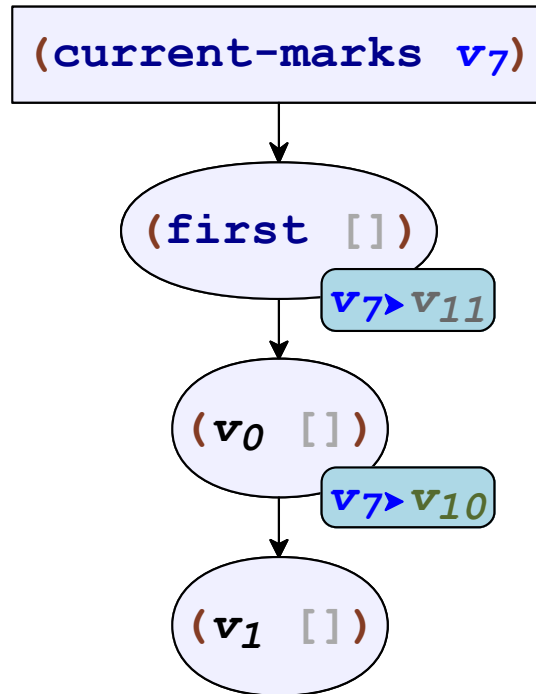
Continuation Marks



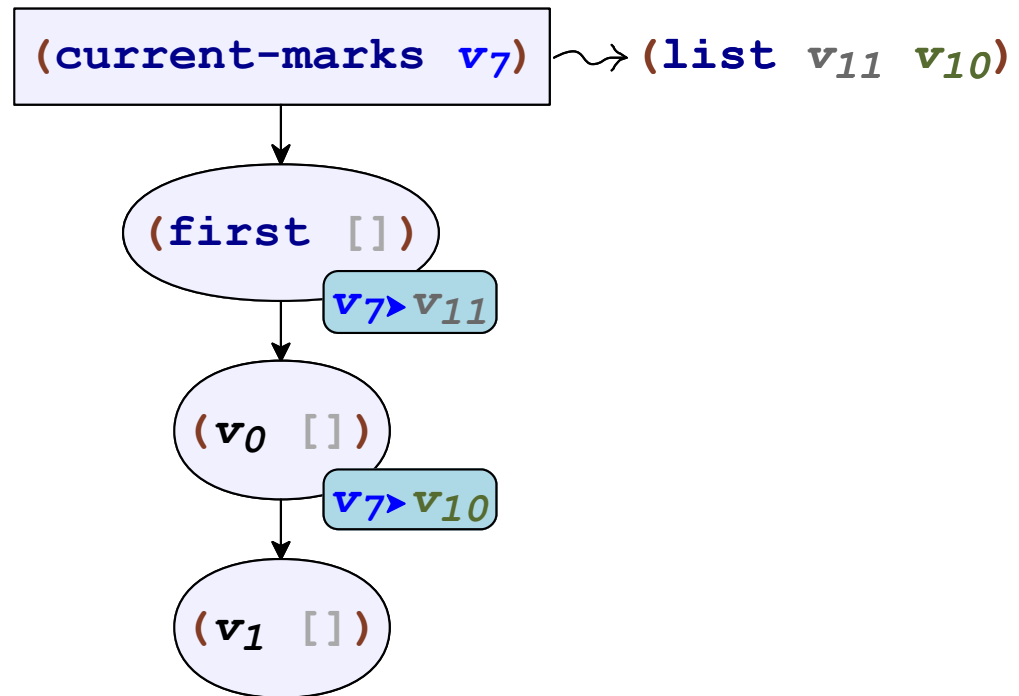
Continuation Marks



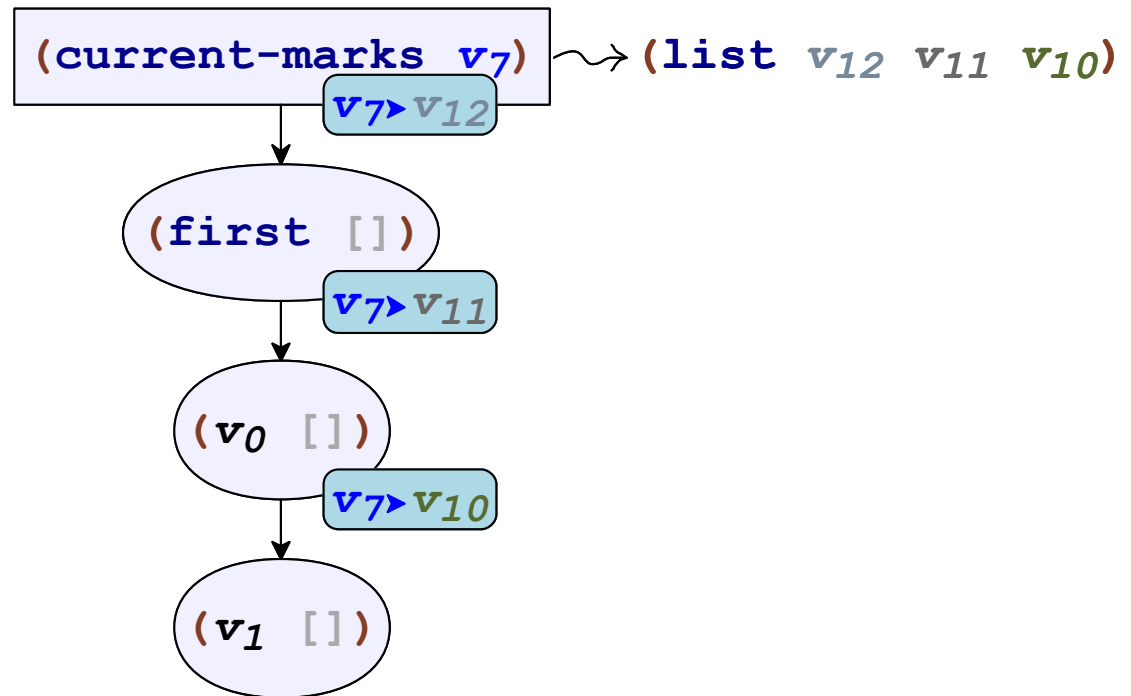
Continuation Marks



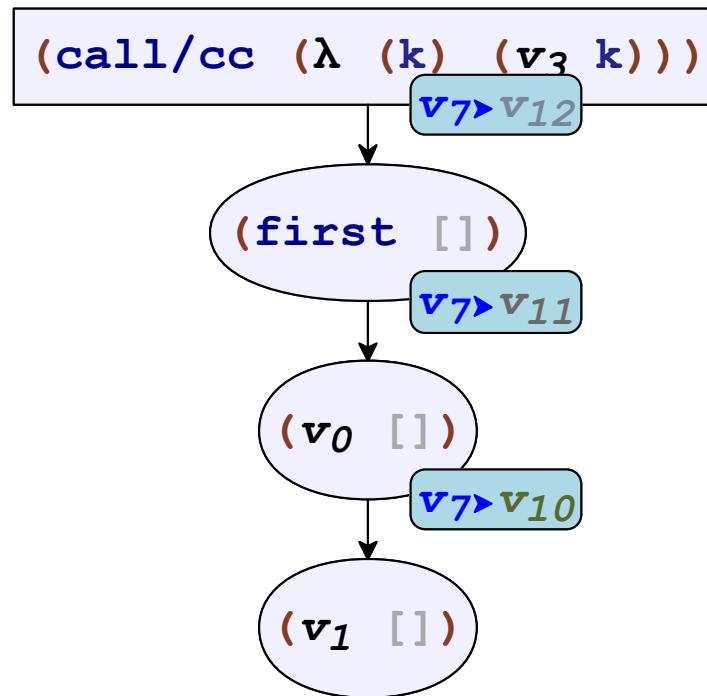
Continuation Marks



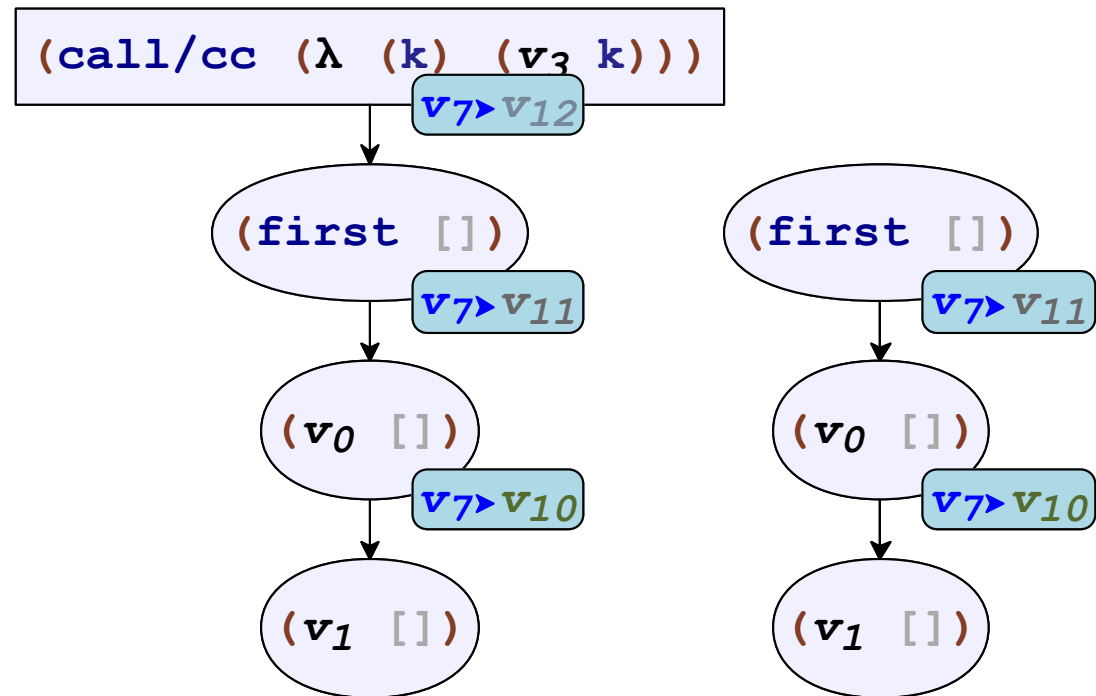
Continuation Marks



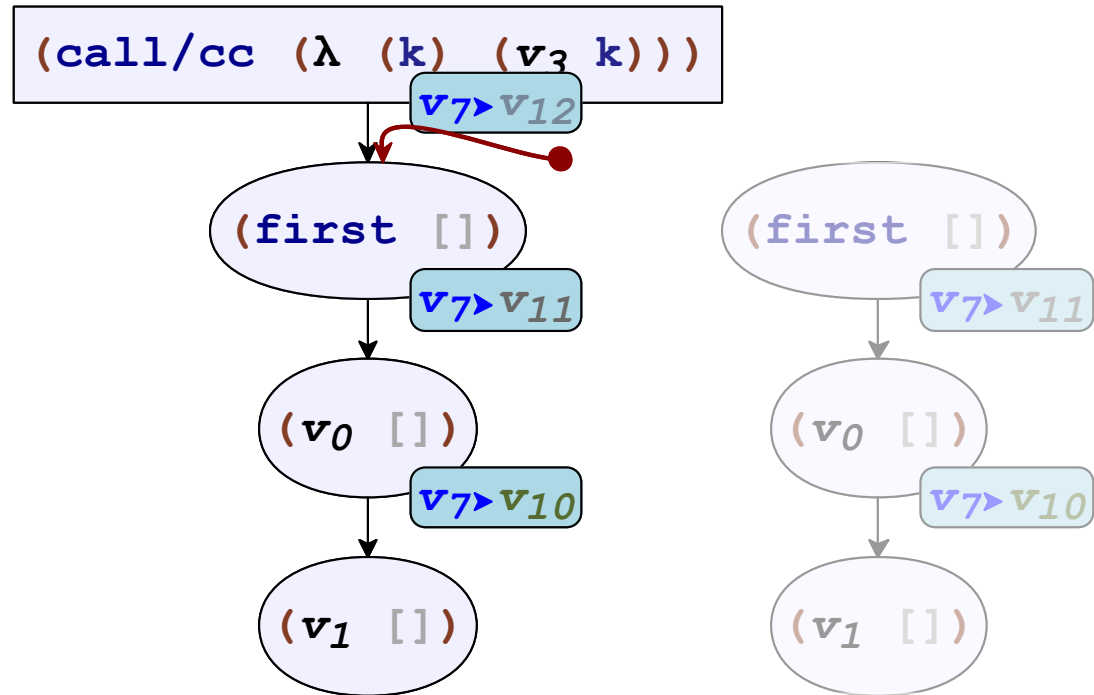
Capturing Marks



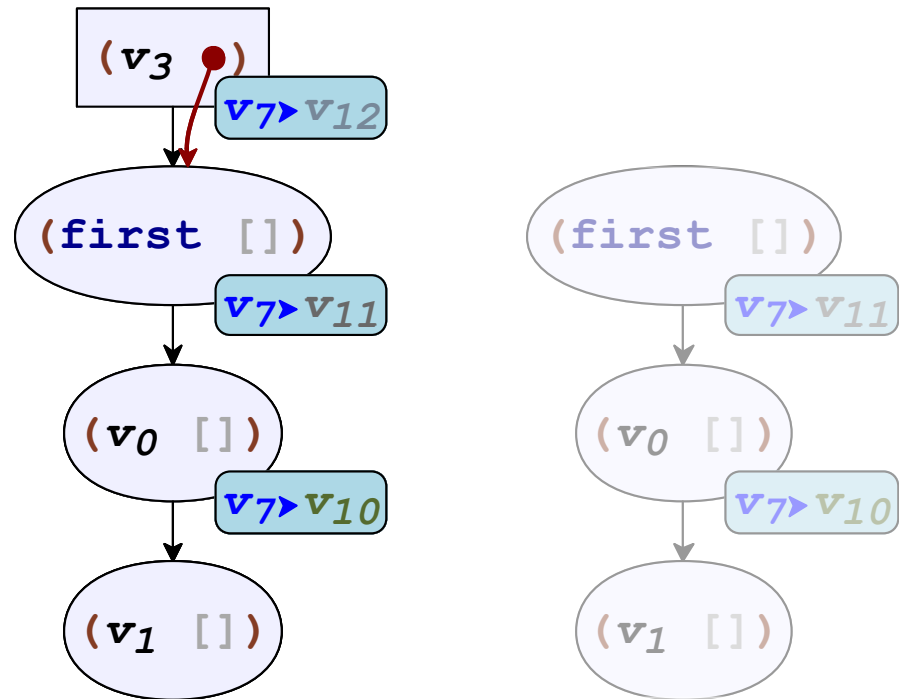
Capturing Marks



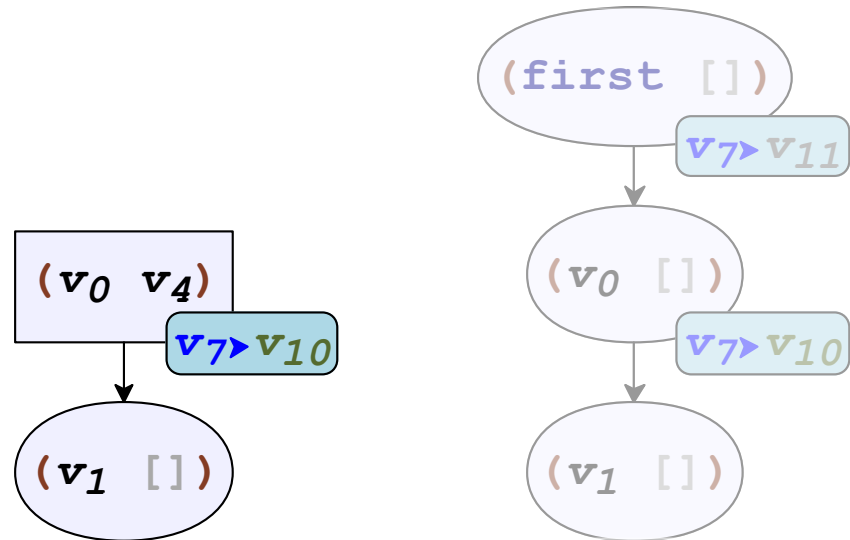
Heap-Allocated Frames



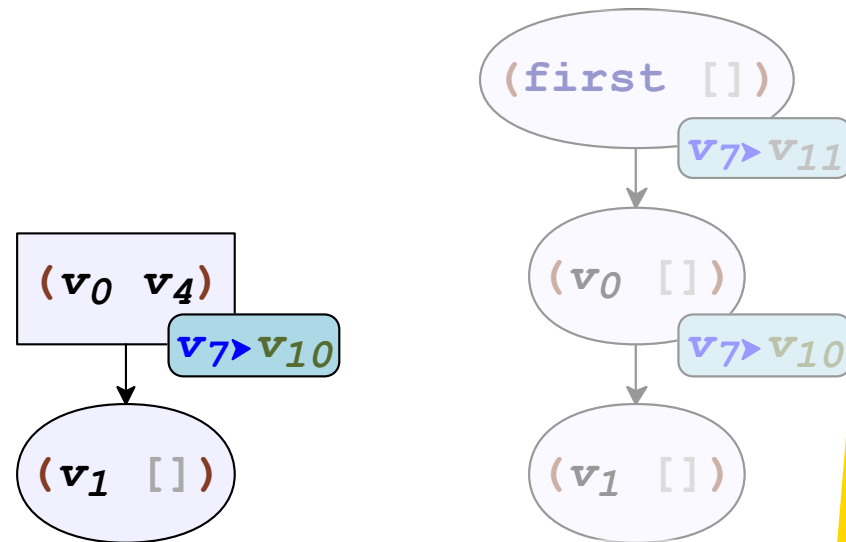
Heap-Allocated Frames



Heap-Allocated Frames

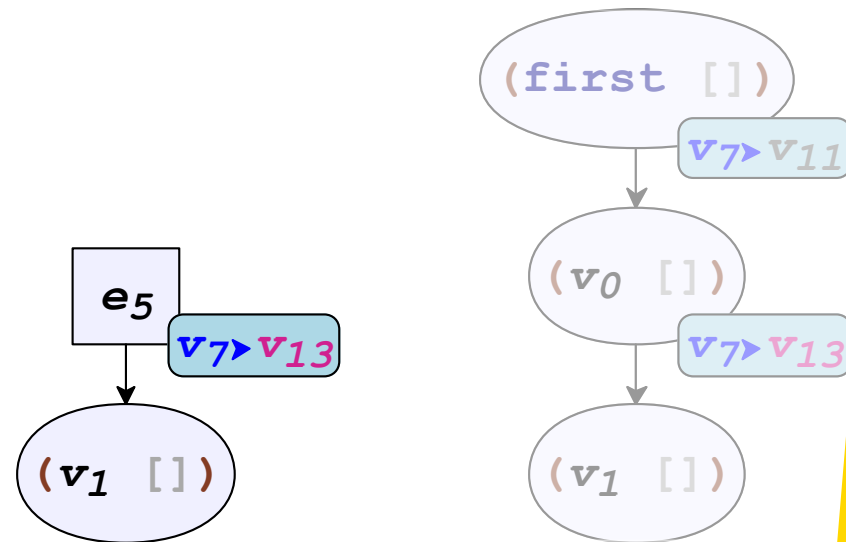


Heap-Allocated Frames



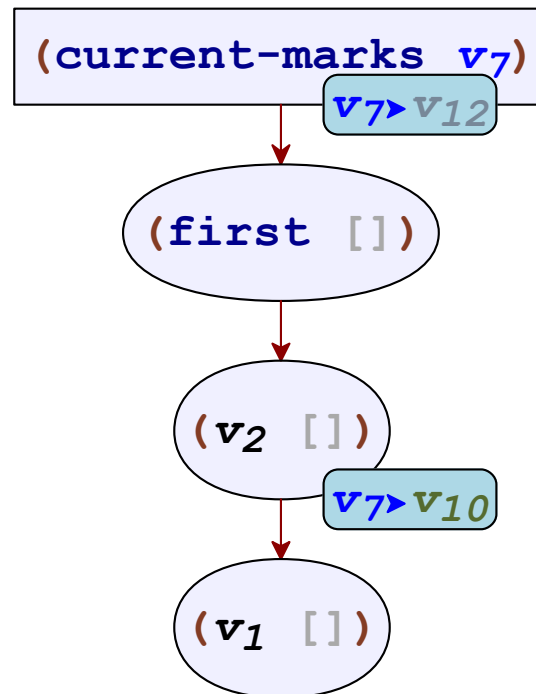
Captured continuation should not change

Heap-Allocated Frames

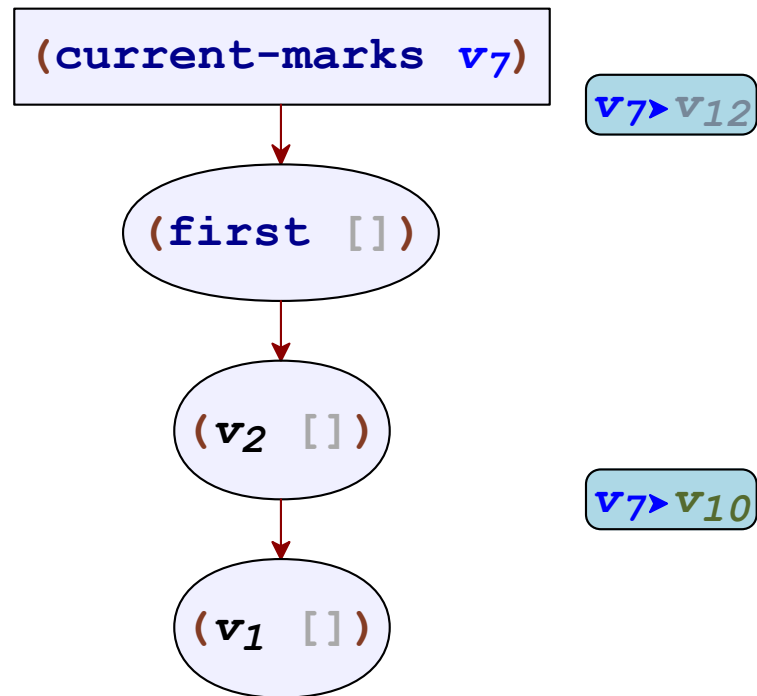


Captured continuation should not change

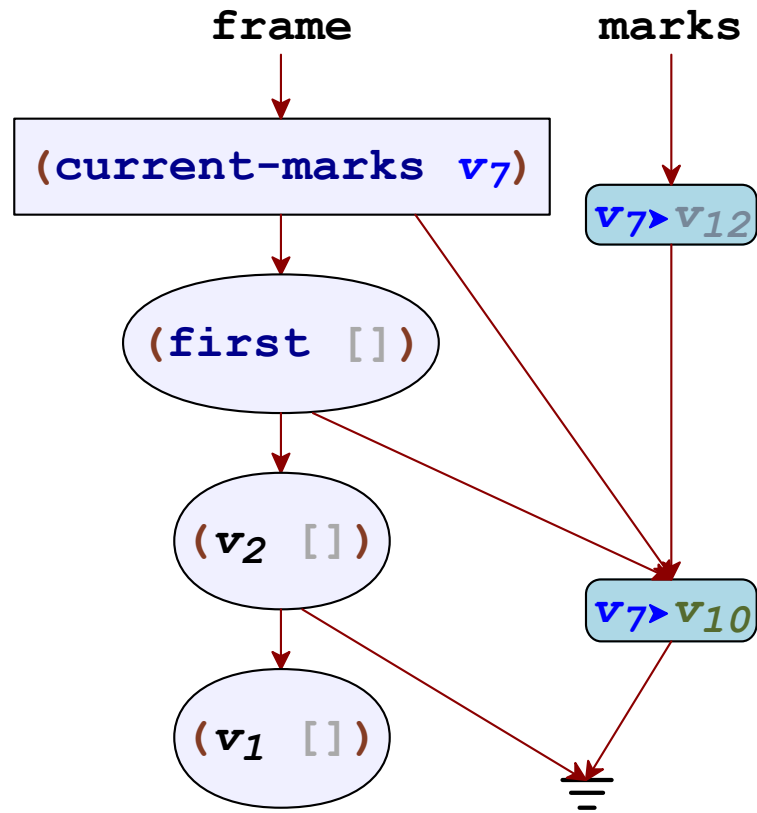
Functional Heap-Allocated Frames



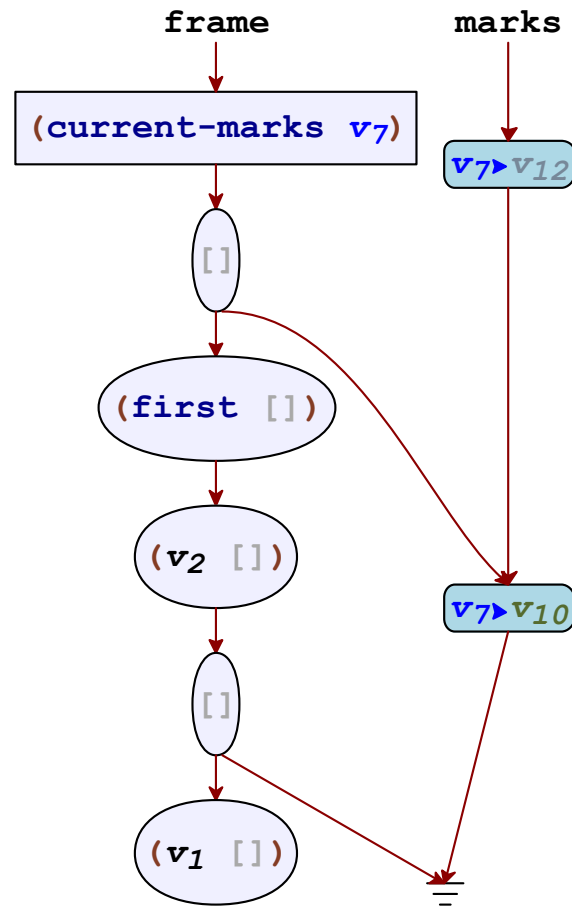
Functional Heap-Allocated Frames



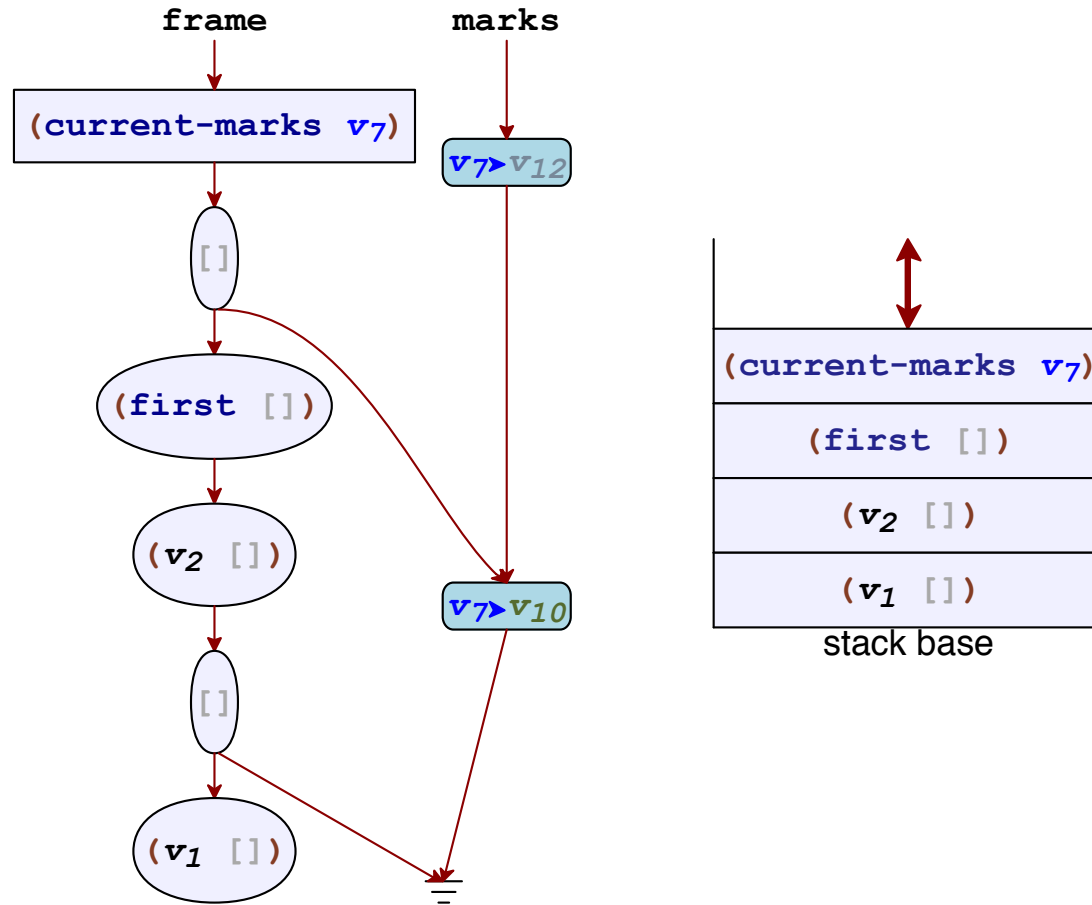
Functional Heap-Allocated Frames



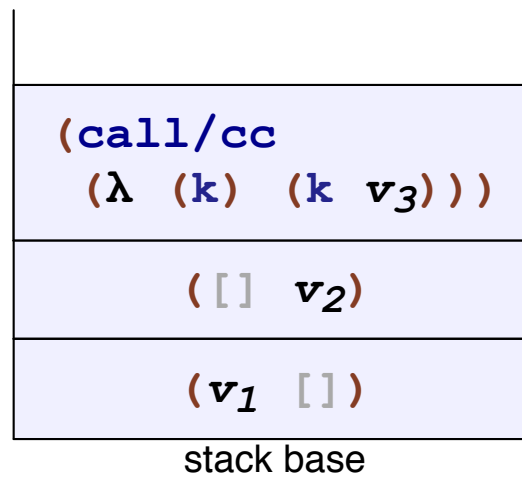
Functional Heap-Allocated Frames



Heap versus Stack

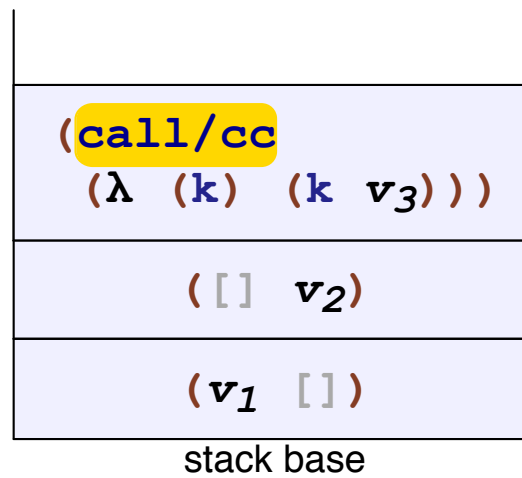


Stack-Allocated Frames

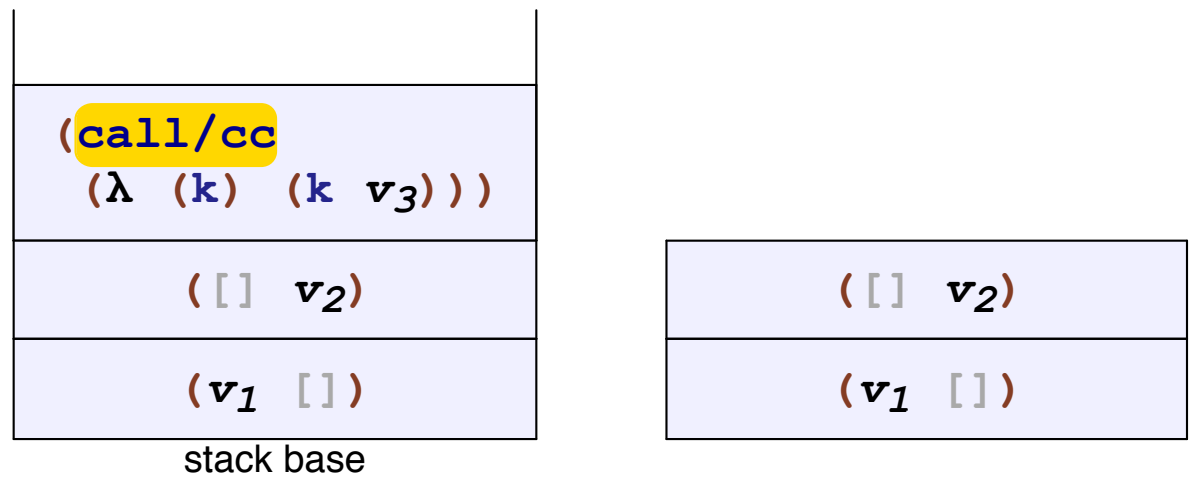


“Representing Control in the Presence of First-Class Continuations”
PLDI’90
Heib, Dybvig, and Bruggeman

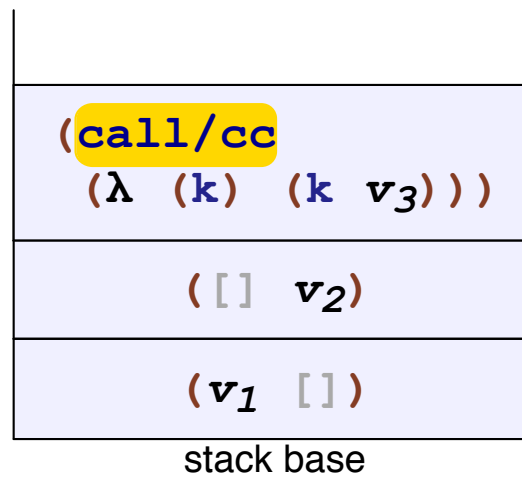
Capturing Stack-Based Continuations



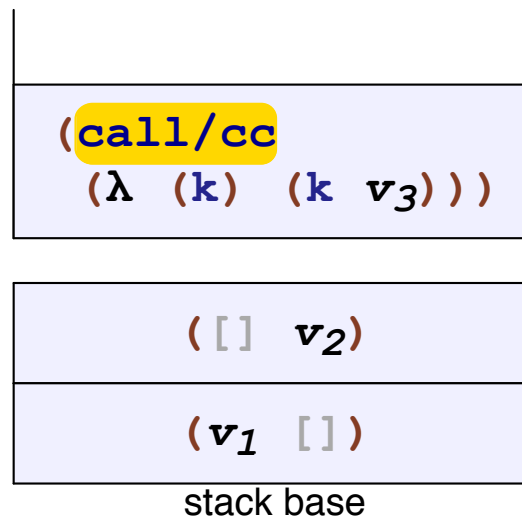
Capturing Stack-Based Continuations



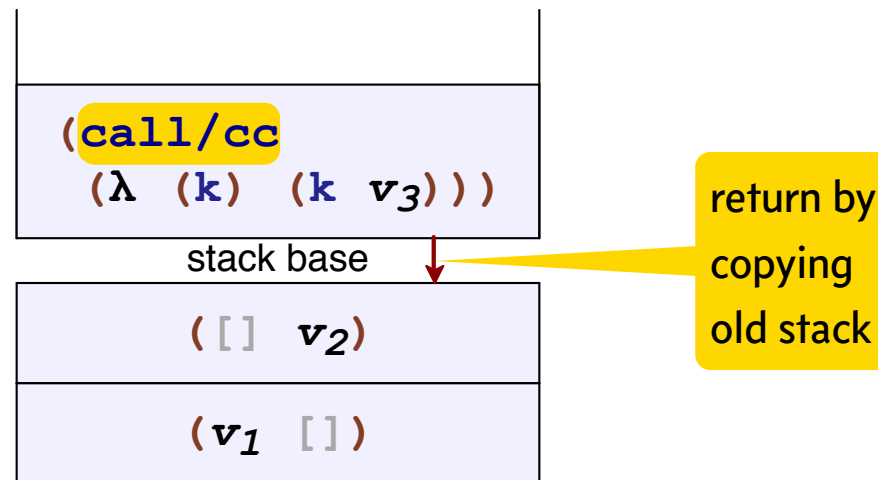
Capturing Stack-Based Continuations



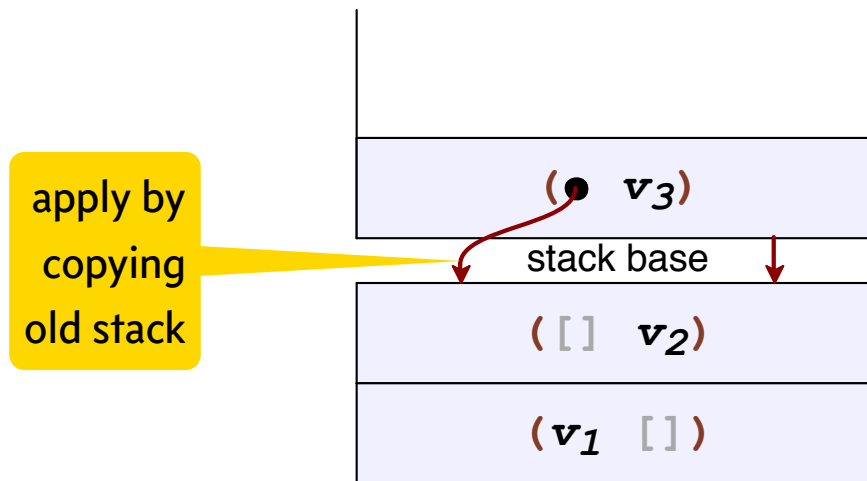
Capturing Stack-Based Continuations



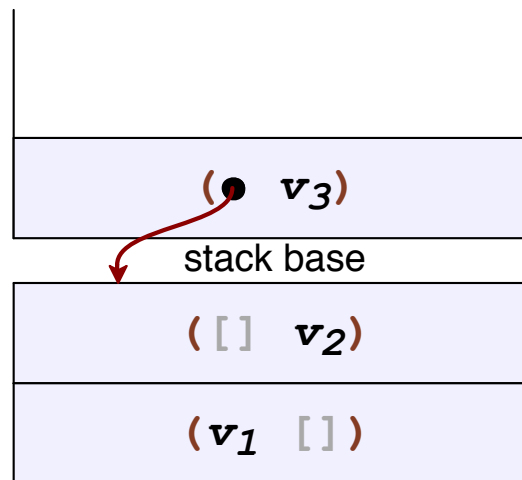
Capturing Stack-Based Continuations



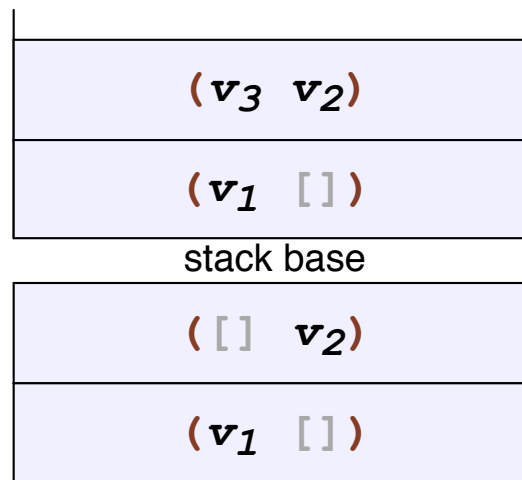
Capturing Stack-Based Continuations



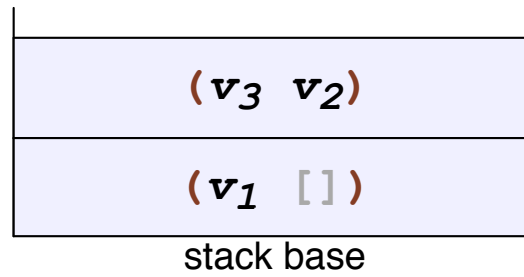
Applying Stack-Based Continuations



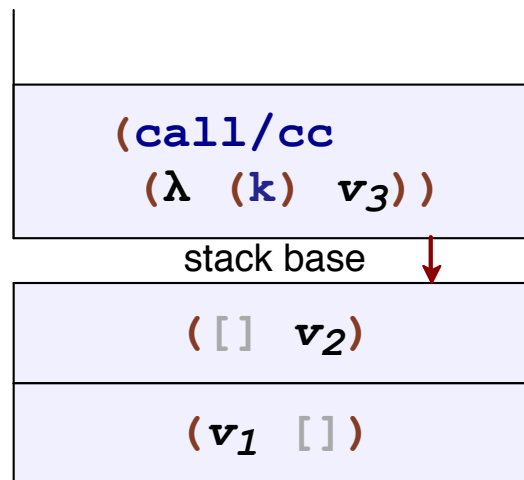
Applying Stack-Based Continuations



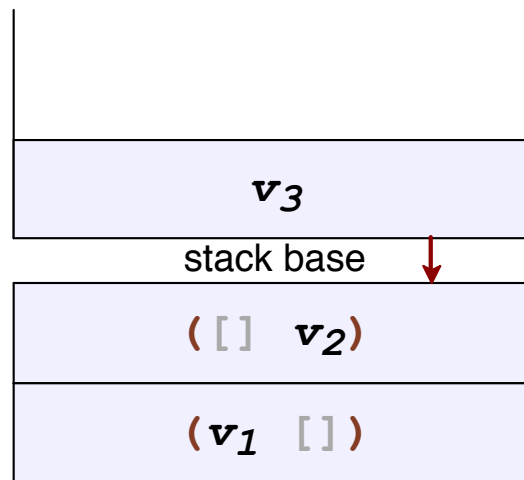
Applying Stack-Based Continuations



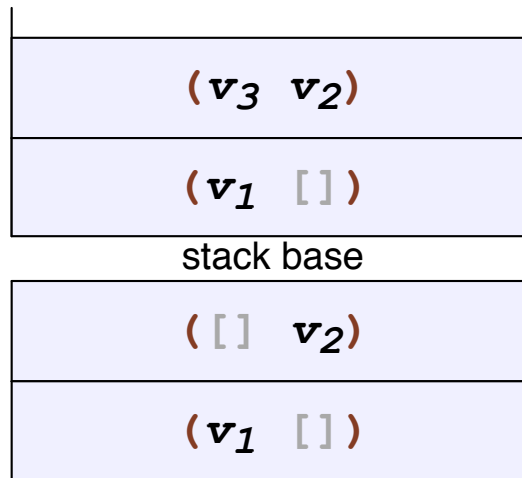
Returning After Capture



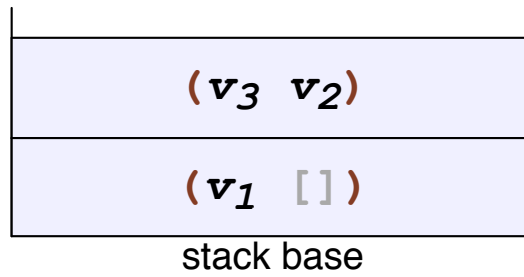
Returning After Capture



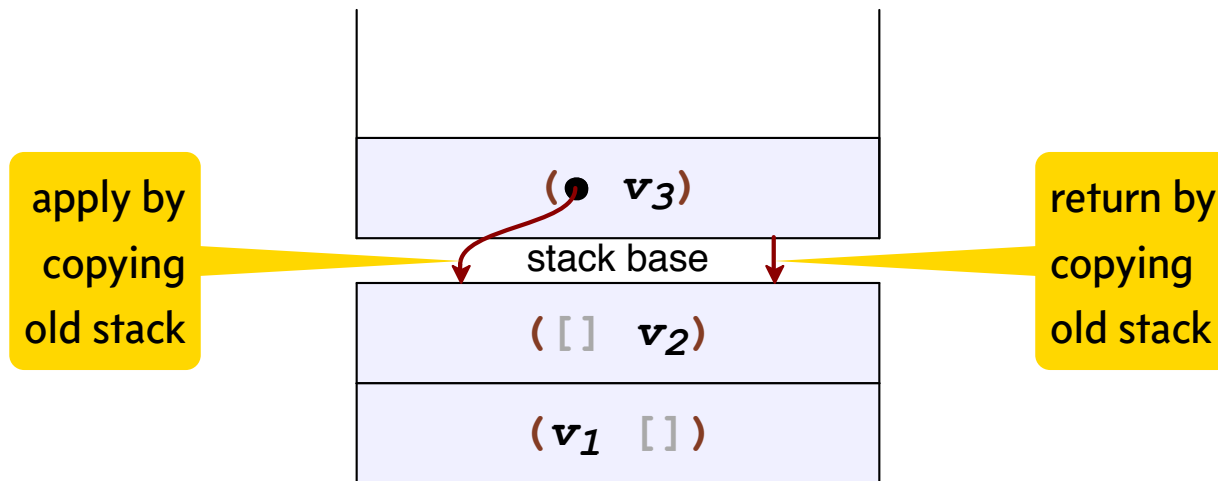
Returning After Capture



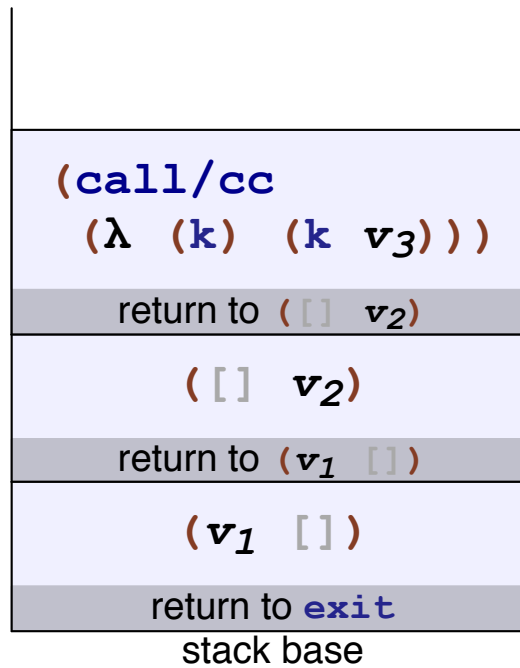
Returning After Capture



Two Kinds of Continuation Pointers

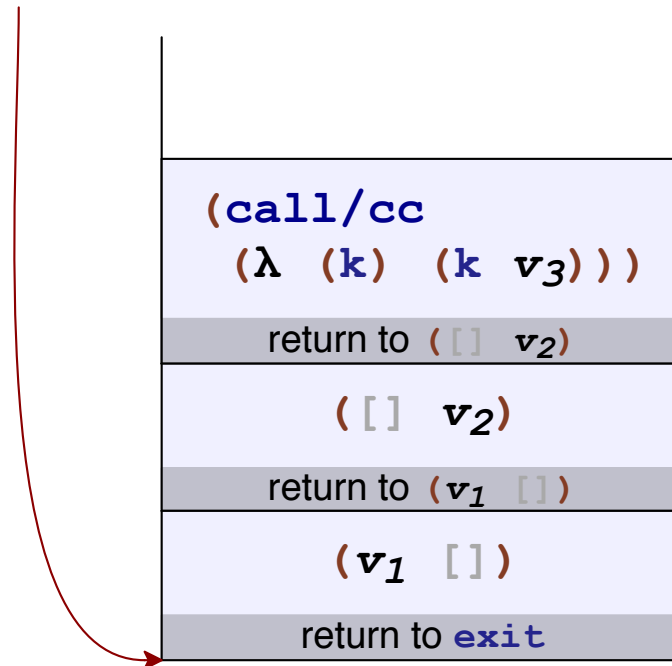


Returns in Stack Frames

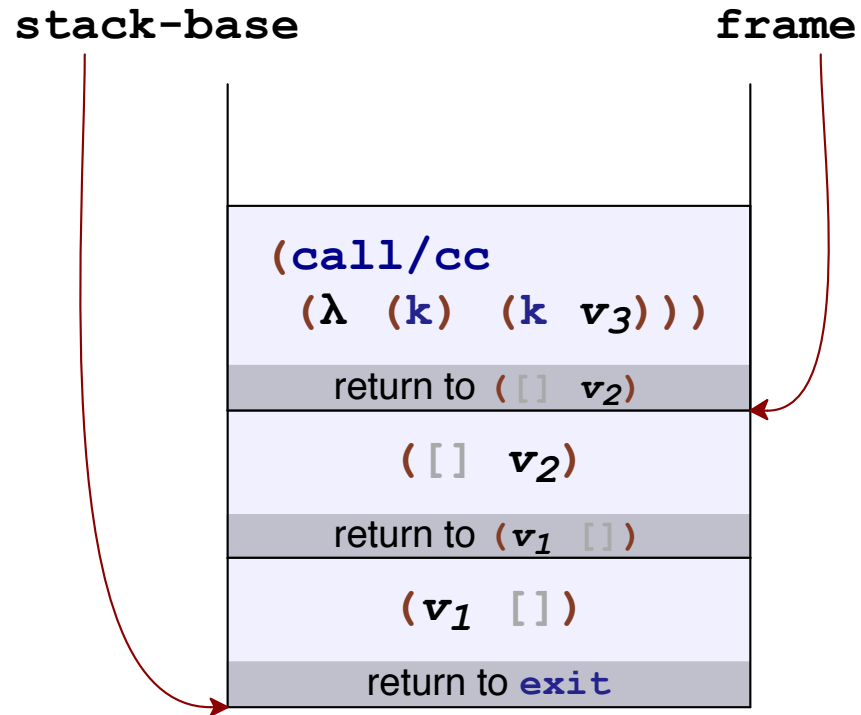


Returns in Stack Frames

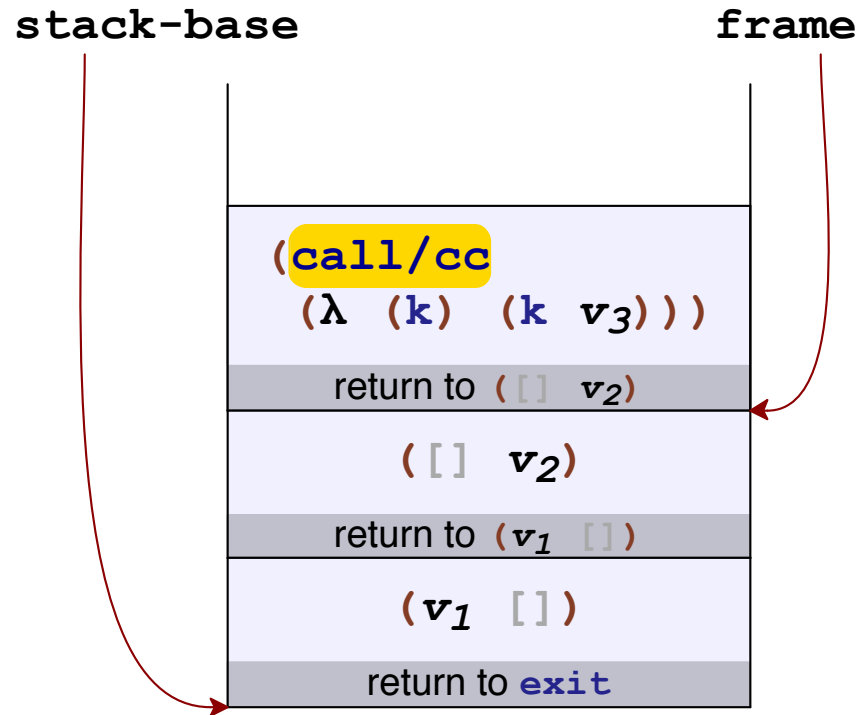
stack-base



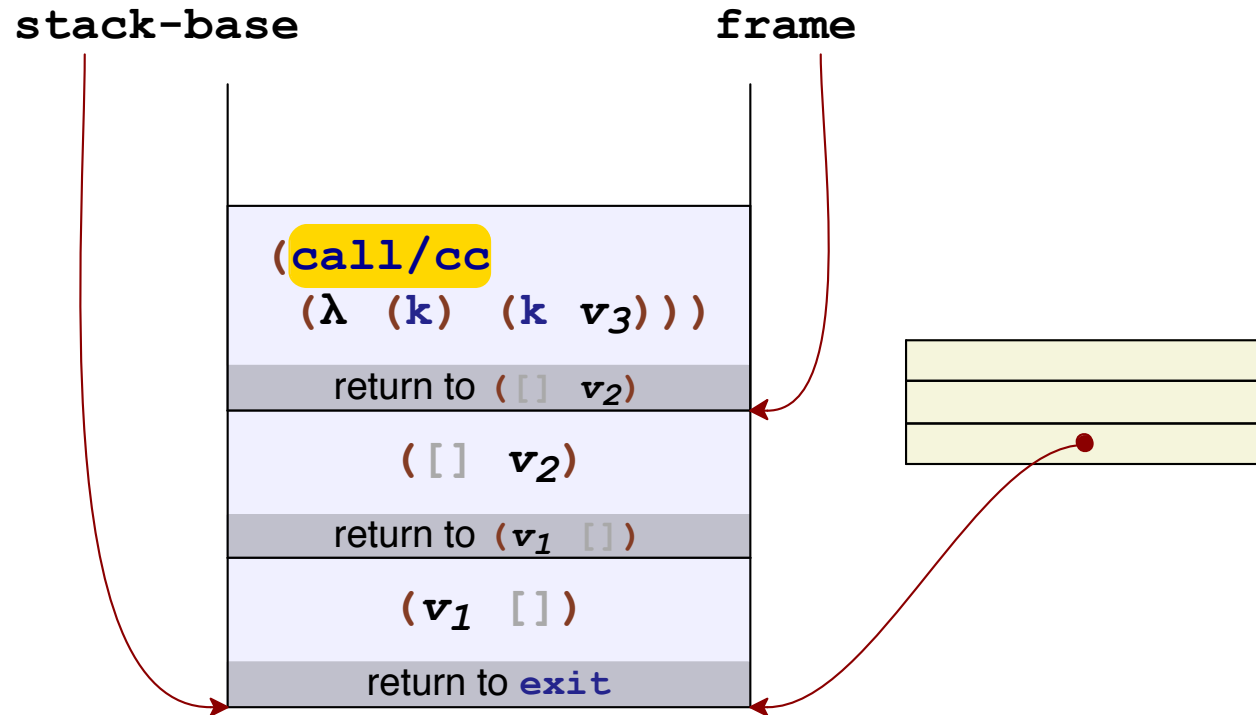
Returns in Stack Frames



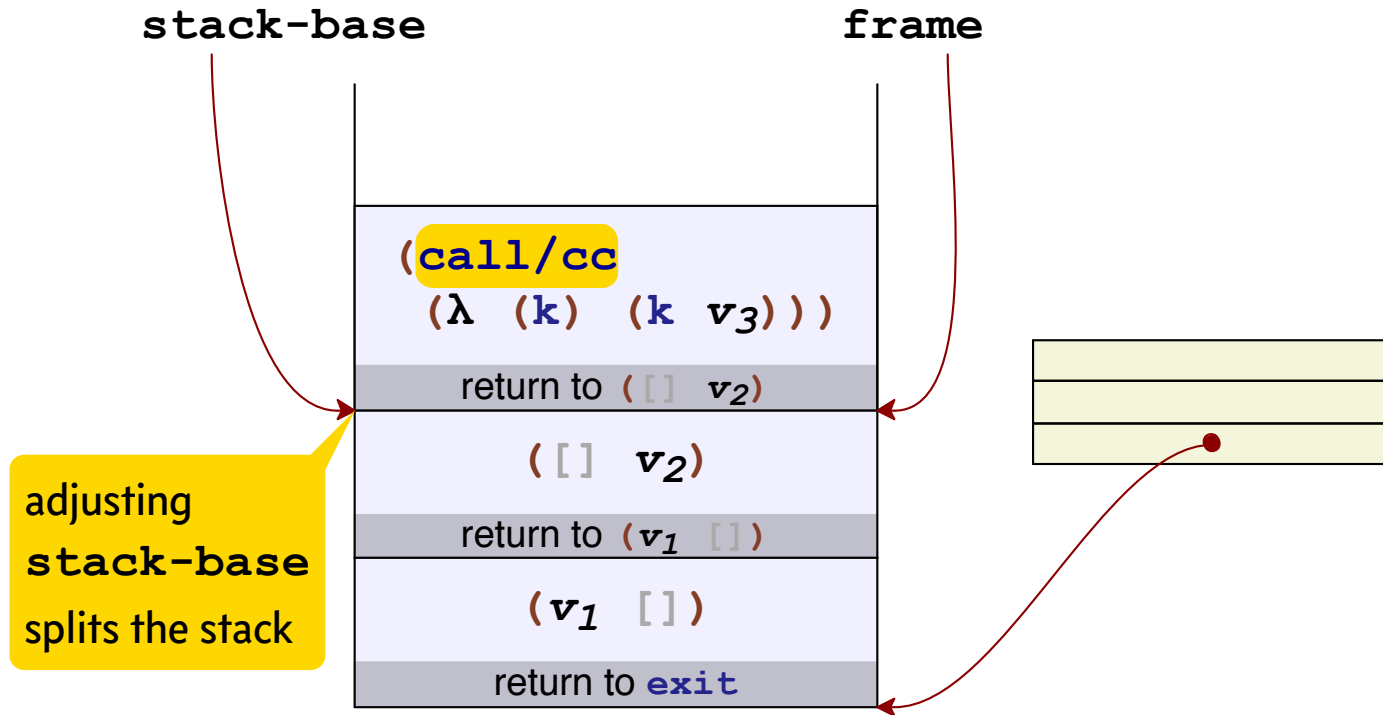
Capturing Stack-Based Continuations



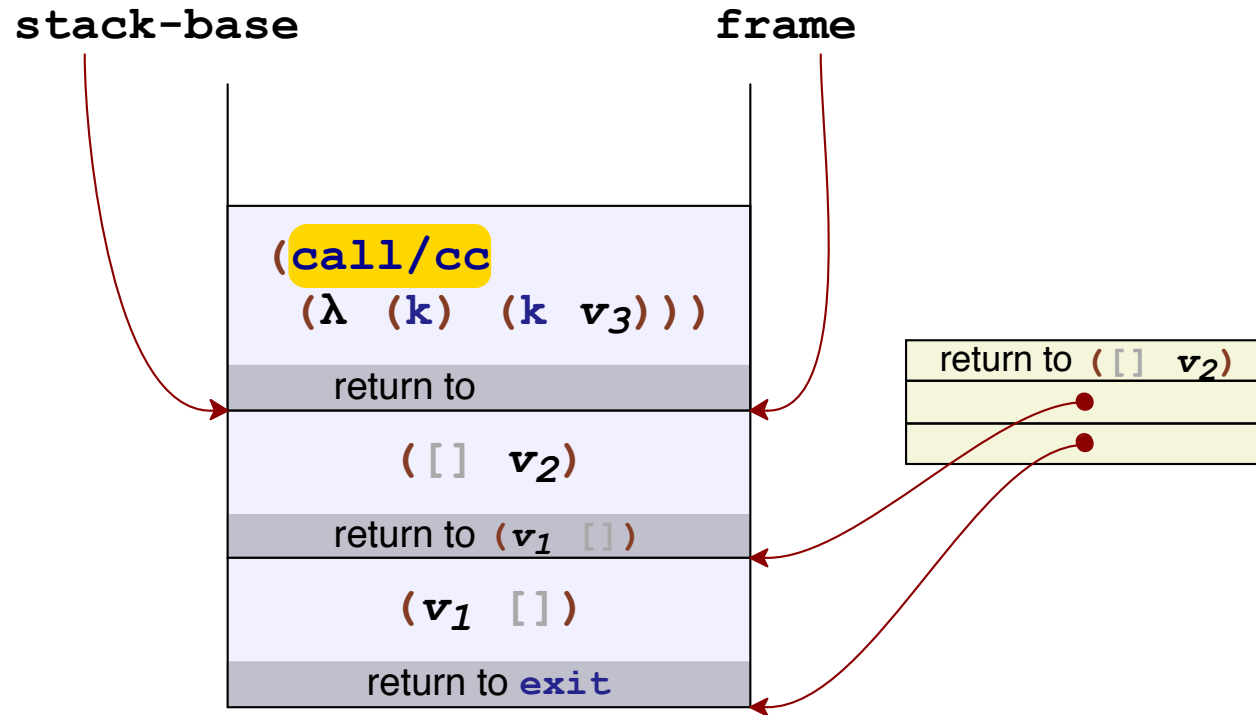
Capturing Stack-Based Continuations



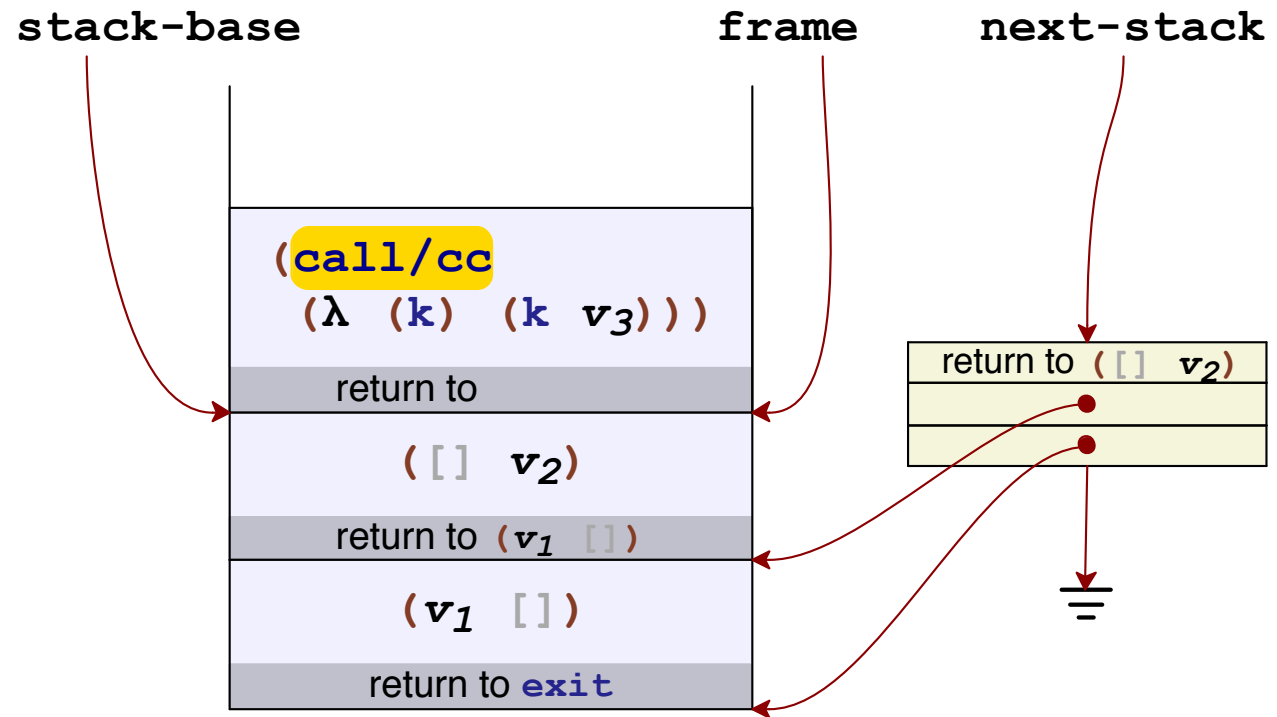
Capturing Stack-Based Continuations



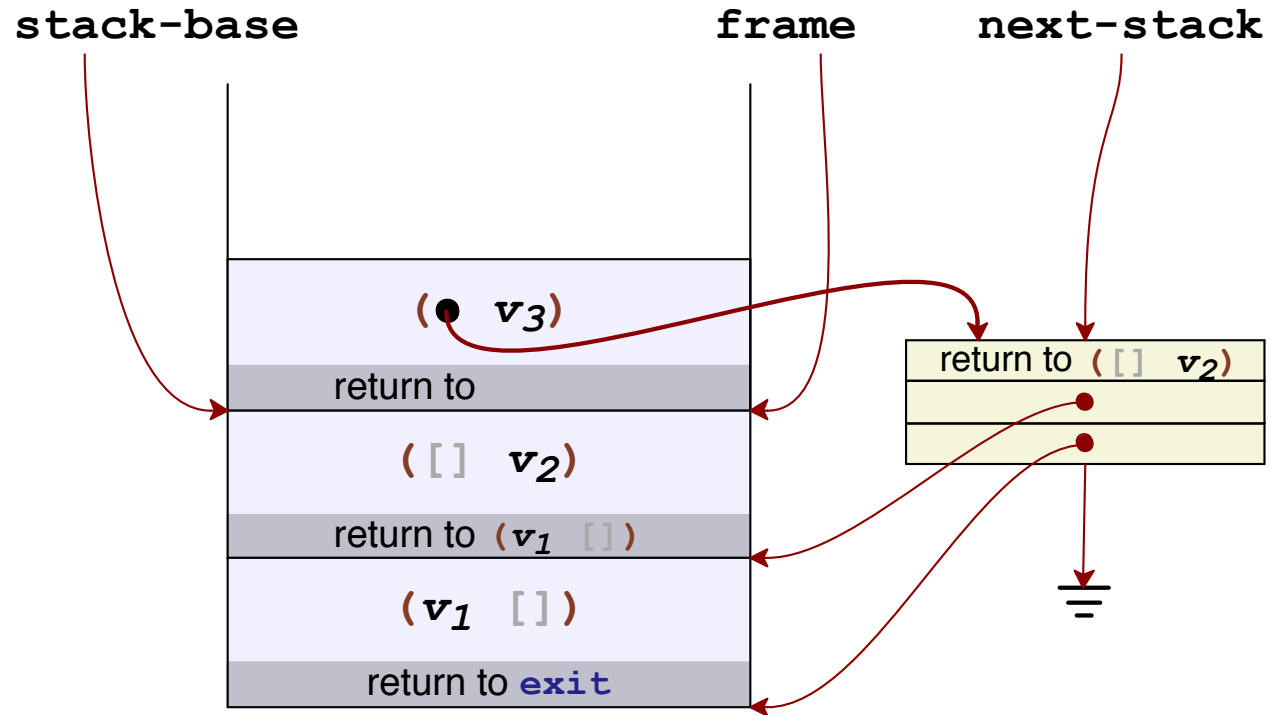
Capturing Stack-Based Continuations



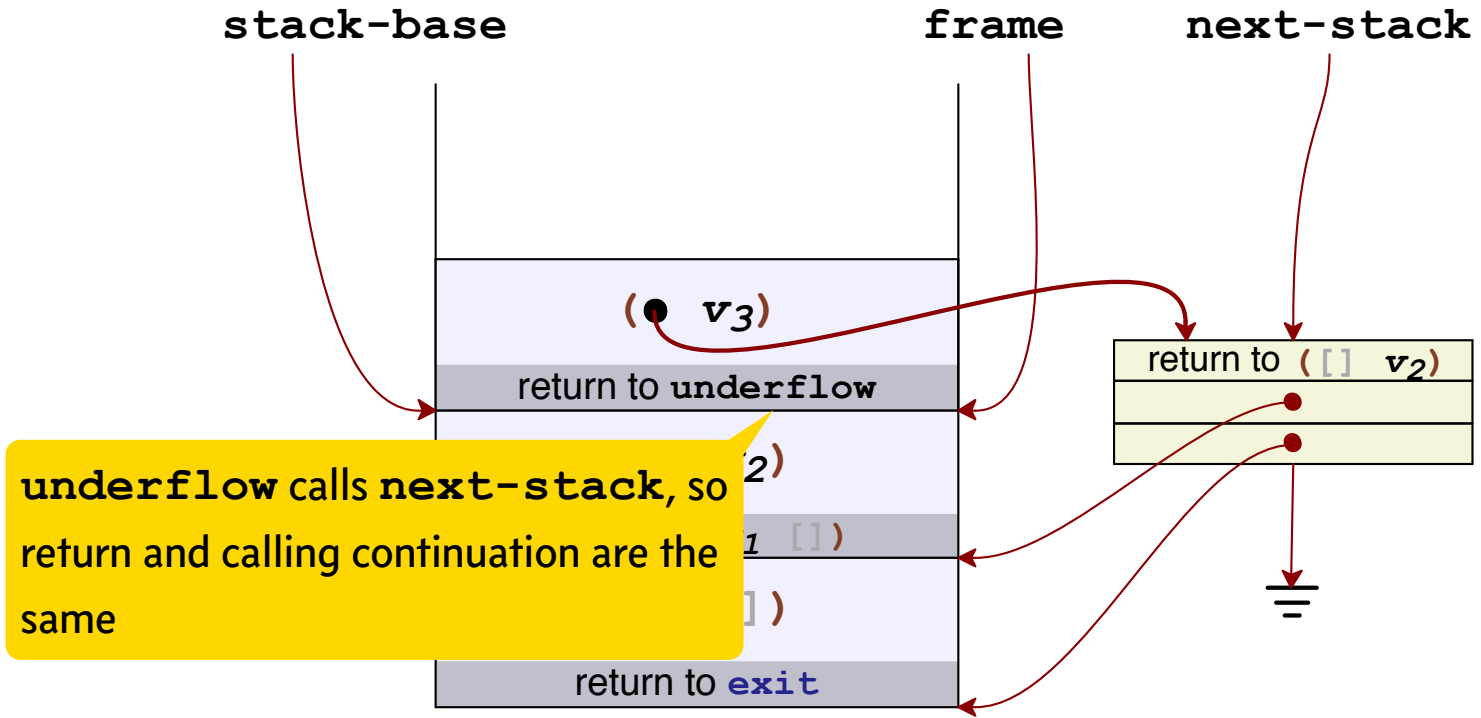
Capturing Stack-Based Continuations



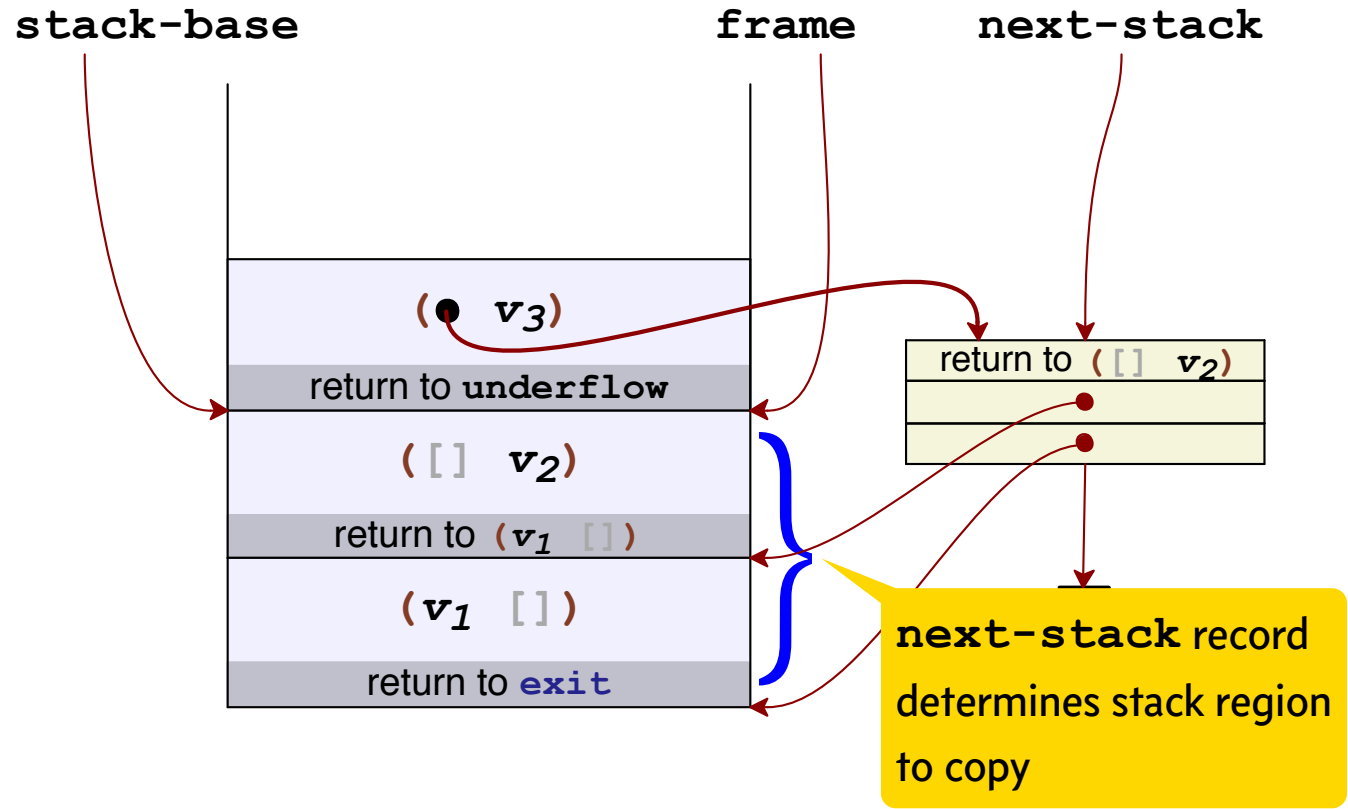
Capturing Stack-Based Continuations



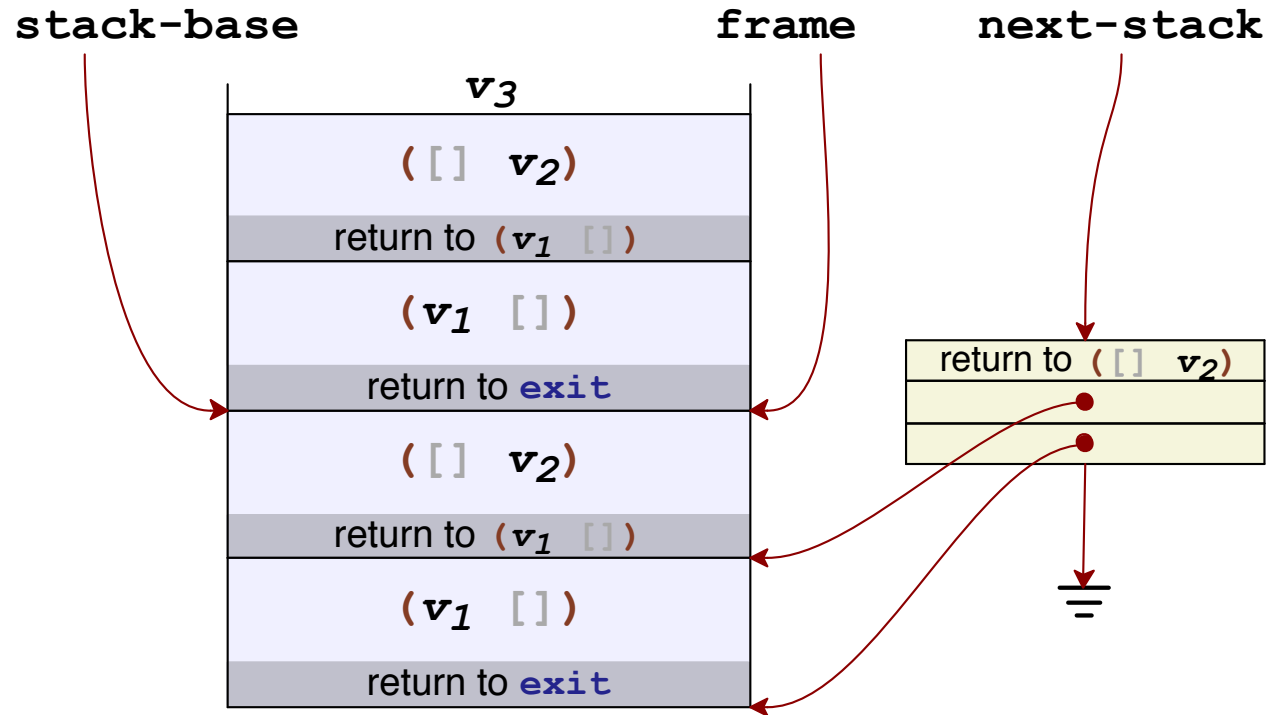
Capturing Stack-Based Continuations



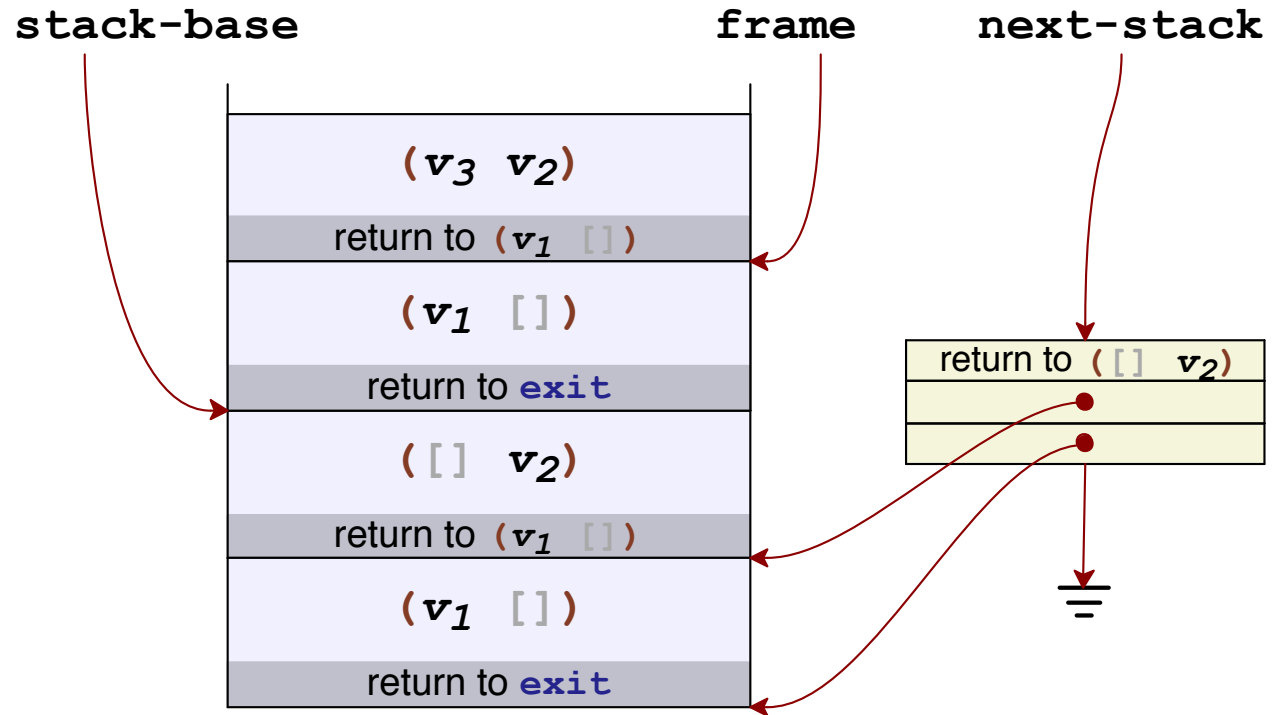
Applying Stack-Based Continuations



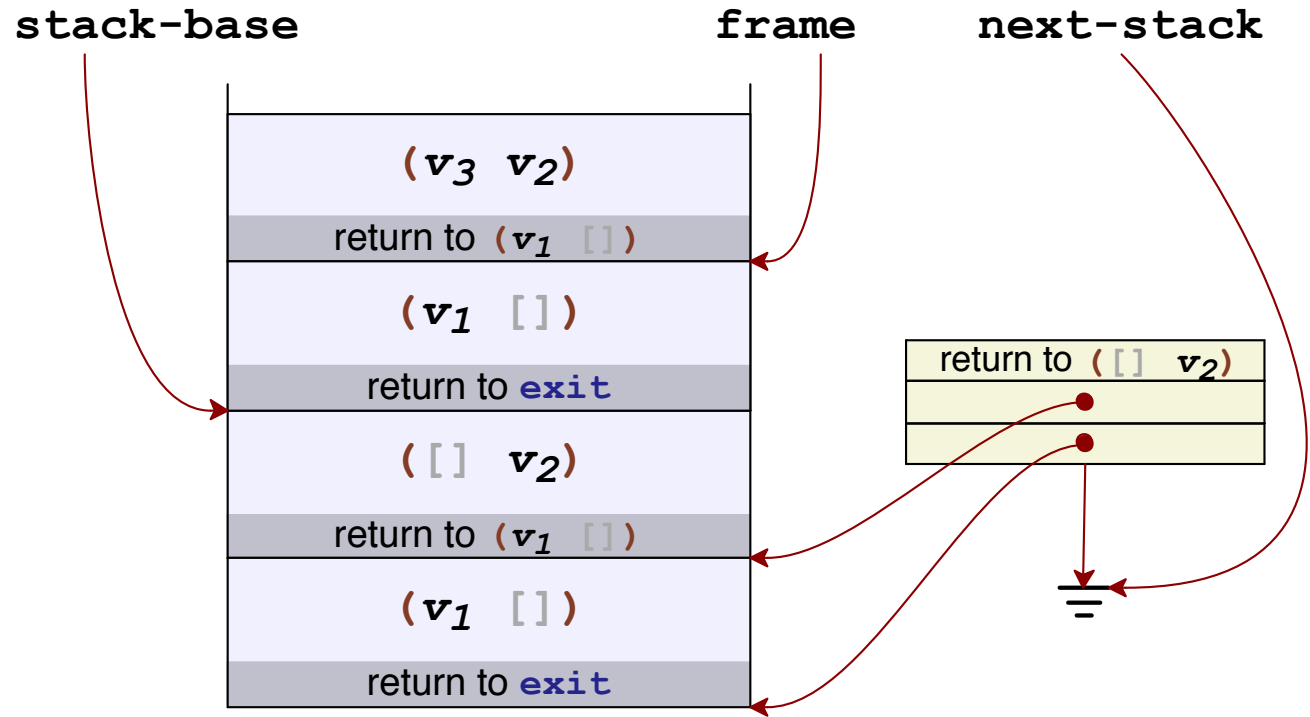
Applying Stack-Based Continuations



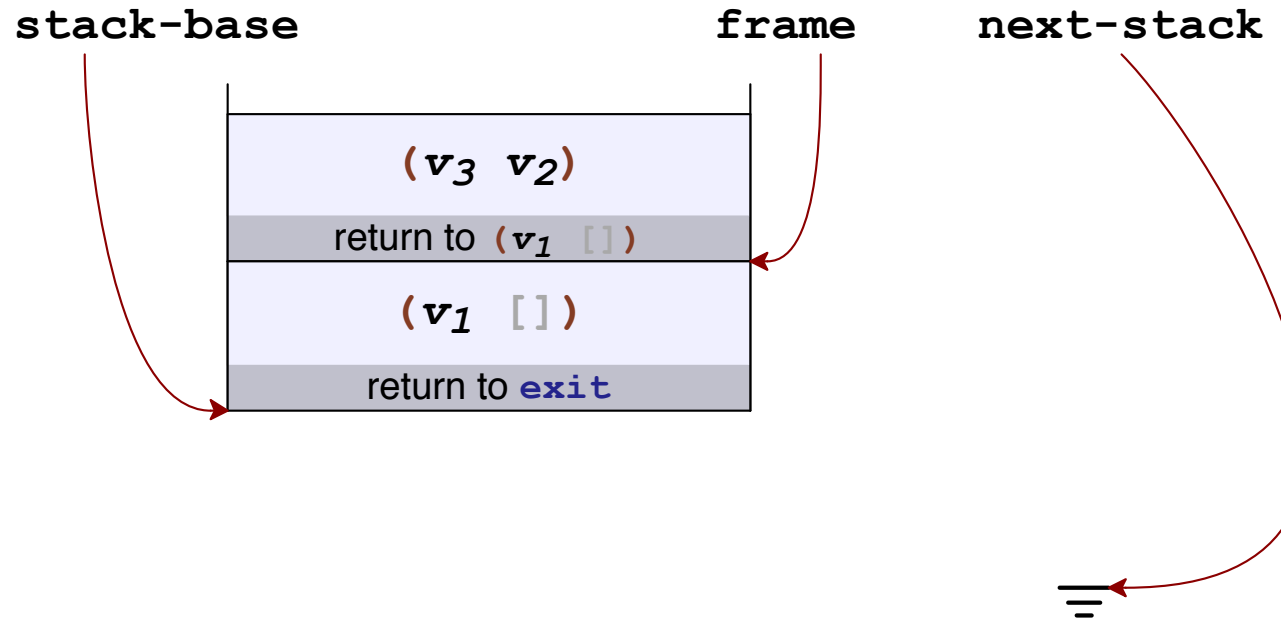
Applying Stack-Based Continuations



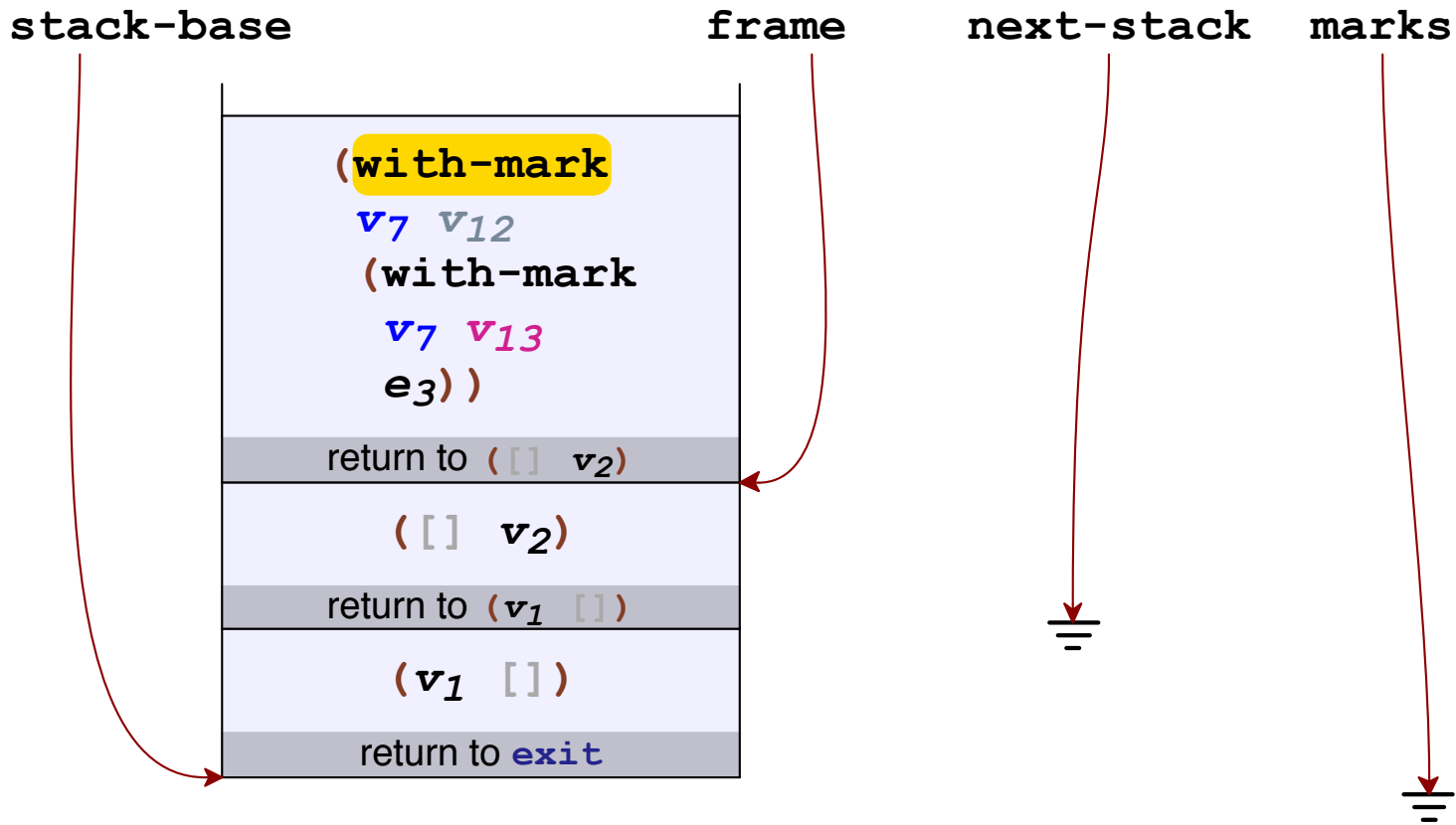
Applying Stack-Based Continuations



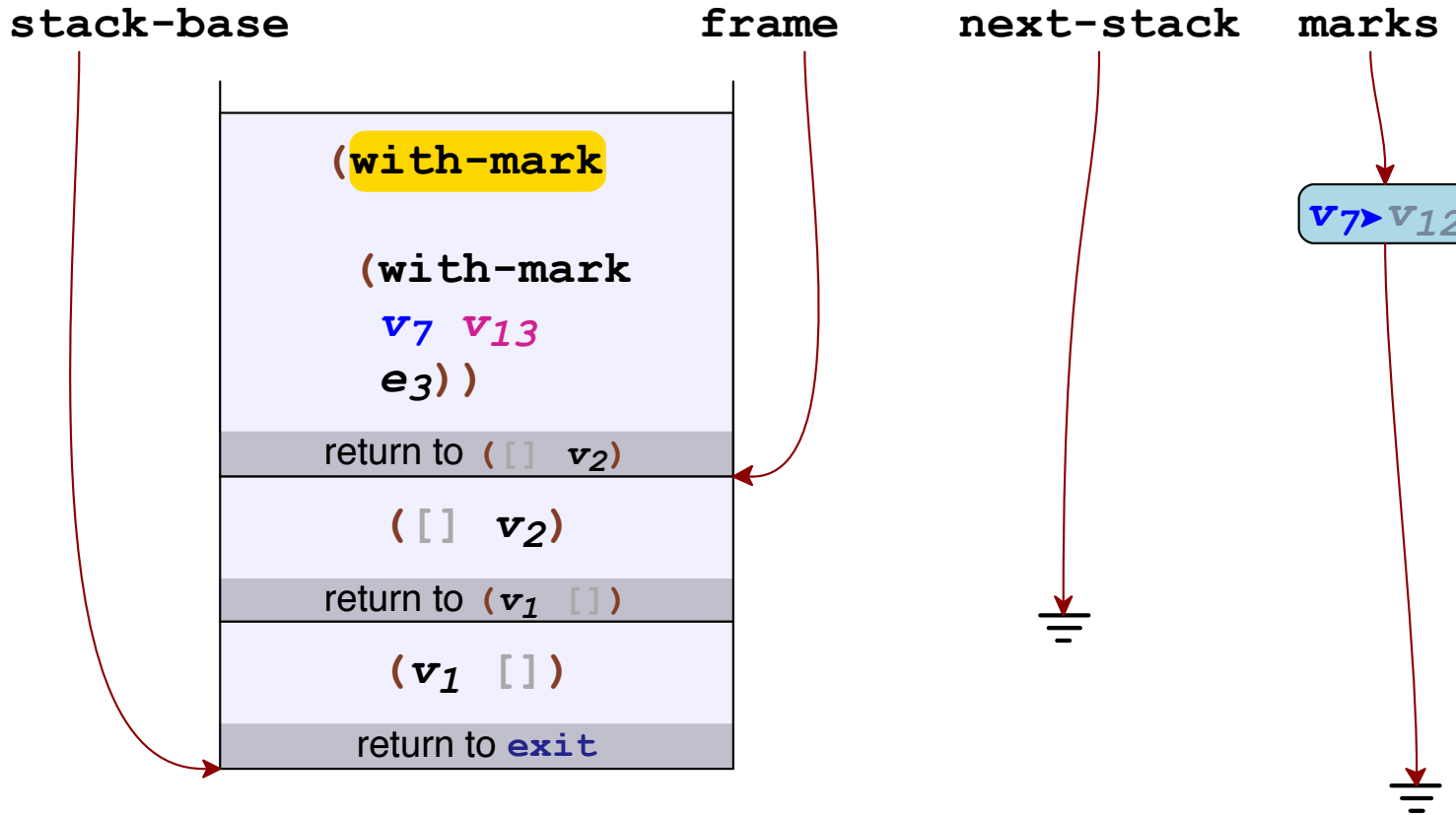
Applying Stack-Based Continuations



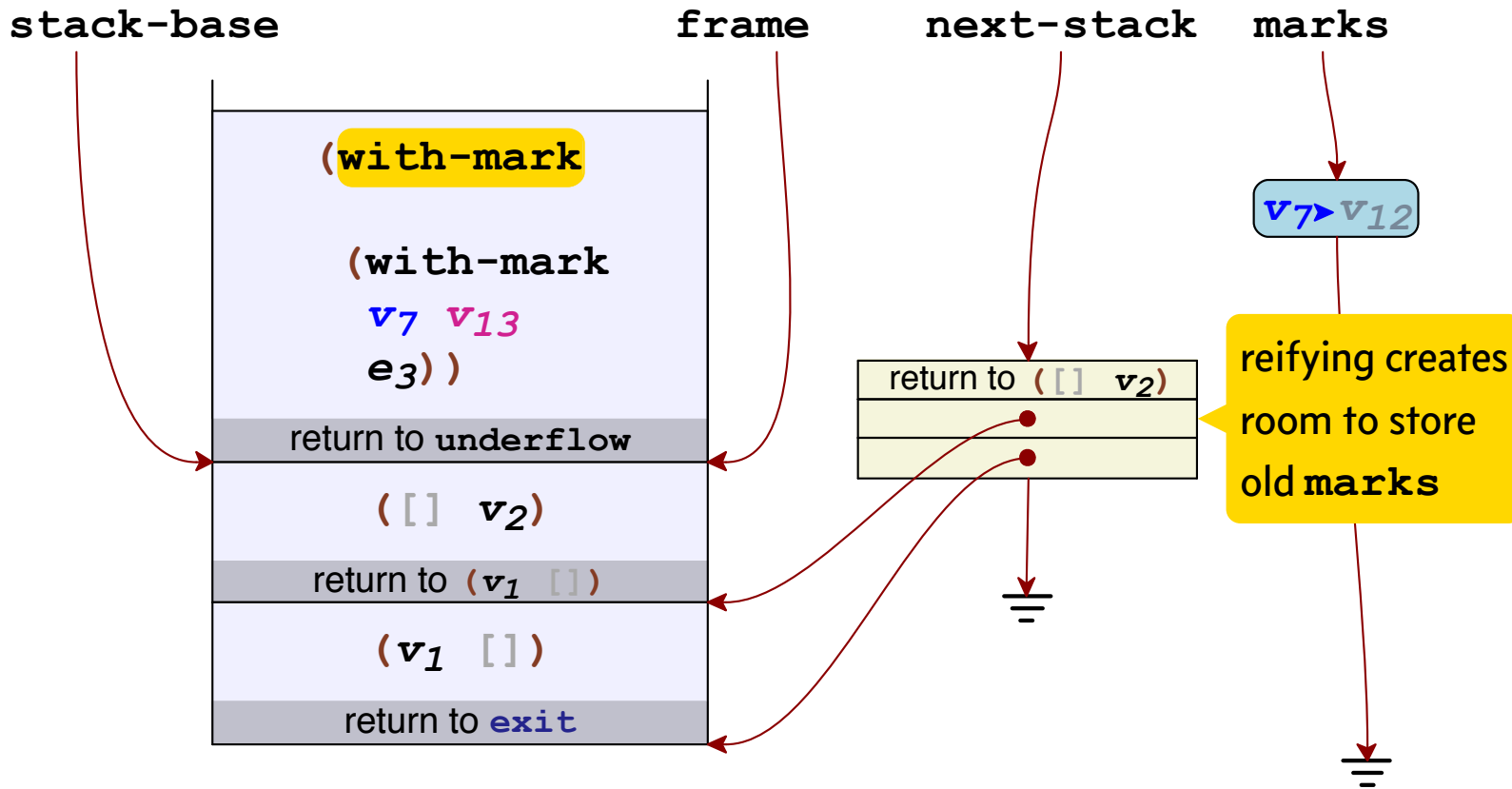
Setting Continuation Marks



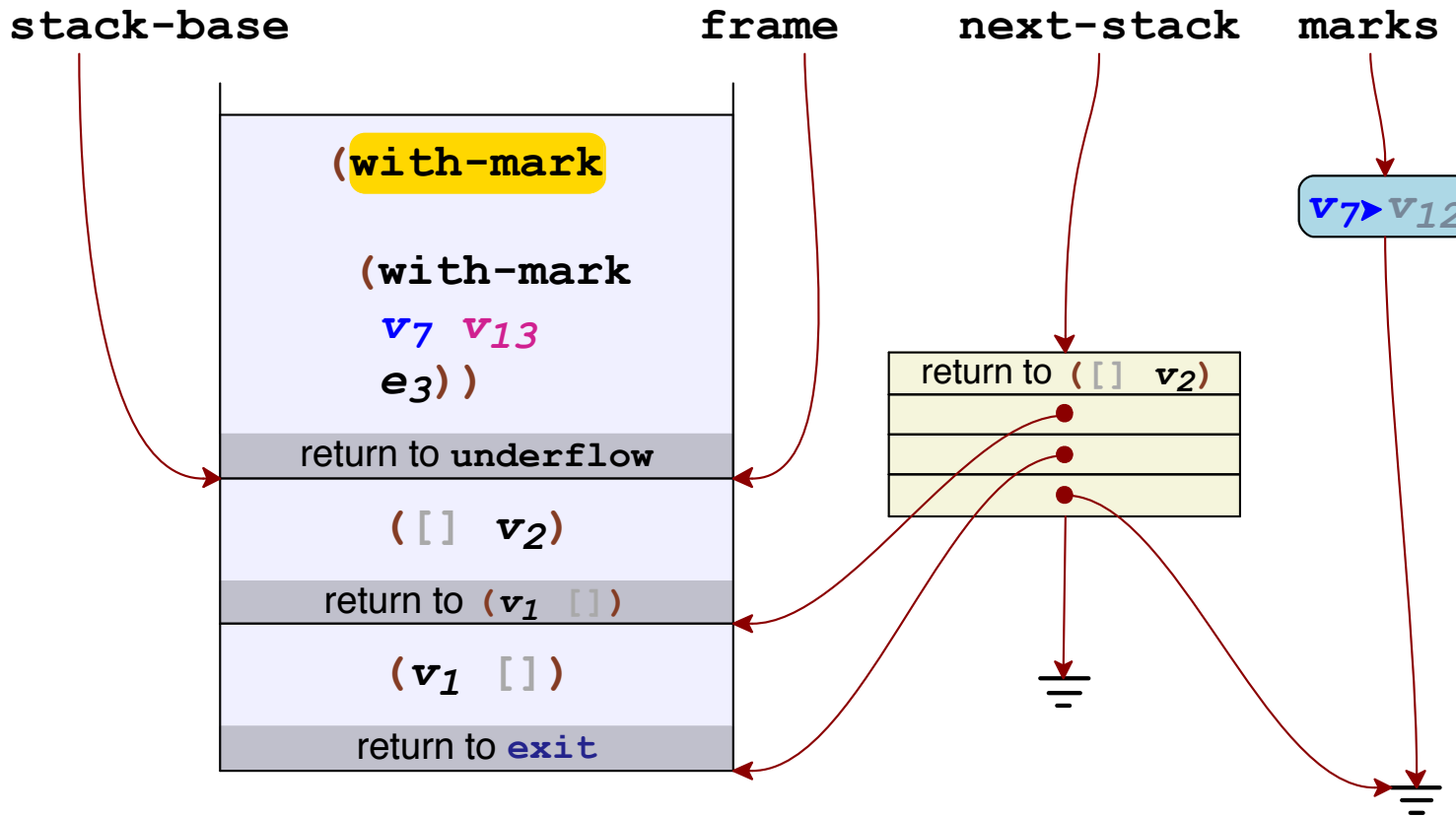
Setting Continuation Marks



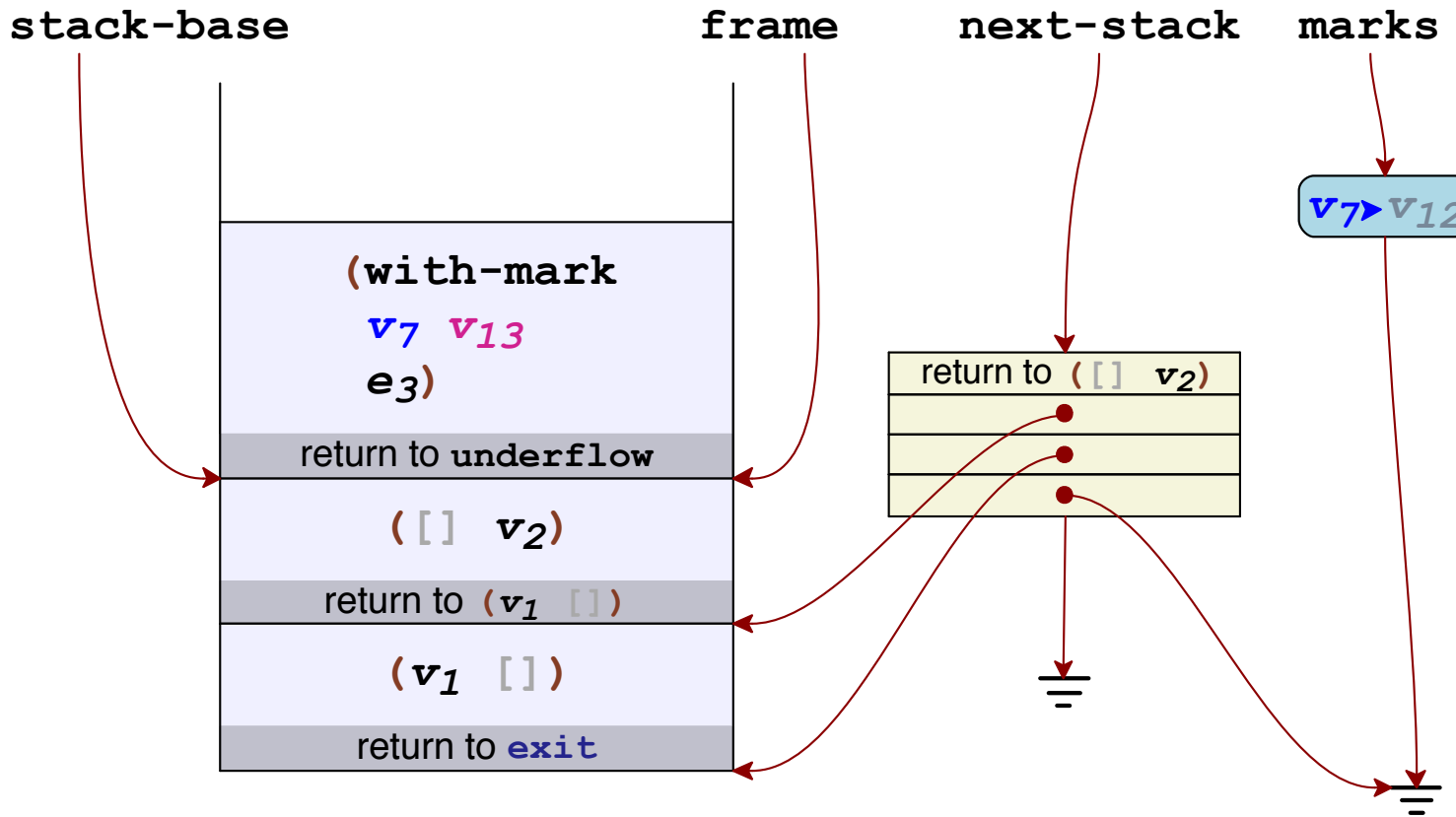
Setting Continuation Marks



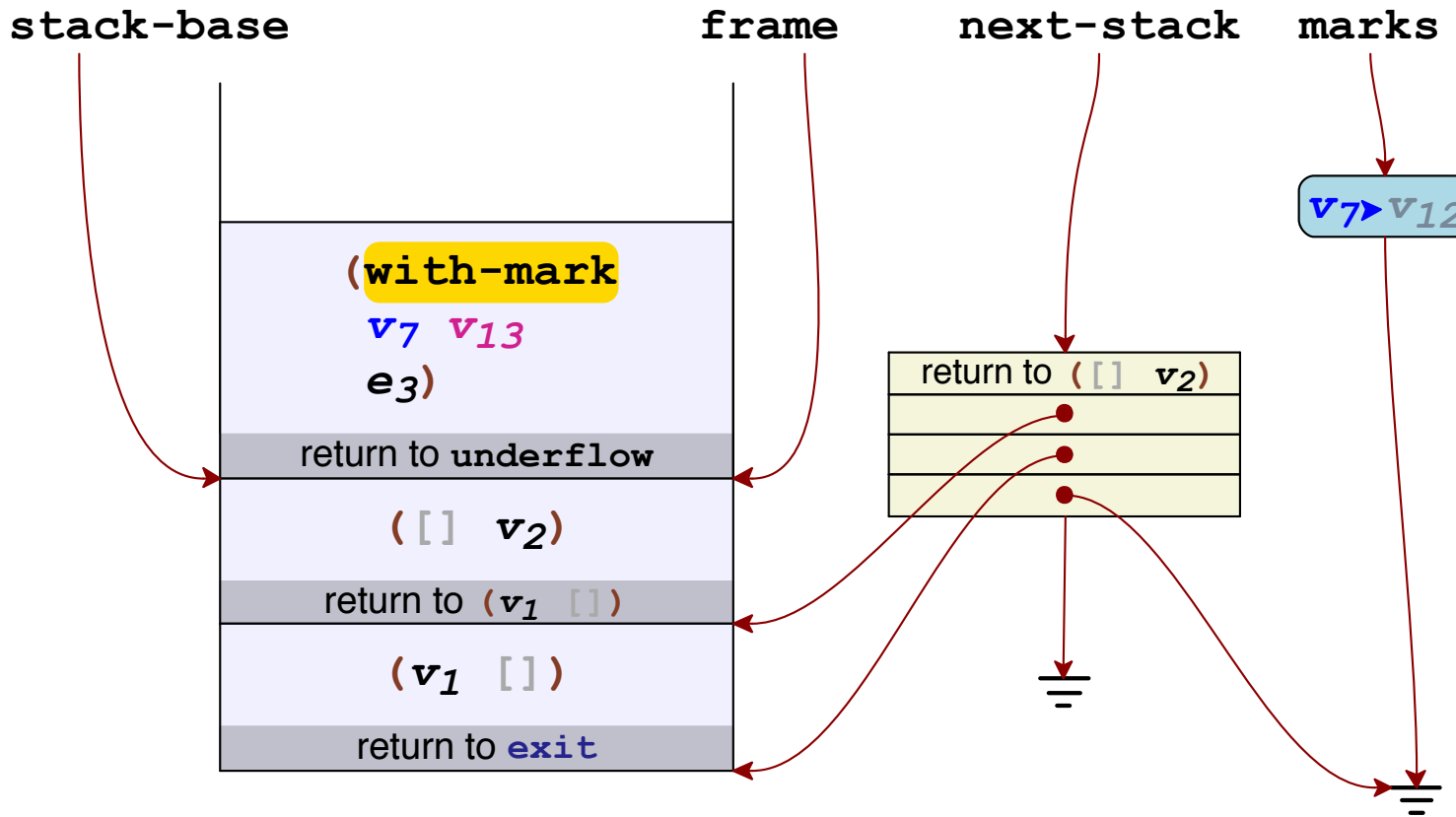
Setting Continuation Marks



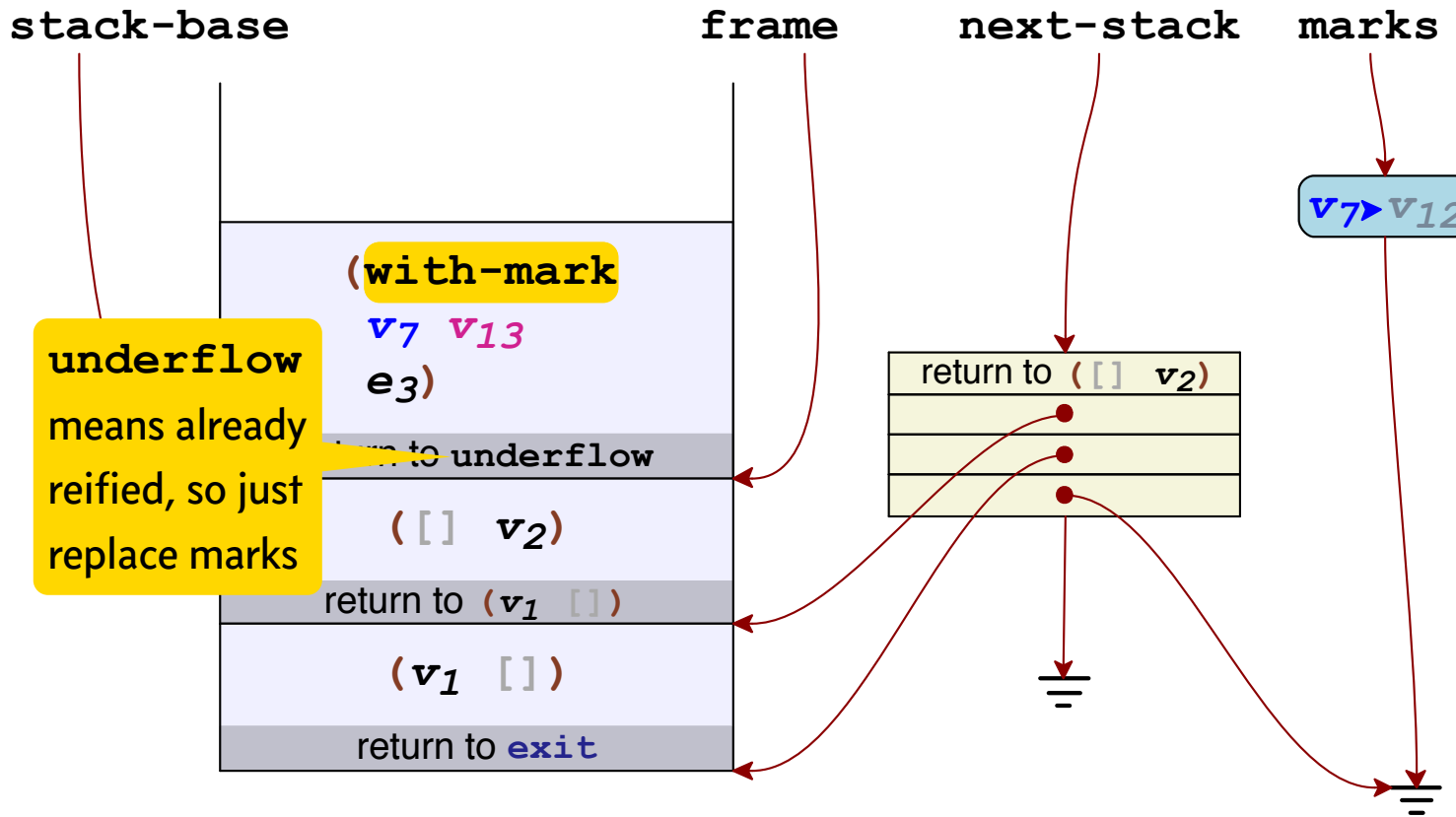
Setting Continuation Marks



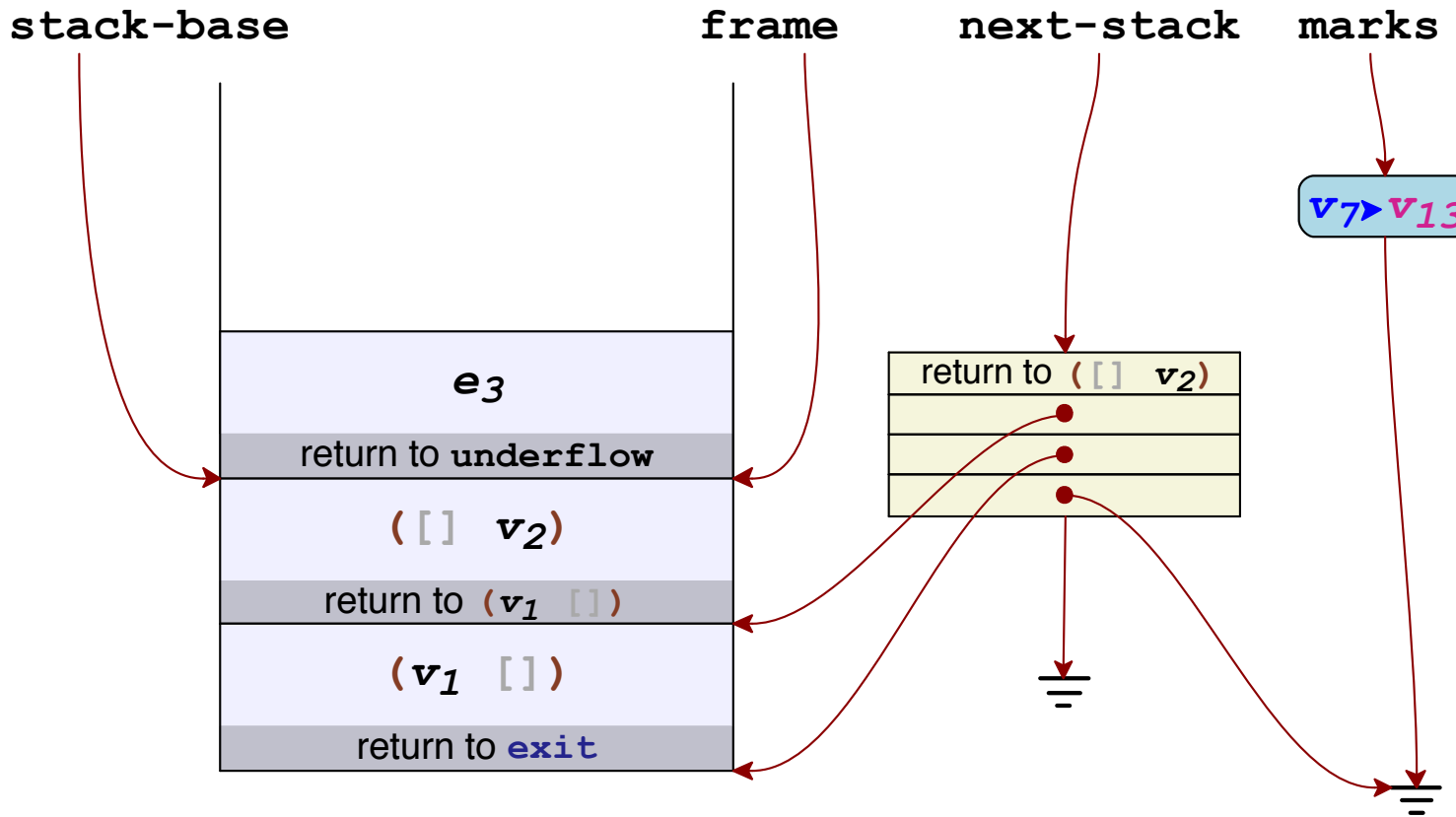
Setting Continuation Marks



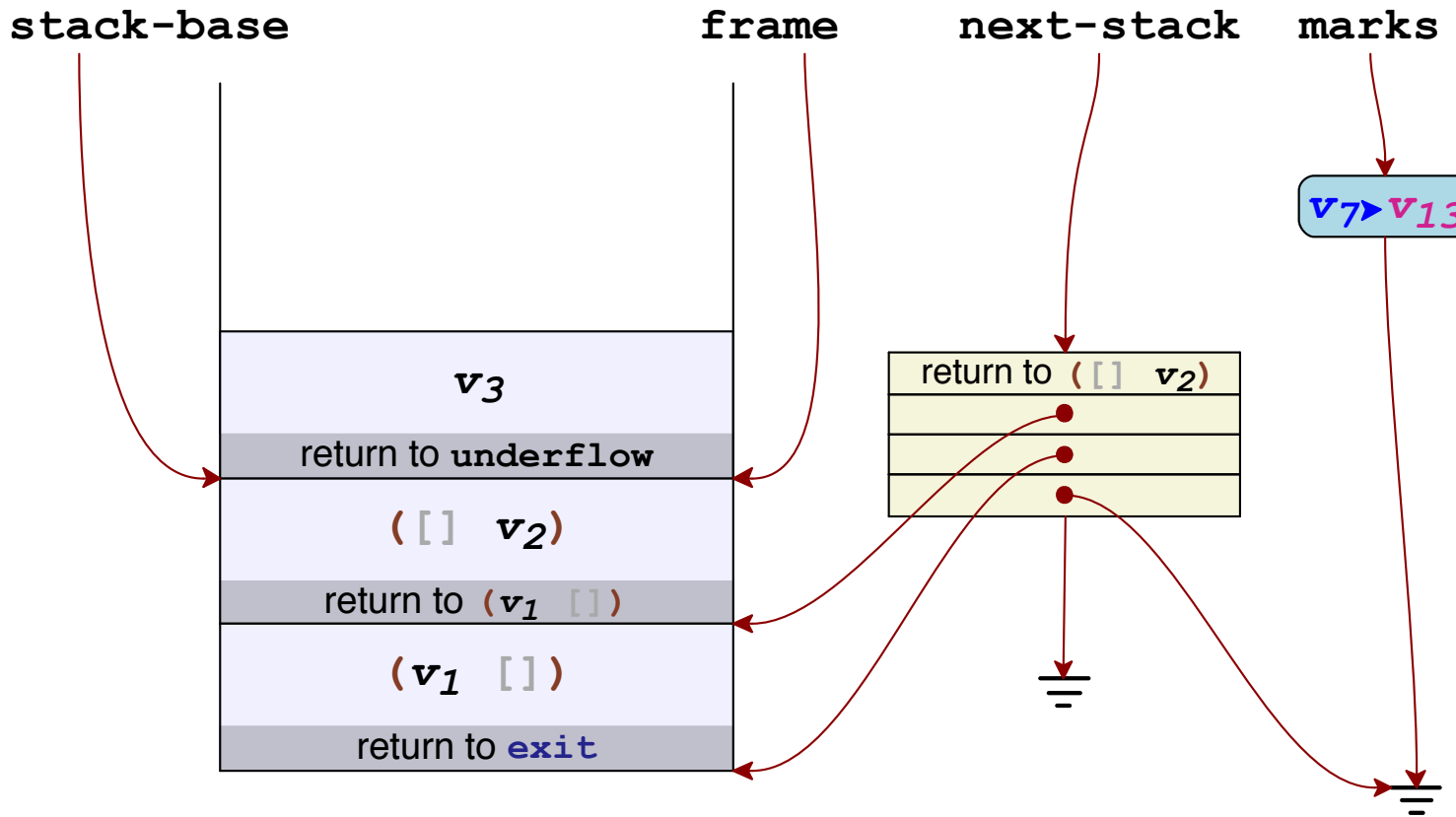
Setting Continuation Marks



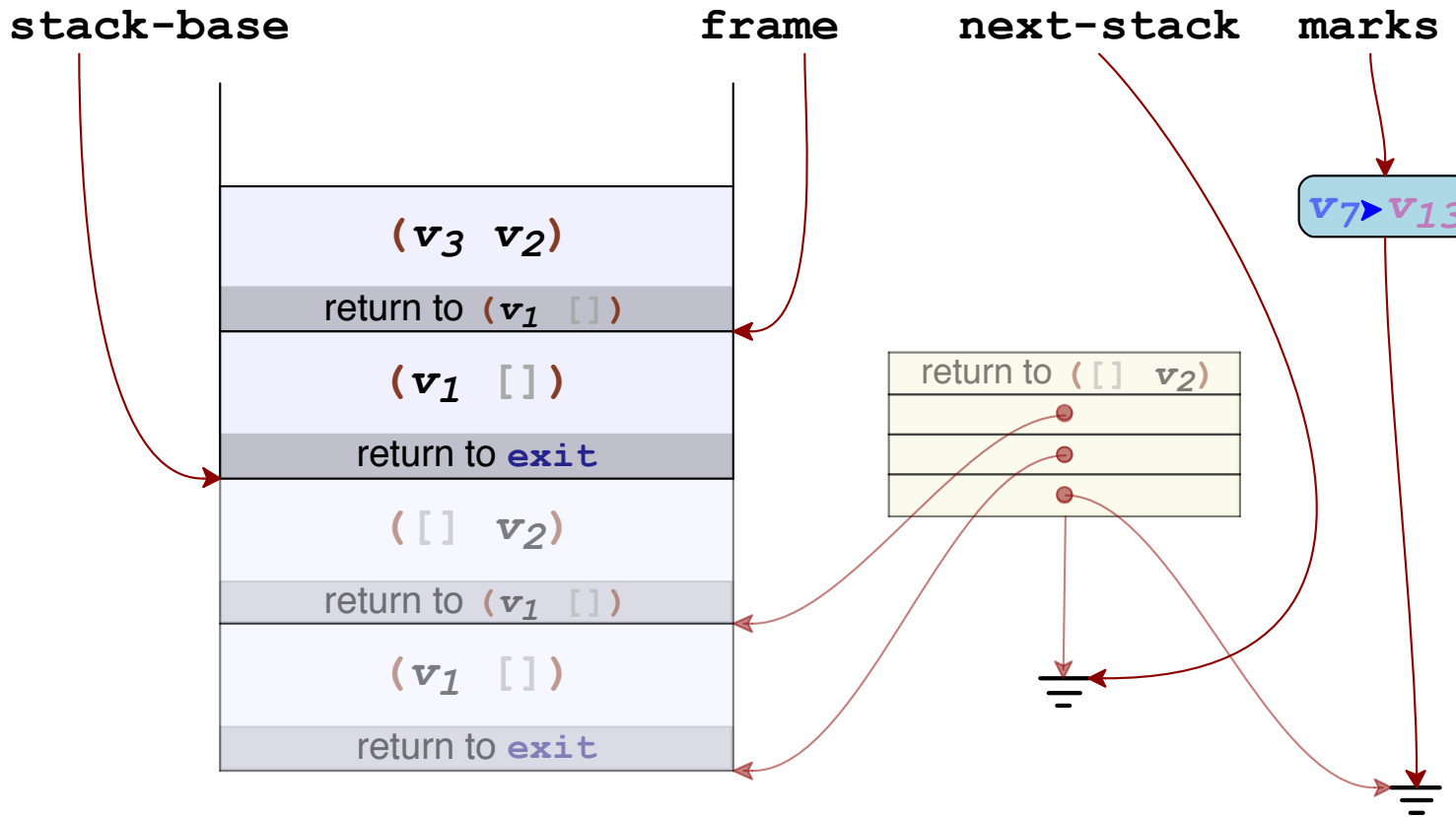
Setting Continuation Marks



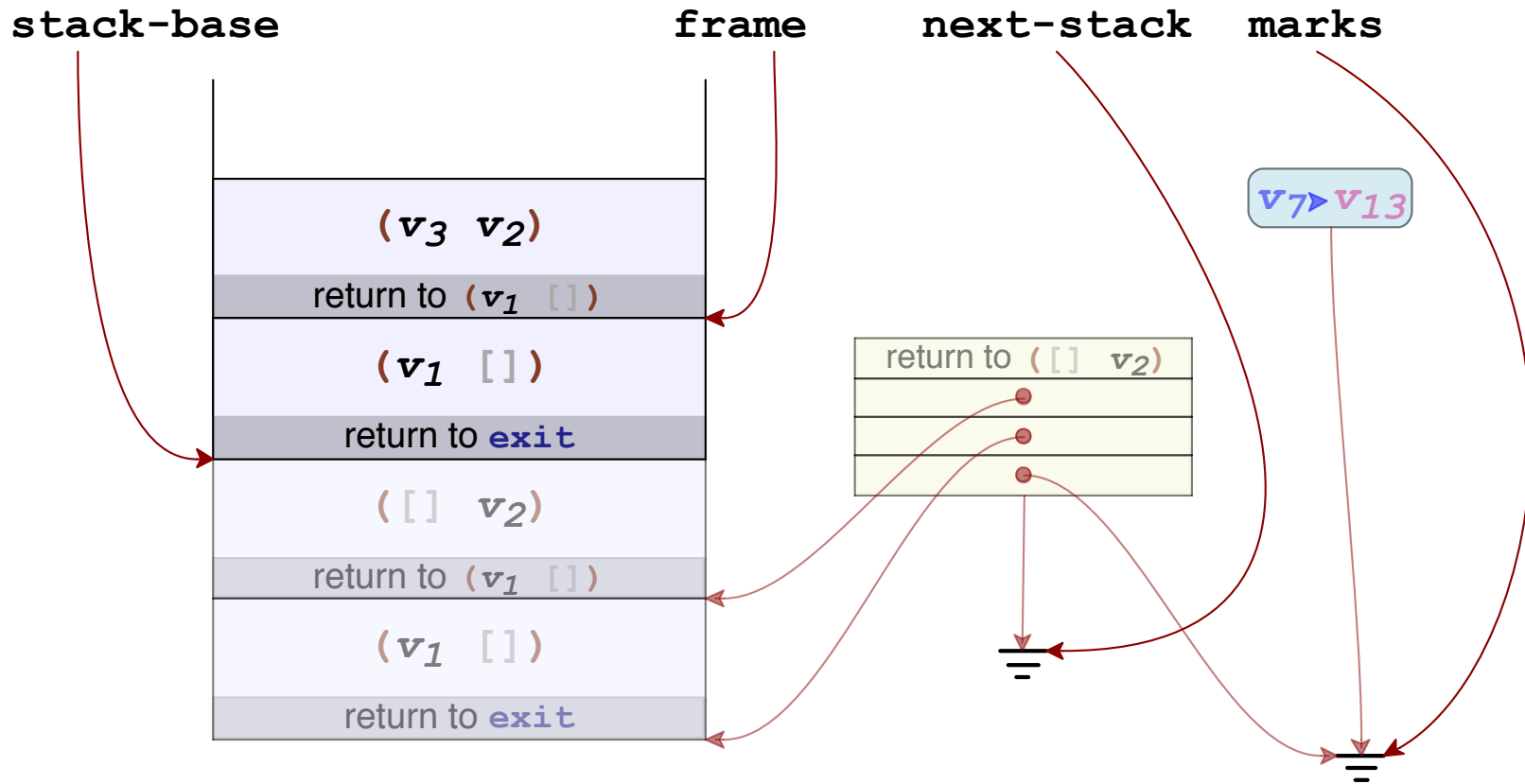
Setting Continuation Marks



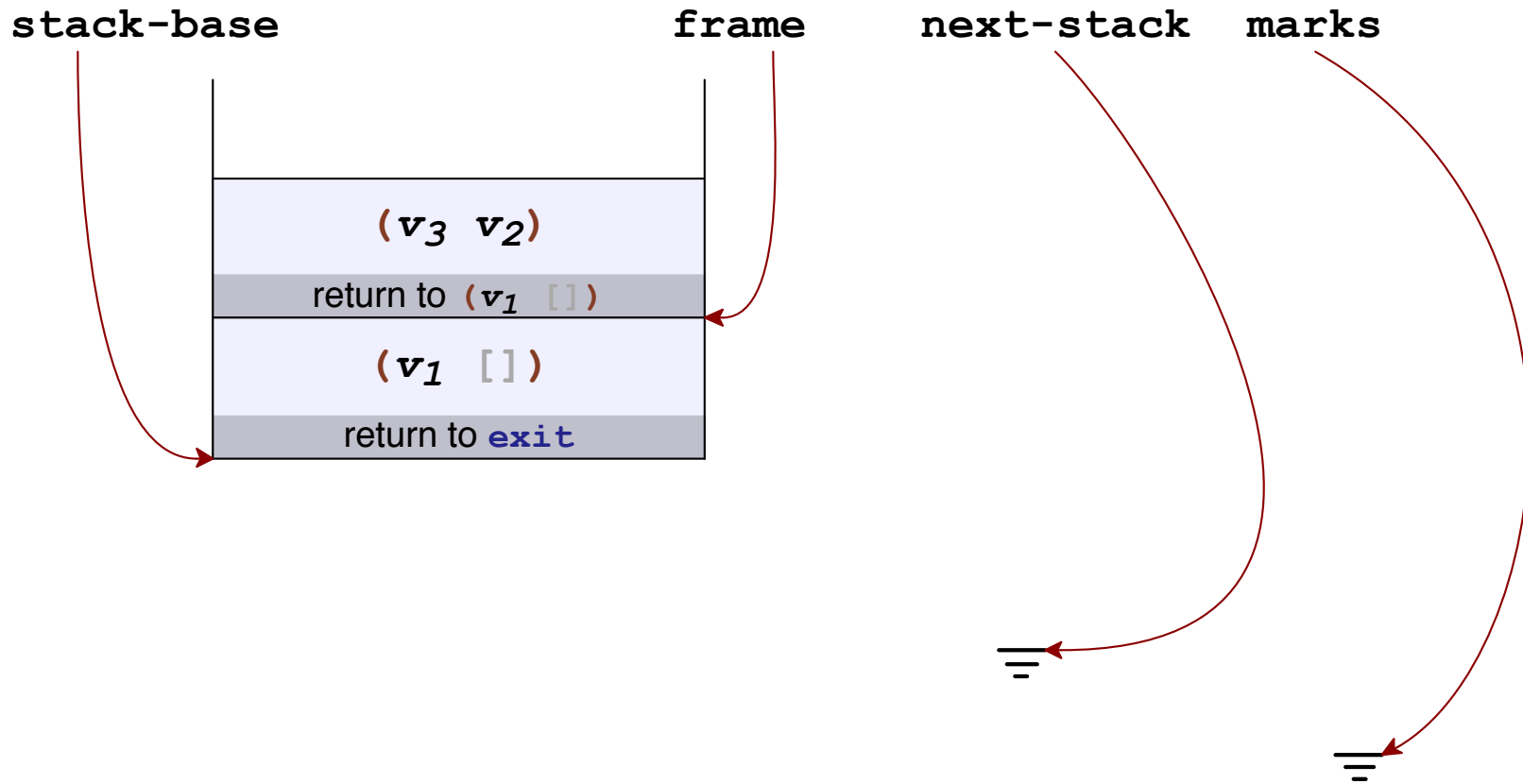
Removing Continuation Marks



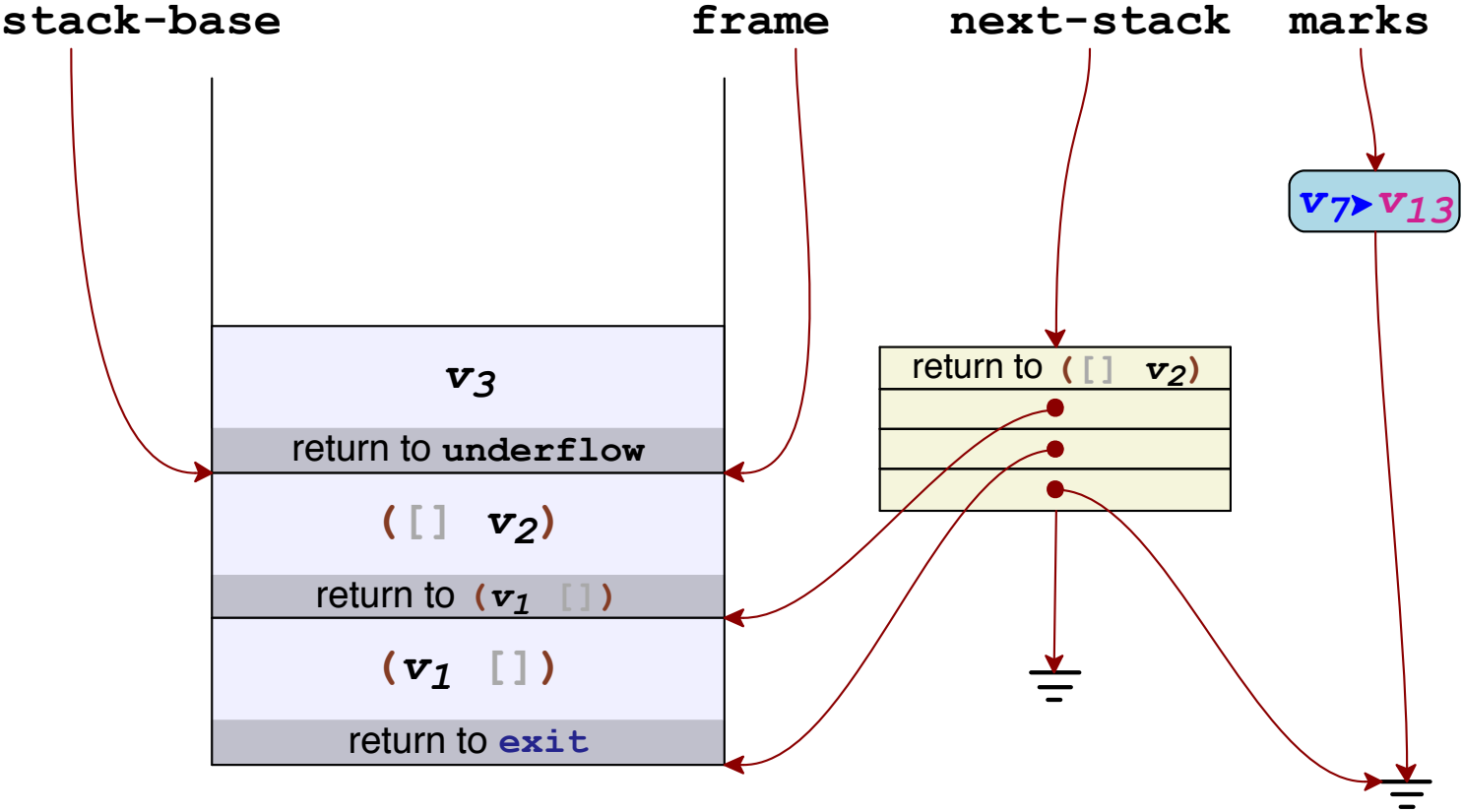
Removing Continuation Marks



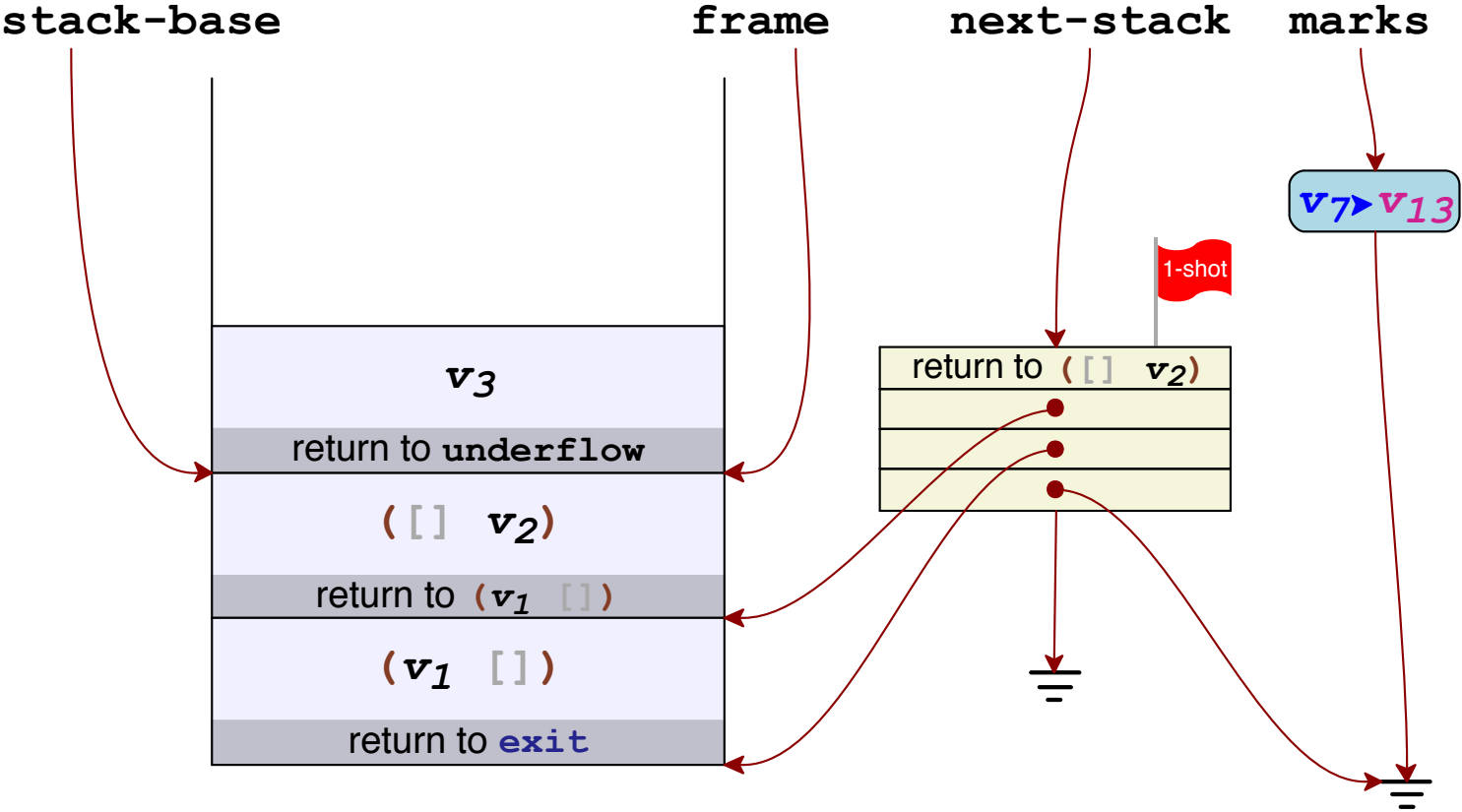
Removing Continuation Marks



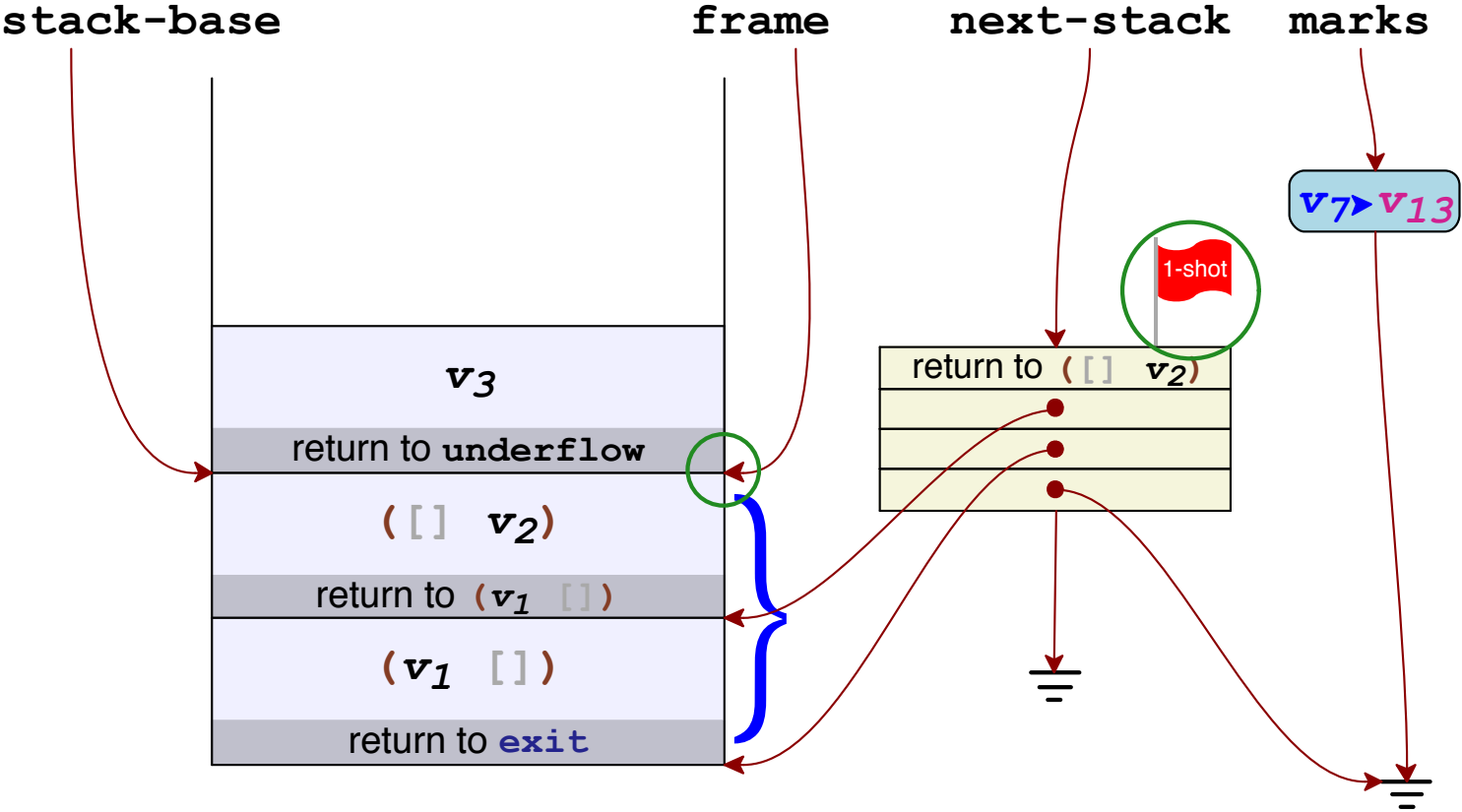
Optimistic One-Shot Continuations



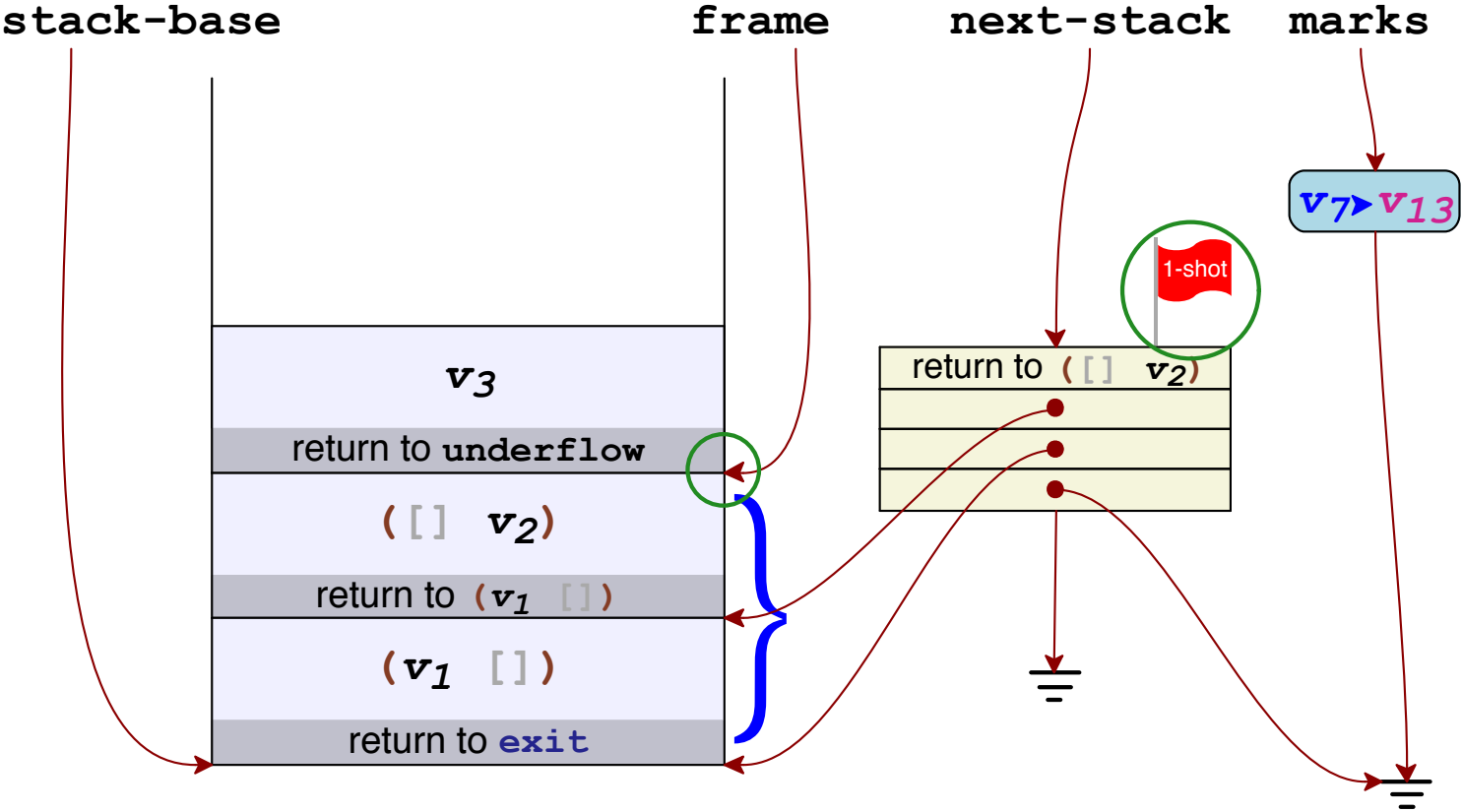
Optimistic One-Shot Continuations



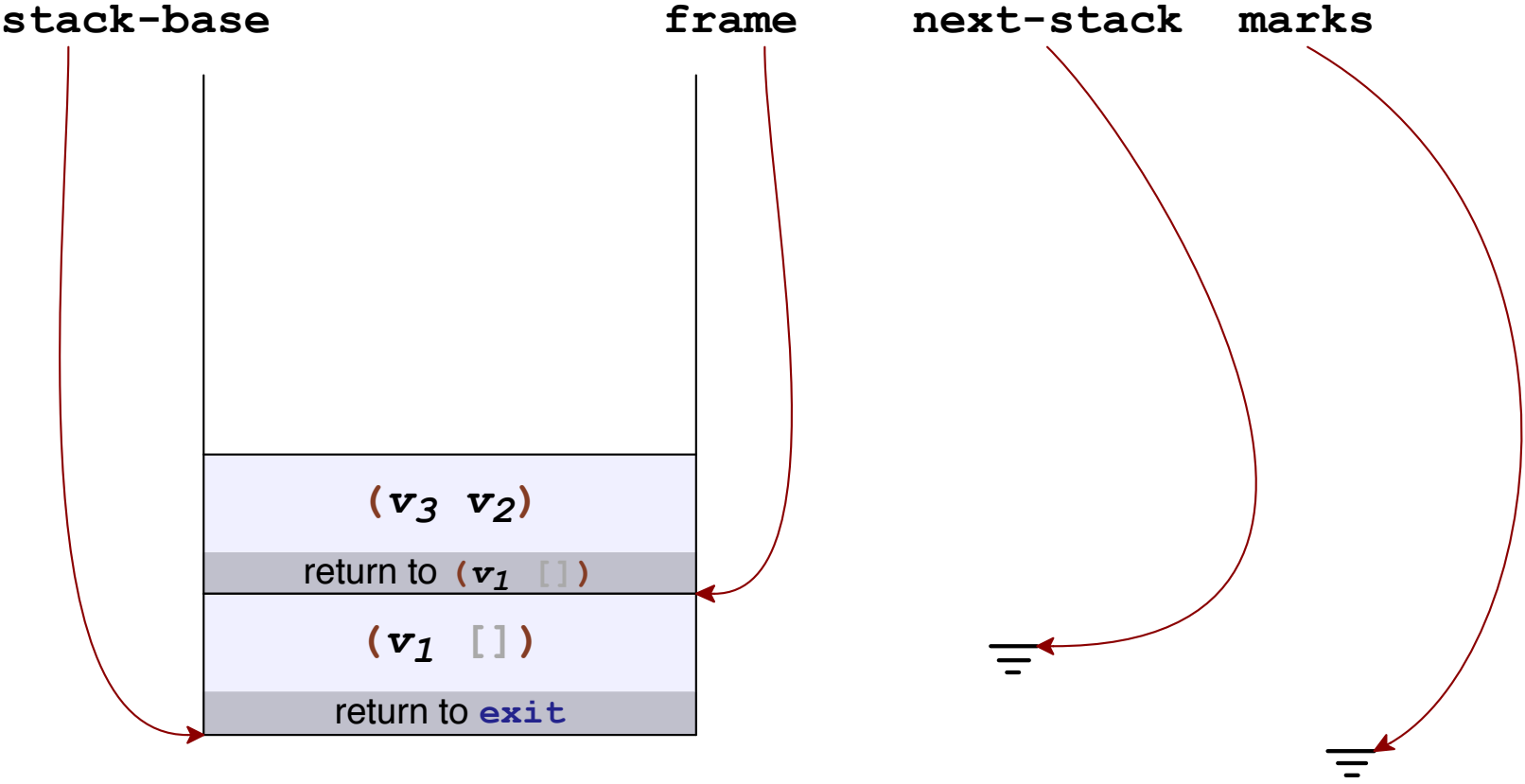
Optimistic One-Shot Continuations



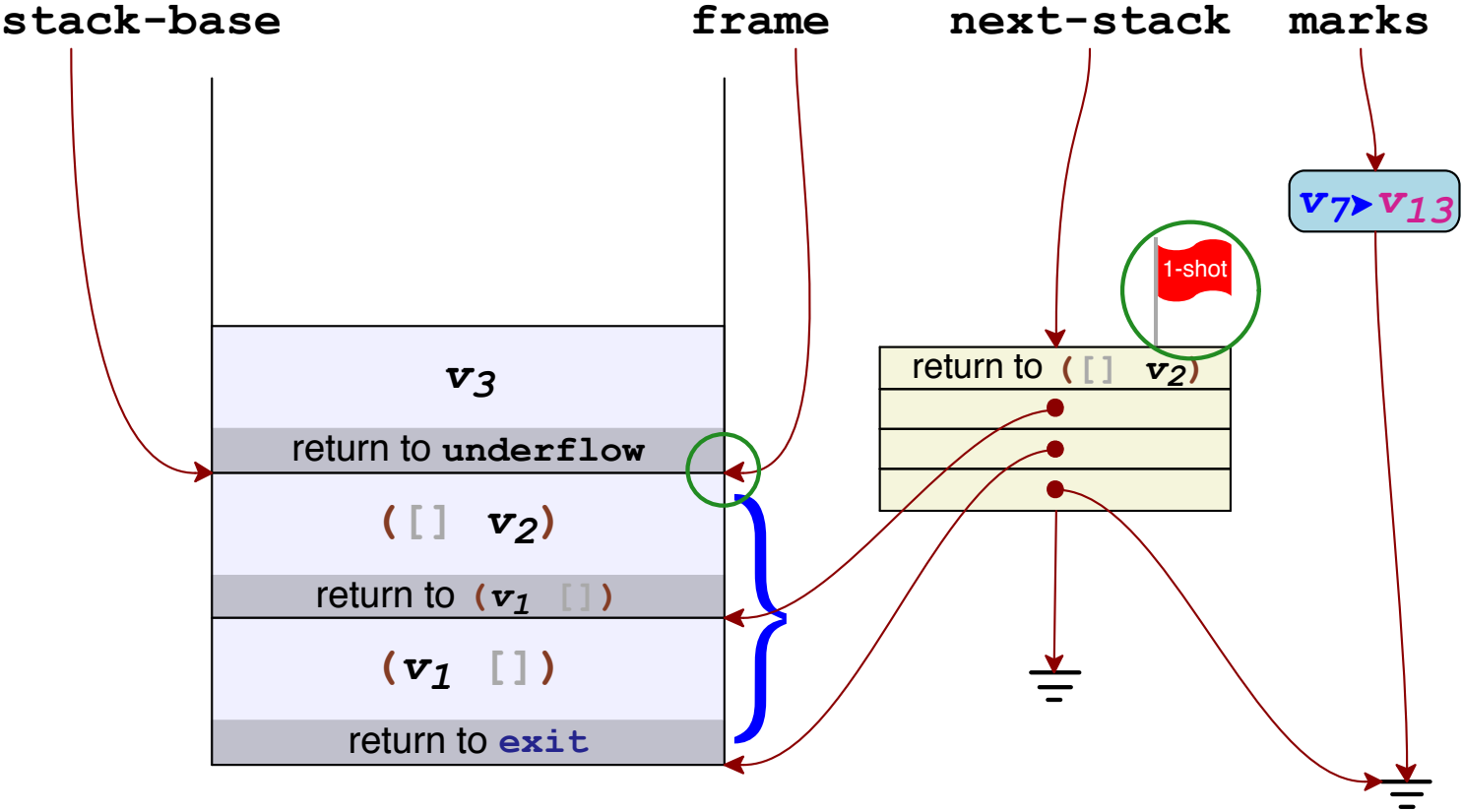
Optimistic One-Shot Continuations



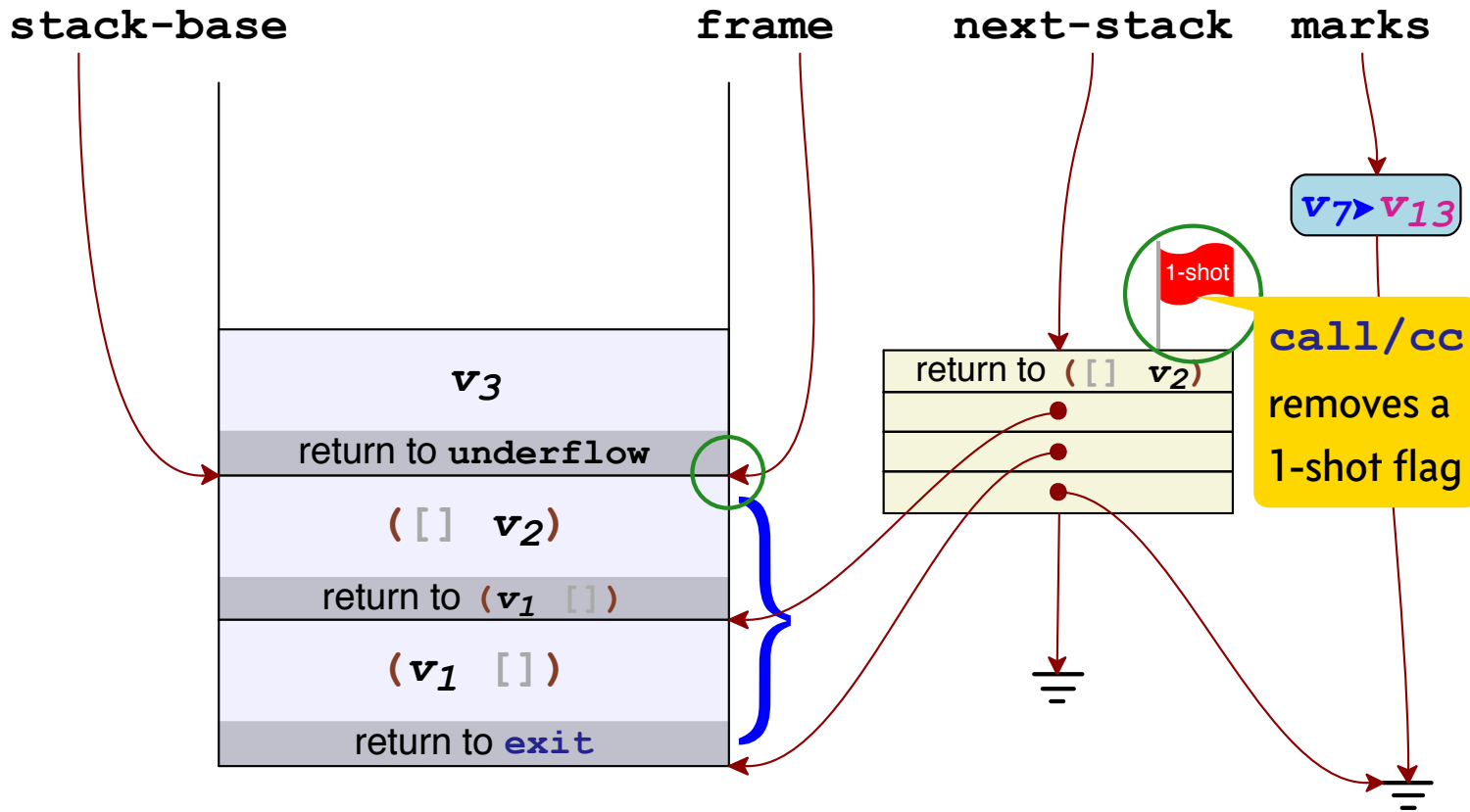
Optimistic One-Shot Continuations



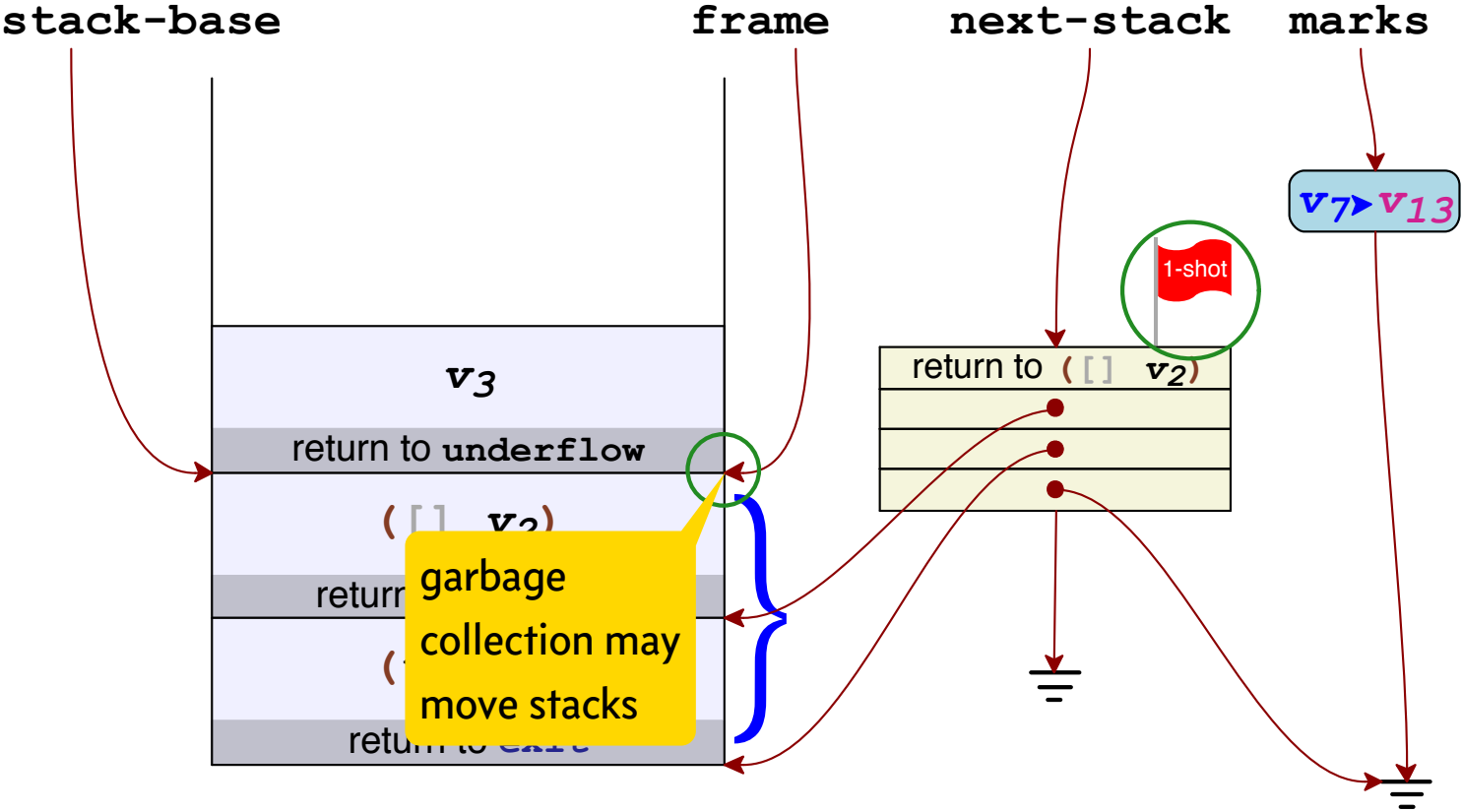
Optimistic One-Shot Continuations



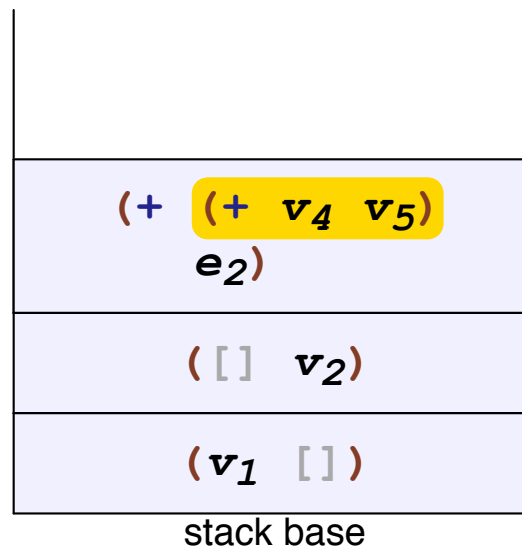
Optimistic One-Shot Continuations



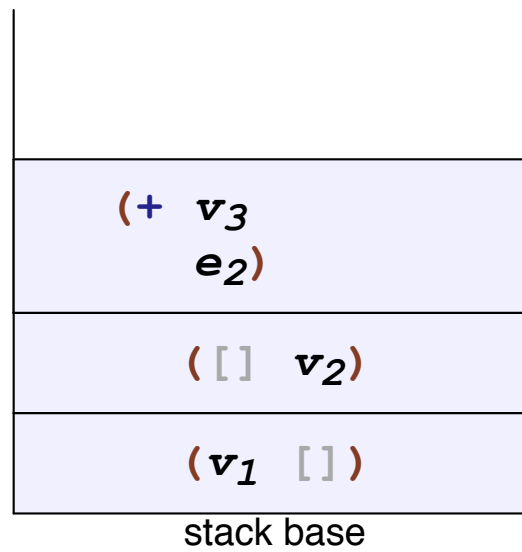
Optimistic One-Shot Continuations



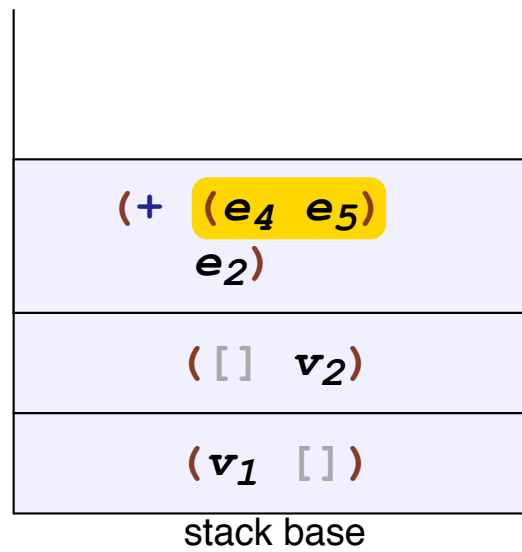
Optimization for Primitives: Don't Create Frame



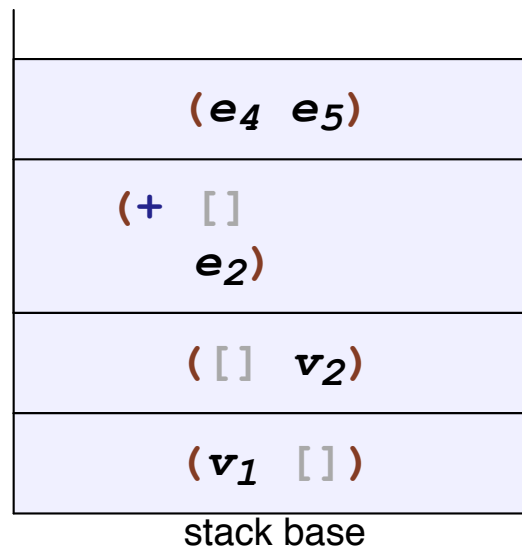
Optimization for Primitives: Don't Create Frame



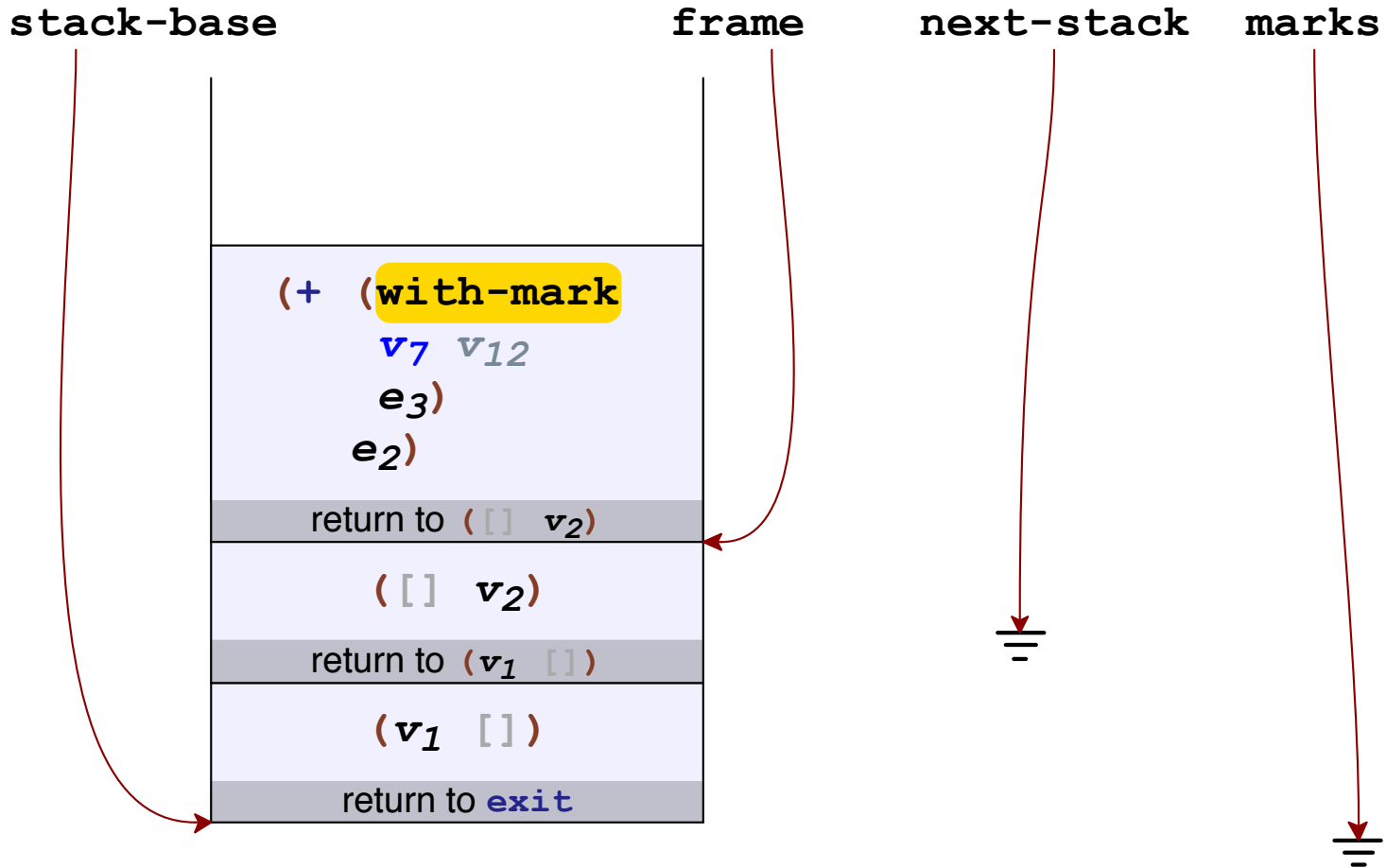
Create Frame for Nested Call



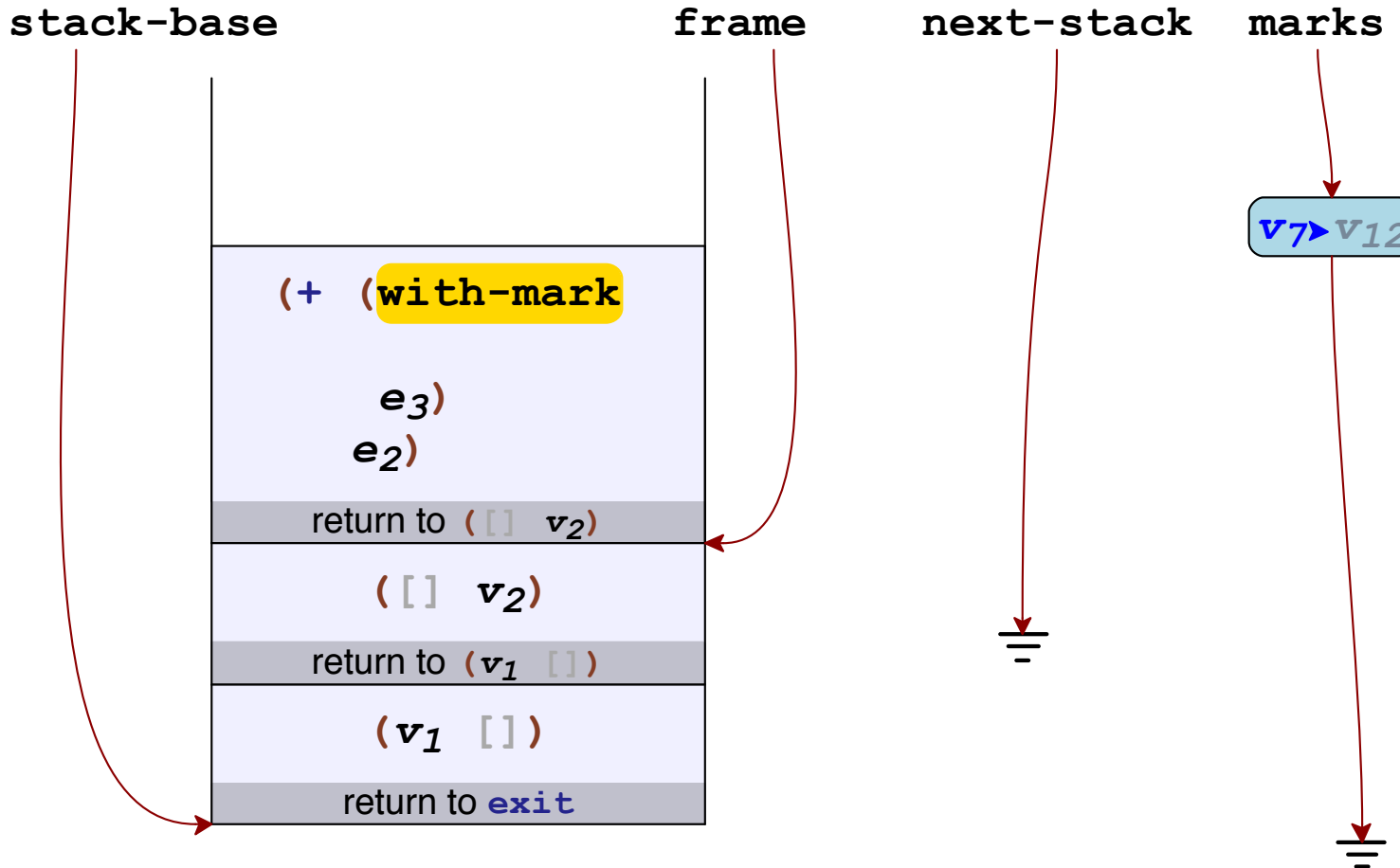
Create Frame for Nested Call



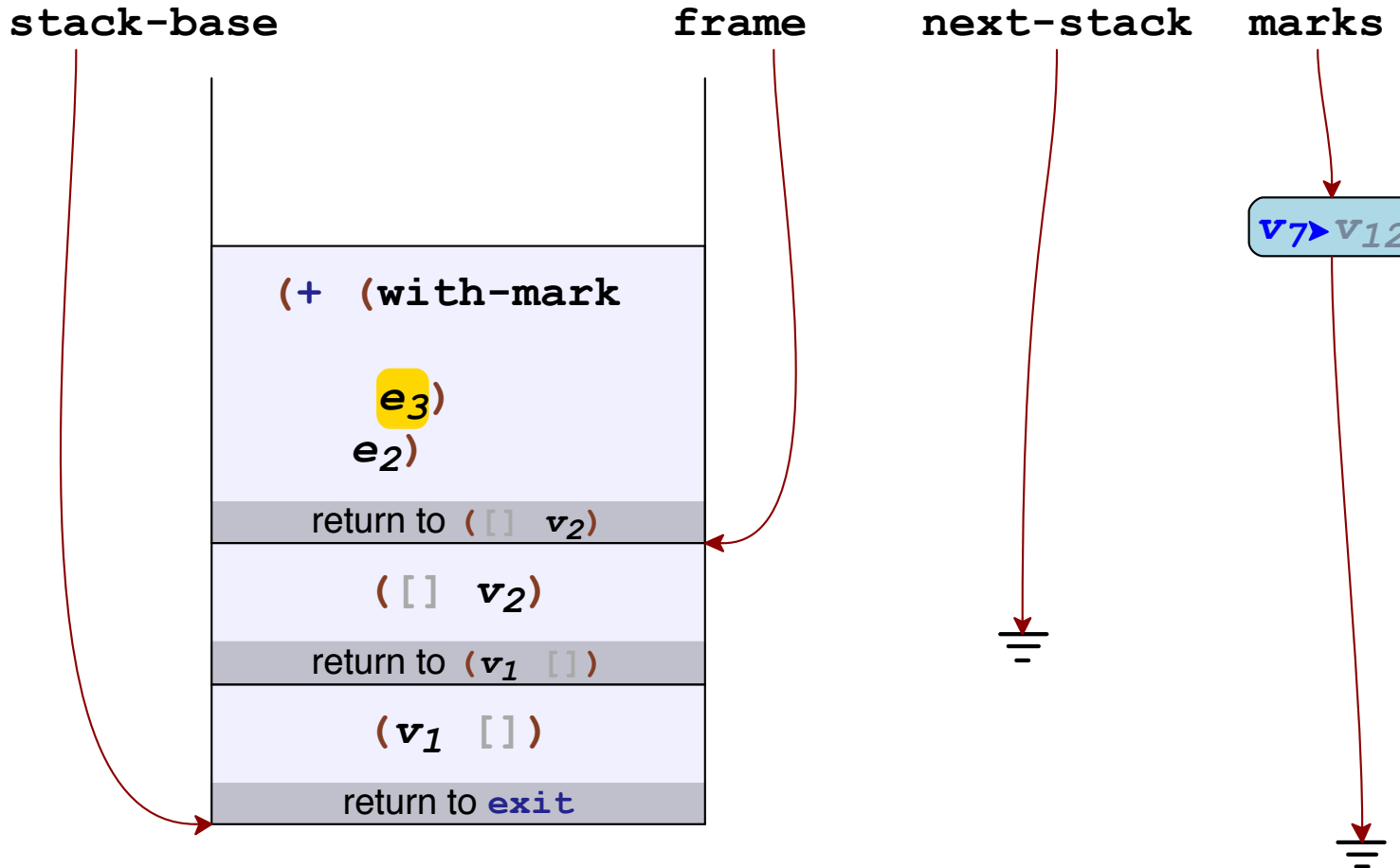
Optimization for Non-Tail Marking



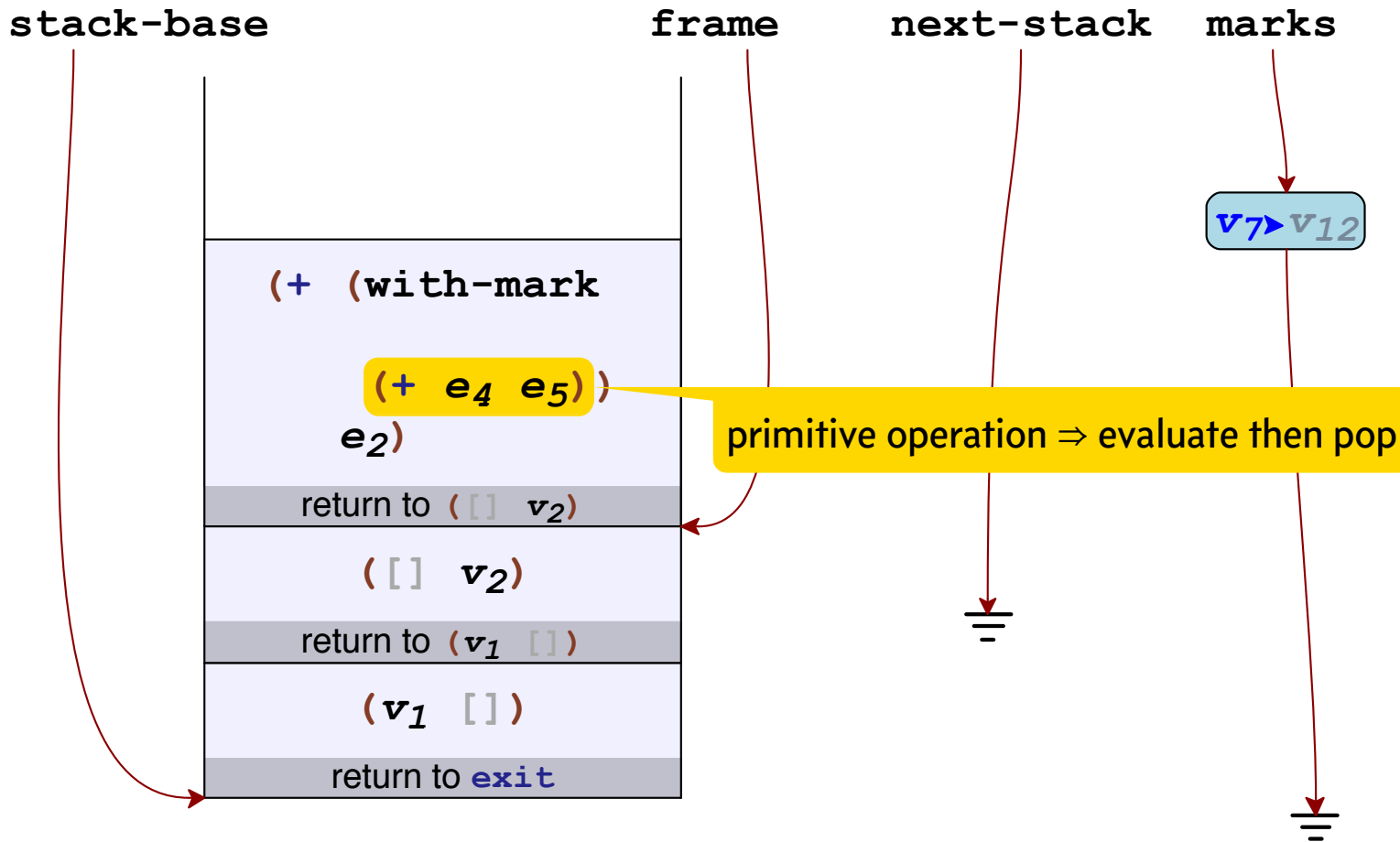
Optimization for Non-Tail Marking



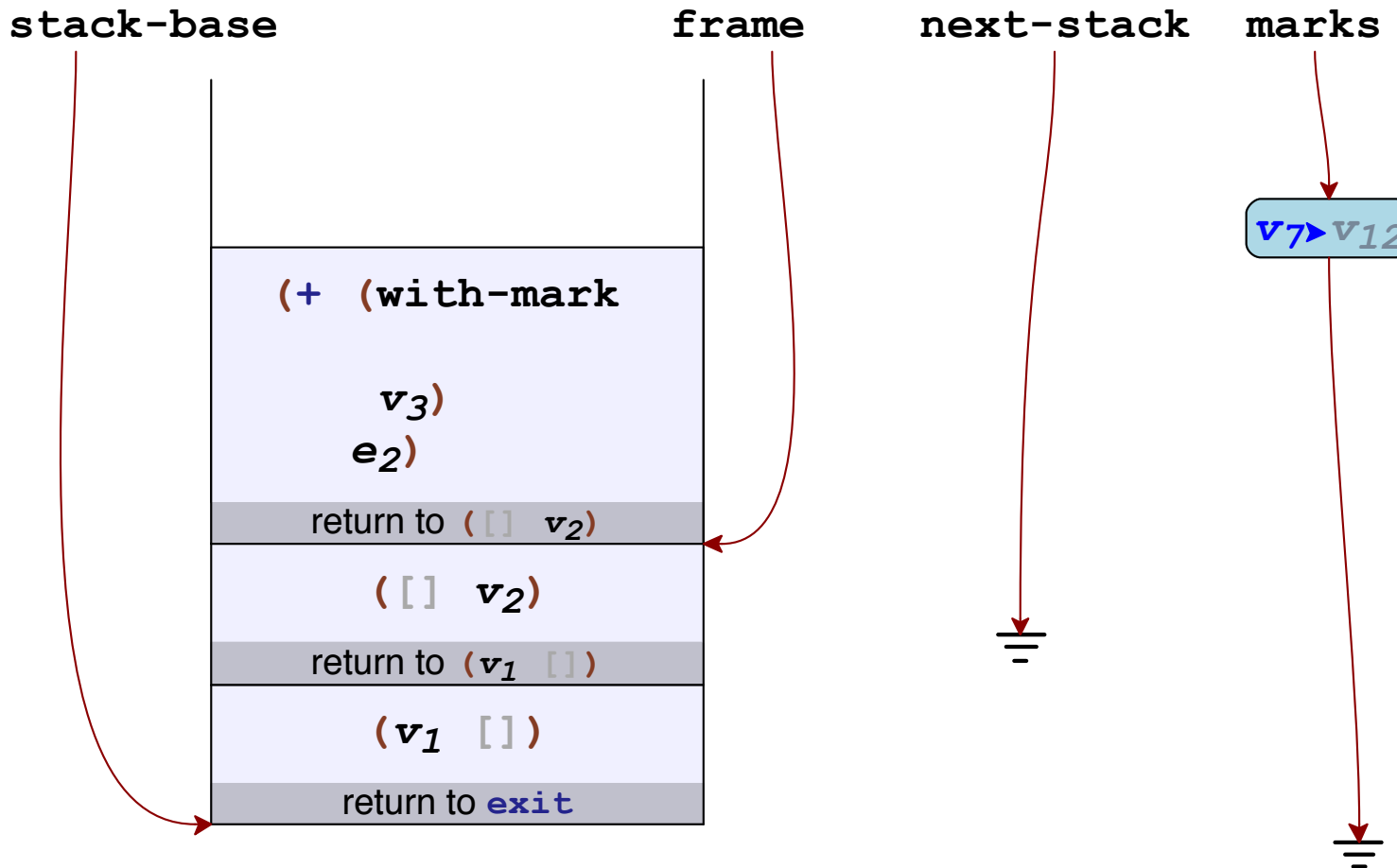
Optimization for Non-Tail Marking



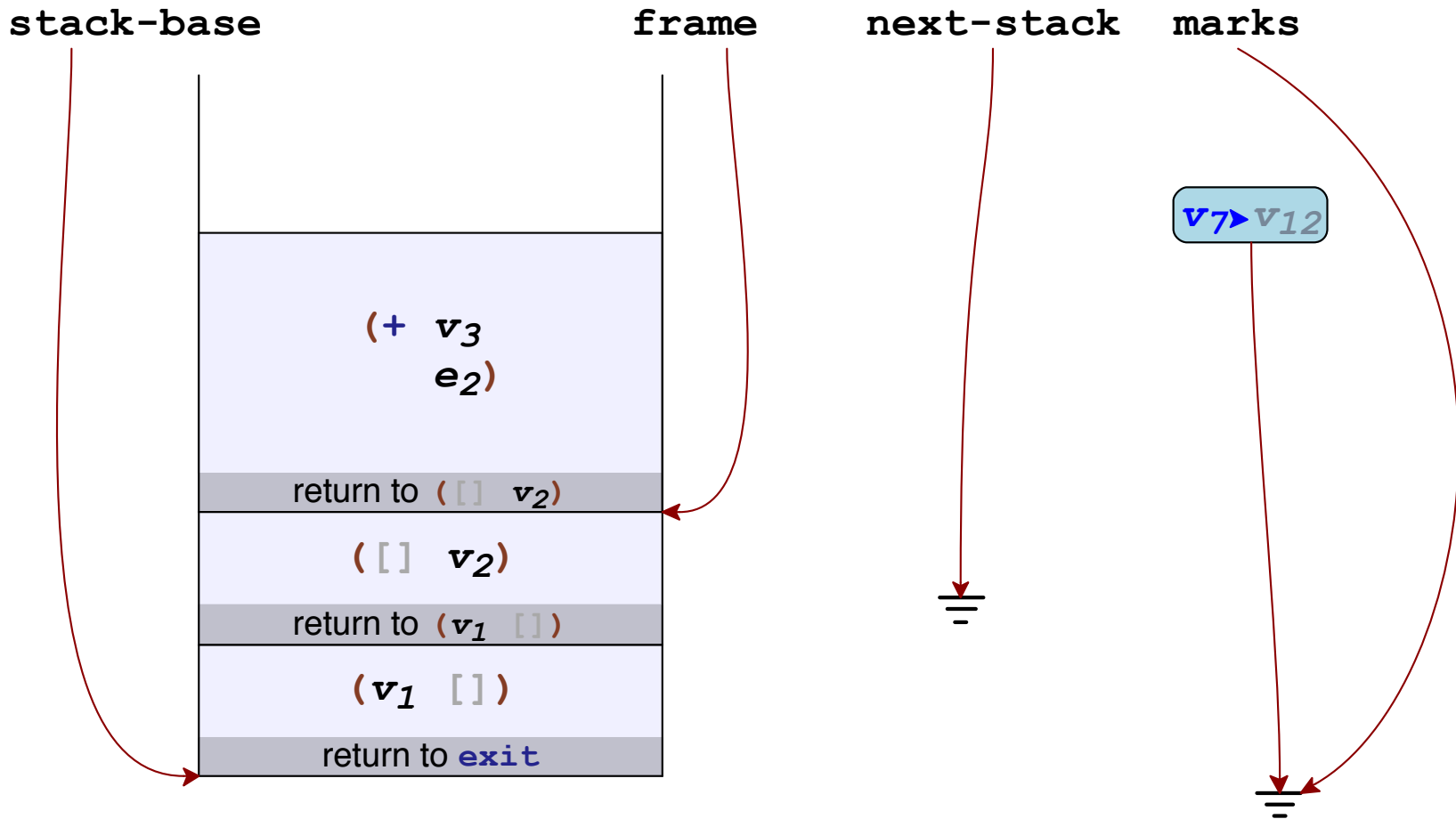
Non-Tail Marking with Primitive Operation



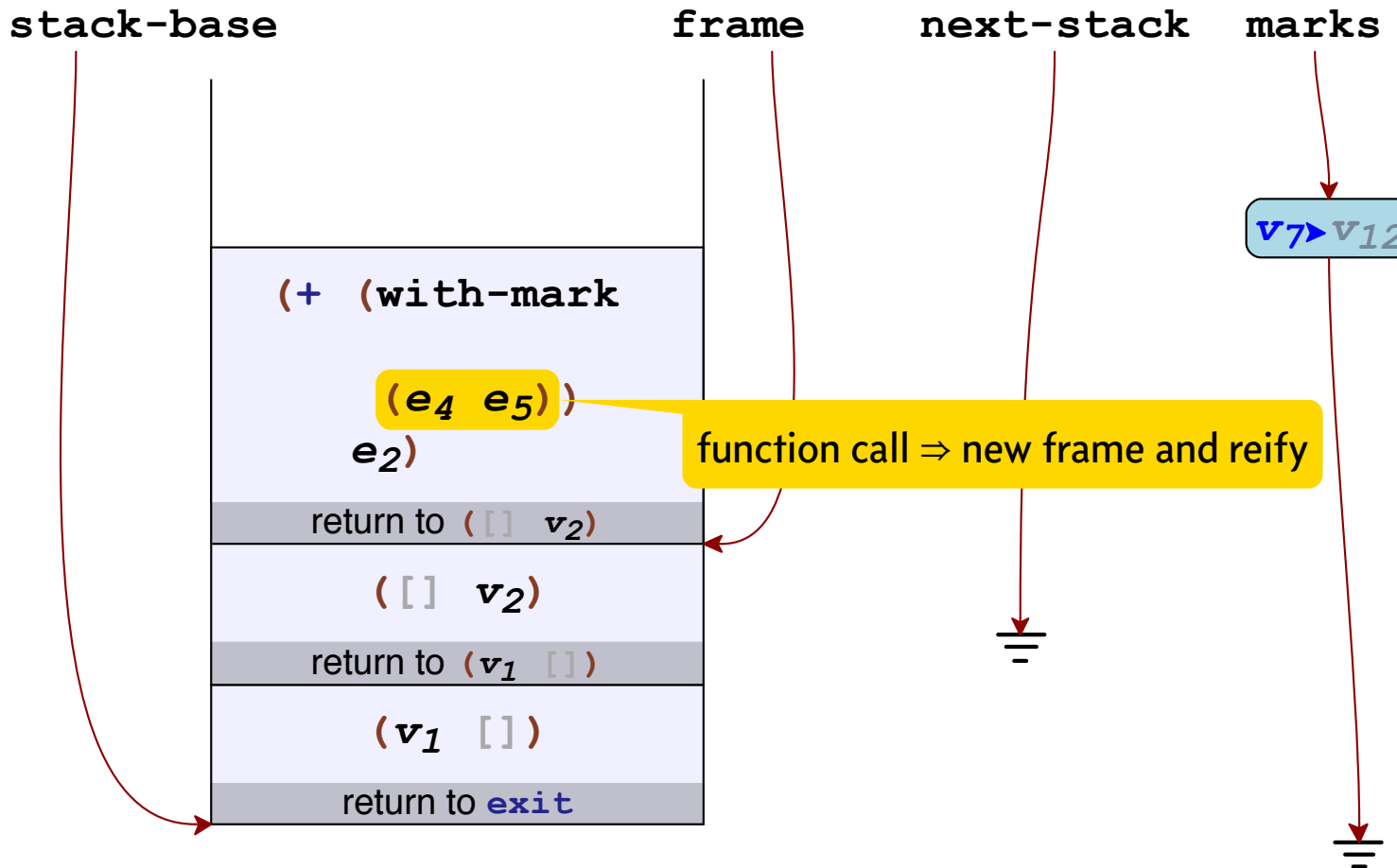
Non-Tail Marking with Primitive Operation



Non-Tail Marking with Primitive Operation



Non-Tail Marking with Non-Tail Call



Optimization Effectiveness

speedup relative to optimization disabled

	<i>contracts</i>	<i>applications</i>	
Optimistic 1-shot	×1.4	×1.04 – ×1.05	±0.03
Intraframe with-mark	×2.0	×1.01 – ×1.07	±0.03
Non-marking primitives	×1.4	×1.00 – ×1.04	±0.03
Runtime + optimizations	×3.4	×1.10 – ×1.25	±0.03

Continuation Marks

Enable

- dynamic scope
- control introspection

Compatible with

- optimizing compilation
- delimited control, concurrency, parallelism



Implement using

- stack-based continuations
- specific optimizations