PROGRAMS FROM PROOFS

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Girard's work in the nineties showed dramatically and with great sophistication how to get programs from logical proofs. However the sophistication was, in my view, obfuscatory. John Shepherdson† and I showed how to develop the technique for ordinary logic. Subsequently Martin Wirsing, Ian Poernomo, Pimpen Vejjajiva and I extended the process in what seems a natural and intuitive way. I shall describe the history of these developments, which are one example of how careful analysis of existing work can lead to new research.