

Operational Semantics Using the Partiality Monad

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DTP 2010, Edinburgh, 2010-07-09

Introduction

Operational semantics are often specified as *relations*:

- ▶ Small-step.
- ▶ Big-step.

This talk:

- ▶ Operational semantics as total functions.
- ▶ Using the partiality monad.
- ▶ Small-step or big-step.

A language which allows loops and crashes

```
data  $Tm$  ( $n : \mathbb{N}$ ) : Set where  
  con :  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow Tm\ n$   
  var :  $Fin\ n \rightarrow Tm\ n$   
   $\lambda$    :  $Tm\ (suc\ n) \rightarrow Tm\ n$   
   $-\cdot-$  :  $Tm\ n \rightarrow Tm\ n \rightarrow Tm\ n$ 
```

Values

Closures:

mutual

data *Value* : *Set* **where**

con : $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \textit{Value}$

λ : $\forall \{n\} \rightarrow \textit{Tm} (\textit{suc } n) \rightarrow \textit{Env } n \rightarrow \textit{Value}$

Env : $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \textit{Set}$

Env *n* = *Vec Value n*

Relational, big-step semantics

data $_ \vdash _ \Downarrow _ \{n\} (\rho : Env\ n) :$
 $Tm\ n \rightarrow Value \rightarrow Set$ **where**

var : $\rho \vdash \mathbf{var}\ x \Downarrow \mathit{lookup}\ x\ \rho$
con : $\rho \vdash \mathbf{con}\ i \Downarrow \mathbf{con}\ i$
 λ : $\rho \vdash \lambda\ t \Downarrow \lambda\ t\ \rho$
app : $\rho \vdash t_1 \Downarrow \lambda\ t\ \rho' \rightarrow \rho \vdash t_2 \Downarrow v' \rightarrow$
 $v' :: \rho' \vdash t \Downarrow v \rightarrow \rho \vdash t_1 \cdot t_2 \Downarrow v$

Relational, big-step semantics

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 λ : $\rho \vdash \lambda\ t \Downarrow \lambda\ t\ \rho$
app : $\rho \vdash t_1 \Downarrow \lambda\ t\ \rho' \rightarrow \rho \vdash t_2 \Downarrow v' \rightarrow$
 $v' :: \rho' \vdash t \Downarrow v \rightarrow \rho \vdash t_1 \cdot t_2 \Downarrow v$

We are not done. Assume $\nexists v. \rho \vdash t \Downarrow v$.
Does the program crash or run forever?

Relational, big-step semantics

data $_ \vdash _ \uparrow \{n\} (\rho : Env\ n) : Tm\ n \rightarrow Set$ **where**

$app^l : \rho \vdash t_1 \uparrow \rightarrow \rho \vdash t_1 \cdot t_2 \uparrow$

$app^r : \rho \vdash t_1 \Downarrow v \rightarrow \rho \vdash t_2 \uparrow \rightarrow$
 $\rho \vdash t_1 \cdot t_2 \uparrow$

$app : \rho \vdash t_1 \Downarrow \lambda t \rho' \rightarrow \rho \vdash t_2 \Downarrow v' \rightarrow$
 $v' :: \rho' \vdash t \uparrow \rightarrow \rho \vdash t_1 \cdot t_2 \uparrow$

Relational, big-step semantics

Coinductive:

data $_ \vdash _ \Uparrow \{n\} (\rho : Env\ n) : Tm\ n \rightarrow Set$ **where**

$app^l : \infty (\rho \vdash t_1 \Uparrow) \rightarrow \rho \vdash t_1 \cdot t_2 \Uparrow$

$app^r : \rho \vdash t_1 \Downarrow v \rightarrow \infty (\rho \vdash t_2 \Uparrow) \rightarrow$
 $\rho \vdash t_1 \cdot t_2 \Uparrow$

$app : \rho \vdash t_1 \Downarrow \lambda t \rho' \rightarrow \rho \vdash t_2 \Downarrow v' \rightarrow$
 $\infty (v' :: \rho' \vdash t \Uparrow) \rightarrow \rho \vdash t_1 \cdot t_2 \Uparrow$

Relational, big-step semantics

Coinductive:

data $_ \vdash _ \Uparrow \{n\} (\rho : Env\ n) : Tm\ n \rightarrow Set$ **where**

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 $\rho \vdash t_1 \cdot t_2 \Uparrow$

$app : \rho \vdash t_1 \Downarrow \lambda t \rho' \rightarrow \rho \vdash t_2 \Downarrow v' \rightarrow$
 $\infty (v' :: \rho' \vdash t \Uparrow) \rightarrow \rho \vdash t_1 \cdot t_2 \Uparrow$

$_ \vdash _ \Downarrow : \forall \{n\} \rightarrow Env\ n \rightarrow Tm\ n \rightarrow Set$

$\rho \vdash t \Downarrow = (\# \lambda v \rightarrow \rho \vdash t \Downarrow v) \times \neg (\rho \vdash t \Uparrow)$

Relational, big-step semantics

$$\begin{aligned} _ \vdash _ \Downarrow _ & : Env\ n \rightarrow Tm\ n \rightarrow Value \rightarrow Set \\ _ \vdash _ \Uparrow & : Env\ n \rightarrow Tm\ n \rightarrow Set \\ _ \vdash _ \Downarrow & : Env\ n \rightarrow Tm\ n \rightarrow Set \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Code duplication.
- ▶ Risk of forgetting rules.
- ▶ Deterministic?
- ▶ Executable?
- ▶ Awkward interface:

$$eval : \forall \rho\ t \rightarrow (\exists \lambda\ v \rightarrow \rho \vdash t \Downarrow v) \uplus \rho \vdash t \Uparrow \uplus \rho \vdash t \Downarrow$$

Outline

- ▶ Partiality monad.
- ▶ Semantics using the partiality monad.
- ▶ Compiler correctness statement.

Partiality
monad

Partiality monad

data $-\perp (A : Set) : Set$ **where**

now : $A \rightarrow A \perp$

later : $\infty (A \perp) \rightarrow A \perp$

- ▶ ∞ makes the definition coinductive.
- ▶ $A \perp \approx \nu C. A + C$.
- ▶ Delay and force:

$\#$: $A \rightarrow \infty A$

\flat : $\infty A \rightarrow A$

Partiality monad

data $_ \perp$ ($A : \text{Set}$) : Set **where**

now : $A \rightarrow A \perp$

later : $\infty (A \perp) \rightarrow A \perp$

never : $\forall \{A\} \rightarrow A \perp$

never = **later** ($\#$ *never*)

$_ \gg\! = _$: $\forall \{A B\} \rightarrow A \perp \rightarrow (A \rightarrow B \perp) \rightarrow B \perp$

now $x \gg\! = f = f x$

later $x \gg\! = f =$ **later** ($\# (b x \gg\! = f)$)

Functional semantics

Functional, big-step semantics

$\llbracket - \rrbracket : \forall \{n\} \rightarrow Tm\ n \rightarrow Env\ n \rightarrow (Maybe\ Value) \perp$

$\llbracket \text{con } i \rrbracket \rho = \text{return } (\text{con } i)$

$\llbracket \text{var } x \rrbracket \rho = \text{return } (\text{lookup } x \rho)$

$\llbracket \lambda t \rrbracket \rho = \text{return } (\lambda t \rho)$

$\llbracket t_1 \cdot t_2 \rrbracket \rho = \llbracket t_1 \rrbracket \rho \ggg \lambda v_1 \rightarrow$
 $\llbracket t_2 \rrbracket \rho \ggg \lambda v_2 \rightarrow$
 $v_1 \bullet v_2$

$_ \bullet _ : Value \rightarrow Value \rightarrow (Maybe\ Value) \perp$

$\text{con } i \bullet v_2 = \text{fail}$

$\lambda t_1 \rho \bullet v_2 = \text{later } (\# (\llbracket t_1 \rrbracket (v_2 :: \rho)))$

Functional, big-step semantics

- ▶ No code duplication.
- ▶ Exhaustive pattern matching.
- ▶ Can be executed directly (inefficiently).
- ▶ Deterministic?
- ▶ Equivalent to relational big-step semantics?

Equality for the partiality monad

Weak bisimilarity:

```
data  $\_ \approx \_$  {A : Set} : A  $\perp$   $\rightarrow$  A  $\perp$   $\rightarrow$  Set where  
  now   :  $\_ \rightarrow$  now v  $\approx$  now v  
  later :  $\infty$  (b x  $\approx$  b y)  $\rightarrow$  later x  $\approx$  later y  
  laterr :  $\_$  x  $\approx$  b y  $\rightarrow$   $\_$  x  $\approx$  later y  
  laterl : b x  $\approx$   $\_$  y  $\rightarrow$  later x  $\approx$   $\_$  y
```

Equality for the partiality monad

Weak bisimilarity:

data $_ \approx _ \{A : \text{Set}\} : A \perp \rightarrow A \perp \rightarrow \text{Set}$ **where**

now : $_ \rightarrow \text{now } v \approx \text{now } v$

later : $\infty (b \ x \approx b \ y) \rightarrow \text{later } x \approx \text{later } y$

later^r : $_ \ x \approx b \ y \rightarrow _ \ x \approx \text{later } y$

later^l : $b \ x \approx _ \ y \rightarrow \text{later } x \approx _ \ y$

$_ \approx _ \approx \nu C. \mu l. \lambda x y.$

$(\exists v. _ \ x \equiv \text{now } v \times y \equiv \text{now } v)$

$+ (\exists x', y'. _ \ x \equiv \text{later } x' \times y \equiv \text{later } y' \times$
 $C (b \ x') (b \ y'))$

$+ (\exists y'. _ \ y \equiv \text{later } y' \times l \ x (b \ y'))$

$+ (\exists x'. _ \ x \equiv \text{later } x' \times l (b \ x') \ y)$

Equality for the partiality monad

Weak bisimilarity:

data $_ \approx _ \{A : \text{Set}\} : A_{\perp} \rightarrow A_{\perp} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ **where**

now : $_ \rightarrow \text{now } v \approx \text{now } v$

later : $\infty (b \ x \approx b \ y) \rightarrow \text{later } x \approx \text{later } y$

later^r : $_ \ x \approx b \ y \rightarrow _ \ x \approx \text{later } y$

later^l : $b \ x \approx _ \ y \rightarrow \text{later } x \approx _ \ y$

$_ \approx _ \approx \nu C. \mu !. \lambda x y.$

$(\exists v. _ \ x \equiv \text{now } v \times y \equiv \text{now } v)$

$+ (\exists x', y'. _ \ x \equiv \text{later } x' \times y \equiv \text{later } y' \times$
 $C (b \ x') (b \ y'))$

$+ (\exists y'. _ \ y \equiv \text{later } y' \times ! \ x (b \ y'))$

$+ (\exists x'. _ \ x \equiv \text{later } x' \times ! (b \ x') \ y)$

Functional, big-step semantics

$\llbracket _ \rrbracket$ is equivalent (classically) to the relational big-step semantics:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho \vdash t \Downarrow v &\Leftrightarrow \llbracket t \rrbracket \rho \approx \text{return } v \\ \rho \vdash t \Uparrow &\Leftrightarrow \llbracket t \rrbracket \rho \approx \text{never} \\ \rho \vdash t \not\Downarrow &\Leftrightarrow \llbracket t \rrbracket \rho \approx \text{fail} \end{aligned}$$

Functional, big-step semantics

Operational semantics:

- ▶ $_ \bullet _$ defined in terms of $\llbracket _ \rrbracket$
(not compositional).
- ▶ $\llbracket \lambda x. x \rrbracket [] \not\approx \llbracket \lambda x. (\lambda x. x) x \rrbracket []$.
(Can define more interesting equalities.)

Compiler correctness

Virtual machine semantics

- ▶ Relations defined in terms of relational small-step semantics:

$$-\Downarrow- : State \rightarrow Value_{VM} \rightarrow Set$$

$$-\Uparrow- : State \rightarrow Set$$

$$-\Downarrow\!-\! : State \rightarrow Set$$

- ▶ Functional small-step semantics:

$$exec : State \rightarrow (Maybe Value_{VM})_{\perp}$$

Compilers

$comp : \forall \{n\} \rightarrow Tm\ n \rightarrow State$
 $comp_v : Value \rightarrow Value_{VM}$

Compiler correctness statement

“The compiler preserves the semantics.”

For relational semantics:

$$\begin{aligned} [] \vdash t \Downarrow v &\Leftrightarrow \text{comp } t \Downarrow \text{comp}_v v \\ [] \vdash t \Uparrow &\Leftrightarrow \text{comp } t \Uparrow \\ [] \vdash t \Downarrow\!\! \Downarrow &\Leftrightarrow \text{comp } t \Downarrow\!\! \Downarrow \end{aligned}$$

Compiler correctness statement

“The compiler preserves the semantics.”

For relational semantics:

$$\begin{aligned} [] \vdash t \Downarrow v &\Leftrightarrow \text{comp } t \Downarrow \text{comp}_v v \\ [] \vdash t \Uparrow &\Leftrightarrow \text{comp } t \Uparrow \\ [] \vdash t \Downarrow &\Leftrightarrow \text{comp } t \Downarrow \end{aligned}$$

For functional semantics:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{exec } (\text{comp } t) &\approx \\ \llbracket t \rrbracket [] &\ggg \lambda v \rightarrow \text{return } (\text{comp}_v v) \end{aligned}$$

Wrapping up

Conclusions

- ▶ Exhaustive pattern matching \Rightarrow harder to forget rules.
- ▶ Deterministic monad \Rightarrow deterministic semantics.
- ▶ Executable semantics.
- ▶ Small-step or big-step.

Conclusions

- ▶ Less scope for abstraction.
- ▶ Other drawbacks?
- ▶ Future work: Non-determinism, concurrency.
- ▶ Related work:
Rutten, Capretta, Nakata and Uustalu.

?

Related work

- ▶ Rutten, A note on Coinduction and Weak Bisimilarity for While Programs.
- ▶ Capretta, General Recursion via Coinductive Types.
- ▶ Nakata and Uustalu, Trace-Based Coinductive Operational Semantics for While.

Virtual
machine

Virtual machine

- ▶ States: $State : Set$
- ▶ Values: $Value_{VM} : Set$
- ▶ Compiler:

$$comp : \forall \{n\} \rightarrow Tm\ n \rightarrow State$$
$$comp_v : Value \rightarrow Value_{VM}$$

Relational, small-step semantics

$_ \rightarrow _ : State \rightarrow State \rightarrow Set$

$_ \sim _ : State \rightarrow Value_{VM} \rightarrow Set$

$s \Downarrow v = \exists s'. s \rightarrow^* s' \wedge s' \not\rightarrow \wedge s' \sim v$

$s \Uparrow = s \rightarrow^\infty$

$s \Downarrow = \exists s'. s \rightarrow^* s' \wedge s' \not\rightarrow \wedge \nexists v. s' \sim v$

- ▶ Avoids rule duplication.
- ▶ Exhaustive?
- ▶ Deterministic?
- ▶ Executable?

Functional, small-step semantics

data *Result* : *Set* **where**

continue : *State* → *Result*

done : *Value*_{VM} → *Result*

crash : *Result*

step : *State* → *Result*

exec : *State* → (*Maybe Value*_{VM}) ⊥

exec *s* **with** *step* *s*

... | *continue* *s'* = *later* (# *exec* *s'*)

... | *done* *v* = *return* *v*

... | *crash* = *fail*

Functional, small-step semantics

- ▶ Equivalent to relational semantics:

$$s \Downarrow v \iff \text{exec } s \approx \text{return } v$$

$$s \Uparrow \iff \text{exec } s \approx \text{never}$$

$$s \Downarrow \iff \text{exec } s \approx \text{fail}$$

- ▶ Still possible to forget a case in *step*:

$$\text{step } _ = \text{crash}$$

- ▶ Deterministic.
- ▶ Executable.

Easy to
reason
about?

$_ \approx _$ not “infinitely transitive”

$_ \approx _$ is an equivalence relation.

Let us postulate transitivity:

```
data  $\_ \approx \_$  {A : Set} : A  $\perp$   $\rightarrow$  A  $\perp$   $\rightarrow$  Set where  
  now      :  $\rightarrow$  now v  $\approx$  now v  
  later    :  $\infty$  (b x  $\approx$  b y)  $\rightarrow$  later x  $\approx$  later y  
  laterr  :      x  $\approx$  b y  $\rightarrow$       x  $\approx$  later y  
  laterl  :      b x  $\approx$    y  $\rightarrow$  later x  $\approx$      y  
   $\_ \approx \langle \_ \rangle \_$  :  $\forall$  x  $\rightarrow$  x  $\approx$  y  $\rightarrow$  y  $\approx$  z  $\rightarrow$  x  $\approx$  z
```

\approx not “infinitely transitive”

\square : Proof of reflexivity.

$trivial : \{A : Set\} (x y : A \perp) \rightarrow x \approx y$

$trivial\ x\ y =$

$x \approx \langle later^r (x \square) \rangle$

$later (\# x) \approx \langle later (\# trivial\ x\ y) \rangle$

$later (\# y) \approx \langle later^l (y \square) \rangle$

$y \square$

Compare the problem of “weak bisimulation up to”.

Only a problem for infinite proofs.

$_ \approx _$ not “infinitely transitive”

One possible workaround:

```
data  $\_ \approx \_$  {A : Set} : A  $\perp$   $\rightarrow$  A  $\perp$   $\rightarrow$  Set where  
  now      :  $\_ \rightarrow$  now v  $\approx$  now v  
  later    :  $\infty$  (b x  $\approx$  b y)  $\rightarrow$  later x  $\approx$  later y  
  laterr    :      x  $\approx$  b y  $\rightarrow$       x  $\approx$  later y  
  laterl    :      b x  $\approx$   y  $\rightarrow$  later x  $\approx$       y  
   $\_ \gtrsim \_$ l    :  $\forall$  x  $\rightarrow$  x  $\gtrsim$  y  $\rightarrow$  y  $\approx$  z  $\rightarrow$  x  $\approx$  z  
   $\_ \gtrsim \_$ r    :  $\forall$  x  $\rightarrow$  x  $\approx$  y  $\rightarrow$  y  $\lesssim$  z  $\rightarrow$  x  $\approx$  z
```

$x \gtrsim y$: y terminates faster than x, or both loop.

Similar to $_ \rightarrow^\infty$: $x \rightarrow^* y \rightarrow^\infty \Rightarrow x \rightarrow^\infty$.

\approx not “infinitely transitive”

Can reduce need for transitivity by using continuation-passing style.

Goal ($comp' t c \equiv comp t \text{ ++ } c$):

$$exec (comp' t []) \approx \\ \llbracket t \rrbracket [] \ggg \lambda v \rightarrow return (comp_v v)$$

Generalisation:

$$(\forall v \rightarrow exec (\dots c \dots v \dots \rho \dots) \approx f v) \rightarrow \\ exec (\dots comp' t c \dots \rho \dots) \approx \llbracket t \rrbracket \rho \ggg f$$

Deterministic
monad

Deterministic monad

Is $\llbracket - \rrbracket$ deterministic?

- ▶ If the monad is “deterministic”:

$$_ \in _ : \text{Result } A \rightarrow M A \rightarrow \text{Set}$$
$$r \in m = \dots$$

$$r \in m \wedge r' \in m \Rightarrow r \equiv r'$$

- ▶ Example of non-deterministic monad:
List monad.