

Operational Semantics Using the Partiality Monad

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Shonan Meeting 026:
Coinduction for computation structures and
programming languages



Total Definitional Interpreters

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Outline

Using partiality monad to:

- ▶ Define semantics of partial language:
total definitional interpreter.
- ▶ Prove type soundness.
- ▶ Prove compiler correctness.

A partial language

A language with two effects:
non-termination and crashes.

$$t ::= c \mid x \mid \lambda x.t \mid t t$$

Represented using well-scoped de Bruijn indices:

```
data Tm (n : ℕ) : Set where  
  con : ℕ → Tm n  
  var : Fin n → Tm n  
  lam : Tm (1 + n) → Tm n  
  app : Tm n → Tm n → Tm n
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Environments and values

Based on closures:

$$Env : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow Set$$
$$Env\ n = Vec\ Value\ n$$

data $Value : Set$ **where**

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

clo : $Tm\ (1 + n) \rightarrow Env\ n \rightarrow Value$

Definitional interpreter

$$\llbracket _ \rrbracket : Tm\ n \rightarrow Env\ n \rightarrow Value$$
$$\llbracket \mathbf{con}\ i \rrbracket \rho = \mathbf{con}\ i$$
$$\llbracket \mathbf{var}\ x \rrbracket \rho = \mathit{lookup}\ x\ \rho$$
$$\llbracket \mathbf{lam}\ t \rrbracket \rho = \mathbf{clo}\ t\ \rho$$
$$\llbracket \mathbf{app}\ t_1\ t_2 \rrbracket \rho = \llbracket t_1 \rrbracket \rho \bullet \llbracket t_2 \rrbracket \rho$$
$$_ \bullet _ : Value \rightarrow Value \rightarrow Value$$
$$\mathbf{clo}\ t_1\ \rho \bullet v_2 = \llbracket t_1 \rrbracket (v_2 :: \rho)$$

Definitional interpreter

$\llbracket _ \rrbracket : Tm\ n \rightarrow Env\ n \rightarrow Value$

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- ▶ Does not work in Agda, Coq...
- ▶ Call-by-value? Call-by-name?

Relational, big-step semantics

- ▶ Can define inductive big-step semantics:

$$\rho \vdash t \Downarrow v$$

- ▶ Very similar to definitional interpreter, but we cannot “run” the semantics.
- ▶ Does not distinguish between non-termination and crashes.

Relational, big-step semantics

- ▶ Can add coinductive big-step semantics:

$$\rho \vdash t \uparrow$$

- ▶ Problem: Duplication of rules.
- ▶ Problem: Have we forgotten a rule?

Alternative

Definitional interpreter + partiality monad

\Rightarrow

functional, big-step semantics.

Partiality
monad

Partiality monad

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

now : $A \rightarrow A_\perp$

later : $A_\perp \rightarrow A_\perp$

- ▶ *Constructive* partiality monad,
not maybe monad or exception monad.
- ▶ $A_\perp \approx \nu C. A + C$.

Partiality monad

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Partiality monad

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

now : $A \rightarrow A_\perp$

later : $A_\perp \rightarrow A_\perp$

$never : A_\perp$

$never = \mathbf{later} \text{ never}$

$-\gg=- : A_\perp \rightarrow (A \rightarrow B_\perp) \rightarrow B_\perp$

now $x \gg= f = f x$

later $x \gg= f = \mathbf{later} (x \gg= f)$

Partiality monad

codata $-\perp (A : Set) : Set$ **where**
now : $A \rightarrow A_\perp$
later : $A_\perp \rightarrow A_\perp$

What is the right notion of equality for A_\perp ?

later (**later** (**now** 5)) \approx **now** 5
later *never* \approx *never*
now 5 $\not\approx$ *never*

Equality up to finite differences in the number of **later** constructors.

Total
definitional
interpreter

Definitional interpreter

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$$\mathbf{clo}\ t_1\ \rho \bullet v_2 = \llbracket t_1 \rrbracket (v_2 \mathbin{::} \rho)$$

Definitional interpreter

With *Maybe* monad:

$$\llbracket _ \rrbracket : Tm\ n \rightarrow Env\ n \rightarrow Maybe\ Value$$
$$\llbracket \text{con } i \rrbracket \rho = \text{return } (\text{con } i)$$
$$\llbracket \text{var } x \rrbracket \rho = \text{return } (\text{lookup } x\ \rho)$$
$$\llbracket \text{lam } t \rrbracket \rho = \text{return } (\text{clo } t\ \rho)$$
$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \text{app } t_1\ t_2 \rrbracket \rho &= \llbracket t_1 \rrbracket \rho \ggg \lambda v_1 \rightarrow \\ &\quad \llbracket t_2 \rrbracket \rho \ggg \lambda v_2 \rightarrow \\ &\quad v_1 \bullet v_2 \end{aligned}$$
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$$\text{clo } t_1\ \rho \bullet v_2 = \llbracket t_1 \rrbracket (v_2 :: \rho)$$
$$\text{con } i_1 \bullet v_2 = \text{fail}$$

Definitional interpreter

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Total definitional interpreter

With $Maybe + \perp$:

$$\llbracket _ \rrbracket : Tm\ n \rightarrow Env\ n \rightarrow (Maybe\ Value)\ \perp$$
$$\llbracket \text{con } i \rrbracket \rho = \text{return } (\text{con } i)$$
$$\llbracket \text{var } x \rrbracket \rho = \text{return } (\text{lookup } x\ \rho)$$
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Total definitional interpreter

$\llbracket - \rrbracket : Tm\ n \rightarrow Env\ n \rightarrow (Maybe\ Value)_\perp$

- ▶ Type signature \Rightarrow deterministic.
- ▶ Type signature \Rightarrow computable.
- ▶ No “duplication of rules”.
- ▶ Impossible to forget a case.
- ▶ Classically equivalent to $\rho \vdash t \Downarrow v$ plus $\rho \vdash t \Uparrow$.

Type
soundness

Types

Coinductive simple types (to allow non-termination):

codata $Ty : Set$ **where**

nat : Ty

$-\rightarrow-$: $Ty \rightarrow Ty \rightarrow Ty$

$\tau : Ty$

$\tau = \tau \rightarrow$ **nat**

Typing relation:

$\Gamma \vdash t : \sigma$

Type soundness

Statement of type soundness:

$$[] \vdash t : \sigma \rightarrow \llbracket t \rrbracket [] \not\approx \text{fail}$$

Proof: Generalise, then nested corecursion/
structural recursion.

Compiler correctness

Virtual machine

data *State* : *Set* **where**
⋮

data *Result* : *Set* **where**
 continue : *State* → *Result*
 done : *VM-Value* → *Result*
 crash : *Result*

step : *State* → *Result*
step ... = ...
⋮
step _ = **crash**

Virtual machine

Small-step, total, functional semantics:

$exec : State \rightarrow (Maybe\ VM\text{-}Value)_{\perp}$

$exec\ s = \mathbf{case}\ step\ s\ \mathbf{of}$

$\mathbf{continue}\ s' \rightarrow \mathbf{later}\ (exec\ s')$

$\mathbf{done}\ v \rightarrow \mathbf{return}\ v$

$\mathbf{crash} \rightarrow \mathbf{fail}$

- ▶ Type signature \Rightarrow deterministic.
- ▶ Type signature \Rightarrow computable.
- ▶ *Possible* to forget a case.

Compiler correctness

Small-step, total, functional semantics:

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

Compilers:

$$comp : Tm\ 0 \rightarrow State$$

$$comp_v : Value \rightarrow VM-Value$$

Compiler correctness

Small-step, total, functional semantics:

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

Compilers:

$$comp : Tm\ 0 \rightarrow State$$

$$comp_v : Value \rightarrow VM-Value$$

Compiler correctness:

$$(t : Tm\ 0) \rightarrow$$

$$exec (comp\ t) \approx$$

$$(\llbracket t \rrbracket [] \ggg \lambda v \rightarrow return (comp_v\ v))$$

Conclusions

- ▶ Definitional interpreter + partiality monad
 \Rightarrow
 functional, total, big-step semantics.
- ▶ Can mechanise (some) meta-theory.
- ▶ See paper for non-determinism,
 contextual equivalence, applicative bisimilarity.

Bonus slides

Operational semantics?

- ▶ Very close to usual, relational big-step operational semantics.
- ▶ Not compositional.
- ▶ Values contain closures.

Typing rules

$\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{con} \ i : \mathbf{nat}$ $\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{var} \ x : \mathit{lookup} \ x \ \Gamma$

$$\frac{\sigma :: \Gamma \vdash t : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{lam} \ t : \sigma \rightarrow \tau}$$
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t_1 : \sigma \rightarrow \tau \quad \Gamma \vdash t_2 : \sigma}{\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{app} \ t_1 \ t_2 : \tau}$$

Applicative bisimilarity, part 1

data $_{\perp} \approx_{\perp} _{\perp}$: $(\text{Maybe Value})_{\perp} \rightarrow$
 $(\text{Maybe Value})_{\perp} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ **where**

now : $u \approx_{\text{MV}} v \rightarrow \text{now } u \approx_{\perp} \text{now } v$

later : $\infty (x \approx_{\perp} y) \rightarrow \text{later } x \approx_{\perp} \text{later } y$

later^l : $x \approx_{\perp} y \rightarrow \text{later } x \approx_{\perp} y$

later^r : $x \approx_{\perp} y \rightarrow x \approx_{\perp} \text{later } y$

data $_{\text{MV}} \approx_{\text{MV}} _{\text{MV}}$: $\text{Maybe Value} \rightarrow$
 $\text{Maybe Value} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ **where**

just : $u \approx_V v \rightarrow \text{just } u \approx_{\text{MV}} \text{just } v$

nothing : $\text{nothing} \approx_{\text{MV}} \text{nothing}$

Applicative bisimilarity, part 2

data $_ \approx_V _ : Value \rightarrow Value \rightarrow Set$ **where**

con : **con** $i \approx_V$ **con** i

clo : $(\forall v \rightarrow$
 $\infty (\llbracket t_1 \rrbracket (v :: \rho_1) \approx_{\perp} \llbracket t_2 \rrbracket (v :: \rho_2))) \rightarrow$
clo $t_1 \rho_1 \approx_V$ **clo** $t_2 \rho_2$

$_ \approx_T _ : Tm\ n \rightarrow Tm\ n \rightarrow Set$

$t_1 \approx_T t_2 = \forall \rho \rightarrow \llbracket t_1 \rrbracket \rho \approx_{\perp} \llbracket t_2 \rrbracket \rho$