CSE 505: Concepts of Programming Languages

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Lecture 9— More STλC Extensions; Notes on Termination

Outline

- Continue extending STλC – data structures, recursion
- Discussion of "anonymous" types
- Consider termination informally
- Next time: Curry-Howard Isomorphism, Evaluation Contexts, Abstract Machines

Review

$$e ::= \lambda x.\ e \mid x \mid e\ e \mid c \qquad v ::= \lambda x.\ e \mid c$$

$$\tau ::= \mathsf{int} \mid \tau \rightarrow \tau \qquad \Gamma ::= \cdot \mid \Gamma, x : \tau$$

$$\frac{}{(\lambda x.\ e)\ v \rightarrow e[v/x]} \qquad \frac{e_1 \rightarrow e_1'}{e_1\ e_2 \rightarrow e_1'\ e_2} \qquad \frac{e_2 \rightarrow e_2'}{v\ e_2 \rightarrow v\ e_2'}$$

$e[e'/x]$: capture-avoiding substitution of e' for free x in e

$$\frac{}{\Gamma \vdash c : \mathsf{int}} \qquad \frac{}{\Gamma \vdash x : \Gamma(x)} \qquad \frac{\Gamma, x : \tau_1 \vdash e : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \lambda x.\ e : \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_2 \rightarrow \tau_1 \qquad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash e_1\ e_2 : \tau_1}$$

Preservation: If $\cdot \vdash e : \tau$ and $e \rightarrow e'$, then $\cdot \vdash e' : \tau$.

Progress: If $\cdot \vdash e : \tau$, then e is a value or $\exists\ e'$ such that $e \rightarrow e'$.

Pairs (CBV, left-right)

$$e ::= \ldots \mid (e, e) \mid e.1 \mid e.2$$
$$v ::= \ldots \mid (v, v)$$
$$\tau ::= \ldots \mid \tau * \tau$$

$$\frac{e_1 \rightarrow e_1'}{(e_1, e_2) \rightarrow (e_1', e_2)} \qquad \frac{e_2 \rightarrow e_2'}{(v_1, e_2) \rightarrow (v_1, e_2')}$$

$$\frac{e \rightarrow e'}{e.1 \rightarrow e'.1} \qquad \frac{e \rightarrow e'}{e.2 \rightarrow e'.2}$$

$$\frac{}{(v_1, v_2).1 \rightarrow v_1} \qquad \frac{}{(v_1, v_2).2 \rightarrow v_2}$$

Small-step can be a pain (more concise notation Thursday)

Pairs continued

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \tau_1 \qquad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash (e_1, e_2) : \tau_1 * \tau_2}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \tau_1 * \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash e.1 : \tau_1} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \tau_1 * \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash e.2 : \tau_2}$$

Canonical Forms: If $\cdot \vdash v : \tau_1 * \tau_2$, then v has the form (v_1, v_2).

Progress: New cases using C.F. are $v.1$ and $v.2$.

Preservation: For primitive reductions, inversion gives the result *directly*.

Records

Records seem like pairs with *named fields*

$$
\begin{array}{lcl}
e & ::= & \ldots \mid \{l_1 = e_1; \ldots; l_n = e_n\} \mid e.l \\
\tau & ::= & \ldots \mid \{l_1 : \tau_1; \ldots; l_n : \tau_n\} \\
v & ::= & \ldots \mid \{l_1 = v_1; \ldots; l_n = v_n\}
\end{array}
$$

Fields do *not* α-convert.

Names might let us reorder fields, e.g.,
$\cdot \vdash \{l_1 = 42; l_2 = \mathbf{true}\} : \{l_2 : \mathbf{bool}; l_1 : \mathbf{int}\}$.

Nothing wrong with this, but many languages disallow it. (Why? Run-time efficiency and/or type inference)

(Caml has only *named* record types with *disjoint* fields.)

More on this when we study *subtyping*

Sums

What about ML-style datatypes:

`type t = A | B of int | C of int*t`

1. Tagged variants (i.e., discriminated unions)
2. Recursive types
3. Type constructors (e.g., `type 'a mylist = ...`)
4. Names the type

Today we'll model just (1) with (anonymous) sum types:

$$
\begin{aligned}
e &::= \ldots \mid \mathbf{inl}(e) \mid \mathbf{inr}(e) \mid \mathbf{case}\ e\ x.e \mid x.e \\
v &::= \ldots \mid \mathbf{inl}(v) \mid \mathbf{inr}(v) \\
\tau &::= \ldots \mid \tau_1 + \tau_2
\end{aligned}
$$

Sum semantics

$$\frac{}{\textsf{case inl}(v)\ x.e_1 \mid x.e_2 \rightarrow e_1[v/x]}$$

$$\frac{}{\textsf{case inr}(v)\ x.e_1 \mid x.e_2 \rightarrow e_2[v/x]}$$

$$\frac{e \rightarrow e'}{\textsf{inl}(e) \rightarrow \textsf{inl}(e')} \qquad \frac{e \rightarrow e'}{\textsf{inr}(e) \rightarrow \textsf{inr}(e')}$$

$$\frac{e \rightarrow e'}{\textsf{case}\ e\ x.e_1 \mid x.e_2 \rightarrow \textsf{case}\ e'\ x.e_1 \mid x.e_2}$$

case has binding occurrences, just like pattern-matching.

Sum Type-checking

Inference version (not trivial to infer; can require annotations)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \tau_1}{\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{inl}(e) : \tau_1 + \tau_2} \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \tau_2}{\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{inr}(e) : \tau_1 + \tau_2}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \tau_1 + \tau_2 \qquad \Gamma, x{:}\tau_1 \vdash e_1 : \tau \qquad \Gamma, x{:}\tau_2 \vdash e_2 : \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{case}\ e\ x.e_1 \mid x.e_2 : \tau}$$

C.F.: If $\cdot \vdash v : \tau_1 + \tau_2$, then either v has the form $\mathsf{inl}(v_1)$ and $\cdot \vdash v_1 : \tau_1$ or ...

The rest is induction and substitution.

Can encode booleans with sums. E.g., $\mathsf{bool} = \mathsf{int} + \mathsf{int}$, $\mathsf{true} = \mathsf{inl}(0)$, $\mathsf{false} = \mathsf{inr}(0)$.

Base Types, in general

What about floats, strings, enums, ...? Could add them all or do something more general...

Parameterize our language/semantics by a collection of *base types* $(b_1, \ldots, b_n)$ and *primitives* $(c_1 : \tau_1, \ldots, c_n : \tau_n)$.

Examples: concat : string→string→string
toInt : float→int
"hello" : string

For each primitive, *assume* if applied to values of the right types it produces a value of the right type.

Together the types and assumed steps tell us how to type-check and evaluate $c_i\ v_1 \ldots v_n$ where c_i is a primitive.

We can prove soundness *once and for all* given the assumptions.

Recursion

We won't prove it, but every extension so far preserves termination. A Turing-complete language needs some sort of loop. What we add won't be encodable in STλC.

E.g., `let rec f x =` e

Do typed recursive functions need to be bound to variables or can they be anonymous?

In Caml, you need variables, but it's unnecessary:

$$e ::= \ldots \mid \textbf{fix } e$$

$$\frac{e \rightarrow e'}{\textbf{fix } e \rightarrow \textbf{fix } e'} \qquad \frac{}{\textbf{fix } \lambda x.\ e \rightarrow e[\textbf{fix } \lambda x.\ e/x]}$$

Using fix

It works just like `let rec`, e.g.,

$$\textbf{fix}\ \lambda f.\ \lambda n.\ \textbf{if}\ n < 1\ \textbf{then}\ 1\ \textbf{else}\ n * (f(n-1))$$

Note: You can use it for mutual recursion too.

Pseudo-math digression

Why is it called fix? In math, a fixed-point of a function g is an x such that $g(x) = x$.

Let g be $\lambda f.\ \lambda n.$ **if** $n < 1$ **then** 1 **else** $n * (f(n-1))$.

If g is applied to a function that computes factorial for arguments $\leq m$, then g returns a function that computes factorial for arguments $\leq m + 1$.

Now g has type $(\textbf{int} \rightarrow \textbf{int}) \rightarrow (\textbf{int} \rightarrow \textbf{int})$. The fix-point of g is the function that computes factorial for *all* natural numbers.

And **fix** g is equivalent to that function. That is, **fix** g is the fix-point of g.

Typing fix

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e : \tau \to \tau}{\Gamma \vdash \textbf{fix } e : \tau}$$

Math explanation: If e is a function from τ to τ, then **fix** e, the fixed-point of e, is some τ with the fixed-point property. So it's something with type τ.

Operational explanation: **fix** $\lambda x.\ e'$ becomes $e'[\textbf{fix } \lambda x.\ e'/x]$. The substitution means x and **fix** $\lambda x.\ e'$ better have the same type. And the result means e' and **fix** $\lambda x.\ e'$ better have the same type.

Note: Proving soundness is straightforward!

General approach

We added lets, booleans, pairs, records, sums, and fix. Let was syntactic sugar. Fix made us Turing-complete by "baking in" self-application. The others *added types*.

Whenever we add a new form of type τ there are:

- Introduction forms (ways to make values of type τ)
- Elimination forms (ways to use values of type τ)

What are these forms for functions? Pairs? Sums?

When you add a new type, think "what are the intro and elim forms"?

Anonymity

We added many forms of types, all *unnamed* a.k.a. *structural*.

Many real PLs have (all or mostly) *named* types:

- Java, C, C++: all record types (or similar) have names (omitting them just means compiler makes up a name)
- Caml sum-types have names.

A never-ending debate:

- Structual types allow more code reuse, which is good.
- Named types allow less code reuse, which is good.
- Structural types allow generic type-based code, which is good.
- Named types allow type-based code to distinguish names, which is good.

The theory is often easier and simpler with structural types.

Termination

Surprising fact: If $\cdot \vdash e : \tau$ in the STλC with all our additions *except* fix, then there exists a v such that $e \rightarrow^* v$.

That is, all programs terminate.

So termination is trivially decidable (the constant "yes" function), so our language is not Turing-complete.

Proof is in the book. It requires cleverness because the size of expressions does *not* "go down" as programs run.

Non-proof: Recursion in λ calculus requires some sort of self-application. Easy fact: For all Γ, x, and τ, we *cannot* derive $\Gamma \vdash x\ x : \tau$.