asm.js: a High-Performance Subset of JavaScript

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1 Introduction

This document describes a formal definition of a subset of the JavaScript programming language that can be used as a high-performance compiler target language. This sublanguage or dialect, which we call asm.js, effectively describes a safe virtual machine for memory-unsafe languages such as C and C++.

Because asm.js is a proper subset of JavaScript, both syntactically and semantically, the language is fully defined by a static *validation* judgment, which yields a predicate that determines whether a given JavaScript program is or is not in the subset. No specification of a dynamic semantics is needed, since the behavior of an asm.js program is simply defined by its behavior as a JavaScript program.

1.1 Overview

The unit of compilation/validation of asm.js is the asm.js module, which takes the form of a closed JavaScript function beginning with the prologue directive [?]:

"use asm";

The presence of this directive serves two purposes. First, it allows JavaScript engines that wish to provide specialized optimizations for asm.js to efficiently recognize that the module should be validated as an asm.js, without the need for complex, heuristic or concurrent recognition logic. (Since validation requires a non-trivial traversal of the body of the module, it is likely too expensive to speculatively validate all JavaScript code during JIT compilation.) Second, by requiring the programmer or code generator to state the intention explicitly that the code should be recognized as asm.js, it allows user agents to report validation errors or performance faults to developer consoles.

An asm.js module takes two optional parameters: an *environment*, containing imported functions and constants from external JavaScript (serving as one side of a kind of foreign-function interface), and a JavaScript ArrayBuffer representing a virtualized memory. The module can provide different views of the buffer by using typed array wrappers imported from the environment:

```
function mod(env, buffer) {
    "use asm";

    var HEAP_I32 = new env.Int32Array(buffer);
    var HEAP_F64 = new env.Float64Array(buffer);
    // ...
}
```

The body of an asm.js module consists of any number of function definitions, followed by an *export clause*:

```
return { foo:f, bar:g };
```

If a module only exports a single function, it can do so directly, without the object literal:

return foo;

1.2 Types

The asm.js language is statically typed: every function, variable, and expression has a statically predictable type, according to a type hierarchy covering a subset of JavaScript values (see Section 3). Variables, parameters, and functions are provided with an explicit type bound through a stylized use of JavaScript coercions. This technique was pioneered by the Emscripten compiler [?], and is now used by a number of compilers that target JavaScript [?, ?].

For example, the following is a simple function from integers to integers:

```
function id(x) {
    x = x|0;
    return x|0;
}
```

Even though JavaScript provides only double-precision floating-point numbers (doubles) in its data model, the asm.js type system enforces that 32-bit integer values—a strict subset of doubles—never overflow to larger doubles. This allows optimizing compilers to represent these values as unboxed integers in 32-bit registers or memory.

Again following the practice established by Emscripten, it is possible to do integer operations such as arithmetic and conditionals by means of coercions:

```
function add1(x) {
    x = x|0;
    return ((x|0)+1)|0;
}
```

While the JavaScript semantics dictates that the addition may overflow to a larger number than a 32-bit integer, the outer coercion ensures that the entire expression results in a 32-bit integer—the same integer that would be produced

by a signed, 32-bit addition in a typical assembly language. The asm.js type system thus ensures that integer operations can be efficiently compiled by optimizing JavaScript engines to predictable machine instructions.

1.3 Validation, linking, and execution

The asm.js validator is defined as a static type system, which can be performed by an optimizing JavaScript engine at the time the module is parsed by the JavaScript engine. (If compilation time is a concern, it can be delayed to runtime by hiding the source code in a string and passed to eval or the Function constructor.) During this phase, any static validation errors can be reported to a developer console.

After a asm.js module is compiled, its evaluation produces a closure with an empty lexical environment. The module can be *linked* by calling the function with an object representing the imported environment and an optional buffer:

```
function mod(env, buffer) {
    "use asm";
    // ...
    return { f: foo, g: bar };
}

var env = {
    Int32Array: Int32Array,
    Uint32Array: Uint32Array,
    // ...
};

var buf = new ArrayBuffer(0x100000);

// link the module
var m = mod(env, buf);
```

This linking phase may need to perform additional, dynamic validation. In particular, dynamic validation can fail if, for example, the Int32Array function passed in through the environment does not turn out to construct a proper typed array (thereby defeating typed array-based optimizations).

The resulting module object provides access to the exported asm.js functions, which have been fully validated (both statically and dynamically) and optimized.

1.4 Notation conventions

The following notation conventions are used in this document. Optional items in a grammar are presented in [square brackets]. Sequences are presented with a horizontal overbar. The empty sequence is denoted by ϵ .

1.5 Document outline

The remainder of this document proceeds as follows.

2 Abstract syntax

This section specifies the abstract syntax of asm.js. The grammar is presented with concrete syntax for conciseness and readability, but should be read as describing the subset of abstract syntax trees produced by a standard JavaScript parser.

We make the following assumptions about canonicalization of asm.js abstract syntax trees:

- 1. Parentheses are ignored in the AST. This allows parentheses to be left out of any of the formal definitions of this spec.
- 2. Empty statements (;) are ignored in the AST. This allows empty statements to be left out of any of the formal definitions of this spec.
- 3. The identifiers arguments and eval do not appear in asm.js programs. If either of these identifiers appears anywhere, static validation must fail.

In various places in this document, the meta-variables b, c, f, g, x, y, and z are used to range over JavaScript identifiers.

2.1 Modules

An asm.js module has the following syntax:

```
mod ::= function [g]([c[,b]]) { "use asm"; } \overline{imp_x} \overline{fn_f} \overline{\text{var } \overline{y = v}; } exp }
```

The syntax consists of:

- 1. up to two optional parameters;
- 2. a "use asm"; prologue directive;
- 3. a sequence of import statements;
- 4. a sequence of function declarations;
- 5. a sequence of global variable declarations; and
- 6. a single export statement.

An import statement is either an FFI function binding, a type-annotated (coerced) constant binding, or a heap view declaration:

```
\begin{array}{rcl} imp_x & ::= & \text{var } x = c.y; \\ & | & \text{var } x = c.y | 0; \\ & | & \text{var } x = +c.y; \\ & | & \text{var } x = \text{new } c.y(b); \end{array}
```

A function declaration has the following syntax:

$$fn_f ::= function \ f(\overline{x}) \ \{ \ \overline{x = ann_x}; \ \overline{\text{var} \ \overline{y = v}}; \ ss \ \}$$

The syntax consists of type annotations for the parameters, a sequence of local variable declarations, and a sequence of statements.

Type annotations are either int or double coercions:

$$ann_x ::= x \mid 0 \mid +x$$

An export statement returns either a single function or an object literal containing multiple functions:

2.2 Statements

The set of legal statements in asm.js includes blocks, expression statements, conditionals, returns, loops, switch blocks, break and continue, and labeled statements:

Return arguments always have their type explicitly manifest: either a signed or double coercion or a literal:

$$re := e \mid 0 \mid +e \mid v$$

The contents of switch blocks are restricted: in addition to requiring the (optional) default clause to be the last clause, each case clause is syntactically restricted to contain only literal values:

```
\begin{array}{cccc} c & ::= & \mathtt{case} \ v \colon ss \\ d & ::= & \mathtt{default} \colon ss \\ cd & ::= & c \mid d \end{array}
```

2.3 Expressions

Expressions include literals, lvalues, assignments, function calls, unary expressions, binary expressions, and sequence expressions:

Literals are either doubles or integers:

$$v ::= r \mid n$$

Lyalues are either variables or typed array dereference expressions. The latter requires a mask to force the byte offset into a valid range and a shift to convert the offset into a proper index for the size of the typed array.

$$lval ::= x \mid x[(e \& m) >> n]$$

3 Types

The asm.js validator relies on a static type system that classifies and constraints the syntax beyond the grammar.

3.1 Expression types

The set of *expression types* classifies the results of expression evaluation and constrains the allowable values of variables.

```
\begin{array}{ll} \sigma,\tau & ::= & \mathtt{double} \mid \mathtt{signed} \mid \mathtt{unsigned} \mid \mathtt{fixnum} \mid \mathtt{extern} \\ & \mid & \mathtt{bit} \mid \mathtt{int} \mid \mathtt{boolish} \mid \mathtt{intish} \mid \mathtt{void} \mid \mathtt{unknown} \end{array}
```

These types are arranged in a subtyping hierarchy, defined by:

```
fixnum <: signed, unsigned
signed, unsigned <: int, extern
bit, int <: boolish
double <: extern
unknown, bit, int <: intish</pre>
```

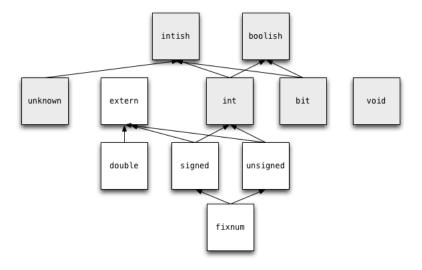


Figure 1: The hierarchy of expression types.

Figure 1 depicts this subtyping hierarchy visually. Note that some types are presented in white boxes and others in gray boxes. The white boxes represent types that may escape into external JavaScript; the gray types are internal to the asm.js module and cannot escape. This allows an optimizing implementation to use unboxed representations that would otherwise be illegal. What follows is an explanation of each type.

The extern type

This abstract type represents the root of all types that can escape back into ordinary JavaScript. Any type that is a subtype of extern must carry enough information in its internal representation in an optimizing virtual machine to faithfully convert back into a dynamic JavaScript value.

The double type

This is the type of double-precision floating-point values. An optimizing engine can represent these as unboxed 64-bit floats. If they escape into external JavaScript they must of course be wrapped back up as JavaScript values according to the JavaScript engine's value representation.

The signed and unsigned types

These are the types of signed and unsigned 32-bit integers, respectively. For an optimizing engine, their representation can be the same: an unboxed 32-bit integer. If a value escapes into external JavaScript, the sign is used to determine

which JavaScript value it represents. For example, the bit pattern <code>0xffffffff</code> represents either the JavaScript value <code>-1</code> or <code>4294967295</code>, depending on the signedness of the type.

The fixnum type

This type represents integers in the range $[0, 2^{31})$, which are both valid signed and unsigned integers. Literals in this range are given the type fixnum.

The int type

This is the type of 32-bit integers whose sign is not known. Again, optimizing engines can represent them as unboxed 32-bit integers. But because the sign is not known, they cannot be allowed to escape to external JavaScript, as it is impossible to determine exactly which JavaScript value they represent. While this might not seem like a very useful type, the JavaScript bitwise coercions can be used to force an int value back to signed or unsigned without any loss of data.

The intish type

The JavaScript arithmetic operations can be performed on 32-bit integer values, but their results may produce non-integer values. For example, addition and subtraction can overflow to large numbers that exceed the 32-bit integer range, and integer division can produce a non-integer value. However, if the result is coerced back to an integer, the resulting arithmetic operation behaves identically to the typical corresponding machine operation (i.e., integer addition, subtraction, or division). The intish type represents the result of a JavaScript integer artihmetic operation that must be coerced back to integer with an explicit coercion. Because this type can only be used as an argument to a coercion (or silently ignored in an expression statement), asm.js integer artithmetic can always be implemented in an optimizing engine by the machine integer artithmetic operations.

The one arithmetic operation that does not quite fit into this story is multiplication. Multiplying two large integers can results in a large enough double that some lower bits of precision are lost, so that coercing the result back to integer does *not* behave identically to the machine operation. The use of the proposed ES6 Math.imul function [?] as an FFI function is recommended as the proper means of implementing integer multiplication.

The bit type

The conditional operators produce boolean values in JavaScript. Booleans are interconvertible to the JavaScript integer values 0 and 1 via integer coercion and back via boolean coercion. In order to allow optimizing engines to represent these as untagged 32-bit integers, we disallow the bit type from escaping

to external JavaScript. The only contexts where they can be used are in conditionals (such as the test expression of an if statement), or in coercions to integer.

The boolish type

Every type in JavaScript can be implicitly converted to a boolean for the sake of evaluating a conditional statement. This coercion is allowed in asm.js for the bit type as well as the integer types, but not for the double type. This ensures that an optimizing JavaScript engine only ever performs a conditional based on an unboxed 32-bit integer value, avoiding the need for a more expensive conversion.

The unknown type

Calling an external JavaScript function through the FFI results in an arbitrary JavaScript value. Because asm.js is designed to avoid dealing with general values, the result must be coerced to one of the other types before it can be used. The unknown type represents one of these result values before being coerced to an integer or double.

The void type

A function that returns undefined is considered to have the void result type. The undefined value is not actually a first-class value in asm.js. It can only be ignored via an expression statement. This avoids having to represent it at all as data.

3.2 Global types

Validation tracks the types not only of expressions and local variables but also global variables, FFI imports, and functions. In addition to variables of expression type, globals may also be typed array views on the module's buffer, imported FFI constants and functions, and functions defined in the asm.js module.

$$\gamma ::= \tau \mid \mathtt{view}_{\tau}^n \mid ((\overline{\sigma}) \to \tau) \wedge \dots \wedge ((\overline{\sigma'}) \to \tau')$$

The type of a typed array tracks the number of bits per element and the elements' value type (int or double). A function type may be overloaded to allow different parameter types, potentially providing different result types for each overloading.

3.3 Operator types

Every operator (unary or binary) has an overloaded function type. This overloading corresponds to the different machine operations used in an optimizing engine to implement the various cases. Whereas JavaScript generally needs

to choose the behavior of operators dynamically, asm.js makes it possible to resolve the overloaded operators statically based on the types of the operands.

The types of the arithmetic operators are as follows:

```
+,- : (double, double) \rightarrow double

\land (int, int) \rightarrow intish

* : (double, double) \rightarrow double

/,\% : (double, double) \rightarrow double

\land (signed, signed) \rightarrow intish

\land (unsigned, unsigned) \rightarrow intish
```

Note that some operations produce the type intish, indicating that their result must be immediately coerced back to an integer. Note also that multiplication is only defined on doubles; integer multiplication must either be performed by splitting a 32-bit integer into two 16-bit halves and manually performing the carry, or by using the imul operation.

The bitwise operators are one of only two places in the language that can consume an intish expression. Every one of these operators can be composed with the arithmetic operators to produce the correct behavior of integer arithmetic.

The conditional operators rely on the sign of their input and produce a boolean result:

```
<,<=,>,>=,==, != : (signed, signed) \rightarrow bit \\ \land (unsigned, unsigned) \rightarrow bit \\ \land (double, double) \rightarrow bit
```

Finally, the unary operators can also serve to coerce intish expressions, similar to the bitwise operators, as well as boolish in the case of !:

```
\begin{array}{lll} + & : & (\mathtt{intish}) \to \mathtt{double} \\ \tilde{\phantom{a}} & : & (\mathtt{intish}) \to \mathtt{signed} \\ ! & : & (\mathtt{boolish}) \to \mathtt{bit} \end{array}
```

4 Validation

This section describes the asm.js validation process, which is essentially a static type system.

4.1 Annotations

Type annotations are provided in the form of explicit coercions. Variables in asm.js are always taken to have the type double or int, never signed or unsigned. This is because they are intended to be representable as unboxed

32-bit words in memory or registers, which are agnostic about what sign to interpret the bits with.

```
var\text{-}type(+x), var\text{-}type(r) = \text{double}
var\text{-}type(x \mid 0), var\text{-}type(n) = \text{int} (-2^{31} \le n < 2^{32})
```

Function return types are determined by explicit coercions in their return statements. Function return types are always explicit about their sign so that they can be exported to external JavaScript.

```
return-type(+e), return-type(r) = double

return-type(e \mid 0), return-type(n) = signed (-2^{31} \le n < 2^{31})

return-type(\epsilon) = void
```

The type of a function can be extracted by looking at its parameter annotations and return statements.

```
\begin{array}{l} \mathit{fun-type}(\texttt{function}\ f(\overline{x})\ \{\ \overline{x} = \mathit{ann}_x;\ \overline{\mathsf{var}\ \overline{y} = v};\ \mathit{ss}\ \}) = (\overline{\sigma}) \to \tau \\ \text{where}\ \forall i.\mathit{var-type}(\mathit{ann}_{x_i}) = \sigma_i \\ \text{and}\ \forall \texttt{return}\ [\mathit{re}];\ \in \mathit{ss.return-type}([\mathit{re}]) = \tau \\ \text{or}\ \ \exists \texttt{return}\ [\mathit{re}];\ \in \mathit{ss}\ \text{and}\ \tau = \texttt{void} \end{array}
```

4.2 Standard libraries

The JavaScript Math API is recognized as a typed standard library; each of its functions is allowed as an import with the same name and is given an appropriate function type.

```
M(acos), M(asin), M(atan) :
                                                             (double) \rightarrow double
               M(\cos), M(\sin), M(\tan)
                                                             (double) \rightarrow double
                                                             (double) \rightarrow double
      M(\text{ceil}), M(\text{floor}), M(\text{round})
M(exp), M(log), M(pow), M(sqrt)
                                                             (\mathtt{double}) \rightarrow \mathtt{double}
                                         M(\mathtt{abs})
                                                             (\mathtt{signed}) \rightarrow \mathtt{unsigned}
                                                       \land \quad (\mathtt{unsigned}) \to \mathtt{unsigned}
                                                        \land (double) \rightarrow double
                                     M(atan2)
                                                       : \quad (\mathtt{double}, \mathtt{double}) \rightarrow \mathtt{double}
                                       M(imul)
                                                             (int, int) \rightarrow signed
                            M(\max), M(\min)
                                                       : (\dots \mathtt{signed}) \to \mathtt{signed}
                                                             (\dots \mathtt{unsigned}) \to \mathtt{unsigned}
                                                       \land (...double) \rightarrow double
                                   M(\texttt{random}) : () \rightarrow \texttt{double}
```

4.3 View types

```
\begin{array}{rcl} A(\texttt{Uint8Array}), A(\texttt{Int8Array}) &=& \texttt{view}_{\texttt{int}}^8 \\ A(\texttt{Uint16Array}), A(\texttt{Int16Array}) &=& \texttt{view}_{\texttt{int}}^{16} \\ A(\texttt{Uint32Array}), A(\texttt{Int32Array}) &=& \texttt{view}_{\texttt{int}}^{32} \\ A(\texttt{Float32Array}) &=& \texttt{view}_{\texttt{double}}^{32} \\ A(\texttt{Float64Array}) &=& \texttt{view}_{\texttt{double}}^{44} \end{array}
```

4.4 Module validation

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \Delta & ::= & \{\overline{x:\gamma}\} \\ \Gamma & ::= & \{\overline{x:\tau}\} \end{array}$$

Module validation

 $\vdash mod \ \mathbf{ok}$

[T-Program]

Import validation

[T-ImportStd]

$$[e];[b];\Delta \vdash imp \ \mathbf{ok}$$

[T-ImportFFI] $y \not\in dom(M), dom(A)$ $\frac{\Delta(x) = M(y)}{e; [b]; \Delta \vdash \text{var } x = e.y; \text{ ok}} \qquad \frac{\Delta(x) = (\dots \text{extern}) \to \text{unknown}}{e; [b]; \Delta \vdash \text{var } x = e.y; \text{ ok}}$

$$\frac{\Delta(x) = \mathtt{view}^n_{A(y)}}{e; b; \Delta \vdash \mathtt{var} \ x = \mathtt{new} \ e \cdot y(b); \ \mathbf{ok}}$$

Function validation

 $\Delta \vdash fn \ \mathbf{ok}$

[T-FUNCTION]

Export validation

$$\Delta \vdash exp \ \mathbf{ok}$$

$$\frac{\Delta(f) = (\overline{\sigma}) \to \tau \qquad \tau <: \mathtt{extern}}{\Delta \vdash \mathtt{return} \ f; \ \mathbf{ok}}$$

$$\frac{\forall f. \Delta(f) = (\overline{\sigma}) \to \tau \land \tau <: \mathtt{extern}}{\Delta \vdash \mathtt{return} \ \{ \ \overline{x:f} \ \}; \ \mathbf{ok}}$$

4.5 Statement validation

Statement list validation $\Delta; \Gamma \vdash ss \ \mathbf{ok}$ [T-Statements] $\forall i.\Delta; \Gamma \vdash s_i \text{ ok}$ $\Delta; \Gamma \overline{\vdash \overline{s} \ \mathbf{ok}}$ $\Delta; \Gamma \vdash s \ \mathbf{ok}$ Statement validation [T-Block] [T-ExprStmt] [T-EMPTYSTATEMENT] $\Delta; \Gamma \vdash e : \sigma$ Δ ; $\Gamma \vdash ss$ ok Δ ; $\Gamma \vdash \{ ss \} \mathbf{ok}$ $\Delta; \Gamma \vdash e; \mathbf{ok}$ $\Delta; \Gamma \vdash$; ok [T-IF] [T-IfElse] $\Delta;\Gamma \vdash e: \mathtt{boolish}$ $\Delta;\Gamma \vdash e: \mathtt{boolish}$ $\Delta; \Gamma \vdash s_1 \ \mathbf{ok} \qquad \Delta; \Gamma \vdash s_2 \ \mathbf{ok}$ $\Delta; \Gamma \vdash s \ \mathbf{ok}$ Δ ; Γ \vdash if (e) s ok $\Delta; \Gamma \vdash \text{if } (e) \ s_1 \ \text{else} \ s_2 \ \mathbf{ok}$ [T-RETURNEXPR] Δ ; $\Gamma \vdash re : \tau$ [T-ReturnDouble] [T-RETURNVOID] return- $type(re) = \tau$ $\Delta;\Gamma \vdash e: \mathtt{double}$ $\Delta; \Gamma \vdash \mathtt{return} \ \mathit{re}; \ \mathbf{ok}$ Δ ; $\Gamma \vdash$ return +e; ok Δ ; Γ \vdash return; **ok** [T-WHILE] [T-DoWhile] $\Delta; \Gamma \vdash e : \mathtt{boolish}$ $\Delta; \Gamma \vdash s \ \mathbf{ok}$ Δ ; $\Gamma \vdash s$ **ok** Δ ; $\Gamma \vdash e$: boolish $\Delta; \Gamma \vdash \text{while (e) } s \text{ ok}$ $\Delta; \Gamma \vdash \text{do } s \text{ while } (e); \text{ ok}$ [T-For] $[\Delta; \Gamma \vdash e_1 : \sigma_1]$ $[\Delta; \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \mathtt{boolish}]$ $[\Delta; \Gamma \vdash e_3 : \sigma_3]$ $\Delta; \Gamma \vdash s \ \mathbf{ok}$ $\Delta; \Gamma \vdash \text{for } ([e_1]; [e_2]; [e_3]) \ s \ \mathbf{ok}$ [T-Break] [T-Continue] Δ ; $\Gamma \vdash \text{break } [lab]$; **ok** Δ ; $\Gamma \vdash$ continue [lab]; ok [T-SWITCH] $\Delta ; \Gamma \vdash e : \sigma \qquad \sigma <: \mathtt{extern} \qquad \forall i. \Delta ; \Gamma \vdash v_i : \sigma$ [T-Label] Δ ; $\Gamma \vdash s$ ok $\forall i.\Delta; \Gamma \vdash ss_i \text{ ok} \qquad [\Delta; \Gamma \vdash ss \text{ ok}]$ Δ ; $\Gamma \vdash lab : s \mathbf{ok}$ Δ ; $\Gamma \vdash$ switch (e) { $\overline{\mathsf{case}\ v_i \colon ss_i}\ [\mathsf{default} \colon ss]\ }$ ok

4.6 Must-return analysis

```
breaks(\overline{s}) = \bigcup_i breaks(s_i)
                    breaks(\{ ss \}) = breaks(ss)
                 breaks(if (e) s) = breaks(s)
     breaks(if (e) s_1 else s_2) = breaks(s_1) \cup breaks(s_2)
             breaks(while (e) s) = breaks(s) - \{\epsilon\}
       breaks(do\ s\ while\ (e);) = breaks(s) - \{\epsilon\}
breaks(for ([e_1]; [e_2]; [e_3]) s) =
                                           breaks(s) - \{\epsilon\}
                   breaks(break;) = \{\epsilon\}
              breaks(break lab;)
                                           \{lab\}
                     breaks(lab:s) = breaks(s) - \{lab\}
    breaks(switch (e) \{ cd \}) = \bigcup_i breaks(cd_i) - \{\epsilon\}
            breaks(s) (otherwise)
                                           Ø
               breaks(case \ v:ss) =
                                           breaks(ss)
              breaks(default: ss) = breaks(ss)
   returns(\overline{s})
        if returns(s_m) \land \forall i < m.breaks(s_m) = \emptyset for some m
   returns(\{ ss \})
        if returns(ss)
   returns(if (e) s_1 else s_2)
        if returns(s_1) \wedge returns(s_2)
   returns(do s while (e);)
        if returns(s)
   returns(switch (e) { \overline{cd} })
        if returns(cd_n) \land \forall i.breaks(cd_i) = \emptyset
   returns(case \ v:ss)
        if returns(ss)
   returns(default: ss)
        if returns(ss)
```

4.7 Expression validation

$$(\Delta \cdot \Gamma)(x) = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \Gamma(x) & \text{if } x \in dom(\Gamma) \\ \Delta(x) & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right.$$

5 Implementation strategies