CS652 Smalltalk VM Operational Semantics

Terence Parr

April 2, 2015

$T \bowtie x$	Resolve x in scope T
$o \in \texttt{X}$	o instance of X
$o_{class} \in \texttt{STMetaClassObject}$	Metaclass (type) of object o
$o_{class_{class}} = o_{class}$	A metaclass object is its own type
$o_{superclass} \in \texttt{STMetaClassObject}$	Superclass (type) of object o
o_{field_i}	The i^{th}field of object o
$f_{literal_i}$	The i^{th}literal of method f
$f_s^{block_i} \in \texttt{BlockDescriptor}$	The i^{th}block of method f associated with instance self=s
$f_s^{block_i}[\_, \_, \_] \in \texttt{BlockContext}$	The i^{th}block of method f invoked with self=s
$\gamma \in \texttt{MethodContext}^*$	Stack of method invocations growing to the right
$\delta \in \texttt{Object}^*$	Operand stack of objects growing to the right
$\mathbb{S}$	The state of the VM system dictionary
$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma)$	VM state is the system dictionary and a method invocation stack with zero or more elements
$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}', \gamma')$	VM state transition
$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma) \Rightarrow^* (\mathbb{S}', \gamma')$	Zero-or-more state transitions
$f_s[ip, l_0, ..l_{n-1}, \delta]$	Method invocation context that derived from sending message f to receiver s (self); $f \in$ `MethodContext`; l_i is local variable or argument, indexed from 0 and arguments first; δ is the operand stack
$f[ip, l_0, ..l_{n-1}, \delta]$	Same as previous but the receiver is unknown or irrelevant
$f[ip, \_, \_]$	A method invitation context with "don't care" for locals and operand stack

Figure 1: Smalltalk VM Bytecode Specification Notation

Bytecode Instruction	**Transition**
initial state	$state_0 = (\mathbb{S}[\texttt{nil}, \texttt{true}, \texttt{false}, \texttt{Transcript}], \texttt{main}_m[0, \epsilon, \epsilon])$ for $m \in \texttt{MainClass}$; program terminates if $\exists\ state_0 \Rightarrow^* (\mathbb{S}', \epsilon)$
`nil`	$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip, \_, \delta]) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip+1, \_, \delta\, \texttt{nil}])$
`self`	$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma f_s[ip, \_, \delta]) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}, \gamma f_s[ip+1, \_, \delta\, s])$
`true`	$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip, \_, \delta]) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip+1, \_, \delta\, \texttt{true}])$
`false`	$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip, \_, \delta]) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip+1, \_, \delta\, \texttt{false}])$
`push_char` c	$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip, \_, \delta]) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip+3, \_, \delta\, c])]$
`push_int` i	$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip, \_, \delta]) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip+5, \_, \delta\, i])$
`push_float` i	$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip, \_, \delta]) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip+5, \_, \delta\, intBitsToFloat(i)])$
`push_field` i	$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma f_s[ip, \_, \delta]) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}, \gamma f_s[ip+3, \_, \delta\, s_{field_i}])$
`push_local` n, i	$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip, ...l_i..., \delta]) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip+5, ...l_i..., \delta\, l_i])$
`push_literal` i	$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip, \_, \delta]) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip+3, \_, \delta\, f_{literal_i}])$
`push_global` i	$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip, \_, \delta]) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip+3, \_, \delta\, \mathbb{S}[f_{literal_i}]])$
`push_array` n	$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip, \_, \delta\, a_1..a_n]) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip+3, \_, \delta A])$ where $A = Array(a_1..a_n)$
`store_field` i	$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma f_s[ip, \_, \delta\, \mathbf{v}]) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}[s_{field_i} = \mathbf{v}], \gamma f_s[ip+3, \_, \delta])$
`store_local` n, i	$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip, ...l_i..., \delta\, \mathbf{v}]) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip+5, ...l_{i-1}\mathbf{v}\, l_{i+1}..., \delta])$
`pop`	$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip, \_, \delta\, v]) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip+1, \_, \delta])$
`send` n, i	$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip, \_, \delta\, r\, p_1..p_n]) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip+5, \_, \delta]\ (r_{class} \bowtie f_{literal_i})_r[0, p_1..p_n, \epsilon])$
`send_super` n, i	$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip, \_, \delta\, r\, p_1..p_n]) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip+5, \_, \delta]\ (r_{superclass} \bowtie f_{literal_i})_r[0, p_1..p_n, \epsilon])$
`block` i	$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip, \_, \delta]) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip+3, \_, \delta\, f_s^{block_i}])$
`block_return`	$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip, \_, \delta]\ g^{block}[\_, \_, \delta' v]) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip, \_, \delta\, v])$
(*local method*) `return`	$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip, \_, \delta]\ g[\_, \_, \delta' v]) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip, \_, \delta\, v])$
(*nonlocal method*) `return`	$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip, \_, \delta]\ g_s[\_, \_, \_]\ ...\ h[\_, \_, \_]\ g_s^{block}[\_, \_, \delta' v]) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip, \_, \delta\, v])$
`dbg` i, loc	$(\mathbb{S}, \gamma f[ip, \_, \_]) \Rightarrow (\mathbb{S}[file{=}f_{literal_i}, line{=}loc[31{:}8], col{=}loc[7{:}0]], \gamma f[ip+7, \_, \_])$ Set VM current filename to $f_{literal_i}$ and split loc into char position (indexed from 0) from lower 8 bits and line number from the upper 24 bits.

Table 1: Smalltalk VM State Transition Rules