

Formalisms Every Computer Scientist Should Know

License: This work is marked with CC0 1.0. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0>

Contents

Class 1	3
0.1 Tools	3
0.2 Syllabus	3
0.3 Math	4
Class 2	7
0.4 Lattices and Fixpoints	7
Class 3	9

Class 1

0.1 Tools

- Lean or Coq
- CVC5 or Z3
- possibly a model checker
- professional version of ChatGPT

0.2 Syllabus

1. MATH (“Informalism”)
 - proofs (natural deduction)
 - fixpoints (induction, coinduction)
2. DECLARATIVE LOGIC
 - syntax (rules) vs. semantics (models)
 - propositional, predicate, modal logic
 - decision procedures (SAT, SMT)
3. FUNCTIONS
 - λ calculus, typed λ
 - SOS (structured operational semantics), rewriting
 - “propositions-as-types” (connection to logic)
4. PROCESSES (CONCURRENT)*
 - CCS, Petri nets
 - (bi-) simulation
5. CIRCUITS*
 - boolean, sequential, dataflow (Kahn nets)
 - interfaces

6. STATE TRANSITION SYSTEMS*

- (ω -) automata, games, timed, probabilistic, pushdown
- programs, Turing machines
- grammars (Chomsky hierarchy)

7. DECLARATIVE SPECIFICATION

- Hoare logics, separation logic
- temporal logics (LTL, CTL, ATL)
- partial correctness vs. termination, safety vs. liveness

*: Operational.

0.3 Math

Definition 1. A real b is a bound of a function f from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R} if for all x in \mathbb{R} , we have $f(x) \leq b$.

Definition 2. Given two functions f and g from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R} , their sum is the function $f + g$ such that for all x in \mathbb{R} , we have $(f + g)(x) = f(x) + g(x)$.

Theorem 1. For all functions f and g from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R} , if f and g are bounded, then $f + g$ is bounded.

Proof. 1. Consider arbitrary functions \hat{f} and \hat{g} from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R} .

2. Assume \hat{f} and \hat{g} are bounded.
3. Show that $\hat{f} + \hat{g}$ is bounded.
4. ($2 \rightarrow$) Let \hat{a} be a bound for \hat{f} , and \hat{b} be a bound for \hat{g} .
5. We show that $\hat{a} + \hat{b}$ is a bound for $\hat{f} + \hat{g}$.
6. Consider an arbitrary real \hat{x} .
7. Show $(\hat{f} + \hat{g})(\hat{x}) \leq \hat{a} + \hat{b}$.
8. (Definition of sum) $(\hat{f} + \hat{g})(\hat{x}) = \hat{f}(\hat{x}) + \hat{g}(\hat{x})$.
9. (Definition of bound) $\hat{f}(\hat{x}) \leq \hat{a}$ and $\hat{g}(\hat{x}) \leq \hat{b}$.
10. The rest follows from “arithmetic”.

□

Homework. Prove the Schröder-Bernstein theorem “in this style”.

Definition 3. Two sets A and B are equipollent (“have the same size”) if there is a bijection from A to B .

Definition 4. A function f from A to B is

1. one-to-one if for all x and y in A , if $x \neq y$, then $f(x) \neq f(y)$.
2. onto if for all z in B , there exists x in A such that $f(x) = z$.

3. bijjective if f is one-to-one and onto.

Goals	Knowledge	Outermost symbol
Show for all x , $G(x)$. Consider arbitrary \hat{x} . Show $G(\hat{x})$.	We know for all x , $K(x)$. In particular, we know $K(\hat{t})$. \hat{t} : term containing only constants.	\forall
Show there exists x s.t. $G(x)$. We show that $G(\hat{t})$. \hat{t} : term containing only constants.	We know there exists x s.t. $K(x)$. Let \hat{x} be s.t. $K(\hat{x})$.	\exists

Class 2

Goal	Knowledge	Outermost symbol
Show for all x , $G(x)$. Consider arbitrary \hat{x} . Show $G(\hat{x})$	We know for all x , $K(x)$ In particular we know $K(\hat{t})$ for constant \hat{t}	\forall
Show: exists x s.t. $G(x)$. We show $G(\hat{t})$	We know exists x s.t. $K(x)$ Let \hat{x} be s.t. $K(x)$	\exists
Show G_1 iff G_2 1. Show if G_1 then G_2 2. Show if G_2 then G_1	We know K_1 iff K_2 In particular we know if K_1 then K_2 and if K_2 then K_1	\iff
Show if G_1 then G_2 Assume G_1 Show G_2	We know if K_1 then K_2 1. To show K_2 it suffices to show K_2 2. Know K_1 , Also know K_2	\Rightarrow
Show G_1 and G_2 1. Show G_1 2. Show G_2	Know K_1 and K_2 1. Also Know K_1 2. Also Know K_2	\wedge
Show G_1 or G_2 1. Assume $\neg G_1$, show G_2 2. Assume $\neg G_2$, show G_1	We know K_1 or K_2 . Show G . 1. Assume K_1 , Show G 2. Assume K_2 , Show G Case split \uparrow	\vee
Move Negation Inside, as far as possible		\neg

0.4 Lattices and Fixpoints

We begin by defining relations and their properties.

Definition 5. A binary relation R on a set A is a subset $R \subset A \times A$.

The relation R is reflexive if for all x in A , we have $R(x,x)$.

The relation R is Antisymmetric if for all x and y in A , if $R(x,y)$ and $R(y,x)$ then $x = y$.

The relation R is transitive if for all x,y and z in A , if $R(x,y)$ and $R(y,z)$ then $R(x,z)$.

The relation R is a partial order if R is reflexive, antisymmetric and transitive.

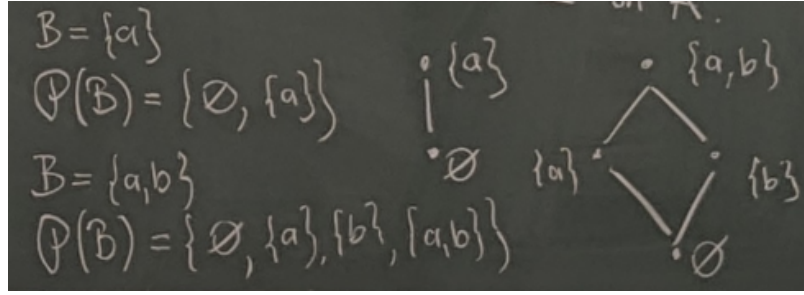
A Poset (A, \sqsubseteq) is a set A and a partial order \sqsubseteq on A .

Example 1. The pair (\mathbb{N}, \leq) where \mathbb{N} is the set of natural numbers, is a poset.

For every set B , we have $(\mathcal{P}(B), \subseteq)$ where $\mathcal{P}(B)$ is the powerset of B , is a poset.

Definition 6. • Let (A, \sqsubseteq) be a poset. A function F from A to A is monotone (order-preserving, homomorphism) if for all x and y in A , if $x \sqsubseteq y$, then $F(x) \sqsubseteq F(y)$.

- F has a fixpoint x in A if there exists x in A such that $F(x) = x$.



- x in A is a pre-fixpoint of F if $x \sqsubseteq F(x)$ and is a post-fixpoint of F , if $F(x) \sqsubseteq x$.

Definition 7. Let (A, \sqsubseteq) be a poset.

- x in A is an upper bound(lower bound) on a subset B of A if for all y in B , it holds that $y \sqsubseteq x$ ($x \sqsubseteq y$).
- x is the least upper bound of B if (i) x is an upper bound of B and (ii) for all upper bounds y of B , we have $x \sqsubseteq y$. We denote such x by $\sqcup B$.
- x is the greatest lower bound of B if (i) x is a lower bound of B and (ii) for all lower bounds y of B , we have $y \sqsubseteq x$. We denote such x by $\sqcap B$.

Example 2. • Consider the poset (\mathbb{N}, \leq) . Then for any $B \subseteq \mathbb{N}$, if B is finite, $\sqcup B$ is well-defined and equal to $\max B$. If B is infinite, then $\sqcup B$ does not exist.

- Consider the poset $(\mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}, \leq)$ where for all x in \mathbb{N} , it holds that $x \leq \infty$. Then for all $B \subseteq \mathbb{N}$, the least upper bound $\sqcup B$ is well-defined.
- Let A be any set and consider the poset $(\mathcal{P}(A), \subseteq)$. For any subset B of $\mathcal{P}(A)$, it holds that $\sqcup B = \bigcup B$ and $\sqcap B = \bigcap B$.

Definition 8. Poset (A, \sqsubseteq) is a complete-lattice if for all $B \subseteq A$, both $\sqcap B$ and $\sqcup B$ exist.

Example 3. Let (A, \sqsubseteq) be a complete-lattice.

- $\sqcup A = \top$
- $\sqcap A = \perp$
- $\sqcup \emptyset = \perp$
- $\sqcap \emptyset = \top$

Theorem 2 (Knaster-Tarski). For every complete lattice (A, \sqsubseteq) and monotone function F on A , it holds that

1. $\sqcup \{x \in A \mid x \sqsubseteq F(x)\}$ is the unique greatest fixpoint of F .
2. $\sqcap \{x \in A \mid F(x) \sqsubseteq x\}$ is the unique least fixpoint of F .

Homework 1. Prove the Knaster Tarski Theorem.

Class 3

Definition 9 (Prefixpoint). Consider a lattice (A, \sqsubseteq) and a function $f: A \rightarrow A$. The set of prefixes is

$$\{x \in A : x \sqsubseteq f(x)\}.$$

Definition 10 (Postfixpoint). Consider a lattice (A, \sqsubseteq) and a function $f: A \rightarrow A$. The set of postfixes is

$$\{x \in A : f(x) \sqsubseteq x\}.$$

Definition 11 (gfp and lfp). Consider a complete lattice (A, \sqsubseteq) and a function $f: A \rightarrow A$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{gfp}f &:= \bigsqcup \{x \in A : x \sqsubseteq f(x)\} \\ \text{lfp}f &:= \bigsqcap \{x \in A : f(x) \sqsubseteq x\}. \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 3 (Fixpoints). Consider a complete lattice (A, \sqsubseteq) and a monotonic function $f: A \rightarrow A$. Then, $\text{gfp}f$ and $\text{lfp}f$ are fixpoints of f and, for all fixpoints x of f , we have $\text{lfp}f \sqsubseteq x \sqsubseteq \text{gfp}f$.

Definition 12 (\sqcup -continuous). Consider a complete lattice (A, \sqsubseteq) . A function $f: A \rightarrow A$ is \sqcup -continuous if, for all increasing sequences $x_0 \sqsubseteq x_1 \sqsubseteq x_2 \sqsubseteq \dots$, we have

$$f\left(\bigsqcup \{x_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}\right) = \bigsqcup \{f(x_n) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

Definition 13 (\sqcap -continuous). Consider a complete lattice (A, \sqsubseteq) . A function $f: A \rightarrow A$ is \sqcap -continuous if, for all increasing sequences $x_0 \sqsupseteq x_1 \sqsupseteq x_2 \sqsupseteq \dots$, we have

$$f\left(\bigsqcap \{x_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}\right) = \bigsqcap \{f(x_n) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

Lemma 1. \sqcup -continuous implies monotonicity and \sqcap -continuous implies monotonicity.

Theorem 4 (Constructive fixpoints). Consider a complete lattice (A, \sqsubseteq) and a monotonic function $f: A \rightarrow A$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{lfp}f &= \bigsqcup \{f^n(\perp) : n \in \mathbb{N}\} \\ \text{gfp}f &= \bigsqcap \{f^n(\top) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}. \end{aligned}$$

Homework 2. Prove this theorem.

Definition 14 (\mathbb{N}). Define \mathbb{N} as the smallest set X such that

1. $0 \in X$

2. if $n \in X$, then $Sn \in X$

In the definition of \mathbb{N} , we consider a universal set U sufficiently big, the complete lattice $(2^U, \subseteq)$ and the function on sets given by $f(Y) := \{0\} \cup \{Sn : n \in Y\}$. Then, $\text{lfp}f = \mathbb{N}$.

Definition 15 (Set of words). Consider a finite alphabet Σ . Define Σ^* as the smallest set X such that

1. $\varepsilon \in X$
2. for all $a \in \Sigma$, we have $aX \subseteq X$.

A few remarks are in place.

- Inductively defined sets are countable and consists of finite elements.
- Inductively defined sets can be written as rules $x \Rightarrow f(x)$ meaning that, if $x \in X$, then $f(x) \in X$.
- Inductively defined sets allow proof by induction. Consider prove that for all $x \in X$ we have $G(x)$. This can be proven by showing

1. $G(\perp)$
2. For all $x \in X$, if $G(x)$, then $G(f(x))$

Definition 16 (Balanced binary sequences). Define the set S as the largest set X such that

1. $X \subseteq 01X \cup 10X$.

In the definition of balanced binary sequences, we consider the complete lattice $(\Sigma^\omega, \subseteq)$ and the function on sets given by $f(X) := 01X \cup 10X$. Then, balanced binary sequences corresponds to $\text{gfp}f$.

Definition 17 (Interval $[0, 1]$). Define the set S as the largest set X such that

1. $X \subseteq 0X \cup 1X \cup \dots \cup 9X$.

A few remarks are in place.

- Coinductively defined sets are uncountable and consists of infinite elements.
- Coinductively defined sets can be written as rules $x \Leftarrow f(x)$ meaning that, for all $y \in X$, there exists x such that $y = f(x)$ and $x \in X$.
- Coinductively defined sets allow proof by induction. Consider prove that for all $x \in X$ we have $G(x)$. This can be proven by showing

1. For all x and i , if $G(f_i(x))$, then $G(x)$

where $\{f_1, \dots, f_n\}$ is the set of rules that define the set X .

Homework 3 (Prove balanced binary sequences). Consider S generated by the rules $X \Leftarrow 01X$ and $X \Leftarrow 10X$. Prove that, for all binary words x , we have that $x \in S$ if and only iff every finite prefix of even length of x has the same number of 0s and 1s.

Hints.

1. The direction \Leftarrow can be proven by coinduction.
2. The direction \Rightarrow can be proven by induction on the length of the prefix.