A simple imperative language

Massimo Merro

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The language While Turing completo

We provide the syntax of a simple imperative language by means of a BNF grammar containing:

Sono veramente locazioni, indicate con font "normale"

La statica, la scrittuta sintatica dei comandi, non sarà definita solo attraverso la grammmatica, che è la struttura dei programmi

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Please, note the following:

- we consider abstract syntax; so our grammar defines syntactic trees
- integers are unbounded
- we have abstract locations; thus !/ means "the integer currently stored at location /" (for simplicity, we store only integers)
- ullet untyped language, so have nonsensical expressions like $2 \geq true$
- don't have expression/command distinctions
- doesn't really matter what basic operations we have
- ullet distinguish metavariables b, n, l, e, op from program locations l, l_0, \dots

Some intuition

- assignment, "I := e" evaluates e and then stores the result in the location I
- conditional, taking a boolean and two expressions and yielding a expression "if e then e₁ else e₂"
- sequential composition, written "e₁; e₂", takes two commands (the semicolon here is an operator joining two commands into one and not just a piece of punctuation at the end of a command)
- do nothing, denoted by the constant "skip"
- loop constructor, which takes a boolean and a command and yields a command, written "while e do e_1 ".

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Example program

A program in our language is given by a non-empty sequential composition of expressions $e_1; ...; e_n$

$$\begin{split} l_2 &:= 1; \\ l_3 &:= 0; \\ \text{while } \neg (!l_1 = !l_2) \text{ do} \\ l_2 &:= !l_2 + 1; \\ l_3 &:= !l_3 + 1; \\ l_1 &:= !l_3 \end{split}$$

How do we describe the behaviour of these programs?

How can we prescribe how these program should be executed?

Evaluating expressions

Value of expressions depend on current values in locations

• $|l_1 + l_2 - 1|$

In this case, the value depends on current values at locations l_1 and l_2 .

Values stored at locations changes as program are executed

So, our operational semantics should take into considerations those changes!

- How do we evalute an expression !/?
- or what about an assignment I := e ?

We need some more information about the state of the machine's memory.

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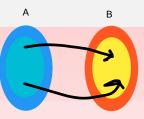
Partial functions

Una funzione ha un dominio e un codominio, si prendono valori dell'insieme A e si mappano in valori dell'insieme B Vicaning: Funzioni totali sono definite per tutti i valori, del dominio nel codominio

$$f:A \rightarrow B$$

Una funzione è un insiemi, un insieme di coppie

f returns an element of B for some elements of A



Funzioni parziali, non vi è definizione per tutti i valori

C ::

Convention:

- dom(f) is the set of elements in the domain of f, formally dom(f) = { $a \in A : \exists b \in B \ s.t. \ f(a) = b$ }
- ran(f) is the set of elements in the range of f, formally $ran(f) = \{b \in B : \exists a \in A s.t. f(a) = b\}$

So, f(a) may not be defined for some a in A, that's why it's called partial! Furthermore, f could be undefined for all elements in A, i.e. a partial function can be empty, just $\{\}$.

Store

 In our language, Store is a set of finite partial functions from locations to integers

$$s: \mathbb{L} \rightharpoonup \mathbb{Z}$$

Prendo uno store e faccio l'update di uno store, ad I locazione di memoria associo n valore

- \bullet For example : $\{l_1 \mapsto 3, l_2 \mapsto 6, l_3 \mapsto 7\}$
- Updating: The store $s[1 \mapsto n]$ is defined by

$$s[l \mapsto n](l') = \begin{cases} n & \text{if } l = l' \\ s(l') & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Behaviour of our programs is relative to a store
- The store changes as the execution of a program proceeds

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Transition systems Small step semantic

Operational semantics in terms of a transition system.

A transition system consists of

- a set Config, of configurations, and
- a binary relation $\Rightarrow \subseteq Config \times Config$.

In particular,

- the elements of *Config* are often called *configurations* or *states*
- the relation → is called the *transition* or *reduction* relation
- we adopt an infix notation, so $c \rightarrow c'$ should be read as "configuration c can make a transition to the configuration c'
- complete execution of a program transforms an initial state into a terminal state.

A transition system is like an NFA $^{\epsilon}$ with an empty alphabet, except

- it can have infinitely many states
- we don't specify a start state or accepting states.

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Operational semantics for our imperative language

Configurations are pairs $\langle e, s \rangle$ of an expression e and a store s. Our transition relation will have the form:

Judgements:

$$\langle e, s \rangle \Rightarrow \langle e', s' \rangle$$

Meaning:

- starting from store s
- when evaluating expression e

one step of computation leads to

- store s'
- with expression e' remaining to be evalueted.

What is a step?

It depends...

Ogni passo e ogni operazione può avere un side effect sulla memoria

What is a step?

Stiamo facendo una lettura in memoria

Transitions are single computation steps. For example we will have:

$$\rightarrow \langle 1 := 2 + (!!, \{1 \mapsto 3\}) \rangle$$

$$\rightarrow \langle 1 := 2 + 3, \{1 \mapsto 3\} \rangle$$

$$\rightarrow \langle 1 := 5, \{1 \mapsto 3\} \rangle$$

$$\rightarrow \langle skip, \{1 \mapsto 5\} \rangle$$

$$\not \Rightarrow$$

Here, $\not \to$ is a unary operator on *Config* defined by $c \not \to$ iff $\neg \exists c'.c \to c'.$ We want to keep on until we get to a value v, an expression in

$$\mathbb{V} = \mathbb{B} \cup \mathbb{Z} \cup \{skip\}$$

Say $\langle e, s \rangle$ is stuck or in deadlock if e is not a value and $\langle e, s \rangle \not \rightarrow$. For example, 3 + false is stuck!

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Transition system: basic operations

$$(\operatorname{op} +) \xrightarrow{-} \frac{-}{\langle n_1 + n_2, \, s \rangle \to \langle n, \, s \rangle} \quad n = \operatorname{add}(n_1, n_2)$$

$$(\operatorname{op} \geq) \xrightarrow{-} \frac{-}{\langle n_1 \geq n_2, \, s \rangle \to \langle b, \, s \rangle} \quad b = \operatorname{geq}(n_1, n_2)$$

$$(\operatorname{op} 1) \xrightarrow{\langle e_1, \, s \rangle \to \langle e'_1, \, s' \rangle} \xrightarrow{\langle e_1 \, \operatorname{op} \, e_2, \, s \rangle \to \langle e'_1 \, \operatorname{op} \, e_2, \, s' \rangle}$$

$$(\operatorname{op} 2) \xrightarrow{\langle e_2, \, s \rangle \to \langle e'_2, \, s' \rangle} \xrightarrow{\operatorname{Seguiamo la politica left-right infatti non è indicato}} (\operatorname{op} 2) \xrightarrow{\langle e_2, \, s \rangle \to \langle v \, op \, e'_2, \, s' \rangle}$$

Observe that none of these transition rules introduces changes in the store.

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Example

Suppose we want to find the sequence of transitions starting from the configuration $\langle (3+4)+(7+8), \emptyset \rangle$. Then,

$$(op1) \frac{-}{\langle (3+4, \emptyset) \rightarrow \langle 7, \emptyset \rangle} -}{\langle (3+4) + (7+8), \emptyset \rangle \rightarrow \langle 7 + (7+8), \emptyset \rangle}$$

$$(op2) \frac{-}{\langle 7 + 8, \emptyset \rangle \rightarrow \langle 15, \emptyset \rangle} -}{\langle 7 + (7+8), \emptyset \rangle \rightarrow \langle 7 + 15, \emptyset \rangle}$$

$$(\mathsf{op} +) \ \frac{-}{\langle 7+15, \ \emptyset \rangle \Rightarrow \langle 22, \ \emptyset \rangle}$$

So, in three computation steps, $\langle (3+4)+(7+8), \emptyset \rangle \rightarrow \rightarrow \langle 22, \emptyset \rangle$.

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Transition system: Dereferencing

Per dare la semantica del programma, basta dare le semantiche dei singoli costrutti e poi combinarle inseme

What is the result of the evaluation of an expression !/ in a store s?

Inference rule:

$$(\mathsf{deref}) \ \frac{-}{\langle !I, \ s \rangle \ \multimap \ \langle n, \ s \rangle} \quad \textit{if} \ I \in \mathsf{dom}(s) \ \textit{and} \ s(I) = n$$

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Transition rules: Assignment Scrittura in memoria

How to execute one step of command l := e, relative to a store s?

Intuition:

- Evaluate e relative to store s
- Update store s with resulting value

Inference rules:

(assign1)
$$\frac{-}{\langle I := n, s \rangle \rightarrow \langle skip, s[I \mapsto n] \rangle} \quad \text{if } I \in \mathsf{dom}(s)$$

$$(assign2) \quad \frac{\langle e, s \rangle \rightarrow \langle e', s' \rangle}{\langle I := e, s \rangle \rightarrow \langle I := e', s' \rangle}$$

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Transitions system: Conditional

How to execute one step of (if e then e_1 else e_2) relative to a store s? Intuition:

- Evaluate e relative to store s
- if true start evaluating e_1
- if false start evaluating e2

Inference rules:

$$(\text{If_tt}) \ \frac{-}{\langle \text{if true then } e_1 \text{ else } e_2, s \rangle \rightarrow \langle e_1, s \rangle} \\ (\text{If_ff}) \ \frac{-}{\langle \text{if false then } e_1 \text{ else } e_2, s \rangle \rightarrow \langle e_2, s \rangle} \\ (\text{If}) \ \frac{\langle e, s \rangle \rightarrow \langle e', s' \rangle}{\langle \text{if } e \text{ then } e_1 \text{ else } e_2, s \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{if } e' \text{ then } e_1 \text{ else } e_2, s' \rangle}$$

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Transition system: Sequential computation

How to execute one step of $(e_1; e_2)$ relative to store s?

Intuition:

- Execute one step of e₁ relative to state s
- If e₁ has terminated start executing e₂

skip indicates termination.

Inference rules:

$$(\mathsf{Seq}) \ \frac{\langle e_1, \, s \rangle \, \Rightarrow \, \langle e_1', \, s' \rangle}{\langle e_1; \, e_2, \, s \rangle \, \Rightarrow \, \langle e_1'; \, e_2, \, s' \rangle}$$

$$(\mathsf{Seq.Skip}) \xrightarrow{-} \frac{-}{\langle \mathit{skip}; e_2, s \rangle \rightarrow \langle e_2, s \rangle}$$

Transitions system: While

How to execute one step of while e do e_1 relative to store s?

Intuition:

- Evaluate e relative to s
- If false then terminate
- if true then execute one step of e_1 , etc... <e1, s> bigstep

<false,s'> _____

<e1, s> bigstep

<while e1 do e2, s> - - - - <skip, s'>

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1, etc... <e1, s> bigstep
 <true.s'>

Inference rule:

<while e1 do e2, s> - - - -> <e2; while e1 do e2, s'>

fa l'unfolding di un passo del while

 $(\mathsf{While}) \ \frac{-}{\langle \mathsf{while} \ e \ \mathsf{do} \ e_1, \ s \rangle \, \Rightarrow \, \langle \mathsf{if} \ e \ \mathsf{then} \ \big(e_1; \ \mathsf{while} \ e \ \mathsf{do} \ e_1 \big) \ \mathsf{else} \ \mathsf{skip}, \ s \rangle}$

This is rewriting rule also called "unwinding", as it unfolds the while loop once: the semantics of while is given in terms of conditional and sequential composition.

Running programs

To run program P starting from a store s:

Find store s' such that

$$\langle P, s \rangle \rightarrow^* \langle v, s' \rangle$$

for $v \in \mathbb{V} = \mathbb{B} \cup \mathbb{Z} \cup \{skip\}$.

Configurations of the form $\langle v, s \rangle$ are said to be **terminal**.

Here, \rightarrow * denotes the reflexive and transitive closure of the reduction relation \rightarrow .

Example:

See McGusker notes at section 4.1.1.

Language properties

A number of interesting properties on the behaviour of programs:

Theorem 1 (Strong normalisation)

For every store s and every program P there exists some store s' such that $\langle P, s \rangle \rightarrow^* \langle v, s' \rangle$, with $\langle v, s \rangle$

STRONG DETERMINANCY

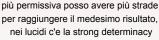
Theorem 2 (Determinacy)

ho una sola strada per ottenere un valore

If $\langle e, s \rangle \rightarrow \langle e_1, s_1 \rangle$ and $\langle e, s \rangle \rightarrow \langle e_2, s_2 \rangle$ then $\langle e_1, s_1 \rangle = \langle e_2, s_2 \rangle$.

Do these properties hold in our language? How can we prove them?

WEAK DETERMINANCY





The meaning/semantics of programs

Let us consider again the the fragment of code seen at the beginning of this lecture:

$$\begin{split} l_2 &:= 1; \\ l_3 &:= 0; \\ \text{while } \neg (!l_1 = !l_2) \text{ do} \\ l_2 &:= !l_2 + 1; \\ l_3 &:= !l_3 + 1; \\ l_1 &:= !l_3 \end{split}$$

What does this program really do?

- Any program should transform an initial state into a terminal state
- But, for some initial states there may be no terminal state.

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A semantic interpretation function

We can use our operational semantics to provide a formal semantics to the above program. Let

$$\llbracket - \rrbracket : Exp \rightarrow (Store \rightarrow Store)$$

where, given an arbitrary expression e, [e] is a partial function transforming an initial store s into a terminal store s'

Definition:

$$\llbracket e \rrbracket(s) = \begin{cases} s' & \text{if } \langle e, s \rangle \rightarrow^* \langle v, s' \rangle \\ \text{undefined} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Determinacy ensures that the function $\llbracket - \rrbracket$ is properly defined.

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Application

So, if P is the program mentioned before:

$$\begin{split} l_2 &:= 1; \\ l_3 &:= 0; \\ \text{while } \neg (!l_1 = !l_2) \text{ do} \\ l_2 &:= !l_2 + 1; \\ l_3 &:= !l_3 + 1; \\ l_1 &:= !l_3 \end{split}$$

We can fully describe its behavior as follows:

Language design 1. Order of evaluation

For $(e_1 ext{ op } e_2)$ the rules of our operational semantics say that e_1 must be fully reduced to a value before we start reducing e_2 . This evaluation strategy is called left-to-right. For example,

$$\langle (1 := 1; 0) + (1 := 2; 0), \{1 \mapsto 0\} \rangle \rightarrow^5 \langle 0, \{1 \mapsto 2\} \rangle$$

Another possibility is to follow a right-to-left strategy by replacing rules (op1) and (op2) by

$$(\text{op1b}) \ \frac{\langle e_2, \, s \rangle \multimap \langle e_2', \, s' \rangle}{\langle e_1 + e_2, \, s \rangle \multimap \langle e_1 + e_2', \, s' \rangle} \quad (\text{op2b}) \ \frac{\langle e_1, \, s \rangle \multimap \langle e_1', \, s' \rangle}{\langle e_1 + \nu, \, \rangle \multimap \langle e_1' + \nu, \, s' \rangle}$$

In a right-to-left evaluation strategy:

$$\langle (l := 1; 0) + (l := 2; 0), \{l \mapsto 0\} \rangle \rightarrow^5 \langle 0, \{l \mapsto 1\} \rangle$$

If you allow both strategies in your semantics you loose Determinacy!

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Language design 2. Assignment results

(assign1)
$$\frac{-}{\langle I := n, s \rangle \rightarrow \langle skip, s[I \mapsto n] \rangle} \quad \text{if } I \in \mathsf{dom}(s)$$
(Seq.Skip)
$$\frac{-}{\langle skip; e_2, s \rangle \rightarrow \langle e_2, s \rangle}$$

So

$$\langle (l:=1;l:=2),\ \{l\mapsto 0\}\rangle \ \Rightarrow^* \ \langle \textit{skip},\ \{l\mapsto 2\}\rangle$$

However, in certain languages assignments result in expressions:

(assign1b)
$$\frac{-}{\langle I := n, s \rangle \rightarrow \langle n, s[I \mapsto n] \rangle} \quad \text{if } I \in \mathsf{dom}(s)$$
(Seq.Skipb)
$$\frac{-}{\langle v; e_2, s \rangle \rightarrow \langle e_2, s \rangle}$$

And

$$\langle (l := 1; l := 2), \{l \mapsto 0\} \rangle \rightarrow^* \langle 2, \{l \mapsto 2\} \rangle.$$

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Language design 3. Store initialisation

Recall that

$$(\mathsf{deref}) \ \frac{-}{\langle !I, \ s \rangle \to \langle n, \ s \rangle} \ \ \textit{if} \ \ l \in \mathsf{dom}(s) \ \textit{and} \ s(l) = n$$

$$(\mathsf{assign1}) \ \frac{-}{\langle I := n, s \rangle \to \langle \textit{skip}, s[I \mapsto n] \rangle} \ \ \textit{if} \ \ l \in \mathsf{dom}(s)$$

Both require $l \in dom(s)$, otherwise the expressions are stuck. Instead, we could

- 1 implicitly initialise all locations to 0, or
- 2 allow assignment to an $l \notin dom(s)$ to initialise that l.

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Language design 4. Storable values

Recall stores s are finite partial functions from \mathbb{L} to \mathbb{Z} , with rules:

$$(\mathsf{deref}) \xrightarrow{-} \mathsf{if} \ I \in \mathsf{dom}(s) \ \mathsf{and} \ s(I) = n$$

$$(\mathsf{assign1}) \xrightarrow{-} \mathsf{if} \ I \in \mathsf{dom}(s) \ \mathsf{if} \ I \in \mathsf{dom}(s)$$

- We can store only integers: $\langle l := true, s \rangle$ is stuck! (we will introduce a type system to rule out programs that could reach a stuck expression)
- Why not allow storage af any value? of locations? of programs?
- Notice also that store is statically defined
- Later on we will consider programs that can create new locations.

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Expressiveness

Is our language expressive enough to write interesting programs?

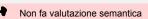
- **yes**: it's Turing-powerful (try coding an arbitrary register machine in it)
- **no**: there is no support for features like functions, branching, objects, etc...

Is our language too expressive (i.e. can we write too many program in it)?

yes: We would like to forbid programs like "3 + true" as early as
possible, rather than let the program get stuck or give a runtime
error. We'll do that by means of a type system.

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Type systems



used for

- describing when programs make sense
- preventing certain kinds of errors
- structuring programs
- guiding language design
- providing information to compiler optimisers
- enforcing security properties
- etc etc...
- even to allow only polynomial-time computations.

In our small language, ideally, well-typed programs don't get stuck!

per fare somme, confronti devo avere due interi, per le quardie nei costrutti devo avere dei booleani.

Type system necessario per verificare quando i programmi sono accettabili e per escludere moltissimi errori, specialmente quelli in cui i valori hanno tipi errati

> I type system sono sound, quindi corretti, ma non sono completi, spesso elimineranno programmi che poi a run time non avrebbero dato problemi

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Type systems more formally

We will define a ternary relation

Γ ⊢ e : T

Dentro vi sono informazioni parziali che vengono utilizzate quano si sale nell'albero, ad esempio informazioni sulle variabili del

read as "expression e has type T under assumptions on the types of locations that may occur in e".

For example, according to the definition (coming up...):

```
Non dà \{\} \vdash if true then 2 else 3+4 : int problemi a run time ma 1_1: intref \vdash if !1_1 \geq 3 then !1_1 else 3 : int viene rifiutato \{\} \not\vdash 3+ false : T for any T dal compilato \{\} \not\vdash if true then 3 else false : T for any T
```

Note that the last program is ill-typed despite the fact that when you execute it you'll always get an int: type systems define approximations to the behaviour of programs, often quite crude!

However, it has to be so! We generally would like them to be decidable, so that compilation is guaranteed to terminate!!!

Types for the language While

Types of expressions:

$$T ::= int \mid bool \mid unit$$

Types of locations:

$$T_{loc}$$
 ::= intref

- \bullet Write T and T_{loc} for the set of all terms of these grammars , ie $T=\{\text{int},\text{bool},\text{unit}\}$ and $T_{loc}=\{\text{intref}\}$
- \bullet Let Γ range over TypeEnv, the set of partial functions from $\mathbb L$ to T_{loc}
- Notations: write a Γ as l_1 : intref, ..., l_k : intref, instead of $\{l_1 \mapsto \mathsf{intref}, \ldots, l_k \mapsto \mathsf{intref}\}$
- For now, there is only one type in $T_{\rm loc}$, so a Γ can be thought of as just a set of locations (later, $T_{\rm loc}$ will be more interesting).

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Defining the type judgement " $\Gamma \vdash e : T$ " (1 of 3)

$$(int) \ \frac{-}{\Gamma \vdash n : int} \quad \text{for } n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$(bool) \ \frac{-}{\Gamma \vdash b : bool} \quad \text{for } b \in \{true, false\}$$

$$(op +) \ \frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : int \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : int}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 + e_2 : int} \quad (op \ge) \ \frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : int \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : int}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 \ge e_2 : bool}$$

$$(if) \ \frac{\Gamma : e_1 : bool \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : T \quad \Gamma \vdash e_3 : T}{\Gamma \vdash if \ e_1 \ then \ e_2 \ else \ e_3 : T}$$

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How to use it!

To show that

$$\{\} \vdash \text{if } \textit{false} \text{ then 2 else } 3+4: \text{int}$$

we can give a type derivation like this:

(if)
$$\frac{\text{(bool)} \quad \frac{-}{\{\} \vdash \textit{false} : \text{bool}} \quad \text{(int)} \quad \frac{-}{\{\} \vdash 2 : \text{int}} \quad \nabla}{\{\} \vdash \text{if false then 2 else } 3 + 4 : \text{int}}$$

where ∇ is

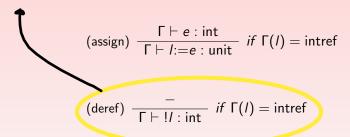
$$(\mathsf{op} +) \quad \frac{(\mathsf{int}) \quad \frac{-}{\{\} \vdash 3 : \mathsf{int}} \quad (\mathsf{int}) \quad \frac{-}{\{\} \vdash 4 : \mathsf{int}}}{\{\} \vdash 3 + 4 : \mathsf{int}}$$

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Defining the type judgement " $\Gamma \vdash e : T$ " (2 of 3)

No premesse - -> Assioma



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Defining the type judgement " $\Gamma \vdash e : T$ " (3 of 3)

Perchè lo schema diventa unit, quando risolvo e1 raggiungo "skip" e quindi ecco spiegato perchè forziamo quinit (skip) $\frac{-}{\Gamma \vdash skip} : \text{unit}$ Stiamo forzando che il primo sia uno unit $\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \text{unit}}{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : e_2 : T}$

Here, we are making an implicit, precise choice about the semantics of e_1 ; e_2 . Can you see it?

(while)
$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 : \mathsf{bool} \quad \Gamma \vdash e_2 : \mathsf{unit}}{\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{while} \ e_1 \ \mathsf{do} \ e_2 : \mathsf{unit}}$$

Typing rules are syntax-directed: for each clause of the abstract syntax for expressions there is exactly one rule with a conclusion of that form.

Properties

Se un programma è ben tipato non va in dead -lock

```
Theorem 3 (Progress) Se il Iprogramma è ben tipato e ha tipo T, allora o è un valore o prende If \Gamma \vdash e : T and dom(\Gamma) \subseteq_{un} dom(s), then either e is a value or there exist e', s' such that \langle e, s \rangle \rightarrow \langle e', s' \rangle.

L'espressione fa un passo
```

Theorem 4 (Type preservation) Quindi il tipo finale e i tipi intermedi saranno lo stesso If $\Gamma \vdash e : T$ and $dom(\Gamma) \subseteq dom(s)$ and $\langle e, s \rangle \rightarrow \langle e', s' \rangle$ then $\Gamma \vdash e' : T$ and $dom(\Gamma) \subseteq dom(s')$. Il dominio dello store deve essere almeno quello trovato a tempo di compilazione, ad esempio se usa I1, I2, I3, deve avere ALMENO quelle tre

Merging them together we can assert that well-typed programs don't get stuck:

Alla fine le locazioni saranno sempre le stesse, aggiornate

Theorem 5 (Safety) programma iniziale e gli faccio fare un numero arbitrario di passi, o giungo in un If $\Gamma \vdash e : T$, $dom(\Gamma) \subseteq dom(s)$, and $\langle e, s \rangle \to^* \langle e', s' \rangle$ then either e' is a value or there exist e'', s'' such that $\langle e', s' \rangle \to \langle e'', s'' \rangle$.

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se il programma e ben tipato, lo lancio in uno store ben formato, se rendo il

Type checking, typeability, and type inference

Type checking problem

Given a type system, a type environment Γ , an expression e and a type T, is $\Gamma \vdash e : T$ derivable?

Type inference problem

Given a type system, a type environment Γ and an expression e, find a type T such that the type judgement $\Gamma \vdash e : T$ is derivable, or show there is none.

The second problem is usually harder than the first one. Solving it usually results in providing a type inference algorithm: computing a type T for an expression e, given a type environment Γ (or failing, if there is none).

However, for our type system both problems are quite easy to solve.

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More properties

Theorem 6 (Type inference)

Given Γ , e, one can find T such that $\Gamma \vdash e : T$, or show that there is none.

Theorem 7 (Decidability of type checking)

Given Γ , e, T, one can decide $\Gamma \vdash e$: T. voglio che il type checking sia decidibile

Theorem 8 (Uniqueness of typing)

If $\Gamma \vdash e : T$ and $\Gamma \vdash e : T'$ then T = T'.

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