

COMP3161/COMP9164

Abstract Machines Exercises

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1. **Decision Machines:** Suppose we have a language of nested brackets N (where ε is the empty string):

$$\frac{}{} \quad \frac{e N}{e N} \quad \frac{e N}{e N} \quad \frac{e N}{e N}$$

Note that $()()$ is *not* a string in

We developed a simple abstract machine to check if strings are in this language. We set the states for the machine to be simply strings. Initial states are all non-empty strings, and the final state is the empty string. Then, our state transition relation is:

- (a) A machine *recognises* a language if any machine in the state corresponding to a string S will eventually reach a final state if an
- i. $[\star]$ Show that the string $[(\langle \rangle)]$ is in the language N , and show that our machine reaches a final state given the string $[(\langle \rangle)]$.

Solution: The string is in the language, as shown:

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\langle \rangle N}{\langle \rangle N} N_4}{[(\langle \rangle) N] N_2} N_1}{[(\langle \rangle)] N} N_3$$

The machine derivation is simply:

$$\begin{aligned} &[(\langle \rangle)] \\ \mapsto &[(\langle \rangle)] \quad (M_1) \\ \mapsto &\langle \rangle \quad (M_2) \\ \mapsto &\varepsilon \quad (M_3) \end{aligned}$$

- ii. $[\star\star]$ Show that the string $[]()[]$ is not in the language N , and show that our machine reaches a non-final state with no outgoing transitions given the same string, i.e, there exists some stuck state s such that $[]()[] \mapsto^* s$

Solution: If we attempt to derive $[]()[] N$:

$$\frac{\frac{???}{[]} N}{[]() N} N_4$$

We get the subgoal $[]() N$, which is false, as all strings in N are either ε or begin with an opening bracket. Hence, as the rules are unambiguous, there is no other way to derive $[]()[] N$ and hence it is not in N . Similarly, our machine derivation:

$$\begin{aligned} &[]()[] \\ \mapsto &[]() \quad (M_1) \\ \mapsto &??? \end{aligned}$$

We end up in the state $]()[$, which is a *stuck* state, as there are no transitions from a state that begins with a closing bracket.

iii. Prove that the machine recognises the language N , that is:

$\alpha)$ $[\star\star\star] \ s \ N \implies s \stackrel{\star}{\mapsto} \varepsilon$. The relation $\stackrel{\star}{\mapsto}$ of course being the reflexive transitive closure of \mapsto , that is:

$$\frac{}{s \stackrel{\star}{\mapsto} s} \text{REFL}^* \quad \frac{s_1 \mapsto s_2 \quad s_2 \stackrel{\star}{\mapsto} s_3}{s_1 \stackrel{\star}{\mapsto} s_3} \text{TRANS}^*$$

Solution:

Base case: Where $s = \varepsilon$, we must show $\varepsilon \stackrel{\star}{\mapsto} \varepsilon$. We can show this using the reflexivity rule:

$$\frac{}{\varepsilon \stackrel{\star}{\mapsto} \varepsilon} \text{REFL}^*$$

Inductive case

must show that

is that $s' \stackrel{\star}{\mapsto} \varepsilon$, we

$$\frac{\frac{}{(s') \mapsto s'} M_1 \quad \frac{}{s' \stackrel{\star}{\mapsto} \varepsilon} \text{I.H}}{(s') \stackrel{\star}{\mapsto} \varepsilon} \text{TRANS}^*$$

The other inductive cases are extremely similar. \square

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Base case: Where the length of the execution is zero - i.e, we are already in a final state. The only final state is ε , and hence our proof go ch is already known from rule N_1 .

Inductive case: Where our state s exec s' , and $s' \stackrel{\star}{\mapsto} \varepsilon (*)$. From $(*)$ we have the inductive hypothesis $s' \ N$. We must show that $s \ N$. We proceed by case distinction on s . Seeing as $s \mapsto s'$, s must be one of $\langle s' \rangle$ (by rule M_1), $[s']$ (by rule M_2), or $\langle s' \rangle$ (by rule M_3). All three cases are nearly identical, so we will deal with just the first case, where $s = \langle s' \rangle$.

$$\frac{\frac{}{s' \ N} \text{I.H}}{\langle s' \rangle \ N} N_2$$

\square

(b) Suppose that we were unable to efficiently read from both the beginning and end of the string simultaneously (For example, if a tape or a linked list is used to represent the string). This makes our original machine highly inefficient, as each state transition must examine the end of a string for a closing bracket.

We develop a new, stack-based machine that attempts to solve this problem. Our stack consists of three symbols, P, A, and B, one for each type of bracket. The states of the machine are of the form $s \mid e$, where s is a stack and e is a string. Our initial states are all states with an empty stack and a non-empty string, i.e: $\circ \mid e$, our final state is $\circ \mid \varepsilon$, and our state transitions are as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \frac{}{s \mid (e \mapsto P \triangleright s \mid e)} S_1 & \frac{}{s \mid (e \mapsto A \triangleright s \mid e)} S_2 & \frac{}{s \mid (e \mapsto B \triangleright s \mid e)} S_3 \\ \frac{}{P \triangleright s \mid)e \mapsto s \mid e} S_4 & \frac{}{A \triangleright s \mid)e \mapsto s \mid e} S_5 & \frac{}{B \triangleright s \mid)e \mapsto s \mid e} S_6 \end{array}$$

i. $[\star]$ Show the execution of the new stack machine given the start state $\circ \mid [(\langle \rangle)]$.

Solution: The machine execution proceeds as follows:

$\circ \mid [(\langle \rangle)]$
 $\mapsto B \triangleright \circ \mid [(\langle \rangle)] \quad (S_3)$
 $\mapsto P \triangleright B \triangleright \circ \mid [(\langle \rangle)] \quad (S_1)$
 $\mapsto A \triangleright P \triangleright B \triangleright \circ \mid [(\langle \rangle)] \quad (S_2)$
 $\mapsto P \triangleright B \triangleright \circ \mid [(\langle \rangle)] \quad (S_5)$
 $\mapsto B \triangleright \circ \mid [(\langle \rangle)] \quad (S_4)$
 $\mapsto \circ \mid \varepsilon \quad (S_6)$

ii. Does the new machine recognise N ?

$\alpha)$ [***] Prove or disprove that $s \in N \implies \circ \mid s \xrightarrow{*} \circ \mid \varepsilon$ for all strings s . *Hint:* You may find it useful to prove the following lemma:

$$\frac{s_1 \xrightarrow{*} s_2 \quad s_2 \mapsto s_3}{s_1 \xrightarrow{*} s_3} \text{LEMMA}$$

Also, you may need

Solution:

Proof of Lemma. We will prove the lemma provided above first, as it will come in handy. We proceed by induction on the size of the execution $s_1 \xrightarrow{*} s_2$, and must show that, given $s_2 \mapsto s_3$ (\dagger), that $s_1 \xrightarrow{*} s_3$.

Base case: $s_1 \xrightarrow{0} s_2$, i.e. $s_1 = s_2$. We must therefore show that $s_1 \xrightarrow{*} s_3$:

$$\frac{s_2 \mapsto s_3 \quad s_2 \xrightarrow{*} s_2}{s_2 \xrightarrow{*} s_3} \text{REFL}^*$$

Inductive case: $s_1 \xrightarrow{+} s_2$. We must therefore show that $s_1 \xrightarrow{*} s_3$. We proceed by induction on the size of the execution $s_1 \xrightarrow{+} s_2$, and must show that, given $s_2 \mapsto s_3$ (\dagger), that $s_1 \xrightarrow{*} s_3$.

Then, we simply derive the proof goal:

$$\frac{s_1 \mapsto s'_1 \quad \frac{s_2 \mapsto s_3}{s'_1 \mapsto s_3} \text{I.H}}{s_1 \xrightarrow{*} s_3} \text{TRANS}^*$$

□

Proof of main theorem. Now that we have proven the lemma, we must now prove that $s \in N \implies \circ \mid s \xrightarrow{*} \circ \mid \varepsilon$. We will generalise this proof goal to make the stronger claim that $s \in N \implies t \mid sr \xrightarrow{*} t \mid r$ for any stack t and remainder string r . Note that this trivially implies our original proof goal by setting t to \circ and r to ε .

Base case: Where $s = \varepsilon$, we must therefore show that $t \mid r \xrightarrow{*} t \mid r$, trivially shown by rule REFL*.

Inductive case: $s = (s')$, where $s' \in N$. From (*), we have the inductive hypothesis: $t' \mid s'r' \xrightarrow{*} t' \mid r'$, for any t' and r' . We must show that $t \mid (s')r \xrightarrow{*} t \mid r$ for all t, r .

$$\frac{t \mid (s')r \mapsto P \triangleright t \mid (s')r \quad \frac{P \triangleright t \mid (s')r \xrightarrow{*} P \triangleright t \mid r \quad P \triangleright t \mid r \mapsto t \mid r}{P \triangleright t \mid (s')r \xrightarrow{*} t \mid r} \text{LEMMA}}{t \mid (s')r \xrightarrow{*} t \mid r} \text{TRANS}^*$$

The other inductive cases are extremely similar.

□

¹: The application of the I.H rule here sets t' to be $P \triangleright t$ and r' to be $)r$.

$\beta)$ [**] Prove or disprove that $\circ \mid s \xrightarrow{*} \circ \mid \varepsilon \implies s \in N$

Solution:

$$\frac{}{\circ \text{ Stack}} \quad \frac{x \text{ Frame} \quad s \text{ Stack}}{x \triangleright s \text{ Stack}}$$

Where a *Frame* is simply either $\text{apply}(\square, x)$ or $\text{apply}(x, \square)$ for some x .

- ii. [★★] Define the set of states Σ , the set of initial states $I \subseteq \Sigma$, and the set of final states $F \subseteq \Sigma$.

Solution: The set of states consists of an expression, and a stack:

$$\frac{s \text{ Stack} \quad e \text{ Expr}}{s \mid e \in \Sigma} \quad (1)$$

Initial states are an expression with an empty stack:

$$\frac{e \text{ Expr}}{e \quad I}$$

Final states are a function:

$$\frac{}{\circ \mid \text{lam}(x.e) \in F}$$

- iii. [★★] Include three rules for function application, using capture-avoiding substitution as a built-in machine operation.

Solution:

$$\frac{}{\circ \mid \text{lam}(x.y) \triangleright s \mid \text{lam}(a.b) \vdash s \quad y[x := \text{lam}(a.b)]}$$

- (c) Now suppose that we want to eliminate substitution from our machine. We include environments, *à la* the *E Machine*. Recall that they are defined as:

$$\frac{}{\bullet \text{ Env}} \quad \frac{x \text{ Ident} \quad y \text{ Expr} \quad \Gamma \text{ Env}}{x \leftarrow y; \Gamma \text{ Env}}$$

- i. [★★] Revise your definition of the state sets Σ , I and F , and of the stack.

Solution: Our stack can now also include *environments*:

$$\frac{s \text{ Stack} \quad \Gamma \text{ Env}}{\Gamma \triangleright s \text{ Stack}}$$

Our state now also includes a *current environment*, of the form $s \mid \Gamma \mid e$, where s is a Stack, Γ is an environment and e is an expression.
 I and F are unchanged except that they include the empty environment.

- ii. [★★★] Add a transition rule for function literals. Note that these function literals should produce *closures* which capture the environment at their definition.

Solution:

$$s \mid \Gamma \mid \text{lam}(x, y) \mapsto s \mid \Gamma \mid \langle\langle \Gamma, x.y \rangle\rangle$$

- iii. [★★★] Revise your rules for function application.

Solution:

$$s \mid \text{apply}(e_1, e_2) \mapsto \text{apply}(\square, e_2) \triangleright s \mid e_1$$

$$\frac{\text{apply}(\square, e_2) \triangleright s \mid \Gamma \mid \langle\langle \Delta, x.y \rangle\rangle \mapsto \text{apply}(\langle\langle \Delta, x.y \rangle\rangle, \square) \triangleright s \mid \Delta \mid e_2}{\text{apply}(\langle\langle \Gamma, x.y \rangle\rangle, \square) \triangleright s \mid \Delta \mid \langle\langle E, a.b \rangle\rangle \mapsto \Delta \triangleright s \mid x \leftarrow \langle\langle E, a.b \rangle\rangle; \Gamma \mid y}$$

- iv. [★★] Include any additional rules necessary to complete the definition, such as variable lookup.

Solution: Variable Lookup:

$$\frac{}{s \mid x \leftarrow y; \Gamma \mid x \mapsto s \mid x \leftarrow y; \Gamma \mid y}$$

Popping environments from the stack, back into the current environment:

$$\frac{\Gamma \triangleright s \mid \Delta \quad E, x.y \mapsto s \mid \Gamma \quad E, x.y}{\Gamma \triangleright s \mid \Delta \quad E, x.y \mapsto s \mid \Gamma \quad E, x.y}$$

- v. [★★] Give an example of an expression that cannot be evaluated correctly. Explain you

Solution: A simple example is:

`apply(apply(lam(x, lam(y, apply(x, y))), lam(a, a)), lam(b, b))`

Evaluating the outer application will cause the inner application to be evaluated first, where x is bound to $\langle\langle a.a \rangle\rangle$. Without closures, the inner application will return the function $\langle\langle y.\text{apply} \rangle\rangle$ in a free variable y inside the function environment. Popping the environment containing x from the stack will not be found free.

4. **Stack Machines:** In this question, we will examine a machine that is used in *virtual machines*, such as the JVM, called a *stack machine*. This language with the following big step semantics:

$$\frac{x \in \mathbb{Z}}{\text{num}(x) \Downarrow x} \text{NUM} \quad \frac{x \Downarrow x' \quad y \Downarrow y'}{\text{plus}(x, y) \Downarrow x' + y'} \text{PLUS} \quad \frac{x \Downarrow x' \quad y \Downarrow y'}{\text{times}(x, y) \Downarrow x' \times y'} \text{TIMES}$$

We have a machine, called the *J Machine*, that's capable of performing these operations, however it works by using a stack to store operands and accumulate results. For example, $4 * (2 + 3)$ would be the following program in the *J Machine*'s bytecode: `val(4); val(2); val(3); add; times`. Each `val` instruction pushes a value to the stack, and each operation instruction pops two values off, and pushes the result of the operation.

Formally, the *J Machine* is specified as follows: The machine consists of three *instructions*:

$$\frac{x \in \mathbb{Z}}{\text{val}(x) \text{ Inst}} \quad \frac{}{\text{plus Inst}} \quad \frac{}{\text{times Inst}}$$

The state of the machine consists of a list of instructions, called a *Program*, and a stack of integers:

$$\frac{}{\text{halt Program}} \quad \frac{i \text{ Inst} \quad p \text{ Program}}{i; p \text{ Program}}$$

$$\frac{}{\circ \text{ Stack}} \quad \frac{x \in \mathbb{Z} \quad s \text{ Stack}}{x \triangleright s \text{ Stack}}$$

They are presented in the form $s \mid p$ where s is a stack and p is program. The initial state consists of the empty stack and any nonempty program p i.e., $\circ \mid p$. The final state consists of a stack with merely one element r (the result of the computation), and the empty program, i.e., $r \triangleright \circ \mid \text{halt}$.

The state transition rules are as follows:

$$\frac{}{s \mid \text{val}(x); p \mapsto x \triangleright s \mid p} J_1 \quad \frac{}{y \triangleright x \triangleright s \mid \text{add}; p \mapsto x + y \triangleright s \mid p} J_2 \quad \frac{}{y \triangleright x \triangleright s \mid \text{times}; p \mapsto x \times y \triangleright s \mid p} J_3$$

- (a) [★★] Translate the expression `plus(times(num(-1), num(7)), num(7))` into a *J Machine* program, and write down each step the *J Machine* would take to execute this program.

Solution: The program is: `val(-1); val(7); times; val(7); plus; halt.`

Execution is as follows:

```

  ◦ | val(-1); val(7); times; val(7); plus; halt
  ↦ -1 ▷ ◦ | val(7); times; val(7); plus; halt      (J1)
  ↦ 7 ▷ -1 ▷ ◦ | times; val(7); plus; halt          (J1)
  ↦ -7 ▷ ◦ | val(7); plus; halt                     (J3)
  ↦ 7 ▷ -7 ▷ ◦ | plus; halt                          (J1)
  ↦ 0 ▷ ◦ | halt                                    (J2)

```

- (b) [★★★] Formalise (using inference rules) the semantics of the *J Machine* expressions in the arithmetic language. You may assume that the semicolon on op

Solution:

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- (c) [★★★★] Suppose we want to extend the *J Machine* to support the `let` construct in the arithmetic language, using environments as shown below.

$$\frac{x \in \mathbb{Z}}{\Gamma \vdash \text{num}(x) \Downarrow x} \text{NUM} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash x \Downarrow x' \quad \Gamma \vdash y \Downarrow y'}{\Gamma \vdash \text{plus}(x, y) \Downarrow x' + y'} \text{PLUS} \quad \frac{\Gamma \vdash x \Downarrow x' \quad \Gamma \vdash y \Downarrow y'}{\Gamma \vdash \text{times}(x, y) \Downarrow x' \times y'} \text{TIMES}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash e_1 \Downarrow v_1 \quad \Gamma \cup \{x \leftarrow v_1\} \vdash e_2}{\Gamma \vdash \text{let}(x, e_1, e_2) \Downarrow v_2} \text{LET} \quad \frac{}{\Gamma \vdash \text{var}(x) \Downarrow v} \text{VAR}$$

Extend the *J Machine* to support this construct, and expand your \Downarrow relation to include the correct translation. Don't forget to deal with name shadowing by exploiting stacks.

Solution: We extend the state definition of the states in the machine to include an *additional* stack of environments, called *scopes*, notated as $z \mid s \mid p$, where z is the integer stack and s is the scope stack. The initial states now look like this:

$$\frac{}{\circ \mid \{\} \mid p}$$

That is, they start with the empty environment sitting at the bottom of the scope stack. Similarly, final states also have the empty environment only on their scope stack.

We introduce three new instructions, **scope**, **descope**, and **var**, which have the following semantics: **scope**(x) pushes a new environment to the scope stack. The new environment is the same as the old environment except it includes a new binding¹ from the name x to the value on the top of the value stack. The value stack is also popped.

descope(x) simply pops the scope stack. **var**(x) pushes the value of a variable to the value stack. The value is determined by looking in the topmost scope environment.

$$\frac{}{v \triangleright s \mid \Gamma \triangleright \zeta \mid \text{scope}(x); p \mapsto s \mid \Gamma \cup \{x \leftarrow v\} \triangleright \zeta \mid p} J_4 \quad \frac{}{s \mid \Gamma \triangleright \zeta \mid \text{descope}; p \mapsto s \mid \zeta \mid p} J_5$$

$$\frac{}{s \mid \{x \leftarrow v\} \cup \Gamma \triangleright \zeta \mid \text{var}(x); p \mapsto v \triangleright s \mid \{x \leftarrow v\} \cup \Gamma \triangleright \zeta \mid p} J_6$$

¹: Because each environment is a superset of the last, pointer magic could be used here to make this efficient in practice.

As for the compilation relation, we translate `let` as follows:

$$\frac{e_1 \Downarrow e'_1; \text{halt} \quad e_2 \Downarrow e'_2; \text{halt}}{\text{let}(x, e_1, e_2) \Downarrow e'_1; \text{scope}(x); e'_2; \text{descope}; \text{halt}} \text{LET}_J$$

And, for variable lookup, it's quite simple:

$$\frac{}{\text{var}(x) \Downarrow \text{var}(x)} \text{VAR}_J$$

Note: This is basically how the JVM bytecode works (modulo some OO features).

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